Management of Social Transformations Programme

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Social and Human
Sciences

FOOD FOR THOUGHT, THOUGHT FOR ACTION

Division of Social Sciences, Research and Policy

United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization

MOST Phase 2 (2004-2013)

This presentation is structured following the Recommendations of the 6th session of the MOST Intergovernmental Council (February 2003) that re-oriented the Programme after the Evaluation of MOST-Phase I (1994-2003).
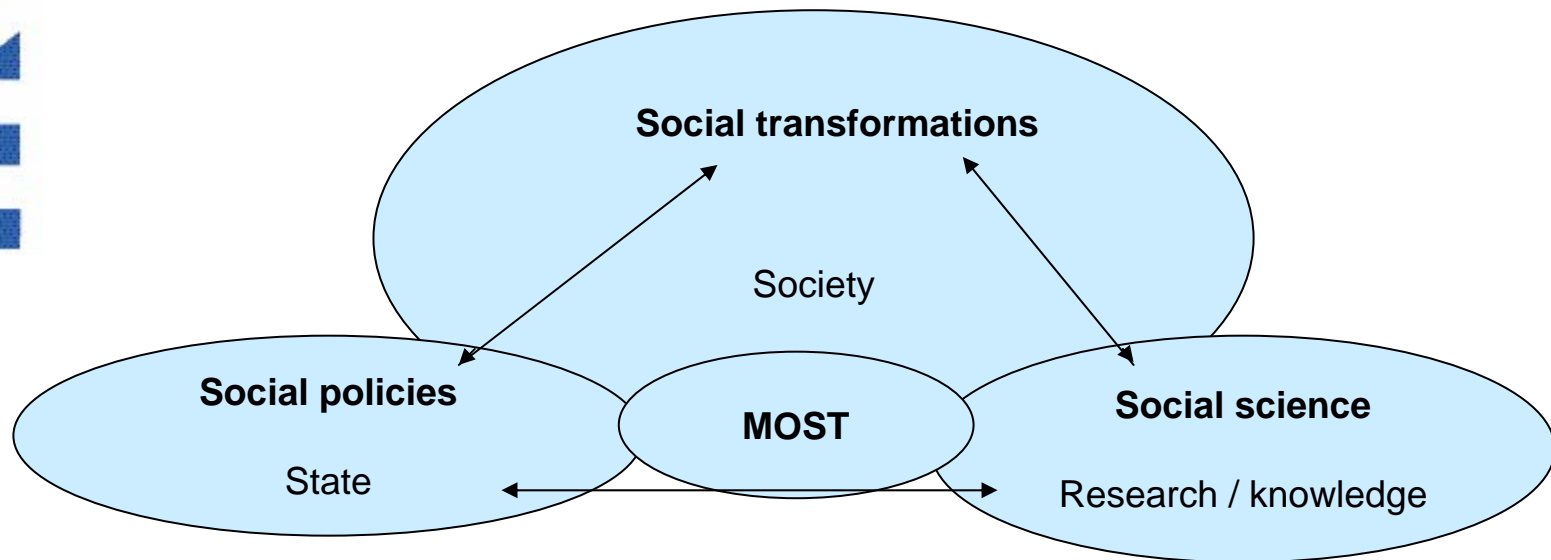
Mission

"MOST will continue to promote the development and use of social science knowledge that contributes to better understanding and management of social transformations consistent with the universal values of justice, freedom, human dignity and sustainable development".

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Goals and priorities:

"Concentrate on the improvement

of the relation between policy-making and social science research"

Social transformations

Society

Social policies

State

MOST

Social science

Research / knowledge

Identified Regional Priority Themes

• Latin America and the Caribbean: Combating Poverty.

• Africa: Regional Integration Processes.

• Arab States: The role of the State in Social Development Policies.

• Asia-Pacific: Human Security.

• Europe, including Eastern/Central Europe: Ageing

• Small Island Developing States (SIDS)—Pacific / Caribbean: Sustainable Social Development.

Enhancing Visibility: Dissemination of Knowledge on the web

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- Clearing house.

- Digital library.

- New Policy Paper Series based on new methodology.

- Policy research tool.

MOST Clearing House and Digital Library

2004-2005: MOST Clearing House up-graded with UNESCO Content management software ('Simplify').

Digital Library hosts 164 MOST research reports indexed in 3 languages according to a policy-sensitive methodology.

Materials include: best practices, books, book reviews, city templates, discussion papers, journal reviews, reports, newsletters, policy papers and working papers.

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New Policy Papers Series & Methodology

New methodology developed:

> Enhanced readability through standard structuring of content; helps produce different types of documents from the same information (Papers, Briefs); easy indexing in data-based tool.

New Policy Papers in French, English and Spanish:

a) Papers based on MOST-Phase I research foci

- **Policies Concerning Rural Labour Migration in China: Challenges and Practical Initiatives.**

- **Institutional Consolidation of the Inter-Municipal Structure CODENOBA.**

- **Illegal Drugs and Human Rights of Peasants and Indigenous People in the Andes.**

b) Papers on new regional priority themes:

- **Politiques contre la pauvreté et citoyenneté sociale: le cas de Chile Solidario.**

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b) Papers on new regional priority themes (continued)

- New Housing Policy in the Lebanon   (under preparation)
- Regional Integration Policies in the ECOWAS (under preparation)

Outreach to other UNESCO Sectors

Methodology facilitating the re-packaging of research results produced by other SHS units and in other UNESCO Sectors.

Alliances to date and Policy Papers under preparation:

- with Cross-Cutting Theme Project Coordinators on Poverty.

- Education:

    - Social Determinants of EFA.

    - Forum for Higher Education, Research and Knowledge.

    - Literacy Initiative for the Excluded (LIFE).

- Natural Sciences:

    - Volga Basin Environmental development.

    - Hydrology for the Environment, Life and Policy (HELP).

Online Policy Research Tool

Based on the afore-mentioned Policy Paper methodology.

Offers speedy access to policy-relevant comparative information:

- To create research profiles based on subject categories, geographical & issue-specific criteria.

- To evidence contexts & issues, policies & programmes, initiatives & recommendations, operational aspects.

Uses content of each section in the Policy Papers as a fully-fledged knowledge item (i.e. a document *per se*):

- To produce customized reports with select content from original documents.

- To compare cases with similar characteristics & assess relevance of the options available.

Coordination and Evaluation

• A review of the structure, operations & impact of the MOST National Liaison Committees (NLCs).

• Exploring the best-suited modalities to strengthen the NLC's platform function for MOST.

• Draft NLC Evaluation Report to be presented to 7th IGC Session for further input and recommendations.

• Exploiting useful synergies between NLCs & UNESCO-UNITWIN Chairs.

Funding and Assessment

MOST online policy research tool allotted high priority within SHS fundraising strategy.

January-June 2005:

- Regular work with professional fundraiser to identify potentially interested donors.

- Finalization of project document and business plan.

July-December 2005: Fundraising missions.