

43<sup>RD</sup> CONGRESS OF THE  ESCRS

**COPEN  HAGEN**

**12 - 16 SEPTEMBER 2025**  
Bella Center, Copenhagen - Denmark

# CONGRESS SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

Prepared by



GLOBAL  
DESTINATION  
SUSTAINABILITY  
MOVEMENT

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# ESCRS SUSTAINABILITY VISION AND COMMITMENT



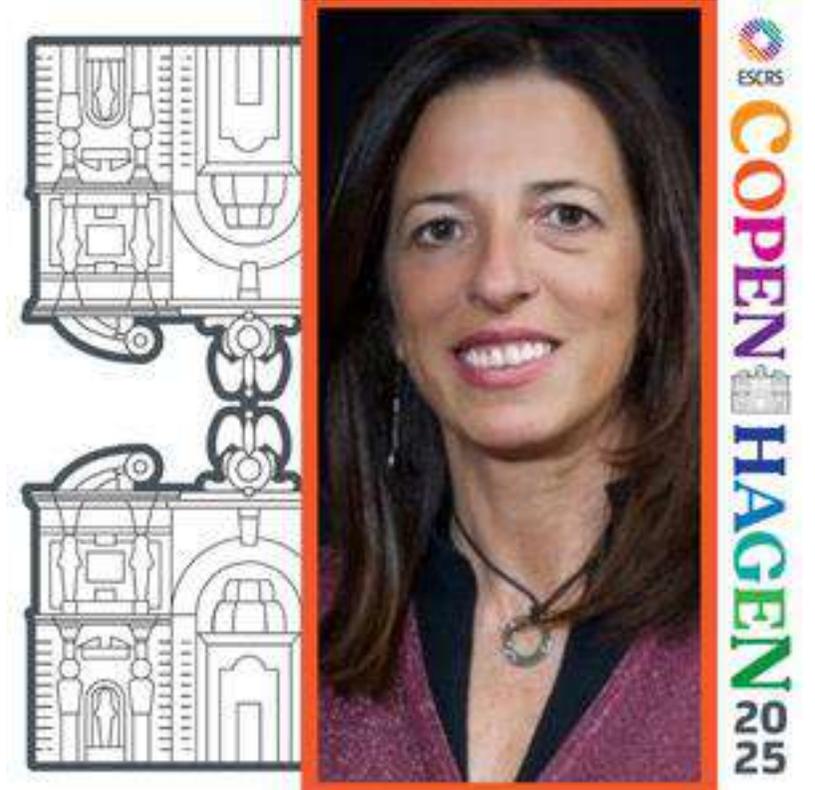
At ESCRS, sustainability is a guiding principle in how we shape the future of ophthalmology. Enhancing the sustainability of our annual Congress is not just about responsibility; it's about leading by example and driving meaningful change across our field.

Following the momentum of recent years, we're taking our commitment even further. This year, we're expanding our focus to strengthen social impact, improve environmental performance, and ensure greater inclusivity in everything we do.

Working closely with partners such as Bella Center Copenhagen and a carefully selected group of suppliers, we're moving towards ambitious goals: zero waste to landfill, net zero carbon emissions, and reaffirming our commitment to social responsibility.

Beyond the Congress itself, we're also supporting critical causes, restoring ecosystems, and nurturing sustainability leadership within the ophthalmic community and beyond.

We know that real progress depends on collaboration. That's why we're inviting ophthalmologists, institutions, industry leaders, and sustainability experts to join us in driving meaningful change together.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Filomena'.

**Filomena Ribeiro**  
**President, ESCRS**

# BUILDING ON THE LONG-TERM VISION



ESCRS Congress  
2022  
Milan

ESCRS Congress  
2023  
Vienna

ESCRS Congress  
2024  
Barcelona

ESCRS Congress  
2025  
Copenhagen

**MILAN** 

 **VIENNA 2023**  
41<sup>ST</sup> CONGRESS OF THE ESCRS | 8-12 SEPTEMBER 2023

42<sup>ND</sup> CONGRESS OF THE ESCRS  
**BARCELONA**  
6-10 SEPTEMBER 2024  
Fira de Barcelona, Spain

43<sup>RD</sup> CONGRESS OF THE ESCRS  
**COPENHAGEN**  
12-16 SEPTEMBER 2025  
Bella Center, Copenhagen - Denmark

# ESCRS SUSTAINABLE EVENT STRATEGY



## CATALYST

Inspire our members to improve the Environmental and Social Sustainability of ophthalmic healthcare

## EXEMPLAR

Lead by example by innovating and improving the sustainability of ESCRS operations and practices

## OUR GOALS

### CONTENT

Inspire action about sustainable ophthalmic care

### CLIMATE ACTION

Net Zero  
Carbon Emissions

### CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Zero Waste  
to Landfill

### DIVERSITY EQUALITY

**INCLUSION**  
Social Responsibility

## OUR PRINCIPLES

Design out waste, emissions and pollution

Keep materials and products in use

Switch to more sustainable materials

Regenerate natural systems

Design for inclusiveness and diversity

Improve participant event experience

## ALIGNED TO UN SDGs



# OUR APPROACH. WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER!



To make a sustainable Congress requires commitment and collective action from participants, exhibitors, sponsors, organisers and suppliers. Our approach is to engage, inspire and catalyse action to make a carbon neutral event.

## PLAN

- Co-create strategy
- Define vision, objectives and targets
- Develop action plan

## ASSESS

- Assess suppliers
- Calculate the estimated carbon footprint of the Congress

## ENGAGE

- Engage suppliers, exhibitors, sponsors
- Educate suppliers, the team and improve the operational process
- Engage delegates and communicate our initiatives and progress

## MEASURE

- Collect data and calculate carbon and waste footprint
- Compensate for event emissions through a portfolio of certified carbon offset projects

## IMPROVE

- Evaluate and improve approach and processes

# ESCRS CONGRESS 2025 KEY IMPACTS



Total Carbon Footprint:  
**18,112 tCO<sub>2</sub>e**

Average Carbon Footprint  
per attendee:  
**1,252.06 kg tCO<sub>2</sub>e**

**100%** of the Congress's  
tCO<sub>2</sub>e offset

Total Waste:  
**74.99 tonnes**

**36%** of waste recycled  
or re-used

**57%** of all signage and  
branding materials made  
from sustainable materials

**73%** of food served:  
vegetarian/vegan.  
**87%** locally sourced

**26,799 water** bottles were  
deposited and recycled.

**33%** of speakers were  
female

# ESCRS CONGRESS 2025 KEY IMPACTS



THEMES	GOALS	RESULTS
<b>INSPIRE ACTION</b>	Strengthen the promotion of eyesustain.org initiative through partnerships with ASCRS and APACRS	Achieved by hosting the EyeSustain Council meeting on Saturday 13 September with representatives from our affiliated societies.
	Recruit at least 2 new organisations into the Sustainability Partnership Programme	4 new organisations have joined in 2025: Chilean Society of Ophthalmology, College of Ophthalmologists of Sri Lanka, Latin American Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgery, ARVO
	Provide inclusive training opportunities for all members at the Congress	Delivered inclusive training through the ESCRS Moving Simulator, 100+ masterclass trainees in 2025, and free online webinars reaching 1,000+ participants annually, with additional support via the Peter Barry Fellowship and PRA, SRA, SURE awards.
	Ensuring balanced representation of different continents in the overall programme	While all continents are represented, Europe holds the majority (65%), followed by Asia (21%). North America has moderate representation (8%), while South America (4%), Africa (1%), and Oceania (1%)
	Increase awareness of health inequity among underserved communities through targeted educational campaigns	ESCRS and BRASCRS formed a strategic alliance to expand global collaboration and knowledge exchange in cataract and refractive surgery, strengthening collaboration between both regions. The partnership promotes inclusivity, professional development, and improved patient outcomes.
<b>ZERO WASTE</b>	Eliminate 90% of single use plastic, polystyrene and PVC	58% reduction in single-use plastic, polystyrene, and PVC compared with a 100% plastic baseline.
	Decrease waste sent to landfill to less than 10%	100% of waste was incinerated, no waste was sent to landfill.
	Increase recycling to +60%	36% of waste was recycled or re-used.
	+80% of all signage and branding to be made from more sustainable materials	57% of all signage and branding materials are made from sustainable materials (paper-based boards and materials with recycled contents), and printed PVC-free canvas.

# ESCRS CONGRESS 2025 KEY IMPACTS



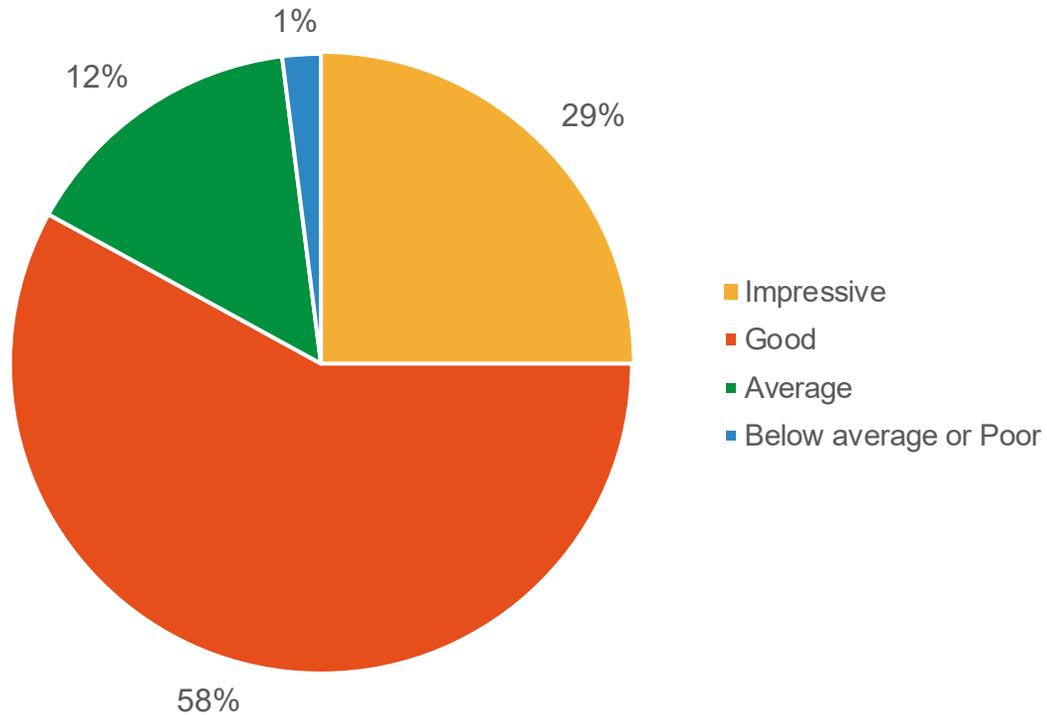
THEMES	GOALS	RESULTS
INSPIRE ACTION	+20% of delegates to arrive by climate-friendly transport	2% of in-person attendees arrived by climate-friendly transportation (local public transportation, trains, cars vs planes).
	+50% of food served is vegetarian or vegan	73% of food was served vegetarian or vegan. *This covers Bella Center and the President's dinner.
	70% of food locally sourced (less than 160km)	86% of food was regionally and locally sourced (within a 160 km radius).
	100% of unavoidable carbon emissions to be offset	Achieved.
ZERO WASTE	Increase balance of female speakers to 40%	33% female and 67% male speakers.
	Integrate at least 1 community/charity partnerships	ESCRS provided annual financial grants and training support to CEHI, BICO, Eyes of the World, St John Eye Hospital, Ridley Foundation, Kwale Eye Centre, and South Sudan (Wau), focusing on cataract-related capacity building across Africa, Palestine, and Ukraine.
	Enhance delegate wellbeing by integrating accessible wellness opportunities into the Congress experience	Achieved. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offered a free, onsite childcare service through Nipperbout's Spy Academy-themed crèche</li> <li>Organised ESCRS 5K Run / Walk supporting BoSS (Building our Sustainable Society) initiative promoting inclusivity in ophthalmology and beyond. 312 runners signed up.</li> </ul>

# ATTENDEE FEEDBACK



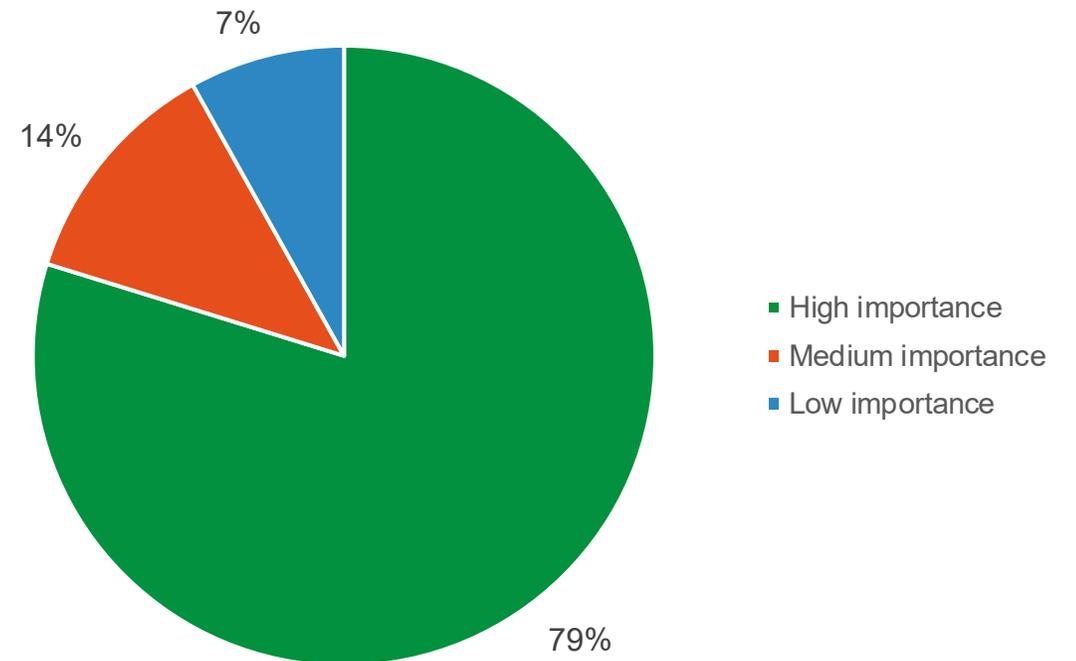
## How would you rate ESCRS sustainability efforts?

The majority of attendees rated ESCRS's sustainability efforts positively, with the overall 87% considering them as Impressive or Good.



## How important is it to you that ESCRS has a commitment to sustainability?

79% of respondents consider ESCRS's commitment to sustainability as highly important, while 14% see it as moderately important, leaving 7% as low importance.



# KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2026



Strengthen supplier sustainability collaboration

Embed sustainability criteria in contracts

Enhance waste management systems

Engage and educate exhibitors

Expand sustainable sourcing practices

Improve material reuse strategies

Ensure timely data reporting



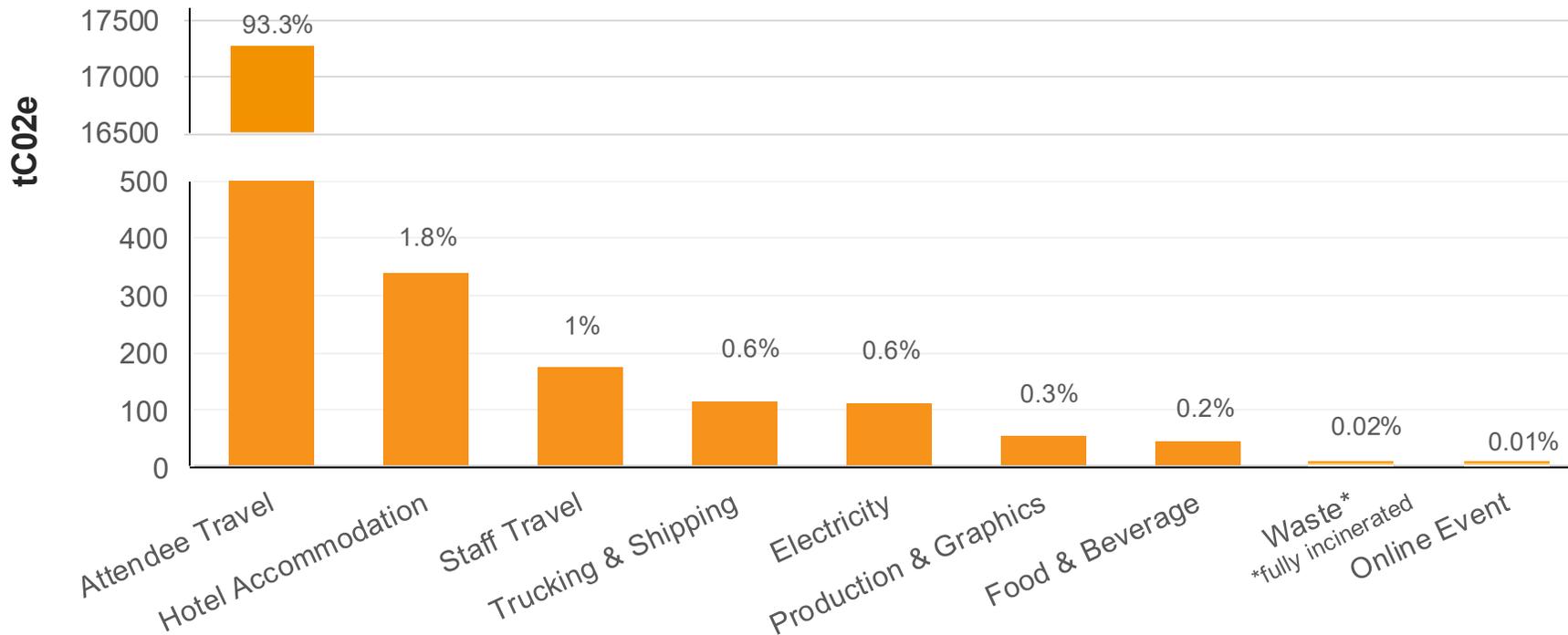
# INITIATIVES AND IMPACTS

# CARBON EMISSIONS OVERVIEW



The Congress's carbon emissions and waste footprint were measured in line with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol and industry best practice, using the advanced TRACE measurement tool. Emissions across Scopes 1, 2, and 3 were calculated, covering event production, delegate and team travel, accommodation, food and beverage, venue operations, and online participation.

Travel represents approximately 95% of total emissions, followed by accommodation, making these the most significant drivers of the Congress's carbon footprint. This underscores destination selection and accessibility, modal shift, and responsible procurement as the most critical levers for future decarbonisation efforts.



 **Carbon Footprint**

**18112.25** tCO<sub>2</sub>e  
Total carbon footprint

**1252.06** kgCO<sub>2</sub>e  
Average carbon footprint per attendee

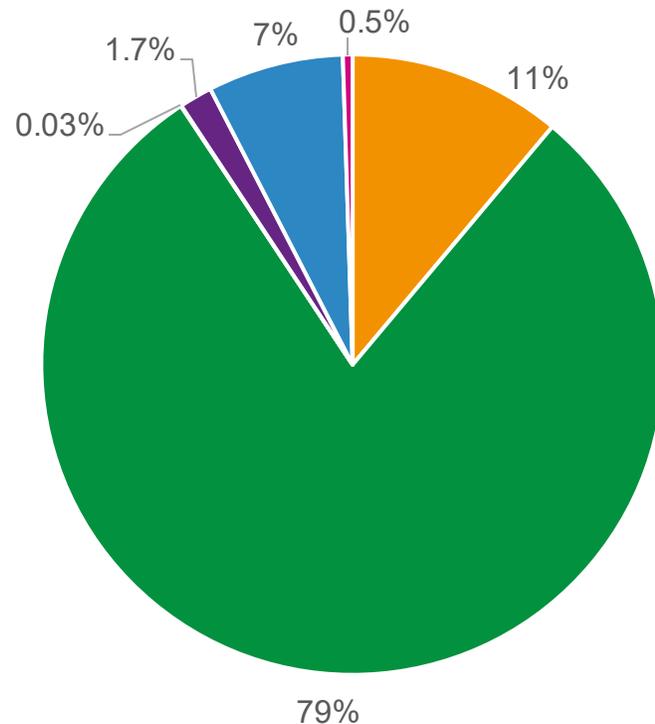


# ONLINE STREAMING



Online streaming was available to all ESCRS Congress 2025 delegates, representing 1600+ delegates benefiting from this option.

## BREAKDOWN OF STREAMING VIRTUAL ELEMENTS



Emissions for energy for streaming / online

**0.21** tCO<sub>2</sub>e

- Computers (Participants)
- Network data transfer (Participants)
- Server emissions
- Rehearsals and testing
- Monitor usage
- Desk lamp usage

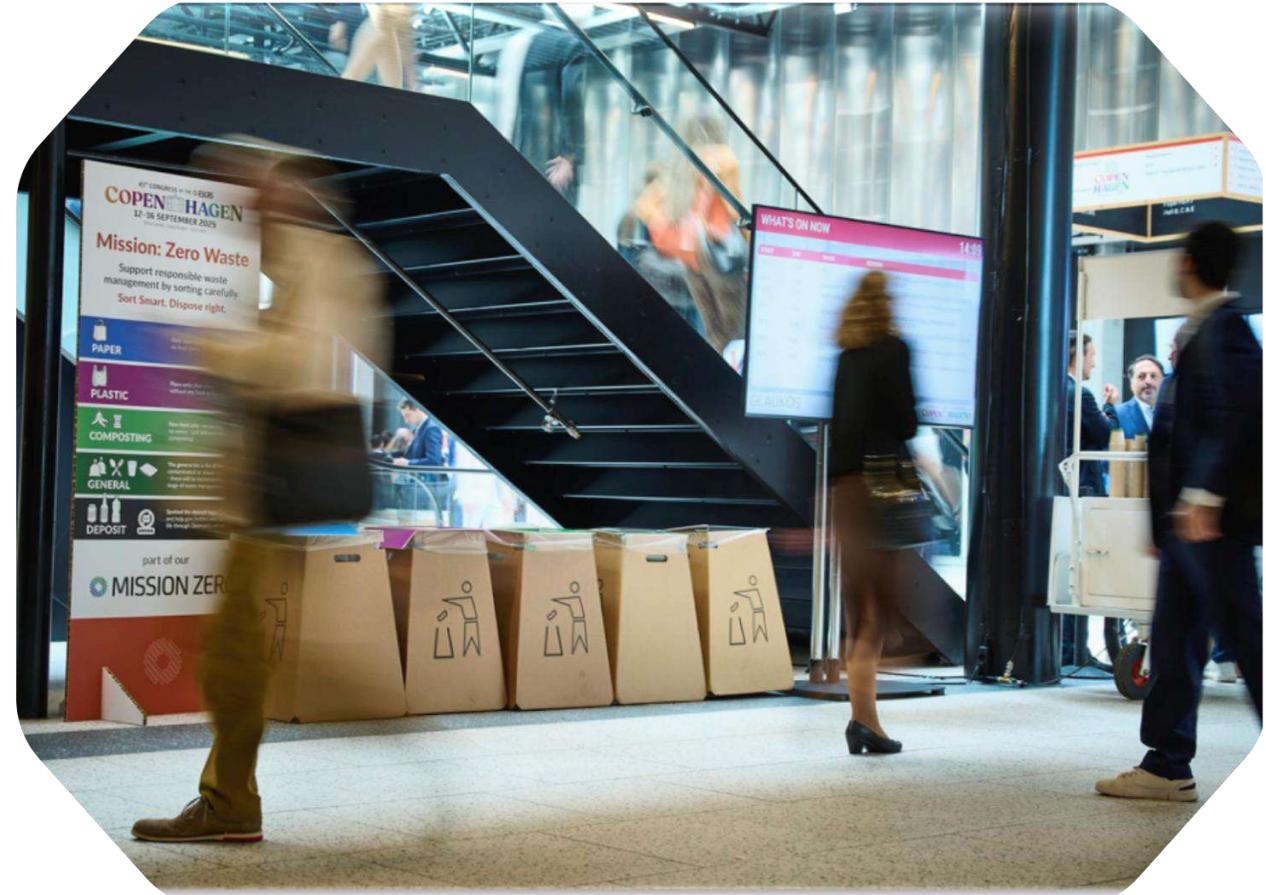
# CIRCULAR APPROACH



We continued our approach of designing waste out of the Congress by prioritising material reduction, keeping resources in circulation for as long as possible, and strengthening our high-performance recycling system.

For 2025, this framework was further adapted to the needs of the event, making full use of the venue's local infrastructure while building on proven strategies from previous years. This aimed to ensure that materials were managed responsibly throughout the Congress and that recycling performance improved in line with our sustainability objectives.

 <b>PAPER</b>	Only clean paper bags go here - no food stains, no other materials.
 <b>PLASTIC</b>	Place only clean plastic items here - without any food or liquid residue.
 <b>COMPOSTING</b>	Raw food only - no packaging, no extras - just leftovers ready for composting.
 <b>GENERAL</b>	The general bin is for all food - contaminated or mixed-material items - these will be incinerated in the next stage of waste management.
 <b>DEPOSIT</b>	Spotted the deposit logo? Drop it here and help give bottles and cans a new life through Denmark's return system.



# CIRCULARITY OF MATERIALS



The following three compelling data elements highlight a commitment to environmental responsibility in the production of the Congress.

<p><b>Percentage of assets hired or made from reclaimed materials:</b> <b>72.1%</b></p>	<p>Hiring and sourcing assets from reclaimed materials continued to advance ESCRS Mission Zero in 2025, with 72.1% of all assets hired or produced from reclaimed content. This represents a significant improvement on previous years and further reduces the need for new production, strengthening circularity across Congress operations.</p>
<p><b>Percentage of materials reused, donated, or repurposed:</b> <b>54.5%</b></p>	<p>A total of 54.5% of materials were reused, donated, or repurposed after the Congress, demonstrating continued progress in extending material life cycles and minimising waste. This increase reflects stronger collaboration with venue partners and community organisations to ensure materials remain in use wherever possible.</p>
<p><b>Percentage of materials recycled post event:</b> <b>25.8%</b></p>	<p>Recycling accounted for 25.8% of materials after the Congress. This was below our target and reflects the types of materials used on-site, the capabilities of the local waste infrastructure/legislation, practices of the venue and challenges with getting participants to recycle properly.</p>



# CIRCULARITY OF MATERIALS



As an example of best practice, carpet use was minimised and restricted to essential areas only. Where required, Expostyle by SOMMER Needlepunch was procured - a Cradle to Cradle Certified® carpet made from 100% polypropylene (PP), offering a lightweight, durable, and fully recyclable solution.

Manufactured in-house in France, the product ensures controlled material composition and compatibility with closed-loop recovery processes. After the event, the carpet was sent to DESPRIET Plastic Recycling in Belgium for processing, and the emptied transport boxes were returned to SOMMER to maintain an efficient closed-loop logistics system.

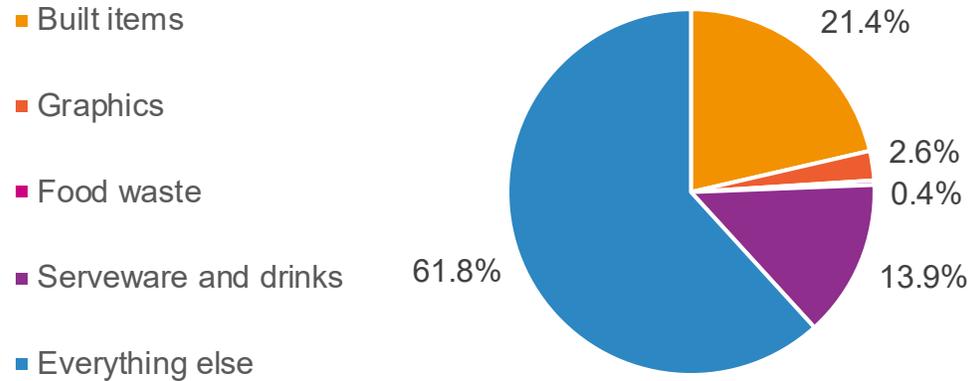


All directional signage in 2025 was again produced using 100% Falcon Board, a paper-based material that was fully recycled through the paper stream after the event. This continued the circular approach first introduced in 2023, eliminating non-recyclable materials from signage and ensuring a consistent, closed-loop practice across successive Congresses.

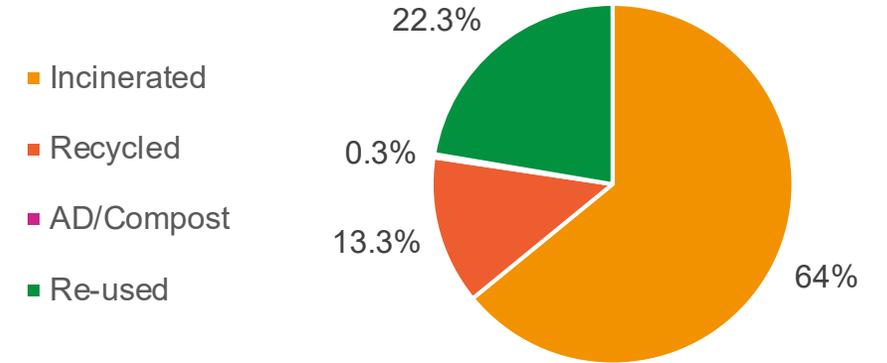
# WASTE FOOTPRINT



## WHERE DID WASTE COME FROM BY WEIGHT?



## WHERE DID WASTE GO BY WEIGHT?



 **Waste Footprint**

**74.99** Tonnes  
Total Waste Footprint

**5.18** kgs  
Average waste per attendee

The majority of waste by weight originated from built items and materials, reflecting the material intensity of temporary event infrastructure. While 22.3% of waste was re-used and 13.3% recycled, 64% was incinerated.

A large amount of contamination of recycled and compostable waste was observed, which resulted in it being processed as general waste after the event.

This highlights the importance of improved waste segregation, clearer signage, and supplier coordination to increase recycling and composting rates in future editions.



# CIRCULARITY OF MATERIALS



Through collaboration with the ESCRS Congress 2025 team and Bella Center, we have successfully minimized the environmental impact of food and beverage operations by prioritizing local sourcing, bulk purchasing, material recycling, and the use of compostable products.

- Reduced single-use plastic in catering outlets with compostable options.
- 26,799 bottles and cans marked with the deposit logo were used on-site, and these were returned through Denmark's national deposit system for reuse or recycling.
- Continued the elimination of red meat from the Congress menu, offering a small portion of poultry and fish for balance, with bespoke menus created.
- 73% of served food was vegetarian or vegan (7% higher than in 2024)
- 80% of ingredients were locally and regionally sourced (within a 160 km radius).

These results are way ahead of standard event performance and deliver significant reduction compared to industry averages.



# THE PRESIDENT'S DINNER



On behalf of Filomena Ribeiro, the President of ESCRS, the President's Dinner was organised in the heart of Copenhagen with special attention to the core principles of Mission Zero.

The event was catered by Gastronomisk Innovation, who brought their signature creative approach and integrated innovative, responsible food practices throughout. Their menu combined high-quality, locally influenced cuisine with a strong focus on resource efficiency, including the use of surplus ingredients and regional sourcing to minimise environmental impact.

- 33% of the menu was prepared using surplus ingredients, reducing avoidable food waste.
- 65% of ingredients were locally sourced, supporting regional producers and lowering transport impact.
- Eliminated red meat, serving poultry and fish for balance
- Only AV and lighting were used to create the event atmosphere, with no additional production or built décor.



**g**astronomisk  
innovation



# WATER STATIONS



In support of responsible water use and the reduction of single-use plastics, the 2025 ESCRS Congress promoted and enabled the use of Copenhagen's high-quality tap water. Denmark's long-standing commitment to careful water management underscores the importance of maintaining this resource, even in a country with generally abundant water.

More than 20 water refill stations were specially installed throughout Bella Center Copenhagen, encouraging attendees to use refillable bottles and avoid single-use water bottles.

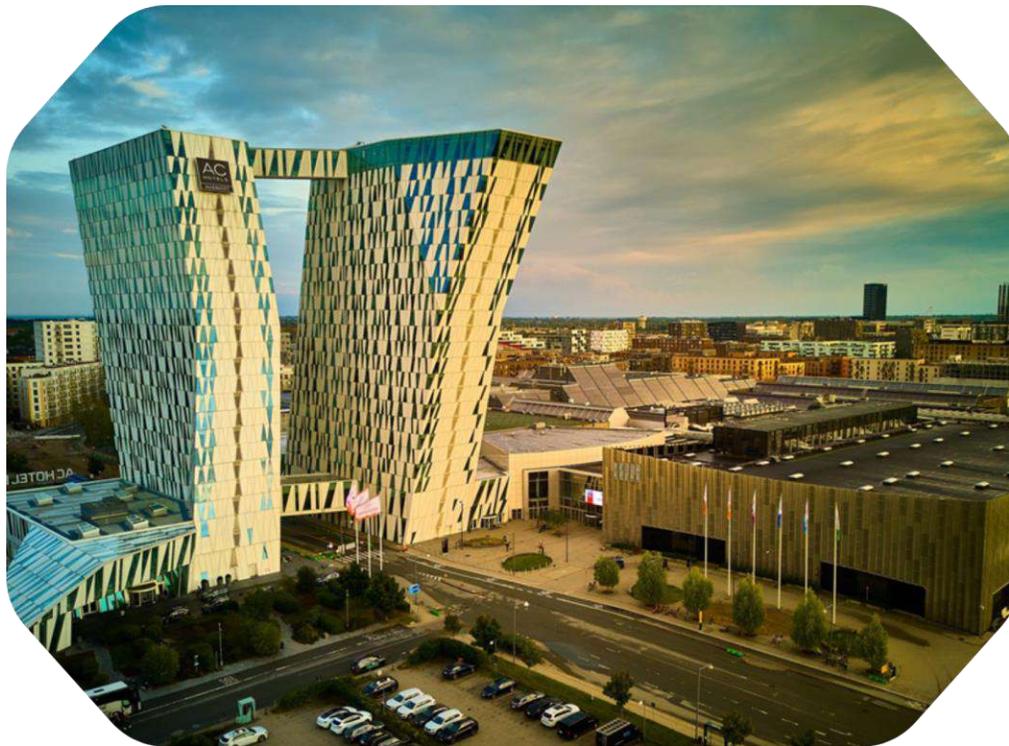
To further support circular practices, the cups provided at each station were made from 100% paper. Unfortunately, due to Danish regulation they were unable to be recycled and had to be incinerated..



# VENUE & DESTINATION



ESCRS Congress 2025 sustainability implementation was guided and supported by the [Copenhagen Sustainability Guide](#) principles, in line with [Wonderful Copenhagen's goals for 2030](#), serving as catalysts for sustainable development, with a particular focus on the reduction of CO2-emissions.



Bella Center Copenhagen supported the successful delivery of ESCRS Congress 2025 through its strong sustainability performance, holding ISO 14001 and ISO 20121 certifications, Green Key certification, and alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Net Zero Carbon Events Pledge.

## Environmental Performance

- 36% of total energy from renewable sources, including a rooftop solar park generating 30% of annual electricity demand
- Commitment to halve emissions by 2030 and achieve net-zero operations by 2050
- DGNB Gold-certified Hall D, reflecting high sustainability standards in new infrastructure

## Waste & Circularity

- Food waste converted into biogas
- 40% reduction in waste generation since 2019
- Active upcycling of materials such as banners and carpets

## Social Responsibility & Community

- Partnerships with refugee organisations and job centres to support training and employment



# COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

# DELEGATE ENGAGEMENT: COMMUNICATIONS



Building on previous congresses, the ESCRS Congress 2025 further advanced its communication practices by fully integrating attendee engagement across digital channels. This approach continued to reduce paper use while ensuring participants were well informed about the event's sustainability initiatives.

Through expanded interactive content and on-site digital touchpoints, attendees were actively involved in the Congress's Mission Zero efforts, reinforcing a shared commitment to environmental and social responsibility.



## Sustainability

### ESCRS Sustainability Commitment & Vision

At ESCRS, sustainability is more than a priority – it is a guiding principle in how we shape the future of ophthalmology. Enhancing the sustainability of our annual Congress is not just about responsibility; it's about leading by example and driving meaningful change across our field.

Following the momentum of recent years, we're taking our commitment even further. This year, we're expanding our focus to strengthen social impact, improve environmental performance, and ensure greater inclusivity in everything we do.

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President, ESCRS

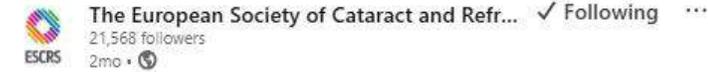


# DELEGATE ENGAGEMENT: COMMUNICATIONS



In 2025, the communication strategy was further expanded by strengthening the integration of sustainability messaging across social media channels.

This broader reach has fostered a growing community engaged in ESCRS Mission Zero, driving awareness and collective action toward positive change.



Join in for a More Sustainable Congress

Every ESCRS Congress 2025 participant can contribute to our Mission Zero through:

- Choose public transport or cycling/walking the city
- Select certified accommodation
- Follow proper waste separation at venue
- Use water stations with your own reusable bottle at venue

Collective action drives meaningful change. Join us in setting new standards for responsible medical conferences.

More info: <https://lnkd.in/dszsWw5F>

#ESCRS2025 #ESCRSMissionZero



#ESCRS Sustainability Picture Contest 2025

Young Ophthalmologists for Sustainability (YOFS) are spotlighting greener practice at #ESCRS2025 with a global photo contest. Thirteen ophthalmologists have captured sustainability in action, from smart everyday fixes to creative ways to cut waste.

Cast your vote for the image that inspires you, then join us at the Sustainability Wall for the Photo Award Ceremony on Monday 15 September at 10:30 am. ✓

#ESCRSCopenhagen #Sustainability



# DELEGATE ENGAGEMENT: COMMUNICATIONS



The ESCRS Mission Zero Sustainability Wall was prominently installed in a high-traffic area at the venue, building on past successes to further educate and engage attendees. The wall featured highlighted the Congress' environmental initiatives including strategy, carbon offsetting approach and projects supported in 2025, innovative solutions and tips of individual actions contributing to the overall success.



Enhanced with engaging content from Young Ophthalmologists for Sustainability (YOFS), the wall featured simple, actionable sustainability tips, showcased the campaign for greener operating rooms, patient travel carbon calculator, promoted applications for the SUsustainability REsearch (SURE) Award and initiated sustainability picture award engaging ophthalmologists to share their current practises.

# DELEGATE ENGAGEMENT: COMMUNICATIONS



Delegates were encouraged to support Mission Zero through simple everyday choices, such as choosing active or public transport, staying in certified hotels, enjoying climate friendlier menus, using refillable bottles, sorting waste correctly, and returning badges for upcycling.



# ADVANCING SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH EDUCATION



The Sustainability Track at the ESCRS Congress 2025 continued our established educational focus, offering a dedicated and engaging platform for critical discussion, research exchange, and practical solutions in ophthalmology.

- **Critical Topics & Real-world Challenges:**

Sessions addressed regulatory, clinical, and operational barriers to sustainable practice, including EU perspectives on reprocessing single-use devices and the balance between innovation, cost, and environmental impact.

- **Multidisciplinary Engagement:**

Symposia, roundtables, and the Sustainability Arena brought together clinicians, industry partners, and experts to explore collaborative approaches and challenge assumptions.

- **Evidence & Practical Application:**

Educational sessions and discussions shared current data, case examples, and operational insights to help attendees apply sustainability principles in clinical and training environments.

The 2025 programme reinforced ESCRS's focus on achievable, evidence-based progress in sustainability, supporting Mission Zero through transparency, knowledge sharing, and actionable improvement.





# CARBON OFFSETTING APPROACH

# CARBON MANAGEMENT APPROACH



## MEASURE

- Total emissions of the Congress > **18,112 tCO<sub>2</sub>e**
- Approx. 90% of our footprint comes from flights.

## REDUCE

- Reduce waste
- Improve recycling and composting
- Reduce food miles
- Reduce/eliminate red meat
- Promote more sustainable travel options

## OFFSET

- Pre-event estimated unavoidable emissions were offset through South Pole by:
  - Efficient cookstoves in Burgundi
  - Wind Power at the sea close to Vietnam
  - Hydropower project in Vietnam
- With the 100% offset of unavoidable CO<sub>2</sub>e, this Congress is considered to be carbon-neutral.
- Certified carbon offset projects were sourced through **South Pole**.

Carbon Offsetting Partner



# CARBON OFFSETTING APPROACH – THE PROJECTS



**Gold Standard**  
for the **Global Goals**



## Efficient cookstoves in Burkina Faso

*Gold Standard-certified*

In rural Burkina Faso woody biomass from local forests is the principle source of energy for everyday cooking. This micro-scale VPA project promotes the distribution and use of the “F3PA” (or 3-stones mud) efficient cook stove in the rural zones of Burkina Faso, more specifically in the Provinces of Kourwéogo and Passorè. The F3PA wood stoves will replace the traditional open air three stone cooking method whilst respecting the local three stone cooking culture.



# CARBON OFFSETTING APPROACH – THE PROJECTS



**Gold Standard**  
for the **Global Goals**



## **Hoa Binh 1 Wind Power Project, Vietnam**

*Gold Standard-certified*

The Hoa Binh 1 wind power project activity involves the construction of an off-shore wind power plant in Vinh Hau A commune, Hoa Binh district, Bac Lieu province, Viet Nam with a total capacity of 50 MW. Prior to the implementation of the project activity, electricity in Vietnam is generated mainly from fossil fuel sources and is solely distributed to consumers by Vietnam Electricity (EVN) via the unique national electricity grid.



# CARBON OFFSETTING APPROACH – THE PROJECTS



**Gold Standard**  
for the **Global Goals**



## Za Hung Hydropower Project, Vietnam

*Gold Standard-certified*

The project activity involves the construction of a hydropower plant with 02 units in Za Hung and Ma Cooi communes, Dong Giang district, Quang Nam province of Vietnam. The project's installed capacity and estimated annual gross power generation is 30 MW and 122,700 MWh, respectively.

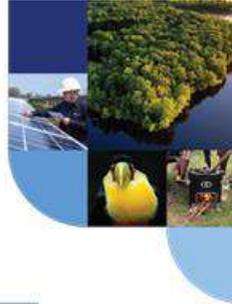


# CERTIFICATES



 south pole The Climate Company

## Certificate of climate protection



This certificate verifies that

### ESCRS Trading Ltd.

has funded climate action through verified contributions to match their unabated emissions for ESCRS Congress 2025

Thanks to your support

**6720 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions**

has been removed or reduced from the atmosphere through supporting South Pole's climate action project:

Efficient cookstoves in Burkina Faso

  
Dr Daniel Klier  
CEO, South Pole



Retirement ID [051-1-BF-026420-16-2021-206557-710-3770](#)  
[051-1-BF-026512-16-2020-23769-6795-9486](#)  
[051-1-BF-027076-16-2022-28722-8909-10020](#)  
[051-1-BF-027070-16-2022-28723-9408-8751](#)

Certificate number [051020](#) 28/08/2025  
[051022](#)  
[051027](#)  
[051030](#)

This certificate is issued by South Pole. For more information about our services and more than 200 climate protection projects, please visit [southpole.com/projects](#).  
The CO<sub>2</sub> emissions indicated on the certificate have been compensated through investments in the above-mentioned carbon offset projects based on international standards.

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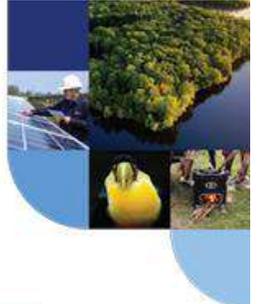
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Certificate number [0510794](#) 28/08/2025

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Dr Daniel Klier  
CEO, South Pole



Retirement ID [051-1-VN-0520215-04-2021-28035-30240-22869](#)

Certificate number [051020](#) 28/08/2025

This certificate is issued by South Pole. For more information about our services and more than 200 climate protection projects, please visit [southpole.com/projects](#).  
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# KEY LEARNINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

# BUILDING ON THE LONG-TERM VISION



ESCRS  
Congress 2022  
Milan

ESCRS  
Congress 2023  
Vienna

ESCRS  
Congress 2024  
Barcelona

ESCRS  
Congress 2025  
Copenhagen

ESCRS  
Congress 2026  
London



# KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2026



<b>Planning and Procurement</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Strengthen early collaboration with suppliers to embed sustainability requirements from the outset.</li><li>2. Expand pre-Congress education and guidance to increase awareness and uptake of sustainable practices across stakeholders.</li><li>3. Embed mandatory sustainability criteria and measurement requirements into supplier contracts to ensure accountability and structured data collection.</li></ol>
<b>Food</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>4. Improve communication and measures requesting delegates to bring their reusable water bottles, replacing single-use paper cups used at each water station.</li><li>5. Further reduce single-use plastics and serveware by identifying and replacing remaining non-sustainable materials.</li></ol>
<b>Circularity &amp; Waste Management</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>6. Introduce mandatory circular design standards and incentives for exhibitor stands, prioritising modularity, reuse, and low-impact materials.</li><li>7. Achieve <math>\geq 60\%</math> waste diversion through improved segregation, clearer signage, and supplier accountability.</li><li>8. Scale a material reuse and asset management strategy to deliver <math>&gt;50\%</math> second-life use of temporary infrastructure and event materials.</li><li>9. Expanding closed-loop recycling and take-back partnerships for signage, and other high-volume materials.</li></ol>
<b>Social Responsibility &amp; Inclusivity</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>10. Increase gender balance among speakers, aiming for at least 40% female representation.</li><li>11. Strengthen community and charity partnerships to ensure a direct positive local impact.</li></ol>
<b>Measurement &amp; Communication</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>12. Ensure timely and consistent data reporting both internally for progress tracking and externally for transparency and stakeholder engagement.</li><li>13. Expand measurement to include the positive societal and economic impacts of the congress to local communities.</li><li>14. Continue with the excellent communication initiatives and approaches</li></ol>



# ABOUT ESCRS OVERVIEW AND SCOPE CREDITS

# ABOUT ESCRS



ESCRS was founded in 1991 to promote education and research in the field of implant and refractive surgery and to advance and promote the study and practice of ophthalmology.

ESCRS seeks to promote and support research in the field of intraocular lens implantation and refractive surgery and the dissemination of the useful results thereof. ESCRS has over 7,500 members from 130 countries worldwide.

The European Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons evolved from the European Intraocular Implant Club which was established in 1981. The Society is administered by the ESCRS Board, a Board of Ophthalmologists elected by its members. The ESCRS staff based in London, UK, are responsible for the organisation of the Society's day-to-day activities.

ESCRS has over 7,500 members from 130 countries worldwide.

ESCRS's 43rd Congress was held from 12 to 16 September 2025 at Bella Center Copenhagen, Denmark.



43<sup>RD</sup> CONGRESS OF THE  ESCRS  
**COPEN HAGEN**  
12 - 16 SEPTEMBER 2025  
Bella Center, Copenhagen - Denmark



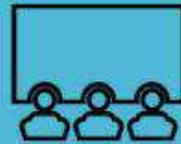
# CONGRESS OVERVIEW



## CONGRESS OVERVIEW



**33**  
CME credits



**30+**  
Parallel activities



**5**  
days



**5**  
main symposia



**99**  
surgical skills labs



**42**  
Simulation training lab slots



**111**  
instructional courses



**4**  
research symposia



**473**  
free papers



**431**  
presented posters



**434**  
videos in the library



**12**  
arenas

# THANK YOU TO ALL ESCRS CONGRESS SUPPLIERS



This report was prepared by the GDS-Movement with valuable data and editorial support provided by ESCRS and key partners.

Event carbon and waste footprint data was measured following the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, industry best practice methodologies and using the TRACE measurement tool.

Emissions from local event production, delegate and team travel, accommodation, Food & Beverages, venue and online participation were measured. Where data was not available, impact data was estimated using proxy data from TRACE and the GDS-Movement's database of sustainable events.

GDS-Movement unites and enables tourism and event professionals to create flourishing and resilient places to visit, meet and live in.

Our mission is to co-create sustainable and circular strategies, mindsets and skill sets that enable destinations and organisations of the future to thrive, and society and nature to regenerate.

[www.gds.earth](http://www.gds.earth) [info@gds.earth](mailto:info@gds.earth)