The Intergovernmental Foundation for Educational, Scientific and Cultural Cooperation (IFESCCO) was established in 2006 by the governments of 7 country members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Presently the members of IFESCCO are Armenia, Byelorussia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, while Azerbaijan joint it in 2008.

The mission of IFESCCO as a specialized organisation of humanitarian cooperation within CIS is to contribute to the development of the CIS's common humanitarian space, to the sustainable development and intercultural dialogue by means of education, science, culture, communications, information, archives, sports, tourism, youth work.

As an international organisation in the field of humanitarian cooperation IFESCCO builds its project activities on inter sectoral and inter disciplinary approaches, looking for comprehensive and adequate answers to the complex problems of cooperation between CIS countries.

IFESCCO is guided by the principles of diversity, equality, consideration of interests of each country member of CIS.

The aim of IFESCCO is to create an effective mechanism of strengthening and development of humanitarian cooperation both in the CIS general framework and at the level of each country member of IFESCCO. Starting from 2007 IFESCCO implements and supports joint cultural, educational, scientific projects of cooperation which involve partners from CIS countries.

One of the IFESCCO’s priorities is to cooperate with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) within the Commonwealth of Independent States. In the framework of such cooperation the Director of the UNESCO Moscow Office, the UNESCO Representative in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, the Republic of Moldova and the Russian Federation, Mr. Dendev Badarch, and the Acting Director of IFESCCO, Ms. Tatyana Bubnova, signed on 20 May 2008 an Agreement on conducting a series of regional/national capacity-building trainings for CIS countries in museum management based on UNESCO/ICOM Museum Studies Training Package.

The main objective of this programme is to provide the CIS museum professionals with necessary knowledge and skills in modern management, as well as to create an open communication environment for the specialists who deal with cultural heritage, to reinforce museum networking among the CIS countries.

Presently the negotiations between UNESCO Moscow Office and IFESCCO are in course to prepare the grounds for signing a general Memorandum of mutual understanding. The Memorandum will foresee increasing levels of information and communication, broadening cooperation in humanitarian field in order to facilitate both organisations, basing on common principles, to reach effectively the development goals in the Commonwealth of Independent States.