



**Ecsite Annual Conference 2013  
Evaluation and Recommendations**

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## 1. Introduction

### The Ecsite Annual Conference 2013

Dear Ecsite Annual Conference participants,

The Ecsite Annual Conference 2013 was held from **6 to 8 June in Gothenburg, Sweden**. The conference, hosted by **Universeum** had "**Dreams – the spirit of innovation**" as the theme. It consisted of two days of pre-conference meetings and training courses followed by three days of main conference with **78 sessions**. The 78 programme sessions were **selected from amongst 225 proposals** that Ecsite received by October 2012. A new session format, the ongoing "Maker Space" was successfully introduced, 58% of the people who gave feedback, have visited it. **1058 delegates from 47 countries in Europe and worldwide** participated in the Ecsite AC2013.

Ecsite and the ACPC would like to thank all of you for your contribution to the success of this event. We are particularly grateful to the ones who took some time to give us their valuable feedback and recommendations for improvement of future conferences. This document gives an overview of the Ecsite Annual Conference 2013 as seen by its delegates.

It is a summary report drawn from the 225 conference feedback forms gathered from the delegates after the conference via an online form that was posted on the Ecsite conference website, as well as from the individual comments and from the session feedback forms gathered after every session. Due to the open questions individuals' comments are included in this report. From your feedback the following key points should be improved:

- Assure quality of sessions, speakers and their coherent announcement
- Reduce panels, offer more new and interactive formats
- Allow more new speakers, less of the "usual suspects"
- Go digital with the programme
- Implement more "guided" networking opportunities/tools

These results are analyzed and used by the Annual Conference Programme Committee (ACPC) and the Ecsite Executive office while speakers and convenors have received individual emails regarding their sessions. Both results (from session feedback forms and conference feedback forms) are important and are taken into consideration when the next Annual Conference is organized and the sessions are being selected.

The ACPC, the Executive Office, the Ecsite Board and the next host will carefully look at your comments to improve the most significant annual gathering of the network.

Thanks again for your contribution,

The Ecsite Annual Conference Programme Committee (ACPC)

## 2. Results

Out of the 1058 participants of the conference, 225 forms were gathered (21% of the participants, 3% less than in 2012). Results were received from an anonymous questionnaire that was put online and sent to all participants once the AC2013 ended.

### 2.1. Characterize the conference with three words

People gave 612 words for characterizing the conference. 97 % of the words given were positive and 3% were negative (exactly the same result as in 2012). The number in front of each word corresponds to the number of people who selected this word as one of their keywords.

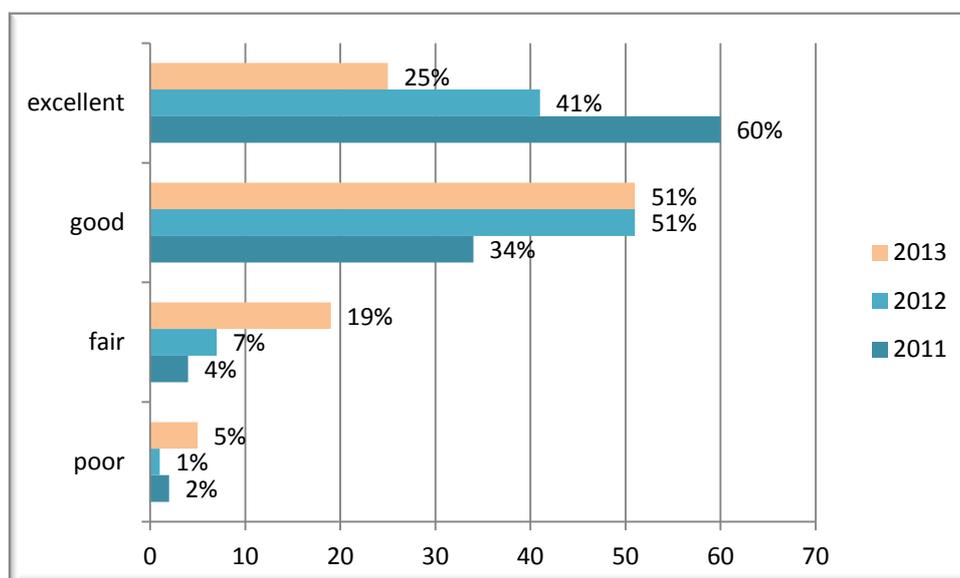
Here are the most popular words used:

**63 networking , 44 fun, 29 interesting/informative, 44 inspiring, 17 well organized, 13 friendly, 12 innovation, 7 dynamic, 7 professional, 6 relaxed, 5 diverse**

#### 2.2.1 The Opening Event

The Opening ceremony took place in the plenary room of Svenska Mässan, the Swedish Congress Centre. The ceremony was chaired by Mrs. Carina Halvord, CEO of Universeum and consisted of four parts. The welcoming speech of the host and the Chief Scientific Advisor of the European Commission, Prof. Anne Glover – the welcoming speeches of the Ecsite representatives, Mr. Robert Firmhofer and Ms Catherine Franche. In addition, a teenager - Mathilda Larsson - spoke about the impact of Science Centers on her personally. A dance company opened the event with a show that included the dreams of Gothenburg's inhabitants.

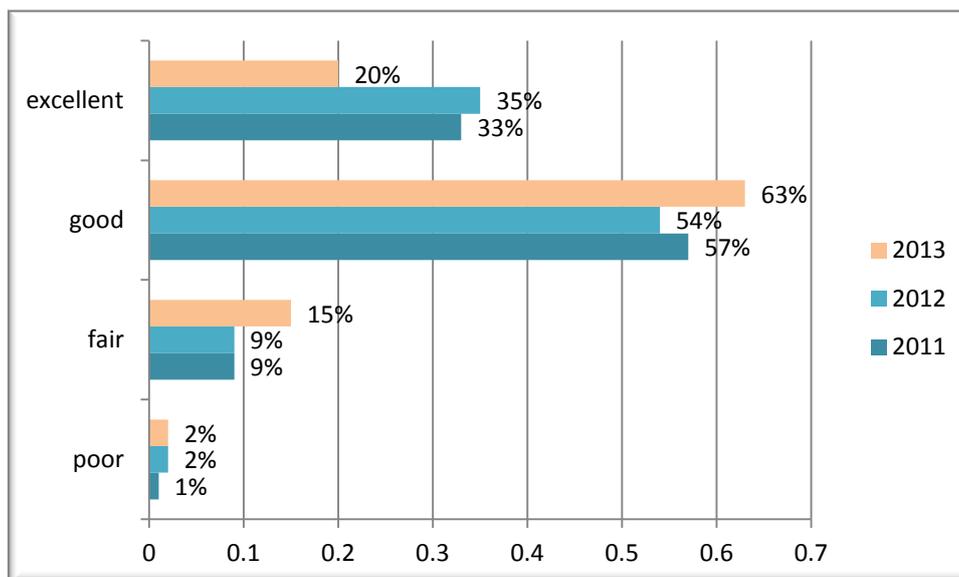
#### Opening Event



### 2.2.2 The Closing Event

The closing event was attended by approximately 500 participants. 141 people answered this question. It consisted of short speeches from Carina Halvord, CEO of the host institution for the Ecsite AC2013 and Ecsite President, Robert Firmhofer. Robert introduced the newly elected Ecsite President, Rosalia Vargas, president of Ciência Viva, Lisbon. Camille Pisani, Chairperson of the Annual Conference Programme Committee for 2013 also thanked the participants in her speech. Last but not least, following to the speech of Maarten Okkersen, Head of Communications and Productions at Museon in The Hague (Host of the AC2014) the team of Museon presented a movie taking the audience into today's world realities – referring to next year's theme: People Planet Peace.

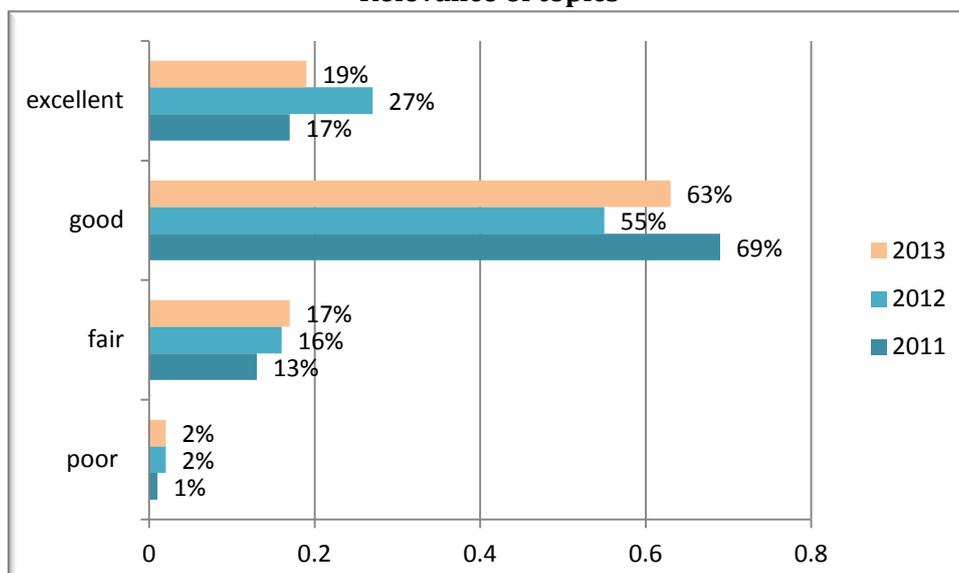
#### Closing Session



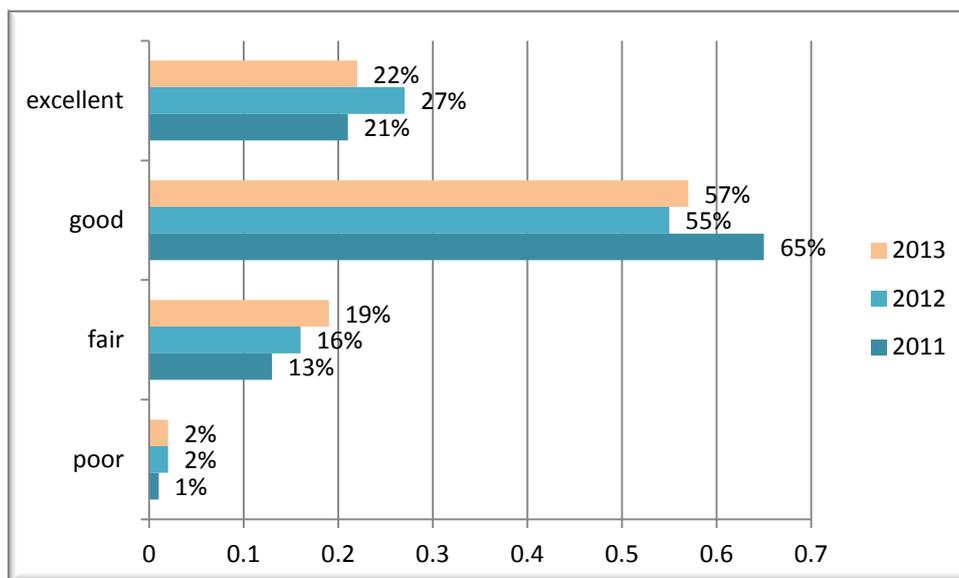
### 2.2.3 Overall quality of sessions

The delegates were asked to rate the sessions on the following aspects: relevance of topics, diversity of topics and quality of the keynote speakers. Here are their views:

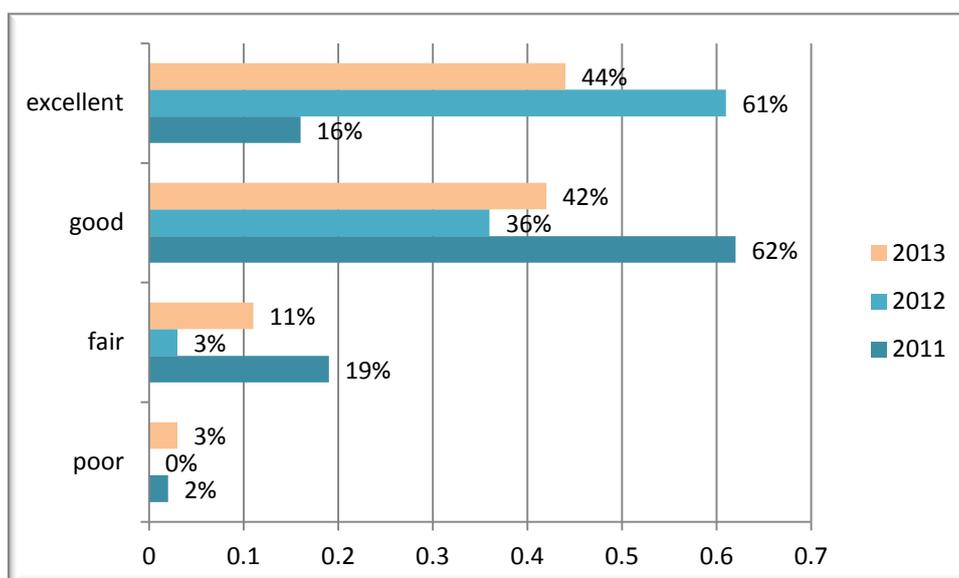
#### Relevance of topics



### Variety of topics



### Quality of keynote speeches

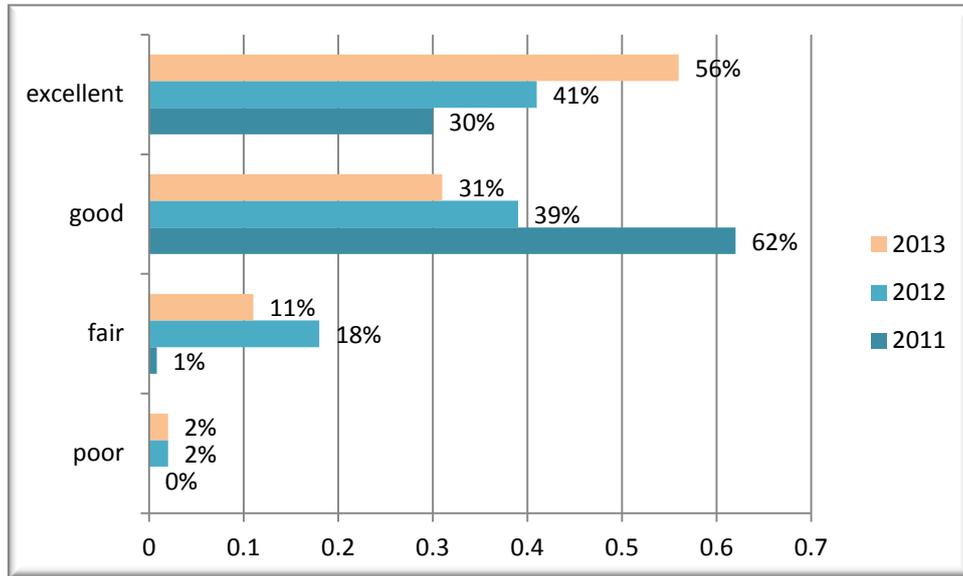


All three results were very well rated – just a little bit less well than the outstanding rates of last year.

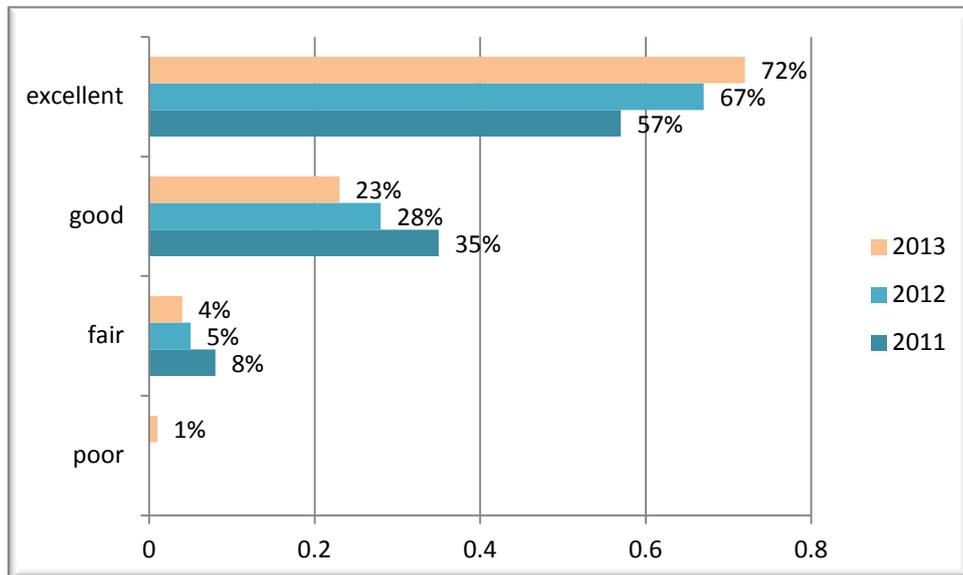
### 2.3 Social programme

The 225 participants of our online feedback questionnaire also shared their opinion with us about the social events and the Business Bistro.

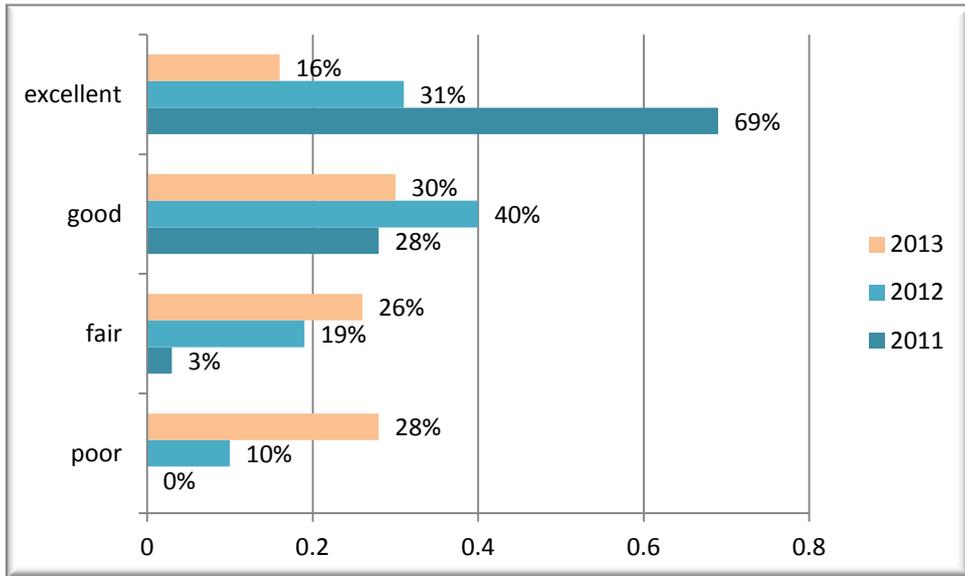
#### Gala Dinner



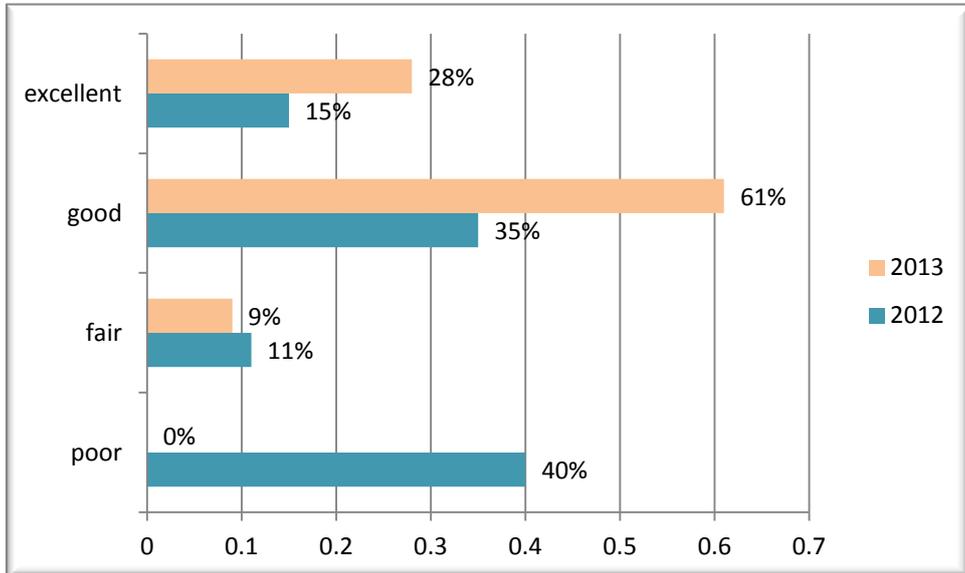
#### Nocturne



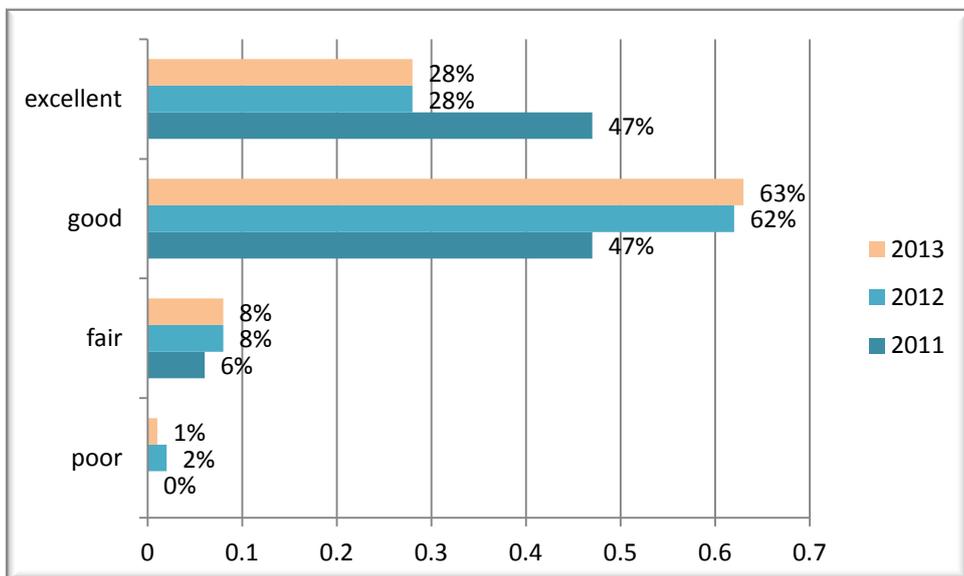
### Farewell Party



### Newcomers breakfast

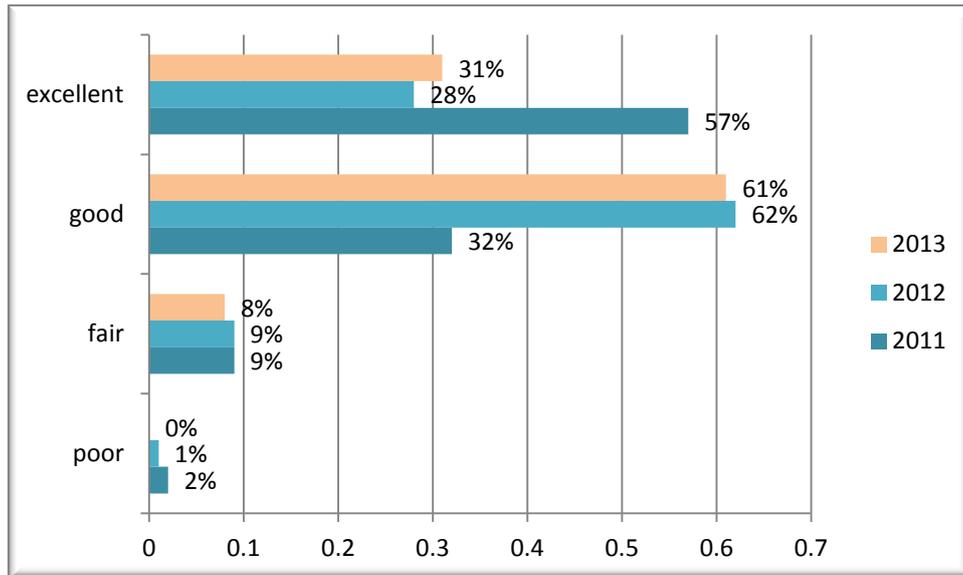


### Business Bistro

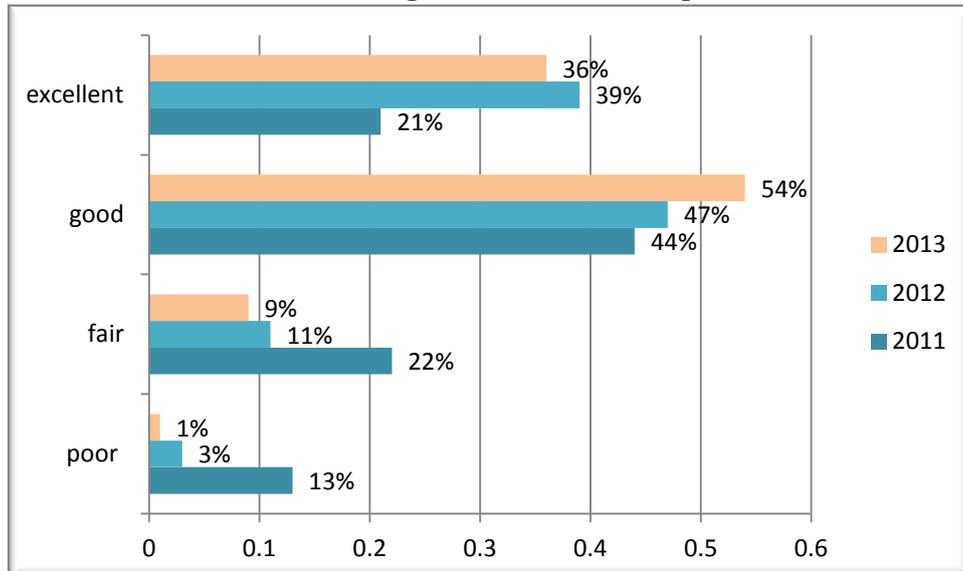


## 2.4 Organisation

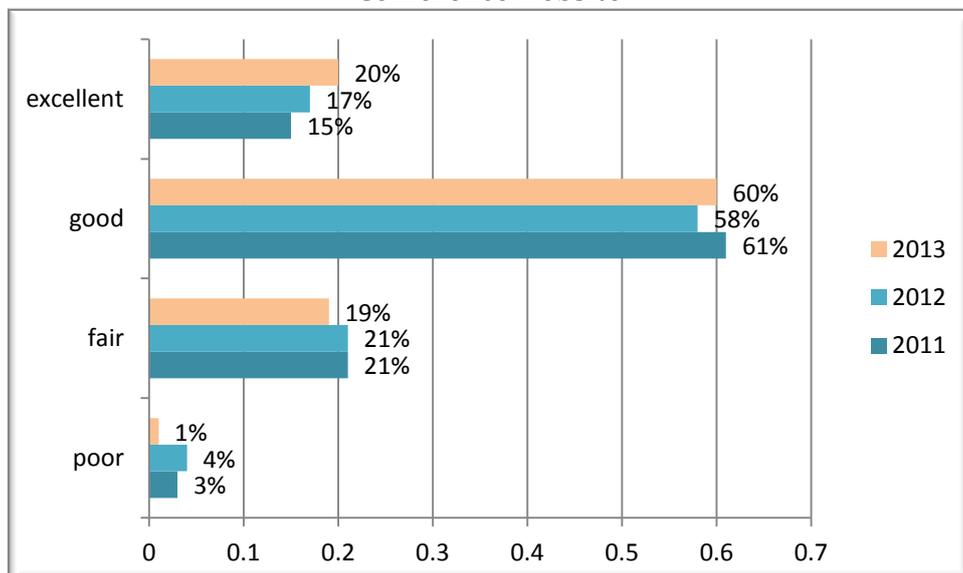
### Conference announcements



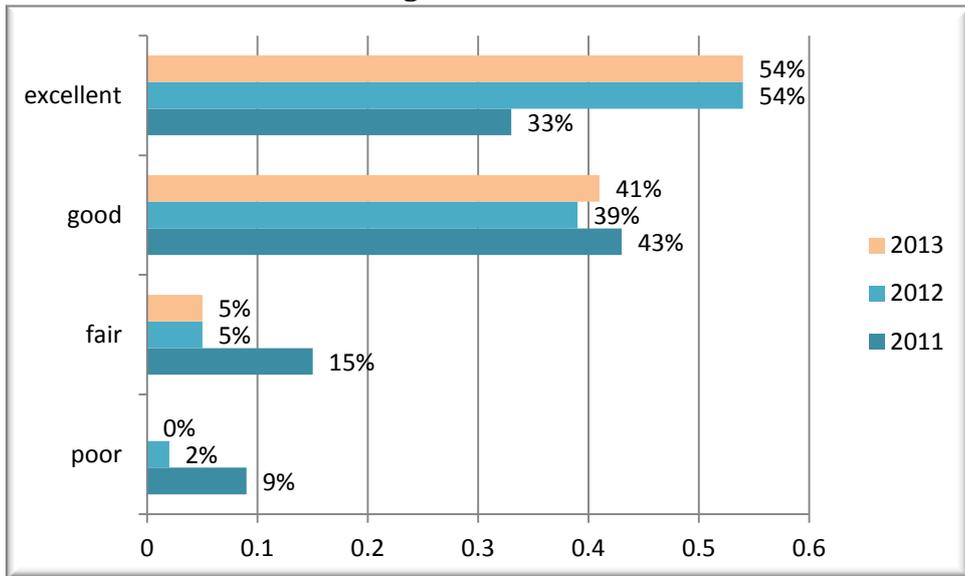
### Online registration & follow up



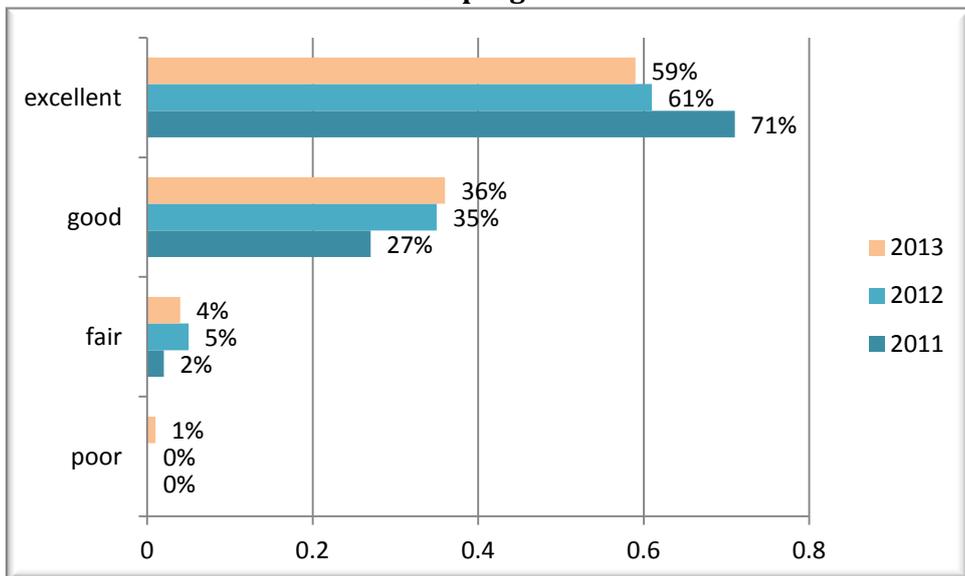
### Conference website



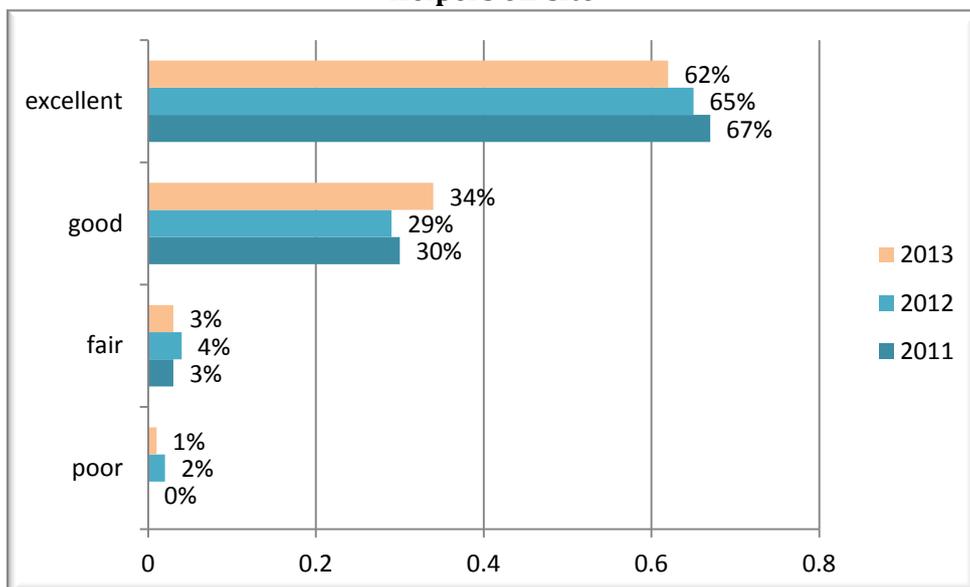
### Registration desk



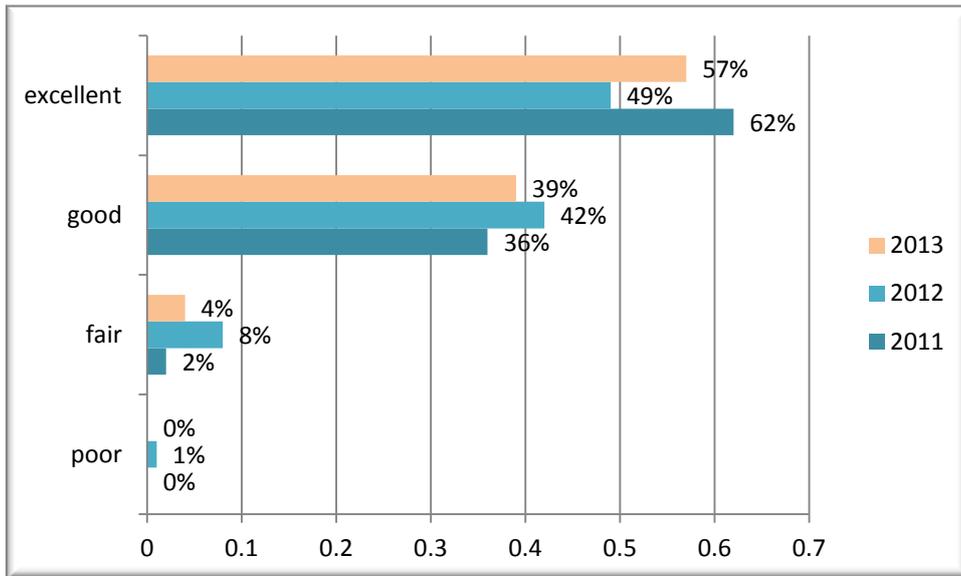
### Printed programme



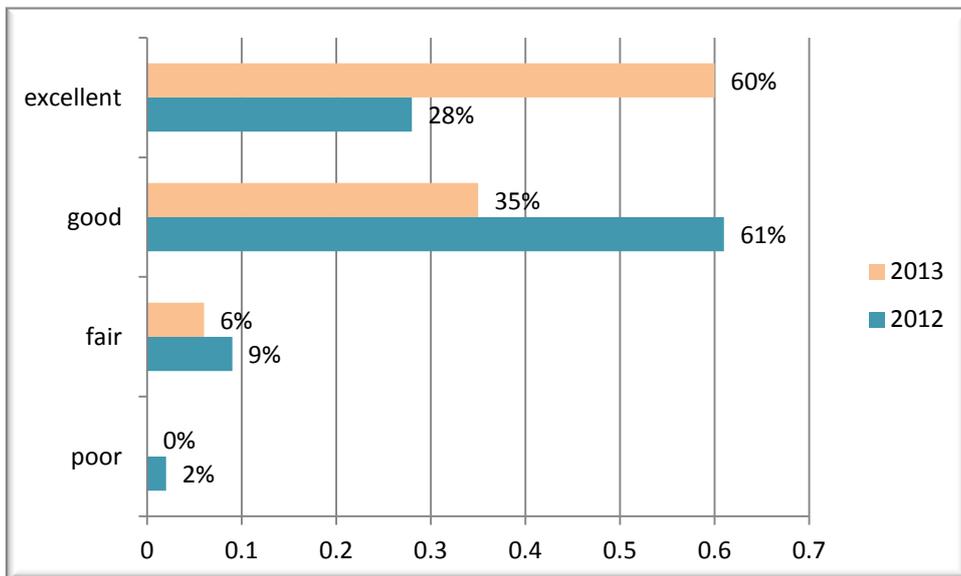
### Helpers on-site



### Facilities of the conference venue



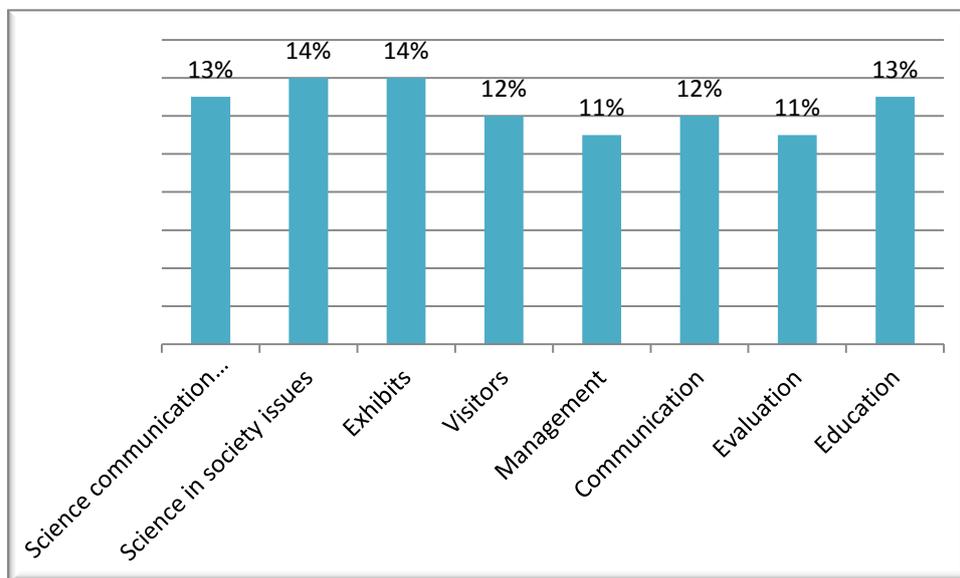
### Lunches



## 2.5 Participants' recommendations for next year's conference

### 2.5.1 Proposed topics for next year's conference

What topics would you like to have covered more?  
(Participants could select 8 topics and selected 3.2 on average)



### 2.5.2 Recommendations for different aspects of the conference

The delegates were able to answer an open question about their remarks on the sessions and speakers. 78 people posted a comment – the following comments were mentioned more than twice:

#### Sessions

- ⇒ The convenors must better assure that there is a correlation between each speaker, that they are well briefed on what exactly to talk about
- ⇒ The questions raised in the abstract should be answered in the session as good as possible.
- ⇒ More interactive sessions should be held
- ⇒ Demand for fewer “show and tell” Power Point presentations in favour of more hands-on
- ⇒ More general management themes
- ⇒ There could be more than 2 keynote speakers, also "junior keynotes" for a session

#### Speakers

- ⇒ Should upload their presentation and be better prepared (not just reading their slides)
- ⇒ English natives should speak slower
- ⇒ Speakers should use microphones
- ⇒ Speakers should be of both genders in one session
- ⇒ Speakers should not be featured in too many sessions

## **Organization**

- ⇒ More active and guided networking sessions are required
- ⇒ the farewell party was perceived to expensive for what was offered.some participants also thought it ended too early
- ⇒ Start the keynote later in the morning (participants are tired after the evening programme of the preceding day)
- ⇒ Should fewer sessions be allowed? Programme is very complex and tiring
- ⇒ The programme is very heavy to be carried around, a mobile programme is required by some
- ⇒ Some participants thought that the signalisation was not well
- ⇒ The names printed on the badges were too small

## **Other Inputs**

- ⇒ Provide an App to exchange electronic business cards
- ⇒ It should be possible to download presentations via WiFi in the session rooms
- ⇒ The Maker Space should be done again
- ⇒ There should always water be provided as it was this year
  - ⇒ Some people with allergies were thanking for the excellent alternatives they were provided
- ⇒ There should be more new formats, events or other news introduced, some people feel the conference is the same each year, not innovative enough