



1st Roundtable of ISC unions and associations

3 June 2024, 12:00 – 13:00 UTC

Zoom ([view the recording](#))

Draft Minutes

Next roundtable: **17 September, 12:00 – 14:00 UTC (Zoom) – [Register](#)**

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Attendees (in the order of the interventions)

International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS)	Edoardo Costantini, President
International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS)	Senthil Kumar, Chair of Financial Commission
International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS)	Ava Thompson, Secretary General Germán Gutiérrez, President Karl Swain, Executive Officer
International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS)	Nathalie Fomproix, Executive Director
International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC)	Ehud Keinan, President Javier García Martínez, Past-President Zhigang Shuai, Executive Board member
International Association of Applied Psychology (IAAP)	Lori Foster, President
International Astronomical Union (IAU)	Willy Benz, President-elect
International Union of Crystallography (IUCr)	Hanna Dabkowska, Past-President
International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP)	Marie Ellen Zuppan, Executive Director
International Statistical Institute (ISI)	Conchita Kleijweg, Director
International Union of Immunological Societies (IUIS)	Monicah Andefa, Association Management (Grants & Partnerships)
International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG)	Priscilla Grew, Finance Committee member
International Geographical Union (IGU)	Phil McManus, Vice-President Celine Rozenblat, Vice-President
International Brain Research Organization (IBRO)	Natasha Slater, Director of External Relations
International Sociological Association (ISA)	Elina Oinas, Vice-President
International Union for Physical and Engineering Sciences in Medicine (IUPESM)	Shankar Krishnan, Vice President
International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW)	Alexandra Reidon, Administrative and Financial Manager for the Geneva office
International Arctic Social Sciences Association	Maria Ackrén, President-elect
International Science Council (ISC), secretariat	Anne Thieme, Membership Liaison Officer



Minutes

Anne Thieme

- Roundtable was initiated upon request by the International Union of Soil Sciences
- Roundtable's objective (for this first edition) is for representatives of ISC union and association Members to share information on their union's/association's current funding model, financial situation, main sources of income, financial challenges

Edoardo Costantini

- **IUSS**, est. 1924, currently 76 member countries, including 50,000 individuals
- 4 Divisions, 21 Commissions, 17 WGs, and a Forum
- Main sources of funding: almost entirely by members and investments in stock market
- Need for rise of funding because of decrease of voluntary work and increase in activities (it is a general issue but particularly striking for soil, which is gaining momentum)

Senthil Kumar

- **ISPRS**, est. 1910, contributing in the areas of photogrammetry, remote sensing, spatial information systems related disciplines including their applications as well as promoting cooperation and coordination with related international scientific organisations
- ISPRS Council conducting the affairs of the Society in accordance with the decisions and directives of the General Assembly
- Scientific activities carried out by the Society's five technical commissions and their working groups to primarily support early- and mid-career researchers
- Main sources of funding: membership dues, donations, royalties from journals, events

Ava Thompson

- **IUPsyS** in the process of reviewing their funding model, which was implemented in 2016
- Est. 1951 (with the assistance of UNESCO), incorporated in Canada, non-profit
- Grown substantially, currently representing over 93 national members + regional members and affiliates, represent over 2 million psychologists worldwide
- Key activities: International Journal of Psychological Science, promote professional excellence, raise awareness, host meetings/congresses, address issues of the membership, define and establish standards, policy-related science, behavioural aspects of interdisciplinary collaboration with other unions
- Sources of funding: membership dues (national members), royalties from journal and books, fund, most recently funding from congresses, funding partners (for special multi-year initiatives)

Germán Gutiérrez adds

- **IUPsyS** receives occasional grants from, for example, WHO, and other organizations related to mental health that are earmarked for specific activities

Nathalie Fomproix

- **IUBS** est. in 1919, institutional membership
- Sources of funding: membership dues (national members), no incoming from publications or congresses, occasional grants for projects (incl. previously ICSU)

Ehud Keinan

- **IUPAC**, est. 1919, 54 national members
- Activities divers, eight divisions (almost independent entities), eight standing committees with publications, language of chemistry, etc.
- IUPAC in charge of nomenclature
- Sources of funding: membership dues, publications royalties (journals, books), company associates (chemical industry) that pay membership dues, endowment, money for maintaining prizes/awards



Javier García Martínez adds

- Identify awards/initiatives that could be of interest to the industry, build those relationships for sponsorship
- Global activities ([Global Women's Breakfast](#), Top 10 Emerging Technologies in Chemistry) – don't bring money but provide visibility at low cost, can support attracting donors/securing sponsorship

Lori Foster

- **IAAP**, individual members, 18 divisions
- Main sources of funding: Two journals (doing well currently, future move to fully open access introduces uncertainty), affordable membership dues, investment (stock market), considering future income streams, including donations
- Psychological elements of donations – different approaches to soliciting donations (many small donors, large donations from bigger donors)
- Need to take into consideration both financial and psychological benefits to the donor
- Science behind persuasion, reference: Robert Cialdini: Influence – the psychology of persuasion: <https://www.influenceatwork.com/7-principles-of-persuasion/>

Willy Benz

- **IAU's** source of funding: membership dues, royalties from publishing books, trusts and foundation grants (funding for specific activities), prize money (improves image/visibility)
- Don't have enough financial resources to fund all the activities/projects they would like to do
- Fundraising a natural source to turn to, given the popularity of astronomy, fundraised successfully for IAU's 100th anniversary celebrations, will now hire a fundraiser (this is a considerable investment not without risks)
- Challenge in getting unrestricted money (mostly for specific items/region)

Hanna Dabkowska

- **IUCr**: 57 Members (countries), five regional associates (continents) (networks)
- Activities: Outreach, education, supporting congresses and school-level activities
- Source of funding: 10 journals (but need to rethink this structure due to open access movement), small income from membership dues (no inflation adjustment), small industrial supporters, awards

Marie Ellen Zuppan

- **IUSSP**: est. 1928, around 1800 individual members from 140 countries
- Source of funding: membership dues (50 %), conference (every four years), trainings, seminars, publications, weekly news magazine (for teaching purposes, policy-makers), foundation grants for projects, core founding from governments and donors incl. Gates foundation (but recently shift from core support to project-focused support, hence looking for new donors), yearly interest from a reserve fund built over time
- Institutional members ask additional source of support in the future?

Conchita Kleijweg

- **ISI**, est. 1885, institutional and individual members in 130 countries
- Source of funding: membership dues, journals (but turning into open access), events and congresses, investments, prizes and awards, grant from the Worldbank (but for a specific activity)
- Need more income due to increased costs and activities, want to attract more members and young people (the value of networking is not convincing)
- Need for a re-defined value proposition to attract new members and young people

Monicah Andefa

- **IUIS'** source of funding: membership dues, journals, congresses, grants linked to congresses (for example from Gates foundation), prizes with corporate sponsors



- All of the sources of funding have risks, therefore, looking for corporate sponsorship, trying to match their goals/values/interest, creating a partnership (requires upfront resources and connections, for example via Board members)

Priscilla Grew

- **IUGG**, est. 1919, Treasury office in Denmark, eight associations
- So glad you have convened this group, we look forward to participating
- Income from country dues (59 paying members out of 73 members), half the budget is shared with the associations
- We face similar challenges as those previously mentioned: Many countries not able to pay dues; would like to have broader geographic distribution of members, but not able to convince countries to pay dues
- Fundraising occurs within the associations in connection with meetings, including for EMCRs

Phil McManus

- **IGU**, est. 1921, over 100 country members, desire to broaden geographical scope but poor countries cannot afford to pay; dues scale, whereby relying on a few members paying high fees
- Main sources of funding: member dues, congresses, journals/publication series
- 50% of the income distributed through travel grants (incl. EMCRs) and to the 44 commissions
- Concern about balance of the budget maintaining equity
- Small secretariat with many volunteers

Natasha Slater

- **IBRO** is a member organization, 90 members, incl. 90,000 neuroscientists
- Main sources of income: journals, partnerships for programmes, grants, membership fees (only 3% of outcome)
- Challenge of negotiating overhead costs
- Focussing on new partnerships
- Not looked into but interested in fundraising

Elina Oinas

- **ISA**, est. 1984, 6000 individual members, 70 national association members
- Challenge to receive funding from companies for social sciences
- Half of the membership has trouble paying the membership fee (from poor countries or EMCRs)
- Main sources of income: Journals, dues, congresses
- Open Access?
- Good practices for investments and fundraising

Shankar Krishnan

- **IUPESM** is made up of two sub-organizations
- Main source of funding: publications, membership dues
- Would like to have more participation of industries (exhibits)

Alexandra Reidon

- **IPPNW** is a federation of national medical organizations, incl. doctors, medical students, health professionals advocating for nuclear weapons abolition
- Have set up an independent association in Geneva which is responsible for advancing the mission of IPPNW and one of the current priorities of the association is to update WHO's 1987 report on the effects of nuclear war on health and health services, in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO)
- Want to use this opportunity to fundraise around the report, to be followed by an editorial later published by 150 international medical journals, such as the British Medical Journal and Lancet
- Main source of income: Private donations, affiliates (there are currently 56 IPPNW's affiliates)
- Want to make contacts with private foundations in Switzerland



Anne Thieme

- Action: creation of a dedicated group on the [ISC WhatsApp community](#) for representatives of unions and associations, for those interested to continue exchanges on this platform
- “[Funds for NGOs](#)” – from 49 USD/year – a platform offering knowledge, skills and a grants database to NGOs, companies and individuals worldwide (screenshot of the paid space below)



Edoardo Costantini

- Some concerns have been raised as for ethics in fundraising and investment, as well as balancing crowdfunding vs big financiers. ISC could provide guidelines, facilitate networking, and reaching potential donors

Conclusions

- Most unions/associations are seeking opportunities to increase their income to be able to increase staff, enhance activities, and broaden membership
- Most common sources of funding: journals/publications, membership dues, congresses/events, external project-specific grants, donations, corporate funding
- Most unions/associations lack capacity/funds to do active fundraising
- Challenge with fundraising is building relationships (takes time), paying a fundraiser and getting unrestricted funds
- How does open access stand in relation to the fact that many unions/associations rely on revenue from journals and other publications
- Question on ethics in fundraising and investments as source of income
- Roundtable will be convened regularly, every two – three months

Suggested topics for next meeting

On the topic of funding/fundraising

- IUPsyS: Success stories and challenges on their process of reviewing their funding model
- IUPAC: Funding through company associates; income from maintaining prizes/awards; examples of activities that provide visibility at low cost and could attract donors
- IUSSP: Foundation grants for projects; receiving core founding from governments and donors
- IUSS, ISI, IAAP: Income through investments
- IUIS: Funding through Gates foundation; income through prizes with corporate sponsors



Other topics

- Presentation of IUPHAR initiative on environmental pharmacology
- Presentation by the ISC science team on work related to open science and/or [The Future of Scientific Publishing](#) project
- Using New Technology and AI for Fundraising, Recruitment, and Retention: Explore how digital platforms, new technologies, and AI can be leveraged to enhance fundraising efforts, member recruitment, and retention. Discuss successful case studies and practical implementations.
- Evaluating and Reporting on Ethical Investments: Investigate how unions and associations assess and report the ethical aspects of their investments. Discuss best practices, challenges, and the impact on governance and transparency. Share experiences with external evaluations and how these findings are communicated to boards and stakeholders.
- The Psychology of Motivating Donations: Explore the psychological principles that drive individuals and organizations to donate. Discuss effective strategies and approaches for soliciting donations, including insights from psychological science and practical examples.
- Presentation by Simon Hodson (Executive Director, [CODATA](#)) on relevant initiatives and opportunities for engagement of ISC unions and associations
- Ensuring the next generation of scientists