



Network for international policies and
cooperation in education and training
Réseau sur les politiques et la coopération
internationales en éducation et en formation

Symposium

Innovative Financing for Education Symposium

Learnings and the Future of Research and Practice

Date and Venue

When: Day 1: Tue 01.02.2022, 15:00 – 17:00 (CET)
Day 2: Thu 03.02.2022, 15:00 – 17:00 (CET)

Where: Online – Register [here](#)

This event will bring together education experts from diverse contexts to share their experiences with research and practice on innovative financing for education (IFE), take stock of what has been learned so far and engage in discussions on the ways forward in making sure IFE contributes to equitable and quality education for all. The outcomes of the [COFER Innovative Financing in Education \(IFE\) and Development: Case Studies and Multi-Media Material for eLearning project](#), will be presented to reflect on the learnings to date.

The two-day symposium will cover the evolving understanding of IFE and its various mechanisms, with a particular focus on impact bonds on the second day.

The event will also feature case studies from distinct contexts in the Global South, such as Argentina, Ethiopia, India, and Nepal. Additionally, avenues for future research on the topic will be explored along with upcoming research activities. Discussions with the audience will feature as an important aspect of the event.

NORRAG's work in the area of Innovative Financing for Education aims to develop capacity and deepen collective knowledge about the mounting numbers and modalities of innovative financing mechanisms in the education sector. By conducting research on diverse innovative financing experiences in education, NORRAG is building empirical evidence on the additionality and efficiency of innovative financing and its impact on provision, quality and equity in education. To learn more about our work visit www.norrag.org/ife

Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) to hear updates about the event and future activities organized by us. Engage in the conversation regarding IFE with us by using [#innovativefinancing](#), [#SDG4](#), [#resultsbasedfinancing](#), [#ImpactBonds](#).

NORRAG is an Associate Programme of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID) and is supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Open Society Foundations (OSF).

Agenda Day 1

Tuesday, 01.02.2022, 15:00 – 17:00 CET

Innovative Financing for Education. What have we learnt?

DAY 1 - Agenda 15:00 – 17:00 (CET/GVA)

Welcome and Introduction

Gita Steiner-Khamsi, NORRAG and Teachers College, Colombia University

Introduction to SUDAC-COFER project - Innovative Financing in Education and Development: Case Studies and Multi-Media Material for ELearning

Cathryn Magno, University of Fribourg

What is Innovative Financing and what have we learnt?

Arushi Terway, NORRAG

Audience Q&A

Facilitator: *Marina Dreux Frotté*, NORRAG

Helvetas' Skills and Knowledge for Youth Project: A Case Study of Results-Based Financing for Vocational Education and Training

Markus Maurer, Zurich University of Teacher Education

Bettina Jenny, Helvetas

Audience Q&A

Facilitator: *Marina Dreux Frotté*, NORRAG

Zaya Learning Lab: A Case of Impact Investment

Marina Avelar, NORRAG

Audience Q&A

Facilitator: *Marina Dreux Frotté*, NORRAG

The Lending for Education in Africa Partnership (LEAP)

Joseph Di Silvio, Volta Capital

Audience Q&A

Facilitator: *Marina Dreux Frotté*, NORRAG

Reflections on the field of Innovative Financing for Education

Aleesha Taylor, Herald Advisors

Audience Q&A

Facilitator: *Marina Dreux Frotté*, NORRAG

Future research and capacity building agenda: Theory of Change of innovative financing

Arushi Terway, NORRAG

Audience Q&A

Facilitator: *Marina Dreux Frotté*, NORRAG

Agenda Day 2

Thursday, 03.02.2022, 15:00 – 17:00 CET

Impact Bonds as Innovative Financing for Education

DAY 2 - Agenda 15:00 – 17:00 (CET/GVA)

Welcome and Introduction

Moira V. Faul, NORRAG

Recap of day 1 and introduction to Impact Bonds

Marina Dreux Frotté, NORRAG

Financing Early Childhood Development: The Impact Bond Innovation Fund, South Africa

Cynthia Rayner, Bertha Centre

Audience Q&A

Facilitator: *Moira V. Faul*, NORRAG

Proyectá Tu Futuro: A Social Impact Bond for Education and Employability Training in Buenos Aires

Felicitas Acosta, Universidad Nacional de General Sarmiento

Tomás Esper, Teachers College, Colombia University

Audience Q&A

Facilitator: *Moira V. Faul*, NORRAG

India Education Outcomes Fund: A Case Study

Archana Mehendale, Tata Institute of Social Sciences

Audience Q&A

Facilitator: *Moira V. Faul*, NORRAG

Lessons learnt on the use of Impact Bonds in education

Sietse Wouters, UBS Optimus Foundation

Audience Q&A

Facilitator: *Moira V. Faul*, NORRAG

Future Research: Theory of Change of innovative financing

Arushi Terway, NORRAG

Closing reflections

Nicholas Burnett, Results for Development

Audience Q&A

Facilitator: *Moira V. Faul*, NORRAG

Biographies of speakers



Felicitas Acosta is a full-time researcher at Universidad Nacional de General Sarmiento, Argentina, where she also teaches Comparative Education, History of education and Educational Foundations. Her research interests focus on the expansion of schooling from a transnational and historical perspective including international educational reforms and, more recently, standardized assessments and innovative finance in education. She has served as a research consultant for international organizations such as UNESCO, IIEP, UNICEF and ECLAC. In 2019 she was awarded the Margaret Sutherland Prize in Comparative Education by the Comparative Education Society in Europe (CESE) for her paper “Who is setting the agenda? OECD, PISA, and educational governance in the countries of the Southern Cone” published in *European Education* (2020).



Marina Avelar researches the topics of education policy, globalisation, privatisation, and the right to education. As a consultant, she has worked with several organizations such as the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Network for International Policies and Cooperation in Education and Training (NORRAG), the Privatization in Education and Human Rights Consortium (PEHRC), and the Brazilian Campaign for the Right to Education. She has published several journal papers and book chapters and is the author of the book *Disrupting education policy: How new philanthropy works to change education*. She has a PhD in education by the UCL Institute of Education and was visiting researcher at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Spain).



Nicholas Burnett is a Senior Fellow at Results for Development (R4D), a Senior Research Fellow at 3ie, and a Visiting Professor of International Education Policy at the Universities of Nottingham (UK) and Kobe (Japan). He was formerly Human Development Manager for West and Central Africa at the World Bank, Director of the Education for All Global Monitoring Report, Assistant Director-General for Education at UNESCO, and founding Managing Director for Global Education at R4D. He was educated in economics at Oxford, Harvard, and Johns Hopkins universities.



Joseph Di Silvio is the Impact and Performance Manager for Volta Capital, based out of their Nairobi office. He leads all performance management and monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) activities across several ongoing projects that utilize innovative financing mechanisms to reach improved education and health outcomes throughout Africa. These include the Lending for Education in Africa Partnership (LEAP), a higher education financing and skilling program for low- and middle-income youth in Kenya, as well as impact bonds focused on Early Childhood Development in South Africa and prevention of avoidable blindness in Cameroon.



Marina Dreux Frotté is Programme Coordinator for NORRAG’s portfolio on private sector engagement in education, as well as Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Lead for the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) Knowledge, Innovation and Exchange (KIX) Europe, Asia and Pacific (EAP) Hub. Over the last three years, she has conducted extensive research on innovative financing for education experiences in the Global South. Her specialisations include comparative and applied research on education policy and finance, as well as MEL planning and implementation.



Tomás Esper is a doctoral fellow in International and Comparative Education at Teachers College, Colombia University. Tomás has worked as an education policy advisor in Argentina and as an educational consultant in the US. Tomás’ research interests lie in the crossroads between school reform and privatization, with a focus on Latin America. He has conducted research on school reform in England as well as in Latin America.



Moira V. Faul is the Executive Director of NORRAG. She is an expert on the effectiveness of networks of evidence and policy, having edited a Special Issue of the journal *Evidence and Policy* on the topic. Her research (across education, health, nutrition and environmental sectors) has focused on the effectiveness of network and platform governance, global financing partnerships, and the intersections and blind spots between different sectors and research disciplines. She has substantial expertise in education and international cooperation, as well as in organizational development and management in the private and voluntary sectors in China, Spain, Switzerland and the UK, and has produced many important studies for international organizations, including the Global Partnership for Education, the UK government, UNESCO, UNHCR, and ActionAid.



Bettina Jenny is head of the Skills, Jobs and Income sector at HELVETAS. She focuses on vocational skills development, teacher education and training, youth employment and digital learning in development cooperation.



Cathryn Magno is Professor in the Department of Education Sciences at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, where she teaches comparative and international education policy, education theory, and seminars related to gender, migration and social justice. Her research, projects and publications include books, chapters and articles emphasizing equity in education across education sectors and geographical regions.



Markus Maurer is Professor of Vocational Education at the Zurich University of Teacher Education. His research focuses on implementation of education and training policy reforms, on adults in vocational education as well as on comparative analysis of education and training systems.



Archana Mehendale's research interests lie in the areas of education law and policy, regulation and inclusive education. She has taught Education Policy to graduate students for over a decade at Tata Institute of Social Sciences where she worked as a Professor and Research Lead on the Connected Learning Initiative until 2018. Her

most recent publication is the co-edited section on School Education Systems and Policies in Handbook of Education Systems in South Asia, a major reference work published by Springer Nature (2021) in which she has also co-authored chapters on India and Nepal. Archana has studied at Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai and National Law School of India University, Bengaluru and currently lives in the US.



Cynthia Rayner is a researcher, writer, lecturer and PhD candidate affiliated with the Bertha Centre for Social Innovation at the University of Cape Town Graduate School of Business. Her research focuses on “collective institutional agency”, or how organizations and communities work to shape social systems in collective ways. Her research is founded in her work as a practitioner, including Generation Ubuntu, an afterschool program educating children in Cape Town; mothers2mothers, an African social enterprise employing women to guide other women to good health; and the Starfish Greathearts Foundation, a nonprofit supporting children and families in South Africa. Cynthia holds a BA from Georgetown University and an MBA from INSEAD.



Gita Steiner-Khamsi serves as the academic director of NORRAG and holds a triple academic appointment as a full professor at Teachers College, Columbia (primary appointment) and is seconded to the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, and is also a Visiting Research Professor

at the University of Oslo, Norway, Department of Education. For the first ten years of her academic career, she worked in the R&D unit of the Ministry of Education of the Canton of Zurich, Switzerland. She has extensive experience in policy studies and planning in low- and middle- countries and has served as senior advisor for education sector analyses and sector planning. She published 13 books and numerous peer-reviewed journal articles and is past president of the Comparative and International Education Society.



Aleesha Taylor, Ed.D. is the Principal of Herald Advisors, a consulting firm she founded in 2016 to help leaders and organizations thrive in the intersections of philanthropy, education, and international development. Aleesha is a former Deputy Director of the Open Society Foundations' education program, where she managed a team

across five countries to implement a global grant making portfolio that sought to strengthen education systems and civil society. She has served as a Lecturer and Adjunct Professor in International Educational Development at Teachers College, Columbia University, where she completed her doctoral studies. Aleesha also holds degrees in psychology from Spelman College and the Graduate Faculty for Political and Social Sciences of the New School for Social Research.



Arushi Terway is the Senior Lead Research Associate at NORRAG. She manages NORRAG's Private Sector Engagement thematic work. Over the last four years, she has led the research and other capacity building activities in innovative financing for education in partnership with multiple research and implementing organisations. Her research and technical assistance work has focused on comparative education policy planning, implementation and financing.



Sietse Wouters is programme director at UBS Optimus Foundation, focused on Social Finance. At the Foundation Sietse has been closely involved in the design and management of Development Impact bonds and the foundations direct social investments. Prior to his current role, he has worked in corporate strategy roles at UBS

Asset Management, ABN AMRO and Arthur D. Little. He has a degree in Management science and Industrial engineering.

SUDAC-COFER Consortium Members



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