

Associative life, organisation and communication of the Alliance

REMINDERS

*All governance documents and the financial and activity reports of the Alliance are online on the Alliance website. Decisions taken by the ICIP are compiled in the governance documents of the association and are sent to all members.

*The annual action plans and annual budgets are sent, after validation by the ICIP, to the language networks at the beginning of each year.

*Several **REMINDERS** are included in this document, notably the decisions taken by the members and the ICIP between 2014 (during the Cape Town Conference) and 2022.

DECISIONS

Decisions taken during the ICIP 2023 are marked as **DECISIONS** in this document.

INCLUSIVE WRITING

Since 2021, the Alliance has been committed to using **INCLUSIVE language** in its communication documents (internal and external). A charter (which will evolve to adapt to new uses) is being drafted and will harmonise the alliance's practices in this area, and in the three working languages of the Alliance (French, Spanish and English).

Key dates of the Alliance

- Meeting in Gijón (Spain), 2000 (on the initiative of 4 Spanish-language publishers, in response to the irruption of Spanish multinationals in Latin America)
- Meeting in Paris (France), 2001 (a few days before the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity)
- Creation of the 1901 law association "Alliance of independent publishers, for another globalisation" (head office in Paris), 2002
- Meeting in Dakar (Senegal), 2003 ([Declaration of independent publishers in solidarity](#))
- Meeting in Guadalajara (Mexico), 2005 ([Declaration of independent publishers of the Latin world](#))
- International Conference on Independent Publishing in Paris (France), 2007 ([International Declaration of Independent Publishers for the Protection and Promotion of Bibliodiversity](#))
- Name change to International Alliance of Independent Publishers, 2008
- Creation of the International Committee of Independent Publishers (ICIP), 2009
- International Conference on Independent Publishing - Preparatory Workshops and Closing Meeting in Cape Town, South Africa, 2012-2014 ([International Declaration of Independent Publishers, for the joint promotion and strengthening of bibliodiversity and 80 recommendations and tools for bibliodiversity](#))
- Creation of the [Bibliodiversity Observatory](#), 2016
- [Mapping public book policies in Africa and Latin America](#), 2020
- Pamplona-Iruñea International Conference on Independent Publishing, 2021 ([Pamplona-Iruñea Declaration "For a decolonial, ecological, feminist, free, social and solidarity-based independent publishing"](#))
- [Guide to good practice](#), 2022
- Launch of [Babelica](#), international online Book Fair of independent publishing, 2022

Guidelines 2022-2025

REMINDERS 2021

At the [International Conference of Independent Publishers in Pamplona-Iruñea](#) in November 2021, the Alliance's member publishers defined:

- 5 main objectives for 2022-2025
- 1 action plan resulting

You can find [this information online on the Alliance's website](#).

Objective 1

The Alliance, a place for experimentation and reflection through the Bibliodiversity Observatory

=> Continue the analyses, reflections and advocacy via the thematic working groups: book ecology, digital, public book policies, freedom to publish

=> Providing tools and documenting international independent publishing

- Bibliodiversité review
- Independent publishing glossary (developed by the Alliance's Spanish-language network)
- Guide to good practice
- Development of a logo (visual identity) of the Guide to good practice

Objective 2

The Alliance, a space for collaboration and sharing

=> Share practices and know-how (on regional, national or even international levels, depending on the needs expressed) between publishers

- Cycle of virtual training courses
- Workshops, sharing of know-how and meetings of thematic groups throughout the year (via the Babelica platform in particular)

=> Meet and strengthen the flow of exchanges

Objective 3

The Alliance, a tool for promoting independent publishing

=> Encourage the visibility and promotion of independent publishing

- International Bibliodiversity Day
- Bibliodiversity Ambassadors

=> Promote the circulation of works and productions of independent publishing houses

- Babelica
- HotLists

Objective 4

The Alliance, a laboratory of alternative editorial practices

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

- Groups by catalogue affinity: fiction, non fiction, children
- Regular project fairs
- Support for the implementation of transfers and co-publishings

=> Communicate and increase awareness

- Advocacy to institutions for co-publishing

Objective 5

The Alliance, an evolving governance and operation

=> REthink

- Rethink the Alliance as an advocacy tool for independent publishers
- Develop the Alliance's thematic groups, in addition to the language networks

=> Improve/ modernise/ develop the functioning and the internal and external communication of the Alliance

=> Open up networks, develop new memberships (in particular with the creation of an Asian network)

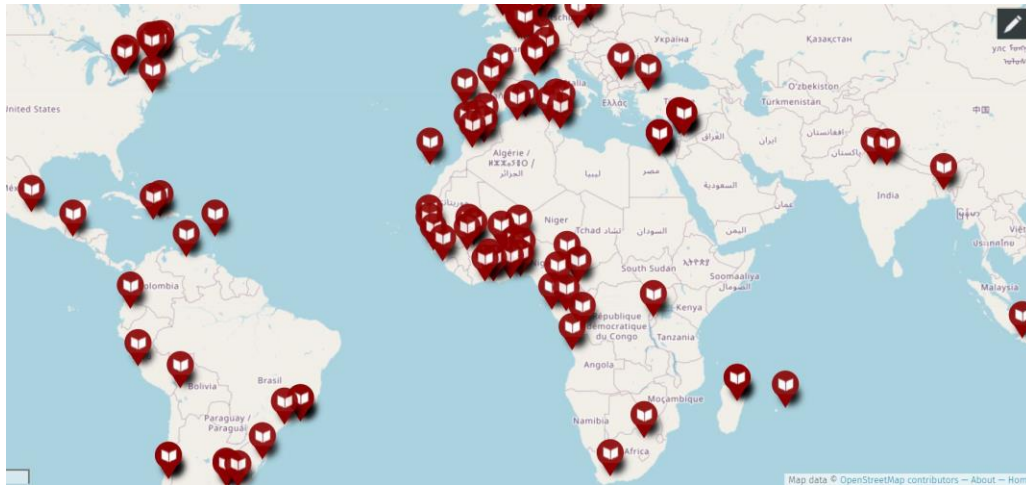
=> Get involved

Alliance members are invited to become more involved in the Alliance's communication, by featuring the Alliance logo on their website, social media, communication documents, relaying Alliance communications, etc.

Associative life, organisation, communication

Associative life of the Alliance

Mapping the Alliance



- 109 publishing houses (direct members)
- 13 collectives, or 706 publishing houses
- 3 observer members
- 57 countries represented

Total = 818 members

Members of the Arabic-language network

- 8 publishing houses (note that some members publishing in Arabic but also in French are not counted here but in the French-language network)
- 4 countries represented

Members of the English-language network

- 15 publishing houses
- 2 collectives (Kurt Wolff Foundation, Germany and SWIPS, Switzerland)
- 12 countries represented

Members of the French-language network

- 55 publishing houses
- 1 collective (Afrilivres, French-speaking sub-Saharan Africa)
- 24 countries represented

Members of the Spanish-language network

- 15 publishing houses
- 8 national collectives: Alianza de editoriales mexicanas independientes; Asociación de Editores en Lengua Vasca; Editargi; Editores de Chile; Editoriales

- Independientes del Perú (EIP); Editores independientes de Ecuador (EIE); Llegir en catala; Red de editoriales independientes colombianas (REIC)
- 11 countries represented

Members of the Portuguese-language network

- 7 publishing houses
- 1 collective (LIBRE, Brazil)
- 4 countries represented

Members of the Persian-language network

- 7 publishing houses
- 6 countries represented

Other networks

- 2 publishing houses (these members are integrated into the French-language network, at their request, to receive and send information)
- 1 collective (Forum Editoria, Italy)
- 2 countries represented

Complementarity between a linguistic and thematic approach

REMINDERS 2018

The current 6 language networks of the Alliance are:

- Spaces of reflexion, discussion and knowledge shared between publishers, who have perspectives and interests in common, in a same geographic area (including the Arab world, Persian-language countries, Sub-Saharan Africa, etc.);
- Spaces of communication and information on the Alliance (receiving and sharing information on the activities of the Alliance, etc.).

As one of the strong expectations of publishers is to develop and promote exchanges and projects between countries and cultures, the Alliance's thematic groups are strengthened:

- Thematic work groups: advocacy or research activities...
- Work groups created on the basis of shared themes in catalogues

Representation, growth, and openness of the Alliance

More representation of less represented geographical and linguistic areas, in particular Asia, English-speaking Africa, Oceania, Eastern Europe... but also more representation from certain countries to make the Alliance more open and dynamic.

REMINDERS 2018

ICIP, on advice from publisher members, reaffirms the following principles, essential to the balance and dynamics of the Alliance:

- the Alliance is a cross-border space, both cultural and geographical; a space of diversity, creativity and shared values;
- in the spirit of knowledge-seeking, diversity and innovation that drives the Alliance, it is necessary to pursue openness and inclusion of new members, including new generations of publishers;
- the creation of a geographical network (called "Europe" or "Asia"...), which would participate in a cultural, geographical or political predominance contrary to the values defended by the Alliance, is excluded.

Although the integration of new publishers from Europe, Asia and also from geographical areas that are not represented in the Alliance remains a priority, it is important to continue to maintain a human scope. The Alliance is not intended to comprehensively represent all independent publishers in the world; the Alliance remains a network of trust and complicity between its members, gathered around a commitment to independent publishing. It will therefore "grow organically" to maintain a balance.

REMINDERS 2018

- The number of publisher members per country is not restricted; thus, it is possible to include new publishers from a same country;
- A publisher member of a national collective (mostly composed of independent publishers) can become a direct member of the Alliance, even if the collective is already a member of the Alliance;
- New Alliance members from geographical areas not yet represented are valued: in Europe for example, in Portuguese-speaking Africa (Cape Verde...), in Asia, etc.

REMINDERS ICIP 2022 DECISIONS

To achieve a balance between countries and geographical areas already represented within the Alliance and those with little or no representation, it was decided that priority would be given over the period 2023-2025 to membership in geographical areas with little presence in the Alliance. In fact, membership in certain language networks such as the French-language network (given the diversity of countries and members already present) is put on hold for the next two years, except in exceptional cases argued by the network in question.

Membership process

- A membership form (for publishing houses and collectives), available from the Alliance's permanent team, should be filled in;
- This form is then sent to the coordinators of the relevant language network who review it, together with the team;
- The team may also seek additional information from member publishers in the same country, region and/or from the network as a whole (e.g. on the publisher's links with local professionals);

- In the case where member publishers are consulted: if the feedback from existing members is unanimously unfavourable, the application for membership is not accepted. If the feedback from existing members is mixed, and the Alliance coordinators and staff have reservations, the publisher is offered the option of not joining the Alliance immediately, but will be able to participate in Alliance projects and working groups (to get to know the Alliance better). If the feedback from existing members is positive, the application is accepted.
- When a membership is validated by the coordinators and the team, and if necessary, the publishers consulted locally, the publishing house receives a welcome letter; its membership is formalised when it sends the permanent team the information necessary for the creation of its page (in the ["Publishing houses" section](#)) on the Alliance website.

Membership criteria

Several criteria for membership of the Alliance are being reviewed at the ICIP 2022 (and will be added to the Alliance membership forms from 2023 onwards):

REMINDERS ICIP 2022 DECISIONS

- The maturity of the publishing house is a criterion considered when joining the Alliance: it is necessary for the publishing house to have a minimum of 3 years of activity and a minimum publication output to join the Alliance (constitution of a catalogue).
- The size of the publishing house (turnover, number of publications, number of employees, number of titles per year, etc.) may be a criterion for assessment for new membership of the Alliance, but it is not an exclusive criterion: in the international context of the Alliance, the sizes of publishing houses and the economic models of the structures are varied and are difficult to compare. On the other hand, it is the "soul" of the publishing house, its adequacy to the commitments and values of the Alliance, that is considered for any membership.
- The complementarity of the publishers' activities is not an exclusionary criterion: several independent publishers do indeed have another professional activity in addition to their publishing activity. The only prerequisite is the professionalism of the publishing house's activities.
- The handover of a publishing house to a new team (when a publishing house is a member of the Alliance and there is a handover of the house, thus a new team and new contact person in the house): a period for handover is proposed to the new team (mutual knowledge and understanding of the Alliance). The new team is then asked to review, with the coordinators of its network, its motivations for joining the Alliance.
- The creation of a new publishing house by a publisher who is already a member (when a publisher leaves a member publishing house to create a new publishing house): the membership of the new publishing house is not systematic and goes through a membership process. The application for

membership is considered based on the usual procedures with regard to the criteria presented here (and those already existing in the membership forms).

Criteria for the withdrawal of a publishing house

The ICIP 2022 also formalises criteria for the withdrawal of member publishing houses in the following cases (which will also be specified on the membership forms from 2023):

REMINDERS ICIP 2022 DECISIONS

Loss of independence: e.g. the takeover of a member publishing house by a publishing group;

- Prolonged absence (more than 3 years) of new publications in the catalogue - this is however to be considered according to the contexts and problems encountered by the publishing houses;
- Lack of respect for members, permanent staff, etc. (offensive language, verbal aggression, refusal of dialogue, etc.).

It is stated that since the creation of the Alliance, cases of withdrawal have been extremely rare (less than ten in 20 years).

Membership in the Alliance networks will be reviewed once a year, during the ICIP meetings; possible cases of withdrawal of member will be studied by the whole ICIP then.

Involvement of collectives in the Alliance

As of December 2022, the Alliance has 13 collectives. Since its creation, the Alliance has encouraged and supported the creation of collectives of independent publishing houses (at national or regional level). The membership of collectives in the Alliance is part of concerted efforts to grow the Alliance movement (the collectives can be in-country relays and spokespersons for the Alliance).

The mobilisation and involvement of the member collectives in the Alliance is heterogeneous; it seems necessary to standardise and improve the operating methods and work processes of the collectives with the Alliance. To this end, meetings with representatives of the Alliance's member collectives are planned for 2023, to work on the following points

- Redefining the role and involvement of collectives within the Alliance;
- Establish good communication between the collectives and the Alliance and ensure that there is consistency in the involvement of the different collectives.

REMINDERS ICIP 2022 DECISIONS

An assessment of the meetings and work carried out with the Alliance's member collectives in 2023 will be presented at the ICIP 2023, making it possible to formalise the organisation and communication processes between the Alliance and the collectives.

As the ICIP did not have time to deal with this issue in 2023, it has been put back on the agenda for the ICIP meeting in 2024.

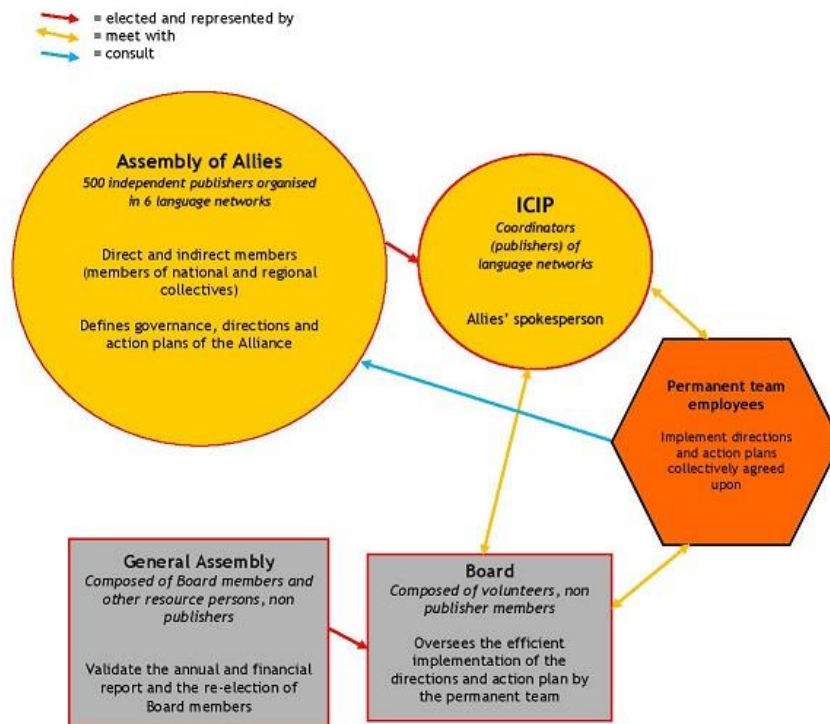
REMINDERS 2018

Direct memberships and membership of collectives

- To the extent possible, publishers are invited to become members of the Alliance via the national collective in their country, when one exists, and when the latter is a member of the Alliance;
- However, publishers who wish to become individual members of the Alliance (either because they do not want to become a member of their country's collective, or because there are several collectives in their country, or because they are no longer members of the collective in their country...) can apply. This application will be processed in the same manner as other membership applications;
- *A priori*, two collectives in a same country can become members of the Alliance, even more so if they are complementary to each other in terms of their respective activities and membership bases.

Organisation

Governance diagram



REMINDERS ICIP 2022 DECISIONS

The Alliance's governance diagram will be redesigned in 2023, to be more readable and attractive!

As the ICIP did not have time to deal with this issue in 2023, it has been put back on the agenda for the ICIP meeting in 2024.

Alliance governance meetings

- International Assembly of independent publishers (every 4 to 7 years, depending on the Alliance's human and financial resources)
- Meetings of the International Committee of Independent Publishers - ICIP (one face-to-face meeting per year; other meetings remotely)
- Language network meetings and thematic groups meetings
- General Assembly (one meeting annually)
- Board meetings (approximately 4 to 5 meetings annually)

Collective decision-making process of the Alliance

- All the procedures, rules, guidelines and principles that govern the Alliance come from a process of collective decisions. The members of the Alliance are consulted before the general meetings (International Assembly) to collectively redefine and validate the governance of the association. In between Assemblies, the International Committee of Independent Publishers (ICIP) meets in person once a year in the presence of the Board and the Alliance team. The agenda for this meeting is essentially based on the expectations, concerns or questions of publishers, which the permanent team and coordinators have the opportunity to consult just before the ICIP meeting but also throughout the year.
- In cases where strategic decisions involving significant changes in governance are taken, publishers are also consulted ahead of the ICIP meeting to share their views and formulate proposals, on which ICIP, the Board and the team base their decisions.

The ICIP: its role, its missions, its organisation

REMINDERS 2011

The ICIP includes the coordinators and vice-coordinators of the Alliance's language networks; the coordinators and vice-coordinators are nominated by the members of the networks. Since 2011, the ICIP has been an essential part of governing the Alliance, representing the voice of the members. The ICIP meets once a year in the presence of the Board members and the Alliance team. The agenda is based on the aspirations and objectives of the Alliance, considering above all the needs and expectations of the members.

Role and missions of the coordinators

- Enable and monitor the good circulation of information amongst members of the network, and between the members and the team;
- Determine, in collaboration with publishers, priority projects for his/her network from year to year;
- Monitor the progress of projects (co-publishing, experience sharing) that the network wants to achieve;
- Review and advise on the membership applications for his/her network;
- Organise the network's meetings in collaboration with the team;
- Assist the team, when possible, with fundraising;
- Validate the provisional budget of the Alliance.

Election of coordinators and vice-coordinators and duration of mandate

- The duration of the coordinator and vice-coordinator's mandate is 2 years (e.g., 2023-2025), renewable for another 2 years after validation by the network (validation by email by the network's publishers);
- At the end of the coordinator's mandate, an election process (through consensus or vote) takes place within the network to elect a coordinator for the new period. This election process can be done through computerised channels should there be no physical meeting possible.

Responsibilities and missions of the ICIP

Since 2011, the ICIP has been an essential part of governing the Alliance, representing the voice of the members. The ICIP's responsibility is to contribute to the activities and development of the Alliance.

Its missions, in addition to activities carried out by the coordinators of the language networks, are the following:

- Oversee the good governance of the Alliance;
- Actively participate in the Alliance's fundraising campaigns;
- Validate the provisional budget of the Alliance;
- Represent the Alliance before international organisations, partners of the Alliance, and the media;
- Undertake relevant initiatives for the philosophical and political objectives of the Alliance to be pursued and more widely diffused;
- Assist with the appointment of correspondents in the linguistic and geographical areas not represented or underrepresented within the Alliance;
- Mediate disputes arising between members of the Alliance or between a member and the Board of the Alliance;
- Contribute to the preparation and facilitation of the members;
- Advise on the merger or partnership with another association.

REMINDERS 2014

- One representative of one of the collective members is invited every year to ICIP meetings (the Italian collective FIDARE has been invited in 2015, the Spanish collective Contrabandos in 2016, the Brazilian collective LIBRE in 2017...);
- In addition, in the context of upcoming ICIP meetings, a representative of one of the Alliance's thematic groups may be invited to participate in ICIP (at the request of a working group, ICIP, the team or the Board).

REMINDERS ICIP 2022 DECISIONS

The role and missions of the coordinators and the responsibilities of the ICIP as defined in 2011 are reaffirmed and validated by the ICIP in 2022.

In addition to the pre-existing missions, the ICIP validates the Alliance's provisional budget at the beginning of the calendar year (between January and February).

The ICIP may invite, depending on the current situation of the thematic groups and/or the issues and questions that drive the Alliance, one or more representatives of the thematic groups to the ICIP meetings (in-person or online).

It may also decide to invite the representative of a member collective (but without obligation from year to year).

Prior to the ICIP, the coordinators have the task of consulting the members of their networks on their expectations and proposals (in terms of projects, themes they would like the ICIP to deal with, proposals for the *Bibliodiversity* review - see "2023 action plan" in the document).

The ICIP is held in-person once a year; since 2022 and following a request from the members during the Pamplona Conference, an open session is planned, where all members are invited to attend, as an opportunity to propose projects, share their opinions and ideas on all the projects and the community life of the Alliance, etc.

Two other meetings of the ICIP take place online during the year, one in February to validate the provisional budget for the year and the other in June, in preparation for the in-person ICIP meeting.

REthink

The REthink working group, made up of volunteer publishers and the ICIP, was created during the 2021 Alliance Conference to help and support the ICIP in reflecting on and working on the functioning and governance of the Alliance (internal dimension) based on the five areas identified by the members and/or the team:

- Organisation/ structure of the Alliance
- Internal and external communication
- Membership dynamics and renewal
- Development of the Alliance's advocacy
- Associative life

In 2022, it was decided by the members of the group that the REthink group is a one-off group (for a period of one year or more if necessary), with monthly meetings to start with; each meeting lasting a maximum of one hour.

For the first half of 2023, the ICIP proposed to the REthink group to continue its work on the following two areas as a priority: communication and development of the Alliance's advocacy. The ICIP will meet online in June 2023 and will use the proposals of the REthink group to formulate decisions on these two priority areas.

DECISIONS ICIP 2023

A consultation has been launched within the REthink group to consider the format and operation of this group for the year 2024. The ICIP, based on the feedback received from members of the REthink group as well as the needs of the Alliance, is therefore proposing to the REthink group that it acts as a driving force for proposals on themes

defined as priorities by the ICIP and for which the REthink group will be able to contribute ideas, proposals and feedback. As has been the case since the creation of the REthink group, the group's proposals will be discussed and reflected on at the ICIP meetings.

The next "priority" themes to be discussed at the ICIP 2024 (and therefore within the REthink group):

-Involvement and mobilisation of Alliance members in the Alliance's external communications

-Functioning and involvement of member collectives within the Alliance: towards better coordination

-Other themes may be added

How the group works:

-two meetings per year (to allow better preparation in advance of meetings and avoid overloading members): one meeting in March (to clarify the themes to be worked on by the group and organise the work within the group); one meeting in September, one month before the ICIP, for the group to share its proposals and feedback on the themes being worked on.

The General Assembly and the Board

Composition of the General Assembly and Board: [click here](#)

The members of the General Assembly and of the Board are book, cultural, and popular education professionals, former publishers, academics, inter-culture experts, and NGOs.

The General Assembly

Responsibilities and mission of the General Assembly:

The GA meets annually before the end of the first semester of the current year to validate the policy and financial reports of the association, and if need be, to discuss the term renewal of members or admission of new members to the Board.

The Board

Responsibilities and mission of the Board:

The Board meets approximately 4 times per year. The GA mandates it to:

- Oversee the operations of the association, as per the general guidelines agreed upon by the ICIP and the members;
- Advise the permanent team on the implementation of general orientations;
- Assist with the recruitment of the association's employees;
- Monitor the management of the association's human resources.

The president also ensures the association's right of representation in all civil actions.

The permanent team

Composition:

The Alliance's current permanent team consists of 3 full-time staff members: Camille CLOAREC, Mariam PELLICER and Laurence HUGUES.

Responsibilities and tasks of the permanent team:

The team is responsible for implementing the Alliance's objectives and action plan and for managing the associative life of the Alliance:

- facilitating the Alliance's language networks and thematic groups;
- coordinating the Bibliodiversity Observatory;
- coordinating publishing projects between members;
- managing the organisation and functioning of the association (administrative, governance...);
- seeking and diversifying partnerships (financial, professional, etc.).

Development of action plans

Formulation of projects by networks and thematic groups

- Language networks are consulted through the coordinators and vice-coordinators of their network in order to present the projects and activities they would like to set up within their network or with other networks;
- Thematic groups are also consulted on their expectations and plans;
- The coordinators and the team also have the opportunity throughout the year to hear from the editors and to identify the projects they would like to implement. Specific requests are shared with the entire language network and are also included in the action plan for the coming year, depending on the resources available.

Following these consultation processes, the permanent team consolidates the proposals and drafts a proposed programme of activities for the year according to the criteria presented below. Based on these criteria, some of the projects are listed as priorities for the coming year (with direct financial support from the Alliance where possible, or without financial support from the Alliance but through the mobilisation of member publishers to find resources and their investment of time). The programme of activities and the provisional budget drawn up by the team are then submitted to the ICIP and the Board for adjustment, modification, and validation; they are then forwarded to all the members of the Alliance.

Different types of support and accompaniment

The Alliance must be able to provide the necessary budgets (from its own funds or from specific one-off funds depending on the project). If specific requests for support are addressed to partners and funders, there is no guarantee in advance that these requests will be successful; the mobilisation of publishers with the Alliance team for fundraising is therefore essential.

In view of the limited budgets of the Alliance, and according to the proposals of the publishers, it is necessary to prioritise the projects (and therefore the financial support). To do this, the team considers several criteria:

- Projects must correspond to the Alliance's objectives and priority work areas;
- Projects must involve at least 2 member publishers (from the same or different language networks);
- the publishers must commit to supporting the team in the implementation of the project (fundraising, preparation time, in-kind contributions via local support from publishers, etc.).

In the absence of direct financial support, the Alliance team can provide logistical and technical support or expertise depending on the project. The permanent team also tries to facilitate, as much as possible, connections and exchanges between members (via workshops, thematic working groups, etc.).

Projects without a dedicated budget but with support from the team (dedicated coordination/ facilitation time, contribution of skills) can be of several kinds:

- Advocacy or research projects, which require time and collaboration from the team and the publishers;
- Co-publication or translation projects between Alliance members, labelled "Alliance" but without financial support;
- Collective stand between members, where the team can act as negotiator with a book fair.

These projects are included in the Alliance's action plan: this identifies them as collective projects, bearing the "Alliance" brand, reflecting the concerns and issues shared by the members.

REMINDERS 2015

Financial support is more focused on cross-cutting activities in the medium/ long term, allowing the different networks to benefit in a more sustainable way (Bibliodiversity Observatory, for example). They also reflect a strong desire of members to take advantage of the Alliance's international network to develop exchanges and projects between different linguistic areas.

Implementation of the project

- If a project involves at least two publishing houses (e.g. a co-publication) but the Alliance does not have the funds to support it, the project can nevertheless be launched and pursued by the publishing houses, with the Alliance logo if the publishers wish to mark it as a project run by Alliance members;
- If the project is carried out by a member (book fair, professional meetings, etc.) without the support of the Alliance, the member may display the Alliance logo to highlight its membership of the network;
- If the initiating publishers withdraw during the project, the project can be continued by the other publishers, provided that the initiating publishers agree.

Structure of the Alliance budget

Declaration

Guidelines

An action plan (based on proposals from the networks and thematic groups)

= ICIP validation

A provisional budget drafted based on pre-existing and "permanent" support (such as the Fondation Charles Léopold Mayer) and ad hoc support for specific projects (to be raised from year to year)

= ICIP validation

Operating fund/ Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation

This is the basis of the Alliance's budget: loyal and permanent support from the Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation since 2002, when the Alliance was created. This support is dedicated in priority to all the coordination work carried out by the team, the administrative part of the association, the management tools and the communication tools. In addition, the Foundation hosts the Alliance's office free of charge in its premises.

Project funds/ ad hoc support for specific projects

This support is dedicated to specific and/or geographically based projects, for example the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie and the Orange Foundation (projects between publishing houses in French-speaking Africa); the Prince Claus Foundation (creation of a Persian-language network, support for the study on digitalisation in developing countries, support for translation/ co-publishing projects between networks); the Fondation de France (support for the 2012-2014 Conference, support for the mapping of public book policies in Latin America and Francophone Africa); the Fondation Un monde par tous (support for work on the freedom of publishing); Agence française de développement (support for Babelica 2023), etc.

Local support through member mobilisation

When organising an event in a country, local support is mobilised, mostly via members in the country, for example at Conferences or at meetings of a language network.

REMINDERS ICIP 2022 DECISIONS

The ICIP recalls the necessity and importance of maintaining a budgetary balance between the language networks and the thematic groups when drafting the provisional budget at the beginning of the year.

The ICIP guarantees this budgetary balance when the Alliance's provisional budget is validated at the beginning of the calendar year.

Annual contribution to members' fees

REMINDERS 2015

The fee amount is open – determined by publishers, based on their financial capacity. Annually, at the beginning of the year, the permanent team sends information about the annual payment of membership fees. Publishers have the choice of paying their annual fees through EFT or at a meeting with a member of the team or Board. The payment of fees can also be made once every two years, to avoid excessive banking fees, for instance.

REMINDERS ICIP 2022 DECISIONS

The policy of participation in the costs of publishing houses remains the same as that decided in 2015, insofar as the involvement and mobilisation of members in projects, in fundraising for projects and in the life of the association are just as essential to the development and dynamism of the Alliance.

Communication

Internal communication

Channels of communication between members and between the permanent team and members

- e-mail, phone, WhatsApp, online meetings, on a case-by-case basis, depending on the request;
- group communication, via mailing lists (mailing lists by language network, ICIP mailing list, mailing lists by thematic group);
- a regular newsletter;
- the Alliance's website - where, in addition to news, the association's financial reports and governance decisions are published;
- social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram).
- in-person meetings (at a book fair, a workshop, a meeting, etc.);
- a [shared toolbox \(online Dropbox folder\)](#) available.

REMINDERS 2021

- The financial report of the Alliance (presented at the General Assembly of the Alliance) is translated into Spanish and English (in addition to the original French version) and sent to all members.

REMINDERS ICIP 2022 DECISIONS

The opening of an Alliance LinkedIn account in 2023 was agreed upon.

In terms of inclusive writing, a standardisation of writing practices in the three working languages of the Alliance is underway.

The name of the Alliance is subject to change, for example: International Alliance of Independent Publishing/s.

The question of the Alliance's working languages is a medium-term issue: how to find tools and ways to diversify the Alliance's communication languages to achieve greater linguistic plurality (particularly for Arabic, Persian, Portuguese, etc.).

External communication

Mobilisation and commitment of members

REMINDERS 2016

To reinforce their membership of the Alliance network, and indirectly to promote the Alliance, publishers are invited to use the Alliance logo in their books and on their communication materials

- the logo of the Alliance accompanied by a statement, for example: "XXX is a member of the International Alliance of Independent Publishers";
- the Alliance logo with the words "Alliance member".

REMINDERS ICIP 2022 DECISIONS

The ICIP invites the members to be more involved in the communication of the Alliance, by relaying the information and communication of the Alliance on their social media and website, by putting the logo of the Alliance on some of their projects, etc.

It is noted that the Alliance's external communication objective is to be identified and recognised by professionals in the field, providing support to members in their countries in their dialogue with public authorities.

It is also a question of mobilising so that the values of the Alliance, and more widely those of committed independent publishing, are more widely disseminated and taken into account in the book world.

Biodiversity Ambassadors

Since 2021, the Alliance has invited personalities from the world of books to become Biodiversity Ambassadors, in other words, spokespersons for the Alliance through occasional public interventions but also by regularly disseminating the convictions and commitments of the Alliance. This is the case of Vandana Shiva (India) and Djaï Amadou Amal (Cameroon) - [see here](#).

REMINDERS ICIP 2022 DECISIONS

The number of Biodiversity Ambassadors is not limited and should be increased from year to year (e.g. one new ambassador per year) if possible.

The mandate of the Biodiversity Ambassadors is not limited in time.

The Biodiversity Ambassadors should be representative of the diversity of the Alliance's coverage in terms of languages and regions.

Their tasks and roles need to be refined over time, with a view to their helping the Alliance in its external communication and contributing to a better visibility of the Alliance in the public arena.

As the ICIP did not have time to deal with this issue in 2023, it has been put back on the agenda for the ICIP meeting in 2024.

Alliance public position paper (publication of statements)

REMINDERS 2015 and 2022

The Alliance takes a public stance at the request of one or more of its members when an event or fact affects a player in the book world or is linked to an issue relating to the book sector. Any decision on a public position taken by the Alliance is validated after consultation and decision by the majority of the members of the ICIP. The ICIP may decide to consult all members of the language networks, depending on the nature of the press release/call for solidarity/advocacy.

Position papers and documents involving only a publisher or a collective of publishers: for all documents (press releases, pleas, etc.) produced by a publisher and involving only his or her word, the use of the Alliance logo (or any other visual created by the Alliance) is subject to the approval of the coordinator of their network and the permanent team of the Alliance.

DECISIONS ICIP 2023

The ICIP emphasises that the Alliance is not a neutral place; given the nature of the publishing profession and its intercultural context, the Alliance is a political space. However, the Alliance is above all a place for dialogue and listening, made up of a wide range of sensibilities. The Alliance also promotes "the long view", necessary for analysis and collective writing.

In order to respond as closely as possible to the specific characteristics of the Alliance, the procedure for publishing press releases binding on all Alliance networks will be reaffirmed in 2023. It has been decided that a maximum period of 72 hours is required to consult the members of the networks for the publication of a press release binding on all the networks of the Alliance.

After 72 hours, if the members have not opposed and/or have not responded to the consultation, the press release is published.

The final decision on publication is taken by the ICIP, considering feedback from network members.

These governance "rules" will continue to evolve and will be adapted as and when needed.

To summarise the two most common cases:

1/ Press release initiated by an Alliance language network (localised event or specific to a given geographical area)

- Proposal from a member of the network: for the communiqué process to be started, there must be a consensus between the members of the network concerned.
- Drafting of the press release in the network and discussion with the Alliance team
- Discussion between network members and validation within the network
= 72 hours maximum
- After 72 hours and if there is no opposition to the publication of the press release within the network: publication of the press release

2/ Press release issued on the initiative of the Alliance as a whole

- Proposal from several members of different networks
 - Drafting of the press release by the members initiating the press release and discussions with the Alliance team and the ICIP.
 - Discussion between members in the Alliance networks and final validation by the ICIP
- = 72 hours maximum
- After 72 hours and if there is no opposition to the publication of the press release within the various Alliance networks: publication of the press release.

Preserving a space for listening and respectful dialogue

DECISIONS ICIP 2023

The Alliance comprises multiple and particular sensitivities, and whatever the nature of the issues discussed, the exchanges taking place within the Alliance, particularly because they are at a distance (email communication essentially), must be respectful.

This respect means being aware of each person's context within an international network, which differs enormously from one place to another. Some people are directly affected by and exposed to very complex or even violent situations, and therefore have a time frame and an awareness that is not the same for others. It's not a question of prioritising what each person is experiencing, but rather of showing nuance and humility.

The nature of the Alliance and the scope of the network do not allow for collective reflection in a hurry. As a plural network, made up of a great diversity of viewpoints, the objective of rapid and effective "response" or decision-making is not realistic. Any reflection in an intercultural context requires time, in particular to allow mutual understanding and the maturing of collective ideas.

The Alliance is a multilingual entity. The language of discussion (English, Spanish, French - the Alliance's three main languages of communication) is not necessarily the language of all those who participate. The Alliance is made up of multiple relationships with these three languages, which do not always allow for the precision that a mother tongue or language of daily communication allows. Here too, a level of solidarity and awareness of these issues is important for a balanced dialogue.

The Alliance is a unique space where voices from all over the world can be heard, where people can meet and forge friendships. It is vital that we preserve and care for this space together.



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