



SEM-SEM



Smart Control Systems for Energy Management

Erasmus + #: 561703-EPP-1-2015-1-UK-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

Evaluation Report
for the Conference held on the 4th
to 6th December of 2017, in Cairo
(Egypt)



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a. Introduction – Purpose of this Document

As foreseen in the project proposal and, consequently, in the SEM-SEM QA Plan, the QA of the SEM-SEM project will be continuous; thus, will be implemented throughout the project lifetime. Evaluation is necessary to improve the quality of the project and its products. According to the proposal and the Work Package 12 (Quality Plan), EUROTraining is responsible for monitoring the progress of the activities and gathering the results and going on to compose the relevant reports. For this reason, after each and every session (training/workshop/project meeting/conference), a questionnaire should be filled in by all participants.

In the aforementioned framework, this evaluation report aims at outlining the outcomes of the Conference that was held in Cairo on the 4th to 6th of December 2017. EUROTraining used Google Forms in order to create the questionnaire and easier distribute it to participants. Hard copies of the evaluation questionnaires were, also, distributed after the end of the Conference. All responses were then incorporated to the developed Google Form for a better interpretation and presentation of the results. In total, twenty-one answers were gathered.

b. Results' Analysis

This part of the document contains a summary and statistical analysis of the answers given by the Conference attendees. Graphs are included so that the analysis is easier understandable.

Question 1: “Name and Surname” (optional)

The first question of the evaluation questionnaire was about the name and surname of respondents and was optional. Fourteen attendees chose to answer this question.

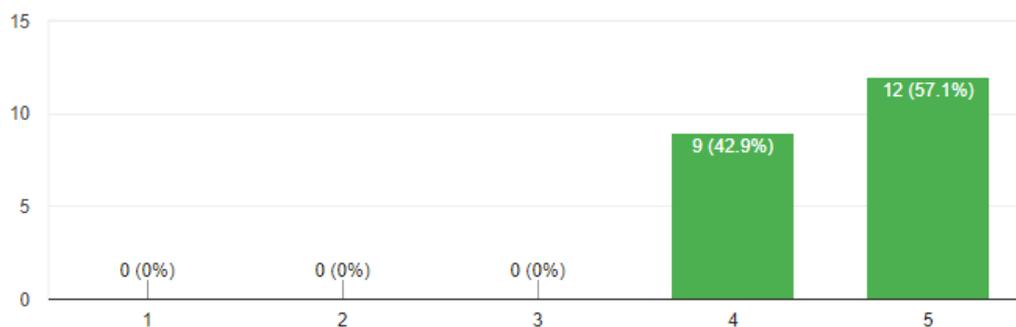


Question 2: “Profession/Status” (optional)

The second question was, also, about some personal information of the respondents, namely their profession or status. That kind of information can be very useful for the evaluation, as it would be good to know how participants are related to the project and its objectives. Even though this question was not compulsory either, eleven participants chose to answer it. The results show that attendees of the Conference were from different Universities (Sohag University, ASU, University of Latvia, and other), and of different levels (lecturers, research assistants, professors), providing a great diversity of views and fostering interaction and exchange of professional opinions.

Question 3: “Overall, the Conference met my expectations”

21 responses

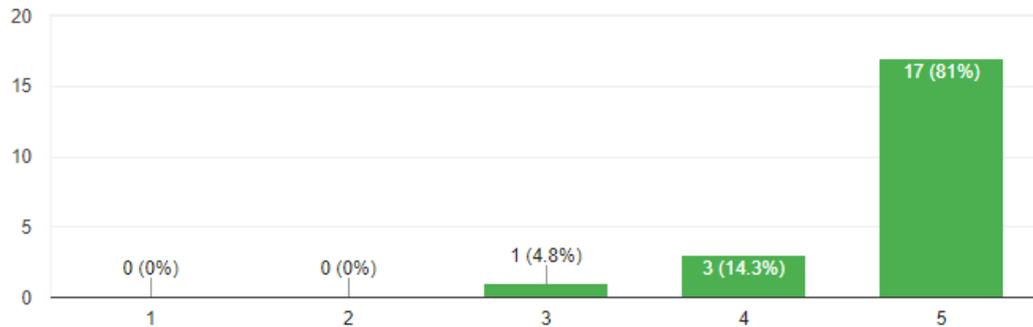


In that question, attendees were asked to evaluate the level at which the Conference met their expectations. Twelve out of twenty-one participants (57.1%) “Totally agreed” that the Conference was consistent with their initial expectations, while the remaining nine (42.9%) “Agreed”. It would be safe enough to say that, in general terms, all participants were satisfied by the Conference.



Question 4: “The objectives of the Conference were clear”

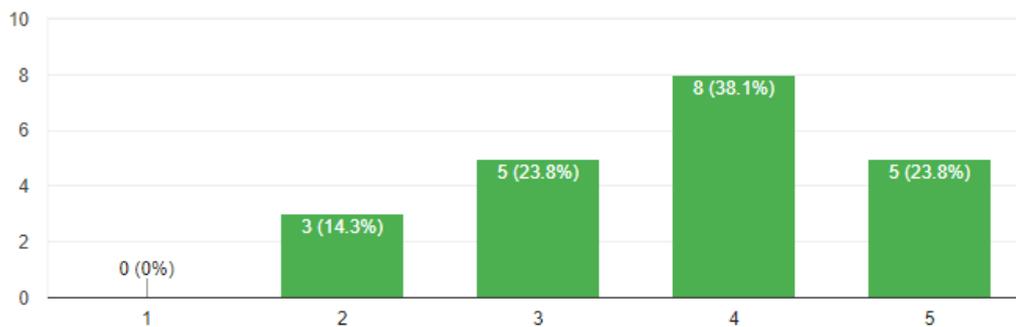
21 responses



Regarding the objectives of the Conference, seventeen attendees (81%) responded that they were “Very clear”, three (14.3%) that they were “Clear” and one (4.8%) that they were “Neither clear, nor unclear”. Results indicate that participants had a clear view of the Conference’s objectives, a fact that contributed to its better implementation as attendees were able to get appropriately prepared for their participation.

Question 5: “The level of interaction between speakers and participants was sufficient”

21 responses



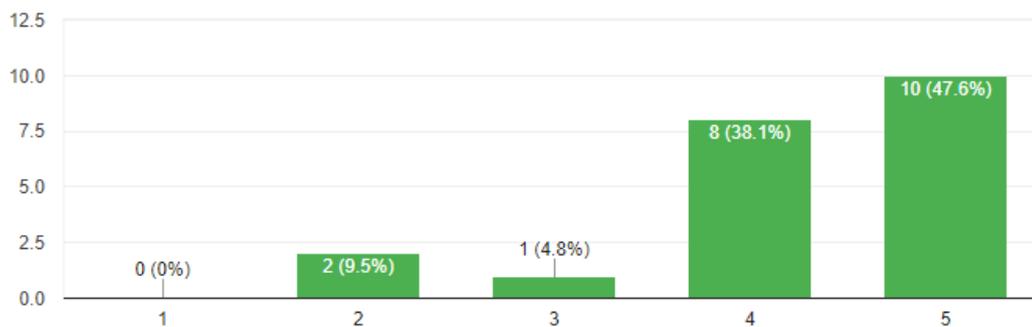
In that question, attendees were asked to evaluate the level of interaction between speakers and participants. The answers were distributed in four options: five participants (23.8%) “Totally agreed” that interaction was sufficient, eight (38.1%) “Agreed”, five (23.8%) “Neither agreed, nor disagreed”, and three (14.3%) “Disagreed”. As interaction among speakers and participants is always a significant aspect of a Conference’s success, particular focus should be given in fostering communication, discussion and exchange of opinions between



speakers and attendees, especially while preparing the International Conference that will be held at the end of the project.

Question 6: “The duration of the Conference was satisfactory”

21 responses

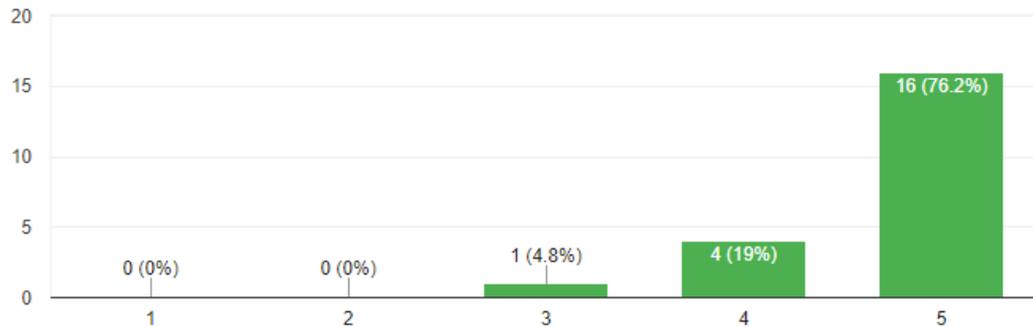


Another important aspect of a Conference is its duration. On the one hand, if duration is too short, maybe it won't be possible to adequately cover all addressed topics or topics will only be superficially mentioned. On the other hand, a long duration Conference can result in tired participants or a less focused agenda, which might influence the overall effectiveness of the Conference. Thus, an appropriately balanced duration is a significant organisational aspect of every Conference. In our case, ten attendees (47.6%) “Totally agreed” that the Conference’s duration was satisfactory, eight (38.1%) “Agreed”, one (4.8%) “Neither agreed, nor disagreed”, and another two (9.5%) “Rather disagreed”. Those mixed responses indicate that attendees had different expectations regarding the duration of the event, and even though the majority of them were, in general, satisfied, some participants’ expectations were not met.



Question 7: “Are you generally satisfied with the Conference's venue?”

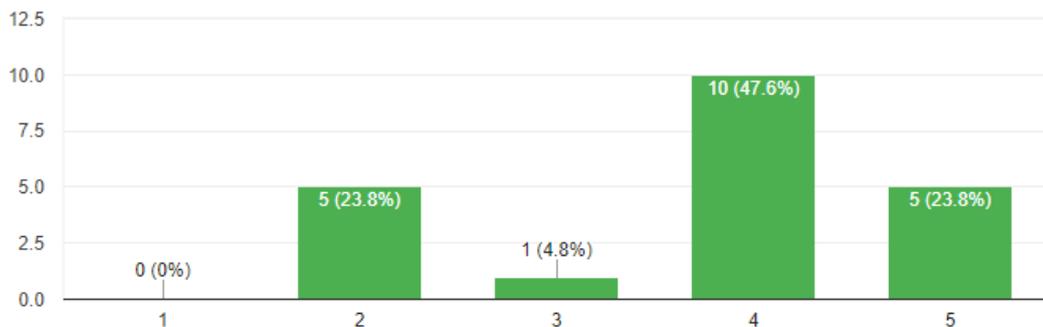
21 responses



In that question, participants were asked to evaluate the Conference's venue. The majority of participants (76.2%) were “Very satisfied” by the venue, another 19% were “Satisfied”, and one participant’s opinion was “Balanced”. Those results are very encouraging, as attendees seemed to highly appreciate the Conference’s venue.

Question 8: “Compliance with the Conference's timetable (time for questions, breaks, etc.) was satisfactory”

21 responses

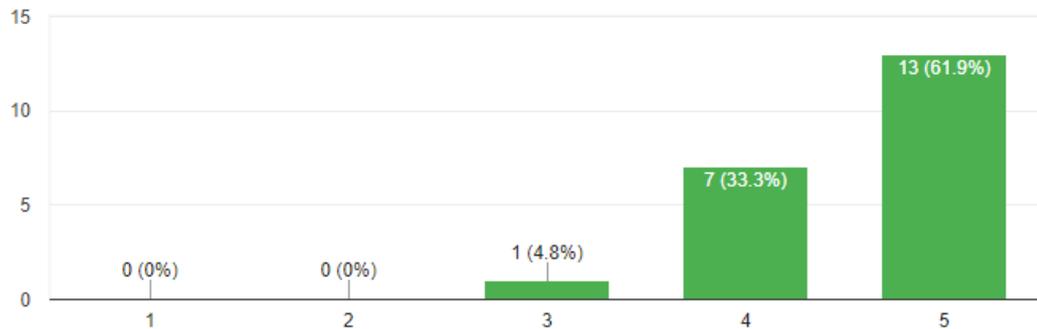


As far as compliance with event’s timetable is concerned, responses were distributed among four answers: five participants (23.8%) “Totally agreed” that compliance was satisfactory, ten (47,6%) “Agreed”, one (4.8%) “Neither agreed, nor disagreed”, and five (23.8%) “Rather disagreed”. That question’s findings should be looked further into, as almost one fourth of attendees was not satisfied by the Conference’s compliance to the agreed timetable, and that may have affected their overall opinion on the event.



Question 9: “The Conference's coordination was satisfactory”

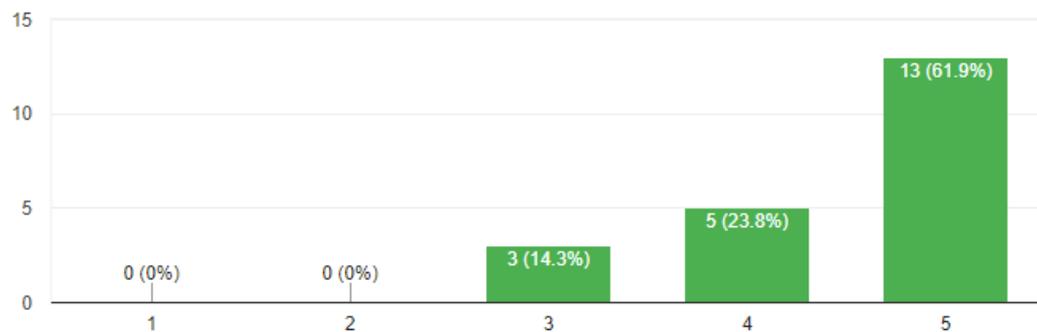
21 responses



The majority of attendees, thirteen out of twenty-one (61.9%) evaluated the Conference’s coordination as “Very satisfactory”, seven attendees (33.3%) as “Satisfactory”, while one attendee’s opinion was “Balanced”. In general, those are very encouraging results, as participants’ opinions are favorable and express a positive review on the coordination of the event.

Question 10: “The equipment used during the Conference was sufficient”

21 responses

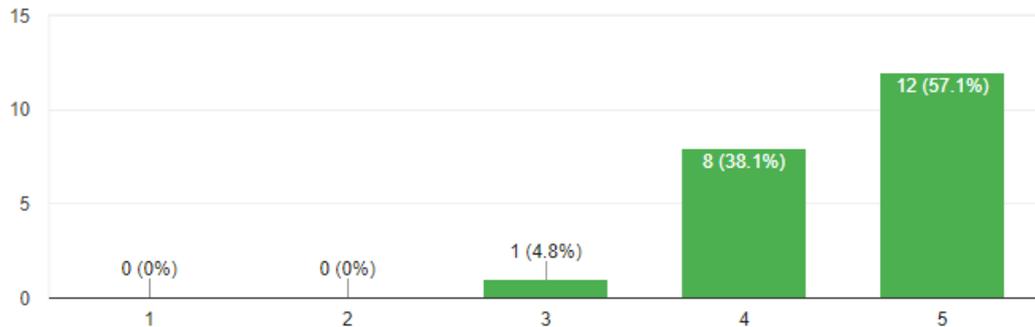


In that question, attendees were asked to evaluate the sufficiency of the equipment that was used during the Conference. The use of state-of-the-art equipment can surely contribute to an event’s overall success and can, also, intrigue attendees and keep them focused on the discussed topics. In our case, thirteen participants (61.9%) “Totally agreed” that the equipment was sufficient, while another five (23.85) “Agreed”. Three attendees (14.3%) expressed “Balanced” opinions.



Question 11: “In general, I feel satisfied with the overall organisation of the Conference”

21 responses



This final multiple-choice question asked attendees to rate the overall organisation of the Conference. Twelve participants (57.1%) responded that they were “Very satisfied” by the organisation, eight (38.1%) that they were “Satisfied”, while one participant’s (4.8%) opinion was “Balanced”. In general, that aspect of the Conference can be characterised as successful, as almost all participants were, at different levels, satisfied.

Question 12: “What did you like most about the Conference?”

- (x3)
Diversity
High quality of presentations
N/A (x2)
Non
Organization was very well
Overall idea about different project in the region
Presentations, people, culture
Sessions, presentations and topics covered
Some very interesting presentations
Stimulating presentations, Friendliness, Professionalism
The grouping of sessions and the material presented in the sessions
The ideas and projects presented were cutting - edge
The integration of the different people with different backgrounds



The variety of presented subjects
Well organised, good venue, good content speakers, international, multi - professional
The variance of the anticipating projects
The organization was great, IT was a big event with many projects

Question 13: "What did you like less about the Conference?"

- (x3)
Timetable problems in the start of the day
I hope to have more attendees inf the future
E - learning
N/A (x6)
Too many short presentations without any audience interaction
Late starting in first day and not follow the schedule
Timetable
Timekeeping for programme (but this is often an issue with congresses of this type). Lack of facility to ask questions straight after presentations (that is a personal preference of mine)
No time for questions, did not run to timetable
The hotel in which the Conference was held didn't qualify to the level of the conference
NON (x2)
The conference needed more technical sessions

Question 14: What should be improved? Please elaborate."

- (x2)
A little more consideration to the traffic and weather conditions when arranging the timetable
Please see No13
Announcement of the Conference was now enough in particular for those people who are living in upper Egypt



N/A (x5)
Better time keeping. Possibility for questions and answers
Time slot for every session need to increase
Time for discussion
Maybe conditioning
All aspects above. I was really happy with my experience overall
Time management-stick to timetable, allow few minutes for questions for interaction between audience and speakers
Time for questions, interaction between speaker and audience during the sessions
More application, modern smartone
NON (x2)
adding technical papers

Question 15: Which aspects do you think could be improved for the next training sessions? Any additional comments?

The last question of the evaluation was an optional open – ended question, where participants had the opportunity to suggest any possible improvements or make any additional comment. Only eleven participants chose to fill in this question.

11 responses

Arranging for wi-fi for the participants and during the session may improve the experience (especially since this is an ICT conference)
Thanks
I hope in the near future such successful Conferences should be held in the touristic places, such as Luxor, Aswan
The activity of photographer sometimes a bit disturbing
Thank you
Thank you very much for organization and welcoming
Well done! Excellent!
Thank you very much. Well organised Conference!
timing should be kept
thanks
NON



c. Final Remarks

The evaluation of the Conference was conducted through a questionnaire that consisted of fifteen questions: two optional regarding some personal information of the respondents, nine evaluating questions of linear scale and three open – ended questions for recommendations and additional comments.

As the analysis of the evaluation's results indicates, the Conference can be, in general, characterized as successful. Answers were ranged between four out of five options (meaning all options except for the very negative one), while most answers were gathered in the two most positive options and the neutral one.

Encouraging results were noted regarding the meeting of attendees' expectations, the clarity of the event's objectives, the Conference's venue and its overall organisation. On the other hand, the level of interaction between speakers and participants and the duration and timetable of the event, are issues that can be further improved in the framework of the organisation of the International Conference at the end of the project.