

'Unforgettable' Budapest



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‘One of the best’, was how Zsuzsanna Szilvasy, president of Autism-Europe, described the federation’s 10th International Congress in Budapest, Hungary.

The event, held at Budapest Congress Center, marked the 30th anniversary of the founding of Autism-Europe, and was opened by Princess Marie of Denmark.

Almost a thousand parents, doctors and people with autism came from 73 countries to discuss how those with the disorder could enjoy a better quality of life.

Ageing and the use of information technology were amongst topics debated at the event – titled Autism for Another Dimension – organised by the Hungarian Autistic Society.

“Holding the conference in Budapest was one of the greatest experiences of my presidency,” said Szilvasy. “I have been a member of the Autism-Europe Board since 2008, and we have worked on several wonderful projects in numerous locations in the world, but Budapest was one of the best”.

The Hungarian Autistic Society won the right to host the Xth International Autism-Europe Congress following a presentation at the previous congress in 2010, in Catania, Italy. With help from the Hungarian Convention Bureau, Budapest saw off stiff competition from Istanbul and Prague. Autism-Europe opted for Budapest because of its central location, well-developed infrastructure and prices.



Zsuzsanna Szilvasy (right), greets Princess Marie of Denmark

The Hungarian Autistic Society, which Szilvasy also presides over, worked with a PCO called Tensi Congress, who were ‘excellent’ and ‘worked hard to organise a truly unforgettable event’.

She concluded: “The city, the venue and the programme has absolutely exceeded the delegates’ and the organisation’s expectations. We had 982 participants from 57 countries; nineteen keynote presentations from the most well-known autism specialists in the world.”

Autism-Europe’s congresses are held every three years and the next one will be held in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 2016, hosted by the National Autistic Society.



Contact

Alice Sipos
Senior Project Manager, Hungary Convention Bureau
Association Events, Conference Ambassador Program
T: +36 1 263 6520
E: siposa@itthon.hu

CITYFILE



Airport

Liszt Ferenc International Airport is just 16 km south-east of the city centre. All major European airports are within two hours flight time from Budapest.



Accommodation

1,512 rooms in 5* hotels, 6,562 rooms in 4* hotels, 2,631 rooms in 3* hotels, and 19,101 rooms in total in all categories (including non-rated business hotels).



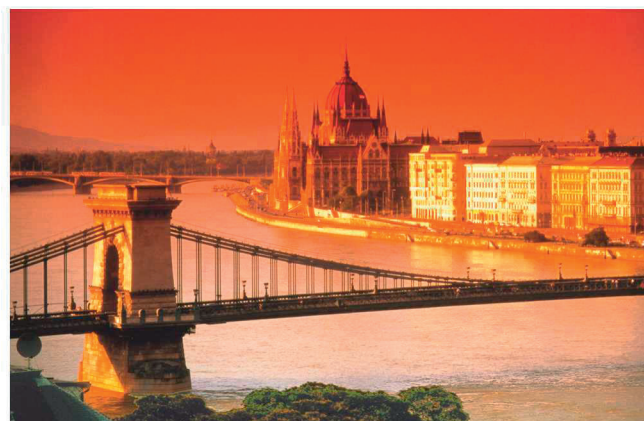
Key Venues

Budapest Congress Center is the largest purpose-built congress and conference facility in Hungary, a member of the Accor Convention network. The main hall holds 2,000 people, and there are 19 smaller rooms. The HUNGEXPO is located in 36-hectares of landscaped gardens, 5km from the city centre. It is the only place in Hungary able to host meetings with many thousands of delegates. The new Pavilion G is a 55,000 sqm multifunctional event centre, with eight exhibition halls ranging from 700-20,000 sqm, for between 250-15,000 people. It has several conference rooms, a well-equipped press centre, parking lots, bank and restaurant facilities. The building is so large and flexible you can fit up to 15,000 people in it any way you want, be it a congress, a banquet or a concert. The SYMA Sports and Event Centre is a multifunctional venue, opened in 2006.



Worth a visit

The newly renovated Castle Bazaar, part of Buda Castle District, will be a genuine cultural site and a sophisticated entertainment district incorporating underground cultural event halls, fine art studios, sculptor workshops, exhibition rooms, an outdoor stage, restaurants and sophisticated music venues. It was expected to open at the end of August.



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H-1051 Budapest, József Attila u. 1., Phone: +361 224 7141
Fax: +361 355 8693, motiv@motivation.hu, www.motivation.hu