

Evaluation of the Participants' Survey for the 1st European conference "New Face for Europe. Migrant Elders across Europe – from Challenges to Opportunities" from 30 September to 02 October 2008 in Bonn:

Many thanks to all the conference participants who took the time to complete the survey! Based on your responses, we will be able to ensure that future events are even better suited to the wishes and expectations of those taking part.

In evaluating the results of the AAMEE conference participants' survey, we analysed the basic tendency of responses. Each question could be answered in one of four ways: "positive", "rather positive", "less positive" and "negative". Thus, the "positive" and "rather positive" answers were compiled as **results with a positive tendency**. The "less positive" and "negative" answers were compiled as **results with a negative tendency**. The various individual questions were then summarised under six general topics.

Themenblock 1: Zufriedenheit der Teilnehmer mit den Konferenzinformationen

Thematic block 1: Participant's satisfaction with the conference information

THEMENBLOCK 1 Informationssysteme <i>THEMATIC BLOCK 1 Information systems</i>	Positive Wertung <i>Positive assessment</i>	Eher positive Wertung <i>Rather positive assessment</i>	Eher negative Wertung <i>Less positive assessment</i>	Negative Wertung <i>Negative assessment</i>	Gesamt <i>Total</i>
Anzahl der Antworten <i>Answers in numbers</i>	42	164	19	0	225
Antworten in Prozent <i>Answers in percentage</i>	18,7%	72,9%	8,4%	0,0%	100,0%
Ergebnis <i>Results</i>	91,6%		8,4%		

Of a total of **225** respondents, **91.6%** (= **206** respondents) classified the preliminary information they received about the conference as "very helpful" and/or "somewhat helpful", while evaluating the online registration form as "very user-friendly" and/or "somewhat user-friendly". Only **19** participants responded negatively to the informational methods used ("hardly helpful/user-friendly"). No one felt that they were "not helpful" and/or "not user-friendly".

Themenblock 2: Bewertung der Plenarveranstaltungen

Thematic block 2: Evaluation of the plenary sessions

THEMENBLOCK 2 Plenarveranstaltungen <i>THEMATIC BLOCK 2 Plenum presentations</i>	Positive Wertung <i>Positive assessment</i>	Eher positive Wertung <i>Rather positive assessment</i>	Eher negative Wertung <i>Less positive assessment</i>	Negative Wertung <i>Negative assessment</i>	Gesamt Total
Anzahl der Antworten <i>Answers in numbers</i>	59	88	35	8	190
Antworten in Prozent <i>Answers in percentage</i>	31,0%	46,3%	18,4%	4,2%	100,0%
Ergebnis <i>Results</i>	77,4%		22,6%		

In all, 190 participants gave us their feedback on the plenary conference. Three-fourths of respondents (**147** respondents = **77.4%**) indicated that the plenary events of the conference fulfilled their expectations. Only **18.4%** (**35** respondents) said that their expectations had not been fully met.

Themenblock 3: Bewertung der Foren

Thematic block 3: Rating of the forums

THEMENBLOCK 3 Foren <i>THEMATIC BLOCK 3 Forums</i>	Positive Wertung <i>Positive assessment</i>	Eher positive Wertung <i>Rather positive assessment</i>	Eher negative Wertung <i>Less positive assessment</i>	Negative Wertung <i>Negative assessment</i>	Gesamt Total
Anzahl der Antworten <i>Answers in numbers</i>	81	79	50	13	223
Antworten in Prozent <i>Answers in percentage</i>	36,3%	35,4%	22,4%	5,8%	100,0%
Ergebnis <i>Results</i>	71,8%		28,3%		

The responses given with regard to the conference forums reveal that almost three-fourths of participants (**71.8%** = **160** respondents) were satisfied with the forums. Only **28.3%** felt that the forums had not fully met their expectations.

Themenblock 4: Bewertung der kulturellen Abendveranstaltungen

Thematic block 4: Assessment of the cultural evening programme

THEMENBLOCK 4 Abendveranstaltungen <i>THEMATIC BLOCK 4 Cultural evening pro- gramme</i>	Positive Wer- tung <i>Positive as- sessment</i>	Eher positive Wertung <i>Rather posi- tive assess- ment</i>	Eher negative Wertung <i>Less positive assessment</i>	Negative Wertung <i>Negative assessment</i>	Gesamt <i>Total</i>
Anzahl der Antworten <i>Answers in numbers</i>	46	18	7	4	75
Antworten in Prozent <i>Answers in percentage</i>	61,3%	24,0%	9,3%	5,3%	100,0%
Ergebnis <i>Results</i>	85,3%		14,7%		

According to the survey, **85.3%** (= 64 respondents) of respondents were very much satisfied with the cultural programme on offer during the evenings of the conference. Only **14.7%** of those surveyed were not fully satisfied with the cultural programme.

Themenblock 5: Bewertung der Rahmenbedingungen der Konferenz (Konferenz- zentrum, Catering, Dolmetschung, etc.)

Thematic block 5: Assessment of the conference facilities and services (confer- ence centre, catering, interpreters, etc.)

THEMENBLOCK 5 Rahmenbedingungen <i>THEMATIC BLOCK 5 Conference facilities & services</i>	Positive Wer- tung <i>Positive as- sessment</i>	Eher positive Wertung <i>Rather posi- tive assess- ment</i>	Eher negative Wertung <i>Less positive assessment</i>	Negative Wertung <i>Negative assessment</i>	Gesamt <i>Total</i>
Anzahl der Antworten <i>Answers in numbers</i>	265	123	51	22	461
Antworten in Prozent <i>Answers in percentage</i>	57,5%	26,7%	11,1%	4,8%	100,0%
Ergebnis <i>Results</i>	84,2%		15,8%		

The framework conditions of the conference were evaluated as favourable by an overwhelming **84.2 %** of participants (= 388 respondents). The choice of the World Conference Centre as the event venue garnered particularly high approval.

Themenblock 6: Allgemeine Konferenzbewertung (Gesamteindruck)

Thematic block 6: Overall assessment of the conference

THEMENBLOCK 6 Konferenz - Gesamteindruck THEMATIC BLOCK 6 Overall conference assessment	Positive Wertung Positive assessment	Eher positive Wertung Rather positive assessment	Eher negative Wertung Less positive assessment	Negative Wertung Negative assessment	Gesamt Total
Anzahl der Antworten Answers in numbers	65	49	25	3	142
Antworten in Prozent Answers in percentage	45,8%	34,5%	17,6%	2,11%	100,0%
Ergebnis Results	80,3%		19,7%		

In our capacity as the organisers of the AAMEE conference, we are of course gratified to learn that **80.3%** of the participants surveyed felt the conference had met their expectations and looked forward to taking part in a follow-on conference.

All in all, we can say that the conference met with an overwhelmingly positive response. Our special thanks go to our lecturers. Their expertise and enthusiasm were key to ensuring that the conference would break new ground to the issue of "Migrant Elders across Europe".

The questionnaire also gave respondents the option to include criticism and/or suggestions of their own. Here is some of the individual feedback we received:

The forums: In the context of conferences and conventions, forums and workshops are intended to allow participants to focus on specialised topics in more intimate groups. We therefore agree with the opinion expressed by some participants that it is important and desirable to set aside sufficient time for discussion. Fortunately, many of the forums found the right balance between lectures and discussions.

Lists of participants: We received a number of requests for a complete list of participants along with their contact data. Unfortunately, data-privacy law prevents us from publishing the full addresses of participants. However, we will certainly continue to foster a lively exchange among the conference participants in the context of AAMEE project, in particular through the AAMEE good-practice network for volunteer organisations and the AAMEE research network.

Hotels: The vast majority of respondents felt that the quality of their hotel accommodations was good. Nevertheless, a few complained that their hotel was too far from the conference venue and the centre of town. Then again, others were particularly pleased to meet and discuss in the evenings at the hotel. As it happens, the city of Bonn is a popular international conference location and demand for hotel space is strong. We therefore hope you will understand that it was not possible to provide all participants with lodgings in the direct vicinity of the conference venue.

General information: A number of participants pointed out that they would have liked more information on certain topics, e.g. travel directions to the conference location or background about the city of Bonn and the World Conference Centre as the former parliament building. We will be sure to take this into account for future events.