100 young researchers from all over the world attended the annual yESAO conference in Vienna. Three keynote lectures led the journey from Failure, Dead Ends, Unexpected Outcomes, to Success Stories, Milestones, Improvements through Alternative Methods and Cost Containment. Few selected abstracts for each of the 3 topics provided practical examples and stimulating discussions. A company visit was organized on the first day at Lithoz to familiarise with the process of ceramic 3D printing and its applications. On the closing day, the workshop on “Best Practices and Workarounds – common experimental and lab setups” was held: firstly, yESAO members were grouped based on their interest, then each group was encouraged to exchange best practices and discuss challenges, followed by a presentation to all the members. A “Speed Geeking” was held at the end of the day, to better know each other and stimulate new collaborations.

For the yESAO meeting night, a typical Viennese dinner was held in a traditional tavern in the heart of Vienna, followed by home made beers brewed in Hannover by the yESAO coordinators and the core team. Multiple other social events were organised throughout the congress week, together with the ESAO members, of which a visit to the medical museums and dinner at a traditional Viennese Heurigen.