



International Perspectives on Education

Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC)

Seminar

November 7th

9.00 – 14.00h

Palau Macaya

Passeig de Sant Joan, 108 - Barcelona

Conference

November 7th

18.30h

Cercle d'Economia

Provença, 298 – Barcelona

In collaboration with the



Presentation

The data from the PIAAC survey of Adult Skills represents a key to directly measure the capabilities/competencies of adults. It evaluates key competencies (literacy, arithmetic, problem-solving in technology rich environments) and their use in the workplace. It also gathers information on the background context and results of the development and use of the key competencies. It will allow for the investigation of the links between key information-processing skills and a range of variables, constituting a rich evidence base for policy-relevant analysis. Data from this survey will facilitate a better understanding of:

- Performance of education and training systems
- The extent and dimensions of illiteracy and poor literacy
- Gaps between labour markets and education and training

With the support of



- Equity levels in access to education and intergenerational mobility
- Young people's transition from education to work
- Identification of at-risk populations
- Links between key cognitive skills and variables, such as demographics, educational background, health, etc.

The evidence from this Survey wants to help countries better understand how education and training systems can nurture these skills. OECD aims that Educators, policy makers and labour economists will use PIAAC information to develop economic, education and social policies that will continue to enhance the skills of adults.

Beyond their economic value, the skills society provides have a social and political value in themselves by contributing to social welfare and improving of general wellbeing. This seminar and conference will take place shortly after the release of the results of the OECD Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) and will focus on its findings, trying to answer some important questions, such as:

- What are the biggest challenges countries are facing in order to improve their skills development-related policies?
- How can we foster training systems and link them to the job market?
- How can we overcome youth unemployment, the brain drain or take advantage of the skills of the frustrated over-qualified?
- Can Catalonia make better use of its talent pool?

In order to facilitate productive discussions in the seminar, the number of participants will be limited to approximately 30 individuals. The evening conference is opened to the general public (250 people).

Programme

9h – Arrival and coffee

9.15h – Welcome and presentation of the seminar and conference methodology

- **Ismael Palacin**, Director, Jaume Bofill Foundation
- **Anna Jolonch**, Director of Research, Jaume Bofill Foundation

9.30h – Presentation of the results of the International report of the Survey of adult skills (PIAAC)



- **William Thorn**, Senior Analyst at the Directorate for Education, OECD.

10.00h – Q & A, **Catalan government** and other relevant stakeholders

10.15h – The *contextualization* of the PIAAC report in the Catalan society

- **Òscar Valiente**, Lecturer, School of Education, University of Glasgow.

10.30h – PIAAC in the Scottish context

- **John McCann**, former Director of Next Practice, College Development Network, Scotland

10.45h – Q & A

11.00h – coffee break

11.20h – 3 small workshops

12.10h – Plenary session – sharing the workshops findings

13.40h – Conclusions

- **Queralt Capsada**, Professor at the *University Ram3n Llull* and former analyst at the Directorate for Education, OECD.

18.30h-20.30h – Conference : **The International report of the Survey of adult skills (PIAAC). What is at stake?**

- **William Thorn**, Senior Analyst at the Directorate for Education, OECD.
- **Òscar Valiente** & Catalan PIAAC research group delegates
- **Irene Rigau**, Ministry of Education of Catalonia (to be confirmed)