

# Young Members Group goes with the flow during uncertainty

Clarissa Nitsch and Robert Peldán share their experiences as co-chairs of the INSOL Europe Young Members Group during the Covid-19 pandemic.

**W**hen we agreed to write a piece for R3 in November 2020, we had hoped that we would be close to getting back to a normal life. A life that would have meant we would travel again, see our friends abroad, mingle at conferences, participate in lively discussions with a microphone in hand and old and new friends next to us.

Now, a couple of months later, reality has hit us hard and we have to write yet another piece about this crisis that keeps us all controlled.

## Introduction to the group

We took up the torch as co-chairs of the Young Members Group of INSOL Europe from our friends Georges-Louis Harang and Anne Bach in October 2020, and we brought a bag full of ideas with us. We were looking forward to taking on new and exciting tasks.

The Young Members Group (YMG), is designed to motivate young insolvency practitioners to get out of their comfort zones, participate in conferences as speakers, lead discussions or just to get used to being active at an event where one probably doesn't know anybody yet. The idea is to build a forum where the young members have the chance to develop the skills that are so important for our profession; growing a network, making contacts in other countries, sharing and discussing views and finding opportunities to work together. We have visibility and host an open platform for contributions from young members involved in all of the activities of INSOL Europe. We want to encourage young practitioners to become members and benefit from our activities.

## Global meet and greet

We do not function without our international connections. They are the air we breathe, the water we drink and our lives! To foster these connections, each year the YMG holds a joint seminar with the insolvency commission of the International Association of Young Lawyers. In 2019, we were on the beautiful island of Mallorca and had a three-day seminar on a great variety of insolvency-related topics. The year after, everything was lined up for a winter seminar in Chamonix. We had packed our



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ski boots to hit the slopes and were ready to talk about insolvency. The first Covid-19-restrictions gave us little option but to cancel the event, and we decided to move it to Stockholm in June this year.

As we write this article, we are likely forced to again postpone the seminar. The same applies to the YMG drinks reception that, in our opinion, is a highlight of the

Annual Congress every year. The reception is always organised by us alongside a local member that knows the best places to go in their hometown. It is a less formal occasion, and often rounds off the conference for both the young and more seasoned members of INSOL Europe. The drinks are always followed up by lively discussion at a dinner table in a laid-back restaurant.

## Moving online

Well, in-person cancellations are the way of things right now, so why not make the best out of it? We use the time we save while not running to an airport or to a meeting – we get online and keep our network growing. Together with Anne Bach and Georges-Louis Harang we hosted an online ‘Covid Coffee Break’ in Summer 2020 (watch it here: [www.insol-europe.org/publications/web-series](http://www.insol-europe.org/publications/web-series)) and held a virtual wine tasting event in October 2020. Many of our members participated and had the chance to exchange their thoughts on what their practice looks like right now.

We'll continue to work hard to offer some interesting opportunities for online networking activities, not forgetting professional development, to keep the flow going and at least meet online.

We will host another online networking session at the end of the upcoming INSOL Europe Spring Conference with the topic ‘Don't Worry, Restructure!’ (details at: [www.insol-europe.org/events](http://www.insol-europe.org/events)) and over summer there will be more interesting and cool opportunities for members – and those who are interested in becoming a member – to grow their network and have a technical exchange. We love what we are doing as co-chairs no matter if we have to do it online or not, so please ‘Zoom in’ when you see an event or just get in touch directly with us. We look forward to meeting you! □



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