

**IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES FOR APO RESEARCH PROJECT ON  
THE EDUCATIONAL DIVIDE AND IMPLICATIONS FOR PRODUCTIVITY  
(HYBRID MULTICOUNTRY)**

**1. Methodology**

- a. Submission of research proposals: The APO Secretariat will identify partner research institutions, invite research proposals, and form a research team. Interested research institutions should submit their proposals to the APO Secretariat by the deadline.
- b. Multistakeholder consultative meeting: To finalize the plan for the research, a meeting will be held virtually, tentatively in January–February 2026. The indicative agenda items are:
  - Research overview
  - Proposals for the study by research institutions
  - Discussion on implementation of the study and
  - Finalization of the research plan.
- c. Joint study implementation: The research team will collect, process, and analyze data for the report. The final report with findings will be submitted to the APO Secretariat by the end of October 2026, with an interim report by May 2026.
- d. Dissemination activities of final research output in APO members: To increase the visibility of the final research output, create more public engagement, and impact public policymaking, effective dissemination activities in participating APO members will be carried out either in the face-to-face or online modality, when necessary, as part of project implementation.

**2. Tasks of the Selected Research Institution(s)**

- a. Assist and work with the APO Secretariat in developing the research framework and analytical approach related to the educational divide and productivity.
- b. Finalize the methodology and outline of the policy study report structure with the APO Secretariat.
- c. Collect and analyze relevant data on the educational divide, productivity, and policy implications in line with the agreed framework and methodology.
- d. Prepare and submit an interim report and a final report to the APO Secretariat within the agreed time frame.
- e. Assist the APO Secretariat in validating research findings with APO member economies.
- f. Provide support in the dissemination of the research findings to APO members, either in the face-to-face or online modality, upon completion of the report.

**3. Qualifications of Research Institution(s)**

The APO Secretariat will select an appropriate research institution(s) with the following qualifications:

- a. Extensive, specialized expertise in the educational divide and productivity as demonstrated through publications and international research.
- b. Proven capacity to collect and analyze data related to the educational divide and productivity across multiple APO member economies, including conducting cross-country comparisons and contextualizing findings within global best practices.
- c. Experience in providing policy advisory services to governments or international organizations on the educational divide and productivity-related issues.
- d. Excellent English writing skills.

- e. Strong commitment to undertaking and completing the research project within the given time frame.

#### **4. Actions by Participating APO Members**

- a. Promote the research project among relevant local institutions/think tanks interested in undertaking the study, in accordance with the Request for Proposals to be available on the APO website.
- b. Make the necessary arrangements and assist in undertaking local dissemination activities, in either the face-to-face or online modality, of the final research output within APO members, including inviting local stakeholders as participants in the program.

#### **5. Financial Arrangements**

##### **To be met by the APO**

- a. Honorarium for the research institution(s) to be paid upon completion and acceptance by the APO of the reports.
- b. Costs relating to the face-to-face or online dissemination activities of the final research output, which include but are not limited to the expenses of the expert(s) and APO Secretariat staff, as well as a portion of the local implementation costs such as logistics and meeting room package in APO members.

##### **To be met by APO members**

- a. Other costs of the research output dissemination activities, in either the face-to-face or online modality, that are not covered by the APO if undertaking local implementation.

##### **To be met by research institutions**

- a. All implementation costs incurred by research institutions when conducting the study.