

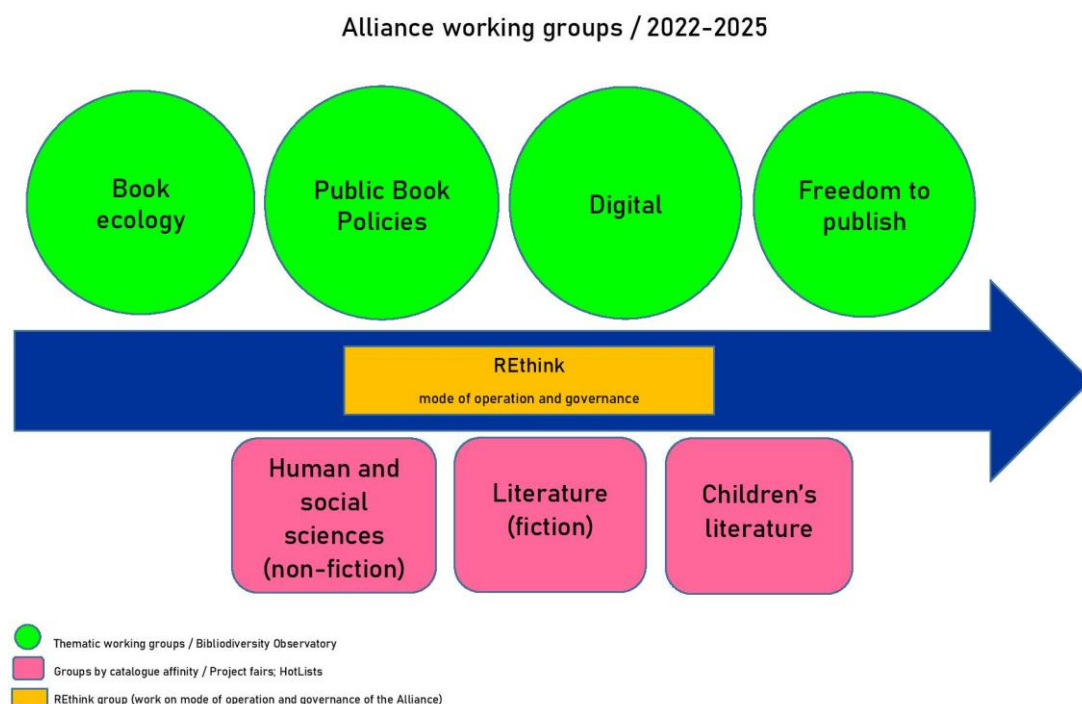
Action plan 2023



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1/ The Alliance, a space for experimentation and reflection through the Bibliodiversity Observatory

Continuing the analysis, reflection and advocacy through the thematic working groups



Review 2022 and perspectives 2023 of the Observatory's thematic groups

Book ecology

- 16 members of the group
- 4 (virtual) meetings in 2022
- Operating languages: English and French

2022:

- Work on the Book Ecology section of the Guide to good practice
- Creation of sub-groups dedicated to research, analysis and data compilation on the following topics:
 - *the issue of transport and postal rates
 - *relations with the readership (compilation of information, resources, good practices, etc.)
 - *the relationship with public authorities

2023:

In-person meeting of part of the book ecology group on the fringes of an event (BRaK Festival in Slovakia)/ feasibility of this meeting under study, confirmation to come early in 2023

Freedom of publishing

- 19 registered with the group
- 2 (online) meetings in 2022
- Operating language: English

2022:

-Study on Freedom of publishing (proofreading, commentary, defining a strategy to finalise it)

-Monitoring and sharing of resources on the latest news on freedom of publishing and its infringements

2023:

-Online publication of the study on freedom of publishing and accessible from the Alliance website

-Update of the study through interviews and/or podcasts of publishers on the current situation in their country/ region

-Roundtables/ meetings on freedom of publishing on the Babelica platform (see description below)/ to be confirmed

Public book policies

- 19 registered with the group
- 3 (online) meetings in 2022
- Operating languages: English, French and Spanish

2022:

-Sharing of resources, exchanges, discussions

2023:

-Mapping of public book policies in the Arab world (finalisation of in-country data collection, mapping web design, translation into Arabic, dissemination, realisation of a transversal study, launching event)

-Follow-up of [existing maps: Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa](#)

Digitalisation

- 14 registered with the group
- 3 (online) meetings in 2022
- Operating languages: English and French

2022:

-Sharing of resources and experiences on the diversity of digital publishing approaches

-Definition of a cycle of workshops and meetings on key topics for group members

2023:

-On this basis, a cycle of thematic mini-trainings (online) and round tables/ conferences on the Babelica platform

Tools and documentation of international independent publishing

Guide to good practice ([see here](#))

The Guide to good practice was developed as a practical version of the [Pamplona-Iruñea Declaration "For an independent decolonial, ecological, feminist, free, social and solidarity-based publishing"](#), drafted and validated collectively by the members of the Alliance.

Its objectives are to:

- make an inventory of good practices and propose courses of action to publishers members of the International Alliance of Independent Publishers -

and more broadly, to book professionals (laboratory dimension and experimental approach inherent to international independent publishing);

- put into practice and implement the principles and values for which the members of the Alliance stand;
- illustrate/ embody these principles through examples of good practice (experiences, projects, ideas... carried out by professionals) which can be sources of inspiration.

After several months of work, a first version of the Guide to good practice was published on 21 September 2022 (in French, English, Spanish and soon in Arabic), and promoted at the first edition of Babelica.

This guide is a work in progress; it is therefore not final. In fact, several entries in the guide need to be completed - they will be worked on by the thematic working groups whose mission will be to make proposals and enrich these entries. The guide may also be updated and adapted over time according to the evolution of practices and reflections underway within the Alliance (via the post-conference thematic working groups).

Challenges for 2023:

- Establishment of an effective working methodology to supplement the guide (monitoring of members on current events in their country, feedback and sharing of good practices by members within their network and within the thematic groups to which they belong, etc.).
- Dissemination of this guide to book professionals, partners and public authorities, using it as a tool for advocacy and to make the commitments of the members of the Alliance more visible.

Development of a label/logo (visual variation) of the Guide to good practice

A logo is being developed within the Spanish-language network. This logo/label has a double ambition: to communicate with readers and invite them to reflect, but also to continue the work on the Good Practice Guide by the independent publisher members of the Alliance.

Once the logo has been finalised by the Spanish-language network, it will be worked on by the ICIP and then by the members of the Alliance networks (with a view to being representative of the different contexts within the Alliance). The use of this logo is not mandatory; Alliance members may use it as they see fit.

- *Bibliodiversity* journal ([see here](#))



Next issue to be published in March 2023: "Transmission and renewal: what sustainability for independent publishing houses and independent bookshops?"

Special issue on "Bibliodiversity" to celebrate the 10th issue of the journal
 As part of the 10 issues of the journal in 2023, a special issue on "bibliodiversity" is being considered for co-publishing in several languages within the Alliance's networks.

2/ The Alliance, a space for collaboration and sharing

Sharing practices and knowledge between publishers; workshops and strengthening flows of exchange

Workshops and knowledge sharing

2022:

- Cycle of online training workshops on social media; in situ workshop in Conakry (Guinea) on typography and spelling correction ;
- Informal meetings between members at book fairs and exhibitions.

2023:

- Online meetings, workshops and training, on themes defined with the Alliance's thematic groups (focus notably on digitalisation - e.g. open software, artificial intelligence, etc. - and book ecology) ;
- On-site training in French-speaking Africa ;
- Meetings at book fairs: see the calendar of book fairs sent to members at the beginning of the year, facilitation of these meetings.

Thematic group meetings throughout the year

2023:

- Apart from the online meetings of the various thematic groups and as specified in the follow-up of the thematic groups (see above), an in-person meeting of part of the book ecology group could take place on the fringes of an event (e.g. the BRaK Festival in Slovakia)/ feasibility of this meeting under study, to be confirmed at the beginning of the year 2023).

3/ The Alliance, a tool for the promotion and the visibility of independent publishing

To encourage the visibility and promotion of independent publishing; to promote the circulation of books and publications of independent publishing houses

Babelica (book fair and meeting place dedicated to international independent publishing)

2022/ Review of the Babelica pilot edition

- 70 publishing houses from 37 countries participated in Babelica in 2022
- 5 round tables, [all available in replay](#)

2023/ Plans

- Babelica will be held at the same time every year (on International Bibliodiversity Day, 21 September).
- For the cultural programming part: different formats can be envisaged (round tables, book talks, author interviews, etc.).
- For the "Book Fair" part: the Babelica selection could be organised in different forms (large Babelica bookshop as in 2022 but also thematic HotLists as an extension of the Alliance's HotLists). Online sales will still be made via the publishing houses' websites directly.

Tehran Book Fair, Uncensored

This fair, organised by the Persian-language network, is usually held between May and June in several cities in Europe and the United States; in 2023, the date of the fair will depend on the social and political situation in Iran, given the current events in the country over the past few months.

Participation of members at book fairs and exhibitions and solidarity stands as opportunities arise

Several dates to remember in 2023 (non-exhaustive list compiled with information received from members, to be completed over the weeks)

- Rentrée littéraire (Mali), 21-25 February
- Bologna Book Fair, 6-9 March
- Livres d'ailleurs (Nancy, France), 7-9 April
- Abidjan International Book Fair, 9-13 May
- LITERAL (Barcelona, Spain), 20-21 May
- Frankfurt Book Fair, 18-22 October
- Ouagadougou Book Fair (Burkina Faso), November
- Bilili BD Festival (Congo), December
- Yaoundé (Cameroon) Youth Book and Comic Book Fair, December
- Antananarivo Book Fair (Madagascar), date to be confirmed

4/ The Alliance, a laboratory of alternative publishing practices

Pursue and strengthen solidarity-based publishing partnerships (transfer of rights, translations, co-publishing, etc.)

2022:

- Establishment of 3 groups by catalogue affinity: literature, humanities and social sciences, and youth
- Thematic project fairs: 2 to 3 project fairs per thematic group over the year

2023:

- Continuation of the publishing groups; project fairs and follow-up of projects from the groups
- Publishing projects in progress and/or under consideration (non-exhaustive list, including):
 - ✓ Arts book of calligraphy by Syrian artist Mouner Alshaarani/ co-publishing within the Arabic-language network
 - ✓ *Terra Viva. My life in a Biodiversity of Movements* by Vandana Shiva (published by Women Unlimited, India and Spinifex, Australia) / translations and co-publications in different languages within the Alliance networks
 - ✓ African literature, publication of the 16th and 17th titles of the "Terres solidaires" collection: *Bel abîme* by Yamen Manai (published by elyzad in Tunisia) and *Vautours enchantés* by Yamba Elie Ouédraogo (published by Sankofa & Gurli in Burkina Faso) / pan-African solidarity co-publishings within the French-language network

Communication and advocacy

2022-2023: continuation of advocacy activities with public authorities and book professionals; dissemination of the communication material produced by the Alliance to explain the processes of publishing partnerships and to promote these professional solidarity practices.