



This Fact Sheet provides an overview of the process through which UNESCO engages with and consults the 195 National Commissions worldwide on the Organization's Strategy and Programme and Budget.

Other Relevant Fact Sheets:

- Overview of UNESCO
- UNESCO's Medium Term Strategy

Regional Consultation with National Commissions for UNESCO

UNESCO has a network of 195 National Commissions worldwide through which the Organization engages civil society experts in the fields of education, sciences, culture and communication & information.

Every two years National Commissions meet within a series of five **Regional Consultations** subscribing Africa, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and North America, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

On these occasions National Commissions make formal suggestions on evolution of UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy (designated document C/4) and biennial Programme and Budget (designated document C/5), thereby starting the process of elaborating UNESCO's programme of activities within each planning cycle.

THE PROCESS

A questionnaire prepared by UNESCO's Bureau of Strategic Planning (BSP) is circulated to all National Commissions prior to their respective Regional Consultations. The National Commissions will consult internally - and with sister National Commissions in the same region as required - on responses.

The five Regional Consultation meetings each are hosted by a National Commission in the given region. The results of the consultations are then submitted to UNESCO's Secretariat and to the Executive Board, to be taken into account in the preparation of the C/4 and C/5 documents. After further iteration with the Executive Board over the two years cycle these are delivered to the General Conference – UNESCO's ultimate governing body - for critical consideration and formal adoption.

2008 REGIONAL CONSULTATION FOR EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

This year's Regional Consultation will be hosted by the Netherlands National Commission for UNESCO; and is currently scheduled to take place between **31 May and 4 June 2008**.

UK NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO

The UK National Commission for UNESCO participated in the 2004 and 2006 Regional Consultations for Europe and North America, in Zurich and Athens respectively. It is currently preparing to participate in the forthcoming Regional Consultation.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information, contact the UK National Commission Secretariat.

To read UNESCO reports of previous Regional Consultations:

http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=11300&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

To read the UK National Commission's responses to previous

Regional Consultations: http://www.unesco.org.uk/Regional_Consultation.htm ■