

The Aarhus Green Team: Researchers are travelling green for ESTRO 2023



Prof. Kari Tanderup (left) and PhD student Nadine Vatterodt led the initiative to promote green travelling as a group.

Inspired by conversations within ESTRO and between colleagues, a group of twelve researchers from Aarhus decided to travel green for this year's ESTRO conference in Vienna.

A big part of radiotherapy professionals' lives is international collaboration, meetings, seminars and conferences. We have learned from the pandemic period that we can host effective meetings online, but just as important is to gather for scientific conferences, share our ideas, network and be inspired.

The annual ESTRO conference gathers European radiotherapy professionals, this year in Vienna, 12-16 May. The live presentations and discussions are an essential part of radiotherapy research and treatment developments. So how to reduce your carbon footprint when travelling across Europe? One way is to skip the flight and get on the night train.

'Caring for the planet while strengthening the team by travelling together is a "win-win" situation which carries both personal and professional motivation and value,' explains professor at DCPT, Kari Tanderup.

In close collaboration with PhD student Nadine Vatterodt, they launched the initiative aiming to inspire and engage everyone in green initiatives, but at the same time wanting to increase the team spirit among colleagues.

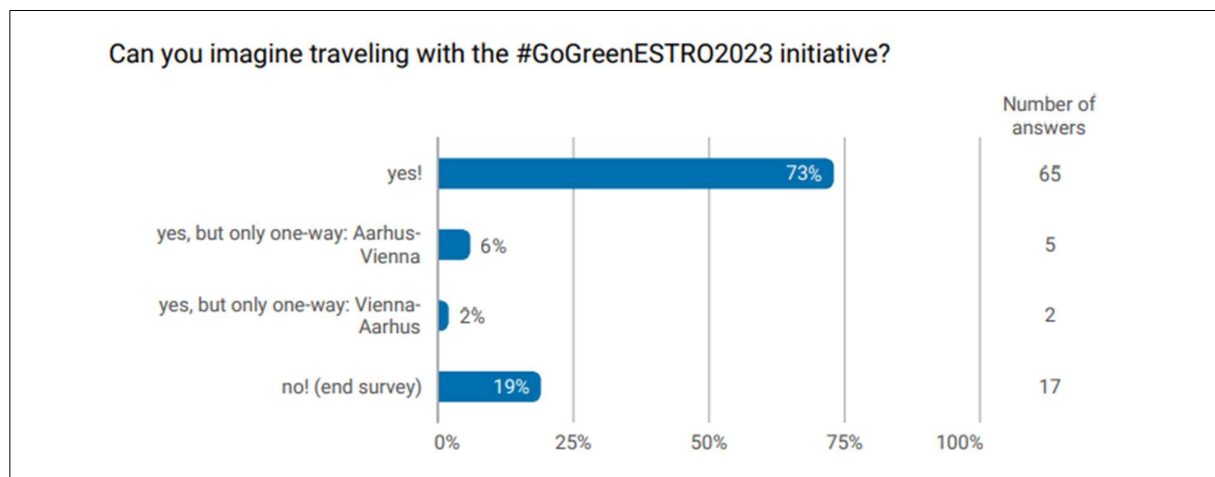
‘I want to encourage people to consider green transportation whenever possible, because it is one of the practices I find to be the simplest to implement for a more conscious lifestyle. Inspiring and motivating each other to make a positive impact on the planet is much more fun than acting independently,’ says Nadine Vatterodt.

There are also PhD students on their research stays abroad travelling by train to Vienna from Amsterdam and even all the way from Stockholm.

Not for everyone – yet

The group would, of course, have liked all of their colleagues to travel green. Some of the obstacles the organisers faced were evident and understandable; travel prices and schedules of course matter in a sometimes hectic professional and personal life.

Clinicians might find it specifically challenging to take out extra travel time from the clinic. Also, availability of train tickets was a challenge even when booking more than two months in advance, and joint bookings required joint payments.



The first step was to launch a survey locally in Aarhus to evaluate the interest. Many respondents showed an interest in joining the green travel options, highlighting the future potential.

Hopefully, the green travel options will develop more in the coming years.

‘I hope that train transportation in Europe will develop so that more travel options become available at a price competitive to flights. Also, it is so important that our

managers and organisations prioritise green travelling, even if this option is more time consuming,' says Kari Tanderup.

Green travel inspiration for the radiotherapy community

- Follow the travel experiences of the Aarhus group via social media and the hashtags #GoGreenESTRO23 and #TheAarhusGreenTeam
- For more green tips for the upcoming ESTRO conference, visit [the ESTRO website](#)
- Join the conversation at [LinkedIn](#)