ERA SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

REPORT BY ECENT

LEADING EUROPEAN NEPHROLOGY

BACKGROUND

Measuring greenhouse gas emissions is the first step in a CO2 strategy and enables monitoring one's own progress towards emission reduction targets. While comparisons between different events are generally useful, there is still a lack of transparency and standardization in the exact methodology and emission factors, so that most comparisons are inaccurate. Emission factors can vary by up to 300% in some cases (e.g., for air travel, considering passenger class and the radiation effect). Even the recognized GHG Protocol Corporate Standard, which was chosen for this report, does not recommend specific emission factors. Therefore, the data should primarily be used for information and improvement in the following years.

Ambitious Emission Reduction: A Necessity

An ambitious emission reduction is essential to limit global warming in line with the global goals of the Paris Agreement. While it is relatively easy to set scientifically sound targets, it is a major challenge to make the entire congress sustainable in order to actually achieve these targets. This requires the involvement of all stakeholders, i.e., suppliers, employees, visitors, and partners.

SUMMARY

The ERA Congress 2024 made a notable effort to incorporate sustainability principles into its planning and execution. In pursuit of sustainable practices, the organisers hired a dedicated sustainability event consultancy to implement new measures and establish goals for reducing the event's environmental footprint of future conferences. While some challenges and areas for improvement remain, participants' overall feedback regarding the sustainability efforts of the congress was positive.

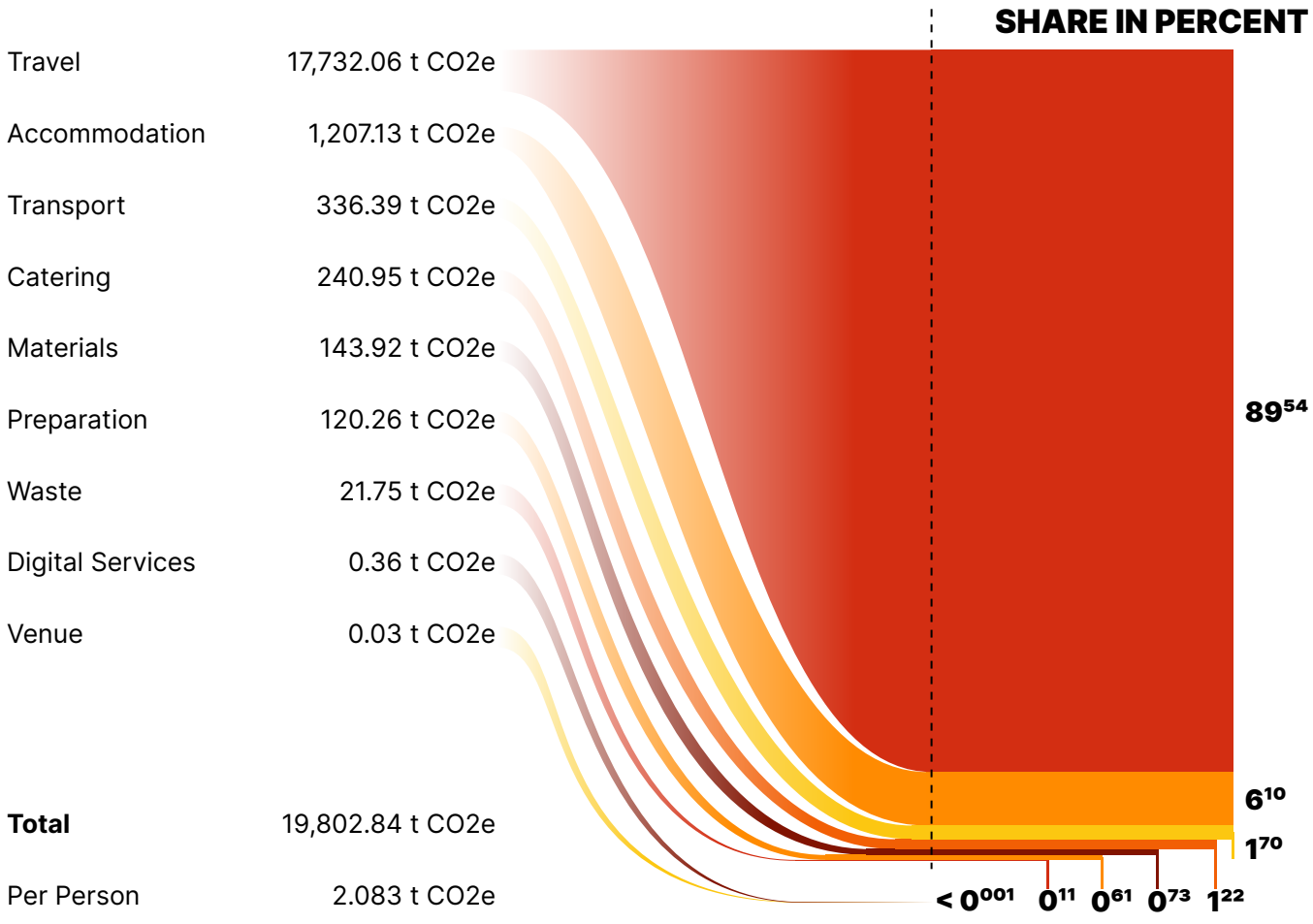
To achieve more sustainability, various initiatives were implemented, such as the use of more local and organic food, the use of renewable energy, a comprehensive recycling and composting system and the introduction of sustainability information to the exhibitors. To inform participants about the sustainability initiatives and encourage them to actively participate, information stands were set up and targeted communication measures were implemented.

Despite the efforts of the organisers, the CO2e emissions (carbon dioxide equivalents) per person with 2.083 t * were still high due to the long journey of many participants to the congress and the use of disposable materials. Small details, such as the collection of lanyards after the event, also left room for improvement among the participants. In contrast, for online participants emissions were limited to 0.55 kg CO2e per person.

Nevertheless, the participants were generally satisfied with the organisers' sustainability efforts. They appreciated the visible measures. The congress was perceived as a step in the right direction and the organisers pledged to further improve their sustainability performance in the future.

* Average CO2e emissions per person in the European Union: 7.25 t

EVENT CARBON FOOTPRINT



Travel (17,732.06 t CO2e)

The major source of greenhouse gases at the ERA Congress 2024 was the travelling activities of participants, speakers, staff, and exhibitors. This highlights the significant impact that the location and its travel distance and reachability have on the carbon footprint of events. To reduce these emissions in the future, the ERA Congress could be held in a more centralised location in Europe to facilitate arrival by train or bus. Additionally, exploring options like offsetting travel emissions or encouraging virtual participation could further reduce the environmental impact.

Accommodation (1,207.13 t CO2e)

Participant accommodation was the second-largest emitter of greenhouse gases. To improve this area, organisers could partner with hotels committed to sustainable practices and offer energy-efficient accommodation options to participants.

Transport (336.39 t CO2e)

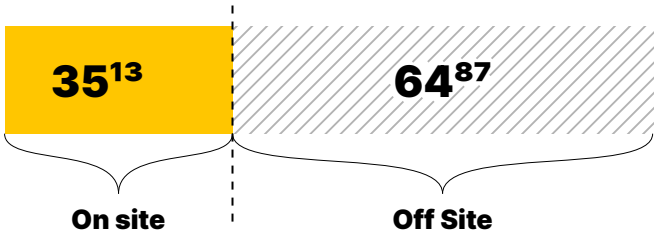
A significant source of emissions came from the transportation of goods and materials to the congress. Consolidating deliveries and using fewer, larger vehicles could significantly reduce the number of trips required. A more central European

location would also help minimise transportation distances. Additionally, partnering with local suppliers and exhibitors whenever possible would further reduce the environmental impact.

Catering (240.95 t CO2e)

By prioritising local and seasonal ingredients, reducing animal products, and minimising food waste, emission contributed by catering on site should be reduced strongly for the next years. In addition to environmental benefits, these measures also contribute to ethical and socially responsible food production. However, it has to be noted that 64.87% of the emissions in this area originated from food that was not produced directly on-site.

Share of emissions related to catering in %



Materials (143.92 t CO2e)

Giveaway items, booth constructions, banners, and particularly exhibition materials can all significantly contribute to an event's environmental footprint. To address this, stricter regulations on these materials might be necessary, such as standardised, reusable exhibition materials or guidelines for eco-friendly booth construction. While ERA booths and materials occupied only 5% of the exhibition area, their direct contribution to the same area is also 5%. This suggests an average impact. However, this presents an opportunity to showcase improvements and serve as a positive example at future congresses.

Preparation (120.26 t CO2e)

CO2e emissions from event preparation were significantly high and mainly limited to organisers' and exhibitors' flights to and from the venue. ERA has already offset the emissions associated with their travels before the congress.

Waste (21.75 t CO2e)

Waste generation and disposal also contributed to CO2e emissions, even though the venue already separates all of the waste. To improve this area, organisers could incentivize the use of reusable materials, and collaborate with exhibitors to employ sustainable practices.

Digital Services (0.36 t CO2e)

CO2e emissions from digital activities such as the website and online registrations were low. To further improve this area, organisers should use renewable electricity-only web hosting services.

Venue (0.03 t CO2e)

Emissions from the chosen venue were negligible due to the use of renewable energy sources. This suggests that the organisers considered sustainable aspects when selecting the venue.

GHG OFFSETTING

- €5,000 was donated to the Fly Green Fund by ERA, which is equivalent to reducing approximately 6.25 t CO2e. Fly Green Fund is a program which buys sustainable aviation fuel and thereby decreases CO2e-emissions.
- Despite ERA's communication about the Fly Green Fund on its website and in emails, no participants have reduced their emissions with that program.
- 0.5 t CO2e were compensated by Nespresso for their coffee.
- Some hotels and other printed products may also have offset their emissions, however data is not available here.

General Info on CO2e-offsetting

- Offsetting does not reverse any emissions but prevents emissions at other places, possibly around the globe.
- It is important to note that offsetting can not be used as a substitute for reducing emissions at the source.
- For unavoidable emissions offsetting helps to mitigate some consequences.
- For effective offsetting, prioritize high-quality projects with verification to avoid double-counting and ensure lasting impact.

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ECENT IS YOUR EVENT MANAGEMENT AGENCY FOR TRULY SUSTAINABLE EVENTS

Our goal is to create unforgettable events that not only exceed your expectations, but also protect our planet by integrating sustainability holistically