

# Invitation - call for papers - for an international conference on fire safety in hotels and other tourist accommodation facilities

Bled, 31 March and 1 April 2016

First Announcement

The first announcement is aimed at managers in tourism and hotels, owners and managers of buildings intended for tourist accommodation; to professionals in the area of fire protection; to designers of buildings and those which plan the accessibility for people with disabilities; to managers and owners of historic buildings for the accommodation of guests; and everyone else working in the areas of promotion of tourism, security, and renovation of buildings for accommodation by contemporary standards that enable access for all.

Tourism is a growing industry, constantly seeking new routes and destinations. Europe, being the origin of Western civilization and one of the most attractive tourist destinations in the world, can offer an excellent service in a safe environment for the tourist or traveler. Safety has always been an essential requirement in gaining confidence of a guest or traveler. Recently it has become the most important factor in decision-making when planning a trip or when a travel agency is choosing a hotel or accommodation facility to accommodate their guests. In addition to the increased importance of security and safety, there are demands for sustainable management of buildings and the adequate accessibility of buildings for all, to include people with disabilities. The impressive selection of a tourist's needs and wants urges providers to meet basic standards of safety; even greater priority being given to those who exceed these standards.

Fire safety is important in hotels and other accommodation facilities; rooms or apartments for guests in tourist farms, B&B's, etc. A guest should be appropriately informed ahead of time about any potential hazards and how to safely and promptly leave the building in which he/she resides should an incident occur. Tourists may include persons with disabilities and/or restrictions which might slow down or even prevent the safe evacuation of a building. Therefore, the host is responsible to provide a safe exit in case of fire or other incident.

Fire safety requirements in hotels and other accommodations, the management methods and the labeling of the accommodation facilities from the standpoint of fire prevention and examples of good practice will be presented and discussed in the plenary session of the conference with invited lecturers: Stewart Kidd, Hans-Dieter Nüßler, Luca Nassi, Janez Mekinc, Helena Cvikl. With this first announcement other lecturers are invited to participate with following themes:

- Fire safety in hotels in the EU: examples of good and bad practice, fires in hotels and similar accommodation facilities,
- Fire safety requirements for smaller buildings with accommodation or in individual residential units that are part of larger buildings,
- The requirements of tourist agencies in terms of integration in hotel offers,
- Presentation of views of the project SAFEHOTEL and the obtaining of SAFEHOTEL-Stars,
- Presentation of requirements for the safe stay of persons with disabilities, with an emphasis on the safe exits,
- Presentation of modern products and systems for fire protection equipment for hotels and other accommodations,
- Ensuring fire safety in residential premises in buildings of cultural heritage.

By this notice we invite organizations to the participation for the organization of the event, lecturers, sponsors and others to join the initial organizers: Slovenian Fire Protection Association, Faculty of Tourism Studies – Turistica, part of University of Primorska, the Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing of Slovenia and the Slovenian professional firefighters - GRS Kranj.

In second notice at the beginning of January 2016 instructions for preparing and submitting contributions to the consultation and notification will be sent. At the end of January there will be a review of the proposals submitted by the authors are informed on the acceptance of contributions (deadline is February 15th). Contributions will be peer reviewed and fully published conference proceedings.

Ljubljana, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015

Organisation committee of the conference

