

Consultation on the International Standard Classification of Teacher Training Programmes (ISCED-T)

Concept note (Draft)

September 2021

Summary

In compliance with the UNESCO Executive Board [decision](#) on [210 EX/8](#), the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), in partnership with UNESCO's Education Sector is conducting a global consultation on the draft proposal of the International Standard Classification of Teacher Training Programmes (ISCED-T) to be presented, for adoption, to the 41st session of the UNESCO General Conference in November 2021.

As part of this consultation, the UIS and the Education Sector are organising three information sessions (of 2 hours each) to bring together policy-makers and experts of the teaching profession from UNESCO Member States, Category 1 Institutes, and relevant Category 2 Centres, for a presentation on the classification, followed by Q&A and collection of comments. Participants are requested to consider preparing consolidated feedback of their country or organisation to the UIS to be reflected in the revised version of ISCED-T for submission to the General Conference in November 2021.

1. Background

At the 41st UNESCO General Conference in November 2021, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) will present, for adoption, the International Standard Classification of Teacher Training Programmes (ISCED-T), which is a framework for assembling, compiling and analysing cross-nationally comparable statistics on teacher training programmes. This new classification is based on and complements the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED)¹, which serves to classify education programmes and the related qualifications by education levels and fields. Once adopted, ISCED-T will be established as a new classification, separate from ISCED 2011.

The 40th session of the UNESCO General Conference endorsed the development of ISCED-T to support the monitoring of SDG target 4.c: "By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified

¹ UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS). 2012. *International Standard Classification of Education: ISCED 2011*. Montreal: UIS. <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000219109>.

teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States”. The General Conference stated that ISCED-T should be developed with the participation of representatives of UNESCO Member States and representatives of other relevant international organizations, including from the teaching profession, with a view to submitting a draft proposal to the General Conference for adoption at its 41st session in November 2021².

After the 40th UNESCO General Conference, the UIS elaborated a development plan for ISCED-T and conducted an inventory of national teacher training programmes for the identification of dimensions to classify training programmes and coding of identified dimensions. In partnership with UNESCO’s Education Sector, the UIS established a Technical Advisory Panel for ISCED-T with experts on classifications, statistics on trained and qualified teachers used for monitoring of SDG target 4.c, and teacher education from all UNESCO regions.

The Technical Cooperation Group on the Indicators for SDG 4 - Education 2030 (TCG) has endorsed four dimensions for classification of teacher training programmes in ISCED-T:³

- ISCED level of the teacher training programme;
- target teaching level;
- entrance requirements;
- duration of the teacher training programme.

In close collaboration with, and under the guidance of the Technical Advisory Panel⁴, a proposal of ISCED-T was drafted.

2. Objectives of the consultation

The main objective of the consultation is to collect the perspectives of UNESCO Member States, Category 1 Institutes and relevant Category 2 Centres on the current draft ISCED-T proposal, in order to better reflect these perspectives in the final proposal of the classification to be presented, for adoption, at the 41st UNESCO General Conference in November 2021.

² 40 C/Resolution 18. In: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). 2020. *Records of the General Conference - 40th Session, Paris, 12 November - 27 November 2019: Volume 1 - Resolutions*. Paris: UNESCO. <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000372579>.

³ UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS). 2021. “Technical Cooperation Group: Report for 2020 - 7th TCG Meeting Report and Indicator Development for 2020.” Montreal: UIS. <http://tcg.uis.unesco.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2021/01/TCG-Report-2020.pdf>.

⁴ ISCED-T TAP is composed of experts from the following organisations: Africa Federation of Teaching Regulatory Authorities (AFTRA), Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States (ABEGS), Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO), Centro de Investigación Avanzada en Educación (CIAE) - Universidad de Chile, Education International, Eurostat, Network for International Policies and Cooperation in Education and Training (NORRAG), International Task Force on Teachers for Education 2030, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Pacific Community, Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO), United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD). The UNESCO Institute for Statistics acts as the Secretariat of the TAP.

As part of the consultation, three information sessions of about 2 hours each, will be organized with representatives of Member States, of Category 1 Institutes, and of relevant Category 2 Centres. The sessions will include:

- the current proposal of ISCED-T;
- the proposed questions for review of and feedback on ISCED-T;
- the consultation process;
- next steps in the development of ISCED-T and the UIS plan for implementation of the classification.

3. Outputs and benefits of the consultation

This global consultation on ISCED-T seeks to:

- initiate discussions with Member States, Category 1 Institutes and relevant Category 2 Centres based on the consultation documents circulated in advance of the information sessions. This aims to stimulate engagement and yield better quality feedback on the classification.
- bring together experts on teaching profession from Member States, Category 1 Institutes and relevant Category 2 Centres for exchange on experiences and views on the draft ISCED-T proposal, and elaboration, if possible, of consolidated feedback on the classification.
- prepare a comprehensive proposal of ISCED-T reflecting the view of Member States, Category 1 Institutes and relevant Category 2 Centres, for submission to the 41st UNESCO General Conference for adoption.

4. Impact of ISCED-T, benefits and implications for Member States

Following the adoption of ISCED-T by the UNESCO General Conference, in November 2021, the UIS will finalize the text of the classification, incorporating revisions requested by the General Conference, and disseminate the final ISCED-T globally. The UIS will subsequently develop a data collection strategy for ISCED-T, with input from the Technical Advisory Panel, and inform Member States and other users of the implications for monitoring of SDG target 4.c. Member States will be provided with guidelines and training for implementation of ISCED-T and will be informed of any changes to questionnaires in the UIS Survey of Formal Education.

The International Standard Classification of Teacher Training Programmes (ISCED-T) will be instrumental in producing internationally comparable data on teacher training programmes and to improve the availability and quality of teacher statistics, especially in reference to national programmes for pre-service teacher education. ISCED-T will also aid in the development of an international standard for “trained” and “qualified” teachers that could be used alongside the national standards currently used for monitoring.

5. The consultation process

UIS and the Education Sector will send invitation letters and consultation documents, including concept notes and the draft proposal of ISCED-T, available in English, French, and Spanish.

UNESCO Member States, Category 1 Institutes and relevant Category 2 Centres will review the draft ISCED-T proposal and prepare feedback and questions for discussion during the information sessions. The information sessions will be held on the following dates:

- **22 September 2021** (from **14:00 to 16:00, Paris time**) for Category 1 Institutes;
- **23 September 2021** (from **14:00 to 16:00, Paris time**) for the target Category 2 Centres;
- **4 October 2021** (from **14:00 to 16:00, Paris time**) for Member States.

Feedback on the classification will be collected during the information sessions. Member States representatives are encouraged to prepare, ahead to the information session, consolidated national feedback on the classification and get ready to ask questions or request clarifications as necessary.