

Framework for Estimating National Costs ICCS 2027

November 2023

This framework for estimating national costs has been developed to describe the types of tasks, infrastructure, and staff needed within countries to run the International Civic and Citizenship Education Study (ICCS) 2027. The total national costs for running ICCS will depend on individual country circumstances and cost structures.

As the ICCS 2027 assessment will be fully digital, countries will need to ensure that school or externally brought in devices for administering the assessment are available and compatible with the ICCS 2027 Player.

ICCS 2027 will have a field trial in early 2026 with the main data collection planned for early 2027 (Northern Hemisphere) and late 2027 (Southern Hemisphere).

The major budget requirements needed to implement the ICCS assessment in each country are described below. For additional information on the required roles and expertise, as well as the necessary tasks to take place in each participating country, please refer to the job description of the National Research Coordinator and tasks of the National Study Center for IEA ICCS 2027.

National Study Center

An ICCS National Study Center (NSC) is established in each participating education system. The NSC is organized and led by the National Research Coordinator (NRC) and usually is staffed with one or two full-time employees plus some part-time staff to assist them at particular times during the project life-cycle (e.g., content and curriculum expert, sampling coordinator, data manager, and office staff).

Additional temporary employees will also be necessary. These short-term tasks and positions include:

- Experts for adapting and translating the assessment materials and manuals;
- IT support to ensure that each participating student is provided with an ICCS compatible device (school computers tested for ICCS compatibility or external computers tested and prepared);
- Provisioning national assessment materials and providing these to the participating schools;
- School coordinators;
- Test administrators;
- National quality control monitor(s);
- Scorers for the constructed-response items; and
- Encouraging school participation (to ensure participation rate requirements for reporting are met) and clerical assistance.

Please consider that staff who work directly with the International Study Center and IEA require a high level of proficiency in written and spoken English.

Equipment

The NSC needs to be equipped with computer infrastructure sufficient to manage work on large-scale assessment. ICCS 2027 will be developed, translated, and administered digitally.

The chosen delivery method will determine the infrastructure costs related to assessment delivery, e.g., purchase and configuration of USB drives or notebook computers to be taken to schools.

Scoring student work in ICCS will be computer-based and so the national study center will need to make provisions for computer-based scoring of student work for both the field trial and main survey. It is estimated this will require up to 10 computers to be available for use by scorers (for approximately five working days for the field trial and 15 working days for the main survey).

The software for preparing national versions of the civic knowledge test and questionnaires requires Windows 10 or higher and an internet connection.

The assessments will be delivered to students via the ICCS Player. The planned delivery methods are 1) online administration and 2) individual PCs/USBs. Regardless of the delivery mode, each device requires a power supply, a keyboard, and a mouse.

For online administration:

Each device needs to be connected to the internet. The ICCS Player will be compatible with any operating systems that can run Microsoft Edge, Mozilla Firefox, or Google Chrome.

For individual PC/USB administration:

No network or internet connection is required for the assessment administration, as everything is contained on USB drives. Countries will be required to purchase USB drives (one per participating student for the field trial and main survey). The minimum device, operating system, and screen size requirements for the ICCS 2027 Player will be confirmed at a later stage.

The International Study Center will provide technical specifications (such as memory capacity and speed) regarding the USB drives. Typically, any relatively new (less than 1 year old) model produced by a reputable brand will meet the requisite technical criteria. We strongly recommend that countries do NOT purchase cheap USB drives from small providers.

Following the translation and verification of assessment instruments, the assessment software (ICCS Player) will be released and will need to be downloaded and replicated onto USB drives. National study centers will need to arrange and cover the cost of preparing, distributing, tracking, returning and managing the data upload from USB drives.

Traveling

Over the course of the assessment cycle, there will be at least five National Research Coordinator (NRC) meetings to attend. These primary NRC meetings are planned to be in-person. Each in-person meeting will be held in a different participating country and will last for approximately one working week (4-5 days).

Further in-person meetings may be held for field operations, scorer training, and analysis training. Some countries choose to send more than one person to the training meetings (such as the NRC and persons with specific responsibility for scorer training, data management and field operations, or analysis).

Some domestic traveling within the country also needs to be budgeted for. This includes training school coordinators/test administrators, monitoring schools during the field trial and the main data collection (National Quality Control Program), and coordinating the work with any outsourced agency or agencies, etc.

Sampling

There will be approximately 25–30 schools and 500–1000 students participating in the field trial and a minimum of 150 schools with approximately 3000–4000 students for the main survey. In each school there will be at least one class randomly selected from the target grade. All students in this sampled class are selected to participate in the survey. The number of classes to be selected may be increased to meet sample size requirements or countries' oversampling needs and interests.

Depending on the structure of education systems within each country, costs may occur during the sampling frame preparation.

Assessment Instrument Preparation

For the field trial and main survey data collection, the major undertaking is translating and/or adapting the assessment instruments and manuals into the national language(s) of instruction. First, the instruments and manuals will need to be translated/adapted for field trialing new items and revised materials, then updated for the main data collection.

Countries that participated in ICCS 2022 will need to transfer/review the existing translations of any trend materials into the Computer Based Assessment (CBA) systems for ICCS 2027. New countries will need to translate/adapt the trend texts.

The NSC is responsible for testing the ICCS Player. If the individual PCs/USBs method is planned, a USB drive with the ICCS 2027 Player needs to be installed for each participating student.

Any paper manuals will need to be printed.

The following information are estimates on the scope of translating/adapting the assessment instruments and manuals. These are estimated based on the volume of the materials in previous ICCS administrations.

For the field trial, NSCs will need to prepare national versions of:

- Assessment items (~15,000 words)
- Context questionnaires:
 - Student questionnaire (~4,500 words)
 - Teacher questionnaire (~3,500 words)
 - School questionnaire (~3,000 words)
 - [If Administered] Regional student questionnaire (~1,500 words)
- *School Coordinator Manual* (~12,000 words)
- *Test Administrator Manual* (~15,000 words)
- Scoring guides (~16,000 words)
- *National Quality Control Monitor Manual* (~5,500 words) and *Classroom Observation Record* (~3,800 words)

For the main data collection, NSCs will need to prepare national versions of all materials listed above. It can be expected that the field trial versions of the manuals can be used with only small adjustments needed. For the assessment and questionnaires, it is expected that most materials will remain the same between field trial and main survey, but some field trial items will not be used for the main survey, and some will be modified. It is also possible that trend items not included in the field trial could be included in the main survey.

Shipping/Mailing Costs

All materials will need to be labeled, packed, and distributed to the participating schools, first for the field trial and then for the main survey data collection.

The USB format assessment instruments need to be shipped to the participating schools and back to the NSC. A safe and efficient shipping method should be selected for the materials to remain secure at all times. If ICCS 2027 will be administered using devices supplied externally by the NSC, the devices themselves as well as the logistics of shipping or transporting these devices to the schools needs to be considered.

Additional mailing might be necessary between the NSC and the schools, such as communication on the test administration dates or providing any missing or damaged materials.

Scoring

Student responses to the constructed-response items will need to be scored in each participating country. In addition to the actual scoring, NSCs will need to budget for training the scorers and supervising the scoring process.

The International Study Center will provide international scoring training and scoring guides for the field trial and again for the main survey data collection. Attending the international scoring training is mandatory. Scoring guides may either be used in English or translated.

It is estimated that scoring will take approximately 50 person days for the field trial and 200 person days for the main survey.

Data Processing

Data processing is a joint effort between IEA and the NSC. IEA implements a series of standardized quality checks while cleaning and processing the data. The NSC needs to ensure that a national data manager (NDM) is available to review the data and respond to any questions raised during this step.

Reporting

Each country needs to plan for producing a national report at the end of the assessment cycle. This includes the costs of preparation and publishing the report, a press conference for its release, and/or any other form of the ICCS results dissemination.