



2024 CONFERENCE ON  
**EDUCATION DATA  
AND STATISTICS**

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# Preparatory meeting for the **UNESCO Conference on Education Data and Statistics**

Implementation of the International Standard Classification of Education  
(ISCED): challenges and solutions forward

October - November 2023



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**unesco**  
Institute for Statistics

# Outline

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- Background of ISCED
- Current status
- UIS ISCED data collection and quality assurance
- Most common issues about the use of ISCED 2011 and ISCED-F 2013
- Potential solutions forward

# Background of ISCED

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- Comprehensive framework that facilitates transformation of national education data into internationally agreed categories that make cross-national comparisons possible.
- UIS is custodian and responsible for development, maintenance, and providing guidance on effective and consistent use of ISCED for data collection and analysis.
- ISCED family classifications include:
  - ISCED-P 2011: national educational programmes
  - ISCED-A 2011: educational attainment
  - ISCED-F 2013: fields of education and training
  - ISCED-T 2021: teacher training programmes and related qualifications

# Current status

## How many ISCED 2011 mappings are currently available?

SDG regions	Number of countries	Number of ISCED 2011 published mappings	Coverage (%)
Central and Southern Asia	14	14	100
Eastern and South-Eastern Asia	18	16	89
Europe and Northern America	48	48	100
Latin America and the Caribbean	42	34	81
Northern Africa and Western Asia	24	24	100
Oceania	17	17	100
Sub-Saharan Africa	48	48	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>95</b>

### Countries with incomplete ISCED 2011 mapping

Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Sint Marteen, Trinidad and Tobago.

### Countries with ISCED 1997 mapping only

Dominica, Haiti, and Paraguay.



# Most common issues about the use of ISCED 2011 and ISCED-F 2013 ?

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## Main issues:

- National education programmes not classified in correct level of ISCED (issue not intrinsic to ISCED).
- National education programmes classified but not in a harmonised manner across countries.

## Unresolved broad ISCED 2011 classification issues:

- Under which conditions is home schooling considered as formal education that can be classified in ISCED 2011?
- Classification of early childhood programmes (3 or 4) as ISCED 01?
- How to define academic and professional programmes for ISCED 6-8?

## ISCED-F 2013:

- Issues reported by countries include change to certain fields name and description, specifically fields "03 Social sciences, journalism and information", "0111 Education Science", "04 Business, administration and law".

# Solutions forward

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## ISCED Committee :

- ISCED 2011 Manual recommends to form an ISCED Committee to support governance of ISCED (<https://uis.unesco.org/sites/default/files/documents/international-standard-classification-of-education-isced-2011-en.pdf>, p.23).
- Composed of education and classification experts from International Organisations and UNESCO Member States; balanced technically and geographically and reflects different types of education systems that exist globally.
- Recommendations of ISCED Committee are expected by mid-2024.

## Training and technical support to countries to improve consistency in classification of education programmes across countries

ISCED 2 and 3 at partial level completion; Programmes that span two levels; Long first-degree programmes (ISCED 6 and 7); Second or further degree for specialization (following completion of a Bachelor's or equivalent programme) classified sometimes as ISCED 7.

# Thank you

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