

Gender equality baseline study on Memory of the World inscriptions

The UNESCO Memory of the World programme was established in 1992 with the objectives to facilitate preservation of the world's documentary heritage, to assist universal access and to increase awareness worldwide of the existence and significance of the documentary heritage.

The programme comprises 3 types of register: international, regional and national. The international register lists documentary heritage which has been endorsed as corresponding to the selection criteria regarding world significance and outstanding universal value. It comprises as of today 426 items including 109 from Asia and the Pacific region. The regional register inscribes documentary heritage which has been influential within that region and therefore have regional significance. The regional Asia-Pacific register comprises as of today 46 items.

However very few inscriptions relate to issues on gender equality or contain descriptions or portrayals of women who influenced the world or region's history, and a strong gender gap seems to exist in the MoW inscriptions.

The purpose of the gender equality baseline study is to review the degree of gender sensitivity of the MoW inscriptions, with a particular focus on the inscriptions from the Asia-Pacific region, and to assess the gender equality gap in the content of MoW inscriptions.

To this end, the contractor will:

- (i) Develop a methodology for the gender equality baseline study using the UNESCO Gender Equality Marker to apply to the particular context of MoW inscriptions
- (ii) Review the MoW international and regional inscriptions with a particular focus on the inscriptions from Asia-Pacific and apply the agreed methodology to measure the extent to which the contents of the inscriptions contributed/contribute to the promotion of gender equality in the world or in the region (historic significance, cultural influence, etc.)
- (iii) Provide the results of the gender analysis in a form of excel sheet
- (iv) For each item identified as gender sensitive, responsive or transformative (e.g. The 1893 Women's Suffrage Petition from New Zealand inscribed on the international register in 1997) provide a narrative/story on its significance regarding the promotion of gender equality in the world or region
- (v) Identify items on the registers that may qualify to a higher degree of Gender Equality Marker from a historic point of view and propose recommendations as to the way to improve the descriptions or nominations

MoW inscriptions

- International register: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/memory-of-the-world/register/>
- Regional Asia-Pacific register: <http://www.mowcapunesco.org/core-activities/regional-register/>

UNESCO's Gender Equality Marker (applying initially to activity)

GEM Level	GEM Description	
GEM 0	The activity does not contribute to gender equality	The choice of this GEM level means the activity is not expected to contribute at all -or only marginally –to Priority GE. In this case, the implementation strategy of the activity must include a justification to explain why this would be the case. This option should be limited to (i) activities of strictly technical nature, such as scientific measurements/monitoring of physical phenomena, or (ii) activities which do not have any discernible effect on human activity/livelihood and hence on gender relations.
GEM 1	The activity is gender-sensitive	Activities that select this GEM level must identify and acknowledge the existing differences and inequalities between women and men. However, the choice of this GEM level means that the activity does not make any attempt/effort to address the inequalities. Under this category, the implementation strategy may include some references to gender equality, and even a generic gender analysis of the context/intervention. Sex-disaggregated data may or may not have been used to inform the gender analysis.
GEM 2	The activity is gender-responsive	The choice of this GEM level requires for the implementation strategy of the activity to include evidence-based gender analysis which identifies and acknowledges existing gender differences and inequalities, including inequalities in participation rates and in deriving benefits. Activities that opt for this GEM level should include in the key deliverables, specific policies and actions which would address the inequalities and result in improvements.
GEM 3	The activity is gender-transformative	The choice of this GEM level means that the activity intends to address underlying causes of gender inequalities. Accordingly, the implementation strategy in the workplan must include evidence-based gender analysis that identifies and acknowledges not only the existing differences and inequalities, but also the underlying causes and factors of systemic character producing or influencing these differences and inequalities. In the key deliverables, this category of activities should formulate policies and initiatives which not only address the different needs, aspirations, capacities and contributions of women and men and girls and boys in the subject area of the activity, but also challenge existing and discriminatory policies and practices and influence radical change in social, economic and political contexts supporting or influencing such policies and practices.

Requirements

Expertise on history and gender equality

Knowledge of UNESCO's MoW programme is an asset

Fees: up to 2,000 USD depending on the methodology and level of expertise

Please send your CV and proposal of the methodology by 23 April to m.ito@unesco.org