Building Knowledge Societies

Mandate and Functions of UNESCO's Information for All Programme

UNESCO's Mandate

"Promote the free flow of ideas by word and image"
"Maintain, increase and spread knowledge"

▼

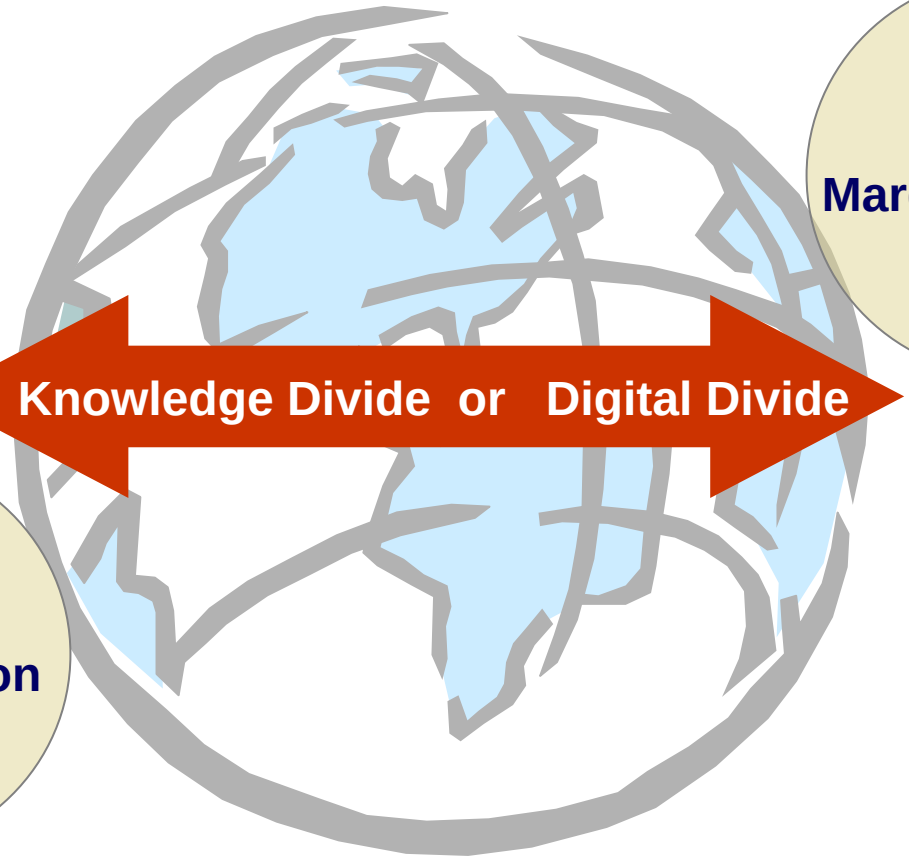
UNESCO: Focus on content

▼

Enhanced UNESCO's relevance
in the information society

Building Knowledge Societies

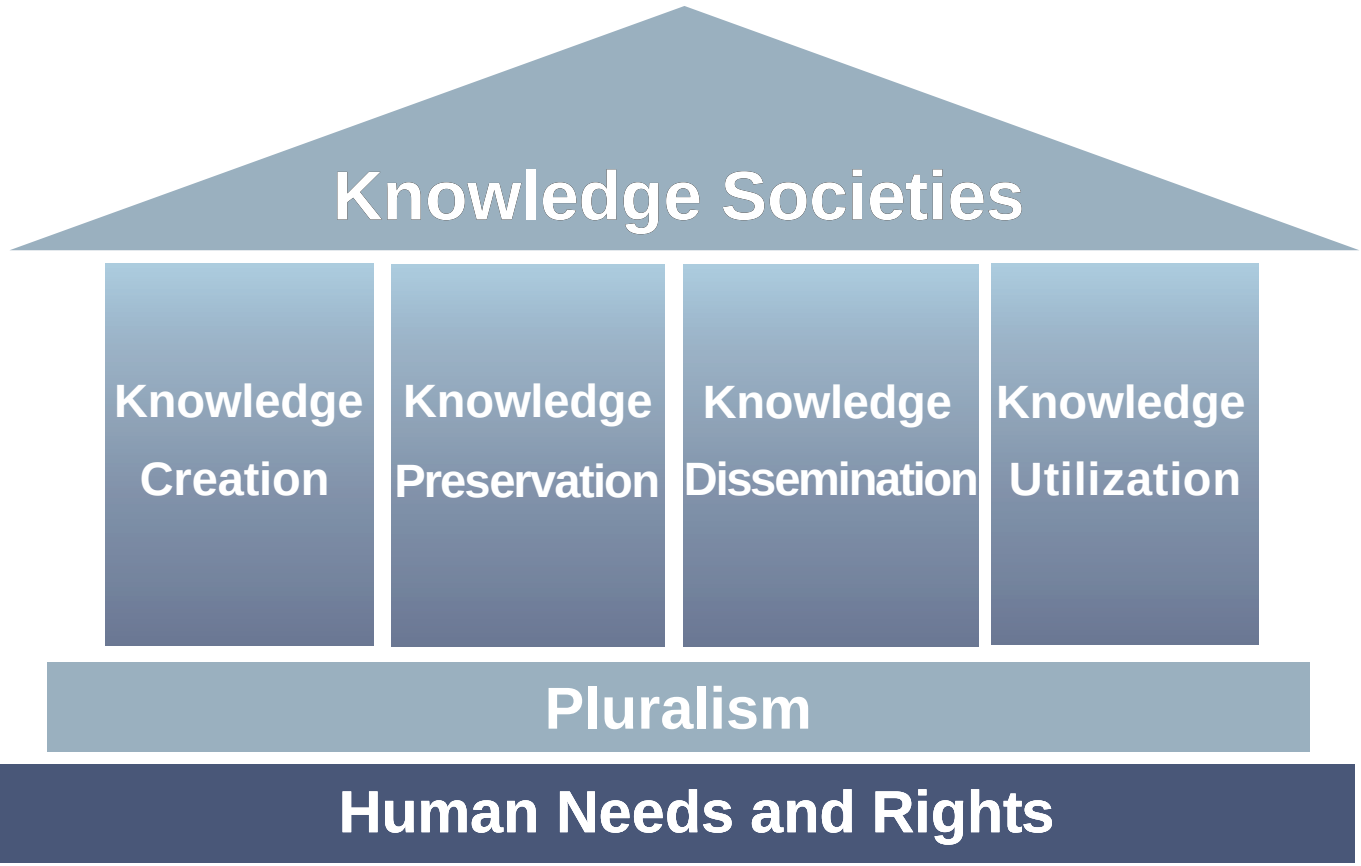
IFAP's Mandate and Functions



Ignorance
Poverty
Marginalization
Exclusion

Knowledge
Prosperity
Globalization
Inclusion

About Knowledge Societies



Content

About Knowledge Societies

What is IFAP?

- Objectives: tackle digital divide, foster access to education, information and knowledge through ICT, adress ethical issues
- Actions : 1. Intergouvernemental Council : policy, recommandations, strategy - 2. Funding of projects
- Areas
- Partners: NGO/IGO, Pressionals (IFLA, ICA, FIAA, ICOM….
- National Committees : 58 in 2005

About Knowledge Societies

- Enhancing information flows and providing infrastructure is insufficient
- Need of a more complex, holistic and comprehensive vision
- Need of a clearly developmental perspective
- Rather «Knowledge societies» than «Information society»

IFAP's Core Principles

- Freedom of expression
- Universal access to information and knowledge
- Cultural and linguistic diversity, and
- Quality education for all

Principles of Knowledge Societies

- **Freedom of Expression**
  Respect for Article 19 of UDHR, freedom of the press, freedom of speech on the Internet

- **Universal access to information and knowledge**
  Infrastructure and connectivity; affordability; information literacy; know-how for use and development; education; free flow of information; public domain

Principles of Knowledge Societies

- **Cultural and linguistic diversity**
  Understanding and respect for other cultures; plurality and diversity of content and languages; importance of locally relevant content

- **Quality education for all**
  Access to education as a fundamental right; education as a tool for combating illiteracy, marginalization, poverty and exclusion

IFAP and Knowledge Societies

- Information for All Programme (IFAP):
  Framework for advancing concept of knowledge societies and for contributing to achieve MDGs
- Established in 2001
- Successor of General Information Programme (PGI) & Intergovernmental Informatics Proramme (IIP)
- Sister to Intergovernmental Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC)
- One of UNESCO's eleven «intergovernmental programmes»

- Uniqueness and influence of intergovernmental nature
- Expert body
- Potential influence at national level using local networks

IFAP – Relation with UNESCO Regular Programme

- UNESCO Regular Programme 2000-2001
- UNESCO Regular Programme 2002-2003
- UNESCO Regular Programme 2004-2005
- UNESCO Regular Programme 2006-2007
- UNESCO Regular Programme 2008-2009

IFAP

IFAP ?

IFAP Methods & Tools

- Establishing a framework for international co-operation and partnerships
- Facilitating reflection and debate (Think tank function , upstream work)
- Developing standards, methods and tools
- Promoting networks
- Acting as a Clearing House
- Initiating pilot projects

IFAP Objectives

- Promote international reflection and debate on ethical, legal and societal challenges of the information society
- Promote and widen access to information in the public domain through the organization, digitization and preservation of information
- Support training, continuing education and lifelong learning in the fields of communication, information and informatics

IFAP Actions

- Support production of local content
- Foster availability of indigenous knowledge through basic literacy and information literacy training;
- Promote use of international standards and best practices in communication, information and informatics
- Promote information and knowledge networking at all levels

IFAP's 3 Priorities

Priority 1:
promote **information literacy** education and information professionals (librarians, archivists…)

Priority 2:
preservation of information

awareness raising

Priority 3:
promote a better understanding of **ethical, legal and societal** implications of ICT

Criteria:
"SMART"objectives ; involvement of local partners ; implication of domain professionnals ; experience and network building

International Priorities:
MDGs (UNO) ; WSIS action plan ; UNESCO Strategy ; technology for education, science, culture and communication

IFAP Special Fund

- Voluntary contributions by Member States
- 2005: 24 projects – US$758,000 – Five regions
- 3 Thematic areas:
  - Information literacy
  - Preservation of Information
  - Ethical, societal and legal issues

IFAP Special Fund

- Project examples
  - Information literacy training for young women leaders in Uganda
  - Post Tsunami assistance for libraries/archives in Sri Lanka
  - Teacher training in ICT ethics in Egypt
  - Preserving languages of the Sahel
  - Training cultural digitisation experts in the Mediterranean : MEDCULT
  - Audiovisual archives in Asia Pacific
  - Access to archives on Human Rights Violations in Indonesia
  - Copyright and related Issues CIS (Russia), Latin American Countries

Partnerships

Why?

- Harmonizing positions and policies
- Creating *multiplier effects* from improved communication and collaboration

With whom?

- International programmes and initiatives within and outside UN (UN ICT Task Force, Infodev, Global Knowledge Partnership, etc.)
- Stakeholder NGOs (IFLA, ICA, IASA)
- Private sector (HP, Microsoft)

National Committees

What?

- Increase awareness of IFAP's purpose to capture imagination and resources
- Encourage participation by Member States
- Translate IFAP's global objectives into national activities
- Foster efficient and effective national practices, through international exchange

Who?

- UNESCO National Commissions
- Within a governmental policy bodies
- Under the leadership of operational, research or educational institutes

Where?

- Afica: **5**
- Arab States: **3**
- Asia and the Pacific: **10**
- Europe and North America: **19**
- Latin America & the Caribbean: **4**

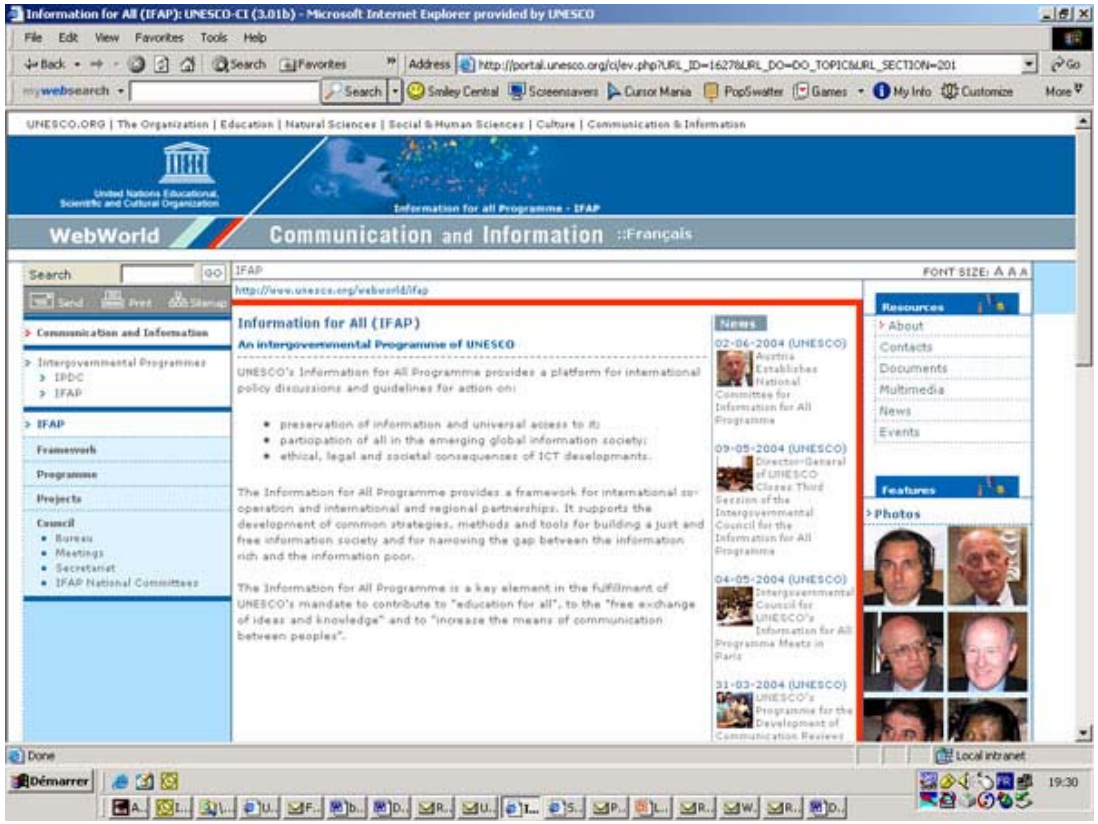
Administrative Structure

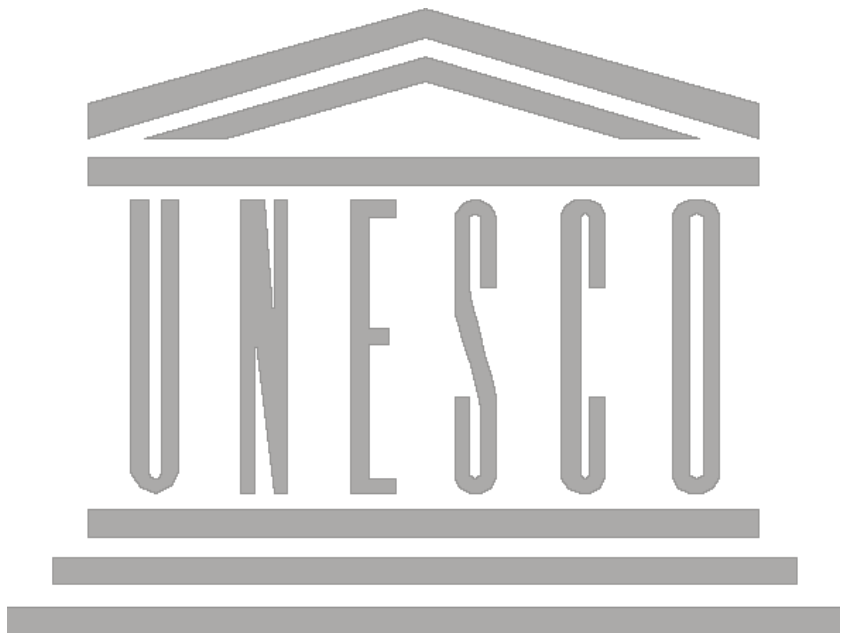
Intergovernmental Council

- Function: Guidance on planning and implementation
- Twenty-six Member States of UNESCO, elected by General Conference: next meeting March 2006
- President: Daniel Malbert, France
- Bureau (8 members for current affairs) Austria, China Cuba, Nigeria, New-Zealand, Slovakia, Tunisia and France - Bi-annual meetings
- Secretariat: UNESCO (Information Society Division)

Building Knowledge Societies
IFAP's Mandate and Functions

www.unesco.org/webworld/ifap

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