

Bid for hosting



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DOCUMENT ANALYSIS & RECOGNITION

Athens-Greece • August 25-28, 2019



Demokritos
National Centre for Scientific Research



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Executive summary

Dear ICDAR Advisory Board Members, dear ICDAR Delegates,

With great pleasure and pride we present our proposal to host the 15th International Conference on Document Analysis and Recognition (ICDAR 2019) in Athens, Greece. This presentation is based on the strong belief that the notable scientific and philosophical traditions of an ancient culture coupled with excellent modern facilities, will convince all delegates and Executive Committee Members that Athens is an ideal place for the Conference.

We are aware that the choice should be governed by the strictest criteria of convenience and economy and that the ICDAR community is rightly seeking only the highest quality in terms of convenience and delegate accommodation and service for this important event. We firmly believe that we will satisfy the most demanding requirements.

The concept of congresses was first conceived in ancient Greece, through the Amphictyony (an association of Greek states) in Delphi. Today, due to new, large projects, completed or ongoing, directly associated with a contemporary congress infrastructure, Greece is elevated to an ideal congress destination with suitable human resources, as well as unique advantages such as its mild climate, a multifaceted tourist product, its cultural wealth and many more.

What can Athens offer? Even the briefest description resembles a treasure house of the many benefits that the heirs of Socrates, Plato and Hippocrates would like to place at your disposal. Athens offers:

- Modern and elegant congress halls.
- Luxury and 4-star hotels with the highest levels of service.
- The most economical prices within the European Union for gastronomy, transportation and hotel accommodation.
- Unparalleled convenient access to and from Greece by air at the hub of north - south and east - west airline networks.
- All the benefits of a host city for the Olympic Games which has taken very important steps in order to drastically improve its infrastructure and to secure every detail needed for making the stay of its visitors comfortable.
- A well educated population which supports development service industries and is facilitated by a widespread competence of the English language.
- An abundance of trained and experienced professional expertise in conference management and tourism.
- Greek and international cuisine at both ends of the expenditure budget.
- For your pre or post conference interests and amusements, a stunning blend of ancient history, mythology and ultra - modern nightlife excitement, breathtaking and easily accessible scenery noble sites and the awed awareness that you are treading the stones which once gave birth to and nurtured the civilization of the West.
- Professional Conference Organizers and Destination Management Companies with great experience in congress organization and event planning.
- A strong feeling of security and hospitality. Greece boasts the lowest percentage of criminality and violence. The visitor while staying in our country is assured security.
- Finally, though not least at all, the legendary warmth and hospitality of the Greek people, proud that theirs is the land where the word “*xenos*” translates as both “foreigner” and “guest”.

As the international organizations have shown their solid preference in holding an increasing number of scientific, industrial, social and professional events in Greece, we are able to ensure that the ICDAR 2019 Conference will be organized according to the highest professional standards guaranteeing perfection, precision, communication and success, by utilizing the country's extensive potential and taking advantage of its exceptional natural beauty.

We will warmly welcome the delegates of the ICDAR community to our country. We will do our best to make this conference both successful and enjoyable.

Faithfully yours,

The bidding Conference Chairs

Basilis Gatos Vassilis Katsouros Ioannis Pratikakis

1. Venue

1.1 Hosting city

Athens is the cradle of Western civilization, the origin of drama and history and philosophy, the birthplace of democracy. It is hard to imagine what civilized life would be like without the geometry of Euklides or Pythagoras, the logic of Aristoteles, the unique architectural style which has influenced architects all over the world, or even the fables of Aesopos known to children around the globe. Let us not forget also the Olympic Games, with their spirit of world-peace and brotherhood, first conceived and organized by the Greeks; or the Greek language which has enriched other languages with so many words and concepts, like philanthropy, harmony, music, techne, sophistication, architecture, ecology and thousands of others. Nor is it simply the lure of history that brings foreign travelers to the Greek capital. Modern Athens is a vibrant city with great appeal and charm. It is still one of the most affordable cities in the world (the least expensive capital in Europe, according to the official EU statistical publication), as well as one of its most beautiful, hospitable and exciting!

ANCIENT ATHENS

THE ACROPOLIS



For thousands of years the Acropolis has been the symbol of Athens, the sacred rock, the link that connects the magnificent ancient civilization with the modern. The Acropolis and its monuments, its history and myths that are connected with it are rightly the pride and the glory of this city, the envy of all other cities in the world. There is no Greek or foreign visitor who does not want to make the pilgrimage to the sacred rock and absorb its magnificence and beauty. If you have never been to the Acropolis we assure you it is a unique and unforgettable experience.

THE PARTHENON



The Parthenon is the unique masterpiece of the world. You will realize it yourself the moment you stand in front of it and learn a little of its history and the secrets of its construction. The beauty, harmony and grace of this monument make a really lasting impression on everyone who sees it. Today admission to the Parthenon is prohibited due to the restoration work that has been taking place there since 1983. This will not prevent you from admiring this unique temple dedicated to the goddess Athena and built of white marble from Mount Pendeli. Under the Parthenon of the Classical times there are remains of the monumental Ur-Parthenon, an Archaic temple dated in the late 6th century B.C. The architects of the Classical temple, which was constructed and decorated between 447 and 432 B.C.

during the Golden Age of Perikles, were Iktinos and Kallikrates. The Parthenon housed the golden-ivory statue of Athena, work of the famous sculptor Pheidias. This statue was the final destination of the Great Panathenaea procession, depicted on the frieze of the temple.

THE PROPYLAEA

This is the glorious entrance to the Acropolis and its monuments, constructed as part of the Perikles programme. The Propylaea, erected between 437 and 432 B.C., were the work of the famous Athenian architect Mnesikles.

THE PNYX

The Pnyx is situated between the Hill of the Muses, upon which stands the Monument of Philopappou, and the Hill of the Nymphs, where the tomb of Kimon was found and where the Observatory stands today. This semi-circular area was the place of gathering for all the citizens of ancient Athens. They gathered here in order to hear the famous orators who spoke from the stone-cut tribune in its middle. It is believed that it could accommodate up to 10.000 people at a time.

THE ANCIENT THEATRE OF DIONYSOS

Pass through the entrance to the archaeological site at the southern slope of the Acropolis in Dionysiou Areopagitou Street and start climbing. On the left you will see the oldest of all known theatres in the world, the theatre of Dionysos. Here, the four greatest ancient Greek poets, Aeschylus, Aristophanes, Euripides and Sophocles, saw their plays being performed for the first time, in the 5th century B.C. The koilition (cavea) and the proskopion (stage) were originally of wood. They were reconstructed of marble during the 4th century B.C. Today only parts of the stone koilon have survived. Experts estimate that the theatre could accommodate 17.000 spectators.



THE AREIOS PAGOS

It is the most ancient court of law, a place much respected in ancient times. Here was the seat of the first aristocratic parliament of ancient Athens. In time this started to lose its political power and from the second half of the 5th century B.C. it had only judicial responsibility and particularly that of trying murderers. In this court, as it is described in Oresteia, Orestes was judged for the murder of his mother Clytaemnestra and her lover Aegisthos. It was from this spot, as we learn from the bronze inscription at the base of the rock, that Saint Paul delivered his first sermon to the Athenians, in AD 51.

THE ODEION OF HERODES ATTICUS



The Herodeion as it is called by modern Greeks, was built in AD 161 by Tiberius Claudius Atticus Herodes, an important figure of his time. He was teacher and philosopher who had inherited a great fortune from his father. When his wife Rigilla died, he built this reed Odeion for musical performances to honour her memory. The ancient Greeks used to give music and recital concerts there. Today the Athens Festival takes place at the Odeion every summer, but the Herodeion's splendour is best admired during a morning stroll on your way to the Acropolis.

THE PANATHENAEA FEAST

Every year ancient Athenians celebrated the Mikra Panathenaea (lesser), and every four years the Megala Panathenaea (great), which were more magnificent still and which included contests in equestrian skill, athletics, music and other arts. On the last day a procession started from Kerameikos, passed through the Agora and climbed to the Acropolis to offer Athena her so called peplos (vestment). In those days it was customary to dress statues in real clothes. Thus the peplos of the goddess was in fact a real woolen dress, hand-woven by a priestess and the young virgin girls who helped her. It was placed as a sail on the mast of a big wooden vessel and was brought to the Acropolis. The whole procession sculpted on the frieze of the Parthenon.

THE ACROPOLIS MUSEUM



The Acropolis Museum houses priceless finds. If you visit the Museum prior to your walk around the site you will be able to better understand the history and function of the Acropolis, as the most important religious center of the city of Athens and thus enjoy it even more.

KERAMEIKOS

The ancient Kerameikos was on the northwest fringes of ancient Athens and extended both inside and outside the walls, which now traverse the site of the excavations. In the center of the site, very close to each other, can be seen the two most famous gates of ancient Athens, the Dipylon and the Sacred Gate. The area around these gates was the most ancient and largest cemetery known in Attica. It was also the burial site of the citizens honoured by the city of Athens. Kerameikos, according to the traveler Pausanias was named after Keramos, a hero of the deme of Kerameis. But most probably the name is due to the settlement of potters on the banks of the Eridanos river. The Museum of Kerameikos: It is a small square building around a courtyard, which you are advised to visit after your walk around the site. The main exhibits are grave offerings found inside the tombs while the entrance is dominated by funerary stelae.

THE ANCIENT AGORA

At the foot of the Acropolis, near the Theseion metro station and bordering on the streets where the Sunday bazaar takes place, is the archaeological site of the of the ancient Agora. Since Agora means market in Greek, the ancient and the modern use of the place are not far apart. But, in ancient years, the Agora was not only the commercial center of the city; it was its political, cultural and religious one as well. The administrative buildings and the temples were built in this area, where the public services and the courts of the law were also based. This was where Athenians gathered on a daily basis, not only to buy and sell their goods, but also to learn the news, to criticize the government, to exchange views or just gossip. The history of this area goes back to Neolithic times and site includes monuments of different periods: from the Classical to the 11th century AD represented by the church of the Saints Apostoli.



WALKS

PLAKA



As soon as you start walking around Plaka's stone-paved, narrow streets, you will have the feeling that you are travelling back in time. This is Athens' oldest and, thanks to the restoration efforts, which went into its buildings in recent years, most picturesque neighborhood. You will be delighted by the beauty of the neoclassical colours of its houses, their architecture, their lovingly tended little gardens, the elegance, and the total atmosphere of the area. In Plaka, even the air is different; lighter, clearer, scented, like a gift from the gods. Take a map with you because Plaka is like a labyrinth. No need for alarm though. It is easy to orientate yourself: uphill is the Acropolis and downhill are Syntagma and Monastiraki.

THE NATIONAL GARDEN

Open dawn to dusk. An oasis in the middle of the city. An area of almost 40 acres full of flowers, plants, bushes and trees from all over the world. Five hundred different varieties of plants under a canopy of trees. Designed to be the garden of the Royal Palace of King Otto and Queen Amalia, it was planted between 1838 and 1860.



THE ZAPPEION



The Zappeion is the small park area between the National Garden and the Olympieion. In it you will see the handsome Zappeion Megaron, designed by the architect Theophil Hansen and built in 1874-1888. In recent years this "Congress & Exhibition Hall", has witnessed some of the most important moments in this country's modern history: European leaders' summits, Election Day results and important political announcements. It also houses important art exhibitions and occasionally concerts are given here.

THE PANATHENAIKON STADIUM

A really impressive sight, built of white marble in the shape of a horseshoe, it stands opposite the National Garden. The first Stadium to be built on this site was constructed of wood in 330 B.C. The marble structure, of which the present day Stadium (Stadio) is a faithful replica, was built by Herodes Atticus. It was used as a venue for the athletic games held during the feast of Panathenaea, hence its name Panathenaikon. The Stadium we see today was built between 1869 and 1870 for the first Olympic Games held in modern Times in 1896.



PHILOPAPPOU

Whatever time you may decide to come up here, you will be well compensated, since your walk will have all the necessary ingredients of an interesting and very romantic experience: trees and plants, the monument of Philopappou and everything a great view can offer. And from the top of Philopappou Hill the view offers no less than the Parthenon and the glorious monuments on the Acropolis.

LYCAVITTO斯 HILL



Do not miss the view of the Acropolis and of the whole city spreading all the way to the sea. Lycavittos has always been the favourite place of the incurable romantics. And it is also the pine trees and cypresses, the little wooden benches, the narrow pathways ... Then there is the open-air theatre which attracts music and theatre lovers during the summer months, when it hosts cultural events.

ATHENS AFTER DARK...



When you are in Athens, you will have the impression that the city never sleeps. You will also hear many people say that Athens live by night. To a great extent that statement is true. No other city in the world offers so many possibilities for evening entertainment as this so ancient and yet so modern city does. The possibilities are indeed many: ancient Greek drama in a theatre dating from the time the play was written; a world-famous orchestra playing Beethoven or jazz in one of the best modern concert halls in Europe; also a club and music scene quite unique in the world for its diversity and resourcefulness. The capital of Greece has a lot of excitement to offer night-lovers and fun-seekers alike.

Whatever you decide to do, you will soon discover that nightlife in Athens is not only varied and unique but it is also priced so reasonably that you can enjoy everything it has to offer. You can easily enjoy yourself right through the night. The only problem is that there are so many ancient wonders to

see the next day. You can start your evening at one of the many excellent restaurants and typically Greek tavernas, which you can find throughout the city. The atmosphere in all Greek restaurants is unpretentious, informal and friendly and the food is exquisite.

Before going to one of the Greek bouzouki tavernas, you should try one of the hundreds of bars, which are full of young people and are located all over the city. Beautifully decorated bar-clubs, playing all kinds of music, from rock 'n' roll to jazz, to Greek and international pop, through the night, are found all over the city. Apart from Syntagma, Theseio and Kolonaki areas in central Athens, you will also find many clubs, discobars and live music bar in the suburbs of Kifisia, Falirro, Glyfada, Vouliagmeni, Voula and Varkiza. And each one of them has something different to offer. It is said that a night in bouzoukia is a night which one

never forgets. At some point, during your visit, you should really try to go to one of these places, listen to the authentic Greek music as well as sing and dance along with the other patrons.

FOOD & DRINK

THE GREEK CUISINE

Its unique tastes are amongst the things which set Greece apart. You are in for pleasant culinary surprises while in this country. Contrary to common belief you will soon discover that Greek cuisine does not solely consist of rousaka, souvlaki and horiatiki salata. Greek cuisine has a great variety of dishes and can be an extremely satisfying culinary adventure for both meat eaters and vegetarians. It could not be otherwise in the country that gave birth to the symposiums and the Epicurean philosophers. It was, in fact, Archestratos in 330 B.C., who wrote the first cook-book in History and let us not forget that cuisine is a sign of civilization. Greece has a culinary tradition of some 4.000 years. Nevertheless, like most national cuisines, the Greek, has both influenced others and embraced ideas from its easterly and westerly neighbours.



1.2 Conference hall

MEGARON, ATHENS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER



The Megaron, Athens International Conference Center completed in 1991, is one of the world's finest Conference Venues. Specialist companies and consultants from throughout Europe were brought together, as a team, to create a Cultural Center to match the high standards of the world's leading orchestras and to create a Conference Center with technical abilities unrivalled by most other European venues. Conceived, designed and constructed as a complete cultural center, able to house concerts, opera, ballet and theater as well as conferences, the Megaron, Athens International Conference Center offers exceptional convention technology. Easily accessible and close to the very heart of Athens, the Megaron, Athens International Conference Center has all the space, flexibility and services you require to make your next conference a complete success.

The Conference Centre is a dedicated self-contained centre with full support facilities including a central foyer with registration area and a central bar for refreshments and light buffet.

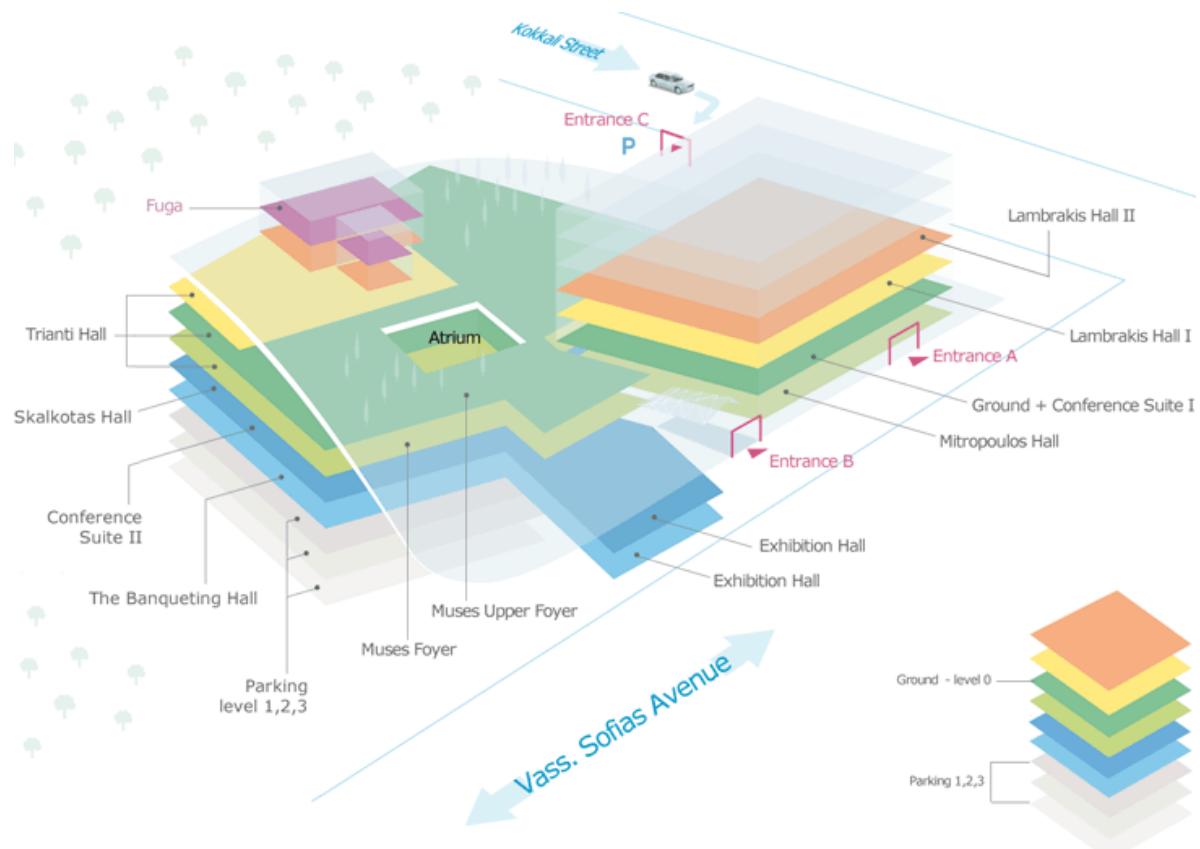
There are 6 Conference / Seminar rooms which can be used for smaller meetings, break-out sessions from Conferences in the larger halls, or as workshop or exhibition areas. The rooms seat from 30 to 60 delegates, depending on the layout, and are fully equipped with mobile sound, video and audio-visual equipment and infrared simultaneous translation systems.



It follows a list of the most recent conferences hosted in Megaron:

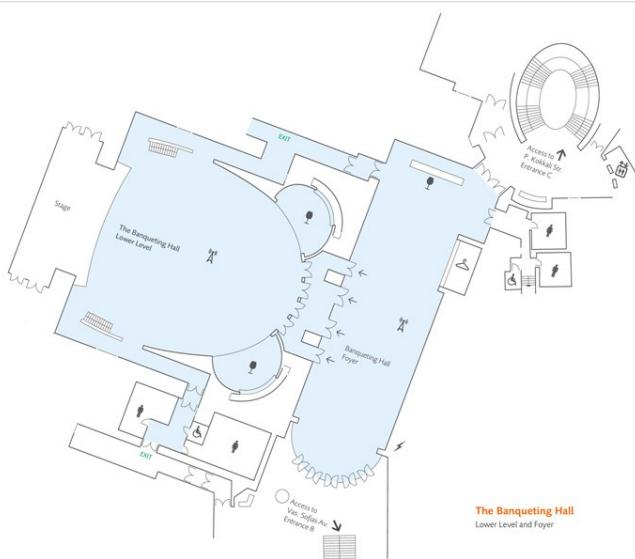
- 9th European Congress on Menopause and Andropause - EMAS 2012 - 700 participants
- 12th Congress of the European Society of Contraception - 2012 - 1.500 participants
- EUROECHO 2012 - 1.500 participants
- Pediatric Allergy & Asthma Meeting, PAAM 2013 - 1.000 participants
- 6th European Summit of Regions and Cities - 2014 - 800 participants
- Future Internet Assembly - 2014 - 600 participants
- 2nd International Conference on Research Infrastructure - ICRI 2014 - 900 participants
- Global Leadership Conference of the Entrepreneurs' Organization - 2014 - 1.000 participants
- E-Health Forum 2014 - 1.000 participants
- Heart Failure 2014 - 4.500 participants
- Joint Meeting of the European Society of Hypertension (ESH) and International Society of Hypertension (ISH) 2014 - 5.000 participants
- TBEX Europe 2014 - 900 participants
- 12th World Congress of Biological Psychiatry -2015 - 1.500 participants

The layout of the conference center is presented in the figure below:



For the needs of ICDAR we foresee the following rooms to host the three parallel sessions:

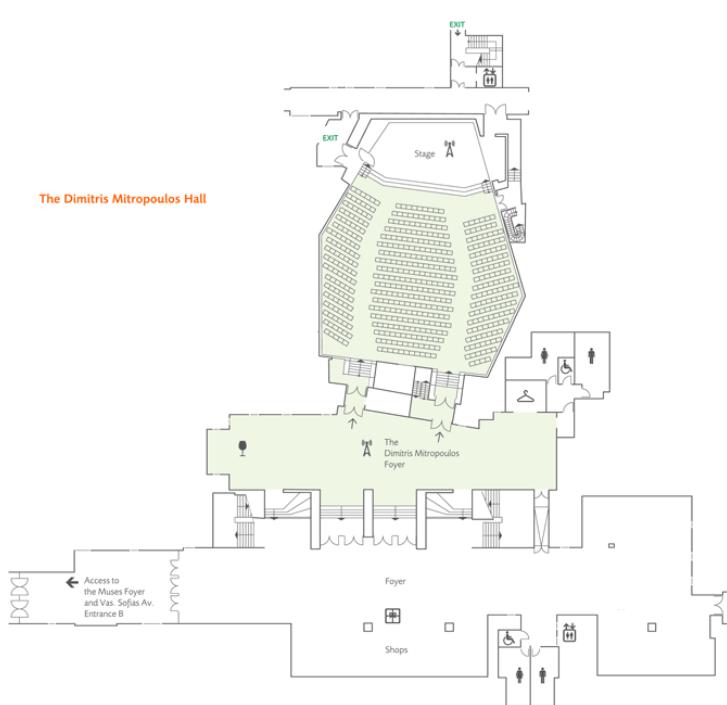
The Banqueting Hall



Highly flexible, modern, circular hall with a suspended balcony. The hall has a number of en suite auxiliary areas, including kitchens, which make it ideal for conferences as well as live events and gala dinners.

- Total floor space of 1025 sq. meters
- Hosts 680 in theatre style, depending on staging
- Front & Back Projection Screens
- Over 1000 sq. meters foyer space

The Dimitris Mitropoulos Hall

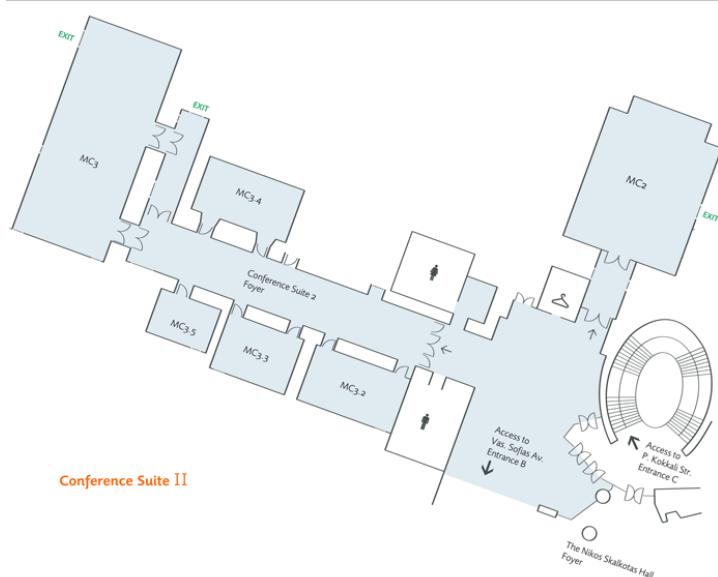


In the case of less participants than 450 the Dimitris Mitropoulos Hall is ideal for the plenary event hall.

- Fixed theatre style seating for 450
- Advanced Projection, Lighting and Sound Systems
- Simultaneous translation for 3 languages
- Over 500 sq. meters of foyer space

For the plenary session in the case where the participants are more than 450 we shall use the banqueting hall and in the case of less than 450 we have the option of Dimitris Mitropoulos Hall

Conference Suite II



The newest suite of smaller conference rooms, accommodating up to 200 delegates in theatre style form. The rooms open up onto an ample central corridor which can also be used for small exhibitions.

In particular, rooms MC2 and MC3 have an area of 197 and 232 sq. meters that can accommodate a theatre capacity of 150 and 180 and are suitable to host the parallel sessions.

The poster sessions will be held in one of the foyer spaces.

More information on the conference center can be found at <http://www.maicc.gr/en>.

1.3 Dates

Conference dates:	25-28 August 2019
Satellite Workshops:	24-25 August 2019
Tutorials:	25 August 2019
Doctorate consortium:	25 August 2019
Post-conference tours:	29-30 August 2019

2. Accessibility

2.1 How to get to Athens

Throughout the year millions of visitors are getting to Greece and Athens. For the majority of them, the best way to arrive to Athens is by air, but there are, or course, the alternative routes by train, car or ferry boats which leave from various ports of Italy like Venice, Ancona, Bari , Brindisi and Otranto as well as the train journey through the Balkan Peninsula. Though most tourists use Athens as a stop over before visiting the Greek islands like Paros, Naxos, Kos, Santorini or Crete island, the capital of Greece is worth for more than a couple of days of staying and has a lot of beauties and attractions to offer.

2.2 Arriving to the Athens airport



The airport of Athens, Eleftherios Venizelos, located in Spata and is one of the best airports in Europe. The airport serves flights to Greece daily from several international airlines from all over the world. It has a modern design and was build by a famous German construction company. Within the airport there are many facilities and shops, restaurants, bars, fast food, pharmacies, duty free shops, internet, banks, ATM's, money exchange offices, news and magazines kiosks and all that makes any traveller to feel comfortable. The metro and the Proastiakos Suburban rail as well as taxis and buses to and from Athens are to be found opposite the main exit of the airport, the bus journey is cheap and takes

between 40 and 45 minutes to the city centre at Syntagma (Parliament) Square, therefore the best way is to take the Athens metro that connects the airport with Athens and Piraeus. There are car hire agencies at the airport and if one wants to rent a car.

2.3 Airticket costs to Athens

In the following table we present the costs for getting to Athens from cities/countries around the world with the most credible airways companies. Note that the costs correspond to round-trip tickets for one person for the dates 23-27 August 2015 as they were retrieved from the sites of the airway companies on 8/6/2015.

Country/City of origin	Airway company	Cost
Switzerland		
Geneva	Swiss Air	199,01 €
	Aegean	158,43 €
Zurich	Swiss Air	190,32 €
	Aegean	140,02 €
United Kingdom		
London (Heathrow Airport)	British Airways	192,43 €
	Aegean	217,43 €
Italy		
Rome	Alitalia	120 €
	Aegean	156 €
Milan	Aegean	151,42 €
Spain		
Madrid	Aegean	166,93 €

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	Iberia	181,93 €
Barcelona	Aegean	165,83 €
	Iberia	150,83 €
France		
Paris	Air France	218,11 €
	Aegean	213,11 €
Sweden		
Stockholm	Aegean	164,91 €
	Scandinavian	157,10 €
Austria		
Vienna	Austrian	154,73 €
	Aegean	159,73 €
Tunisia		
Tunis	Alitalia via Rome	282,62 €
South Africa		
Johannesburg	Etihad Airways (via Abu Dhabi)	509,25 €
Brazil		
Sao Paolo I	Beria Airlines (via Madrid)	802,66 €
India		
Delhi	Etihad Airways (via Abu Dhabi)	812,28 €
Thailand		
Singapore	Turkish Airline (via Istanbul)	952,71 €
Japan		
Tokyo	Turkish Airline (via Istanbul)	693,86 €
	Aeroflot (via Moscow)	499,18 €
China		
Beijing	Etihad Airways (via Abu Dhabi)	755,24 €
USA		
New York	Turkish Airline (via Istanbul)	616,91 €
Australia		
Sydney	Etihad Airline via Abu Dhabi	1087,98 €
Canada		
Toronto	Turkish Airline via Istanbul	723,55 €
Israel		
Tel Aviv	Aegean	199,77 €
	El Al	213,11 €
Denmark		
Copenhagen	Scandinavian	234,32 €
	Aegean	170,49 €
Hungary		
Budapest	Aegean	153,12 €

Poland		
Warsaw	Aegean	141,71 €
Germany		
Frankfurt	Lufthansa	149,31 €
	Aegean	149,31 €
Munich	Lufthansa	129,01 €
	Aegean	139,01 €
Berlin	Aegean	169,33 €
Czech Republic		
Prague	Aegean	162,72 €
Finland		
Helsinki	Aegean	292,84 €
UAE		
Dubai	Emirates	731,29 €
Russia		
Moscow	Aeroflot	258,55 €
Argentina		
Buenos Aires	Alitalia	1227,57 €
Egypt		
Cairo	Egypt Air	328,64 €
South Korea		
Seoul	Turkish Airline (via Istanbul)	1106,44 €

2.4 Visa requirements

Visitors to Athens and Greece in general from the European Union countries and Schengen countries (Sweden, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Greece, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland) do not need a visa and they can travel with their ID's. For more information about visa requirements you should visit the local Greek Consulates and Embassies .There are offices of the Greek National tourism Organisation in many European cities from the offices you can obtain useful information map of Greece and brochures about Greece .For US citizens the official site of the Greek Embassy www.greekembassy.org gives many information and details.

2.5 Getting around

Public transport in Athens has improved by leaps and bounds in the last ten years. The simple €1.20 ("integrated") ticket lets you travel on any means of transport – metro, suburban trains, trams, trolleybuses, buses – with unlimited transfers anywhere within Athens (except the metro airport line east of Doukissis Plakentias and the airport buses) for 70 minutes, and you can also get a €4 ticket valid for 24 hours or a €10 weekly (5-day) ticket.

By metro

Athens Metro system, opened in 2001 (and followed by a restoration of the old Line 1) and currently being extended, is a wonder to behold, and puts many better-known metro systems to shame. Many metro stations resemble museums as they exhibit artifacts found during excavations for the system (i.e. Syntagma). Greeks are very proud about the new subway system. You should not even think about littering and by all means avoid any urge for graffiti -- you will be intercepted by security at once. You are also not allowed to consume



food or drink in the subway system. During rush hour, when it could become very crowded, you would have to leave your personal space at the door. There are three lines:

Line 1 (M1 - Green-ISAP): Piraeus - Kifissia, connects the port of Piraeus and the northern suburbs of Athens via the city centre. Note that line 1 is a rather old line going back to 1869 (lines 2 & 3 are the new subway system of Athens).

Line 2 (M2 - Red Attiko Metro): Anthoupoli - Agios Dimitrios connects western and southern Athens.

Line 3 (M3 - Blue): Egaleo - Doukissis Plakentias - International Airport connects the south-western suburbs with the northern suburbs (Halandri and Doukissis Plakentias stations) and the International Airport.

An ISAP train (M1 Green Line) passes by the Stoa of Attalus in central Athens.

Tickets: Metro uses the "integrated" ticket that costs €1.20 as of September 2014 (half price for seniors over 65 and youth under 18). Tickets can be purchased over manned booths or automated vending machines (some of which accept banknotes) in every station. You must validate your ticket prior to going to the platform. There currently are no turnstiles controlling access to the trains, so in theory you could try to ride for free, if however you're caught without a properly validated ticket you'll be asked to pay a hefty 60x the normal fare [currently €84].

From the moment of validating your €1.20 ticket, you can use it to ride any "Metro" train to every station (except the Airport) or any of the buses or tram (see below) for the next 70 minutes. It's perfectly fine to reverse direction of travel with the same ticket, as long as you are below the 70 minutes mark; if your last trip is expected to go beyond it, you must validate your ticket for a second and last time just before the mark.

If you plan to do multiple trips within a day, it makes more sense to buy a 24-hour ticket (which again, works for all destinations except the airport) for €4. This needs to be validated only once, at the start of the first trip. The standard fare to or from the Airport is €8 (half price for seniors over 65 and youth under 18), €14 for a return trip within a week, €14 for a one-way trip for a 2-person group, and €20 for a one-way trip for a 3-person group.

Subway is daily from 05:30-00:00, except for Fridays and Saturdays when it runs until 02:00. Riding late at night is very safe (stations and trains are heavily monitored and policed) so you should not have a second thought about it.

By suburban rail



The Suburban Railway (Proastiakos by Trainose) is a new addition to Athens's network. The main line starts from Piraeus, passes through the main line train station of Larissis in Athens, and forks at Neratziotissa west to Kiato and Corinth and east towards the Airport.

By tram



The new Athens Tram connects the city centre with the southern suburbs and has connections with the metro lines. There are three tram lines:

Line 1 (T1): Syntagma - Palaio Faliro - Neo Faliro connects the city centre with the Peace and Friendship Stadium.

Line 2 (T2): Syntagma - Palaio Faliro - Glyfada connects the city centre with the coastal zone.

Line 3 (T3): Neo Faliro - Palaio Faliro - Glyfada runs along the coastal zone.

A single ticket costs 60 cents.

By bus

Athens is served by a network of diesel buses, natural gas buses and electric trolley buses run by the Athens Urban Transport Organisation. As of 1st September 2014, there is no bus only ticket since the integrated ticket has been priced down to 1.20€, the bus only ticket's price. The Integrated ticket allows for multiple trips within 70 minutes and is available in most kiosks and all metro stations. Use a €5 ticket to travel to or from the airport, which can also be bought from the airport bus driver. If you tend to stay for more than a week then a weekly pass for €10 is the most cost-effective. It gives you unlimited rides on almost all public transit (bus, tram, train, subway) for 5 days. You only need to validate once, before first use. Buses will not stop unless you signal the driver by raising your arm.



Night buses. As of March 2006 the night bus routes are:

- X14 Syntagma Square to Kifissia.
- 11 Ano Patissia - Neo Pangrati - Nea Elvetia (trolley bus).
- 040 Piraeus to Syntagma Square.
- 500 Piraeus - Kifissia (night only).
- X92, X93, X95, X96, X97 (the airport buses).

At the airport you can pick up a multitude of public transport maps, especially for buses, tram and trolleys that cover the whole of Athens, and parts of Attica like Sounio and other ports. These maps can be found in display stands. They are blue and marked with big Numbers, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 in different colors.

By taxi

Canary yellow taxis are a common sight in Athens and are a reasonably priced way of getting around (if you can avoid the traffic jams). The starting fee is €1, after which the meter ticks up at €0.34/km ("rate 1") or €0.64/km ("rate 2"), with a minimum fare of €3.10. Rate 1 applies through Athens city limits, including the airport, while rate 2 applies outside the city and from midnight to 5 AM. Legal surcharges apply for calling a cab by radio (€1.60), trips to or from the airport (€3.20) and heavy bags (€0.32). Tipping is not necessary, although it's common to round up to the nearest full euro.

Taxi fare fraud is not as widespread as it used to be, but it still happens, so insist on the meter and make sure the rate is correct. At busy tourist locations cab drivers can try and con you with a set rate that is ridiculously high (e.g. €20 for a short trip). In these cases it is best to find another and again insist on the charge shown on the meter. If you feel you have been overcharged, ask for a receipt (they are obliged to give one) and take the plate number, then phone the tourist police to report the driver on 171.

Taxis are considered as fairly cheap in Athens. As such you can expect to share the ride during rush hours if you can find one, and at night after the Metro has shutdown. As such if you hail a taxi which is already occupied (Free Taxis have a brightly lit TAXI sign on top of the cab) the driver will ask where you want to go to before he will let you in to join the other customers. Strikes by cabbies and public transit are common so be prepared and watch the local news.

On foot

Athens offers some of the best and worst urban walking in Europe. Several major streets have been recently pedestrianized, and a mostly car-free archeological walk which starts at Vasilisis Amalias Street, passes in front of the New Acropolis Museum, Acropolis, Herodion Theatre, Theseio (Apostolou Pavlou Str), Ermou Street and ends at the popular area of Kerameikos (Gkazi) where numerous bars and clubs are located. Pleasant walking can also be had in Plaka, especially its upper reaches, and in much of Kolonaki, and the National Garden can provide a welcome respite from the heat and noise of the city center. On the other hand, Athens' horrendous traffic can make crossing the street in many areas a hair-raising proposition, and even walking down many major streets can be an unpleasant experience of noise and pollution. Cars and motorbikes parked blocking the sidewalks (illegal but ubiquitous) can also make a stroll difficult. Fortunately, much of the traffic-plagued area of the city can be avoided by judicious use of the new Metro, which goes most places a visitor would want to see or to walk around in.

You can now visit the Acropolis, walk along the picturesque streets of Plaka or the hills around the Acropolis at your own pace, with i Pod Pocket tours audioguides. It's informative and fun! They are available for rent at Athens Hilton Hotel, Sofitel Athens Airport, King George Palace and Baby Grand Hotel.

2.6 Average weather in Athens

May till June and September till October is an ideal time to visit Athens. The weather is perfect, still warm, but not unbearably hot. The children are in school so it's quieter. The historical sites are less crowded as well because most tourists have gone to work again. There is also still nightlife around, especially at weekends. What's the best time to travel to Athens in Greece? Here are some facts:

The months May, June, September and October have a nice average temperature.

Hot season / summer is in June, July, August and September.

Athens has dry periods in April, May, June, July, August and September.

On average, the warmest month is July.

On average, the coolest month is January.

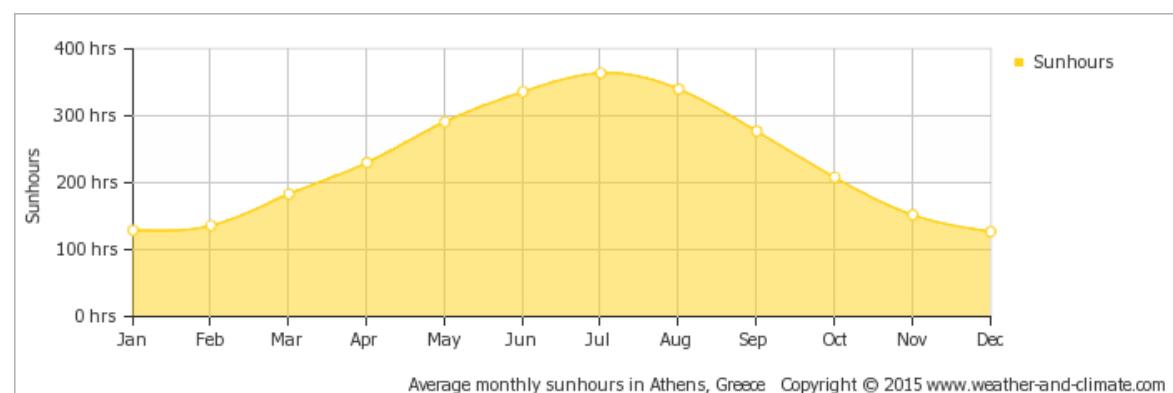
December is the wettest month.

July is the driest month.

For more specific information please take a look at the graphs shown below.

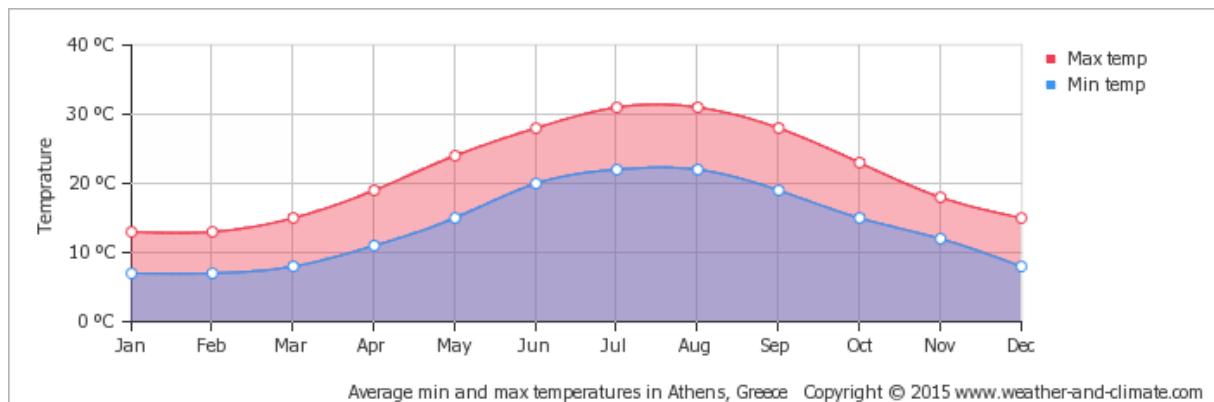
AVERAGE MONTHLY HOURS OF SUNSHINE OVER THE YEAR

This is the monthly total of sunhours



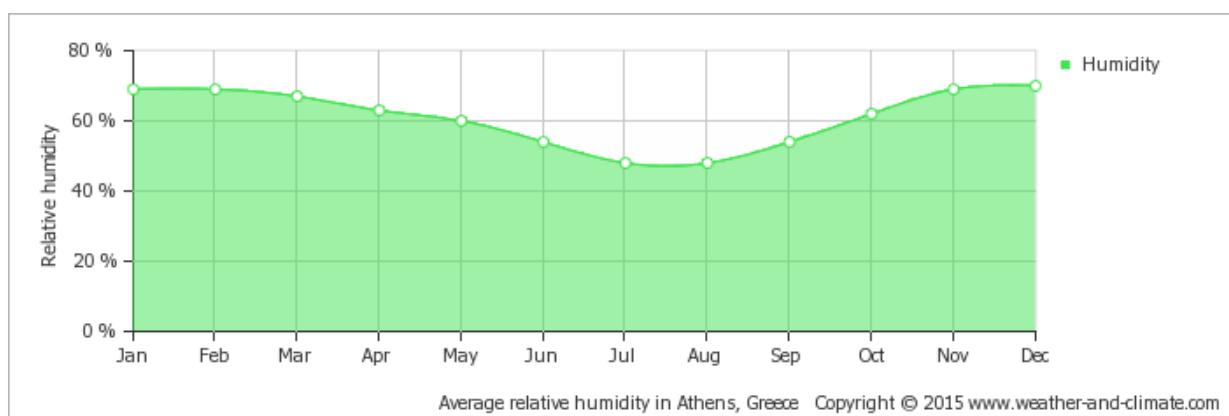
AVERAGE MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE OVER THE YEAR

The monthly mean minimum and maximum daily temperature.



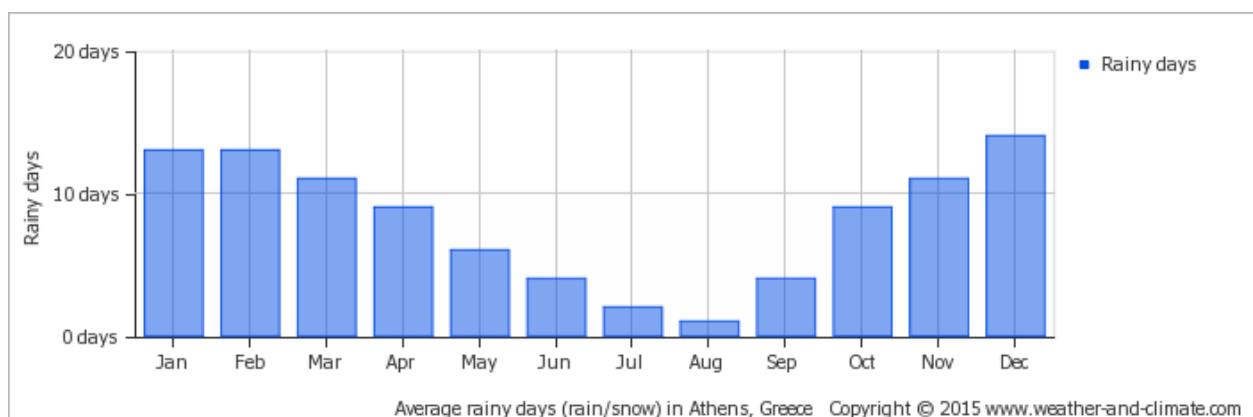
AVERAGE HUMIDITY OVER THE YEAR

This is the mean monthly relative humidity



AVERAGE MONTHLY RAINY DAYS OVER THE YEAR

This is the number of days each month with rain, snow, hail etc.



3. Program and milestones schedule

3.1 Conference tentative program

	Saturday 24 August	Sunday 25 August	Monday 26 August	Tuesday 27 August	Wednesday 28 August
Morning	Workshops	Tutorials	Registration	Registration	
Afternoon	Registration	Doctoral Consortium	Opening Ceremony	Oral Sessions (3 tracks)	Oral Sessions (3 tracks)
Evening		Workshops	Keynote Lecture	Keynote Lecture	Keynote Lecture
		Registration	Oral Sessions (3 tracks)	Oral Sessions (3 tracks)	Oral Sessions (3 tracks)
Morning	Workshops	Tutorials	Poster Session	Poster Session	Competition Results
Afternoon	Registration	Workshops	Oral Sessions (3 tracks)	Oral Sessions (3 tracks)	Awards Presentations & Closing
Evening		Registration	TC-10/11 Meeting	Panel discussion	Excursion
Evening		Welcome Reception		Gala Dinner	

3.2 Key milestones schedule

Milestone	Date
First call for papers (email, IAPR website, IAPR Newsletter, IEEE calendar, etc.), poster of conference	August 2017
Second call for papers/workshops/competitions proposals/tutorial proposals	August 2018
Deadline for workshops proposals	January 2019
Deadline for tutorial proposals	January 2019
Deadline for competitions proposals	January 2019
Final call for papers	October 2018
Deadline for paper submission	February 2019
Announcement of Workshops	February 2019
Announcement of Tutorials	February 2019

Announcement of Competitions	February 2019
Competions deadline	April 2019
Rebuttal process period	April 2019
PC Chairs' meeting	May 2019
Notification to authors concerning acceptance	May 2019
Camera ready manuscripts	June 2019
Deadline for woskshops papers	June 2019
Notification to authors for workshp papers	July 2019
Detailed program on website	July 2019
Conference dates	August 2019

4. Organizing Committee

Conference Chairs	Basilis Gatos (Greece) Vassilis Katsouros (Greece) Ioannis Pratikakis (Greece)
Program Chairs	Apostolos Antonacopoulos (UK) Daniel Lopresti (USA) Cheng-Lin Liu (China)
Workshops Chairs	Josep Llados (Spain) Simone Marinai (Italy)
Competitions Chairs	Volker Märgner (Germany) Marcus Liwicki (Germany)
Tutorial Chairs	Giuseppe Pirlo (Italy) Gernot Fink (Germany)
Doctoral Consortium Chairs¹	Ergina Kavalieratou (Greece) Dimosthenis Karatzas (Spain)
Publicity Chairs	Mohamed Cheriet (Canada) Masaki Nakagawa (Japan) Elisa Barney Smith (USA)
Sponsors & Exhibition Chairs	Jean-Marc Ogier (France)
Local Organizing Chairs	George Louloudis (Greece) Vassilis Papavassiliou (Greece) Nikolaos Stamatopoulos (Greece) Konstantinos Zagoris (Greece)
Finance Chairs	Tassos Patrikakos (Greece) Eleni Sotiropoulou (Greece)
Secretariat	ZITA CONGRESS (Greece)

¹ Pending approval from the ICDAR advisory board as per the ICDAR organisation guidelines.

5. Accommodation

HOTELS & ACCOMMODATION

The city of Athens has made and is making amazing efforts to improve the hotel infrastructure and accommodation. In regards of the Olympic Games 2004, almost all of the luxury and A class hotels have undergone drastic renovation. The city right now has a capacity for approx. 75.000 beds.

Another important aspect is the fact that all hotels, irrespective of their category are providing and are constantly improving their services at very competitive rates. These rates are without doubt, amongst the lowest in eastern Europe and the rest of the capitals of the world.

CATEGORY ****



THE ATHENS HILTON HOTEL

Athens Hilton is the only hotel in Athens with 250 rooms facing the Acropolis. The 453 deluxe renovated guestrooms are fully equipped with private bath, satellite TV, telephone, air condition, mini-bar and balcony. The atmosphere combines the bustle and excitement of an international city with the comfort, tranquillity, style and service of a world famous hotel.

CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL

The Crowne Plaza Hotel is situated in Michalakopoulou Avenue, 5 minutes by taxi from Syntagma Square. The hotel was renovated in 1996, offers 190 rooms, air-conditioned throughout, outdoor swimming pool, roof garden, business center.



DIVANI CARAVEL

This luxury Athens hotel is ideally situated in the heart of Athens. It boasts a rooftop pool with Acropolis view, and offers exquisite dining and luxurious guest rooms with views of the city, Lycabettus Hill and the Acropolis. Every room is recently renovated, well appointed with stylish furnishings. Standard room features include cable and satellite TV, individual climate control and minibar. Divani Caravel is just minutes away from the hip Kolonaki district. The National Gallery is within easy reach, 250 metres away.

CATEGORY ****

AIROTEL ALEXANDROS

Airotel Alexandros is located close to the Athens Concert hall and offers 80 rooms and 16 junior suites fully equipped with TV,A/C, stereo music, direct dial phone, data line for PC and fax use, mini bar, safety deposit box, coffee/tea facilities and hairdryer. There are three conference rooms available, luxurious lounges and one of the most beautiful restaurants of the town.



GOLDEN AGE HOTEL

Golden Age Hotel is situated in a walking distance from the center of Athens and offers 122 rooms, renovated in 2000. Air-conditioned throughout, restaurant, bar, all rooms with direct dial phone.

BEST WESTERN Ilisia Hotel

THE Hotel is centrally located, close to the city centre, historical sites, vibrant cafes and restaurants that adorn this beautiful city. The hotel also benefits from free parking and great transport links, located with close proximity to the Metro, Airport and Bus Services. Each of the rooms are modern with great facilities, and free WiFi is offered as standard. Discover more of Athens with the BEST WESTERN Ilisia Hotel.



STRATOS VASSILIKOS

Pure and simple shape for a modern design and comfort, together with an accurate service, professional staff and unique situation for an excellent 5-star structure at a few steps from the heart of the city: the Airotel Stratos Vassilikos is the preface for a unique stay. Located in one of the most tranquil and safest areas of the city, at a few steps from the underground station, Music Palace, American Embassy, restaurants, coffee shops and shops, you will stay in the heart of Athens close to the Acropolis and Syntagma Square.

CATEGORY *****HERMES HOTEL**

Hermes hotel is a very modern boutique hotel, situated at the exceptional and renowned region of Plaka, one of the most exquisite areas of Athens. Hermes hotel is a small, stylish and functional complex of unique aesthetics and excellent organization, which offers a synthesis of comfortable accommodation and qualitative services, in an relaxing environment. The hotel has 45 rooms, totally renovated in 2004 with a fresh atmosphere special touch and care to all little details.

**PLAKA HOTEL**

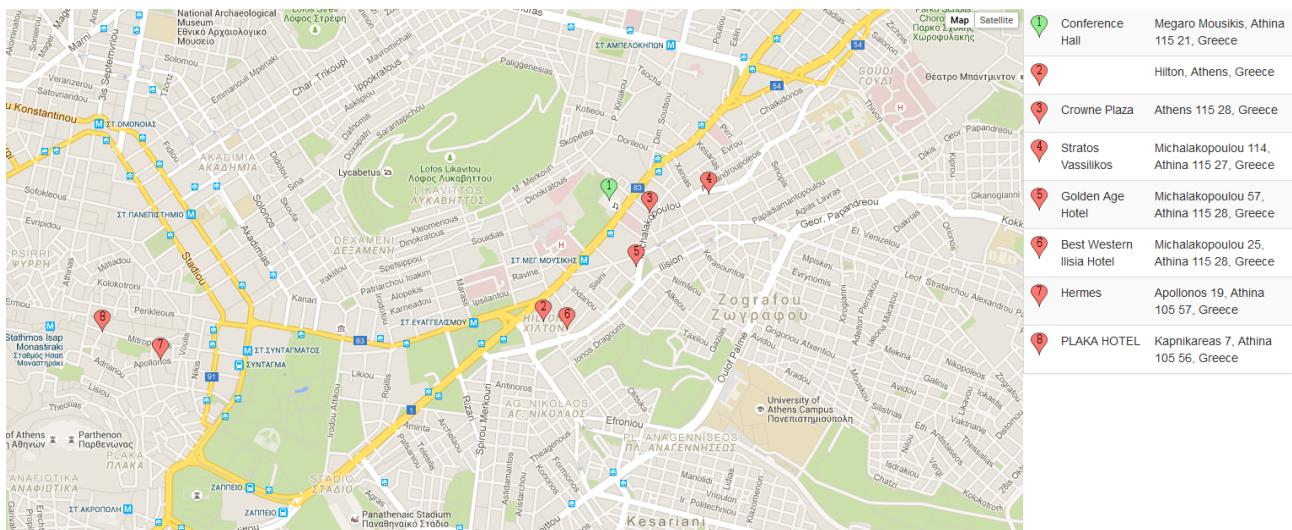
Hotel Plaka, is an excellent choice for a demanding client, in a terrific location. Five minutes walk from Syntagma square. Acropolis, museums, Parliament, shopping area of Plaka and Ermou street, the Athens Cathedral are all on your door step from the hotel. You are really in the heart of Athens, in the best location. From the roof top you can enjoy a breathtaking view of Acropolis, and Plaka area.

The hotel was renovated in 2011.

All proposed Hotels are located in walking distance from the Conference Center

The conference center is very close to major hotels, many of which are within walking distance. The hotels mentioned in the table bellow are within a distance up to 15 minutes. Note also that the conference centre is on a direct metro line, making it extremely accessible, especially for hotels at the city center which are 3 stops away (less than 15 mins door-to-door).

CATEGORY *****	INDICATED COST
Athens Hilton, Crowne Plaza, Divani Caravel, St George Lycabetus	120 € - 190 €
CATEGORY ****	
Airotel Alexandros, Golden Age Hotel, Best Western Ilissia Hotel, Best Western Plus Embassy, Stratos Vassilikos, President	70 € - 100 €
CATEGORY ***	
Plaka, Hermes, Best Western Amazon, Omiros, Pan	60 € - 80 €
CATEGORY **	
Zappion, Athos, Carolina, Evripides, Myrto, Niki	50 € - 70 €



Especially for students we can foresee the possibility to have a number of rooms at advantageous prices to hotels or hostels nearby the conference venue.

6. Budget

6.1 Estimated expenses²

ESTIMATED EXPENSES		
	Fixed Expenditure (VAT included)	TOTAL WITH VAT
1	Conference Venue (Room rental, Breakouts, Poster area, Registration area, Slide) up to 400	\$31.258,40
	Conference Venue (Room rental, Breakouts, Poster area, Registration area, Slide) for 450-500	\$40.485,80
2	Technical Equipment: Sound, Visual, Preview rooms, Internet corner, Photocopy machine, Printer	\$7.015,30
3	Keynote Speakers	\$6.105,00
4	Exhibition / Posters	\$4.356,70
5	Constructions, Directional signs, Registration desk	\$5.696,10
6	Printings	\$5.980,30
7	On site Staff, Hostesses, Cleaning, Photographer	\$1.298,00
8	Communication (Website, E-mail, Press conference, WiFi)	\$2.300,10
9	Various expenses (Transportation, Decoration, Insurance)	\$5.750,30
10	Postage / Courier	\$930,60
TOTAL FIXED EXPENDITURE (up to 400)		\$70.690,70
TOTAL FIXED EXPENDITURE (450-500)		\$79.918,10

² Costs are referred in USD and EURO. The exchange conversion rate used is 1 EURO = 1,10 USD (Date 27/7/2015).

	Variable expenses per total participants	DELEGATES				
		300	350	400	450	500
VE.1	VARIABLE EXPENSES - MATERIAL PER PERSON (Bag, Pen, Proceedings, etc.)	\$17.007,21	\$19.841,75	\$22.676,28	\$25.510,82	\$28.345,35
VE.2	VARIABLE EXPENSES - FOOD & BEVERAGE SERVICES	\$76.560,00	\$89.320,00	\$102.080,00	\$114.840,00	\$127.600,00
VE.3	VARIABLE EXPENSES - PCO MANAGEMENT	\$6.900,30	\$8.050,35	\$9.200,40	\$10.350,45	\$11.500,50
	TOTAL FROM VARIABLE EXPENSES	\$100.467,51	\$117.212,10	\$133.956,68	\$150.701,27	\$167.445,85
	TOTAL VARIABLE EXPENSES PER PERSON	\$334,89	\$334,89	\$334,89	\$334,89	\$334,89
10%	<i>Estimated Contingency 10%</i>	\$17.115,82	\$18.790,28	\$20.464,73	\$23.061,94	\$24.736,40
	TOTAL FROM FIXED & VARIABLE EXPENSES	\$188.273,99	\$206.693,03	\$225.112,08	\$253.681,33	\$272.100,37

6.2 Estimated income

ESTIMATED INCOME							
	Estimated Income from registrations		REGISTRATIONS				
100%		AVERAGE REGISTRATION	300	350	400	450	500
40,00%	IAPR Members	532,50 €	\$70.290,0	\$82.005,0	\$93.720,0	\$105.435,0	\$117.150,0
40,00%	Non IAPR Members	556,25 €	\$73.425,0	\$85.662,5	\$97.900,0	\$110.137,5	\$122.375,0
20,00%	Student members	375,00 €	\$24.750,0	\$28.875,0	\$33.000,0	\$37.125,0	\$41.250,0

	Total income from Registration fees	\$168.465,00	\$196.542,50	\$224.620,00	\$252.697,50	\$280.775,00
	Estimated Income from Sponsors & Exhibitors					
	TOTAL INCOME FROM SPONSORS AND EXHIBITORS (Including VAT)	\$26.400	\$26.400	\$26.400	\$26.400	\$26.400
	SPONSORSHIPS & EXHIBITION					
	TOTAL ESTIMATED INCOME	300	350	400	450	500
	TOTAL INCOME	\$194.865	\$222.943	\$251.020	\$279.098	\$307.175

6.3 Estimated financial result

OBLIGATIONS							
0.1	IAPR LEVY	Unit price	300	350	400	450	500
	IAPR LEVY	\$20	\$6.000,00	\$7.000,00	\$8.000,00	\$9.000,00	\$10.000,00
TOTAL ESTIMATED			\$6.000,00	\$7.000,00	\$8.000,00	\$9.000,00	\$10.000,00

ESTIMATED FINANCIAL RESULT		300	350	400	450	500
	ESTIMATED FINANCIAL RESULT	\$591,01	\$9.249,47	\$17.907,92	\$16.416,17	\$25.074,63

6.4 Proposed registration fees

Registration type	Early Bird		Regular	
	Estimated Registration fee	Estimated Percentage %	Estimated Registration fee	Estimated Percentage %
IAPR/IEEE Members	520 € (\$ 572)	30,00%	570 € (\$627)	10,00%
Non IAPR/IEEE Members	550 € (\$ 605)	35,00%	600 € (\$ 660)	5,00%
Student members	350 € (\$ 385)	10,00%	400 € (\$ 440)	10,00%
		75,00%		25,00%

7. Experience of proposers

7.1 Event organising experience

The host organizations have extensive experience in organising large events and exploiting them to achieve major dissemination and impact of the results. More than 50 large international scientific and policy events have been (co)organised, together with a greater number of smaller events and national events of all kinds and sizes. Most recent events include:

- ICFHR2014: 14th International Conference on Frontiers in Handwriting Recognition, Megaron Athens International Conference Center, Hersonissos, Crete, Greece, September 1-4 2014, www.icfhr2014.org
- ICRI2014: 2nd International Conference on Research Infrastructures, Megaron Athens International Conference Center, Athens, Greece, April 2-4 2014, www.icri2014.eu
- APMS 2012: Advances in Production Management Systems, Rhodes Island, Greece, 24-26.9.2012
- SSDBM 2012: 24th International Conference on Scientific and Statistical Database Management, Chania, Crete, 25-27.6.2012
- ACM SIGMOD/PODS 2011: International Conference on Management of Data, Athens, Greece, 12-16.6.2011
- ProTon Europe: Proton Europe 7th Annual Conference, Athens , Greece, 28-29.1.2010
- EACL2009: The 12th Conference of the European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics, Megaron Athens International Conference Center,Athens, Greece, 30.3-3.4.2009

7.2 Conference general chairs

Basilis G. Gatos was born in 1967, in Athens, Greece. He received his Electrical Engineering Diploma in 1992 and his Ph.D. degree in 1998, both from the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department of Democritus University of Thrace, Xanthi, Greece. His Ph.D. thesis is on Optical Character Recognition Techniques. In 1993 he was awarded a scholarship from the Institute of Informatics and Telecommunications, NCSR "Demokritos", where he worked till 1996. From 1997 to 1998 he worked as a Software Engineer at Computer Logic S.A. From 1998 to 2001 he worked at Lambrakis Press Archives as a Director of the Research Division in the field of digital preservation of old newspapers. From 2001 to 2003 he worked at BSI S.A. as Managing Director of R&D Division in the field of document management and recognition. He is currently working as a Researcher at the Institute of Informatics and Telecommunications of the National Center for Scientific Research "Demokritos", Athens, Greece. His main research interests are in Image Processing and Document Image Analysis, OCR and Pattern Recognition. He has more than 140 publications in journals and international conference proceedings and has participated in several research programs funded by the European community. He is a member of the Technical Chamber of Greece, of the Editorial Board of the International Journal on Document Analysis and Recognition (IJDAR) and program committee member of several international Conferences and Workshops(e.g. ICDAR 2009, ICFHR 2010, ICDAR 2011, CBDAR 2011, AND 2011, International Workshop on Historical Document Imaging and Processing 2011, DAS 2012, ICDAR 2013). Basilis Gatos has been co-organiser of the International Conference of Frontiers in Handwriting Recognition (ICFHR) in 2014 and will also co-organize the 12th International Workshop on Document Analysis Systems will be held in Santorini, Greece in 2016.

Vassilis Katsouros received his M.Eng. degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), Greece, in 1992. In 1993 he obtained the M.Sc. with Distinction in Communications and Signal Processing from Imperial College of Science Technology and Medicine, University of London, UK. From 1993 until 1997 he worked as research assistant at the Interdisciplinary Research Centre for Process Systems Engineering (IRC-PSE) of Imperial College. In 1997 received his Ph.D. degree from Imperial College. Since 1998 he has been working at the Institute for Language and Speech Processing (ILSP) and since 2000 was responsible of the Quality Assurance Office. In 2001 he was among the founding members of LibrisTech, the first spin-off company of ILSP, where he acted as managing director until September 2004. In September 2004 he has elected Researcher at ILSP and in December 2007 he was promoted to Senior Researcher. Since July 2009 he has been elected member of the Scientific Board and has been appointed Deputy Director of ILSP for the period September 2009 - October 2010. He has been supervised the quality assurance of more than 30 commercial software products and 6 web-portals developed by ILSP for third parties. He has been involved in a numerous research projects at a national and European level. Since 2005 he has been working on projects that involve digitization and documentation of theatrical archives, archives of byzantine documents and digital archives of libraries. He has been involved in the supervision of PhDs on text segmentation on

image documents, handwriting recognition of mathematical symbols, speaker indexing and music information retrieval. His research interests involve signal processing, probability and statistics, game theory, image processing, document image analysis and pattern recognition. He has published more than 40 publications in journals and international conference proceedings and has participated in several research programs funded by the European Commission. He is a member of IEEE since 1992, ACM since 1999 and Technical Chamber of Greece since 1992. Since 1999 he is a certified market maker/trader of the Derivatives Market at the Athens Exchange.

Ioannis Pratikakis is Associate Professor at the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Democritus University of Thrace in Xanthi, Greece. He received the Ph.D. degree in 3D Image analysis from the Electronics engineering and Informatics department at Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium, in January 1999. From March 1999 to March 2000, he joined IRISA in Rennes, France as an INRIA postdoctoral fellow. From January 2003 to June 2010, he was working as Adjunct Researcher at the Institute of Informatics and Telecommunications in the National Centre for Scientific Research "Demokritos", Athens, Greece. His research interests lie in image processing, pattern recognition, vision and graphics, and more specifically, in document image analysis and recognition, medical image analysis as well as multimedia content analysis, search and retrieval with a particular focus on visual content. He has published more than 150 papers in journals, book chapters and conference proceedings in the above areas. He has participated in more than 20 national and international R&D projects. He has been co-organizer of the 14th International Conference on Frontiers in Handwriting Recognition (ICFHR 2014) as well as the Eurographics Workshop on 3D object retrieval (3DOR) in 2008, 2009 and 2015. He has also served as Guest Editor for the Special issue on 3D object retrieval at the International Journal of Computer Vision as well as Special issues at the Visual Computer journal. He has been member of the Board of the Hellenic Artificial Intelligence Society for the period 2010-2014. He is Senior Member of the IEEE and member of the European Association for Computer Graphics (Eurographics).

7.2 Other key personnel

Anastasios Patrikakos (apatrikakos@athena-innovation.gr) is currently the Head of the Dissemination and Technology Transfer Department at Athena RIC. He received his MSc degree in Cognitive Science and Natural Language Processing at the University of Edinburgh. He has participated in a number of R&D national and European projects as well as in a series of projects on Technology Transfer, Innovation Management and Research Outreach. He has participated in the organisation and coordinated a cohort of R&D related conferences, fairs, workshops, roadshows, festivals, etc., both in Greece and all over Europe. Most recently he dealt with the organization of ICRI 2014 (Member of the Organising and Communication Committees), ACM/SIGMOD 2011, ProTon Europe Conference 2010 (chief organizer), EACL 2009. He is also dissemination and exploitation leader at the LangTERRA REGPOT project and member of the "Athena" RIC legal advisory team for the CLARIN Research Infrastructure.

Eleni Sotiropoulou (esotirop@athena-innovation.gr) is a member of the Dissemination and Technology Transfer Department at Athena RIC, supporting all activities relating to the organisation and management of events (workshops, info days, conferences, fairs etc). Most recent conference she was involved in was ICRI2014, being the coordinator of the local organizing team. She has also worked for the Laboratory of Technology and Strength of Materials at the Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering Department of the University of Patras from January 2007 to February 2013. She has provided managerial support to the European Aeronautics Science Network (EASN II) EC co-funded project, as well as to the EASN Association since its establishment in 2008. Part of her responsibilities at the laboratory included the organization of workshops, technical meetings and conferences as well as assistance in issues related with updating the EASN website and database. She has organized or assisted in the organization of more than 10 aeronautics related events in Europe.

ZITA CONGRESS founded in Athens, Greece, in 1982. Up until today ZITA CONGRESS has hosted, more than 2.000 conferences and events, in more than 100 countries around the globe, with over 100.000 participants. During the course of the years ZITA has adopted 4 basic principles, as a strategy and vehicle for its development, namely, innovation, competitiveness, transparency and respect to the human factor and environment. For more than 3 decades, ZITA CONGRESS has moved forward the macro and micro economic aspects of the sector, by founding relevant associations, like the Hellenic Association of Professional Congress Organizers (HAPCO), European Federation of the Associations of Professional Congress Organizers (EFAPCO), as well as by actively participating in the executive board of other associations, like the Hellenic Association of Travel & Tourist Agencies (HATTA).