

## News from ECOEI



### The 2<sup>nd</sup> BoT Meeting of ECO Educational Institute

Hosted by Turkey's Ministry of National Education and coordinated by General Directorate for European Union and Foreign Relations, ECO Educational Institute's 2<sup>nd</sup> Board of Trustees Meeting (BoT) was held in Istanbul on 26 July, 2017 and Assoc. Dr. Mehmet Akif KİREÇCİ has been nominated as the president.

The Meeting was hosted by H.E. Ismet Yilmaz, Minister of National Education of The Republic of Turkey. Ministers, Deputy Ministers and high level officials from Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan and Tajikistan attended the Meeting. Minister of Education of Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus also participated in the meeting as special guest. Secretary-General of ECO along with relevant staff of the

Secretariat as well as the President of ECO Science Foundation were also present. The main theme of the meeting was reinvigoration of the ECO Educational Institute, a goal that all participating Members agreed to contribute by supporting the Institute in its activities.

The BoT nominated Assoc. Dr. Mehmet Akif KİREÇCİ as the new President of the Institute. His appointment was approved on 16 August 2017. The new president will be in office until August 2020. The Board also approved Scale of Assessment and the Annual Budget for the ECOEI and The Roadmap and Work Program of ECOEI.

### 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC)

The 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the RPC was held on 11-14 December 2017 in Islamabad. In the evening of the 14<sup>th</sup> December, the 'ECO Day 2017' was celebrated in the presence of the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

During the opening ceremony, ECO Secretary General underlined the significance of the ECO's projects and programs. He also emphasized the importance of the ECO reforms in order to create a more efficient and effective organization. Heads/officials of the ECO Specialized Agencies and Regional Institutions also presented their annual reports to the Council. The Ministerial Council adopted the ECO Work Program and Calendar of Events for the year 2018.

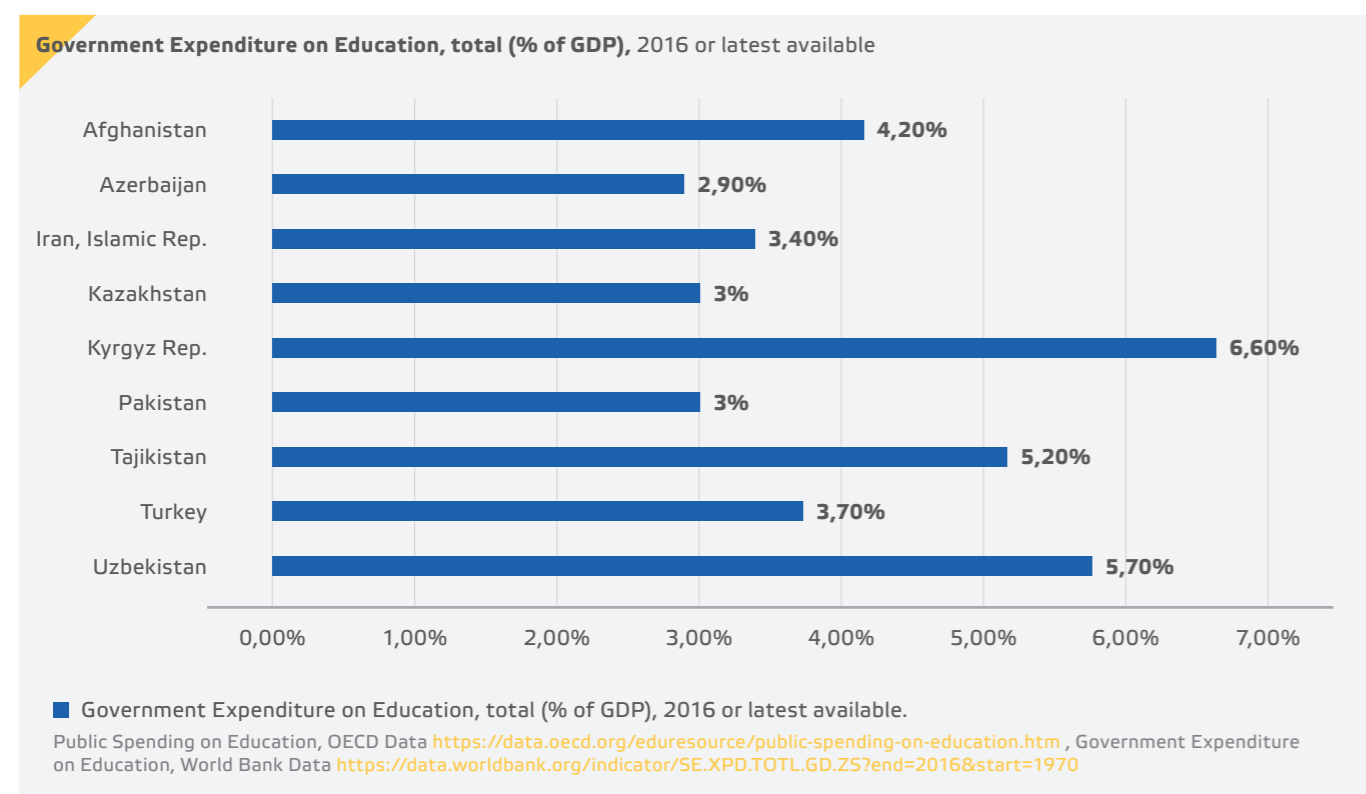
## Education in Numbers

### Government Expenditures on Education

Governments invest in their education systems for the reasons of fostering economic growth, enhancing productivity, building human capital, ensuring social development, and reducing social inequality<sup>1</sup>. Yet, their level of investment depends on different indicators such as the number of country's school-age children, enrolment rates,

the amount of teachers' salaries, and the instruction of organization and delivery. However, the expenditure on educational institutions could also be a measure for nation's wealth and the priority given to education. Governments' investments on education relative to other areas such as health care, social security and military defense shows the importance given to education as a function of countries' overall resources.

Government spending on education includes direct expenditure on educational institutions as well as education related subsidies, delivering and supporting educational services. The indicators for education expenses could cover primary, primary, secondary to post-secondary, non-tertiary and tertiary levels and education entities could include ministries, local governments, public and private institutions.



Public budgets are affected by economic fluctuations, and education sector is not an exception for budget cuts during the downturns. Yet, estimates shows that government spending on education could promote GDP growth.<sup>2</sup> Moreover, separate studies

in Iran and Bangladesh<sup>3</sup> have found long-term and positive relationship between government expenditure on education and economic growth. Thus, by following indicators and volume of spending on education, governments should balance the demand and allo-

cate the necessary spending on educational services. Expenses on teachers' salaries, educational facilities and other areas of investment on education is key to sustain a functional education system and ensure social and economic development.

<sup>1</sup> OECD (2019), Education at a Glance 2019: OECD Indicators, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/f8d7880d-en>

<sup>2</sup> <https://theconversation.com/does-government-spending-on-education-promote-economic-growth-60229>

<sup>3</sup> The Impact of Educational Expenditures of Government on Economic Growth of Iran, 2017. <http://publicaciones.eafit.edu.co/index.php/administer/article/view/4622/3863>;

Public Expenditure on Education and Economic Growth: The Case of Bangladesh, 2012. <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/33797956.pdf>

## Innovative Ideas for Education: Innovative Teaching Methods

Edtech products are high-impact design education solutions met with technology. Edtech products could assist teachers in the classroom and even afterwards to achieve best practices and teaching methods by applying technology and internet. Yet the Edtech products developers should also be aware of the cognitive and learning sciences along with instructional designs in order to create functional and systematic products. In the Educational Product Evaluation Checklist, Kaplan provides a checklist for an essential educational product which may apply to Edtech products as well. The criterias in the checklist that could increase the user satisfaction are: objectives, assessment, practice, examples, information, multimedia, overviews, integration, motivation, organization, usability, and personalization. Thus, Edtech products which compromise these features have a better chance to satisfy the needs of educators.

The technology in the classroom is quite different in comparison to the past so does the Edtech products and tools. As new standards and opportunities are developed in teaching, new and upgraded Edtech products are released to the market as well. EdSurge also shares a Product Index which is a database of edtech products based on different topics and needs. Here are some of the Edtech products that are popular in recent years.

### VR Learn

It is the first Virtual Reality Headset for K-12 Education designed by Vevative Labs. It includes a controller and built-in mobile device, eliminating the need for a separate mobile phone. It is only available for biology, chemistry, physics and math classes, yet the mod-

ules can be adapted for any language and any curriculum. It also includes 3D models, 360-degree animations, tasks, exercises, simulations and other interactive activities, all complemented by smart analytics and classroom management apps for teachers.

### Soundtrap

It is a creative online learning tool that enables teachers to follow Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math curriculum through music and podcasts. Participants operate in a secure "Walled Garden" environment and teachers can create and oversee the groups for a single class, an entire school, or multiple classes or schools as they collaborate on projects. The product plans to be operate in 57 countries by the next year.

### BrainPop

It creates cross-curricular digital content that engages students and supports teachers. It has over 1,000 short animated movies along with quizzes and related materials for students. It includes subjects of science, social studies, English, mathematics, engineering, technology, health, arts and music. It is also available as a mobile app.

### Haiku Deck

It allows teachers to create beautiful presentations on the web, tablet or mobile device. It provides creative common pictures, different designs and templates for presentation. It is also easy to share the work between devices through cloud system.

### Teachscape

It offers software tools, online content and services designed to allow educators to assess their skills, collaborate and build their expertise. It is also a suite of teacher observation and evaluation tools, and covers around 170 online courses and more than 1,500 videos.

### Exit Ticket

It is a free student response system designed by teachers. At the end of the class, Exit Ticket require students to demonstrate what they have learned, or to process some part of the lesson. Teachers can see performance and progression metrics for each individual student and the course as a whole in real-time. Thus, it is a great formative assessment tool allowing teachers to collect data about students' learning in an easy way.

### Build Your Own Curriculum

It is a tool for collaborative, consistent curriculum, instruction and assessment. It allows students to see the standards for the class, helps teachers to customize their lesson plans, and shows administrators the learning paths in each grade. By providing a continuous work on the saved curriculum, the software allows teachers to improve the curriculum and save time.

### Sources:

10 New & Innovative EdTech Products Announced at ISTE 2017

(<https://www.gettingsmart.com/2017/06/10-innovative-new-products-announced-at-iste-2017/>)

Top 50 EdTech Products For Educators

(<https://www.opencolleges.edu.au/informed/features/top-50-edtech-products-according-to-educators/>)

## Future Events and Opportunities

**April 15, 2018:** The Khazar University announces the admission and scholarship program for international students in 2018-2019 academic year. The programs are offered for both undergraduate and graduate levels. The scholarship program is open to students from all countries and offers merit-based full-tuition and fee covered scholarships for two students in each country. The deadline to apply is April 15, 2018. To apply please visit: [http://www.khazar.org/az/menus/496/how\\_to\\_apply\\_sup\\_style\\_color\\_red\\_new\\_sup\\_](http://www.khazar.org/az/menus/496/how_to_apply_sup_style_color_red_new_sup_)

**June 8-10 2018:** World STEM Education Conference will be held on 8-10 June 2018 in Istanbul, Turkey. The conference organized by Istanbul Aydın University and the International Council of Associations for Science Education in order to create platform for all the stakeholders to promote STEM education. For details please check the conference website: <http://www.worldstemed.org/>



**July 1-19, 2018:** Yunus Emre Institute is launching a new project for refugee children. Turkish and refugee children will meet at "I Learn About Turkey" Project. The goal of the projects is to promote Turkey, its language and culture by providing foreign children in Turkey an opportunity visit other cities, socialize with their peers and learn more about Turkey. The event will start on July 1<sup>st</sup> and will be concluded in Ankara on July 19<sup>th</sup>.

## Education News around the World

**October 26, 2017:** Kazakhstan plans to switch to Latin alphabet by 2025. Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev signed a decree on the transition of the Kazakh alphabet from the Cyrillic to the Latin-based script on October 26. The government of Kazakhstan will establish a national commission, for a gradual transition to the Latin-based script by 2025.

**November 24, 2017:** Kyrgyzstan Prime Minister Sapar Isakov signed a decree that requires all public officials to know the Kyrgyz language at a basic level starting in 2019. Moreover the decree states that all civil servants and municipal employees occupying the highest, senior and junior administrative positions need to know the Kyrgyz language at the minimum of Basic level (A2) – by 2019; Intermediate level (B1) – by 2020; Upper Intermediate level (B2) – by 2021.



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