



**Language Resources Association**

**Hosting LREC 2028 or LREC 2030**

**Call for Expression of Interest  
Guidelines and Hosting Requirements**



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# 1 LREC 2028 Expression of Interest

The ELRA Board (ELRA Language Resources Association) is launching, for the first time, an open call for expressions of interest from universities, research teams, research institutes, and academic consortia active in fields related to LREC and willing to consider hosting the International Conference on Language Resources and Evaluation (LREC) in either 2028 or 2030.

**At this stage, ELRA is not requesting formal hosting proposals. Candidate teams are invited to submit preliminary expressions of interest using the dedicated expression-of-interest form that will be made available on the LREC website together with this call.**

The objectives of this first phase are to:

- identify potential host cities and local organizing teams;
- evaluate the overall feasibility and interest of possible hosting initiatives;
- establish early discussions with candidate institutions and local partners.

A second phase, involving a more formal hosting proposal process, may subsequently be launched with shortlisted candidate teams.

**ELRA will remain responsible for the overall financial management of the conference and will cover conference-related expenses through registration fees, sponsorship, exhibition revenues, and other conference income sources. The role of the local organizing team is therefore not to financially underwrite the conference, but rather to support the local scientific, organizational, logistical, and institutional aspects of the event in coordination with ELRA.**

## 2 About LREC

LREC (International Conference on Language Resources and Evaluation) is the major international event dedicated to Language Resources (LRs) and Evaluation for Human Language Technologies (HLT).

Organized biennially by ELRA, LREC aims to provide an overview of the state of the art in language resources, language technologies, and evaluation methodologies; explore new research and development directions and emerging trends; exchange information regarding language resources and their applications; discuss evaluation methodologies, tools, standards, and best practices; present ongoing and planned activities, industrial uses, and emerging needs; and address requirements arising from e-science, digital society, multilingual communication, and Artificial Intelligence.

First organized in 1998, LREC has become one of the leading international conferences in the field. The 2028 edition will be the 16th edition of the conference marking the 30th anniversary of LREC.

**LREC is traditionally organized during the third or fourth week of May. Candidate teams should therefore take this typical scheduling period into consideration when evaluating venue availability, accommodation capacity, and local event calendars.**

The conference covers a broad range of scientific, technical, organizational, and policy-related issues related to:

- Natural Language Processing (NLP);
- Speech and Multimodal Processing;
- Computational Linguistics and Language Sciences;

- Language Technologies and AI;
- Large Language Models and Generative AI;
- Multilingual and low-resource technologies;
- Evaluation frameworks and benchmarking;
- Data creation, annotation, interoperability, and standards;
- Legal, ethical, and societal aspects of AI and language technologies.

LREC provides a unique forum for:

- Researchers;
- Industry representatives;
- Infrastructure providers;
- Public institutions;
- Funding agencies;
- Policy stakeholders;

from across a wide spectrum of disciplines and application areas.

The conference fosters discussions on challenges and opportunities, promotes international cooperation, encourages new synergies, and supports progress in language sciences, language technologies, AI-driven applications, products, services, and standards.

LREC traditionally includes:

- keynote and invited talks;
- oral and poster presentations;
- demonstrations;
- workshops and tutorials;
- industrial exhibitions;
- networking and community events.

LREC attracts a large and diverse international audience from academia, industry, research organizations, and public institutions worldwide. While previous editions typically gathered around 1,500 participants, the 2026 edition attracted 2,401 registered participants, including 1,980 on-site attendees and 394 remote participants, confirming the continued growth and international visibility of the conference.

LREC also promotes an inclusive, respectful, and internationally welcoming environment for all participants, consistent with the ELRA and LREC Code of Conduct.

In addition, ELRA encourages environmentally responsible and sustainable conference practices whenever feasible, including efforts related to reducing the environmental footprint of the conference and promoting inclusive and diverse catering options adapted to the international nature of the conference community.

Previous editions and additional information may be consulted at: <https://www.elra.info/elra-events/lrec/> and the 2026 edition at: <https://www.elra.info/lrec2026/>

### 3 Purpose of the Expression of Interest

The purpose of this call is to identify cities and local organizing teams capable of supporting the organization of a large international scientific conference and to initiate discussions with potential hosts.

This first phase is intended as an exploratory and preparatory process rather than a formal competitive selection procedure.

Candidate teams are therefore invited to provide preliminary information regarding:

- the proposed host city;
- the institutions involved;
- available conference infrastructure;
- local scientific and organizational environment;
- accessibility and international connectivity;
- technical and logistical capacities.

The information collected during this phase will help ELRA assess the feasibility and diversity of potential hosting options before initiating a possible second-stage call for detailed hosting proposals.

### 4 Benefits of Hosting LREC

Hosting LREC represents a unique opportunity for the local organizing institutions, the scientific ecosystem, and the host city to gain international visibility and strengthen their role within the rapidly evolving fields of Artificial Intelligence, Language Technologies and Sciences, Natural Language Processing, Speech Technologies, and Digital Humanities.

#### 4.1 Benefits for the Local Scientific and Academic Community

Organizing LREC provides significant strategic and scientific benefits for the local host institutions and research ecosystem, including:

- increased international visibility for local universities, laboratories, and research centers;
- reinforcement of the host institution's position within the global AI, Language Technologies, and Language Sciences communities;
- opportunities to showcase local research activities, infrastructures, projects, and innovation initiatives;
- stronger international collaborations and networking opportunities with leading researchers, companies, institutions, and funding agencies;
- increased attractiveness for students, doctoral candidates, and young researchers;
- opportunities for local researchers and students to participate in a major international conference with reduced travel barriers;
- opportunities for local students and early-career researchers to establish international connections that may lead to PhD positions, postdoctoral opportunities, internships, and future collaborations;
- stimulation of local scientific activities, seminars, collaborative projects, and long-term partnerships before and after the conference;
- enhanced interactions between academia, industry, startups, and public institutions active in AI and language technologies.

Hosting LREC can also contribute to strengthening national and regional visibility in strategic areas related to multilingual AI, digital sovereignty, language technologies, and responsible AI development.

## **4.2 Benefits for the Host City and Regional Ecosystem**

LREC attracts a highly international audience composed of researchers, engineers, innovators, policy makers, industrial actors, and institutional representatives from all continents.

Hosting the conference therefore provides important benefits for the host city and regional ecosystem, including:

- international visibility as a center for science, innovation, digital technologies, and international cooperation;
- economic impact generated through hotels, restaurants, transportation, tourism, and local services;
- opportunities to promote the cultural identity and attractiveness of the city and region;
- reinforcement of the city's reputation as a destination for international scientific and technological events;
- increased interactions between local innovation ecosystems and international research and industrial communities;
- opportunities for local companies, startups, and innovation clusters to gain visibility through exhibitions, demonstrations, sponsorships, and networking activities.

LREC also creates a dynamic and inclusive international environment that promotes intercultural exchange, scientific cooperation, multilingualism, and innovation.

## **4.3 Long-Term Community Impact**

Beyond the conference itself, hosting LREC often leaves a lasting legacy for the local community through:

- the creation of new international research collaborations;
- increased participation in research and innovation programmes and collaborative projects;
- strengthened institutional partnerships;
- the development of local expertise in organizing large international scientific events;
- and the consolidation of local scientific communities working in AI, NLP, language technologies, language sciences, and language resources.

Hosting LREC therefore represents not only the organization of a major scientific conference, but also an opportunity to contribute actively to the future development of the international Language Resources and Language Technology community.

# **5 Academic and Organizational Environment**

Given the scientific nature of LREC, candidate host teams are expected to be strongly connected to the research community in:

- Natural Language Processing (NLP);
- Artificial Intelligence (AI);

- Language Technologies and Sciences;
- Speech and Multimodal Processing;
- or, more generally, Computer Science and related disciplines.

The local organizing committee should preferably be based within:

- a university;
- a research institute;
- or a recognized research and innovation organization active in these fields.

The involvement of an active academic and research environment is considered important for the visibility, scientific engagement, and smooth local organization of the conference.

## **5.1 Senior Scientific and Institutional Support**

In addition to the operational aspects of the conference organization, candidate teams are expected to involve senior researchers and experienced academic staff members capable of contributing to the scientific, institutional, and community dimensions of the conference.

Such contributions may include:

- advising on local scientific and institutional partnerships;
- recommending potential keynote and invited speakers;
- helping identify culturally relevant venues and activities for social events;
- supporting interactions with local authorities, universities, research organizations, and sponsors;
- contributing to the overall scientific visibility and integration of the conference within the local research ecosystem.

The involvement of an active and internationally connected senior research community will be considered an important asset for the successful organization of LREC.

## **5.2 Student Volunteers and Local Support**

Candidate teams should also be able to mobilize a sufficient number of student volunteers and local staff members to assist with conference operations, including:

- participant registration and welcome desk activities;
- technical and logistical support in conference rooms;
- assistance during poster sessions, demonstrations, and exhibitions;
- coordination of participant flow and information services;
- support for workshops, tutorials, demonstrations, and special events.

The availability of motivated students and local volunteers with at least basic technical skills and English communication abilities will be an important asset for the successful organization of the conference.

## 6 Conference Infrastructure and Facilities

The local organizing team should be able to identify and secure facilities compatible with the organization of a large international scientific conference with approximately 1,500 to 2,000 on-site participants.

The conference infrastructure should accommodate not only the main conference program but also the various satellite events traditionally organized in conjunction with LREC, covering workshops, tutorials, demonstrations, exhibitions, and community meetings.

At this stage, candidate teams are invited to provide preliminary information regarding the following aspects.

### 6.1 Main Conference Facilities

#### 6.1.1 Main Plenary Auditorium

One amphitheater or plenary hall with a seating capacity of at least 1,500 participants should be available throughout the entire duration of the main conference.

The plenary auditorium will be used for:

- the opening session;
- keynote and invited talks;
- major plenary sessions;
- community announcements and special events;
- and the closing session.

The auditorium should therefore be available every day throughout the duration of the main conference.

The room should also be equipped with appropriate audiovisual and streaming infrastructure compatible with large international scientific events.

#### 6.1.2 Parallel Session Rooms

At least five additional conference rooms suitable for parallel sessions and workshops should be available, with capacities ranging approximately from 100 to 250 participants.

These rooms should support the organization of parallel scientific sessions during the main conference and should be located within the same conference venue or in immediately adjacent facilities.

#### 6.1.3 Poster, Demonstration and Exhibition Area

The venue should provide a sufficiently large hall dedicated to poster sessions, demonstrations, exhibitions, and related networking activities.

At LREC, poster sessions, system demonstrations, and industrial or institutional exhibitions, and the conference welcome reception, are usually organized within the same shared exhibition area in order to encourage interaction among participants, exhibitors, demonstrators, sponsors, and poster presenters.

The area should be capable of accommodating approximately 100 posters simultaneously, with an estimated requirement of around 6 square meters per poster, while also providing sufficient space for:

- demonstration booths and technical showcases;
- exhibition stands;
- participant circulation;
- informal scientific exchanges and networking activities;
- welcome reception activities;
- and coffee break areas when appropriate.

An exhibition hall or equivalent space of approximately 2,000 square meters would therefore be appropriate for supporting these combined activities under comfortable conditions.

This area should preferably be located close to the main conference rooms in order to facilitate participant flow and maximize interactions throughout the conference.

#### **6.1.4 Gala Dinner Facilities**

The host city should offer an attractive venue suitable for organizing the conference gala dinner for approximately 1,500 participants.

The venue should allow for dining, social interaction, and cultural or musical entertainment.

Candidate teams are encouraged to identify venues reflecting the cultural and social identity of the host city and capable of supporting a large international gathering under suitable logistical conditions.

## **6.2 Workshops and Tutorials Facilities**

LREC traditionally includes a significant number of pre-conference and post-conference satellite events covering workshops and tutorials.

These activities are typically organized:

- on the Monday and Tuesday preceding the main conference;
- and on the Saturday following the main conference.

The conference infrastructure should therefore be capable of supporting a substantial parallel workshop and tutorial program.

The venue should preferably provide:

- between 10 and 15 additional rooms;
- with seating capacities ranging approximately from 30 to 150 participants;
- suitable for interactive scientific meetings, tutorials, hands-on sessions, and small to medium-sized workshops.

These rooms should ideally be equipped with:

- projection and presentation facilities;
- microphones when appropriate;
- internet connectivity and Wi-Fi access;
- and basic technical support.

The possibility of locating workshop and tutorial rooms within the same conference venue, or in immediately adjacent facilities, will be considered an important advantage.

### 6.3 Technical and Audiovisual Infrastructure

The conference venue should preferably provide fully equipped conference facilities with integrated audiovisual infrastructure, technical support services, and reliable network connectivity suitable for large international scientific events.

**This includes fully operational conference rooms equipped with presentation systems, microphones, projection facilities, internet connectivity, and streaming capabilities compatible with plenary sessions, parallel sessions, workshops, tutorials, and hybrid participation requirements.**

Where such infrastructure is not directly available within the conference facility, candidate teams should demonstrate that equivalent services and equipment can be reliably provided through a professional audiovisual and technical service provider experienced in supporting large international conferences.

This includes:

- video projectors and large display systems;
- microphones for speakers and audience interaction;
- audio mixing and sound management equipment;
- cameras and recording equipment;
- laptops and presentation support systems;
- reliable wired and wireless internet connectivity;
- high-capacity Wi-Fi access capable of supporting approximately 1,500 simultaneous users across the conference venue;
- on-site technical assistance during sessions.

In addition, the technical infrastructure should be capable of supporting:

- the streaming and/or recording of all oral sessions held during the conference;
- hybrid participation when applicable;
- and the online dissemination of conference content.

The local organizing team should indicate:

- whether audiovisual services, internet infrastructure, and technical support are fully integrated within the conference facility;
- or whether some or all of these services would be provided through an external professional AV company experienced in supporting large international conferences.

The ability to ensure stable, high-quality audiovisual production, streaming, connectivity, and technical support for plenary and parallel sessions will be considered an important element of the hosting proposal.

### 6.4 Connectivity and Network Infrastructure

As LREC attracts a large international audience and includes numerous parallel activities, demonstrations, online services, and hybrid interactions, the conference venue should provide robust and reliable network infrastructure throughout all conference areas.

**A fully equipped conference venue offering integrated high-capacity internet access and Wi-Fi coverage across all conference facilities is strongly preferred.**

**Where such infrastructure is not fully available within the venue itself, equivalent connectivity services and network support should be reliably provided through qualified technical service providers.**

The venue should be capable of supporting:

- high-capacity Wi-Fi access for approximately 1,500 to 2,000 simultaneous users;
- reliable internet connectivity in plenary rooms, parallel session rooms, workshop rooms, exhibition areas, poster halls, registration areas, and common spaces;
- streaming and online dissemination activities;
- exhibitor and demonstration connectivity requirements;
- and the operational needs of the conference organization.

Candidate teams are encouraged to provide preliminary information regarding:

- the available internet bandwidth;
- Wi-Fi coverage across the venue;
- expected simultaneous connection capacity;
- existing experience of the venue in supporting large international events with intensive network usage;
- and the availability of dedicated technical support for connectivity issues during the conference.

Stable and high-quality connectivity throughout the conference venue will be considered an essential requirement for the successful organization of LREC.

## **6.5 Venue Services and Participant Flow**

The conference venue should provide adequate facilities and services to support the smooth operation of a large international scientific conference and ensure a comfortable experience for all participants.

This includes:

- suitable registration and welcome areas;
- participant circulation and networking spaces;
- information desks and signage;
- catering and coffee break areas;
- nearby rest areas and informal meeting spaces;
- and sufficient sanitary facilities distributed throughout the venue.

Particular attention should be given to participant flow between plenary sessions, parallel sessions, workshop rooms, and exhibition areas in order to avoid congestion and facilitate interactions among participants.

The overall quality of participant services, operational comfort, signage, circulation conditions, and common spaces will be considered important elements in the evaluation of hosting proposals.

## **6.6 Catering and Nearby Food Facilities**

LREC traditionally does not provide lunches as part of the conference registration package.

The conference venue should therefore be located in an area offering adequate access to restaurants, cafés, snack facilities, and other food services capable of serving a large number of participants during lunch breaks.

Particular attention should be given to:

- the availability of diverse food options within walking distance or easily accessible from the conference venue;
- the capacity of nearby food facilities to accommodate significant participant flows during limited lunch periods;
- and the availability of affordable dining options suitable for an international and diverse audience.

In recent editions, LREC has also introduced and encouraged the presence of food trucks and outdoor catering solutions in or near the conference venue. This initiative has been highly appreciated by participants, as it:

- facilitates participant circulation and time management;
- encourages informal networking and community interactions;
- provides flexible and diverse food options;
- allows participants to benefit from outdoor and informal gathering spaces;
- and contributes to the overall conference atmosphere.

Whenever possible, the conference venue should therefore offer access to pleasant outdoor areas, ideally including open-air and sunny spaces suitable for informal discussions, coffee breaks, and food truck services.

## **7 International Connectivity of the hosting city**

### **7.1 International Accessibility and Transportation**

The proposed host city should be easily accessible from major international destinations through regular air connections, including both standard and low-cost airlines.

Particular attention should be given to:

- accessibility from major international hubs and regional capitals worldwide;
- the availability of frequent and reasonably priced flights;
- convenient connections from international airports to the conference venue and hotels;
- efficient local transportation infrastructure;
- and the overall ease of travel for international participants.

As LREC is a highly international conference attracting participants from all continents, ease of travel and reasonable transportation costs are considered important factors in the evaluation of hosting proposals.

Candidate teams are encouraged to provide preliminary information regarding:

- the nearest international airport(s);
- direct international connections;
- public transportation options;
- approximate travel times between airports, hotels, and conference facilities;
- and the general accessibility of the city for international visitors.

## 7.2 Visa Accessibility for International Participants

As LREC attracts participants from all continents, visa accessibility and the overall ease of entry procedures are important considerations for the successful organization of the conference.

Candidate teams are encouraged to provide preliminary information regarding:

- visa requirements for major regions and countries;
- any previous experience in supporting visas for large international scientific events.

Particular attention should be given to ensuring that participants from a broad range of countries can reasonably obtain visas within acceptable delays and conditions. Candidate teams are encouraged to consider international visa accessibility, for example using indicators such as the Global Visa Openness Map: <https://www.visaopenness.org/>

## 8 Accessibility for Participants with Disabilities or Reduced Mobility

The conference venue should be fully accessible to participants with disabilities or reduced mobility.

This includes:

- step-free access to conference rooms and common areas;
- elevators and accessible circulation paths;
- accessible seating areas;
- accessible restrooms;
- and adequate support for mobility assistance throughout the venue.

Candidate teams are encouraged to provide information regarding:

- the accessibility features of the venue;
- local accessibility support services;
- and any prior experience of the venue in hosting inclusive international events.

The overall accessibility conditions for participants will be considered an important element in the evaluation of hosting proposals.

## 9 Accommodation Capacity and Nearby Facilities

The host city should offer sufficient hotel and accommodation capacity to support a large international conference with approximately 1,500 to 2,000 participants.

Candidate teams are encouraged to provide preliminary information regarding:

- the availability of hotels in different price categories;
- the availability of affordable accommodation options for students, including Airbnb or equivalent services;
- accommodation capacity near the conference venue;
- public transportation connections between hotels and the venue.

The proximity of hotels, restaurants, cafés, and other participant services to the conference venue will be considered an important advantage for the overall conference experience.

## 10 Expectations from the Local Organizing Team

The local organizing team is expected to:

- coordinate with ELRA and the LREC scientific committees;
- support local logistics and relations with conference facilities;
- facilitate accommodation and transportation information for participants;
- contribute to sponsorship activities and institutional outreach;
- support interactions with local authorities, tourism offices, convention bureaus, and other relevant institutional stakeholders, in particular regarding financial support opportunities for international scientific events;
- ensure good local conditions for an international event of this scale;
- and assist in coordinating local operational support throughout the conference and associated satellite events.

The local organizing team is also expected to facilitate interactions with:

- local universities and research organizations;
- local service providers;
- local AI, HLT, NLP, language technology companies, startups, innovation hubs, and industrial ecosystems;
- and relevant scientific, professional, and institutional communities.

Candidate teams are encouraged to provide preliminary information regarding:

- previous experience in organizing or managing large international scientific conferences or similar events;
- possible local, regional, or national support mechanisms, including tourism bureau support, public grants, or academic funding schemes that could facilitate the organization of large international scientific conferences;
- and existing relationships with local industrial partners, technology ecosystems, or innovation actors that could contribute to sponsorship, exhibitions, demonstrations, or other forms of collaboration.

ELRA will remain responsible for the overall financial management of the conference and will cover conference-related expenses through registration fees, sponsorship, exhibition revenues, and other conference income sources.

The role of the local organizing team is therefore not to financially underwrite the conference, but rather to support the local scientific, organizational, logistical, institutional, and community dimensions of the event in coordination with ELRA.

Further organizational, financial, and logistical requirements will be discussed with shortlisted candidate teams during a possible second phase of the process.

## 11 Submission of Expressions of Interest and Follow-Up Process

Interested teams are invited to submit a preliminary expression of interest regarding the possible organization of LREC 2028 or LREC 2030.

**At this stage, ELRA does not expect detailed operational or financial hosting proposals. The purpose of this first phase is to identify potential host cities and organizing teams and to initiate constructive discussions regarding the feasibility and suitability of possible hosting locations.**

To facilitate the submission process, ELRA will provide a structured expression-of-interest form attached to this call and made available through the LREC website.

The form is intended to simplify the submission process and allow candidate teams to provide preliminary information regarding:

- the proposed host city and country;
- the institutions involved and the composition of the proposed local organizing team;
- the local scientific and academic environment;
- the previous experience of the proposed organizing team in managing large international scientific conferences or other types of events;
- conference infrastructure and facilities;
- workshop, tutorial, poster, and exhibition spaces;
- technical, audiovisual, and network infrastructure;
- accessibility and international connectivity;
- accommodation capacity and nearby participant services;
- accessibility conditions for participants with disabilities or reduced mobility;
- contact details for the coordinating team.

Candidate teams are also encouraged to provide supplementary information whenever available, including:

- photographs, floor plans, or links describing the proposed conference facilities;
- information about previous large international events organized in the proposed venue or city;
- any additional elements considered relevant for evaluating the suitability of the proposed hosting environment.

Candidate teams are not expected to provide exhaustive information at this stage. Missing or incomplete elements may subsequently be clarified and discussed with the support of the ELRA and LREC management teams during follow-up exchanges.

Expressions of interest should be submitted electronically through the designated submission process.

**The deadline for the submission of expressions of interest is set for 15 July 2026.**

The ELRA Board expects to review the submitted expressions of interest during the summer period and aims to establish a shortlist of potential hosting proposals by mid-September 2026 at the latest.

Shortlisted candidate teams may subsequently be invited to participate in a second phase involving a more formal hosting proposal process.

## **12 Conclusions**

ELRA looks forward to receiving expressions of interest from teams willing to contribute to the continued development, international visibility, scientific excellence, and community impact of LREC.

The ELRA Board particularly welcomes initiatives from diverse regions of the world and encourages expressions of interest reflecting strong scientific environments, institutional engagement, and

suitable conference infrastructures capable of supporting the future evolution of the LREC community.

ELRA also encourages environmentally responsible and sustainable conference practices whenever feasible.

While this call primarily aims at identifying potential host teams and locations for the 2028 edition of LREC, expressions of interest concerning the organization of LREC 2030 are also welcome and will be considered by the ELRA Board.