



100 FEUWFEEST

From top left, clockwise: Govers football team, founding partners, current Govers staff, delegates at Eindhoven's first UHY meeting in 1997, Govers partners celebrate their 100th birthday.

Serving clients and communities for 100 years

When the UHY international network was founded in 1986 by firms in the US and the UK, Govers Accountants/Consultants was one of the first new members to come on board, bringing with them 60 years of experience and a solid reputation in the Netherlands for quality, integrity and an unerring focus on client growth. Today, 40 years on, UHY is delighted to be celebrating their one hundredth anniversary with them.

Former teacher Piet Govers and two fellow accountants founded the firm in 1925 – one of whom is related to managing partner, Rudi van den Heuvel. "Although we are far from being a family business our culture is rooted in support, respect and community," he says. "There's no hierarchy in the workplace now and our staff turnover is incredibly low. Many colleagues stay with us until they retire and we recently said goodbye to six people who had been at Govers for over 45 years."

Although Govers consciously promotes a strong regional focus and is one of the most trusted accountancy firms in Eindhoven's Brainport district, the celebrated digital economy hub of the Netherlands, the firm joined UHY's

international network in 1988 to facilitate a global marketplace for their clients and now, Govers' referrals to member firms across the world are amongst the highest in the network.

Bas Pijnaker, Govers partner and UHY Board director says, "When I joined Govers and UHY in 2014, one



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of my first priorities was to put more energy into sending work out to other member firms, so we worked hard at building client confidence in UHY as a credible and dynamic international partner. It's paying off for us at Govers, for the clients looking to develop a global presence and for the network's brand across the world."

The future's bright

One benefit of working with UHY colleagues across borders is the opportunity in turn to support their

clients operating in the Netherlands. "We have a strong international auditing capability here and other UHY firms can be confident we will support them across the country - we have opened a UHY Netherlands office in Amsterdam. Tax too, has always been a specialism for Govers, and our progressive team plays an important part in European tax initiatives in the network, such as the expert group we have established with the UK, Ireland and others to share knowledge and experience in the VAT tax field. Govers' tax professionals are prominent in supporting client solutions for corporate income tax, high net worth individuals, global mobility and VAT, for example."

The Netherlands continues to enjoy government support for foreign investment, through schemes like Invest in Holland. It means that Govers, with its international connection to UHY and deserved reputation for enabling client growth in Eindhoven's entrepreneurial business centre, is well-placed to repeat its success well into the next century.

"I am optimistic for the good times ahead in the Netherlands," says Bas. "Let the celebrations begin!" ■