

# Terms and Conditions for Participation in the HMC Conference 2026

*Last updated: 25/02/2026*

These Terms and Conditions govern participation in the **HMC Conference 2026**, organized by the **Helmholtz Metadata Collaboration (HMC)**, a public institution of the Helmholtz Association, taking place **28–30 April 2026** in Germany (hereinafter referred to as “the Organizer”).

## 1. Registration and Contract Conclusion

Registration for the HMC Conference 2026 must be completed online via the official conference website. By submitting a registration or an abstract, participants make a binding offer to participate in the event and confirm their acceptance of these Terms and Conditions. The contract becomes effective when the Organizer confirms the registration by email. If registration is completed on behalf of another person, the registrant confirms that the participant has been informed about and agrees to these Terms and Conditions. Participation entitles attendees to attend the on-site conference, but all other costs, such as travel or accommodation, are the responsibility of the participant.

## 2. Abstract and Registration Fees

Submission of abstracts and registration for participation in a conference or workshop is only possible online via this conference or workshop website at [events.geomar.de](https://events.geomar.de). If participation and/or registration is subject to a fee, the fees incurred and their due date are explicitly stated.

Abstract and/or participation fees must be paid separately for fee-based events. Payment is processed exclusively via **PAYONE GmbH**, in accordance with their data protection information, which can be found here. Cash payment is not possible. Different conditions may apply for early bookings or late registrations or late receipt of payment. These will be displayed explicitly when registering for a conference or workshop and must be confirmed explicitly before payment is made. They can be accessed at any time via the respective event page. In the event of late payment, the indicated difference will always be invoiced subsequently. The time of the payment order is valid.

All prices include the legal value added tax.

# HMC Conference

> Metadata in Action, 28.-30.04.2026, Heidelberg

## 3. Right of Withdrawal (for consumers according to § 13 BGB)

*\*\*Beginning of the revocation instruction\*\**

### **Right of withdrawal**

You may revoke your contractual declaration within 14 days in text form (e.g. by letter, e-mail) without giving reasons. The time limit begins after receipt of this instruction in text form, but not before the conclusion of the contract and also not before we have fulfilled our information obligations according to Article 246 EGBGB as well as our obligations according to §312g BGB in conjunction with Article 246 EGBGB. The timely dispatch of the revocation suffices to comply with the revocation period.

The revocation must be sent in writing, stating the name of the event and your name used for registration, (if no other address is specified) to

Helmholtz Metadata Collaboration - HMC Office  
GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel  
Wischhofstr. 1-3  
24148 Kiel  
Germany  
E-Mail: event [at] helmholtz-metadaten.de

### **Consequences of withdrawal**

In the event of an effective revocation, the services received by both parties are to be returned and any benefits derived (e.g. interest) surrendered. Obligations to refund payments must be fulfilled within 30 days. The period begins for you with the dispatch of your revocation declaration, for us with its receipt.

*\*\*End of the revocation instruction\*\**

## 4. Cancellation

Cancellation of participation in an event is possible at any time. Cancellation of participation in the event is only valid in written form (e-mail, fax, letter) and only after receipt by the respective conference/workshop secretariat. Please send your cancellation, stating the name of the event and your name used for registration, by e-mail, fax or letter to the conference/workshop secretariat (unless a different address is specified in the announcement):

Helmholtz Metadata Collaboration - HMC Office  
GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel  
Wischhofstr. 1-3  
24148 Kiel  
Germany  
E-Mail: event [at] helmholtz-metadaten.de

In case of a cancellation, we ask for your bank details. If you book by credit card, the refund amount will be credited to your credit card.

# HMC Conference

> Metadata in Action, 28.-30.04.2026, Heidelberg

In case of cancellation up to 30 days before the start of the event, the full costs will be refunded.

For cancellations 14 to 29 days before the event, 50% of the registration fee will be refunded.

In case of later cancellation, the registration fee is payable in full and is non-refundable.

For any refund of registration fees in case of cancellation a non-refundable handling fee of 15.00 EUR will be charged.

The participant's right of cancellation according to § 3 of these terms and conditions remains unaffected.

## 5. Participant Obligations and Code of Conduct

All participants are expected to behave responsibly, respectfully, and in accordance with applicable laws during the conference. Participants must provide accurate and up-to-date personal data and notify the Organizer of any changes. Prohibited behaviour includes, but is not limited to, harassment, offensive or defamatory conduct, distribution of unlawful or copyrighted material without permission, anti-competitive activities, and unauthorized recording or sharing of presentations. The Organizer may deny access or remove participants from the event in case of violations. All materials presented at the conference remain the intellectual property of the respective presenters and may not be shared without permission.

## 6. Presentations and Export Control

Speakers are responsible for ensuring that their presentations comply with applicable laws and third-party rights, including copyright, trademark, and confidentiality obligations. Presenters must verify the legality of all logos, images, videos, or other content included in their presentations. Presenters are also responsible for compliance with export control regulations; unpublished scientific results must not violate embargoes or require export licenses. Presenters indemnify the Organizer against any third-party claims arising from non-compliance, unless the Organizer is at fault.

## 7. Photo and Video Recordings

During the HMC Conference 2026, photographs will be taken for documentation and communication purposes. No video recordings will be made by the Organizer.

Photographs are taken primarily for internal documentation of the event and reporting within HMC and the Helmholtz Association. A limited number of selected photographs may be published for outreach and science communication purposes on the HMC website and on official social media channels of the Organizer, including LinkedIn, Mastodon, and Bluesky.

Where photographs are published on social media platforms such as LinkedIn, Mastodon, or Bluesky, personal data may be processed by these providers, potentially including transfers to countries outside the European Economic Area. Further information on international data transfers and data protection safeguards is available

# HMC Conference

> Metadata in Action, 28.-30.04.2026, Heidelberg

in our general Data Protection Information on the HMC website: [www.helmholtz-metadaten.de/datenschutzerklaerung](http://www.helmholtz-metadaten.de/datenschutzerklaerung).

The legal basis for the processing of photographs is Art. 6(1)(f) GDPR (legitimate interest). The Organizer's legitimate interest lies in documenting the event, reporting on publicly funded scientific activities, and communicating research activities to the scientific community and the public.

Care will be taken to avoid disadvantageous or inappropriate depictions of participants. Photographs will primarily show the event atmosphere, overview situations, or groups rather than focusing on individual participants.

Participants who do not wish to appear in photographs may collect a clearly visible "No-Picture" button at the registration desk. The Organizer and assigned photographers will make reasonable efforts to respect this indication. Participants may also object to the processing of their images at any time pursuant to Art. 21 GDPR by contacting [events@helmholtz-metadaten.de](mailto:events@helmholtz-metadaten.de). In such cases, the Organizer will review the request and, where legally required, cease further processing or remove the image from future publications.

Close-up photographs focusing on individual participants (e.g., portraits or interviews) will only be taken with prior explicit consent.

Photographs will be stored only as long as necessary for the above-mentioned purposes or as required by statutory retention obligations.

## 8. Data Protection

The Organizer processes personal data exclusively in accordance with the GDPR and the German Federal Data Protection Act (BDSG). Personal information collected during registration, including name, contact information, and payment details, is used exclusively for organizing, conducting, and following up on the conference, as well as for communication and documentation. The legal basis for processing is Art. 6(1)(b) GDPR (performance of a contract). Data will be stored only as long as necessary or required by law. Participants have the right to access, correct, erase, or restrict processing of their data, and to object to processing or lodge a complaint with the supervisory authority. Additional details are available in the [Privacy Policy](#) of the conference management system Indico at [events.geomar.de](http://events.geomar.de).

## 9. Liability

The organizers of the conference/workshop/meetings are not liable for damages caused by force majeure or for the loss/theft of valuables of any kind. Furthermore, the organizers do not accept any liability for any kind of damage caused in connection with accommodation or arrival/departure.

# HMC Conference

> Metadata in Action, 28.-30.04.2026, Heidelberg

## 10. Place of Jurisdiction

The place of jurisdiction for all disputes is the headquarters of GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel.

## 11. Final Provision

Place of performance of the contractual services is the headquarters of GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel.

Should one of the provisions of these general terms and conditions be invalid, the validity of the remaining provisions shall not be affected. In such cases, the parties will negotiate an agreement to replace the ineffective provision and which comes as close as possible to the content of the original provision.