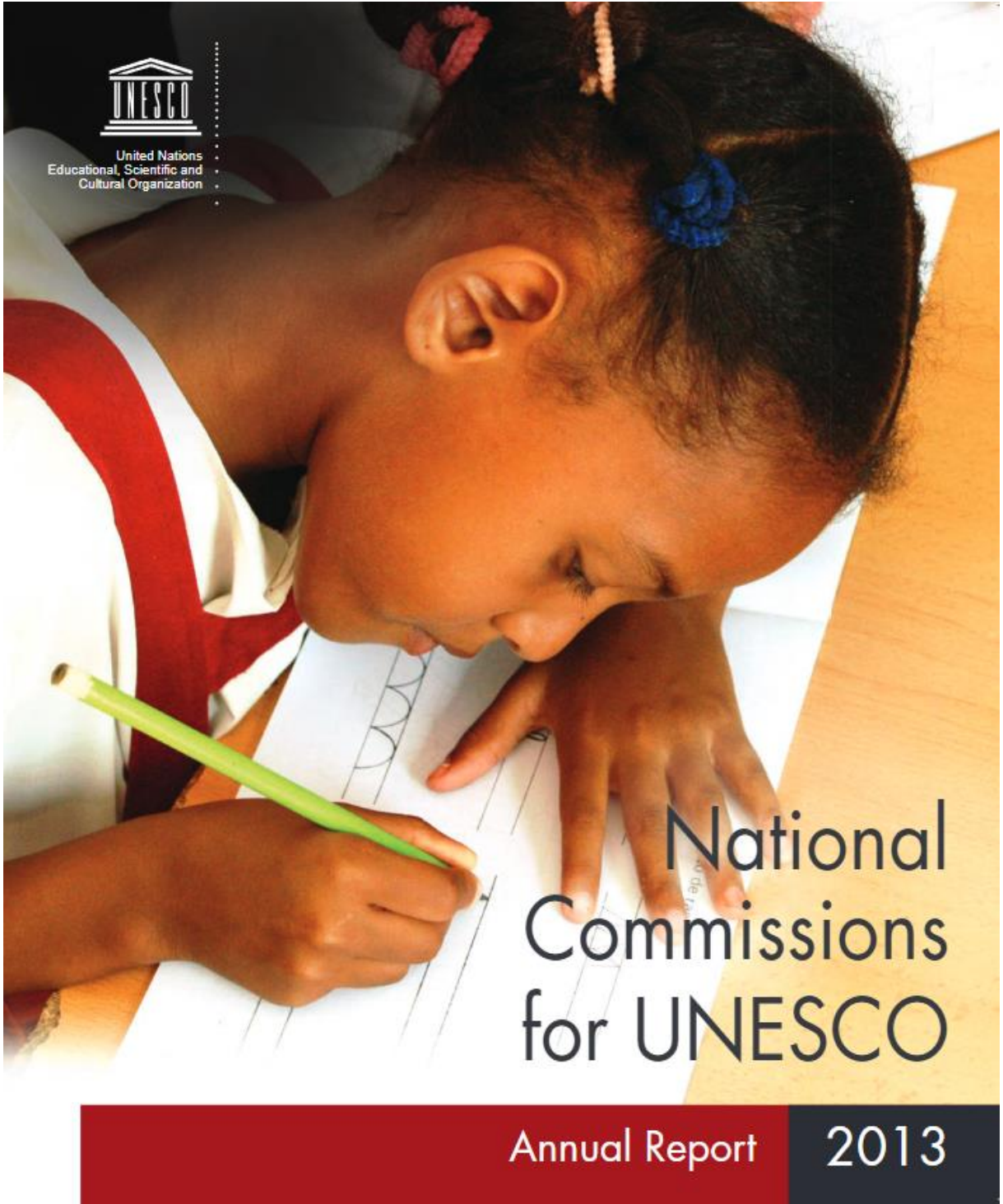


UNESCO MİLLÎ KOMİSYONLARI 2013 YILI RAPORU



UNESCO MİLLÎ KOMİSYONLARI 2013 YILI RAPORUNDA UNESCO TÜRKİYE MİLLÎ KOMİSYONU

Europe and
North America

TURKEY

TURKEY

Turkish National Commission for UNESCO

Chairman: Mr Öcal Oğuz

Secretary-general: Ms Sema Dinçer

Website: www.unesco.org.tr

Update of activities in 2013

The Turkish National Commission for UNESCO has a number of core programmes, which are implemented by Committees comprising experts from the fields of education, science, culture, and communication and information. The Executive Board, whose members include representatives from the Ministries of Education, Culture and Foreign Affairs, as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and academic institutions, coordinates the work of these Committees.

A programme of structural improvement began in 2011 and continued throughout 2013, alongside improvements to infrastructure. Increased capacity among the permanent staff allowed the National Commission to take on more projects through the Committees.

The overarching priority of the Commission is to enhance the visibility of UNESCO's programmes at the national level and to increase collaboration at the regional level. As Turkey is a country with a rich culture, the Turkish National Commission, from the very start of its activities, has focused on cultural programmes. Throughout 2013, the Turkish National

Commission was particularly engaged in the promotion of the 1972 World Heritage Convention at various levels.

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, the city of Eskişehir was proclaimed the Intangible Cultural Heritage Capital of Turkey, as well as the 2013 Cultural Capital of the Turkic World. Eskişehir has a unique character as a cultural 'youth' city with two large universities that together enrol more than 50,000 students. The city was therefore chosen to host the 4th Meeting of UNESCO National Commissions of Member Countries of the International Organization of TURKSOY (International Organization of Turkic Culture). About 150 representatives participated in the meeting (2–3 September).

The National Commission also organized the South-East Europe Regional Forum of UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks in coordination with the UNESCO Office in Venice. The outcome was the Istanbul Conclusions, which promote the formation of new networks and ongoing and increased collaboration among scientific networks.

The National Commission also disseminated information on new initiatives including celebrations (international days, weeks, years, decades and anniversaries celebrated by Member States) through its website and network, and via relevant stakeholders. It authorized the use of logos for twenty-nine events carried out by NGOs, academic and art institutions, relevant ministries and municipalities.

All these activities received good coverage in the Turkish media.

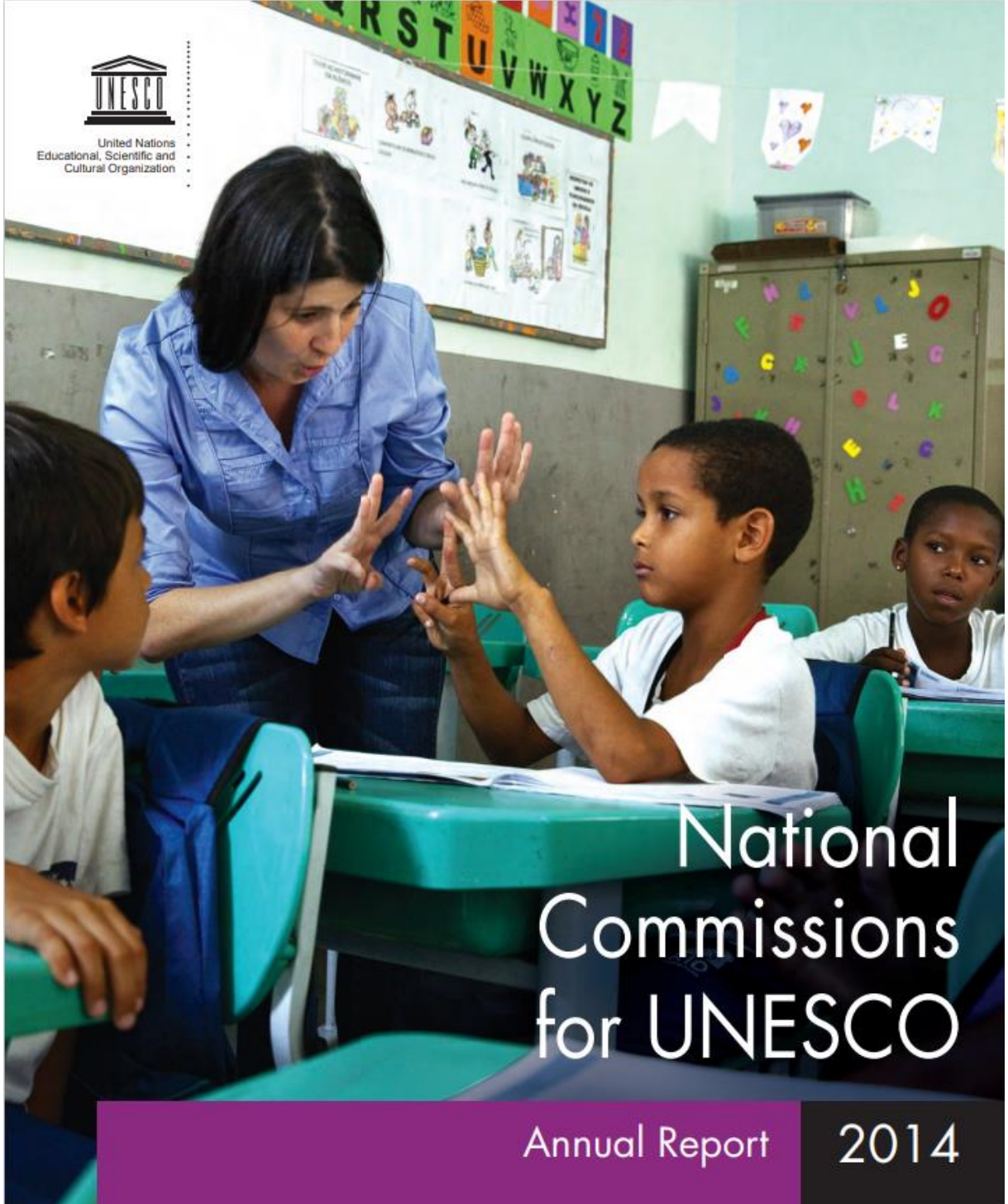


A success story

The Turkish National Commission invited sixty-five NGOs to a workshop held in Ankara (31 May). This occasion created an opportunity for exchange of information, the establishment of cooperation and future collaborations, and the formation of networks among participating NGOs.

One of the participating NGOs was the Young Peace Initiative, which creates projects to foster the involvement of youth in activities against discrimination and violence. The National Commission supported the participation of Mr. Emre Akkas, President of this NGO, in the 8th UNESCO Youth Forum in line with its goal to increase the involvement of youth in UNESCO activities.

UNESCO MİLLÎ KOMİSYONLARI 2014 YILI RAPORU



UNESCO MİLLÎ KOMİSYONLARI 2014 YILI RAPORUNDA UNESCO TÜRKİYE MİLLÎ KOMİSYONU

Europe and
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President: Mr Öcal Oğuz

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Update of activities in 2014

In 2014, the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO re-elected its General Assembly, Executive Board and Committees for the term 2014–2018. The first information exchange meeting was organized in October and was attended by 149 participants. The event included seminars given by members of the UNESCO Secretariat, and provided a platform to initiate dialogue and inform new members about UNESCO strategies.

During the year the Turkish National Commission continued working with other National Commissions, Permanent Delegations, UNESCO Headquarters, Category II Centres, public entities, members of civil society and youth organizations.

The Commission also coordinated several youth-related activities in 2014. A workshop with members of the Children's Assembly of the Municipality of Ankara was organized in partnership with a non-governmental organization (NGO) involved in awareness raising, with the aim of highlighting UNESCO's work in the field of world heritage. The Commission also collaborated with the Asia-Pacific Centre of Education

for International Understanding (APCEIU) to organize a photography class and exhibition lasting one week in Cappadocia, a World Heritage site. The project involved twenty-eight high-school students from Turkey (selected from Associated Schools) and the Republic of Korea. The goal of the project was to use education and culture to promote international understanding and intercultural dialogue.

The Turkish National Commission also organized two events in cooperation with UNESCO Headquarters in the field of culture. In September, the National Commission funded and hosted a category VI expert meeting on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development at the national level. The meeting resulted in the submission and approval of Operational Guidelines by the Intergovernmental Committee.

In November, the National Commission co-organized a meeting with the UNESCO Office in Mexico on 'Settlement Dynamics in Human Evolution: Human history from dispersals and migrations to adaptations to sedentary societies, implications for the World Heritage Convention'. This meeting aimed to evaluate current methodologies for defining and establishing the Outstanding Universal Value of early food production-related heritage sites, and its implications within the framework of the World Heritage Convention.

Lastly, the National Commission organized four consultation meetings and published a set of online guidelines to promote understanding of the Commission's approach to anniversaries observed by UNESCO. It also authorized the use of UNESCO logos for twenty-five events carried out by various NGOs, academic and art institutions, ministries, municipalities and the private sector.



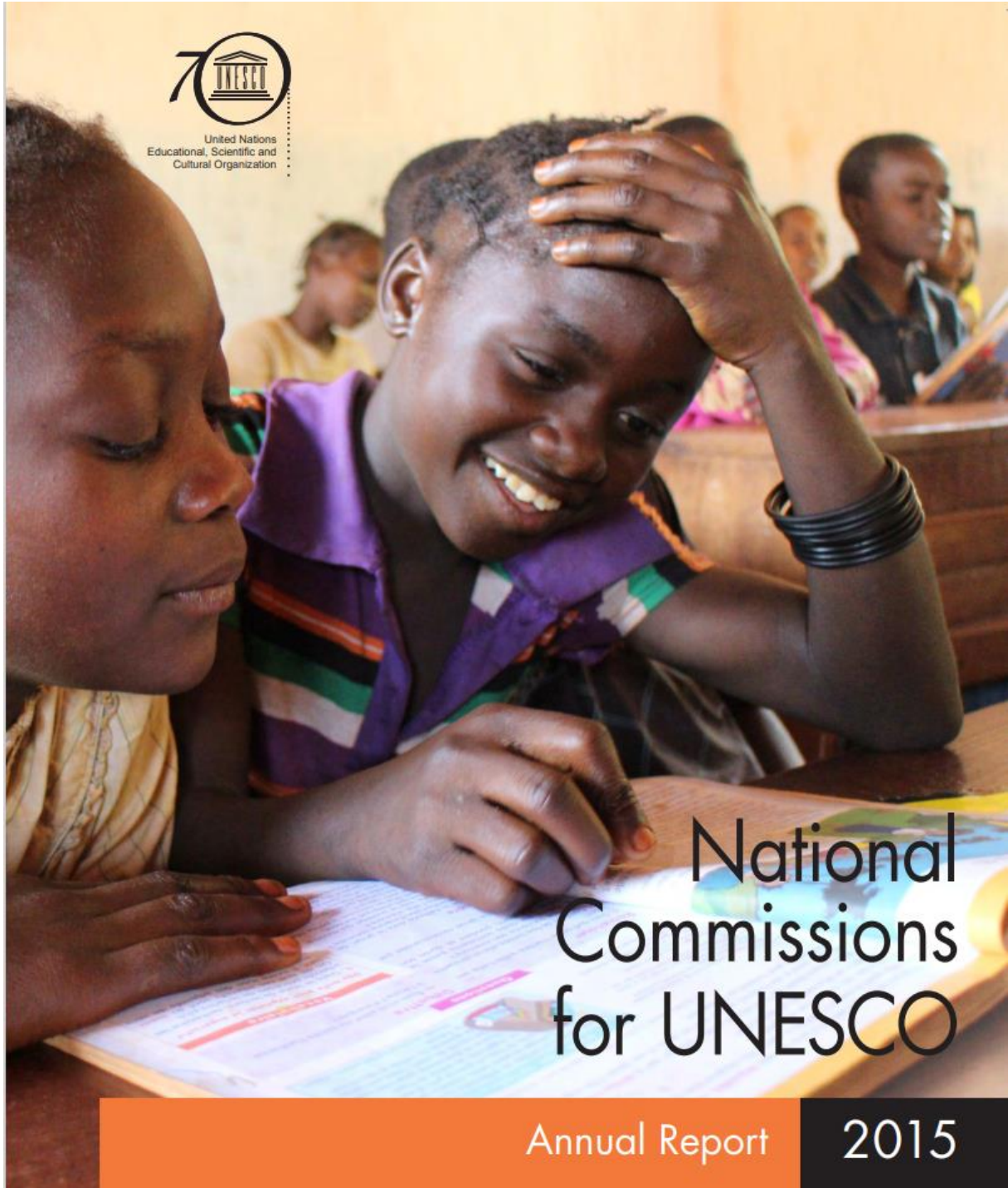
Project carried out jointly with the National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan on traditional handicrafts.
© Turkish National Commission for UNESCO

A success story

In 2014, the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO jointly carried out a project with the National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan on traditional handicrafts. The project gathered together twelve experts of the two National Commissions from the fields of sociology, gender studies, folklore, ICH studies, media and economics, to collaborate and organize field trips in Azerbaijan and Turkey.

In line with the UNESCO Priority Gender Equality Action Plan for 2014–2021, the project aimed to promote recognition of women's contributions to culture and to study the contribution of traditional handicrafts to the empowerment of women and the enhancement of sustainable development at national and regional levels. It also examined the role of women in the transmission of this heritage. The findings of the project are being prepared in both Turkish and English.

UNESCO MİLLÎ KOMİSYONLARI 2015 YILI RAPORU



UNESCO MİLLÎ KOMİSYONLARI 2015 YILI RAPORUNDA UNESCO TÜRKİYE MİLLÎ KOMİSYONU

Europe and
North America

TURKEY

TURKEY

Turkish National Commission for UNESCO

President: Mr Öcal Oğuz

Secretary-General: Ms Sema Dinçer

Website: www.unesco.org.tr

Update of activities in 2015

The Turkish National Commission devoted much of 2015 to celebrations and awareness-raising activities in recognition of the 70th anniversary of UNESCO. The year began with a visit by the Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova (4–8 January), who met with the Minister of Education and the President of the National Commission to review the state of cooperation between UNESCO and Turkey, and review the main lines of actions of the Commission.

The National Commission undertook four main activities during the year. The first aimed to strengthen educational networks and awareness of UNESCO's objectives in education. Accordingly, the Commission organized a meeting with members of ASPnet to share best practices and build on experiences gained (21 April). Representatives of UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks also met to review the higher education programme and share experiences in a consultative meeting open to all observers wishing to join the network (17 April). In addition, scholarships set up for masters and doctoral students in universities conducting research directly connected to UNESCO fields.

The second activity was a workshop organized for the 'Mediterranean Network in Bioethics' (7 April), which discussed different aspects of bioethics including the implications of new technologies, bioethics education, clinical trials, collaboration and partnership. Experts from the UNESCO Bioethics and Ethics of Science Section, and experts in the field from six countries and the Turkish Clinical Research Association participated in the meeting.

The third activity was a 'Roundtable Meeting for Experience Sharing between Turkey and Africa', organized to promote north-south cooperation (1 April). Discussions were held on issues related to intangible cultural heritage (ICH) and education. Twelve African countries attended and highlighted their experience with ICH and education covering topics such as transmission, educational curricula, the contribution of civil society partners, and the role of museums and media. The discussions were reflected in the Final Declaration, which was published and shared with the public.

The fourth activity was a conference organized to commemorate '10 Years of the Convention on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions' (20 October). This aimed to gather and mobilize experts on various aspects of the Convention, raise awareness of its purpose, and gather national views with regard to contemporary debates. It received good media coverage and youth participation via social media.

Lastly, to emphasize the importance of heritage under risk, a consultative meeting was organized with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, and ICOMOS and ICOM among others (28 April). The meeting highlighted UN Security Council decisions and UNESCO's action and stressed the importance of UNESCO's Cultural Conventions. It also underlined the importance of capacity-building and expertise.



A success story

In celebration of the 70th anniversary of UNESCO, the Turkish National Commission prepared a booklet highlighting key events since Turkey joined UNESCO as a founding member. The booklet provides information on the impact of UNESCO in Turkey and the collaboration between UNESCO and the National Commission.

During the General Conference the booklet was distributed to the Member States to heighten the visibility of the vision of the National Commission. It was also distributed on various occasions and at events organized by the National Commission in Turkey.

The booklet 'UNESCO in Turkey 70 Years – 70 Key Events' produced to celebrate the 70th anniversary of UNESCO
© Turkish National Commission for UNESCO

UNESCO MİLLÎ KOMİSYONLARI 2016 YILI RAPORU



UNESCO MİLLÎ KOMİSYONLARI 2016 YILI RAPORUNDA UNESCO TÜRKİYE MİLLÎ KOMİSYONU

Europe and
North America

TURKEY

TURKEY

Turkish National Commission for UNESCO

President: Mr. Öcal Oğuz

Secretary-General: Ms. Sema Dinçer

Website: www.unesco.org.tr

Update of activities in 2016

In 2016, the Turkish National Commission hosted the Sixth Meeting of the National Commissions for UNESCO of TURKSOY Member States. Approximately 100 representatives discussed future collaborations. The meeting also hosted the Third Seminar on Education, the Fourth Seminar on Memory of the World, the Ninth Seminar on ICH, and Fourth Seminar on Natural and Cultural Heritage.

In the education sector, the annual meeting of UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs was attended by the Minister of National Education. This year, three new Chairs joined the network.

The Commission cooperated with the Eskişehir Municipality for its inclusion in the Global Network of Learning Cities.

World Science Day for Peace and Development "Celebrating Science Centres and Science Museums" was celebrated at the General Directorate of Mineral Research and Exploration, which hosts the Natural History Museum.

In social sciences, the work focused on science - policy interface. The consultative meeting on Biobanks and Bioethics co-organized with the Ministry of Health, resulted in the adoption

by the Ministry, of a Guideline on this subject. A compilation of selected national and international standard-setting instruments and reports on Bioethics was prepared and published online for academic reference and public awareness.

The Commission took active part in the Working Group for the Revision of the MOST Statutes and Rules of Procedures and published a Report on demographic transformations. Through its experts, the Commission prepared its reply to the questionnaire for the Recommendation on the Status of Scientific Researchers.

In the culture sector, the Commission participated in the Task Force for the 40th Session of the World Heritage Committee, and together with Istanbul Site Management Directorate, organized the Youth Forum 2016 "At the Crossroads of Multi-Layered Heritage". This year, it supported the drafting of two nominations for the Representative List and one for the World Heritage List, which were inscribed. The experts of the Commission organized conferences for the 8000 newly appointed teachers from different fields and backgrounds, on UNESCO's mission and contributions in the fields of cultural heritage and education.

A Panel with the theme "Radio in Emergencies and Disasters" was co-organized with universities, NGOs, and governmental institutions for the World Radio Day.

Among others, the following were translated into Turkish and published online for wider access: 38 C Commission Reports/Decisions, the World Social Sciences Report (Summary), the Recommendation on the Protection and Promotion of Museums and Collections, the Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist, Cultural Heritage Protection Handbooks (co-publication).

The Commission authorized the use of the Organization's logo for 47 events.



The 2016 Meeting of the Committees, Executive Board and General Assembly, discussed the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

© Turkey National Commission for UNESCO

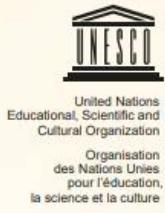
A success story

The efforts put on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development were among the highlights of this year's work. In addition to the translations and awareness raising activities, the 17 goals and 169 targets of the Agenda, and the contribution of the Turkish National Commission from the point of view of UNESCO's mission and vision, have been discussed with experts in meetings throughout the year.

The 2016, Meeting of the Committees, Executive Board and General Assembly, discussed the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Its final report mapped current efforts and future aspects.

This initiative was furthered with the establishment of the Sustainable Development Committee. The main partners will include, among others, the decision makers from the Ministry in charge of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and UNSDSN Turkey Coordinator. The Turkish National Commission contributes to UNSDSN Turkey and the established collaborations sustains the work and continues to be the focus within the coming period.

UNESCO MİLLÎ KOMİSYONLARI 2017 YILLIK RAPORU



National Commissions for UNESCO *Commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO*

Annual Report | *Rapport annuel*

2017

UNESCO MİLLÎ KOMİSYONLARI 2017 YILI RAPORUNDA UNESCO TÜRKİYE MİLLÎ KOMİSYONU

TURKEY

Europe and
North America

TURKEY

Turkish National Commission for UNESCO

President: Mr M. Öcal Oğuz

Secretary-General: Ms Sema Akmeşe

Website: www.unesco.org.tr

Update of activities in 2017

In 2017, the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO has moved to its own new official building. It now has an infrastructural capacity allowing for increased number of experts and employees. The building disposes of a larger library, conference hall, exhibition hall, meeting rooms and offices.

SDGs remained a priority; different aspects of the 2030 Agenda were addressed throughout the year. Traditional Consultative Meeting of UNESCO Chairs/UNITWIN in Turkey marked the best practices on SDG4. Regular meetings of NGOs were hosted by the Vice-Minister of National Education and highlighted civil society initiatives and best practices for the 2030 Agenda. The Extended Meeting of the Bioethics Committee on the 2030 Agenda discussed the ethical dimension of the SDGs.

Also, to mark SDG 11 and promote the involvement of local partners in UNESCO affiliated programmes and networks, the Commission continued to focus on capacity building and awareness raising activities for local partners including more than ten cities in Turkey, this year. The Commission supported

the periodic reporting of one Biosphere Reserve, the application process of three new members in the Creative Cities Network and one in the Global Network of Learning Cities.

Throughout 2017, the Commission cooperated with the Radio of Turkey's Voices for a UNESCO-specific broadcast on radio. Every week during the programme, recent news and core values of UNESCO have been shared with the audience.

On the 25th Anniversary of Memory of the World Programme, the Commission organized a meeting with the aim to enhance international cooperation and to discuss possible joint nominations.

Among others, the following were translated into Turkish and published online for wider access: The Statutes of the MOST Intergovernmental Council, Recommendation concerning the Preservation of, and Access to Documentary Heritage in the Digital Era, Declaration on Ethical Principles in Relation to Climate Change.

This year's publications by the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO are as follows: Communication for All, Istanbul Conference 10 Years of the UNESCO Convention on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, Social Transformations and Ageing: The Case of Turkey, Audio-Visual Heritage Space and Its Protections "Its Your Story, Don't Lose It"

The Commission authorized the use of the Organization's logo for 42 events.

Seven interns successfully completed the 2017 Internship Programme and one PhD student was awarded with scholarship.



The "Round Table Meeting for Experience Sharing between Africa and Turkey: Natural, Cultural and Intangible Heritage"
© Turkish National Commission for UNESCO

Experience-sharing with Arab States: the National Commission organized the "Roundtable Meeting for Experience Sharing between Arab States and Turkey in UNESCO Fields" with the aim of enhancing cooperation with Arab States and discussing possible areas for cooperation.

Experience-sharing with Latin American and Caribbean States: "Roundtable Meeting for Experience Sharing between Latin American-Caribbean States and Turkey in UNESCO Fields" was the first meeting between the Latin American and Caribbean states and Turkey.

Experience-sharing with Africa: in 2015 a meeting was organized to identify the current status of ICH in formal and informal education, with a focus on North and West Africa. The meeting paved the way towards cooperation between the participant states, similar meetings and collaboration initiatives on different themes and issues. As a result, in 2017 a second meeting was organized with the attendance of 37 African National Commissions. The "Round Table Meeting for Experience Sharing between Africa and Turkey: Natural, Cultural and Intangible Heritage" was chaired by the Minister of Culture.

A success story

The Turkish National Commission highly values international and regional cooperation in order to discuss themes of UNESCO, share knowledge and experience and assess the opportunities for cooperation fields together. The vital step for cooperation is to know better colleagues from other National Commissions. With this aim, the Turkish National Commission has organized cooperation meetings with different regions throughout 2017.

Experience-sharing with South East European Countries: the National Commissions in the region organized meetings between 1964-1990 annually with the aim of exchanging ideas, sharing experiences and strengthening cooperation across all UNESCO spheres. To follow up and bolster this work the "Meeting of the National Commissions for UNESCO of the South East European Countries" was held in Turkey.

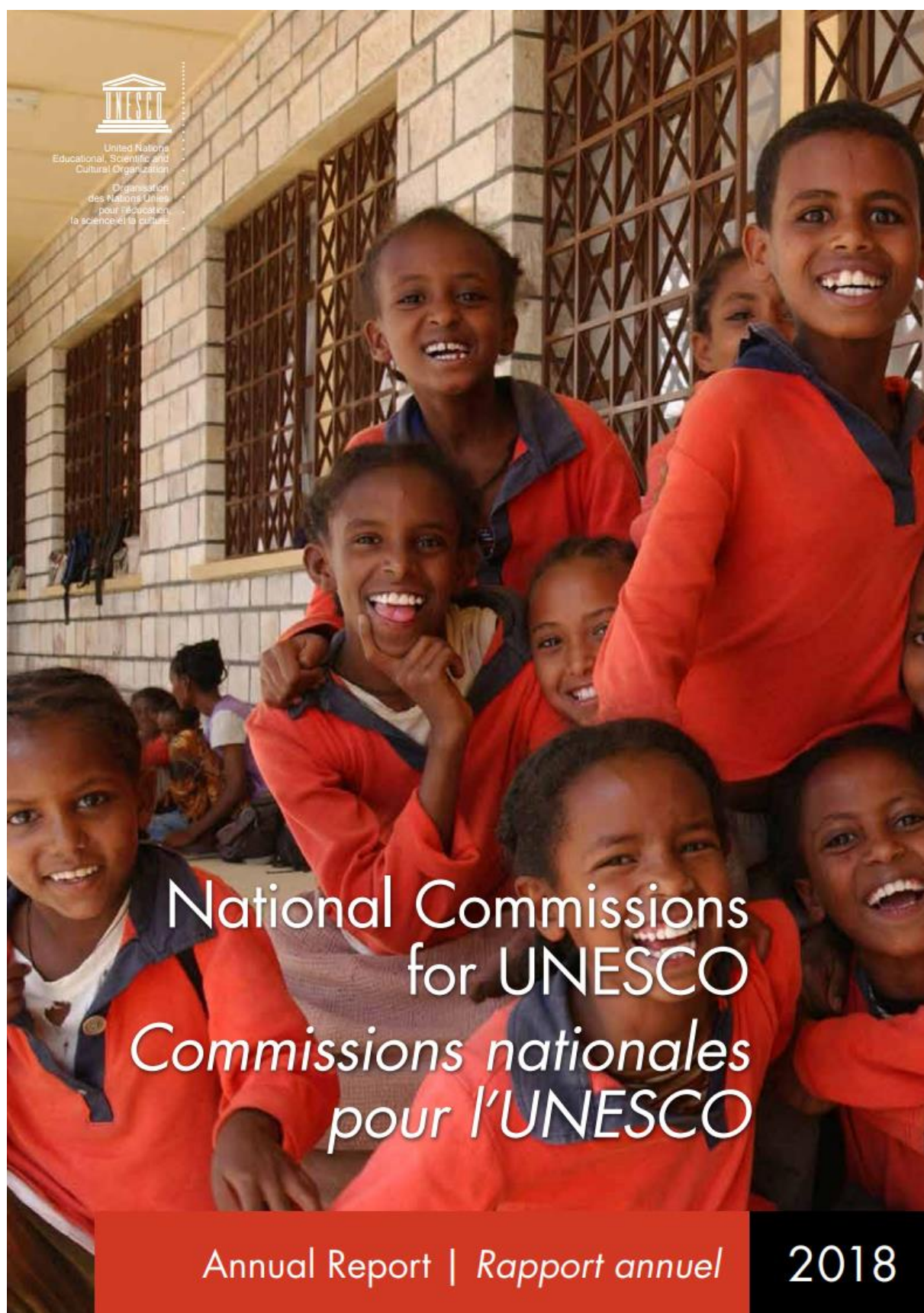
Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

Sub-regional/regional/interregional collaboration, networking and experience sharing are of high importance for the Turkish National Commission. Therefore, it welcomes such initiatives in general and with all regions.

The Turkish National Commission endeavors to sustain the above mentioned cooperation meetings it initiated in 2017 and before.

For the topics of specific relevance for the National Commissions to be discussed in the Executive Board, the Turkish National Commission can share the views of colleagues from other National Commissions with its Permanent Delegation, with a view to promoting its possible reflection in the Executive Board.

UNESCO MİLLÎ KOMİSYONLARI 2018 YILI RAPORU



UNESCO MİLLÎ KOMİSYONLARI 2018 YILI RAPORUNDA UNESCO TÜRKİYE MİLLÎ KOMİSYONU

TURKEY

Europe and
North America

TURKEY

Turkish National Commission for UNESCO

President: Mr M. Öcal Oğuz

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Website: www.unesco.org.tr

Update of activities in 2018

2018 was for Turkish National Commission for UNESCO a year of fruitful activities and cooperation with its stakeholders of academia, public institutions and civil society.

In January 2018, Turkish National Commission for UNESCO in collaboration with a provincial municipality and an NGO accredited to UNESCO co-organized the "Winter School for Intangible Cultural Heritage" with the aim of discussing "protection, handing the culture from one generation to another, media and participation" within the framework of SDGs. The event brought together over 60 participants including the ones with international experience over the area.

5 interns successfully completed the 2018 Internship Programme executed every year to raise awareness in youth on UNESCO Programmes, and were awarded with certificates in January-February 2018.

The application process of the Turkish city Bolu to the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities was also supported by the National Commission and Bolu has become the third Learning City from Turkey in March 2018.

In May 2018, Turkish National Commission for UNESCO re-elected its General Assembly and Executive Board for the term of 2018-2022 in a meeting with up to 100 participants.

In November 2018, the "Fourth Joint Meeting of the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO" was organized in Antalya that brought together around 200 participants.

In December 2018, Turkish National Commission for UNESCO cooperated with a provincial municipality and a UNESCO Chair in Turkey to co-organize a STEM Project for the Turkish and Syrian secondary school students. 200 students were trained in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics for two days and were awarded with certificates at the end of the training.

Throughout 2018, Turkish National Commission for UNESCO had numerous consultative meetings with the Ministries, provincial and local municipalities, civil society representatives, youth sections of several institutions and notable figures. For instance, there were two consultative meetings hosted by the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO for the "Anniversaries with which UNESCO is associated in 2018-2019" (January 2018) and for the "Anniversaries with which UNESCO is associated in 2020-2021" (December 2018).



Closing Session of the 4th Joint Meeting of the Turkish NatCom © Turkish National Commission for UNESCO

of National Commission, to reflect on several questions related to UNESCO Programmes and 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. There were also sub-meetings held on particular areas such as UNESCO Chairs, NGOs accredited to UNESCO and Creative Cities/Learning Cities.

Outcomes of the aforementioned meetings were shared by the Chairs of the Meeting Rooms, elected during the meetings, with all the participants in a closure session.

A success story

Turkish National Commission for UNESCO organized its "Fourth Joint Meeting" on 17-18 November 2018 in Antalya and brought together around 200 participants including the Minister of National Education, the Vice-Minister of Culture and Tourism, the Permanent Delegate of Turkey to UNESCO, the members of the National Commission's General Assembly, Executive Board and Expertise Committees, the Coordinator of the Network of UNESCO National Commissions, representatives from the UNESCO Chairs in Turkey, NGOs, academia and press.

The meeting was aimed to evaluate the two-year period experienced since the last Joint Meeting in 2016 and to determine a road map for the following two-year period until the next Joint Meeting in 2020. 180 participants were divided into 6 meeting rooms, named after sites or people that are in the UNESCO Lists, and were given workbooks pre-prepared by the Secretariat

Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

As it has always been, Turkish National Commission for UNESCO puts great emphasis on local, regional, national and international cooperation with its stakeholders and carefully regards participation and involvement in such liaison.

Turkish National Commission for UNESCO seeks and strives to ensure continuance in aforementioned cooperation and considers 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and global priorities of UNESCO such as Gender Equality and Africa to be substantial domains that provide an action framework for the National Commission's activities.

Turkish National Commission for UNESCO will keep in touch with the Permanent Delegation of Turkey to UNESCO, Ministries of National Education, Foreign Affairs and Culture and Tourism, and also other related Ministries, public institutions, academia and NGOs to ensure even more efficient cooperation by sustaining the culture and the routine of "working together".

UNESCO MİLLÎ KOMİSYONLARI 2019 YILI RAPORU



National Commissions for UNESCO *Commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO*

Annual Report | *Rapport annuel*

2019

**UNESCO MİLLÎ KOMİSYONLARI 2019 YILI RAPORUNDA UNESCO TÜRKİYE MİLLÎ
KOMİSYONU**

TURKEY

Turkish National Commission for UNESCO

President: M. Öcal OĞUZ

Secretary-General: Ms. Sema AKMEŞE

Email: webmaster@unesco.org.tr

Website: www.unesco.org.tr

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

In January 2019, the Turkish National Commission cooperated with a local municipality and a NGO accredited to UNESCO, and co-organized the third "Winter School for Intangible Cultural Heritage" with the aim of discussing several aspects of the intangible cultural heritage within the framework of SDGs, bringing together over 40 participants, including those with international experience in the area.

In February 2019, a seminar on UNESCO World Heritage Sites was provided by the Turkish National Commission to the Children's Council of the Ankara Metropolitan Municipality, and children were trained on the World Heritage List, Tentative Lists and natural, cultural and mixed heritage sites.

The Turkish National Commission, in another cooperation series with municipalities of Kocaeli and Diyarbakır, provided Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) projects towards Turkish and Syrian schoolgirls aged 11-14,

and trained students in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The National Commission supported the application process of the Turkish city Hatay, a member (in the theme of Gastronomy) of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network since 2017, to the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities — Hatay has become Turkey's 4th Learning City in March 2019. In October 2019, the cities of Afyonkarahisar and Kırşehir became Turkey's 5th and 6th UNESCO Creative Cities, respectively in the themes of Gastronomy and Music, with the support of the National Commission.

The National Commission brought together UNITWIN/ UNESCO Chairs in Turkey in a consultation meeting, the 4th since 2016, to discuss the standing of the Chairs and future cooperation in their respective fields of work. Another consultative meeting was held on the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme, to raise awareness about documentary heritage and to update the current national inventory.

Four interns successfully completed the 2019 Internship Programme, led every year to raise awareness in youth about UNESCO Programmes — they were awarded with certificates in June-August 2019.

During 2019, the National Commission had numerous consultative meetings with the local municipalities of Mardin, Eskişehir, Erzurum, Bursa, Şanlıurfa and others, discussing the current status of Turkey's cultural components.

Throughout 2019, the National Commission provided its logo to 45 events across Turkey, supporting events in line with UNESCO ideals.

SUCCESS STORY

The Turkish National Commission for UNESCO, on the occasion of its 70th anniversary, organized the Consultative Meeting of the National Commissions of the UNESCO Executive Board Members in September 2019.

The Presidents, Secretary-Generals and other representatives of the National Commissions of the countries that are Executive Board Members participated in the meeting. Opening speeches were provided by the Turkish National Commission, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, and the Ministry of Education. Following this, Mr. Charaf Ahmied, UNESCO's Head of the Strategic Transformation Unit, provided a presentation covering the UNESCO's strategic transformation process.

In the first session, UNESCO's Vice-Coordinator of the National Commissions Unit, delivered a presentation on the role of the National Commissions within UNESCO Programmes, Lists and Networks. The standing of National Commissions was discussed, including in the UNESCO Commemorations and Anniversaries, Memory of the World Programme, UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs, and Culture Conventions.

In the second session, discussions were held on possible collaboration areas for National Commissions to enhance the visibility of UNESCO in national terms. In the third session, National Commissions' experiences were shared regarding the UNESCO Constitution, the 1978 Charter of the National Commissions and documents generated through the Strategic Transformation process. Following a session of general evaluation, the meeting came to an end and a cultural activity was organized on the Historic Areas of Istanbul, part of the World Heritage List.



Consultative Meeting of the National Commissions of the UNESCO Executive Board Members that took place in Istanbul, Turkey in September 2019. © A.R.R. Turkish National Commission for UNESCO

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Turkish National Commission places critical emphasis on local, regional, inter-regional, national and international cooperation with its stakeholders and regardfully considers participation and involvement in such liaison. The National Commission will lead cooperation in cultural heritage, the SDGs, Artificial Intelligence and the UNESCO global priorities of Gender Equality and Africa — these provide an action framework for activities of the National Commission. For all of these actions, the National Commission will connect with the Permanent Delegation of Turkey to UNESCO, the Ministries of National Education, Foreign Affairs and Culture and Tourism, and also other related Ministries, public institutions, academia and NGOs, in order to provide further cooperation by sustaining the culture of working together.

UNESCO MİLLÎ KOMİSYONLARI 2020 YILI RAPORU



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization
Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

National Commissions for UNESCO *Commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO*

Annual Report | *Rapport annuel*

2020

UNESCO MİLLÎ KOMİSYONLARI 2020 YILI RAPORUNDA UNESCO TÜRKİYE MİLLÎ KOMİSYONU

TURKEY

Europe and
North America

TURKEY

Turkish National Commission for UNESCO

Chairperson: Prof Dr M. Öcal Oğuz

Secretary-General: Ms Şule Ürün

Email: webmaster@unesco.org.tr

Website: www.unesco.org.tr

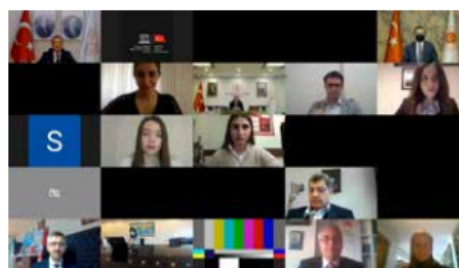
HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

Following the outbreak of COVID-19, the Turkish National Commission kept working within the UNESCO fields, firstly by rotating the experts and then by working remotely. The informative texts on the UNESCO website regarding the effects of the pandemic over the UNESCO sectors, especially education, science and culture, are translated into Turkish and uploaded on the website and the social media accounts of the Turkish National Commission.

Under the guidance of the Secretariat of the Turkish National Commission, online meetings and conferences have been organized with the Expertise Committees and the Executive Board, and also with the UNESCO-related stakeholders such as UNESCO HQ, Creative Cities, Learning Cities, UNESCO-related Ministries and L'Oréal-UNESCO National Fellowship Programme Selection Committee as well.

Several meetings organized within UNESCO sectors are: "Looking at the Future through ICH Window: a Virtual Summer School in the Pandemic Period", "National and International Natural Conservation Endeavour and the links between other UNESCO Programmes", "Current Status of the Alevi-Bektaşî Ritual: Semah", "Status of the Wetlands in Turkey over the Pandemic: Evaluation regarding the 2020 Water and Climate Change Report", "First International Turkish Literature Culture Education Symposium", and "Bilge Tonyukuk Consultation Meeting".

The Turkish National Commission for UNESCO strongly supports the "UNESCO's response to COVID-19" in terms of education, culture, social and human sciences, natural sciences and communication and information, and deeply suggests that the UNESCO activities to remain active in this time called the "new normal".



© Turkish National Commission for UNESCO – 5th Grand Gathering

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES LED IN 2020

Since 2012, the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO biannually organizes the "Grand Gathering of the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO" with the participation of our boards and stakeholders at the national level, to evaluate the outcomes of the previous UNESCO General Conferences and to get prepared for the next one.

Coinciding with a term of Turkey's Presidency of the United Nations General Assembly, Presidency of UNESCO General Conference and the Membership to the UNESCO Executive Board; 5th Grand Gathering of the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO was organized online on December 9-11, 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Planned with the surrounding themes of 70th anniversary of the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO (2019), 75th anniversary of United Nations and UNESCO (2020) as well, Sustainable Development 2030 Goals and COVID-19; 5th Grand Gathering of the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO has aimed to share the mission and vision of UNESCO with our members and stakeholders, to evaluate the outcomes of the 40th UNESCO General Conference organized in 2019, and to review the preparations and to discuss the possible suggestions for the 41st UNESCO General Conference that will be held in 2021. 5th Grand Gathering was planned to be organized via theme-based panels within the event.

Around 370 people including representatives from the General Assembly, Executive Board and the Expertise Committees of the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO,

UNESCO Chairs of Turkish universities, academicians, NGOs, private institutions, press and also experts working on UNESCO related areas.

On the first day, following the opening remarks by the Chair of the General Assembly of the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO and the Minister of National Education, Prof Ziya SELÇUK, Minister of Culture and Tourism Mehmet Nuri ERSOY, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Yavuz Selim KIRAN and the President of the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO, Prof Öcal OĞUZ; promotional video of the National Commission and another video displaying the Resolutions of the 40th UNESCO General Conference have been shown. Kudsi ERGÜNER, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, has also performed a recital for the participants as well.

President of the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO, Prof Öcal OĞUZ has given a presentation on the works of the National Commission, then the President of the 40th UNESCO General Conference, the Permanent Delegate of Turkey to UNESCO, Ambassador Altay CENGİZER has provided a speech on current issues of UNESCO and Turkey's position within the processes. Several UNESCO representatives have either actively participated at the panels or sent their video messages to be shown, including Mr Xing QU, Deputy Director General of UNESCO and many others.

Grand Gathering has been wrapped up with the information provided by the panel moderators at the closing session.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

Considering the current circumstances, the Turkish National Commission is aware of the continuity of the UNESCO works in local, regional and international levels and desires to keep up the consistent activities in any possible way – online or physically if possible.

Therefore, the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO seeks and strives for providing stability especially around 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, Artificial Intelligence and global priorities of UNESCO as Gender Equality and Africa as substantial domains.

The Turkish National Commission for UNESCO will be in touch with the Permanent Delegation of Turkey to UNESCO, Ministries of National Education, Foreign Affairs and Culture and Tourism, and also every other related Ministries, public/private institutions, academia and NGOs to provide further cooperation by keeping the culture of working together.

UNESCO MİLLÎ KOMİSYONLARI 2022 YILI RAPORU



National Commissions
for UNESCO
*Commissions nationales
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Annual Report | *Rapport annuel*

2022

UNESCO MİLLÎ KOMİSYONLARI 2022 YILI RAPORUNDA UNESCO TÜRKİYE MİLLÎ KOMİSYONU

TÜRKİYE

Europe and
North America

TÜRKİYE

Turkish National Commission for UNESCO

President: Mr Öcal Oğuz

Secretary-General: Ms Şule Ürün

E-mail: webmaster@unesco.org.tr

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Activities implemented in 2022

The Turkish National Commission organizes two internship programmes each year in which undergraduate students can participate. Within the scope of this programme, students gain UNESCO awareness and work experience by having training on UNESCO programmes and normative instruments, working together with commission experts, and observing the works carried out.

The library of the National Commission, which consists of 4,000 publications with UNESCO logo, was named after "Prof. Dr Nabi Avcı Library" by the decision of the Executive Board of the National Commission. Prof. Dr Nabi Avcı, the former President of the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO and the former Minister of National Education made valuable contributions. The library was inaugurated on June 24 in the Turkish National Commission building, with the presence of Prof. Dr Nabi Avcı and with the participation of the Executive Board Members and the staff of the Secretariat of the National Commission.

Due to International Migrants Day, a webinar on "International Migrants Day: The Reality of the World and Türkiye: Migration" was organized by the Communication and Management of Social Transformation (MOST) and Migration Specialization Committees of our National Commission on December 19, 2022. The participants discussed the current situation of migration and immigrants in Türkiye and the world and mentioned UNESCO's studies on this subject and the relationship between communication and migration at the meeting.

Science for Society International Online Workshop was held on November 10-11, in cooperation with Sivas Cumhuriyet University Natural History Museum, the Geological Heritage Conservation Association (JEMIRKO), and the TMMOB Chamber of Geological Engineers on the occasion of Science for Sustainable Development Day. Nearly 90 people, including academics, university students, and representatives of relevant institutions and organizations attended the online two-day workshop. Science for Sustainable Development Day was commemorated with the presentations by international experts including Susan Schneegans, Editor of the UNESCO Science Report Series and representatives of various natural history museums in Türkiye.

Bursa, Sakarya and Yozgat, Türkiye, have been accepted as new members of UNESCO Learning Cities Network. In this regard, the number of cities included in this Network in Türkiye increased to nine after Konya, Eskişehir, Hatay, Afyonkarahisar, Balıkesir and Izmir.

The Turkish National Commission hosted the Eighth Meeting of the National Commissions for UNESCO of TURKSOY Member States on May 13-14, 2022. The meeting consisted of the Fourth Seminar on Education, the Sixth Seminar on Memory of the World, the Eleventh Seminar on ICH, and the Fourth Seminar on Natural and Cultural Heritage. The participants evaluated general cooperation opportunities on UNESCO programmes and preparation of possible joint (multinational/serial/transnational) nomination files in the meeting. In line with the decision taken by the meeting, the "Meeting with TURKSOY Member States on exchanging ideas on the items of the agenda of the 215th Session of the Executive Board of UNESCO" was held online on 22 September 2022.

2022 has been a year of new elections for the membership of the General Assembly, the Executive Board and the Committees of the National Commission for the term of 2022 – 2026. First information exchange meeting was organized in November that was attended by 250 participants. "Sixth Joint Meeting of the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO" has provided opportunity as a platform to inform new members about the UNESCO strategies and initiate direct dialogue between members.

Success story

The 5th ICH Winter School was organized in Amasya from 2-4 March 2022 together with Turkish National Commission for UNESCO and Ministry of Industry and Technology, Amasya Governorate, and in cooperation with Amasya Municipality and with the academic support of UNESCO Accredited Intangible Cultural Heritage Association, Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University UNESCO Chair on Intangible Cultural Heritage in Formal and Non-Formal Education.

The School has been organized in order to evaluate the roles and contributions of Development Agencies of Türkiye for the protection, survival and transmission of intangible cultural heritage to future generations and to evaluate the opportunities and cooperations with UNESCO and to contribute to the creation of future action plans.

Governor of Amasya Municipality and President of the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO © Turkish National Commission for UNESCO



The Commission plans to be host country for the 8th Meeting of the Informal European Network of UNESCO National Commissions. We have declared our intention at the Traditional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO held in the margins of the 215th session of the Executive Board in Paris, and it has been agreed at the 7th Meeting of the Informal European Network of National Commissions in Andorra.

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Activities implemented in 2023

2023 was a very fruitful year for the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO in many aspects, especially in terms of cooperation with various stakeholders. Many events were organized in cooperation with governmental agencies, local authorities, universities, and NGOs, which provided the opportunity to raise awareness about UNESCO and exchange ideas.

On 1-4 February 2023, VI. Intangible Cultural Heritage Winter School, in cooperation with Yozgat Governorship and Municipality, the Ministry of National Education, the Intangible Cultural Heritage Association, and the UNESCO Chair on Intangible Cultural Heritage in Formal and Informal Education, was held with the participation of teachers from ASPnet member schools. The event was organized on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the convention, and the 70th anniversary of ASPnet and contributed to postgraduate education to the protection, preservation, and transmission of intangible cultural heritage and the networking of teachers from ASPnet schools.

Prepared jointly with Germany, Bulgaria, Iran, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, the "Mawlana's Kulliyat", inscribed on the MoW International Register in 2023. A "Celebration and Experience Sharing Event" was held in Konya on 28-29 September

2023, in cooperation with Konya Metropolitan Municipality to evaluate the nomination and celebrate our success. The event, bringing together documentary heritage experts from six different countries, as well as academicians, relevant authorities, local governments, and NGOs, was quite fruitful in order to explore future collaborations to preserve our shared documentary heritage.

A large-scale meeting was held with the participation of all stakeholders, hosted by the responsible local government, within the scope of the Camili Biosphere Reserve visit of the MAB National Committee on 21-23 August 2023. This meeting provided an opportunity for the authorities responsible for the site and representatives of locals to come together, discuss the status of the site, and exchange ideas for future cooperation.

The workshop on "The Contribution of the UNESCO-L'Oréal Fellowship to the Success of Young Women Scientists," bringing together all laureates and jury members, was held on 15 December 2023. This unique workshop included a brainstorming session where the laureates answered various questions about the award. An output text from their responses was shared with all parties to allow for a meaningful evaluation of the award for the first time in over 20 years.

The International Workshop on Geopark Management was held in Zonguldak on 29 April-1 May 2023, in cooperation with the UNESCO Earth Sciences and Geoparks Section. International experts from France, Iran, Mongolia, Jordan, Uzbekistan, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Saudi Arabia, and Tajikistan, as well as public institutions, local stakeholders, representatives of candidate geoparks, and academicians attended the workshop.

Following to the earthquakes on 6 February 2023, the Committees on Tangible Cultural Heritage, Intangible Cultural Heritage and Education of our National Commission visited the earthquake zone and made preliminary investigations.

Success story

In October 2023, the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO organized, the Fourth Meeting on Experience Sharing on UNESCO Issues between African States and Türkiye (13-14 October 2023); the Third Informal Meeting of UNESCO National Commissions of Southeast European Countries (17-18 October 2023), the Third Meeting on Experience Sharing on UNESCO Issues between Arab States and Türkiye (20-21 October 2023), and the First Meeting on Experience Sharing on UNESCO Issues between Small Island Developing States and Türkiye (25-26 October 2023), with the themes "Outcomes of the MONDIACULT" and "Education, Science, and Culture in Emergencies."

These meetings provided a unique opportunity for all participants to evaluate MONDIACULT, and to exchange ideas on what National Commissions can do in the fields of education, science, and culture in case of emergencies.

By bringing many representatives together, these meetings also contributed to the strengthening of networking and communication among the National Commissions. In particular, the first meeting with the Small Island Developing States was very exciting for both sides and can be considered an important example of interregional cooperation.



Linden Printing at the Third Informal Meeting of UNESCO National Commissions of Southeast European Countries © Turkish National Commission for UNESCO

Future priorities and possibilities for joint work

The Turkish National Commission will host the 8th Meeting of the Informal Network of European National Commissions for UNESCO in Istanbul between 24-28 April 2024.

The 7th of our National Commission's biennial grand gatherings, a major event attended by all the Commission's expert network and stakeholders will be organized in the fall 2024.

As expressed during the regional meetings hosted in October 2023, the Commission is open to cooperating with National Commissions in the fields and priority areas of UNESCO. Additionally, the Commission intends to prepare joint nominations for heritage lists and UNESCO programs, as there have been many implemented successfully over the years.

