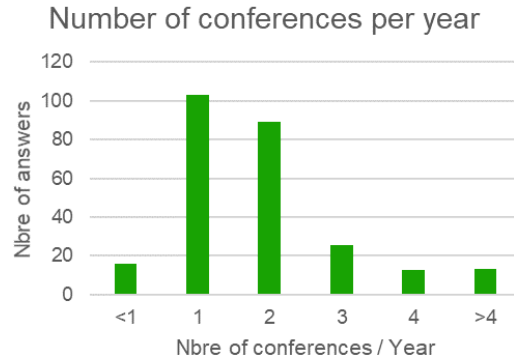
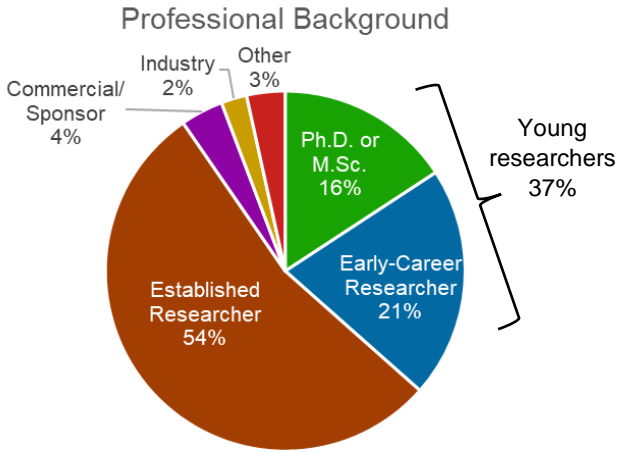


Evaluation of the answers to the sustainability survey (25/09/2025 – 260 answers)

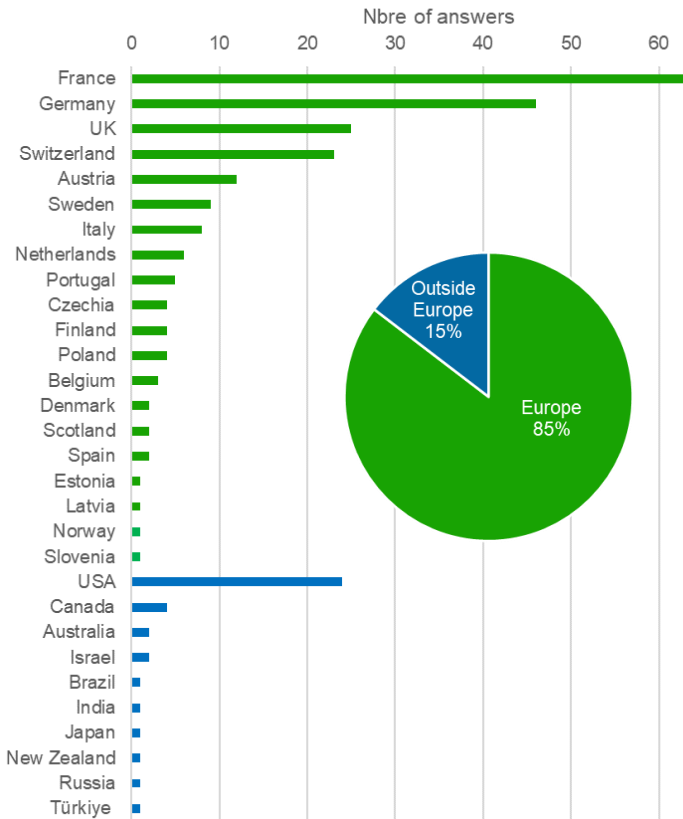
A. Background Questions

1) Professional profile – Number of international conferences attended per year

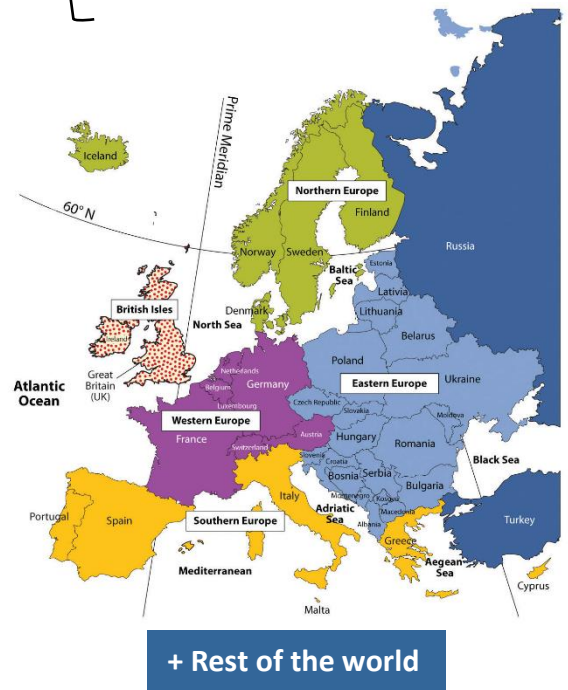
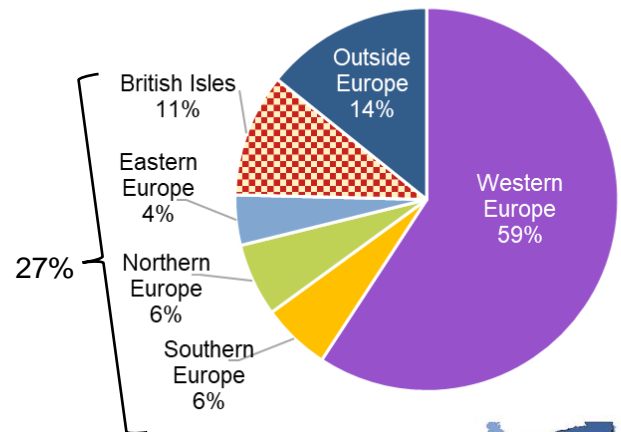


2) Country of work

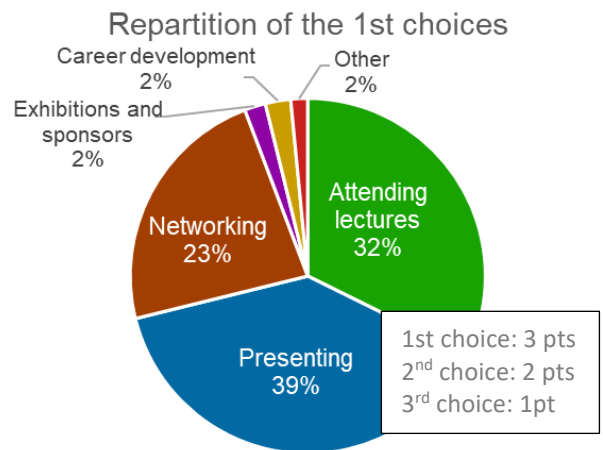
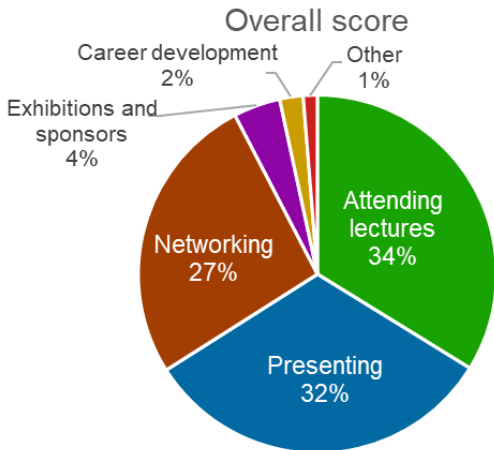
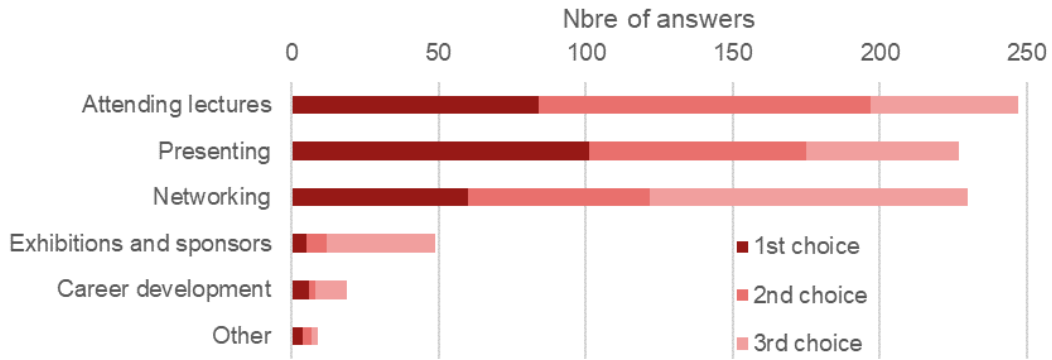
Details of the geographical repartition



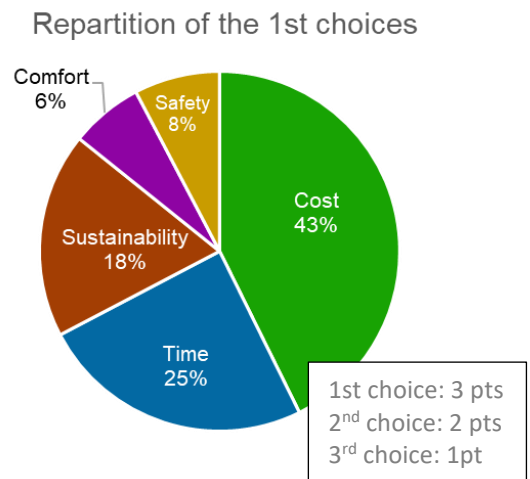
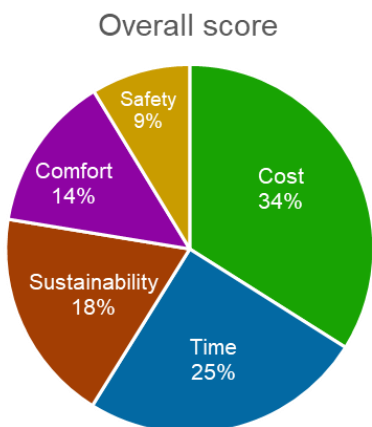
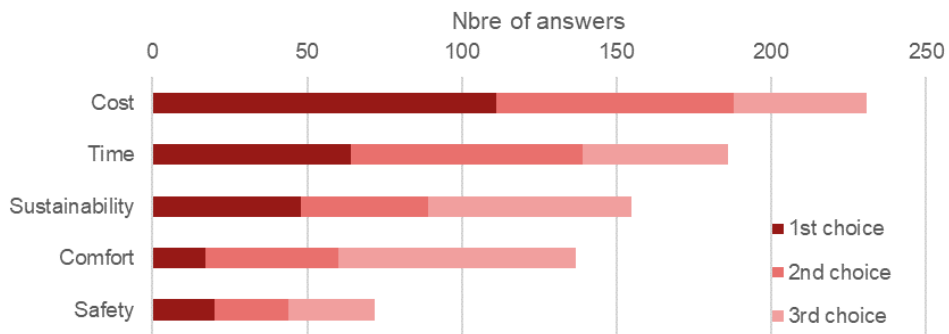
Geographic repartition



3) Primary motivation for attending EUROMAR

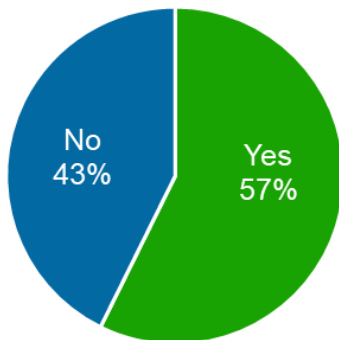


4) Importance of different factors when choosing the mode of travel

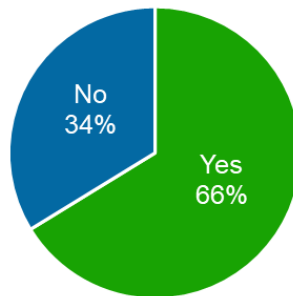


5) Does CO₂ emissions play a role in the decision to take part in a conference?

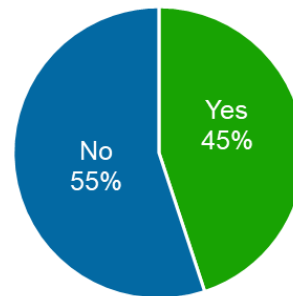
Overall answer



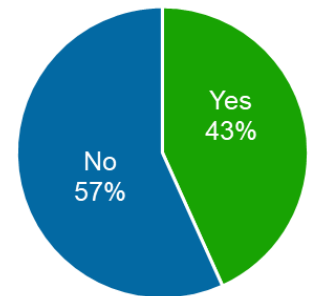
Western Europe



South, North, East Europe & British Islands



Outside Europe

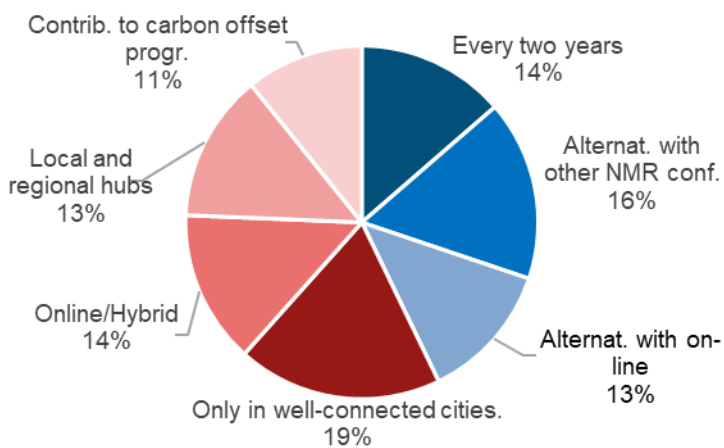


B. Specific actions

1) Ranking of proposed solutions – Overall results

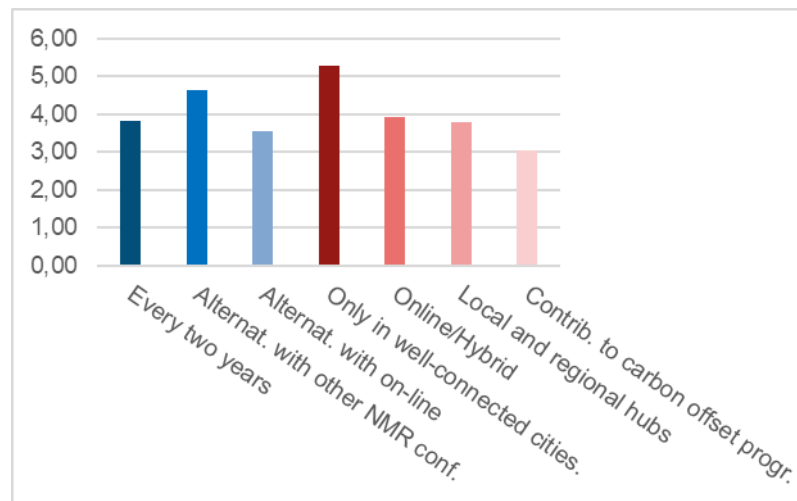
- EUROMAR organized only every two years.
- EUROMAR organized only every two years but alternated with another major NMR conference.
- EUROMAR organized only every two years but alternated with an on-line version.
- **EUROMAR organized only in well-connected cities.**
- Online participation/Hybrid conference.
- Local and regional hubs connected online to the main conference with live-streamed talks.
- Registration fees include a contribution to a carbon offset program

Overall score



1st choice: 7 pts	5th choice: 3 pts
2nd choice: 6 pts	6th choice: 2 pts
3rd choice: 5 pts	7th choice: 1pt
4th choice: 4 pts	

Average score

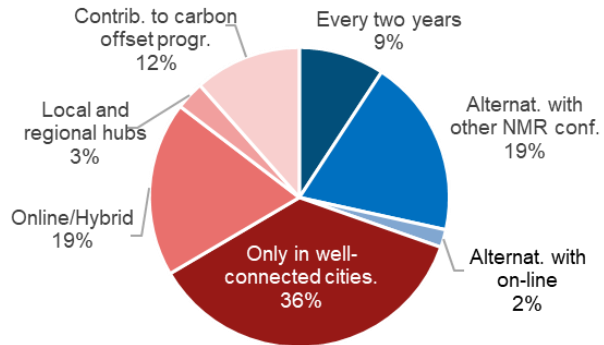


The result is very similar for the different geographical regions, and when selecting answers only from PhD and early-career researchers. Differences are found only for the repartition of the 1st choice (and more generally in the ranking of the different choices):

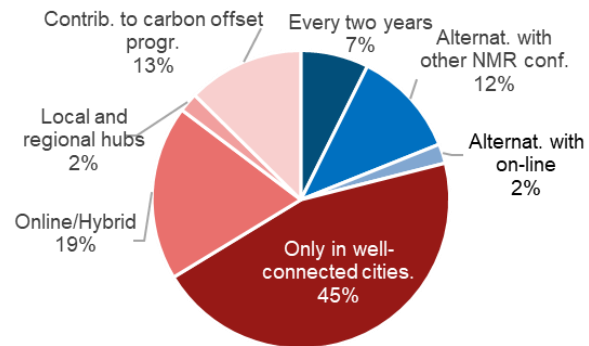
2) 1st choices and ranking of proposed solutions according to the young researchers and geographical regions

Repartition of 1st choices

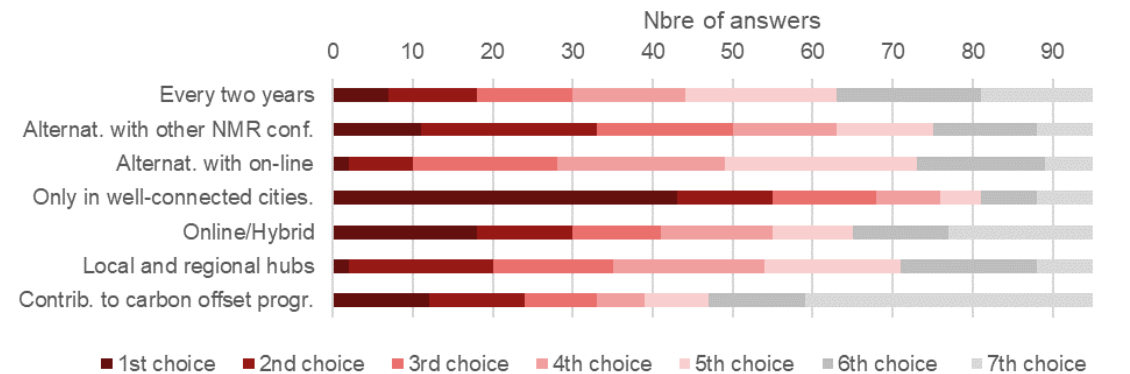
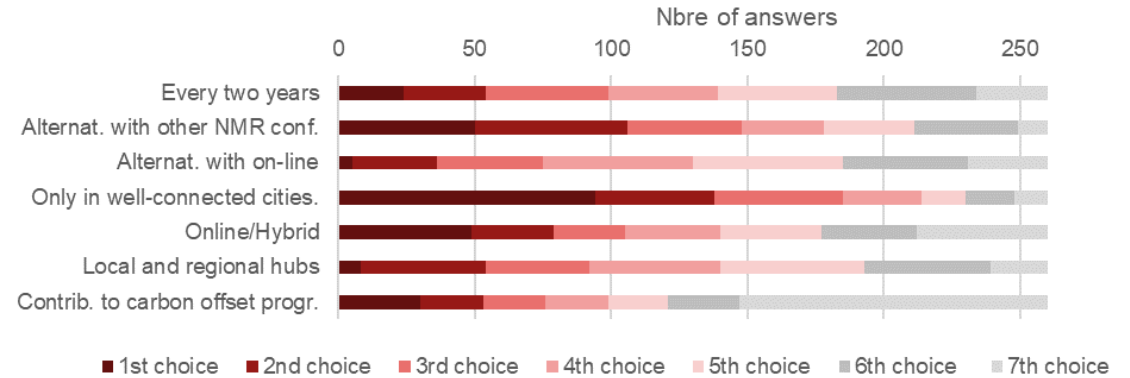
Overall answers



Young researchers

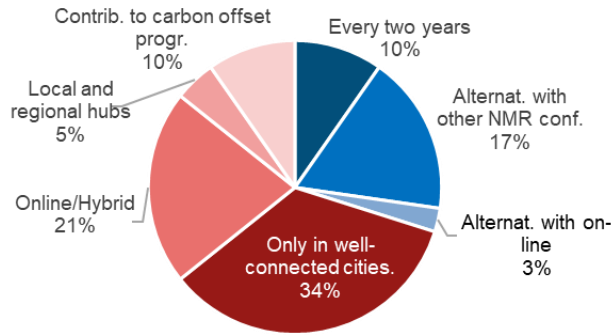


Ranking of choices

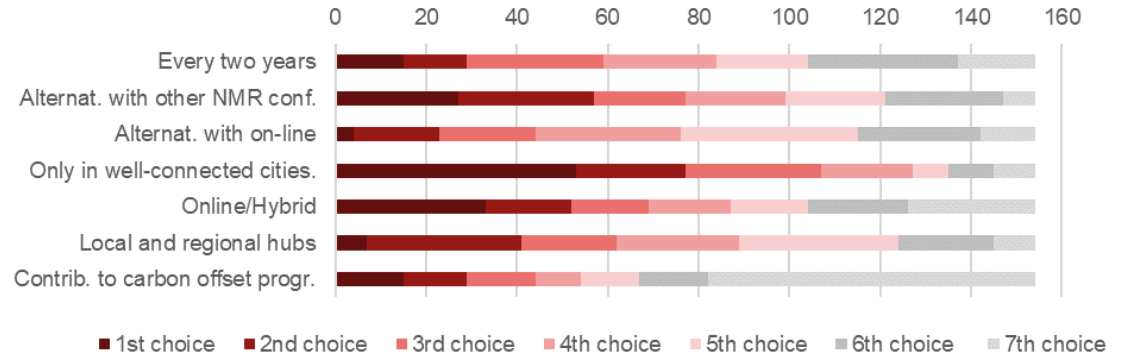


Western Europe

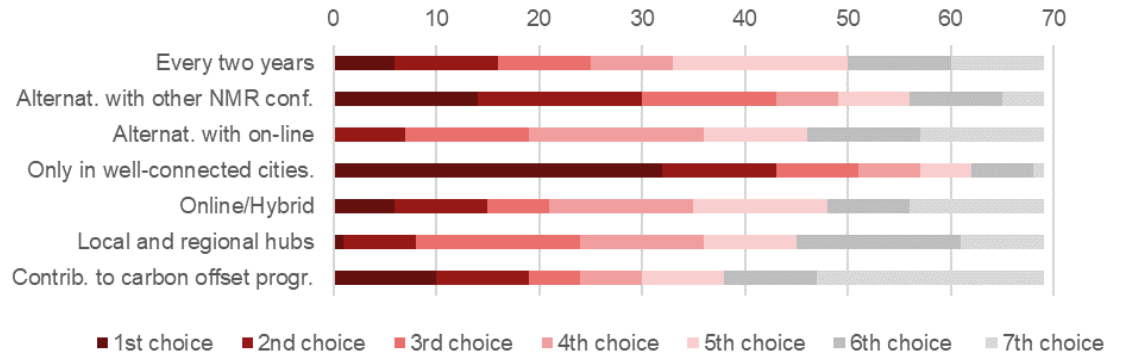
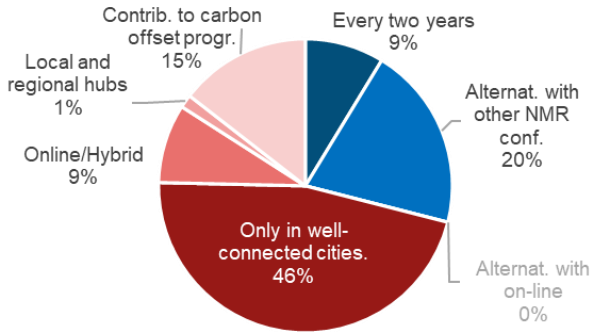
Repartition of 1st choices



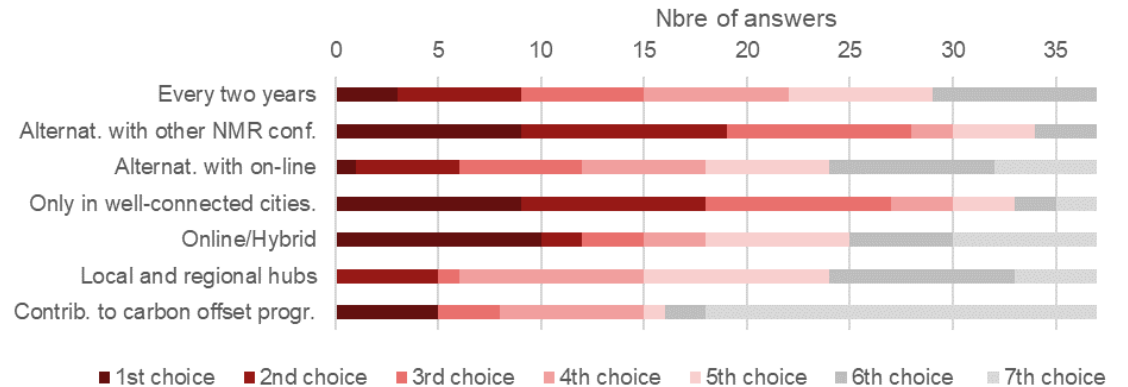
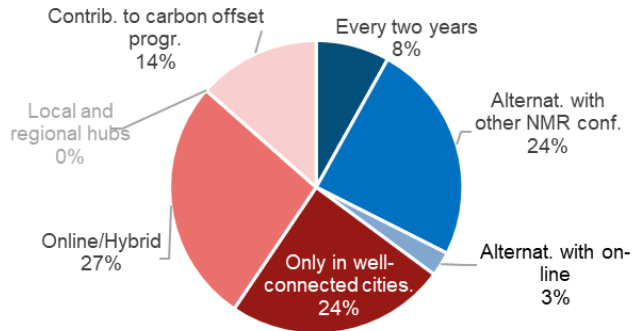
Ranking of choices



South, North, East Europe & British Islands

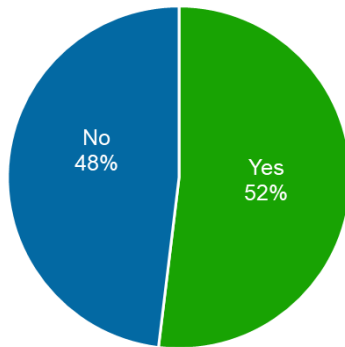


Outside Europe

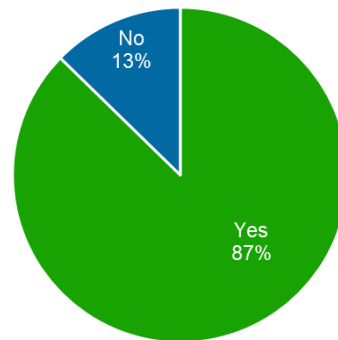


3) Would you agree with extending the duration of EUROMAR...

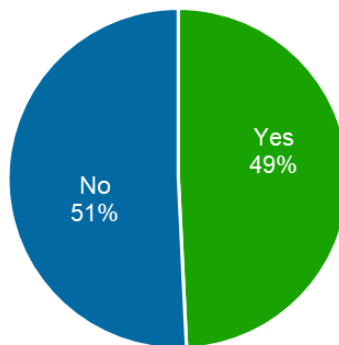
To cover more topics
and have more speakers



by combining with other
events or workshops



4) Would you agree with adjusting registration fees based on the mode of travel?



C. Free comments

Structured summary of the comments (grouped into themes) made with ChatGPT:

1. Value of Conferences

- In-person meetings are seen as crucial for networking, mentoring, and community building — especially for early-career scientists.
- Online/hybrid formats are generally perceived as ineffective for fostering interaction.
- Reducing conference frequency (every two years) is divisive: some see it as lowering CO2, others as harmful to community and careers.
- Some argue there are simply too many conferences overall.

2. Conference Location & Accessibility

- Strong support for **well-connected cities** (especially central Europe, with good train access).
- Others insist on rotating locations (N, S, E, W, C) to ensure inclusivity.
- Oulu and other remote sites are criticized as hard/expensive to reach without flying.
- Some suggest **fixing the conference in one hub city** (e.g., Frankfurt, Brussels).

- Accessibility issues for participants from peripheral regions (Portugal, Finland, NZ, US, etc.) were highlighted.
-

3. Travel & Emissions

- **Incentives vs. penalties:**
 - Incentives: reduced registration fees, travel grants, or allowances for those taking trains/buses.
 - Penalties: higher fees for air travelers — but many argue this is inequitable and discriminatory.
 - Group travel ideas: chartered buses/trains, organized routes from hubs, pre-meeting "travel together" initiatives.
 - Concerns about:
 - Train travel being too costly/time-consuming.
 - Burden falling disproportionately on young scientists and those in remote areas.
 - Suggestions: limit invited speakers who only "fly in and out" or adjust subsidies based on travel mode.
 - Some argue the effect of conference travel is negligible globally — responsibility lies with governments, not conference organizers.
-

4. Carbon Offsets & Transparency

- Carbon offset programs are highly divisive:
 - Some support including offset in registration fees.
 - Others call them scams or ineffective ("greenwashing").
 - Suggestions:
 - Show each participant's CO2 footprint at registration.
 - Offer local nature-based compensation schemes (e.g., Finland's "Give back to nature").
 - Encourage participants to combine conference trips with other professional/academic travel.
-

5. Food, Waste & Venue Sustainability

- Common proposals:
 - Vegetarian/vegan-only meals.
 - Local, seasonal, organic catering.
 - No single-use plastics (cups, bottles, cutlery).
 - No "goodies" or unnecessary conference swag.
 - Sustainable venues (green energy, eco-certifications).
-

6. Equity & Career Impact

- Many worry sustainability measures (fees, travel constraints, biennial format) **penalize young researchers**, low-income participants, and those outside central Europe.

- Concerns about discrimination if costs or accessibility vary by region.
 - Some suggest prioritizing sustainability-linked grants for students/postdocs.
 - Others warn restrictions could isolate US or overseas participants, weakening international collaboration.
-

7. Skepticism & Criticism

- Several participants see conference sustainability measures as **tokenistic or political** (boy-scout “badges” with no real global effect).
 - Some strongly reject the idea of factoring CO2 into conference planning (“not the role of Euromar,” “negligible impact compared to global emissions”).
 - A minority call for online-only conferences, but most reject that as harmful to science.
-

8. Creative Proposals

- Prizes/competitions for most sustainable travel.
 - Require sustainability commitments from invited speakers.
 - Develop an algorithm to choose the least-emission hub city.
 - Have sustainability officers/contacts to advise participants on travel.
 - Use conference to **educate participants about sustainability** beyond travel (food, energy, lifestyle).
-

Overall:

Participants broadly support sustainability efforts, but **strong tensions exist** between sustainability, equity, and scientific community needs. The majority want **annual, in-person, face-to-face meetings in central/well-connected cities**, with sustainability improvements focused on travel incentives, food/waste policies, and speaker practices. **Carbon offsets and punitive fees are widely contested.**