IEA

21CS MAP

21ST CENTURY SKILLS MAPPING

MAPPING 21ST CENTURY SKILLS IN A CHANGING WORLD

Education is changing. No longer just focused on the acquisition of a knowledge-based curriculum, countries worldwide are expanding their educational vision to include what are often termed 21st century skills (21CS).

Wide-ranging skills such as critical thinking, communication, decision-making, creative thinking, and cross-cultural competencies are often included. However, there is no consensus on what is meant by 21CS or how these skills are included in countries' curricula. To address this gap, the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA) is implementing a new, comparative, curriculum mapping study: 21CS MAP.

Participating in 21CS MAP will provide reliable, comparative information about the different curricular approaches taken by countries to give students the opportunity to develop these transversal competencies.

These data will help extend our knowledge about optimal ways of acting on concerns about the effectiveness of formal education systems to support whole person development as well as traditional academic skills. As many countries initiate the process of integration of 21CS, this IEA resource will provide a much needed contribution to better understand models and characteristics of implementation.

21CS MAP HAS 3 KEY GOALS:

01 Identify which 21CS are most often cited as educational priorities across countries

02 Map how these 21CS are integrated into national education documentation

03 Evaluate if there is a common understanding of 21CS

KEY FEATURES OF THE STUDY

The study entails a curriculum analysis, 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. The audit will explore documentation across four levels:

LEVEL 1: ***Identification of 21CS valued at over-arching level***

LEVEL 2: ***Descriptions of the valued 21CS***

LEVEL 3: ***Visibility of 21CS within subject syllabi***

LEVEL 4: ***Information about expected levels of competence in demonstration of 21CS***

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

The National Research Coordinator (NRC) from each participating country will contribute to the framework and survey development. Each country will be requested to assemble a team that includes members with **a)** curriculum expertise, **b)** familiarity with the target grades by subjects curricula, and **c)** 21CS expertise, if available. The team will participate in training on how to identify the capabilities within their curriculum and how to code and enter the information in an online data system. It is estimated that training will take three person-days, and would ideally be undertaken as a group.

STUDY TIMELINE

COSTS AND FUNDING

Participating countries are required to cover all the costs of administering the study at the national level, and to share the costs of coordinating the study internationally. National costs vary depending on the structure of the system and the relevant documents. Costs will also depend on the salary levels and cost structures within each country. IEA assists participants with developing their own national budget by providing an outline of the staffing required, tasks to be covered, and equipment needed for successful implementation.

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION

By participating in 21CS MAP countries will:

- **HELP** to create an international framework for comparing 21CS scope and integration in curriculum systems
- **GAIN** the opportunity to contextualize their country's approach to the incorporation of 21CS
- **EXPLORE** local and global expectations of student proficiencies in 21CS
- **IDENTIFY** how their country's adoption of these learning goals in their curriculum compares internationally
- **LEARN** international approaches to 21CS integration in curricula
- **BUILD** their national capacity in curriculum audit procedures associated with transversal and trans-disciplinary competencies

STUDY CENTER

Directed by Dr Esther Care, 21CS MAP is conducted by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA). A Project Advisory Committee, composed of internationally renowned experts, will provide guidance and reflections.

IEA is an international cooperative of national research institutions, governmental research agencies, scholars, and analysts working to research, understand, and improve education worldwide.

For more than 60 years, IEA has conducted high quality, large-scale comparative studies of education across the globe to provide educators, policymakers, and researchers with insights into how students perform.

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ENROLL IN 21CS MAP

For more information about the study and how to enroll, please contact IEA.

Further information about 21CS MAP can also be found on the IEA study web page: www.iea.nl/studies/iea/21csmap

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