

Network News

JUNE 2023

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Tax, AI & the Future Accountant lead the agenda in Bucharest



The Russell Bedford International Tax and EMEA Conference 2023 took place at the 5-star designer Radisson Blu Hotel on 18-21 May, located in the heart of the vibrant city centre of Bucharest, Romania.

Hosted by 3B Expert Audit, Russell Bedford's member firm in Bucharest, the venue offered a superb location for this highly anticipated event, surrounded by the hotel's contemporary design; perfectly situated near the Romanian Athenaeum Concert Hall and within walking distance of the National Museum of Art and the historic Old Town.

Opening this year's conference, Russell Bedford's Chair, Daniel Ryba and CEO, Stephen Hamlet warmly welcomed delegates to Bucharest and to the first day of the conference. Andrei Badiu, partner of host firm 3B Expert Audit, followed with a warm welcome to his home city.



Next, Stephen Hamlet took to the stage once more to offer delegates a network update on what's been happening within the network, including recent achievements and some highlights of the year so far.

Leadership facilitator and personal brand strategist, Amalia Sterescu, was up next for a session called Step into the powerful YOU, an excellent session designed to support members in being the best leader they can be.



The first networking break of the day followed, a fundamental part of Russell Bedford's conference programme, which allows delegates to connect and discuss mutual business concerns.

After the break, Jeremy Mindell joined to give his thorough and extremely important update on International Tax in an Era of Deglobalisation.

After an excellent morning programme, delegates broke for a networking lunch, where they had an opportunity to continue their discussions.

The afternoon programme commenced, with delegates having the pleasure of welcoming the President of the Romanian Chamber of Fiscal Consultants, Dan Manolescu, to the conference. Dan delivered a very interesting update on tax changes in Romania and the implications for foreign investors.

A final networking break followed, before day one of the conference came to a close with a thought-provoking panel discussion on ethics and the future of tax planning, hosted by Russell Bedford global board director for the North America region, Steve Horn.

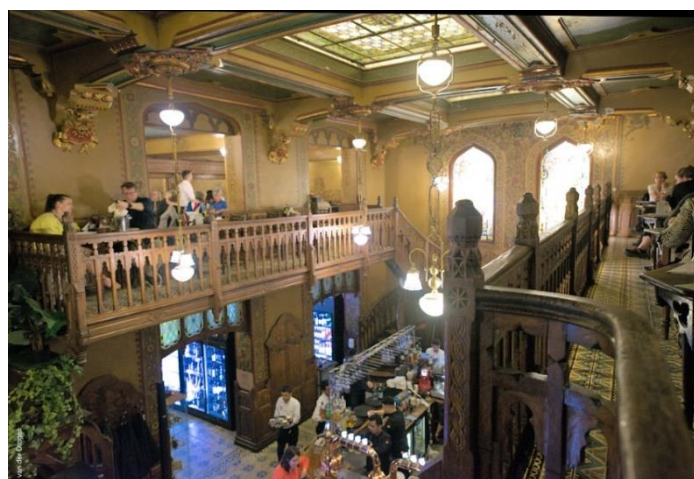


Later, delegates and their guests reconvened in the hotel lobby for departure to the Palace of Parliament. This excursion delved into the rich history of this monumental structure, uncovering the fascinating political narratives intertwined within its walls.



Guided by an expert tour guide, delegates explored the breathtaking rooms adorned with unique building materials, including magnificent marble and exquisite furniture. The experience not only provided insight into the architectural marvel of the Parliament building, but also offered a glimpse into the political heritage.

At Caru cu bere, a popular Romanian restaurant, delegates enjoyed delicious Romanian cuisine while being entertained by an amazing performance of traditional folk and modern dance. Some even got up and joined the dancing, immersing themselves in the lively Romanian culture.



Day two of the conference commenced with pre-conference networking and opening remarks from Stephen Hamlet.

The first session of the day was delivered by Andrei Ghiorgiu from Bluetweak. A highly topical subject matter, Andrei explored the impact of AI and Automation in the Finance Sector: Opportunities, Challenges, and the Road Ahead. This was a ground-breaking session on how businesses can lean into opportunities during this fascinating period, as AI dominates the discussion in 2023 and beyond.



Next, delegates had two workshop sessions to choose from, including Sustainability reporting developments in Europe: Implications for SMEs by Lina Lemessiou and Transfer pricing: From Basics to Value Chain Analysis by Airam González.

The first networking break of the day followed, allowing delegates to reaffirm already established business connections and to meet partners of more recently joined firms.



After the break, the programme provided the opportunity to choose between a further two workshop sessions, including an open discussion on the 'Future accountant' – challenges facing the profession in attracting and retaining talent which was led by Stephen Hamlet, and featured Head of ACCA Southern Europe, Andreia Stanciu.

Meanwhile, partners from London, UK and Mosta, Malta, Phil Moss and Karl Carabott led an international case study, Death and Taxes – not so certain? The workshop provided an excellent interpretation of a real-life issue that delegates could reapply later in a business setting.

Following the workshops, lunch offered an opportunity for further deliberations.

After lunch, board directors for the EMEA region, Laurence Newman and Emmanuel Dupeux led a discussion on Business Development: opportunities for enhanced collaboration.

Up next was Joost Vrancken Peeters, La Gro Geelkerken Advocaten B.V., who joined to discuss the crossover with the legal profession and opportunities to be explored.

The final networking break of the conference followed, where delegates contemplated the conference content and further cemented their business relationships.

To close the daytime programme of this year's International Tax & EMEA Conference, Daniel Ryba led a teambuilding activity. This unique experience proved to be an invaluable opportunity for delegates to strengthen their personal connections, while exploring questions outside the realm of their professional lives.



Under Daniel's guidance, the teambuilding activity delved deep into the lives and aspirations of each participant. By encouraging individuals to share their stories, values, and dreams, the event fostered an environment of trust and vulnerability.

As the delegates engaged in meaningful conversations, they discovered shared experiences and common ground, forging a sense of friendship and understanding that transcended their professional roles. The teambuilding activity culminated in a powerful conclusion that set the stage for continued positive relationships, both personally and professionally.



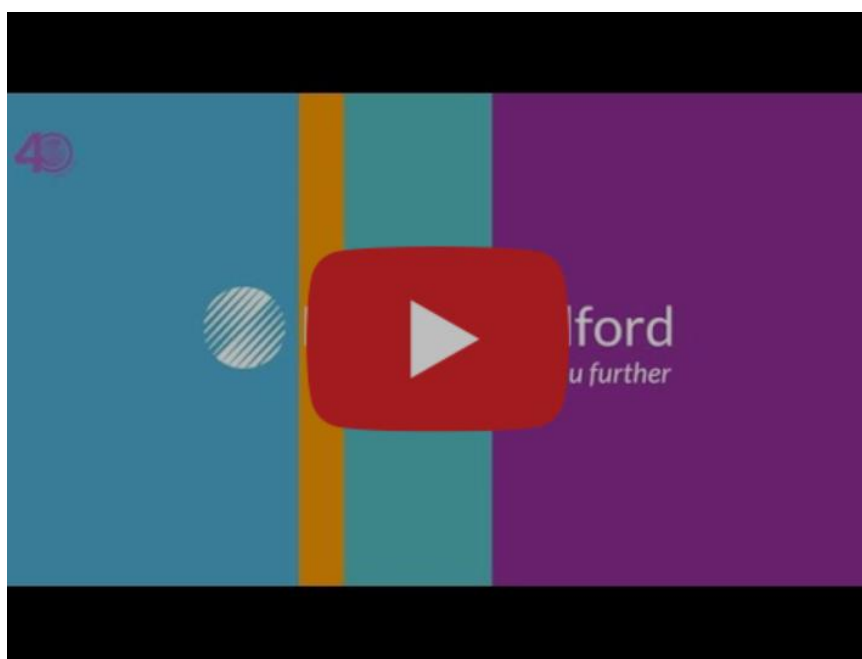
Following the close of the conference, the evening commenced in the hotel lobby for departure to a lakeside restaurant, Hiro Bay for drinks, dinner and entertainment. The evening started with a welcome drink, providing a chance for everyone to relax and connect in the beautiful lakeside setting. As the sun set, delegates enjoyed the great food, stunning views and wonderful company.



Commenting on an incredibly successful conference, Russell Bedford CEO, Stephen Hamlet, said: "It has been a most wonderful conference in Bucharest. We had another excellent programme with a host of fantastic expert speakers who joined to share the latest updates on topics focused on International Tax, leadership, the 'future accountant' and much more. As always, it was fantastic to meet and converse with colleagues from around the globe. I thoroughly enjoyed speaking with delegates and hearing directly from them on their business goals for 2023, and how membership of the Russell Bedford network can help them achieve those goals. A huge thank you to our host, Andrei and our members who made this conference one to remember!"

Russell Bedford Chair, Daniel Ryba, added: "It was a pleasure to be in Bucharest for the 2023 International Tax & EMEA Conference. Meeting colleagues face to face is such an invaluable part of being Russell Bedford members and it was wonderful to see so many of our members taking the time out of their busy business lives to prioritise the opportunity to connect and share knowledge. The programme was packed with great content, enabling delegates to get the maximum benefit from their conference attendance. I was delighted to reconnect with so many people and solidify business relationships with old colleagues and new."

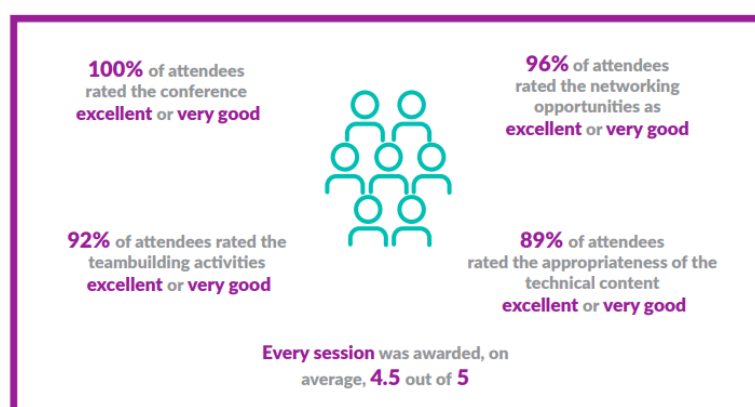
Watch the highlights video below



International Tax & EMEA Conference 2023

Feedback

Attended by delegates, representing almost 30 countries, across all regions of the world



Russell Bedford partners with the IAB in latest supplement



Russell Bedford International has proudly partnered with the International Accounting Bulletin in its 'The Developing Accountant' supplement. The publication, which was released in May 2023, featured two pieces from Russell Bedford, including '40 years at the forefront of the accounting revolution' and a case study on 'Russell Bedford - putting people at the forefront'.

Speaking about the accounting revolution over the past 40 years and why 'putting people at the forefront' should always take precedence, Joe Pickard, Group Editor, The Accountant and International Accounting Bulletin, said:

"The accountancy profession is forever changing; clients are looking to their trusted advisers for guidance on an increasing number of different issues. As such, accountants need to develop their professional skill set to rise to the opportunity that this presents."

He added: "Employers that can support their talent in their own professional development will be able to offer a better service to their clients. The Developing Accountant supplement looks at the different approaches taken by firms to boost the development of their staff, from secondment opportunities to establishing Centres of Excellence. Firms that action initiatives such as these and offer a wide range of learning and development opportunities will be rewarded with a workforce that are well prepared to meet the challenges of the day."

Stephen Hamlet, Russell Bedford's CEO, said: "As always, it has been a delight to partner with the team at the IAB. It has been especially significant to pause and reflect on the vast change seen within the accounting profession, and concurrently within Russell Bedford International, over the past 40 years; a complete transformation in terms of how we now do business. The network has grown exponentially since its inception in 1983 and it continues to be my greatest and most rewarding challenge to steer this great organisation as it navigates to new heights as a leading international network."

He added: "It is exciting to be part of a time of such incredibly rapid industry change as a result of evolving working practices, globalisation, regulatory demands and technology which, most recently, focuses on Artificial Intelligence. It's refreshing to see that change being embraced on a much larger scale than in decades gone by. Time will tell what the future has in store for our profession. However, regardless of what comes next, network expansion and enhancement, as well as the development of people within our firms, will always remain top of the strategic agenda for Russell Bedford International. Here's to the next 40 years of taking you further..."

Read the IAB 'The Developing Accountant' supplement here:

[HTTPS://THEACCOUNTANT.NRIDIGITAL.COM/TA_SUPPLEMENT_MAY23/THE_DEVELOPING_ACCOUNTANT](https://theaccountant.nr.digital.com/ta_supplement_may23/the_developing_accountant)

Russell Bedford shortlisted for 'Network of the Year'



International Accounting Forum & Awards 2023

For the sixth year running, Russell Bedford International has been nominated at the International Accounting Forum Awards. The network has been selected as one of four finalists in the prestigious category of 'Network of the Year'.

Candidates for this major award had to demonstrate the execution of profitable growth strategies, be recognised by the industry as a reputable brand that consistently delivers high quality professional services and have excelled in a number of key strategic and operational areas over the past 12 months.

Speaking about the nomination, Russell Bedford CEO, Stephen Hamlet, said: "I am extremely proud of our great network, having been shortlisted again for 'Network of the Year' at this year's International Accounting Forum Awards. It is especially significant to receive this recognition in what is a most important year for us as a network, in the year of our 40th anniversary. As an international organisation that puts enormous effort and focus on continuous network development, while supporting our members with growing their firms and developing their people, it means a lot to see these priorities and values being acknowledged by our industry and peers."

He added: "We very much look forward to attending the awards ceremony later this month in London, which always provides a great opportunity to celebrate the many advances in the industry along with our collective efforts in delivering those advancements throughout the previous year."

The winners will be announced at an evening awards ceremony at Leonardo Royal Hotel London City on Thursday, 29 June 2023.

Russell Bedford Fiduciaire Genève sponsors Gonet Geneva Open

Russell Bedford International's Geneva, Switzerland member firm, Russell Bedford Fiduciaire Genève SA, was an official sponsor of this year's Gonet Geneva Open held in Geneva, Switzerland on 20 – 27 May 2023.

Founded in 1987, Russell Bedford Fiduciaire Genève is an independent fiduciary company that has developed a recognised expertise in a wide range of fiduciary services. As a member of Russell Bedford International, one of the world's largest networks of independent accountancy firms, it can count on the support of partner firms operating in over 100 countries.

Russell Bedford Fiduciaire Genève, offers tailor-made services with an entrepreneurial approach, including accounting, auditing, tax and financial expertise and advice, corporate governance, pension advice and mortgage financing.

"For more than 30 years, Russell Bedford Fiduciaire Genève has been able to position itself as a reference fiduciary in Switzerland and internationally and to gain the trust and loyalty of its clients," says its Managing Director Frédéric Prysłak.

He added: "We attach great importance to the values that we imprint through our various mandates, this is what constitutes our DNA."

The Gonet Geneva Open returned to the Swiss city in 2015, for the first time since 1991, held at the Tennis Club de Genève at the Parc des Eaux-Vives, the oldest and largest tennis club in Switzerland. Swiss players have won the event on four occasions, with Stan Wawrinka notably winning back-to-back titles in 2016 and 2017.



Attracting 30,000 people throughout the week, this hugely successful eight-day tournament continues to cement its place in Geneva's cultural and sporting landscape and is now one of the city's main events of the year.

Chile's No. 1, Nicolas Jarry, claimed the top spot at the final held on Saturday, 27 May, beating Bulgarian, Grigor Dimitrov 7-6 (1) 6-1 to win this year's tournament.

Gonet Geneva Open Tournament director Thierry Grin said: "We welcome Russell Bedford Fiduciaire Genève. We appreciate their commitment to the Gonet Geneva Open and businesses in the area to which we attach a lot of importance."

Speaking about the impressive tournament, Russell Bedford CEO, Stephen Hamlet, spoke of his attendance: "It was an honour to represent Russell Bedford International at this highly renowned tennis tournament in Geneva. Our member firm in Geneva, Russell Bedford Fiduciaire Genève SA, deserve huge credit for their excellent promotion of the Russell Bedford brand, as official sponsors of the event."

He added: "Having received a welcome like no other, I feel very proud to have the Russell Bedford brand so well promoted in Geneva. I thank our colleagues for their support and generosity."



Chairman of the Board of Directors at Russell Bedford Fiduciaire Genève SA, Nabil Jean Sab, said: "The Gonet Geneva Open has become an institution in Geneva's schedule of top events throughout the year. Drawing thousands of visitors to the city each year, we proudly take the opportunity to showcase our incredible city and it was my pleasure that, this year, I was able to welcome Russell Bedford's CEO, Stephen Hamlet to join us for the celebrations."

He concluded: "A huge thank you to Stephen and team for supporting us in our efforts to bring exposure to our unified brand and shine the spotlight on Russell Bedford International."

Suntera Global bolsters Guernsey presence with new acquisition



Isle of Man member firm, Suntera Global, has announced the acquisition of Carey Commercial Limited (Carey), a boutique Fund, Corporate and Private Wealth services provider, as the firm continues to add further scale in a key growth market. This transaction is subject to regulatory approval.

With a 45+ year heritage and a team of 80 specialists, Carey currently provides a broad range of professional, administrative and accounting services to a prestigious portfolio of fund managers, large institutions, UHNWs and Family Offices around the globe.

Carey's Corporate and Private Wealth offering complements and enhances Suntera's current Guernsey offering. Carey's fast-growing fund administration division provides a broad fund offering including full-service fund administration, directorship services, listing services, investor services, company secretarial and corporate governance, risk and compliance services and international reporting (FATCA & CRS), and adds Guernsey as a new tier one fund jurisdiction for the firm.

David Hudson, Group CEO, Suntera Global, said: "The addition of Carey, a high-quality business with an impressive, closely aligned team and a strong track record across all three divisions, to our strategically important and fast-growing Guernsey business is a great milestone. This acquisition forms part of our ongoing strategy of continuously developing our offering and capability to further enhance the services offered to our clients in each of our tier one jurisdictions."

Jim Gilligan, Managing Director, Carey, comments: "We are excited to be joining Suntera Global and the opportunity to continue our growth journey by being part of a successful global business which provides a wider range of services and jurisdictions to our clients."

She concluded: "The culture of Suntera has been evident through our discussions and it was key for Carey to be part of a group with an aligned culture. Suntera is also fully committed to high environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards, as are we, as well as adhering to the same ethics and responsible practices, which is the cornerstone of Carey. We look forward to working with David and the wider Suntera team."

Suntera Global makes senior finance appointments



Russell Bedford's Isle of Man member firm, Suntera Global, has announced two senior finance appointments in support of the group's extensive growth strategy.

Alex Noel has been promoted to the role of Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Tom Cope has been appointed Group Head of Finance as the firm continues to pursue a strategy of organic and inorganic growth.

In his new CFO role, Alex is responsible for the oversight and direction of the global finance function, planning and forecasting in line with the Group's strategic goals, as well as driving the ambitious growth strategy and identifying key areas for investment and development.

Appointed to the Group Board of Directors earlier in 2023, Alex was previously Director of Mergers and Acquisitions after joining Suntera Global in 2020. He has over twelve years of financial services industry experience and, prior to joining the firm, was an investment professional at Aliter Capital, a mid-market private equity fund investing in the business and support services sector. He is a Chartered Accountant having trained with PwC and held roles in both the Corporate Finance and Audit & Advisory departments in London and the Channel Islands.

A new addition to Suntera Global, Tom will work closely with Alex and will play a pivotal role in leading the Suntera Global finance team to deliver a best-in-class finance function to support the business in achieving its strategic goals. With a focus on integrating market leading systems to drive efficiencies and establish cutting-edge processes, Tom will also lead on the financial integration of acquisitions and look to deliver operational excellence across the group.

With over 20 years' experience working in the international financial services industry, Tom has specific expertise of in-house Finance functions. Most recently, he spent seven years with a FTSE250-listed multijurisdictional service provider, where he played a key role in transforming the Finance team to support the business as it grew from around 300 to 2,500 people.

Tom is a Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (FCCA).

David Hudson, Suntera Global CEO, said: "Over the past year we have continued to evolve our proposition, adding to our footprint in key locations around the world, and we continue to pursue an ambitious strategy driven by both organic growth and acquisitions. Alex has been key in leading on our M&A strategy over the past few years and in his new role will provide greater leadership in overseeing our strategic goals, while Tom's significant experience will be invaluable in helping us to embed innovative solutions to support our objectives. These are key appointments as we look forward to the opportunities 2023 will bring."

Webinar: Building your network and creating referral partners - how to grow your business through relationships - Tuesday, 27 June 2023 @ 3pm BST

On Tuesday, 27 June 2023 at 3pm BST, Michael Quigley, director at Kataholos, a business training and coaching group, joins us for the second webinar of this quarterly series of webinars, offered exclusively to Russell Bedford members and aimed at helping you get the most out of your professional and personal life.



In this hour long session, Michael will bring his experience as a teacher and coach, along with his life-long passion for fitness, wellbeing and developing people, to help you build your network to support business growth.

In this session, you will learn:

- How to be a positive and effective networker
- How to build your network online, locally and internationally
- How to cultivate referral partner relationships to grow your business.

[Register for this webinar!](#)

New Mauritius firm Chartist Associates takes us on an office tour



Russell Bedford's new Mauritius firm, Chartist Associates, has kindly shared a video of their office and team in Mauritius to give other members a glimpse of their office space, culture and team spirit.

To watch the video, follow the link below:

[Take a tour of Chartist Associates' offices](#)

Enjoy!

Sharp & Tannan releases the June 2023 edition of Sharp View



India member Sharp & Tannan has released the June 2023 edition of Sharp View, the firm's industry newsletter which covers articles on consulting, GRC and taxation.

[Download Sharp View here](#)

Global Accounting Update

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

Follow the link for the latest [Global Accounting Update](#) for May 2023. The next edition to be published will cover the period of June 2023.

Forthcoming conferences

Asia Pacific Meeting 2023

The 2023 Russell Bedford Asia-Pacific Meeting will be held on 13-14 July 2023 in Brisbane, Australia. We look forward to welcoming delegates in Brisbane!

40th Annual Global Conference

The 40th Russell Bedford International Annual Global Conference will be held at Hotel William Gray, Montreal, QC, Canada from 18-22 October 2023. Registration is due to open in the coming weeks.

Young Partners & Managers Meeting 2023

The 2023 Young Partners & Managers Meeting will be held on 27-28 November 2023 in Larnaca, Cyprus.

Important Notice: Visa Applications

It has been brought to our attention that there are significant delays in respect of visa applications for entry to Canada, with some noting that applications can take up to six to seven months to process.

Please [click here](#) to check your travel documentation requirements for entry to Canada.

If it is your intention to attend the 40th Annual Global Conference in October and you require a visa, **we strongly advise that you begin your visa application process as soon as possible.**

For further details about upcoming Russell Bedford meetings and to register, please visit the [Events](#) page on the Intranet for the most up to date schedule of events.

Russell Bedford - key facts and figures 2023

- **40 years** of global service
- **Top 20** global accounting network
- **USD 753 million** global fee income
- **1000 partners** and over **9,000 staff**
- Some **370 offices** in more than **110 countries**

For previous editions of Network News, visit our [Network News](#) webpage.