مؤسسة محمد بن راشد آل مكتوم للمعرفة
MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM KNOWLEDGE FOUNDATION

UNDP



POLICY BRIEF 01

Building Knowledge Policies for the AI Era

Strengthening knowledge production, governance and cooperation across ICESCO Member States

KNOWLEDGE PROJECT.

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Executive Summary

Rapid digital transformation, artificial intelligence (AI), misinformation, and widening gaps in research and innovation capacities are creating an urgent need to strengthen knowledge ecosystems across Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) Member States.

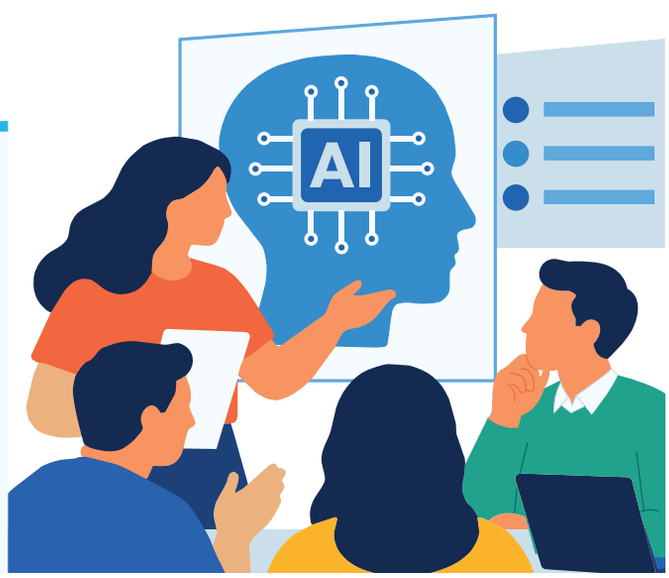
The challenge facing many countries combines both the scarcity of knowledge and the ability to govern, validate, localize, and transform this knowledge into sustainable development outcomes. The central shift required is from knowledge consumption to knowledge production, a transition that demands coordinated action across education, culture, media, research, digital infrastructure, and institutional governance.

Knowledge must be treated as a deliberate, measurable, and governed output of public policy; produced locally, shared openly, and protected responsibly. Culture plays a central role in this vision, providing societies with the values, identity, and direction needed to shape the future they seek to build.

Against this backdrop, six strategic priorities require coordinated action:

1. Strengthening national knowledge governance frameworks and strategies.
2. Building trustworthy and transparent AI-enabled knowledge systems with human oversight.
3. Expanding investment in scientific research, innovation and youth entrepreneurship.
4. Promoting multilingual and culturally inclusive knowledge production.
5. Enhancing media and information literacy to counter misinformation and strengthen knowledge integrity.
6. Promoting regional knowledge cooperation, exchange and partnerships.

Across these priorities, stronger knowledge governance begins with stronger knowledge visibility through measurement, evidence, and accountability.



Background and context

The acceleration of digital transformation and generative artificial intelligence is reshaping how societies produce, validate, distribute, and consume knowledge. At the same time, many ICESCO Member States face structural challenges that limit their capacity to benefit from this transformation:

- Low investment in research and development (R&D): most Member States spend less than 0.5 percent of GDP on R&D, against a global competitive benchmark of 2–4.5 percent.[1]
- Fragmented knowledge ecosystems with weak coordination between governments, universities, research centres, and the private sector.
- Limited multilingual digital content, leaving significant communities underserved by knowledge systems built primarily around dominant languages.
- Growing misinformation and disinformation, amplified by digital platforms and the increasing volume of AI-generated content, with implications for trust in information and institutions.[2]
- Weak statistical foundations; 43 out of 53 Member States lack GDP data on culture; 31 have no structured cultural indices; only 9 possess complete cultural policy indicators.[3]

Knowledge governance should be treated as a strategic development priority, on par with fiscal policy, infrastructure investment, and education reform, and coordinated across relevant ministries and institutions. Knowledge is a core driver of national competitiveness, institutional performance, and societal well-being.

<0.5%

of GDP spent on R&D in most Member States, against a 2–4.5% global benchmark

43/53

Member States lack GDP data on culture

31

Member States have no structured cultural indices

1 UNESCO Institute for Statistics (n.d.). *Research and Development (R&D) Statistics.* Available at: http://data.uis.unesco.org Accessed 30 September 2025.

2 World Economic Forum (2025). *The Global Risks Report 2025*, 20th ed. Available at: https://www.weforum.org/publications/global-risks-report-2025

3 Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (2024). *Index of New Economies for Culture in the Islamic World.* Available at: https://cmc.icesco.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/3.2-ICESCOs-Index-for-New-Cultural-Economies.pdf

Key findings

Invisible knowledge, invisible policy

Many Member States continue to face significant gaps in the measurement of knowledge, culture, research, and innovation. These include both the limited availability of data and weaknesses in the systems needed to collect, report, and use it effectively. Such measurement gaps can constrain evidence-based planning and investment decisions and make it more difficult for policymakers to assess existing capabilities, identify priorities, and track progress over time. Strengthening measurement systems is therefore important for providing a clearer evidence base for knowledge-related policies and investments.

- **Without reliable indicators, governments cannot effectively assess the contribution of knowledge and culture to economic growth, identify investment priorities, or monitor policy outcomes.**

Strengthening national statistical systems and improving the quality, availability, and comparability of knowledge-related data are essential for evidence-based policymaking. Existing international frameworks, including UNESCO Culture Satellite Accounts and Culture|2030 Indicators, can support countries in developing more consistent approaches to measurement.

The value of stronger national measurement also extends beyond domestic policymaking. Many international benchmarks and composite indices rely on data reported through recognized international statistical sources. Where national data are unavailable or not regularly reported through these channels, countries may be underrepresented or excluded from international comparative assessments. This can limit their visibility in global evidence and benchmarking exercises, including composite indices such as the Global Knowledge Index (GKI).

From knowledge consumption to knowledge production

Member States need to move from passive consumption of imported knowledge towards active production, localization, and innovation. Countries that do not produce knowledge become dependent on frameworks developed elsewhere, with limited ability to adapt them to local realities or align them with national development priorities.

Bridging this gap requires sustained R&D investment, structured pathways from education to innovation, and an institutional culture that rewards knowledge creation. It is equally important to establish national systems to generate, validate, and localize knowledge in official and heritage languages, while aligning research agendas with national development priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Artificial Intelligence and trustworthy knowledge systems

Artificial intelligence offers transformative opportunities, but unmanaged risks include misinformation at scale, non-transparent systems, weakened human judgement, and widening technological dependence. AI integration must therefore be accompanied by appropriate governance, transparency, human oversight, and safeguards to ensure that AI supports trustworthy knowledge systems and evidence-based decision-making.

- Human oversight and accountability in all AI-assisted public decisions.
- Transparent AI disclosure; citizens should know when content they encounter is AI-generated.

- AI literacy programmes for youth, civil servants, and educators.
- Regional AI readiness frameworks to promote regional alignment around shared principles and standards.
- Fact-checking and verification systems that use AI as decision-support, not as arbiter of truth.

The misinformation and disinformation crisis and media literacy

Misinformation and disinformation remain major governance challenges, particularly as they can erode trust and exacerbate social divisions. The World Economic Forum identifies misinformation and disinformation among the leading short-term risks, underlining their persistent threat to societal cohesion and governance by eroding trust and exacerbating divisions within and between nations.[4] In the Arab States region, 61 percent of youth aged 18 to 24 rely on short-form social media videos as their primary news source,[5] while research shows that platform algorithms can enable false information to spread significantly faster than verified information.[6]

Strengthening cognitive resilience—the ability of individuals and societies to critically assess information, recognize misleading content, and make informed judgements—through media literacy education, independent fact-checking, and critical-thinking skills is a core knowledge governance priority. This requires dedicated national frameworks, AI-assisted verification tools, and independent peer review to strengthen knowledge integrity and public trust.

Multilingualism and cultural diversity in knowledge systems

Culture has become a strategic component of knowledge economies and sustainable development rather than a sector limited to heritage preservation or cultural events. Today, it represents a social, economic, political, and human framework that contributes to innovation, identity, and societal progress. However, the absence of reliable cultural and economic data remains a major policy challenge, as effective knowledge societies require measurable indicators that demonstrate the contribution of culture to national development and economic growth. Developing a broader measurement approach that captures the social, human, and economic dimensions of culture, alongside its contribution to GDP, is therefore essential for informing evidence-based cultural policies and better reflecting culture's contribution to sustainable development.

Building knowledge societies also requires recognizing cultural and linguistic diversity as a source of innovation and knowledge creation. Knowledge systems that operate only through dominant international languages risk excluding significant segments of society and limiting the visibility of local expertise. Languages including Amazigh, Arabic, Bahasa Indonesia/Malay, Persian, Hausa, Swahili, Turkish, and Urdu remain systematically underrepresented in digital knowledge systems and in the AI training data that increasingly shapes what knowledge is findable, trusted, and used.

This document establishes a governance imperative to include more languages, not a translation afterthought: multilingual content production centres shall be equipped with AI-assisted translation pipelines meeting ISO 17100 and ISO 18587 quality standards,[7] with unified terminology resources developed for all major languages of the Islamic world. Publicly funded knowledge shall default to Creative Commons licensing, enabling legal reuse and broad access.

4 World Economic Forum (2025). *The Global Risks Report 2025*, 20th ed. Available at: https://www.weforum.org/publications/global-risks-report-2025

5 ASDA'A BCW (2021). *13th Annual Arab Youth Survey: Hope for the Future.*

6 Vosoughi, S., D. Roy and S. Aral (2018). The spread of true and false news online. *Science,* vol. 359, No. 6380, pp. 1146–1151.

7 ISO 17100 is the international standard that sets requirements for professional translation services, including the translation process and the competences of translators and revisers. ISO 18587 is the international standard that sets requirements for the full human post-editing of machine translation (MT) output and the competences required of post-editors.

Youth, research, innovation, and knowledge value

The 353 million young people (aged 15–24) of the Islamic world,[8] approximately 20 percent of the global youth population, represent a significant potential source of research, innovation, knowledge production, and economic development. Unlocking this potential requires deliberate investment in education, research capacity, and innovation ecosystems, particularly as the demographic window is not permanent.

For young people to become active contributors to knowledge and innovation, countries need to strengthen the education and research systems that enable them to develop skills, conduct research, and generate new knowledge. Addressing the regional R&D gap requires structural commitments, including sustained and targeted investment, private-sector co-investment incentives, stronger university-industry partnerships, and education reform that develops critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving. Young researchers and innovators should also have greater access to mentorship, research opportunities, publishing, and pathways to entrepreneurship.

Strengthening these pathways is essential to ensure that knowledge generated through education and research can be translated into innovation and economic and societal value. Successful knowledge economies are distinguished by their capacity to produce knowledge and translate research and creativity into products, services, technologies, startups, competitive enterprises, quality employment, and solutions to societal challenges. This requires stronger collaboration among governments, universities, research institutions, investors, and the private sector, supported by policies that facilitate innovation financing, research commercialization, and technology transfer.

This transformation also requires a shift in education systems from models focused primarily on knowledge transmission and memorization towards knowledge-based education that equips learners to question, innovate, solve problems, and contribute to future solutions. Building effective knowledge societies therefore requires an integrated ecosystem in which education and research generate new knowledge, innovation mechanisms translate it into applications, and enabling institutions and markets create pathways for that knowledge to generate sustainable economic and societal value.

Institutional coordination and South–South cooperation

Fragmentation across institutional ecosystems remains a major obstacle to effective knowledge governance. Limited coordination among ministries, research institutions, universities, and the private sector weakens countries' ability to translate knowledge into effective policies and innovation outcomes. Strengthening institutional connectivity and cross-sector collaboration is therefore essential to building coherent and effective national knowledge systems.

At the national level, countries can strengthen coordination and knowledge sharing through mechanisms suited to their own institutional contexts and priorities. At the regional level, South–South cooperation provides an important avenue for exchanging experiences, sharing good practices, and learning from approaches developed across Member States. Building on its existing work and networks, ICESCO can continue to facilitate knowledge exchange and dialogue among Member States, while supporting opportunities for institutional learning and collaboration.

8 United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2024). *World Population Prospects 2024*. Available at: https://population.un.org/wpp/

Key data at a glance

The following indicators illustrate key identified trends and challenges supported by internationally recognized datasets. While they do not provide an exhaustive assessment of knowledge governance across ICESCO Member States, they highlight priority areas requiring policy attention to strengthen knowledge-based sustainable development.

THEME	KEY EVIDENCE	POLICY RELEVANCE
Knowledge economy	Cultural and creative industries contribute 3.1 percent of global GDP and 6.2 percent of global employment.[9] The average Economy score in the GKI across ICESCO Member States is 34.1/100.[10]	Strengthening knowledge governance and the creative economy can improve competitiveness, diversification, and sustainable growth.
Innovation and digital transformation	The 35 ICESCO Member States covered by the WIPO Global Innovation Index 2025 record an average innovation score of 24.3/100, with substantial variation across countries.[11]	Differences in innovation performance point to the need for sustained investment in R&D, digital infrastructure, human capital, technology transfer, and innovation ecosystems.
Digital connectivity	Average internet penetration across ICESCO Member States is 57.7 percent,[12] while the average ICT score in the GKI is 29.9/100.[13]	Expanding digital infrastructure is essential for inclusive access to knowledge and AI-enabled development.
Knowledge integrity	False information spreads up to 10 times faster than verified information online;[14] 61 percent of young people in the Arab States region rely on social media videos as their primary news source.[15]	Strengthening media literacy, fact-checking, and responsible AI governance is critical for resilient knowledge ecosystems.
Culture and evidence-based policy	Many Member States have yet to establish Culture Satellite Accounts and comprehensive systems for measuring culture's contribution to GDP.[16]	Stronger cultural statistics are essential for integrating culture into national development planning and investment decisions.

9 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (2022). *Re|Shaping Policies for Creativity : Addressing Culture as a Global Public Good.* Available at: https://www.unesco.org/reports/reshaping-creativity/2022/en

10 United Nations Development Programme and Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation (2025). *Global Knowledge Index 2025*. Available at: https://www.undp.org/arab-states/publications/global-knowledge-index-2025

11 World Intellectual Property Organization (2025). *Global Innovation Index 2025: Innovation at a Crossroads.* Available at: https://www.wipo.int/publications/en/details.jsp?id=4807

12 International Telecommunication Union (n.d.). *ITU DataHub.* Available at: https://datahub.itu.int/query/ Accessed 30 July 2025.

13 United Nations Development Programme and Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation (2025). *Global Knowledge Index 2025.* Available at: https://www.undp.org/arab-states/publications/global-knowledge-index-2025

14 Vosoughi, S., D. Roy and S. Aral (2018). The spread of true and false news online. *Science,* vol. 359, No. 6380, pp. 1146–1151.

15 ASDA'A BCW (2021). *13th Annual Arab Youth Survey: Hope for the Future.*

16 UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2024). *Culture Satellite Accounts: Methodological Framework.*

Key policy recommendations

The following recommendations are grounded in six strategic priorities. They are framed for practical action and sequenced for realistic implementation across different institutional starting points.

RECOMMENDATION 01

Develop national knowledge governance strategies

WHY IT MATTERS

Effective knowledge governance requires a coordinated national strategy, rather than isolated initiatives across disconnected ministries. A coherent three-tier governance architecture should be established, comprising (1) a National Knowledge Council to provide strategic direction and oversight; (2) Knowledge management units within public institutions to coordinate knowledge processes and implementation; and (3) Sectoral knowledge leads within ministries to connect sector-specific knowledge with national priorities and decision-making. Member States that embed this architecture into long-term national economic and development planning, with clear institutional ownership, dedicated budgets, and annual performance reporting, will establish a stronger foundation for knowledge-driven reforms.

COUNTRY EXAMPLE

The United Arab Emirates has integrated knowledge, innovation, and digital transformation into national development planning through the UAE Centennial 2071 Strategy and coordinated innovation ecosystems linking government, universities, and the private sector. Malaysia has similarly strengthened national knowledge governance through long-term digital economy and higher education transformation frameworks targeting research, innovation, and human capital development.

SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- Establish National Knowledge Councils with defined mandates and reporting responsibilities.
- Create or designate knowledge management units within relevant public institutions.
- Appoint sectoral knowledge leads within ministries to coordinate knowledge generation, sharing, and use.
- Integrate the three-tier architecture into national development and economic planning.
- Provide dedicated budgets and annual performance reporting for knowledge governance.

RECOMMENDATION 02

Strengthen AI governance and digital trust

WHY IT MATTERS

AI is already reshaping public knowledge systems from news production to support of public decisions. Governing its use responsibly requires ethical and regulatory frameworks that promote transparency, accountability and human oversight, while addressing algorithmic bias. This includes clear disclosure requirements, appropriate human oversight in consequential decisions, and stronger AI literacy across institutions and the wider public.

COUNTRY EXAMPLE

Several ICESCO Member States, including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, have introduced national AI strategies and digital transformation initiatives accompanied by investments in digital infrastructure, institutional capacity-building, and innovation ecosystems providing practical models for integrating AI governance into national development frameworks.

SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- Require AI disclosure in public-sector communications; citizens must know when content is AI-generated.
- Establish human review requirements for AI outputs used in high-stakes public decisions.
- Adopt AI-enabled knowledge systems for indexing, semantic analysis, and translation with human oversight.
- Expand AI and digital literacy programmes for youth, civil servants, and educators.
- Strengthen regional dialogue and knowledge exchange on AI readiness, including through existing ICESCO platforms and networks, to share experiences, good practices, and emerging approaches across Member States.
- Support independent fact-checking units with operational independence and stable funding.

RECOMMENDATION 03

Expand investment in research, innovation, and youth

WHY IT MATTERS

Investment in R&D remains below the levels needed to build competitive research and innovation ecosystems in many Member States. Addressing this challenge requires legislative commitments, private-sector incentive frameworks, and education reform connecting young people to knowledge production. Beyond investment and infrastructure, knowledge societies require a cultural shift in how young people engage with knowledge. Youth should not be viewed only as beneficiaries of knowledge systems, but as active contributors to designing ideas, solutions, and innovation ecosystems. This mindset begins early through education, culture, media, and digital environments that shape values, creativity, responsibility, and the ability to create rather than merely consume.

COUNTRY EXAMPLE

Malaysia strengthens its R&D and innovation system through university-industry collaboration, grants, tax incentives, and national policies including the National Policy on Science, Technology and Innovation (NPSTI 2021–2030) and the Malaysia Digital Economy Blueprint, targeting R&D spending of 2.5 percent of GDP by 2025 and 3.5 percent by 2030, with strong emphasis on commercialization and private-sector participation.

SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- Progressively increase investment in research and innovation in line with national priorities and international benchmarks.
- Create innovation co-investment funds bringing private-sector R&D alongside public funding.
- Establish university-industry knowledge partnerships and startup incubation programmes.
- Introduce performance-linked incentives for private R&D contribution.
- Reform education assessment to reward critical thinking alongside subject knowledge.
- Adopt ORCID and DOI identification systems to ensure accurate attribution and cross-platform tracking.
- Work towards listing national scientific journals in Scopus, Web of Science, DOAJ, and OAPEN.[17]

RECOMMENDATION 04

Promote multilingual and inclusive knowledge production

WHY IT MATTERS

Knowledge systems that operate primarily in dominant languages can limit access for significant segments of the population. Multilingual knowledge production is therefore an important dimension of inclusive knowledge governance, extending beyond translation to how knowledge is produced, accessed, and shared.

AI-assisted translation can help expand access when supported by appropriate human oversight and internationally recognized quality standards, such as ISO 17100 and ISO 18587.

Developing shared terminology resources for widely used languages across the Islamic world can further support consistency and accessibility. Open access to publicly funded knowledge, including through licensing models such as Creative Commons, can also facilitate wider dissemination, reuse, and collaboration.

COUNTRY EXAMPLE

The structured trilingual education policy (Kazakh, Russian, English) of Kazakhstan demonstrated that intentional investment in multilingual production can simultaneously expand domestic knowledge access and international research visibility; a model adaptable to the multilingual realities of ICESCO Member States.

17 ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID) provides persistent identifiers for researchers; DOI (Digital Object Identifier) provides persistent identifiers for research outputs. Scopus and Web of Science are major academic indexing and citation databases; DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals) indexes open-access journals; and OAPEN (Open Access Publishing in European Networks) supports the dissemination and discovery of open-access academic books and related scholarly content.

SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- Fund national multilingual knowledge production programmes; original research and policy documents in local languages.
- Establish AI-assisted translation pipelines with mandatory human review for high-stakes content.
- Adopt open-access frameworks for publicly funded research with Creative Commons licensing.
- Develop unified multilingual terminology resources for major languages of the Islamic world.

RECOMMENDATION 05

Strengthen media literacy and knowledge integrity

WHY IT MATTERS

In an environment where research has shown that false information can spread significantly faster than verified information online, media literacy is a core knowledge governance competency not a supplementary one. Strengthening institutional fact-checking capacity, using AI-powered tools to support content verification, promoting independent peer review, and integrating media literacy and critical thinking into education can help strengthen the reliability and responsible use of information.

COUNTRY EXAMPLE

BN Check of Tunisia, a dedicated fact-checking initiative established by Business News, provides an example of institutionalized media verification. Launched in 2019, the initiative verifies public statements, social-media content, and media claims, and in August 2025 received certification from the International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN), reflecting adherence to established principles of impartiality, source transparency, methodological rigour, and accountability to the public.[18]

SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- Introduce mandatory media literacy components into national school curricula at all levels.
- Integrate critical thinking and source evaluation into civil servant and educator training.
- Establish operationally independent fact-checking units within major public knowledge institutions.
- Deploy AI-supported semantic analysis for detecting disinformation.
- Launch public awareness campaigns on digital manipulation, AI-generated content, and source verification.
- Promote greater transparency from digital platforms on content recommendation and algorithmic amplification.
- Require independent peer review for all published scientific and policy knowledge.

18 Business News Check (n.d.). Qui sommes-nous? (Who are we?). Available at: https://businessnews.com.tn/bn-check/bn-check-qui-sommes-nous/

RECOMMENDATION 06

Strengthen regional knowledge cooperation and exchange

WHY IT MATTERS

Regional cooperation can play a critical role in connecting knowledge, institutions, researchers, and expertise across Member States. A regional knowledge cooperation platform can provide the shared infrastructure and mechanisms needed to support joint research, knowledge exchange, researcher mobility, and the dissemination of policy and technical expertise. Rather than creating parallel initiatives, such a platform would provide a common framework through which Member States can pool resources, share knowledge, and develop collaborative solutions to common challenges.

COUNTRY EXAMPLE

Regional Science, Technology and Innovation cooperation in ASEAN provides an established example of structured regional collaboration. Through the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation (APASTI),[19] ASEAN has promoted regional cooperation in research and innovation, public-private collaboration, talent mobility, capacity development, and knowledge and technology dissemination, supported by dedicated regional institutions and mechanisms.

SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- Establish a regional knowledge cooperation platform connecting governments, universities, research centres, and other knowledge institutions across Member States.
- Develop a regional knowledge observatory to track comparable indicators, identify knowledge gaps, and inform regional cooperation priorities.
- Create joint research and innovation programmes connecting universities, research centres, and governments around shared regional priorities.
- Support regional researcher and innovator mobility programmes to facilitate knowledge exchange and institutional collaboration.
- Develop shared digital knowledge infrastructure, including the ICESCO Open Knowledge Platform and Digital Library, to facilitate access to and dissemination of regional knowledge resources.
- Strengthen South–South and triangular cooperation to facilitate the exchange and adaptation of expertise, policy approaches, and institutional practices among Member States, including through collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

19 Association of Southeast Asian Nations Secretariat (2025). *ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation (APASTI) 2026–2035.* Jakarta. Available at: https://astnet.asean.org/apasti/

Conclusion

Knowledge governance is a concrete policy responsibility, reflected in the choices institutions make and the gaps they leave unaddressed: in budget decisions that undervalue research; in education systems that produce graduates without critical thinking skills; in information environments where misinformation moves faster than any institution can correct it; in AI tools being built without adequate representation of the languages and knowledge traditions of Member State communities.

The six recommendations in this brief are not a comprehensive solution. They are a starting point: practical, sequenced, and grounded in what participants themselves identified as most urgent.

What is needed now is a structural reorientation: a deliberate transformation in how ICESCO Member States approach knowledge as a public asset moving beyond incremental improvements within existing systems.

FROM	TOWARDS
☒ Fragmented knowledge initiatives	☑ Governed, integrated knowledge ecosystems
☒ Passive knowledge use	☑ Strategic, multilingual knowledge production
☒ Institutional silos	☑ Interconnected cross-sectoral knowledge networks
☒ Knowledge importation	☑ Local knowledge production and global contribution
☒ Monolingual systems	☑ Open, multilingual, and culturally grounded platforms
☒ Reactive to misinformation	☑ Institutionally equipped to prevent and respond

Implementing these priorities will require coordinated action among governments, international organizations, academia, the private sector, and civil society. Within their respective mandates, ICESCO and UNDP can contribute complementary expertise through policy dialogue, knowledge exchange, capacity development, and strategic partnerships.

About this Policy Brief

This Policy Brief builds on discussions held during the high-level policy roundtable convened as part of the Knowledge Summit 2025, organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation (MBRF) in November 2025.

It draws on statistical evidence from internationally recognized sources, including the GKI, UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), WIPO, WEF, ITU, and ICESCO.

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