

Summary of evaluation survey of ETHOS Conference in Zilina, 3 - 7 October 2012

1. Preparation and information

94% 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 did not receive all the information.
- Some participants would like to receive the information in the French language.
- It would have been better to send the pre-tasks earlier so as to give the participants more time to accomplish them.

A number of respondents wrote that they were very satisfied with the information.

2. Organisation of the conference

96% of the respondents was of the opinion that the conference was organized very well, 4% (= 1 person) felt that it was organized well. A number of respondents commended the school in Zilina for the excellent preparation.

Suggestions for improvement:

- The first working session should have been much earlier in the day, for example immediately after the welcome ceremony.
- It seems a good idea to have somebody from the Qs to assist in the group discussions whenever this is needed.
- It is important to have sufficient time for 'speed dating' (= exploring possible future projects).

3. Were your expectations met?

91% of the respondents said that their expectations were fully met. The ones who answered with 'no' made the following remark: 'there wasn't sufficient time to discuss and evaluate proposals for the next application.'

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

All 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 100% of the respondents. Most of the other parts of the programme received high (average) scores of more than 90%. The reception at the town hall received the lowest score of 72%, but even this is still a high score!

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

- Some of the meetings are still too messy for the newcomers. This underlines the importance to send people who know the network.
- It is important to strengthen the female component in the network and in the steering committee.
- The evaluation of the May conference should be sent to the participants earlier.
- More time should have been devoted to the discussion about the new bid. It should not have been squeezed into the end of the day.
- Of course it is useful and interesting to devote time to welcome ceremonies, an introduction to the school system etc., but we should make sure that we have enough time for discussions and decisions.

- Although this was one of the best conferences so far (because of the warm and personal contacts by the Slovak staff) we don't need a first class hotel. We could do with less luxury...
- It would be useful to allocate some time to IPM in the programme, especially as many schools have now adopted IPM.

Many participants expressed their appreciation and praise to the organising committee in Zilina! A few quotes:

- 'The Slovakian team did a great job!'
- 'They have made it very difficult for new conferences, the standard is very high now..'
- This was a very successful conference. I only hope we can go on meeting in similar conferences for some time!'

Finally, many thanks (again!) 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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