

Application form for membership to the International Alliance of independent publishers

Presentation of the International Alliance of independent publishers

The International Alliance of Independent Publishers is a professional collective that brings together more than **500 independent publishers in more than 50 countries around the world**. Created as an association in 2002, it is organized in **six language networks (English, Arabic, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Persian) and thematic groups**. The members of the Alliance are publishing houses and collectives of national publishers. All of the Alliance's activities aim to promote and support [bibliodiversity](#) (cultural diversity applied to the book world).

As part of its missions, the Alliance has created a [Bibliodiversity Observatory](#), which brings together research, analysis and measurement tools produced by the Alliance for professionals and public authorities. The Observatory's objectives are to assess and strengthen bibliodiversity in the different regions of the world.

In addition, the Alliance organizes and facilitates [international meetings and thematic workshops](#) (for example on children's book publishing, digital publishing, etc.) allowing independent publishers from different continents to exchange and initiate collaborations. These meetings promote capacity building through peer-to-peer exchange, an aspect developed particularly around digital publishing as part of the [Digital Lab](#). Lastly, the Alliance supports [international editorial projects](#) (solidarity co-publishings, translations, copyright transfers...), for a greater circulation of texts and fair access to books for readers.

Who are the members of the Alliance in 2017?

The Assembly of allies (the publishers who are members of the Alliance) represents all 500 of the Alliance's publishers. The Assembly of Allies is the voice of the Alliance. Meetings happen in person with at least 20% of direct member publishers, approximately every 10 years, at times more often depending on the human and financial resources of the association. Between these meetings, the Assembly is regularly consulted via email (through questionnaires, collective discussions, etc.).

Of the 500 members, 63% are in so-called developing countries (35 countries represented):

- In Africa: South Africa, Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo, Tunisia
- In Latin America: Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela
- In Asia: Bangladesh, China, and India
- Middle East: Egypt, Iran, Lebanon, and Syria

Of the 500 members, 37% are in so-called northern countries (i.e. 15 countries represented):

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

The 13 national and/or regional member collectives are: Afrilivres (Sub-Saharan Africa), IPD Alternatives (India), AEMI (Mexico), EDIN (Chile), Contrabandos (Spain), EDINAR (Argentina), EIP (Peru), FIDARE (Italy), Kurt Wolff Stiftung (Germany), Llegir en Català (Catalonia / Spain), LIBRE (Brazil), REIC (Colombia), SWIPS (Switzerland).

The vast majority of members of the International Alliance of independent publishers are publishers; however, representatives of NGOs or persons linked to the book world, particularly close to our approach, may be considered "observer members".

The governance of the Alliance

Consult the document "[A guide to the Alliance](#)", which provides an overview of the governance of the association.

Do not hesitate to contact the Alliance team for more information, by writing to the following address: equipe@alliance-editeurs.org

Why join the Alliance?

- **Become part of an international professional solidarity network** and share common values and principles (independence, bibliodiversity, fair trade...);
- **Contribute to and benefit from all the research and analyses produced by the Alliance**, particularly within the framework of the [Bibliodiversity Observatory](#) and the [Digital Lab](#), to evaluate and strengthen in-country bibliodiversity;
- **Share and discuss with peers on issues, problems, challenges** (to inform, communicate or even implement an advocacy activity) based on the strength of the network;
- **Participate in co-publishing and/or joint translation projects** to facilitate the circulation of books, to share collective book expertise, risks, financial costs, etc.;
- **Participate (depending on the financial and human resources capacity of the association) in international and regional meetings and thematic workshops** (for example on children's book publishing, on digital publishing...) allowing independent publishers from different continents to exchange their knowledge and experiences, and initiate collaborations.

Membership

The fee contribution for publishers is a **'pay-what-you-can' contribution**, and the publishers, according to their means, determine the amount. Annually, at the beginning of the year, the permanent team sends an information message for the payment of the annual fee contribution. Publishers have the option of paying their annual contribution by Paypal or bank transfer if possible, or during a meeting with one of the team members or the Bureau. The settlement of fee contribution can also be done every two years, to avoid excessive banking fees, among other reasons.

To be valid, your application for membership must:

- show that you are an independent creative publisher who respects the ethics and commitment of being an independent publisher (see criteria below);
- explain your motivation to become a member of the Alliance;

- be reviewed and validated by the coordinators of the Alliance's language networks, by the permanent team and the Board of the association.

Membership applications are reviewed based on several criteria, including:

- **the publisher's commitment**, their "ethics", role in society, shared values with those of the Alliance;
- **the publisher's motivation** to be part of the Alliance;
- **the professional dimension**: number of years in business, a fairly large number of titles in the list, editing experience as a publisher, etc.;
- **the editorial policy**/being a creative editor: notions of vitality and creativity of the house, the balance between commercial titles and more demanding titles;
- **collective experience**, intercultural understanding.

It should be noted that the sponsorship of one or more publishers who are already members of the International Alliance of independent publishers, without being compulsory, is also a criterion that may be taken into account in the membership application process (see list below on the website www.alliance-editeurs.org).

In order to know you better and to understand your publishing house, your environment and your expectations, we kindly ask you to complete the questionnaire below, as comprehensively as possible, and to return it dated and signed, electronically at the following address: equipe@alliance-editeurs.org

This form will be study by the coordinator and vice-coordinator of the relevant linguistic network, the president and/or vice-president and the permanent team of the Alliance.

Who are you?

Your name and surname:

Your experience in few lines:

Are you the founder of the publishing house?

What is your position in the publishing house?

Since when do you occupy this position?

What is the role of this position?

Other information:

Presentation of the publishing house

Exact name of the publishing house:

Legal status:

Year of creation:

Postal address:

Phone number (with international code):

Other telephone numbers (please indicate whether it is a home number, or a mobile):

Email:

Website address:

ISBN number:

Presentation of your publishing house (10 lines maximum):

Number of people working in this publishing house and/or actively contributing to it (provide information on their function):

Names of main shareholders of your company, if applicable:

Approximate value of capital (if there are several shareholders):

Annual turnover (average):

Does the publishing house have partners (institutional, businesses, foundations, NGO, associations, etc.), or is part of international/national networks?

Do some of these partners contribute to the capital of the publishing house? If so, which ones?

Is your publishing house independent from major national, regional or international financial and/or media groups?

Who makes the major editorial decisions?

Editorial production

Language(s) of publication:

Total number of English titles:

Number of new titles per year:

Do you publish translated books?
If so, from what language mainly?

Do you do co-published?
If so, who are the co-publishers, from what country?

Does your publishing house publish self-published titles? If so, provide the number of titles in the list published in this manner:

Do you also publish e-books?
If so, how many e-books do you have in your list?

Main interests

- Children's literature, number of titles in the list:
- Contemporary literature, number of titles in the list:
- Humanities and social sciences, number of titles in the list:
- Coffee table books, art books, number of titles in the list:
- Comics, number of titles in the list:
- Sciences and technology, number of titles in the list:
- Textbooks and pedagogical books, number of titles in the list:
- Religion, number of titles in the list:
- Other, number of titles in the list:

The publishing house and its context

What is your authors' policy? How do you work with local authors and creators, for example?

How do you disseminate and distribute your books in hard copy?

How do you disseminate and distribute your books in digital format?

What activities do you carry out to be in touch with your readers?

Are there one or more publisher collectives in your country?

If so, which one/s?

Are you part of it?

Other... please do not hesitate to provide information that you would like to bring to our attention!

You and the International Alliance of independent publishers

Where did you hear about the International Alliance of independent publishers?

- Through a publisher member of the Alliance
- Through a direct contact with a member of the Alliance team
- Through the website (www.alliance-editeurs.org) and/or social networks
- Through other means of information/communication (specify):

The Alliance is organised in 6 language networks and several thematic groups.

With what language network are you the most comfortable to receive and share information, discuss, share? *Tick the appropriate box.*

- English language network
- Arabic language network
- French language network
- Portuguese language network
- Spanish language network
- Persian language network

Thematic groups are varied, and include:

1 / working groups focusing on the Bibliodiversity Observatory: research, analysis, advocacy...

2 / groups bringing together publishers by affinity of editorial policy: children's books, contemporary literature, humanities and social sciences...

3 / ad-hoc groups on a specific topic: for example the setting-up of a collective stand in a book fair, research on the transport of books in a given country, etc.

Groups, whether permanent or ad-hoc, are created at the request of publishers, based on their proposals, expectations and needs.

What thematic group/s would be better suited to your activities, needs and expectations? You do not have to join one of these groups. You may suggest the creation of a new group, based on your expectations and projects.

Work groups in the Observatory of Bibliodiversity

- "Public book policies" group
- "Rethinking book donation" group
- "Publishing in local and national languages" group
- "Freedom to publish" group
- "Editorial solidarity partnerships" group

Groups based on affinity of editorial policy:

- “Children’s literature” group
- “Publishing and feminism” group
- “Digital publishing” group
- Other

Proposals you would like to submit:

In a maximum of 15 lines, please explain why you want to become a member of the International Alliance of independent publishers:

I hereby declare that all information provided in this questionnaire is true and correct.

(“Read and approved” mention, date and signature)

Professional and ethics commitment

These are the shared founding principles of publisher members of the Alliance since the creation of the association. To make sure we share these principles, please read these attentively and commit to abide by them.

As an independent publisher, I commit to:

- **Identify with the definition of independent publisher, as developed by the members of the Alliance:**

“Independent publishers, as defined by the Alliance’s publishers, are originating publishers: through their often-innovative publishing choices, freedom of speech, publishing and financial risktaking, they participate in discussions, distribution and development of their readers’ critical thinking. In this regard, they are key players in bibliodiversity.” (see [International Declaration of independent publishers](#), 2014).

- **Not publish titles that go against the openness and respect of the Alliance's member publishers (e.g. racist, homophobic, sexist, etc.);**
- **Defend the ethics of the publishing profession by decently paying authors, translators, employees and service providers of my publishing house.**

I confirm that I share these commitments.

Signature