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International Congress of Actuaries 2018 in Berlin—It’s Getting Closer

By Michael Steinmetz



From June 4–8, 2018, the cream of actuarial expertise from around the world will meet in Berlin. The German Association of Actuaries, in conjunction with the International Actuarial Association, will host the 31st International Congress of Actuaries (ICA) with an expected 2,000 international participants. Located within the ESTREL Convention Center, the ICA 2018 features a high-class congress program with daily plenary sessions, around 50 invited speakers, over 280 contributed presentations for practitioners and academics coupled with an entertaining social program in the vibrant and historical capital of Germany. The registration for the ICA 2018 opened on 1 December 2017. Only 8 weeks after registration started, 2,250 delegates and accompanying persons have signed up to attend the ICA 2018 – the number of expected participants for the whole registration period. The ICA 2018 will therefore be the best attended world congress in the history of the ICA so far.

HIGH-QUALITY CONGRESS PROGRAM

In **daily plenary sessions**, internationally renowned representatives from insurance and regulation discuss the latest topics that will move the actuarial profession forward in the year 2018 and beyond. Where are we heading, and what impact will, for example, demographic developments, new concepts of mobility

and an ongoing period of low-interest rates have for insurers? Among other international experts, Winfried Heinen, chairman of the board of executive directors of Gen Re; Scott Cochran, executive vice president of RGA; Peter Praet, member of the ECB’s executive board; Gabriel Bernardino, chairman of the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority; and Alexander Sixt, member of the board of directors of Sixt, will talk about the future of demography, insurance, the low interest rate environment, mobility and regulation.

Additionally, more than **30 invited speaker sessions** with well-known guest speakers from both academia and practice will cover topics from one or more of the program strands. As experts in their fields, the invited speakers—such as Paul Glasserman (Columbia University), Gunther Kraut (Munich Re) and Jürgen Huschens (IBM)—will focus on relevant actuarial and financial topics. Invited speaker sessions are offered in every section and will take place on each day of the ICA 2018.

The wide variety of topics facing the actuarial world will be covered in around **280 contributed presentations**, selected from the record number of almost 600 submitted abstracts as part of the call for papers. Section-specific talks as well as numerous interdisciplinary presentations can be found throughout the program—every day various sessions in each section will be offered. The program, taking place in 12 parallel lecture halls, will meet the needs of all actuaries: practitioners as well as academics, newly qualified actuaries, and those who can look back on many years of professional experience.

To create such a high-quality program, the Scientific Committee defined a broad set of actuarial topics prior to the call for papers. As a result, the presentations in Berlin will deal with many different aspects of those congress topics spanning all fields of actuarial science. For example, many speakers—especially from the reinsurance industry—will address innovative approaches to new life & health insurance products and the latest study results for mortality and morbidity from large data sources as well as how actuarial data science can affect risk transfer





instruments and what impact current and future medical innovations will have.

Number of sessions (90–120 minutes each) over the full week:

- AFIR/ERM: 25
- ASTIN: 20
- HEALTH: 13
- LIFE: 20
- PENSIONS: 17
- IACA: 10
- PROFESSIONALISM: 5
- EDUCATION: 5

EXCITING SOCIAL PROGRAM IN BERLIN

In addition to numerous scientific sessions, the congress program of the ICA 2018 also includes entertaining social activities. On Tuesday and Thursday afternoon, following the congress program, ICA 2018 delegates are invited to join one of six fascinating **field trips** through Berlin. These guided tours cover Berlin's most famous attractions such as the Brandenburg Gate, the Government Quarter and the Holocaust Memorial, as well as the hidden places in town. All accompanying persons are also welcome to join the **optional tours**. A day trip to Potsdam with its marvelous parks and castles, a shopping tour in Berlin, a guided tour through Germany's largest hotel or a graffiti workshop—with the optional tours there will be no time left for boredom.

Anyone seeking more actuarial content can join the **limited attendance experiences** offered as an attractive alternative to the field trips on Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. The events combine an actuarial talk with an exclusive guided tour through an exceptional venue in Berlin.

And last but not least, three entertaining **evening events** on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoon await the full-week delegates. The "Welcome Event" on Sunday held under the theme "Gauss meets Humboldt" invites participants to an exclusive night at the Natural History Museum in Berlin, one of the

most important research institutions in the world in the fields of biological and geological evolution and biodiversity. On Tuesday all attendees are welcome to join the "Garden Event" in the Estrel Summer Garden next to the congress center with freshly barbecued food, cold drinks and smooth jazz music. The final evening event will take place on Thursday in the Kalkscheune, a former German machine factory. The traditional funfair with various booth activities and fun games will take delegates back to the old Berlin of the 1920s.

GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR STAY

Germany has a lot to offer: from Bavaria in the south with its beautiful landscape of mountains, lakes, traditional small villages and breathtaking castles, up to the north to Hamburg, which is considered to be Germany's gateway to the world. The pre- and post-congress tours offer the ideal opportunity to discover Germany and its neighboring countries. From single- to multi-day trips, package deals or individual tours—on the ICA 2018 website a wide selection of tours can be found.

FIRST VIRTUAL ICA

Another highlight of this ICA will be the very first Virtual ICA (VICA). Due to the support of a number of institutional partners from the actuarial community as well as several sections of the IAA, many sessions from the stages in Berlin will be broadcast live online and provided as recorded sessions afterwards. This allows a much broader audience from all over the world to follow the high value content presented during the ICA and helps to secure this knowledge in a sustainable manner. Furthermore, due to the successful call for papers, the VICA will also feature many online presentations of qualified authors that the ICA could not offer a presentation slot in Berlin.

The IAA sections AFIR/ERM, ASTIN, IACA and IAALS (LIFE) have already decided to become a partner of the VICA. This partnership allows the members of the sections to access more than 100 hours of live streams and videos without any further cost. Information on how to become a member of the sections can be found on <http://www.actuaries.org>.

The DAV is not only looking forward to welcoming many colleagues in Berlin, but invites all section members to join the ICA online. All the information on how to participate in the VICA will be provided in April 2018. For regular information, please register for the monthly ICA 2018 newsletter on www.ica2018.org. ■



Michael Steinmetz is project lead ICA 2018 and managing director for the DAV. He can be contacted at michael.steinmetz@aktuar.de.