
UNESCO Institute for Education

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The UNESCO Institute for Education to become the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning

The UNESCO Institute for Education (UIE) is to change its name to the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL). A decision recently taken by UNESCO's Executive Board confirms the change in UIE's legal status, transforming it from a foundation under German law into a fully-fledged UNESCO Institute. The new name is more closely aligned to the Institute's objectives and activities.

This name change was recommended during a process of external evaluation carried out in late 2005 under the guidance of UNESCO's Internal Oversight Service. The evaluation team noted that the name UNESCO Institute for Education was too unspecific and did not accurately reflect the Institute's long-standing focus on adult learning as well as out-of-school and non-formal education in the perspective of lifelong learning.

After the change in the Institute's legal status it will become a fully international body and an integral part of UNESCO, much like other UNESCO Institutes such as the International Bureau of Education (IBE), the International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP) or the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS).

The new UIL will come into being with new statutes, adopted by UNESCO's Executive Board in 2003. Negotiations regarding a Host Country Agreement are currently being conducted between UNESCO, the German government and the City of Hamburg. The new Institute is expected to open its doors on 1 July 2006.

UIL's programmes will continue to support UNESCO priorities and special programmes. These include Education For All, the Millennium Development Goals, the UN Literacy Decade and the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, as well as special initiatives such as the new Literacy Initiative for Empowerment (LIFE), EDUCAIDS and the Teacher Training Initiative in Sub-Saharan Africa. UIL will continue working on literacy, non-formal education and adult learning as part of lifelong learning. Most notably, it will be a resource centre for the recognition, validation and accreditation of informal, non-formal and experiential learning. An important priority for the new body is to begin laying the groundwork for the Sixth International Conference on Adult Education (CONFINTEA VI) to take place in 2009. Although adult learning in Africa will remain one of the Institute's major areas of work, special efforts will be made to organise programme activities with Arab states and countries in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

The UNESCO Institute for Education was founded in Hamburg in 1951-52. It was the first UN institution to be established in post-war Germany.

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