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IEA 2021 - Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about the Hybrid Option

IEA2021 will be a hybrid event, comprising both an in-person conference and a virtual conference

A message from Ian Noy, IEA2021 Congress Chair:

Some people have contacted us to clarify the impact of IEA's decision to change the 21st Triennial Congress to a hybrid event on their plans to submit papers/attend either the in-person conference in Vancouver or the virtual conference online. As a result, we have updated the earlier version of answers to frequently asked question and invite you to review and distribute the enclosed updated version. The information contained provides important information to IEA2021 participants as they contemplate their participation.

IEA Hybrid Congress Frequently Asked Questions

Why is IEA2021 going hybrid?

The IEA Congress will be a hybrid event (meaning there will be both an in-person conference and a virtual conference) because some people may not be able to travel due to the pandemic or its economic impact. Making the Congress more accessible helps the IEA achieve its underlying mission to elaborate and advance ergonomics science and practice, and to expand its scope of application and contribution to society by reaching a much larger audience.

Given COVID, why not go to fully virtual?

At this point, we are very confident that the in-person conference will take place as planned. It is impossible to fully replicate the richness, chance encounters and energizing atmosphere of an in-person conference. However, if circumstances dictate, we will be

ready to transition to a virtual format. The good news is that this has little impact on the work currently underway to develop the technical program.

Why is it not all virtual?

The virtual conference is for people who are certain that they will not be able to travel to Vancouver. If travel restrictions arise later, changing from in-person to virtual will be possible. No virtual event, however well-orchestrated and executed, can replace an in-person event. Many people feel that they get more value out of hallway interactions and chance meetings than the actual sessions. Delegates also cherish the opportunity to reacquaint with friends and colleagues and make new connections in a face-to-face event. Unless COVID restrictions mandate that we pivot to a completely virtual Congress, which we doubt, we are vigorously planning the greatest-ever in-person event in Vancouver.

Why attend the in-person event?

The in-person Congress is not merely about exchange of information and ideas - it's about relationships, establishing and renewing contact with friends and colleagues. It provides an unmatched opportunity to interact professionally, socially, and educationally with the largest gathering of the human factors and ergonomics community. We will take all necessary measures to provide a safe, productive and enriching experience.

Will delegates be able to register for both the in-person conference and the virtual conference?

Delegates who register for the in-person conference will automatically be registered for the virtual conference. No additional fees will be charged.

How will the virtual content differ from the in-person content?

The virtual conference will be more limited in terms of the extent of technical content, meaning it will have fewer sessions. The papers will undergo the same peer-review process and meet the same quality standards. In addition, the plenary sessions and keynote lectures will be live streamed. The virtual sessions will be recorded and available on demand for 30 days post Congress.

What time zones will be used?

The schedules for both the in-person conference and the virtual conference will refer to Pacific Standard Time (UTC-08:00). Delegates are urged to join the sessions when they are broadcasted live. However, delegates who are unable to join the virtual session when they are scheduled will be able to access the session on-demand and be able to interact with the authors and other delegates through dedicated LinkedIn Groups. [LinkedIn

groups will be established for each session and will remain active indefinitely.]

Where should I submit my proposal for the virtual content?

Proposals to present at the virtual conference are submitted using EasyChair in the same way as for the in-person meeting. However, don't forget to check the box for virtual conference if you are only able to present at the virtual conference.

If I submit to the in-person event will I be able to alter my choice?

Yes, it will be possible to change your preferred choice either way prior to the abstract submission deadline of September 25, 2020. After that, changes may not be possible.

Will virtual presentations be published in the Proceedings?

Yes, all papers submitted either to the in-person conference or the virtual conference will be published provided they are submitted in time and they conform to the publication requirements.

Will authors be required to register for the in-person Congress or the virtual conference to have the presentation included in the Proceedings?

Yes, in order to have the paper published in the Proceedings, authors will need to register by the early incentive deadline. If they fail to do that, the paper will not be published.

Will virtual conference delegates only have access to the in-person keynotes?

The virtual conference will have unique content and is a complement to the in-person conference. In addition to the live-streamed sessions such as the plenary sessions, the virtual conference will have up to 28 unique virtual sessions (i.e., that are not part of the in-person conference).

Will all sessions be available on demand for 30 days?

Only the sessions that are part of the virtual conference will be recorded and available on-demand. The concurrent sessions of the in-person conference will not be recorded.

As a virtual attendee, would I be able to ask questions or participate in discussions?

Yes, during the scheduled times the authors will be expected to be available to answer questions and address comments. In addition, it is planned that each virtual session will have an associated LinkedIn group to facilitate interaction and continue the dialogue and information sharing indefinitely.

Once registered as an in-person attendee, can I change my registration to the virtual? Or vice versa?

Yes, changes either way will be possible. We strongly recommend registering to the in-person conference, which will give you access to the virtual conference as well. The deadlines for changes have not yet been finalized. However, authors of accepted papers will need to select the destination conference (in-person or virtual) by the submission deadline of September 25, 2020.

If I am an author, have registered for the in-person Congress, and am unable due to Covid-19 restrictions to travel for the event, what happens?

We will include your communication in the virtual event. Authors will not be excluded for covid-19-related travel restrictions, although sessions may include a greater variety of topics than at the in-person Congress.

Important milestones

- Call for Lecture/ePoster presentations: 26 June 2020 - 25 September 2020
- Feedback to presentation authors: 4 December 2020
- Final papers or extended abstracts due by all authors: 5 February 2021

Call for Proposals

Visit www.iea2021.org for further information. The Call for Papers is open 26 June – 25 September 2020. Join the LinkedIn Group IEA2021 for regular updates. Share with colleagues! We look forward to learning from those working at the front lines of HFE in practice!

We look forward to your submissions!

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Share with colleagues!***



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