



Dear CHER members,

Dear HE community interested in CHER 2020 conference,

Following extensive discussions, the Local Organising Committee (LOC) and the CHER board have decided to **postpone CHER 2020** jointly organised by the University of Rijeka and NUI Galway, and transfer one into the upcoming year of 2021. This was an extremely difficult decision to make but is a necessary one in the light of the enormous challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Our primary consideration when making this decision was the health and wellbeing of conference participants and we feel collectively that this is the only possible position to adopt.

We recognise that the cancelation of CHER 2020 is an unprecedented step for the CHER community. The CHER annual conference has been the centre point for the past 32 years, the place where we have been making new connections and renewing old friendships. CHER has been a well-known platform for so many already established and emerging researchers and researchers' groups from across the globe to explore and discuss current research and future possibilities while at the same time renewing the bonds that support the on-going work. The ECHER social and academic events have been allowing young scholars, particularly newcomers to the CHER annual conferences, the opportunity to engage with the vibrant research culture and to make their own (new) social networks in the field.

Whilst acknowledging all of this, we also recognise that we are facing a unique global crisis that requires significant changes of behaviour on all of our parts. Therefore, tough decisions need to be made. All advice taken at local, national and European levels indicate that continuing with the CHER 2020 in Rijeka/Opatija would pose an unacceptable risk not only to participants, but also to our host community. In addition, we have been informed about strict travelling policies at many universities worldwide that might hinder participants' opportunities to attend the conference. Postponing the CHER 2020 in the coming year of 2021 appears to be the safest option.





We would nevertheless like to recognise the work and commitment of the authors of all the contributions submitted for the CHER 2020. We understand and truly appreciate the significant amount of work that went into each and every one of these proposals. We are aware that you will have many questions in relation to this decision and we will endeavour to answer them all in the coming weeks. We would ask for your patience, however, as we work through the implications of this cancellation for CHER as a whole.

In the meantime, you will continue to receive conference updates in the coming weeks and months, and please follow all the news at our website - <https://cher2020.eu/>, and follow us on Facebook and on Twitter @cherconf2020 (please use #cherconf2020).

Please note that the CHER Board as well as all the members of both CHER 2020 Programme and Organising Committee are working remotely, but we are all doing our best in responding to your emails promptly.

**We are all looking forward to seeing you in Rijeka and being together again
at CHER 2021!**

Gaëlle Goastellec
CHER Board of Governors, Chair

Pedro Teixeira
CHER Board of Governors, General secretary

Bojana Ćulum Ilić
CHER 2020 Programme / Organising Committee President

