



LETTER CIRCULAR

Date: 22nd November 2020 **Ref:** DLAP 263/2020
To: All Heads of College Network and Heads of Primary and Secondary Schools (State and Non-State)
From: Karen Grixti – Education Officer, Assessment of Learning
Subject: International Assessments during School Year 2020-2021

In the coming months, the Educational Assessment Unit (EAU) will be administering two surveys with students. These are the International Civic and Citizenship Education Study (ICCS) and the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS).

ICCS 2022 Field Trial

The ICCS survey, assessing students' civic and citizenship competences, will be administered in February 2021 and will see the participation of two Year 9 classes in sampled schools. Since this is the first time that ICCS is being administered as a computer-based assessment, in order to be able to compare trend data across cycles, some schools will be administering this study as a computer-based assessment while others will be paper-based. In the coming days the sampled schools will be contacted individually so that initial preparations may commence.

PIRLS 2021 Main Study

The PIRLS assessment will assess the reading literacy competences of all students currently in Year 5, across all schools. This study will also be the first cycle in which it is being administered digitally through the students' tablets. However, a sample of schools will need to administer PIRLS in paper version for trend purposes. All primary schools will be contacted early in 2021 for initial preparations.

Schools participating in ICCS 2022 and PIRLS 2021 will be asked to nominate a school coordinator, being the link person between the school and the national centre. It is highly recommended that this person is a member of the senior leadership team and where possible has previous experience with the administration of international studies in schools.

PISA 2018

Following the release of the international and national reports for PISA 2018 in December 2019, school-based reports have been prepared for each school that participated in PISA 2018. These will be handed over to the Heads of School in the coming days.

TIMSS 2019

The international results and reports for TIMSS 2019 will be released on 8 December 2020. The EAU will also be publishing the TIMSS 2019 National Report on the same day. It is planned that school-specific reports for all schools participating in this study will be forwarded to Heads of School during the third term of this school year.

Should any clarifications be required please contact the EAU on telephone numbers 25982735 and 25982727. Your cooperation in ensuring the successful implementation of these international surveys is much appreciated.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Directorate for Learning and Assessment Programmes