

Amsterdam, 16 December 2019
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Formal invitation to participate in the IEA International Computer and Information Literacy Study (ICILS 2023)

Dear colleagues,

I am pleased to extend a formal invitation to participate in ICILS 2023; the third assessment since the initiation of the study in 2013. The study measures international differences in students' computer and information literacy (CIL) in Grade 8 or its national equivalent. This includes information about students' ability to use computers to investigate, create, participate and communicate at home, at school, in the workplace and in the community. It also collects information about contexts at student, school and system level in which CIL is developed. ICILS provides participating countries with reliable comparable data about young people's development of 21st century skills and on the contexts and outcomes of CIL-related education programs. It further helps countries to monitor their own national targets regarding students' digital competences and provides information for monitoring progress toward the UNESCO Sustainable Development Goal 4.7. The European Commission intends to support the survey with Erasmus+ funds, pending approval of the 2020 Erasmus+ work programme, expected for February 2020. We will confirm to you the outcome of this process as soon as possible.

In 2023, ICILS aims to maintain its relevance by dealing with modern pervasive digital contexts for information management, communication and computational thinking. In addition to the standard ICILS assessment, participating countries also have an option for their students to complete an assessment of computational thinking (CT) and approaches to writing software programs and applications.

This cycle will also give countries the unique opportunity to join ICILS and TIMSS at the same time. As the data collection of both studies will happen simultaneously in 2023, IEA sees this as valuable chance for participants to gain a more holistic understanding of educational outcomes. Whereas ICILS measures computer literacy skills of students, TIMSS uses a computer-based assessment to assess mathematics and science achievements. Participating in both studies will enable participating countries to relate these educational outcomes. In addition, the burden for countries to participate in two IEA studies can be minimized and synergies can be strengthened.

To help you with your planning, the first ICILS 2023 National Research Coordinators (NRCs) meeting will take place in March 2020 in Hamburg, Germany. We would like to invite you to attend the first NRC meeting, which will be hosted by IEA Hamburg in close collaboration with the ICILS International Study Center at the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER). This meeting will be a very important opportunity for participants to discuss the scope of the study, broad directions for additions and refinement, as well as the assessment framework and general design of ICILS 2023. We strongly encourage all interested countries to send a representative to this meeting, even if their country has not fully confirmed their participation in the study. By taking part in this meeting, you will help to shape the framework and content of ICILS 2023. More detailed information about the meeting will follow in due time.

For your additional information, please find attached to this letter an ICILS brochure, explanation of the complete fee structure, overview of national costs, information sheets describing the National Study Center tasks and job descriptions and a provisional timeline for the study.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Dr Andrea Netten, Director of IEA Amsterdam (a.netten@iea.nl), or myself (d.hastedt@iea.nl).

Yours sincerely,



Dr Dirk Hastedt
Executive Director IEA