



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
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UIS Survey of Formal Education: Objectives, content, timeline and dissemination

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Overview

UIS Survey of Formal Education:

- Objectives
- Content
- Timeline
- Data quality assurance processes
- Data releases, use and dissemination

UIS key role in the monitoring of SDG 4-Education 2030

The SDG 4 - Education 2030 Framework for Action ratified that the UIS remains *“the official source of cross-nationally comparable data on education”*.

The SDG 4 - Education 2030 Framework for Action also clearly recognised that *“in addition to collecting data, the UIS will work with partners to develop new indicators, statistical approaches and monitoring tools to better assess progress across the targets related to UNESCO’s mandate, working in coordination with the Education 2030 Steering Committee”*

Objectives of UIS Survey of Formal Education

Collects the data needed for:

- The production of indicators required to monitor SDG 4-Education 2030 Agenda at the national, regional and global levels;
- The production of key cross-country comparable education statistics needed by Member States, international organizations, donor agencies, academia and others to analyze and monitor development of education systems.

Content of the survey

The survey is composed of the following four questionnaires:

- UIS/ED/ISC11: National Education Systems
- UIS/ED/A: Students and Teachers (ISCED 0-4)
- UIS/ED/B: Educational Expenditure (ISCED 0-8)
- UIS/ED/C: Students and Teachers (ISCED 5-8)

The survey collects internationally comparable data on key aspects of education systems, such as: structure and characteristics, access, participation, progression and completion, school resources, as well as the associated human and financial resources dedicated to them.

Timeline of the Survey

These are the key annual dates for the survey:

- **October:** Mail out
- **February:** Deadline to submit data for non-finance data
- **March:** first formal reminder
- **April:** last deadline for education finance data
- **May:** second formal reminder

Data releases

UIS releases data from Survey of Formal Education twice a year:

- **February:** data refresh to include data for countries that submitted data late for the previous survey or early data on time for the current one.
- **September:** Main data release of the survey

Data quality assurance processes used by UIS

- Automatic logical consistency checks embedded in each questionnaire that detect data issues.
- Logical checks embedded in UIS data processing tools.
- Based on issues found during data processing by UIS, Data Reports sent to national focal points and their feedback is integrated.
- SDG 4 Indicator review by national focal points before dissemination by the UIS.

How does UIS ensure data and indicator comparability?

- Data are reported according to the classification of national programmes in the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011 and ISCED-F 2013).
- One common source of population data (UN Population Division) to produce population-based indicators.
- One common source of economic data for all countries (UNSD, World Bank and IMF) to produce education finance indicators.
- Same methodology for calculating indicators applied to all countries.

Data dissemination

Data are disseminated online to data users on the following platforms:

- UIS Data Centre: <http://data.uis.unesco.org/>
- UIS Bulk Data download Service (BDDS) Portal: <https://apiportal.uis.unesco.org/bdds>
- UIS data are also featured in other online databases- including but not limited to: SDG global database (managed by UNSD): <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database>
- EdStat (managed by the World Bank): <http://datatopics.worldbank.org/education/>

Several international flagship reports using UIS data

UIS data are used in several flagship international reports-including but not limited to:

- UIS SDG 4 Digest:
http://uis.unesco.org/sites/default/files/documents/dg4-data-digest-2019-en_0.pdf
 - SDG Report:
<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2020/>
 - Global Education Monitoring Report (GEMR):
<http://en.unesco.org/gem-report/>
 - Human Development Report (HDR):
<http://hdr.undp.org/>
 - Global Innovation Index:
<https://www.globalinnovationindex.org/Home>
-and many others

Thank you !

UIS Survey website: <http://uis.unesco.org/en/uis-questionnaires>

For data, visit the UIS Data Centre: <http://data.uis.unesco.org/>