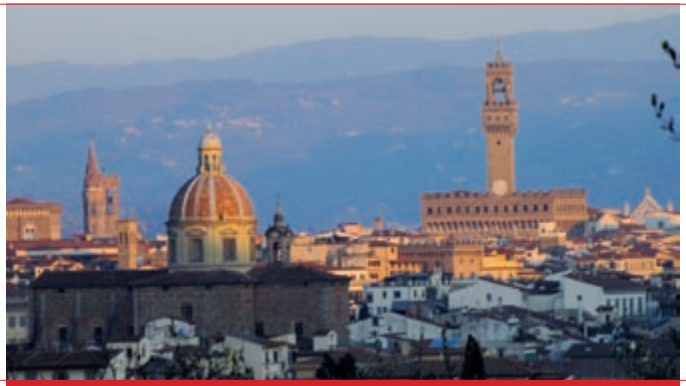
European Biosafety Association

EBSA



PROGRAMME

11th Annual Conference of the European BioSafety Association

2 – 4 April 2008
Florence/Italy

Firenze Fiera
Palazzo dei Congressi

www.ebsaweb.eu/EBSA_11

Invitation

On 3-4 April 2008 the historical city of Florence will be the meeting place for biosafety professionals to network with colleagues and to hear about biosafety-related European and international developments during the 11th Annual Conference of the European BioSafety Association (EBSA). The conference programme covers a wide range of scientific and regulatory areas that are expected to have an impact on biosafety and laboratory biosecurity.

A selection of 6 pre-conference workshops are also offered on 2 April addressing key skills of the bio-safety professional.

We look forward to seeing you in Florence.

Conference Programme Working Group

Conference Programme Working Group

Helena **Hemming**	AstraZeneca, Sweden
Luca **Nelli**	Siena Biotech, Italy
Anton de **Paiva**	Imperial College London,UK
Esmeralda **Prat**	Bayer CropScience, Belgium
Paola **Rosi**	Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics, Italy
Patrick **Rüdelsheim**	Perseus, Belgium
Dimitri **Sossai**	A.O. San Martino, Italy
Phillippe **Stroot**	Xibios, Belgium
Asa **Szekely-Björndal**	Swedish Institute for Infectious Disease Control, Sweden
Dick **Verduin**	Wageningen University, NL

These workshops are run concurrently on **Wednesday, April 2,** the day prior to the Annual Conference. They are intended as training, and offer participants regulatory and/or scientific background, but also plenty of opportunity for practical learning through interaction with experts in the field and networking with colleagues.

Registration for the workshops is from 08.30 – 09.00. The workshops start at 09.00 and end at ca. 17.00. There is a morning coffee/tea break of 15 minutes around 10.30, lunch from 12.30 – 13.30 and an afternoon coffee/tea break of 15 min around 15.00.

The organisers convey their sincere thanks for financial support to

siena biotech

STERIS

There are 6 different workshops:

A. Biorisk assessment

Instructors:

Asa Szekely-Björndal	Swedish Institute for Infectious Disease Control, Sweden
Kathrin Summermatter	Institute für Viruskrankenheiten und Immunoprophylaxe, Switzerland
Stéphane Karlen	Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland

Short description:
The workshop will start by introducing the principles and methods underlying risk assessment for activities involving hazardous biological materials. This will be followed by an interactive session involving participants, and then by a more focused consideration of risk assessment involving work with different biological agents including genetically modified micro-organisms (GMM) and with a variety of biological materials where there is known, suspect or possible contamination with infectious agents. Special considerations when working with laboratory animals will also be covered. The second part of the programme will use a case study approach, where participants will work in smaller groups to develop and understand the process of risk assessment as it relates to biosafety. At the end of the workshop, participants will share their learning in a concluding plenary session.

PRECONFERENCE WORKSHOP

B. Decontamination

Instructors:

Allan Bennett	Health Protection Agency, United Kingdom
Peter Hoffman	Laboratory of Healthcare Associated Infections, United Kingdom
Steve Copping	HSE Biological Agents Unit, Bootle, United Kingdom

Short description:
Disinfection using chemical agents is widely used in laboratories handling pathogenic agents. Recently, concerns over bioterrorism and nosocomial infection have increased interest in decontamination outside the microbiology laboratory. This workshop will introduce the concepts behind disinfection, decontamination, and sterilization, critically describe the commonly used liquid disinfectants and introduce disinfectant efficacy testing. The legislative framework in the EU for both liquid and gaseous disinfection will be discussed by a UK regulator. The available gaseous disinfection methods (formaldehyde, H_2O_2, Chlorine Dioxide) will be critically described and the practical issues of use of gaseous disinfectants in the laboratory environment and other areas including exposure control, validation, filter disinfection and efficacy testing will be discussed. Time will be allocated to allow questions from the audience to be discussed and hopefully answered. Attendance on this workshop should allow attendees to keep up to date with recent developments in this area.

C. Biorisk management, biosafety programmes and institutional management systems

Instructors:

Philippe Stroot	Xibios, Belgium
Goedele De Bruyne	European Commission Joint Research Center, Belgium

Short description:
This interactive workshop will present the principles of biorisk management, identify the multiple components of biosafety programmes and explore ways to integrate them into the management system(s) in place or to be developed in an institution. Some specific issues like the consideration of biosecurity aspects as part of biosafety management will be developed. The seminar will also provide an introduction to ISO and OHSAS management systems and will present the new biorisk management standard. It will be illustrated with a few exercises.

D. Management of a BSL3 facility

Instructors:

Evelien Kampert	National Institute of Public Health and the Environment, The Netherlands
Toon De Kesel	Innogenetics, Belgium

Short description:

This workshop has been designed for biosafety professionals and facility managers who have at least a basic knowledge of biological safety regulations and some experience in running a BSL2 facility. This course will center on practical experience in the management of a BSL3 facility. It will cover subjects like responsibilities, information and training, personnel protection equipment, health surveillance, work practices, disinfection, waste management, cleaning and maintenance, facility maintenance, security and emergency procedures. Exchange of experiences between participants and instructors is an essential part of the course and will be encouraged through some exercises and case studies.

E. Biosafety audits and inspections – a basic course

Instructors:

Peter Guldbrandsen	Switzerland
Helmut Bachmayer	Biosafety & Biosecurity Consultant, Austria

Short description:

This workshop is intended to provide a basic course on auditing management systems and monitoring safety performance in connection with activities involving biohazards. In addition to setting out the general framework for the audit process, and contrasting this with safety inspections, a number of scenarios will be presented to illustrate some of the difficulties which may be encountered, along with approaches to circumvent these. Points to consider when planning and conducting an audit will be presented together with useful hints based on the auditing experience of the tutors. Based on a case study, audit preparation and strategy as well as communication will be practiced in group work and role playing.

F. Training the trainer of hospital healthcare workers on airborne biological risks

Instructors:

Francesco Copello M.D.	Health Director, San Martino's Hospital, Italy
Franco Pugliese M.D.	Safety Manager, Piacenza Hospital, General Secretary AIRESPSA, Italy
Giampietro Scaglione M.D.	U.O. Servizio Prevenzione e Protezione, Italy
Dimitri Sossai	past president AIRESPSA – Safety Manager, San Martino's Hospital, Italy
Cristina Vedovelli	Nurse, trainer in Biosafety, U.O. Servizio Prevenzione e Protezione, Italy

Short description:

When patients arrive at the Emergency Unit, undiagnosed diseases transmitted by aerosols are a significant threat to healthcare workers. Proper facilities with adequate ventilation, personal protection equipment and standard operating protocols are the first line of protection. Training and retraining the healthcare workers are the most important factors in establishing and maintaining effective prevention and protection from occupational-acquired infections. Both facilities and training of healthcare workers should be fully supported by management. Regular auditing is needed to ensure that all measures remain effective. The workshop is based on the training experience of 1500 healthcare workers at the Piacenza Hospital in Italy. Participants are invited to take part in role playing as the nurse, the medical doctor, the patient, the visitor or relatives. This workshop will present biosafety professionals with challenging hospital situations that need to address working methods that respect safety rules and protect both the healthcare worker and the patient with its relatives.

17.30-19.00 **Welcome Reception**

Thursday, 3 April 2008

09.00-09.30 **Opening and introduction**

Session 1a: Current and future issues in high containment (BSL3 & BSL4)

09.30-09.50 **What went wrong and lessons learned at Pirbright**
Heather Sheeley, Health Protection Agency, United Kingdom; Uwe Mueller-Doblies, Institute for Animal Health, United Kingdom

09.50-10.10 **P4 in Rome**
Maria Capobianchi, National Institute of Infectious Diseases Lazzaro Spallanzani, Italy

10.10-10.30 **Biosafety-Europe: What did we achieve and what could be recommended to the EU?**
Kathrin Summermatter, Institut für Viruskrankheiten und Immunprophylaxe, Switzerland

10.30-11.00 **Coffee break**

Session 1b: Issues in high containment

11.00-11.20 **Post polio eradication biosafety**
Chris Wolff, World Health Organisation, Switzerland

Session 2: Chris Collins Lecture

11.20-12.05 **Emerging Zoonosis**
Malcom Bennett, Liverpool University, United Kingdom

12.05-13.00 **Lunch**

Session 3: Animal biosafety

13.00-13-20 **Occupational issues**
Martin Kuster, Novartis International AG, Switzerland

13.20-13.40 **Facility considerations**
Jan Langermans, Wageningen UR, The Netherlands

13.40-14.00 **Animals in containment**
Steve Lever, Defence Science & Technology Laboratory, United Kingdom

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Thursday, 3 April 2008

Session 4: Break outs

14.00-15.15 **A. Biosafety Europe: Quo vadis?**
Moderator: Jürgen Mertsching, Medinzinische Hochschule, Germany

This project concentrated on high containment facilities across Europe. Information was gathered from different European countries, from various expert groups and stakeholders. The responses showed a lack of harmonization on biosecurity regulations, biosafety standards with regard to classification, nomenclature and safety measures. In view of these findings, is there a need for harmonization and to what extent? What are the benefits of harmonization? High containment facilities are expensive to construct and maintain. Sufficient funding must be available to enable high standards for biosafety and biosecurity measures. Who defines the right safety level and where is the right cost – risk reduction balance? How can we ensure that a facility is safe and still cost-effective? Training of those involved in high containment activities is a key element of good biosafety/biosecurity management. How could a training programme best meet the demands of these facilities? What long term goal(s) could the biosafety community strive for?

Participants are invited to join the breakout session to share with the Biosafety Europe Project members their views and ideas on the project's topics.

Thursday, 3 April 2008

14.00-15.15 **B. Molecular tools for the surveillance of mandatory biosafety requirements**
Moderator: Francisco Moreano, Bavarian Health and Food Safety Authority, Germany

European legislation regarding the use of viable genetically modified organisms (GMO) in contained systems covers a wide spectrum of biotechnological applications. GMO are currently applied in several fields of academic research as well as in numerous economic sectors including the agricultural, chemical and pharmaceutical industries. In order to minimize any potential risk that may result from biotechnological applications, the implementation of biosafety measures at organizational, technical and experimental levels is mandatory. The extent and complexity of biosafety measures depend on the characteristics of the applied biological agents and on the risk assessment of the intended use. The use of biological agents that have the potential to produce deleterious effects on both human health and environmental integrity requires the highest biosafety standards.

This breakout group will elaborate on strategies for the assessment of the efficiency of biosafety measures. An especial focus will be given to analytical approaches that might be applied for the quality assurance of biosafety standards or for purposes of surveillance testing.

Thursday, 3 April 2008

14.00-15.15 **C. Laboratory registers of GMOs/pathogens/ biological materials: what is good practice?**
Moderators: Louis Seechurn, Manchester University, United Kingdom; Anton de Paiva, Imperial College London, United Kingdom

This break out session will debate the levels of knowledge required at the national, institutional and research group level of work involving biological agents being undertaken in European institutions. For example, is it reasonable and practical for every institution to be able to report on all current holdings and activities within their organisations? Is it feasible to achieve this when dealing with biological agents that are in themselves capable of replication from minute quantities. The difficulties associated with maintaining accurate registers is weighed against the ever increasing global concerns over bio-security, and hence, on expectations that Governments, Institutions and individual groups know what skeletons they hide in the freezer.

14.00-15.15 **D. Validation of laboratory disinfection procedures**
Moderator: Peter Hoffman, Health Protection Agency, United Kingdom

This session will examine quality assurance issues in laboratory disinfection. How do you know that a particular disinfectant is performing effectively in the situation in which you are using it? How much can you rely on manufacturer's or published data? If you need to verify your particular procedures, how do you go about it?

Thursday, 3 April 2008

14.00-15.15 **E. Training of facility support personnel by BSP**
Moderator: Helena Hemming, AstraZeneca, Sweden

This brake out session is intended to provide a basic knowledge on the level of training that should be required for support and maintenance personnel in connection with activities involving biohazards. The focus will be to set out the general framework for necessary routines and training that need to be in place in order to protect the personnel from infection, prevent dissemination within the facility and avoid release to the environment. The statistics on laboratory acquired infections and a number of case reports will be presented to illustrate some of the difficulties that may be encountered.

14.00-15.15 **F. EC Biopreparedness Green paper – next steps**
Moderator: Magnus Ovilius, European Commission, Directorate General Law, Justice and Security, Belgium

Through the Green Paper launched by the European Commission (EC) during 2007, the EC intended to stimulate a debate and launch a process of consultation at European level on how to reduce biological risks, and to enhance preparedness and response („bio-preparedness"). After analysis of the results of this consultation, the EC is interested in discussing the next steps with the biosafety community. This session offers you the opportunity to discuss with a member from the EC proposed changes to enhance biosafety, laboratory biosecurity and bio-preparedness and present your opinions.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Thursday, 3 April 2008

15.15-16.15 **Session 5: Posters and Coffee break**

Session 6: Facility Engineering and Decontamination

16.15-16.35 **Engineering for biosafety**
Philippe Stroot, Xibios, Belgium

16.35-16.55 **Decontamination validation of BSL3 agents in industrial facilities**
J. Saluzzo, A. Pagat, I. Kuster, Sanofi Pasteur, Marcy l'Etoile, France

16.55-17.30 **Study of plasmochemical method to inactivate microorganisms of different groups**
V.P. Kholodenko, V.A. Chugunov, E.N. Kobzev, N.A. Zhirkova, I.A. Irkhina, V.M. Tedikov, I.I. Martovetskaya, G.V. Kireev, I.A. Dyatlov, State Research Center for Applied Microbiology & Biotechnology, Obolensk, Moscow region/Russia

17.30 **AGM**

20.00-23.30 **Conference dinner**

Friday, 4 April 2008

Session 7: Biosecurity

09.00-09.20 **BIOSAFE Project – dual use**
Jackie Duggan, Health Protection Agency, United Kingdom

09.20-09.40 **Synthetic biology: A perilous goldmine?**
Peter Clevestig, SIPRI Institute, Sweden

09.40-10.10 **University of Cambridge biosecurity practices**
Martin Vinnell, Cambrige University, United Kingdom

10.10-10.30 **Biosafety and biosecurity and the biological weapons convention**
Richard Lennane Head, Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (Geneva Branch)

10.30-11.00 **Coffee break**

Session 8: Risk assessment

11.00-11.20 **Emerging and reemerging diseases from a Russian central European perspective**
Yulia Ananyina, Gamaleya Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology, Russia

11.20-11.40 **Bio-nanotechnology**
Martin Kuster, Novartis International AG, Switzerland

11.40-12.00 **New lines of on-going research on designing means of diagnostics of infectious disease in SRCAMB**
I. Dyatlov, State Research Center for Applied Microbiology & Biotechnology, Russia

12.00-13.30 **Lunch**

13.30-14.00 Session 9: Report on break outs

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Friday, 4 April 2008

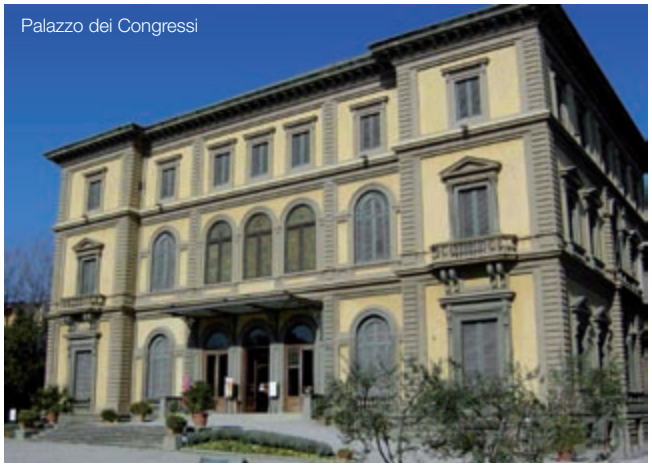
Session 10: Biorisk Management

14.00-14.20 **Safety and security management at a research institute – sharing the best practices from the biological, nuclear and chemical fields**
Goedele De Bruyne, Biosafety Coordinator, European Commission – Joint Research Centre – Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements;
Pierre Kockerols, Head of the Health, Safety, Environment and Security sector, European Commission – Joint Research Centre – Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements

14.20-14.40 **Laboratory biorisk management standard in practice**
Pierre Mathot, GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals, Belgium

14.40-15.00 **Anthrax and African Drums. An investigation into the source of a fatal case of human anthrax**
Allan Bennett , Health Protection Agency, United Kingdom

15.00 **Closing remarks EBSA President 2008-2009**


Palazzo dei Congressi

EXHIBITION

The Conference offers a unique opportunity to promote your products and services to the European biosafety professional community. Located in an area adjacent to the lecture room and poster session, the exhibition will be a showcase for all participants and a valuable communication tool.

Exhibition opening hours:

Wednesday,	2 April 2008	17.30 – 19.00
Thursday,	3 April 2008	09.00 – 17.15
Friday,	4 April 2008	09.00 – 15.00

For further details please contact:

EBSA Office c/o DECHEMA e.V.
Ms. Barbara Feisst
Theodor-Heuss-Allee 25
60486 Frankfurt am Main/Germany

Tel.: +49 (0)69 / 7564 - 333
Fax: +49 (0)69 / 7564 - 441
E-Mail: conference@ebsaweb.eu
Internet: www.ebsaweb.eu/EBSA_11

List of Exhibitors (as of 22 January 2008)

Air Sea Containers Limited, United Kingdom
Allentown Europe Ltd., USA
ALSCO Italia S.p.A., Italy
Berner International GmbH, Germany
Bioquell UK, Ltd., United Kingdom
Camfil S.p.A., Italy
CaRlibiotec s.r.l., Italy
Germfree Labs, Inc., USA
Health Protection Agency, United Kingdom
Minntech BV, The Netherlands
On Site Systems, Inc., USA
STERIS SA, Italy

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

The organisers convey their sincere thanks for financial support to Novartis International AG

NOVARTIS

Welcome Reception

The conference will start with a welcome reception for all participants on 2 April 2008 from 17.30 to 19.00 in the exhibition area at the Palazzo dei Congressi.

Please register online at www.ebsaweb.eu/EBSA_11
(free of charge)

Conference Dinner at the “Palazzo Borghese”

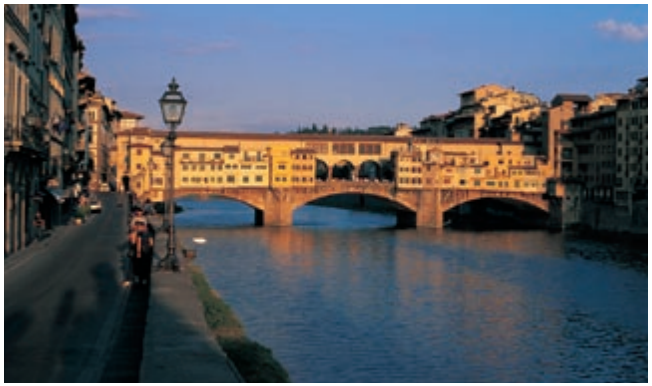
The conference dinner will take place at the “Palazzo Borghese”.

In the heart of the city, beneath of shadows of the Bargello museum tower, you will find the lovely Palazzo Borghese, whose origins date back to 1400, when it belonged to the Salviatti Family. During the XIXth Century, it became part of the many properties of the Borghese Family, whose coat of arms still dominates the main facade.

The conference dinner is included in the full conference ticket.

Additional tickets
60 € for Members
80 € for Non-Members

Please register online at www.ebsawb.eu/EBSA_11



Venue/Location

Firenze Fiera S.p.A.
Palazzo dei Congressi
Via Leone X, 3
50129 Florence/Italy
www.firenzefiera.it

Conference Office

EBSA Office c/o DECHEMA e.V.
Ms. Barbara Feisst
Theodor-Heuss-Allee 25
60486 Frankfurt am Main/Germany

Tel.: +49 (0)69 7564-333
Fax +49 (0)69 7564-441
E-Mail: conference@ebsaweb.eu
Internet: www.ebsaweb.eu/EBSA_11

Office Hours

The conference office is open

Wednesday,	2 April 2008	08.00 – 19.30
Thursday,	3 April 2008	08.00 – 18.00
Friday,	4 April 2008	08.30 – 15.00

Conference Language

The conference language is English.

Registration

Please register online at **www.ebsaweb.eu/EBSA_11**.

There is no registration deadline as long as free capacity is avaialable.

Please note that registrations received after **1 March 2008** may not appear in the list of participants.

Confirmation of registration and invoice will be sent after receipt of the registration.

Workshop ticket, conference ticket, name tag, workshop materials, book of abstracts will be available at the conference office in Florence.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Registration Fees

Early Registration Deadline 15 February 2008	**Late Registration**
Workshop Ticket, 2 April	
315 € Member 700 € Non-Member	350 € Member 700 € Non-Member
Conference Ticket, 3 – 4 April Full conference (dinner included)	
340 € Member 450 € Non-Member	375 € Member 500 € Non-Member
Conference Day Ticket, 3 April	
200 € Member 275 € Non-Member	200 € Member 275 € Non-Member
Conference Day Ticket, 4 April	
200 € Member 275 € Non-Member	200 € Member 275 € Non-Member

Cancellation and Refunds

Only written cancellations will be accepted (letter, fax or email). 30 € administrative costs will be charged for any cancellation of registration received before **29 February 2008**. After this date, no registration fee will be refunded, however, the book of abstracts will be sent.

How to reach Florence

Arriving by air

The closest airports with direct flights to a wide number of European cities are Florence and Pisa.

Florence International Airport „Amerigo Vespucci“
www.aeroporto.firenze.it
It is located **4 km** from Florence centre and it can be reached by taxi (20 minutes) or by the shuttle bus “Vola in Bus”, a special connection service every half hour from/to the Vespucci Airport and Santa Maria Novella train station or SITA coach terminal.

Pisa International Airport „Galileo Galilei“
www.pisa-airport.it
It is located **60 km** from Florence and it can be reached in 1 hour by train to Santa Maria Novella train station, in Florence (trains depart hourly with a total of 8 per day; flying passengers can check-in at the station (platform no. 16).

Arriving by train

Santa Maria Novella Central Station:
50 metres from Firenze Fiera (Congress Venue) and next to the main hotels.

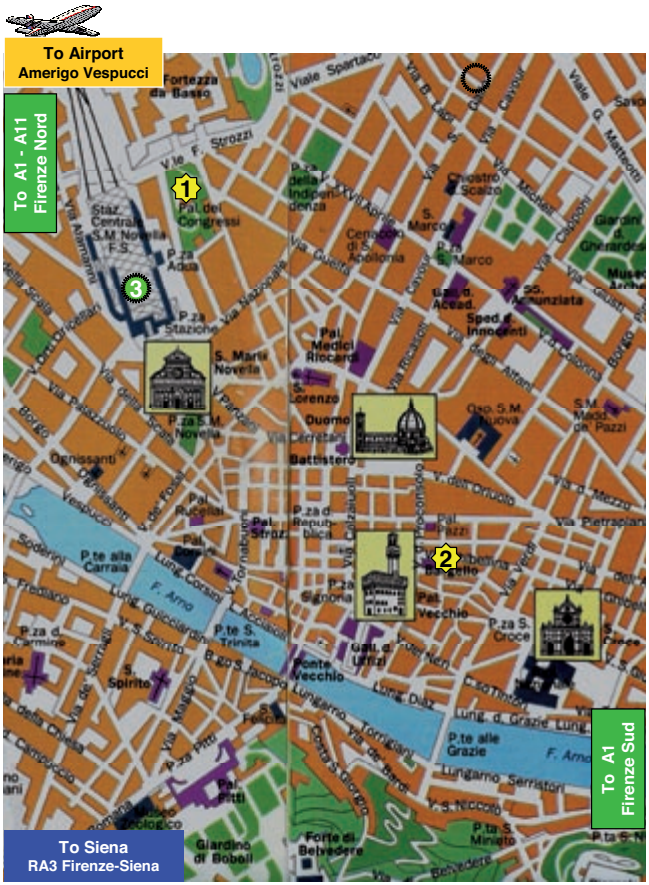
Arriving by car

An efficient motorway network connects Florence to the rest of Europe. Firenze Fiera is just 4 km from the main Italian motorway A1 “Autostrada del sole” – Exit Firenze Nord). Two large parking areas are just 100 metres away.

Florence

Florence is one of the centres of Italian renaissance art and architecture. Not far you will find other beautiful towns such as Siena, Pisa, San Giminiano … and the Tuscany countryside, without forgetting the food and the wine.

You find more information at the following websites:
www.firenzeturismo.it
www.comune.firenze.it
www.aboutflorence.com
www.yourwaytoflorence.com
www.discovertuscany.com
www.florenceinitaly.com



1 **Palazzo dei Congressi (Venue)**

2 **Palazzo Borghese (Social Dinner)**

3 Main Train Station (Santa Maria Novella)