

DATA PROTECTION DECLARATION – TIMSS 2019 STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Identity and contact details of controllers:

*National TIMSS Center
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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 2019) 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).

Which information is requested?

The students in the participating schools are asked to complete the TIMSS 2019 Student Questionnaire 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.

- 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 information cannot, in and of itself, be used to identify individual respondents by name, however a student ID is recorded to uniquely identify each student. The relationship between this ID and the student name, or national registration number is known to the school coordinator and 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 and cannot be accessed by any external persons or systems. 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.

The data are stored as follows:

Response data are stored indefinitely so that it remain available for analysis. These responses eventually result in a database that allows researchers to compare education systems worldwide (see Public accessibility below).

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.

With whom and how are data from TIMSS shared?

Response 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 the USA, as a third country, is safeguarded by appropriate and suitable measures like a specific Data Processing Agreement and European Standard Contractual Clauses.

The data are also shared back, again over secure FTP server, with the National TIMSS Center 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 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> (Hamburg, Germany)
<https://timssandpirls.bc.edu/index.html> (Boston, USA)

All data in the database are pseudonymous, and cannot be linked to individuals.

Automated decision-making and profiling

No automated decision-making, including profiling, referred to in Article 22 GDPR is conducted.

Rights of Data Subjects

Data Subjects are entitled to the rights set out in Articles 15-20 GDPR.

Data Subjects have the right to lodge a complaint with a supervisory authority.

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