



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# CapEFA News

Highlights of the Capacity Development for Education for All programme

*An extrabudgetary programme created in 2003 with the objective of strengthening national capacities in key areas of education: sector-wide policies and plans, literacy, teachers and skills for the world of work.*

## HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

# Meeting of CapEFA National Coordinators

**B**est practices and a series of discussions on strategies for capacity development for education were the focus of a 3-day meeting at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, attended by 22 national coordinators from both on-going and recently-launched CapEFA country programmes, as well as staff members from the Education Sector, the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP), the UNESCO International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa (IICBA), and the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL).

The event was an opportunity to consolidate the programme's approach, discuss potential improvements and share knowledge between and across CapEFA country programmes and thematic areas. The meeting – the first of such kind in the programme's 10 years of existence – took place between 10 and 12 June 2013 thanks to funding provided by Norway for this specific purpose in addition to its regular contributions to the CapEFA programme. The Assistant Director-General for Education Qian Tang welcomed participants and shared insights on the programme and on UNESCO's current situation and future directions for education. He stressed the relevance of CapEFA to the Organization, highlighting its unique position in strengthening national capacities to accelerate progress towards the EFA goals.



The first session was led by IIEP with a focus on strategies for capacity development targeting the education sector. (©UNESCO/Bruno Mesquita Valle).

The programme builds upon and puts into practice successful principles that were identified and adapted by IIEP in the framework of a wider UNESCO strategy on capacity development for education. The first day was therefore dedicated to these principles and to how they can be best operationalized to address different capacity gaps in various contexts. The next day was focused on practical aspects of the CapEFA programme and a special emphasis was given to gender with a session fully dedicated to mainstreaming gender equality issues in programme activities. Other issues were also discussed, including the creation of synergies with development partners at country level, and the need to anchor interventions within a sustainability strategy to ensure longer-term results and impact, particularly after 2015.

On the third day, participants were divided into groups for more focused and in-depth experience sharing around the four thematic areas of the CapEFA programme. Together with colleagues from Headquarters and the Institutes, the national coordinators shared experiences and discussed shortcomings and solutions to tackle challenges. The meeting was positively evaluated by participants and has triggered many follow-up actions to improve implementation and enhance impact, including the creation of a community of practice that will be a platform for interaction and knowledge sharing between all CapEFA coordinators around the globe.



National coordinators and colleagues from UNESCO Headquarters and Institutes (©UNESCO/Bruno Mesquita Valle).