

Report VP Meetings, Policy Council Meeting Winter 2011

2012 St. Gallen, Switzerland

Organisation is running smoothly. Executive Director Roberta Spencer has been in St. Gallen to discuss with local organisers Markus Schwaninger and Stefan Grösser. See report of the local organisers.

2013 Boston, MA

After the Policy Council vote from spring 2010 the society has a strong mandate to implement a default conference site structure. Starting with North-America in 2013, conference sites should alternate between a default location there and in Europe, as long as no strong proposal from another location is brought forward to the Policy Council and approved therein.

The default site for North-America, Boston was approved by the policy council. In close correspondence with the site selection committee, the Executive Director of the society has elaborated a proposal to hold the 2013 conference at the Hyatt Regency Cambridge Hotel, which made an attractive offer (see report by Roberta Spencer).

2014 Western Europe

In 2014 the conference site should be in Western Europe. The home office has established a solid working relation with Hyatt hotels and has been in contact with Paris and Berlin. The Paris Hyatt is actually at Charles-de-Gaulle airport: very convenient for travelling but it is not really Paris (approx. 25 km from the city centre). The Berlin Hyatt is right in the centre of town but this means there is some travelling involved from the airport to there, plus most international flights to Germany go to either Frankfurt or Munich, meaning that one more stop-over is necessary. There is also a German Hyatt in Mainz which is close to Frankfurt airport but Mainz is not a really big city (but very nice with a lot of monuments etc.) and in Cologne (one hour from Frankfurt airport by high speed train, medium large city, quite scenic).

The VP Meetings has contacted four major European chapters to elicit whether they would appreciate and support a conference in their country. The final answer from the UK chapter is still pending; the Benelux, German, and Swiss chapters have indicated a positive signal concerning a conference in the Netherlands, Germany, or Switzerland, respectively. In the Netherlands, the suggestion would be to run the conference at a conference centre in The Hague, approx. 40min by train from Amsterdam's Schiphol airport. For Germany, the suggestion is to organise the conference in a hotel either directly at Frankfurt airport (Steigenberger) or near the international fair (Marriot) in Frankfurt (approx. 20 min from airport, 5 min from city centre). The Swiss chapter suggests running the conference at a university site (ETH Zürich), 20 min away from airport.

Conference site selection committee

The Conference Selection Committee was set up in 2008 "For Conference decisions, Andreas Groessler, VP Meetings, should pick a set of people to do this in the future."

Term of duty is 2011-2012 and the most important task right now is to find/determine a site for 2014. Committee members: Andreas Groessler, chair; Roberta Spencer; James Lyneis; Bob Eberlein; Enzo Bivona.

Society Program Oversight Committee

The VP meetings will discuss with the head of the SPOC (past president Rogelio Oliva) to come up with a suggestion for a program chair for 2013.

Andreas Größler, 09/07/2011

Enzo Bivona (Assistant VP Meetings)