First ODIP Workshop  
Oostende, Belgium  
25-28 February 2013  

Local Information for Participants

1. VENUE

The First ODIP Workshop will be held from 25 to 28 February 2013 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:

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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 22,30 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 16,00 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

A block booking (which will close at 8 February 2013) has been made at the:

Hotel Bero International
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

at preferential rates (Classic room at 75,- EUR, Ecology room at 84,- EUR, Executive room at 95,- EUR – breakfast and use of wellness, fitness and pool is included, city tax of 1,06 EUR per night still to be added). In order to get these prices please book through the project office or directly at the hotel and indicate that you want to have a room from the block booking. If you go through booking sites the special prices cannot be applied.

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 Bero (and most of the other hotels) is located in the city centre close to many restaurants, cafes, shops, and near the beach on the west side of the harbour. The UNESCO/IOC Project Office for IODE is located at the east side of the harbour. The easiest and cheapest way to go from one side to the other is using the free ferry-boat linking both sides of the harbour. The ferry-boat can be found on the Visserskaai close to the Aquarium (see map attached). It runs from 07:45 (first transfer from west to east) in the morning until 18:05 (last transfer from east to west) in the evening. The boat doesn’t have fixed hours. It runs constantly whenever passengers present itself on the platform.

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 average temperature in Oostende in February is +3,7°C (38,66°F). The average high and low temperatures are in February +6,6°C (43,88°F) and +0,7°C (33,26°F). Average number of rainy days in February is 16,3.

6. SMALL MAP

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