

APPLICATION PROCESS

AIM of the 2028 RSAI World Congress

1. The RSAI World Congress should aim to have significant participation from members of all sections of supranationals (ERSA, LARSA, NARSC, and PRSCO).
2. The RSAI World Congress should also endeavor to attract regional scientists resident in countries in which no RSAI Section has yet been established. Financial help may be available to selected applicants for participation through RSAI's "Building Bridges" programme.
3. The 2028 World Congress may be held as a standalone event. Alternatively, proposals may suggest organising it jointly or "back-to-back" with another event (such as a national section's conference, a supranational's congress, or any other event –workshop, summer school, etc, - with similar objectives or networks.

PROPOSAL to HOST THE 2028 WORLD CONGRESS.

The proposal is **free format**, but it should include clear information on: dates, place (specific place and city), overall theme of the congress, core members of the LOC, tentative sponsorship (if any), scientific program (typical structure is provided by RSAI, see below), possibility of organizing the event together with a national section conference (optional), possibility of organizing a workshop/summer school before the World Congress (optional), and tentative budget considering different scenarios (depending on attendance). Practical information on how to travel to the country/city, main characteristics of the place, transport and different hotel availability, etc, is advisable.

It is understood that some of the information provided in the proposal by the LOC will be tentative at the time the proposal is submitted.

In relation to dates and place

The proposed dates for the 2028 RSAI World Congress must be such that they do not clash with other events that aim to attract the same Regional Science community (unless a joint conference is envisaged). The organizers will consult with the RSAI President and the RSAI Executive Director in order to identify a mutually acceptable schedule for the event.

The RSAI World Conference should be held at an easily accessible location in a globally accessible city.

In relation to the Scientific Program and Participants:

Tuesday, June 9		Wednesday, June 10		Thursday, June 11		Friday, June 12	
Registration desk [14:00-17:30]		Registration desk [08:00-16:00]		Registration desk [08:00-16:00]		Registration desk [08:00-09:00]	
Advance Workshop [10:00- 13:00]	Walking Tour in the city (option 1) [12:00- 13:00]	Parallel session 1 [08:30-10:30]		Parallel session 3 [08:30-10:30]		Parallel session 6 [08:30-10:30]	
		COFFEE BREAK [10:30-11:00]		COFFEE BREAK [10:30-11:00]		COFFEE BREAK [10:30-11:00]	
		PLENARY SESSION II Keynote II [11:00-12:30]		Parallel session 4 [11:00-12:30]		Parallel session 7 [11:00-12:30]	
		LUNCH [12:30-14:00]		LUNCH [12:30- 14:00]	LRPC of the RSAI meeting [12:30- 14:00]	LUNCH [12:30- 14:00]	RSAI Council meeting [12:30- 14:00]
OPENING CEREMONY [15:00-15:45]		PLENARY SESSION III Keynote III [14:00-15:30]		PLENARY SESSION IV Keynote IV [14:00-15:30]		PLENARY SESSION V Keynote V [14:00-15:30]	
PANEL [15:45-17:30]		COFFEE BREAK [15:30-16:00]		COFFEE BREAK [15:30-16:00]		COFFEE BREAK [15:30-16:00]	
PLENARY SESSION I Keynote I [17:30-19:00]		Parallel session 2 [16:00-18:00]		Parallel session 5 [16:00-18:00]		Parallel session 8 [16:00-17:30]	
Welcome Reception [19:00-20:00]		Walking Tour in the City (option 2) [18:30-19:30]		GALA DINNER [19:00-22:00]		CLOSING CEREMONY [17:30-18:00]	

1. The overall conference theme (to be suggested by the LOC in the proposal) of the RSAI World Congress and the selection of keynote speakers should be of the interest of the global Regional Science community. Of course, local perspectives and concerns may be interwoven with global perspectives and concerns. Thus, usually one keynote speaker is selected by the LOC and the rest by RSAI.
2. Proposals should/could include initiatives to encourage participation from less developed countries and from other near countries in which no RSAI section have yet been established. RSAI can assist financially in meeting this objective through its “Building Bridges” programme, but other funding initiatives (subsidies for postgraduate students from the host country or nearby countries, for instance) can be encouraged.
3. The programme proposed for the 2028 RSAI World Congress can also include one or more workshops for professional development of emerging scholars and postgraduate students, who may not be in a position to contribute a full paper to the formal scientific programme.
4. The working and communication language of the whole congress is English, but proposals may include arrangements for simultaneous translation of plenary sessions where this is deemed to be desirable.

Regarding Budget/Finances:

As a guideline, fees for the last RSAI World Congress were the following:

	EARLY REGISTRATION (Before Feb 28, 2026)	LATE REGISTRATION (After Feb 28, 2026)
HIGH INCOME COUNTRY (A)		
RSAI members - Regular	380 €	513 €
RSAI members - Student	247 €	333 €
non RSAI members - Regular	494 €	667 €
non RSAI members - Student	321 €	433 €
Accompanying Person	100 €	100 €
UPPER MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRY (B)		
RSAI members - Regular	266 €	359 €
RSAI members - Student	173 €	233 €
non RSAI members - Regular	346 €	467 €
non RSAI members - Student	225 €	303 €
Accompanying Person	70 €	70 €
LOWER MIDDLE INCOME AND LOW-INCOME COUNTRY (C)		
RSAI members - Regular	190 €	257 €
RSAI members - Student	124 €	167 €
non RSAI members - Regular	247 €	333 €
non RSAI members - Student	161 €	217 €
Accompanying Person	50 €	50 €
GALA DINNER (OPTIONAL)	60 €	60 €

Although attendance fees are normally set by RSAI, they can be negotiated with the LOC, specially for participants from the national section that should otherwise be attending their national conference. The following RSAI rules must be applied in any case:

- a) Members from Upper Middle-Income Countries enjoy a 30% discount (over the equivalent high-income country's fee); participants **from** Lower Middle and Low-Income Countries enjoy a 50% discount (over the equivalent high-income country's fee). The country considered must be your country of residence, and the country classification follows the latest World Bank figures.
- b) RSAI Member fees are applicable if the participant is a member of RSAI.
- c) Student delegate fees are applicable for postgraduates who have not reached the age of 34 years on December 31, 2028, and candidates for the RSAI Young Researchers Prize (Papers PY type).
- d) The Accompanying Person fee is intended for individuals accompanying a congress participant (but they will not be permitted to attend the scientific programme).
- e) Gala Dinner has no compulsory attendance, and its fee is separate from the congress fee to avoid issues with home university reimbursements. The fee paid to attend the Gala Dinner should be enough not to incur losses.

LOC will have available 80% of the total registration revenue. Although that quantity should be enough for the financial success of the World Congress, proposals should include a risk assessment regarding contingencies that could impact on the viability of the congress. Ways in which potential risks can be managed should be outlined.

A detailed financial plan providing details on the main economic aspects of the congress should be included in the proposal, with different scenarios depending on the final number of attendees. Tentative figures of main expenses (keynotes -travel and accommodation-, meals, coffee breaks, office material -badges, complementary bag-, etc.) and main

sources of income (registration fees, sponsorship, others) are expected. Exclusively, keynote speakers do not pay registration fees.

Practical issues: Event venue and accommodation

The venue for the RSAI World Congress can either be a University building or a Hotel /Convention Centre.

Accommodation should be available at the congress venue when the conference is held at a hotel or convention centre. Alternatively, a list of affordable accommodation should be (within 15 minutes walking from the venue) should be provided in the proposal.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

1. Proposals should be submitted by email to the Executive Director (avinuela@uniovi.es; cc: rsai@apdr.pt) by **Monday, July 16th, 2026, 23:59 CET**.
2. A decision regarding the 2028 World Congress will be made by the RSAI Council during the meeting to be held at the forthcoming ERSA congress in Sofia, Bulgaria.
3. For the services it provides, RSAI Office charges a commission equal to 20% of all registration fees received. The remaining registration revenue is transferred to the legal entity representing the LOC. Any anticipated sponsorship money will be kept by the LOC and should be included in the tentative budget.
4. All arrangements for the organization of the World Congress will be formalized in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU will be signed by the President of RSAI, the Executive Director, the Chair of the LOC, and the person representing the legal entity through which the LOC operates.
5. The acceptance of a proposal by the RSAI Council does not constitute a binding agreement between the two parties. The subsequently drawn-up MOU, which is guided by the proposal, will constitute the binding agreement.