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**Items for information: culture statistics****Report of the Institute for Statistics of the United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on  
selected activities of its culture statistics programme****Note by the Secretary-General**

In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2015/216 and past practices, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the report of the Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on selected activities of its cultural statistics programme, which is presented to the Commission for information. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

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\* E/CN.3/2016/1.



# **Report of the Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on selected activities of its cultural statistics programme**

## **I. Introduction**

1. The present report on the status of the culture statistics programme of the Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has been produced in response to the request of the Statistical Commission. The report provides updated information on recent developments in international cultural statistics. In particular, the report provides information on the new global survey of cultural employment statistics and its implementation and on the new proposal to develop the international recommendations for culture satellite accounts. The report also presents information on the global implementation of the 2009 UNESCO Framework for Cultural Statistics, focusing on two of the unit's principal capacity-building activities: the handbook series of publications and the programme of work of the cultural statistics training workshops.

## **II. Background**

2. UNESCO is the lead agency in the United Nations system for culture and the Institute for Statistics is the lead entity for global statistics on culture. In September 2008, the culture statistics programme of the Institute developed a new strategy that focuses on three main lines of action: (a) the collection, analysis and dissemination of internationally comparable data on culture; (b) the development of new methodologies, standards and indicators in cultural statistics; and (c) training and capacity-building in cultural statistics — in the framework of collaboration and partnerships with national, regional and international governmental and civil society organizations.

3. With regard to the development of new methodologies, standards and indicators, in 2015 the Institute started a new project (see paras. 7-11 below), to develop the methodology and implementation guidelines for culture satellite accounts in order to establish the international recommendations for culture satellite accounts.

4. The Institute also produces cultural statistics methodological documents, as well as analytical documents in various formats, such as bulletins and information notes. It also collaborates with international agencies to support the improvement of international classifications in respect of their ability to identify cultural phenomena.

5. With regard to the collection and dissemination of internationally comparable data, the Institute carries out the survey of feature film statistics on a biennial basis. It also implemented the annual survey of cultural employment statistics that was launched in 2015 (see paras. 12-17 below). All cultural statistical data are available at the data centre, accessible from the website of the Institute ([www.uis.unesco.org](http://www.uis.unesco.org)).

6. With regard to training and capacity-building in cultural statistics, the Culture Unit of the Institute focuses on three primary activities: (a) carrying out regional

training workshops; (b) supporting national workshops; and (c) providing technical assistance and expert advice to countries that request it.

### **III. International recommendations for culture satellite accounts**

7. In 2015, the Institute commissioned a study to examine current methodologies and country experiences for culture satellite accounts. The study provides a description and assessment of existing examples of national culture satellite accounts and a summary of the country experience in their development, as well as what has been learned. In addition, regional culture satellite account guidelines were reviewed. Finally, the study also contains initial recommendations on the need for the development and implementation of an international standard methodology.

8. An expert group meeting on culture satellite accounts was held from 4 to 6 November 2015 in Montreal, Canada. Experts included representatives from five countries that have established a culture satellite account (Australia, Canada, Finland, Mexico and the United States of America); a regional organization (Convenio Andres Bello), three international partner agencies, including the World Tourism Organization, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, as well two independent experts. The purpose of the meeting was to learn from the experiences of the countries and organizations in developing satellite accounts, to review and discuss the study commissioned by the Institute and to discuss the necessary next steps towards the development of international recommendations for culture satellite accounts.

9. It is anticipated that the project will require three to four years for completion. It is the objective of the Institute, as the lead agency, to have the international recommendations for culture satellite accounts ready in 2019.

10. As part of this work, the Institute is also planning to produce international recommendations for cultural statistics.

11. In 2016, the Institute will establish the culture satellite account technical advisory group/editorial board that will help to guide the work as well as commission a first draft of the methodology and recommendations.

### **IV. Institute for Statistics survey of cultural employment statistics**

12. Since the previous report to the Commission in March 2014 (see [E/CN.3/2014/21](#)), a pilot survey has been completed. The countries that participated in the pilot survey included Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Estonia, Fiji, Grenada, Mali, Mongolia, Morocco, the Niger, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Seychelles, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Turkey. A total of 17 responses were received. The purpose of the pilot survey was to test and assess the proposed data-collection instrument and data-collection process, assess the availability and quality of data and understand the response burden on countries.

13. A meeting of pilot countries to discuss the results of the pilot survey was held in Montreal from 14 to 16 May 2014. Representatives of 13 pilot countries were in attendance. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the experience of the respondent countries in completing the pilot survey, as well as to make recommendations to its content.

14. A second and final meeting of the expert group on cultural employment statistics was held in Paris on 10 and 11 June 2014. The purpose of the meeting was to review the results of the pilot survey and make final recommendations for the survey.

15. On 2 September 2015, the Institute launched the first global collection of cultural employment statistics. Respondents were national statistical offices. It is anticipated that the survey will be administered on an annual basis.

16. The purpose of the survey is to collect and disseminate internationally comparable data on cultural employment and make available to countries, policymakers and other stakeholders the first global database of cultural employment data and indicators. In addition, analysis will be produced and disseminated in various formats.

17. The data collected will be chiefly obtained from national labour force surveys, which are the primary sources of labour statistics. The Institute will work closely with national statistical offices, which, in most cases, will be the primary respondents to the survey since they are responsible for the management of the surveys.

## **V. 2009 UNESCO Framework for Cultural Statistics handbook series**

18. A third handbook, entitled *Festival Statistics: Key Concepts and Current Practices*, was published in 2015. It provides an overview of the key concepts and latest approaches used to measure festivals and proposes a model festival indicators framework. It can be downloaded from the website of the Institute.

19. A fourth handbook, entitled *Measuring the Economic Contribution of Cultural Industries: A Case Study of Serbia*, is a follow-up report to the first handbook in the series and presents the results of a model methodological approach for measuring the economic contribution of cultural industries using data from Serbia. It was published in 2015 and can be downloaded from the website of the Institute.

## **VI. Programme of work of the cultural statistics training workshops**

20. The Culture Unit of the Institute established its programme of regional training workshops in 2009, with the aim of beginning after the publication of the 2009 UNESCO Framework of Cultural Statistics. The training workshops are designed for professionals of ministries of culture and national statistics offices, as these institutions are the primary producers and users of cultural statistics. The workshop timetable has been determined with a focus on supporting capacity-building in developing countries.

21. The objectives of the training workshops were: (a) to provide training on the use and implementation of the 2009 UNESCO Framework for Cultural Statistics; (b) to provide training in selected cultural statistics topics; and (c) to support the development of professional networks in cultural statistics. Since the publication of the Framework for Cultural Statistics, a total of 10 Institute-led regional training workshops have been held.
22. In 2016, the Institute will develop a new workshop training strategy to support countries in the improvement and development of cultural statistics.

## **VII. Conclusions**

23. The work towards the establishment of international recommendations for culture satellite accounts represents a significant step forward towards providing the global community with methodology and guidelines for the development of national culture satellite accounts. It also represents an alternative methodology for countries to measure the economic contribution of the culture sector.
24. The development of the international recommendations for cultural statistics will provide countries with a tool for improving existing and developing new cultural data and statistics.
25. The survey of cultural employment statistics represents a significant step forward towards understanding the global trends in cultural employment and will contribute to the global measurement of the economic impact of the culture sector. It will also generate data and indicators on gender employment as well as data and statistics on the social and demographic characteristics of the culture sector.
26. The Institute will make available the first database of internationally comparable cultural employment data and indicators that will support the work of numerous stakeholders, including government policymakers, academics and international agencies.
27. Both the handbook series and the programme of cultural statistics training workshops represent initiatives that have been designed to support the statistical capacity-building in cultural statistics for statisticians and officers of national statistical offices and ministries of culture globally.
28. The Statistical Commission is invited to take note of the present report.
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