

## 2. MEMBERSHIP

### 2.1 Membership policy

In order to modernise the association to a more dynamic and efficient organisation and open the door to changes that allowed for better realisation of the mission and achievement of objectives, the General Assembly approved a new ASSITEJ Constitution in Malmo, Sweden, at the 17th ASSITEJ Congress in 2011. This meant that new members were admitted, including Professional Networks and Individual Members.

Since that time, the ASSITEJ membership has approved another ASSITEJ Constitution in January 2022 through the mechanism of a Special General Assembly online, in order to engage more fully in the possibility of ongoing funding for the Association, by becoming a Third Sector Entity under Italian Law.

This has meant radical changes to the membership structure once more. Now Membership includes National Centres and International Professional Networks, each of which has one vote at the General Assembly. There are no Individual Members as it is not legally possible for ASSITEJ to have non-voting membership. Instead we welcome ASSITEJ Affiliates as part of the Association with benefits and responsibilities but without voting status, still opening doors to people unable to join as members in any other way and encouraging links and connections between National Centres such as through Regional Networks.

### 2.2 Universal Access

Universal access is about positively affecting the participation of marginalised people through acknowledgement, identification through consultation, development of strategies, removal and ongoing monitoring of barriers.

For ASSITEJ, it relates to theatre and performance makers and audiences. No organisation or individual can be refused admittance to membership of ASSITEJ on the basis of age, gender, ethnicity, disability or ability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, cultural identity, national origin, economics or political or religious conviction.

Universal Access means proactively making changes to the current modes of operation within organisations and events, and making physical changes and changes in attitude in order to engage with the broadest reach of people.

Universal Access encourages deeper engagement with the diversity of our global population, resulting in a richness of experience and expression that will enable ASSITEJ events to move toward true representation.

Importantly, Universal Access means opening ourselves up to new

frontiers of theatre and performance making and new audiences.

To do this we are asking members to support positive action around Universal Access as a central principle. Our activity towards supporting Members and Affiliates includes consultation with International Professional Network IIAN and the creation of the Access committee. Focus on access and inclusion is embedded into the work projects of ASSITEJ and reviewed each term.

Universal Access can be acknowledged as a set of principles that will have diverse starting points for different members. We acknowledge that each member will have very different challenges in this journey as movement towards change is different for all of us.

## 2.3 Types of Membership

### 2.3.1 National Centres

The National Centre is intended to be representative of the field of theatre and performance for children and young people as it exists in that country. The focus is on creating a nationally based network of professional members, first and foremost, but it should be noted that contexts for professionalism differ from country to country. For this reason, the term “professional” or “non-professional” is understood within the context of the National Centre and each National Centre should define this term for itself.

Membership of National Centres:

National Centres are networks of members which include persons active in theatre and the performing arts for children and young people, organisations (such as theatres, performing arts companies or festivals working in TYA), institutions and associations (actor training institutions, specialist artistic networks in the country, Performing arts archivers, educators, university researchers, cultural centres etc.), and supporting organisations, institutions, associations, or persons interested in theatre and performance for children and young people (like critics, patrons, honorary members, social welfare organisations, literacy organisations, educational institutions etc.)

Performing arts companies or artists who work partially for children and young people, and partially in other contexts, may also be admitted.

All efforts should be made to include all artists working in the field, to grow membership over time, to raise standards and to develop an inclusive development plan to ensure that no one is left behind, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, disability or ability, sexual orientation, cultural identity, national origin, or political or religious conviction, geography or economics.

Purpose of National Centres:

National Centres should prioritise the aims of ASSITEJ according to an analysis of their national needs.

Please see the National Centre Toolkit for more details about what a National Centre is, how it can operate and other specifics.

### 2.3.2 International Professional Networks

International Professional Networks are formally recognised, international

networks formed on the basis of sharing a common artistic interest or need, engaged in a particular area of specialisation in the field of theatre for young audiences.

Purpose of International Professional Networks:

- Should serve an advocacy function, to promote a specific need, interest, theme or idea that is linked to the common goals of ASSITEJ.
- Should be outward looking, serving not just the community who are members of the network, but reaching beyond their linguistic, cultural, regional or other boundaries.

Membership of International Professional Networks:

International Professional Networks include those directly involved in a particular specialisation (actors, directors, scenographers, playwrights, researchers or arts critics in the performing arts for children and young people, etc), or those interested in exploring a particular theme or idea (dance for young audience, theatre for the early years, inclusive theatre across all abilities, etc.).

Members of International Professional Networks may include:

- organisations, institutions, associations or persons actively engaged in the work of theatre and performance for children and young people with regard to the particular specialisation, interest, need, theme or idea of the network, e.g. actor training institutions, archivists, educators, university researchers, cultural centres, festivals etc.
- supporting organisations, institutions, associations, or persons interested in the performing arts for children and young people with regard to the particular specialisation, interest, need, theme or idea of the network, e.g. critics, patrons, honorary members, social welfare organisations, literacy organisations, educational institutions etc.

## 2.3 Other relationships with ASSITEJ

Regional Networks:

Any networks that are made up only of National Centres as members (for example, Regional networks such as African Children and Youth Theatre Arena, the Ibero-American network, the Nordic-Baltic network etc.) are not eligible for independent membership of ASSITEJ. This is because the National Centres are already members of the association, and this would provide them with double voting power.

### **ASSITEJ Affiliates:**

The term ASSITEJ Affiliates embraces theatre companies, organisations or persons who are not able to participate in ASSITEJ membership in other ways, with the purpose of bringing them into the association and working towards the formation of new National Centres in the future.

Affiliation with ASSITEJ is possible when there is not already a National Centre in the applicant's own country. An application should be made to the Executive Committee to become an Affiliate. Affiliates are encouraged to make a donation to ASSITEJ in order to support the work of the Association.

Affiliation can take several forms:

Individuals from countries where there are currently no ASSITEJ National Centres.

A theatre company or other organisation which is currently not able to meet the requirements for membership as a National centre, due to lack of representation (for example), but which wishes to participate in the work of ASSITEJ, while working towards membership as a National centre.

Individuals from countries where there is an ASSITEJ National centre, but this centre has not given them access. This may be for technical reasons, but it may also be for reasons of Gatekeeping by the National Centre.

ASSITEJ Affiliation is valid for 3 years, after which time, it is anticipated that the Affiliate will have been able to gain Membership through some other means; whether joining an International Professional Network, or a neighbouring National Centre, or by forming their own National Centre and making an application for membership.

ASSITEJ Affiliates are encouraged to work with one another or with other categories of membership within ASSITEJ to develop common projects or activities to serve theatre for children and young people in their region.

## **2.4 Categories of membership and rights**

Members have the right to make proposals at constitutional meetings, to be elected to the Executive Committee, and to have a vote in the General Assembly.

ASSITEJ Affiliates and regional networks do not have the right to make proposals at constitutional meetings, do not have a vote and do not have the right to be elected to any office within the Executive Committee. These categories of association can receive news of the Association, can be recognised on the ASSITEJ database, can share news of relevant activities, and can participate in activities of ASSITEJ.

## **2.5 Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee is the leadership of the association, elected democratically every three years to serve a three year term. It comprises 15 individuals nominated by the members. It is voluntary work, and participation is funded by the individual or the nominating body concerned.

Each elected Executive Committee member must come from a different country, with the exception of two members only, provided that one has been proposed by a National Centre and the other by a Network. In this case, two candidates from the same country may be admitted, provided that both make the minimum number of votes (50% of the votes). This enables equitable representation for all members.

## **2.6 Obligations of membership**

All ASSITEJ members should adhere to the constitution and the principles of inclusion and representation that underpin the constitution.

Members have obligations to act upon the decisions made by the Association. All decisions taken by the General Assembly are binding for all members at national and international levels.

Members are expected to update the Secretary General at least once a year through an annual report, but preferably more regularly. This can be done through the website, the newsletter, in person, or by other means. Communication is a key element in networking. This means that in each National Centre or International Professional Network there is a person who takes responsibility for corresponding with the Secretary General. Both email and physical addresses should be provided. Most communication will occur by email or other online media (Skype, Whatsapp etc), unless the Member is unable to use this medium.

All newsletters and other information sent from the Secretary General's office should be forwarded to the membership of the National Centre or International Professional Network. No Centre or Network should be seen to keep information to itself, which could be of benefit to its members. Members of a National Centre or Network are also able to sign up for the ASSITEJ international newsletter directly.

All Members must use the acronym "ASSITEJ" either in the name of the National Centre for International Professional Network or in the description in the subtitle. Wherever possible, the logo of ASSITEJ should be displayed alongside the logo of the National Centre.

## **2.7 Payment of Membership fees**

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.

Members currently pay 750 Euro/ USD annually.. Members who have financial difficulties may pay less than this, provided it is equal to or more than the minimum amount of 150 Euro/150 USD.

ASSITEJ Affiliates are encouraged to make a donation to ASSITEJ for their access to the benefits of the Association.

Invoices are sent out by the Treasurer in January requesting payment. If a Member wishes to pay less than 750 USD, they need to request an invoice for the specific amount concerned.

Membership is generally activated at the point that fees are paid; however, new members can request a waiver of 1 year on their fees. If they are unable to pay at the end of the one year period, their membership will become null and void, unless they request again for a waiver or negotiate another alternative. (e.g. use of the Solidarity fund, see below)

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.

Members who 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.

## 2.8 Membership support: Solidarity Fund

The Solidarity Fund is for those who find themselves unable to pay membership fees for specific and short-term reasons. This fund is supported by ASSITEJ Members' voluntary contributions on top of their own fees.

The Solidarity Fund enables membership continuity and involvement. It ensures the participation of all members and prevents discrimination.

The fund will be managed by the President, Secretary General and Treasurer of ASSITEJ International. The solidarity fund can be supported by any Member through a distinct payment to the Association. A list of members who have donated to the Fund will be available on the ASSITEJ website..

ASSITEJ members may decide to pay additional fees at the same time or separately from their annual fee to support the Solidarity Fund. In case of a single payment, the members should indicate the two different amounts (annual fee and Solidarity Fund donation), to allow the Treasurer to issue a receipt with separate amounts.

- The donation is a non-repayable gift.
- The donation to the Fund is annual and voluntary.

### A - Sustaining memberships

Any member in real and documented need can request the use of the Fund to pay their annual fees, for a maximum of three consecutive years.

The request will be evaluated by the President, the Secretary-General and the Treasurer, who will be responsible for reporting to the Executive Committee. The use of the fund does not demand any interest.

Members cannot make new requests if they have not returned at least 50% of the previous advance.

#### **Process:**

The applicant will apply to the Secretary-General in writing, giving reasons for the request and stating the intention to repay the advance received in whole or in part, as soon as possible. If the request is approved by the EC, the Secretary General will inform the applicant and together they will construct a plan and timeline for re-payment

## 2.9 Procedures for Membership

Application forms for membership will be provided by the Secretary General on the website or by request. However the following procedures pertain:

### **2.9.1 National Centres and International Professional Networks**

Typically, an individual or individuals wishing to launch a National Centre or International Professional Network makes a call to, or approaches directly, the artists working in the field of theatre and performance for children and young people in that country (for National Centres), or to the artists working in the field of performing arts for children and young people who share that particular specialisation, interest, need or idea (International Professional Networks).

A national (or international) meeting is held to bring together these companies, organisations and persons. In case of an International Professional Network, it would be at an international event of significance for the potential 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 National Centre or International Professional Network should be elected democratically. Ideally National Centres should be formally constituted, according to the laws governing such associations in the given country. International Professional Networks may be formally constituted as associations where this is possible.

Once the board (or steering committee) of the National Centre or the International Professional Network has been established and membership of the association has reached a point considered sufficiently representative of the field (and the minimum requirements of the ASSITEJ constitution have been met), an application form for membership of ASSITEJ should be completed.

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. If the request is granted, then the National Centre or International 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.

If the request is rejected, reasons for the rejection will be given by the Secretary General, and the group will be given the opportunity to reapply once conditions for membership have been met.

#### **ASSITEJ Affiliates**

An individual (performing arts company, organisation or person) wishing to apply for Affiliation with ASSITEJ must approach the Secretary General with a written application stating their involvement or interest in performing arts for young audiences. This application will also give clearly the reasons for the request.

The Secretary General will first ascertain whether or not there is an ASSITEJ National Centre in the country of origin of the applicant. Should the applicant not have any options for joining an existing Member, then the application form is submitted to the Executive Committee. If the request for Affiliation is granted, then the applicant will be notified by the Secretary General and the Treasurer and welcomed into ASSITEJ as an ASSITEJ Affiliate

and given notification of their rights and benefits. They will also be requested to make a modest donation to the Association.

ASSITEJ Affiliation is valid for 3 years only, after which time, it is anticipated that the individual or organisation may have been able to gain membership through some other means. Should this not be the case, the performing arts company, organisation or person will continue as an ASSITEJ Affiliate without further application, but encouraged to keep working towards Membership..

On being granted ASSITEJ Affiliation the individual or organisation is tasked to work towards establishing a National Centre in their country, making connections until a network has been formed which is considered sufficiently representative of the field to meet the minimum requirements of the ASSITEJ constitution. Then an application form for membership as a National Centre of ASSITEJ should be completed, and the process followed for approval as a National Centre.

### **2.10 Resignation from membership**

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, Members should give reasons for their resignation, so that the Association may have a stronger sense of what its membership needs and wants.

### **2.11 Suspension or Expulsion from membership**

Suspension of membership implies that the member will not 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 member (National Centre or International 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 member.

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.

Once expulsion of a Member has occurred, the Executive Committee should wherever possible work towards finding theatre companies, organisations and persons in that country or in that field of practice, who might form a new National Centre of International Professional Network .

### **2.12 Appeals**

A member wishing to appeal the rejection, suspension or expulsion of their membership status should give notice of the appeal 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.

## 2.13 Summary and explanation of Constitution as regards Membership

### MEMBERSHIP POLICY AND PROTOCOLS: National Centres and International Professional Networks

CONSTITUTION	EXPLANATIONS
1. Underlying philosophy:	
ASSITEJ is dedicated to artistic, cultural, political and educational efforts and no act of the Association and its members may discriminate on the basis of age, gender, ethnicity, disability or ability, economic standing, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, cultural identity, national origin, political or religious conviction or any other reason	National Centres and International Professional Networks must therefore apply a policy of inclusion and representation in their admission policy for membership of the National Centre.
2. National Centres: Criteria for membership	
2.1 Description	
National Centres are networks representative of theatre and the performing arts for children and young people in their own countries.	The National Centre is intended to be representative of the field of theatre and performing arts for children and young people as it exists in that country. All efforts should be made to include all artists working in the field and to raise standards by engaging with artists in exchanges and other activities, rather than by limiting membership to a select few. National Centres should be actively working to grow their membership over time.
2. Professional networks: Criteria for membership	
2.1 Description	
International Professional Networks are formally recognised networks of theatre and performing arts companies, organisations, and/or persons working	International Professional Networks are intended to bring together theatre companies, organisations or persons across cultural, linguistic, national and other

<p>in and supporting the field of theatre and performing arts for children and young people.</p> <p>International Professional Networks can be formed on the basis of common interests or needs related to the work of theatre and the performing arts for children and young people.</p>	<p>divides, because of a shared interest or need related to the field of theatre for children and young people.</p> <p>Membership may be specific to a particular area of specialisation in the field.</p> <p>International 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.</p>
<p>2.2 Categories of membership within National Centres and International Professional Networks are:</p>	
<p>A) Professional theatre and performing arts companies or artists performing for children and young people</p>	<p>The term “professional” is understood to mean professional within the context of the National Centre or Network. Each National Centre or Network should determine for itself what constitutes “professional”. Performing arts companies or artists who work partially for children and young people and partially in other contexts, may also be admitted. Possible definitions include one or more of, for example: trained, full-time, earning a living from theatre, employed in a company, having had some professional experience.</p>
<p>B) Non-professional theatre and performing arts companies or artists performing for children and young people.</p>	<p>The term “non-professional” is understood to mean non-professional within the context of the member.. Each National Centre or International Professional Network should determine for itself what constitutes “non professional”.</p>
<p>C) Organisations, institutions, associations or persons actively engaged in the work of theatre and the performing arts for children and young people</p>	<p>These may include actor training institutions, specialist artistic networks in the country, theatre archivers, theatre educators, university researchers, cultural centres, festivals etc.</p>
<p>D) Supporting organisations, institutions, associations, or persons interested in theatre and</p>	<p>These may include critics, patrons, honorary members, social welfare organisations, literacy</p>

the performing arts for children and young people.	organisations, educational institutions etc.
2.3 Criteria for membership: National Centres	
To qualify for membership in the Association, a National Centre must be a network comprising of at least three (3) professional members, or five (5) members with at least two (2) professional members and three (3) non professional members.	These are minimum criteria; ideally a National Centre will comprise more members than is described here. The focus is on creating a national network of professional members, first and foremost, but it should be noted that contexts for professionalism differ from country to country.
Criteria for Membership: International Professional Networks	
To qualify for membership in the Association, an International Professional Network should be a global network which includes members from at least seven (7) countries from two (2) or more continents.	These are minimum criteria; ideally an International Professional Network will comprise more members than described here. The seven members should fall into categories of A) or C). Additional members may belong to categories B) or D)
3. Rights and Obligations of Membership - these rights and obligations are the same for all Members of ASSITEJ.	
3.1 Rights of Membership	
Members have the right to make proposals at constitutional meetings, to be elected to the Executive Committee, and to have a vote in the General Assembly.	A member that is not present at a General Assembly may give their proxy vote to another Member of ASSITEJ. Proxy for International Professional Networks should be given to another Network. National Centre proxy should be given to another National Centre. This proxy must be given in writing and communicated to the Secretary-General at least 12 hours before voting is due to begin. Only one person from a National Centre or an International Professional Network may be proposed for election to the Executive Committee.

<p>Each elected Executive Committee member must come from a different country, with the exception of two members only, provided that one has been proposed by a National Centre and one by a network. In this case two candidates from the same country may be admitted, provided that both make the minimum number of votes (50% of the votes)</p>	<p>Ensuring equitable opportunity for representation considering International Professional Networks are Members and should have the same rights as National Centres. Because of the proportion of Networks to National Centres in the association there will always be a limit on the numbers of Networks represented in the Executive Committee.</p> <p>The numbers of network positions can't exceed the proportional number of voting members that are Networks as opposed to National Centres.</p>
<p>3.2 Obligations of Membership All members have the following obligations:</p>	
<p>to work to achieve the aims defined by the Association,</p>	<p>Members should be actively engaged in activities, projects or collaborations which reflect the aims of the Association.</p>

	<p>Members should prioritise aims according to an analysis of their national needs.</p> <p>The aims of the Association (when applied to National Centres) include:</p> <p>To work for the rights of children and young people to artistic experiences especially designed and created for them in that country.</p> <p>To work for the recognition and acknowledgement of theatre and performance for children and young people in that country.</p> <p>To work for the improvement of the conditions of theatre and performance for children and young people in that country.</p> <p>To improve the common knowledge of theatre and performance 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.</p> <p>To give people working with theatre and performance 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 country.</p> <p>To form and sustain a National Centre which functions in accordance with the mission, constitution and policies of the Association. This centre shall unite all theatres, organisations, and persons interested in theatre and performance for children and young people in that country.</p> <p>To form and sustain an International Professional Network which functions in accordance with the mission, constitution and policies of the Association, and which draws together people who share a common practice or field of work.</p> <p>To participate in an artistic network to explore different aspects of artistic work for children and young people, to increase the artistic competence of artists and to benefit them.</p>
to maintain its statutes,	Members should adhere to the constitution and the principles of inclusion and representation that underpin the constitution.

to act upon the decisions made by the Association,	All decisions taken by the General Assembly are binding for all members at the national as well as the international level.
to pay their membership fees,	See notes on membership fees below.
to keep the Secretary General informed of their activities on a regular basis,	Members are expected to update the Secretary General at least once a year, but preferably more regularly. This can be done through the website, the newsletter, in person, or by other means. Communication is a key element in networking.
to appoint a correspondent,	This means that each Member identifies a
	person who takes responsibility for corresponding with the Secretary General.
to provide a permanent address,	Both email and postal addresses should be provided. Most communication will occur by email, unless the Member is unable to use this medium.
and to communicate to their members the information sent from the Secretary General's office.	All newsletters and other information sent from the Secretary General's office should be forwarded to the membership of the National Centre or International Professional Network. No Member should be seen to keep information to itself, which could be of benefit to its members.
All members must use the acronym "ASSITEJ" either in the name of the centre or network or in the description in the subtitle.	For example, "ASSITEJ Rwanda" or "ARTEJ – ASSITEJ in Rwanda" are both acceptable titles for a National Centre. Wherever possible, the logo of ASSITEJ should be displayed alongside the logo of the National Centre. For International Professional Networks the same rule applies. For example, "Write Local Play Global – ASSITEJ Playwrights network" or "ASSITEJ Playwrights' Network" are both acceptable titles for an International Professional Network.
3.3 Payment of Membership fees	

<p>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.</p>	<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 Members pay 750 USD annually. 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. Invoices are sent out by the Treasurer in November/December requesting payment. If a Member 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>Members who 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>4. Procedures for Membership: National Centres</p>	
<p>4.1 Application for membership</p>	<p>Process of applying for membership:</p>
<p>Written applications for membership shall be addressed to</p>	<p>Typically, an individual or individuals wishing to launch a National Centre makes a call to, or</p>

<p>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.</p>	<p>approaches directly, the artists working in the field of theatre and performance for children and young people in that country. A national meeting is held to bring together these companies, organisations and persons. 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 National Centre should be elected democratically. Ideally National Centres should be formally constituted, according to the laws governing such associations in the</p>
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	given country.
	Once the board of the National Centre has been established and membership of the association has reached a point considered sufficiently representative of the field to constitute a National Centre (and the minimum requirements of the ASSITEJ constitution have been met), an application form for membership of ASSITEJ should be completed.
	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>If the request is granted, then the National Centre 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 group will be given the opportunity to reapply once conditions for membership have been met.</p>
Procedures for Membership: International Professional Networks	
4.1 Application for membership	Process of applying for membership:
Written applications for membership shall be addressed to the Secretary General.	Those wishing to establish an International Professional Network should begin by bringing together in an international meeting all those who may wish to be involved in such a network. This should be a broad sweep of practitioners and experts professional and non-professional and including the criteria set out in membership.



<p>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.</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 International 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. 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>
<h4>4.3 Suspension or Expulsion from membership</h4>	
<p>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</p>	<p>Suspension of membership implies that the member will not 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</p>

<p>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".</p>	<p>months, in which the member 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 Member. 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. Once expulsion has occurred, the Executive Committee should wherever possible work towards finding theatre companies, organisations and persons in that country or field of practice who might form a new National Centre or International Professional Network</p>
<p>Any rejected, suspended, or expelled member may appeal to the next General Assembly.</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.</p> <p>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>

<p>ASSITEJ Affiliates</p>
<p>The term ASSITEJ Affiliates embraces theatre companies, organisations or persons who are not able to participate in ASSITEJ membership in other ways, with the purpose of bringing them into the association and working towards the formation of new National Centres in the future.</p> <p>Affiliation with ASSITEJ is possible when there is not already a National Centre in the applicant's own country. An application should be made to the Executive Committee to become an Affiliate. Affiliates are encouraged to make a donation to ASSITEJ in order to support the work of the Association.</p> <p>ASSITEJ Affiliates will only attain a vote by either forming or joining a National Centre, or by forming or joining a professional network, and then following the procedures for ASSITEJ membership as outlined in the other documents.</p>
<p>3. Rights and Obligations of Affiliation</p>
<p>3.1 Rights of Affiliation</p>

<p>ASSITEJ Affiliates have the right to participate in the work of the Association, including giving proposals at constitutional meetings, but do not have the right to vote. Additionally, Affiliates do not have the right to be elected to the Executive Committee.</p>	<p>ASSITEJ Affiliates can receive news of the Association, can be recognised on the Association's database, can share news of relevant activities, can participate in activities of ASSITEJ, but without the right to vote or to be elected to any office within the Association.</p>
<p>3.2 Obligations of Affiliation - obligations are the same as Members except for payment of fees. There is no fee payable for Affiliates, instead they are encouraged to donate to the Association.</p>	

<p>4. Procedures for ASSITEJ Affiliation</p>	
<p>4.1 Application</p>	<p>Process of applying for membership:</p>
<p>Written applications for Affiliation shall be addressed to the Secretary General. These applications will be considered, approved, or denied by the Executive Committee.</p>	<p>A performing arts company, organisation or person wishing to apply for ASSITEJ Affiliation must approach the Secretary General with a written application stating their involvement or interest in theatre and performance for young audiences. This application will also give clearly the reasons for the request. Application forms will be provided by the Secretary General on the website or by request, The Secretary General will first ascertain whether or not there is an ASSITEJ centre in the country of origin of the applicant. If this is not the case, they will further enquire whether the applicant would like to/is able to join one of the International Professional Networks, if there is a network relevant to the work of the applicant.</p> <p>Should the applicant not have any other options for involvement, then the application may be taken forward to an Executive Committee meeting.</p>
	<p>The 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 applicant will be notified by the Secretary General.</p>

Continued Affiliation	ASSITEJ Affiliation is valid for 3 years, after which time, it is anticipated that the Affiliate will have been able to gain membership through some other means. Should this not be the case, the theatre company, organisation or person will be acknowledged as an Affiliate without the need to re-apply. They will be encouraged to continue to work towards Membership.
Towards forming National Centres	On being granted ASSITEJ Affiliation, the Affiliate is tasked to work towards establishing a National Centre in their country, until a network has been formed which is considered sufficiently representative of the field to meet the minimum requirements of the ASSITEJ constitution. Then an application form for membership as a National Centre of ASSITEJ should be completed, and the process followed for approval as a National Centre.