



What are category 2 institutes and centres?

Category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO form an important part of UNESCO's network and are one of the strategic partners covered by the Comprehensive Partnership Strategy of UNESCO (ref.192 EX/5.INF). They represent an effective partnership model for UNESCO's programme delivery, significantly contributing to the Organization's priority areas. In the field of culture, UNESCO works with more than twenty centres, which, through capacity-building, knowledge-sharing and research, provide a valuable and unique contribution to the implementation of UNESCO's strategic programme objectives for the benefit of Member States.

Category 2 institutes and centres are not legally part of the Organization, but are associated with it through formal arrangements approved by the UNESCO General Conference and are committed to engage in supporting UNESCO's strategic programme objectives. They are funded directly by the Member States where they are located, but their scope goes beyond the boundaries of their country. Some are regional or interregional in scope while others are global; they are organized around a thematic issue. Many are involved

in capacity-building and research, while some are set up as foundations or funds to support activities for the benefit of Member States.

Category 2 institutes and centres are encouraged to coordinate and promote synergy with and between existing category 2 institutions working in the same thematic field in order to avoid regional overlaps and to ensure maximum efficiency at the global level.

Global coordination meetings for category 2 institutes and centres under certain UNESCO culture conventions, such as the World Heritage and Intangible Cultural Heritage Conventions, are organized regularly in order to enable an efficient coordination of the activities of the centres and stimulate their ability to contribute effectively to the delivery of UNESCO's strategic programme objectives and expected results. These meetings are opportunities for the centres and institutes to be informed of decisions and directives from UNESCO's governing bodies, to receive updates on sectoral strategic and programmatic developments, to exchange good practices, and to interact between themselves and build networks.

What is the procedure for establishing or renewing a category 2 institute or centre?

The proposal to establish a new category 2 institute or centre under the auspices of UNESCO is made by one or several Member States. The status may be granted to an existing entity or to an institution in the process of being created. The activities of category 2 institutes and centres must be global, regional, subregional or interregional in scope, and should contribute to the achievement of the strategic programme objectives, priorities and themes of the Organization, specifically to UNESCO's programme results at the main lines of action (MLA) level. The proposal is assessed by UNESCO to determine whether a feasibility study should be undertaken. All costs pertaining to the study and other related work shall be borne by the concerned Member State(s) or institution. The Director-General of UNESCO submits the feasibility study and a draft agreement to the Executive Board only once per biennium – at its session immediately preceding the regular session of the General Conference – for its examination. Based on the recommendation by the Executive Board, the General Conference decides on the establishment of a category 2 institute or centre and authorizes the Director-General to conclude an agreement between UNESCO and the government(s) concerned.

The agreement for the establishment of an institute or centre as a category 2 institute shall be concluded for a definite time period, not exceeding six years. The agreement may be renewed subject to an evaluation of the activities of the institute or centre and of its contribution to the Organization. All costs relating to the renewal exercises shall be borne by the concerned Member State(s) or institution. The Director-General presents the results of the evaluation to the Executive Board for its decision as to whether the designation as a category 2 institute or centre under the auspices of UNESCO should be renewed or terminated.

The establishment and renewal of these institutes and centres are governed in conformity with the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy on Category 2 Institutes and Centres, adopted at the thirty-seventh session of the General Conference in 2013 (ref. 37 C/Resolution 93, 37 C/18 Part I and its annex).

The fields of activity of category 2 institutes and centres under the UNESCO Culture Sector should be related to at least one of the fields of competence of the Sector, in particular to the UNESCO culture conventions:

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 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions – 2005
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 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage – 2003
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 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage – 2001
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 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage – 1972
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 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property – 1970
- 

 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict – 1954



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

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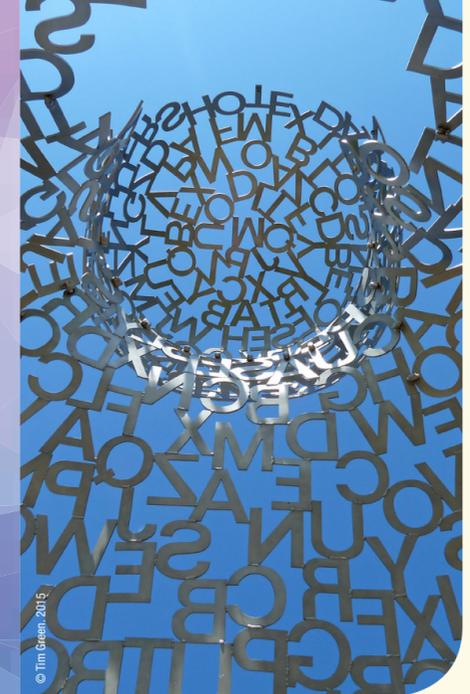


United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Culture Sector

COOPERATION OF Category 2 Institutes and Centres under the auspices of UNESCO

with the
UNESCO CULTURE SECTOR



Guidelines for cooperation

The current framework of UNESCO's cooperation with category 2 institutes and centres is governed by the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres, adopted in 2013 by the UNESCO General Conference (37 C/Resolution 93), based on the recommendations of the Executive Board (document 37C/18 Part I). It provides the Organization's policies and guidelines concerning category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO, as well as specific criteria and procedures on the establishment and renewal of such institutions. Moreover, UNESCO has developed a Culture Sector strategy for category 2 institutes and centres to improve its cooperation with these institutions.

Category 2 institutes and centres must submit to UNESCO a periodic report with information on the contribution of their activities to UNESCO's strategic programme objectives and priorities as well as expected sectoral results, performed under and pursuant to the scope of the agreement signed with UNESCO.

Why does UNESCO need partnerships in culture?

In order to achieve its mission and build **peace and sustainable development**, UNESCO relies on a diverse set of collaborative partnerships. Category 2 institutes and centres, along with other UNESCO strategic partners, play an important role in extending the reach and effectiveness of UNESCO's programme. In the field of culture, they contribute to **protecting, promoting and transmitting our heritage**, as well as to **fostering creativity and the diversity of cultural expressions**, through capacity-building, knowledge-sharing and research.

How do category 2 institutes and centres contribute to UNESCO's work in the field of culture?

Category 2 institutes and centres **extend the reach and effectiveness of UNESCO's programmes and activities in the field of culture**. They contribute directly to the achievement of the strategic programme objectives, priorities and themes of the Organization, and specifically to UNESCO's programme results at the main lines of action (MLA) level.

They serve in their fields of specialization, in particular technical domains, as **international or regional centres and poles of expertise and excellence**.

They provide **services and technical assistance**, such as policy advice, **research, documentation and capacity-building to Member States, cooperation partners and to UNESCO's network of field offices**. In particular, they play an important role as implementing partners, helping UNESCO to achieve its strategic programme objectives.

They act as resource hubs to foster **regional and international collaboration, networking and synergies**, as well as promoting South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation.

List of category 2 institutes and centres related to the UNESCO Culture Sector*

AFRICA

BURKINA FASO
Regional Centre for the Living Arts in Africa (CREAF), Bobo-Dioulasso
★ Diversity of Cultural Expressions

NIGERIA
Institute for African Culture and International Understanding (IACIU), Abeokuta, Ogun State
★ Diversity of Cultural Expressions

SOUTH AFRICA
African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), Johannesburg
● World Cultural and Natural Heritage

ARAB STATES

ALGERIA
Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Africa, Algiers
■ Intangible Cultural Heritage

BAHRAIN
Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH), Manama
● World Cultural and Natural Heritage

JORDAN
International Museum for Women in the Arts (IMWA), Amman
◆ Other programmes

QATAR
Regional Centre for Contemporary Art, Doha
★ Diversity of Cultural Expressions

ASIA & THE PACIFIC

CHINA
International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage (HIST), Beijing
● World Cultural and Natural Heritage
(Intersectoral C2C under the responsibility of the Natural Sciences Sector)

CHINA
International Training Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia and the Pacific Region (CRIHAP), Beijing
■ Intangible Cultural Heritage

CHINA
World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (WHITR-AP), Shanghai
● World Cultural and Natural Heritage

CHINA
International Centre for Creativity and Sustainable Development (ICCS), Beijing
★ Diversity of Cultural Expressions

INDIA
Centre on World Natural Heritage Management and Training for the Asia and Pacific Region (WNHMT), Dehradun
● World Cultural and Natural Heritage

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)
Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, Tehran
■ Intangible Cultural Heritage

JAPAN

International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (IRCI), Sakai
■ Intangible Cultural Heritage

MONGOLIA

International Institute for the Study of Nomadic Civilizations (IISNC), Ulan Bator
◆ Other programmes

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (ICHCAP), Daejeon
■ Intangible Cultural Heritage

EASTERN & CENTRAL EUROPE

BULGARIA

Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe, Sofia
■ Intangible Cultural Heritage

CROATIA

International Centre for Underwater Archaeology, Zadar
▲ Underwater Cultural Heritage

EUROPE & NORTH AMERICA

ICELAND

Vigdís International Centre for Multilingualism and Intercultural Understanding, Reykjavik
★ Diversity of Cultural Expressions

ITALY

International Training and Research Centre on the Economics of Culture and World Heritage Studies (ITRECH), Turin
● World Cultural and Natural Heritage

SPAIN

International Centre for Rock Art and the World Heritage Convention, Madrid
● World Cultural and Natural Heritage

LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

BRAZIL

Regional Heritage Management Training Centre "Lucio Costa", Rio de Janeiro
● World Cultural and Natural Heritage
■ Intangible Cultural Heritage

COLOMBIA

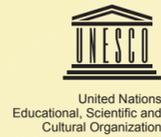
Regional Centre for Book Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (CERLALC), Bogotá
★ Diversity of Cultural Expressions

MEXICO

Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas, Zacatecas
● World Cultural and Natural Heritage

PERU

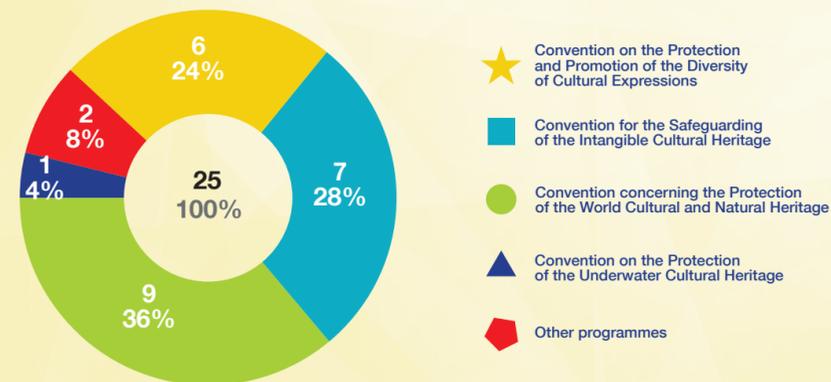
Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Heritage of Latin America (CRESPIAL), Cusco
■ Intangible Cultural Heritage



Culture Sector



Distribution of the 25 UNESCO category 2 institutes and centres related to the Culture Sector by field of activity



Source: UNESCO

"Institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO are centres of excellence with unique expertise. They amplify our messages in societies and regions across the world, and they promote networking and the exchange of information. Through all of this, category 2 centres play a key role in reinforcing UNESCO's impact."

Irina Bokova
Director-General of UNESCO, 2011

The category 2 institutes and centres constitute a unique and valuable network which has the potential to develop and extend the implementation of UNESCO's objectives and programmes, and to strengthen the impact and visibility of its actions.

For more information, please refer to the UNESCO webpage related to category 2 institutes and centres in culture:
<https://en.unesco.org/partnerships/culture/Category-2-Centres>

KEY AREAS OF ACTIVITY

RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS

Through conferences, seminars, exhibitions, festivals and fairs, category 2 institutes and centres aim to raise public awareness and foster a better appreciation of the importance of cultural heritage and diversity. Thus, they contribute to the efficient implementation of the culture conventions and/or priority programmes they are related to by generating a change in behaviour for greater involvement in heritage protection.

CAPACITY-BUILDING

Category 2 institutes and centres carry out training courses and capacity-building workshops, which are vital to enhance the skills and abilities of practitioners, institutions and organizations working for the protection of cultural heritage and diversity.

KNOWLEDGE-SHARING

Through the sharing of information at regional, national and international levels, category 2 institutes and centres enhance mutual understanding of available expertise and resources, and promote relevant programmes to a wider audience. Networking and training programmes are essential to achieve a successful dissemination of knowledge.

NETWORKING

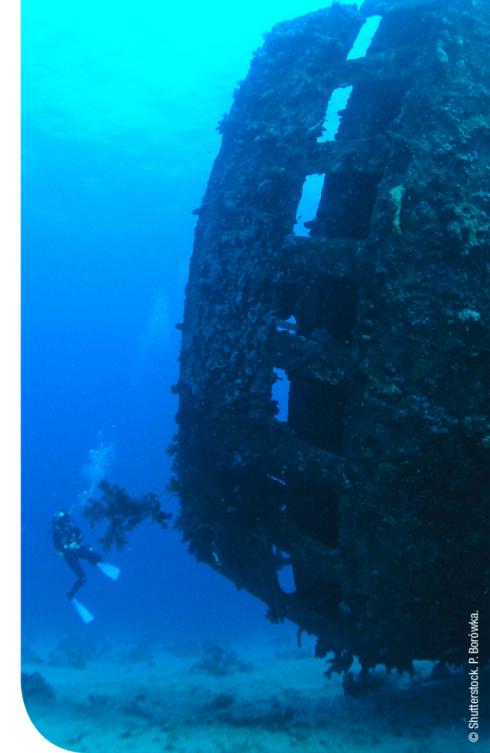
Regional cooperation and networks must be strengthened to enable effective mobilization of all stakeholders and opportunities. The creation of a global network enables the implementation of joint activities in collaboration with partners and target groups, and encourages the flow of information between category 2 institutions related to the field of culture.

RESEARCH

Category 2 institutes and centres carry out various research projects and activities that seek to contribute to the development of a knowledge base and expertise, and generate credible data and statistics in their particular field of specialization. Through research programmes, category 2 institutes and centres also foster the exchange of ideas and the communication of best practices to stakeholders and civil society.

SPECIALIZATION

Category 2 institutes and centres are selected based on their specialization in one of UNESCO's fields of competence related to culture. They can serve as international or regional poles of expertise and excellence in their respective sphere of specialization, and hence represent a valuable resource for the UNESCO Culture Sector.



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* As approved by the UNESCO General Conference; status as of November 2015.