## Enhancing Professional Networking: Highlights from the SIEC-ISBE International Conference held in Amsterdam in July 2026

***Compiled by Dr Emanuel Mizzi***

This international conference brought together business educators, lecturers, teachers and professionals from around the world for days of learning, collaboration and cultural exchange. Organised by the Executive Committee together with Mr Theo Roos, the event offered a rich program of professional development, keynote addresses and unique local experiences. The theme that was explored was 'Local Action, Global Impact: Business Education for a Cooperative World'.



### 21 July: Welcome Reception

The conference kicked off with a warm and vibrant **welcome reception** at the *Hannekes Boom*, where participants from around the globe met fellow delegates, renewed friendships and established new professional links. This opening gathering helped to set the tone for the following days of collaboration, learning and cultural exchange.









### Professional Development Sessions: 22 and 23 July



The International President opened the conference at 8:30 am on 22 July.

The heart of the Conference was the two days of dynamic professional development sessions, during which participants shared insights, innovations and best practices in business education. The thought-provoking presentations during these two days of PD sessions covered a wide spectrum of topics, including:

- 📈 Digital transformation in education
- 🌱 Sustainability and entrepreneurship
- 🤝 Cross-cultural collaboration
- 🧠 Inclusive teaching strategies
- 📊 Financial literacy and economic empowerment
- 💡 Innovative pedagogies and future skills

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*Group photo during lunch*

### Wednesday, 22 July – First day of presentations

The day kicked off with the keynote speech of Theo Roos: Amsterdam's Economic History: A Walking Tour Through Key Economic Points of Touristic Value Today. This nourishing reflection set the context for the conference. Theo provided this material for an informative tour around Amsterdam.





*Participants had the opportunity to taste a herring*

After the keynote, a number of presentations followed:




*Adrian Lyons*



*Maria Jourdan*



*Maria Randazzo-Davis*



*Mario Mallia*



*Emanuel Mizzi*



*Theo Roos*



*Tamra Connor*



*Christiane Schopf, Elisabeth Riebenbauer, and Silvia Lipp*



*Mariann Holmberg*

### Thursday, 23 July – Second day of presentations



The day started with a thought-provoking keynote speech by Jan Jansen titled 'Circular Economy through Pricing and Economic Systems in a Multipolar World'. This provided much food for reflection. The material is available here.

Then followed the presentations. Each session was a testament to the passion, expertise and creativity of educators and professionals from around the world.

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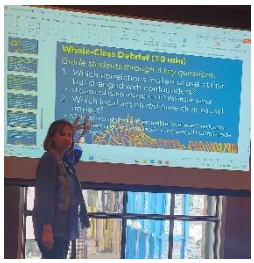
The energy, engagement and exchange of ideas made these two days a true celebration of lifelong learning!



*Susan Seeber, Philine Krebs and Evelyn Wuttke*



*Therese Demanuele Montebello and Kirsten Marie Demanuele*



*Mary Millikin*



*Workshop*



*Workshop*



*Luca Refrigeri*



*Teresa Longabardi*



*Johanna Seeliger*



*Theo Roos*

A guided boat tour on the evening of 23 July added more spice to the event.



## Entrepreneurship and Visits to Local Entrepreneurs: 24 July

In the morning, the participants enjoyed a visit to the Amsterdam Science Park, including a stop at the Startup Village. In the afternoon, the tour of the Dutch National Bank provided useful information. We are grateful to Theo Roos for organising these visits.











## Gala Dinner – 24 July

The conference closed at the Groot Melkhuis, Vondelpark, where participants enjoyed each other's company. We were grateful for each other's presence; as someone remarked, "We seem to be like cousins."









## More coverage of the conference

For more information and photos about the Conference's events, visit the Organisation's Facebook page: SIEC ISBE INTERNATIONAL and the linkedin page.










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