

## ENHR's Position on Sustainability

This is a living document which outlines the ENHR's position on sustainability. The ENHR is committed to the pursuit of societal sustainability and to improving the ecological, social and economic wellbeing of our community, considered broadly. This involves, inter alia, reducing our carbon footprint and encouraging diversity and inclusiveness across our activities. More specifically, the ENHR focuses on sustainability aspects in two areas of action:

### How we operate as an organisation

We aim to consistently base our decisions on an integrated approach to ecological, social and economic sustainability considerations.

- One of two annual meetings of the ENHR Coordination Committee (CC) will take place online.
- The ENHR is committed to minimizing the use of paper and other material resources in its CC meetings, annual conferences, and other work to the extent possible.
- The ENHR commits to organising online and/or hybrid events and to other uses of digital resources to reach out to and include wider audiences. Online and/or hybrid annual conferences should be motivated.
- Supporting members who cannot afford to pay the full or reduced (early bird) fee) conference fee is up to the organisers. However ENHR encourages discounts for special groups, such as PhDs, and retired participants.
- The ENHR will support its community with information and advice regarding sustainable options for conducting work aligned with its core concerns. Its community includes but is not limited to members in good standing, non-member conference participants, and partners, especially the Local Organizing Committees (LOC) for ENHR conferences.
- It will reflect on and regularly evaluate its sustainability practise in its Annual Reports.

### How we work with the LOC to implement sustainability principles in conference organization

We will support the LOC in applying sustainable practices in their conference preparations and conduct whenever possible, with specific concern for the following areas:

- **Transport:** The LOC should encourage and facilitate the use of low-carbon transportation options (train, public transport, cycling, walking) in three circumstances:
  - With travel to and from the host city: The LOC should encourage low-carbon options, and provide information on the options available as well as links to organizations that can assist participants with booking arrangements for those options.
  - With travel between accommodations and venue: The LOC should identify accommodations from which participants can easily reach the venues by walking, cycling or public transportation. They should also provide information on walking, cycling and public transportation routes from those accommodations, for example as links on the conference website.
  - With field trips: The LOC should consider whether some or all of the field trips can be accomplished by walking, cycling or public transportation.
- **Food:** Planning for conference meals should emphasize vegetarian options. When meat options are considered, conference organisers should take into account that red meats have a high negative environmental impact. To the extent possible, food should be sourced locally to minimize environmental impact, contribute to the local economy, and highlight characteristics of the place.

Recycling of food waste and the gifting of unserved food to a responsible local charity should be promoted.

- **Accommodation:** In addition to providing information of accommodations from which participants can easily reach the venues by walking, cycling or public transportation, the LOC can consider providing information about accommodations that have their own sustainability strategies and so warrant the support of the ENHR.
- **Diversity and Accessibility:** The LOC should consider the diversity of plenary speakers in terms of gender, seniority, discipline, and country of origin. The contents of plenaries should be broadly accessible to participants, rather than highly technical and so accessible to only a few.
- **Other services:** When availability allows, service providers recruited by the LOC, such as a professional conference organiser or caterer, should be sourced locally to contribute to the social and economic wellbeing of the community in which the conference is organised.
- **Conference materials:** Tote bags, notebooks, pens and the like should be made of recyclable materials and purchased through local producers if possible. The conference program, book of abstracts, certificates of attendance and the like should be provided in electronic format whenever possible.
- **Evaluation:** The LOC for each conference will be asked to provide a short 'sustainability statement' in the conference report they are to deliver to the CC. A brief form will be made available to them to assist them with this task.

*This document is added to the Guidelines for Organising an ENHR Conference  
(version 24 November 2023).*