

## DATA PROTECTION DECLARATION –TIMSS 2023 STUDENT DATA

### 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) is 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 students in the participating schools are asked to complete the TIMSS 2023 Assessment either on paper or computer-based in order to provide the study with information about students' gender, age, country of birth, country of birth of their parents/guardians, home resources, language(s) spoken at home, and opinions regarding the school environment and mathematics and science lessons. In addition, Grade 8 students are to provide information about the expected highest level of education, the highest level of education completed by their parents/guardians, and students' age when coming to Cyprus.

- **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 a student who participates 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 is also known as scored responses.

Students who take the computer-based assessment version of TIMSS provide a complete timestamped set of responses to the test items. These responses are stored as raw responses. In addition, process data on navigation behavior, and tool use is collected with corresponding timestamps. Student questionnaire responses are collected without navigation data and are not timestamped.

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 student. This ID has no connection to any other existing ID-system and was only assigned for the purpose of study administration. 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 other third parties.

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

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

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).

Response and process data are stored initially on servers located in Germany belonging to RM Solutions, and then processed centrally at the IEA in Hamburg, Germany. All data arriving for data processing are submitted without names – only the student ID numbers.

**With whom and how are data from TIMSS shared?**

Data are sent from national research centers to the IEA, via a secure FTP server, 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 specific 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 students, teachers and principals are also asked to complete a questionnaire. Fourth grade students' parents or legal guardians are also asked to complete an Early Learning Survey. Information coming from these sources is linked to that from principals 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 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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