

ifa ECP Monitor At a Glance

South Africa

PRÉCIS

After South Africa's reentry into international community in the 1990s, the country has entered a number of bilateral agreements in the fields of arts and culture, education and science. These involve many of South Africa's departments, which engage in international relations. However, ECP is not awarded enough attention and funds from the government to establish a sustainable reputation abroad. Similarly, central coordination and a long-term strategy for South Africa's ECP objectives is still lacking.

Outstanding Fact:

The first successful human-to-human heart transplant was done in South Africa – a fact still proudly presented as part of South Africa's science diplomacy.

KEY INDICATORS 2019

Population	Rank/number	24 th / 58.6 million
GDP	Rank/number	37 th / €313.97 billion
GDP per capita	Rank/number	- / €5.361,65
Cultural Economy	As share of GDP	-
Education economy	As share of GDP	-
R&D economy	As share of GDP	0.832% (2017)
Media economy	As share of GDP	-
Geopolitical position	Hard power	32 nd (2021)
	World Trade Ranking	38 th
	Soft power	-
	Diplomacy rank	25 th

OVERVIEW OF EXTERNAL CULTURAL POLICY 2019

Number of countries present	> 5
Number of institutions abroad	0
FTE staff	> 53
Freelance and local staff	-
Financial scale	~ €15.3 million
Government support	~ €14.9 million
Comparative ECP ranking	minor

Main Objectives

- Promote South Africa abroad as a diverse socially cohesive nation
- Advance South Africa's contribution to the global scientific output.
- Support the African development as well as the African regional integration agenda.

Policy Context

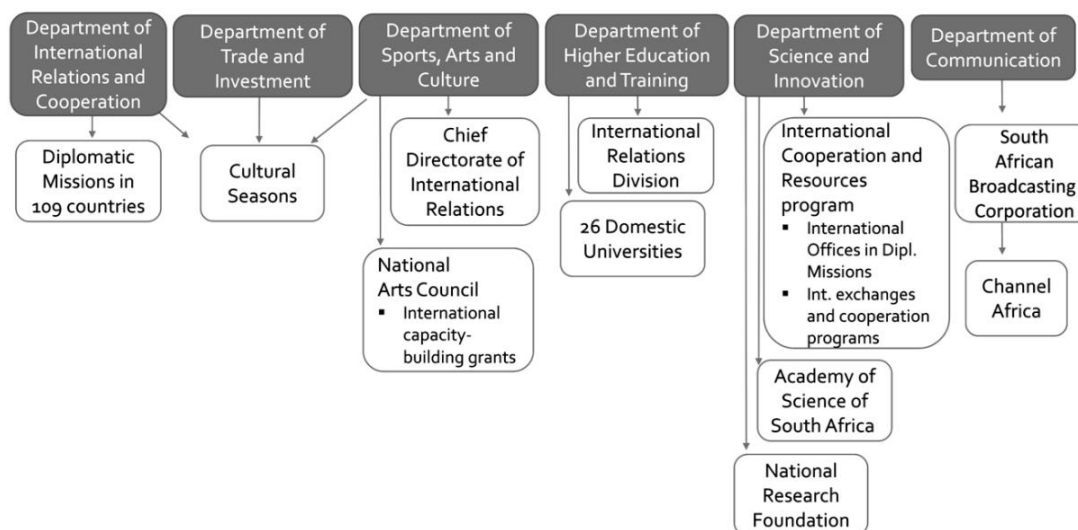
- South Africa is a regional leader and a member of the BRICS.
- South Africa does not have an overarching strategy or institution in ECP.

Regional Focus

- Sub-S. Africa: 0
- South-East Asia: 0
- East Asia: 1
- Europe: 2
- Middle East/NA: 0
- North America: 0
- South America: 0

INSITUTIONAL MAP

South Africa



The Department of International Relations and Cooperation does not carry out activities relating to ECP. Rather, the activities are coordinated by the individual departments relating to the ECP subfields, namely the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture (DAC), the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), the Department of Science and Innovation and the Department of Communication. These government bodies are supported through a number of arms-length organizations that support South Africa's ECP, such as the National Arts Council (NAC) and the Academy of Science of South Africa.

FIELDS OF EXTERNAL CULTURAL POLICY

	2019	2015	Comment
Culture and the Arts			
Number of cooperation agreements	90*	-	*Number of cultural agreements signed by DAC as of 2015. However, many have lapsed.
Number of countries present	2	2	

	2019	2015	Comment
Number of institutes	0	0	
Staff	-	-	
Artists in exchange programs	10 Individuals, 23 Groups	-	Refers to grants dispensed by the NAC.
Budget € million	-	-	
Government support	DAC: €2.2 million NAC: €320,415		
Language			
Number of countries courses offered	-	-	South Africa does not use language policy abroad in a substantial way.
Number of students enrolled	-	-	
Government financial support € million	-	-	
Education – Primary & Secondary			
Number of countries present	7	-	Number refers to number of countries with which South Africa has entered bilateral cooperation in basic education.
Number of schools	-	-	
Number of students	-	-	
Number of staff / teachers	-	-	
Government financial support € million	-	-	
Education – Tertiary			
Number of universities / colleges	Domestic: 26	Domestic: 26	
Number of students	Outbound Students: 9,130 Inbound Students: 42,267	-	
Number of government scholarships	-	-	
Government financial support	€890,598	€797,732	Refers to expenditure for "International Relations" by the DHET.
Science and Research			
Number of countries	3	3	
Offices abroad	3	3	Science liaison offices as part of SA embassies.
Number of projects	144	144	

	2019	2015	Comment
Number scientists in exchange programs	> 30	> 63	
Government financial support	€8.4 million	€8.2 million	Expenditure for “International Cooperation and Resources”.
Media			
Weekly television audience in million	-	-	No international TV channel exists anymore.
Number of radio stations	1	1	Channel Africa.
Weekly radio audience in million	-	-	
Total weekly TV and radio audience for all services and languages in million	-	-	
Number of languages broadcast	6	6	
Budget	€3.4 million	€4 million	
Government support	€3.1 million	€3.4 million	

CURRENT ISSUES AND DEVELOPMENTS

- South Africa has focused on strengthening a multidisciplinary cultural diplomacy through its Cultural Seasons abroad. After previous cultural seasons in France, UK, Russia and China, South Africa has decided to focus only on African states starting in 2017. A study conducted in 2019 found that previous cultural seasons had no measurable impact on South Africa’s trade, tourism or investment levels.
- After the Department of Arts and Culture was merged with the Department of Sports and Recreation in 2019, the newly formed department brought up the potential for a stronger integration of sports diplomacy in the cultural diplomacy portfolio.
- In spite of the programs offered and the presence of a “International Relations” division in many departments, there is no coherent ECP strategy or central coordination of activities.

FURTHER INFORMATION, SOURCES, AND REFERENCES

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

Imprint

The External Cultural Policy Monitor

Developed by Helmut K. Anheier, Hertie School & UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, and ifa Competence Centre. Supervised by Helmut K. Anheier. Coordinated by Sarah Widmaier for ifa.

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ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen)

Charlottenplatz 17,

70173 Stuttgart,

Postfach 10 24 63,

D-70020 Stuttgart

www.ifa.de

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Author: Katrin Winkler

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