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Report

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**REPORT BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE UNESCO  
INSTITUTE FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES IN EDUCATION (IITE)  
ON THE INSTITUTE'S ACTIVITIES FOR 2008-2009**

**OUTLINE**

**Source:** Article IV of the Statutes of the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education (IITE).

**Background:** In accordance with this Article, and pending the formation of a new Governing Board, a report on the IITE's activities during 2008-2009 is submitted to the General Conference.

**Purpose:** The report briefly describes the recent developments affecting the Institute, its main research and training programmes in the application of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in education for 2008-2009, and the institutional and financial resources available for these purposes.

## **Institutional framework, interim arrangements and Governing Board**

1. UNESCO's Internal Oversight Service (IOS) conducted an audit of the IITE from 18 to 29 February 2008 to assess internal controls, the use of resources, the accuracy of reporting and compliance with the rules and regulations. The audit covered the period from January 2006 to December 2007 and included the following areas: programme management; financial control; contracts; travel; and general administration. The audit concluded that the IITE has generally ensured appropriate control, reporting, compliance and use of its UNESCO funding allocation. However, it faces two serious risks: first, programme activities have declined to the point where, without a substantial change to the current situation, there is considerable doubt as to the continued viability of the Institute; and second, an annual cash contribution from the Russian Federation to the Institute of US \$715,000 is maintained outside of the UNESCO accounting and control systems.

2. The decreasing level of financial resources devoted to programme activities and lack of international staff (many staff members having left the IITE since 2005) had provoked questions on the means available for the IITE to pursue its objectives. In order to address the issues raised in the IOS report, a restructuring process was launched and several measures taken, such as the reorientation of the funds allocation on programme activities, the formulation of a mid-term strategy and the merging of the administrations of the Moscow Office and IITE in June 2008 (see paragraph 4 below). As of today, the IITE has implemented seven of the 10 IOS recommendations. Positive improvements of the IITE's administrative procedures include the introduction of double bank signatories and of several certifying officers, and the IITE's integration into the online financial system.

3. Concerning the annual cash contribution from the Russian Federation, Article IV of the Protocol to the Agreement concerning the IITE signed on 21 July 1998 states that "the Government of the Russian Federation shall establish ... the rules for the management of the funds allocated to the Institute from the federal budget of the Russian Federation". It is hoped that these rules will become available to the UNESCO Comptroller, that an accountant will be employed for the administration of the financial allocation received from the Russian Federation, that the account will be subject to the audit procedures of the Russian Federation, that any written reports will be made available to the IITE's Director, that the accountant will present periodical reports in an acceptable format to the UNESCO Comptroller and to the AO of the IITE, and that the account will be opened to review by the external and internal auditors of UNESCO at reasonable intervals and on prior request.

4. In July, following discussions between representatives of UNESCO and the Russian Government, the Director-General wrote a letter to the Russian authorities proposing to establish for a transitional period of two years a new structure aligning the human resources of IITE and the UNESCO Moscow Office under one Director and one administration. This will enable the IITE to use the financial allocation from UNESCO and the financial contribution from the Russian Federation to hire more professionals and significantly increase the funds available for programme activities. After the retirement of the Director in December 2007, the Director-General decided to appoint the Director of the UNESCO Moscow Office as Acting Director of the Institute. Meanwhile, extensive discussions have been held between the representatives of the Russian authorities and UNESCO concerning the IITE's future programme orientation and structure.

5. Finally, Article III of the IITE's Statutes stipulates that the Institute's Governing Board consists of 11 members, appointed by UNESCO's Director-General for four years. The term of office of all Governing Board members has expired. However, the Director-General decided to proceed with the appointment of new members once the future of the Institute had been thoroughly discussed between the parties and new programme orientations fixed. Accordingly, following successful negotiations with the Russian authorities, the Director-General decided to appoint new members of the Governing Board in August 2009.

### **Programme activities and achievements during 2008-2009**

6. In accordance with Article II of its Statutes, the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education (IITE) contributes to the application of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in education in Member States. Its functions include the dissemination and exchange of information, advisory services, technical assistance and training – with priority given to developing countries and countries in transition, and to the development of UNESCO's regional programmes, particularly in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

7. During 2008-2009, the IITE pursued two strategic objectives:

- strengthening national capacities for bridging the digital divide in education, for implementing relevant educational reforms and their orientation towards sustainable development; and
- developing, accumulating and disseminating information on innovative strategies, programmes and methods for the application of ICTs in education, particularly those strategies oriented towards increasing access to, and improving the quality of, education for all.

8. These two objectives were pursued within the framework of UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy for 2008–2013 (34 C/4): (1) Attaining quality education for all and lifelong learning; and (5) Building inclusive knowledge societies through information and communication. Despite the transition period and related difficulties, programme activities were carried out in 2008-2009 in three correlated domains: research, capacity-building and the clearing-house function.

9. **Research** on ICT applications in education laid the foundation for further project development, the preparation of training and methodological materials, and training activities. Support was provided to UNESCO's Member States in policy formulation, the implementation of national pilot projects and provision of relevant information on ICTs. Against this background, guideline materials on "ICT usage for psychological diagnostics and therapy" were developed by the IITE in cooperation with leading experts of the Psychological Institute of the Russian Academy of Education (within the joint Russia/UNESCO Project "Support for the restoration and development of the education system of the Chechen Republic", implemented by the UNESCO Moscow Office). Furthermore, an analytical survey on "ICTs in higher education in CIS and Baltic States: State-of-the-art, challenges and prospects for development" was prepared and presented during the UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education, held on 5-8 July 2009 in Paris.

10. During the biennium, the IITE has implemented the following **training activities**:

- (a) An international seminar on "ICTs as a Means for Providing Accessibility of Information Environment for Development, Education and Social Inclusion of People with Disabilities", was held from 3-4 April 2008 in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation. The seminar's objectives were to assess and disseminate knowledge related to the use of ICTs in increasing accessibility to education and in promoting life skills and social inclusion for people with disabilities, as well as to exchange and discuss experiences gained in this field. More than 100 participants, including representatives of Ministries of Education and the departments responsible for education policy-making, heads of education institutions, researchers, teachers and methodologists attended from Belarus, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Moldova and the Russian Federation. Representatives of manufacturers of specialized equipment also took part in this event.
- (b) A training seminar on "ICT usage for psychological diagnostics and therapy of students from the post-conflict regions" was held from 24-26 February 2009 in Pyatigorsk within the joint Russia/UNESCO Project "Support for the restoration and development of the

education system of the Chechen Republic”. The seminar was jointly organized with the Pyatigorsk State Linguistic University in cooperation with the Psychological Institute of the Russian Academy of Education. Twenty specialists from the Chechen Republic, including specialists from educational departments, teachers, and psychologists in educational and social areas participated. The main goal was to provide advanced vocational training and raise awareness on the application of ICTs in the education and social and psychological rehabilitation of children and teenagers experiencing trauma following a conflict.

- (c) From 16-17 March 2009, the IITE organized an international seminar and expert meeting on the theme “Open educational resources and technologies” in cooperation with the Moscow Institute of Open Education. The main goal of the seminar was to promote policy dialogue and contribute to the formulation of education policy aimed at open educational resources, as well as to the development of new technologies and their dissemination. It was attended by representatives of the Ministries of Education and leading national education institutions from 10 countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Mongolia, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Ukraine), as well as international experts on open education from the United Kingdom and Finland.
- (d) As foreseen in the Cooperation Programme between UNESCO and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) for 2008-2009, and in order to enable Member States of both organizations to benefit from state-of-the-art practices in the use of education technologies and promote evidence-based policy development on ICT application for educational systems’ expansion and quality improvement, the IITE and ISESCO organized an international workshop on indicators of ICT usage in education (24-26 June 2009, Cairo, Egypt) in cooperation with the Egyptian National Commission for UNESCO. Officials in charge of ICTs in educational statistics and planning from 10 countries (Bahrain, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen) took part in the event. This workshop was organized in close cooperation with the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS).

11. As part of its **clearing-house** activities, the IITE developed and published 13 analytical, training, methodological and information materials:

- (i) “Digital Libraries in Education”. Curriculum of specialized training course (M. Moiseeva, Russian language).
- (ii) “ICT Application in Technical and Vocational Education and Training”. Curriculum of specialized training course (B. Kotsik, Russian language).
- (iii) “ICTs for Secondary Education. Curriculum of specialized training course” (B. Kotsik, Russian language).
- (iv) “Information and Communication Technologies in Distance Education”. Curriculum of specialized training course (G. Troyan, Russian language).
- (v) “Internet in Education”. Curriculum of specialized training course (M. Moiseeva, Russian language).
- (vi) “Multimedia in Education”. Curriculum of specialized training course (M. Moiseeva, A. Hannanov, Russian language).
- (vii) “Basic ICT Literacy”. Curriculum of basic training course (B. Kotsik and E. Pshenichnaya, Russian language).

- (viii) “Basic ICT Literacy”. A basic training course (E. Khenner, E. Eremin, A. Shestakov, E. Alikina, N. Tokhtueva, M. Moiseeva, 2008, Russian language).
- (ix) “Development of Professional ICT Competences”. Basic training course (M. Moiseeva, V. Stepanov, E. Patarakin, A. Ishkov, D. Tupicin, 2008, Russian language).
- (x) “Digital Libraries in Education, Science and Culture”. Analytical survey (T. B. Rajashekar, S. Walters, M. Singhal, S. Tanner, 2008, English language).
- (xi) “ICTs in Education for People with Special Needs”. Specialized training course (A. Edwards, S. Besio, N. Tokareva, 2008, Russian language).
- (xii) “Testing Technologies in Distance Education”. Specialized training course (T. Kabanova, V. Novikov, 2008, Russian language).
- (xiii) “ICTs in higher education in CIS and Baltic States: state-of-the-art, challenges and prospects for development”. Analytical survey (Edited by A. Victorov, A. Ovodenko, 2009, Russian language).

12. Several hundred copies of the IITE’s publications have been disseminated to more than 25 organizations worldwide, as well as during international exhibitions in the sphere of ICTs for education, IITE seminars and workshops. Finally, the IIEP report on Open Educational Resources was translated by IITE specialists from English into Russian and prepared for publication.

### **Financial resources and expenditures**

13. As the income and expenditures of the IITE are recorded in the Special Account created by the Director-General, they are calculated in current United States dollars and not in constant dollars, as is the case for UNESCO’s regular programme. Consequently, differences from one budgetary period to another not only represent increases (or decreases) in real income and expenditure, but also reflect dollar fluctuations.

14. Tables 1 and 2 (Annex) show the financial resources of the IITE and its expenditures for 2008-2009 (estimates) compared with those for 2006-2007 (actual). It should be noted that in addition to the UNESCO cash resources set out below, the Russian Federation provides the IITE building free of charge and a cash contribution amounting to US \$558,727 in 2009 that also covers the salaries of national experts. UNESCO through its regular budget, pays the salaries of the Acting Director of the IITE and of the international AO of the Moscow Office and IITE.

**ANNEX I**

UNESCO Institute for Information Technology in Education (IITE)

Statement of Income and Expenditure and Changes (Estimates)  
in Reserves and Fund Balances  
for the Period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2009  
(Expressed in US dollars)

Description	31 December 2009 (estimated)	as of 30 June 2009	2008
<b>Income</b>			
Voluntary contribution	0	0	16 485
Revenue Producing Activities	0	0	0
Allocations from other funds	550 000	550 000	550 000
Currency exchange adjustments	-1 616	-1 616	-1 075
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>548 384</b>	<b>548 384</b>	<b>565 410</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Staff costs	53 198	53 198	268 781
Other Personnel Related Expenses	23 000	8 706	13 102
External Services	220 000	87 198	122 346
Goods & Supplies	12 000	1 477	19 690
Financial Contributions	0	0	0
Other Expenditures	1 700	676	1 799
Provision for unliquidated obligations	0	40 398	10 075
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>309 898</b>	<b>191 653</b>	<b>435 793</b>
<b>Excess / (Shortfall) of income over expenditure</b>	<b>238 486</b>	<b>356 731</b>	<b>129 617</b>

**ANNEX II**

UNESCO Institute for Information Technology in Education (IITE)

Statement of Income and Expenditure and Changes  
in Reserves and Fund Balances  
for the Period 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2007  
(Expressed in US dollars)

Description	2007	2006
<b>Income</b>		
Voluntary contribution	30 928	27 226
Revenue Producing Activities	6 003	8 063
Allocations from other funds	550 000	550 000
Currency exchange adjustments	-235	31
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>586 696</b>	<b>585 320</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Staff costs	361 675	441 998
Other Personnel Related Expenses	-1 473	9 821
External Services	136 695	167 279
Goods & Supplies	23 012	21 587
Financial Contributions	1 382	318
Other Expenditures	661	832
Provision for unliquidated obligations	0	27
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>521 952</b>	<b>641 862</b>
<b>Excess / (Shortfall) of income over expenditure</b>	<b>64 744</b>	<b>-56 542</b>