

TAX PLANET

INFORMATION BROCHURE

TAX PLANET | Global Tax Network
www.taxplanet.com

Mission and objectives

Tax Planet is a global network of legal and accounting professionals with a major focus on taxation and related matters, both at national and international levels.

Main objectives:

- International cooperation
- Exchange of information, knowledge and experiences
- Improvements in quality and performance
- Establishment of a global brand and reputation
- Operation of an informative website
- Other joint efforts

International tax work without some form of international cooperation and mutual assistance is virtually impossible in today's complex and fast-changing world. Our goal is the establishment of a renowned global tax network with people in all major countries in the world and a final headcount of not more than about 300 to 400 professionals worldwide. This focused and tailored approach allows the achievement of an optimal size, strength and worldwide coverage within a defined field of expertise, and thus also provides maximum exposure to each individual professional in the pool of experts.

Main features of the concept are the focus on a subject, the international scope, the limited size, and the easy connections between people who share the same business and professional concerns.

The concept is simple, the task is not!

Expertise

Due to the globalization and the effect of delocalization, cross-border issues are on the rise. As such issues have ties to more than one country, it is vital to handle them in their international context, considering the impact of any jurisdiction involved.

Tax laws change rapidly and tax practices evolve through new judicial decisions and interpretations. Detailed information is usually available only in local languages. Thus, international tax work requires not only (technical) expertise, but also skills in modern methods of information sourcing and cooperation.

All professionals in the pool of experts are focusing on tax and related matters, both at domestic and international levels. The combined knowledge allows to deal with and to advise on issues around the world, such as:

- International business and investment structures
- Cross-border transactions
- Estate planning with trusts, foundations and portfolio companies
- Overseas assignments
- Living and retirement abroad
- Other issues

Legal structure

Tax Planet is a network of independent service providers (network parties), an informal organisation without legal status and capacity. The organisation itself does not provide any services. All network parties are self-governed contractors, no legal affiliation exists among them, each party is solely responsible for its own obligations and not authorized to obligate any other party or the organisation as a whole.

Membership does not establish legally binding commitments or obligations on either side, e.g. resignation from membership is possible at any time without any financial or other implications. However, in due course it is likely to set up and form a legally recognized entity (e.g. an association according to Swiss law), preferably constituted by the people in the pool of experts, what then might bring some organizational changes also in terms of membership.

Membership

Membership is open to legal and accounting firms and professionals who represent a country (tax jurisdiction) in the pool of experts. The pool of experts is open to professionals focusing on tax and related matters, both at domestic and international levels. The number of professionals per country is subject to certain limits, depending upon a country's size, structure and international position. Larger legal and accounting firms who cover the full spectrum of tax consultancy in a country (tax jurisdiction) may opt for an 'exclusive listing'. This option is, however, only available as long as no other members are listed under the same country name.

See also 'Legal structure' above.

More information:

www.taxplanet.com/various/membership/

Form of cooperation

The members are independent contractors and thus free in terms of cooperation. Tax Planet provides no guidance on how the cooperation should be carried out.

However, where useful and desired, some guidance could be provided.

Difference to other networks

Legal and accounting networks are generally very big, take a broad approach, and although they may have specialized groups within their organisations, may miss a certain degree of focusing and global coverage in one or another field of expertise.

Tax Planet, in contrast, is taking a focused and tailored approach. This allows the achievement of an optimal size, strength and worldwide coverage within a defined field of expertise, and thus also provides maximum exposure to each individual member and professional in the pool of experts.

Website

The website serves as an information portal and is accordingly designed and configured. Among others, the site contains a research section with mainly tax and tax-related information and links to information on countries and issues at national, supranational and international levels, an online magazine, and for each professional in the pool of experts an own section with a brief profile, contact details, and pages for individual publications. As the website is well ranked by search engines and gets nice results in tax and tax-related search queries, it also works well as a publishing (and marketing) portal for the members.

The contents of the research section, in particular the country guides, are compiled in cooperation with the people in the countries concerned.

Meetings

Meetings and seminars are preferably initiated, organized and hosted by members in consultation and coordination with the administration. They may take place anytime and anywhere in the world, provided that enough people sign up to attend.

Fees

The annual fee is depending on the number of professionals that a member appoints to the pool of experts. The fee for the first professional is EUR 600 and for any further one EUR 400. Members who are exclusively listed under the name of a country are assessed on the basis of a fix number of professionals, as agreed at the time of exercising the option, and an amount of EUR 600 per professional.

Members who couldn't benefit from the network in one or another way in a given calendar year may reduce the fee for the following calendar year by 25 percent (self assessed), this is, however, not applicable to members with an 'exclusive listing'.

Note that the fees only partly cover the time and money spent on the management of the network and the main part continues to be borne by the administrator. The break-even point might be reached with about 150 to 200 professionals in the pool of experts.

Examples:	Individual or office with 1 professional in the pool of experts	EUR 600	(450)
	Office with 2 professionals in the pool of experts	EUR 1'000	(750)
	Office with 3 professionals in the pool of experts	EUR 1'400	(1'050)
	Exclusive listing with, for example, an agreed number of 5 professionals	EUR 3'000	

An 'exclusive listing' may be very attractive, but since the number of professionals per country is subject to limits, it doesn't necessarily make a difference.

Administrator

The administrative office is run on an independent basis. The tasks include the development of the network, member and consulting services, the development and operation of the internet portal, and various other matters.

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