



General Conference

38th Session, Paris, 2015

rep

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
للترقية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Report

38 C/REP/24

30 July 2015

English and French only

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INFORMATION FOR ALL PROGRAMME (IFAP) (2014-2015)

OUTLINE

Source: In accordance with Article 10 of the Statutes of the Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme, the Director-General shall submit to the General Conference, through the Executive Board, at each of its sessions, a report on the implementation of the Information for All Programme (paragraph 2) and the Council shall submit through the Executive Board to the General Conference, at each of its sessions, a report on its activities (paragraph 3).

The present document includes these two reports.

PART I – REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INFORMATION FOR ALL PROGRAMME

1. The Information for All Programme (IFAP) was established in 2001 to provide a platform for international policy discussions and guidelines for action in the area of access to information and knowledge; for the participation of all in knowledge societies.
2. The Programme successfully implemented activities in its six priority areas. The IFAP Secretariat has also been involved in aspects of the preparations of the post-2015 international development agenda that intersect with the IFAP priorities. These include *inter alia*, the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) +10 review process, the preparation of the post-2015 WSIS Action Line plans and the post-2015 sustainable development goals.
3. The Secretariat has maintained its support unchanged in terms of human resources to IFAP as in the past biennium. The establishment of new National IFAP Committees and focal points as well as the organization of regional and international events, has contributed to the ongoing improvement of IFAP's visibility.

Implementing projects and events in the priority areas of IFAP

4. UNESCO's international conference, Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism, held in June 2015 was organized in the framework of the Intergovernmental Information for All Programme (IFAP), in partnership with the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC). The event shared experiences on policy interventions, projects and processes to tackle the use of the Internet as a tool for youth extremism and radicalization. The event served to launch a New Integrated Framework for Action aimed at Empowering Youth to Build Peace. The event brought together over 240 diverse stakeholders from some 70 countries.
5. Linkages between IFAP and other UNESCO intergovernmental bodies namely, the International Programme for the Development of Communication, the Management of Social Transformation (MOST) and the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC) continued to be strengthened at the level of the Secretariat and the Bureau. Similar actions have also been taken with UNESCO's expert bodies, particularly the International Bioethics Committee of UNESCO (IBC) and the Committee on the Ethics of Science, Technology and Knowledge (COMEST).
6. Information Accessibility and Information for Development: In June 2014, the IFAP Secretariat published the findings of a one-year long Caribbean study and national consultation process. The study examined such issues as awareness levels, relevant policy and legislative support and the use of free and open source software (FOSS), open data, open education resources and open standards by governments, the private sector, civil society and individuals. The study was realized with the financial support received from UNESCO's Emergency and multi-donor fund. While most Caribbean countries and territories have national ICT policies, few of them contain any explicit reference to FOSS and Open Solutions. The study served to sensitize several ongoing policy-reviews to the need and benefits of Open Solutions, which, in turn, is paving the way for their incorporation into the national frameworks and strategies.
7. In May 2014, UNESCO hosted the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Open Consultations and the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) meetings which contributed to enhancing cooperation between the IGF and UNESCO Secretariat. As a follow-up, UNESCO participated in the ninth Internet Governance Forum on "Connecting Continents for Enhanced Multistakeholder Internet Governance", held in Istanbul, in September 2014. UNESCO co-organized with its partners some 12 sessions, including the High-Level Leader's Meeting. UNESCO's interventions reinforced and raised the visibility of ongoing actions in the six IFAP priority areas and identified new areas for collaboration.

8. The first ever high-level conference to examine how ICT can promote the human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities was held in New Delhi from 24 to 26 November, 2015. Organized by UNESCO and the Government of India, the conference, “From Exclusion to Empowerment: Role of ICT for Persons with Disabilities”, brought together some 1,000 persons including persons with disabilities, policy-makers, experts as well as representatives from civil society and the IT industry. During a special IFAP session, the Inclusive Learning Lab (I2L) concept, which focuses on creating dynamic, inclusive and accessible spaces for formal and informal learning, was presented.

9. With financial support received from the Zain mobile telecom company a series of workshops were held in South Sudan in July 2014 under the Youth-Mobile Initiative. This innovative project seeks to empower youth with the skills to develop smart mobile apps for sustainable development. Similar training activities were also undertaken in Kenya in August 2014. To inform the projects’ future planning, and as inputs to national policy frameworks, comprehensive assessments of mobile training initiatives have been conducted in Nigeria and Lebanon. Youth-mobile continues to emphasize a gender-balanced approach with around 45% female beneficiaries.

10. Information literacy and information preservation: In partnership with Electronic Information for Libraries (EIFL) and the Kenyan National Libraries Services (KNLS), the UNESCO Regional Office in Nairobi organized a national capacity-building workshop to enhance the ICT and e-literacy skills of national librarians. This training event attracted librarians from 29 public libraries that currently provide public access to computers and Internet in Kenya. The event served to enhance public librarians’ information and communications technologies (ICTs) and e-literacy skills, in order to make better use of ICTs for new public library services and to better meet the community needs.

11. Following damage to the main library during a hurricane, the documentary records of the National Archives of Grenada were endangered. With the financial support of IFAP, government staff and local volunteers were trained in inventorying the archives, in relocating them to more favourable locations, in protecting them from termites and humidity as well as in acquiring equipment to support the digitization of the archives. The availability of digital access to these records is paving the way for more extensive consultation, including scholarly research.

12. A number of training programmes for information professionals have been organized in Africa, Arab States and Asia with the Memory of the World Programme. In South Sudan, innovative and specialized capacity-building programmes adapted to local needs have been developed. These include hybrid capacity-building programmes in Preservation and Access to Information through Digitization of information and Provision of Access to Open Educational Resources.

13. Information ethics: The Programme contributed to raising awareness, supporting debate, as well as the dissemination of research and tools for policy-makers. With the United Nations University (UNU), the IFAP Secretariat co-chaired the session track on Transparency, Accountability and Ethics during the eighth international conference on the Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance which was organized in Guimaraes, Portugal. This annual event, which focuses on the role of technologies in supporting good governance, and sustainable national development, attracts a majority of participants from developing countries. The event provided an opportunity to present UNESCO’s work on the development of policy tools and to obtain inputs to UNESCO’s *Internet Related Study: Access, Free Expression, Privacy and Ethics*.

14. During the biennium, UNESCO organized the annual Facilitation Meetings for the WSIS C10 Action Line – Ethical Dimensions of the Information Society during the WSIS Forum in Geneva. In May 2014, the event was held under the theme “Information Ecologies: Social Transformations, Ethics and Policy”, focusing on major trends in information ecosystems, and their implications for social transformations. The meeting discussed the capabilities and resources policy-makers and other stakeholders need to support collaborative and effective interventions. In line with the emphasis on building closer linkages between the WSIS Actions and the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals, the event organized in 2015 untitled “Making the Link – Information Ethics for

Sustainable Development”, emphasized the role of education and policy in the implementation of the post-2015 international action plan. The debates during the event provided important insights for IFAP’s future actions.

Improving visibility and supporting fundraising for IFAP

15. The UNESCO IFAP website and the IFAP Observatory continue to be constantly updated. Improvements have been made to the Observatory’s online user interfaces and search tools to enhance the site’s user-friendliness. A blog on information society topics continues to be maintained (<http://ifap-is-observatory.ittk.hu/>) and the quarterly electronic newsletter and other resources disseminated to institutional and individual subscribers.

16. To increase IFAP’s visibility and improve its impacts for fund-raising, the Secretariat has regularly disseminated information on IFAP and its activities and developed proposals in the priority areas. As of June 2015, the Programme received over half a million dollars in direct financial contributions. IFAP has also benefited from a variety of in-kind contributions by Member States, including *inter alia*, the organization of national, regional and international events; the translation of IFAP documents and reports; the waiver of import taxes on equipment imported for IFAP projects; the defraying of travel and accommodation costs for participants attending events organized in the framework of IFAP.

17. A special report highlighting selected major activities undertaken during the period 2008 – 2013 was published in English and French. The IFAP Report has been promoted through social media channels, with promotional videos in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Spanish and Russian. Copies of the report have been disseminated to key audiences at important international and regional events, such as the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) Forum and the Internet Governance Forum (IGF).

Fostering National IFAP Committees and reinforcing regional cooperation

18. The Secretariat continues to encourage participation – both physical and virtual – in international and regional IFAP events. Field offices have increased their outreach and support to existing and newly established IFAP structures in Africa, Asia as well as Latin America and the Caribbean.

19. New National IFAP Committees or National Focal Points have been, or are being, established in Gabon, the Dominican Republic, San Salvador, South Africa and Thailand. In addition, UNESCO Offices in Beijing, Cairo, Harare, Nairobi, Tehran and San Jose continue to play key roles in supporting cooperation with National IFAP Committees or Focal Points in the countries they cover.

20. In conjunction with the newly established National IFAP Committee in South Africa, UNESCO’s Regional Office in Harare organized four capacity-building workshops for policy-makers in Lesotho, Namibia, Mozambique and Swaziland, as well as a regional event that attracted policy-makers, academics and UNESCO National Commissions from 14 countries.

21. UNESCO’s Regional Offices in Nairobi and Bangkok have been instrumental in promoting the use of IFAP’s “National Information Society Policy: A template” in their countries. Regional capacity-building workshops in the use of this policy resource have been conducted in Uganda and Myanmar, in conjunction with the United Nations University. Follow-up national workshops have also been undertaken in South Sudan and Djibouti.

22. During the present biennium, the Secretariat organized one session of the Council in May 2014, and two meetings of the Bureau (May 2014 and March 2015). The total budget for the organization of these meetings was covered by the Regular Programme.

23. The Secretariat has kept NGO partners constantly informed of IFAP's activities by inviting them to the Council meetings as observers and by collaborating with them to develop projects and activities aligned with the decisions of the Council and Bureau.

Cooperating with the IFAP Council and Bureau

24. The Secretariat has worked closely with the Bureau to organize international events, mobilize resources, develop partnerships and raise the visibility of the Programme.

25. Examples of this collaboration include the fundraising, preparation and organization at UNESCO's Headquarters of the international conference *Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism*. IFAP has been closely involved as a key partner in the development of the *Internet Related Study: Access, Free Expression, Privacy and Ethics* and the related conference entitled *CONNECTing the Dots: Options for Future Actions*. The IFAP network provided guidance during the development of the study, supported awareness-raising, provided inputs to the global questionnaire and participated in various panels during the conference.

26. There continues to be marked and sustained recognition of IFAP as a platform for convening stakeholders and developing synergies across its priority areas. This is being realized in cooperation with UNESCO's members and partners, as well as with a wide range of major stakeholders operating in the areas covered by the Programme. IFAP has been making steady strides in attracting both direct and in-kind resources from Member States, highlighting recognition of the relevance of IFAP and its increasing contribution to global development goals. The Director-General is encouraged by the growing responsiveness to the Executive Board call to Member States to "strengthen their participation and contribution to IFAP" (191 EX/Decision 41) and invites Member States to further increase their extra-budgetary contributions to this Programme. The Director-General also expresses her appreciation to the IFAP Bureau and Council members for their efforts to strengthen IFAP, namely through effective fund-raising activities in support to IFAP activities.

PART II – REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL FOR THE INFORMATION FOR ALL PROGRAMME ON ITS ACTIVITIES

I. Introduction

The Information for All Programme (IFAP) has the mandate to "... be a key participant in the fulfilment of UNESCO's mandate to contribute to "education for all", to the "free exchange of ideas and knowledge" and to "increase the means of communication between ... peoples". Since its creation, it has provided a recognized platform for international policy discussions, cooperation and the development of guidelines for action in the area of access to information and knowledge.

II. Self-assessment process

At its 37th session, by 37 C/Resolution 96, UNESCO's General Conference decided to conduct a self-assessment of Intergovernmental programmes and subsidiary bodies, with a view to harnessing their potential for greater synergy, harmonization, efficiency and impact. During the eighth session of the IFAP Intergovernmental Council held at UNESCO Headquarters on 19 and 20 May 2014, the External Auditor provided an overview of the self-assessment process. Council members recognized the importance of this exercise as well as its potential to improve IFAP's efficiency, effectiveness, impact and visibility. On this basis, it was agreed that the Bureau would lead the self-assessment process and regularly update the IFAP Council on the process being followed. Accordingly, all members of the IFAP Council, but also Member States non-members of the Council, were invited to actively participate in this process.

Contribution to the organization of international conferences

IFAP contributed to the organization of international conferences, and the relevant recommendations and action plan will be integrated into UNESCO's Regular Programme activities, both at Headquarters and in field offices.

- IFAP supported the organization of the international conference held under the theme “From Exclusion to Empowerment: Role of ICTs for Persons with Disabilities” (24-26 November 2014 in New Delhi, India). The IFAP expert panel session, moderated by the Chair of the IFAP Council, helped to identify partners who could be involved in building a working prototype based on the concept of the interactive Inclusive Learning Lab (i2Lab).
- IFAP contributed to the conference: CONNECTing the Dots: Options for Future Action, (UNESCO, 3-4 March, 2015). IFAP Council members contributed to the UNESCO survey on Internet-related Issues and discussed it during the eighth session of the IFAP Council. Given IFAP's role within UNESCO, its priorities and involvement in the consultations on the concept note on Internet-related issues, IFAP was associated to the conference as one of the partners. Accordingly, IFAP Council Chair participated in the high-level governmental dialogue that took place during the conference. Council members were also actively involved in the conference as panellists, discussants or rapporteurs, and they supported the drafting of the outcome document adopted by the conference.
- The International Conference on “Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism” was initiated by IFAP, following the Eighth session of its intergovernmental Council underlining the need to work more actively with and for young people.

The conference helped better understand the role of the Internet as a recruitment tool for extremism and radicalization, to craft effective tools to encounter this phenomenon, and to explore options in moving forward. The new integrated Framework of Action – Empowering Youth to Build Peace that will guide and support UNESCO's action in addressing the challenges of radicalization and extremism amongst youth was launched in the framework of the Conference.

III. Participation in international meetings and conferences

IFAP Council and Bureau were represented in several meetings, which provided an opportunity to make a presentation of IFAP priority areas and activities, as well as to network with the participants and to explore possible areas and options for cooperation, helping to raise IFAP's visibility including the following events:

- UNESCO's International Bio-ethics Committee (IBC) meeting, held at UNESCO on 9 and 10 September. IFAP's work is concerned with the evolution of the global societal fabric to shape appropriate responses. IFAP Working Groups on Information Ethics and Information for development were subsequently invited to explore possible joint actions that could be developed in cooperation with the IBC.
- IFAP was represented at the conference on information ethics in Africa under the theme Information Ethics and Digital Opportunities (South Africa, 26-27 March 2015). The IFAP message to participants underscored that such events create forums for discussions and reflections with policy-makers, serving to raise awareness and to shape national strategies that enable African countries to advance the opportunities to build Knowledge Societies.
- The consultative meeting of experts on the UNESCO PERSIST project (UNESCO, 20-21 April 2015) jointly organized with the International Council on Archives (ICA) and the

Netherlands National Commission for UNESCO, sought to explore the establishment of a multi-stakeholder platform for the discussion of digitization practices, digital heritage selection policies, standardization and digital heritage preservation involving all relevant stakeholders.

- The international expert meeting “Language tools for promotion of Arabic language on the Internet and in multi-stakeholder processes” (UNESCO, 22 April 2015) aimed at developing language tools and build institutional capacities with respect to the promotion of Arabic language on the Internet.
- International Conference on ICT and Post-2015 Education (23-25 May 2015 in Qingdao, China), brought together Ministers of Education, ICT industry leaders, experts, policy makers and practitioners as well as representatives of other United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations, ICT companies, and NGOs. The Conference goals sought to create an interface between education and ICT sectors to debate on how ICT can be leveraged at scale to support the achievement of post-2015 education targets. IFAP Chair’s intervention was presented in the Breakout session on Advancing Equity in Education and was marking the constructive cooperation established by IFAP with the Education Sector.
- The conference entitled “ICT for Information Accessibility in Learning-Dissemination” (Latvia, Riga, 27-28 May 2015) was aimed at introducing Guidelines as a tool to support practitioners and organizations involved in providing information for learning and to create accessible materials. During the workshop, participants shared information on easy steps to creating accessible materials as well as to sharing these in different media formats, in addition to information on where work accessibility issues may be relevant or need consideration.

IV. Overview of some of the main activities and projects of IFAP Working Groups and National Committees

The **Information for Development** Working Group has focused on two main activities:

Under the leadership of the IFAP Vice-Chair and Chair of the Information for Development Working Group, an international conference on “Well Being in Digital Media” was organized in Israel. This event, held under UNESCO’s patronage, served to deepen understanding of how the long-term interactions between digital media and individuals and society affect well-being and how these impacts can be assessed. An on-line Forum to support follow-up research and policy work has also been launched.

The **Information Preservation** Working Group’s members have been constantly engaged in initiatives focused on supporting information preservation. Through global conferences and workshops, they have supported exchanges of experience and expertise to lead to greater recognition of the related challenges and to spur further action. In monitoring the situation of information preservation world-wide, the Working Group has identified strategic areas where urgent challenges must be addressed. Consequently, it has provided project proposals in these areas for possible inclusion in UNESCO’s Programme. The twenty-third IFAP Bureau Meeting has approved and funded, in the framework of the project “Magnetic Tape Alert”, the translation of a questionnaire to assess the dimension of audiovisual documents.

The Working Group on **Information Ethics**’ actions and activities were mainly intended to discuss and present an overview of IFAP priority area in this field and to increase the visibility of the issues related to the ethics of information and their horizontal character. In this regard, the organization of several regional meetings, mainly on Internet governance, was promoted. The Chair of the Working Group participated also in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) (Geneva, 25-29 May 2015), in Action Line meetings organized by UNESCO, in particular on the Ethical dimensions of the information society and sustainable development, to bring into the debates on

MLA C10 IFAP's contribution in the preparation of the post-2015 development agenda. Planned future activities include the preparation of conferences on information ethics in the Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Saint Kitts and Nevis.

The **Information Accessibility** Working Group discussed the Global Media Forum (26-28 August 2014, in Bali, Indonesia) a conference that addressed the role of the media in realizing the "Future We Want For All". The overall objective of the event was to contribute to the ongoing international debate about the importance of media and information and communication technologies for peace and sustainable development and to work for the inclusion of a goal acknowledging this in the post-2015 development agenda.

The activities of the Working Group on **Multilingualism in Cyberspace** included the organization of several international meetings, such as the Third international Conference Linguistic and Cultural Diversity in Cyberspace (Yakutsk, Russia, July 2014), the international Expert Meeting on Multilingualism in Cyberspace (UNESCO, October 2014), and the Ugra Global Expert Meeting on Multilingualism in Cyberspace, (Khanty-Mansiysk, Russian Federation, July 2015) organized by the Government of Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug – Ugra, the Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO, the Russian Committee of IFAP and the Interregional Library Cooperation Centre in cooperation with UNESCO and MAAYA World Network for Linguistic Diversity.

Both 2014 meetings adopted important final documents: the Yakutsk Declaration on Linguistic and Cultural Diversity in Cyberspace and the Final Recommendations for the Action Plan of UNESCO's World Atlas of Languages. The event in 2015 was a new step towards promoting linguistic diversity and the presence of all world languages in cyberspace by using modern ICTs and by developing the necessary policy frameworks, standards and tools.

V. Fundraising efforts

The transparent and cooperative self-assessment process and the increased visibility resulting from to the active participation of the Bureau and Council members to International and Regional conferences, as well as the numerous meetings with representatives of Member States and Regional Groups have led to a better understanding of the Programme, thus facilitating greater contributions from members and non-members of the Council to the Programme. These efforts include:

- The generous support of the Republic of Korea for the development of the capacities of policy-makers to utilize the IFAP National Information Society Policy Template, for supporting the assessment of country readiness to participate in and contribute to twenty-first-century societies and economies through the application of the Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Assessment Framework and for enhancing access to inclusive ICT environments, in both formal and non-formal settings, with an emphasis on the integration of persons with disabilities and lifelong learning.
- The support of the Republic of Bulgaria, the People's Republic of China and the Arab Republic of Egypt to the organization of the Conference on Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism.
- The contribution of the People's Republic of China to the IFAP Special Account and the in-kind contribution for the translation of documents, for instance, into Arabic by the Arab Republic of Egypt, into Russian by the IFAP Committee of the Russian Federation, into Spanish by El Salvador, notably regarding the Guidelines for creating National IFAP Committees.

Other indirect contributions provided by Member States to IFAP in 2014-2015, that are not included in this report, will be duly reported to the ninth session of the IFAP Intergovernmental Council in 2016.