

Message from the Chair of the Enlargement Commission

The Enlargement Commission is charged with increasing the number of IBE members around the world. It seeks to do this by working with others in IBE, especially at regional level, to identify potential member organisations and to help them join. It also works with and encourages individuals who are seeking to establish new national associations, where none currently exist, with a view to these ultimately joining IBE.

One of the simple tests of the health of IBE is the number of organisations it counts amongst its membership. However, the number of members is just one measurement. The number of countries with an IBE member is also very important as is the strength of each member and the size of the population covered.

IBE Membership Profile (October 2008)

REGION	Number of countries in region	IBE Full Members in region	IBE Associate Members in region	Percent countries with an IBE member	Regional population	Population covered by IBE members	Percent population covered by IBE members
Africa	46	18	1	41.3	664,624,620	451,063,970	67.9
Eastern Mediterranean	22	7	0	31.8	521,693,230	366,072,335	70.2
Europe	53	34	19	66.0	884,550,219	748,886,133	84.7
Latin America	25	11	2	44.0	554,888,525	490,182,706	88.3
North America	11	3	2	27.3	334,072,482	331,733,686	99.3
South East Asia	12	7	1	58.3	1,673,683,892	1,615,304,644	96.5
Western Pacific	37	10	7	27.0	1,744,780,238	1,632,191,375	93.5
Total	206	90	32	43.7	6,378,293,206	5,635,434,849	88.4

In October 2008, IBE has 90 full members and 32 associate members spread across 92 different countries. That means that IBE has a member organisation in 44% of the 206 countries of the world. Looking at the regions, Western Pacific has the lowest density of members with just 10 out of 37 countries covered, (27%). Europe has the highest density at 66% with 35 out of 53 countries having an IBE member.

However, a different perspective is provided when looking at how many people are covered. 5.6 billion people out of an estimated global population of 6.4 billion live in countries with an IBE member. That represents 88% of the world's population. Regionally, Africa has the lowest coverage of people. Even so, 68% of Africans still live in a country with an IBE member.