



## Universal Esperanto Association (UEA)

The UEA is a non-profit organization, established in 1908. It is a non-governmental organization (NGO) which has been granted special consultative status with the UN. This allows UEA to place items on the agendas of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies; they may attend meetings where they may submit written statements and make oral presentations to governments. The General Conferences of UNESCO in Montevideo (1954) and Sofia (1985) acknowledged the results attained by Esperanto as corresponding with the aims and ideals of UNESCO.

### What Is UEA ?

UEA is a worldwide association with a network of members in 120 countries on all five continents. It comprises 70 national associations, a worldwide youth organization, TEJO, [www.TEJO.org](http://www.TEJO.org), and countless smaller groups and clubs. It has created 38 working commissions on specific aspects of the Association's activities, e.g. the Africa Commission which gives support to teachers in Africa, inter alia; the Education Commission, which supports teachers worldwide and develops teaching materials, the International Correspondence Service, which people can use to find penfriends. It has also created 14 funds which collect donations for special activities, such as the Canuto Fund whose aim is to help third-world countries, and the Hope Fund (Fonduso Espero) which helps victims of war and natural catastrophes. In all, the UEA has 1735 local representatives, and 1309 specialized representatives in 102 countries. Its head office is in Rotterdam (Netherlands), and it has offices in Lokassa (Benin) and New York (USA).

### Goals of UEA

- To take action to solve the language problem in international relations and to facilitate international communication
- To facilitate every kind of spiritual and material relationship among people despite differences of nationality, race, sex, religion, politics or language
- To cultivate among its members a firm sense of solidarity and to develop among them understanding and esteem for other peoples
  - To spread the use of the International Language Esperanto.

## Participation in the major programmes of UNESCO

\* **Communication and information** : Protection of linguistic rights of minorities and indigenous peoples, free circulation of ideas in the International Language Esperanto, promotion of plurilingualism, free access to the web, web encyclopedia in Esperanto: Wikipedia (139,642 articles as of January 2011)

\* **Education for Culture and Peace** : Programmes in Afghanistan, the Balkan countries, Iran, Morocco, Burundi, Indonesia, etc. Teaching materials can be found at : <http://www.edukado.net>

\* **Cultural diversity** : Promotion of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue, organization of festivals, lecture tours; visits to local clubs -International Correspondence Service -Assistance in publishing major literary works (East-West Series), get-togethers for Esperanto-speaking families and their children

\* **Indigenous peoples** : "Indigenous Peoples" project: Promotion of access to Internet and the international language Esperanto to make it easier for multilingual groups to discuss common problems and exchange information.

## Some of UEA's other activities :

- Annual world congresses (2006 Florence, 2007 Yokohama, 2008 Rotterdam, 2009 Bialystok, 2010 Havana, 2011 Copenhagen) with, on average, 2000 participants from 60 countries
- Publication of the monthly journal "Esperanto"
- Publication of the Yearbook with much information about Esperanto, including addresses of national associations, delegates, resolutions of the UN and much more
- Publication of the magazine "Kontakto", aimed at young people and new learners of Esperanto
- Publication of reports on Esperanto or language policy, developed by CED (Centre for Research and Documentation on World Language Problems)
- *Esperanto Documents*, and the journal *Language Problems and Language Planning* (published by Benjamins)
- Publication of textbooks, dictionaries or translations in languages of developing countries, and original literature

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