



### **Improving student numeracy in Norway**

ACER is working with staff from the Norwegian Centre for Mathematics Education on training and assessment initiatives designed to improve student numeracy levels, addressing:

- the rationale for the use of interactive digital test items in large-scale assessment
- the challenges of developing test items for an interactive digital medium
- the decisions and practices that ACER has adopted in the development of interactive digital test items in large-scale assessments, and
- education systems and practices in Australia and Norway.

### **Student assessment in India**

Researchers from ACER's Assessment and Reporting program are working with staff from the Azim Premji Foundation in Bangalore, with a focus on developing and analysing student assessments across a range of subjects as part of an ongoing program to support the Azim Premji Foundation's assessment work.

### **Cataloguing and observing learning outcomes in 20 countries**

ACER and partner, the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS), is working on the pilot phase of the catalogue component of the UIS Observatory of Learning Outcomes.

The pilot will compile indicators of achievement among students in primary and secondary schools in about 20 countries. After the pilot, the UIS and ACER may extend their collaboration for the execution of the entire Observatory over the following two years.



Snapshot

# Current international projects

## Benchmarking educational quality in the Arab States

ACER and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Beirut Office are collaborating to develop a common regional learning assessment framework to be used as a benchmark for measuring educational quality in the Arab States. The framework will:

- outline the context and define terms for a common regional educational improvement initiative
- propose a management structure
- identify appropriate measures, and
- develop a model for calculating these measures and interpreting results.

## Student assessment in Spain

Spain's largest university, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, is using tests prepared by ACER to assess the mathematics and Spanish reading skills of students in Grades 4 and 8. The tests consist of items from the International Schools' Assessment (ISA) and the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) so that results can be related to PISA standards. As well as the test forms and the ISA items, ACER is providing administration training and consultancy on analysis and reporting.

## Beginning teacher standards framework for Saudi Arabia

ACER is assisting the Saudi Arabian National Centre for Assessment in Higher Education (NCAHE) with the development of a framework for beginning teacher standards.

ACER Principal Research Fellow Dr Lawrence Ingvarson is chairing the international advisory committee responsible for assisting in developing a model for teacher professional standards in Saudi Arabia. The committee counts ACER Principal Research Fellow Dr Glenn Rowley and ACER Senior Research Fellow Dr Elizabeth Kleinhenz among its members.

The beginning teacher professional standards will describe the skills, knowledge and values necessary for effective teaching. The standards will be used to design assessment tools for the purposes of selection among teaching candidates and will determine training needs for accredited beginning teachers.