

ANNOUNCEMENT

IERI Autumn Academy

November 16 – 18, 2011

Radisson Blu Hotel Olümpia

Tallinn, Estonia

Item Response Theory in Large Scale Assessments

Instructors: Frank Rijmen and Eugenio Gonzalez, Educational Testing Service

The 2011 IERI Autumn Academy will be held in Tallinn, Estonia, and hosted by the Estonian Ministry of Education and Research. The general topic will be the use of Item Response Theory (IRT) in large-scale assessments. The goal of the Academy is to familiarize participants with the topics described below and enable them to use commercially available software to conduct appropriate IRT analysis.

Format

The Academy is targeted to participants with little or no knowledge in the area of IRT. The Academy will be limited to 25 participants. Participants will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. Participants of the Academy are expected to have knowledge of statistical analysis techniques and must bring their own laptop computer (PC-compatible only). Demonstration versions of the software for the hands-on training will be distributed to the participants during the Academy.

The schedule will consist of presentations and hands-on practical assignments. Sessions on November 16-17 will start promptly at 9:00 and finish at 17:15. On November 18, sessions will finish at 15:00.

Registration is 300 Euros if received by October 15, and 350 Euros after that date (Registration for students is 250 Euros. Proof of student status must be provided at the time of registration.) Participants are expected to cover their own travel and accommodation costs. **A set of rooms has been set aside at the Radisson Blu hotel at a rate of 70 Euros per night, including breakfast.** Course requirements and the final agenda will be sent upon receipt of registration and payment. **REGISTRATION WILL BE AVAILABLE STARTING SEPTEMBER 2, 2011.** For more information on the Academy or IERI, please write to us (ierinstitute@iea-dpc.de) or visit us at www.IERInstitute.org.

Topics

This Academy will cover basic topics related to classical test theory and IRT. It will also train participants on the use of IRT software to conduct analysis that involve calculating item parameters and person scores. It will review advantages and disadvantages of different IRT models currently in use as well as procedures for setting up data to be analyzed with IRT software. The topics covered will be the following:

- Basics of survey instrument design
 - Test design

- Questionnaire design
- Classical item analysis
- Basic principles of IRT
 - Models
 - Estimating item parameters
 - Estimating person scores
- Linking scales
- Choosing a metric
- Using IRT for attitude and other background scales
- Principles of population modeling
 - Estimating population parameters
 - Multiple populations
 - Latent regression
 - Plausible values
- Hands-on use of IRT software for large-scale assessments
 - Using Parscale
 - DESI / DGROUP