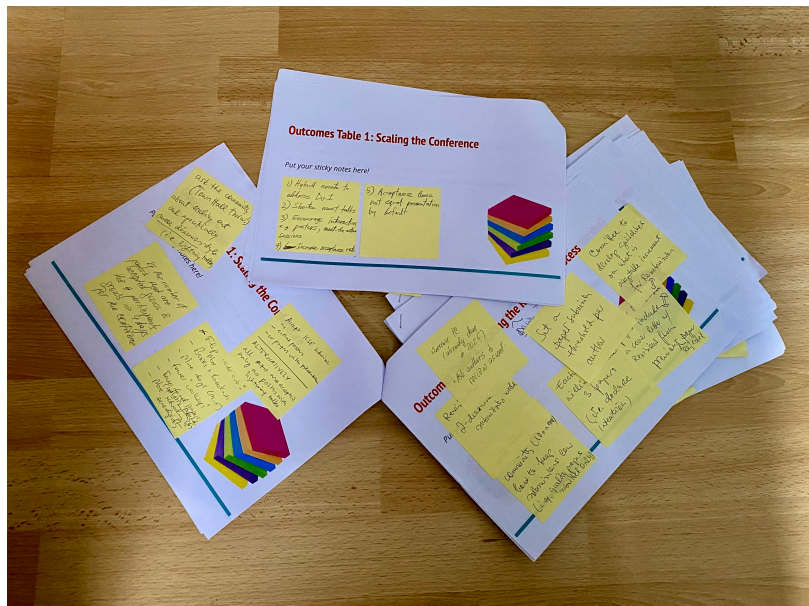# ICSE SC Strategy Meeting
# Lisbon, April 2024

Arie van Deursen, TU Delft

## 1 Background

Notes taken at the strategy session of the ICSE Steering Committee (SC) meeting in Lisbon on April 2024. During dinner SC members were asked to discuss at their table (in groups of around 4 people) one or more of five selected topics:

1. T1: Scaling the conference
2. T2: Scaling the reviewing process
3. T3: Climate change
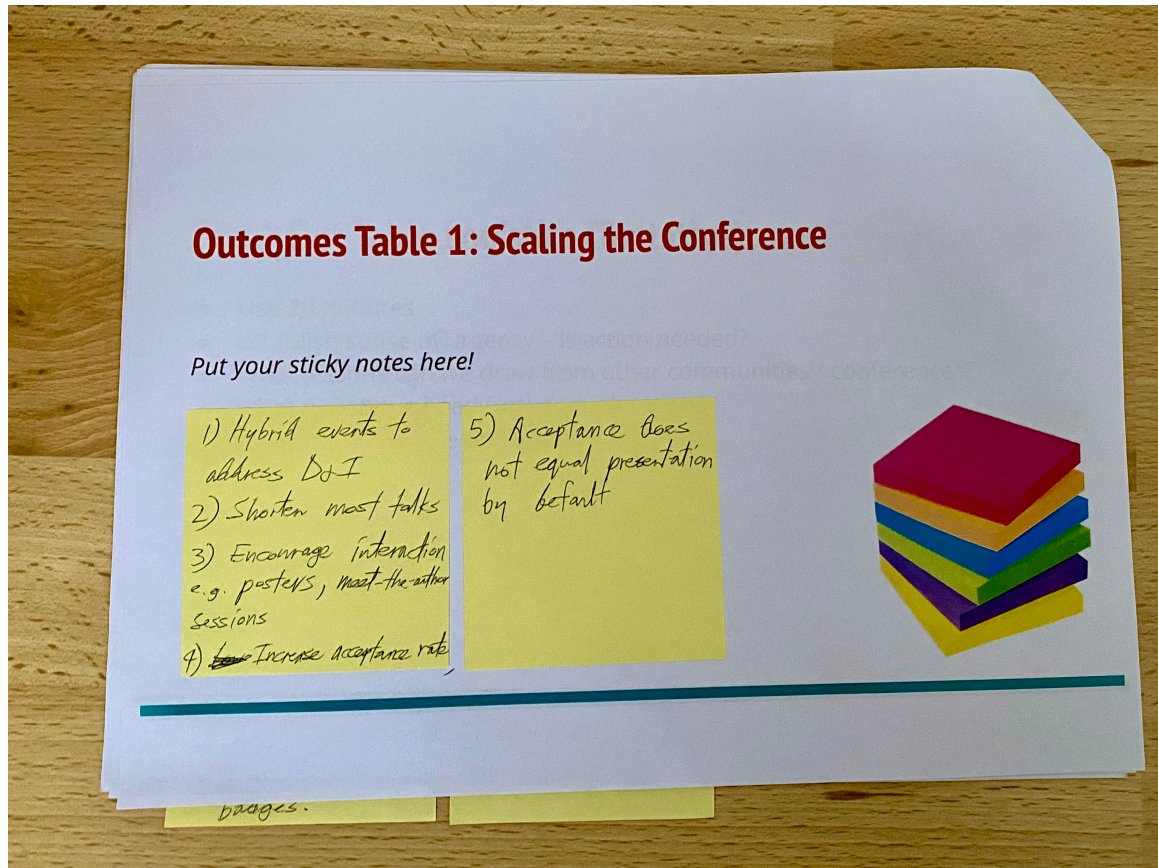4. T4: Staying international
5. Involving the community

In seven groups, SC members put suggestions on sticky notes, and added them to the relevant topics.

## 2  Digest in Key Take Aways

An attempt to identify up to three key take aways per topic could yield:

1. T1: Scaling the conference

    a. Make poster session first class citizen. Meet-the-author sessions. Lightning talks
    b. Reduce nr of presentations / right to present
    c. Add a fourth day

2. T2: Scaling the reviewing process

    a. Require authors to review
    b. Set a paper threshold per author
    c. Revisit the 2-deadline submission model

3. T3: Climate change

    a. Supporting remote / hybrid attendance
    b. Drastically adopt vegan meals / non-disposables / LEED buildings
    c. Appoint sustainability co-chair with mandate

4. T4: Staying international

    a. Diversity in the PC
    b. Stronger representation from China / Asia in the SC and other roles
    c. Establish task force to identify and nurture future leaders

5. T5: Involving the community

    a. Industry outreach / "industry problem" session
    b. Actively solicit grass roots input
    c. Open up voting on some decisions to all past ICSE attendees

## 3 Verbatim notes

The verbatim text from the sticky notes (in as far as they were legible) per table, per group. The images are a selection, but the text represents all the notes.

### 3.1 T1: Scaling the conference

#### 3.1.1 Group 1

1. hybrid events to address D&I
2. shorten most talks
3. encourage interaction, e.g. posters, meet-the-author sessions
4. increase acceptance rates
5. acceptance does not equal presentation by default

### 3.1.2 Group 2

- ask the community (town hall tomorrow) about scaling and especially more discussions style (e.g. lighting talk)
- if the number of papers that are accept grows & the participants grows, then move to 4 days of conference
- accept ICSE submission as either posters or papers with presentation – Alternatively: All papers are accepted only as posters with lighting talks
- flip inside out: More posters / break outs; more days; fewer "workshops"; fewer formal papers; more networking and serendipity

### 3.1.3 Group 3

- Teasers and posters
- Make presentations optional
- more interactions, less presentations
- restrict the scope?
- raise the bar on novelty?
- analyze the duty to check if we are bringing new people
- restrict the number of accepted papers

### 3.1.4 Group 5:

1. Automation for registration to speed up the process
2. Cooperative schedule creation. Based on inputs from attendees; papers picked by similar put in session
3. Long talks vs short talks. (PC decides). 20min vs 5min
4. shorter lunch queues
5. Multiple reasonably priced hotels in close proximity to the conference venue (this is an inclusion issue; safety walking to hotels)
6. Add another day (Tuesday)
7. Having an app that works (easier to attend things)
8. Paper matching for attendees
9. More j1c2 papers
10. journal first should fit in
11. Pitch + poster format
12. More parallel tracks with recommendation system to support
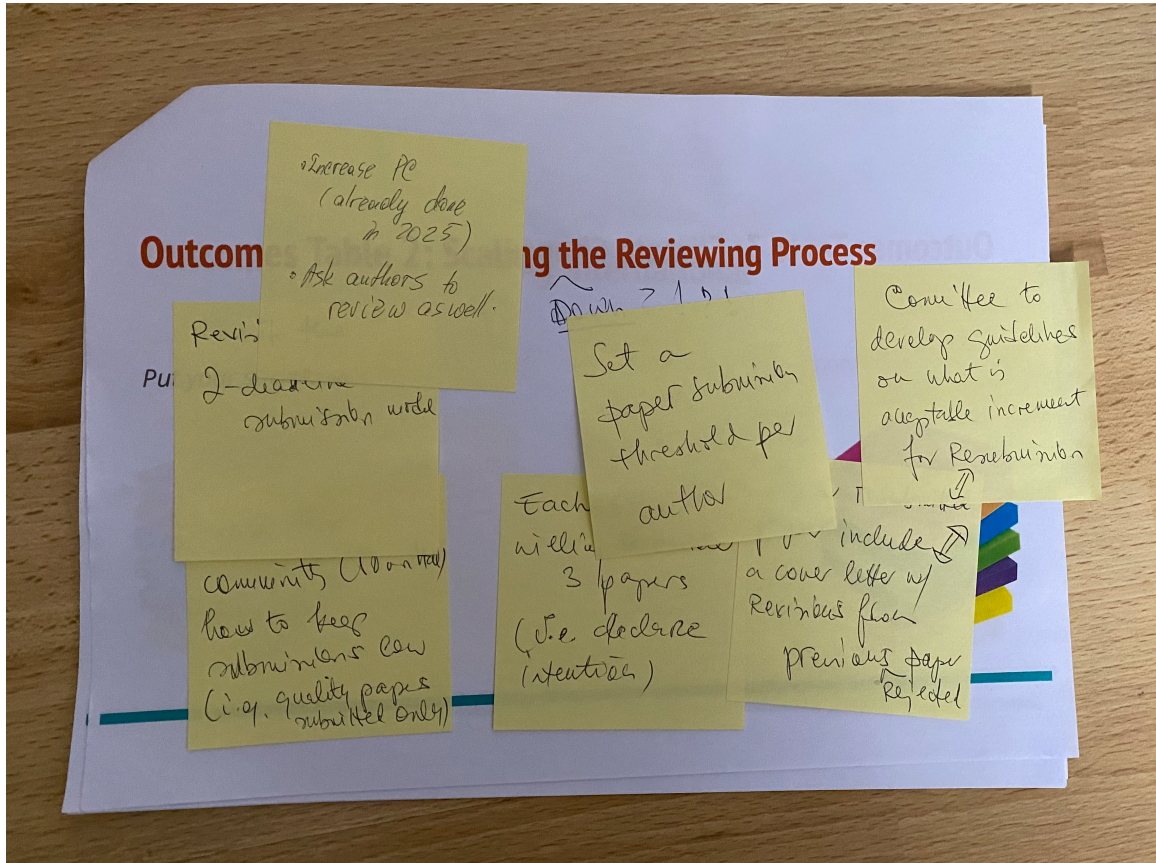
### 3.1.5 Group 6

(bit hard to read / understand):

- Sustainability
- nice with smaller

- Networking, software architecture, technologies, engineer
- Cross over AI, Quantum, Cloud computing: Tech briefings
- collaboration google, ibm, microsoft

### 3.1.6 Not discussed

Groups 4, 7



## 3.2 T2: Scaling the reviewing process

### 3.2.1 Group 1:

1. increase acceptanc rate
2. increate types of contributions, e.g., abstract-only, posters, demos

### 3.2.2 Group 2:

- increase the PC
- ask authors to review as well

- each submitter willing to review 3 papers (i.e. declare intention)
- set a paper submission threshold per author
- committee to develop guidelines on what is acceptable increment for resubmission: each resubmitted paper include a cover letter with revisions from previous (rejected) paper.
- revisit the 2-deadlin submission model
- ask the community how to keep submssions low (e.g. quality papers submitted only)

### 3.2.3 Group 3:

- Two phase review process: (1) 2 reviews in phase 1; (2) just extended abstract in 1st phase
- X (<= 3?) submissions by the same person
- Reviewing obligations depending on the number of submissions by a person

### 3.2.4 Group 7:

(bit hard to read)

- introduce "problems track" / industry pitches
- Scaling posters
- Industry problem posters
- Journal first: no reviews

### 3.2.5 Not discussed:

Groups 4, 5, 6

## 3.3 T3: Climate change

### 3.3.1 Group 1

1. sustainability co-chair for ICSE
2. establish sustainability measures and track achievements
3. need to think nudges and incentives
4. collecting info from registrations in icse 24 use to guide 25
5. no single use / disposable anything
6. more / all vegetarian meals
7. LEED certified buildings (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)
8. recyclable / reusable badges
9. offsetting carbon footprint of travel
10. contributions from ACM/IEEE
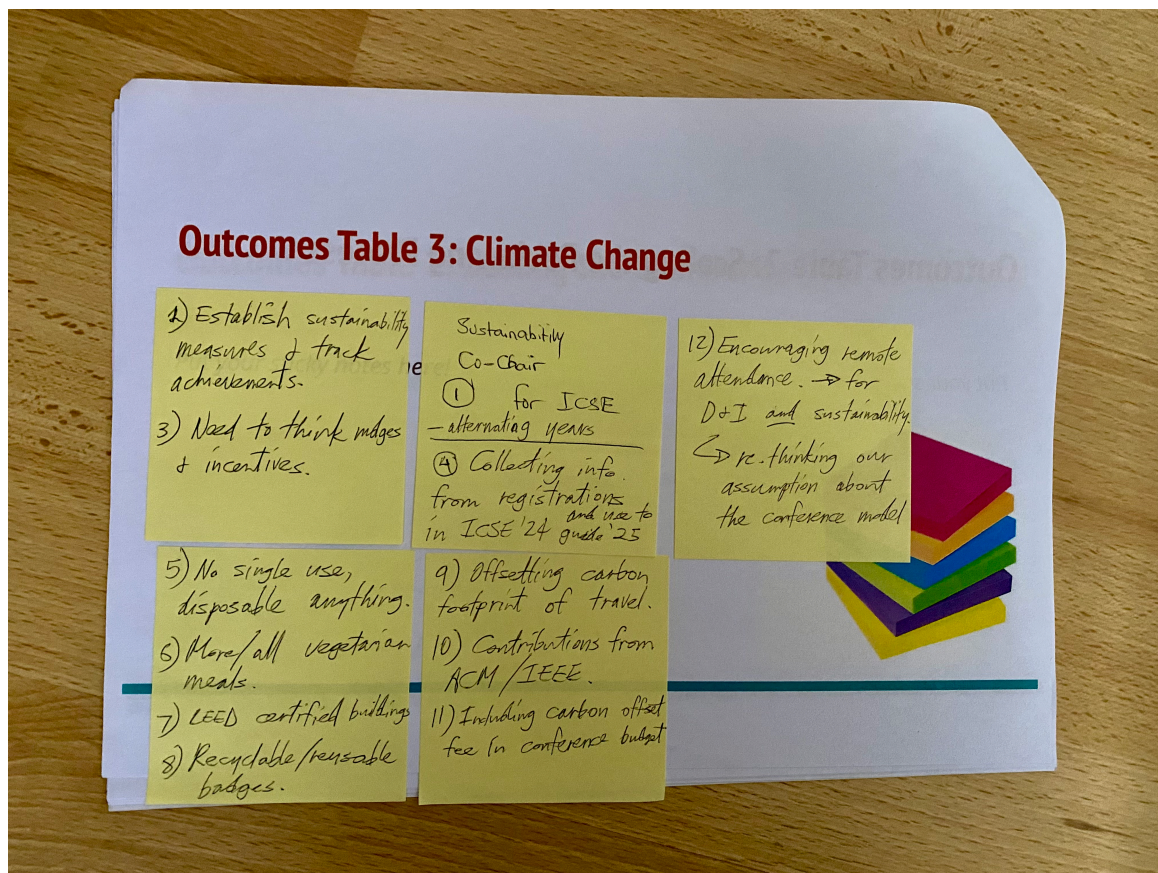11. including carbon offset fee in conference budget

12. Encouraging remote attendance – for D&I and sustainability. Re-thining our assumption about the conference model

### 3.3.2 Group 5

- Satellite virutal events
- "semi-virtual" that has a nice location, social activities

### 3.3.3 Not discussed

Group 2, 3, 4, 6, 7



## 3.4 T4: Staying international

### 3.4.1 Group 1

1. Diversity in the PC
2. How much should we affected by politics?
3. Identifying & nurturing future leaders – task force

### 3.4.2 Group 2

- PC chairs from China
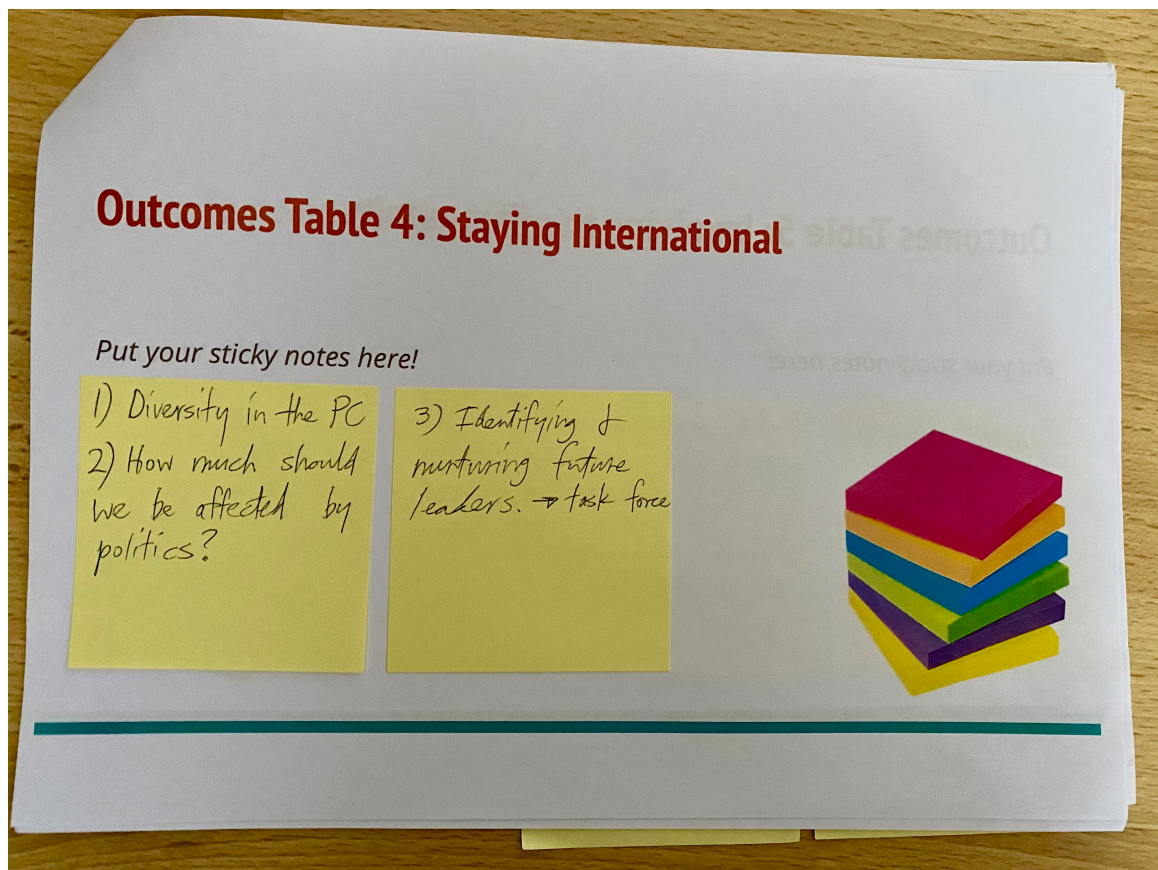- participation from SC

### 3.4.3 Group 4:

- PC chairs from China & other places represented in these
- Require the GC that they include all X% of Asians. Some "favoritism" as it happend with women

### 3.4.4 Group 5:

- satellite events in parallel
- Geograpihcally even venue assignment

### 3.4.5 Not discussed

Group 3, 6, 7

### 3.5 T5: Involving the community

### 3.5.1 Group 1

1. Improve industry outreach / consider different review criteria per type of contribution
2. Ask societies to provide funding for community engagement
3. Grass roots input; need to actively sollicit

### 3.5.2 Group 5:

- open up voting reg. some decision to all past ICSE attendees
- collect input from attendees; feedback channel to the SC
- reach out to local companies; provide conference "buddies"
- lower price rates for students and local community
- involve local industry

### 3.5.3 Not discussed

Group 2, 3, 4, 6, 7