

**This document clarifies the initial refund policy, accepted by all registered participants upon registration** (see the Terms and Conditions on the registration form, also at: <http://ice2020helsinki.fi/registration-cancellation-and-refund-policy/> )

**The ICE2022 organization will provide refunds only in case the congress has to be cancelled.** In case we are allowed (by our government) to organize the congress in July 2022, we will hold it, and if someone cannot attend, we cannot do anything about it.

The Local Organizing Committee has had to invest large parts of the funds which we have received, into the organization of the congress (7 years of volunteer work by many of us, rental contracts for the venues, contracts with service providers, etc etc), and it is common knowledge that some 90% of expenses of organizing a congress accrue before the congress actually takes place. Thus, by early 2020 we were all ready to go ahead with the congress - and with all the expenses accumulated by that time - but then the pandemic started and participants started to request postponement because they would not have been allowed by their own government or institution to travel to Finland. From our point of view, we could have organized the congress in July 2020, as restrictions on meetings were lifted in Finland. We had a clear refund policy (and still have) which all participants had agreed to upon registration: no refunds of delegate cancellations after 1 March 2020.

As you know, under the pressure from the delegates and the ICE Council, we agreed to postpone the congress - despite the extra expenses and work to us organizers - in order for the participants not just flatly to lose their registration fees, and in order to be able to offer a fantastic congress once the covid-situation allows. Our flexibility in this matter does not imply (and certainly does not justify) that the fact of postponement is used as an argument to request refunds after the agreed deadline had passed. Delegates who could not have joined the congress in 2020 would have lost their fees in any case.

We do have an understanding for the situation with those who cannot attend in 2022, but if the delegates are not allowed to travel, it is a case for getting refunds from travel insurance, or elsewhere (the government or institution banning travels). We do offer the possibility of passing on ('selling' if you wish) the participation in ICE2022 to someone else, if the original delegate cannot attend. That is the utmost we can do (even when this also increases our workload a lot).

### **Symposium presentations of registered participants who cannot attend**

The ICE2022Helsinki congress will be held in-person only - not online (which for a global congress is a nightmare in terms of timing). We have discussed, however, at the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) about allowing **pre-recorded presentations** in some cases: we agree to allow a **MAXIMUM OF TWO presentations per symposium** to be pre-recorded and presented by someone actually present at the symposium. Please note that also in this case, the author (speaker) of the pre-recorded presentation has to be a registered congress participant. This should be agreed upon by the speaker and the symposium organizers - we at the LOC cannot engage in this activity due to shortage of persons. If necessary, you can also change the symposium organizers (contact persons/chairs), in case the current chairs cannot attend.