

5th European Congress of Medical Physics Joint Conference of the DGMP, ÖGMP & SSRMP – a Green Event

Introduction

In 2015, United Nations Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries in a global partnership (1).

EFOMP's Sustainability Roadmap embraces and supports the healthcare practices which contribute to a sustainable future (2). Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being, ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities, achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work, reduce inequality within and among countries, take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts are key pillars of sustainability in medical physics.

The European Congress of Medical Physics (ECMP) is one of the EFOMP supporting bodies which brings together healthcare professionals every other year, cultivate a community of knowledge and expertise - sharing research, technological innovations, address educational and professional matters, drive advancements that impact patient care.. This year, ECMP is held together with the Joint Conference of the Medical Physics Societies of Austria, Germany and Switzerland. The Welcome Society is the French Association of Medical Physics. All national associations share the same vision of sustainability as EFOMP (3).

A sustainable development approach is adopted for the congress and actions are implemented in order to minimize the congress carbon footprint, to secure the participation of the greatest number of professionals from across Europe, and engage the local communities.

We invite all participants and our industrial partners to help us achieving a 'Sustainable Congress', lead by example and in this way contribute to the Global Sustainable Development objectives (4).

Dietmar Georg, President of the Austrian Society of Medical Physics (ÖGMP)

Martin Fiebrich, President of the German Society of Medical Physics (DGMP)

Marta Sans Merce, President of the Swiss Society of Radiobiology and Medical Physics (SSRMP)

Laure Parent, President of the French Society of Medical Physics (SFPM)

Efi Koutsouveli, President of the European Federation of Organisations for Medical Physics (EFOMP)

Actions

We promote green awareness topics and initiatives by including a green session in the scientific programme of the Congress.

We are taking steps to follow the principles of the 5 R's to manage waste generated from our event in the venue: refuse, reduce, reuse, repurpose, and then recycle.

To lower the embodied carbon of the congress food, we reduce the total amount of meat and we prioritize locally sourced organic, seasonal products for catering with recyclable wrapping. We use less paper materials by replacing them with a congress mobile app, digital congress guide, digital posters and digital certificates of attendance. We replace the plastic badges with recyclable paper ones

The abstracts of the congress will be published in the European Journal of Medical Physics in digital format only.

Use public transportation to the location of the social evening; every other location of the social programme can be reached by foot or public transport.

We will provide the opportunity to local colleagues to be involved in the event as volunteers for informing and guiding participants.

Recommendations to Participants

Optimize your travel journey to and from the venue and lower your carbon footprint by carefully considering flight options and choose train network or drive an electrical car and travel in groups, when feasible.

We encourage the choice of ecological friendly hotels. We have published a list of climate-friendly hotels on our congress page (4).

Reach the venue by walking or by public transport. Munich has a highly developed urban transport system run by the Munich Transportation Corporation (MVG) in close partnership with the Munich Verkehrs- und Tarifverbund (MVV). The Underground station is right outside the entrance of the venue and connects to the Munich city center, Franz- Josef-Strauß airport and Munich central train station – Line U6 (Garching-Forschungszentrum - Klinikum Großhadern). There are also possibilities for bike, car and scooter sharing.

During the congress you can have lunch locally in the venue and the city of Garching and use reusable bottles for water and water fountains.

Take promotional gifts only when you need them and prefer items which are reusable and make sure that these are biodegradable and sustainably produced.

Take advantage of recycling options in the venue for managing waste and minimise waste production.

Recommendations to Industry

We recommend considering ecological certification and carbon offsetting during the planning and construction of exhibition booths.

Use sustainable materials for the booths that are either recyclable or reusable. This principle also applies to transport packaging. Please avoid in particular environmentally and health-hazardous substances and waste.

Use energy-efficient devices for presenting your products and services. Try to optimize travel routes and the number of deliveries of goods and materials.

Minimise distribution of paper material and products and if necessary, use products produced with respect to the environment. Promote your offerings through digital advertising and information (e.g. by using QR codes).

For the travel and accommodation of your staff, we recommend following the above-mentioned guidelines for participants of the congress.

Awards

Two awards will be attributed to the participants who take the most sustainable routes to the venue. Interested participants can upload their itinerary on the congress website. The award will be a free registration to ECMP2026 in Valencia, Spain.

One award will be attributed to an exhibitor.

References

1. United Nations, 17 Sustainable Goals [https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda'](https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda)
2. Incoming President of the EFOMP editorial, Physica Medica Volume 117, January 2024, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejmp.2023.103197>
3. [DGMP Annual Conference Green Policy](#)
4. <https://ecmp2024.org/>