

# A small journey into Wikimedia International



Delphine Ménard  
Longtime Wikimedian

# Longtime Wikimedian

---

- Delphine Ménard, aka notafish
  - Arrived in Wikipedia in 2004 (October)
  - Admin on the French Wikipedia 3 months later
  - Fan of Commons (a somewhat dormant admin there)
  - Organized the 1<sup>st</sup> , 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wikimanias (Frankfurt – Germany, Cambridge – USA, Alexandria – Egypt)
  - Chapters Coordinator for the Foundation 2005-2008 (as volunteer, and as staff)
  - Treasurer of Wikimedia France in 2006 and 2009
  - Board member of Wikimedia Deutschland 2010-2013
  - Advisor to the Chapters Committee
  - Community elected FDC member 2013-2015

# Things you should keep in mind

---

## □ Conscious bias

- I am a woman
- I am a geek
- I was an editor (but I wrote my last article a few months ago)
- I am not an American
- but I am still "from the Global North"
- I think that Wikimedia only works if it fosters and leverages differences
- I wouldn't have invested 10+ years of my life in the organisation if I didn't think it rocked and was worth the time.

# Why this session?

---

- Britta\*'s words about the History of Wikipedia: If we don't think of Wikipedia as having a specific context and history, we won't be able to think about Wikipedia in a way that actually makes sense.
- Collective history
- Institutional memory
- Context is key

\*who, if I have counted well, has spent more of her life on Wikipedia than not on Wikipedia

# Hop on the train!

---

- The train has been going for 15 years now (13 if you count only the "institutional memory")
- We can't stop the train, but we can make it easier to have people be part of the journey

# A bit of history

---

- The Wikimedia Foundation
- The Wikimedia Affiliates

# A bit of History

---

- First, Jimmy (and Larry) and dozens of not-yet-called-wikipedians made Wikipedia



# A bit of History

---

- And Jimmy looked at it



- And he saw that Wikipedia was good.  
But...



# The Wikimedia Foundation

## Beginnings

---

- 2002/2003?: First fundraising action to finance the servers, those from Bomis were not sufficient any more.
- First question: Where should the money go?
- Wikimedia Foundation founded in Florida, as a recipient for funds.
  - Board: 2 trustees from Jimmy's entourage, 2 Trustees from the community, Jimmy

# The Wikimedia Foundation

## What?

---

- ❑ American Foundation (non-profit 501c3)
- ❑ Non membership organisation (although it started as one)
- ❑ Board of 10 people
  - 3 community elected seats
  - 2 chapters selected board seats
  - 4 appointed seats
  - 1 founder seat

# The Wikimedia Foundation

## 2004-2006

---

- Foundation has no dedicated staff.
- April 2005: Habemus Papam
  - first realization of how important Wikipedia might be
- 2006: First employee, and then first Executive Director for the Foundation, who was also the General Counsel

# The Wikimedia Foundation

## 2007-2009

---

- ❑ 2007 - Reorganisation of the Foundation: Second executive Director
- ❑ Move to San Francisco
- ❑ 2009: Start of the strategic planning process
- ❑ 2010: Introduction of the first C-levels (structuration)

# The Wikimedia Foundation

## 2010-today

---

- 2012: Creation of the FDC
- 2012: Narrowing focus
  - Focus on grants vs specific programs (India/Brazil)
  - Focus on technology
- 2014: 3rd Executive director
- Growing pains
- 2016: Interim Executive director
- 70 million USD budget
- 200+ staff

# Wikimedia affiliates

---

- History
- Chapters
- Thematic organisations
- User Groups

# Wikimedia affiliates

## History

---

- 06-2004      Wikimedia Deutschland is founded
- 02-2006      Chapters Committee
- 2010/11      Movement roles project
- 08-2011      Wikimedia Foundation Board of Trustees letter regarding fundraising accountability (“Haifa letter”) - fundraising will be limited to a few countries
- 03-2012      New models of affiliations
- 05-2012      Creation of the FDC
- 2012-2013    Chapters association starts and ends
- 02-2013      Governance Review process of Wikimedia UK
- 11-2013      Board decision regarding FDC freeze and Chapter moratorium
- Up to today: fine tuning in affiliation process

# Wikimedia affiliates

## What is a chapter?

---

- ❑ Association (legally registered)
- ❑ Acting in a specific geography
- ❑ Mission: Develop, support, bring forward... free knowledge
- ❑ Support the Wikimedia Projects
- ❑ 41 chapters today



# Wikimedia affiliates

## Who are the Chapters?

---

- Members associations
  - between 35000 members and ?
- Budgets between 8 million € and ?
- Few chapters with staff
- Various degrees of activities but mainly
  - Contributor support (workshops, material, etc.)
  - GLAM
  - Outreach events and programmes
  - PR
  - ...{insert here what you do}

# Wikimedia affiliates

## Evolution of the chapters

---

- June 2004: Wikimedia Deutschland
  - need for a frame for PR work, Fundraising options for Germany
- October 2004: Wikimedia France
  - Great debate about Wikimedia French vs Wikimedia France
  - need for a frame for PR work, Fundraising options, Partnerships and politics (need for a legal framework to work efficiently)
- 2005: Wikimedia Italia, Polska, Serbia
- 2006: Chapters Committee – now affiliations committee

# Wikimedia affiliates

## Chapters 2005-2016

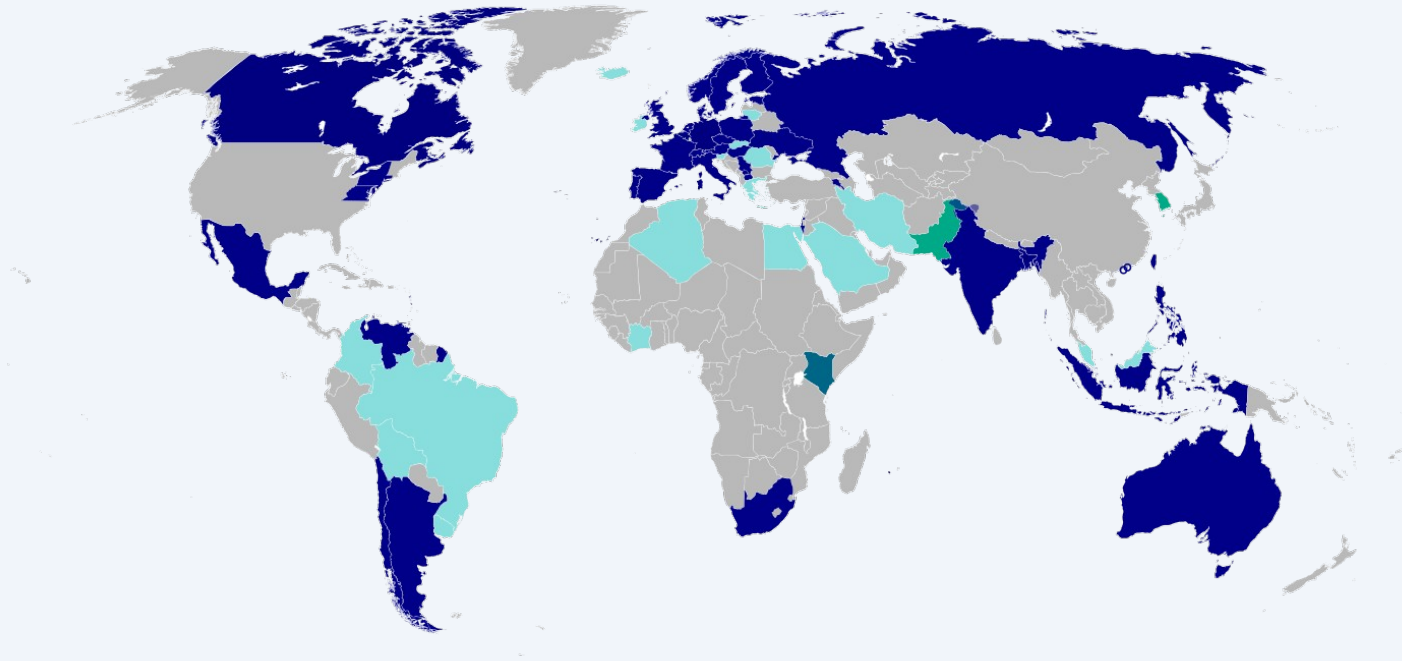
---

- ❑ First chapters had no real process to become a chapter
  - Trademark agreements and commercial deals (WMDE, WMFR, WMPL)
  - Fundraising has always been a complicated issue
- ❑ Chapters Committee in 2006
  - Guidelines and requirements to become a chapter
- ❑ Fundraising and trademark conversations
- ❑ 2013 Moratorium on chapter creation
  - Last chapter created Wikimedia Belgium

# Wikimedia affiliates chapters today

---

- ▣ 41 chapters



# Wikimedia affiliates

## What are thematic organisations?

---

- independent non-profit organizations founded to support and promote the Wikimedia projects within a specified focal area
- Legal structure
- 1 today: Amical Wikimedia

# Wikimedia affiliates

## User Groups

---

- ❑ Wikimedia user groups are simple and flexible affiliates
- ❑ They are meant to empower and engage people around the world to collect and develop educational content under a free license or in the public domain, and to disseminate it effectively and globally.
- ❑ Trademark usage
- ❑ Millions of ideas and activities

# Wikimedia culture

---

- ❑ Wikimedia tools (to do good)
- ❑ Wikimedia conferences
- ❑ Thematic organisations
- ❑ User Groups

# Wikimedia tools

## Grants & Co

---

- Wikimedia Foundation + affiliates
  - Annual Plan Grants (+simple)
  - Project and Event Grants
  - Individual Engagement grants
  - Micro-grants
  - Learning patters



# Wikimedia conferences

## Wikimania / Wikimedia Conference

---

- Wikimedia Conference
  - Organisational conference
  - exclusive focus on organisational issues
  - Invitation-only conference
- Wikimania
  - The general conference about Wikimedia projects
  - open to all (editors, researchers, academics, journalists etc.)
- Regional conferences
- Thematic conferences
- Hackathon

# Never forget

---

- ❑ Wikimedia is not that different from other organisations...
- ❑ But then it is
- ❑ Wikimedia is made of people...
- ❑ ...who share and want to share, and should share and exchange
- ❑ Never forget where you come from. It's so easy to forget.

# MERCI !

---

- ▣ [delphine@notafish.org](mailto:delphine@notafish.org)