When evidence confronts politics: competing rationalities in the “smart state”

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New approaches to economic challenges

- Crisis has undermined:
  - Trust in government and institutions
  - System capacity to learn
- ‘Smart state’
- Need to revisit governance models
The past: some background

- 2002-6: national reviews of educational R&D:
  NZ, England, Mexico, Denmark, Switzerland
- *Evidence in Education: Linking Research and Policy (2007)*
General points

- Low levels of investment in educational R&D
- Weak research-policy links
- Low system capacity
  - Methodology
  - Knowledge networks and brokerage
  - Scaling up and sustainability
Government expenditure on ERD as a percentage of total (public and private, all levels) expenditure on education

Government expenditure on ERD as a percentage of the public expenditure on R&D

Source: OECD, 2009.
General points

- Low levels of investment in educational R&D
- Weak research-policy links
- Low system capacity
  - Methodology
  - Knowledge networks and brokerage
  - Scaling up and sustainability
Knowledge Production

- Revisit models of investment in educational R&D
  - Who funds?
  - For what purpose?
- Improve system capacity
  - Monitoring and evaluation
  - Impact

Knowledge use

- Continue to reinforce research-policy links
  - Brokerage institutions
    - Objectivity, trust
  - Involvement of stakeholders
    - Capacity building
Use of knowledge base in policy making

**Knowledge base**

- What types of knowledge?
  - Tacit knowledge
  - Explicit knowledge

- What knowledge sources?
  - Education research
  - Indicators, evaluations
  - Professional expertise
  - Anecdotal evidence, etc

**Steps**

1. Identification of needs
2. Evaluation & Monitoring
3. Knowledge base
4. Outcomes
5. Implementation
New approaches to economic challenges

• ‘Smart state’
• Crisis has undermined:
  – Trust in government and institutions
  – Building system capacity to learn

• Need to revisit governance models, use of knowledge
Governing complex education systems

Priority setting → Steering

Policy Design ← Implementation

Accountability → Knowledge use

Knowledge production → Knowledge use
What models of governance are effective in complex education systems?

What knowledge systems are necessary to support this?
Accountability

**Challenges**
- Who, to what purpose?
- Transparency of roles
- Legitimacy

**Rankings**
- How used, by whom?
- Role of media
Capacity building

- **Local level**
  - Change management
  - Knowledge sharing/building capacity

- **Evidence/indicators**
  - Production/use
  - Identifying needs
  - “Tyranny of common sense”
Next steps/hard problems

- Implementation: how to move from knowledge to action
- Scaling Up: how to move from case to system
- Sustainability: how to maintain success over time
Thank you!

*For more information:*
[www.oecd.org/edu/ceri/gces](http://www.oecd.org/edu/ceri/gces)