



The British Council's work in Society

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The British Council, a UK Charity with a Royal Charter

The purpose of the British Council is to create international opportunities for and trust between the people of the UK and other countries worldwide.

We call this cultural relations.

Under our Royal Charter we

- promote a wider knowledge of the United Kingdom
- develop a wider knowledge of the English Language
- encourage cultural, scientific, technological and other educational cooperation between the UK and other countries
- promote the advancement of education.

And by doing so, promote cultural relationships and the understanding of different cultures between people and peoples.

The British Council: our size and reach

Present in 109 countries, active in 130

2010-2011 annual budget £700m (of which £170m is UK Government)

An audience of millions – 18m direct and 652m indirect

Reaching, engaging and exchanging with influential people worldwide

Working with younger people to help them work together on global challenges and to help their aspirations for a better life

Global challenges

There are many challenges in the world, including

Turbulence: unpredictable events, potential for conflict,

Demographics: size, location, age, mobility

Power relations: shifting centres of gravity

Connectedness: the need to navigate global challenges and develop cultural openness

Our work in Society aims to help people meet those challenges

Schools –internationalisation and sharing learning

Global Citizens and youth networks – being active in society

Debate and Dialogue – exchange of ideas

Institutional reform - capacity building

Global and thematic issues – climate and sport

A global citizenship framework - the outcomes we seek

People enhance their skills to engage with other societies

People gain more understanding of their role in a global society

People are more engaged in dialogue so as to reduce tension and misunderstandings between cultures

People participate more, together in local and global communities

Planning and developing our work

- Corporate, business and regional strategies
- Country level delivery
- Different mix of programmes for different contexts
- Measurement of impact

Working with other countries

Our country directors :

- build relationships with stakeholders
- tailor global programmes to meet local needs
- feedback understanding of their context
- develop opportunities and partnerships

Working with UK

- Government
 - Devolved administrations
 - Civil society
 - Education and governance sector
 - Policy centres/think tanks
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- Board of Trustees
 - UK Country committees and advisory groups
 - Stakeholders on programme boards
 - Sector consultations

Working with partners and clients

- Creating strategic alliances
- Creating programmes and content together
- Delivering activity
- Building networks of influence

Examples of working with stakeholders

Next Generation reports

MIPEX – Migrant Integration Policy Index

Our Shared Europe