

Universeum Annual Report 2023-2024

- **Ordinary general assembly**

An ordinary general assembly was organized at the University of Wroclaw, during the annual conference in Poland on the 7th of July 2023.

- **Executive Committee (EC) meetings**

In order to discuss Universeums ongoing and future activities, the EC meet online once a month and uses *Signal* for current exchanges.

- **Strategic plan**

The strategic plan developed by the board was approved during the general assembly. It is available online on Universeum website.

- **European Academic Heritage Day**

Two specific actions took place:

1. Social Media Campaign, 13-18th November: **@Universeum_Network (Instagram) / @Universeum_Network (Twitter):**

To celebrate European Academic Heritage Day 2023, we asked the Universeum community to demonstrate the richness and diversity of our collections, by reflecting on the theme of **Change and transformation**.

2. Webinar on the **17th November**: we ran a webinar to discuss with participants who posted at the online #AcademicHeritageDay2023 campaign.

- **Website**

www.universeum-network.eu

It is a WordPress website with an easy accessible CMS. All the board members can edit and add content, but the main webmaster is Frédérique Andry-Cazin, who also managed updates of information and basic maintenance.

- **Newsletter**

Twice a year.

891 subscribers

- **Social Media**

Universeum is present on Facebook (459 followers, +22), X (Twitter) (987 followers, -14) and Instagram (400 followers, +50).

The board is interested and happy to connect with any member that would like to help manage the Universeum social-media accounts.

- **Mailing List**

The Universeum network uses a mailing list for its communication, that is managed and moderated by the president and the secretary. Each member can send their own message directly to the list. There are currently 787 subscribers.

- **Interactions of Universeum with networks and other institutions:**

Members of the board participated to the following conferences as Universeum representatives:

To be completed

As ex-officio member of UMAC, Sébastien Soubiran attended UMAC online board meetings.

- **Memberships**

The sending of invoices was automated thanks to the use of the software shared freely by the Coordination Centre for Scientific University Collections in Germany.

There are currently 38 institutional members (-5) and 94 individual members (+3) that received an invoice. Invoices were sent in June so incoming fees are still expected at this moment of writing.

Unfortunately not all member pay on a regular basis :

In 2023 there were 18 paying institutional members and 45 paying individual members.

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- **Working Groups**

Each working group is organizing a workshop during the annual conference

Working Group Digital Initiatives

<https://www.universeum-network.eu/working-groups/working-group-digital/>

Co-Chairs

Delphine Issenmann, <delphine.issenmann@unistra.fr>

Frank Meijer, <f.t.meijer@academischerfgoed.nl>

Martin Stricker, martin.stricker@hu-berlin.de

This group is also organising a “**Monday morning coffee online**” once a month.

Working Group on Student Engagement

Co-chairs

Annelies van de Ven, Musée L/Université catholique de Louvain

Ana Baeza Ruiz, Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture/Middlesex University.

Working Group for Early Career Professionals

Co-chairs:

Raúl Gómez Hernández, Complutense University Madrid

Mariana Brum, University of Coimbra

• Annual Conferences:

- ✓ 2023 annual conference was hosted by the University of Wrocław, and co-organized with the Polish association of University museums. A post-conference seminar was organized by the Jagiellonian University Museum in Krakov, titled “University cultural heritage and city’s development”.
- ✓ 2024 annual conference will held in Dresden, 24-29th September hosted by the Technical University of Dresden. It is a joint conference with ICOM-UMAC network
 - ☐ Pre-conference workshops:
 - Workshop 1: Natural Science Objects in Digital Collections: Opportunities and Challenges
 - Workshop 2: Questionning collections
 - Workshop 3: Object-Based Teaching and Learning Today
 - ☐ Post-conference guided tours
- ✓ Candidates for 2025 annual conference will be elected at the general assembly in Dresden.

Proceedings

No proceedings were published of the 2023 conference in Wroklaw.

The Proceedings of the 22nd Universeum Conference in Belgium, 3-8 July 2022. They were edited by students on the Cultural Management Masters course, of the ULB.

It is free available online: <https://musees.ulb.be/fr/publications>

Collaborative projects

Erasmus + project: “Teaching with Objects”: <https://www.teachingwithobjects.org/>

In February 2022, the Erasmus+ Cooperation Partnership in Higher Education project Teaching with Objects started its work. The project was initiated as part of the Universeum network by members of the Working Group Digital Initiatives together with the president of Universeum, Sébastien Soubiran. It will run for three years up until to February 2025. The final conference will be held in Strasbourg 19-20th of Novembre.

The objective of this project is to foster and support innovative Object-Based Teaching and Learning (OBTL) methods and practices in higher education by collecting, evaluating, enhancing and sharing concepts, methods and tools for teaching with academic heritage objects, including in digital and hybrid didactic situations. The work will be done in close cooperation with members of the Universeum network, teaching practitioners and students. The project will build an online toolbox for object-based teaching and hopes to establish a sustainable network, a community of practice supporting teaching with objects from university museums and collections.

Universeum financial report 2023-2024

The financial report was closed beginning of August 2024. Some expenses connected to the annual conference and voted in the annual budget 2023 are not included and will appear in next year report.

The accounts of Universeum were expertised and approved by the two new auditors, elected during the AGM in Mons in 2022, Joanna Slaga, Jagiellonian University Museum in Krakow, and Frank Meijer, Dutch Foundation for Academic Heritage.

a) Bank statement – May 2023-2024

+ 6 496,08€ (07/08/2024)

b) Budget 2023-2024 (Voted during 2023 General Assembly)

Bank fees	75,00 €
Travel grants	3 000,00 €
annual conference	1000,00 €
Training workshop	1 000,00 €
Web site	560,00 €
Total	5 635,00 €

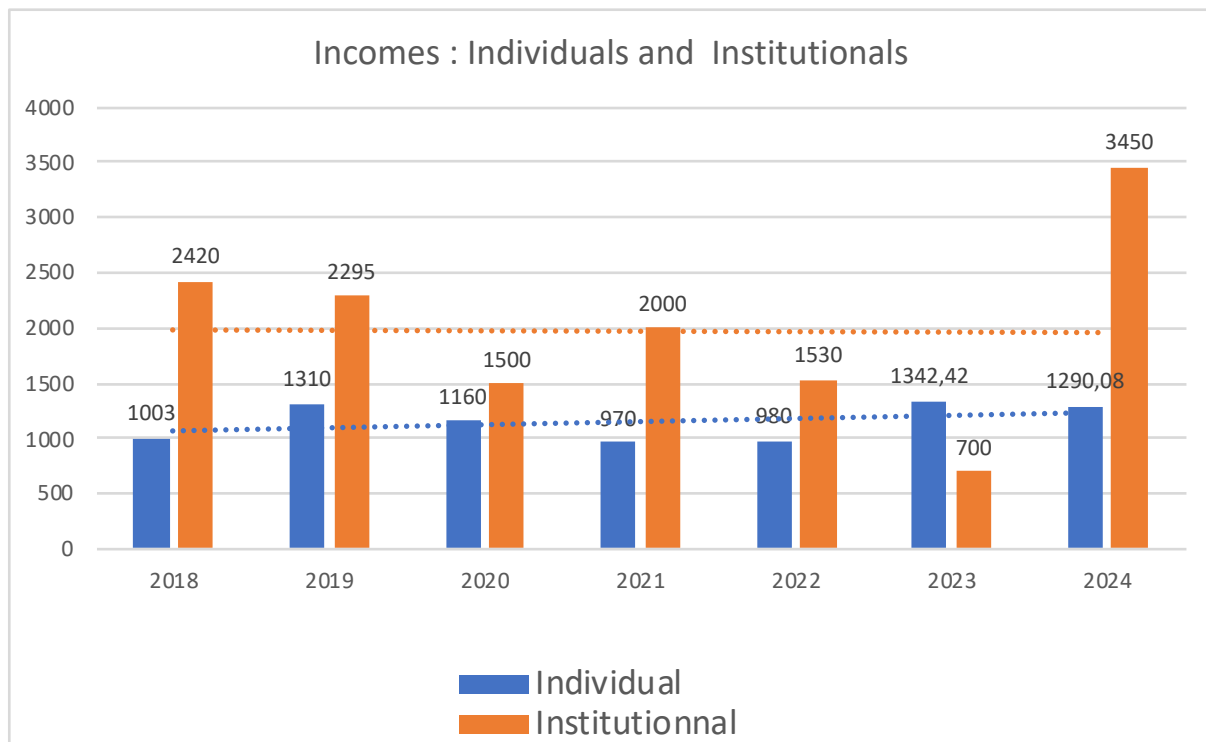
c) Expenses June 23 – August 2024

BALANCE SHEET 2023-2024			
		CREDIT	DEBIT
	<i>OLD BALANCE (2022-2023)</i>	8 307,10 €	
expenses	fees,refund, grants, website		6 551,10 €
incomings	memberships and others	4 740,08 €	
	TOTAL	6 496,08 €	

Expenses details	
Bank fees	112,68 €
Travel grant	3 338,01 €
Web subscription	537,67 €
Meeting Krakow	2 000,00 €

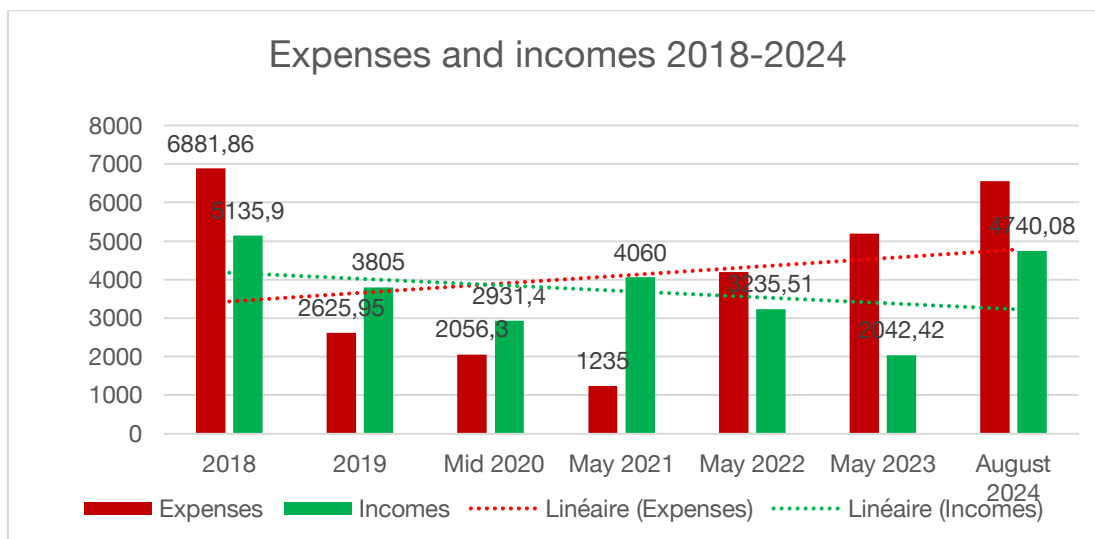
Incomes collected	
Individual fees	1 290,08 €
Institutional fees	3 250,00 €
TOTAL	4 540,08 €

Analyse :

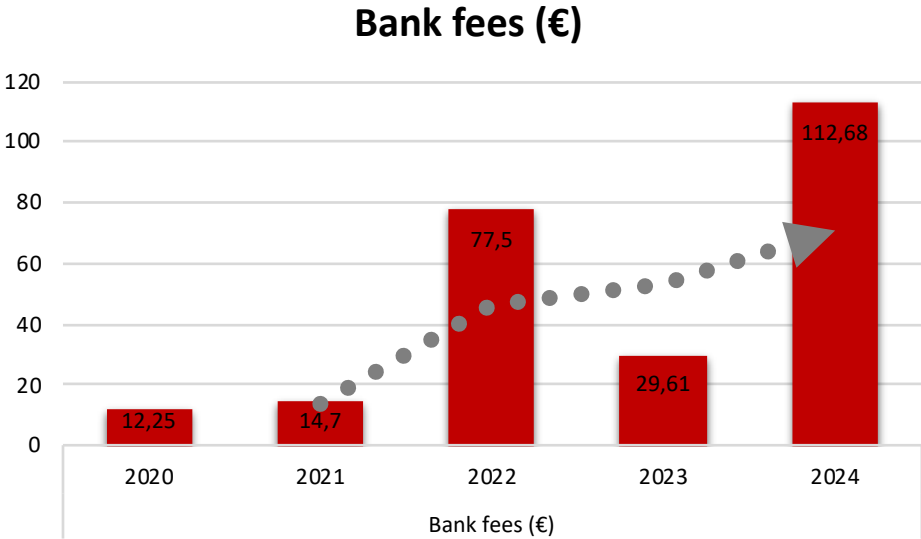


Over the last 7 years, income from institutional subscriptions has remained stable (2000 euros/year).

At the same time, income from individual contributions has risen steadily.



This graph shows that since 2018, Universeum, which enjoyed a large cash surplus, has since spent some of its cash in addition to its annual revenues. This have to be taken in consideration for the next years.



The increase in bank charges over the last few years (partly due to the Brexit) should be highlighted.

d) Provisional budget 2025

Bank fees	120,00 €
Travel grants meeting 2025	3 000,00 €
Workshops, annual conf. 2025	2 000,00 €
Website	560,00 €
Total	5 680,00 €