BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

Banff, 11 October 2011

Making Innovation Happen: Motors and Brakes

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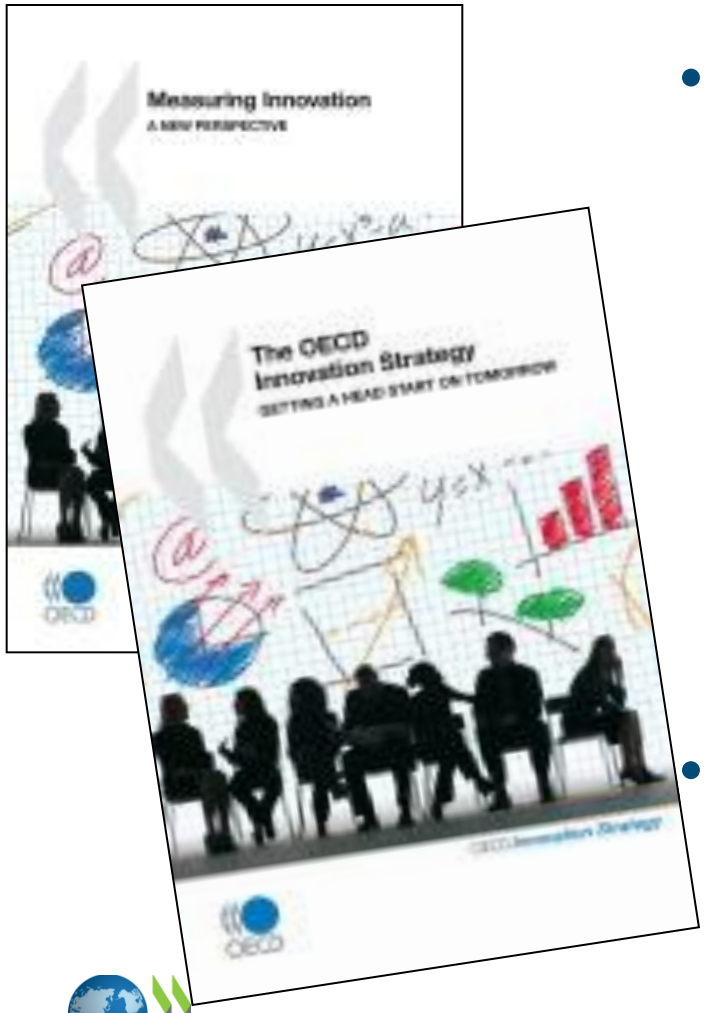
OECD Innovation Strategy: Launch at Ministerial Council Meeting 2010



- Principles to promote innovation, including in education and public sector activities
  - *The OECD Innovation Strategy. Getting a head start on tomorrow*
  - *Measuring Innovation. A new perspective*
- CERI's project:
  - Skills and Education for Innovation
  - Innovation in Education

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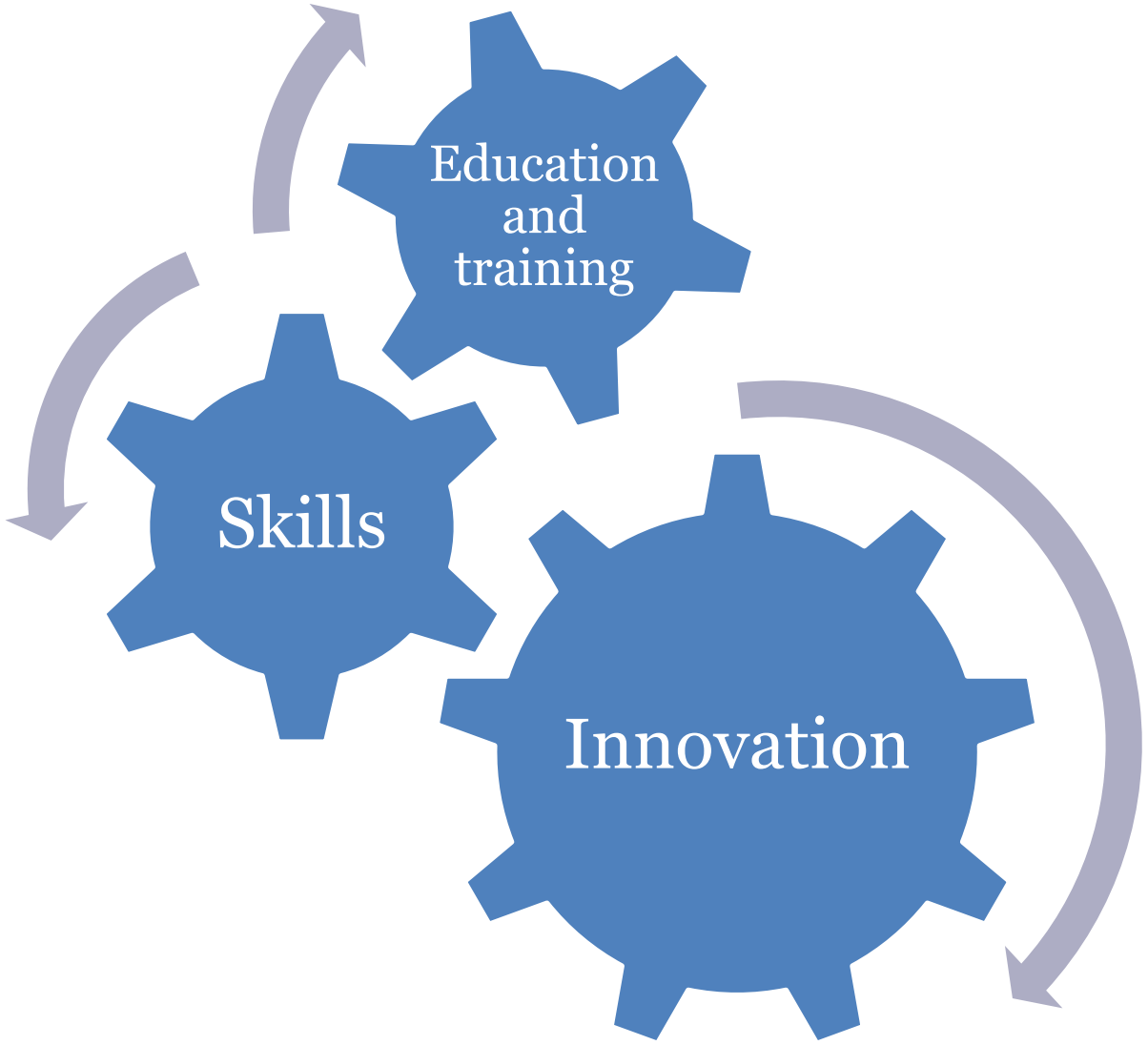
Skills and education for innovation

« 21st Century Skills »



Innovation strategy for education and training

- Stimulating science-driven innovation
- Stimulating business-driven innovation
- Stimulating practitioner-driven innovation
- Stimulating user-driven innovation

Different types of innovation in education

- Science-driven and business-driven innovation
  - Tool builders (educational products and services for systems, schools and people)
  - New knowledge generation
  - Application or scaling up of evidence-based practices
- Practitioner-driven and user-driven innovation
  - School builders (new school models)
  - Project developers (new ideas and practices)
  - Inexpensive tool builders (OER, etc.)

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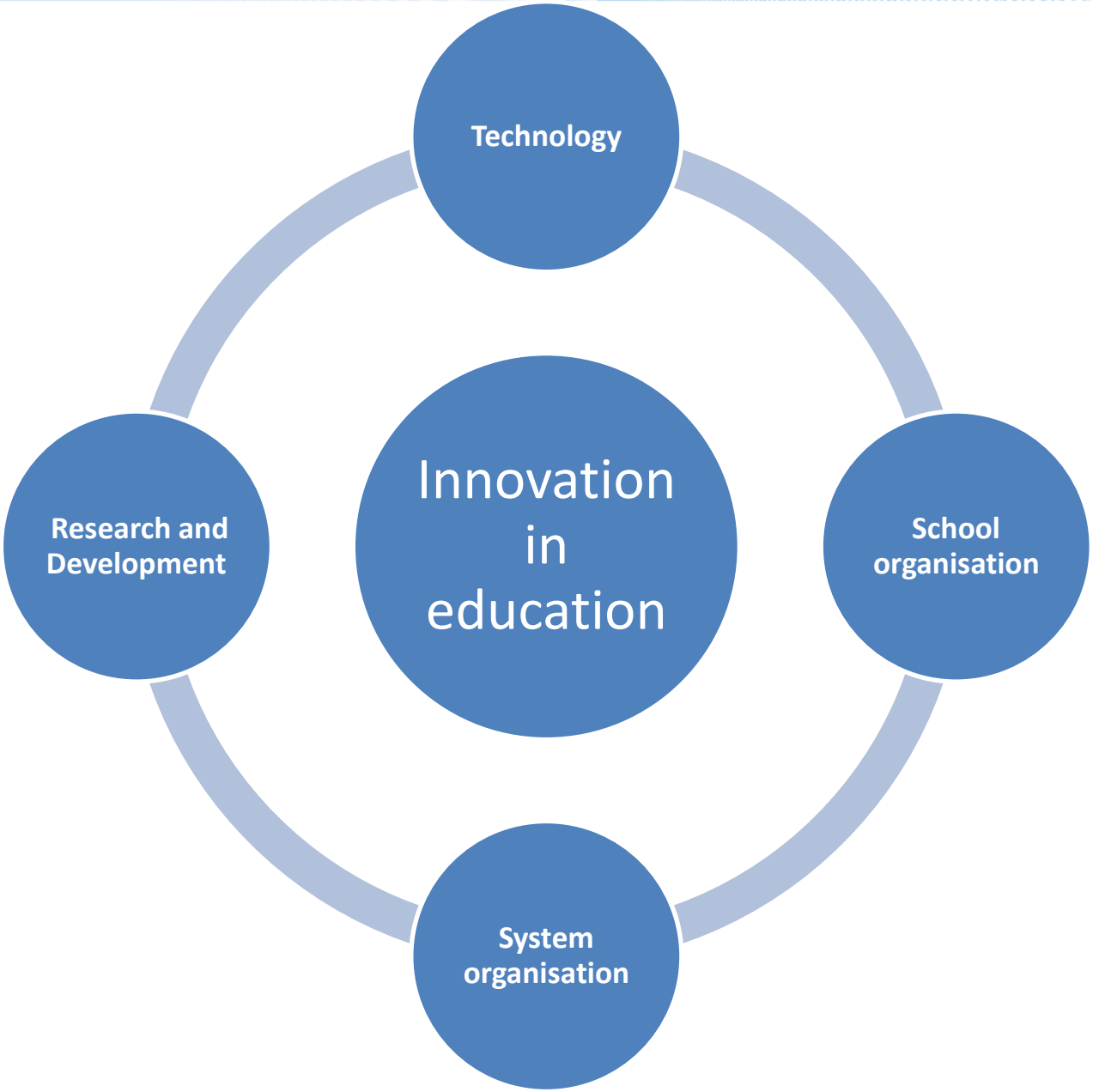
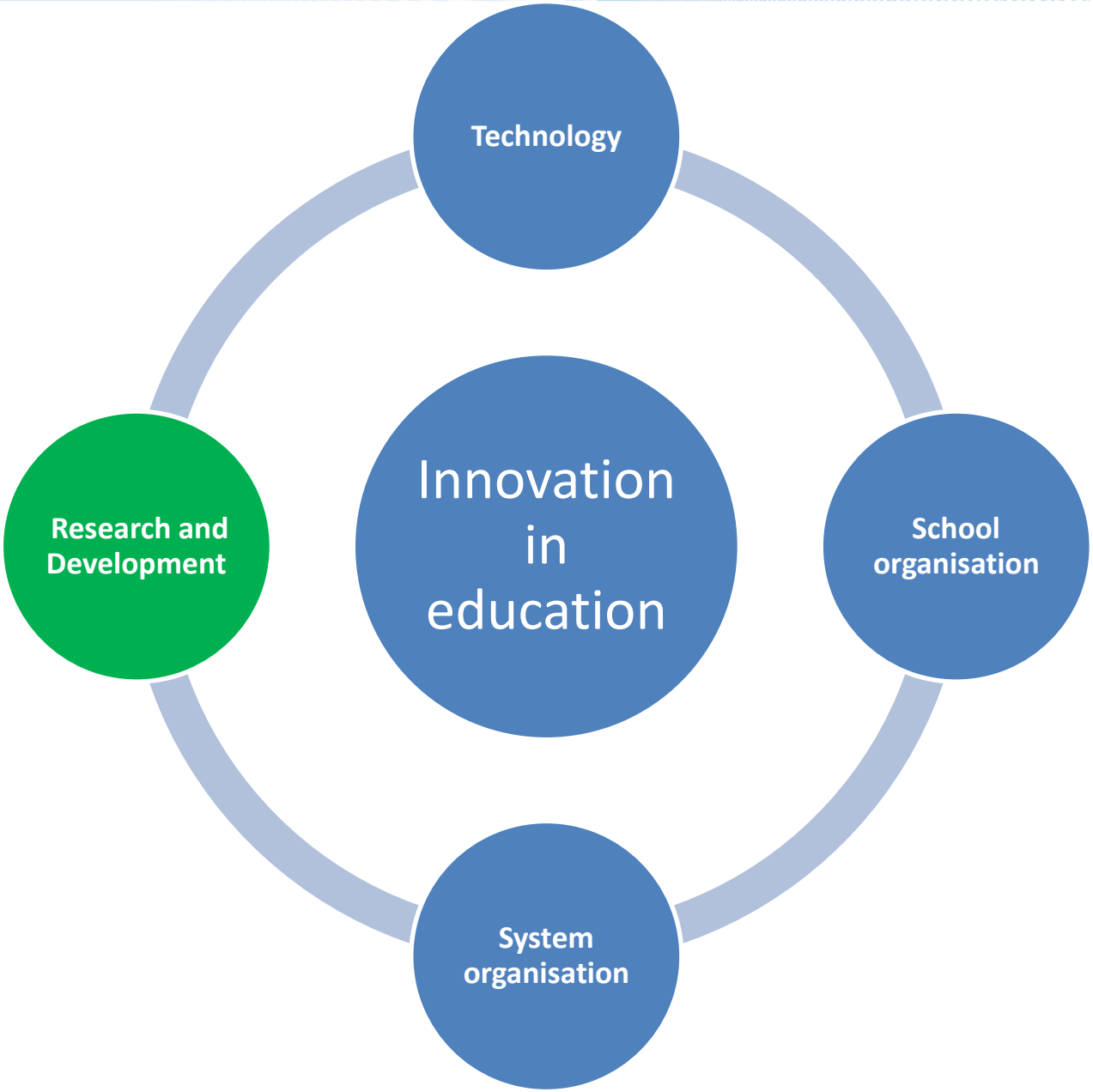
Innovation in education



Motors of innovation in education



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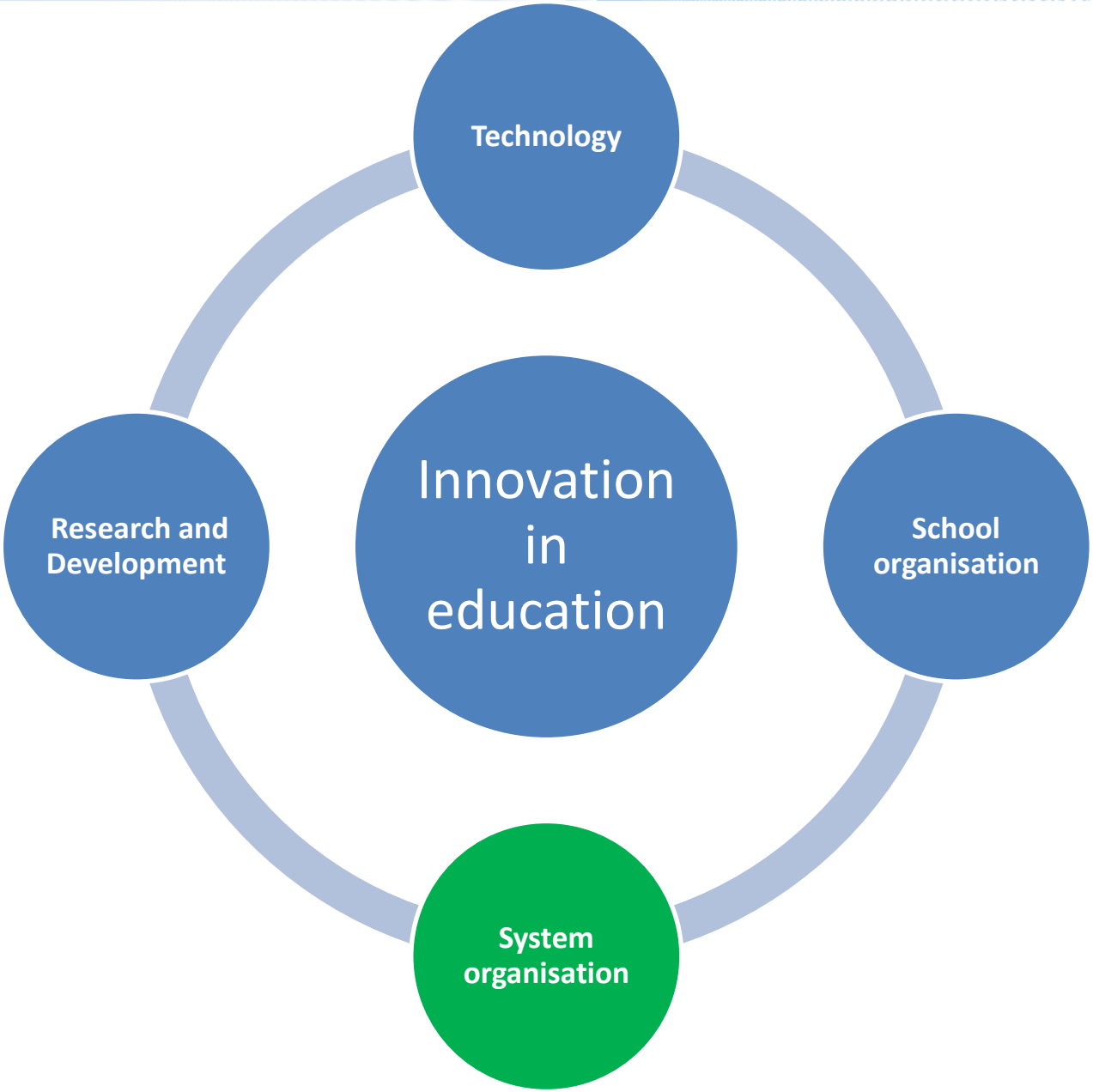

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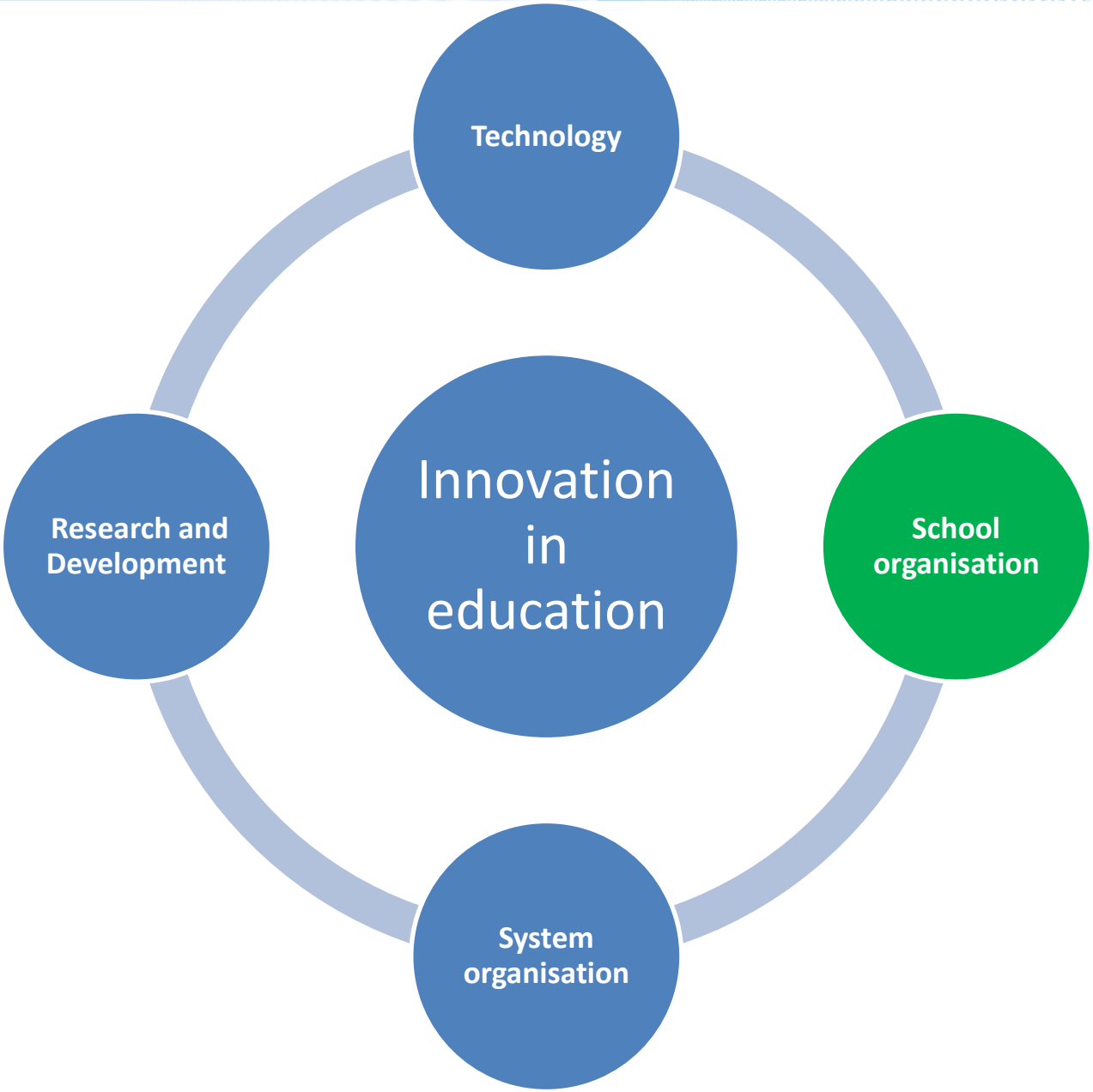

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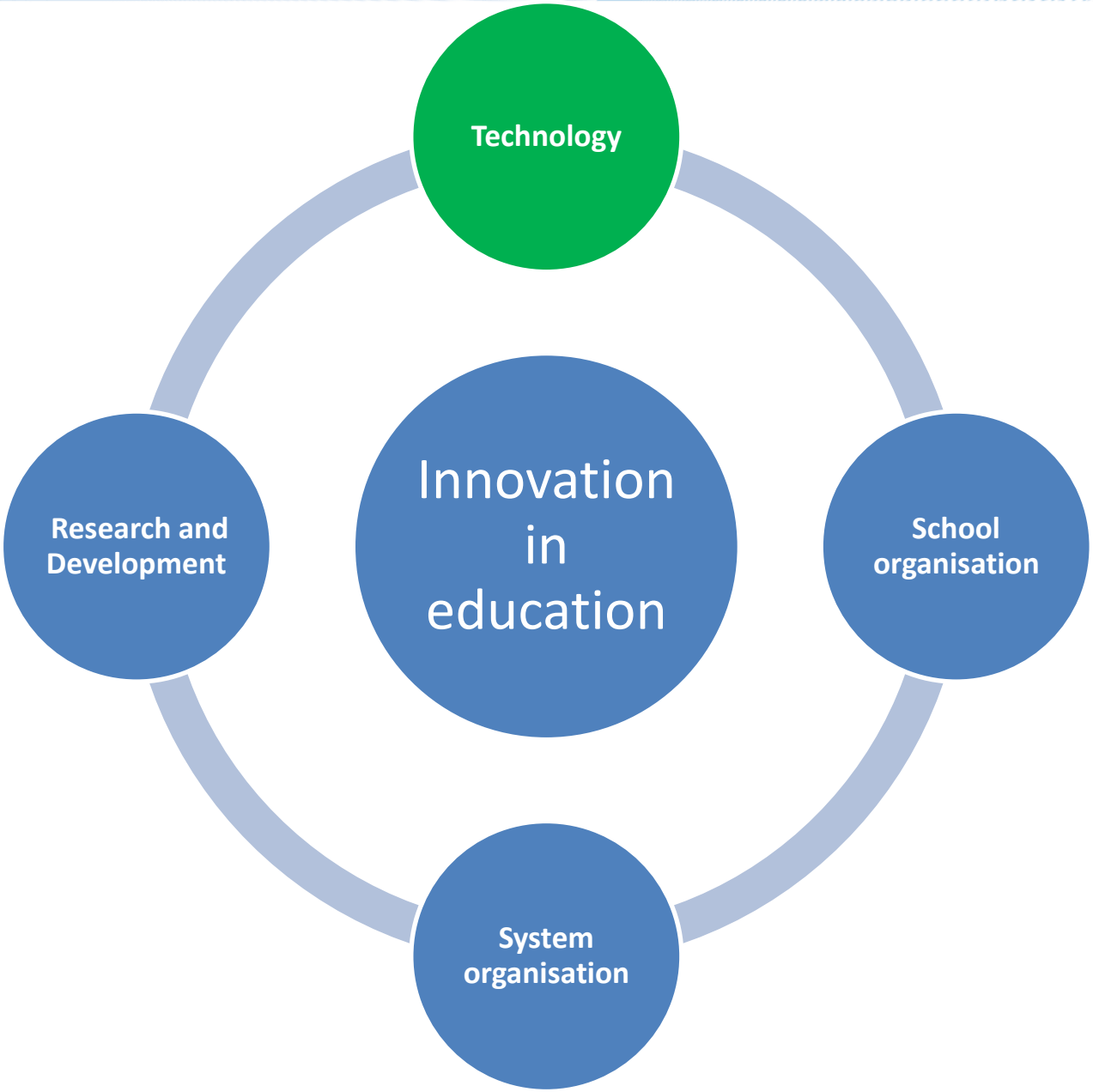

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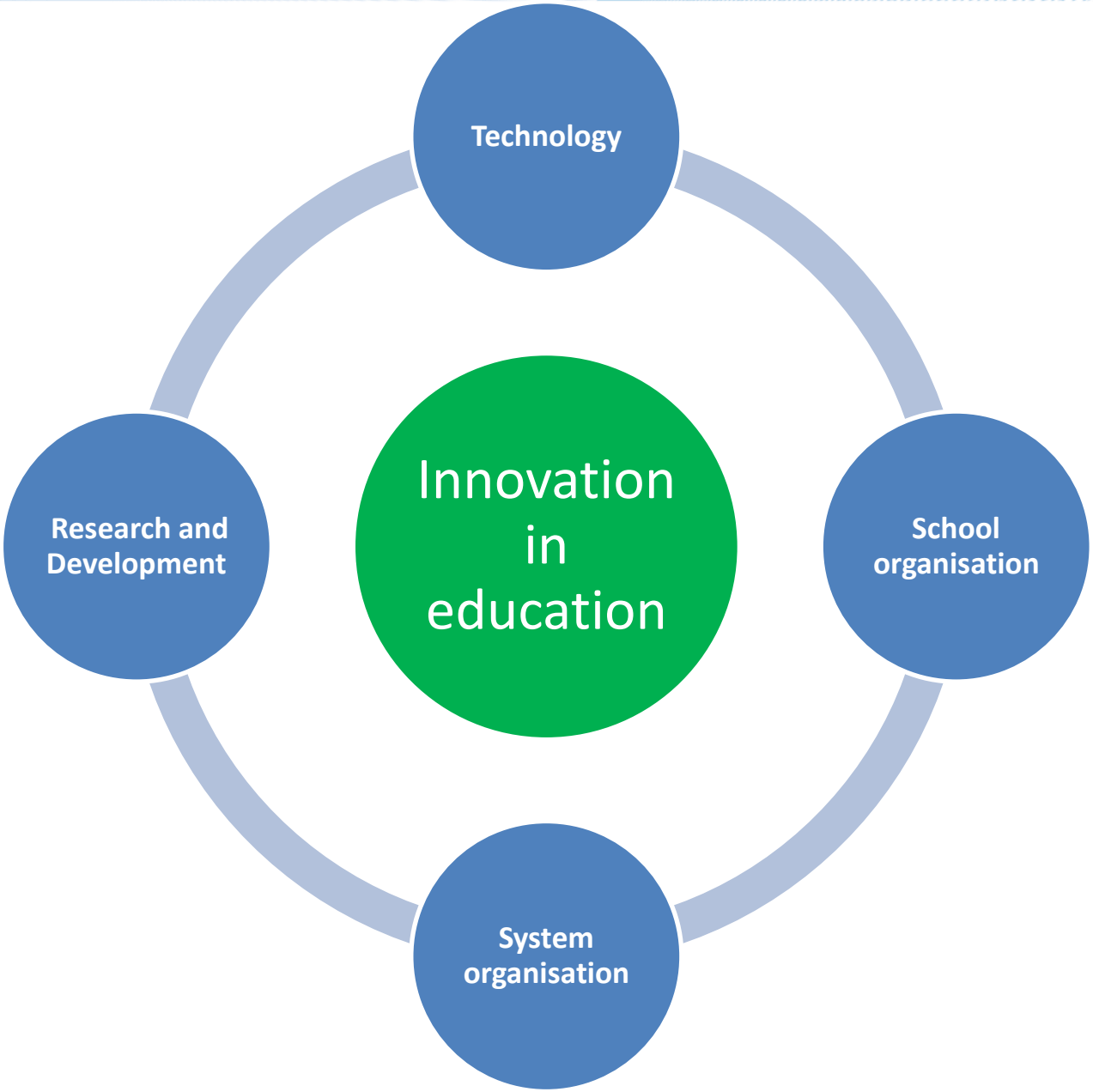
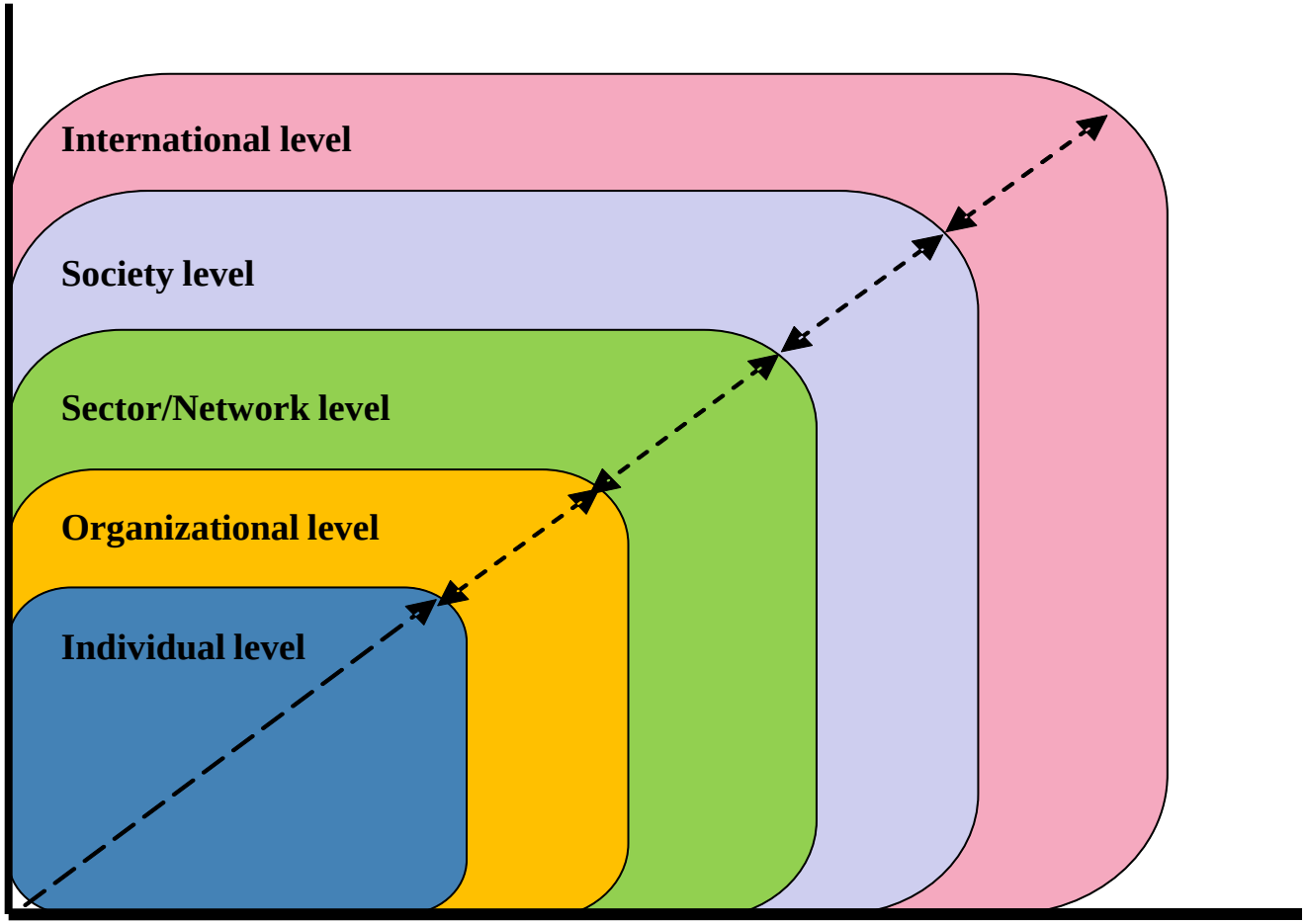
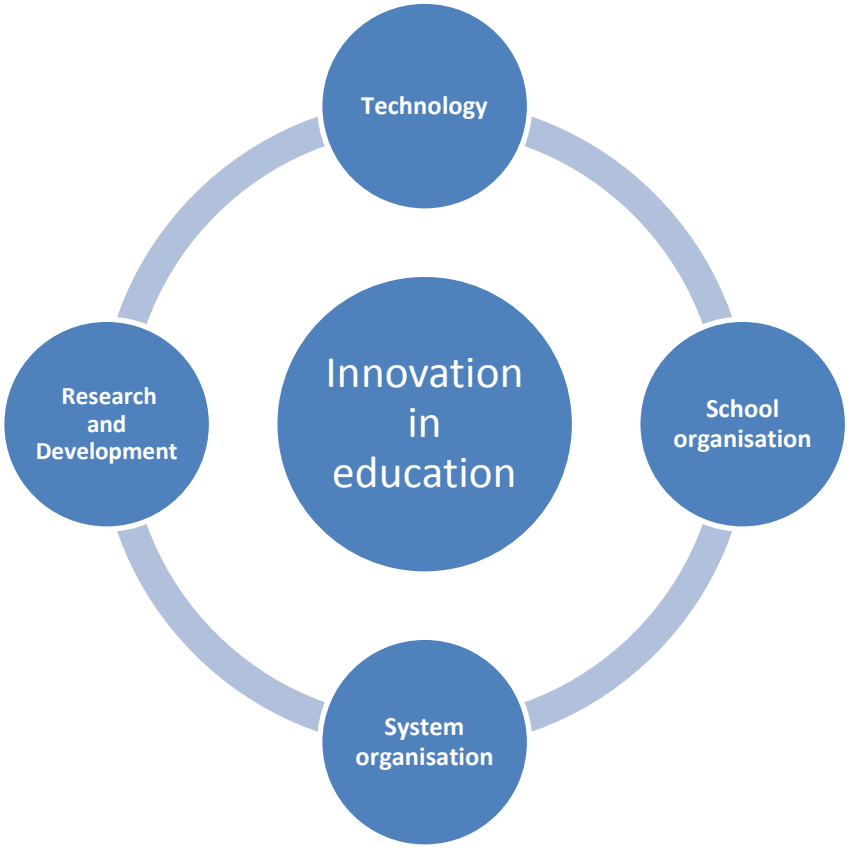


A multi-level innovation ecosystem with different stakeholders, levers (and obstacles)

- Federal
- State
- District



Brakes to innovation

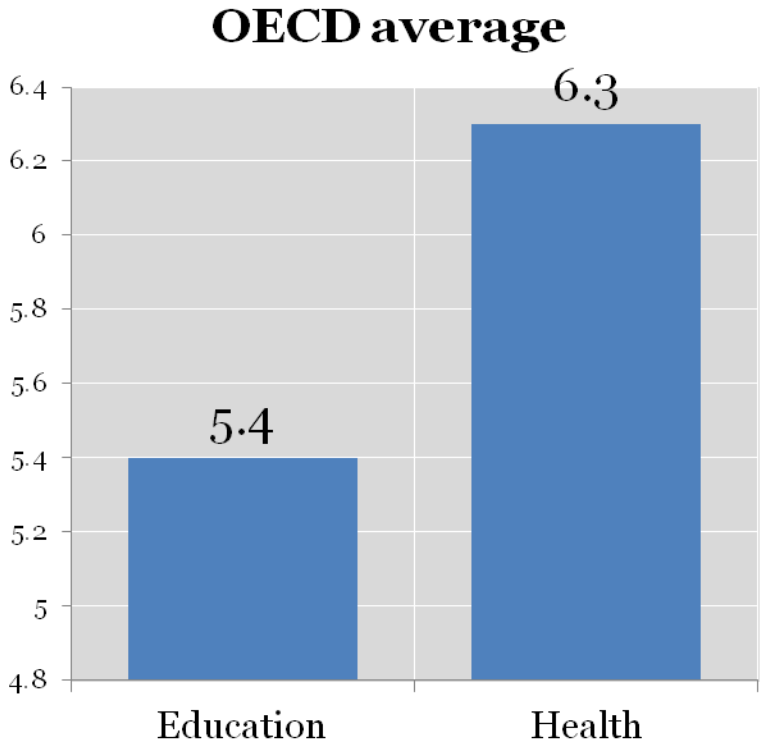


- **Brake #1: supply of innovation**
  - Insufficient public and private insvestment in research and development
  - Insufficient incentives for entrepreneurial tool development in education (but this might be changing)
  - Insufficient room for experimentation and action research by practitionners

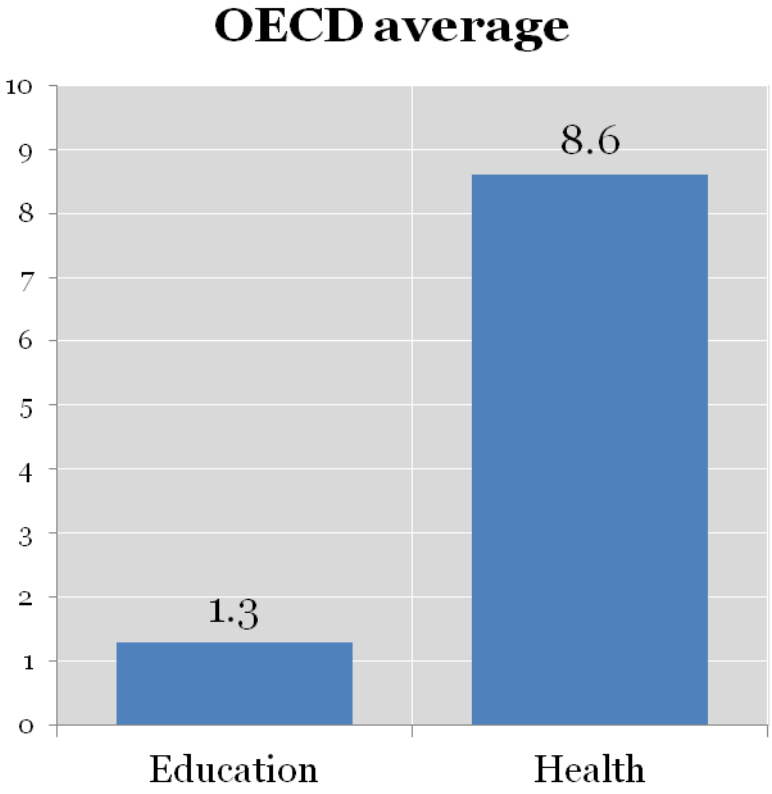
Educational Research and Development

Science-driven innovation

Public expenditures in education and health as % of GDP (2008)



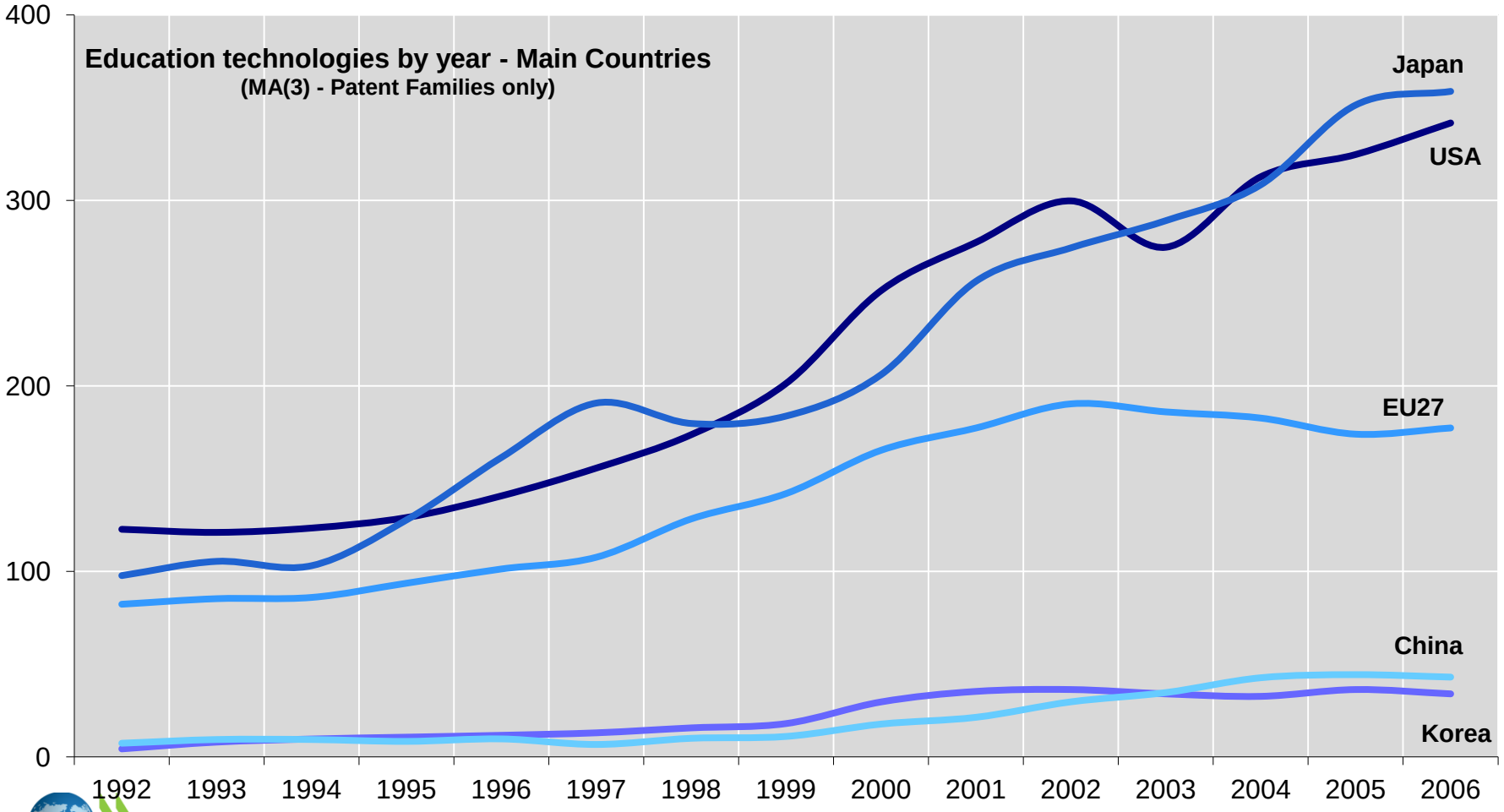
Share (%) of public research expenditures on education and health (2008)



Educational Research and Development

Business-driven innovation

Growth of patent applications: Worldwide new education technologies (1990-2006)



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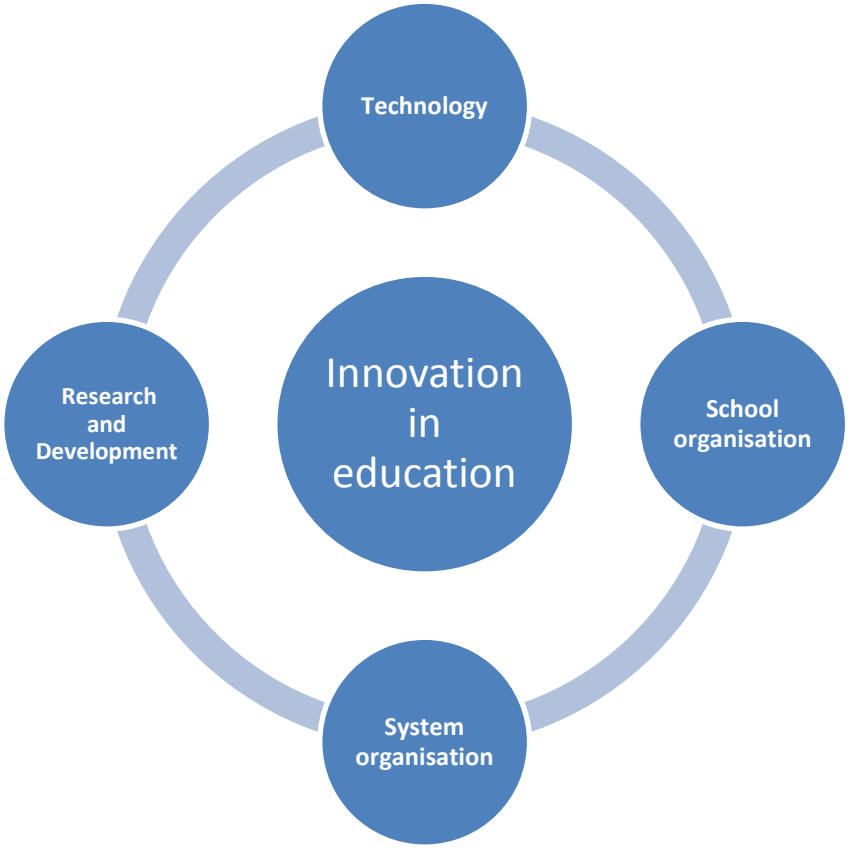
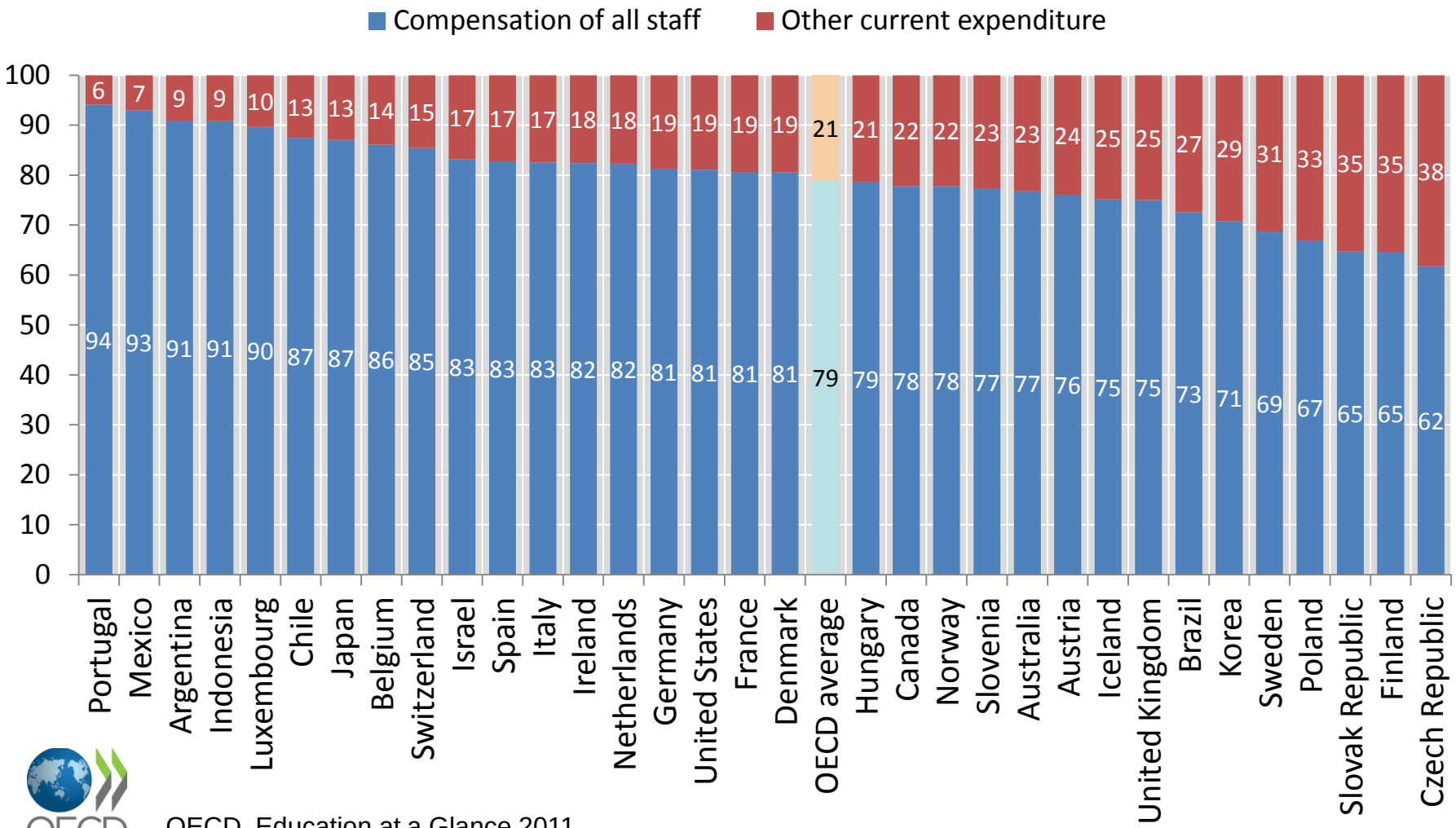
Brakes to innovation



- **Brake #2: demand for innovation**
  - Accountability policy leads to risk-aversion
  - Innovation funds / Venture capital are insufficient (?)
  - Schools/teachers lack (budget and) culture for innovation (action research)
  - Parental demand for educational innovation is marginal

Can school buy (or fund) innovations?

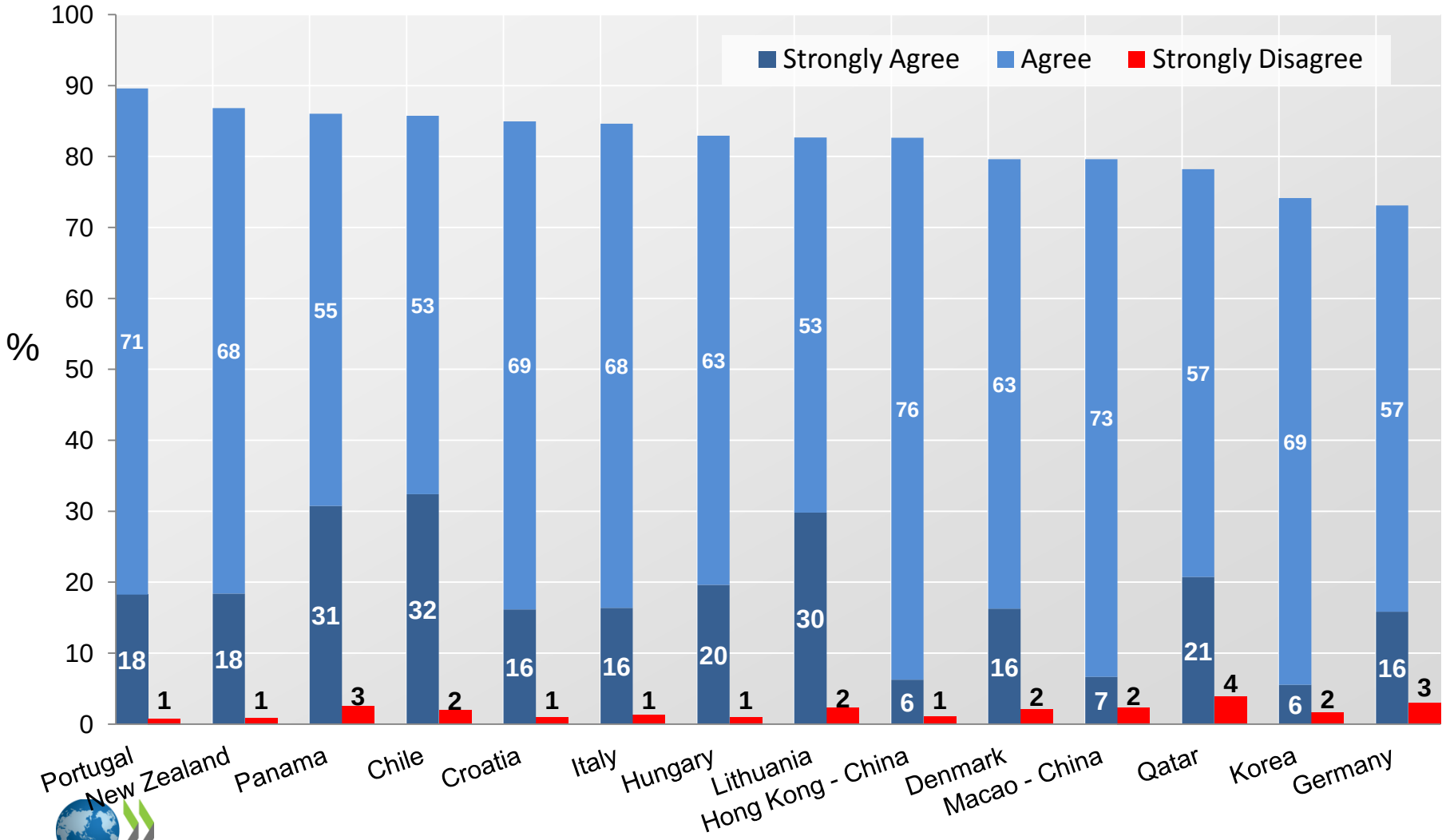
Distribution of current expenditure by educational institutions in primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education (2008)



OECD, Education at a Glance 2011

Parents are happy with pedagogy and content

"I am happy with the content taught and the instructional methods used in my child's school"



OECD, PISA 2009, Parents questionnaire

Pedagogy and curriculum: socio-economic distribution of “happiness”

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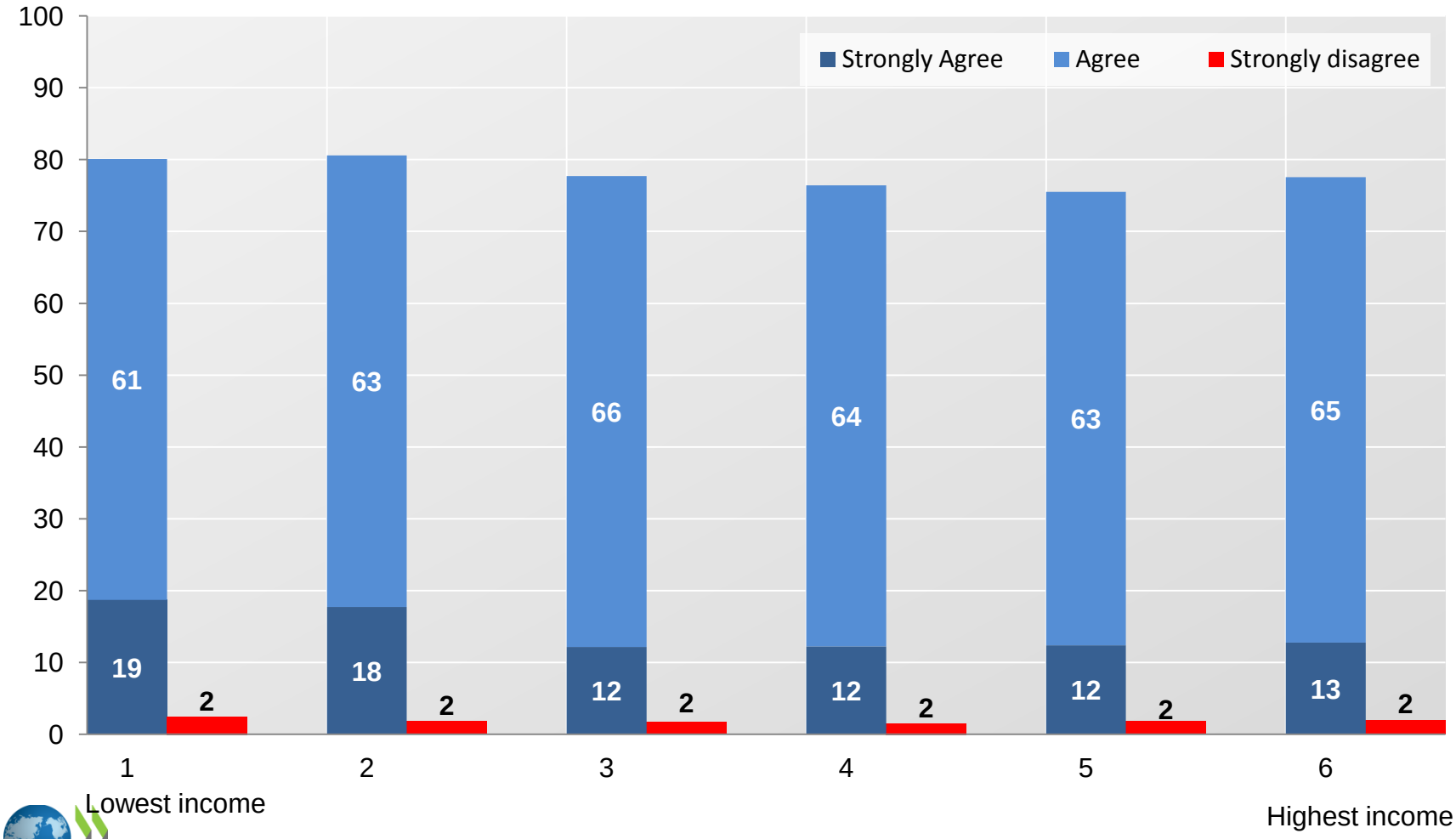
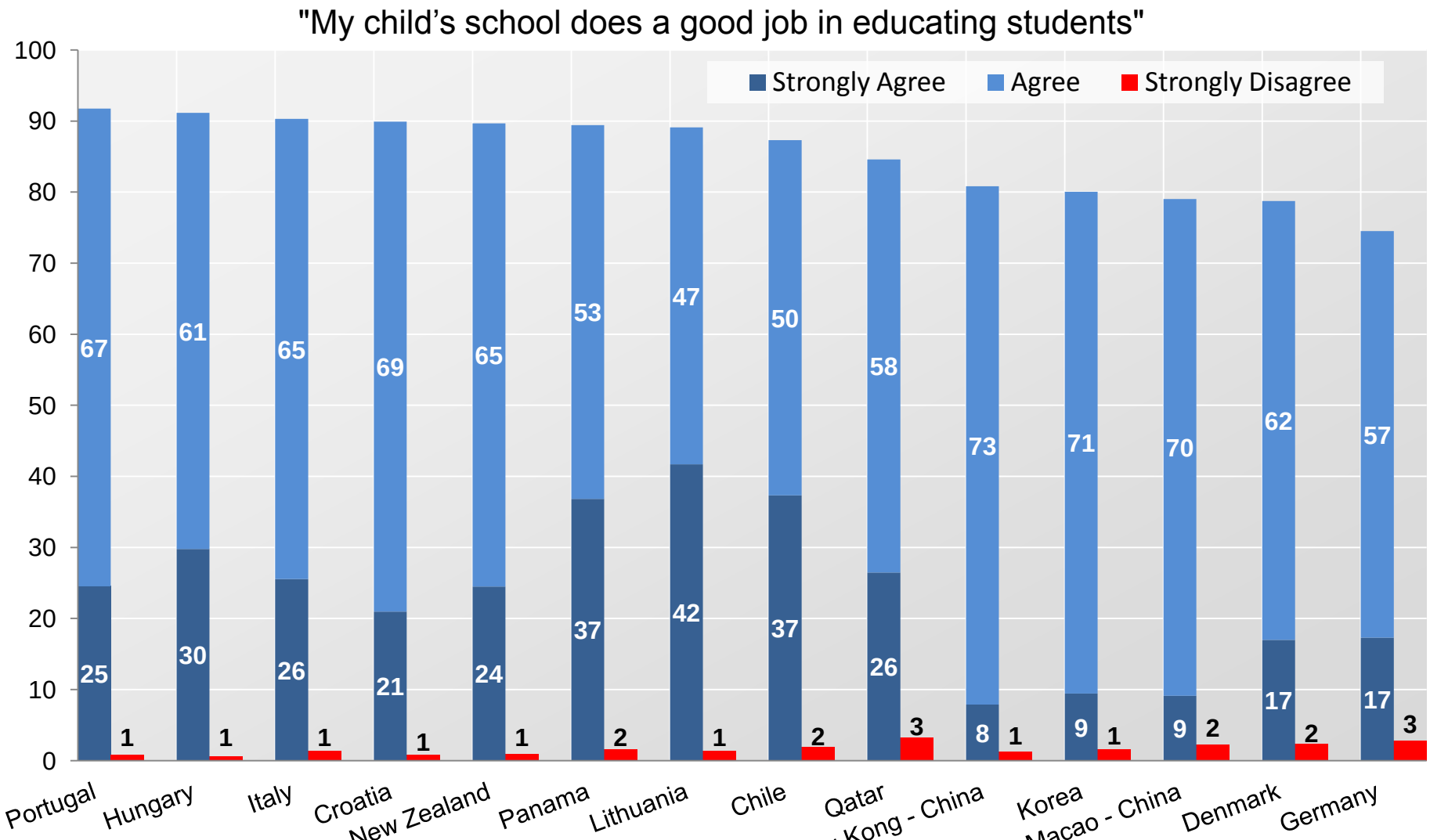
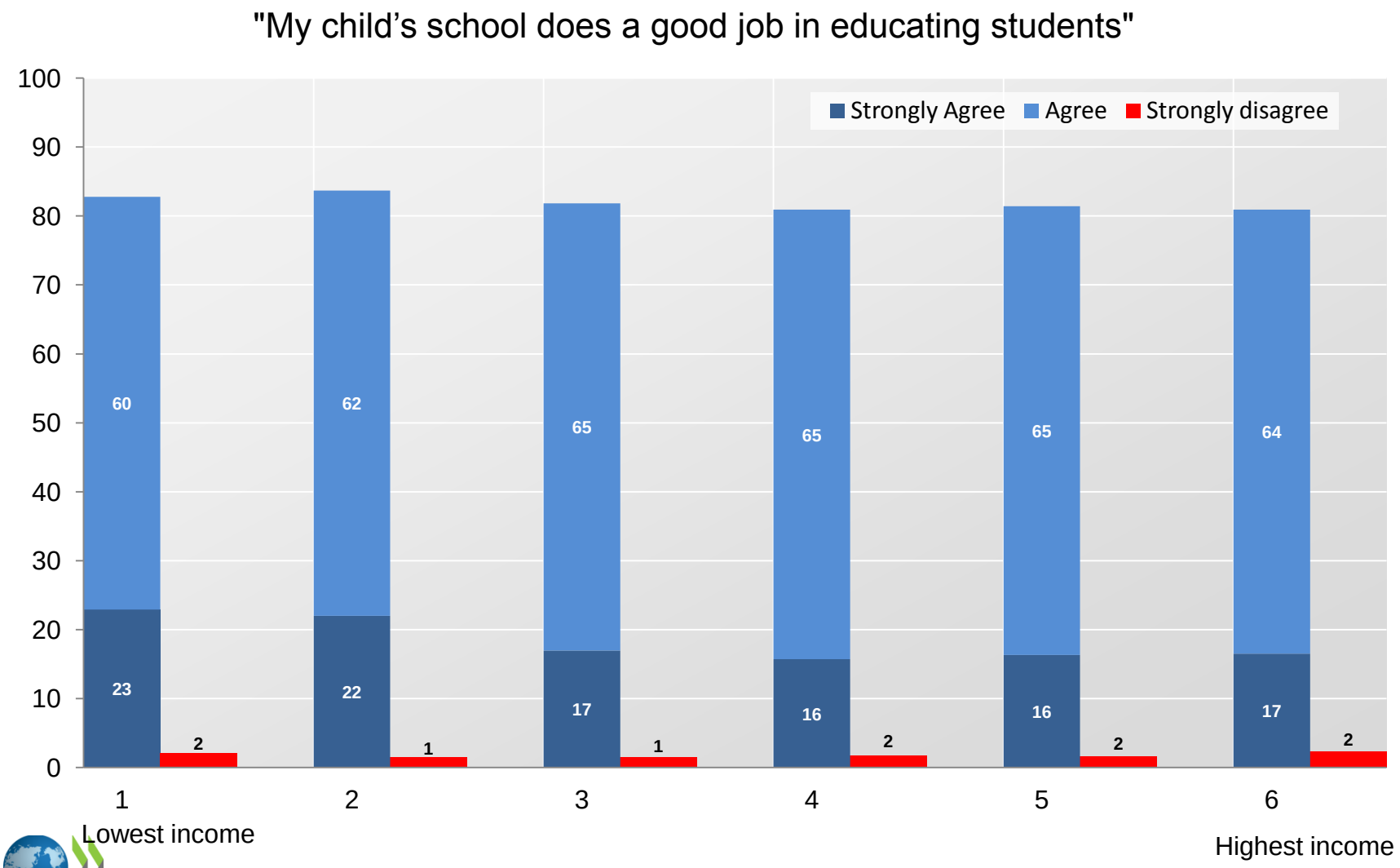


Parents are happy with their children's school

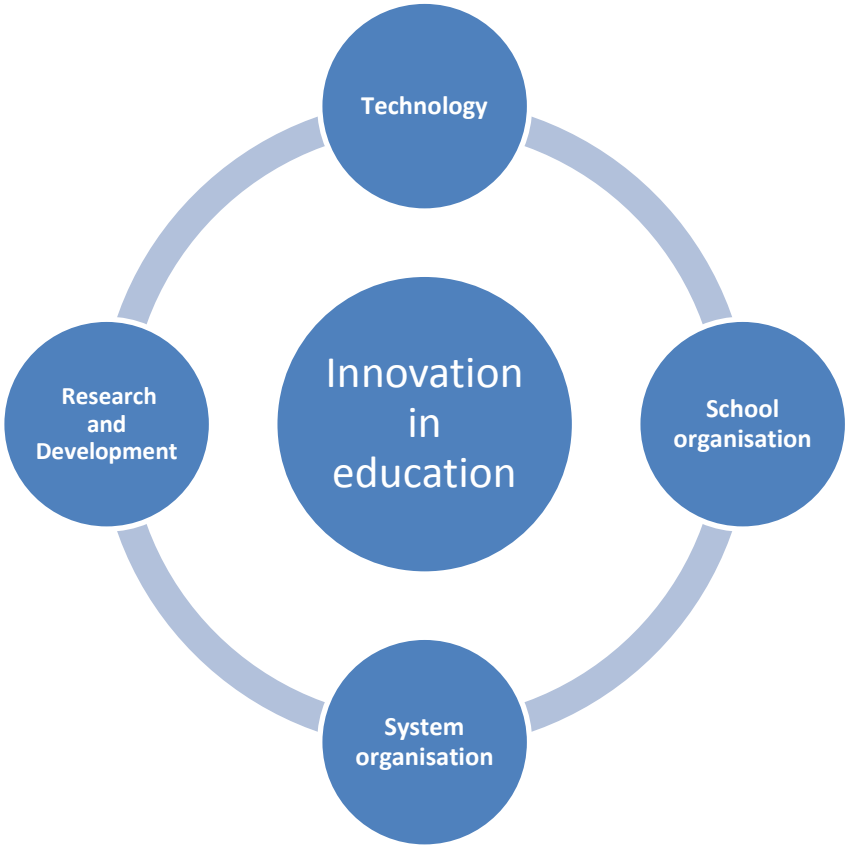


OECD, PISA 2009, Parents questionnaire

School education: socio-economic distribution of "happiness"

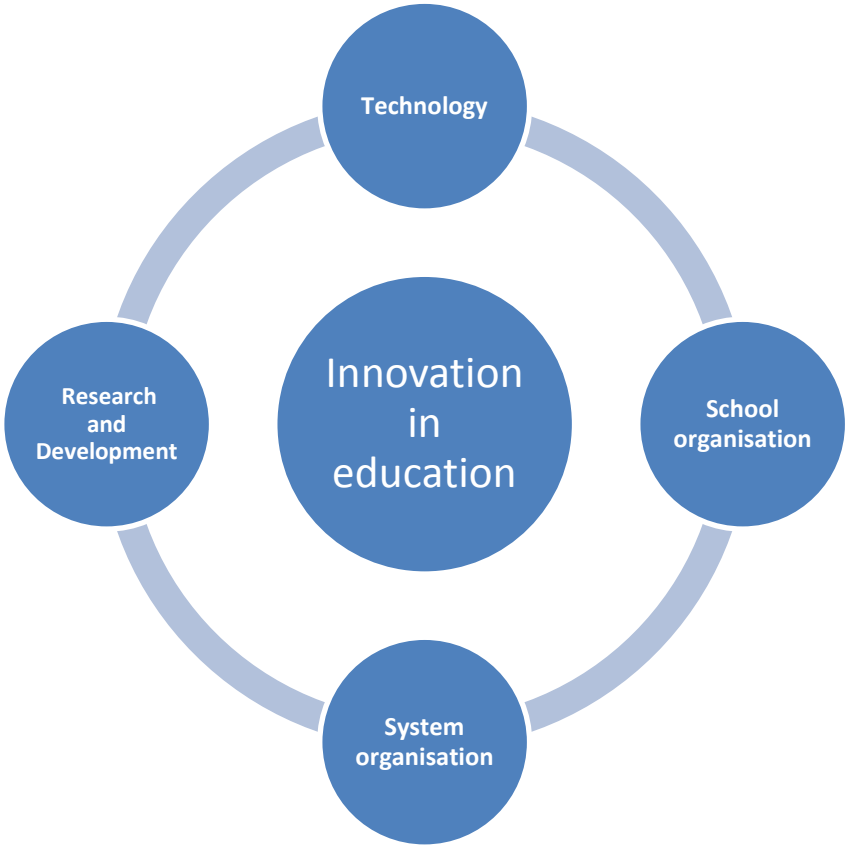


Brakes to innovation



- **Brake #3: knowledge management**
  - Insufficient organisational learning within school and across the education sector (?)
  - Inappropriate format and delivery of professional knowledge for practitionners
  - Difficulty to produce evidence on the impact of specific educational innovations

Brakes to innovation



- Brake #1: supply of innovation
- Brake #2: demand for innovation
- Brake #3: knowledge management

Selected action points to (try) unleash innovation

- Evaluate and measure innovation in education
  - Develop next-generation education information systems
  - Invest in research and evaluation of educational practices
  - Develop with CERI a measurement pilot?
- Foster (international) communities of practice (sectoral and organisational learning)
  - ILE network, other CERI and OECD work
  - Foster teacher professionalism around learning organisations
- Develop explicit innovation strategies for education (and finance and evaluate them)

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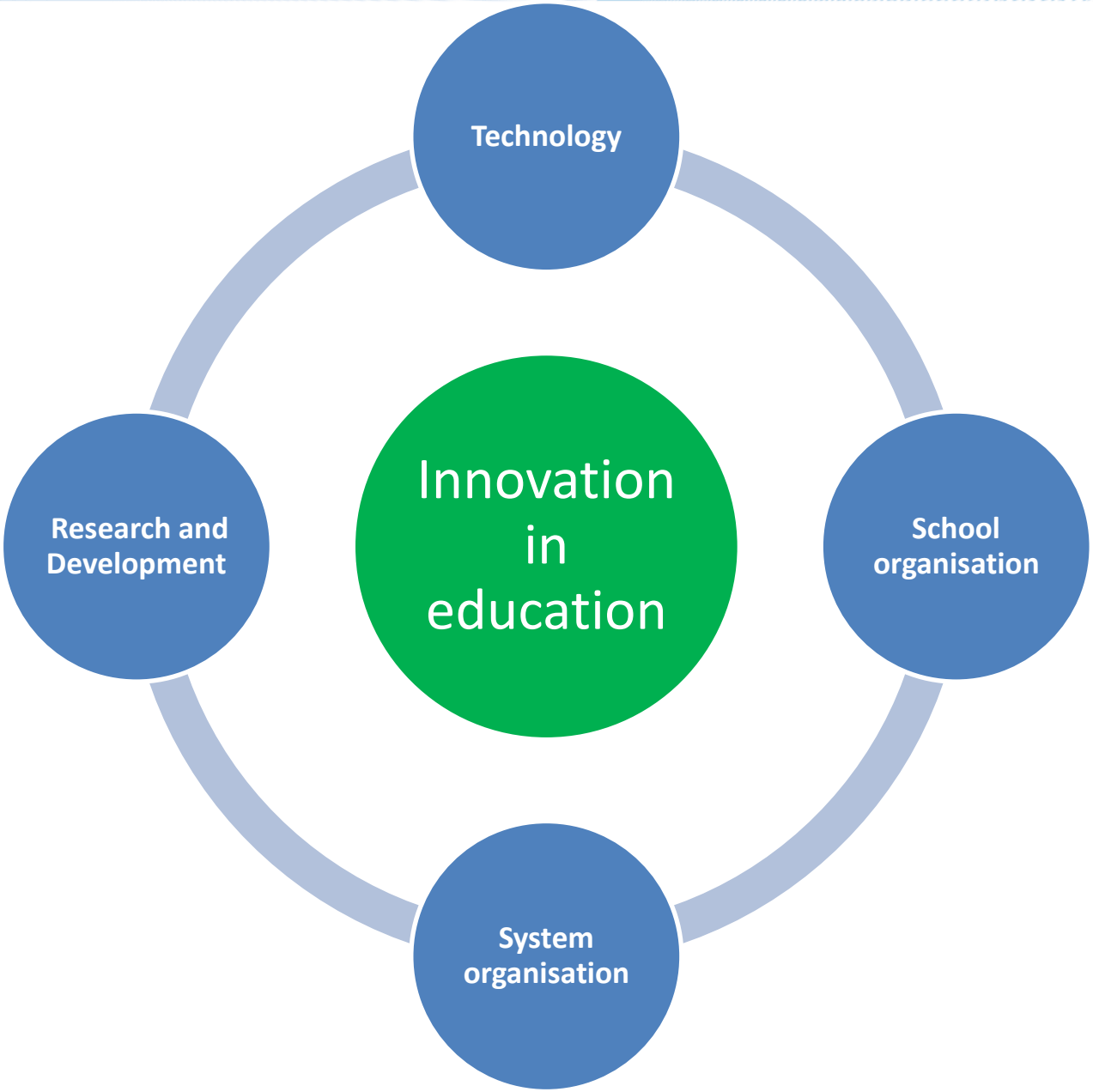
Innovation in education



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THANK YOU

www.oecd.org/edu/innovation

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