# ASSESSING THE ETHICAL, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE OF CONFERENCES

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# WHY?

WHAT?

**Research topics** 

address ESE issues?

There is a rising demand for assessing the performance of organisations on ethical, social and environmental topics.

Ethical, social and environmental accounting (ESEA) is the process of assessing the social and environmental effects of an organisation's actions and reporting them to particular interest groups and to society at large.

We have identified over 60 ESEA methods. Many are generic and some are sector specific, but none are tailored for scientific conferences.

To what extent do CFPs promote research related to

ethical, social or environmental (ESE) issues?

## HOW?

We are engineering an ESEA method for scientific conferences. We have proposed some topics (see below). We have proved the concept by calculating some indicators for earlier editions of the RCIS series.

We are also engineering the necessary tool support; i.e. a combination of a web scrapers, spreadsheets, and surveys. But we are also working on an open-source, model-driven ESEA tool named openESEA.

Also, on 17 May 2022, we have organised the "1st Workshop on Ethical, Social and Environmental Accounting of Conferences: the case of RCIS 2022." It has been a participatory and community workshop. Together with the participants, we have started assessing the performance of RCIS 2022 on ethical, social and environmental topics. We still continue with the accounting these days and we will appreciate your input. The results will be published in a paper, co-authored by all participants.



#### Environmental sustainability

What are the GHG resulting from travelling, proceedings, catering, and additional conference material (e.g. USB, complementary gift bag)? Do conference organisers resort to renewable energy sources or carbon offsetting?

a few key performance

indicators, as a proof

of concept.

Open science Are the proceedings open

publications?

and open?

Is the reviewing process following open peer review principles?

Is the software presented in papers open-source?

Is the data presented in papers FAIR

- Are there waste management practices in place (reduce, reuse, recycle)?
- Is a sustainability report published?
- Main them CFP topics 0 2007 2008 2009 2019 2011 2012 2018 2014 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 Non-waland to DSBE @ Relands to DSBE To what extent does the community submit papers that We propose a set of ethical, social and Do the papers address ethical, social or environmental issues? environmental topics that we How do the papers score in the Sustainability Maturity Scale? consider to be material (i.e. relevant) To what degree do the papers follow the Transformation Mindset principles? for scientific conferences. This initial proposal is meant to trigger Responsible supply chain management discussions within our scientific Is the conference supporting local industry? community, conference organisers and Are social enterprises given preferential treatment steering committees. We also propose
- as suppliers? Is the catering offering organic and local food? Is fair-trade coffee served during the coffee breaks?

#### Responsible conference management

- Are volunteers treated fairly (learning experience acknowledgement, free gala dinner)?
- Are reviewers treated fairly (reasonable number of reviews, duration of process, outside vacation periods)?
- Are the financial accounts publicly disclosed? In case of surplus, how is it used?
- How democratic are decision-making processes?
- Are registration fees and other attendance costs affordable to evervone?





tools compliant with data privacy regulations?

- Attendee experience
- Are the attendees satisfied with the scientific and organisational aspects? Are conference schedules compatible with work-
- life balance and family life?
- Milking and relaxation rooms available in venues?
- Are there childcare possibilities? Is the conference doing sufficient efforts to reach the general public (outreach)?

Is there a sense of community?

#### Diversity, inclusion and equity

- Are grants offered to researchers from low-income countries?
  - What is the gender ratio among paper authors?



What is the gender ratio among conference chairs?



How many developing countries are represented in conference papers?



# THEN?

What matters most is not the result of the accounting, but the improvement over time. The objective is not to judge severely conference performance but rather to improve it over the years.

Ethical, social and environmental accounting needs to be embedded into a continuous improvement cycle. And this is a community effort, so it needs your participation!



Tan Le Quang has received a MSc thesis grant from the Bakkenist Foundation, that has funded his attendance to RCIS 2022. Desian insoired by the poster created by abranquinho.com, for the work named "Two is better than one? Song function for joint territory defence and within pair communication in lovely fairy-wrens," presenting research by Ana Leitão, Raoul A. Mulder & Michelle L. Hall.



#### 1st Workshop on Ethical, Social and Environmental Accounting of Conferences: the case of RCIS 2022 17 May, Barcelona, part of RCIS 2022





#### 1st Workshop on

### Ethical, Social and Environmental Accounting of Conferences:

You are about to enter the

A community and participatory workshop



the case of RCIS 2022 In which we are assessing

 $\mathcal{M} \stackrel{\text{the performance of}}{\mathsf{RCIS}}$  2022 and co-authoring a paper

We hope that you will enjoy, learn and contribute to making our conference more socially and environmentally sustainable https://esea4rcis.sites.uu.nl/