

European Choral Association - Europa Cantat Weberstr. 59A - DE 53113 Bonn

To our
members, indirect members and friends



Bonn, 22/7/22

Invitation to our 2022 Membership Weekend with Membership Day, Training Leading Voices Conference, General Assembly and IGNITE workshops



Thursday 17 to Sunday 20 November 2022 – Novi Sad, Serbia

Dear members and friends of the European Choral Association,

It is our pleasure to invite you to our annual Membership Weekend consisting of


- an online project presentation session on November 10
- our Membership Day with 6 discussion rounds to choose from on November 18
- networking time, time to meet your friends and make new contacts
- a conference presenting the results of the Training Leading Voices project
- our formal General Assembly for members and indirect members on November 19
- a workshop on environmental sustainability
- a presentation of choral music from Serbia and the Balkan
- concerts with selected Serbian choirs
- time to discover Novi Sad, European Capital of Culture 2022

For 3 days you will thus have a unique chance to interact, learn, sing and meet with your fellow choral enthusiasts. This is also your opportunity to contribute to the future of the European Choral Association.

You will discover the **detailed programme** on pages 2 and 3, and the **practical information** on pages 4 & 5 (**make sure to read it carefully, hotel registration will be different this year!**)

We are looking forward to welcoming you to the beautiful city of Novi Sad!

With best wishes



Dermot O'Callaghan
President of the European Choral Association

Attachments:

Detailed programme (p. 2-3)
Practical information (p. 4)
(Including registration link,
Hotel information, participation fees)
Agenda of General Assembly (p. 8)

Detailed programme (subject to changes!)

Save the Date: Online Project Presentation session on 10/11/2022 at 17.00 CEST

We are continuing with the tradition of organising our project presentation session online before the Membership Weekend. **We're looking for interesting and inspiring projects** that deal with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (especially environmental sustainability/climate change, diversity and inclusion, gender balance and power relations), projects happening in the target countries of our regional development strategy or cooperation projects that include partners from these countries (<https://europeanchoralassociation.org/regional-development>), as well as other projects that can serve as models for your peers. You can also present a future project for which you are looking for partners.

Project presentations have to be submitted **by 30/09/22** through this google form: <https://forms.gle/WeEasaomtgivjNWc8>



Discover Novi Sad on your arrival day / Thursday, 17/11/2022

All those wishing to attend our Membership Day should plan to arrive on Thursday, November 17th. On this day you will have time to discover Novi Sad as European Capital of Culture and we might have a reception for everybody in the evening (tbc).

Membership Day / Friday, 18/11/2022 morning

Members of the European Choral Association and others are invited to attend the 6th edition of our "Membership Day". This is an exciting opportunity for our members to talk about the future of our association, bring in new ideas and develop new models with their peers.

We will offer **6 discussion groups in 2 slots**, inviting members to

1. evaluate Leading Voices in Utrecht and discuss whether and how to proceed
2. have a strategic discussion about the future of choral music
3. discover what was done within our regional development strategy so far and discuss next steps
4. exchange about activities from the network, how they can be promoted and discuss possible new cooperation projects as well as a new communication strategy
5. discover with the youth committee why youth participation is important and how it can be achieved with the help of the handbook on youth participation
6. talk about the principle of fair remuneration and how we can have a common basis for events under the label of our association in future which can also be offered as model to others

Networking time / Informal meeting of the Friends of the European Choral Association / Conference on the results of Training Leading Voices / Friday, 18/11/22 afternoon

In the afternoon we will first have some time for coffee and **networking**, also offering the members of the Friends of the European Choral Association (and those interested in joining) to meet in person. This will be followed by a **conference** presenting the results of the project **Training Leading Voices**, co-funded by the EU Creative Europe programme, which will come to an end in 2023. Despite the Covid-19 challenges, this project coordinated by ZIMIHC with the support of the European Choral Association, done in cooperation with A Coeur Joie, Feniarco and JSKD, can be considered a success. We will tell you what happened during the project and what are the take-aways for the leaders of the collective singing sector.

In the evening you will enjoy a **concert** in the Synagogue with top-level Serbian choirs followed by a dinner in the city centre of Novi Sad (details will be announced in September 2022).

General Assembly / Saturday, 19/11/22, morning

As usual, we will look back on the last year, including everything we achieved in our new network funding project **IGNITE**, co-funded by the EU Creative Europe programme, and other activities during the past 12 months. And we will look ahead at our plans for the years 2023 and beyond. (See Agenda on page 5).

Time to learn and discover - Saturday, 20/11/21, afternoon

Workshop on Environmental Sustainability and Repertoire Discovery

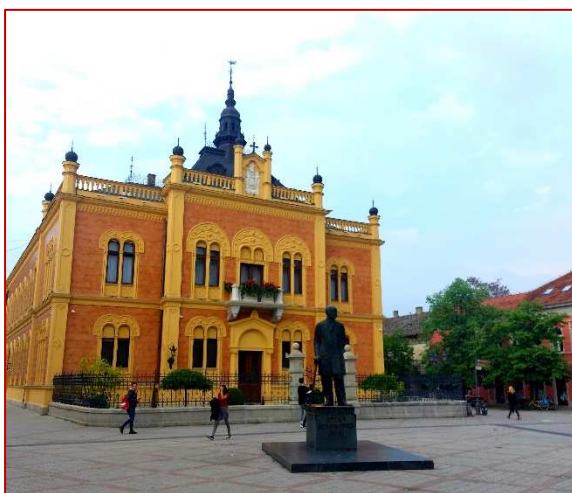
On Saturday afternoon we will move to the impressive new Music School of Novi Sad for an afternoon of learning about **environmental sustainability** and discovering **choral repertoire from Serbia and the Balkan region**.

It is time to shape our future and learn how we can contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals: Sonja Greiner and Sophie Dowden will invite an expert who will playfully introduce you to measuring your carbon footprint. They will also present the Environmental Sustainability Strategy and Policies of the European Choral Association as a model on what choral organisations can do.

In parallel singers and conductors will have the chance to discover the richness of choral music from Serbia and other countries in the Balkan region.

Afterwards we will make an **excursion** to the Petrovaradin Fortress with musical surprises and a guided walk through the tunnels below the Fortress (**tbc.**), then return to Hotel Park for dinner and drinks (details will be announced in September 2022).

Please carefully read the practical information on the following pages where you will also find the registration link and hotel information



Important practical information

Registration

The detailed programme, practical information for your stay and necessary documents for the General Assembly will be sent out to registered delegates beginning of October 2022.

Please note that English will be the main working language of the General Assembly, Membership Day and Conference, but individual support may be provided if needed and possible.

How to register? Deadline 30 September 2022

To attend the event, please fill in the online application form under bit.ly/ECA-MW2022-Registration



Accommodation

Our conference hotel will be the **Hotel Park**, a 4-star hotel located in a park a bit outside the city centre of Novi Sad, with a good bus connection into town. The hotel is offering participants of our Membership Weekend special rates:

- **Single room: 59,40 EUR per room & night** (plus City Tax and Insurance, ca. 1,35 EUR per night)
- **Double room: 63,90 EUR per room & night** (plus City Tax & Insurance, ca. 1,35 EUR per night & person)
- **Junior suite: 89,10 EUR per room & night** (plus City Tax & Insurance, ca. 1,35 EUR per night & person)

These prices include breakfast, the use of the sauna and swimming pool, free Wifi and free hotel parking.

IMPORTANT: Other than at our previous membership weekends the accommodation will NOT be included in the participation fees published below and participants to our Membership Weekend will have to book their hotel rooms themselves to simplify the process and avoid cancellation costs.

If you would like to stay at Hotel Park and you would like to profit from these special rates, please book your rooms by sending an e-mail by September 30th 2022 with the title **“Room for Membership Weekend of the European Choral Association”** to prodaja@hotelparkns.com, indicating which rooms you would like to book from which date to which date.

You can also book additional nights before/after our Membership Weekend for the same rates.

You will have to pay the hotel directly, and the preferential rules are only valid until 30/09/2022!

If you would like to stay in a cheaper hotel or hostel, you can check these options (we have not reserved any rooms there and have no responsibility for the quality): B&B from 12 €/night, Hostel SOVA or City Hostel or other hostels in the city centre. You will have to organise your own transportation to the different venues in this case.

Free participation for participants from Central-Eastern and South-Eastern Europe

In order to increase the involvement of (potential) member organisations Central-Eastern and South-Eastern Europe in the activities of the association we have the opportunity, within the frame of IGNITE, to offer a free participation including accommodation and meals as well as a subsidy to the travel expenses for maximum 1 representative per organisation and a total maximum of 4 grants. If you are interested in such a grant, please contact us before September 15th 2022 at Jozi.Vovk@EuropeanChoralAssociation.org.

Participation fees

The fee includes meals as described below, as well as all coffee breaks, concerts and performances on Friday and Saturday, and participation in the different events. **It does NOT include accommodation (see above).** You will receive an **invoice** with payment modalities sometime after your online registration, latest mid-October 2022.

Fee per participant for representatives of member organisations, indirect members and members of the Friends of the European Choral Association (non-members pay 20 € in addition):

- **Full package:** Participation including Membership Day and lunch on Friday
Country Group 1: **135€** Country Group 2: **45 €** Country Group 3: **25 €**
- **Small package:** Participation without Membership Day and lunch on Friday
- Country Group 1: **115€** Country Group 2: **40€** Country Group 3: **20 €**

Please note that the total costs of Hotel Park with the preferential rates plus the participation fee are lower than the total participation fees for our Membership Weekend in 2021.

	<u>Country Group 1</u>	<u>Country Group 2</u>	<u>Country Group 3</u>
Countries by country group	AT, BE, CA, CY, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, HK, IE, IL, IS, IT, JP, LU, NL, NO, SE, SG, UK, US	CG, CN, CZ, EE, GR, HR, HU, LT, LV, MT, PE, PL, PT, SI, SK, TW and some other overseas countries, see below*	AL, AM, BA, BG, BY, GE, KZ, MD, ME, MK, RO, RS, RU, TR, UA
* For countries outside Europe the rule is that countries belong to group 1 according to the HDI index used by IFCM (see http://ifcm.net/membership-fees), countries belonging to HDI groups 2 and 3 are in country group 2. Country group 3 is only reserved for European countries. If you are not sure which country group you belong to, write to info@EuropeanChoralAssociation.org			

Cancellation rules

Please note that you will have to pay the participation fee if you cancel your participation short-term! **The exact cancellation terms also in relation to possible travel restrictions connected to the Covid-19 pandemic will be published in September 2022.** Please note that we are not responsible for the cancellation rules of the hotel, we suggest that you take a travel insurance.



How to reach Novi Sad, Serbia (also see <https://novisad.travel/en/kako-doci-do-nas-2>)

Novi Sad is located in the Vojvodina region of Serbia, near the Hungarian border. It can be reached by train or bus, though it may take some time depending on where you are coming from.



The nearest airport is **Belgrade**. If you must fly, **please consider the environment** and check if you may do part of the trip by train to avoid indirect flights and thus reduce your carbon footprint – you can find all direct flights to Belgrade here: www.flightsfrom.com/BEG.



There is **no direct public transport** connection to Novi Sad, so you either have to take a bus to Belgrade (about 30 min., see https://beg.aero/eng/parking_access/transport/public_transportation) and then take the train or bus from there (around 60 minutes, also see website above), or you have to book a private shuttle service (costs start at around 60 EUR if you take a shuttle alone, and may get down to around 25 EUR per person if you share a shuttle – further information can be found on this website: <https://www.welcomepickups.com/belgrade/airport-taxi> or here: <https://www.autotourist-ns.com/en/airport-transfer/transportation-belgrade-airport-novi-sad-belgrade-airport/> **Our local aptners recommend using KIKI021: <https://kiki021.rs/en/booking/>**

You can also consider renting a car, especially if you can share it with others.

Entry rules & currency / data on your mobile phone

Please note that Serbia is not a member of the European Union – please check with your Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the Serbian Embassy in your country if you may need a visa.

Also Serbia is not a EUR country. The official currency is the Serbian Dinar – RSD and 100 Dinar correspond more or less to 0,85 EUR.

And finally, since Serbia is not part of the European Union, the roaming rules do not apply there.

It means that you may have no data access with your mobile phone if you use your usual SIM-card.

You will either need to connect to Internet through a Wifi network, or buy a local SIM card.

Main venues

Our main venue for the Membership Weekend will be **Hotel Park Novi Sad**.

The Membership Day and the Training Leading Voices Conference on Friday, as well as the General Assembly on Saturday will be there, and we will have lunch at the hotel on Friday and Saturday. We can also meet in the big lobby with a grand piano in the evenings to discuss the day's events, talk and sing together.

We suggest that participants book a room there (see above), though you are free to also choose another accommodation if you prefer.

On Saturday afternoon we will be in the **'Isidor Bajić' Music School** which is located in a brand-new building together with a ballet school and the Novi Sad Concert Hall.

novisad2022.rs/en/city-concert-hall

In the evenings we will take you to the city centre or Novi Sad castle, details will be confirmed in September 2022.



Please try to walk, cycle or use public transport to move around within Novi Sad and avoid using your own car. On Friday and Saturday afternoon/evening we will also organise shuttle buses.

HOTELPARK

Please note that **smoking** is not forbidden in Serbia. Make sure to ask for a non-smoking room. Smoking will be allowed in the public areas of the hotel, though we will ask our participants to kindly refrain from smoking in the restaurant or the lobby.



Hotel Park does not have an official eco-label. However, you can **contribute to reducing your carbon footprint** by asking the reception not to clean your room every day or use the “do not disturb” sign to signal this, and by giving preference to vegetarian food over meat.

Tourism

Novi Sad is one of the European Capitals of Culture of 2022. If you have time, you may consider arriving earlier or staying longer in order to be able to spend more time discovering the city and the special cultural capital programme, see <https://www.novisad2022.rs/en>



Agenda of the General Assembly 2022

Saturday, 20/11/2022, 9.30 – 12:30 (tbc.) in Hotel Park Novi Sad (Serbia)

0. Opening
1. Approval of the agenda
2. Minutes General Assembly 2021
3. Report of the President
4. Activities' reports 2022, including report from the Membership Day
 - 4.1 Artistic Vice-President on behalf of Artistic Strategy Group
 - 4.2 Year 1 of the IGNITE project - including regional development and new strategies and policies on inclusion and environmental sustainability
 - 4.3 Other activities in 2022
5. Report of the Treasurer: Finances 2021 - 2022, Preliminary Budget for 2023
6. Discharge of the Board of Directors
7. Welcome to new members
8. Presentation of the "Friends of the European Choral Association" ?
9. A look into the future: Activities 2023 – 2025
 - 9.1 Europa Cantat junior 2023 in Ghent
 - 9.2 Europa Cantat Festival 2024
 - 9.3 Leading Voices 2025?
 - 9.4 other activities in 2023, 24
10. Presentation by the Youth Committee
11. Invitation to General Assembly 2023 (place and date to be confirmed)
12. Presenting other European and International networks
 - 12.1 TENSO – network of professional chamber choirs
13. Miscellaneous



Subject to changes!

We look forward to seeing
you in Novi Sad
in November 2022!