



Essential measures for publishing in local and national languages

Problematics and issues

- The promotion of the written word and reading in general, and of mother tongues in particular, is crucial;
- Publishing in local and national languages is marginalised, under-estimated and less valued, even though it plays an essential role in education, sustainable social development, cultural heritage and the construction of a literary pool;
- Manuals and other reading material in local and national languages have a determining role to play in the development of education;
- The formulation and adoption of national book policies assorted with sectorial linguistic policies guarantee the development of a local book industry;
- Resources allocated by the State and literary programme development partners and printed outputs in national and local languages are steadily diminishing;
- Private publishers' work conditions are generally made difficult because of the prevalence of a disabling policy and economic environment.

Recommendations

To the attention of book professionals and professional collectives

- **Facilitate and/ or strengthen national and regional professional organisations** so they can carry out lobbying and exercise pressure on States, international institutions (UNESCO, African Union, UEMOA, CERLALC, etc.).
- **Diversify national language quality book production at a price adapted to local purchasing power** – if needed, through grants, or through the implementation of solidarity co-publishing projects enabling a sharing of production costs, for example.
- **Develop co-publishing and co-diffusion projects to share resources and diffusion strategies**, including with regards to wide communication and transborder languages.
- **Ensure that terms of national languages books copyrights contracts are respected**, whether it is for publications aimed at a general public or for community usage (teaching, literacy campaigns, etc.).
- **Strengthen cooperation and collaboration with tertiary research and teaching institutions** to mainstream activities: dictionaries and lexicons, harmonisation of dialects/ regional variations, etc.
- **Identify and use existing digital tools** (for production as well as conservation of books in local languages and their promotion): for example, develop and regularly feed a digital database on national and local languages works for these to be available remotely through ISBN, language, country, title, author, publisher, etc.



- **Encourage the adaptation of the best national languages works** to cinema, television and radio programmes to ensure the widest audience possible.
- **Work towards the development of a national language “bestsellers” list**, with works on the top of the list benefiting from more promotion through co-publishing and translation projects, etc.
- **Initiate new distribution channel modalities** that are better suited to support a wider diffusion of books in national languages to a wider public: at the local level via local languages press organisations, bookshops, literacy centres; abroad through the involvement of local diasporas.

To the attention of public authorities

- **Consider being multilingual as a positive element** for the construction and consolidation of State: introduce and generalise the teaching of national languages in formal education systems, not only limiting it to the first years of schooling.
- **Entrust non-State publishing houses with the design and publication of education textbooks and other material in national and local languages** and give priority to local publishers in their call for tenders for textbooks and reading material in national languages, to develop and consolidate the local book chain.
- **Ensure the effective presence of local and national languages books in libraries and other reading centres**: allocate acquisition budgets for the purchase of local languages outputs, support the implementation of promotion operations in literacy centres, etc.
- **Give recognition to national languages authors and value their literary creation**, on par with other authors, including through the creation of awards and competitions for national languages literary productions on national, sub-regional and continental levels.
- **Carry out concerted actions with publishers for the support of the implementation of promotional events** (book week, fairs and book fairs) and, more specifically the implementation of a National Languages Writing and Book Fair (SAELLA)

To the attention of development partners

- **Intensify the technical and financial support** for programmes targeting the production and usage of national and local languages literary productions.
- **Raise awareness and invite book donation structures** to keep abreast of local languages productions and include these in the donation process.



Resources (non exhaustive)

Reference organisations

- **ACALAN** (African Academy of Languages): www.acalan.org/fr/accueil/accueil.php
- **ADEA** (Association for the Development of Education in Africa): www.adeanet.org
- **Afrilivres**: www.afrilivres.net
- **Afrolit Resources Centre & Repository**: www.afrolit.com
- **APNET**: website temporarily unavailable
- **IBBY** (International Board on Books for Young People): www.ibby.org
- **IFLA** (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions): www.ifla.org
- **UNESCO**: www.unesco.org

Publishing houses publishing in local and national languages

- **Bakame** (Rwanda/ publications in Kinyarwanda): www.bakame.ch
- **Donniya** (Mali/ publications in Bambara): www.editionsdonniya.com
- **Edilis** (Côte d'Ivoire/ publications in Baoulé, Bété, Sénoufo, Dioula, Koulango, Akyé, Abidji, Dan, Wobé, Mahou, Lobiri): www.edilis.org
- **Editions Papyrus Afrique** (Senegal/ publications in Peul, Wolof...)
- **Ganndal** (Guiney Conakry/ publications in Pular): <http://editionsganndal.blogspot.fr/>
- **Geko Publishing** (South Africa/ publications in Zulu, Xhosa, Afrikaans, Tswana, Sotho, Tsonga, Swati, Ndebele...): www.gekopublishing.co.za
- **Graines de Pensées** (Togo/ publications in Mina, Éwé...)
- **Jacana Media** (South Africa/ publications in Zulu, Xhosa, Afrikaans, Tswana, Sotho, Tsonga, Swati, Ndebele...): www.jacana.co.za
- **Jeunes malgaches** (Madagascar/ publications in Malagasy): www.prediff.mg
- **Ku Si Mon** (Guiney Bissau/ Publications in Kriol): www.kusimon.com
- **Ruisseaux d'Afrique** (Benin/ Publications in Fon-gbe): www.ruisseauxdafrique.com
- **Sankofa & Gurli** (Burkina Faso/ Publications in Peul, Wolof...)

Upcoming tools and projects (2015-2016 perspectives)

- Establishment of the African Languages Writing and Book Fair (SAELLA)
- Creation of a support fund for local and national languages projects
- Support for co-publishing, copyrights transfers and translations in local and national languages.

To make remarks and give your point of view on these recommendations, contact the team of the International Alliance of Independent Publishers (equipe@alliance-editeurs.org).

Read the [International Declaration of Independent Publishers 2014](#)