## A brainstorming session about the future of scientific meetings: what will EGU 2024 look like?

On Thursday 1 May, the Young Hydrologic Society (YHS) organised a <u>public-brainstorming session</u> at the EGU General Assembly to get attendees to think about how the meetings' scientific sessions should look like in 2024. Together with representatives from EGU and Copernicus, some 20 (mainly young) scientists evaluated the current formats of the oral, poster and PICO presentations and came up with some suggestions for improvement that could help bring the conference to the next level. The main conclusions were that oral sessions might benefit from more interaction and that PICOs could be more effective.

The mission statement of the EGU General Assembly is to provide a forum where scientists can present and discuss their research. The 2012 and 2013 EGU surveys found that the main points people would like to see improved are the sessions, orals, posters and PICO presentations. Although EGU and Copernicus have efficient mechanisms to improve the meeting year on year, YHS proposed a brainstorming session to involve young scientists in this process and provide extra input from the bottom up. Given today's mindset and technology, aren't there ways to achieve EGU's goal more effectively? By collecting ideas, suggestions and comments, and combining them into a shared effort, the goal of this session was to use the attendees' input to provide new ideas that can potentially improve the General Assembly. Here we present selected comments and ideas regarding the oral and PICO presentations. Many more suggestions and comments were collected during the brainstorming session, which will be made available soon on the YHS website (youngHS.com).

Judging from the results of the EGU surveys, scientists would like to see the setup of oral sessions improved. One of the main suggestions is to increase the degree of interaction, by either including today's technology or changing the setup. It was suggested to install a live Twitter feed, where people from the audience can post their comments or questions based on the presentation. Conveners would then select a few of these queries to ask the presenter. An easy-to-implement change of setup is to decrease the number of presentations in an oral slot from 6 to 5. The last 15 minutes can then be used to have a (hopefully converging) wrap-up discussion, with the presenters making up an expert panel. An oral block can be used to genuinely discuss a specific topic in detail and close it with a general statement about the discipline's current state of the art, identifying the challenges for the future.

PICO presentations are generally well received. The concept combines the best of both (oral and poster) worlds into an intense, highinteraction session. At our brainstorming meeting, participants made several suggestions to increase the effectiveness of PICOs, including the relocation of PICO screens for sessions organised by larger programme groups. The Hydrological Sciences Division,



Things participants would like to see improved, according to the EGU 2013 Survey.



Impression of the brainstorming session. (Credit: Tim van Emmerik)

for example, has all oral and poster sessions concentrated on one floor. It would be more attractive to have a location available there for PICOs too, so more scientists could attend a PICO session. Also, PICOs are relatively new and it was suggested that it would be beneficial to collect good PICO presentations together in a 'best practice' guide. By selecting innovative or well-attended PICOs, the EGU could show future presenters what is possible with this presentation format, and how the 2-minute pitching and follow-up discussion could be improved. This could be supported by introducing an Outstanding PICO Award.

The new generation of scientists believes that there is great potential to make the scientific sessions of the EGU General Assembly even more interesting and effective. To achieve this, future meetings should consider more interaction during oral sessions and increase the effectiveness of PICO presentations. In addition, the attendees of the brainstorming session unanimously agreed that it would be useful to organise similar discussion events in the future. We hope that our effort will contribute to new ideas for the EGU meeting and we look forward to hearing your visions next year!

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