A New Approach (ANA)

About this consultation

In July and August 2024, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) consulted on a draft of the revised UNESCO Framework for Culture Statistics (the revised Framework). This draft was intended to replace the previous 2009 framework.

UNESCO invited individuals and organisations to respond to specific questions about the draft revised Framework via an online form.

A New Approach (ANA) provided the responses on the following pages.

About the organisations

UNESCO is the United Nations (UN) agency contributing to peace and security by promoting international cooperation in education, sciences, culture, communication and information. UNESCO promotes knowledge sharing and the free flow of ideas to accelerate mutual understanding and a more perfect knowledge of each other's lives. UNESCO's programmes contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals defined in the 2030 Agenda, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015.

ANA is Australia's national arts and culture think tank. We believe that by 2035 Australia can be a cultural powerhouse whose creativity is locally loved, nationally valued and globally influential. Through credible and independent public leadership, ANA helps build an ambitious and innovative policy and investment environment for arts, culture and creativity. We work to ensure Australia can be a great place for creators and audiences, whoever they are and wherever they live.

ontact Find

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¹ See https://uis.unesco.org/en/news/CONSULTATION-REVISED-UNESCO-FRAMEWORK-CULTURE-STATISTICS

ANA responses to UNESCO consultation questions

Note: Questions marked with '*' sought multiple choice responses: 'yes', 'no' and 'no opinion'. ANA's responses focus on Part I of the revised Framework, which sets out key concepts and definitions (referred to as the 'FCS Conceptual document'). Questions that ANA did not respond to are greyed out.

UNESCO question	ANA response
3.1 Do you agree with the current structure of FCS Conceptual document?*	Yes
3.2 If no, please provide some explanations on why you do not agree with the current structure of the new FCS below	n/a
3.3.1 Do you consider that the chapters of the FCS Conceptual document comply with the following aspect: clarity?*	
- Defining the Scope of Culture for Socioeconomic Analysis	Yes
- The Modular Approach	Yes
- Variables and Classifications for Measuring the Contributions of the CCE to Inclusive Growth	Yes
3.3.2 Do you consider that the chapters of the FCS Conceptual document comply with the following aspect: usefulness?*	
- Defining the Scope of Culture for Socioeconomic Analysis	Yes
- The Modular Approach	Yes
- Variables and Classifications for Measuring the Contributions of the CCE to Inclusive Growth	Yes
3.4 The questions below allow you to provide feedback by chapter. Please refer to the paragraph number when providing comments.	
- Defining the Scope of Culture for Socioeconomic Analysis	ANA welcomes the joint discussion of 'socioeconomic' dimension of culture, (at paragraphs 1.1 to 1.63), replacing the separate discussion of social and economic dimensions in the 2009 framework. ANA agrees with the central point of paragraph 1.7, that economic factors and the 'factors that motivate artists' and performers' engagement in cultural activities' both matter, and the relationship between these

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	types of factors can help explain why individuals participate in culture and acquire cultural capital.
- The Modular Approach	ANA welcomes the updated 'core sectors' that cover 'Cultural and Natural Heritage', 'Cultural Knowledge' (at paragraphs 2.25 to 2.41) and Cultural and Creative Industries (at paragraph 2.57). ANA has based its definition of arts and culture on the 'cultural domains' from the 2009 framework. ANA will benefit from these updated core sectors for any future updates to our definition. ANA notes that Australian government agencies working on cultural statistics should also benefit from these updated core sectors, including in relation to a national methodological update to cultural and creative satellite accounts.
	ANA notes these 'core sectors' differ from the list of creative industries proposed by UNCTAD in 2024 in 'Advancing the measurement of the creative economy' (p.22). ANA sees value in this chapter acknowledging UNCTAD's parallel work in this space and, if UNESCO wishes, briefly explaining the reasons for the different approaches.
	ANA notes that UNESCO intends to define 'music' as a standalone sector, separate from 'performing arts' which still includes 'opera' (at paragraph 2.57 of this chapter, and also at paragraph 15 of the Introduction). ANA also notes that all three 'sectors' this chapter proposes to include under 'music' – 'recorded music', 'live music' and 'radio' – are currently the subject of national parliamentary inquiries in Australia that do not cover other performing arts.
- Variables and Classifications for Measuring the Contributions of the CCE to Inclusive Growth	ANA welcomes the inclusion of Australia's cultural and creative activity satellite account (referred to as the 'cultural expenditure account' at paragraph 3.7) as a notable example of analysis of cultural expenditure. ANA also notes the ongoing work by Bureau of Communications, Arts and Regional Research in Australia to update the methodology for this satellite account.

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4.1 Do you agree with the current structure of the Classifications guide ?*	Yes
4.2 If no, please provide some explanations on why you do not agree with the current structure of the Classifications guide below	
4.3 The questions below allow you to provide feedback by chapter. Please refer to the paragraph number when providing comments.	
- 4.3.1 Introduction	n/a
- 4.3.2 Chapter 1: Role of international classifications to measure the culture and creative ecosystem	n/a
- 4.3.3 Chapter 3: Matrix of cultural categories with international classifications across the value chain	n/a
4.4 Please provide any other comment that you may have if any below.	ANA welcomes the separation of the revised framework into two parts. In our view, this helps inform cultural policymakers and others with an interest in conceptual and definitional issues in cultural statistics, while separately consolidating the detail required for cultural statisticians.