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Outcomes and Causal Inference in International Comparative Assessments

The European Training Network (ETN) Outcomes and Variations in many features of educational policies and Causal Inference in International Comparative institutions can only be observed across countries on Assessments (OCCAM) investigates how educational the system level (e.g., the existence of central exams). policies influence educational outcomes worldwide. One Since the start of the new millennium, a new genof the most salient findings in the field of education is eration of international comparative studies has been that there are huge national differences in student launched: studies like PISA and TIMSS are repeated achievement in international comparative studies. The every few years and thus have a longitudinal composhockingly large gap between the highest performing nent at the system level. Unlike cross-sectional countries (most of which are in East Asia) and many designs, these trend designs allow the causal effects of European countries corresponds to a difference in changes in educational policies at the system level to attainment of two years of schooling. Although this be estimated. Applying this approach to the accumufinding has been replicated in several studies, at lated data from the comparative studies will provide present, the reasons for and consequences of such insights into the determinants of educational outcomes

worldwide. differences are not well understood.

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