8th International IVIRMA Congress

Reproductive Medicine and Beyond

Sustainability Report

IVIRMA Global

Introduction

In April 2019 the **eighth edition of the International IVIRMA Congress took place in Palma de Mallorca** with a clear commitment to sustainability. The social and environmental commitments of the event were crucial elements in its definition and implementation. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the UN, a global initiative that aims to put an end to poverty, protect the planet and guarantee that everyone enjoys peace and prosperity, had a presence throughout the course of the event, positioning IVIRMA as **the first world health congress with a clear commitment to the SDG.**

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Evaluation and results

To establish the different actions carried out at the Congress, a Sustainability Plan was designed involving the different stakeholders and using as a reference the strategy carried out at the **8th International IVIRMA Congress** held in Bilbao in 2017 where, for the first time, a commitment was made to Sustainability as a strategic area of the event. In order to evaluate the degree of compliance of the actions outlined in the **2019 Sustainability Plan** and its efficiency in order to achieve the set goals, we present the measures implemented across the 4 working areas **–circular economy, climate change, people, natural resources and local production–**, accompanied by an evaluation of their implementation.

The Congress in figures

Recovery of
2.300 kg
of organic waste and
800 kg
of waste in glass packaging

1.674
Attendees from more than 70 countries

Carbon footprint produced:
48,1 toneladas
of CO_2.
Offsetting of
100%
of emissions produced.

17 stands
Aware and committed

300 m²
of Posidonia sponsored

100%
Renewable energy in the Palma Convention Centre

3.000€
Allocated to the Rafa Nadal Foundation

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Circular Economy
0 Waste Philosophy

The goals were set around consumption and the use of materials and their correct separation in order to facilitate recycling focused on minimizing the consumption of materials and incorporating criteria for recovery, reuse and recycling in their selection in order to mitigate the impact over their lifecycle.

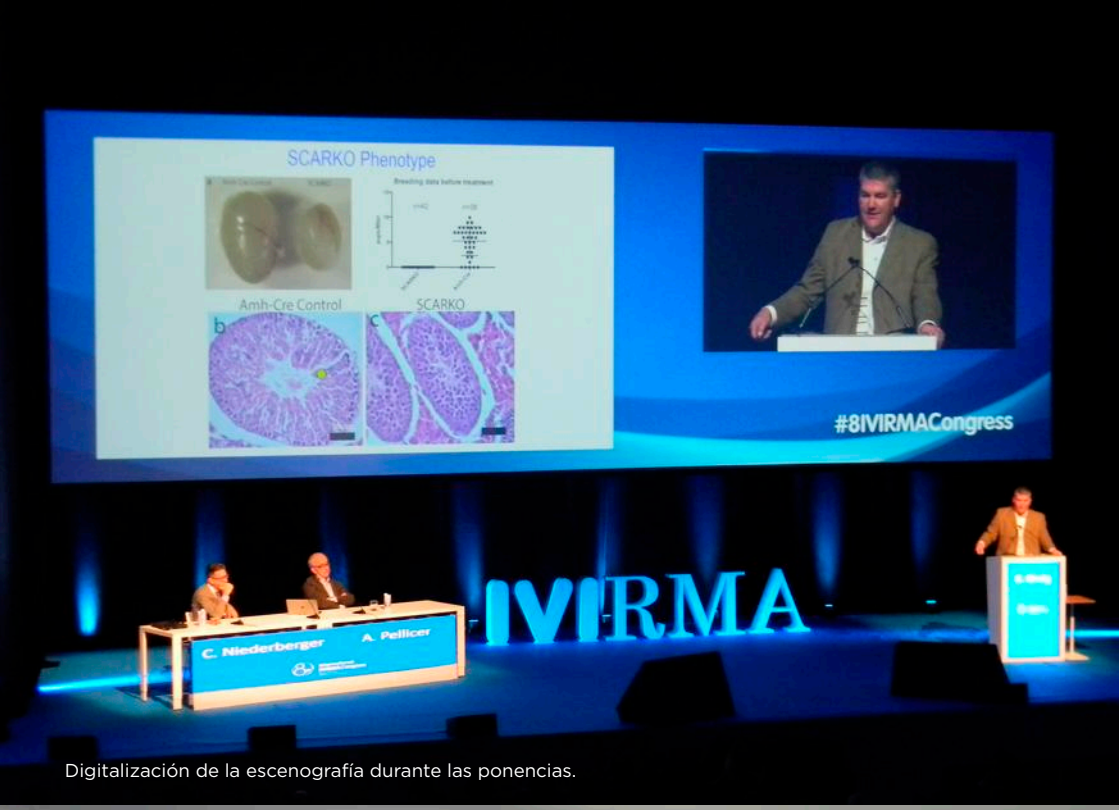
The actions implemented in order to achieve this goal were:

- Developing a mobile app to inform those attending, and avoid handing out programs and other printed information. Also, screens were installed for the consultation of scientific posters. Thus, it managed to be a paper-free congress.
- Simplification of staging in conference and plenary rooms, which in many cases was replaced with lighting effects.
- Involve the participating stands in the optimization and reuse of materials, providing recommendations and recognizing the stand that best put them into practice.
- Ensure the separation of waste in order to facilitate its correct management and recycling, by reinforcing the provision of trash cans in the Palma Convention Centre and ensuring their correct identification and management.

During the **8th International IVIRMA Congress 2,300 kg of organic waste and 800 kg of glass packaging waste** were recovered.

There was a notable commitment to the prevention of waste, with the replacement of single-use plastic elements with elements made from compostable material. The cups at the water fountains were an example of this. The brands participating in the stands are one of the key agents at the Congress. Therefore, their efforts made on environmental and social matters were showcased, recognizing the stand that best integrated the sustainability recommendations. It is noteworthy that there are already companies that convey their commitments to sustainability in their stands and that are an example of this commitment. This is the case with the company that received the award, **Merck,** which in addition to communicating its commitments to sustainability at its stand, made an effort to optimize and recover the materials it was built from, and used stone paper for the leaflets that were handed out. This material consumes fewer resources than conventional paper and is also recycled.

Dr. Juan Antonio García Velasco, scientific director of the congress, presenting Merck with the award for the most sustainable stand.



Digitalización de la escenografía durante las ponencias.

Stand de IVIRMA.

Climate change
Reduction of Greenhouse Gaseso

The two goals were set around the management of energy, mobility and climate change were to reduce the emissions of Greenhouse Gases through efficient use of energy and the harnessing of renewable sources and compensating the emissions produced by staff travel.

The actions carried out in this area were:

- Ensuring the supply of **100% renewable** energy, both in Palma Convention Centre, and Hotel Palma Bay, where the staff were accommodated. This measure prevented the emission of **12.8 tons** of CO_2.
- Having efficient use of energy in the activities and spaces used at the **8th International IVIRMA Congress,** preventing the waste of resources, even though they are renewable.
- Offset the equivalent of **33 tons** of CO_2 from the plane journeys of IVI staff.

The data relating to the carbon footprint produced during the **8th International IVIRMA Congress** within the agreed scope were:

Carbon footprint for plane journeys and other means of transport of IVI staff	32,9 Tons of CO_2 eq
Accommodation of IVI staff	15,2 Tons of CO_2 eq*
TOTAL CO_2 produced	**48,1 Tons of CO_2 eq.**
Total Emissions Offset by IVIRMA	32,9 Tons of CO_2 eq.
Total Emissions Offset by Meliá Palma Bay*	15,2 Tons of CO2 eq*
TOTAL Emissions offset	**48,1 Tons of CO_2 eq.**

*In the case of emissions for the accommodation of staff, given that the Hotel Meliá Palma Bay has its own program for offsetting emissions, they are not included among those compensated by IVIRMA with the celebration of its congress.

With regard to the 2017 edition **(Equivalent of 19 tons of CO_2)** the figure has increased considerably. The main reasons are:

- An increase in the number of staff members of IVIRMA, **from 130 to 175.**
- The location of the city Palma meant that all journeys were made by plane, **which along with the larger number of journeys required,** increased the emissions resulting from transport.

Through the **SAVE POSIDONIA** initiative from the Department of the Environment of Formentera, the GHG emissions produced were offset through a program of sponsoring meadows of *Posidonia oceanica.* In total, **300 m² of posidonia** were sponsored and the sponsored area has been named after the most sustainable stand: **Merck Posidonia.**

Through the SAVE POSIDONIA initiative by the Department of the Environment of Formentera the GHG emissions produced were compensated through a program of sponsoring meadows of *Posidonia oceanica*.

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People
Equality and Inclusivity

Two goals were established for Equality and Inclusivity, on one hand, incorporating social and sustainability criteria when it came to selecting products and services needed to hold the Congress, and on the other hand, being a congress without physical barriers and with full accessibility to all spaces where it took place.

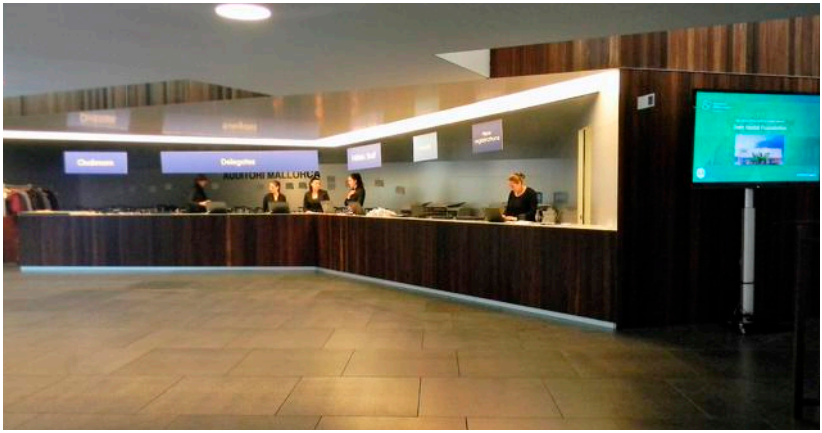
The actions implemented in order to achieve the goals were:

- Incorporating inclusion initiatives for groups at risk of exclusion through the ADECCO foundation.
- Verifying the absence of physical accessibility barriers in spaces at the **8th International IVIRMA Congress.**
- Providing visibility for social initiatives, facilitating the presence of **Médecins Sans Frontieres** with a stand.

One of the social actions carried out was the **donation of €3,000** to a social project as a legacy. This project was chosen by the attendees through a live vote, among a selection of 3 projects proposed by the Employees of IVI Mallorca and the society of the Balearic Islands. The winner was the project presented by the **Rafa Nadal Foundation,** a social integration center for more than 200 minors at risk of social exclusion in Palma de Mallorca.

In the event location, water fountains were installed for attendees, for which the social **project company 3Glops** was contracted, a local initiative where the employees are people with disabilities and they participate in the entire production process, from the design to sale.

Social project of the Rafa Nadal Foundation, winner of the interactive vote.



Collaboration with the Adecco Foundation for the inclusion of women at risk of exclusion in the cloakroom area.

Natural resources and local production

With regard to the consumption of resources, food and drink, the sustainability goals were aimed at prioritizing the consumption of local or seasonal products and informing attendees about the benefits that using these products entails, preventing the waste of food products and launching measures for saving water.

The actions carried out in this regard were:

- **Avoiding individual and disposable plastic packaging** when serving food and drinks, which facilitates their recovery as organic matter.
- **Having measures for the efficient use of water** in the facilities where the congress is held and verifying its correct functioning.
- **Including local dishes, products and foods on menus** in order to encourage the consumption of Kilometer 0 foods which are more environmentally and socially sustainable.

In terms achieving the goals and sustainability criteria in this area, the role of the company in charge of the catering services was essential, it has experience implementing actions linked to sustainability, such as:

- **Having suppliers of products close** to the place where the event took place.
- **Carrying out effective separation of waste** and correctly leaving it in its clean point in order to be collected and treated by an authorized waste manager.
- **Minimizing the carbon footprint** resulting from actions with efficient use of energy, mainly in kitchens.
- **Responsible use of products** in order to avoid food waste.

150 m³ of water was consumed at the Palma Convention Centre during the celebration of the **8th International IVIRMA Congress.** Due to the existence of saving mechanisms and raising awareness among the attendees, there was not a high consumption of water, nor was it higher than the standard level at the Palma Convention Centre, at a congress of this significance and duration.

In addition to using reusable packaging, for the items that had to be disposable, **materials were selected that facilitated recycling,** mainly paper and cardboard, or wood, in the case of other utensils. Thus, the event complied with **Law 8/19 of the Balearic Islands,** which is pioneering in preventing the consumption of disposable plastic items, despite not being obligatory.

Environmentally-friendly utensils used during lunch and breakfast catering.

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IVIRMA SUSTAINABLE CONGRESS
COMMITMENT TO THE PLANET