



ICMA 2027 & 2028 Global Exchange Application FAQs

Last Updated: 19 May 2026

Does the application need to be completed by an organization that has an affiliate agreement with ICMA or other relationship?

No. Applications are accepted from any municipality or local government organization dedicated to promoting good local governance.

If business is conducted in a language other than English, do applicants need to provide a means of translation in order to be considered?

We ask that the application be submitted in English. If business in your country is not conducted in English or if local government leaders and staff do not speak English as a primary language, please state this in your application. Please note if you would be willing to provide interpretation service for the Exchange or if that would be a cost incurred by ICMA.

Do you have a standard event agreement that you are able to share with potential applicants to ensure that the potential host organization can meet the terms and conditions?

Once an application is selected, we can work with you to develop a document that outlines expectations on both sides. There is no need to submit this at the time of the application.

How do you define site visits? Are you looking to visit local government buildings such as city hall or other city sites and projects as well?

ICMA Global Exchanges have had a variety of past site visits including city halls, cultural heritage sites, technical facilities such as water treatment plants, walking tours of city projects, and more. Site visits to technical facilities or city projects are intended to showcase innovations that can serve as examples for the attendees to take back to their communities. Site visits should be no longer than one hour by bus from the base location.

Are applicants that are not selected in this application cycle eligible to reapply in future application cycles?

Yes, they can reapply. There are no restrictions on who can apply in future application cycles.

If an organization has recently hosted a global exchange, is the organization eligible to apply for this application cycle or future application cycles?

Yes. There are no restrictions on who can apply for this application cycle or future application cycles. However, if there are several outstanding applications, priority will be given to organizations that have not hosted in the past 5 years.

How final does the draft agenda need to be that gets submitted at the time of application?

The draft agenda that is submitted at the time of application is meant to showcase a **basic program with activities highlighted for each day. Details do not have to be confirmed and can change, but the review committee is looking for a mix of activities – presentations, roundtable discussions, site visits, etc.** While the draft agenda helps illustrate the program, the review committee is aware that many of the details will be finalized closer to the Exchange taking place, should the application be selected. Please refer to the draft and final agendas from the 2026 Global Exchange for reference.

Each day's program should take place during business hours. Programming should start between 8 and 9 am and end at approximately 4pm.

Who is eligible to apply to host the exchange?

Any city, municipality, or other local government organization dedicated to good local governance is eligible to apply.

Is there a list of recent host cities/organizations?

Recent host cities/organizations include:

- 2026: County and City Management Association (Ireland)
- 2025: Municipal Council of Manzini (Eswatini) and South African Local Government Association (South Africa)
- 2024: Exello.net (Belgium)
- 2024: Royal Commission for AIUla (Saudi Arabia)
- 2023: Cities of Puerto Princesa and Tagbilaran (Philippines)
- 2020: Urban Management Centre and the City Managers' Association of Rajasthan (India)
- 2019: The Association of Public Administrators in Romania (AAPRO) (Romania)
- 2018: Federation of Local Authorities in Israel (FLAI) (Israel)
- 2017: Dominican Federation of Municipalities (FEDOMU) (Dominican Republic)
- 2016; The Czech City Managers' Association (Czech Republic)
- 2009 and 2012: City of Bratislava and the Slovakian City Managers' Association (Slovakia)

How many applications will be accepted for each year?

Currently, ICMA is planning for one global exchange in 2027 and one global exchange in 2028.

What is the expected audience size for the Global Exchange?

The plans outlined in the application should account for about 50-60 attendees. Should you be unable to host a group of this size, please indicate the maximum number of participants in your application.

My organization is not ready to apply during this application period but is interested in future application cycles. What are the details on future application cycles?

ICMA typically opens an application cycle one or two years prior to the Exchange taking place. For example, the 2026 cycle is accepting applications for 2027 and 2028, and in 2027, the application cycle will be held for the 2029 Global Exchange.

How can I be informed of future application cycles?

Please email global@icma.org to be added to our mailing list. You can also use this for any general questions and inquiries about the application process.