Local Information for Participants

1. VENUE

The Technical Workshop on the IODE OceanDataPortal (ODP) and/or the Inter-sessional working group for updating the IOC Strategic Plan for Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (2012-2015) (IWG) will be held from 27-29 February 2012 and/or 01-02 March 2012 at the:

UNESCO/IOC Project Office for IODE
Wandelaarkaai 7/61
B-8400 Oostende, Belgium
Tel.: +32-(0)59-34 21 34
Fax: +32-(0)59-34 01 52
Email: info@iode.org
url: http://www.iode.org/

Contact Persons:
Ms. Kristin de Lichtervelde E-mail: info@iode.org
Tel: +32-(0)59-34 21 34

2. ARRIVAL IN BELGIUM

Please check your air ticket carefully and verify where your travel to Belgium terminates:

BRU - (BRUSSELS AIRPORT- ZAVENTEM - www.brusselsairport.be).

For those arriving at Brussels Airport (BRU in the air ticket) to reach Oostende you will have to take the train as follows:

Arrival is on the second floor of the airport (LEVEL 2). The train terminal is on LEVEL -1. Please take the lift or elevator to level -1 for the train. Buy a ticket to Oostende (the price of this ticket is at this moment 19,60 EUR). If at the time of your arrival the ticket office is closed you can buy a ticket from the conductor in the train.

You will take a first train to Brussel Zuid (Bruxelles Midi), where you will have to change to another train for Oostende. There are frequent trains from the airport to Brussel Zuid (Bruxelles Midi) - about every quarter of an hour.

IMPORTANT REMARK: Although travel planners can tell you to change in Brussels-Nord station we recommend you to change in BRUXELLES-MIDI/BRUSSEL-ZUID or GENT/GHENT and this for security reasons. All trains passing through, what is called the North-South Connection will stop in Brussel-Noord/Bruxelles-Nord, Brussel-Centraal/Bruxelles-Central and Brussel-Zuid/Bruxelles-Midi.
Departure times for the Oostende train from Brussels Zuid (Bruxelles Midi) is usually once per hour. Consult the monitors at the station.

Oostende is the final stop for this train so you will not miss this stop.


**ZYR** - **BRUXELLES MIDI – BRUSSEL ZUID (arrival by train)**

For those arriving at Bruxelles Midi (Brussel Zuid) Station you can take a train directly to Oostende (cost about 15,60 EUR). The train times are usually once per hour. It is the same train that persons arriving from the airport shall take.

NOTE THAT YOU WILL TRAVEL FROM PARIS AIRPORT (http://www.paris-cdg.com) TO BRUSSELS MIDI BY THE HIGH SPEED TRAIN –THALYS (the train station, wherefrom this Thalys high-speed will leave, is located in Terminal 2 of the Charles de Gaulle airport).

**3. ACCOMODATION**

Most of the participants have been booked at the:

- Golden Tulip Bero Hotel
  Hofstraat 1A
  8400 Oostende, Belgium
  Tel: +32-(0)-59-70 23 35
  Fax: +32-(0)59-70 25 91
  Email: info@hotelbero.be
  Url: www.hotelbero.be

The hotel is about 15 minutes walk from the train station (see red circle on the enclosed map). The cost of taxi from the train station to the hotel is about 5 Euros.

**4. LOCAL TRANSPORT/INFORMATION**

The hotel is located in the city centre close to many restaurants, cafes, shops, and near the beach. Transportation will be provided from the Hotel to the UNESCO/IOC Project Office for IODE and back during the working days.

A shuttle service (most probably using the ferry-boat) between the hotel and our offices will be foreseen. Meeting point is every morning the lobby of the Golden Tulip Bero hotel at 08:30 am. An envelope providing you with last minute information and meeting documents (if any) will be handed over to you at check-in. If you don’t receive an envelope, ask if there isn’t one for you!

**On Monday 27 February and Thursday 01 March please join Greg Reed in the lobby of the hotel at 09:00 am sharp.**

You can reach the project office as well by tram (direction 'Knokke') from the railway station or from the city centre near the Kursaal (filled green circles on the map). The price of the ticket is max. 3,- EUR. You should leave the tram at the first stop after the railway station at 'Weg naar Vismijn' (empty green circle). Then follow the 'Vismijnlaan', in the direction of 'Vismijn' (green arrows on the map). The walk should take approximately 15 minutes. You can also take a taxi near both tram stops. The cost is approximately 15,- EUR.
Please note that if you want to use electric appliances you will need a convertor!

5. WEATHER CONDITIONS
Please note that the mean temperature in Oostende in February is +3,7°C (38,66°F) and in March is 6,8°C (42,8°F). The average high and low temperatures are in February +6,6°C (43,88°F) and +0,7°C (33,26°F) and in March +10,4°C (50,72°F) and +3,1°C (37,58°F). Average number of rainy days in February is 16,3 and in March it is 17,8.

6. SMALL MAP

Filled green circles – tram stops
Empty green circle – nearest tram stop to the Project Office
Red circle – hotel