



16th World Congress on Public Health 2020

**Public health
for the future of humanity:
analysis, advocacy and action**

12 – 16 October 2020, Online event



**RESULTS
OF THE PARTICIPANTS' EVALUATION**

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Summary of main results

A total of 3,759 delegates from 125 countries participated in the on-line Congress to discuss and debate the state of global and European health from the perspective of research, methods and practices. A total of 344 delegates (9,2% of all invitees) filled out the evaluation form.

Overall outcome:

84% rated the quality of the WCPH 2020 as excellent/good

Networking:

32% rated the possibilities for meeting colleagues as excellent/good

Attendance:

36% attended half of the day each congress day

WCPH 2020 Programme:

44% indicated the programme fulfilled the educational goals very much

Virtual WCPH 2020:

75% rated the virtual venue as excellent/good

52% rated the assistance received from the Help Desk as excellent/good

79% rated the assistance received during the registration process as excellent/good

Exhibition:

71% confirmed they visited the exhibition area

WCPH 2020 website and information:

81% rated the conference website as excellent/good

87% rated the information received to submit the abstract as excellent/good

Plans for the Future:

51% prefer in-person conferences

73% planning to attend the EPH Conference in Dublin, Ireland

80% planning to attend the World Congress in 2023

Introduction

The 16th World Congress on Public Health 2020 (WCPH 2020) was organised as an online event from 12 – 16 October 2020. WCPH 2020 was co-organised by:

- World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA)
- European Public Health Association (EUPHA)
- Italian Society of Hygiene, Preventive Medicine and Public Health (SItI)

A total of 3,759 delegates from 125 countries participated in the on-line Congress to discuss and debate the state of global and European health from the perspective of research, methods and practices.

WCPH 2020 offered a full and varied programme including 8 plenary sessions, 28 World Leadership Dialogues (WLDs), 149 workshops, 112 oral sessions (with 706 recorded oral presentations), 25 poster sessions (with 1480 posters), 6 (sponsored) satellite sessions and 7 pre-conferences. The programme ran from early morning to late in the evening to accommodate attendees living in different time zones across the globe.

When WCPH 2020 actually took place in October it was more relevant than ever. As the world confronted the coronavirus, the sharing of knowledge became ever more important. WCPH 2020 featured a dedicated Covid-19 track with workshops and presentations from around the globe. WCPH 2020 covered the latest on corona control policies, the efficacy of control measures, the impact on health systems and community services and the lessons to be learned from it.

The theme of WCPH 2020 '*Public Health for the Future of Humanity: Analysis, Advocacy, and Action*' showed our commitment to respond to current global challenges relating to climate change, poverty alleviation and imminent health threats.

In a series of eight plenary sessions we explored these challenges in detail. In the first half we looked at what happened to our principles of the Enlightenment: evidence and reason. Fake news is widespread and travels much faster than the truth. We explored how we can work together with other sectors to tackle global threats. We looked at what public health leadership looks like. The abilities and qualities of our health systems and workforce was also discussed. In other plenary sessions we looked at interdisciplinary approaches and the way forward for global public health.

We know that we need truly interdisciplinary approaches to analyse the threats to health and to evaluate the effectiveness of responses. Yet we often find difficulty in putting them into practice. Who creates the silos? And for which purpose? What actions do we need to take in the global public health community to promote and sustain interdisciplinary working? And what changes in the wider society do we need to advocate for to make this happen?

We now know a great deal about the causes of disease and the distribution within populations. We also know a lot about what works on a small scale. Our problem is that we find it difficult to scale up interventions or to change policies in ways that make a real difference a population level. What analytic tools to be needed to understand the successes and failures of public health policies? What actions should we take to implement what works? And what messages are most successful in advocating for implementation?

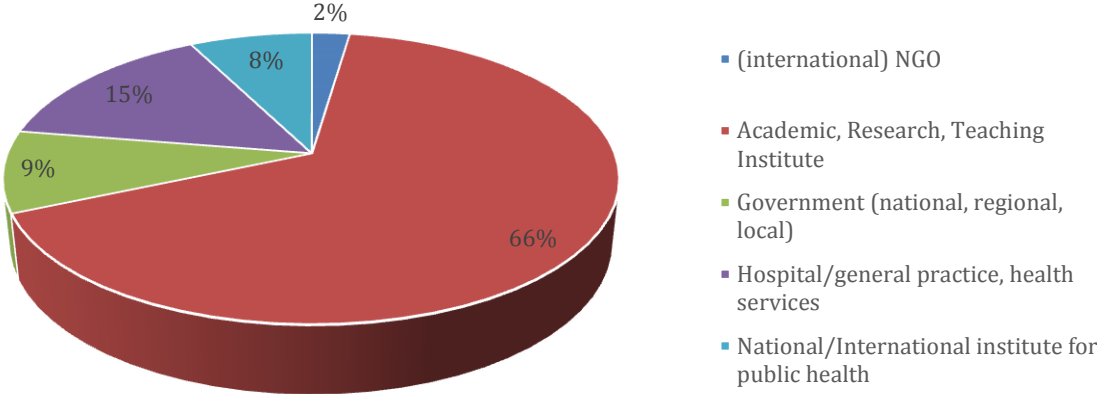
The results presented in this Participants' Evaluation Report are based on the evaluation by the congress delegates. 3,759 participants were invited to evaluate the congress through a web-based questionnaire. A total of 344 delegates (9,2% of all invitees) filled out the evaluation form.

The questionnaire was divided in seven parts:

1. WCPH 2020 in General
2. Your attendance at WCPH 2020
3. WCPH 2020 Programme
4. Virtual WCPH 2020
5. Exhibition area
6. WCPH 2020 website and information
7. Plans for the Future

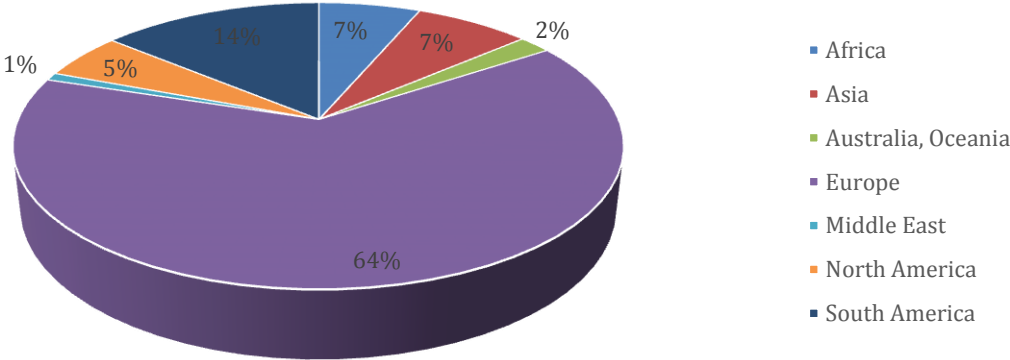
1. WCPH 2020 in General

1.1. What is your background/work field?



66% the respondents had a background in research/academia. Otherwise, the professional background of the participants showed a mix of policy, practice and training.

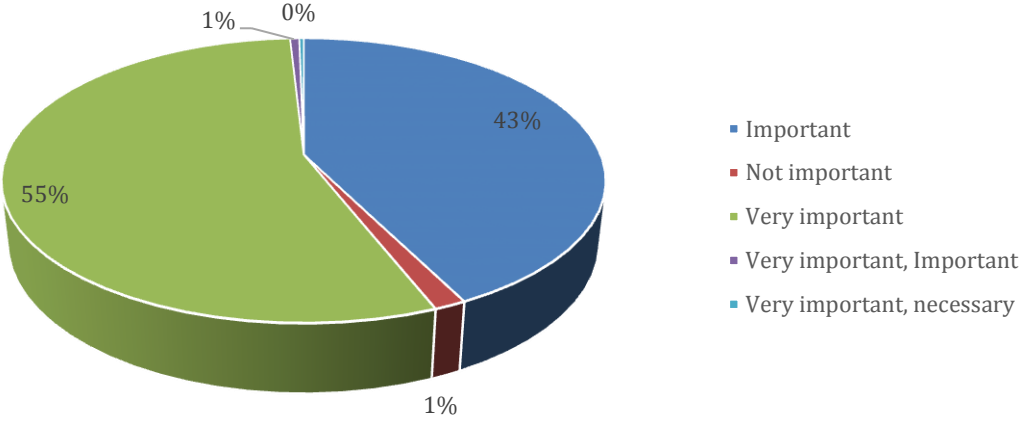
1.2. From which region of the world were you attending WCPH2020?



64% respondents came from Europe and 14% from South America

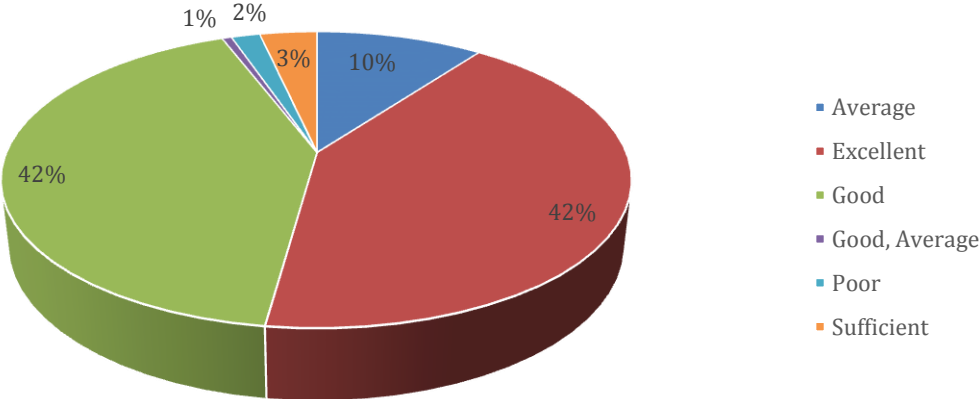
1.3. How would you rate the relevance of the congress for your work?

The theme of the 16th World Congress on Public Health 2020 was *Public health for the future of humanity: analysis, advocacy and action*. 98% of the respondents rated the relevance of the conference as relevant (and very relevant) for their work.



1.4. How would you rate the quality of the congress as a whole?

84% of the participants rated the quality of the WCPH2020 as excellent/good.

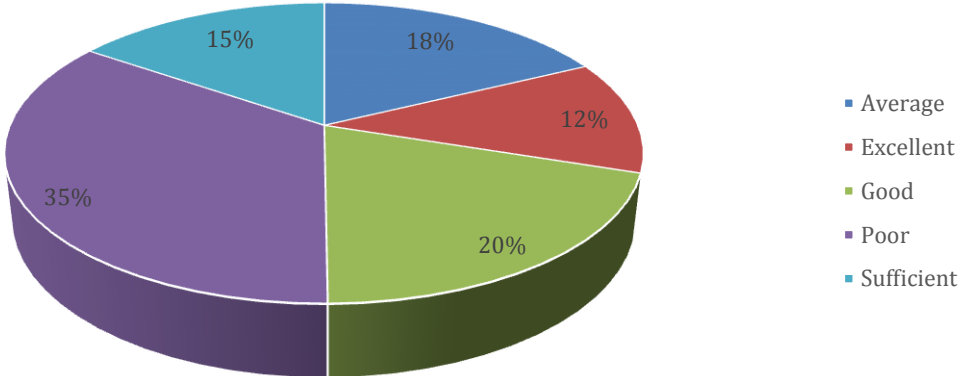


1.5. What lessons from WCPH2020 do you take home?

The following lessons were specifically mentioned:

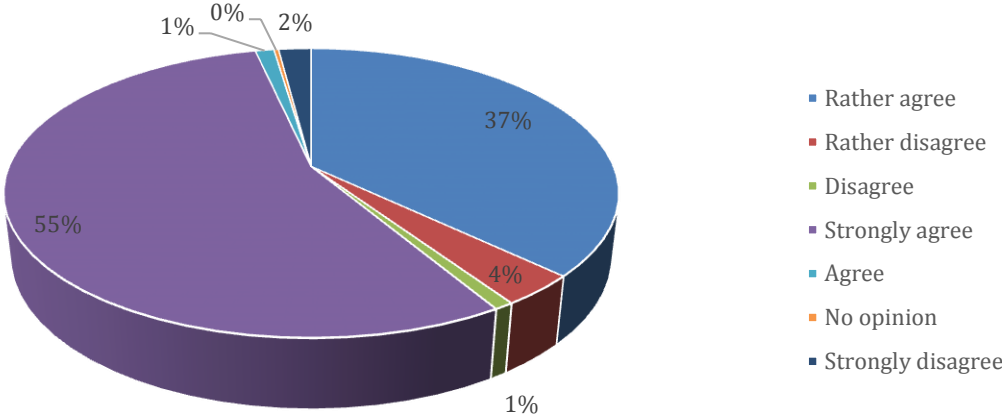
- Amazing opportunity for global collaboration
- Awareness about Public Health importance is increasing
- Collaboration and shared learnings is a key
- Interdisciplinary collaboration generates the best insight and the strongest networks
- Sharing experiences is the key to improve work

1.6. Normally, an in-person congress offers ample time for networking. How would you rate the possibilities for meeting colleagues at WCPH2020?



32% of the participants rated the possibilities for meeting colleagues as good/excellent but 35% as poor.

1.7. Do you agree that the programme of WCPH was overall free of commercial bias?



92% respondents agreed that the programme of WCPH 2020 was free of commercial bias.

1.8. General comments

Most comments received appreciated the scientific content and organisation. Participants had in general very good impression about the congress which was better than expected. Some technical issues were mentioned.

2. Your attendance at WCPH2020

Many different sessions were mentioned as being highly appreciated, which highlights the good quality of the scientific programme. All plenary sessions were mentioned, and many workshops, pre-conferences, poster sessions and others were mentioned here.

2.1. Which sessions of WCPH2020 did you attend predominantly?

Most common answers:

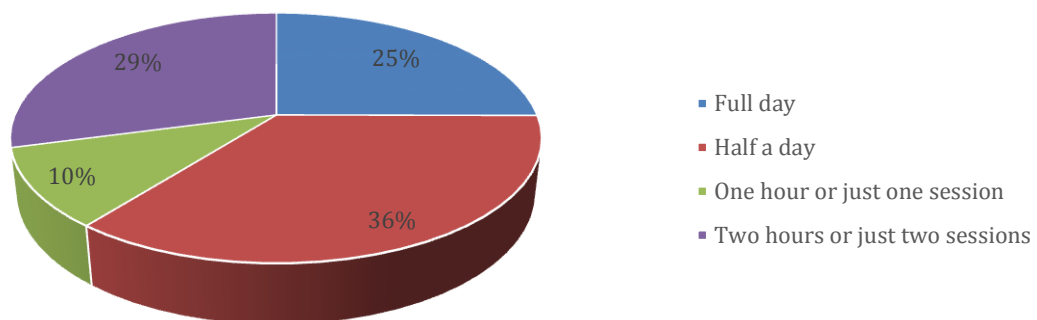
- Plenary sessions
- Parallel session

2.2. Which days of the congress did you attend predominantly?

Most common answers:

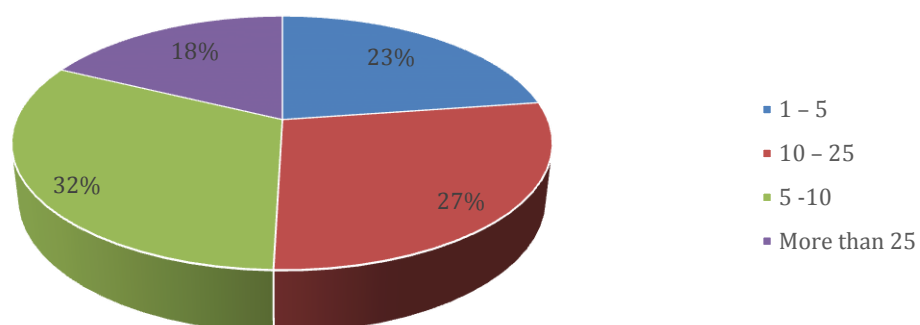
- All days
- Main Congress only

2.3. What was the average daily time you were attending WCPH2020?



Most of the respondents (36%) attended half of the day each congress day.

2.4. How many sessions did you attend in total?



Only 18% respondents attended more than 25 sessions

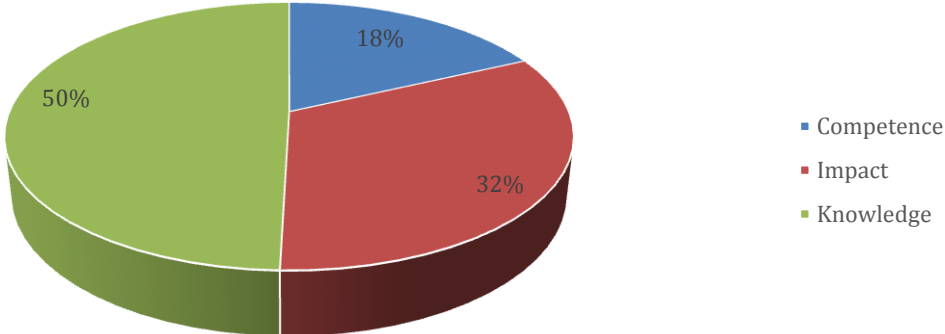
3. WCPH 2020 Programme

3.1. Which plenary session was most interesting to you?

Most common answers:

- Plenary 5 - Health systems fit for the future
- Plenary 4 - The Digital Information Revolution

3.2. Which aspects/domains were mostly influenced by your best evaluated session?

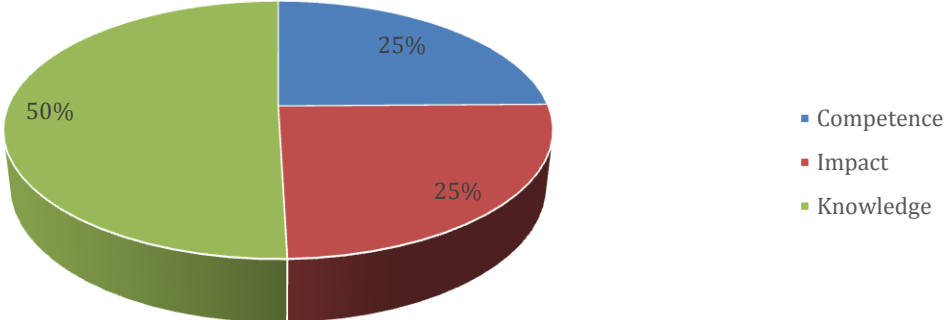


50% indicated knowledge influence.

3.3. Which World Leadership Dialogue was most interesting to you?

This question cannot be summarised as so many sessions were mentioned.

3.4 Which aspects/domains were mostly influenced by this session?

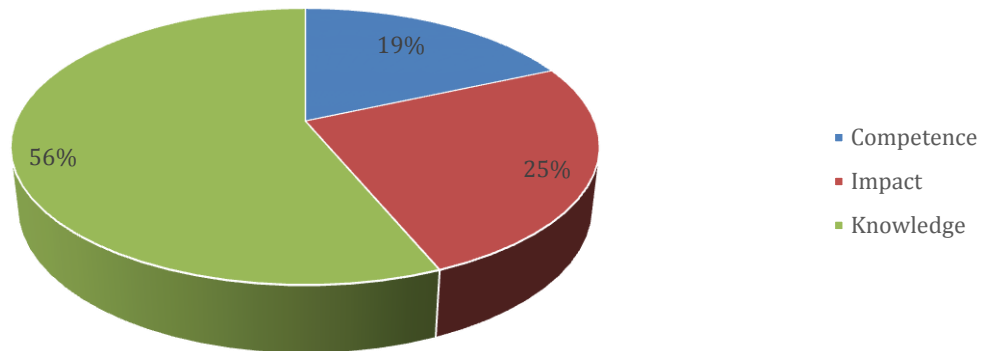


50% of participants indicated knowledge.

3.5. Which parallel session was most interesting to you?

This question cannot be summarised as so many sessions were mentioned.

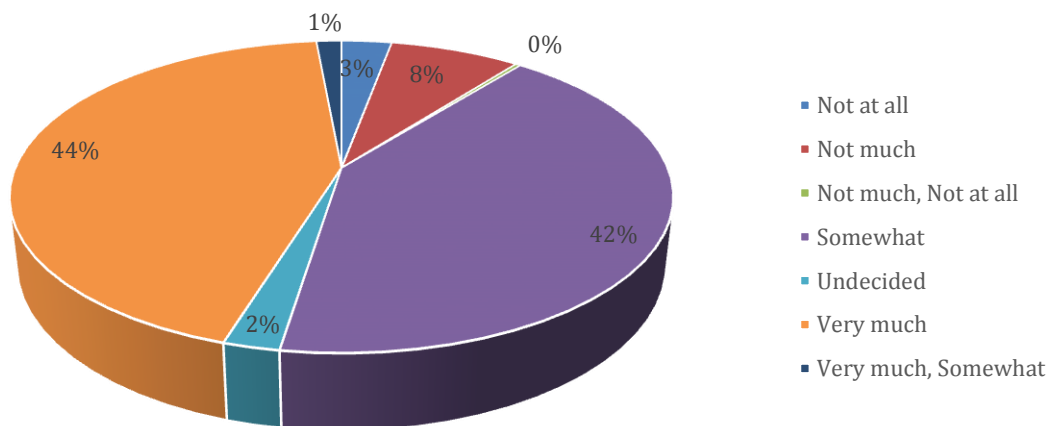
3.6. Which aspects/domains were mostly influenced by this session?



56% of participants indicated knowledge.

3.7. Did the programme fulfil your educational goals and expected learning outcomes?

44% of respondents indicated the programme fulfilled the educational goals very much.

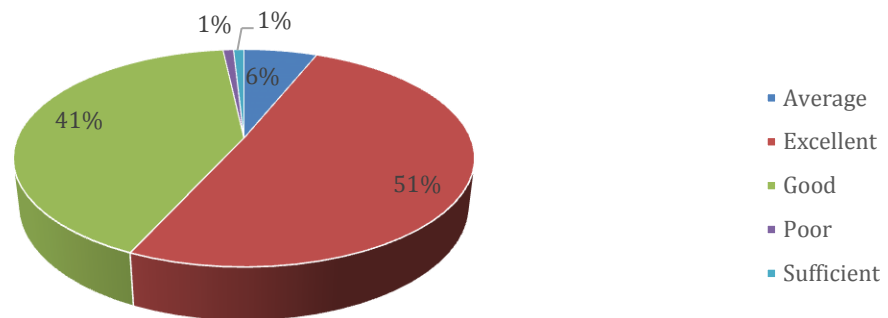


3.8. Was there adequate time available for discussions, questions & answers and learner engagement?

65% respondents think there was adequate time available for discussions, questions & answers and learner engagement?

3.9. Rate the overall quality of the faculty members at this congress

92% respondents rated the faculty members as good/excellent

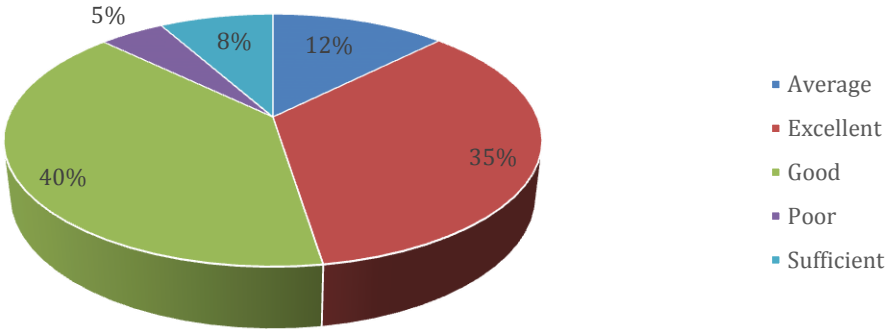


3.10. Comments

Most of the comments indicated there should be more space for questions during the sessions and more possibilities for interactions.

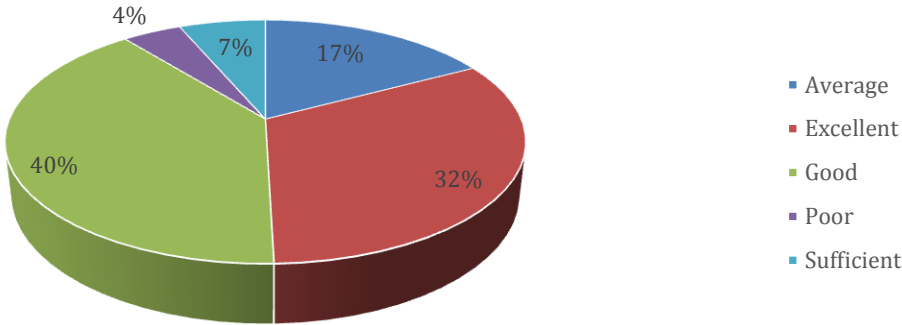
4. Virtual WCPH 2020

4.1. How would you rate the user-friendliness of the congress virtual venue?



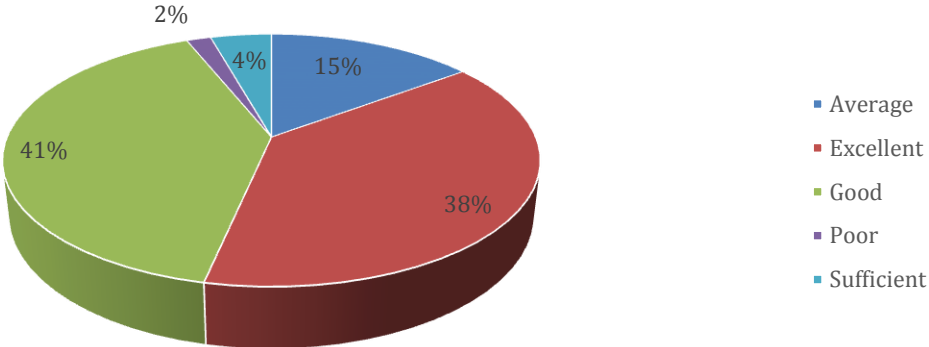
75% of the participants rated the virtual venue as excellent/good

4.2. How would you rate the assistance received from the Help Desk during the event?



52% of the respondents rated the assistance received from the Help Desk during the event as excellent/good.

4.3. How would you rate the assistance received during the registration process?



79% of the respondents rated the assistance received during the registration process as excellent/good

4.4. Comments

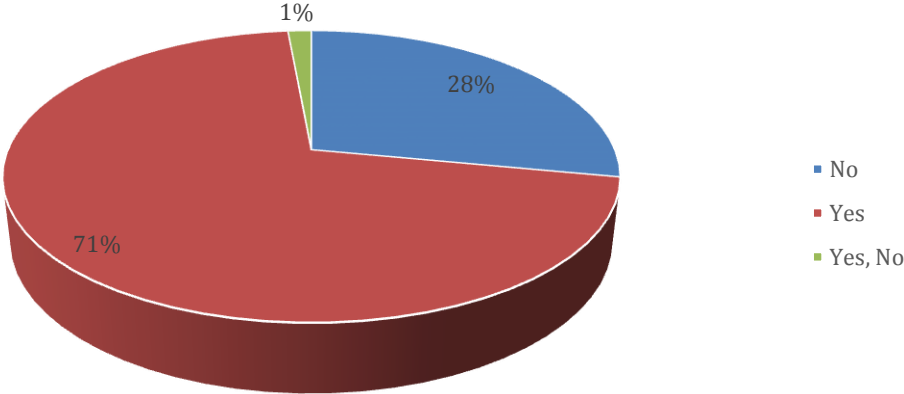
Some technical issues were mentioned. The competence, friendliness and in-time help was appreciated.

There were also comments indicating that Help Desk should be more proactive and the standard answers did not help.

5. Exhibition area

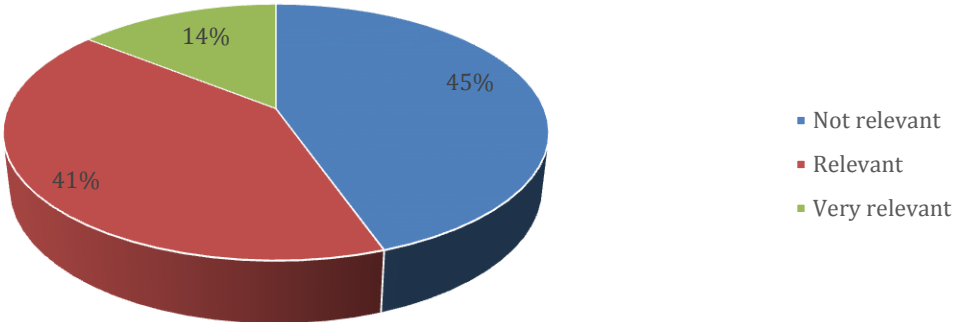
5.1. Did you visit the virtual exhibition area?

71% of the respondents confirmed they visited the exhibition area.



5.2. How relevant was the exhibition for your work?

The exhibition stands were seen as very relevant/relevant by 55% respondents.



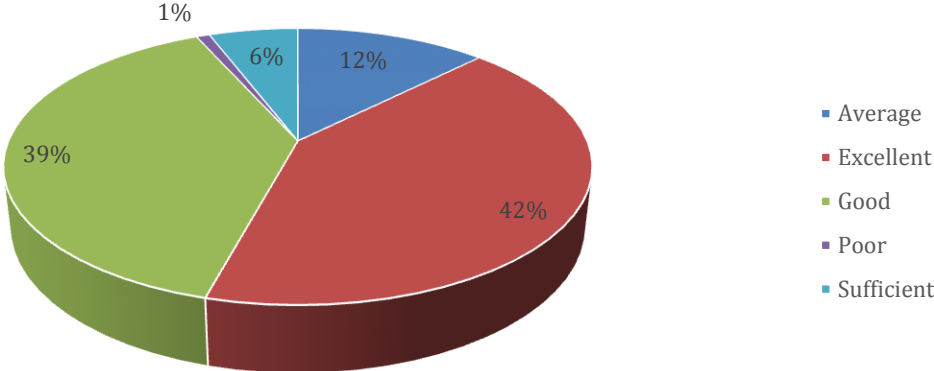
5.3. Comments

The overall comment was positive.

6. WCPH 2020 website and information

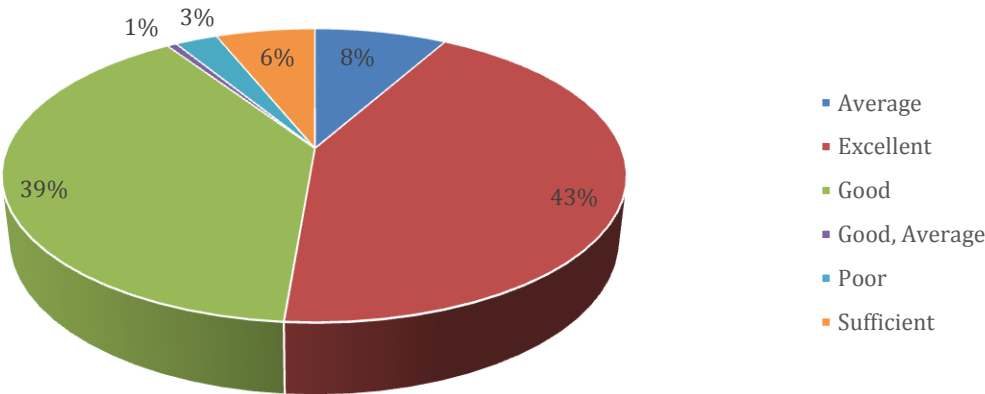
6.1. How would you rate the WCPH2020 website?

81% of the respondents rated the conference website as excellent/good.



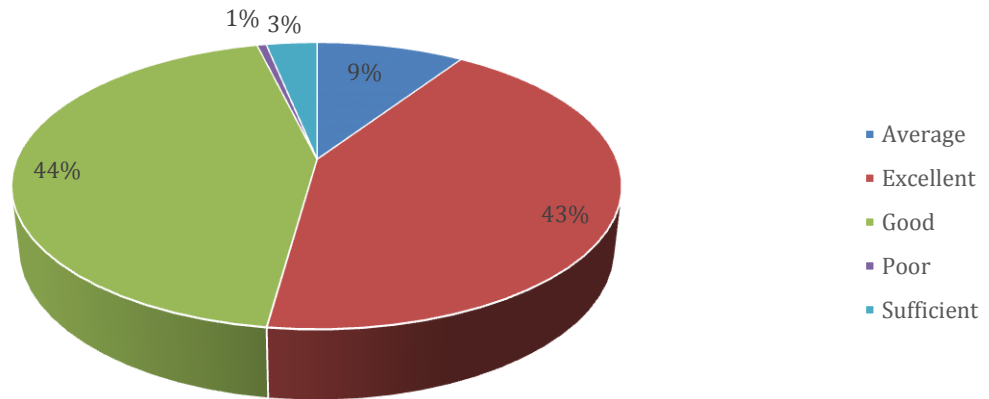
6.2. How would you rate the information you received to move the congress into a virtual one?

82% of the respondents rated the information received to move the congress into a virtual one as excellent/good.



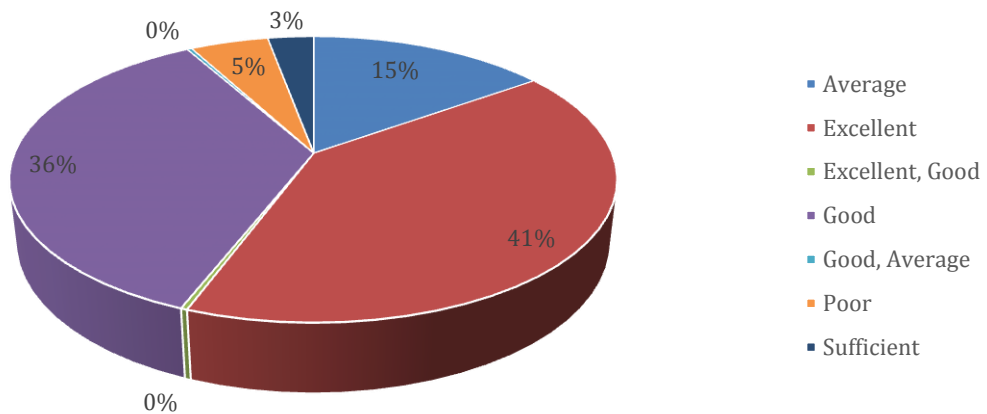
6.3. How would you rate the information you received to submit your abstract?

87% of the respondents rated the information received to submit the abstract as excellent/good.



6.4. How would you rate the information you received to submit your presentation?

77% of respondents rated the information received as excellent and good.



6.5. How did you find us when submitting an abstract or registering?

The majority of participants found out about the WCPH 2020 from the attendance of previous EPH Conferences / WCPH.

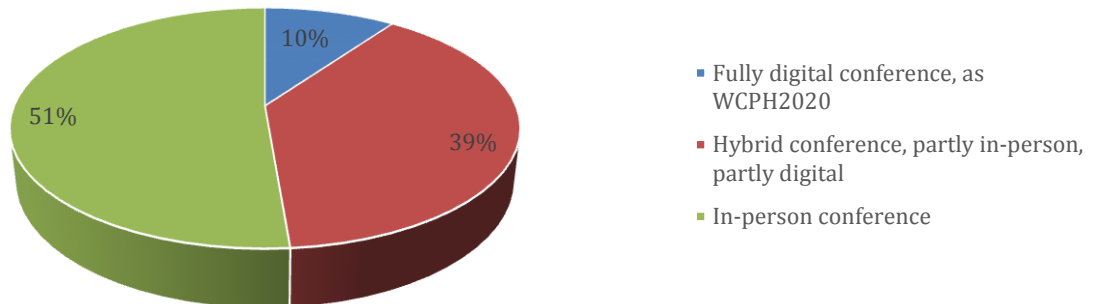
6.6 Comments

Some general positive comments were made.

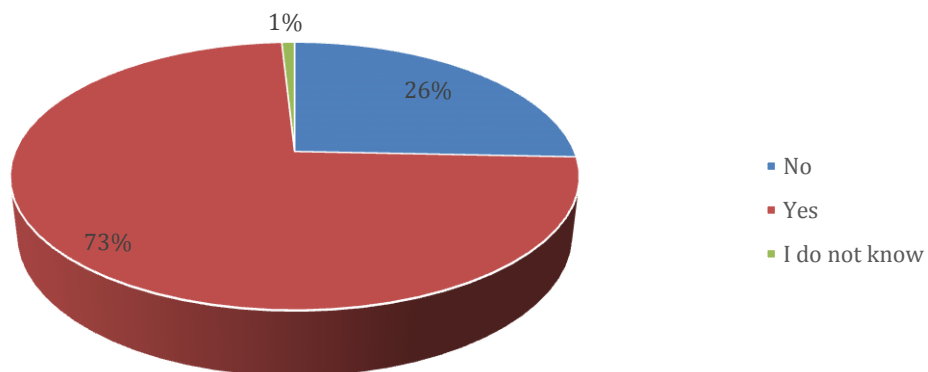
7. Plans for the Future

7.1. What sort of future public health conference would have your preference?

51% of the respondents prefer in-person conferences.

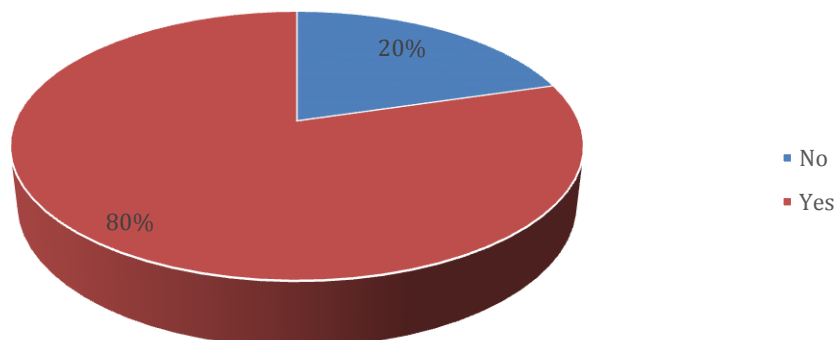


7.2. Do you have plans to attend the EPH Conference in 2021?



73% of the respondents are planning to attend the EPH Conference in Dublin, Ireland.

7.3. Do you have plans to attend the World Congress in 2023?



80% of the respondents are planning to attend the World Congress in 2023.

8.4. Comments

Respondents appreciated the organisation of the virtual congress in the time of the corona pandemic. Most would like to participate in an in-person conference in future and some would consider a virtual one only. A hybrid conference would be an option too.