

# Extended Semantic Web Conference Guide

The Conference guide is aimed at organizations who wish to bid to host a Conference in the Extended Semantic Web Conference Series.

## Introduction

As described in the [conference series history pages](#) ESWC started its life as the [European Semantic Web Symposium](#) (ESWS), which was held in Heraklion, Greece in May of 2004. Based on the success of this first event, the symposium was expanded and upgraded to a conference with the new name the [European Semantic Web Conference](#) (ESWC). From 2005 through to 2008 the conference has grown in stature and quality, visiting [Budva](#) in Montenegro, [Innsbruck](#) in Austria, and [Tenerife](#) in Spain with each occurrence attracting around 300 attendees. In 2009 the conference returned to its spiritual home in Heraklion, Greece. From 2010 on, the ESWC was renamed to 'Extended Semantic Web Conference' to underline the extended scope and international character behind the event.

In 2025 ESWC moved from STI International to the [Semantic Web Science Association](#) (SWSA) which now manages all aspects of the conference series. As such, this conference series continues to bring together members of the academic, research, commercial, and user communities to present the latest results on a broad range of semantic web, knowledge graphs and AI related topics.

## Conference Format

As mentioned above the conference series has evolved over the years and each conference tends to include a variety of events to produce a rich and stimulating programme. Typically, a conference includes (but is not necessarily limited to):

- Tutorials
- Workshops
- PhD symposium
- Research track
- In-use track
- Posters/Demonstrations track
- Industry track
- Resources track
- Challenges
- Other co-located events
- Social programme

## Location

The Conference series takes place in Europe running for 5 days - typically Sunday to Thursday - at the end of May or beginning of June.

The conference venue needs facilities for 200-300 delegates in one plenary room. Furthermore, the venue must support 3 conference rooms capable of holding 120 delegates each and about 7 conference rooms capable of holding 30-50 delegates.

The basic guidelines for a good location are:

- It should be reachable in less than an hour from a major airport, with good connectivity to major international hubs.
- Lunch for 200-300 people should be provided, over all 5 days, either at the conference venue itself, or very close to it.
- It should provide a variety of accommodation options near the venue (preferably within walking distance), crucially including inexpensive accommodation for students.
- There should be no onerous visa requirements or other political/legal considerations that might limit the opportunities for delegates to attend the conference.
- SWSA considers cost as critical in its decision when selecting a bid. Particularly critical, are the cost considerations for students (e.g., student volunteer programs, cheap accommodations for students). We also suggest that, if possible, the bid to host the conference contains firm commitment of funding from local organizations.

## Applying to Host the Extended Semantic Web Conference

### Local Conference Organisation (LCO)

The LCO must be able to provide commitment and staff. The **Contract to run the Conference is made between the Semantic Web Science Association (SWSA) and the LCO** (which needs to be an organization capable of signing such a Contract). Both individual Organisations and Consortia should have run past conferences.

### General Chair (GC)

**SWSA will nominate a General Chair (GC), who will oversee co-ordinating the overall organization of the event alongside the LCO.** The GC will be responsible for proposing Program Chairs for SWSA approval. The GC will be responsible for selecting the chairs for the various conference tracks.

## Structure of the Local Organization

### **LCO**

The LCO is the organization responsible for detailed management and execution of administrative functions typically including setting up all contracts with the conference venue and hotel(s), managing the budget, printing, publicity, registration of delegates, accounting, staffing the conference, etc. The LCO is also responsible for organizing the conference web site which SWSA hosts on Git.

The LCO nominates a **chairperson of the LCO as contact for SWSA**. The LCO is free to perform these functions itself or sub-contract the functions to a local Professional Conference Organizer.

Any organization can apply to host the conference, but the local organizing committee must include a representative of a local research group with relevant experience in semantic technologies, knowledge graphs, and other AI related topics.

### **Financial Structure**

The LCO enters into a contract with SWSA. The LCO must present the conference budget to SWSA at a special online SWSA meeting typically held in June.

The distribution of any surplus or losses are specified in the contract. The LCO is liable for any losses that exceed the specific sum specified in the contract.

The full conference bid must include a contingency plan (e.g., an insurance policy) in the event of conference cancellation due to a catastrophic event.

The major breakdown of the budget is typically under the following headings:

- Core conference
- Tutorials, workshops
- Student, academic, standard registration fees for early, standard and late registration. We recommend using the registration fees from previous years as a guidance.

Each conference in the conference series needs both international and local sponsorship to achieve a satisfactory budgetary balance. Local sponsorship is primarily the responsibility of the LCO.

## Making an application for hosting ISWC

We will accept bids from all locations within Europe. We expect the conference to take place in the second half of May or first week of June. Organizations wishing to host ISWC should contact John Domingue ([john.domingue@open.ac.uk](mailto:john.domingue@open.ac.uk)), who will co-ordinate the bidding process.

The process normally includes two stages. During the first stage, statements of interest are solicited through an open call - the relevant form is available at

[https://swsa.semanticweb.org/sites/default/files/SWSA-ESWC-Sol%20v%201.0\\_0.pdf](https://swsa.semanticweb.org/sites/default/files/SWSA-ESWC-Sol%20v%201.0_0.pdf).

Once the first phase is complete, SWSA will shortlist a number of applications, who will be invited to submit a full proposal, using the form available at [https://swsa.semanticweb.org/sites/default/files/SWSA-ESWC-Application\\_2026%20v%201.0\\_0.pdf](https://swsa.semanticweb.org/sites/default/files/SWSA-ESWC-Application_2026%20v%201.0_0.pdf), and present at a dedicated online SWSA meeting.

The important dates for applying to host a conference can be found on the SWSA web site at <https://swsa.semanticweb.org/content/call-host-extended-semantic-web-conference-eswc>.

## **Conference Dates**

As mentioned above the conference normally takes place in the second half of May or first week of June.