

## **W3C - Digital Publishing Activity and Interest Group Charter**

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### **Position Statement**

AIE (Italian Publishers Association) is the trade association for Italian and foreign publishers operating in Italy or that publish books, magazines and digital products in Italian. AIE counts around 385 members, which represent around 95% of the total national book production. AIE couples more traditional activities related to the representation of the interests of publishers with a wide range of services provided to the publishing world, including market surveys, particularly on digital publishing, training activities, management of databases, and participation in domestic / international book fairs and publications. Particular attention is paid to the development of publishing standards, both traditional and digital; in this field AIE manages the Italian ISBN agency and is one of the two shareholders of mEDRA, the multilingual European DOI Registration Agency. AIE representatives chair the Standard and Technology of IPA and EDItEUR, and seat in the IPA council, IPCC – International Publishers Copyright Council, the Executive Committee of FEP, the ISBN International Agency; the Board of International DOI Foundation, the International Digital Publishing Forum. AIE has built an internal Digital Committee that regularly meets to discuss issues arising in the field of digital publishing.

Since 1996 AIE is involved in a number of projects concerning training, technological innovation and equal opportunities: EU Programmes such as eContent, Culture 2000, eTEN, eContentPlus, eLearning, mainly in key roles as coordinator or WP leader. AIE has been coordinator of the ARROW project, funded under the eContentPlus programme, and is now coordinating the follow-up phase ARROW Plus funded under ICT-PSP programme. Since January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 AIE is also running as coordinator the 25 partner- thematic network TISP (Technology and Innovation for Smart Publishing), funded under ICT-PSP programme, set up to favor cooperation between the publishing sector and the ICT world and to develop new business models.

As regards equal opportunities and accessibility, AIE collaborates with the Enabling Technologies Framework, a three year project funded by WIPO and has coordinated and participated in several European projects as well, such as Pro-Access, ETIN, TIGAR and eAccess+.

At national level, AIE has been involved in the working group organized by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Innovation to define the national guidelines for the production of educational materials as foreseen by the Law n. 4, January 9, 2004 - Provisions to support the access to information technologies for the disabled (also known as "The Stanca Act").

AIE is presently running the project "LIA -Libri Italiani Accessibili" (Italian Accessible Books) aimed at creating an online access point to accessible versions of digital books for blind and visually impaired people. LIA's approach is based on two essential features, namely the use of standards (ePUB for e-books and ONIX for metadata) and the involvement of all the actors of the digital publishing value chain, ranging from publishers to device producers, software developers and digital distributors. LIA was officially launched last June 18<sup>th</sup>.

AIE is interested in actively participating in the W3C Digital Publishing Activity and Interest Group Charter because it is important for the Association to foster the dialogue between the world of web and that of digital publishing, bringing together respective experiences and practices in a fruitful exchange of positions. Actually the web offers a wide range of possibilities, also with regard to accessibility, however the technology offered by this environment is not yet mature for the rich variety of prospects that publishers present in their production for print. In particular, the tools developed until now do not match with this richness; this is why we think it significant for us to bring publishers' experience in the workshop.