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EDUCATION

History of the education sector



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Class for adults. A mother with her child reading in a class. (Italy)

In 1942, towards the end of the Second World War, the governments of European countries then confronting Nazi Germany met in the United Kingdom for the Conference of Allied Ministers of Education (CAME). They wished to reconstruct their education systems when peace was restored.

Upon the proposal of CAME, a UN Conference for the establishment of an educational and cultural organization (ECO/CONF) was convened in London from 1 to 16 November 1945, just after the war. Representatives of 44 countries decided to create an organization to establish the “intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind”.

At the end of this conference, 37 countries founded the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) which was established by the UN General Assembly on November 16, 1945. The [Constitution of UNESCO](#) was signed on the same day, and came into force on 4 November 1946 after ratification by 20 countries.

The main predecessors of UNESCO were

- the International Committee of Intellectual Co-operation (CICI), Geneva 1922-1946, and its executing agency, the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation

(IICI), Paris, 1925-1946.

- the [International Bureau of Education](#) (IBE), Geneva, 1925-1968. Since 1969 IBE has been part of the UNESCO Secretariat under its own statutes.

Mission

The mission of the UNESCO Education Sector is to:

- provide international leadership to create learning societies with educational opportunities for all populations.
- provide expertise and foster partnerships to strengthen national educational leadership and the capacity of countries to offer quality education for all.
- work as an intellectual leader, an honest broker and clearing house for ideas, propelling both countries and the international community to accelerate progress towards these goals.
- facilitate the development of partnerships and monitors progress, in particular by publishing an annual [Global Monitoring Report](#) that tracks the achievements of countries and the international community towards the [six Education for All goals](#).

Our framework

The priorities of UNESCO's Education Sector are determined by goals adopted by the UN and UNESCO and include:

- The six Education for All goals adopted in the [Dakar Framework for Action 2000-2015](#)
- [The UN Millennium Development Goals](#), especially [Goal 2](#) and [Goal 3](#)
- The [UN Literacy Decade 2003-2012](#)
- The [UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005-2014](#)
- The [EDUCAIDS Global Initiative on Education and HIV/AIDS](#)

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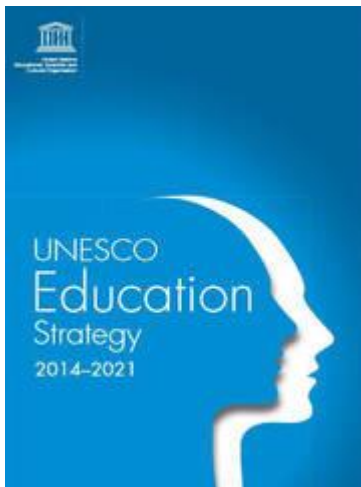
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Strategy



UNESCO's Education Sector has the following strategic objectives to fulfil its mission:

- **Capacity-building:** to provide a platform for intellectual and thoughtful leadership for educational innovation and reform.
- **Laboratory of ideas:** to anticipate and respond to emerging trends and needs in education and develop education policy recommendations based on research evidence.
- **International catalyst:** to initiate and promote dialogue and exchange of information among educational leaders and stakeholders.
- **Clearing house:** to promote the development and implementation of successful educational practices and document and disseminate successful practices.
- **Standard-setting:** to develop Standards, Norms and Guidelines for action in key education areas.