Brochure series on essential aspects of the roles and work of National Commissions
Previous publications

• More than 10 years ago, UNESCO has published three volumes:
  • “Legal texts of National Commissions” from 2002,
  • “Handbook for National Commissions” of 2007, and
  • “Architecture of National Commissions” from 2009.

• To some extent, these publications are still relevant. However, important aspects of the roles and work of National Commissions have changed.

• Many recent developments, such as new forms of cooperation with Field Office and HQ, engagement of National Commissions with UNESCO designations, or (inter-)regional cooperation of National Commissions are not covered well.

• Very voluminous, hard to update....
Proposal: Brochure series (1)

• Therefore, it is suggested to start a series of short brochures, each brochure presenting in a quickly accessible way one particular aspect of the roles and work of National Commissions.

• Each brochure would be about a brief, policy-relevant presentation, rather than comprehensive and detailed presentation (“policy brief” instead of “almanac”).

• Each brochure could be quickly updated if needed.

• This brochure series would be an important contribution to Capacity Building of National Commissions
Proposal: Brochure series (2)

• Each brochure in this series would be edited by one National Commission (or group of National Commissions), but always together with UNESCO.
• All National Commissions are invited to propose additional titles in the brochure series.
• The co-productive and participatory character of the formulation of the brochure series would be a key character trait.
• For each brochure of the series, at one point in the production, all National Commissions globally would be consulted to contribute to the content in terms of comments, suggestions for revision etc.
  • This consultation would be implemented through the new e-platform for National Commissions that UNESCO plans to set up in April 2019.
• Brochures should be considered as a pragmatic tool, relevant for some 3 to 4 years.
Proposal: Brochure series (3)

- The brochure series will have a unified character and layout (including format, paper quality etc.); UNESCO will ensure the consistency of the character and layout for all subsequent titles of the series.
- It is foreseen that each brochure will be max 20 pages in A5, with several pictures, graphics, boxes with practical examples, tables, statistics etc.
- Long consecutive text paragraphs will be avoided, the focus will be on policy-oriented messaging and short texts. Also “UNESCO-internal jargon” should be avoided to the extent possible.
- Language will not be “normative”, rather “advisory” or “descriptive”.
- The brochures will feature the logo of UNESCO and of the co-editing NatCom(s). The brochures will not have prefaces.
- They will be published in English and French. The brochures could be issued in additional official languages of UNESCO, subject to costs borne by the editing NatCom.
Proposal: Brochure series (4)

NatCom(s) and UNESCO agree about a new brochure in the series

NatCom(s) develops first draft and submits it to UNESCO (E or F)

UNESCO proposes changes, which NatCom(s) incorporates into second draft

Once UNESCO agrees with editing NatCom(s) on draft, that draft is translated by editing NatCom(s) into both E/F and opened to consultation among all NatComs globally

All NatComs provide their input within 4 weeks consultation

Editing NatCom(s) accommodate input from global consultation as appropriate

Editing NatCom(s) seeks consensus with UNESCO about final version

Editing NatCom(s) ensures translation of final version into both E and F

UNESCO provides unified layout to final version

Editing NatCom(s) provide printing in both E and F

UNESCO contributes to dissemination
First 2 brochures

#1 “National Commissions’ roles”
- To be edited by **French Commission**, full political and cost commitment has been declared
- Content: The NatComs’ liaison role, their coordination role, their consultation role, their representation and implementation role, their information role. To be finalized until October 2019

#2: “National Commissions’ international cooperation”
- To be edited by **German Commission**, full political and cost commitment has been declared
- Content: Legal basis and benefits of NatCom cooperation, objectives and results: examples of practices; formalization of NatCom cooperation: examples of practices, the role of HQ and FO; NatCom meetings and their communication beyond meetings: examples of practices. To be finalized until October 2019