

ifa ECP Monitor Fact Sheet

Egypt

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1. Key Indicators

		2019	2015
Population	Number/rank	100.39 / 14 th	92.44 / 15 th
GDP	Rank/number	40 th	31 st
GDP per capita	Number/rank	\$3,019	\$3,563
Cultural economy	As share of GDP	3.0 ¹	-
Education economy	As share of GDP	-	3.9 ²
R&D economy³	As share of GDP	0.61 ⁽²⁰¹⁷⁾	0.72
Media economy	As share of GDP	-	-

Sources: UNESCO, World Bank

Geopolitical position	Hard power rank ⁴	13 th (2021)	-
	World trade ranking ⁵	44 th (Import) / 109,291	42 nd (Import) / 95,827
	Soft power rank ⁶	-	-
	Diplomacy rank ⁷	-	-

Sources: World Trade Organization, Global Firepower

2. Government funding as percent of total government outlays, by selected fields

	2019	2015
Culture	2.6 ⁸	3.5 ⁹
Education	8.4	11.5
R & D	0.72	0.72
Media	-	-

Source: CAPMAS

¹ UNESCO. (2020).

² World Bank. (2021).

³ Statista. (2021b).

⁴ 2019 Military Strength Ranking. (2020).

⁵ World Trade Statistical Review. (2016 & 2020). Refer to Table A6 Leading exporters and importers in world merchandise trade, 2015 & 2019.

⁶ Soft Power 30. (2020). Global Soft Power Index.

⁷ Global Diplomacy Index. (2020).

⁸ CAPMAS (Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics). (2019).

⁹ CAPMAS (Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics). (2016).

3. Overview of External Cultural Policy

	2019
Number of countries with ECP activities	>80
Total number of institutions abroad ¹⁰	Cultural offices and centers: 20 ⁽²⁰²¹⁾ Press and information offices: 29 ⁽²⁰¹⁴⁾ ¹¹
Total number of FTE staff engaged in ECP activities	-
Government financial support (€ million)	-
Total expenditure of all ECP operators (€ million)	-
Comparative ECP rank	minor

MAIN ECP OBJECTIVES

- Egypt's external cultural policy serves to build a national image as a civilized and historic country and regain regional influence. It focused on reviving its economy through tourism and creating space for its foreign policies and regional disputes, such as water disputes with Ethiopia.
- Under the leadership of President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi, Egypt tries to build a new national identity grounded in its pharaonic heritage. It also serves to push back against the Muslim Brotherhood and Islamists who seek to undermine the legitimacy of the nation-state.

POLICY CONTEXT

- Egypt, like the rest of the Arab World, is slowly recovering from the aftermath of the Arab Spring in 2011. The last decade of Egypt's ECP was "defensive" in nature as the country was occupied with domestic issues, largely curtailing Egypt's capacity to pursue institution-led diplomacy.
- Under Hosni Mubarak, Egypt stagnated ideologically for more than three decades. 2011 was a crucial moment for Egypt to start to define the country's emerging structure among the many political narratives like the Muslim Brotherhood and Nationalists. Since el-Sisi came to power in 2013, Egypt rejected political Islam and fought against Islamic insurgency, and pharaonic heritage re-emerged as the foundation for a new Egypt.

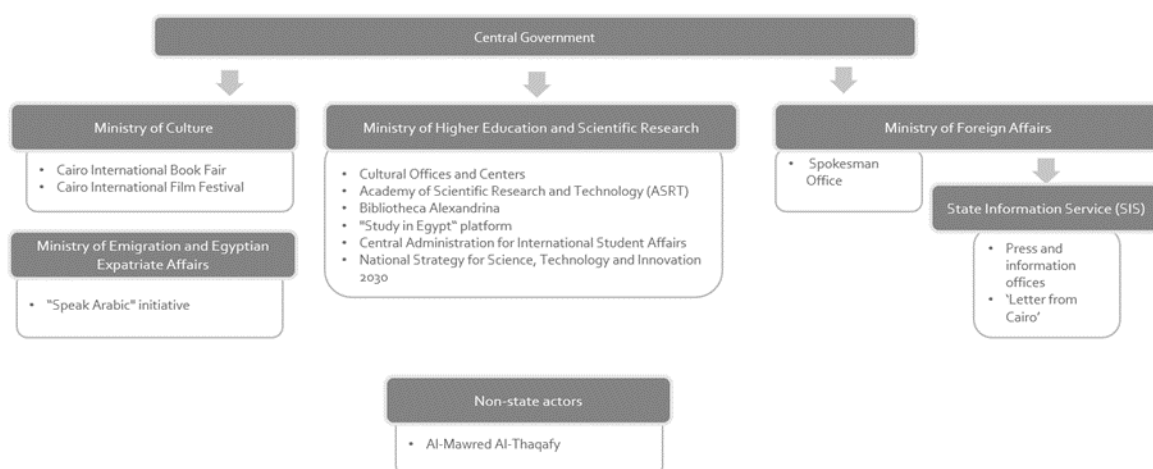
REGIONAL FOCUS AND INSTITUTIONAL EMPHASIS

- The Arabic world is Egypt's primary focus in its ECP. Although Egypt's dominance in the Arab cultural world is currently challenged by emerging media hubs in the Gulf countries, its influence and heritage still shouldn't be underestimated.
- Africa, especially East Africa, becomes increasingly important for Egypt's ECP because of water resources. El-Sisi chose to use soft power to recover lost diplomatic ground, seek more allies in the battle with Ethiopia for the Nile waters, and foster more trade, military, and infrastructure cooperation with Nile Basin countries like Tanzania.
- Egypt is also looking for a new way to gain internal stability through carefully balanced international recognition, especially from the U.S. and the European Union.

¹⁰ International Relations Office of Benha University. (n.d.). **Fehler! Linkreferenz ungültig.**

¹¹ Egypt State Information Service. (2014). **Fehler! Linkreferenz ungültig.**

Institutional Map



4. Fields of External Cultural Policy

	2019	2015
Culture and the Arts		
Number of countries present	20 ⁽²⁰²¹⁾	-
Number of institutes	Cultural offices and centers: 20 ⁽²⁰²¹⁾	Cultural offices and centers: 31 ⁽²⁰¹⁷⁾
Number of FTE staff	-	-
Number of artists in exchange programs	-	-
Number of cultural agreements	-	-
Budget (€ million)	-	-
Government financial support (€ million)	-	-

Sources: International Relations Office of Benha University

Language		
Number of countries where courses are offered	-	-
Number of students enrolled	-	-
Number of candidates for Arabic language qualifications	-	-

	2019	2015
Number of language teachers	-	-
Budget (€ million)	-	-
Government financial support (€ million)	-	-
Education - Primary & Secondary		
Number of countries	-	-
Number of schools	-	-
Number of students	-	-
Number of staff / teachers	-	-
Budget (€ million)	-	-
Government financial support (€ million)	-	-
Education - Tertiary		
Number of countries	7	6
Number of universities / colleges abroad ¹²	3	n/a
Number of domestic universities / colleges ¹³	62	41
Number of foreign students ¹⁴	62,542	52,079
Number of students at transnational higher education (TNE)	-	-
Number of government scholarships awarded	~ 1,900 ¹⁵	~ 1,900-
Number of agreements	35	-
Budget (€ million)	-	-
Government financial support	-	-

Sources: State Information Service, Statista

¹² Alexandria University branch in South Sudan, Alexandria University branch in Cha, and Cairo University branch in Sudan.

¹³ SIS (State Information Service). (2020).

¹⁴ Statista. (2021a). According to State Information Service (2020), there were about 72,000 foreign students enrolled in institutions of higher education.

¹⁵ SIS (State Information Service). (2020). The number of state scholarships awarded to foreign students from other African countries.

	2019	2015
Science and Research		
Number of countries ¹⁶	over 13	-
Number of institutes	-	-
Number of researchers / staff	-	-
Number of projects	over 58	-
Number scientists in exchange programs	869 ¹⁷	746 ¹⁸
Budget (€ million)	-	-
Government financial support (€ million) ¹⁹	11.28	-

Source: CAPMAS, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research

Media		
TV: Nile TV International Channel		
Number of countries broadcasted to	-	-
Number of languages	2	-
Number of channels	-	-
Audience / weekly (million)	-	-
Digital & social media audience (million)	-	-
Budget (€ million)	-	-
Radio: Directed Transnational Radio Network		
Number of countries broadcasted to	-	-
Number of languages	23	-
Number of channels	-	-
Audience / weekly (million)	-	-
Digital & social media audience	-	-

Sources: Mehany, 2020

¹⁶ Council of Research Centres and Institutes (CRCI). (2019).

¹⁷ CAPMAS (Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics). (2019b).

¹⁸ CAPMAS (Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics). (2017).

¹⁹ CRCI (Council of Research Centres and Institutes). (2019). Refer to p. 37.

5. Current Issues and Developments

- Domestically, the military has become the dominant force to decide on, further reducing space for independent civil society. Internationally, Egypt tends to justify its approach to soft power and ECP on security grounds. At the bottom of these moves, Egypt seeks to protect its national interests and contain any threat that is damaging its national image, especially political Islamist activism.
- Egypt continues to suffer long-term structural problems, such as unemployment and growing poverty. However, the state's strengthened authoritarian control on every aspect of society has also led to the success of a number of national projects to improve its infrastructure and economy. How to construct an attractive national narrative and enhance Egypt's international image will then require more coordinated and strategic policies at the state level as well as financial support in all of its ECP fields.

6. Contributions to multilateral cultural organisations

	2019	2015
UNESCO ²⁰	€ 250.000	-

Source: UNESCO

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²⁰ Assessed contributions to UNESCO are mandatory contributions due from States by virtue of their membership.

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