

Summary of evaluation survey of ETHOS Conference in Armentieres, 8 - 12 May 2013

A questionnaire was sent to all the participating teachers and headteachers soon after the conference. 28 people filled in the questionnaire: a response of 57%.

1. Preparation and information

82% of the respondents felt that they were adequately informed before the conference about the aim and structure of the meeting (including the 'homework' they were supposed to do). However, there were some suggestions about how to improve the preparation:

- Some participants felt that the instructions for the students ('the pre-tasks') could have been more clear.
- The suggestion was made to send a reminder of the tasks and assignments (for the students) shortly before the conference.
- Some felt it would have been better to send the pre-tasks earlier.

2. Organisation of the conference

96% of the respondents was of the opinion that the conference was organized well or even very well.

Suggestions for improvement:

- The opening ceremony was beautiful, especially the show. The speech by Mr. Barrot, however, was a bit long and not very interesting for the students.
- It would be nice to have a list of participants with e-mail addresses in the welcome pack including the phone numbers of the host families.
- It would be appreciated if the organizing school could provide wireless internet.

3. Were your expectations met?

All respondents (100%!) said that their expectations were fully met. A big compliment for the organizing team/school!

4. How interesting/useful were the different parts of the programme?

Most parts of the programme were considered (very) useful and interesting by the vast majority of the respondents. The opening ceremony in the school was found very interesting by 68% of the respondents and the tour around the school was found very interesting by 73% of the respondents. The working sessions on Thursday were considered very useful/interesting by more than 90% of the respondents. The Friday session about network matters (finance and other issues) was considered useful by 84%. The other working sessions on Friday were again deemed very interesting and/or useful by more than 90% of the participants. The session on the French educational system was found to be very interesting by 57%. Most of the other parts of the programme (hospice comtesse, guided tour of Lille, farewell part) received high (average) scores of more than 90%. The reception at the town hall received a relatively low score of 50%.

Quite a number of comments were made on the rather long speech by Mr. Barrot. Many respondents were pleasantly surprised by the closing evening which was well organized and where everyone (staff, students and parents) mixed. One respondent commended the organizing school: 'what a fantastic achievement: the result of good planning and organisation...' And: 'conference excellently organized. congratulations to all concerned!'

5. Do you have any suggestions to improve the programme in the future?

- After the opening ceremony, a reception would have been welcome.
- Send a list with all participants with their e-mail addresses before the conference.
- To know the previous organisers' method of working, the difficulties they met, the mistakes to avoid etc. would help future organizers a lot. A sort of guide on how to organize a conference.
- 'I very much liked the fact that on the last evening (Saturday) host students, guest students, host families and all the teachers and headteachers had dinner and a party together. This is an idea that could be taken up by other schools when organizing a big conference in future. I would personally have appreciated the possibility of going out for a meal in small groups one evening, as this allows teachers to talk in more detail about possible exchanges and projects.'
- The feedback after the conference could be done together with the organisers of the previous and the next conference to avoid making some mistakes e.g. via skype video conference when the SC has the evaluation done.

Again, many thanks to Koen van Cauwenberge for his invaluable assistance in setting up and analyzing the questionnaire to evaluate the conference !

Leenderd van der Deijl,
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