

IASIA 2026 CONFERENCE

12-16 October Athens, Greece

Rethinking Governance
for a Changing World

PARTICIPANT GUIDE

<https://ias-iisa.org/iasia-2026-conference/>



PRACTICAL INFORMATION NOTE

For participants

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WELCOME TO ATHENS



The National Centre for Public Administration and Local Government (EKDDA) welcomes you to the Annual Conference of the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA), to be held in Greece under the theme:

“Rethinking Governance for a Changing World”

This international event represents a valuable opportunity to collectively reflect on current challenges in public administration, the role of innovation in governance, and the importance of training present and future public servants with an ethical, inclusive vision aimed at the common good.



PRACTICALITIES

Dates

- 12–16 October 2026

Organizers

- IASIA Secretariat and Local Organizing Committee at EKDDA

Venue

- National Centre for Public Administration and Local Government (EKDDA)

City

- Athens, Greece

Registration Desk

- Located at the main entrance of the conference venue
- Open from 08:30 to 17:00 during the conference days

Badges

- Conference badges must be worn at all times during sessions, official events, and social activities

Contact Email

- info@iasiaconference2026
- ekdd@ekdd.gr

Wi-Fi

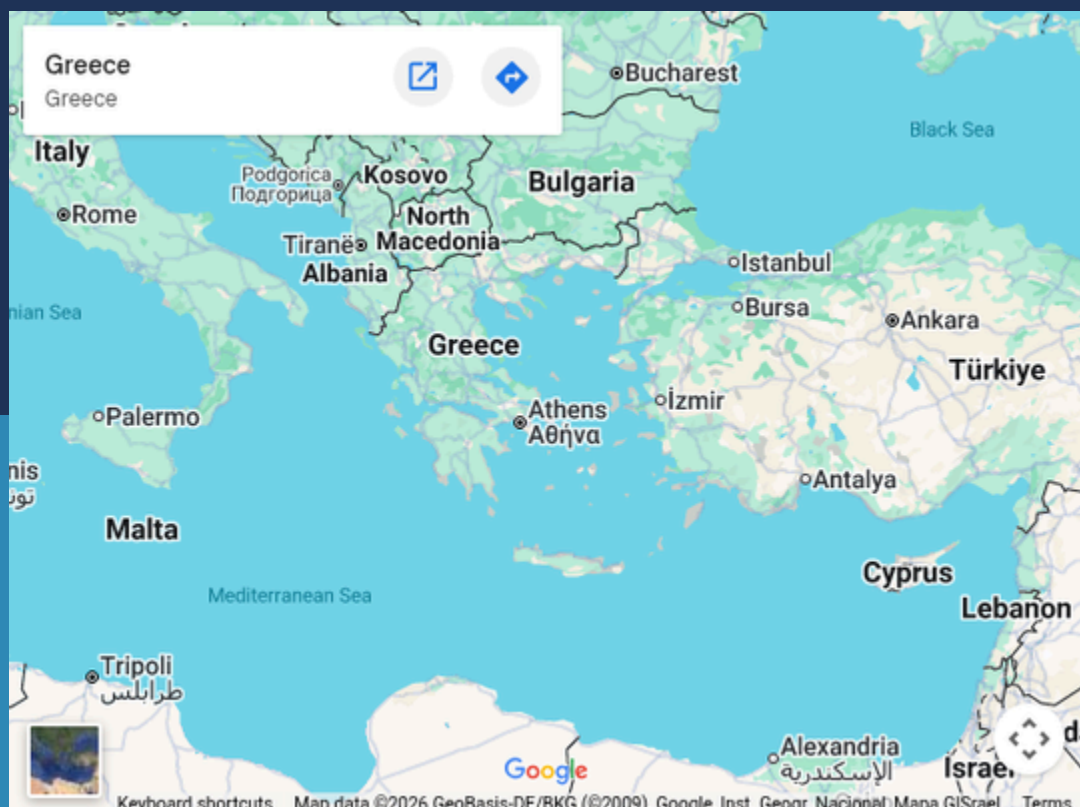
- Access details will be provided at the registration desk



GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT GREECE

Greece, officially the Hellenic Republic, is located in southeastern Europe, at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and Africa. Known as the cradle of Western civilization, it is famous for its ancient history, rich culture, stunning landscapes, idyllic islands and superb food.

- **Capital:** Athens
- **Population:** Approx. 10.5 million
- **Language:** Greek (English widely spoken in urban and tourist areas), many signs are translated.
- **Government:** Parliamentary Republic
- **EU & Schengen:** Greece is a member of both.





GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT GREECE

- **Weather:** in Athens, October temperatures average around 22–25°C during the day, with cooler evenings.
- **Water:** tap water is generally safe in Athens and large cities, but is recommended to buy bottled water on many islands.
- **Currency:** Euro (€)
- **Costs:** Affordable prices in Athens and large cities.
- **Payment:** credit cards (Mastercard & Visa) are widely accepted. Cash is useful in small businesses, it is best to withdraw cash from bank ATMs and to be charged in euros.
- **Voltage:** 230V / 50Hz
- **Plug types:** C and F





IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS

Foreign participants wishing to enter Greece must present a **valid passport or national identity card**, in accordance with their nationality and European Union regulations.

Participants may also be required to demonstrate the purpose of their visit, such as **conference participation**, and provide supporting documentation including accommodation reservations or return tickets. Immigration requirements are verified by the competent authorities upon entry into the country.

You can find the official information regarding **visas** for foreigners traveling to Greece on the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs website at <https://www.mfa.gr/en/services/visas-for-foreigners-traveling-to-greece/>



ARRIVAL AND TRANSPORTATION

Public Transport

Athens offers an extensive public transportation network, including metro, buses, and trams. The metro provides a direct connection between the airport and the city center.

Taxis / Ride-hailing services

Yellow taxis are available for a fair price all over the city. Authorized airport taxis and ride-hailing applications such as **Uber** and **Free Now** are also available.



MAP OF CITY'S SUBWAY

Μετρό Αθήνας

Ορόδρομοι Αθηνών Πειραιώς
αιρεία Λειτουργίας



MAP | ΣΤΑΣΥ

TRANSPORT FROM ATHENS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (ELEFTHERIOS VENIZELOS)

Athens International Airport (ATH) is approximately **33 km (20 miles)** from the city center. Several convenient options are available to reach downtown Athens or your hotel:



Metro

- **Metro Line 3 (Blue Line)** connects the airport directly to the city center.
- Key stops: **Syntagma, Monastiraki, Evangelismos**
- Travel time: approx. **40 minutes** to Syntagma Square.
- Operating hours: **06:10 – 23:30**, with trains every 30 minutes.
- Ticket cost: **€9 (one-way), €16 (round trip)**.
- The metro station is accessible via a pedestrian bridge from the airport terminal.



Airport Buses

- **Express buses** run 24/7 between the airport and key areas of Athens.
 - **X95:** Airport ↔ Syntagma Square (city center)
 - **X96:** Airport ↔ Piraeus Port
 - **X93:** Airport ↔ Intercity Bus Stations (Kifisos/Liosion)
- Travel time: **40–60 minutes**, depending on traffic.
- Ticket cost: **€5.50** (flat fare, one-way).
- Tickets available at the airport kiosk or onboard (cash only).



Taxi

- Available 24/7 from the designated **taxi rank** outside the Arrivals Level.
- Flat fare to the city center:
 - **€40 (05:00–24:00)**
 - **€55 (00:00–05:00)**
- Fare includes tolls, luggage, and VAT.

TRANSPORTATION IN ATHENS

Athens has a well-connected and affordable public transportation system that includes the **metro, buses, trolleybuses, trams, and suburban railway**. Below are the main options for getting around the city:



Metro

- The Athens Metro is fast, and efficient.
- It has **three lines**:
 - *Line 1 (Green)*: Kifisia – Piraeus
 - *Line 2 (Red)*: Anthoupoli – Elliniko
 - *Line 3 (Blue)*: Dimotiko Theatro – Airport
- Trains run approximately every 5–10 minutes from **05:30 to 00:30**, and later on weekends.



Buses & Trolleybuses

- Operated by **OASA**, buses and trolleybuses cover nearly every area of the city.
- Service runs from early morning (~05:00) until midnight.
- Some **night buses** are available on major routes.



Tram

- The **Athens Tram** connects the city center with the southern coastal suburbs, including **Glyfada** and **Voula**.
- Ideal for a scenic ride to the sea.



Suburban Railway (Proastiakos)

- Useful for reaching **Athens Airport, Piraeus port**, and cities like **Koropi** or **Ancient Corinth**.
- Less frequent than metro, but useful for certain routes.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

European Emergency Number: 112

English-speaking operators are available on 112

Police: 100

Ambulance: 166

Fire Brigade: 199

Nearest Hospitals:



ΓΕΝΙΚΟ ΝΟΣΟΚΟΜΕΙΟ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ
Ο ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΣΜΟΣ

[Website](#)



[Website](#)



ΟΜΙΛΟΣ ΙΑΤΡΙΚΟΥ
ΑΘΗΝΩΝ

[Website](#)

USEFUL APPLICATIONS DURING YOUR STAY

Google Maps

- Navigation, public transport information, real-time traffic updates.

Visit Greece

- The Visit Greece app from the Ministry of Tourism is a useful tool to visitors in Greece

Uber / Free Now

- On-demand transportation services

Google Translate

- Text, voice, and image translation to facilitate communication



INTERNET CONNECTION



Wi-Fi is widely available in hotels, cafés, and restaurants across the country. Many public spaces and transportation hubs also offer free Wi-Fi.

If you are European, Greece is an EU Member State, so the **roaming policy** applies. When you travel from your home country to another EU country, you do not have to pay any additional charges to use your mobile phone.

If you are not European, you can consider buying a local SIM card or an eSIM for a **4G or 5G connection** via Holafly.com, Airalo.com, or eSIM.sm. It costs between 5 and 30 USD for a week.

Holafly



airalo

Quibity
by eSim.sm

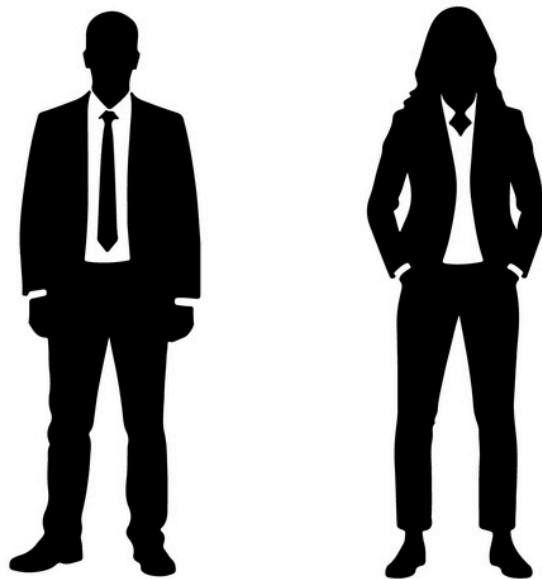
DRESS CODE

Dear guests,

To ensure that the atmosphere reflects the significance of the event, we kindly request that participants attend the conference sessions and official events in formal or business attire.

Your cooperation will contribute to making the event a professional and memorable experience for all.

The Organizing Team



RECOMMENDED PLACES TO VISIT IN ATHENS

SYNTAGMA SQUARE

Syntagma Square is the most central area in Athens, Greece. It is often considered **the heart of the city** and it is perfect for sightseeing. The origin of the name has an interesting history. During the night of the 3rd September 1843, a demonstration started right in front of the Greek Palace because soldiers and members of the public -gathered right on the large square- demanded that Otto give them a Constitution, or Syntagma in Greek. Now, you can visit National Gardens, the Old Royal Palace, a neoclassical building housing the Greek Parliament. Moreover, every hour, the changing of the guard ceremony takes place in front of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier between Syntagma Square and the Parliament building. On certain days, this ceremonial event includes an army band and the majority of the 120 Evzones present at 11 am.



A photograph showing the ruins of the Parthenon on the Acropolis in Athens. Several tall, fluted columns stand amidst the stone walls and debris of the ancient temple. The sky is visible in the background.

THE ACROPOLIS

The Acropolis in Athens is a must-visit for history enthusiasts, art lovers, and anyone intrigued by ancient mythology. This rocky hill has been inhabited since the **4th millennium BC**. The buildings that still stand today were constructed under the direction of Pericles in the 5th century BC. The Parthenon, the Temple of Athena Nike, the Propylaea, and others, are the remnants of the Golden Age of Greece. In particular, the Parthenon dominates the Acropolis. This is one of the most recognizable and imitated buildings in the world. It was built to honor the Greek goddess Athena Parthenos, the patron of Athens, and it is considered to be the most important surviving building of Classical Greece.

To complement this experience, the **Acropolis Museum** stands as the ultimate sanctuary for the treasures unearthed from this sacred site. Designed by Bernard Tschumi, the modern glass structure offers a breathtaking dialogue between the ancient ruins and the contemporary city. Inside, visitors can marvel at the original Caryatids and walk through the Parthenon Gallery, where the temple's frieze is displayed in its original orientation, under the same Mediterranean light that once illuminated it thousands of years ago. It is not just a museum, but a bridge across time that breathes life into the spirit of Classical Greece.



PLAKA

Nestled at the foot of the Acropolis, **Plaka is the most historic and charming district of Athens**. Often called the "Neighborhood of the Gods," it offers a unique journey through time with its maze of narrow cobblestone streets, neoclassical mansions, and ancient ruins. Visitors can explore the island-like alleys of Anafiotika, discover hidden Byzantine churches, or enjoy a coffee at one of its many traditional cafes. Just a short walk from the city's major conference venues and hotels, Plaka is the perfect place to experience the authentic atmosphere and timeless beauty of Athens.



MONASTIRAKI

Monastiraki is situated on the north side of the Acropolis and it is where the heart of city beats. The bustling flea markets, the Historic sites such as Roman Agora and Hadrian's Library, the picturesque churches, the Ermou Street which is a popular shopping district and the traditional greek restaurants create a blend of centuries and cultures. In addition, there is a great variety of cocktail bars which offer a wonderful view. Interesting information; "Monastiraki" means "**little monastery**" and owes its name to the Church of Panagia Pantanassa.



PIRAEUS



Piraeus is not just **Europe's leading passenger port**; it is a vibrant seaside city with a unique character. Just a short metro or tram ride from the center of Athens, Piraeus offers a refreshing maritime breeze and a rich tapestry of experiences. As you wander through the city, don't miss the iconic Municipal Theatre, a neoclassical masterpiece, or the picturesque harbors of Zea (Pasalimani) and Mikrolimano. For a true local experience, take a walk along the coast of Peiraiki to enjoy the sunset over the Saronic Gulf.

ATHENS RIVIERA

The Athens Riviera and its cosmopolitan hub, Glyfada, offer the perfect coastal backdrop for delegates looking to unwind after a day of sessions. Known for its sophisticated atmosphere, **Glyfada** is just a short drive from the city center, blending high-end business amenities with a Mediterranean seaside vibe. This vibrant southern district is home to an array of premium dining options and stylish cafes, ideal for informal networking or a relaxing evening stroll by the marinas. From the scenic Vouliagmeni Lake to the organized beach clubs, the South Suburbs provide a refreshing seaside escape that perfectly complements the professional energy of any international conference.



CAPE SOUNIO

Cape Sounio is one of Greece's most iconic landmarks, renowned for its breathtaking views of the Aegean Sea and the **ancient Temple of Poseidon**. Just over an hour from Athens, it offers a unique blend of natural beauty, history, and myth. Visitors can enjoy a stunning sunset over the ruins, making it a memorable highlight of any trip to Attica.



RECOMMENDED HOTELS



4-STAR HOTELS

Athens is the capital of Greece and well-known as it is considered to be the birthplace of Western Civilization and one of the world's oldest cities, with a recorded history spanning over 3,400 years. Today, it attracts the interest of tourists thanks to its history together with a vibrant modern life.

A list of recommended hotels with special conference rates and proximity to the venue is listed below.

THE ATHENIAN CALLIRHOE EXCLUSIVE HOTEL Kallirrois 32, Athens 11743, Greece +30 21 0921 5353 website	CANDIA HOTEL ATHENS Theodore Diligiannis 40, Athens 10438, Greece +30 21 0524 6112 website
TITANIA HOTEL ATHENS Panepistimiou 52, Athens 10678, Greece +30 21 0332 6000 website	AIRHOTEL PARTHENON HOTEL 6, Makri, Athens 11742, Greece +30 210 9234594 reservations@airotel.gr website



MEETING VENUE



THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE PREMISES OF THE
NATIONAL CENTRE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION & LOCAL GOVERNMENT (EKDDA)



Address: 211 Piraeos Street, Tavros 177 78

EKDDA can be reached with the following urban means of transportation:

- **By bus:**
 - Bus 049 from Omonoia, Tavros stop
 - Bus 914 from Omonoia, Tavros stop
 - Bus 815 from Goudi, Vas. Sofias, Panepistimiou, Omonoia, Tavros stop
- **By train:** Tavros Station (12-minute distance)
- **By metro:** Kerameikos station and from Peiraios street by all above-mentioned buses



Introducing EKDDA

The National Center for Public Administration (EKDDA) is the national strategic Organization for the development of the human resources of Hellenic Public Administration and Local Government.

Our History

EKDDA was established in 1983 and is a Legal Entity under public law, supervised by the Minister of the Interior.

Our vision

The vision of EKDDA is to contribute to the development of an effective administration by ensuring high quality services for citizens. Its mission is the continuous upgrading of the human resources of the Greek Public Administration through lifelong education and certified training for a more reliable and effective State that serves the interests of the citizen. It is also about the modernization of the Greek public sector and its agencies through research, documentation and innovation.

We believe that the most valuable asset of Public Administration is its human resources. The civil servants who are to be seen as the ambassadors of the public service core values: respect of human dignity, transparency, accountability, knowledge, innovation and public interest service.

[VISIT THE WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON EKDDA](#)

ROOMS

AUDITORIUM “KOSMAS PSYCHOPAIDIS”



ROOM 306



PLANS

IASIA 2026 ATHENS CONFERENCE



IASIA 2026 Athens Conference

1st FLOOR



IASIA 2026 Athens Conference

ΣΗΜΑΝΣΗ ΟΡΟΦΟΥ

3rd FLOOR



ΚΑΤΟΨΗ Γ' ΟΡΟΦΟΥ





CONTACTS

We provide you with the contacts of our offices at the National Centre of Public Administration & the IASIA Team:

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EKDDA Reception

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