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Institutes under the auspices of UNESCO: requirements and opportunities

« Towards Sustainable Societies » Workshop

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Definition

Institutes and centers under the auspices of UNESCO (also known as Category II Institutes) are **autonomous entities** which are **not legally part of the Organization**, but which are associated with it through **formal arrangements** approved by the **General Conference**.



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Purpose

Category II Institutes **contribute to the execution of UNESCO's programme** through, for example :

- capacity-building
- exchange of information in a particular discipline
- theoretical and experimental research
- advanced training

>>demonstrated common interests and objectives



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Establishment

- **Decision by the General Conference**
- **In the past also by the Executive Board, but the procedure is changing**
- **The General Conference last met in October/November 2011 and will meet again in the fall of 2013 (every two years)**



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Association

- **UNESCO and the Category II Institute are formally associated through a formal agreement**
- **The agreement follows a standard format**
- **Category II Institutes are nonetheless legally outside UNESCO**



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Contribution

Category II Institutes should ensure substantial contribution to UNESCO's strategic objectives and programme priorities, as set out in the medium term strategy (C4) and programme and budget (C5)

- >> Sectors are developing strategies**
- >> The Category II Institutes Strategy for the Science Sector is still under development**



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Scope

The Category II Institute's activities should have a global or regional scope.

>> Networking and complementarity among Institutes



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Structure

- **An independent Governing Body, meeting at least once a year**
- **A Director, appointed by relevant authorities (excluding UNESCO's Director General)**



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Representation

- **UNESCO must be represented as a full member of the governing body of the Category II Institute.**
- **Category II Institutes should neither be headed by or employ any UNESCO staff member.**



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Name and logo

- Once approved by the General Conference, the Category II Institute can use the name and logo of UNESCO.
- Category II Institutes' status is referred to as "Institute under the auspices of UNESCO"



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Duration

- **The designation is reviewed every 6 years.**
- **An evaluation is carried out to determine the opportunity of renewal.**
- **The evaluation is accompanied by an audit.**



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Financial contributions and accountability

- **UNESCO may contribute financially to concrete activities or projects of the Category II Institute if these are in line with UNESCO' S programme priorities**
- **UNESCO does not provide financial support for administrative or institutional purposes**



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Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation

- A biannual report must be submitted by the Director of the Institute to UNESCO
- Evaluations may be carried out at any time.
- The evaluation should focus on:
 1. Performance
 2. Excellence
 3. Impact
 4. Relevance



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The Procedure

The procedure includes four steps:

1. Request for action
2. Feasibility study
3. Examination by the Executive Board
4. Decision by the General Conference

Important elements:

- Involvement of UNESCO in all stages
- Financial contribution by the Institutes towards the execution of the above mentioned activities



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1 - Request for action

- It must be presented by the State concerned
- It should include exhaustive information on:
 - objectives and functions of the Institute
 - the Institute's legal status
 - its methods of financing
 - the type of cooperation sought with UNESCO
 - The responsibilities obligations of the State
 - The date of official establishment and location



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2 - Feasibility study

- It is conducted by the Secretariat of UNESCO
- It focuses on:
 1. Relevance
 2. Impact
 3. Results of UNESCO' contribution



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3 - Examination by the Executive Board

- **Based on the draft document**
- **It formulates recommendations to the General Conference**



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4 - Decision by the General Conference

The general Conference authorizes the Director General to sign an agreement with the concerned Member State, upon recognition of functional autonomy and legal capacity of the Institute.



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Category II Institutes in context

- **81 approved Institutes** (before last Executive Board)
- **80% created in the last ten years**
- **50% in the last four years**



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Category II Institutes in context (cont.)

- **39 approved Institutes are in Natural Sciences – the highest number by Sector. Most of them concern water management and research.**
- **27 are in the Asia-Pacific region**



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Any question?

Thank you!

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