



ISRAEL *and* INTERNATIONAL LAW

Business Plan 2024

Version 1.0

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© 2024 **thinc.** The Hague Initiative for International Cooperation

An initiative to study the relationship between Israel and the nations to promote international peace and security, friendly relations amongst nations, and peaceful resolution of conflicts based on the principles of justice and international law.

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1. Introduction

The Hague Initiative for International Cooperation (thinc.) comprises a worldwide network of experts in the fields of international law and political science, dedicated to the promotion of the Rule of Law in international relations.

The context

After WWI, the Mandate system laid the foundation for the establishment of the modern States of the Middle East. Since 2000, this region is undergoing a massive transition. The Arab Spring did not deliver the stability and peace that many hoped for, actually many States have failed. Religious, ethnic and national identity all play a role in the constant turmoil.

Since the Six Day War (1967), the State of Israel has become the subject of delegitimization and the misuse of international law in the international political arena, most notably in the UN. For many decades, the “Israel-Palestine conflict” was seen as the main problem to be solved, which led to an imbalanced focus on this conflict and resulted in a biased approach to international law. It is time to re-think current mainstream approaches to these issues, and search for out-of-the-box solutions.

Our Mission

The mission of *thinc.* is to advance a fair and balanced application of international law to the State of Israel, the Palestinians and all other peoples in the region.

Our Values

We defend the right of the Jewish people to self-determination and the legitimacy of the State of Israel.

We respect the aspirations of the Palestinians for independence.

We challenge existing perspectives and promote both a contextual understanding of the region (including the role of religion) and balance in the interpretation and application of international law.

We believe that the contextual, fair and unbiased application of the Rule of Law is essential to the achievement of friendly relations, peaceful resolution of conflicts and cooperation between States and peoples, in the Middle East and beyond.

Our Strategy

The core components of our strategy are (i) multi-disciplinary collaboration in order to fully understand the core problems and search for workable solutions, and (ii) focus to be effective. Accordingly, we focus our activities on organizations and individuals in the following fields:

- *Academia*: Academic students, teachers, professors and institutions
- *Civil Society*: Politicians, diplomats, policy makers and influencers
- *Christianity*: individual Christians, churches, and Christian organisations
- *Lawyers*: Young lawyers and leaders practicing or intend to practice international law

Our Activities

thinc. has three main areas of activity:

- Research and Publications
- Education and Communication
- Advocacy

This *Business Plan 2024* contains the activities we plan to execute in 2024.

2. Organisation







thinc. is a foundation under Dutch law, established in 2017, seated in The Hague – international law capital of the world.

The activities of the foundation are coordinated by a small Management Team (MT).

Research is mainly performed on a project basis by international, interdisciplinary teams.

In 2024 we plan to grow the *thinc.* network and intensify our Education, Marketing, Communication and Advocacy activities.

thinc.s governance model

Organ	Description
 Advisory Board	Expert Advisory Board. Present size of nine active is good, engage to a higher degree is next step for 2024
 Supervisory Board	Expand and engage the Supervisory Board. This is in process in cooperation with current supervisory board members
 Senior Fellows	Expand and engage in 2024. Two of three are at present very active, one possibly leaving. Cooperation works well. Expansion to a total of 4-5 is wanted
 Trainees and interns	Engage and supervise. At present one Intern but optional to be increased
 Lawyers network	Global network to be set-up, in two parts. 1. Experts that contributes on demand basis. 2. The lawyers who want to be trained and educated as potential contributors
 Prayer	Create and maintain a global team of intercessors who pray for <i>thinc.</i> projects, staff, the legal institutions and proceedings with which we are engaged etc.

Advisory Board: Prof. Dr. Li-ann Thio, National University of Singapore, Prof. Robbie Sabel, Hebrew University, Hillel Neuer, International lawyer, diplomat, writer and activist, Nic Lesmeister – Executive Director of Gateway Center for Israel and Executive Pastor of Church & Jewish relations, Dr. István Mészáros, attorney at law, David Nathanson, Tax expert, Prof. Allan Parker, President of The Justice Foundation, Alan Shatter is a former Irish Minister for Justice (Ireland), Lady Hazel Cosgrove, former Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland.

Supervisory Board: as per 1 April 2024, the Supervisory Board consists of Leon Mayer, Luc Schraeverus and Hans Weissenböck.

Senior Fellows: Dr. M. de Blois (Professor emeritus, University of Utrecht) and Dr. C.D. Wallace (former senior adviser to the UN, Geneva) and Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Bock, Germany. Senior Fellows are engaged on an honorary basis.

Management Team: currently consists of Andrew Tucker (Director General), Prof. Gregory Rose, University of Wollongong (Research Director) and Frank Fink-Jensen, Operation Manager. All MT members are engaged on part-time basis.

Andrew Tucker (based in the Netherlands) will function as Executive Director, and will have responsibility for the day-to-day operations, as well as Education and Advocacy. He will focus on developing the work of *thinc.* in Europe and Americas. Prof. Rose, based in Australia, will have responsibility for Research and Publications, and will represent and advance the work of *thinc.* in the A/P region.

Marketing & Communications: Silvia Fainaro (35%)

Administration and Finances: Frank Fink-Jensen, Operation Manager (50%) and Bertine van Vliet accounting officer (20%)

Trainees and Interns: Olimpia Galiberti (Junior Researchers, Italy) since October 2023. We have a small but growing pool of young researchers in different countries. They are engaged on project basis.

***thinc.* network of experts:** we are growing a global network of experienced academics, practitioners, and experts in international law and related fields such as history, political science and religion. These experts contribute on an *ad hoc* basis to research/publications projects, educational programs and (where appropriate) advice.






Friends of *thinc.* and *thinc.*-Partners: we receive no direct government subsidies, we are funded entirely by private donors, i.e. 'Friends of *thinc.*' and '*thinc.*-Partners' (see Section 6).

Partner organisations: we cooperate with three types of organisations, viz. (i) professional organisations in the field of international law and international relations, (ii) academia and law schools, and (iii) organisations in the field of public diplomacy.

thinc. enjoys the so-called 'ANBI status'. This is a non-profit tax designation in the Netherlands, issued by the Tax Office in accordance with the general tax laws. This coveted status is issued to organizations which meet the stringent ANBI criteria. The ANBI status entitles donors to certain tax benefits in the Netherlands.

thinc. Fellows and the members of the Supervisory and Advisory Boards receive no remuneration, expenses are compensated.

3. Research and Publications: Raise awareness about “lawfare” against Israel

Research description	Details
 <i>Israel on Trial</i> (IOT) 2018 2 nd edition book 2024	Dr. Mathijs de Blois. To serve as foundation for education and more
 <i>Cases, Materials and Commentary</i> 2024	Prof. G. Rose. Stepstone for <u>education</u> in the academic world
 <i>thinc.</i> Reports and Policy papers	<i>thinc.</i> 's legal team to produce p.p ongoing
 <i>Two States for Two Peoples?</i> – academic edition	Prof. Wolfgang Bock. plus external input
 <i>Articles, Op-eds and blogs</i>	Prof. Rose supervises students and <u>other authors</u>





Research/Publications Projects

- *Israel on Trial* – an updated edition of the book *Israel on Trial*. We hope to have this book published by a reputable publisher (e.g. Brill, Routledge, or Springer).
- *Cases & Materials on the Israel-Palestine Conflict* – a strategic collaborative project of international law students and graduates from different universities under the supervision of senior *thinc.* staff that will result in a collection of key documents related to the Israel-Palestine conflict.
- *The EU's two-state policy – Phase 2* – a research project leading to a report on the evolution of the relationship between European countries and Israel under international law since the 1970's, providing evidence that international law has been unfairly interpreted and applied to Israel and the Jewish people.

Regular Publications

- Monthly *thinc.* Newsletter
- Briefing and Background Papers
- Articles and op-eds

4. Education

4 Key courses	Description
①  Israel on Trial Basic Course	5 Bi-weekly seminars (online) plus 2-day seminar in The Hague in cooperation with thinc. partners. Each online seminar is held twice: for northern and southern hemispheres. Curriculum based on IOT book 2 cycles in 2024: Feb-June 2024 and Sept-Dec 2024 Participants pay a fee: 250-euro pp + 250 euro = 500-euro pp Participants receive certificate
②  Israel on Trial advanced course for international lawyers	A series of sessions targeting young leaders & lawyers to educate and train upcoming leaders in intl. law and Israel. Completed with a conference in the Hague Summer 2024 organized by NJVI lawyers. To be part of thinc. lawyers' network. Target is 20 lawyers in 2024. Fee is 150 Euro pp.
③  Modern Israel & the Bible online course and live sessions	Modern Israel & Bible course (already produced, ready for launch): 4 sessions on the Bible 4 sessions on intl. law Monthly conversation on Instagram with Johannes Gerloff and Andrew Tucker
④  Whose Land?	A documentary series produced by Title deeds media (Hugh Kitson). To be made available and promoted on our website and social media

On-line Courses

- Online course *Israel on Trial* – foundational course spring 2024 (partners and young lawyers), continues in the fall with an advanced online course for young lawyers and leaders.
- An on-line course *Modern Israel & the Bible* for Young Christians – in partnership with Johannes Gerloff, Kingdom Faith Church and Christians for Israel International
- Whose land? A documentary series produced by Title deeds media (Hugh Kitson). To be made available and promoted on our website and social media

Lectures, Seminars and Workshops

On invitation, *thinc.* experts are available to give lectures and speak at events.

Video Explainers

A series of short video *explainers* on topical issues, produced in cooperation with Christians for Israel International.

Webinars

A monthly on-line webinar with leading personalities or experts (hosted by Andrew Tucker).

5. Marketing and Communications – increasing awareness about *thinc.*'s work

Marketing goals for 2024

1. Increase awareness of *thinc.* amongst donors, partners and other relevant audiences
2. Double *thinc.*'s community (our database, social media followers, partners and relevant audiences worldwide)
3. Establish the right tools for increased communication and positioning as well as growing fundraising
4. Market our products & services to partners and relevant audiences

The above goals to be achieved by focus on frequent communication to our members ('friends of *thinc.*') in our Mailchimp database and to expand the same by promoting *thinc.* on selected social media platforms ('X', Instagram, Linked-in, YouTube and Facebook). A small but suitable budget has been reserved for the purpose, see below. Moreover on part-time basis experienced Marketing and social media communication experts are hired by *thinc.*

Marketing budget 2024			
Description	Amount	Comment	
	Euro's		
Website improvements	2.000	Website developers cost	
Promoting our website	2.000	Campagin to create traffice on our website (Mailchimp, soc. Media)	
Social Media	2.500	Create content and design, increase no of followers	
YouTube channel	1.500	Promote the large amount of available and good content	
Communication plan	1.000	Hire expert	
Fundraising activities	3.000	Project based fundraising, quarter annually campaigns	
Total	12.000		

6. Advocacy – Main projects and activities

4 Main Projects	Description
<p>1  Two States for Two Peoples? - Policy</p>	A series of 10 Briefings for politicians and policy advisers, based on the Report <i>Two States for Two Peoples?</i> – to be published and distributed in collaboration with Israel Allies Foundation (IAF)
<p>2  Two States for Two Peoples? – Academic</p>	Various activities including preparation for a conference in 2025, in collaboration with Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs (JCPA)
<p>3  ICJ, ICC and UNHRC Commission of Inquiry</p>	Various activities (TBD) to influence these international judicial tribunals
<p>4  thinc. Monthly Update (video interview form)</p>	An overview of recent and current developments in the field of international law and Israel – produced in collaboration with Christians for Israel

thinc. Is about to let our voice be heard in the international legal world (ICJ and commission of inquires) as well as in the political sphere through cooperation with partner organisations (IAF) whereby a larger relevant audience is to be reached. Conferences – also in cooperation with several partners – opens the door wider for *thinc.* to the academic world

7. Consulting and Advice

We will endeavour to acquire several consulting assignments from governments (The government of Czech Republic and Fiji), political parties (SGP and CU in the Netherlands) and others engaged in civil society to provide them with international law-based materials and advice on which they can base their position regarding the rights of the State of Israel and the Israel-Palestine conflict in the EU, the UN and related institutes. To that end, we will engage with partner organisations operating in this domain.

8. Supporters and Sponsors

We will continue to send out our *Newsletters* on a monthly basis to our supporters, sponsors and other interested people to highlight important current developments, update them on our work and inform them of our (financial) needs.

Fundraising to encourage and invite people to make donations to support our work. (Part of Communications Plan)

An overview of the expected support in 2024 is shown here:

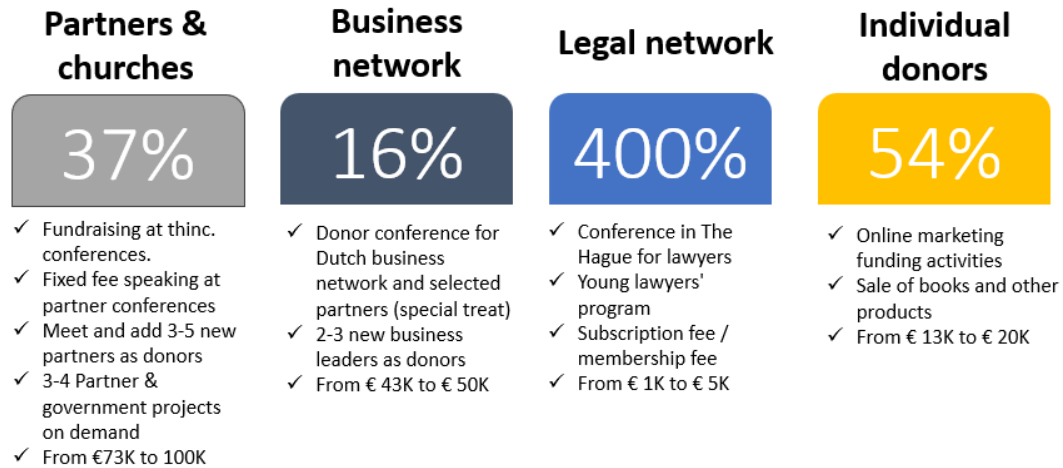
[Overview of thinc's partners income and donors in 2023 & 2024](#)

Partner	Growth rate	2023	2024
Partners & churches	37%	€ 73.000	€ 100.000
Business network	16%	€ 43.000	€ 50.000
Legal network	400%	€ 1.000	€ 5.000
Partner projects	-80%	€ 5.000	€ 1.000
Individual donors	54%	€ 13.000	€ 20.000
TOTAL	30,37%	€ 135.000	€ 176.000

The focus area for fundraising in 2024 vs 2023 is shown here:

thinc. fundraising activities 2024

- growth in donor contribution compared to 2023



Friends of *thinc.*

We will continue the 'Friends of *thinc.*' program we launched in November 2020. 'Friends of *thinc.*' is a group of individuals, enterprises, foundations and funds who provide ongoing financial support to enable the work of *thinc.*

thinc.-partners

'*thinc.*-Partners' are individuals, enterprises and organisations who enter into a long-term partnership with *thinc.* on the basis of (mutual) strategic interest. *thinc.*-Partners provide ongoing financial support to *thinc.* whereas *thinc.* will support the Partner with specific *content* tailored to the Partner's needs.

9. Budget and financial governance

The MT undertakes to perform the activities in the different areas as much as possible on a project basis, and to solicit grants and sponsors for financing. The governance of the financial goals for 2024 is shown here. Thinc. is committed to adjust costs to the level of income (90% cost/income ratio) to ensure a positive result for the year 2024.

