



UEMS/EACCME Event Report

Event Title: 12th World Research Congress of the European Association for Palliative Care Online

Event Date: 18th – 20th May 2022

Reference number: LEE22 – 00131

Palliative Care is a multi-disciplinary speciality, which was reflected in the broad range of professions from different disciplines attending the congress. 318 abstracts were submitted, 314 of which were accepted to form part of the scientific programme, which also featured invited speakers to form themed panel discussions, plenary speakers, and award winners.

The scientific content of the programme incorporated presentations selected from submitted abstracts and also from invited speakers. In total, there were 94 speakers and chairs from around the world. The programme included the following sessions:

- 6 plenary sessions
- 4 themed panel sessions
- 13 oral abstract sessions
- 227 posters in the e-poster gallery
- 5 open-access webinars (scheduled around the scientific content)

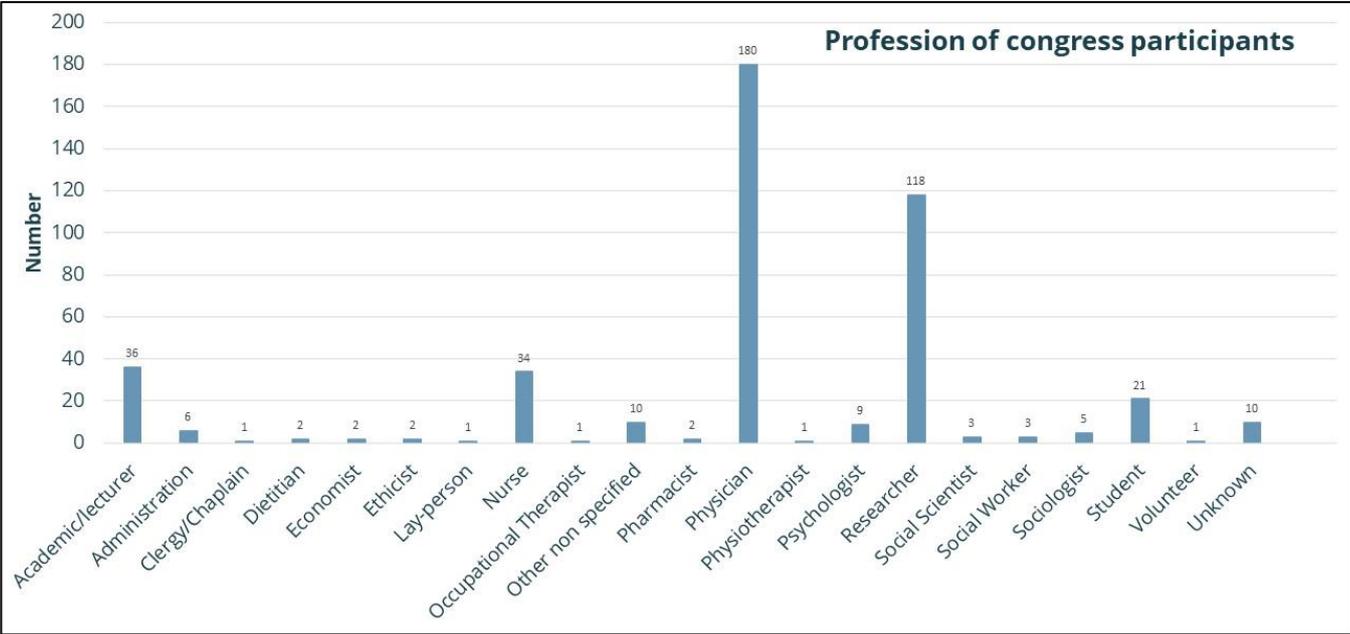
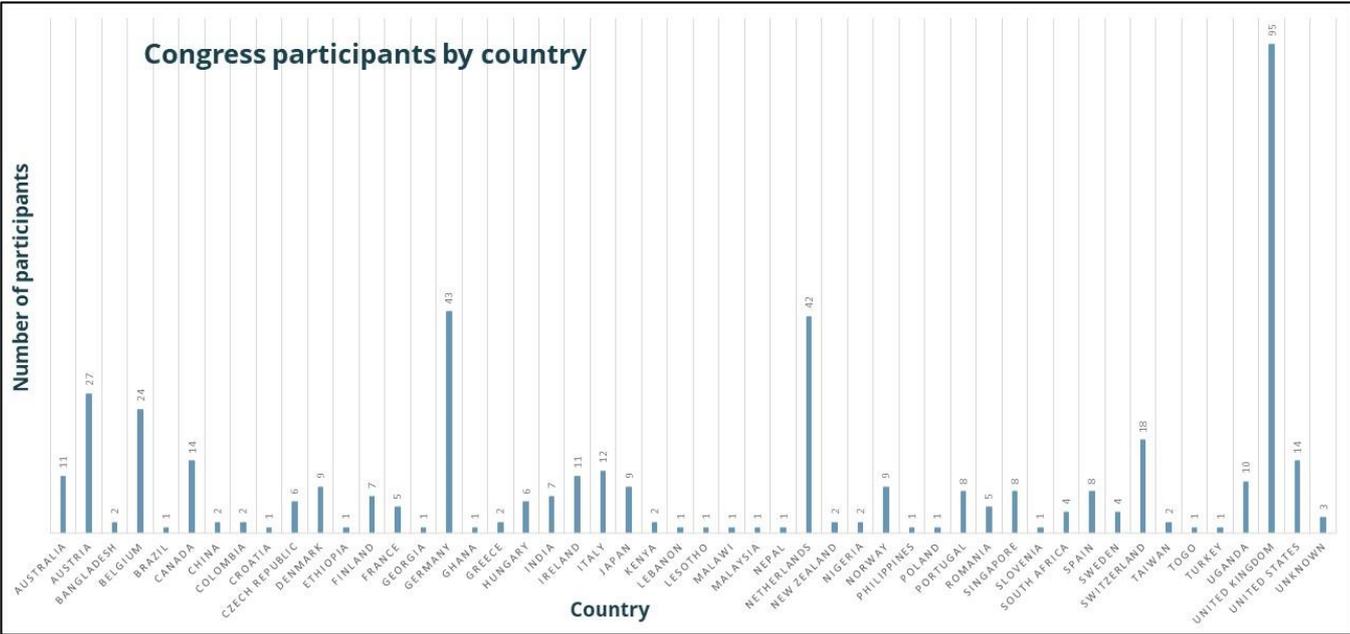
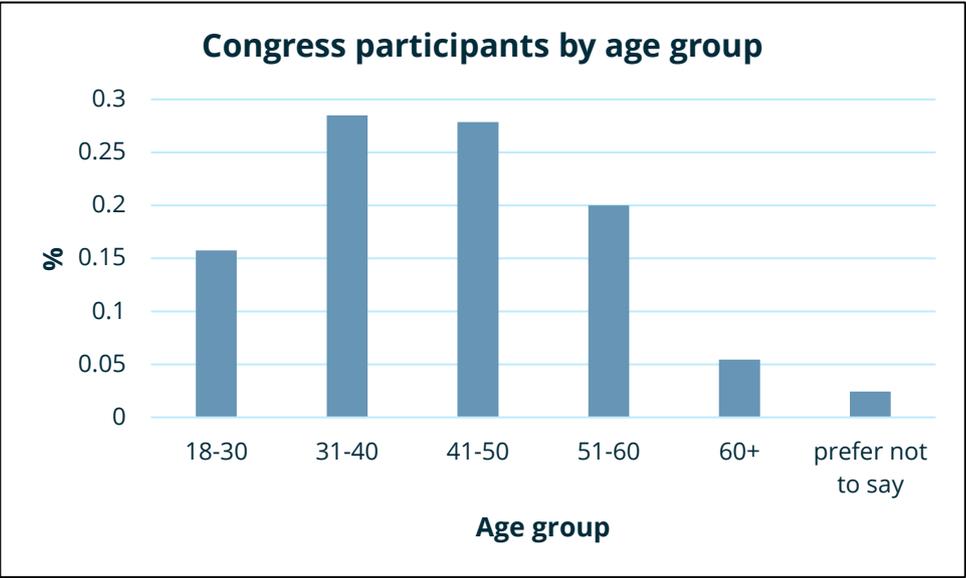
Actual number of participants: 450

Number of evaluation forms submitted: 165 (37%)

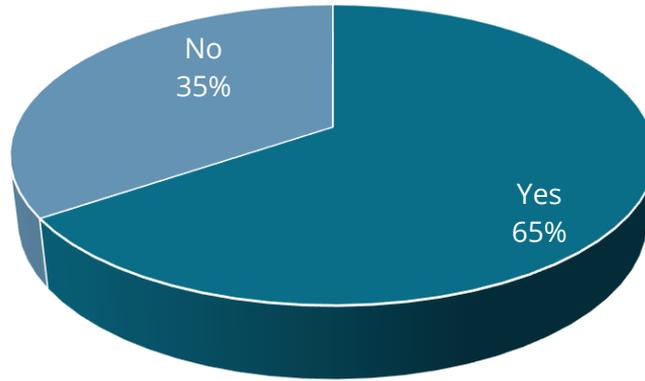
Number of certificates issued: 59

Analysis of participants:

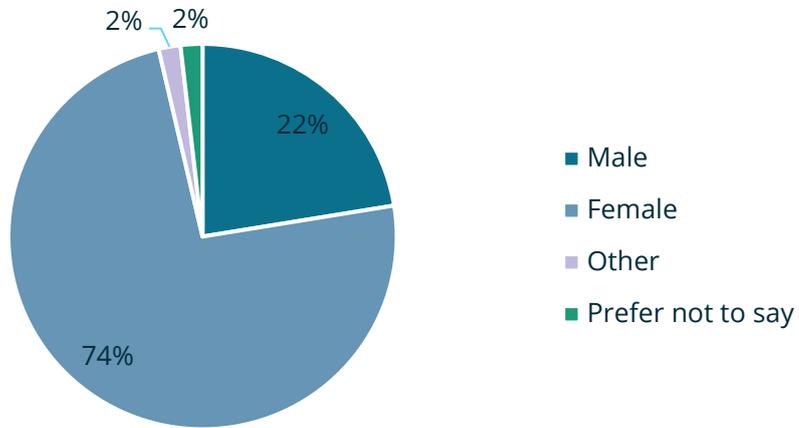
European participants	77%
American participants	3%
Canadian participants	3%
Other: Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Colombia, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Philippines, Singapore, South Africa, Taiwan, Togo, Uganda	16%
Country unknown	1%



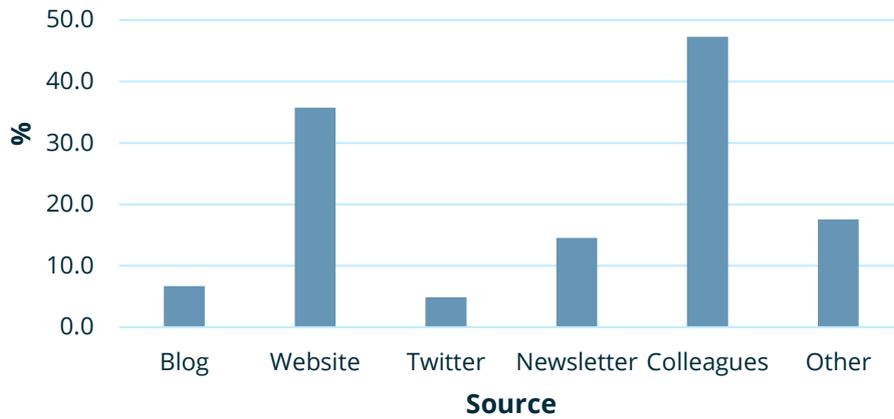
Have you attended an EAPC Congress before?



Congress participants by gender



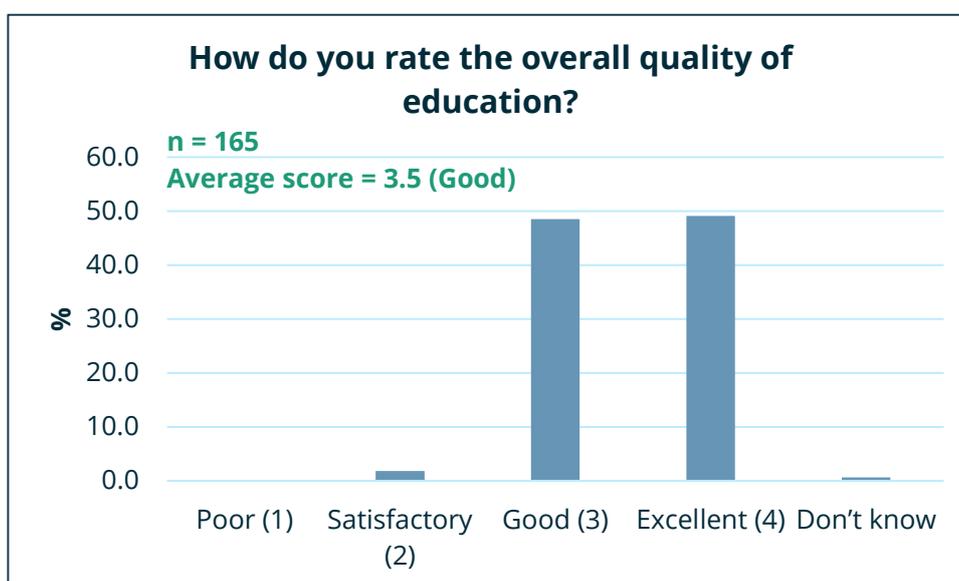
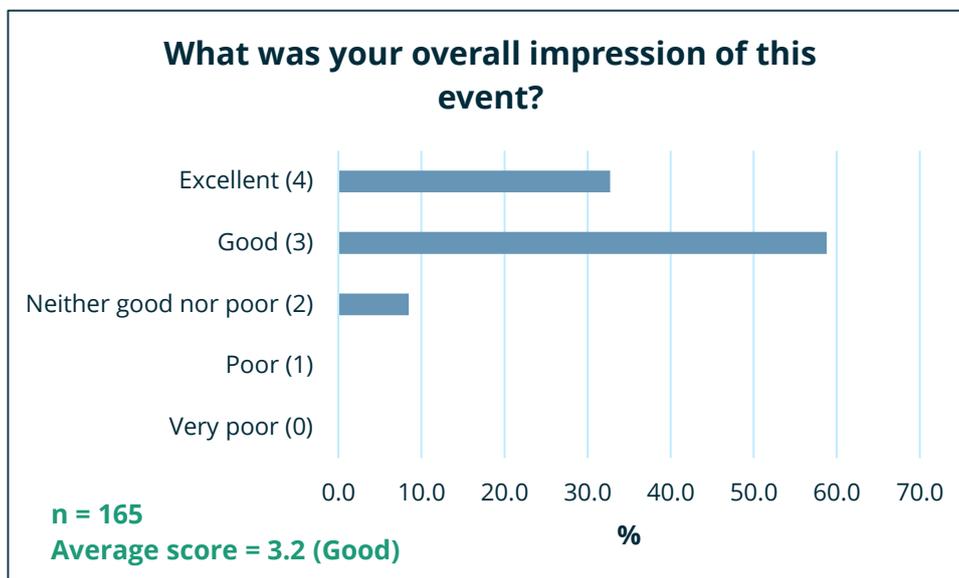
How did you find out about the EAPC Congress?



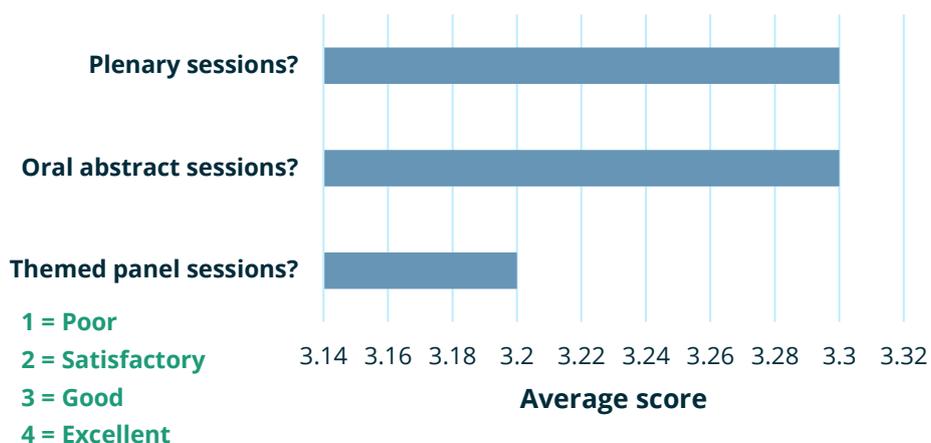
Summary of evaluation forms

Quality of the event

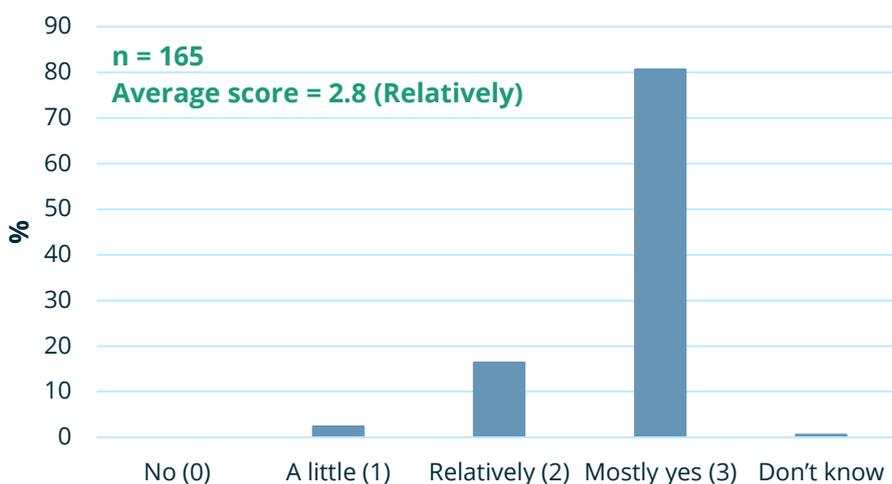
Most respondents rated the overall quality of the event, the quality of the education and the quality of the various sessions as 'good' or excellent' with the average rating falling in the 'good' category for each of these. Respondents indicated they felt that the scientific programme was well balanced and that it was supported with adequate evidence.



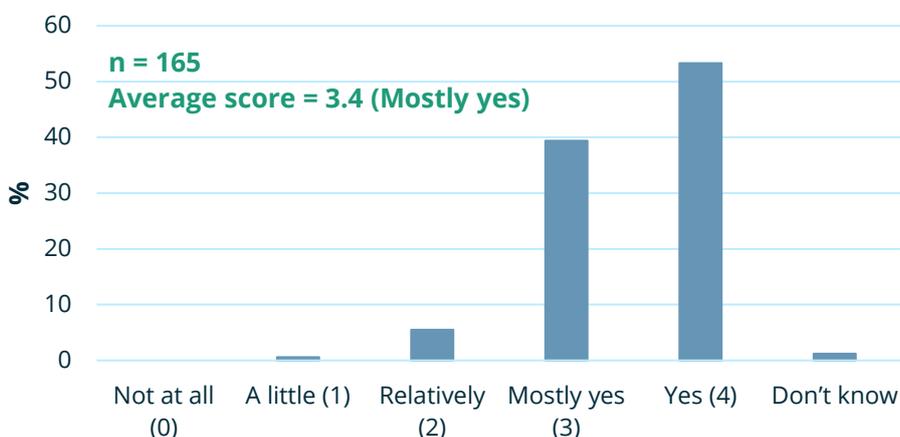
How would you rate the quality (content, variety) of the:



Was the scientific programme well-balanced?

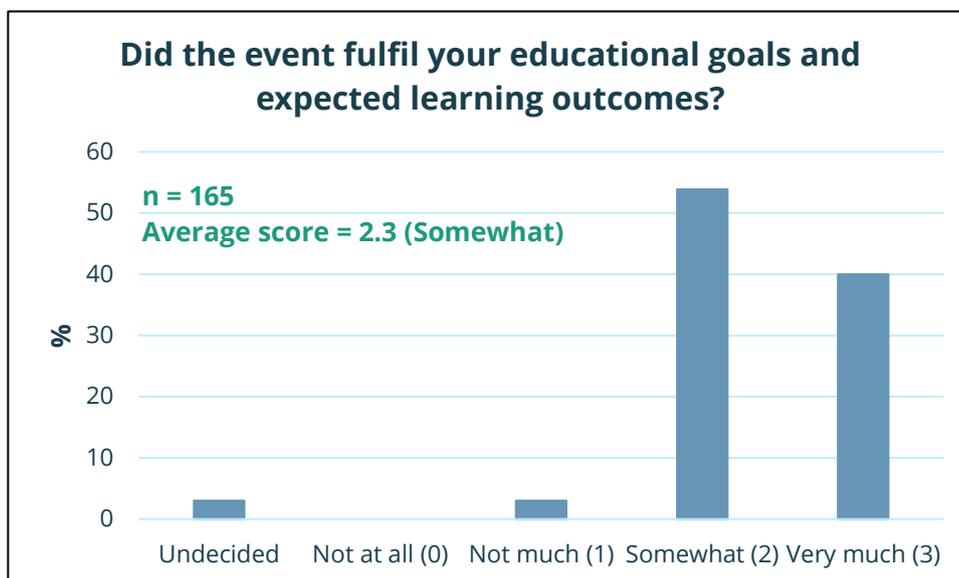
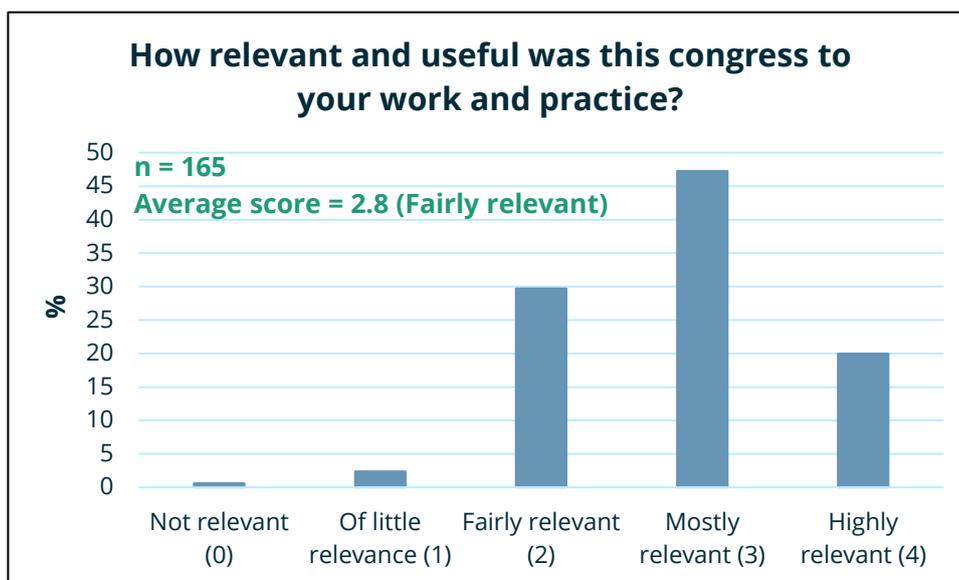
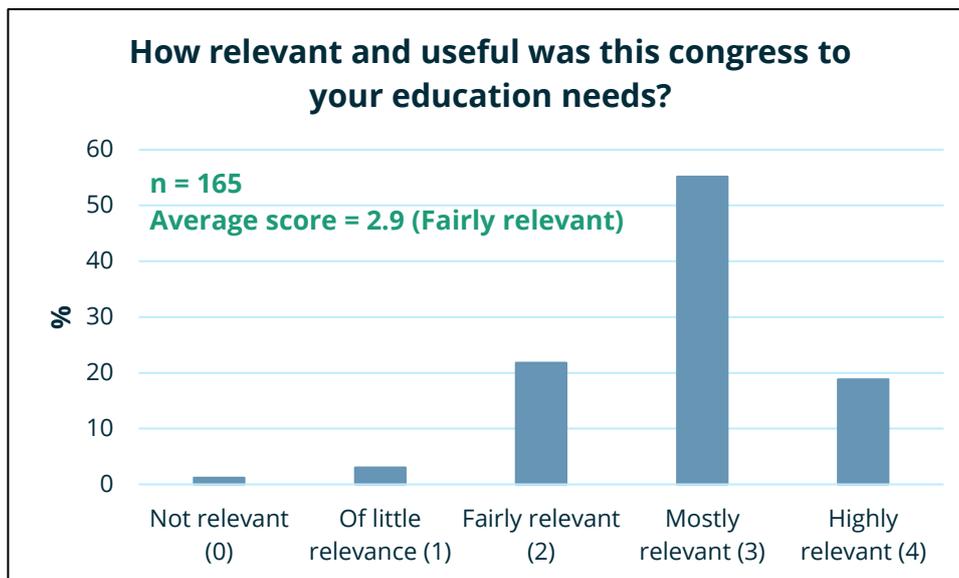


The presented information was supported with adequate evidence



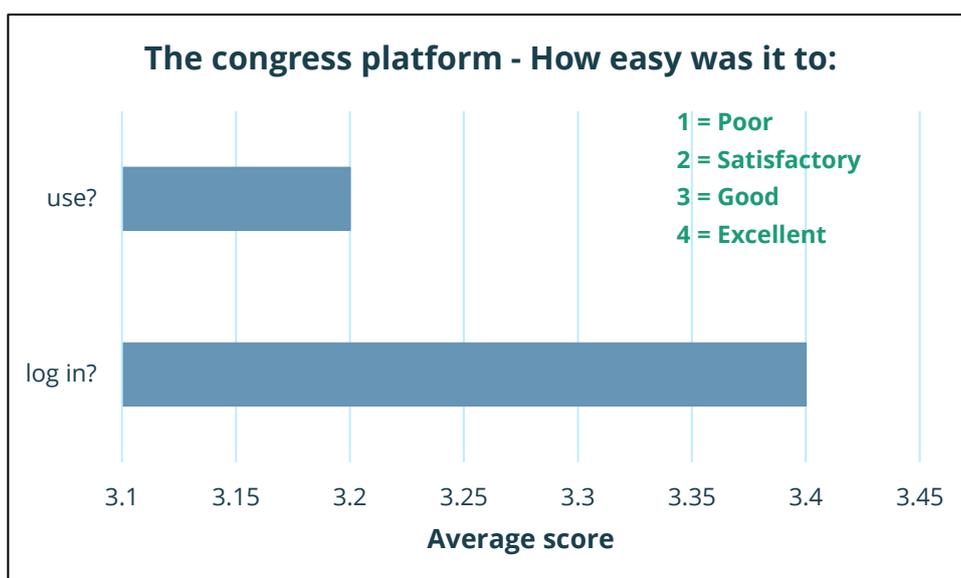
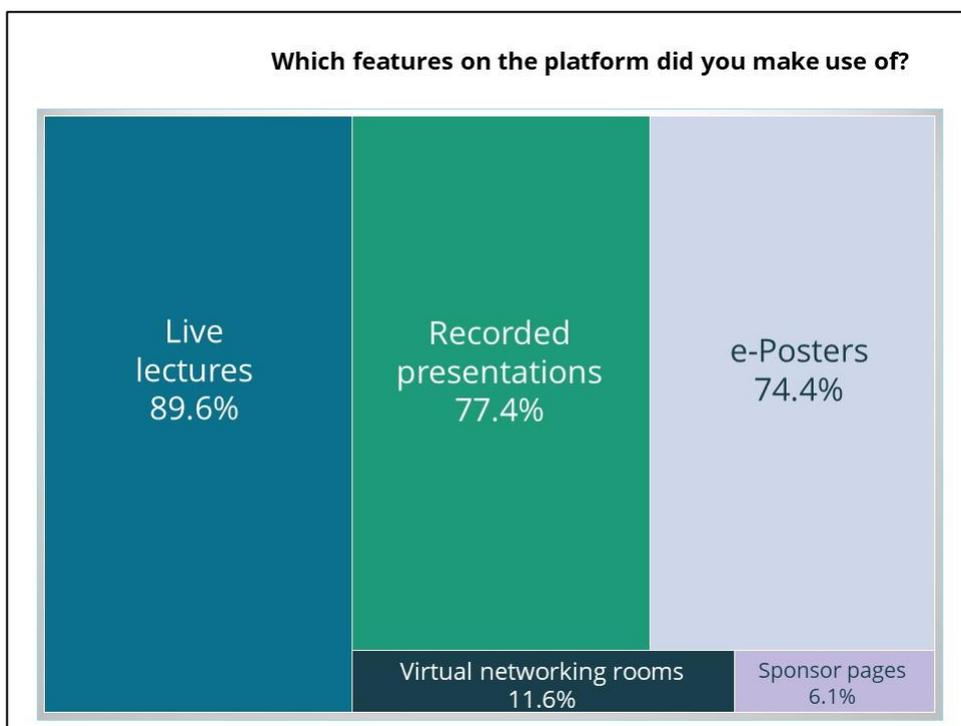
Relevance of the event

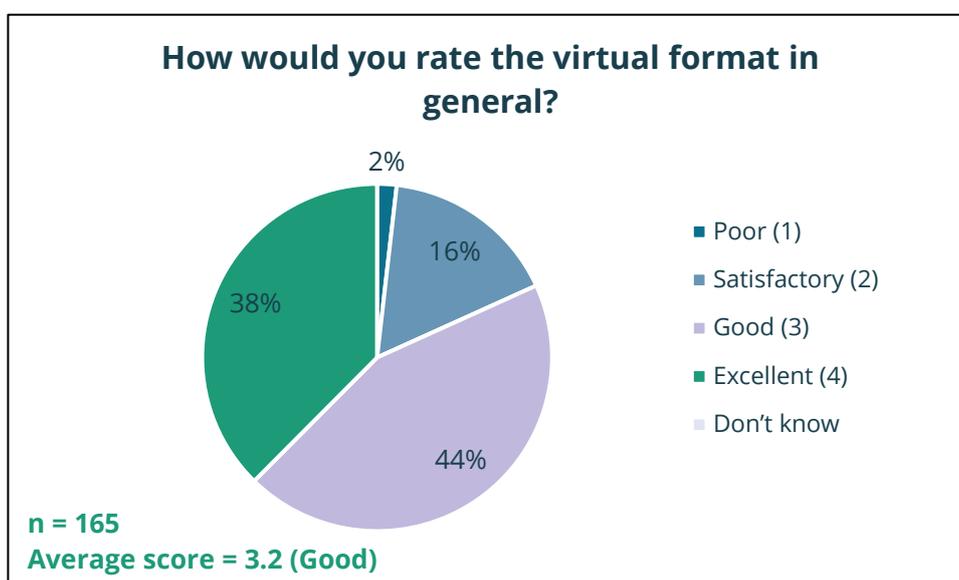
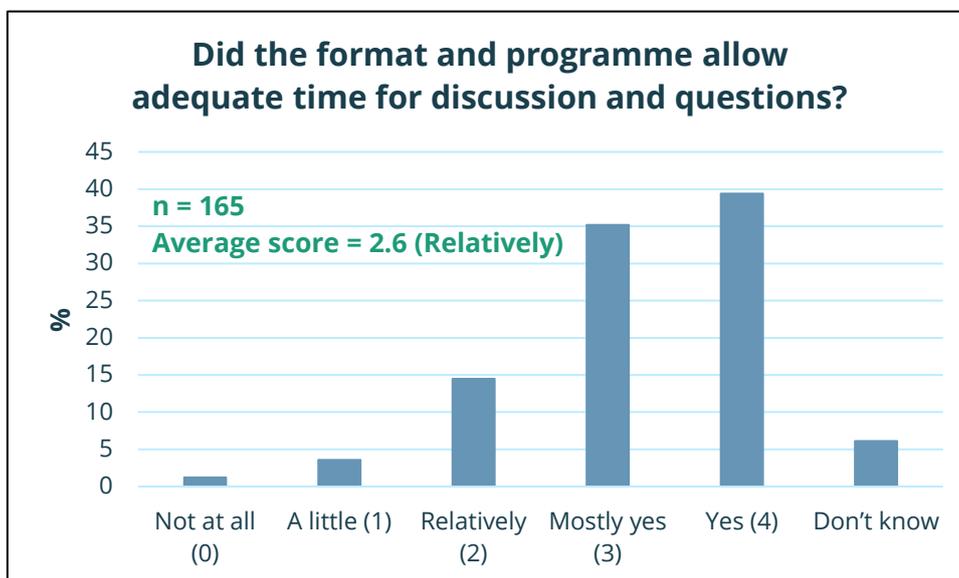
The evaluation suggests that on the whole delegates found the congress relevant to both their educational needs and their work and practice, with the majority of respondents giving a rating of 'mostly' or 'highly' relevant. The average scores for both these questions were at the upper end of the 'fairly relevant' category.



Suitability of formats used during the event

This congress was the third EAPC Congress to be held entirely online. The Moodle platform was used to host all the congress content. All delegates received a unique username and password which enabled them to access the pre-recorded content, the e-posters and the live sessions, which were streamed to delegates within this platform. A live chat box was available for delegates to comment on the live presentations and ask questions of the speakers. In general, respondents were satisfied with the virtual format, with over 80%, rating it 'good' or 'excellent'. On average, respondents gave a rating of 'good' when asked how easy it was to log in and use the platform.





We asked respondents to tell us about their experience of interacting (by commenting and or asking questions) with speakers and poster presenters. There was a general sense of satisfaction with the format in this regard, however many comments were received about how the virtual format does limit interaction and networking (from both a participant and a speakers perspective). Here are some of the free text answers received:

"I asked a question in a live abstract presentation, however there was not time for this to be answered."

"The questions, made by people in the Chatroom, were often identified and answered in the discussion after the presentations."

"Good - I liked the opportunity to post questions throughout the talks."

"I thought it was good - by being able to post through the sessions, this helps gather a number of questions, you can see other questions and this in turn stimulates more discussion."

"I valued having access to the longer live recordings in addition to the sessions & watched them before as well as after the sessions. Moderation of the sessions was very good so that questions were answered, even answered within the chat."

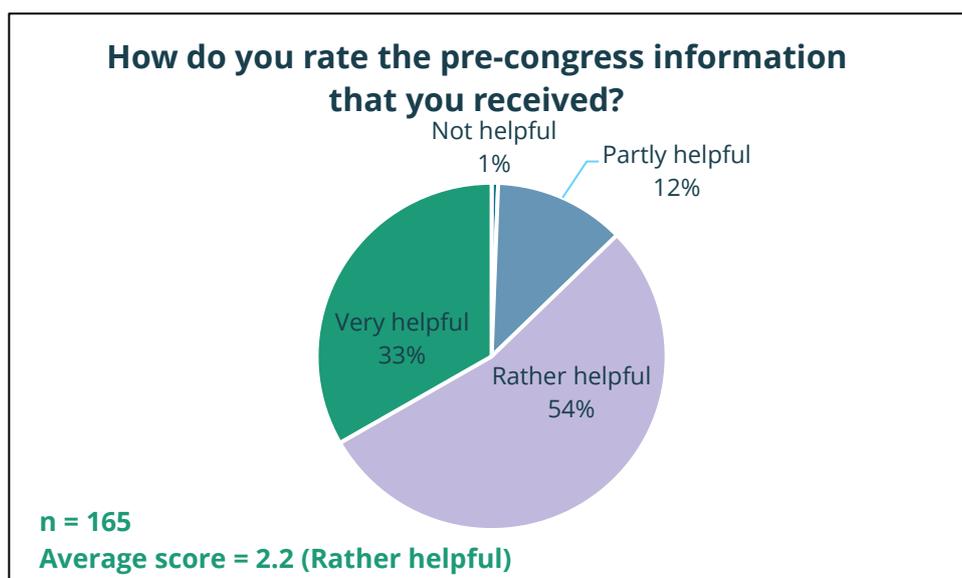
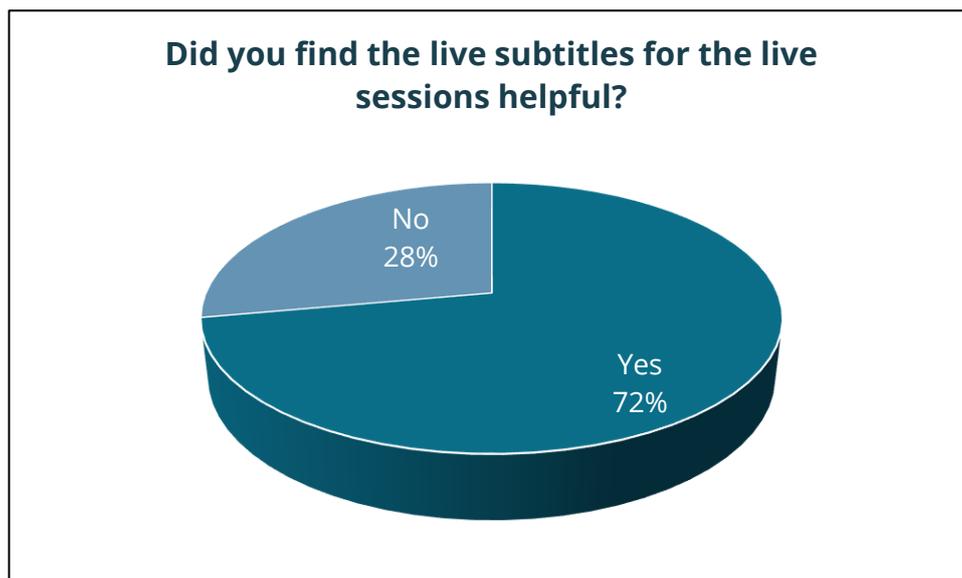
"It was okay - no other possibility within the online format. I missed having the feeling of a full audience room - you did not know whether you held your presentation in front of 10 or 200 people."

"I did not make much use of it."

"I believe the online format makes it harder to interact, especially with poster presenters."

"Poor. If you are not a speaker or chair, interaction is very limited."

"I think asking questions in the virtual rooms are okay. The mediators monitor the chat well so questions get asked. But I miss the spontaneous encounters and being able to talk one on one and being able to ask follow-up questions."



We asked respondents to tell us if there were other features they would like to see included on the online congress platform. Here is a selection from the free text answers:

"networking/fitness room with for neck exercises."

"I wasn't sure whether to go to the virtual networking rooms - making these more welcoming / having a host / specific topics for discussion might help engagement."

"Maybe it could be interesting to create a chat with the single author."

"Information about the participants (number, countries)."

"Chat rooms or discussion boards for interactive content."

"Everything was extremely complicated and time consuming."

"A forum for PPI members to engage with and contribute to the conference."

"More structured networking."

"A YouTube video on how to navigate the conference platform would have been helpful."

"To stay on the live stream room and auto start the next session would be nice."

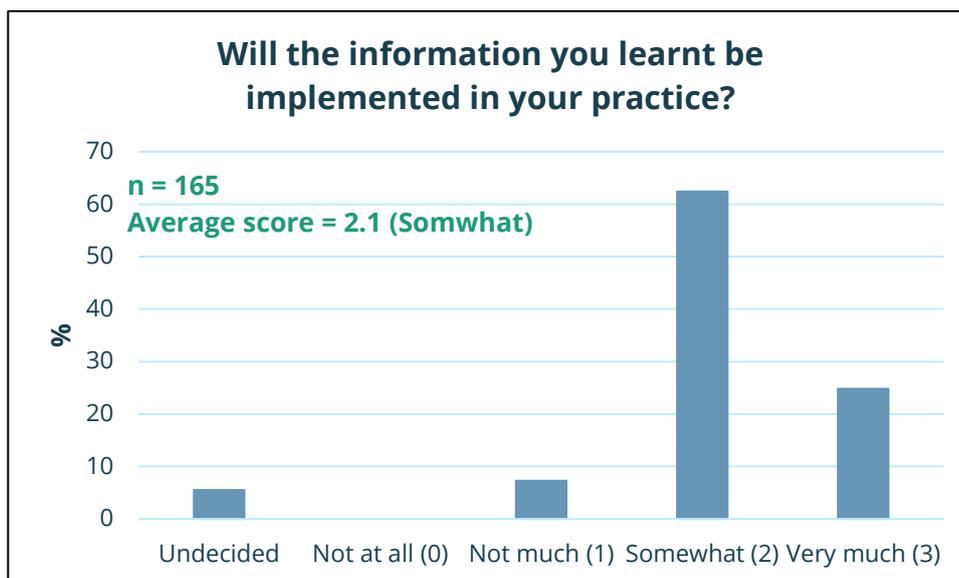
"Counter of attending participants in live sessions."

"I did not like the way posters were presented. It was difficult to read the titles. I hope you can improve this for the next time or we present in person next time."

"Better search feature better linkage to abstract collection."

Ways the event affected the participant's practice

Over 80% of respondents indicated that they would implement the learning from the congress into their practice, the average score for this question was 2.1 'somewhat'. 5.5% were undecided.



Respondent's comments when asked to provide one example of how this event will influence their future practice included:

"As a researcher to avoid being a gate keeper in preventing selection bias especially with vulnerable patients as in palliative care."

"More observant for delirium screening."

"Better clinical treatment of dyspnea."

"Better understanding of the bereavement challenges since the pandemic."

"Reflections on study design and how to maximise inclusion and recruitment."

"Gained a better understanding of palliative care which will serve to enrich and reframe the way I approach these conversations with colleagues and patients."

"I will work even harder to fight racism."

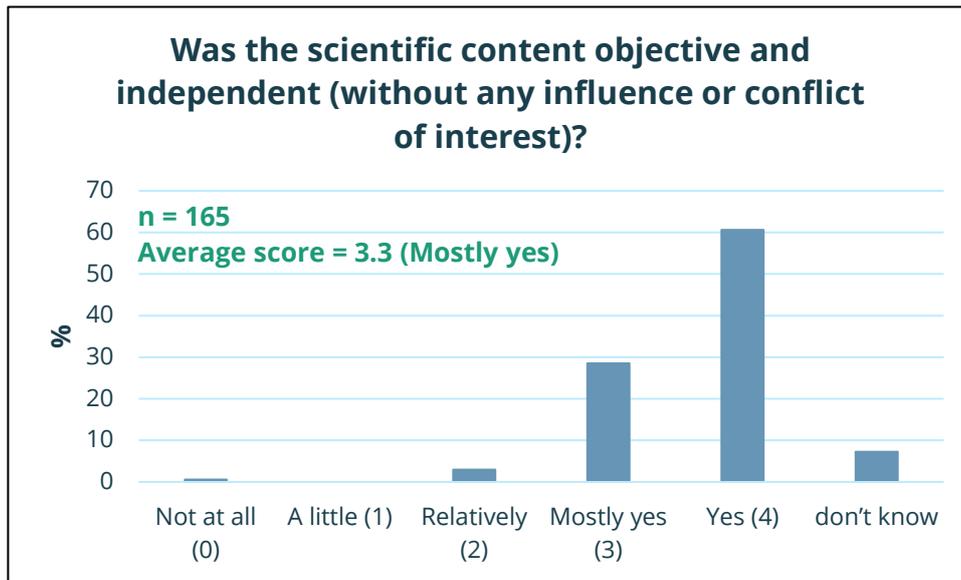
"As a neurologist I will try to work for better palliative care to patients suffering MS, PD or ALS. Today I get some new ideas regarding this mission."

"I will consider the research data on medications for symptom relief in more depth."

"Two particular things I took away were firstly a big drive for pushing for good quality research in palliative care and secondly, to try and have an open mind about medically assisted dying which I have really struggled with on a personal level."

Commercial bias

To the question whether the scientific content was objective and independent, the majority of the respondents answered 'yes'.



What was the best aspect of this event?



What was the worst aspect of this event?

That the congress was online was by far the major complaint when we asked respondents to tell us what the worst aspect of the event was. There were many comments about how the virtual format is not good for interaction and networking. A number of comments were received about our e-poster gallery, and concerns expressed that this wasn't easy to navigate and also that there were not many comments left for the posters, prompting some presenters to question whether they were viewed. There were several comments about the usability of the congress platform. These covered access and login difficulties, issues with finding content, and technical issues (Wifi strength, sound, need to refresh page to continue to watch etc). Language, accents and dialect were also highlighted as a challenge for some participants.

Some respondents mentioned the time required to view the pre-recorded presentations and the posters as a challenge to them and therefore a negative aspect of the congress, and also that viewing an online congress all day is a difficulty.

There were a few comments about the scientific content or speakers:

"for me the content was a little bit too methodological and too much about covid-19"

"not much cancer care even though this is still the vast majority of palliative care patients."

"A lot of presentations about cancer or related items, but nothing or almost nothing about neurology, cardiology and so on"

"2/3 of presentations were from 2-3 leading universities in UK, Netherlands, Belgium, (Germany)"

The following comment would be a good summary of the responses to this question:

"People seem to be tired of or fed up with the digital format. There were much fewer posters than before and less participants. No parallel sessions. A limited number of people appeared in very many sessions. I would have liked a greater diversity. Also very disappointing with few views of our posters. A lot of time and effort are put into the poster presentations, but the posters received very little attention overall."

Final comments

The last question we asked was 'Do you wish to leave any further suggestions or comments about this congress?'. Here are a selection of the replies:

"This was an excellent event, well planned and the time keeping was superb. The content was rich and personally I have learnt a great deal. Thanks to the organisers, sponsors and presenters."

"It would have been good to have a more diverse range of speakers. Many speakers, it appears, had more than one presentation during the three days, and many speakers I have seen at every EAPC conference I have been to. Of course, some speakers are leaders in their field and I understand this, but as they are world leaders, I often hear them in other contexts. I would appreciate the opportunity to hear about a wider range of research from a wider range of researchers to improve my practice both clinically and academically."

"It would be great if PPI colleagues could attend the conference at a very reduced rate. The importance of PPI in research and service development was highlighted in this conference. We have 3 PPI colleagues who worked closely with us for the study that we presented as an oral presentation. They would have liked to

attend but unfortunately I did not receive any response when I emailed the EAPC team about how to facilitate this. In the future, researchers should factor these costs into grant applications etc but for now, it would be wonderful to embrace their contribution. If they could register for the conference now and view the recorded content and posters, that would be great also, thank you."

"I'd like that e-access to congress remains even if personal attendance at the congress would be possible in the future."

"I am sorry, but I was disappointed by this congress. No parallel sessions and limited opportunities for interactions. I hope for a better experience next time."

"I am very happy to have been able to attend the conference through sponsorship. I think it will be nice for the organizers to include just one session for palliative care research from non- European countries like countries in Sub-Saharan Africa."

Overall, the congress provided information on multiple aspects and perspectives of palliative care, giving delegates the opportunity to develop and share knowledge and expertise. The range of topics met the expectations of those who completed the evaluation process and included symptom management (e.g. "pain" and "breathlessness"), disease-specific palliative care (e.g. oncology, dementia, respiratory disease, COVID-19) as well as the impact on specific patient groups (e.g. palliative care in children and elderly patients). In addition presentations addressed psychological, spiritual (e.g. bereavement), social and political (e.g. advance care planning, ethics and end-of-life care) aspects of palliative care.

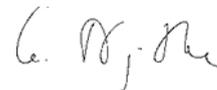
This final comment presents a good overall summary of the feedback:

"Thank you! You did your best, but I am really looking forward to see all attendees in person again."

It is true to say that everyone in EAPC is too!



Camilla Zimmermann
Chair of the Scientific Committee



Christoph Ostgathe
President of EAPC