



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

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

Report by the Director-General on the execution of the programme (34 C/5) (01 January - 31 December 2008)

Participation Programme

II – Programme-related services
II.B – Participation Programme

Paragraph 09003

Participation Programme

Regular budget: Activities (rounded to \$ thousand)

Planned: \$18 800

Actual: \$9 910

34 C/5 Expected results	Achievements	Challenges/ Lessons learnt	Cost-effectiveness	Sustainability (indicators or measures)	Recommendations by the Executive Board
<p>Formulation, evaluation and follow-up of requests improved in such a way as to enhance complementarity between the activities planned as part of the Programme and Budget and those supported under the Participation Programme, ensuring conformity with the major priorities of the Medium-Term Strategy (C/4) and the Programme and Budget (C/5).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under this programme, 1,450 requests were submitted by 161 Member States and Associate Member States and 65 international non-governmental organizations. Nearly 60% of the requests were admissible since they fulfilled the criteria set forth in 34 C/Resolution 52 and could as a result be evaluated by the Sectors and Services of the Organization. To date 713 requests have been approved, accounting for 75% of the funds allocated to this programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For 40% of the requests, the forms were only partly or inadequately completed: supporting documents were not submitted (for example pro-forma invoices for the purchase of equipment), activities outside the Organization's fields of competence were proposed or requests exceeded the established budgetary ceilings, etc., It was therefore necessary to return these projects to the National Commissions to be reformulated and to obtain essential additional information required by the evaluators. The frequent changes at the head and in the membership of some National Commissions affect the quality of the requests submitted, whether in regard to the requests themselves or the financial and activity reports required after implementation. This situation delays the approval, and consequently the implementation of the requests. A close reading and application of the guidelines contained in the resolution on the Participation Programme would have permitted a substantive improvement in the presentation, evaluation and approval of the requests submitted. 			
<p>Implementation of adjustable strategies to meet the special and urgent needs of certain groups of countries with common characteristics improved.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From the beginning of the biennium, the Director-General, after a preliminary analytical study of the requests received, implemented adjustable strategies based on the category of country to which Member States belonged: least developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The implementation of this strategy has made it possible to respond more fully to the special needs of countries with common characteristics on the basis of 			

34 C/5 Expected results	Achievements	Challenges/ Lessons learnt	Cost-effectiveness	Sustainability (indicators or measures)	Recommendations by the Executive Board
	<p>countries, developing countries, countries in transition, high-population countries, small island developing States, OECD Development Assistance Committee countries and countries with a gross domestic product per capita of more than \$10,000.</p>	<p>budgetary possibilities.</p>			
<p>Transparency of programme execution increased and accountability mechanisms strengthened to ensure improved management, monitoring and flow of information to Member States.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Intersectoral Committee met on five occasions to examine the evaluations made by the Organization's Sectors, Services and Institutes in order to formulate a recommendation to the Director-General. This collegial exercise contributes to the transparency of the implementation of the Participation Programme, as do the analyses and evaluations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the event of failure to comply with accountability obligations (50 Member States are concerned), the payment of funds allocated to new requests approved by the Director-General is discontinued. After a specific deadline, these funds are credited to the Participation Programme to finance requests submitted by the Member States that have complied with the established rules and procedures. Greater transparency at all the stages of a request approval process and stronger accountability mechanisms are expected. Member States, Associate Members and international non-governmental organizations that have not submitted financial and activity reports receive reminders from the Secretariat. Some have been the subject of an audit and must therefore reimburse misused or unspent financial contributions. 			
<p>Improved evaluation of reports on the results of the activities supported and a more effective record-keeping system in place.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action taken after the evaluation of the reports is unequal in quality and often depends on the Sector concerned. While some Sectors merely note the content of the report, others carry out a genuine analysis of the results achieved in relation to the expected results. 				
<p>Image of the Organization and impact of its action enhanced.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The activities carried out have given rise to the promotion and genuine visibility of UNESCO's action in Member States. Photographs, press articles and other media material received in this regard have been used to produce a brochure on success stories in the various regions of the world. 				