EGI-InSPIRE

MS226 EGI COMMUNITY FORUM

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Abstract

Event report from the EGI Community Forum, held at the Leibniz Supercomputing Centre (LRZ) in Garching near Munich, Germany between 26-30 March 2012. The report contains the detailed information collected around the event. Detailed analysis of the event is recorded in the relevant Annual Report on EGI and its External Relations activity (https://documents.egi.eu/document/1069).

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II. DELIVERY SLIP

	Name	Partner/Activity	Date
From	Catherine Gater et al.	NA2	23-4-2012
Reviewed by	**AMB & PMB**		23-4-2012
Approved by	**AMB & PMB**		27-4-2012

III. DOCUMENT LOG

Issue	Date	Comment	Author/Partner
1	20-4-2012	First draft	C. Gater et al.
2	23-4-2012	Second draft	C. Gater et al.

IV. APPLICATION AREA

This document is a formal deliverable for the European Commission, applicable to all members of the EGI-InSPIRE project, beneficiaries and Joint Research Unit members, as well as its collaborating projects.

V. DOCUMENT AMENDMENT PROCEDURE

Amendments, comments and suggestions should be sent to the authors. The procedures documented in the EGI-InSPIRE "Document Management Procedure" will be followed:
https://wiki.egi.eu/wiki/Procedures

VI. TERMINOLOGY

A complete project glossary is provided at the following page: http://www.egi.eu/about/glossary/.

VII. PROJECT SUMMARY

To support science and innovation, a lasting operational model for e-Science is needed − both for coordinating the infrastructure and for delivering integrated services that cross national borders.

The EGI-InSPIRE project will support the transition from a project-based system to a sustainable pan-European e-Infrastructure, by supporting 'grids' of high-performance computing (HPC) and high-throughput computing (HTC) resources. EGI-InSPIRE will also be ideally placed to integrate new Distributed Computing Infrastructures (DCIs) such as clouds, supercomputing networks and desktop grids, to benefit user communities within the European Research Area.

EGI-InSPIRE will collect user requirements and provide support for the current and potential new user communities, for example within the ESFRI projects. Additional support will also be given to the current heavy users of the infrastructure, such as high energy physics, computational chemistry and life sciences, as they move their critical services and tools from a centralised support model to one driven by their own individual communities.

The objectives of the project are:

1. The continued operation and expansion of today's production infrastructure by transitioning to a governance model and operational infrastructure that can be increasingly sustained outside of specific project funding.
2. The continued support of researchers within Europe and their international collaborators that are using the current production infrastructure.
3. The support for current heavy users of the infrastructure in earth science, astronomy and astrophysics, fusion, computational chemistry and materials science technology, life sciences and high energy physics as they move to sustainable support models for their own communities.
4. Interfaces that expand access to new user communities including new potential heavy users of the infrastructure from the ESFRI projects.
5. Mechanisms to integrate existing infrastructure providers in Europe and around the world into the production infrastructure, so as to provide transparent access to all authorised users.
6. Establish processes and procedures to allow the integration of new DCI technologies (e.g. clouds, volunteer desktop grids) and heterogeneous resources (e.g. HTC and HPC) into a seamless production infrastructure as they mature and demonstrate value to the EGI community.

The EGI community is a federation of independent national and community resource providers, whose resources support specific research communities and international collaborators both within Europe and worldwide. EGI.eu, coordinator of EGI-InSPIRE, brings together partner institutions established within the community to provide a set of essential human and technical services that enable secure integrated access to distributed resources on behalf of the community.

The production infrastructure supports Virtual Research Communities (VRCs) − structured international user communities − that are grouped into specific research domains. VRCs are formally represented within EGI at both a technical and strategic level.

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1 STATISTICS

1.1 Overall

	Number	Number/percentage of women
Registered participants	421	80/19%
Contributions	171	26
Speakers	208	25/9%
Session conveners	44	4/9%

1.2 Registration Breakdown

	Early	Normal	Late
Full week	230	32	8
Tue	44	20	2
Wed	46	32	9
Thu	28	25	8
Fri	5	13	2
TOTAL	353	122	29
Local staff	14		
GRAND TOTAL	518		
DINNER	299		

In total there were 518 participants. Of those, 126 registered for the 2nd Annual European Globus Community Forum. A total of 299 out of these went to the conference dinner.

Registration fees	**Early bird** (until ~~15~~ 20 February)	**Late registration** (20 February - 23 March)	**On site** registration
Whole week	450€	550€	650€
Three days	420€	525€	630€
Two days	280€	350€	420€
One day	140€	175€	210€

1.3 Social Media

Twitter

Total Number of Tweets 403

Tweets per day

Februray 2nd 1

Februray 17th 1

March 13th 2

March 16th 5

March 20th 2

March 23rd 1

March 24th 3

March 25th 7

March 26th 17

March 27th 125

March 28th 126

March 29th 72

March 30th 38

April 2nd 1

April 4th 2

Tweets by EGI 77

EuropeanGrid 49

EGITech 5

EGIUsers 6

EGIPolicy 17

Total Number of Twitter users - 60

e_scitalk 77

europeangrid 49

torstenreimer 31

primeurmagazine 23

Machar 22

EGIPolicy 17
gridpp 14
SergioDCI 11
CatherineGater 11
Contrailproject 10
ohjajog 10
isgtw 9
nimp0 7
SCIBUSproject 7
brusisceddu 6
candiello 6
EdwardKaravakis 6
naomiwv 6
EGIUsers 6
EGITech 5
gridfederation 5
richardnixonhed 4
sienainitiative 4
Woods90 4
TheSAGrid 5
hsucht 3
lezzidan 3
m3drano 3
neasan 3
alainvanhoof 2
simonl 2
Walisisch 2
writerinsw17 2
NetRicky 2
anniblu 1
BIFI_Instituto 1
BoincRussiaTeam 1
CESGA_ 1
ClaudineMoulin 1

CmsSage 1
CReATIVEB2 1
fmatorras 1
geekeconomist 1
Ibercivis 1
jgfanjul 1
josealivivas 1
martwine 1
mike_priddy 1
pavlozahozhenko 1
Promezium 1
REACCIUN 1
soilandreyes 1
SpaceKangaroo 1
tharandur 1
VENUSCProject 1
webcommunicatie 1
worlduniranking 1
ifttwow 1
ISChpc 1
okoeroo 1

Examples:

Steven Newhouse from EGI asks whether we can develop a 'human cloud' at #egicf12. - https://twitter.com/#!/naomiwv/status/184618998980284416

Richard McLennan from EGI asks Steve Tuecke: How does all this agility not become chaos? at #egicf12. A: Discipline + 'embrace the chaos'. - https://twitter.com/#!/naomiwv/status/184650985023606784

How many users are registered with EGI? Over 20.000 http://bit.ly/H7mvfO at #egicf12 - https://twitter.com/#!/primeurmagazine/status/184576843851116545

#EGICF12 Newhouse suggests EGI may have to operate in more flexible way, offering specific, shorter-term offerings to research communities. - https://twitter.com/#!/torstenreimer/status/184617584967159812

Setting up clouds with open source middleware appears to be competitive with giant commercial providers! http://bit.ly/GVHuS5 at #egicf12 - https://twitter.com/#!/candiello/status/184981199431802880

Nice responses from the room at #egicf12 for example interesting development taking place in Greece: https://cms.okeanos.grnet.gr/services/pithos - https://twitter.com/#!/ohjajog/status/184940255722487808

#EGICF12 Dutch BigGrid present BeeHub project for scientific data sharing: https://www.beehub.nl/ Will it lure people away from DropBox? - https://twitter.com/#!/torstenreimer/status/184935593745199105

Flickr

The number of photos uploaded in Flickr using the egitf11 tag, is 220

Conference4Me Downloads

Android: 106 users
iPhone: 48 users

Short links

Registration short link (http://go.egi.eu/registration-cf12): 1297 clicks

YouTube

14 videos

GridCast

31 posts –including 14 videos

Bloggers:

Beatrice Bressan, CERN

Elizabeth Leake, freelance journalist US

Visits	644
Unique visitors	402
Pages viewed	1189
Average number of pages viewed	1.85
Average time spent on the site	3:51
New visits	58%

1.4 Website

Table 1. : Number of visitors between 1 January and 25 March, 2012. Compared with values from the User Forum website taken between 1 January 2011 and 10 April, 2011

Metric	Value	UF11 Value [% difference]
Visits	5,385	6,246 [-13.8 %]
Unique visitors	1,732	2,330 [-25.7 %]
Pages viewed	15,679	16,920 [-7.3 %]
Average number of pages viewed	2.91	2.71 [+7.4 %]
Time spent on the site	03:01	02:46 [+9.0 %]
New visits	27.65%	37.30% [-25.9 %]
Highest number of visits in a day	229 (23 March)	221 (8 April) [+3.6 %]

Table 2. Number of visits on the week of the Community Forum (26-30 March)

Metric	Value	UF11 Value [% difference]
Visits	1,537	1,178 [+30.5 %]
Unique visitors	661	549 [+20.4 %]
Pages viewed	3,746	3,141 [+19.3 %]

Average number of pages viewed	2.44	2.67 [-8.61 %]
Time spent on the site	02:13	02:37 [-15.3 %]
New visits	22.32%	26.15% [-14.7 %]
Highest number of visits in a day	416 (27 March)	451 (11 April) [-7.8 %]

2 EVENTS AND LAUNCHES

2.1 MoU signings

- EGI and SCI-BUS

2.2 Publications

- Combined conference programme / Book of Abstracts
- Mini programme for the badges

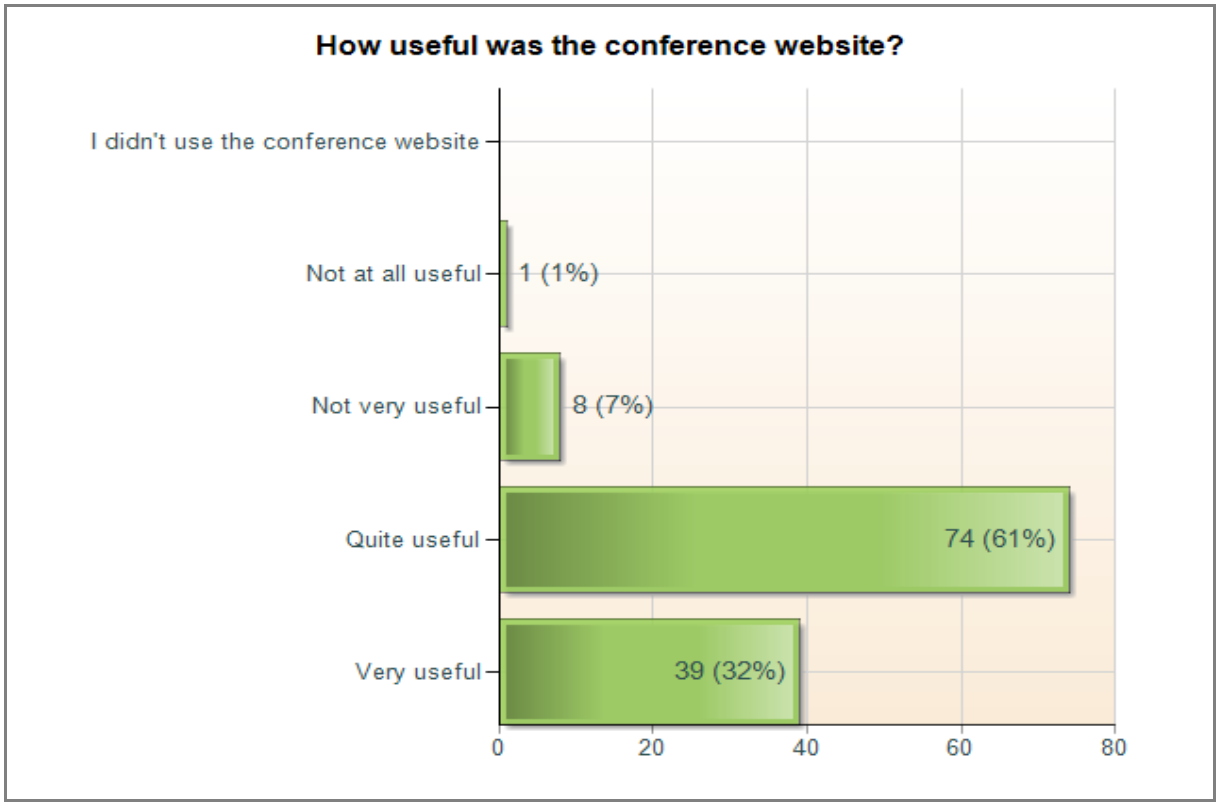
3 SURVEYS

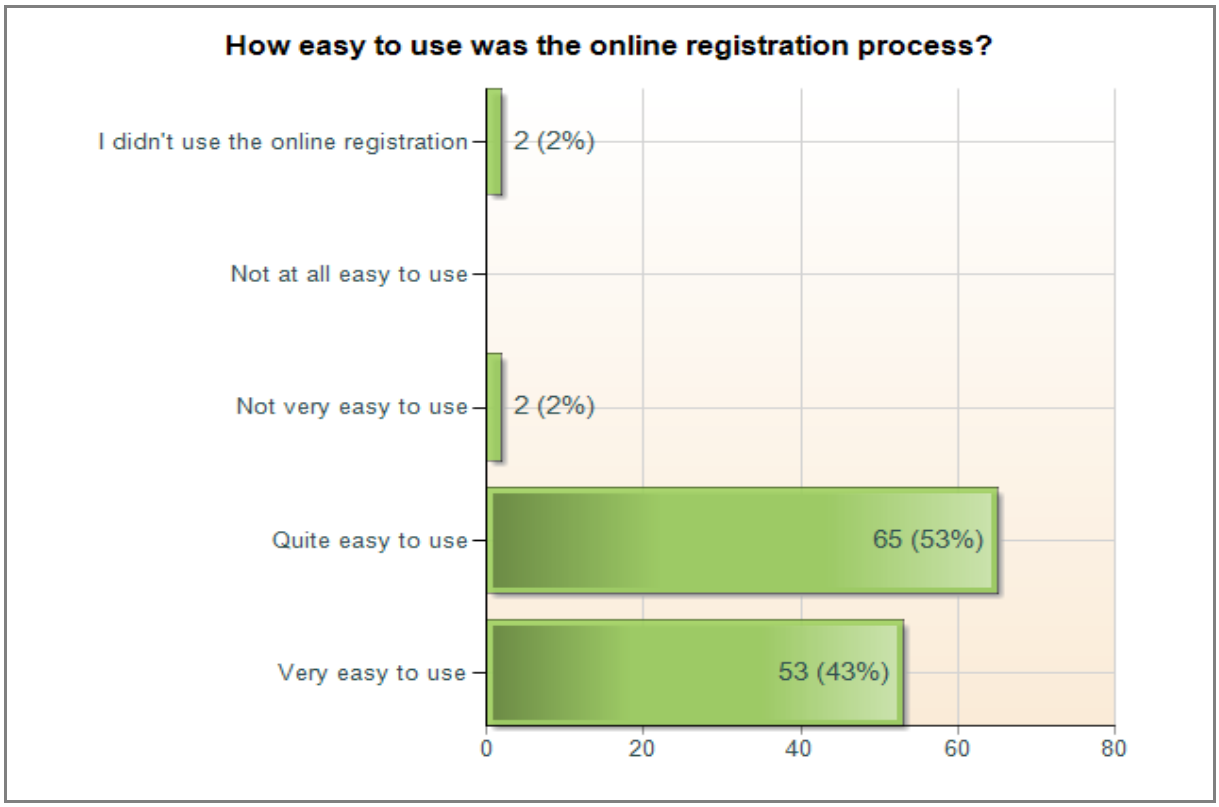
3.1 Zoomerang

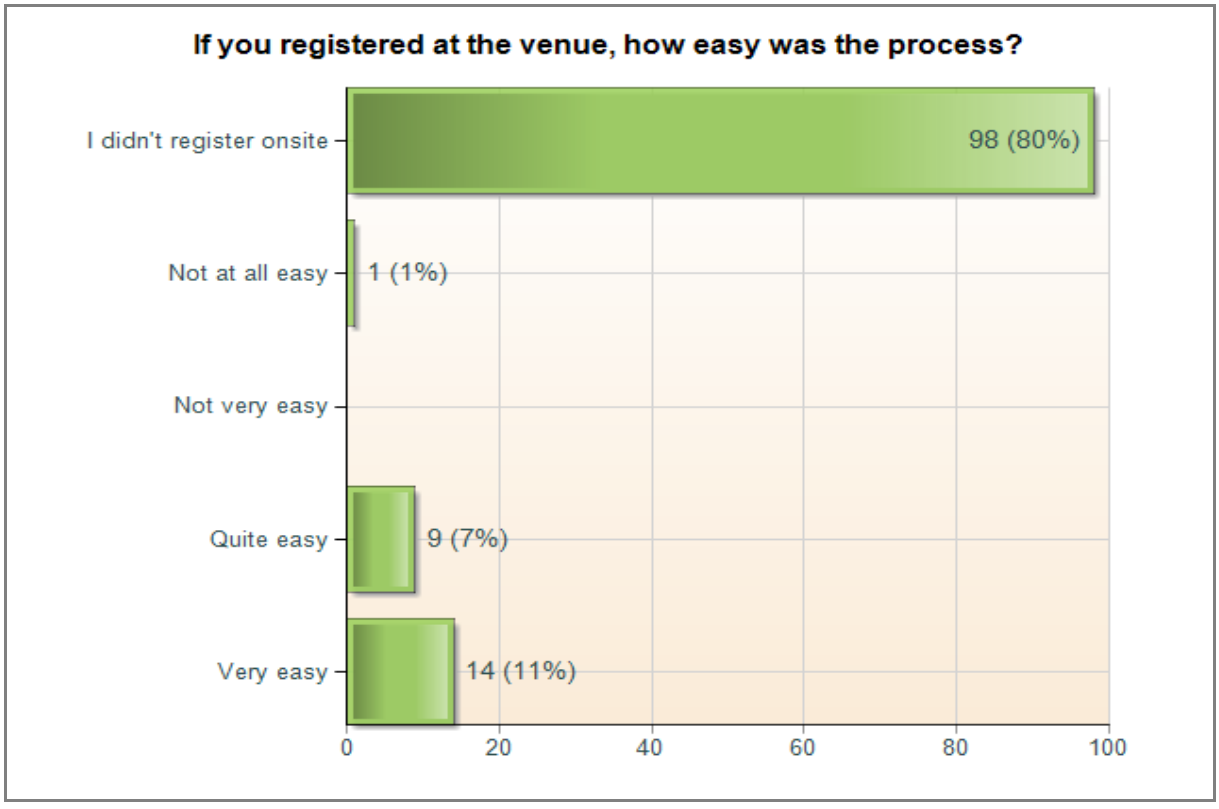
Event survey conducted on Zoomerang, issued on Friday 30 March, open until Monday 23 April.

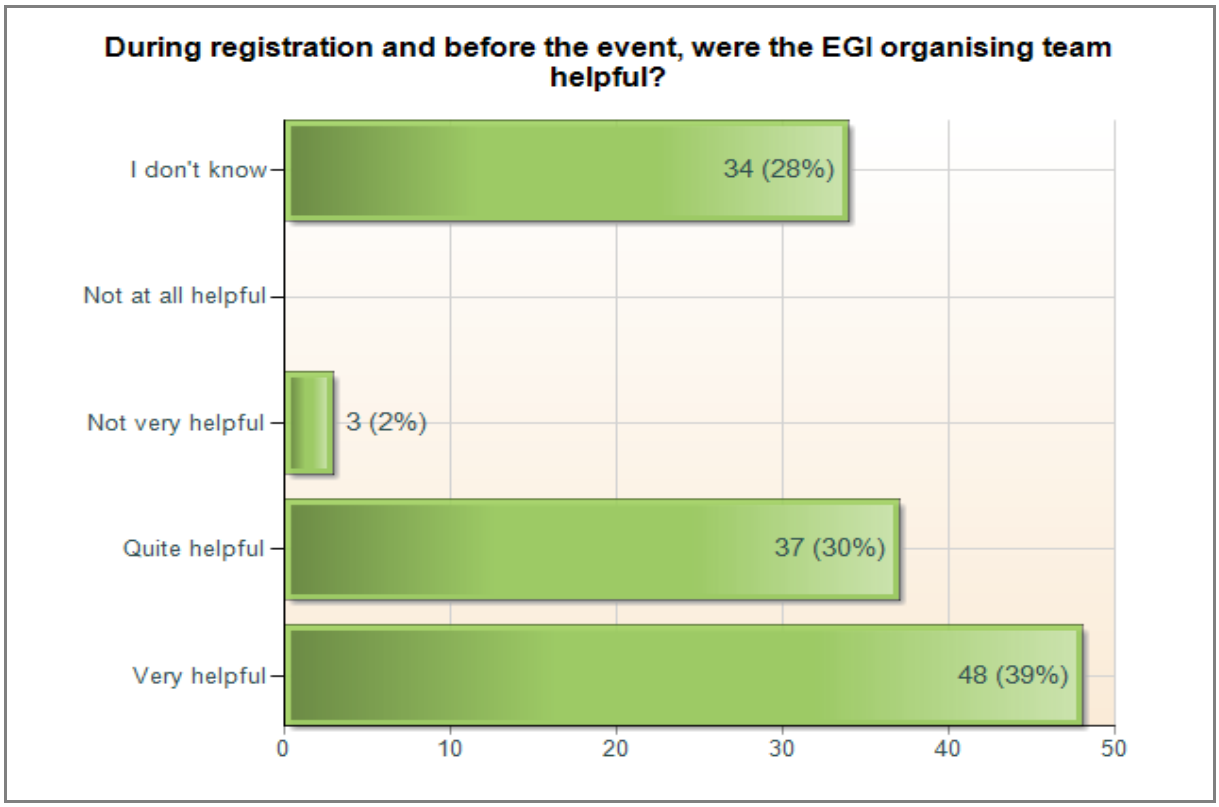
122 responses

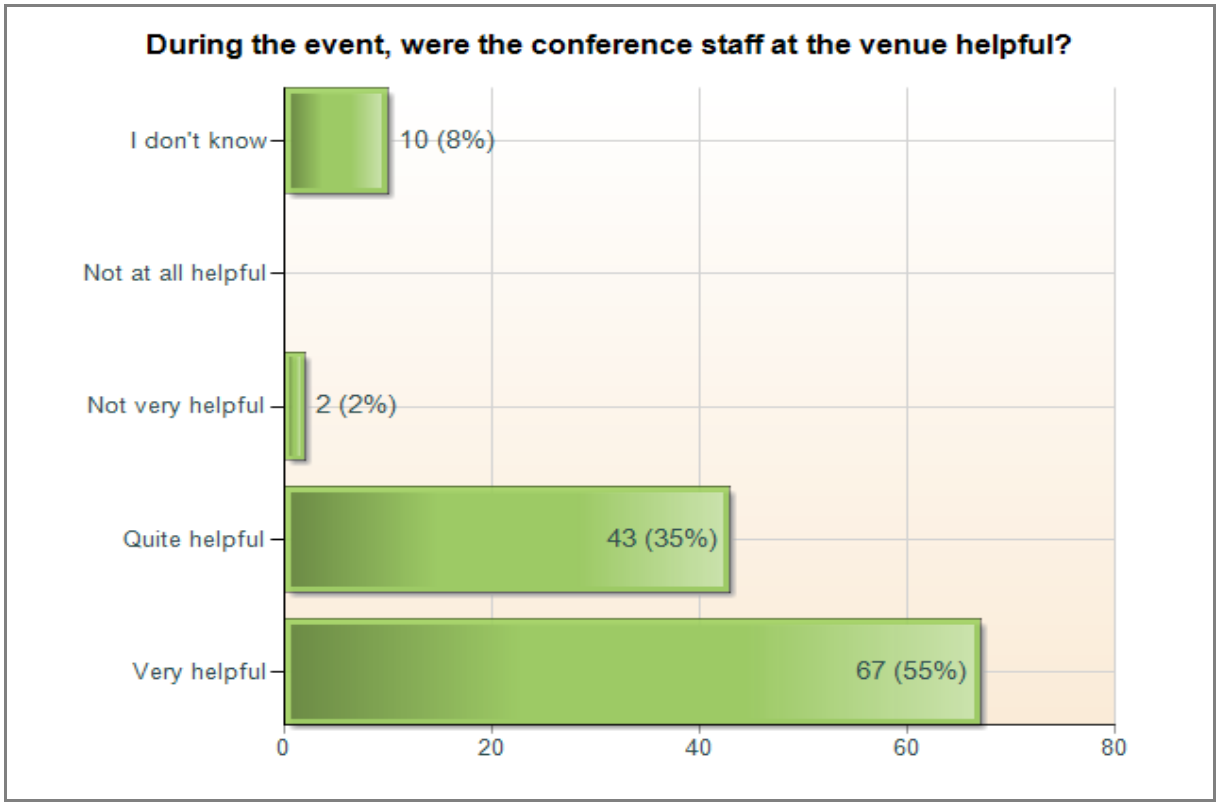
Summary of feedback:

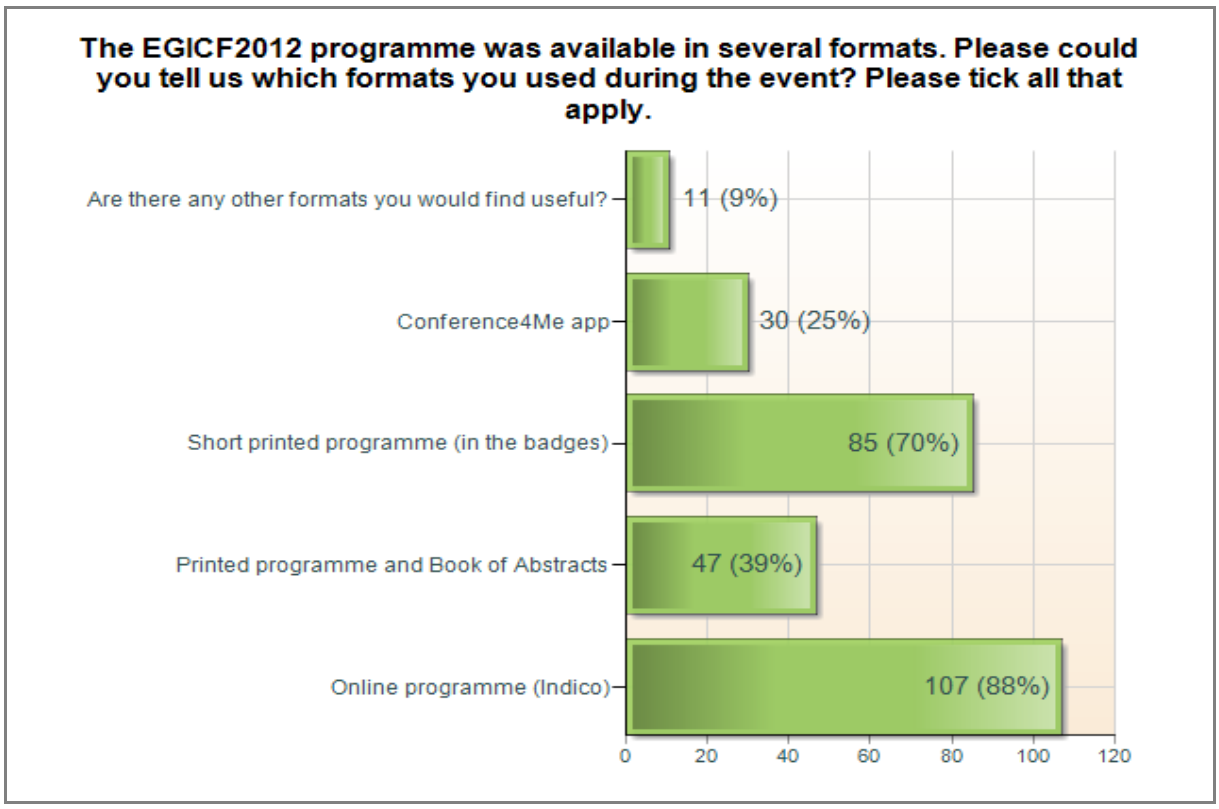


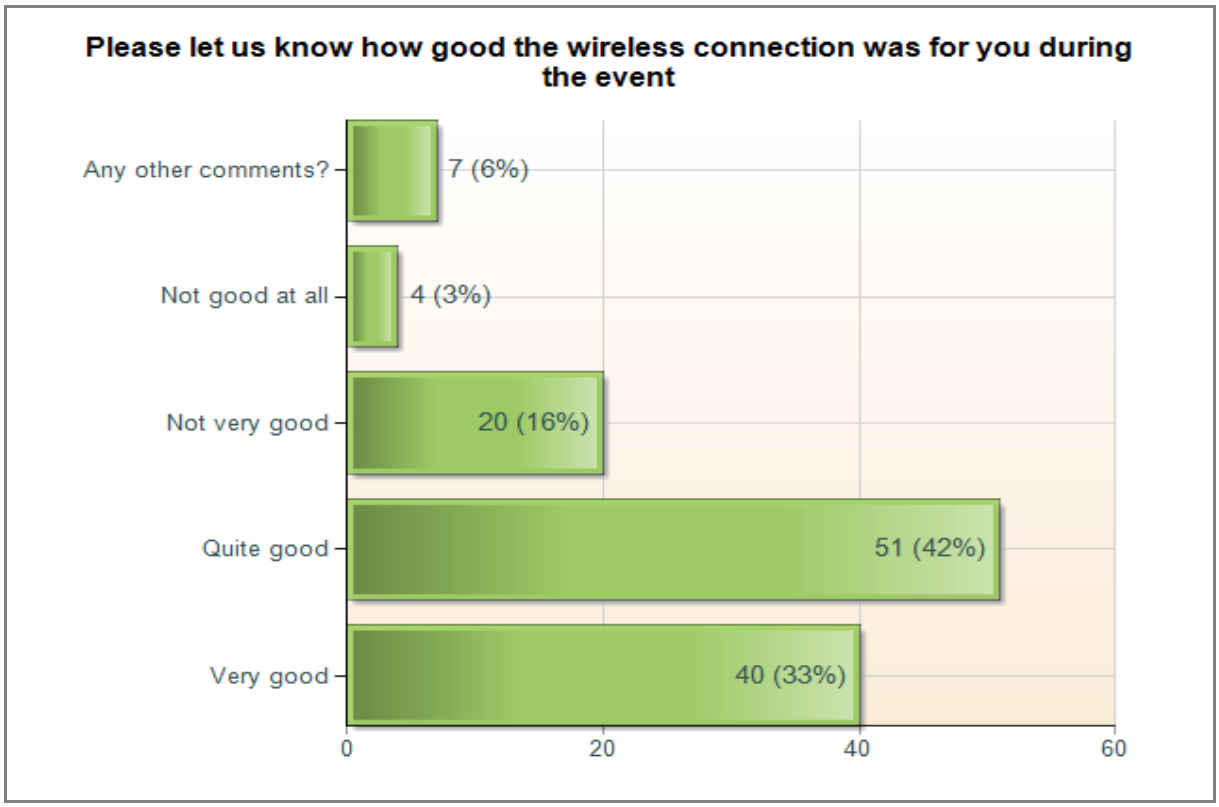

How easy to use was the online registration process?
I didn't use the online registration
2 (2%)
Not at all easy to use
Not very easy to use
2 (2%)
Quite easy to use
65 (53%)
Very easy to use
53 (43%)
0
20
40
60
80

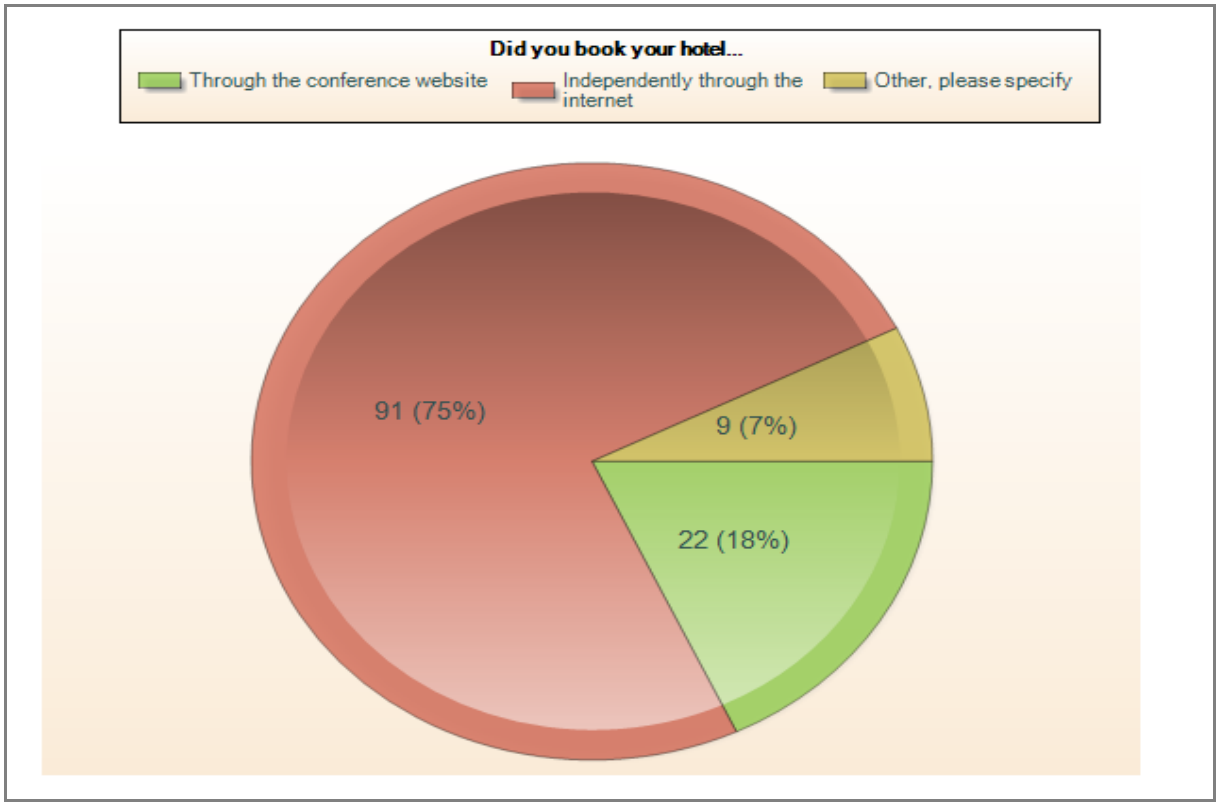

If you registered at the venue, how easy was the process?
I didn't register onsite
98 (80%)
Not at all easy
1 (1%)
Not very easy
Quite easy
9 (7%)
Very easy
14 (11%)
0
20
40
60
80
100

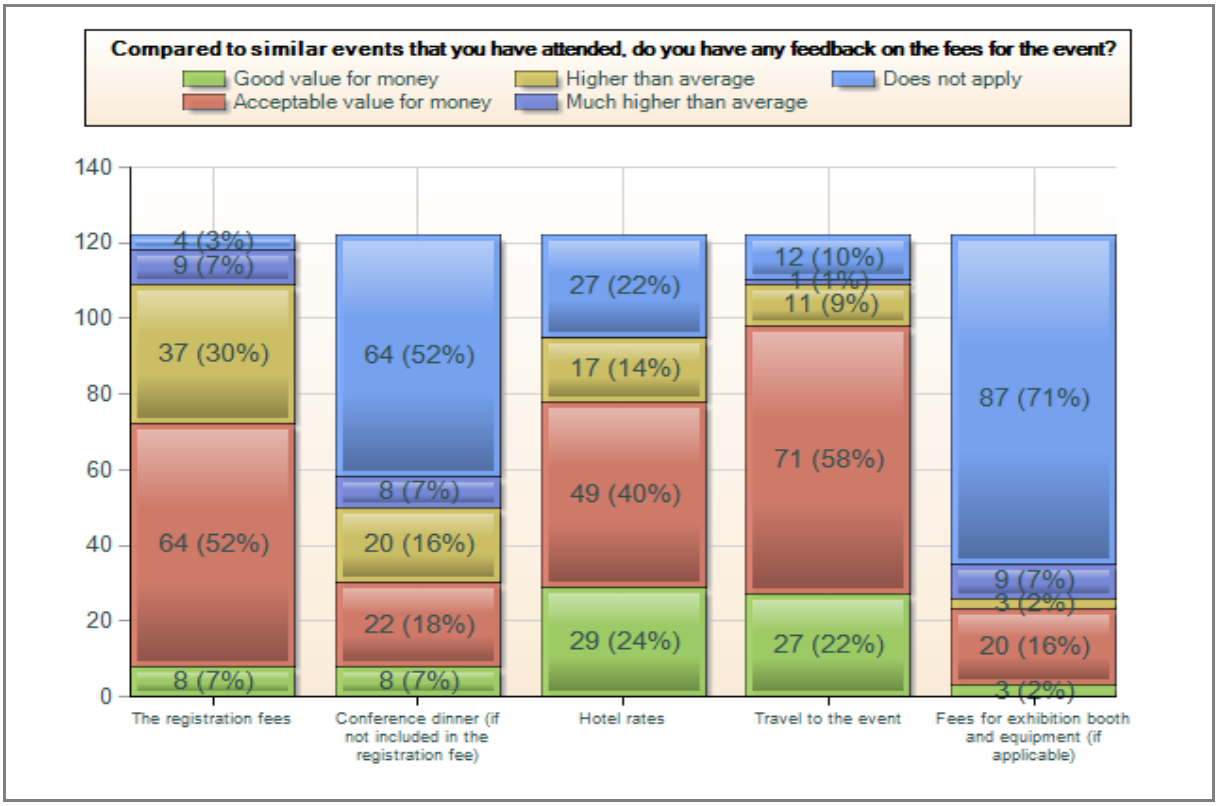

During registration and before the event, were the EGI organising team helpful?
I don't know
34 (28%)
Not at all helpful
Not very helpful
3 (2%)
Quite helpful
37 (30%)
Very helpful
48 (39%)
0
10
20
30
40
50

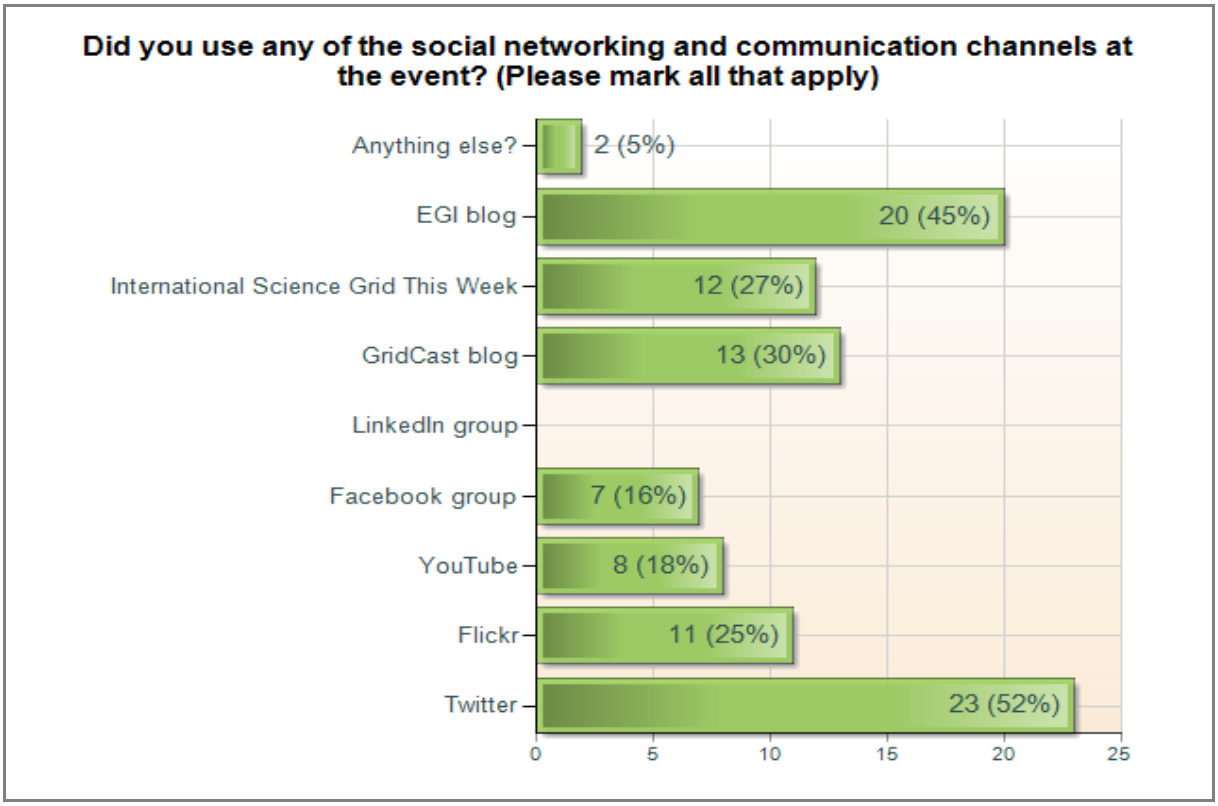

During the event, were the conference staff at the venue helpful?
I don't know
10 (8%)
Not at all helpful
Not very helpful
2 (2%)
Quite helpful
43 (35%)
Very helpful
67 (55%)
0
20
40
60
80


The EGICF2012 programme was available in several formats. Please could you tell us which formats you used during the event? Please tick all that apply.
Are there any other formats you would find useful?
11 (9%)
Conference4Me app
30 (25%)
Short printed programme (in the badges)
85 (70%)
Printed programme and Book of Abstracts
47 (39%)
Online programme (Indico)
107 (88%)
0
20
40
60
80
100
120


Please let us know how good the wireless connection was for you during the event
Any other comments?
7 (6%)
Not good at all
4 (3%)
Not very good
20 (16%)
Quite good
51 (42%)
Very good
40 (33%)
0
20
40
60


Did you book your hotel...
Through the conference website
Independently through the internet
Other, please specify
91 (75%)
9 (7%)
22 (18%)


Compared to similar events that you have attended, do you have any feedback on the fees for the event?
Good value for money
Acceptable value for money
Higher than average
Much higher than average
Does not apply
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
4 (3%)
9 (7%)
37 (30%)
64 (52%)
8 (7%)
64 (52%)
8 (7%)
20 (16%)
22 (18%)
8 (7%)
27 (22%)
17 (14%)
49 (40%)
29 (24%)
12 (10%)
1 (1%)
11 (9%)
71 (58%)
27 (22%)
87 (71%)
9 (7%)
3 (2%)
20 (16%)
3 (2%)
The registration fees
Conference dinner (if not included in the registration fee)
Hotel rates
Travel to the event
Fees for exhibition booth and equipment (if applicable)


Did you use any of the social networking and communication channels at the event? (Please mark all that apply)
Anything else?
2 (5%)
EGI blog
20 (45%)
International Science Grid This Week
12 (27%)
GridCast blog
13 (30%)
LinkedIn group
Facebook group
7 (16%)
YouTube
8 (18%)
Flickr
11 (25%)
Twitter
23 (52%)
0
5
10
15
20
25

3.2 General comments

1. **Catering**

"Truly excellent catering services, delicious and well planned snacks during the breaks and fantastic, friendly and professional staff!"

"Best conference to date I thought."

"Everything was very well organized, coffee breaks OK as well as lunchtime catering, well selected dishes"

"All good good idea to spread out the coffee/cake points as you did later in the week, to make sure people move around the stands and posters"

2. **Conference dinner**

"It was excellent. Well organised, great food, good staff, and vitally the speeches etc were nice and short! I was skeptical a buffet would work but it was really effective."

"good example of bavarian cuisine. Perhaps buffet caused a bit of a scrum to start!"

3. **Conference materials**

"The conference bag was a really good size as it allowed me to carry my laptop in it easily; the programme booklet was very well produced."

"Online program loaded quite slowly at times. Conference bag was good, one of the few conference gifts I may use again!"

"To be honest I don't see any need for paper materials."

"The online program was very difficult to read if ones wanted to have all details about sessions - the printed program was great!"

"Less paper, more electronic would be preferrable and more fitting the community"

4. **Other formats for the programme?**

"User-configurable iCal feed like http://tools.ietf.org/agenda/83/calendar"

5. **Wifi**

"Good, but didnt like the fact that it was open wifi"

The wireless connection was not healthy at some points and rooms but it was reasonable in general."

6. **Venue**

"The building was beautiful and pleasant. the installations for the conference were good, however i missed some "bell" to announce the start of the sessions, as well as proper presenting materials (one laptop ran out of battery during a talk, there were no pointers..) moreover, the locations were too spread, and the room indications were not clear."

"Venue was a bit far away from the city center, but it was really well connected via underground so it was OK. The rooms were very comfortable because the seats were very ergonomic. Plus points because the rooms had a lot sockets to plug laptops easily accessible. Sound was really good."

"I am very positive (the access was easy, the conference rooms fine, and the large hall which accommodated all participants, posters and exhibition booth, with tables and benches, eased all kind of interactions)."

"Generally excellent. Power sockets were widely available in the "Halls". Travel to the venue was fine, although I think I missed clear instructions on getting from the airport to the venue and so travelled a long route into Munich city centre and back out to the venue. Also, please continue to host these conferences in cities that are well served by airports, have good public transport, etc. Resist the temptation to move them to more "exotic" locations outside major cities..."

7. Demo booths

"Booth costs were high but this has been the case for the last few years. Booth positions were not great as some were very far away from the food. Would have been good if they had moved the food tables on Tuesday afternoon instead of Thurs morning. Finding out why delegates don't really visit the exhibition stands would be good as they don't seem to circulate round them - why? Are they completely uninterested, do they know it all already etc?"

"I liked very much the idea of the demo booth dedicated to a single demo for an entire day."

"Cooperation worked really well both before and during the event, instructions were clear and all worked effortlessly and efficiently."

8. Feedback on the new EGI website

"Congratulations, well planned site, easy to navigate, not too packed with technical details, good and clean look&feel!"

"looks great!"

"governance and social media is a bit more difficult to find - at least for me."

9. General comments

"About the format: there were too many competing sessions (certainly on tuesday and wednesday). The audiences were small. Many topics and talks were overlapping. I believe it would be in the interest of all (presenters and audience) to have a more selective program and less parallel sessions in a more compact conference."

"I booked in for only one day (the day I was due to present) because I was not sure whether the event would be for me/worthwhile. In fact, I was very pleasantly surprised and would happily have stayed longer. Next time!"

"Maybe it is good to have less parallel sessions. A few sessions that I wanted to attend were at the same time. The people were spread over many rooms, so sometimes the room/hall was a bit empty."

"Conference was an excellent opportunity for interesting talks - and more importantly to network with people - it's a very efficient way to solve problems face to face. Make sure you keep the coffee breaks long - for networking and for when the talks run over time."

"Overall good event, good speakers and good networking opportunities."

"I love EGI conferences."

3.3 Feedback on Media Training

1. What was the best bit about the course today?

it was useful to hear the voice of experts and to exchange opinions with colleagues facing the same problems and difficulties and having more or less the same goals.

2. What was the least useful element for you?

There were no "least" useful elements! The course was very interesting indeed!

3. Would you recommend similar training to colleagues and why (or why not)?

I would recommend it, for the same reason above and because I think it's useful to exchange opinion on the topic and do it in such a lively way.

4. What future training would you be interested in?

Some of us are asked to do dissemination, but aren't actually professional researchers. What/how we are suggested to do by professional communication people is not what researchers would like to see in press cuts (or similar). It's hard to convince researchers that their language needs to be "translated" into a simpler one. It would be nice to have a meeting where some research/disseminators could simultaneously interact. Many researchers do need to know more about communication, as well.

"I was very satisfied after the media training on Monday, I enjoyed it and I think was really useful to me. The part I liked most, and I think was most useful, are the 'hands-on' (interviews and press conference), because they put me on the 'other side', so giving me a different perspective allowing me to see which are the largest gaps that I should fill. I would recommend this training to everyone involved in scientific communication; for the future I would be interested on more specific trainings, for instance, given a subject, how to write a press release, or a dissemination article (though these parts could have been already

covered, I could join the training only after lunch). I think that a training focused on social network communication could be useful as well."

Further feedback at http://gridtalk-project.blogspot.de/2012/03/how-media-works-how-to-get-stories.html

4 MEDIA APPEARANCES

http://www.1news.az/society/20120329093604633.html

www.isgtw.org/visualization/isgtw-gridcast-egi-community-forum-2012

http://cordis.europa.eu/wire/index.cfm?fuseaction=article.Detail&rcn=29615&rev=0

http://infteam.jiscinvolve.org/wp/2012/04/13/beyond-grid-vs-cloud-%E2%80%93-egi-community-forum-2012/