

# Building Knowledge Societies

Mandate and Functions of  
UNESCO's Information for All Programme





## Building Knowledge Societies IFAP's Mandate and Functions



### UNESCO's Mandate

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



UNESCO: Focus on content



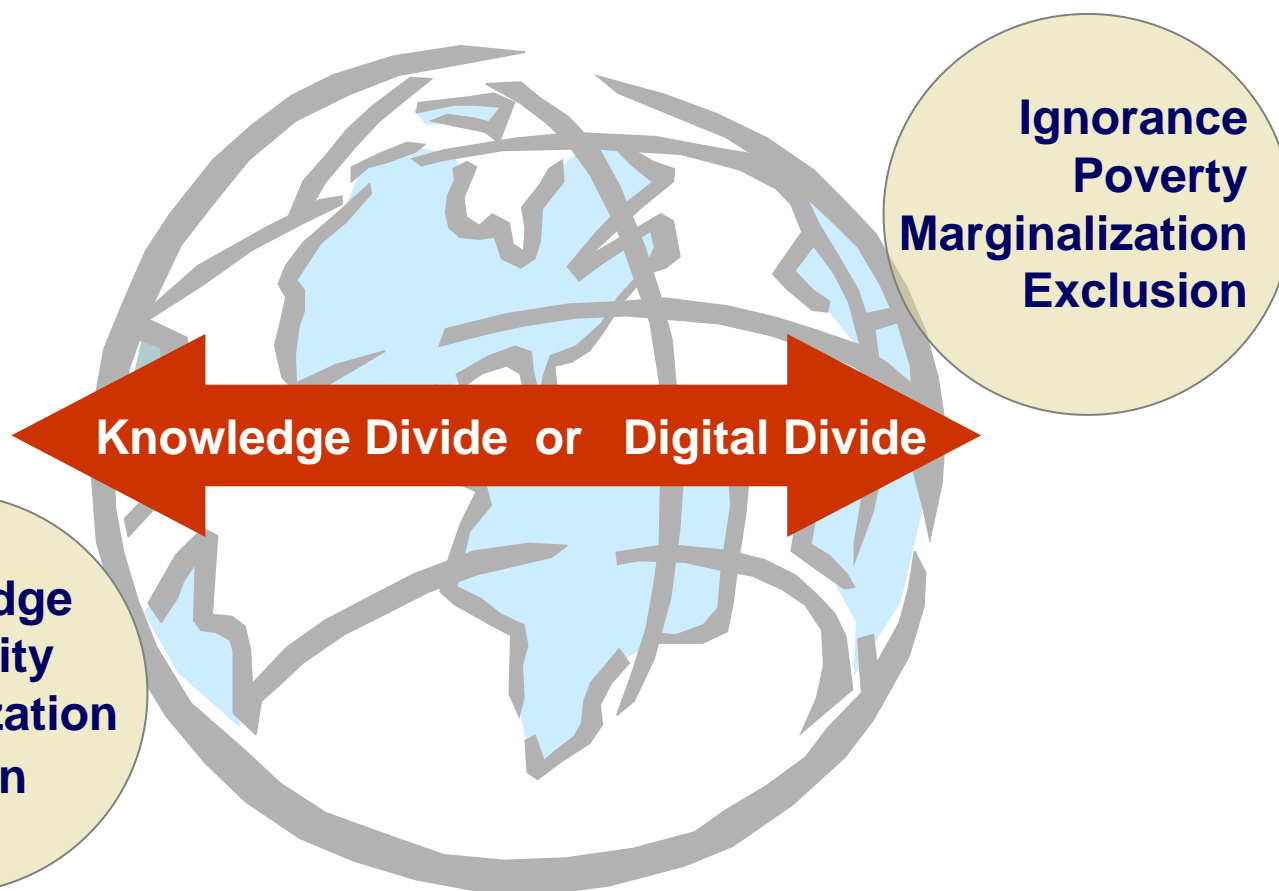
Enhanced UNESCO's relevance  
in the information society





## Building Knowledge Societies

### IFAP's Mandate and Functions





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## About Knowledge Societies

### Knowledge Societies

Knowledge  
Creation

Knowledge  
Preservation

Knowledge  
Dissemination

Knowledge  
Utilization

Pluralism

Human Needs and Rights





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## Content

### About Knowledge Societies

#### What is IFAP?

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





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## 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»





## Building Knowledge Societies

### IFAP's Mandate and Functions



## IFAP's Core Principles

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





## Building Knowledge Societies

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## 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







## Building Knowledge Societies

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## 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





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### 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 Programme (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





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### IFAP – Relation with UNESCO Regular Programme

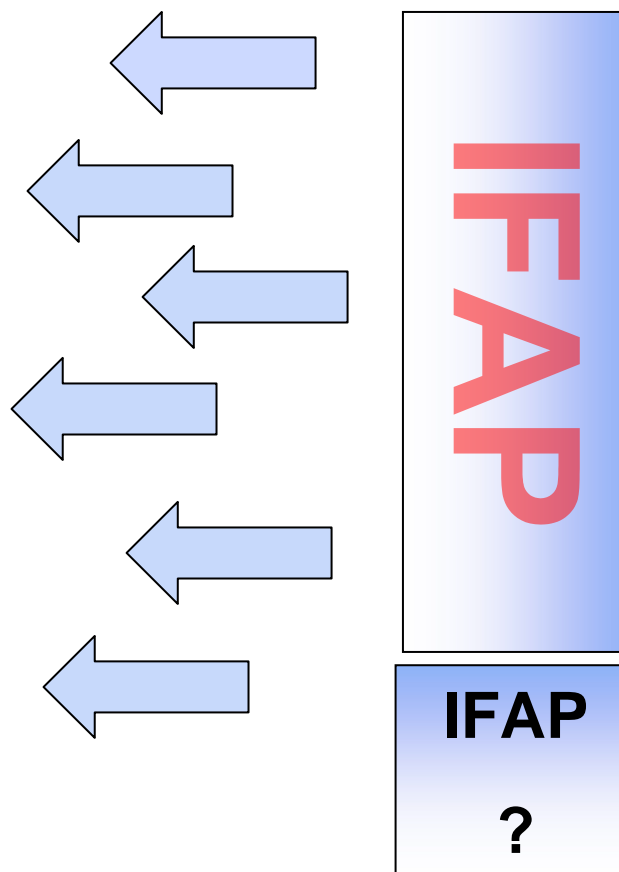
UNESCO Regular Programme  
2000-2001

UNESCO Regular Programme  
2002-2003

UNESCO Regular Programme  
2004-2005

UNESCO Regular Programme  
2006-2007

UNESCO Regular Programme  
2008-2009





## Building Knowledge Societies IFAP's Mandate and Functions



### 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





## Building Knowledge Societies

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## 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





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## 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





## Building Knowledge Societies IFAP's Mandate and Functions



### 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 professionals ;  
experience and network  
building

#### International Priorities:

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





## Building Knowledge Societies IFAP's Mandate and Functions



### 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







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## 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





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## 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)





## Building Knowledge Societies IFAP's Mandate and Functions



### 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?



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





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### 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](http://www.unesco.org/webworld/ifap)

Information for All (IFAP): UNESCO-CI (3.01b) - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by UNESCO

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Information for all Programme - IFAP

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Communication and Information

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  - IFAP
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  - Framework
  - Programme
  - Projects
  - Council
    - Bureau
    - Meetings
    - Secretariat
    - IFAP National Committees

**Information for All (IFAP)**

An intergovernmental Programme of UNESCO

UNESCO's Information for All Programme provides a platform for international policy discussions and guidelines for action on:

- preservation of information and universal access to it;
- participation of all in the emerging global information society;
- ethical, legal and societal consequences of ICT developments.

The Information for All Programme provides a framework for international co-operation and international and regional partnerships. It supports the development of common strategies, methods and tools for building a just and free information society and for narrowing the gap between the information rich and the information poor.

The Information for All Programme is a key element 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".

**News**

02-06-2004 (UNESCO)  
Austria Establishes National Committee for Information for All Programme

09-05-2004 (UNESCO)  
Director-General of UNESCO Closes Third Session of the Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme

04-05-2004 (UNESCO)  
Intergovernmental Council for UNESCO's Information for All Programme Meets in Paris

31-03-2004 (UNESCO)  
Programme for the Development of Communication Review

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Local intranet 19:30



