ICILS 2023
INTERNATIONAL COMPUTER AND INFORMATION LITERACY STUDY

IEA
Researching education, improving learning

ACER
About ICILS  ICILS responds to a question of critical interest today: How well are students prepared for study, work and life in a digital world? The study measures international differences in students’ computer and information literacy (CIL): their ability to use computers to investigate, create, participate and communicate at home, at school, in the workplace and in the community. 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. ICILS is a response to the increasing use of information and communications technologies (ICT) in modern society and the need for citizens to develop relevant capabilities to participate effectively in the digital age.

Why participate? Over the past four decades, ICT has had profound impact on our daily lives, work and social interactions. ICILS deals with the core knowledge, skills and understanding students need to succeed in this dynamic information environment. Participating in ICILS will provide countries with reliable, comparable data about young people’s development of 21st century CIL skills. The study helps countries to monitor their own national targets regarding students’ digital competences and also provides information for monitoring progress toward the UNESCO Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

ICILS supports countries to make informed decisions about how best to prepare students for life in an age of constantly evolving digital technologies. The study helps countries to understand how digital technologies are used in classrooms and their impact on teaching methods to develop CIL skills. It also provides evidence of how students’ CIL (and CT skills) relate to out-of-school contexts that support learning.

What’s new? The rapid pace of technological change is a driving imperative for ICILS to remain up-to-date. Building on two previous cycles of ICILS (2013 and 2018), ICILS 2023 aims to maintain its relevance by dealing with modern, pervasive digital contexts for information management, communication and computational thinking. In particular, ICILS 2023 will include more aspects related to digital citizenship, reflecting young peoples’ increasing opportunities for online citizenship participation. Working closely with UNESCO, participating countries and academic project supervisors, ICILS will help to measure progress towards UNESCO’s SDG 4.4 (increasing the number of young people who have relevant skills for employment) and especially indicator 4.4.1: the proportion of youth and adults with ICT skills.

ICILS is an international assessment of how young people develop computer and information literacy to participate effectively in a digital world.

KEY FACTS FOR PARTICIPANTS

Enrollment is open for new and returning countries and subnational entities. Participants do not need to be IEA members.

Core target population: Students in their eighth year of schooling (Grade 8 in most systems).

ICILS measures students’ achievement in computer and information literacy. Countries also have the option to participate in an assessment of computational thinking.

New areas of interest for research are defined in collaboration with participating countries.

Sample design modifications are possible to meet specific national interests.

Linkages to national and regional assessments can be considered where appropriate.

PREVIOUS ICILS SURVEY CYCLES AND RELATED IEA STUDIES

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Study Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Computers in Education Study (COMPED) Stage 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>COMPED Stage 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>1998-1999</td>
<td>Second Information Technology in Education Study (SITES) Module 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
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Investigate the ways in which young people are prepared for study, work and participation in a digital world;

Address persisting and new challenges associated with young people's development of essential 21st century digital skills;

Generate internationally comparable indicators of students' computer and informational literacy and computational thinking;

Monitor changes in computer and informational literacy and computational thinking over time;

Examine the use of digital technologies in schools, in particular how they are used to develop students' core digital competencies;

Make informed decisions on education policy and practice.
ICILS 2023 TIMELINE

March 2020
1st meeting of National Research Coordinators (NRCs)

2020-mid 2021
Framework revision, establishment of testing platform and instrument development

Late 2021
Finalization of framework and instruments

Early 2022
Field trial

Early 2023
Main survey data collection in Northern Hemisphere countries

Late 2023
Main survey data collection in Southern Hemisphere countries

Late 2024
Publication of the results

Early 2025
Launch of a public-use database and documentation

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