GREENING ESIL - 2022 SURVEY
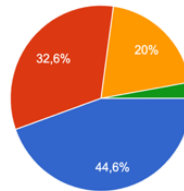## Synthesis of responses

The survey received 286 responses. It contained 2 multiple choices questions and 1 open question.

1) First question (285 responses)

In your opinion, how far should ESIL be concerned with environmental issues?
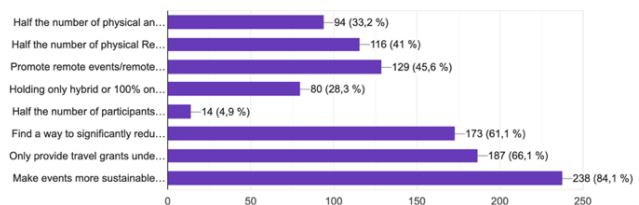**(one box only)**

○ ESIL should aim to reduce drastically the environmental footprint of its activities and make quantified commitments to reduce its carbon emissions in line with the Paris Agreement goals, even if it means reducing the number or size of on-site events.

○ ESIL should very drastically reduce the environmental footprint of its activities and aim at net-zero emissions as fast as possible, certainly before 2050 (i.e. emissions to as close to zero as possible, with any remaining emissions re-absorbed from the atmosphere), even if it means reducing the number or size of on-site events.

○ ESIL should aim to reduce the environmental footprint of its activities. However, environmental concerns should be subsidiary (i.e. be implemented where it is possible without reducing the number or size of on-site events).

○ ESIL should abstain from adopting environmental policies.

Pie chart values: 32,6%, 20%, 44,6%

- ESIL should aim to reduce drastically the environmental footprint of its activities and make quantified commit…
- ESIL should very drastically reduce the environmental footprint of its activities and aim at net-zero emissions as fast…
- ESIL should aim to reduce the environmental footprint of its activities.…
- ESIL should abstain from adopting environmental policies.

⇨ 97,2% of respondents think that ESIL should reduce the environmental footprint of its activities.

⇨ 32,6% consider that ESIL should very drastically reduce its carbon footprint aiming at net zero emissions as fast as possible, certainly before 2050, even if it means reducing the number or size of on-site events.

2) Second question (283 responses)

Reflecting on your answer to the first question, in order to achieve the environmental objectives, do you agree that ESIL should …
(multiple answers allowed)

☐ Half the number of physical annual conferences.

☐ Half the number of physical Research Fora (potentially with an online forum every second year).

☐ Promote remote events/remote participation but keep the same number of annual conferences and research fora.

☐ Holding only hybrid or 100% online events.

☐ Half the number of participants at events.

☐ Find a way to significantly reduce the emissions of those travelling to events.

☐ Only provide travel grants under certain conditions (e.g. no air travel if the location can be reached by public transportation in less than 6 hours).

☐ Make events more sustainable (e.g. reduce meat, waste, use sustainable caterers etc.).

Bar chart values:
- Half the number of physical an… — 94 (33,2 %)
- Half the number of physical Re… — 116 (41 %)
- Promote remote events/remote… — 129 (45,6 %)
- Holding only hybrid or 100% on… — 80 (28,3 %)
- Half the number of participants… — 14 (4,9 %)
- Find a way to significantly redu… — 173 (61,1 %)
- Only provide travel grants unde… — 187 (66,1 %)
- Make events more sustainable… — 238 (84,1 %)

In order of importance, the three most consensual proposals are
⇨ Making events more sustainable, by reducing meat, waste, use sustainable caterers…
⇨ Only providing travel grants under certain conditions
⇨ Find a way to significantly reduce the emissions of those travelling to events

Only 33,2% of respondents are in favor of halving the number of annual conferences and 41% in favor of halving the number of research fora.

3) Question 3 – Open question

In this text field, please share your thoughts on the topic of "greening ESIL". Do you have any suggestions? Do you have ideas for ESIL to reconfigure academic exchanges with the aim of being both inclusive and sustainable?
Does your institution or any other organ you are involved with have an innovative policy you find we should take inspiration from?
Among the 100 responses, there is a broad range of concrete suggestions.

Reducing the environmental footprint of in person events
• Be 100% vegetarian or vegan/ or make meat-based meals into opt-in process, rather than an opt-out
• Select sustainable caterers
• Ensure that venues/accommodations have sustainable policies
• Conference items to be sourced from sustainable suppliers, such as paper, pens, any other goodies

- Conference booklets only printed when requested
- Sustainable name tags
- No pointless goody bags that collect dust in offices or in the back of wardrobes
- No huge banners at the conferences (economize on 'dressing up' the conference)
- Lots of attention during the conference for responsible waste management
- Having at the ESIL Annual Conferences and Research Fora a dedicated space for raising awareness and sharing good practices on sustainability/environmental issues in academic events (e.g. if possible and feasible - a stand during coffee breaks where ESIL and a volunteer institution - which can be different at each event - present some good practices)

Reducing travels
- Have only ONE big annual event - alternating between Research Forum and Annual Conference
- Encourage/mandate hybridity for events in particular for small events
- Organize large events like the annual conference simultaneously in multiple locations, that are digitally connected
- Organize more regional events
- Go to 100% online for some events (lectures, panel discussions…) or all events
- Include breakout rooms for networking in online events
- Limit travel grants for short air travels and give more (financial) support for ground travel – some universities already doing that
- Select venues carefully, ensuring good and extensive train connections
- Use carbon offsetting – avoid using carbon offsetting
- Hold events on more of a regional basis that would allow people able to attend ONLY by train/bus to access the event
- Sync the timing and location of the conference with others (a 'ESIL week' with RF+annual conference or joint events with other societies and institutions)
- Prioritize early career researchers for in-person places
- Create an ECR fund (registration fee for Senior academics for in-person conferences were to include an extra 10-20-30 euros to be directly allocated to the ECR fund)
- Members to commit themselves to attending one event per year
- No flight allowed if the conference place can be reached by train (more than 5 or 6 hours? 10 hours?)
- having an optional "carbon fee" that is charged to members to attend in-person events
- check https://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/pdf/other/EC_Guide_Sustainable_Meetings_and_Events.pdf

Others
- Leading by example: advertise broadly about what ESIL is doing, because it can be a motivation for change for other large academic organizations
- Stop printing EJIL
- Greater focus on the ecological aspects of every substantive topic in international law
- Better for ESIL to use its leverage to engage with policymakers and opinion leaders on these crucial issues and attempt to drive change at scale, than worry about the carbon footprint of conferences/ lobbying or campaigning or otherwise influencing governments or the EU, to impose proper fuel tax, restrict big business emissions, invest more substantially in green energy…
- Calculate the footprint of each physical event and set targets for improvements
- Commit openly and directly to sustainable development/SDGs/Global Agenda 2030/carbon emission reductions
- Calculate ESIL carbon footprint
- Offer a green sponsorship
- Promote open access, on-line only publications with major publishers, including all ESIL series books, demonstrating that ESIL is leading by example

Method
- Need for a broad discussion/debate
- Start with easy steps
- Stay flexible

Challenges
- Still need for in-person events (physical interactions, conviviality, networking, mutual understanding, academic inspiration…)
- Extra costs and extra burden on local organizers
- Inclusiveness
- ECR special needs
- Attractiveness of ESIL

51 colleagues have given their email addresses to be re-contacted and participate in the reflection.