EVIDENCE WEB FOR EDUCATION
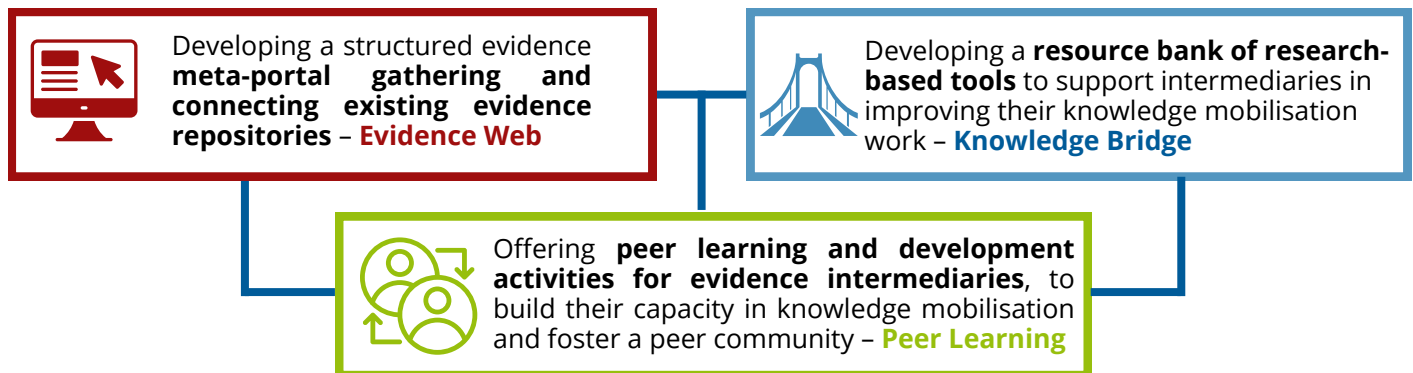
The OECD's **Evidence Web for Education (EWE) aims to make the thoughtful and systematic use of evidence a reality in education policy and practice.**

To keep education relevant in a changing world and make education systems more equitable and efficient, policy makers and practitioners need to embrace strategies that are well-founded and guided by the best available evidence. However, the uptake of research evidence in education remains limited in many systems – and when it is used, its application can be poor. EWE builds on the major developments in the field of knowledge mobilisation, as well as the gaps and obstacles identified in the OECD Strengthening the Impact of Education Research project. It supports evidence intermediaries (a.k.a. knowledge brokers) **in improving the quality, coherence and effectiveness of their knowledge mobilisation strategies and facilitates co-ordination across them through:**

Developing a structured evidence **meta-portal gathering and connecting existing evidence repositories** – **Evidence Web**

Developing a **resource bank of research-based tools** to support intermediaries in improving their knowledge mobilisation work – **Knowledge Bridge**

Offering **peer learning and development activities for evidence intermediaries**, to build their capacity in knowledge mobilisation and foster a peer community – **Peer Learning**

Who is EWE developed with and for?

Primary target group

Experts

Researchers

who conduct research on knowledge mobilisation, evidence use

Experienced Intermediaries

from well-established evidence intermediaries, ministries/agencies, and practice-focused educational organisations *with extensive experience as knowledge brokers*

Evidence Intermediaries

Independent Intermediaries

Organisations with a formal mission to support the use of evidence

Embbeded in public administration

Units, departments within ministries and government agencies with a knowledge mobilisation function or wishing to improve knowledge mobilisation in their system

Secondary target group

All educational actors

Educational organisations playing an evidence intermediary role

- Teacher education providers
- Research institutions
- Inspectorates
- Education consulting firms
- Education funders
- Civil society organisations, NGOs
- Teacher and school leader associations and unions, etc.

Education practitioners and policy makers

- School leaders and teachers
- Policy makers at all levels, etc.

EVIDENCE WEB FOR EDUCATION

📅 Timeline

2025 - 2026
Initial Development

Focus: independent and embedded formal knowledge intermediaries

2027- 2030
Consolidation and further Exploration

Focus: Extended set of formal knowledge intermediaries, a wider range of educational organisations with a knowledge intermediary role

2031- 2040
Long Term Vision

Focus: A wider coverage of formal knowledge intermediaries, and educational organisations with a knowledge intermediary role, policy makers and practitioners

Consolidation	**Exploration**

Trial version of the meta-portal based on 10-12 selected evidence repositories

Extend and consolidate a meta-portal based on additional evidence repositories

- Develop AI-powered tools to support the use of the meta-portal

AI-powered meta-portal, regularly updated and new repositories integrated, and living global evidence map

Biannual publication of OECD policy research agenda with monitoring of new research

- Pilot user interface and quality assurance process to integrate resources from researchers, intermediaries

Resource bank with an initial set of tools, case studies, and an impact framework to evaluate knowledge mobilisation activities

New knowledge mobilisation resources adapted to the needs of a wider range of intermediaries.

- Support novel approaches to evaluating knowledge mobilisation

Regularly updated and extended resource bank on knowledge mobilisation with quality assured user input interface and process

In-person learning seminars, series of online workshops and seminars

Peer learning for an extended set and wider range of intermediaries

- Develop a living global evidence map and a first OECD policy research agenda

Development of self-limproving intermediary community

🎯 Impact

A strong community of intermediaries that:

- Use effective strategies for knowledge mobilisation based on a robust and growing knowledge base
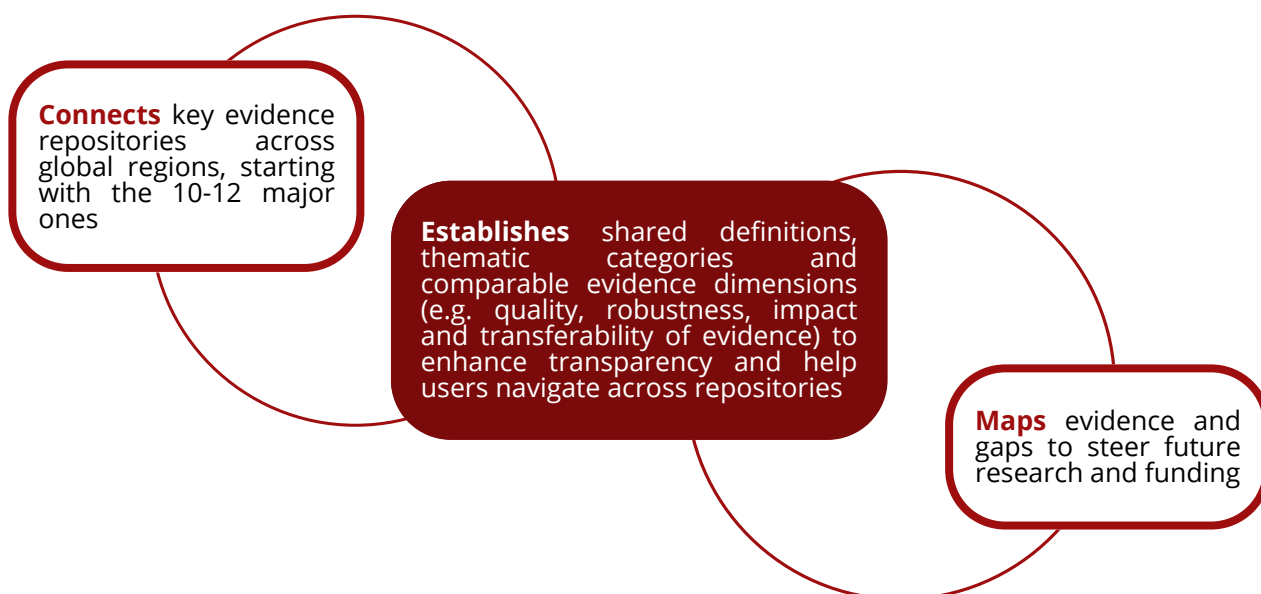- Coordinate and share knowledge and practices systematically

➡️

Education policy makers and practitioners use rigorous evidence systematically and well to make decisions.

EVIDENCE WEB META–PORTAL

The OECD's **Evidence Web for Education (EWE)** aims to strengthen the global education evidence architecture by developing **a user-friendly meta-portal that connects existing evidence repositories.** This platform will help education evidence intermediaries (a.k.a. knowledge brokers), policy makers and practitioners rapidly find high-quality, policy- and practice-relevant research evidence. The creation of this platform contributes to addressing the challenges of fragmentation, duplication, and lack of transparency in current evidence ecosystems.

What is it?

During the initial development phase (2025–2026), we are piloting a **meta-portal** that:

Connects key evidence repositories across global regions, starting with the 10-12 major ones

Establishes shared definitions, thematic categories and comparable evidence dimensions (e.g. quality, robustness, impact and transferability of evidence) to enhance transparency and help users navigate across repositories

Maps evidence and gaps to steer future research and funding

How is it developed?

The project will involve **close partnership and co-development** with **organisations hosting major education evidence repositories** to ensure relevance and shared ownership. We will draw on their experience, expertise and resources.

We will conduct **a comparative analysis of education evidence repositories** to provide the evidence base and design rationale for the platform. The analysis extends to formats (e.g. toolkits, policy briefs), types of evidence (e.g. RCTs, implementation studies), evidence quality standards, thematic structures and comparability dimensions (e.g. effectiveness, cost, transferability), among others.

We will collect and synthesise **research evidence** on what works in research dissemination through repositories and portals, and on the state of education policy research.

We will carry out **user research** to understand their needs and barriers. **Engaging users** (initially, independent and embedded intermediaries) from the outset will ensure the meta-portal aligns with their expectations. Through design workshops, we will co-develop prototypes and pilot the web-based platform.

KNOWLEDGE BRIDGE

The OECD's **Evidence Web for Education (EWE)** will build **an online resource bank of effective practices in knowledge mobilisation** (*Knowledge Bridge*) to support actors playing an intermediary role between research, policy and practice communities. The Knowledge Bridge will take the form of **a user-friendly portal that provides research-based, practical guidance materials to users in applying effective knowledge mobilisation practices**. The development of the Knowledge Bridge will draw on the cutting-edge research in this domain, as well as the OECD's own research.

What is it?

At the end of its two-year development phase, the resource bank will feature a set of research-based practical tools and other products to improve the use of research evidence.

PRODUCTS	DESCRIPTION
TOOLS	Standalone instruments that define a specific method or process of knowledge mobilisation. Tools support intermediaries in designing strategies, mapping actors and mechanisms, building and assessing capacity for knowledge mobilisation, evaluating knowledge mobilisation activities or developing policy-research / research-practice partnerships. Tool descriptions will be accompanied by support materials such as guidance documents, use cases, guiding questions, methodologies, and implementation plans
IMPACT EVALUATION FRAMEWORK	Co-developed framework to assess the impact of knowledge mobilisation initiatives, co-created by the OECD EWE team and experts
CASE STUDIES	Showcase evidence-informed knowledge mobilisation initiatives and organisational practices covering Europe, North and South America and the Asia-Pacific
	Present the knowledge mobilisation infrastructure of different education systems, mapping the actors and mechanisms that support quality evidence use in policy and practice
SPOTLIGHTS	Research briefs that analyse the intermediary role and activities of diverse educational organisations, such as teacher education providers, inspectorates or research institutions

Tool Examples

Theory of Change

To define an overarching knowledge mobilisation strategy, e.g. within an organisation

Quality Use of Research Evidence framework

For practitioners to improve the use of research evidence within schools

Competence framework

For researchers to assess their policy impact skills

How is it developed?

We will map, analyse and select existing, fully-developed knowledge mobilisation tools, and those that are underdeveloped but show a promising research base. Tool descriptions and their supporting materials will be co-developed with the experts that produced them. We will host a series of expert meetings to co-develop the knowledge mobilisation impact framework and its indicators.

Throughout the Knowledge Bridge development process, we will engage users to collect information on their needs, test prototypes and products, and solicit user feedback.

PEER LEARNING

The OECD's **Evidence Web for Education (EWE)** offers tailored **learning and development activities** for evidence intermediaries (a.k.a. knowledge brokers) to improve the quality, coherence and impact of their knowledge mobilisation efforts. The peer-learning opportunities are intended to **generate collaborative reflection** on identified challenges and **develop intermediaries' capacities based on research and accumulated experience**. EWE complements existing peer-learning efforts, connecting different types of intermediaries across networks and geographical regions.

What is it?

ONLINE WORKSHOPS

Short interactive webinars on specific themes, open to broad participation of embedded and independent intermediaries, held throughout 2025-26.

Workshop formats may include:

Live case studies: a concrete knowledge mobilisation practice is discussed in-depth

Peer-assistance: critical friends offer structured support for a practical dilemma

Ask an expert: interactively assess the latest research on specific aspects of knowledge mobilisation

Potential topics:

- Mapping knowledge mobilisation actors and activities to strengthen coordination
- Using AI tools to improve evidence synthesis and use
- Rapid response mechanisms for concrete policy/practice needs
- Evidence traveling across contexts and systems: transferability and adaption
- Embedding research engagement in teacher education
- Building a new knowledge brokering unit in your ministry

- Aligning knowledge mobilisation with the policy cycle
- How embedded intermediaries can influence high-level decision-making
- Engaging researchers in policy questions
- Planning knowledge mobilisation: developing a Theory of Change
- Evaluating impact of knowledge mobilisation: indicators and methods
- Scaling up knowledge mobilisation efforts

PEER-LEARNING SEMINARS

Interactive **in-person events** where participants delve deeply into a narrowly defined topic. They unpack it from multiple perspectives through critical inquiry, share experiences on what works and what doesn't, and prototype solutions.

Three two-day seminars will be held in 2025-26, each bringing together around 30 participants from 5 to 7 systems and organisations facing similar challenges. The seminars employ evidence-based methods in small groups and follow a **design-thinking approach**, in a format developed and tested by CERI.

Participants will:

Analyse "knowledge mobilisation journeys" through a concrete case

Engage with national stakeholder/expert panels to exchange practices across sectors and contexts

Discuss and test concrete tools, methods or frameworks (e.g. a simulation model)

Potential themes:

- Scalable approaches to capacity building for research engagement in policy and practice
- Planning, leading and scaling research-practice partnership
- Mapping and coordinating knowledge mobilisation activities across intermediaries and sectors

How is it developed?

To shape a relevant and responsive capacity-building programme, the OECD-EWE team has been mapping the learning needs of intermediaries. Peer-learning **activities will be co-developed** with participants and supported by experts. The team will then produce, share and publish outputs from the events. Finally, to foster community-building among intermediaries between events, the EWE project is also developing **a digital platform for sharing resources, exchanging ideas, and sparking collaboration.**