



Europe and Middle East
promoting the power
of facilitation worldwide

Call for proposals

«Entering brave(r) spaces – facilitating beyond beaten tracks. »

How can we recognize barriers to participation and find ways of addressing them?

IAF Conference 2023 in Berlin

Dear All,

We are delighted to announce that the International Association of Facilitators (IAF) will be hosting a conference in Berlin October 16-18, 2023. The theme of the conference is **«Entering brave(r) spaces – facilitating beyond beaten tracks.»** The IAF conference in Berlin will be an opportunity for us facilitators to share ideas, learn, and expand our knowledge, to network and collaborate.

We are inviting to enter brave(r) spaces: spaces where we can challenge our preconceptions (conscious and/or unconscious stereotypes and biases) we hold about the world, acknowledging inequalities and asymmetries of power - in groups and among people generally - and exploring what it means for us. Neither have we invented the concept of brave(r) spaces, nor are we experts or have ultimate answers to the questions arising. But we choose to refer to the concept of [brave spaces](#) to offer a broad framework which serves our felt need to address dynamics of privileges and disempowerment in groups and the implications for our practice.

Please find below further details on how you can contribute to shape an enriching programme for the IAF community. We look forward to welcoming you at the IAF Conference 2023 in Berlin!

Sincerely/ Best regards

The IAF 2023 Berlin Organizers

Jutta Weimar, Barbara Zuber, Anton Mikoleit, Frederik Wortmann, Monika Hejduk and Albrecht Schürhoff.

#01: OUR WHY

In our rapidly changing world we are facing emerging fundamental questions on the way we live together on this planet and on how we find a way towards a more sustainable and just future for all of us. We need to see and understand power structures around us and find ways to address them. How can we expand our facilitation practice to be more inviting, secure, and



powerful for everyone? We often discuss participation and co-creation with our clients - then how can we design processes that ensure everyone feels heard and invited? Power structures may either support or oppose our call for participation and co-creation - how then can we address these issues?

Many important questions to explore... One thing is obvious - we need to start with ourselves, to become more conscious of our privileges and discriminating assumptions (although not intentional) and how they affect our practice. Eventually we need to find a way to create spaces for collective healing and peace. Let's use our time together and develop this further!

We wish to bring together IAF and other international facilitation communities to move this topic forward and to use the power of facilitation to advance the fundamental questions for our joint future.

#02: CONFERENCE STRUCTURE: AN OVERVIEW

Day 1 October 16th	Day 2 October 17th	Day 3 October 18th
<i>Arrival</i>	9.00 Getting together	08:30 – 9:30 Members' meeting Open for all. Get to know IAF
	10.00 LABS 2 2a 10:00-11:00 2b 11:00-12:00	09.30 Getting together 10:00 LAB 3 Open Space
	12.00 Break 12.30 DIALOGUE 1. Reaching out into the city What does it mean?	12:30 Closing of the conference
13.00 LUNCH		
14.00 Interactive Get-together WELCOME 14.30 Input by international speakers online and/or live & Discourse 16.00 Break 16.30 Deepening of the topic LAB 1 17:30 -18:30	14.00 2. Exploring brave city spaces in Berlin Guided research groups to special places in Berlin accompanied by ambassadors/guides 17.00 3. HARVEST of Exploring brave Berlin spaces	<i>Whoever is interested can continue into WOSonOS, the worldwide open space community, that will start in the evening/</i>



Europe and Middle East
promoting the power
of facilitation worldwide

18.30 Closing of the day 19.30 Meet at the fireplace	18.30 Closing of the day 19:30 Meet at the fireplace	(official start the next day) Party!!
-----------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------

Thus, after the IAF Conference, there will also be the opportunity to attend the **WOSonOS (World Open Space on Open Space) meeting (19. – 21. October) at the same location** <https://www.wosonos2023.berlin/>

#03: CALL FOR YOUR PROPOSAL

During our conference, we invite colleagues from all around the world to open brave spaces in LAB sessions. In a LAB, there are no presentations, no best practices, and no beaten tracks. Instead, the LAB provides an opportunity to work together to explore something new and exciting, something going deeper. It is a space to come together, share ideas and hypotheses, and engage in interactive activities towards new and different perspectives.

Maybe you have experienced the lack of acknowledging the dynamics of power in the room in your own practice and want to find new ways of addressing them. Maybe you want to use the knowledge and experience of your peers to get deeper in your understanding or to share your thoughts. Or you already found the first steps in facilitating brave(r) spaces and want to shape them. These are exactly the reasons for you to offer a LAB!

Offer a LAB with an open mind and be prepared to be surprised.

If you are interested in facilitating a LAB, please send us your proposal for a topic, a teaser text, and an overview of what you intend to achieve. What is your thought-provoking question, statement or assumption? Please look at the submission form below.

Please remember that we are looking for working interactively and experimentally! Your proposals will be made anonymous and sent to a programme committee to evaluate.

Conference Fee:

- o Lab facilitators will pay the normal fee for the event as a participant and support the IAF's work
- o Normal conference fee: 540€ plus VAT 102,60€ **(642,6€)**
- o Corporate 660€ plus VAT 125,40€ **(785,4€)**
- o 20% discount off the Conference fee for IAF Members: 432€ plus VAT 82,08€ **(514,08€)**
- o 20% discount off the Conference fee for early bird registration for IAF Members 336€ plus VAT 63,84€ **(399,84€)**



Europe and Middle East
promoting the power
of facilitation worldwide

- o 20% discount for non-IAF members who register for early bird registration 420€ plus VAT 79,8€ **(499,8€)**

#04: SUBMISSION FORM

2023 IAF EME Conference – Berlin, Germany Proposal to facilitate a Conference Lab

Entering brave spaces – facilitating beyond beaten tracks

Name: <input type="checkbox"/> I am a member of IAF <input type="checkbox"/> I am a CPF (certified professional facilitator)	Organization/Company:
Co-presenter's name (if any): <input type="checkbox"/> I am a member of IAF <input type="checkbox"/> I am a CPF	Organization/Company:
Proposed LAB Title:	Preferred LAB Date: <i>(Please indicate your preferred day Monday.16th afternoon or Tuesday 17th morning; LAB session duration will be 1 hour (or 2 on Wednesday)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Monday October 16th <input type="checkbox"/> 1 17:30 -18:30 <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday October 17th <input type="checkbox"/> 2a 10:00 – 11:00 <input type="checkbox"/> 2b 11:00 -12:00



Learning Objectives/Outcome:

LAB Session Content Outline & Description: *(breakdown of session in terms of: What is your thought-provoking question, statement or assumption? How will you go about exploring it?)(max. 200 words)*

LAB Session 'advertisement': *(brief session description to attract conference participants. This will be included in future mail-outs and conference promotion material, around 150-250 words)*



This session addresses these IAF Core Competencies (C2): *(please check those that apply)*

C. Create and Sustain a Participatory Environment

2. Honour and recognize diversity, ensuring inclusiveness

- Encourage positive regard for the experience and perception of all participants
- Create a climate of trust and safety
- Recognize barriers to participation and ways to address them
- Accept all ideas without judgement
- Create opportunities for participants to benefit from the diversity of the group
- Cultivate cultural awareness and sensitivity

How do you plan to ensure the space you offer is brave(r)?

Assuming the knowledge and experience in dealing with power structures will be diverse in the room: is there going to be a structure of securing responsibility and the definition of boundaries? How is it going to work?

We will invite you for a pre-meeting if your proposal gets selected. During a Zoom meeting, we will explain our understanding of power-sensitive work prior to the conference and offer some time to reflect to ensure participants can experience a respectful and responsible time together.

Proposal must be e-mailed as an MS Word or PDF document to Barbara Zuber
bzub55@gmail.com

To avoid the issue of large files, please keep files to less than 1MB in size.

Please submit by July 30 ! We will get back to you by the end of August.

Thank you.

Looking forward to your applications ;-)

The conference Team



<p>Relevance to the conference theme: <i>How does this LAB relate to «Entering brave(r) spaces – facilitating beyond beaten tracks. » and the core competency C2 (see page 5)</i></p>			
Session Breakdown: <i>(please give percentages)</i>			
◆ Presentation of your assumption/ question	%	◆ Interactive lab	%
◆ _____	%	◆ Group discussion	%
		<p>Equipment Needs: <i>please check the ones that apply and the quantity</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> whiteboard <input type="checkbox"/> flipchart stand <input type="checkbox"/> flipchart Paper <input type="checkbox"/> a room with plenty of space <p><i>If you need additional equipment/materials, please check with the coordinator for availability.</i></p>	
<p>Maximum and Minimum Participant #: <i>(please tell us the maximum number of participants this session could take and the minimum number it requires)</i></p>			



Europe and Middle East
promoting the power
of facilitation worldwide

Contact details: *(please include mailing address, phone numbers & e-mail, Skype, twitter, FB... These will be made available to conference participants in case they would like to find out if your session is suitable for them)*

Other relevant info: *(your background & experience, previous IAF sessions, publications or other media materials before, ... anything that helps us get to know you)*
Please attach your photo for promotional purposes.

#05: ABOUT THE VENUE

IAF will host the event at BeachMitte (www.beachmitte.de/anfahrt/). BeachMitte is a unique venue located in the heart of Berlin, right where the Berlin Wall used to divide the city centre up to 1989. Apart from rooms for conferences and meetings, Beach Mitte offers an oasis of healthy activities such as beach volleyball, climbing, among other recreational activities. The BeachMitte campus also provides a limited contingent of exciting tiny house type accommodation for early bookings. .