

# Joint EEMGS meeting & International Comet Assay Workshop



**RESCHEDULED**

**May 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> 2022**  
***Maastricht, The Netherlands***

*Including discussion forums, young scientist sessions,  
allocated poster sessions and informal gatherings  
on the riverbanks of the Maas.*

Sponsor prospectus

*Hosted by the Department of Pharmacology & Toxicology of Maastricht University*



**Maastricht University**



**Maastricht UMC+**

## Invitation

The International Comet Assay Workshops (ICAWs) are a series of scientific conferences dealing with practical and theoretical aspects of the Comet Assay, aimed at both experienced and new users of this popular technique. The Workshop has always been rather informal. It began as a satellite to the 2nd International Conference on Environmental Mutagens in 1995. At that time, the Comet Assay community was small, and we mostly knew each other. Even now, following exponential growth in popularity of this assay, the workshop retains the feeling of an extended family, reunited every two years, with a healthy intake of new family members. We try to keep registration costs as low as possible to make it easier for less established researchers to attend.

The first five meetings in this series were called simply 'Comet Assay Workshops'. 'International' was added in 2005. At that time, the Comet Assay community was small, but in the meantime, has grown exponentially as did the popularity of this assay. All are equal, and the newest recruits can readily share ideas with the old-timers.

In 2020 former ICAW organisers, together with hCOMET COST-Action (CA15132) members, created the International Comet Assay Working Group (ICAWG). This group became an affiliated working group of the European Environmental Mutagenesis & Genomics Society (EEMGS) since 2020.

ICAWG exists to unit those scientists working in the field of genetic toxicology, DNA damage and DNA repair with interest in the comet assay (a.k.a. single cell gel electrophoresis). It encompasses research into the mode-of-action of genotoxic agents and associations of genome instability markers with disease outcomes, and applications of this knowledge in the field of regulatory toxicology, biomonitoring studies, (nutritional) interventions as well as clinical studies. A topic of growing interest is the genotoxic effects of nanomaterials on humans and the environment. Studies into the impact of genotoxic agents on genome stability in organisms other than man – a field known as ecogenotoxicology – is also gaining attention.

ICAWG aims to foster multi-disciplinary links between academics, industrial partners and regulatory bodies. Such multi-disciplinary collaborations have helped regulation to keep up with the science and to develop new *in vitro* models and techniques for genotoxicity testing.

Hence, the reason ICAWG organizes the International Comet Assay Workshops every 2 years. The 14<sup>th</sup> ICAW will be hosted by the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, from the University of Maastricht, from May 23<sup>rd</sup> until 26<sup>th</sup> 2022 at the Crown Plaza hotel. We are taking all possible measure to organize this meeting in a COVID-proof way.

We are crossing fingers that COVID situation will improve, so that we can welcome you to Maastricht in 2022.

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## 1 Committee members

### Organising committee

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#### **Sabine Langie**

Dep. of Pharmacology & Toxicology,  
Maastricht University, The Netherlands  
EEMGS vice-president



#### **Roger Godschalk**

Dep. of Pharmacology & Toxicology,  
Maastricht University, The Netherlands



#### **Simone van Breda**

Dep. of Toxicogenomics,  
Maastricht University, The Netherlands

### Scientific committee

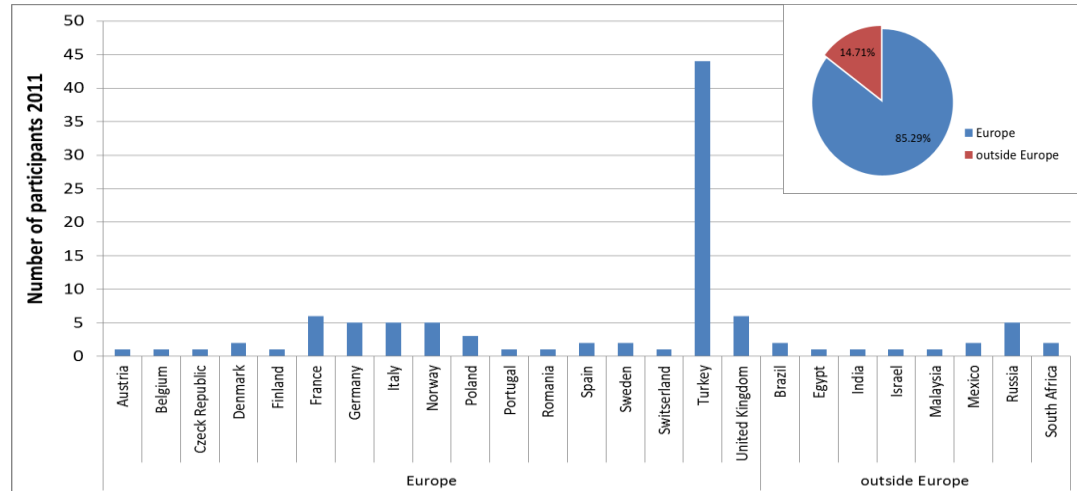
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Amaya Azqueta (Spain)  
Elisa Boutet-Robinet (France)  
Goran Gajski (Croatia)  
Roger Godschalk (The Netherlands)  
Marcin Kruszewski (Poland)  
Sabine Langie (Belgium)  
Matjaz Novak (Slovenia)  
Bertrand Pourrut (France)  
Sona Vodenkova (Czech Republic)  
Marie Vasquez (USA)

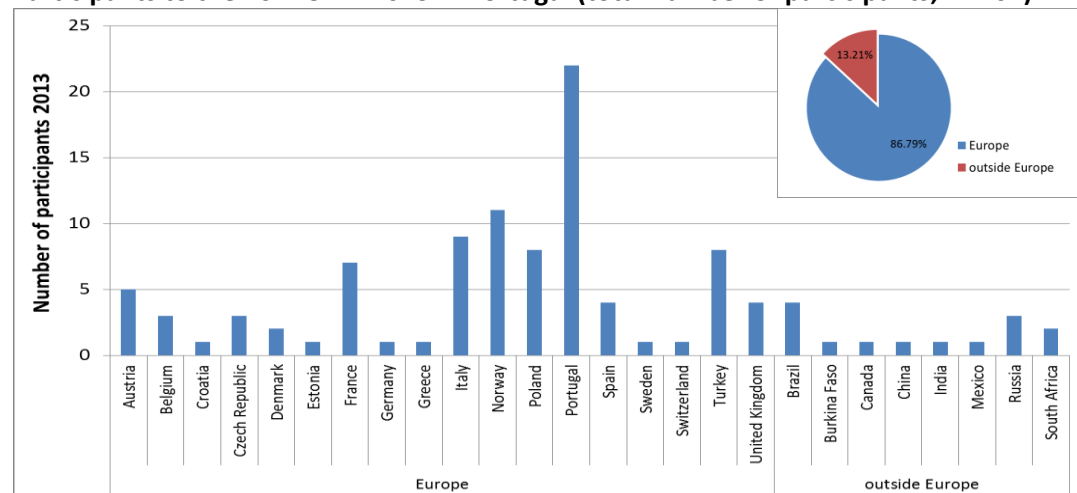
## 2 Key statistics

### Number and origin of participants

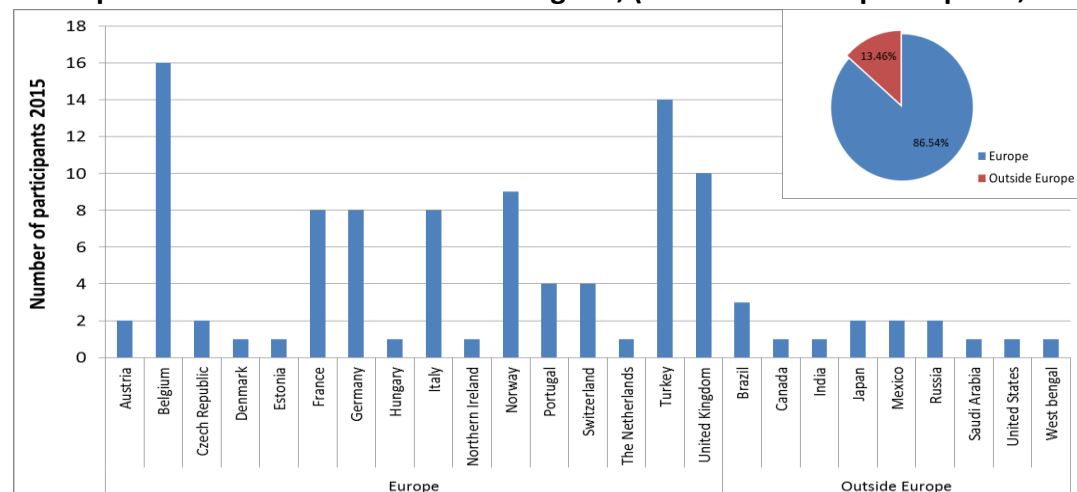
Participants to the 9<sup>th</sup> ICAW 2011 in Turkey (total number of participants; N=140)



Participants to the 10<sup>th</sup> ICAW 2013 in Portugal (total number of participants; N=102)

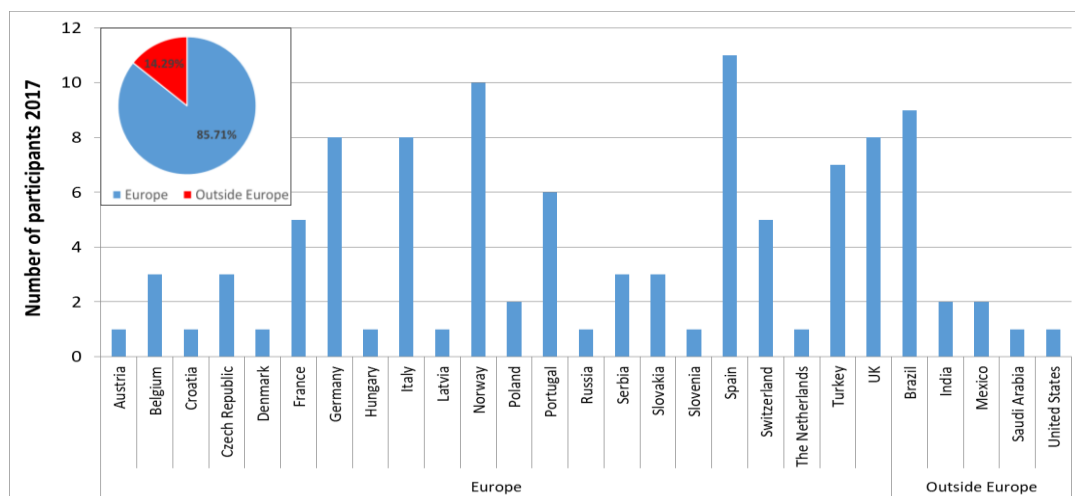


Participants to the 11<sup>th</sup> ICAW 2015 in Belgium, (total number of participants; N=104)

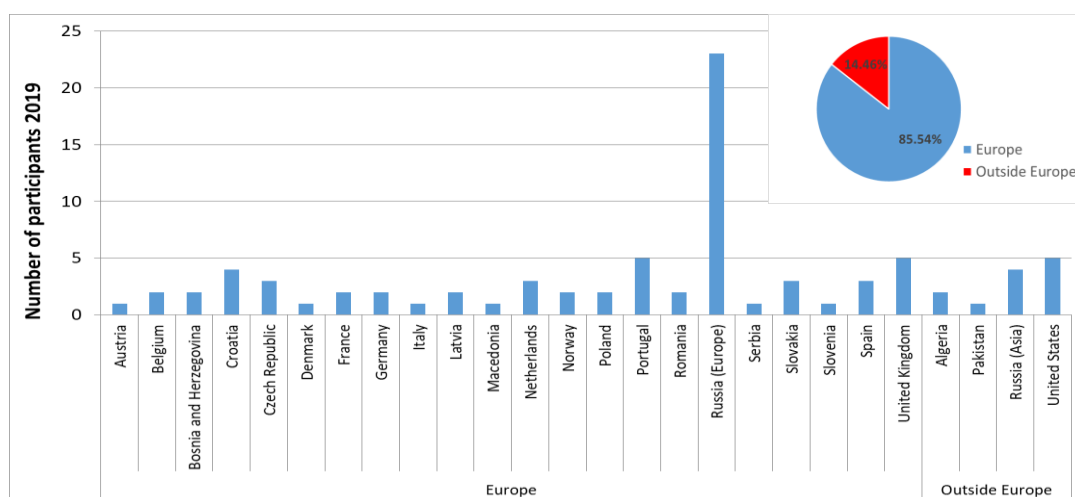




### Participants to the 12<sup>th</sup> ICAW 2017 in Spain (total number of participants; N=105)



### Participants to the 13<sup>th</sup> ICAW 2019 in Russia (total number of participants; N=83)



### Number of scientific presentations

	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019
Oral presentations	26	30	25	38	39
Posters	60	45	46	47	32

### 3 Programme at a glance

#### What can you expect?

- The participation of **internationally renowned speakers**.
- Attendance of over 100 participants, with **industrial partners, policy makers and academics** play a prominent role throughout the entire programme.
- Attendance to a practical **discussion session**, where sponsors get the opportunity to join the scientific discussions.
- Extensive opportunities for **networking**.
- A Dutch inspired social programme.

#### A selection of keynote speakers from previous conferences



**Raymond Tice**

*Chief, Biomolecular Screening  
National Institute of  
Environmental Health Sciences,  
North Carolina, USA*



**Dr. Hajime Kojima**

*Director of The Japanese Center for the  
Validation of Alternative Methods  
(JaCVAM)*



**Prof. Andrew Collins**

*University of Oslo  
Head of hCOMET-COST project  
steering committee*



**Prof. David Kirkland**

*Kirkland Consulting, UK  
EEMGS trustee*



**Kerstin Reisinger**

*Henkel AG & Co KGaA, Germany  
Cosmetics Europe  
Genotoxicity Task Force*



**Giel Hendriks**

*CEO at Toxys  
Leiden, The Netherlands*

## Provisional programme

The 14<sup>th</sup> ICAW will be a joined meeting with the European Environmental Mutagenesis & Genomics Society (EEMGS) and hCOMET COST-Action (CA15132).

There is also the plan to organize a hands-on training session, but this will depend on the evolutions in relation to COVID-19 situation.

Hands-on training course			EEMGS/ICAW 2022				
Time/Day	Saturday 21st May	Sunday 22nd May	Time/Day	Monday 23rd May	Tuesday 24th May	Wednesday 25th May	Thursday 26th May
8:30			8:30		Registration		
9:00			9:00				
9:30	Registration	Training part 4	9:30		EEMGS session	Open discussion session	Session 4
10:00	Welcome & Introduction lectures		10:00				
10:30		coffee break	10:30		coffee break	coffee break	coffee break
11:00	coffee break		11:00	Pre-conference AOP workshop			
11:30		Training part 5	11:30		EEMGS session	Session 3	Session 5
12:00	Training part 1		12:00				
12:30			12:30	Lunch optional			Closing
13:00	Lunch 13h - 14h	Lunch 13h - 14h	13:00	Welcome	Lunch 13h - 14h	Lunch 13h - 14h	
13:30			13:30	Keynote	EEMGS/ICAWG GA		
14:00			14:00	Session 1	Poster session 2		
14:30	Training part 2	Training part 6	14:30				
15:00			15:00	coffee break	coffee break		
15:30			15:30				
16:00	coffee break	coffee break	16:00	EEMGS session	Session 2	Social programme 14h-18:30h	
16:30			16:30				
17:00	Training part 3	Training part 7	17:00				
17:30			17:30	Check-in/refresh			
18:00			18:00	Welcome reception & Poster session 1 18.00h-19.30h			
18:30			18:30				
19:00			19:00		Conference dinner 18:30h-23h		
19:30			19:30				
20:00			20:00				

### ICAW topics:

- Technical developments;
- Food and nutrition;
- Occupational exposure and human biomonitoring;
- Ecotoxicology;
- Genotoxicity and *in vitro* testing;
- Animals studies and *in vivo* comet assay
- Clinical applications;

### EEMGS sessions:

- Frits Sobels award lecture
- Early Career award lecture
- Young scientist presentations
- Annual General Assembly



## 4 Venue and facilities

### Crowne Plaza Maastricht

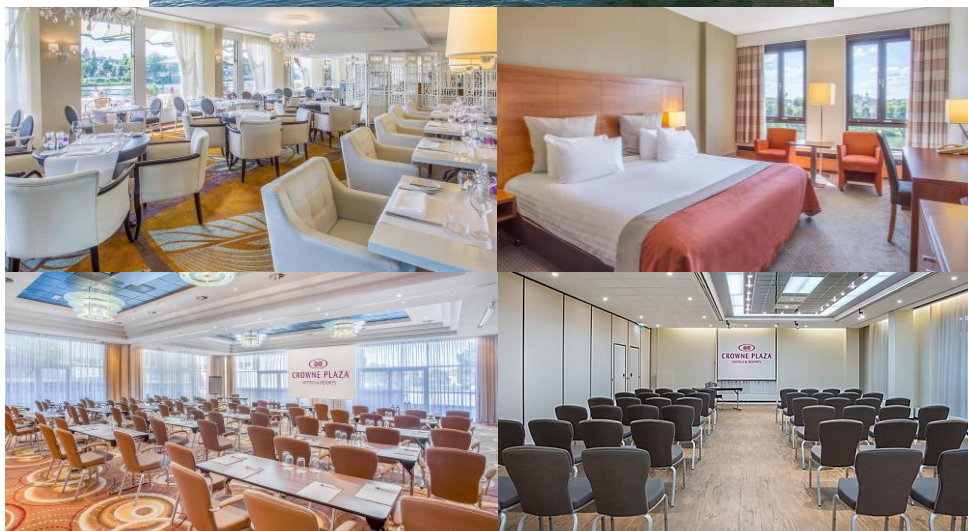
Ruiterij 1  
6221 EW Maastricht  
The Netherlands

Set on the bank of the River Meuse, the luxurious Crowne Plaza® Maastricht hotel puts you within a 10-minute walk of Maastricht's historic city centre. They offer parking for a daily fee, and it's 10 minutes on foot to Maastricht train station and 15 minutes by car to Maastricht Aachen Airport.

With nine flexible meeting rooms, for up to 500-guest receptions, and a riverside terrace, our well-equipped hotel makes the ideal base for the discerning corporate traveller.

High-end boutiques line Hoogbrugstraat and Rechtstraat, just around the corner from the hotel. The historic sights of Maastricht's old town, including picturesque squares lined with cafés, are a short walk away, as is the Bonnefanten Museum, which displays art from medieval times to the present.

Spacious, comfortable rooms and our Sleep Advantage programme's superior bedding ensure a good night's rest. Enjoy scenic river views and regional dishes in our elegant, light-filled de Mangerie restaurant, or savour Japanese cuisine at Kobe. Then relax with a cocktail or local beer at Le Club d'Artagnan bar and lounge.



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### COVID-proof meeting organisation

Although we hope that by 2022 the COVID pandemic has settled down a bit and proper face-to-face meetings can be organised, the Crowne Plaza and the meeting organisers are currently preparing all logistics of the meeting as COVID-proof as possible.

Extra meeting rooms have been made available for us to ensure proper distancing between participants.

Streaming technology will be applied, if needed, to allow presenting in the various rooms over which participants will be divided. Questions and answers will be possible from each meeting room to the main presentation room, just as if the presenter is in front of you.

Coffee breaks, breakfast and lunches will all be served in an adapted setting, to ensure the safety and health of each participant in the meeting.

### 5 Social programme

**Tuesday, May 24, 2022**

**Welcome reception & Poster session – 18:00 - 19:30h**

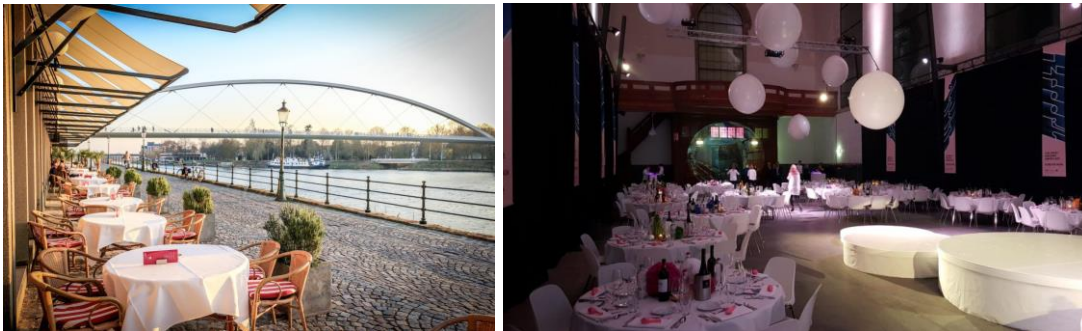
Enjoy some local spirits and snacks, while strolling along the posters.



**Wednesday, May 25, 2022**

**Conference dinner – 18:30 – 23:00h**

We are planning for a swinging conference dinner along the banks of the river Maas, keeping COVID regulations and evolution in mind.



**Thursday, May 26, 2022**

**Exploring Maastricht – 14:00 – 18:30h**

Interactive GPS assisted walk and team activity to explore Maastricht and enjoy some local delicatessen and culture.



## 6 Sponsorship opportunities and return packages

Companies may decide to become one of the main sponsors through renting an exhibition space or sponsoring a conference item. Other sponsorship opportunities by which companies may contribute to the success of ICAW2022 will also be appreciated.

Delegates will include researchers, scientists, industrial partners and policy makers.

Sponsoring of the ICAW2022 event will provide you the following **benefits**:

- Increase your customer contacts, business opportunities and standing in your technological and scientific field;
- Inspiration from comet assay users for the developments of new products or services;
- Instant national and international exposure at this international event;
- Exposure to a wide range of other professionals;
- Contribute to development and production of innovative methods in industry and government;
- Draw attention of decision makers to your company and its possibilities and solutions, regarding sustainability;
- Invite your customers to an inspiring workshop and associated social and scientific program;

**Exhibition opportunities at the 14<sup>th</sup> ICAW are as follows:**

Exhibition package	EURO 2 000
Unmanned stand	EURO 1 000

*See details below.*

**Additional sponsor possibilities, customized to your specific needs:**

Additional individual conference sponsor options provide an attractive option throughout the duration of the conference.

All sponsors will be mentioned in all conference documentation and on ICAW2022 website.

All further details and additional benefits can be discussed by sending an e-mail to [icawmeetings@gmail.com](mailto:icawmeetings@gmail.com) after which we will contact you.



## ***Exhibition opportunities***

### **Exhibition Package**

**EUR 2 000 excl. VAT**

An excellent cost-effective package that ensures your company name is predominantly displayed throughout the entire ICAW2022 event through the following benefits:

- Acknowledgement as a Main Sponsor including the sponsor's logo in the conference guide and on the ICAW2022 website (incl. a link to the sponsor's company website);
- Exhibition space close to the reception, catering room and poster presenting area. Specific exhibition space can be reserved on a first-come first-served basis;
- 1 free conference registration for guests or company staff to ICAW2022, including conference dinner and social programme. Extra delegate passes can be purchased through regular registration, if needed;
- Company leaflet in delegate pack\* or information note on the USB keys that are handed out to all participants instead of an abstract book\*;
- Participation to discussion forums and brainstorming sessions;
- Company logo on audio-visual slides before and after the plenary sessions.

\*We decided on an eco-friendly approach by reducing the paper load. Instead, each participant will be given a delegate package including a conference guide (summarizing the programme but not including abstracts), a note pad plus pen, and sponsor leaflets (if desired). In addition, each delegate will receive a USB key that contains the full programme with abstracts and a name badge containing name tag and pocket programme.

#### Exhibition space:

- Each exhibitor will receive a table and 2 chairs;
- At least 2 electricity outlets are provided per space;
- All of the exhibition spaces are at least 2m in wide;
- Location and wide of the spaces can be negotiated;

### **Unmanned Exhibition Space**

**EUR 1 000 excl. VAT**

In case you are unable to attend, but still want to promote your company during our international meeting, we give you the opportunity to advertise your service/products at an unmanned stand. Benefits include:

- Acknowledgement as a Sponsor including the sponsor's logo in the conference guide and on the ICAW2022 website;
- Exhibition space (table size) is located close to the reception and catering room;
- Company logo on audio-visual slides before and after the plenary sessions.



### ***Additional sponsor possibilities***

Additional sponsor possibilities provide an attractive opportunity to increase your visibility throughout the duration of the conference.

#### **Welcome reception**

**EUR 1 000 excl. VAT**

During the welcome reception delegates will have the opportunity to taste various local Dutch/Limburg specialities and in the meanwhile stroll along the poster presentations, which will allow scientific discussion and networking in an informal atmosphere. This is a good opportunity to have high visibility of your company at a scientific activity at the conference.

Benefits:

- High visibility value: Sponsor will be acknowledged with company logo at the entrance of the welcome reception and poster presentation area;
- Possibility to use sponsor's napkins and other company branded catering material;
- Acknowledgement as a Sponsor including the sponsor's logo in the conference guide and on the ICAW2022 website;
- Unmanned exhibition stand;
- Company logo on audio-visual slides before and after the plenary and parallel organized sessions as well as in the conference guide;
- Company leaflet in delegate pack or information note on the USB keys that are handed out to all participants instead of an abstract book.

#### **Conference bags**

**EUR 500 excl. VAT**

The conference bag is handed out to all delegates and contains all the conference materials. The sponsor will have its logo/name on the conference bag.

Benefits:

- High visibility value: Sponsor logo on the conference bag;
- Acknowledgement as a Sponsor including the sponsor's logo in the conference guide and on the ICAW2022 website;
- Company logo on audio-visual slides before and after the plenary and parallel organized sessions as well as in the conference guide;
- Company leaflet in delegate pack or information note on the USB keys that are handed out to all participants instead of an abstract book.

#### **Lanyards/badge cords**

**EUR 300 excl. VAT**

The badge cord attached to the name badge is a highly visible item worn by every delegate. The sponsor will have its logo/name on the cord and the USB key.

Benefits:

- High visibility value: Sponsor logo on the lanyard;
- Acknowledgement as a Sponsor including the sponsor's logo in the conference guide and on the ICAW2022 website;
- Company logo on audio-visual slides before and after the plenary and parallel organized sessions as well as in the conference guide;

**Conference guide****EUR 300 excl. VAT**

As part of the delegate map each participant will be given a conference guide, which is an A5 sized booklet summarizing the conference programme and containing all necessary information of the meeting. The sponsor will be given the back page of the conference guide for advertisement.

Benefits:

- High visibility value: Sponsor advertisement on conference guide;
- Inclusion in the list of Sponsors on the ICAW2022 website and in the conference guide;
- Company logo on audio-visual slides before and after the plenary and parallel organized sessions as well as in the conference guide;

**Badge holders****EUR 200 excl. VAT**

Provided to each delegate at registration, the badge holder, which has to be worn throughout the duration of the meeting, contains delegate's name tag and the pocket programme. The sponsor will have its name and logo on the back of the badge holder.

Benefits:

- High visibility value;
- Inclusion in the list of Sponsors on the ICAW2022 website and in the conference guide;
- Company logo on audio-visual slides before and after the plenary and parallel organized sessions as well as in the conference guide;

**Pocket programme****EUR 200 excl. VAT**

The pocket programme is a useful "quick and easy" reference guide for all conference delegates. Contained within the name badge holder, provided to each delegate at registration, the pocket programme contains information about times and session for the numerous topics. The sponsor will be given the outside back page of the pocket programme for advertisement.

Benefits:

- High visibility value: Sponsor advertisement on pocket programme;
- Inclusion in the list of Sponsors on the ICAW2022 website and in the conference guide;
- Company logo on audio-visual slides before and after the plenary and parallel organized sessions as well as in the conference guide;

**Other contributions**

Companies who like to donate a smaller amount to support the ICAW2022 event, will be acknowledged via:

- Inclusion in the list of Sponsors on the ICAW2022 website and in the conference guide;
- Company logo on audio-visual slides before and after the plenary and parallel organized sessions as well as in the conference guide.

## 7 General information for sponsors

### Contact

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor of the ICAW2022 event, please contact the Conference the following members of the coordination team:

Roger Godschalk  
Sabine Langie  
[icawmeetings@gmail.com](mailto:icawmeetings@gmail.com);

A sponsorship contract will be concluded with the sponsorship prospectus by the Conference co-ordination team on behalf of the Organizing Committee. All sponsors will be treated equally on a 'first come, first served' basis.

The contract must be countersigned and returned within two weeks from the day of proposal in order to be valid for the ICAW2022 event.

Sponsors are not allowed to stage their own events parallel to the conference events without consulting the Conference Secretariat.

### Terms of payment

In case the Sponsor cannot pay the full amount in one go, the following terms of payment apply:

- 30 % of the contracted amount at contract signing;
- 70 % of the contracted amount before April 30<sup>th</sup> 2022.

### Refund and cancellation for sponsorship contracts

The items are refundable minus a 10% charge when the cancellation is made within one month of the order and before the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2022.

For items cancelled after the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2022 and before 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2022, 50% of the total amount value of the order will be refunded.

For items cancelled after the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2022, there will be no refund granted.

If the items have been sourced from external suppliers and a contract signed, the costs incurred plus the corresponding charge (based on the above dates) will be charged to the sponsor. All prices are indicated in EUR and exclude VAT.

All cancellations must be made in writing to the Congress coordination team.

### Cancellation due to COVID-19

In case the meeting will have to be cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions or force majeure, the Sponsor will be given the choice to transfer their contribution to next year's meeting or to request a refund. The items are then refundable minus a 10% charge.