XVIIIth International Congress

2026 LILLE Grand Palais
12–14

NEW CHALLENGES, october

UNDERGROUND SOLUTIONS





PARTNERSHIP BROCHURE









aftes2026.com







| Editorial |

AFTES, the French Tunnel and Underground Space Association, is holding its 18th Congress on 12-14 October 2026 at the Grand Palais in Lille. This event, held every three years, is a must for underground specialists, and brings together project managers, engineers, architects, town planners, contractors and suppliers, safety and insurance professionals, among others.

The main theme of this year's event will highlight the extent to which the underground environment can provide an appropriate response to the many challenges of our time: "New challenges, underground solutions".

Aside from the traditional uses for services such as low-carbon public transport or the transport and storage of drinking water and wastewater, underground structures open up a vast array of new solutions to address the challenges facing our societies.

The underground can provide solutions to a number of issues, including the safe transport and storage of energy and final waste, the security and durability of sensitive and strategic installations, the pooling of uses for "maximum utility" projects, an essential condition in a context that demands sobriety and sustainability for future infrastructures.

Underground space also has the potential to be a "tool for urban reclamation", serving the more sustainable functioning of cities, resources and flows, and the reclamation of surface space for housing, gardens and the like.

This broad theme will focus on sustainable solutions to environmental, energy and safety issues, technological innovations and new techniques in underground works, the underground city and its applications in urban management, the health and safety of workers in underground environments, the financial and organisational challenges of major underground projects and the future of underground infrastructures.

As in previous years, there will be a large number of presentations over the three days, and a large exhibition will provide an opportunity for specialists to present their work and meet one another. The AFTES attaches great importance to the cordiality, friendship and welcoming nature of the numerous attendees, including many international guests and students, which further enhances the quality of the discussions.

A training day on water and underground works will precede the opening of the congress on Sunday 11 October 2026.

Dedicated student days, a special issue of our TES magazine, a photo competition and other events will round off the conference programme.

We hope to see as many of you there as in previous years, and we look forward to welcoming you to this very hospitable region, which is also to reach using low-carbon forms of transport.



Hubert TOURNERYPresident of AFTES



Philippe MILLARD
President of the congress committee

| Introduction |

THE FRENCH TUNNEL AND UNDERGROUND SPACE ASSOCIATION (AFTES)



The French Tunnel and Underground Space Association (AFTES) unites all the players in our field: investors, owners, project managers, engineering and auditing firms, research and training centres, contractors, consultants, architects, city planners, equipment manufacturers, teachers, and more.

THE ASSOCIATION'S MAIN OBJECTIVES ARE TO:

- Establish and share a high-level technical doctrine reflecting the state of the art and feedback from professional experience,
- Advance knowledge in its areas of expertise,
- Facilitate exchange between members and disseminate the work and recommendations of its Working Groups as widely as possible, and more generally all the technical, contractual, social and environmental information available.
- Promote underground space and support all initiatives that help to promote it,
- Develop and disseminate the expertise of French engineering, companies and manufacturers,
- Get young engineers and technicians in the building and public works sector interested in underground careers

| Introduction |

18th AFTES INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS 2026

Organised by the French Tunnel and Underground Space Association (AFTES), the 18th AFTES International Congress 2026 is the must-attend event for all those involved in underground engineering, bringing together experts, manufacturers, contractors and public policy makers for three days of exchanges, innovation and business opportunities.

Held every three years, the event features an international exhibition, technical conferences overseen by the Scientific Committee, and speaking opportunities in secondary rooms hosted by the sponsors.

The programme also includes an opening ceremony, welcome reception, gala evening, business lunches and networking coffee breaks, encouraging strategic encounters and new collaborations.

Whether you want to exhibit, sponsor or attend as a delegate, the 18th AFTES International Congress 2026 is the key event for learning new things, exchanging ideas and developing your business in the underground sector.

| Key Figures |



edition

more than 160 exhibitors

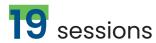
more than

3000 participants

52 years of the **International Congress** of the Tunnel and **Underground Space** Association



countries represented: France, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium (TOP 5)



90 speakers

sponsors



more than 10 press partners



| Organising Committee and Operational Advisers |

18th AFTES
INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS 2026

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

CONGRESS CHAIRMAN

Philippe MILLARD

CONGRESS VICE CHAIRMAN

Florent ROBERT

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE - PROGRAMME

Michel PRÉ

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE - PROGRAMME

Emmanuel HUMBERT

ADMINISTRATION, ACCOUNTING

Sakina MOHAMED

STUDENT RECEPTION AND TRAINING

Denis BRANQUE

YOUTH RECEPTION AND TRAINING

Morgane BERTRAND

YOUTH RECEPTION AND TRAINING

Lou CARON

OPERATIONAL ADVISERS

COMMUNICATION

Anne BRISSAUD

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE SPECIAL CONGRESS ISSUE OF TES MAGAZINE

Maurice GUILLAUD

PHOTO COMPETITION AND SPECIAL CONGRESS ISSUE OF TES MAGAZINE

Nicolas BERTHOZ

PHOTO COMPETITION

Aurélien ESPINOSA

| Destination |

OF THE 18th AFTES INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS 2026

FRANCE, THE PERFECT DESTINATION FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TUNNELS

With its recognised expertise in underground structures and some of the most ambitious infrastructure projects in Europe, France is the obvious choice to host an international conference on tunnels.

The Grand Paris Express, Europe's largest urban transport project, is a perfect example of French expertise in mechanised excavation, geotechnical engineering and managing complex projects.

The sector's growth has been supported for over 50 years by AFTES, a key player and partner of ITA-AITES, which has already demonstrated its ability to organise benchmark international events.

Choosing France means offering the international tunnelling community a forum that is worthy of the challenges facing the sector: innovative, unifying and forward-looking.

LILLE, STRATEGIC CROSSROADS OF EUROPE

Lille is a city in an exceptional location, at the centre of Europe and in the immediate vicinity of several major capitals. Located just 1 hour by train from Paris, 35 minutes from Brussels and 1 hour 20 minutes from London by Eurostar, Lille is a remarkably accessible city for visitors and professionals from all over Europe. Lille is a European crossroads

Its location at the intersection of European trade makes it a strategic choice for large-scale events.

Lille has become known as a lively and innovative city thanks to its major infrastructure projects, particularly in tunnels and underground spaces. It is a veritable laboratory for modern underground solutions, with emblematic achievements such as the automatic metro network, the first of its kind in the world, and many underground redevelopment projects that promote better management of urban space.

LILLE GRAND PALAIS

For 30 years, Lille Grand Palais has been the place to be for organising and staging major events north of Paris. Lille Grand Palais offers comprehensive solutions. The teams will work with you from the design stage to the event itself: corporate events, parties, cocktail parties, competitions, graduation ceremonies, conferences, trade fairs, exhibitions, etc.



| Why become |

A MAJOR SPONSOR AND EXHIBITOR?



THE MUST-ATTEND CONGRESS

With 3,000+ participants, 160+ exhibitors, 90 expert speakers, and attendees from 40+ countries, AFTES International 2026 is the must-attend congress for tunneling and underground infrastructure professionals. This is your opportunity to connect with industry leaders, showcase cutting-edge innovations, and generate high-value business leads in a world-class setting.



EXHIBIT

SECURE A BOOTH & GAIN MAXIMUM MARKET VISIBILITY

Position your company at the center of the underground construction industry by exhibiting at AFTES International 2026

With 3,000+ industry professionals, including engineers, contractors, and public authorities, this event guarantees unmatched exposure. Join 160+ exhibitors and engage with attendees from 40+ countries, ensuring direct access to key decision-makers shaping the future of underground infrastructure

Generate leads, strengthen partnerships, and expand into new markets—all from your exhibition stand.



SPEAK

POSITION YOUR BRAND AS A THOUGHT LEADER

Own the stage and showcase your expertise in front of an audience that matters.

Whether through the prestigious Opening Ceremony Keynote, a speaking opportunity in a secondary room, speaking at AFTES 2026 is your chance to elevate your brand, influence industry discussions, and engage directly with decision-makers.

Stand out as a key innovator in the underground construction sector



SPONSOR NETWORKING EVENTS

CONNECT WITH THE RIGHT PEOPLE

Make your brand the focal point of high-level industry networking by sponsoring exclusive business gatherings.

The Gala evening brings together the most influential decision-makers in a prestigious setting, while the Business Networking Coffee Breaks ensure maximum brand exposure during the most interactive moments of the event.

Position your company where partnerships are built and business deals begin.



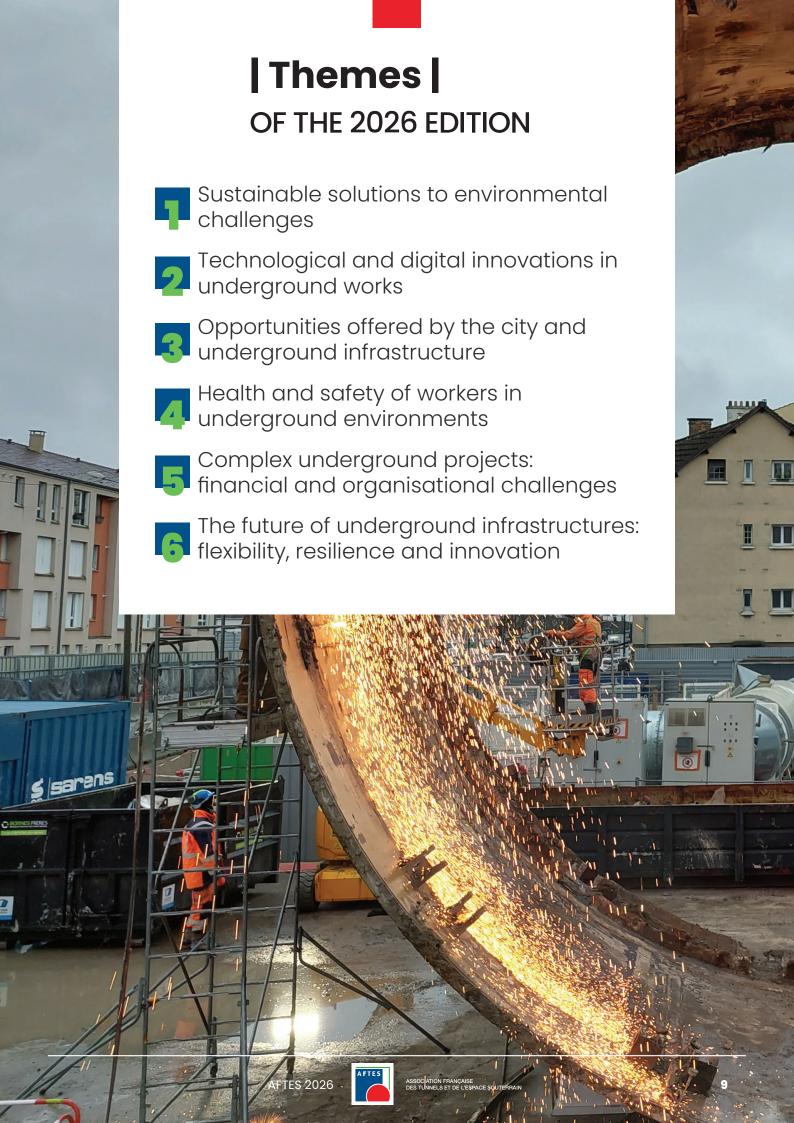
BRANDING OPPORTUNITIES

DOMINATE THE EVENT SPACE

Ensure your brand is seen, recognized, and remembered by securing strategic visibility throughout AFTES 2026.

From entrance branding that welcomes every attendee to prime placements in the lobby and business lunch areas, your company will be positioned at the heart of the congress.

Increase brand awareness, reinforce credibility, and maximize engagement with high-impact, continuous exposure.





| Event targeted segments | 2026 EDITION

Core Industry Stakeholders & Key Players

PUBLIC & PRIVATE CLIENTS (PROJECT OWNERS)

- Government Authorities & Municipalities
- Public Transport Operators
- Energy & Utilities Companies
- Mining & Natural Resources Companies
- Urban Planning Agencies

ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES

- Major EPC (Engineering, Procurement & Construction) Contractors
- . Specialized Tunneling Contractors
- Underground Infrastructure Developers

Equipment & Technology Suppliers

TUNNELING & DRILLING EQUIPMENT

- Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) Manufacturers
- · Rock Excavation & Drilling Equipment
- . Microtunneling & Pipe Jacking Solutions

STRUCTURAL & SAFETY SOLUTIONS

- · Shotcrete & Sprayed Concrete Systems
- Grouting & Ground Improvement Solutions
- Explosion & Fire Protection Systems
- Structural Health Monitoring Systems

TUNNEL MONITORING & SMART TECHNOLOGIES

- Surveying & Monitoring Technologies
- · Ventilation & Safety Systems
- Al & Digital Twin Technologies for Tunnels
- IoT-Connected Sensors for Underground Environments

Consulting, Engineering, & Research Organizations

CONSULTING & ENGINEERING FIRMS

- · Geotechnical & Structural Engineering Experts
- Tunnel Design & Construction Consultants
- Hydraulic & Underground Water Management
- Risk & Resilience Engineering Firms

ACADEMIC & RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

- Leading Universities & Research Centers
- · International Research Initiatives
- Urban Underground Planning Research

Emerging Trends & Innovations

■ TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS & NEW TECHNIQUES IN UNDERGROUND CONSTRUCTION

- · Digital Twin & BIM for Underground Infrastructure
- · Al-Driven Risk Assessments
- Advanced Materials (Self-Healing Concrete, Fiber-Reinforced Polymers)
- . Robotics & Automation in Tunnel Construction
- Modular Precast Tunnel Segments

SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

- Carbon-Neutral Tunneling Practices
- Energy-Efficient TBMs
- Water Recycling & Sustainable Drainage Systems
- Low-Emission Concrete & Eco-Friendly Materials
- · Life Cycle Assessment for Underground Projects

THE UNDERGROUND CITY & URBAN MANAGEMENT APPLICATIONS

- Smart Underground Space Planning
- Multi-Use Underground Facilities (Logistics, Parking, Data Centers)
- Underground Pedestrian & Cycling Infrastructure
- · Resilient Underground Utility Networks

WORKER SAFETY & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH IN UNDERGROUND ENVIRONMENTS

- · Advanced Ventilation & Air Quality Monitoring
- · Autonomous Safety & Evacuation Systems
- · Wearable Sensors & Real-Time Health Monitoring
- Noise & Vibration Reduction Technologies

LARGE-SCALE UNDERGROUND PROJECTS: FINANCIAL & ORGANIZATIONAL CHALLENGES

- Contractual Models for Mega Tunneling Projects
- Project Complexity Management & Risk Mitigation
- Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) & Alternative Financing Models
- · Advanced Scheduling & Delay Prevention Systems
- · Interdisciplinary Collaboration & Stakeholder Integration

THE FUTURE OF UNDERGROUND INFRASTRUCTURE: FLEXIBILITY, RESILIENCE & INNOVATIONS

- · Adaptive & Multi-Purpose Underground Structures
- · Climate-Resilient Tunnel Designs
- Al-Optimized Underground Traffic & Logistics Networks
- · Self-Maintaining Underground Infrastructure
- Energy Storage & Geothermal Applications in Underground Spaces



Industry Associations & Regulatory Bodies

TUNNELING & UNDERGROUND CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATIONS

- Global Organizations
- Regional & National Associations

SAFETY & REGULATORY BODIES

- · Global Standards Organizations
- · Occupational Safety & Health Agencies
- Fire Safety & Emergency Response Committees

Financial & Investment Ecosystem

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT FUNDS

- Key Investors
- · Venture Capital for Tunnel Tech Startups

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS (PPPS)

- Large Scale Infrastructure Investments
- Innovative Funding Mechanisms for Underground Infrastructure

Media, Events & Networking Platforms

KEY INDUSTRY CONFERENCES & EXHIBITIONS

- Global Tunneling Events
- Wider Construction & Infrastructure Events

INDUSTRY PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA

- Tunneling-Specific Publications
- General Construction & Infrastructure Media



| PARTNERSHIP |





MAJOR SPONSORS PACKAGE

	PLATINUM € 30,000	GOLD €25,000	SILVER €17,000	BRONZE €10,000
LOGO ON BAGS	⊗	-	-	_
1/2 EDITORIAL PAGE IN 3 ISSUES OF THE TES 2026 MAGAZINE*	⊗	-	-	-
ADVERTISING IN THE PROGRAMME	1 PAGE	1/2 PAGE	-	-
ADVERTISING IN THE EXHIBITOR CATALOGUE	1 PAGE	1/2 PAGE	-	-
ADVERTISING IN THE BOOK OF ABSTRACTS	1 PAGE	1/2 PAGE	1/2 PAGE	-
INSERTING A DOCUMENT IN THE BAGS – MAX. 4 PAGES	⊗	Ø	-	-
YOUR LOGO ON THE WEBSITE BANNER WITH INDICATION OF YOUR SPONSORSHIP LEVEL	⊗	8	8	8
YOUR LOGO ON ALL EVENT COMMUNICATION MEDIA: BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE EVENT	⊗	8	8	8
YOUR LOGO ON NEWSLETTERS - EXCLUSIVE TO MAJOR SPONSORS	⊗	Ø	⊗	⊗
CONGRESS BADGES WITH ACCESS TO SESSIONS	4	3	2	2
TICKETS FOR THE GALA EVENING	4	3	2	2
SPEAKING IN A SECONDARY ROOM	1	1	1	-

À la carte participation - SPEAKING





SPEAKING IN A SECONDARY ROOM...... €7,000 before TAX

Speaking opportunity within a secondary room with a capacity of 100 pax. You will have the opportunity to speak for 30 minutes in a plenary session, showcasing your expertise, solutions or experience in front of a group of targeted audience.

À la carte participation - NETWORKING



SPONSORING THE GALA EVENING......Please contact us

Raise your profile and take part in an event where you can network in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere.

SPONSORSHIP CONTENT

- · Your logo on the programme and invitation flyer
- Your sponsorship announced in the programme and newsletters
- 10 Gala evening tickets for your staff



SPONSORING COFFEE BREAKS...... €3,600 before TAX

Easels with your logo will be placed on the buffets during the coffee break Other possibilities are available, to be discussed (additional cost)



VISIBILITY IN THE CATERING AREA €3,600 before TAX

Your advertising visual will be placed in the catering area



VISIBILITY IN THE RECEPTION AREA......€5,000 before TAX

Your advertising visual will be placed in the reception area

À la carte participation - SIGNS





SIDE TARP NEAR THE ENTRANCE...... €3,600 before TAX

Dimensions: 1.5m (width) X 7.5m (height)



WINDOW DISPLAYS €3,600 before TAX

(unit price/module)

Dimensions: 2.43m (width) X 5.10m (height)

6 modules available





DOOR SIGNS......€3,600 before TAX

(unit price/module)

Dimensions: 87cm (width) X 241cm (height) 4 modules available (2 indoor, 2 outdoor)





AERIAL DROP TARP (FRONT AND BACK) €3,600 before TAX

(unit price/module)

Dimensions: 1.20m (width) X 3m (height)

8 modules available





COLUMN COVER..... €3,600 before TAX

(unit price/module)

Dimensions: 6.4m (width) X 1.63m (height)

4 modules available





ESCALATOR STICKERS €3,600 before TAX

SPONSORSHIP CONTENT

- · Giant personalised sticker printed
- EXCLUSIVE sponsorship



PERSONALISED FLOOR STICKERS...... €3,600 before TAX

Your logo on the signs stuck to the floor of the Palais des congrès:

- Showing the way from the entrance or a room to your stand
- 20 stickers, maximum 1 m²
- · Creation, application and removal of stickers
- EXCLUSIVE sponsorship





À la carte participation - CONGRESS EQUIPMENT





SPONSORSHIP OF THE MOBILE APPLICATION......€5,000 before TAX

CONTENT OF THE APPLICATION

· Programme, summaries, floor plan

SPONSORSHIP CONTENT

- Your sponsorship is mentioned every time the application is opened
- Your sponsorship is announced in the programme and on the website
- One personalised push notification per day (140 characters max subject to approval by the scientific committee)



SPONSORSHIP OF THE CONGRESS WIFI...... €5,000 before TAX

Sponsorship of free wifi access for participants Available throughout the Palais des Congrès



SPONSORSHIP OF BADGE CORDS €6,000 before TAX



CUSTOMISED NOTEPADS €2,000 before TAX

SPONSORSHIP CONTENT

- · Your advertisement printed on the front cover of the notepads
- EXCLUSIVE sponsorship



CUSTOMISED PENS€1,500 before TAX

SPONSORSHIP CONTENT

- Your logo printed on the pens given to participants (1-colour printing)
- EXCLUSIVE sponsorship



INSERT IN THE BAGS€1,000 before TAX

- 1,000 copies to be supplied A4 format and 4 pages maximum
- LIMITED number of partners



ADVERTISING IN THE EXHIBITOR CATALOGUE

Back cover EXCLUSIVE	€2,000	before TAX
Inside back cover EXCLUSIVE	. €1,500	before TAX
Inside page	. €1,000	before TAX
½ Page	€500	before TAX

EXHIBITION

THE MINIMUM STAND SIZE IS 9M²

— PRICE	BEFORE TAX	AFTES COLLECTIVE MEMBER RATE	NON-COLLECTIVE MEMBER RATE		
SURFACE	EQUIPPED SURFACE AREA: PRICE/M² (before 10/3/2025)	€500 before TAX	€550 before TAX		
SURFACE	EQUIPPED SURFACE AREA: PRICE/M ²	€560 before TAX	€605 before TAX		
1 OPEN CORNER		€200 before TAX			
ADDITIONAL	2 OPEN CORNERS	€400 before TAX			
FEES	3 OPEN CORNERS (ISLANDS)	€600 before TAX			
	INSURANCE	€200 incl. TAX			

THE FULLY-EQUIPPED PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Standard partitions (height 2.50 m)
- Carpet
- · Sign with exhibitor's name
- LED bar lighting

- A 3 kW electric box (intermittent)
- A set of furniture: 1 table + 3 chairs + 1 bin
- 3 exhibitor badges, per 9m² (no access to conferences)
- 1 lunch box per day per exhibitor badge

YOUR STAND CAN BE PROVIDED AS A BARE SURFACE, BUT WITHOUT ANY DISCOUNT.

Stands will be allocated on a first come, first served basis, according to the date and time of arrival of signed reservation forms.

START-UPS

Start-ups can apply for a 6m² stand in the dedicated exhibition area.

THE STAND INCLUDES:

- Carpeting Furniture (1 table and 2 chairs)
- 2 exhibitor badges (no access to conferences)
- 2 lunch boxes per day
 - EARLY BIRD RATE (before 10/3/2025) €1,500 before TAX
 STANDARD RATE...... €1,500 before TAX

Candidate companies will have to meet a number of criteria, such as date of creation, number of employees, whether or not they belong to an incubator, and turnover



| Badges |

— ACCES	S	OPENING CEREMONY	SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME	SECONDARY ROOMS	EXHIBITION AREA	COFFEE BREAKS	LUNCH	GALA EVENING
CONGRESS BADGES	3-DAY DELEGATE: EARLY BIRD (UNTIL MONDAY JUNE 15, 2026 INCLUSIVE)	8	8	\otimes	8	8	-	-
	3-DAY DELEGATE: STANDARD RATE	8	8	8	8	8	-	-
	1-DAY DELEGATE	⊗	⊗	\otimes	⊗	⊗	-	_
	UNDER 35 ON THE DAY OF THE CONGRESS (3 DAYS)	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	-	-
	UNDER 35 ON THE DAY OF THE CONGRESS (1 DAY)	8	⊗	8	⊗	⊗	_	_
ADDITIONAL EXHIBITOR BADGES	EXHIBITOR	⊗	-	⊗	⊗	⊗	-	-
VISITOR BADGE	VISITOR	⊗	-	\otimes	⊗	⊗	-	_
LUNCH BADGE	LUNCH	-	-	-	-	-	⊗	_
GALA EVENING BADGES	GALA EVENING	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
	UNDER 35 ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT	-	-	-	-	-	-	8

- RATES		PRICE BEFORE TAX	PRICE INCL. TAX		
	3-DAY DELEGATE: EARLY BIRD (UNTIL MONDAY JUNE 15, 2026 INCLUSIVE)	€770	€847		
BADGES CONGRESSITES	3-DAY DELEGATE: STANDARD RATE	€840	€924		
	1-DAY DELEGATE	€410	€451		
	UNDER 35 ON THE DAY OF THE CONGRESS (3 DAYS)	€330	€363		
	UNDER 35 ON THE DAY OF THE CONGRESS (1 DAY)	€160	€176		
ADDITIONAL EXHIBITOR BADGES	EXHIBITOR	€80	€88		
VISITOR BADGE	VISITOR	FREE			
LUNCH BADGE	LUNCH	€35	€42		
GALA EVENING BADGES	GALA EVENING	€125	€150		
	UNDER 35 ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT	€50	€60		



BOOK YOUR GROUP ACCOMMODATION NOW!

GL EVENTS EXHIBITIONS OPERATIONS

assists you in booking accommodations for your events.

We negotiate the best rates and conditions for you, close to the event venue.

Our team supports you at every step of your request, ensuring smooth and efficient management of your group reservations.







CONTACT ME

CHARLOTTE BLEIN

Accommodation Project Manager
hotel.services@gl-events.com
+33 6 84 80 82 54
59 Quai Rambaud - 69285
Lyon Cedex France





