



CATEGORIES OF ICSU SUPPORT

ICSU has a number of mechanisms for supporting activities that fit with its overall mission and strategic directions. In this context it is important to note that ICSU's role is to strengthen international science for the benefit of society and it has a particular niche in promoting interdisciplinary science at the global level.

ICSU is often requested to support activities by its own Members and other organizations and all requests are considered on a 'case by case' basis. The following description of support categories has been developed to provide some insights into this decision-making process.

[A complementary description of ICSU's specific policy with regards to position statements can be found at

http://www.icsu.org/2_resourcecentre/RESOURCE_list_base.php4?rub=5].

Level 1: ICSU Interdisciplinary Bodies and Joint Initiatives

A major new ICSU initiative that will last for an extended period of time is normally established as an Interdisciplinary Body (IB) under the aegis of the Executive Board and requires the approval of the General Assembly. ICSU can also be approached to co-sponsor other programmes (see below) in which case the decision can be taken by the Executive Board to sponsor a Joint Initiative (JI), following appropriate consultation with Members. Interdisciplinary Bodies and Joint Initiatives have a variety of governance structures and are normally independent in their day to day functioning with dedicated Secretariat functions. However, they are components of ICSU and their statutes are approved by the ICSU Executive Board. ICSU retains the responsibility to periodically review all its IB/JIs and, in some cases, to appoint members of their governing bodies. The establishment or disbandment of an IB requires a decision of the Executive Board, subject to ratification by the General Assembly.

The initial planning and development of ICSU initiatives involves both financial and secretarial support from ICSU. Depending on the specific arrangements, such support may continue for a period once an initiative is launched and/or established as an IB. The financial support from ICSU to its established IBs is provided only for an initial phase of normally 3-5 years after which it is assumed that the IB has developed appropriate mechanisms to provide for its financial stability.

All ICSU IB/JIs should clearly indicate their affiliation to ICSU and display the ICSU logo on their websites and relevant publication materials. Most IBs have developed their own logos and graphic profiles, but clear links to the parent body, ICSU, are expected to be maintained.

Level 2: Co-Sponsorship (or partnership)

This is the highest level of ICSU association with an activity that is not developed by ICSU itself. Decisions on sponsorship of activities are taken by the Executive Board and may or may not involve financial commitment.

Co-sponsorship implies the active involvement of the ICSU Secretariat and Executive Board in the management, development and/or implementation of an activity. ICSU does not co-sponsor activities that it cannot significantly influence and/or has no visible role.

Co-sponsored activities should be visibly identified with ICSU and any associated web and publication materials should include the ICSU logo.

Level 3: Support

ICSU support for an activity implies a lesser involvement than co-sponsorship but still requires considerable input and oversight from the EB and Secretariat. It may also involve a financial contribution.

ICSU support should be acknowledged by the inclusion of the ICSU logo on relevant web and publication materials.

Level 4: Endorsement

Endorsement is reserved for worthy activities with which ICSU wishes to be associated. Endorsement does not imply any active role for the Executive Board or Secretariat in the development and implementation of such activities. There is also no direct financial support from ICSU. Nevertheless, the decision to endorse an activity must be made by the Executive Board. Endorsed activities must be relevant to ICSU's overall mission.

ICSU endorsement is the category that is often best suited to indicate ICSU approval for Member activities, such as International Years, over which the Executive Board and Secretariat have no direct influence. International Years should present a clear case for support and benefit to ICSU of the year in question and should be asked to present this to the EB. Moreover, as a matter of principle, ICSU will only endorse one International Year per year.

ICSU endorsement should be indicated on relevant web and publication materials.

Various other categories

The categories defined above do not necessarily match those of other organizations that approach ICSU for support. Other categories, such as associate organization, moral sponsor or affiliate, are variously deployed. ICSU does not have a definition for each of these but, in general, they can be readily mapped onto the categories defined above and the most appropriate corresponding category can be selected.