Summary: objectives and outcomes

National workshop on competency-based Secondary Education (Guatemala City, Guatemala, 22-24 October 2007)

The main objective of the national workshop was to provide orientation for secondary school teachers on the design of competency-based learning situations as a tool for developing the new curriculum for grades 7 to 9.

Supervisors, principals and teachers of Secondary Education, educators, curriculum specialists and developers from the Ministerial General Divisions of Evaluation, Research and Standards, Intercultural Bilingual Education and of Quality Education, and consultants on different areas of knowledge and disciplines of Secondary Education attended the workshop.

The main outcomes were as follows: (i) 60 curriculum developers, supervisors, principals and teachers from different provisions of Secondary Education were trained in the design of families of competency-based learning situations within the conceptual framework of the pedagogy of integration; (ii) the design of the new curricular proposal for the Basic Cycle of Secondary Education (years 7 to 9) was presented to multiple stakeholders, national and international organizations, public and private sectors and; (iii) representatives from GTZ (German Cooperation), AECI (Spanish Cooperation), UNESCO Guatemala and IBE have agreed on the need of joining and complementing efforts towards supporting the curricular transformations in Primary and Secondary Education.

Several follow-up activities have been agreed upon such as: (i) preparing a proposal on expanding the application of the pedagogy of integration (competency-based approach) to more primary schools in 2008; (ii) planning a second workshop, as a follow-up of the first one on the design and evaluation of competencies in Secondary Education; (iii) proposing an implementation strategy for the new curriculum (years 7 to 9); (iv) planning an UNESS (UNESCO National Education Support Strategy) mission to Guatemala jointly with UNESCO National Office and; (v) exploring possibilities of supporting the application of the pedagogy of integration in the areas of Communication and Language, Social Sciences and Citizenship Education, and Productivity and Development, mainly in secondary schools.