# SDS 2008 Conference proposal <br> Donostia-San Sebastian (Spain) 


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## Meeting facilities

San Sebastián is a very attractive city, placed in the north coast of Spain, 20 km from the French border. It holds an A category film festival, an international jazz festival and many other cultural activities. Its excellent gastronomy is also well known. Two of the four best Spanish restaurants are located in San Sebastian.

Conference will take place at Kursaal Convention Centre, a Rafael Moneo architect's building, placed in front of the sea (the white building in the photo).


Kursaal
More information about the city can be found at www.donostia.org and information about the Convention Center at www. ssconvention.com.

Next figure shows the selected meeting rooms: Halls 1, 2 and 3 can be joined for plenary sessions and there are also 7 more halls for parallel sessions.


Kursaal meeting rooms

## Traveling to city

San Sebastian has excellent national and international communications thanks to its intensive road and rail networks and 4 airports within a one hundred mile radius.


The biggest one is BIO-Bilbao ( 61 miles) that is connected to main European countries. There is also BIQ-Biarritz ( 32 miles) well connected to Paris.


Direction from Bilbao International Airport to San Sebastian


There are also two local airports: EAS-San Sebastian (14 miles) and PNAPamplona ( 57 miles) well connected to the two main Spanish cities: Madrid and Barcelona.


Direction from San Sebastian Airport to San Sebastian


Direction from Pamplona Airport to San Sebastian
It is possible to book a flight from Boston, Amsterdam and Tokio directly to San Sebastian throughout Madrid or Barcelona but it increases the price.

The companies which travel to Bilbao are: Aer Lingus, Air Berlin, Air Europa, Air France, Alitalia, Easyjet, Hapag Lloyd Express, Iberia, Lufthansa, Portugalia, SN Brussels Airlines, Spanair, Vueling.

Iberia is the only airline which travels to San Sebastian from Madrid and Barcelona.

Air France and RyanAir travel to Biarritz.
A good idea could be to arrange shuttles for attendants coming from Bilbao's and Biarritz's airports. This could reduce transportation time from 2 hours to 1 hour. This idea will be considered an additional service and will be paid apart from the conference fees.

## Meal and Accommodation

Martin Berasategi, one of the most prestigious Spanish cookers, serves a daily menu in Kursaal Conference Hall. Its price is currently $25 €$. This could be paid apart from regular fee, as some cheaper restaurants can be found near Kursaal. For the conference banquet there are many alternatives.

San Sebastian has a great variety of hotels, from luxury to cheaper ones (From 75 to $120 \$$ ). Nevertheless, in our opinion it could be a good idea to concentrate attendance in Olarain College (www.olarain.com). It has more than 200 rooms that could be booked at a cheap price.


Olarain College
There are some data about hotels and rates.

| Hotel (Category) | Price (Single-Double) | Distance to Kursaal |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Maria Cristina (5) | $175-230 €$ | 100 m |
| Londres (4) | $177-212$ | 800 m |
| Aranzazu (4) | $136-136$ | 2000 m |

## Local Transport

Access to the city centre is both quick and simple, with almost everything located in a walking distance. There are also three beaches in the city (one of them, Zurriola, next to Kursaal Conference Hall).

The map represents downtown and all the blue spots represent a hotel.


Downtown
Olarain College is placed $2,5 \mathrm{~km}$ from Kursaal and well connected through regular buses. There are 2 main buses that connect Olarain with Kursaal ( 5 and 25)


4 bus lines connect Olarain with Kursaal with a 10 minutes frequency each one
All the information about the bus timetable is located at www.ctss.es

## Budget



## Travel costs

|  | Cost and Time from Major Airport to Conference Venue | Major Airport to Local Airport | Local Airport to Conference Venue |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| OPTION 1 | Airport <br> Mode <br> Cost <br> Travel Time <br> Frequency of trips | MAD-EAS flight $\quad \$ 381,00$ 1 h $3 /$ day |  |
| OPTION 2 | Airport <br> Mode <br> Cost <br> Travel Time <br> Frequency of trips | $$ | $\begin{aligned} & \hline \text { EAS } \\ & \text { taxi } \\ & \quad \$ 76,20 \\ & 20 \text { min } \\ & \text { continuous } \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |
| OPTION 3 | Airport <br> Mode <br> Cost <br> Travel Time <br> Frequency of trips |  |  |
| OPTION 3 | Airport <br> Mode <br> Cost <br> Travel Time <br> Frequency of trips | $\begin{array}{\|l} \hline \text { BIO-conference } \\ \text { taxi } \\ \quad \$ 279,40 \\ 45 \text { min } \\ \text { continuous } \\ \hline \end{array}$ |  |
| OPTION 4 | Airport <br> Mode <br> Cost <br> Travel Time <br> Frequency of trips |  |  |

## Alternative Plans to reduce costs

Kursaal Conference Hall is an innovative resource for hosting conferences. It has received several architectural prices, including the 2001 Mies Van der Rohe award to the best European building. There are 12 rooms into it and the renting price varies significantly depending on the amount of rooms booked. For the current budget we have estimated a room for 400 people, one for 150 , one for 110 , two for 100 and one for 80 . Hence, the price could vary depending on the attendance.

The PhD colloquium could be hold at the University ( 3 km from the Kursaal building, 500 m . from Olarain college). This would subtract aprox. $3000 \$$ from the Kursaal budget. If Thursday's activities were also moved to university, there would be an additional 2500 \$ reduction in costs (as compared to the Kursaal's base budget).

The University venue holds several rooms for 150 people, but there is neither a plenary room for 400 people, nor a suitable place for coffee breaks for large numbers of people. Those two aspects are less important for Sunday and Thursday.

Note: We have used an Exhange Rate of $1.27 \$=1 €$

