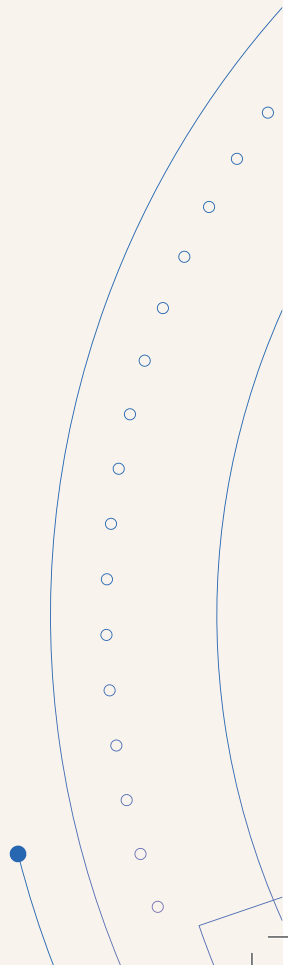
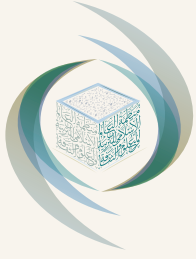


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ICESCO

**Strategy for**  
**ICESCO's Network of Experts**  
**in Social and Human Sciences**  
**(2024-2029)**







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**Strategy for**  
**ICESCO's Network of Experts**  
**in Social and Human Sciences**  
**(2024-2029)**



## PREAMBLE

Considering the need to anticipate and understand the political, social, economic and environmental transformations unfolding across the globe, and in the Islamic world, in particular,

Bearing in mind the pressing responsibility to manage these transformations through innovative solutions that embody the universal values of human dignity and respect for human rights, as well as respect for the environment, the well-being of individual, social cohesion, sustainable development and peace;

Aware of the potential of the human and social sciences to anticipate and understand social transformations in their broadest sense and, in turn, help implement public policies likely to address the major challenges facing communities and societies with a view to, inter alia, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as defined in the United Nations Agenda 2030;

Conscious of the mission and objectives entrusted to ICESCO under its Charter, its role in promoting innovative intellectual and scientific production, and its endeavors to position itself as a guiding model contributing to the socio-economic and political development of its Member States, by building and consolidating inclusive, prosperous and peaceful societies, and working towards improving policies, strategies and programs aimed at the well-being of populations, including children, youth and women;

ICESCO created its Network of Experts in Human and Social Sciences on May 03, 2023, at the initiative of the Organization's Human and Social Sciences Sector and in partnership with the Federation of Universities of the Islamic World (FUIW).



## VISION

The Network seeks to mobilize and put into practice a transformative citizen science that promotes evidence-based policymaking to further improve public policies and ensure their optimal implementation.

## OBJECTIVE

The Network seeks to provide a space for dialogue and collaboration among academics, researchers, public decision-makers and civil society leaderships, and provide a permanent interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral framework for contributing to the examination and understanding of social transformations in ICESCO Member States and beyond, with a view to developing and implementing effective public policies based on foresight and scientific evidence.

It also aims to contribute to socio-economic and political development by promoting and building more inclusive, prosperous and peaceful societies, and working towards improving policies, strategies and programs aimed at fostering the well-being of communities, including children, young people and women.

## STRATEGIC AXES AND ACTIONS

Through its activities, ICESCO Network of Experts in Social and Human Sciences seeks to focus on the following strategic axes :

*(i) Developing a permanent framework for interdisciplinary and intersectoral thinking and action*

In its endeavor to gain a deep and comprehensive understanding of social transformations and to promote a common culture of citizen and transformative science, the Network will foster cooperation and knowledge exchange among experts in social and human sciences and other scientific fields, political decision-makers, and leaders of civil society organizations. Additionally, the Network will organize events and training sessions to build the interdisciplinary, intersectoral and methodological capacities of its members.

## PLANNED ACTIVITIES UNDER STRATEGIC AXIS 1



Creating and updating a directory of the Network's members, both physical and legal persons<sup>1</sup>;

Establishing an online portal to connect the Network's members;



Organizing meetings to discuss and exchange insightful ideas among Network members and other interested parties;

Holding capacity-building workshops targeting young researchers, experts, and civil society leaders who are members of the Network ;




Awarding prizes and granting scholarships to support the contributions and work of young researchers, experts, and civil society leaders from ICESCO Member States.

1. Physical person refers to (i) academics and researchers; (ii) public employees and decision-makers; (iii) leaders of civil society organizations; and (iv) any other individuals specializing or interested in social and human sciences and the purpose of the Network. A legal person refers to (i) universities and institutes of higher education; (ii) research centers/institutes; (iii) associations, NGOs, and foundations; and (iv) ICESCO Chairs.

*(ii) Producing and gathering knowledge and analyses on social transformations*

The Network will conduct research and analyses on the social transformations in ICESCO Member States, particularly those related to :


**01**  
NO POVERTY




Sustainable Development Goals on ending poverty in all its forms everywhere;

Ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all;

**04**  
QUALITY EDUCATION




**05**  
GENDER EQUALITY




Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls;

Reducing inequality within and among countries;

**10**  
REDUCED INEQUALITIES



**16**  
PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

The Network will launch a journal of studies and will endeavor to produce a series of publications (in the form of case studies, surveys, quantitative and qualitative analyses, etc.) with a view to sharing knowledge and experience of social change and public policy and making them available to policy-makers and civil society actors.

## PLANNED ACTIVITIES UNDER STRATEGIC AXIS 2

Creating an international scientific journal open beyond Network members and ensure its annual publication;

Defining and implement joint thematic research programs.

### *(iii) Contributing to the development and implementation of effective public policies based on foresight and factual scientific data*

To contribute to the development and implementation of effective public policies grounded in foresight and factual scientific data, the Network will put forth proposals for contextualized transfer of scientific research data related to the understanding and analysis of social transformations in public policies and national practices. The Network's involvement will also include capacity-building that bridge scientific research and policy decision-making in favor of decision-makers, researchers, and civil society leaders. In essence, the Network will function as a specialized advisory body that provides the Governments of ICESCO Member States with insights on issues related to social transformations and the development and implementation of effective evidence-based public policies.

## PLANNED ACTIVITIES UNDER STRATEGIC AXIS 3

- Providing consultation and expertise to the governments and local authorities in ICESCO Member States and beyond.

### *(iv) Building partnerships.*

To fulfill its mission effectively, the Network will also foster scientific partnerships worldwide with stakeholders in the fields of social and human sciences, and public policies.

## PLANNED ACTIVITIES UNDER STRATEGIC AXIS 4

Implementing partnership and coordination mechanisms with ICESCO Strategic Foresight Center, CODESRIA, the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, and other relevant entities of the UN, OIC, and AU, in particular.



## **GOVERNANCE**

Through its activities, ICESCO Network of Experts in Social and Human The ICESCO Network of Experts in Social and Human Sciences is overseen by experts from Human and Social Sciences Sector, along with a representative from the Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World (FUIW).

This permanent secretariat collaborates closely with a support team consisting of specialists in social and human sciences, representatives of public actors/ decision-makers, as well as civil society associations and organizations.

## **RESOURCES**

The resources of the Network enabling the implementation of this strategy mainly come from:

1. ICESCO's budget;
2. Extrabudgetary funding acquired from various private or international donors;
3. Contributions from stakeholders within the framework of specific activities requiring an additional budgetary charge.

## **FOLLOW-UP AND EVALUATION**

The current strategy, spanning from 2024 to 2029 and implemented through a biennial action plan, will be subject to follow-up and evaluation every two years.







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