



18th Congress of the European Sleep Research Society

Innsbruck, Austria
September 12-16, 2006

2nd announcement & call for abstracts

www.esrs2006.at

www.esrs.org



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Important Deadlines:

Abstract submission: March 20, 2006
Early registration: March 20, 2006
Grant applications: March 20, 2006
Hotel reservation: August 1, 2006

INVITATION

Dear colleagues,

Nine months prior to the opening of the 18th congress of the European Sleep Research Society this year in Innsbruck we are happy and proud to present to you the second announcement of this event.

The call for symposia proposals got an overwhelming response. During a meeting of the ESRS board, the head of the scientific committee and the local organizers on December 3, 2005 we had the privilege and duty to select 13 symposia from almost 50 excellent proposals from Europe and elsewhere. Inside this second announcement you will find the titles and proposers of these symposia which, as we hope, present a timely selection of highly interesting topics in sleep research and sleep medicine.

In addition, we will compose a young scientists symposium from outstanding abstract submissions, and we are happy to announce that we will have 2 joint symposia with prestigious international societies, the World Association for Sleep Medicine (WASM) and the World Federation of Sleep Research and Sleep Medicine Societies (WFSRSMS).

On the pre-congress day teaching courses on a number of current topics will be offered, and during congress days clinical case conferences and video sessions have been arranged after lunch time. On the occasion of the 18th ESRS congress the traditional Sanofi-Aventis Research grant and six novel travel grants sponsored by Alliance Pharma for young scientists active in chronobiological research will be awarded. In addition, five Helgi Kristbjarnarson Awards will be given to the best abstracts based on originality.

In our view this is an attractive basis for a stimulating and exciting conference, but its success will crucially depend on you, the members of the sleep research and sleep medicine community in Europe and worldwide. Therefore we would like to cordially invite you to join the 18th ESRS congress in Innsbruck and to submit your work for presentation by March 20, 2006. We are happy that there was no need to increase the registration fees since the last congress and that, similar to earlier years, we will have the opportunity to support a considerable number of young people with travel grants.

We also hope that the photographic impressions of Innsbruck, and the outstanding beauty of its surroundings, the Tyrolean Alps, inspire you even more to join us in September.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to Innsbruck!

With kind regards,



Thomas Pollmächer
President of the ESRS



Birgit Högl
Chair of the Local Organising Committee



COMMITTEES

ESRS board of officers

President:	Thomas Pollmächer, Ingolstadt, Germany
Vice-President:	Fabio Cirignotta, Bologna, Italy
Secretary:	Diego Garcia-Borreguero, Madrid, Spain
Ass. Secretary:	Roberto Amici, Bologna, Italy
Treasurer:	Claudio Bassetti, Zurich, Switzerland
Past President:	Irene Tobler, Zurich, Switzerland

Scientific committee

Chairman:	Pierre Maquet, Liège, Belgium
Members:	Christian Cajochen, Basel, Switzerland
	Claude Gronfier, Bron, France
	Hanspeter Landolt, Zurich, Switzerland
	Patrick Lévy, Grenoble, France
	Rosa Peraita-Adrados, Madrid, Spain
	Dieter Riemann, Freiburg, Germany

Local organising committee

Chair:	Birgit Högl
	Werner Poewe
Members:	Peter Anderer
	Josef Bolitschek
	Elisabeth Brandauer
	Birgit Frauscher
	Boris Fugger
	Sibylle Gasser
	Viola Gschliesser
	Brigitte Holzinger
	Chris Kähler
	Reinhold Kerbl
	Gerhard Klösch
	Michael Lehofer
	Wolfgang Mallin
	Rainer Popovic
	Bernd Saletu
	Gotthard Tribl
	Josef Zeitlhofer

IMPORTANT ADDRESSES

Conference website

For updated information, to submit an abstract or register online, please refer to the meeting website on: www.esrs2006.at

Congress venue

Congress Innsbruck
Rennweg 3
A-6020 Innsbruck, Austria
I: www.come-innsbruck.at

Congress secretariat

PCO Tyrol Congress
Rennweg 3
A-6020 Innsbruck, Austria
T: +43 512 575600
F: +43 512 575607
E: esrs2006@come-innsbruck.at
I: www.pco-tyrolcongress.at

Industrial exhibition/ sponsoring

med.ex GmbH
Ralph Kerschbaumer
Rennweg 3
A-6020 Innsbruck, Austria
T: +43 512 5936185
F: +43 512 5936189
E: ralph@medex.co.at
I: www.medex.co.at

ESRS secretary

Diego Garcia-Borreguero
Sleep Research Institute
Alberto Alcocer 19
28040 Madrid, SPAIN
T: +34 915431423, +34 91345 4129
F: +34 91350 9593
E: dgb@iis.es

Chairpersons of the local organising committee

Birgit Högl and Werner Poewe
Innsbruck Medical University
Department of Neurology
Anichstrasse 35
A-6020 Innsbruck, Austria

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

State of the art lectures

Novel strategies in the treatment of sleep apnea

P. Levy (Lyon, France)

Interactions of orexins with classical neurotransmitters

M. Mühlenthaler (Geneva, Switzerland)

Imaging human sleep

E. Nofzinger (Pittsburgh, USA)

Cognitive functioning in patients with sleep disorders

H. Schulz (Erfurt, Germany)

Special symposia

Young scientists symposium

Speakers will be selected from the submitted abstracts

Epidemiology and social costs of sleep disorders

Joint symposium of the WASM and the ESRS

M. Partinen (Helsinki, Finland)

Negotiating daytime sleep: an intercultural comparison of social and cultural aspects of sleep patterns

Joint symposium of the WFSRSMS and the ESRS

D. Dinges (Philadelphia, USA)

List of accepted symposia (in alphabetical order by proposer)

Mobile communication and sleep

H. Danker-Hopfe (Berlin, Germany)

Possible mechanisms contributing to memory consolidation during sleep

S. Gais (Liège, Belgium)

Genetics of sleep and its disorders

T. Gislason (Reykjavik, Iceland)

Augmentation: A specific problem in the long-term treatment of restless legs syndrome

W. A. Hening (New Brunswick, USA)

Sleep related breathing disorders in neurodegenerative disorders and stroke

P. Jennum (Copenhagen, Denmark)

Autonomic tone during sleep: from basic physiology to clinical practice

P. Lavie (Israel)

Comorbidity of epilepsy and sleep disturbances

L. Nobili (Milan, Italy)

Detection of sleepiness in the work and traffic environment

T. Penzel (Marburg, Germany)

GABA or acetylcholine? - What regulates sleep in the basal forebrain/hypothalamic area?

T. Porkka-Heiskanen (Helsinki, Finland)

New findings on the pathogenesis and pathophysiology of REM sleep behaviour disorder (RBD)

C. Schenck (Minnesota, USA)

Inter-individual differences in sleep and sleep regulation: states and traits

H. van Dongen (Washington, USA)

Sleep and thermoregulation: from bench to bedside

E.J.W. van Someren (Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

What is a delayed sleep phase syndrome?

M. von Schantz (Surrey, United Kingdom)

Clinical case presentations and video sessions

Narcolepsy

G.J. Lammers (Leiden, the Netherlands)

Cyclic alternating pattern

M.G. Terzano (Parma, Italy)

Parasomnias

R. Manni (Pavia, Italy)

Insomnia

D. Riemann (Freiburg, Germany)

Debates/discussion sessions

Arousal

P. Halasz (Budapest, Hungary)

Adolescence sleep

O. Jenni (Zurich, Switzerland)

TEACHING COURSES

All teaching courses take place on **Tuesday, 12 September**. Registration for these courses has to be done separately by filling in the appropriate section on the registration form and is not included in the registration fees.

08.30-10.30

1. In vivo neurochemistry and sleep regulation

T. Porkka-Heiskanen (Helsinki, Finland)

2. RLS: clinical evaluation and treatment strategies

C. Trenkwalder (Göttingen, Germany)

11.00 – 13.00

3. Recent perspectives and experimental approaches in the study of sleep-memory relationships

G. Ficca (Naples, Italy)

4. Testing the autonomic function during sleep

T. Penzel (Marburg, Germany)

14.00 – 16.00

5. Management of sleep disturbances in neurodegenerative disorders

L. Ferini Strambi (Milan, Italy)

6. What makes a good paper

J. Horne (Loughborough, United Kingdom)

PRELIMINARY MEETING SCHEDULE

	Tuesday Sep 12	Wednesday Sep 13	Thursday Sep 14	Friday Sep 15	Saturday Sep 16	
07.30	Registration	Registration				07.30
08.00						08.00
08.30	Teaching Courses 1, 2	Opening Ceremony	Oral Presentations 1, 2, 3, 4	Symposia 7, 8, 9	Symposia 10, 11, 12	08.30
09.00						09.00
09.30						09.30
10.00						10.00
10.30	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	10.30
11.00						11.00
11.30	Teaching Courses 3, 4	Young Scientists Symposium	Symposia 4, 5, 6	Oral Presentations 5, 6, 7, 8	Poster Presentation 4	11.30
12.00						12.00
12.30						12.30
13.00						13.00
13.30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	13.30
14.00						14.00
14.30	Teaching Courses 5, 6	State of the Art Lectures 1,2	Video, Clinical Case and Debating sessions 1	Video, Clinical Case and Debating sessions 2	Video, Clinical Case and Debating sessions 3	14.30
15.00						15.00
15.30						15.30
16.00						16.00
16.30		Poster Presentation 1	Poster Presentation 2	Poster Presentation 3	Symposia 13, 14, 15	16.30
17.00						17.00
17.30						17.30
18.00						18.00
18.30	State of the Art Lectures 3, 4	Symposia 1, 2, 3	ESRS Business Meeting	Oral Presentations 9, 10, 11, 12	Closing Ceremony, Farewell Cocktail	18.30
19.00						19.00
19.30	Get together party					19.30
20.00						20.00
20.30						20.30
21.00						21.00
21.30				ESRS Party		21.30
22.00						22.00
22.30						22.30

CALL FOR PAPERS

Deadline for abstract submission: March 20, 2006

Abstracts can be submitted via Internet only on www.esrs2006.at

Abstracts accepted for presentation will be published in the Journal of Sleep Research.

All abstracts will only be included in the final programme and printed in the Journal of Sleep Research if the presenting author has formally registered and paid the registration fee. The final decision whether an abstract will be an oral or a poster presentation is taken by the Scientific Committee. For detailed guidelines please refer to the congress homepage.

AWARDS AND GRANTS

ESRS travel grants

A total of 50 grants will be available for students and young scientists. The amount of each grant is € 500. - and will be paid in cash in Innsbruck.

Candidates should:

- be less than 35 years of age
- have no permanent position
- have submitted an abstract for presentation at the congress, as first author
- have paid the registration fee
- send an official grant application together with a copy of the registration form, copy of an abstract submitted, a confirmation of the registration fee payment, a curriculum vitae and a letter of recommendation from his/her department or laboratory director.

Applications must be received **by March 20, 2006**, at the latest. Applicants who do not receive a grant and therefore cannot attend, shall receive a full refund of the registration fee.

All documents must be submitted in English and should be directed by e-mail or surface mail (5 hard copies) to:

Thomas Pollmächer, MD
ESRS president
Center of Mental Health
Klinikum Ingolstadt
Krumenauerstrasse 25
D-85049 Ingolstadt
Thomas.pollmaecher@klinikum-ingolstadt.de

ESRS Sanofi-Aventis Research Grants

As during earlier ESRS conferences, Sanofi-Aventis offers again 4 research grants for any area of sleep research. The grants will amount to 11,000 Euro each and will be awarded to scientists who:

- are below the age of 40
- submit **by June 30, 2006** a detailed description of the research project with a one-page summary, a brief overview of the scientific context; a description of the scientific aim of the project; an account of the finances required (e.g. salaries, cost of the equipment); a written approval by the local ethical committee if applicable. Information should be provided on the facilities in which the project will be carried out, on the persons actively involved in the project, and on a support from other sources.
- submit the applicant's curriculum vitae
- submit the applicant's list of publications

All documents must be submitted in English and should be sent by e-mail or surface mail (5 hard copies) to:

Thomas Pollmächer, MD
ESRS president
Center of Mental Health
Klinikum Ingolstadt
Krumenauerstrasse 25
D-85049 Ingolstadt
Thomas.pollmaecher@klinikum-ingolstadt.de

ESRS Alliance Chronosleep Travel Awards

For the first time Alliance Pharma, GB, sponsors 6 travel awards of 900 £ each. Grants will be awarded during the ESRS conference in Innsbruck to young researchers to enable the presentation of their scientific work at international conferences (other than the 18th ESRS congress). A prize committee will select 3 researchers from abstract submissions to the ESRS congress, and 3 other from active submissions.

Applicants should:

- be no older than 32 years
- submit **by June 30, 2006** a CV, a list of publications, a 3-4 page summary of unpublished work intended to be presented, and a submission letter stating at which conference and when these data are intended to be presented.
- accept the obligation to report in writing after they have attended the conference supported.

All documents must be submitted in English and should be directed by e-mail or surface mail
(5 hard copies) to:

Thomas Pollmächer, MD
ESRS president
Center of Mental Health
Klinikum Ingolstadt
Krumenauerstrasse 25
D-85049 Ingolstadt
Thomas.pollmaecher@klinikum-ingolstadt.de



Helgi Kristbjarnarson's Awards

The Icelandic Society of Sleep Medicine will give five Helgi Kristbjarnarson awards of € 1.000 each to the best abstracts submitted.

Applicants should be first authors and the selection of abstracts will be based on originality: Opening up new paths in the field of sleep, elegance and simplicity in solving complex problems, new solutions, ideas or technology that will increase our understanding of sleep among healthy and diseased.

REGISTRATION

To attend the Meeting please register online (preferred) or fill in the enclosed registration form and return it to the Congress Secretariat. The final deadline for online, faxed or mailed conference registration forms is 4th September 2006 to allow for administration of these items. After this date, no pre-registrations can be accepted. It will however be possible to register at the meeting, but the Congress Organisers recommend pre-bookings to prevent delays.

Please read this booklet carefully before registering. Your registration will be confirmed upon receipt of payment only.

Contact address for registrations, hotel reservations and cancellations:

ESRS 2006

c/o PCO Tyrol Congress

Rennweg 3, A-6020 Innsbruck / Austria

Tel.: +43-512-575600

Fax: +43-512-575607

e-mail: esrs2006@come-innsbruck.at

Registration fees:

	by March 20, 2006	March 21-Sep 4, 2006	on site
Full ESRS Members *	€ 290,00	€ 390,00	€ 450,00
Non-Members ESRS	€ 390,00	€ 480,00	€ 550,00
Students/technicians**	€ 190,00	€ 250,00	€ 275,00
Teaching courses students	€ 25,00	€ 30,00	---
Teaching courses: non-students	€ 45,00	€ 50,00	---

* This fee applies to full ESRS members only, and not to associate members through their national societies

** Student registration must include a reference letter from the department head or chair for verification

Registration includes the following unless otherwise specified:

- admission to scientific sessions and industrial exhibition
- programme booklet
- abstract book
- conference bag
- welcome reception
- coffee breaks

Terms of Payment

Payment has to be effected immediately along with the registration and be made in Euros.

No registration will be confirmed before payment is received. The registration form must indicate which mode of payment you have used. All payments must be clearly marked with the delegate's name and "ESRS 2006". Two modes of payment are possible:

1) By bank transfer (in €) to:

Raiffeisen Landesbank Tirol

Account no.: 230-03.808 888

Account name: ESRS 2006 c/o Congress Innsbruck GmbH

Branch code: 36000

IBAN: AT47 3600 0230 03808 8888

BIC: RZTIAT22

Please note: all bank charges, i.e. also foreign ones, have to be borne by the participant. Do not forget to instruct your bank to process the transfer "free of all charges for the beneficiary". For transfers within the European Union, bank charges will be considerably lower if you indicate the IBAN and BIC codes. Remember to clearly indicate the name of the participant on the transfer slip!

2) By credit card

(Visa, Master card and Diners accepted): please clearly specify your credit card details in the appropriate section of the registration form.

Upon receipt of the completed registration form and remittance of the appropriate fees, delegates will be sent a confirmation letter, which should be presented at the registration desk in Innsbruck.

Cancellations and Refunds

Notification of cancellation must be sent in writing to PCO Tyrol Congress.

If cancellation is received by July 15, 2006, payments will be refunded minus bank charges and a handling fee of € 50.- Refunds for cancellations received after

July 15, 2006 will be made in exceptional circumstances only. Please note that due to organisational reasons, all refunds will be processed after the meeting only.

HOTEL RESERVATION

Hotel rooms can be reserved through PCO Tyrol Congress, the congress secretariat. Categories and rates are listed on the registration form. To reserve hotel accommodation, please fill in the appropriate section on the registration form together with your credit card details to guarantee the reservation. Please note that only a limited number of rooms are available at this time of the year and early reservations are therefore strongly recommended. In case the requested category is already fully booked, PCO Tyrol Congress retains the right to arrange accommodation in a different category.

Reservation deadline:

The reservation deadline for individual bookings is August 1, 2006. Accommodation bookings received after this date cannot be guaranteed and the published rate may not apply.

Terms of reservation and cancellation (individual bookings):

No hotel bookings can be processed unless guaranteed by a credit card. Your card will not be charged, the information is needed to secure your room only! All payments have to be settled with the hotel directly. For cancellations, changes in the number of nights booked or no-shows after August 1, 2006 we retain the right to debit cancellation fees of up to 100% to your credit card.

Check in time in most hotels is 12.00.

In case you will arrive at your hotel after 18.00, please indicate. Failure to do so might mean that your room will be released.

Any change to a reservation must be made in writing to PCO Tyrol Congress, NOT directly to the hotel.

Group reservations:

For reservations of more than 5 rooms different terms apply. Please contact PCO Tyrol Congress for more detailed information.

Low budget accommodation / youth hostel:

For low budget accommodation please refer to:

www.youth-hostel-innsbruck.at

T: ++43 512 346179

F: ++43 512 346179-12

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

Get together party

Tuesday, 12 Sep, 6.30 p.m.

A welcome by the ESRS President followed by a get together party will take place at the Congress Innsbruck. All delegates and exhibitors are kindly invited.

ESRS Party

Friday, 15 Sep, 08.00 p.m.

Come and meet your friends and colleagues for the ESRS Party at the hotel Grauer Bär, located only a few minutes walking distance from the congress venue. This party offers you the right atmosphere to enjoy interesting talks, good music and a rich buffet in a relaxed setting. The music will no doubt inspire you to shake a leg...

Price: € 45.- per person

TOURS AND EXCURSIONS

The following tours have been designed especially for the Congress. All tours include the services of a professional guide. The prices indicated are based on a minimum number of 20 participants unless otherwise stated. If this number is not reached, alternative arrangements or a complete refund will be made. Numbers are limited on some tours and places will be allocated strictly in order of receipt of bookings.

The meeting point for all tours is at Congress Innsbruck – main entrance. All cancellations must be made in writing. Payments for cancellations made up to August 20 will be fully refunded, after this date no refunds can be made.



Tuesday, 12 September, 2 p.m **Innsbruck City Tour**

Our local tour guide first takes you on a walking tour through the charming Old City of Innsbruck, situated next to the river Inn which gave its name to the city. Take a closer look at its numerous historical landmarks, such as the Hofkirche church with its “Black Knights” surrounding the funeral monument of Emperor Maximilian, the Rococo-style Helbling town house, St. Jacob’s Cathedral and, above all, the Little Golden Roof. We then visit the excellent museum of Tyrolean Folk Art which will give you a close insight into the life and culture of our Tyrolean ancestors. The museum features among others traditional furniture, costumes and household utensils.

Price per person: € 25.-

Duration: approx. 2.5 hours

Wednesday, 13 September, 10 a.m.
Guided Hiking Tour on the “Zirbenweg”

Departure from Innsbruck by coach to the winter and summer sports resort Igls at 5 km from Innsbruck. A cable car takes you up to the Patscherkofl mountain (2.000 m above sea level). From up there you enjoy a marvellous view of the Inn valley below and our guide will take you on a hiking tour through the most beautiful stone pine forest in the Alps to the “Tulfeiner Alm” mountain hut, where you will be offered a typical Tyrolean schnapps and snack.

Walking time is approx. 2,5 hours (at almost no elevation difference). The hike is suitable for children from the age of 8 and for adults of any age.

Equipment: Hiking shoes or sturdy shoes (can also be borrowed on site free of charge), sweater, rain coat, sun glasses

Price per person: € 55.-

Duration: whole day



Thursday, September 14, 08.30 a.m.
Swarovski Crystal Worlds and the Medieval City of Hall

A bus takes us through a number of typical Tyrolean villages to Wattens, where the Swarovski Crystal Worlds opened their doors to the public some 10 years ago. Through the huge water-spouting head of a botanic giant the visitor enters the mostly subterranean, unique magic World of Crystal. "This place is like a fairy tale come true. People suddenly experience what they previously knew only in their dreams", says Viennese Multimedia Artist André Heller, creator of the Swarovski Crystal Worlds.

You have to experience yourself what is hard to describe: a view of the surreal landscape of a glittering galaxy, the inside of a gigantic crystal dome with changing patterns of light and sound, bizarre scenarios - a world of magic.

You will have time to look for a souvenir in the crystal shop or enjoy a cup of coffee and a delicious Austrian cake. After a short bus ride we reach the city of Hall with its Mint Tower.

The first records of Hasegg Castle and its famous Mint Tower ("Münzturm") date back to 1306. Its original purpose was to protect the nearby salt-storage houses. When Archduke Ferdinand II had the old mint transferred from the Castle of Sparberegg to Hasegg in 1567, Hall experienced a decisive upswing. The minting of silver-talers in Hall became world famous. Nowadays, you can still mint your own coin!

Price per person: € 45.- incl. bus,
admission to Swarovski Crystal Worlds,
Castle of Hasegg, minting of a coin
Duration: approx. 4.5 hours



Friday, September 15, 10:00 a.m.
Adventure tour – White-water Rafting

Longing for the ultimate get-wet adventure? You have to try RIVER-RAFTING!

Be it in the wild and romantic Inntal gorge, Europe's most renowned course, or the Ötztal Ache river, World Cup and European Cup course - perfect for beginners as well as for true experts, white-water rafting will be an outstanding experience!

SAFETY is of major importance to us. Certified and experienced rafting and mountain guides accompany you on your thrilling experience! Afterwards, enjoy an opulent BBQ (with pork, meat, grilled sausages, potato wedges, bread & salad) next to a romantic campfire and relive the exciting day once more.

Price per person: € 85.-

Duration: approx. 6 hours



Saturday, September 16, 08.00 a.m.
Glacier Skiing (for advanced skiers only)



The olympic ski world of Innsbruck and its surroundings not only offer winter guests a tempting choice of skiing and snowboarding facilities in different areas. The natural glacier in the Stubai valley and its ski resorts ensure that winter sports fans will have a truly enjoyable day of winter sports in September - great snow conditions are guaranteed! ...and don't forget to reserve some time for a sun-bath and après ski.

Price per person:

Including lift ticket, ski-, boots-, sticks-rental, shuttle-bus, tour guide € 95,-

Participants bringing their own equipment (without ski-, boots-, sticks-rental) € 69,-

Duration: whole day

COMMERCIAL EXHIBITION & SPONSORING

The commercial exhibition will be located next to the meeting rooms in the spacious foyers of Congress Innsbruck. For all enquiries regarding the industrial exhibition and sponsorship opportunities please contact:

med.ex GmbH
Ralph Kerschbaumer
Rennweg 3, A-6020 Innsbruck
T: ++43 512 5936185
F: ++43 512 5936189
E: ralph@medex.co.at
I: www.medex.co.at

GENERAL INFORMATION

About Austria

Austria has been a member of the European Union since 1995, the population is 8,169,929 the capital city is Vienna (Wien). Politically, Austria is a democratic republic with the prime minister as the head of government and parliamentary elections every four years. The formal head of state is the president. The country is divided into nine federal states, Innsbruck is the capital of the state of the Tyrol. The language spoken in Austria is German, but most Austrians speak English, and some French or Italian, too and are happy to be of service to visitors.
local time: GMT+1

About Innsbruck

Innsbruck, the capital of the Tyrol, is located in the Alpine region of Austria, in the valley of the river Inn, at 580 metres above sea level. It is surrounded by mountain ranges and numerous peaks which reach an altitude of approx. 2,700 metres above sea level. The city has 130,000 inhabitants and hosts one of the oldest universities in Europe, founded in the year 1562. Today, over 30,000 students attend the university in Innsbruck. Due to its location, Innsbruck has an excellent tourist infrastructure and is best known for its rich cultural heritage, as well as for its endless opportunities in sports and recreation that include golf, hiking, climbing, rafting, paragliding, canyoning, swimming in lakes, skiing and snowboarding not only in winter time, but also in summer at one of the glaciers nearby. Innsbruck has twice hosted the Olympic Winter Games, in 1964 and 1976. In the town, some 160 restaurants, cafes and bars, most of them in walking distance to the convention centre, offer traditional Tyrolean and Austrian specialities as well as international dishes.

Weather/ Climate

With a mountain chain to protect it from the cold northern winds, Innsbruck enjoys a mild alpine climate. Summer and autumn especially tend to bring long periods of fine weather. The average temperature for September is 15-20° Celsius (59-68 Fahrenheit) and usually there is little rainfall. Isolated thunderstorms and rain showers may develop sometimes in the late afternoon or evening.

Meeting venue

The meeting venue is "Congress Innsbruck", a state-of-the-art convention centre that has won the worldwide AIPC Apex Award "best congress centre 2001". It is located adjacent to the Old Town, i.e. in walking distance to most attractions, museums, and hotels.

Language

The official language of the event is English. No simultaneous interpretation facilities will be provided during the conference.

Lunch

is not included in the registration fee. However, there is a restaurant at the congress centre and some 160 bars, cafés and restaurants within walking distance to the congress centre.

Official letter of invitation

If you need an official letter of invitation to obtain a visa to Austria, please contact the congress secretariat. This invitation is intended to facilitate participants' travel and visa arrangements and does not imply the provision of any financial or other support. It will be provided upon request after you have registered as a delegate.

Liability and insurance

Neither the organisers, nor the congress secretariat or other suppliers accept liability for any injury, loss or damage, arising from accidents or other situations during, or as a consequence of the congress. Participants are therefore advised to arrange for health and accident insurance prior to travelling to the congress.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

By Plane

Innsbruck has an international airport that is primarily served by Austrian Airlines or partner airlines. Several daily flights connect Innsbruck to European airports such as Vienna or Frankfurt. There are direct international flights at certain days from London, Paris, Amsterdam, Göteborg, Rotterdam, Antwerp, Oslo and Stavanger. In addition, charter flights are available from and to a number of additional European destinations.



Please check your travel agent for options or refer to www.innsbruck-airport.com. Intercontinental travellers normally connect via Frankfurt, Vienna or Amsterdam. As many intercontinental non stop flights arrive in Munich, this airport may also be considered as a final destination.

Transfer from Munich to Innsbruck is convenient by airport shuttle service or train (approx. 2.5 hrs transfer time) or you may rent a car at Munich and drive to Innsbruck (2 hrs drive time). To order an airport shuttle from Munich refer to www.airport-transfer.com.

By Train

Innsbruck is connected to the dense European Inter-City railway network. Therefore, fast and convenient daily trains reach Innsbruck from all over Europe.

By Car

Innsbruck is connected to major European motorways arriving from the North (Western Europe and Germany via Munich), from the South (Italy via Verona), from the West (Switzerland via Zurich) and from the east (Hungary via Vienna). This means that Innsbruck can be reached by car within a couple of hours of driving from large parts of Central, Western and Eastern Europe or Italy.

Travel within Innsbruck

Airport transfer is short, cheap and convenient (10-15 minutes to the city centre by public bus; 5-10 minutes to the city centre by taxi).

Within the city, a dense network of frequently running public buses and streetcars can be found. It is important to note that the Old Town, the congress venue, the major tourist attractions, and most hotels are within easy walking distance.