

DATA PROTECTION DECLARATION – TIMSS 2023 EARLY LEARNING SURVEY

Identity and contact details of controllers:

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and

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For which purpose are data collected and processed?

The data collected during the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS 2023) will be used exclusively for scientific purposes. TIMSS is an educational research project sponsored by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA). In Cyprus the procedure is in accordance with one of the functions of par. 7 set out in the Law 125(I)/2018):

[http://www.dataprotection.gov.cy/dataprotection/dataprotection.nsf/BAE2F781893BC27DC225820A004B7649/\\$file/Nόμος%20125\(I\)_2018.pdf](http://www.dataprotection.gov.cy/dataprotection/dataprotection.nsf/BAE2F781893BC27DC225820A004B7649/$file/Nόμος%20125(I)_2018.pdf).

Which information is requested?

The parents or legal guardians of fourth grade students in the participating schools are invited to complete the TIMSS 2023 Early Learning Survey to provide the study with information about early learning activities at home, occupation of the parents/guardians, country of birth of parents/guardians, educational background of the parents/guardians, home resources, and opinions regarding the child's school.

- **Participation in TIMSS is mandatory for the schools.**
- **Consent for collecting and processing the data is declared by filling in and returning the completed questionnaire.**
- **Contact details of the person in charge of queries regarding data protection issues:**

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What kind of data are collected?

Data from answers to the questions from parents or legal guardians of students participating in TIMSS are collected and stored. This is in the form of numbers representing selections (for example, a multiple-choice question, or yes/no selection).

This information cannot, in and of itself, be used to identify individual respondents by name, however a numeric unique identifier (ID) is recorded to uniquely identify each data record. The relationship between this ID and the student's name, or national registration number, is known to the school coordinator and test administrator, and may be known to the national center conducting the study. It is not, however, shared with the IEA or any third parties.

Where, how and for how long are data from TIMSS stored?

TIMSS data are stored securely on servers in Europe and cannot be accessed by any external persons or systems. Data are processed centrally at the IEA in Hamburg, Germany. All data arriving for data processing are submitted without names.

Moreover, any IEA employees who access the data for processing have been suitably briefed on what constitutes an acceptable treatment of data and have signed a confidentiality agreement. TIMSS data will be archived for research purposes for an indefinite amount of time so that it remains available for scientific analyses. These responses eventually result in a database that allows researchers to compare education systems worldwide (see 'Public accessibility' below).

With whom and how are data from TIMSS shared?

Response data from paper questionnaires are sent from the national research center to IEA, via a secure FTP server, responses to the online questionnaires are available to the national research center and IEA only. Both provide the data in a pseudonymous form, that is: processed in such a manner that the personal data can no longer be attributed to a specific data subject without the use of additional information (any such additional information being kept separately and subject to technical and organizational measures to ensure that the personal data are not attributed to an identified or identifiable natural person).

TIMSS is directed by the International Study Center (ISC) based at Boston College, USA, and most of the data analyses occur there. Response data are required for the analysis but are sent to the ISC, via a secure FTP server, in a pseudonymous form. ISC employees who access the data for analyses have signed a confidentiality agreement. The transfer of the data to our partners in third countries, is safeguarded by appropriate and suitable legal, technical, and organizational measures such as a Data Processing Agreement and European Standard Contractual Clauses.

The data are also shared back, again over secure FTP server, with the National Research Center running TIMSS in Cyprus.

Related data

Along with the Early Learning Survey, principals, students, and teachers are also asked to complete a questionnaire. Information coming from these sources is linked to that from parents in the final international research database (IDB).

Public accessibility

The final international research database will be accessible to the public from the following sites:

<https://www.iea.nl/data> (Amsterdam, Netherlands)

<https://timssandpirls.bc.edu/index.html> (Boston, USA)

All data in the database are pseudonymous.

Automated decision-making and profiling

We do not conduct any automated decision-making, including profiling, as referred to in Article 22 GDPR.

Rights of Data Subjects

Data Subjects are entitled to the rights set out in Articles 15-20 GDPR such as the right to object to the data processing and have the right to lodge a complaint with a supervisory authority.

Andreas Philippou

Data Protection Officer

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth

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