The Communication and Information Sector (CI) consists of some eighty staff members at UNESCO Headquarters and in Field Offices worldwide.

The Major Programme V consists of the Office of the Assistant Director-General (ADG), the Division of Freedom of Expression and Media Development (FEM), the Knowledge Societies Division (KSD), the Executive Office (EO), and an Administrative Unit (AO).

CI also hosts the Secretariat for the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) and the Secretariat for the Information for All Programme (IFAP).

The Communication and Information Sector is represented in over thirty of UNESCO's 56 field offices and managed by

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Division of Freedom of Expression and Media Development (CI/FEM)

The Division of Freedom of Expression and Media Development (CI/FEM) implements activities that promote the free flow of information.

The main tasks include sensitizing governments, public institutions and civil society on freedom of expression and media development, online and offline, including through the celebration of World Press Freedom Day. Notably, the Division assists UNESCO’s Member States in developing standards and legal instruments for press freedom and freedom of information in accordance with internationally recognized standards, and monitors the state of the safety of journalists, including impunity as regards violence against journalists.

The Division is also responsible for mobilizing international support for the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) and, in this context, for assisting UNESCO’s Member States in the development of free, independent and pluralistic media, in line with the Media Development Indicators (MDI) and Internet Universality Indicators.

It is responsible for setting standards for journalism education and for supporting the role of media in fostering inclusive dialogue, especially in conflict-sensitive situations.

Moreover, the Division works in fostering media pluralism, particularly by promoting community media and fostering media and information literacy.

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Knowledge Societies Division (CI/KSD)

The Knowledge Societies Division (KSD) is responsible for the coordination of UNESCO’s overall contribution to the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).

The Division promotes the application of ICTs to enhance the quality of and access to education, build scientific knowledge, promote open access to scientific research results, and empower local communities.
The Division also promotes free and open source software, open web and open standards, as well as protects and digitize documentary heritage through the Memory of the World Programme. It fosters the role of libraries and archives and is responsible for further strengthening of the World Digital Library.

The Division hosts the Secretariat for the Information for All Programme (IFAP), the intergovernmental programme that assists Member States in elaborating national information policy frameworks.

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Field Network of the CI Sector

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ARAB STATES

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• UNESCO Office in Beijing - Cluster Office

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