



Report
Meeting of the RCG4-WCA Steering Team
Regional Coordination Group on SDG4-Education 2030 in West and Central Africa

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Reported by the Secretariat (UNESCO Dakar)

Location: UNESCO Regional Office, Dakar

Date: 27 February 2017

Time: 14:30 - 16:30

Participants:

UNESCO Dakar : Gwang-Chol Chang (RCG4-WCA Chair)

FAWE: Houraye Mamadou Anne

UNICEF WCARO: Nicolas Reuge

Secretariat: Catherine Collin, Lily Neyestani-Hailu, Laetitia Houlmann, UNESCO Dakar

Absent: ANCEFA, CAMES, CONFEMEN

Meeting objectives

Following the retreat of the plenary group on 8 December and the meeting of 23 February on the web portal, and following the meetings of the different task teams, which have been taking place in the meantime, the RCG4-WCA steering team met to discuss the following points:

- 1) Review of activities including those of the task teams
- 2) Proposal for a side-event at the ADEA Triennale
- 3) Support to the Secretariat
- 4) Various

1. Review of activities including those of the task teams

1.1. Plenary group

- The December retreat report was communicated at the end of January, accompanied by a form for updating the list of focal points and commitments of members to contribute to the secretariat. The list will be finalized and shared when all organizations will have provided these elements to the secretariat.

1.2. Summary of the web portal meeting¹

- Validation of the URL change in order to ensure ownership of the portal (www.education2030-africa.org)

¹ For more details, refer to the meeting report.

- Exploring ways to make the portal useful for all members
- Proposal to create a common private area (intranet) for resource sharing
 - A calendar of the plenary group and TTs (+ other interesting meetings) will be shared
 - The sharing of a list of experts has yet to be discussed
- Discussion about geographical delimitation and suggestion to maintain some flexibility: initially planned for the coordination of SDG4-Education 2030 in West and Central Africa, the site could then be extended to other regions
- Suggestion to create an operational working group dedicated to the website
- It should be noted that UNESCO head office finds the concerted approach very interesting and wishes to propose to other regions to use a similar URL

1.3. Task teams

The discussion focused on the activities of the three task teams that are currently active, namely "TALENT²", "Strengthening education systems", and "Gender equality and inclusive education". The main points are summarized below, additional details are available in the reports of the meetings of each team.

As a preamble, it was recalled that task teams should not be an additional workload, but a way to collaborate on common issues and benefit from what others do. As agreed upon during the retreat, teams that do not have a final lead or TOR will be removed from the list. Reactivation is possible at any time if an organization proposes itself as lead.

TALENT – Lead UNESCO

- The 1st meeting in 2017 took place on Wednesday 22 February
- The main activities are:
 - Possible collaboration with the GPE in the framework of a workshop on "assessment for learning" at the end of 2017 (a preparatory meeting will take place during ADEA Triennale)
 - Strengthening the working relationship between TALENT and ADEA-NALA (*Network for African Learning Assessment*, within the ICQN on teaching and learning), which confirmed its participation in the task team
 - their diagnosis of evaluation systems in the countries could be an interesting tool
 - Meeting with NEQMAP (*Network on Education Quality Monitoring in Asia-Pacific*) in December 2016
 - Possibility of involving TALENT in a ministerial meeting organized in autumn 2017 by ECOWAS

Strengthening Education Systems - Lead UNESCO

- The 1st meeting was held on 10 February.
- Key activities related to each working modality were shared with the steering team
- The guidelines for the domestication of SDG4 in the countries constitute the main common product of the task team (TT-systems):
 - A first draft prepared by the UNESCO team will be available in April for feedback by the task team
 - Mali will serve as a pilot country with the organization of a national dialogue workshop in the week of 20 March with the participation of several member institutions of the task team
- The database containing country information on education leads and sector reviews will be placed under the TT-systems. It will also capture information on national planning cycles and efforts to date in the domestication of SDG4 in sectoral plans to better target the task team's support.

² "Teaching and Learning: Educators' Network for Transformation"

- It was suggested to present the information in two ways: in the form of a database and an interactive map of the region

Gender equality and inclusive education – Lead Save the Children (SC)

- The 1st meeting in 2017 took place on 26 January
- The work program is currently being prepared and currently includes two main activities:
 - SC activity - *policy brief* on girls' education
 - Proposal of case studies (compendium of "good practices")
- The TORs are being consolidated
- A high-level meeting on early and forced marriage is scheduled for autumn
 - FAWE is discussing with SC to see if it can be incorporated into the team's workplan
- The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 2

Higher Education

- A roadmap was sent by CAMES in January. This still has to be reviewed and discussed.
- The collaboration between UNESCO Headquarters and CAMES in the context of quality assurance activities is also a niche that could be exploited.

General remarks

- Since some leads are not used to task team processes, it has been suggested that a more experienced organization would be identified as a co-lead, as far as possible.
- It was recalled that the TORs of all task teams should be aligned with the guidelines originally provided

2. Proposal for a side-event at the ADEA Triennale

2.1. Update on the situation/options

- Following the relocation of the ADEA Triennale to Diamniadio (Dakar), the RCG4 confirmed its wish to organize a side event dedicated to partnerships on the sidelines of the conference
- As the cost of organizing a side event at the Triennale site was very high (\$ 11,000 for a one-and-a-half hour period), several alternatives were considered. In the meantime, ADEA agreed to grant a fee waiver to UNESCO. The event will therefore take place in Diamniadio on Tuesday 14 March from 14.00 to 15.30
- UNESCO facilitates the organization of this joint activity of the RCG4; the participation of all members and their support for the dissemination of information on the event are expected.

2.2. Concept note

The members of the steering team who were present validated the draft of the concept note proposed by UNESCO.

2.3. Suggestions for panelists (5 people + chair)

Based on the suggestions of the steering team, the following organizations have been identified as panelists or potential guests:

- Representative of RCG4-WCA
- GPE
- ADEA
- African Union
- SADC (or other REC)
- Trust Africa (or another private sector actor)

- ERNWACA (or another research institution)
- ECOWAS (as moderator)

It was agreed that the official invitation to the panelists would be sent by the Director-ad-interim of UNESCO-Dakar as Chair of the RCG4. On the other hand, a guest list will be prepared as soon as possible by the secretariat to target key participants and approach them personally.

2.4 RCG4-WCO's Brochure

- A brochure for the presentation of RCG4 was developed by the secretariat for dissemination at the Triennale.
 - The concept and content have been validated by the steering team, which has however decided to remove - at least temporarily - the names of the lead agencies of the task teams, as the teams do not yet all have a lead.
 - The brochure will be finalized by the secretariat in order to ensure its availability at the time of the Triennale.
- As a second step, all members of the group will be consulted to stabilize an improved version of the brochure.

3. Support to the Secretariat

- UNICEF could contribute to the operational costs of the secretariat. UNESCO will prepare a list of the resources mobilized so far for the functioning of the secretariat, indicating the roles and responsibilities of each and identifying other needs to be covered.
 - This item will be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the plenary group.
- On this basis, the members of the RCG4 can contribute "in cash or in kind" according to their means

4. Next Steps

- 6 April 2017, morning: next meeting of the RCG4 plenary group (venue to be defined)
 - proposal to be submitted to the other members of the group: organize the meetings on Thursday of the first week of each quarter (6 July, 5 October)
- The Steering Team will henceforth meet once every 6 weeks; as far as possible, some of these meetings will be held back to back with the meetings of the plenary group