



International Association for Counselling
Founded 1966

IAC Europe – The European Branch of IAC



IAC Europe Meeting Attendees – Brussels, April 2023

IAC Europe is one of six active IAC Regions.



1) IAC Africa

2) IAC Asia Pacific

3) IAC Europe

4) IAC Latin America and the Caribbean

5) IAC North America

6) IAC Middle East and Central Asia

IAC Europe – Regional Principles and Aims

Principles of Participation:

- We all take effective collective measures to develop the counselling profession for the benefit of clients.
- We respect National Association Autonomy (IAC does not intervene on NA /Domestic matters).
- We promote Regional Autonomy.
- Equality – Every Association is invited to have a representative(s) on its regional committee, e.g., IAC Europe.
- Accommodation of Diversity.
- Affordability will not be a barrier to participation.
- Developing strong relations and problem-solving cooperation between national counselling associations.
- All Members shall, in good faith, fulfil the obligations assumed by them in accordance with membership.
- We aim to harmonize the actions of counselling associations in the attainment of our common aims.

Regional Aims:

- Obtaining Legal Recognition for the Profession in the Region (where not in place).
- Agreeing Region-Wide Counselling Standards.
- Supporting National Association Aims.
- Advocacy for the Counselling Profession with Regional and U.N. Bodies.
- Assisting in the development of counselling in countries (where there is currently none).

Environmental and Technical Factors: These points have emerged through discussion and have been agreed by the associations as important factors influencing our work:

- The importance and benefits of unity was underlined. EU Bodies, Funders, National Governments, and U.N. agencies want to work with a **united** profession.
- Importance of inclusion/involvement of non-EU European countries.
Importance of utilising existing connections to European Inter-governmental bodies.
- Importance of utilising IAC's Official Relations with United Nations Agencies.
- Working on a Europe-wide agreed umbrella definition of counselling.
- Engaging closely with the European Commission and Parliament
- Learning from international organizations representing kindred professions that are more advanced than counselling (e.g., Nursing, Social Work and Psychology).
- Information sharing between associations about different methods of counselling regulation in place.
- Utilizing IAC's history, administration, governance, staff, volunteers, communications network, and experience in the attainment of our shared goals.
- Lobbying for the recognition of the profession.
- Teamwork to jointly consider existing competency frameworks and standards.
- Importance of lobbying for increased national budgets for mental health.

These items fall inside the five identified IAC Europe Regional Aims and Activities.

IAC Europe Structure: The following IAC Europe Working Groups report to the main **IAC Europe Committee** every six weeks. Each working group has a Terms of Reference:

Standards Working Group:

- Alessandra Caporale (ITA)
- Erik Hedblad (SWE)
- Simonetta Perone (ITA)
- Silvia Galea (MLT)
- Rosa de la Calzada (ESP)
- Annika Sibring (SWE)
- Caroline Jesper (GBR)

Governance Working Group:

- Tommaso Valleri (ITA)
- Tina Bruzzese (ITA)
- Ruth Falzon (MLT)
- Clare Symons (GBR)

Finance Working Group:

- Ann Lindsay (CHE)
- Carsten Henning (GER)
- Mr. William Hayman (MLT)

Advocacy Working Group:

- Maud Muscat (MLT)
- Ellen Boore (NLD)
- Nicole Mac Dermott (IRL)
- Clare Symons (GBR)
- Anna Ballesteros (ESP)

How we work: The vast majority of meetings are held online. There is a commitment to meet at least once a year in-person for a longer period.

IAC Europe Participation:

All of the major counselling associations in Europe are engaged with IAC Europe. These include:

- Associazione Professionale Counseling (ITA)
- ABvC - Algemene Beroepsvereniging voor Counselling (NLD)
- [Asociacion De Counselling Humanista Espanola \(ACHE\)](#)
- Association Portuguesa de Psicoterapia Centrada na Pessoa e de Counselling (APPCPC) (PRT)
- Associazione Continuando a Crescere (ITA)
- AssoCounseling (ITA)
- British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP) (GBR)
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Beratung / German Association (DGfB) (GER)
- Hellenic Association for Counselling (GRC)
- Icelandic Association for Cognitive and Behavioural Therapies (ISL)
- Irish Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (IACP) (IRL)
- L'Associazione Nazionale Counselor Relazionali (ANCORE) (ITA)
- Malta Association for the Counselling Profession (MACP) (MLT)
- Register of Authorized Counselors (RACS) (SWE)
- Reico -- Associazione Professionale di Counseling (ITA)
- Vlaamse Vereniging voor Cliëntgerichte-Experiëntiële Psychotherapie en Counseling (VVCEPC) (BEL)

All other associations are invited and are most welcome to participate. Members of national associations benefit both directly and indirectly by their association's participation in IAC Europe.

Please contact IAC CEO, Naoise Kelly for details: ceo@iac-irtac.org

In-person Meetings Brussels, April 2023, Report: Having a longer meeting time, and through meeting in-person, seemed to enhance communication and creativity, increase engagement, and provided opportunities for relationship building. An important principle however, was that no person or association was to be disadvantaged by not having attended. The meeting records and working group reports will serve to inform those who were not present.

Meeting Location: Meetings took place in the *Dar Malta* (Malta House) Building. Dar Malta is in the central 'European District' of Brussels and is the location of *The Permanent Representation of Malta to the European Union*. Following a request, the room was generously offered free of charge -- by the Maltese embassy -- in support of IAC Europe's work. During the meetings, His Excellency, Ambassador Clint Tanti addressed our meeting and said that IAC Europe is welcome to use the embassy facilities for our important work.



Dar Malta



Ambassador Clinti

Working Group Progress:

The Standards, Advocacy and Governance working groups met and progressed the work of their groups. Using their Terms of Reference, shared objectives, diverse perspectives and goal definition, the working groups collaborated by sharing their knowledge. There was a great sense of teamwork and collaboration in the room as the groups worked on these broad and sometimes complex subjects. The working groups will report at the next online meeting.



Standards Working Group



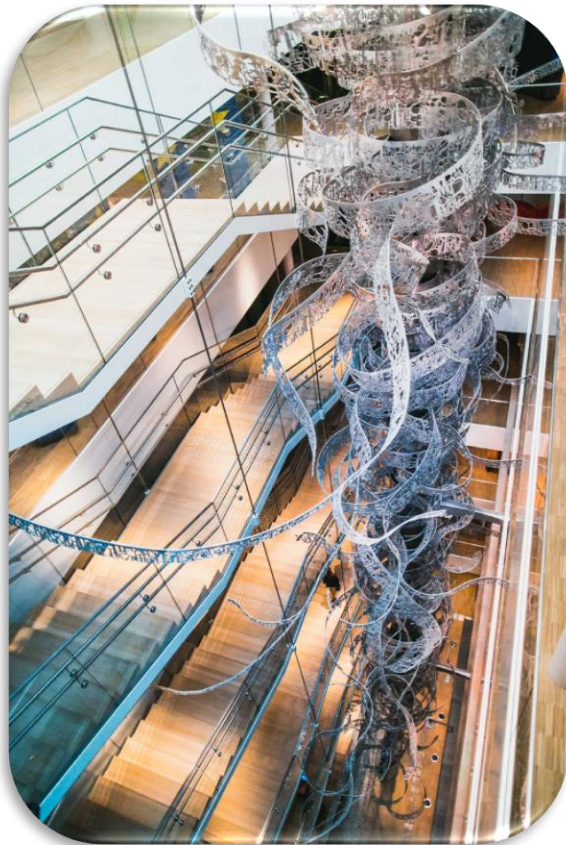
Advocacy Working Group



Governance Working Group

Visit to the Museum of European History: Opened in 2017, the House of European History intends to promote the understanding of European history and integration. There is a permanent exhibition and temporary and travelling exhibitions. By interpreting history from a European perspective, it connects and compares shared experiences and their diverse interpretations. It also aims to initiate learning on transnational perspectives across Europe.

Given our work to advance and unify the counselling profession across Europe, this was a fitting, interesting, and useful group experience.





International Association for Counselling
Founded 1966

The International Association for Counselling (IAC) is the world body for the counselling profession. Established in 1966, IAC is an International Non-Governmental Organization (INGO). IAC's humanitarian movement advances the development of counselling in order to improve people's lives and well-being. Our association and members strive for human rights and the inclusive, sustainable development of our profession through the promotion of counselling, best practice and international cooperation.

Our Vision is: "A World Where Counselling is Available to All".

Website: <http://www.iac-irtac.org>

How to cite IAC Information

Any citation should use the following reference: International Association for Counselling (2023). Regional Aims and Activity (Europe). IAC.

Authored/Compiled by: Naoise Kelly, IAC CEO.

All text, images, graphics, and other materials herein are subject to the copyright and other intellectual property rights of IAC unless otherwise stated.

Please feel free to share, copy, distribute, and transmit the content of this work under the condition that you attribute the work by using the citation (above).

Thank You, IAC, 2023.