

# Chapter 16

## Scaling procedures and construct validation of context questionnaire data

### INTRODUCTION

The PISA 2018 Context Questionnaires are based on the questionnaire framework (OECD, 2017), described in chapter 3 of this report. Many questionnaire items were designed to be combined in some way in order to measure latent constructs that cannot be observed directly (e.g. a student’s achievement motivation or economic, social and cultural background). To these items, transformations or scaling procedures were applied to construct meaningful indices.

In the following, these indices are referred to as “derived variables”. This chapter describes derived variables based on one or more items that were constructed and validated for all questionnaires administered in PISA 2018.

In analogy to previous PISA surveys, three different kinds of derived variables can be distinguished:

- simple questionnaire indices constructed through the arithmetical transformation or recoding of one or more items
- derived variables based on IRT scaling (see section “Scaling procedures” in this chapter)
- ESCS composite scores (see section “The PISA index of economic, social and cultural status (ESCS)” in this chapter).

As described in chapter 3, the PISA 2018 Context Questionnaires included a broad scope of context factors assessed with different questionnaire instruments. While student and school context questionnaires were mandatory in all countries, many countries also administered the optional questionnaire to parents of the tested students. In addition, countries could choose to administer the international options *Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Familiarity Questionnaire*, *Well-Being Questionnaire*, *Financial Literacy Questionnaire* and the *Educational Career Questionnaire* to students. Moreover, several countries chose to participate in the *Teacher Questionnaire* option including questionnaires for test language and general teachers.

In the following, this chapter (i) describes the methodology used for scaling and construct validation including trend scales, (ii) presents an overview of all derived variables (simple indices, IRT-based scales) per questionnaire, and (iii) illustrates the computation of the *PISA index of economic, social and cultural status (ESCS)*.

### SCALING METHODOLOGY AND CONSTRUCT VALIDATION

#### Scaling procedures

As in previous cycles of PISA, one subset of the derived variables was constructed using IRT (*item response theory*) scaling methodology. In the IRT framework, several different models

can be distinguished with the generalised partial credit model (see below) being the one used for constructing derived variables in the PISA 2018 Context Questionnaires.

For each item, responses of person  $j$  on item  $i$  are modelled as a function of the latent construct,  $\theta_j$ . With the one-parameter model (*Rasch model*; Rasch, 1960) for dichotomous items, the probability of person  $j$  selecting category 1 instead of 0 is modelled as:

*Formula 16.1*

$$P(X_{ji} = 1|\theta_j, \beta_i) = \frac{\exp(\theta_j - \beta_i)}{1 + \exp(\theta_j - \beta_i)}$$

where  $P(X_{ji} = 1)$  is the probability of person  $j$  to score 1 on item  $i$ ,  $\theta_j$  is the estimated latent trait of person  $j$  and  $\beta_i$  the estimated location or difficulty of item  $i$  on this dimension. In the case of items with more than two categories  $m$  (e.g. Likert-type items), this model can be generalised to the *Partial Credit Model* (Masters and Wright, 1997), which takes the form of:

*Formula 16.2*

$$P(X_{ji} = k|\theta_j, \beta_i, d_i) = \frac{\exp(\sum_{r=0}^k \theta_j - (\beta_i + d_{ir}))}{\sum_{u=0}^{m_i} \exp(\sum_{r=0}^u \theta_j - (\beta_i + d_{ir}))}$$

where  $P(X_{ji} = k)$  denotes the probability of person  $j$  to score  $k$  on item  $i$  out of the  $m_i$  possible scores on the item.  $\theta_j$  denotes the person's latent trait, the item parameter  $\beta_i$  gives the general location or difficulty of the item on the latent continuum and  $d_{ir}$  denote additional step parameters. This model has been used throughout previous cycles of PISA for scaling derived variables in the context questionnaires. However, research literature (especially Glas and Jehangir, 2014) suggests that a generalisation of this model, the *generalised partial credit model* (GPCM) (Muraki, 1992), is more appropriate in the context of PISA since it allows for the item discrimination to vary between items within any given scale. This model takes the form of:

*Formula 16.3*

$$P(X_{ji} = k|\theta_j, \beta_i, \alpha_i, d_i) = \frac{\exp(\sum_{r=0}^k D\alpha_i(\theta_j - (\beta_i + d_{ir})))}{\sum_{u=0}^{m_i} \exp(\sum_{r=0}^u D\alpha_i(\theta_j - (\beta_i + d_{ir})))}$$

in which the additional discrimination parameter  $\alpha_i$  allows for the items of a scale to contribute with different weights to the measurement of the latent construct.  $D$  is a scaling factor equal to 1.7.

Most of the scales were analysed based on 2018 data only (see section "*Regular scales*") while three scales were analysed to allow for comparisons with the weighted likelihood estimates (WLE; Warm, 1989) obtained in PISA 2009 (see section "*Trend scales*").

### ***Regular scales (PISA 2018)***

For the regular scales, international item and person parameters were obtained from a GPCM (see formula 16.3) in a single analysis based on data from all persons in all countries using the

*mltm* software (version 1.965; von Davier, 2005; Khorramdel et al., 2019). For each scale, only persons with a minimum number of three valid responses were included. Students were weighted using the final student weight ( $W\_FSTUWT$ ), and all countries contributed equally to the estimation. Additional analyses on the invariance of item parameters across countries and languages were conducted and unique parameters were estimated if necessary (see section “Cross-country comparability” in this chapter). Once this process was finished, weighted likelihood estimates (WLE; Warm, 1989) were used as individual participant scores. These scores were then transformed to have a mean of 0 and a standard deviation of 1 across senate weighted OECD countries. The transformation was achieved by applying formula 16.4:

*Formula 16.4*

$$\theta'_j = \frac{\theta_j - \bar{\theta}_{OECD}}{\sigma_{\theta(OECD)}}$$

where  $\theta'_j$  are the WLE scores in the final metric,  $\theta_j$  the original WLEs in logits,  $\bar{\theta}_{OECD}$  is the OECD mean, and  $\sigma_{\theta(OECD)}$  is the OECD standard deviation of the original WLEs based on equally weighted OECD country samples. OECD means and standard deviations (S.D.) used for the transformation into the final metric are displayed in Table 16.1.

*Table 16.1: OECD mean and standard deviation (S.D.) for the untransformed WLEs of regular scales in the different PISA 2018 context questionnaires*

#### **Trend scales (PISA 2009 - PISA 2018)**

For those scales administered in both PISA 2009 and PISA 2018, scale scores in PISA 2018 were constructed to allow for comparisons with those reported in PISA 2009 using a *common calibration linking procedure*. This procedure consists of two phases: calibration and linking phase.

In the calibration phase, international item and person parameters were obtained from a generalised partial credit model (see formula 16.3) in a single analysis based on data from all persons in all countries from both cycles (2009 and 2018) using the *mltm* software (version 1.965; von Davier, 2005; Khorramdel et al., 2019). For each scale, only persons with a minimum number of three valid responses were included. Senate weights (based on student weights) were applied so that each country in each cycle contributed equally to the estimation. Additional analyses on the invariance of item parameters across countries, languages and cycles were conducted and unique parameters were estimated if necessary (see section “Cross-country comparability” in this chapter). WLEs resulting from this concurrent calibration were derived for examinees from both cycles ( $WLE_{2009,new}$ ,  $WLE_{2018}$ ).

In the linking phase, the 2018 WLEs obtained in the calibration phase ( $WLE_{2018}$ ) were linked to the 2009 metric to obtain final WLEs ( $WLE^*_{2018}$ ) by a linear transformation of the following form:

*Formula 16.5*

$$WLE^*_{2018} = A + B \times WLE_{2018}$$

The linking constants ( $A$ ,  $B$ ) were calculated based on the mean and standard deviation of the newly derived and original WLEs of the 2009 data:

*Formula 16.6*

$$B = \frac{SD_{WLE_{2009.original}}}{SD_{WLE_{2009.new}}}$$

*Formula 16.7*

$$A = M_{WLE_{2009.original}} - B \times M_{WLE_{2009.new}}$$

Table 16.2 shows both the transformation constants ( $A$ ,  $B$ ) and the correlations between the original and newly derived WLEs for PISA 2009,  $r(WLE_{2009.original}, WLE_{2009.new})$ . They indicate that original and transformed scales are highly consistent both with respect to distributional characteristics and rank order of individuals, indicating that all scales could be recovered well. This is particularly noteworthy as the scaling model changed from the partial credit model in PISA 2009 to the generalised partial credit model in 2018.

*Table 16.2: Scaling constants ( $A$ ,  $B$ ) and correlations between original and newly derived 2009 WLEs for trend scales in 2018*

#### ***Criteria for omitting responses from IRT scaling***

Person scores (WLEs) were reported whenever possible. However, responses of individual persons or groups of persons have been omitted from the IRT scaling under the following conditions:

- Too few responses: Only persons with a minimum number of three valid responses on the scale's indicator items received a WLE. Cases with fewer than three valid responses received score "99", indicating a missing scale score due to insufficient responses.
- Poor scale quality compared to other groups: Groups in which the internal consistency (Cronbach's Alpha) and the items' correlations with the total score were far below those observed in other groups have been removed from scaling. Cases in such groups received score "98" indicating a missing scale score due to poor scale quality, and a footnote was added to the tables in the remainder of this chapter to identify such instances.
- Low comparability with other groups: Groups for which more than two local item treatments were necessary for achieving acceptable item fit, thus threatening the scale's comparability across groups, have been removed from scaling (for more details see section "Cross-country comparability" in this chapter). Cases in such groups received score "98", indicating low comparability with other groups, and a footnote was added to the tables in the remainder of this chapter to identify such instances.

All cases in countries that did not administer the items used for scaling received score "97" on the derived variable.

## **Interpreting results from IRT scaling**

### ***Interpreting person parameters***

As in previous cycles of PISA, in PISA 2018 categorical items from the context questionnaires were scaled using IRT modelling. WLEs for the latent dimensions were transformed to scales with a mean of 0 and a standard deviation of 1 across OECD countries (with equally weighted countries).

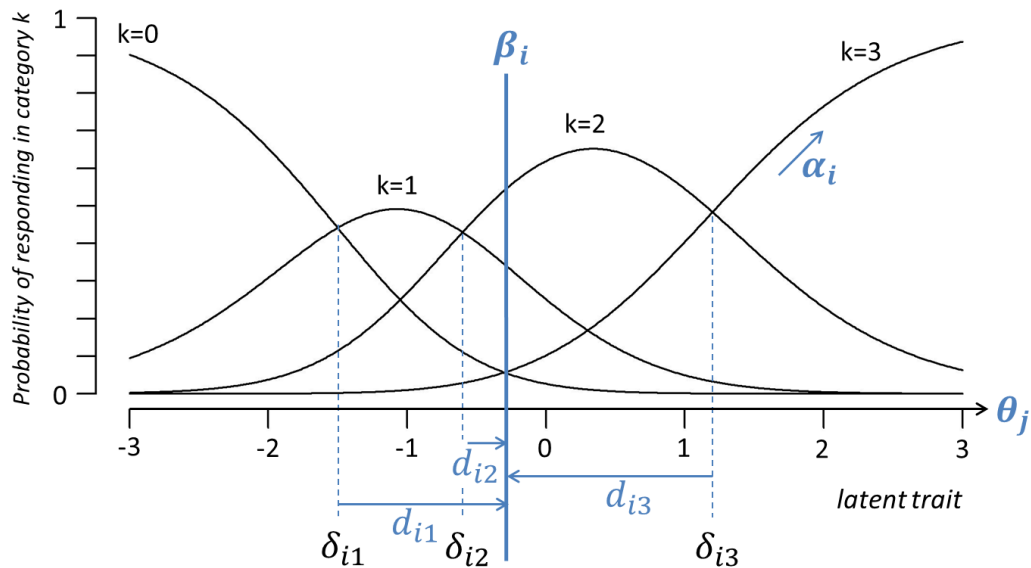
A score of 0 is expected for an average student in an OECD country. Negative values on the index do not imply that students responded negatively to the underlying question. Rather, students with negative scores are those who responded less positively than the average student across OECD countries, but not necessarily negative with regards to the underlying question. Likewise, students with positive scores are those who responded more positively than the average student in OECD countries.

It is possible to interpret these scores by comparing individual scores or group mean scores to the OECD mean, but the individual scores do not reveal anything about the actual item responses and it is impossible to determine from scale score values to what extent respondents endorsed the items used for the measurement of the latent construct.

### ***Interpreting item parameters***

The generalised partial credit model (see formula 16.3) contains three kinds of item parameters: one relating to the general location or difficulty of the item ( $\beta$ ), one relating to the deviance of each of the single response categories from this location parameter ( $d$ ), and one relating to the item's discrimination or slope ( $a$ ). Figure 16.1 displays the category characteristic curves of a four-category item (e.g., a Likert-type item with response categories “Strongly disagree”, “Disagree”, “Agree”, and “Strongly agree”). The three kinds of generalised partial credit model item parameters were included in this representation, and each will be discussed in detail below.

Figure 16.1: Item characteristic curves for a four-category item under the generalised partial credit model (GPCM) Model parameters are highlighted in blue



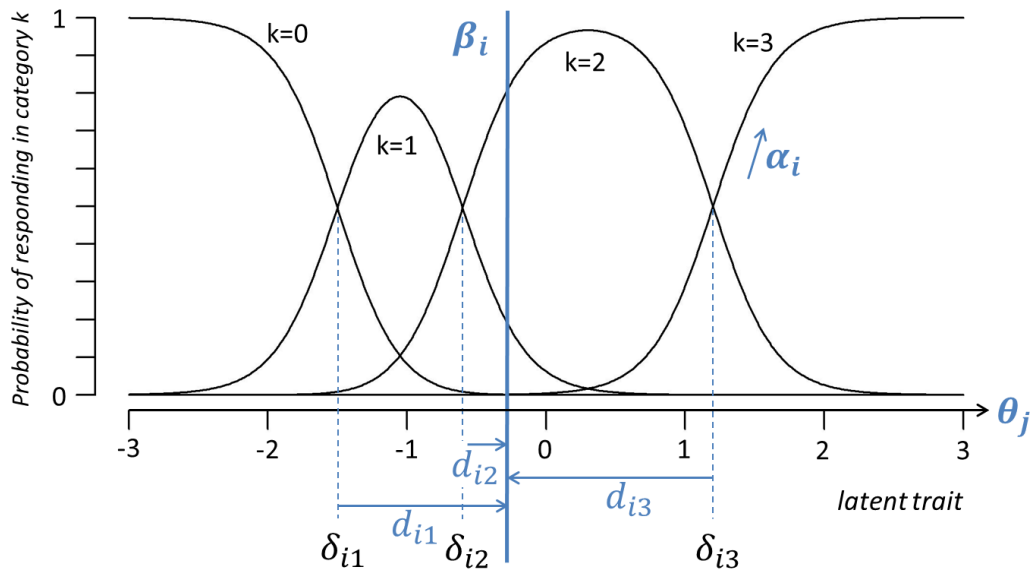
The overall item location or difficulty parameter,  $\beta$ , can be regarded as the item's location on the latent continuum of the construct to be measured. The  $m-1$  threshold parameters,  $d$ , of an  $m$ -category item represent deviations from this general location. Thus, the threshold parameters' mean equals 0. This parameterisation has also been referred to as the *expanded parametrisation* (Penfield, Myers and Wolfe, 2008) and was reported in PISA cycles prior to 2015. Combining the location parameter and the  $m$  threshold parameters leads to a reduced parameterization that might be more familiar to some users (e.g. Muraki, 1992). Threshold parameters,  $d$ , and step parameters,  $\delta$ , can easily be converted into each other by:

*Formula 16.8*

$$\delta_k = \beta - d_k$$

These step parameters,  $\delta$ , signify the intersections between two neighbouring category characteristic curves and thus, the point on the latent continuum at which a response in the higher category becomes more likely - for example, when the respondent is more likely to agree than disagree. The slope parameter,  $\alpha$ , signifies the slope of the category characteristic curves, thus indicating how well a response in a certain category discriminates between persons on the latent continuum. Figure 16.2 contains category characteristic curves for which only the slope has been increased while holding all other model parameters identical with the model displayed in Figure 16.1. The same increment on the latent continuum leads to a better prediction of the given response.

Figure 16.2: Illustration of an increase of the slope parameter,  $\alpha$ , on category response curves for a four-category item under the generalised partial credit model (GPCM)



The respective estimates for all three kinds of parameters will be reported along with each item’s wording in the subsequent sections. The model parameters can be used to compare the items of a scale with each other: items with a higher overall difficulty require more of the latent trait to be “solved”, meaning that persons tended to respond in lower categories, taking any potential item response reversal into account, and the step parameters shed light on the relative difficulty of the response categories. Items with a higher slope can be seen as better indicators of the latent construct, and, thus, are more represented in the meaning of the scale score (WLE).

In general, the item difficulty parameters of an IRT model can be interpreted with respect to the person parameter,  $\theta$ , and vice versa. Please note that this is not possible in this context, because instead of the original  $\theta$  estimates (WLEs) either standardised values are reported (in case of regular scales) or scores are linked to another scale (in case of trend scales) so that the WLEs are no longer on their original metric comparable to the item parameter metric.

### Construct validation

The development of comparable measures of student background, practices, attitudes and perceptions is a major goal of PISA. Cross-country validity of these constructs is of particular importance as measures derived from questionnaires are often used to predict differences in student performance within and across countries and are, thus, potential sources of policy-relevant information about ways of improving educational systems. Different methodological approaches for validating questionnaire constructs have been developed (for an overview, see Avvisati, F., Le Donné, N., & Paccagnella, 2019). The approaches implemented for context questionnaires in PISA 2018 are introduced below.

### *Internal consistency*

Cronbach's Alpha coefficient was used to check the internal consistency of each scale within the countries and to compare it between the countries. The coefficient ranges between 0 and 1, with higher values indicating higher internal consistency meaning the set of items closely measures a common dimension. Commonly accepted cut-off values are 0.9 to signify excellent, 0.8 for good, and 0.7 for acceptable internal consistency. For some scales, some countries opted to delete one or two items. Strictly speaking, this constituted a different scale and, therefore, a footnote was added in the tables to note which item had been deleted.

### *Cross-country comparability*

Cross-country comparability of the constructs requires a thorough and closely monitored process of translation and standardised administration. It also makes assumptions about having measured the same construct in different national and cultural contexts. All the indicators are based on self-reports. Such measures can suffer from various measurement errors, for instance, students are asked to report their behaviour retrospectively. Cultural differences in attitudes towards self-enhancement can influence country-level results in examinees' self-reported beliefs, behaviours and attitudes (Bempechat, Jimenez and Boulay, 2002). The literature consistently shows that response biases, such as social desirability, acquiescence and extreme response choice, are more common in countries with lower socio-economic development, compared with more affluent countries. Within countries, these response styles differ between gender and across socio-economic status levels (Buckley, 2009).

Psychometric techniques can be used to analyse the extent to which the measurement of the latent constructs is consistent across participating countries, thus indicating whether the measured construct can be compared across countries. In PISA 2018, cross-country comparability was investigated via two different approaches:

- For each scale in each country, the internal consistency was calculated (see above).
- For each item and scale, analyses on the invariance of item parameters across countries and languages within a country were conducted.

Internal consistency. The Cronbach's Alpha coefficient of internal consistency will be reported for each country along with each scaled construct in the different questionnaire sections in this chapter. Similar and high values across countries are a good indication of having measured reliably across countries.

**Invariance of item parameters.** PISA 2018 implemented a relatively new approach to test whether equal (*invariant*) item parameters can be assumed across groups of participating countries and language groups therein. It was first introduced to PISA in 2015. For a detailed description of this approach, see next section.

### *Evaluating cross-country comparability of latent constructs*

Just as in PISA 2015, PISA 2018 adopted a relatively new approach to evaluating the invariance of latent constructs across pre-defined groups.

In a first step, groups were defined by country. In cases when a country administered the questions in two or more languages, a country-language group was defined for each language



as long as there was a large sample of examinees for this group. A senate-weighted sample size of at least 300 cases was considered sufficiently large to form one group. For regular scales, groups are based on country-by-language combinations. For trend scales, groups are based on cycle-by-country-by-language combinations.

In a second step, international item and person parameters were estimated based on all examinees across all groups. Based on this estimation, the root mean square deviance (RMSD) item-fit statistic was calculated for each item by group. For an item  $i$  with  $k = 0, 1, \dots, K$  response categories,  $RMSD_g$  for group  $g$  is defined as:

*Formula 16.9*

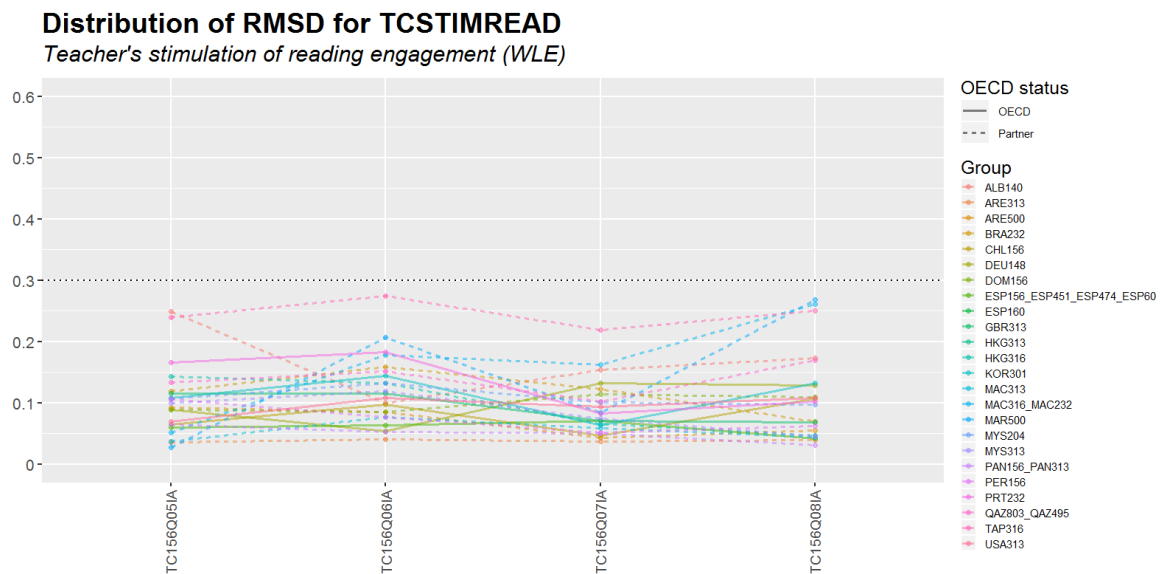
$$RMSD_g = \sqrt{\frac{1}{K+1} \sum_{k=0}^K (P_{obs,gk}(\theta) - P_{exp,gk}(\theta))^2 f(\theta) d\theta},$$

quantifying the difference between the *observed item characteristic curve* based on pseudo counts from the E-step of the EM algorithm (ICC,  $P_{obs,gk}(\theta)$ ) with the model-based ICC ( $P_{exp,gk}(\theta)$ ; OECD, 2017; Khorramdel, Shin, & von Davier; 2019). The RMSD statistic is sensitive to group-specific deviations of both the item difficulty parameters and item slope parameters. Values close to zero indicate good item fit, meaning that the international item parameters describe the responses in this group very well. A value of 0.3 was set as a cut-off criterion, with larger values indicating that the international item parameters are not appropriate for this group. When the cut-off criterion was exceeded, the group was flagged and a group-specific (*unique*) item parameter were calculated for the group.

The steps above were repeated until all items exhibited  $RMSD$  values smaller than 0.3 (Buchholz & Hartig, 2018). If too many unique parameters had to be estimated for a group, i.e., when less than two joint parameters remained, the group was removed from scaling and the process of scaling started from the beginning excluding the data for that particular group (see section “Criteria for omitting responses from IRT scaling”). The final distribution of  $RMSD$  values across groups for each scale is documented in Annex F.

As an example, for the scale “TCSTIMREAD”, Figure 16.3 shows the  $RMSD$  values for each item ( $x$ -axis) and group (represented as points, connected via solid and broken lines for OECD and partner countries and economies, respectively). The minimum value on the  $y$ -axis ( $RMSD=0$ ) indicates perfect fit of the international item parameters for a particular group while larger values indicate less perfect fit. A dotted line at  $RMSD=.3$  represents the cut-off value for assigning unique parameters for a particular group. Given the criteria utilized, none of the  $RMSD$  plots representing the final round of scaling shows  $RMSD$  values above this threshold. This way of visualizing the distribution of  $RMSD$  will be referred to as  $RMSD$  plot and it is reported for each scale in Annex F.

Figure 16.3: Distribution of RMSD across groups for scale “TCSTIMREAD”



## STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE DERIVED VARIABLES

There were 74 variables derived from the Student Questionnaire, both simple questionnaire indices as well as scaled variables. Moreover, information from the Student Questionnaire was used to calculate the ESCS composite scores. The derived variables are shown in Table 16.3 and will be described in the following: the first section covers all simple questionnaire indices, and the second section covers those that are based on IRT scaling.

Table 16.3: Derived variables from the PISA 2018 Student Questionnaire

### Simple questionnaire indices

#### Grade

The relative grade index (GRADE) was computed to capture between-country variation. It indicates whether the student is in the country's modal grade (value of 0), or the number of grade below or above the modal grade in the country. The information about the students' grade level was taken from the Student Questionnaire (ST001) whereas the modal grade was defined by the country and documented in the student tracking form.

#### Study programme indices

PISA collects data on study programmes available to 15-year old students in each country. This information is obtained through the student tracking form and the Student Questionnaire (ST002). In the final database, all national programmes are included in a separate derived variable (PROGN) where the first six digits represent the National Centre code, and the last two digits are the nationally specific programme code. All study programmes were classified using the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 1997)<sup>6</sup>. The following indices were derived from the data on study programmes:

- programme level (ISCEDL) indicates whether students were at the lower or upper secondary level (ISCED 2 or ISCED 3);
- programme designation (ISCEDD) indicates the designation of the study programme (A = general programmes designed to give access to the next programme level, B = programmes designed to give access to vocational studies at the next programme level, C = programmes designed to give direct access to the labour market, M = modular programmes that combine any or all of these characteristics); and
- programme orientation (ISCEDO) indicates whether the programme’s curricular content was general, pre-vocational or vocational.

### ***Student age***

The age of a student (AGE) was calculated as the difference between the year and month of the testing and the year and month of a student’s birth. Data on students’ age were obtained from both the questionnaire (ST003) and the student tracking forms. The formula for computing AGE was:

#### *Formula 16.10*

$$AGE = \begin{cases} 100 + (T_y - S_y) + (T_m - S_m), & T_y > 10 \\ (T_y - S_y) + (T_m - S_m), & T_y < 10 \end{cases}$$

where  $T_y$  and  $S_y$  are the year of the test and the year of the students’ birth, respectively, in two-digit format (for example “06” or “92”), and  $T_m$  and  $S_m$  are the month of the test and month of the students’ birth, respectively. The result is rounded to two decimal places.

### ***Educational level of parents***

Students’ responses to questions ST005, ST006, ST007, and ST008 regarding parental education were classified using ISCED 1997 (OECD, 1999). Indices on parental education were constructed by recoding educational qualifications into the following categories: (0) None, (1) ISCED 1 (primary education), (2) ISCED 2 (lower secondary), (3) ISCED Level 3B or 3C (vocational/pre-vocational upper secondary), (4) ISCED 3A (general upper secondary) and/or ISCED 4 (non-tertiary post-secondary), (5) ISCED 5B (vocational tertiary) and (6) ISCED 5A and/or ISCED 6 (theoretically oriented tertiary and post-graduate). Indices with these categories were provided for a student’s mother (MISCED) and father (FISCED). In addition, the index of highest educational level of parents (HISCED) corresponds to the higher ISCED level of either parent. The index of highest educational level of parents was also recoded into estimated number of years of schooling (PARED) based on the country level information of the respective years of education (see Annex D).

For PISA 2018, additional indices representing parental education were created. For a student’s mother (MISCED\_D) and father (FISCED\_D), respectively, the ISCED-categories were recoded such that the parent will only receive the ISCED categories 3A/4, 5 or 6 if he or she has successfully completed ISCED 2. In addition, the index of highest educational level of parents (HISCED\_D) corresponds to the higher ISCED\_D level of either parent. Finally, an alternative version of PARED, PAREDINT, was newly introduced in PISA 2018. PAREDINT is based on an internationally standardized transformation of HISCED\_D into years of

education. The values used for each level of education are the median values observed in 2015 across all countries (see Annex D). This new index, PAREDINT, was used as one of the three components for computing the ESCS in PISA 2018 (see section on ESCS in this chapter).

### ***Highest occupational status of parents***

Occupational data for both the student's mother and the student's father were obtained from responses to open-ended questions (ST014 and ST015, respectively). The responses were coded to four-digit ISCO codes (OCOD1 and OCOD2, respectively; ILO, 2007) and then mapped to the international socio-economic index of occupational status (ISEI) (Ganzeboom and Treiman, 2003). In PISA 2018, as in PISA 2015, the new ISCO and ISEI in their 2008 version were used rather than the 1988 versions that had been applied in the previous four cycles (Ganzeboom, 2010). Three indices were calculated based on this information: mother's occupational status (BMMJ1); father's occupational status (BFMJ2); and the highest occupational status of parents (HISEI), which corresponds to the higher ISEI score of either parent or to the only available parent's ISEI score. For all three indices, higher ISEI scores indicate higher levels of occupational status. In PISA 2018, in order to reduce missing values, an ISEI value of 17 (equivalent to the ISEI value for ISCO code 9000, corresponding to the major group "Elementary Occupations") was attributed to pseudo-ISCO codes 9701, 9702 and 9703 ("Doing housework, bringing up children", "Learning, studying", "Retired, pensioner, on unemployment benefits").

### ***Immigration background***

Based on the items in question ST019, the PISA database contains three derived variables relating to the student's (COBN\_S), their mother's (COBN\_M) and their father's (COBN\_F) country of birth, respectively. The country-specific items ST019Q01TA, ST019Q01TB and ST019Q01TC were recoded into the following categories: (1) country of birth is the same as country of assessment and (2) other. The index of immigrant background (IMMIG) was calculated from these variables with the following categories: native students (those students who had at least one parent born in the country), (2) second-generation students (those born in the country of assessment but whose parent(s) were born in another country) and (3) first-generation students (those students born outside the country of assessment and whose parents were also born in another country). Students with missing responses for either the student or for both parents were assigned missing values for this variable.

### ***Language spoken at home***

Students indicated which language they usually speak at home (ST022). Based on this question, the database includes a derived variable (LANGN), containing a country-specific code for each language.

In addition, five new indicators were introduced asking about the language spoken at home (based on ST022 and ST023). ST023 asks about the language students speak with their mother, father, siblings, friends and schoolmates. For students who do not speak the test language at home, the indices LANGMOTHER, LANGFATHER, LANGSIBLINGS, LANGFRIEND, LANGSCHMATES indicate whether the language spoken is (1) mostly the heritage language, (2) about equally often the heritage language and the test language, or (3) mostly the test language.

### ***Learning time***

Learning time in test language (LMINS) was computed by multiplying the number of minutes on average in the test language class by number of test language class periods per week (ST061 and ST059). Comparable indices were computed for mathematics (MMINS) and science (SMINS). Learning time in total (TMINS) was computed using information about the average minutes in a <class period> (ST061) in relation to information about the number of class periods per week attended in total (ST060).

### ***Expected occupational status***

In PISA 2018, students were asked to answer a question (ST114) about “what kind of job [they] expect to have when [they] are about 30 years old”. Answers to this open-ended question were recoded into two indices related to career expectations. OCOD3 represents the four-digit ISCO codes (ILO, 2007). These ISCO codes were then mapped to the international socio-economic index of occupational status (ISEI) (Ganzeboom and Treiman, 2003), in variable BSMJ. Higher scores on this variable indicate higher levels of a student’s expected occupational status.

### ***Early childhood education and care***

Questions ST125 and ST126 measure the starting age in ISCED 1 and ISCED 0. The indicator DURECEC is built as the difference of ST126 and ST125 plus the value of “2” to indicate the number of years a student spent in early childhood education and care.

### ***Grade repetition***

The grade repetition variable (REPEAT) was computed by recoding variables ST127Q01TA, ST127Q02TA, and ST127Q03TA. REPEAT took the value of “1” if the student had repeated a grade in at least one ISCED level and the value of “0” if “no, never” was chosen at least once, given that none of the repeated grade categories were chosen. The index is assigned a missing value if none of the three categories were ticked in any levels.

### ***Meta-cognition***

The PISA 2018 questionnaires included three scenarios assessing students’ meta-cognition of reading: “Understanding and remembering” (UNDREM, ST164), “Summarising” (METASUM, ST165) and “Assessing credibility” (METASPAM, ST166). UNDREM and METASUM were already administered in PISA 2009 (cf. Technical Report 2009: OECD, 2012, p. 282). METASPAM was newly developed for PISA 2018.

Each scenario consists of (a) a stem which is a reading task and (b) a set of strategies. Students were asked to rate the strategies regarding their usefulness for solving the reading task. All strategies have also been rated by reading experts regarding their usefulness via multiple pairwise comparisons. This rating resulted in a hierarchy of all strategies for each task and it was based on all the pairs agreed upon by at least 80% of the experts. For the new scenario METASPAM (based on question ST166), for example, the experts’ ratings resulted in the following order: Q02HA, Q04HA, Q05HA > Q01HA, Q03HA.

Based on this rating order, pairwise rules were then created to construct a score for each student indicating the number of times in which he or she chose a more useful over a less useful

strategy. The final scores assigned to each student for each task ranges from 0 to 1 and can be interpreted as the proportion of the total number of expert pairwise relations that are consistent with the student ordering. The higher the score, the higher the number of times in which a student chose an expert-validated strategy over a less useful one. For METASPAM, there were 6 (3x2) resulting pairwise rules based on this order, namely Q04HA > Q01HA, Q04HA > Q03HA, Q02HA > Q01HA, Q02HA > Q03HA, Q05HA > Q01HA, and Q05HA > Q03HA. Consequently, a student following 4 of these rules receives a score of  $4/6=0.67$ . A similar procedure was carried out for the remaining two meta-cognition tasks. For UNDREM (based on question ST164), the expert-rated strategy order was Q03IA, Q04IA, Q05IA > Q01IA, Q02IA, Q06IA. For METASUM (based on question ST165), the expert-rated strategy order was Q04IA, Q05IA > Q01IA, Q03IA > Q02IA.

In case of a missing value on one or more items of the question, a missing score was assigned. Finally, all three indices were standardized to have an OECD mean of 0 and a standard deviation of 1.

### **Derived variables based on IRT scaling**

The PISA 2018 Student Questionnaire provided data for 39 derived variables based on IRT scaling which will be presented along with their internal consistency, their item content and item parameters in the following sections. Two of the scales in the Student Questionnaire, JOYREAD and DISCLIMA, were mapped to the respective scale used in PISA 2009 so that trend comparison is possible.

### ***Household possessions***

In PISA 2018, students reported on the availability of 16 household items at their home (ST011) including three country-specific household items that were seen as local measures of family wealth within the country's context. In addition, students reported the amount of possessions and books at home (ST012, ST013). Five indices were derived from these items: i) family wealth possessions (WEALTH), ii) cultural possessions (CULTPOSS), iii) home educational resources (HEDRES), iv) ICT resources (ICTRES) and v) home possessions (HOMEPOS). Table 16.4 gives an overview of the indicator items for each of these five indices.

#### *Table 16.4: Indicators of household possessions and home background indices*

Tables 16.5 and 16.6 provide information on the reliabilities (Cronbach's Alpha coefficients) in OECD countries and partner countries and economies, respectively.

#### *Table 16.5: Scale reliabilities for Household possessions indices in OECD countries*

#### *Table 16.6: Scale reliabilities for Household possessions indices in partner countries and economies*

HOMEPOS is a summary index of all household and possession items (ST011, ST012 and ST013). HOMEPOS is also one of three components in the construction of the PISA index of economic, social and cultural status (ESCS) (see the section on ESCS index construction later in this chapter). The home possessions scale for PISA 2018 was computed differently than in the previous cycles. The IRT model has changed for all cognitive and non-cognitive scales for the purpose of cross-cultural comparability (see section "Cross-country comparability" in this chapter). Categories for the number of books in the home are unchanged in PISA 2018. The

ST011-items (1=“yes”, 2=“no”) were reverse-coded so that a higher level indicates the presence of the indicator. Please note that items ST011D17TA, ST011D18TA and ST011D19TA represent national indicators of home possessions (see Annex E) and thus differ in meaning across countries. In addition, items ST011Q07TA (Classic literature (e.g. <Shakespeare>)), ST011Q08TA (Books of poetry), and ST012Q03TA (Rooms with a bath or shower) were considered to have country-specific meaning. For all six items, no equality constraints were assigned from the beginning. Instead, group-specific (large enough country-by-language interactions) item parameters were estimated and are provided in Tables 16.7 and 16.8 for OECD countries and partner countries and economies, respectively.

*Table 16.7: Item parameters for national home possession indicators in OECD countries*

*Table 16.8: Item parameters for national home possession indicators in partner countries and economies*

Tables 16.9-16.13 show the item wording and international item parameters for each of the five scales, respectively. Please note that all items of question ST011 are dichotomous, resulting in a 2PL model with only two item parameters: one referring to item difficulty ( $\beta$ ) and one referring to item discrimination ( $\alpha$ ). No threshold parameters ( $d$ ) are necessary.

*Table 16.9: Item parameters for Home possessions (HOMEPOS)*

*Table 16.10: Item parameters for Cultural possessions at home (CULTPOSS)*

*Table 16.11: Item parameters for Home educational resources (HEDRES)*

*Table 16.12: Item parameters for Family wealth (WEALTH)*

*Table 16.13: Item parameters for ICT Resources (ICTRES)*

### ***Test language lessons***

PISA 2018 focused on the test language lessons in school by including questions about the learning environment in the test language classroom. They asked how often specific activities happened. Tables 16.14 and 16.15 contain the scale reliabilities (Cronbach’s Alpha coefficients) for all participating OECD and partner countries and economies, respectively.

*Table 16.14: Scale reliabilities for all derived variables relating to test language lessons in OECD countries*

*Table 16.15: Scale reliabilities for all derived variables relating to test language lessons in partner countries and economies*

To assess the disciplinary climate in the test language classroom (DISCLIMA, ST097), students responded on a four-point Likert scale with the categories “Every lesson”, “Most lessons”, “Some lessons”, and “Never or hardly ever”. Table 16.16 shows the item wording and international item parameters for DISCLIMA.

*Table 16.16: Item parameters for Disciplinary climate in test language classes (DISCLIMA)*

ST100 asks about teacher support (TEACHSUP). Students responded on a four-point Likert scale with the categories “Every lesson”, “Most lessons”, “Some lessons”, and “Never or hardly ever”. As a result, the responses had to be reversed so that higher WLEs and higher difficulty correspond to higher levels of teacher support in test language lessons. Table 16.17 shows the item wording and international item parameters for TEACHSUP.

*Table 16.17: Item parameters for Teacher support in test language lessons (TEACHSUP)*

Teacher-directed instruction (DIRINS) was assessed with a question (ST102) that focussed on teacher practices in test language lessons. All items were reverse-coded. Students responded on a four-point Likert scale with the categories “Every lesson”, “Most lessons”, “Some lessons”, and “Never or hardly ever”. Table 16.18 shows the item wording and international item parameters for DIRINS.

*Table 16.18: Item parameters for Teacher-directed instruction (DIRINS)*

To assess the perceived teacher feedback (PERFEED, ST104), students responded on a four-point Likert scale with the categories “Never or almost never”, “Some lessons”, “Many lessons”, and “Every lesson or almost every lesson”. Table 16.19 shows the item wording and international item parameters for PERFEED.

*Table 16.19: Item parameters for Perceived feedback (PERFEED)*

The scale on teachers’ stimulation of reading and teaching strategies (STIMREAD, ST152) was already used in PISA 2009 (ST37). It provides information on how teachers stimulate students’ reading engagement and reading skills. The four response categories ranged from “Never or hardly ever”, “In some lessons”, “In most lessons”, to “In all lessons”. Higher WLEs indicate higher teacher stimulation or reading engagement. Similarly, positive item difficulties indicate aspects of teacher stimulation that are less common in the classroom environment. Table 16.20 shows the item wording and international item parameters for STIMREAD.

*Table 16.20: Item parameters for Teacher's stimulation of reading engagement perceived by student (STIMREAD)*

Question ST212 addresses the adaptivity of instruction in test language lessons (ADAPTIVITY). Students responded on a four-point Likert scale with the categories “Never or almost never”, “Some lessons”, “Many lessons”, and “Every lesson or almost every lesson”. Table 16.21 shows the item wording and international item parameters for ADAPTIVITY.

*Table 16.21: Item parameters for Adaptation of instruction (ADAPTIVITY)*

The teacher’s interest in teaching as perceived by the students (TEACHINT, ST213) was measured with four items. A four-point Likert scale is applied for this question, ranging from “Strongly disagree”, “Disagree”, “Agree”, to “Strongly agree”. Table 16.22 shows the item wording and international item parameters for this TEACHINT.



*Table 16.22: Item parameters for Perceived teacher's interest (TEACHINT)*

### ***Reading related attitudes***

A total of four indicators targeting the individual reading-related attitudes of students were also included in the Student Questionnaire. Tables 16.23 and 16.24 contain the scale reliabilities (Cronbach's Alpha coefficients) for all participating OECD and partner countries and economies, respectively.

*Table 16.23: Scale reliabilities for JOYREAD, SCREADCOMP, SCREADDIFF, PISADIFF in OECD countries*

*Table 16.24: Scale reliabilities for JOYREAD, SCREADCOMP, SCREADDIFF, PISADIFF in partner countries and economies*

To measure the enjoyment of reading (JOYREAD, ST160), five items were taken from PISA 2009 (ST24). To allow for trend comparisons, scaling was conducted based on all 11 items of ST24 (2009) and all five items of ST160 (2018), and WLE scores reported for 2018 have been transformed so that they can be directly compared to those reported in PISA 2009. There are four response categories ranging from "Strongly disagree", "Disagree", "Agree", to "Strongly agree". Items which are negatively worded (for 2018: ST160Q01IR, ST160Q04IR and ST160Q05IR) were reverse-scored for IRT scaling such that higher WLE scores on this derived variable indicate higher levels of enjoyment of reading. Table 16.25 shows the item wording and the international item parameters for JOYREAD.

*Table 16.25: Item parameters for Joy/Like reading (JOYREAD)*

Using a 6-item scale (ST161), students were asked to rate their self-concept of reading in two aspects: Their perception of competence (SCREADCOMP, items ST161Q01HA, ST161Q02HA, ST161Q03HA) and their perception of difficulty (SCREADDIFF, items ST161Q06HA, ST161Q07HA, ST161Q08HA) when performing reading tasks. Tables 16.26 and 16.27 show the item wording and the international item parameters for SCREADCOMP and SCREADDIFF, respectively.

*Table 16.26: Item parameters for Self-concept of reading: Perception of competence (SCREADCOMP)*

*Table 16.27: Item parameters for Self-concept of reading: Perception of difficulty (SCREADDIFF)*

Additionally, students were asked about their perception of difficulty of the PISA test (PISADIFF, ST163). Responses were given on a four-point Likert scale with the categories "Strongly disagree", "Disagree", "Agree", and "Strongly agree". Table 16.28 shows the item wording and the international item parameters for PISADIFF.

*Table 16.28: Item parameters for Perception of difficulty of the PISA test (PISADIFF)*

### ***Dispositional and school-focused variables***

Dispositional variables are the personality-based context in which students approach learning. They are the result of a lifetime of socialisation from parents, teachers, coaches and one's cultural surroundings, and they capture how behaviour is energised over time. School-focused

variables, or how students view and approach school, are influenced by both students' disposition and the particular situation in which they find themselves. Tables 16.29 and 16.30 contain the scale reliabilities (Cronbach's Alpha coefficients) for all participating OECD and partner countries and economies, respectively.

*Table 16.29: Scale reliabilities for ATTLNACT, COMPETE, WORKMAST, GFOFAIL, RESILIENCE, MASTGOAL, PERCOMP, PERCOOP in OECD countries*

*Table 16.30: Scale reliabilities for ATTLNACT, COMPETE, WORKMAST, GFOFAIL, RESILIENCE, MASTGOAL, PERCOMP, PERCOOP in partner countries and economies*

The scale on attitudes towards learning activities (ATTLNACT, ST036) consists of three items (ST036Q05TR, ST036Q06TR and ST036Q08TR) which were reverse-coded. It was also included in the PISA 2012 Student Questionnaire (ID in 2012: ST89). A four-point Likert scale is applied for this question, ranging from "Strongly agree", "Agree", to "Disagree", and "Strongly disagree". Table 16.31 shows the item wording and the international item parameters for ATTLNACT.

*Table 16.31: Item parameters for Attitude towards school: learning activities (ATTLNACT)*

The scale on competitiveness (COMPETE, ST181) consists of three items, collecting information about students' competitiveness achievement motive. It applies a four-point Likert scale ranging from "Strongly disagree", "Disagree", to "Agree", and "Strongly agree". Table 16.32 shows the item wording and the international item parameters for COMPETE.

*Table 16.32: Item parameters for Competitiveness (COMPETE)*

The scale WORKMAST (ST182) consists of three items asking about the working motive and mastery achievement motive of students. It applies a four-point Likert scale ranging from "Strongly disagree", "Disagree", to "Agree", and "Strongly agree". Table 16.33 shows the item wording and the international item parameters for WORKMAST.

*Table 16.33: Item parameters for Work mastery (WORKMAST)*

The scale GFOFAIL (ST183) consists of three items assessing the students' general fear of failure. It applies a four-point Likert scale ranging from "Strongly disagree", "Disagree", to "Agree", and "Strongly agree". Table 16.34 shows the item wording and the international item parameters for GFOFAIL.

*Table 16.34: Item parameters for General fear of failure (GFOFAIL)*

The scale on students' resilience (RESILIENCE, ST188) consists of five items using a four-point Likert scale, ranging from "Strongly disagree", "Disagree", to "Agree", and "Strongly agree". Table 16.35 shows the item wording and the international item parameters for RESILIENCE.

*Table 16.35: Item parameters for Resilience (RESILIENCE)*

The scale MASTGOAL (ST208) informs about students' mastery-approach orientation of achievement goals. It consists of three items and applies a five-point Likert scale ranging from

“Not at all true of me”, “Slightly true of me”, “Moderately true of me”, to “Very true of me”, and “Extremely true of me”. Table 16.36 shows the item wording and the international item parameters for MASTGOAL.

*Table 16.36: Item parameters for Mastery goal orientation (MASTGOAL)*

Two scales inform about the way in which students perceive a climate of competition (PERCOMP, ST205) and cooperation (PERCOOP, ST206) amongst the students in their school. The scales are each based on three items with a four-point Likert scale ranging from “Not at all true”, “Slightly true”, to “Very true”, and “Extremely true”. Tables 16.37 and 16.38 show the item wording and the international item parameters for PERCOMP and PERCOOP, respectively.

*Table 16.37: Item parameters for Perception of competitiveness at school (PERCOMP)*

*Table 16.38: Item parameters for Perception of co-operation at school (PERCOOP)*

### **Parental Support**

Students were asked about their perceived emotional support from their parents (EMOSUPS, ST123) with three items using a four-point Likert scale with the response categories “Strongly disagree”, “Disagree”, “Agree”, and “Strongly agree”. This question was also used in PISA 2015 (ST123). Tables 16.39 and 16.40 contain the scales’ reliability (Cronbach’s Alpha) for all participating OECD and partner countries and economies, respectively.

*Table 16.39: Scale reliabilities for Parents’ emotional support perceived by student (EMOSUPS) in OECD countries*

*Table 16.40: Scale reliabilities for Parents’ emotional support perceived by student (EMOSUPS) in partner countries and economies*

Table 16.41 shows the item wording and international item parameters for EMOSUPS.

*Table 16.41: Item parameters for Parents’ emotional support perceived by student (EMOSUPS)*

### **Students’ well-being**

PISA 2018 included two scales in the Student Questionnaire addressing different aspects of students’ well-being. Tables 16.42 and 16.43 contain the scales’ reliabilities (Cronbach’s Alpha) for all participating OECD and partner countries and economies, respectively.

*Table 16.42: Scale reliabilities for EUDMO and SWBP in OECD countries*

*Table 16.43: Scale reliabilities for EUDMO and SWBP in partner countries and economies*

The scale EUDMO (ST185) assessed eudemonia, a sense of meaning and purpose in life. It consists of three items and applies a four-point Likert-scale ranging from “Strongly disagree”, “Disagree”, to “Agree”, and “Strongly agree”. Table 16.44 shows the item wording and international item parameters for EUDMO.

*Table 16.44: Item parameters for Eudaemonia: meaning in life (EUDMO)*

Subjective well-being (SWBP, ST186) measures students' positive affect by asking them about different feelings they might have had. It consists of three items and applies a four-point Likert-scale ranging from “Never”, “Rarely”, “Sometimes”, to “Always”. Table 16.45 shows the item wording and international item parameters for SWBP.

*Table 16.45: Item parameters for Subjective well-being: Positive affect (SWBP)*

### **Dispositions for global competence**

The PISA framework defines dispositions for global competence that were included in the PISA 2018 Student Questionnaire. They relate to different aspects of the model of global competence (OECD, 2018). Derived variables are only available for a selected sample of countries that chose to include these questions. A total of ten scales have been reported and will be described in the following. Tables 16.46 and 16.47 contain the scales' reliabilities (Cronbach's Alpha) for all participating OECD and partner countries and economies, respectively.

*Table 16.46: Scale reliabilities for Global Competence scales in OECD countries*

*Table 16.47: Scale reliabilities for Global Competence scales in partner countries and economies*

### **Knowledge about the world and other cultures**

Question ST196 addresses a student's self-efficacy regarding explaining or discussing several complex global issues (GCSELFEFF). This question was partly retained from previous PISA cycles (PISA 2015: ST129). The question stem and the first item have been retained from the original question. All remaining items have been newly developed. The response format is a four-point scale with the response categories “I couldn't do this”, “I would struggle to do this on my own”, “I could do this with a bit of effort”, and “I could do this easily”. Table 16.48 shows the item wording and international item parameters for GCSELFEFF.

*Table 16.48: Item parameters for Self-efficacy regarding global issues (GCSELFEFF)*

Question ST197 queries a student's awareness of global issues (GCAWARE). This question was partly retained from PISA 2015 (ST092). However, only the question stem is similar, all items have been newly developed. The response format is a four-point scale with the response categories “I have never heard of this”, “I have heard about this but I would not be able to explain what it is really about”, “I know something about this and could explain the general issue”, and “I am familiar with this and I would be able to explain this well”. Table 16.49 shows the item wording and international item parameters for GCAWARE.

*Table 16.49: Item parameters for Student's awareness of global issues (GCAWARE)*

Question ST204 is new to PISA 2018. It queries the student's attitudes toward equal rights for immigrants (ATTIMM) and has been taken from the International Civic and Citizenship Education Study (ICCS) (see Schulz, Ainley, & Fraillon, 2011). The response format is a four-point Likert scale with the response categories “Strongly disagree”, “Disagree”, “Agree”, and

“Strongly agree”. Table 16.50 shows the item wording and international item parameters for ATTIMM.

*Table 16.50: Item parameters for Student's attitudes towards immigrants (ATTIMM)*

Question ST214 queries a student’s interest in learning about other cultures (INTCULT). This question is new to PISA 2018. The response format is a five-point Likert scale with the response categories “Very much like me”, “Mostly like me”, “Somewhat like me”, “Not much like me”, and “Not at all like me”. All the items were reverse-coded before scaling. Table 16.51 shows the item wording and international item parameters for INTCULT.

*Table 16.51: Item parameters for Student's interest in learning about other cultures (INTCULT)*

Question ST215 assesses how far a person takes the perspective of other people (PERSPECT) and has been adapted from Davis (1983). Perspective taking is seen as an important precondition for successful intercultural relationships. The response format is a five-point Likert scale with the response categories “Very much like me”, “Mostly like me”, “Somewhat like me”, “Not much like me”, and “Not at all like me”. All the items were reverse-coded. Table 16.52 shows the item wording and international item parameters for PERSPECT.

*Table 16.52: Item parameters for Perspective taking (PERSPECT)*

Question ST216 assesses a student’s flexibility/adaptability in dealing with challenging or difficult situations, which may include intercultural situations (COGFLEX). Items were selected, with slight word adjustments, from Martin and Rubin (1995) and Dennis and Vander Wal (2010). “Flexibility/adaptability” comprises the following facets: “Adaptation to unfamiliar situations” (items Q01, Q02, Q03, Q05), “Intercultural adaptation” (item Q05). The response format is a five-point Likert scale with the response categories “Very much like me”, “Mostly like me”, “Somewhat like me”, “Not much like me”, and “Not at all like me”. All the items were reverse-coded before scaling. Table 16.53 shows the item wording and international item parameters for COGFLEX.

*Table 16.53: Item parameters for Cognitive flexibility/adaptability (COGFLEX)*

Question ST217 assesses a student’s respect for people from other cultures (RESPECT). “Respect for people from other cultures” means having positive regard and esteem for those people because they are perceived to have an intrinsic importance, worth or value which stems from their inherent dignity as human beings (cf. the preamble to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights). The response format is a five-point Likert scale with the response categories “Very much like me”, “Mostly like me”, “Somewhat like me”, “Not much like me”, and “Not at all like me”. All the items were reverse-coded before scaling. Table 16.54 shows the item wording and international item parameters for RESPECT.

*Table 16.54: Item parameters for Respect for people from other cultures (RESPECT)*

***Skills to understand the world and to take action***

Question ST218 assesses a student’s intercultural communicative awareness (AWACOM) which is regarded as one aspect of that student’s “global competence”. “Intercultural communicative awareness” comprises the following facets: “Observing and monitoring

communications” (items Q01, Q02 and Q03), “Careful expression of own meanings” (items Q04, Q05 and Q06), and “Managing communication breakdowns” (item Q07). The response format is a four-point Likert scale with the response categories “Strongly disagree”, “Disagree”, “Agree”, “Strongly agree”. Table 16.55 shows the item wording and international item parameters for AWACOM.

*Table 16.55: Item parameters for Awareness of intercultural communication (AWACOM)*

***Attitudes of openness, respect for people from different cultural backgrounds and global mindedness***

Question ST219 assesses a student’s sense of global-mindedness (GLOBMIND) which is regarded as one aspect of that student’s “global competence”. “Global-mindedness” is a worldview in which one sees oneself as connected to the world community and feels a sense of responsibility towards its members. A globally-minded person has concerns for other people in all parts of the world and feelings of responsibility to try to improve their conditions and the global environment irrespective of distance and cultural differences. “Global-mindedness” comprises the following facets: “Sense of world citizenship” (item Q01), “Responsibility for others in the world” (items Q02, Q04 and Q06), “Sense of inter-connectedness” (item Q03), and “Global self-efficacy” (item Q05). The response format is a four-point Likert scale with the response categories “Strongly disagree”, “Disagree”, “Agree”, “Strongly agree”. Table 16.56 shows the item wording and international item parameters for GLOBMIND.

*Table 16.56: Item parameters for Global-mindedness (GLOBMIND)*

Question ST223 has been adapted from a question used in the PISA 2015 Field Trial (ST025). It queries the multicultural school climate (DISCRIM). It asks students whether their teachers treat students from all cultural groups with equal respect. Thereby, it measures the absence of stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination. The students are asked how many statements in the question apply to their teachers. The response format is a four-point Likert scale with the response categories “To none or almost none of them”, “To some of them”, “To most of them”, and “To all or almost all of them”. Table 16.57 shows the item wording and international item parameters for DISCRIM.

*Table 16.57: Item parameters for Discriminating school climate (DISCRIM)*

***School climate***

Aspects related to the school climate were assessed with two scales for PISA 2018. Tables 16.58 and 16.59 contain the scales’ reliabilities (Cronbach’s Alpha) for all participating OECD and partner countries and economies respectively.

*Table 16.58: Scale reliabilities for BELONG, BEINGBULLIED in OECD countries*

*Table 16.59: Scale reliabilities for BELONG, BEINGBULLIED in partner countries and economies*

PISA 2018 asked students about their sense of belonging to school (BELONG, ST034) using six items previously used in PISA 2012 (ST87) and PISA 2015 (ST034). The response format was a four-point Likert scale with the response categories “Strongly agree”, “Agree”, “Disagree”, and “Strongly disagree”. Items ST034Q02TA, ST034Q03TA and ST034Q05TA

were reverse-coded so that higher WLEs and higher difficulty correspond to higher level of sense of belonging on all items. Table 16.60 shows the item wording and international item parameters for BELONG.

*Table 16.60: Item parameters for Subjective well-being: Sense of belonging to school (BELONG)*

PISA 2018 includes a scale on student's experience of being bullied (BEINGBULLIED, ST038) using three items that were taken over from PISA 2015 (ID in 2015: ST038), asking students how often they had been bullied by other students at school in the past 12 months. The question used a four-point scale with response categories ranging from “Never or almost never”, “A few times a year”, “A few times a month” to “Once a week or more”. Table 16.61 shows the item wording and international item parameters for BEINGBULLIED.

*Table 16.61: Item parameters for Student's experience of being bullied (BEINGBULLIED)*

## SCHOOL QUESTIONNAIRE DERIVED VARIABLES

The PISA 2018 School Questionnaire consisted mainly of questions used in previous cycles. All 17 derived variables are shown in Table 16.62 and are described in the following: the first section covers all simple questionnaire indices, the second section covers those that are based on IRT scaling.

*Table 16.62: Derived variables in the PISA 2018 School Questionnaire*

### **Simple questionnaire indices**

#### *School size*

The index of school size (SCHSIZE) contains the total enrolment at school. It is based on the enrolment data provided by the school principal, summing up the number of girls and boys at a school (SC002). This index was calculated in 2018 and in all previous cycles.

#### *Class size*

The average class size (CLSIZE, SC003) is derived from one of nine possible categories in question SC003, ranging from “15 students or fewer” to “More than 50 students”.

#### *Availability of computers*

School principals were asked to report the number of computers available at school (SC004). The index of availability of computers (RATCMP1) is the ratio of computers available to 15-year olds for educational purposes to the total number of students in the modal grade for 15-year olds. The index RATCMP2 was calculated as the ratio of number of computers available to 15-year olds for educational purposes to the number of these computers that were connected to the internet.

#### *School type*

Schools are classified as either public or private according to whether a private entity or a public agency has the ultimate power for decision making concerning its affairs. As in previous

PISA surveys, the index on school type (SCHLTYPE) was constructed by recoding SC013 and SC016. SC013 asks whether the school is public or private, and SC016 asks about the source of resources. SCHLTYPE has the following categories: (1) Private independent (if SC013Q01TA=2 and SC016Q01TA < 50), (2) Private Government-dependent (if SC013Q01TA=2 and SC016Q01TA >=50), (3) Public (if SC013Q01TA=1). This index was calculated in 2018 and in all previous cycles. In PISA 2018, however, a few countries provided this information from administrative record (e.g., Ireland, Singapore). In PISA 2009, the variable name was SCHTYPE.

### ***Quantity of teaching staff at school***

Principals were asked to report the total number of teachers at their school (TOTAT) and provide additional information on how many of the staff was full-time and part-time employed teachers qualified at different ISCED levels (SC018).

The proportion of fully certified teachers (PROATCE) was computed by dividing the number of fully certified teachers by the total number of teachers.

The proportion of teachers with an ISCED 5A bachelor qualification (PROAT5AB) was calculated by dividing the number of these teachers by the total number of teachers.

The proportion of teachers with an ISCED 5A master qualification (PROAT5AM) was calculated by dividing the number of these teachers by the total number of teachers.

The proportion of teachers with an ISCED level 6 qualification (PROAT6) was calculated by dividing the number of these teachers by the total number of teachers.

The student-teacher ratio (STRATIO) was obtained by dividing the number of enrolled students (SC002) by the total number of teachers (TOTAT).

### ***Extra-curricular activities at school***

School principals were asked to report what extra-curricular activities their schools offered to 15-year old students (SC053). The index of creative extra-curricular activities at school (CREACTIV) was computed as the total number of the following activities that occurred at school: i) band, orchestra or choir; ii) school play or school musical; and iii) art club or art activities.

### **Derived variables based on IRT scaling**

The School Questionnaire provided data for five derived variables based on IRT scaling which will be presented along with their item content and item parameters in the following. Tables 16.63 and 16.64 contain the scale reliabilities (Cronbach's Alpha coefficients) for all participating OECD and partner countries and economies, respectively.



*Table 16.63: Scale reliabilities for all derived variables in the School Questionnaire in OECD countries*

*Table 16.64: Scale reliabilities for all derived variables in the School Questionnaire in partner countries and economies*

### **School resources**

PISA 2018 included a question with eight items about school resources, measuring the school principal's perceptions of potential factors hindering the provision of instruction at school (SC017). The four response categories were "Not at all", "Very little", "To some extent", and "A lot". Both the scale on staff shortage (STAFFSHORT: SC017Q01NA, SC017Q02NA, SC017Q03NA, and SC017Q04NA) and the scale on shortage of educational material (EDUSHORT: SC017Q05NA, SC017Q06NA, SC017Q07NA, and SC017Q08NA) were based on four items each. Tables 16.65 and 16.66 show the item wording and international item parameters for STAFFSHORT and EDUSHORT, respectively.

*Table 16.65: Item parameters for Shortage of educational staff (STAFFSHORT)*

*Table 16.66: Item parameters for Shortage of educational material (EDUSHORT)*

### **School climate**

The School Questionnaire included a trend question on school climate (SC061). It measured the school principal's perceptions of the school climate, in particular his or her perceptions of teacher and student behaviour that might influence the provision of instruction at school. The four response categories were "Not at all", "Very little", "To some extent", and "A lot". The scaling model used six items to reflect student-related factors affecting school climate (STUBEHA: items SC061Q01TA, SC061Q02TA, SC061Q03TA, SC061Q04TA, SC061Q05TA and SC061Q11TA) and five items to reflect teacher-related factors affecting school climate (TEACHBEHA: items SC061Q06TA, SC061Q07TA, SC061Q08TA, SC061Q09TA, and SC061Q10TA). Tables 16.67 and 16.68 show the item wording and international item parameters for STUBEHA and TEACHBEHA, respectively.

*Table 16.67: Item parameters for Student behaviour hindering learning (STUBEHA)*

*Table 16.68: Item parameters for Teacher behaviour hindering learning (TEACHBEHA)*

PISA 2018 also assessed the multicultural school climate as perceived by principals (SCMCEG). This construct refers to teachers' multicultural and egalitarian beliefs and was adapted from Hachfeld, Hahn, Schroeder, Anders, Stanat & Kunter (2011). The question asks principals to what extent the statements in the items reflect an opinion shared by their teaching staff (SC166). The four response categories were "Shared among none or almost none of them", "Shared among some of them", "Shared among many of them", and "Shared among all or almost all of them". The resulting scale SCMCEG indicates the school principal's view on teachers' multicultural and egalitarian beliefs. Table 16.69 shows the item wording and international item parameters for SCMCEG.

*Table 16.69: Item parameters for School principal's view on teachers' multicultural and egalitarian beliefs (SCMCEG)*

## ICT FAMILIARITY QUESTIONNAIRE

The ICT Familiarity Questionnaire (ICQ) is an international option that countries could choose to implement. It is administered to the PISA students after they have completed the Student Questionnaire. For PISA 2018, 11 derived variables were constructed, nine of which were scaled using the IRT model described above. Most of the scales were already reported in PISA 2015.

An overview of all derived variables is shown in Table 16.70, and each is described in the following: the first section covers all simple questionnaire indices, the second section covers those that are based on IRT scaling.

*Table 16.70: Derived variables in the optional PISA 2018 ICT Familiarity Questionnaire*

### Simple questionnaire indices

#### *Availability and usage of ICT*

The ICQ asked about the availability of ICT at home and if students used it for various purposes. ICTHOME is an index calculated as the number of all 11 items included in IC001 that were agreed upon (either response category “Yes, and I use it” or “Yes, but I don’t use it”), thus ranging from 0-11.

IC009 asked about the availability of ICT at school. The derived variable ICTSCH is calculated as the number of all ten items in IC009 that were agreed upon (either response category “Yes, and I use it” or “Yes, but I don’t use it”), thus ranging from 0-10.

### Derived variables based on IRT scaling

The ICT Familiarity Questionnaire provided data for nine derived variables based on IRT scaling which will be presented along with their item content and item parameters in the following sections. Tables 16.71 and 16.72 contain the scale reliabilities (Cronbach’s Alpha coefficients) for all participating OECD and partner countries and economies, respectively.

*Table 16.71: Scale reliabilities for all derived variables in the ICT Familiarity Questionnaire in OECD countries*

*Table 16.72: Scale reliabilities for all derived variables in the ICT Familiarity Questionnaire in partner countries and economies*

#### *Availability and usage of ICT*

Three questions in the ICT Familiarity Questionnaire asked how often digital devices are used outside of school for leisure activities (IC008), outside of school for school work (IC010), as well as for activities in school (IC011). The response categories for all three questions ranged from “Never or hardly ever”, “Once or twice a month”, “Once or twice a week”, “Almost every day”, to “Every day”. The respective indices ENTUSE (leisure activities), HOMESCH (for school work outside of school) and USESCH (use of ICT at school) are scaled using the IRT

scaling model described above. Tables 16.73, 16.74 and 16.75 show the item wording and international item parameters for each of the three scales, respectively.

*Table 16.73: Item parameters for ICT use outside of school (leisure) (ENTUSE)*

*Table 16.74: Item parameters for Use of ICT outside of school (for school work activities) (HOMESCH)*

*Table 16.75: Item parameters for Use of ICT at school in general (USESCH)*

### ***Interest in ICT and perceived competence***

PISA 2018 included four questions in the ICT Familiarity Questionnaire addressing students' ICT interest (IC013, INTICT), their perceived competence in ICT usage (IC014, COMPICT), their perceived autonomy related to ICT usage (IC015, AUTICT), and the degree to which ICT is a part of their daily social life (IC016, SOIAICT). All questions used a four-point Likert response scale ranging from “Strongly disagree”, “Disagree”, “Agree”, to “Strongly agree”. Tables 16.76 to 16.79 show the item wording and international item parameters for each of the four scales, respectively.

*Table 16.76: Item parameters for Interest in ICT (INTICT)*

*Table 16.77: Item parameters for Perceived ICT competence (COMPICT)*

*Table 16.78: Item parameters for Perceived autonomy related to ICT use (AUTICT)*

*Table 16.79: Item parameters for ICT as a topic in social interaction (SOIAICT)*

### ***Subject-related ICT use***

The ICT Familiarity Questionnaire also included two questions on the use of digital devices. IC150 asked about the subject-related use of digital devices during classroom lessons (ICTCLASS) and IC151 asked about the subject-related use of digital devices outside of classroom lessons (ICTOUTSIDE). Both questions had five response categories from “No time”, “1-30 minutes a week”, “31-60 minutes a week”, “More than 60 minutes a week”, to “I do not study this subject”. For scaling purposes the last category in both questions was recoded as missing. For ICTCLASS, items IC150Q01HA to IC150Q05HA were used. For ICTOUTSIDE, items IC151Q01HA to IC151Q05HA were used. Tables 16.80 and 16.81 show the item wording and international item parameters for each of the two scales, respectively.

*Table 16.80: Item parameters for Subject-related ICT use during lessons (ICTCLASS)*

*Table 16.81: Item parameters for Subject-related ICT use outside of lessons (ICTOUTSIDE)*

## **EDUCATIONAL CAREER QUESTIONNAIRE**

The Educational Career Questionnaire (ECQ) is an international option that countries can choose to implement. It is administered to the PISA students after they have completed the Student Questionnaire. As the content of the ECQ changes in every cycle, no trend scales were built for PISA 2018. The ECQ contains five derived variables, three of which are based on IRT

scaling. An overview of all derived variables is shown in Table 16.82, and each of them is described in the following sections.

*Table 16.82: Derived variables in the optional PISA 2018 Educational Career Questionnaire*

### **Simple questionnaire indices**

#### ***Educational pathways***

The Educational Career Questionnaire included questions about the students' educational pathways within the school system, asking for information on whether students had ever changed schools when attending ISCED 1 (EC031) or ISCED 2 (EC032), as well as whether they had ever changed a study programme (EC033). The respective indicators were recoded to reflect the number of school changes in EC031 and EC032 (SCCHANGE) and all three questions report on the number of overall changes in the educational biography (CHANGE).

#### **Derived variables based on IRT scaling**

The Educational Career Questionnaire also included two questions about students' information on their future perspectives from which a total of three derived variables based on IRT scaling are constructed. Tables 16.83 and 16.84 contain the scale reliabilities (Cronbach's Alpha coefficients) for all participating OECD and partner countries and economies, respectively.

*Table 16.83: Scale reliabilities for all derived variables in the Educational Career Questionnaire in OECD countries*

*Table 16.84: Scale reliabilities for all derived variables in the Educational Career Questionnaire in partner countries and economies*

Question EC150 asked about actions a student already took to find out about future study or types of work such as internships or visiting a job fair providing two response categories ("Yes", "No, Never"). For scaling, all ten items were reverse-coded. Table 16.85 shows the item wording and the international item parameters for INFOCAR.

*Table 16.85: Item parameters for Information about careers (INFOCAR)*

Question EC151 asked about skills a student has acquired to get information on a job or to prepare for an interview providing three response categories: "Yes, at school", "Yes, out of school", and "No, never". Two scaled variables were derived from this question: INFOJOB1 on information about the labour market provided by the school and INFOJOB2 on information about the labour market provided outside of school. For both scaled variables, all items were used for scaling. Tables 16.86 and 16.87 show the item wording and international item parameters for INFOJOB1 and INFOJOB2.

*Table 16.86: Item parameters for Information about the labour market provided by the school (INFOJOB1)*

*Table 16.87: Item parameters for Information about the labour market provided outside of school (INFOJOB2)*

## FINANCIAL LITERACY QUESTIONNAIRE

The Financial Literacy Questionnaire is an international option that is new to PISA 2018. It addresses familiarity of students related to financial literacy and their confidence about financial matters. Five variables were derived from this questionnaire, one non-scaled and four scaled ones. An overview of all derived variables is shown in table 16.88, and each will be described in the following sections.

*Table 16.88: Derived variables in the optional PISA 2018 Financial Literacy Questionnaire*

### **Simple questionnaire indices**

The only non-scaled derived variable in this questionnaire is FCFMLRTY, indicating a student's familiarity with concepts of finance. It is constructed as the sum of all 18 items from question FL164 for which the student responded in category "learned about it, and I know what it means".

### **Derived variables based on IRT scaling**

The Financial Literacy Questionnaire provided data for four derived variables based on IRT scaling which will be presented along with their item content and item parameters in the following sections. Tables 16.89 and 16.90 contain the scale reliabilities (Cronbach's Alpha coefficients) for all participating OECD and partner countries and economies respectively.

*Table 16.89: Scale reliabilities for all derived variables in the Financial Literacy Questionnaire in OECD countries*

*Table 16.90: Scale reliabilities for all derived variables in the Financial Literacy Questionnaire in partner countries and economies*

### **Confidence about financial matters**

Two questions in this questionnaire address students' confidence about financial matters: FL162 asks about financial matters in general (FLCONFIN) and FL163 asks about financial matters using digital devices (FLCONICT). Both questions used a four-point Likert scale ranging from "Not at all confident", "Not very confident", "Confident", to "Very Confident". Tables 16.91 and 16.92 show the item wording and international item parameters for FLCONFIN and FLCONICT, respectively.

*Table 16.91: Item parameters for Confidence about financial matters (FLCONFIN)*

*Table 16.92: Item parameters for Confidence about financial matters using digital devices (FLCONICT)*

### **Financial education in school lessons**

FL166 inquired about the frequency of specific financial related activities in financial matters. The response categories range from “Never”, “Sometimes”, to “Often”. Table 16.93 shows the item wording and international item parameters for FLSCHOOL.

*Table 16.93: Item parameters for Financial education in school lessons (FLSCHOOL)*

### **Parental involvement in matters of Financial Literacy**

In FL167 students were asked about the frequency of collaboration with parents in financial matters. The response categories range from “Never or hardly ever”, “Once or twice a month”, “Once or twice a week”, to “Almost every day”. Table 16.94 shows the item wording and international item parameters for FLFAMILY.

*Table 16.94: Item parameters for Parental involvement in matters of Financial Literacy (FLFAMILY)*

## **PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE**

The Parent Questionnaire is an international option that countries can choose to implement. It addresses the parents of students participating in the PISA assessment. In PISA 2018, the Parent Questionnaire provided nine derived variables which will be presented along with their item content and item parameters in the following sections. One of these scales, JOYREADP, was mapped to the respective scale used in PISA 2009 so that trend comparison is possible.

All nine derived variables from the Parent Questionnaire were based on IRT scaling. An overview of all derived variables is shown in Table 16.95, and each will be described in the following section.

*Table 16.95: Derived variables in the optional PISA 2018 Parent Questionnaire*

### **Derived variables based on IRT scaling**

Tables 16.96 and 16.97 contain the scale reliabilities (Cronbach’s Alpha coefficients) for all participating OECD and partner countries and economies, respectively.

*Table 16.96: Scale reliabilities for all derived variables in the Parent Questionnaire in OECD countries*

*Table 16.97: Scale reliabilities for all derived variables in the Parent Questionnaire in partner countries and economies*

### ***Current parental support***

PISA 2018 measured the current parental support with two questions. PA003 (PISA 2015: PA003) asked about current parental support for learning at home, including both reading-specific and general aspects of parental support. The corresponding scale (CURSUPP) consists of all items in that question. Response categories ranged from “Never or hardly ever”, “Once or twice a year”, “Once or twice a month”, “Once or twice a week”, to “Every day or almost every day”. Table 16.98 shows the item wording and international item parameters for CURSUPP.

*Table 16.98: Item parameters for Current parental support for learning at home (CURSUPP)*

Another focus in PISA 2018 addressed the emotional support given by parents. Question PA004 (PISA 2015: PA004) included three items asking parents about their interest and support for students’ school-related difficulties and achievements. Response categories on a four-point Likert scale ranged from “Strongly agree”, “Agree”, “Disagree” to “Strongly disagree”. The scale based on this question, EMOSUPP, consists of all three items. Table 16.99 shows the item wording and international item parameters for EMOSUPP.

*Table 16.99: Item parameters for Parents' emotional support (EMOSUPP)*

### ***Parental involvement in school***

The question addressing both parents’ view on school quality and school policies for parental involvement (PA007) has been modified for each PISA cycle so far. Parents were asked how much they agreed with the statements about school policies. The response categories included “Strongly agree”, “Agree”, “Disagree”, and “Strongly disagree”. The responses had to be reverse-coded so that higher WLEs and higher difficulty correspond to higher levels of parental involvement in school.

In PISA 2018, two derived variables were built. The trend indicator PQSCHOOL uses seven trend items to summarize parents’ perceptions of the quality of school learning (PA007Q01TA, PA007Q02TA, PA007Q03TA, PA007Q04TA, PA007Q05TA, PA007Q06TA, and PA007Q07TA). All items were reverse-coded. The same scale was used in PISA 2006, 2009, 2012 and 2015. It was scaled in such a way that a trend comparison is possible between PISA 2009 and 2018. Table 16.100 shows the item wording and international item parameters for PQSCHOOL.

*Table 16.100: Item parameters for Parents' perceived school quality (PQSCHOOL)*

The scale addressing parental involvement (PASCHPOL) uses six newly developed items to measure different aspects of parental participation (PA007Q09NA, PA007Q11NA, PA007Q12NA, PA007Q13NA, PA007Q14NA, and PA007Q15NA). All items were reverse-coded. Table 16.101 shows the item wording and international item parameters for PASCHPOL.

*Table 16.101: Item parameters for School policies for parental involvement (PASCHPOL)*

***Previous parental support***

PA154 retrospectively asked how frequently their child engaged in reading-related learning activities at home when he or she was 10 years old and thus inquired about parents' support for reading-related activities in the middle childhood years; examples are telling stories or writing letters or words. This question originates from PISA 2009 and was revised for PISA 2018. The response categories ranged from "Never or hardly ever", "Once or twice a month", "Once or twice a week", to "Every day or almost every day". The corresponding scale PRESUPP consists of all ten items of this question, some of which had been used in previous PISA cycles. Table 16.102 shows the item wording and international item parameters for PRESUPP.

*Table 16.102: Item parameters for Previous parental support for learning at home (PRESUPP)*

***Parents' reading engagement***

The parent questionnaire also included a question on parents' reading engagement (JOYREADP, PA158) which is parallel to the Student Questionnaire (ST160) and was adapted from PISA 2009. To allow for trend comparisons, scaling was conducted based on all four items of PA06 (2009) and all five items of PA158 (2018), and WLE scores reported for 2018 have been transformed so that they can be directly compared to those reported in PISA 2009. The response categories range from "Strongly agree", "Agree", "Disagree", to "Strongly disagree". All items were used for scaling; items 1, 4 and 5 were reverse-coded for scaling purposes. Higher WLE scores on this index indicate greater parental motivation to engage in reading activities. Similarly, positive item difficulties indicate motivational attributes of parents' own reading engagement that are less frequent. The item wording and international parameters for IRT scaling are shown in Table 16.103.

*Table 16.103: Item parameters for Parents' enjoyment of reading (JOYREADP)*

***Parents and intercultural attitudes***

Two questions addressed parents' intercultural attitudes: PA167 asked about parents' attitudes towards immigrants (ATTIMMP) and PA168 addressed their interest in learning about other cultures (INTCULP). Both questions are new to PISA.

PA167 has been taken from the International Civic and Citizenship Education Study (ICCS; see Schulz, Ainley & Fraillon, 2011). The response format is a four-point Likert scale with the response categories "Strongly disagree", "Disagree", "Agree", and "Strongly agree". For this scale, all four items were used. Table 16.104 shows the item wording and international item parameters for ATTIMMP.

*Table 16.104: Item parameters for Parents' attitudes towards immigrants (ATTIMMP)*

PA168 uses a five-point Likert scale with the response categories "Very much like me", "Mostly like me", "Somewhat like me", "Not much like me", and "Not at all like me". The derived IRT-Scale is named INTCULP. Four items were reverse-coded before scaling. Table 16.105 shows the item wording and international item parameters for INTCULP.



*Table 16.105: Item parameters for Parents' interest in learning about other cultures (INTCULP)*

### ***Awareness of global issues***

The scale GCAWAREP is based on PA170 that queries parents' awareness of global issues. This question was partly retained from PISA 2015. However, only the question stem is similar, all items have been newly developed. The response format is a four-point scale with the response categories "I have never heard of this", "I have heard about this but I would not be able to explain what it is really about", "I know something about this and could explain the general issue", and "I am familiar with this and would be able to explain this well". Table 16.106 shows the item wording and international parameters for GCAWAREP.

*Table 16.106: Item parameters for Parents' awareness of global issues (GCAWAREP)*

## **WELL-BEING QUESTIONNAIRE**

The Well-Being Questionnaire is an international option that is new to PISA 2018. It addresses the well-being of students. Three variables were derived from this questionnaire: One being a simple index and two resulting from IRT scaling. An overview of all derived variables is shown in Table 16.107, and each will be described in the following sections.

*Table 16.107: Derived variables in the optional PISA 2018 Well-Being Questionnaire*

### **Simple questionnaire indices**

The only non-scaled derived variable in the Well-Being Questionnaire is STUBMI, indicating the student's body mass index (BMI). It is based on two questions, WB151 and WB152, which asked about the weight and the height of the student, respectively, in the units of measurement that are more common in the respective country. The index was constructed as the weight (transformed to kilograms) divided by the square of the body height (transformed to metres).

### **Derived variables based on IRT scaling**

The Well-Being Questionnaire provided data for two scaled indices which will be presented along with their item content and item parameters in the following sections. Tables 16.108 and 16.109 contain the scale reliabilities (Cronbach's Alpha coefficients) for all participating OECD and partner countries and economies respectively.

*Table 16.108: Scale reliabilities for all derived variables in the Well-Being Questionnaire in OECD countries*

*Table 16.109: Scale reliabilities for all derived variables in the Well-Being Questionnaire in partner countries and economies*

### **Body image**

Question WB153 asks about a student's body image. Answers are given on a four-point Likert scale with response categories ranging from "Strongly disagree", "Disagree", "Agree", to "Strongly agree". An additional response option "I don't have an opinion" was treated as missing for the purpose of scaling. All items were reverse-coded before scaling. Table 16.110 shows the item wording and international item parameters for BODYIMA.

*Table 16.110: Item parameters for Body image (BODYIMA)*

### ***Social connection to parents***

Question WB163 captures the student's social connection to his or her parents. Answers are given on a three-point Likert scale with response options ranging from "Almost never", "Sometimes", to "Almost always". Table 16.111 shows the item wording and international parameters for SOCONPA.

*Table 16.111: Item parameters for Social Connections: Parents (SOCONPA)*

## **TEACHER QUESTIONNAIRES**

Two versions of the Teacher Questionnaire were implemented in PISA 2018: one administered to test language teachers, and one administered to all other, non-test language teachers. 48 derived variables have been constructed, 22 of which were scaled using the IRT model described above. Due to the partial overlap in the two teacher questionnaires, some indices can be reported for all teachers, others only for test language teachers or only for non-test language teachers.

An overview of all derived variables is shown in Table 16.112. The table also includes information as to which of the two versions of the Teacher Questionnaires was used to administer the question. Each derived variable will be described in the following: the first section covers all simple questionnaire indices, the second section covers those that are based on IRT scaling.

*Table 16.112: Derived variables in the optional PISA 2018 Teacher Questionnaire*

### **Simple questionnaire indices**

#### ***Employment status***

Question TC005 in the Teacher Questionnaire asked about the employment status of teachers in terms of full-time or part-time employment (full-time/part-time more than 70%/part-time more than 50%/part-time 50% or less). It was used to build the derived variable EMPLTIM, indicating the employment time of teachers.

#### ***Teacher education***

The Teacher Questionnaire addressed two questions about teachers' initial education and professional development. This included a question if a teacher education or training programme was completed (TC014, yes/no). TC015 asked about how the teacher qualification was received. Response options included "Standard teacher education or training programme", "In-service teacher education or training programme", "Work-based teacher education or training programme", "Training in another pedagogical profession", or "Other". These two questions (TC014, TC015) were used to build the derived variables OTT1 (Originally trained teachers, broad definition) and OTT2 (Originally trained teachers, strict definition). The strict definition implies that a teacher had intended to be trained as a teacher from the very beginning of his or her career and has finished a "standard teacher education or training programme at an <educational institute which is eligible to educate or train teachers>". In the less strict

definition, the teacher has finished any of the following three programmes: either a “standard teacher education or training programme at an <educational institute which is eligible to educate or train teachers>” (option 1 in TC015), an “in-service teacher education or training programme” (option 2) or a “work-based teacher education or training programme” (option 3 in TC015).

TC018 enquired about the specific subjects that were included in the teacher’s education or training programme or other professional qualification and asked if the respondents taught these subjects to the national modal grade for 15-year olds in the current school year. The derived variables NTEACH1 to NTEACH 11 reflect whether the teacher was trained to teach a certain subject. The same question is used to build the derived variables STTMG1 to STTMG11, indicating the subject-specific overlap between initial education and teaching the modal grade, i.e. whether a teacher currently teaches a certain subject combined with whether it was included in the teacher’s initial training.

COBN\_T is based on question TC186 which asks about the country a teacher is born in, coded into the following categories: (1) “Country of test” and (2) “Other country”. COBN\_T gives detailed categories of teachers’ original countries of birth within a country.

### **Derived variables based on IRT Scaling**

The PISA 2018 Teacher Questionnaires provided data for 22 scaled indices which will be presented along with their item content and item parameters in the following sections. Tables 16.113 and 16.114 contain the scale reliabilities (Cronbach’s Alpha coefficients) for all participating OECD and partner countries and economies, respectively.

*Table 16.113: Scale reliabilities for all derived variables in the Teacher Questionnaire in OECD countries*

*Table 16.114: Scale reliabilities for all derived variables in the Teacher Questionnaire in partner countries and economies*

### **Educational resources**

In parallel to the questions addressing shortage of educational resources in the School Questionnaire (SC017), teachers were asked whether their school’s capacity to provide instruction is hindered (TC028) due to staff shortage (TCSTAFFSHORT) or shortage of educational resources (TCEDUSHORT). The four-point Likert scale ranged from “Not at all”, “Very little”, to “To some extent”, to “A lot”. Tables 16.115 and 16.116 show the item wording and international item parameters for TCSTAFFSHORT and TCEDUSHORT, respectively.

*Table 16.115: Item parameters for Teacher's view on staff shortage (TCSTAFFSHORT)*

*Table 16.116: Item parameters for Teacher's view on educational material shortage (TCEDUSHORT)*

### **Teaching and test language teacher collaboration**

Test language teacher collaboration (COLT) was assessed asking about teachers’ agreement on a four-point Likert scale ranging from “Strongly disagree“, “Disagree“, “Agree” to “Strongly agree” regarding different aspects of cooperation (TC031). In a slightly different

form, with focus on science, this question and scale were part of PISA 2015. Table 16.117 shows the item wording and international item parameters for COLT.

*Table 16.117: Item parameters for Test language teacher collaboration (COLT)*

TC046 addressed teaching-related co-operation using items like “teaching jointly” or “exchanging teaching materials”. Teachers were asked to rate these activities with the following response categories “Never”, “Once a year or less”, “2-4 times a year”, “5-10 times a year”, “1-3 times a month”, and “Once a week or more”. The derived variable EXCHT indicates exchange and co-ordination for teaching. Table 16.118 shows the item wording and international item parameters for EXCHT.

*Table 16.118: Item parameters for Exchange and co-ordination for teaching (EXCHT)*

### ***Job satisfaction and school leadership***

Question TC198 asks about teachers’ job satisfaction. Based on four items each, two scales were constructed, indicating the teachers’ satisfaction with the current job environment (SATJOB) and satisfaction with the teaching profession (SATTEACH), respectively. The four-point Likert scale ranged from “Strongly agree”, “Agree”, “Disagree”, to “Strongly disagree”. The derived variable “Satisfaction with the current job environment” (SATJOB) was scaled using the items TC198Q05HA, TC198Q07HA, TC198Q09HA, and TC198Q10HA. The derived variable “Satisfaction with teaching profession” (SATTEACH) was scaled using the four items TC198Q01HA, TC198Q02HA, and TC198Q04HA (reverse-coded), TC198Q06HA (reverse-coded). Tables 16.119 and 16.120 show the item wording and international item parameters for SATJOB and SATTEACH, respectively.

*Table 16.119: Item parameters for Teacher's satisfaction with the current job environment (SATJOB)*

*Table 16.120: Item parameters for Teacher's satisfaction with teaching profession (SATTEACH)*

### ***Teacher self-efficacy***

The Teacher Questionnaire also addressed teachers’ self-efficacy (TC199). Three scales are constructed based on the items in this question: (1) SEFFCM, the teacher’s self-efficacy in classroom-management; (2) SEFFREL, the teacher’s self-efficacy in maintaining positive relations with students, and (3) SEFFINS, the teacher’s self-efficacy in instructional settings. Teachers were asked to rate their agreement with different statements on a four-point Likert scale with the response options “Not at all”, “To some extent”, “Quite a bit”, and “A lot”. Tables 16.121 to 16.123 show the item wording and international item parameters for SEFFCM, SEFFREL and SEFFINS, respectively.

*Table 16.121: Item parameters for Teacher's self-efficacy in classroom management (SEFFCM)*

*Table 16.122: Item parameters for Teacher's self-efficacy in maintaining positive relations with students (SEFFREL)*

*Table 16.123: Item parameters for Teacher's self-efficacy in instructional settings (SEFFINS)*

### **Reading encouragement**

TCOTLCOMP is a new scale in PISA 2018. The scale is based on four items in question TC155 capturing opportunities to learn (OTL) focusing on reading comprehension. It asks about the frequency of OTL, ranging from “Never or almost never”, “Some lessons”, “Many lessons”, to “Every lesson or almost every lesson”. Table 16.124 shows the item wording and international item parameters for TCOTLCOMP.

*Table 16.124: Item parameters for Opportunity to learn (OTL) aspects of reading comprehension (TCOTLCOMP)*

The Test Language Questionnaire contains two questions on how teachers promote reading strategies, TC156 and TC157. Two different scales were built from these questions: TCSTIMREAD on teacher’s stimulation of reading engagement and TCSTRATREAD on teacher’s initiation of reading strategies. TCSTIMREAD consists of four items addressing teachers’ stimulation of reading and teaching strategies in the test language lessons. It asks about the frequency on a four-point Likert scale, ranging from “Never or hardly never”, “In some lessons”, “In most lessons” to “In all lessons”. TCSTRATREAD consists of four items addressing the development of students’ reading comprehension skills and strategies initiated by the teacher. It asks about the frequency on a four-point Likert scale, varying from “Never or almost never”, “Once or twice a month”, “Once or twice a week”, to “Every day or almost every day”. Tables 16.125 and 16.126 show the item wording and international item parameters for TCSTIMREAD and TCSTRATREAD, respectively.

*Table 16.125: Item parameters for Teacher's stimulation of reading engagement (TCSTIMREAD)*

*Table 16.126: Item parameters for Teacher's initiation of reading strategies (TCSTRATREAD)*

The scale TCICTUSE measures a teacher’s use of specific ICT applications (TC169). It is adapted from ICILS 2013. The scale is composed of 14 items (all used for scaling) using a four-point Likert scale ranging from “Never”, “In some lessons”, “In most lessons”, to “In every or almost every lesson”. Table 16.127 shows the item wording and international item parameters for TCICTUSE.

*Table 16.127: Item parameters for Teacher's use of specific ICT applications (TCICTUSE)*

The scale TCDISCLIMA consists of 5 items asking about the disciplinary classroom climate in the test language lessons (TC170). Response categories on a four-point Likert scale vary from “Every lesson”, “Most lessons”, “Some lessons”, to “Never or hardly ever”. This scale is new to PISA 2018. A parallel question is included in the Student Questionnaire (ST097). Table 16.128 shows the item wording and international item parameters for TCDISCLIMA.

*Table 16.128: Item parameters for Disciplinary climate in test language classes (TCDISCLIMA)*

The scale TCDIRINS which is new to PISA 2018 is based on four items asking about teachers' direct instruction in the test language lessons (TC171). Response categories on a four-point Likert scale vary from "Every lesson", "Most lessons", "Some lessons" to "Never or hardly ever". A parallel question is included in the Student Questionnaire (ST102). For scaling, all of the items were reverse-coded. Table 16.129 shows the item wording and international item parameters for TCDIRINS.

*Table 16.129: Item parameters for Direct teacher's instruction (TCDIRINS)*

The scale FEEDBACK is based on question TC192 which asks about the frequency in which the teacher provides different kinds of feedback to students. The items use a four-point Likert scale ranging from "Never or almost never", "Some lessons", "Many lessons", to "Every lesson or almost every lesson". Table 16.130 shows the item wording and international item parameters for FEEDBACK.

*Table 16.130: Item parameters for Feedback provided by the teachers (FEEDBACK)*

### ***Adaptive instruction and feedback***

The Test Language Questionnaire contained an adapted question with 9 items on situations in the text language lesson (TC202). Response categories on a four-point Likert scale range from "Never or almost never", "Some lessons", "Many lessons", to "Every lesson or almost every lesson". Two scales were constructed based on the items in this question. The scale ADAPTINSTR informs about the adaptivity of instruction in the test language lessons. For this scale, items TC202Q01HA, TC202Q02HA, TC202Q03HA and TC202Q04HA were used. The FEEDBINSTR in the questionnaire for test language teachers is the same as the FEEDBACK in the questionnaire for general teachers. FEEDBINSTR is based on items TC202Q05HA, TC202Q06HA, TC202Q07HA, TC202Q08HA and TC202Q09HA. Tables 16.131 and 16.132 show the item wording and international item parameters for ADAPTINSTR and FEEDBINSTR, respectively.

*Table 16.131: Item parameters for Adaptivity of instruction in test language lessons (ADAPTINSTR)*

*Table 16.132: Item parameters for Feedback provided by the teachers (FEEDBINSTR)*

### ***Teachers and multiculturalism***

In the Teacher Questionnaire, there were four questions addressing multiculturalism resulting in four scales on this topic: TCATTIMM (TC196) on teachers' attitudes toward equal rights for immigrants, GCTRAIN (TC206) on whether a teacher has received training/education to teach effectively in multicultural environments, TCMCEG on teachers' multicultural and egalitarian beliefs (TC208), GCSELF on teachers' self-efficacy in multicultural environments (TC209).

Question TC196 is new to PISA 2018. It is comparable to questions of the International Civic and Citizenship Education Study (ICSS) (see Schulz, Ainley & Fraillon, 2011). The response format is a

four-point Likert scale with the response categories “Strongly disagree”, “Disagree”, “Agree”, “Strongly Agree”. TCATTIMM is based on all four items in TC196. Table 16.133 shows the item wording and international item parameters for TCATTIMM.

*Table 16.133: Item parameters for Teacher's attitudes towards immigrants (TCATTIMM)*

Question TC206 is new to PISA 2018. The response format is dichotomous with the response categories “Yes” and “No”. GCTRAIN is based on all five items in TC206 which have been reverse-coded before scaling. Table 16.134 shows the item wording and international item parameters for GCTRAIN.

*Table 16.134: Item parameters for Teacher's training on global competence (GCTRAIN)*

Question TC208 was adapted from Hachfeld, Hahn, Schroeder, Anders, Stanat and Kunter (2011). In the PISA 2018 version of this question, teachers are asked to what extent the statements in the items reflect an opinion shared among their colleagues. The response format is a four-point Likert scale with options ranging from “Shared among none or almost none of the teachers”, “Shared among some of the teachers”, “Shared among many of the teachers”, to “Shared among all or almost all of the teachers”. The original scale is two-dimensional. However, the two intended dimensions “Multicultural beliefs” and “Egalitarian beliefs” could not be separated empirically with the PISA 2018 Field Test data. As a result, the scale was shortened to consist of only four items that proved to be one-dimensional (TCMCEG) while covering both facets of the original instrument. Table 16.135 shows the item wording and international item parameters for TCMCEG.

*Table 16.135: Item parameters for Teachers' multicultural and egalitarian beliefs (TCMCEG)*

Question TC209 is new to PISA 2018. It provides information about a teacher’s self-efficacy in multicultural environments. It is adapted from a scale developed by Schachner (2014). The response format is a four-point Likert-scale with the response categories “Strongly disagree”, “Disagree”, “Agree”, “Strongly agree”. Table 16.136 shows the item wording and international item parameters for GCSELF.

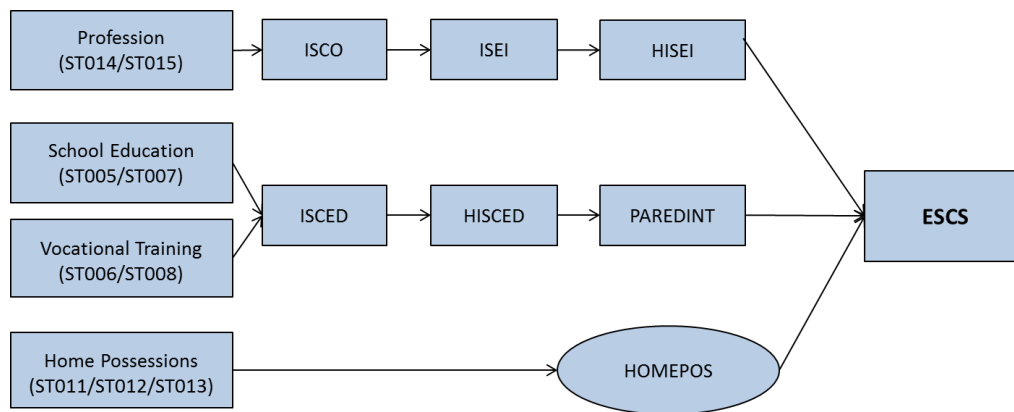
*Table 16.136: Item parameters for Teacher's self-efficacy in multicultural environments (GCSELF)*

## THE PISA INDEX OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STATUS (ESCS)

### Computation of ESCS

The ESCS is a composite score based on three indicators: highest parental occupation (HISEI), parental education (PAREDINT), and home possessions (HOMEPOS) including books in the home (see description of these three derived variables above). The rationale for using these three components was that the socio-economic status has usually been seen as based on education, occupational status and income. As no direct income measure has been available from the PISA data, the existence of household items has been used as a proxy for family wealth. Figure 16.4 provides a schematic representation of the ESCS and its indicators.

Figure 16.4: Computation of ESCS in PISA 2018



Note: ISCO: International Standard Classification of Occupations; ISEI: occupational status of mother and father; HISEI: highest parental occupational status; ISCED: International Standard Classification of Education; HISCED: Highest education of parents; PARED: Index for highest parental education in years of schooling; HOMEPOS: Index of home possessions (WLE); ESCS: Index of economic, social and cultural status.

For students with missing data on one out of the three components, the missing variable was imputed. Regression on the other two variables was used by country to predict the third (missing) variable, and a random component was added to the predicted value. If there were missing data on more than one component, ESCS was not computed and a missing value was assigned for ESCS. After imputation, all three components were standardised for OECD countries and partner countries/economies with an OECD mean of zero and a standard deviation of one.

In PISA 2018, the ESCS was constructed as the arithmetic mean of the three indicators after their imputation and standardization (Avvisati, 2020). In previous cycles, the ESCS was constructed based on a principal component analysis (PCA) as the component score for the first principal component. However, analysis has shown that factor loadings are quite similar across countries and components. Consequently, the decision was made to set equal arbitrary factor loadings. Each component is assigned the factor loading 1. The theoretical eigenvalue in such a case equals 3 as the eigenvalue is the sum of all squared factor loadings. Using factor loadings of 1 and an eigenvalue of 3 in the usual formula for the computation of ESCS equals the computation of ESCS as mean of all three components.

Please note that in cycles prior to PISA 2015, the PCA was based on OECD countries only. For partner countries/economies, ESCS scores were simple indices using standardised imputed variables, fixed factor scores from PCA across OECD countries, and the eigenvalue of the first principal component (please see PISA 2012 Technical Report). In PISA 2015 and 2018, the ESCS was based on all OECD and partner countries/economies concurrently. Thus, all countries and economies contributed equally to the estimation of ESCS scores. However, for the purpose of reporting, the ESCS scale has been transformed to have a mean of 0 and a standard deviation of 1 across senate-weighted OECD countries.



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