

THE THIRD BOLOGNA POLICY FORUM

Beyond the Bologna Process: Creating and Connecting National, Regional and Global Higher Education Areas, Bucharest, April 26-27, 2012

*Agenda for a World Bank Parallel Session
Palace of the Parliament, "Human Rights" Hall
April 26, 2012, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.*

Skills that matter for employability and productivity and policies to develop them

This session will present ongoing World Bank initiatives aimed at unpacking the measurement of workers' skills and benchmarking effective policies to develop them. The presentation will cover the relevant tools and showcase the evidence from their application in middle income emerging economies, specifically:

- The Skills Toward Employment and Productivity (*STEPS*) measurement initiative, comprising household and employer surveys to measure the distribution among the working-age population of the skills (cognitive, technical and socio-emotional/soft) that affect individual capacity/motivation to be more productive, as well as the demand for these skills revealed by firms. The cognitive skills module allows benchmarking with the OECD *PIAAC* survey. The *STEPS* surveys are currently being implemented in 14 countries across the World.
- The System Assessment and Benchmarking for Education Results (*SABER*) - *Workforce Development* (*WfD*) initiative, which consists of an assessment tool that specifies metrics for evaluating *WfD* policies in relation to global good practice, and applies these metrics to assess and benchmark the performance of a country's *WfD* systems with regards to three broad dimensions of policy: (a) the strategic framework; (b) the oversight arrangements; and (c) the delivery of services. The tool is being used to gather data in a few pilot countries (Chile, Ireland, Singapore and South Korea) to refine the benchmarking rubrics and to test the instrument in emerging economies context, and new applications are planned for countries in Eastern Europe, East and Central Asia and in the Middle East.

Speakers:

- Omar Arias, Lead Economist, Human Development Eastern Europe and Central Asia Department, World Bank

Discussants:

- Professor Eliot Sorel, Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University
- Professor Mircea Miclea, President of the Presidential Commission for Education, former Minister of Education, Romania

25 Mins
ppt,
followed
by 12 mins
per
discussant,
and Q&A
(1.5 hours)