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Information for All Programme

Building
Information
and Knowledge
Societies



All around the world, the rapid growth of digital transformation continues to transform the way we access, process, and share information.

- Close to 2.7 billion people remain unconnected to the Internet and are deprived of socioeconomic value from being online.
- The traditional guardian institutions such as libraries, archives and museums are challenged to keep pace with the rapid growth in information.
- Weak human-centered connectivity continues preventing women and girls, rural and remote communities, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable and marginalized groups from fully accessing information and knowledge.



For UNESCO's Information for All Programme (IFAP), the issues extend beyond internet access and the affordability of devices and data packages.

IFAP acknowledges that various barriers prevent people from accessing information, including illiteracy, limited online language choices, lack of online accessibility for persons with disabilities, and unequal skills and capacities to responsibly, ethically, and safely create socio-economic value from digital information.



“In response to the central role of information in fostering knowledge and facilitating access to reliable information as a public good, UNESCO’s Information for All Programme benefits each and every one of us.”

— Tawfik Jelassi, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information —



Established in 2001, the Information for All Programme is an intergovernmental programme under the Communication and Information Sector of UNESCO through which Member States and partner governments collaborate in formulating information policies to build inclusive and sustainable knowledge societies.



In the context of challenges of fast-growing digital technologies and in order to tackle the complex issues of global digital divides, IFAP reaffirms its critical mission to harness information as a public good. IFAP plays an increasingly important role in guiding the inclusive and ethical development of these technologies and promoting universal and equitable access to information and knowledge.

— Pablo Miguel Medina Jimenez
Chair of the UNESCO Information for All Programme —

OUR PRIORITIES



Information for Development

Harnesses the value of information in addressing development issues.



Information Literacy

Develops media and information literacy skills to empower people to seek, create, evaluate, use and disseminate information effectively.



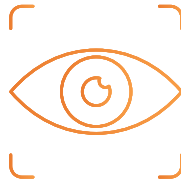
Information Preservation

Supports the digital transformation of memory institutions such as libraries, archives, and museums.



Information Ethics

Promotes policy debates on the ethical impacts on knowledge societies of emerging communications and information technologies (AI, the Internet of Things, Blockchain, metaverse).



Information Accessibility

Encompasses issues surrounding availability, accessibility, affordability of information, and on meaningful inclusion of persons with disabilities and elderly.



Multilingualism

Promotes language vitality, diversity and multilingualism, particularly in cyberspace, as cornerstones of inclusive knowledge societies.

OUR OBJECTIVES

01

Provides a platform for international policy discussions, cooperation and the development of guidelines for action in the area of access to information and knowledge.

02

Supports Member States to develop and implement national information policy and strategy frameworks.

03

Promotes information and knowledge networking at local, national, regional and international levels.

04

Serves as an advisory body to the Director-General.

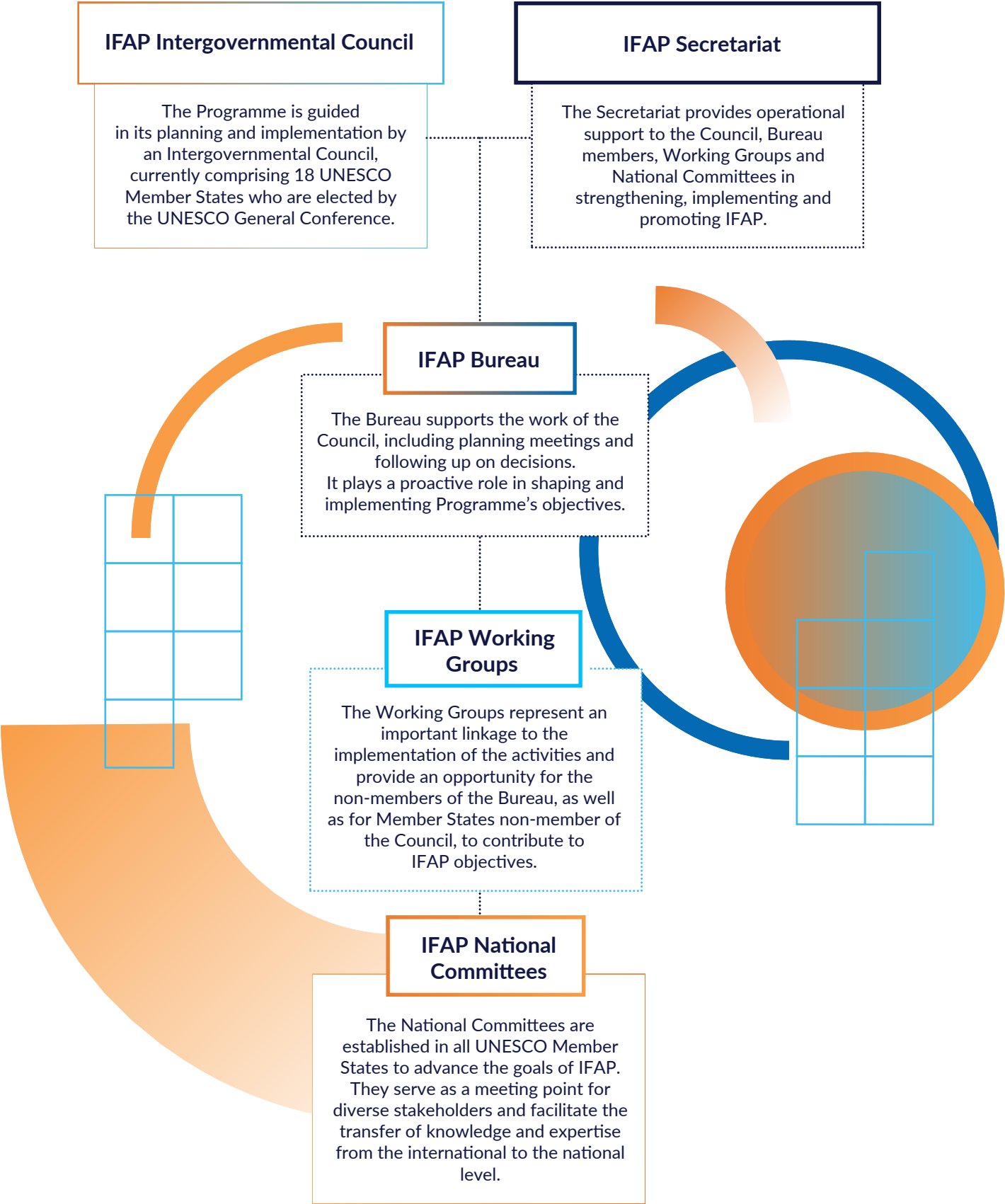
05

Works in close cooperation and provide inputs to UNESCO's WSIS actions.

06

Collaborates with other Intergovernmental Bodies of UNESCO.

IFAP GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE



IFAP WORKING GROUPS INITIATIVES

WORKING GROUP INITIATIVES

IFAP Working Groups are composed of national experts who provide their professional expertise and address a range of issues in one or more of the IFAP strategic priorities.

They also play a key role in promoting awareness of new methods, tools, events, and resources within IFAP's priority areas.

Since 2001, IFAP has attracted and implemented **USD 1.7 million**, allocating small grants for initiatives that contribute to building Knowledge Societies around the world.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR INFORMATION ACCESS (AI4IA) CONFERENCE

Organized by the Information Accessibility Working Group of IFAP

- Gathered over 40 international experts to address diverse topics on information accessibility.
- Produced an innovative format: on-demand presentations, live panel discussions, podcast series, and interactive conversations to facilitate knowledge sharing on cutting-edge advancements of the AI.
- Increased awareness and understanding of the importance of respecting privacy rights and mitigating disinformation and user manipulation in AI applications.



“Artificial Intelligence should be applied in a way that respects the right to privacy while mitigating against disinformation and user manipulation.”

— Cordel Green, Chair of the Information Accessibility Working Group of IFAP —

CONFERENCE ON INFORMATION SCIENCE

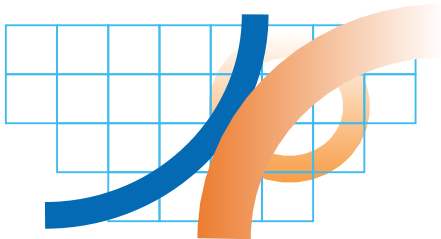
Organized by the Information Preservation Working Group of IFAP, University of Nairobi and the Institute of Advanced Studies Kőszeg, Hungary

- Explored strategies for preserving global cultural and documentary heritages during conflicts, pandemics, and climate change.
- Resulted into practical recommendations for governments, private sectors, academia.



"The value of cultural heritage goes beyond its traditional roles in education, information and recreation. Cultural and historical artifacts and rare materials such as books play a central role in emerging issues such as sustainable development, including human survival through indigenous languages and knowledge, peace-keeping efforts and conflict resolution." — László Z. Karvalics, Chair of the Information Preservation Working Group of IFAP —

CELIK DIGITAL @UNIVERSITY OF MALAYSIA PAHANG (UMP) STEM LAB SYMPOSIUM: DIGITAL COMPETENCIES FOR INFORMATION LITERACY



Organised by UNESCO's IFAP Working Group on Information for Development, University Malaysia Pahang and its global partners

- Underscored the importance of enhancing digital competencies for information literacy and strategies for implementation.
- Provided clear written recommendations for educators, policymakers and stakeholders in the field of information literacy.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE "WORLD TREASURY OF MOTHER TONGUES: NOURISH AND CHERISH. NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT, POLICIES AND PRACTICES TO PRESERVE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES"

Organized by Multilingualism Working Group of IFAP and its global partners

- Contributed to the International Decade of Indigenous Languages.
- Emphasized the significance of preserving, revitalizing, and expanding the scope of indigenous languages.
- Reunited over 150 experts from 44 countries representing various fields and sectors.
- Elaborated the Moscow Declaration on Mother Tongues Preservation.
- Advocated for preserving linguistic diversity in real life and cyberspace for sustainable development, peace, and SDG implementation.



"Through efficient national policies and cross-country collaboration, we can pave the way for a future where diverse languages thrive, drawing inspiration from best practices and embracing the rich tapestry of linguistic heritage."

— Evgeny Kuzmin, Former Chair of the Multilingualism in Cyberspace Working Group of IFAP —

BRAINSTORMING SESSION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UNESCO'S RECOMMENDATION ON THE ETHICS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Organized by the Information Ethics Working Group of IFAP

- Explored ethical and legal responses to development-oriented Artificial Intelligence, aligned with UNESCO's Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence.
- Assembled over 125 experts and stakeholders assembled from around the world.
- Promoted responsible and inclusive AI use across all professional fields and industries.



"Moving beyond a risk-based approach to Artificial Intelligence towards accounting for the harms is important not only to our individual liberties but also to our societies."

— Yves Poulet, Chair of the Information Ethics Working Group of IFAP —



- Fostered inclusive dialogue on emerging technologies, digital wellness, and contemporary challenges.
- Gathered over 270 participants assembled to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on global information accessibility and reliability within IFAP's priority areas.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON "ACCESS TO INFORMATION IN TIME OF CRISIS – THE UNESCO'S INFORMATION FOR ALL PROGRAMME PRIORITIES AND THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC"

Organized by the University of Hyderabad and global partners, under the auspices of IFAP

- Adopted the Hyderabad Declarations derived from the discussions, providing key recommendations for policymakers and experts.
- Formulated recommendations to address issues related to the digital divide, hacking, and access to information.

"Within its 20 years of existence, the Programme has solidified its relevance as a mechanism that supports piloting, deployment and sharing of solutions and experiences from which policy recommendations can be derived, for impact at scale."

— Marielza Oliveira, Director for Digital Inclusion and Policies and Digital Transformation, IFAP Secretary —



CALL FOR PARTNERING

Information for All Programme is engaged in building positive partnerships with International organisations, International Non-Governmental Organizations, Private Sector, Academic Institutions, other programmes and Sectors within UNESCO.

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By partnering with the IFAP, stakeholders who share the Programme's goals of promoting access to information and knowledge for all can access a platform for collaboration and exchange, gaining valuable insights and access to resources to advance shared objectives.



Stakeholders can participate in a variety of initiatives, including:

- Co-organizing conferences, events, workshops, and other joint initiatives and projects that align with the Programme's six priority areas and promote access to information and knowledge for all.
- Sharing resources, expertise, or technology solutions to achieve the mutual objectives of building inclusive knowledge societies.
- Participating in IFAP's Working Groups projects to provide expert input and advice on specific issues.
- Attending Council and Bureau meetings as well as other related IFAP-supported events.
- Advocating for policies and programs that support IFAP's goals and objectives.
- Contributing financially to IFAP to support its programs and initiatives.

20-YEAR PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN UNESCO'S INFORMATION FOR ALL PROGRAMME AND

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

▶ In July 2022, the new milestone UNESCO/IFLA Public Library Manifesto 2022, developed with the IFAP Secretariat, was endorsed by the IFAP Bureau and launched at the 87th World Library and Information Congress 2022 (WLIC) in Dublin, Ireland.

▶ At the national level, IFAP participated in advocacy efforts for the Manifesto. Through presentations, workshops, and webinars in countries such as Spain, Brazil, Norway, and the Czech Republic, IFAP actively promoted the Manifesto's importance and facilitated discussions on its implementation.

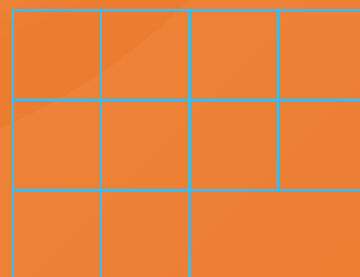
▶ The updated Manifesto, with IFAP's contribution, has been utilized in various contexts, including its integration into IFLA's Guidelines for Library Services to Prisoners and the Diputació de Barcelona's 2023 Action Plan.

"The IFLA-UNESCO Public Library Manifesto proclaims UNESCO's belief in the public library as a living force for education, culture and information, and as an essential agent for the fostering of peace and welfare through the minds of all people."

— Barbara Lison, President of IFLA —



IFAP Secretariat Team



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