

June 2023

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is with a mixture of relief and hope that we started 2022: the worst of Covid seemed behind us and the return to normal activities slowly showed up. It would be incorrect to compare 2022 with normal years since the restart was rather slow as could be witnessed from the reopening of our office only after the summer!

And then in February, the Ukraine war burst into flames and gave rise to the longest conflict on European soil since 1940-1945. We all felt the consequences, and our associations equally so. We launched a special “Ukraine” Campaign to support associations giving help in Belgium to refugees from Ukraine. As we speak, we are launching a special campaign to help our associations restructure their energy consumption via infrastructure improvement projects: the rise in energy prices has made this a must if they want to survive.

2022 was, on the positive side, a very special year: we celebrated our **50-year existence** during the whole year but more specifically during our Gala Dinner in June. We want to thank all of those present for their support: it was the first major social event for many of us after Covid-19.

The board took an important decision during 2022. After 6 years, the Board decided to launch a strategic reflection process that will result in recommendations at the end of 2023, reporting during the General Assembly of 2024.

As the board decided in 2021 to align our fiscal year with the calendar year, which means that we only have reported on a 9 months period, all comparisons with previous reporting periods are thus invalid.

During the Campaign 2022, United Fund for Belgium has **financed projects** for **K€801**, distributing that amount to **85 different charity projects** from associations across the whole country, including 16 projects supported as part of the “Ukraine” campaign.

As importantly, we have continued to diversify our sources of funding. **Corporate donations** remain of course the single largest component and reached **K€677**. They were reinforced by very successful **in house-campaigns** at some of our donors for the amount of **K€48** and **individual gifts** for the amount of **K€24**.

Profits from **sales & fundraising events** were substantially up since we had our **50-year Gala dinner** last June: they totalled **K€104**.

Also, donations to help cover **operational costs** and/or build up the Martin Kallen Fund remained nearly stable at **K€78**.

As a result of all this, **total contributions** reached **K€931** this year.

As mentioned before, this year, **donations collected** via the corporate & individual fundraising campaign, will be distributed to **85** different charity projects across the whole country.

The team is determined to be closer than ever to our current communities, so that together we can continue supporting social integration in Belgium, a need that is better understood by us all than ever before after this painful period in our history as human societies.

The unique success that United Fund for Belgium has achieved over the last 50 years is owed mainly to our **donors** and to the many **volunteers** who help and have helped our cause (including the members of the Board Committees and my colleagues in the Board of Directors). As President, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of them.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DL' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Dirk Luyten
President
United Fund for Belgium