

**RA VI TRAINING WORKSHOP ON REGIONAL WIGOS CENTRES FUNCTIONS AND TOOLS,
20-22 NOVEMBER 2023**

**EXPERT TEAM ON WIGOS TOOLS AND REGIONAL WIGOS CENTRES (ET-WTR) MEETING,
23-24 NOVEMBER 2023**

SANTANDER, SPAIN

INFORMATION NOTE

1. BACKGROUND

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is organizing a Regional Association (RA) VI Training Workshop (hybrid) on Regional WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS) Centres functions and tools hosted by the Spanish Meteorological Service (Agencia Estatal de Meteorología, AEMET). The workshop aims to improve the skills of relevant National Focal Points (NFPs) of RA VI Members for efficient use of WIGOS tools as well as a better understanding of the Regional WIGOS Center (RWC) functions, RWC concept in RA VI and Members' roles within operation process of the RWCs.

Meeting of the Expert Team on WIGOS Tools and Regional WIGOS Centres (ET-WTR) (hybrid) will be organized after the workshop on 23-24 November 2023.

2. DATES AND VENUE

The workshop and ET-WTR meeting will be organized in [Hotel Bahia Santander](#), address: Cádiz 22, 39002 Santander, Spain.

3. PARTICIPANTS

The primary target audience of the workshop is the NFPs for WIGOS Data Quality Monitoring System (WDQMS) as well as staff from RWCs candidate Members, one person from each Member in both cases. Other national experts involved in WIGOS related activities, such as NFPs for WIGOS and NFPs for OSCAR/Surface are also invited to attend the workshop, in principle remotely, or as a replacement of the NFP for WDQMS if needed. The ET-WTR meeting is intended for the Members of the Expert Team.

4. LANGUAGE

The working language of the workshop is English.

5. ACCOMMODATION

Participants are invited to make their own hotel reservation. The workshop venue, Hotel Bahia Santander, is recommended by the local organizers. Additional hotels and apartments are available in the surroundings of the venue.

The Hotel Bahia Santander is offering a special room rate, and the first 20 reservations will be able to choose a room with sea views. The special room rate will be available until 2nd November 2023. The reservations should be made via email: hotelbahia@sardinerohoteles.com (provide the codes below when reserving the room).

Workshop participants:

- Code nº 396231
- Room rate: 75,97 € (buffet breakfast is not included but the hotel is well located and there are cafeterias near the hotel).
- Buffet breakfast 16 €

ET-WTR meeting participants:

- Code nº 396233
- Room rate: 75,97 € (buffet breakfast is not included but the hotel is well located and there are cafeterias near the hotel).
- Buffet breakfast 16 €

6. TRANSPORTATION

From Santander airport (<https://www.aena.es/es/seve-ballesteros-santander.html>)

- Direct shuttle bus is available from the airport to downtown (bus station is 300 meters from the venue). More information and timetable: <https://transportedecantabria.es/web/ct/consulta-vuelos-servicios-conexion-aeropuerto-santander>
- Taxi from the airport takes approximately 10-15 minutes.

From Bilbao airport (<https://www.aena.es/es/bilbao.html>)

1. Bus line connecting the Bilbao airport with Bilbao city (INTERMODAL BUS STATION) with travel time of 20-30 min. More information and timetable: <https://www.bizkaia.eus/es/web/bizkaibus/bus-al-aeropuerto>
2. Linea ALSA connecting, with high frequency, Bilbao city (INTERMODAL BUS STATION) with Santander (bus station, near the Bahia Hotel) with travel time of 1.5 hours. More information and timetable: https://www.alsa.com/en/web/bus/coach/bilbao-santander?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=es_marca_top_rutas&utm_content=bilbao_santander&gclid=CjwKCAjwyY6pBhA9EiwAMzmfwWA07VsJDZ43dtCXoib8UCco6NUeDPnBcD57lohYO0ZiPnhbtV_AaBoCKalQAvD_BwE

7. VISA REQUIREMENTS

Some countries need an entry visa to enter Spain. Please check your country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to check your visa requirements for Spain. Please note that Spain is part of the European Union, and under the Schengen Visa rules. For the participants requiring a visa, contact the WMO Secretariat to obtain an individual invitation letter for supporting the visa application.

8. INTERNET CONNECTION:

Free Wi-Fi connection for the participants in meeting room.

9. ELECTRICAL CURRENT AND APPLIANCES:

In Spain the power plug sockets are of type F. The standard voltage is 230 V and the frequency is 50 Hz.

10. CURRENCY

Euro is the currency of Spain. Money can be exchanged in banks, hotel reception desks or exchange offices. ATMs are common in Spain and are accessible anytime.

11. LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE

Non-staff members of WMO who are authorized to travel at the Organization's expense and/or who are receiving a DSA from WMO must ensure they are fully responsible for expenses incurred in the event of death, illness or injury during official travel and attendance at meetings on behalf of the Organization. They are, therefore, fully responsible for arranging life, health, accident, as well as any other forms of insurance with an adequate level of coverage for the duration of such meetings and events. WMO liability is limited to the performance of services or attendance at a meeting on behalf of the Organization, is covered by an injury and illness benefit insurance which provides a limited coverage for medical, emergency and supplementary official travel expenses.

12. LOCAL CONTACT

Dr. Fernando Belda-Esplugues
Senior Adviser to the President/
Acting Director for Production and Infrastructure
Agencia Estatal de Meteorología (AEMET)
Telephone: +34699839040
Email: fbeldae@aemet.es