



## yHEP Report

Farah Afzal

Annual meeting of particle physicists in Germany  
5 December 2024, Bad Honnef

On behalf of the yHEP management board:  
Dima El Khechen, Michael Lupberger, Felipe Peña, Leonel  
Morejon, Meike Küssner, Michael Lupberger, Ruth Jacobs,  
Srijan Sehgal

# Young High Energy Physicist Association



- Representing early career scientists (everybody w/o permanent contract)  
*Phd students, Postdocs, Junior Research-Group Leaders, etc.*
  - Founded in 2015, currently >~300 members
- Sections → Related to committees
  - Particle physics → [KET](#)
  - Astroparticle physics → [KAT](#)
  - Physics of Hadrons and Nucleons → [KHuK](#)
  - Accelerator physics → [KfB](#)
- yHEP with one ex-officio member in KET, KAT, KHuK, KfB → finally all
- [Charter](#)
- Goals
  - Assessing and improving situation of non-permanent scientists
  - Shaping the future of physics
  - Improvement of environmental sustainability in science
  - Networking

## Contact & Info:

[yhep-info@desy.de](mailto:yhep-info@desy.de)

[Webpage](#)    [LinkedIn](#)

## Become a member?

Sign-up to the mailing list

# yHEP Management Board



- Elected by members every year in December → **new election**
  - 2 representatives per section

## Particle Physics



Michael  
Lupberger

Postdoc  
Uni Bonn

## Astroparticle Physics



Srijan Sehgal

PhD student  
Uni Wuppertal

## Hadrons & Nuclei



Farah Afzal

**Chair**

Postdoc  
Uni Bonn

## Accelerator Physics



Felipe Peña

PhD student  
Uni Hamburg/  
DESY



Ruth Jacobs

Postdoc  
DESY



Leonel  
Morejon

Postdoc  
Uni Wuppertal



Meike Kűßner  
**Dep. Chair**

Postdoc  
Uni Bochum



Dima El  
Khechen

Postdoc at KIT

# Work of yHEP in the past year



- Triggered by involvement in KHuK/NuPECC and other committees
- Providing young scientists' view in the committees
  - Membership in event organisation committees e.g. CERN70 in Berlin, DPG program committees
  - Interaction with NuPECC and other committees
  - Problems with residence permits
- Our own agenda
  - Statement on the reform of the WissZeitVG
  - Environmental sustainability in Science
  - yHEP appearance online / on social media

# DPG Karlsruhe/Gießen organisation

- Part of the Program Committee for particle physics in Karlsruhe (Michael) and hadron physics in Gießen (Farah)
- Participation in general organisation: Invited speakers, parallel session, ...
- yHEP annual meeting
  - Discussion on residence permit problems
  - Discussion on WissZeitVG
- Physicists beyond academia session
  - Jointly organised with jDPG
  - Beer and pretzels (THANKS FV T/HK)
  - Invited speakers (former HEP physicists)
  - ≈220 participants (KA); ≈60 (GI)





# CERN70 in Berlin



# yHEP interaction with NuPECC



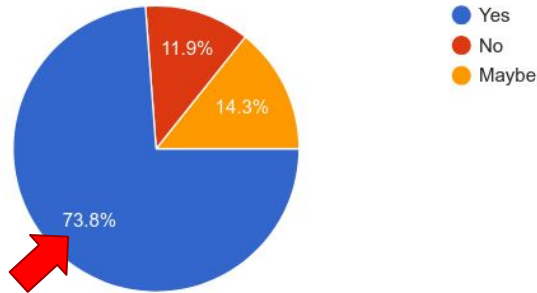
- yHEP wrote a letter to chair of NuPECC, the Nuclear Physics European Collaboration Committee (<http://www.nupecc.org>) in 2022
  - proposed to also include representatives from young researchers in their committee  
→ positively received
- yHEP submitted in 2022 [contribution](#) for NuPECC LRP 2024:
  - Received invitation to be part of thematic working group 10 (Nuclear Science - People and Society) to help draft recommendations
    - A. Thiel involved in working group since 2023 and helped draft recommendation to e.g. include early career researchers in the NuPECC committee
    - Proposal presented by Rodi Herzberg on the meeting in Lund in June 2024 and approved by NuPECC (together with new suggestions of the by-laws)
    - NuPECC Forum For Early career Researcher (NUFFER) members suggested by the responsible NuPECC representatives → yHEP helped with suggestions for Germany
- [Town Meeting](#) for LRP took place in Bucharest on April 15 - 17, 2024
  - NuPECC offered to cover the local expenses for Early Career Researchers

# Problems with Residence Permits

- Triggered first during yHEP annual meeting (DPG Dresden 2023)
  - Increasing problems in obtaining / extending the residence permits
  - Several members have shared personal anecdotes with similar issues since last two years
  - Survey prepared in spring 2024 to assess the scope of the issue and looking for possible solutions ([Survey](#))

Have you experienced irregularities or difficulties to obtain your residence permit?

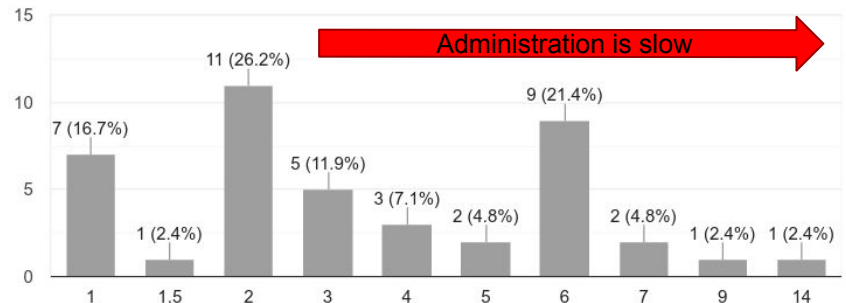
42 participants



¾ of participants had difficulties in obtaining a residence permit

How long did it take approximately to receive the document from the moment of application, or first contact with the Foreigners Office (Ausländerbehörde)? Please enter a number of months.

42 participants





# Problems with Residence Permits

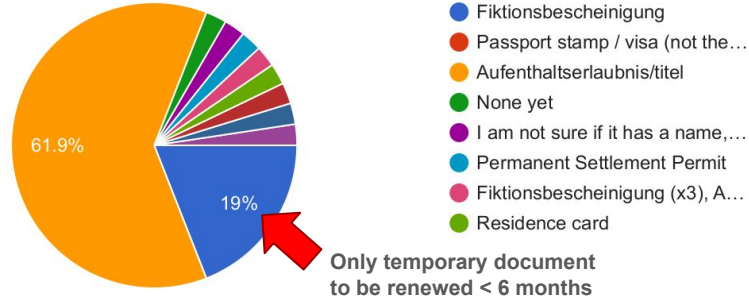
“There were no appointments for several months for renewing/ getting a new residence permit, so I had to get a fiktionsbescheinigung at the last moment.”

“No appointments available for residence permit extension. Need a valid work contract to get residence permit extension - need a valid residence permit to get a work contract extension!”

“...Each time, I receive the Fiktionsbescheinigung just a few days before the previous one expires. Despite filling out their Kontaktformular as requested, I have never received a reply regarding an appointment since June 2022. They have also provided a 'Notfall' email address, promising a response within three days, but I have yet to receive any reply...”

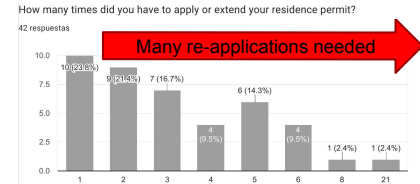
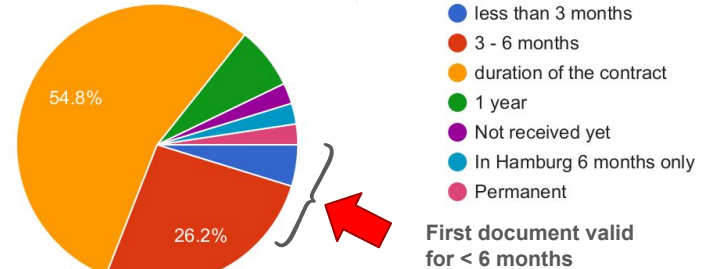
What type of document did you receive?

42 participants



How long was the first document valid for?

42 participants



- Future plans:

- Community eager to write a combined letter directly from KET, KAT, KfB, KHuK to BMBF
- Preparing a web resource with information to advice newcomers and existing members

# Potential reform of the WissZeitVG



- Act on Fixed-Term Employment Contracts in Academia (WissZeitVG)
  - [Original proposal for reform](#) published on 17.03.2023 → Huge objections from different sides
    - [Statement by yHEP](#) published on our [webpage](#) on 26.05.2023
    - [Possibility for endorsement](#) shared on 16.06.2023
  - In parallel: Updated BMBF proposal: [Expert draft \(Referenten-Entwurf\)](#) on 06.06.2023
  - [Collection of various statements](#) on BMBF proposal (incl. yHEP) on webpage of Network for Decent Labour in Academia (Netzwerk für gute Arbeit in der Wissenschaft - NGAWiss)
    - Suggestion by NGAWiss, supported by yHEP: Contact your local MP! - See [instructions](#)  
→Used this opportunity
  - Interesting study by the Scientific/Legal Advisory Body (Wissenschaftlicher Dienst) of the German Parliament (Bundestag) investigating the possibility of a maximum quota for universities for non-permanent contacts ([in German](#))
  - 07.03.2024: Expert draft approved by cabinet
  - 16.10.2024: First reading in parliament → transferred to Committee for Education, Research and Technology Assessment

# Potential reform of the WissZeitVG

- 2nd yHEP Statement
  - Worked on for ~2 months
  - 06.11.2024: statement finished - a few hours before the Chancellor announced to fire the Finance Minister
  - 11.11.2024: Sent to members of the Committee for Education and published on <https://desy-yhep.desy.de/community/>
  - 13.11.2024: Expert hearing in Committee for Education



Bildung  
Anhörung zur Änderung des  
Befristungsrechts für die Wissenschaft



Änderungen im Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz beschäftigen den Ausschuss für Bildung, Forschung und Technikfolgenabschätzung. (© picture alliance / Zoonar | NATEE MEEPIAN)

Zeit: Mittwoch, 13. November 2024, 9.30 Uhr  
Ort: Berlin, Marie-Elisabeth-Lüders-Haus, Sitzungssaal 3.101  
Die Sitzung ist öffentlich und wird auf [www.bundestag.de](http://www.bundestag.de) übertragen.

zur Startseite

#### Tagesordnung

87. Sitzung am Mittwoch, dem 13. November 2024, 9.30 Uhr - öffentlich

#### Stellungnahmen

- 20(18)267a - Stellungnahme Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbundes
- 20(18)267b - Stellungnahme Leopoldina
- 20(18)267c - Stellungnahme Wissenschaftsrat
- 20(18)267d - Stellungnahme Hochschulrektorenkonferenz
- 20(18)267e - Stellungnahme Georg-August-Universität Göttingen
- 20(18)267f - Stellungnahme GERMAN U15
- 20(18)267g - Stellungnahme Allianz der Wissenschaftsorganisationen - Max-Planck-Gesellschaft
- 20(18)268a - Stellungnahme Jan.-Prof. Dr. Amrei Bahr, PD Dr. Kristin Eichhorn, Dr. Sebastian Kubon (Initiatoren von #ICHBIHanna)
- 20(18)268b - Stellungnahme IQ - Fakultät für Gesellschaftswissenschaften
- 20(18)268c - Stellungnahme Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
- 20(18)268d - Stellungnahme PostdocNET
- 20(18)268e - Stellungnahme Max-Planck-Gesellschaft
- 20(18)268f - Stellungnahme Landespersonalratkonferenz
- 20(18)268g - Stellungnahme VMD
- 20(18)268h - Stellungnahme Verband der Historiker und Historikerinnen Deutschlands
- 20(18)268i - Stellungnahme yHEP association

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**Our view on foreseen changes**

*The young High Energy Physics association (yHEP) supports the general intention of the government to improve the working conditions for researchers and in particular the plannability and commitment in the PhD and post-doc phases. We therefore welcome the initiative to change the WissZeitVG as one component to reach these goals.*

...

**Call to the members of parliament**

*The suggested changes, hence, can only be a draft towards a real reform. We call on the members of parliament to modify the proposal and implement additional changes that have a true impact on improving the working conditions in academia.*

...

# Environmental sustainability in science

- yHEP campaign: “**Know your footprint**”
  - Idea: Calculate your private and professional CO<sub>2</sub> footprint to identify the biggest contributors
  - Core team: Naman Bhalla, Simran Gurdasani, Pardis Niknejadi, Valerie Lang
  - Work ongoing in 4 categories of the professional footprint:
    - Experiment/Collaboration, Institute/Research centre, Computing, Travel

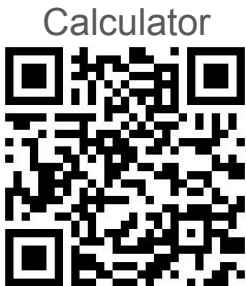
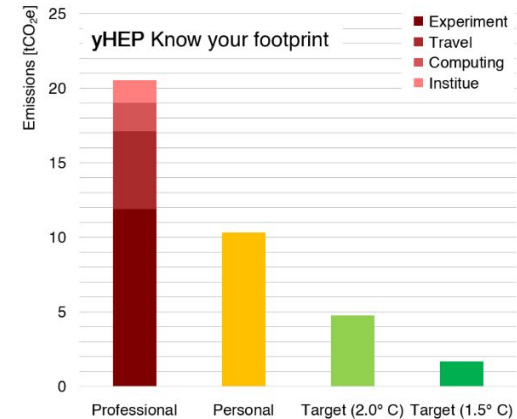


Paper is published: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2403.03308>

→ submitted to [npj Climate Action](#)

Category	Emissions [tCO <sub>2</sub> e ]
Large LHC experiment	11.91
University (German electricity mix)	1.54
Computing (medium)	1.91
Travel (2xT, 1xF(E), 1xF(C))	5.20
Total	20.56

Table 10: Professional CO<sub>2</sub> footprint of a benchmark doctoral researcher, working on one of the large LHC experiments, employed by a German university, with medium computing usage level and two intra-Germany travels by train (T), one intra-Europe flight travel (F(E)) and one cross-continental flight travel (F(C)) per year.



How large is your carbon footprint?

→ Know-your-footprint calculator

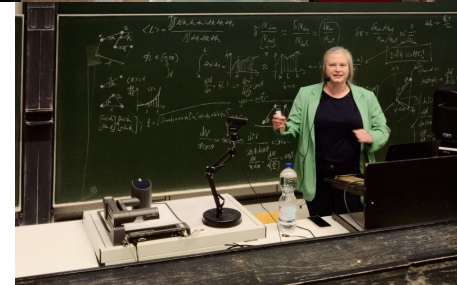
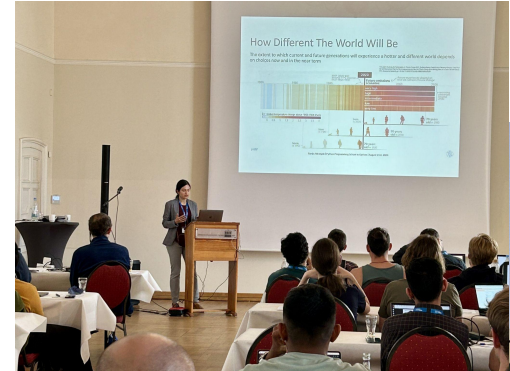
<https://limesurvey.web.cern.ch/863499?lang=en>

<https://desy-yhep.desy.de/sustainability/>

→ first analysis of collected data started

# Environmental sustainability in science

- yHEP presentations at various occasions:
  - Seminar talks at KCETA colloquium Karlsruhe and at PSI, Switzerland
  - [Sustainable HEP Workshop 2024](#)
  - [International Conference of High Energy Physics \(ICHEP 2024\)](#)
  - [ErUM-Data-Hub Python Programming School in Aachen](#)
  - [DPG Klimasymposium](#)
  - [Discussion Evening: Sustainability in ErUM-Data](#)
- Future plans:
  - Make the Kyf calculator global & independent
  - Include more countries, experiments, institutes, etc.
  - Further developments will need funding



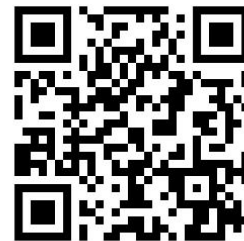


# yHEP appearance online / on social media

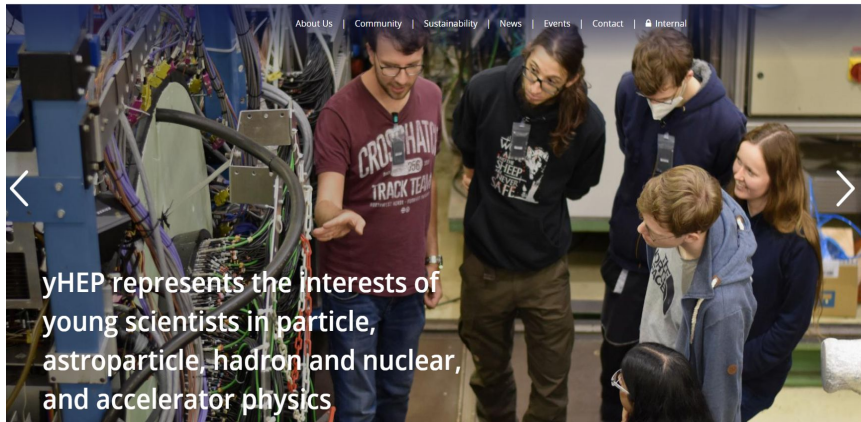


- yHEP [webpage](#)
  - Represents the interests of yHEP and its members
  - Community and Sustainability are now two central topics
  - Feel free to send us feedback

- Follow us on [LinkedIn](#):



Young High Energy Physicists Association

A screenshot of the yHEP LinkedIn profile page. The header shows the LinkedIn logo, a search bar, and navigation links for "Home" and "My Network". The profile banner features the yHEP logo and a photograph of young scientists. The profile name is "Young High Energy Physicists Association" with a tagline: "yHEP is representing interests of early career researchers in high-energy physics in Germany. Join us! Research Services - DESY · 128 followers · 0-1 employees". Below the name are buttons for "Message", "Following", and a menu icon. The page has tabs for "Home", "About", "Posts", "Jobs", and "People". The "Posts" tab is active, showing a post from yHEP with 128 followers, dated 1 month ago. The post text reads: "As we all experienced the high temperatures over the summer #globalwarming, our Know-your-footprint (Kyf) campaign spread further and was part of the Sustainable HEP Workshop (<https://lnkd.in/emhnUu6F>), #ICHEP2024, and the Python ...more". Below the text is a thumbnail image of a presentation slide.

# Ongoing work and plans for next year



- Looking forward to new yHEP MB after elections
- Continue improving working conditions for ECRs  
→Address Residence Permit issue
  
- Continue constructive, respectful, trustful and joyful work in KHuK and other committees

THANK YOU!