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English - Or. English

**DIRECTORATE FOR EDUCATION
EDUCATION POLICY COMMITTEE
CENTRE FOR EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION GOVERNING BOARD**

LEARNING FOR JOBS: PROGRESS REPORT

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1. As decided by the Group of National Experts on VET, the 2007-2008 review aims to help countries to ensure that their VET systems are responding effectively to labour market needs. This involves a programme of *comparative analysis*, eight *country reviews* and the preparation of a *comparative report*.
2. The *comparative analysis* includes:
 - A scoping paper on policy issues in VET [EDU/EDPC/CERI(2008)9].
 - A review of previous OECD policy work on VET [EDU/EDPC/CERI(2007)6/ANN1].
 - A review of the literature on the costs and benefits of VET [EDU/EDPC/CERI(2008)3].
 - A paper setting out a framework for appraising VET policy initiatives [EDU/EDPC/CERI(2008)4].
 - A report on the key characteristics of OECD country VET systems, in terms of school or work-based status, finance, pathways, qualification frameworks, and links to the labour market. This is based on a questionnaire survey of OECD countries [EDU/EDPC/CERI(2008)6].
 - An initial report on PISA 2006 data on VET, covering issues such as early tracking, careers guidance and work experience in schools [EDU/EDPC/CERI(2008)5].
 - An analysis of long term changes in the demands made of VET systems (forthcoming).
 - A review of the literature on quality in VET (forthcoming).
3. The *country reviews* cover Sweden, UK (England and Wales), Hungary, Australia, Norway, Korea, Mexico and Switzerland (in that order) with country visits between December 2007 and November 2008. Country reviews are delivered to each country three months after each visit, and subsequently published. The first such review, is on Sweden [EDU/EDPC/CERI(2008)7/ANN1].
4. The *initial comparative report* will draw together a set of key policy messages, backed by evidence and analysis, and will be issued in draft to countries at the end of 2008. An outline will be presented at the meeting of the Group of National Experts on VET on 26-27 May [EDU/EDPC/CERI(2008)8]. We envisage that the report will look at issues including the economic rationale for VET, the balance between school and work-based training, the response of VET systems to a changing world, how the mix of provision should be determined, funding incentives, decentralisation and market-type mechanisms, and arrangements to engage employers and trade unions.
5. We believe that the outputs listed above will prove very valuable to countries. They have been delivered to demanding timescales, and the coverage is necessarily selective. Further work would therefore both exploit these outputs and build on them.