

A small journey into Wikimedia International



Delphine Ménard
Longtime Wikimedian
Wikimedia Conference, April 2016

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 1st , 2nd and 4th 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

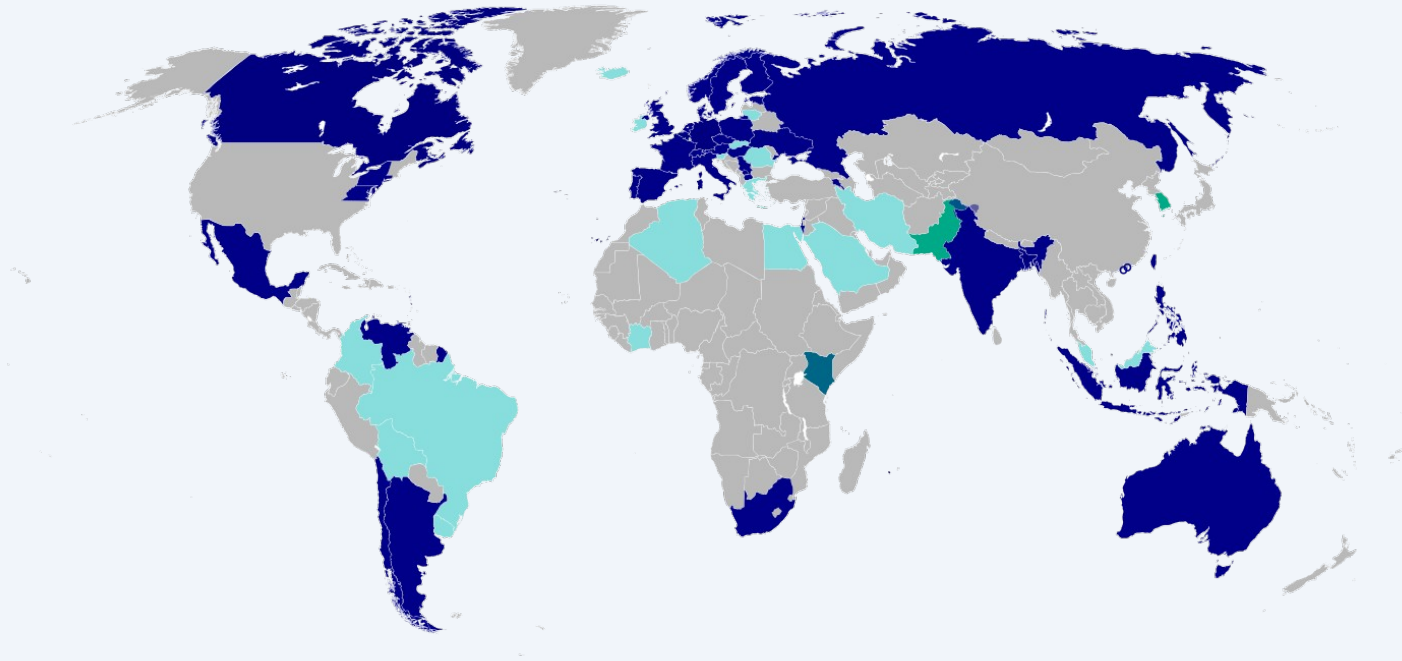
Wikimedia affiliates

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 !

- You can contact me at delphine@notafish.org

- This presentation is under a CC-0 licence
<https://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/>