EGI-InSPIRE

EGI COMMUNITY FORUM 2013

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Abstract

This document is an event report for the EGI Community Forum 2013, held in Manchester, UK, from 8-12 April 2013. The event was hosted by EGI.eu and UK NGI, a partnership between GridPP and the National e-Infrastructure Service (NES).

I. COPYRIGHT NOTICE

II. DELIVERY SLIP

	Name	Partner/Activity	Date
From	EGI Communications Team	NA2	29 /4/2013
Reviewed by:	Ignacio Blanquer	UPVLC	13/05/2013
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Approved by	**AMB & PMB**		23/5/2013

III. DOCUMENT LOG

Issue	Date	Comment	Author/Partner
1	2 May 2013	First draft	Sara Coelho
2	15 May 2013	Updated taking reviewer's comments into consideration	Sara Coelho

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 INTRODUCTION

The EGI Community Forum 2013 took place at the University Place conference centre in Manchester, United Kingdom on the 8-12 April 2013. The event was hosted by EGI.eu and UK NGI, a partnership between GridPP and the National e-Infrastructure Service (NES).

The Community Forum was held in conjunction with the 3rd EMI Technical Conference and was co-located with the third annual meeting of the European Globus Community Forum (EGCF).

The Communications Team prepared a number of dedicated materials for the event: web banners, the sponsorship guide and exhibition guide in addition to updates to the event website and the printed programme made available as an insert to the badges. Edited conference contributions were published in a Book of Abstracts, also available online (http://go.egi.eu/CF2013BoA).

The event had also been advertised in the November issue of the EGI-InSPIRED newsletter and promoted by our media partner's iSGTW, HPCwire, HPCinthecloud, and Datanami. An animated event banner appeared on the scienceomega.com website, on the homepage and the science solutions page. Two (iPhone & android) free applications were also developed for the event. Journalists from Datanami and iSGTW attended the event, and the e-ScienceTalk team ran a major GridCast from the event, featuring videos, blog posts and live reporting via social media channels.

The Community Forum website (http://cf2013.egi.eu) received over 18,500 unique page views.

2 STATISTICS

2.1 Overall

Number of...	
Registered participants	380
Contributions	287
Speakers	199
Session conveners	43

2.2 Registration Breakdown

	EARLY		LATE		ON-SITE	
	fee (£)	registrants	fee (£)	registrants	fee (£)	registrants
full week	400	235	450	36	500	1
three days	380	11	435	5	480	0
two days	260	19	310	14	370	4
one day	130	28	155	20	185	7
TOTAL	**293**		**75**		**12**	

In total there were 380 participants, of which 305 went to the conference dinner. In total there were 5 cancellations

2.3 Social Media

Twitter

The stats below refer to the period: 5 February-19 April 2013.

Number of tweets - 398
Number of tweets during CF (8-12 April) - 341
Number of tweeters - 62

Number of tweets by day (by EGI.eu, by e-ScienceTalk)
8 April - 37 (6, 7)
9 April - 121 (7, 10)
10 April - 89 (8, 13)
11 April - 52 (6, 8)
12 April - 42 (8, 6)

Top tweeters (287, 72% of all tweets):
europeangrid - 51
e_scitalk - 51
geekeconomist - 44
primeurmagazine - 42

isgtw - 28
torstenreimer - 23
Contrailproject - 16
SCIBUSproject - 13
nimp0 - 10
SteveITaaU – 9

Flickr

http://www.flickr.com/photos/europeangrid

A total of 69 images tagged with 'egicf13' (of which 27, the forum poster and card designs) were uploaded to Flickr. Of these, the most popular photo received 131 views.

During the event, the EGI Flickr account was viewed 252 times

GridCast

http://gridtalk-project.blogspot.ch/

The GridCast team produced 14 videos, uploaded to YouTube. In total, the YouTube videos registered 725 views during the forum week. The GridCast blog published 24 blog posts. The posts were viewed by 1,330 unique visitors.

Google analytics	*Gridcast.org*
Visits	710
Unique visitors	542
Pages viewed	1,184
Pages/ visit	1.67
Average time spent on the site	00:02:08
New visits	69.58%
Bounce rate	69.30%

Facebook

The stats below refer to the period: 8-12 April 2013.

- The EGI Facebook page acquired three new 'likes'.
- The most popular day on Facebook was Monday (8 April), with 333 unique viewers and 4174 page impressions/hits
- The lowest daily reach was 183
- The most popular post was the announcement of the poster winner, 29 likes and seen by 462 people (with the majority being generated by a post going 'viral', i.e. through a friend)

Website

Metric	Value	CF2012 Value	[% difference]
Pages viewed	19,558	19,455	[+0.5 %]

Unique page views	15,640	15,145	[+3.2 %]
Time spent on the page	01:06	01:34	
Highest number of page views in a day	1,253 (9 April)	1,009 (27 March)	[+19.5 %]

This table represents the number of visitors from January to April 2013 (end of event), compared with values from the Community Forum 2012 website taken between 1st January- 31 March, 2012 (end of event) [Ref: MS226]

Short links

Book of Abstracts: http://go.egi.eu/cf13ebook - 6 clicks

Call for Participation: http://go.egi.eu/CF13-CfP - 54 clicks

Indico homepage: http://go.egi.eu/CF2013 - 1109 clicks

Conference4Me Downloads

http://conference4me.psnc.pl/

The conference app was downloaded by 223 unique users, of which 147 are Android and 76 are iOS (for iPhone). This represents an increase from the last conference: the Conference4Me app was downloaded by 190 unique users at the Technical Forum in Prague (September 2012).

3   EVENTS AND LAUNCHES

The Community Forum was held from the 8-12 of April 2013. The key dates in the run-up for the event were:

- 19 October 2012 - Call for participation issued; online submission of abstracts opened
- 30 November 2012 – End of abstract submission for workshop proposals
- 14 January 2013 - End of abstract submission for presentations and training sessions
- 17 December 2012 - Early-bird registration opened
- 27 January 2013 - End of submissions for posters and demonstrations
- 1 March 2013 – End of early-bird registration

The detailed timeline of the event can be found online at the Community Forum 2013 Indico pages:
http://go.egi.eu/CF2013

The co-located events at the Community Forum were:

- 3rd Annual European Globus Community Forum (8 April) - http://www.egcf.eu/egcf-2013/
- 3rd EMI Technical Conference - http://tc3.eu-emi.eu/

Additional events included:

- Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between EGI.eu with the Academia Sinica Grid Computing Centre (ASGC) - http://www.egi.eu/news-and-media/newsfeed/news_2013_0019.html

The Community Forum was mentioned in two articles:

- Golden opportunities for e-infrastructures at the EGI Community Forum, iSGTW [http://www.isgtw.org/feature/golden-opportunities-e-infrastructures-egi-community-forum]
- Highlights from the EGI Community Forum 2013, iSGTW [http://www.isgtw.org/spotlight/highlights-egi-community-forum-2013]

4   PUBLICATIONS

The following publications were prepared for the Community Forum 2013:

- Conference programme, combined with mini-programme for the badges
- CF 2013 Book of Abstracts: http://go.egi.eu/CF13BoA

5 SURVEYS

A survey of the event was sent to the participants using Zoomerang. The survey was answered by 115 people. Below is a summary of the survey responses.
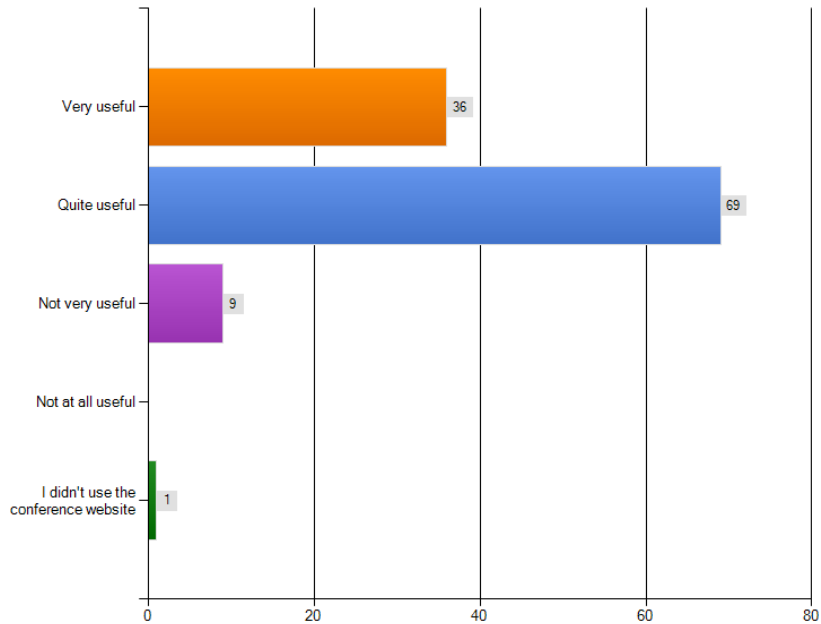
1) Do you have any comments about the programme for the event?

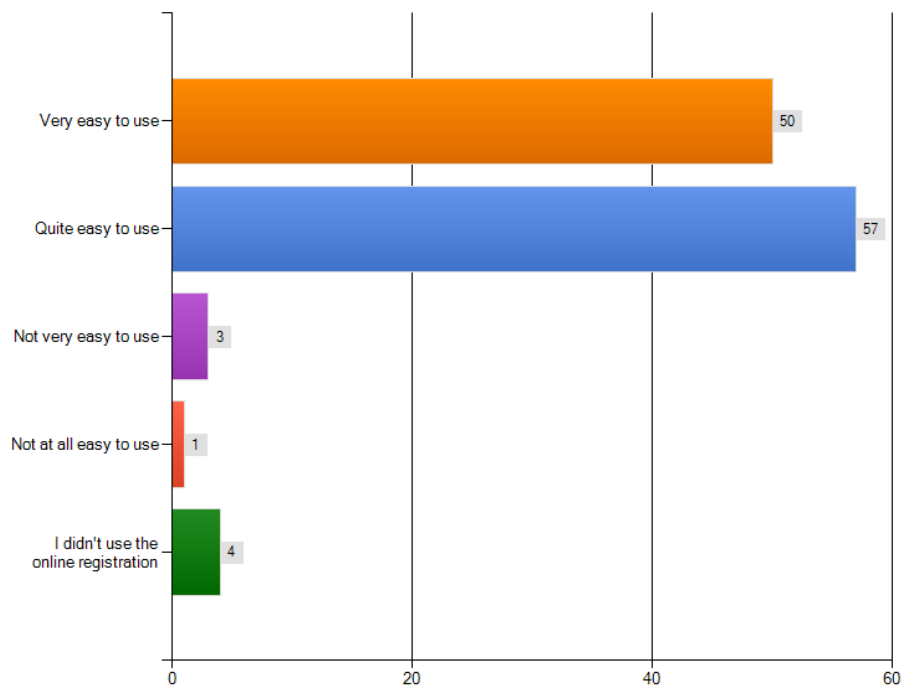34 participants commented on the conference, 84 skipped the question.

Selected comments:

- "Too much time spent on long presentations. The really interesting "community" part was in the coffee break where conversations and networking was in full flow. As a radical suggestion, I would say that you should keep the keynotes, cut down the length of the presentations so that they are each 5 minutes long, and do all the presentations on the first day. Use the second / third days to have focussed, interactive workshops / hackathons on a variety of topics. Having been to several more interactive conferences and workshops in the last month, it was very strange being back in such a passive conferencing environment."

- "* Still too many parallel tracks. * The path to the timetable (in Indico) was too many clicks away from the egi-cf home page. The link was too hidden. * Obtaining a proper bill/invoice before paying was not easy and a manual (telephone calls!) process - but this is needed for our administration in order to be able to pay!"

- "I commend the inclusion in the programme of Friday's keynote by Terry Hewitt. These 'reminiscing' talks seem to be becoming a sort of tradition on Fridays and I strongly support that."
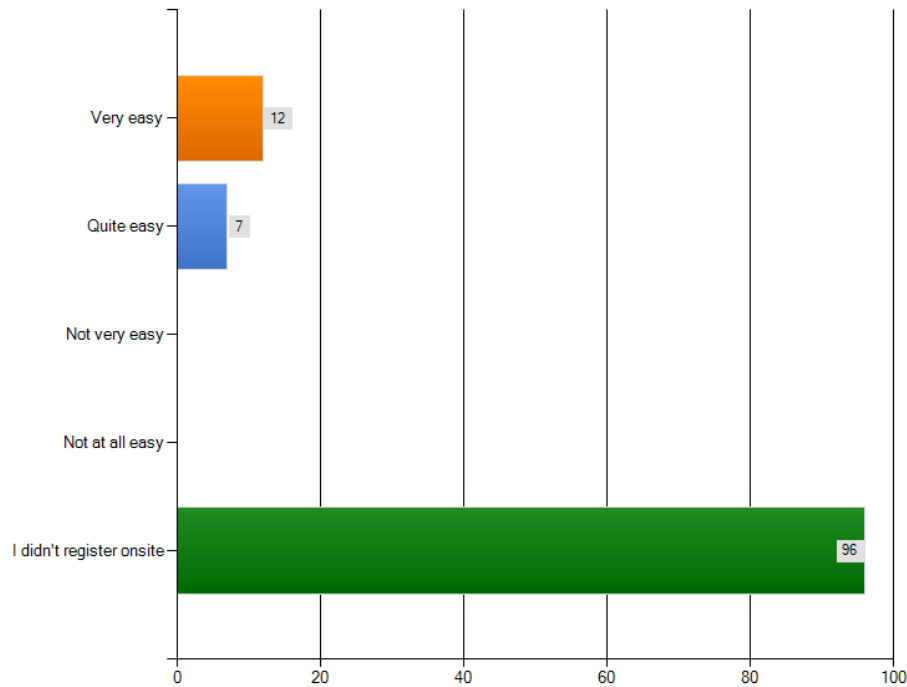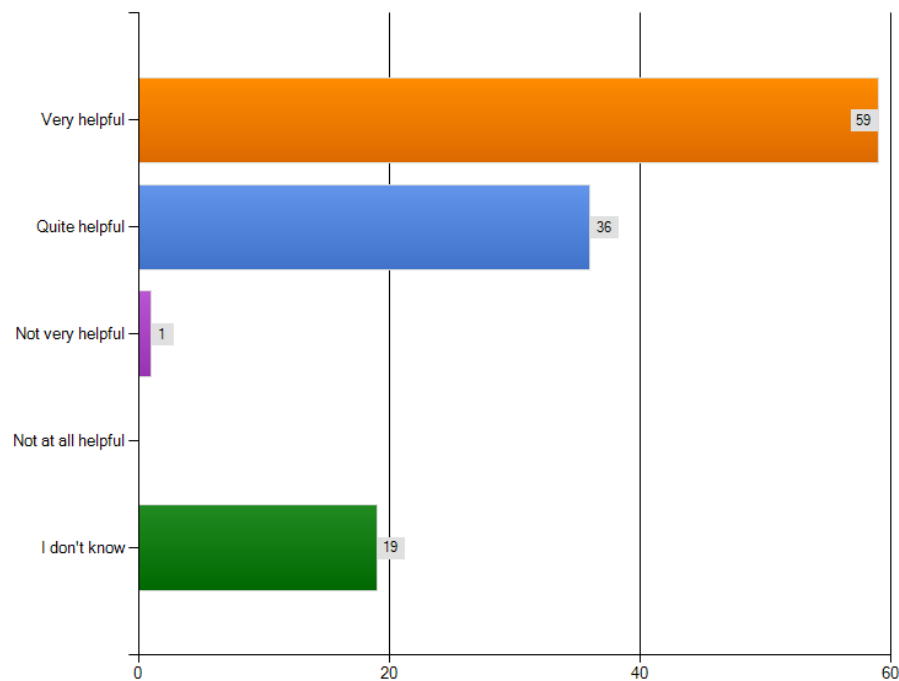
2) How useful was the conference website?

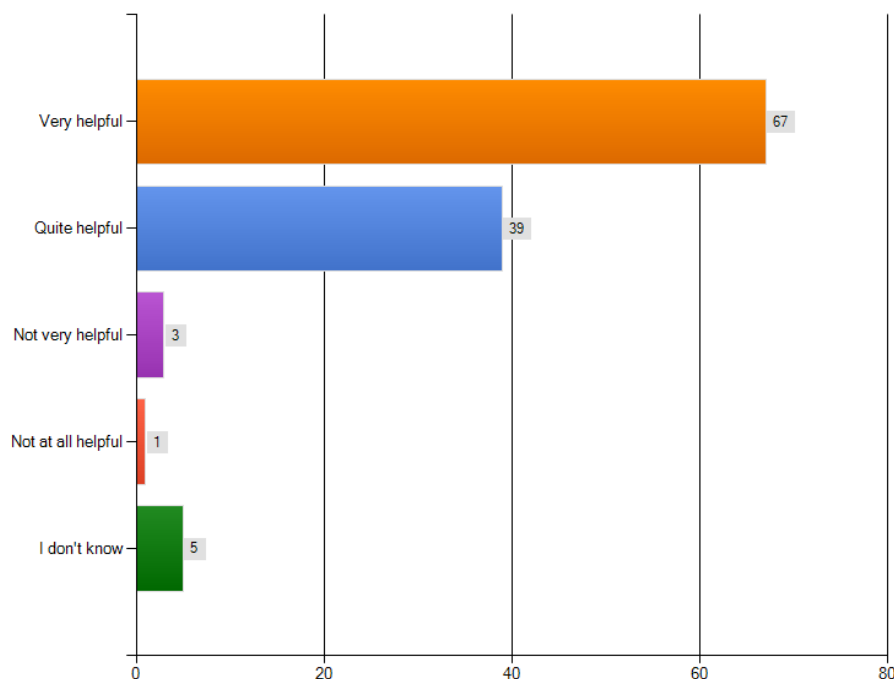## 3) How easy to use was the online registration process?

4) If you registered at the venue, how easy was the process?

Response	Count
Very easy	12
Quite easy	7
Not very easy	
Not at all easy	
I didn't register onsite	96

5) During registration and before the event, were the EGI organising team helpful?

Response	Count
Very helpful	59
Quite helpful	36
Not very helpful	1
Not at all helpful	
I don't know	19

6) During the event, were the conference staff at the venue helpful?

7) Please let us know your feedback on the conference catering i.e. the coffee breaks, the welcome reception on Tuesday 9th and the lunchtime catering.

83 participants commented on the catering, 32 skipped the question.

Summary:

Overall, participants seemed to find the catering acceptable but uninspiring. The presence vegetarian (and halal) options and especially the fresh fruit was noted and very much appreciated. The deserts were commended and some comments were made regarding the one-desert-per-person control: rationing was not appreciated, especially because the attendants quite liked the offer.

Welcome reception: abundance of wine and beer was highly appreciated as was the quality of the 'nibbles'.

Selected comments:

- " ok, decent, one can't expect excellent kitchen in such circumstances"
- "During the coffee breaks, the coffee itself was drinkable but 'lowish' quality. The nibbles were good and the variation was good. The welcome reception was quite good: the wine was OK (and inoffensive) but the little nibbles were good."
- "The coffee breaks were very crowded all the time; people did not really use the 2nd table behind the booths. Also, placing the coffee break next to the entrance is not the best idea as people did not walk around the booths much."
- "It seems everything was always very rationed. I've tried to repeat some times, and was discouraged by the catering staff (at lunch)."

- "- Coffee break: ridiculous strict control to avoid people taking more than one cookie/small cake. Next time I will bring some to the organizers, no fee. - Welcome reception: quality was OK."
- " the fresh fruit was great; the coffee wasn't, lunch time catering was good"

8) *Do you have any comments on the conference dinner on Wednesday 10th, for example about the menu, the service or the venue?*

84 participants commented on the conference dinner, 31 skipped the question.

Summary:

Overall, the participants enjoyed the venue and found the menu okay, but commented on the amount of food and service. Lack of coffee/tea at the end was mentioned several times.

Selected comments:
- "Excellent. Tea/coffee after would have been a bonus. Entertainment was good, provision of wine excellent."
- "The venue was incredible and the service was fine. However, the food was scarce, everybody on my table was still hungry after finishing."
- "Venue was magnificent. Food OK but not wonderful. Plenty of beer and wine."
- "There was no menu at the conference dinner, we had to guess what's in our plates. The food was good but lacked in quantity."
- "good venu, food not so good"
- "The vegetarian was fine, although service was slow. Choice of music too loud and not suitable with the acoustics of the place."
- "I liked the unusual venue, and the conference dinner overall, except I was still hungry afterwards"
- "The menu was OK; the vegetarian option was certainly nice, but not exceptional. The entertainment was excellent! Both the string quartet and the band"

9). *Do you have any comments on the conference materials e.g. online programme, materials, brochures, conference bags?*

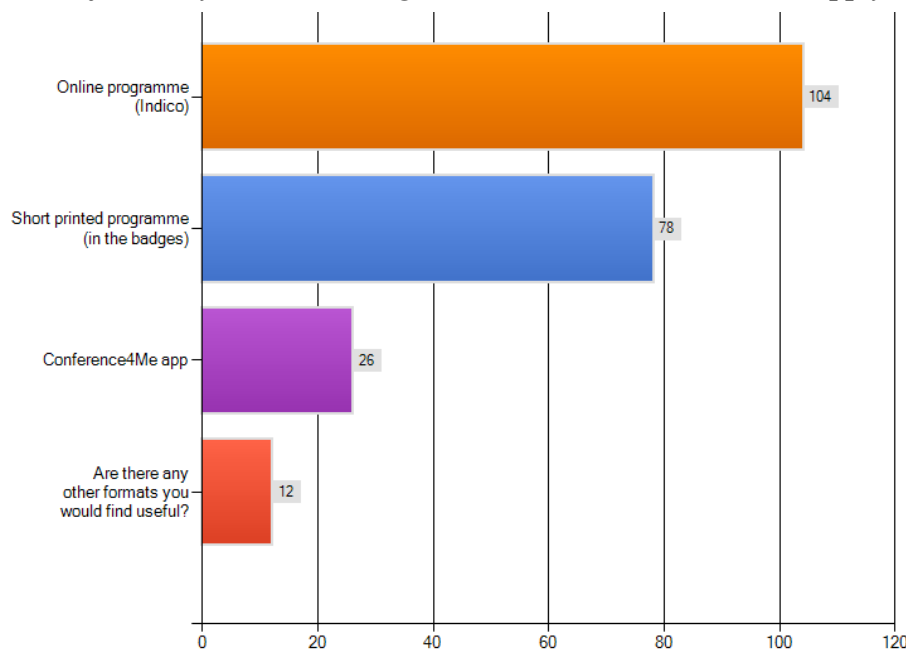60 participants commented on the conference materials, 55 skipped the question.

Summary:

The main comments were: lack of information on the printed programme, incomplete online content.
Selected comments:
- "The traditional conference bag should be an option: everybody very quickly gets rid of it, keeping the content in their own back pack. We should be proposed to just get the content."

- "Good: Badge with mini program; conference bag not necessary; better spend the money to increase lunch catering qulity"
- "Some of the information in the short printed programme and online was incomplete, making it difficult to understand what was happening in some session. The eccles cake was tasty."
- "The timetable was hard to find. It should be easy to find from the EGI CF front page."
- "everything ok, the book of abstract can be given in a digital form, I don't know how many people read all that stuff to justify a printed version. A more detailed program should be printed instead, with the talk titles associated to each session."

10) The EGICF2013 programme was available in several formats. Please could you tell us which formats you used during the event? Please tick all that apply.

11) Do you have any feedback on the Conf4Me app? Was it useful, how well did it work, was there any information missing from the app?

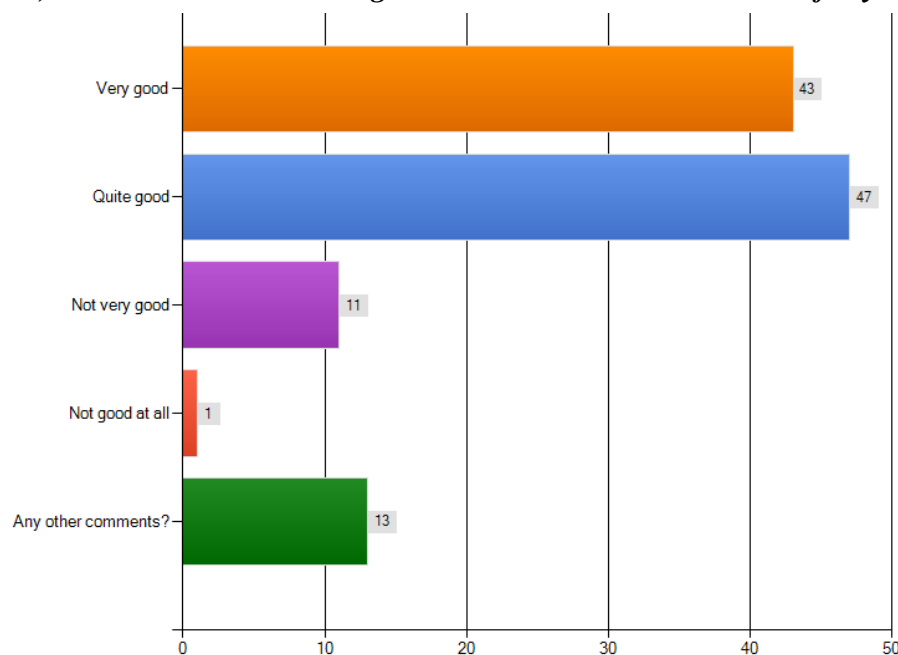42 participants commented on the conference materials, 73 skipped the question.

Summary:

The participants who used the App seemed to find it useful. A number of respondents commented on the lack of advertisement for the App and many were not aware of its existence.

Selected comments:

- "Very useful and my primary source of information, but wasn't updated when sessions were cancelled. It would have been good to have the details of the sessions inside the app, I had to rely on Indico for the details."

- "Do we really always need apps? If things are on the web you can get them from anything which runs a browser, apps exclude some people."
- "I actually updated the app with EGICF2013 but I actually never used it. The web and printed program was sufficient for me"
- "Useful. Three things: - I don't like that you have to choose the conference on every start - I shouldn't have to wait for updates on every start: either do manual updates or in the background - the app should open on the current date, not on the first date of the conference"
- "I did not see it advertized anywhere at the conference and I find out now that there was an app."
- "It should be advertised more widely on the conference Web site, so that people remember to install it in advance."

12) Please let us know how good the wireless connection was for you during the event

13) Do you have any comments on the conference venue, for example the size and layout of the rooms, how easy it was to get to the venue, acoustics or equipment?

62 participants commented on the conference materials, 53 skipped the question.
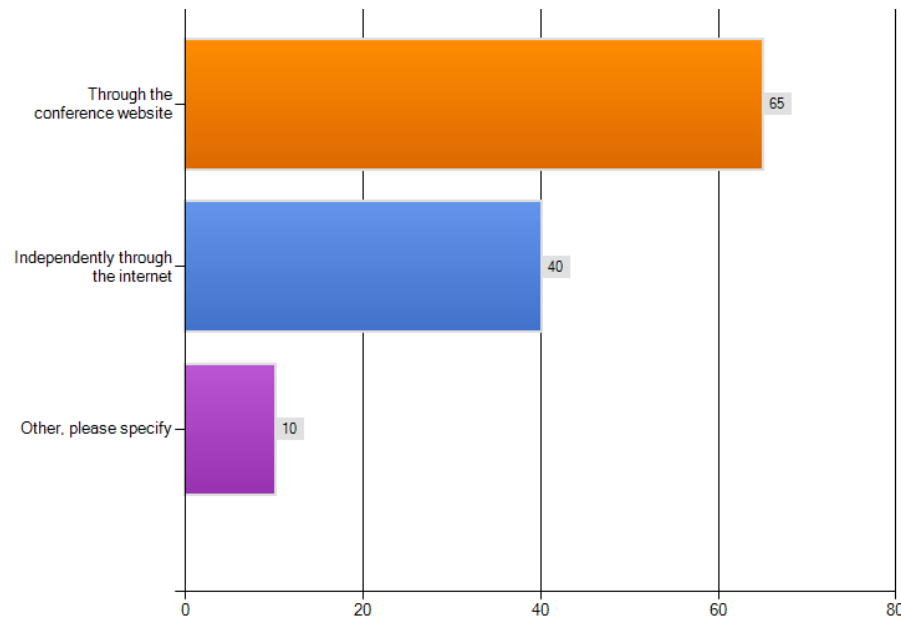
Summary:

The lack of sufficient electrical plugs was the main complaint stated by the participants. The lack of exposure of the booths and demo area was also mentioned. Otherwise, the participants appreciated the venue and the rooms.

Selected comments:
- "Electical plugs were not enough in almost all the rooms."

- "I thought the venue was good. Good spacious rooms."
- "OK. I think the info about posters/booths was not sufficient - no general overview"
- "Generally good, missing power connections. Would also be good to have some rooms to discuss with others."
- "It was very strange that the sessions were located all around the place and I did not met a lot of people because of this. Also placing a programme on the doors would have been a great help to find the right room"
- "The exhibition and the demo booths in particular were too secluded, too isolated from areas where people normally spent the breaks."

14) Did you book your hotel...

15) If you were an exhibitor or a demonstrator, do you have any comments on your experiences at the event e.g. the instructions, the space allocated, the facilities, the wifi, the booth costs, the exhibition and demo hall?

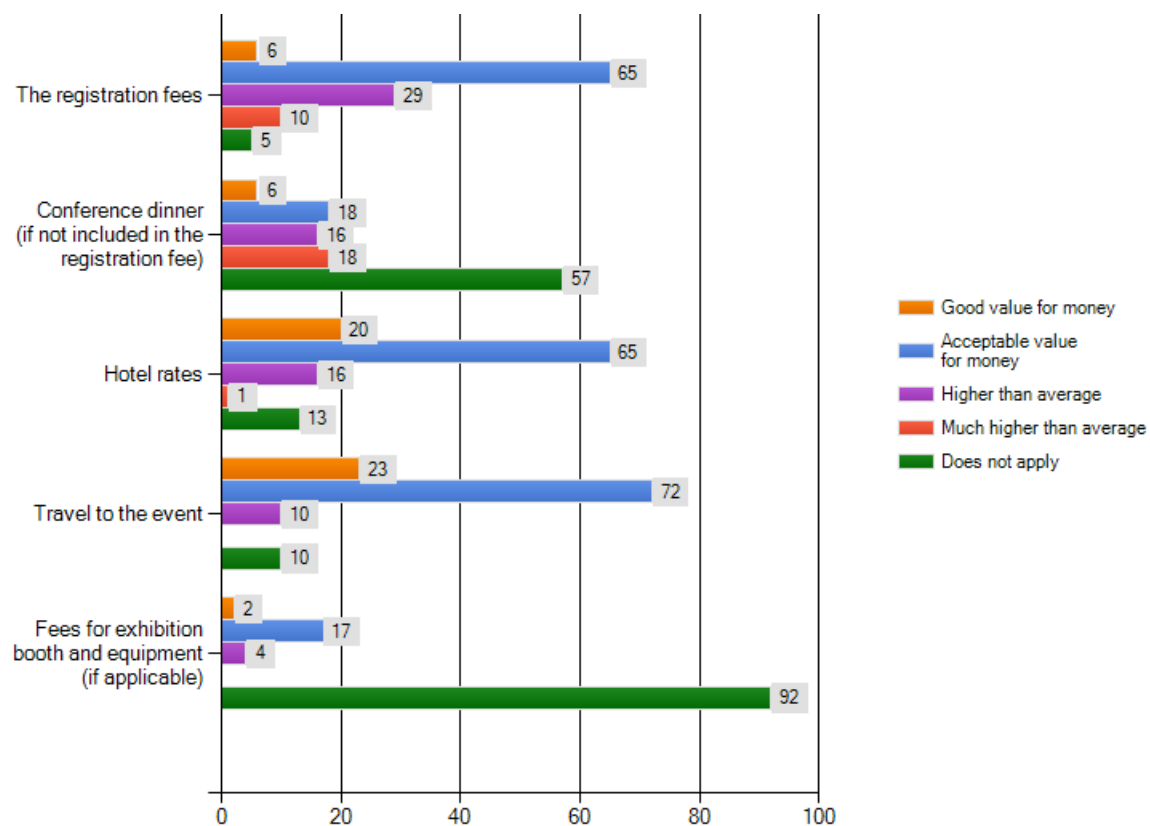27 participants commented on the venue, 88 skipped the question.

Summary:

The exhibitors who commented were overall disappointed with lack of traffic to the booths.
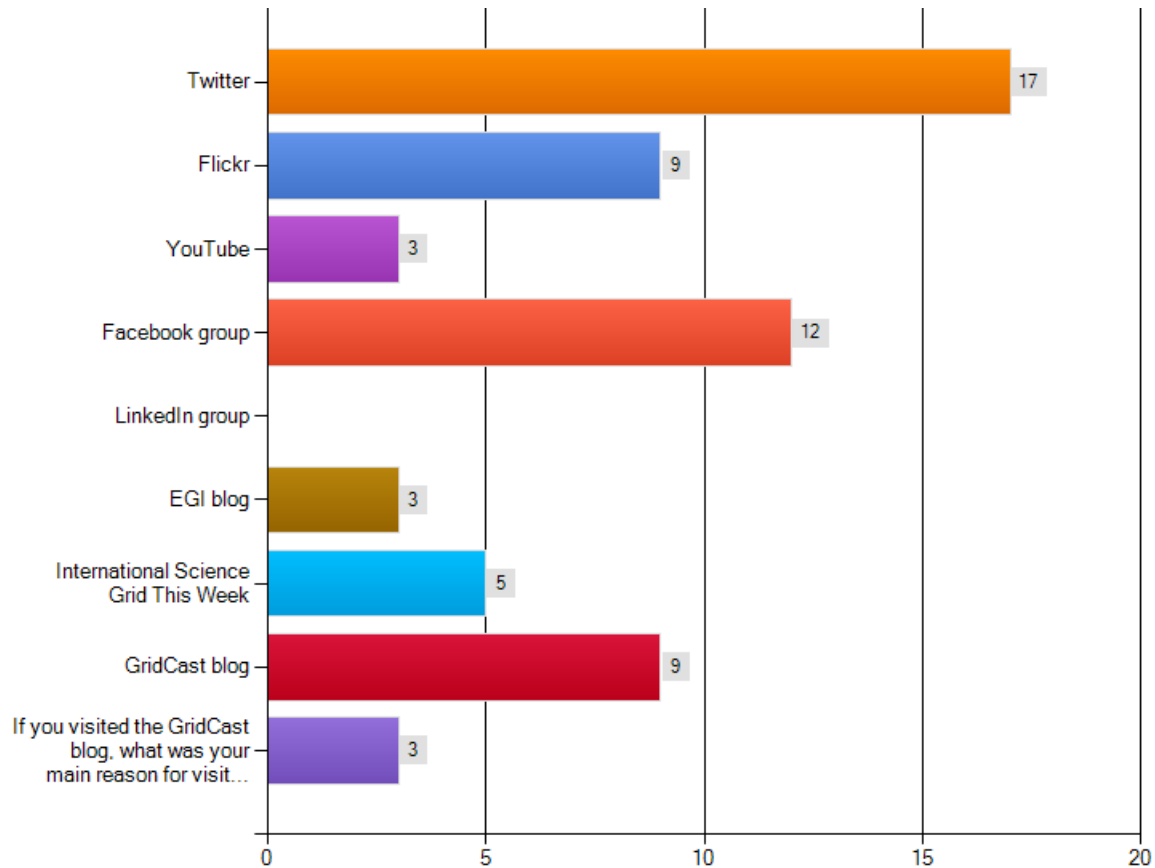
Selected comments:

- "The demo booths on the last row were quite hidden. Also I think that it would be better to have a sort of demo session because having the available time for demos at the breaks is too short"

- "In general, I don't think it was worth having a booth - the footfall we got was either: people we already knew or people who weren't part of the conference who just wanted to get our freebies!"
- "Coffee and tea was served in two many places and therefore sometimes there was only few people vising the demo and exhibition stands. The route of participants to the lecture rooms was not very close to the stands and most of the participants didn't go next to the stands."

16) Compared to similar events that you have attended, do you have any feedback on the fees for the event?
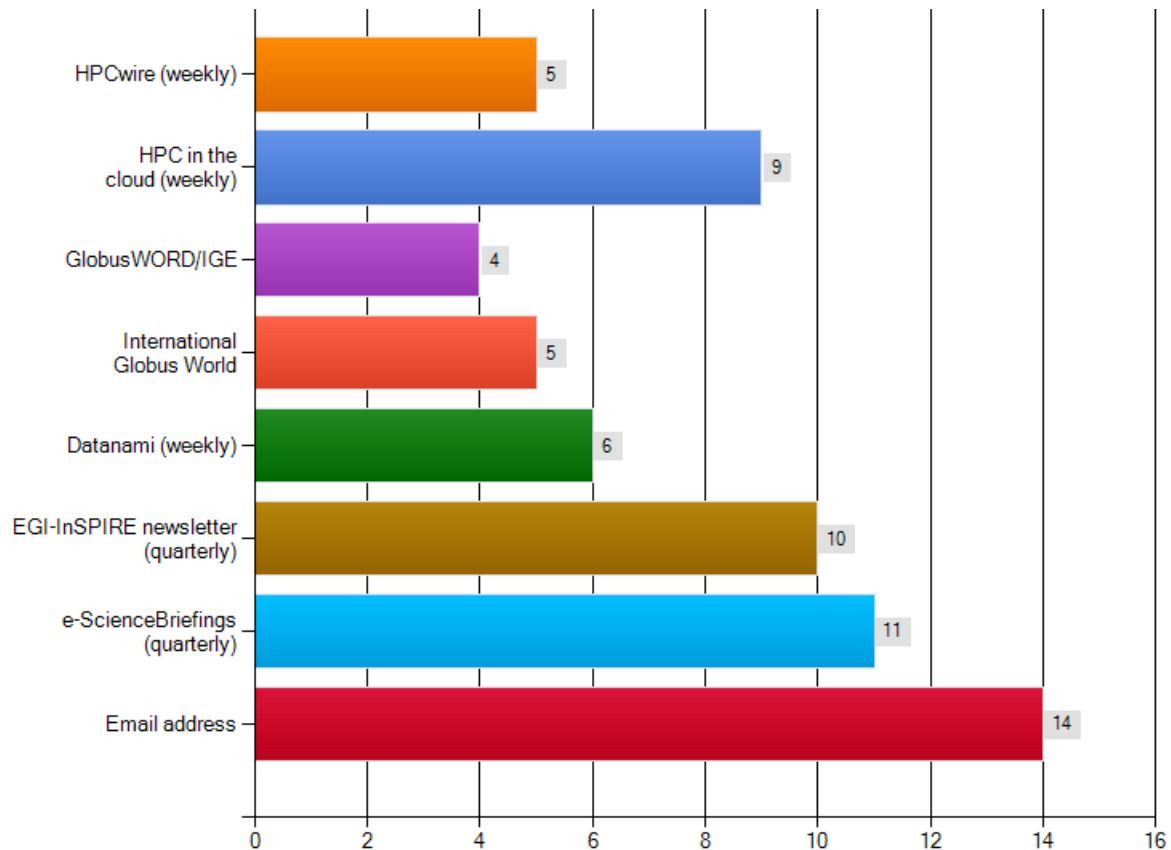
17) Did you use any of the social networking and communication channels at the event? (Please mark all that apply)

Main reasons for visiting the GridCast blog (3 answers):

- "my interview on my project was great. Thks"
- "I'm a regular visitor of the blog and I also served as blogger"
- "My organisation was asked to contribute"

18) If you would like to be subscribed to receive free weekly copies of any of the publications below, please add your email address here.

19) We are collecting case studies to illustrate how the infrastructure is being used at http://www.egi.eu/case-studies/. Please tell us below about any interesting research you would like us to highlight.

13 participants provided feedback

20) Finally, is there any other feedback you would like to give us?

25 participants provided feedback

Summary:
The participants who replied reinforced the overall comments stated in other questions, regarding catering, lack of plugs, lack of accessibility of the online materials. Overall, the organisation was commended and the event left a good impression.

Selected comment:
- "Overall a very enjoyable conference. Would have been probably one of the best ever if the conference dinner was half decent."