

Report on the post-conference survey

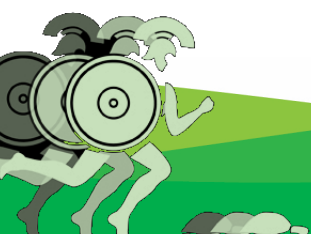
In brief

This report is on a questionnaire based on the responses of participants at the ESEE 2022 conference held in Pisa last June. The underlying theme was the ecological economics and this was the title of the event, "Will Achilles catch up with the tortoise?"

The conference was attended by about 560 people including faculty, researchers, experts, and students. Various plenaries and presentations were held during the days from June 14 to 17, accompanied by extra events such as a social dinner, a concert by the music group "I Bei Legami Ensemble," and sustainability games.

The aim of the report is to investigate the satisfaction, opinions, and advice of the participants, who expressed themselves by answering the proposed questions based on their experience at the conference. The number of responses received was around 200 (209 to be precise).

In the full report you will find the most important and salient insights.

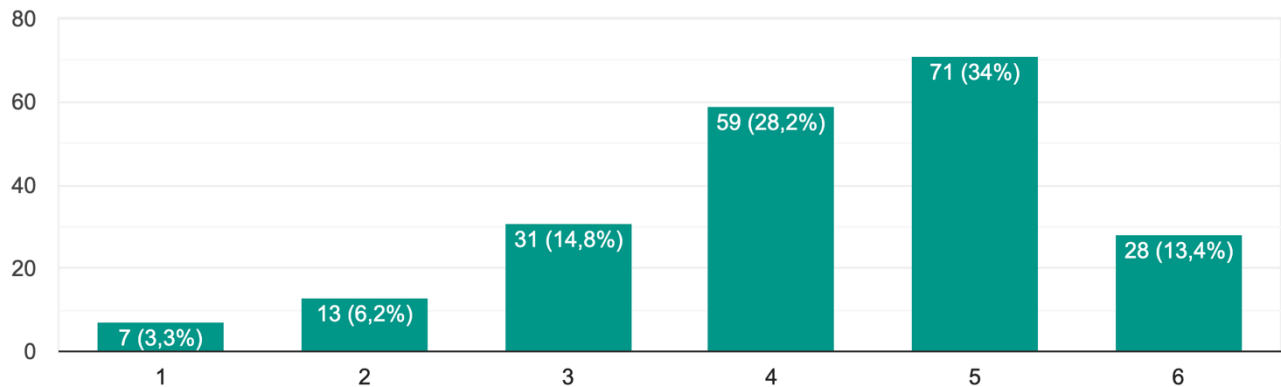


Section 1

This section asks for an initial assessment of their experience at the conference. The graph below shows the overall satisfaction of the respondents:

Please indicate your overall satisfaction with the conference experience

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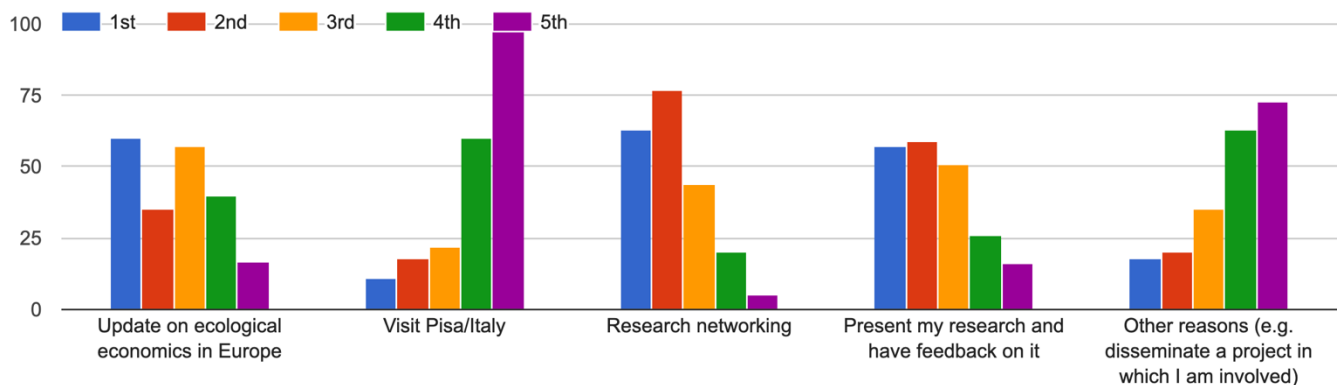


Graph 1 Overall satisfaction

As can be seen, for most respondents the experience was all in all positive, with almost half of the responses settling on the highest scores (5 and 6).

A second question is about the reasons for attending the conference, here is a graphic feedback:

Please rank the reasons that induced you to attend this conference



Graph 2 Main reasons of attendance



Reason 1 (research networking, present)	67% and 55%
Reason 2 (update on ecol. econ.)	45%
Reason 3 (visit Pisa, others)	14% and 18%

Table 1 Main reasons of attendance (by percentage)

We can summarize the graph with a summary table. Based on the highest scores (1st and 2nd) we can divide into 3 reasons for participation. We can see that the main motivations to participate (above 50%) were: research networking and presenting one's research work. This is followed by getting up to date on ecological economics, just below 50%. For the other motivations, we can say that they are almost entirely negligible

The following is a request for evaluation of these issues:

Graph 3 Evaluation of other aspects

... and your satisfaction with the following aspects

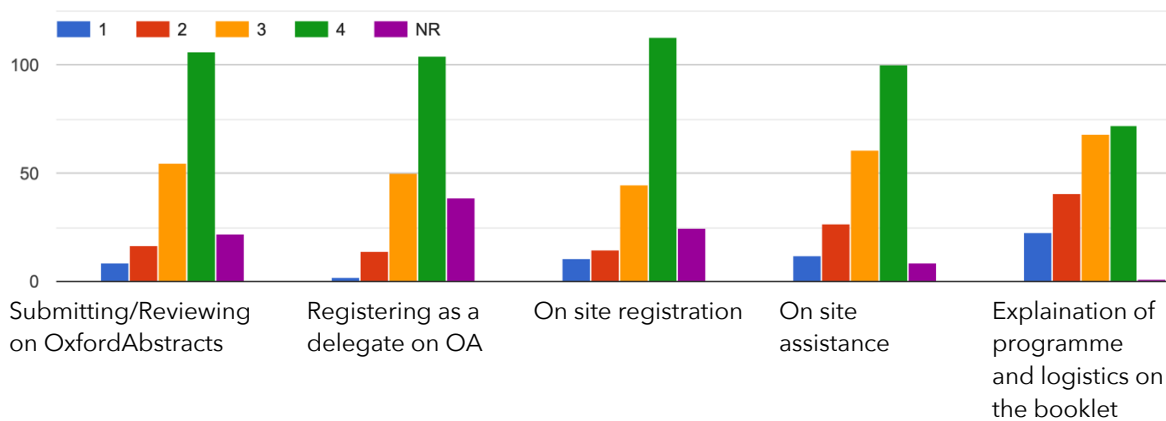
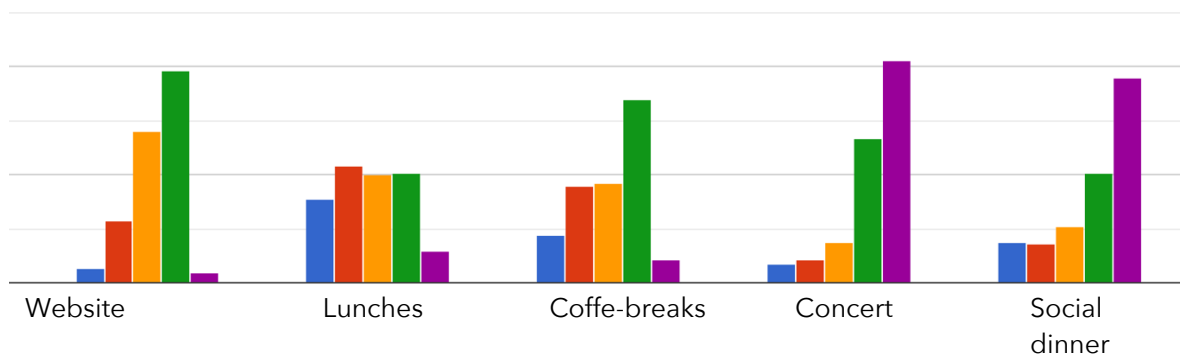


Figure 4 Evaluation of other aspects pt.2

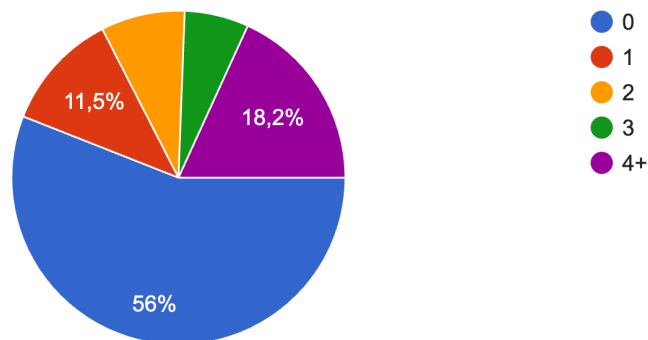


The data show that for most (about 6 out of 10) of the aspects rated the scores are high. There is some uncertainty regarding the explanation of the logistical and program aspects on the booklet, just as on the lunches opinions are varied and distributed almost equally. Note the high presence of "NR" regarding the concert and the social dinner, a clear sign that these respondents did not attend or preferred not to give an evaluation.

To close the first section, two remaining questions: one about whether or not you have previously attended ESEE/ISEE conferences, and the other about whether or not you are a member of ESEE/ISEE

How many ESEE/ISEE conferences have you attended before ESEE2022Pisa?

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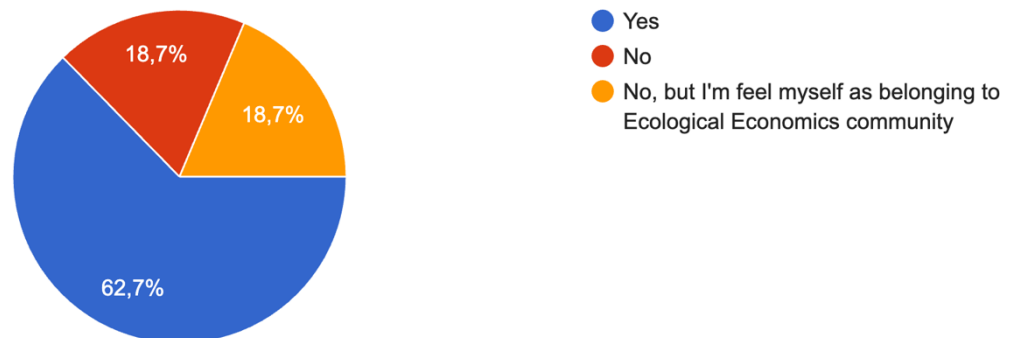
Graph 5 Attendance, or not, at previous ESEE/ISEE conferences



As can be seen from the graph, more than 50% of respondents stated that ESEE 2022 Pisa was their first experience with ESEE/ISEE conferences. Almost a quarter of the respondents have an experience of 3, 4 or more conferences attended.

I am a member of ESEE/ISEE

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Graph 6 Member, or not, of ESEE/ISEE

The data show that more than 60 percent of respondents are members of ESEE/ISEE. Note how the percentages of non-members and those who feel more or less aligned with the positions of the Ecological Economics community are in perfect parity.

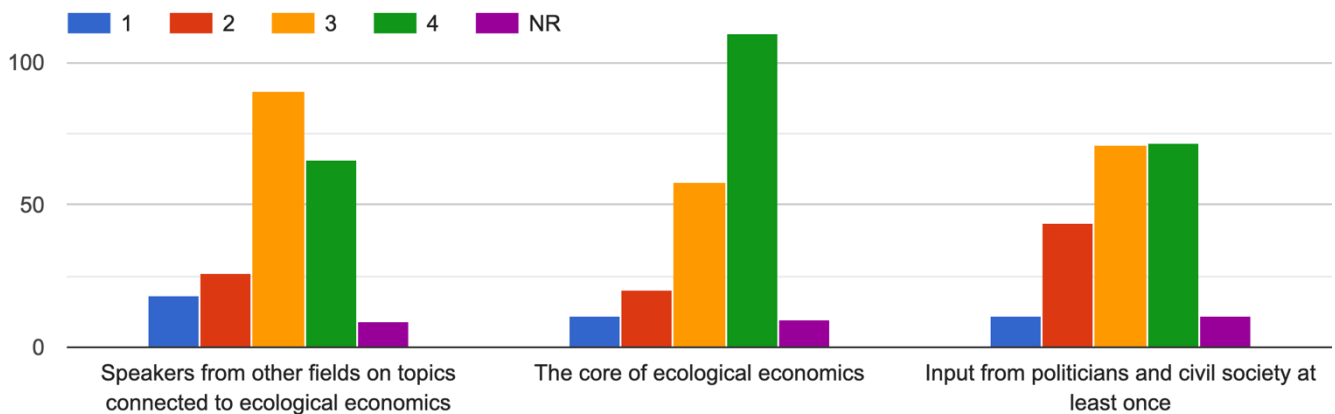
Section 2

The second section focuses on the plenaries that took place. Below is the text taken from the questionnaire: *"As in some of the previous ESEE conferences, most of the plenaries were thought to broaden our perspectives, by inviting scholars from other fields to deal topical issues connected to ecological economics - but not necessarily representing the core interests of the community (e.g. Compact cities and urban sustainability; Energy; China in Africa: changes in the global playground; Automation, jobs, and inequality...)".*

A first graph shows us the agreement or disagreement of respondents regarding the aspects that plenaries should focus on during ESEE conferences.



Tell us how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statement: At the Ecological Economics conferences, plenaries should focus on:



Graph 7 Agree/Disagree with these aspects about plenaries

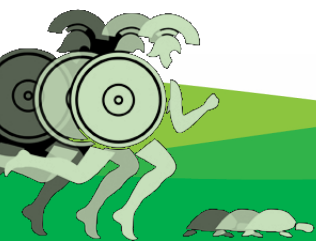
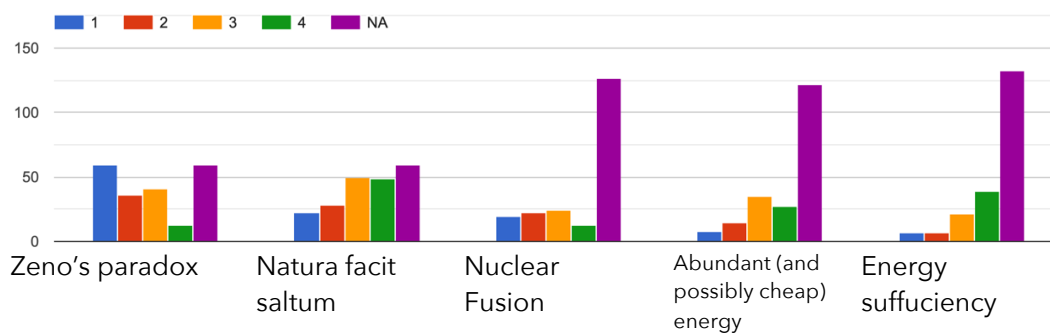
Speakers from other fields	74,6%
The core of ecol. econ.	80,4%
Input from politicians and civil society	68,4%

Focusing only on the highest scores (3 and 4) for the first two aspects there is great agreement, which comes somewhat less for the third aspect (although the percentage is still high).

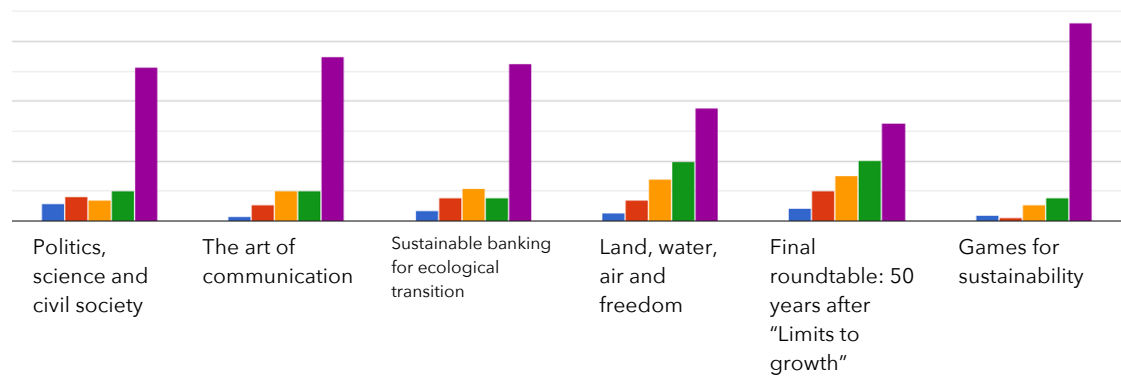
The following is an evaluation of the various plenaries that took place during the conference:

Graph 8 Plenary session evaluation

Your experience at the plenary sessions ...



Graph 9 Plenary session evaluation pt. 2



The graphs above indicate how remarkably high is the percentage of "non-attendees" at most plenaries. Exceptions are the first and second, and the third-to-last (the one with Joan Martinez Alier) and the penultimate (the Final roundtable). Of note is the fact that the plenary on Zeno's paradox had a rather high number of dissatisfied participants compared to the other "most attended" plenaries.

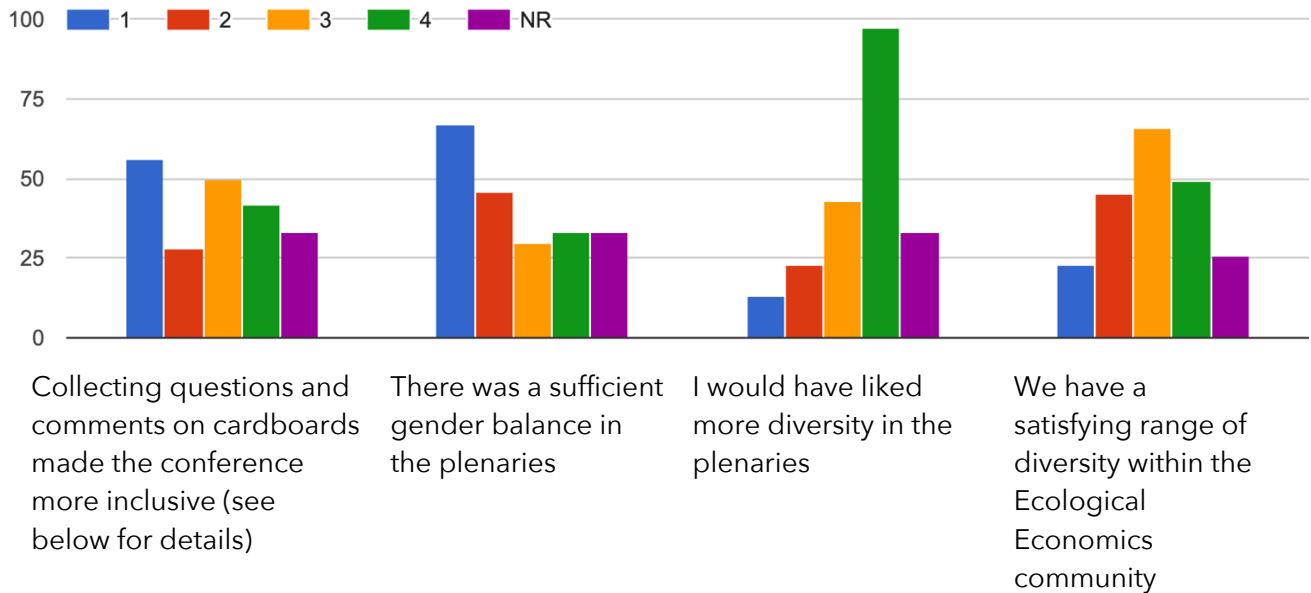
Section 3

This section is about inclusion and awareness: gender, diet and travelling. Respondents are asked about their degree of agreement or disagreement with certain issues:



Graph 10 Agree/Disagree with these aspects

Please tell us how strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements



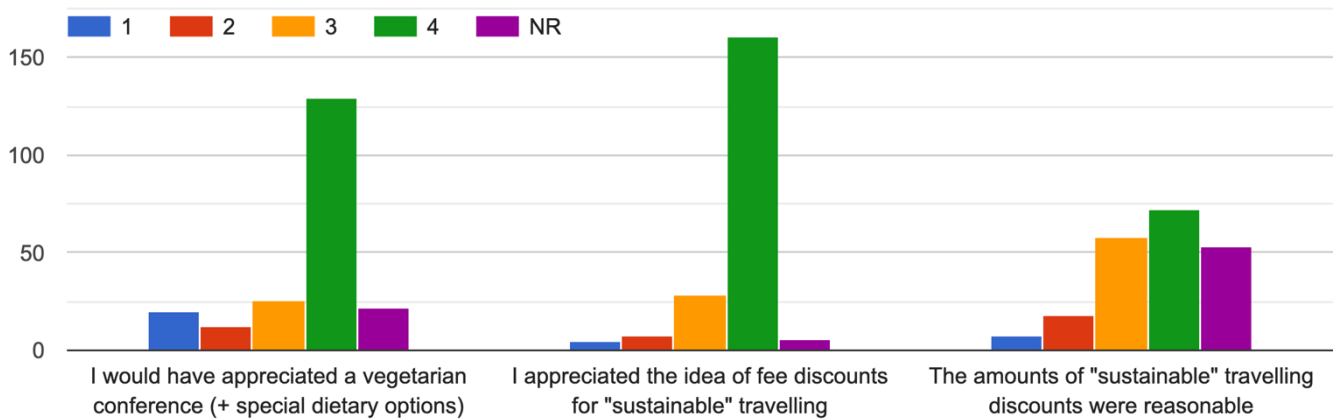
As can be seen from the graphs, there is some disagreement on the first two issues (cardboard and gender balance), there is great agreement on plenary diversity and also tended to be about having a satisfactory degree of diversity within the Ecological Economics community.

The other group of issues on which opinion was sought were the following: the possibility of a "vegetarian" conference, whether or not sustainable transportation discounts were appreciated, and whether their amount was reasonable.



Graph 11 Agree/Disagree with these aspects

Tell us how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements



There is great agreement on all three issues, less pronounced on the amount of the discount (partly due to the presence of many "NR").

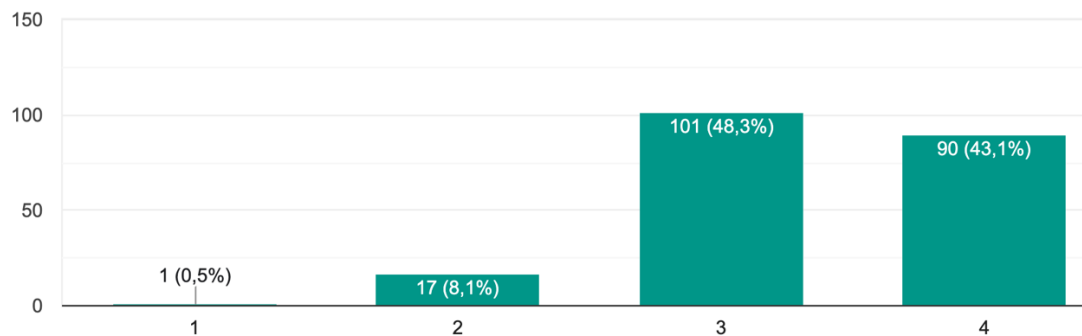
Section 4

The fourth section of the questionnaire asks some evaluation questions regarding the presentations.

Graph 12 Quality of the research presented

Please indicate your opinion about the quality of the research presented in the sessions you attended

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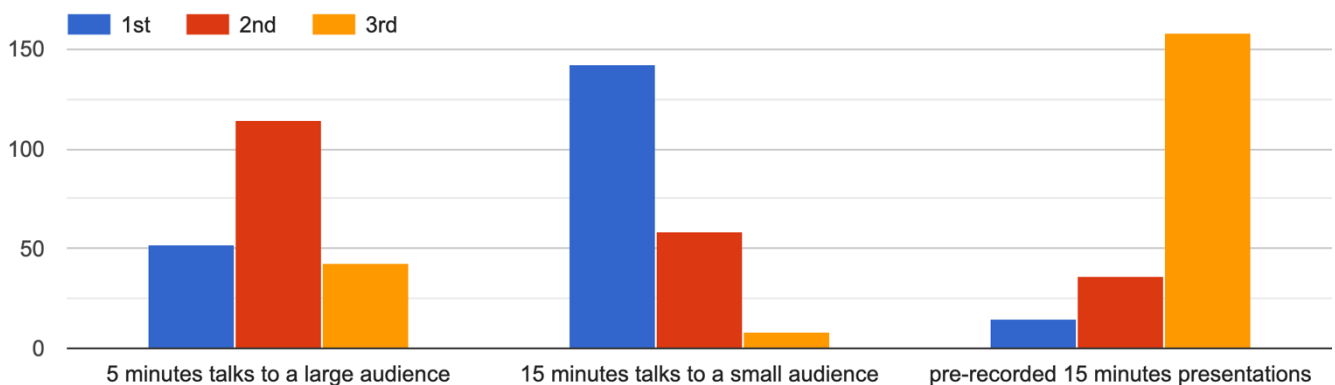


It is quite obvious that respondents agree on the good level of presentations that there were during the conference (as evidenced by the percentages of scores 3 and 4).

As can be seen from the chart below, regarding presentation formats, opinions are quite varied about speaking only 5 minutes to a large audience. There is a great preference for the 15-minute presentation to a small audience. While almost no one would opt for the 15-minute prerecorded presentations

Graph 13 Which type of presentation would you opt for?

Which type of presentation would you opt for? Please rank the three options

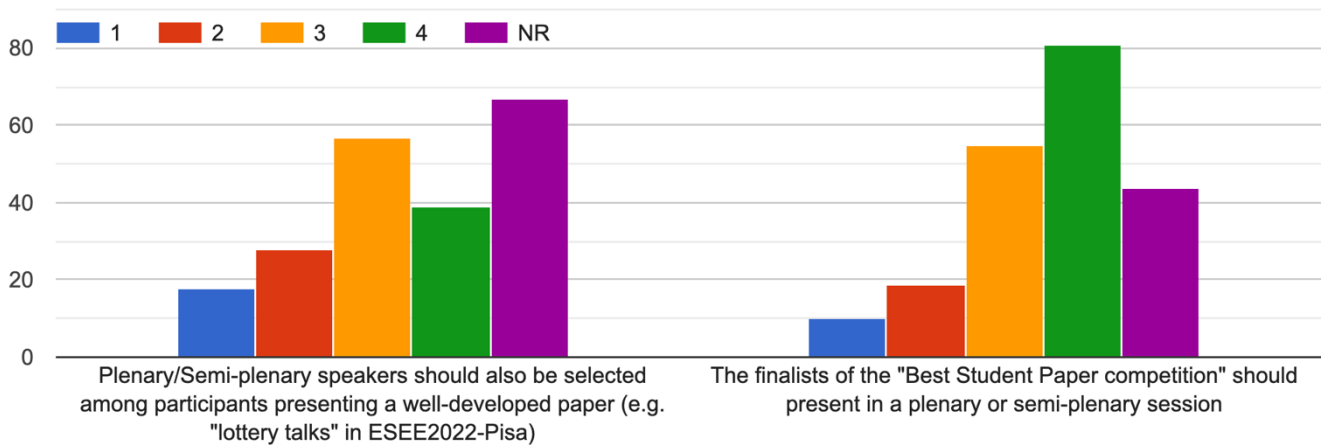


At the conclusion of the section a final request to state the agreement/disagreement on the following two issues: whether plenary/semi-plenary speakers should also be selected among participants presenting a well-developed paper, and whether to award "Best Student Paper" finalists in a plenary or semi-plenary session.



Graph 14 Agree/Disagree with these aspects

Tell us how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statement



On the question of speakers there is tendency to be agreement, although there are many non-responses. For the "Best Student Prize," on the other hand, there is great agreement that it should be announced during a plenary or semi-plenary session.

Section 5

This last section concludes the questionnaire with questions summarizing the entire experience at the conference.

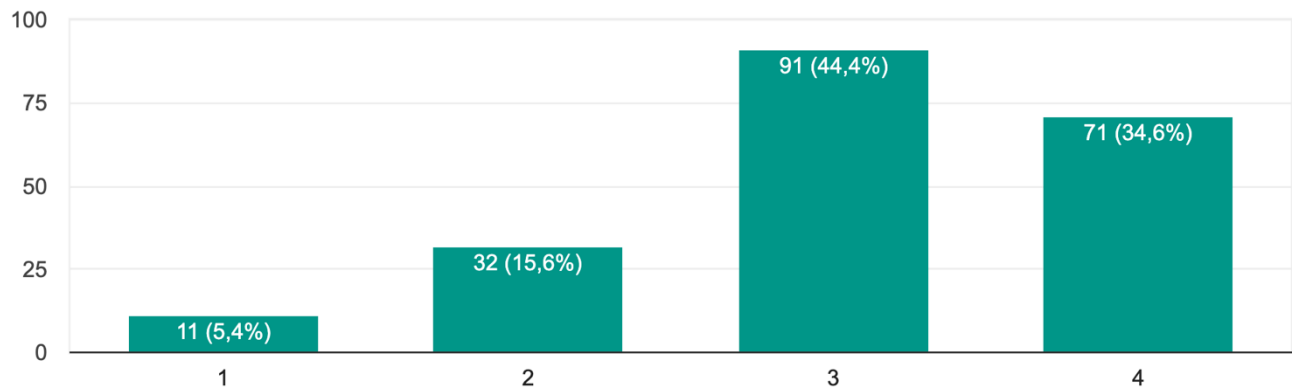
As can be seen from the chart below, for 79% of respondents, the conference contributed to their research and career goals



Graph 15 Relevance of the Conference for research and career goals

This conference contributed to my research or professional career goals

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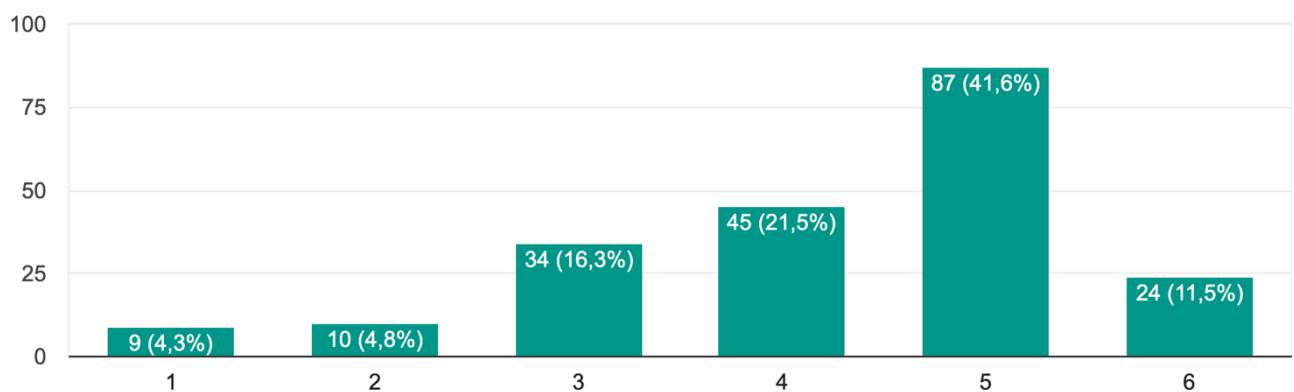


An overall opinion of the conference is also requested, as at the beginning. An overall opinion of the conference is also requested, as in the beginning.

Comparing the two graphs does not show much difference, except for an increase in respondents who selected score 5.

Tell us again please your overall satisfaction with the conference experience (PLS do not check your first answer)

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To conclude, a pie chart on the distribution of respondents by gender identity (only 61 responses):

