

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
ORGANIZATION (UNESCO), THE FEDERATION OF INTERNATIONAL
YOUTH TRAVEL ORGANIZATIONS (FIYTO), AND THE INTERNATIONAL
STUDENT TRAVEL CONFEDERATION (ISTC)**

CONCERNING THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH AND STUDENT CARDS

1. FRAMEWORK

UNESCO'S Constitution declares that "since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed". With this in view, the Member States determined "... to increase the means of communication between their peoples and to employ these means for the purposes of mutual understanding and a truer and more perfect knowledge of each other's lives" with a view to ensuring a more solid foundation for peace.

The FIYTO aims at the promotion of educational, cultural and social travel among young people. Since 1975 it has issued the International Youth Card (now known as the International Youth Travel Card) which has become an increasingly important key to discounts in travel, accommodation and travel-related services for people under 26 years of age. More than 300,000 cards are currently in circulation.

The ISTC aims to develop, facilitate and promote the travelling of young people under education in order to increase international understanding. In 1968, it launched the International Student Identity Card (ISIC). ISIC later separated out as an Association in its own right with its own constitution and Convention and is known as the ISIC Association. Nearly 3 million ISIC cards are now in circulation.

Convinced that intercultural youth exchange is one of the most effective means whereby young people can experience and encounter the diverse social, cultural, linguistic and religious traditions of the globe, and that it would, therefore, enable a "more perfect knowledge of each other's lives", UNESCO desires to promote young people's access to mobility and to a variety of educational and cultural experiences. Mobility and cultural enrichment should be accessible to all young people, irrespective of their educational, social, economic or geographic background or status. A variety of youth card schemes exist which promote young people's access to this intercultural exposure and enrichment.

UNESCO has determined, in consultation with the relevant international non-governmental organizations, that concerted action was needed to consolidate current efforts in the youth card field, and to promote, through the use of already existing structures and networks, the needed synergy to facilitate access for all young people in as many countries as possible, and from all social strata, to mobility and to relevant educational, social and cultural discounts and services.

Accordingly, UNESCO, FIYTO and ISTC/ISIC have agreed to combine their efforts and to launch a joint project to be known (provisionally) as the UNESCO-FIYTO International Youth Travel Card (the suggested acronym is "UNFYC"), the UNESCO-ISIC card (the suggested acronym is UNISIC).

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This project is an expression of the common goals shared by three organizations in the promotion of international understanding through the development of educational, social and cultural travel on the one hand, and, the access of young people to discounts and services in a number of educational, social and cultural activities in the other hand.

Under these terms of reference, UNESCO authorizes the use of the UNESCO logo on the International Youth Travel Card produced and administered by the FIYTO, and on the International Student Identity Card produced and administered by the ISIC Association.

2 AIMS

- 2.1 The UNFYC and UNISIC cards aim to provide internationally-accepted proof that the bearer is either a young person (under the age of 26) or a bona fide full-time student.
- 2.2 As a result of the UNFYC and UNISIC cards being recognized as such, holders may:
 - 2.2.1 Be identified as a young person or a bona fide student, eligible for facilities organized especially for youth or students.
 - 2.2.2 Have access, and therefore, be entitled to special concessions and reductions on goods and facilities available to the general public. For example, these would include discounts on travel and accommodation, reduced rates of admission to museums, theatres, sports facilities and cultural manifestations; price reductions in restaurants and shops.
 - 2.2.3 Be provided with a simple and uniform format for identification.

3. ELIGIBILITY

- 3.1 The following shall be eligible to hold the UNFYC and UNISIC cards :
 - 3.1.1 All young people under the age of twenty-six.
 - 3.1.2 All bona fide full-time students engaged in higher/tertiary education or in full-time secondary education.

Eligibility extends to members of both categories while they are enrolled in the institution or school, and shall continue for the calendar year during which their course terminates subject to a maximum of 15 months.

4 ISSUING AUTHORITIES AND ISSUING OFFICES

- 4.1 Issuing Authorities and Issuing Offices will be in accordance with present practices used by FIYTO and the ISIC Association for their respective cards.
- 4.2 Additional distribution points can be established subject to the approval of FIYTO and UNESCO for the International Youth Travel Card and the ISIC Association and UNESCO for the ISIC.

5 ADMINISTRATION OF THE SCHEME

- 5.1 The scheme will be administered in accordance with the present practices of FIYTO for the International Youth Travel Card and the ISIC Association for the ISIC.
- 5.2 UNESCO agrees to the use of its logo on the UNFYC and UNISIC cards on condition that no costs related to the printing or issuance of the card be charged to it. As in the past, FIYTO and ISIC Association will bear any costs related to the administration and running of the card scheme.

6 FINANCE

- 6.1 The terms of reference for the creation of the UNFYC and UNISIC cards may be the subject of separate negotiations and the financial arrangements will be defined in a separate contractual agreement to be signed by the three parties.

7. LAUNCHING OF THE UNFYC AND UNISIC AND EXPANSION OF CONCESSIONS

- 7.1 The signatories of this Memorandum shall give maximum support to initiatives for the development of new concessions and facilities for all holders of the UNFYC and UNISIC cards.
- 7.2 FIYTO and the ISIC Association agree to publicize in every country where the UNFYC and UNISIC cards will be issued and distributed a list of reductions, concessions, services and facilities that are available through them.
- 7.3 UNESCO agrees to promote the UNFYC and UNISIC scheme with its Member States, and in particular with their National Commissions for UNESCO, as well as with recognized international non-governmental organizations and will solicit their co-operation in the launching and expansion of the scheme.
- 7.4 UNESCO agrees to facilitate negotiations with Member States which express interest in obtaining and launching the UNFYC and UNISIC.
- 7.5 The specific terms of any newly obtained concessions of a cultural, educational or social nature will be negotiated by the FIYTO and the ISTC in accordance with their past procedures and in compliance with UNESCO's ideals.

8. STATUS OF THE UNFYC AND UNISIC SCHEME

- 8.1 Support, assistance and co-operation offered by FIYTO or the ISIC Association to any organisation(s) conducting a domestic or international discount scheme(s) shall be concluded by them for the UNFYC and UNISIC in accordance with UNESCO's ideals.

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9. STATUS OF SPONSORING ORGANIZATION

- 9.1 Regular exchange of information shall be maintained between UNESCO, FIYTO and the ISIC Association who agree to consult each other on all matters relating to the launching and administration of the scheme. ISIC and FIYTO shall submit their annual reports and audited reports to UNESCO. UNESCO shall be consulted on the contents of any prospectus or other documentation prepared by FIYTO and/or the ISIC Association to promote the scheme.

10. COMPLEMENTARY ENGAGEMENTS

- 10.1 FIYTO and/or the ISIC Association undertake:

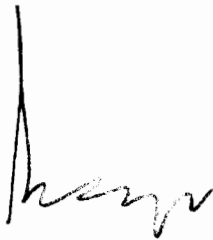
10.1.1 not to authorize or agree in any way to issue or allow the UNESCO logo to be used in any manner contrary to that specified in this Agreement.

10.1.2 not to allow or permit any office or person issuing UNFYC or UNISIC cards under their authority to issue them in an erroneous manner.

10.1.3 not to allow or permit any office or person issuing UNFYC or UNISIC cards to issue them at prices other than the price set by their respective organizations.

11. AMENDMENTS TO THE MEMORANDUM

- 11.1 Proposed amendments to this Memorandum may be submitted by any signatory at least six weeks prior to a joint meeting of the three parties.
- 11.2 Amendments to the Memorandum must be approved unanimously.



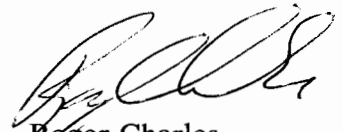
Federico Mayor
Director-General
UNESCO

- 4 OCT 1993



Peter de Jong
Secretary-General
FIYTO

6/10/93



Roger Charles
Director-General
ISTC

8-10-93

UNESCO

UCJ/NB/99/691

29 June 1999

To: Chief, BRX/RIO/NGO

From: Co-ordinator UCJ

COPIE POUR INFORMATION**Subject: International Student Identification Cards (ISIC)**

Further to your memo BRX/RIO.2/memo.99/163 of 1st June 1999, please find below information concerning the above mentioned subject:

In October 1993, an agreement of understanding was signed between UNESCO and the Federation for International Youth Travel Organizations (FIYTO) and with the International Student Travel Confederation (ISTC). In the agreement, UNESCO expressed its "desire to promote young people's access to mobility and to a variety of educational and cultural experiences" and decided that "concerted action was needed to consolidate current efforts in the youth card field, and to promote, through the use of already existing structures and networks, the needed synergy to facilitate access to all young people in as many countries as possible, and from all social strata, to mobility and to relevant educational, social and cultural discounts and services". The terms of reference entailed "the use of the UNESCO logo on the International Youth Travel Card produced and administrated by the FIYTO (for young people under the age of 26), and, on the International Student Identity Card produced and administrated by the ISIC Association on the behalf of ISTC (reserved to students)" (see attached copy of the agreement).

In September 1997, the two NGOs decided to co-operate further on the management of the International Student Identity Card and the International Youth Travel Card. Both cards are now administered and managed from the offices of the International Student Travel Confederation. Recognised in over 90 countries, these cards are owned annually by more than 4 million students and young people. You can obtain more ample information through the International Travel Card Web site at: <http://www.istc.org>.

Concerning the support given by UNESCO to this programme during the past six years, the most notable activities are the following:

- a Circular Letter of February 1994 informing the Member States on the cards
- the publicity given to the cards in the UNESCO's scholarship directory Study Abroad
- the launching of card promotion campaigns among some NGOs, especially the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations, and the Co-ordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service.
- The diffusion of information during the World and Regional Collective Consultations of Youth NGOs, and during the World Youth Fora
- A report on "UK World Heritage Sites' Discounts and Volunteering Opportunities for Cardholders of the UNESCO-ISTC-FIYTO "ISIC" and "Go-25" International Cards"

The co-operation with the two NGOs on the International cards Scheme was previously under the responsibility of the former Division of Youth and Sports Activities (SHS/YSA). The International Cards Scheme is now a priority project of the World Heritage Centre, under the auspices of the Culture Sector, and in co-operation with UCJ (please consult the attached document).

These cards are an excellent initiative to allow young people to engage in travel, cultural exchange and international discovery with less financial burden and provides them with an official student "statute" recognised throughout the world. The support of UNESCO, especially the Field Offices, can be very useful for these NGOs in their relationships with national authorities and cultural institutions.

Thank you for your attention.



Maria Helena Henriques Mueller