

Distribution: limited

IFAP-2011/Bureau/XVIII/5



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

27 April 2011
Original: English

**Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme
(Eighteenth Meeting of the Bureau)**

UNESCO House, Paris, Bonvin Building, Room XVI

21-22 February 2011

Final Report

This document is also available at
<http://www.unesco.org/webworld//ifap>

Introduction

The eighteenth meeting of the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme (IFAP) was held at UNESCO House, Paris, Bonvin Building, Room XVI, from 21 to 22 February 2011.

The following Members of the Bureau participated:

Chairperson	Mr Evgeny Kuzmin	Russian Federation
Vice Chairpersons	Mr Dietrich Schüller	Austria
	Mr Khaled Al-Razni	Kuwait
	Mr. Sonny Coloma and H. E. Ms Rora Navarro-Tolentino	The Philippines
Members	Mr Alexandre Brasil da Silva, for Mr Emir José Suaiden and Mr. Rodrigo Abreu	Brazil
	Mr Andrejs Vasiljevs and Ms Dagnija Baltina	Latvia
	Ms Faniyr Rasoarahona and Mr Hangy Lahimasy for Mr Victor Rakoto	Madagascar
Rapporteur*	Mr Kouadio Loukou for Ms Anne-Marie Konan Payne	Côte d'Ivoire

* As the Rapporteur, Ms Anne-Marie Konan Payne, Côte d'Ivoire, did not attend the meeting, upon request of the Bureau the initial draft report was prepared by the Secretariat and finalized by the Members of the Bureau.

The Director-General of UNESCO was represented by Mr. Jānis Kārklīņš, Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information (ADG/CI).

Item – 1 Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chairperson, Mr. Evgeny Kuzmin, who welcomed the participating Bureau Members. The presence of observers (Grenada, Venezuela and Colombia) and NGO representatives was acknowledged.

The new representative of The Philippines was warmly welcomed.

Item – 2 Adoption of the Agenda.

The Chairperson invited comments and proposals regarding the proposed Agenda of the Meeting. An additional agenda item "Preview of Activities of 36 C/5" was proposed by Austria and included as Item 9.

Latvia requested a correction of the typographical error in Item 3 of the provisional Agenda. As there were no further comments, the Agenda was adopted with these revisions.

Item – 3 Adoption of the Report of 17th meeting of Bureau (31 March 2010)

The Chairperson invited comments and proposals regarding the Report. The Report was approved without amendments.

Item – 4 Review of the recommendations of the 6th IFAP Council Session

It was agreed to address in turn each of the recommendations of the 6th IFAP Council Session under the related item in the Adopted Agenda.

Item 5 – Financial situation of IFAP

An overview of the financial situation was provided by the Secretariat. The review indicated an improvement in IFAP's account due to the receipt of the annual contribution from China, funds obtained from the closure of projects and interest gained from the available funds in the special account. This brought the amounts available to US\$ 96,669.51.

The Bureau held the view that the financial statement of IFAP should not only be referred and limited to the IFAP Special Account but should reflect funding derived from UNESCO's Regular budget as well as funds associated with the activities of the National IFAP Committees/communities.

An extensive debate on the roles and responsibilities for the raising of extra-budgetary financing for IFAP ensued. The Meeting concluded that an interdependent relationship exists between the financial situation of IFAP, the visibility of IFAP's work, role and potential, and entire activities of the IFAP Bureau, Council, National IFAP Committees/communities and Secretariat, fund-raising component included. At the international level the key responsibility of fund-raising should be a shared one with the Secretariat, Bureau and Council members, all having obligations for advocating and highlighting IFAP, fostering the development and function of national IFAP communities as well as stimulating national fund-raising activities within Member States. The Bureau, Council and Secretariat should develop together concrete projects and initiatives within IFAP's priority areas as a basis for soliciting extra-budgetary resources from donors in the public and private sector.

Proposals to improve the financial situation of IFAP also included examining how to best use funds in the Special Account to generate additional funds (Latvia) and developing a set of project proposals as a basis for seeking extra-budgetary funding (Kuwait). These proposals were noted by the Bureau.

Item 6 – Visibility of IFAP

The Bureau expressed the view that there was a need to broaden understanding and awareness of the work and role of IFAP as well as the impact that various IFAP initiatives have had. This effort was needed nationally, internationally as well as within UNESCO's Programme Sectors, Administrative Units (such as BSP, BPI, fund raising department, etc.), Field Offices, related Institutes and Chairs.

Bureau Members were of the view that many significant activities and documents undertaken or originated within IFAP and related to IFAP had been organized under the UNESCO banner or implemented by the CI Sector without any attribution or reference to IFAP. While the 5 priorities of IFAP were being addressed, this meant that the contribution of IFAP and its Working Groups went unrecognized. Given the interdependence between visibility and financial support this situation did not bode well for IFAP. There was a need for visual markers such as logos, to better identify IFAP contribution to the Organization's activities, policy documents

and publications. Also, the respective parts of the Regular Programme should be cross referenced to IFAP and its priority areas.

To address these shortcomings the Bureau and Secretariat should develop and implement a clear Action Plan for raising IFAP's visibility at least (at its initial stage of implementation) within and across UNESCO's Programme Sectors. The CI Sector has a key responsibility for enhancing the understanding of IFAP's role in building knowledge societies all over the world.

It was recommended that a publication on successful practices of National IFAP Committees be developed by the Secretariat and Bureau. This would serve to raise visibility of ongoing work, stimulate transnational cooperation between existing national IFAP committees and share the diversity of modalities adopted in response to national specificities. Collaboration between national IFAP committees was crucial for the establishment and functioning of a global IFAP community. The Secretariat indicated that regular communication with Bureau and Council members should be ensured.

Increased outreach to Member States who were not part of the Council would be undertaken and mechanisms for incorporating contributions of Members States such as Poland and Hungary, which while not currently part of the Council, had been past active members, will be put in place. Principal IFAP materials (such as the IFAP Strategic Plan and others) should be published and strategically disseminated to all Member States (Austria). Building links with national bodies such as UNESCO National Commissions and Permanent Delegations was important to build understanding and uptake of IFAP in countries where committees currently do not exist (Kuwait).

Item 7 – Cooperation with National IFAP Committees

The debate on this agenda item revealed that there is limited data available on the presence and activities of National IFAP Committees as previous survey had a response rate of around 35%. While a critical mass of National IFAP Committees exists in Eastern Europe, efforts are needed to support the development of these bodies in other regions. The survey points to variations across National IFAP Committees, for example, while some committees were active and had expertise in each of IFAP's 5 priority areas others had less technical breadth. The size and member composition also differed considerably. To foster existing and new committees, national personalities would need to be engaged and a range of expertise drawn from government, the private sector and civil society. This would allow National IFAP Committees to adequately address the integrity and complexity of knowledge society issues by having experts with complementary expertise.

A National IFAP Committee should exist in each Member State elected to the IFAP Council. Where this is not feasible, a minimum requirement of a list of national experts is to be met.

Assistance to Azerbaijan Ministry of Culture and Tourism was provided by IFAP Chairperson to create IFAP national committee in Azerbaijan. The committee was established in 2011, and its Statutes was approved by Azeri Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Bureau Members were requested to provide reports on efforts undertaken to establish committees in their countries and respective sub-regions.

Brazil and Kuwait were requested to host regional meetings of National IFAP Committees in LAC and in Arabic counties to share best practices and stimulate creation of new national IFAP bodies and assist the existing ones.

IFAP Chairperson will send a request to the Brazilian and Kuwaiti Delegations and their respective National Commissions in this regard.

Item 8 – Reports by IFAP Bureau Chair and Members on IFAP Working Groups on their respective activities in 2010 and plans for 2011-2012

The Chairperson presented a report on his activities to implement, promote and strengthen IFAP at international, regional and national level. Active participation of IFAP in the process of preparation of the Draft UNESCO Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 (36 C/5) was organized. Five respective proposals on Information Preservation and Information Literacy were elaborated by IFAP Working Groups in cooperation with the world leading experts, approved by IFAP Bureau and Council and officially submitted to UNESCO Director General on IFAP behalf.

IFAP-IFLA cooperation was established in the sphere of information literacy. In the course of online discussion a Joint IFAP-IFLA Action Plan was elaborated to promote information literacy worldwide.

Presentations on IFAP priorities and projects were made at WSIS Forum, IFLA General Conference and 10 international events in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus.

The Chairperson's report also covered an extensive range of activities initiated by the Russian National IFAP Committee, including governmental consultations with relevant federal ministries and between them to promote IFAP within Russia and worldwide, conferences, seminars, training workshops, publications and analytical surveys on digital preservation and access to official and legal information. Events have been conducted at both national and international levels and served to build credibility and mobilize experts. Successful collaboration with ministries has provided both financial and organizational support to the Russian IFAP Committee's projects.

Working Group on Information Literacy

The WG together with IFLA elaborated a Joint Action Plan that includes proposals on:

- Preparation of Recommendations on promoting information literacy worldwide;
- Elaboration of a long-term strategy to implement and adapt concepts and programmes of information literacy;
- Development of a core curriculum within the National Information Society Policy framework;
- Creation of a set of indicators to assess information skills;
- Organization of a high-level international conference on promoting information literacy worldwide.

An Asia-Pacific meeting of the Asia Pacific Information Network Meeting (APIN) with representatives from 17 countries was held from 23-26 November 2010 under the theme "Information Policy: Accessibility and Media and Information Literacy". The meeting outcomes included: i.) the ratification of the amendments of the 2002 APIN constitution; ii.) the establishment of APIN Regional and National Action Plans for (a) Access to information and (b) Media and information literacy; and iii.) The preparation and dissemination of country papers on Access to information and Media and information literacy.

The Philippines confirmed interest in working with the IFAP Bureau and Council and Secretariat to host an international conference on information literacy in 2012.

Working Group on Information Preservation

The group led by the Austrian representative has been extremely active and provided 4 proposals for 36 C/5 concerning the preparation of a World Report on Information Preservation; Safeguarding the Hidden Documents of Linguistic and Cultural Diversity; Open Source Software for Digital Preservation and Data Management and Promoting International Cooperation in Format Registries.

At the request of this Working Group, the draft "IFLA Manifesto for Digital Libraries" was adopted by the Bureau for submission to the Council before submission to the General Conference of UNESCO for adoption.

Working Group on Information Ethics

The Latvian representative was congratulated on the extensive work carried out in refining the Draft Code of

Ethics for the Information Society. The document has been endorsed by the Bureau for submission to the Council and consequent transmission to the General Conference for consideration at its upcoming 36th session.

The Working Group on Information Accessibility and the Working Group on Information Development

These groups were requested to provide a report on their activities by June 2011.

All Working Groups were requested to submit their Terms of reference and membership details by June 2011.

The Chairperson reminded the Bureau Members to present interim reports every 3 months in accordance with the decision made at the 17th Bureau Meeting.

Item 9 – Preview of Activities of 36 C/5

IFAP's 5 priority areas have been mainstreamed within the draft programme being submitted by the CI Sector to the upcoming session of UNESCO's General Conference. However, concrete proposals of the IFAP Bureau members and IFAP Working Groups intended to be undertaken in the 36 C/5, where feasible, will be proposed for implementation with currently available funding.

Item 10 – Report by Brazil on Draft Proposal for Changes in the Statutes of IFAP

Members of the meeting appreciated the work being undertaken by Brazil and Austria to support the enhanced effectiveness of IFAP through amendments of the Statutes. The debate led to the recognition that implementing the proposed amendment would require also changes to the Rules of Procedure, which can be done only during the meeting of the IFAP Council that is to be held in April 2012. The Bureau decided to complete the discussion of the impact and implications of the changes and seek relevant legal expertise within a 3 month time-frame.

Item 11 – IFAP Activities (projects and events) in 2011-2012

An extensive list of activities to be undertaken in the period 2011 to 2012 was discussed.

The Bureau confirmed its support for the IFAP Observatory run by the Budapest University of Technology and Economics. Efforts to support publication and translation of IFAP materials would be strengthened. Within the coming 3 months, the Bureau would be giving priority to formalizing the Working Groups in those IFAP priority areas, where they do not yet exist.

Bureau Members would seek to play a more prominent role in promoting IFAP through strategic participation in national and regional meetings, engaging with inter-governmental bodies such as ITU and WIPO as well as with professional NGOs in IFAP's fields of competence. Bureau Members would seek to enlarge their role in national extra-budgetary fundraising and work with the Secretariat to develop regional and international project proposals for submission to donors.

Preparations are underway to launch a first-ever meeting in the Caribbean sub-region in June 2011 on the role of IFAP for building knowledge societies in concert with UNESCO's Kingston Cluster Office and the Grenadian Delegation to UNESCO. This initiative is expected to give visibility, strengthen the Programme and stimulate the establishment of National IFAP Committees in the sub-region.

The Secretariat indicated that it would begin identifying resources for implementing proposals submitted under Agenda Item 9. In the coming months the Secretariat will propose a mechanism for implementation of the decision of the IFAP Council on selection and recognition of the best accomplishments or projects of

excellence by National IFAP Committees. An information preservation conference to be organized by the Secretariat is foreseen for 2012. The Secretariat will submit a proposal to the Bureau for activities to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of IFAP and support the creation of a brochure to increase IFAP's visibility.

Efforts should also be undertaken to support more effective development and use of the IFAP website to deliver content to reach key audiences as well as to collect relevant data. Bureau and Council Members will play an active role in contributing content to the website.

The Chairperson announced that the Russian National IFAP Committee will hold the 2nd International Conference on Linguistic Diversity in Cyberspace in summer 2011 in Yakutsk (in cooperation with MAAYA World Network for Linguistic Diversity) as well as an International conference on Preservation of Digital information in autumn 2011 and invited the Bureau to attend these events.

Item 12 - Improving modalities of operation

Members proposed a number of measures which the Bureau agreed to pursue to improve its operations. Council Members would be tasked to create lists of national experts to participate in the working groups (Kuwait). IFAP Briefs would be produced 3 times per year and sent to National Commissions (Austria) and IFAP would pursue stronger collaboration with National Commissions (Latvia). The Action Plan on raising IFAP's visibility (Item 6) should include these activities.

Items 13, 14 & 15 – Media and Information Literacy Indicators; Free and Open Source Software and Open Suite

As part of its efforts to increase IFAP's awareness of its work programme activities and to enhance collaboration and complementarity with IFAP, the Secretariat presented its work in three areas to the Bureau. The Secretariat outlined the objectives of these initiatives, progress and accomplishments to date and future work to be undertaken. The Bureau expressed satisfaction with the presentations and indicated their interest in having further discussions between the project teams and the relevant IFAP Working Groups. It was proposed that these projects be highlighted in the IFAP Briefs and other media outlets as part of an overall effort to raise visibility of ongoing UNESCO initiatives related to the IFAP priorities.

Item 16 - Miscellaneous

The next Bureau Meeting will be held 16 to 17 January 2012. The next Council Meeting will be held 2 to 3 April, 2012. In-line with established practice, a Bureau meeting will be held on 4 April 2012, immediately after the Council Meeting.

Item 17 – Closure

The Bureau and the Secretariat expressed satisfaction with the debates and the conclusions reached. There being no further matters to be discussed the meeting was closed.