In 2018 the work of the Public Affairs department has focused greatly on External Relations, in an attempt to bring WAN-IFRA Member Associations’ concerns to the attention of global actors, as wished by the member Associations. Compared to the previous years we therefore reduced focus on news monitoring, but we nevertheless kept working on research and two new reports will be published in January 2019.

1) EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND LOBBYING Our external relation activities were focused on precise requests from the member associations: gain access to the World Intellectual Property Organisation, start the reorganisation of news literacy activities, elevate the profile of news media in international fora.

United Nations:
WAN-IFRA joined a coalition of international organisations to campaign for the adoption of a new UN Convention dedicated to the protection of media professionals. The delegation included representatives of journalists organisations, media workers, broadcasters and newspapers from around the world, and went to the UN headquarters in New York to present the draft before State representatives from Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, Latin America, Asia and North America.

If such an instrument existed, it would rectify the existing gap in international law for binding norms defending media professionals, and elevate from soft law protections such as confidentiality of sources and the ban from the misuse of national security to silence journalists.

The coalition included Zuliana Lainez Otero from ANP-Asociación Nacional de Periodistas del Perù and Nydia Susana Piedra, from Federación Nacional de Periodistas del Ecuador (FENAPE).

- Internet Governance Forum:
- At the end of December 2017 we participated in the Internet Governance Forum, in a panel organised together with the World Intellectual Property Organisation. The event was titled “Copyright in the digital era: supporting local contents production”. We collaborated with major representatives of the creative industries such as European Broadcasting Union and the International
Federation of Film Producers Associations, what paved the way for WAN-IFRA to enter, within WIPO, the Coalition for the Creative Sector Organisations. 

- In IGF 2018 we participated again in the working group on media development and Internet governance with Center for International Media Assistance and National Endowment for Democracy and Global Forum for Media Development, an initiative that has a high international visibility, to the point that it was praised in an email by SIDA contact Kristin Olsen.

- **World Intellectual Property Organisation:**
  
  o The work done together at IGF 2017 opened the way to further collaboration in the following months, particularly with WIPO. As a result, Elena has started representing WAN-IFRA at the bi-annual Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights. The main topic of interest to our industry that is being discussed are the limitations and exceptions regime first on libraries, and subsequently on archives and museums, with a focus on conservation, access, and exploitation of works, particularly in the digital environment; and the limitations and exceptions regime to educational and research institutions.
  
  o The United nations regional group known as GRULAC (Group of Latin America and Caribbean Countries) recently presented a proposal to bring the discussion on intellectual property in the digital environment into the WIPO assembly. We are actively lobbying to ensure that this step is brought forward, and that the news media industry is involved.
  
  o The Committee of Directors of Member Associations held in June 2018 in Estoril hosted a presentation and Q&A session with Mme Sylvie Forbin, WIPO’s Deputy Director General, Copyright and Creative Industries Sector. Mme Forbin. In her speech, Mme Forbin explained that the discussion at international level happened back in 1996, when the very lively exchanges resulted in the decision to not introduce any neighbouring right for press publishers in the WIPO Copyright Treaty. She also said that WIPO is keeping close tabs on the discussion happening at EU level on neighbouring rights, but that being a neutral organisation they cannot take the initiative to re-introduce the topic. She added though, that this could easily happen when the GRULAC study is opened to publishers, if some lobbying work is done in advance. WAN-IFRA has received the task from the Committee of Directors of member Associations to start lobbying efforts at global level on the opportunity of a neighbouring right for press publishers. This will require support from a few member states, and the organization of regular side lunch
events during the biannual Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights. The first of such lunches is already booked for April 2019.

- **Internet & Jurisdiction**

The Internet & Jurisdiction Policy Network is a multistakeholder organization addressing the tension between the cross-border nature of the Internet and national jurisdictions. Its Paris-based Secretariat facilitates a global policy process between key stakeholders to enable transnational cooperation and policy coherence. The Media Policy department of WAN-IFRA was asked in the summer of 2018 to join the stakeholders forming the Policy Network Contact Group that aims to tackle the issue of content takedowns around the world. The twin goals of the Contact Group are to leverage existing initiatives and knowledge, and identify policy options for possible solutions to be offered to regulators. Through regular meeting addressing all the different industries’ concerns, we aim at producing by June 2019n policy guidelines that would help governments protect human rights, fight abuses, and enable the global digital economy while at the same time preserving the cross-border nature of the Internet.

- **Council of Europe:**

On-going assistance with help in their organisation of country visits, facilitating liaison with WAN-IFRA members in the target countries.

**2) RESEARCH:**

Thanks to a collaboration established with Italian University Milano Bicocca and an external consultant, it was possible to pursue research work notwithstanding the staff shortage.

At the beginning of the year e completed an analysis of the legal hindrances to freedom of expression in the countries that are at the centre of the Strengthening Media and Society programme within our Press Freedom activities. The research has been going on for a while and is now being edited and collated for publication. The countries concerned are: Ecuador, Mexico, Colombia, Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Egypt, Palestine, Jordan, Kenya, Uganda, South Africa, Cambodia, Myanmar.
In January 2019 we will be publishing two Media Policy Briefings as follows:

- A review of the digital taxation of tech giants around the world, with a focus on the regimes in the following countries:
  - Latin America: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Uruguay
  - North America: Canada, United States
  - Africa, Middle East: Gulf Cooperation Countries, Israel, South Africa
  - Europe: Albania, France, Hungary, Italy, Iceland, Russia, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey, UK
  - Asia: China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam
  - Oceania: Australia, New Zealand

- An investigation on the different regulations and judicial orientations existing across the world around the issue of misinformation. Ground covered:
  - America: US, Brazil, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua
  - Africa, Middle East: Egypt, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, UAE
  - Asia: Malaysia, China, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Philippines, Taiwan, India, Myanmar, Indonesia, Singapore, Pakistan
  - Oceania: Australia
  - Europe: Germany, Belarus, Ireland, France, Italy, Russia, UK

Our report “Google’s antitrust woes around the world” was republished in both the online and print edition of the four-monthly media law review “MediaLaws: Law and Policy of the Media in a Comparative Perspective”. The collaboration talks with MediaLaws are ongoing and appear to be promising.

3) OTHER:

The Public Affairs department main task is to be reactive to the needs and wishes of member associations. Following specific requests of the Directors we are exploring possibilities to revive the News Literacy activities within WAN-IFRA, through a few meetings with experts. As a result we produced a plan that was presented to Directors in Amsterdam in December 13. They approved our proposal of a campaign on misinformation ahead of the EU elections, and a panel
to be brought in different WAN-IFRA and external conferences in the next 6 months.

Member Associations specific Press Freedom concerns

It happens regularly that member associations ask for our help to weight in during press freedom struggles in their countries. Here below the most recent cases:

• Canada: We took part in an intervention of a coalition of press freedom organisations in the case *Vice Media Canada Inc. and Ben Makuch*, before the Supreme Court in Canada. After ensuring the agreement of our Member Association from Canada, we participated in the drafting of a motion to intervene and pursuant to the coalition being granted leave, the completion of amicus intervention. The case is of paramount international importance for the precedent it is likely to establish internationally in the field of protection of sources.

• Italy: Following the attacks of politicians to our member GEDI Elena conducted some research and interviews. The resulting piece was titled “Press freedom threatened in Italy between soft censorship and alternative facts” and it was widely appreciated by high profile members’ management such as De Benedetti, Elkann, Calabresi, who confirmed the relevance of having the world publishing community publicly speaking against the hindrances to freedom of expression they were facing.