

Barcelona tops world ranking of cities with most conference participants

- **According to the ICCA ranking, the Catalan capital received 122,877 delegates in 2013, putting it in first place worldwide**
- **Barcelona is the only destination to figure in the top five of the ranking of cities with most congresses every year since 2001.**

Barcelona, 27th of October, 2014. – Barcelona has become the world's top city in terms of attracting most congress delegates. The capital of Catalonia received 122,877 delegates at 179 conferences last year, according to the International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA). Barcelona, meanwhile, was fourth in 2013 in terms of number of conference events, second only to Paris, Madrid and Vienna.

This is the second time in the last ten years that Barcelona leads the ranking of cities that attracts most conference participants. Barcelona was already leading this category in 2010, when it drew more than 140,000 participants that year, a record for the city's congress segment.

Second top destination this decade

A test of the city's strength in the competitive conference segment is the fact that since 2001, Barcelona is the only city in the world that has stayed in the top five cities with most conferences held each year. And if you take cities that are not state capitals, then it is the world's top performer. In the last decade (2004-2013), it has become the world's second best city in number of congress participants (926,111), below Vienna (935,156), but above Paris (878,948).

Rank	City	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Totals
1	Barcelona	71,577	47,321	79,596	99,484	108,201	108,147	140,117	61,895	86,896	122,877	926,111
2	Amsterdam	31,896	51,515	51,846	58,376	58,023	60,566	83,811	94,315	82,349	114,166	686,863
3	Istanbul	24,618	55,65	52,461	35,688	59,959	80,68	48,676	73,219	74,802	112,175	617,928
4	Vienna	72,11	70,255	71,646	122,795	57,824	123,569	88,941	93,016	133,286	101,714	935,156
5	Singapore	38,587	52,735	57,005	52,517	64,986	48,302	75,637	82,82	67,938	96,62	637,147
6	London	36,194	38,584	44,112	29,04	35,828	37,673	58,363	80,569	75,956	83,358	519,677
7	Paris	102,168	77,136	100,591	59,025	90,605	74,124	75,442	121,038	96,372	82,447	878,948
8	Berlin	62,688	53,206	39,523	91,323	113,442	97,278	83,996	81,859	102,182	72,57	798,067
9	Seoul	36,376	57,391	62,353	46,888	63,341	55,62	63,699	63,043	52,908	67,768	569,387
10	Lisbon	43,534	43,384	32,308	45,466	40,527	46,255	46,097	68,258	48,382	63,131	477,342

**Font: ICCA Statistics Report*

The city's latest top-ranking position is based on the strength of Barcelona's brand, its ability to host large conferences and also on Turisme de Barcelona's specialist sector programme called Barcelona Convention Bureau (BCB), which for 31 years has been advising, planning and helping to bring meetings to Barcelona. Estimates show that in 2013 business tourism generated a direct economic impact of 1,264.26 million Euros in the city.

Amsterdam, Istanbul and Vienna are the only cities along with Barcelona that recorded more than 100,000 delegates at its conferences in 2013. Just in September, the city hosted 45,000 participants at important medical congresses, including the European Respiratory Society, the Cardiovascular and Interventional Radiological Society of Europe, and the European Association for the Study of Diabetes.

The Mobile World Congress is not part of this category

ICCA (www.iccaworld.com) statistics include international conferences that have a minimum of 50 participants and that regularly rotate between at least three different countries. The latter is important: Barcelona has positioned itself in the top position of the ICCA ranking without including events like the Mobile World Congress and its 80,000 delegates, which is only held in the Catalan capital.

Therefore, if we count conferences with fewer than 50 participants, the number of delegates attending conferences in Barcelona is much higher than the figure given by

ICCA. According to data collected by Barcelona Convention Bureau, the city attracted 289,191 delegates in 2013.

BCB (www.barcelonaconventionbureau.com) is a specialized Turisme de Barcelona programme designed to promote the city as a destination for congresses, conventions and incentive travel. Set up in 1983 and a pioneer in Spain, Barcelona Convention Bureau offers advisory and planning services for meetings for any company that organises professional meetings.

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