

Leipzig: Specialist excellence as the driving force behind the congress sector

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Leipzig is one of the most popular congress venues in Germany and Europe. Every year, this booming city hosts a wide variety of conferences. It welcomes many thousands of attendees invited by renowned stakeholders from the fields of medicine, science and research, business, politics and society. In every respect, the city and surrounding region offer ideal conditions for industry get-togethers with a wide appeal.

In order to unleash its full economic potential, the City of Leipzig has developed a cluster strategy to concentrate on establishing networks between, and supporting, growth-oriented and forward-looking industries. Besides energy and environmental technology, logistics and the automotive and supplier industries, these also include the health sector and biotechnology. These economic and scientific areas of expertise play a crucial role for local conferences and events. Thematically suitable congresses are deliberately invited to Leipzig.

For example, the destination's scientific competence played a crucial role when bidding for the congress of the International Society for Microbial Ecology (ISME). The Congress Center Leipzig (CCL), the largest conference host in the city, worked closely with the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) and Professor Hauke Harms. In collaboration with the head of the UFZ's Department of Environmental Microbiology, the congress of the Federation of European Microbiological Societies (FEMS) was already brought to Leipzig back in 2013, attracting some 2000 participants. Around 2500 people visited the ISME congress in Summer 2018.

Like the FEMS congress before it, ISME 2018 promises to contribute to Leipzig's excellent reputation as a research and conference destination. Not only do these events present current results and studies in key areas of the various disciplines. Their guests also include renowned specialists in their respective fields. At the same time, key figures from the research location itself assume the role of conference president and host. Professor Harms presided over FEMS 2013, a role he will be resuming at ISME 2018.

As a medical hub, Leipzig is also an attractive destination for congresses in this sector. Medicine has a long tradition in Leipzig, and entire fields and disciplines were born here. Founded in 1415, the Medical Faculty of Leipzig University is the second-oldest medical school in Germany and one of the largest research institutions of its kind in the country. The city is internationally acclaimed for excellence in the fields of surgery, cardiology, organ transplantation, neuromedicine, sports medicine, gerontology, burn injury care and orthopaedics as well as in the fields of stem cell research and regenerative medicine.

This importance is reflected by Leipzig's busy conference schedule. One example is the LINC Leipzig Interventional Course at the CCL, one of the world's largest conferences for vascular medicine which is attended by thousands. The German X-ray Congress, annual conferences in the fields of paediatric cardiology and radiation oncology, the Congress for Paediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, the Congress of the German Interdisciplinary Association for Intensive Care and Emergency Medicine, and other events are all inviting their guests to Leipzig in 2018.

Local players work closely together when bidding for new conferences. More than 50 partners, including congress and event locations, conference hotels, service agencies, PCOs and logistics partners, are collectively committed to the conference location through the congress initiative "Feel the spirit ... do-it-at-leipzig.de". They form a powerful network for attracting but also planning, preparing and conducting conferences. This makes the initiative the first port of call for organisers.

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