
Introduction

This is the 64th edition of this report.

The "new normal" is still developing as it relates to daily life, associational life and meeting activities. As with the previous three reports, the massive impact of the pandemic on international association meetings has led us to revise the presentation of this report. This report offers two sections: a re-presentation of the data for events held in 2019 and a presentation of the data we currently have for what took place in 2022.

Why 2019 again?

If you are familiar with this report then you will be aware that our data for a given year generally do not stabilize until a point five years further on. This is due to the fact that we are not immediately aware of what took place in the preceding year and are constantly updating our databases of international associations and their meetings activity. The Yearbook generally adds 900-1,200 new organization descriptions during each annual cycle, and these bring meetings of their own to the statistical picture.

We are presenting 2019 again here because it now represents the last good year before the pandemic. We have added hundreds of additional meetings to the database for 2019 in the period between the reports and we have continued our general process of correcting and updating the information we already have. As we continue to elaborate and extend our understanding of the meetings which took place in 2019, the data will be the baseline for analyzing opportunities for recovery and in examining the potential of new initiatives.

And what of the pandemic years and 2022?

We continue to track meetings which were cancelled or postponed / rescheduled. Historically the UIA has not had a firm editorial rule in such matters.

Situations where conflict or natural disaster caused problems for scheduled meetings can be seen in our time-scale data by gaps or drop off in activity (the World Wars being the clearest examples). UIA had not traditionally described the planned events which had not taken place. By tracking cancelled and postponed events we are able to present a clearer picture of significant circumstances in an association's life.

We are now more correctly reflecting the participant status of events with in-person, hybrid, and online/virtual being added to an event's description in the database. Historically the only meetings in our data which took place outside a defined town or city were those which happened on a cruise ship or those which took place in a national park or "resort".

The data for 2022 show the continuing trends of some events having to be rescheduled or changed to a hybrid or fully online format. Additionally, most border controls were lifted in 2022, allowing greater freedom to travel to events. In terms of association life, we are seeing a growing trend of conferences now being planned / scheduled further into the future than in the past three years.

A note on our 2022 data: why does 2022 look the way it does?

Our traditional editorial notes describe the process by which the UIA interacts with international associations and the meetings industry to compile information about association events. As with every other aspect of life during the pandemic the UIA has also faced changes and disruption to our annual cycles of contact and information gathering.

This has led to:

- a reduced total number of events in the database for the pandemic years;
- the need for additional editorial attention given to a single event which may have been postponed as many as three times;
- reduced information provided by our partners;
- additional editorial time required to investigate the final status of events.

The problem of attributing a location to disrupted meetings

In the case of a hybrid event our expectation is that the location of the in-person element is described as the "location" of the meeting for our purposes. In the case of a planned in-person event which was ultimately held as online/virtual the issue becomes more complicated. Our default approach is that an online meeting with no specified host locale is then attributed to the home office city of the Yearbook organization. For this reason, some traditionally minor cities have risen in the rankings because they host an especially active organization. For example, Piscataway NJ (USA) is home to the meeting-intensive IEEE's headquarters.

This reflects the economic aspect of how the event technology is contracted or organized. In other cases, we have seen that the planned locale for an in-person meeting takes on the role of technology partner for the online meeting, thus retaining the geographical credit for the meeting. Neither of these approaches is perfect, but they are sufficient for our purposes of describing what took place in the life of an individual international association. They are less elegant in describing how the local committee may have played the greatest role in making the event happen (reviewing papers, organizing break out groups and so on) or where the technology provider was based. As more meetings are deliberately planned as hybrid or online we will see a reduction in these ambiguities; and we will adjust our approach as needed.

As time passes we will know more about what happened in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023. What follows below is a presentation of what we know now, with an expectation of an increase in quantity and range as we move ahead.

What is not displayed in the geographic tables:

- postponed meetings
- cancelled meetings
- identifying / differentiating between in-person / hybrid and virtual meetings

Events in the International Congress Calendar currently marked with meeting-status information				
	Cancelled	Postponed	Virtual	Hybrid
2020	1071	2153	3822	199
2021	188	801	4356	989
2022	78	144	1102	1421
2023	11	9	80	295

This report on the year 2022 report takes 499,498 meetings into account, organized in 268 countries, in 12,110 cities, by 28,733 international organizations.

We appreciate your comments and suggestions.

The UIA Editorial Team