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Institute for Statistics

International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) Committee

*TCG 9th Meeting
22-24 November 2022*



Background

- ❖ The UIS is the custodian of ISCED and responsible for its development and maintenance.
- ❖ ISCED was developed by UNESCO in the 1970s and revised in 1997 and 2011. The current version of ISCED was adopted by the UNESCO General Conference at its 36th session in November 2011.
- ❖ ISCED 2011 includes a classification of education programmes (ISCED-P) and a classification of educational attainment (ISCED-A). The accompanying ISCED Fields of Education and Training 2013 (ISCED-F) classifies education programmes and related qualifications by fields of study.
- ❖ ISCED 2011 contains a recommendation for establishment of an ISCED Committee to advise the UIS on the classification of national programmes and qualifications, to review the current version of ISCED and to identify areas for further development.
 - The UIS seeks approximately 10 experts to serve on the ISCED Committee.
 - The ISCED Committee will review the current version of ISCED 2011 and ISCED-F 2013 and identify potential areas for further development of the classifications.

Mandate of the Committee

- Analyse the working documents prepared by UIS which include a compilation of issues encountered over the last 10 years or so of implementation of ISCED 2011 and ISCED-F 2013.
- Review the current version of the classifications, the related questionnaires and manuals, and provide recommendations.
- If a revision of the classifications is required, support the recommendations with the identification of potential areas for further developments of these classifications, and provide guidance and indicative timeframe for the revision of the classifications.
- If an immediate revision of the classifications is not required:
 - Review existing quality assurance mechanisms for application of the classifications.
 - Advise the UIS for the classification of problematic national education programmes and related qualifications.
 - Propose a mechanism for peer review and validation of national ISCED mappings.
 - Review the operational manual for ISCED 2011 and propose necessary amendments.
 - Review the description of fields of education and training in ISCED-F 2013 and propose modifications, if necessary.

For a full revision and update of ISCED 2011 and ISCED-F 2013, the related ToR will be prepared subsequently. The revision task will not be within the remit assigned to the current Committee.

Composition of the ISCED Committee

Committee of approximately 10 members, representing:

- UNESCO (as lead agency for education within the UN system)
- Custodians of other related classifications within UN system, as appropriate
- Key education data collection partners (e.g. OECD and Eurostat)
- Balanced technical and geographical representation of all UNESCO regions
- Included educational, statistical, and classification experts, as well as representatives from the research and user community

Working methods and modalities

- Under UIS coordination, the ISCED Committee will conduct regular discussions over email and during virtual meetings, facilitated by the UIS with the support of an external consultant.

The work of the ISCED Committee will be informed by the following documents and other materials:

- Analytical report by the UIS with a summary of issues encountered by UIS and by ISCED users during the application of ISCED 2011 and ISCED-F 2013 over the last 10 years or so.
- UIS database with national ISCED mappings.
- New developments that lead to changes in national education programmes
 - e.g. emergence of new fields of education and training following commitment to the Transforming Education Summit or changes in response to the COVID-19 pandemic or in anticipation to similar major crises.
- ISCED 2011 and ISCED-F 2013 documents. <http://uis.unesco.org/en/isced-mappings>

Expected outputs and timeline

- December 2022- January 2023: ISCED Committee established.
- January-February 2023: Documents and necessary materials for the work of the Committee provided.
- March 2023: First Committee meeting: Objectives, timeline, working methods and road map discussed and agreed.
- April-May 2023: Mid-term report of the Committee, including recommendations as outlined in the Committee mandate, drafted.
- End of May 2023: Second Committee meeting: mid-term report and recommendations discussed and finalised.

Expected outputs and timeline (2)

Scenario A: an immediate revision of the classifications is recommended

- June to September 2023: Potential areas for further developments of the classifications identified. Guidance and indicative timeframe for the revision of the classifications provided.
- October 2023: Summary report of the Committee, including final recommendations and next steps prepared.
- November 2023: Third Committee meeting: summary report, final recommendations and next steps discussed and finalised.

Scenario B: an immediate revision of the classifications is not recommended

- June to September 2023:
 - Existing quality assurance mechanisms for application of the classifications reviewed.
 - Advices on the classification of problematic national education programmes and related qualifications provided.
 - A mechanism for peer review and validation of national ISCED mappings proposed.
 - The operational manual for ISCED 2011 reviewed, and necessary amendments proposed.
 - The description of fields of education and training in ISCED-F 2013 reviewed, and necessary modifications proposed.
- October 2023: Summary report of the Committee, including final recommendations and next steps prepared.
- November 2023: Third Committee meeting: summary report, final recommendations and next steps discussed and finalised.

Decision points

The establishment of the ISCED Committee is recommended in the Governance section of ISCED 2011 manual under paragraphs 96 and 97.

1. Do you approve the proposed mandate for the ISCED Committee? [Yes/No]
2. Do you approve the timeline assigned to the work of the Committee? [Yes/No]
3. Do you have comments/suggestions about the proposed size and composition of the ISCED Committee? [Yes/No] if Yes, please provide them here [add a box]