



Report

14th World Conference of the
International Society for Gerontechnology (ISG 2024)

Sustainability and Crises – Challenges and Innovation for Gerontechnology

02.09.2024 - 04.09.2024

Frankfurt am Main

www.ISG2024.com

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I. Preparation for the ISG 2024

The 14th ISG World Congress was organised under the direction of Prof. Dr. Barbara Klein at the Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences ([Frankfurt UAS](#)) with the research center [FUTURE AGING](#), the International Society for Gerontechnology (ISG), the Austrian-German-Swiss Chapter of the ISG and other cooperation partners and took place from 2nd to 4th September 2024.

The theme of the congress was 'Sustainability and Crises - Challenges and Innovation for Gerontechnology' to shed more light on the impact of global transformations and multiple crises on the provision of assistive and gerontechnological products for ageing people and the sustainable design of these technologies and the environment.

Timeline

June 2022: Bid submission for ISG 2024

July 2022: Confirmation of hosting and organisation of the 14th ISG World Conference

October 2022: Presentation of the 14th ISG World Conference during the Closing Ceremony of the ISG 2022 and first Website presence

August 2023: Presentation of ISG 2024 at the AAATE, Paris

October 2023: Meeting of the ISG 2024 Organizing Committee in Frankfurt am Main

2024: Contract with hpsmedia (subcontractor for registration and website hosting)

2024: ISG and Frankfurt UAS contract signed

2024: Newsletter distribution, E-Mailing, further promotion at various conferences, workshops, etc.

February 2024: Call for abstracts opens, relaunch of the website

May 2024: Advertising campaign via LinkedIn to increase registration numbers, followed by LinkedIn posts and videos of the LinkedIn Channel of ISG and Barbara Klein

September 2024 14th ISG World Conference

II. Promotion Activities

The ISG 2024 Conference was promoted in a variety of ways via various conferences on similar topics or mailing lists from the university itself or from supporting (practice) partners. In February 2024, the website was relaunched with more features and information. News and videos were posted there. A sponsorship brochure was produced and distributed to attract sponsors.

Postcards were produced and distributed to promote the call for abstracts. Furthermore, a video was produced and distributed via LinkedIn to encourage researchers to join the conference and participate in the Call for Abstracts.

LinkedIn was used in a marketing campaign to attract sponsors and researchers to the conference. Various posts and videos were produced to inform about the sponsors who had already joined the conference. The ISG and Prof Dr Barbara Klein's LinkedIn page were used for this purpose.

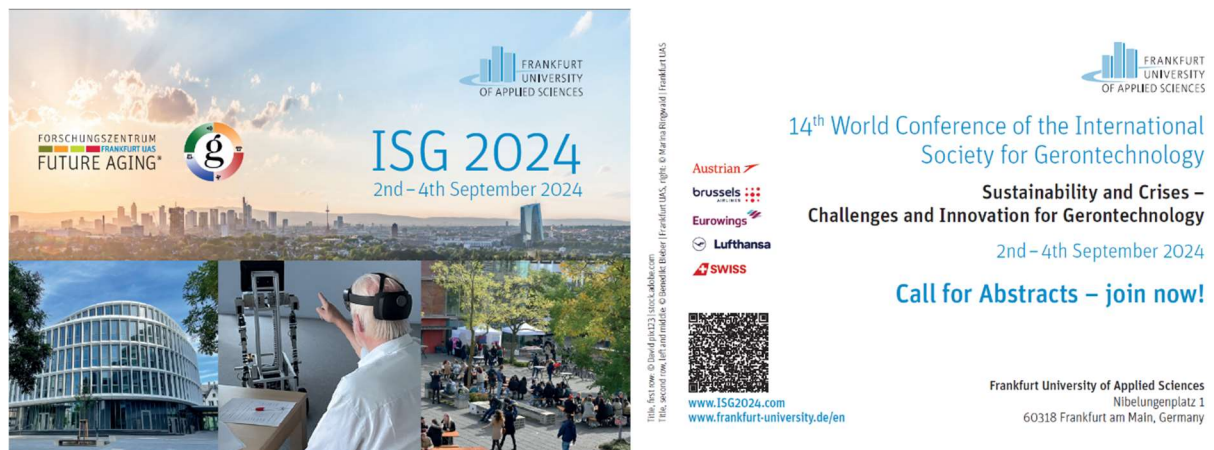


Figure 1: ISG 2024 Postcard



Figure 2: LinkedIn Post ISG 2024 Exhibition Video



III. Programme of the 14th ISG World Conference

Scientific Programme

The scientific congress included

- a welcome to the participants by Prof. Dr. Kristina Sinemus, Hessian Minister for Digitalisation and Innovation, Prof. Dr. Oliver Schocke, President of the Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences, Prof. Dr. Helianthe Kort, President of the ISG and Prof. Dr. Barbara Klein, Vice President 2024 of the ISG
- 8 keynote speeches by Dr. Yongjie Yon (WHO), Benjamin Pahlich (Wingcopter), Dr. Heidrun Mollenkopf (BAGSO), Prof. Dr Takanori Shibata (AIST Japan), Prof. Dr. Wendy Moyle (Griffith University Brisbane), Michael Früh (F&P Robotics), Prof. Dr. Wendy A. Rogers (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign) and Prof. Dr. Anabel Ternès von Hattburg (SRH Berlin University of Applied Sciences)
- 213 selected abstracts were presented in 38 oral sessions with 3 to 7 papers each, as well as 11 symposia with 51 papers
- 3 round tables
- 1 workshop on prevention in old age through martial arts
- Poster sessions with 13 posters submitted.

The scientific presentations and posters were peer-reviewed in a double-blind process and published in an abstract volume in the open access journal [Gerontechnology](#). More than 30 scientists from different countries and disciplines were recruited to review the abstracts.

Exhibition

The congress was accompanied by an exhibition of gerontechnological and assistive products as well as innovative care concepts for the elderly and the hospital and rehabilitation sector. Seven institutions participated as sponsors and eight start-ups were attracted, although one start-up had to cancel its participation shortly before due to high travel costs. All exhibitors also had the opportunity to present their concepts and technologies in greater detail in five innovation forums, which ran parallel to the scientific presentations. The exhibition covered a wide range of products from robotics, drones, exoskeletons and sensor technology to educational programmes and services for older people, people with mental illnesses and disabilities.

Site Visits

On Wednesday, 4 September 2024, participants were able to take part in various site visits:

- The newly opened 'Healthcare Platform' at the Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences offered participants a glimpse of new technology-enabled educational concepts on inclusion.
- In the hands-on exhibition 'Hello Freedom! Beyond Barriers', participants could get acquainted with different assistive systems (from low tech to high tech) for home use.
- The Dialogue Museum enabled participants to raise their awareness of blindness and visual impairment through self-awareness in the exhibition.



- The Johanniter-Haus Dietrichsroth, a care and nursing home in Dreieich, presented its work and its innovative care concept.
- The 'Telecare Centre of the Frankfurt Association for the Elderly and Disabled e.V.' gave an insight into the possibilities and obstacles of the home emergency call system.

In addition to the scientific programme, a Welcome Reception was held on the first day of the Congress at the Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences to allow participants to network and exchange ideas.

On the second day of the congress, there was an opportunity to attend the reception in the Kaisersaal of the Römer, Frankfurt's historic town hall, at which Elke Voith, Head of the Department of Social Affairs and Health of the City of Frankfurt am Main, and Prof Dr. Hans-Werner Wahl, President-elect of the German Society for Gerontology and Geriatrics (DGGG), Prof. Dr. Helianthe Kort, President of the ISG, and Prof. Dr. Barbara Klein, Vice President of the ISG gave welcome addresses. This was followed by a gala dinner in the neo-Gothic staircase.

IV. Impressions of the 14th World Conference of the ISG 2024



Figure 3: Hessian Minister Prof. Dr. Sinemus at the ISG 2024 (Eichhorn | Frankfurt UAS)



Figure 4: Welcome to the ISG 2024 (Eichhorn | Frankfurt UAS)



Figure 5: Welcome Reception (Eichhorn | Frankfurt UAS)



Figure 7: Reception at the Römer (Eichhorn | Frankfurt UAS)



Figure 6: Part of the Exhibition (Eichhorn | Frankfurt UAS)



V. Participants of ISG 2024

ISG 2024 hosted 253 paying participants. They came from a wide range of specialist disciplines. 26 countries from all continents were represented, with around 50% from Europe, 30% from North and South America and 20% from Asia. About a third of the participants were students or senior citizens. Surprisingly, only 21% of the participants were ISG members. The objectives of diversity, interdisciplinarity and internationalisation were achieved.

To attract participants from low-income countries, the participation fee was significantly reduced. However, some potential participants had to withdraw because they could not obtain a visa or did not obtain one in time. Potential participants from Africa were particularly confronted with the visa issue.

Registration Information

All Days

Categories	Early Bird until 31.07.2024	Regular from 31.07.2024	Rate for late decid- ers till 02.09.2024
ISG Members	540 €	600 €	660 €
Non-Members	660 €	720 €	780 €
Student/Senior Members	270 €	300 €	330 €
Student/Senior Non-Members	330 €	360 €	390 €

One Day

Categories	Early Bird until 31.07.2024	Regular from 31.07.2024	Rate for late decid- ers till 02.09.2024
ISG Members	330 €	360 €	390 €
Non-Members	420 €	450 €	480 €
Student/Senior Members	180 €	180 €	210 €
Student/Senior Non-Members	210 €	210 €	240 €

Registration fees for All Days included:

- 2-year membership in ISG for Non-Members or the extension of ISG membership by 2 years for members
- 3 lunches
- 5 coffee breaks
- Free admission to the Welcome Reception
- Free admission to the International Gerontechnology Expo
- Free admission to Site Visits



Registered paying participants

	All Days	Day Tickets	Total
ISG Members	36	17	53
Non-Members	99	16	115
Student/Senior Members	19	2	21
Student/Senior Non-Members	53	11	64
Total	207	46	253

Accepted abstracts, sorted by tracks

Abstracts	Oral	Poster	Symposium	Round Table	Total
Cat. 1	9	/	/	/	9
Cat. 2	2	/	4	/	6
Cat. 3	51	3	10	1	65
Cat. 4	5	1	/	/	6
Cat. 5	23	1	12	/	36
Cat. 6	4	1	6	/	11
Cat. 7	10	2	5	/	17
Cat. 8	2	/	/	/	2
Cat. 9	9	4	15	/	28
Cat. 10	11	/	/	/	11
Cat. 11	4	1	/	/	5
Cat. 12	11	/	5	2	18
Total	139	13	57	3	214

1. Sustainability and Crises
2. Crises and Preparedness
3. Application Fields and Innovative Technologies for an Aging Society
i.e. Artificial Intelligence, Robots, Sensors, Augmented and Virtual Reality
4. Healthy Inclusive Environments and Healing Architecture
5. Dementia and Technology
6. Ethics and DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion)
7. Housing and Daily Living
8. Mobility and Transport
9. Health and Self Esteem
10. Work, Leisure and Social Participation
11. Governance, Social Policy and Communication
12. Others not covered by the listed categories

The three tracks with the highest number of abstracts are highlighted.



Nationalities of paying participants

	Country	No. of Partici- pants
1	Austria	4
2	Belgium	5
3	Brazil	16
4	Canada	10
5	Chile	1
6	China	2
7	Czechia	1
8	Ethiopia	1
9	France	15
10	Finland	32
11	Germany	64
12	Hong Kong	1
13	Italy	3
14	Israel	2
15	Japan	19
16	Korea	14
17	Netherlands	27
18	Norway	2
19	Poland	1
20	Singapore	3
21	Spain	2
22	Switzerland	4
23	Turkey	1
24	Taiwan	2
25	United Kingdom	7
26	USA	25
Total		253

Countries with more than 10 participants are highlighted.



VI. Reflections

ISG 2024 was an important event for Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences. It provided an opportunity for creative and motivated collaboration with everyone at the university and the research center FUTURE AGING. ISG 2024 also facilitated excellent networking and collaboration with the City of Frankfurt am Main. The exhibition, sponsorship acquisition and site visits enabled extensive networking in practice.

The scientific objectives of promoting the topic of gerontechnology were achieved. Thanks to the rigorous review process, the abstracts submitted were of high quality. The 14th ISG World Conference facilitated an international and interdisciplinary exchange that stimulated the work of scientists and provided them with a forum through the ISG for networking and further involvement in their respective regional or national organisations. It was the first time that the World Conference of the ISG was held at a University of Applied Sciences. This was greatly appreciated by the university management.

Following the ISG 2024, there was positive feedback from participants and sponsors. There were reports of an interesting and appreciative exchange that was perceived as valuable, especially due to the wide range of disciplines and topics.

The 14th ISG World Congress was covered by television, radio, newspapers and social media to reach a wider audience outside the specialist gerontechnology community. As a follow-up, a [video IMPRESSIONS ISG 2024](#) was produced that summarised the three days of the congress and gave keynote speakers and organisers the opportunity to reflect on the conference. This was sent out and made available to the public as a greeting and review of the year 2024. At the same time, it is a first impulse for the 15th ISG World Congress 2026 in Vancouver, Canada.

VII. Acknowledgement

We would like to express our sincere gratitude for the invaluable support provided by the City of Frankfurt am Main, the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation), our esteemed partners, and the Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences. The contributions and support from these institutions were instrumental in ensuring the resounding success of this 14th ISG World Congress.