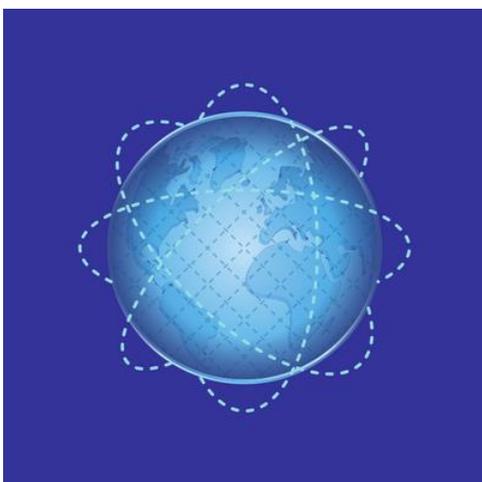




Newsletter for members of the Russell Bedford International network

Russell Bedford continues expansion with three new firms in Hungary, Serbia and Tunisia

New members in Budapest, Belgrade and Tunis give further boost to professional services group's global coverage



Global tax and accounting network Russell Bedford International has announced further growth as it continues on its path to increasing its global coverage with the appointment of three new full member firms in previously unrepresented regions - ICT Európa in Budapest, Hungary, DIJ-Audit in Belgrade, Serbia and Karma & Associés in Tunis, Tunisia.

ICT is a fast-growing, multi-discipline service provider, based in central Budapest, which specialises in accounting, tax, audit and legal services.

Established in 2010, the ICT Group consists of the main accounting and financial consulting practice, ICT Európa Finance Kft, with audit services performed by International Consulting Team Audit Kft and legal services provided by TTG Partners. The firm has experience in various specialist areas such as EU grant audits and their clients include many subsidiaries of international corporations.

DIJ-Audit is two-partner firm, located near the historic centre of Belgrade. The firm primarily focuses on auditing, with additional services including due diligence, business consulting and restructuring, tax consulting, transfer pricing reports and payroll. The firm's clients include exporters of agricultural products, manufacturing and import companies.

Karma & Associés is a three-partner firm, founded in 2015, and led by managing partner, Aymen Karma, a member of Tunisian and French Association of Certified Public Accountants. Partner, Sami Karma, previously General Secretary and Vice-President of the Tunisian Association of Certified Public Accountants (OECT), also supports the firm.

Karma & Associés has more than 120 clients, mostly local SMEs, subsidiaries of international corporations and Tunisian nationals based overseas. The firm is experienced in sectors including services, tourism, distribution, manufacturing and finance.

Stephen Hamlet, Russell Bedford CEO, said of the new appointments: “As the year draws to a close I feel thoroughly satisfied with all that has been accomplished in my first eight months as CEO. The addition of these three new firms is the icing on the cake on what has been a fantastic year and is a testament to the dedication of the team at Russell Bedford whose focus always remains on developing and expanding the network. With several new firms in the pipeline and various new and exciting projects on the horizon, 2018 looks set to be another record year for Russell Bedford. I wholeheartedly welcome our new firms to the network and very much look forward to working together and meeting at our various conferences and events next year.”

Russell Bedford Conferences: Striving for excellence every time



Taking time out of the office to attend a conference is a big investment of time and money for all busy professionals, especially in an age where everyone is permanently switched on and expected to deal with client demands as they happen.

This, along with the growing expectations of professionals to make their time away from the office worth it, only adds to the pressure on networks like ours to deliver excellent conferences that make our members want to attend every time.

To help us keep focused on delivering the same high quality events, we continuously ask ourselves one important question

- where can we add value for our members?

Following the record breaking Russell Bedford Annual Conference in Rome last October, we wanted to know what our members thought of our performance, particularly having successfully implemented several new initiatives.

The results are in:

One of the most important elements of all Russell Bedford conferences is giving our members the opportunity to take a step back from their daily workload so that they can open their minds to learning something new that they can then take back to the office – a rarity in this fast-paced world.

With this in mind, we were delighted to see that **100% of attendees agreed that the content of the Annual Conference met their learning objectives.**

Creating networking opportunities is a key benefit of Russell Bedford International membership and an area that we strive to grow and develop. With **100% of attendees rating networking opportunities at the conference positively**, it is clear that our members value this too.

As a network that has seen much change in only a short few months, and that actively works towards innovating and evolving, it was fantastic to see that our members share our views, with **100% of attendees responding positively to our new conference app.**

The conference app, and new conference brochure, were introduced to make access to information easier and more efficient for participants and to make their overall conference experience more enjoyable. It would seem they did just that, as **97% of attendees rated the overall conference as very good or excellent.**

Russell Bedford CEO, Stephen Hamlet, commenting on the results said: “It is certainly uplifting to read such positive comments from so many of our members, but the work doesn’t stop here. 2018 will be a year for continued renewal by way of some very exciting new projects, which we look forward to unveiling in the New Year. Russell Bedford International is a network that is growing and developing at a rapid pace - watch this space.”

Managers & Young Partners Meeting 2017 – Budapest



The key themes of this year's Managers & Young Partners Meeting were branding, technology and staff development - a meeting that was bursting with the energy of the network's rising young professionals from start to finish. The meeting was held at the Courtyard Budapest City Center, Hungary on 1 – 2 December 2017 and was one of the most well attended meetings to date, with every region of the Russell Bedford network represented by at least one member.

The event commenced with a welcome from Russell Bedford CEO, Stephen Hamlet, and introductions from each member firm. This followed with a fitting presentation on 'Doing Business in Hungary' delivered by

György Lovász and István Csomós (ICT Európa, Budapest - Russell Bedford's newly recruited member firm).

Stephen Hamlet delivered a session on the Russell Bedford network and what network membership means to member firms. Stephen followed his session with a discussion group on the future of accounting firms, which allowed delegates to share their thoughts on the subject.



The afternoon session began with a presentation by Tim Crockford (Clyde & Co LLP) on 'Managing risk in a professional services network'.

Chartered Accountant and director of Training Counts, Angus Farr, followed with a business development session on 'Feeding your funnel'. Angus delivered a further session on 'The six elements of a good presentation' before close of day one of the event.

Delegates were immersed into the fascinating culture of Budapest with a fabulous dinner, drinks and traditional Hungarian music at the ARAZ Restaurant located in the historic quarter of Budapest, the 7th district, and surrounded by the dilapidated buildings that have been transformed into the city's trendiest 'ruin pubs'.



Day two opened with a practical group work session where attendees had the opportunity to put what they had learned into practice. The group was split into teams and each delivered their presentations. The event ended with a debriefing before drawing to a close.



Stephen Hamlet said, commenting on the event: "I cannot express my surprise and delight having met and talked to such promising, rising professionals. Their drive, forward thinking and infectious enthusiasm are precisely the types of attitudes we want to see within our network. I feel inspired by a meeting that produced so many great questions, ideas and new ways of problem solving and I couldn't be happier in the knowledge that there is so much talent within the network to help shape the future of Russell Bedford International."

Russell Bedford relaunches YouTube Channel: RBI Live



We are delighted to announce the relaunch of Russell Bedford International's YouTube video channel, creating "RBI Live", which you can now access [here](#).

We have uploaded four new videos from footage recorded at the hugely successful Annual Conference in Rome earlier this year. The highlights video is accessible [here](#).

The other new videos include extended interviews with Russell Bedford's Chairman, Bill Rucci, and CEO, Stephen Hamlet viewable [here](#); interviews with individual Russell Bedford members available [here](#) and clips from the thought-provoking panel discussion on the future of accounting, chaired by Stephen Hamlet, which you can view [here](#).

Stephen Hamlet commented: "Being able to reach our members and prospects effectively is key to communicating our vision, values and goals. Video is an outstanding medium for conveying our key messages to the right people quickly and gives us an opportunity to share the element of personality, which is not as achievable through other mediums. My team and I are looking forward to producing more short videos that give a brief snapshot of what our organisation is about, capturing the current energy and interaction amongst our members, and showing what it is like to be part of Russell Bedford International."

Watch out for upcoming videos, which aim to demonstrate the 'people element' of professional services - that human touch and personal skills that no artificially created machine (however intelligent) will ever replace. Stay tuned!

Global Accounting Update

A round-up of updates and commentary on new standards, regulations and ethical issues

[Auditor Reporting Standards Implementation: Key Audit Matters](#)

In January 2015, the new and revised Auditor Reporting standards were issued by the International Audit and Assurance Standards Board. Christopher Arnold, Head of SME/SMP and Research, IFAC discusses the consequences of the changes.

[How Can SMEs Implement Integrated Reporting? A Starter Kit](#)

Paul Thompson, Director, European Federation of Accountants and Auditors for SMEs discusses the reasons why small- and medium-sized entities (SMEs) should consider integrated thinking and reporting and how to start the journey with some useful resources.

[Core & More: Making Reporting Smarter](#)

Hilde Blomme, Deputy CEO, Accountancy Europe and speaker at Russell Bedford conferences, and Ben Renier, Manager, Corporate and Public Sector Reporting, Accountancy Europe discuss how to strike the balance of high quality but concise corporate reporting.

More news:

London member Lubbock Fine continues to expand its growing team

Lubbock Fine has expanded its team with three new appointments, Aidan Meade and Matt Spencer in the tax department and Carmel McLoughney in the marketing department. [Read more...](#)

Forthcoming conferences:

Americas Conference, Houston, 25-28 January 2018

Registration is open. In order to benefit from the discounted rate, please register and pay by **Monday, 1 January 2018**. The deadline for registrations is **Wednesday, 10 January 2018**.

For all other information, follow the links below.

International Tax & European Conference, Munich, 18-19 May 2018

Registration will open soon. In the meantime, visit the conference and events pages below for further details.

Conference information is accessible, as usual, via the [Conference](#) page or the [Events](#) section of the Global Intranet. Please ensure that you have logged into the intranet before clicking on the 'Events' link. Please contact Central Office for a reminder of your username and password if necessary.

Russell Bedford - key facts and figures 2017:

- **More than 34 years of global service**
- **Top 20 global accounting network**
- **Approaching USD 500 million global fee income**
- **700 partners and over 5,000 staff**
- **Some 300 offices in almost 100 countries**