

## Welcome Guide

### 41st European Conference on Information Retrieval at Maternushaus & GESIS in Cologne, Germany

This document contains useful information to help you with your travel and conference preparation:

#### 1. Transportation from Cologne airport to Cologne Main Station

Cologne Bonn Airport is a hub for numerous low-cost carriers. Cologne is also within less than one hour traveling time to Frankfurt/Main and Düsseldorf airports.

**Public Transport:** There are good connections between Cologne/Bonn Airport (CGN) and Cologne Central Station, and the travel time is only 15 minutes. During the week the train "S19" leaves platform 1 or 2 every fifteen minutes. On Sundays the trains "S13" or "S19" run from platform 2 every half an hour.

All details are given without liability. Please gain information concerning possible timetable changes shortly before starting your journey. Information on schedules is available online ([www.bahn.de/aktuell](http://www.bahn.de/aktuell)) or <https://auskunft.kvb-koeln.de/kvb/cgi?lang=UK>

**Taxis:** Taxi service is typically 38-45 Euro each way.

#### 2. Transportation from Frankfurt airport or Düsseldorf airport to Cologne Main Station

##### Trains:

There are connections between Frankfurt Airport (FRA) and Düsseldorf Airport (DUS) to Cologne Main Station every hour, and the travel time is between 45-60 minutes.

All details are given without liability. Please gain information concerning possible timetable changes shortly before starting your journey. Information on trains is available on the Internet ([www.bahn.de/aktuell](http://www.bahn.de/aktuell)), on the telephone using the German Railway service number 01806-996633 (20ct/call from German landlines; from mobile phones max. 60ct/call), by mobile phone (<http://mobile.bahn.de>) and at train stations.

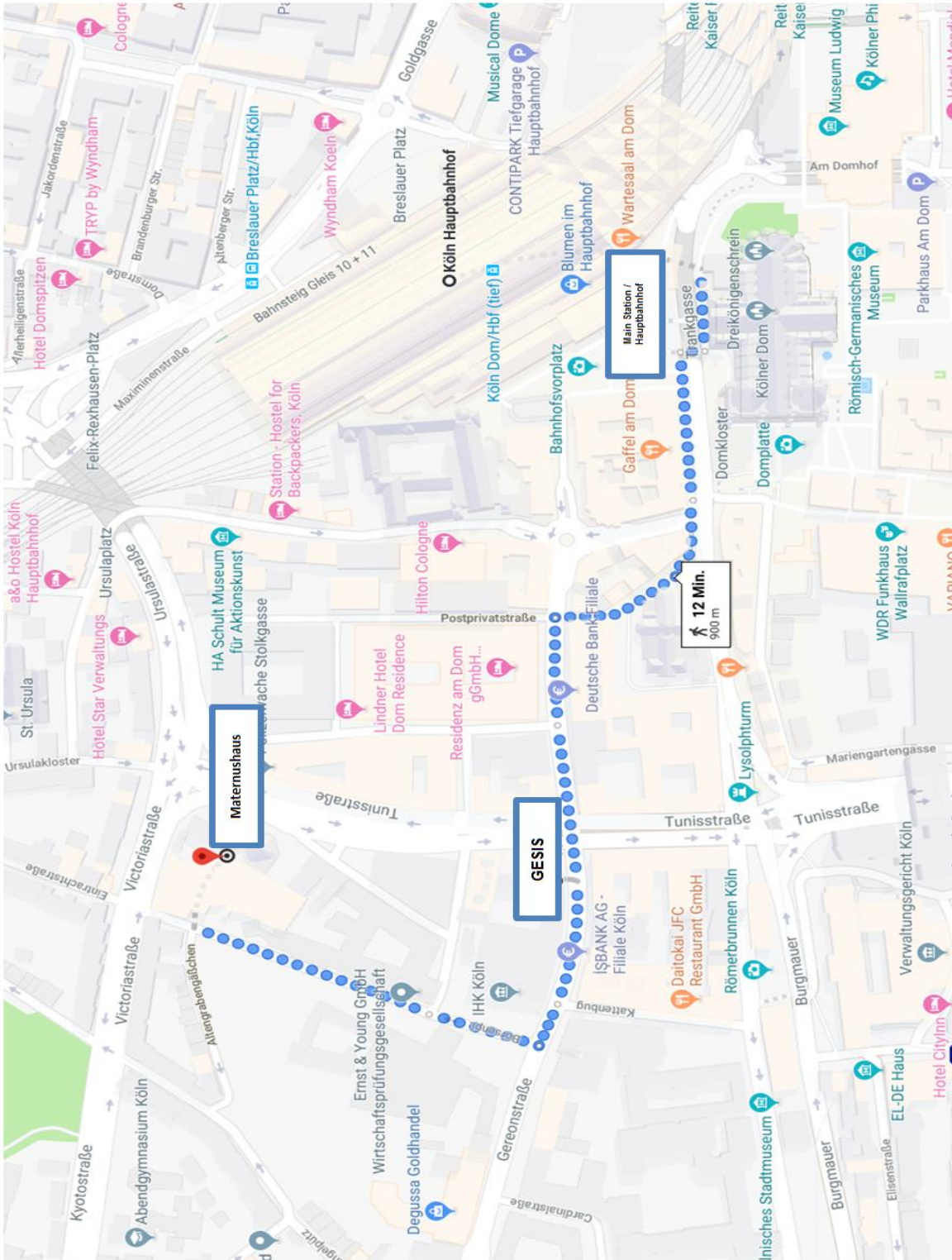
You can save money by booking your ticket ahead of time. Book your online ticket here: <https://www.bahn.com/en/view/index.shtml>

#### 3. Walking from Cologne main station to Maternushaus (ECIR 2019 conference venue) and to GESIS

**The Maternushaus is approximately 800 m (10-12 minutes to walk) away from the main station:**

Leave the building at Cologne main station toward the Cologne Cathedral. Go to the right towards the street "An den Dominikanern" and keep straight on. You'll cross the streets "Marzellenstraße", "Postprivatstraße" and "Stolkgasse". The street "An den Dominikanern" changes now over in the street "Unter Sachsenhausen". Keep straight on and you'll see right handed at the corner "Tunisstraße/Unter Sachsenhausen" the **GESIS building**.

Head west on “Unter Sachsenhausen” toward “Kattenbug”. Continue onto “Gereonstraße”, turn right onto “Börsenplatz”, continue onto “Kardinal-Frings-Straße”. Destination “**Maternushaus**” will be on the right.



#### 4. Conference Venue and Registration

The main conference venue for ECIR 2019 is the **Maternushaus** in the heart of Cologne, close to the main station.

*The address is:*

Kardinal-Frings-Straße 1  
50668 Cologne

The costs for using the car park for conference attendees are 1€ per hour or 16 € per day + night. Please inform the hotel reception upon your arrival ([reservierung@maternushaus.de](mailto:reservierung@maternushaus.de)).

**All attendees must visit the registration desk at Maternushaus to pick up their conference badge (and other materials) before attending the ECIR or social events at the conference.**

The conference staff will be wearing a grey ECIR 2019 T-shirt marked with the colored “ECIR 2019” logo on the back. Please feel free to approach them with your questions, they are here to help you at the **ECIR 2019 registration desk** and around the conference and exhibition area.

#### ECIR 2019 Registration Desk schedule:

Sunday, April 14, from 8:00 am on (Maternushaus, Ground Floor)  
Monday, April 15, from 8:00 am on (Maternushaus, Ground Floor)  
Tuesday, April 16, from 8:30 am on (Maternushaus, Ground Floor)  
Wednesday, April 17, from 8:30 am on (Maternushaus, Ground Floor)  
Thursday, April 18, from 8:00 am on (GESIS, Unter Sachsenhausen 6-8, Ground Floor)

Your badge is your official pass and must be clearly visible to obtain entry to social events, exhibit areas or conference beverage and food services.

#### 5. Welcome Reception

The Welcome Reception will be held Monday, April 15, 2019, 16:30 - 19:30 at Consilium, (Rathausplatz 1, 50667 Cologne) which is just a 12 minutes' walk from the Maternushaus conference venue. You will be guided to the location by the ECIR 2019 staff.

You must have your conference badge for entrance. More information on the Social Program: <https://ecir2019.org/social-program/>

#### 6. Local Information

##### Weather:

The forecast for the conference week is pleasant: around 13- 15 degrees from Sunday to Tuesday and around 20 degrees on Wednesday and Thursday (night temperature around 8- 10 degrees). Typically, the weather could change quickly: Please carry a rain jacket with you. On sunny days in April, the sun could get quite strong: If you plan to spend time outside make sure to also bring sunglasses and sunscreens.

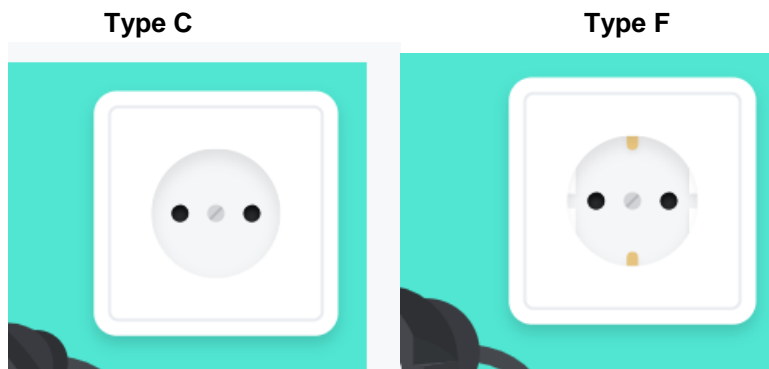
##### Smoking:

Smoking is not permitted anywhere inside the conference venues. When smoking is permitted in local bars and restaurants, there will be signs for specifically designated smoking areas.

**Plugs & Adapters:**

The default video cable available for presentations in the conference venue rooms is standard VGA and HDMI. If you intend to use a Mac, please bring your own adapter. The conference staff will have spare video adapters of the most common type for PC and Mac, but we can't guarantee that we'll have the specific one for your Mac.

In Germany there are two plug types, types C and F. Plug type C is the plug which has two round pins and plug type F is the plug which has two round pins with two clips on the side. Germany operates on a 230V supply voltage and 50Hz.



Conference staff cannot provide international power adapters, so please be sure to bring your own with you.

**Internet Access:**

*Internet at Maternushaus:* There is reliable WiFi service available throughout the conference venue. Credentials will be provided on-site.

*Guest accounts at GESIS:* We will provide you with guest WiFi tickets at GESIS.

*Eduroam network at GESIS.* If you have an eduroam account with your home institution, you can access that at GESIS at the Industry Day on April 18. Simply connect to the "eduroam" access point and use your eduroam login credentials.

**Useful Links:**

Official conference program will be uploaded here <https://ecir2019.org/program/>

Public Transport App Cologne: <https://www.kvb.koeln/app/index.html>

KölnCard for public transport: <https://www.cologne-tourism.com/book-buy/koelncard/>

Cologne Tourism Guide: [https://issuu.com/koelntourismus/docs/koelnguide\\_feb2019-apr2019](https://issuu.com/koelntourismus/docs/koelnguide_feb2019-apr2019)

We look forward to welcoming in Cologne at the ECIR 2019!

**ECIR 2019 Organizing Committee**

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