

Amsterdam, 20 February 2020
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Formal invitation to participate in the IEA 21st Century Skills Mapping study (21CS MAP)

Dear colleagues,

I am pleased to extend a formal invitation to participate in 21CS MAP: the first study of its kind in IEA history. As countries worldwide expand their educational vision to include what are often termed 21st century skills (21CS), there lacks a consensus on what is meant by 21CS and how these skills are included in countries' curricula. To address this, the IEA is implementing a new, comparative, curriculum mapping study: 21CS MAP. The study is intended to explore, describe and analyze the intended curricular opportunities for students to meet 21CS learning goals.

Specifically, the study entails a curriculum audit, designed to identify what capabilities or skills, and what levels of these, are described by education systems. The study will be conducted for both grades 4 and 8. Information will be collected by participating countries from their formal education documentation (national curriculum and/or comparable documents). Results will be descriptive, identifying the different ways countries approach 21CS integration.

To help you with your planning, the first 21CS MAP National Research Coordinators (NRCs) meeting will take place in July 2020 in Hamburg, Germany. We would like to invite you to attend the first NRC meeting, which will be hosted at our IEA Hamburg office in close collaboration with Esther Care, the study director. This meeting will be a very important opportunity for participants to discuss the design of the study framework, survey structure and general direction of 21CS MAP. 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 of 21CS MAP. More detailed information about the meeting will follow in due time.

IEA requires each participating country to cover the costs of the study at the national level (including the costs that will allow their NRC to attend study meetings), and to contribute to the costs of coordinating the study internationally. IEA study participation fees are quoted in IEA International Currency Units (ICU): half of the total payment is billed in US dollars and half is billed in Euro. The fees are standardized for all participating entities. For 21CS MAP, the study participation fee is 38,000 ICU (=19,000 USD plus 19,000 EUR).

For your additional information, please find attached to this letter a 21CS MAP brochure, information sheet containing a framework overview and description of the National Study Center tasks and job descriptions, and a provisional timeline for the study.

If you are interested in participating in the study or have any further questions or, 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