

Alliances Française in the United States

Creating a real network beyond borders

blueKiwi is the collaborative tool used by more than 40 Alliance Française chapters in the United States. It facilitates discussions relating to topics such as language courses and cultural events, but - above all else - it allows geographically remote organisations to feel fully integrated in a network.

The Délégation Générale de l'Alliance Française coordinates and supports the different Alliance Française (AF) chapters present on United States territory. It provides tools and training sessions, centralises information and supplies them with resources.

Being fully aware of the limits of the top-down intranet system with no possibility of commenting or sharing its information, the Délégation Générale de l'Alliance Française (DGAF) United States equipped itself with a blueKiwi platform back in 2011. This change marked the beginning of the end of division and opened each Alliance chapter up to its peers on US soil. This decision made the DGAF United States a pioneer with respect to using a collaborative tool - and not only that, but also doing so among all the DGAFs the world over.

Across the United States, there are now 40 teaching Alliances equipped with the collaborative tool.

Cultural activities

The platform serves internal communication actions that are associated with projects and cultural tools, such as managing the online media library called *Culturethèque* that the Alliance chapters share. The establishments use the collaborative platform to find out about new media and to ask technical questions. The editorial committee managing the media library meets, collaborates and communicates via the blueKiwi platform.

The numerous cultural activities offered by the Alliance Française chapters - such as Bastille Day on 14 July - are discussed and organised within the scope of dedicated communities. The *Festinéma* youth film festival is no different. Realised by the Puerto Rico Alliance Française chapter, the project now incorporates other AF chapters in the US that use the platform to implement the project.



Educational activities - language courses

The transmission of the French language is a fundamental objective of the Alliance Française chapters. Teachers use the collaborative platform to create and share pedagogical material and exchange experiences and work documents relating to the organisation and promotion of French qualifications - DELF/DALF, TCF, TEF, diplomas from the CCI and so on - amongst the different Alliance Française chapters. The platform is also used to successfully complete resource creation projects, such as a bank of pedagogical files for summer camps, references, etc. Finally, the workspaces are used to attend the network's training sessions and meetings, either upstream or downstream.

Management and general information

All of the Alliance Française chapters share the *Informations Générales* (General Information) community. It's a melting pot of information that is easy to identify by means of intelligent filing and rigorous use of keywords.

The Délégation Générale de l'Alliance Française makes full use of blueKiwi for all its routine administrative management tasks and is aiming to reduce the use of email internally. Additionally, the platform is used to send administrative and accounting documents to Invoicing, etc. The meetings are organised and planned online too. Being particularly active, the Alliance Française platform includes no less than 200 contributions per user.

Three types of communities:

- **Centralised information** communities that are accessible to all
- **Transversal and inter-Alliance project** communities
- Communities created **by Alliance**

The decision to obtain a collaborative tool deployed in organisations spread across vast geographical distances has been a real challenge. Nowadays, the Alliance chapters take no notice of time zone differences and work together in all four corners of the United States of America: they have managed to become a real network where everyone knows everyone and shares the same values..

"The blueKiwi platform binds us together; we're a real network now!"

Oxana Rosemberg - Administrative Coordinator - Délégation Générale de l'Alliance Française United States of America



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