



RESULTS OF THE PARTICIPANTS' EVALUATION OF THE 4TH EUROPEAN PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE



10-12 November 2011, Copenhagen, Denmark

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In collaboration with the EUPHA, the Danish Society of Public Health and ASPHER

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Summary of main results

A total of 1437 public health professionals from 68 countries attended the Copenhagen 2011 conference, of which 345 participants (24% of all registrants) filled out the evaluation form.

Overall outcome:

- 89 % of the participants were very satisfied/satisfied with the Copenhagen 2011 conference.

Plenary programme:

- 86.7% of the participants were very satisfied/satisfied with the content of the plenary sessions; and
- 92.2% were very satisfied/satisfied with the plenary speakers.

Parallel programme:

- 75.9% of the participants were very satisfied/satisfied with the content of the parallel sessions; and
- 83.3% were very satisfied/satisfied with the speakers.

Moderated posters programme:

- 85.6% of respondents participated in the moderated posters programme;
- 79.2% were very satisfied/satisfied with the content of the posters;
- 75% with the location; and
- 84.6% were very satisfied/satisfied with the new technical solution of presenting posters.

Pre conferences:

- 30% of participants attended one or more pre-conferences;
- 82% were very satisfied/satisfied with the content; and
- 86% were very satisfied/satisfied with the organisation.

Registration:

- 83.8% of the participants were very satisfied/satisfied with the online registration;
- 83% were very satisfied/satisfied with the information provided before the conference; and
- 87.9% were very satisfied/satisfied with the onsite registration.

Conference venue:

- 90.8% of the participants were very satisfied/satisfied with the conference venue;
- 79.8% with the parallel session rooms; and
- 86.8% were very satisfied/satisfied with the technical support.

Catering:

- 94.2% of the participants were very satisfied/satisfied with the catering during the conference; and
- 67.1% were very satisfied/satisfied with the conference dinner.

Abstract submission:

- 89.2% of the participants were very satisfied/satisfied with the abstract submission;
- 89.3% with the information provided on abstract submission;
- 78.7% were very satisfied/satisfied with the decisional process; and
- 78% with the information received on the decisions.

Future conference (Malta 2012):

- 84.2% of the participants remember receiving the first announcement for our next conference; and
- 78.3% are planning to attend our next conference in Malta.

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Introduction

The 4th European Public Health Conference took place in Copenhagen, Denmark from 10-12 November 2011. The conference was organised by EUPHA, ASPHER and the Danish Society of Public Health. A total of 1437 public health professionals from 68 countries attended the conference. 755 abstracts and 68 workshops were submitted, scored and evaluated. The programme included 5 plenary sessions, 166 oral presentations in 27 parallel sessions, 38 workshops, and 431 posters presented in 60 moderated poster sessions. More information on the conference and the organisation can be found in the Copenhagen 2011 report.

Each European Public Health Conference is subject to a multi-layered evaluation. The objectives of this evaluation are:

- to learn from our experiences;
- to improve the organisation of future conferences.

The full evaluation report is an internal document that is distributed to our partners and future organisers. This part of the evaluation, the participants' evaluation, is made publicly accessible on the conference website.

The results presented here are based on the evaluation by the conference participants. The participants received two emails shortly after the conference inviting them to evaluate the conference through a web-based questionnaire (on 19 and 28 November 2011). A total of 345 participants (24% of all registrants) filled out the evaluation form.

The questionnaire included 64 questions:

- 31 questions to indicate satisfaction using a 5-scale rating (poor, sufficient, average, good, excellent)
- 9 open questions (for comments)
- 5 Yes/No questions
- 19 selection questions (for the pre conference attendance).

The questions in the evaluation form were divided in 10 parts:

1. General
2. Plenary programme
3. Parallel programme
4. Moderated posters programme
5. Pre conferences
6. Registration
7. Conference venue
8. Catering
9. Abstract submission
10. Future conference (Malta 2012)

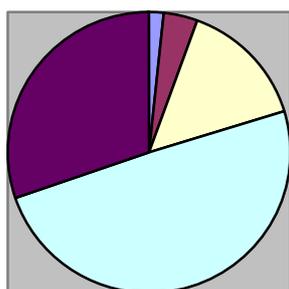
1. General

89 % of the participants were very satisfied/satisfied with the Copenhagen 2011 conference

Evaluation questions:

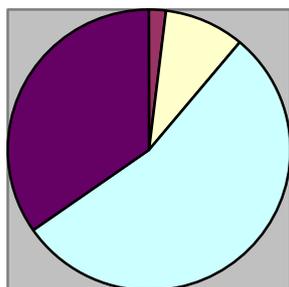
How important was the conference theme "Public health and welfare" for your work?	5-scale rating
How would you rate the conference as a whole?	5-scale rating
How would you rate the conference venue?	5-scale rating
How would you rate the scientific programme as a whole?	5-scale rating
How would you rate the social programme as a whole?	5-scale rating
Did you visit the exhibition area?	Yes/no
If yes, how would you rate the stands at the conference?	5-scale rating
How would you rate the conference website?	5-scale rating
How would you rate the information provided in the conference newsletters?	5-scale rating
We aim to offer networking at our conferences, how did this work for you?	5-scale rating

Theme of the conference: Public health and welfare



Respondents:	345
Average score:	4.03

The conference as a whole



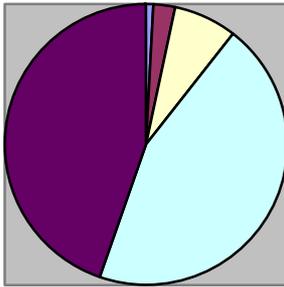
Respondents:	345
Average score:	4.22

Comments:

Overall, the conference was well received, with positive comments (including "Best EPH conference ever").

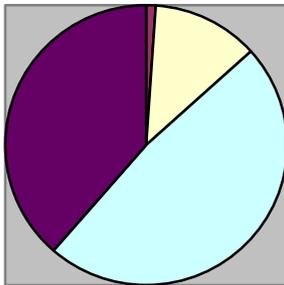
The main comment received concerned the registration fees, which was esteemed on the higher side, especially for low-income countries.

The conference venue



Respondents:	344
Average score:	4.30

The scientific programme as a whole



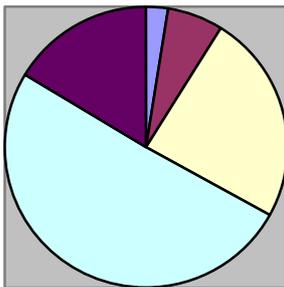
Respondents:	330
Average score:	4.24

Comments:

The scientific level was esteemed higher than previous years.

Comments were received that some titles of the sessions did not cover the contents.

The social programme as a whole



Respondents:	315
Average score:	3.72

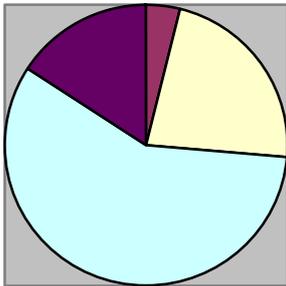
Comments:

The food at the conference was very much appreciated.

The welcome reception received a number of negative comments mainly for being organised in 2 locations.

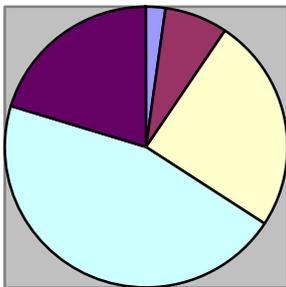
Exhibition area

76% of the respondents confirmed having visited the exhibition area.



Respondents:	287
Average score:	3.85

Website

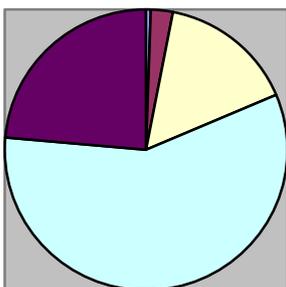


Respondents:	336
Average score:	3.74

Comments:

The website received some comments related to the interactive programme (too long, difficult to find your way) and the fact that several updates were not given ("information to follow soon"). The interactive programme should be accompanied by summaries that can be downloaded as PDF.

Conference newsletters

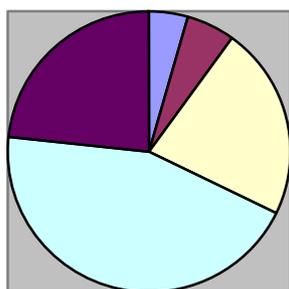


Respondents:	334
Average score:	4.01

Comments:

The newsletters were well received. The only comment was that the newsletter was a visible updated version of the Amsterdam 2010 newsletter.

Networking



Respondents:	333
Average score:	3.77

Comments:

Comments were mixed. Some found the networking opportunities at the conference good to very good, others would have like to have seen more time for 'organised networking'.

2. Plenary programme

86.7% of the participants were very satisfied/satisfied with the content of the plenary sessions, 92.2% were very satisfied/satisfied with the plenary speakers.

The 4th European Public Health Conference included 5 plenary sessions, an opening and a closing ceremony.

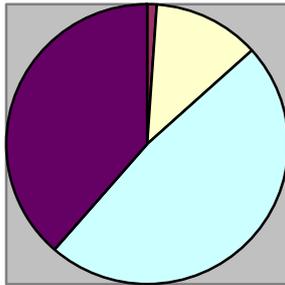
The five sessions:

- Thursday 10 November 13:00-13:45 Plenary 1
- Rival Welfare state models and their impact on family and child welfare.
Gosta Esping-Andersen, Spain
- Thursday 10 November 17:15-18:15 Plenary 2
- Reducing inequality in health in Europe – progress in policies?
Sir Michael Marmot, UK
 - Inequality and health – WHO EURO policies and activities. Moving towards Health 2020
Zsuzsana Jakab, WHO/EURO
- Friday 11 November 09:00-09:45 Plenary 3
- The contribution of preventive and curative health services to health, quality of life and welfare of the elderly population
Jean-Marie Robine, France
 - The consequences of economic crises and the responses to them for population health
Martin McKee, UK
- Friday 11 November 17:30-18:30 Plenary 4
- Using individually linked population-based registers in research focusing on the inter-relationship between health and welfare. Nordic experiences
Jorn Olsen, Denmark
Camilla Stoltenberg, Norway
Olle Lundberg, Sweden
Elina Hemminki, Finland
- Saturday 12 November 09:00-09:45 Plenary 5
- Debate on key policy issues around public health training and education
Antoine Flahault, France
Vesna Bjegovic-Mikanovic, Serbia
Kasja Czabanowska, The Netherlands
Stephen Shortell, US
- Saturday 12 November 14:00-14:30 Plenary 6
- The Danish Flexicurity model for labour market policy and social policy
Mogens Lykketoft, Denmark

Evaluation questions:

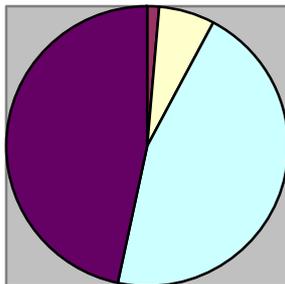
What was your general impression of the content of the plenaries?	5-scale rating
What was your general impression of the keynote speakers?	5-scale rating
What was the most interesting plenary session you attended?	Open

General impression of the content



Respondents:	330
Average score:	4.24

General impression of the keynote speakers



Respondents:	333
Average score:	4.37

Comments:

Several reported that all plenary speakers were excellent.

a large number of participants reported to particularly like and be inspired by the plenary presentations of Michael Marmot and Martin McKee.

The combination of a Danish prize in public health (awarded in the closing plenary session) with an excellent summary of the conference (by Johan Mackenbach) was well received.

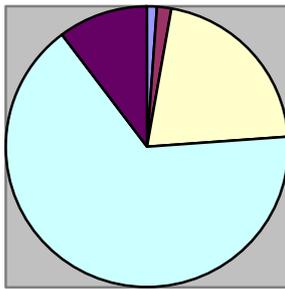
3. Parallel programme

75.9% of the participants were very satisfied/satisfied with the content of the parallel sessions, 83.3% were very satisfied/satisfied with the chairs.

Evaluation questions:

What was your general impression on the content of parallel sessions?
What was your general impression concerning the chairs?
What was the most interesting parallel session you attended?

Content of the parallel sessions



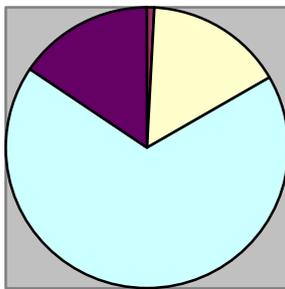
Respondents:	336
Average score:	3.82

Comments:

The overall quality was esteemed as high.

Some comments were received to call for stronger use of the power of methodology and statistical data.

Moderation of the parallel sessions



Respondents:	334
Average score:	3.98

4. Moderated posters programme

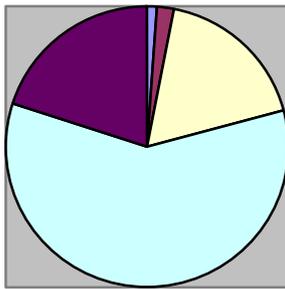
85.6% of participants participated in the moderated posters programme. 79.2% were very satisfied/satisfied with the content of the posters, 75% with the location and 84.6% were very satisfied/satisfied with the new technical solution of presenting posters.

Evaluation questions:

Did you attend a moderated poster session?
What was your general impression of the content of the moderated poster sessions?
What was your general impression of the location of the posters?
How would you score the technical solution with the headphones in the moderated poster sessions?

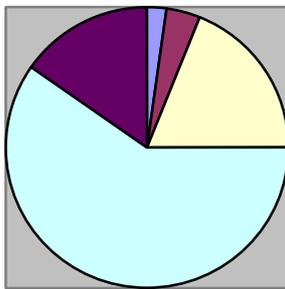
85.6% of the respondents indicated that they had participate in one or more moderated poster sessions.

Content of the poster sessions



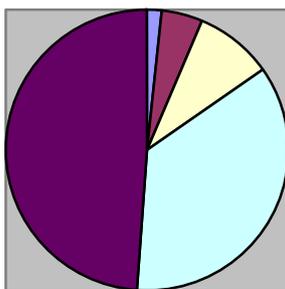
Respondents:	294
Average score:	3.95

Location of the posters



Respondents:	300
Average score:	3.82

Technical solution for the poster sessions



Respondents:	293
Average score:	4.25

Comments:

A large number of respondents were very positive to this innovative way of presenting posters. The advice given by several: "Please continue this".

General comments:

Several participants were pleased with the reorganisation of the poster sessions.

Having special time allotted to posters was seen as positive.

The use of technical equipment was seen as highly positive.

Several participants commented on the absence of posters and asked for a stricter policy for poster presenters not displaying their posters.

5. Pre conferences

30% of participants attended one or more pre-conferences; 82% were very satisfied/satisfied with the content; 86% were very satisfied/satisfied with the organisation.

Evaluation questions:

What was your general impression of the content?
What was your general impression of the organisation?

Results of the evaluation question per pre conference activity:

Pre conference activity	No. of respondents	content score	organisation score	Comments
Challenges in comparative, epidemiological studies of sickness absence in Europe	20	4,30	4,36	Well organised, good for networking
Management in public health and healthcare organisations - from theory to practice	6	4,33	4,33	
Qualitative Research Methods and dissemination of qualitative interviews studies on patients experiences via the International DIPEX group	1	5,00	5,00	
ASPHER's Young Researchers' Forum	15	4,13	4,27	
Nature & Public Health	2	4,50	4,50	
Music and Public Health. The Health Potential of Music in Everyday Life	4	4,75	4,75	
Psychosocial determinants of mental health	4	3,75	4,25	
Health-based injury registration in the Nordic countries and in Europe - experiences and challenges	4	4,75	4,25	Structure and information was good
Variations in health status and use of healthcare services between migrants and descendants	10	4,30	4,50	
Health Technology Assessment (HTA) and Public Health	1	4,00	4,00	
Successes and failures in health policy	11	4,33	4,09	
Developing a European Forum for Public Health Competencies & Competencies-based Accreditation System for Public Health Education in Europe	6	4,00	4,00	
EUPHA Member Forum	11	4,25	4,09	Interesting but could have had a coffee break
Monitoring public health trends and public health policies in the 21st century	10	3,50	4,00	
The High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non communicable Diseases - a critical	7	5,00	4,71	

European perspective				
Lifestyle changes in deprived areas - emphasizing on tobacco prevention	1	4,00	4,00	
EUPHA Round Table: Advancing health and welfare through vaccination Benefits and Challenges of routinizing vaccines	4	4,50	4,67	
How financial difficulties shape social determinants on communicable diseases	7	4,29	4,29	

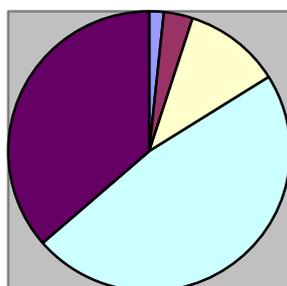
6. Registration

83.8% of the participants were very satisfied/satisfied with the online registration; 83% were very satisfied/satisfied with the information provided; and 87.9% with the onsite registration.

Evaluation questions:

What was your general impression of the online registration process?
What was your general impression of the information you received prior to the conference?
What was your general impression of the onsite registration process in Copenhagen?

Online registration



Respondents:	339
Average score:	4.13

Comments:

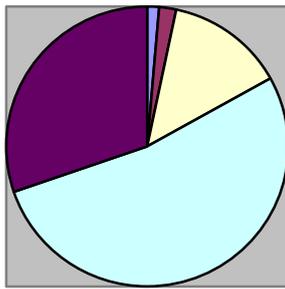
The possibility of making your own programme online was appreciated.

The deadline for closing the online registration should have been better announced.

The payment by credit card could be improved.

The rules for student registration should be clearer and not age-discriminatory.

Information received prior to the conference



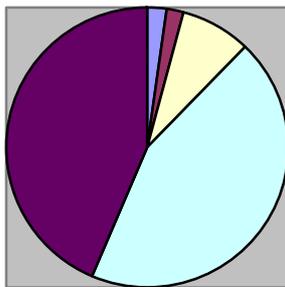
Respondents:	345
Average score:	4.08

Comments:

Communication on how to get to the different locations (esp. welcome reception) was missing or incomplete.

Poster display information could have been better.

Onsite registration



Respondents:	307
Average score:	4.25

Comments:

Some commented on registration on the pre conference day where the registration desk was not easy to find and some were not handed out the conference bag.

One reported queuing at the registration desk as a problem.

Most were very satisfied with the fast and smooth onsite registration.

General comments:

Overall, everybody was very satisfied with the registration.

The conference bag was esteemed excellent this year (content and re-usability).

7. Conference venue

90.8% of the participants were very satisfied/satisfied with the conference venue, 79.8% with the parallel session rooms and 86.8% were very satisfied/satisfied with the technical support.

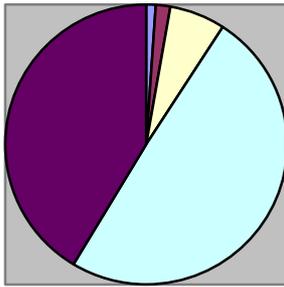
Evaluation questions:

What was your impression of the conference venue in general?

What was your impression of the session rooms?

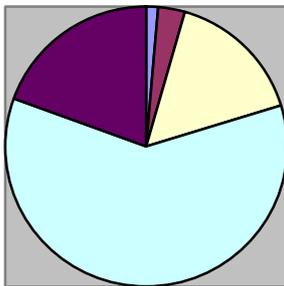
How would you rate the technical support at the conference?

Conference venue



Respondents:	338
Average score:	4.28

Parallel rooms

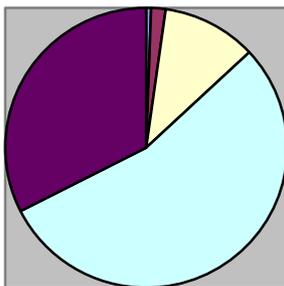


Respondents:	341
Average score:	3.93

Comments:

Several reported a problem with the size of the room (too small for the session participants).
Some reported issues with the temperature differences between the rooms.
Some reported noise transmission between the rooms.

Technical support



Respondents:	342
Average score:	4.17

Comments:

Some reported problems with microphones.
Some reported a delay in solving a problem (late arrival of technician).

8. Catering

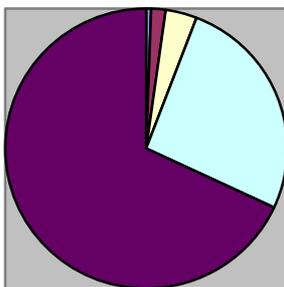
94.2% of the participants were very satisfied/satisfied with the catering during the conference.
67.1% were very satisfied/satisfied with the conference dinner.

Evaluation questions

How was the catering provided at the conference venue?

How did you like the conference dinner?

Catering at the conference

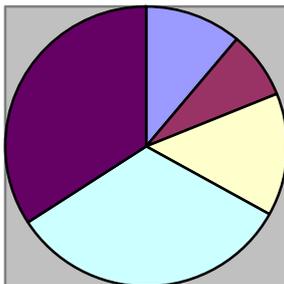


Respondents:	342
Average score:	4.60

Comments:

Overall the catering was very well received ("fresh, plentiful, local and healthy").
The fact that enough food was available for longer time periods was highly appreciated.
Some commented on the (limited) choice of food for vegetarians.

Conference dinner



Respondents:	219
Average score:	3.72

Comments:

Most comments were received on the balance between the price of the conference dinner and the quality of the food provided.
The excellent band and dancing opportunities were highly appreciated ("Booze Brothers were great!").

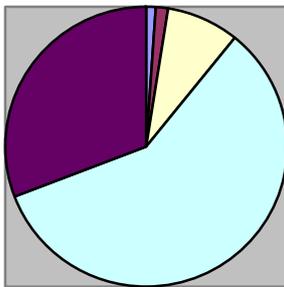
9. Abstract submission

89.2% of the respondents were very satisfied/satisfied with the abstract submission; 89.3% with the information provided to submit.
78.7% were very satisfied/satisfied with the decisional process and 78% with the information received on the decisions.

Evaluation questions

How would you rate the abstract submission process?
How would you rate the information on the abstract submission?
How would you rate the selection process?
How would you rate the information after the selection process?

Abstract submission



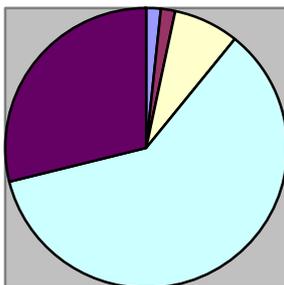
Respondents:	241
Average score:	4.16

Comments:

Overall, the abstract submission works well.

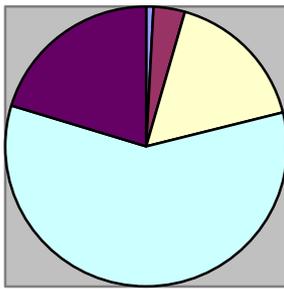
The possibility of proposing more than one topic was forwarded by some participants.

Information for abstract submitters



Respondents:	242
Average score:	4.13

Selection of abstracts

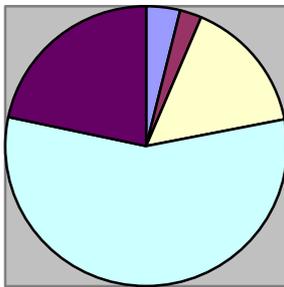


Respondents:	221
Average score:	3.94

Comments:

Some commented on the non-transparency of the selection and scoring process.

Information on the selection process



Respondents:	232
Average score:	3.89

Comments:

*Some commented that the information on selection or rejection was not received.
The information on the presentations (oral and poster) were not easy to find.
Statistical information on selection outcome was not included in the information.*

10. Future conference (Malta 2012)

MALTA 2012

84.2% of the participants remember receiving the first announcement for our next conference;
78.3% are planning to attend our next conference.

11. Comparison of the participants' evaluation with the data from 2009-2010

Main evaluation questions	2009	2010	2011
Number of respondents	85	348	345
% of participants responding	9	20,6	24
Question	% good to excellent		
Conference as a whole	-	82,5	89
Plenary sessions: content	60	80,5	86,7
Plenary sessions: speakers	62	85,2	92,2
Parallel sessions: content	77	67,3	75,9
Parallel sessions: speakers	79	75,5	83,3
Poster sessions: participated	67,6	64,8	85,6
Poster sessions: content	82	62,7	79,2
Poster sessions: location	26	59,4	75
Poster sessions: technical			84,6
Pre conferences: participated	33,8	38,1	30
Pre conferences: content	72	80,4	82
Pre conferences: organisation	91	83,8	86
Registration online	81	83,4	83,8
Registration information	84	84,7	83
Registration onsite	96	80,1	87,9
Conference venue	96	81,4	90,8
Parallel rooms	93	77,8	79,8
Technical support		80	86,8
Conference dinner	86	61,5	67,1
Catering	78	71,8	94,2
Abstract submission	90	89,9	89,2
Abstract submission information	87	89,5	89,3
Abstract decision	79	78,5	78,7
Abstract decisional information	88	80,9	78
Next conference	87	79,4	78,3