

**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

Distr.
GENERAL






5 October 2017

ENGLISH ONLY

**REGIONAL CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP
ON BIODIVERSITY AND HEALTH FOR
THE EUROPEAN REGION**
Helsinki, Finland, 23-25 October 2017

Information Note for Participants

QUICK LINKS (Control + click on icons for web page, click on page number to directly access text in document)

 <p>Visa Information (page 3)</p>
 <p>Meeting Documents (page 2)</p>
 <p>Hotel Information (page 3)</p>
 <p>Weather Information (page 4)</p>
 <p>Currency Information (page 4)</p>

INFORMATION HIGHLIGHTS

1. OPENING	.....	2
2. VENUE	.....	2
4. DOCUMENTS	.....	2
5. GENERAL INFORMATION ON ACCESS TO HELSINKI, FINLAND	.....	2
6. VISA INFORMATION	.....	3
7. HOTEL INFORMATION	.....	3
9. WEATHER AND TIME ZONE INFORMATION	.....	4

1. Opening

The Regional Capacity-Building Workshop on Biodiversity and Health for the Europe Region will be held in Helsinki Finland from Monday, 23 October to Wednesday, 25 October 2017.

Registration will open at 8:00 a.m. and the workshop will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, 23 October at the workshop venue.

2. Venue

The meeting will be held at:

Hotel Rantapuisto

Furuborginkatu 3

00980 HELSINKI, FINLAND

Tel: +358 (0)9 319110

E-mail: sales@rantapuisto.fi

Website: www.rantapuisto.fi

3. Working language of the workshop

The meeting will be held in English.

4. Documents

Participants are kindly reminded to bring their own copies of the documents for the workshop as there will be no extra copies made available on site during the workshop. Documents will be available on the workshop and meeting web pages:



CBD

<https://www.cbd.int/health/europe/default.shtml>

<https://www.cbd.int/meetings/HBWS-2017-01>

5. General information on access to Helsinki, Finland



Helsinki is serviced by the **Helsinki-Vantaa Airport (19 km north of Helsinki city centre)**. Participants may use Finnair City Bus from the airport to the city centre (Helsinki railway station) and further on to the workshop venue and hotel with a taxi. Another option is to take the train from the Airport to Helsinki Railway station (see Annex I for a map). Both bus and train depart from the airport every 10-20 minutes and the costs are approx. 5-7 euros. More information on local transportation can be found at www.reittiopas.com/. Taxis are available outside the arrivals hall at a cost of about €50-60 directly to the venue Rantapuisto (www.rantapuisto.fi) and the journey takes about 25-35 minutes. If you take the train or bus to the Helsinki railway station and a Taxi to the venue the cost will be about 30-40 euros. **Google map:**

<https://www.google.fi/maps/dir/Helsingfors-Vanda+flygf%C3%A4lt,+Vanda/rantapuisto+vuosaari/@60.2582347,24.9047993,11z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m13!4m12!1m5!1m1!1s0x468df8658f62a2b1:0xfbf0d9012c28b396!2m2!1d24.9528604!2d60.3210416!1m5!1m1!1s0x46920ee12745f0e7:0xe86792b2883df5db!2m2!1d25.1140758!2d60.1955753>

6. Visa information

Participants requiring a visa for Finland (Schengen visa) are strongly advised to contact the nearest Finnish diplomatic or consular mission **as soon as possible** in order to secure the required entry visa in a timely manner, prior to departure.

A list of relevant Finnish diplomatic/consular missions abroad is available on the web site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland at:

<http://formin.finland.fi/public/default.aspx?nodeid=49529&contentlan=2&culture=en-US>.

Information on application procedures for a Finnish visa can be found at following link:

<http://formin-origin.finland.fi/public/default.aspx?contentid=324099&nodeid=49459&contentlan=2&culture=en-US>.

To facilitate the issuance of visas, the Secretariat will issue, upon request, visa-assistance letters to be attached to the visa applications.

7. Hotel information



Participants not eligible for travel support are kindly reminded that **they must make their own hotel reservations**. It is advisable to reserve rooms as soon as possible. Participants may avail themselves of the special rates offered by the hotel mentioned below by contacting the hotel directly.

Hotel Rantapuisto

Furuborginkatu 3
00980 Helsinki, Finland
Tel. +358 9 319 110
reception@rantapuisto.fi
www.rantapuisto.fi

Room rates:

81 € single room / night (taxes and breakfast included)
91 € double room / night (taxes and breakfast included)

Reservations should be made through the hotel

<https://reservations.travelclick.com/99068?groupID=1998192>

The link is **open until October 9, 2017**

or by telephone +358 9 139 110 by using **reservation code CBDWHO CONFERENCE**

Further information on Helsinki can be found on the Official Travel Site of Finland at the following link: <http://www.visitfinland.com/>

Please note that participants who have been issued a travel support letter by the CBD Secretariat should not make their own reservations as accommodation will be booked on their behalf.

8. Official languages in Finland

The official languages in Finland are Finnish and Swedish.

9. Weather and time zone information

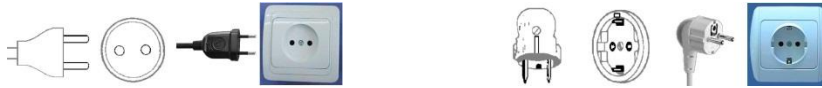


In October, temperatures in Helsinki usually range between a maximum of +9°C in the daytime and a minimum of -3°C at night but also colder or warmer temperatures can occur. Please bring warm clothing for cold temperatures. Current weather conditions can be found at: <http://www.visithelsinki.fi/en/come/welcome-to-helsinki/climate-and-weather-in-helsinki>

The standard time zone is GMT/ UTC +3 hours.

10. Electricity

The electrical currents in Finland are 230 Volts, 50 Hertz, the plugs are as shown in the illustration below.



11. Currency



The currency in Finland is the Euro (€). The current exchange rate as at 25 September 2017 is US \$1.00 = €0.84 and €1.00 = US \$1.19.

12. Disclaimer

The CBD Secretariat disclaims all responsibilities for medical, accident and travel insurances, for compensation for death or disability compensation, for loss of or damage to personal property and for any other losses that may be incurred during travel time or the period of participation. In this context, it is strongly recommended that participants will secure international medical, accident and travel insurances for the period of participation prior to departure.

Annex I

