



Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies PIAAC

Research programme investigates basic skills of adults

Some 25 countries are involved in PIAAC, an international study initiated by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development OECD. The study will assess the various basic skills needed by the adult population in different walks of life, as well as their application to work and everyday living. Literacy, numeracy and problem-solving skills in technology-rich environments form the key focus areas of the study. At the same time, new

information will be obtained on education amongst Finns, their activities as citizens and in working life, and the way in which these factors affect their social and economic well-being. Data collection for the study will commence in the autumn of 2011 and be completed in the spring of 2012. The study will be implemented through face-to-face interviews. The initial results of the study will be published in 2013.

The study will generate information promoting adult skills development

The study will generate valuable information on the skills and activities of the Finnish adult population for the use of educators, decision-makers and researchers, for example. The results can be utilised in the preparation of various educational and employment-related policy

measures, as well as in developing the skills and competencies of Finnish adults. Through these actions, the prerequisites for success can also be guaranteed in the future. Information collected in Finland will be compared to that obtained from other participating countries.



Interviewees chosen through random sampling

For the results of the study to be internationally commensurable, a sufficient number of interviews, i.e. involving 5,000 Finnish-speakers and 300 Swedish-speakers, must be conducted. Participants in the study will be chosen from the entire adult population of Finland, through random sampling.

Interviewers from Statistics Finland will contact the selected interviewees and agree on

the practicalities of the interviews. The face-to-face interviews will be conducted in a tranquil environment, such as the interviewee's home. Areas such as education, employment, and skills utilisation are covered in the first section of the interview. The second section includes tasks performed with computers or on paper, similar to the tasks adults encounter in their everyday lives.

Participation is important

As every interviewee represents hundreds of Finnish adults, participation in the study is crucially important. Persons who have been selected for the sample cannot be replaced. Participation in the study will ensure that decision-makers and others who use the research results are provided with information that is as reliable as possible.

It is extremely important that the full range of Finnish adults is represented in the study. The study will obtain information from residents of Finland from the 16–65 age group – people who are employed, unemployed, retired, stay-at-home, and students – people with various educational backgrounds.

Responses are confidential

The researchers in charge of the study are bound by legislation. As defined by law, no information obtained through the study can be disclosed to third parties. All employees participating in the study have signed non-disclosure agreements, agreeing to treat all information obtained from the interviewees as confidential. All identifier data related to the interviewees will be removed before the research data obtained through the programme is handed over to researchers and made available for international

research. Results will be made public only in the form of summaries based on statistical analyses.

The Ministry of Education and Culture and the Ministry of Employment and the Economy are the national funders of the study. In addition, the Finnish National Board of Education will participate in programme steering. The study will be implemented through co-operation between the Finnish Institute for Educational Research, University of Jyväskylä and Statistics Finland.

Programme website: www.piaac.fi

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