



06-11 MAY 2018
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Evaluation of the FIG Congress 2018 in Istanbul, Turkey

A majority of the participants were generally satisfied with the FIG Congress in Istanbul, Turkey. 82 percent of the respondents of the post-conference survey indicated that they were overall satisfied. However, the survey also showed some areas of possible improvement. The feedback is highly appreciated and will enable FIG to better plan and execute future conferences. Please find here a summary of the findings.

INTRODUCTION

A month after the FIG Congress 2018 in Istanbul, Turkey a post-conference survey was sent to the attendees. The objective of the post-conference survey was to determine whether the attendees valued the Congress; whether it was worth their investment of time and resources; and whether they would participate in a FIG Conference again. Further, the survey will enable the organizers to better plan the forthcoming FIG Conferences so the efforts put into the planning meet expectations for attendees, speakers, exhibitors, and sponsors.

This evaluation is based on completed questionnaires from almost 25 percent of the participants. The fact that the survey was not sent until a month after the congress might have affected the numbers of responses negatively. Despite the relatively low response rate, this evaluation nonetheless gives an indication of the general impression and experience with the Congress.

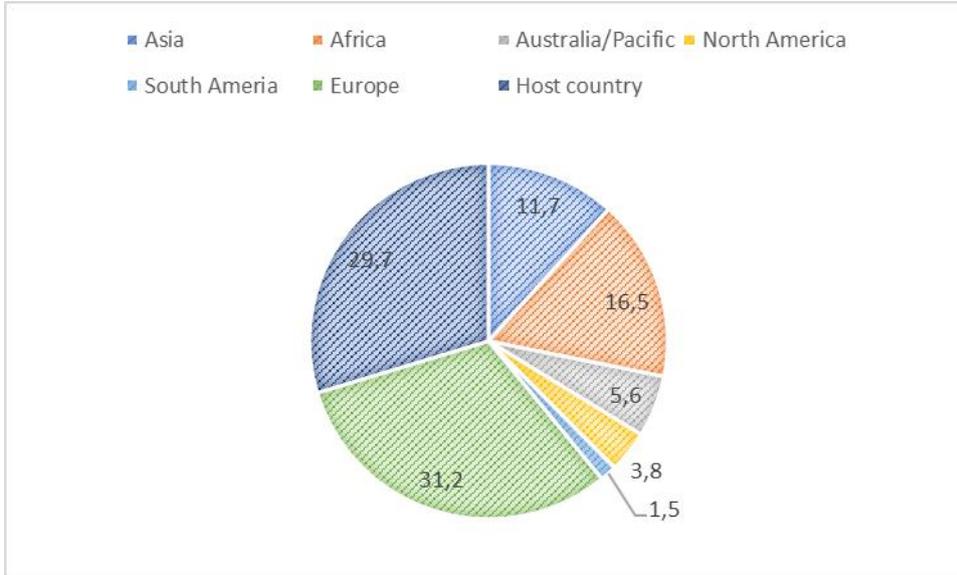
30 percent of the respondents come from Turkey, 30 percent from Europe, 17 percent from Africa and 12 percent from Asia. The percentage of Turkish responses to the survey is less than the overall percentage of Turkish participants, due to missing email addresses and language challenges. The percentage of the rest of the globe correlates with the overall characteristic of the attendees at the Congress. It is interesting to note that the respondents are equally divided between academic, public and private sector. This matches the overall number of participants.

Although it would have been nice with a 100% response rate, 25% still gives a fairly good indication of the impression of the Congress.

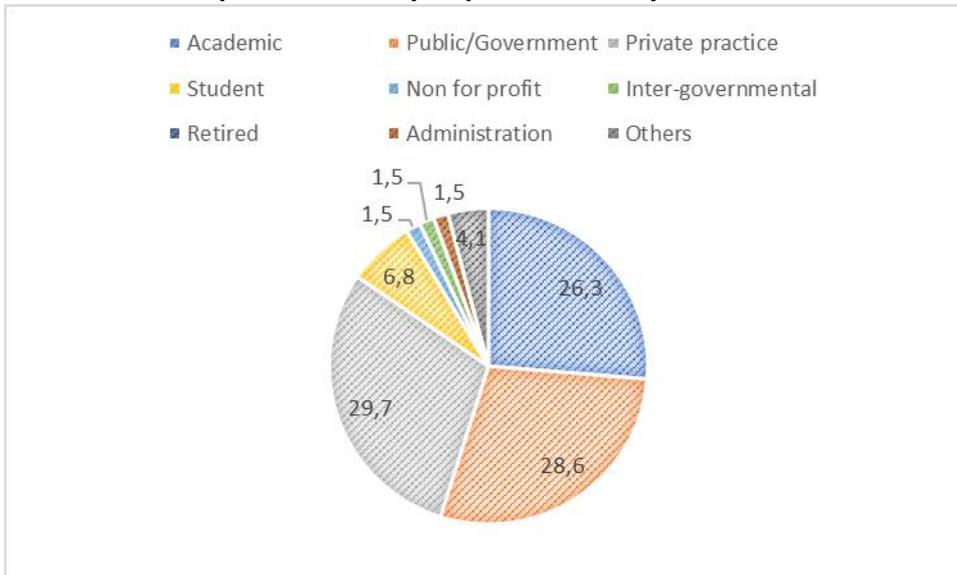
The background information of interest in the survey is as follows:



Where do you live?

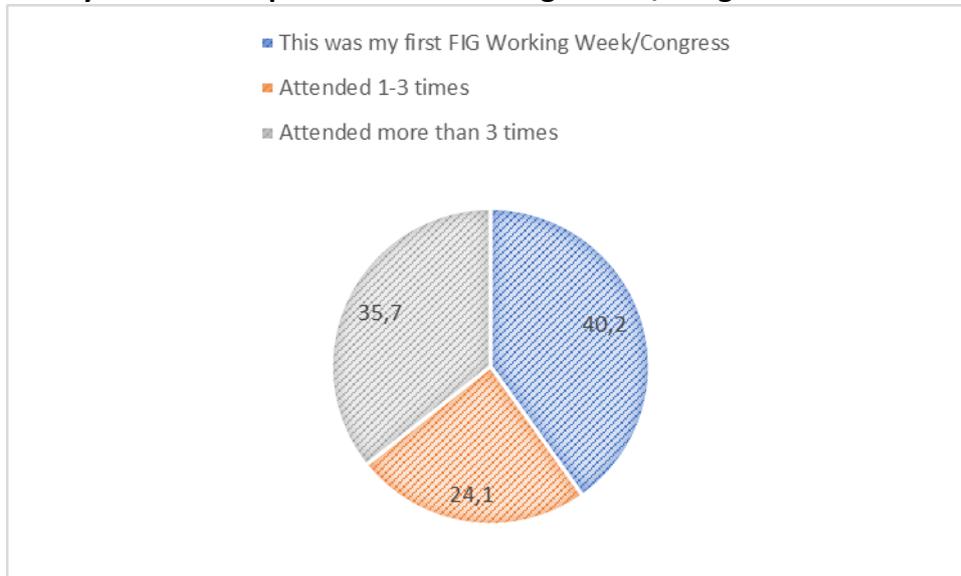


In which area of profession do you predominantly work?





Have you attended previous FIG Working Weeks/Congresses?



GENERAL IMPRESSION

When looking at the overall evaluation from the participants, 2018 FIG Congress was a success:

82 percent answered that the conference meet their objectives (absolutely and yes – but not to my full extent)

95,5 percent answered that they would recommend the conference to others

54,9 percent indicated that they got “value for money” (very satisfied and satisfied)

75,2 percent answered that they gained useful knowledge from technical programme (strongly agree and agree)

“The congress was well organized. Absolutely awesome.”

“Participation is very important for a student who wants to be a professional business person.I have met many company owners and employees, many academicians, many graduate students and we contacted them. These steps are very valuable for me.I learned new research subjects, learned what business people working in other countries are doing.I learned how an organization is progressing.Thank you everything. i came alone , a lot companies supported me for that. Hopefully see you again ..”

“This was my first experience of international congress. I learned a lot of things cos of useful presentations. i realised something about my english. i didn't understand some presentations, cos my english not very well so i m still studying english for next international events :) I think very useful FIG Congress and would like to see and attend much more events like this”



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"I have attended world urban forum and FIG Congress. I think this FIG Congress has surpasses or matched the very high standards set by global conferences of this year. Probably we could have invited premier of the country."

"It was great information conference . Great exposure to the latest technologies available in the market for GIS Remote Sending and surveying."

"It was well organised. The technical programs were very good"

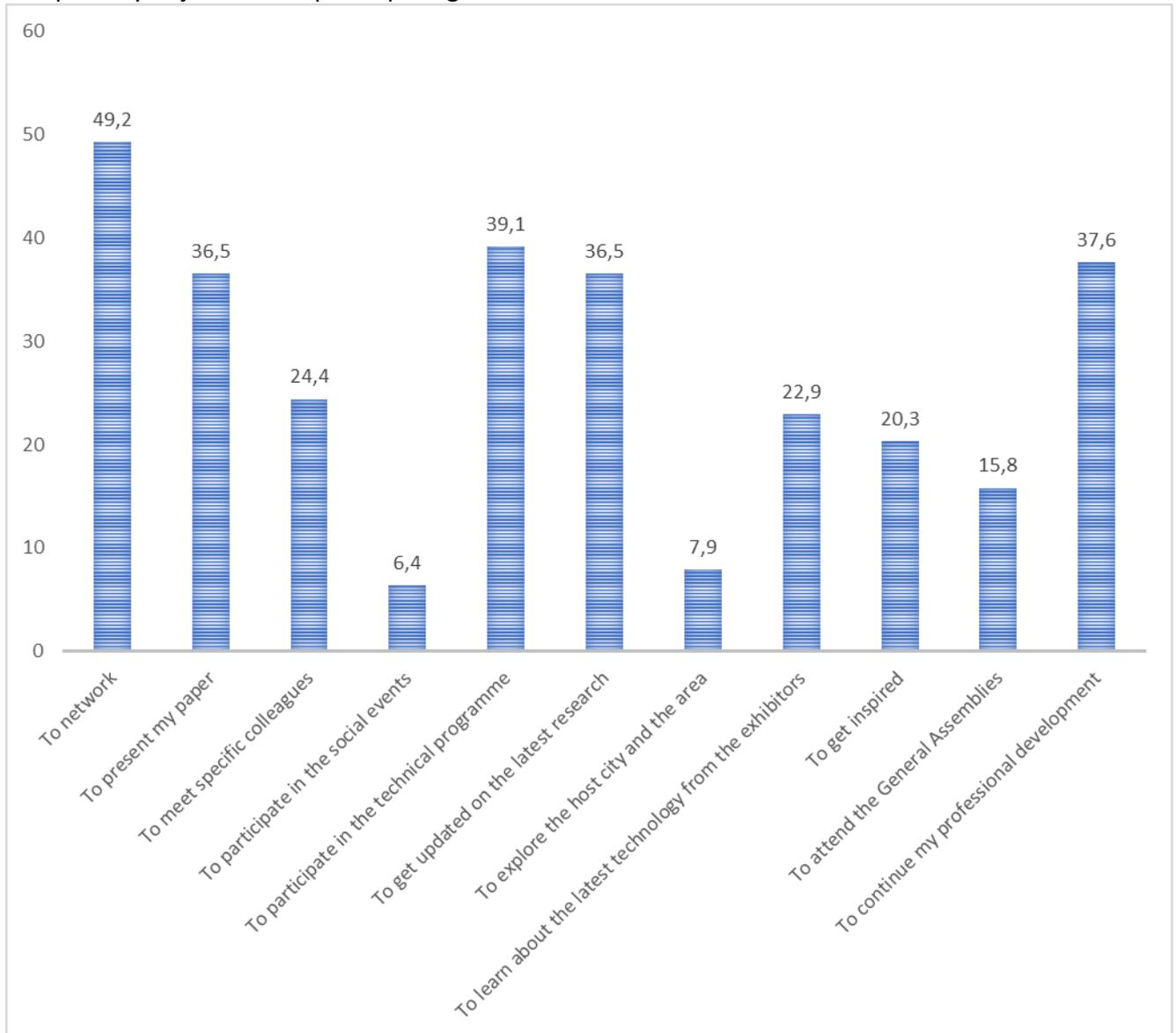


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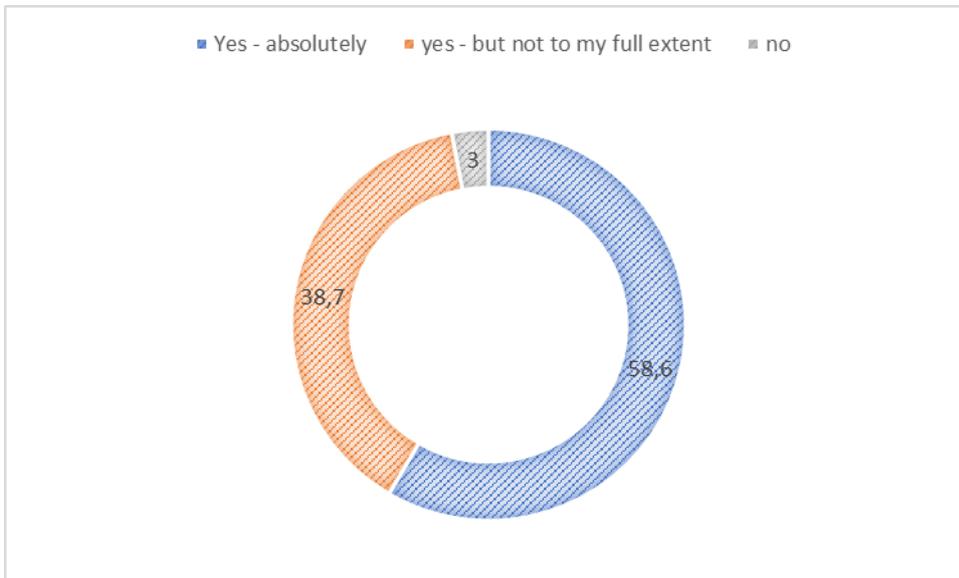


OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives for participating were:



58,6 percent indicated that the congress meet their objectives and 38,7 percent indicated that the that the congress met their objectives to some extent.



The primary objectives for participating is two-folded; networking with fellow peers and the technical part.

“It was well participated. Knowledge was rich. Networks were strengthened. I would love to see however, at least a representation from each country.”

“Very nice experience! I especially liked the networking events where it was possible meet colleagues from the rest of the world.”

“Many countries are involved and we can establish relationships based on the profession. We can learn about new technologies. We can discuss solutions to various technical issues.”

“Well organised and great networking with like minded people”

THE TECHNICAL PROGRAMME

Overall, the technical programme was rated satisfying. Many emphasized that the conference was inspiring and that the different sessions, workshop and forums were fruitful and encouraged to discussions.

The programme consisted of:

- 12 keynotes
- 66 Technical sessions
- 15 FIG Sessions
- 15 Partner Sessions
- An opening and a closing ceremony
- 6 Technical tours



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- An extensive social programme with a welcome reception, Turkish Evening/ FIG Foundation Dinner, a gala dinner, a charity dance, and guided tours in Istanbul and its environs.

75,6 percent was satisfied or very satisfied with the technical programme, while 7,5 percent disagree. 14,7 were neutral.

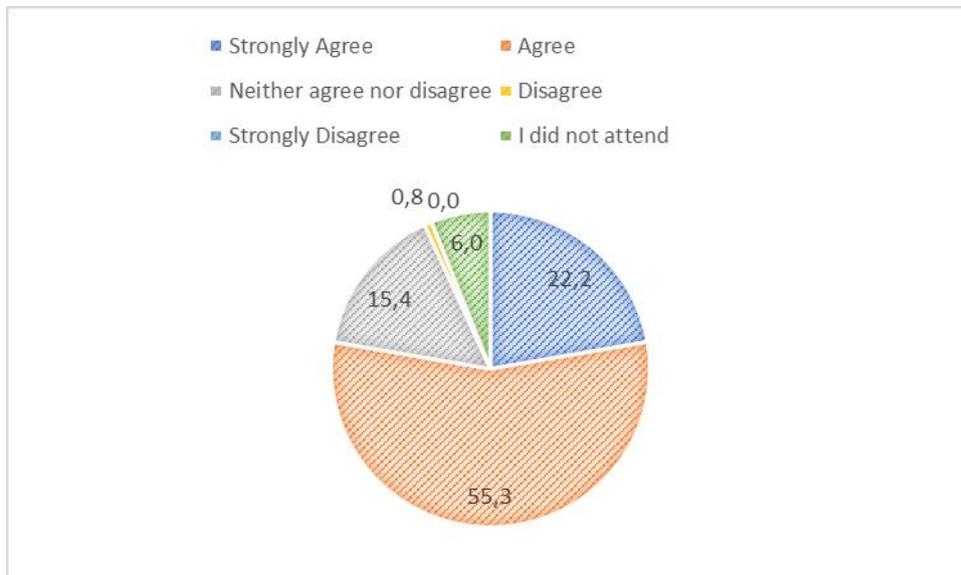
PLENARY SESSIONS

During the Congress one plenary session was organised each morning. The plenary sessions focused on aspects of the theme of "Embracing our smart world where the continents connect: enhancing the geospatial maturity of societies." in a variety of international contexts.

The plenary sessions were rated according to quality and relevance. There was general satisfaction with the plenary sessions, 77 percent of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the plenary sessions were useful and of high quality.

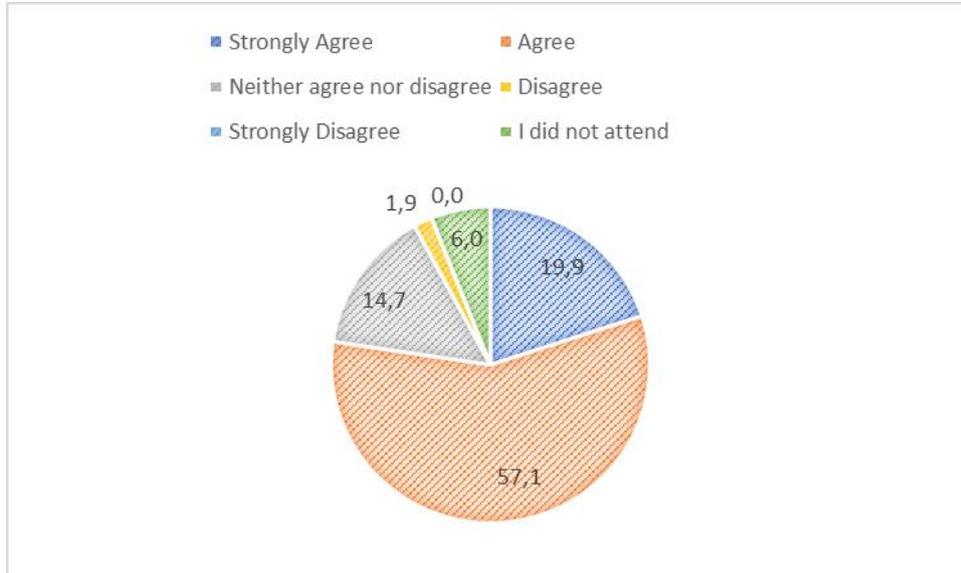
How will you rate the following aspects of the technical programme?

The plenary sessions were of high quality (%)





The plenary sessions were useful (%)



The plenary sessions are a crucial part of the conference, as they are to set the overall standard and tone and summarize the core message / revelation of the conference. Each year the FIG council, FIG office and the local organisers discuss how the overall theme can be covered from different angles (including all ten FIG commissions) and who would be suitable and notable persons, who can make an inspirational, dynamic, informative and memorable plenary speak. In the post survey, some of the respondents commented that not all the plenaries were interesting/relevant and that the presentation skills of some of the speakers lacking.

“Protocol probably dictates that we include politicians in the keynote addresses, but their contribution to the inspiration factor is minimal. Has any thought been given to remotely linking to keynote speakers, who would then not need to travel several days to get to distant venues, but can link in and contribute from the other side of the world. Also, TED talk kind of presentations?”

“The key note speakers should have spoken in English.”

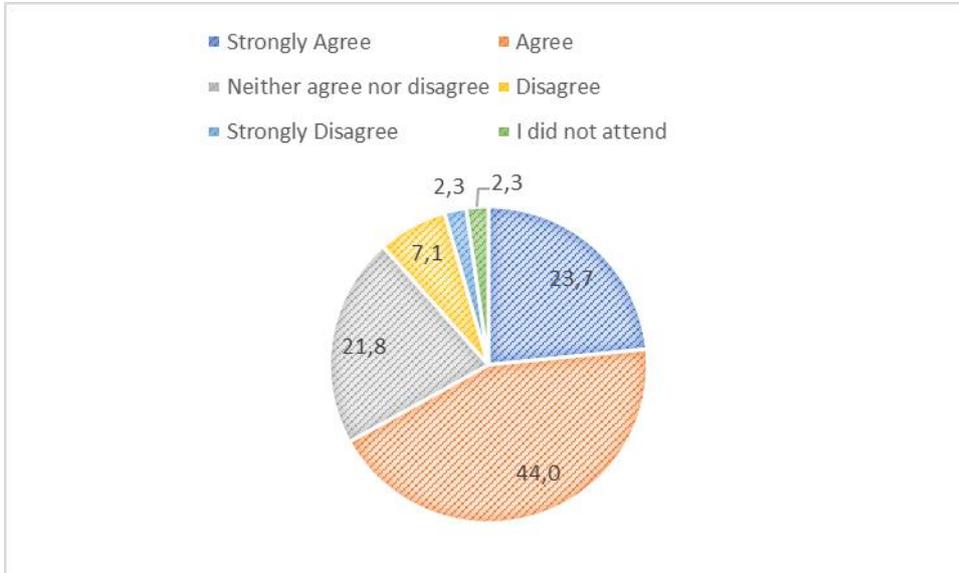
TECHNICAL PROGRAMME

67,7 percent indicated in the post survey that the technical sessions were of high quality / scientific level and 48,5 percent indicated that the technical session were useful.

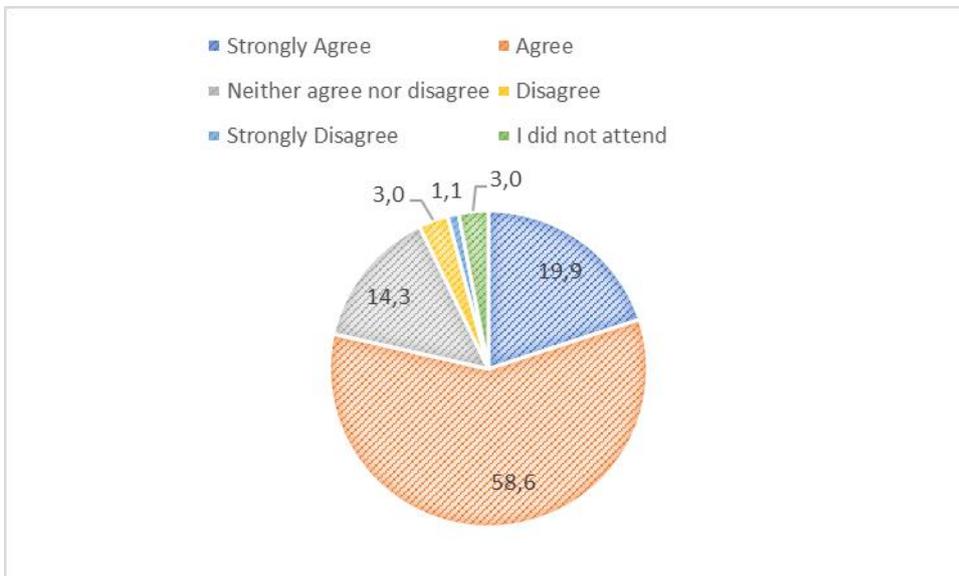
How will you rate the following aspects of the technical programme?



The technical sessions were of high quality (%)



The technical sessions were useful (%)



The programme included 400 presentations throughout the four conference days. The presenters came from 69 countries and had a background from academia, private practice and government.

“I was very impressed with people trying to speak, even where English was not a well-known language.”

“In general, presentations lacked innovation and presenters need better presentation skills”



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“Some presentations were really good, some were really low class.”
“all speakers should be familiar with english language to answer questions about their speech.”

FIG Office emails some general guidelines on presentation technique to the presenters prior to the conference, further, the guidelines can also be found on the website: http://fig.net/fig2018/presenter_practicalities.htm

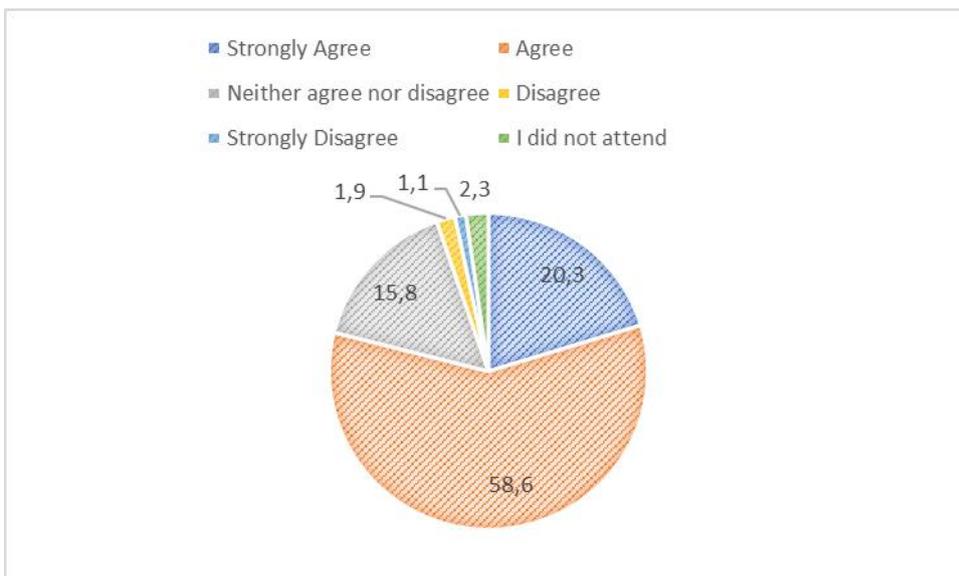
FIG strives to offer a balanced programme, with presenters with diverse cultural and professional background. Each paper is given careful and deliberate consideration and most of the selected proposals fit the overall theme of the conference. On the other hand, the presenters are accepted based on their abstract, not on their ability to engage or communicate through a presentation. Some of the respondents suggest that:

A row of parallel sessions for regional matters, in the relevant language.

Further, the session chairs also play a key role in increasing the level of the technical sessions, and make the session interesting, informative and educational. The session chair has to lead the session making sure that the presenters are introduced accordingly; that the timetable is kept; and that the audience is involved through questions and discussion.

78,9 percent of the respondents found the sessions were effectively moderated, while 3 percent disagree. 15,8 percent neither agreed nor disagreed.

The technical sessions were effectively moderated by the chairs (%)





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“some chairs were not succesful in opening up fruitful discussion out of the session”
“Some did not keep their deadlines and some moderators did not stop them. Very unprofessional...”
“better time management in all sessions, and time for discussion”
“Keep presentation deadlines is a key issue. All moderators should be aware of that.”

The comprehensive programme, with 11 parallel sessions resulted in overlapping sessions which appealed to the same participants. It is a puzzle to create the technical programme, taking all parameters into consideration.

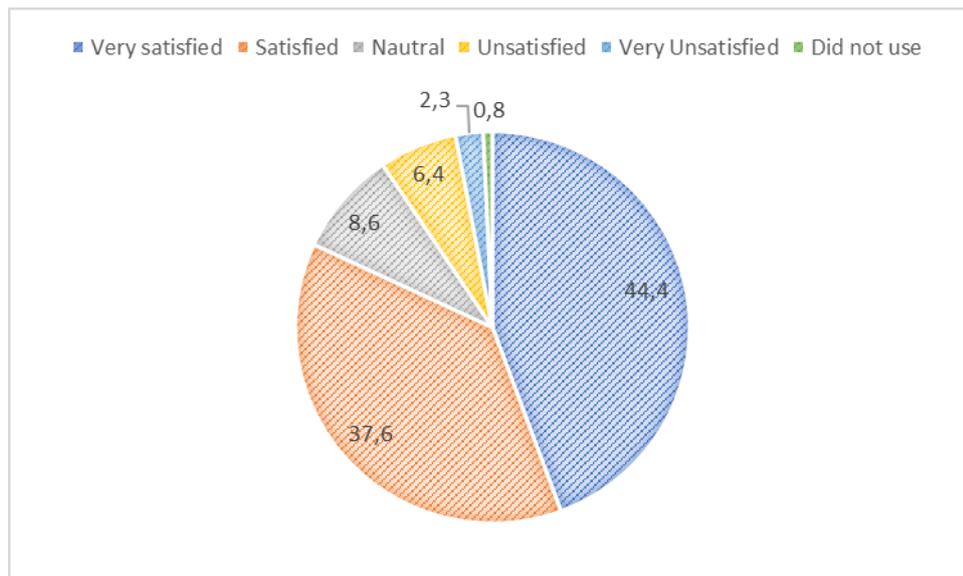
“Some sessions of interest clashed with others. May be unavoidable.”

Another issue which was addressed in the post survey is “no-shows”; presenters who do not show up and make their presentation. The FIG Office tries on-the-spot to update and modify the conference programme, thus to avoid sessions with very few presenters. The FIG Office will also encourage the presenters to let us know if they are prevented to attend the conference so the paper can be removed from the programme.

“A greater effort to reduce "no shows" is required”
“It was a great pity that several speakers missed their sessions.”
“The sessions must have high quality - the speakers must show up.”

OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH THE FIG CONGRESS

REGISTRATION





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Communication

“Better information before and during event”

“Improve communication, related to profile attendant”

Registration process

“The registration was not well organised as compared to fig 2017 conference.”

“I have never had so many administrative problems. It might be useful for the FIG office to be more involved in the registration and administrative matters in the future.”

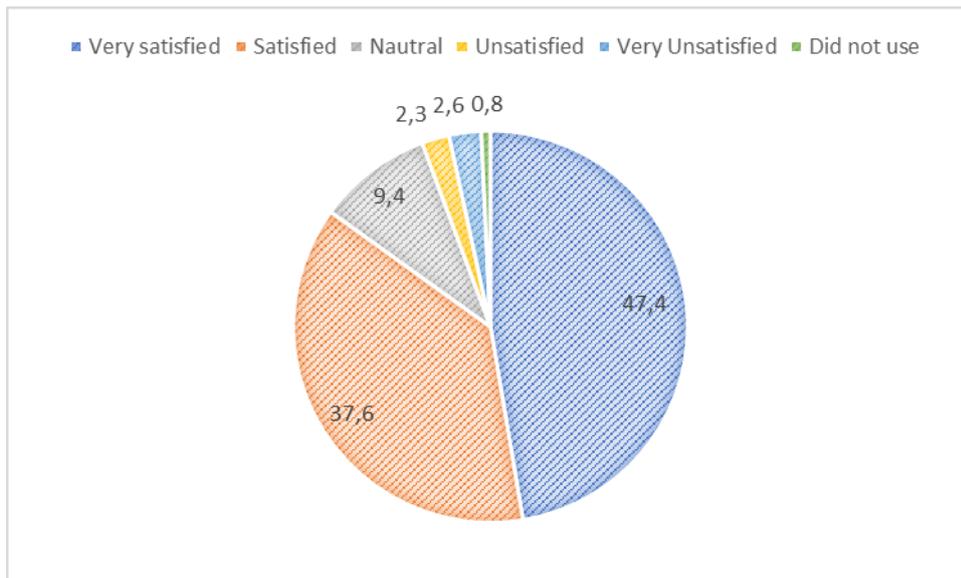
Registration onsite

“The registration was very badly organized.”

“there is a need to improve on registration as we are to refer another counter to confirm if we have paid our registration fees. this should be in the systems at the registration desk.”

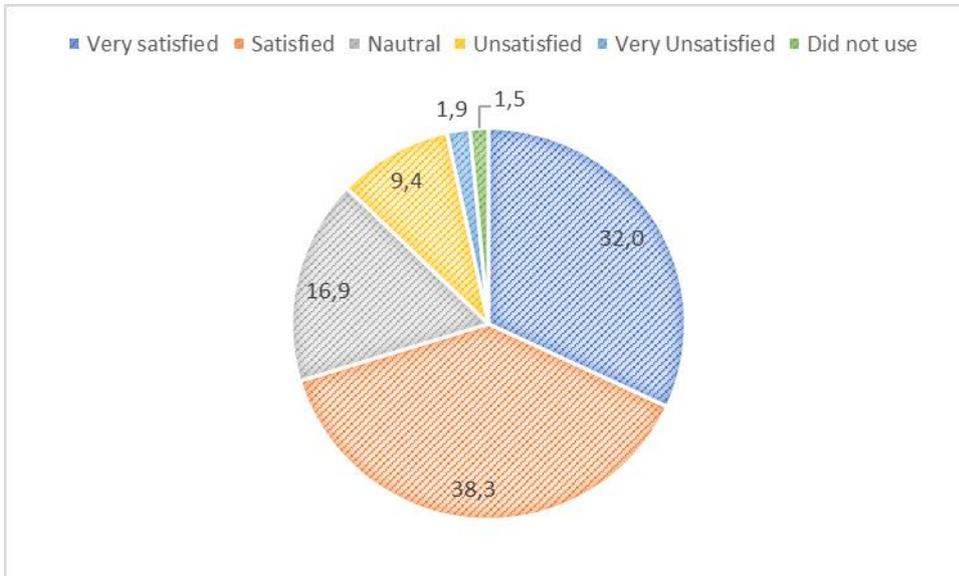
“Staff at international registration desk was not always able to communicate in English.”

VENUE





FOOD AND BEVERAGES

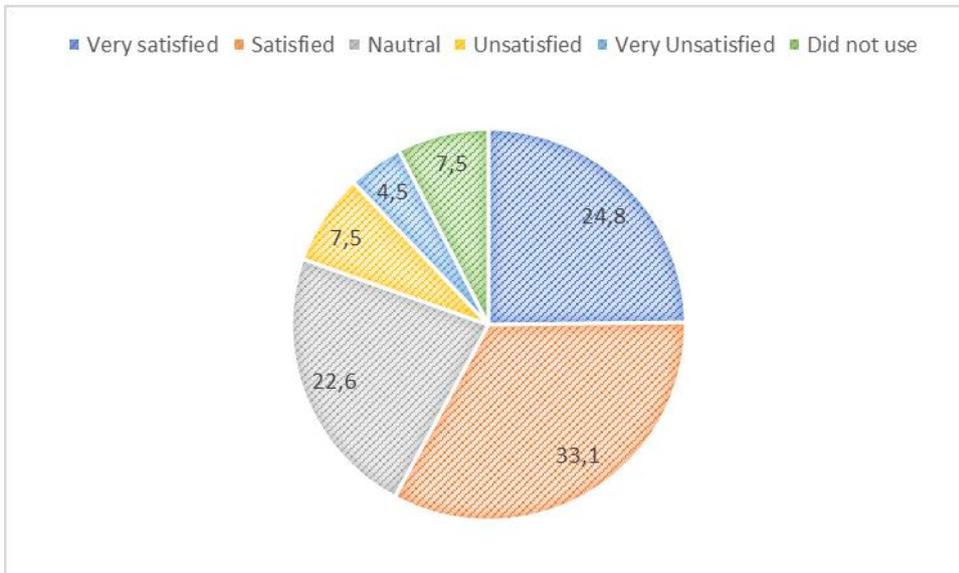


“The venue is far too quick to take away Tea's and Coffees. - all day Coffee station? Also, exhibition area - far too crowded - should have been in separate hall.”

“There were not enough tables and chairs for the lunches. Had to eat sitting on carpet floor”

“Catering must be looked at. Menu should cut across the continent.”

CONFERENCE BAG

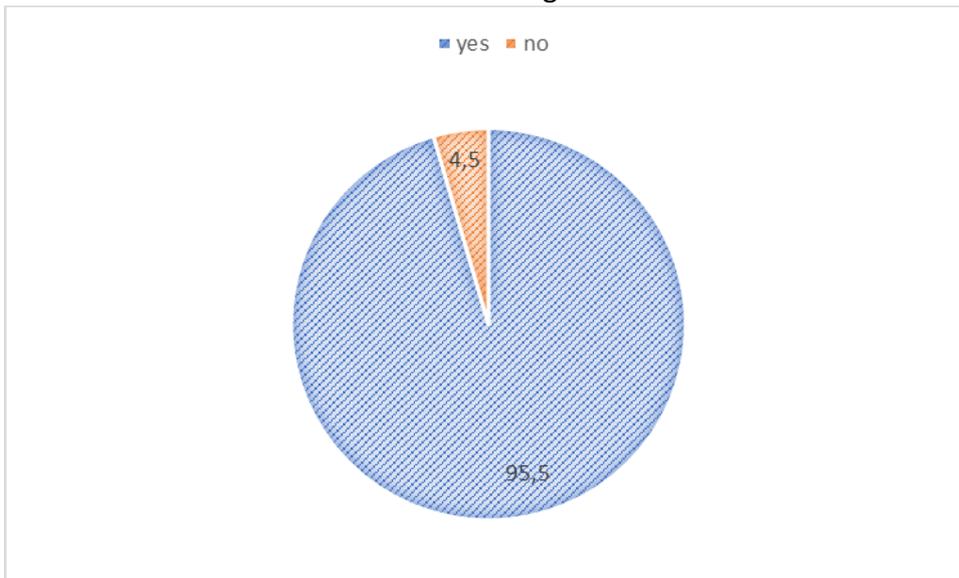


CONCLUSION

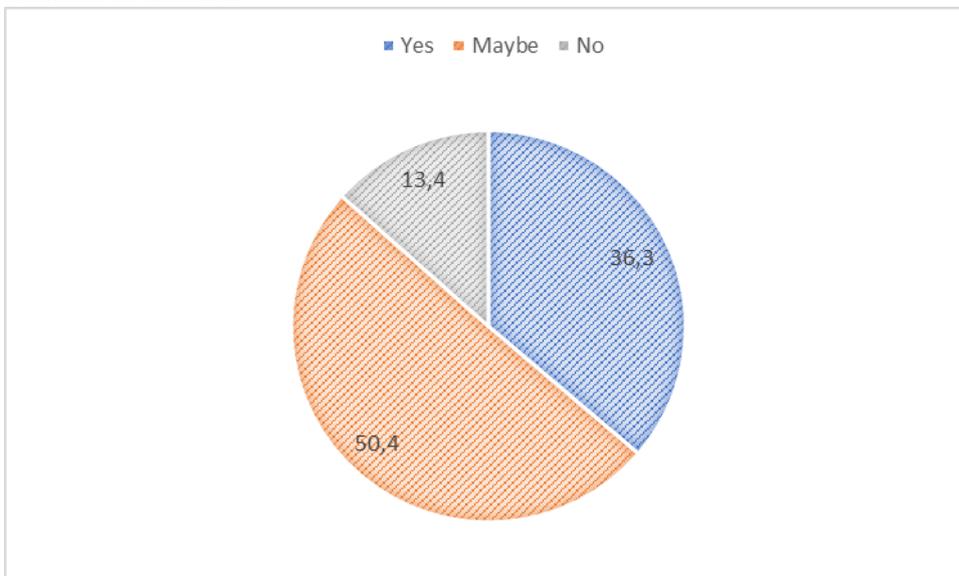
Despite specific areas of lower satisfaction, hereunder the lunches, registration, the varying scientific level and conference facilities, this year’s participants - or at least the respondents



in the survey – are generally satisfied and content with the Congress. The majority of the participants who completed the survey have earlier attended a FIG Conference. We are pleased that delegates keep coming back; it is the best indicator of the popularity of the FIG Conference. We interpret is positively that 95,5 percent indicate that they will recommend the FIG Conferences to friends and colleagues.



We look forward to seeing the 36,3 percent who indicated that they are planning to attend next year’s FIG Working Week in Hanoi, Vietnam and hope the 50,4 percent who said maybe decides to attend.



Lastly we would like to thank everyone, who participated in the post-conference survey. Thank you for your valuable contribution!