

COUNTRY PROFILES

Ireland

The research into literature on Ireland's approach to international cultural policy suggests a positive attitude to cooperation with other European countries vis-à-vis the rest of the world although Ireland looks to Europe for peace and security first.

The Department of Foreign Affairs proclaims on its website that Ireland's foreign policy interests are "greatly enhanced through our participation in the European Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy." And goes on to state that "Our Presidency of the EU in the first half of 2004 enabled us to play our part in shaping the development of the Union's external relations and Ireland will continue to contribute constructively to this process in accordance with our foreign policy priorities and traditions."

D e p a r t m e n t o f F o r e i g n a f f a i r s

The Department of Foreign Affairs is responsible for advancing "Ireland's interests and values in the European Union and in the wider world, to promote Ireland's contribution to international peace, security and development, to protect its citizens abroad and to pursue reconciliation and partnership on the island of Ireland".

The Department of Foreign Affairs considers cultural diplomacy to be an important aspect of the promotion of Ireland abroad. The Cultural Division works primarily through the Department's network of embassies abroad and in cooperation with government departments, state bodies and individuals to promote Ireland's heritage in the arts, literature and design. The Cultural Division supports embassy initiatives with regard to the holding of Irish cultural events, including exhibitions, concerts, readings and lectures.

The Cultural Division also works closely with the Department of Education and Science to promote educational exchanges abroad, and interacts with the Fulbright Commission on the administration of scholarly exchanges with the United States.

D e p a r t m e n t o f E d u c a t i o n a n d S c i e n c e

If one looks at the Department of Education and Science's strategy plan, one sees an essentially inward-looking document, concerned with improving quality of provision within Ireland. However the strategy does mention that: "The Department plays an active role in the European Union (EU) activities in the fields of education and training, both at the level of policy development and programme management".

D e p a r t m e n t o f A r t s , S p o r t a n d T o u r i s m

The Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism was formed in June 2002 and besides internal arts policy and services, the department has responsibility for:

- formulation, development and evaluation of policy and structures to create an environment that enables arts and culture to flourish, including the promotion of Irish art abroad and the development of the Irish film industry;
- formulation, development and evaluation of policy for the tourism sector to support sustainable growth, including growth across all tourism regions, and to address competitive challenges through a range of actions in areas such as human resource development and training, marketing and promotion, product development, institutional structures and funding and North/South cooperation.

In the department's strategy document for 2005-2007, the European Union is only mentioned once and development of cooperation with third countries hardly mentioned at all other than generally to promote Irish arts abroad.

C u l t u r e I r e l a n d

Culture Ireland is the department's new national agency to promote Irish arts overseas and has a budget of €2 million for 2005. Its remit includes the allocation of grants for overseas activity to Irish artists or arts organisations, the funding and facilitation of Irish participation at strategic international arts events and the management of emblematic cultural events either in Ireland or abroad. It is also expected to advise the Minister on international arts and cultural affairs. It is not clear to what extent this body collaborates with other EU members overseas.

A r t s C o u n c i l

The Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism also funds the Arts Council/ An Chomhairle Ealaíon, an autonomous body established in 1951 to stimulate public interest in and promote the knowledge, appreciation and practice of the arts. It is the Irish State's principal instrument of arts funding and an advisory body to government on arts matters.

The Arts Council currently has an International Arts Officer that mans an International Arts Desk, aiming to provide international arts information to enquirers in Ireland, and information about the arts in Ireland to enquirers from overseas. The Arts Council currently does not seem to have a strongly guided policy for developing international cooperation.

P o l i c y f o c u s

In terms of a broader context for cooperation the Department of Education and Science's strategy plan states: "Greater awareness of cultural diversity and the roles of Irish and other cultures and languages in promoting identity in a European and international context" and it calls for enhanced cooperation in the EU.

The Arts Plan of the Arts Council, set out its plans to develop support for Irish artists and arts organisations to develop international profiles, however the current new draft policy suggests a much more visionary role for international cooperation. The draft policy is currently available for public consultation and states:

"We recognise that the opportunity to work in an international context is crucial to many artists and arts organisations. In the past, international activity meant simply the presentation of work abroad and was regarded as a bonus or an extra. In the current environment, the international context informs all aspects of artistic activity. International activity includes work undertaken abroad, collaborations with international partners, exchange programmes, participation in the international network, and presentation of international artists. Artists travel abroad for a variety of reasons: to learn new skills, to develop their practice, to be inspired, to find new publics, to collaborate with international peers, to create..."

G e o g r a p h i c a l f o c u s

British-Irish relations, for obvious reasons, play a great role in the international life of Ireland but also Ireland has a special relationship with the United States. This is perhaps most clearly reflected in the Fulbright Commission which funds scholarly exchanges with the United States, and is administrated through the Department for Foreign Affairs.

Cultural agreements have been signed with a number of countries but there is a sense that these are rather old fashioned. Current agreements beyond members of the European Union include Egypt (an EU neighbourhood country), Singapore, Japan and there are current and continuing discussions with Cuba on cultural cooperation.

H i g h l y r e c o m m e n d e d r e a d i n g

□Barbier Frinault et Associates and Ernst & Young France Consultancy, Study of the External Cooperation of the European Union and its Member States in culture and audiovisual sectors. Summary,

E-Doc Link: http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/avpolicy/stat/2002/5770_barbier/58-02-summary_en.pdf

This study presents and analyses external cooperation in the culture and audiovisual sectors of a number of States (including Ireland) and the European institutions with third countries. New Member States and candidate countries for European Union membership are excluded from the category of "third" countries.

Department of Foreign Affairs, (2004) Cultural relations with other countries,

E-Doc Link: <http://193.178.1.205/information/culture/documents/ERIRReport.pdf>

This is a very frank document that explains problems and predicaments of the current provisions for cultural cooperation of the Department of Foreign Affairs. The document suggests better policy and guidance is needed to extend the great work stemming from embassies around the world.

Department of Foreign Affairs, (2005) Policy for Culture,

E-Doc Link: <http://foreignaffairs.gov.ie/information/culture/default.asp?m=p>

Cultural diplomacy is an important aspect of the promotion of Ireland abroad. Against the backdrop of Ireland's rich heritage in the arts, literature and design, the Cultural Division works primarily through the Department's network of Embassies abroad and in cooperation with government departments, state bodies and individuals. The Cultural Division works closely with the Department of Education and Science to promote educational exchanges abroad, and interacts with the Fulbright Commission on the administration of the Commission's programme of scholarly exchanges with the United States. The Cultural Division supports Embassy initiatives in regard to the holding of Irish cultural events, including exhibitions, concerts, readings and lectures.

The Arts Council, (2004) Draft Arts Strategy - International,

E-Doc Link: http://www.arts council.ie/future/docs/policies/draftpolicy_international.doc

'We recognise that the opportunity to work in an international context is crucial to many artists and arts organisations. In the past, international activity meant simply the presentation of work abroad and was regarded as a bonus or an extra. In the current environment, the international context informs all aspects of artistic activity. International activity includes work undertaken abroad, collaborations with international partners, exchange programmes, participation in the international network, and presentation of international artists. Artists travel abroad for a variety of reasons: to learn new skills, to develop their practice, to be inspired, to find new publics, to collaborate with international peers, to create...'

Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism, (2005) Statement of Strategy 2005-2007,

E-Doc Link: <http://www.arts-sport-tourism.gov.ie/pdfs/statementofstrategy05-07eng.pdf>

The Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism was formed in June 2002 and amongst other internal arts services, has responsibility for: formulation, development and evaluation of policy and structures to create an environment that enables arts and culture to flourish, including the promotion of Irish art abroad and the development of the Irish film industry; formulation, development and evaluation of policy for the tourism sector to support sustainable growth, including growth across all tourism regions, and to address competitive challenges through a range of actions in areas such as human resource development and training, marketing and promotion, product development, institutional structures and funding and North/South cooperation. Throughout its strategy document for 2005-2007, the European Union was only mentioned once and development of cooperation with third countries hardly mentioned at all other than generally the Irish arts would be promoted abroad.

Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism, (2003) First annual report 2002 - 2003,

E-Doc Link: <http://www.arts-sport-tourism.gov.ie/pdfs/dast%20firstannualreport02-03eng.pdf>

Explains the strategy and structure of the Department for Arts, Sport and Tourism. Only scant reference is made to international cooperation. However, it is evident that Irish film making and Ireland as a venue for international filmmaking is of clear importance.

Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism, (2005) What we do - an overview,
E-Doc Link: <http://www.arts-sport-tourism.gov.ie/what%20we%20do/whatwedo.htm>
'The Department is primarily a policy-making Department in the three sectors of Arts, Sport and Tourism. Specifically, the Department has the following functions: Arts formulation, development and evaluation of policy and structures to promote and foster the practice and appreciation of the creative and interpretative arts and to encourage the development of the Irish film industry; enabling the national cultural institutions, as integral elements of the national culture, to preserve, protect and present for the benefit of present and future generations our moveable heritage and cultural assets....'

Department of Education and Science, (2005) Mission statement: Department of Education and Science,
E-Doc Link:
<http://www.education.ie/home/home.jsp?maincat=17216&pcategory=17216&ecategory=20650&language=EN>
The mission of this Department is to provide high-quality education which will (a) enable individuals to achieve their full potential and to participate fully as members of society; and (b) contribute to Ireland's social, cultural and economic development.

Department of Education and Science, (2002) Statement of Strategy 2003 - 2005:
Department of Education and Science,
E-Doc Link: http://www.education.ie/servlet/blobServlet/strategy_statement_03-05.pdf
The departments strategy plan is essentially inward-looking, concerned with improving quality of provision within Ireland however the strategy does mention that: "The Department plays an active role in the European Union (EU) activities in the fields of education and training, both at the level of policy development and programme management. The Department is also actively involved with a wide range of international agencies, including OECD, UNESCO, Council of Europe, and with a large number of individual countries." In terms of a broader context for cooperation the strategy states: "Greater awareness of cultural diversity and the roles of Irish and other cultures and languages in promoting identity in a European and international context." and it calls for enhanced cooperation in the EU.

Department of Foreign Affairs, (2005) Official website,
E-Doc Link: <http://foreignaffairs.gov.ie/>
"The Mission of the Department of Foreign Affairs is to advance Ireland's interests and values in the European Union and in the wider world, to promote Ireland's contribution to international peace, security and development, to protect its citizens abroad and to pursue reconciliation and partnership on the island of Ireland."

G e n e r a l / b a c k g r o u n d r e a d i n g

Fitzgibbon, Marian, (2003) Chapter 2.4, International Cultural Cooperation, Ireland:
Compendium of Cultural Policies,
E-Doc Link: www.culturalpolicies.net
Introduction to the main actors and principle institutions working in the field of international cultural cooperation in Ireland.

EFAH, Interarts (2003) Study on cultural cooperation in Europe: Annex 1 - National reports – Ireland,
E-Doc Link: http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/sources_info/pdf-word/annex1_national_reports2.pdf
Background to structures, competencies and institutes in the field of cultural cooperation.

National Forum on Europe, (2005) Exploring our future Europe,
E-Doc Link: <http://www.forumoneurope.ie/index.asp?locID=41&docID=-1>
Link to website of the National Forum on Europe which since 2001 has promoted a national debate on the European Union, on its future and on Ireland's role in it.

The Arts Council, (2005) Introduction,
E-Doc Link: <http://www.artscouncil.ie/>
The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon is an autonomous body established in 1951 to stimulate public interest in and promote the knowledge, appreciation and practice of the arts.

It is the Irish State's principal instrument of arts funding and an advisory body to Government on arts matters.

The Arts Council, (2005) International arts desk,
E-Doc Link: <http://www.artscouncil.ie/>

The International Arts Desk in the Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon aims to provide international arts information to enquirers in Ireland, and information about the arts in Ireland to enquirers from overseas. 'International Arts' includes: overseas production and events involving the arts from Ireland; international work taking place in Ireland; and trans-national cooperation and co-production.

The Irish Fulbright Commission, The Irish Fulbright Commission,
E-Doc Link: http://www.fulbright.ie/fulbright_in_ireland_background.php

The mission of the Irish Fulbright Commission is to build on the deep historic, cultural and economic ties between Ireland and the United States and to create mutually beneficial and sustainable educational exchange programmes which are responsive to national and global challenges.

Arts Council of Ireland, (2002) Arts Plan 2002-2006,

E-Doc Link: <http://www.artscouncil.ie/library/downloads/ArtsPlan2002-6.pdf>

In March 2004, the Arts Council decided to forge a new vision for the arts that involved a decision to set aside this Arts Plan 2002-2006. The Arts Plan had a visionary hope to support artists and arts organisations to develop international profiles. It remains to be seen what the new vision for the arts will entail.

Department for Arts, Sport and Tourism, (2003) New horizons for Irish tourism - an agenda for action (executive summary),

E-Doc Link: <http://www.arts-sport-tourism.gov.ie/what%20we%20do/tourism/tourism%20review%20exec%20summary%2003.pdf>

A strategy paper for developing cultural tourism in Ireland.

Italy

The research into literature on Italy's approach to international cultural policy suggests a positive attitude to cooperation with other European countries vis-à-vis the rest of the world. Italy's commitment to collaborations with other EU countries in third countries, particularly where archaeology and the conservation of built heritage are concerned are clear examples that support this statement.

M i n i s t r y o f F o r e i g n a f f a i r s

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has the task of coordinating all trans-national cultural policy. The main administrative structure of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for international cooperation in the field of culture is the Directorate General for Cultural Promotion and Cooperation (although policymaking in this field is often agreed upon with the Ministry for Heritage and Cultural Activities and /or the Ministry of Education).

The Directorate General for Cultural Promotion and Cooperation is divided into six Offices that promote the 1) Italian language 2) Italian Cultural Institutes 3) Multilateral cultural and scientific promotion and cooperation 4) Italian educational institutions abroad 5) Bilateral cultural and scientific cooperation and 6) Inter-University cooperation.

M i n i s t r y o f C u l t u r a l H e r i t a g e

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage is clearly dedicated to artistic endeavours and only enters into international discourse in the following service areas:

- Computer science and statistics: includes relations with foreign and international bodies of the European Union working in the sector of statistics concerning Cultural Heritage and Conservation; and management of database about cultural stolen heritage;

- Promotions and communication: includes Ministry's internal and external institutional communication;
- Copyright and monitoring on SIAE: including relations with other foreign and international bodies of the European Community and experts in the field of copyright;
- Promotion of cultural activities: including international exchanges;
- Cinema - external and international relations: including promotion and management of any agreement about cinematographic co-production; participation at international and EU committees and commissions; promotion of the Italian cinema abroad.

P o l i c y f o c u s

The website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs demonstrates a great deal of activity throughout the world, whereby culture and particularly heritage is an important factor in cooperation activities.

The website states:

“In addition to enhancing Italy's contribution to European and world culture, it is necessary to ensure that the creative excellence of the past, gradually built up over the centuries, is recognised as the life-blood of today's excellence ...”

The MFA, for example, has agreements throughout the world and is working through the Department for Cooperation and Development specifically in cultural matters, particularly concerning archaeology and the conservation of built heritage (where Italy has a great deal of experience and a wealth of knowledge).

G e o g r a p h i c a l f o c u s

Italy is an international player, nevertheless according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the current government's geographical priorities are the Mediterranean, the Balkans and Euro-Atlantic relations.

Italy has ninety Istituto Italianos operating abroad of which nearly half operate within the Member States of the EU.

Beyond the EU, Italian policy for cooperation with neighbouring countries is reflected in practice. For example:

- Italy hosted the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for Dialogue between Cultures in Naples;¹⁵
- Italy has Istituto Italiano housed in neighbouring Mediterranean countries including: Turkey (Ankara, Istanbul), Croatia (Zagreb), Lebanon (Beirut), Syria (Damascus) and Israel (Tel Aviv and Haifa), Morocco (Rabat), Algeria (Algier), Tunisia (Tunis), and Egypt (Cairo);
- Italy has sent archaeological missions and restoration teams to work in countries of Northern Africa (Morocco, Libya, Egypt). And, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also has agreements, working through the Department for Cooperation and Development specifically in cultural matters concerning archaeology and the conservation of built heritage in Syria;
- Italian claims that support for cooperation in the Western Balkans is “inspired by the region's clear European orientation and the need to strengthen the Union's policy on this area, through the Stabilisation and Association Process (SAP)”. Italy has strong bilateral relations in the area, not least with Croatia and is a strong advocate for further enlargement in Europe to encompass the Western Balkans;
- Italy has Istituto Italianos housed in Tirana (Albania), Bulgaria (Sofia), Romania (Bucharest), Serbia (Belgrade), Ukraine (Kiev), and Russia (Moscow).

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the current government's geographical priorities are also Euro-Atlantic relations. The Euro-Atlantic alliance is based on mutual military support over history and thus, has a binding friendship which is now proliferated through, on the one hand, being allies in “war against terrorism” and on the other through cultural exchanges.¹⁶ Italy has a

number of Istituto Italiano housed in North America including: Canada (Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver) and the USA (Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Washington and New York). Further afield, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also has agreements, working through the Department for Cooperation and Development specifically in cultural matters concerning archaeology and the conservation of built heritage, in Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan and China,¹⁷ as well as, Istituto Italiano scattered throughout Asia,¹⁸ Africa¹⁹ Latin America²⁰ and two Institutes in Australia.

H i g h l y r e c o m m e n d e d r e a d i n g

Barbier Frinault et Associates and Ernst & Young France Consultancy, Study of the External Cooperation of the European Union and its Member States in culture and audiovisual sectors. Summary,

E-Doc Link: http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/avpolicy/stat/2002/5770_barbier/58-02-summary_en.pdf

This study presents and analyses external cooperation in the culture and audiovisual sectors of a number of States (including Italy) and the European institutions with third countries. New Member States and candidate countries for European Union membership are excluded from the category of "third" countries.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (2005) Directorate General for Cultural Promotion and Cooperation,

E-Doc Link: http://www.esteri.it/eng/2_10_126.asp

The Directorate General for Cultural Promotion and Cooperation handles the following: the dissemination of the Italian language and culture abroad; cultural and scientific questions connected with international agencies and organisations; overseeing the functioning of Italian cultural institutes and, after consultation with the Ministry for Education, the Universities and Research, of Italian schools and educational and cultural institutions abroad. Following the activity of foreign educational institutions in Italy. Dealing with administrative questions regarding staff from organisations other than the Ministry of Foreign Affairs working in schools and educational and cultural institutions abroad; contributing to the promotion of international cultural and scientific cooperation; taking part in the selection of Italian students to be awarded scholarships abroad and arranging for the allocation of scholarships to foreign students in Italy, and for youth exchange schemes; scholarships for Italian students abroad and for foreign students in Italy, and youth exchange schemes; adopting the appropriate international initiatives to facilitate the work of qualified foreign lecturers and researchers in Italian universities and research institutes, and of Italian lecturers and researchers in foreign universities and research institutes.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (2005) Balkans bilateral relations,

E-Doc Link: http://www.esteri.it/eng/4_27_57_47_9.asp

In the Western Balkans, Italy is also one of the most active countries in the sector of Development Cooperation, seen as a support for the process of economic transition and political democratisation in the region with the goal of encouraging stabilisation. Italian cooperation is concentrated in the sectors of infrastructure, energy, the environment, health, education, public administration, support for the private sector (SMEs in particular) and protection of the cultural heritage.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (2005) Italian Euro-Mediterranean initiatives,

E-Doc Link: http://www.esteri.it/eng/4_27_58_52.asp

The birth of the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for Dialogue between Cultures, the evolution of the Euro-Mediterranean Investment Facility and Partnership (FEMIP) and the inclusion, with consultative functions, of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly in the Barcelona Process, are some of the more significant results achieved on the occasion of the 6th Euro-Mediterranean Conference held in Naples on 2 and 3 December 2003. The Naples Conference, whose participants included the Foreign Ministers of the enlarged EU and the Foreign Ministers of Third Mediterranean Countries in the Barcelona Process (Israel, PNA, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Jordan, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey) contributed to re-launching the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership launched in Barcelona in 1995 with the 1st Euro-Mediterranean Conference.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (2005) Activities and duties of the Directorate General for the Countries of the Mediterranean and the Middle East (DGMM),
E-Doc Link: http://www.esteri.it/eng/4_27_58_48.asp
The Directorate General for the Countries of the Mediterranean and the Middle East (DGMM) is in charge of analysis, definition and application of bilateral diplomacy between Italy and the countries in the area. Primarily, its duties include: promoting bilateral relations between Italy and the countries in the area for all issues of a political, economic, cultural or other nature; conducting bilateral negotiations between Italy and the countries in the area for the matters listed above; monitoring the domestic situation in the area's countries and the development of their foreign policy; monitoring Italy's participation in activities of cooperation and international, regional organisations.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (2005) Cultural, scientific and technological relations with Russia,
E-Doc Link: http://www.esteri.it/eng/4_27_57_45.asp
Within the sphere of Italian-Russian cultural relations, - a large exhibition is being planned for 2004-2005 on bilateral relations between Italy and Russia throughout the centuries; - two Italian archaeological missions in Russia, as well as an Italian Institute of Culture in Moscow; - Interuniversity cooperation is consolidated with fifty-two agreements; - Italian language departments in thirteen Russian universities and at the State Conservatories of Moscow and St. Petersburg.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (2005) USA-Italy: An Alliance that Bridges the Atlantic,
E-Doc Link: http://www.esteri.it/eng/4_27_56_40.asp
“...From the United States' point of view, our country has been an important ally and “global partner”, particularly given our capacity for dialogue and mediation with the various components of the international community. During the Cold War, with its territory stretching toward the Balkans and the East, Italy provided the US with a geopolitical capital of the utmost importance. With the end of the confrontation between the two blocs, this aspect has been somewhat diminished in significance, and the strategic importance of the former is highlighted in conjunction with Italy's role as a cultural force....”

G e n e r a l / b a c k g r o u n d r e a d i n g

Ministry of Cultural Heritage, (2005) Organisation chart,
E-Doc Link: <http://www.beniculturali.it/?versione=Inglese&from=1>
The new Ministry of Cultural Heritage, which took office in October 1998, joins different competencies in the field of culture, entertainment, environmental protection and sport vigilance. This chart explains all the sub-directories of the Ministry and their fields of responsibility.

Bodo, Carla, (2005) Chapter 2.4, International Cultural Cooperation, Italy: Compendium of Cultural Policies,
E-Doc Link: www.culturalpolicies.net
Introduction to the main actors and principle institutions working in the field of international cultural cooperation in Italy.

EFAH, Interarts (2003) Study on cultural cooperation in Europe: Annex 1 - National reports – Italy,
E-Doc Link: http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/sources_info/pdf-word/annex1_national_reports2.pdf
Background to structures, competencies and institutes in the field of cultural cooperation.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (2005) Activities and duties of the Directorate General for the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa,
E-Doc Link: http://www.esteri.it/eng/4_27_55_30.asp
The Directorate General for the Countries of Sub-Saharan Africa is in charge of analysis, definition and application of Italy's diplomatic action in each country and in international, regional and sub-regional organisations in the area where it operates. It acts on the basis of foreign policy priorities and goals. In particular, it is in charge of: promoting bilateral relations between Italy and the countries in the area for all issues of a political, economic, cultural or other nature; conducting bilateral negotiations between Italy and the countries in the area for the matters listed above; monitoring the domestic situation in the area's countries and the development of their foreign policy; maintaining relations with the international, regional and

sub-regional organisations in the area and monitoring their activity. The Directorate General for the Countries of Sub-Saharan Africa has five departments (West Africa, East Africa, Central Africa and the Great Lakes, Southern Africa and Regional Cooperation).

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (2005) Cultural promotion in the Americas,
E-Doc Link: http://www.esteri.it/eng/4_27_56_37.asp#3

Italy is working to reinforce its already substantial presence in the region. Along with traditional activities, to promote Italian language, art and literature and other more specific initiatives for restoration of the Italian-American architectural heritage, there is an important project for university interconnections with Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay. This project will lead to further exchange of information, transfer of technologies, creation of human resources and enhancement of citizens of Italian origin.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (2005) Activities and Duties of the Directorate General for the Countries of Asia, Oceania, the Pacific and Antarctica,

E-Doc Link: http://www.esteri.it/eng/4_27_54_24.asp

The Directorate General for the Countries of Asia, Oceania, the Pacific and Antarctica is responsible for a total of thirty-seven countries. The Directorate General is divided into four offices: Southern Asia (the Indian sub-continent and Afghanistan), South-East Asia and Oceania, the Far East and Regional Cooperation. It deals completely with all aspects of bilateral relations with these countries, also acting as a point of reference for all other government offices and bodies interested in this geographic area. The Directorate General's priorities include the support and promotion of Italy's economic interests in the area, the promotion of relations with the main countries of the Asian continent and Oceania, and the contribution to international activities supporting the reconstruction and security of Afghanistan. In the latter activity, it has been a leader in international efforts to rebuild the country's judicial system. Italy has also provided support to the inter-Korean dialogue.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (2005) General principles of Italian policy in Asia,

E-Doc Link: http://www.esteri.it/eng/4_27_54_24.asp

On the Indian sub-continent, together with its EU partners, Italian diplomacy has been working for some time to give the European Union a more active role in a region of growing political and economic interest. It is committed to making all possible efforts for peace and stability in the area (normalisation of Indian-Pakistani relations, the peace process in Sri Lanka). Italy was directly involved in the events leading to the independence of East Timor, participating in the multinational force and helping build the new State's institutions. Special attention is paid to the situation on the Korean peninsula. In all venues, the EU in particular, Italy supports the need to encourage the process of inter-Korean reconciliation, a building block of regional and global stability and security. On the rest of the Asian continent, our country has contributed with its observers and numerous missions for electoral monitoring.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (2005) Italy and culture, Italy is culture,

E-Doc Link: http://www.esteri.it/eng/4_29_74.asp#2

"The promotion abroad of scientific and humanistic practice, as well as of the Italian language, is to be considered fundamental to Italy's political and economic rapport with foreign countries and to maintaining ties with large Italian communities abroad. In addition to enhancing Italy's contribution to European and world culture, it is necessary to ensure that the creative excellence of the past, gradually built up over the centuries, is recognised as the life-blood of today's excellence in those sectors that modern production has necessarily ranked as leaders of ever-expanding markets".

UNESCO, (2005) National Commission for Italy to UNESCO,

E-Doc Link: <http://www.unesco.it/>

Official website for the Italian National Commission to UNESCO. Available in Italian.

