

# INFORMATION SHEET

## Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness Global Assembly 2010

September 28 to 30, 2010  
Istanbul, Turkey

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*General information on visas, airports, local transport, language, climate and attire, currency, electricity, cultural events, tourist attractions and other useful tips...*

**For more information on the Global Assembly:** [info@cso-effectiveness.org](mailto:info@cso-effectiveness.org); or [www.cso-effectiveness.org](http://www.cso-effectiveness.org)

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### Venue

The Open Forum Global Assembly will be taking place in Istanbul, Turkey, at Larespark Hotel:

23 Topçu Caddesi  
İstanbul, Türkiye  
0212 254 5100

<http://www.laresparktaksim.com/>

#### Distances from Hotel:

Dolmabahçe Palace: 0,8 Km  
Topkapı Palace: 3 Km  
Galata Tower & Bridge: 0,6 Km  
Blue Mosque: 3 Km  
Grand Bazaar: 3 Km  
Kabatas Port: 0,8 Km  
Beyoglu (Pera) Culture, Shopping & Entertainment Centre: 0,2 Km

DEPARTURE POINT	KM	MIL	MIN	VEHICLE
Atatürk Airport	22	15	30	Taxi
Historical City Center	3	1.8	10	Taxi
Lutfi Kirdar Exhibition & Convention Center	0.4	.2	10	On Foot
Dolmabahçe Place	1	.6	10	On Foot

Participants will be booked either in Larespark, or in one of the surrounding hotels, no more than a 5 minute walk from the Global Assembly venue.

### Visa Information

Please find out whether you will need a visa before you travel to Turkey.

Full information, including specific requirements, is available at the Turkish Consulate Online:

<http://www.mfa.gov.tr/visa-fees-at-border-gates-for-2010.en.mfa>

If you require a visa, please contact us at [info@cso-effectiveness.org](mailto:info@cso-effectiveness.org) and we will issue you with an invitation letter to support your application.

## Local Transport

Two airports serve the Istanbul area, and here are the best ways to reach the hotel from each airport:

From Ataturk International Airport: Approximately 30 minutes at non-rush hours. The least expensive way to get to the hotel from this airport is to take the HAVAS shuttle to Taksim and from there, take a taxi to the hotel. There are shuttles every hour between 4 am and 1 am which costs 10 TL (approx. 5 Euros). Taking a taxi directly from the airport to the hotel would cost around 40 TL (approx. 20 Euros). More information:

<http://www.ataturkairport.com/eng/2.php>

From Sabiha Gokcen International Airport: Approximately 1 hour at non-rush hours. The cheapest way to get to the Taksim is by taking the shuttle from the airport. There are shuttles every hour between 4 am and 1 am, and they cost approximately 13 TL (approx 7 Euros). The taxi fare from the airport would be around 55 YTL (30 Euros). More information: <http://www.sgairport.com/havaalani/eng/ulasim.asp>

## Climate

End of September-early October is the temperate season in Istanbul, and temperatures vary between 15-25°C or 60-77°F. Typical autumn clothing would be recommended. For more information on the climate in Istanbul, you can visit the following link: [http://www.enjoyturkey.com/info/usefull\\_info/Climate.htm](http://www.enjoyturkey.com/info/usefull_info/Climate.htm)

## Language

The event will be held in English, with translation into French and Spanish for the plenary sessions.

The language spoken in Turkey is Turkish, but people generally speak English, especially in tourist areas. Visitors are also likely to hear many other languages on the streets of Istanbul.

## Currency

Unit of currency: Turkish Lira (TL) = 0.66 US\$ or 0.50 Euro. You can check for other currencies and updated rates at <http://www.xe.com/ucc/>

Money changers are located at the airport and commercial establishments. In addition, local banks should be able to give you the official rates on arrival. ATM machines are also widely available.

## Time Zone

In September, Istanbul is observing Daylight Savings Time, which is GMT (Greenwich Mean Time) plus 3 hours.

## Electricity

Electricity is supplied at 220 volts with plugs of two round prongs. As it is not easy to find adapters in the city, it is advisable to bring your own if you need one for your own electronic gadgets.

## Departing from Istanbul Airports

You need to be at your respective airports at least two hours before your flight. Estimated travel times and fares to each airport mentioned above apply for departures as well. However, please take into account that rush hour traffic could add up to an hour on the estimated travel time to the airport.

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## Extra Travel Tips

There is much to see and experience in Istanbul. If you do plan to add some personal time to your visit, are especially good websites for planning it:

### Istanbul travel guide - Wikitravel

<http://wikitravel.org/en/Istanbul>

Open source travel guide to Istanbul, featuring up-to-date information on attractions, hotels, restaurants, nightlife, travel tips and more.

**Istanbul.com - Istanbul City Guide**

<http://english.istanbul.com/Default.asp>

A great portal site for the great city of Istanbul presenting the city in whole spectrum. This interactive city portal of istanbul.com, covering the city's rich history, culture and art combined with dynamic and colorful mosaic of cosmopolitan city life reflected by its content, design and logo, is proudly serving Istanbul lovers and visitors all around the world as a single source for Turkey's priceless city Istanbul.

**Istanbul 2010 European Capital of Culture Initiative Website**

<http://www.istanbul2010.org/?&lang=eng>

A very rich website containing information on the Istanbul 2010 Initiative, Istanbul as the city of four elements and an events section featuring up to date information on what is going on.

**Biletix**

[www.biletix.com](http://www.biletix.com)

Biletix is the first and largest entertainment ticketing company in Turkey and offers lists of concerts, shows, sports events, festivals, exhibitions and more through its website.