

LLECE up-to-date

Newsletter of the Latin-American Laboratory for Assessment of the Quality of Education (LLECE)

July 2011

Editorial

It is with great pleasure that we present this first issue of a newsletter for the Latin-American Laboratory for Assessment of the Quality of Education (LLECE), *LLECE up-to-date*. The objective of this newsletter is to keep our partners informed on the progress and current activities of the LLECE.

This being the first issue, this month, *LLECE up-to-date* is released in this, quite simple, fashion. We included three brief articles on important events and activities that were recently conducted, in addition to an overview of 'this month's activities'. Any ideas and / or suggestions to improve this newsletter will be surely be greatly appreciated.

We hope you will enjoy reading this newsletter, and that *LLECE up-to-date* will invite you to help make educational evaluation to an ever greater extent, a tool to help improve quality of education.

The Technical Coordination (CT) of the LLECE
OREALC - UNESCO Santiago

XXVIIth Meeting of National Coordinators of LLECE: work plan for 2012 approved, key decisions taken

On the 22nd and 23rd of June, the XXVIIth meeting of National Coordinators of the LLECE took place in Antigua Guatemala (see [link](#)). In this meeting, the 15 coordinators of LLECE member countries, as well as the Mexican State of Nuevo Leon, which have signed the Letter of Agreement, came together to review progress of the work of the *Laboratorio*, and specifically of the Third Regional Comparative and Explanatory Study (TERCE), as well as to take



The Assembly of National Coordinators and UNESCO colleagues.

key decisions on next steps to be taken. The meeting was inaugurated by His Excellency, the Vice-Minister of Education of Guatemala, Mr. Miguel Ángel Franco. The meeting was closed by the Director of the UNESCO Guatemala Office, Mr. Edgar Montiel.

It is only fair to say that the agenda was quite full: the CT of the LLECE presented the actual state of the Laboratory. The Chief of the Section in which the Laboratory is located, Mr. Atilio Pizarro, explained the strategy of the LLECE, while the current Coordinator of the Laboratory, Mr. Moritz Bilagher, presented the work plan for the Third Study (TERCE). Furthermore, the meeting included a presentation of the work towards a framework of factors associated with educational achievement, which was delivered by MIDE UC, a review of the



Finalisation of the 'record of final decisions', led by the National Coordinator of Peru, Ms. Liliana Miranda.

new proposal for evaluation of writing skills, and a presentation of the curriculum analysis, which was delivered by the National Coordinator of Colombia, Mr. Julián Mariño. It also included a panel on how TERCE can improve on SERCE, the Second Regional Comparative and Explanatory Study, in which topics such as comparability and factors associated with educational achievement were reviewed, presented by Mr. Jorge Manzi, and Mr. Ernesto Treviño, respectively.

The event was preceded by an induction day (21st of June), specifically for the Coordinators of countries that joined the LLECE recently. This day included a presentation on the foundational principles of LLECE. In addition, a discussion panel was offered on the importance of participating in large scale assessments of learning outcomes, such as TERCE. The experience of the SERCE was brought to life through presentations by the National Coordinator of Chile, Mr. Juan Bravo, and the National Coordinator of Panama, Mr. Arturo Rivera. Finally, the current state of the TERCE was presented, as well as an overview of what countries need to consider if they participate in the study, to make an adequate implementation of the study possible.

Among the various agreements reached is the establishment of a High-level Technical Advisory Board for the TERCE. This Board will consist of four regional and global experts, and will have the purpose of integrating into the TERCE the most up-to-date expertise, at world-class level, in the field of quality of education and its assessment. In addition, this move should help to strengthen the links between LLECE and the scientific community and organisations implementing similar studies. We hope to reveal the composition of the Board very soon.

For further information, please contact: a.irribarra@unesco.org

Delivery of the Curriculum Analysis

To ensure representativeness of the tests of international comparative studies across all participating countries, it is necessary to adapt them to the variety of curricula in these countries. The analysis provides a solid base for the further development of the test and, potentially, an inspiration for countries to review their curricula. The curriculum analysis of TERCE was undertaken with these parameters in mind – a task led by the Colombian Institute for the Evaluation of Education ([ICFES](#)), under the supervision of Ms. Patricia Pedraza.

We believe that the curriculum analysis of TERCE, prepared by ICFES with the active participation of technical representatives from all countries, is a necessary step towards the development of test structures built on shared criteria in the curricula and textbooks of the countries. This might help both contextualise and aid a more enhanced analysis of the results of the evaluation.

Seminar on Item Development: “Congratulations!”

Between 25 and 27 May this year, LLECE organised a seminar with the aim of training national teams in the preparation of test items (see [link](#)). Teams from not less than fifteen countries, and the state of Nuevo León, were present at this event.



The seminar was an opportunity for ICFES to

The Director of ICFES, Ms. Peña, congratulating a trainee.

present the curriculum analysis of the member countries of the Laboratory. The training in item development was led by MIDE UC.

This seminar aimed to achieve one of the fundamental objectives of UNESCO, and the Laboratory, which is to develop capacities among the technical teams of the countries, so they can not only support development of the TERCE, but also improve education assessment nationally. At the same time, we believe that this event presented a great opportunity to enhance regional cooperation and exchange of technical expertise between the various teams of countries participating in the TERCE.

An evaluation of the event indicated it had fully achieved its objectives.

This newsletter is a monthly publication of the Technical Coordination of the Laboratory, which is located in the Regional Bureau for Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (OREALC) at UNESCO Santiago.

For more information, or if you would like to contribute any ideas or article to the newsletter, please contact:

Ms. Angélica Irribarra
E-mail: a.irribarra@unesco.org
Tel.: +56-2-4724659

Website: <http://www.llece.org>

This month's activities:

- Preparation of the pre-pilot of open questions
- Item development
- Formation of the High-level Technical Advisory Board
- Review / revision of the framework of factors associated with learning outcomes