



27th Meeting of International Hamster Workgroup

27th MIHW Announcement 3

Dear Colleagues – hamster researchers and fanciers,
We hope this message meets you in good health.

We would like to hereby confirm that the 27th Meeting of the International Hamster Workgroup will be held on 23–25 October 2020 in Jaworzno, Poland. It will be a hybrid – partly traditional (direct), partly, for some participants, via the Internet.

We invite not only members of the International Hamster Workgroup to participate in the Meeting, but all those who are interested in research or conservation of the European hamster.

Of course, nowadays it has to be taken into account that it may be necessary to move the meeting to another (possibly close) place, change its form and eventually cancel it, but the threat is already relatively small and decreasing every day. The situation with the COVID-19 pandemic has been relatively stable in Poland for many months (several hundred new cases per day). The current regulations and good practices concerning relatively safe organization of such meetings have also stabilized. The organizers and the hotel will make every effort to ensure that the meeting is conducted safely and in accordance with current sanitary regulations and recommendations. We count on the understanding and cooperation of all participants.

So far, 45 persons have registered for the Meeting, of which more than $\frac{3}{4}$ have declared their willingness to participate directly (if possible) and the rest – online. The registration process continues (at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/G5DP3J7>). Below we present detailed organizational information.

The initial program of the Meeting has been attached to the Announcement 2, which is available at the address http://salamandra.org.pl/attachments/1243_27-MIHW_Announcement-1.pdf. We will send out a more detailed program before the meeting, once the list of submitted speeches is known. We ask you to make the final registration as a matter of urgency, confirm it by paying the conference fee and make a reservation for accommodation (directly at the hotel).

We hope to meet in a little over a month's time – in Jaworzno or on the Internet – to share the latest results of our observations, research and conservation activities. Hamster workers of all lands, unite!

Yours sincerely,

Organizers of the 27th Meeting of the IHW

Poznań, 22.09.2020

The Meeting is supported by:



ORGANISATIONAL DETAILS

1. Information for authors of presentations

We kindly ask you to submit your proposals as soon as possible. The deadline for submitting contribution titles and abstracts is October 4th, but we would appreciate it if you could send us at least the titles in advance. The summaries will be collected and published in the conference materials.

The abstracts should be in English and should not exceed 2000 characters with spaces. The authors are responsible for the linguistic accuracy of the abstracts. The organizers can offer the authors the correction of linguistic errors, giving them min. 3 days to authorize the final texts. Failure to respond will be treated as acceptance of the proposed changes.

2 Restrictions on entering Poland in connection with COVID-19

Currently, in Poland, the regulations for coming from abroad vary and depend on the country of departure.

In the case of citizens from other European Union countries, as well as EFTA countries and Switzerland, there are no restrictions on crossing the border. Anyone can come and go at any place and time. There is no quarantine. However, there is an impediment to direct flights from certain countries – see below.

In case of citizens of other countries, unfortunately, there is a general ban on their entry into Poland. There is a list of exceptions, but these are special cases (e.g. spouses or children of Polish citizens, persons with permission to work in Poland etc).

The exact conditions of entry to Poland are described on <https://www.strazgraniczna.pl/pl/cudzoziemcy/covid-epidemia-koronawi> (in English, Russian, Ukrainian and Polish).

Unfortunately, the Polish authorities also introduce a list of countries from which airline planes are not allowed into Poland. This list is updated every 2 weeks. Currently there are 30 countries on the list, including two from the European Union – France and Spain. This does not mean that residents of France or Spain are prohibited from entering Poland. However, you must either use planes taking off from other countries, or have a transfer in another EU country, outside the list (e.g. Germany), or cross the border by another means of communication (e.g. train, car). It is difficult to predict what the list will include for the second half of October. Generally – because direct flights to Poland from the countries on the list are cancelled if someone has bought a ticket for them, the airlines either refund their costs or change their reservations for other connections, e.g. with a transfer.

ATTENTION – in many places in Poland, including public transport, stores or other buildings and rooms, it is obligatory to wear masks covering nose and mouth. Each participant should therefore take an adequate supply of such masks for a journey and stay in Poland.

3. Approval of pre-registrations and new registrations

We kindly ask you to make final reservations for participation in the Meeting. You can do it at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/G5DP3J7>. If someone has already made an initial reservation, but now would like to change something, he or she should send a new, changed submission. If we receive another submission from the same person, we will take this new one into account and cancel the previous one. If someone does not want to change

anything, just pay the conference fee. Once the fee is paid, the last reservation becomes final. If you wish to cancel your reservation, please inform us by e-mail.

4. Conference fees

Registration is confirmed upon payment of the conference fee. There are two types of fees:

Direct participation fee (includes conference materials, meals from lunch on 23.10 to lunch on 25.10, participation in field sessions and all organizational costs).

Internet participation fee (includes conference materials and the possibility of interactive live participation in plenary sessions in the conference room, via the Internet).

The conference fees are as follows:

Payment deadlines	Direct participation fee	Internet participation fee
Early hamster fee (until end of September)	110 EUR or 490 PLN	40 EUR or 180 PLN
Standard (from 1 to 11 October)	130 EUR or 580 PLN	50 EUR or 220 PLN
Sleepy hamster fee (12 October or later)	150 EUR or 670 PLN	

Fees should be paid to the IBAN accounts:

Fees in EUR: PL 07 1020 4900 0000 8402 3313 4400

Fees in PLN: PL 31 1020 4027 0000 1802 0401 6929

Account owner: Polskie Towarzystwo Ochrony Przyrody "Salamandra"

Bank: PKO BP SA

SWIFT: BPKOPLPW

In the description of the payment, please write: "27MIHW" and the name(s) of the person or persons concerned.

If someone needs an invoice, please inform the organizers together with the details of the institution to which the invoice is to be issued.

5. Accommodation

Accommodation should be booked independently in the hotel. When booking, the password "Salamandra" should be given to receive a discounted price negotiated for the participants of the Meeting. The hotel's contact details:

Hotel Pańska Góra
ul. Krakowska 1
43-600, Jaworzno, Poland
<https://panskagora.pl>
hotel@panskagora.pl
phone: +48 326150150, +48660677677 (mobile)

Price for one night in a single room: 234 PLN (about 53 EUR)

Price for one person and one night in a double room: 175,00 PLN (about 40 EUR)

The price includes breakfast. Participants will pay for the rooms on site. You can pay by card or cash (in PLN). The hotel can issue an invoice.

Attention – the number of rooms of particular types is limited and will be allocated in the order of hotel registration. Therefore, we advise you to make a reservation as soon as possible.

If you book a room for 2 people, you should indicate a second person. If someone wants to have an overnight stay in a double room, but does not have a selected second person, he or she can send a question to the organizers. We will try to help.

6. Travel to Jaworzno

As the field session on the last day will end in Krakow, it is worth considering returning home from that city.

Those who want to fly to Poland by plane would best check the connections to Katowice (KTW) or Krakow (KRK). From both airports it is about 50-55 km to the Meeting hotel. The taxi cost is about 30-33 EUR. A good option is e.g. to order one cab together in 2-3 people.

In case of public land transport, after arriving by bus or train to Katowice or Krakow, it is best to take a bus to Jaworzno (about an hour drive).

To Jaworzno there is the A4 highway from the West and A1 from the South. Getting to Jaworzno by car is therefore quite easy and fast. From Berlin about 6:45 h drive, from Dresden or Prague about 5:20 h, from Vienna about 4:30 h.

We as the organizers will try to advise the best possible travel options for registered participants when we receive information about the date and preferred way of travel. E.g. we can order a minibus for a larger number of people arriving at a similar time to one airport. Please send your inquiries by e-mail.

7. Last day of the Meeting

We plan to go to the vicinity of Krakow on the last day of the meeting, where there will be an opportunity to see the habitats of a large hamster population. We also want to organize lunch and a final discussion in Krakow or its suburbs. If you want to come home from Krakow, you can take your luggage with you and stay in Krakow after the meeting (we will provide transportation to the city center). If you haven't been to the city yet, we advise you to consider staying there for one or two more days – it is a very interesting place. For those who want to return to Jaworzno we will provide such an opportunity.

8. Change of reservation or cancellation policy

In case of changing the reservation from direct to online participation or cancelling the participation by 15.10 for reasons related to COVID-19 (e.g. ban on coming to Poland from a given country or getting ill with this disease), the organizers will return the difference between the paid fee and the normal Internet participation fee. In case of cancellation after this date, the organizers will not be able to refund the registration fees paid.

Participants will pay for the hotel on the spot, and in case of cancellation, no costs will be incurred. Prepayment for the first night, which may be forfeited, may be required only in case of reservations from one institution for groups of over 4 people.

In the unlikely event that the Meeting will have to be completely moved to the Internet due to the new restrictions in Poland, all participants will be refunded the difference between the paid fee and the standard online participation fee.

In all matters related to the Meeting, you may contact the organizers at the address: 27mihw@gmail.com.