



International Association for Counselling
Founded 1966

IAC Regional Branches

A Guide to Establishing an IAC Regional Branch

Introduction

IAC has a regional structure that provides inclusivity and representation at a regional level. IAC members (in all categories) are invited to participate in regional activity. IAC's regionalized structure is comprised (alphabetically) of: IAC-Africa, IAC-Asia, IAC-Caribbean, IAC-Europe, IAC Latin America, IAC-North America, IAC-Middle East and IAC-Oceania. The IAC Executive Council may from time-to-time add to, remove from, or change, the configuration of regions depending on member proposals and geo-political changes. IAC Regional Branches are subject to the IAC Regional Regulations. The purpose of the IAC Regional Branches is to progress IAC's strategic regional aims, namely:

- a. Advocacy for the Legal Recognition of Counselling
- b. Advocacy for the Counselling Profession with Regional and United Nations Bodies
- c. Agreeing on Region-Wide Counselling Standards
- d. Supporting National Associations
- e. Assisting in the development of counselling in countries
- f. Region-specific Education, Research and Practice Programmes

IAC Regional Branches provide inclusivity and representation at a regional level. IAC Regional branches create the opportunity for members to interact with other counselling professionals in their region and to advance the development of the profession in the region. IAC Regional branches are formed when IAC members come together to lead and coordinate their activities in a particular area of the world. Once officially formed/approved, IAC Regional branches operate autonomously in relation to the following areas: Regional elections of their leaders, standards, advocacy, policy, meeting conduct, and activity. Regional decisions are specific to the region only and have no implications for other regions or for IAC globally.

The IAC Executive Council (IAC EC) encourages the establishment of regional branches and provides this information to guide proposals to form regional branches. The information below:

1. Sets out the **Application Process** (to establish a regional branch)
2. Sets out the IAC EC **Approval Steps** (when approving a regional branch)

1) Application Process: Regional Members are requested to submit a proposal that includes the following:

1. Details of the Associations/Individuals proposing the branch
2. Proposed Regional Branch Aims (additional to the IAC strategic regional aims)
3. Proposed Organizing Structure / Voting
4. Declaration of acceptance of the IAC Regional Regulations
5. The Defined Geographic Area (list of Countries included in the Region)
6. (Optional) Any other documentation supporting the application e.g., Details of regional work already completed and/or minutes of regional meetings.

2) Approval Process: IAC-Region Establishment Approval Process

1. Once received, the IAC EC Council will review the regional proposal and make recommendations if required.
2. IAC EC will support (e.g., through meetings and other communication) the regional proposers with any required further steps in as timely a manner as possible.
3. The IAC EC will vote on the regional proposal (to approve or otherwise).
4. The IAC EC will inform the regional proposers of the decision.

Any IAC members wishing to form an IAC Regional branch and have any questions about the process, or regional regulations, should please contact the IAC Executive Council (IAC EC). The IAC EC welcomes ongoing suggestions and open discussion on all aspects of regional regulations to ensure regional and cultural relevance. The IAC EC and Region will discuss any requests for specific changes to the regional regulations to achieve a mutually agreeable outcome.

Thank You.