



SYNERGY WORKSHOP

Transnational Learning Forum

for Exchanging Practices and Ideas

19-21 October 2013 Budapest



JOINING INSTRUCTIONS

HOW TO REACH THE CONFERENCE VENUE

The Conference Venue

Budapest University of Technology and Economics

Building "K" – Main Building

Ceremony Hall on the 1st floor

1111 Budapest, Múgyetem rakpart 1-3.

Tel. +36 1 463 2537 / Fax. +36 1 463 1558

e-mail: synergy@eden-online.org

Location

The University is located on the bank of the Danube on Buda (West) side of the city close to Szabadság bridge. Building "K" can be easily reached from Szent Gellért square – the main entrance is in the middle of the waterfront.

See location map: <http://goo.gl/maps/oAyf5>

From the airport

Airport Information Service:

Phone +36 1 296-9696

Web-site: <http://www.bud.hu/english>

Distance from the airport to the city centre:
20km, 30-40 minutes by car, depending on traffic.

From the airport, the most popular way (and cheaper than a taxi) to get to the city centre is to use the Airport Minibus Service that costs 3200 HUF. (1 euro equals 300 HUF.) The bus will drop you anywhere within the city. A return ticket (5500 HUF) is valid for six months. The service can be ordered in the arrivals hall at their designated booth. The waiting time depends on the number of passengers waiting, but the next bus driver leaving to town in your direction will call the name of your destination, usually within 10-20 minutes of your ticket purchase.

Since September 2013 all Hungarian taxi companies operate by the same rules, applying the same fares. The cars are waiting in front of the terminal, you purchase a voucher at an outside ticket-booth and a host(ess) navigates you to your taxi. The prices are 450 / 70 / 280 HUF for basic fee / waiting minutes / km fare. From the airport to the city centre the ride costs approximately 7300 HUF. We advise you to not accept any personal offers for taxi services within the terminal!

Taxi

Főtaxi: +36 1 222 2222, Taxi Plus: +36 1 888 8000, Budapest Taxi: +36 1 777 7777, Taxi4: +36 1 444 4444 and City Taxi: +36 1 2 111 111 are the main providers we recommend you to use.

From main train stations

Déli pu.: by tram 18 to Szent Gellért tér

Keleti pu.: by bus #7 to Szent Gellért tér

Nyugati pu.: by tram 4, 6 to Petőfi híd budai hídfő, and a short walk, ca. 5min toward North

From the main hotels

Hotel Kálvin House: 1 km (15 min. on foot or tram 47, 49)

Professors Guesthouse: 200 m (5 min. on foot)

Boutique Hotel Zara: 1 km (10 min. on foot or tram 47, 49)

Back to airport

The Airport Minibus Service's phone number is +36 1 296-9696. Due to airport reconstruction it is strongly advised to check in at least 1,5 hours before the departure.

Public transport

Anywhere within the center of Budapest it is actually easier and faster to walk.

Budapest has an efficient public transport network made up of more than 180 bus, 14 trolleybus, 29 tram and three underground lines. It is worth investing in 10-ticket-blocks (2800 HUF) or a one-day ticket (1650 HUF) instead of using individual tickets costing 350 HUF each. If you're staying longer, you can also purchase a weekly ticket for 4950 HUF or one of various different travel cards. Please check the website of the provider. <http://www.bkk.hu/en/prices/>

Tickets can be purchased at every subway station. Important: the single tickets should be validated after getting on vehicle. One single ticket is valid for one ride only. When you change line another ticket must be validated again.

You can find more information on tickets and public transport routes and distances by visiting:

<http://www.bkk.hu/en/main-page/news/>

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Registration desk

The registration and help desk will be located in the foyer of the building "K" on the First floor, and will be open from Saturday 9 am until Monday afternoon.

Conference Programme

Detailed Conference Programme can be downloaded from the EDEN web-site:

http://www.eden-online.org/online/2013_synergy/programme.html

Lunch / Coffee Breaks

Lunches and coffees are served (to all participants wearing their conference badge) in the foyer on the first floor.

WiFi access in the Conference Venue

At the conference venue password protected wireless internet access will be available.

Insurance / Liability

The conference organisers cannot be held liable for loss, injury or damage to any person or property. Participants are advised to make their own arrangements for health and travel insurance.

Name Badges

All participants receive, by e-mail, name badges, that should be printed in actual size, cut out and brought to the registration desk to complete the registration procedure. Please, avoid folding the badge where the barcode is positioned. All participants are required to wear their badges at all times for admission to the conference and its facilities.

Climate

Autumn in Budapest is usually wet and may be chilly. The average temperature in Budapest in October is 10-15 °C.

Time Zone

Local time in Budapest is CET (GMT +1).

Banking Services

Standard banking hours are Monday to Friday 8.00-16.30. Some banks also extend hours once a week and/or are open on Saturdays from 9.00-13.00.

The next bank to the University is OTP Bank (Szent Gellért tér 3.), 5 minutes walking.

The nearest ATM is available on the ground floor of Building "K".

Currency Exchange

Hungary's official currency is the Hungarian Forint (HUF). 1 euro equals approximately 300 HUF. Money can be exchanged at banks and major hotels. All major credit cards and travellers cheques are widely accepted at most hotels, restaurants, and shops. ATMs are widespread and are generally the cheapest and most convenient method of withdrawing cash in local currency.

Electricity

Electrical current is 210 Volts, 50Hz. European style two-pin plugs with landing are standard.

Telephones

The international access code for Hungary is +36. The outgoing code is 00 followed by the relevant country code (e.g. 0044 for the United Kingdom). National city/area codes are in use, e.g. (06)1 for Budapest. Pay phones accept either coins or phone cards, which are sold at post offices, tobacco shops and newsagents. Mobile phone operators provide thorough GSM 900/1800 coverage throughout the country. (Telenor, T-Mobile, Vodafone). Email and Internet access is available at Internet cafes, hotels, bars, and several public places.

Tipping

Hotel and restaurant bills usually include service charges, but additional tips are welcome if you are satisfied with the service. In established restaurants tips of about 10% are expected. Drivers of metered taxis expect small tips and it is customary to tip usually 5-10% for most services, including guides.

Emergency situations

General Emergency 112 (multilingual)

Police 107

Fire Brigade 105

Ambulance 104

Safety

Hungary is a secure country for tourists, but travellers are advised to keep safe and/or watch their personal belongings to avoid theft of passports, credit cards, travel documents and money. Be aware of strangers offering or asking for help of any kind, as it is often a distraction for petty thefts.

Smoking policy

In accordance with the European Law, smoking is prohibited in indoor public places, including the university buildings, restaurants, bars and bus stops.

Shopping

The **Great or Central Market Hall (Vásárcsarnok)** is not to be missed which can be found at Pest side of Szabadság bridge, on Fővám square.

This market is the largest indoor one in Budapest. A great number of stalls offer a huge variety of vegetables, fruit, cheese and meat. The roof has been restored to the distinctive Zsolnay tiling.

Most of the stalls on the ground floor offer popular souvenirs such as paprika, Tokaji wine and caviar. On the 1st floor you can find typical tourist articles, such as pictures, dolls, glasses, tablecloths, chess boards and hand made clothes in traditional Hungarian styles.

The market is closed on Sundays, opens at 6am on other days, and closes at 5pm on Monday, 6pm on Tuesday-Friday and 2pm on Saturday.

23rd October – National Holiday

We would like to inform you that 23rd October is a national public holiday in Hungary in remembrance of the Hungarian Revolution of 1956. On that day the shops are closed and because of the ceremonies some parts of the city will be closed for the motor traffic.

The Hungarian Revolution of 1956 was a spontaneous nationwide revolt against the Communist government and its Soviet-imposed policies, lasting from 23 October until 10 November 1956.

INFORMATION ON CULTURE

The City of Budapest

The capital city of Hungary, Budapest was created out of unification of the separate historic towns of Buda, Pest and Óbuda in 1873. Budapest is bisected by the River Danube, with the city as much a natural geographical centre as it is the country's transport hub. Covering an area of two hundred square miles and divided into 23 administrative districts, it is home today to a population of 1.8 million people.

Regarded as one of the most beautiful cities in Europe, its extensive World Heritage Site includes the banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter, Andrassy venue, Heroes Square and the Millenium Underground Railway, the second oldest of the world. Other highlights include a total of 80 geothermal springs, the world's largest thermal water cave system, second largest synagogue, and the third largest Parliament building.

Sightseeing hints in Budapest

Budapest is the only capital in the world boasting nearly 100 thermal wells and 12 spas. The most famous bathes where you can experience the relaxing thermal water and the ambiance of the historical buildings together are the Gellert, Szechenyi and the Rudas Bath.

Among the capital's top sights you can find the Buda Castle (World Heritage Site), it has many places of interesting museums, streets and squares with a special atmosphere, restaurants and shops. The Parliament is the largest building in the country, it is situated on the Eastern bank of the Danube. The Neo-Gothic building complex was built between 1884 and 1904 and now hosts the Hungarian coronation symbols. Many other spectacular sights can be found in the city, like the Heroes' Square, the Chain Bridge, the St. Stephen's Basilica and the Andrassy Avenue. If you have time, do not forget to visit the quiet Margaret-island, where a beautiful park, special buildings and a music fountain can be found, surrounded by romantic atmosphere.

Gastronomy

The Hungarian cuisine has been influenced by multiple cultures throughout its history. It has Austrian, French and Italian influences. It is rich in spicy flavours and aromas, thanks to the paprika, the most used ingredient. Among its favourite dishes there are soups, stews, fish and meat, although Gulash is undoubtedly the most popular and well known Hungarian recipe.

Other Hungarian star meals are: paprika chicken (pörkölt), fish soup (halászlé).

There are a number of must-to-try Hungarian wines on the restaurants' menus: the famous Tokaj wine (e.g. Tokaji Aszú), Egri Bikavér (Bull's Blood) and the wines of the Balaton region (e.g. from Badacsony).

Useful links:

<http://www.budapestinfo.hu/en/>

<http://www.budapestinfo.org/sights.html>

<http://english.budapest.hu/Engine.aspx>

<http://www.hungary.com/>

We wish you a pleasant journey and look forward to seeing you in Budapest and sharing the pleasure of a successful and memorable event.