IEA 2030
World Congress of Epidemiology
Call for Bids

About IEA

The International Epidemiological Association advances epidemiological research and education worldwide. Founded in 1954, IEA fosters communication among professionals working in all areas of epidemiology and promotes the application of scientific knowledge using epidemiological methods to improve health, across all health fields – including public, social, and community health, and preventive medicine.

World Congress of Epidemiology

The World Congress of Epidemiology (WCE) is the flagship scientific meeting of the International Epidemiological Association (IEA). Originally designated as 'International Scientific Meeting' (ISM, 1957-1999), it is held every three years, it brings together approximately 800–1,200 delegates involved in epidemiological research, education, and public health practice from around the world. The Congress provides a unique global forum for scientific exchange, professional networking, and collaboration.

The IEA invites eligible host organizations from the European region to submit proposals to host the 2030 World Congress of Epidemiology (WCE 2030). The selected host will work in partnership with the IEA to deliver a high-quality, inclusive, and financially responsible congress that advances the Association's mission and supports excellence in epidemiology and public health.

History of the World Congress of Epidemiology

Since its inception, the World Congress of Epidemiology has been hosted in cities around the world, reflecting the global nature of epidemiological research and public health practice. While all regions were previously eligible to bid to host the Congress, the IEA has recently adopted a regional rotation system to promote broad international representation and engagement across its geographical regions. Under the current rotation, Europe is the

designated host region for WCE 2030, and proposals are therefore being sought from eligible European hosts.

Year	World Congress of Epidemiology	Location
1957	1st ISM	Noordwijk, Netherlands
1959	2nd ISM	Cali, Colombia
1961	3rd ISM	Korčula, Yugoslavia (former)
1964	4th ISM	Princeton, USA
1968	5th ISM	Primošten, Yugoslavia (former)
1971	6th ISM	Primošten, Yugoslavia (former)
1974	7th ISM	Sussex, England
1977	8th ISM	San Juan, Puerto Rico
1981	9th ISM	Edinburgh, Scotland
1984	10th ISM	Vancouver, Canada
1987	11th ISM	Helsinki, Finland
1990	12th ISM	Los Angeles, USA
1993	13th ISM	Sydney, Australia
1996	14th ISM	Nagoya, Japan
1999	15th ISM	Florence, Italy
2002	16th WCE	Montreal, Canada
2005	17th WCE	Bangkok, Thailand
2008	18th WCE	Porto Alegre, Brazil
2011	19th WCE	Edinburgh, United Kingdom
2014	20th WCE	Anchorage, USA
2017	21st WCE	Saitama, Japan
2021	22nd WCE	Melbourne, Australia (virtual due to COVID-19)
2024	23rd WCE	Cape Town, South Africa
2027	24th WCE	Medellín, Colombia

Eligibility and Host Expectations

The bid should identify the lead host organization responsible for contracting with the IEA and delivering the Congress locally. Proposals should be submitted by local epidemiologists who are IEA members, or by organizations supported by one or more IEA members from the host area. The proposal should outline the Local Organizing Committee (LOC), demonstrate the capacity to deliver a successful World Congress of Epidemiology, and include evidence of stakeholder support and a national epidemiology community/organisation where applicable.

Schedule, Bidding and Selection Procedure

Action	Indicative timing
1. Call for bids opens	1 September 26
2. Notice of Intent deadline – Interested hosts submit a short letter addressed to the IEA President/Secretariat on behalf of the proposed LOC. The letter should explain the motivation for bidding, the proposed city, host organization, preliminary dates, and expected benefits of hosting WCE 2030.	6 November 26
3. Review & Invitations – IEA will review all notices of intent to confirm eligibility and compliance with the bid requirements. Based on this review, selected applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal.	By 23 November 2026
4. Full proposal deadline – Shortlisted destinations submit complete proposals.	22 February 2027
5. Evaluation and selection of the bid to host WCE 2030 – The Executive Committee reviews the submitted proposals and may request clarification or additional information where necessary.	March 2027
7. Announcement of the host destination and dates	By 31 March 2027

**The IEA Council Board has the discretion to change the meeting location when appropriate due to unforeseen situations such as wartime, natural disasters, and infectious diseases.*

Bidding Procedure

The call for hosting is announced on the IEA website (ieaweb.org), on social media channels, and via a mailshot to all members.

Notices of intent and complete proposals should be received within the above-mentioned deadlines. All information should be submitted electronically to the IEA Secretariat at the following address: secretariat@ieaweb.org

Following review of the Notices of Intent, selected applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal. The Executive Committee will review the proposals and select the preferred host destination for WCE 2030.

Proposal Requirements and Qualification Criteria

Information Required in the Bidding Booklet

1. Executive Summary

- Proposed host city, country, and congress dates.
- Lead host organization and key contacts.
- Overview of the destination, host organization, and Local Organizing Committee.
- Scientific vision, key strengths of the bid, and anticipated legacy.

2. Bidder and Host Organization

- Name and legal status of the lead host organization.
- Lead contact details and proposed Congress Chair(s).
- Overview of the Local Organizing Committee and its relevant expertise.
- Experience organizing similar scientific meetings.
- Letters of support and details of key bid partners, where applicable.

3. Proposed Destination and Dates

- Proposed host city, country, venue, and dates.
- Brief rationale for hosting WCE 2030 in the proposed destination.
- Information on the destination's accessibility, including international transport links, visa requirements, local transportation, and accommodation options.
- Any major events or circumstances that may affect the proposed dates or organization of the Congress.

4. Academic Vision and Programme

- Proposed Congress theme and scientific vision.
- Outline of the proposed scientific programme and session formats.
- Scientific strengths of the host organization, city, and region.
- Description of the proposed Scientific Committee and its international representation.
- Plans to support inclusive international participation, including Early Career Epidemiologists and participants from low- and middle-income countries.
- Approach to working with the IEA in developing the final programme.

5. Governance and Committee Structure

- Proposed Local Organizing Committee (LOC) and its key members.
- Proposed governance and management structure for planning and delivering the Congress.
- Description of how the host organization will work with the IEA throughout the planning process.
- Confirmation of the host organization's willingness to enter into an IEA-approved Congress Agreement and comply with IEA policies and governance requirements.

6. Operations, Delegate Services and Technology

- Overview of the proposed arrangements for registration, delegate services, and onsite support.
- Information on the venue's technical capabilities, including audiovisual facilities and internet connectivity.
- Description of accessibility provisions and measures to ensure an inclusive participant experience.

- Overview of available facilities and services that will support the delivery of the Congress.
- Confirmation that the host organization can meet relevant data protection and privacy requirements.

7. Finance, Sponsorship and Risk

- High-level Congress budget, including anticipated income, expenditure, and key financial assumptions.
- Proposed registration fee strategy and measures to support inclusive participation.
- Expected sponsorship, exhibition, and other revenue opportunities, including any financial or in-kind support from local partners and stakeholders.
- Principal risks associated with the Congress and proposed mitigation measures.
- Acknowledgement that the IEA provides local organizers with an organizing loan (currently USD 100,000), which is expected to be repaid within six months of the Congress closing.
- Confirmation of willingness to enter into an IEA-approved Congress Agreement and comply with IEA governance, reporting, and financial requirements.
- Information about any subventions, grants, or other financial support available from the host city, region, or country.

8. Venue, Accommodation and Delegate Experience

- Proposed venue and its suitability for WCE 2030.
- Capacity and facilities to accommodate up to 1,200 delegates, including plenary, breakout, exhibition, poster, catering, and networking space.
- Accessibility, transportation links, and accommodation options, including affordable accommodation for students and early-career epidemiologists.
- Overview of social and networking opportunities.
- Description of how the destination will support an inclusive and engaging delegate experience.

9. Submission Requirements

- Proposals should be submitted electronically in English.
- The IEA may request additional information or clarification during the evaluation process.
- Late or incomplete submissions may not be considered.

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

- Alignment with the objectives and values of the IEA and the World Congress of Epidemiology.
- Strength and experience of the host organization and Local Organizing Committee.
- Scientific vision and programme potential.
- Suitability and accessibility of the proposed destination and venue.
- Financial viability and risk management.
- Ability to support broad international participation and inclusion.
- Expected legacy and long-term benefits for epidemiology and public health.

General Conditions

- The IEA reserves the right to request additional information and amend the bidding process or timeline if necessary.
- Submission of a bid does not obligate the IEA to select a host destination.
- The IEA reserves the right not to award the Congress if no proposal is considered suitable.
- The successful bidder will be required to enter into a formal Congress Agreement with the IEA.

The selected host organization will be expected to work closely with the IEA throughout the planning and delivery of the Congress, including regular reporting and compliance with the requirements set out in the Congress Agreement.

The IEA looks forward to receiving innovative and ambitious proposals that will help deliver an outstanding World Congress of Epidemiology in 2030 and further strengthen the global epidemiology community.