

# ICCS: International Civic and Citizenship Education Study Information for Staff in Schools Selected to Participate

More copies of this information sheet (in PDF format) can be downloaded from <http://www.erc.ie/iccs>

## What is ICCS?

ICCS is an international comparative study of civics and citizenship education in post-primary schools. It is taking place within the wider context of growing concern about active citizenship and education at international, EU, and national levels. This is reflected in Ireland in the *Report of the Taskforce on Active Citizenship* (April, 2007), which recommended Ireland's participation in ICCS.

The purpose of ICCS is to investigate the ways in which young people (second-year students) are being prepared to undertake their roles as citizens. ICCS instruments collect information on students' knowledge of, and views about, civic and citizenship issues. ICCS builds on previous international studies of civic education, particularly CIVED, which was conducted in 1999.

In Ireland, ICCS is being implemented by the Department of Education and Science and the Educational Research Centre (Drumcondra, Dublin). Implementation is guided by a national advisory committee. The study is supported by various partners including the ASTI and the TUI.

## What education systems participate?

The 38 education systems participating in ICCS are:

Austria	Greece	The Netherlands
Belgium (Flemish)	Guatemala	New Zealand
Bulgaria	Hong Kong-China	Norway
Chile	Indonesia	Paraguay
Chinese Taipei	Ireland	Poland
Colombia	Italy	Russian Federation
Cyprus	Republic of Korea	Slovak Republic
Czech Republic	Latvia	Slovenia
Denmark	Liechtenstein	Spain
Dominican Republic	Lithuania	Sweden
England	Luxembourg	Switzerland
Estonia	Malta	Thailand
Finland	Mexico	

## Who are the participants?

A random sample of 160 schools has been invited to participate. In each school, one second-year class (or two classes in large schools) will be selected at random from all classes at that year level. Up to 15 teachers of second-year students will be selected, also at random. Since the focus of the study is on the wider school and class contexts of civic and citizenship education, teachers of all subject areas, not just CSPE, are potential participants. School principals (or their nominees) will also be invited to complete a short questionnaire. In total around the world, about 6,000 schools, 130,000 students and 85,000 teachers are expected to participate.

## What will students and school staff be asked to do?

Students will take part in the assessment during a two-hour period on a single school day in February. The person administering the instruments is a member of school staff nominated by the principal. Payment for two days' substitute cover will be made for this work. Teachers administering the tests will receive prior training during a half day in December/January.

### Materials administered to students

*Test Booklet:* The 45-minute Test consists of a mixture of multiple-choice and short written test items and covers a range of topics related to civic and citizenship education. Students don't need to prepare in advance for the test. Examples of the types of questions in the test can be found at <http://www.erc.ie/iccs>

*Questionnaire:* The 40-minute Questionnaire collects information about students' perceptions, values and attitudes towards civic and citizenship education as well as information about home background, and activities inside and outside of school.

*European Module:* Students from countries in Europe, including Ireland, will be asked to complete a 20-minute European Module which covers topics about Europe.

### Materials Administered to School Principals and Teachers:

School principals will be invited to complete a 30-minute School Questionnaire, and selected teachers of second-year students a 30-minute Teacher Questionnaire.

High response rates help to ensure the quality of the data, while low response rates put the results for Ireland at risk of not being included in international reports. Therefore, the participation and co-operation of principals, teachers and students is important, and very much appreciated.

## How will the information be used?

All information collected will be dealt with confidentially. It will not be possible to identify schools, teachers or students, since, other than during test administration at school, ID numbers rather than names are used for identification. The results will be used to report the characteristics of large groups of schools, teachers and students (for example, attitudes of girls compared to those of boys), rather than of individual schools, teachers or students.

## Timeline

*January 2008:* ICCS Field Trial took place. In Ireland, 28 schools and 553 students participated.

*February 2009:* Implementation of main study.

*June 2010:* Release of publications – including an international report, a European Module report, and a national report for Ireland.

## What will participants receive?

Students: A certificate of participation, a small gift (pen) and entry into a prize draw (there will be a €50 voucher for one participating student in each school).

Schools: A certificate of participation, school-level feedback on performance and a copy of the national report.

## For further information

Visit the ICCS website for Ireland at <http://www.erc.ie/iccs>

Visit the international ICCS website at <http://iccs.acer.edu.au>

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