

Echophysics,
the European Centre
for the History of Physics,

invites you to join the

**1. European Symposium:
History, Heritage, and Knowledge
Transfer in Physics Museums**

Pöllau, Austria
August 19 – 21, 2024



Rationale:

The true function of a “physics museum” is, essentially, to undertake the difficult task to bring home to museum visitors the contemporary physicist’s view of the world, tracing its historical development right up to the modern ideas, and showing how it affects every aspect of our civilization – while finding a better way to do so than merely presenting a bewildering mosaic of individual items of information and a bald statement of formulae and intellectual arguments, seeking instead to offer an emotional experience can afford.

(Hermann Auer, Museums of exact and natural sciences, Museum Vol. XXVI, No. 2, 1974)

In Europe many small museums in the field of general physics (Astro-, geo-, nuclear- and quantum-physics) contribute to a fundamental understanding of the basics and history of natural as well as engineering sciences. Often, they cooperate with non-profit organizations to fulfil the above-mentioned broad effects. They help to enhance the scientific culture of its citizens, and address global challenges, as climate, energy crisis, misinformation, and trust in science.

Echophysics, the European Centre for the History of Physics, was founded by Dr. Peter Maria Schuster in 2009 in Pöllau, Austria. The aim of Echophysics is to communicate the history of European physics, but also the

biography and career of physicists to the interested public. Echophysics is supported by the local Victor-Franz-Hess-association, by the municipality of Pöllau, as well as by the European Physical Society (EPS).

Goals of the symposium:

The goal of this symposium is to foster communication and collaboration between small and medium-sized museums across national boundaries and to provide a forum for exchanging ideas (tentatively museum objects for terminable exhibitions) and information.

The aim of this first meeting in Pöllau is to bring together representatives of small and medium-sized museums (and related associations) with a common interest in the historical development of physics, its pioneers, and its influence on the natural and engineering sciences. The following topics should be discussed:

- How can we enhance the visibility of a museum (for example, by linking to each other's websites) to attract more visitors.
- Can we find a possibility of an easier exchange of exhibition items (objects, writings, videos, ...) to enable more terminable/variable exhibitions, even if the budget is limited.

- How can we create opportunities to process the scientific estates of important scientists to make them known to the public.
- Does it make sense for representatives of small museums to network and to organize symposia to meet regularly for exchange ideas and information.

Venue of the symposium:

The symposium will take place in Pöllau Castle. The castle and former Augustinian canons' monastery is located in the middle of the village Pöllau, in the eastern district of the province Styria. The almost 300-year-old work of the canons has made Pöllau the spiritual, cultural, and economic centre of the Pöllau Valley.

Target group:

Representatives of small and medium-sized museums (throughout Europe) as well as of scientific associations related to a museum are invited to participate in this first networking meeting. The main scientific topics are all aspects of physics (historical, general, specific with impact on technical sciences and even on educational benefit).

Call for active participation:

We encourage all participants to give a short oral presentation (maximum 15 minutes) about their museum or association. In addition, there will be a panel discussion and opportunities for joint discussions.

The applications may briefly describe in English (maximum 500 words) which topics are dealt with in their museum/association and which themes would be interesting for discussion.

Symposium fee:

The symposium fee is 90 Euro per person. It covers all sessions, a visit of the Museum Echophysics, and coffee breaks.

Dates and deadlines:

As this is the first symposium of this kind, it would be very helpful for planning, if you could give us feedback as soon as possible whether this event is of interest to you (fill in the [google form](#) or email to sonja.draxler@gmail.com).

In November you will receive further information concerning the symposium with details for registration, paying the registration fee as well as travelling and accommodation.

Preliminary timetable:

Statement of interest	as soon as possible
Opening of registration and abstract submission	November 2023
Deadline for contributions	February 15, 2024
Preliminary program	May 1, 2024
Date of the symposium	August 19 - 21, 2024

Contact:

Please feel free to contact us for further questions (Email: sonja.draxler@gmail.com, or info@echophysics.com or info@victorfhess.org).

Information is also provided on:

www.echophysics.org
www.victorfhess.org

