Item 4 on Updated MOST Action Plan

Workstream Presentations

16th Ordinary Session of the MOST Intergovernmental Council
19 April 2023, UNESCO Headquarters

Table of Contents

unesco

Core approach

STRATEGY

- Explore new frontiers of thinking
- Leverage knowledge and expertise to create new data for informing innovative frameworks
- Reshape the current narratives and help translate them into action

IMPLEMENTATION

- Thematic expert groups
- Critical knowledge partnerships
- Leverage on the SAC and other areas of the MOST programme such as IPL, Futures, Philosophy
- Attract knowledge producers and decision makers

→**Positioning MOST as a world-leading intellectual hub**

Delivery

Partnership with Fundación "la Caixa"

- Research and knowledge brokering activities to advance innovative research,"out of the box" thinking and experimentation
- Joining up forces for the co-production and dissemination of knowledge through the partner's leading platforms*

Way forward

- Annual flagship knowledge product
- Targeted policy briefs on key issues
- Annual conference to discuss inequalities-related topics
- Action plan 2023/2024 in discussion

Delivery

Inclusive and Resilient Societies report 2023

- The top 10 billionaires took 9 months to regain their pre-pandemic wealth while the world's poorest will take 10+ years to recover

- Strong call to reframe the current equity vs. efficiency narrative

- Advocates for an ex-ante integration of equity – in both analysis and policymaking – as a key concern and indicator of success

- Supports a deeply multi-layered (territorially, societally, sectorally) approach to build more inclusive economic frameworks

- First step of a new conceptual framework that will help us build more concrete deliverables

Delivery

unesco

Partnership with the Groupe d'études géopolitiques (GEG),

- A series of five seminars on "Human Sciences and Social Transformations".

- Raise visibility of critical work by MOST on key aspects related to trending social issues

- The first seminar on "Decline of social ties – Political sociology" took place last Monday

Way forward

- 4 other seminars from April to October*
- Publications in the review le Grand Continent

Growth and development Of the Thought Leadership initiative

Expansion

- Aggregate and operationalize critical knowledge and work results produced by MOST into the initiative

- In-country policy support though MOST tools

- Assist to create a more inclusive environment for researchers from the Global South

- Foster the capabilities of MOST on critical and global intellectual and policy debates

- Improve brand awareness of MOST in the international fora and among member states

THANK YOU

Gabriela Ramos
Assistant Director-General for the Social and Human Sciences
g.ramos@unesco.org
https://www.unesco.org/en/social-human-sciences

Core mandate and approach

MOST Strategy
- Operational pillar under both MOST Strategies
- Inequality reduction/inclusive development (theme)
- Crowdsourcing of expertise and its translation into policies (function)
- In-country support and digital platform (programmatic set up)
- Headquarters and fields (delivery)

Stakeholders and networks
- Knowledge producers and policy makers
- Multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary reach
- High-expertise networks and communities of practice

en.unesco.org/inclusivepolicylab | #InclusivePolicies

Delivery and impact

Digital platform

- UNESCO- and globally-leading platform of its kind
- 4300 members, 2000 experts, and 150 e-teams
- 110 knowledge, policy-oriented products
- Leading figures and top-tier experts

Policy issues

- 5 curated workstreams on cutting-edge, frontier issues
    - Trust in science, crisis of expertise
    - Sustainable welfare, eco-social policies
    - Data for good (data value, distribution, policy use)
    - Equitable reset
    - Basic income (minimum, temporary, green)

en.unesco.org/inclusivepolicylab | #InclusivePolicies

Insights

Basic income

- Basic income can't be isolated from the rest of the policy space but treated as part of a system-wide response
- Calibration is key to basic income, with any desired outcome requiring fitted design of schemes and their financing
- Much data on basic income comes from policy trials, yet paths to scale-up (political, technical) demand attention

Data for good

- Data cultures and investment in data analytics within government is required for use in/for governance
- (New) data needs (old) research skills
- Data value is to be defined comprehensively – monetary, statistical, social – and distributed accordingly

unesco

Delivery and impact

In-country projects

- Demand-driven, impact-oriented, structured interventions
  Support shared audits of policies
  Enhance the flow and the use of knowledge policies
  Harness new forms of data in policies

Coverage

- 20 in-country, with 7 being added
- 5 priority priority regions
  Jakarta cluster (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines)
  New Delhi cluster (India)
  Beijing cluster (Mongolia)
  Nairobi cluster (Kenya)
  Europe (2 EU-funded, regional projects)

en.unesco.org/inclusivepolicylab | #InclusivePolicies

Growth and development

Cooperations and fundrasing

- High-potential cooperation with European Commission
- Sustained stream of EX for MOST
- €2.5-3 million, 7 countries, support in-government analytical capacities with robust knowledge-policy links
- Yielding UNESCO-wide results
    - Inter-sectional project on AI (€600.000)
    - Inter-sectoral project on education for vulnerable youth

Expansion

- Migration and growth of the digital platform
- 7 countries added to the on-the-ground network
- Development of cutting-edge models for replication

en.unesco.org/inclusivepolicylab | #InclusivePolicies

Item 4 on Updated MOST Action Plan
UNESCO Futures Literacy and Foresight

16th Ordinary Session of the MOST IGC Management
19 April 2023, UNESCO headquarters

Futures Literacy & Foresight

WORKSTREAM

Core strategy

• Advance the inclusive development agenda with Member States through a capability-based approach to futures
• Engage in research and convene experts around Futures Literacy and Foresight and disseminate knowledge through high-profile events, publications and partnerships
• Sustain SHS's position as a key contributor to UNESCO's core function as a laboratory of ideas

Key points

• Lead UN-wide capacity-building efforts (Foresight Masterclasses, Futures Literacy Laboratories)
• Contribute to the UN Futures Lab as Core Group Network Members
• Contribute substantially to the development of the discipline, strengthening the knowledge-policy nexus

Futures Literacy & Foresight

IMPACT ON MOST RESEARCH-POLICY NEXUS

"Our Common Agenda"

- Contribute to Our Common Agenda's pillar on "Duties to the Future"
- Lead institutional capacity building across the UN system to better address wicked problems and celebrate "World Futures Day" (2 December)
- Establish and lead the UN Strategic Foresight Community of Practice
- Produce both research and ready-to-use tools

Production of knowledge

- Organise tailor made workshops for policy-makers
- Host academic symposia to promote scientific advancement
- Nurture a transdisciplinary dialogue with the 37 UNESCO Chairs (Futures Studies, Anticipation, Futures Literacy and Foresight)
- Launch theoretical and practical publications
- Establish an academic Master's Programme in Futures Studies

UNESCO MOST
unesco
Management of Social Transformations Programme

Futures Literacy & Foresight

PLANNING

Key future activities

- Establish and lead the UN Foresight Community of Practice, to advance strategic foresight and futures literacy across the UN ecosystem

- Foster the collaboration with different stakeholders (partnership with the Asian Development Bank to implement futures activities in Asia Pacific Region)

- Engage in a follow-up project to "Imagining Africa's Futures" in collaboration with OCP Foundation and Mohammed VI Polytechnic University in Morocco

- Further nurture the collaboration in the MENA Region (Saudi Arabia, Egypt, UAE, Jordan and more).

UNESCO
Management of
Social Transformations
Programme

Futures Literacy & Foresight

PRIORITIES & KNOWLEDGE OUTCOMES

Priorities & Knowledge Outcomes

- Nurture the capability-based approach to futures with all stakeholders, in particular with policy-makers, in order to navigate complexity and deal successfully with uncertainty

- Launch of the High-Level Working Group on futures and foresight, involving champions as Spain, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates to stimulate peer learning and constant exchange

- Promote the Tools Collection on Futures for Intergenerational Equity Thinking

- Introduce the Futures Literacy Playbook: a guide to designing and implementing a Futures Literacy Laboratory

THANK YOU

Christin Pfeiffer
Programme Specialist
Futures Litearcy and Foresight
c.pfeiffer@unesco.org; futures@unesco.org

https://en.unesco.org/futuresliteracy/about
https://www.unesco.org/en/days/world-futures
https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/call-papers-unesco-pmu-symposium-2023-towards-evaluation-frameworks-futures-and-foresight

Cadre et mandat

Un axe de travail *fondamental*

Cadre stratégique
- Pilier Recherche de la Stratégie MOST
- Fonction Laboratoire d'idées de l'UNESCO
- Agenda 2030 pour le développement durable
- Conférence mondiale des Humanités, Liège 2017

Mandat
- Promouvoir la référence à la pensée humaniste pour répondre aux transformations sociales contemporaines
- Favoriser la recherche et son impact sur le dialogue politique
- Rendre les sciences humaines accessibles à tous
- Promouvoir le pluralisme dans ces disciplines

Pour renforcer la capacité des états à répondre aux défis transformationnels du 21e siècle et soutenir un développement inclusif et durable

unesco

Mise en œuvre et impact

S'appuyant sur les modalités opérationnelles de MOST,

Promotion de la pensée et de la recherche en philosophie et humanités
- Journée mondiale (et Nuit) de la Philosophie, très suivies (+5000 personnes en 2018, 3000 en 2021, 2900 en 2022)
- Partenariats media dont Philosophie magazine

Réflexion sur les problèmes du monde contemporain
- Elaboration d'un agenda intellectuel pour la recherche en SH: Conférences mondiales et régionales
- Réseaux académiques de haut niveau et mondiaux
- Thématiques prioritaires définies par la Stratégie MOST

Mise en œuvre et impact

Enseignement de la philosophie dans le monde
- Partenariat avec la Chaire UNESCO de Philosophie avec les enfants de Nantes et les Nouvelles Pratiques Philosophiques

Promouvoir la perspective du genre
- Réseau international des femmes philosophes et sa Revue (en sommeil)

Production de connaissances
- Philosophie, une école de la liberté
- Manuel de Philosophie, Une perspective Sud-Sud
- Revues du Réseaux des femmes philosophes
- Les SHS face à la pandémie de COVID-19 (2023)
- Actes de la Conference européenne des Humanités (2023)
- L'humain qui vient (2023)

Idées clés 2022

L'humain qui vient
L'humain au centre, et la complexité des défis futurs

• Appel à suivre les Recommandations sur l'éthique de l'IA
Nouvelles perspectives mais problèmes éthiques et politiques.
Mise en garde contre les facteurs déterminants :
    1) la rationalité technologique
    2) la concurrence économique et l'expansion militaire

• Appel à considérer les inégalités de genre, de représentations et de race, comme une responsabilité mondiale, et non régionale

• Appel à penser de manière globale le Concept de vulnérabilité face au changement climatique

• Appel à traduire le virage philosophique en repensant notre relation avec la planète pour atteindre les SDGs

• Importance du récit : le rôle de l'UNESCO

DÉVELOPPEMENTS CLÉS 2023-2025

Accompagner les défis transformationnels en :

- Améliorant la participation des jeunes dans la recherche et en renforçant les capacités éducatives

- En faisant progresser, sur le terrain, la philosophie avec les enfants pour transformer l'éducation dans un monde complexe (Asie-Pacifique)

- Avançant la réflexion sur l'humain à venir et l'IA

- Contribuant aux questions d'égalité des genres

- Elargissant le champs d'application des Humanités environnementales pour une transition climatique équitable

- Définissant un nouvel agenda intellectuel sur la recherche en SH et sa contribution à un nouvel agenda de politique sociale

MERCI

Camille Guinet
Spécialiste de programme associée
MOST Programme
c.guinet@unesco.org
https://www.unesco.org/fr/days/philosophy

Digital Anthropology

- **Workstream**
- Delivery and impact
- Insights
- Opportunities

Digital Anthropology

- Field that enriches our understanding of human cultures, beliefs, and behaviors in digital societies
- Critical field to global challenges such as human-AI interactions, online gender-base discrimination, missinformation and others

The Project:

- Leverage the human insights obtained using Digital Anthropology to improve decision-making and policy-making
- Three lines of work: academic programs, methodological innovations, and awareness of Digital Anthropology
- Relevant to the MOST's priority on digital transformations and social disruption and the approach of MOST's research pillar

UNESCO MOST

unesco
Management of
Social Transformations
Programme

Digital Anthropology

- **Workstream**
- **Delivery and impact**
- Insights
- Opportunities

Publication: New Horizons In Digital Anthropology

- Establishment of thought leadership. Comprehensive report on the innovation and challenges of the field (available here)

Call for Evidence

- Novel cases, methods and perspectives in Digital Anthropology highlighting its potential in decision-making (available here)

Design Challenge

- 23 multidisciplinary teams used Digital Anthropology to develop solutions for online discrimination and gender-based violence

Communications and Awareness

- Events, Conferences, Forums, Podcasts and MOST School

UNESCO MOST
unesco
Management of
Social Transformations
Programme

Digital Anthropology

- Workstream
- Delivery and impact
- **Insights**
- Opportunities

What have we learned about Digital Anthropology?

- Digital Anthropology has accumulated valuable experiences in relevant topics, including health, elections, migration, and combating polarization and misinformation

- "Thicker" insights lead to more inclusive policies, providing visibility and proximity of unaccounted human perspectives

- Digital Anthropology integrates human-centered and data-driven approaches, reducing biases and blind spots in decision-making.

- New potential to formulate an anthropologically informed position to interact with algorithms and intervene in ongoing AI debates

UNESCO MOST
unesco
Management of
Social Transformations
Programme

Digital Anthropology

- Workstream
- Delivery and impact
- Insights
- **Opportunities**

What opportunities does Digital Anthropology offer?

1. Capitalize on the growing interest in the social and cultural impacts of emerging technology

2. Themes: "Inclusive Digital Societies" and "Digital Media and Social Movements"

3. Digital Anthropology training and capacity building initiatives

4. New UNESCO Chairs in Digital Anthropology, with a focus on the Global South.

5. Promote innovation and experimentation in related fields, such as Digital Humanities and Computational Social Sciences

UNESCO MOST

unesco
Management of
Social Transformations
Programme

THANK YOU

Juan Carmach
Project Coordinator
Digital Anthopology
j.carmach@unesco.org;

https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000382647/PDF/382647eng.pdf.multi
https://unesdoc.unesco.org/permalink/P-82a4bacb-9720-4984-a576-4ddaddefcda2

Strategic framework

Objectives

Strategic framework

- Research Pillar of MOST
- Chater of African Cultural Renaissance
- African Union 2063 Agenda 2063
- Agenda 2030

Objectives

Main objectives:

- Know and make known - to the world, but especially to Africans - Africa and its diasporas' contributions to the general progress of humanity, and thus remedy the general ignorance on Africa's history.

- Strengthen Africans' self-confidence, self-esteem, pride, and confidence in their heritage.

Implementation and Achievements

Production of knowledge on African History

1st Phase

- 8 volumes of the GHA available in whole or in part in 12 languages
- 12 volumes of the Series « GHA: Studies and documents »
- 9 volumes of the sources of African History

2nd Phase (2009 -)

- Manuscripts of 3 new volumes of the GHA to:
- *Update the collection*
- *Map and analyze the history of the african diasporas*
- *Analyze the challenge face by the continent*

- *The manuscripts will be available in Chinese, English, French and Portuguese*

Implementation and Achievements (cont'd)

Pedagogical use of the GHA

- Development of pedagogical material for use in primary and secondary schools based on 9 learning units covering the history of African for the very begging of Humanity till present time (Kenya, France, and some countries have expressed interest to be part of the pilot countries)

Dissemination and outreach

- 20 films broadcast on BBC World
- 52 radios programmes aired on RFI
- 50 classic Africanfilms being restored
- 4 documentary films entitled African Empires being produced
- A Serious game of 6 historical figures of the history of Africa and its diaspora being developed

Challenges

Educational: call upon Member States to incorporate the pedagogical material developed into their national curricula

Financial: 827 000 US$ are needed to undertake the remaining editorial work and publish the 3 new volumes

Thank You!

Lamine Diagne
Pogramme Specialist
MOST Programme
l.diagne@unesco.org

UNESCO **unesco**