

What is a “Category 2 Institute or Centre under the auspices of UNESCO?” (C2C)?

Category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO constitute a global network of institutions of excellence in the Organization’s domains of competence. Given their expertise, these institutes and centres contribute in a meaningful way to the implementation of UNESCO’s priorities, programmes, and global development agendas during a defined period, through international and regional cooperation, research, knowledge production, policy advice, and capacity enhancement. The designation as C2C occurs after the implementation of a specific procedure, initiated at request of one or more Member States.

Eligible institutions

Scope: The activities of C2Cs must be **international or regional in scope** and shall contribute to the global development agendas. These institutes and centres must be sponsored or proposed by a Member State or group of Member States. Entities whose programmes are only a national in scope do not qualify for designation as C2C.

Track record: Only existing institutions with their **own legal personality and with a proven track record of excellence of at least two years in UNESCO’s fields of competence** are eligible for designation as C2C.

Association with UNESCO

Though not legally part of the Organization, these institutes and centres are associated with UNESCO through **formal arrangements** approved by the governing bodies of the Organization.

Though independent of UNESCO, C2Cs are a privileged partner of the Organization with **access to UNESCO’s logo, international and intergovernmental bodies and networks**, and may leverage UNESCO’s international reach and convening powers. Category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO are considered as integral part of the Organization’s, as stated in the UNESCO Comprehensive Partnership Strategy.

All details on the “Definition and objectives” of a C2C can be found in Section “A” of the [2019 Strategy for UNESCO Category 2 Institutes and Centres](#).