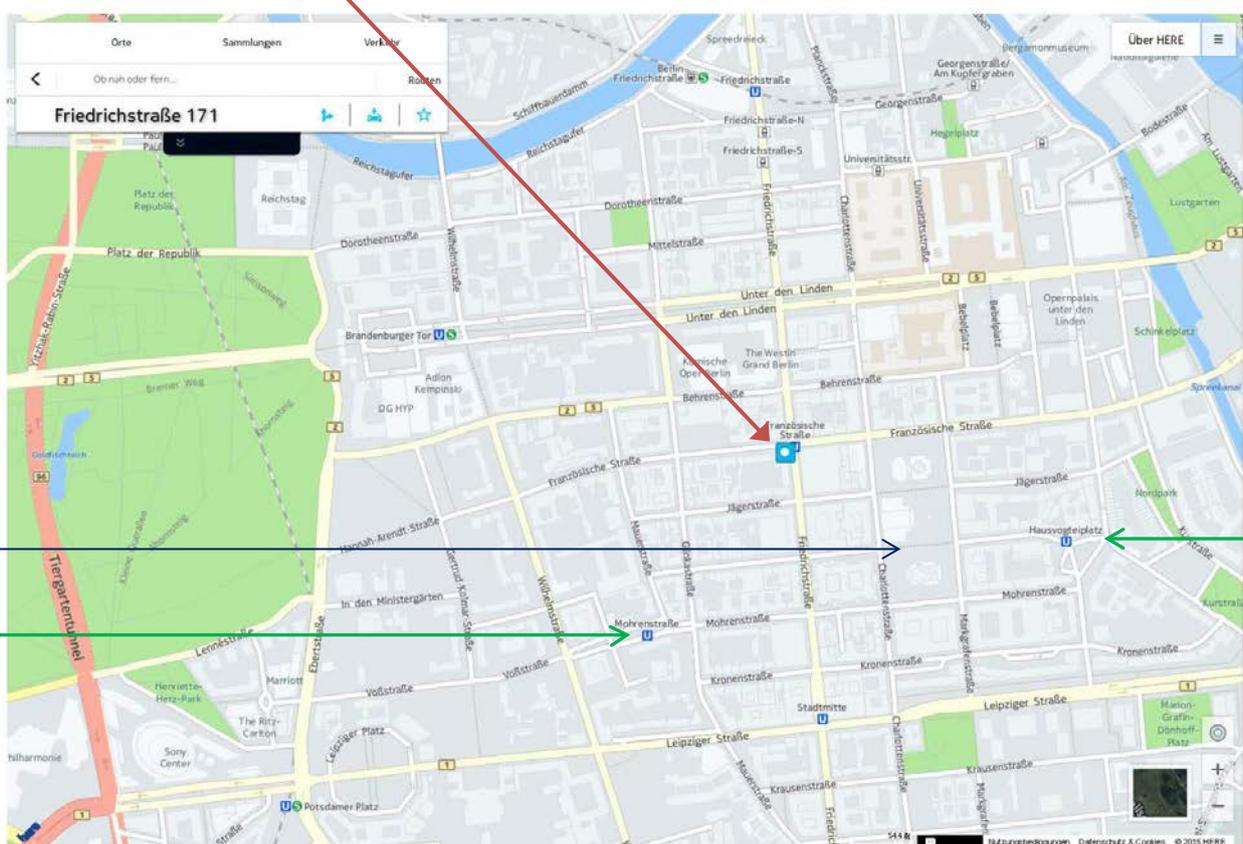


39th CEOS WGCV Plenary

Plenary Details

1. Meeting site

The plenary meeting will be held in the representative office of DLR in Berlin. It is located in the center of Berlin at Friedrichstraße 171 (corner Französische Str.).



The office is located in the central district called Berlin-Mitte (see above) and is close to many representative buildings and tourist sites in Berlin. In order to be oriented the place called “Gendarmenmarkt” is a good keyword to know. The meeting place can be easily accessed by public transport with the subway line U6 (stop: “Französische Straße”). The subway line U6 is crossing Berlin in North-South direction and vice versa. The stop is directly at the office location.

For those who will stay city in city districts neighbored West or East of Berlin-Mitte, another subway connection in West-East direction is available (U2) in walking distance. Please exit then at “Mohrenstraße” or “Hausvogteiplatz”. For public transport see also the link below.

2. Public Access

By flight

Berlin can be reached via two airports - Berlin-Tegel (TXL, Northwest Berlin) and Berlin-Schönefeld (SXF, Southeast Berlin) - by different international connections.

Access from and to TXL:

Note that the airport building is constructed like an octagon with short ways which allows moving in one loop. The inner circle allows access for taxi drivers if you know exactly your departure gate. Arrival is located at the same level. Please follow the taxi signs for the appropriate pick-up in front of the building. The same holds also for public transport which is only available at TXL with bus.

1. Taxis are at front of the building. Fare will be around 30-40 €
2. Public transport (ticket at driver or vending machine: 2,70€/ single fare)
 - a. Take bus line TXL (a bit at the end of the row of the bus stations) until station "Unter den Linden / Friedrich Straße" and head south on "Friedrichstraße" until "Französische Straße" is crossing.
Bus-ride takes between 25 and 40 min depending on traffic
 - b. Take bus line 128 (very first in the row of the bus stations) and leave at "Kurt-Schuhmacher-Platz" for change to subway U6 (southbound, direction "Alt-Mariendorf"); exit at station "Französische Straße" which is exactly at the meeting place.

Access from and to SXF:

Note that at the front of the airport building can be found taxi pick-up and bus stations. The train station including S-train to the city center is located by 5 minutes' walk (follow the signs and the walk way) or can be also accessed by the bus.

1. Taxis are in front of the building. Fare will be around 50-60€
2. Public transport is complicated but no problem with using the website below. However, the single fare is always the same: 3,30 € (vending machine or ticket counter or bus driver)
 - a. Train station
 - i. Regional trains (RE or RB) direction city center will stop also at the train station "Friedrichstraße" where an interchange to the subway U6 (southbound) for one station ("Französische Straße") is possible.
 - ii. S-train 45 (Direction "Birkenwerder") until "S+U Tempelhof"; change to subway U6 (northbound, direction: Alt-Tegel) and leave at "Französische Straße")
 - b. Bus station: Leave bus line X7 at station "U Rudow", change to subway U7 (direction: "Spandau") until "Mehringdamm", change there to subway line U6 (northbound) and leave at "Französische Straße"

By train

Access to and from central station:

Note that the central station in Berlin is a crossing station, means you find the west-east platforms two levels above ground and the north-south platforms in the underground (two levels). Both do connect with long-distance or regional trains, the upper platform also with S-Bahn connecting West and East of Berlin. If you arrive at Berlin by long-distance train, please leave the train at central station and move to the platforms of the S-Bahn at the upper platforms. There you can take all eastbound S-Bahn to the station "Friedrichstraße" (next stop) for change to subway U6 (southbound) (next stop: "Französische Straße"). Interchange at "Friedrichstraße" is challenging by leaving the upper level over ground and heading for the underground!

However, taxis at the south entrance/exit of the station hall will be also a choice to the meeting location, just a short ride.

Public transportation during the meeting

There are only a limited number of hotels, most in the very high price segment, around the meeting location so that using the subway for one or two stations can be also very convenient to move between meeting place and hotels. The meeting location is in the city center and no parking is available. Thus, it is highly recommended to make use of public transport.

There are different types of tickets available which allows travelling all day or all three days. Information about tickets, S-train, subway and bus lines can be found on <http://www.bvg.de/en>.

3. Accomodation

It was not possible to provide block-booking at reasonable price close to the meeting location. It is recommended for those who will stay also for the ISRSE, to extent the hotel booking. Note most of these recommended hotels are located close to "Alexanderplatz" which is in East direction from the meeting location of WGCV but there is an easy access by public transport (U2) from "Alexanderplatz".

Hotel booking can be easily carried out via different reservation platforms:

- www.hrs.de (note on the top right the German flag; clicking on it allows to change the language)
- www.booking.com
- Different hotel chains
- One chain with three hotels at reasonable costs are in close area <http://www.winters.de/en/>
- <http://www.berlin.de/en/accommodation/> (Berlin Tourism Office)

Note that you can limit your search by restricting your search to the district "Berlin-Mitte". The first two portals allow the switch on a map displaying the different hotels indicating the price per night and availability. Hotels with direct subway access, especially line U2 or U6 may be also a good choice.

4. Berlin Specials

Don't think about what we like to present you now, but Berlin as every area in Germany has is own "specials". Thus, you but also German people must be aware of some specific items:

- House numbering in Berlin is the so-called "Berlin scheme". This means that the numbering of the houses will start at the beginning of one side (right-hand) and will follow on the same (!) side sequentially until the end of the street. There, the numbering will go on the other side of the street back to the beginning. It is sometimes a challenge for other German people to get the orientation by house numbers in Berlin: You can be close to house # 500 instead # 200 if you are at # 1.
- "Berlin hospitality": Original Berlin people are rough but heartily. Usually, an original Berlin expresses his/her thoughts, very directly. Those originals you can find very often as bus and taxi drivers. Don't be surprised if you think to pay a bus with bank notes or a taxi with credit card. It may happen that they tell you a direct and rough "No". Thus, please make sure before a bus ride that you have some small pocket money available when you pay at the bus driver, and check *before* a taxi ride whether you can pay by credit card or not.
- Curry Wurst (sausage), a real Berlin creation!