

18 ways to move flexible learning pathways from policy to practice

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International Institute for Educational Planning



Building on our research, here's what national-level and institutional-level planners and policy-makers can do to support flexible learning pathways (FLPs)

Did you know?

In post-pandemic times, FLPs will become paramount for equity and employability, giving students more options throughout their higher education journey.

Moving FLPs from policy to practice

Create a policy framework for FLPs



1. Develop a comprehensive policy framework for an integrated post-secondary education
2. Approach FLPs as a coherent and holistic set of policies and practices
3. Emphasize equity concerns in the national policies on FLPs
4. Involve stakeholders in the development of policies for FLPs
5. Improve awareness about FLPs among stakeholders involved in their implementation

Construct FLPs at different stages



6. Enable government support and collaboration between sub-sectors to enhance entry pathways
7. Develop an overarching policy for the implementation of recognition of prior learning
8. Develop flexible progression of learners through effective transfer systems
9. Improve the perception of open & distance learning as on par with face-to-face programmes
10. Allow recognized massive open online courses to bear credits in regular degree programmes
11. Create a national credit bank system to allow for easier validation and storage of credits
12. Strengthen pathways for learners to transition from higher education to the labour market

Support FLPs with appropriate governance tools



13. Balance regulation and autonomy to ensure a comprehensive introduction of FLPs
14. Quality assurance should embrace FLPs as a policy objective
15. Create a national qualifications framework with aligned vocational and academic sub-sectors
16. Provide financial resources to incentivize the implementation of FLPs
17. Use data to monitor and evaluate the implementation and impact of FLPs
18. Guidance during progression helps students to move to higher levels and attain better outcomes



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