



**ASSITEJ Executive Committee Meeting:
Belgrade & Novi Sad, Serbia
18-24 November 2023**

Present in Person:

Sue Giles, *President*, Australia (SG)
Louis Valente Sørensen, *Secretary General*, Denmark (LV)
Bebe de Soares, *Vice President*, Chile (BS)
Seok-hong Kim, *Vice President*, South Korea (SK)
Yannick Boudeau, Belgium (YB)
Emilie Robert, France (ER)
Julia Dina Heße, Germany (JH)
Cristina Cazzola, Italy (CC)
Paulo Merisio, *Counselor*, Brazil (PM)
Christopher Blois-Brooke, *Staff Member*, UK (CBB)
Marissa Garay, *Staff Member*, Mexico (MG)

Present Online:

Pamela Udoka, *Vice President*, Nigeria (PU)
Jon Dafydd-Kid, UK (JDK)
Selloane Lalu Mokuku, South Africa (LM)
Minoovash Rahimian, Iran (MR)
Shoaib Iqbal, Pakistan (SI)

Guests present during specific meetings:

Diana Krzanic Tepavac, *ASSITEJ Serbia*, Serbia (DKT)
Jenny Andersen, *External Evaluator*, Australia (JA)
Kerryn Palmer, *ASSITEJ New Zealand*, New Zealand (KP)
Richard Sallis, *External Evaluator*, Australia (RS)
Stavros Stavrou, *ASSITEJ Cyprus*, Cyprus (SS)
Kentaro Miyamoto, *ASSITEJ Japan*, Japan (KM)
Kelly Freebody, *ASSITEJ Researcher*, Australia (KF)
Michael Anderson, *ASSITEJ Researcher*, Australia (MA)
Pawel Galkowski, *ASSITEJ Researcher*, Poland (PG)
Lanora Callahan, *ASSITEJ Researcher*, USA (LC)
Selina Busby, *ASSITEJ Researcher*, UK (SB)
Gina Westbrook, *Small Size*, (GW)
Sara Myrberg, *Small Size*, (SM)
Anna Sacchetti, *Small Size*, Italy (AS)
Cliodhna Noonan, *ASSITEJ Ireland*, Ireland (CN)



Vicky Ireland, *I/AN*, UK (VI)
Martina Pecková Černá, *Perform Czech*, Czechia (MPC)
Luděk Horký, *ASSITEJ Czechia*, Czechia (LH)
Zuzana Jindrová, *ASSITEJ Czechia*, Czechia (ZJ)
Ginni Manning, *WLP*, UK (GM)
Katariina Metsälampi, *Small Size*, (KM)
Aamir Nawaz, *Next Generation*, Pakistan (AN)
Sonja Petrovic, *Next Generation*, Serbia (SP)
Linnea Lidberg, *Next Generation*, Sweden (LL)
Alfredo Zinola, *Young Dance Network, Italy*, (AZ)
Sanja Frühwald, *Young Dance Network, Croatia*, (SF)

Note: due to the difficulties in hybrid format, the online members attended when they could and were brought in for specific meetings and working group consultations.

Agenda

1. Welcome from President and Host

- 1.1. Cultural introduction
- 1.2. Access reminders

2. Regularity of the meeting

3. Present, absent, number of voters

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5. Proposal and Approval of Agenda

6. Conflicts of interest

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1. Welcome from President and Host

SG welcomed members present and host DKT who shared information regarding the upcoming days.

1.1. Cultural introduction
DKT gave a cultural introduction.

1.2. Access reminders

2. Regularity of the meeting

3. Present, absent, number of voters

Nov. 18: 16 present, 4 absent, 11 voters
Nov. 19: 15 present, 7 absent, 8 voters
Nov. 22: 23 present, 8 absent, 7 voters
Nov. 23: 13 present, 8 absent, 7 voters
Nov. 24: 16 present, 8 absent, 7 voters

4. Review of EC Schedule

5. Proposal and Approval of Agenda

SG went over the proposed agenda for EC approval.

6. Conflicts of interest

No conflicts of interest were presented.

7. General Reports

7.1. President's Report
SG went over the [report](#).

VOTE:

Does the ASSITEJ EC approve the presented report?

Unanimous vote in favour. (SG, LV, BS, SK, ER, YB, PU, JDK, SI, LM, MR)

7.2. Secretariat Report
LV went over the report and gave progress updates.

7.2.1. Procedures & reflection around ASSITEJ events

CBB shared a reflection about how things currently work and thinking of ways to improve with the next EU application in mind. He mentioned there are currently a couple of challenges impacting his ability to complete his role.

- 1- Event management: there needs to be a better structure to manage the workload. A possible solution could be a template document where expectations and clear communication channels are defined. All parties would use this to create easier ways of dividing responsibilities and comprehensive deadlines. The structure of the template can always be updated alongside the host. We will ask for feedback from members and previous hosts when the template is ready.

ASSITEJ International has become a co-producer of AAGs and World Congresses, mainly because we provide the digital infrastructure, but also due to funding and the coming together of the Association's activities.

ASSITEJ Online has developed and currently does everything that a standard event website does. Because of delayed decisions and missed deadlines, problems must be patched within short timelines, and we carry the burden. This also leads to much confusion in communication with our members.

Most of what goes into a website is content creation and people don't realize this or think that CBB and his team will solve it simply because it refers to the website.

In the events in Sweden and Serbia, there hasn't been enough time to attract online attendance, so we are investing too much time and money into something that won't reach a big audience.

- 2- Business operations: there is concern about the high levels of risk and potential for reputational damage. We currently do our best to patch legal frameworks and business functions but are in need of legal capacity support.

There is currently no staff time or capacity in terms of legal operations. We currently have a very limited insurance, and the organization and activities are growing so we need to make sure the frameworks keep up. There are legal pro bono companies that could help, but we also need to add any needed staff skills to the next EU application.



These challenges have been present during the last three events and although some of it comes down to workflow within the staff, they are really governance issues because of the significant impact they have on the direction of the organization.

CC shared that it is important to find sustainable governance, and this is one of the goals for the next EU application.

BS added that now the lack of time has become greater than the lack of money and we need to think of downsizing in terms of events and our website.

LM commented that in terms of looking into more staff, we need to make sure they are experienced in the roles we need. She added that wellness must also be a priority to avoid burnout.

LV mentioned that these are all consequences of a successful grant application, and now that the funders have seen our activities are important and we have proven our worth, we need to think of scaling down and placing more of our activities within the application.

RS shared that these are all comments he heard when he was part of the IDEA EC and has some suggestions he can share, but that this is endemic of an international volunteer organization.

LV stressed the idea of having only one AAG per term and working on a smaller regional development event. SG agreed and mentioned the AAGs have always been tough on the hosts, and we should also open the possibility to those who can't afford hosting a big festival.

PM said it could be interesting to have an idea of the level of costs in digital terms; this could help hosts let funders know how much ASSITEJ International is already offering.

CC mentioned the need to define the main goal of the application, besides money. Do we want that to be an added value to the whole sector or do we need to reinforce alliances with other sectors to make our presence more widely? Do we want to do it for children?

LV responded that the main purpose is for children to have access to quality performing arts and this requires different lines of activities.

7.2.2. Proxy to Roberto to investigate low-risk investment

VOTE:



Does the ASSITEJ EC agree to delegate to the Financial Officer the authority to make inquiries on financial investments on behalf of ASSITEJ International?

Unanimous vote in favour. (SG, LV, BS, SK, ER, YB, PU, JDK, SI, LM, MR)

8. Ratifications

8.1. Online votes

Votes that were previously made online:

- WLPG membership status change
- Next EC meeting location
- Dominican Republic application as an ASSITEJ Affiliate
- Two ASSITEJ public statements

Does the ASSITEJ EC agree to ratify all online votes made since the previous EC meeting?

Unanimous vote in favour. (SG, LV, BS, SK, ER, YB, PU, JDK, SI, LM, MR)

9. Updates from Working Groups

9.1. Communications

SK shared that the working group will talk with Gonzalo Moreno about ideas for the World Day campaign. The current plan is to have the video based on a poem and focused on Latin voices.

BS suggested asking children about the future and what they expect to see in theatre, their participation, and how they can contribute.

PM added to also think of theatre outside the stage, what happens on the street and in different communities, to include voices of those who experience theatre outside of the theatre. BS agreed that it is important to make the case that theatre is everywhere.

SG suggested thinking of ways to refresh the campaign and maybe change its name.

LV reminded everyone to think how and when this will be ready for National Centres and Networks to use, because it is the only way to create a big impact.

LM mentioned working on something focusing more on children's rights and what their ideal realities would look like; ways of being proactive through the



voices of young people. PM suggested connecting this to the research of the next EU application.

9.1.1. Writers of newsletter openers

MG will send out a document for people to choose the month of their openers. BS and PM will write for May before the World Congress.

YB suggested inviting other people to write alongside EC members, and LM added that they could also be children guest-writers.

9.2. ASSITEJ Online

ER shared that there had been two Coffee Sessions on different LGBTQ+ topics. It seems that having the same session at two different times has not been too useful, and having one but keeping the video on Facebook seems to have had more reach and interaction. People have asked for an open space to continue to discuss these topics and Vicky Ireland proposed IIAN as a possibility to create this space.

ER shared concerns about the next Coffee Session which is supposed to take place in December and be a conversation with the researchers, but there is no date yet.

BS suggested thinking of having something similar to a podcast or a webinar that is open to questions but doesn't necessarily need people to join a Zoom meeting.

9.3. Policies & Protocols

SG shared the working group had a short meeting to go over things and there is a lot of overlap between the work of the whole EC and all the projects.

10. Updates from Committees

10.1. Access

10.2. Sustainability

10.2.1. SHIFT

JH shared that the SHIFT workshop that took place in Brussels had been very helpful to hear how other networks have been finding solutions to similar struggles. She mentioned that the first audits for networks to get eco certificates have begun. For this, every network has a partner (ASSITEJ is partnered with



Opera Europa) to do a buddy peer review for each other's audit. Before this, each network must also conduct a self-review.

JH and ER presented a first draft of a sustainability policy that will be included on the ASSITEJ website. EC members gave feedback, and small edits were made to the document. There was discussion around the impact that less mobility can make without eliminating travel completely, but deciding if the event is important enough to attend.

LV brought up the idea of replicating SHIFT for National Centres and including this within the EU application. We could offer this as co-financing for more stable Centres since ASSITEJ would be offering the practical structures.

Does the ASSITEJ EC approve of the Sustainability Policy being presented on the website?

Unanimous vote in favour. (SG, LV, BS, SK, ER, YB, CC, LM)

11. Updates from ASSITEJ events

11.1. ASSITEJ World Congress

PM mentioned ITYARN had finalized the selection of papers and they selected 55 out of 70 applications. The network will be asking ASSITEJ Cuba to select the keynote speaker. The conferences will be in English, Spanish and Portuguese, but will have a mix of people so there is always a regional perspective.

LV informed there will be a final selection of the Professional Exchange Programme by the end of the year. He also shared that there is a proposal for the Next Generation Programme made by an alumnus, but it is still a work in progress and it seems difficult to fulfil.

11.2. Iberoamerican Network

Iberescena is creating a council of performing arts and would like ASSITEJ to be a part of it. They will have a panel during the Congress aiming at having a dialogue on public policy. LV mentioned that some Ministries have expressed interest in supporting selected performances and there has also been talk of them supporting strategic people who may be involved in forming new National Centres.



YB said it was important to meet with all of those involved in working on the Regional Workshop to coordinate. LV agreed and added they needed clarification on who can apply as well as who is organizing the workshops.

PM said there had been confusion within the network about the regional workshop because of conversations they had with Roberto Frabetti during the workshops in Brazil. There is a desire to include the whole Ibero American region in the call, rather than only the Caribbean and Central America because this is a great possibility for Ibero America to be present during a Congress in this region, which is rare. It is also very important for countries that have been working on the proposal for the workshop to be a part.

LV expressed that the EC is in charge of the project in the end and proposed adding some other South American countries to the list who are not yet engaged with ASSITEJ. He mentioned this is an imp way to connect with Iberescena who has already committed to send some people to Cuba.

SG added that there will be other ways to invite people to Cuba, like the strategic invitations and professional development opportunities.

11.3. ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2025

This Artistic Gathering will be on 24 – 29 March 2025 in Marseille, France.

ER shared that the board of ASSITEJ France is working on the opening and anniversary ceremonies, as well as an artistic moment that can be shared with the whole audience.

The open call for productions is being redacted and there is an interest to have productions that interact with young people. Another point of interest are small French-speaking countries that are usually poorly represented. The call will be launched at the beginning of December 2023 and will be open until mid-February 2024. There is a proposal for those international productions who are selected to also be able to present in other parts of France.

The open call for the Professional Exchange Programme will be launched in February to end the selection process in June 2024.

In terms of budget, the money received from the Ministry of Culture is much less than what was expected, so ASSITEJ France will look into private sponsors and write grant applications.

LV recommended starting work on the MOU soon to lay out expectations for both sides, and to think about the possibility of offering a smaller-sized Gathering. ER shared that the idea is to have fewer productions but with more performances so that people are able to see all shows and have discussions



about common experiences. One possibility is to have 20 shows (ten French and ten international).

12. Specific Items of Business

12.1. General Assembly

12.1.1. Timelines

Preliminary dates for the General Assembly are 27, 28, 29, and 31 May 2024 and it will take place at Hotel Nacional as a hybrid event. Members need to confirm their participation, either online or in person, three months before.

Calls for EC candidates and bids for upcoming AAGs and World Congress must go out three months prior (27 February), there is one month for feedback, and the agenda must be shared two months prior (27 March).

12.1.2. Current EC members standing again

Most EC members shared that three years are only enough to begin understanding how everything works.

EC members who expressed interest in running for the next term were LM, BS, PM, LV, SG, ER, and YB.

SK shared that ASSITEJ Korea will definitely have a candidate, but he is not sure if he will stand again due to the workload with his current job.

SG said that clear expectations must be set for all those who will be applying as candidates.

12.1.3. Bids

SG reminded everyone that EC job descriptions and descriptions for the events must be updated previously, especially if it is decided to have only one AAG and a smaller event aimed towards regional development.

LV shared that there is currently not enough staff capacity and resources to maintain AAGs as they have been and it would be good to think of scaling down. He mentioned looking into the budget to see if there is a possibility to support the host more. LV will work on a draft for a regional event.

SK shared that ASSITEJ Korea is currently interested in bidding for an AAG rather than a World Congress because their current President will leave in 2026 so it would no longer fit her agenda.

13. Next EU Network application



SG went over the [EU Networks Call document](#), focusing on priorities and cross-cutting issues.

The EC worked around how to word things and how to place current projects and activities, breaking them down into the different priorities to see where they fit best.

CC asked to find a way to share the findings and best practices from our activities with professionals.

BS added that it would be important to finance access or help members in this regard because cultural access for all children is only possible if it is free; maybe asking for funds to purchase tickets for children.

CC suggested adding this within a section for fundraising.

BS also asked if there could be an item asking that National Centres that have a representative in the EC receive funding for that term.

LV mentioned that funding for the EC could speak to representativity and having encounters with members.

14. ASSITEJ Awards

14.1. ASSITEJ International Inspirational Playwrights Award

WLPG sent through their proposal for their award and SG read through the document.

The award was approved with a few suggestions for edits on wording.

14.2. ASSITEJ International Lifetime Achievement Award

14.3. ASSITEJ International Artistic Excellence Award

PM shared that the committee thought about having five awards for different categories that include all regions. The group is still looking for a new name for the award.

LV mentioned there needs to be more work around wording the nomination process correctly to inspire people and make it clear.

ER suggested having a procedure where members can apply for the award and the National Centre selects and sends their selection to ASSITEJ International.

LV added that it can be a template that the Centres share. This is a way to keep them engaged, but also make it simpler for Centres to disseminate and avoid gatekeeping.



SG shared that Yvette Hardie is interested in being part of the process to reframe this award.

14.4. Valeria Frabetti Award (Small Size)

SG talked with Roberto Frabetti and mentioned the EC would like this to be a network award. Roberto said there could be a special edition of the Valeria Frabetti Award on the year of the Congress, where either he or Bruno Frabetti would be involved.

Roberto will take this to Small Size and the network will then make a proposal to ASSITEJ International.

14.5. Geesche Wartemann Emerging Scholars Award

ITYARN has already launched the open call for this award.

15. ASSITEJ Research *(held as an open EC meeting)*

15.1. Meeting the researchers

15.2. Brainstorming around next steps

LV explained that the research project so far has been a pilot phase but asked the present researchers to think about how this would move forward if it were to be a part of the next EU application.

KF explained that Stream 5 is about the Value of TYA, and their job is to collate and synthesize evidence that exists on the impact of TYA and what we do well to use that info to advocate for our work. They will also be producing a systematic literature review that provides an evidence gap map. She shared that she and MA are doing systematic mapping and collating, which will lead to information on where there are gaps in their knowledge and where there is disconnection in the missing evidence. This can help to focus more on identifying projects and collecting more data.

MA added that this phase has been useful in learning how research can interact with institutions. He shared that the current budget in this project is about 10% of what it would usually cost. He mentioned that moving forward it would be great to have an established person that could integrate the research and work with the researchers within ASSITEJ.

KF explained the methodology of this stream that has looked at what scholarly data already exists, with data from young people themselves and collecting grey literature from theatre companies around the world that haven't necessarily been published.



TM said one of the things that would be good to put in place is a software package that becomes standardized so the data is updated (CRM system). CBB shared that he and LC looked into *Tableau*, which could be a way to integrate with the member database.

LM expressed that it would be good to look at how we are using this to mobilize children and having child-friendly versions of the research.

RS agreed that a challenge is to find ways to disseminate that connect with the intended audience; the output is just as important as the research itself.

LC shared ideas that could be developed in a long-term project with more investment. The first idea is full implementation of best practices for collecting existing admin data from theatres and organisations and a systematic way of doing it internally within ASSITEJ. This should be within a dashboard environment or online searchable platform. She shared there could also be organisational support from UNESCO to develop something around monitoring and tracking of implementation.

LV asked for ideas on how to communicate the information ASSITEJ will receive and how to make it interesting for people.

KF shared that she and MA registered the research with Campbell Collaboration and it will be available through them. She also suggested that ASSITEJ look into obtaining a licence for EPI Review, which is a program that provides graphs and visualizations of the research findings. KF mentioned a brochure or 2-pager is one of the best and simplest ways to share the information and an easy way to share with funders. MA added it is likely they will come up with ten strong claims or something digestible for people who work in the sector and will also link it to professional learning for members.

SB mentioned that a good way to share with young people is to have animations or graphic novels.

LM suggested thinking of how we can use the research to say that when ASSITEJ speaks, it truly is aligning itself with children.

PG explained that Stream 4 is about how the youngest audience (0-4) is perceived and is connected to Small Size. They are building research in connection with advocacy practice, where the topic is about children as agents in theatre practice and the small child as a partner in social relations. He mentioned that the main audience for their outputs is the sector, especially the audience and professionals.

PM mentioned that the next project budget requires an allocation for the dissemination of the pilot projects in addition to the budget for new research. VI asked to think of an access budget since the very beginning as well.

PM shared preoccupation about how this can be interesting and spread to other parts of the world. How can we dialogue and try to improve? How can the methodology be a deliverable for others to collaborate? How can we think about things we can project in the next application to collaborate and improve these deliverables?

RS added that for future funding applications, the impact of the research is something ASSITEJ will want to show. One way is through the outputs of the research. He supported the idea of having a research coordinator and said there is a difference between administering and leading research.

LV asked if this person could be combined with having a policy recommendation role as well? It will be unlikely we can hire too many people, so it would be ideal to hire someone that can hold both roles. RS said it could be covered by the same person, someone with research expertise. On a more functional level, that person would liaise at a research level with various projects and would oversee those projects, suggest outputs and communicate between projects.

LM added that this new role is speaking about being proactive towards ethics of care because the current staff already do so much.

LV talked about a collective effort needed to obtain a greater research budget because there are also other priorities to do as a network. We need to make the EU see what we are doing and what the potentials are so they see new pockets of money can be opened.

TM said the focus needs to be on the core budget and enabling the mechanism of researchers. We could problem-mark and put together calls for project teams around specific themes.

SB mentioned that all researchers are in countries that fund research under their terms. She brought up the possibility of making one academic bid and submitting it to the different councils to see if we get one. Writing those bids for research councils takes much time, but it could be done collectively. TM added that the key for the EU is impact, and because we have an organisation that will immediately use it and has demonstrated need, we have already trialled it. We can draw all of that in, and would be a very strong bid.

PG added that ASSITEJ could think about the Horizon Europe project, dedicated to culture; and can gather around academic institutions as partners for a research project.

MA suggested keeping current researchers and also encouraging teams to bring on early career researchers to create a succession plan.

SB also mentioned that it might be worth applying for a CDA PhD. In this case the candidate works in partnership with an organisation to research something about them that's useful in the wider field, and it's possible to apply for full funding for a student to do that. This will end in two years, so we would have to move quickly because the application process takes about a year. This would fund a researcher to embed in a PhD that partners with ASSITEJ. We could possibly take an international student if they were based within the UK alongside a specific supervisor.

16. Meetings with members

16.1. Meeting Perform Czech

SG shared that she met previously with LV, YB, MPC, LH, ZJ to talk about working together. They will host an EC meeting in September 2024 and we wanted to talk about ideas of working in cooperation for the next application.

MPC explained that Perform Czech is one department of the Institute of Arts and Theatre, a state body established by the Ministry of Culture. The aim is to network and support the professional growth of cultural operators, artists, managers, etc. in performing arts. Her department is coordinating five National Centres of international organisations (UNIMA, OISTAT, ITI, AICT, ASSITEJ). Each of these are independent organisations and Perform Czech provides basic support in the organisation and activities they have. ASSITEJ Czechia is an NGO, so they are able to apply for funding, but on a smaller scale. The focal point of community meeting is the ASSITEJ Czechia festival and it has international outreach. Perform Czech organises Theatre Night in which 90 theatre organisations in the country participate and has 30-40,000 visitors; this includes many programmes for children and young people. They would like to match with partners and sponsors to collect funds and take them to disadvantaged audiences.

In terms of mobility, MPC mentioned that other networks usually have funds for gatherings of members. She asked what the mechanism within ASSITEJ is and who are the people who can be supported. In the context of the current state of international cooperation in other networks, regional collaborations are

very much discussed due to sustainability role. MPC asked if there are projects within ASSITEJ related to regional collaborations and exchanges.

SG explained that the regional workshops/Babel project is of particular interest, and very successful, as well as Next Generation residencies bringing artists from around the world and locals together. She also mentioned the possibility of strategic invitations where ASSITEJ identifies people who should be brought closer to the association for different reasons.

JH mentioned that ASSITEJ is currently part of the SHIFT eco-certification that could be interesting to them in terms of rural touring.

MPC shared that in the previous meeting, they spoke about the research of fairy tales, that ZJ is working on, as well of creating toolkits for professionals who might be interested in learning about access and how to get started.

ZJ shared that the fairy tale research is an exploration into artistic content, tales touching taboo sections and how they vary in different places. Nowadays, the use of fairy tales is different and it's interesting to discuss what the details of fairy tales mean in different parts of the world.

SG asked ASSITEJ Czechia what their current needs are.

LH shared that the centre has a lot of quantitative research, but they are missing information on how theatre is perceived by young audiences. Qualitative research should be done by experts from theatre and art therapy psychologists; the answers they'd like to get are mainly how kids perceive theatre and how perception changes in diverse age groups, as well as differences given by diverse cultural contexts. A proposal for research would be to understand communication codes used in TYA, what codes are used and understood by young audiences, and the research of topics that are brought to young audiences and how they differ. The data collected is usually related to a particular performance only, and there is no data from other cultural contexts. Qualitative research would be very beneficiary for groups serving young audiences.

LH questioned if we are sure kids understand what we are communicating. This question would be a helpful tool to verify if and how they understand. Sometimes young audiences appreciate performances because they see adults playing and dedicating their time to them. This might be stronger than the true role of theatre and a possible catharsis that can be lived through audiences; theatre becomes a leisure time activity. If we understand the difference between the intention of creators and the perception of the

audience, we can understand if the role of theatre is more educative or entertaining in different contexts.

JH asked whether it would be more interesting to create data in scientific terms or for artists to get more in touch and be more trained to include young people and make them part of the creation, including what they really want to see. ZJ confirmed it was the latter.

LV asked how all of this would inform their artistic practice.

LH responded that the main impact of theatre is when a child is able to identify with what is seen on stage and lives something without real consequences. The result of the research shouldn't be a recipe but just a way to understand the role of theatre better and its perception. Each project is based on the personal understanding and intuition of each artist, but to have some data that might help to understand the context would be helpful.

SG said this could be a topic for future gatherings or regional workshops that can be shared with the global association.

LV added that ASSITEJ networks generally ask if we can help them create meeting points; one option would be to have mobility support around networks. If it works, one meeting point could be at the Quadrennial, that could be an exchange possibility.

16.2. ASSITEJ Professional Networks

16.2.1. Short update from each network

16.2.2. How can ASSITEJ support the networks and vice versa

Next Generation:

The network went over their [report](#).

Participants from the residency in Serbia expressed interest in being in touch with those developing the residency in Cuba so that they can be connected and shared that language is a big challenge. The network asked about the possibility of being included in the selection of participants in the residencies. LV said the EC would have to decide that, but it could be possible, and he mentioned that the participating alumni are chosen by the previous host.

MR shared that for the AAG 2023 it was a collaboration with the network, the festival and the EC and that worked very nicely.

BS added that we need to be flexible in terms of language and the levels of English spoken in the group. There are many times groups formed for specific languages and one person who can translate, and there are many ways to work around language.



CC said that we need to think of ways of reaching people who aren't English speakers because this is an international organisation, and should look at all the ways to include talented artists. Maybe the call can ask what language each participant is comfortable with and if they are willing to be translators.

MR added that she was in touch with Dorian from Cuba, in charge of the programme, and he will be sending over a proposal and the network will set a meeting in December with them.

LV suggested looking over some of the proposals that Dorian has already sent over to be able to make decisions.

YDN offered to collaborate in sharing the call within the dance world that is not always very connected with ASSITEJ.

AN asked if there was any control regarding name usage of Next Generation by ASSITEJ International, and LV said that has not happened so far and it's just important to have communication so that people know when it is a programme done by ASSITEJ International and when it is not our responsibility.

IIAN:

VI shared that as a group they have a professional rider, where people write down what their disability is and how they'd like it to be treated, and then this is circulated in events they will attend.

One of the network's biggest issues currently is getting a bank account since they have no funds. This has not allowed them to start a paying membership.

YDN suggested having members who can lobby with organisations for different events and collect money in private bank accounts.

LV added that ASSITEJ may be able to help with that at some point because it would be useful for many networks. It is a complicated situation because of the Italian bureaucracy.

GM shared that they are working on projects for Cuba and in terms of linguistic diversity, are doing their best to move away from English.

GM mentioned that IIAN was looking for board members.

VI added that the network has a scheme called Champions, where they ask each country within ASSITEJ to propose a disability champion to be in touch and share news.

PU shared that Nigeria's champion brings awareness to everyone and has been great help to be connected with what IIAN is doing.



GM shared the network has an online toolkit that is now available.

Young Dance Network (YDN):

AZ shared that YDN has now had open membership for one year, and they currently have 52 members from 25 countries. The network has facilitated activities in different local scenes to develop awareness and empowerment among professionals.

AZ went over the [report for the network](#).

He asked if the network could be a part of the selection process for projects like Babel, where they are asked for help in sending candidates.

They also asked to try and have more dancers participate in Next Generation projects.

YDN had their general assembly during the AAG 2023. They will have elections next year and are looking at how to shape their election process; they will be elected during the ASSITEJ World Congress. AZ asked about possibilities to help with a hybrid session, and LV said ASSITEJ may be able to collaborate with information, but then the network will have to run it by itself.

SF asked to think of ways to bring networks and National Centres together and asked about the progress of the Networks Toolkit. JH responded that the networks are the ones who need to create the toolkit because they know what they need. JH also mentioned that after the Umbrella Sessions for networks, the group shared a document with questions that came out of the sessions. BS added that ASSITEJ is creating guidelines of how professional networks should work.

GM asked that for any toolkit or future communications that people try to write in a nonbinary manner and not with only female and male pronouns.

Small Size:

KM and AS went over the [report for the network](#).

They shared that general participation has gone down in the last few years, mainly because of COVID-19. Newcomers are usually very active at the beginning, so there is an investment they make in taking part in events. Small Size now has a stronger basis in Latin America, which is very active and have created a Latin American network called Red Vincular, SG shared there is also interest from a possible Asian network in joining.

AS shared that there is an agreement within the network for individual companies who are members, that decide to do activities with other members, so they can use their membership fee towards these activities.



KM talked about the activities that took place during the AAG 2023. The Masterclass had participation from 10 people on its first day and 22 on its second day; the recordings will be available through the Small Size Virtual House. She explained that Virtual House is a space intended to house information and act as a meeting place.

AS mentioned that being part of the EU project gave Small Size the possibility to go in-depth in many parts of their work and brought them out of a routine because it gave them tasks and opportunities to imagine what they do in a wider way.

In terms of moving forward, the network expressed they are interested in obtaining support for special projects, mobility during residencies, and widening the research work.

JH shared that other networks expressed interest in meeting more as networks, as a sequel to Umbrella Sessions, that ASSITEJ could provide the Zoom platform to communicate and support each other more frequently. She suggested encouraging Centres that when they are looking for expertise, they go through the networks.

WL.PG:

GM explained that the network provides a clear instant benefit to their members which is a community and a platform for sharing their work, as well as a number of collaborative events. The networks is working on several plans towards Cuba. She mentioned they have a strong leadership team but are always looking for more members. GM expressed the importance of having a conversation about where playwrights fit in the TYA environment.

For the AAG 2023, they held a very successful event with seven online playwrights and three in person, where everyone performed their work in their own language; they have English translation available to share.

The network is interested in having a library of plays, a resource where people could find summaries of plays to see if they'd be interested in them.

LV mentioned there are several common challenges within the networks like having bank accounts, legal structure, communications material, a campaign towards National Centres so they can see networks as an asset, digital visibility, having a toolkit, and a designated space to meet.



BS suggested having online meetings where everyone can bring questions and information is shared between networks that is relevant for them.

AZ asked for guidelines on how the networks can be more engaged with the association as a whole and how to engage more with other professionals. BS explained that networks are also included within the EC and there is always open communication.

17. Next EC meetings

17.1. Dates online, in Cuba & Czech Republic

Online meetings are scheduled for 30 & 31 January and 2, 3 & 23 April 2024.

World Congress- Cuba arrival date will be 21 May, and departure date for those EC members not standing again will be 2 June, and for those who stay onwards will be 3 June.

EC meeting in Prague will take place from 28 September - 2 October.

AAG 2025 – dates are 23 – 29 March 2025, EC arrival date will be on 21 March to meet on the 22nd.

18. Representation of ASSITEJ at upcoming Events

SK at K-PANY in January 2024 (possibility of Internationalise Your Practice session).

LM at NAF in June 2024 and International Playback Theatre Network in December 2023.

BS at Stockholm Dance showcase in December 2023, Purple Festival in January 2024 (possibility of Internationalise Your Practice session), Biennale of Universities of Dance in Munich, New Zealand Market in March 2024, and Krokusfestival in February 2024.

YB at Festival Visioni in March 2024, Aprilfestival in April 2024, Krokusfestival in February 2024, and LUTKE in September 2024.

LV at European Network session at beginning of 2024.



CC at several Chain Reaction meetings throughout the year (possibilities of Internationalise Your Practice sessions), trying to fix a meeting with SI and Asian Network to connect them with Europeans in Chain Reaction.

LV suggested the Secretariat work on a package for EC members to be able to use and promote the World Congress wherever they go.

19. Memberships and Member requests

The Ibero American Network has a request for the EC to meet with all regional networks a few times a year. LV suggested the Networks working group look into this and have it maximum once a year; he also shared that the Umbrella Sessions exist for this purpose, but the network doesn't usually join. PM explained that this was mainly due to a language complication. LV suggested engaging in regional and linguistic sessions, with the possibility of the different networks hosting sessions and EC members attending.

JH shared that she and SI had a meeting with a company from Bangladesh that is interested in becoming an affiliate.

BS shared that the Dominican Republic and Colombia are working towards becoming National Centres.

LM shared that Botswana has been in conversations to work towards forming a National Centre.

20. Final reports from the Working Groups

Communications:

SK met with Gonzalo Moreno, who shared that Centres should be more connected to the World Day campaign so that all members are campaigning together and it's not just top-down distributing material. Another suggestion was adding World Day to Wikipedia, where Centres can then add the information in their own languages.

SK shared that the logo update will be finished by the end of December to begin sharing.

In terms of the video, JH returned to LM's idea of "a world fit for us", where children talk about the world they dream about and how to connect it with the current slogan or if the slogan must change. One idea was "Take a child to the theatre to dream of a better world fit for children".

CC suggested looking into the activities that Centres around the world are already doing and sharing links to show the global impact of the campaign. JH suggested sharing any of the information we have from last year and collecting new material from Centres that are having activities.

LV mentioned there is huge potential when you see what people are doing, and a real possibility to do a global movement. However, he expressed we need another level of resources and possibly a staff member that can work on this with months in advance.

JH brought up the idea of beginning on 20 November to link the campaign to children's rights and doing something on the 20th of every month to build up expectations. There was some discussion about whether this makes the activity less special because it is not only one day, and that it would imply too many resources.

SG suggested not making too many changes to the campaign for now and keeping it simple. One priority is to focus on access for now.

SK asked to have SG's message by mid-December.

Policies and Protocols:

SG read the new [policy on making public statements](#).

The EC suggested small changes in wording.

There was not enough quorum to vote, so the vote and approval for this policy will happen online.

SG said the Child Protection Policy would also be shared via a link later on and the EC will be asked to vote and approve online.

Awards:

There was discussion on how and when to share the awards, if changes will be happening to the Artistic Excellence Award.

SG agreed to send communication to the Eek family to make a proposal about the changes and rationale and ask if they would consider increasing the amount to support five projects.

JH suggested sharing the other awards and letting members know that changes will be happening.



JH mentioned the idea is to not only award practitioners, so saying “artistic” won't work anymore. In terms of names, the group favours “Spotlight Award”.

For the Lifetime Achievement Award, BS mentioned that the idea is to now have three awards (one per continent) and to keep it about the legacy of a lifetime. There are still things to work on regarding nomination process and accessibility.

21. Any other Business

21.1. Babel

YB shared that the first round is almost complete. There were some complications with Next Generation participants who received grants and weren't able to attend. There have been four workshops out of six so far. There is the upcoming one in Cuba and the other was supposed to be Uzbekistan but that won't be happening anymore, so there is an opening for another partner (possibilities are Mongolia and Pakistan). Ideally, this final workshop would happen before the end of 2024 but it could be anytime before June 2025 when the project ends.

BS suggested looking at festivals in New Zealand and mentioned the First Nations Festival in March.

LV mentioned that originally the idea of this project was that it could help support the Secretariat and to link projects. He mentioned the possibility of including MG more in the process and exploring the budget for this.

21.2. Increasing EC members

SG explained that if the numbers of EC members want to be increased, there must be a change in the Constitution that must happen before the candidate speeches in the next Congress. There is also the possibility to add more counsellors at the discretion of the EC.

BS added that we could focus on bringing counsellors with the specific expertise needed. JH agreed that this would let the EC choose what is really needed for the work being done.

The group discussed the implications this would bring like a change in dynamics, travel, sustainability, and more spending.

LM expressed that the presence of the secretariat that gets to be paid has interesting and positive feedback in that what could happen is that the EC could remain a visionary board, and some points would have to be implemented by



the secretariat. In terms of doing, the EC could be elevated to the extent that it doesn't implement the ideas.

BS added that the EC could do much better with less work, more time, or more people because we are currently sacrificing mental and health stability. The job of EC members needs to be better defined, and participation in on-ground events should be of 90% of the EC in person because of all the work and expectations.

PM said that the sensation that association has changed a lot, and international networks have increased, as well as regional networks. We are increasing points of view, and it is important that the EC can have that in an association that is increasing and changing. Does 15 reflect the current association?

JH expressed she was in favour of having two more EC members and two more counsellors. This would raise the power of election members and also of the EC. We need more people not only to do more work but to have more connections with more Centres and networks.

LV shared that if we are more, we can come back to the working structure from previous terms when you work with the same group always and the work could be more manageable so people could focus on specific tasks. There wouldn't be a difference in being two more people in terms of travel, because they will still be contributing. When the EC is all together we suddenly all are on the same page and can work much better. It is important to have the online possibility but also important to be together as a group to have unity and understanding that you don't get online.

SG stressed that what really matters is the work culture and that no matter the number of people, they all actually do the work. We need to be able to make sure there is an expectation around the appointment. Maybe the idea of defining people's jobs is good because that would give people responsibility for what they have to do.

22. Closure & thanks