International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) 2011

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UNESCO Institute for Statistics

**2011 Regional Workshop for Education Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean
29 Nov– 1 Dec 2011, Viña del Mar, Chile**

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Outline

1. What is ISCED?

2. What are the key elements of ISCED 2011 and what has changed from ISCED 1997?

3. When will the ISCED 2011 be implemented?

4. How to map national education systems to ISCED 2011?

5. Working together

1. What is ISCED?

International
Standard
Classification
of
Education

Clasificación
Internacional
Normalizada
de la
Educación

What is ISCED?

❖ **FRAMEWORK** to facilitate comparisons of education statistics across countries

❖ **METHODOLOGY** for translating national educational programmes (and resulting qualifications) into an internationally comparable set of categories

❖ Developed and maintained by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS)

2. What are the key elements of ISCED 2011?

❖ Units of classification

❖ Scope of education in ISCED

❖ ISCED levels

❖ Cross-classification variables

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Units of classification (1)

❖ **Educational programme**

NEW (2011)

'A coherent set or sequence of educational activities that are designed and organized to achieve pre-determined learning objectives or accomplish a specific set of educational tasks over a sustained period.'

OLD (1997)

'An array or sequence of educational activities which are organised to accomplish a pre-determined objective or a specified set of educational tasks.'

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Units of classifications (2)

❖ **Related Recognized <u>Qualifications</u>**

'The official confirmation, usually in the form of a document, certifying the successful completion of an educational programme or of a stage of a programme.'

- 'They may be obtained through: successful completion of a full programme or a stage of a programme (intermediate qualifications) or by the validation of knowledge, skills and competencies, independent of participation in such programmes.'

➢ Not credits

ISCED 2011: definitions (1)

❖ **Formal education**

NEW (2011)

'Education that is institutionalized, intentional and planned through public organizations and recognized private bodies and, in their totality, make up the formal education system. Formal education programmes are thus recognized as such by the relevant national authorities. Formal education consists mainly of initial education. Vocational education, special needs education and some parts of adult education are often recognized as being part of the formal education system.'

OLD (1997)

'Education [that is institutionalized] that normally constitutes a continuous ladder of full-time education … generally beginning at age 5-7 and continuing up to 20 or 25 years old.'

ISCED 2011: definitions (2)

❖ **Non-formal education**

NEW (2011)

'Education that is institutionalized, intentional and planned

- an addition, alternative or complement to formal education…
- caters for people of all ages but does not necessarily apply a continuous pathway-structure
- usually leads to qualifications which are not recognized
- covers programmes contributing to adult and youth literacy and education for out-of-school children, as well as programmes on life skills, work skills and social or cultural development.'

OLD (1997)

'Any organised and sustained educational activities that do not correspond exactly to the above definition of formal education.'

ISCED 2011: definitions (3)

❖ **Informal learning** (not covered)

'Forms of learning that are intentional or deliberate but not institutionalized. It is consequently less organized and less structured than either formal or non-formal education.'

❖ **Incidental or random learning** (not covered)

'Forms of learning that are not organized or that involve communication that is not designed to bring about learning.'

Scope of education in ISCED

RANDOM LEARNING

INFORMAL LEARNING

FORMAL EDUCATION	NON-FORMAL EDUCATION
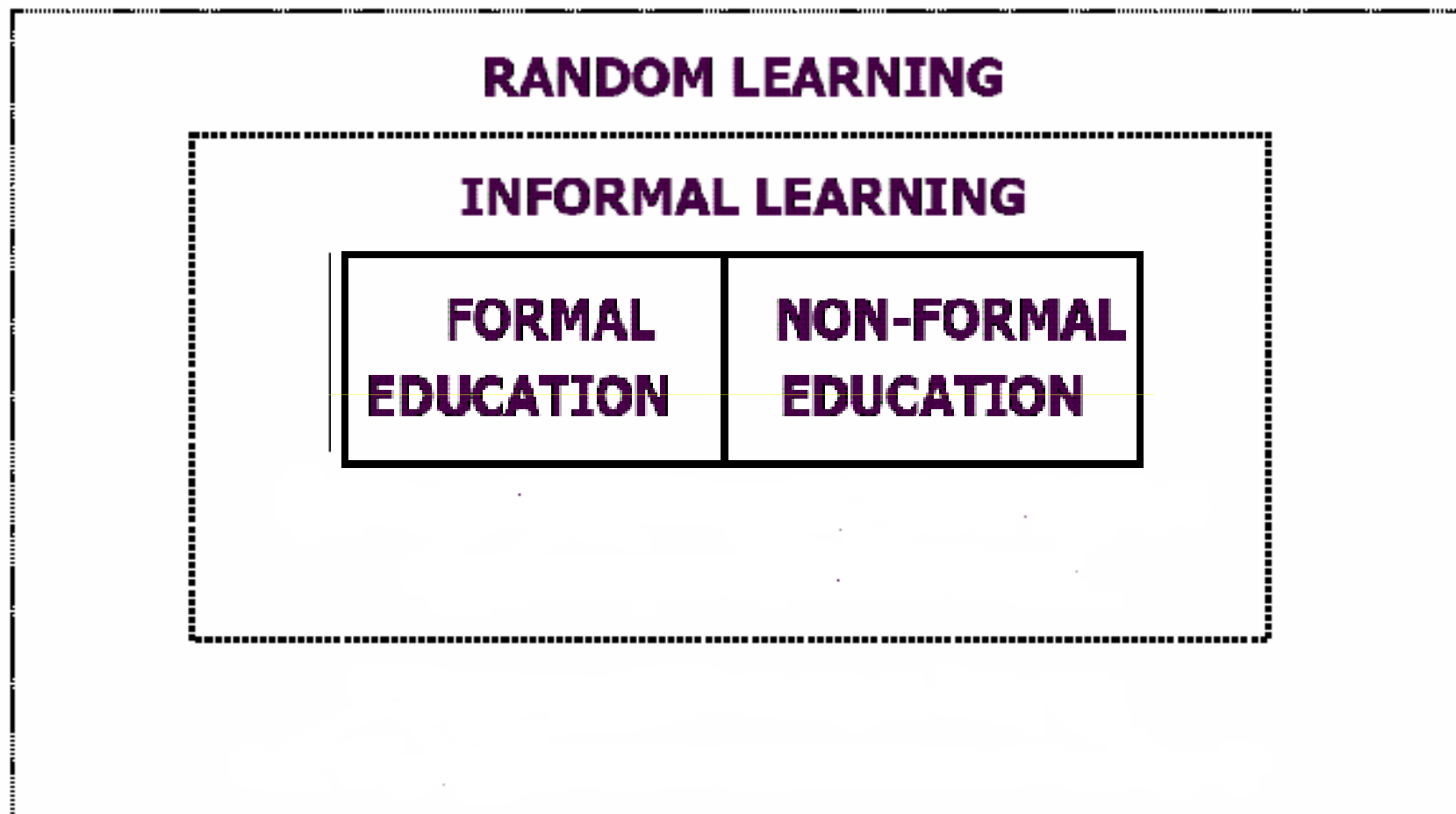
ISCED levels

ISCED 1997	ISCED 2011
	0 Early childhood education **Early childhood educational development** (designed for children aged under 3 years)
0 Pre-primary (designed for children aged 3 years and above)	**Pre-primary** (designed for children aged 3 years and above)
1 Primary **(or 1st stage of basic education)**	**1 Primary**
2 Lower secondary **(or 2nd stage of basic education)**	**2 Lower secondary**
3 Upper secondary	**3 Upper secondary**
4 Post-secondary non-tertiary	**4 Post-secondary non-tertiary**
5 First stage of tertiary	**5 Short cycle tertiary** **6 Bachelor's or equivalent** **7 Master's or equivalent**
6 Second stage of tertiary	**8 Doctoral level**

ISCED 2011 level 0

Early childhood education:

- ➢ Typically designed to support children's early educational development and introduce young children to organized instruction outside of the family context
- ➢ Educational programmes targeting children below the age of entry into ISCED level 1
- ➢ School-based or otherwise institutionalized setting (centre-based, community-based, home-based)
- ➢ Programmes provide an organized and purposeful set of learning activities in a safe physical environment
- ➢ Programme intensity (2 hours/day) and duration (100 days/year)

ISCED 2011 level 0

❖ Two categories (types):

➢ **Early childhood educational development**
  - Educational content designed for children aged 0-2 years
  - Learning environment: visually stimulating, language rich
  - Emphasis on use of language/meaningful communication
  - Opportunities for active play, development of motor skills
  - Excludes programmes of childcare

➢ **Pre-primary**
  - Educational content designed for children aged at least 3 years
  - Focus on improved use of language and social skills
  - Development of logic and reasoning skills
  - Introduction to alphabetical and mathematical concepts
  - Physical exercise and play used as learning opportunities

ISCED 2011 level 1

Primary education:

- ➤ Typically designed to provide students with fundamental skills in reading, writing and mathematics and understanding of core areas of knowledge

- ➤ Instruction often organized around units, projects or broad learning areas, typically by one main class teacher

- ➤ Age is typically the only entry requirement

- ➤ Duration 4-7 years

- ➤ Includes literacy, second chance or re-integration programmes

ISCED 2011 level 2

Lower secondary education:

- ➢ Educational aim to lay the foundation for lifelong learning and human development
- ➢ Usually organized around a more subject-oriented curriculum
- ➢ Teachers are often qualified in specific subjects as well as pedagogy
- ➢ Cumulative duration from start of ISCED 1: 8 to 11 years
- ➢ Includes second chance or re-integration programmes

ISCED 2011 level 3

Upper secondary education:

➤ Typically designed to complete secondary education in preparation for tertiary education, or to provide skills relevant to employment, or both

➤ More differentiated than lower secondary, with an increased range of options and streams available

➤ Entry requirement: ISCED 2

➤ Cumulative duration since the beginning of ISCED level 1: 11-14 years

➤ Teachers often highly qualified in subjects

➤ Includes second chance or re-integration programmes

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ISCED 2011 level 4

Post-secondary non-tertiary education:

➤ Provides learning experiences building on secondary education preparing for labour market entry as well as tertiary education

➤ Aims at the individual acquisition of knowledge, skills and competencies below the high level of complexity characteristic of tertiary education

➤ Typically designed to provide individuals who completed ISCED level 3 with the qualifications that they require for progression to tertiary education or for employment when their ISCED level 3 qualification does not grant such access

ISCED 2011 level 5

Short cycle tertiary education:

- Minimum of 2 years full-time equivalent duration
- often designed to provide participants with professional knowledge, skills and competencies
- Typically practically based, occupationally specific and prepares students to enter the labour market
- May provide pathways to other tertiary education programmes
- Includes academic programmes below bachelor or equivalent.

ISCED 2011 level 6

Bachelor or equivalent:

- ➢ First degrees have a minimum of 3 years full-time equivalent duration
- ➢ Often designed to provide participants with **intermediate** academic and/or professional knowledge, skills and competencies
- ➢ Typically theoretically based but may include practical components and are informed by state of the art research and/or best professional practice
- ➢ Traditionally offered by universities and equivalent tertiary institutions
- ➢ Do not usually give direct access to Doctorate programmes at ISCED level 8

ISCED 2011 level 7

Master or equivalent:

- ➢ First degrees have a minimum duration of at least five years full-time equivalent
- ➢ Often designed to provide participants with **advanced** academic and/or professional knowledge, skills and competencies
- ➢ May have a substantial research component, but do not yet lead to the award of a doctoral qualification.
- ➢ Typically are theoretically based but may include practical components and are informed by state of the art research and/or best professional practice.
- ➢ Traditionally offered by universities and equivalent tertiary institutions
- ➢ Usually provide access to Doctorate programmes at ISCED level 8

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ISCED 2011 level 8

Doctoral or equivalent:

- First degrees have a minimum duration of at least three years full-time equivalent
- Designed to lead primarily to an **advanced research qualification**
- Devoted to advanced study and original research
- Theses are a significant contribution to knowledge and are of publishable quality
- Typically offered by research-oriented universities and equivalent tertiary education institutions

Cross-classification variables

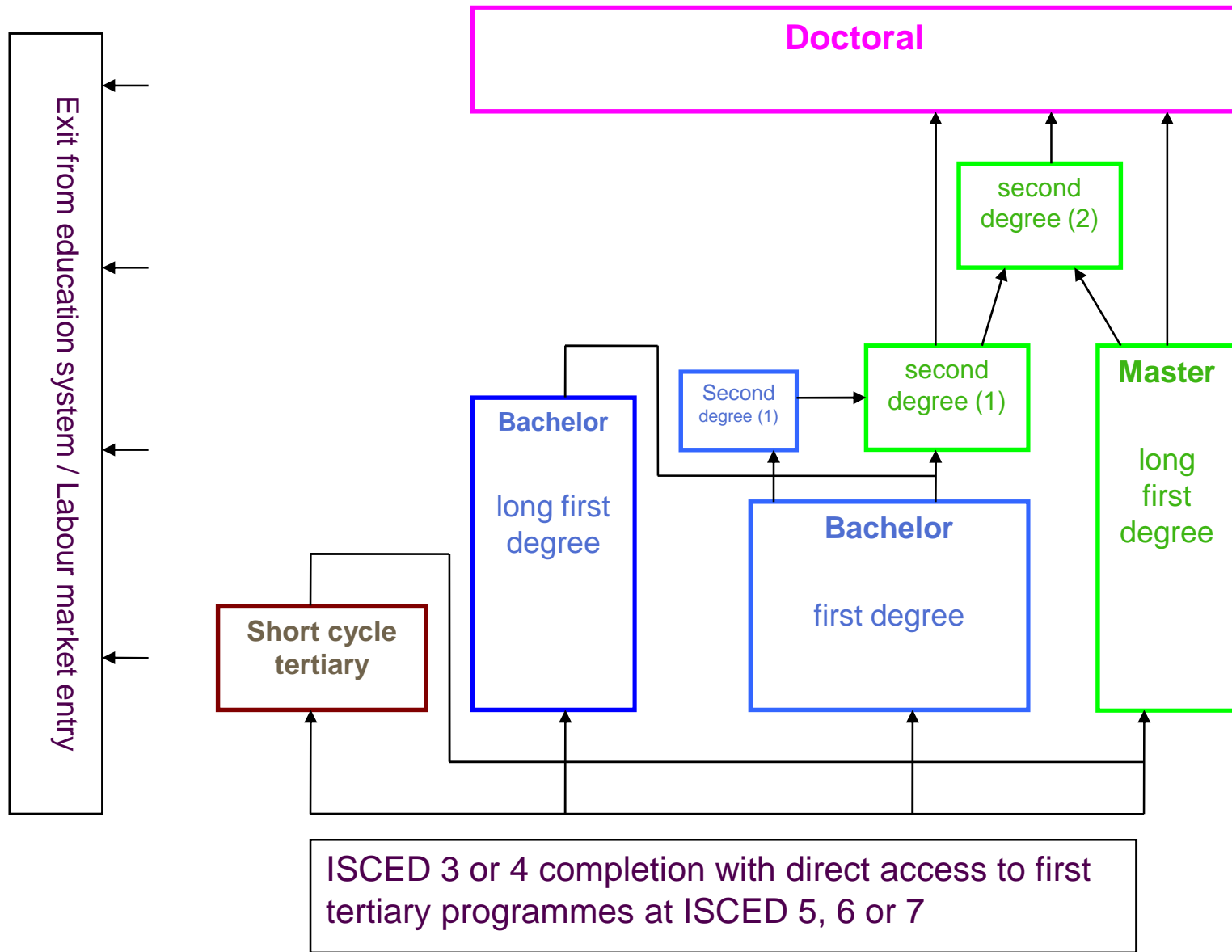| ISCED 1997	ISCED 2011
Orientation (ISCED 2-4 only) ❖ **General** ❖ **Prevocational**	**Orientation (ISCED 2-8)** ❖ **General/academic**
❖ **Vocational**	❖ **Vocational/professional**
Destination ❖ **A** (on <u>direct</u> path to ISCED 6) ❖ **B** (leading <u>directly</u> to a higher ISCED level but not on a direct path to ISCED 6)	**Completion/access to higher ISCED levels** ❖ **Level completion <u>and</u> access to higher ISCED level** (whether on direct path to ISCED 8 or not)
❖ **C** (no <u>direct</u> access to higher ISCED levels)	❖ **Level completion** (but no <u>direct</u> access to higher ISCED levels) ❖ **Partial level completion** (no <u>direct</u> access to higher ISCED levels) ❖ **No level completion** (nor <u>direct</u> access to higher ISCED levels)

Level completion and access

- ❖ Completion/access to higher ISCED levels
  - ➢ **Level completion <u>and</u> access** to higher ISCED level
  - ➢ **Level completion** (but no direct access to higher ISCED levels)*
  - ➢ **Partial level completion** (but no direct access to higher ISCED level)* – sequential (ISCED 2-3)
  - ➢ **No level completion** (not direct access to higher ISCED levels)

- ❖ *Level completion or partial completion / no access (ISCED 2-3)
  - ➢ **Minimum duration** criteria: 2 years within the level
  - ➢ **Minimum cumulative duration** criteria: 8 years and 11 years respectively since the start of ISCED 1

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Position in the national degree structure

There are four sub-categories (ISCED 6-7 only):

➢ **First** degree/qualification programme – bachelor or equivalent

➢ **Long first** degree/qualification programme – bachelor (>4 years) or master (≥5 years), or equivalent

➢ **Second or further** degree/qualification programme – following a bachelor or equivalent programme

➢ **Second or further** degree/qualification programme – following a master or equivalent programme

3. Implementation

- ❖ November 2011
  - ➤ ISCED 2011 adopted by the UNESCO General Conference
- ❖ During 2012
  - ➤ Revise data collection instruments and instructions
  - ➤ Finalise/publish Operational Manual
  - ➤ **Begin to produce ISCED 2011 mappings for all countries**
  - ➤ Revision of fields of education
- ❖ During 2013
  - ➤ **Launch revised ISCED questionnaire**
  - ➤ Redesign UIS databases
  - ➤ Submit revised fields to 2013 General Conference for adoption
- ❖ During **2014**
  - ➤ **First international education survey based on ISCED 2011**

*Note: 2012 & 2013 education surveys still based on ISCED 1997

4. How to map national education systems to ISCED 2011?

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Provisional ISCED 2011 mapping (1)

ISCED 2011 level	ISCED 2011 orientation (G/V/U) or Type (ECED/Pre-primary)	ISCED 2011 completion (F/P/N)	ISCED 2011 access (Y/N)	ISCED 2011 Position in national degree structure	ISCED 2011 Programme code (3 digit)

- ❖ **ISCED 2011 level**: 0 to 8 and the name of the education level
- ❖ **ISCED 2011 orientation (G/V/U):**
  - General / Vocational (ISCED 2-5)
  - Unspecified orientation (ISCED 6-8)
- ❖ **ISCED 2011 Type:** level 0
  - ECED = Early childhood educational development
  - Pre-primary
- ❖ **ISCED 2011 completion (F/P/N):**
  - Full completion of level: F
  - Partial completion of level : P (ISCED 2 and 3 only)
  - No completion of level: N

Provisional ISCED 2011 mapping (2)

ISCED 2011 level	ISCED 2011 orientation (G/V/U) or Type (ECED/Pre-primary)	ISCED 2011 completion (F/P/N)	ISCED 2011 access (Y/N)	ISCED 2011 Position in national degree structure	ISCED 2011 Programme code (3 digit)

- ❖ **ISCED 2011 access (Y/N)**:
  - access to a higher ISCED level (yes or no)
- ❖ **Position in the national degree structure** (ISCED 6-7 only)
  - First degree
  - Long first degree
  - Second or further degree (after a bachelor or equivalent)
  - Second or further degree (after a master or equivalent)
- ❖ **ISCED 2011 Programme Code (3 digits)**:
  - See Annex 2 for the detailed codes

5. Working together

- ❖ 4 Groups
- ❖ Country re-mapping in subgroups (3-4 countries) (40 min)
- ❖ Group discussion (40 min)
- ❖ Inventory of programmes (time permitting - 10 min)
- ❖ Plenary: Reporting back (12h30)

Discussion questions

1. What programmes were easy to re-map?
2. What programmes were difficult to re-map?
3. What new information will be needed for the re-mapping process?
4. What are some region-specific cases to be considered in the new classification?
5. What would you like further guidance on in the operational manual?

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Groups

A. LA - 1	B. LA - 2
Argentina, Bolivia, Brasil, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru (UIS: Alejandro)	Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico, República Dominicana (UIS: Juan Cruz)
C. CAR - 1	**D. CAR - 2**
Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Belize, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts (UIS – Nhung)	Aruba, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Netherland Antilles, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, Turks and Caicos (UIS – Amélie)

¡Gracias!

Thank you!

For any questions about ISCED, please contact:

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