



22nd ESICUP Meeting

Practical Information Booklet

Natal, Brazil
27–30 April 2026



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Welcome

Welcome to the 22nd ESICUP Meeting, organised under the EURO Working Group on Cutting and Packing.

The 22nd ESICUP Meeting will take place in Natal, Brazil, from April 27 to April 30, 2026, at the Praiamar Natal Hotel & Convention, located in the Ponta Negra district.

We are delighted to host you in Natal, Brazil.

This booklet provides practical information to help participants prepare their trip and stay.



Location

Natal is the capital of the state of Rio Grande do Norte, in the northeast of Brazil. It is known for its coastal setting, warm climate, and beaches. The conference venue is located in the Ponta Negra area, one of the main tourist districts of the city, close to hotels, restaurants, and the beach.



Arrival and Transportation

Arrival by Air

Participants are expected to arrive at São Gonçalo do Amarante International Airport (NAT), which serves Natal and the surrounding region.

The airport is located approximately 35–40 km from Ponta Negra, where the conference venue and most hotels are situated. Travel time typically ranges from 45 minutes to 1 hour, depending on traffic.

Airport Transfer Options

From the airport to the hotel area, the main options are:

- Taxi: Readily available at the airport. This is the most straightforward option, especially for first-time visitors.
- Ride-hailing services: Services such as Uber operate in Natal and are generally reliable and slightly cheaper than taxis.
- Hotel transfer: Some hotels may offer pre-arranged transfers. Participants are encouraged to check with their hotel in advance.

Indicative costs are as follows:

- Taxi: 120–160 BRL
- Uber / 99: 70–110 BRL
- Hotel transfer: 120–180 BRL

Public transport options exist but are limited and not recommended for visitors unfamiliar with the area.

Local Transportation

Within Ponta Negra, many places (restaurants, shops, beach) are within walking distance. Walking in Ponta Negra is safe and convenient. For longer distances:

- Ride-hailing apps are widely used and affordable. Typical ride: 10–25 BRL
- Taxis are available but may require cash or prior agreement on price
- Car rental is possible, although not necessary for most participants

Visa and Entry Requirements

EU citizens can typically enter Brazil visa-free for short stays. A passport valid for at least 6 months is required. However, please check the requirements for your specific situation in advance.

Currency and Costs

The local currency is the Brazilian Real (BRL). Credit and debit cards are widely accepted in hotels, restaurants, and shops. However, it is advisable to carry some cash for small purchases, taxis, or local vendors. ATMs are available at the airport, in shopping centres, and in the city.

Typical costs are as follows:

- Coffee: 5–10 BRL
- Meal: 25–50 BRL
- Dinner: 60–120 BRL

Electricity

Brazil uses Type N and Type C plugs.

- Voltage: 127V or 220V depending on the region (in Natal typically 220V)
- Frequency: 60 Hz

Participants should bring a universal travel adapter. Many modern electronic devices (laptops, phone chargers) are compatible with both voltages, but it is advisable to check.

Climate

Natal has a tropical climate with warm temperatures throughout the year.

- Typical temperatures in April: 25–30°C
- High humidity is common
- Occasional rain showers may occur

Light clothing is recommended, along with sunscreen, sunglasses, and a hat. For conference sessions, smart casual attire is appropriate. Air-conditioned rooms can feel cool, so a light jacket may be useful.

Health and Safety

Natal is generally safe in tourist areas, but standard precautions are recommended:

- Avoid displaying valuable items in public
- Use registered taxis or ride-hailing services
- Be cautious when walking at night, especially outside main areas

Tap water is not recommended for drinking; bottled water is widely available.

No specific vaccinations are required for entry into Brazil, but participants should check current health recommendations before travel.

Language

The official language is Portuguese. English is spoken in hotels and tourist areas, but less commonly elsewhere.

Basic Portuguese phrases may be helpful, although not essential.

Food and Dining

Natal offers a wide range of dining options, particularly in the Ponta Negra area.

Typical Brazilian cuisine includes seafood, grilled meats, rice and beans, and tropical fruits. Vegetarian options are available in many restaurants.

Restaurants typically open for lunch (around 12:00–15:00) and dinner (from 18:30 onwards).



Tipping Culture

A 10% service charge is usually included. Extra tipping is optional.

Mobile Communication

Mobile networks are widely available. International roaming is supported, but may be expensive. Local SIM cards or eSIMs can be purchased at the airport or in the city. Wi-Fi is available in hotels, the conference venue, and most restaurants

Mobile operators: Vivo, Claro, TIM

SIM cards: 10–30 BRL

Things to Do

Participants may wish to explore Natal and its surroundings during their stay. Popular attractions include:

- Ponta Negra Beach and Morro do Careca (iconic dune)
- Genipabu dunes (dune buggy excursions)
- Coastal tours along the north and south shores
- Forte dos Reis Magos (historic fortress)

Hotel reception desks and local agencies can assist with tours and excursions.



Emergency Contacts

- Police: 190
- Ambulance: 192
- Fire: 193

Participants should also keep the contact details of their hotel and the conference organisers readily available.

Social Program

Get-together cocktail

Place: Praiamar Natal Hotel & Convention.

Date: Monday, 27 April 2026, 18:30 – 20:30

Meeting dinner

Place: Restaurante NAU – Frutos do Mar

<https://naufrutosdomar.com.br>

https://livemenu.app/menu/62138fbc9080f300118eb518?_ga=2.127051853.1765094702.1776347464-675801776347464

Date: Wednesday, 29 April 2026, 19:00

We wish you a pleasant stay and a successful conference.