Common Europe Congress 2025

CONFERENCE GUIDE

2 – 5 JUNE 2025

IBM Power, IBM i, AIX and Linux on Power

Keynotes, break out sessions, workshops,
large expo and more...

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common EUROPE

NextGen
Common Europe

COMMON SWEDEN

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Back Cover Congress 2026 teaser

Welcome to Gothenburg and the Common Europe Congress 2025

Juan Manuel Alcudia
President, Common Europe

Mats Lidstrom
President, Common Sweden

Dear Members, Colleagues, and Friends,

It is with great pleasure and pride that I welcome you to the **Common Europe Congress 2025,** taking place from **June 2 to 5** in the beautiful city of **Gothenburg, Sweden.**

Welcome to Göteborg! This vibrant coastal city, known for its innovation, rich maritime history, and welcoming atmosphere, provides the perfect backdrop for our annual gathering. Gothenburg offers not only world-class conference facilities, but also a unique Scandinavian charm and cultural experience that I am sure you will enjoy.

This year brings exciting opportunities for growth and learning. One of the major highlights of the Congress will be the chance to explore and understand **IBM i 7.6,** the latest version of the operating system that powers our trusted platforms. With a strong focus on **security,** this release introduces **native two-factor authentication (2FA)**—a significant step forward in protecting systems and data in today's increasingly complex threat landscape. As cyberattacks become more sophisticated, this built-in capability offers a vital layer of defense for organizations of all sizes.

We are also proud to continue a cherished tradition: during this Congress, we will **honor new inductees into the Common Europe Hall of Fame,** recognizing individuals who have made outstanding contributions and shown long-term dedication to our community. Their passion and commitment exemplify the spirit of Common Europe, and we look forward to celebrating their achievements together.

The Common Europe Congress is more than just a technical event—it's a unique opportunity to connect, collaborate, and inspire one another. Whether you're an experienced professional or a newcomer to the platform, there's something here for everyone: expert-led sessions, hands-on labs, in-depth discussions, and meaningful networking experiences.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the organizing committee, volunteers, sponsors, and local hosts who have worked tirelessly to make this event possible. Your dedication is what brings this Congress to life.

On behalf of the entire Common Europe board, thank you for joining us. Let's make this Congress in Gothenburg a memorable and impactful experience for all.

Warm regards,

Juan Manuel Alcudia
President, Common Europe

General
Information

Venue All congress educational sessions will be held at
Gothia Towers
Mässans gata 24,
Gothenburg

A first-class hotel with magnificent views of the city. With its three towers in the middle of central Gothenburg, Gothia Towers offers first-class accommodation in the centre of the action.

People from all over the world come to Gothia Towers who want to live, eat (you must try their celebrated shrimp sandwich), socialize and experience Gothenburg from the first floor. The three towers house Gothia Towers with its 1,200 hotel rooms, the exclusive Upper House hotel, the city's highest-located spa, several restaurants, sky bars with mile-long views and 41,000 square meters for fairs, events, meetings and congresses.

The hotel is certified according to ISO 20121, a management system for sustainability in events.

Registration Desk The congress registration desk is located in the Expo Hall, just through the door, on your left. The congress sessions and vendor solutions will take place in the meeting rooms located throughout the hotel. See signs for information.

Free Internet is available throughout the hotel and congress rooms.

Meals and Coffee Breaks Coffee will be available all day. Tuesday and Wednesday lunch and breaks will be served in the Expo area. Tuesday evening is kept open by design for country participants or vendors to make their own plans for get-togethers or an evening in Gothenburg. Be sure to make plans and experience the city to the fullest.

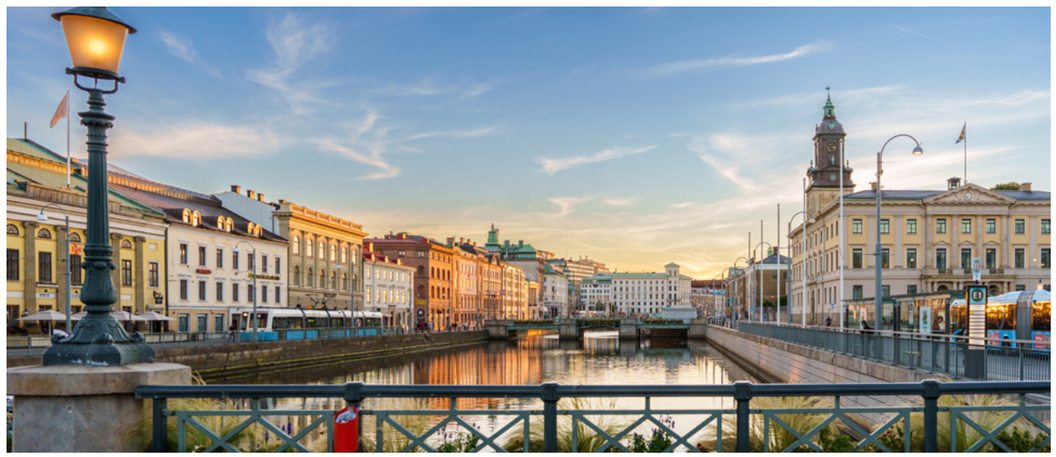
Congress Dinner A buffet dinner will be held in the 'Seasons' restaurant where you'll be entertained by Swedish pianist Hilda Dahlberg. See page 14 for more details.

Transport The hotel is centrally located so ideal for visiting the city on foot. Taxis to Landvetter airport cost approximately SEK 420. Ask for a fixed price.

The Good and Great of Gothenburg See page 16 for our Must Sees...

We hope you find the Common Europe Congress a value packed event and an efficient way to discover and learn about new products, services and how to optimize your company's investment in the IBM Power Systems platform.

Enjoy the Congress and enjoy Gothenburg.



Common Europe
Board of Directors

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Jan van de Griendt

Common Norway
Erik-Roberto Aasland

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Mats Lidström

Common Switzerland
Heidi Schmidt

Common Switzerland (Romandie)
Michel Röethlisberger

IBM Liaison
Simon Porstendorfer

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apper.com

Common Europe
Advisory Council (CEAC)

COMMON Europe Advisory Council (CEAC) is a technical advisory council consisting of a representative sample of end user members from multiple Common Europe organizations. It is used as a forum for dialogue with IBM on strategic and long-term issues.

Through CEAC, Common Europe members have a direct link to IBM and the ability to get their voice heard with regards to new requirements and needs for the IBM i platform. They also receive an advanced insight into the future direction of the platform and learn about new functions, technologies and directions for the platform before they are publicly announced.

MEMBERS
CEAC members are IT experts with extensive IBM i experience, visionary ideas and business knowledge from a wide range of industry sectors. Their main task is to give IBM open, honest and constructive feedback on strategic directions, feature sets, current shortfalls and potential new requirements for the IBM i platform. All members of CEAC must sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) with IBM to receive strategic information from IBM, and open answers & discussions regarding requirements. Any member that repeatedly fails to attend face-to-face meetings or monthly conference calls may be released from membership.

ORGANISATION
CEAC is a part of Common Europe (CE) and has a liaison to maintain communication with the COMMON Europe Board of Directors. Membership in CEAC is on voluntary basis and, as such, members do not get paid.

IBM LIAISON
IBM has a dedicated Program Manager assigned as a liaison to the CEAC. Her/His role is to plan, facilitate and host the monthly CEAC calls and face-to-face meetings. During meetings, they additionally have the role to capture any actions and updates involving IBM, make sure IBM is responding to Requests For Enhancements in a proper and timely fashion, and that the right individuals from IBM are asked to attend monthly and face-to-face meetings when necessary. CEAC members may contact the IBM liaison directly between meetings if they have questions for IBM or need to follow up on a specific Request For Enhancements.

More information about CEAC is available at: www.comeur.org/comeur/main/index.php/services/ceac

Requests for Enhancements can be submitted at: https://www.ibm.com/developerworks/rfe/execute?use_case=submitRfe

Our range of new badges
Help us to promote Common Europe

Common Europe Advisory Council
Members 2025

Steve Bradshaw
i-UG (UK)

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COMMON Poland

Eddie Chaffin
i-UG (UK)

Nicolae Chirea
COMMON Iberia

Leszek Czajka
COMMON Poland

Koen Decorte
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Jan Frode Haskjold
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Christian Jorgensen
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Katharina Karner
COMMON Austria

Mats Lidström
Data 3
COMMON Sweden

Niels Liisberg
COMMON Denmark

Stefan Pelzer
COMMON Germany

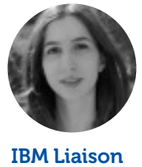
Mauro Sanfilippo
FAQ400 (Italy)

Holger Scherer
COMMON Germany

Philippe Vanden Bussche
COMMON Belgium

Rudi van Helvoirt
COMMON Netherlands

IBM Liaison
Sabine Jordan


IBM Liaison
Sara Andrés

Common NextGen
Become a member of NextGen

What is our Mission?

To attract students and young professionals up to and including the age of 30 to discover the IBM Power platform through IBM i, Linux and AIX operating systems and promote it as the best business IT platform.

To encourage students and young professionals to drive the future of Common Europe.

To encourage networking opportunites, share knowledge, grow together and **bring IT skills to the next level.**

How do you Benefit?

When you become a member of NextGen you automatically become a member of Common Europe and can access **FREE workshops, webinars and events** to benefit from education of immediate use.

You can participate in Hackathons, discussions and interact with other members through Discord.

You also have FREE access Common North America's vast online catalogue of educational webinars and bootcamps to help build your knowledge and further your career.

You can read below how students and young professionals are already benefitting from NextGen membership and keep an eye on our news and events to see what opportunities are available.

NextGen
Common Europe

NextGen is using Discord.
Join the future here:

New Generation

Our focus is to attract students and new generation of IT personnel to get in touch with the IBM Power platform with IBM i, AIX and Linux operating systems and it wonderful offer as the best business IT platform.

Interactive

Investing in an interactive way of sharing knowledge, showcasing projects and growing together. Through various both in-person as well as virtual events.

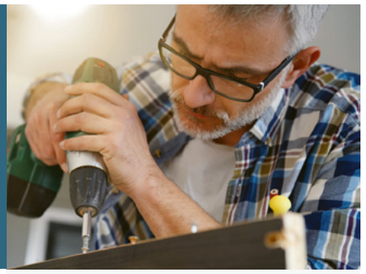
Challenging

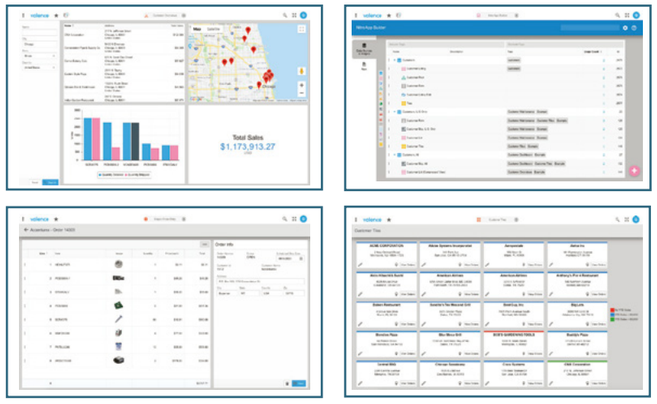
Keeping it always interesting by providing different challenges such as group sessions, hackathons and much more. Bringing your IT skills to the next level.

Valence
Nitro

Add a Low-Code Power Tool to your IBM i Development Arsenal

Quickly create powerful apps on your IBM i system today.
Download Valence free at www.cnxcorp.com/valence





Use our Nitro App Builder tool to quickly create everything from simple graphical query apps to fully optimized enterprise applications, with minimal or no coding required.

Valence

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FalconStor StorSafe VTL protects and modernizes your IBMi on-premises & in the PowerVS Cloud

www.falconstor.com

Hall of fame
This year's recipients

The Hall of Fame was inaugurated in 2023 to show our appreciation to individuals who have made a long lasting and significant contribution to Common Europe and its community. Each year we will honour a person (or persons) nominated by our user groups who they believe should be recognised. Here are this year's recipients:

Olga Miralles

For services to the community

Olga Miralles is Technical Support at Software Greenhouse and Vice president of Common Iberia. Born in Barcelona she works as a freelance translator and has worked in the IT sector as an analyser, project manager and communications manager.

In 1999 she was resident in IBM's ITSO and is co-author of two IBM Redbooks -AS/400 System Handbook and AS/400 System Builder. Olga served as President of Common Spain for eight years until 2010, served on the Common Europe Advisory Council (CEAC) from 1993-1995 and again for four years from 2005 and was President of Common Europe thereafter from 2005-2009.

"Olga is an outstanding professional, focused and extremely productive. Her qualities of business insight and pragmatic approach to problem solving are an inspiration to be involved with." (Ray Titcombe, Co-Ordinator at iManifest EMEA)

Colin Spofford

For services to Common Europe and the community i-UG (UK)

Born in Leeds UK, after an early career as a Structural Engineer, Colin retrained as a programmer, developing and implementing systems on: IBM S/23, S34, S/36. He was fortunate enough to be present at the UK launch of the original AS/400 in June 1988.

In 1989 he setup his own software house, Springstone Software Services which became one of the leading UK providers of IT training on IBM i (and its predecessors). In 1993 he became a founding member of the National AS/400 User Group - NASUG.

He sold Springstone in 2003 and in 2007 decided to move away from the commercial side of the IT industry to concentrate on growing his property development business. He has continued working with the UK user group which has now morphed into i-UG, the largest active user group for IBM i in the UK and for the last 15 years he has been the i-UG Treasurer.

In 2010 i-UG he became the UK representative of Common Europe (2010-2021) and for three held the post of Treasurer.

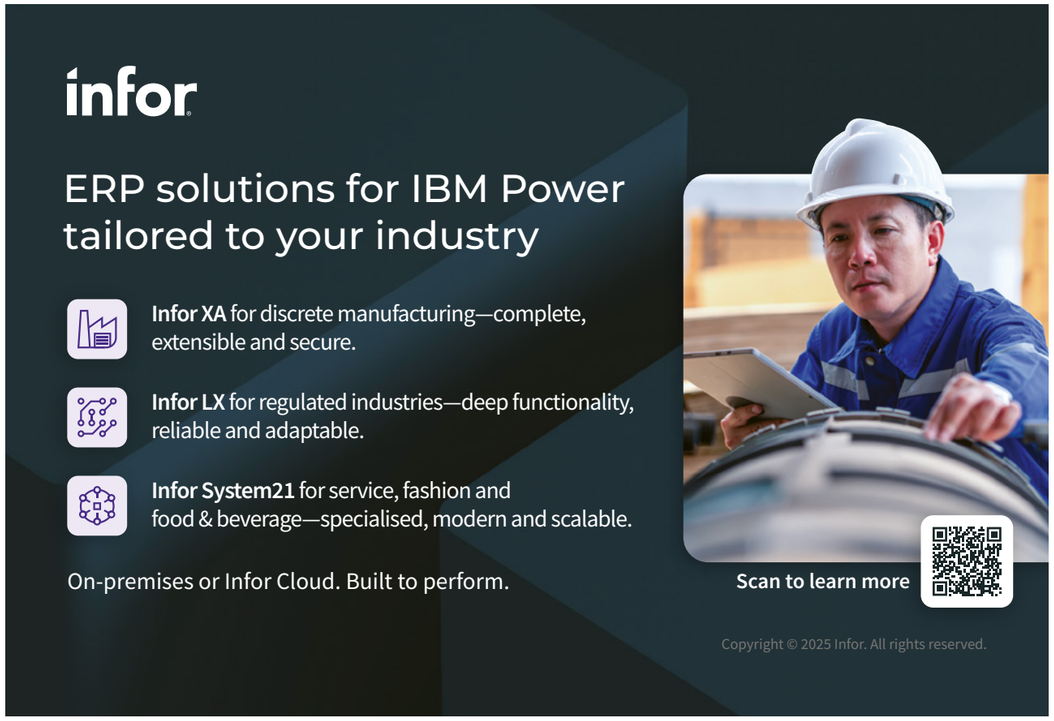
Colin has been the backbone of the i-UG/Common UK for three decades and his dedication, perseverance and hard work is the reason why the i-UG is the largest IBM i user group in the UK, one of the largest in Europe and still growing to this very day.

Holger Scherer

For services to the community with pub400.com

Holger has been active in the IBM AS/400 and IBM i world since 1988 when he first came into contact with a big beige box at a customers. Working in the IT branch since then as a programmer, ERP analyst and IT director, he started his own company in 2000 for services, programming and hosting. Since then, Holger has also been running a public system project for everyone to learn about IBM AS/400 and now IBM i at http://pub400.com.

Currently his company RZKH GmbH runs more than 150 servers for customers all over the world hosting IBM i in their own fallout shelter below ground, concentrating on IBM i services and consultancy with a team of 5 people. Holger is an IBM i evangelist and is happy to show each customer the unique features of that wonderful system.



The Congress Dinner
with Hilda Dahlberg

The buffet dinner is from 19:30 on Wednesday. We offer you a chance to eat, drink, be merry, network and be entertained throughout the evening by a selection of great music provided by Stockholm-based pianist and singer Hilda Dahlberg.

Where? In the Seasons restaurant in Gothia Towers... just a few steps away from your hotel room so no need to worry about transport or getting lost on the way back.

Hilda Dahlberg

Hilda was born and raised in Småland and has been involved in music since childhood. As a singer and pianist, she creates a pleasant atmosphere in every situation and venue.

Hilda is also a trained musical artist and works in all areas from pub shows to children's theatre, when she is not taking a seat behind the grand piano.

Repertoire

The repertoire combines today's radio hits with the gems of the past in a wonderful mix. The song material ranges from sizzling pop, rock, schlager to softer and more atmospheric tones.

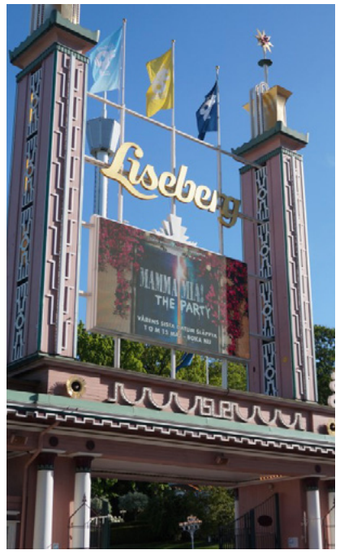
With warmth and musicality, she offers the audience songs with a high recognition factor, plays requests from the guests and often ends with a sing-along!

The Great & The Good of Gothenburg

Discovering Gothenburg

Liseberg Amusement Park

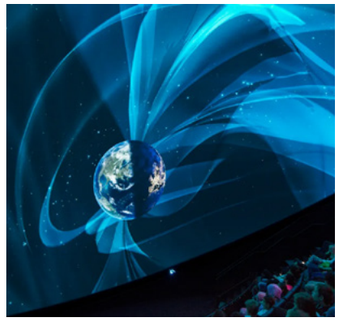
Liseberg amusement park is one of Sweden's most visited tourist attractions and in 2023, the park won the award as Europe's best amusement park. The park features some world-class thrill rides, a beautiful garden and several popular restaurants. There is plenty to discover in the event district around Liseberg and many of Gothenburg's popular family hotels are located here.



Haga District

Haga is one of Gothenburg's oldest districts dating back to the mid-17th century, with cobblestone streets and traditional county governor's houses. This charming neighbourhood has a wonderful selection of cafés and small artisan shops. Did you know that you can find what is perhaps the world's largest cinnamon bun on the main street, Haga Nygata?

Universeum



Sweden's National Science Center, houses an entire rainforest, an aquarium hall with exotic fish and sharks, lots of exotic animals and plants – all under one roof. The centre also shows exciting exhibitions and incredible 3D films at Sweden's largest visualization dome Wisdome.

The Gothenburg archipelago

A string of islands in the sea outside Gothenburg. The islands in the southern part of the archipelago – such as Brännö, Styrsö and Vrångö – are car-free and can be reached by boat from Saltholmen. The northern islands Hönö, Öckerö and Björkö can be reached by car ferry from Lilla Varholmen. In the archipelago you can stroll through picturesque fishing villages, take a salty swim from the characteristic granite cliffs and hike along beautiful walking paths. It takes about an hour to get to the archipelago from central Gothenburg and a simple public transport ticket is enough for the journey.

The Gothenburg Museum of Art

If Art is more your style the museum has three stars in the Michelin Green Guide and impressive Nordic collections from the 15th century onwards. There are major exhibitions all year round and a large programme of guided tours and activities for children and young people.

Alternatively why not get a hands on experience in Aeroseum.

Or explore some Natural history: **Göteborgs Naturhistoriska museum - Public_GNM**

Gothenburg Botanical Gardens is one of the largest in Northern Europe. The cultivated part occupies 20 acres and holds about 20 000 different plants and trees. It is a botanical garden with a strong emphasis on horticulture and the garden is divided into different sections linked by lawns with fine trees and shrubs. You will find a kitchen garden, a herb garden, perennial and annual borders, a Japanese glade, a rhododendron valley and a stunning rock garden with a waterfall. In the bulb garden you find species that are not grown anywhere else. The Greenhouses are closed and new ones will be built. The garden is bordering a nature reserve where also the arboretum is located.

Fish and shellfish is a real speciality in the port city of Gothenburg. Shrimp sandwiches, newly caught fish in classic and modern dishes, clams and oysters – the selection is huge! The iconic seafood market **hall Feskekörka** is a must for fish and seafood lovers.

Gothenburg is one of Europe's hottest hubs for craft beer and several of the city's breweries are among the best in the world. Check out the craft breweries that have popped up around town and try some of the local brews. Tap Rooms in Gothenburg

World of Volvo

And when in Sweden...visit The **World of Volvo.** World of Volvo is an automotive museum and experience centre in Gothenburg, Sweden, jointly owned by Volvo Cars and Volvo Group. Opened in April 2024, it serves as a cultural and exhibition space for Volvo's brand and heritage.

Discover our world | Welcome to World of Volvo

Featured Speakers
CEC2025

Joe Cropper
IBM
Distinguished Engineer, Power Hybrid Cloud

Scott Forstie
IBM
STSM, Db2 for i Architect

Sebastian Lehrig
IBM
WW AI on IBM Power Leader

JP Lavigne
IBM
WW Product Manager

Morten Buur Rasmussen
IBM Expert Labs
Power Performance Specialist

Steve Will
IBM
IBM i CTO & Chief Architect

Bill Starke
IBM
Power Processor Chief Architect

Michael "Monty" Widenius
MariaDB
Creator of MySQL and MariaDB, CTO of MariaDB

Jonas Ullberg
IBM
Vice President IBM Power - Global Channel Sales

Tim Rowe
IBM
STSM - IBM i Business Architect

Speakers
CEC2025

Stephan Åkeborg
IKEA
Systems Engineer Digital Compute Platforms

Juan Manuel Alcudia
Common Europe
President, IBM Champion

Manish Anand
IBM
Engineering Leader-Storage Insights: UX Modernization & AIOps

Torbjörn Appehl
Common Europe & LOAD System
Vice President & CEO

Thomas Barlen
IBM
Senior Managing Consultant at IBM

Tonny Bastiaans
IBM
offering manager

Toshaan Bharvani
VanTosh
CTO

Larry Bolhuis
Service Express
IBM i Infrastructure Advisor

Steve Bradshaw
RowtonIT.com
Friendly Techie

Alfonso Cancellara
Red Hat
Technical Account Manager, OpenShift

Steve Cast
Fresche Solutions
Practice Director, Common Europe Treasurer, IBM Champion

Paul Chapman
IBM UK
Global Power Modernisation Technical Lead

Rohit Chauhan
Tietoevry Tech Services Norway AS
Senior Technical Specialist and IBM Champion

Nicolae Chirea
Seidor Iberia
System Architec

Mirza Ćutuk
InnoBoost SA
Solutions Architect

Koen Decorte
CD-Invest
Owner and CEO, IBM Champion

Stefan Dufaye
Rowton IT
Technical Consultant

Gautier Dumas
CFD-Innovation
CEO and IBM i Consultant

Peter Dussmann
IBM
IBM Power Enterprise Systems Sales Leader EMEA

Steven Finnes
IBM
Product Managerr

Carlos Fuente
IBM
Distinguished Engineer

Turgut Genc
IBM
Solutions Architect, Expert Labs

Ash Giddings
Maxava
Product Manager

Bartlomiej Grabowski
DHL
IBM POWER Systems Principal Support Specialist

Kim Greene
Kim Greene Consulting,
President

Henrik Grönberg
IBM

Charlie Guarino
Central Park Data Systems
CEO & IBM Champion

Peter Haneklou
Pacing Sweden AB
CTO

Birgitta Hauser
Birgitta Hauser Modernization Education Consulting
Database and Software Architect, IBM Champion

Johannes Heirman
EASI
Software Engineer

Rudi van Helvoirt
van Helvoirt Beheer
Technical Director

Janus Hertz
IBM
Consulting IT Specialist

Lars Hoonk
Broadcom BSN
Field Application Engineer

Sven Jansson
Agria Djuförsäkring
Senior developer

Ian Jarman
IBM
CTO Systems Expert Labs

Jesper Skov Johansen
Molgaard Data A/S
IBM Certified Systems Expert & IBM Champion

Sebastien Julliand
ARCAD Software
Tech Lead

Anders Karlsson
MariaDB
Principal Sales Engineer

Andrey Klyachkin
eNFence
Managing Director

Andrew Laidlaw
IBM
Senior Power Technical Specialist

Youssef Largou
Power Maroc
CEO

Mats Lidström
Apper Systems AB
IBM i Chief Architect / CPO

Niels Liisberg
System & Method
Chief Software Architect, Partner & IBM Champion

Markus Litters
i and me - IT Training and Solutions GmbH
CEO

Fabio Alessandro Locati
Red Hat
Principal Specialist Solution Architect

Andrew Martin
IBM

Pete Massiello
Massiello Holding Corp.
IBM i Advisor

Neil McGovern
IBM
WW Sales Leader – IBM FlashSystem

Ryan Moeller
IBM
Software Engineer

Ole Kristian Myklebust
IBM
Storage Dude

Shreya Nair
IBM
WW Product Manager

Dirk Neumann
Neumann Softwaretechnik Consulting
Owner

Zouhair Oulli
Kyndryl
Ansible for IBM i specialist

Geoffrey Pascal
IBM
Technology Engineer

Pascal Polverini
Polverini and partners
Founder & CTO

Simon Porstendorfer
IBM
Ecosystem Leader Power EMEA

Marc Rohloff
T.S.P. Gesellschaft fuer Informationssysteme mbH
SVP Global Channels

Jonathon Sawdon
Common Europe
Executive Secretary

Heidi Schmidt
PKS Software GmbH
CEO

Adam Shedivy
IBM
Software Developer

David Spurway
IBM
IBM Power AI and Security Principal, EMEA, IBM Technology Sales

Ann-Kathrin Stückl
PKS Software GmbH
UI/UX Product & Strategy Consultant

Daniel Sundt
IBM
IBM i Product Manager

Joe Swingler
IBM
Chief Storage Product Architect, STSM, Master Inventor

Dave Wiseman
The Large User Group

Steve Wolk
PC Richard & Son
CTO

Carol Woodbury
Kisco
IBM i Security SME and Senior Advisor

Ed Yeates
Celerity
Professional Services Manager

Number of participants

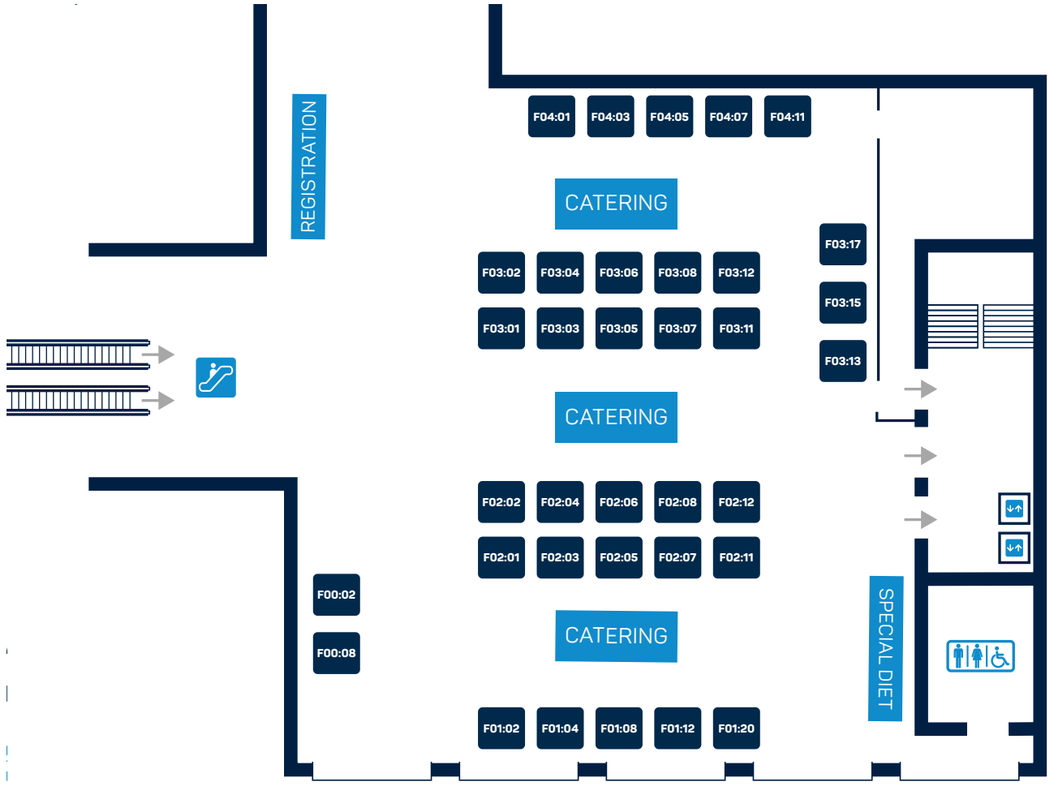
2024 Milan, Italy (450)
2023 Prague, Czech Republic (402)
2022 Alicante, Spain (330)
2021 Copenhagen, Denmark (200, COVID year)
2019 Berlin, Germany (260)
2018 Warsaw, Poland (190)
2017 Brussels, Belgium (260)
2016 Stockholm, Sweden (320)
2015 Sopot, Poland (190)
2014 Windsor, England (110)
2012 Vienna, Austria (200)
2011 Milan, Italy (390)

Memories

CEC2024, a congress to remember

Here are a few memories from Milan

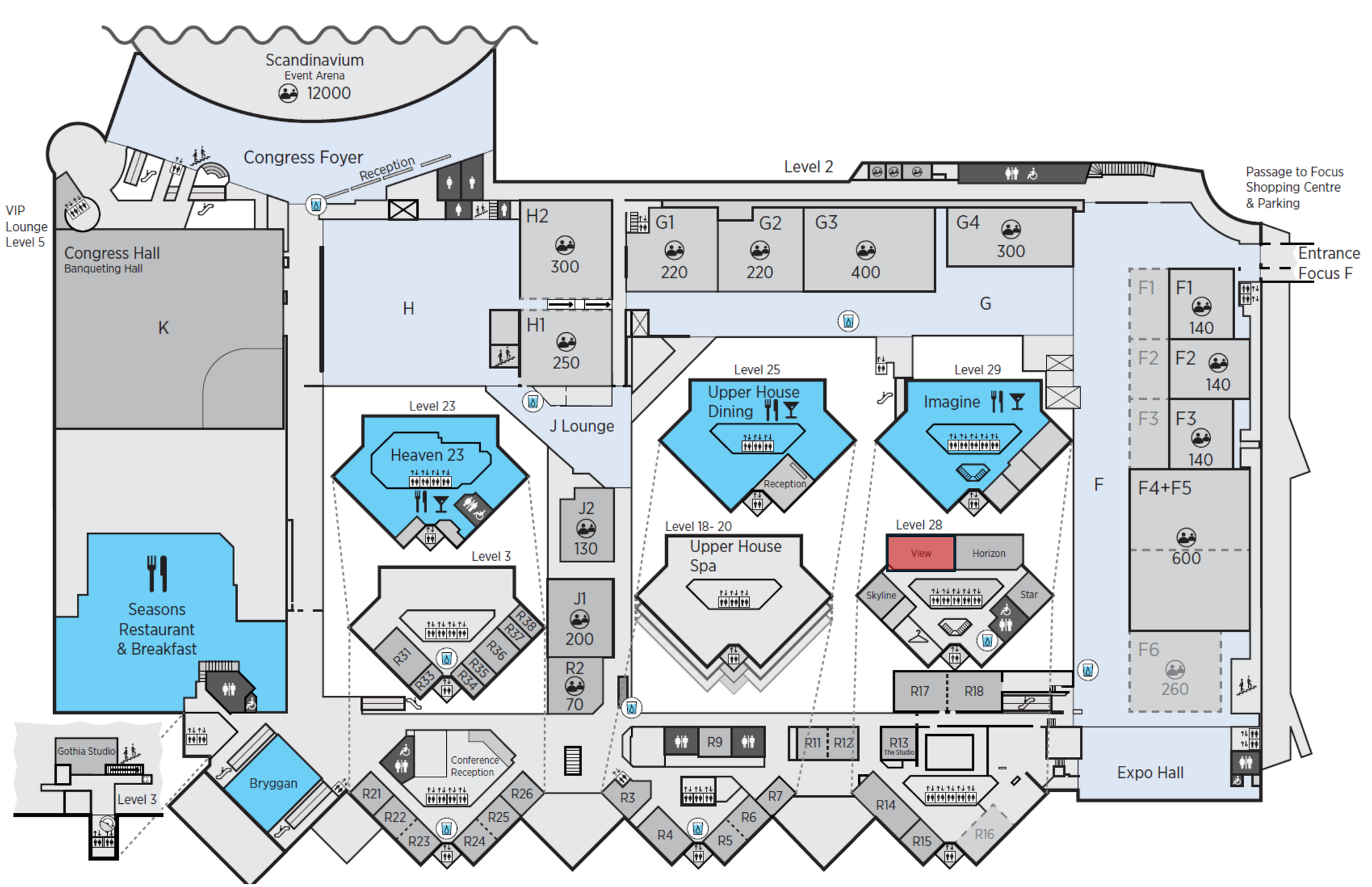
Expo Plan
CEC2025



F00:02	Sernet	**F02:06**	Falconstor	**F03:06**	Rocket Software
F01:02	CNX Valence	**F02:08**	Kisco Systems	**F03:07**	Programmers.IO
F01:04	Midrange Dynamics	**F02:11**	Maxava	**F03:08**	Infor
F01:08	Fortra	**F02:12**	Remain Software	**F03:11**	Apper
F02:01	M81	**F03:01**	IBM	**F03:12**	Profound Logic
F02:02	TSP	**F03:02**	IBM	**F03:13**	Arcad Software
F02:03	Pacing	**F03:03**	Xorux	**F03:15**	Service Express
F02:04	Omnilogy	**F03:04**	Raz-Lee	**F03:17**	Arrow
F02:05	Ozgar.ai	**F03:05**	Frontline Consultancy	**F04:01**	Load Systems

CEC 2025

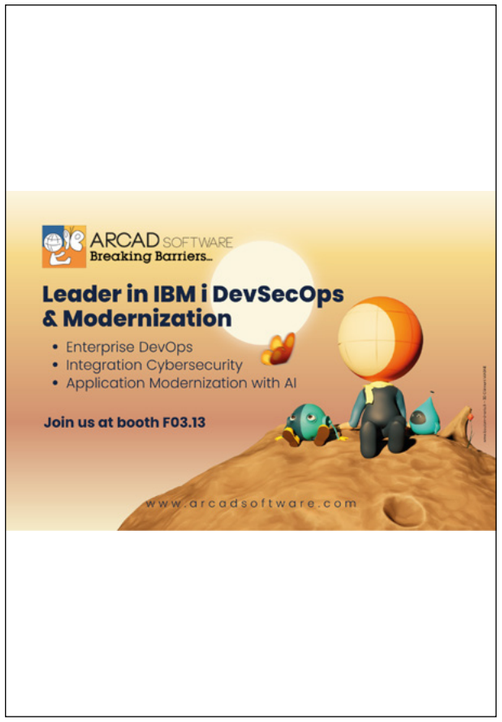
Floor Plan
CEC2025

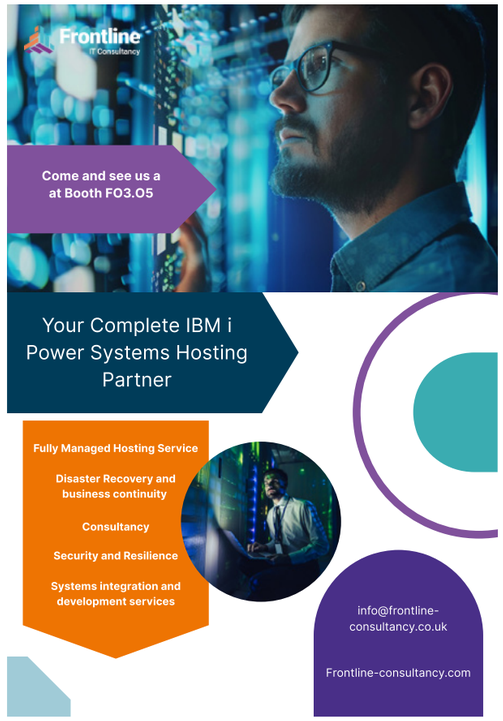


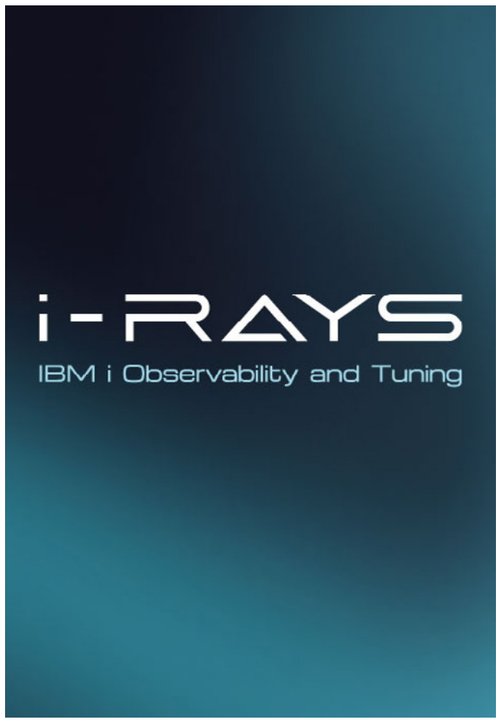
Agenda
CEC2025

Welcome to COMMON Europe Congress 2025 in Gothenburg - the largest IBM POWER Systems community gathering in Europe with in-depth workshops, deep dives and presentations.
Scan the QR code to see the exciting agenda.

Scan the QR code to see the exciting agenda.
COMMON EUROPE CONGRESS 2025: Schedule







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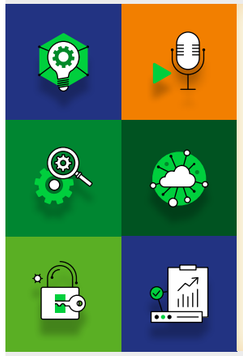

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