National school systems: sources of information

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This note provides sources of information including a selection of journal articles and websites on education systems in a selection of foreign countries. Links to these sources are embedded in the text. If further information on education systems in countries not mentioned in this note is needed, please contact the Social Policy Section on 6128.

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5.2 Journal articles

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1 General
1.1 Websites

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
OECD is a source of comparable statistics and economic and social data from various countries

OECD education documents (December 2013)
OECD Directorate for Education (December 2013)
OECD page on education (December 2013)
OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) (December 2013)

European Union page on Education, Training, Youth (December 2013)

European Commission page on Culture, Education and Youth (December 2013)

Eurydice Network
Provides information on and analyses of European education systems and policies

International Review of Curriculum and Assessment Frameworks Internet Archive (INCA)
INCA provides descriptions of government policy on education in various countries around the world. The website is supported by the Department for Education (DfE) and content is managed and updated by the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER)

TIMMS and PIRLS
TIMSS (Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study) measures trends in mathematics and science achievement at the fourth and eighth grades. PIRLS (Progress in International Reading Literacy Study) measures trends in reading comprehension at the fourth grade
1.2 Books

*Education at a Glance 2013: OECD Indicators*, 2013


*PISA 2009 Assessment Framework - Key Competencies in Reading, Mathematics and Science*, 2009

Michael Barber et al, *Oceans of Innovation: The Atlantic, the Pacific, global leadership and the future of education*, 2012

Sutton Trust, *Social Mobility and Education Gaps in the Four Major Anglophone Countries: Research Findings for the Social Mobility Summit, London 2012*, 2012


Michael Barber et al, *How the world’s most improved school systems keep getting better*, 2010

Department for Business Innovation and Skills, *Review of student support arrangements in other countries*, 2010

Cheryl Lim et al, *Helping Schools Succeed Lessons From Abroad*, 2008

2 Australia

2.1 Websites

*Department of Education* (December 2013)

*School education* (November 2013)

State Department of Education websites (December 2013)

Western Australia
Victoria
New South Wales
Queensland
South Australia
Northern Territory
Tasmania
Australian Capital Territory

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations page on the Australian higher education system (December 2013)
2.2 Journal articles


Cranston, Neil; Mulford, Bill; Keating, Jack; Reid, Alan. Primary school principals and the purposes of education in Australia: Results of a national survey. Journal of Educational Administration, Volume 48, Number 4, 2010, pp. 517-539(23). Emerald Group Publishing Limited


3 Denmark

3.1 Websites

Ministry of Education (December 2013)

Danish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Higher Education (December 2013)

Overview of the Danish education system (December 2013)

Danish Ministry of Education page on primary and lower secondary education (December 2013)

Danish Ministry of Education page on upper secondary education (December 2013)

Danish Ministry of Education page on Higher education (December 2013)
Danish Ministry of Education page on adult education and continuing training (December 2013)

Study in Denmark
Studyindenmark.dk is managed by the Danish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Higher Education

3.2 Journal articles
Tverborgvik, Torill1; Clausen, Lene Björk1; Thorsted, Brian Larsen1; Mikkelsen, Sigurd2; Lynge, Elsebeth1. Intergenerational Educational Mobility in Denmark. Scandinavian Journal of Educational Research, Volume 57, Number 5, 1 October 2013, pp. 544-560(17)


4 Finland
4.1 Websites
Ministry of Education and Culture (December 2013)

Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture page on the Finnish education system (December 2013)

Finish education in a nutshell (2012)
Ministry of Education and Culture

4.2 Journal articles


Ammermueller, Andreas. PISA: What makes the difference?: Explaining the gap in test scores between Finland and Germany. Empirical Economics, Volume 33, Number 2, September 2007, pp. 263-287(25)

5 France
5.1 Websites
French Ministry of Education (December 2013) (In French)
5.2 Journal articles
Agnes Poirier, “Parent power confronts Sarkozy”, New Statesman, Volume 137, Number 4905, July 14, 2008, pp. 28.2-28.2

6 Germany
6.1 Websites
German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (December 2013)
Eduserver (December 2013)
English language version of the German Education Server, provides access and background information regarding the German education system and its international context
Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany London page on the German Education System (December 2013)
Goethe-Institut (December 2013)
Cultural institute of the Federal Republic of Germany

6.2 Journal articles
Neumann, Knut1; Fischer, Hans2; Kauertz, Alexander3. From PISA to educational standards: the impact of large-scale assessments on science education in Germany. International Journal of Science and Mathematics Education, Volume 8, Number 3, June 2010, pp. 545-563(19)

Freitag, Markus; Schlicht, Raphaela. Educational Federalism in Germany: Foundations of Social Inequality in Education. Governance, Volume 22, Number 1, January 2009, pp. 47-72(26)


Silke Ais enbrey, “Economic Penalties and Rewards of Family Formation, Gender and Education in the Low-income Sector in Germany”, British Journal of Sociology, Volume 60, Number1, March 2009, pp. 95-121

Markus Freitag, Raphaela Schlicht, "Educational Federalism in Germany: Foundations of Social Inequality in Education", Governance, Volume 22, Number 1, January 2009, pp. 47-72
Wynands, Alexander; Möller, Gerd. High-performing students in the ‘Hauptschule’—A comparison of different groups of students in secondary education within Germany. ZDM, Volume 37, Number 5, October 2005, pp. 437-444(8)


7 Sweden

7.1 Websites

Swedish Ministry of Education and Research (December 2013)

Swedish Higher Education Authority (December 2013)

Swedish Council for Higher Education (December 2013)

Swedish Ministry of Education and Research overview of the Swedish education system (September 2013)

Sweden page on education (December 2013)

The Swedish National Agency for Education (December


8 U.S.A

8.1 Websites

US Department for Education (December 2013)

Bureau of International Information Programs USA education in brief (September 2008)

Fulbright Commission page on US School system (December 2013)

Fulbright Commission page on US Higher education system (December 2013)

8.2 Journal articles

Ravitch, Diane. Stop the madness, Education Review, Volume 23, Number 1, 2010, pp. 27-34