



2024

YEARBOOK

philosophy

culture

volunteering



Philosophy



It is becoming increasingly necessary to promote noble and altruistic sentiments, a generosity capable of embracing our neighbours, near and far, the knowledge of the ideas that have been the pillars of the highest points of civilization.

We praise those who devote themselves wholeheartedly to their vocation to educate, to care for those in need, to those who teach with the heart, who sacrifice themselves to look after those who are ill, who support those who have no hope and can revive them with sincere words and gestures of altruistic support.

A healthy philosophy of life, some valuable intentions to do good on the basis of good sentiments and morally refined ideas, will be able to give us the indispensable courage to face the difficulties which are now hard to repair and to avoid greater problems that depend on us.

Delia Steinberg Guzmán

Culture



Volunteering



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Published by
New Acropolis International Organization
www.acropolis.org

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The IONA, Always in Action

Once again, the New Acropolis School of Philosophy presents a small sample of the activities it has carried out this year in the fields of Philosophy, Culture and Volunteering.

This represents the considerable efforts we have been making in over 55 countries around the world, at almost 500 centres. We do this because we think that theory should put into practice and because we have learned through our studies that matter is a reflection of the possibilities of spirit, which is the invisible motor of all visible phenomena. The forms that matter takes on are important because they are *informed* by a higher intelligence, which has its origin in the inner world. Thus, the form in which we do volunteering, the form in which culture is transmitted and the form in which philosophy is taught are also fundamental because they can reflect the existence of a higher intelligence.

The activities that have been organized are not mere entertainment or ways of passing the time. They are opportunities to make use of the best aspects of the past, to enjoy the present moment and to go forward towards the future. They offer hope that it is possible to improve, and it is our contribution in a world that is increasingly irrational in some aspects.

But we don't want to turn our backs on our own historical times. We are convinced that social systems improve from within and not through tendencies to escapism. It is from within and from the centre that movement is generated. Just as an axle enables a wheel to turn, so if we work from

the centre we can make the sphere of consciousness turn more quickly. And it is consciousness, nourished by volunteering, culture and, above all, philosophy, that brings about inner transformations in human beings. We want to improve things because we want to be better.

Acropolitian philosophers are not simply dreamers, although we do have dreams. We are not naive young people who know nothing of the world they are living in, but we are looking for the perennial youth of the soul and have a love of all that is genuine.

We are good-hearted men and women; we firmly believe that humanity can improve and we have learned that true philosophy is something that can be demonstrated in everyday life and help us to live well.

Each and every one of the activities described here are living proof of the free and hopeful efforts of young people who aspire to build a new and better world. We not only want to talk, we also want to ACT, and act together, because it is the best expression of what is known as good will.

Our doors remain open to walk along the path of self-knowledge and to look for points of connection with the mystery of life in a truly eclectic spirit.

It was towards that mystery that the former international president, Delia Steinberg, set out in August of this year 2023. We will always be grateful for her many years of work and dedication to the task of bringing philosophy closer to the present generations.



Homage to Delia Steinberg Guzmán

Following the passing of the former president of the International Organization New Acropolis on 15 August 2023, we would like to recall some of her words and the memories of some of those who accompanied her in the different stages of her life. All of them bear witness to her rich personality, her great example as a philosopher and artist, her moral integrity, her intelligence, her well-tempered character and the harmony she brought to all her tasks, to which she devoted herself with a capacity for work full of generosity and enthusiasm.

“Life is a moral adventure because, whatever goal we may choose, it must never deviate from what is upright and good. We are working towards a future in which we can realize our dreams, but we must never abandon our ethical conscience. And it is a spiritual adventure because it allows us to discover our human essence, through the practice of philosophy, which always aspires towards moral dignity and the perception of the sacred”.

This quotation allows us to gain a better understanding of her principles and values.

AN EDUCATOR

Taking stock of the work of the IONA, Delia came to a conclusion that presents us with a whole programme for living: “When there is a strong will, a firm desire to take things forward and an intelligence developed day by day, everything can be achieved. I feel proud of the past, of so many ideas that already flourished centuries

ago and awakened so many extraordinary figures who moved history, who even changed the sociopolitical configuration of several continents. We have to have patience and devote ourselves to what was so much promoted by the ancient sages, which is a one-to-one education that awakens the best there is in each person”.

Miguel Ángel Padilla, who received classes from her, remarked: “She was a living example for many of us because of her teaching ability, her warmth and her complete dedication to the transmission of knowledge. To transmit, to teach, to educate – she used to say – is not only about helping to awaken discernment, but also about awakening the will and love necessary to give life to the higher ideas that we recognise as valid.”

PHILOSOPHY

Manuel Ruiz, one of Delia’s students, sent us this reflection: “While adhering unequivocally to



her ideals and defending them unflinchingly, she did so in a way that was both very humane and sublime. She always presented philosophy – the capacity to use ideas to promote changes, transformations and transmutations in the human being and therefore in society – from a position of peace, because she always abhorred violence.”

Another of her students, Carmen Morales, added: “Delia Steinberg Guzmán knew how to bring young people into contact with philosophy, using simple language, without unnecessary embellishments, and yet without losing depth. With her, it wasn’t about learning by rote the thought of philosophers who have gone before us, but of getting to know their work and gathering the pearls of wisdom they offer us. It was about developing our own thought as a result of our studies, because that is, at the end of the day, the art of philosophizing”.

SPIRITUALITY

This is how Manuel Ruiz defined Delia’s love for the elevated and the beautiful: “She always affirmed that the spiritual being that unites us with the All, the inner qualities known as virtues, capacities or moral values, the sensibility that enables us to travel the paths of the heart, the inner life in which we discover meaning and purpose and the possibility of continuing – all these intangible realities are more powerful than the tangible ones and are within the reach of all human beings.”

And Fernando Schwarz recalls: “She encouraged us, like the philosophers in the classical tradition, to restore the meaning of spirituality as a search for the lasting, the imperishable, a search for reality: ‘Spirituality is, in



principle, a state of consciousness in which we can feel an integral part of the whole world and enter into all things, all beings and all truths’.”

MUSIC

Delia’s love for the most spiritual of the arts accompanied her throughout her philosophical life, first professionally as a pianist, and later by supporting young musicians through the international piano competition that bears her name, in its 41 editions.

One of the winners of the prize who subsequently became a member of the jury, Michael Davidov, made the following comment which we find very apt: “Delia knew how and when to give her opinion or express an idea. She did so in an apparently instinctive, natural way, with such a beautiful and concise logic that any argument against that idea was completely disarmed. It was as if she knew how to order the thoughts of her interlocutors, so that they themselves would realize where the truth lay, what was correct, what was real, and, by contrast, what would be the less appropriate way of thought. She herself insisted that there was no one single correct form of expressing oneself, of thinking, of giving a class, of expressing emotions, of interpreting music, and that each of us had to find our own truth, whether it was in the field of music or in life and in our actions.”

In these difficult times, the example of Delia continues to shine brightly and will continue to live in the hearts of those who had the good fortune to meet her in the different areas of her work.



IONA: International Organization New Acropolis

our own discernment in order to gain a better understanding of the world and ourselves. We see philosophy as an axis connecting the different facets and angles of human knowledge.

Philosophy can bring together the sources of the past and the present in a holistic, broad and integrating vision, becoming a real force for progress that seeks to understand life more deeply and to harmonize all aspects of knowledge and experience.



HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

To develop the best part of the human being by promoting each person's fulfilment as an individual and as an active member of society. To act in harmony with Nature in order to improve the world.

Our work enables individuals to improve themselves and so to contribute to sustainable social development. All human beings still have an enormous latent potential within them. To get to know that potential and to develop it is one of the fundamental pillars of life itself and provides a source of lasting satisfaction. A balanced and all-round development of ourselves, and the actualization of the best qualities and values of our human nature, are the solid basis for a better world.



PARAGUAY

NA Asunción welcomed more than 80 students to its Public Speaking workshops. Participants learned how to overcome the fear of speaking in public and communicate clearly and with self-confidence.



SLOVAKIA

NA Bratislava offered a well-attended course on the archetypes of C. G. Jung.

New Acropolis is an International Organization that promotes an ideal of timeless values in order to contribute to individual and collective development, working in the fields of Philosophy, Culture and Volunteering. It was founded in 1957 in Buenos Aires (Argentina) by the historian and philosopher Jorge Ángel Livraga Rizzi (1930-1991). Each figure tells a story, each number is a step forward for New Acropolis.

FOUNDING PRINCIPLES

New Acropolis is based on three founding principles:

FRATERNITY



To promote an ideal of fraternity based on respect for human dignity, beyond any differences of gender, culture, religion, social class, etc.

The strength of this ideal of fraternity lies in what unites us, rather than what separates us. It is firmly based on the recognition, protection and safeguarding of those universal values, which, while respecting diversity, transcend local practices and customs and result in a set of common ethical principles that are inherent in the dignity of every human being.

KNOWLEDGE



To encourage the love of wisdom through the comparative study of philosophies, religions, sciences and arts, in order to achieve a knowledge of the human being, nature and the universe.

The love of truth and knowledge sets out from the legitimate aspiration to develop

The IONA in FIGURES



SPAIN

Participants in the "Ulysses Challenge" summer camp in Palma de Mallorca.

The following figures give a quantitative reflection of the commitment of the International Organization New Acropolis (IONA) in the areas of Philosophy, Culture and Volunteering over the last year. In more than 55 countries and almost 500 centres, we have continued with the work of translating our principles from theory into practice, based on the conviction that the human spirit and its possibilities are expressed in every action and thought that we manifest.

These figures are proof that true philosophy is lived every day in the IONA: a philosophy that is not only thought about or discussed, but is put into practice and demonstrated in the day-to-day reality of living, with the aim of building a new and better world. Each figure tells a story, each number is a step forward for New Acropolis.



Philosophy

9,255
173,571
5,202,007

ACTIVITIES FOR THE PROMOTION OF PHILOSOPHY
PARTICIPANTS IN OUR PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMMES
NUMBER OF PEOPLE REACHED BY PHILOSOPHY ACTIVITIES (IN PERSON AND ONLINE)

Culture

4,238
93,407
+450
790,709
2,028

CULTURAL EVENTS
PARTICIPANTS IN CULTURAL EVENTS
NUMBER OF LIBRARIES AND READING PROGRAMMES
NUMBER OF BOOKS IN LIBRARIES WORLDWIDE
NUMBER OF NEW BOOKS PUBLISHED THIS YEAR

Volunteering

16,962
54,683
552,316
276,949

VOLUNTEERING ACTIVITIES
NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS WHO PARTICIPATED
NUMBER OF RECORDED VOLUNTEERING HOURS
NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES OF OUR VOLUNTEERING ACTIVITIES ON INTERNATIONAL MOTHER EARTH DAY

International Programmes

New Acropolis is a cultural institution of an educational nature, officially recognized by the Kingdom of Belgium as an international non-profit institution. It has an academic and teaching profile that enables it to offer courses at different levels and award academic certificates based on the models used in all European universities.

Through a continuing cycle of activities throughout the year, and in particular through our international programmes, we aim to awaken an understanding that the inner aspects of the human being need to be expressed in a natural way, without exotic or artificial supplements, but with the common sense and clarity promoted by timeless philosophy.

41st Edition of the DELIA STEINBERG International Piano Competition

In April 2023 the latest edition of the international piano competition that bears the name of its founder, Delia Steinberg, was held in Madrid. Pianists came from the United States, South Korea, China, Japan, Germany, Italy, Lithuania and Croatia, amongst other countries.

The jury, chaired by Delia Steinberg with members Michael Davidov, a concert pianist and lecturer at the Barcelona College of Music; Ana Maria Flori, a piano teacher and



professor at the Alicante College of Music; and Elena Christianou, a concert pianist and lecturer at the Municipal College of Music of Thessaloniki (Greece), unanimously awarded the first prize to 23-year-old Zeyu Shen from New York, for his performance of *Sonata in B minor* by Franz Liszt and the *Valses nobles et sentimentales* by Maurice Ravel.

This 41st edition closes a cycle following the death of Delia Steinberg, who had been the driving force and promoter of this competition. Thousands of young pianists have passed through the competition, giving a boost to the careers of many of them, who now perform, teach or promote other competitions. For all those who knew her, she was undeniably an exceptional woman, an example of humanity and wisdom with an exquisite musical sensibility.





International Volunteering OLYMPICS

From 22 to 29 July 2023, the 2nd INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERING OLYMPICS were held in Brazil, organized by the School of Sport with Heart of New Acropolis, in partnership with the Pierre de Coubertin Committee of Brazil, and the City Council of San Francisco Xavier. Over 400 athletes from 10 countries participated in the different sports and artistic competitions that took place during the course of the event. The Olympics took place over eight days, during which a healthy spirit of competition and solidarity were continually present. Music and gymnastics transformed sport and art into magnificent tools for learning to live together and for individual and collective self-development.

We offer our thanks to all those who made this event possible, which we will hold again in Spain in its third edition in 2026.



World PHILOSOPHY Day

Under the motto of PHILOSOPHY IN ACTION, New Acropolis joined the celebration known as a World Philosophy Day, which was proclaimed by UNESCO and takes place around the third Thursday of November each year. This event is intended to highlight the important value of this discipline in the development of human thought.

Knowing that philosophy promotes the building of bridges and helps us to understand ourselves and others better, the centres of NA have programmed activities that benefited around 70,000 people all over the world: lectures, short talks, congresses, exhibitions, etc.



BOLIVIA

On World Philosophy Day, NA Santa Cruz de la Sierra organized a discussion on the topic "Reality and Illusion".



CROATIA

On the occasion of World Philosophy Day, NA Split organized a lecture on the philosophical teachings of Plato.



CZECH REPUBLIC

NA Prague organized a lecture entitled "Philosophy in Action" accompanied by a theatrical performance.



FRANCE

New Acropolis organized an outdoor philosophical dialogue in Bordeaux on the occasion of World Philosophy Day.



SOUTH AFRICA

NA Johannesburg participated in the celebration of World Philosophy Day in collaboration with UNESCO.



International EARTH Day

Once again this year, we celebrated International Mother Earth Day and the challenges promoted by the United Nations in the "UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration" (2021-2030).

In New Acropolis we not only want to promote activities that reduce environmental impact, but also to highlight the know-how of peoples and cultures that have contributed to sustainability in all times.

We invite people to promote healthy ecosystems and to fulfil the commitment to contribute to protecting our planet in the interests of all living beings and the future generations.



HUNGARY

To celebrate International Mother Earth Day, NA Budapest's volunteer mountaineers cleaned up the city's hill.



CANADA

NA Montreal organized a poetry workshop to celebrate Mother Earth Day, focusing on the theme of nature and its harmony.



UNITED STATES

On the occasion of International Mother Earth Day, volunteers from NA Chicago organized a cleanup of gardens and public spaces.



TAIWAN

Volunteers from NA New Taipei organized a cleanup of the Fu-He River on the occasion of International Mother Earth Day.



ISRAEL

Volunteers gathered throughout the country to promote environmental awareness activities, ecological cleanups and planting in public spaces.

Philosophy

For us, philosophy is an innate attitude in human beings. Our task is to enable that attitude to express itself in actions that will allow us to develop our full potential and improve our world.

Following the models of the schools of philosophy of classical antiquity, we find that, in order to progress on the path of evolution, the higher faculties of the mind must be used, such as inspiration, imagination and intuition.

This brings us into the field of symbolism, which enables us to use the language of life, what life wants to tell us, in a direct way. It is a key for entering higher levels of consciousness and accessing a more complete understanding of reality.

All this leads us to a practical philosophy, to an ability to live life, which is useful for each individual and for society, in short:
a PHILOSOPHY IN ACTION.



MOLDAVIA

In NA Chisinau, the Hermes Philosophical Reading Club devoted an afternoon to the work "The Hidden Evolution of Humanity" by C. Jinarajadasa.



COLOMBIA

NA Medellin offered a seminar on Buddhism and Stoicism, two apparently different philosophies, but with points in common for practical living.



URUGUAY

NA Uruguay organized a series of workshops, classes and dialogues on diverse philosophical topics, in the natural environment of its rural centre in Pirarajá.



PANAMA

NA Panama dedicated a philosophical evening to the great Renaissance philosopher Giordano Bruno, who died at the stake for defending his principles and convictions.

Culture



VENEZUELA

On the occasion of Children's Day, NA San Cristóbal organized an activity to promote reading for children through storytelling.



ROMANIA

To celebrate World Children's Day, NA Romania organized a children's painting workshop at its main centre in Cluj-Napoca.



JAPAN

NA Japan organized an exhibition on ancient cultures at its main centre in Yokohama, showcasing examples of the legacy of different civilizations.

Culture expands our understanding of life and the world and brings us closer to others, through a spirit of respect, solidarity and understanding. Its aim is to discover the timeless values that reinforce human dignity.

Our Programme of Studies has helped thousands of young people all over the world, who came to philosophy with many gaps in their knowledge, and are now capable of expressing themselves clearly in front of all types of people from many different backgrounds.

As reflected in our First Principle of FRATERNITY, we study a multitude of different cultures and mentalities, taking the best from each, the highest aspects of each civilization.



UKRAINE

Among the artistic activities it regularly offers, NA Kiev organized a classical music concert featuring two guitars.



UNITED KINGDOM

NA London celebrated the end of the year 2023 by learning and singing Christmas carols together.



Volunteering

The vision of our organization includes a spirit of service to humanity and the environment, which is implemented through a variety of programmes and projects dedicated to education, humanitarian or social assistance and ecology.

In all our volunteering actions, we are committed to maintaining human dignity when responding to people in situations of vulnerability, as well as to a high level of quality in everything we do.

Through this we discover that philosophy is not only a way of thinking, but an excellent way of improving the world, providing culture and education, and acting directly in response to situations of need.



GREECE

Continuing with the ecological work they regularly organize, volunteers from NA Athens organized a cleanup of the seabed.



COSTA RICA

Volunteers from NA Cartago visited the Tejar Centre and offered recreational activities to the elderly residents living there.



ARGENTINA

Volunteers from NA Cordoba participated with its Urban Forests project in the First International Symposium on Ecological Restoration Practices.



DENMARK

NA Copenhagen held a food preparation day and donated food to people living on the streets.



BRAZIL

Once again, NA Belém and NA Brasilia held concerts this year performed by the youth orchestra of the New Acropolis social project that supports the education of underprivileged children and adolescents.

The IONA remains firm in its belief that transformation begins within each individual and expands outwards, positively influencing society. Inspired by the philosophical spirit that unites us, and in accordance with the values and principles we promote, we decided at our General Meeting in 2022 to link our institutional efforts with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Since then, we have been contributing globally to four specific goals through our programmes of philosophy, culture and volunteering: Quality Education (SDG 4), Life on Land (SDG 15), Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (SDG 16) and, extending across all of them, Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17).

< The IONA and the Sustainable Development Goals

EDUCATION (SDG 4)

The IONA has a great diversity of educational initiatives in different contexts, ranging from the philosophical education provided in its classrooms to the creation of infrastructures in rural areas of Latin America and the integration of philosophy into technical and economic curricula in European urban environments.

Creation of School Libraries in Rural Areas (Juliaca, Peru)



Over 200 students from the schools "Nacional Secundario Daniel Alcides Carrión" in the Canchi Grande Community, and "Nacional Primario Estrella 70427" in the Estrella Community, benefited from the creation of school libraries and a donation of 500 books. This is an example of a significant effort to improve access to education in rural areas, which is central to SDG 4. It also bridges the educational gap in a region that often receives less attention, which makes the effort of our volunteers particularly valuable.

Combining Efforts with the University of Warsaw (Poland)



The exhibition "A Touch of Eternal Beauty", dedicated to the art of ancient Egypt, was prepared so that people with visual disabilities could also experience its beauty. New Acropolis Poland prepared it in cooperation with the University of Warsaw's Office for Persons with Disabilities and with the support of the PZU Foundation. The exhibition was an event held in parallel with the National Festival "Culture without Barriers", an initiative aimed at promoting education in underprivileged environments, demonstrating a commitment to inclusive education and equality of opportunities for learning and reflection.

Presentation of Projects to Students (Verona, Italy)



At the "L. Einaudi" State Technical-Economic Institute in Verona, volunteers from New Acropolis and representatives of the City Council presented two educational projects to

baccalaureate students: "Hibaku Jumoku" and "Mapping Trees in Santa Teresa Park".

The first, aimed at promoting peace, involved the planting of a Hibaku Jumoku tree (a survivor of the Hiroshima atomic bomb) in Santa Teresa Park and the creation of educational panels on the history of the Hibaku and peace. The second project focused on identifying and documenting the species of trees in the park, using QR codes to provide online information.

Our volunteers in Italy showed their dedication to quality education through direct interaction with educational institutions. By presenting innovative educational projects to students in Italy, the IONA highlights its commitment to an education that promotes sustainable development among young people.

ENVIRONMENT (SDG 15)

New Acropolis organized four events in Mumbai and Pune to commemorate International Mother Earth Day.

Environmental Awareness Campaign and Cleaning of Mangrove Swamps (Mumbai and Pune, India)



These events, organized in the framework of Earth Day, were attended by almost 200 participants. In Mumbai, a round table discussion was held with experts in different fields related to nature and ecology, and an experiential session with workshops that explored principles of nature such as resilience and beauty. Some 70 volunteers, including students and teachers, also participated in the cleaning of Colaba's mangrove swamps, collecting more than 150 bags of rubbish. In Pune, events included practical activities in Manav Bustan, such as planting fruit trees and working with clay, promoting ecological awareness and participating in the protection of the environment.

This initiative demonstrates a direct commitment to the protection and conservation of vital ecosystems and biodiversity.

Volunteer Support for a UNESCO World Heritage Area (Austria)



For the third year running, volunteers from New Acropolis, in partnership with the Association GEA Austria, helped in the "Dürrenstein-Lassingtal" Wilderness Area, a UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site, with a total of more than 400 hours of work over the course of a weekend. The wilderness area contains one of the last remaining primitive forests in Europe. Work on UNESCO World Heritage Sites is not only important from a cultural point of view, but also from an environmental perspective.

Eco-Sofia 2023 (Bulgaria)



On International Mother Earth Day, New Acropolis Bulgaria made its traditional visit to clean up at the Borisova Gradina in the centre of Sofia. This is an annual initiative in partnership with Sofia City Council, in the Sredets District. Under the name "Eco-Sofia", environmental philosophy is integrated into daily practice, providing significant educational and cultural value. Volunteers managed to cover almost 1.5 hectares of land and collected over 30 bags of rubbish, including industrial waste that did not fit into the bags.

STRONG INSTITUTIONS AND PROMOTING PEACE (SDG 16)

The following is a selection of initiatives from different regions of the world that highlight our commitment to promoting peace, ethical decision-making and contributing to the promotion of inclusive and peaceful societies.

Session on Stoicism at the Federal Senate of Brazil



The Plenary meeting of the Brazilian Senate held a special session in September 2023 to discuss Stoicism. New Acropolis was invited to give a presentation on how Stoic philosophy could contribute to the country in the current context. During the activity, participants on the panel were given a document with proposals on how Stoic principles could be applied in different public policy areas in the country.

Talks to Government Employees on "Public Integrity and Ethical Decisions in a Complex World" (San Salvador, El Salvador)



The Governmental Ethics Tribunal of El Salvador (TEG) invited New Acropolis to deliver online talks for the second consecutive year. These talks, aimed at senior government officials and ethics committees in different institutions, were attended by around 500 participants.

The event is directly related to SDG 16, since it encourages people to reflect on public integrity and ethical decision-making, both of which are crucial for building strong institutions and just societies.

Exchange and Volunteering Agreement between New Acropolis and San Felipe Hospital (Honduras)



The establishment of cooperation and volunteering agreements between civil society organizations and public institutions strengthens societies and promotes inclusive public services, which aligns with several aspects of SDG 16. The partnership agreement between New Acropolis Honduras and San Felipe Hospital (HSF) represents an exemplary model of social cooperation. This partnership goes beyond the mere provision of services, by promoting a culture of empathy and cooperation in the community. Through this joint effort, New Acropolis Honduras and HSF are improving patients' quality of life, offering crucial support to nurses and bringing comfort to families.

The impact of this agreement goes beyond practical assistance; it is strengthening the social fabric and promoting a sense of community and humanity. This example inspires and recalls the ability to achieve great things when people work together united by a common aim.

THE IONA AND ITS INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS PARTNERSHIPS AND COOPERATION (SDG 17)

As we have seen in this Yearbook, at the International Organization New Acropolis (IONA) we think of institutional relations not as mere functional links, but as a vital network of solidarity and shared principles. Our Yearbook highlights the importance of collective action, celebrating the synergies created with hundreds of organizations around the world that resonate with our desire to contribute significantly to improving the world.

Here we highlight partnerships and cooperative activities related to our three International Programmes, carried out with organizations in the public and private sectors, the academic sector and outstanding figures in different professional fields.

- PHILOSOPHY -

During the celebration of World Philosophy Day we formed 147 partnerships in 23 countries.





- VOLUNTEERING -

During the celebration of International Mother Earth Day, 44 countries reported 192 activities.

In the framework of International Volunteer Day, we held the Third International Congress of Humanitarian Volunteering organized by New Acropolis Chile. The event was attended by distinguished professionals, and national and international experts in the areas of interest of the event, who shared their experiences in two presentations on "Experiences in Organized Volunteering and Spontaneous Volunteering" and "Experience of Civil Society: Involving Citizens."

456 individuals from 23 countries took part, representing 33 institutions working in the field of volunteering, 26 from Chile and 7 from elsewhere.



- CULTURE -

One example we would like to highlight this year, in view of its impact on a national level, is the initiative "Defenders of the Cultural Heritage", developed by the Peruvian Ministry of Culture. New Acropolis mobilized over 500 volunteers in 13 cities for this initiative, enabling it to reach an audience of more than 5,000 people. Partnerships were entered into with 14 other local organizations and in coordination with the Directorate-General for Protection of the Cultural Heritage, which forms part of the Directorate of Citizen Participation. This initiative was implemented in coordination with the Devolved Directorates of Culture, Museums and Qhapaq Ñan Project of the Ministry of Culture, and was aimed at groups of people interested in training to carry out citizen actions to protect their cultural, tangible and intangible legacy.



As can be seen, our section dedicated to institutional relations is a tribute to the partnerships forged in a spirit of unity and cooperation. These partnerships are a reflection of our values and principles, an expression of our conviction that solidarity and working together are fundamental for creating a lasting and positive impact.

New Acropolis on Social Media

The presence of New Acropolis on social media shows the diversity of its members and the many places where it is active in a multitude of accounts, from the younger and more informal platforms like TikTok to the more professional networks like LinkedIn. This diversity of contents, languages, people, activities, etc., comes together in the unity of our institution's objectives and the determination to do something good for the human being and for Nature, by creating a universal fraternity.



The ethical commitment of New Acropolis is far removed from the financial interests and profit motives that are so common in the world of social media. It provides its contents in a transparent and respectful way and rejects manipulation and disrespect for the truth. Our aim is to present an accurate picture of the activities our organization carries out and to facilitate contact with people who share our ideals and principles in the fields of Philosophy, Culture and Volunteering.



A Year of Achievement for *Universitas* – the IONA's Academic Proposal

In 2023, Universitas General Studies has met the challenge of continuing to launch new courses and advertise them in different media channels.

This year we launched 3 new courses and second editions of the 6 existing courses, making **9 courses in total**. They are:

1. **Bioenergetic Nutrition:**
Improve Your Vitality Through Food
2. **First Steps in Narrative Writing**
3. **Ethics and Animal Law**
4. **Gymnastics for the Elderly and the Ageing Process**
5. **Traces of Contemporary Sacred Architecture**
6. **Aesthetics Applied to Street Photography**
7. **Conflict Management and Non-Violent Communication**
8. **Carl G. Jung: Keys for Self-Knowledge**
9. **New Paradigms in Neuroscience**

The platform already has 150 students enrolled from more than 27 different nationalities.

We have also focused on publishing free videos on the **YouTube channel**, and have already added more than 45 videos with different themes such as art, science, architecture, psychology and ethics.

The channel has 1337 subscribers and had more than 6,500 views in 2023.

Another new development in 2023 was the publication of the Universitas blog, which has more than 35 articles in different categories, related to the 8 areas of study offered by Universitas.

The most frequently viewed articles were:

- **Sacred Architecture in Egypt:**
the Temple of Horus at Edfu
- **Symbolic Interactionism and Communication Theory**
- **Metaphors in Literary Texts**

For 2024, our aim is to continue providing content of interest for the general public and to launch **new courses**. The planned courses include:

- **Spanish to English Legal Translation:**
Concepts, Terminology and Writing Style
- **Artificial Intelligence and Law**
- **The New Anthropological Spirit:**
the Symbolic Human Being
- **Therapeutic Keys of the Hero's Journey**
- **Philosophy of Science**

STAY CONNECTED WITH UNIVERSITAS THROUGH THE DIFFERENT DIGITAL CHANNELS TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT NEW COURSES AND CONTENTS.

-  universitas-eg.org
-  [instagram.com/universitaseg](https://www.instagram.com/universitaseg)
-  [youtube.com/@UniversitasEstudiosGenerales](https://www.youtube.com/@UniversitasEstudiosGenerales)

Declaration of the General Meeting of 2023

Held in Rome, Italy

The General Meeting of the IONA approved the following Declaration:

1. To note the contribution made by the IONA in 2022 to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) proposed by the United Nations, in particular: SDG 4, on Quality Education; SDG 15, on Life on Land; SDG 16, on Peace and Justice; and SDG 17, on Partnerships for the Goals. The General Meeting reiterated the need to take a human and educational approach to the activities to be carried out this year, prioritising a change in the individual and collective awareness of the problems the world is facing.

2. To highlight the volunteering work that has been carried out by the different centres of the IONA around the world, including aid to those most in need, environmental protection, planting of trees, help for the elderly, protection of the homeless, soup kitchens for people with limited resources, actions to provide accessible and non-polluting energy in rural locations across Europe and America, and health and sports education programmes that help to improve lifestyle.

3. To invite all national associations to continue with their work of promoting philosophy. In particular, to highlight the continuing work over the last 15 years in connection with the UNESCO initiative "*World Philosophy Day*", a celebration involving the efforts of over 400 centres of New Acropolis worldwide. We echo the message of the UN Director-General on the occasion of *World Philosophy Day in 2022*, when she said: "*In view of the magnitude of contemporary challenges, it is indeed our very conception of humanity that must be reexamined... This reflection must*

be open. Open to all eyes, first of all, by measuring in particular, in this International Decade of Indigenous Languages, how indigenous philosophies can change the way we look at the world, as well as our way of living in it".

4. To recommend that all local associations actively contribute to the celebration of Mother Earth Day, a worldwide event held on 22 April each year. The General Meeting of the IONA encourages all associations to organize events and activities that promote and give value to the protection of our planet.

5. To reaffirm our conviction that philosophy and access to knowledge should not only be theoretical, but should also have a practical aspect. In view of this, the General Meeting wishes to highlight the educational aspect of our work through the pedagogical formula that promotes philosophy, culture and volunteering. An education that prioritizes respect for others, as a real indication of harmonious coexistence, which makes us all more human and tolerant.

6. The General Meeting wishes to highlight the willingness of the IONA's volunteers to travel to places that have suffered great devastation, working together with public and private organisations in search and rescue operations, as happened in the case of the earthquakes that have ravaged large areas of land. Well trained and specialist teams have joined forces with the volunteers of many countries, contributing with their good will and experience.



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