

IGC 2012 Cologne

Open Call for Session Proposals

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1. Summary of organisational procedures

1.1 Introduction

According to the new concept, the International Geographical Congress 2012 in Cologne will feature two major parts, which also require different, but coordinated, procedures and deadlines:

(1) Firstly, sessions organised by the **IGU Commissions and Task Forces** – in continuation of the traditional IGC concept. For this first part, the traditional quadrennial meeting of the IGU Commissions and Task Forces, the chairs are cordially invited to inform the Local Organising Committee of their planned sessions and meetings by 1 April 2011. Thereafter the chairs bear the responsibility for the call for papers for their sessions and for inviting and selecting the appropriate number of speakers or panellists.

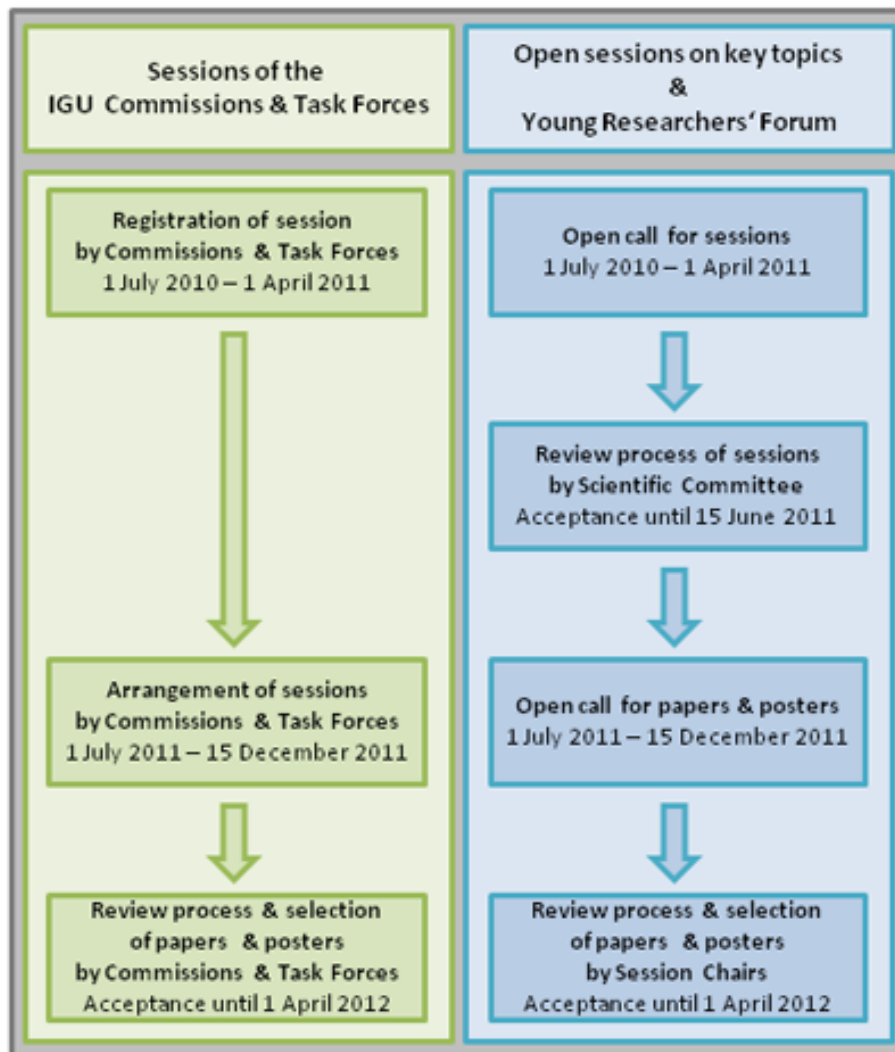
(2) Secondly, - as a new element in an IGC - sessions submitted under the **open call for sessions** and related to the four **key topics** of the IGC: Global Change and Globalisation, Society and Environment, Risks and Conflicts, Urbanisation and Demographic Change.

Here, a two-step application process has been introduced, reflecting the intention of guaranteeing a selection of sessions at the current cutting edge of research.

The **first step** is an **open Call for Sessions**, published on 1 July 2010. All interested geographers are invited to submit proposals for themed sessions under the four key topics before the closing deadline on 1 April 2011. All sessions proposed under the open Call for Sessions will be reviewed by an international Scientific Committee. The results of the selection process will be announced by 15 June 2011. On the basis of the Scientific Committee's selection a preliminary programme will be produced.

Then, in a **second step**, a **Call for Papers and Posters** will be published on 1 July 2011. Papers may then be handed-in for specific sessions via the online paper submission system before the closing deadline on 15 December 2011. The selection of papers for each session via the online review system will be the responsibility of the session chairs. Participants will be informed in due time to avail of early registration for the reduced IGC conference fee. Moreover, a Young Researchers' Forum will be organised.

IGC 2012 application process



2. Open Call for Session Proposals

2.1 New concept: four key topics

Parallel to the traditional framework of sessions and meetings organised by the IGU Commissions and Task Forces, the IGC 2012 in Cologne will, for the first time, release a new open call for sessions. The sessions within this new section of the congress will be organised around four key topics: Global Change and Globalisation, Society and Environment, Risks and Conflicts, Urbanisation and Demographic Change. These themes, further refined by six subtopics each, have been chosen for their interdisciplinary appeal and their integrative potential and have been defined by a consortium of geographers from a variety of different fields of physical and human geography.

Global Change and Globalisation

- Hot spots and tipping points of environmental change and/or globalisation
- Governance of global crises
- Human health and the environment
- Resource scarcity under global change
- Global complexities: paradox developments, asynchronies, excesses
- New concepts and techniques

Society and Environment

- Global changes: perspectives of the “South”
- Natural resource management: preservation, efficiency, substitution
- Contextualising climate change: methodological, institutional and regional responses
- Greening of societies: pathways and paradigms for industrial change
- Representation of nature(s): perception, construction and relevance
- Environmental planning: policies, instruments and trade-offs

Risks and Conflicts

- Danger, risk and uncertainty – Theories, concepts and methods
- The integrative potential of risk studies in geography
- Risk governance, risk communication, risk management: forward-looking approaches to environmental and societal risks
- The construction of conflicts
- Human-environment dimensions of spatial conflicts
- Geographical contributions to conflict resolution

Urbanisation and Demographic Change

- New forms of the urban
- Urban dynamics and environmental challenges
- Urban governance and governability
- Inclusion and exclusion: from polarisation to fragmentation
- The demographic divide: growth and shrinkage
- Migration geographies: between global and local

A more detailed description of each key topic and their subtopics can be found on the IGC website (www.igc2012.org).

Under the concept „Down to Earth“ the IGC 2012 in Cologne also aims to widen participation. Young geographers are thus explicitly invited to submit session proposals. Their session proposals will be considered preferentially for acceptance by the Scientific Committee.

Further information concerning the separate “Young Researchers’ Forum” are available under www.igc2012.org.

The IGC 2012 will be complemented by a framework programme of fieldtrips and social events and by two symposia (conducted in German) on “Geography in Schools” and “Applied Geography”. Further details regarding the application processes for these events will be made available on the IGC website in due time.

2.2 Step-by-step guidelines for the open call for sessions

Step 1: Call for Session Proposals

The present “Call for Sessions” is the first step of a 2-step-process.

Firstly, everyone is invited to suggest sessions under the open “Call for Session Proposals” published on 1 July 2010 and ending on 1 April 2011.

Session proposals have to be submitted via the website of the IGC 2012 in either of the two official languages of the IGU: English and French. The proposal should include the title of your session (max. 250 characters), the names and affiliations of the intended chair and co-chair, and a short abstract (max. 2.000 characters) explaining the topic and its connection to one of the four key topics of the conference.

All submitted session proposals will then be reviewed by an international Scientific Committee, formed of 26 distinguished geographers, who will judge the proposals on the basis of their originality, international orientation, quality of research, and congruency with the four key topics of the IGC 2012. You will be informed of the outcome, i.e. whether your session will be included in the conference programme, by 15 June 2011.

Step 2: Call for Papers and Posters

The second step will then consist of a “Call for Papers”. On 1 July 2011, a preliminary programme will be published, listing all accepted sessions, combined with an invitation to submit papers for these sessions via the convenient online submission system.

The chair of each session will then be responsible for promoting their session, for inviting speakers and selecting the appropriate number of papers or panellist for their session via the online paper selection system provided by the IGC.

Please note that the Local Organising Committee of the IGC only provides the electronic facilities (i.e. an online review system) that all session organisers will be expected to use.

The selection of papers for each session, however, will remain the sole responsibility of the session chairs.

A “Call for Posters” will be published separately on 1 July 2011. ***The deadline for the submission of papers and posters will be 15 December 2011.***

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Organising Committee at info@igc2012.org.

2.3 The application process for the open call for sessions

