

The presentation will provide an overview of the OECD initiative for an international Assessment of Higher Education Learning Outcomes (AHELO). This ground-breaking initiative has emerged in response to the lack of information on higher education learning outcomes, and the need to move from processes to outcomes in higher education quality assessments. The aim of AHELO is to measure what undergraduate students know and can do upon graduation in a way that is both relevant and valid to different countries, languages, cultures and types of institutions.

Such an endeavour is not without challenges, both technical and political, and the OECD chosen approach has been to explore these issues by way of a feasibility study. Indeed, AHELO is the first attempt at measuring internationally learning outcomes in higher education. The feasibility study stated goal is thus to gauge whether such an assessment is scientifically feasible and practically possible. A secondary aim is to assess whether the range of stakeholders involved in higher education can be convinced that this is also something useful to their needs.

The presentation will focus on the rationale for AHELO, the range of challenges it faces, as well as the insights gained from the feasibility study process and initial outcomes. The presentation will end with an overview of the next steps and reflections on the potential of learning outcomes data to improve higher education quality and equity worldwide.