Research & Development Fund Update

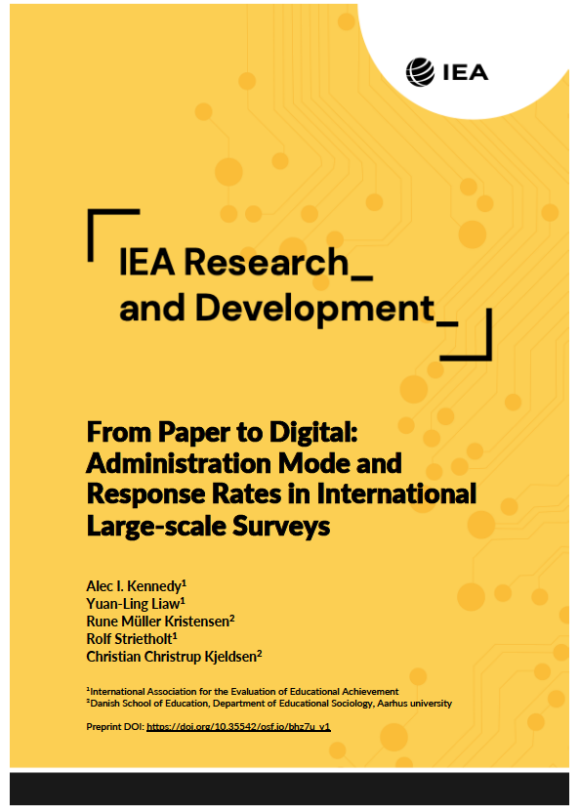
General Assembly, 06 October 2026

Thierry Rocher & Ralph Carstens



General

- **Good progress** on all projects with regular **reports** to SC, TEG, and GA
- **Reviewer network** acknowledged on website
- **Cover pages, DOIs,** and a more streamlined **look** of outcomes
- **Interim report meetings** held for Call 5 to provide feedback
- **Timeline variations and concurrence** remain challenging, e.g., most Call 4 projects completed only this year
- **Finances** remain healthy but addition of more explicit managerial/editorial overhead in the overall finances is in progress
- **Proposal management system** extended to Research & Policy Grant, and potentially other opportunities and awards



IEA

Overview

Call	Proposals	Projects	Completed	Active	Status
1	17	3	3		All completed; outcomes on website
2	16	6	6		
3	13	7	7		
4	17	7	7		
5	34	9		9	All interim calls held, many in final drafting
6	37	tbd			Review stage
		32	**23**	**9**	

IEA

Call 4 Progress

Title	Lead	Status
AI-Driven Approach to TIMSS Item Verification and Alignment	Ummugul Bezirhan (Boston College)	Final outcome completed and released
Survey Mode and Response Trends in TIMSS and PIRLS Context Questionnaires (SMART)	Yuan-Ling (Linda) Liaw (IEA)	
Striving for More Inclusiveness: Understanding and Addressing Student Exclusions in TIMSS and PIRLS	Sabine Meinck (IEA)	
Enhancing Questionnaire Relevance in Low- and Middle-Income Countries	Oliver Neuschmidt (IEA)	
Information Retrieval Using Retrieval-Augmented Generation on PIRLS Documents	Widianto Persadha (IEA)	
Assessment Design for Accommodating Participants with Tailored Support (ADAPT)	Rolf Strietholt (IEA)	
A Two-Step Imputation Approach Combining IRT and Deep-Learning Methods in Large-Scale Survey Assessments	Peter van Rijn (previously ETS, now University of Amsterdam)	

Call 5 Progress

Title	Lead	Status
Methodological Advances to Enhance the Extraction of Policy-relevant information in TIMSS and TIMSS-L	Henry Braun (Boston College)	Work far advanced, recent LSAE article to introduce the methodology (previously also as IRC 2025 keynote)
IEABank: Documentation Standards and Item Bank for past and future IEA Studies	Andres Strello (IEA Hamburg)	Work far advanced
Beyond the Score: A Multi-Level and Cross-Grade Analysis of Process Data in TIMSS 2023 for Equity, Instruction, and Item Design	Philipp Doebler (TU Dortmund)	Work far advanced, timeline adjusted to accommodate team member in a country of conflict
ILSAreport: accessible tables using IEA data with R	Andrés Christiansen (IEA Hamburg)	Work far advanced, timeline adjusted to accommodate parental leave
Bridging Time and Context: Longitudinal Comparability of Background Scales in International Assessments (COMPASS)	Diego Carrasco (CU Chile, via U Bath)	Work far advanced, timeline adjusted to accommodate changes
Modeling problem-solving trajectories in ICILS 2023 using Multi-State Survival Analysis: A study with CT Assessment Data	Jennifer Viñas Forcade (INEEd, via CEIBAL)	Work far advanced, draft received and in review
Real-Time Dashboard for Monitoring Data Collection Procedures and Outcomes in International Large-Scale Assessments	Sebastian Meyer (IEA Hamburg)	Work far advanced, timeline adjusted to better accommodate ICILS FT operations (first operational use)
Exploring the application of AI/Machine-Learning Based Options for IEA Translation and Translation Verification Procedures	Lauren Musu (IEA Amsterdam)	Work far advanced
Linking Grade 4 and Grade 8: Structural Differences and Comparability of TIMSS Student Context Indices via MGCFA and Network Analysis	Yulia Kuzmina (independent)	Work far advanced, review of draft report scheduled

Call 6: Key Changes

- Limits on use of **generative AI**
  - Aligned with general IEA publications policy (in progress)
  - Mandatory declarations (used frequently, mostly within permissible limits)
- Limits on **contribution/multiplicity**
  - Lead researcher limited to that role, cannot be team member elsewhere
  - Team members limited to a maximum of two proposals (one proposal withdrawn as a result)
- **Default currency** Euro for budgets and contracts
- **Frequently asked questions** (FAQ) section added
- Sharing of **feedback to applicants** in system, if feasible

Call 6: Timeline

- **9 Jun to 14 Sep**: proposal period
- **15-18 Sep**: eligibility screening and moderation
- **21-25 Sep**: reviewer assignment and outreach
- **1 Oct to 13 Nov**: peer review period
- **16 to 27 Nov**: processing and short-listing
- **18/19 Nov**: overview on proposals at TEG meeting
- **w/c 30 Nov**: short-list and review summary shared with Standing Committee
- **w/c 14 Dec**: Standing Committee meeting for award decisions
- **w/c 21 Dec**: acceptance/rejection sent to applicants
- **From 4 Jan**: kick-off call scheduling and contractual agreements
- **Feb/Mar**: start of project implementation

Call 6: Topic Clusters across 37 Proposals

- **Responsible use of AI:** Supporting item development, scoring, coding, and reporting - with human oversight
- **Trustworthy comparisons:** Strengthening fairness, socioeconomic status measurement, sample representativeness, and trends
- **Beyond overall scores:** Understanding learning progression and how students engage with digital assessments
- **Efficient and flexible studies:** Shorter, adaptive questionnaires and more responsive study designs
- **Emerging competencies:** Measuring environmental sustainability, digital citizenship, and information resilience
- **Accessible evidence:** Open analytical tools, interactive dashboards, and searchable research

Financial Overview (in K Euros)

	Period	2021 (call 1)	2022 (call 2)	2023 (call 3)	2024 (call 4)	2025 (call 5)	2026 (call 6)
TIMSS 2023	2021-24	250	250	250	250		
TIMSS 2027	2025-28					275	**275**
PIRLS 2026	2023-27			140	140	140	**140**
ICCS 2027	2024-28				60	60	**60**
ICILS 2028	2025-29					80	**80**
Chair donation		20	20	20	20	n/a	**n/a**
Available		270	275	410	470	555	**555**
Awarded		-265	-320	-320	-475	-445	**tbd**
Balance (carried over)			5	-45	45	40	**150**
Total Available Funds*		5	-45	45	40	**150**	**705**

* Does not consider management costs, yet to be added.

IEA

Thank you!

rd@iea.nl