

ACF EUROPE 2015 CONFERENCE NEWS!

We chose the vibrant city of Amsterdam to host our annual conference in May. Our Dutch colleague, Charel Jelles, supported Giedie Bierens in finding the venue and sourcing two of the three speakers as well as the fantastic dinner on the first night. It is always wonderful to reacquaint ourselves with colleagues across Europe, exchange news and market intelligence. The chatter amongst colleagues went long into the evening.

A conference organiser's nightmare occurred a couple of days before the day, one of our speakers due to unavoidable matters had to withdraw from speaking at the conference. Giedie went pale but the Board soon had re-engineered the agenda to create a collaborative session where members would work together to grow and develop our association. More of that in a moment.

We had attendees from 9 different countries and welcomed warmly our colleague from Argentina, yes we do know that is a country outside of Europe. Gustavo Aquino from the Schein business in Argentina requested to join us with the goal of recreating the South American chapter for the ACF internationally. This would be a great step forward for increasing our exposure across the globe.



Our first speaker, one of our members client, got us off to an impactful start on the day. Paul Huiskens of LyondellBassell Industries, an influential HRD based in Rotterdam, spoke about his business priorities and how he views outplacement businesses and their role in transition and change projects. He had strong views and was not shy to share them. He believes there is a place for businesses like ours as an important appendage to the support his exiting people could need to help them move on. He does not see our services as strategic but more tactical. It is always refreshing to be challenged and to have the opportunity to remind ourselves we continue need to work hard to demonstrate the value and business benefits businesses like all of ours can and do tangibly bring.

The newly designed second session of the day to replace the original speaker received great feedback from all conference attendees and is proving to have sustainability. This was a working session with three core and important development areas for our industry worked on by three mixed groups. These groups continue to work together and have committed to quarterly updates to ACF Europe members on progress between now and next year's conference. The working groups topic areas are:

1. Public and political relations
2. Industry development
3. Quality Assurance

All three groups are meeting again virtually in early July.

Members unable to attend the annual conference are warmly invited to join one of the three groups.

Please contact Giedie Bierens (acfeurope@gmail.com) and he will connect you.

The second speaker of the day was April Samulewicz who is a passionate and inspiring Global HR executive. April invited us to explore the topic of tribal leadership as a platform for engaging each other and our clients in ever more purposeful ways. April also shared some LinkedIn top tips on the day.

We are in the process of exploring the location, agenda and dates for next year's conference. We look forward to welcoming you to join us. In the meantime please take the opportunity to be part of the three practice work teams.

FINANCIAL SITUATION OF ACF EUROPE

The report from our annual conference is also the chance to inform our fellow members on the financial situation of ACF Europe and the achievements ACF Europe attained last year. We

- re-designed our website to make it a more attractive and active platform for both potential client companies as well as individuals
- introduced webinars on a regular basis to foster the discussion of and exchange of ideas on current trends and developments
- published monthly newsletters
- commissioned a study on the development of the outplacement industry

This year we are focusing on two core areas. We are working on extending the regional coverage in Europe and hope to open new chapters in addition to those existing already in Austria, Germany, Italy, Switzerland and the UK. And, of course, it will be a pleasure to support the recreating of the South American chapter. ACF Europe continues to foster its relations with European institutions to achieve more awareness on how effective outplacement can be. We also want to strengthen our position as the association to speak to when it comes to discussing labour market issues.

We take pride in administering our funds economically. With an annual budget of up to € 30,000 in membership fees and a reserve of 1,5 times this sum, we are well prepared to finance and launch additional activities. While we have already defined some initiatives we are also open to finance projects and initiatives proposed by our members. You are warmly invited to present your ideas and projects - without being asked immediately for additional financial contributions.

The Board of ACF Europe

Bev White (UK) - Herbert Mühlenhoff (Germany) - Henry Armstrong (UK)
Mark Richter (Switzerland) - Marc Saunder (France) - Cetti Galante (Italy)



ACF BROCHURE

ACF Europe developed a brochure which summarizes what the association stands for.

Please visit our website to download the brochure:

www.acf-europe.org

go to: About Us
and click on:

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and download the
PDF file



ACF Europe

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LinkedIn group: Association of Career Firms (ACF) Europe