

The Union

worldlunghealth.org

**THE 48TH UNION
WORLD CONFERENCE
ON LUNG HEALTH**

ACCELERATING
TOWARD ELIMINATION

**EVALUATION
REPORT**

APRIL 2018

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



This report is an evaluation of the 48th Union World Conference on Lung Health held in Guadalajara, Mexico, from 11–14 October 2017. More than 3,000 participants from over 100 countries attended to end the suffering caused by lung disease. The evaluation was carried out through an online survey completed by 52% of participants who were contacted by email (1,321 responses).

HOW SUCCESSFUL WAS THE CONFERENCE IN ACHIEVING ITS OBJECTIVES?

The large majority agreed (87%) that theme of the 48th Conference, “*Accelerating towards elimination*”, was relevant for lung health in 2017. Participants rated the three aspects “Relevance”, “Satisfaction” and “Organisation” of the Conference highly: “Excellent” or “Good” for 87, 80 and 76 per cent respectively.

In terms of benefits, virtually all surveyed participants indicated that they did benefit from the conference – 99.6%. The main benefit participants gained was “New knowledge” (83%) followed by “New contacts/opportunities for collaboration” (63%) and “Strengthening collaboration with existing contacts” (60%). 96% of survey respondents indicated that the information learnt at the Conference will influence changes in the implementation of their work.

WHAT DID THE CONFERENCE OFFER AND HOW WAS IT RATED BY PARTICIPANTS??

The 48th Conference offered a range of sessions and activities including abstract-related sessions (22 tracks with 793 abstracts presented), 8 post-graduate courses, 22 workshops, a poster display area, an exhibition area, satellite sessions and a community space, *Encuentro*.

Although most surveyed participants (seven out of ten) were interested in TB-related areas, 72% indicated that they attended sessions outside of their main discipline, up from 54% in 2016. 87% assessed the quality of the science as “Excellent” or “Good”.

Of those surveyed participants who had attended a post-graduate course or a workshop (40%), the majority (87%) indicated they were “Very useful” or “Useful”. 93% of surveyed participants indicated that they visited the poster area and 78% the exhibition area. 80% of surveyed participants indicated that they had visited *Encuentro*, with the majority (62%) visiting it up to two times. Scientific and community-based sessions in *Encuentro* were the most highly rated by participants.

HOW WERE PARTICIPANTS SUPPORTED IN THEIR PREPARATION FOR AND PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE?


Exhibitors rated support from the Conference Secretariat before and during the Conference as 57% and 54% respectively for “Excellent” and “Good”. 81% of exhibitors were “Very likely” or “Likely” to exhibit at future conferences.

The organisers of the specialized sessions were asked how likely they were to organise a session at future conferences: *Encuentro* organisers were the most positive, with 91% indicating that they were “Very likely” or “Likely”, followed by 83% of Satellite session organisers and 64% of workshop/course coordinators.

Scholarship applicants and recipients rated positively the online application (88% for “Excellent” and “Good” ratings), pre-conference support (86%) and onsite support (86%).

Surveyed participants were asked to rate the usefulness of the email newsletters sent by the Conference Secretariat: 31% found them “Very useful” and 33% “Useful”.

83% of participants reported that they had used the app on their mobile phone, an increase from 51% at the 2016 Conference; 96% of participants who used the app would recommend it to a friend or colleague.



41% of surveyed participants reported that they followed the Conference through social media, a marked increase from 29% in 2016. Surveyed participants were asked how useful they found the Conference volunteers: 60% found them “Very useful” and 26% “Useful”.

WHAT COULD BE IMPROVED FOR THE NEXT CONFERENCE?

PROGRAMME

When asked about changes desired to the programme balance for the next conference, the greatest request for change was in more Symposia and Meet-the-expert sessions (46% and 43% requesting “More” respectively), although nearly equal numbers asked for “No change” (44% and 39% respectively).

TOPICS

Surveyed participants were asked if the conference should expand beyond TB; half (69%) responded “Yes”, one-quarter responded “No” (35%) and a small minority replied “Not sure” (6%). Participants were asked what topics they would like to be covered in the future, with one-third suggesting other TB-related topics, one-third lung health-related topics and one-third broader health topics.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Overall, this evaluation has found that the Conference has largely met its set goals. The benefits of the conference were anticipated to be networking and learning, which were confirmed by most participants as having been attained, with 83% reporting they had gained new knowledge and 60% made new contacts and opportunities. On all these key points, the 48th Conference progressed or remained steady compared to the 47th Conference, based on the ratings of surveyed participants. The main supporters of the conference, such as exhibitors and coordinators of satellite sessions, indicated that they would continue to participate in the Conference, and this intention increased from the 2016 Conference. To reinforce and build on the success of the 48th Conference, the following recommendations are proposed for the 49th Conference and those beyond.

1. NETWORKING

Given that it is one of the highest anticipated benefits for participants, and based on participants’ feedback, more could be done to facilitate networking. This point was also raised in 2016.

Further activities and actions could be carried out to facilitate networking such as: include more informal seating and break-out spaces in the venue and structured network activities such as smaller group and social activities (several participants mentioned positively the *Encuentro* bike ride).

2. PROGRAMMING

The Conference faces the challenge of presenting a large number of abstracts. Several participants mentioned this was better managed in 2017 compared to past Conferences. At the same time, participants were interested in more symposia, meet the experts and plenaries. The morning plenary should be a way of building a common agenda (e.g. announce key features of the day such as what is going on in civil society space, exhibition space, etc.) and setting the theme, action or advocacy focus for the day. The Conference Secretariat could consider **further streamlining the number of abstracts, introducing more symposia, meet the experts and a morning plenary of common interest rather than specific to one audience.**

3. TOPICS

The surveyed participants were more in favor of expanding the range of topics presented compared to 2016. The Conference Secretariat could **consider priority topics where support was strongest (see annex 3).**

4. VENUE SET-UP AND PLANNING

The venue of the 48th Conference was not considered fully satisfactory by participants.

The Conference Secretariat is encouraged to select and design future venues considering the suggestions of participants.

5. EXHIBITION

Based on the feedback of exhibitors, the exhibition space was an improvement on the 48th conference in terms of number of visitors and location. Similar recommendations are proposed as for 2016; **the exhibition area is more centrally located where significant traffic is guaranteed** (venue set-up allowing), **incentives to visits are introduced** (such as holding coffee breaks there) **and the number of exhibitors increased.**

6. CIVIL SOCIETY AREA

Encuentro was visited by 80% of surveyed participants. However, its location, as for previous Conferences, diminished its potential impact according to participants surveyed. For future conferences, **the location of the civil society area should be integrated within the venue and attention paid to linking the activities to the broader Conference programme** where possible.

7. WORKSHOPS AND POST-GRADUATE COURSES

For those participants who participated in a workshop or course, they were seen as being of value. However, as for 2016, the feedback from participants indicated that some improvements could make them even more valuable. Several workshops appeared to be a series of presentations rather than real “workshopping”. Suggestions would include **refreshing the course/workshops offered** and not repeating the same topics every year; **greater quality control of the workshop/course schedules to ensure interactivity, a “workshop” format and better timekeeping** (e.g. Programme Committee to validate lesson plans for all workshops/courses) **and clearer communication and control** (e.g. taking attendance and monitoring participants) as to who can attend workshops/courses.

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INTRODUCTION

This report is an evaluation of the 48th Union World Conference on Lung Health held in Guadalajara, Mexico from 11–14 October 2017. The evaluation was carried out by an external evaluation consultant, Dr Glenn O’Neil.

More than 3,000 participants came together from over 100 countries for the world’s largest annual gathering of clinicians and public health workers, health programme managers, policymakers, researchers and advocates working to end the suffering caused by lung disease.

Further information may be found at <http://guadalajara.worldlunghealth.org>.

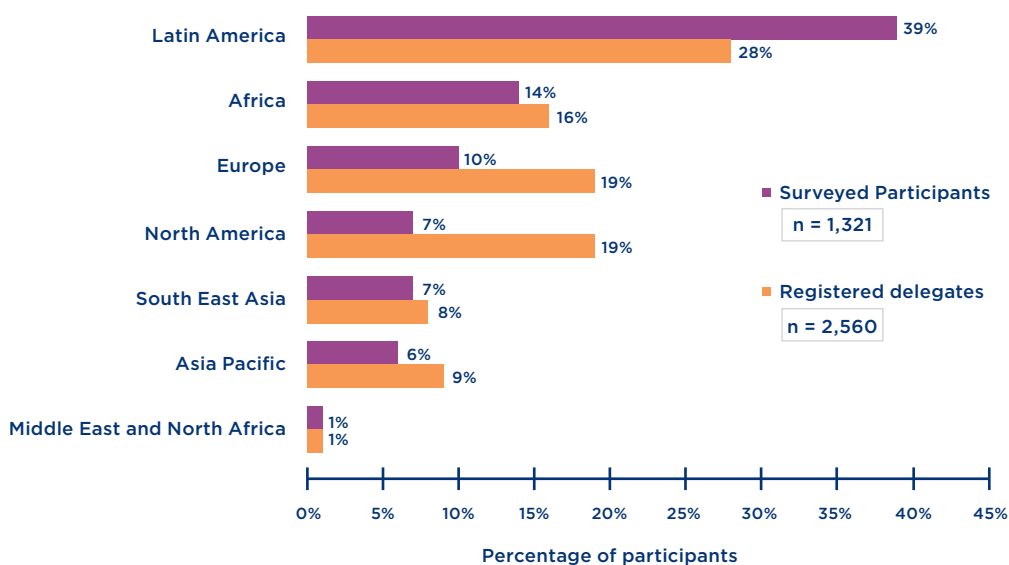
METHODOLOGY

The evaluation was completed using an online survey available in English and Spanish. An email invitation to complete the survey was sent to 2,560 email addresses of registered delegates. 1,321 participants responded to the survey; 90 per cent completed the survey and 10 per cent partially completed it. This response rate of 52 per cent allows findings and conclusions to be drawn from the survey findings. 62 per cent of participants completed the survey in English and 38 per cent in Spanish.

A comparison between the participants who completed the survey and registered delegates illustrates a balanced level of response from all regions, with an under-representation of European and North American participants and an over-representation of Latin American participants, as seen in the figure below.

A detailed description of the profile of the surveyed participants is found at annex 1.

FIGURE 1
Comparison of survey participants and registered delegates by region



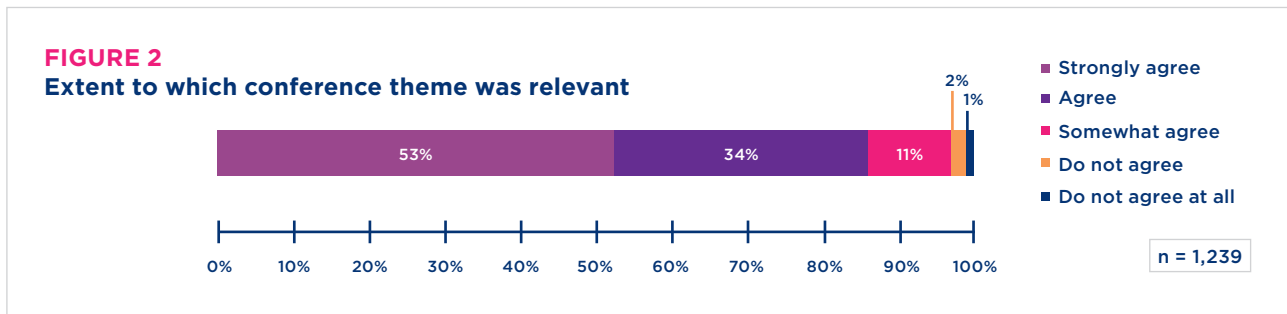
Within this report, survey graphs are noted with the indication “n=xx”, which indicates the number of participants who responded to that given survey question. Of note, some survey questions were for all participants, whereas others were for only certain profiles, i.e. delegates who attended a workshop. In addition, variance was seen given that 10% of respondents only partially completed the survey. Quantitative and qualitative analytical methods were used to analyse the data collected and this report is based on the consequent findings. In addition, totals do not always add up to 100% due to rounding.

Limitations in carrying out the evaluation were seen in several areas. Participants with limited internet access faced some challenges in completing the survey. Given the high representation of Latin American participants, the survey was made available in Spanish. However, this disadvantaged a few participants who were not comfortable responding in either English or Spanish. As this was the second systematic evaluation of the Conference, only limited comparison was possible to previous conferences.

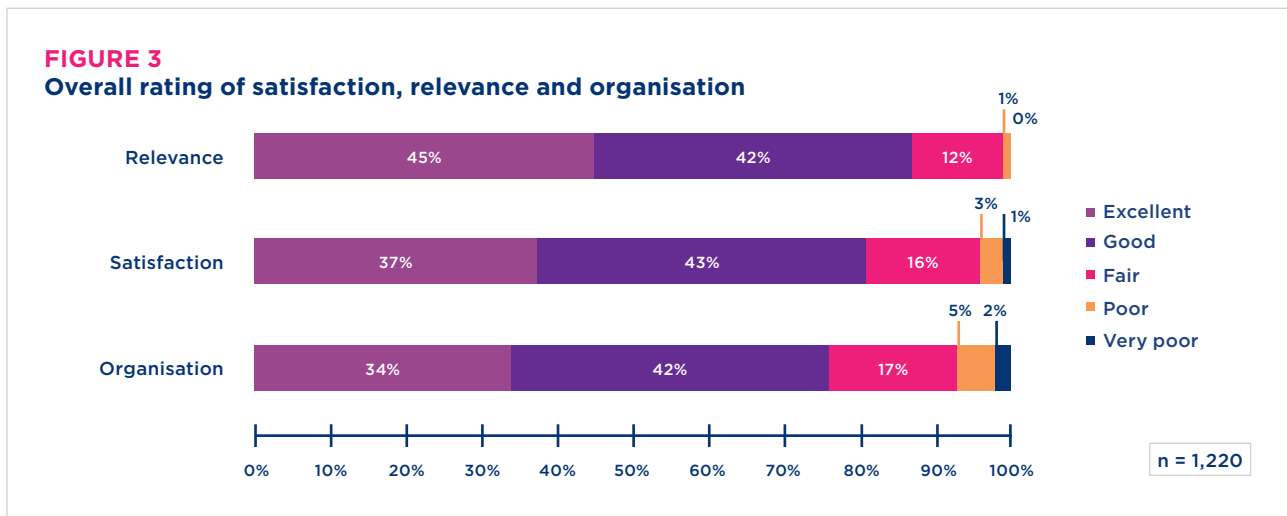
KEY FINDINGS

HOW SUCCESSFUL WAS THE CONFERENCE IN ACHIEVING ITS OBJECTIVES?

The theme of the 48th Conference, “Accelerating towards elimination”, focused on how to accelerate elimination on multiple fronts including TB and its co-infections, tobacco industry influence and harmful air pollution. Participants were asked to what extent they believed that this theme was relevant for lung health in 2017; the large majority strongly agreed (53%) or agreed (34%) that the theme was relevant.



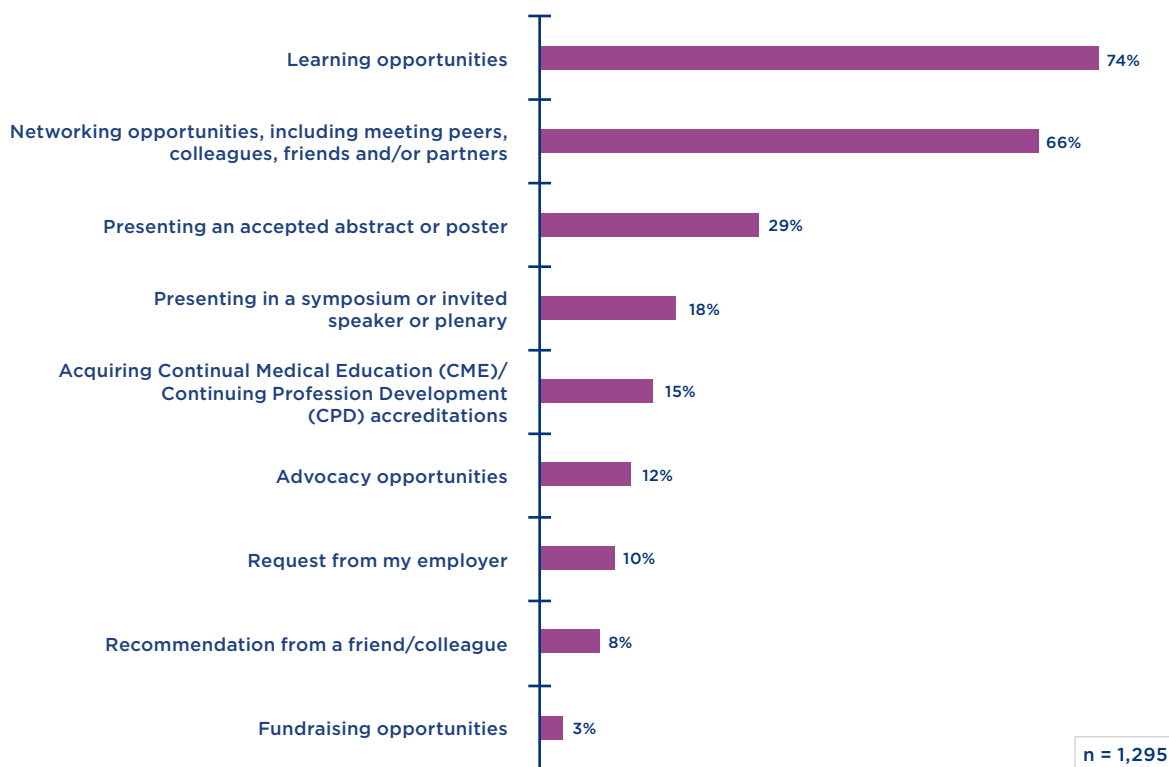
Participants were asked to assess the Conference’s relevance, their overall satisfaction with the Conference, and its organisation. Participants rated these three aspects highly; “Relevance”, “Satisfaction” and “Organisation” were evaluated to be “Excellent” or “Good” by 87, 80 and 76 per cent (respectively) of respondents.



BENEFITS

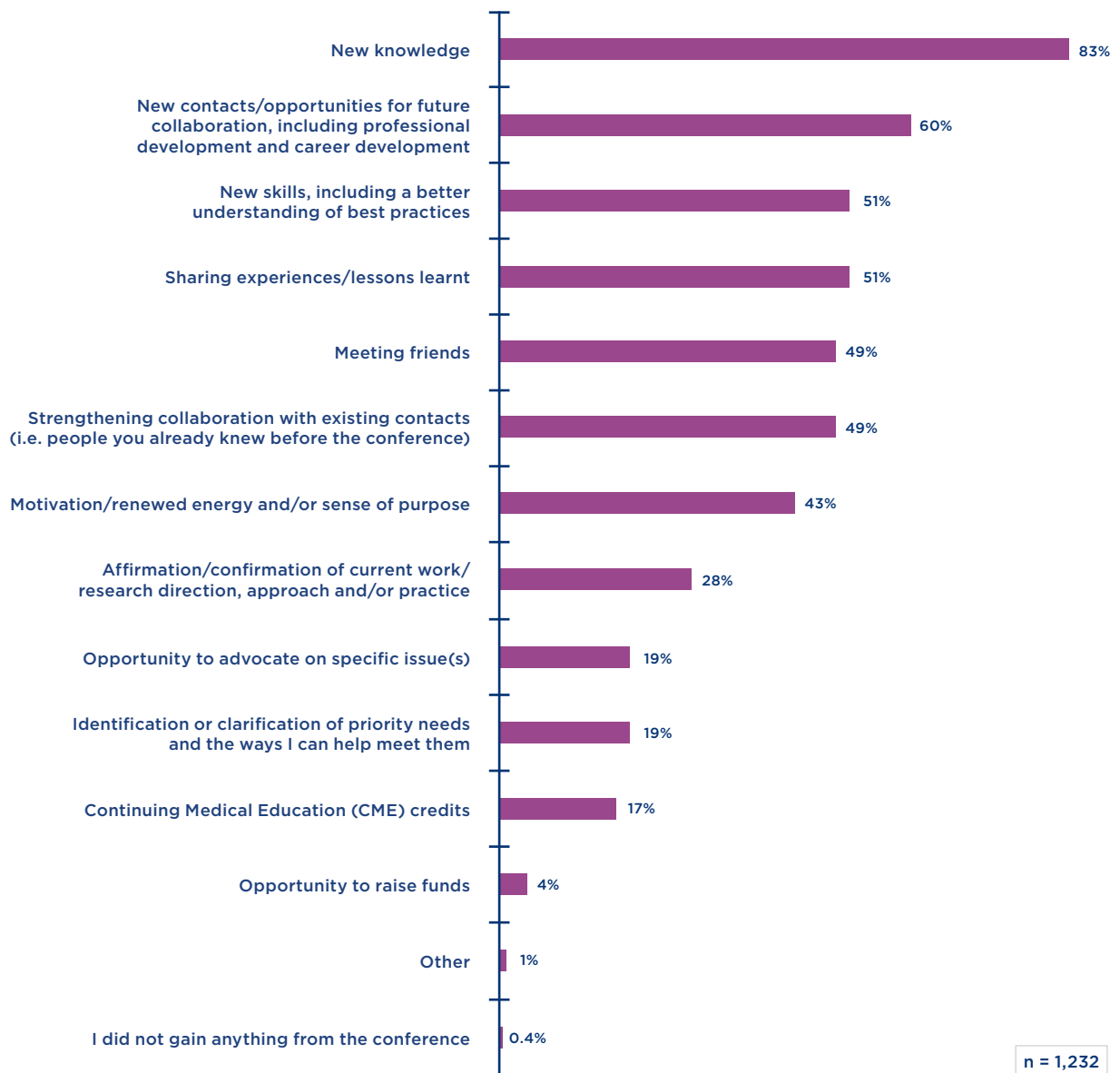
When participants were asked to list up to three reasons they came to the Conference, nearly three-quarters selected “learning opportunities”, two-thirds picked “networking opportunities”, followed by 29 per cent who selected presenting their work. In 2016, networking opportunities was ranked first. Those who answered “Other” mostly mentioned that they were working or volunteering at the conference or representing their organisation.

FIGURE 4
Why participants came to the conference



Virtually all survey respondents (99.6%) indicated that they benefited from the Conference (similar to 2016) with the main benefit being “New knowledge” (83%) followed by “New contacts/opportunities for collaboration” (60%) (respondents could select more than one benefit). A majority also chose “New skills/better understanding of best practices” and “Sharing experiences/lessons learnt”. Nearly one out of five respondents shared that they used the conference to advocate for a particular issue, as illustrated in the figure below.

FIGURE 5
Benefits gained from the conference



Surveyed participants were asked how they would use these benefits; three-quarters (76%) would share information with their colleagues, peers and partners. To a lesser extent they would build capacity within their organisations and for motivation (49% and 44% respectively).



Encouragingly, 28% indicated that they would initiate a new project, activity or research based on learnings at the conference and **one out of ten respondents said that they would use the information to raise awareness of policy makers**. Further details are found in the figure below.

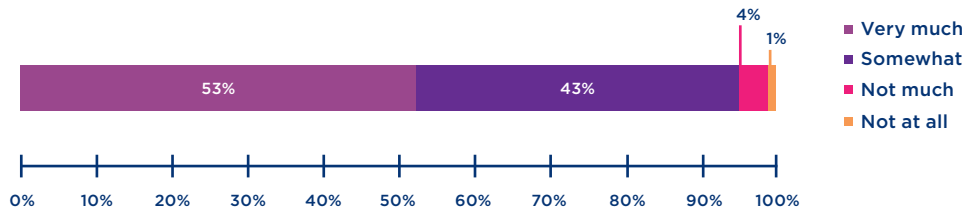
Participants were asked if they had the opportunity to network and/or discuss current work challenges with other participants/speakers in different areas of expertise: 82 per cent responded “Yes”, 10 per cent “No” and 8 per cent “Not sure”. The same results were seen in 2016.

FIGURE 6
How participants will use benefits of conference



A vast majority of survey respondents (96%) indicated that the information learnt at the conference will influence changes in the implementation of their work.

FIGURE 7
Implementation of information learnt in practice



WHAT DID THE CONFERENCE OFFER?

As usual, the Conference contained a variety of session types and activities including five plenary, 65 symposia, 94 abstract-related sessions (37 oral and 57 posters with 857 abstracts presented in total), 8 post-graduate courses, 20 workshops, an exhibition area, 13 satellite sessions, Union membership meetings and public events held in *Encuentro*, a space for community involvement and grassroots engagement.

INTERESTS

Seven out of ten participants' main track of interest was related to TB (adding together all TB tracks), as illustrated in the figure below; however, 72 per cent of surveyed participants indicated that they attended sessions outside their main discipline (even if a different focus in TB), up from 54 per cent in 2016.

FIGURE 8
Main interest at the conference

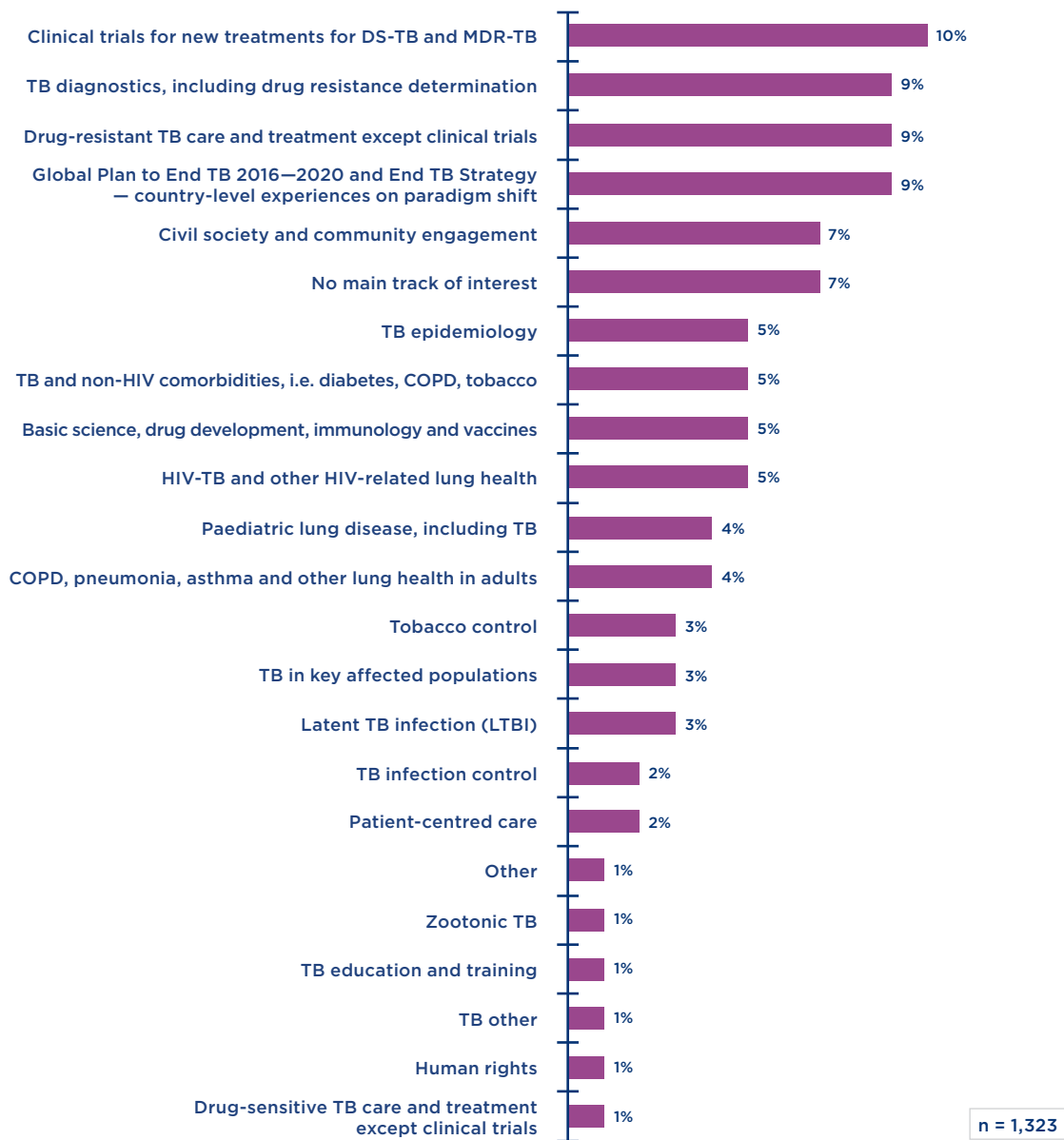
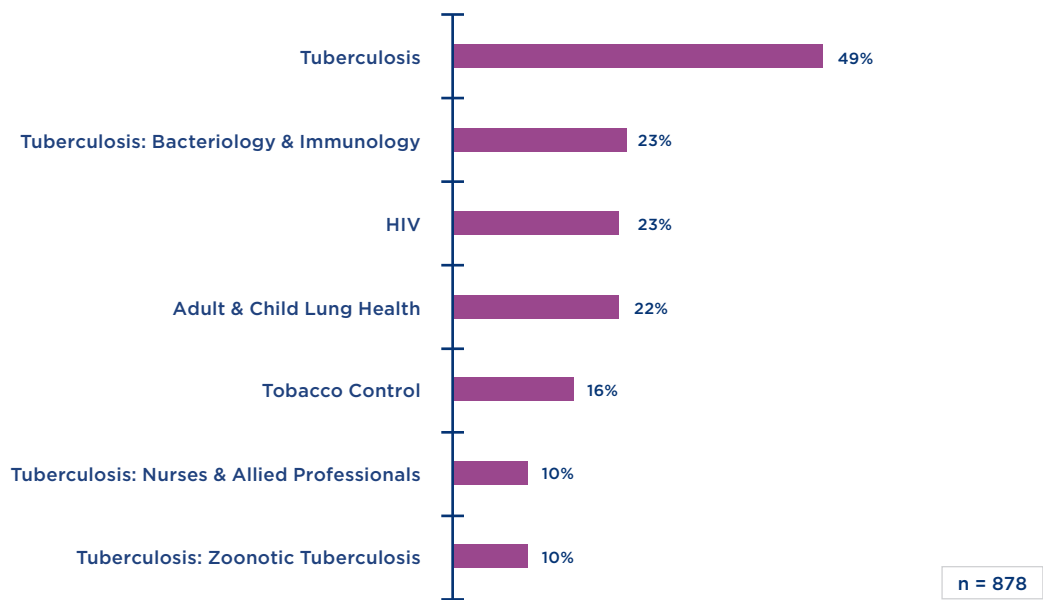


FIGURE 9
Areas attended outside of main discipline



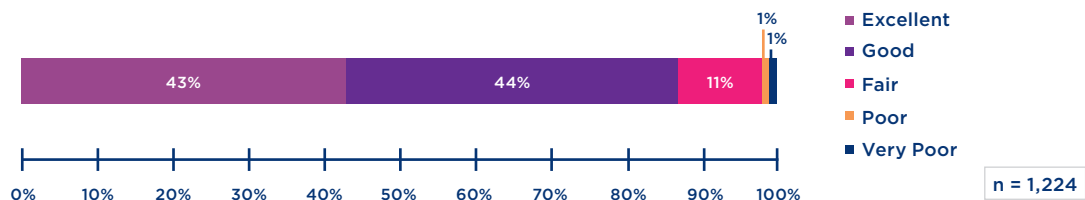
ABSTRACT-RELATED SESSIONS

The conference received 1,854 abstract submissions (1,680 in May and 174 as Late-Breakers), with 857 (51%) accepted from regular submission and 22 (12.6%) for Late-Breaker sessions. 315 were oral presentations and 542 were poster presentations. 64 accepted abstracts were ultimately not presented because the authors did not attend the conference. Abstracts were submitted from 97 countries, with the most popular tracks being Tobacco control (154 abstracts submitted), TB diagnostics, including drug-resistance determination (147 submitted) and Drug-resistant TB care and treatment-except clinical trials (201 submitted). Further details on abstract statistics are found at annex 3.

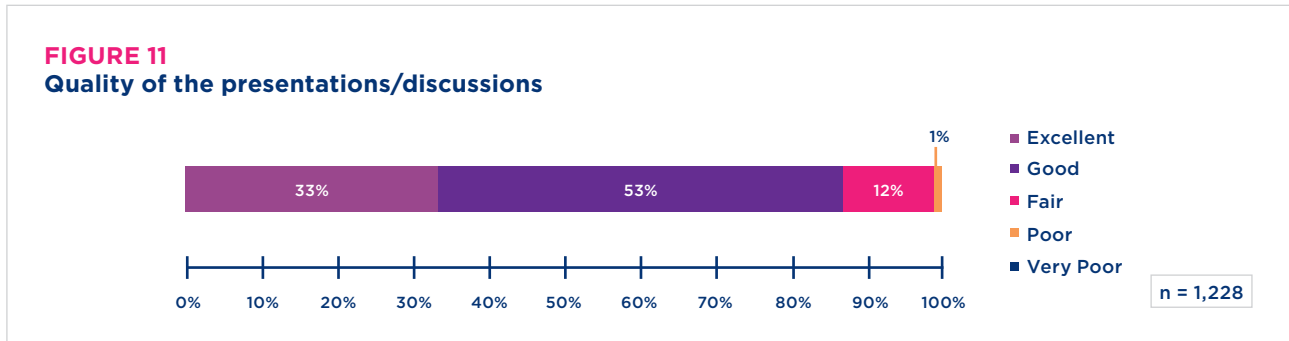
QUALITY OF SCIENCE AND PRESENTATIONS

A large majority of surveyed participants (87%) rated the quality of the science as either “Excellent” or “Good” as displayed in graph 10.

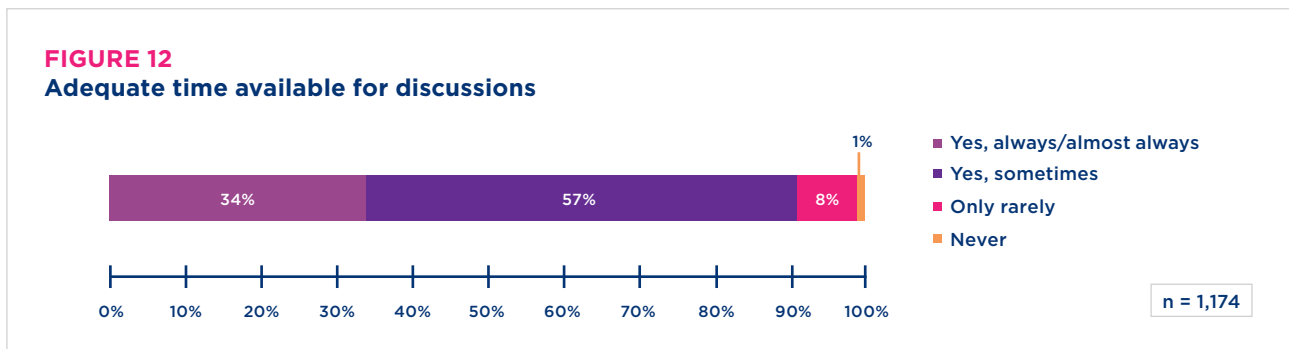
FIGURE 10
Quality of science



The quality of presentations and discussions were rated “Excellent” and “Good” by 86%.



When asked if there was adequate session time for discussions, questions and answers and learner engagement 34% responded “Yes, always/almost always” and 57% “Yes, sometimes”.

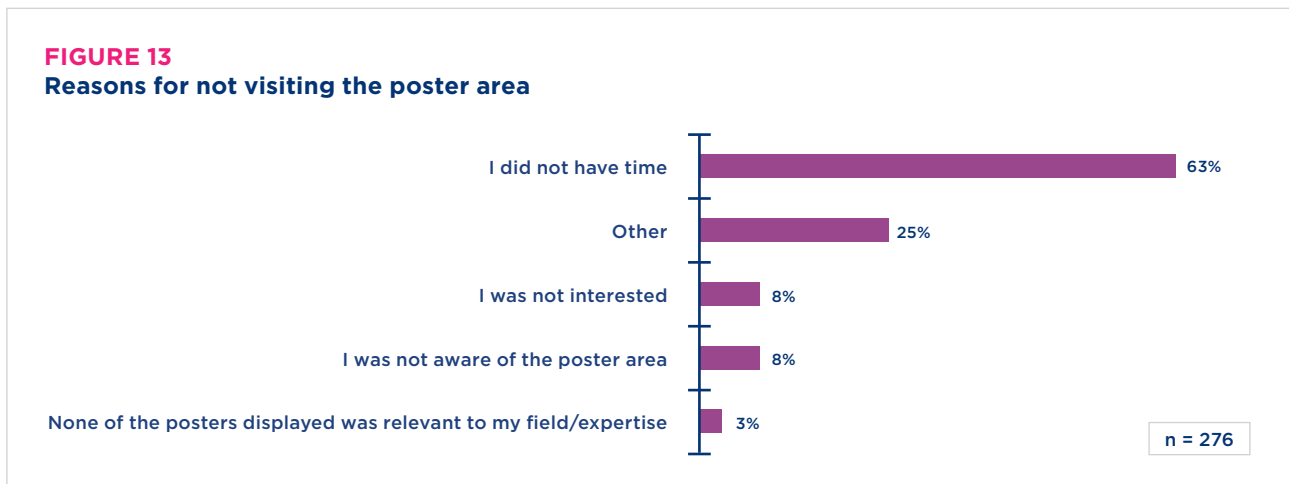


Nearly all (96%) participants either strongly agreed or agreed that information presented was free of commercial or other bias.

POSTER AREA

Of the surveyed participants, 93 per cent indicated that they visited the poster area. Nearly three-quarters (72%) of those who did rate it either “Excellent” or “Good”.

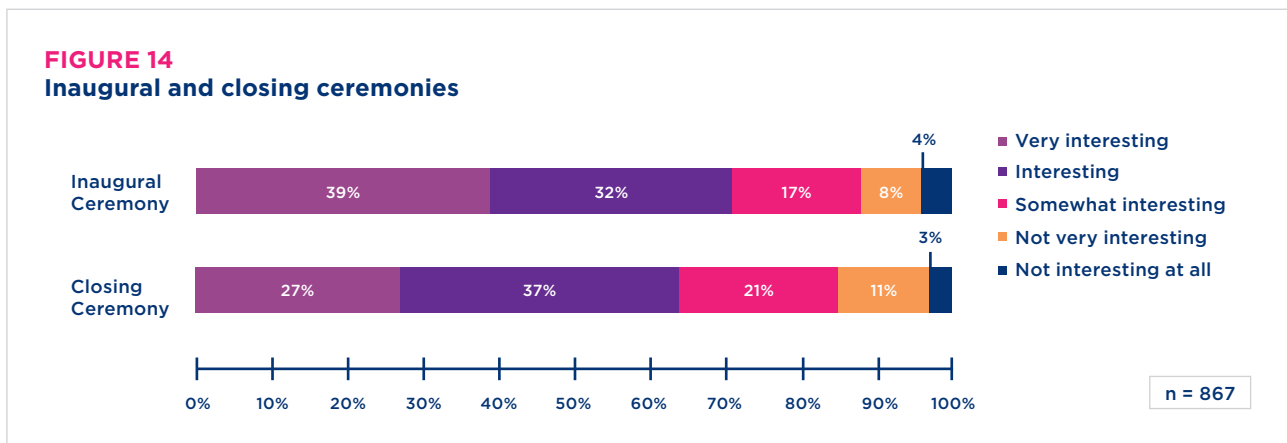
For those surveyed participants who did not visit the poster area, the main reason given was the lack of time, as illustrated in the figure below. Those who replied “Other” often mentioned that they could not find it.



NON-ABSTRACT RELATED SESSIONS

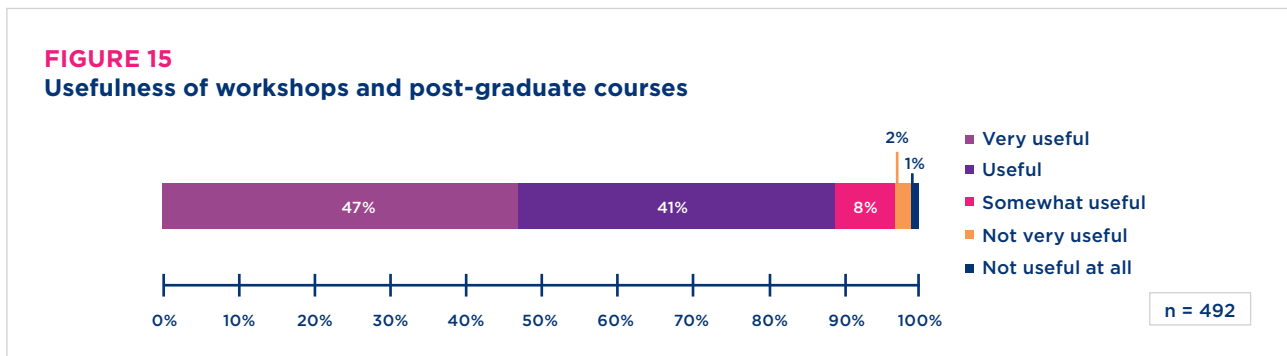
PLENARY SESSIONS

There was a plenary session held each morning of the conference in addition to two ceremonial sessions to officially open and close the conference. There was slightly more interest in the inaugural ceremony (71% “Very interesting” and “Interesting”) than for the closing ceremony (64%), as illustrated in the figure below. Of the surveyed participants, 26% (319) did not attend the inaugural ceremony and 43% (513) did not attend the closing ceremony.



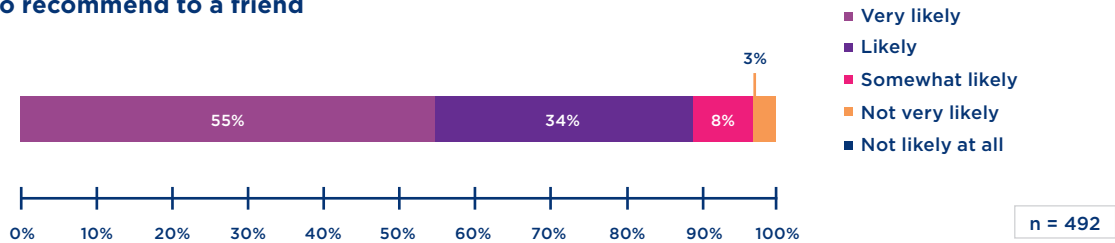
WORKSHOPS AND POST-GRADUATE COURSES

Of the survey respondents, 40 per cent (498 participants) had attended a workshop or post-graduate course (in 2016, 37% [382] attended a workshop or course). Of these, 79 per cent attended one workshop or post-graduate course and 21 per cent attended two. The majority (88%) of attendees found the workshops and courses were “Very useful” or “Useful”. 65 people provided comments about why they were not satisfied with the workshop or course they attended. Comments mainly mentioned issues of cost, the level of learning was too basic, and, paradoxically, either poor attendance or overcrowded rooms.



Despite these disappointments, a clear majority of respondents (87%) said they were “Very likely” (55%) or “Likely” (34%) to recommend a workshop or course to a friend.

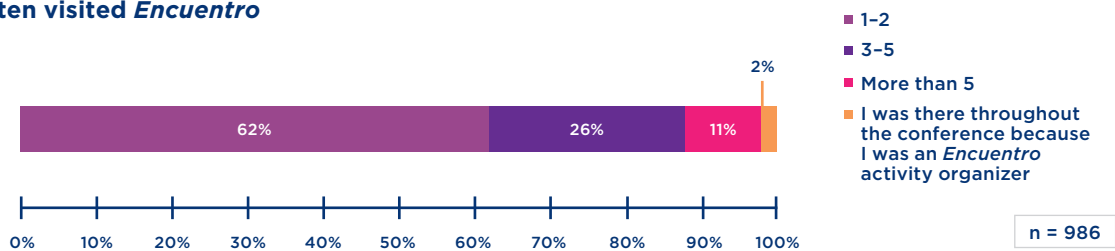
FIGURE 16
Likely to recommend to a friend



ENCUENTRO

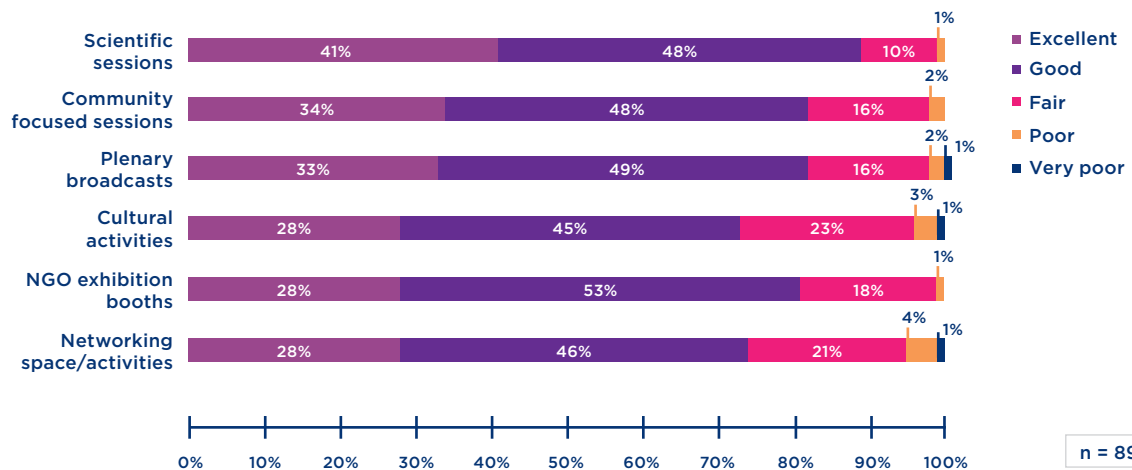
Four out of five surveyed participants indicated that they had visited *Encuentro*, with a majority (62%) visiting it one to two times as seen in the figure below. Those who did not visit *Encuentro* explained that either they were too busy in other sessions or it was not relevant to them; a minority (only 80 persons) did not know about *Encuentro*.

FIGURE 17
How often visited *Encuentro*



Surveyed participants rated both the scientific and community focused sessions in *Encuentro* quite highly, as seen in the figure below. Of the non-session activities, the NGO exhibition and plenary broadcasts were viewed favorably but cultural activities less so.

FIGURE 18
Rating of activities/features of *Encuentro*





Surveyed participants were asked to explain their experience and what they gained from visiting *Encuentro*; 370 comments were provided by participants. The majority of comments focused on the positive experience of the *Encuentro* for learning and inspiration, as illustrated by these selected quotes:

“Lively, colourful, friendly, accessible to all, highly diverse topics (very refreshing!) and relevant.”

“It was a fantastic experience being at the Encuentro area, there were lots of art and craft items displayed by the locals and I learnt a lot about how art can improve one’s life or financial being as a means of income generating project. I also learnt a lot through activities for and by the community especially how the media is used as a platform for TB information dissemination.”

“Initially I did know the significance of Encuentro or what it portrayed; I am not sure I still fully understand what it stands for. But I listened to a discussion on patient-centred care at the Encuentro Hall on the last day of the conference and it was really enlightening.”

“Muy bueno, me dio la oportunidad de conocer ideas, conocimientos que aplicar, me motivo a seguir trabajando, innovando, a seguir en la lucha.” Translation: “Very good, gave me the opportunity to know ideas, knowledge to apply, I motivated myself to continue working, innovating, to continue in the fight.”

At the same time, some participants commented that the purpose of *Encuentro* was not clear to them. They felt it was separated from the main conference areas and programme:

“It was unclear to me what the point of it was and since it was far from the halls I did not return”

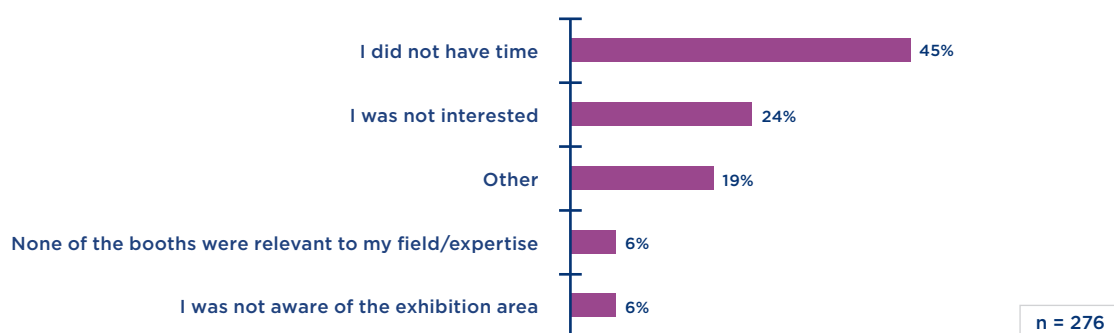
“This area should be afforded greater attention — it was difficult to see/know it was there. It was underutilized because people didn’t know about it, and it also could have been used to create a more cohesive community atmosphere. The opening plenary on the first day, and the pre-session WHO Symposium focused on the global pieces in which essential research, technology and advocacy fit — it would have been advantageous to make this a key focus of the Encuentro space, to better allow delegates to connect their work to the broader global TB movement.”

“I like the feel/idea but still feel the opportunity is not fully realized. My understanding of the goals of the Encuentro are only vague — although I visited 3–4 times I never found TB activities going on there. These should be spaces that attract delegates in for other reasons (good local street food would be an easy one if the convention centers would ever allow it) and then keep them there. It’s just disappointing that the engagement in these places falls so far behind the industry spaces — I feel that the organizers could learn some lessons from those spaces.”

EXHIBITION AREA

Of the surveyed participants, 78% indicated that they visited the exhibition area. Four out of five delegates who visited the exhibition area rated it “Excellent” or “Good”.

FIGURE 19
Reasons for not visiting the exhibition area



HOW WERE PARTICIPANTS SUPPORTED IN THEIR PREPARATION FOR AND PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE?

This section provides findings on support provided to both participants with a special role within the Conference and delegates in general.

SUPPORT PROVIDED TO PARTICIPANTS WITH A SPECIAL ROLE

SPEAKERS, CHAIRS, ABSTRACT/POSTER PRESENTERS

Support prior to the Conference, either in the form of the guidelines disseminated by the Programme team of the Secretariat or in direct response to individual queries, were seen as the most useful. During the conference, the Speakers Centre was seen as a more useful resource than responses from the Conference Secretariat, possibly reflecting the shift of the Programme team from responding to emails pre-conference to solving problems in vivo/in situ.

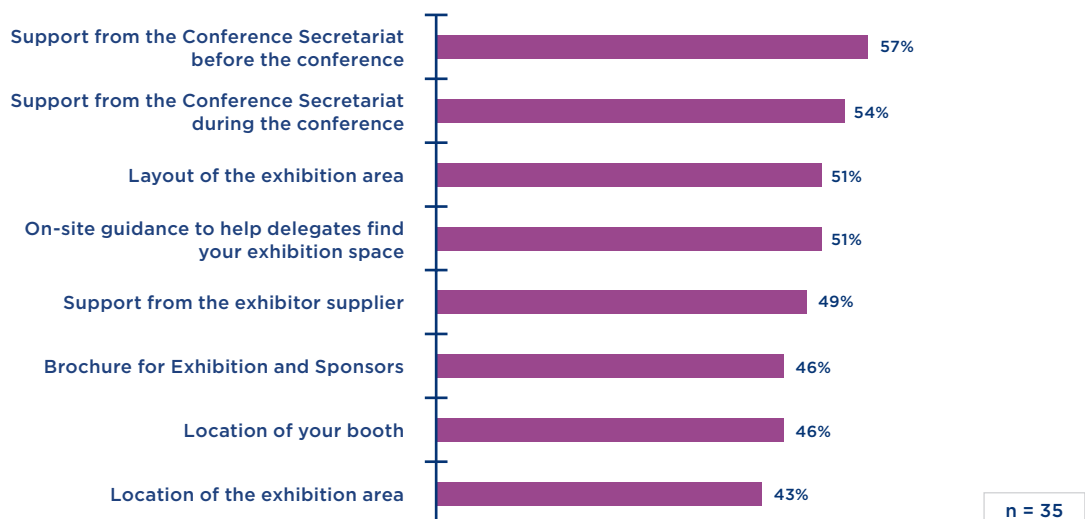
FIGURE 20
Usefulness of resources to prepare sessions (“Very useful” and “Useful” ratings)



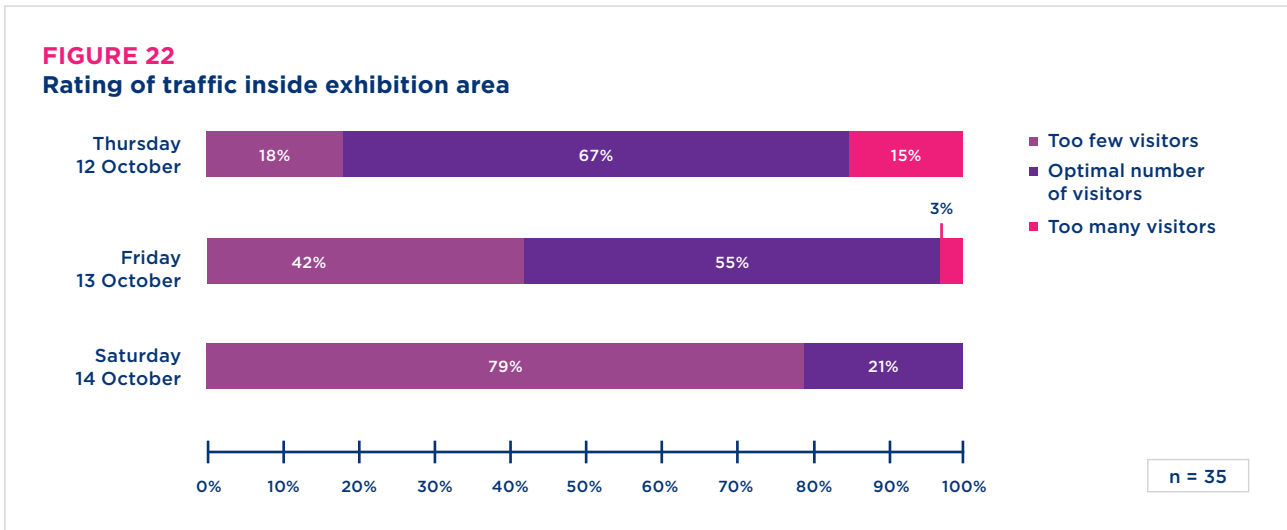
EXHIBITORS

Some key aspects of the exhibition were rated by exhibitors with support from the Conference Secretariat before and during the Conference rated the highest (57% and 54% respectively for “Excellent” and “Good” ratings). Location of the exhibition area and their individual booths were rated lower (43% and 46% respectively).

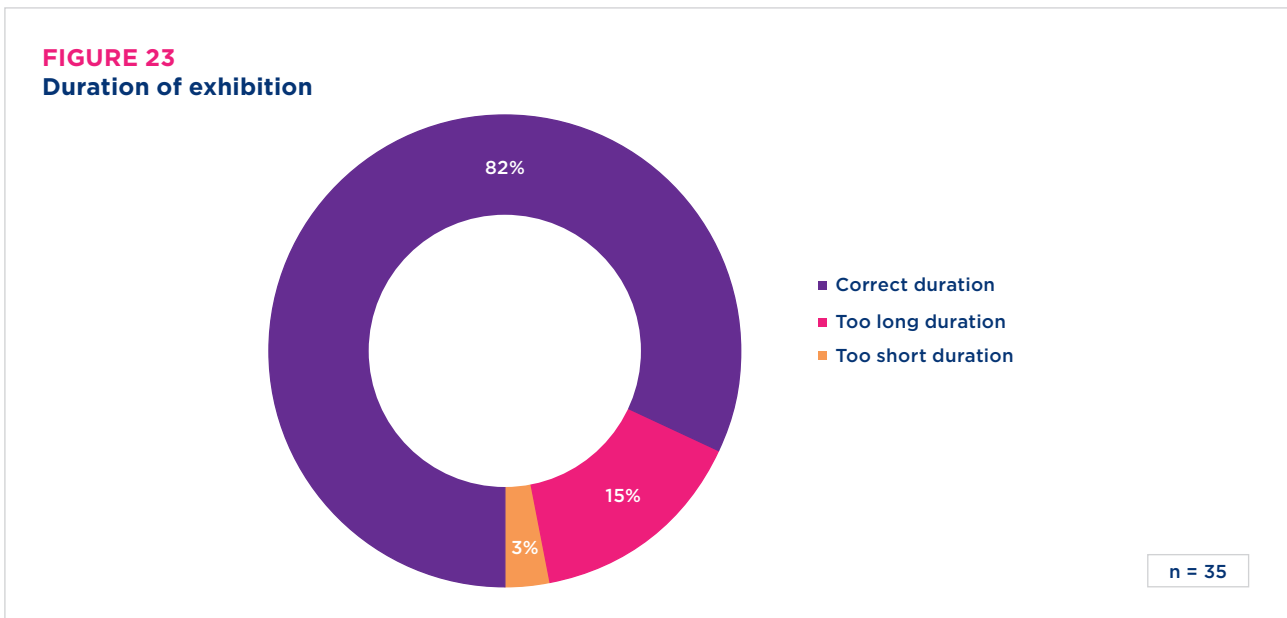
FIGURE 21
Rating by exhibitors of key aspects (“Excellent” and “Good” ratings)



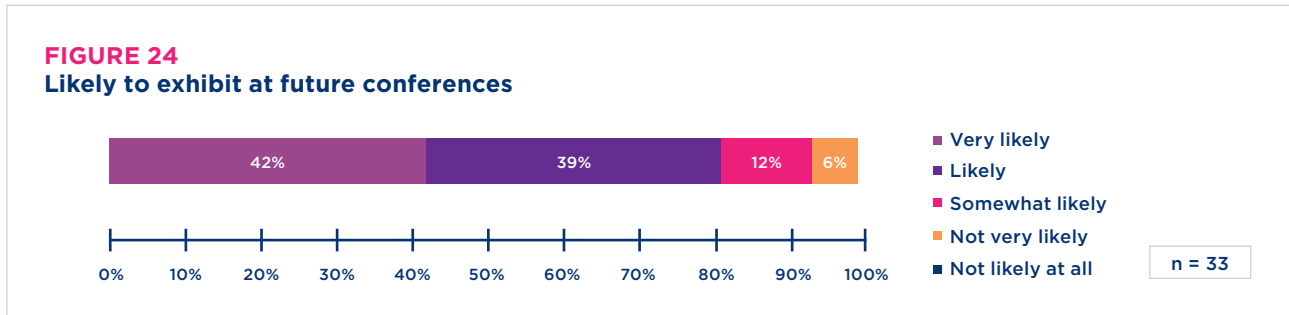
Exhibitors were asked to rate the exhibition area traffic, as illustrated in the figure below. From their perspective, Thursday was the best day and Saturday the worst, though 21 per cent still thought that the numbers of visitors on Saturday was optimal.



For logistic and security reasons, the exhibition opening hours were reduced compared to previous years. Fortunately, when asked about the exhibition's duration, the large majority of exhibitors (82%) reported that the duration was correct.



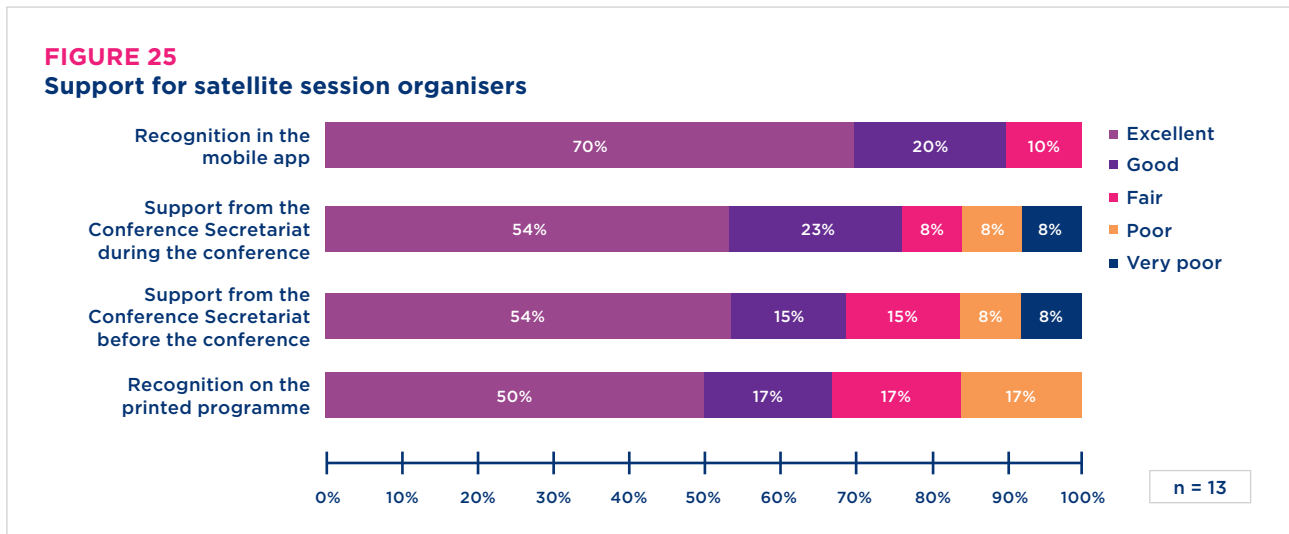
Exhibitors were asked how likely they were to exhibit at future conferences, with the majority responding positively: 81 per cent “Very likely” and “Likely”, as illustrated in the figure below (up from 72 per cent in 2016).



SPECIALIZED SESSION ORGANISERS

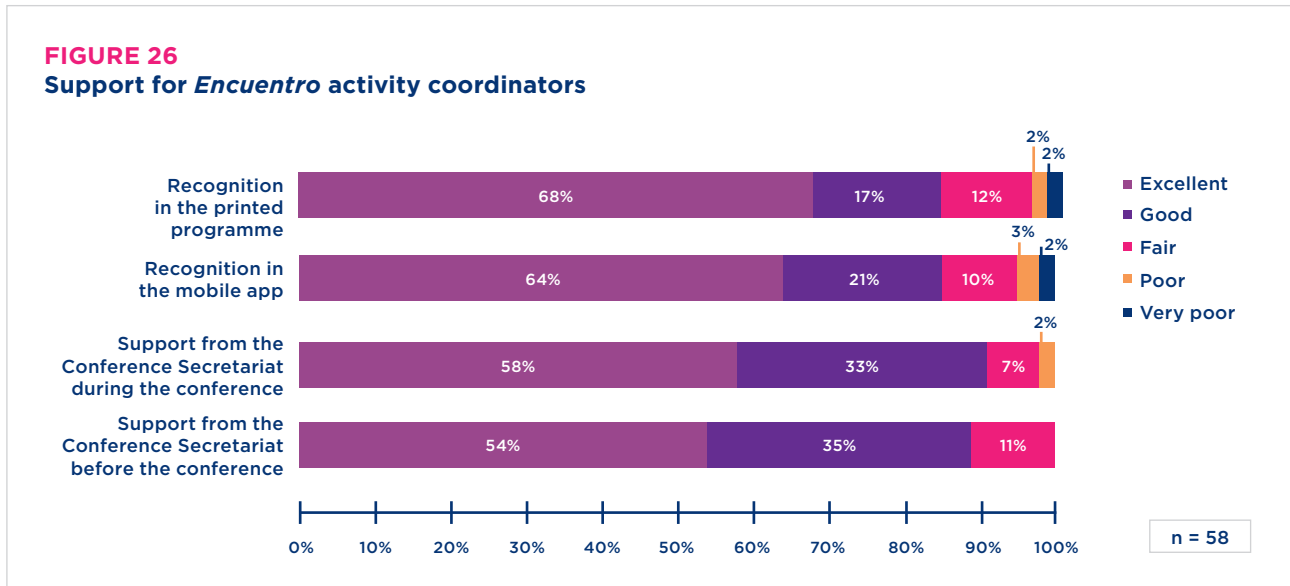
SATELLITE SESSIONS

Only 13 survey respondents identified as a Satellite Sessions organisers; however, considering that there were only 13 satellites organized, this is a strong response rate. The organisers rated support positively on key aspects ranging from 67% to 90% for “Excellent” and “Good” ratings, with the programme app being most appreciated and the printed programme being viewed least favorably.



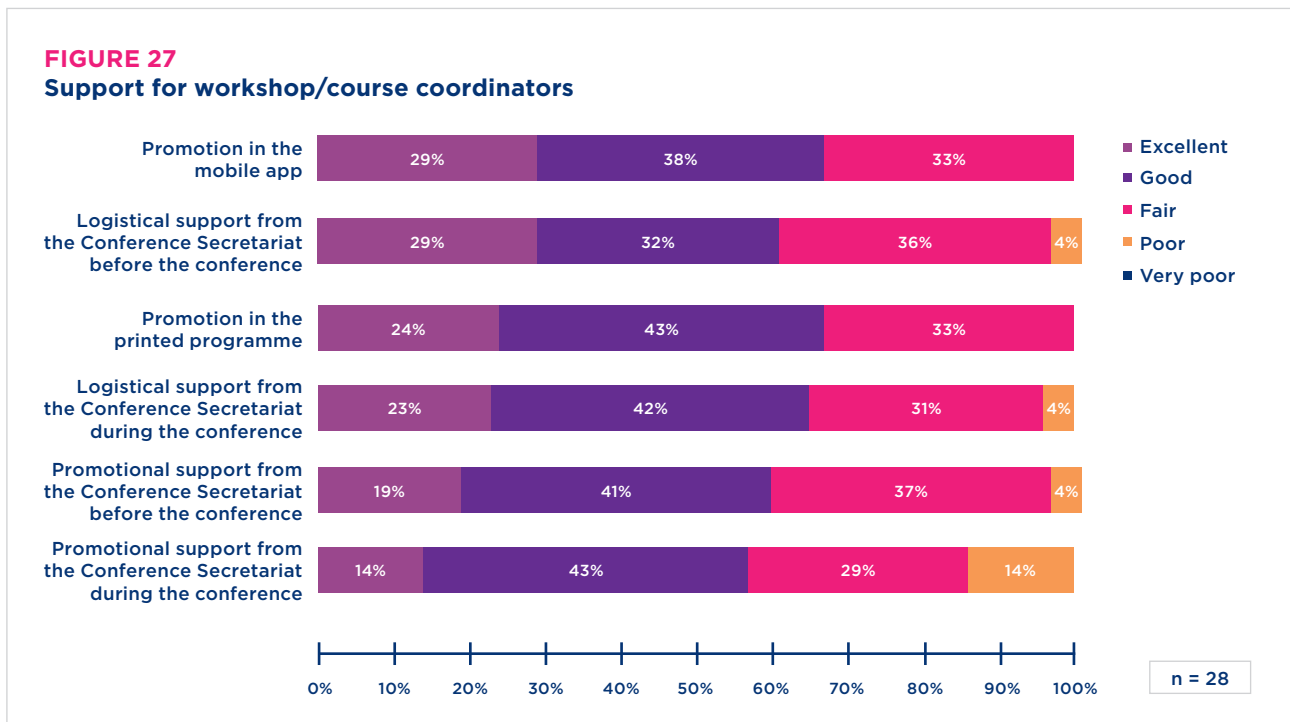
ENCUENTRO

Activity organisers rated their pre-conference and onsite support positively, ranging from 85% to 91% for “Excellent” and “Good” ratings.

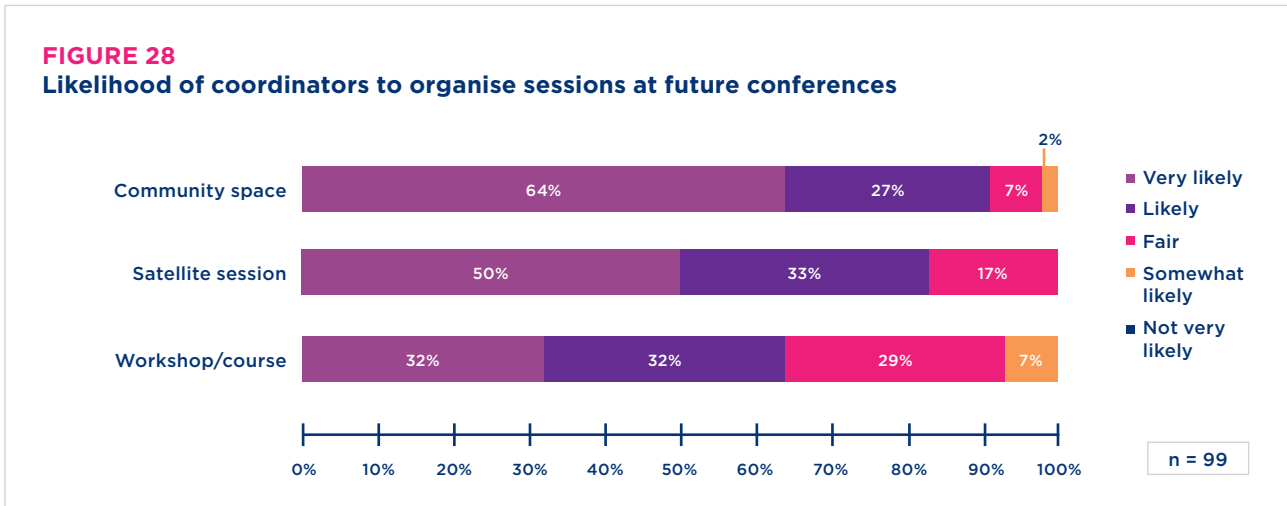


WORKSHOP AND POST-GRADUATE COURSES

Coordinators (28 survey respondents) rated their pre-conference and onsite support positively, ranging from 57% to 77% for “Excellent” and “Good” ratings.



The organisers of the specialized sessions were asked how likely they were to organise a session at future conferences, as seen in the figure below. *Encuentro* organisers were the most positive, with 91% indicating that they were “Very likely” or “Likely”, followed by 83% of Satellite session organisers and 64% of workshop/course coordinators.



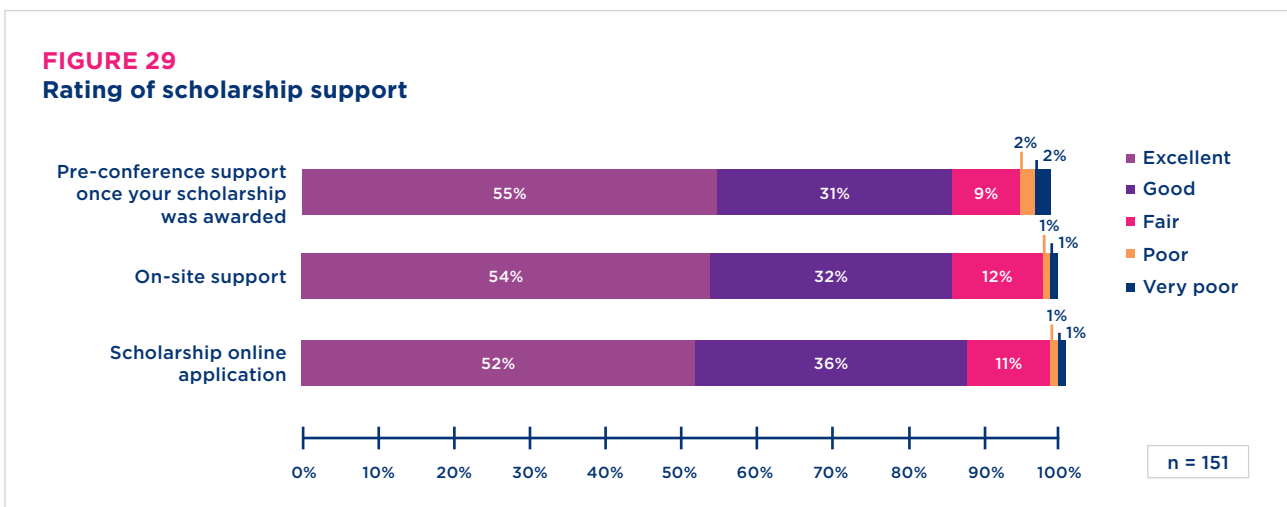
SUPPORT PROVIDED TO ALL PARTICIPANTS

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Conference offered two scholarship programmes for potential participants:

- Scholarships for affected communities/community volunteers: 100 recipients were awarded scholarships from 75 initial applications and over 30 additional ones;
- Scholarships for symposia speakers/abstract authors: 15 recipients were awarded scholarships from 320 applications.

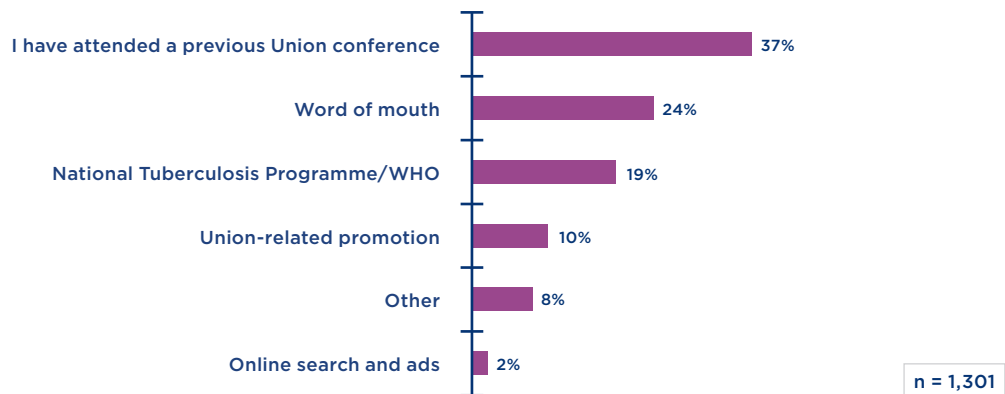
Of survey respondents, 8% applied for community scholarships and 8% for speaker/author scholarships. Those surveyed respondents who received a scholarship were asked to rate the support, as illustrated in figure 29. Respondents rated support positively on key aspects, ranging from 86% to 88% for “Excellent” and “Good” ratings.



INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION

Surveyed participants were asked how they had heard about the Conference. Just over one third (37%) had attended previous conferences, followed by being informed by a colleague (24%) or from their National TB programme or WHO (19%). Those who responded “Other” mentioned that they work for or with The Union, were given information by a national health programme or received an invitation.

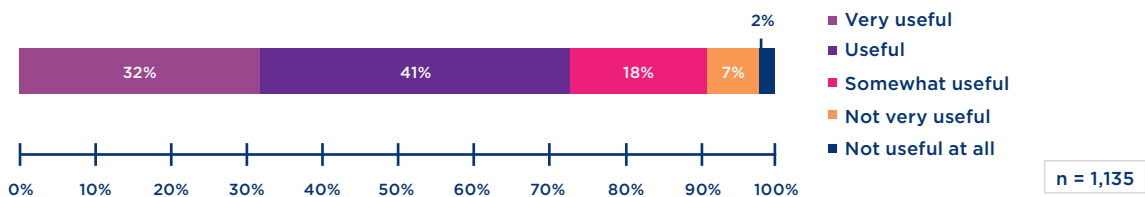
FIGURE 30
How participants heard about the conference



Encuentro activity organisers (62 survey respondents) were asked how they had heard about *Encuentro*; nearly half (43%) indicated through a friend, colleague or peer, followed by online promotion or social media (14%). One out of five respondents heard via promotional emails or the conference website. Those who responded “Other” indicated that they were mainly contacted directly by national health programmes.

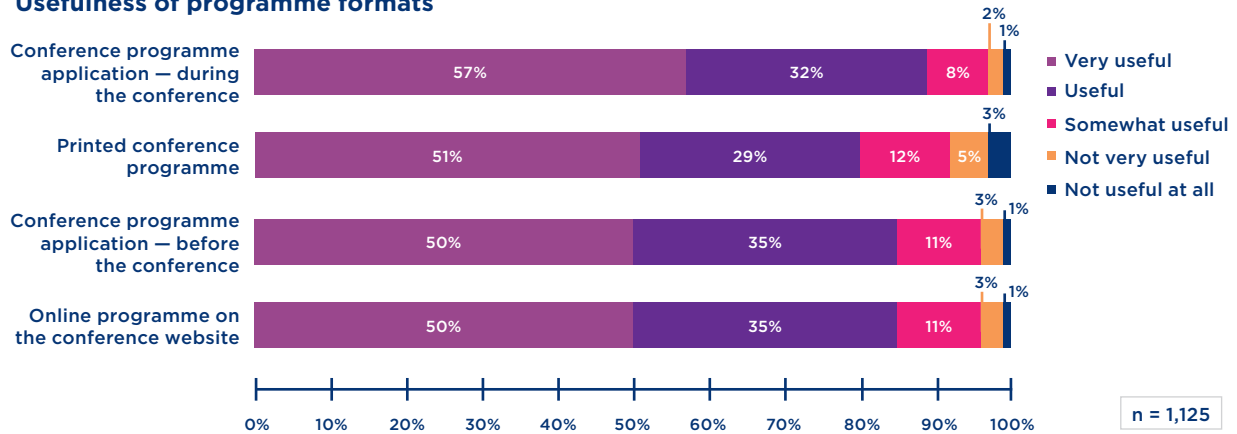
Surveyed participants were asked to rate the usefulness of the email newsletters sent by the Conference Secretariat: 32% found them “Very useful” and 41% “Useful”, as illustrated in figure 31.

FIGURE 31
Usefulness of email newsletters



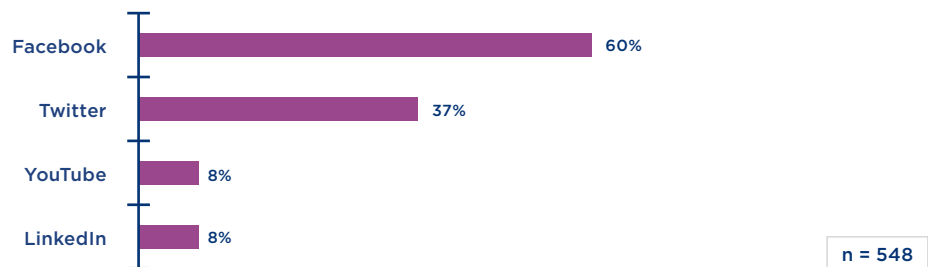
The large majority of survey respondents rated the usefulness of the different programme formats as “Very useful” or “Useful”, with the programme app during the conference the most useful. Only 17% of surveyed participants reported not using the mobile phone app, a marked increase in usage from 49% not using the app in 2016. Of those who used the app, 96% indicated that they would recommend it to a friend.

FIGURE 32
Usefulness of programme formats



Concerning social media, 41% of survey participants reported that they followed the Conference through social media, with most following the Conference on Facebook followed by Twitter. This is an increase from 2016, where only 29% indicated they followed the Conference through social media.

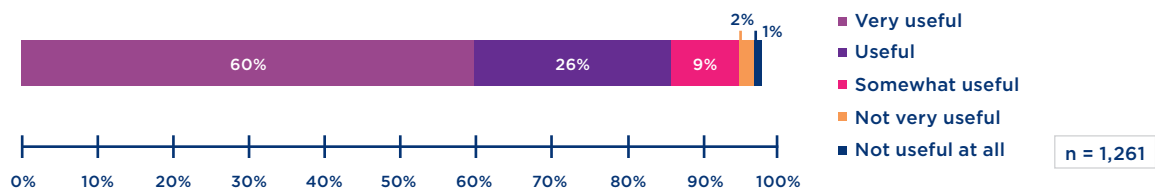
FIGURE 33
Participants following the conference through social media



VOLUNTEERS

Surveyed participants were asked how useful they found the Conference volunteers: 60% found them “Very useful” and 26% “Useful”.

FIGURE 34
Usefulness of conference volunteers



FUTURE ATTENDANCE

Surveyed participants were asked if they planned to attend the 49th Union World Conference on Lung Health in The Hague, Netherlands: 77% responded “Yes” and 23% “No”.

COMPARISON BETWEEN 2016 AND 2017 CONFERENCE

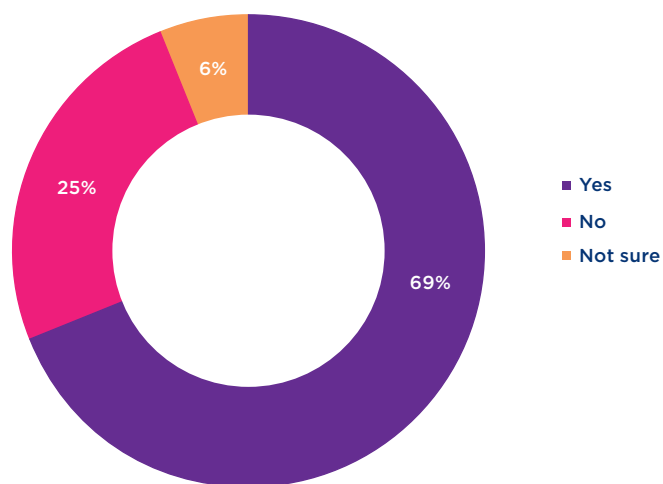
The following table shows a comparison between key aspects of the survey results between the 2016 and 2017 Conferences.

ASPECT*	2016	2017
Survey response rate	• 35%	• 52%
Conference achieved objective	• 40–90% (multiple objectives)	• 87% (singular objective)
Why came to Conference (top 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Networking opportunities • Learning opportunities • Present abstract/poster 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning opportunities • Networking opportunities • Present abstract/poster
% of participants benefiting	• 99.9%	• 99.6%
How benefits will be used (top 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share information • Build capacity • Motivate colleagues 	• No change
Attend sessions outside of main discipline	• 54%	• 72%
Workshops/courses – likely to recommend to a friend	• 86%	• 89%
Visited exhibition area	• 84%	• 78%
Visited civil society area	• 77%	• 80%
Likely to participate again:		
• Exhibitors	• 72%	• 81%
• Satellite session coordinators	• 80%	• 83%
• Civil society coordinators	• 78%	• 93%
• Workshop/course coordinators	• 79%	• 64%
Following through social media	• 29%	• 41%
Usefulness – volunteers	• 78%	• 86%
Expand beyond TB to Lung health	• 52%	• 69%
Like to see more of (top 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symposia – 33% • Meet expert – 33% • Workshops – 27% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symposia – 46% • Meet expert – 43% • Plenaries – 40%

*All results using a scale show the combined top two points of the scale (e.g. Excellent – good, Very likely – likely).

Surveyed participants were asked if the conference should expand beyond TB to lung health; a majority (69%) responded “Yes”, while 25% responded “No” and a small minority replied “Not sure” (6%). This is a 17% increase of “Yes” from 2016.

FIGURE 35
Should conference expand focus beyond TB to lung health



n = 1,186

Participants were asked what topics they would like to be covered by the Conference in the future. Over 800 suggestions were made by participants, with the main themes as follows:

- One-third suggested TB-related topics, the most popular being: TB Management, paediatric TB, HIV and TB, DR-TB/MDR-TB, LTBI, TB elimination social determinants, innovations, TB transmission, and advocacy for TB and TB patients.
- One-third suggested lung health-related topics, with the most popular being: COPD, tobacco control, asthma, lung disease, pneumonia, pollution and lung cancer.
- One-third suggested broader health topics, with the most popular being: environment health, patient care, co-morbidity, NCDs, health systems, and visibility of community and civil society issues (e.g. community engagement and communication).

Annex 3 contains further details of the topics proposed by surveyed participants.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Overall, this evaluation has found that the Conference has largely met its set goals, considering the key findings from surveyed participants:

- 99.6% could identify direct benefits for themselves from the Conference;
- 87% agreed that the conference theme was relevant to lung health today;
- 80% were overall positively satisfied with the Conference.

The benefits of the Conference was anticipated to be networking and learning, which were confirmed by most participants as having been attained, with 83% reporting they had gained new knowledge and 60% made new contacts and opportunities. On all these key points, the 48th Conference progressed or remained steady compared to the 47th Conference, based on the ratings of surveyed participants.

The main supporters of the Conference, such as exhibitors and coordinators of satellite sessions, indicated that they would continue to participate in the Conference, and this intention increased from the 2016 Conference (with the exception of workshop/course coordinators, which decreased).

To reinforce and build on the success of the 48th Conference, the following recommendations are proposed for the 49th Conference and those beyond. A number of these recommendations are similar to those of the 2016 evaluation, reinforcing where the participants would like to see improvements.

1. NETWORKING

Given that it is one of the highest anticipated benefits for participants, and based on participants' feedback, more could be done to facilitate networking. This point was also raised in 2016. **Further activities and actions could be carried out to facilitate networking** such as: include more informal seating and break-out spaces in the venue and structured network activities such as smaller group and social activities (several participants mentioned positively the *Encuentro* bike ride).

2. PROGRAMMING

The Conference faces the challenge of presenting a large number of abstracts. Several participants mentioned this was better managed in 2017 compared to past Conferences. At the same time, participants were interested in more symposia, meet the experts and plenaries. The morning plenary should be a way of building a common agenda (e.g. announce key features of the day such as what is going on in civil society space, exhibition space, etc.) and setting the theme, action or advocacy focus for the day. The Conference Secretariat could consider **further streamlining the number of abstracts, introducing more symposia, meet the experts and a morning plenary of common interest rather than specific to one audience.**

3. TOPICS

The surveyed participants were more in favor of expanding the range of topics presented, compared to 2016. The Conference Secretariat could **consider priority topics where support was strongest (see annex 3).**

4. VENUE SET-UP AND PLANNING

The venue of the 48th Conference was not considered fully satisfactory by participants. **The Conference Secretariat is encouraged to select and design future venues considering the suggestions of participants.**

5. EXHIBITION

Based on the feedback of exhibitors, the exhibition space was an improvement on the 48th conference, in terms of number of visitors and location. Similar recommendations are proposed as for 2016; **the exhibition area should be more centrally located where significant traffic is guaranteed** (venue set-up allowing), **incentives to visits should be introduced** (such as holding coffee breaks there) and **the number of exhibitors increased.**

6. CIVIL SOCIETY AREA

Encuentro was visited by 80% of surveyed participants. However, its location, as for previous Conferences, diminished its potential impact according to participants surveyed. For future conferences, **the location of the civil society area be integrated within the venue and attention paid to linking the activities to the broader Conference programme** where possible.

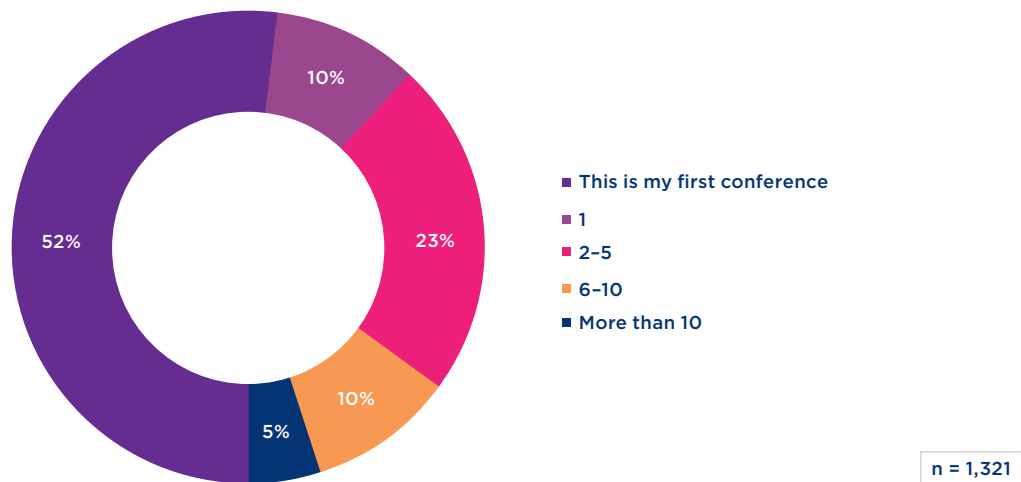
7. WORKSHOPS AND POST GRADUATE COURSES

For those participants who participated in a workshop or course, they were seen as being of value. However, as for 2016, the feedback from participants indicated that some improvements could make them even more valuable. Several workshops appeared to be a series of presentations rather than real “workshopping”. Suggestions would include **refreshing the course/workshops offered** and not repeating the same topics every year; **greater quality control of the workshop/course schedules to ensure interactivity, a “workshop” format and better timekeeping** (e.g. Programme Committee to validate lesson plans for all workshops/courses) **and clearer communication and control** (e.g. taking attendance and monitoring participants) as to who can attend workshops/courses.

ANNEX 1: PARTICIPANT PROFILE

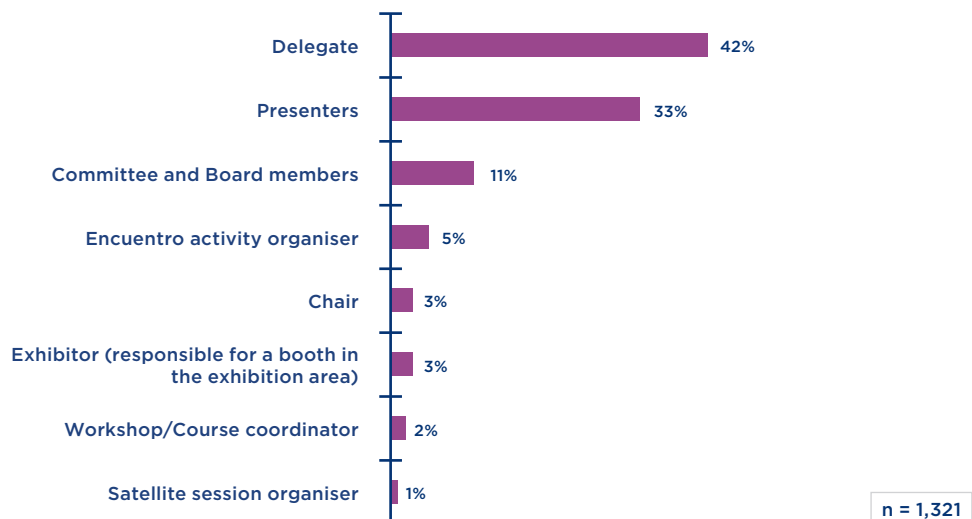
67% of surveyed participants indicated that they were members of The Union. Like last year, half (52%) were attending the conference for the first time; 10% had attended one conference previously and 23% between 2 and 5.

FIGURE 36
Number of conferences attended



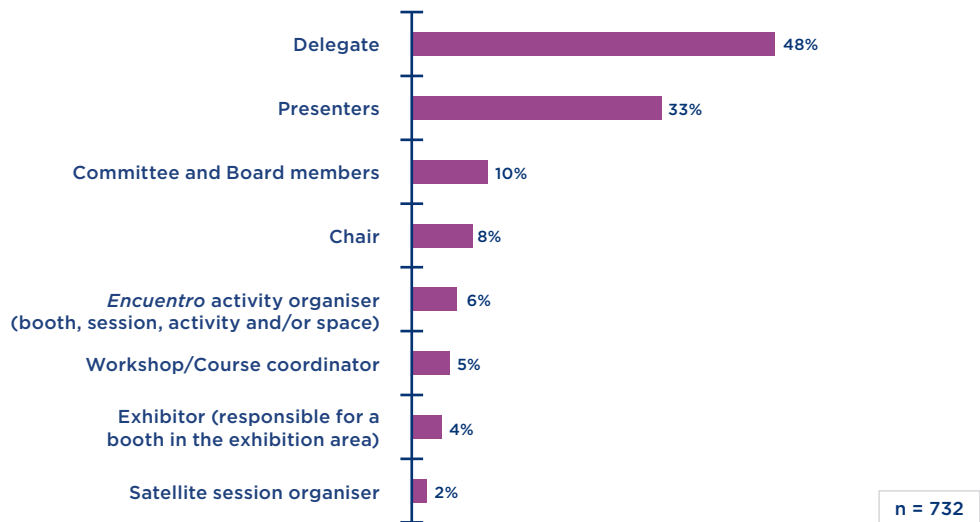
Nearly half of participants (42%) were delegates at the Conference. Further roles are described in the figure below.

FIGURE 37
Main role during conference



Just over half of participants surveyed (732) indicated that they had a secondary role.

FIGURE 38
Secondary role during conference



Surveyed participants were nearly evenly split between female (53%) and male (49%), with 0.1% (two persons) responding “Prefer not to say”, as illustrated in the figure below. Just under half of participants (45%) were aged between 40 and 59, with the second largest group aged between 26 and 39 (35%).

FIGURE 39
Gender of survey participants

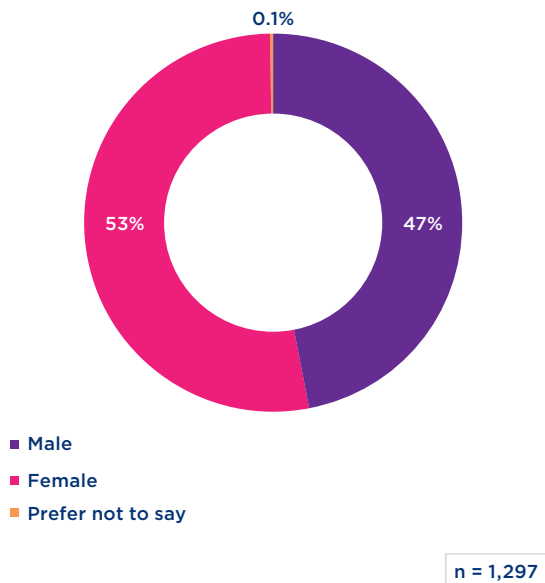
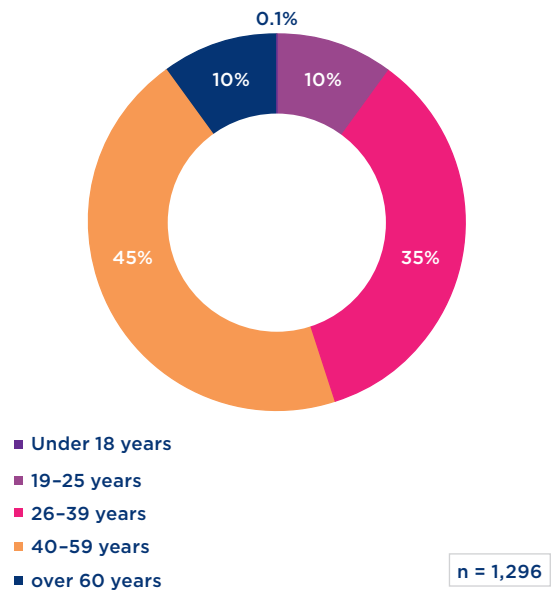
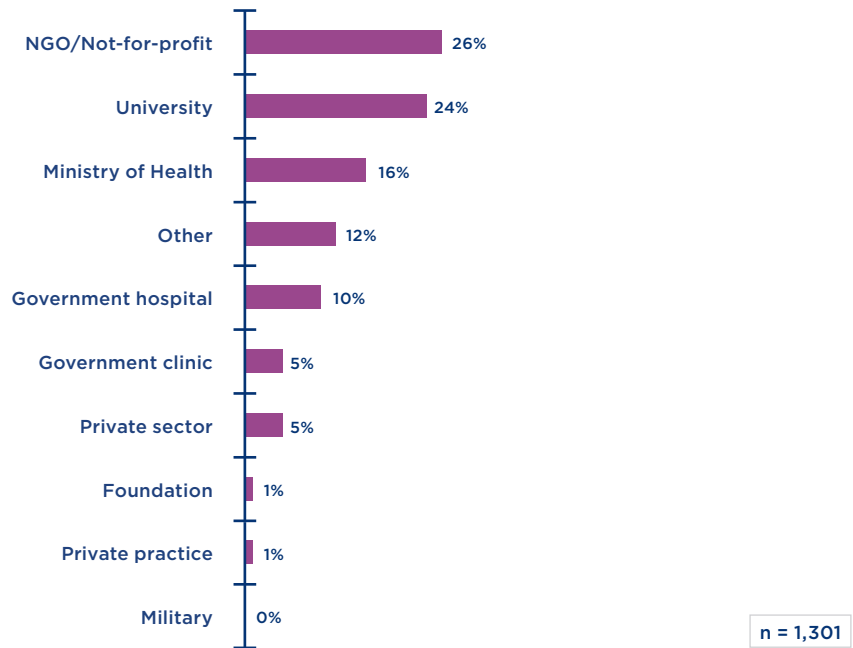


FIGURE 40
Age of survey participants



Surveyed participants were asked to identify their current organisation, with one quarter (26%) indicating “NGO/not-for-profit” and another quarter (24%) identifying “University”. Those who selected “Other” mainly mentioned research/laboratory, government agency, UN agency or international organisation.

FIGURE 41
Participants' organisations





A sizable number of participants (194) indicated they were working at the “global” level (156 in 2016). The countries represented by the highest number of delegates were Mexico (host country), USA and India. Survey participants represented 95 countries in total.

TABLE 1
Countries of work of survey participants

COUNTRY	NO. OF PARTICIPANTS
Mexico	399
Global*	194
USA	82
India	55
South Africa	51
Peru	33
UK	31
Philippines	20
Brazil	19
Colombia	18
Canada	15
France	14
Kenya	14
Indonesia	13
Mozambique	13
Uganda	13
Pakistan	12
Nigeria	11
Switzerland	11
Tanzania	10
Myanmar	10

5-9 PARTICIPANTS PER COUNTRY

Bangladesh, Botswana, Cambodia, China, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Georgia, Ghana, Japan, Korea (Republic of), Malawi, Moldova (Republic of), Namibia, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

FEWER THAN 5 PARTICIPANTS PER COUNTRY

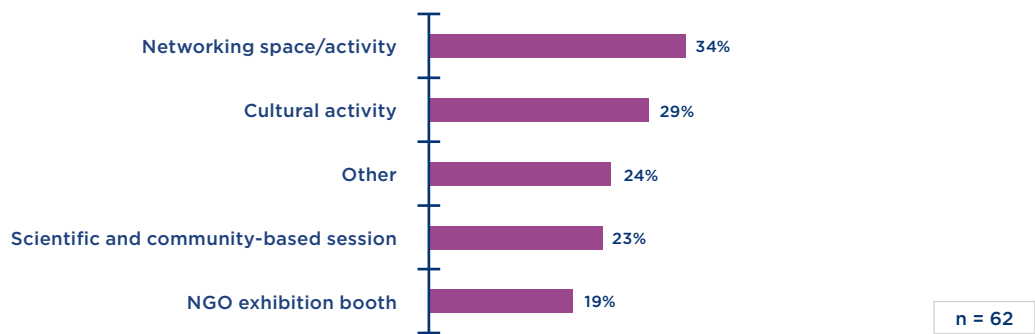
Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Cameroon, Chile, Congo (DR), Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Gabon, Germany, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hong Kong, Israel, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mali, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Thailand, Uruguay, Venezuela.

* Participants that worked in more than one country selected the option “Global”



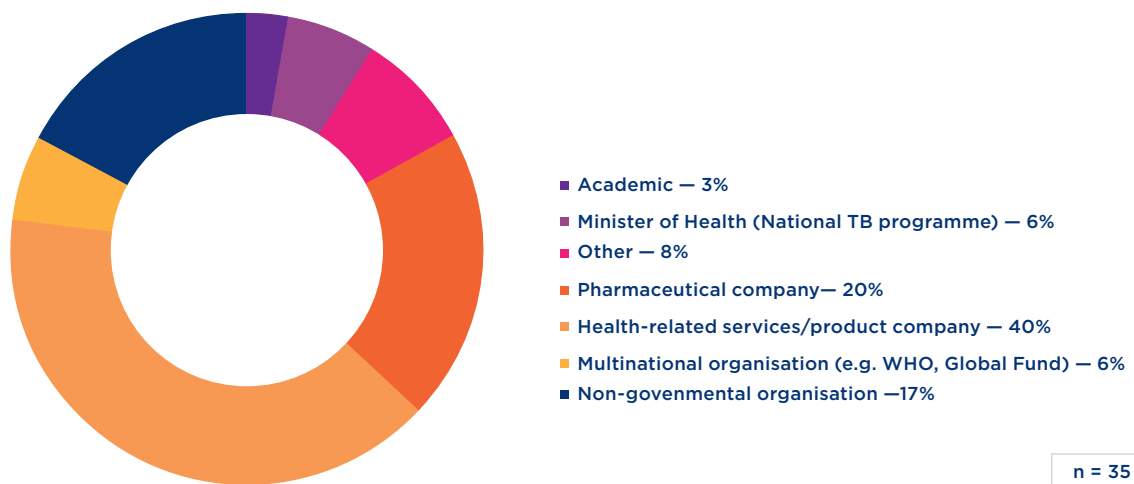
Encuentro activity organisers were asked what type of activities they had organised. One third (34%) of these respondents organised networking space or activities followed by cultural activities (29%).

FIGURE 42
Activities organised at the *Encuentro*



The exhibitors were asked which type of entity they represented. The majority identified themselves as health-related companies, pharmaceutical companies or NGOs.

FIGURE 43
Type of entity of exhibitors



ANNEX 2: ABSTRACT STATISTICS

TABLE 2
Abstracts per track

TRACK	NUMBER OF SUBMITTED ABSTRACTS	NUMBER OF ACCEPTED ABSTRACTS	ACCEPTANCE RATE
A – Basic science, drug development, immunology and vaccines	39	31	79.49%
B – Civil society and community engagement	101	49	48.51%
C – Clinical trials for new treatments for DS-TB and MDR-TB	13	7	53.85%
D – COPD, pneumonia, asthma and other lung health in adults	25	18	72.00%
E – Drug-resistant TB care and treatment, except clinical trials	201	84	41.79%
F – Drug-sensitive TB care and treatment, except clinical trials	41	19	46.34%
G – Global Plan to End TB 2016–2020 and End TB Strategy – country-level experiences on paradigm shift	45	25	55.56%
H – Human rights	13	11	84.62%
I – HIV-TB and other HIV-related lung health	93	36	38.71%
J – Latent TB infection (LTBI)	62	31	50.00%
K – Paediatric lung disease, including TB	74	44	59.46%
L – Patient-centred care	97	43	44.33%
M – TB and non-HIV co-morbidities, i.e. diabetes, COPD, tobacco	57	19	33.33%
N – TB diagnostics, including drug-resistance determination	147	85	57.82%
O – TB education and training	49	27	55.10%
P – TB epidemiology	130	73	56.15%
Q – TB in key affected populations	103	53	51.46%
R – TB infection control	46	27	58.70%
S – TB laboratory service implementation	54	24	44.44%
T – TB other	123	69	56.10%
U – Tobacco control	154	76	49.35%
V – Zoonotic TB	13	6	46.15%
TOTAL	1,680	857	51.01%

(174 late-breaker submissions not included in above calculation)

TABLE 3
Abstracts per country

COUNTRY	NO. OF SUBMITTED ABSTRACTS	COUNTRY	NO. OF SUBMITTED ABSTRACTS
India	370	Canada	22
USA	132	Colombia	17
Nigeria	77	France	17
South Africa	67	Philippines	17
Mexico	66	Taiwan (China)	17
China	63	Tanzania	16
Kenya	60	Malawi	14
Russian Federation	56	Myanmar	14
Ethiopia	47	Switzerland	13
Uganda	46	Ghana	12
UK	46	Viet Nam	12
Bangladesh	44	Georgia	11
Brazil	39	Uzbekistan	11
Peru	33	Zambia	11
Indonesia	29	Zimbabwe	11
Afghanistan	26	Australia	10
Pakistan	26	Ukraine	10

5-9 ABSTRACTS SUBMITTED PER COUNTRY

Congo (Democratic Rep.), Korea (Republic of), Swaziland, Thailand, Turkey, Benin, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Mozambique, Rwanda, Belgium, Cameroon, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Namibia, Netherlands, Sweden, Israel, Nepal, Niger.

1-4 ABSTRACTS SUBMITTED PER COUNTRY

Belarus, Botswana, Germany, Romania, Serbia, Sudan, Tajikistan, Argentina, Egypt, Haiti, Italy, New Zealand, Senegal, Armenia, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Iran, Iraq, Lesotho, Madagascar, Norway, Suriname, Uruguay, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Bolivia, Cambodia, Denmark, Hong Kong, Jordan, Korea (Democratic People's Republic), Liberia, Moldova, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, South Sudan, Spain, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela.

TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBMITTED ABSTRACTS

1,680

(174 late-breaker submissions not included in above calculation)

ANNEX 3: PROPOSED TOPICS

Participants were asked what topics they would like to be covered by the Conference in the future. Over 800 suggestions were made by participants, with the main themes as follows:

- One-third suggested TB-related topics, the most popular being: TB Management, paediatric TB, HIV and TB, DR-TB/MDR-TB, LTBI, TB elimination social determinants, innovations, TB transmission, and advocacy for TB and TB patients.
- One-third suggested lung health-related topics, with the most popular being: COPD, tobacco control, asthma, lung disease, pneumonia, pollution and lung cancer.
- One-third suggested broader health topics, with the most popular being: environment health, patient care, co-morbidity, NCDs, health systems, and visibility of community and civil society issues (e.g. community engagement and communication).

TB-related	TB Management (84), Paediatric TB (26), DR-TB/MDR-TB (21), TB elimination (19), LTBI (17), social determinants (14), innovations (13), infections (10), TB in the mines/prisons/conflict zones (7), TB funding/budgeting (7), clinical trials (6), TB transmission (6), TB treatment (6), TB Lab (4), TB vaccines (5), PTB/EPTB (5), diagnosis (4), zoonotic TB (4), maternal TB (4), drug interactions (3), TB research (3), genital TB (2), updates on TB (2), mycosis (2), rheumatic TB (1), recurrent TB (1), TB education (1), meningitis TB (1), urban TB (1), TB pathogenesis (1).	280
Lung health – other	COPD (45), asthma (30), lung health (25), tobacco (22), lung diseases (17), pneumonia (14), NTM (12), lung cancer (12), influenza (9), cystic fibrosis (4), silicosis (3), respiratory infection (2), DOTs (2), H1N1 (1), thromboembolism (1), malnutrition (1), HCV (1).	201
Health – general	Pollution (26), co-morbidity (16), diabetes (15), NCDs (9), environment (9), cancer (7), strengthening systems (6), science (5), immunity (4), mental health (3), mycobacterial resistance (4), patient care (4), alcohol (3), obesity (3), WGS (2), palliative care (2), therapy (2), chronic diseases (2), depression (1), heart diseases (1), diet (1), respiratory hygiene (1), hypertension (1), allergy (1), measles (1), monitoring drugs (1), bioinformatics (1), urine LAM (1), Hep C (1), co-infection (1), nutrition (1), ototoxicity (1), microbiology (1), case findings (1).	138
Communications/advocacy	Advocacy (5), awareness (5), connectivity (2), data management (1), experts (2), modelling (3), Good Clinical Participatory Practice (1), shorter regimens (1), leadership (3), UN (3), networking (5), PPM (1), programs (5), coalition-building (2), speakers (2), policy (5), funding (3), workshop (5), contact studies (1), health coverage (3), challenges (3).	67
Civil society/SDG	Community engagement (4), health workers (3), ethics (6), stigma (3), rights (6), infection control (4), HR (4), addictions (2), support staff (2), social protection (2).	52
Technology	Diagnostic technologies (12), biomarkers (1), innovations (7), laboratory component (7), machines (2), research (5), QC/QA (2).	42
HIV	HIV TB (29), HIV-associated IRIS (2).	31
Geographic	Russia (2), conflict zones (3), LMIC (5), Eastern Europe (2), treatment success rate (1), regulations (2), Latin America (5).	20
Social sciences	Poverty (6), gender (2), immigrants (3), IDPs (1), indigenous populations (2), economics (3), disaster management (2), religion/faith (1).	20
Other	New tools (1), e-cig (1), intellectual property (1), sessions (2), time(2), space (1), biomass (1), cost (4).	13
Total		880