

14th International Student

Petroleum Congress

“Where Ideas Ignite Energy”

May, 5th – 7th 2026

Kraków, Poland



EAST
MEETS
WEST





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Dear colleagues,

The 14th East Meets West Congress was held from May 5th to 7th, 2025, at the AGH University of Krakow. This long-anticipated edition, organized by the SPE AGH Student Chapter, marked a pivotal point in the Congress's history. What began more than a decade ago as a regional student initiative has evolved into an internationally recognized event attracting top students, researchers, and professionals from around the world. This year, the Congress hosted more than 110 participants from 11 countries: the United Kingdom, Norway, France, Germany, Ukraine, Austria, Croatia, Italy, Greece, Turkey and Poland.

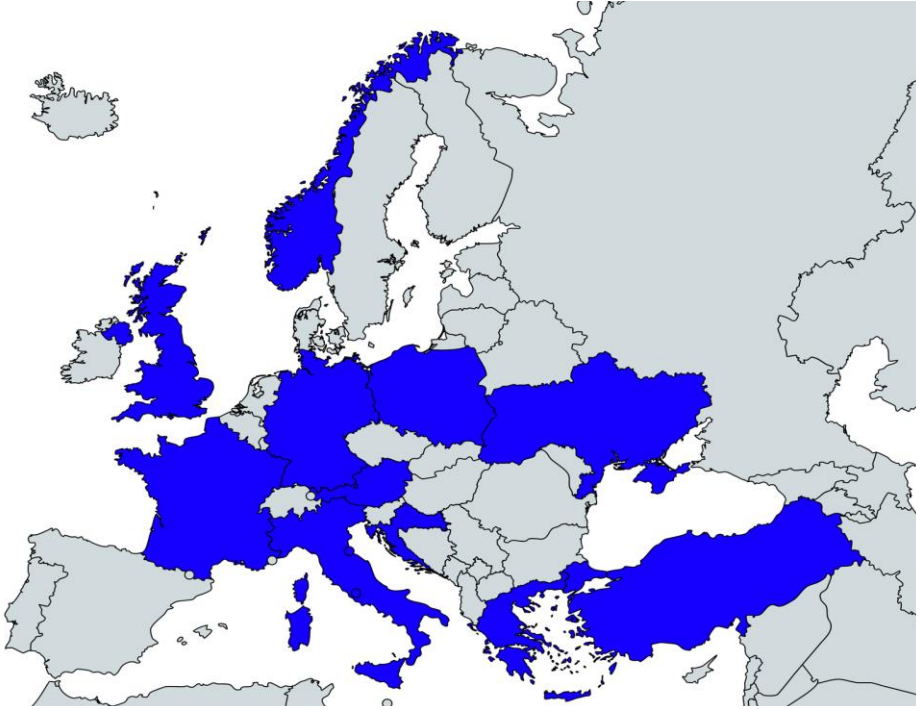
The Congress was held under the honorary patronage of two significant figures: the Rector of AGH University of Krakow, Prof. Jerzy Lis, and the Mayor of Krakow, Aleksander Miszalski. Their support not only lent prestige to the Congress but also demonstrated the local commitment to nurturing young scientific talent and advancing research in sustainable energy development.

Opening ceremony and key speeches highlighted the foundational elements of the Congress – its goals, its diversity, and its organizational excellence. During this edition our Section hosted Regional Student Paper Contest (SPC). It is also important to recognize that EMW 2026 was more than just a series of lectures. It was a living, breathing ecosystem of innovation and collaboration that successfully merged the academic and industrial worlds through a dynamic, student-led initiative.

Without you, it all would not have happened.

Kind regards,

***Organizing Committee of
'East meets West' 2026***



Attendee's countries

The United Kingdom

Norway

France

Germany

Ukraine

Turkey

Austria

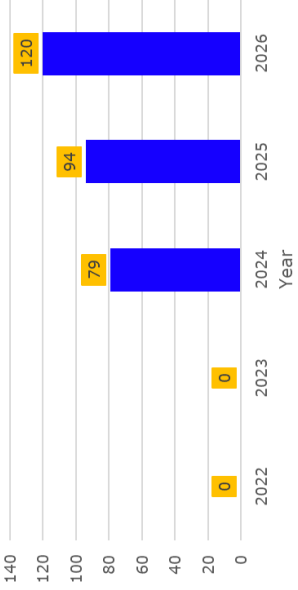
Croatia

Italy

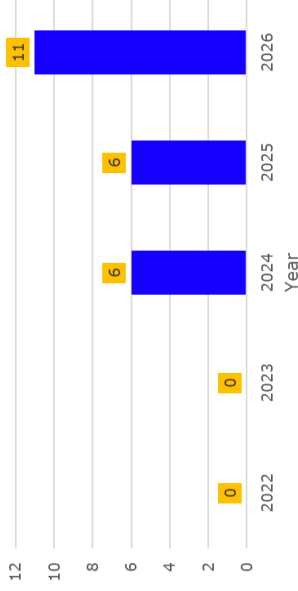
Greece

Poland

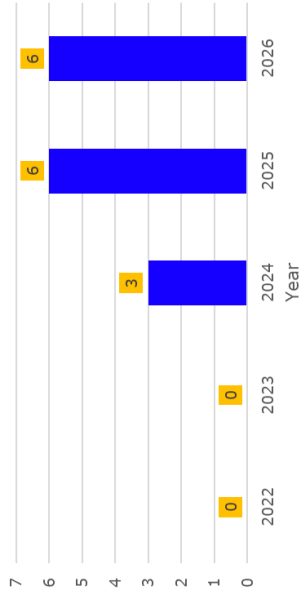
Participants



Countries



Companies



Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony was attended by notable academic and industry leaders, including Prof. Mariusz Łaciak, Dean of the Faculty of Drilling, Oil and Gas; Prof. Stanisław Nagy SPE Poland Program Chairperson. Representing the students, Aleksandra Lasko and Filip Studziński delivered warm welcome speech and opening remarks, reflecting the passion, special thanks to all Partners and hard work of the organizing committee.

As part of the opening ceremony, Professor Jan Lubaś, Secretary-General of SITPniG, Professor Stanisław Nagy, SPE Poland Program Chairperson, and Jakub Ślęk, SPE Poland Chairman, signed a framework cooperation agreement between SPE Poland and SITPniG.



Energy transition game

The Energy Transition game was a fun and interactive activity that explored the different roles and complexities involved in the process of energy transition. The event allowed participants to experience the perspectives of energy providers, industries, governments, consumers, and non-governmental organizations during a simulation covering the next 26 years.

The game demonstrated how each stakeholder could contribute to the energy transition while remaining profitable and improving the standard of living. Special thanks for Wojciech Panek!



Welcome Reception

Our traditional Welcome Evening has become a staple of the EMW calendar. This year, we gathered at AGH Brewery, a unique venue in Kraków that combines the academic heritage of AGH University with the modern, industrial character of a working brewery.

Located on the AGH campus, BGH provided the perfect setting for informal conversations and meeting new people in an international environment. The evening unfolded in a friendly and open atmosphere, marking a successful start to the conference and setting the tone for the days ahead.



SPE Europe Student Paper Contest

This year's SPE Student Paper Contest was one of the highlights of the East Meets West Congress. 16 students and PhD candidates presented their research in the field of energy and petroleum engineering, showcasing a high level of technical knowledge, innovation, and strong presentation skills.

The session was divided into two parts with a Power Break in between, which gave participants and guests the opportunity to engage in further discussions and ask additional questions in a more informal setting.

Overall, the contest once again proved to be an inspiring platform for knowledge exchange, international collaboration, and networking between students, academia, and industry professionals.



SPC Results

Category - PhD Student / YP

1st place

Muhammad Iffan Hannanu – Norges teknisk-naturvitenskapelige universitet (NTNU)
- "Closing the Loop: Fully Autonomous Reservoir Optimization and History Matching"

2nd place

Mozhdeh Igder – Heriot-Watt University - "Coupling Thermodynamics and Kinetics for Predictive Design of Phosphonate Precipitation Squeezes"

3rd place

Paweł Bielka – AGH University of Krakow - "Digital Twin-Based System for Carbon Dioxide Dispersion Forecasting in Pipeline Failure Scenarios"

Category – MSc student

1st place

Julia Mbamarah – SPE Robert Gordon University Student Chapter - "Hierarchical Phase-Adaptive Machine Learning Framework for Real-Time Non-Productive Time Prediction in Offshore Drilling"

2nd place

Fidel Lopez Gomez – TU Clausthal SPE Student Chapter - "The effect of heating rates on Wax Disappearance Temperature (WDT) measurements by the Cross-Polarization Translucency (CPT) method"

3rd place

Matteo Scarano – SPE PoliTO - "IOR in Unconventional Oil Reservoir through synergistic effect of Ketone"



Poster Session

Consequently, 12 students came to present their research works during a Student Poster session. Each exhibits were present to the jury during the Power Break and had to ask very precise question. Competition this year was very fierce and jury had a difficult task to determine the winner.

Results

Category - PhD Student / YP

Recognition

Jan Kowalski – AGH University of Krakow - "Prediction of CO₂ distribution in a heterogeneous aquifer during the post-injection phase using an artificial neural network"

Results

Category - Student

Recognition

Artur Bystrai – AGH University of Krakow - "Study of the effectiveness of restoring the permeability of the near-borehole zones"



Special thanks to the SPC Jury and Poster Jury!

The SPC presentations were evaluated by the following jury panel:

Giesela Vanegas,
Ewa Knapik,
Piotr Szczurak,
Łukasz Klimkowski,
Andrzej Pasternacki,
Jacek Dudek.

The posters were evaluated by the following jury panel:

Katarzyna Chruszcz – Lipska,
Iwona Kowalska – Kubsik,
Antony Martin,
Przemysław Toczek.



Closing Ceremony

This conference has always aimed to bring young people together in the heart of Europe, fostering an environment where they can acquire knowledge, share experiences, and build lasting friendships. Witnessing all of you gathered here has been a tremendous reward for the year of hard work and preparation that went into making this event a reality. I sincerely hope that our collective efforts result in a fruitful experience and create wonderful memories for everyone involved.

For those who were unable to participate in this edition, there's no need to worry. We are already looking forward to next year, when we will reconvene in the beautiful city of Krakow.

Together, we will dive even deeper into a wealth of knowledge and experiences, ensuring that each gathering is more enriching than the last. Let's continue to inspire one another and strengthen our connections as we embark on this journey together!



Gala Dinner

This year's Gala Dinner took place at the Aquarius Restaurant, a unique floating venue moored on the Vistula River at the foot of Wawel Royal Castle. The exceptional location offered guests a stunning view of the castle and the riverbanks, creating a memorable backdrop for the evening.

As the final social highlight of the congress, the dinner provided an elegant setting for networking and informal conversations after the official program. Participants enjoyed good food, relaxed atmosphere, and the opportunity to connect one last time in a professional yet friendly environment.

The evening served as a fitting conclusion to the congress, combining a distinctive location with a strong sense of community among attendees.



Field Trip to the Bóbrka: The World's Oldest Oil Mine

The final day of the East Meets West Congress concluded with a field trip to the Ignacy Łukasiewicz Museum in Bóbrka – the birthplace of the global oil industry and the world's first industrial oil field, currently inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List.

Participants explored the historic site with its hand-dug wells, gaining insight into the early foundations of crude oil extraction and the pioneering work of Ignacy Łukasiewicz and his collaborators.

The visit highlighted the evolution of extraction methods, drawing parallels between early industrial techniques and modern oil and gas technologies, particularly in terms of engineering ingenuity and resource management. The tour also encouraged reflection on energy transition, sustainability, and the value of industrial heritage in connecting past innovations with today's engineering challenges.



What Made This Edition Special?

What made this edition truly special was that EMW 2026 recorded the highest number of participants since the COVID-19 pandemic, marking a significant return to fully-fledged international academic gatherings.

The 14th edition of the East Meets West Congress was remarkable not only for its high-quality content and innovative sessions but also for the impressive number and diversity of its participants. With 120 registered attendees, including 30 honorary guests — professors, industry experts, and representatives of leading oil and gas companies — EMW 2026 reached a new milestone in its post-pandemic revival.

This year's Congress attracted participants from eleven different countries: the United Kingdom, Norway, France, Germany, Ukraine, Austria, Croatia, Italy, Greece, Turkey and Poland.

The student participation included students at every academic level — bachelor's and PhD candidates. Notably, the Congress featured two parallel academic competitions: the SPE Europe Student Paper Contest and a Poster Session, which showcased the work of undergraduate and graduate students.



Innovative Highlights of EMW 2026

This year's Congress also expanded its thematic scope. While traditionally rooted in petroleum engineering, EMW 2026 embraced a wider view of energy science. Topics included energy transition, digitalization, sustainable development, hydrogen as an alternative fuel, and carbon capture and storage (CCS). This broader scope helped ensure that the Congress stayed relevant in an ever-evolving energy landscape.

Equally important were the new formats introduced during the event. For example, the *"Where Ideas Ignite Energy: Building a Career in Net-Zero World"* **discussion panel** brought together representatives from academia, industry, and the student community in a shared dialogue about the future of energy. This panel symbolized the Congress's mission to bridge generations and disciplines.

Additionally, the scale and quality of the social program made EMW 2026 stand out. The Ice Breaker Party, cultural tours, energy transition game, gala dinner, and a symbolic visit to the UNESCO World Heritage the Ignacy Łukasiewicz Museum in Bóbrka, not only reinforced the Congress's academic value but also its role as a platform for intercultural exchange and community building.



Special thanks to our Partners!

Platinum Partner



Silver Partner



Bronze Partner



Honorary Patronage



Honorary Patronage
of the Rector of the AGH University of Krakow
Prof. Jerzy Lis



Honorary Patronage
of the Mayor of the City of Krakow
Aleksander Miszański

Media Patronage / Support



Organizers





Book your time for April 2027!