

From small group to a Wikimedia Chapter

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Affiliations Committee

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Disclaimer

- Currently I'm non-voting advisor within the Affiliations Committee (earlier I served as a full voting member) having access to its internal discussions and participating some of them.
- All statements during this talk represent **my own personal** opinion and experience and they are based on public information.
- **Nothing** in this presentation should be deemed as an official position of the AffCom unless the position is expressed elsewhere.

Affiliation models

- Chapters
- Thematic Organizations
- User Groups
- Movement Partners

Chapters

- Optimized by **jurisdictions**
- General capacity within the jurisdiction
- The Wikimedia Movement servants
- Chapters gather people who are interested in achieving the Movement goals in general

Chapters' requirements and rights

- Mission: general, like WMF
- Territory: national / subnational
- Incorporation: obligatory, non-profits preferred
- Viability: experience, 20+ persons
- Rights: TMs, recognition as representatives of the Movement
- Power: select two board members, influence decisions during WM conf
- WMF grants: simplified access, including infrastructure grants, fundraising processing

Chapters' duties

- Activity: high
- Reporting: yearly+
- Accountability: strictest
- Within the territory: support **all** community projects in **all** languages, serve user groups and thematic organizations, fundraising coordination (including translation), PR/media, responsibly represent the Movement

Thematic Organization

- Optimized by **purposes**
- Thematic capacity, possibly trans-jurisdictional
- Thematic organizations gather people with some specific area of interests

ThOrgs' requirements and rights

- Mission: like WMF, but regards to a specified thematic field or focus area
- Viability: experience, 20+ persons
- Territory: variable, from regional to global
- Incorporation: obligatory, in any jurisdiction
- Rights: TM within the focus, representatives of the Movement within the focus

ThOrgs' duties

- Activity: high
- Reporting: yearly
- Accountability: strict
- Within the focus: support all community projects in all languages, fundraising coordination, PR/media, responsibly represent the Movement
- WMF grants: simplified access, including infrastructure grants

User groups

- Optimized by flexibility and simplicity
- Absolutely universal structure; maybe used for:
 - Limited users groups that don't need more official legal status at all
 - Maturing skills before forming a formal Chapter
 - Maturing skills before forming a formal ThOrg

UGs requirements and rights

- Mission: variable, matching with WMF
- Territory: variable
- Incorporation: any
- Rights: limited TMs, simplified access to grants
- Duties: activity, transparent reporting, cooperation

Movement Partners

- Missions: variable, somewhat aligned with WMF
- Examples: Mozilla, Creative Commons, Ассоциация пользователей Интернета (Internet Users Association)

Chapter Entity Development

- User Group
- Some Activity
- Transformation into a Chapter
- Accountability, being able to receive grants from WMF direction
- Establishing a strong position, being able to receive grants from FDC
- Establishing a strongest position, being able to process payments

Recomendations

- Cooperation — UGs should not be deemed as competitors
- Communications — communicate to the respective community
- Reporting — it's not just a legal obligation, but a way to share your experience and to cooperate with other entities
- Spendings — spend wisely, otherwise you compromise other Chapters, the Movement
- Transition (volunteers-only → professional) — only when it is really necessary

Thanks!

- **Please write you questions in written notes**, so you will get more precise answer
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