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Press Release

Lindau Sciathon Forum: Presentation of Top Three Projects by Jury Vote – Physics as a Driver for a Sustainable Future

- Sciathon: Hackathon-style competition on Physics for a sustainable future, groups cooperated online in April 2024
- Today: presentation of the three most promising project groups to a top-class panel and an esteemed audience
- Impressions on social media: [#sciathon](#)

On the occasion of the 73rd Lindau Meeting, the [Sciathon](#) Forum took place today which concludes the 4th Lindau Online Sciathon. [Three groups](#) from the online competition in April had qualified for this event by selection of a jury of experts and were invited to present their projects. The main focus was on the feasibility of the ideas that had been developed during a 48-hour challenge by virtual collaboration. "Physics as a Driver for a Sustainable Future" was the theme of the 4th edition of the Lindau Online Sciathon which had its premiere in 2020.

The short presentations were followed by a lively discussion between the groups, seasoned experts, and the audience providing insights into the following projects:

- **Cleaning Up Our Planet – Through Physical Engineering of Bacterial Enzymes Capable of Degrading Plastics**
Group Kandaswamy
To address the global problem of plastic pollution, this project combines Machine Learning-assisted enzyme optimization with an approach to collect, assimilate, and degrade PET into non-toxic products.
- **Open-Source Software Efficiency Project**
Group Meißner
This initiative stresses the potential of optimizing open-source software libraries at the heart of the global IT/software sector to reduce the carbon footprint through greater energy efficiency.
- **Nanomaterial-Based Luminescent Pesticides (NBLPs)**
Group Arnau del Valle
The proposal seeks to reduce or eliminate the dependency on chemical pesticides by developing innovative pest control methods: pesticide delivery through nanoparticles with added active pesticide monitoring via luminescence.



LINDAU NOBEL LAUREATE MEETINGS

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From 19–21 April 2024, ten project groups had been asked to develop a project within two days from an idea of the respective group leader – all Lindau Alumni. Up to ten participants – Young Scientists from the current meeting as well as Lindau Alumni – worked on the ideas for 48 hours online. At the end, all groups submitted a 5-page paper and a short video.

The involvement in the Sciathon was a success for all participants, as experience from previous years shows that some groups continue to pursue their projects to this day, regardless of their placement.

[AuthentiSci](#), a project initiated during the first Lindau Sciathon, is a good example: AuthentiSci is a browser-based tool that allows researchers to rate online media with scientific content to fight misinformation. Since 2020, the plugin was further developed in cooperation with the Max Planck Institute for Gravitational Physics and the Foundation Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings. Lindau Alumna Ana Alonso-Serrano will present the successfully developed browser extension during the last day of the ongoing Lindau Meeting.

Heiner Linke, chairperson of the Sciathon jury and scientific co-chair of this year's Lindau Meeting: "I am once again impressed by the quality and richness of the ideas raised by the Lindau community during the Sciathon. They underline the creativity and ingenuity that scientists can bring to the table, which is much needed to build a sustainable global future."

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About the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings

For over seventy years, the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings have served as unique forum for exchange between Nobel Laureates and Young Scientists. Every summer, more than 600 of the world's most talented Young Scientists and more than 30 Nobel Laureates are invited to spend a week in Lindau on the German side of Lake Constance, a week full of mutual inspiration and scientific encounters. Since the first Meeting in 1951, more than 35,000 Young Scientists have participated in the Lindau Meetings – for many of them, it has been an experience that has changed their careers and lives, making them part of a unique international network of scientific excellence. Even after years and decades, they are still connected with each other and with the Lindau Meetings through the Lindau Alumni Network.

The original idea of the Meetings goes back to two physicians based in Lindau, Franz Karl Hein and Gustav Wilhelm Parade, as well as to Count Lennart Bernadotte af Wisborg, a member of the Swedish royal family who quickly became the spiritus rector of the Lindau Meetings. From the start, they saw the Meetings as a means to reconcile the peoples of post-war Europe, in particular, the younger generation. Lindau quickly developed into an international forum for the exchange of knowledge between nations, cultures, traditions, and disciplines.

All year long the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings continue to pursue their 'Mission: Education' aimed at emphasising the importance of science and advocating science and research. This is also the purpose of the [Lindau Mediatheque](#) as a learning platform with teaching materials for schools.

Further Information

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