Education stands at the forefront of policy agendas as children grow up in an increasingly complex and connected world. Educators and policymakers have a weighty responsibility. High-quality education forms the building blocks for economic prosperity and social wellbeing and creates the productive citizens of the future.

RAND Europe’s research helps inform the making of more effective educational policies, programmes and practices that are inclusive and equitable for all. Our aims are to deliver high-quality research and analysis, to inform the policy debate in education and, ultimately, to improve education systems worldwide.

RAND Europe’s research

RAND Europe’s interdisciplinary and international research examines the evidence behind how policies and practices can support learning, from building strong foundations in the early years to improving school effectiveness, ensuring that young people have the right skills in preparation for the future.

**SCHOOL EFFECTIVENESS**

To improve the effectiveness of schools, factors that can help ensure high-quality education for all pupils need to be identified. Our work aims to do so, covering a wide range of topics from complex school interventions to the use of technology in the classroom.

**BUILDING STRONG FOUNDATIONS**

The early years of a child’s life lay the foundations for future learning and success. Identifying the factors that build strong foundations during these years is a key focus. Our research also makes international comparisons of early childhood education and care settings, analysing how evidence-based practices, family, neighbourhoods and community all influence a child’s wellbeing.

**SKILLS AND EMPLOYABILITY**

With rapid economic, technological and social change, ensuring that young people are equipped with the right skills needed for the future is imperative. Our research tackles how to measure learning gains in higher education and how higher education institutions’ governance systems can support innovative modes of provision.
RAND Europe’s methods

RAND Europe’s education research benefits from a wide range of multidisciplinary expertise and capabilities across the organisation and our large network of collaborators.

Randomised controlled trials
We have a growing portfolio of projects using rigorous experimental (randomised controlled trials) and quasi-experimental designs to evaluate complex education interventions.

Literature reviews
We conduct robust systematic reviews of evidence using the global resources available in the wider RAND Corporation’s professional library.

Survey design and analysis
We bring methodological expertise to design high-quality surveys and conduct complex analyses with large-scale administrative data.

Policy analysis
We are experienced in providing education policy advice based on the best international evidence available.

RAND Europe’s expertise

RAND Europe is well placed to conduct research and analysis in support of evidence-based policy and decision making across the education sector.

- We are independent and objective. As a not-for-profit research organisation, RAND Europe’s mission is to help improve policy and decision making through research and analysis. Our mission is underpinned by our core values of quality and objectivity, and our unwavering commitment to the highest level of integrity and ethical behaviour. All our research is quality assured and the documents we publish must pass an independent peer review.

- Our collective knowledge of education-related issues extends locally, across Europe and beyond. RAND Europe has an extensive body of work that tackles key concerns of policymakers in the education sector. We have worked with key organisations including UNICEF, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the European Commission, the UK Department for Education, the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF), the Royal Society, the Higher Education Agency (HEA) and the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

“RAND Europe has well-established links with academia, think tanks and commercial organisations, and we frequently partner with other organisations and experts to provide the best support to our funders and clients.”

- We have strong networks across the education policy and research communities. RAND Europe has well-established links with academia, think tanks and commercial organisations, and we frequently partner with other organisations and experts to provide the best support to our funders and clients.

- We have a unique, multidisciplinary, contextual understanding of education. RAND Europe’s research portfolio spans a wide range of disciplines and topic areas from employment, home affairs and social policy to well-being in the workplace, health, innovation and science. We are therefore able to situate education-specific research within the wider social context and to draw upon the subject content and methodological expertise of the wider RAND Europe team to bring innovative perspectives and approaches to education research.
Rand Europe contacts

Elena Rosa Brown
Elena manages the Early Years and Education portfolio at RAND Europe and has over 18 years’ experience working in education. She is a proficient methodologist with extensive experience designing a range of studies, from pragmatic randomised controlled trials to mixed method approaches using administrative data. Prior to joining RAND she worked at the Education Endowment Foundation – the UK’s What Works Centre for Education – as a senior evaluation manager. She has also worked for the Ministry of Education in Ontario and worked with international organisations such as Social Ventures Australia.

Dr Alex Sutherland
Alex leads research in both education and criminal justice at RAND Europe. He leads evaluations of programmes and interventions in the education sector using experimental and quasi-experimental methods. Previously, Alex spent three years coordinating and teaching quantitative methods on a graduate training programme at the University of Cambridge, and he has more than 17 years’ experience working in evaluation.

Axelle Devaux
Axelle’s research on education and training policies focuses on ICT in education and its role in supporting vulnerable learners. Axelle has worked with EU institutions for over 12 years and managed the evaluation and implementation of several EU policies and programmes in education. As deputy head of the RAND Europe Brussels office, she brings a European perspective to her work.

Read more and meet the team at www.randeurope.org/education