

MEMBERSHIP POLICY AND PROTOCOLS:

2. PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS

CONSTITUTION	EXPLANATIONS
1. Underlying philosophy:	
<i>No theatre, organization or individual can be refused admittance to membership of ASSITEJ on the basis of age, gender, ethnicity, disability or ability, sexual orientation, cultural identity, national origin, or political or religious conviction.</i>	Professional networks must therefore apply a policy of inclusion and representivity in their admission policy for membership of the professional network.
2. Professional networks: Criteria for membership	
2.1 Description	
<i>Professional networks are formal, international networks of theatre companies, organisations, and/or persons working in and supporting the field of theatre for children and young people. Professional networks can be formed on the basis of sharing a common artistic interest or need related to the work of theatre for children and young people, and which serves the growth of the field.</i>	Professional networks are intended to bring together theatre companies, organisations or persons across cultural, linguistic, national and other divides, because of a shared interest or need related to the field of theatre for children and young people. In professional networks, membership may be specific to a particular area of specialisation in the field. Professional networks may include, for example, networks of actors, directors, scenographers, playwrights, researchers or arts critics in theatre for children and young people, etc. Networks may also grow up around a theme or idea, for example, dance theatre for young audience, theatre for the early years, inclusive theatre across all abilities, theatre in schools, etc.
2.2 Categories of membership within professional networks are:	
<i>(a) Professional theatre companies or artists performing for children and young people.</i>	Professionals directly involved in the particular specialisation, interest, need, theme or idea of the network.
<i>(b) Non-professional theatre companies or artists performing for children and young people.</i>	Non-professionals directly involved in the particular specialisation, interest, need, theme or idea of the network.
<i>(c) Organizations, institutions, associations or persons actively engaged in the work of theatre for children and young people.</i>	These may include actor training institutions, theatre archivers, theatre educators, university researchers, cultural centres, festivals etc. actively engaged in the particular specialisation, interest, need, theme or idea of the network.
<i>(d) Supporting organizations, institutions, associations, or persons interested in theatre for children and young people.</i>	These may include critics, patrons, honorary members, social welfare organisations, literacy organisations, educational institutions etc, interested in the particular specialisation, interest, need, theme or idea of the network.
2.3 Criteria for full or corresponding membership:	
<i>To qualify for full membership in the Association, a professional network should be a global network which includes members from at least seven (7) countries from two (2) or more continents.</i>	These are minimum criteria; ideally a professional network will comprise more members than described here. The seven members should fall into categories (a) or (c). Additional members may belong to categories (b) or (d). It should be noted that regional networks comprising of national centres as members are <u>not</u> eligible for membership of ASSITEJ, since the national centres are already members of the association.
<i>Those professional networks which do not meet the above</i>	These five members should fall into categories (a) or (c). Additional members may belong to categories (b) or (d).

<i>criteria, but include members from a minimum of five (5) countries, may apply for corresponding membership.</i>	
3. Rights and Obligations of Membership	
3.1 Rights of Membership	
<i>Full members have the right to make proposals at constitutional meetings, to be elected to the Executive Committee, and to have THREE votes in the General Assembly.</i>	A full member that is not present at a General Assembly may give their proxy (3 votes) to another professional network that is a full member of ASSITEJ. This proxy must be given in writing and communicated to the Secretary-General.
<i>A centre or network with full membership may have only one representative on the Executive Committee. Where a centre and a network nominate candidates from the same country, the candidate of the national centre takes preference and may stand for election.</i>	Only one person from any country may be proposed for election to the Executive Committee. This means that should a professional network propose a candidate who happens to be from a country that is also putting forward a candidate for the national centre, the candidate of the national centre will take precedence, and the professional network will need to suggest another candidate.
<i>Corresponding members have the right to make proposals at constitutional meetings and to have ONE vote in the General Assembly. Corresponding members do not have the right to be elected to the Executive Committee.</i>	A corresponding member that is not present at a General Assembly may give their proxy (1 vote) to another professional network that is either a full or corresponding member of ASSITEJ. This proxy must be given in writing and communicated to the Secretary-General.
3.2 Obligations of Membership	
<i>All members have the following obligations:</i>	
<i>to work to achieve the aims defined by the Association,</i>	Professional networks should be actively engaged in activities, projects or collaborations which reflect the aims of the Association. Professional networks should prioritise aims according to an analysis of the specific need, interest, theme or idea that is their raison d'être. The aims of the Association (when applied to professional networks) include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To work for the rights of children and young people to artistic experiences especially designed and created for them across the world. • To work for the recognition and acknowledgement of theatre for children and young people across the world. • To work for improvement of the conditions of theatre for children and young people. • To improve the common knowledge of theatre for children and young people, thus drawing the attention of international and national authorities to the importance of taking children and young people and the artistic work created for them seriously. • To give people working with theatre for children and young people the opportunity to learn about the work of colleagues from other countries and cultures, thus enabling them to enrich theatre for children and young people in their own contexts. • To form and sustain a professional network which functions in accordance with the mission, constitution and policies of the Association. This network shall unite theatres, organizations, and

	<p>persons interested in the particular focus, need, interest or theme identified by the network.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To participate in international artistic networks to explore different aspects of artistic work for children and young people, to increase the artistic competence of artists and to benefit them.
<i>to maintain its statutes,</i>	Professional networks should adhere to the constitution and the principles of inclusion and representivity that underpin the constitution.
<i>to act upon the decisions made by the Association,</i>	All decisions taken by the General Assembly are binding for all members of professional networks at the national as well as the international level.
<i>to pay their membership fees,</i>	See notes on membership fees below.
<i>to keep the Secretary General informed of their activities on a regular basis,</i>	Professional networks are expected to update the Secretary General at least once a year, but preferably on a monthly basis. This can be done through the website, the newsletter, in person, or by other means. Communication is a key element in networking.
<i>to appoint a correspondent,</i>	This means that in each professional network there is a person who takes responsibility for corresponding with the Secretary General.
<i>to provide a permanent address,</i>	Both email and physical addresses should be provided. Most communication will occur by email, unless the professional network (in rare instances) is unable to use this medium.
<i>and to communicate to their members the information sent from the Secretary General's office.</i>	All newsletters and other information sent from the Secretary General's office should be forwarded to the membership of the professional network. No network should be seen to keep information to its board or steering committee, which could be of benefit to its members.
All full and corresponding members must use the acronym "ASSITEJ" either in the name of the network or in the description in the subtitle.	For example, "Write Local Play Global – ASSITEJ Playwrights network" or "ASSITEJ Playwrights' Network" are both acceptable titles for a professional network.
3.3 Payment of Membership fees	
<i>Membership fees, which are determined by the General Assembly, are due on 1st January of each year and must be sent to the Treasurer. Members more than six (6) months in arrears lose the right to vote in the General Assembly.</i>	<p>Membership fees are determined by the General Assembly for a three year period, or until such time as the Executive Committee sees fit to propose a change to the fee structure.</p> <p>Currently Full Members pay 750 USD annually.</p> <p>Members who have financial difficulties may pay less than this, provided it is equal to or more than the minimum amount of 150 USD annually.</p> <p>Invoices are sent out by the Treasurer in November/December requesting payment. If a network wishes to pay less than 750 USD, they need to request an invoice for the amount concerned.</p> <p>Payments should preferably be made by electronic transfer directly into the ASSITEJ bank account. Other forms of payment are also acceptable. The payment will be acknowledged by the Treasurer with a receipt.</p> <p>Networks that are unable to pay the full fee in a given year, may apply in writing to the Executive Committee, giving specific reasons, requesting for their fees to be reduced or waived. These reasons will be considered by the Executive Committee, and if the reduction or waiver is granted, no rights of the member will be compromised.</p>
	<p>Currently Corresponding Members pay 75 USD annually.</p> <p>The same rules of payment apply as for Full Members.</p>
4. Procedures for Membership	
4.1 Application for membership	Process of applying for membership:
<i>Written applications for membership shall be addressed</i>	Typically, an individual or individuals wishing to launch a professional network makes a call to, or approaches directly, the artists working in

<p><i>to the Secretary General. These applications will be considered, approved, or denied by the Executive Committee. In the case of a denial by the Executive Committee, the applicant may appeal to the next General Assembly.</i></p>	<p>the field of theatre for children and young people who share that particular specialisation, interest, need or idea. ASSITEJ may support the building of the network by making an international call for participation.</p> <p>An international meeting is held to bring together these companies, organisations and persons at an event of significance for the network. Already existing companies, institutions and organisations of relevance to the field should be included in the network wherever possible. At this meeting, a board of representatives for the professional network should be elected democratically. Professional networks may be formally constituted as associations, where this is possible.</p>
	<p>Once the board/steering committee of the professional network has been established and membership of the network has reached a point considered sufficiently representative of the field to meet the minimum requirements of the ASSITEJ constitution, an application form for membership of ASSITEJ should be completed.</p>
	<p>This application form is submitted to the Executive Committee and the request is discussed at one of the physical meetings of the EC, or via email.</p>
	<p>If the request is granted, then the professional network will be notified by the Secretary General, and the Treasurer will send an invoice requesting payment of membership fees for the first year. Once these fees have been received into the ASSITEJ account, the membership is considered active.</p> <p>If the request is rejected, reasons for rejection will be given by the Secretary General, and the network will be given the opportunity to reapply once conditions for membership have been met.</p>
<p>4.2 Resignation from membership</p>	
<p><i>Any member that wishes to resign from the Association should inform the Secretary General in writing. The resignation will take effect from 1st January in the following year.</i></p>	<p>We urge members to engage with the Secretary General about their problems before taking the step to resign from the Association. When resigning from the Association, professional networks should give reasons for their resignation, so that the Association may have a stronger sense of what its membership needs and wants.</p>
<p>4.3 Suspension or Expulsion from membership</p>	
<p><i>The Executive Committee may decide, by a majority of two-thirds, on the suspension, or expulsion of any member whose work conflicts with the fundamental aims of this Association, or who has failed several times in one of the obligations mentioned in Article 6.4. Any centre which has been suspended, or expelled loses the right to use the acronym "ASSITEJ".</i></p>	<p>Suspension of membership implies that the member will cease to be acknowledged as a member of ASSITEJ until such time as certain criteria have been met. Suspension is usually for a set period, say 6 months, in which a professional network is asked to reorganise themselves to meet their constitutional obligations or to deal with other issues identified as problematic by the Executive Committee. Expulsion implies that the member will no longer be considered part of the association. Expulsion is usually a last resort after a period of communication with the network. Reasons for expulsion include but are not limited to: non-payment of fees for three or more years; non-communication and non-responsiveness; exclusivity, lack of representation or gate-keeping activity; refusal to adhere to the constitution of ASSITEJ; bringing ASSITEJ into disrepute.</p>
<p><i>Any suspended, or expelled member may appeal to the next General Assembly.</i></p>	<p>Notice of the appeal must be given in writing to the Secretary-General so as to be included in the Agenda for the General Assembly. The General Assembly will hear both the appeal and the reasons of the Executive Committee for the decision. They may overturn the decision of the Executive Committee by a majority vote.</p>