UNESCO

United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

2019 | INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
Indigenous Languages

IY2019

Celebrate the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages!

ENHANCE YOUR CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY PROFILE WITH UNESCO

BECOMING AN IY2019 PARTNER

The International Year is both an important mechanism for international cooperation and a year-long celebration, dedicated to promoting an area of international interest or concern. Through the mobilization of different actors, the International Year serves to raise awareness of relevant issues and encourage joint actions around the world.

In 2019, the focus of the International Year (hereafter the IY2019) is on **Indigenous Languages**, with UNESCO serving as the UN lead organization.

The impact of IY2019 will be multilayered and long-term – preserving, revitalizing and promoting indigenous languages, improving the daily lives of indigenous peoples and strengthening the capacities of indigenous organizations.

Through engaging in the International Year, partners from the public and private sectors will benefit from worldwide visibility and association with the values of the United Nations in a truly global initiative, offering unique networking opportunities.

Indigenous peoples live in all regions of the world and own, occupy or use some 22% of global land area.

Numbering 370–500 million, indigenous peoples make up the greater part of global cultural diversity and speak the majority of the world's 7,000 languages.

Indigenous languages are responsible for most of the world's linguistic diversity, and are an expression of cultural identity, diversity and a unique understanding of the world.

Languages are a vital component of human rights and fundamental freedoms; they are essential for the realization of sustainable development, peace and reconciliation.

WHY INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES?
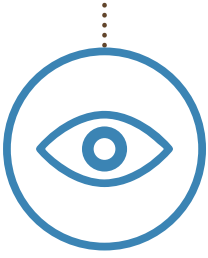
Unique systems of knowledge and understanding the world

Cultural values, diversity and heritage

Fundamental human rights and freedoms of indigenous peoples

Sustainable development, investment, peace building and reconciliation

Social inclusiveness, literacy, poverty reduction and international cooperation

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE ABOUT LANGUAGES?

Ebola Outbreak

Language was one of the main difficulties faced by humanitarian workers responding to the Ebola crisis.

Information and messages about Ebola are primarily available in English or French, but only a minority of people (approximately 20%) in the three most affected countries, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia, speak either language.

In Sierra Leone, only 13% of women understand English. Most Sierra Leoneans, particularly in rural areas, speak Krio, Mende and Themne.

Refugee Crisis

Languages spoken by refugees determine their access to information, administrative and legal procedures, education and employment, since the main services provided by the hosting countries are only available in dominant languages.

Researches show that people learn better in their mother tongue than in foreign languages.

In countries where the dominant language is not the refugees' mother tongue, this can have a direct effect on social integration and can be a significant barrier to accessing live-saving information.

Zika Virus Epidemic

In the case of the Zika outbreak, the prevention campaigns were mainly launched in Spanish, Portuguese, French and English, which are the dominant languages of the LAC region.

Thus, an important part of the population that represents the cultural and linguistic diversity of the region was excluded from accessing information on prevention.

As they were not properly informed, this led to the indigenous communities being more exposed to the Zika virus infection.

BENEFITS OF PARTNERING

Be involved
in a multistakeholder partnership global initiative and be part of the Global Agendaofficial banners and printed materials.

Contribute
to a positive social change with your knowledge, expertise and corporate solutions

Gain privileged
and customized access to UNESCO's knowledge resources, expert analysis and global networks

Support society
through your organization's Corporate Social Responsibility programme

Profile
your best practices, promote your engagement and commitment, and raise your international profile

Create
strategic business alliances with other partner private and public entities and network with influencers across all sectors of society

Enhance
your visibility on the international scene and provide opportunities for expanded markets and greater economic return

HOW TO PARTNER

1
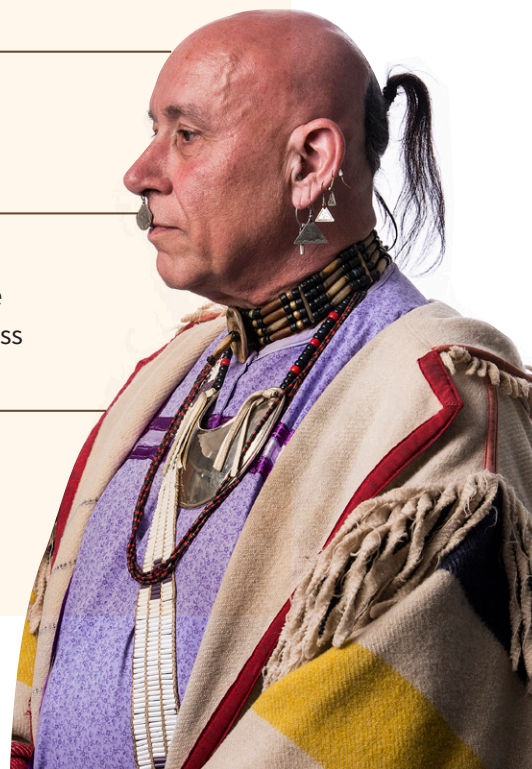
Co-organize cultural, information-sharing and promotional events in the context of the IY2019

2

Sponsor official events, activities and projects (e.g. the opening and closing ceremonies of IY2019)

3

Provide know-how, human resources, equipment, tools and other facilities in support of the IY2019

4

Promote the IY2019 through your communication channels and activities

Languages matter for social, economic and political development, peace building and reconciliation.

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The IY2019 is an important international cooperation mechanism which provides a range of partnership opportunities with UNESCO and other public and private partners.

PUBLIC	PRIVATE		SOCIAL	MEDIA
Offical Donors	Offical Sponsors	Offical Partners	Offical Friends	Media Partners
		Principal / Supporter		
Governments and national institutions	Private sector Act as 'partner-brokers' and create pathways to facilitate collaboration between other private sector partners		Public sector Civil society, indigenous peoples, international and regional organizations, academia	Media and PR sector
Fund, promote and support official activities and events of the IY2019	Fund, donate, promote and sponsor official and non-official activities and events of the IY2019	Sponsor specific events or activities and provide significant in-kind support by being directly involved	Provide in-kind and human resources (volunteer programmes, experts, join advocacy and knowledge exchanges)	Promote the IY2019 in online media and offline channels, cover events and activities, host publicity of the IY2019, etc.

Tailor-made partnership opportunities:

We recognize that many partners can provide significant in-kind support and may wish to target sponsorship for specific events or activities. Our tailor-made partnership opportunities are adaptable to the needs and preferences of contributors, as long as the value of the in-kind support, or combined value of financial contributions and in-kind support, substantially adds to the end value accruing to the International Year.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact:

Ms Irmgarda Kasinskaite-Buddeberg
Programme Specialist

Knowledge Societies Division
Communication and
Information Sector, UNESCO

i.kasinskaite@unesco.org
+33145681645