

A GUIDE TO THE ALLIANCE

What is the Alliance?

The International Alliance of independent publishers is a professional collective that brings together more than [760 independent publishing houses](#) from 55 countries around the world. Created as an association in 2002, it is composed of six language networks (English, Arabic, French, Spanish, Portuguese, and Persian) and thematic groups. Members of the Alliance are publishing houses and national publisher collectives. The Alliance's activities promote and strengthen [bibliodiversity](#) (cultural diversity applied to the world of the book).

In alignment with its mission, the Alliance created a [Bibliodiversity Observatory](#) that gathers studies, analysis, and measurement tools produced by the Alliance, aimed at professionals and public authorities. The Observatory's objectives include assessing and strengthening bibliodiversity in world.

The Alliance also hosts and facilitates [international meetings and thematic workshops](#) (for example on children's book publishing, digital publishing, etc.), enabling independent publishers from various continents to exchange ideas and initiate collaborations. These meetings support increasing capacity through peer sharing, an aspect developed in particular around the issue of digital publishing in the context of the [Digital Lab](#). The Alliance supports [international publishing projects](#) (co-publishing, translations, copyright transfers, etc.), for a greater circulation of texts and fair access to books for readers.

The Alliance also hosts and facilitates international meetings and thematic workshops (for example on children's book publishing, digital publishing, etc.) enabling independent publishers from various continents to share and initiate collaborations. These meetings support capacity building through sharing, an aspect developed around the issue of digital publishing in the context of the Digital Lab. The Alliance supports international publishing projects (copublishings, translations, copyrights transfers, etc.), for a greater circulation of texts and fair access to books for readers.

Key Dates of the Alliance

- Gijón meeting (Spain), 2000 (an initiative led by four Spanish-speaking publishers in reaction to the emergence of Spanish multinationals in Latin America)
- Creation of the Alliance project by a group of publishers and Etienne Galliard – who would become the first director of the association
- Paris meeting (France), 2001 (a few days away from the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity)
- Creation of the "Alliance of Independent Publishers Association for Another Globalisation", as per Law 1901, (head office in Paris) 2002
- Dakar meeting (Senegal), 2003 ([Declaration of Unity Amongst Independent Publishers](#))

- Guadalajara meeting (Mexico), 2005 ([Declaration of Independent Publishers of the Latin World](#))
- International Assembly of Independent Publishers in Paris (France), 2007 ([International Declaration of Independent Publishers for the Protection and Promotion of Bibliodiversity](#))
- Name change of the association to International Alliance of independent publishers, 2008
- Creation of the [International Committee of Independent Publishers](#) (ICIP), 2009
- International Assembly of Independent Publishers – preparatory meetings and closing meeting in Cape Town (South Africa), 2012-2014 ([International Declaration of Independent Publishers, to Promote and Strengthen Bibliodiversity Together](#), and [80 Recommendations and Tools in Support of Bibliodiversity](#))
- Creation of the [Bibliodiversity Observatory](#), 2016
- [Mapping public book policies in Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa](#), 2020
- [International Conference of Independent publishers 2019-2021](#)

Objectives

The activities and projects undertaken by the Alliance are in alignment with the Alliance's objectives:

- Consolidate and support a united professional network;
- Support the development of national, regional, and international book policies, and assist with the regulation of authors' rights;
- Reaffirm and defend freedom and equity of speech;
- Strengthen collaborative spaces, and innovate to better adapt to tomorrow's transformations and issues (digital publishing, social economies, fair trade);
- Participate in a re-balancing of exchanges between exporting and importing countries (textbooks, book donations...);
- Develop and strengthen intercultural exchanges (translations, co-publishing, fair trade books, local language publishing).

The 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 daily, 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.

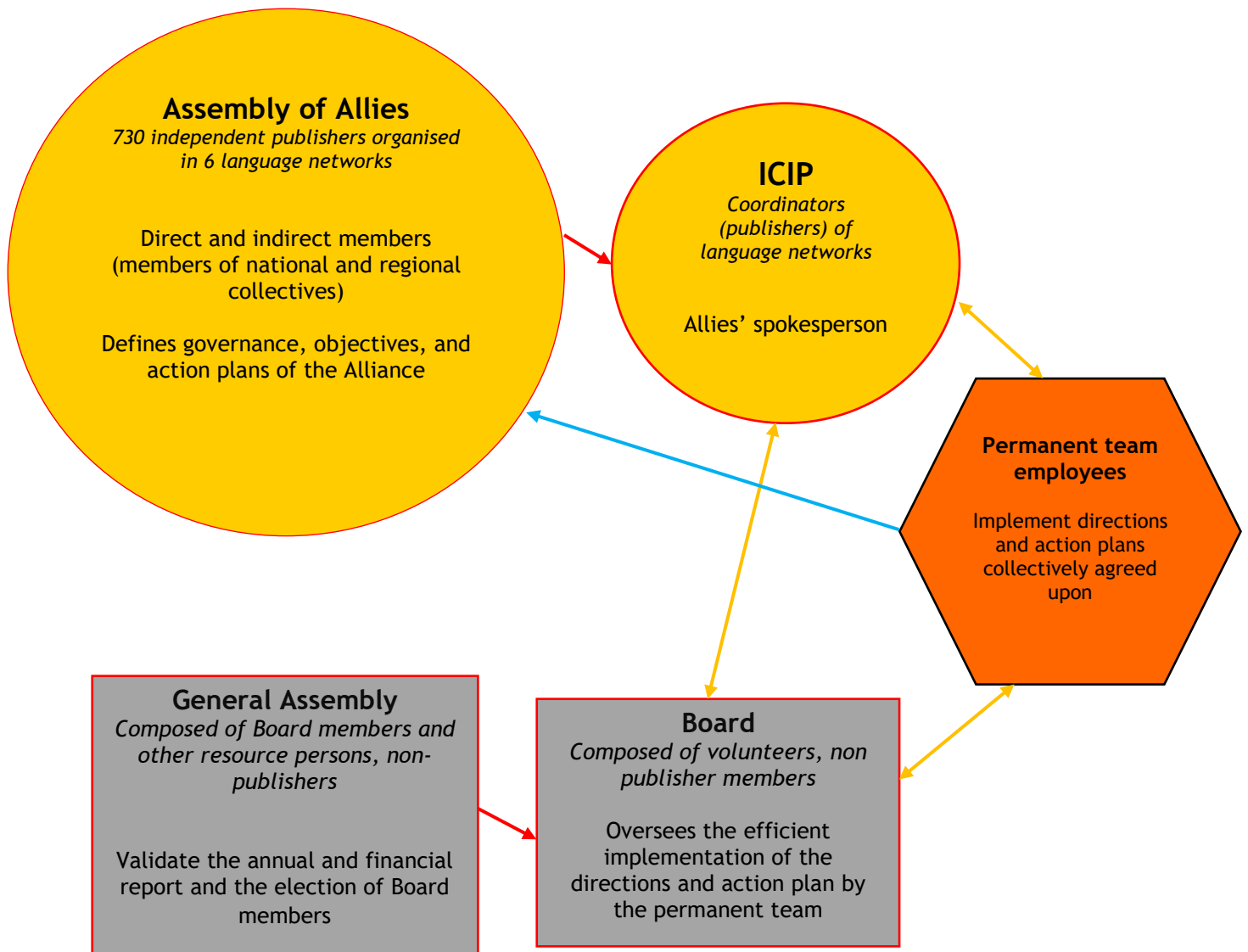
Governance meetings of the Alliance

- International Assembly of independent publishers (every 4 to 7 years, depending on the Alliance's human and financial resources)
- The Independent Committee of Independent Publishers meeting – ICIP (one meeting annually)
- Language network meetings and thematic groups meetings

- General Assembly (one meeting annually)
- Board meetings (approximately 4 to 5 meetings annually)

Governance diagram

- = elected and represented by
- ↔ = meet with
- = consult



The Assembly of Allies

The Assembly of Allies represents the publishers of the Alliance. The Assembly of Allies is the voice of the Alliance. It meets physically at least once every 10 years, or more often depending on the human and financial resources available, bringing together at least 20% of direct publisher members.

- 99 independent direct publisher members
- 15 independent publisher collectives representing 666 publishers

- 3 observer members (Africultures, International Association of francophone booksellers; Fontaine O livres)
- 55 countries represented, including 39 “developing countries” (Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Middle East) and 16 countries of “the North”

39 “developing countries”:

- In Africa/Indian Ocean: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Guinea Bissau, Conakry, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia
- In Latin America/Caribbean: Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela
- In Asia: Bangladesh, India, Indonesia
- In the Middle East: Egypt, Iran, Lebanon, Syria

16 countries of “the North”:

- In Europe: Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey
- In North America: Canada, United States of America
- In Oceania: Australia

The 15 national and/or regional collectives are: ADEI (Italy), Afrilivres (Sub-Saharan Africa), IPD Alternatives (India), AEMI (Mexico), Asociación de Editores en Lengua Vasca (Spain), Editargi (Spain), EDIN (Chile), EDINAR (Argentina), EIE (Ecuador), EIP (Peru), Kurt Wolff Stiftung (Germany), Llegir en Català (Spain), LIBRE (Brazil), REIC (Colombia), SWIPS (Switzerland).

Direct memberships and publisher collective memberships

- 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.

The International Committee of independent publishers (ICIP)

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 Assembly of Allies. 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 allies.

Responsibilities and missions of the ICIP:

The ICIP's responsibility is to contribute to the activities and development of the Alliance within its mandate, as agreed upon by the Assembly of Allies.

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;
- Keep up-to-date and oversee the good delivery of the mandate given by the General Assembly (GA) of the Board (see composition of the Board and GA below);
- Actively participate in the Alliance's fundraising campaigns;
- 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 Assembly of Allies;
- Advise on the merger or partnership with another association.

Since 2015, a representative from a national or sub-regional collective member of the Alliance is invited to the annual meeting of the ICIP and the Board: a different collective is invited from one year to the next.

Coordinators and vice-coordinators of language networks

Introduction to the coordinators and vice-coordinators: [click here](#)

Role of the coordinator:

- Enable and monitor the good circulation of information amongst members of the network, and between the members and the Paris 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 Paris team;
- Assist the Paris team, when possible, with fundraising.

A vice-coordinator – who can replace the coordinator when necessary – can be appointed on request from the coordinator, through consensus or vote, at the same time as the coordinator's election. The vice-coordinator has the same roles and responsibilities as the coordinator. Coordinators and vice-coordinators assume their role on a voluntary basis.

Election of coordinators and vice-coordinators/duration of mandate:

- The coordinators and vice-coordinators are elected, to the extent possible, during the language networks' meetings;
- The duration of the coordinator and vice-coordinator's mandate is 2 years, 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 4-year 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.

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 GA and the Assembly of Allies;
- 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 permanent team of the Alliance is composed of three full-time employees: Mariam PELLICER, Laurence HUGUES and Camille CLOAREC.

Responsibilities and mission of the permanent team:

The team's mission is to:

- Assist the language networks of the Alliance;
- Manage the functioning and operations of the association (administration, governance, research, funding..)
- Implement the objectives and agenda of the Alliance.

The volunteers

Volunteers (approximately 3 to 4 individuals per year) support the Alliance's permanent team to implement the association's agenda. Volunteers work on specific projects, based on their interests and the Alliance's needs: for example, the "Terres solidaires" collection, collective stands in book fairs, communication materials, etc.

FAQ

How can we join the Alliance?

- a membership form, available from the permanent team of the Alliance, is to be filled;
- this form is then sent to the coordinator of the language network concerned, to the chair and/ or the vice-chair of the Alliance, who studies it, alongside the team;
- the team can inquire bilaterally to publisher members of the same country and/ or region and/or to the language network as a whole for additional information (including relationship of this publisher with other local publishers);
- when publisher members are consulted: if the feedback from publishers already members is unanimously negative, the application for membership is not accepted. If the feedback from publishers already members is mitigated, and that the coordinator, the chair and the team of the Alliance have reservations, it is suggested to the publisher not to join the Alliance immediately but they will however be able to participate in projects of the Alliance (to get to know them better). If the feedback from publishers already members is positive, the application for membership is accepted.
- when a membership is validated by the coordinator, the chair and/ or the vice-chair, the team and, if necessary, publishers consulted locally, the publisher receives a welcome letter; their membership is formalized when the team receives the necessary documentation for the creation of their page (in the ["Publishers" section](#)) on the website of the Alliance.

The Allies, although they do not wish to limit the number of memberships per language network, need to maintain a human dimension within their networks – enabling the development of trust that is essential to the good functioning of any international professional network.

The number of members per language network is not restricted, but a network's growth must be done based on physiognomies and the practical functioning of the network, in order not to destabilize or burden the network's administration and to maintain relations and exchanges "with a human and fair character".

When possible, the membership of a publishing house that belongs to an existing national or regional collective member of the Alliance will have priority. The Spanish-speaking network gives membership priority to publishers via the national collective network – fewer direct memberships and more indirect memberships; when there is no collective in a country, support for the creation of a national collective could be offered.

New memberships to the Alliance must cover, to the extent possible, geographical regions that are not yet represented in the Alliance: in Europe, for example, or in Portuguese-speaking Africa (Cape Verde), etc.

How much is the annual subscription?

Since 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.

How are Allies structured?

The Allies are structured in **6 linguistic networks**, and are diverse – [click here](#).

The creation of **thematic groups** (youth, humanities and social sciences, local and national language publishing, digital publishing, etc.) **to enhance the structure of the language networks was approved by the Allies at the meeting in Cape Town in September 2014**. This system involves the strengthening and development of inter-network and inter-linguistic meetings and projects (translation funds, for example).

These groups are of two main types:

- **Thematic working groups**, for advocacy, research, analysis... in line with the existing 5 groups of the Bibliodiversity Observatory ([see here](#) : public book policies, freedom to publish, book donations, editorial partnerships, publishing in local and national languages). At the request of several publishers, new thematic and ad hoc working groups could be created: a working group on Europe, a working group on ad hoc advocacy, etc.
- **Working groups based on publishing list affinities**, with the aim of exchanging and carrying out joint editorial projects: a children's literature group, a feminist publishing group, etc.

Who are the observer members?

This status was created to enable membership by professional collectives, rather than publisher collectives, to the Alliance, the aim being to strengthen the presence and voice of other book professionals.

Action plans and drafting of annual provisional budgets

How do projects reach the team of the Alliance?

- language networks are consulted through coordinators and vice-coordinators: publishers are consulted by their network coordinator to present the projects and activities they would like to implement within their network or with other networks;
- the thematic groups are consulted via their focal persons: the thematic groups currently being set up, this consultation principle will be effective from 2019 only;
- specific requests throughout the year: throughout the year, the coordinators and the team have the opportunity to hear publishers (such requests will be addressed to the language network mail) and identify the projects they would like to implement; these projects will also be included in the action plan for the coming year, based on resources available. Special requests are shared with the publishers of the language network and are noted for the annual programme, if specific budget can be found.

Following these consultation processes, the team will consolidate the proposals and develop the action plan for the year. Based on the criteria presented below, some of the projects are listed as priorities for the coming year (with direct financial support from the Alliance when possible, or without financial support from the Alliance but through fundraising by publishers). The action plan and the projected budget drafted by the team are then submitted to ICIP and the Board for review, modification, and validation. They are then distributed to all members of the Alliance.

Available funds from the Alliance:

- the Alliance must have the required budgets to support the proposed projects (if this is not the case, ad hoc requests for support are then sent to partners; however, there is no guarantee that these will succeed; publishers' collaboration with the team of the Alliance for fundraising is thus essential);
- since 2015, Alliance's funds have been more limited (due to the unfavourable global economic context). 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 (Biodiversity 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;
- In the absence of direct financial support, the Alliance has tried to facilitate, as much as possible, the connections and exchanges between members (via workshops, thematic working groups, etc.). Fundraising is still unpredictable, the mobilization of publishers for fundraising (financial or indirect support) remains essential.

The projects making up the Alliance's annual action plan are of two types:

1/ Projects without an allocated budget, but with a support from the team (time dedicated to coordination/facilitation, skills provision), for example:

- advocacy or research projects that require time and collaboration from the team and publishers;
- co-publishing or translation projects between members of the Alliance, labelled "Alliance", but without financial support;
- collective stand shared by members, where the team can serve as a negotiator with a book fair.

These projects form part of the Alliance action plan: it identifies them as collective projects, bearing the "Alliance" label, reflecting members' concerns and issues.

2/ Projects with allocated budget and a support from team: meetings, workshops, co-publications, some activities of the Biodiversity Observatory, etc.

Given the tight budgets of the Alliance, and according to proposals from publishers, it is necessary to prioritize projects (and therefore the financial support). To do this, the team applied several criteria:

- the projects must correspond to the Alliance's orientations and priority areas (see here);
- projects must involve at least 2 publisher members (from the same language network or not);
- publishers must commit to support the team in the implementation of the project (support research, preparation time, in-kind contributions via local support from publishers, etc.).

Project implementation:

- if a project brings together at least two publishers but the Alliance does not have the funds to support it, this project can still be launched and pursued by publishers, with the logo of the Alliance if publishers want to mark it as a project carried by independent publishers member of the Alliance;
- if publishers initiating the project are withdrawing along the way, the project may be pursued by other publishers as long as the initiating publishers agree.

How are the Alliance's visuals (logos, images...) used?

- Projects funded by the Alliance: the logo of the Alliance is obligatory for any project supported by the Alliance (meetings, editorial projects, etc.).
- Projects not funded by the Alliance: to strengthen their sense of belonging to the Alliance's network, and to indirectly promote the Alliance, publishers are invited to put the Alliance logo on their books but also on their communication materials (even if these projects are not directly funded by the Alliance), in two possible manners:
 - The Alliance logo accompanied with a caption, for example: "XXX publisher is a member of the International Alliance of independent publishers, a network of 730 independent publishers in 55 countries supporting bibliodiversity";
 - A specific Alliance logo including the caption "member of the Alliance".
- Statements and documents expressing the positions of individual publishers or publisher collectives: for all documents (reports, advocacy material) produced by individual publishers that express their own positions or opinions, the usage of the Alliance logo (or any other visuals created by the Alliance) is subject to approval by the Alliance's permanent team (<mailto:equipe@alliance-editeurs.org>), thus avoiding situations where the Alliance could be unwittingly indicted in relation to an activity or communication not approved beforehand.



Network of 730 publishing houses from 55 countries
around the globe in support of bibliodiversity

www.alliance-editeurs.org

[Facebook](#) et [Twitter](#)

Contacts:

38, rue Saint-Sabin - 75011 Paris – France
Tel. +33 (0)1 43 14 73 66 / +33 (0)1 43 14 73 67
equipe@alliance-editeurs.org