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para la Educación,  
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### REVISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD CLASSIFICATION OF EDUCATION: FIELDS OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING (ISCED-F)

#### OUTLINE

**Source:** 36 C/Resolution 11.

**Background:** The International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) is a statistical framework needed for the monitoring of countries' progress towards a wide range of education policy targets including Education For All and the Millennium Development Goals. It comprises two parallel classifications: ISCED-P for education levels of programmes; ISCED-A for educational attainment levels of qualifications' and a third, cross-cutting classification, ISCED-F for fields of education and training of education programmes and qualifications. The General Conference through 36 C/Resolution 11 approved the ISCED 2011 revision of ISCED-P and ISCED-A and invited the Director-General to initiate a review and revision of the 1997 version of the fields of education and training. A progress report on the implementation of ISCED 2011 and the revision of the fields of education and training was submitted to the Executive Board at its 191st session (191 EX/20 Part V).

**Purpose:** To submit to the General Conference for approval the revised International Standard Classification of Education Fields of Education and Training (ISCED-F 2013).

**Decision required:** paragraph 4.

1. At its 36th session, the General Conference adopted 36 C/Resolution 11 which, *inter alia*,  
Invites the Director-General to continue to review periodically and to revise the ISCED to ensure that it is consistent with developments in the policies and structures of education

and training, in particular to undertake a review of the ISCED 1997 fields of education and training and to report back, ideally with a proposal for a revised classification of the fields, at an appropriate future session.

2. A progress report (191 EX/20 Part V), submitted to the 191st session of the Executive Board, detailed the activities undertaken since the 36th session of the General Conference on the review and revision of the ISCED fields of education and training. An ISCED Technical Advisory Panel of experts in international classifications or in education was established in 2012 to oversee the revision. The 10 members were nominated by partner agencies including Eurostat, Cedefop, OECD and the ILO or by the United Nations' Expert Group on International Classifications or were selected by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) to represent developing regions in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The panel reviewed and commented extensively on proposals for the revision before agreeing on a draft for the global consultation which took place in February and March 2013.

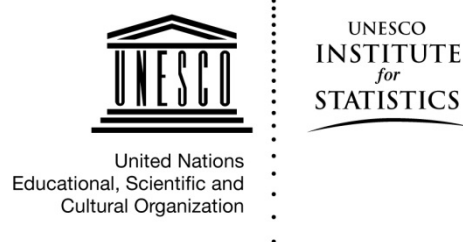
3. Ministries of education, higher education, culture and labour as well as national statistical offices in all UNESCO Member States had the opportunity to provide feedback. The initial proposals were revised in the light of feedback received from 55 respondents representing over 40 countries and were discussed with members of the United Nations' Expert Group on International Classifications at its biennial meeting in May 2013.

4. In the light of the above, the General Conference may wish to adopt the following draft decision:

The General Conference,

1. Having examined document [37 C/51](#),
2. Recalling 36 C/Resolution 11 concerning the Revision of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED),
3. Noting with satisfaction that in accordance with this resolution a thorough review of the fields of education and training has been undertaken and detailed proposals were presented and discussed with experts in classifications and submitted to all Member States for consideration including Ministries of Education, Labour and Culture and National Statistical Offices,
4. Approves the revised version of the ISCED Fields of Education and Training contained in Annex I as ISCED-F 2013;
5. Invites the Director-General:
  - (a) to provide training and capacity-building support to countries to enable them to adopt ISCED-F 2013 as appropriate in national and international data collection exercises in the future;
  - (b) to continue to review periodically the three classifications encompassed in ISCED (ISCED-P, ISCED-A and ISCED-F) to ensure that they are consistent with developments in the policies and structures of education and training and to submit proposals for the adoption of major revisions. when appropriate, at future sessions;
  - (c) to submit biennial progress reports of the work accomplished to the Executive Board, the next being due at the 196th session.

## ANNEX



**International Standard Classification of Education:  
Fields of Education and Training 2013  
(ISCED-F 2013)**

| <b>CONTENTS</b>  | <b>PAGE</b> |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Introduction  | 3           |
| 2. Aim of the manual                                     | 3           |
| 3. Units of classification                               | 3           |
| 4. Scope and structure of the classification             | 4           |
| 5. Rationale of the classification                       | 5           |
| 6. Application of classification criteria: some examples | 6           |
| 7. Inter-disciplinary and broad programmes               | 8           |
| 8. Coding of other difficult cases                       | 9           |
| 9. Aggregations for analysis and publication             | 10          |
| 10. Relation to ISCED 2011 and other classifications     | 11          |
| Appendix 1: ISCED Fields of Education and Training       | 16          |

## **1. Introduction**

1. The International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) is a framework for assembling, compiling, and analysing cross-nationally comparable statistics on education. ISCED is a member of the United Nations International Family of Economic and Social Classifications and is the reference classification for organizing education programmes and related qualifications by levels and fields of education. First developed in the mid-1970s by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the ISCED has been revised twice – most recently in 2011. The ISCED is a product of international agreement and is adopted formally by the General Conference of UNESCO Member States.
2. The latest revision, ISCED 2011, concentrated primarily on changes to the levels of education of programmes (ISCED-P) and introduced, for the first time, a classification of levels of educational attainment based on qualifications (ISCED-A).
3. During the review process which led to the 2011 revision, it was decided that the fields of education should be examined in a separate process with the view to establishing an independent but related classification which could be updated according to a different frequency, if appropriate, from any future revision to the levels of education and educational attainment. The classifications of levels and fields will remain part of the same family of classifications. Accordingly, this new classification will be referred to as the ISCED Fields of Education and Training (ISCED-F).

## **2. Aim of this manual**

4. The availability of a common international classification is only the first step towards the collection of comparable data. The second step is to ensure a consistent application of the classification across countries. Thus, the aim of this manual is to offer clear guidelines on how to apply the ISCED Fields of Education and Training. This is done by both specifying a number of criteria to be observed and by providing lists of inclusions and exclusions from each field of education and training. The detailed ISCED Fields of Education and Training classification is described in Appendix 1. The classification will be accompanied by a comprehensive listing of the definitions of each field and examples of subjects included and excluded within each field in order to assist countries in defining the boundaries between each field. The comprehensive listing will include both an alphabetical and a numerical list for ease of reference.

## **3. Units of classification**

5. The basic units of classification in ISCED 2011 are education programmes and their related qualifications. These are the same units of classification in the ISCED Fields of Education and Training (ISCED-F).
  - (a) *An education programme is “a coherent set or sequence of educational activities designed and organized to achieve pre-determined learning objectives or accomplish a specific set of educational tasks over a sustained period of time”. Educational activities are “deliberate activities involving some form of communication intended to bring about learning”.*
  - (b) *A qualification is the “official confirmation, usually in the form of a document certifying the successful completion of an education programme. Credits awarded for the successful completion of individual courses (e.g. modules or subjects) are not considered as qualifications within ISCED. In such cases, a sufficient number of credits or subjects equivalent in duration and/or covering the curriculum of a full programme would represent a qualification”.*

6. The ISCED Fields of Education and Training classifies education programmes and related qualifications by fields of study:

(a) A field is the “*broad domain, branch or area of content covered by an education programme or qualification*”.

7. Fields of education and training and levels of education or educational attainment are cross-classification variables within ISCED and are therefore independent of each other. In particular, unlike the original ISCED (ISCED 1976), fields are not defined within levels of education. This is because at some levels of education, while programmes and qualifications are only available in some fields of education and training, this can vary between countries or over time. For example, teacher training or nursing are offered at different levels of education in different countries. Over recent years there has been a tendency for such programmes at lower levels of education to be phased out and the training to be up-graded to a higher ISCED level.

#### **4. Scope and structure of the classification**

8. This classification has been designed principally to describe and categorise fields of education and training at the secondary, post-secondary and tertiary levels of formal education as defined in ISCED 2011 though it may be used for classifying programmes and qualifications offered at other levels. The classification may also be used in other contexts for example to classify the subject matter content of non-formal education, initial and continuing vocational training or informal learning.

9. The current revision builds on earlier versions of the classification in order to ensure as far as possible that there is comparability over time. It has been designed as a three-level hierarchy between broad fields (the highest level), narrow fields (the second level) and detailed fields (the third level), and uses a four-digit coding scheme. There are 11 broad fields, 29 narrow fields and about 80 detailed fields of education and training.

| Level     | Categories of fields | Number of fields |
|-----------|----------------------|------------------|
| 1st level | Broad field          | 11               |
| 2nd level | Narrow field         | 29               |
| 3rd level | Detailed field       | ≈80              |

10. The detailed fields (the third hierarchical level of the classification) are intended mainly for use at the tertiary level of education and, for vocational education and training programmes and qualifications at secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary levels. The classification can also be used for programmes and qualifications of general education where there is a subject specialization. However, general education programmes and qualifications which cover a broad range of subjects with little or no specialization in a particular field or fields will typically be classified within the broad field 00 “Generic programmes and qualifications”.

11. While the classification has been developed mainly for the purpose of compiling cross-nationally comparable statistics on education it can also be used in national contexts especially in countries which have not yet developed their own standard national classifications of fields of education. It is likely that countries wishing to adopt this classification for national use will need to adapt or adjust certain groupings of fields to better reflect the incidence and/or range of fields available to study in the country and to meet national needs for reporting education data of this type. National adjustments should not make international reporting according to ISCED Fields of Education and Training difficult or impossible. The primary aim of the ISCED classification is to facilitate international reporting at least at the broad fields’ level.

## 5. **Rationale of the Classification**

12. The classification of fields of education and training follows a subject content approach. This is the same approach as used in previous versions of the ISCED (1976, 1997 and 2011). Where content is closely related, subjects are grouped together to form the broad, narrow and detailed fields of the classification, based on the similarity of the subject matter. The aim is to classify education programmes and their related qualifications by fields of education and training on the basis of the content of the programme and not the characteristics of the intended participants.
13. It is the **main subject content** which determines the field of education and training into which a programme or qualification should be classified. Subject matter is the factual, practical and theoretical knowledge imparted during the programme and which is recognised by the related qualification. This knowledge is applied to particular types of problems or for specific purposes which may be abstract (e.g. philosophy), practical (e.g. engineering) or both (e.g. architecture). For practical purposes, the main subject of a programme or qualification is determined by the detailed field in which the majority (i.e. more than 50%) or clearly predominant part of learning credits or of students' intended learning time is spent. Learning credits, where available, should be used. Otherwise, an approximate assessment of the intended learning time should be made. Learning time includes that spent in lectures and seminars, as well as in laboratories or on special projects. Private study time is excluded (as it is difficult to measure and varies between students). Programmes and qualifications are classified in the detailed field containing their main subject.
14. Where there is insufficient information available to determine the relative shares of learning credits or intended learning time, the programme or qualification should be classified in the field listed first in its title. Where a main subject cannot be identified because the programme or qualification covers several detailed fields (and, even, narrow or broad fields) none of which dominates, the programme or qualification should be classified in an inter-disciplinary category. (See Section 7 for further details.)
15. Two programmes or qualifications belong to the same field if the main subjects studied are the same or are sufficiently similar. In developing the structure of the classification, the following criteria were used in **priority order** when determining the degree of similarity of the subject matter content in order to classify the fields of education and training into broad, narrow and detailed fields:
  - (a) Theoretical knowledge content (i.e. the ideas and concepts involved and their use in explaining facts and predicting outcomes).
  - (b) Purpose of learning (i.e. the intended use of the knowledge, skills and competencies gained).
  - (c) Objects of interest (i.e. the phenomena, problems or entities being studied).
  - (d) Methods and techniques (i.e. procedures for learning and applying the skills and knowledge gained).
  - (e) Tools and equipment (i.e. the instruments and implements which an individual learns to use or operate).
16. Ideally, the classification would be broadly “balanced” across broad fields at the international level meaning that across the world as a whole no single broad field should dominate. For example, when counting the number of enrolments in or graduates from education programmes, disproportionate numbers of enrolments/graduates concentrated in one broad field rather than another should not be expected. However, given the wide variations in

education systems between countries and also between levels of education it is not possible to develop a single classification which is balanced for all countries or for all levels of education.

## **6. Application of classification criteria: some examples**

17. The broad and narrow field categories in this classification are closely related to those defined in the previous revision, ISCED97. They are largely determined on the basis of the similarity of the theoretical knowledge and the purpose of learning and, to a lesser extent, the objects of interest of the group of fields they cover. The detailed fields are largely distinguished on the basis of methods and techniques and tools and instruments. The rest of this section describes some examples of the application of these criteria, borderline cases and two specific exceptions: vocational programmes and qualifications and teacher-training.

### **SUBJECT MATTER SIMILARITY ACROSS LEVELS OF EDUCATION**

18. All education programmes and qualifications are associated with a blend of theoretical understanding, factual knowledge and practical skills. Two programmes or qualifications at different levels of education will belong to the same field of education and training if they cover similar types of theoretical, factual and practical knowledge or skills even if the relative emphasis given to each may be different. For example, a tool-making programme includes some of the mathematics, factual knowledge and engineering theory used in mechanical engineering. Thus tool-making and mechanical engineering should have the same field of education and training (0715 “Mechanics and metal trades”) despite being associated with different levels of education or educational attainment.

### **SUBJECT MATTER SIMILARITY WITHIN LEVELS OF EDUCATION**

19. By contrast, “Nursing and midwifery” is classified as 0913 and “Medicine” as 0912. Whilst they are closely related there are differences in subject content especially the purpose of learning (doctors and nurses are expected to acquire and apply different knowledge, skills and competencies), methods and techniques and even tools and equipment. There is also a strong interest amongst users of data generated using this classification to be able to differentiate between nurses and doctors. In some countries, doctors and nurses study and qualify at the same levels of education. In these cases, differentiation between them is more easily made through fields than levels of education.

### **BORDERLINE CASES**

20. Borderline cases occur where a programme or qualification is closely related to two different fields in the classification. For example, veterinary studies has similarities both with medicine (theoretical knowledge especially but also purpose of learning) and animal husbandry (the objects of interest, methods and techniques, and tools and equipment). The latter has been chosen for classifying veterinary studies in order to maintain correspondence between previous versions of ISCED, with key related classifications (e.g., the Fields of Science, and the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC)) and to preserve a broad field devoted to (Human) Health and Welfare which is important for national policy analysis.
21. Another example is care. Medical care has been classified in narrow field 091 “Health2 and non-medical care in narrow field 092 “Welfare” on the grounds that the theoretical knowledge required for the two fields is very different.



## GENERIC PROGRAMMES

22. Generic programmes which cover a range of subjects such as languages and literature, social and natural sciences, mathematics, arts and/or physical education should be classified in 0011 “Basic programmes and qualifications”. This should be the case even if there is **some** concentration on a certain category of subject matter such as humanities, social science, natural science etc., which can occur. These programmes are a specific type of inter-disciplinary or broad programmes for which a broad field has been created. They should therefore not be classified in other broad fields as inter-disciplinary or broad programmes.

## PROGRAMMES AND QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENGINEERS

23. Education programmes and qualifications for engineers should be included in the detailed fields under 071 “Engineering<sup>1</sup> and engineering trades” or, if for civil or construction engineers, in 0732 “Building and civil engineering”. Even if the studies are oriented towards computing, media techniques, textiles, food etc., they should be classified under 071 or 0732 if the **emphasis** is on designing and constructing machinery, engines, electrical devices, electronics, computers, telecommunications etc. (071) or buildings, roads and bridges (0732).

## MANUFACTURING PROGRAMMES

24. Manufacturing programmes should be classified in the detailed fields under 071 “Engineering and engineering trades” if the emphasis is towards engineering, i.e. on metals, mechanics, machinery, engines, electrical devices etc.
25. Other manufacturing programmes and qualifications should be classified under 072 “Manufacturing and processing”. This is the case where the emphasis is on manufacturing specific products such as food, textiles, shoes, paper, furniture, glass, plastic etc.,. However, manufacturing of metal products is excluded from narrow field 072 and included in detailed field 0715 “Mechanics and metal trades”.

## LANGUAGES

26. Languages should be classified as either detailed field 0231 “Language acquisition” or detailed field 0232 “Literature and linguistics” based on the characteristics of the intended participants<sup>2</sup> (as, in this particular case, this is a proxy for the subject matter content of the studies). There is a clear difference between the theoretical content, purpose of learning and teaching style of programmes and qualifications designed for existing native or fluent speakers of a language and those designed for speakers of other languages who are trying to acquire a given language. In the former case, the emphasis will be on the literature and linguistics of the language rather than the grammar and vocabulary (at least at secondary and tertiary levels of education). In the latter case, the focus will be on grammar and vocabulary and perhaps culture and rather less on literature and linguistics.

## VOCATIONAL PROGRAMMES AND QUALIFICATIONS INCLUDING SUBSIDIARY SUBJECTS

27. In vocational programmes, for example some long programmes in upper secondary education, more time in total may be devoted to subsidiary subjects than the main subject

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<sup>1</sup> Note that Engineering is a much broader concept than an Engineer, who works as a professional in Engineering, but many other categories also work in this field. There is no difference intended between detailed fields 071 and 072 in terms of level of education.

<sup>2</sup> i.e., whether learners are already proficient in the language to be studied or not.

matter content of the intended occupation or class of occupations. Nevertheless, such programmes and their resulting qualifications should be classified in the vocational field associated with the intended occupation or class of occupations. This is an exception to the rule on the classification according to the majority or predominant subject as it is important to be able to identify separately target occupation(s) of vocational programmes and qualifications. In practice, it is likely that the field of the target occupation(s) is the one to which the greatest intended learning time is devoted.

*Example 1: A nursing health care programme should be classified in detailed field 0913 “Nursing and midwifery”, even if more intended learning time in total is devoted to other subjects than “nursing”.*

### **Teacher training programmes and qualifications with a subject matter specialization**

28. Teacher training programmes and qualifications focusing primarily on teaching a subject matter specialization should be classified as teacher training, even if the main content is a subject matter specialization. The same principle should be applied to programmes and qualifications which combine education or teacher training and a specialized subject. Note this is an exception to the majority or predominant subject rule on the classification of programmes and qualifications as it is important to be able to identify separately teacher training from other detailed fields especially in analyses of education systems.

### **7. Inter-disciplinary or broad programmes and qualifications**

29. Inter-disciplinary or broad programmes and qualifications are those which combine **several** detailed fields of education and training where **no single detailed field dominates**. Many inter-disciplinary programmes and qualifications cover several narrow or even broad fields. In this classification, the “leading subject rule” is used to determine the **broad** field into which the inter-disciplinary study should be classified. That is, the leading subject or subjects determines the (broad) field. The criterion for determining the leading subject(s) is, as before, the share of learning credits or of students’ intended learning time. Inter-disciplinary programmes should be classified by using “8” at the narrow and detailed field levels (i.e. xx88) within the leading broad field as “Interdisciplinary programmes or qualifications involving [the broad field]”. Thus all inter-disciplinary study with no dominant subject will be separately identified and, at least, the leading broad field of the programme or qualification will also be known.

*Example 2: A programme consisting of equal parts (one-third each) of theology (0221), history (0222) and philosophy (0223) should be classified as 0288 (“Inter-disciplinary programmes and qualifications involving arts and humanities”). If a programme consists of 60% theology, 20% history and 20% philosophy, it should be classified as 0221 as theology is the dominant subject.*

30. Where more than one leading broad field is identified, the inter-disciplinary study should be classified in the broad field listed first in the title (or in the curriculum or syllabus if not listed in the title) of the programme or qualification. Where there is insufficient information to determine the leading subject, the “first-listed” rule described in the previous sentence should be applied.
31. Programmes or qualifications covering two or more detailed fields where one detailed field represents the predominant share of the learning credits or intended learning time should be classified in that detailed field. Thus, if the major share of learning credits or intended learning time is devoted to a single detailed field, the programme/qualification should be classified in that detailed field and not as an inter-disciplinary programme/qualification.

Example 3: A programme majoring in mathematics with a minor in French should be classified as 0541 “Mathematics” as mathematics is the dominant subject.

Example 4: A programme consisting of 40% engineering (071), 30% business (041) and 30% languages (023) should be classified as 0788 (“Inter-disciplinary programmes and qualifications involving engineering, manufacturing and construction”) as no field predominates but 07 is the leading broad field. If engineering and business were equally important and greater than languages (e.g. 40%, 40% and 20%), the programme would be classified as either 0788 or 0488 depending on which programme, engineering (071) or business (041), is listed first in the programme title (or, if not in the title, in the curriculum or syllabus).

Example 5: A programme consisting of 40% history (0222), 30% economics (0311) and 30% politics (0312) would be classified as 0388 (“Inter-disciplinary programmes and qualifications involving social sciences, journalism and information”) as economics and politics are in the same broad field.

32. Programmes and qualifications aimed at one specific vocational field consisting also of subsidiary subjects from other fields are not considered as inter-disciplinary programmes or qualifications and should be classified according to the specific vocational field.

Example 6: In a programme in electrical installation, more time may be devoted to subsidiary subjects (language, mathematics, natural science etc.) than the intended vocational subject. However, this programme should be classified as 0713 “Electricity and energy” and not as an inter-disciplinary programme.

33. The “leading subject rule” is the only feasible solution for classifying inter-disciplinary programmes and qualifications as long as only one code can be assigned as is recommended in this manual. However, users who are able to assign two or more codes<sup>3</sup> may be able to classify inter-disciplinary programmes or qualifications to combinations of fields.

## **8. Coding of other difficult cases**

### **Not further defined and not elsewhere classified**

34. Two common situations need to be provided for within the classification of fields of education and training when coding programmes/qualifications in specific data collections:

- (a) Cases where there is no further information about a given programme or qualification than that known at a higher level of the classification. These are known as cases which are “not further defined” and are designated by the use of one or more “0” at the end of codes at the narrow or detailed fields hierarchical levels of the classification (as appropriate).

Example 7: A programme in engineering where no more information is available should be classified as 0710 “Engineering and engineering trades not further defined”. Such cases should not be considered as inter-disciplinary or broad programmes.

Example 8: A programme in services where no more information is available should be classified as 1000 “Services not further defined”.

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<sup>3</sup> For example, where data are stored in registers and do not need to be collected by means of household or other surveys. Using multiple codes is not part of ISCED-F. However, some countries may decide to use multiple codes for national purposes.

- (b) Cases where the particular detailed field is known and adequately described but is not explicitly provided for in the classification. These are known as cases which are “not elsewhere classified” and are designated by the use of “9” at the detailed field level of the classification (i.e. as the last digit).

*Example 9: A programme in a new field in ICTs which does not belong to any of the other detailed fields should be classified as 0619 “Information and Communication Technologies not elsewhere classified”.*

These “not further defined” and “not elsewhere classified” codes are not included in the classification structure but are supplementary codes which can be used when processing data which are not adequately or sufficiently described (“not further defined”) or which are not explicitly covered in the classification structure (“not elsewhere classified”).

It can be difficult to differentiate the use of “0”, “8” and “9”. The following table may be of assistance:

| <i>Code</i> | <i>Name</i>   | <i>Use</i>  | <i>Example</i>                 |
|-------------|---|---|--------------------------------|
| <i>0</i>    | <i>Not further defined</i>                          | <i>No further information than is known at a higher level of the classification</i> | <i>7 and 8</i>                 |
| <i>8</i>    | <i>Inter-disciplinary programmes/qualifications</i> | <i>Programmes/qualifications with no dominant detailed field</i>                    | <i>2 (first part), 4 and 5</i> |
| <i>9</i>    | <i>Not elsewhere classified</i>                     | <i>The detailed field is known but not provided for in the classification</i>       | <i>9</i>                       |

*NB Programmes and qualifications with a dominant detailed field (comprising more than 50% of learning credits or time) are classified in that dominant field (see Examples 1, 2 (second part), 3 and 6).*

35. In data collection, where the field of study is completely unknown, a code of “9999” can be assigned or, in surveys which are limited to the narrow or broad field levels only, “999” or “99” respectively.

## **9. Aggregations for analysis and publication**

36. This classification can be used at any of the hierarchical levels for both data collection and dissemination depending on the information needs. It is intended to be sufficiently flexible to serve most purposes of analysis and presentation.
37. There is often a need for a broad aggregation for publication purposes. For example, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) publishes data at the broad field level.
38. Due consideration should be paid to the purpose of the analysis. Other groupings than the one currently used by the UIS can be developed, in particular, for dissemination purposes.

## 10. Relation to ISCED 2011 and other classifications

### Relation to ISCED 2011

#### Orientation and fields

39. **Orientation** (general or vocational education) and **fields** of education and training are two **different** dimensions in ISCED and must not be confused.

40. Vocational education is defined in ISCED 2011 as:

*Programmes that are designed for learners to acquire the knowledge, skills and competencies specific to a particular occupation, trade or class of occupations or trades. Vocational education may have work-based components. Successful completion of such programmes leads to labour market-relevant vocational qualifications acknowledged as occupationally-oriented by the relevant national authorities and/or the labour market.*

41. General education is defined in ISCED 2011 as:

*Programmes that are designed to develop learners' general knowledge, skills and competencies, as well as literacy and numeracy skills, often to prepare students for more advanced education programmes at the same or higher ISCED levels and to lay the foundation for lifelong learning.*

42. Programmes and qualifications which are classified as general education under orientation according to ISCED 2011 which cover a broad range of subjects without specialization in a particular field of study should be classified in the "Generic programmes and qualifications" broad field as 0011 "Basic programmes and qualifications". Other programmes and qualifications of general education by field of education and training according to their main subject content. In particular, general or academic education at the tertiary level should only, by way of exception, be classified in the "Generic programmes and qualifications" broad field.

*Example 10: An education programme or qualification in mathematics at ISCED 2011 level 5 may be general education for orientation, but the detailed field should be 0541 "Mathematics".*

#### Correspondence between ISCED-F and ISCED 1997 (and 2011) Fields of Education

43. There has been some reassignment of narrow or detailed fields between broad fields in the ISCED Fields of Education and Training 2013 (ISCED-F) in line with the principles of classification described in Section 5 Rationale of the Classification and, in particular in paragraph 15. These are shown in the following correspondence table (Table 1).

44. The main changes are:

- (a) The splitting of Field 22 "Humanities" in ISCED 1997 into two narrow fields: 022 "Humanities (except languages)" and 023 "Languages".
- (b) The splitting of Broad Group 3 "Social sciences, business and law" in ISCED 1997 into two broad fields: 03 "Social sciences, journalism and information" and 04 "Business, administration and law".
- (c) The creation of a new narrow field 052 "Environment" within the broad field 05 Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics by splitting Field 42 "Life sciences" in ISCED 1997 and combining with some of Field 62 "Agriculture, forestry and fishery".

- (d) The splitting of Broad Group 4 “Science” in ISCED 1997 into two broad fields: 05 “Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics” and 06 “Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)”.
- (e) The creation of a new narrow field 0712 “Environmental protection technology” by transferring most of Field 85 “Environmental protection” from the Broad Group 8 “Services” to the new broad field 07 Engineering, manufacturing and construction”.
- (f) The renaming of Broad Group 6 “Agriculture” in ISCED 1997, to create a new broad field 08 “Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary” and the transfer of some of Field 62 “Agriculture, forestry and fishery” to the new narrow field 052 “Environment”.
- (g) The creation of a new narrow field 102 “Safety services” from the remains of Field 85 “Environmental protection” in ISCED 1997.

**TABLE 1: CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN ISCED FIELDS OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING 2013 (ISCED-F) AND ISCED 1997 FIELDS OF EDUCATION**

| ISCED Fields of Education and Training 2013        | ISCED 1997 (and 2011) Fields of Education  |
|--|--|
| 00 Generic programmes and qualifications           | 0 General programmes   |
| 001 Basic programmes and qualifications            | 01 Basic programmes  |
| 002 Literacy and numeracy                          | 08 Literacy and numeracy   |
| 003 Personal skills and development                | 09 Personal development  |
| 01 Education                                       | 1 Education  |
| 011 Education                                      | 14 Teacher training and education science  |
| 02 Arts and humanities                             | 2 Humanities and Arts  |
| 021 Arts   | 21 Arts  |
| 022 Humanities (except languages)                  | 22 Humanities  |
| 023 Languages                                      |  |
| 03 Social sciences, journalism and information     | 3 Social sciences, business and law (minus business and law)   |
| 031 Social and behavioural sciences                | 31 Social and behavioural science  |
| 032 Journalism and information                     | 32 Journalism and information  |
| 04 Business, administration and law                | 3 Social sciences, business and law (minus social sciences)  |
| 041 Business and administration                    | 34 Business and administration   |
| 042 Law  | 38 Law   |
| 05 Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics    | 4 Science (minus computing)<br>plus natural parks and wildlife from 62 Agriculture, forestry and fishery                 |
| 051 Biological and related sciences                | 42 Life sciences <u>minus</u> other allied sciences  |
| 052 Environment                                    | Part of 42 Life sciences (other allied sciences), part of 62 Agriculture, forestry and fishery (natural parks, wildlife) |
| 053 Physical sciences                              | 44 Physical science  |
| 054 Mathematics and statistics                     | 46 Mathematics and statistics  |
| 06 Information and Communication Technologies      | 4 Science (Computing only)   |
| 061 Information and Communication Technologies     | 48 Computing   |
| 07 Engineering, manufacturing and construction     | 5 Engineering, manufacturing and construction (plus most of 85 Environmental protection)                                 |
| 071 Engineering and engineering trades             | 52 Engineering and engineering trades (plus most of 85 Environmental protection)   |
| 072 Manufacturing and processing                   | 54 Manufacturing and processing  |
| 073 Architecture and construction                  | 58 Architecture and building   |
| 08 Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary | 6 Agriculture (minus natural parks and wildlife)   |
| 081 Agriculture                                    | 62 Agriculture, forestry and fishery ( <u>minus</u> natural parks and wildlife)  |
| 082 Forestry                                       |  |
| 083 Fisheries                                      |  |
| 084 Veterinary                                     | 64 Veterinary  |
| 09 Health and welfare                              | 7 Health and welfare   |
| 091 Health   | 72 Health  |
| 092 Welfare  | 76 Social services   |
| 10 Services  | 8 Services (minus most of 85 Environmental protection)   |
| 101 Personal services                              | 81 Personal services   |
| 102 Hygiene and occupational health services       | Part of 85 Environmental protection (community sanitation and labour protection and security)                            |
| 103 Security services                              | 86 Security services   |
| 104 Transport services                             | 84 Transport services  |

**Relation to the European Union's Fields of Training (FoT 1997) and Fields of Education and Training (FoET 1999)**

45. The European Union's Fields of Training 1997 (FoT 1997) and Fields of Education and Training 1999 (FoET 1999) classifications were developed from the ISCED 1997 classification of fields of education and are consistent with it, apart from minor changes in wording, at the first and second levels (and digits) of the hierarchy. FoET 1999 was developed from FoT 1997 and superseded it. FoET 1999 is a three-level (and 3-digit) hierarchical classification and was the initial starting point for the current revision of ISCED-F.
46. FoET 1999 is used internationally in different data collections, for example:
- Administrative data on enrolments and graduates
  - Certain household surveys
  - Student assessment surveys
47. The 1993 Australian Bureau of Statistics Classification of Qualifications (ABSCQ 1993) was used extensively in the development of both FoT 1997 and FoET 1999. Although ABSCQ was superseded in 2001 by the Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), some concepts and text from ABSCQ 1993 are used in the ISCED-F classification as FoET 1999 was a starting point for the revision of the ISCED fields.

**Relation to the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-08)**

48. The International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-08) is a system for classifying and aggregating occupational information obtained by means of population censuses and other statistical surveys, as well as from administrative records. Its main purposes are to provide a basis for the international reporting and comparison of information about jobs and occupations.
- (a) *A job is defined as a set of tasks and duties performed or meant to be performed by one person, including for an employer or in self-employment.*
- (b) *An occupation is a set of jobs whose main tasks and duties are characterised by a high degree of similarity. A person may be associated with an occupation through their relationship to a past, present or future job.*
49. ISCO-08 uses two basic criteria to arrange occupations into groups: skill level and skill specialization.
- (a) *Skill is defined as the ability to carry out the tasks and duties of a given job.*
- (b) *Skill level is a function of the complexity and range of the tasks and duties to be performed.*
- (c) *Skill specialization is considered in terms of the field of knowledge required, the tools and machinery used, the materials worked on or with and the kinds of goods and services produced.*
50. The concept of skill specialization within ISCO-08 has some similarity with the fields of education and training within ISCED. However, ISCO-08 and ISCED classify different statistical units using different criteria. ISCED Fields of Education and Training classifies education programmes and qualifications based on their subject content while ISCO-08 classifies jobs based on the skill level and specialization required to perform them. There is



therefore not always a direct correspondence between the occupational and field groups of the two classifications though links clearly exist.

***Relation to the Fields of Science and Technology (FoS 2007) classification***

51. The Fields of Science and Technology 2007 classify R&D (Research and experimental development) and is part of the OECD Frascati Manual. The Fields of Science and Technology (FoS) was last revised in 2007. The 2007 FoS revision is available as an electronic annex [<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/36/44/38235147.pdf>]. FoS is a two-level hierarchical classification. It has six major fields:

- (1) Natural sciences
- (2) Engineering and technology
- (3) Medical and health sciences
- (4) Agricultural sciences
- (5) Social sciences
- (6) Humanities

These six major fields are divided into approximately 40 second level fields.

52. The 2007 revision of the FoS was needed mainly due to emerging new fields like information and communications technology, biotechnology, nanotechnology and also the emergence of interdisciplinary sciences.
53. Both ISCO-08 and FoS 2007 have been used to identify new emerging fields to be considered for inclusion in ISCED-F.
54. The relevant parts of ISCED-F have also been compared with FoS in order to avoid unnecessary differences. However, it is recognised the FoS and ISCED-F have different purposes and it is not feasible to ensure a direct correspondence between the two classifications.

**Appendix 1: ISCED Fields of Education and Training**

| <b>Broad field</b>                             | <b>Narrow field</b>   | <b>Detailed field</b>  |
|--|---|--|
| 00 Generic programmes and qualifications       | 001 Basic programmes and qualifications<br>002 Literacy and numeracy<br>003 Personal skills and development | 0011 Basic programmes and qualifications<br>0021 Literacy and numeracy<br>0031 Personal skills and development   |
| 01 Education                                   | 011 Education   | 0111 Education science<br>0112 Training for pre-school teachers<br>0113 Teacher training without subject specialization<br>0114 Teacher training with subject specialization   |
| 02 Arts and humanities                         | 021 Arts  | 0211 Audio-visual techniques and media production<br>0212 Fashion, interior and industrial design<br>0213 Fine arts<br>0214 Handicrafts<br>0215 Music and performing arts  |
|  | 022 Humanities (except languages)   | 0221 Religion and theology<br>0222 History and archaeology<br>0223 Philosophy and ethics   |
|  | 023 Languages   | 0231 Language acquisition<br>0232 Literature and linguistics   |
| 03 Social sciences, journalism and information | 031 Social and behavioural sciences   | 0311 Economics<br>0312 Political sciences and civics<br>0313 Psychology<br>0314 Sociology and cultural studies   |
|  | 032 Journalism and information  | 0321 Journalism and reporting<br>0322 Library, information and archival studies  |
| 04 Business, administration and law            | 041 Business and administration   | 0411 Accounting and taxation<br>0412 Finance, banking and insurance<br>0413 Management and administration<br>0414 Marketing and advertising<br>0415 Secretarial and office work<br>0416 Wholesale and retail sales<br>0417 Work skills |
|  | 042 Law   | 0421 Law   |

| <b>Broad field</b>                                   | <b>Narrow field</b>                                   | <b>Detailed field</b>   |
|--|---|---|
| 05 Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics      | 051 Biological and related sciences                   | 0511 Biology<br>0512 Biochemistry   |
|  | 052 Environment                                       | 0521 Environmental sciences<br>0522 Natural environments and wildlife   |
|  | 053 Physical sciences                                 | 0531 Chemistry<br>0532 Earth sciences<br>0533 Physics   |
|  | 054 Mathematics and statistics                        | 0541 Mathematics<br>0542 Statistics   |
| 06 Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) | 061 Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) | 0611 Computer use<br>0612 Database and network design and administration<br>0613 Software and applications development and analysis   |
| 07 Engineering, manufacturing and construction       | 071 Engineering and engineering trades                | 0711 Chemical engineering and processes<br>0712 Environmental protection technology<br>0713 Electricity and energy<br>0714 Electronics and automation<br>0715 Mechanics and metal trades<br>0716 Motor vehicles, ships and aircraft |
|  | 072 Manufacturing and processing                      | 0721 Food processing<br>0722 Materials (glass, paper, plastic and wood)<br>0723 Textiles (clothes, footwear and leather)<br>0724 Mining and extraction  |
|  | 073 Architecture and construction                     | 0731 Architecture and town planning<br>0732 Building and civil engineering  |

| <b>Broad field</b>                                 | <b>Narrow field</b>                          | <b>Detailed field</b>   |
|--|--|---|
| 08 Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary | 081 Agriculture                              | 0811 Crop and livestock production<br>0812 Horticulture   |
|  | 082 Forestry                                 | 0821 Forestry   |
|  | 083 Fisheries                                | 0831 Fisheries  |
|  | 084 Veterinary                               | 0841 Veterinary   |
| 09 Health and welfare                              | 091 Health                                   | 0911 Dental studies<br>0912 Medicine<br>0913 Nursing and midwifery<br>0914 Medical diagnostic and treatment technology<br>0915 Therapy and rehabilitation<br>0916 Pharmacy<br>0917 Traditional and complementary medicine and therapy |
|  | 092 Welfare                                  | 0921 Care of the elderly and of disabled adults<br>0922 Child care and youth services<br>0923 Social work and counselling   |
| 10 Services  | 101 Personal services                        | 1011 Domestic services<br>1012 Hair and beauty services<br>1013 Hotel, restaurants and catering<br>1014 Sports<br>1015 Travel, tourism and leisure  |
|  | 102 Hygiene and occupational health services | 1021 Community sanitation<br>1022 Occupational health and safety  |
|  | 103 Security services                        | 1031 Military and defence<br>1032 Protection of persons and property  |
|  | 104 Transport services                       | 1041 Transport services   |

*In addition to the detailed fields in the table above; “0”, “8” and “9” may be used (see also the guidelines in Sections 7 and 8):*

*“8” is used at the narrow and detailed field level when classifying inter-disciplinary or broad programmes and qualifications to the broad field in which the greater part of the intended learning time is spent (e.g. 0288 “Inter-disciplinary programmes and qualifications involving arts and humanities”). “0” is used when no further information is available about the field than the field description at the next higher level of the classification hierarchy (i.e. at the broad field or at the narrow field level).*

*“9” is used at the detailed field level when classifying programmes and qualifications which do not fit within any of the listed detailed fields.*

*“9999”, “999” or “99” can be used in data collections, especially in surveys if the field is not known*