



Call for Bids to Host ESTS Annual Meetings, 2029, 2030 and 2031

1. ESTS

1.1 OVERVIEW

The European Society of Thoracic Surgeons (ESTS) unites over 2,000 members from 84 countries worldwide, fostering collaboration and excellence in the field of thoracic surgery.

Since 1993, the Society has hosted the annual European Conference on General Thoracic Surgery, renowned for its high-calibre scientific programme and international participation.

Held each year from Sunday to Tuesday in late May or early June, the Congress typically welcomes between 1,500 and 1,700 delegates.

1.2 PREVIOUS CONGRESSES (FROM 2010):

Helsinki, Finland 2028 (pending)
Zurich, Switzerland 2027 (pending)
Athens, Greece 2026 (pending)
Budapest, Hungary 2025
Barcelona, Spain 2024
Milano, Italy 2023
The Hague, Netherlands 2022
Dublin, Ireland 2019
Ljubljana, Slovenia 2018
Innsbruck, Austria 2017
Naples, Italy 2016
Lisbon, Portugal 2015
Copenhagen, Denmark 2014
Birmingham, UK 2013
Essen, Germany 2012
Marseille, France 2011
Valladolid, Spain 2010

2. CONGRESS REQUIREMENTS - AVAILABILITY AND PRICES

2.1 CONGRESS VENUE - AVAILABILITY

ESTS Congress Dates: Last week of May, Sunday to Tuesday

The proposal must be submitted only if all the spaces, areas and lectures halls are reserved on

a first option basis.

2.2 CONGRESS VENUE - FACILITIES

Minimum requirements (based on previous editions)

- 1 Auditorium up to 1,000 Auditorium/Theatre set up
- 1 Auditorium or Lecture Hall up to 500 Auditorium/Theatre set up
- 1 Lecture Hall up to 250 Theatre set up
- 3 Lecture Halls up to 200 Theatre set up each
- 1 Speaker Ready Room (Preview Room) 70-100 sqm
- 1 PCO Office 70-100 sqm
- 1 ESTS Office/Meeting Room 20 Boardroom set up
- 6 Industry Meeting rooms 20 U-Shape set up
- 2-3 Working Group Meeting rooms 30 U-Shape set up
- Registration area
- Prayer room
- Childcare room 70-100 sqm
- 1 Room / Area within conference venue for up to 150 participants for invitation only Presidential Reception on Monday Lunch Time
- The exhibition area should be located close to the meeting lecture halls. Approx. 2500 sqm gross exhibition space for exhibition (700 sqm net) and Training Village (150 sqm net). Plus, additional space in the same area for the Poster Exhibition (150 board panels double sided), and catering stations (coffee breaks and welcome reception). Ceilings should have an appropriate height for the design booth construction.
- 1 Meeting room available on Saturday 11:00 - 18:00 - for 25 pax U-Shape (ExCom meeting)
- All the auditoria must be sound proof.

2.3 SET UP / EVENT / DISMANTLING SCHEDULE

Friday (option half day also accepted)

- Set-up - Exhibition Area, Posters, Registration Area

Saturday

- Set-up - Exhibition Area, Posters, Registration Area and all Session halls, Meeting rooms and common spaces

Sunday to Tuesday

- ESTS Congress – event live Lecture Halls and Exhibition Area until 16:00h

Tuesday afternoon from 16:00h

- Dismantling

2.4 CATERING OPTIONS

Please provide an offer based on the following requirements (provide as costs per person):

- Coffee break
- Welcome reception
- Lunch box / breakfast box
- Presidential Reception for 150 participants: buffet with drink options. Sufficient options for cash bars in the Exhibition area to serve a variety of hot and cold food during lunch breaks.

3. SOCIAL EVENTS

There are five major social events during the congress:

1. Past President's Dinner for approx. 60 participants on Saturday evening (seated dinner, formal venue).
2. Welcome Reception for approx. 500 participants on Sunday late afternoon at the congress venue exhibition area (cocktail format)
3. Networking Event: Women's and Trainees' Get Together (joint single event) for approx. 200 participants on Sunday evening (standing open buffet or finger cocktail)
4. Presidential reception for approx. 100-150 participants on Monday lunch time.
5. ESTS Party dinner for approx. 400 participants on Monday evening. Format: standing open buffet and drinks, with live music.

The quotes should include:

- Description of the venue
- Distance from city center and / or from the Congress venue
- Catering options
- Rental fee (if applicable)
- Suggested entertainment and associated costs
- Any type of extra cost such as staff, surveillance etc.

4. HOTELS

Please provide a hotel room capacity of approximately 1,300 hotels rooms with the following allocation:

60% of the rooms in 4-star hotels

25% of the rooms in 3-star hotels

15% of the rooms in deluxe/5-star hotels

Please state the average price for a single room in each category VAT and breakfast included.

Also indicate the distance to the congress venue either by walking or public Transportation.

All the hotels should be pre-booked during the bid procedure. Please provide your recommendations for the HQ hotel closely located to the Meeting venue.

5. BID PLANNING PROCESS / BIDDING PROCEDURES

5.1 GENERAL INFORMATION

- The call for bids is published and available on the ESTS website: www.ests.org
- Only one application will be accepted from each Country.
- The application MUST be supported by the National Society.
- Applications should be received no later than **31 January 2026**
- Only applications with an existing congress venue can be accepted.
- The decision by the ESTS Board of Directors will be notified to the applicants no later than June 2026.
- ESTS may request additional information to the applicants if any of the technical specifications appear not to fill the bid requirements.

5.2 APPLICATIONS

Applications shall be **sent by email** to the ESTS Executive Director **and** to Director of the Annual Meeting (**no later than 31 January 2026**).

Please refer to the Bid Documents and essential submission documents listed below.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Daniel Snowdon
Executive Director
European Society of Thoracic Surgeons
dsnowdon@ests.org.uk

DIRECTOR OF THE ANNUAL MEETING
Prof Rene Horsleben Petersen
Director of the Annual Meeting
European Society of Thoracic Surgeons
Rene.Horsleben.Petersen@regionh.dk

The choice of venues will be made, among others, based upon the following selection criteria:

- Good accessibility of the city and the congress venue
- Suitability of meeting rooms
- Availability of hotels within walking distance and no more than 30 minutes distance by public transportation
- Cost aspects, i.e. competitive and feasible prices compared to previous ESTS Congresses.

Specifically, there will be a three-stage process:

FIRST STAGE

This will be a general assessment of the submission. The purpose of this initial screening is not to waste excessive time or resources arranging site visits by the ESTS Team if there is no sound basis for working together. This is a preliminary screening to remove proposals that are clearly not suitable.

SECOND STAGE

A site selection review will be undertaken by the ESTS PCO (Kenes International). The site selection review takes 12 weeks to finalise. Kenes will be in contact with bidders to determine costs and details required for the selection review.

THIRD STAGE:

The ESTS Board will review the Kenes site selection report at the 6th June 2026 Board meeting. Following this meeting final discussions may be necessary, or the Board may be in a position to inform bidders of the final result.

BID BOOK CONTENT

- Description of the host organisation.
- Detailed description of the congress venue.
- Proposed dates booked on 1st option.

Essential submission documents

- 3-page summary bid document including key information
- Supplementary bid documents to support and inform the bid

Detailed cost calculation of the congress venue including rental fee, cost for technical equipment, AV, IT, mandatory staff costs, catering, etc.

Overview of the host city and its international flight connections infrastructure, public transportation, distance from congress venue to hotels, leisure attractions, climate, visa restrictions and visa requirements especially for EU participants, Currency and VAT applied, security aspects information about any possible restrictions for the pharma industry to present their products/to exhibit or to invite delegates.

Hotel room booking for approx. 1,500 rooms in 3 to 5-star category.
List & Rates + Location map: prices and distance to congress venue.

Social events: proposal for ESTS Party: description, rental fee and catering options.

SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT

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