

*First Circular
and
Call for Abstracts*

*15th
International Congress
of the
Hungarian Society
for Microbiology*

Organized by the Hungarian Society for Microbiology ■ the Faculty of Science, Eötvös Loránd University ■ the Hungarian Society for Immunology ■ the Biotechnological Section of the Hungarian Biochemical Society ■ the Hungarian Society for Infectology and Clinical Microbiology ■ the Foundation of the Hungarian Society for Microbiology

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July 18-20, 2007

*Eötvös Loránd University,
Budapest, Hungary*

Dear Colleagues!

On behalf of the Presidium of the Hungarian Society for Microbiology and the Council of the Eötvös Loránd University Faculty of Science we would like to invite you to attend the 15th International Congress of the Hungarian Society for Microbiology (July 18-20, 2007) organized by the Hungarian Society for Microbiology, the Faculty of Science, Eötvös Loránd University, the Hungarian Society for Immunology, the Biotechnological Section of the Hungarian Biochemical Society, the Hungarian Society for Infectology and Clinical Microbiology and the Foundation of the Hungarian Society for Microbiology at the Eötvös Loránd University, Faculty of Science (Pázmány Péter sétány 2., H-1117 Budapest, Hungary).

Although the Hungarian Society for Microbiology organizes its every fourth Annual Meeting as an International Conference, two years ago we co-organized, together with the Croatian Microbiological Society the 1st Central European Forum for Microbiology (CEFARM). CEFARM attracted participants from Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia and Slovenia. We hope that our 15th International Congress will appeal to even more Colleagues than the previous ones and will be a superb meeting in the beautiful city of Budapest.

The official language of the Congress is English. The program will cover all major branches of microbiology and will include invited plenary lectures, introductory lectures (15 + 5 min), lectures (10 + 5 min), short lectures (7 + 3 min) and poster sessions.

We are looking forward to see you at the Congress and we hope that you will find it a stimulating scientific event and happy personal experience.

Dr. János Minárovits

President,

Hungarian Society for Microbiology

Dr. Károly Márialigeti

Secretary General,

Hungarian Society for Microbiology

Local Organising Committee

Judith Deák, Levente Emődy, József Farkas, Attila Horváth, Levente Karaffa, Gábor Kovács, Anna Maráz, Yvette Mándi, Erzsébet Nagy, Károly Nagy, Tibor Pál, László Rókus, Mária Takács, and Károly Márialigeti Congress Secretary (e-mail: fotitkar@mmt.org.hu)

Preliminary Scientific Program

■ Agricultural Microbiology

Soil – plant – animal – microbe interactions in crop production (including GMO-s) ■ Forestry microbiology ■ Bio-indication and bio-sensorics ■ Biotization, rhizosphere and phyllosphere technology ■ Simulation modeling

■ Bacteriology

Molecular biology and physiology of bacteria ■ Human and veterinary pathogens and pathogenesis ■ Traditional and molecular diagnostic methods, vaccination ■ Genetic background and mechanisms of antimicrobial resistance ■ Bacteriophages

■ Clinical Microbiology and Infectology

Case reports ■ State of the art lectures ■ Diagnostic methods ■ STD-STI (syphilis, HIV/AIDS, genital herpes, HPV, *Chlamydia* infections)

■ Beta-lactamase resistance in the clinical praxis

■ Environmental Microbiology

Microbial biodiversity, general and molecular ecology and systematics ■ Structure and activities of microbial communities ■ Microbiology of extreme environments, and pollution; global effects ■ Bioremediation technologies ■ Waste and waste water treatment

■ Food Microbiology

Improvement of microbiological safety of foods ■ Food safety and agricultural raw materials, microbiological risk assessment ■ Rapid microbiological methods ■ Pro- and prebiotics, biopreservation ■ Microbial interactions ■ Stress adaptation of food microbes, "new" spore formers in foods

■ Immunology and Parasitology

Infection and immunity ■ Immunogenetics, immunodiagnostics ■ Control of infectious diseases: vaccination ■ Host-parasite interactions, new and emerging parasitic diseases ■ Helminthology, and protozoal diseases, taxonomic questions of parasites

■ Industrial Microbiology

Microbial fermentation processes, bioconversions and biotransformations ■ Microbial processes for food, beverages, aroma and feed ■ Directed evolution of enzymes for applied biocatalysis ■ Physiological and molecular basis of metabolite overproduction ■ Bioreactor design, modeling, non-microbial fermentation processes

■ Mycology

Evolution and systematics of fungi ■ Physiology, genetics and molecular biology of fungi ■ Fungi as pathogens, diagnostic methods in mycology, epidemiology ■ The organization of the fungal genome, taxonomy of yeasts and fungi ■ Applied mycology

■ Virology

All aspects of human, animal and plant viruses ■ Evolution of viruses, molecular virology, tumor inducing viruses ■ Pathogenesis of virus diseases, virus-host interaction ■ Diagnostics of viral diseases ■ Vaccination and therapy, bioterrorism

Call for Papers and Abstract Submission

Language

The official language of the Congress is English.

Call for Papers

Papers related to any topic covered by the sessions of the congress will be considered. Please use the homepage of the Hungarian Society for Microbiology (www.mmt.org.hu) for registration and abstract submission. Authors should express their preference for oral (introductory lecture, lecture, short lecture) or poster presentation. There are limited numbers of oral presentations, therefore the abstracts submitted as an introductory lecture may be converted to a shorter presentation and intended oral presentations may be converted to posters. All authors concerned will be notified in due time. (If you are unwilling to make poster presentation please indicate it in the space provided!) Speakers at introductory lectures will have 20 minutes, at lectures 15 minutes, whereas at short lectures 10 minutes which includes questions and discussion. The time limit will be strictly kept, whenever reasonable.

Standard audio-visual equipment provided will include PC + video projector, 5 x 5 cm slide projector, and overhead projector. Please indicate your special needs (e.g. two video-projectors) in the space provided on the registration form by clicking on the appropriate box.

Posters will be displayed for three full days. Adhesive, etc. for poster affixation will be provided. Poster sessions will be scheduled in the morning and late in the afternoon. During the Poster Session authors of posters are requested to be present at their posters at the time specified in the program. This will give all congress delegates the opportunity for questions and discussion. Poster displays should be self-explanatory even in the absence of authors. Posters should not exceed a size of 85 cm (width) x 120 cm (height) (standing A0 format).

Student poster presentations will be eligible for prizes. To compete in the awards a letter confirming student status must accompany the abstract submitted to the Congress Secretariat (e-mail: fotitkar@mmt.org.hu)!

The Abstract Book of the 15th International Congress of the Hungarian Society for Microbiology will be published as a supplement issue of *Acta Microbiologica et Immunologica Hungarica*. The abstract (including author/s/ + affiliation/s/ + address/es/ + text body) should not exceed 3500 characters. Please follow the instructions on the homepage (www.mmt.org.hu)!

Preliminary Schedule

July 17, 2007 (Tuesday)	Afternoon from 6 p.m.	Arrival and registration
July 18, 2007 (Wednesday)	Morning from 7 a.m. From 10.30 a.m.	Arrival and registration Opening ceremony, Manninger Memorial Session Inaugural Lectures of Honorary Members of the Hungarian Society for Microbiology
	Afternoon	Plenary Session
	Evening	Congress banquet with the 1st Dance Competition of Microbiologists
July 19, 2007 (Thursday)	Morning	Scientific sessions and poster presentations
	Late afternoon / evening	Sightseeing at Buda Castle District, and organ concert in the Matthias Church
July 20, 2007 (Friday)	Morning	Scientific sessions and poster presentations
	Late afternoon	Visit of the Biological and Geological Collection of the University, farewell drink

Participation and Fees

Congress Participants

Early registration fee	before May 31, 2007	370.- €
Registration fee	after May 31, 2007	460.- €
On site registration		560.- €

The registration fee includes participation at the scientific program, commercial exhibition and banquet (July 18), a congress bag, a supplementary issue of *Acta Microbiologica et Immunologica Hungarica* and coffee/refreshment tickets, sightseeing at Castle District and organ concert in the Matthias Church (July 19), farewell drink.

Accompanying Persons Registration fee 100.- €

Accompanying persons are most welcome at the opening ceremony, banquet (July 18) and commercial exhibition. Their fee covers a sightseeing at Castle District and organ concert in the Matthias Church (July 19), and also a farewell drink. We also offer various cultural and tourists programs for them.

The Country, the City, the Congress Venue and Accommodation Hungary (www.magyarorszag.hu)

The Republic of Hungary is situated in Central Europe. The country covers an area of less than 100,000 km² and it has roughly 10 million inhabitants, who speak a unique language which is not used anywhere else in the world. Hungary has become a full member of the European Union from 1st May 2004.

In the year of 2000 the nation celebrated the thousandth anniversary of the foundation of the Hungarian State. Since the time of the state founder King Saint Stephan, Hungary had to go through several repeated trials and tribulations besides its golden eras, but it could stay on its feet despite its stormy history. Today, Hungary is one of the most popular destinations of visitors who wish to encounter this beautiful country with its natural, historical, cultural and gastronomic attractions.

Budapest (www.budapest.hu)

The capital of Hungary, known by many as the "Pearl of the Danube", is undoubtedly one of the most beautifully located cities in the world. The river Danube runs through the middle of the metropolis of two million, dividing hilly Buda with its narrow cobbled streets and mixture of medieval and neo-classical buildings from the Pest plain with its wide boulevards. Because of the picturesque panorama offered by the river and its bridges, the Parliament, the imposing Royal Castle, Fishermen's Bastion and the impressive Danube Embankment, UNESCO placed this site on the World heritage list. The guests will find side by side the remains of fortresses and buildings from Roman times, still operating Turkish baths, Gothic and Baroque buildings, and the incredible rich Art Nouveau architectural heritage. There is no other capital city in the world with close on 100 thermal springs and 12 medicinal baths within its boundaries, where 90 million liters of thermal water rise to the surface each day.

It is a city where the pleasing harmony of different architectural styles and superb structures, gastronomy and culture are combined with legendary hospitality blend into an unforgettable experience for visitors. During your visit you will have a chance to get acquainted with the sights of Budapest, a city inhabited by descendants of the Magyar tribes 1100 years ago and many invaders, settlers and refugees who arrived later. The Roman period, the Turkish occupation and the "good old" Austro-Hungarian Monarchy has left unique, still visible marks on the capital. We hope that you will enjoy the wonderful panorama and taste the delicious foods and excellent wines of the country while in Budapest. Welcome!

Congress Venue

The Congress and the connected Exhibition will be held at the Eötvös Loránd University Convention Centre (address: Budapest XI., Pázmány Péter sétány 1.). The venue is equipped with a complete range of conference facilities and there is ample comfortable accommodation nearby. The Congress site can be reached easily by public transport (e.g. trams No. 4 or 6 and/or bus No. 12) and it is fully accessible for disabled people. It is situated in a pleasant and scenic park on the Danube embankment, enriched by the pleasant atmosphere on the Buda side of the river.

The Eötvös Loránd University (www.teo.elte.hu) is three and a half century old, and the biggest University of Hungary. The broad range and high quality of its education, along with its research capacity and intellectual resources, place it among the leading academic institutions of the country. The Faculty of Science is made up of departments and laboratories grouped into five institutes. These cover disciplines in biology, chemistry, earth sciences and geography, mathematics, and physics. There are over 6,000 full-time graduate and about 500 PhD students as well as 600 academic staff members.

Accommodation

Rooms have been reserved for the participants in neighboring hotels and university dormitories. Please read carefully the description and indicate clearly your choice! Please do indicate your preferences on the registration form (www.mmt.org.hu) because we can't guarantee booking in the hotels listed below later. The prices are to be understood per night per room, including breakfast and taxes. Cost of Hotel is to be paid in advance! At the Hotels you have to pay the extras only. Please tick the box if you do want to share your room, or please indicate the name of your room-mate!

Hotel Novotel Centrum** (Budapest VIII., Rákóczy út 43-45.)**

This hotel is located in the centre of the city, only minutes from the cultural and commercial centers and the downtown shops and services of the capital. The protected Art Nouveau style hotel building with 6 floors features 227 rooms furnished according to the latest Novotel standard. Each bedroom offers spacious work and relaxation area, individually controlled air conditioning, smoke detector and sprinkler system, TV – radio sets with 24 satellite and 4 pay-film and 6 music channels and safe. The hotel's well-equipped fit-

ness room, Jacuzzi, sauna and steam await the guests from early morning until late evening. Direct access with tram No. 4 and No. 6 to the Congress Venue (ca. 15 min.).

Single bed room	89.- €
Double bed room	100.- €

Hotel Mercure Budapest Duna* (Budapest IX., Soroksári út 12.)**

The hotel is situated very near to the city centre and to the Congress venue. The Mercure Budapest Duna's traditional "Mercure" comfort and truly friendly atmosphere provides a very comfortable stay. All rooms are air-conditioned rooms with bath, equipped with colour TV, radio, telephone, free room safe and soundproof windows. The rooms facing to the street have a fantastic view of the Danube River and the Gellért Hill. Lobby bar, function room, business corner and parking facilities are available. Direct access with tram No. 4 and 6 to the Congress Venue (ca. 6 min.).

Single bed room	81.- €
Double bed room	88.- €

Hotel City Inn* (Budapest VIII., Futó u. 55.)**

Hotel City Inn is located in the 8th district of Budapest, which is currently undergoing massive property and infrastructural development. The city center is just steps away. Two metro stations are in walking distance (3-4 mins). All Budapest sights, shopping, entertainment, and sports facilities can be easily reached by means of public transport. All rooms are air-conditioned, with bathroom (tubs or shower option), minibar, cable TV, phone, safe, internet access. The lobby bar is open 24 hours a day with wide selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, sandwiches, fresh selection from the grill, etc. Those guests with cars can park their vehicles in the closed parking lot with surveillance. Transport from the hotel to the Congress venue: 5 minutes walk and by tram No. 4 and 6 to the Congress Venue (ca.10 min.).

Single bed room	57.- €
Double bed room	69.- €

Hotel Ventura* (Budapest XI., Fehérvári út 179.)**

It is a friendly hotel located on the Buda side, close to the M1 and M7 motorways and easy reach by public transportation both to downtown and to the Congress Venue. There are 40 rooms with 3 beds, 103 double-rooms, and 6 apartments. The number of non-smoking rooms is 10. They can offer family-rooms for guests with children and the ones with parquet-floor to allergic guests. All comfortable rooms are equipped with shower, cable TV, minibar and telephone. The friendly and polite staff of the hotel will always be happy to help you in any way. Services of the Ventura Wellness Studio: sauna with light-therapy, solarium, gym with cardio and fitness devices, aerobics and gymnastics with experts, yoga, karate, naturopathic check, sole-reflexology, 10 kinds of massage, cosmetic, pedicure.

Transport from the hotel to the Congress Venue tram No. 47 and changing to tram No. 6 at Móricz Zsigmond körtér (ca. 25 min.).

Single bed room	40.- €
Double bed room	56.- €

Hotel Summer Hill Youth Hostel (Budapest XI., Ménesi út 5.)

Travellers Hostel Hill is centrally located in a quiet place on the Buda side. The hotel is just a few steps away from the town's best thermal bath, has air-conditioned rooms in pleasant and quiet surroundings overlooking the Danube and the Citadel. The hotel has two-room units with shared bathroom-facilities. Free car park and an indoor swimming pool are situated in the garden of the hotel.

Transport from the hotel to the Congress Venue: 5 minutes walk to Móricz Zsigmond körtér then tram No. 6 to the Congress Venue (ca. 10 min.).

Single bed room	35.- €
Double bed room	44.- €

Kármán Tódor Dormitory (Budapest XI., Irinyi J. utca 9-11.)

Student dormitory renovated right now. Two bed rooms with lavatory basin. Shower, toilet and kitchen units on each floor. Breakfast not included in the price! In 5 min. walking distance from the Congress Venue.

Double bed room	20.- €
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Meals and Banquet

Coffee breaks will be served at the Reception Hall in the mornings and afternoons, and the banquet will take place on Wednesday (July 18) on the Roof-terrace of the Congress Venue. A buffet dinner will be served while a band entertains participants. The 1st Dance Competition of Microbiologists will start at 9:30 p.m. Be prepared to win one of the three awards. Professional dancers will put us in the mood, and help to choose the best couples.

Lunch can be purchased on site at the two buffets in the conference venue.

Social Programs

Sightseeing at Castle District and concert in the Matthias Church (Mátyás templom)

(included in the Registration Fee and Accompanying Registration Fee)

The Castle District is one of the most romantic pedestrian sections in Budapest. A medieval little town with atmospheric streets, picturesque houses, gas lamps and beautiful monuments. The main street of the district – Tárnok utca – ranges from Dísz tér to today's district centre, Matthias Church. Colorful little houses border the square and the neighboring streets. The winding streets and narrow houses date back to the Middle Ages, occasionally decorated with valuable Gothic window and door frames. Elegant Baroque and Louis XVI-style palaces are relics of the restoration work after the Turkish occupation.

In the historical atmosphere of Matthias Church, an organ concert from masterpieces of four centuries will be performed. Matthias Church, the former coronation church of the Hungarian kings, located in the Buda Castle district, is a unique venue for such a splendid concert which will surely remain an un-

forgettable experience for all participants. No transfer included! Castle District is served by public transportation (bus No. 16 and "Castle")

Hungarian dinner at Borkatakomba Restaurant

The outskirts of Budapest are famous for wine production, which is where we take the guests to experience a traditional Hungarian wine-cellar with its own restaurant. In the restaurant guests are greeted by the master of the house, who welcomes everybody with special fruit brandy (pálinka) and fresh salty scones. During dinner a spectacular folklore show with dancers accompanied by a famous gipsy band entertain guests.

Optional, price: 45.- € / person (incl. transfer)

Departure: 20 July

Sightseeing by boat (Rendezvous with Buda and Pest)

Story, music and splendid sights (Royal Palace, Parliament) on a Danube cruise with a short walk on Margaret Island, one of the most beautiful parks of the capital. In the 13th century King Béla IV. had a Dominican Monastery built on the island (its ruins can still be seen), where his daughter, Princess Margaret lived, hence today's name of the island.

Refreshments included. – No transfer provided to and from the pier. Stop at Margaret Island only during day cruise.

Optional, price: day time: 16.- € /person; evening: 19.- € /person

Departure: Every day, afternoon or evening

Parliament Tour

Take the opportunity for a visit of the impressive House of Parliament. After a walk around Hungary's largest building, you will visit interior of the magnificent neo-gothic Parliament (home of the Hungarian crown) with a guided tour through the splendid boardrooms and impressive staircases.

Optional, price: 22.- € /person

Departure: Every day at 09:30

Historical City Tour of Budapest

On this three-hour coach tour you will discover the main attractions of the Hungarian capital. The tour includes a visit to the Heroes' Square with the Millenary Monument, to the St. Stephen Cathedral, to the Opera House and the Parliament to enjoy their spectacular architecture from outside. Continuing on to Buda, you will visit the medieval Castle District, passing by the Fisherman's Bastion and the old Matthias Church, followed by a ride to Gellért Hill, where you will enjoy the beautiful panorama of the city featured on the UNESCO list of World Heritage.

Optional, price: 26.- € /person

Departure: every day at 10:00; 11:00; 14:30

Jewish Budapest

We drive along the Danube bank to St. Stephens' Park (World War II victims Memorial) – New street Synagogue, Leopold Town former Middle-Class Jew-

ish district – Visit of the World's second largest Synagogue, at the Dohány street and The Jewish Museum (interior visit) – Jewish Garden – Tree of Life – Temple of the Heroes – Cake and soft drink in the Kosher Restaurant (possibility for lunch) – tour ends at the restaurant.

No tour during holidays and on special occasions.

Optional, price: 25.- € / person

Departure: 18, 20 July at 10:00

The Royal Tour

The tour includes a visit to the Gödöllő Mansion, the former summer residence of the Habsburg Royal Family in Hungary, which is the second largest chateau of the world! Visit to the recently renovated attractive building. Many of the rooms including Queen Sissi's apartment reflect to the atmosphere of those old days. While walking through the gardens of the castle guests can visit the royal stables and the riding school. Upon arrival a welcome cocktail, called "Sissi" will be served.

Optional, price: 45.- € /person

Departure: 18, 19, 20 July at 9:00

Puszta Excursion

Visit to the Great Plain, the "Puszta" in Eastern Hungary. Arriving at the Puszta, guests are greeted by herdsman and offered by the famous Hungarian brandy, the "pálinka" and some tasty typical Hungarian snacks.

An impressive Horse Show will bring you close to the wild traditions of the famous Hungarian horsemen the "Csikós" and the "Betyár", while famous Hungarian horses and different exercises can also be seen.

You will also have the opportunity to ride a carriage and go for a short trip through the Puszta, where you can enjoy the beautiful flora and fauna of this unique area. Visit to the stall of the Hungarian grey longhorn and the flock of spiral-horned Racka sheep is also part of the tour, while you may also test your skills at riding on horseback or on donkey's back.

Lunch will be served in a "Csárda", a typical Hungarian inn, where authentic Hungarian dishes, like gulyás soup and local wines can be tasted. Spirits will raise high by a large-scale folklore program, gypsy music and much more...

Optional, price: 75.- € /person

Departure: 18, 19 July at 9:00

Danube Bend Tour

In the morning guests will be taken to the unique artists' village of Szentendre (30 minutes from Budapest) with its cobbled stone squares, picturesque old streets and 18th century town houses. Further stop at Visegrád at the ruins of the Royal Castle. Situated at the Danube, lunch at a medieval style restaurant famous for its tasty royal dishes. The last stop will be Esztergom the seat of the leader of the Hungarian Catholic Church, the Archbishop of Esztergom. The city lies next to the Danube. The first Hungarian king, Saint Stephen, the Founder of the State (1000-1038), was born in the castle built in this town in 972.

Optional, price: 65.- € /person
Departure: 18, 19, 20 July at 09:00

Lake Balaton & Herend Tour

Herend a world famous centre of porcelain – after a guided tour through the world's largest Porcelain Manufacture (founded 1826), coffee at the "PORCELANIUM" – possibility for shopping – afterwards we drive to the Peninsula Tihany the famous nature reserve at Lake Balaton (interior visit of the Abbey, founded 1051) – then lunch in a traditional Csárda (3-course menu with wine) – drive to the oldest Spa, Balatonfüred (Promenade) – Return to Budapest.

Optional, price: 75.- € /person
Departure: 21 July at 09:00

Excursion to the Baroque Town of Eger with Wine-Tasting

(Guaranteed in case of 15 pax!)

Eger is one of the oldest towns in Hungary with a rich historical past and numerous monuments. St. Stephen, the first Hungarian king, founded an Archbishopric here. The fortress, which was constructed in the 13th century, played a great role in the fight against the Turks in the 16th century. Eger's surroundings also display some of the most famous vineyards in Europe, producing such world-renowned brands of wines as the "Leányka" and the Bull's Blood.

Wine-tasting and lunch in a local restaurant is also part of the program.

Optional, price: 75.- € /person
Departure: 19 July at 09:00

Szentendre Tour (Guaranteed in case of 15 pax!)

Half-day excursion to the most scenic part of Hungary. The tour includes a visit to Szentendre, the artists' town with its cobbled-stone squares and picturesque old streets and alleys. After a short guided tour of the town, you'll visit the Kovács Margit Ceramic Museum, a unique place that exhibits the works of a very special Hungarian artist, who created her own style by combining modern art forms with the traditions of Hungarian folk art.

There will be possibility for shopping in the many handicrafts' and souvenir shops, too, while you'll also taste a typical tasty Hungarian lunch in one of the atmospheric local restaurants of Szentendre.

Price: 45.- € /person
Departure: 20 July at 09:00

Pre- and Post Congress Tours

At an additional charge, tours are organized for all participants and accompanying persons. The tours may be cancelled if less than 15 persons have booked. In this case ticket holders will receive refund on site at the registration.

Wine Tour to Tokaj-Hegyalja, 2 days (20-22 July)

(Guaranteed in case of 15 pax!)

”The wine of Kings, the King of wines” – said Louis XV, the French king after tasting the world famous ”Aszú” of Tokaj. Tokaj-Hegyalja is the most famous wine region of Hungary, home of the ”aszú” wine, the essence made of selected noble rot grapes and also Szamorodni, which is unique both as a kind of aperitif and dessert wine. Addition to the tasty wines guests can enjoy the beautiful landscape, special nature and climate of the region.

This two-day excursion includes a visit to Sárospatak, the famous school town of Hungary and visits to the leading wine-cellars of the region where guests can get acquainted with the taste, history and production technology of the wines. Accommodation and dinner in a 3-star family pension. Traveling by air-conditioned coach.

Price: 300.- € /person including transfer, guidance, full board and accommodation

Lake Balaton

Spend a few relaxing days at the shore of the ”Hungarian Sea”. Only 100 kilometers from Budapest, Lake Balaton is one of the most precious natural treasures of Hungary. It is the largest fresh-water lake of Central Europe, its length is 77 kilometers and its width ranges from 4 to 14 kilometers. On the sunlit slopes running down towards the lake there has been grape and wine production going on for centuries. The beauty and the thousand appearances of Balaton captivate both the curious tourists and the natives. The region holds countless unique recreational facilities, secrets and experiences for the guests coming here. Hike in the shadowy woods of the gentle slopes of the hills among ancient castles and ruins of churches! Dip into the summer, refresh your body and mind in its spas, admire the fabulous scenery of the ”golden gate” from the board of a ship and relax while listening to the soft sounds of the waves licking your legs or dance with us at a harvest home where you can quench your thirst with excellent, full-bodied wines.

Accommodation at Hotel Panorama**** situated in the town of Siófok, the ”capital” of the Southern part of the lake. One can find here various high-standard services including restaurants delivering a wide range of flavors, shopping centers, bars, and several clubs with pleasant music. The hotel lies in the holiday and hotel area of the city – called the ”Aranypart” (meaning Golden coast), directly on the lakeside, giving the guests the opportunity both for resting and also for making a bustling holiday filled with entertainments of all kinds.

Double room: 105.- € /night incl. VAT and buffet breakfast

Single room: 85.- € /night incl. VAT and buffet breakfast

Deadlines and Payment Information

Deadline for

Abstract Submission: 31st May 2007

Deadlines and Payment Information

Early registration before 31st May 2007

Regular registration after 31st May 2007

On Site registration after 5th July 2007

Cancellation charge

80% Refund before 15th June 2007

No Refund after 15th June 2007

Please register at the homepage of the Hungarian Society for Microbiology (www.mmt.org.hu). Please follow the instructions on the homepage at submission of your registration/accommodation preferences.

Payments (registration fee, accommodation fee, optional meals, excursions, etc.) should be sent to Chemol Travel Ltd. Incoming & Congress Department (Deák Ferenc utca 10., Budapest, H-1052 Hungary; phone: +36-1-266-7032; fax: +36-1-266-7033; e-mail: incoming@chemoltravel.hu) by means of:

Bank transfer to Hungarian Foreign Trade Bank (Váci utca 38., Budapest, H-1056 Hungary) account No. 10300002-50320164-26304880 (IBAN code: HU 30-10300002-50320164-26304880; SWIFT code: MKKB-HU-HB) with reference: MMT 2007. Please do not forget to indicate the participants name on the remittance.

Credit card mail order.

Please kindly note that all bank charges (if any) should be covered by the payee.

Cancellation

Registration cancellations must be made in written form to the Congress Secretariat.

Confirmation of Registration

Participants will receive an acknowledgement of their registration and abstract submission. Please read carefully the acknowledging e-mail, and do not forget to confirm your registration and abstract submission!

Reservations will be finalized and reconfirmed only after having received payment by Chemol Travel Ltd. A receipt will be placed in the Congress bag.

Letter of Invitation

If you require a letter of invitation please notify the Congress Secretariat. Invitation is only to assist participants to obtain travel grants, visa, etc. and does not imply any commitment of the Congress Administration to provide financial support.

Exhibitions/Sponsors

A commercial exhibition related to microbial diagnostics, research and biotechnology for laboratory suppliers, publishers, and consultants will be organized during the meeting. A sponsorship program ensures contributing organizations receive maximum exposure during the meeting. For further information please register at the homepage of the Hungarian Society for Microbiology (www.mmt.org.hu).

General Information

Most European and North American international airlines serve Budapest by regular flights. Railway connections are excellent with all European countries. Those who come by car should notice that the Congress Venue and Hotels are easily accessible from the M1 and M7 motorways.

Public transportation in Budapest is extensive, and reliable. Tickets must be purchased at Metro stations, Hotels, Tobacco shops, etc. in advance and validated on board. Last busses and trams start from the final stops at 11 p.m. Within the city, when needed, we recommend the use of "Radio taxi"; it can be called by dialing 37-77-777.

The Congress Bag will provide information material on restaurants, bars, and cafes in Budapest, as well as popular events, which take place during your stay in Budapest. Addresses, telephone numbers, opening hours and the acceptance of credit cards are pointed out.

The climate in July is very pleasant, for some people may be even hot. The average daytime temperature is around 22 C degrees. Daily maximum values will reach 28-34 C. A light coat and some wet weather protection might be useful, especially for those who plan to take part at congress tours.

Currency: Hungarian Forint.

Credit cards: Visa, Diner, Eurocard, MasterCard, American Express, are accepted in Hotels and most restaurants and stores. Please ask before ordering!

Shopping hours: usually 10.00 to 18.00. Sunday's most shops are closed.

Power supply: 220 V, AC 60 Hz.

Value Added Tax: VAT (in Hungarian ÁFA) is charged on most goods (except in duty-free shops), the rate is 20 %.

Tipping: Tips in restaurants and for taxis – depending on the service – are optional but expected. Maximum rate is 10 %.



Second (electronic) Circular and General Information's

15th International Congress of the Hungarian Society for Microbiology

Organized by

the Hungarian Society for Microbiology,
the Faculty of Science, Eötvös Loránd University,
the Hungarian Society for Immunology,
the Biotechnological Section of the Hungarian Biochemical Society,
the Hungarian Society for Infectology and Clinical Microbiology
and the Foundation of the Hungarian Society for Microbiology

Scientific Advisory Board

Yair Aharonowitz (Israel) - Rudolf Amann (Germany) – Sebastian G.B. Amyes (GB) - Larry R. Beuchat (USA) - Yehiel Becker (Israel) - Teun Boekhout (The Netherlands) - Milton S. daCosta (Portugal) – Jörg Hacker (Germany) - Wilhelm Holzapfel (Germany) - Danko Hajsig (Croatia) - Kálmán Könczöl (Hungary) - Kornél L. Kovács (Hungary) - Christian P. Kubicek (Austria) - Peter G. Medveczky (USA) - János Minárovits (Hungary) - Hans Helmut Niller (Germany) - Stanley A. Plotkin (USA) - Peter Raspor (Slovenia) - Julius Rajcani (Slovakia) - Julius Subik (Slovakia) - Erko Stackebrandt (Germany) - Tibor Valyi-Nagy (USA)

July 18-20, 2007

Eötvös Loránd University, Faculty of Science
(Pázmány Péter sétány 2., H-1117 Budapest, Hungary)

Dear Colleagues!

The organizers of the 15th International Congress of the Hungarian Society for Microbiology are pleased to provide information to help you extract maximum benefit from the event. About 300 participants from over 10 countries registered for this conference. Around 120 oral presentations and 100 posters are in the programme of the Congress.

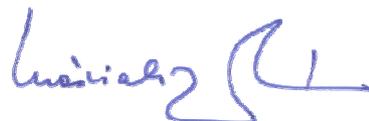
The topics of the special and plenary lectures include:

- Yair Aharonowitz:** The B12 riboswitch-mediated control of metabolic processes in *Streptomyces*
- Rudolf Amann:** Gatekeepers of the biosphere: studying marine microorganisms with environmental genomics
- Sebastian G. B. Amyes:** Superbugs: the recent expansion of multi-antibiotic resistant bacteria
- Stanley A. Plotkin:** New and future vaccines
- Purnendu C. Vasavada:** Rapid methods and automation in microbiology: a quarter century developments - promise, prospects and challenges

We continue to work hard in the remaining time to satisfy your expectations as a speaker, poster presenter, Congress participant or visitor from wherever you come here and hope to make your stay in Hungary as interesting and enjoyable as possible. We are convinced that you will share a scientifically intriguing meeting at the Faculty of Science, Eötvös Loránd University.

Welcome in Budapest!

For the Local Organizing Committee (Judith Deák, Levente Emódy, József Farkas, Attila Horváth, Levente Karaffa, Gábor Kovács, Anna Maráz, Yvette Mándi, Erzsébet Nagy, Károly Nagy, Tibor Pál, László Rókusz, Mária Takács)

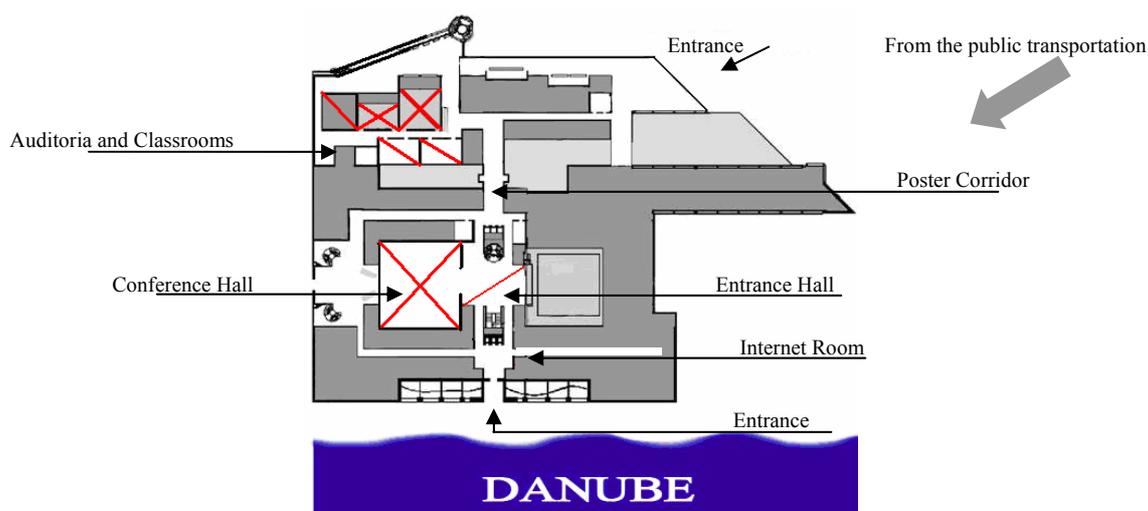


K. Márialigeti
Congress Secretary
Hungarian Society for Microbiology
Phone: +36-1-381-2177
Fax: +36 1-381-2178
E-mail: fotitkar@mmt.org.hu

General Information

Congress Venue

The Congress and the connected Exhibition is held at the Eötvös Loránd University Convention Centre (address: Budapest XI., Pázmány Péter sétány 1/A). Sessions will be held in the Conference Hall, auditoria and classrooms of the Faculty of Science, poster sessions will take place in the Poster Corridor connecting the Entrance Hall and the auditoria. The Congress site can be reached easily by public transport (e.g. trams No. 4 or 6 and/or bus No. 12) and it is fully accessible for disabled people. It is situated in a pleasant and scenic park on the Danube embankment, enriched by the pleasant atmosphere on the Buda side of the river.



Registration and Information Desk

The Registration Desk, where advance and on-site registrants may pick up their conference material is operating in the Entrance Hall of the Congress Venue. The representatives of Chemol Travel Ltd. (Incoming & Congress Department, Deák Ferenc utca 10, Budapest, H-1052 Hungary; phone: +36-1-266-7032; Fax: +36-1-266-7033; E-mail: incoming@chemoltravel.hu) will be at your service at the registration. They are in charge of the registration, hotel bookings, social events, and optional excursions. Tickets for social events and optional tours can be obtained at the Registration Desk. The desk will be opened as follows:

Tuesday,	July 17	18.30 - 20.30
Wednesday,	July 18.	7.00 - 17.00
Thursday,	July 19	8.00 - 15.00
Friday	July 20	8.00 - till the end of sessions.

The Programme of the 15th International Congress of the Hungarian Society for Microbiology with any last-minute changes will be available at the Registration Desk, and on the doors of the lecture halls.

Conference Badge

Participants will receive a badge upon registration. Admission to the Conference area and/or to the social activities is possible only with a valid badge. Badges must be worn throughout the conference and at social activities.

Certificate of Attendance

A Certificate of Attendance can be requested at the Registration Desk.

Technical Equipments and instructions for oral presentations

Equipments

“PowerPoint” on a PC running Windows XP with Office 2003 is available in the conference rooms, and at slide-check. You may connect your own computer to the projector if you prefer (please arrange in advance!). Standard audio-visual equipment will include a slide projector (50 by 50 mm slides) and an overhead projector too. Please indicate your special needs (e.g. dual projecting) in due time in advance by e-mail to the Congress Secretary (fotitkar@mmt.org.hu).

Presentation upload

Speakers are requested to test and hand over their CD or pen drive to the technician at registration, or latest an hour before the adequate session starts.

Presentation files can be loaded to the Congress presentation ftp page (ftp://ucc-server.elte.hu) in advance, from July 10.

In case of Windows XP, please open your **Windows Explorer**, and in the **Address line** type the address (ftp://ucc-server.elte.hu) - press **Enter**. In the appearing window type:

Username: eac

Password: eaEc3001

Press **Enter**. Then from the **My Documents** or **My Computer** folders you can directly copy (transfer) your file to the Congress presentation folders. The filename you apply should contain the number of the presentation (please refer to the programme).

The server can be reached by the Total Commander software too.

Presentation files

Optimum conditions of presentation files: Microsoft PowerPoint or PDF (in case you want to use other software, please bring it to the Congress). If you use animations, please embed them. If it is a special animation, please send the codec, and bring all the files to the Congress.

If you have a Macintosh computer, it can be plugged in having a conventional, 15 pin socket. If your computer does not have this connection, please bring appropriate converter with you.

At the session

Speakers and chairpersons should meet minimum 5 minutes before their relevant sessions to be briefed, to become acquainted with audio/visual aids etc. and resolve any problems. Please take your time to organise your presentation correctly!

Speakers (excepting invited and introductory lectures) will have 15 minutes, which include questions and discussion. The time limit will be as strictly enforced as possible.

Instructions for poster presentations

Posters will be displayed in the Poster Corridor for three full days. Please mount your poster as soon as possible, preferably on July 17 afternoon, but not later than July 18 noon. To install your posters please look up the number of your presentation in the Programme booklet and find your number on the provided boards. Help from our staff (if needed), as well as adhesive, pins to install your poster will be provided. During the Poster Session authors of posters are requested to be present at their posters at the time specified in the programme. This will give all participants the opportunity for questions and discussion. Poster displays however should be self-explanatory even in the absence of authors.

Posters should not exceed a size of 85 cm (width) x 120 cm (height) (standing A₀).

Best Poster Award

There will be an award for the 2 most outstanding student posters. The awards will be based on the quality of content of the contribution and on the quality of the presentation (layout etc.). Please find a poster competition form in your Congress Bag and drop it in the appropriate box at the Registration Desk not later than July 19, Thursday evening. The poster awards will be announced at the Farewell Drink on July 20, noon. The 2 winning poster presenters will get a traditional Hungarian speciality.

To compete in the awards a letter confirming student status must be sent to the Congress Secretariat (e-mail: fotitkar@mmt.org.hu)!

Congress Proceedings

The abstracts of the 15th International Congress of the Hungarian Society for Microbiology will be published in a Supplement issue of *Acta Microbiologica et Immunologica Hungarica*.

Invited speakers, and speakers of introductory talks are welcome to publish their contributions in the form of review and/or research articles in Acta Microbiologica et Immunologica Hungarica (<http://www.akademiai.com/content/119703/>)!

Language

The official language of the Congress is English.

Internet Facilities

Access to e-mail or other computer services will be available during the Congress. The internet room will be No. 0.117.

Meals and Banquet

Banquet (July 18)

The Banquet will take place on Wednesday on the Roof-terrace of the Congress Venue. A buffet dinner will be served while a band entertains participants. The 1st Dance Competition of Microbiologists will start at 9:30 p.m. Be prepared to win one of the three awards. Professional dancers will put us in the mood, and help to choose the best couples.

Farewell drink (July 20)

The Farewell drink will be served in the lobby of the Biology/Earth Sciences Building (address: Budapest XI., Pázmány Péter sétány 1/C), in front of the Biological and Geological Collection of the Faculty of Science, Eötvös L. University.

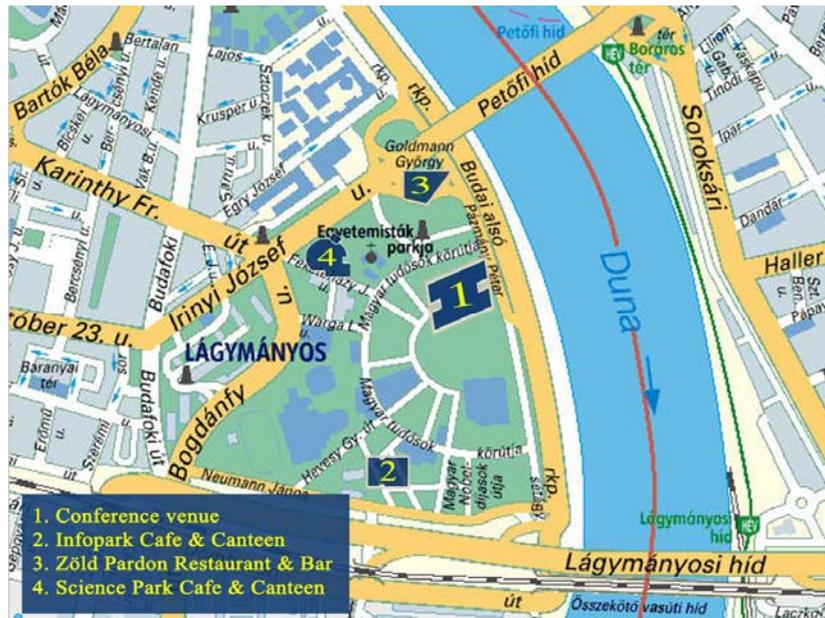
Coffee breaks

Coffee / cold drinks and small cakes will be available for the registered participants in the Coffee breaks throughout the Congress in the Entrance Hall.

Lunch

Lunch can be purchased on site at a buffet in the Congress venue. Alternatively, there are many restaurants in the vicinity of the Conference Center where lunches/sandwiches can be purchased. Some facilities within walking distance:

- **Infopark** Café & Canteen, Address: 1117, Infopark Building „I”. Typical office building canteen.
- **Zöld Pardon** Restaurant & Bar, Address: 1117, Goldmann György square, south side. Open air restaurant with simple international and Hungarian dishes.
- **Science Park** Café & Canteen, Address: 1117, Irinyi József u. 4-20. Typical office building canteen.



Sightseeing at Castle District and Organ Concert in the Matthias Church (Mátyás templom)

(Included in the Registration Fee and Accompanying Registration Fee)

Participants meet Thursday, July 19 at 6 pm in front of Matthias Church where the sightseeing at Buda Castle District starts.

The Organ Concert in the Matthias Church will start at 7.30 pm. The programme will be available on the invitation card.

The Castle District is served by public transportation (bus No. 16 from Deák tér, and bus "Castle" from Moszkva tér).

Please do not forget to bring your invitation card (ticket) with you!

Notice and Communication Board

The Message Service is located at the Registration Desk.

Smoking

Smoking is NOT permitted inside the Congress Venue or at the venues for the social functions. Smokers are required to smoke outdoors in the designated area.

Emergencies, Medical Advice

In case of emergency or if you need medical help during Congress hours, please contact the Registration Desk. Outside the Congress time in case of emergency turn to the Reception at your Hotel or use the following numbers: Emergency centre 112, Ambulance 104, Fire brigade 105, Police 107.

Exhibition

A commercial exhibition related to microbial diagnostics, research and biotechnology will be organized during the meeting. A sponsorship programme ensures contributing organisations receive maximum exposure during the meeting. Exhibitors will have their stands in the Entrance Hall of the Congress Venue.

Sponsors and Exhibitors:

Main Sponsor: VWR International GmbH

APPLERA Magyarország Kft

Biocenter Kft

BioMarker Kft

Biomedica Hungária Kft

CMPMedica Információs Kft

IZINTA Kereskedelmi Kft

Labsystem Kft

Lambda-Med Kft

Sarstedt Kft

Sartorius-Membran Kft

Travel Information

Most European and North American international airlines serve Budapest by regular flights. Railway connections are excellent with all European countries. Those who come by car should notice that the Congress Venue and Hotels are easily accessible from the M1 and M7 motorways.

To participants arriving to Budapest by plane it is recommended to choose the „Airport Minibus” service to your hotel in the city. Tickets are available at the stand in the Arrivals Hall. To participants arriving to Hungary by international railway connections it is recommended to use taxis or public transport.

Public transportation in Budapest is extensive, and reliable. Tickets must be purchased at Metro stations, Hotels, Tobacco shops, etc. in advance and validated on board. Last busses and trams start from the final stops at 11 p.m. Weekly passes allowing free travel on all means of transportation within the city borders can be bought at all main metro stations.

The Congress Bag will provide information material on restaurants, bars, and cafes in Budapest, as well as popular events, which take place during your stay in Budapest. Addresses, telephone numbers, opening hours and the acceptance of credit cards are pointed out.

Power supply

230 V, AC 50 Hz. Round European-style two-pin plugs are used.

Currency, Exchange, Credit Cards

The official currency in Hungary is the Hungarian Forint. Exchange facilities are offered to participants at the airport, in hotels, at the exchange desk of the banks or at the registration desk at a daily indicated rate. American Express, Visa, Euro card, Master Card are accepted at the registration desk, in hotels, first class restaurants and city stores, but you should ask or look for the logo before ordering a service.

Banking hours: usually 8.00 to 16.00, Saturdays and Sundays closed.

There are teller machines (ATM) operating in the Congress building.

Taxis

We suggest that you use only taxis equipped with a taximeter, such as Tele5, Főtaxi, City Taxi, Buda Taxi, or Radio taxi. Beware of private cabs, especially those without a taximeter.

Climate and Clothing

The climate in July is very pleasant, for some people may be even hot. The average daytime temperature is around 22 C degrees. Daily maximum values will reach 28-34 C. Some wet weather protection might be useful, especially for those who plan to take part at congress tours.

Tipping

Tips in restaurants and for taxis – depending on the service – are in most cases optional but expected. Maximum rate is 10 %. There are some restaurants, where a service charge is calculated. In such cases tips shall not be expected.

Telephones

Most public phones in Budapest are on a digital network. Blue pay-phones take 10, 20, 50 and 100 Forint coins. There are more card phones. Phone-cards can be bought at hotels, post offices, and petrol and railway stations as well as at newsstands.

Note for drivers

Drivers should be aware that there is a zero tolerance of blood alcohol level while driving in Hungary.

There is plenty of open-air parking area in around the Congress venue, where the parking is free. Elsewhere in the city in the daytime (8.00-18.00) parking is not free; please check the automats for charges, and tickets.

Shopping hours

The usual shopping hours in Budapest are from 10.00 am to 6.00 pm. In large shopping enters in and around the city until 9.00 pm. For further information please contact the Registration Desk.

Value Added Tax: VAT (in Hungarian ÁFA) is charged on most goods (except in duty-free shops), the rate is 20 %.

Disclaimer

The organizers cannot accept liability for injuries or losses of whatever nature incurred by participants and/or accompanying persons, nor for loss or damage to their luggage and/or personal belongings that may occur during the Congress.

Accommodation

You can check the locations at <http://www.webmap.hu/bp/>.

Hotel Novotel Centrum**** (Budapest VIII., Rákóczy street 43-45.)

This hotel is located in the centre of the city, only minutes from the cultural and commercial centres and the downtown shops and services of the capital. A protected Art Nouveau style hotel building with the latest Novotel standard.

The fastest way to reach the Congress Venue is to travel with tram No. 4 or No. 6. The tram stop is in a 2 min. walking distance from the Hotel. Take trams in the direction of Buda (south), and travel 6 stops to the Buda embankment of the Danube. With a 3 min. walking you reach the Congress entrance.

Hotel Mercure Budapest Duna*** (Budapest IX., Soroksári út 12.)

The hotel is situated very near to the city centre and to the Cogress venue. The Mercure Budapest Duna's traditional "Mercure" comfort and truly friendly atmosphere provides a very comfortable stay.

Direct access with tram No. 4 or No. 6 to the Congress Venue. Just one stop (ca. 6 min.), or walk through the Petőfi Bridge.

Hotel City Inn*** (Budapest VIII., Futó u. 55.)

Hotel City Inn is located in the 8th district of Budapest, which is currently undergoing massive property and infrastructural development. The hotel awaits guests in the heart of the city. The city center is just steps away.

Transport from the hotel to the Congress venue: 4 minutes walk to Ferenc körút, and there take tram No. 4 or No. 6 to Buda (south). Get off at the third stop, and walk to the Congress Venue (altogether ca. 10 min.).

Hotel Ventura*** (Budapest XI., Fehérvári street 179.)

It is a friendly hotel located on the Buda side, close to the M1 and M7 motorways and easy reach by public transportation both to downtown and to the Congress Venue.

Transport from the hotel to the Congress Venue: Take tram No. 47 and change to tram No. 6 at Móricz Zsigmond Square. Travel 2 stops to the Buda embankment of Danube river, and walk to the Congress Venue (ca. 20 min.)

Hotel Summer Hill Youth Hostel (Budapest XI., Ménesi út 5.)

Travellers Hostel Hill is centrally located in a quiet place on the Buda side. The hotel is just a few steps away from the town's best thermal bath, has air-conditioned rooms in pleasant and quiet surroundings overlooking the Danube and the Citadel.

Transport from the hotel to the Congress Venue: 5 minutes walk to Móricz Zsigmond Square then tram No. 6 to the Congress Venue (ca.10 min.).

Kármán Tódor Dormitory (Budapest XI., Irinyi J. utca 9-11.)

Student dormitory. Two bed rooms with lavatory basin. Shower, toilet and kitchen units on each floor. Breakfast not included in the price!

In 5 min. walking distance from the Congress Venue.

Social Programs

Hungarian dinner at Borkatakomba Restaurant



The outskirts of Budapest are famous for wine production, which is where we take the guests to experience a traditional Hungarian wine-cellar with its own restaurant. In the restaurant guests are greeted by the master of the house, who welcomes everybody with special fruit brandy (pálinka) and fresh salty scones. During dinner a spectacular folklore show with dancers accompanied by a famous gipsy band entertain guests.

Optional, price: 45.- € / person (incl. transfer)

Departure: 20 July

Sightseeing by boat (Rendezvous with Buda and Pest)



Story, music and splendid sights (Royal Palace, Parliament) on a Danube cruise with a short walk on Margaret Island, one of the most beautiful parks of the capital. In the 13th century King Béla IV. had a Dominican Monastery built on the island (its ruins can still be seen), where his daughter, Princess Margaret lived, hence today's name of the island.

Refreshments included. - No transfer provided to and from the pier.

Stop at Margaret Island only during day cruise.

Optional, price: day time: 16.- € /person; evening: 19.- € /person

Departure: Every day, afternoon or evening

Parliament Tour



Take the opportunity for a visit of the impressive House of Parliament. After a walk around Hungary's largest building, you will visit interior of the magnificent neo-gothic Parliament (home of the Hungarian crown) with a guided tour through the splendid boardrooms and impressive staircases.

Optional, price: 22.- € /person

Departure: Every day at 09:30

Historical City Tour of Budapest

On this three-hour coach tour you will discover the main attractions of the Hungarian capital.



The tour includes a visit to the Heroes' Square with the Millenary Monument, to the St. Stephen Cathedral, to the Opera House and the Parliament to enjoy their spectacular architecture from outside. Continuing on to Buda, you will visit the medieval Castle District, passing by the Fisherman's Bastion

and the old Matthias Church, followed by a ride to Gellért Hill, where you will enjoy the beautiful panorama of the city featured on the UNESCO list of World Heritage.

Optional, price: 26.- € /person

Departure: every day at 10:00; 11:00; 14:30

Jewish Budapest

We drive along the Danube bank to St. Stephens' Park (World War II victims Memorial) -



New street Synagogue, Leopold Town former Middle-Class Jewish district - Visit of the World's second largest Synagogue, at the Dohány street and The Jewish Museum (interior visit) - Jewish Garden - Tree of Life - Temple of the Heroes - Cake and soft drink in the Kosher Restaurant (possibility for lunch) - tour ends at the restaurant.

No tour during holidays and on special occasions.

Optional, price: 25.- € / person

Departure: 18, 20 July at 10:00

The Royal Tour



The tour includes a visit to the Gödöllő Mansion, the former summer residence of the Habsburg Royal Family in Hungary, which is the second largest chateau of the world! Visit to the recently renovated attractive building. Many of the rooms including Queen Sissi's apartment reflect to the atmosphere of those old days. While walking through the gardens of the castle guests can visit the royal stables and the riding school. Upon arrival a welcome cocktail, called "Sissi" will be served.

Optional, price: 45.- € /person

Departure: 18, 19, 20 July at 9:00

Puszta Excursion

Visit to the Great Plain, the "Puszta" in Eastern Hungary. Arriving at the Puszta, guests are greeted by herdsmen and offered by the famous Hungarian brandy, the "pálinka" and some tasty typical Hungarian snacks.



An impressive Horse Show will bring you close to the wild traditions of the famous Hungarian horsemen the "Csikós" and the "Betyár", while famous Hungarian horses and different exercises can also be seen.

You will also have the opportunity to ride a carriage and go for a short trip through the Puszta, where you can enjoy the beautiful flora and fauna of this unique area.

Visit to the stall of the Hungarian grey longhorn and the flock of spiral-horned Racka sheep is also part of the tour, while you may also test your skills at riding on horseback or on donkey's back.

Lunch will be served in a "Csárda", a typical Hungarian inn, where authentic Hungarian dishes, like gulyás soup and local wines can be tasted. Spirits will raise high by a large-scale folklore program, gypsy music and much more...

Optional, price: 75.- € /person

Departure: 18, 19 July at 9:00

Danube Bend Tour

In the morning guests will be taken to the unique artists' village of Szentendre (30 minutes from Budapest) with its cobbled stone squares, picturesque old streets and 18th century town houses. Further stop at Visegrád at the ruins of the Royal Castle. Situated at the Danube, lunch at a medieval style restaurant



famous for its tasty royal dishes. The last stop will be Esztergom the seat of the leader of the Hungarian Catholic Church, the Archbishop of Esztergom. The city lies next to the Danube. The first Hungarian king, Saint Stephen, the Founder of the State (1000-1038), was born in the castle built in this town in 972.

Optional, price: 65.- € /person

Departure: 18, 19, 20 July at 09:00

Lake Balaton & Herend Tour



Herend a world famous centre of porcelain - after a guided tour through the world's largest Porcelain Manufacture (founded 1826), coffee at the "PORCELANIUM" - possibility for shopping - afterwards we drive to the Peninsula Tihany the famous nature reserve at Lake Balaton (interior visit of the Abbey, founded 1051) - then lunch in a traditional Csárda (3-course menu with wine) - drive to the oldest Spa, Balatonfüred (Promenade) - Return to Budapest.

Optional, price: 75.- € /person

Departure: 21 July at 09:00

Excursion to the Baroque Town of Eger with Wine-Tasting (Guaranteed in case of 15 pax!)

Eger is one of the oldest towns in Hungary with a rich historical past and numerous monuments. St. Stephen, the first Hungarian king, founded an Archbishopric here. The



fortress, which was constructed in the 13th century, played a great role in the fight against the Turks in the 16th century. Eger's surroundings also display some of the most famous vineyards in Europe, producing such world-renowned brands of wines as the "Leányka" and the Bull's Blood.

Wine-tasting and lunch in a local restaurant is also part of the program.

Optional, price: 75.- € /person

Departure: 19 July at 09:00

Szentendre Tour

(Guaranteed in case of 15 pax!)



Half-day excursion to the most scenic part of Hungary. The tour includes a visit to Szentendre, the artists' town with its cobblestone squares and picturesque old streets and alleys. After a short guided tour of the town, you'll visit the Kovács Margit Ceramic Museum, a unique place that exhibits the works of a very special Hungarian artist, who created her own style by combining modern art forms with the traditions of Hungarian folk art.

There will be possibility for shopping in the many handicrafts' and souvenir shops, too, while you'll also taste a typical tasty Hungarian lunch in one of the atmospheric local restaurants of Szentendre.

Price: 45.- € /person

Departure: 20 July at 09:00

Pre- and Post Congress Tours

At an additional charge, tours are organized for all participants and accompanying persons. The tours may be cancelled if less than 15 persons have booked. In this case ticket holders will receive refund on site at the registration.

Wine Tour to Tokaj-Hegyalja, 2 days (20-22 July) (Guaranteed in case of 15 pax!)



"The wine of Kings, the King of wines"- said Louis XV, the French king after tasting the world famous "Aszú" of Tokaj. Tokaj-Hegyalja is the most famous wine region of Hungary, home of the "aszú" wine, the essence made of selected noble rot grapes and also Szamorodni, which is unique both as a kind of aperitif and dessert wine. Addition to the tasty wines guests can enjoy the beautiful landscape, special nature and climate of the region.

This two-day excursion includes a visit to Sárospatak, the famous school town of Hungary and visits to the leading wine-cellar of the region where guests can get acquainted with the taste, history and production technology of the wines. Accommodation and dinner in a 3-star family pension. Traveling by air-conditioned coach.

Price: 300.- € /person including transfer, guidance, full board and accommodation

Lake Balaton

Spend a few relaxing days at the shore of the "Hungarian Sea". Only 100 kilometres from



Budapest, Lake Balaton is one of the most precious natural treasures of Hungary. It is the largest fresh-water lake of Central Europe, its length is 77 kilometres and its width ranges from 4 to 14 kilometres. On the sunlit slopes running down towards the lake there has been grape and wine production going on for centuries. The beauty and the thousand appearances of Balaton captivate both the curious tourists and the natives. The region holds countless unique recreational facilities, secrets and experiences for the guests coming here. Hike in the shadowy woods of the gentle slopes of the hills among ancient castles and ruins of churches! Dip

into the summer, refresh your body and mind in its spas, admire the fabulous scenery of the "golden gate" from the board of a ship and relax while listening to the soft sounds of the waves licking your legs or dance with us at a harvest home where you can quench your thirst with excellent, full-bodied wines.

Accommodation at Hotel Panorama**** situated in the town of Siófok, the "capital" of the Southern part of the lake. One can find here various high-standard services including restaurants delivering a wide range of flavours, shopping centres, bars, and several clubs with pleasant music. The hotel lies in the holiday and hotel area of the city - called the "Aranypart" (meaning Golden coast), directly on the lakeside, giving the guests the opportunity both for resting and also for making a bustling holiday filled with entertainments of all kinds.

Double room: 105.- € /night incl. VAT and buffet breakfast

Single room: 85.- € /night incl. VAT and buffet breakfast