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Diversity of
Cultural Expressions

EXPERT FACILITY PROJECT TO STRENGTHEN THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNANCE FOR CULTURE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

What is it?	A UNESCO project funded by the European Union lasting for more than four years and aiming to strengthen the system of governance for culture in the beneficiary countries through specific technical assistance missions carried out by experts of beneficiaries' own choosing.
Why?	To help beneficiary countries establish the proper legal, regulatory and/or institutional framework necessary to develop their culture sector.
What is technical assistance?	Technical assistance is non-financial assistance provided by local or international specialists such as sharing information and expertise, instruction, skills training, transmission of working knowledge, and consulting services and may also involve the transfer of technical data.
Beneficiary countries	71 developing countries that are recognized by the EU programme "Investing in People" and that have ratified the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.
How does it work?	1. A pool of experts in the field of governance, culture and development in relation to the 2005 Convention was created on the basis of the results of an international call for experts; 2. Beneficiary countries submitted project applications requesting technical assistance; 3. Those responsible for the selected projects were invited to choose between suggested members of the pool of experts those best suited to carry out the technical assistance mission in their country. Missions lasted up to a maximum of 63 working days for each country; 4. Mission follow-up activities are undertaken by the experts and the beneficiaries either remotely or with new missions in the field; 5. UNESCO is gathering and will disseminate lessons learned, information and experiences gained from all technical assistance missions from experts and beneficiary countries using various communication tools.
Duration	51 months, 1st September 2010 to 31 December 2014.
Expected results	Through this project, the national human and institutional capacities of developing countries are being reinforced. This should result in the design and/or implementation of policies that address the role of culture in social and economic development, particularly through the cultural industries. It is expected that this will also contribute to an enabling environment for the production and distribution of cultural goods, services and activities.
Main activities undertaken	**Technical assistance missions** 3 calls for applications took place in 2011, leading to the selection of 13 missions: Argentina (Buenos Aires), Barbados, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Honduras, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Niger, Seychelles and Viet Nam. The 13 missions took place in the beneficiary countries between December 2011 and December 2012. **Expert workshop** The specialists from the Pool of experts met in Paris on 23 and 24 May 2013 to share their experiences of the missions, identify best practices and finalize a methodological guide for technical assistance missions in developing countries. The results of this workshop were published in a report.

	Publication The results of the missions carried out in 2012 are now available in English and French in the publication "Strengthening the Governance of Culture to unlock Development Opportunities" published in November 2013, which highlights the results achieved and the challenges faced. **External Evaluation of the Project** The external evaluation (April-September 2013) concluded that the overall project and the technical assistance missions in particular were generally conducted effectively and efficiently. The final beneficiaries and experts expressed their satisfaction towards the project and the missions.
Current status of the project	**Follow-up activities** In 2014, in-the-field follow-up activities will take place in Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Niger and Viet Nam, while Argentina, Barbados, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Honduras, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius and the Seychelles will benefit from remote follow-up activities. Consultations between the UNESCO Secretariat, the relevant experts and the national beneficiaries are currently taking place to set up these activities for 2014. **Communication and information** All the latest news, the publication, the experts' workshop report and further information are available on the project website: www.unesco.org/culture/en/culturegov
Link to culture and development	Notwithstanding the different contexts and conditions, culture occupies a relatively marginal place within national policies in developing countries. More specifically, the role of culture as a vector of human and social development is not recognised or is underestimated, as is its potential in terms of economic growth. Even when sector policies are in place, they tend to be ineffective, suffer from insufficient allocation of human and financial resources as well as weak institutions. This project is intended to facilitate the development of policies that address the role of culture in social and economic development, particularly through the cultural industries, ensuring that artists, cultural professionals and citizens in beneficiary countries can create, produce, disseminate and have access to a diversity of cultural goods, services and activities, including their own.