



Call for Conference Bids

Would you like to host the 18th ESA Conference?

The conferences of the ESA are biannual and take place in a different European country each time. Previous conference locations were: Vienna 1992, Budapest 1995, Essex 1997, Amsterdam 1999, Helsinki 2001, Murcia 2003, Torun 2005, Glasgow 2007, Lisbon 2009, Geneva 2011, Turin 2013, Prague 2015, Athens 2017, Manchester 2019, Barcelona 2021 (online), Porto (2024) and Warsaw (2026).

We are currently inviting bids from parties wishing to host the next conference to be held in 2028.

The deadline for submitting proposals is **October 31, 2025**.

As recent ESA conferences have been attended by some 3000 delegates, the venue must have sufficient capacity in terms of meeting rooms and catering facilities. Rooms have to be provided by the hosting institution/university. Furthermore, the city should be well connected.

Eligibility:

- Hosting institutions should be academic/research institutes.
- The bid should be submitted by a member of the hosting institution(s) who is prepared to serve as Chair of the Local Organising Committee (LOC). This person will act as the primary liaison between the ESA Conference Committee and the LOC members.
- The bid can be submitted together with the City's office for marketing / tourism, etc.
- Professional Conference Organisers are not eligible and should not be considered for the organisation of the conference. A Conference assistant must be recruited to support the organisation. The conference organisation is shared between the ESA Office and the LOC, while the ESA Conference Committee is responsible for the academic programme.
- To address the limited availability of university halls with sufficient capacity in some cities, congress centres and hotel venues may be considered as additional options for hosting large plenary events.

Departments, institutes or associations who are interested in hosting the 18th ESA Conference can send their proposals to esa@europeansociology.org.

About the selection process:

- The ESA Executive Committee (ExeC) will select the conference venue after evaluating all bids.
- The ESA aims for geographic diversity when selecting the locations of its conference in order to reflect its European membership.
- After the deadline on 31 October 2025, the ExeC might come back to promising bidders with specific questions.

Call for Conference Bids - continuation

- The ExeC will decide about the winning bid no later than 30 April 2026 and communicate the decision to all bidders. In order to facilitate the process, please include at least all the information asked for in this call and submit your bid as a PowerPoint or PDF presentation.

Bids should provide the following information:

- name and address of the hosting institution
- If multiple university building locations are required, please provide details and propose transportation arrangements between the venues
- names and affiliations of the proposed Local Organising Committee (the LOC may include up to 15 members), along with an indicative structure of its subcommittees.
- why your city?
- capacity of the largest available venue/lecture hall/auditorium/ for the Opening Plenary preferably 2500+
- capacity of the largest available venue/lecture hall/auditorium/ for the Second Plenary preferably 1500+
- capacity of the available venue/lecture hall/auditorium/ for the Closing Ceremony preferably 1000+
- size and number of available rooms for Semi-Plenaries (requirements: between 10 and 12 lecture rooms for 150-400 – 4 per day)
- size and number of available rooms for Research Network and Research Stream sessions (requirements: between 70 and 95 seminar rooms for 20-60)
- note that all venues should be within short walking distance; all venues and rooms must be accessible; all rooms should be equipped with screens, projectors, PCs or laptops and wifi
- preliminary and provisional costs for venues and rooms as well as the catering (lunchboxes and coffee breaks)

Please also include information about:

- the coordination and training of the conference student volunteers/staff
- the potential registration area for at least 10 desks (A-Z) and the distribution of the conference bags to all delegates
- the potential exhibition area for 25-30 publishers
- the potential distribution points for lunchboxes (1000+ lunches per break)
- the potential family room/child care area
- possibilities of additional fund-raising and sponsorship, incl. non-monetary (city, public transportation, funding agencies etc.)
- the hosting institution's sustainability policy and ideas for the further sustainability of the conference and its organisation
- number, range, quality and costs of accommodation in the city
- transportation connections (e.g. nearest major airport, railway network, underground, buses, tramways etc.)
- ideas for sociological walks, city tours and other tourist programme points and events
- other possible advantages/disadvantages of the conference location