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EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
CERI GOVERNING BOARD

International Life Skills Survey

DRAFT AGENDA OF THE THIRD MEETING

Project Advisory Group

To be held at the Château de la Muette, Paris
on Friday 14 January 2000, starting at 9h30

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International Life Skills Survey Project Advisory Group

DRAFT AGENDA OF THE 3RD MEETING

1 ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

The Project Advisory Group is invited to adopt the draft agenda [DEELSA/ELSA/ED/CERI/CD/ILSS/A(2000)1].

2 APPROVAL OF THE SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 2ND MEETING, 16 June 1999

The Project Advisory Group is invited to approve the Summary Record [DEELSA/ELSA/ED/CERI/CD/ILSS/M(99)1].

3 REPORT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF TESTS

At the 2nd meeting, it was reported that Statistics Canada and the National Center for Education Statistics of the US Department of Education had commissioned multinational teams to develop tests or other instruments in the following domains:

- Prose Literacy
- Document Literacy
- Numeracy
- Problem Solving (now called Analytical Reasoning)
- Practical Cognition
- Teamwork
- ICT Literacy.

Since the 2nd meeting, pilot work has been undertaken in at least two countries of those instruments that are sufficiently advanced at this stage. Mr Scott Murray, Statistics Canada, will report on the empirical evidence obtained to date on the performance of the instruments. He will also make explicit the extent to which country participation in test development is an option.

The PAG will be invited to express its views about the extent of instrumentation to be used in the main ILSS data collection in 2002.

4 REPORT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BACKGROUND QUESTIONNAIRE

The Background Questionnaire (BQ) will be a crucial component of ILSS since it will provide the data with which the important policy analytic work on the performance data can be undertaken. Mr Albert Tuijnman, Institute of International Education, Stockholm University, will report on the development of the BQ and will outline the policy analyses that will be feasible using the information proposed to be gathered through the BQ.

5 REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL ADULT LITERACY SURVEY

The initial round of data gathering in the International Adult Literacy Survey (IALS) occurred in

1994 and involved eight countries:

Canada
 France
 Germany
 Netherlands
 Poland
 Sweden
 Switzerland (French and German)
 United States of America

The results for seven countries, excluding France which withdrew, were published by OECD and Statistics Canada in *Literacy, economy and society* (1995).

Further data were gathered in a second round (2IALS) in 1995 in five countries.

Australia
 Belgium (Flanders)
 Ireland
 New Zealand
 United Kingdom.

The result for these five, together with those for the seven for which data were published in 1995, were published by OECD and Human Resources Development Canada in *Literacy skills for the knowledge society* (1997).

A final set of data were gathered in a Second International Adult Literacy Survey (SIALS), in nine countries in 1998:

Chile
 Czech Republic
 Denmark
 Finland
 Hungary
 Italy
 Norway
 Slovenia
 Switzerland (Italian).

The results for these countries, together with the earlier published results, will be brought together in a final publication to appear early in 2000. Mr Abrar Hasan, OECD, will report on the progress with that publication.

6 **REPORT ON THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S REVIEW OF THE INTERNATIONAL ADULT LITERACY SURVEY**

After the French withdrawal from IALS, the European Commission commissioned a review of the test instruments and the survey methodology of IALS. The UK Office of National Statistics (ONS) has been undertaking that study since 1997 in parallel with the continuation of IALS in the nine countries participating in IALS. The ONS report was originally scheduled to be released in a seminar conducted by the European Commission in July 1999 but only provisional data on some parts of the study were available to be presented at the seminar. The report is currently scheduled to be published in late 1999. If it is available before the meeting, Mr Barry

McGaw, OECD, and Mr Scott Murray, Statistics Canada, will report to the meeting on its findings and its implications for ILSS, for which the literacy and numeracy measures are linked to the IALS measures.

7. NEXT STEPS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ILSS

The next steps in development of ILSS are:

February 2000	Deadline for countries planning to seek participation in the first round of ILSS to submit a planning study to Statistics Canada.
May-June 2000	Deadline for countries to declare their intention to participate in the first round of ILSS, with data gathering in 2002.
January-June 2000	Development of draft assessment materials for inclusion in the pilot testing in 2001.
July-December 2000	Translation of all assessment materials into all languages required for the first round.
January-March 2001	Pilot testing of all survey instruments with samples of 1300 in order to get data on all components of instruments as a basis for selection of the components for the final forms.
January-June 2002	Main survey administration with samples of 7000.

Members of the Project Advisory Group will have the opportunity to seek clarification of the overall programme and each of the steps outlined in this schedule.

8. TOWARDS A LONGTERM FUTURE FOR SURVEYS OF ADULT COMPETENCIES

The current ILSS is scheduled to collect data from full national samples in participating countries in 2002. For those countries that have participated in one or other of the rounds of the International Adult Literacy Survey (IALS), ILSS will provide a subsequent collection of literacy and numeracy data for the adult population that will permit the examination of changes over time.

A number of countries have asked about the possibility of links between the results of ILSS and the results of the survey of 15-year-olds being undertaken in the Programme of International Student Assessment (PISA). There are no formal links at this stage in the instrumentation but there are conceptual connections because of common origins in some parts. The Reading Literacy scale in PISA will use not only standard prose passages but also various types of documents such as lists, forms, graphs, and diagrams and will, to that extent, be somewhat similar to the IALS and now the ILSS Prose and Document Literacy scales. Indeed, there will be some items in common between IALS and the PISA literacy scales to permit some direct equating of scales and comparisons of population performances between 15-year-olds in PISA and 16-65-year-olds in IALS and, later, ILSS. PISA will, however, extend the range of skills assessed beyond functional uses of text to include broad understanding and interpretation of text. The Problem Solving (Analytical Reasoning) instrument for ILSS is being developed by the same group that has developed a Problem Solving instrument for use as a national option in PISA 2000. Some form of Problem Solving assessment is scheduled for inclusion as part of the international survey for PISA 2003. Other possibilities are in the domain of ICT Literacy which is included in PISA 2000 as a national option.

The question of whether further collections will be made, to permit comparisons with the broader database proposed for ILSS for countries participating in ILSS and to permit other

countries to join, is yet to be determined, though subsequent rounds of ILSS have been foreshadowed.

The General Assembly of the OECD Indicators of Education Systems (INES) will be held in Tokyo, Japan on 11-13 September 2000. It will provide an opportunity to consider priorities for OECD's work, including surveys of adult competencies.

9 **OTHER BUSINESS**

Dates of future meetings