18th European Health Forum GASTEIN

30th September to 2nd October 2015

SECURING HEALTH IN EUROPE

Balancing priorities, sharing responsibilities

Evaluation Report

BUNDESMINISTERIUM FÜR GESUNDHEIT

European Commission

European Health Forum GASTEIN

CONTENTS

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

The European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG) was founded in 1998 as a European health policy conference and has become the leading annual health policy event in the EU. With its wide-ranging three-day programme, the Forum offers an unparalleled platform for decision-makers in various fields of public health & health care representing government, business, civil society, academia and the media.

Integrating various national, regional and European perspectives, the Forum facilitates the exchange of views and experience amongst key actors and experts from the 28 EU members, the EU candidate and EEA countries, but also from the rest of the 53 countries of the WHO European region.

The EHFG guarantees that all stakeholders in the European health arena: (1) politicians and public servants; (2) representatives of business and industry; (3) advocates of citizen's and patient's concerns; (4) scientists and members of the academic community can discuss key health issues on a level playing field. It aims to establish a broad basis for health policies and to lay out a framework for European health policy in the 21st century.

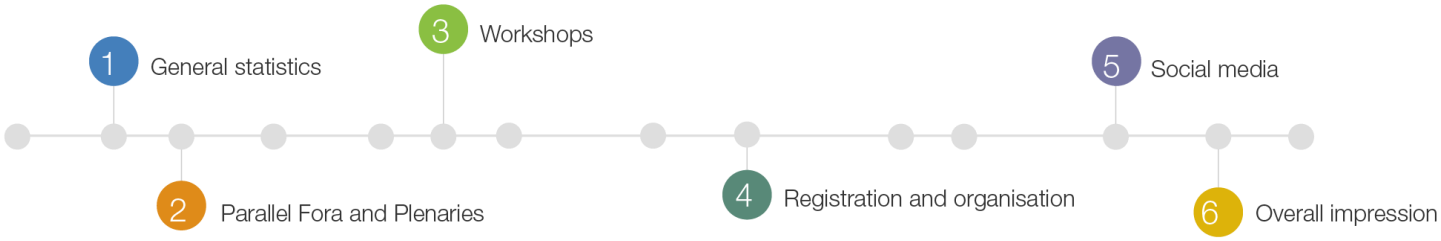
Amongst others, the EHFG is co-organised and supported by the European Commission, the Austrian Ministry of Health, Land Salzburg, Forum der forschenden pharmazeutischen Industrie in Österreich (FOPI), Roche and the Österreichische Ärztekammer (ÖAK).

For the last eighteen years, the EHFG has focused on a broad range of topics. Within this framework, the EHFG is on the front foot of health policy developments and is involved in finding common solutions across Europe.

Main themes of the European Health Forum Gastein conference 1998–2015.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The annual European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG) was attended by 524 delegates from 49 countries this year. The EHFG 2015 survey was sent out to all delegates via email and was posted on our social media outlets and was open for three weeks. The survey was completed by 150 respondents.



The survey was divided into six parts, in which respondents were asked general questions (1), questions concerning the different sessions (2) and workshops they attended (3). They were also asked to express their opinion about the registration and organisational elements (4). Respondents were asked questions about their social media activities during the congress and in general (5). In the last part of the survey, there were thematical questions and questions to the overall impression (6).

In most of the survey's questions the respondents were asked to choose one answer they find most applicable. However, to some questions they were allowed to give multiple answers and express their personal suggestions or point of criticism.

General rating scheme used in this survey:

1 = no influence	3 = mediocre influence	5 = high influence
1 = total disagreement	3 = neutral	5 = total agreement
1 = poor (knowledge)	3 = mediocre (knowledge)	5 = excellent (knowledge)

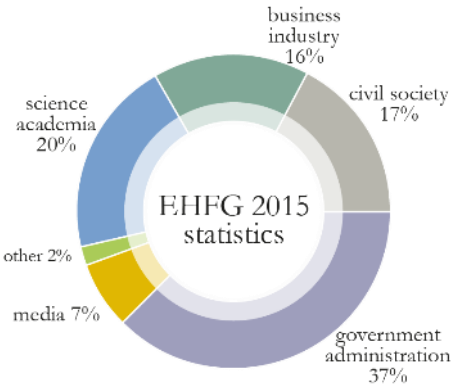
General survey statistics

52% of the participants who completed the survey were female, 48% – male, over 60% of them identified themselves as regular participants, nearly one fourth as speakers and 8% as journalists.

Nearly two-third of the respondents identified health policy as one qualification of their field. Over half of them chose health care and health research. Nearly a third chose health promotion, 13% the pharma sector.
Medical technology, management, networking and social security were also chosen.

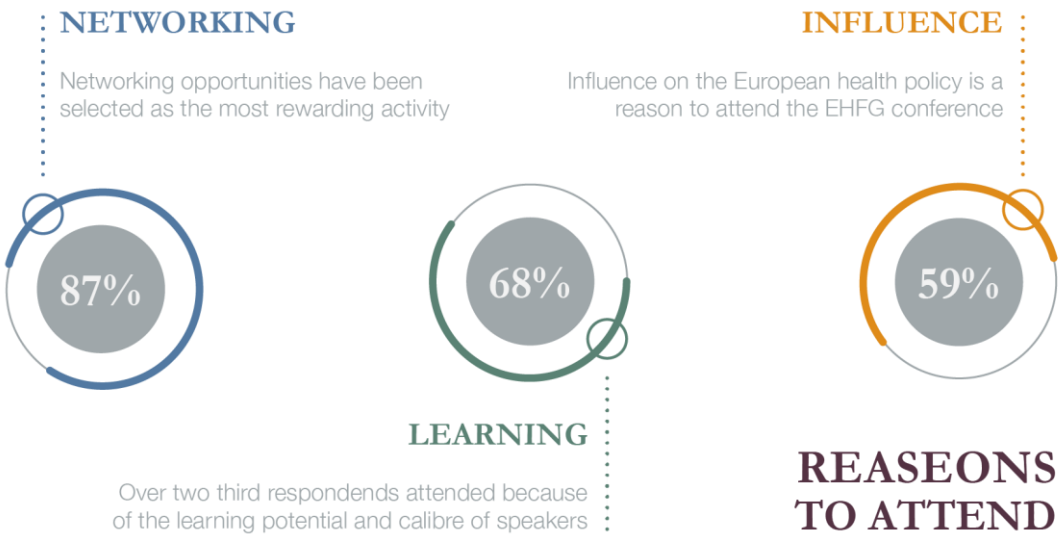
46% of the respondents were representing public institutions during the 18th EHFG, followed by representatives of teaching and research (29%) and NGOs (19%). Industry was represented by 12% survey respondents, while interest groups politics and press by around 7% each. 6% of the respondents were representing politics.

41% of the participants were invited to the conference, 38% were made aware of the EHFG 2015 through word of mouth, 14% by social media platforms. In general, 39% of respondents participated in a previous conference.

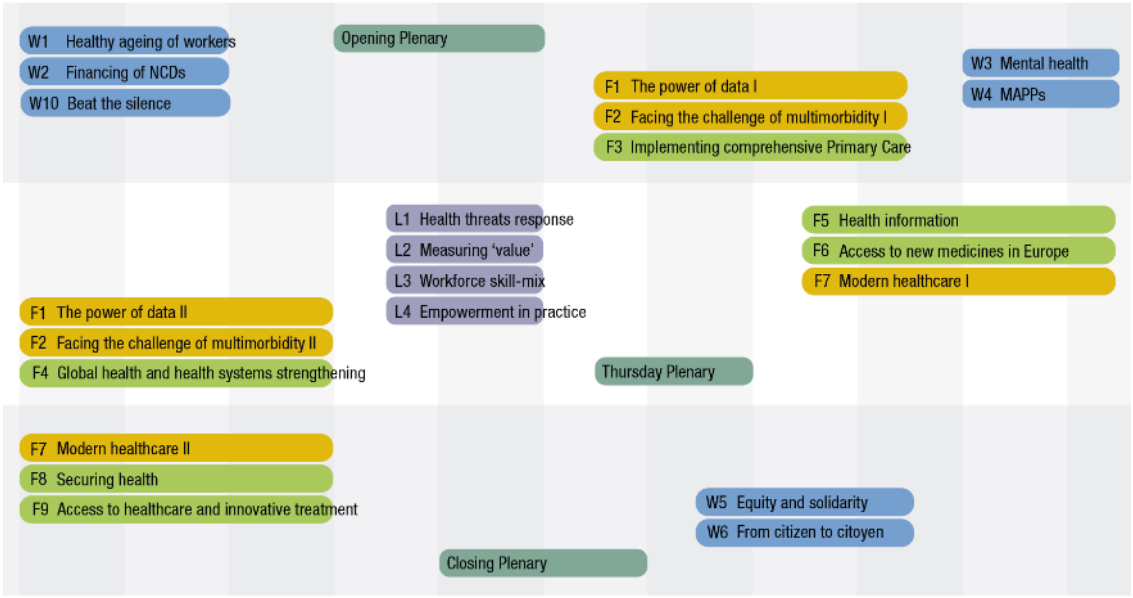


Overall EHFG 2015 four pillars statistic based on overall conference participation.

The main factors of influence on the decision to attend the EHFG 2015 were networking opportunities and potential for learning. For 87% attending the conference was influenced by networking opportunities, over two-third attended because of potential for learning and the calibre of speakers, nearly two-third attended because of topic choice. 59% considered the influence on European health policy as a factor to attend the conference.



PROGRAMME OVERVIEW EHFG 2015



W1 Organised by DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL)
W2 Organised by World Health Organization
W10 Organised by MED-EL Medical Electronics

W3 Organised by DG Research and Innovation (DG RTD)
W4 Organised by AstraZeneca, European Alliance of Personalised Medicine (EAPM), European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA) and Vital Transformation
W5 Organised by Institute for Eastern Studies Foundation in cooperation with Janssen
W6 Organised by Maastricht University in cooperation with DocMorris

F1 Organised by Health Promotion Administration, Ministry of Health and Welfare, Taiwan R.O.C. in cooperation with London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK
F2 Organised by International Forum Gastein supported by an nrestricted educational grant from MSD
F3 Organised by Austrian Federal Ministry of Health and Main Association of Austrian Social Security Institutions in cooperation with the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

F4 Organised by DG International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO)
F5 Organised by DG Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE)
F6 Organised by WHO Regional Office for Europe, National Institute for Health Disability Insurance (NIHDI), Belgium and Main Association of Austrian Social Security Institutions

F7 Organised by DG Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT)
F8 Organised by World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe
F9 Organised by DG Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE)

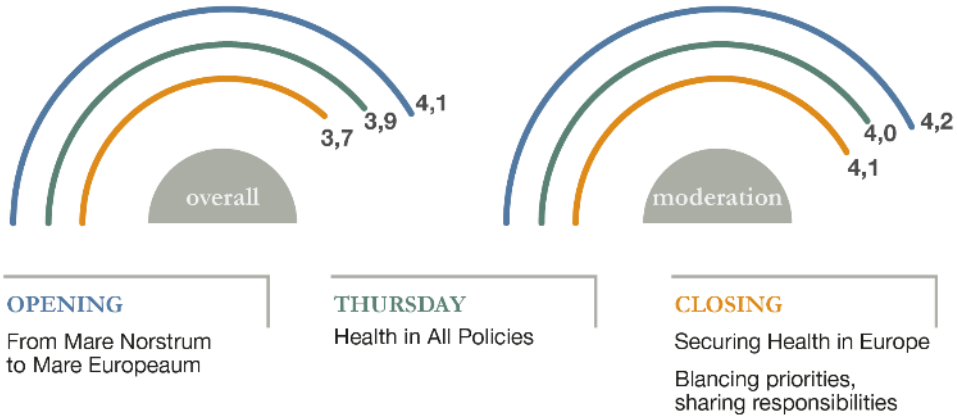
L1 Organised by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) with DG Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE), Health Threats Unit
L2 Organised by European Cancer Leagues (ECL), European Health Management Association and Roche
L3 Organised by Swiss Federal Office of Public Health in collaboration with the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies
L4 Organised by the European Patients' Forum (EPF) in cooperation with Sanofi

Evaluation of the Sessions

The conference offered 3 Plenary Sessions, 12 Parallel Forum Sessions, 7 different Workshop Sessions and 4 Lunch Workshops.

Plenary Sessions

Overall, the Opening Plenary Session was rated 4,1 out of 5. With 4,2 average rating, the quality of moderation of Josep Figueras received the highest rating, followed by the quality of the opening presentations and speakers (4,1). The Thursday Plenary received an overall rating of 3,7. Also here, the highest rating of 4 was received by the moderation (Ilona Kickbusch) followed by the quality of the opening presentations and speakers (3,8). The Closing Plenary Session was rated with an overall rating of 3,9. The quality of the opening presentations and speakers received the highest voting with 4,2. The quality of the moderation by David Rose received a 4,1 average rating followed by the quality of the conference film (4,1).



Parallel Forum Sessions

Parallel Forum Sessions were arranged in four blocks, one starting on Wednesday (Forum 1, Forum 2, Forum 3), the second starting/continuing on Thursday morning (Forum 1, Forum 2, Forum 4), the third starting on Thursday late afternoon (Forum 5, Forum 6, Forum 7) and the fourth starting/continuing on Friday morning (Forum 7, Forum 8, Forum 9) - therefore we also received four sets of results.

In the first block all fora received good average ratings, with Forum 1 scoring the highest (4) followed by Forum 3 (3,9) and 2 with 3,8 average rating.
In the second block, Forum 2 got an 3,8 average rating, followed by Forum 1 on Thursday and Forum 4 with both 3,7 average rating .
In the third block Forum 7 on Thursday received the highest ranking with 3,9. Forum 5 scored 3,6 and Forum 6 scored 3,7 average rating.
In the last block on Friday Forum 8 received the highest ranking with 3,8. Forum 9 scored with 3,7 and Forum 7 on Friday received an average rating of 3,6.

Comparing all different Parallel Forum Sessions, the **assessment of the length of presentations of the fora** was throughout positive. The presentations in Forum 3 (28%), Forum 8 (27%) and Forum 7 on Friday (25%) were criticised for being too long.

The **number of presentations of the fora** was considered throughout as good. Only in Forum 4 38% of the respondents who participated criticised that there were too many presentations. One-third of respondents in Forum 5 considered the number of presentations as too many.

Consequently, Forum 4 (36%) did not offer **enough time for interactive discussions**, the same was criticised by 36% of respondents who participated in Forum 6 and Forum 8. 37% of respondents who participated in Forum 9 criticised that there was too little time allocated for interactive discussion. Overall, there is the tendency that people would like to have more time allocated to interactive discussions. In eight fora, over one-fifth of the respondents considered the time allocated to interactive discussions as too short.

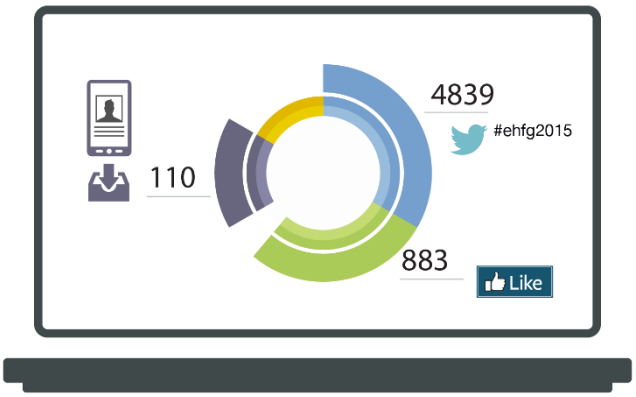
Workshop Sessions

The average ratings for the 7 Workshops and the 4 Lunch Workshops were all over 3,6. The best rating was given to Lunch Workshop 4 (4,1), followed by Workshop 1, Lunch Workshop 3 and Lunch Workshop 1 which all received an average rating of 4. The respondents gave their lowest overall rating to Workshop 2 (3,65).

Social Media

The EHFG is actively present on various social media channels not only during the conference but also throughout the entire year.

The respondents were asked about their opinion on social media usage. Over two-third of them consider the importance of social media to the EHFG conference as important (31%) or very important (37%).



Additional EHFG 2015 social media statistics: 110 EHFG app downloads, 883 new Facebook endorsements and 4839 Twitter mentions.

Nearly half of the participants, who completed the survey have used our Twitter platform, over one-fourth used Facebook and 17% of them were following us on LinkedIn. Over 60% followed the Twitter hash tag #ehfg2015. Nearly two-third of the respondents intend to use at least one of our social media channels between the conferences.

Registration, organisation and overall impression

We asked questions concerning the registration and organisational elements. The vast majority considered the online registration as fast and simple (60%), for 58% the payment options were clear and fair and for 88% of the respondents staff were responsive to enquiries. Organisational elements such as the on-site registration, shuttle service, accommodation, lunch catering and the networking events were also rated very positively throughout.

When asked about the conference organisation, responses were as follows:
Communication in the run-up to the EHFG was rated by 88% as excellent or good. The most positive feedback was given to the assistance given by the conference staff with 81% choosing excellent and 16% choosing good. For 89% the quality and clarity of the conference materials was excellent or good. Over 91% considered the event signage as excellent or good. The choice of topics was rated by over 80% as excellent or good. The overall conference atmosphere was rated with 93% as excellent or good.

Also considering the rating of conference networking, the feedback was very positive throughout (overall average rating of 4,5). The network facilities such as the lounge and breakout areas were given an average rating of 4,2. The opportunities to progress international health work received an average rating of 4. The opportunities to engage with key decision makers was given an average rating of 4,1. The opportunities to make new contacts was given the highest rating with 4,6.

Consequently, networking opportunities were considered the most rewarding activity at the conference (32%). For over 28% of respondents Workshops were considered most rewarding, Short Fora for over 14%, Plenary Sessions for over 11% and Long Fora for over 9%. Evening Events have been considered by 6% as most rewarding activity at the EHFG 2015.
Compared to other EHFG conferences, 41% rated the EHFG 2015 as better as previous conferences. For 43% of respondents there was no change to previous conferences and 16% considered the EHFG 2015 worse than the conferences in the years before. When asked about future attendance, over 97% plan to participate again.

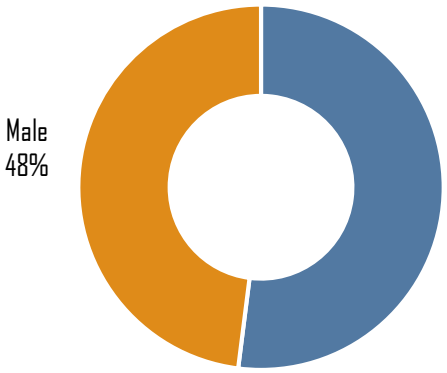
Open Questions

Finally, analysing open questions, one can state that respondents would appreciate shorter and more interactive sessions. More time should be allocated for questions and discussions. The interesting networking experience was mentioned very positively throughout as well as the Young Forum Gastein and its activities.
Points of criticism were referring to the meals. In general, there was a very positive feedback given to the congress staff and the overall organisation of the conference, despite the difficult travel situation.

For a more detailed analysis of the evaluation see the following pages. Should you require more information on this report i.e. comments or raw data, or have questions, please feel free to contact Josef Wenninger (Josef.Wenninger[at]ehfg.org)

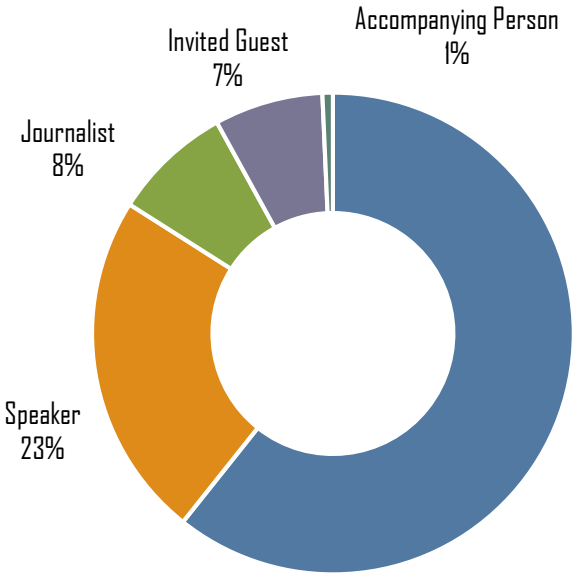
GENERAL SURVEY STATISTICS

Gender



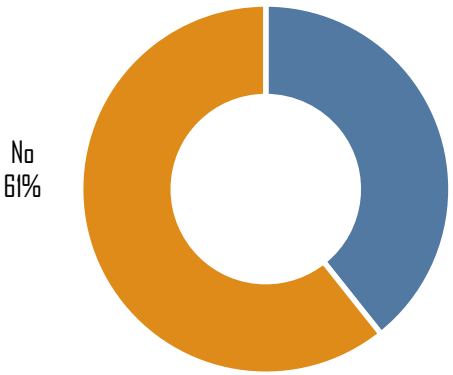
n=150

Participant's category



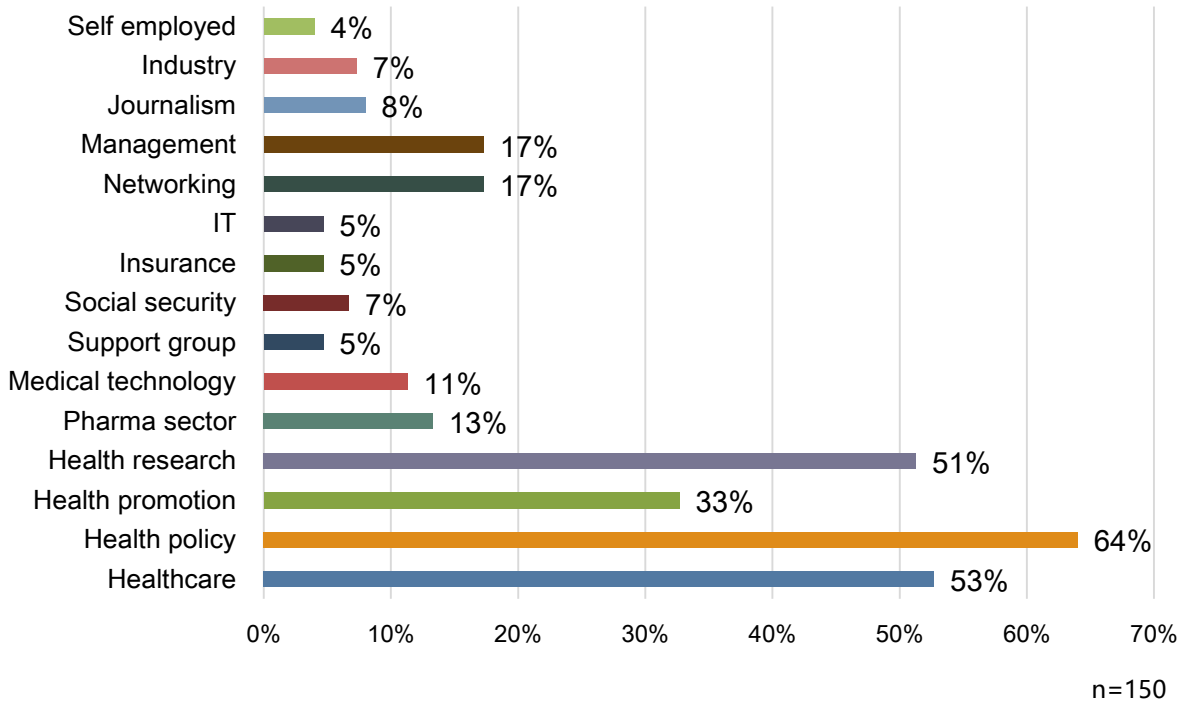
n=150

Participation in a previous conference

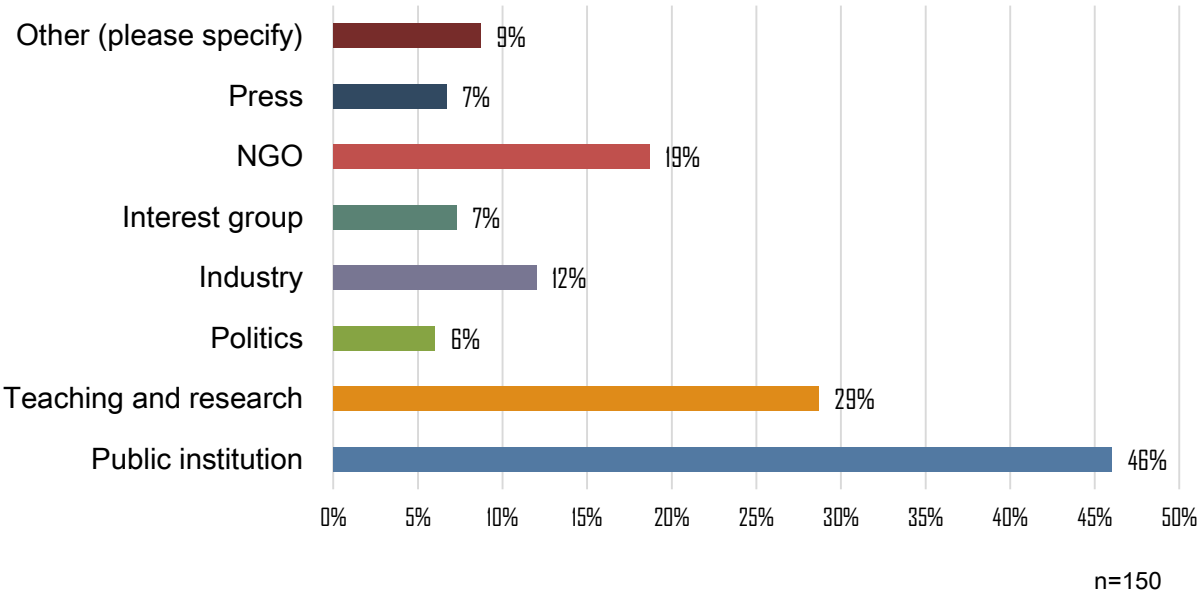


n=150

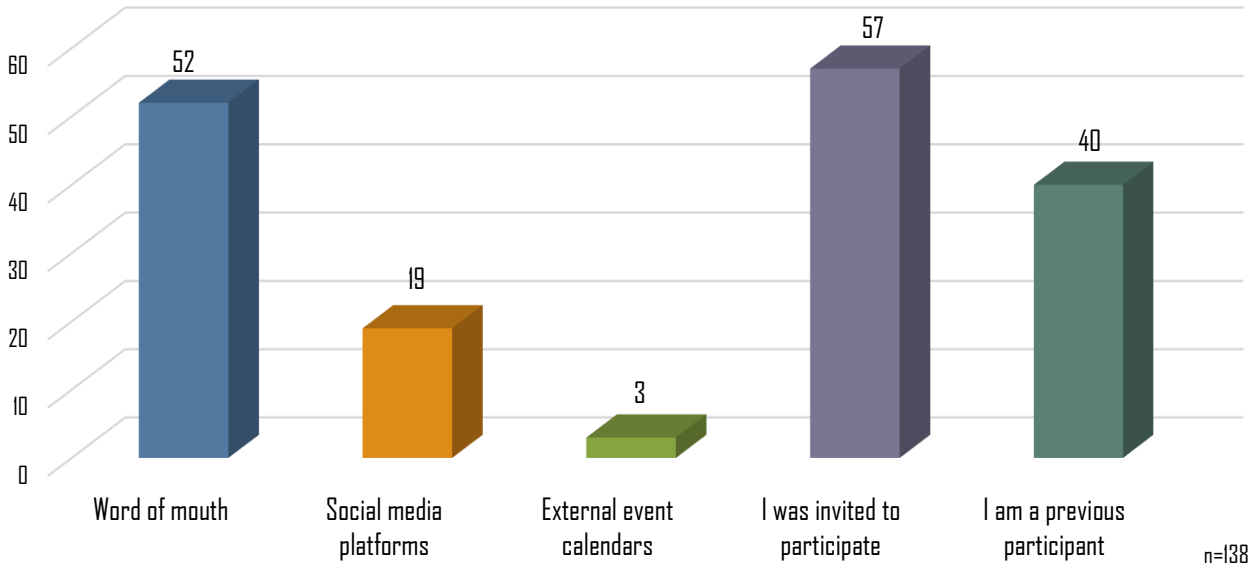
Qualifications which describe the participant's field



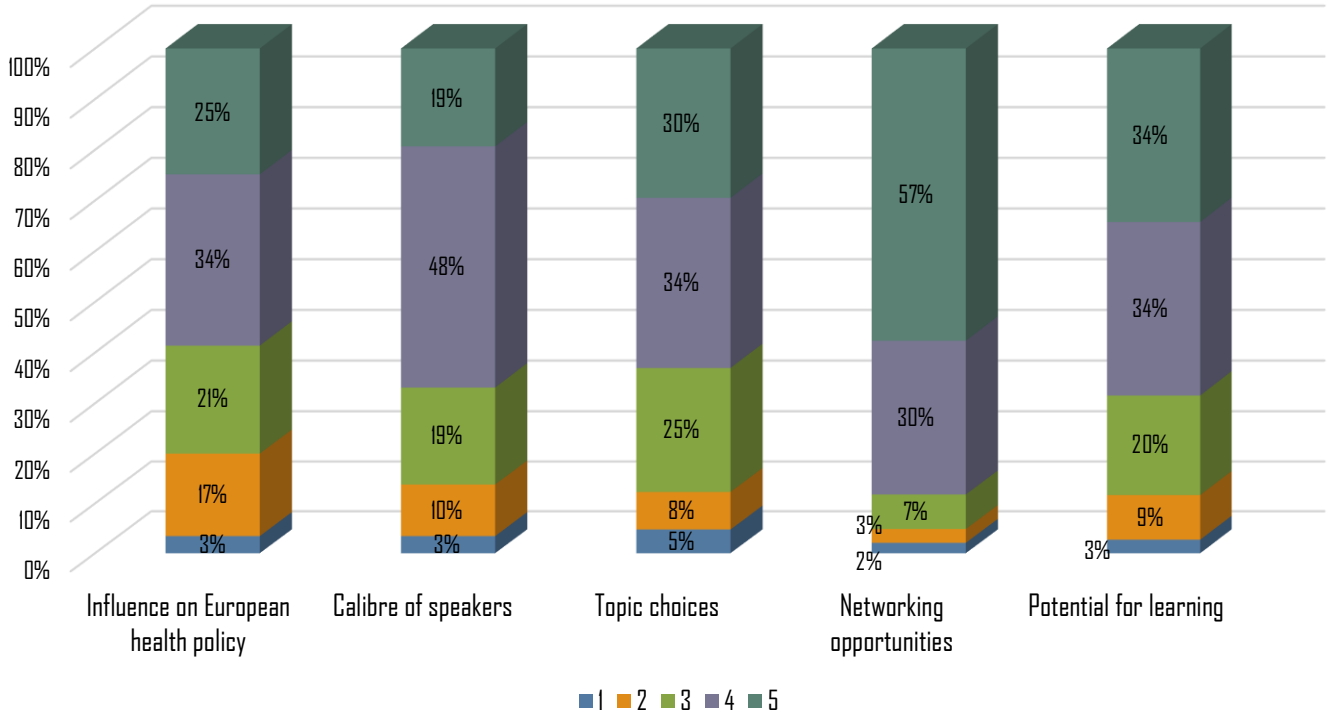
Qualifications which describe the participant's organisation



In what way(s) were you made aware of the EHFG 2015?

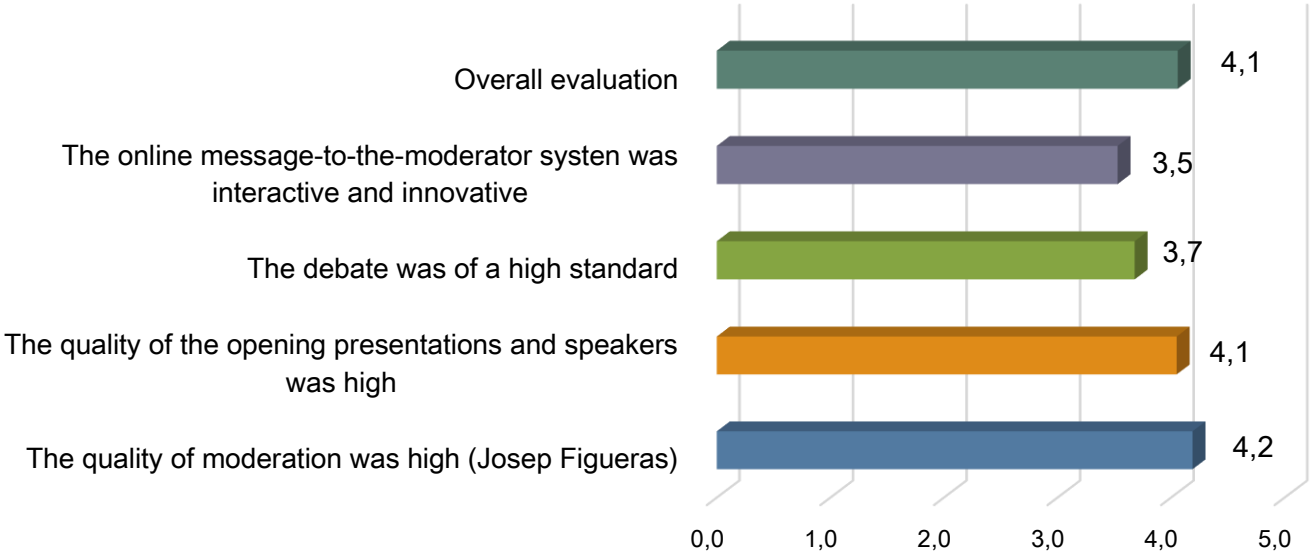


Factors of influence on decision to attend the EHFG 2015
1=no influence, 5=high influence



EVALUATION OF THE SESSIONS – DETAILED ANALYSIS

Opening Plenary Session

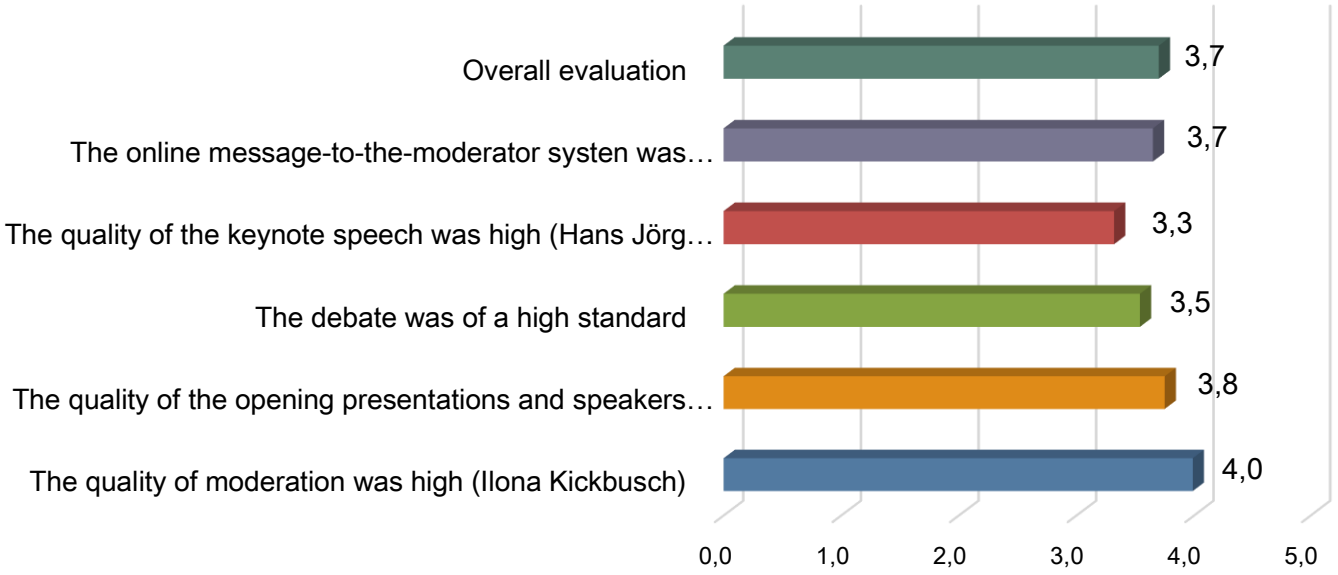


1=total disagreement, 5=total agreement; average rating n=140

Selected Comments to the Opening Plenary:

- The online platform was good but didn't work well at the beginning.
- I think it would be more interactive to just let the audience ask questions, instead of the monitor.
- Panel intro was too long.
- I thought the interactive sessions using the voting system were a great addition this year. They helped further the discussion and foster a deeper understanding of the session topics through active learning and participation.
- Whilst the discussion was of a high standard, the panellists were too cohesive - all agreed on the problems. Not much debate or polemic or proposals for solutions.
- Would have preferred more content and less emotion; message-to-the-moderator system gives a lot of leeway to the moderator to interpret the content of a question.
- The topic was uncontroversial (for the audience), there were no dissenting or challenging voices, or indeed critical decision makers present.
- It was preaching to the converted. No real controversial opinions. Not much discussion about solutions and long term impact
- One hour before hearing from panellists - too much focus on questions; too long
- There was no debate. Honestly, it were a bunch of people working on- and dealing with refugees, but they generally had the same viewpoint. It resembled my viewpoint and it was highly relevant. But a debate: NO

Thursday Plenary Session



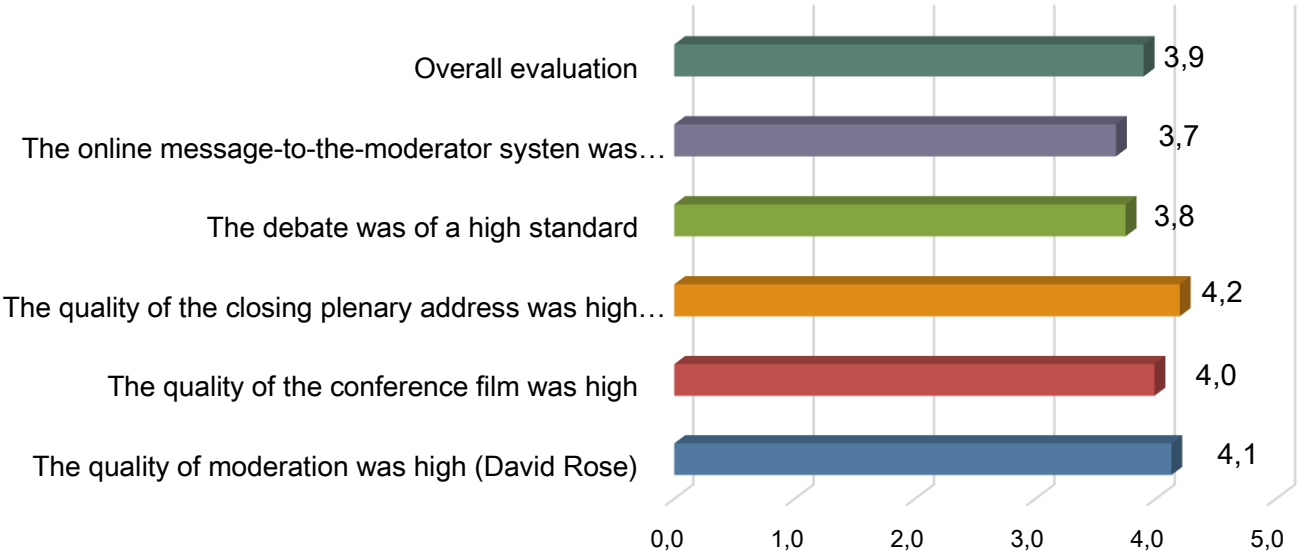
1=total disagreement, 5=total agreement; average rating

n=134

Selected Comments to the Thursday Plenary:

- Hopefully Minister Schelling receives feedback about his expendable speech. His words did not enrich the discussion at all.
- The overall evaluation goes for Piroska Ostlin and Nina Renshaw.
- Not enough time / too many participants for substantive debate. Officials from the institutions are clearly restricted in what they can say, which stifles debate.
- Plenary was disappointing overall; I would prefer a keynote from a scientific perspective, then have the panel react to it; otherwise, everybody stews in their own juice.
- The moderator spoke too much, voicing her own opinions rather than eliciting the speakers opinions
- Unfortunately, I found it very disappointing. The discussion was so abstract and far away from practical implementation. In addition, the audience was not included in the discussion.
- No clear focus of the debate, no interaction with the audience.
- The moderator was competent but spoke far too much. Her role was to moderate discussion from the other panel members, not to speak as much as them.

Closing Plenary Session



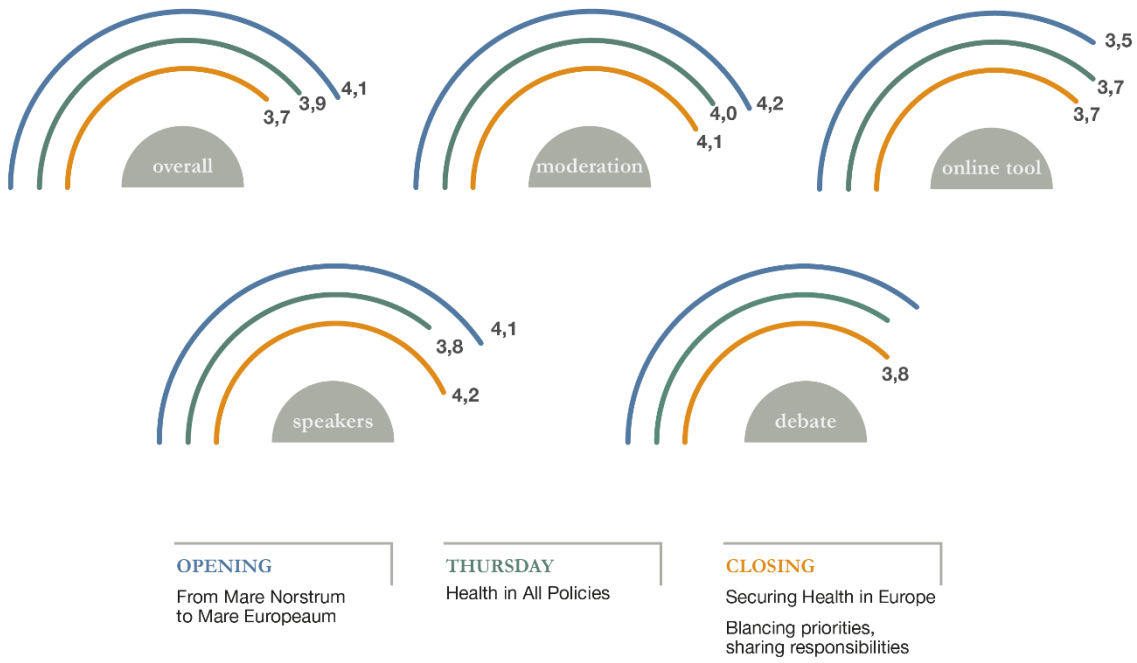
1=total disagreement, 5=total agreement; average rating

n=135

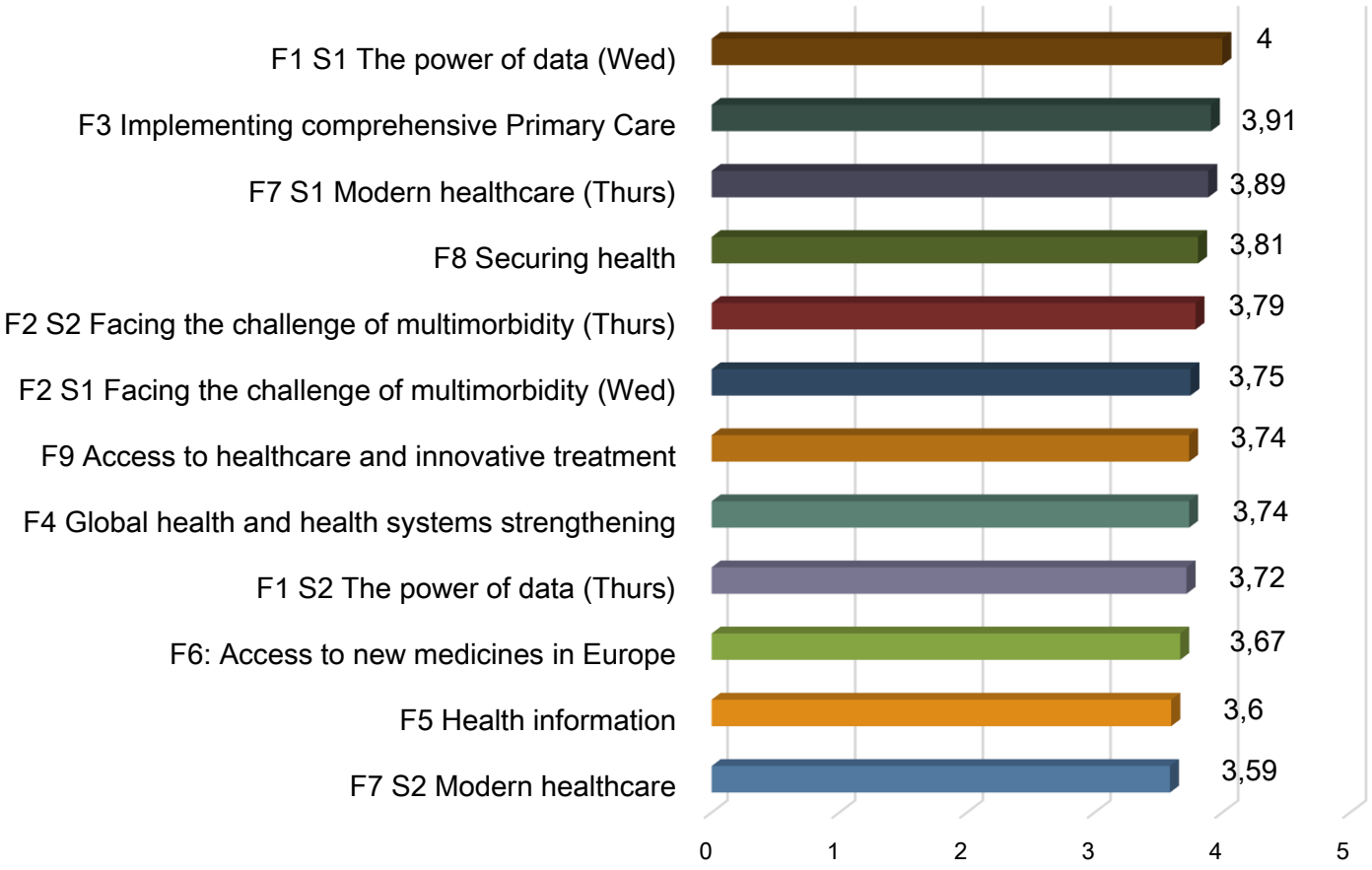
Selected Comments to the Closing Plenary:

- Panel centred on specific people rather than the whole panel, too long, could have had more audience interaction too.
- This was the liveliest of all the Plenary Sessions.
- The two film sequences were a little bit too short but I look forward to watch the other episodes
- The moderator did not challenge the speakers enough

Comparison of the Plenary Sessions – average ratings

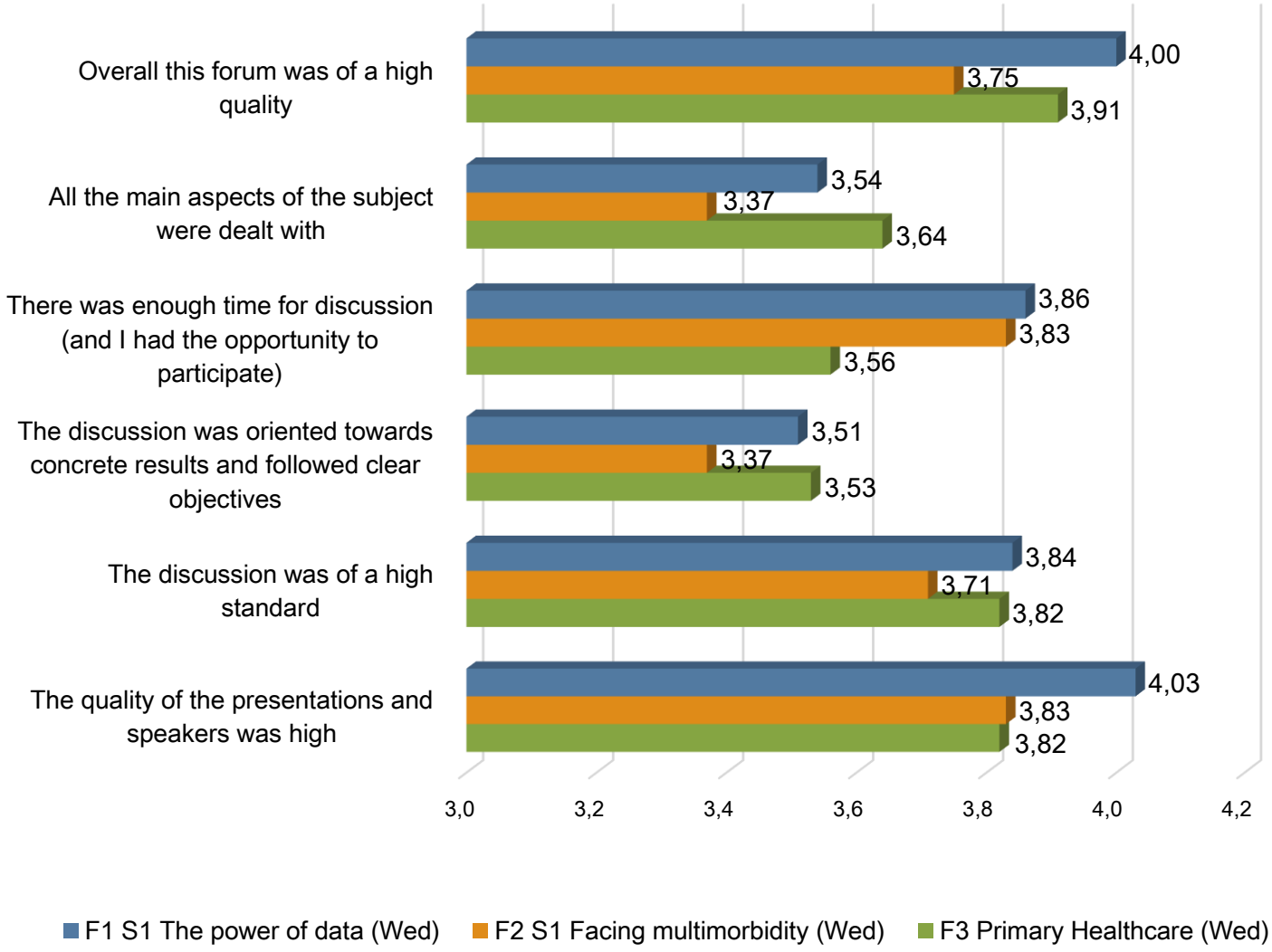


Comparison of the Parallel Forum Sessions – average quality rating



1=poor quality, 5=excellence; average quality rating

Comparison between Forum 1 S1 – Forum 2 S1 – Forum 3



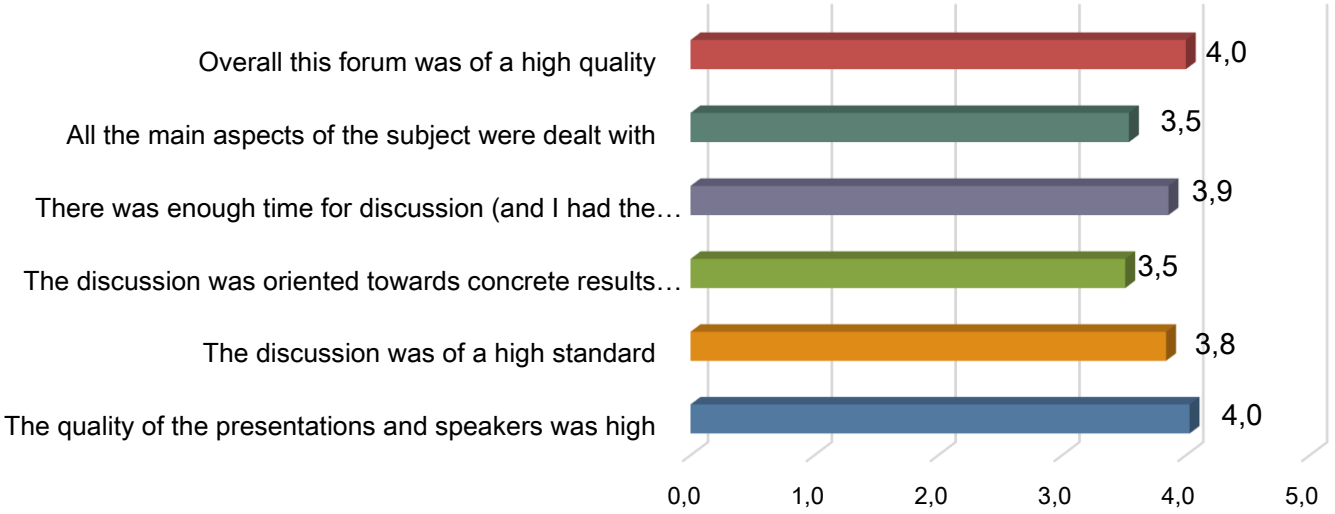
1=total disagreement, 5=total agreement; average rating

F1 Organised by Health Promotion Administration, Ministry of Health and Welfare, Taiwan R.O.C. in cooperation with London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK

F2 Organised by International Forum Gastein supported by an nrestricted educational grant from MSD

F3 Organised by Austrian Federal Ministry of Health and Main Association of Austrian Social Security Institutions in cooperation with the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

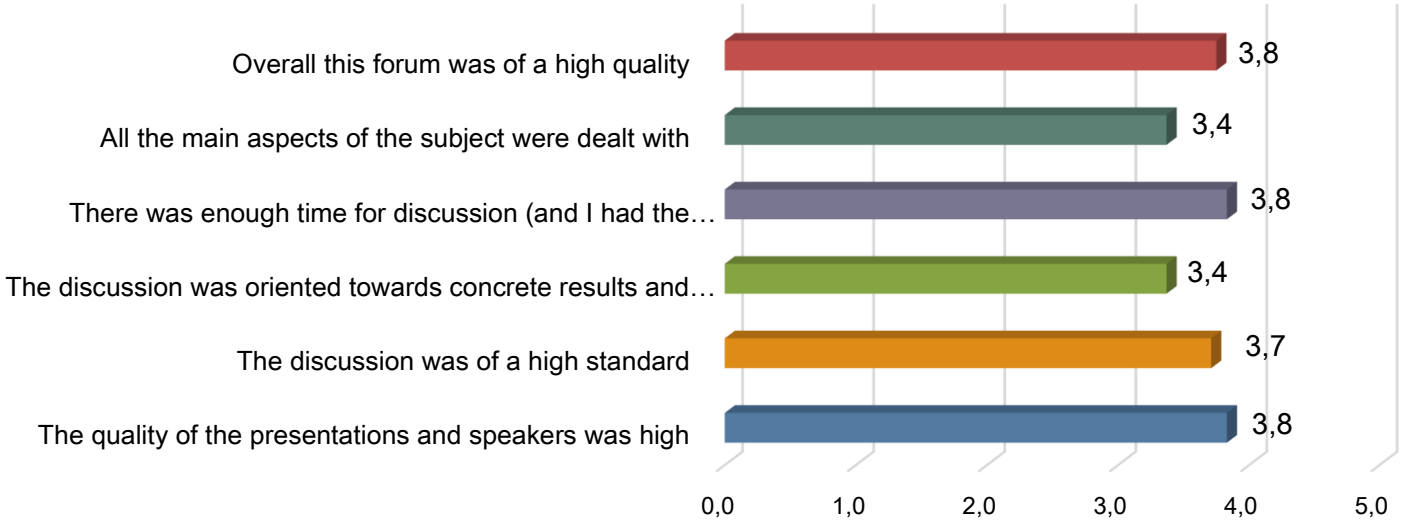
Forum 1 - The power of data I



1=total disagreement, 5=total agreement; average rating

n=16

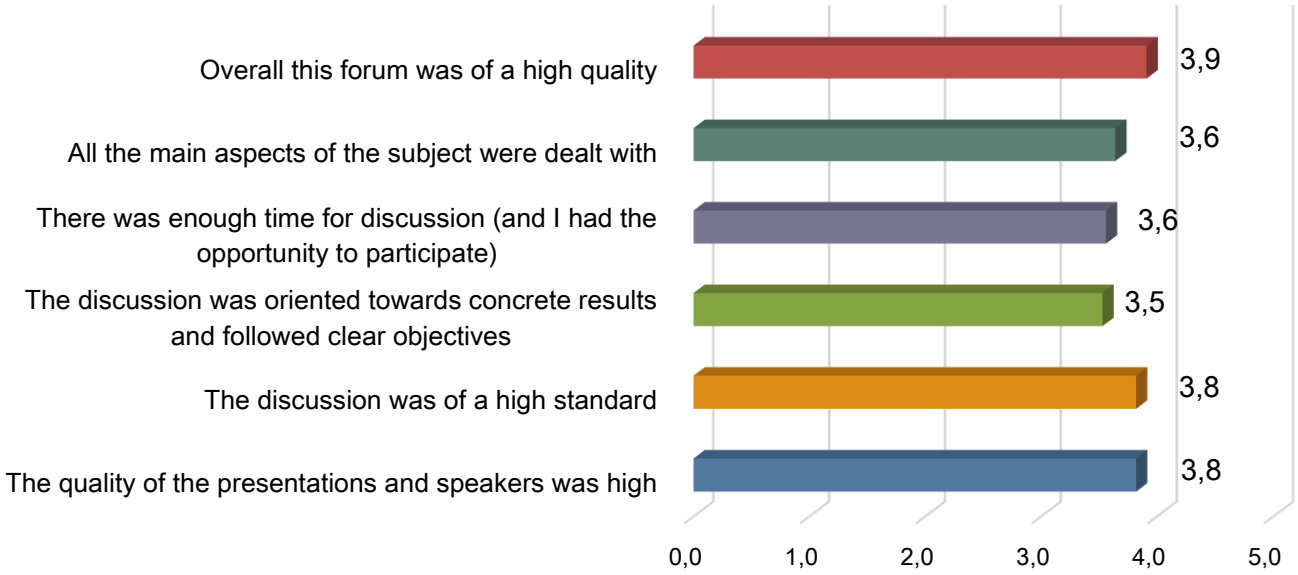
Forum 2 – Facing the challenge of multimorbidity I



1=total disagreement, 5=total agreement; average rating

n=16

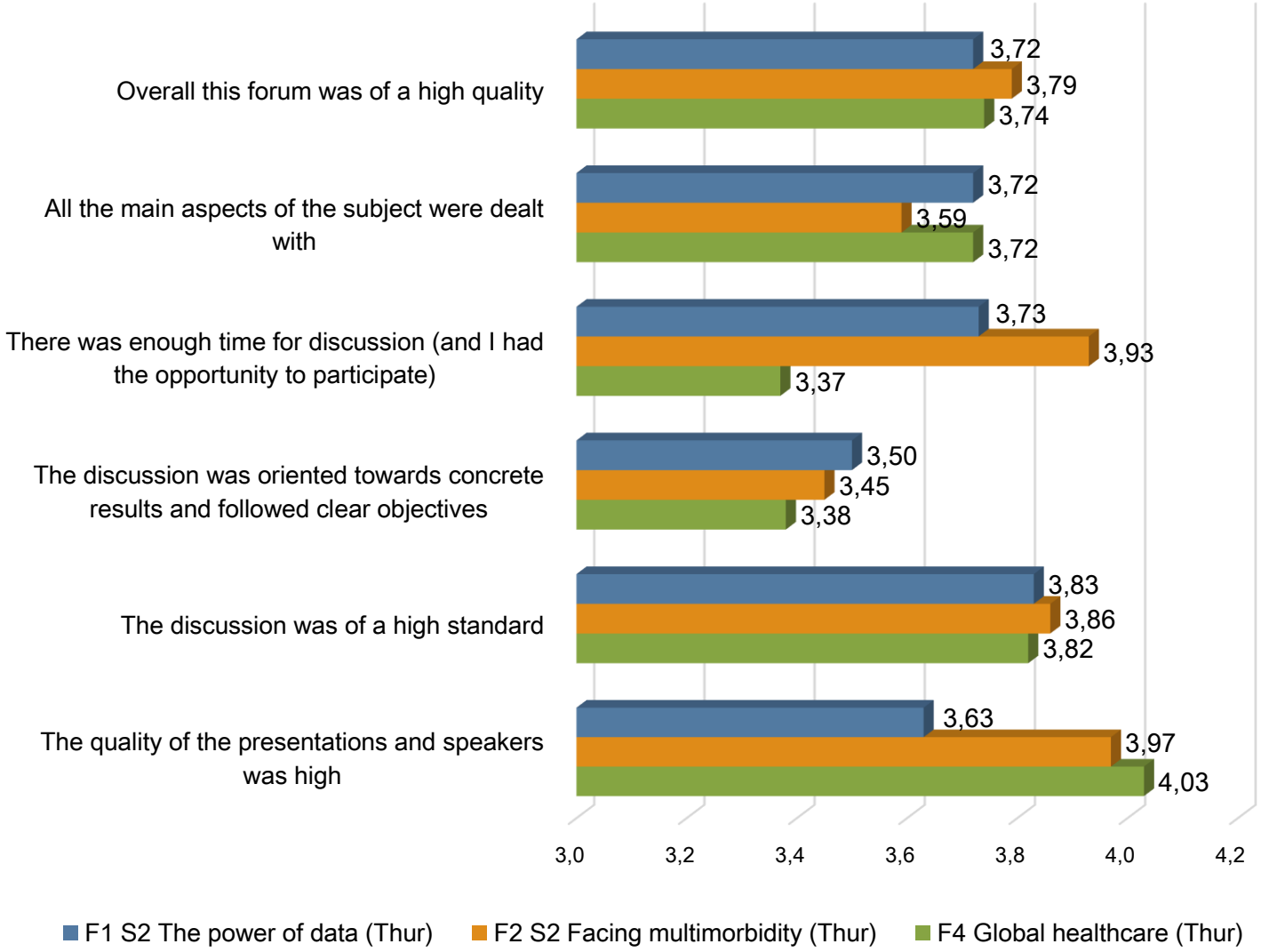
Forum 3 – Implementing comprehensive Primary Care



1=total disagreement, 5=total agreement; average rating

n=16

Comparison between Forum 1 S2 – Forum 2 S2 – Forum 4



n=37

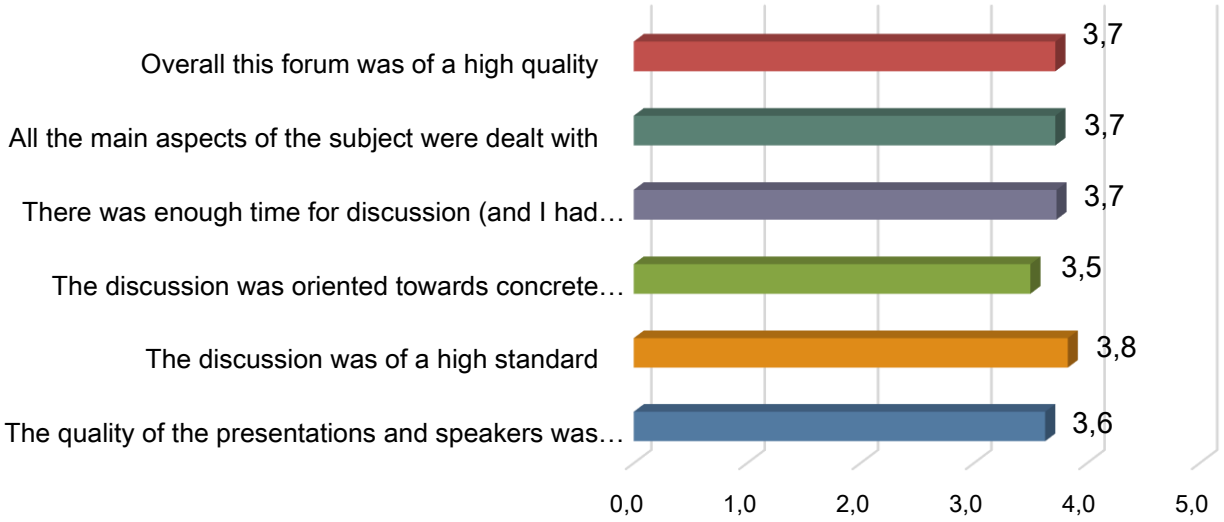
1=total disagreement, 5=total agreement; average rating

F1 Organised by Health Promotion Administration, Ministry of Health and Welfare, Taiwan R.O.C. in cooperation with London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK

F2 Organised by International Forum Gastein supported by an nrestricted educational grant from MSD

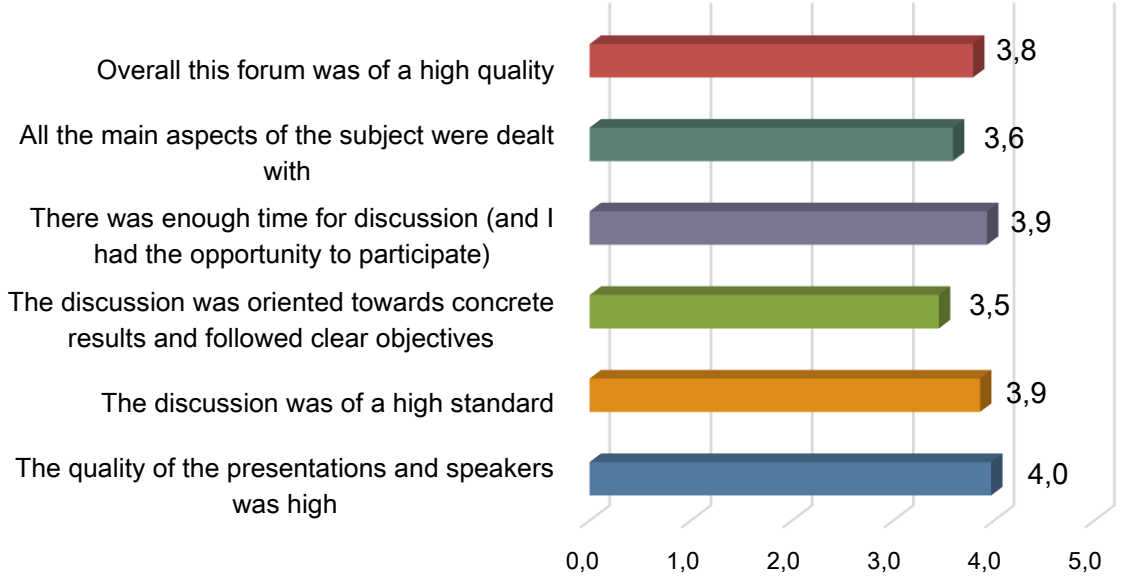
F4 Organised by DG International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO)

Forum 1 - The power of data II



1=total disagreement, 5=total agreement; average rating

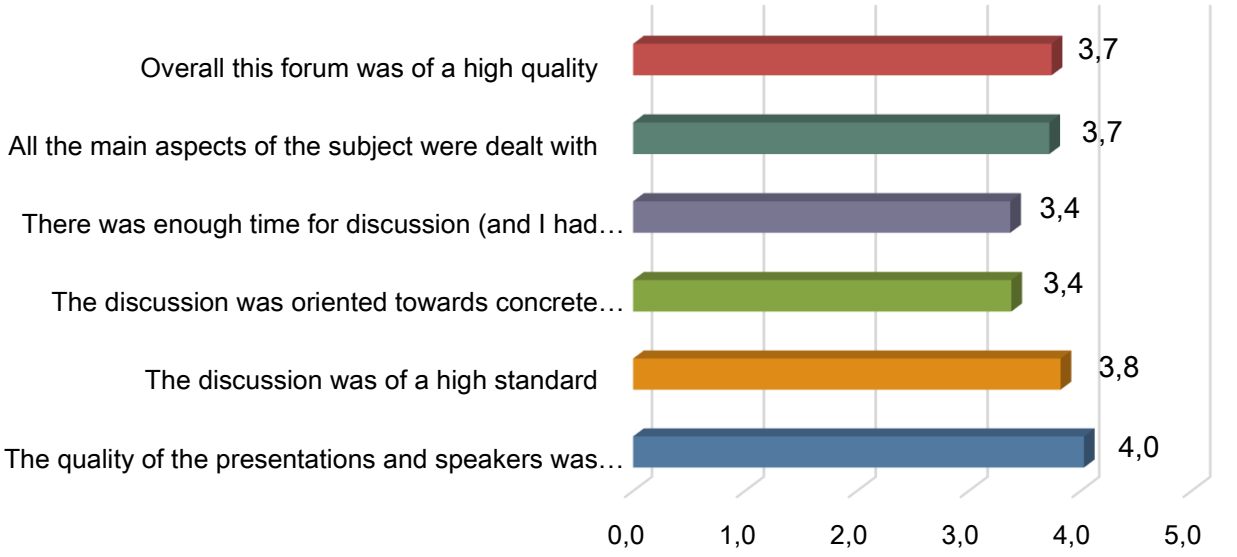
Forum 2 – Facing the challenge of multimorbidity II



1=total disagreement, 5=total agreement; average rating

n=29

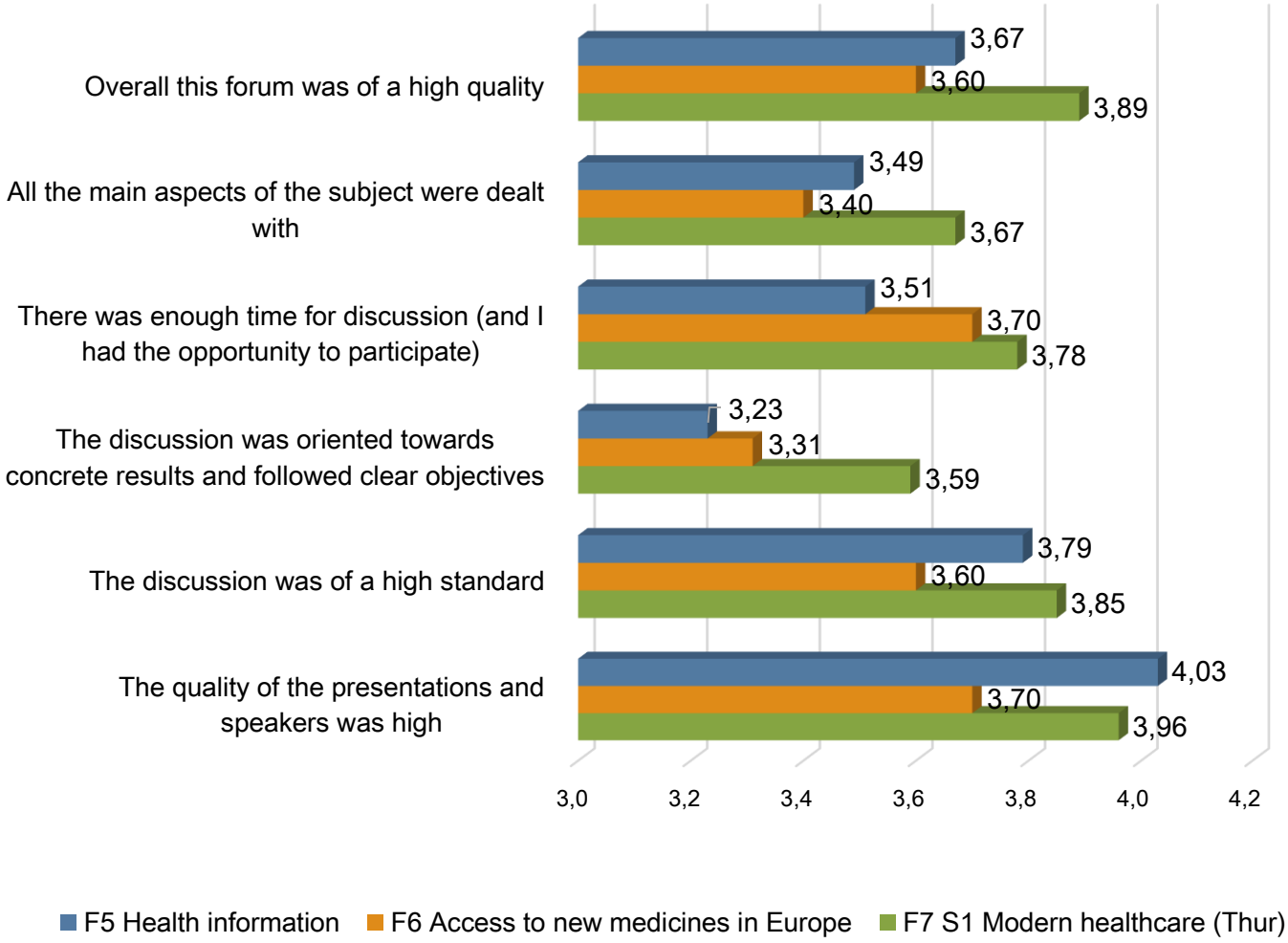
Forum 4 – Global health and health systems strengthening



n=40

1=total disagreement, 5=total agreement; average rating

Comparison between Forum 5 – Forum 6 – Forum 7 S1

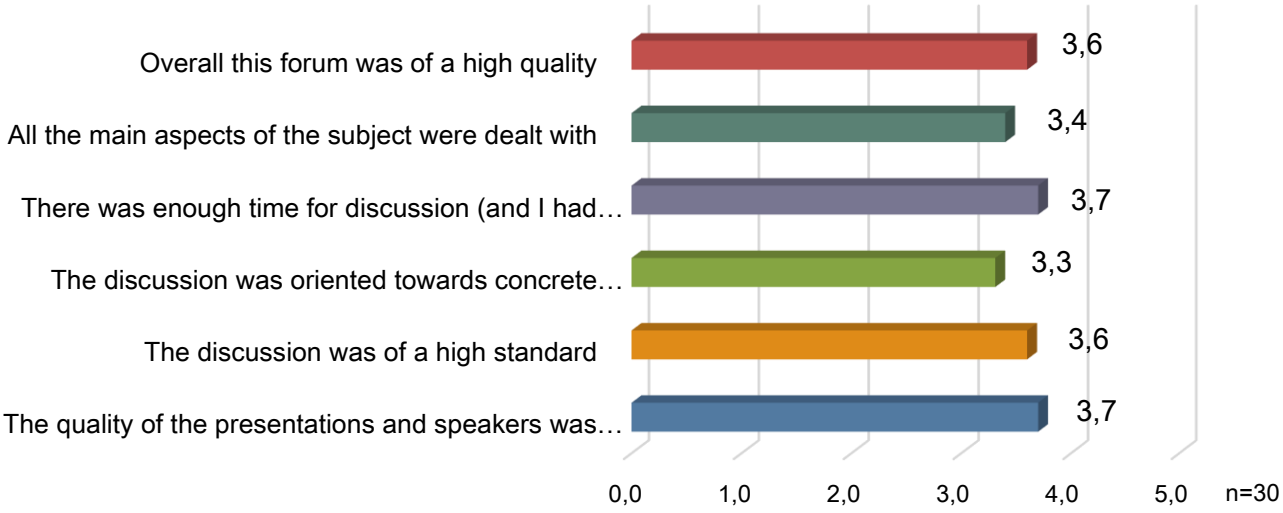


F5 Organised by DG Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE)

F6 Organised by WHO Regional Office for Europe, National Institute for Health Disability Insurance (NIHDI), Belgium and Main Association of Austrian Social Security Institutions

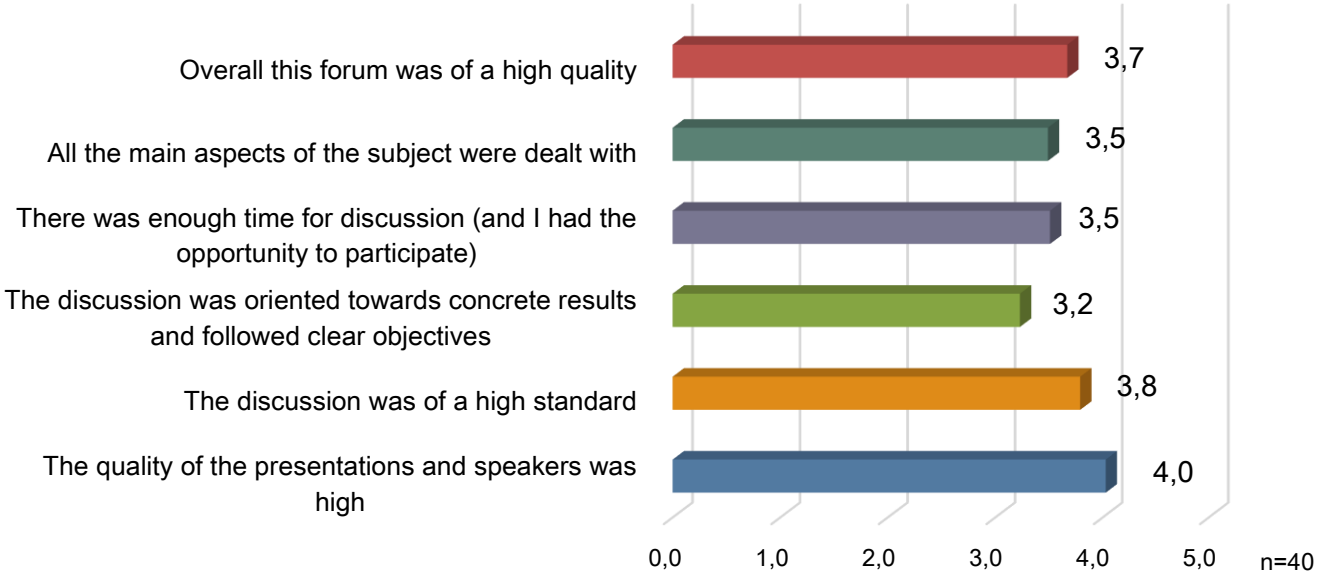
F7 Organised by DG Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT)

Forum 5 – Health information



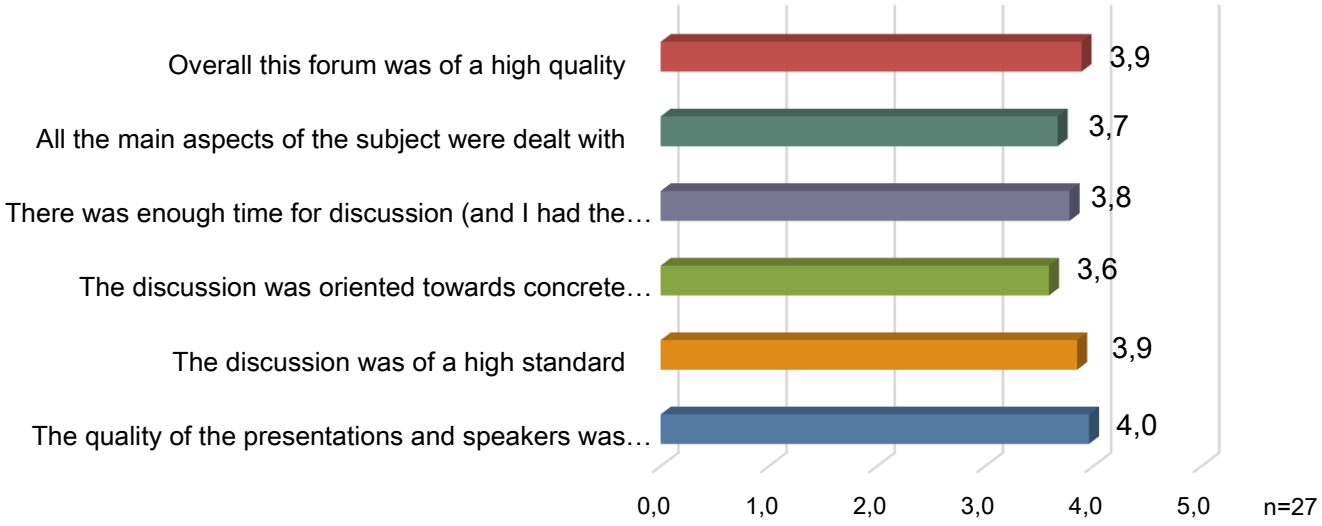
1=total disagreement, 5=total agreement; average rating

Forum 6 – Access to new medicines in Europe



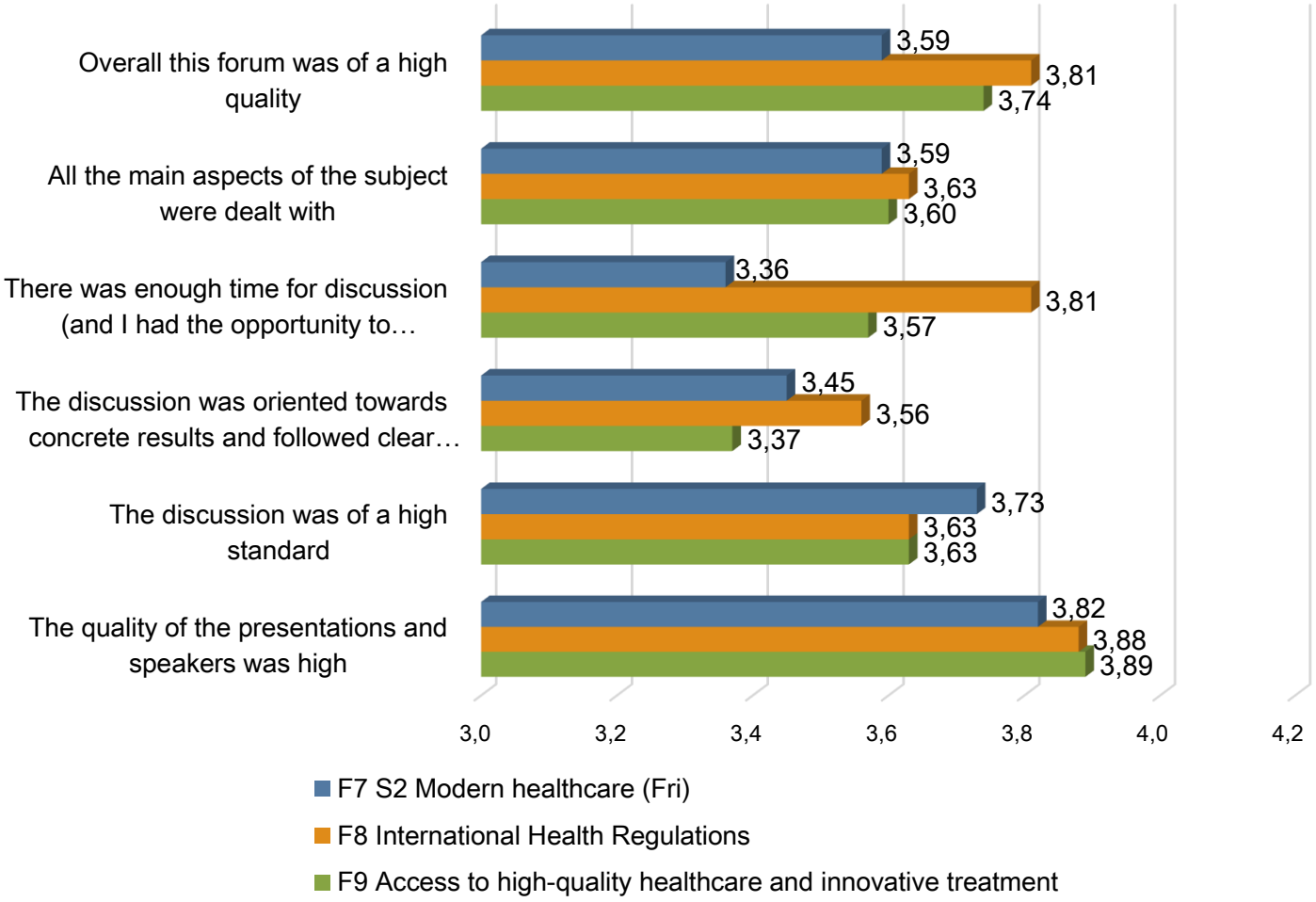
1=total disagreement, 5=total agreement; average rating

Forum 7 S1 – Modern healthcare I



1=total disagreement, 5=total agreement; average rating

Comparison between Forum 7 S2 – Forum 8 – Forum 9



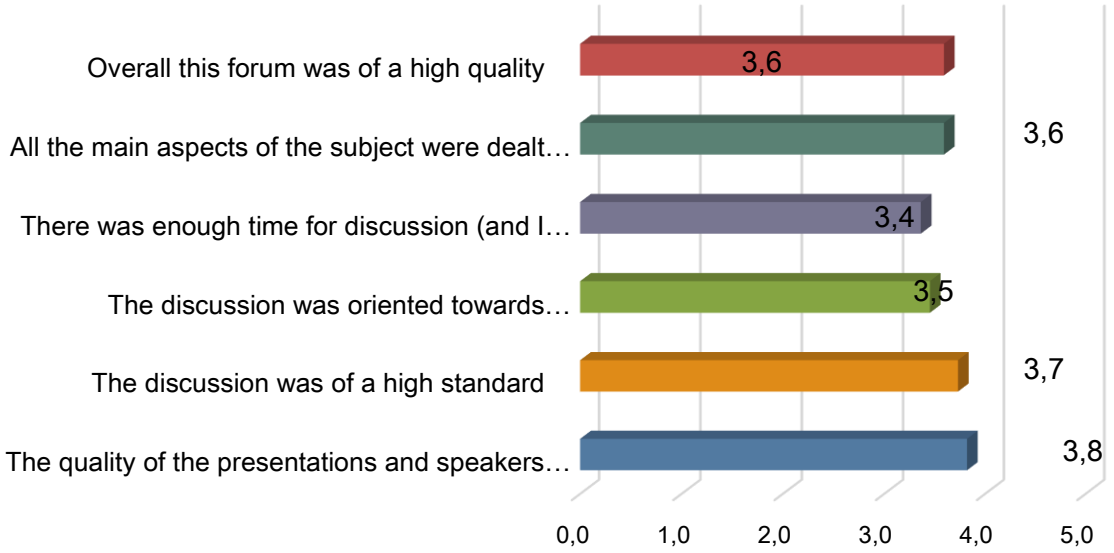
1=total disagreement, 5=total agreement; average rating

F7 Organised by DG Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT)

F8 Organised by World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe

F9 Organised by DG Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE)

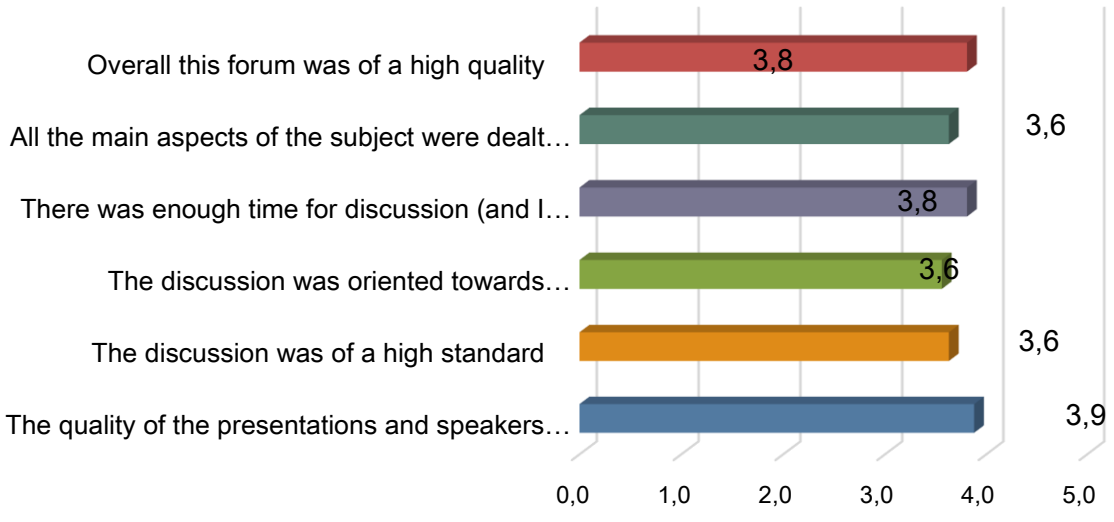
Forum 7 – Modern healthcare II



n=22

1=total disagreement, 5=total agreement; average rating

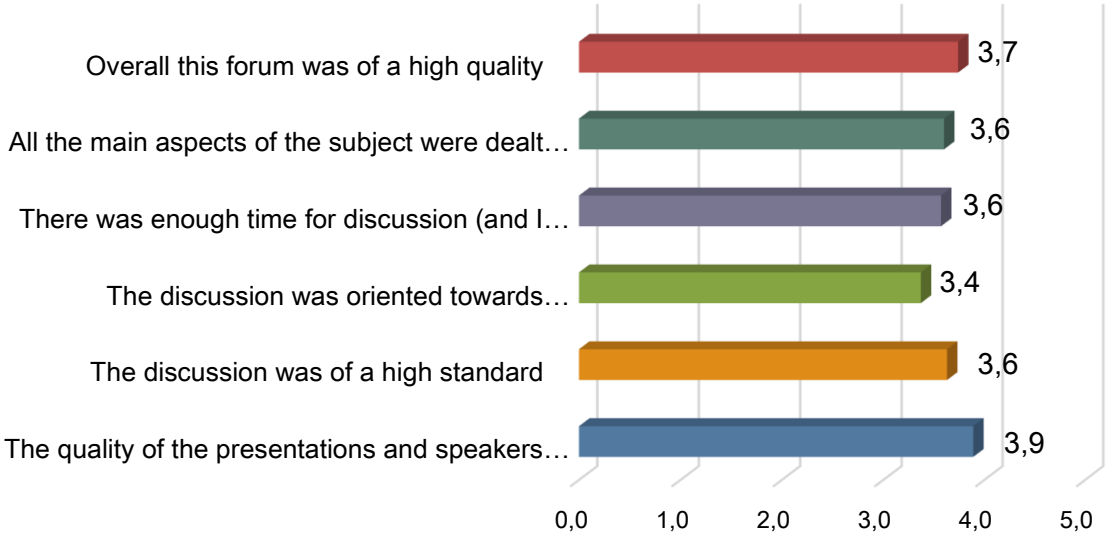
Forum 8 – Securing health.
Implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR)



n=16

1=total disagreement, 5=total agreement; average rating

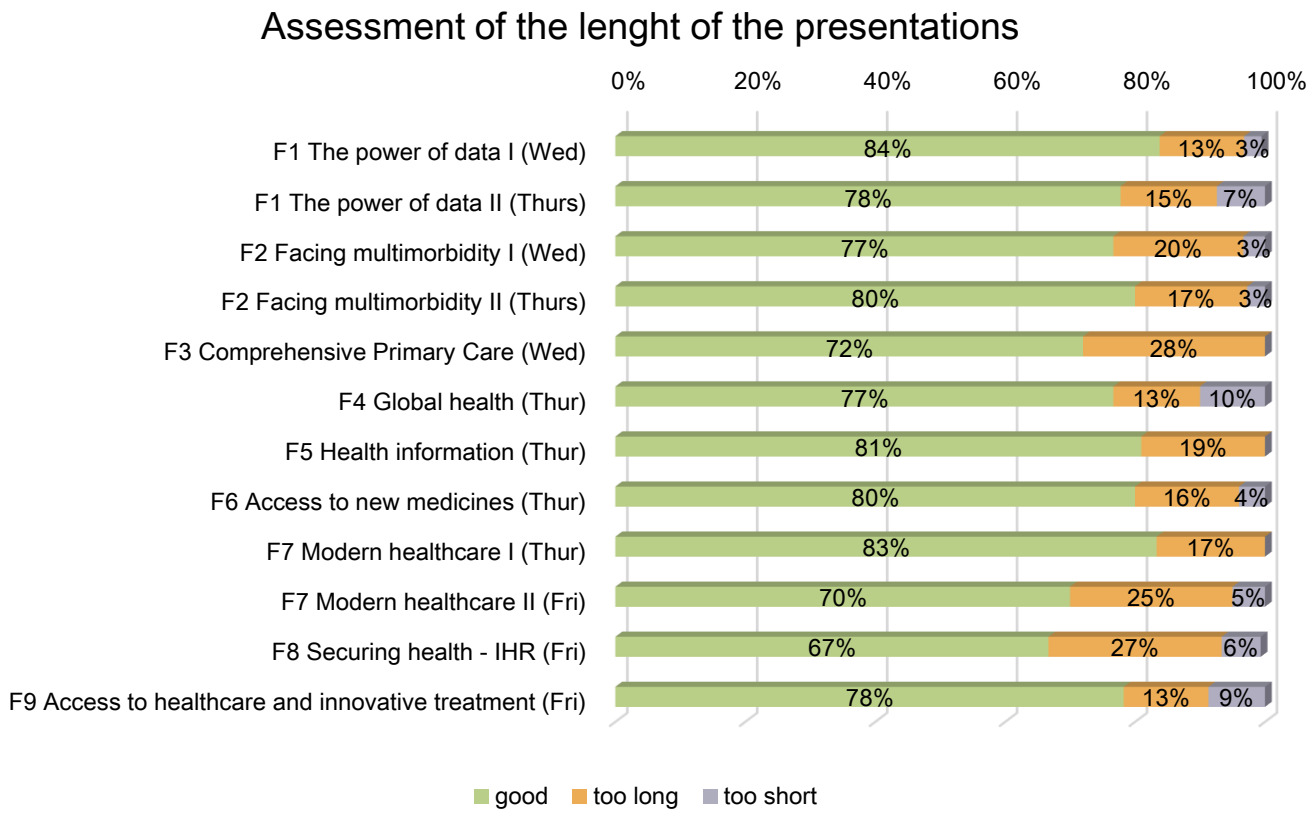
Forum 9 - Access to high-quality healthcare and innovative treatment

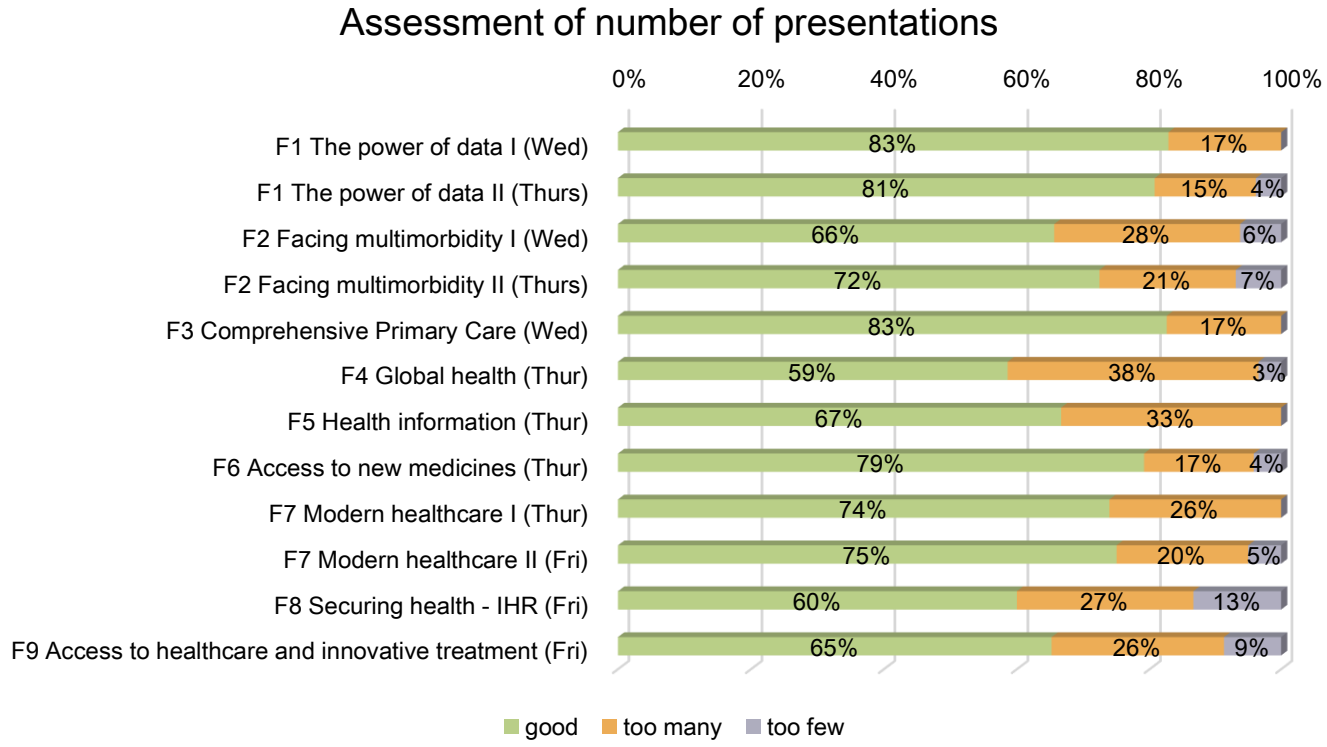


n=36

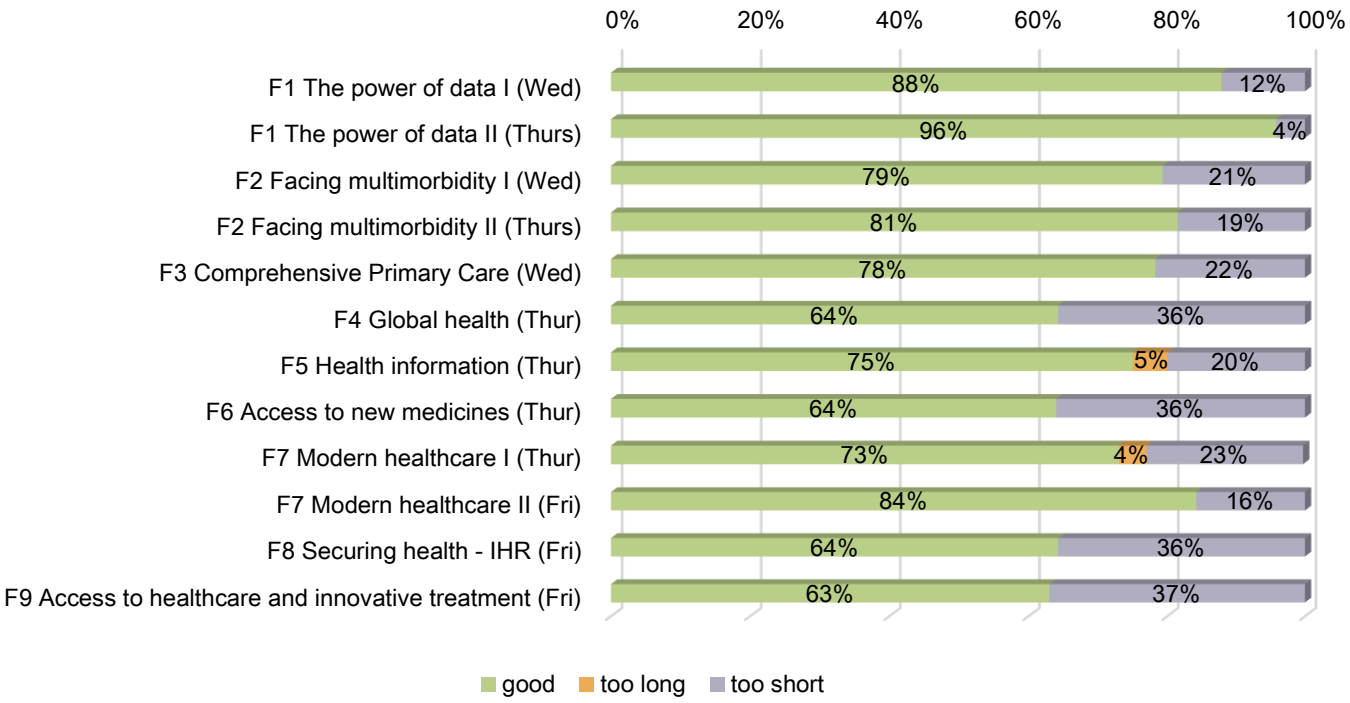
1=total disagreement, 5=total agreement; average rating

Comparison between all Parallel Forum Sessions





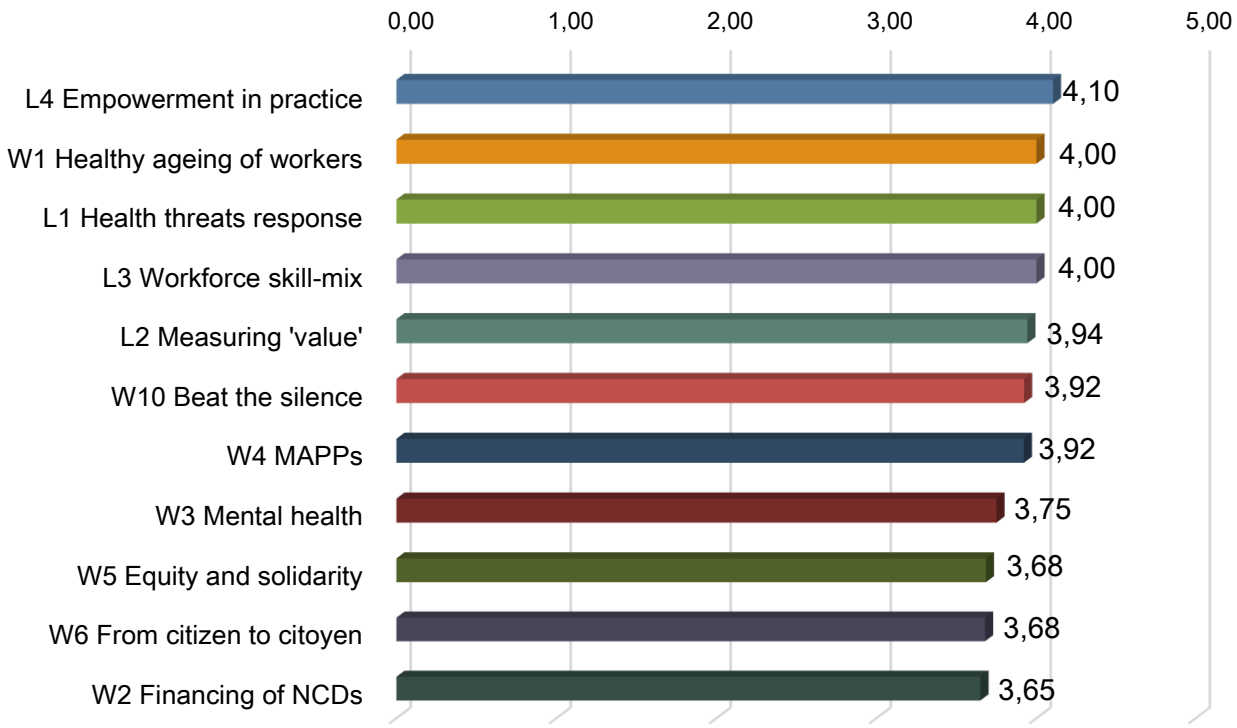
Assessment of the time allocated for interactive discussion



Selected Comments:

- Experts presented from the real world perspectives and the discussions were relevant also to us participants from developing countries.
- Not enough opportunity for audience participation. The sessions were very controlled. I suggest breaking the three hours sessions up with shorter, more frequent breaks. I also think it would be a good idea to make use of breakout groups for discussion. These could be facilitated by panel members for example, and then everyone feeds back to the room, before moving onto the next presentation. These long sessions didn't seem to have an agreed focus or outputs. I think it would be beneficial to have a) objectives for the session and b) summary at the end which assesses if we met the objectives, and is also outcome focused, or focused on next steps. In sum, the debates could be more outcome orientated.
- Presentations and discussions were disappointing as some of the speakers kept repeating: "There is no solution. We need more discussion and to gather more stakeholders". Gastein is where all stakeholders are gathered and it would have been great to see new proposals, initiatives or ideas shared to set up some kind of action plan or initiate a movement towards concrete outcomes.
- All the sessions I attended needed more variety in panellists and perspectives. It was too rare that conflicting views were presented. Would be good to have at least one NGO representative and one patient representative per session, to get a more lively & concrete debate going.
- In general, I find 3 hours quite lenghty for a forum.
- More innovative approaches occasionally might make for more lively discussions.
- High level

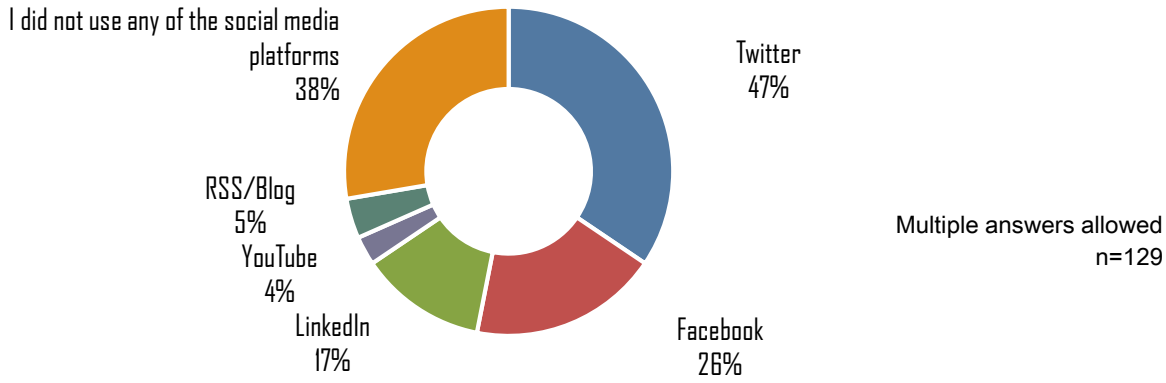
Evaluation of the Workshop Sessions



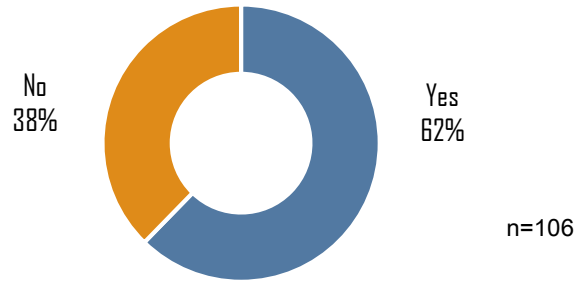
1=poor quality, 5=excellence; average quality rating

SOCIAL MEDIA

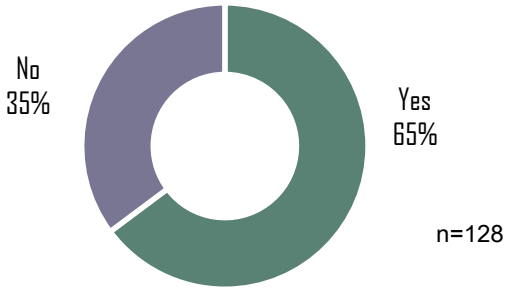
Usage of social media platforms at the EHFG 2015



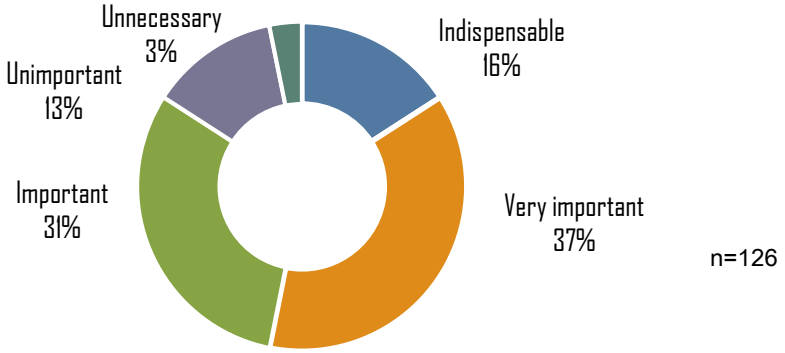
Did you follow the Twitter hashtag #ehfg2015?



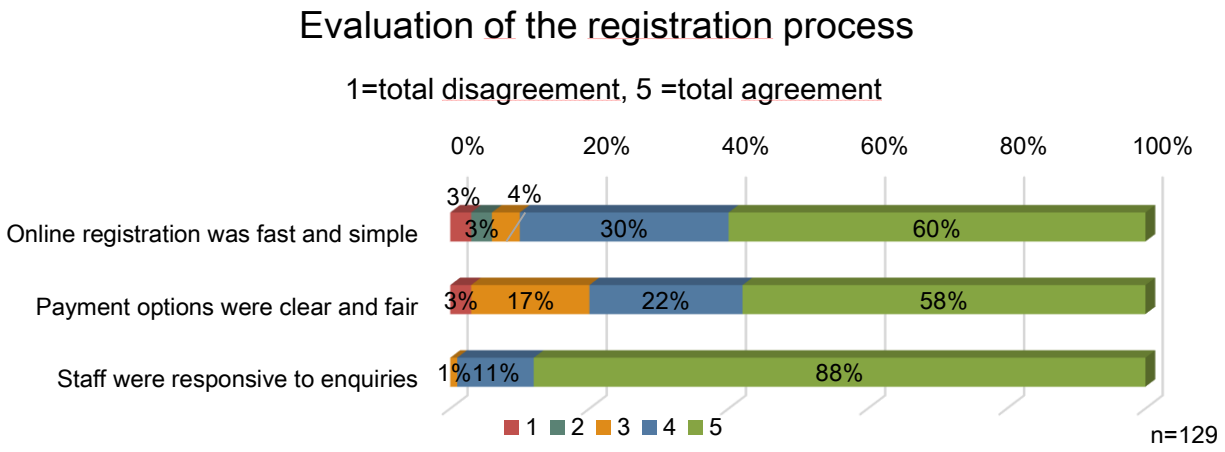
Do you intend to use any of our social media platforms between EHFG conferences

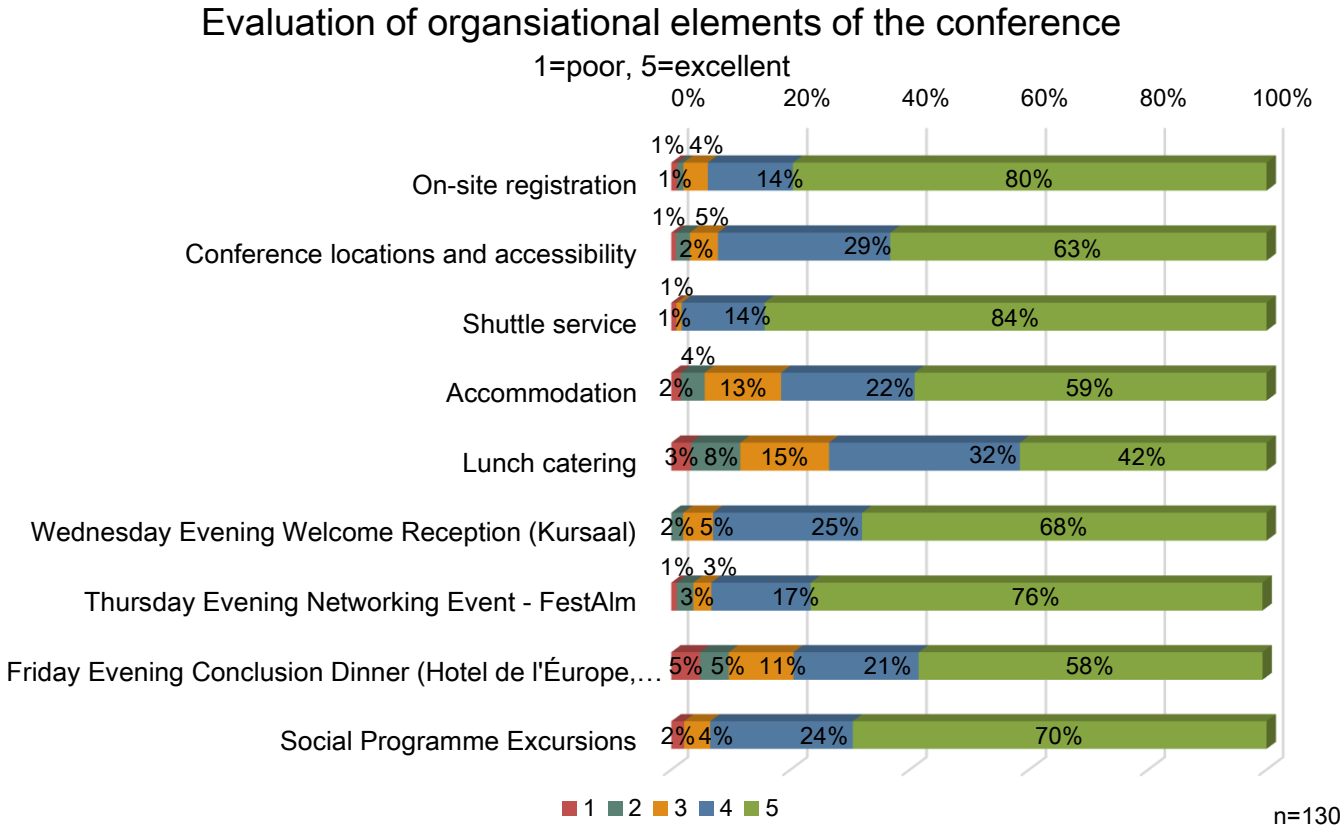


Importance of social media to the EHFG conference



REGISTRATION, ORGANISATION AND OVERALL IMPRESSION

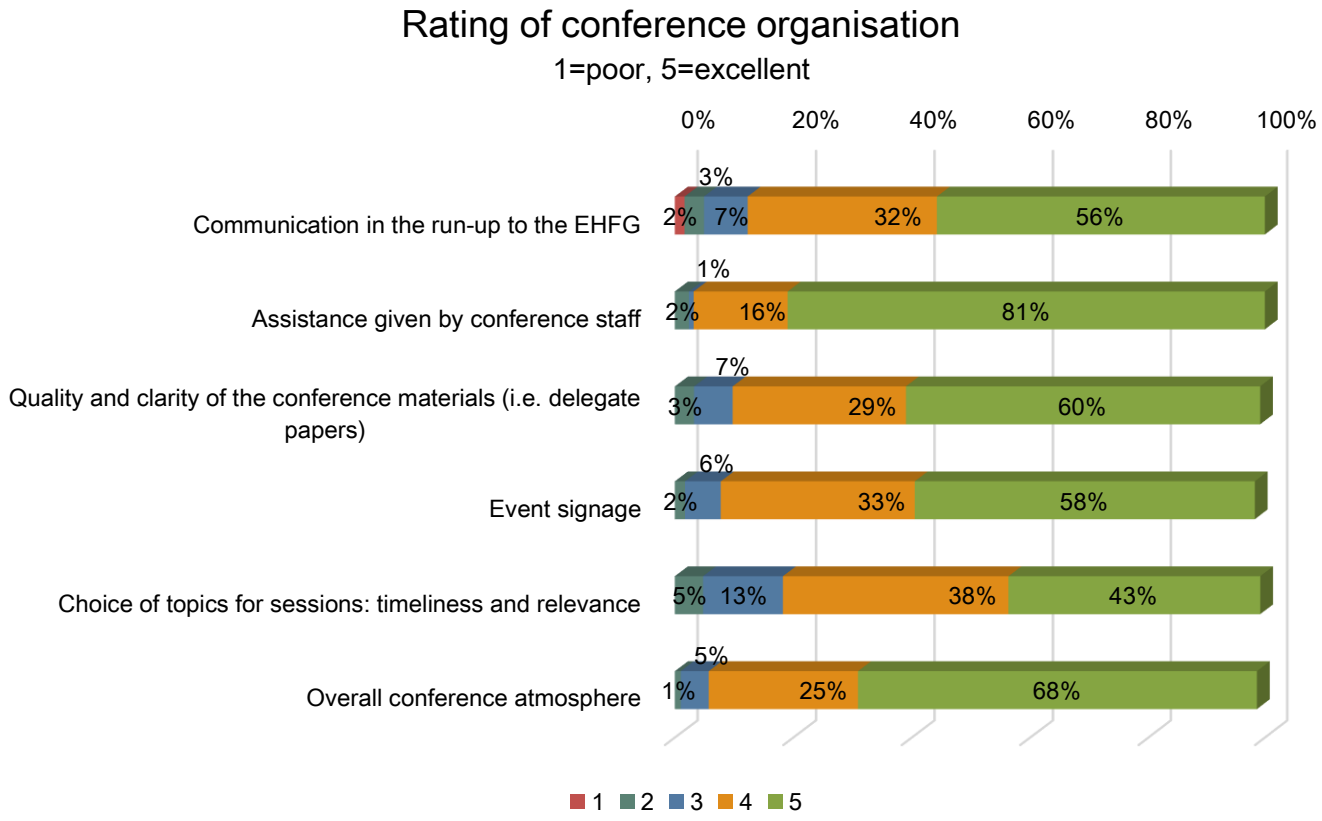




Selected Comments:

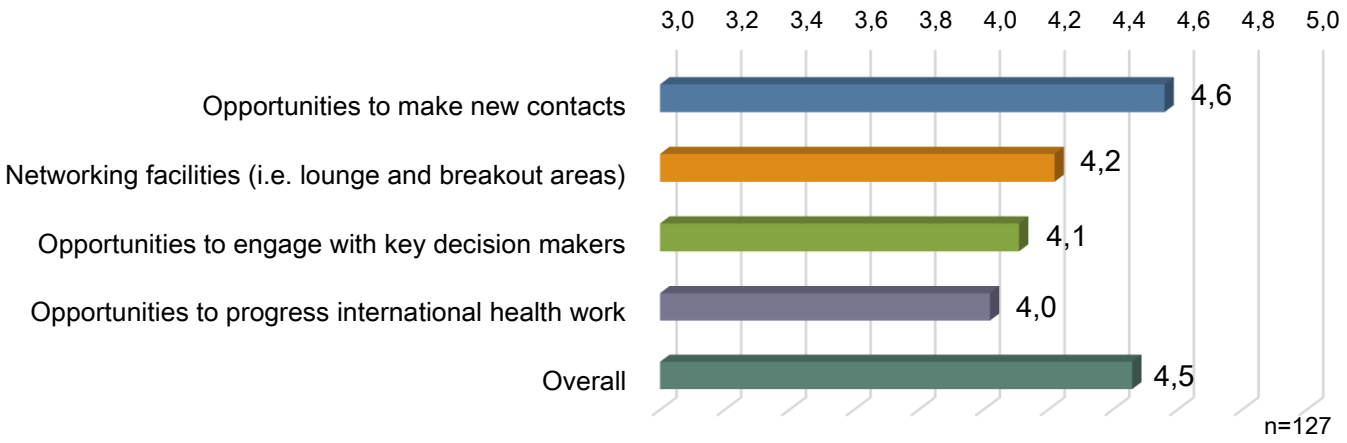
- Food quality became every evening worse. Atmosphere of Festalm is quite nice, but very low kitchen quality, kitchen staff, organisation and food-choice no comparison to the years before. Same witch Hotel L`Europe lively chaos, very low quality of food
- The organisers had initially not clearly communicated about payments for travel but it was later resolved.
- I don't think alcohol should be served during the day at the conference-the conference should be setting an example and not normalise alcohol consumption especially throughout the working day.
- Excellent overall organization
- Accommodation extremely expensive for the service offered. It was very unpleasant not to have the opportunity to choose the level of hotel by themself. I would have gone for a cheaper solution.
- The lunch time interfering with the conference programme made it difficult to grab food on time. The entertainment at the Networking event was great. The entertainment at the Conclusion dinner was not really appropriate.
- Organisation was perfect & the team were always available and extremely helpful. It was a real pleasure to attend!
- No coffee after afternoon Plenary Session but during forum).
- Food queues far too long, Music too loud for conversation at the Thursday evening event
- The evening events were great fun, provided good networking opportunities and the food was generally good. The Festalm is a very nice location and goes first in my personal ranking. The gin and ginger is a beautiful location too but people were separated too much. The band was good fun though I heard the Young Gasteiners were not fond of them. However, it is a big challenge to hit everyone's taste of music especially given the diverse age range of participants. Overall sessions were much better timed, moderators and chairs have taken their jobs seriously and reminded speakers to not run over time and participants to keep their questions short and precise. Some speakers were really inventive and moved away a little from the standard of giving a speech and got their message across by using some tricks and tools to catch the attention of the audience. I very much appreciated various vegetarian / fish options available, but did miss some fresh salad options. In the Kursaal coffee was taken away by staff before the breaks were over. No sweets / dessert needed after lunch, but a cup of coffee would have been nice. Staff was very friendly and helpful and did a great job in organising a successful conference.
- Small white-bread sandwiches for lunch are probably not the best option. The wine and beer don't need to be served for lunch either.
- During the welcome reception food was difficult to access - only two access points for the number of participants was not enough. The quality of the food and coffee was very good, but in particular coffee disappeared too quickly.

- Gastein is a beautiful location but it is too problematic to travel there! Also the hotel I stayed in was too basic for the hotel class that it is.
- Overall, an excellent logistics on site. Two comments regarding catering: 1st - it should be easier to get a coffee throughout the day; 2nd - simple snacks as a plain ham sandwich or cookies should be made available - there were times in that every available food had cheese or cream, making it hard on people that do not enjoy this kind of snack.
- All the Social program events took place during the conference except one or two; the food was decidedly UN healthy, barely a vegetable to be found, or a sandwich not slathered in butter or cream cheese.
- At Conclusion Dinner, caterer was overwhelmed. Soup and main dish served cold, even after sending it back to kitchen. Not good at all. Overpriced. Also we were served the same wines every evening. Would've been nice to see variety
- Great lunch and dinner, much more tasty than usual at conferences. But almost no vegetables or salad, not really health promoting... And alcohol for free everywhere also not the best for a health policy event...
- It is a pity that the Welcome Reception and Conclusion dinner were so noisy.
- Please take allergies into account in the registration process. Then some options can be available throughout the meeting.

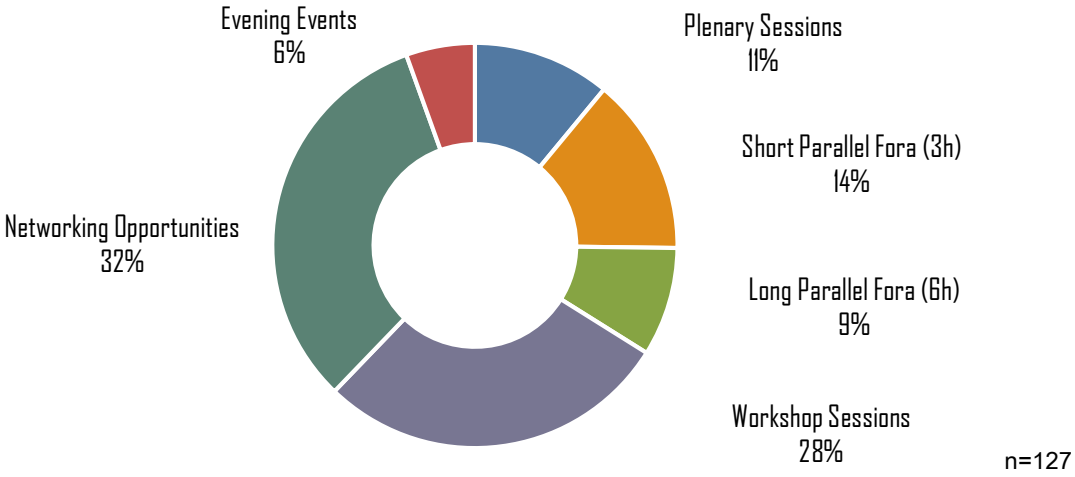


Rating of conference networking

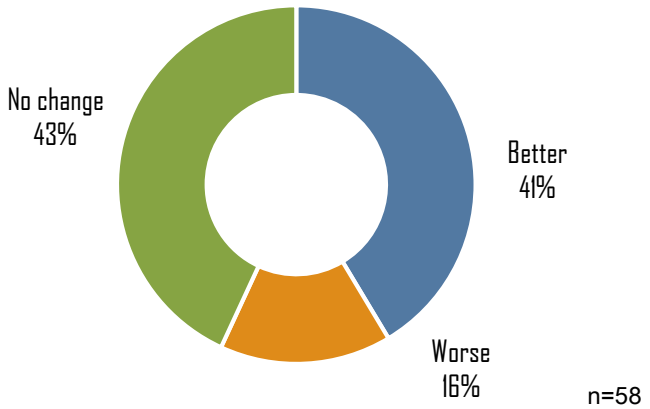
1=poor, 5=excellent



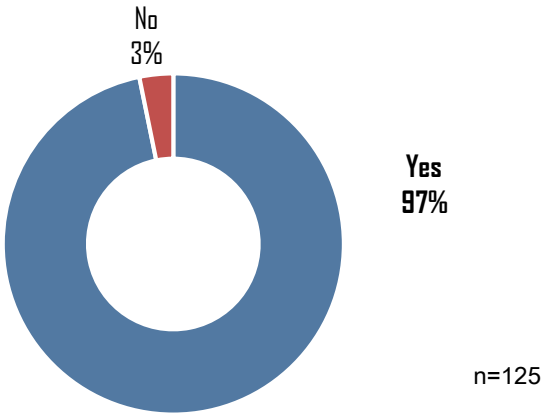
Most rewarding activities at the conference



Comparision to other EHFG conferences



Would you participate in the conference again?



OPEN QUESTIONS

Respondents were asked to give recommendations for how to improve the organisational aspects of next year's conference.

This question was answered by 27 respondents. In conclusion, several respondents would appreciate shorter and more interactive sessions and recommended to have less "direct presentations". One person recommended to have more variety in panellists and to work towards concrete outcomes or "Gastein Resolutions". Another recommendation was to enhance the Gastein Forum twitter account to be more actively involved in the discussions during the conference. One respondent recommended to add more content about the programme to the conference material such as abstracts from keynote speakers.

Respondents were asked what aspects of the conference exceeded their expectations.

This question was answered by 47 respondents. Several comments were made concerning the very positive networking opportunities. Numerous comments were made concerning the satisfaction with different sessions/workshops such as the Plenary Session as well as the Young Forum Gastein activities. The quality of sessions and speakers was considered as a positive aspect as well as the interactivity within the Plenary Sessions.
Furthermore, the social programme was mentioned very positively by several participants. Very positive comments were given to the overall organisation, the conference staff and the location and the beauty of the Gastein Valley.

Respondents were asked what aspects of the conference did not meet their expectations.

This question was answered by 51 respondents. Several participants commented that the sessions were too long and not innovative enough. Some respondents criticised that there should be more engagement between speakers and audience and that there was too much consensus in panels. In line with this, some respondents commented that the sessions were not controversial enough and one person felt that "speakers were preaching to the converted". More time should be allocated for questions and discussions, directly not electronically. One person commented that the debates were "many times not challenging, not addressing the real issues".
Several comments referred to the meals and coffee breaks. For two people the catering was considered poor this year. For one person there were not enough vegetarian options

and for two people there was a lack of coffee during the breaks. Two people did not find it appropriate to serve alcohol during lunch or at a health conference in general.

Respondents were asked to share any final thoughts on their experience at EHFG 2015.

This question was answered by 26 respondents. There were several very positive comments concerning the friendly staff, the excellent organisation and the importance of the conference to the health community. One person stated the difference to scientific conferences and appreciated the interaction between the different stakeholders. The interesting networking experience was mentioned very positively as well as the Young Forum Gastein and its activities.
However, there were also a few negative comments such as the high hotel fees and the recommendation to provide key take aways from the conference to be taken into consideration for the run up to the next conference.

For a more detailed information about the evaluation results, please feel free to contact Josef Wenninger (Josef.Wenninger[at]ehfg.org).

SAVE THE DATE

28 - 30 SEPTEMBER 2016

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