

ifa ECP Monitor At a Glance

Taiwan

PRÉCIS

Taiwan's ECP has two greatest strengths in its liberal-democratic political culture and activism of its vibrant civil society. Cultural diplomacy is a political lifeline for Taiwan to access audiences and engage in unofficial diplomacy to generate wider support and recognition. And Taiwan has been actively expanding its influence in areas of culture and education through the New Southbound Policy. However, it still faces external and internal challenges, including growing party schism and threats from China.

Outstanding Fact:

Today Taiwan has over 40,000 NGOs, some 2,100 of which operate internationally.

KEY INDICATORS 2019

Population	Rank/number	56 th / 23.60 million
GDP	Rank/number	21 st / \$612 million
GDP per capita	Rank/number	n/a / \$25,941
Cultural Economy	As share of GDP	0.1
Education economy	As share of GDP	4.82
R&D economy	As share of GDP	3.49
Media economy	As share of GDP	n/a
Geopolitical position	Hard power	22 nd (2021)
	Sharp power	17 th
	Soft power	5 th (of 10 Asia Soft Powers)
	Diplomacy rank	32 nd

OVERVIEW OF EXTERNAL CULTURAL POLICY 2019

Number of countries present	over 58
Number of institutions abroad	over 198
FTE staff	n/a
ECP freelance & local contract staff	n/a
Government financial support (€ million)	Over 79.4
Comparative ECP ranking	medium

Main Objectives

- Build on the narrative of Taiwan democracy and culture to gain greater international recognition
- Seek a separate national identity and distance itself further from mainland China

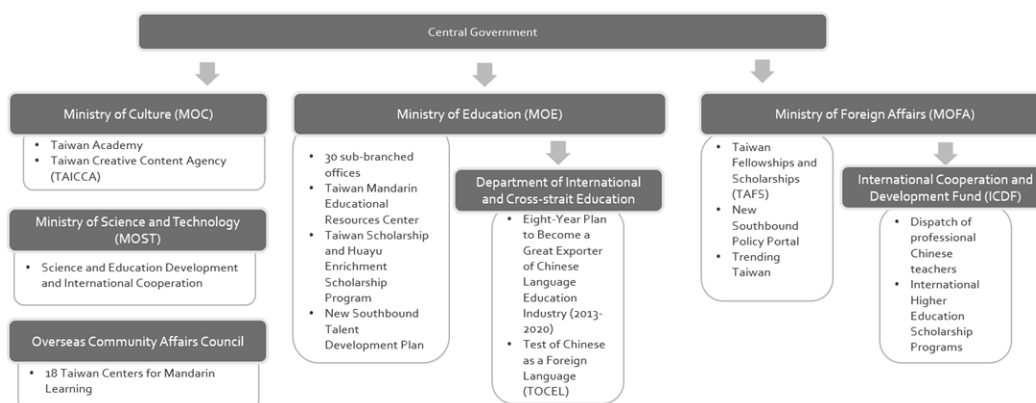
Policy Context

- There is a shift in emphasis to cultural diplomacy under Ma Ying-jeou, especially with the dissolution of the GIO (Government Information Office) and the establishment of the new Ministry of Culture undertaking previous responsibilities of the GIO.
- Under current Tsai Ing-wen's Administration, the emphasis on soft power is more pronounced because the New Southbound Policy extends to South Asia regionally and expands into areas of culture and education.

Regional Focus

- Africa: n/a
- South & Central Asia: n/a
- East Asia & Pacific: n/a
- Europe: n/a
- Middle East/NA: n/a
- North America: n/a
- South America: n/a

INSITUTIONAL MAP



FIELDS OF EXTERNAL CULTURAL POLICY

	2019	2015	Comment
Culture and the Arts			Data refer to Taiwan Academy and the Ministry of Culture
Number of countries present	13	n/a	
Number of institutes and branches	19	Over 3	
Staff	n/a	n/a	
Budget (€ million)	34.7	n/a	
Number of exchange programs	66	95	

Language	2019	2015	Comment
Number of countries where courses are offered	4	n/a	
Number of institutes	Taiwan Centre for Mandarin Learning: 18	Taiwan Centre for Mandarin Learning: 0	
Number of candidates for Chinese language qualifications	24,232	16,259	Data refer to the Ministry of Education
Education – Primary & Secondary			
Number of countries present	3	3	Data refer to the Ministry of Education
Number of schools	5	5	
Number of students	1,971	2,978	
Number of staff / teachers	247	252	
Government financial support (€ million)	2.86	1.92	
Education – Tertiary			
Number of countries present	41	59	Data refer to the Department of International and Cross-strait Education
Number of universities / colleges abroad	0	0	
Number of academic agreements signed with foreign universities	n/a	1,377	
Number of foreign students	Inbound (Mainland China): 28,743 Inbound (Total): 116,175 Outbound (Total): 41,559	Inbound (Mainland China): 24,649 Inbound (Total): 110,182 Outbound (Total): 38,166	
Number of government scholarships awarded	Taiwan Scholarship and Huayu Enrichment Scholarship Program: 1,609 Taiwan Fellowship: 126	Taiwan Scholarship and Huayu Enrichment Scholarship Program: n/a Taiwan Fellowship: 234	
Number of staff / teachers dispatched	146	104	
Budget (€ million)	Taiwan Scholarships and Fellowships: 13.8	Taiwan Scholarships and Fellowships: 10.8	Data refer to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Science and Research	2019	2015	Comment
Number of countries present	Over 41	n/a	
Number of institutes / branches	12	0	
Number of international cooperation agreements and MoUs	Over 123	n/a	
Number of projects	98	130	Refers to Ministry of Science and Technology
Number of scientists in exchange programs	Inbound: 559	Inbound: 758	
Media			
Radio			
Number of languages	10	n/a	Refers to Radio Taiwan International
New Media			
Social networks following (million)	Page views: 16.3 Number of Internet radio listeners: 0.51 Cumulative number of new media users: 0.22	-	

CURRENT ISSUES AND DEVELOPMENTS

- Externally, Taiwan faces several geopolitical constraints, including its relationship with Mainland China, the U.S.-China rivalry, its ineligibility to join major IGOs, and the absence of formal diplomatic relationships with major powers. For these reasons, Taiwan cannot take full advantage of its soft power grounded in liberal democracy and growing civil society movements. Taiwan remains largely invisible in international political and media discourses.
- Internally, after the dissolution of the GIO (Government Information Office), Taiwan lost a key player in communicating its message and policies abroad. While Tsai's public diplomacy policy is more proactive than those of her predecessors, the long-term diplomatic gains of the NSP's move into areas of culture and education are still unclear. Coordinating between different ministries and possibly NGOs to have a coherent voice and enhance Taiwan's international influence will be a question.

FURTHER INFORMATION, SOURCES, AND REFERENCES

- A user-friendly summary of with additional data and data sources is here: *"Taiwan – External Cultural Policy: Data Fact Sheet"*
- A full set of references are presented here: *"Taiwan – External Cultural Policy: References"*
- A fuller report with a descriptive analysis is found here: *"Taiwan – External Cultural Policy: A Report"*

Imprint

The External Cultural Policy Monitor

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