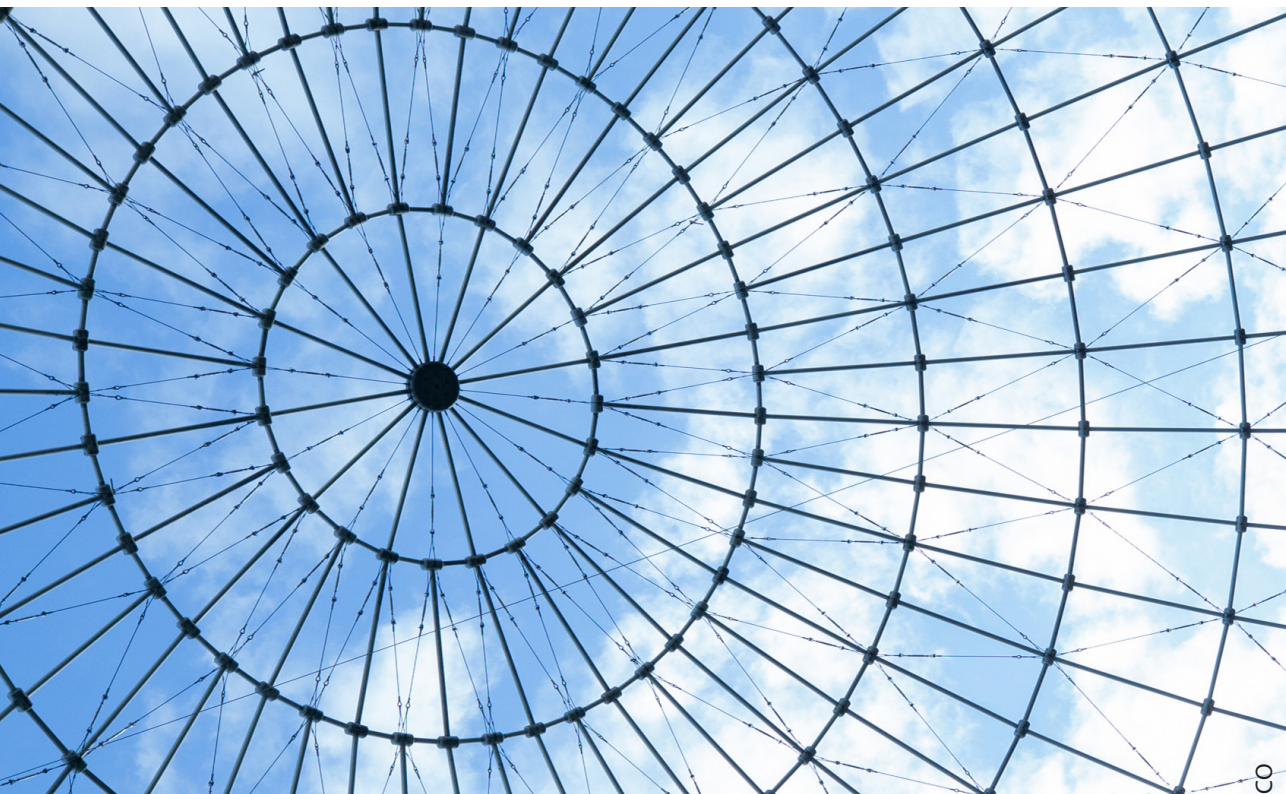




UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme

Connecting minds through a network of hope

The UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme is UNESCO's official network for inter-university cooperation. It was created in 1992 to promote research, training, and activities in various fields by connecting universities and sharing knowledge and expertise internationally.

A UNESCO Chair is a research center led by a Chairholder on a programme to advance knowledge and practice in a given area. A UNITWIN Network is a partnership among a number of institutions which pool their competencies and resources around particular themes. Today, the network comprises thousands of scholars and professionals from around the world who engage in higher education and training, knowledge exchange, interdisciplinary research, and collective action to advance peace and sustainable development.

The network by numbers



1000+
UNESCO Chairs &
UNITWIN Networks



130
Countries



5000+
Partner institutions



10,000+
Researchers

Advancing interdisciplinary research

The UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks focus on UNESCO's major programmes - Education, Culture, the Natural and Social Sciences, and Communication and Information - often through interdisciplinary approaches. In an increasingly interconnected world facing complex global challenges such as climate change, digital governance, and inequalities, this cross-thematic collaboration is critical. By linking diverse fields and constituencies, UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks generate knowledge and research, strategic insights, and solutions towards more just and sustainable futures.

Bridging academia, policy and community action

UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks function as think tanks and bridge-builders, connecting academic researchers with public policy, civil society and local communities. They promote public debate, advance ethical reflections, and nurture innovations, to drive scientific progress at all levels. The Programme has inspired generations of students and researchers to align their work with UNESCO's humanistic values and ideals, nurturing a global community committed to creating a better future for all.

Get involved

The Programme comprises recognized higher education and research institutions worldwide - a public database is available for consultation. Member institutions also build strong partnerships and networks including with NGOs, academic associations, other inter-university networks, and public or private entities sharing UNESCO's values. These partnerships and networks amplify the impact of the Programme by broadening its reach and engaging diverse actors in intellectual cooperation. To learn more about how to establish or partner with a UNESCO Chair or UNITWIN Network, please consult the [*UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme: Guidelines and Procedures*](#).

Connect with us



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