The category 2 institutes and centres constitute a unique and valuable network that has the potential to develop and extend the implementation of UNESCO’s objectives and programmes, and to strengthen the impact and visibility of its actions.

**Category 2 Institutes and Centres Under the Auspices of UNESCO**

**What are Category 2 Institutes and Centres?**

Category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO form an important part of UNESCO’s network and are one of the strategic partners covered by the Comprehensive Partnership Strategy of UNESCO (ref. 192 EX/5-INF). They represent an effective partnership model for UNESCO’s programme delivery, significantly contributing to the Organization’s priority areas. In the field of culture, UNESCO works with more than twenty centres, which, through capacity building, knowledge sharing and results, contribute effectively to the delivery of UNESCO’s strategic programme objectives and expected results. These centres and institutes, under the auspices of UNESCO’s governing bodies, receive updates on sectoral strategic and programmatic developments, to exchange good practices, and to interact among themselves and build networks.

In order to achieve its mission and build peace and sustainable development, UNESCO relies on a diverse set of partnerships, including with UNESCO’s other strategic partners, play an important role in extending the reach and effectiveness of UNESCO’s programmes in the field of culture: they contribute to protecting and promoting our heritage, as well as to fostering creativity and the diversity of cultural expressions, through capacity building, knowledge sharing and research.

**Why does UNESCO need partnerships in culture?**

In order to achieve its mission and build peace and sustainable development, UNESCO relies on a diverse set of collaborative partnerships. Category 2 institutes and centres, along with UNESCO’s other strategic partners, play an important role in extending the reach and effectiveness of UNESCO’s programmes in the field of culture: they contribute to protecting, promoting and transmitting our heritage, as well as to fostering creativity and the diversity of cultural expressions, through capacity building, knowledge sharing and research.

**How do Category 2 Institutes and Centres Contribute to UNESCO’s Work in the Field of Culture?**

- **Category 2 institutes and centres extend the reach and effectiveness of UNESCO’s programmes and activities in the field of culture. They contribute directly to the achievement of the strategic programme objectives, priorities and themes of the Organization, and specifically to UNESCO’s programme results at the main lines of action (MLA) level.**
- **They serve in their fields of specialization, as international or regional centres and poles of expertise and excellence.**
- **They provide services and technical assistance, such as policy advice, research, documentation and capacity building to Member States, cooperation partners and to UNESCO’s network of field offices.**
- **In particular, they play an important role as implementing partners, helping UNESCO to achieve its strategic programmes and objectives.**
- **They act as resource hubs to foster international and regional collaboration, networking and synergies, as well as promoting South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation.**

**Distribution of the Twenty Five Category 2 Institutes and Centres Related to the UNESCO Culture Sector**

**Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions - 2005**

**Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage - 2003**

**Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage - 2015**

**Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage - 1972**

**Other Programmes**

**Africa**

Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Africa (CRIHAP), Beijing.

**Asia & the Pacific**

International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage (INTERSPAC), Athens.

World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (WHITRAP), Beijing, Shanghai, Suzhou.

International Training Centre for the Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (ICHICAP), Beijing.

International Centre for Creativity and Sustainable Development (CCSD), Beijing.

Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Africa (CNCA), Dakar.

**America**

Regional Centre for Book Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (CERLALC), Bogota.

Regional Centre for Human Evolution, Adaptation and Dispersal in South-East Asia (CEADEA), Jakarta.

Regional Centre for Underwater Archaeology (ICUA), Zadar.

**Europe & North America**

International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (CRICHEAP), Saigon.

**Asia**

International Institute for the Study of Nomadic Civilizations (IISNC), Ulan Bator.

International Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (ICRICHAP), Jeonju.

Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (CRICAP), Zacatecas.

Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Latin America (CRIHAP/LA), Curitiba.

**Latin America & the Caribbean**

Regional Heritage Management Training Centre “Lucio Costa”, Rio de Janeiro.

Regional Centre of Book Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (CERLALC), Bogota.

Regional Centre for Underwater Archaeology (ICUA), Zadar.

**Why does Category 2 Institutes and Centres Related to the UNESCO Culture Sector?**

The current framework of UNESCO’s cooperation with category 2 institutes and centres is governed by the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres, adopted in 2013 by the UNESCO General Conference (37 C/Resolution 93), based on the recommendations of the Executive Board (document 37/C/18 Part I). It contains the Organization’s policies and guidelines concerning category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO, as well as specific criteria and procedures on the establishment and renewal of such institutions. Moreover, UNESCO has developed a Culture Sector strategy for category 2 institutes and centres to improve its cooperation with these institutions.

Category 2 institutes and centres must submit to UNESCO a periodic report with information on the contribution of their activities to UNESCO’s strategic programme objectives and priorities, as well as expected sectoral results, performed under and pursuant to the scope of the agreement signed with UNESCO.
The proposal to establish a new category 2 institute or centre under the auspices of UNESCO is made by one or several Member States. The status may be granted to an existing entity or to an institution in the process of being created. The activities of category 2 institutes and centres must be global, regional, subregional or interregional in scope, and should contribute to the achievement of the strategic programme objectives, priorities and themes of the Organization and specifically to UNESCO’s programme results at the main lines of action (MLA) level.

The proposal is assessed by UNESCO to determine whether a feasibility study should be undertaken.

All costs pertaining to the study and other related work shall be borne by the concerned Member State(s) or institution.

The Director-General of UNESCO submits the feasibility study and a draft agreement to the Executive Board only once per biennium - at its session immediately preceding the session of the General Conference for its examination.

Based on the recommendation by the Executive Board, the General Conference decides on the establishment of a category 2 institute or centre and authorizes the Director-General to conclude an agreement between UNESCO and the government(s) concerned.

The agreement for the establishment of a category 2 institute or centre shall be concluded for a definite time period, not exceeding six years. The agreement may be renewed subject to a review of the activities of the institute or centre and of its contribution to the Organization. All costs relating to the renewal exercise shall be borne by the concerned Member State(s) or institution. The Director-General presents the results of the review to the Executive Board for its decision as to whether the designation as a category 2 institute or centre under the auspices of UNESCO should be renewed or terminated.

The fields of competence and activities of category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO culture sector should be linked to at least one of the fields of competence of the sector, in particular to the UNESCO culture conventions:

- Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions - 2005
- Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage - 2003
- Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage - 2001
- Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage - 1972

Cooperation of Category 2 Institutes and Centres under the auspices of UNESCO with the UNESCO Culture Sector

The Network of UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs and C2Cs related to Culture is the on-line platform, created through a tripartite cooperation among C2Cs, UNESCO Chairs and the UNESCO Culture Sector. It allows the registered members to exchange ideas and share information on activities, programmes and projects undertaken by C2Cs and UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs active in the field of culture.

The Network offers various tools through which the registered members can easily retrieve information about individual institutions based on their location, field of research or relation to certain cultural conventions, or connect with eminent researchers in specific fields to increase opportunities for cooperation. It allows members to be part of the research networks and discussion groups on different thematic topics.

Please sign up and join the Network: www.unescochairs-c2c.net

More information on the category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO can be found at: https://en.unesco.org/partnership/culture/category-2-centres.