Job description

Research and Policy Analyst - Survey on Social and Emotional Skills
Temporary assignment
Directorate for Education and Skills
Innovation and Measuring Progress Division

The OECD Directorate for Education and Skills is looking for a skilled and motivated Analyst to contribute to the implementation of the final phase of the survey on social and emotional skills (SSES) and the preparation of the international report that will present the main findings of the SSES, in the Innovation and Measuring Progress Division (IMEP). The final datasets and the international report on the second round of SSES are expected to be published in the first quarter of 2024.

The selected candidate will work as part of a team, in close collaboration with and under the supervision of the Senior Project Manager and the Head of IMEP.

The full job description can be found below.

If you are interested in this opening, please send your CV to Noémie Le Donné (noemie.ledonne@oecd.org), the hiring manager, CC: SSES.Contact@oecd.org by Wednesday 3 November 2022 at the latest.

Research and Policy Analyst - SSES

The Directorate for Education and Skills (EDU) leads the Organisation’s work to help member and non-member countries achieve high-quality learning for all, design better skills policies, and turn them into jobs and growth. The Directorate carries this out by providing statistics, analysis and policy advice to countries on a wide range of educational topics.

The second round of the SSES is currently under way in 15 participating sites. In this second round, SSES continues to assess students’ social and emotional skills and collect contextual data from students, teachers, principals and optionally on parents. The social and emotional skills assessed are: curiosity; tolerance; creativity; responsibility; self-control; persistence; sociability; assertiveness; energy; empathy; trust; co-operation; stress resistance; optimism; emotional control; achievement motivation; and self-efficacy. In this second round, in terms of content areas covered in the questionnaires, more emphasis is put on students’ career prospects and employability, teaching and schooling practices supporting social and emotional learning, as well as the potential effects of online/hybrid schooling and the development of social and emotional skills.

In most participating sites, the Field Trial was administered during spring 2022, with a few sites catching up slightly later. The SSES team and their contractors are currently analysing the Field Trial data and operations to revise and improve the survey instruments and operations for the Main Survey that is scheduled to take place in spring 2023. Once the main data collection will be finished, external contractors will clean, weight and scale the data, under the OECD’s oversight. In parallel and further to this, the SSES team will prepare for reporting. The team will need to devise a reporting plan, design and then carry out all statistical analyses and write the international report presenting the findings in a comparative perspective.
The Analyst will play a key role in the development of the reporting plan for the international report and will lead the drafting of several chapters. She/he will also be involved in the dissemination activities after the release of the datasets and report.

Depending on their skills of the selected candidate, the selected Analyst could also contribute to the management of the contractors in charge of data cleaning, weighting, scaling, and data adjudication, in view to ensuring that the produced data are fit for reporting purposes, and well documented. The Analyst would support the collaboration between the contractors and the participating sites in this process.

The selected candidate will work as part of a team, in close collaboration with and under the supervision of the Senior Analyst and the Head of IMEP.

Main Responsibilities

Analysis and Reporting

- Contribute to the preparation of the reporting plan for the international report presenting the findings of SSES.
- Take the lead on the drafting of several chapters. Conduct literature reviews and work in collaboration with a statistician on the statistical analyses and outputs.
- Contribute to dissemination activities.

[Optional: Technical responsibilities]

- Oversee the work of the contractors in charge of data cleaning, weighting, scaling and data adjudication. Ensure that the data management rules are sound, consistently applied and well documented.
- Oversee the preparation of technical documentation on the main survey operations by national centres in their countries/subnational entities. Draft technical documentation as needed in preparation of the technical report on SSES Round 2.
- Facilitate an efficient collaboration between the contractors and the participating sites around data management tasks.

Communications and Contribution to the wider work of the Organisation

- Prepare and participate in OECD meetings, including SSES meetings with the participating sites. This includes making presentations on technical aspects of the survey, reporting activities and findings from the survey as well as drafting meeting documents.
- Support colleagues and other projects as required with research and policy insights and perspectives drawn from the SSES project.
- Provide feedback and act as critical friend to share research expertise and collaborate with other projects.
Ideal Candidate Profile

Academic Background

- An advanced university degree in social sciences, psychology, statistics, economics, education, public policy or a similar discipline.

Professional Background

- Minimum three, preferably five years of experience in research and/or project management, preferably in an international organisation, national administration or research institute.
- Experience with survey administration, data collection and construction.
- Experience with collaborating with countries.
- Experience with management of contractors.
- Experience with analysis and reporting of data from international large-scale surveys.
- Demonstrated experience with working as part of a multicultural team and a commitment to promoting diversity and equity.
- Excellent drafting skills, including the ability to communicate complex information clearly and concisely in written form for specialist and non-specialist audiences, including the ability to give public presentations.

Tools

- Proficiency in the use of standard software applications (MS Office or similar).
- Proficiency in the use of statistical software (e.g. Stata, SAS, SPSS, R, Python) would be an advantage.

Languages

- Fluency in one of the two OECD official languages (English and French) and knowledge of the other, with a commitment to reach a good working level.

Core Competencies

- For this role, the following competencies would be particularly important: Analytical Thinking, Achievement focus, Teamwork and Strategic Thinking.
- Please refer to the level 3 indicators of the OECD Core Competencies.

Contract Duration

- One-year fixed term appointment starting in January 2023, with the possibility of renewal.