



SEM-SEM



Smart Control Systems for Energy Management

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

Evaluation Report
for the training held on the 17th to
19th of July 2017 at AASTMT, in
Alexandria, 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), a questionnaire should be filled in by all participants.

In the aforementioned framework, this evaluation report aims at outlining the outcomes of the training that was held in Alexandria on the 17th to 19th of July 2017. EUROTraining used Google Forms in order to create the questionnaire and easier distribute it to participants. Google Forms is part of Google's online apps suite of tools, it's user – friendly and provided for free.

Even though participants of the training were fifteen, only eleven selected to fill in the evaluation questionnaire. The results of this evaluation are based on the analysis of those eleven questionnaires. From now on, when referring to “participants” it should be considered that only those eleven who took part in the evaluation process are included.

b. Results' Analysis

This part of the document contains a summary and statistical analysis of the answers given by the training's participants. 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 the respondents. As participants in evaluations tend to prefer to keep their anonymity during the process, this question was not obligatory.



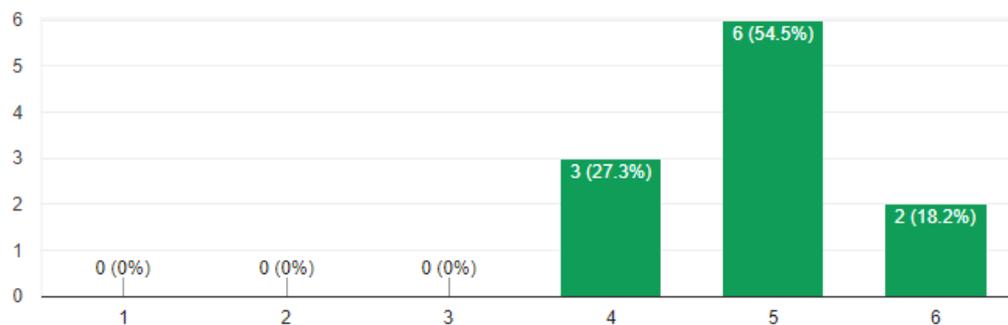
However, ten out of eleven respondents chose to answer it, expressing a general feeling of trust.

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 that this question was not compulsory either, ten participants chose to answer it as well.

Question 3: “The objectives of the training were clearly defined”

11 responses

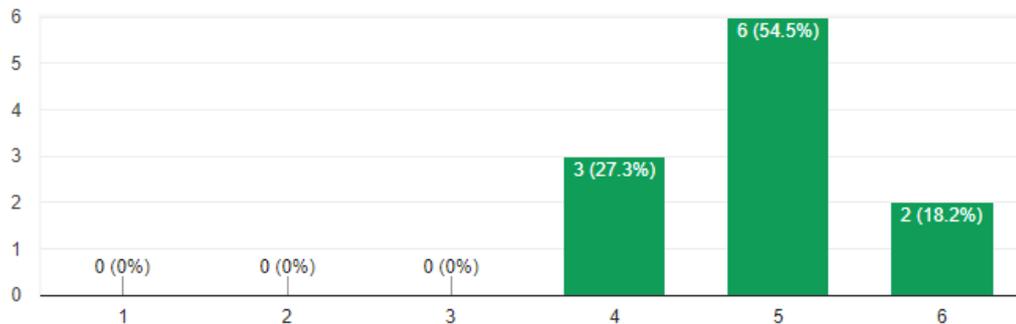


As the results indicate, the majority of participants (54.5%) “agreed” that the objectives of the training were clearly defined. Two out of eleven (18.2%) “totally agreed”, while another three (27.3%) “rather agreed”. It can be said that, in general, participants were satisfied by the way and/or level that the training’s objectives were defined, providing a good sign for the overall evaluation of the training.



Question 4: “Selection and topics were appropriate to my role and responsibilities”

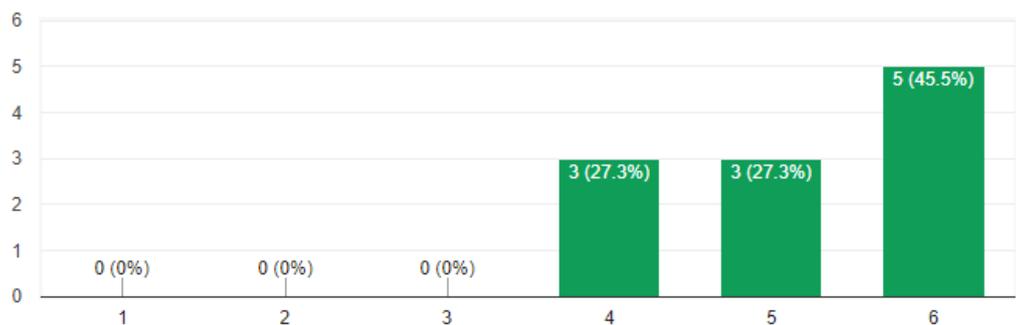
11 responses



Regarding the topics of the training, more than half of participants (54.5%) “agreed” that they were appropriate to their respective role and responsibilities, while 18.2% “totally agreed”. The remaining 27.3% stated that they “rather agree”. Those views can be described as encouraging, as participants seemed to be, in general, satisfied by the selection of topics covered.

Question 5: “The training improved my understanding of the subject”

11 responses

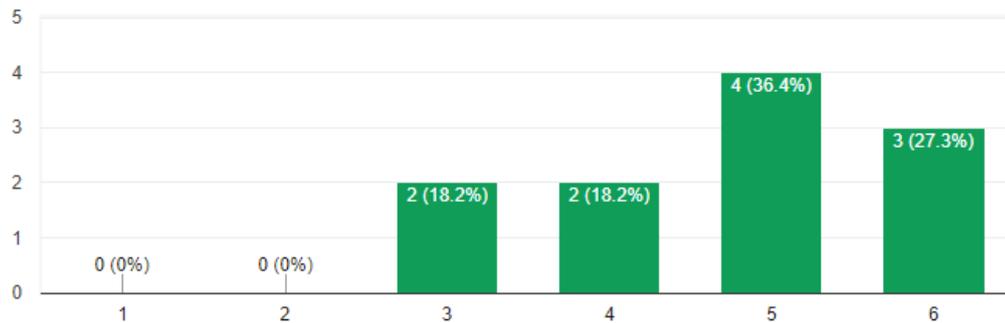


In that question, participants were asked to evaluate the effect of the training on their understanding of the relevant subject. Five out of eleven respondents (45.5%) “totally agreed” that the training improved their understanding, while three (27.3%) “agreed” and another three “rather agreed”. Considering that a training’s main objective is to provide participants with knowledge or a better view of a specified topic, it can be said that on that particular aspect, the training has reached its goal.



Question 6: “I will be able to apply the knowledge acquired”

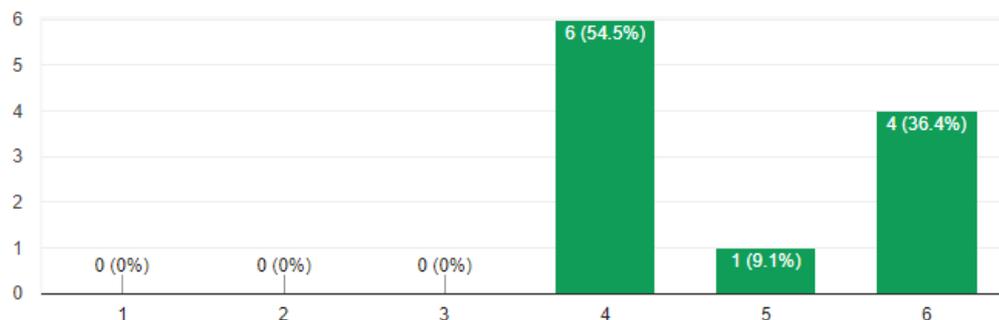
11 responses



Even if the training was able to provide participants with a better understanding of the subject, equally important is for them to be able to apply the acquired knowledge. The answers of that question are distributed among four options, indicating a variety of opinions. Three respondents (27.3%) “totally agreed” that they will be able to put in practice the knowledge they got from the training, four (36.4%) “agreed”, and two (18.2%) “rather agreed”. On the other hand, another two participants (18.2%) “rather disagreed” about their ability to apply the acquired knowledge. Although participants’ answers are based on personal criteria, it would be useful to ensure that topics covered during the trainings are easily adopted and practically applicable by a wide audience.

Question 7: “Visual and supporting material were useful and easy to follow”

11 responses



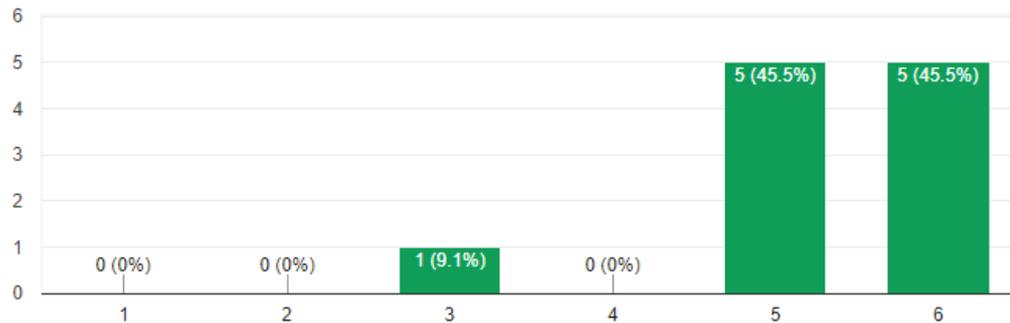
In that question, participants were asked to evaluate the visual and supporting material that was used during the training, specifically its usefulness and easiness to follow. The majority of participants (54.5%) “rather agreed” that the material was useful and easy to follow, one participant (9.1%) “agreed”, and



another four (36.9%) “totally agreed”. Even though those results are not negative, it can be implied that some participants were not fully satisfied and some improvement on that particular aspect of the training might be possible for the future.

Question 8: “Participation and interaction were encouraged”

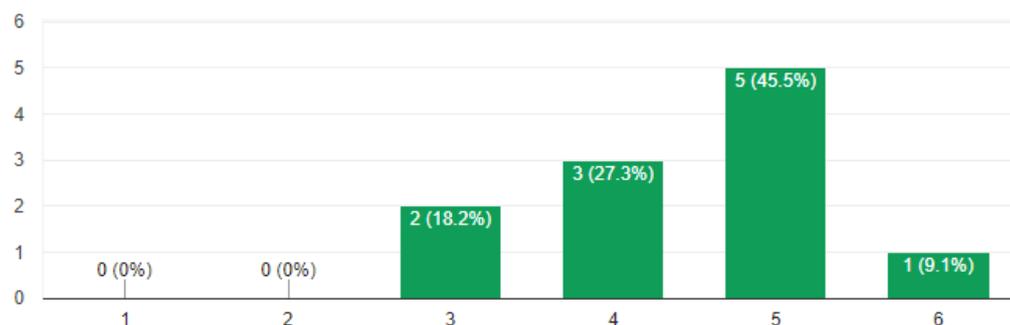
11 responses



Another important characteristic of an effective training is the level of interaction and participation among the people involved. The results here are very positive as five out of eleven (45.5%) participants “totally agreed” that participation and interaction were encouraged, while another five (45.5%) “agreed” with that. However, one respondent (9.1%) “rather disagreed” about the encouragement to participate and interact during the training, an opinion that should be further looked into to locate its possible causes, and try to mitigate them for the following trainings.

Question 9: “There was a correct balance between theoretical exercises and discussion”

11 responses

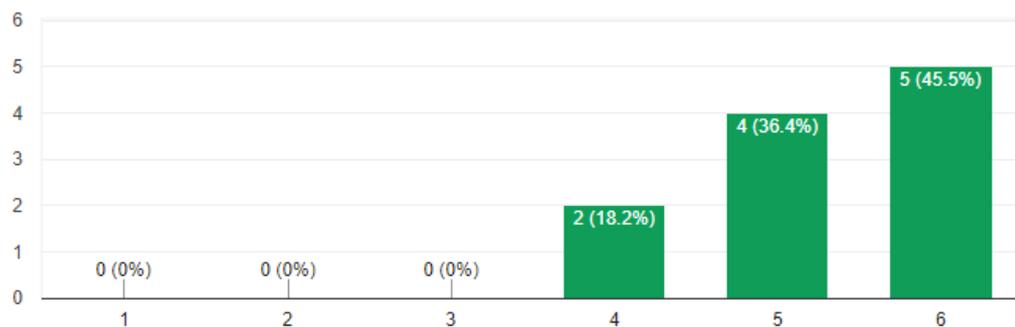




An appropriate balance between theoretical exercises and discussion during the training can contribute to its successful implementation, as participants usually prefer a combination of those two. The majority of participants (45.5%) “agreed” that the relevant balance was correct, while one (9.1%) “totally agreed”. There were also three respondents (27.3%) who “rather agreed” about the suitability of the achieved balance of theory and discussion, and another two (18.2%) who “rather disagreed”. That variety of results provides valuable feedback for the organization of the next trainings, as it indicates that not all participants were satisfied by that particular aspect of the training, and future improvements may be possible.

Question 10: “The trainer was well prepared”

11 responses

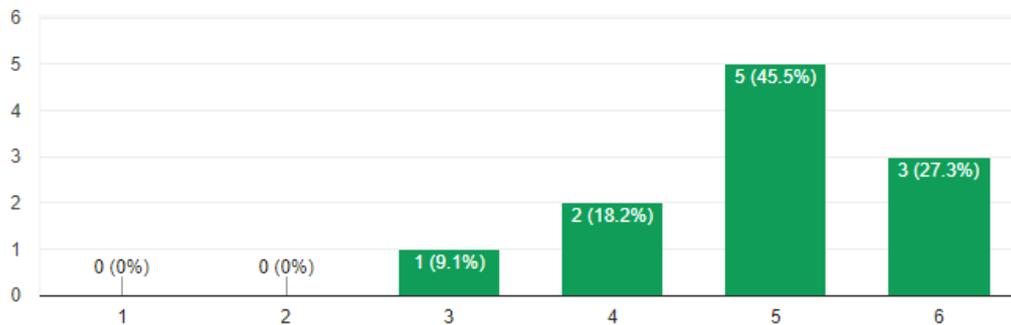


As far as the preparedness of the trainer is concerned, participants’ views are very encouraging as all answers are gathered among the three more positive responses. Specifically, five out of eleven respondents (45.5%) “totally agreed” that the trainer was well prepared, another four (36.4%) “agreed” with that, and two (18.2%) “rather agreed”. The trainer’s performance as viewed by the trainees is always a valuable part of the training’s overall evaluation, as he/she holds the main role in the delivery of the training session.



Question 11: “The training objectives were met”

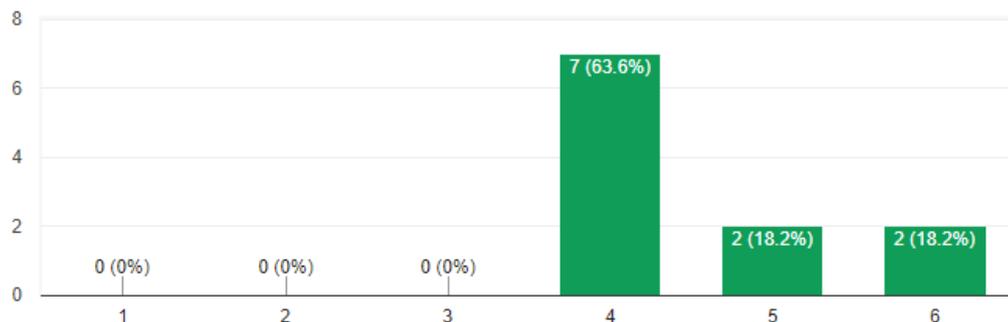
11 responses



In that question, participants were asked to evaluate the level of achievement of the training’s objectives. A variety of answers was noted here, indicating that not every participant was fully satisfied by that aspect of the training. Even though five participants (45.5%) “agreed” and another three (27.3%) “totally agreed” that the objectives were met, two respondents (18.2%) “rather agreed” and one (9.1%) “rather disagreed” with that statement. For future improvement, it might be useful to set objectives whose achievement is be more easily measurable.

Question 12: “How do you rate the duration, date and timing of the training?”

11 responses



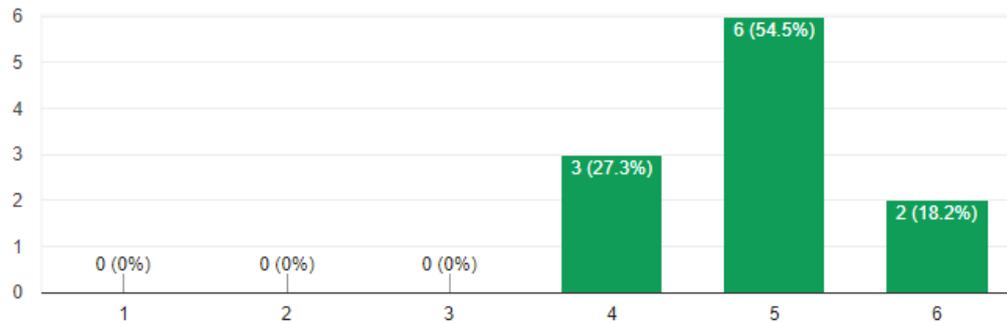
Regarding the duration, date and timing of the training, results are neither positive nor negative. Although two participants (18.2%) argued that those aspects of the training were “excellent” and another two (18.2%) that they were “very good”, the majority of participants (63.6%) found them “good”. As duration, date and timing are important features of the training, future



improvement may be needed in order to ensure an even more effective training's organization.

Question 13: "Overall evaluation of the training"

11 responses



This question was about the overall evaluation of the training, and can be considered as a summarizing question of the whole questionnaire. In general, participants were satisfied by the training as a whole, as two out of eleven respondents (18.2%) rated the training as "excellent", six (54.5%) as "very good", and three (27.3%) as "good".

Question 14: "Which topics would you suggest for future training sessions?"

This question was an open – ended question where participants were asked to recommend topics to be included to the next trainings. Respondents' suggestions were based on their personal fields of interest, but as the question was optional, only eight answers were gathered.

8 responses

- Hybrid power system management and Control
- Sustainability and environmental impacts
- environmental topics
- Life cycle cost for these control systems and its impact
- Energy efficiency in buildings
- I suggest to include more industrial or market topics not just theoretical things, more like case studies of actual projects. Also, for the theoretical part some topics are important like waste recovery, combined heat and power, new control systems.
- Life cycle costing and constructability of sustainable techniques in buildings
- How to manage renewable energy with BMS and merge it to the grid. Automation details at smart homes.



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, also, an optional open – ended question, where participants had the opportunity to suggest any possible improvements for the next trainings or make any additional comment. Only five participants chose to fill in this question, providing though valuable feedback.

5 responses

Practical exercises and case studies .

The audit section wasn't covered all points

Doing comparisons between systems to see which will be more useful to use in houses

Adding more exercise and training. More advanced topics.

More material and examples. More details than just overview.

c. Final Remarks

The evaluation of the training was conducted through an on – line questionnaire that consisted of fifteen questions: two optional regarding some personal information of the respondents, eleven evaluating questions of linear scale (1: I totally disagree // 2: I disagree // 3: I rather disagree // 4: I rather agree // 5: I agree // 6: I totally agree or 1: Very poor // 2: Poor // 3: Balanced // 4: Good // 5: Very good // 6: Excellent, depending on the type of the question), and two optional, open – ended question for recommendations and additional comments. As already mentioned, not all participants of the training chose to answer the evaluation form, so the results of this report are based only on the gathered answers.

As the analysis of the evaluation's results indicates, the training can be, in general, characterized as successful. All answers were ranged between the scales of 3 and 6, with most of them gathered mainly at the options from 4 to 6.

Particularly favorable was the evaluation of the trainer, as well the level of encouragement in participation and interaction during the training. Respondents were, also, very satisfied by the improvement of their understanding of the subject covered at the training, indicating that they actually gained some valuable knowledge from their participation to the training. On the other hand,



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participants were less satisfied regarding the duration, date, and timing of the training, the balance between theoretical exercises and discussion, and the usefulness of the visual and supporting material that was used.