



The General Assembly of the European Geosciences Union took place at the Austria Center Vienna in May 2022 as an in-person event with more than 7,000 participants. ©acv.at / Ludwig Schedl

Vienna, June 2022

## Vienna claims top spot in the 2021 ICCA ranking: Austria Center Vienna sees clear upturn in conferences

**The recently published 2021 ICCA Ranking saw congress destination Vienna reclaim top spot worldwide for the first time since 2012. With 15 international events in 2021, Austria's largest congress centre made a decisive contribution to the city's strong showing. And this year, the upward trend is even more pronounced: in addition to numerous smaller-scale and medium-sized events, nine large-scale events each attracting more than 2,000 participants will take place at the Austria Center Vienna in 2022.**

At the end of May 2022, the International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA) published its 2021 ICCA Ranking – Destination Performance Index (DPI) report. Congress destination Vienna was awarded first place in the overall ranking, ahead of Lisbon and Athens. The survey attributed 92 congresses to Vienna, nine of which were held without restrictions, 22 as hybrid events and 61 virtually (113 congresses were originally planned). Second and third spots went to Lisbon (91 congresses held during the year) and Athens (66). The remainder of the top ten was made up of Barcelona, Singapore, Madrid, Prague, Paris, Berlin and Brussels. "2021 was an extremely challenging year for the entire congress industry. So it is all the more gratifying that Vienna emerged as the international market leader. Alongside all of the other stakeholders in the congress destination, we are working to ensure that Vienna continues to reaffirm its position as the top location for congresses over the years to come," said Susanne Baumann-Söllner, Managing Director of the Austria Center Vienna. The City of Vienna had a significant role to play in the destination's strong performance through the Vienna Meeting Fund. Launched in 2021, it provides financial support for both in-person get-togethers and hybrid events.

### Large-scale political gatherings at the Austria Center Vienna in 2021

In 2021, 31 events – 15 of which attracted international participants – took place at the Austria Center Vienna. Due to the pandemic, some of these were conducted as hybrid or digital events. In the autumn, the venue welcomed back events with more than 1,000 participants for the first time.

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One of the highlights came in September with the IPU World Conference, which attracted parliamentary speakers and presidents from more than 100 nations. The conference, which was one of the largest political gatherings in Europe over the past 18 months, called for extensive additional security measures at the venue and in the surrounding area. Other events included the International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery (ISAPS) World Congress, the Börsetag private investor conference and the introductory lectures of the Vienna University of Business and Economics (WU).

### Successful start for congresses in 2022

In 2022, the Austria Center Vienna will host nine large-scale congresses with more than 2,000 delegates each. Events such as the Baukongress and the Austrian Tourism Days got the year off to a successful start for the venue. The General Assembly of the European Geosciences Union (EGU) brought more than 7,000 participants to the venue at the end of May – with a similar number following proceedings online. Next up are the European Society of Human Genetics (ESHG) Conference and the European Academy of Neurology (EAN) Congress in June, and the European Congress of Radiology (ECR) in July 2022. Additional highlights this year include the Annual Meeting of the International Continence Society (ICS) and the Society for Arthroscopy and Joint-Surgery (AGA) Congress in September, with the Annual Meeting of the German Society for Hematology and Medical Oncology (DGHO) and European College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ECNP) scheduled for October.

### About IAKW-AG

Internationales Amtssitz- und Konferenzzentrum Wien, Aktiengesellschaft (IAKW-AG) is responsible for maintaining the Vienna International Centre (VIC) and operating the Austria Center Vienna (ACV). The Austria Center Vienna is Austria's largest conference centre. With 19 halls, 180 meeting rooms and some 26,000 square metres of exhibition space, it is one of the top players on the international conference circuit.

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### Vienna in the ICCA Rankings, 2012-2021

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*	2021
<b>Wien</b>	Paris	Paris	Berlin	Paris	Barcelona	Barcelona	Barcelona	X	<b>Wien</b>
Paris	Madrid	<b>Wien</b>	Paris	<b>Wien</b>	<b>Wien/Paris</b>	Paris	Paris	X	Lissabon
Berlin	<b>Wien</b>	Madrid	Barcelona	Barcelona	Berlin	<b>Wien</b>	Madrid	X	Athen
Madrid	Barcelona	Berlin	<b>Wien</b>	Berlin	London	München	Lissabon	X	Barcelona
Barcelona	Berlin	Barcelona	London/Madrid	London	Singapur	Berlin	<b>Wien</b>	X	Singapur

\*no ranking in 2020 due to the pandemic

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