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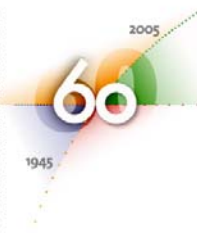
Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

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



Managing Social Transformation

Given the overwhelming changes brought on by globalization and new technologies, UNESCO promotes action aimed to strengthen ties between social research and policy-making.

MOST, created to “manage social transformation,” is the first intergovernmental initiative launched within the United Nations System. From 1994 to 2003, the programme focused on international research. Today it is more focused on improving the programme’s political impact and visibility. The programme works in close relationship with National Committees established in 63 countries. Since 19 October 2005, it is presided by South Africa’s Minister of Social Development, Mr. Zola Skweyiya.



Saint Petersburg, Summer 2005
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POLITICAL IMPACT

The most recent initiative (2004-2013) focuses primarily on the need to link international public action networks to those of researchers and experts. The goal is to make social science research relevant to concrete political issues. Several avenues for action have been defined:

- develop and treat knowledge on social changes according to recognized methods in both the North and South;
- encourage better use of research results in policy development through improved tools;
- guarantee better interaction between research and action by drawing on the scientific and political expertise which abounds at UNESCO;
- increase capacity building in scientific, professional and institutional fields, especially in developing countries.

The following themes are the result of wide ranging consultation among UNESCO’s partners, and will be given particular attention by the new MOST-2 networks which bring together researchers and decision makers:

- Latin America and the Caribbean: *fighting poverty*;
- Africa: *regional integration policies*;
- Arab States: *the role of the State in developing social policies*;
- Asia/Pacific: *human safety*;
- Europe: *ageing societies*;
- Developing Small Island States of the Pacific and Caribbean: *sustainable development*.

MOST seeks new ways to widely distribute information pertinent to target groups including social affairs ministers, regional and local authorities, the media, grass-roots organizations, civil society and the academic community. A series of services and resources was developed to meet their needs.

Launched at the end of spring 2005, the **MOST-2 Digital Library**, is a clearing house for the programme’s publications. A multilingual search engine makes it easy to access documents.

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Member States of the MOST Intergovernmental Council (2005-2007)

Western Europe and North America : Belgium, Finland, Greece, Israel, Italy, Sweden; **Central/Eastern Europe** : Czech Republic, Hungary, Uzbekistan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia ; **Latin America and Caribbean**: Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Peru, Venezuela ; **Asia-Pacific**: Afghanistan, China, Fiji, Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, , Sri Lanka, Thailand ; **Africa** : Cameroon, Congo, Mali, Mozambique, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania ; **Arab States**: Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Oman.

The series of MOST-2 Policy Papers, available in English, French and Spanish, rests on the political analysis and conclusions derived from MOST work and from other scientific output by programme partners.

The Policy Research Tool is a no-fee online policy research service. Users will be able to create individual research profiles and produce customized reports with select content from original documents.

INTERNATIONAL ACTION

At the international level, MOST is involved in several large-scale initiatives. These include the International Forum on the Social Science-Policy Nexus scheduled for February 2006 in Argentina and Uruguay. The Forum will be held simultaneously in four cities – Buenos Aires, Cordoba, Rosario and Montevideo. It aims to understand and analyse five key themes in which social science expertise is indispensable for efficient policy intervention: Global Issues and Dynamics; Social Policies; Urban Policies and Decentralization; Regional Integration Processes; Population and Migration. Representatives of the social science and political communities will gather during the Forum with the aim of finding a common language and shared terms of commitment.

MOST organizes meetings of ministers of social affairs on a regular basis. Following the model established by the “Forum of Ministers of Social Development” currently in its sixth session in Latin America, two similar fora were created in Africa. The first was held in southern Africa in

November 2004 and the second is scheduled for January 2006 in West Africa. A first South Asia Forum is under consideration. This system of interactive apprenticeship between ministers should strengthen horizontal cooperation and foster the following goals:

- promote reflection, consultation and cooperation on social development issues;
- ensure an appropriate setting for research on adequate responses;
- share experiences and best practice methods.

The final goal is to reduce economic and social inequalities.

Contact :

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Policy Papers :
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The International Forum on the Social Science-Policy Nexus (IFSP) to be held in Argentina and Uruguay, from February 20 to 24, 2006:
www.unesco.org/shs/ifsp