

ITI info for the network



News for Centres, Cooperating Members, Committees and Friends
of the International Theatre Institute ITI

Issue 3 / January 2010



Dear Colleagues, dear Friends,

Since August 2008 the ITI Strategic Plan Working Group and its sub-groups, as well as the Executive Council and the office-bearers of the Committees, have been working hard to modernize the rules and guidelines of our organization.

Following the ITI core value of transparency, these rules are available for all members of ITI worldwide and also for those who want to open a new Centre. We are sending them to you with the ITI NEWS 97 but you can also download them from the ITI website or ask for them over email.

They are for use by all - in order to strengthen our organization, the ITI.

Best regards,
Tobias Biancone, General Secretary ITI
iti@iti-worldwide.org / www.iti-worldwide.org

The New ITI Strategic Plan

During the 126th Executive Council Session in Seoul, May 2008, EC member and Director of the US ITI-Centre, Emily Cachapero, suggested that the EC should work on a new strategic plan. This motion was approved and the members of the Council began work on the ITI Strategic Plan with the aim of strengthening the organization and adapting it to the needs of the current performing arts community. This overview is designed to inform you of the work undertaken so far and of the ITI's current standing.

History of the ITI Strategic Plan

Different initiatives have been taken in the past, all with the good intention to change and modernize the organization. In the recent past the EC decided in Wiesbaden in May 2005 to work on overall strategies. Finances, structure, artistic values and visibility were discussed in small working groups. As a result of this work rules for the Theatre of Nations Festival in Nanjing (China) and the appointment of World Theatre Ambassadors evolved. Also some financial rescue action resulted out of that session. The creation of the first brochure about the ITI was part of that initiative as well.

The ITI Strategic Plan Working Group

After the Seoul session of the EC, a Working Group consisting of the EC members Raija-Sinikka Rantala, Christina Babou-Pagourelis, Emily Cachapero, Christoph Haering, Zeljka Turcinovic and the General Secretary Tobias Biancone met in Zagreb (Croatia) in August 2008 and then during the 32nd ITI World Congress.

Topics Covered by the ITI Strategic Plan

The group defined the topics of the new ITI Strategic Plan as:

- Congress
- Committees
- Centres
- Regional Councils (Bureaus, Forums)
- Executive Council
- Finances

Immediately after the Congress in Madrid, the



Executive Council met in a special convening "The Nanjing Strategy Session" during the Theatre of Nations Festival in mid October 2009. The members discussed the preparatory papers of the ITI Strategic Plan Working Group and approved the main procedure for action.

The Core Values of the ITI

The working group crystalized four core values for the organization.

- Inspiration
- Inclusiveness
- Collaboration
- Transparency

These values apply to all topics of the Strategy and should be leading all thought and action for the new ITI Strategic Plan. Two points were added to those core values, as means of reaching the goals:

- Visibility
- Restructuring

Images, graphic design, multimedia, video, sound, internet and all new possibilities of communication that have evolved in the past two decades provide valuable tools that enable the ITI to have a wider reach and especially to attract new generations of performing arts practitioners.

Visibility is critical to the transformation of the ITI as a modern, up-to-date organization, speaking to the current performing arts community and attracting people to Centres' activities and international projects.

The Strategic Planning Method

Thanks to Christoph Haering, Executive Council member and President of the Swiss Centre of the ITI, who has proven experience in effecting organizational change, the ITI Strategic Planning process follows a proven methodology, which has been successfully applied thus far.

The initial step was to analyze all areas of the organization: What are the goals? What do we envision? Which areas function well? Which do not? What are the available resources? Congress, Committees, Centres, Regional Councils, Executive Council and Finances were analyzed. The steps involved were: design, psycho-social change, learning, information and implementation. All these steps are interdependent and must be managed together (see illustration below).



Special Working Groups

In order to be more efficient, the Executive Council put together Working Groups, charged with specific topics.

Congress

Immediately after the 32nd ITI World Congress in Madrid, the Congress Strategy Working Group met in Athens. Members were: Christina Babou-Pagourelis, Giorgos Neophytou, Christoph Haering and Tobias Biancone (ex-officio). They reviewed the existing rules and guidelines and

elaborated guidelines that informs a future host of an ITI World Congress in detail of the nature, the activities and requirements of a Congress.

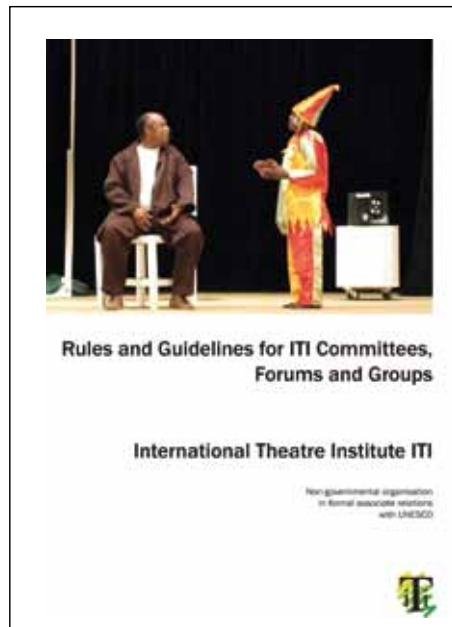


Committees, Forums and Groups

Out of the existing rules, the General Secretary drew a proposal for the EC to be discussed in a joint meeting of the office bearers of the eleven ITI Committees and the Executive Board which was held on 9 May 2009 in Paris. The meeting, the first of its kind, was held in a constructive spirit and received excellent feedback. After discussing the projects of the Committees, the participants went through the proposal and made their comments. The new Rules and Guidelines were approved by the Committee office bearers and the EC.

Centres

The Centres are the main building blocks of the ITI. That is why they were approached with utmost care. The analysis of the Centres was based on a survey and all available documents of the ITI. The



Centres Strategy Working Group (Zeljka Turcinovic, Tatjana Azman, Giorgos Neophytou, Ramendu Majumdar, Ali Mahdi and Tobias Biancone) met in Zagreb (Croatia) in September 2009. The proposal was then discussed during the 129th EC Session in Khartoum (Sudan). The EC members defined ten points as minimum requirements for an ITI Centre. The remaining points were transformed into guidelines, intended to show to new Centres or new members of a Centre the multitude of activities ITI Centres can and do engage in.

Regional Councils (Bureaus)

The Centre Strategy Working Group also addressed Regional Councils. There are large Regional Councils such as Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Europe and Asia Pacific and also some smaller ones like the Nordic Countries (Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Iceland). The new rules stress collaboration and the need for mutual cooperation and assistance.

Executive Council

Rules of procedure for the Executive Council existed in the past, but there were no definite rules and guidelines for the role and duties of an Executive Council member. The ITI Strategic Plan Working Group drew a proposal during a meeting in London, in July 2009 (Emilya Cachapero, Christina Babou-Pagourel, Christoph Haering, Tobias Biancone and Petya Hristova), which was then discussed by the EC in Khartoum, Sudan.

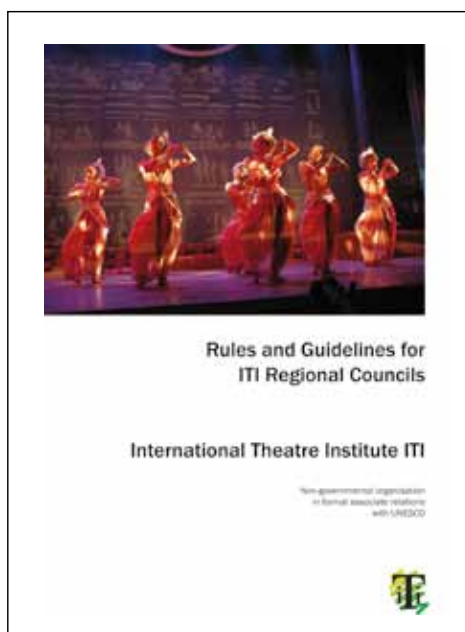


Financial Strategy

The Financial Strategy (Ali Mahdi, Mohammed Al-Afkham, Emilya Cachapero, Henk Scholten, Christoph Haering and Tobias Biancone) is in the process of development. The group met in New York in September 2009 to decide on future steps.

New ITI Strategic Plan and ITI Charter

The ITI Strategic Plan Working Group did not change the Charter. All rules and guidelines and further steps are to make the ITI network transparent (no hidden or unpublicised rules).



If someone has not received the new rules and guidelines, he/she can send an email to iti4@iti-worldwide.org and ask for a copy, which will be sent out in the language available.

Translation of the Rules

At the moment the Rules and Guidelines are available in English and French. They are currently being translated into Spanish and Arabic.

The Importance of Communication

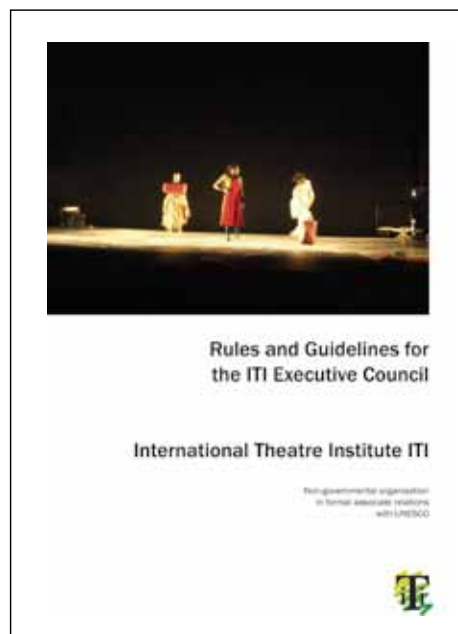
Feel free to contact the ITI Strategic Plan Working Group, the Executive Council and the General Secretary regarding the new ITI Strategic Plan. Comments or questions? Your communication is welcome!

Vision

Our vision for the ITI is the most important. It is defined by an active ITI Network with national and international activities, with performances of high artistic quality and with educational endeavours to constantly improve skills.

Let's hope that the new ITI Strategic Plan is a big stride in the right direction!

*Tobias Biancone,
General Secretary ITI*



They are formulated to help to create strong Centres, Committees and a strong ITI.

Rules and Guidelines for Use

All the rules and guidelines have been approved by the Executive Council and are available for ITI members, who are encouraged to use them. The rules are sent out with the ITI NEWS/NOUVELLES 97 to all Centres, Cooperating Members and office-bearers of the Committees both per mail and email.

All Centres and Committees will receive a password by the end of the year so that they can log in on the new ITI website and download the new rules and guidelines.

Centres should inform their boards and members of the new rules and guidelines and should distribute them (especially the rules and guidelines of the Centres). Committees should forward them to their board and members.



Future Steps

The rules alone cannot change anything. What is needed now is to implement them and to make them a reality. All readers of this "ITI info" are invited to apply the rules and to assist the ITI with its new Strategic Plan.

The next joint Executive Board and Strategic Plan Working Group meeting will be held in mid January 2010, for the planning of future steps.

International Theatre Institute ITI

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