

# FINAL EUROMINSCI CONFERENCE

Valvuf Obernai, France, 24-26 November 2008

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## PRACTICAL INFORMATION GUIDE



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# PRACTICAL INFORMATION GUIDE

The conference will be held at the **Valvuf “Les Géraniums”**, which is located on the outskirts of the town of Obernai, about 30 km from Strasbourg. Strasbourg-Entzheim International Airport is about 20 km away.

The conference will begin at **08.30** hours on **Monday 24 November** and end with dinner on **Wednesday 26 November**. Participants are expected to arrive in the afternoon/early evening of Sunday 23 November and depart after breakfast on Thursday 27 November 2008.



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## 1. Access to the Site

- **Organised Group Transportation**

On **Sunday 23 November**, group transportation (two buses) will be arranged from **Strasbourg railway station** – via **Strasbourg-Entzheim airport** – to the venue. The trip between the station and the airport takes about 30-40 minutes.

<b>Bus departure times</b>
<b>Sunday 23 November</b>
Strasbourg railway station
<b>17.00 – 18.30</b>
•
Strasbourg-Entzheim airport
<b>17.30 – 19.00</b>

### Where to find the coaches?

- at **Strasbourg railway station**: the coaches will park along the pavement in **Boulevard de Metz**, which is to the **right** of the station as you come out of the **arrivals** hall.
- at **Strasbourg-Entzheim airport**: please wait outside the main airport entrance.

The coaches will have a sign in the window indicating “**Final EuroMinSci Conference**” for easy recognition.

Bus transportation back to the station and to the airport will also be arranged for **Thursday 27 November 2008** departing **after breakfast**. Departure times will be finalised at a later stage in order to suit the majority.

You are strongly urged to take advantage of this organized transportation.

### • By Air



**Strasbourg** is the nearest airport to Obernai. However, it is also possible to fly to **Frankfurt** or **Basel** and then take the train to reach Strasbourg.

#### Strasbourg-Entzheim airport:

**Strasbourg-Entzheim airport** is located 12 km south-west of Strasbourg. There are direct flights on weekdays between Strasbourg and Athens, Brussels, Copenhagen, London Gatwick, Madrid, Paris (Orly & CDG) and Vienna.

You can easily reach Strasbourg city center and/or railway station by using the **airport-city bus**, which runs every 20 minutes between 05.00 and 22.30 daily, and which connects with the A line of the Strasbourg tramway service. Bus stop is in front of the arrival hall of the airport. Approximate fare: one-way EUR 5.00; return EUR 9.30. The ticket covers airport-bus and tram and can be bought at the Travelex agency in the arrival hall of the airport. The shuttle to tram stops “Baggersee”, where there is a connection to tram line A to downtown and to the railway station (“Gare Centrale”). The journey between “Baggersee” and the airport takes about 12 minutes.



- Strasbourg-Entzheim airport <http://www.strasbourg.aeroport.fr/>
- Air France airlines <http://www.airfrance.com/>

A **taxi** between Strasbourg and Obernai costs about EUR 46. There are taxi ranks outside the airport. Otherwise call Taxi 13 at 0388 36 13 13.

### From Frankfurt airport to Strasbourg:

- **by train:** Strasbourg can be reached from Frankfurt on the Frankfurt-Darmstadt-Mannheim-Heidelberg line. There is a train service every hour at 54 minutes past the hour between Frankfurt Flughafen and Frankfurt Hauptbahnhof. From Frankfurt Hauptbahnhof there are a few direct trains through to Strasbourg. Otherwise it is necessary to travel to Offenburg or Karlsruhe and to change for Strasbourg. Some services require a change in both Mannheim and Offenburg. There are departures roughly every 1-1½ hours from Frankfurt. The journey to Strasbourg takes about 2 hours and 40 minutes.

- **by bus:** another convenient mean of transfer is the **Lufthansa airport bus**, which operates a daily service between the two cities. Frankfurt airport departure point is in Terminal 1, Arrival area, Exit B4. The journey takes 2 hours and 45 minutes and costs EUR 55 single (EUR 84 return). Arrival in Strasbourg is first at the Hotel Hilton, then at the Council of Europe and at the railway station (in front of Grand Hotel Concorde). You can obtain a ticket from a Lufthansa travel agent or straight from the bus driver. More information is available from the web (see address below).

- Lufthansa airport bus [http://www.lufthansa-airportbus.com/strecken\\_strasbourg.html](http://www.lufthansa-airportbus.com/strecken_strasbourg.html)
- Frankfurt/Main airport <http://www.frankfurt-airport.de/>
- German railways (Deutsche Bahn) <http://www.bahn.de>

### Basel/Mulhouse airport:

**Basel/Mulhouse EuroAirport** is located 10 km from Basel and 25 km from Mulhouse.

An airport bus runs frequently throughout the day to **Basel** railway station. Journey time is about 15 minutes. There are also buses which run daily every 30-60 minutes from the airport to **Mulhouse** railway station. Journey time is approximately 30 minutes.

There are trains to Strasbourg from Basel, some with a change in Mulhouse, about every 1-2 hours. The journey takes an hour and 15 minutes.

- Basel/Mulhouse airport <http://www.euroairport.com/>
- Swiss Federal railways (SBB) <http://www.sbb.ch/>

### • By Rail

There is a local rail service from Strasbourg Central Station to Obernai with some convenient afternoon departures. The journey takes 30 minutes and costs about EUR 5.00.

➔ This service is however reduced on Sundays!

Take a taxi to the Valvuf upon arrival in Obernai. Taxis might not show up immediately but you can call one of these numbers to get hold of one: Alain Taxi 03 88 48 73 64 • Eschbach Taxi 03 88 95 52 65 • Taxi du Piémont 03 88 95 58 24 • Griesbaum Taxi 03 88 95 03 84.

- French railways (SNCF) <http://www.sncf.com/>

### • By Public Transport

A bus service (Compagnie des Transports Strasbourgeois - CTS) runs from the station square in Strasbourg to the centre of Obernai and in the other direction from Obernai railway station. The journey takes about an hour and costs about EUR 3.60.

- CTS <http://www.cts-strasbourg.fr>



- **By Road** 

Obernai is reached on the **motorway A 35** from Strasbourg to Saint-Dié. At the junction with the A 352 continue on the N 422. Go through Obernai, and follow the signs to the Eurovillage. Turn right at the junction just outside Obernai (The junction resembles a roundabout) and follow the road to the car park of the centre.

- A useful site to prepare your itinerary <http://www.mappy.fr/>

## 2. Arrival & Registration at the Site

- **On-site Registration**

Upon arrival participants should check in at the Valvuf reception and collect their room keys, and then register with the ESF EUROCORES Administrator, and collect their name badges. The conference registration desk, where supplementary information will be provided, will be located next to the reception.

If you will arrive late on the arrival day (Sunday 23 November), please inform us in advance. The Valvuf will be informed accordingly.

## 3. Accommodation

- **General**

All participants will be accommodated at the **Valvuf Obernai**. Rooms have been booked for the nights of **23-26 November inclusive** (4 nights), with departure after breakfast on **Thursday 27 November**. Accommodation will be single and twin occupancy of apartments located in 3 buildings. All apartments have a bath or shower, and a telephone.

- **Room Requirements**

Participants are expected to confirm their room requirements via the **online registration form**. Project members will be accommodated in twin rooms.

- **Extra Nights**

If you require **extra** accommodation in addition to the nights included in the conference booking, you will need to contact the VVF directly and make your own arrangements (inform them that you will be attending this conference). Extra nights will be at your own expense and should be paid for to the VVF directly. The price per night, bed & breakfast, is **EUR 20** in a twin/double room and **EUR 46** in a single. The price of an extra meal is approximately **EUR 23.50**.

- **Accompanying Guests & Children**

Participants with accompanying guests are informed that this will be at their own expense, for both travel and accommodation.

Accompanying guests are **not** entitled to take part in any of the actual conference activities, i.e. attend talks or short presentations within the conference room. Conference facilities and equipment, such as access to the internet, are destined for the sole use of conferees. If guests wish to make use of certain facilities, they should arrange this privately with the conference venue, at their own cost. Please note that we do not organise a social programme for accompanying guests, who are kindly expected to make their own arrangements during the conference.

- **Extra Expenses**

Participants must pay directly to the conference venue – before departure – for any **additional** night over the nights covered by the conference booking. Any other expenses not included in the conference fee (i.e. drinks – other than those provided at meals – phone calls, tours etc.) are also at participants' own expense. If any such costs are charged on the ESF invoice, the concerned participant will receive a post-conference invoice from our Office for their payment.

## 4. Conference Facilities

- **Meeting Room & Equipment**

The conference will take place in the main meeting room of the centre, in the main building. The meeting is fully equipped with overhead and slide projectors. A **data projector** and a PC will as well be at participants' disposal for presentations.

- **Poster sessions**

Posters will be exhibited on double-sided white PVC panels. Fixing will be with self-adhesive tape, blu-tack or similar. The size of the panels is 150 cm high x 100 cm wide. Use letters and drawings that can be read from approximately 100 cm distance.

## 5. Hotel Services

- **Meals**

Breakfast will be served buffet style from 07.30 onwards. Times for lunch and dinner are as shown in the conference programme. All meals are waiter-served. Wine, mineral water and coffee are provided with meals. Additional beverages are at the participants' own expense. Non-resident conferees are expected to have all their meals with resident conferees (for both lunch and dinner).

- **Coffee Breaks**

Coffee breaks will take place near the meeting-room.

- **Phone Calls**

All apartments have phones from which international calls can be made (ask the reception desk to open the line). To make an international call, dial "00" followed by the code of the country you are calling. All phone calls should be paid for at the hotel reception before departure.

- **Photocopies & Faxes**

Small scale photocopying can be made at the reception (EUR 0.15 per page). There are no facilities for bulk photocopying. Faxes can be sent and paid for via the reception.

- **Internet Access**

E-mail connection is provided by the EUROCORES Office at the site (2 computers available in the hotel hall). Please note that for participants who have their own laptop, there is wireless access in the main building at the conference site.

- **Bank Facilities**

The nearest bank is in Obernai: Société Générale, 37 rue du Général Gouraud. Opening hours are: 08.00-12.00 and 14.00-18.00. There are several others in town, as well as numerous cash dispensers.

- **Means of Payment to the Conference Site**

All major credit cards are accepted as well as travellers cheques and Eurocheques.

## 6. Leisure Activities & Tourism

- **At the Valvuf**

There are tennis courts (Obernai Tennis Club) near the venue (about EUR 8 per hour, rackets and balls provided). Mountain bikes can be hired in town (EUR 11 per day) and there is an indoor swimming pool nearby. For further information, please enquire at the Valvuf reception.

- **In the Surrounding Area**

The picturesque town of Obernai, renowned for its many examples of Medieval Alsatian Architecture, is located on the "Route du Vin". The town centre ("Place du Marché") is a ten minute walk from VVF. Also worth a visit in the region are: the monastery of Mont Sainte-Odile, the castle at Haut-Koenigsbourg, the villages along the road through the vineyards (Barr, Ribeauvillé, Riquewihr....), Strasbourg, Colmar.

Places of particular interest in Strasbourg include: the Cathedral, the old quarter ("La Petite France"), the covered bridges ("Les Ponts Couverts") nearby, the "Rohan" Palace, the "Kammerzell" house in the Cathedral Square (the oldest house in the city), and the Council of Europe and European Parliament buildings.

Obernai has a great many shops where souvenirs, crafts, specialty foods and wines can be bought. Major shopping can be done in Strasbourg.

- Strasbourg tourist board <http://www.strasbourg.com/>
- An introduction to Obernai <http://www.obernai.fr>

- **Shopping hours**

Most shops are open from 09.30 - 19.00 from Monday to Friday and from 09.30 - 16.00 on Saturdays. Smaller neighbourhood shops may have different opening hours. All shops are closed on Sundays, with the exception of newsstands and some souvenir shops.

- **Social Programme**

A **welcome drink** will take place on Sunday 23 November and a special **Conference Dinner and apéritif** will be served on the evening of Wednesday 26 November.

## 7. Some Useful Information

- **Passport & Visa Requirements**

Please check your passport and visa requirements with your travel agent **before** departure. If you will need a visa, please inform the contact person for this meeting and include full details and requirements (address and fax numbers) of the embassy nearest to you.

- **Insurance**

The programme of the EUROCORES and the European Science Foundation do NOT provide insurance and do not take any responsibility for accidents or illnesses that might occur during the week or in the course of travel to or from the meeting place. It is therefore the responsibility of participants to check their health insurance requirements.

- **Calling France / Making Calls within France**

The international dialling code is 33. French area codes are as follows:

- for Paris City and Greater Paris dial 33 + 1 + 8 digits.
- for the North West dial 33 + 2
- for the North East dial 33 + 3
- for the South East dial 33 + 4
- for the South West dial 33 + 5.



When dialling within France, a "0" should be inserted before the area code (for example +33 388 767 100 when telephoning from abroad, but 0388 767 100 when calling from within France).

Some public phones are coin-operated but most are card-operated. Phonecards can be bought from the post-office or newsagents.

- **Facts for the Traveller**

Electricity supply	220v 50Hz AC
Time GMT/UTC	plus one hour
Weights & measures	metric
Currency	Euro (EUR)

