# Directory of statistical services of international organisations

| **Brief description of the organisation**¹ | The UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) is the official and trusted source of internationally-comparable data on education, science, culture and communication.  
As the official statistical agency of UNESCO, the UIS produces a wide range of indicators in UNESCO’s fields of action by working with national statistical offices, line ministries and other statistical organizations. The UIS Director serves as the Organization’s chief statistician.  
Based in Montreal, the Institute has functional autonomy and applies rigorous professional standards to produce high-quality data, methodologies and global standards. |
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| **Mission**² | The UIS produces the internationally-comparable data needed to compare trends and monitor progress at the country, regional and global levels in the fields of education, science, culture and communications.  
To produce these indicators, the Institute develops the international standards, methodologies and capacity-building tools needed by countries to improve data quality and use at the national and global levels.  
The UIS has been given the mandate to produce the data needed to monitor progress towards the UN’s Sustainable Development Goal on education (SDG 4), as well as key global targets related to science, culture and communications.  
The Education 2030 Framework for Action recognizes the UIS as “the official source of cross-nationally comparable data on education” and has given the Institute the mandate to “work with partners to develop new indicators, statistical approaches and monitoring tools to better assess progress across the targets related to UNESCO’s mandate.” |
| **Fields of Activity/structure** | The Institute’s main services include:  
- Develop, produce and analyse cross-nationally comparable data in UNESCO’s fields of competence so that countries can benchmark their progress towards development goals;  
- Develop innovative methodologies and international standards that meet the changing policy needs of countries;  
- Serve as the neutral broker and trusted source of support and guidance for countries looking to improve the measurement of critical issues, such as learning outcomes; |

¹ Description of the statistics section/department in the organization  
² Mission of the statistics section/department of the organization
• Provide a range of capacity-building services and tools to help countries produce and use high-quality data for effective policymaking; and
• Advocate for the production and use of data as a public good to highlight issues and regions needing greater support from the international community.

**Mandate**
See general description and mission statement.
As an autonomous organization, the Institute has its own Governing Board.

**Statistical work programme**
Work programmes are determined on an annual basis.

**Number of staff**
*Total / Statistical division*
About 70 worldwide

**Flagship Publications**
• Sustainable Development Data Digest
• The UIS is the primary source of internationally-comparable education and literacy data for leading publications and databases, such as: SDG indicators (UNSD); EdStats and World Development Indicators (World Bank); Human Development Report (UNDP); the Global Education Monitoring Report (UNESCO), and others.

**Website**

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