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Measuring literacy around the world

The Everyday-Life Practices and Skills Survey (e-PASS) is a simple, cost-effective, flexible and practical method for assessing the literacy and numeracy skills of individuals aged 15 and older. It provides reliable and comparable information based on sound methodology to national and international policy-makers to assist them in planning, developing and monitoring policies and programmes. The e-PASS enables Member States to generate data for reporting on SDG Target 4.6., indicator 4.6.1,* to support knowledge and capacity-building.

The e-PASS is offered in multiple languages and modalities, in part to ensure that it works in low-connectivity environments. Countries are encouraged to customize the survey to meet local or regional needs. In addition to the questionnaire, the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL) also provides guidance on training, administration, scoring and coding, as well as targeted technical advice on how to conduct the survey. Further, UIL offers support to countries at all stages of implementation.

*SDG Target 4.6 calls on countries to 'ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy', with indicator 4.6.1 being the 'proportion of population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills'. (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. 2022. Goals. 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. [online] Available at: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal4> [Accessed 14 May 2022].

Key features



A short direct assessment questionnaire assesses youth and adult **literacy and numeracy** skills.



A **background questionnaire** includes information on the everyday use of skills, including digital skills.



The e-PASS can be administered using paper-and-pencil, computer, tablet or phone, even in a **low-connectivity** environment.



The assessment is available in **several languages** and easily customizable to meet countries' needs.



e-PASS is a **short tool** that can be included in existing surveys or run as a stand-alone survey.



Ownership of the assessment is transferred to the country along with technical guidelines, required software and capacity-building activities.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



e-PASS produces globally **comparable data** for monitoring youth and adult skills and reporting on SDG indicator 4.6.1.



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Offered free of charge, the e-PASS is a highly flexible tool based on a sound methodology that makes it possible for countries to build sustainable, reliable lifelong learning strategies by monitoring the practices and proficiency of youth and adults in literacy, numeracy and basic digital skills. To find out more, visit the [UIL website](#).

How to get e-PASS



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Interested countries and partners are invited to submit a request to UIL for participating in e-PASS.

After validation, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) will be signed between UIL and the national team to establish the different areas of collaboration. The e-PASS package will then be transferred to the national team.

The e-PASS was developed as a public good. It is easily adaptable and can be customized to meet the needs of diverse UNESCO Member States and their specific national contexts.



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