



CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST Local Organising Committee and Venue

7th World Congress of Environmental and Resource Economists
June/July 2026

Deadline for expressions of interest: 15 November 2023

Deadline for full proposals: 28 February 2024

The World Council of Environmental and Resource Economists Associations (WCEREA), its members – the Asian Association of Environmental and Resource Economics (AAERE, www.aaere.org), the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (AERE, www.aere.org), the African Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (AFAERE, www.afaere.org), and the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (EAERE, www.eaere.org) and partners – the Latin American Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (LAERE, www.laere.org) solicit proposals for the Local Organising Committee and Venue for the 7th World Congress of Environmental and Resource Economists (WCERE), to be held late June/early July 2026.

The World Congress of Environmental and Resource Economists (WCERE) is a special five-day gathering of roughly 800 - 1500 environmental economists from across the globe that takes place every four years. Each WCERE includes a mix of plenary lectures, parallel research sessions, awards ceremonies, social events, and numerous opportunities for meeting old friends and making new connections. The event is attended by students, academics, policy makers and representatives of the business sector. Discussions held during the event represent a broad spectrum of environmental and resource economics. For more information on the last WCERE held in 2018 in Gothenburg, Sweden see this [video](#) and this [press release](#).

Local organisers have a unique opportunity to contribute to a growing legacy of outstanding WCERE events, to help shape the scientific programme and overall conference experience, to showcase the best of environmental and resource economics to their location and to introduce the global environmental economics community to their institution and their part of the world. The 2026 WCERE will be the first to be held since the global pandemic and will be a much-anticipated event.

Candidate universities, research organisations, or groups of organisations with a professional interest in environmental and resource economics should forward their expressions of interest including a letter of endorsement from their regional association by 15 November 2023. If invited, full proposals are due by 28 February 2024.

Expressions of Interest

Universities, research organisations, or groups of organisations wishing to be a candidate for the Local Organising Committee and Venue should send their expressions of interest to the WCERE Chair at eaere@eaere.org by 15 November 2023. Potential candidates who may be interested in applying and want to learn more can also request a consultation with the WCEREA Board for more information by emailing eaere@eaere.org and indicating in the subject line “WCERE consultation”.

Expressions of interest consist of a formal letter briefly describing the team and location, and agreeing that the candidate will assume all of the administrative, organisational and financial responsibilities listed in the “Guidelines for Expressions of Interest and Proposals”.

Full proposals

Full proposals consist of (1) a formal letter stating that the candidate will assume all of the administrative and organisational responsibilities and the financial responsibilities assigned to the LOC listed in this document; (2) a presentation of the candidate including the candidate's relevant experience in organising and hosting conferences; (3) a preliminary conference budget; (4) a sustainability plan that discusses how the organizers plan to promote sustainability in food service, transportation requirements and other aspects of the conference and (5) a presentation of the conference venue. Expressions of interest may be accompanied by any other documentation that the candidates judge useful for the evaluation process. The Selection Committee may ask candidates to present additional documents at a later date.

Full proposals should be sent by e-mail to the WCEREA President at the address below by 28 February 2024. Any material that cannot be sent electronically should reach the WCEREA President by mail by 28 February 2024.

Selection Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated by the WCEREA Board according to the following criteria:

- location (including consideration of travel cost, accessibility by ground transportation and time for participants, amenities, on-site transportation, ease of obtaining entrance visas, past congresses venues, etc.);
- ability to set a registration fee that is acceptable for participants from non-profit institutions.
- accommodations (cost, quality, capacity);
- session facilities (quality of plenary rooms; quality and number of meeting rooms; AV, internet access and charging stations; exhibition and poster spaces; equipment; food and beverage service; social programme, etc.);
- communications plan (evaluation of the plan for a WCERE website and email, advertising the congress, registrations, papers download, etc.);
- administration (detail of budget, qualifications of Local Organising Committee, and local supporting agencies); and
- funding (grants for students, grants for participants from developing countries, other sponsorships).
- experience in organizing academic conferences in environmental and resource economics (or related fields) and evidence that the LOC will have sufficient expertise in environmental and resource economics to contribute to the development of a high-quality conference experience (scientific content and overall experience).
- the attention shown to environmental sustainability and diversity, equity and inclusiveness in the organisation of the event

A final decision is expected to be made by June 2024.



GUIDELINES FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Local Organising Committee and Venue

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These Guidelines for Expressions of Interest have the objective of offering applicants an overview of the administrative, organisational, and financial responsibilities they are requested to undertake, and detailed instructions on how to forward their proposals to the Selection Committee. Applicants should be aware that some of the specifications in this document are subject to flexibility and that the WCEREA Board is open to conversations about certain aspects of the WCERE planning and implementation should the applicant choose to propose an alternative approach.

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1. CONGRESS OVERVIEW

The Congress will be held between the end of June and early July 2026 and will run for 5 days. Day 1 is usually dedicated to registration and a welcome reception. The scientific activities usually occur from Day 2 to Day 5. Table 1 shows the programme overview of the last WCERE which was held as a fully in-person event. Future events should include streaming of plenary events and larger parallel sessions for participation by virtual registrants with wi-fi capability in all rooms to accommodate virtual participation in sessions via Zoom or similar technology available in all meeting rooms.

Most presenters will be required to participate in person. The LOC will consider remote presentation requests for presenters who are unable to travel to the country hosting the WCERE for the following reasons:

- an entry visa is not granted by the host country to nationals of the presenter's home country or is denied for any reasons, or is not issued in time
- acts of God, war, civil commotion, natural disasters, government regulations, or other causes beyond the presenter's reasonable control;
- an unforeseen illness or injury of the presenter, or a presenter's family member;
- unpredictable legal obligations.

WCERE Programme Overview 2018

25 June - MONDAY	26 June - TUESDAY	27 June - WEDNESDAY	28 June - THURSDAY	29 June - FRIDAY
08.00-18.00 Pre-congress events 08.00-21.00 Registration open	8.30-10.15 Parallel sessions	8.30-10.15 Parallel sessions	8.30-10.15 Parallel sessions	8.30-10.15 Parallel sessions
	10.15-10.45 Coffee break	10.15-10.45 Coffee break	10.15-10.45 Coffee break	10.15-10.45 Coffee break
	10.45-11.15 Opening ceremony	10.45-11.15 AWARDS; EAERE Lifetime / Practitioner Achievement Awards	10.45-11.15 AWARDS; AERE Publ. Of Enduring Quality & Best Article in JAERE EAERE: Young Economist Award & Outstanding Publication ERE and EU ERC award	10.45-11.45 Plenary session Keynote: Nava Ashraf
	11.15-12.15 Plenary session Keynote: Lata Gangadharan	11.15-12.15 Plenary session Keynote: Sir David F. Hendry	11.15-12.15 Plenary session Keynote: Meredith Fowle	11.45-12.15 Closing ceremony
	12.15-13.45 Lunch EAERE - Country representatives meeting* EAAERE Board meeting* AERE Board meeting* LAERE meeting Environmental Defense Fund Brown Bag Event	12.15-13.45 Lunch AERE Members Lunch EAAERE General assembly EAERE Annual General Assembly of Members POSTER SESSION	12.15-13.45 Lunch IAERE meeting EDE Editorial Board Meeting* ERE Editorial Board Meeting* JAERE Editorial Board Meeting* REEP Editorial Board Meeting* POSTER SESSION	12.15-13.45 Lunch AERE, EAAERE, EAERE joint meeting of the presidents CAERE meeting LAERE meeting
12.30-17.00 EAERE Council Meeting*	13.45-15.30 Parallel sessions	13.45-15.30 Parallel sessions	13.45-15.30 Parallel sessions	13.45-15.30 Parallel sessions
	15.30-16.00 Coffee break	15.30-16.00 Coffee break	15.30-16.00 Coffee break	
	16.00-17.45 Parallel sessions	16.00-17.45 Parallel sessions	16.00-16.40 Egg-timer sessions	15.45 Buses to Marstrand from Lilla Bergsgatan
	18.00-18.20 AWARDS: AERE Fellows		16.45-18.30 Parallel sessions	Optional Post-congress tour to Marstrand Island Dinner and Party
18.15-19.10 Special Policy Lecture by Gina McCarthy	18.20-19.40 Special Policy Session: Jos Delbeke, Gina McCarthy, Hua Wang, E. Somanathan	18.15 Buses to Congress Dinner from Lilla Bergsgatan		
19.15 - 21.00 Welcome Reception at Handels		18.30 - 02.00 Congress dinner ** at Eriksbergshallen	18.30 - 23.00 Social event at Handels	

*Invitation only ** The Congress Dinner is included in the standard registration fee only
At Smyrna: all plenary sessions, opening and closing ceremony, awards, the special policy lecture and special policy session

Table 1: Programme Overview of the last WCERE – Gothenburg, Sweden, 2018

The total number of scientific (paying and invited) participants is expected to be between 800 and 1,500. In addition to these categories of participants, a limited number of accompanying persons (approximately 20%) may register exclusively for the social events.

The Congress will be jointly organised by the WCEREA Board, the Programme Committee (PC) and the Local Organising Committee (LOC), which will carry out their own different duties in close cooperation.

Because of the intense interaction necessary between the LOC and the PC, and the LOC and the WCEREA, meetings among the parties should be organised (and scheduled well in advance) to discuss facilities and procedures.

Additional *ad hoc* committees may be constituted by the LOC or by the WCEREA in partnership with the LOC to deal with special issues. For instance, a “Committee to Promote Developing Country Participation” may be created.

English is the official and the only Congress language. All communications (including financial invoices and documents, food and beverage service orders, AV requirements, contracts for social events, etc.) concerning the Congress as well as all the activities run within the event will be conducted in English.

The WCEREA and its member associations are committed to facilitating an equitable and inclusive environment at the WCERE. This requires a culture in which all individuals are respected and treated fairly regardless of factors such as age, sex, gender identity and expression, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, health condition, marital status, parental status, genetic information, physical appearance, political affiliation, professional status, personal connections, or socioeconomic background. The WCEREA is committed to playing an active role in creating and maintaining an inclusive and professional climate that fosters open and constructive discussions and dialogue amongst all participants in the WCERE.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE, ORGANISATIONAL AND FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Universities, research organisations, or groups of organisations that wish to be a candidate for the Local Organising Committee and Venue will assume the administrative, organisational and financial responsibilities for the organisation of the event, as proposed in this document.

WCEREA provides supervision and the institutional framework, experience, and know-how from previous congresses, intending to guarantee that the minimum standards typical of WCEREs are complied with. The WCEREA Members will also share in some of the financial risks associated with planning the WCEREA as described below in sub-section 13.1 “Financial Risk of the Event”.

Because of the intense interaction among the LOC, the PC Co-Chairs, and the WCEREA, regular meetings among the parties should be organised to discuss facilities and procedures. A WCEREA delegate’s on-site visit and meeting with the LOC may be tentatively organised in March-April 2024 and covered by the candidate’s budget.

3. THE CONGRESS VENUE

The LOC is responsible for the arrangements concerning the Congress Venue. A venue that is suitable to the requirements from the point of view of the location, scientific sessions and facilities should be arranged.

3.1. Location

The location of the Congress Venue should present the following characteristics:

- access for international and national participants should be straightforward and not too costly or time-consuming;
- ability to set a registration fee that is acceptable (see details below) for participants from non-profit institutions.
- accommodation for all participants should be available and not too costly;
- the ability to professionally live stream larger sessions, including plenaries, and to allow wi-fi access to all sessions via Zoom or similar capability to enable participation by virtual participants and, to a very limited extent, virtual presenters.
- food must be of high quality and offer sufficient diversity to accommodate dietary restrictions, and special attention should be given to sustainability issues concerning food and drink choices (as well as products used for dining, and waste concerning food); recreational opportunities that are present in the vicinity, e.g., sites of relevant cultural, historical, or naturalistic interest are viewed as something positive for the location;
- it should be accessible to handicapped people/wheelchairs;
- it should provide free wi-fi of high quality to attendees in all the buildings and rooms used for the Congress with sufficient charging areas.

3.2. Scientific sessions

The LOC is responsible for the adequate provision of rooms for the scientific sessions. The minimum requests that the Congress Venue should meet include:

- 1 hall capable of accommodating all scientific participants for the plenary sessions (approximately 800 – 1,500 people) and with live streaming capabilities;
- 5 rooms capable of holding up to 150 people and with live streaming capabilities
- 20 rooms capable of holding up to 50 people with wi-fi capabilities.

Up to 25 rooms may be required simultaneously.

All of the rooms should be provided with presentation facilities, be capable of restricting sunlight to facilitate computer projections, as well as not be noisy. Microphone facilities should be provided wherever necessary. If the location requires, air-conditioned facilities should be provided. Onsite technical assistance should be available for the various conference rooms throughout the sessions.

3.3. Other facilities

In addition to the rooms for the scientific sessions, the Congress Venue should include:

- an attractive, comfortable space for the Welcome Reception able to accommodate a large number of attendees (800 – 1,500);
- space for the Information Desk and Registration Area, where the LOC would provide the following services: general Congress information, Congress registrations, hotel reservations, tourist information, organised tours, pre and post-Congress activities and medical assistance. A message board should be available;
- WCEREA members should be provided with one stand in the proximity of the Information Desk; each stand would have one table with access to electricity and two chairs and be provided at no charge;

- an area for the organisation of an exhibition for publishers, research institutes, companies, and sponsors, preferably in the catering area or nearby;
- five rooms for institutional and private meetings which will be offered to the WCEREA members at no charge;
- a congress organisation room, with computer facilities;
- a catering area, where coffee/snack breaks and lunches will be provided for all of the scientific participants during intervals of the scientific sessions.
- a concourse area, with informal seating sufficient for a reasonable proportion of the participants with laptop/phone recharging connections. This area should be provided in close proximity to the scientific sessions rooms;
- adequate cloakroom facilities;
- medical assistance for the duration of the Congress according to local regulations;
- a room or facilities for the media (interviews, etc.).

Table 2 summarises the minimum number of rooms and facilities that a suitable Congress Venue should provide. The table also indicates the rooms' utilisation and capacity.

N. of rooms	Utilisation	Capacity (number of people)
1	Scientific plenary sessions equipped for streaming	800 – 1,500
5	Scientific parallel sessions equipped for streaming	150
20	Scientific parallel sessions equipped for wi-fi to use Zoom	50
1	Information Desk and Registration Area	-
1	Space for the Welcome Reception	800 – 1,500
1	Exhibition	10 stands
1	Poster Session Area	
3	Institutional and private meetings	-
1	Congress organisation room	-
1	Catering area	-
1	Concourse area	-
1	Cloakroom facilities	-
1	Public telephones	-
1	Photocopying facilities	-
1	Medical assistance	-
1	Room or facilities for the media	-

Table 2: Summary of the minimum number of rooms and facilities required in the Congress Venue

4. SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

The PC will be co-chaired by one WCEREA board member and one member appointed by the LOC. The PC co-chairs will be responsible for preparing the WCERE Scientific Programme. The PC will include members of WCEREA and others appointed by the PC co-chairs. Efforts should be made to include gender and other forms of diversity in the composition of the PC and all aspects of the event. Executing the call for papers, the selection process, and designing the total number of sessions and their typology (plenary or parallel sessions) are among the PC's duties. More than 800 papers are expected for the final Scientific Programme.

The preparation of the Scientific Programme involves the cooperation of the PC and the LOC. Keynote speakers and other plenary sessions will be suggested by the PC and then discussed with the WCEREA board before a final decision. In developing the scientific program, efforts will be made to include a diverse set of plenary speakers and participants in all aspects of the program.

The LOC will make sure that the PC activities are supported by an established reliable software-based system to coordinate the online process of paper submissions and review as well as the preparation and visualization of the Scientific Programme, in accordance with the previous WCERE edition's standards.

The launch of the Call for Papers is the responsibility of the LOC, with the agreement of the PC. The contents of the Call for Papers are prepared by the PC. The Call for Papers will be circulated by the WCEREA association members to their e-mailing lists, and inserted on the Congress website.

Electronic deadline reminders should be sent at intervals of 30 days, 15 days and 7 days before the deadline for paper submissions.

The LOC should create an e-mail account dedicated to inquiries concerning the submission of papers. This e-mail account is managed by the PC.

The assignment of the session rooms is the responsibility of the LOC. The PC should inform the LOC of the expected number of participants in each session.

5. ACCOMMODATION

The LOC is responsible for facilitating accommodation arrangements for all of the Congress participants. Accommodation may be handled either by the LOC or delegated to a Professional Congress Organiser (PCO). The LOC may find it efficient to engage a PCO to carry out specific duties, such as handling conference registrations and hotel reservations.

The LOC should be prepared to book hotel rooms in all price and quality ranges for Congress participants. The LOC should announce a deadline for guaranteed accommodation in the proximity of the Congress dates. After this deadline, bookings should be confirmed according to space availability.

The accommodation offer should take into consideration the location of the Congress Venue: access should be straightforward and not too costly or time-consuming. The LOC should inform delegates of arrival procedures (e.g., how to reach the hotel from the airport, how to reach the Congress Venue from hotels, etc.) before the Congress time.

The LOC should design the Congress website that provides a mechanism that enables secure online reservations and payments. Credit card and bank transfer payments should be accepted. In addition to the reservation in advance, the LOC should offer participants the possibility of arranging accommodation on-site, through the Information Desk.

6. REGISTRATIONS

The LOC is responsible for the Congress registrations. Registrations may either be handled by the LOC or delegated to a PCO.

The LOC will be asked to supply all data stored in electronic databases after the Congress and to present all accounts in Euros and US Dollars for all sums of money handled showing the exchange rates used.

Registrations are entirely online. The LOC should design the Congress website that provides a mechanism that enables secure online registrations and payments with automatic receipts. Credit card and bank transfer payments should be accepted. The LOC should create an e-mail account solely for questions and queries concerning registrations. Cancellations/refunds within designated timeframes must be acknowledged and paid automatically.

Participants' data will be processed in compliance with applicable national laws and regulations in force. Personal data will be automatically processed using computerized systems solely and exclusively for the operations necessary to enable Congress management. The LOC will not share, sell or disclose participants' data to third parties beyond AERE, AAERE, AFAERE and EAERE, and use it only for communications related to the Congress.

In addition to the registration before the Congress time, the LOC should offer the participants the possibility to register on-site, through the Information Desk and Registration Area. On the first day, there must be an adequate staff of helpers (between 8 and 10, depending on the number of outstanding queries and the complexity of accommodation) to deal with the paperwork of registering arrivals. Helpers are needed throughout the entire conference and also for other purposes, for example for technical assistance in the session rooms.

The LOC and the PC should agree on the deadline for registration and inclusion of papers in the final programme: the authors of accepted papers will only be included in the final programme if presenting authors have registered by this date.

Registered participants are to be included in the list of participants and given a personal name badge. Participants are required to wear their personal name badge at all times. This will automatically provide access to the Congress Venue facilities, the scientific sessions, lunches, coffee/snack breaks, and relevant social events. Tickets for alcoholic drinks and guest admission to social events must be provided as well.

7. COMMUNICATION AND CONGRESS DOCUMENTATION

The LOC is responsible for the publicity of the Congress, preparation of the Congress documentation and event signage. The LOC is strongly encouraged to plan the Congress documentation and signage in a way that will lessen the event's impact on the environment and keep costs down.

For consistency with previous congresses, the following logo should be used:



7.1. Promotion activity

The LOC should prepare and circulate the Announcement of the Congress, which should include the Call for Papers, essential logistical information about the Congress Venue and the Congress, and the launching of the Congress website.

The LOC should cooperate with the WCEREA on the timing and format of the inclusion of the Call for Papers and further Congress announcements in the Associations' publications (Newsletters, journals, etc.). This material should also be included in the conference packages distributed to the participants in WCEREA Members' annual conferences, at the ASSA/AEA meetings, and at other meetings worldwide beyond the WCEREA Members meetings, as well as conferences of other disciplines.

Reminders of deadlines for the paper submissions, registrations and guaranteed accommodation should be sent at intervals of 30 days, 15 days and 7 days before the respective deadlines.

7.2. Information before the Congress

In addition to the promotional activities and reminders, the LOC should carry out an informative programme before the Congress, aiming to offer the participants information on scientific activities and the logistical aspects of the Congress before they arrive at the Congress Venue. The detailed Congress programme will be online 1 month before the start of the conference and include a one-page schedule overview.

7.3. Information during the Congress

For documentation at the Congress, the LOC should provide access to all conference information via an app or an interactive website for use on mobile devices. The LOC should also post a Programme Book in PDF format on the Congress website shortly before the event. The Programme Book or conference app/interactive website should be designed as a guide to the Congress and will include information on AERE, AFAERE, AAERE and EAERE (provided by each organization) and welcome statements by the respective presidents, the Scientific Programme, a one-page overview of the schedule, a list of financial supporters and AERE/AFAERE, AAERE/EAERE institutional sponsors with respective logos, the list of presenters and participants (names and organizations), the social programme, paid and approved advertisements, maps and general logistical details related to the Congress. The LOC can make hard copies of the Programme Book available upon request but should otherwise encourage participants to rely on the digital version and webpage.

7.4. The Congress email and website

In addition to a dedicated email address: info@wcere2026.org, the LOC is responsible for the preparation and maintenance of a user-friendly Congress website and digital programme that is compatible with mobile devices. The website and the digital programme (which should include easily applicable search tools to find sessions, authors etc.) are core tools of Congress information and should be designed to remain as a reference point for the participants throughout the Congress and after the conclusion of the event. For consistency with previous congresses, the following URL is suggested: www.wcere2026.org.

In addition to providing conference information, the Congress website should be used:

- for the Congress registrations;
- for hotel reservations;
- for submitting papers to be considered by the PC;
- to download papers and abstracts included in the programme;
- to obtain information on the programme and related activities, including the social programme;
- to obtain travel information and information on the Congress Venue area – web page links to tourism sites should be provided;

- to obtain information about scholarships;
 - to access the list of participants;
 - to obtain information on the participants in the exhibition and on the congress sponsors and committees.
- Updated versions of the presented papers should be put on the Congress website or mobile app, which will remain active for at least 12 months after the end of the conference.
- WCEREA Member's institutional members must be listed on the Congress website.

The LOC team should create specific e-mail accounts dedicated to inquiries concerning (at least):

- the scientific programme, including submission of papers;
- registrations;
- accommodation;
- general information about the Congress.

All of the messages sent to these accounts should be dealt with within a maximum of 48 hours.

8. EXHIBITION

The LOC, in cooperation with WCEREA, is responsible for the organisation of the Exhibition. Most of the major environmental and resource economic publishers and software houses should be invited by the LOC to exhibit books and computer software during the Congress in a prominent position - preferably in the catering area or in its proximity, giving maximum visibility to the Exhibition. In addition to publishers, companies, research institutes and sponsors may have an interest in participating in the Exhibition.

All participants in the Exhibition should be required to register for the Congress and pay for shipping, exhibition space and facilities.

A complete list of participants taking part in the Exhibition with direct links to their websites should be available on the Congress website. The complete list should be also included in the Programme book.

Alternative paid promotion opportunities should be offered to those publishing houses unable to participate in the Exhibition or in addition to the Exhibition itself, such as the inclusion of leaflets in the conference package, etc.

9. TRANSPORTATION

The LOC will inform participants about the transportation to reach the Congress venue and, if possible, will make special arrangements allowing registered participants to use the public transportation system (bus or underground) free of charge or at reduced rates for the duration of the Congress.

The LOC should make sure that the ground transportation options offered through the Congress' official channels be less expensive than other comparable options available in the market, at least before a certain announced date. This deadline should be clearly announced on the conference website, and participants should be informed that after that deadline the LOC does not guarantee competitive prices. The ground transportation options should be fully communicated to the registrants in advance of travel and communicated on date.

Transportation should also be provided as needed for the planned social events.

10. SOCIAL PROGRAMME

The LOC is responsible for the preparation of the Social Programme scheduled within the Congress activities. It includes a welcoming reception for all scientific participants and registered accompanying persons on Day 1, and two more formal receptions which should include food and some social activities later during the Congress.

The most expensive social event (which in general is the congress dinner) will not be included in the conference fee; the main fee will therefore include only two social events – the welcome reception and another evening event. Those who wish to participate in the most expensive event will have to buy a separate entrance ticket which should be included as one of the registration fees categories (registration with congress dinner).

The LOC should also provide information about recreational opportunities in the venue area, including how to make reservations, and where necessary, negotiating prices. Recreational options should be fully communicated to the registrants in advance of travel and communicated on date.

11. FOOD AND BEVERAGE SERVICES

Quality and quantity of food are important. Food and beverage services provided through the Congress should guarantee a healthy, sustainable, balanced and varying diet for all the participants with food and beverage choices available at each coffee break and lunch. Menus should vary from day to day.

The LOC must provide options for all those who have dietary restrictions (vegetarians, vegans, kosher, etc.). Copies of the proposed food and beverage orders for all breaks, meals and receptions covered by the registration fee are to be made available in the English language upon request by WCEREA.

The LOC should logistically plan food and beverage services so that queuing to get the food and beverages does not take more than 10 minutes. This is very important to avoid delays in the schedules throughout the day.

The LOC is encouraged to make ethical food choices avoiding the abuse of animals and the exploitation of workers. Furthermore, the use of healthy foods, and the positive environmental impacts from their production, should be amongst the criteria basing the Congress food choices.

The packaging chosen for food distribution must be chosen according to sustainability criteria. The choice of sustainable materials for tableware, and a separate collection of waste (including food) for recycling purposes should be a priority. Clear instructions for how to manage and recycle waste should be available.

12. INSTITUTIONAL PROGRAMME

The LOC is responsible for the organisation of the institutional events (board meetings, members' general assemblies) requested by the WCEREA Members, which should be organised at no cost to the Associations. Information on these events will be given to the LOC by the Associations in due time.

13. FINANCE

The LOC is responsible for all of the financial aspects linked with the administration and organisation of the Congress. The Congress should be strictly self-financing and meet the administrative and organisational obligations agreed to with the WCEREA and those specified in these Guidelines.

13.1. Financial risk of the event

The financial risk of the event is to be shared among the LOC and the WCEREA Members as follows. WCEREA Members will share in the provision of funds to cover potential losses associated with the fixed costs of the conference not covered by the conference revenue (registration fees, sponsorships and contributions, exhibition fees, etc.) due to a force majeure event: including fire, accident, revolts, war, embargo, monetary restrictions, or restrictions related to COVID-19 or other pandemics as well as geopolitical risks and other contingencies that are not covered in venue contract provisions. Should the LOC invoke this risk-sharing provision, it shall make its best efforts to mitigate the adverse effects of such an occurrence. Losses covered by the risk-sharing agreement must not be a result of negligence on the part of the LOC as determined by the WCEREA.

The risk-sharing provision is as follows:

- LOC will be responsible for the first 10,000 Euros of revenue shortfalls.
- Any revenue shortfalls above 10,000 Euros and up to 30,000 Euros will be shared among the WCEREA Members according to each Member's share of aggregate membership revenues as defined in the WCEREA MOU.
- Any remaining shortfalls above 30,000 Euro will accrue to the LOC.
- In no instance will the risk-sharing contribution from any individual WCEREA Member exceed 15,000 Euros.

13.2. Congress Fundraising

The LOC with support from the WCEREA should work together to raise funds from potential congress sponsors to help defray the costs of the congress and to support special activities. The LOC should consult with past congress organizers and WCEREA members about potential sponsors. All funds contributed by congress sponsors should be unencumbered and fundraising efforts should adhere to the guidelines laid out in the EAERE statement on scientific integrity found [here](#).

13.3. Registration fees

The LOC is responsible for the determination of the registration fees, in agreement with the WCEREA.

The registration fees should be high enough to cover all the expenses incurred within the Congress, comparable to those used in preceding Congresses, and affordable to a wide range of financial circumstances – while maintaining a high quality of service and food/beverage.

The registration fees should be expressed as gross costs to participants. Candidates should check local laws regarding VAT (value-added taxes) to assure that registration fees net of any VAT are sufficient to cover expenses.

Association Members are entitled to a lower registration fee. The LOC is responsible for checking the membership information provided by the participants and will accept the payment only once the membership

status of the participant has been confirmed. A membership status check system will be implemented in cooperation with WCEREA.

Non-members will be informed that they have two registration fee options:

- to become a member of AERE, AAERE, AFAERE or EEAERE before the payment of the Congress registration fee; for this purpose, registrants will be automatically redirected to the Association’s webpage that caters to their preference to pay the membership dues;
- to register as non-members paying the higher non-members Congress registration fee, which includes the registration fee for members plus three times the higher amount amongst the WCEREA Members' full membership fee.

Students and residents in Low and Middle-Income countries are entitled to a reduced registration fee. The LOC should collect proof of the student status.

The LOC is encouraged to explore the option that entrances to all social events be sold separately from the conference registration fee for accompanying participants.

Each participant will pay a “levy”: it is a fee that is collected as part of the Congress registration. It is set at EUR 65.00 per person and will be imposed on each participant.

The structure of the registration fees must be approved by the WCEREA. Table 3 proposes *an example* of structure and categories of fees, where:

- n = amount sufficient to cover all the LOC fixed and variable costs
- f = the highest full membership fee amongst the WCEREA Members
- r = the highest reduced membership fee amongst the WCEREA Members
- l = levy
- g = Congress dinner

Standard registration fee (inclusive of congress dinner)

	Early registrations	Late registrations
Full registration fee for AERE, AAERE, AFAERE, or EAERE members	$n + l + g$	$1.2 n + l + g$
Reduced registration fee for AERE, AAERE, AFAERE or EAERE members	$0.7 n + g + l$	$1.2 x (0.7 n) + l + g$
Full registration fee for AERE, AAERE, AFAERE and EAERE non-members	$3 f + n + l + g$	$3 f + (1.2 n) + l + g$
Reduced registration fee for AERE, AAERE, AFAERE and EAERE non-members	$3 r + (0.7 n) + l + g$	$3 r + 1.2 x (0.7 n) + l + g$
Accompanying person	$(0.2 n) + g$	$1.2 x (0.2 n) + g$

Discounted registration fee (excluding congress dinner) - This registration fee will also be charged to virtual participants

	Early registrations	Late registrations
Full registration fee for AERE, AAERE, AFAERE or EAERE members	$n + l$	$1.2 n + l$
Reduced registration fee for AERE, AAERE, AFAERE, or EAERE members	$0.7 n + l$	$1.2 \times (0.7 n) + l$
Full registration fee for AERE, AAERE, AFAERE, and EAERE non-members	$3 f + n + l$	$3 f + (1.2 n) + l$
Reduced registration fee for AERE, AAERE, AFAERE and EAERE non-members	$3 r + (0.7 n) + l$	$3 r + 1.2 \times (0.7 n) + l$
Accompanying person	$0.2 n$	$1.2 \times (0.2 n)$

Table 3: Example of structure and categories of fees

Registration fees can be paid in the LOC's local currency. The levy, "f" (the highest full membership fee amongst the WCEREA Members), and "r" (the highest reduced membership fee amongst the WCEREA Members), which are portions of the registration fee announced in local currency, will be converted from Euros to the local currency on the day in which the fees are announced. Conversion will be made using OANDA currency converter (www.oanda.com). Each Association will receive its share of the levy based on the exchange rate used when the registration in the local currency was announced.

The amount collected as levy belongs to the WCEREA Association Members and will be remitted to the individual Associations at the end of the event, according to distribution criteria agreed upon amongst the Associations that will be announced in due time. Each Association's share of the levy will be calculated by the LOC in local currency, considering the amount collected in local currency as levy. Payments to each Association will be made in local currency using the exchange rate of the date of the payment.

The following cancellation policy is recommended: Registration can be cancelled upon written notification to the local organisers, preferably by e-mail to info@wcere2026.org. A full refund of the conference fees will be given if the cancellation is received by the 6th of May 2026. A refund of 80 per cent, 50 per cent and 20 per cent will be given if the cancellation is received before the 13th May, 27th May, 10th June respectively. For cancellations received after the 10th of June, no refund will be given.

Those whose papers have been accepted by the PC should be informed that their papers will only be included in the final scientific programme if they register before the deadline defined by the LOC and the PC.

Registration fees should, as far as possible, be paid before the start of the Congress and a discount offered for early registrations.

Invited speakers are exempt from the payment of the registration fee; their participation costs (travel and accommodation) should be arranged and covered by the Congress budget.

If the conference will generate a profit, it will be equally divided among each of the WCEREA Members and the LOC.

The LOC should remit the levy and the portions of net income going to AERE, AAERE, AFAERE and EAERE not later than three months after the conclusion of the Congress.

It is advisable and highly recommended that the LOC be prepared to organise fundraising activities: financial, scholarships, and in-kind contributions towards the Congress are welcome. However, the LOC should coordinate with the WCEREA to assure that individual donations adhere to the Associations' policies regarding independence, conflicts of interest, and advocacy guidelines.

14. REPORTS

The LOC is required to keep the WCEREA up-to-date with the progress of its organisational efforts through the presentation of preliminary written reports upon request.

The LOC is also required to send the final report on the Congress to the WCEREA not later than three months after its conclusion. This should include:

- the Congress final budget in Euros and US Dollars with a side-by-side comparison to the preliminary budget -including a breakdown of expenses (in English) invoiced by any local supporting agencies; and/or individuals;
- comments on the flows of funds experienced;
- two reports on the number and contact details of registered participants by category and nationality (this information should be supplied in electronic databases): one in alphabetical order and one sorted by levy breakdown for the WCEREA Members as noted above;
- access to electronic versions of the full papers presented at the Congress;
- any lessons likely to prove useful to the successor LOC.

HOW TO SUBMIT

Expressions of Interest

Universities, research organisations, or groups of organisations wishing to be a candidate for the Local Organising Committee and Venue should send their expressions of interest to the WCERE Chair at eaere@eaere.org by 15 November 2023. Potential candidates who may be interested in applying and want to learn more can also request a consultation with the WCEREA Board for more information by emailing eaere@eaere.org and indicating in the subject line "WCERE consultation".

Expressions of interest consist of a formal letter briefly describing the team and location, and agreeing that the candidate will assume all of the administrative, organisational and financial responsibilities listed in the "Guidelines for Expressions of Interest and Proposals".

Full proposals

Full proposals consist of (1) a formal letter stating that the candidate will assume all of the administrative and organisational responsibilities and the financial responsibilities assigned to the LOC listed in this document; (2) a presentation of the candidate including the candidate's relevant experience in organising and hosting conferences; (3) a preliminary conference budget; (4) a sustainability plan that discusses how the organizers plan to promote sustainability in food service, transportation requirements and other aspects of the conference and (5) a presentation of the conference venue. Expressions of interest may be accompanied by any other documentation that the candidates judge useful for the evaluation process. The Selection Committee may ask candidates to present additional documents at a later date.

Full proposals should be sent by e-mail to the WCEREA President at the address below by 28 February 2024. Any material that cannot be sent electronically should reach the WCEREA President by mail by 28 February 2024.

Selection Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated by the WCEREA Board according to the following criteria:

- location (including consideration of travel cost, accessibility by ground transportation and time for participants, amenities, on-site transportation, ease of obtaining entrance visas, past congresses venues, etc.);
- ability to set a registration fee that is acceptable for participants from non-profit institutions.
- accommodations (cost, quality, capacity);
- session facilities (quality of plenary rooms; quality and number of meeting rooms; AV, internet access and charging stations; exhibition and poster spaces; equipment; food and beverage service; social programme, etc.);
- communications plan (evaluation of the plan for a WCERE website and email, advertising the congress, registrations, papers download, etc.);
- administration (detail of budget, qualifications of Local Organising Committee, and local supporting agencies); and
- funding (grants for students, grants for participants from developing countries, other sponsorships).
- experience in organizing academic conferences in environmental and resource economics (or related fields) and evidence that the LOC will have sufficient expertise in environmental and resource economics to contribute to the development of a high-quality conference experience (scientific content and overall experience).
- attention shown to environmental sustainability and diversity, equity and inclusiveness in the organisation of the event

A final decision is expected to be made by June 2024.