

6.05 b Regional Conference İstanbul, 17-21 August 2026

6.05+ sub-item Accommodation, new members and EC participation

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There is a need for the EC to consider travel items, accommodation and the prospect of new members being present at İstanbul in August. This is partly financial, but also an issue of the culture of the EC in relation to the wider IGU. When the EC stays together, relationships are built across newer and longer-term members, and the EC appears to other IGU participants as a cohesive group.

First, it is important to confirm if the following is correct for Regional Conferences and Congresses (such as İstanbul and Melbourne), but excluding Thematic conferences:

- 1) The LOC pays for accommodations during the EC meeting (usually 2-3 nights preceding the conference).
- 2) The LOC provides EC members with conference registration.
- 3) The IGU Treasury pays for travel to the conferences (flights/trains/visas, etc)
- 4) The IGU Treasury pays for accommodations during the Regional Conference or Congress.

These expenses are in line with IGU Statute 7 VII F.

While it is advantageous if individual EC members choose to pay their own travel (via their National Committee, University or individual research funds), this is not the requirement. The default position is that EC member travel costs to EC meetings and the approved Congresses and Regional Conferences are part of the IGU Treasury Budgets.

If the above points are correct, then we need to be sure EC members are aware of how these expenses work, especially our newest EC members who have not attended a Regional Conference or Congress as official EC members. In order to keep the costs reasonable and to limit the administration around refunds, it is useful for the LOC to identify and book the EC rooms for the conference (possibly at the conference hotel). This means that the Treasurer either pays at the conclusion of the stay or individual EC members submit their receipts.

In recent IGC events in Paris (2022) and Dublin (2024) we believe that the process was as follows:

PARIS: LOC provided conference registration; IGU Treasury paid hotel and airfare/train expenses. In Paris, the LOC (or maybe Nathalie?), made reservations at 2 hotels for EC members. As Treasurer, Holly paid the final bill at both hotels upon departure.

DUBLIN: LOC paid accommodations for the pre-Congress meeting and provided registration for EC members. All (or most) EC members stayed at the University accommodations and these accommodations were paid for by the IGU Treasury. In this case, each person made their own reservations, but at the same "hotel".

It would appear that the lessons learned from Paris and Dublin should be applied in Istanbul to secure the best possible financial arrangements for the EC and to ensure that the cultural benefits of welcoming new EC members and presenting ourselves as a cohesive and accessible group to the wider IGU are amplified.

If this is agreed, as the IGU EC we need to work closely with the Conference Convenor and the LOC to make this happen.