

RESULTS OF THE PARTICIPANTS' EVALUATION OF THE 2008 EUPHA CONFERENCE

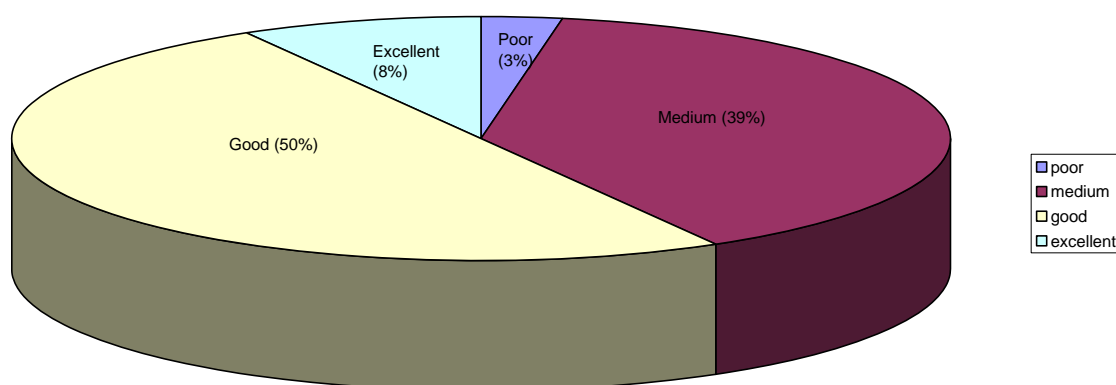
The 2008 EUPHA and ASPHER conferences were evaluated in a number of manners. The results presented in this document is based on the evaluation of the conference participants. In the conference materials handed out to all participants a four page evaluation form was included. 74 participants returned the evaluation form to EUPHA office (6% of all participants).

The questions in the evaluation form were divided in 7 parts:

1. Plenary sessions
2. Parallel sessions
3. Pre conference activities
4. Poster exhibition
5. Registration and conference venue
6. Abstract submission
7. EUPHA as an organization

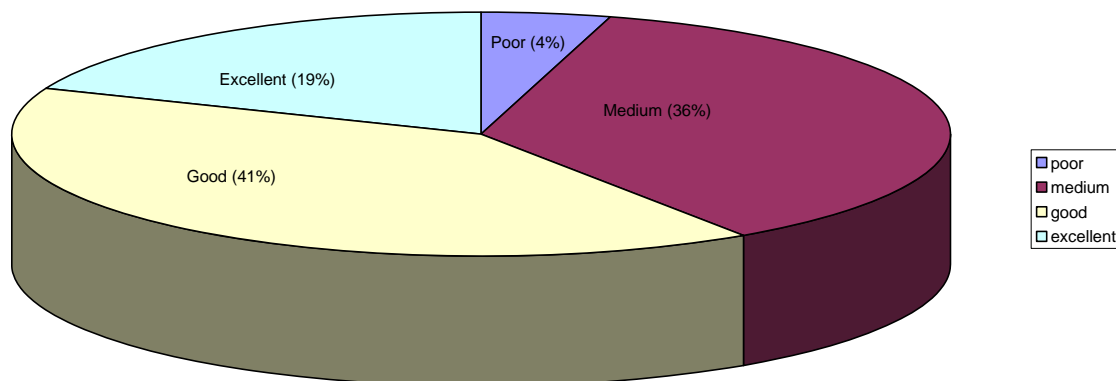
1. Plenary sessions

General impression of the content



Number of respondents	72
Average score (out of 4)	2.63

General impression of keynote speakers



Number of respondents	69
Average score (out of 4)	2.70

On the question what the best plenary session was, the response rate was 46. The two top sessions were:

- Plenary session 2: Friday 7 November from 09:00-10:00
 - o Josep Figueras: What shapes health systems innovation? Balancing the role of evidence, governance and politics.
- Plenary session 5 (organized by ASPHER): Saturday 8 November from 11:00-12:00
 - o Richard Parish: Leadership for health innovation: public health education and entrepreneurship.

A summary of the 15 remarks we received with regard to the plenary sessions:

Positive:

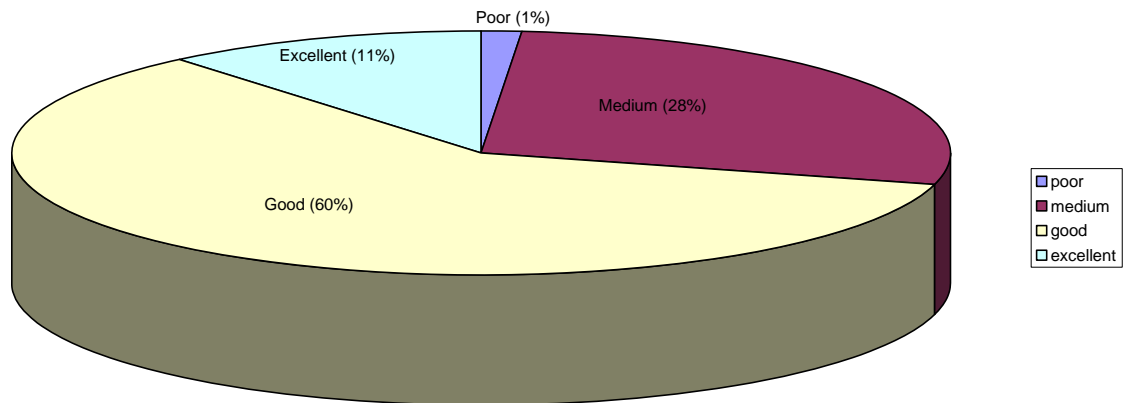
- the short movies that were shown in several plenary sessions were appreciated.
- the plenaries were very inspiring.

To be improved:

- Time planning of the plenaries (starting late, ending late).
- There should be more consistency throughout the plenary sessions.
- English of some speakers was insufficient.

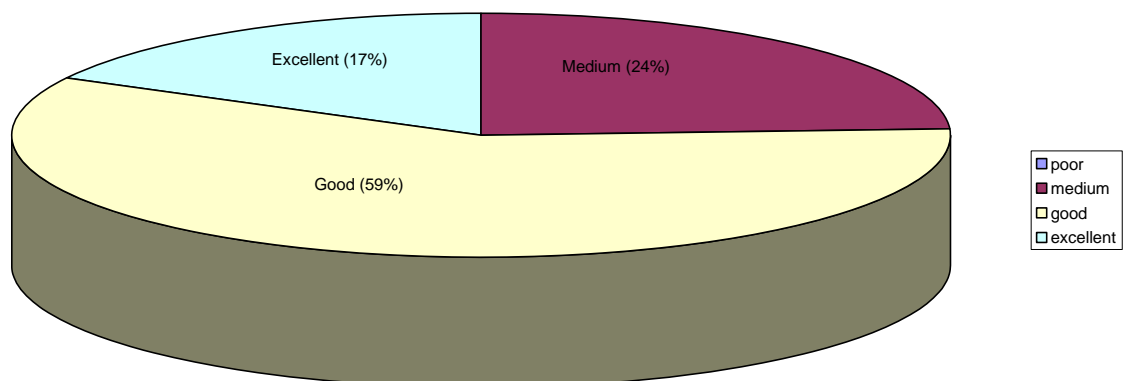
2. Parallel sessions

General impression of the content of parallel sessions



Number of respondents	72
Average score (out of 4)	2.81

Chairs of the parallel sessions



Number of respondents	70
Average score (out of 4)	3.00

The question what the best parallel session was that they attended was answered by 42 respondents. 27 of the parallel sessions were mentioned without a clear preference for 'best parallel session'. This indicates that the quality of the parallel sessions was equal between the sessions.

A summary of the 9 remarks we received with regard to the parallel sessions:

Positive:

- Many interesting papers.
- Good sessions.
- Well disciplined in time and presentation.

To be improved:

- The grouping of the abstracts in different sessions could be improved.
- The programme setting should avoid overlap.
- Sometimes the presentations were of poor quality.

3. Pre conference activities

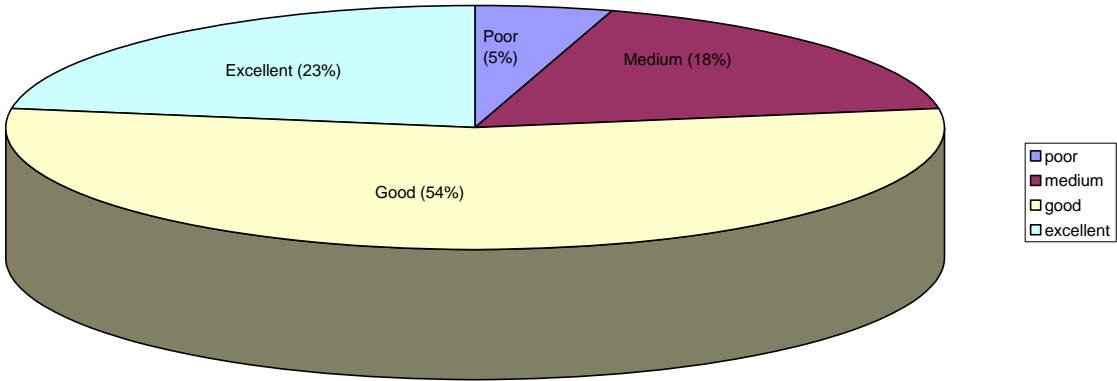
Out of the 72 respondents, 24 attended a pre conference activity. There were 9 pre conference activities planned and three satellite conferences (ASPHER, SESPAS and APDH).

Activity attended	Number of respondents	General impression of content	General impression on organisation
ASPHER	8	2.88	2.71
SESPAS	1	4.00	3.00
APDH	0		
Links between injuries and alcohol in child and adolescent public health	2	3.00	3.50
Privacy and (electronic) information gathering in (public) health	1	3.00	3.00
Public mental health and interpersonal and community violence	2	3.00	3.00
Migrant health	2	2.00	3.00
Sanofi Pasteur MSD Round table: The successful implementation of vaccination policies: a public health challenge	5	2.60	3.20
EU Teach – European training in effective adolescent care and health	Did not take place		
Workshop on Social security and health	5	3.00	3.20
Training seminar on measuring patient experiences in health care	0		
Intensive course on health innovation	0		

Only few comments were received on the pre conferences. The main comment was that it was unclear where some of the pre conferences were being organized. This led to at least one pre conference being cancelled because there was a no show, and some pre conferences starting later than anticipated.

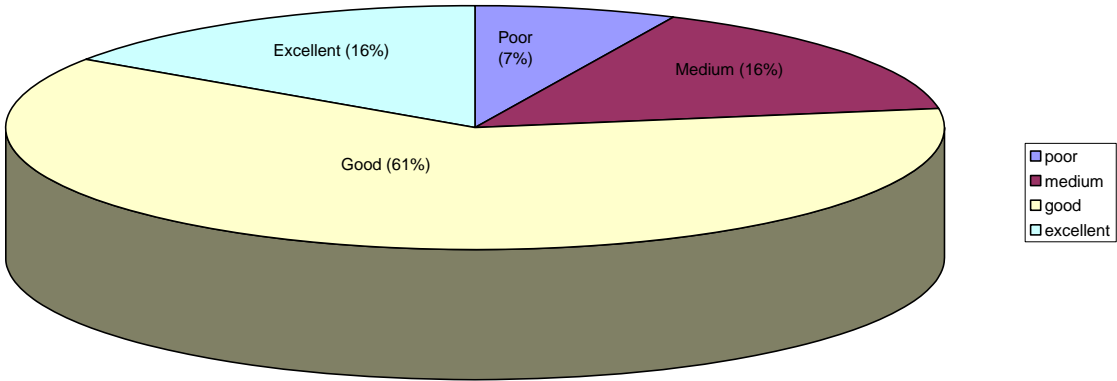
4. Poster exhibition

General impression poster location



Number of respondents	62
Average score (out of 4)	2.94

Presentation of posters



Number of respondents	58
Average score (out of 4)	3.00

For the first time, the posters were given extra attention at the conference by organizing a slide presentation at the EUPHA stand. Of the 66 respondents, 65% did not notice this extra service, although 78% (n=36) appreciated or would appreciate this extra service. Of the 59 respondents answering the question on whether they had voted for the best poster (poster voting form in all conference bags), 75% did not vote.

A summary of the 13 remarks received on the poster presentation:

Positive:

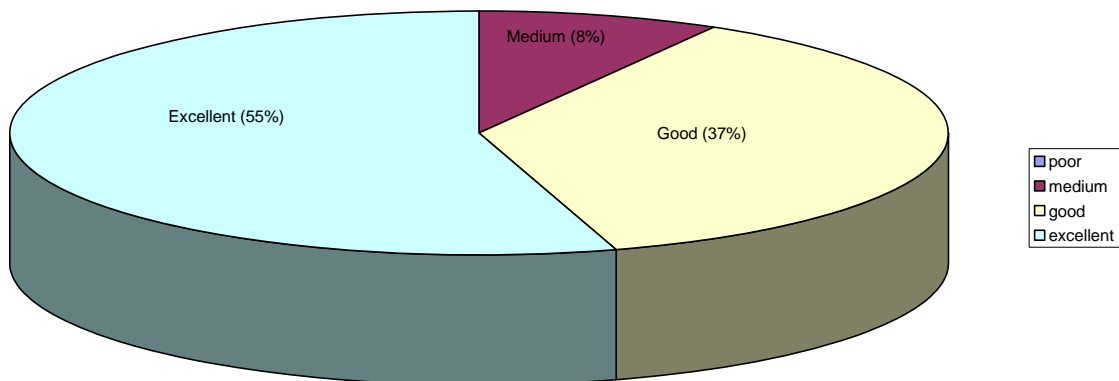
- The slide presentation at the EUPHA stand was an excellent idea.

To be improved:

- The poster exhibition space was too narrow to have a good look at the posters.
- There was not enough time to visit the poster exhibition.
- It was difficult to read all posters.
- Many posters were dismantled too early.
- "Posters are EUPHA's orphans".

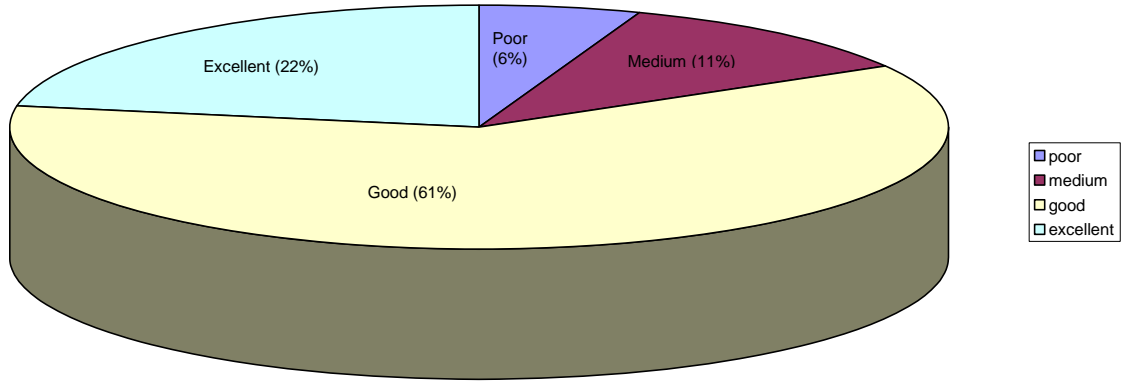
5. Registration and conference venue

General impression on the conference registration



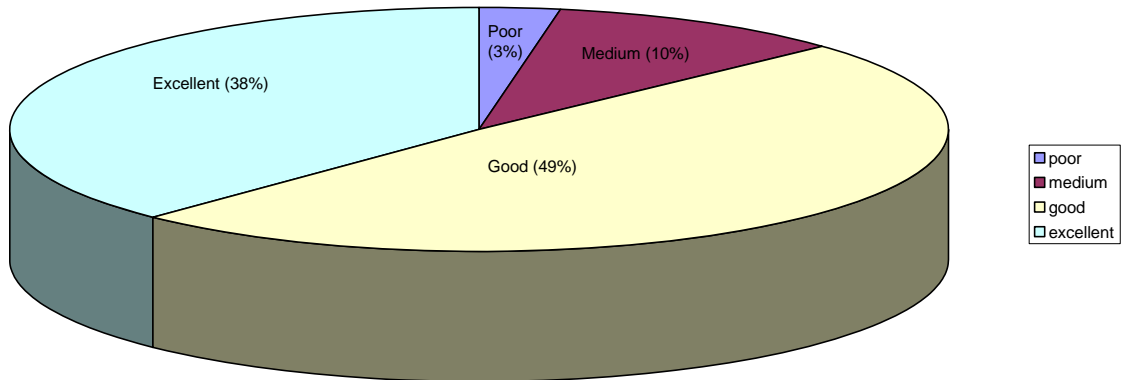
Number of respondents	73
Average score (out of 4)	3.50

Information received before the conference



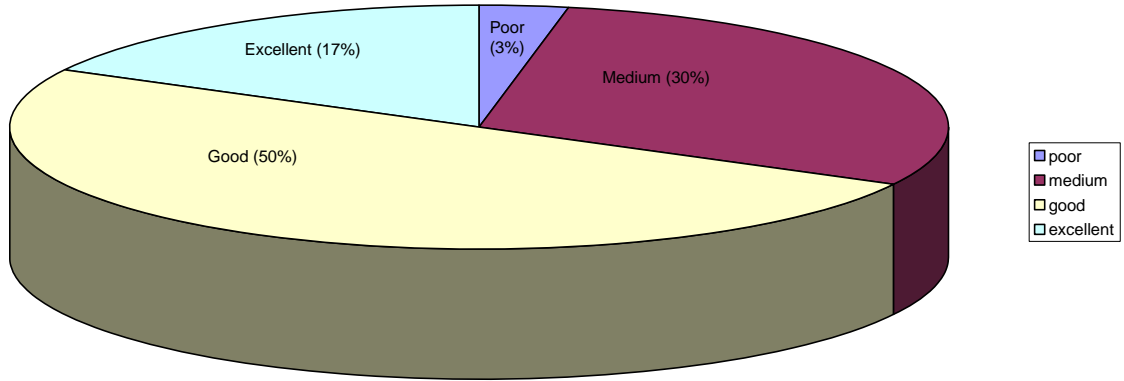
Number of respondents	72
Average score (out of 4)	3.00

The Conference venue



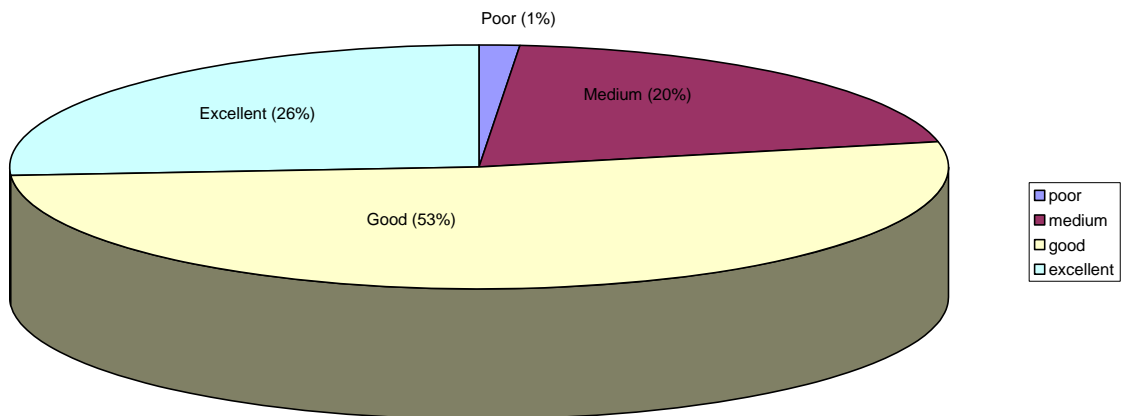
Number of respondents	69
Average score (out of 4)	3.20

Exhibition area and stands



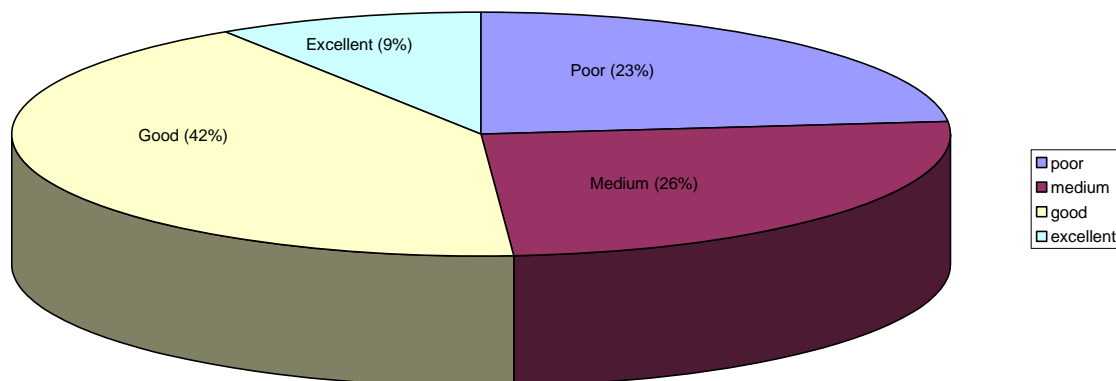
Number of respondents	64
Average score (out of 4)	2.80

Catering at the conference venue



Number of respondents	69
Average score (out of 4)	3.00

Conference dinner



Number of respondents	43
Average score (out of 4)	2.30

A summary of the 26 remarks received:

Positive:

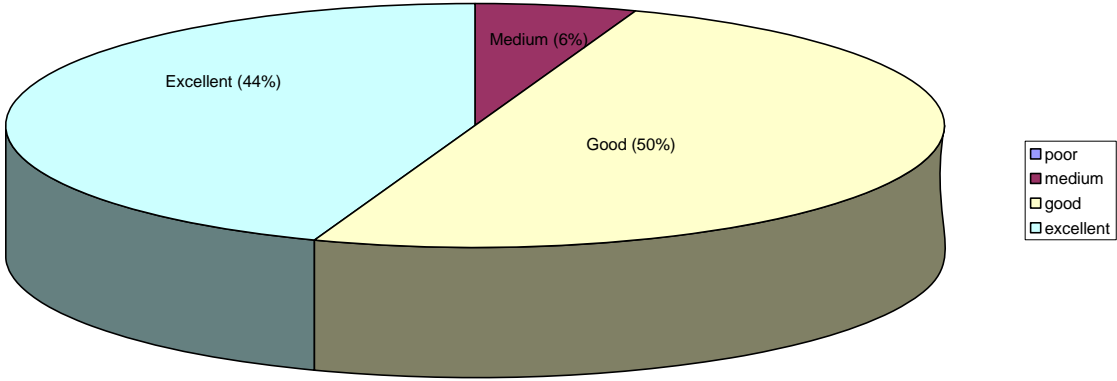
- The conference location was good and well adapted. Many rooms; not too small and not too far from each other.
- Catering was well organised, tea, fruit, water and apples.
- Innovation village is a good idea, but its potential was not used enough.
- EUPHA and ASPHER conference newsletters: thanks!
- Conference dinner: excellent location; nurses' performance was excellent.

To be improved:

- Catering: there were no beverages available between sessions.
- Food: more attention should be given to vegetarian alternatives. There should be more standing tables to eat your lunch.
- Information: the information on the programme could be improved; the information in the programme booklet should not be false or misleading (Saturday lunch).
- Room allocation: in some sessions, people were sitting on the floor, in the plenary hall, there was not much space for legs.
- List of participants was late and chaotic.
- The poster exhibition area was difficult to find.
- Registration fees were too high for local participants.
- Conference dinner: bad value for money; sound in the dinner hall was awful.

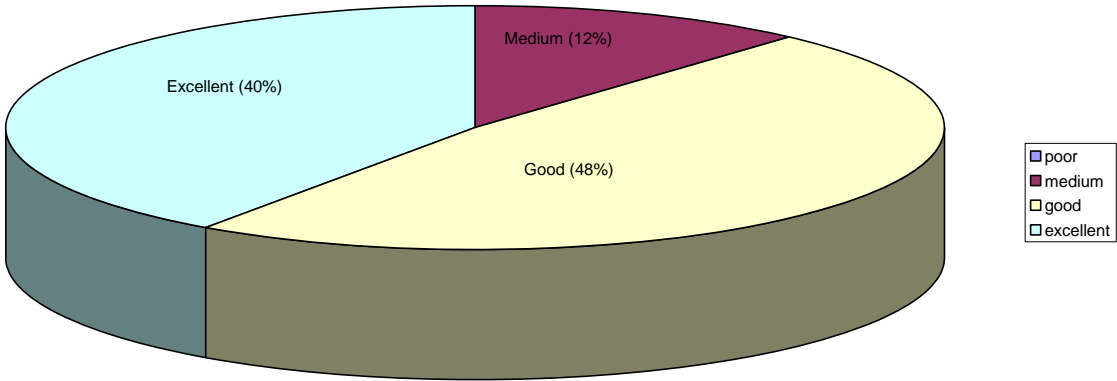
6. Abstract submission

Abstract submission process



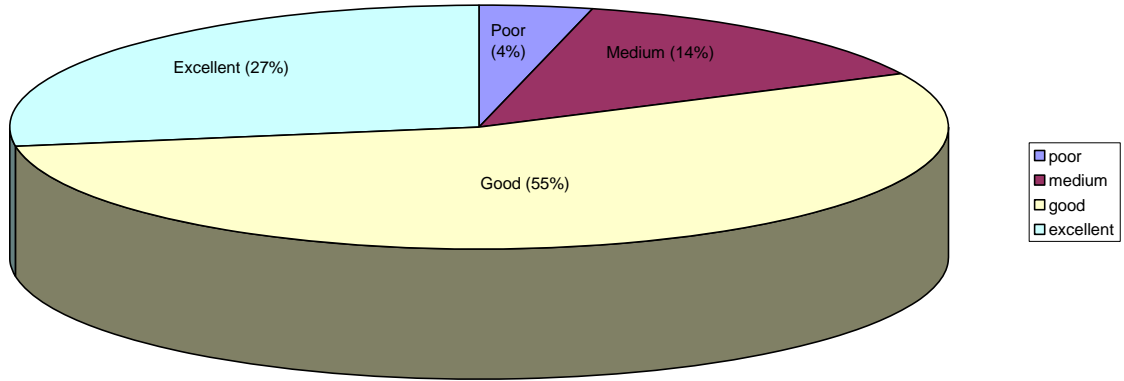
Number of respondents	54
Average score (out of 4)	3.39

Information on abstract submission



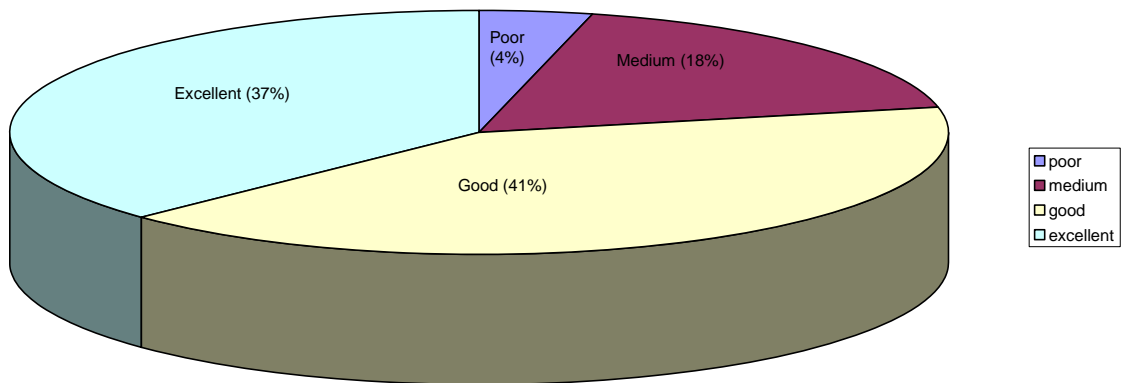
Number of respondents	52
Average score (out of 4)	3.29

The process to select abstracts



Number of respondents	51
Average score (out of 4)	3.06

Information on the selection of abstracts



Number of respondents	51
Average score (out of 4)	3.12

A summary of the 7 remarks received:

Positive:

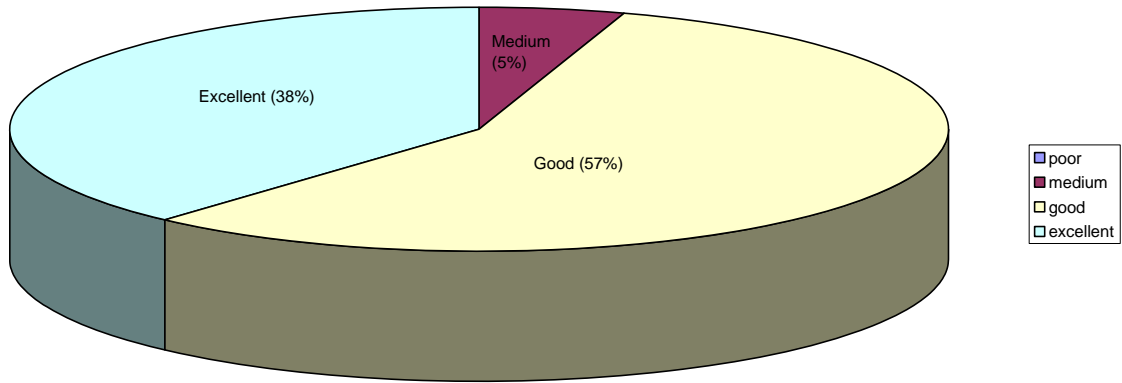
- Overall good satisfaction with the abstract handling process.

To be improved:

- The quality of the selection process needs to be evaluated.
- The next time the same abstract process should be used for both EUPHA and ASPHER (the EUPHA system).
- The possibility to correct your abstract after acceptance should be created.

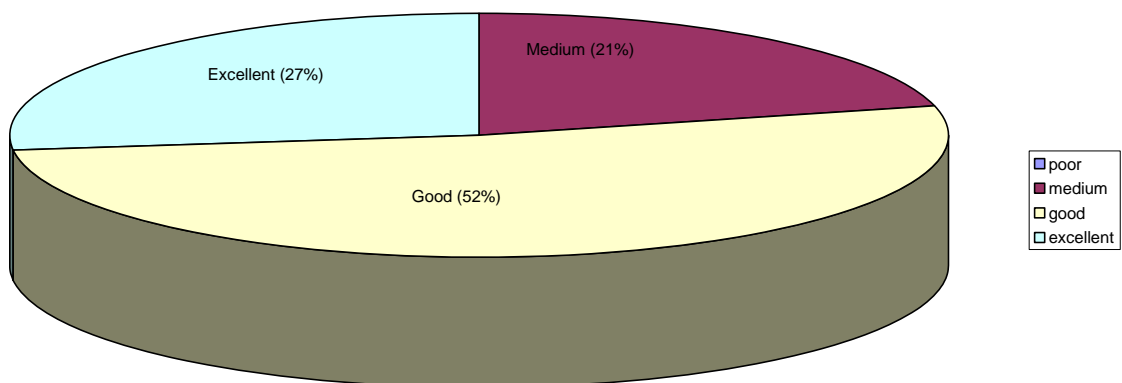
7. EUPHA as an organization

EUPHA as an organization



Number of respondents	60
Average score (out of 4)	3.30

The EUPHA sections



Number of respondents	52
Average score (out of 4)	3.10

A summary of the 20 answers on the question whether EUPHA is missing something:

Content:

- There should be more examples of practice (good practice) and policy.
- There should be more research based sessions.
- Several disciplines (e.g. Health services research, social determinants, health promotion) were under-represented.
- The programme should have a better logic: e.g. adolescent, mental health and injury prevention should not be planned at the same time.
- There is a need for greater involvement in the European public health scene, together with other organisations.

Organisation:

- The EUPHA sections should take over more responsibility.
- There should be more funding for participants to attend the EUPHA conference.
- There should be more cultural moments (e.g. local music at lunch or coffee time).
- EUPHA should be involved in coordination of internationally financed EC research programmes.

The question whether the respondent is intending to attend the 2009 conference, 71% (n=59) replied with yes, 6% was not sure yet and 23% does not plan to attend.

The final question was an open question for any remarks. A summary of the 14 remarks received (excluding an overlap of what was already included):

Positive:

- Very big and complex organisation, congratulations.
- Excellent organisation during conference.
- Thanks.
- Keep up the good work!
- Good conference for interaction with other researchers.
- Inspirational.

To be improved:

- Quality of the presentations can be improved.
- The opening and closing sessions are too long.
- The final programme booklet was difficult to read.
- The plenary sessions could be improved.

Dineke Zeegers Paget
Executive director
EUPHA