1. THE GOAL OF NABC

The goal of the National ABC studies is to assess whether students are able to use their knowledge and skills in real life situations and gain further information – and not to assess the level of student success in internalizing factual knowledge set by the curriculum. The assessment tests therefore do not measure curricular requirements, but rather how well students can activate what they have learned and can use them in problems relating to everyday situations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The characteristics of NABC and PISA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NABC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Customer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Target group</td>
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<tr>
<td>Target fields</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sample</td>
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<td>Frequency</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level of feedback</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

2. MILESTONES

- 2003: 20 students from every school (6th grade)
- 2004: 20 students from each track from each school (10th grade)
- 2005: 20 students from every school (6th, 8th grade)
- 2006: 20 students from each track from each school (10th grade)
- 2007: every student from a sample of 200 schools (6th grade)
- 2008: Measurement of NABC were introduced, school reports became public.

3. THE SYSTEM OF NABC

- Every pupil assessed in grades 6th, 8th and 10th
- National tests in literacy and numeracy
- Individual student identification number used
- Background data collected on students and schools
- Centralised scoring of tests at national level by the national managing agency (Educational Authority)
- Reporting at four levels:
  - National level (for the public and decision-makers)
  - Local level (to every maintainers)
  - School level (to every school)
  - Pupil level (to every school and parent)
- Test booklets:
  - 45 minute long clusters with approximately 30 items,
  - 2 reading and 2 mathematics clusters,
  - 2 booklet types, with the same items, the order of clusters changed,
  - Some items are used in more grades to allow the construction of a common scale for Grades 6-10,
  - Reliability (Cronbach’s Alpha) is above 0.89 for each domain in each year.

4. YEARLY REPORTS

Final databases:
- Ability scores,
- Background indexes,
- Student and school weights and bootstrap replicate weights are available for researchers upon request.

Reports:
- FIT reports (maintainer, school and school sites reports) in pdf format
- FIT software – used by school sites, schools and maintainers for further analysis of the data
- Student reports – accessible online by students, their parents and teachers
- Item characteristics reports released on 27th February
- Country report released before 31st May

5. THE EFFECTS OF NABC

Regulations force schools to continually evaluate their scores:
- The Public Education Act has an amendment that makes it obligatory for lower achieving schools to make provisions;
- The Act pronounces that among other things the annual quality control documents must be based on the assessment data.

REFERENCES

NABC as a good practice (ELINET) http://www.eli-net.eu/fileadmin/ELINET/Redaktion/user_upload/FINAL_EDITING_144.PDF
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