

This text is a short report on the preparations for the 2006 International System Dynamics Conference (ISDC). The report is structured on the basis of the topic areas addressed in the guidelines on conference venue proposals.

1. Features of the conference venue

There has been one meeting with sponsors and interested parties during the visit of Roberta Spencer to Radboud University. Further meetings with representatives of the city and a number of consultancy firms (Minase, Significant, TNO Telecom and Accenture) are planned.

Hotel rooms were visited by Roberta Spencer and in general were of good quality.

2. Travel costs and accessibility

We have contacted a representative of the Nijmegen city council on obtaining a three day public transport pass, which would allow all participants to travel for free. We are currently not considering to have extra buses as the regular schedule seems well-suited for traveling from the hotels to the campus and city centre.

3. Meal and accommodation costs for attendees

Prices here are not changed with regard to the proposal, but we are considering to allow participants to have lunch on their own in the campus restaurant. This would allow for greater flexibility with regard to the time and choice of food.

4. Direct conference costs

The rental price for seats in the meeting rooms is currently being negotiated and is likely to be lower. As a location for the opening reception we are now considering the museum in the centre of Nijmegen, which features many objects on the history of Nijmegen and is located in the city centre near restaurants. For Monday evening we will try to obtain discount vouchers from a number of restaurants near the Waal river, which would mean that participants stay together for part of the evening. Restaurant vouchers will be sought for Tuesday evening as well, again with the objective to provide participants with a specific city area in which to meet other attendants. On Wednesday evening a boat cruise including dinner is planned.

On the basis of a reduced seat price and changes in costs of the social program, it is not yet clear how the budget will be changed. We expect an offer for the seat prices in the coming month and will then make a new budget.

5. Program features

Andreas Größler from Mannheim University has agreed to be the program chair for the 2006 conference. The team from Radboud University is not changed but other research groups (public administration and environmental sciences) have shown an interest in attending or participating in organization.

'Innovation' has been proposed for a conference theme and is still being discussed.

6. Facility characteristics

Meeting rooms were visited by Roberta Spencer and found in good order. As mentioned, prices are likely to be lower than in the first budget.

7. Manageability of risks

We will have more information on costs of meeting rooms and the various options for the social program in the coming month, and expect to be able to draw up a new budget then. We assume that direct conference costs will remain low, and this will have a positive influence on the number of attendees.

8. Local host

The local team will stay the same as mentioned in the first proposal. The Radboud University conference organization service has made a proposal to take over specific tasks for a fee per registered participants (including spouses). The proposal is added and will be discussed further awaiting your input.

Please let me know if any additional information is required.

Best regards,

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