

INTRODUCTION

This technical report is a companion report to the report '*Completing the Foundation for Lifelong Learning - An OECD Survey of Upper Secondary Schools*' which presents results from the survey.

This report provides an overview of the main features and technical characteristics of the International Survey of Upper Secondary Schools (ISUSS). The purpose and history of the survey, the design, the sampling and weighting procedures, the description of the questionnaires, the building of an international database including sampling weights and derived variables for analytical purposes are all described in sufficient detail to enable the reader to have a clear understanding of the technical and operational underpinning of the survey.

This technical report is divided into three parts. The first part describes the development of the ISUSS project covering the selection of educational programmes for this survey, the list of participating countries, the design of the survey, the implementation of the ISUSS questionnaire and the operational procedures for sampling and weighting.

The second part describes the data collection process: it covers the methods used by the National Project Managers for data entry, data cleaning and in standardisation of the International ISUSS database.

The third part is related to the description of the organisation and content of the ISUSS International Database which is stored in ACCESS as well as SPSS format.

Electronic files on the OECD website accompany this publication; they are available at the following address: www.oecd.org/edu/isuss. Their purpose is to provide the user with the tools required (both databases and SPSS programmes) to understand the links between the ISUSS questionnaire and the production of Tables and Figures in the ISUSS report '*Completing the Foundation for Lifelong Learning - An OECD Survey of Upper Secondary Schools*'. It will also facilitate further analytical and research work on upper secondary education through secondary analyses of the ISUSS data.