

## Conventions are big business in Berlin

Balance sheet 2012: For the first time, the number of those participating in meetings and conventions in Berlin has reached 10 million, and the number of overnight stays has increased by 9% to 6.6 million.

**Berlin, 20 February 2013** Berlin has become the location of choice for those holding conventions and meetings, according to the results of the 2012 convention statistics\*. 123,900 events were held in 2012, involving approximately 10.5 million participants, thus representing a 7% rise in events and an 8% rise in participants compared to 2011. The number of overnight stays also increased by 9% to 6.6 million.

"The convention business generates more than a quarter of all overnight stays in Berlin, and is therefore an essential economic factor", says *visitBerlin* CEO Burkhard Kieker. "In the future we want to compete even more effectively for international conventions, leveraging the expertise of our marketing offices in London, New York and São Paulo".

Selected highlights of the past year were the EULAR Annual European Congress of Rheumatology, with around 14,700 participants, and the annual meeting of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD), which brought 18,000 participants to the German capital.

In 2012, revenue through hosting meetings and conventions amounted to €1.96bn (+8%). International events accounted for 19% of this total.

### Revenue has more than doubled in the last ten years

In the past ten years, Berlin has developed into one of the leading cities for hosting conventions, with the number of events increasing by 71% and the number of participants by 83% (2003: 72,400 events with 5.7 million participants). Revenue in 2003 amounted to €754m. It has since more than doubled.

In international comparison, according to the statistics of the International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA), the German capital has become one of the Top 5 leading locations for association meetings since 2004. It is currently ranked fourth.

Further information and statistics about Berlin's reputation as a convention location can be found on the website: [convention.visitBerlin.com](http://convention.visitBerlin.com).

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	2011	2012
<b>Participants</b>	9.7m (+7%)	10.5m (+8%)
<b>Events</b>	115,700 (+2%)	123,900 (+7%)
<b>Overnight stays</b>	6.05m (+9%)	6.6m (+9%)

\* Source: 2012 convention statistics "Annual Report 2012" by the independent market research company ghh consult GmbH on behalf of *visitBerlin*

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## Facts

- In 2012, around 123,900 events took place in Berlin (+7%), involving 10.5 million participants (+8%). Of these events, 19% were international events (2011: 18%).
- The meeting and convention business generated 6.6 million overnight stays (2011: 6.05 million).
- Last year, the revenue generated by the participants of meetings and conventions amounted to €1.961bn (+ 8%) → an average of €187 per participant.
- The number of jobs provided by the convention industry increased from 34,000 in 2011 to 35,000 last year.

## Trends - 2003 to 2012

