



**AGENDA**  
**Building Evidence in Education (BE<sup>2</sup>)**  
**Working Group Meeting**  
**Wednesday, April 5-7, 2017**  
**Host: UNICEF Office of Research, Innocenti**



**Location: Innocenti, Piazza della Santissima Annunziata, 12, 50121 Florence, Italy**

The Building Evidence in Education (BE<sup>2</sup>) donor working group was launched in 2012 with the aim to engage bilateral and multilateral organizations committed to:

- Increasing the quality of education research;
- Promoting the use of evidence in education programming; and
- Strengthening donor research collaboration.

BE<sup>2</sup> is led by a Steering Committee composed of the Department for International Development (DFID), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), The World Bank Group and a rotating UN agency (currently represented by the International Institute for Education Planning (IIEP)).

This seventh BE<sup>2</sup> meeting, generously hosted by the BE<sup>2</sup> member organization UNICEF Office of Research Innocenti, will have a strong focus on what works in results based financing (RBF) and accountability. In addition, the meeting will provide initial results from the research on improving systems of education (RISE) and findings from the YIEFG soft skills development research. During a policy roundtable, members will discuss how to achieve impact through research in international development settings.

Members will also present research collaboration opportunities and discuss ideas for potential new interest groups and BE<sup>2</sup> badged products.

**Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**

<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>Arrival, Registration</b>
<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Welcome Address</b> <b>Goran Holmqvist, Deputy Director, Innocenti</b>
<b>9:20 am</b>	<b>Meeting Overview:</b> <b>Suzanne Grant Lewis</b> , Director of the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP) Welcome and introduction of BE <sup>2</sup> Steering Committee Members. <b>BE<sup>2</sup> member introductions.</b>

10:00 am	<p><b>Results Based Financing in Education</b></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Suzanne Grant Lewis</b>, Director of the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP)</p> <p>Presenters: <b>Peter Holland</b>, Senior Education Specialist, The World Bank Group, and Program Manager for REACH</p> <p><b>Sonia Khoury</b>, Ministry of Education, Lebanon</p> <p><b>Bridget Crumpton</b>, Senior Advisor, International Commission on Financing Education Opportunity</p> <p><b>Piet Vroeg</b>, Director Education &amp; Economic Opportunities, Cordaid</p> <p><b>Isaac Mbiti</b>, Assistant Professor, University of Virginia</p> <p><b>Joseph Holden</b>, Director, Foresight Development Associates</p> <p>The objective of the session is to launch the World Bank's Approach Paper on RBF in Education and share recent thinking and evidence in this area. The presenters will showcase some of the new work on results-based financing, share the latest evidence and lessons, and highlight the benefits, opportunities, challenges and limits of RBF.</p>
12:30 pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1:30 pm	<p><b>RBF for Incentives and Accountability: Mapping Other Approaches and Perspectives to Payment by Results in Education</b></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Manos Antoninis</b>, Senior Policy Analyst, Global Education Monitoring Report</p> <p>Presenters: <b>Ben Sylla</b>, Senior Strategic Measurement Specialist, Office of Education, USAID</p> <p><b>Elisabeth Paul</b>, Scientific Coordinator, University of Liège</p> <p><b>Manos Antoninis</b>, Senior Policy Analyst, Global Education Monitoring Report</p> <p>The objective of this session is to provide an overview of other approaches and perspectives to payment by results in education extending the discussion and complementing the presentation in the first session. While recognizing the limits to assessing the impact of such complex interventions, the session will also provide an overview of what has emerged from existing evaluations.</p> <p>A particular focus will be on the question whether the intended alignment of governance, financing rules, incentives, and management practices has led to improved accountability, which has been one of the objectives of the Paris Declaration. Finally, the session will also draw on the experience of payments by results in other sectors.</p> <p>Participants will discuss the idea of a BE<sup>2</sup> product that would highlight best practices and challenges to evaluating approaches to payment by results.</p>
3:00 pm	<p><b>YEFG Indicators Research: What Works in Soft Skills Development for Youth Employment</b></p> <p>Presenters: <b>Clare Ignatowski</b>, Consultant to Youth Employment Funders Group</p> <p><b>Susana Puerto</b>, Senior Youth Employment Specialist, International Labor Office</p> <p><b>Nancy Taggart</b>, Senior Youth &amp; Workforce Advisor, Office of Education, USAID</p> <p>In this session, Youth Employment Funders Group (YEFG) members will share the findings and recommendations of the first YEFG badged product: "What Works in Soft Skills Development for Youth Employment - Policy Brief". The brief consolidates and summarizes what is known about soft skills development in contexts relevant to youth employment, selectively making recommendations to draw attention to the most promising areas for investment and further research.</p>
4:30 pm	<b>Break</b>
4:45 pm	<p><b>Research Collaboration Opportunities</b></p> <p>Chair: <b>Dominic Richardson</b>, Senior Education Specialist, Innocenti</p> <p>The objective of this session is to learn more about member organizations' research collaboration opportunities and identify opportunities to collaborate with other BE<sup>2</sup> members.</p>
5:15 pm	<b>Adjourn</b>

Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>

9:00 am	<p><b>Summary of Day One and Overview of Day Two</b>  <b>Chair: BE<sup>2</sup> Steering Committee Member</b></p>
9:05 am	<p><b>RISE - What works to improve education systems to deliver better learning for all at scale in developing countries?</b>  Chair: <b>Eva Oberg</b>, Education Advisor, DFID  Presenters: <b>Laura Savage</b>, Education Lead on RISE, DFID  Discussants: <b>Pauline Rose</b>, Professor, International Education, Director, Research for Equitable Access and Learning (REAL) Centre, University of Cambridge  <b>David Coleman</b>, Senior Education Advisor, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  <b>Jessica Swan Cross</b>, Analyst, The World Bank Group (TBC)</p> <p>The transformative new eight year joint program of research on Education Systems challenges us all to think beyond 'inputs' (infrastructure, teachers, textbooks) to improve education outcomes. This session will provide early insights from the research led by Lant Pritchett on improving systems of education (RISE) research providing practical answers about how we need to innovate and understand the political economy of education systems if we are to improve learning outcomes.</p>
10:30 am	<b>Break</b>
10:45 am	<b>RISE (ctd).</b>
12:00 pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1:00 pm	<p><b>Research Collaboration Opportunities (ctd.)</b>  Chair: <b>Dominic Richardson</b>, Senior Education Specialist, Innocenti</p> <p>The objective of this session is to learn more about member organizations' research collaboration opportunities and identify opportunities to collaborate with other BE<sup>2</sup> members.</p>
3:30 pm	<b>Break</b>
4:15 pm	<b>Buses leave for European University Institute</b>
4:45 pm	<p><b>Policy Roundtable: Achieving impact through research in international development settings</b>  Introduction <b>Dominic Richardson</b>, Senior Education Specialist, Innocenti  Welcome <b>Anna Triandafyllidou</b>, Professor, Director of the Research Area on Cultural Pluralism, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute  Panel Leader: <b>Pauline Rose</b>, Professor, International Education, Director, Research for Equitable Access and Learning (REAL) Centre, University of Cambridge  Panelists: <b>Sarah Cook</b>, Director of UNICEF's Office of Research-Innocenti  <b>Miguel Poiares Maduro</b>, Professor at the Robert Schuman Centre, European University Institute  <b>David Coleman</b>, Senior Education Advisor, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade</p> <p>This roundtable will leverage the framework from the Impact Initiative for International Development Research to discuss approaches, challenges and successes regarding research uptake and academic and economic and societal impact. The Impact Initiative for International Development Research aims to increase the uptake and impact of research funded through the ESRC-DFID Strategic Partnership.</p> <p><b>Followed by social gathering with local researchers and professors.</b></p>
7:15 pm	<b>Buses will return to the center of Florence after the social gathering</b>

Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>

9:00 am	<p><b>Summary of Day Two and Overview of Day Three</b>  <b>Chair:</b> <b>Ben Sylla</b>, Senior Strategic Measurement Specialist in the Office of Education, USAID</p>
9:05 am	<p><b>Brief Updates from All Interest Groups (EiCC, PPE for Girls, Cost Effectiveness/Cost Capture)</b>  <b>Chair:</b> <b>Ben Sylla</b>, Senior Strategic Measurement Specialist in the Office of Education, USAID  Achievements in 2016, focus areas for 2017  Discussion about forthcoming BE<sup>2</sup> products</p> <p><b>Discussion about Potential New Interest Groups</b>  <b>Interest Group on Education Data – Proposal</b>  <b>David Coleman</b>, Senior Education Advisor, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade</p> <p>The core purpose of education data is to provide information on the health and functioning of the education system, and to inform decision-making. The proposed interest group outlines how BE<sup>2</sup> members can contribute to this purpose. This is a follow-up discussion to the webinar held in February.</p>
10:00 am	<p><b>Turning Education Commission Recommendations into Action – Improving Evidence and Uptake</b>  <b>Speaker:</b> <b>Bridget Crumpton</b>, Senior Advisor, International Commission on Financing Education Opportunity</p> <p>During this session, the group will discuss the Education Commission’s draft plan, including its planned education dashboard, and explore how BE<sup>2</sup> can collaborate with the Commission and contribute to its efforts.</p>
10:30 am	<b>Break</b>
10:45 am	<p><b>Next steps</b>  <b>Chair:</b> <b>Maria Brindlmayer</b>, Secretariat, BE<sup>2</sup></p>
12:30 pm	<p><b>Closing plenary session</b>  <b>Suzanne Grant Lewis</b>, Director of the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP)</p>
12:45 pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1:30 pm	<p><b>Concept Note: 2018/19 Global Education Monitoring Report</b>  <b>Presenter:</b> <b>Manos Antoninis</b>, Senior Policy Analyst, UNESCO, Global Education Monitoring Report</p> <p>The third in the GEM Report series will focus on migration and education. This session will elaborate on the concept note of the 2018/19 report and will invite members to contribute ideas on background research.</p>
2:30 pm	<b>Interest group meetings; small break-out sessions; research collaboration opportunities discussions in small groups</b>
3:30 pm	<b>End of meeting</b>