Cooperation between the Inter-American Development Bank and IEA

The Regional Project on Child Development Indicators (PRIDI) is an initiative of the Inter-American Development Bank that aims to generate high quality and regionally comparable data on child development. It was launched in December of 2009.

The first initiative of its kind, PRIDI took its inspiration from regional and international tests, such as the Latin American Laboratory for Education Quality (LLECE) and IEA’s TIMSS and PIRLS, which have helped to inform the policy dialogue on education quality.

IEA, which has supported a number of international studies on education outcomes, provided technical assistance on issues related to sampling, item validation, and data collection (see Technical Annex).

PRIDI created, validated, and applied a series of new instruments in nationally representative samples in four participating countries: Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Paraguay, and Peru. The study showed that “child development in Latin America is unequal. Inequality in results appears as early as 24 months, PRIDI’s youngest participants, and increases with age. By 59 months, the development of a poor and under-nurtured child will lag by as much as 18 months behind her richer and more nurtured peers” (see PRIDI webpage).

The PRIDI results were formally presented on 11 December 2014 in a seminar organized by the IDB. A panel of international experts, among them IEA Executive Director Dirk Hastedt, debated the implications of the study findings.

The PRIDI database is now available and can be downloaded for free. Researchers can perform secondary analysis of PRIDI data using the IEA IDB Analyzer in conjunction with SPSS.

In the spirit of continuing collaboration between the IDB and IEA, Dirk Hastedt and Héctor Salazar, Manager of the Social Sector at the IDB, recently signed a memorandum of understanding for future cooperation on projects fostering research and professional development in Latin America and the Caribbean.