IMS EUROPE
Shaping the Educational Ecosystem in Europe

Introduction

All over the world, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is used more and more for collaboration and communication within education. All the different technology systems should work together in a so-called edtech ecosystem. Within this ecosystem, interoperability allows for communication among disparate and independent software systems making it easier to share data. Seamless interoperability requires agreement on the content of the information to be exchanged, its significance, and the applicable technologies. Sometimes, such agreements are between two organisations, but more often, they apply to an entire sector or a specific generic type of application. In that case, they are called standards or specifications. Ideally, a standard is an open standard, meaning that it is not supplier-dependent or proprietary.

Using standards enables data to be exchanged securely, reliably, and in a predictable agreed-upon manner, which benefits the quality of the exchange. It is also more economical and efficient to create and maintain a single interface and to avoid supplier lock-in, where an institution becomes dependent on a single supplier's proprietary technology and has difficulty changing suppliers or using other products with that technology.

Realizing the full benefits of open standards requires widespread adoption; application interfaces are simplified when as many parties as possible commit to the standards. Therefore, suppliers of educational systems should develop their products in compliance with open standards, and educational institutions should require open standards in the procurement process of new ICT services and software.

About IMS Global Learning Consortium

IMS Global Learning Consortium is a non-profit, member-based collaborative with a mission to improve the learning experience for students, teachers, and administrators through better technology. The members of IMS are edtech suppliers, universities, schools, and government organizations. Together, they form IMS Global's influential community, which provides leadership on the development and adoption of open interoperability standards to create the edtech ecosystem.

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> As evidenced by growing IMS membership and strong leadership in IMS activities from European institutions and educational technology suppliers, the edtech community in Europe is instrumental in supporting the evolution and adoption of open standards."
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> —**Rob Abel, Ed.D.**, CEO, IMS Global Learning Consortium
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How Does IMS Work?

Standards development is led by member-based working groups from all over the world, depending on need and interest. Both suppliers and educational institutions participate in these project groups to define requirements, develop institutional best practices, and "how-to" documentation, as well as guide the priorities of IMS technical work.

IMS Europe Board

Because education is mostly regional, IMS works with its members to tailor the work for regional use. Since 2018, the IMS Europe Leadership Board has been the entity within IMS that drives efforts in Europe. The main focus areas of the IMS Europe Leadership Board are:

Technical Work

Ensuring the needs and interests of European members are met in IMS specifications by initiating European project groups and task forces to document local (European) functional requirements and use cases and ensuring effective representation to shape future developments.

Awareness

Increasing awareness and adoption of IMS standards in Europe by holding an annual IMS Summit on European soil, producing information and materials specifically for the European educational marketplace, presenting about IMS at relevant European conferences, and establishing long-term partnerships with European suppliers and institutions engaged in developing edtech systems.

Community

Creating and fostering a community among European suppliers and institutions, focusing on experience sharing, use case gathering, and the interoperability first principle.

IMS Europe Board Members

IMS Contributing Member organizations that are located in Europe or have a substantial part of their activity in Europe are eligible to become part of the IMS Europe Leadership Board. Visit the **IMS website** at **www.imsglobal.org/ims-global** for an actual overview of the current members of the IMS Europe Board. Currently, edtech suppliers, educational institutes, national research and educational cooperatives and councils comprise the IMS Europe Board.

IMS Contributing Members interested in participating on the IMS Europe Board should contact Nynke de Boer, IMS Europe Program Director, at ndeboer@imsglobal.org.

Become an IMS Europe Member

Today, IMS Global has over 560 members across 22 countries. IMS members (depending on their membership level) participate in any, and all of the aspects of the IMS work—from standards development to adoption of edtech innovation to large-scale deployment of technology to achieve learning impact, i.e., improving access, affordability, and quality of learning. Learn more about IMS membership levels and how to join at **www.imsglobal.org/join**.

IMS has three membership levels:

Contributing
Voting member; provides leadership to any and all IMS initiatives and technical work.

Affiliate
Non-voting member; participates in development network only across most of IMS technical work.

Alliance
Non-voting member; participates in development network only focused on a specific subset of IMS technical work.

IMS GLOBAL
Learning Consortium
Better Learning From Better Learning Technology*

About IMS Standards

IMS has published a broad range of learning technology standards available under a royalty-free license. They are housed in five initiatives that enable educational institutions to fully leverage the benefits of digital technology now and in the future:

ADAPTIVE DIGITAL CURRICULUM

Packaging learning content from different sources and streamlining the management of digital resources saves valuable instruction time and provides greater choice and flexibility that leads to better learning experiences.

AccessForAll®
Common Cartridge®
EPUB for Education
OpenVideo

DIGITAL CREDENTIALS & PATHWAYS

Digital credentials are reshaping the way we think about education and professional development by enabling lifelong learner-control of their evidence-based skills and achievements and supporting the transition to standards-based and competency-based learning.

Competencies and Academic Standards Exchange® (CASE®)
Comprehensive Learner Record (CLR)
Open Badges
PIVOT Project

INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT

High-quality innovative digital assessment that is accessible, adaptive, and safeguarded for integrity, complements the teaching and learning process, enabling effective interventions and continuous improvement.

Accessible Portable Item Protocol®(APIP®)
Computer Adaptive Testing
Proctoring Services
Question and Test Interoperability® (QTI®)

LEARNING DATA & ANALYTICS

Clickstream learning data from all digital resources—available in real-time and viewable using any dashboard—can help inform student success strategies, institutional academic decisions, instructional design, and provides a common data format for research on student learning.

Caliper Analytics®
OneRoster®
Privacy and Security

LEARNING PLATFORMS, APPS, AND TOOLS

Scalable, seamless, and secure integration of all digital content, learning tools, and assessment products into an institution's digital learning environment is the most effective way to support next generation teaching and learning.

App Vetting and Privacy
Learning Tools Interoperability® (LTI®)
LTI Advantage
LTI Resource Search

Why are IMS standards essential? Why does this matter to the European Education Sector?

Using IMS standards allows the seamless, secure, and reliable exchange of data. It is also important to agree on terminology, as often, various terms can describe the same thing in the education sector. IMS standards are crucial in the creation of a future-proof, flexible, and personal learning environment. For example, teachers and students are more likely to use technologies that seamlessly integrate into their workflow and lives. IMS Europe's goal is to meet the needs and interests of European members in interoperability standard developments.

Where can I find more information?

You can find more detailed information, including technical specifications of all IMS standards and the IMS Security Framework at **www.imsglobal.org**. Publicly released standards are free to download and free to use. Some resources are available to IMS members only and require a member login to access. You can find the initiatives that are specifically for Europe, as well as use cases of current European members at **https://www.imsglobal.org/ims-global**.