Alliance 2026 Programme (& 2025 retrospective)

FOCUS (1/2)

International Conference of Independent Publishers in Fez (Morocco) in 2027

The next conference will take place in Fez (Morocco) in November 2027. The meeting of the International Committee of Independent Publishers in 2025 thus focused on the organisation of this next major event for independent publishing. For 3 days, the coordinators of the Alliance's language networks and the Moroccan publisher En toutes lettres (who put forward Fez as the venue for the next Alliance conference) built the conference programme based on the proposals/ expectations of the members consulted in 2024.
The pre-programme of the Conference will be available in the next few months.

All the activities undertaken in 2025 and those to come in 2026 will feed into the process of building the Conference and contribute to the reflections and recommendations that will emerge from the Conference. One of the priorities for 2026 and 2027 will be to set up partnerships (in terms of content, logistics, finance, etc.) to ensure the success of the Conference.

Governance

A consultation process on the organisation/ operation/ governance of the Alliance will take place between March and September 2026 with the Alliance members; feedback from members will be compiled and analysed at the ICIP meeting in October 2026. The findings of this consultation will be discussed during the Conference 2027, where a session will be dedicated to the governance of the Alliance.

To consult the Alliance's governance processes and decisions (and how they will evolve between 2021 and 2025), see the document available here.

Promotion of unique intercultural materials from the Bibliodiversity Observatory & Babelica

The various working areas of the Alliance, whether the Bibliodiversity Observatory or Babelica, are coherent and complementary to each other. Babelica's programme is based on the themes explored by the Bibliodiversity Observatory (book ecology, freedom to publish, public book policies, digitalisation/ AI, etc.). The material resulting from the Babelica round tables and workshops, like the analyses and tools produced within the Bibliodiversity Observatory, is comprehensive: it includes over a hundred testimonies/ interventions/ proposals from all over the world. This material is unique: based on intercultural exchanges, it gives priority to seldom-heard voices that are often in the minority; it proposes themes that are not often addressed at the international level… All this material is organised thematically on several platforms, to make them more accessible: YouTube, Babelica, the Bibliodiversity Observatory (Alliance website).

The period leading up to the conference (2026–2027) will provide an opportunity for Alliance members, professionals, academics and public authorities to review and build on this material, and to (re)engage with it.

Solidarity

In October 2024, the members of the Alliance decided to create a space of solidarity with book professionals in Palestine, to promote and encourage the circulation of Palestinian texts across continents, and to make the voice of book professionals in Palestine heard.

This space is flexible and will take different formats:
- In June 2025, Arabic-speaking publishers (including Palestinian publishers) and French-speaking publishers gathered in Tunis for meetings organised by the Alliance to present titles from their catalogue on Palestine, with a view to exchanging rights (transfer of rights, co-publications, translations).

During Babelica, on 24 and 25 September 2025:
- Readings of Palestinian texts by Palestinian authors were offered by the Alliance's Arabic-language network;
- A round-table discussion with Palestinian book professionals;
- A selection of titles on Palestine was showcased to encourage the transfer of rights, co-publishing and translation projects.

Prospects for 2026
- Add to the database of Palestinian texts and promote it (for worldwide distribution in all languages);
- Continue to showcase Palestinian voices at the 2026 edition of Babelica and at the International Conference of Independent Publishers in 2027.

Readings from Palestine

Alliance 2026 Programme (& 2025 retrospective)

Bibliodiversity Observatory

Book ecology

2025 achievements

–International meetings on the ecology of books in Strasbourg as part of Strasbourg, Unesco World Book Capital (April 2025)
–Institut de l'Ecoedició online workshop for Spanish-speaking publishers to share experiences and practices (July 2025)

Plans for 2026 and 2027

–Online workshops by the Institut de l'Ecoedició (in English and French) to share experiences and practices (January and February 2026)
–Updating the Guide to best practice

Digital / AI

2025 achievements

–Online workshops on the discoverability of books in French-speaking Africa (cycle of 4 workshops in February 2025)
–Face-to-face workshop on artificial intelligence and bibliodiversity (June 2025, Tunisia)
–Draft of first recommendations/ proposals in favour of an AI that guarantees bibliodiversity (June 2025, Tunisia)

Plans for 2026 and 2027

–Online workshops on AI and bibliodiversity (understanding how AI works and what is at stake for bibliodiversity, learning about and sharing the uses of AI by independent publishers)
–Work on recommendations and proposals in favour of AI as a guarantor of bibliodiversity, ahead of the 2027 Conference.
–Guide to best practice with an entry on AI + mapping of free and ethical tools that exist as alternatives to GAFAM tools and platforms

Public book policies

2025 achievements

–Mapping of public book policies in the Arab world: finalisation of the mapping and face-to-face launch (June 2025, Tunisia)
–Face-to-face workshop on public book policies in the Arab world and French-speaking sub-Saharan Africa (June 2025, Tunisia)
–Round tables (online) on public book policies during Babelica (September 2025)

Plans for 2026 and 2027

–Updating the mapping of public book policies in French-speaking Africa/ Madagascar and Latin America
–Fundraising to develop a mapping of public book policies in English-speaking Africa

Freedom to publish

2025 achievements

–Round tables (online) on the freedom to publish during the Babelica edition (September 2025)

Plans for 2026 and 2027

–Work on the 2027 Conference, where the issue of freedom to publish will be one of the main themes

Alliance 2026 Programme (& 2025 retrospective)

Bibliodiversity Observatory

Guide to Good Practice (click here)
The Guide to Good Practice is a practical version of the Pamplona-Iruñea Declaration "For a decolonial, ecological, feminist, free, social and united independent publishing", written collectively by the members of the Alliance. The Guide's content will be one of the main themes in the run-up to the 2026-2027 Conference.

Development of a logo/ label (visual variation) for the Guide to Good Practice
Produced by the Alliance's Spanish-language network, this logo/ label has a dual purpose: to inform readers about the work of independent publishing houses, and to demonstrate their commitment to ecological, decolonial, social, and solidarity-based publishing. It will first be tested within the Spanish-language network before being adopted more widely by independent publishers.
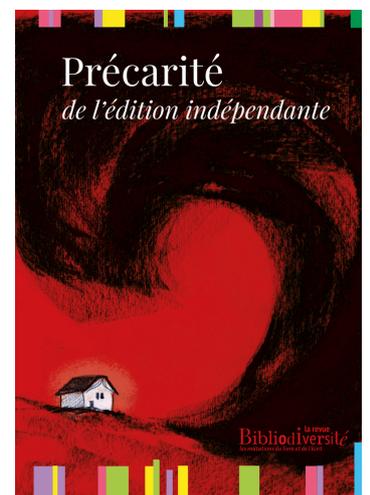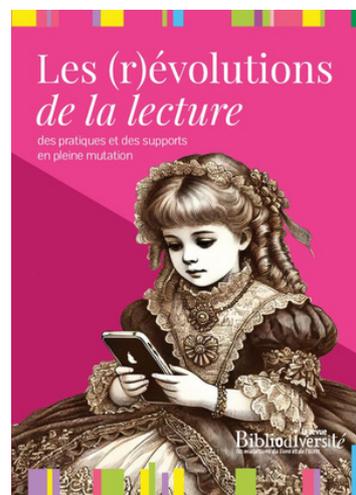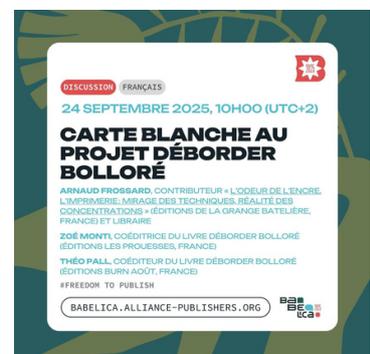
Bibliodiversité review (click here)
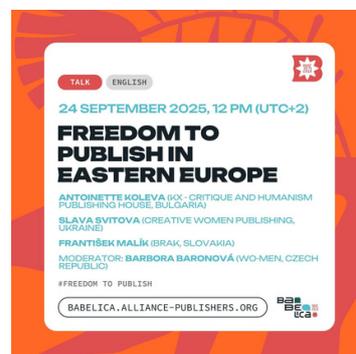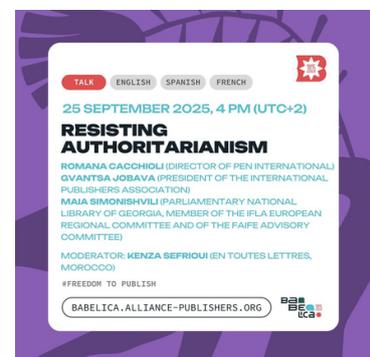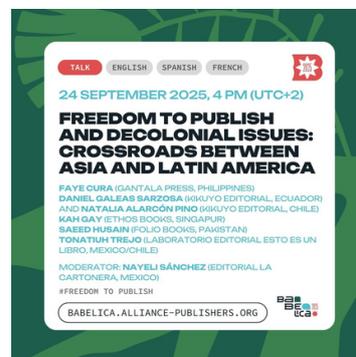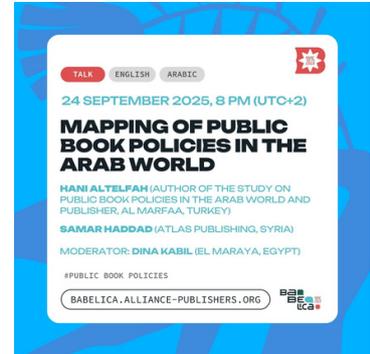**2025 achievements**
–Publication of the issue dedicated to (R)evolutions in reading (April 2025)

Plans for 2026 and 2027
–"Resisting and hoping" (40 authors under 30 share their perspectives), to be published in September 2026
–Round tables on the theme "Resisting and hoping" with the participation of the authors of the issue during the 2026 edition of Babelica

TALK ENGLISH SPANISH FRENCH
25 SEPTEMBER 2025, 2 PM (UTC+2)
WHAT PUBLIC BOOK POLICIES IN FRENCH- AND ENGLISH-SPEAKING AFRICA: CROSSROADS FROM CAMEROON, GHANA, KENYA, NIGERIA AND TOGO
AMA DADSON (AKOO BOOKS, GHANA)
SERGE D. KOUAM (PRESSES UNIVERSITAIRES D'AFRIQUE, CAMEROON)
MUTHONI GARLAND (STORY MOJA PUBLISHERS, KENYA)
IBISO GRAHAM-DOUGLAS (PAPERWORTH BOOKS LIMITED, NIGERIA)
MODERATOR: YASMÍN ISSAKA-COUBAGEAT (GRAINES DE PENSÉES, TOGO)
#PUBLIC BOOK POLICIES
BABELICA.ALLIANCE-PUBLISHERS.ORG

TALK ENGLISH ARABIC
24 SEPTEMBER 2025, 8 PM (UTC+2)
MAPPING OF PUBLIC BOOK POLICIES IN THE ARAB WORLD
HANI ALTELFAH (AUTHOR OF THE STUDY ON PUBLIC BOOK POLICIES IN THE ARAB WORLD AND PUBLISHER, AL MARFAA, TURKEY)
SAMAR HADDAD (ATLAS PUBLISHING, SYRIA)
MODERATOR: DINA KABIL (EL MARAYA, EGYPT)
#PUBLIC BOOK POLICIES
BABELICA.ALLIANCE-PUBLISHERS.ORG

TALK ENGLISH SPANISH FRENCH
24 SEPTEMBER 2025, 4 PM (UTC+2)
FREEDOM TO PUBLISH AND DECOLONIAL ISSUES: CROSSROADS BETWEEN ASIA AND LATIN AMERICA
FAYE CURA (GANTALA PRESS, PHILIPPINES)
DANIEL GALEAS SARZOSA (KIKUYO EDITORIAL, ECUADOR) AND NATALIA ALARCÓN PINO (KIKUYO EDITORIAL, CHILE)
KAM GAY (ETHOS BOOKS, SINGAPORE)
SAEED HUSAIN (FOLIO BOOKS, PAKISTAN)
TONATIUH TREJO (LABORATORIO EDITORIAL ESTO ES UN LIBRO, MEXICO/CHILE)
MODERATOR: NAYELI SÁNCHEZ (EDITORIAL LA CARTONERA, MEXICO)
#FREEDOM TO PUBLISH
BABELICA.ALLIANCE-PUBLISHERS.ORG

TALK ENGLISH SPANISH FRENCH
25 SEPTEMBER 2025, 4 PM (UTC+2)
RESISTING AUTHORITARIANISM
ROMANA CACCHIOLI (DIRECTOR OF PEN INTERNATIONAL)
GVANTSA JOBAVA (PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION)
MAIA SIMONISHVILI (PARLIAMENTARY NATIONAL LIBRARY OF GEORGIA, MEMBER OF THE IFLA EUROPEAN REGIONAL COMMITTEE AND OF THE FAIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE)
MODERATOR: KENZA SEFRIOUI (EN TOUTES LETTRES, MOROCCO)
#FREEDOM TO PUBLISH
BABELICA.ALLIANCE-PUBLISHERS.ORG

TALK ENGLISH
24 SEPTEMBER 2025, 12 PM (UTC+2)
FREEDOM TO PUBLISH IN EASTERN EUROPE
ANTOINETTE KOLEVA (IXX - CRITIQUE AND HUMANISM PUBLISHING HOUSE, BULGARIA)
SLAVA SVITOVA (CREATIVE WOMEN PUBLISHING, UKRAINE)
FRANTIŠEK MALÍK (BRAK, SLOVAKIA)
MODERATOR: BARBORA BARONOVÁ (WO-MEN, CZECH REPUBLIC)
#FREEDOM TO PUBLISH
BABELICA.ALLIANCE-PUBLISHERS.ORG

DISCUSSION FRANÇAIS
24 SEPTEMBRE 2025, 10H00 (UTC+2)
CARTE BLANCHE AU PROJET DÉBORDER BOLLORÉ
ARNAUD FROSSARD, CONTRIBUTEUR « L'ODEUR DE L'ENCRE, L'IMPRIMERIE : MIRAGE DES TECHNIQUES, RÉALITÉ DES CONCENTRATIONS » (ÉDITIONS DE LA GRANGE BATELIÈRE, FRANCE) ET LIBRAIRE
ZOÉ MONTI, COÉDITRICE DU LIVRE DÉBORDER BOLLORÉ (ÉDITIONS LES PROUESSES, FRANCE)
THÉO PALL, COÉDITEUR DU LIVRE DÉBORDER BOLLORÉ (ÉDITIONS BURN AOÛT, FRANCE)
#FREEDOM TO PUBLISH
BABELICA.ALLIANCE-PUBLISHERS.ORG

Les (r)évolutions de la lecture
des pratiques et des supports en pleine mutation
Bibliodiversité

Précarité de l'édition indépendante
Bibliodiversité

Alliance 2026 Programme (& 2025 retrospective)

Workshops & international meetings

2025 achievements
–National Conference of independent publishers organised by the FEDEI (France, February 2025)
–Online workshops on the discoverability of books in French-speaking Africa (cycle of 4 workshops in February 2025)
–In situ "Éditer en francophonie" workshops bringing together French-speaking publishers of children's literature at the Brussels Book Fair (March 2025)
–Literal PRO: participation of Alliance members (May 2025, Spain)
–Face-to-face workshop on artificial intelligence and bibliodiversity (June 2025, Tunisia)
–Face-to-face workshop on public book policies in the Arab world and French-speaking sub-Saharan Africa (June 2025, Tunisia)
–Institut de l'Ecoedició online workshop for Spanish-language publishers to share experiences and exchange practices (July 2025)

Plans for 2026 and 2027
–Online workshops by the Institut de l'Ecoedició (in English and French) to share experiences and exchange practices
–Online workshops on AI and bibliodiversity (understanding how AI works and what is at stake for bibliodiversity, learning about and sharing the uses of AI by independent publishers)

Alliance 2026 Programme
(& 2025 retrospective)

Book fairs for independent publishers

Babelica

Report on the 2025 edition
–77 participating independent publishers from 42 countries represented (including 5 newcomers: Niger, USA, Taiwan, Ukraine, Zimbabwe)
–more than 205 titles
–10 round tables, 1 rights market and 5 readings over 2 days / 4 events with interpretation in 3 languages (French, English and Spanish); 2 events with interpretation in 2 languages (English and Arabic)
–54% increase in the number of visitors = + 2,116 visitors in 2025 (compared with 1,372 visitors in 2024)

Highlights of the 2025 edition
–Themed programming: Palestine, Freedom to publish, Public book policies
–A more concise, more readable programme
–The rights market is becoming an important meeting place for publishers – and a unique and singular space in terms of connections between independent publishing houses

The next Babelica will be held on 21 and 22 September 2026
2 priority themes:
–" Resisting and hoping" (young people as bearers of hope)
–Solidarity with the book industry in Palestine

Tehran Book Fair, Uncensored
The 10th edition of the fair, organised by the Alliance's Persian-language network, will be held between May and June 2026 in several cities in Europe and North America.
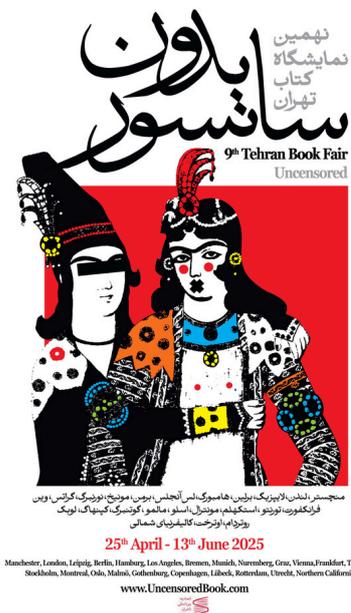
Alliance 2026 Programme (& 2025 retrospective)

Solidarity editorial partnerships

Publishing groups by catalogue affinity (literature, humanities and social sciences and children's literature)

2025 achievements

–Two "Literature & Humanities & Social Sciences" rights markets (with English/ French/ Spanish interpretation): 8 April 2025 and during Babelica in September 2025

–One "Youth" rights market (with English/ French/ Spanish interpretation): 9 April 2025

–Support in setting up the rights markets and co-publications (<u>click here</u>)

Several projects are underway following the rights markets organised by the Alliance – including the transfer of English-language rights to *Il n'y a pas d'arc-en-ciel au paradis* by Nétonon Noël Ndjékéry (Hélice Hélas, Switzerland) to Paperworth Books Limited (Nigeria) & Regal House Publishing House (United States), and the English-language rights to *El baile de la abuela muerta* by Elina Malamud (Libros de la Araucaria, Argentina) to Ethos Books (Singapore).

Plans for 2026 and 2027

–One "Literature & Humanities & Social Sciences" rights market and one "Youth" rights market during Babelica 2026

–Co-publication of the next titles in the "Terres solidaires" collection, to be published in 2026 and 2027.

Publishing projects in progress and/or under consideration

–Translation and co-publishing projects for Palestinian literature

–Other projects to be announced during the year
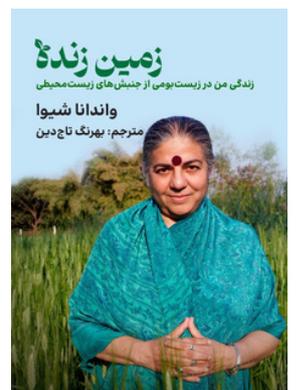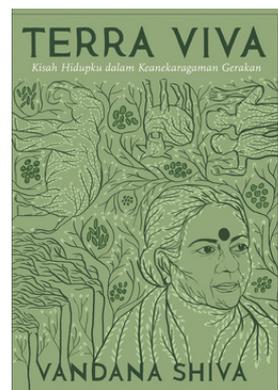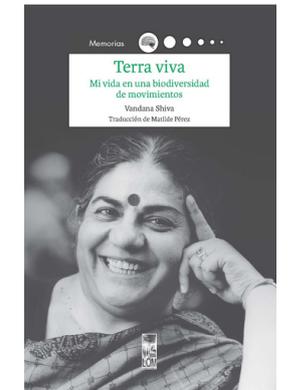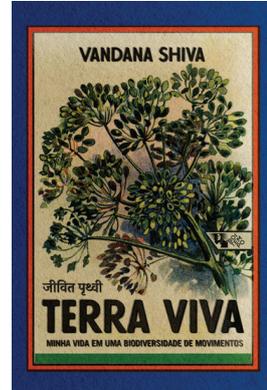
Thank you to our partners!

See here all the Alliance partners

International Alliance
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a network of 980 publishers
in over 60 countries worldwide

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Contact: equipe@alliance-editeurs.org