

Dear Colleagues, InGOS NA2/NA3/JRA3 Participants,

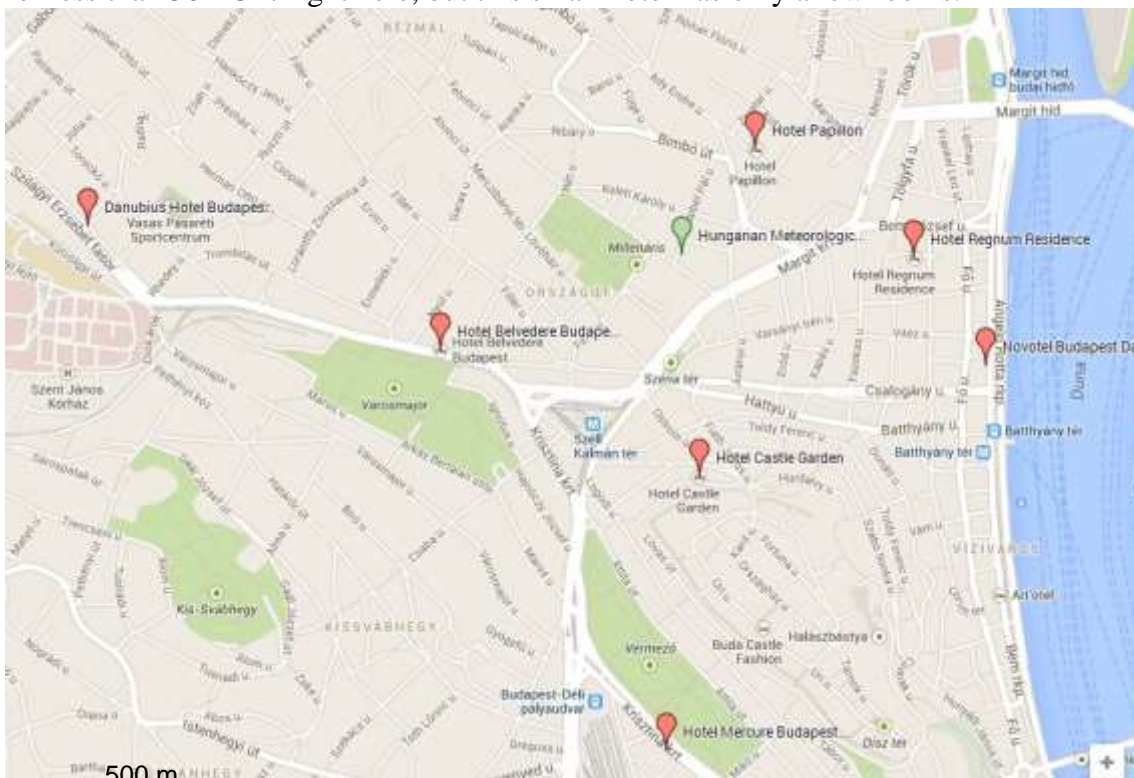
According to our agreement the next InGOS NA2/NA3/JRA3 workshop will be held in Budapest on 21-22 October, 2013. It will be hosted by the Hungarian Meteorological Service. Please, send your registration through the InGOS web-site (http://www.ingos-infrastructure.eu/?page_id=2763) by 30 September.

Accommodation:

In Budapest you can find a lot of hotels at different room rates. The map below shows the 3* and 4* hotels within a reasonable distance to the meeting place. As late October is still high season in Budapest and our group is relatively small, not renting meeting rooms and other services from the hotels either, most of the hotels do not offer special group rate. The standard rates for a single room are in the 50-100 EUR range according to my survey. Please, contact the hotels directly or consult a booking portal (e.g. <http://www.booking.com>). Everybody should book his/her room individually. Here is the list of the nearby hotels approximately with decreasing room rates:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Novotel Budapest Danube (4*) | http://www.novotel.com/gb/hotel-6151-novotel-budapest-danube/ |
| Hotel Regnum Residence (4*) | http://www.regnumresidence.hu/ |
| Hotel Belvedere Budapest (4*) | http://www.belvederehotels.hu/ |
| Hotel Castle Garden (4*) | http://en.hotelcastlegarden.com/ |
| Danubius Hotel Budapest (4*) | http://www.danubiushotels.com/our_hotels/hungary/budapest/hotel_budapest |
| Mercure Budapest Buda Hotel (4*) | http://www.mercure.com/gb/hotel-1688-mercure-budapest-buda-hotel/ |
| Hotel Papillon (3*) | http://www.hotelpapillon.hu/ |

I have an oral promise from Hotel Belvedere and Hotel Papillon that they will apply discounted rate if you contact them directly before mid-September and mention the InGOS meeting at the Hungarian Meteorological Service. The discounted rate at Hotel Belvedere is 65/70 EUR for single/double room (+local tax approx. 1.5 EUR), while Hotel Papillon applies the mid-season rate instead of the high season one. It means that you may have a room for less than 50 EUR/night here, but this small hotel has only a few rooms.



Travel:

Arrival by airplane

You will land at Terminal 2 of Budapest Liszt Ferenc International Airport (formerly called Ferihegy), southeast of the city. The best way to reach your hotel is to take the Airport Minibus Service (<http://www.airportshuttle.hu/en/>). The reservation booth is located in the arrival hall. They take you directly to the hotel for 3200 HUF (approx. 11 EUR; return ticket costs 5500 HUF) as of July 2013. If you want to return to the airport by the Airport Minibus Service, please, reserve your seat at the hotel reception a day before your leave. **We might organize your pickup from the building of the Hungarian Meteorological Service if it is reasonable.**

If you are two or more of you together, taxi may be a reasonable choice. The contracted taxi company (Főtaxi) of the airport will take you to the region of the Hungarian Meteorological Service and the nearby hotels for a fixed rate of 6500 HUF/24 EUR. Other taxi companies may charge you more, but at the designated taxi pick-up you should find only Főtaxi cabs. (This special fixed rate is valid only FROM the airport! Return trip cost more, and may be similar at all taxi companies.)

As far as I know, Airport Shuttle and part of the taxi drivers accept credit cards and Euro cash (but at rather unfavorable exchange rate). In case of taxi, check before getting in. Airport is not the best place for currency exchange. You may find somewhat better rates in the city. Hotels, restaurants and most of the shops accept VISA/MC cards.

You can also approach the region of the Hungarian Meteorological Service and the listed hotels by public transport, if you wish, but it takes quite a time (70-90 minutes). The bus no. 200E takes you from the airport to the underground/metro terminal Kőbánya-Kispest (blue line, M3). From here take the metro as far as Deák tér where you should transfer to the red line (M2) towards Déli pályaudvar (Déli pu.). Get off at Széll Kálmán tér (formerly called Moszkva tér). Tickets have to be purchased in advance at the airport, at the metro or railway stations. A few news kiosks also sell tickets. A single ticket valid for a single ride costs 350 HUF (approx. 1.2 EUR).

Further information on transport can be found on the web site of the airport (http://www.bud.hu/english/passengers/access_and_parking)

Arrival by train

From each of the three major railway stations of the city you should take the metro towards the city center. From Keleti pu. (pu. is the abbreviation of “pályaudvar” = railway station) and Déli pu. travel to Széll Kálmán tér (red line, M2). From Nyugati pu. tram no. 4 or 6 is better.



Venue:

Meeting rooms of the Hungarian Meteorological Service (1024 Budapest, Kitaibel Pál utca 1.).

Getting to the venue

Most of the above listed hotels are within walking distance by my standard (<1 km). Hungarian Meteorological Service is located between two stops of tram no. 4 and 6 called Mechwart liget and Széna tér. The latter is only a short distance from Széll Kálmán tér (M2 metro) that is also the terminal of the trams. From Novotel Budapest Danube you may take bus no. 11 to Mechwart liget (2 or 3 stops depending on which direction you leave the hotel) or one stop by M2 from Batthyány tér to Széll Kálmán tér (at both ends you should walk a bit).

See you in Budapest in October!

Laszlo Haszpra