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6th INTERNATIONAL BALINT GROUP LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE Belgrade, Serbia

29th September – 01st October 2023

Applicants are invited to attend the Sixth International Balint Group Leadership Conference, which will be held at Hotel Palas in Belgrade, from 29th September– 01st October 2023. Hotel Palas is ideally situated in the heart of the city of Belgrade and will provide a beautiful and peaceful setting for the conference.

The International Balint Federation (IBF) convenes the conference in association with the Balint Society of Serbia.

IBF holds a leadership conference every two years. The conference aims to provide a forum for Balint Group leaders worldwide to study Balint Group leadership together. There will be an opportunity to explore issues and themes in Balint Group leadership in more depth.

The conference theme will be: "Balint leadership under global conditions of uncertainty "

Keep Calm and Carry On?

In recent times, Balint work has taken place under constantly changing and challenging conditions. These days the world is facing many situations causing threat, anxiety, and uncertainty: Pandemics, war, climate crisis, and catastrophic weather events resulting in famine, floods, fires, refugees, chaotic and unstable institutions and political structures, as well as questioning fixed definitions of gender and identity.

Yet, Balint leaders around the world carried on...

With ingenuity, flexibility, creativity, adaptation, and a desire to keep the frame and the safety of the group, Balint leaders, continued to lead groups whether online, with or without masks, in person or not, and with members joining from all corners of the world.

At our next IBF Leadership Conference, we would like to share your experiences as Balint group leaders under these uncertain conditions and reflect on these questions and consequences.

Belgrade, the capital of Serbia, has known many conditions of uncertainty and upheaval over its history and recent past, including three major wars in the 20th century and much Trauma and transitions.

Yet, Belgrade is a thriving city, full of life, culture, creativity, delicious food and wine, a lively cafe culture, and friendly and hospitable people.

We believe it is a perfect location to explore these questions and more.

The Task Force and the Serbian Balint Society invite you to join us in Belgrade in Autumn 2023!

Staff Team: The task force (IBF) will organize in cooperation with the Balint Society of Serbia.

Information for Participants: The conference will be in English and intended for accredited Balint Group Leaders from countries affiliated with the IBF. It is envisaged that there will be up to a total of 60 participants and that they will include:

- experienced leaders
- those newly or recently accredited as leaders

Participants must commit themselves to staying for the whole event. The Hotel Palace is a four-star, traditional-style hotel offering elegant rooms with modern amenities. You should not expect to be able to do any sightseeing during the conference.

It will be assumed that all participants will be willing to present cases and lead a group.

Reservation of places

Everyone interested in attending is advised to apply as early as possible.

In the interest of equity, two places will be reserved for every IBF-affiliated society until **April 30th, 2023**.

If there are more than sixty applicants in total, the organizers will limit attendance by requesting those over-subscribed national societies to decide who they wish to attend. This is over and above IBF Board members, Conference staff, and organizing team members who will attend the conference by the nature of their positions.

Confirmation of attendance will be given as soon after June 1st as possible. If you are interested in coming, don't hesitate, **PLEASE APPLY NOW!**

No payment is required until attendance has been confirmed.

The conference will be organized in small group workshops facilitated by members of the staff team. There will be a short introductory talk and a concluding plenary. The overall aim is to provide a concentrated and coherent experience of working together in an international forum on the challenges and rewards involved in Balint Group leadership.

BURSARY

Please note that three bursaries will be available for this conference in line with the IBF International Bursary Program. Applicants who think they might be eligible should contact Albert Lichtenstein, General Secretary of the IBF Albert.lichtenstein@guthrie.org for an application form.

VENUE

The conference will take place at the Hotel Palas, Toplicin Venac 23, Belgrade, Serbia, which offers tradition, elegance, and comfort. Located right in the middle of downtown's walking zone, Hotel Palas is surrounded by countless restaurants, bars, shops, museums, and many sightseeing attractions such as the National Theater, and Kalemegdan Fortress. Hotel Palas sits at the top of the famous Toplicin Venac street, a tree-lined street with countless bars and restaurants. Adjacent to the hotel is Knez Mihajlova main street, the biggest pedestrian street in Belgrade with historical and cultural institutions, most of the relevant business and government institutions, etc.

See more at <http://palace.worhot.com>

TRAVEL (to Hotel Palas, Belgrade)

Getting to Serbia:

By air to Belgrade airport. It is only 20 minutes to drive from the Belgrade airport. A taxi from the airport to Hotel Palas costs 20 €.

Bus 72, and airport shuttle bus from the airport to bus stop Slavia, from where it is 2,1 km to walk to hotel Palas or to take any trolley bus to the Republic Square, and then 5 min walk to the hotel.

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Palas has single rooms, double rooms, and apartments. Room prices include breakfast. Each room comes with a workspace, flat-screen tv, mini bar, and en-suite bathroom.

Accommodation will be reserved and paid by the conference fee, after receiving confirmation of acceptance to the conference.

There will be more practical information on the application sheet.

MEALS

The conference fee will include a Friday afternoon light meal (sandwiches), a Saturday buffet lunch, tea or coffee with refreshments, and a gala dinner on Saturday evening. Meals for accompanying persons are not included in the room price, but can easily be ordered on-site.

Breakfast is included in the accommodation price for all.

ACCOMPANYING PERSONS

Accompanying persons are very welcome.

One can enjoy a walking city tour, a boat city tour, a bicycle tour on the rivers-side and Ada Ciganlija lake.

There is public transport from the center of Belgrade to each part of the town.

We shall provide further details once registration is completed as by then we shall have a clearer picture of how many accompanying people will be joining us.

WEATHER

In October the temperatures are an average of 10 deg. c, but this can vary up to 20 deg. c.

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Balint leadership under global conditions of uncertainty

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Friday 29th

14.00 -15.00 Registration (with refreshments)

15.00 -17.00 Welcome and Plenary

Work

Saturday 30th

7.00 - 9.15 Breakfast

8.30 - 9.00 Supervision group

9.15 - work

16.30 -18.30 IBF General assembly

18.30-19.30- city center walking tour

19.30 Gala dinner

Sunday 1st

7.00 -10.00 Breakfast

10.00-12.00 work

12.15-13.30 Concluding plenary.

Successful applicants will be notified by June 1st, at the latest at which time they will receive a payment form. Payment must be received no later than July 1st.

BANK CHARGES/TAXES/FEES:

Participants are responsible for all bank charges levied by banks during the payment of conference fees. Any unpaid charges (including Serbian bank charges) are to be paid in cash at registration.

For late registrations (after July 1st) the conference fee will be 60 euros more.

Cancellations notified by August 30th will incur a cancellation fee of 60 Euros. After August 30th the cancellation fee will be 50% of the amount paid.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is reserved by the Balint society of Serbia before 1.08.2023:

Tel. +381 (0)638087363
sapidr@gmail.com

THE CONFERENCE FEE INCLUDES ACCOMMODATION FOR TWO NIGHTS

Accommodation in a single room: 300 euros*
Accommodation in a double room: 260 euros*

Accompanying person: 185 euros*

(It means that if you share a room with an accompanying person the cost (for 2 nights) will be 260 euro+185 euro = 445 euros

Hoping to see you in Belgrade next autumn!

[Here is the link for the application form.](#)