

Practical Information

30TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL DRUG RESEARCH (ESSD)

26 - 28 September 2019

Riga, Latvia

The ESSD conference is organised by the University of Latvia in collaboration with the ministry of the Interior.

Support for the organisation of the conference is provided by:

- Asoc. prof. Dr. Baiba Bela, the University of Latvia
- PhD candidate Kristiana Bebre, the University of Latvia
- Agnese Zīle-Veisberga, the Ministry of the Interior of Latvia

For any inquiry please contact host organisers by email: essdriga@lu.lv.

Conference webpage: www.essdriga.lu.lv

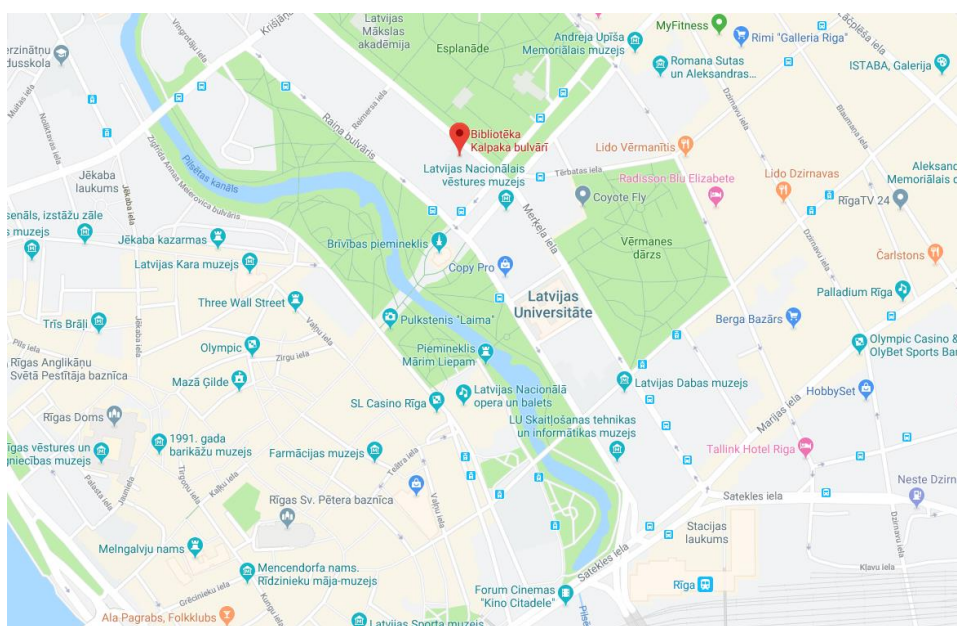
ESSD webpage: <http://www.essd-research.eu/>

Venue



Venue

University of Latvia and Microsoft Innovation Centre
Kalpaka bulvāris 4, Rīga, LV-1050



Registration and attendance fee

Conference attendees without presentations are invited to register online on the www.essdriga.lu.lv or through conference email: essdriga@lu.lv by 30th August 2019.

Information on attendance fee will be sent to participant closer to the date.

Accommodation

Two hotels are pre-booked. However, the end of September is already off-season and it is possible to find other accommodation possibilities near the venue and for reasonable price (www.booking.com, www.airbnb.com etc.).

Astor Riga Hotel

Z.A.Meierovica Blvd. 10
Riga, LV-1050, Latvia
Phone: + 371 67217777
E-mail: info@astorrigahotel.lv
reservations@astorrigahotel.lv

The Hotel is located 2 minutes walk from the conference venue. The price per night is 105 euro and the offer will be available by the **15th August 2019**. The booking should be made at the hotel's website (the promo code: ESSD): <http://www.astorrigahotel.lv/>.

The Hotel Gutenbergs

Doma laukums 1,
Rīga, LV-1050, Latvia
Phone: + 371 67 814 090
E-mail: hotel@gutenbergs.lv

The hotel is located at the very heart of the old town approximately 10 minutes walk from the conference venue. The rooms should be booked at the hotel website (<http://www.hotelgutenbergs.lv/>) and a 10% discount will be applied (approx. 75 euro) when using promo code: ESSD. The promo code is valid until **26th September 2019**.

Travel and Getting Around

By air

Riga International airport (RIX) is located just 10 km from the City Centre and is easily accessible by public transport or taxi (~25 min on the way).

Taxi services are available at Riga airport 24 hours a day and are located outside the arrivals area. The average fare from the airport to the city centre (Old Town) is 15-20 €, but must not exceed 25 €. **Due to increasing number of complaints related to excessive fares, we strongly recommend to choose green Baltic Taxi.**



Public transport bus No. 22 and minibus No. 322 connects the airport with the city centre. The bus stop is located across a parking lot in front of Arrivals E. The service operates up to every 15 minutes on Mondays to Fridays and up to every 20 minutes on Saturdays and Sundays. It takes up to 30 minutes to get to the centre. Stops around the hotels are indicated on the map (see below). Ticket price for a single journey is 2.00 € if bought from the driver. The end of the line is at the Central Railway station.

For those who travel directly to the conference venue the minibus **No.241** would be more suitable. The end of line is at the “Esplanade” place just few meters from the conference venue.

More information and the schedule of bus No.22 can be found here:

<http://saraksti.rigassatiksmelv/index.html#bus/22/b-a/en>



Bus (22; 322; 241) and taxi stops at the airport

Transportation around Riga

Riga has a frequent and extensive public transport network of buses, trams and trolleybuses, which run around the Old Town, across the bridge and stop close to the conference venue. Single journey tickets can be bought from the driver and cost 2.00€ (cash only). It is also possible to buy a transport card (e-talons) for one or several journeys at *Narvesen* kiosks (mini-shops) or from vending machines on a number of public transport stops, including at the airport.

About Riga

Officially founded in 1201, the city presents a mix of cultures and architectural styles developed throughout different historical periods. The Daugava, also referred to as the River of Destiny by Latvians, flows through Riga into the Gulf of Riga about 10 kilometres from the city centre. Because of its location and harbour, which rarely freezes, Riga has developed into a significant transportation hub. Riga has always been a dynamic and innovative centre, and remains to this day a vibrant and lively city with a host of creative quarters to explore. It is therefore with good reason that Riga has been called the ‘city of inspiration’. Enjoy a leisurely walk around the Old Town – the historic centre of Riga, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site – and its surroundings.

Useful information about Riga can be found on www.liveriga.com/en

About Latvia

Language: Latvian is the official language of Latvia. Russian and English are widely spoken.

Local time: Latvia Time is GMT+2 (from late March until late October Latvia participates in the Western European summer time scheme: GMT+3)

Currency: Latvia's currency is the euro (€). Other currencies can be exchanged for euros at most banks and exchange offices located in the city centre and at the airport.

ATMs and credit cards: there are many automatic teller machines (ATMs) in the city and all major credit cards are accepted almost everywhere.

Power supply: The power supply in Latvia is 220V AC at 50 Hz. An adaptor for the (European standard) round two-pin sockets may be required.



Useful numbers

- Dial code for Latvia: +371
 - Emergency: call 112, the EU-wide emergency number for the police, fire and ambulance services
- Alternatively, call:
- Police: 110 or 112
 - Medical service: 113
 - Fire service: 112
 - Gas emergency: 114

Useful information

Useful information about Latvia can be found on www.tava.gov.lv/en and www.latvia.eu.

Use an application to learn more about Latvia while using your phone: the *Latvia.Travel* application is available on Google Play Store and iTunes.

Visa

Citizens of the European Union member states, as well as Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Switzerland do not require a visa to travel to Latvia. As regards Georgia, only holders of biometric passports are free to travel to Latvia visa-free, other citizens need to have valid visa.