



XXVI International
Congress of Entomology
HELSINKI, FINLAND, JULY 18–23, 2021

NEWSLETTER

July 2020

Postponement decision was correct, and in everyone's interest

During March 2020 we were facing a difficult decision, with only two options concerning the organization of the 26th ICE in Helsinki:

1. keep to our original schedule and host the Congress on 19-24 July 2020 in Helsinki, or
2. postpone the Congress by one year to the only available alternative dates: 18-23 July 2021

Implications of these options include:

1. It was obvious that restrictions on travel due to the pandemic would severely limit attendance. For the most part, these restrictions were imposed in mid-March, after our deadline of 1 March to cancel registrations and to be eligible for refunds.
2. Given the impracticality of hosting a Congress without the participation of many of the world's entomologists, we decided to postpone the Congress by a year at a time when travel restrictions would ostensibly be lifted, and participants allowed to travel again. This decision was made in good faith and in order to provide the world entomological community the congress they deserve. This postponement allows you to attend the congress next year, and not to lose the registration fees as would have happened under option (1).

At the time of writing this – one week after the original congress dates - it is clear that the decision to postpone served everyone's interests. We could have followed Option1 and have organized the ICE2020Helsinki last week in Finland as planned. There are practically no new COVID19 cases in Finland, zero or 1 deaths associated with the virus per week, limitations on gatherings have been lifted, etc. However, the vast majority of congress participants would not have been allowed to leave their home country to travel to Finland (including the USA, Canada, China, Japan, Brazil, etc).

Now we are determined to hold a successful ICE2020Helsinki in July 2021. We believe that flexibility and resourcefulness are required from all parties given the current situation. For example, funding agencies are extending their grant expiration and reporting deadlines, because currently hardly anyone can conduct research as planned. Therefore, we would urge those who are affected by the policies of granting agencies to approach them and request flexibility in this unusual situation.

Just as we at the ICE2020Helsinki organising team have invested our time and work in the past years, we pledge you all to continue your support in the months to come, for the benefit of the world entomological community. We have the will to host a spectacular 26th ICE congress in 2021 as announced, and hope that you share our determination.



Warning!!

It has come to our attention that unauthorized housing companies have been contacting ICE2021Helsinki sponsors and attendees, claiming to work on our behalf. Legal actions have been taken against these pirates.

ICE2021Helsinki has NO affiliation with these companies. These companies are contacting you by phone (and in some cases email). Please note that ICE2021Helsinki does not provide them with any contact information. We are not working together with them. Most bookings made by them may end up in fraud.

Here are some companies to watch out for (these have been copied from the following link:

<https://www.caionline.org/Events/2016LegalForum/Documents/Poaching%20Housing%20Scam.pdf>)

- Advanced Travel Systems
- Book My Rooms Condos at OCCC
- Convention Housing
- Convention Housing Services/Convention Expo Travel
- ECTC Group/Executive Convention Travel
- Elite Corporate Planners
- Events Plus, Inc.
- Execu-Link Corp.
- Exhibition Housing Services
- Expo Housing
- **Expo Hotel Services**
- Global Corporate Events, Inc.
- Global Housing Management/GHM Travel
- Golden Events
- Group TIRA/TIRA Convention
- HDMC Group
- Hotel Angels, LLC
- IEA Event Planning
- International Events, Inc./IEP Group
- Itravel, Inc.
- JTR Holdings Inc.
- Le Company, LLC
- NSCN Services
- Room Connections/Rooms Connect, Limited
- Six Point Travel
- Stay Right Travel, LLC
- Trade Show Housing
- Trade Show Reservations, LLC
- TradeShow Housing
- XM Corp./XM Corporation

If you are a victim of the fraudulent action of one of these companies, please contact us at ento2020helsinki@gmail.com and indicate clearly in the subject heading that your message deals with a situation as described above.

FOR MANY MORE NEWS and information about the ICE2021Helsinki congress please visit regularly our website www.ice2020helsinki.fi and facebook site <https://www.facebook.com/ICE2020Helsinki/> and follow tweets at #ice2020helsinki.

You still can submit presentation proposals to the ICE2021Helsinki congress (oral, quick oral and posters), and reserve exhibition space. Please encourage colleagues and friends to join you to this culmination of world entomology in 2021, and to visit Helsinki and Finland next summer. Please stay healthy and make your travel arrangements well in advance. **We look forward to welcoming you next year in July to Helsinki!**

Sincerely yours,

Heikki Hokkanen
President of the ICE2020Helsinki Organizing Committee

