

Integrating less represented countries into the mainstream of European geosciences

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Hello, I am Melinda Dósa from Budapest.

I'll show you, that Eastern Europeans are reluctant to participate in conferences, and ... this makes things even more difficult...



Geographic imbalance in Earth and Planetary sciences within Europe



East vs. West – historical division
(see Matenco, EGU 2019-12478)

Conference participation statistics are presented:

- IUGG (International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics)
- EGU2019 – atmospheric sciences session
- EPSC (European Planetary Science Congress)
- ESPM (European Solar Physics Meeting)

A map of Europe where countries are colored in two colors: blue and red. The blue-colored countries include the United Kingdom, Ireland, France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece, and Turkey. The red-colored countries include Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, Hungary, Switzerland, and the Nordic countries (Denmark, Sweden, Finland).

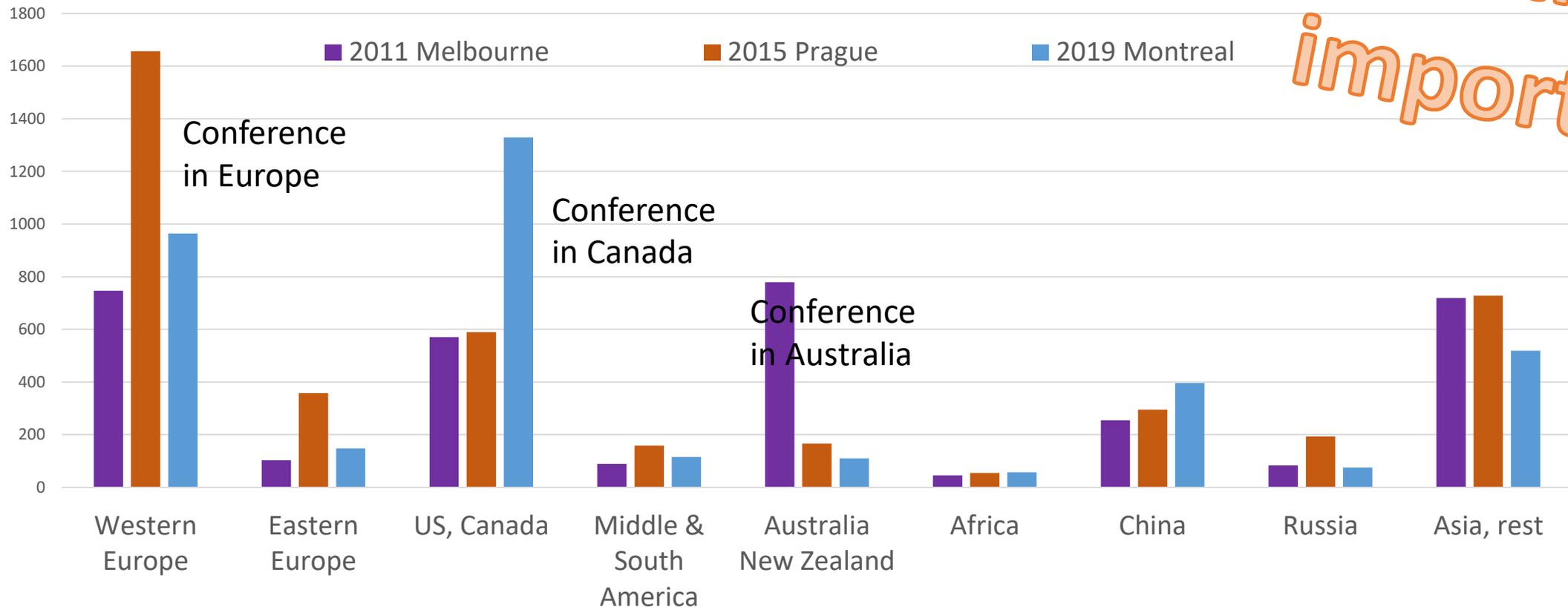
I have analysed data of the following 4 conferences.
IUGG – „sister” of EGU, held every 4 years
EGU AS: atmospheric sciences – Only AS, because I did not receive a summary of abstracts from the organisers, and to get the data from the website is reeaaaaly cumbersome.
I picked AS, because there is an atmosphere everywhere, all regions can potentially carry out research of the atmosphere. I suppose there is less bias here.

Global participation rates IUGG 2011, 2015 & 2019

Participation from the different regions at the last 3 IUGG meetings. The 3 meetings were held on different continents. Each time the „local scientists” have the highest participation rates.



Nr of participants from different regions



Location is important!

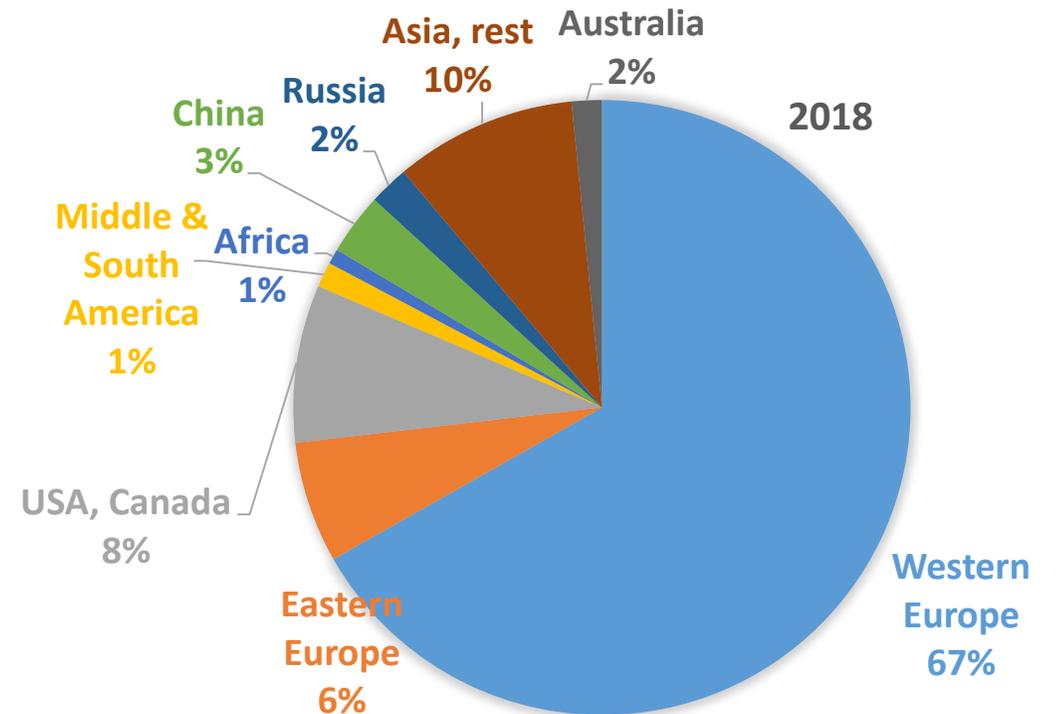
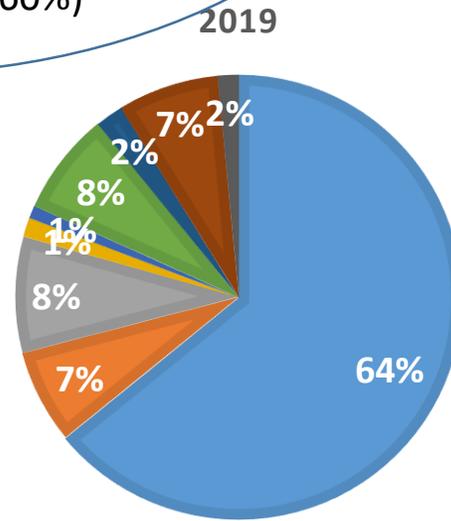
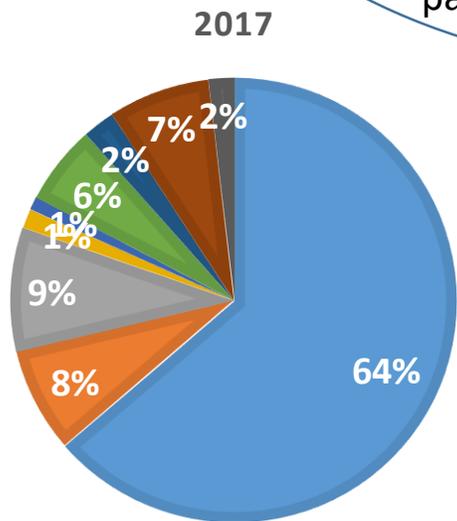
Eastern vs. Western European participation rates: EGU



EGU participation of the last 3 years shows a similar trend:

- vast majority (above 70%) from Europe
- The division between Eastern and Western Europe is 6-8 % versus 64-67%
- If normalised to the number of authors in these regions, the number of Western participants should be 4 times the number of Eastern European participants. (e.g. 15% - 60%)

If normalised to the number of authors per country, ideally:
 Western participants ~ 4* Eastern Participants
 (see Matenco et al, 2019.)



EGU over the last years: **6-8 % vs 64-67%**

Eastern vs. Western European participation rates: EPSC

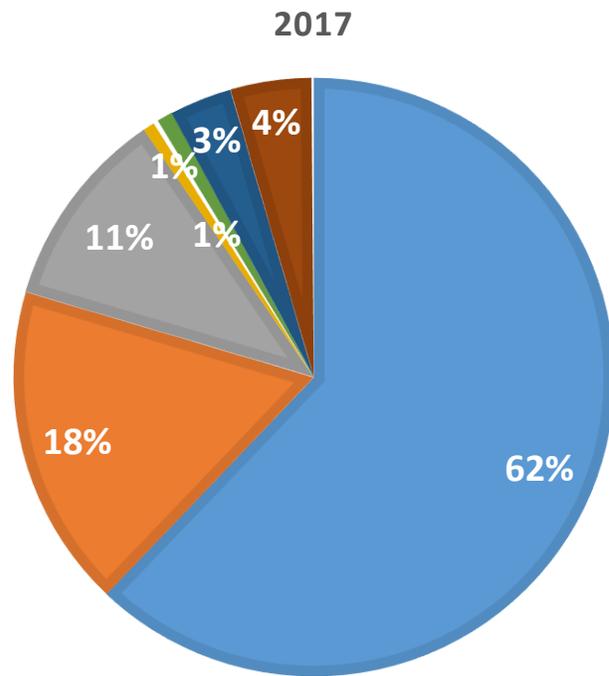
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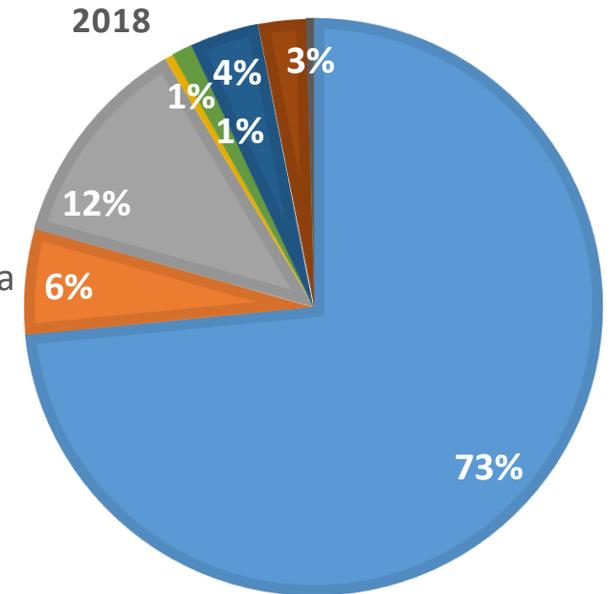
The planetary science congress held in Eastern Europe attracted a large number of Eastern Europeans!

This will be our first success story to analyse in detail.

SUCCESS STORY Nr1



EPSC Riga (Eastern Europe)
18% (!)

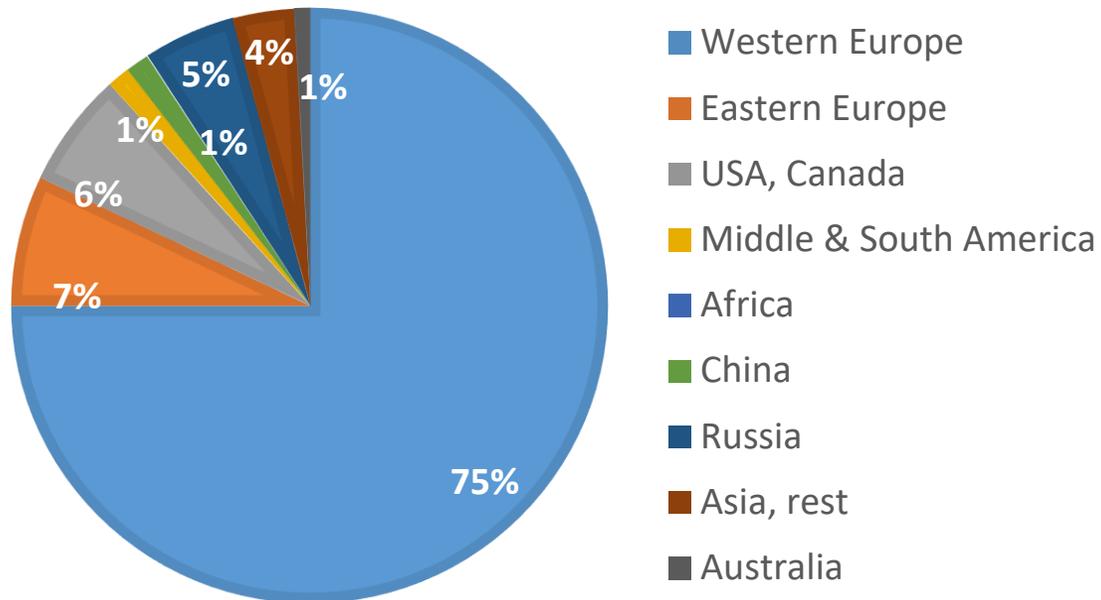


EPSC Berlin
6%

Eastern vs. Western European participation rates: **ESPM**

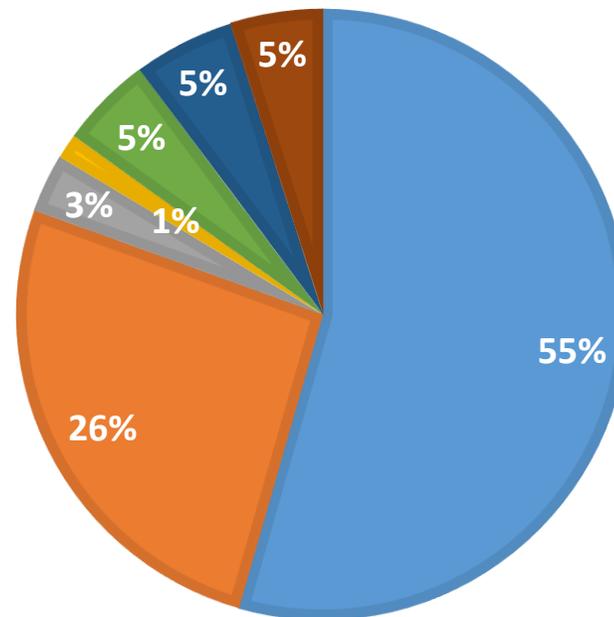
If normalised to the number of authors per country, ideally:
Western participants ~ 4* Eastern Participants
(see Matenco et al, 2019.)

ESPM 14TH, DUBLIN



ESPM Dublin
7 vs 75 %

ESPM 15TH, BUDAPEST



ESPM Budapest
26 (!) vs 55%

SUCCESS STORY Nr2

Another meeting (in solar physics) held in Eastern Europe and attracting MUCH more Eastern Europeans...



Are they really success stories???

Is „Participation” the most important factor?

Let's have a closer look on what „participation” can mean..

- e.g.1. IUGG 2015 Prague
- e.g.2. EGU 2019 Vienna (Session AS)
- e.g.3. EPSC 2017 Riga
- e.g.5. ESPM, Budapest

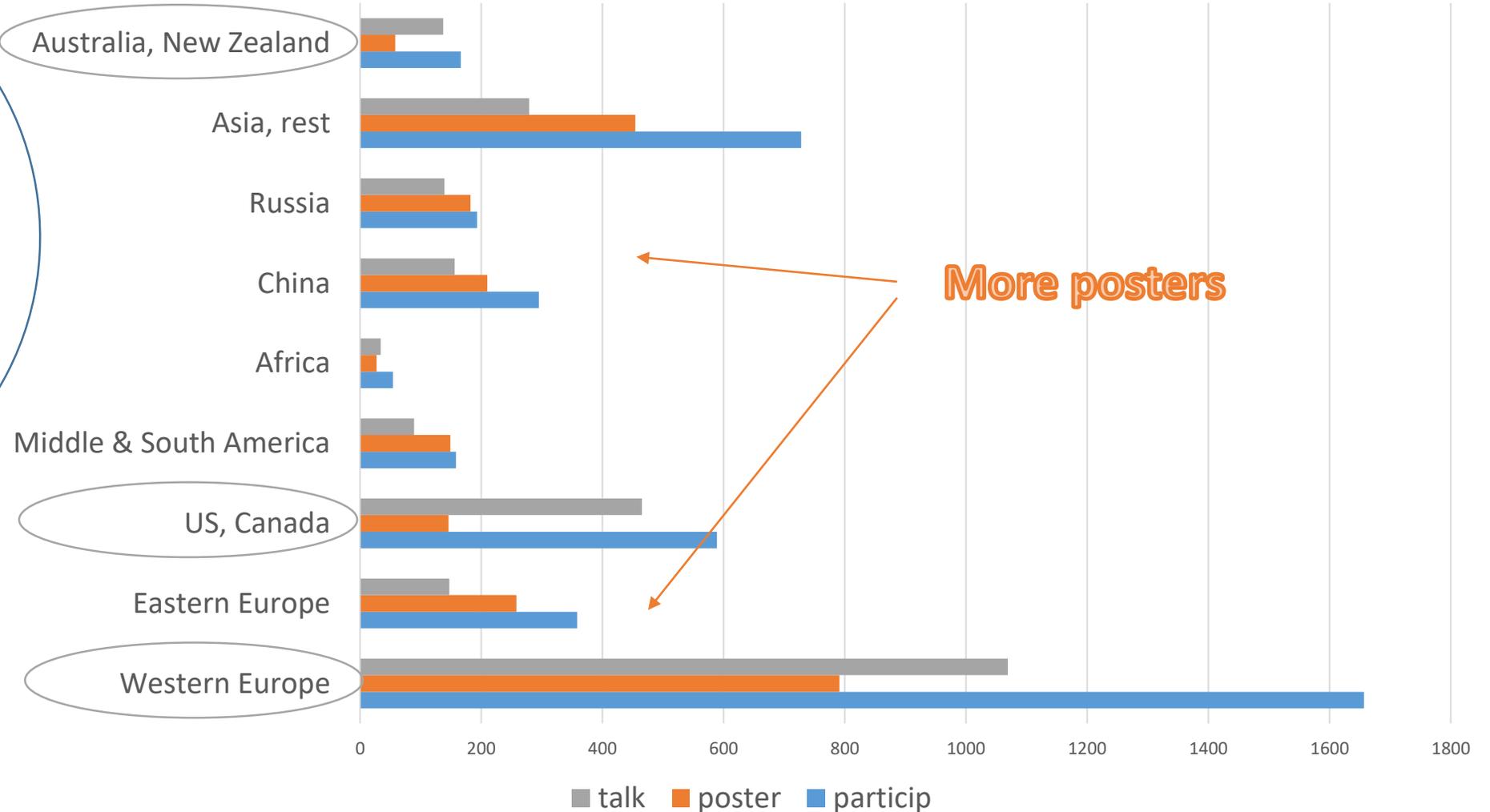


Participation: Talk vs Poster

IUGG 2015 Prague
(4790 abstracts, 39% WEU, 9% EEU)

More talks

IUGG 2015, Prague



More posters

English speaking regions + Western Europe tend to have (much) more talks.

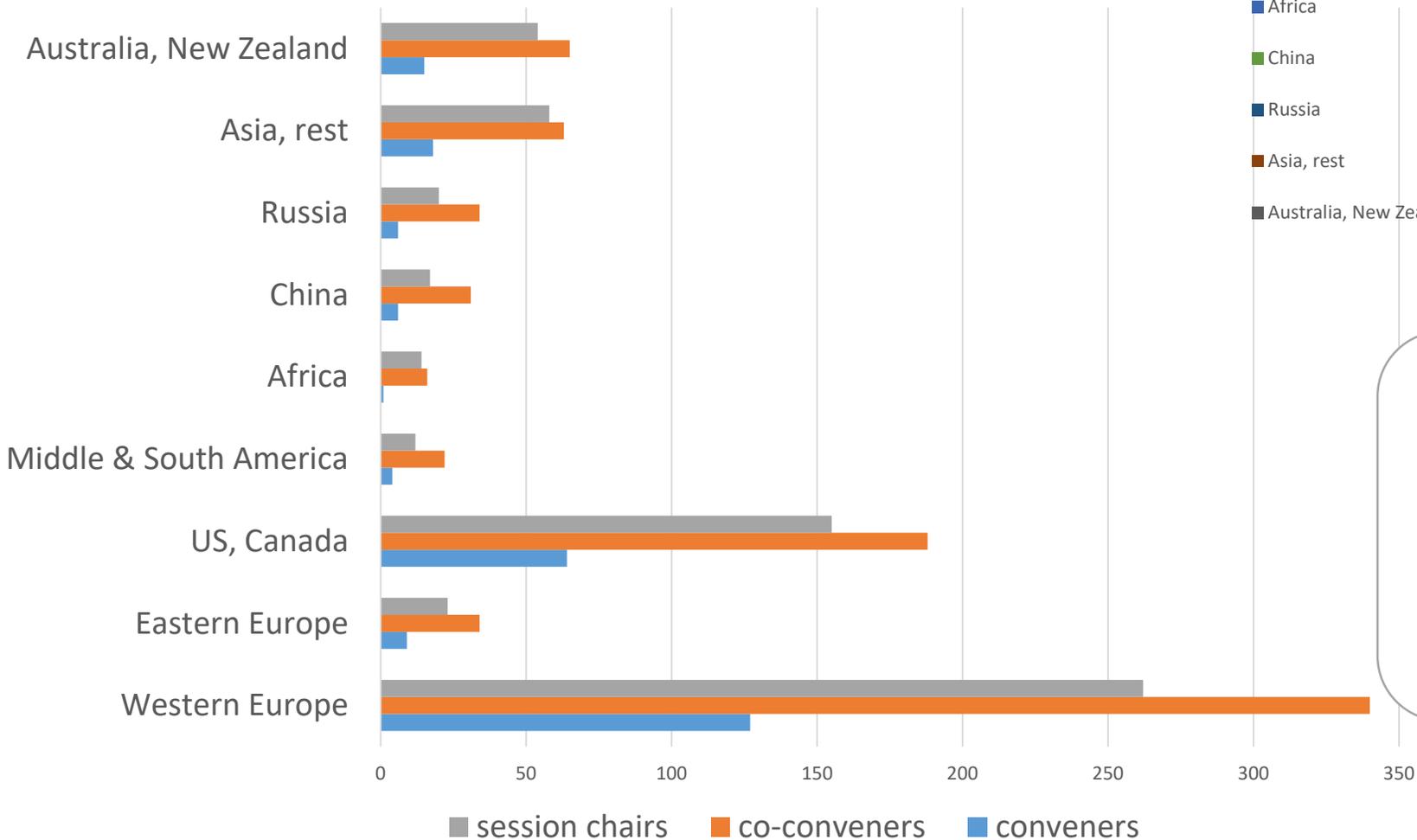
Eastern Europe belongs to the poster-regions.



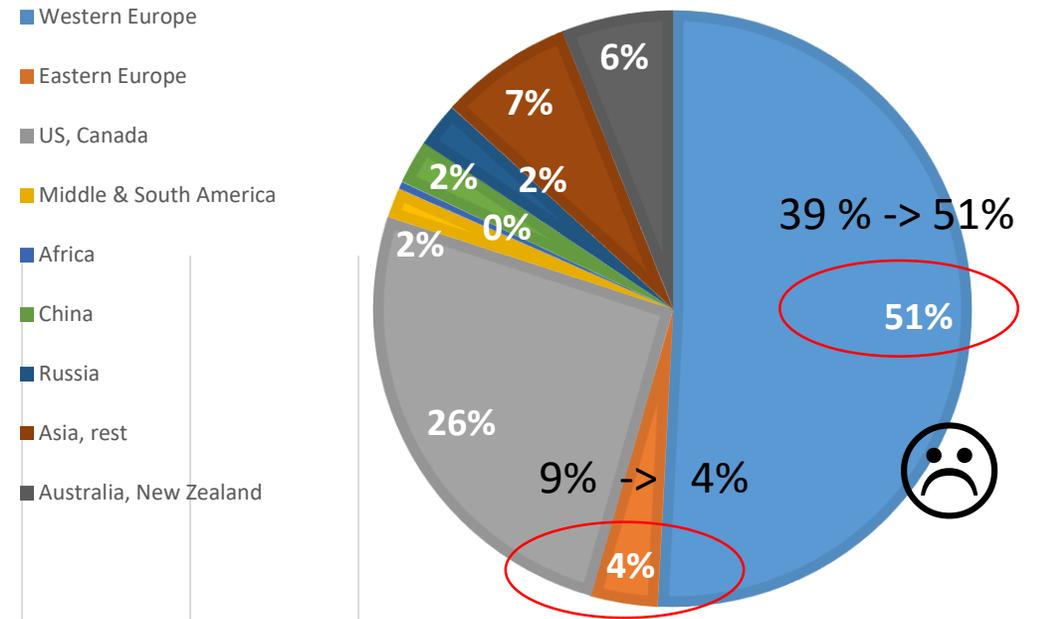
Participation: Conveners, Chairs

IUGG 2015 Prague

(4790 abstracts, 39% WEU, 9% EEU)



CONVENERS



Most conveners and session chairs are from North America or Western Europe. **Much more, than the participation rates would suggest...**
 WEU particip.: 39%, WEU conv. 51%
 EEU particip.: 9%, EEU conv. 4%



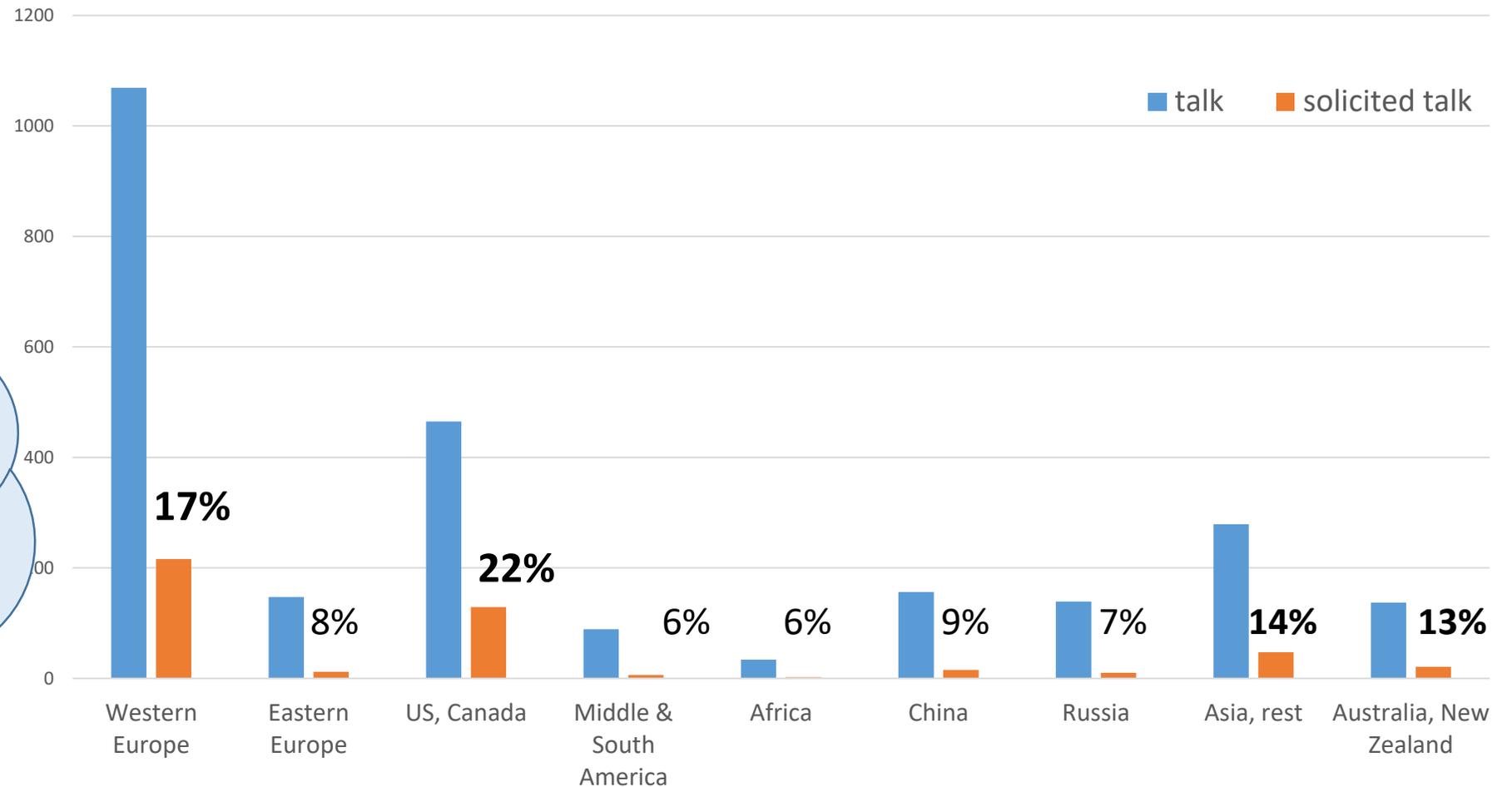
Participation: Talks & solicited talks



Western Europe and North America:

Much higher percentage of talks are solicited / keynote talks

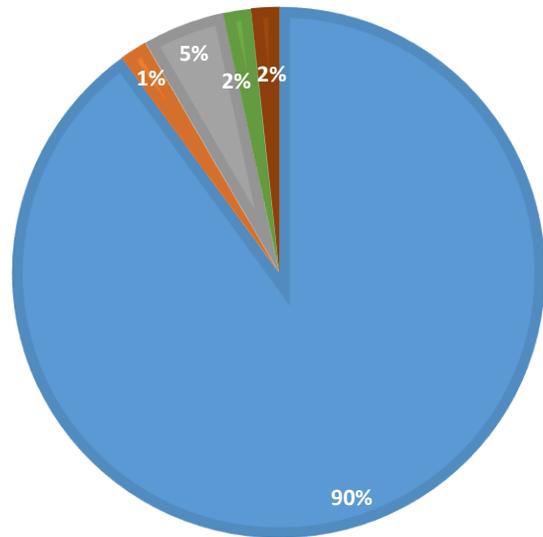
IUGG 2015 Prague



Participation: Talk vs Poster, Conveners

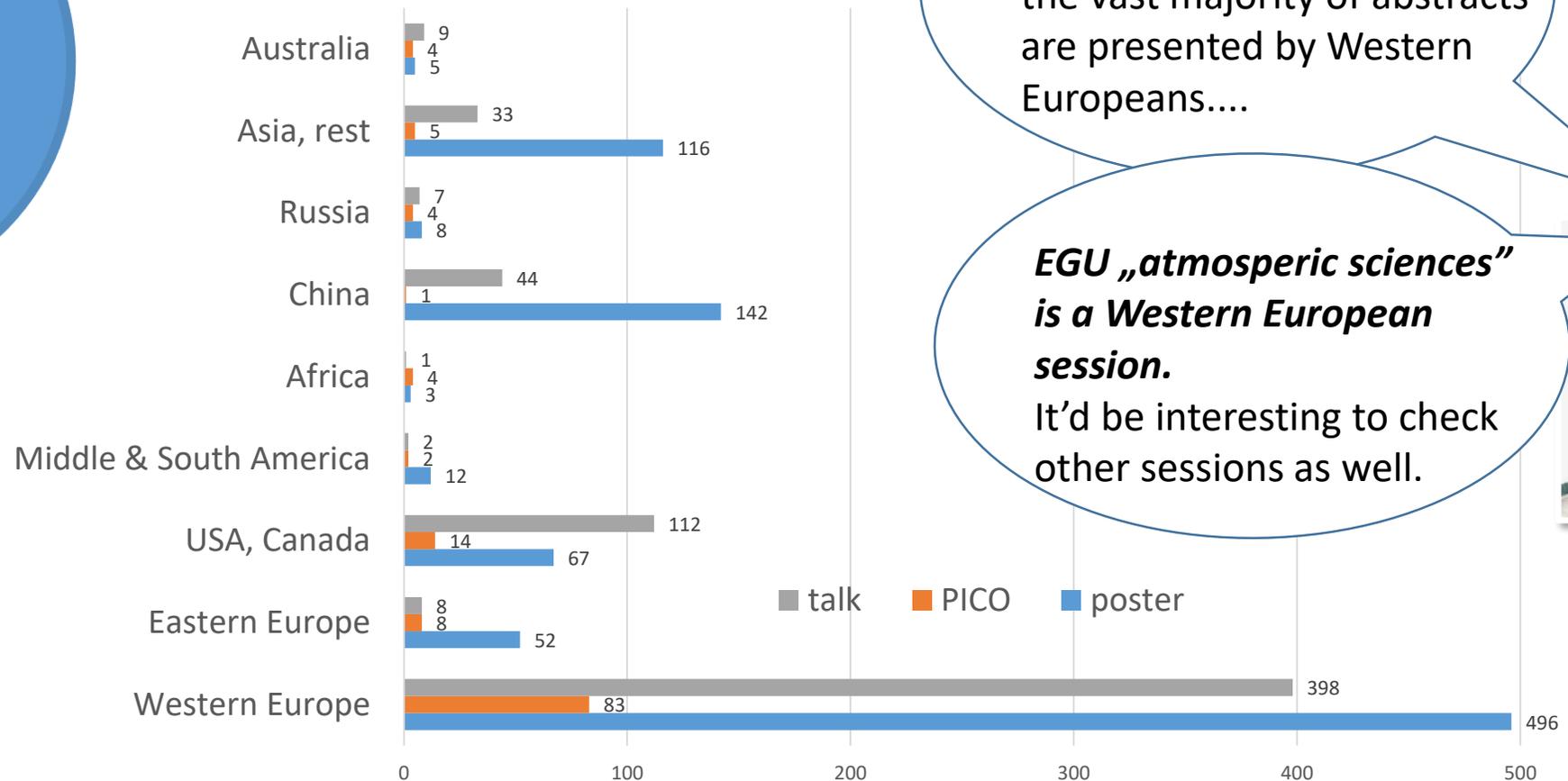
EGU 2019 session:
atmospheric sciences
(1650 abstracts, 60% WEU, 4% EEU)

CONVENERS



- Western Europe
- Eastern Europe
- USA, Canada
- Middle & South America
- Africa
- China
- Russia
- Asia, rest
- Australia

EGU 2019



- 90% of the conveners come from Western Europe
- the vast majority of abstracts are presented by Western Europeans....

EGU „atmospheric sciences” is a Western European session.
It'd be interesting to check other sessions as well.



And what's the situation with our success stories?

- e.g.3. EPSC 2017 Riga
- e.g.5. ESPM, Budapest

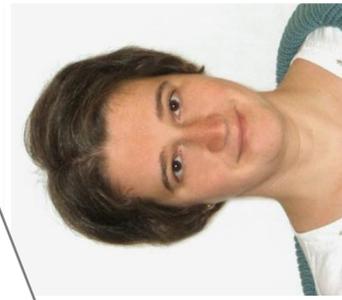


Participation: Talk vs Poster, Conveners

EPSC 2017 Riga

(926 abstracts, 62% WEU, 18% EEU)

	Western Europe	Eastern Europe	Non-Europe
Total number of abstracts	643	63 ~7% of all abstracts	220
Oral presentations	392	27 ~5% of all orals	130
Keynote talks	22	0	15 (all from US)



Eastern European participants at Riga made up 18% of all participants. 

BUT only 7% of the abstracts were presented by Eastern Europeans, and only 5% of talks were made by EEU scientists. 

Participation: Talk vs Poster, Conveners

ESPM 2015 Budapest
(255 abstracts, 56% WEU, 25% EEU)

	Western Europe (Participants: 56%)	Eastern Europe (Participants: 25%)	Non-Europe
Total number of abstracts (Oral + poster)	149	57 ~22% of all abstracts 	49 (Why so low??)
Oral presentations	49	10 ~14% of all orals	11
Keynote talks	17	1 (4.5% of all keynotes, no local) 	4

Active participation of Eastern Europeans is much better:
57 abstracts: **22% of total**

14% of talks and 4.5% of keynotes is a very low number at such a high participation rate.



Conclusions

- Location predefines global participation rates
- Eastern Europe is underrepresented in European conferences
 - participation rate is ~6-8% , it should be ~15%
- Organising meetings in Eastern Europe boosts local participation
- **Active participation** (conveners, talks, keynote) of Eastern Europeans is still to be supported.
- Invite at least 1 local keynote speaker, encourage locals to show their expertise.



VIRTUAL CONFERENCES are a new possibility for Eastern Europe or anybody who is unable to travel.

Let's create a new genre, see the positive sides and go online 😊