



EUROPEAN FEDERATION
OF ACCOUNTANTS AND AUDITORS
FOR SMES

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

EFAA - European Federation of Accountants and Auditors for SMEs
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Foreword

Not surprisingly, this past year has been one of the most challenging years for EFAA for SMEs, its member organizations and the thousands of small and medium-sized accountancy practices (SMPs) they represent across Europe. We have been disrupted by a pandemic that has fundamentally changed the way we live and work and has had pervasive economic and social impacts. Companies, especially small- and medium-sized entities (SMEs), and the self-employed have sought help to navigate these troubled times. I am proud to say that the accountancy profession has provided this navigation. Throughout this crisis, we, EFAA, its member organizations and its members, have put the public interest first, helping those most in need such as SMEs and self-employed workers. Our profession has adapted and coming through this crisis stronger than ever. This is all thanks to our working together in the single-minded pursuit of making our profession stronger, smarter, and sustainable.

In line with the EFAA strategy, we have been working intensively to inform and connect with partners and stakeholders to highlight the high quality of services provided as well as to strengthen our position as the leading advocate for SMPs and SMEs in Europe. This is our unique role and at no time has this role been more important than during these difficult times. And we are collaborating with others to realise this role – in early 2021, we signed memoranda of understating one with the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), which we joined as Network Partner, and another one with Accountancy Europe. With the latter we aim to coordinate on activities of interest for the accountancy profession.

Let me explain how EFAA is supporting its member organisations and SMPs during the pandemic. First, we are sharing resources. We know staying up to date on the coronavirus crisis and its implications is critical for SMPs to do their job. Our [COVID-19: EFAA Response microsite](#) provides the latest news, resources, guidance, and webinars to help SMPs advise their organizations, clients, and customers. Second, we are advocating on your behalf - we are also directly addressing regulatory, policy and standard setting issues on behalf of our members, SMPs and the clients and businesses that SMPs serve on a European stage. We have published and promoted a [position statement](#) stressing the vital role EFAA, our member organisations and their SMP members play in helping ensure the European economy and society come out of this crisis smarter, stronger, and sustainable. In December 2020 we issued a [joint call to action](#) to ensure that SMEs have better access to professional advice on the most appropriate COVID-19 recovery measures. SMPs are the trusted business advisor of SMEs. Today this is truer than ever. And once this crisis is behind us, SMPs are well placed to advise SMEs on how to make the green and digital transition envisaged by the [EU's new Industrial Strategy for a Green and Digital Europe](#). EFAA seeks to ensure the crisis does not disadvantage SMPs and SMEs: we must have a level playing field and fair competition in this green and digital Europe. And third, we are promoting practice transformation by SMPs. The opportunity for SMPs to grow in today's business environment is unprecedented. Digital transformation is enabling SMPs to reimagine the services they offer. But successful change is critically dependent on SMPs having the right mindset, skillset, and toolset. It demands transforming the practice.

In 2020, EFAA has actively pursued its agenda. On the following pages you will see the most important accomplishments and activities from 2020, activities based on the EFAA strategy and largely undertaken by our various technical groups. I would like to emphasize the intense activity – ranging from events, speaking engagements, meetings with relevant stakeholders, negotiation of agreements with relevant PAOs, through to the Latest from Brussels newsletter and our social media – that demonstrate that we are a productive organization with excellent members and support. In 2020 we welcomed a new member from Romania – the Chamber of Financial Auditors (CAFR) – and in 2021 we will work hard to attract new members into the EFAA family. We urge potential new members to ask not what EFAA can do for you, rather what we together as EFAA can do for SMPs across Europe.

On behalf of EFAA, I wish to thank all the members of our team – the Board of Directors, the staff, the chairs and the members of our expert and working groups, our Special Advisors, and you, our members. Together, we serve Europe's SMPs and their SME clients. Ensuring their voice is heard in Europe has never been easy, but that voice must be heard and understood.

With best wishes,

Salvador Marín
EFAA President

EFAA Members

The European Federation of Accountants and Auditors for small and medium-sized enterprises (**EFAA for SMEs**) is an umbrella organisation for national accountants' and auditors' organisations whose individual members provide professional services primarily to SMEs in Europe. In 2020, EFAA had 13 members throughout Europe representing more than 350 000 accountants, auditors, and tax advisors in Europe and beyond. As of 1 January 2021, EFAA's **13 Ordinary Members** were as follows:

ACCA
Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, United Kingdom



APFM
Association of Professional Financial Managers, Azerbaijan



CAAR
Chamber of Auditors of the Azerbaijan Republic



CAFR
Chamber of Financial Auditors of Romania



CCIS-CAS
Chamber of Accounting Services, Slovenia



CGE
Consejo General de Economistas, Spain



DStV
German Association of Tax Advisers



IEKA
Albanian Institute of Certified Public Accountants



ITAA
Institute for Tax Advisors and Accountants, Belgium



KSW
Austrian Chamber of Tax Advisors and Public Accountants



NBA
The Royal Netherlands Institute of Chartered Accountants



OCC
Portuguese Chartered Accountants Association



SCAAK
Society of Certified Accountants and Auditors of Kosovo



EFAA Key Achievements

In this section, we provide a summary of our key achievements in the year ending 31 December 2020. Where an activity directly supports the accountancy profession's contribution to the pursuit of the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs), as explained in **The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, then the relevant SDG is shown, including specific target(s), in a footnote. The EU is **fully committed** to the sustainability agenda with the 17 SDGs at its core. In fact, in March 2020 the EU launched its **European Green Deal**, the roadmap for making the EU's economy sustainable.

Promoting Practice Transformation of SMPs

The pandemic has prompted a need for SMPs to change, to transform their practices so that they become stronger, smarter, and sustainable. This practice transformation demands an accelerated adoption of digital technologies and business diversification through offering new services. SMEs look to SMPs for help as they make their digital and sustainable transition.

Accordingly, EFAA has continued to promote the use of, and leverage the insights from, the **Digital Competency Maturity Model** (DCMM™), an on-line tool to help SMPs rate and improve their digital competency. By 31 December 2020, over 1,450 SMPs from over 30 countries had used the tool which is now available in 9 languages. Jurisdiction data is supplied to EFAA member organizations so they can compare with European or global averages and help them determine how best to help their SMPs. EFAA is simultaneously promoting the role of SMPs as the trusted business advisor, advising SMEs on a range of issues including sustainable and digital transition, protection and management of intellectual property, business continuity and early warning.

DCMM™ is available in 9 languages –Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovenian, and Spanish– and over 1,450 SMPs from over 30 countries have used it.

SMP services remain critical to the survival, resiliency and recovery of SMEs. EFAA's support for SMPs in their practice transformation journey is highly commendable. In today's uncertain environment, the range and timeliness of the material provided are extremely valuable to SMPs working toward sustainable success for their clients and themselves."

Monica Foerster, IFAC SMP Committee Chair

Advocating the Role of SMPs in Supporting Their SME Clients

In February 2019, EFAA published a **Memorandum** setting out what EFAA believes should be the priorities for SMEs for the new Commission and Parliament, including the need for a digital and green transition, as well as explain the role of both SMPs and EFAA in supporting this transition. The new Commission duly embraced a new industrial and SME strategy, which is based on a transition towards climate neutrality and digital leadership. On 20 November 2020, at EFAA's virtual conference, '**The Role of SMPs in the Implementation of the EU's SME Strategy**', we discussed the role of SMPs in helping SMEs make the digital and sustainable transition envisioned by the EU SME Strategy and concluded that to fulfil this role effectively SMPs would need to transform their practices as explained above (**Goal 12¹**).

The pandemic has shown the important role SMPs play for their SME clients, from guidance on support measures to referral to other specialised advisors for the digital and green transition. It is key for SMPs to develop their skills in different fields.

Véronique Willems, Secretary General, SMEunited

Helping SMPs and SMEs Contribute to a Sustainable Economy

EFAA has long realized that the future of corporate reporting lies in the development of non-financial reporting (NFR), often referred to as sustainability reporting, and its integration with financial reporting.

2020 was for EFRAG full of non-financial reporting activities: finalisation of the first European lab@EFRAG report on climate related reporting, launch of the project on reporting on non-financial risks and opportunities and the linkage to the business model and receiving the mandates of the European Commission on EU non-financial reporting standard setting. In both reports published on 8 March SMEs and SMPs are prominently mentioned underlining the importance of SMEs in the EU sustainability reporting landscape in a proportionate manner. In my proposed governance structure for the new EFRAG I envisage in the non-financial reporting pillar a role for SMEs and SMPs recognising the trickle-down effect and supply chain impact, by the establishment of a SME/SMP working group

EFRAG is grateful for the support of EFAA as one of the founding fathers of EFRAG and EFAA's contributions to both our financial and non-financial reporting activities.

Jean-Paul Gauzès, EFRAG Board President and European Lab Steering Group

1. **Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns**

12.6: Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle.

NFR enables users to gain a deeper understanding of a company's ability to generate value. Moreover, NFR is instrumental to the EU's goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 or sooner as well as certain key social objectives. In early 2020 the European Commission commenced the much-anticipated review of the Non-Financial Reporting Directive (NFRD). EFAA submitted a robust response to, and **position statement** on, the **public consultation** in which we advocated for NFR to be voluntary for SMEs, albeit strongly encouraged. EFAA was pleased to have a member of its Accounting Expert Group, Esther Ortiz, serve as a member of the European Lab Project Task Force on preparatory work for the elaboration of possible EU non-financial reporting standards (**PTF-NFRS**). The PTF-NFRS published **its final report** on 8 March 2021 and EFAA has followed this matter very closely, through our representative as well as with various members of the expert groups and our representation in the EFRAG General Assembly, so we are pleased to see that careful consideration is given to the needs of SMEs and SMPs. Significantly one recommendation is for NFRS to be proportionate for SMEs. EFAA also submitted a response to the IFRS Foundation in which we stressed the need for global coordination and appropriate consideration of SMEs and «SMPs (**Goal 12**²).

Shaping the Future of SME Audit

EFAA, supported by its own **research**, believes that regulators, policy makers and the business community may understate the true value of audit for small- and medium-sized entities (SMEs) and have gone too far in exempting small companies from the audit requirement in pursuit of a reduction in regulatory burdens. The benefits from having an audit, in addition to giving external assurance to various users, include the following: providing a check on accounting systems and records; advising management; and improving internal control. Furthermore, EFAA believes that International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) are not suitable for the audits of SMEs. Accordingly, EFAA is both promoting the utility of the SME audit and supporting the International Audit and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB)'s endeavour to develop a new stand-alone audit standard for SMEs / less-complex entities (LCEs) as soon as practicable. Such a standard should be based on the same fundamental concepts as the ISAs and provide an audit of equivalent quality to that of an ISA audit. The IAASB hopes to approve an Exposure Draft (ED) of a proposed new audit standard for LCEs at its June 2021 meeting.

The IAASB's mandate encapsulates developing robust global standards that are in the public interest and capable of application to entities across industries and of different sizes and complexity. Our project to develop a separate auditing standard for financial statements of less complex entities is responsive to stakeholder-identified needs in this segment. We recognize and appreciate the EFAA as a strong advocate for the work we are undertaking."

Willie Botha, Technical Director IAASB International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board

2. **Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns**

12.6: Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle.

Partnering with Others to Support SMPs

EFAA is one of the founding partners of the “**INTEREST - INTEgrated REporting for SMEs Transparency**” ERASMUS+ Strategic Partnership financed by the Hungarian ERASMUS+ Agency. The consortium of universities and non-educational partners from 7 countries across the EU is developing materials that will be useful for those, like SMPs, that prepare integrated reports of SMEs.



In 2020, EFAA intensified collaboration with others. In October, EFAA signed an **agreement of collaboration** with the **European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO)** to help build capacity of SMPs to advise SMEs on IP. In November 2020, EFAA became a partner of the **Early Warning Europe Network** to help raise awareness of role SMPs can play a key role in early warning of impending financial distress. In early 2021, EFAA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the **International Federation of Accountants (IFAC)** in so doing becoming an IFAC Network Partner. Joint activity is anticipated in the areas of non-financial reporting and assurance for SMEs and practice transformation. Similarly, EFAA has signed an MOU with **Accountancy Europe** in which both parties have agreed to coordinate on key activities including input to upcoming Audit Reform (**Goal 4, Goal 12, and Goal 17³**).

The 6 partners and EFAA made significant progress in 2020 in the “INTEREST - INTEgrated REporting for SMEs Transparency” ERASMUS+ Strategic Partnership project.

We were working on Simplified Framework for SMEs. Our <IR> framework is fully compliant with the “International <IR> Framework” recently updated by the International Integrated Reporting Council (IIRC). It incorporates the insights gathered through an in-depth assessment of the level of SME readiness and of current <IR> practices in six European countries. To our knowledge, this is the first systematic overview of the “state of the art” of <IR> among European SMEs; for this reason, we decided to publish these country reports as an edited volume, an additional intellectual output of the INTEREST project which is going to be available for researchers and practitioners alike. We have started to prepare a Guide for SMEs where we show what and how to write about IR and NFI, developing an IT-web based guide as well to support them.

Andrea Szirmai Madarasine, Ph.D - Head of Finance and Accounting, Budapest Business School
Associate professor, Accounting Department

3. **Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all**
4.7: By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development

Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

12.6: Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle.

Goal 17: Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

17.16: Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries.

EFAA Activities

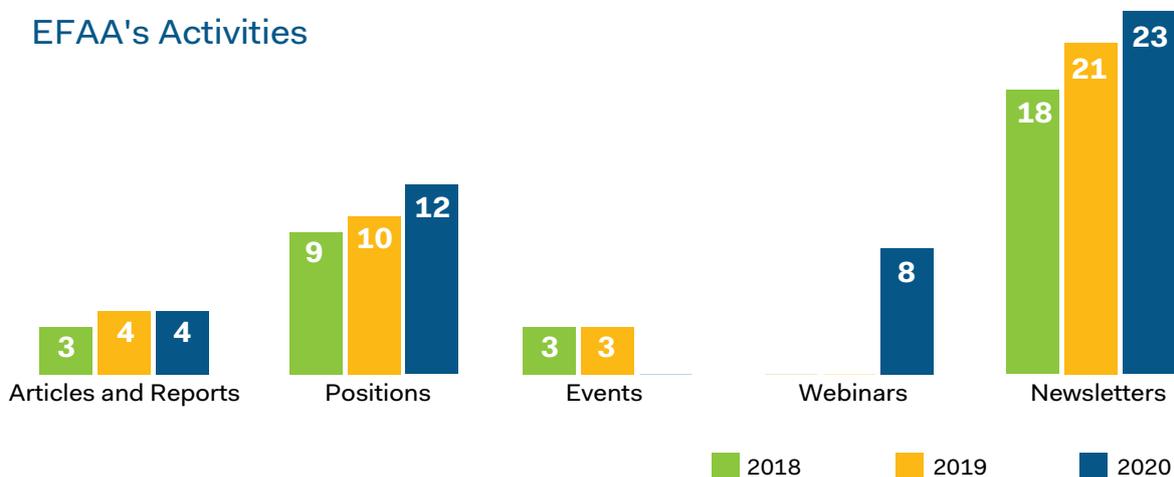
Overview

EFAA's activities are primarily conducted or led by its various technical groups. EFAA has four technical groups – the Accounting Expert Group (AEG), the Assurance Expert Group (AssEG), the Digital Working Group (DWG) and the EU Professional Regulation Expert Group (PREG). Members of these groups are nominated by EFAA's member organisations. In 2020 these groups met 10 times by video conference.

TECHNICAL GROUP	CHAIR	NUMBER OF MEETINGS	NUMBER OF EXPERTS
EU Professional Regulation Expert Group	 Salvador Marín. EFAA	3	10
Accounting Expert Group	 Richard Martin. ACCA	2	11
Assurance Expert Group	 Paul Thompson. EFAA	2	10
Digital Working Group	 Martin de Bie. NBA	3	9

EFAA's activities are described in detail on the EFAA website [here](#) and, together with outreach activities, described in issues of the [Latest from Brussels](#). In 2020, EFAA has increased both the quantity of output, as shown in the 'EFAA Activity' graph below, and quality. EFAA now has a sharper focus on priorities and making an impact.

EFAA's Activities



Events

EFAA 2020 International Conference

EFAA held its 2020 International Conference, '**The Role of SMPs in the Implementation of the EU's SME Strategy**', on 20 November 2020 in a virtual format. The virtual event gave the opportunity to discuss with decision makers and key stakeholders the EU SME Strategy. The consequences of the pandemic on SMEs and on SMPs were highlighted. The event focused on how SMPs will need to adapt their skills in order to continue to offer the best advice and services to their SME clients. A wide representation of delegates joined us to discuss the role of SMPs in helping SMEs and concluded that to fulfil this role effectively SMPs would need to transform their practices by fast tracking the adoption of digital technologies and diversifying their business by offering new services [click [here](#) for the video].



Role of SMPs in Implementation of the EU's SME Strategy

EFAA 2020 Virtual Conference, Friday 20 November 2020, 11:30 CEST



Webinar Series

■ 22 May 2020 - EU Financial Instruments for SMEs

The webinar aimed to share information on financing opportunities available for SMEs at the EU level, on how these resources were channelled to national level and thus to SMEs, and on other possible financing schemes, e.g. access to subsidised loans or equity instruments. **Gerhard Huemer**, Director for Economic & Fiscal Policy at SMEUnited, provided the keynote presentation [click [here](#) for the video].

■ 22 June 2020 - COVID-19 global survey: Inside business- impacts and responses

The webinar focused on the survey conducted by **ACCA** to assess developments over the first few months of the crisis. **Mike Suffield**, Director Professional Insights at ACCA gave the keynote presentation and special attention was given to the findings most relevant to SMPs and SMEs [click [here](#) for the video].

9 July 2020 - Future of SME Reporting: Implications of COVID-19



Richard Martin, Head of Corporate Reporting at ACCA and Chair of EFAA's Accounting Expert Group, shared advice and guidance on the accounting and financial reporting requirements that will need to be considered in addressing the financial effects of COVID-19 when preparing SME financial statements [[click here](#) for the video].

23 July 2020 - Future of SME Auditing: Implications of COVID-19 and Standard for Audits of Less Complex Entities

Willie Botha, Technical Director, IAASB and **Beverley Bahlmann**, Deputy Director, IAASB provided insights on audit implications of COVID-19 and they also shared IAASB resources (staff alerts etc.) and activities [[click here](#) for the video].

15 September 2020 - Future of SMEs: Liquidity and Business Continuity

Gerhard Huemer, Director for Economic & Fiscal Policy at SMEunited, shared the key findings from an SMEunited survey. **Paul Thompson**, EFAA Director, explained how SMPs can help SMEs maintain liquidity using business-continuity tools [[click here](#) for the video].

15 October 2020 - Future of SMPs: Building Digital Competency



Speakers are **Martin de Bie** and **Noël de Rudder**. Key topic was the importance of digitalization for SMPs, all the more vital as a result of the pandemic, and how EFAA's Digital Competency Maturity Model (DCMM) could be used to help SMPs raise their digital competency [[click here](#) for the video].

29 October 2020 - Future of Non-Financial Reporting by SMEs



Representatives of SMEunited and of EFAA for SMEs discussed what shape and form NFR should take for SMEs. The event was particularly relevant due to the EFRAG mandate on the possible European Non-Financial Reporting Standard. **Salvador Marin**, EFAA President, highlighted EFAA's intensive work, along with EFRAG and other relevant stakeholders, in representing the interest of SMPs as well as promoting adequate proportionality for SMEs [[click here](#) for the video].

Articles

In 2020 EFAA published several articles on relevant topical issues impacting SMPs and their professional bodies. EFAA's member organizations and others are encouraged to use [these articles](#) for their own use including translation and reproduction in their own journals and newsletters.

- 5 February - [Insights from EFAA's Digital Competency Rating Tool](#)
- 7 September - [Digital Competency Maturity Model: Recommendations from Initial Results](#)
- 7 September - [EFAA Digital Competency Maturity Model - At A Glance](#)
- 12 October - [The Financial Reporting of Intangibles by SMEs in Europe](#)

Position Papers and Comment Letters

In 2020 EFAA published 12 [comment letters and position statements](#) as listed below. Typically, these were developed and drafted with the input from the relevant expert or working group and the EFAA CAG representatives. Draft and final versions were disseminated to EFAA member organisations on a timely basis so that they might make use of them in developing their own responses. Recipients frequently commented on the high quality and persuasiveness of our letters representing the voice of SMEs / SMPs.

- 09 January - [Response to the survey of the European Court of Auditors regarding the policy initiative of the European Commission on Capital Markets Union \(CMU\)](#)
- 23 March - [Position on Strengthening the Single Market for Services and the Role of Regulated Professions](#)
- 15 May - [Response to the IESBA's Exposure Draft, Proposed Revisions to the Fee-related Provisions of the Code](#)
- 15 May - [Response to the IESBA's Exposure Draft, Proposed Revisions to the Non-Assurance Services Provisions of the Code](#)
- 09 June - [Response to the Public Consultation on the Revision of the Non-Financial Reporting Directive](#)
- 19 June - [Position Statement - Non-Financial Reporting by SMEs](#)
- 25 June - [Response to the IAASB's Draft Non-authoritative Guidance: Special Considerations in Performing Assurance Engagements on Extended External Reporting](#)
- 13 August - [Response to the Public Consultation on an action plan for a comprehensive Union policy on preventing money laundering and terrorist financing](#)
- 27 August - [Response to the European Commission consultation on sustainable finance - Obligation for certain companies to publish non-financial information](#)
- 29 September - [Response to the IAASB's Exposure Draft \(ED\), Proposed International Standard on Auditing 600 \(Revised\) Special Considerations – Audits of Group Financial Statements \(Including the Work of Component Auditors\)](#)
- 26 October - [EFAA Response - Request for Information: Comprehensive Review of the IFRS for SMEs Standard](#)
- 29 December - [EFAA Response to the IFRS Foundation Consultation Paper on Sustainability Reporting](#)

Meetings and Speaking Engagements

EFAA represents its member organisations and thereby Europe's SMPs with one voice at the European and global level. We are ensuring that our voice is heard by regulators, standard setters, and other important stakeholders by responding to public consultations, participation and presentations at events and conferences, and direct dialogue with political stakeholders in meetings. In 2020 EFAA representatives participated and presented at over 47 external meetings and events.

Key Communication Tools

Latest from Brussels



In 2020, EFAA issued 23 Latest from Brussels, an HTML newsletter distributed by email primarily to members but also key stakeholders and other interested parties, featuring short articles on regulatory, policy and technical developments, EFAA and EFAA member activities, useful practical guidance for SMPs, and other developments relevant to the profession. One section is devoted to guidance to SMPs on how to undergo digital transformation. These newsletters are an essential instrument for providing timely and relevant information to our members as well as stimulating their advocacy efforts to well over 400 recipients. The newsletter archive is hosted on the EFAA website and the free subscription open to anyone.

Social Media

In 2020, EFAA has steadily increased its use of social media both as a vehicle to help inform its members, and their members, of relevant developments and to raise wider awareness and recognition of the activities of EFAA and its members. EFAA's Twitter account registered a sharp increase in activity and in so doing increased its followers by a third to 1,120. The LinkedIn group, EFAA Member Forum, is used to share relevant developments and provide a means for representatives of EFAA member organisations to share ideas, information, and insights.

Website

Over the year, EFAA incrementally improved its website adding new content to make it more useful to member organisations and their members and to showcase and promote our work to a wide audience of stakeholders.

Relationships with Key Stakeholders and Partners

EFAA has close relationships and regular interaction with various stakeholders and partners including:

- European Commission and Parliament – most interaction is with units responsible for accounting and auditing (DG FISMA), tax (DG TAXUD) and regulation of professional services (DG GROW).
- European Financial Reporting Advisory Group (EFRAG) - EFAA is an EFRAG member and was represented in the European Lab PTF-NFRS.
- European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) – as noted above EFAA has signed an agreement of collaboration with EUIPO.
- SMEunited - EFAA is an active sectoral member of SMEunited, the association of crafts and SMEs in Europe, providing input to the development of SMEunited's policy positions and co-hosting events (see above).
- Early Warning Europe Network – as noted above EFAA became a member in November 2020.
- IESBA and the IAASB Consultative Advisory Groups (CAGs) - EFAA is represented by Hysen Cela of IEKA and Paul Thompson, EFAA Director. The EFAA Director also observed those parts of the IAASB and the IESBA virtual meetings of high SMP and SME relevance.
- Edinburgh Group - EFAA is a member and participates in meetings of this highly influential global coalition of 15 regional and national professional bodies representing around 900 000 professional accountants.
- International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) – as noted above EFAA signed a MOU with, and became a Network Partner of, IFAC on 5 March 2021.
- Accountancy Europe – as noted above EFAA signed a MOU with this regional body on 3 February 2021.
- The World Bank - EFAA increasingly works with the Bank in supports of the development of the accountancy profession across the Balkans, Eastern Partnership and Central Asia.
- International Integrated Reporting Council (IIRC) – as noted above EFAA is partnering with universities to develop materials to help SMPs and others prepare integrated reports for SMEs.
- European Group of International Accountancy Networks and Associations (EGIAN)
- South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA) - EFAA and SAFA have a Memorandum of Understanding dating back to 2014 whereby each party share ideas and insights and promote each other's activities.

EFAA An Overview

SMEs are the backbone of Europe's economy, and small- and medium-sized accounting, auditing, and tax advisor practices (SMPs) are their most important provider of compliance and advisory services. SMPs help SMEs and entrepreneurs produce high quality financial information to help them better manage their business and gain the trust and confidence of stakeholders. Furthermore, they help SMEs gain access to finance, and they provide them with business advice that enables them to grow sustainably. During the pandemic, the crucial role of SMPs was helping their SME clients survive the crisis, bolster their resilience, and prepare for recovery.

EFAA, the big voice of SMPs, strives to influence regulators and policy makers in the EU, and where necessary globally, to help protect and promote SMPs and their SME clients, develop proportional and scalable standards, and promote a level playing field in the market for professional services.

Strategy

EFAA's three long-term strategic pillars are: to inform – keep EFAA members and stakeholders informed of developments that most impact their individual members; to advocate – speak out on issues most relevant for the members of EFAA and the profession as a whole; and to connect – facilitate the communication and cooperation between EFAA members and in turn foster closer contact between individual members across Europe and other relevant stakeholders. To help it prioritize its activities EFAA prioritise its activities using three guiding principles: focusing on Europe; enhancing value-added to individual members; and collaborating with relevant stakeholders.

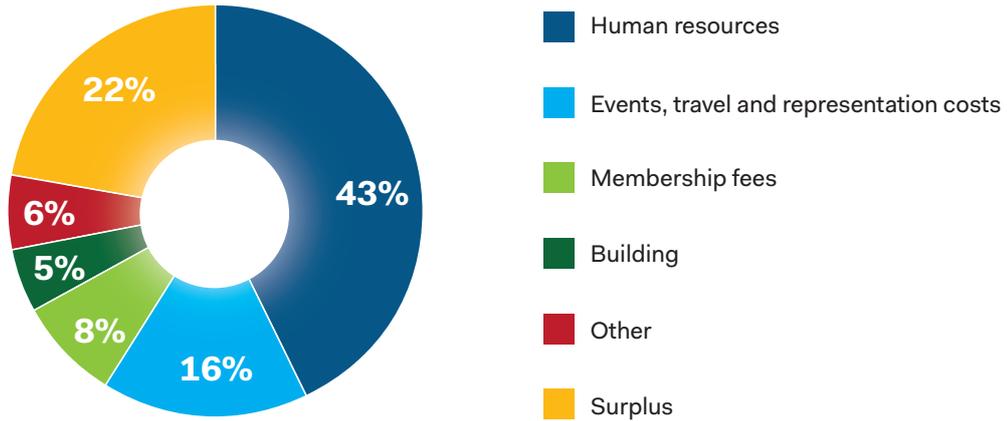
EFAA in Numbers in 2020



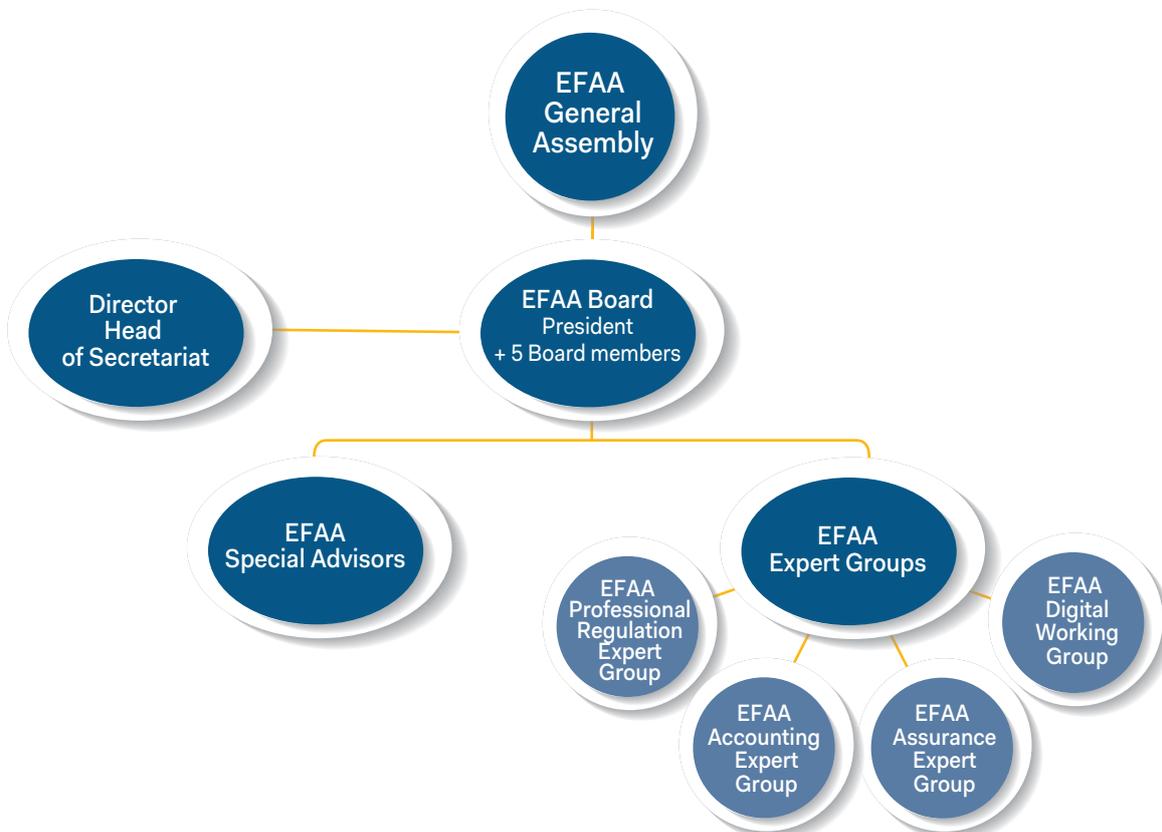
Financial Highlights

While EFAA has intensified its activities in 2020, as demonstrated by the graph above, it has remained well within budget. As of 31 December 2020, reserves were equivalent to 12 months of operating expenditure. This was the result of tight financial management as well as the increased use of virtual events and meetings due to the global pandemic.

EFAA FINANCIALS 2020



EFAA Structure



EFAA Board - Status 31/12/2020



Salvador Marín
President
Spain



Maurice Buijs
Board member
The Netherlands



Johan De Coster
Board member
Belgium



Paul Thompson
EFAA Director



Carlos Menezes
Board member
Portugal



Aleksander Štefanac
Board member
Slovenia



Marcus Tuschen
Board member
Germany



Sara Zambelli
Head of Secretariat
and of Public
Affairs



Robin Jarvis
Special Advisor



Luca Brusati
Special Advisor

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