

UNDERSTANDING THE MULTITUDE

SOMETIMES IT'S HARD TO DECIPHER WHAT UIA - THE UNION OF INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS - EXACTLY DOES. ONE CAN UNDERSTAND IT HAS TO DO WITH STATISTICS AND CATEGORIZING ORGANIZATIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD SO WE GET A BIGGER PICTURE OF WHERE INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS ARE BEING HELD AND EMERGING TRENDS IN THE ASSOCIATION WORLD. IN SHORT AND TO OVERSIMPLIFY, UIA PROVIDES INFORMATION TO EVERYONE WITH AN INTEREST IN INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS. BUT WHAT IS THIS EXACTLY ABOUT? BEFORE DEALING WITH THE SPECIAL PLACE OF BRUSSELS IN THE ASSOCIATION MARKET - A TOPIC WE DISCUSSED AT THE SESSION ORGANIZED BY HQ AND UIA IN BRUSSELS ON OCTOBER 6 - WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO CLARIFY THE ROLE AND MISSIONS OF UIA... AND WHAT UIA CAN DO FOR YOU.



THE VERY NATURE OF UIA

The UIA is a non-profit, apolitical, independent and non-governmental institution in the service of international associations, now often referred to as international non-governmental organizations (NGO) and inter-governmental organizations (IGO). In all parts of the world and in every facet of 21st century life, such associations are playing a central role.

For 100 years the UIA has focused on the nature and evolution of international associations. It has a century of expertise in discovering the emergence of new organizations and of new organizational forms. Its database currently includes descriptions of over 60,000 international associations, representing every field of human endeavour in both the past and the present, and 180,000 of their international meetings (from 1986 to 2022).

The approach is scientific, the result is quality. The information presented by the UIA is structured, comprehensive and concise. A standard framework makes comparison possible. In the words of one international association officer: 'I didn't know this much about my own organization.'

UIA AND THE YEARBOOK OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Since 1910, the Yearbook of International

Organizations, edited by the UIA, provides the most extensive coverage of non-profit international organizations available today. Directly reflecting a dynamic international arena, it contains entries on 60,000 civil society organizations in 300 countries and territories, in every field of human endeavour, in both the past and the present

In its year-round work to keep the database up-to-date, the UIA gives priority to information received from the organizations themselves, and then checks this information against other sources to present a reliable static picture of a dynamic situation. The UIA complements this information with a bibliography, statistical reports, description of problems perceived and strategies adopted by international associations as well as values and approaches that animate them.

The Yearbook offers detailed, factual information on international non-governmental (INGOs) and intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) around the world, ranging from the United Nations, the ASEAN and the Red Cross, to professional associations, scholarly societies, sports federations and religious orders - regardless of ideology.

In addition to historical and structural details (such as aims, specialization and geographi-

cal presence) the Yearbook also provides information about contact addresses, fields of activity, events and publications, as well as biographical information on executive officers. Careful preparation and practically structured indices make all the data easily accessible and searchable.

WHO CAN USE THE UIA'S RESEARCH?

Everyone with an interest in international associations and cooperation: international associations, businesses who provide services to them, media and press, research centres, universities, libraries, government offices. UIA's biggest challenge today is to make this information available to everyone who needs it, in a form they can readily use, for increasingly specific and complex analysis.

Thinking of the needs of the users, the UIA has developed tailor-made services, such as specialized selections of our data, customized directories, custom data selections available as live data feed. The 'Brussels analysis' is an example of a tailor-made research based on the rich set of data contained in the UIA databases.

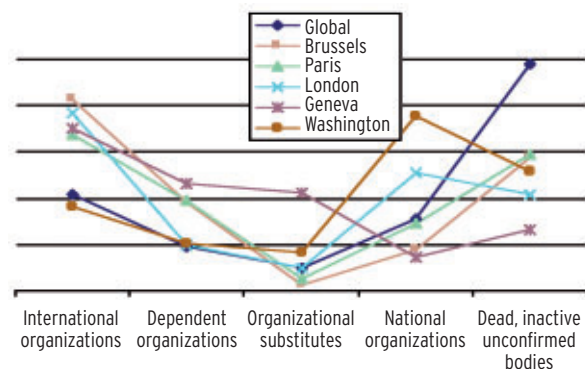
CASE STUDY: INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN BRUSSELS

STATISTICAL INFORMATION FROM THE YEARBOOK OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, PROVIDED BY THE UNION OF INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS (UIA)

DIFFERENT GROUPS OF ORGANIZATIONS WORLDWIDE: THE UNIQUE CASE OF BRUSSELS

- + Washington hosts more national bodies than the world average.
- + London hosts a high number of conventional international organizations.
- + Geneva hosts a large proportion of organizational substitutes.
- + Paris and Brussels both host a larger number of international than national organizations.
- + The pink curve could indicate that Brussels offers one of the friendliest environments for the development of international civil society activities.

Fig. 1: Distribution of associations between organizational categories in 5 major cities (2006)



AREAS OF INTEREST OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN BRUSSELS - 2008

Compared to global trends, Brussels hosts a large proportion of international organizations focussed on industry (9%, as opposed to 3.5% globally) and commerce (7.3%, as opposed to 4.5% globally). It hosts fewer organizations focussed on research (3.5%, as opposed to 5.3% globally).

For example, "Industry" contains: manufacture, production, commodities, service sector, manufacturing processes, textiles, beverages, trades and crafts, mining, chemical products, products, machinery, construction; "Commerce": finance, banking, funds, investment, currency, market, business enterprises, trade insurance; "Research": study, inspection, testes, quality unification, measurement, laboratories, certification, experimental...

TOP 10 AREAS OF INTEREST	% Brussels	% World
Industry	9%	3.5%
Social Activity	7.7%	6.8%
Commerce	7.3%	4.5%
Society	5.9%	5.6%
Transportation, Telecommunications	4.4%	3.4%
Education	4.1%	4.9%
Research, Standards	3.5%	5.3%
Societal Problems	3.3%	3.5%
Health Care	3.2%	3.7%
Government	3.2%	2.4%

CONVENTIONAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: BRUSSELS LEADS THE WAY

- + Over 42% of the organizations with offices in Brussels are classified in Cluster I. This is a significantly larger proportion compared to other cities.
- + Brussels hosts the greatest number of Cluster I organizations, although the number decreased by 2% between 2002 and 2006. Paris experienced a 3% decrease over the same period, while London, Geneva and Washington saw increases.
- + Regionally oriented membership organizations (type D) with main offices in Brussels grew by almost 11% between 2002 and 2006.

Fig. 2: Distribution per city

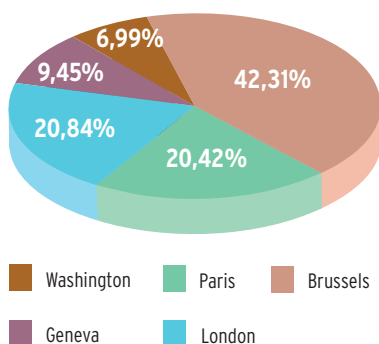
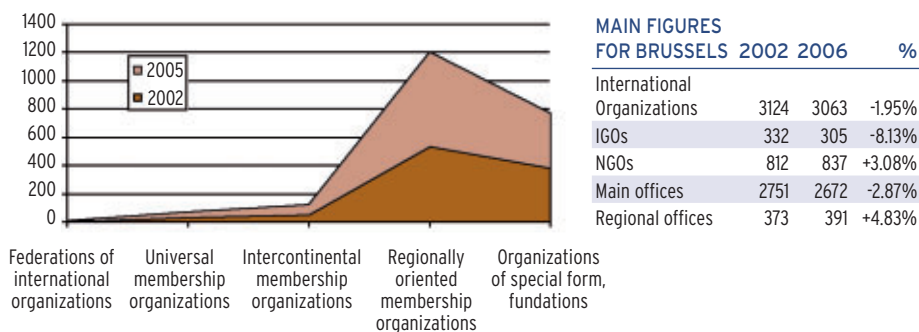


Fig. 3: Evolution in Brussels of main offices in each type of organizations



MAIN FIGURES FOR BRUSSELS	2002	2006	%
International Organizations	3124	3063	-1.95%
IGOs	332	305	-8.13%
NGOs	812	837	+3.08%
Main offices	2751	2672	-2.87%
Regional offices	373	391	+4.83%