

Policy session: Is there a future for hybrid EAERE conferences?

Dinosaurs turned digital

- EAERE's first online conferences

Claudia Kemfert

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Dinosaurs Turned Digital — EAERE's First Online Annual Conferences

Georg Meran¹, Klaus Eisenack², Jens Weibezahn³, Markus Siehlow¹, Achim Hagen², Christian von Hirschhausen¹, Elisa Krammer⁴, Lukas Barner¹, Christina Arndt⁵

¹ Technische Universität Berlin, ²Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, ³Copenhagen Business School, ⁴German Industry Initiative for Energy Efficiency, ⁵formerly Technische Universität Berlin

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EAERE 2020

- **2018:** Decision to hold annual conference in Berlin : Museum of Natural history ((Dinosaurs))
- First COVID warnings **2019**
- **2020:** due to pandemic EAERE annual conference had to be completely online: start of experiences with online tools (like Zoom etc)



EAERE 2020

- **Cancellation of contracts** with exhibitors ; financial losses took over by EAERE rainday funds
- Full online: **10 days** sequence of **parallel sessions**
- congress' opening, plenary session and awards ceremony took place on a **single, central conference day**.
- **Interaction platform** “Spatial chat”



EAERE 2020 Feedback

- **lack of interaction** / networking
- **no social events**
- **limited focus** (tiresome for eyes
- sources of distraction)
- **low engagement** / interaction
- **no visual feedback** from attendees
- as off)
- **no informal feedback** and discussion
- sessions
- **decentral organization**



Dinosaurs turned digital- EAERE's first full online conferences 2020

EAERE 2021

- **More inclusive**
- **More networking options**
Foyer „environment“ (max 8 participants)
- exhibitors' rooms
- **presenters on stage,**
- **attendees on seats** and were able to ask questions by using an **integrated Q&A tool**

EAERE 2021 - Conference day

Familiarizing with the platform 9.00-10.00	
Parallel sessions 10.00-12.00	Virtual foyer 10.00-12.00
Virtual coffee break 12.00-12.30	
Parallel sessions 12.30-14.30	Virtual foyer 12.30-14.30
Sessions with exhibitors	Virtual lunch 14.30-15.30
Keynote lecture 15.30-17.00	

EAERE MAIN FLOOR (DEMO)
EAERE Virtual Conference 2021

remu

Résumé

- **Labor intensive**
- **Ok** for those who **know each other**
- More exhausting “**Zoom fatigue**”
(non verbal overload)
- **problematic for young talents** who are new to the scene
- **Online stores** rather **flop**
- important: respect **netiquette**
- **Multi- tasking**: Participants remain in their working environment



Conclusion

- Dealing with the congress portals **must be easy** (platforms must be interlinked)
- **Log in** procedures must **be simple**
- **“Plan B”** if technical difficulties /break down
- **Informal meeting options** desired: plenary sessions + **social events** in **online format** (offering prizes)



Thanks for your attention.



**DIW Berlin — German Institute
for Economic Research**

Mohrenstraße 58, 10117 Berlin

www.diw.de Twitter: [@DIW_Berlin_en](https://twitter.com/DIW_Berlin_en)

Editing team

Claudia Kemfert, Franziska Holz, Wolf-Peter Schill
Department Energy, Transportation, Environment