



Programme for International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC)

Overview, Project Status/
Schedule, Quality Control of
Survey Operations on a
Multinational Survey

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Overview

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- **Phase:** First cycle of multi-cycle international programme for assessment of adult skills and competencies
- **Sponsor:** Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- **Management Group:** Consortium of international organizations from Europe and North America headed by Educational Testing Service (ETS)

Westat responsible for sampling and survey operations

- **Goal:** Assess level and distribution of adult skills across countries focusing on cognitive and work place skills needed for successful participation in economy and society of 21st century



Overview (continued)

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- Sample Characteristics
 - Probability-based designs (vary by country)
 - Area samples
 - List samples
 - Adults aged 16-65
 - Minimum of 5,000 adults in each participating country
- Data Collection Mode
 - In-person CAPI interview
 - CAPI or PAPI assessment



Participating Countries (28)

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Austria	France	Norway
Australia	Germany	Poland
Belgium	Hungary	Portugal
Canada	Ireland	Slovak Republic
Chile*	Italy	Slovenia*
Cyprus*	Japan	Spain
Czech Republic	Korea	Sweden
Denmark	Malta*	United Kingdom
Estonia*	Netherlands	United States
Finland		

*Non-member economies participating



Key Information Collected

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- Demographic characteristics
- Educational and training background
- Job history, professional attainment, and selected social aspects
- Use of literacy, numeracy, and technology skills in daily life
- Ability to use information in a technology-rich environment



Timetable

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2007-2009

Develop assessment framework, technical standards and guidelines, survey instruments, computer platform

2010

Conduct field test

2011-2012

Conduct main survey

2012-2013

Analyze data, produce international report



Quality Control (QC) Plan Survey Operations

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- Consortium (Westat) proposed to OECD and Board of Participating Countries (BPC) a program that represents best tradeoff of quality and cost within constraints of survey
- July 2008, PIAAC Technical Advisory Group (TAG) approved the QC plan for survey operations



Principal Objectives QC Plan

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- Undertake activities that ensure Survey Operations Technical Standards and Guidelines are implemented during field test and main study
- Review progress and identify potential problems and solutions on a timely basis during field test and main study
- Encourage oral and written communication between Consortium and countries



Principal Objectives QC Plan (continued)

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- Provide countries with timely answers to questions, feedback, and help with problem-solving
- Identify sources of nonsampling error in survey operations
- Make recommendations to enhance main study based on field test experience
- Make recommendations for next cycle of PIAAC



QC Plan Components

1. Data Collection Calls

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- Conduct monthly conference calls with each country throughout critical field test/main study data collection period
- Call participants should include country National Project Manager (NPM), key survey institute staff (English speaking), and key Westat operations staff
- Calls will be documented in QC meeting minutes report summarizing items discussed, decisions made, and pending action items



QC Plan Components

2. Data Collection Monitoring Reports

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- Countries must complete monthly monitoring reports on data collection activities
- Monitoring reports will guide conference call discussion
- Reports will be accessed via Web-based SharePoint site



QC Plan Components

2. Data Collection Monitoring Reports (continued)

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- Report topics (examples)
 - Prior to data collection—training plans, materials development status, field staff hiring and training data
 - During data collection—completion and response data, status of validation, interviewer attrition rates, strategies for avoiding nonresponse
 - After data collection—number of field staff employed, average number of completed interviews per interviewer, final response rates, interviewer falsification rates, status of data cleaning efforts



QC Plan Components

3. On-going Web Communication

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- Westat will respond to countries' questions related to survey operations throughout planning and implementation phases of data collection via SharePoint



QC Plan Components

4. Interviewer Training Report

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- Westat will design an interviewer training report to be completed by both NPM and survey institute at completion of each interviewer training session in each country
- Report will be used during field test and main study
- Key findings will be summarized in a training report



QC Plan Components

5. Interviewer Debriefing Questionnaire and Report

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- Westat will design an interviewer debriefing questionnaire to be completed at end of field test and main study
- Debriefing questionnaire will obtain interviewer feedback on instruments and procedures
- Feedback will inform subsequent design and implementation phases
- Key findings will be summarized in debriefing report



QC Plan Components

6. Data Collection Field Test Report

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- Following field test, Westat will prepare a report covering key survey operations activities including quality control
- This report will be published with sufficient lead time to ensure countries have adequate time to implement major recommendations



QC Plan Components

7. Final Quality Control Report

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- Westat will produce a chapter on survey operations quality control for the final PIAAC Quality Control Plan and Report delivered at the end of survey



Thank you

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