



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Organisation  
des Nations Unies  
pour l'éducation,  
la science et la culture

Organización  
de las Naciones Unidas  
para la Educación,  
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация  
Объединенных Наций по  
вопросам образования,  
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、  
科学及文化组织

## The Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Public Information

To Secretaries-General  
of National Commissions for UNESCO

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to send you the thirteenth edition of our monthly newsletter (April 2012), informing you of the latest developments of interest to the National Commissions and upcoming major events.

With a view to preparing the regional consultations on the 37 C/4 and 37 C/5 documents, two questionnaires prepared by the Secretariat will be sent (in the six working languages) to Member States and National Commissions before the end of April. The questionnaires, once duly completed, must be sent to the Secretariat within one month's time so that the results may be examined and may serve as a reference for the regional consultations, which are to be held according to the following schedule:

- Africa: Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 6 to 8 June;
- Asia and the Pacific: Thanh Hóa, Viet Nam, from 15 to 18 June;
- Arab States: Muscat, Oman, from 25 to 27 June;
- Europe and North America: Bratislava, Slovakia, from 9 to 13 September;
- Latin America and the Caribbean: Montevideo, Uruguay, from 14 to 16 September.

In accordance with the Executive Board's decision on the establishment of a tripartite working group (composed of representatives of Permanent Delegations, National Commissions and the Secretariat), discussions will take place during the forthcoming regional consultations in order to "produce proposals concerning the remit and terms of reference of the open-ended tripartite working group".

Furthermore, an international conference on Euro-Arab Dialogue will be held on 31 May and 1 June 2012 in Vienna, Austria. The conference will bring together the National Commissions of the two regions as well as international organizations and concerned experts.

### Implementation of the Participation Programme for 2012-2013

The projects received as at 28 February are currently under evaluation by the concerned programme sectors. An intersectoral committee will meet in early May to recommend a first set of projects to the Director-General. However, we wish to draw your attention to the fact that no project may be approved for 2012-2013 for Member States that have not submitted financial reports.

Please note that the deadline for the submission of the financial reports and evaluations is set at 30 April 2012, in accordance with 35 C/Resolution 67 of the General Conference at its 35th session. This rule applies to all projects that received funding under the Participation Programme during previous biennia (including 2010-2011).

We are counting on your cooperation in order to accelerate the approval process and the remittance of funds approved for the start of the biennium.

## **UNESCO Fellowships**

As you know, the UNESCO Fellowships Programme awards and manages fellowships, grants and study trips that aim to contribute to human resource development and the strengthening of national capacities. In accordance with donors and other extrabudgetary sources, a co-sponsored fellowships programme has thus been established.

In the context of the partnership between the L'OREAL Corporate Foundation and UNESCO, 15 fellowships totalling US \$40,000 will be awarded in 2013 to talented young women researchers whose work focuses on the life sciences.

The application period for the 15 international UNESCO-L'Oréal Fellowships began on 12 April 2012 and will end on 15 July 2012. Pursuant to 28 C/Resolution 13.6 adopted by the General Conference at its 28th session, UNESCO regards "the National Commissions as the official channel in Member States for the submission of fellowship applications".

For more information on all UNESCO fellowships programmes please visit our [website](#).

## **36th session of the World Heritage Committee**

The 36th session of the World Heritage Committee will be held in Saint Petersburg from 24 June to 6 July 2012, bringing together the representatives of the 21 States Parties elected to the Committee.

Many National Commissions are actively engaged in the protection of World Heritage in their countries and are involved in the Committee's work. National Commissions are called upon to increase even further their support for this effort to protect Cultural and Natural Heritage for future generations. For more information on the Committee's forthcoming session, please visit the website: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/36COM/>.

## **Third International Congress on TVET**

The Third International Congress on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) will be held from 13 to 16 May 2012 in Shanghai, (China).

The Congress will provide a unique global platform for knowledge sharing on the changing landscape of TVET and aims to reinforce cooperation among partners at all levels and in all relevant disciplines, including the economy, education and development.

In addition to Member States, both intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations as well as other stakeholders will also be invited to participate in the preparation and holding of the event. National Commissions, with their cross-cutting skills, may contribute fully to the work and follow-up of this Congress. For more information on the Congress, please visit: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/themes/education-building-blocks/third-international-congress-on-tvet/> or contact the Section for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (Mr Borhene Chakroun, Chief of Section, [b.chakroun@unesco.org](mailto:b.chakroun@unesco.org), tel.: 33 1 45 68 10 79).

### **Enhancement of the National Commissions' visibility**

We should like to remind you that UNESCO's website for Member States and their National Commissions ([www.unesco.int](http://www.unesco.int)) includes a section dedicated to diffusing online your activities, publications or any other practical information regarding your action. We are counting on you to communicate more about your work through the website.

For example, in connection with the celebration of World Press Freedom Day on 3 May, you are encouraged to send us a summary (three paragraphs and a photograph) of your activity in this area within 24 to 48 hours following this World Day.

### **Future UNESCO publications**

- *Positive Learning: Meeting the Needs of Young People with HIV (YPLHIV) in the Education Sector*

Produced through collaboration between GNP+ and UNESCO, *Positive Learning* provides a set of simple, practical recommendations that are ready to be implemented, in order to guide educators and professionals working with young people affected by HIV, to allow them to develop their personal, social and educational potential.

The book will be published in English in April by the Education Sector, and made available free of charge in digital format. Translation into five other languages is planned.

- *Empowering Persons with Disabilities: State-of-the-Art in Education using ICTs*

Based on five regional reports, this publication addresses the need to develop comprehensive strategies on ICT use in education for persons with disabilities.

It provides a critical assessment and compares accessibility policies in various countries, on the basis of short case studies. The report includes specific recommendations on how ICTs could be used more widely in the methods of educating persons with disabilities.

### **Appointments of Presidents and Secretaries-General of National Commissions (mid-March to mid-April 2012)**

In Mexico, Mr José Ángel Córdoba Villalobos was appointed President, succeeding Mr Alonso Lujambio Irazabal.

In Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mr Somboun Masouvanh was appointed Secretary-General, succeeding Dr Sisamone Sithirajvongsa.

In Burkina Faso, Professor Moussa Ouattara was appointed President, succeeding Professor Joseph Paré.

In Burundi, Mr Nyabenda Salvator was appointed Permanent Secretary, succeeding Mr Aaron Barutwanayo

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Eric Falt

