

17th

UIA Associations ROUND TABLE Europe

24 November 2023
Marriott Grand Place
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#UIA23BRX



PROGRAMME



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Welcome to the 17th UIA Associations Round Table – in Brussels

Message from the Secretary-General

We welcome you to Brussels for the 17th UIA Associations Round Table Europe – the Union of International Associations is delighted to provide the opportunity of meeting, learning and discussing and to share with all delegates not only food for thoughts, but as well networking meals and drinks.

For over a century the Union of International Associations (UIA) has been working to promote and facilitate the work of international associations. Since 2007, the annual UIA Associations Round Tables have given associations an opportunity to learn through networking and through practice.

As an independent research institute, the UIA is able to bring together people one wouldn't meet anywhere else. Many of the invitees will never be found on any other list: finding and documenting associations is, after all, the UIA's expertise. I am confident, you will benefit greatly from the opportunity to exchange ideas, and to engage in active discussions with the speakers and each other.

The participants and speakers are people involved in running associations – of all sorts. The diversity of international associations attending any given UIA Round Table is remarkable, yet each UIA Round Table confirms that we have more in common than our associations' names might indicate. We share challenges and questions and concerns, exchanging ideas and engaging in active discussions with the speakers and each other.

Today, the city of Brussels will be the stage for representatives from international associations – professional societies, service organizations, interest groups, and charities – to share, through workshops and discussion groups, their experiences in meeting challenges in communication, strategy, governance, finding partners for their goals and more. The UIA team is happy to meet – or see again – many of you face to face.

We at the UIA look forward to meeting the delegates, to the presentations by those with experience in association work and to the thought-provoking discussions they will introduce, and to the opportunities to network with our colleagues from other associations and other countries.

At the UIA we consider a Round Table a success if the participants go home with new ideas, with increased motivation, and with names of people with whom they want to stay in touch.

The 17th UIA Associations Round Table – Brussels 2023 is possible thanks to the generous support of our partners. We thank them.

Sincerely,
Jacques de Mévius
Secretary-General of the UIA

Programme

8.30

Registration opens

9.30 - 11.00

Round Table session 1:

Opening keynote by Cyril Ritchie, President of UIA:

"Politics, War, Peace, Associations - Chapter 2"

Round Table discussion chaired by Dr Daniel Laqua

Introductory presentations of the workshop programme (all speakers)

11.00 - 11.30

Coffee break

11.30 - 12.30

Round Table session 2: four parallel workshops in break-out rooms:

Virginie De Visscher, Executive Director, Business Events,
Destination Canada:

"Event sustainability - 10 small changes that will inspire"

- Studio 4

Cyril Ritchie, President of UIA, First Vice-President of CoNGO:

"The relations between the United Nations and Associations/NGOs:

Why? How? What? What future?"

- Studio 2

Ryan Brubaker, Web and Database Developer, UIA:

"Achieving goals, finding partners: UIA's Global Civil Society Database"

- Studio 1

Programme

Frédéric Destrebecq, Executive Director, European Brain Foundation /
European Brain Centre:

*"Expanding the outreach and capacity of your
association's community - how to reach out to sponsors and funders"*

- Studio 3

12.30 - 13.45

Lunch

13.45 - 14.45

Round Table session 3: four parallel workshops in break-out rooms

Philippe Noirhomme, European VAT Desk:

"VAT and related issues concerning international associations"

- Studio 1

Juan Simoes Iglesias, Secretary General, YMCA Europe & Olga Lukina,
Executive Secretary for Movement Strengthening and Strategy, YMCA
Europe:

*"Empowering the Next Generation: How to Make Your Association
Youth-Friendly"*

- Studio 2

Marijke Roelants, Managing Partner BoldLAW:

"How to capture your association's cooperation in a contract"

- Studio 4

Chloé Menhinick, Association & Legacy Advisor:

"Time for a Membership Strategy Health Check"

- Studio 3

Programme

13.45 - 14.45

**Round Table session 3 (continued):
four parallel workshops in break-out rooms**

Virginie De Visscher, Executive Director, Business Events,
Destination Canada:

“Event sustainability - 10 small changes that will inspire”

- Studio 4

Cyril Ritchie, President of UIA, First Vice-President of CoNGO:

*“The relations between the United Nations and Associations/NGOs: Why?
How? What? What future?”*

- Studio 2

Ryan Brubaker, Web and Database Developer, UIA:

“Achieving goals, finding partners: UIA’s Global Civil Society Database”

- Studio 1

Frédéric Destrebecq, Executive Director, European Brain Foundation /
European Brain Centre:

*“Expanding the outreach and capacity of your
association’s community - how to reach out to sponsors and funders”*

- Studio 3

15.45 - 16.15

Coffee break

Programme

16.15 - 17.15

Round Table session 4: four parallel workshops in break-out rooms:

Philippe Noirhomme, European VAT Desk:

“VAT and related issues concerning international associations”

- Studio 1

Juan Simoes Iglesias, Secretary General, YMCA Europe & Olga Lukina,
Executive Secretary for Movement Strengthening and Strategy, YMCA

Europe:

*“Empowering the Next Generation: How to Make Your Association
Youth-Friendly”*

- Studio 2

Marijke Roelants, Managing Partner BoldLAW:

“How to capture your association’s cooperation in a contract”

- Studio 4

Chloé Menhinick, Association & Legacy Advisor:

“Time for a Membership Strategy Health Check”

- Studio 3

17.45 - 19.15

Cocktail reception

Meet in the registration area for a short walk to:

Belgian Beer World (across the street)

Address: Rue de la Bourse 21, 1000 Bruxelles

Presenters

Cyril Ritchie

President of UIA

Biography

- Union of International Associations: President since 2017 - Brussels
- Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO): President 2011-2018; First Vice President 2018-2025 - Geneva, New York, Vienna
- Council of Europe Expert Council on NGO Law: President 2008-2018; Honorary President from 2018 - Strasbourg
- World Future Council: Senior Policy Advisor since 2012 - Hamburg
- Environment Liaison Centre International (ELCI): Chair since 2000 - Nairobi
- Titular of the World Order of the Smile (since 1979) - Government of Poland
- International Civil Society Forum for Democracy (ICSFD, 2006): President - Doha
- World Civil Society Conference (WOCSOC, 1999): President - Montréal
- International Council of Voluntary Agencies: Executive Director 1964-1978 and 1990-1991 - Geneva



Presenters

Keynote: 'Politics, War, Peace, Associations...'

The UIA President writes:

"After I spoke on this topic at the 2022 UIA Associations Round Table Europe in Rotterdam, I received so many (mostly!) positive comments and compliments that I feel compelled to pursue the subject at the 2023 Round Tables. Thus, the Keynote of 2022 becomes Chapter 1, and of 2023: Chapter 2.

I shall hope to again stimulate reactions and engaged discussion."

Workshop:

"The relations between the United Nations and Associations/NGOs: Why? How? What? What future?"

The United Nations Charter adopted in 1945 re-labelled Associations as Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for purposes of creating an ongoing relationship. Thousands of NGOs now have a Consultative or similar status with many of the 50 entities that make up the United Nations System.

The Workshop will explain the history, usages, potentialities, benefits, complications and possible future(s).

Whether your Association has a UN status or not, you will find it to be more rewarding and more baffling than imagined!

Presenters

Marijke Roelants

Managing Partner - BoldLAW

Biography

Marijke is Managing Partner at BoldLAW, a Brussels based law firm specialized in the management and operation of companies and associations and the drafting of collaboration contracts. Marijke is an experienced lawyer with over 15 years in assisting both international and Belgian firms and associations and works in English, Dutch and French. Clients praise Marijke for her clear communication and analytical skills helping them to move forward quickly and constructively.

Apart from being a lawyer, Marijke is also academically active. For more than 10 years she is a member of the editorial board of the most distinguished corporate and association law review in Belgium, TRV-RPS ('Tijdschrift voor Rechtspersoon en Vennootschapsrecht - Revue pratique des sociétés'). Marijke also writes about association law reform and gives seminars for the Belgian Institute of Tax Advisors and Accountants about the General Assembly and the role of the Board of Directors in relation to the approval of the annual accounts.



Presenters

Workshop:

“How to capture your association’s cooperation in a contract”

Forging cross border alliances belongs to the core of international associations. After initial talks and maybe some initial cooperation to test the waters, it is possible your association is looking to collaborate more with an organization.

When setting up a cooperation, you will need a contract to make sure that the participants share the same vision of the future for this cooperation and that it is clear who does what. This means that you will have to take a moment to consider which legal terms are appropriate for the kind of relationship that your association is looking for. There are several options laid out before you, but how to choose between them?

This workshop is designed to give you insight in how you can make the right decisions in legal terms. We will also explain in plain English some important terms of every cooperation contract.

We especially welcome questions from delegates during the session, which will be answered on the spot based on our experience.

Presenters

Virginie De Visscher

Executive Director, Business Events, Destination Canada

Biography

Executive Director, Business Events, Virginie De Visscher has a tenacious determination to reimagine how the country attracts business events to its destinations.

An innovative thinker with a highly collaborative approach, Virginie has extensive experience in business development, international operations and humanitarian aid; from leading international trade missions to managing coffee and cocoa operations in East Africa.

With an infectious enthusiasm and passion for topics that range from sustainability to meeting trends, Virginie is a highly sought speaker and thought leader. A biosystems engineer by trade, she has received a wide range of certifications, including her Sustainable Excellence Professional designation from the International Society of Sustainability Professionals and Certified International Trade Professional designation through the Forum for International Trade Training.



Presenters

Workshop:

“Event sustainability - 10 small changes that will inspire”

While they champion sustainable events, the perception among association executives is that they are challenging and costly to plan. Add in soaring inflation and shrinking budgets and many feel they are unattainable.

This workshop will debunk this misconception by sharing actionable tips to integrate sustainability measures easily and budget friendly.

A case study on a carbon neutral event will be unpacked and participants can leverage the learning into developing their own future action items.

FUTURE UIA ROUNDTABLES

18th UIA Associations Round Table Europe

Florence, Italy - 14 & 15 November 2024

19th UIA Associations Round Table Europe

Brussels, Belgium - October/November 2025

20th UIA Associations Round Table Europe

Lucerne, Switzerland - 19 & 20 November 2026

Presenters

Frédéric Destrebecq

Executive Director, European Brain Foundation / European Brain Centre

Biography

Frédéric Destrebecq is the Executive Director of the European Brain Council and European Brain Foundation. In this capacity, he is responsible for providing strategic direction and leadership while managing the day-to-day operations of EBF and its ongoing relationships with its member associations and other stakeholders, as well as representing the organization in various European and national forums.



Prior to this position, Fred served the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS) as Chief Executive Officer, and previously as Director for European Affairs.

Fred holds a Master's Degree in Political Science and International Relations from the Université Catholique de Louvain (Belgium). He also studied at the Institut d'études politiques (Paris) and University of Wales College (Cardiff), in the framework of the former EU Socrates exchange programme.

Presenters

Workshop:

“Expanding the outreach and capacity of your association’s community - how to reach out to sponsors and funders”

The European Brain Foundation is an independent multidisciplinary and multi-stakeholder charity. Its goal is to support those living with brain conditions and raise awareness about brain health in Europe and beyond.

With the creation of this Foundation, the European Brain Council did set itself the challenge of opening a new venture of engagement that involves specific fundraising activities. These actually aim at reaching out to funders that are not traditionally positioned in the brain space.

For the purpose of the workshop, the theory on value creation and value capturing will guide this interactive session and discussions.

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Presenters

Chloé Menhinick

Association & Legacy Advisor

Biography

Chloé Menhinick specializes in strategic development of associations, focusing in particular on Strategic Legacy & Impact Planning, Membership & Network Growth and Sustainability Strategies. Chloé has also been a principal driver for the recent development of industry knowledge and capacity in strategic meeting legacy and impact planning, implementation and measurement, and is recognized as a key industry thought leader in this new realm of knowledge and practice.



Workshop:

“Time for a Membership Strategy Health Check”

Are you looking to grow and engage your association’s membership? This workshop will guide you through every step of the process, from defining your membership goals and objectives to creating targeted strategies to achieve them. Whether you’re looking to attract new members, retain existing members, or enhance member engagement, this is an opportunity to conduct a health check on your existing membership strategy and to enhance its value for both your members and your association.

Presenters

Workshop: 'Empowering the Next Generation: How to Make Your Association Youth-Friendly' with Juan Simoes Iglesias & Olga Lukina of YMCA Europe

During the workshop we will raise and discuss the critical questions of the topics, such as:

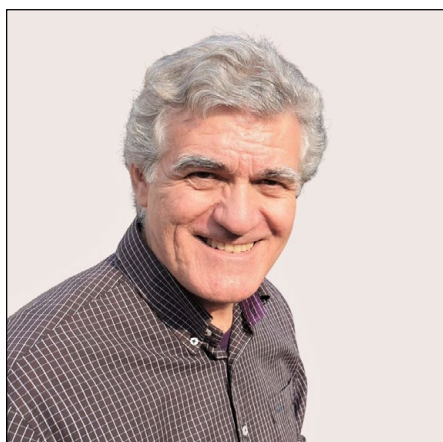
What is wrong with the title of this workshop?

Why don't we trust young people?

What is the intergenerational approach?

What are specific examples of youth empowerment tools within civil society organisations?

The trainers will mostly use the methods of joint discussions and short presentations.



Presenters

Juan Simoes Iglesias

Secretary General, YMCA Europe

Biography

With a bachelor's degree in Social Education, Juan Simoes Iglesias serves as Secretary General of YMCA Europe (appointed in 2011), the Area Organisation that represents 37 national movements in the continent, providing programmes, strategic direction and support.

Previously he was the Secretary General of YMCA Spain (1999-2011) developing his responsibilities at national level and coordinating 10 local associations within a centralized structure. He worked as Executive Local Secretary at the Salamanca YMCA (1988-1991) and the Zaragoza YMCA (1991-1998) combining those roles with his volunteer commitment at the Youth and the Volunteers organisations network at national and regional levels in Spain.

Juan is a social educator, camp director and passionate about the role and capacity of civil society organisations with a focus on youth development.

Olga Lukina

Executive Secretary for Movement Strengthening and Strategy, YMCA Europe

Biography

Responsible for designing and delivering capacity building tools for the members of YMCA Europe: training and education, health assessment, consultations, best practices, etc.

Since 2000 has been a volunteer in YMCA Belarus, including the President position, then was a staff member, fulfilling the duties of Project Manager. Possessing the experience of two terms in the Executive Committee of YMCA Europe. Proud of skills and knowledge gained through rich practical experience and a wide range of non-formal education trainings (e.g., Training the Trainers, Training the Program Developers, Governance for Board members, "Change Agents", effective communication, conflict solving, project management, project applications design, management of non-governmental organisations, social inclusion, strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation, advocacy, human rights, social entrepreneurship, quality standards in non-formal education, etc.).

These skills, together with the Bachelor degree in teaching and methodology, gives Olga the opportunity to provide effective support by the most engaging format.



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Presenters

Daniel Laqua

Associate Professor at Northumbria University

Biography

Daniel Laqua is Associate Professor at Northumbria University in Newcastle upon Tyne, UK.

He is the author of *Activism across Borders since 1870: Causes, Campaigns and Conflicts in and beyond Europe* (London, 2023) and *The Age of Internationalism and Belgium, 1880-1930: Peace, Progress and Prestige* (Manchester, 2013) as well as the (co-)editor of three books and six special issues of academic journals.

He has published widely on the history of international movements and organisations, including a volume on the history of UIA, *International Organizations and Global Civil Society: Histories of the Union of International Associations* (London, 2019).



Presenters

Philippe Noirhomme

European VAT Desk

Workshop: “VAT and related issues concerning international associations”

VAT is a constant source of concern for international associations in their daily activities and especially when they are organizing conferences in their own country or another. Philippe Noirhomme will discuss the information needed to clarify the situation regarding this tax and its application.



A special focus will be given to webinars and virtual educational activities due to new EU regulation.

Biography

Philippe Noirhomme is a certified tax adviser working with European VAT Desk. He previously spent 11 years with Ernst & Young Tax Consultants in the Indirect Tax department, and is currently a Lecturer at the Tax Institute of the University of Liège and Teacher at Solvay Brussels School (Executive Master in International Association Management). He is co-author of “VAT Package : the new rules applicable to services”, published by Editions Larcier in January 2010.

Philippe Noirhomme, conseil fiscal agréé, Cabinet EUROPEAN VAT DESK, a travaillé pendant 11 ans au sein du département Indirect Tax d’Ernst & Young Tax Consultants et est Maître de conférence au Tax Institute de l’ULiège et Instructeur à la Solvay Brussels School (Executive Master in International Association Management). Il est notamment co-auteur du livre “VAT Package”, paru aux Editions Larcier en janvier 2010.

Presenters

Ryan Brubaker

Web and Database Developer, UIA - Union of International Associations

Workshop: “Achieving goals, finding partners: UIA’s Global Civil Society Database”

UIA provides tools and data to help associations with their outreach, event planning and more. Ryan will present a number of UIA’s tools, including a live demo of ‘Open Yearbook’ and ‘Open Calendar’, explain the history and future plans of the Global Civil Society Database, and will answer questions about how associations can best take advantage of these free resources.



Biography

Ryan has worked as a web and database developer at UIA since 2011. He is responsible for the user interface of UIA’s databases, the ongoing development of UIA’s website and the visual identity of the organization. He also provides regular training sessions on the use of UIA’s *Yearbook of International Organizations* and *International Congress Calendar* digital publications.

Before joining UIA, Ryan ran a communications design studio crafting online identities for associations and small businesses.

About the UIA

“... to serve as a centre for documentation, study, service, and the promotion of closer relations between international associations.”

The Union of International Associations (UIA) is a non-profit, independent research institute documenting the current and historical work of international nongovernmental organizations (INGOs) and intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and promoting the public awareness of their activities.

Since its foundation, the UIA has focused on recording the nature and evolution of international civil society. The UIA's focus today is on promoting the internationality of these organizations and in representing the collective views of international bodies.

The UIA collects, hosts and provides up-to-date, reliable information on global civil society, and maintains the most comprehensive source of information on international associations, their activities and concerns, and their meetings activities.

The UIA has existed since 1907 when it was founded by two Belgians, Henri La Fontaine and Paul Otlet. La Fontaine was an international lawyer, professor of international law, and a member of the Belgian Senate for 36 years. He was a socialist, a renowned bibliographer, and a devoted internationalist. In 1913 he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his work as “the effective leader of the peace movement in Europe”. He and his sister Léonie La Fontaine were also early advocates for women's rights and suffrage, founding the Belgian League for the Rights of Women in 1890.

Otlet was a lawyer, bibliographer, political activist, and a Utopian with an internationalist agenda. His seminal work in documentation included the creation of the Universal Decimal Classification system. Otlet envisioned an international Network for Universal Documentation: a machine which would allow users to search, read and write to a database stored on millions of index cards, and which could be accessed from great distances. The idea of networked documents was so novel that no one had a word to describe these relationships until Otlet invented one: links. Today, Otlet is considered one of the fathers of information science.

The UIA has Consultative Relations with UNESCO, UN/ECOSOC, and ILO. It collaborates with the Council of Europe and the European Commission. A special ECOSOC resolution of 1950 establishes cooperation between the United Nations and the UIA for the preparation of the Yearbook of International Organizations.

The UIA is in regular contact with some 43,000 active international non-governmental organizations documented in the Yearbook.



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UIA's Purpose

The UIA's aims as stated in its statutes are to:

- *Facilitate the evolution of the world-wide network of non-profit organizations.*
- *Promote understanding of how such bodies represent valid interests in every field of human activity – scientific, religious, artistic, educational, trade, labour.*
- *Collect and disseminate information on these bodies and their interrelationships.*
- *Present such information in experimental ways, as a catalyst for the emergence of innovative bodies.*
- *Promote research on the legal, administrative and other problems common to these bodies.*

The UIA seeks to achieve these goals primarily in three ways:

1. By documenting global civil society activity

The UIA's associations database – the basis of the Yearbook of International Organizations both online and in print – attempts to cover all “international organizations”, according to a broad range of criteria. It therefore includes many bodies that may be perceived as not being fully international, or as not being organizations as such, or as not being of sufficient significance to merit inclusion. Such bodies are nevertheless included, so as to enable users to make their own evaluation in the light of their own criteria.

In preparing and updating the organization profiles, the UIA gives priority to information received from the organizations themselves, then checks this information against other sources (periodicals, official documents, media, etc.) to present a reliable picture of a dynamic situation. The information presented by the UIA is structured, comprehensive and concise. A standard framework makes comparison possible.

2. By publishing research reports

The UIA's associations database is continuously updated and includes descriptions of some 70,000 international organizations – NGOs and IGOs – active in all fields of human endeavour, in all corners of the world, and throughout centuries of history.

Its meetings database – the basis of the International Congress Calendar both online and in print – currently includes over half a million international meetings of these bodies, from 1850 to far into the future.

The organization profiles and meetings profiles are complemented by bibliographies, SDGs, statistical reports, and descriptions of problems perceived and strategies adopted by international associations as well as the values and approaches that animate them. Over 500,000 hyperlinks facilitate navigation through this data.

The UIA also produces customized reports on demand for a variety of governmental, non-governmental, and commercial bodies.

3. By providing training and networking opportunities for international association staff

Since 2007 the UIA hosts annual Associations Round Tables, bringing together representatives of international associations to learn practical skills and share experience.

On 14 & 15 November 2024 the 18th UIA Associations Round Table Europe 2024 will be held in Florence, Italy.

In 2025 the 19th Round Table Europe will take place again in Brussels in October/November. For more information, visit roundtable.uia.org.

CONTACT US

Union of International Associations (UIA)

Rue Washington 40

1050 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: (32 2) 640 18 08

E-mail: uia@uia.org

Website: www.uia.org

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The UIA Round Tables provide an opportunity to learn through networking and through practice, to meet other international associations and share experience and knowledge to help you run your organization better.

We thank our partners for making it possible.

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WE ENGAGE.
WE COMMUNICATE.**

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your event a great one. »



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