I. WHAT IS TESE?

The thesaurus for education systems in Europe (TESE – 2009 edition) is a multilingual controlled vocabulary – a carefully selected list of words called descriptors – on education systems in Europe. It is designed by the Eurydice network as an indexing tool for all European providers of education information. Among current users who have integrated TESE into their information systems are the libraries and documentation centres of European universities, Ministries of Education, national education agencies, academic staff trade unions and other education-related organisations.

The 2009 edition of TESE is available in 15 language versions: Czech, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Italian, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Spanish and Turkish. The Latvian version is currently being prepared.

You can download TESE for free in xml, pdf and csv format and use it for your own indexation needs, provided that the source is acknowledged (reference to TESE and Eurydice) and that it is not used for commercial purposes:


What is Eurydice?

The Eurydice Network provides information on and analyses of European education systems and policies. It consists of 35 national units based in all 31 countries participating in the EU’s Lifelong Learning programme (EU Member States, EEA countries and Turkey) and is coordinated and managed by the EU Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) in Brussels, which drafts its publications and databases.

All Eurydice publications are available free of charge at

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/education/eurydice
II. WHY USE A THESAURUS?

Information retrieval – Organisation of Web Content – Glossary – Translation Tool

To date, a thesaurus is the most powerful tool available to systematically structure information because it ensures that the same terminology is used consistently across an information retrieval system. For an information seeker, a search by descriptor involves selecting relevant terms from the controlled vocabulary list to find information on a specific topic. Unlike google-like keyword searching, which will retrieve records that match user language to words contained in a text and involve guess-work and trial-and-error searching, a search by descriptor guarantees more precise and relevant results. This is because the use of one specific descriptor from a controlled vocabulary should retrieve all relevant records indexed under the topic described by that descriptor. In addition, embedded associative and hierarchical relationships may point researchers to further pertinent results. That is why thesauri are highly appreciated by information specialists – librarians, documentalists, archivists, and web managers alike.

The multilingual advantage: TESE is now available in 15 languages. Its multilingual nature adds to the general advantages of thesauri listed above because it provides the potential to search in preferred languages and retrieve original texts regardless of the source language. In addition, it makes the comparison of descriptors in different languages possible at the click of a mouse. Endowed with numerous scope notes and definitions, the thesaurus therefore extends its usefulness beyond the field of information retrieval, to assist in translation and work with specific terminology in the covered field.

III. WHY A NEW EDITION?

Language evolves within its societal context and a thesaurus must reflect these linguistic changes in order to maintain its usefulness. In parallel, the field of education is evolving faster than at any other point in history. Education systems in Europe, for example, have undergone many changes in the recent past due to factors such as the development of the knowledge society, the rapid growth of information and communication technologies, and the impact of globalisation and convergent education reform processes in Europe. This second edition of TESE has been carefully designed to reflect these latest developments in European educational policies and systems.

History and development of the thesaurus

The Eurydice Network has been involved in the development of education thesaurus since 1981, when the European Commission signed an agreement with the Council of Europe to jointly finance and develop a thesaurus on education. This 2009 edition of TESE managed by Eurydice is thus the continuation of a long process in thesaurus design and development and the result of intensive collaboration between international experts in education, thesaurus development, knowledge management, languages, information science and terminology.

The European Education Thesaurus (TESE) is managed by the Eurydice Network on behalf of the European Commission with the support of international partners. The Eurydice Network is an Agency of the European Commission. It is the central information resource on education in Europe and it works towards the development of educational policies and systems through the exchange of information and good practices, and the promotion of a common understanding of the European educational landscape. It manages the Eurydice Network database on education policies and systems, and the Eurydice Network database on education statistics and research. It also manages the European Education Database (EURED), a European education database which contains information on education policies and systems in Europe, and the Eurydice Network database on education statistics and research.

It was established in accordance with ISO guidelines 2788-1986 and 5964-1985.

Other thesauri influential in the development of TESE were the European Education Thesaurus, the Eurovoc Thesaurus, the ERIC Thesaurus and the Unesco/IBE Thesaurus.
IV. HOW IS TESE STRUCTURED?

Basic structure

TESE arranges its descriptors using a two-tier classification system: fundamental facets and microthesauri.

Fundamental facets form the highest classification level and are broadly defined concept categories of education policies and systems in Europe.

Contained within facets are microthesauri, broad subject groups, which in turn contain clusters of hierarchically structured descriptors that belong to the same topic.

The four Flat lists contain terms that belong to specific subject groups that, unlike microthesauri, cannot be hierarchically structured. These are geographical entities, information sources, proper names and auxiliary descriptors.

Descriptors

Descriptors are hierarchically structured and make reference to:

- MT – MicroThesaurus
- BT – Broader Term
- NT1 – First level Narrower Term
- NT2 – Second level Narrower Term

Associative relationships

Relationships between descriptors are made explicit.

- RT – Related Term
  - Example: quality of education
    - RT evaluation
    - RT quality of education

Non-descriptors

Each language version of TESE contains a variable amount of non-descriptors (ND) referring to the preferred term (i.e. synonyms, homonyms, etc. that an information seeker may use).

Scope notes and definitions

Scope Notes and definitions (SN) of terms are provided where applicable:

- + NT1 duration of school year
  - NT1 evidence-based policy
  - SN: A policy of which the effectiveness has been demonstrated by extensive research.
- + NT1 free
  - UF evidence-based education
- + NT1 language
  - UF evidence-informed policy
Equivalence relationships

All language equivalents to any given term are conveniently presented to the right of the individual descriptor presentation pages as shown in the example below.

**Presentation of descriptor: “generalist teacher”**

generalist teacher [5 search results]
MT (11)
SN: Teachers qualified to teach all subjects at the educational level for which they are qualified.
UF: non-specialist teacher
BT: teacher [99 search results]

cs: učitel univerzálista
de: Lehrer ohne Fachspezialisierung
e: κατάρτισης γενικής κατηγορίας
ea: profesor generalista
et: klassipietaja
fi: yleisopettaja
fr: enseignant généraliste
it: docente generalista
lt: universalus mokytojas
nl: niet-vakleerkracht
pl: nauczyciel przedmiotów zaliczonych
pt: Professor generalista
ro: profesor generalist
tr: genel kültür öğretmeni

**TESE display**

All terms are accessible through Alphabatical, Rotated and Systematic displays.

**Alphabetical Display**

general education qualification
USE general education certification
general education
USE general education + high

generalist teacher
MT (11)

**Rotated Display**

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Association for Teacher Education candidate teacher USE trainee class teacher USE form teacher European Network on Teacher Education + form teacher (MT 11)
generalist teacher (MT 11)
in-service teacher training (MT initial teacher education) initial teacher training USE newly qualified teacher USE qualification non-qualified teacher (MT 11)

**Systematic Display**

teaching staff
. . NT1 assistant
. . NT1 substitute staff
. . NT1 teacher
. . NT2 form teacher
. . NT2 generalist teacher
. . NT2 headteacher
. . . . . . RT evaluation by headteachers (09)
. . . . . . RT evaluation of headteachers (09)
. . . . . . RT managerial staff
. . . . NT2 non-qualified teacher
. . . . NT2 qualified teacher
. . . . NT2 semi-specialist teacher
. . . . NT2 SEN teacher
. . . . NT2 specialist teacher
. . . . NT2 trainee teacher
. . . . RT retired teacher
. . . . RT teacher education (02)
. . . . RT teacher transfer (04)
. . . . RT teaching profession
. . . NT1 trainer
. . . NT1 tutor
. . . . . . . . . . . . . RT individualised teaching (08)

For more information, visit our website at http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/education/eurydice


Full presentation:

(You can choose your preferred language version in the left hand screen.)