

MEETING 2026 - AN INVITATION TO BID

The ESH Council welcomes bids from scientists, research groups or European National Societies of Hypertension to host their Annual Scientific Meeting in 2026

1. History of the ESH

The European Society of Hypertension (ESH) was founded in 1989.

The main purpose was to provide a stable and organised European platform for scientific exchange in hypertension. An important background factor was the bi-annual meetings of the International Society of Hypertension (ISH), which created a "meeting vacuum" every other year.

Professor Alberto Zanchetti, who was the first to realize the continued need for a large annual hypertension meeting, decided to fill this void. Professor Zanchetti and colleagues initiated a series of European Hypertension Meetings in Milan in the years when the ISH did not hold its scientific meetings. Initially these were organised without the help and support of a scientific society. The need for a European Society of Hypertension (ESH) was demonstrated by the success of the Milan Meetings, among other factors. Thus, the 4th European Hypertension Meeting in Milan was the first to be organised under the auspices of the ESH.

The annual scientific meetings continue to grow, with increasing numbers of attendees and abstract submissions. Thus, beginning in the year 2000, the ESH decided to hold annual meetings rather than bi-annual. The annual meeting is held in Milan every second year (in odd-numbered years) and in other European cities in alternate (even-numbered) years. However, if an ISH meeting is to be held in Europe, it is likely that the ISH and the ESH meetings will be arranged jointly for that year.

In recent years the activities of the ESH have expanded from the organisation of the main scientific meeting. One noteworthy event is the ESH Hypertension Summer School. This is an annual activity to which young investigators from various European countries are invited for a week of intensive training in the field of hypertension.

Other examples of the expanding activities of the ESH are the creation of Working Groups for scientists with special areas of interest, e.g., ambulatory blood pressure monitoring; a forum for young investigators; and a joint meeting for the presidents of the various national hypertension societies in Europe.

2. **Recent Past Meetings ESH**

- 20th Meeting Oslo, Norway , June 18-20, 2010
- 21st Meeting Milan, Italy, June 17-21, 2011
- 22nd Meeting London, UK, April 26-30, 2012
- 23rd Meeting Milan, Italy, June 14-18, 2013
- 24th Meeting Athens (Joint ESH ISH), Greece, June 13-16, 2014
- 25th Meeting Milan, Italy, June 12-15, 2015
- 26th Meeting Paris, France, June 10-13, 2016
- 27th Meeting Milan, Italy, June 16-19, 2017
- 28th Meeting Barcelona, Spain, June 8-11, 2018
- 29th Meeting Milan, Italy, June 21-24, 2019
- 30th Meeting Glasgow (Joint ESH ISH), Scotland UK, April 11-14, 2021 (virtual)
- 31st Meeting Athens, Greece, June 17-20, 2022 (hybrid)

3. **Future Meetings**

- 32nd Meeting Milan, Italy, June 23-26, 2023
- 33rd Meeting Berlin, Germany, May 30-June 3, 2024
- 34th Meeting Milan, Italy, Dates TBD

4. **Delegates**

It is expected that between 2,000-2,500 delegates will participate (including speakers, but excluding exhibitors, press, organisers). Delegates are predominantly from European countries, although attendees are also expected from the USA and Asian-Pacific countries. The target audience is clinicians and research scientists working in the field of hypertension and related cardiovascular diseases. A large proportion of delegates will be sponsored to attend by pharmaceutical companies.

5. **Provisional Space Requirements**

- 1 Main Auditorium for Plenary Sessions, seating 1,000 – 1,200
- 6 Lecture rooms seating 350 - 550
- 15 meeting rooms (capacity 20-100) for speaker briefing, hospitality suites, VIP Lounge
- 2000 m² net for exhibition space (approximately 25 exhibitors, the stands being from 6-150 square metres in size), E-posters (approx. 1,000 posters displayed in total over 3 days), registration desks.
- NB: lunches will be offered over the 3 days as box lunches, to be distributed outside the major meeting room where session at lunchtime will be taking place (1,500 participants each day).

6. **Provisional Programme Format**

- State of the art lectures, debates and round table discussions (to be given during the plenary sessions and also during some parallel sessions)
- 250- 300 oral free communication presentations (given in 3-4 parallel sessions over 3 days)
- Teaching Sessions
- ESH Awards ceremony
- Working Group Workshops (held within the main programme)
- Breakfast Workshops (3 – 4 parallel workshops held on 3 mornings)
- Satellite Symposia and other sponsored sessions (minisymposia, educational sessions) held on Saturday and Sunday

- Space for ESH business meetings, 25-100 people
- Miscellaneous rooms for office space
- There are also a number of Investigator-led Satellites held off-site before and after the main meeting.
- Specify in case a hybrid format is required

7. **Dates**

The 2026 meeting will be held over a period of four days, usually Friday to Monday and in June with the following schedule:

Wednesday	Set up and group registration
Thursday	Set up and group registration
Friday	Pre-opening sessions Official Opening Ceremony at 17:00 Exhibition
Saturday	Full day, exhibition
Sunday	Full day, Exhibition
Monday	Half-day, exhibition Dismantling
Tuesday	Half-day, dismantling

8. **Scientific Secretariat Services**

The PCO should, in accordance with ESH, undertake the administrative work connected with the practical scientific planning, including full support to the Scientific Programme Committee Coordinator, speaker management and abstract handling.

The PCO will interface with the ESH Scientific Programme Committee and will coordinate services related to abstract submission, abstract review, session proposal collection and overall programme management.

Concerning abstract handling, approximately 1,200 abstract submissions are anticipated, 250-300 of which are accepted as oral presentations and 900 as poster presentations. Abstracts are submitted on-line and are reviewed on-line by approximately 170 referees.

9. **Local Organiser Requirements**

- Previous ESH meetings have attracted more than 2,500 delegates and local organisers should be prepared to host a meeting of at least this size.
- Local organisers should be prepared to meet with the terms set by the Society.
- The local organising Committee, in association with the ESH Council, is responsible for the programming of the 2026 meeting, consonant with programming of prior ESH meetings.
- All printed programmes, advertising and material produced for the ESH Meeting must clearly indicate that the ESH are co-organisers of this event. This will be done by displaying the logo of the Society in an appropriate way on all meeting documents.
- Members of the ESH Council will not be expected to pay a registration fee to attend the meeting and are to receive complimentary tickets to all ticketed events of the 2026 meeting.
- Adequate stand space in the commercial exhibit area is to be provided by the local organizer free of charge to the ESH.

- There are approximately 150-200 invited speakers. The attendance of a restricted number of speakers will be arranged and covered by the local organizer/congress (low cost or restricted economy airfares and single accommodation for 2 max 3 nights).

10. **Sponsorship Services**

This service includes the identification and marketing of sponsorship opportunities, development of guidelines, preparation of sponsorship prospectus, sales of sponsorship opportunities to potential sponsors, invoicing, support on-site.

It is understood that the fund-raising activities must be under the responsibility and carried on by the LOC and PCO.

11. **Registration**

The PCO should register all delegates for the annual ESH congress.

Fees are divided by ESH Member, Non-Member, Young Investigators.

Registration consists of all necessary administrative tasks and follow up required for the proper functioning of the congress registration. The services to be provided are:

- Preparation (set up and running of the online system, production of individual documents, etc.)
- Communication with delegates & monitoring
- On-site support
- Follow-up

12. **Accommodation requirements**

Approximately 1,500 hotel rooms are required during the meeting.

The appointed PCO will be the designated official housing agent for individual participants and groups.

The PCO is required to negotiate with hotels on prices, reservation and cancellation terms, block booking of hotel accommodation in different price categories.

Included services:

- Preparations
- Communication with delegates and monitoring
- Reservation and payments
- On-site supervision of guest arrivals and support to hotels
- Follow-up

13. **Social Events**

1. There will be an opening ceremony and welcome reception on the first evening, attended by all delegates and speakers.
2. There will be a Presidential Dinner for invited guests (150 guests).

14. **Financial Liability**

The meeting profit will be shared equally between the ESH and the local organizer.

Financial liability for the whole event lies with the local organizer (and appointed PCO).

15. Site selection is based upon the following criteria:

- The bid comes from an affiliated National Hypertension Society of ESH
- Quality and quantity of available convention centre space.
- International air accessibility and cost.
- Quality, quantity and type of hotel rooms available within close proximity of the convention centre.
- Incentive appeal of city for international attendees.
- Degree of enthusiasm of support by the National Hypertension Society hosting the meeting.
- Support of the National Hypertension Societies in the immediate region of the proposed host country.
- Support from local hypertension experts in the host city.
- Financial support from the Municipality, Convention Bureau, Local Health Institutions.
- Grants and/or support from any philanthropic or public institutions in the host country that can be provided either to the conference as such or for supportive aspects such as travel grants for participants from low-income countries.
- Quality and experience of PCOs (Professional Conference Organisers) with long-term experience in the cardiovascular field and management of congresses of similar size in the host city to assist in the organisation and implementation of the conference.
- Experience of host organisation with similar types of professional meetings.
- Innovation and particular credit will be awarded to bids which have new features designed for their programme.

16. Timing of Announcement of Winning Bid

The ESH Council will vote on the 2026 destination during the next ESH Annual Meeting in Milan (June 23-26, 2023).

Applicants may present further printed material at this meeting and also make a short (10 minute) presentation of their respective bid.

17. Submission of Proposal

Prospective applicants should prepare a comprehensive proposal to be submitted to Mandy Elgner (ESH Coordinator) by email by no later than **17:00 hrs CET on Sunday, April 30, 2023.** (Contact details shown below).

Proposals should be as complete as possible, addressing all items as outlined in this document, and accompanied by at least one set of floor plans of the proposed convention centre.

Proposals should be sent by email to:

Mandy Elgner

ESH Coordinator

eshcoordinator@eshonline.org

Abbreviations:

PCO – Professional Conference Organisers

LOC – Local Organising Committee