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corporate registry news
from around the world.

Welcome from the President



Hello and welcome to the July edition of our members newsletter.

Our 2019 annual conference was held in the Republic of North Macedonia from April 7 - 11. Thank you to our conference organisers and all attendees. You helped make the conference a great success.

You can read about some of the highlights from the conference in this edition. Make sure to also visit our Facebook page 'Corporate Registers Forum' to view some photos from the annual conference.

I recently had the opportunity to attend the inaugural conference of the European Business Registers Association (EBRA) in Tallin, Estonia. The theme for the conference was 'Moving towards inspired yet responsible digital changes'. The conference provided the opportunity to discuss emerging registry issues, and I am excited to share my learnings with CRF members.

Lastly, a reminder that we have recently refreshed our CRF website. Visit for helpful information about the CRF, our member jurisdictions, and our conferences.

Happy reading!

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CRF 2019 Annual Conference Summary



Marija Boshkovska-Jankovski - Director of the Central Register of the Republic of North Macedonia.

The 16th annual conference of the Corporate Registers Forum (CRF2019) was hosted by the Central Register of the Republic of North Macedonia under the theme “Registries as Cross-Border Enablers – Beyond National”.

The Conference Director was Ms. Marija Boshkovska Jankovski, Director of the Central Register. She worked with a committee of 22 people and the CRF Secretariat to organise CRF2019, which was held at the Holiday In in Skopje and the Uranija House in Ohrid.

The committee worked hard to organise CRF2019 including preparing the program and conference web site, designing sponsorship packages, ongoing communication with delegates, public relations and marketing

activities, and many other logistics and activities before, during and after the conference.

The Conference was officially opened by Mr. Zoran Zaev, Prime Minister of the Republic of North Macedonia.

Ms. Rosanne Bell, President of the Corporate Registers Forum, also delivered welcome remarks.

Conference Highlights

It was exciting to have the opportunity to socialise with fellow attendees and to see the presentations at CRF2019.

We had the opportunity to learn more about the reforms for the ease of Doing Business, the experiences, pros and cons of doing business benchmarking as a catalyst for economic reform, the International

Business Registers Report for 2018, and cross-border registry interoperability. We also heard about beneficial ownership registries, FATF mutual evaluation, challenges and modern registry management, legal issues for registries and IT for registries.

We also got to enjoy some social events including an interesting but challenging 'jeopardy' style team building activity, a guided boat tour of the Matka Canyon and the Vrelo cave, and a welcome Cocktail Reception held at the historic site "Daut Pasha Hamam", home of the Macedonian National Gallery.

A highlight of CRF2019 was attending the concert of world-renowned jazz guitarist, Vlatko Stefanovski. The

concert was held at the winery Chateau Sopot, where attendees were also able to taste traditional Macedonian food and learn the Macedonian traditional dance accompanied with a musical performance by the traditional Macedonian band Chalgia Sound System.

The landscapes of the Ohrid Lake, one of the few lakes in the world rich in rare endemic species, provided all attendees with unforgettable memories and rest from the work sessions.

We are particularly grateful to the conference supporters including the Diamond sponsor Reaktiv, the Platinum sponsor Foster Moore, the two Gold sponsors and all the other Macedonian companies who

contributed to this year's conference.

Thanks to all 163 delegates (89 from member jurisdictions, 44 from non-member jurisdictions/international organisations, 13 guests and 17 from commercial entities) that participated in the engaging sessions and insightful panels.

Thank you to all the delegates for the overall cooperation. We hope for further joint co-operation in order to share knowledge in the field of business registration worldwide.

The 2019 European Business Registers Association Inaugural Conference

Rosanne Bell, President, Corporate Registers Forum and Executive Director, Registry, Australian Securities and Investments Commission.

The inaugural conference of the European Business Registers Association (EBRA) was held in Tallinn, Estonia from 5-7 June. I attended in my capacity as president of the international Corporate Registers Forum (CRF) and represented Australia. Some other CRF members also attended including a delegation from Singapore.

The conference brought together around 140 participants representing 40 jurisdictions. It offered an

opportunity to discuss emerging registry issues with a focus on those impacting Europe. The attendees were predominately European countries and included delegations from countries such as Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Italy, North Macedonia, Sweden, Switzerland, and the UK.

The EBRA was established in April 2019 through the coalition of the European Business Register (EBRA) and the European Commerce Registers' Forum (ECRF). This was the first conference organised by EBRA. Similar to CRF, EBRA is an association of Business Registry

professionals that provides insight to Business Registry policy, operations and technology initiatives. It aims to offer unique and compelling value at a European level. EBRA supports the business registries to deliver best-in-class services through collaboration, peer discussion, benchmarking and knowledge sharing activities.

The new association continues to operate the [European Business Register Network](#) (EBR). The EBR network provides online access to Business Registry information from 22 European countries, directly from the source of each member's official register. EBRA identifies

and coordinates working groups and research projects to analyse emerging policy and common registry challenges.

The theme for the conference was 'Moving towards inspired yet responsible digital changes'.

Pre-conference I attended a workshop on 4 June on 'The Once Only Principle' (TOOP) – providing data only once. The 'Once-Only' Principle Project was launched by the European Commission in January 2017 and focuses on data from businesses. It is an initiative of about 50 organisations from EU Member States and Associated Countries to explore and demonstrate the "Once-Only" principle across borders with the aim to reduce administrative burden for businesses and public administrations. TOOP

will enable better exchange of data or documents of businesses with and between public administrations. With the aim to implement EU-wide TOOP by Dec 2023, the TOOP workshop considered issues such as the approach to piloting, benefits and barriers, data sharing opportunities with the private sector, international dimensions, and national best practice for those introducing TOOP.

Some of the other conference topics included:

- E-governance – digital by default
- Business registers and cross border cooperation
- The value of digital transformation for entrepreneurs
- Disruptive technologies and the future of registries

- Benchmarking outcomes including the International Business Benchmarking Report (IBBR) 2018
- News from the EBRA company law working group, and
- The Estonian registry – regarding a progressive online registry

I made a presentation on the activities of the CRF. I have also briefed the CRF Executive Committee on some learnings we can take from the conference as we plan our own next conference, as well as on discussions at the forum on the future involvement of CRF in supporting international benchmarking and on the potential for a future joint conference between CRF and EBRA.



From left - Mr. Antti Riivaro, President of the European Business Registry Association, Ms. Rosanne Bell, President of the Corporate Registers Forum, and Mr. Josef Gasimov, Deputy Superintendent of Corporations, Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs Corporations Division

The International Business Registers Report 2018



The International Business Registers Report 2018 is now Available

The International Business Registers Report 2018 is published and available to download from the [CRF website](#). It's based on responses from 93 respondents to the annual survey that's distributed to business registries from across the globe. This year, there's information on the following:

1. How business registries are set up and run
2. How long it takes them to process information that's filed by corporate entities
3. How business registries are funded and whether they charge fees for products and services
4. How the role of business registries is evolving and, in some cases, expanding.
5. The provision and take-up of e-services

6. Whether the registration and termination of corporate entities in each of the responding jurisdictions can tell us anything about the economy of those jurisdictions

7. How the information business registries hold about corporate entities is used and shared

9. Case studies from Australia, Estonia, British Columbia, Ecuador and Mexico

9. Snapshots of basic information for each of the responding jurisdictions.

The report is written by the business registry community for the business registry community. It's a valuable tool for sharing knowledge and best practice. At the CRF, IACA and EBRA conferences this year the IBRR project team received lots of positive feedback and examples of how the report is used. However, it will only continue to be valuable as

long as business registries continue to respond to the survey that's sent out. Our aim is for the report to be truly global and representative of all jurisdictions; this is particularly true for CRF as membership is so geographically widespread.

The 2019 survey is due to close at the end of June and hopefully there'll be a high response rate from CRF members. If anyone hasn't participated and would like to, please get in touch ASAP with Stacey-Jo Smith (sjosmith@companieshouse.gov.uk).

Interested in hosting a CRF Technical Workshop?

The CRF executive committee welcomes applications from member jurisdictions interested in hosting a CRF technical workshop.

As a host nation, you will have the opportunity to put together an exciting, interesting and engaging programme while raising the profile of your registry.

Interested member jurisdictions, please e-mail
corporateregistersforum@gmail.com.

Want to contribute to our next newsletter?

Any feedback, ideas or suggestions for the next quarter's newsletter?

Please contact:

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