

**20<sup>TH</sup>**  
**European Health Forum**  
Gastein

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**Health in All Politics – a better future for Europe**

Evaluation Survey Report





# **EHFG 2017 Evaluation Survey Report**

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# General introduction



# General introduction

The European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG) was founded in 1998 as a European health policy conference and has become the leading annual health policy event in the EU. With its wide-ranging three-day programme, the Forum offers an unparalleled platform for decision-makers in various fields of public health & health care representing government, business, civil society, academia and the media.

Integrating various national, regional and European perspectives, the Forum facilitates the exchange of views and experience amongst key actors and experts from the 28 EU members, the EU candidate and EEA countries, but also from the rest of the 53 countries of the WHO European region.

The EHFG guarantees that all stakeholders in the European health arena: (1) politicians and public servants; (2) representatives of business and industry; (3) advocates of citizens' and patients' concerns; (4) scientists and members of the academic community can discuss key health issues on a level playing field. It aims to establish a broad basis for health policies and to lay out a framework for European health policy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



Amongst others, the EHFG is co-organised and supported by the European Commission, the Austrian Ministry of Women and Health, Land Salzburg, Microsoft, and the Main Association of Austrian Social Security Institutions.

For the last twenty years, the EHFG has focused on a broad range of topics. Within this framework, the EHFG is on the front foot of health policy developments and is involved in finding common solutions across Europe.

## Main themes of the European Health Forum Gastein conference

EHFG 2017	Health in All Politics – a better future for Europe
EHFG 2016	Demographics and Diversity - New Solutions for Health
EHFG 2015	Securing health in Europe. Balancing priorities, sharing responsibilities
EHFG 2014	Electing Health - The Europe we want!
EHFG 2013	Resilient and Innovative Health Systems for Europe
EHFG 2012	Crisis and Opportunity - Health in an Age of Austerity
EHFG 2011	Innovation and Wellbeing – European health in 2020 and beyond
EHFG 2010	Health in Europe - Ready for the Future?
EHFG 2009	Financial Crisis and Health Policy
EHFG 2008	Values in Health
EHFG 2007	Shaping the Future of Health
EHFG 2006	Health sans frontiers
EHFG 2005	Partnerships for Health
EHFG 2004	Global Health Challenges
EHFG 2003	Health & Wealth
EHFG 2002	Common Challenges for Health & Care
EHFG 2001	Integrating Health across Policies
EHFG 2000	Information & Communication in Health
EHFG 1999	Health & Social Security
EHFG 1998	Creating a Better Future for Health Systems in Europe

# Executive summary



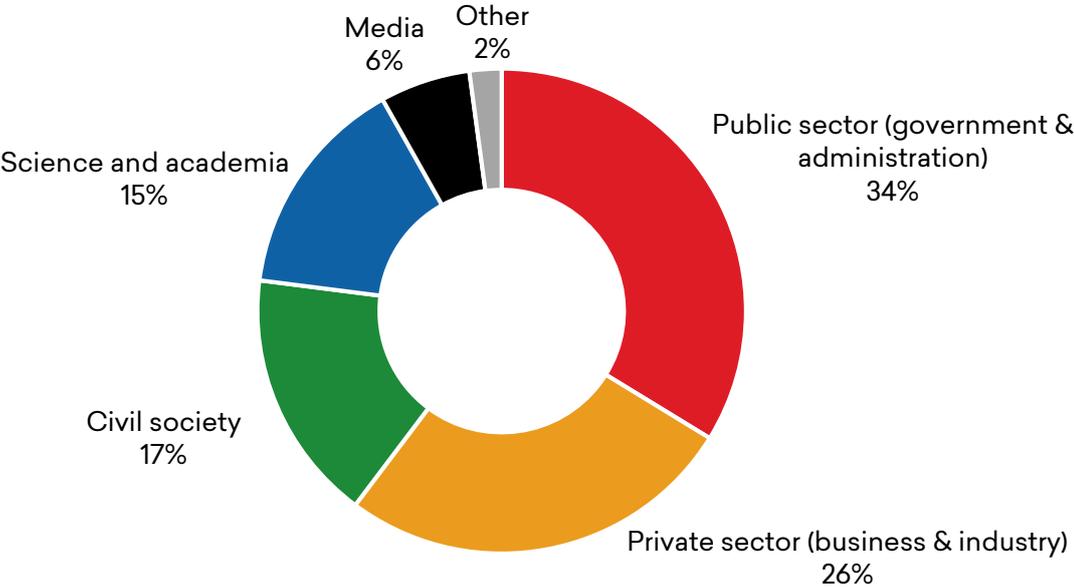
# Executive summary

The annual European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG) was attended by 518 delegates from 49 countries this year.



## The EHFG four pillars statistic 2017

Based on overall conference participation



The EHFG 2017 survey was sent out to all delegates via email and was posted on our social media outlets and was open for five weeks. The survey was completed by 102 respondents (20% of all delegates).

The survey was divided into four parts, in which respondents were asked general questions (1), questions concerning the different sessions and workshops they attended (2). They were also asked to express their opinion about the registration and organisational elements, and their overall impression of the conference (3). In the last part of the survey, there were open ended questions about the participants' recommendations for improvement of the next years' conferences (4).

In most of the survey questions the respondents were asked to choose one answer they find most applicable. However, to some questions they were allowed to give multiple answers and express their personal suggestions or points of criticism.

General rating scheme used in this survey:

- |                        |                        |                           |
|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 = no influence       | 3 = medium influence   | 5 = high influence        |
| 1 = total disagreement | 3 = neutral            | 5 = total agreement       |
| 1 = poor (knowledge)   | 3 = medium (knowledge) | 5 = excellent (knowledge) |

## General survey statistics

56% of the participants who completed the survey were female, 44% – male.

Over two thirds of the respondents identified health policy as one qualification of their field. Half of them chose health care and nearly half of them health research. Around 25% chose health promotion, 18% management and 6% journalism.

Pharma sector, medical technology, management, insurance, IT and social security were other selected categories.

More than half of the respondents represented public institutions during the 20<sup>th</sup> EHFG, followed by representatives of research and training (21%), NGOs (18%) and politics (12%). Industry as well as press was represented by 10% survey respondents each, interest groups by 4% of respondents.

33% of the participants were invited to the conference, 32% were made aware of the EHFG 2017 through word of mouth, 6% by social media platforms. In general, 46% of respondents had participated in a previous conference.

The main factors of influence on the decision to attend the EHFG 2017 were networking opportunities and potential for learning. For 77% attending the conference was influenced by networking opportunities, 71% attended because of potential for learning and over 60% because of topic choice, more than half attended because of the calibre of speakers. A half considered the influence on European health policy as a decisive factor to attend the conference.

## Main reasons to attend the EHFG conference



## Evaluation of the sessions

The conference programme offered 3 Plenary Sessions, 12 Parallel Forum Sessions, 8 Workshop Sessions and 4 Lunch Workshops.

### Plenary sessions

Overall, the Opening Plenary Session was rated 3,68 out of 5. With 4,33 average rating, the moderation by Tania Dussey-Cavassini received the highest ranking (3,87), followed by the quality of the policy reaction by Francesca Colombo (3,76). The newsroom team and the interactive conference tool received an average score of 3,67. The Thursday Plenary received an overall rating of 3,95. The highest rating of 4,17 was received for the moderation (Matthias Wismar), followed by the online message-to-the-moderator system (3,94). The standard of the debate and the plenary speakers was rated with 3,91. The Closing Plenary Session was rated with an overall rating of 3,90. The quality of the conference film received the highest voting with 4,12. The quality of the moderation by Robert Madelin received 4,16, while the quality of the anniversary film was rated with 4,11, followed by the newsroom team and the conference tool with the score of 3,83. The Thursday Plenary was ranked highest in the quality of speakers and debate (3,91).

### Parallel Forum sessions

Forum 12 received the best average rating of all forum sessions (4,64), followed by Forum 6 (4,25), Forum 8 (4,21), and Forum 3 (4,11). At the other end of the scale, F9 Session with 2,57 and Forum 7 with 3,29 received the lowest ratings.



Comparing all Parallel Forum Sessions, the **assessment of the length of presentations of the fora** was overall positive. The presentations in Forum 4 (58%) and Forum 9 (56%) were criticised for having been too long.



Overall, the **number of presentations of the fora** was considered as very good. Only in Forum 9, 60% of the respondents who participated criticised that there were too many presentations. Furthermore, 43% of respondents considered the number of presentations as too many in Forum 6.



For around one half of the respondents, Forum 4, Forum 6 and Forum 10 did not offer **enough time for interactive discussions**, the same was criticised by 44% and 33% of respondents who participated in Forum 7 and Forum 2, respectively. One third of respondents who participated in Forum 1 and Forum 9 criticised that there was too little time allocated for interactive discussion.

## Workshop sessions

The average ratings for the 8 Workshops and the 4 Lunch Workshops were all above 3,56. The best rating was given to Lunch Workshop 1 (4,36), followed by Workshop 3 (4,13) and Workshop 4 (4,13), Workshop 7 (4,09), and Workshop 2 (4). The respondents gave their lowest overall rating to Workshop 1 (3,56).

## Registration, organisation and overall impression

We asked questions concerning organisational elements, such as the on-site registration, shuttle service, accommodation, lunch catering and the networking events. These were rated very positively throughout the survey.

Furthermore, considering the rating of conference networking, the feedback was very positive throughout (overall average rating of 4,12). The network facilities such as the lounge and breakout areas were given an average rating of 3,9. The opportunities to progress international health work received an average rating of 3,78. The opportunities to engage with key decision makers was given an average rating of 3,9. The opportunities to make new contacts was given the highest rating with 4,27.

The conference Workshops ranked highest as the most rewarding activities at the conference (73%). For over one half of the respondents, Networking Opportunities were considered most rewarding, proceeded by Plenary Sessions with 30%. and Fora with 28%. Moreover, Evening Events have been considered by 34% as most rewarding activity at the EHFG 2017.

Compared to other EHFG conferences, 53% rated the EHFG 2017 as better than previous conferences. For 40% of respondents there was no change to previous conferences and 7% considered the EHFG 2017 worse than the conferences in the years before. When asked about future attendance, 95% plan to participate again.

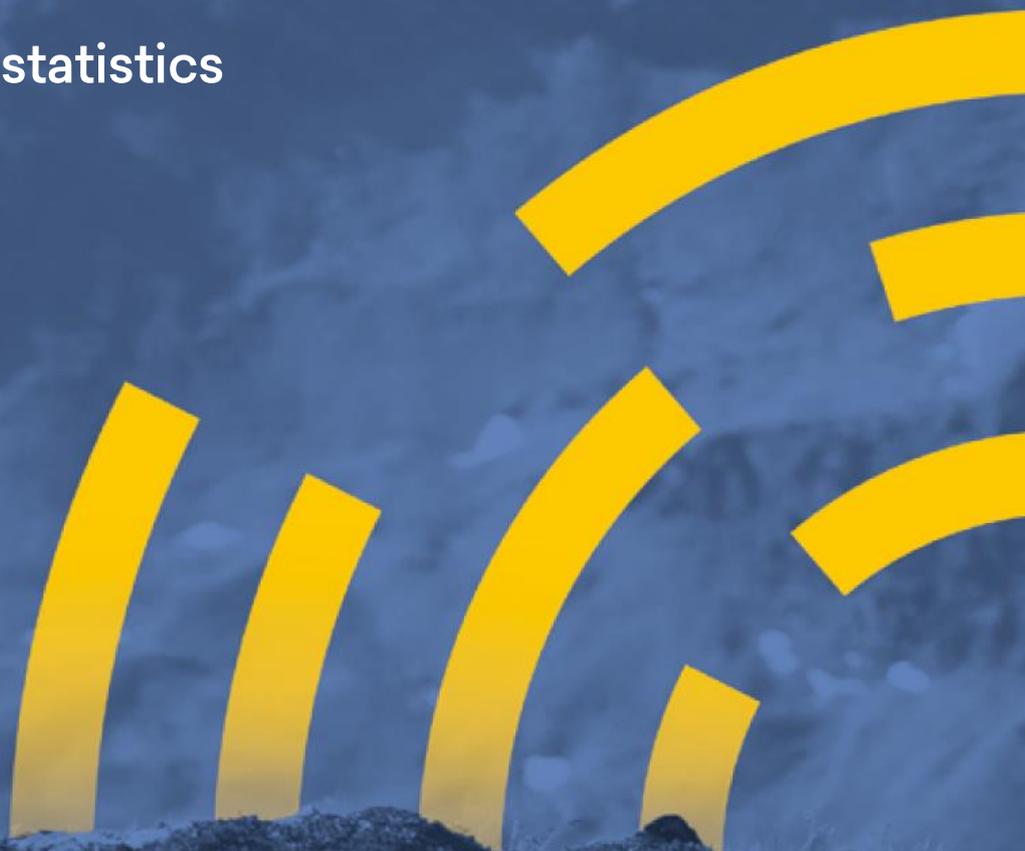
## Open questions

Finally, analysing open questions, one can summarise that respondents would appreciate more solution-oriented discussions and find it important to have more high-ranking participants, and more prominent speakers, as well as the important policy makers. Another recommendation was to ensure that real-life examples and experiences are put in focus more, as well as the workshop format in the sessions. It was mentioned that some of the sessions were too long. Lastly, there were several suggestions for optimizing networking opportunities, primarily by sending out the participants' list beforehand.

Regarding organisational aspects, a point of criticism referred to the food, specifically to the lack of a healthy option, as well as the early lunchtime. In general, there was a very positive feedback given to the congress staff and the overall organisation of the conference.

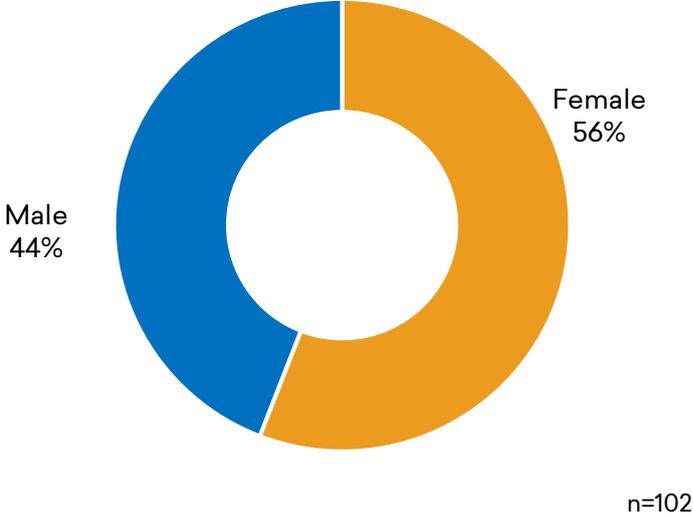
For a more detailed analysis of the evaluation, please see the following pages. Should you require more information on this report, i.e. comments or raw data, or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Rafaela Tripalo (rafaela.tripalo[at]lehfg.org)

# General survey statistics

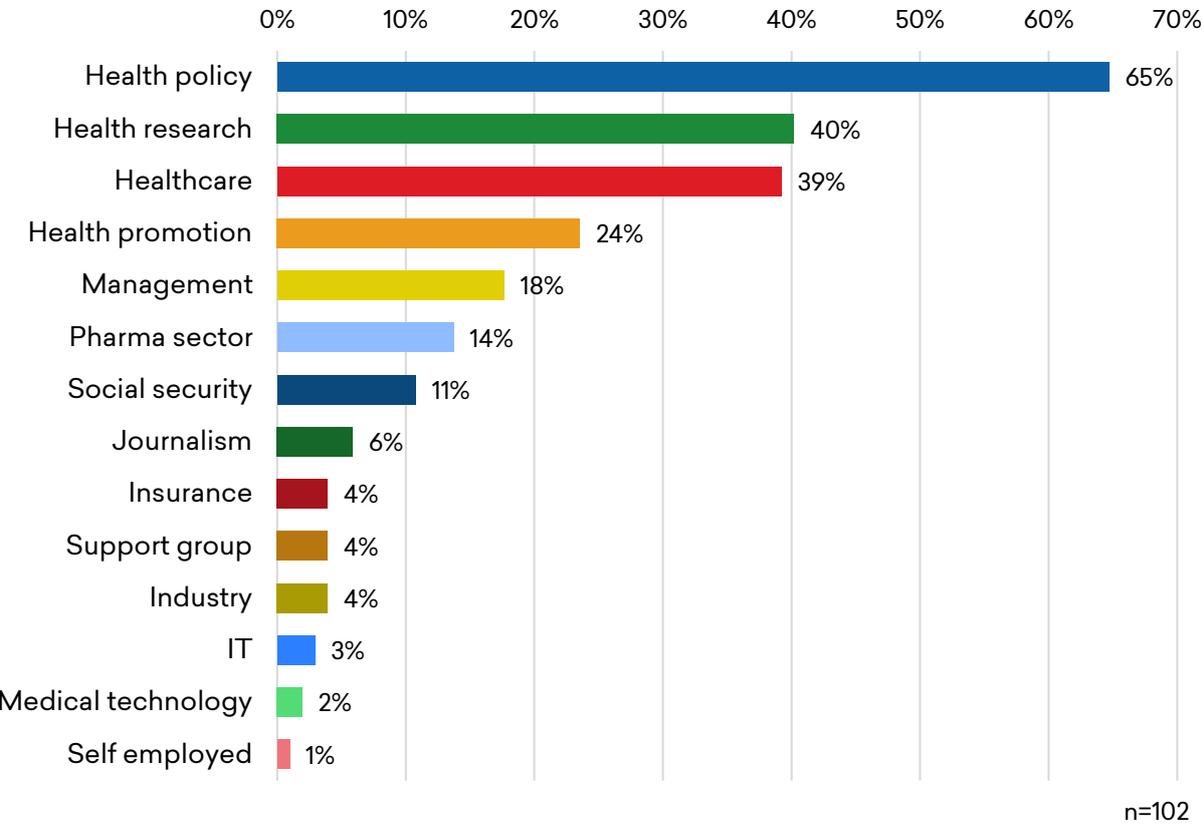


# General survey statistics

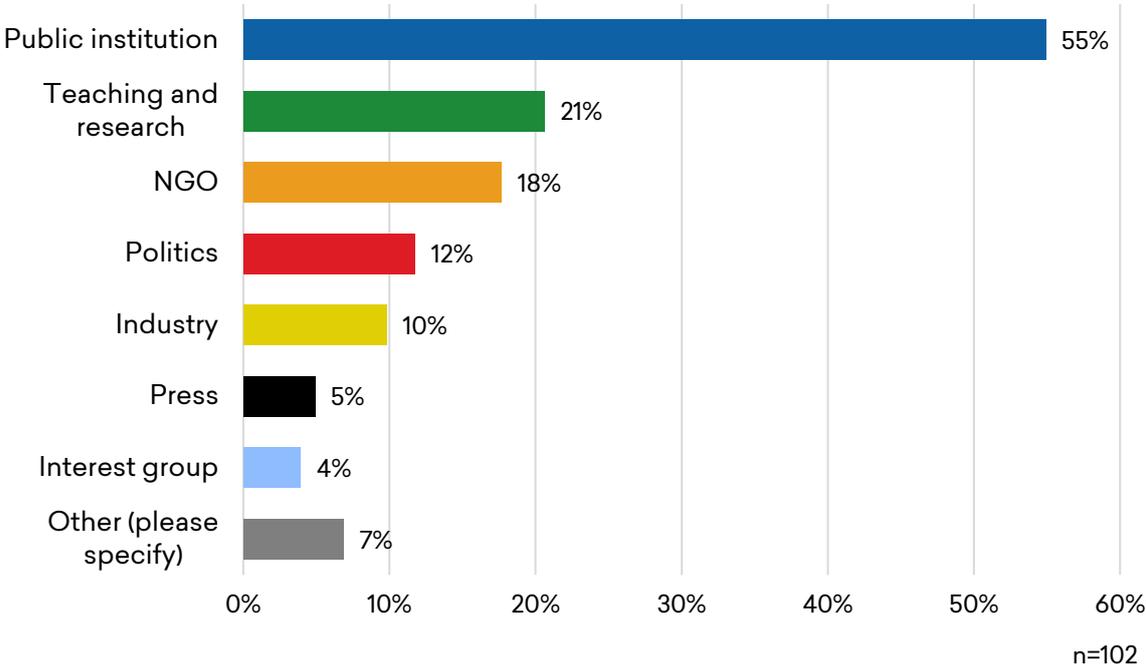
## Gender



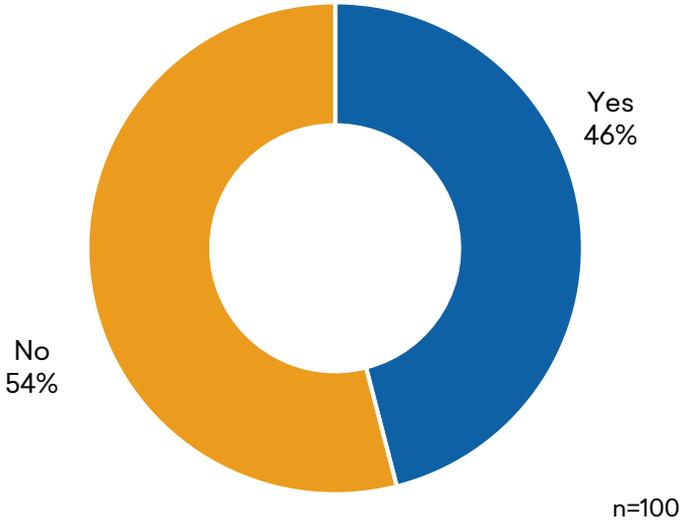
## Qualifications which describe your field



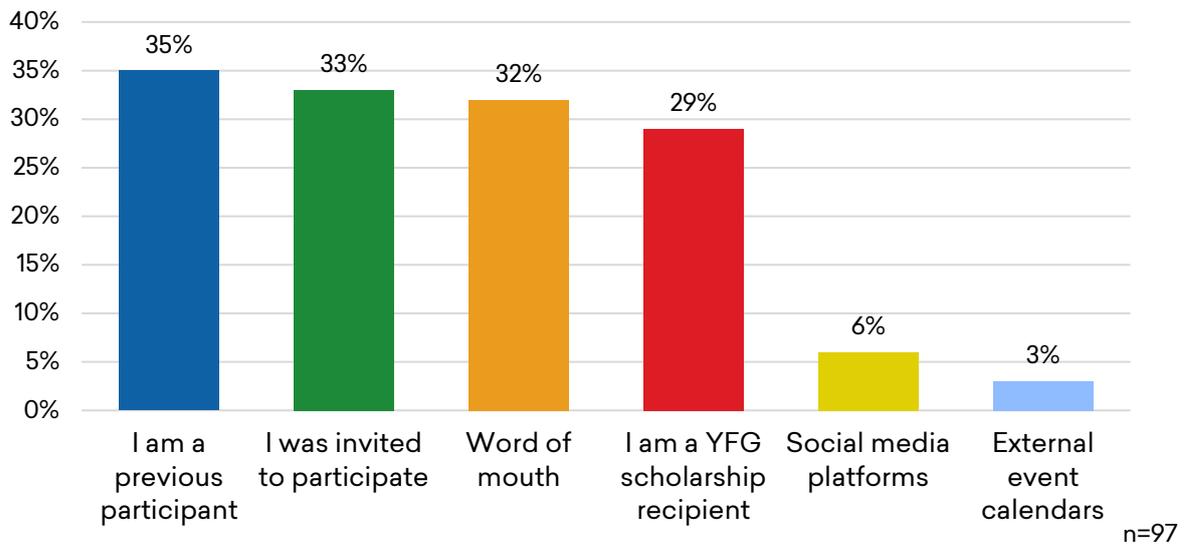
# Qualifications which describe your organisation



# Participation in a previous conference

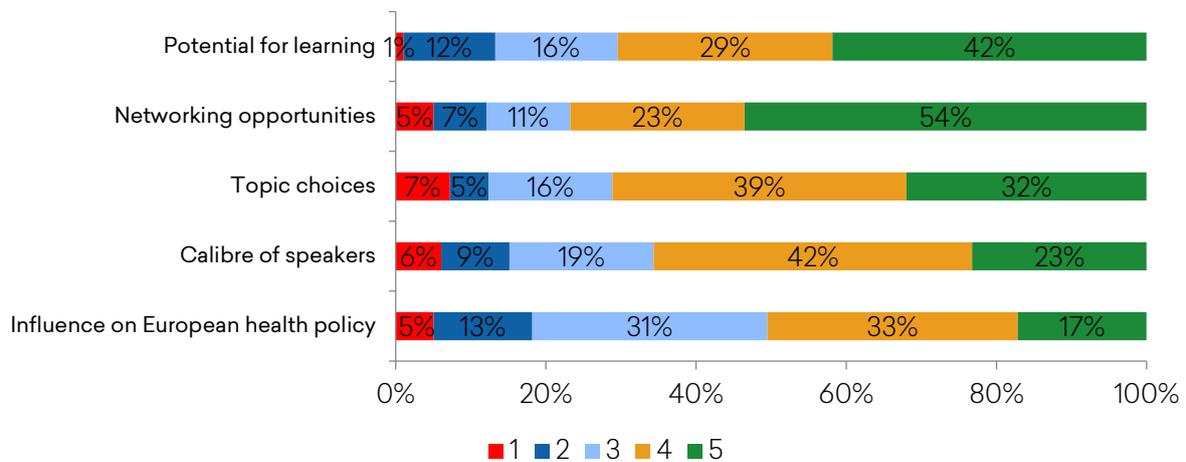


## In what way(s) were you made aware of the EHFG 2017?



## Please rate the influence that the following factors had on your decision to attend the EHFG 2017

1 = no influence, 5 = high influence



# Detailed analysis



# Programme overview

The content of this year's programme was divided into four thematic tracks: Health in All Policies (blue) - Health systems (orange), Access to medicines (red) - Innovation, Big Data & ICT (green).

**Forum 1** Transforming food systems – adding value for better health in Europe, Organised by Federal Ministry of Health and Woman's Affairs of Austria

**Forum 2** Making cancer care more efficient - What role can different stakeholders play?, Organised by All.Can I Secretariat represented by The Health Policy Partnership

**Forum 3** Nobody left behind - Improving access to healthcare for underserved people, Organised by MSD

**Forum 4** Transformative approaches for equity and resilience – Harnessing the 2030 Agenda for health & well-being, Organised by World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe

**Forum 5** Medicines: new game, new rules - Pathways to better and affordable medicines, Organised by Open Society Foundations in cooperation with European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) and European Public Health Association (EUPHA)

**Forum 6** Exploring the needs and future developments of immunisation records in the EU - Better vaccine policies through coherent evidence, Organised by MSD

**Forum 7** Health Futures in a post-truth world, Organised by European Health Forum Gastein

**Forum 8** Health inequalities: threats and opportunities, Organised by Health Promotion Administration, Ministry of Health and Welfare, Taiwan R.O.C. in cooperation with London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK

**Forum 9** Environment & health: Building the evidence base for policy, Organised by DG Research and Innovation (DG RTD), European Commission

**Forum 10** Transformative approaches for equity and resilience – Harnessing the 2030 Agenda for health & well-being. Building further on the SDG/Health 2020 roadmap: Addressing inequities through social policies and investments and economic determinants of health and health inequities, Organised by World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe

**Forum 11** Access to vital and innovative medicines – Addressing challenges of intellectual property rights, Organised by Main Association of Austrian Social Security Institutions, National Institute of Health and Disability Insurance (NIHDI), Estonian Health Insurance Fund and Caisse nationale de l'assurance maladie des travailleurs salariés (CNAMTS) in cooperation with European Social Insurance Platform (ESIP)

**Forum 12** Better synergies for health – the role of civil society, Organised by European Health Forum Gastein

**Workshop 1** Investing in healthier cities: “insuring” prevention, Organised by World Health Organization

**Workshop 2** The right health workforce – a matter of planning? Organised by Gesundheit Österreich GmbH (GÖG) in cooperation with European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

**Workshop 3** Personalising healthcare: How rare diseases pave the way, Organised by DG Research and Innovation (DG RTD), European Commission

**Workshop 4** Power to the people: Re-imagining health systems with people at their centre, Organised by acumen public affairs

**Workshop 5** Mainstreaming mental health policies across sectors, Organised by European Health Forum Gastein with research from Economist Intelligence Unit Healthcare

**Workshop 7** Person-centred care models - Changing mindsets for radical co-creation, Organised by Roche Diabetes Care

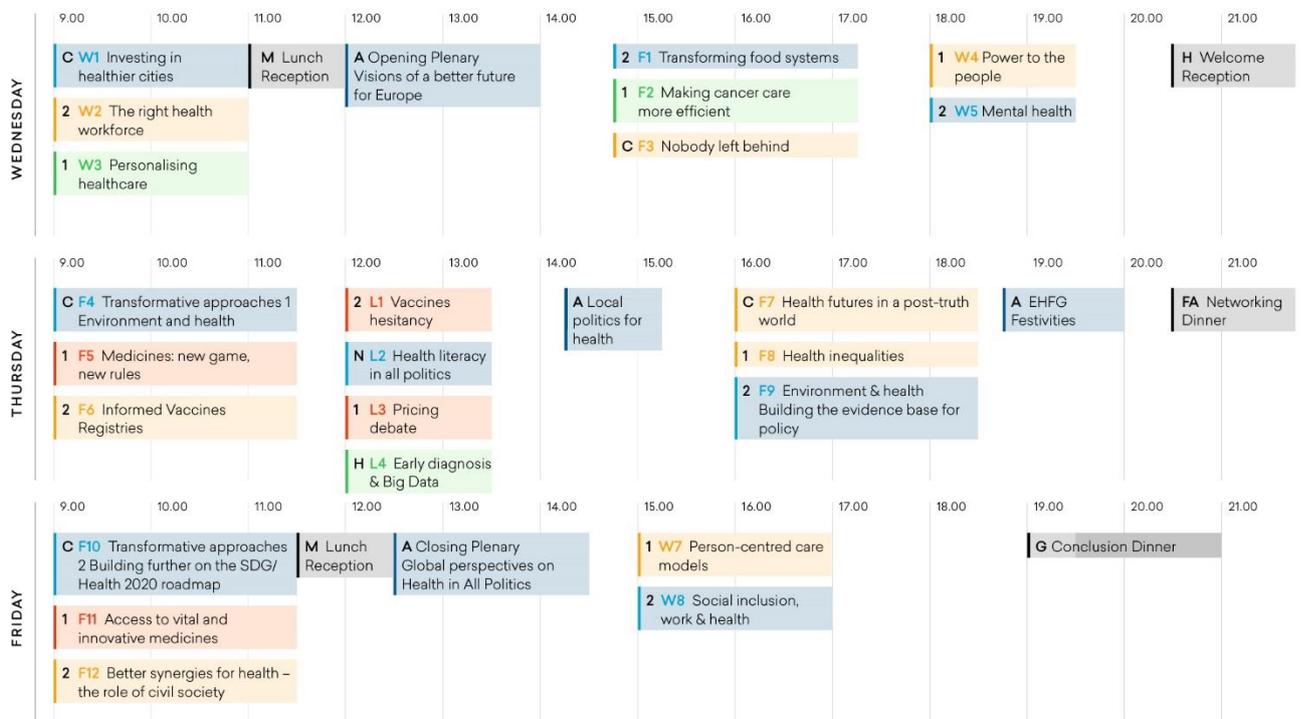
**Workshop 8** Social inclusion, work & health - Inclusive workplaces to avoid social exclusion, Organised by European Agency for Occupational Safety and Health (EU-OSHA)

**Lunch Workshop 1** Addressing vaccine hesitancy in challenging times, Organised by European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)

**Lunch Workshop 2** Health literacy in all politics, Organised by Health Literacy Coalition and sponsored by MSD

**Lunch Workshop 3** Have a voice in the pricing debate: Medicines pricing simulation, Organised by Celgene and EFPIA

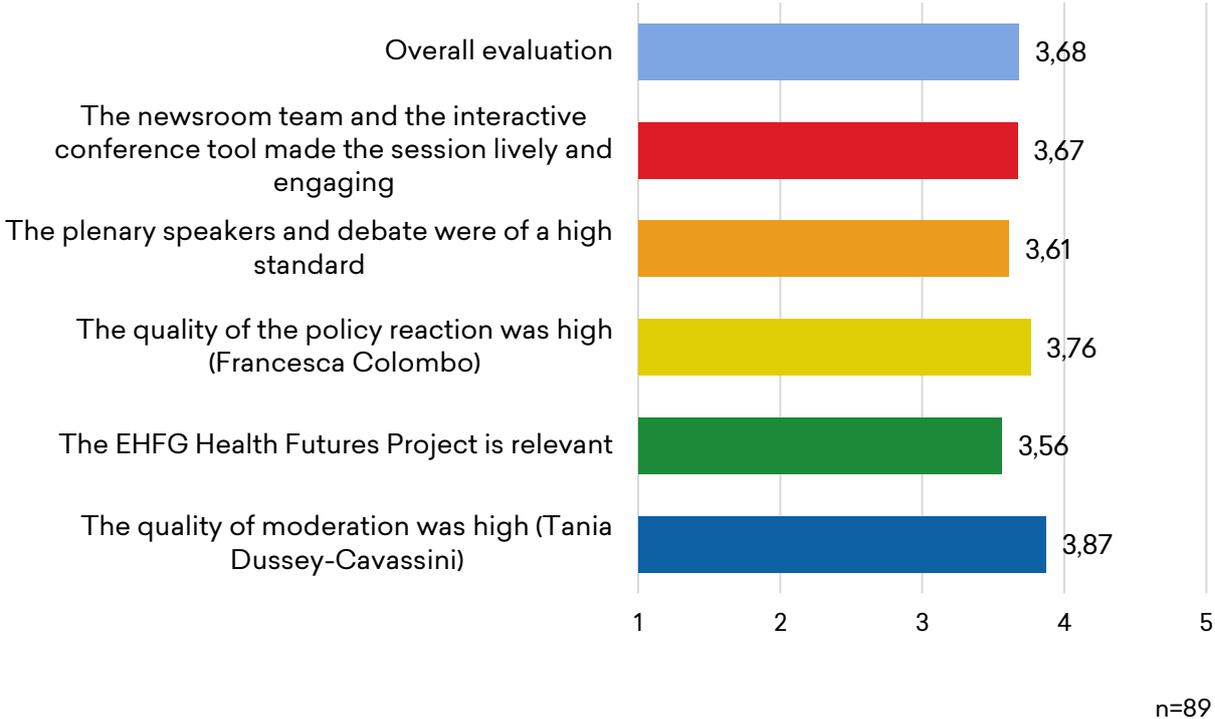
**Lunch Workshop 4** Early diagnosis linking Big Data - hope or nightmare?, Hosted by Roche



# Evaluation of the sessions – detailed analysis

## Opening Plenary Session

1=total disagreement, 5=total agreement

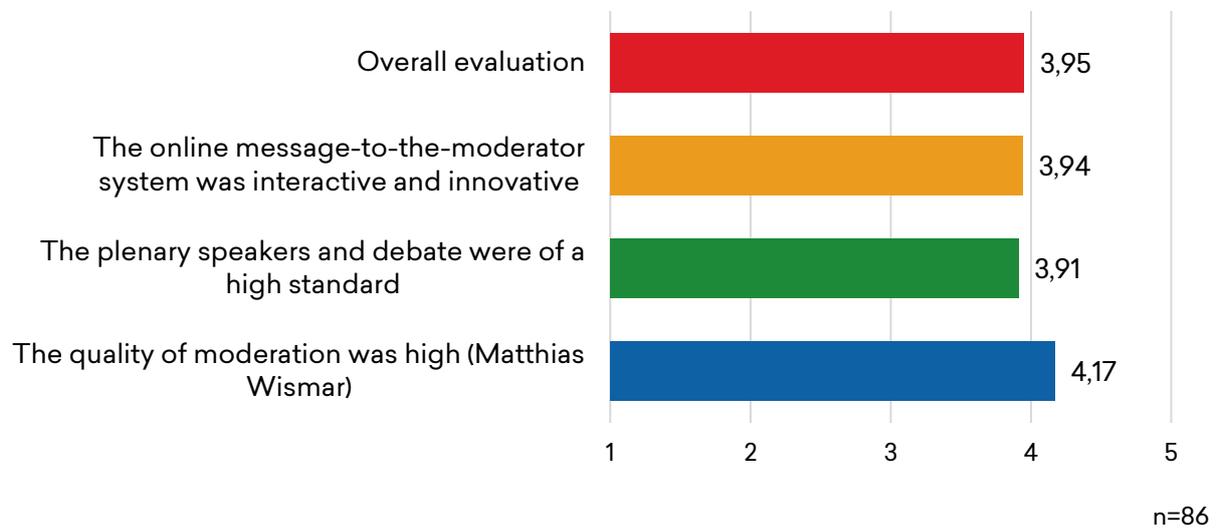


### Selected comments on the Opening Plenary:

“It was a bit too long, 1,5hrs would be enough.”  
Twitter/wisembly was not very helpful – a new concept should be developed.”

## Thursday Plenary Session

1=total disagreement, 5=total agreement

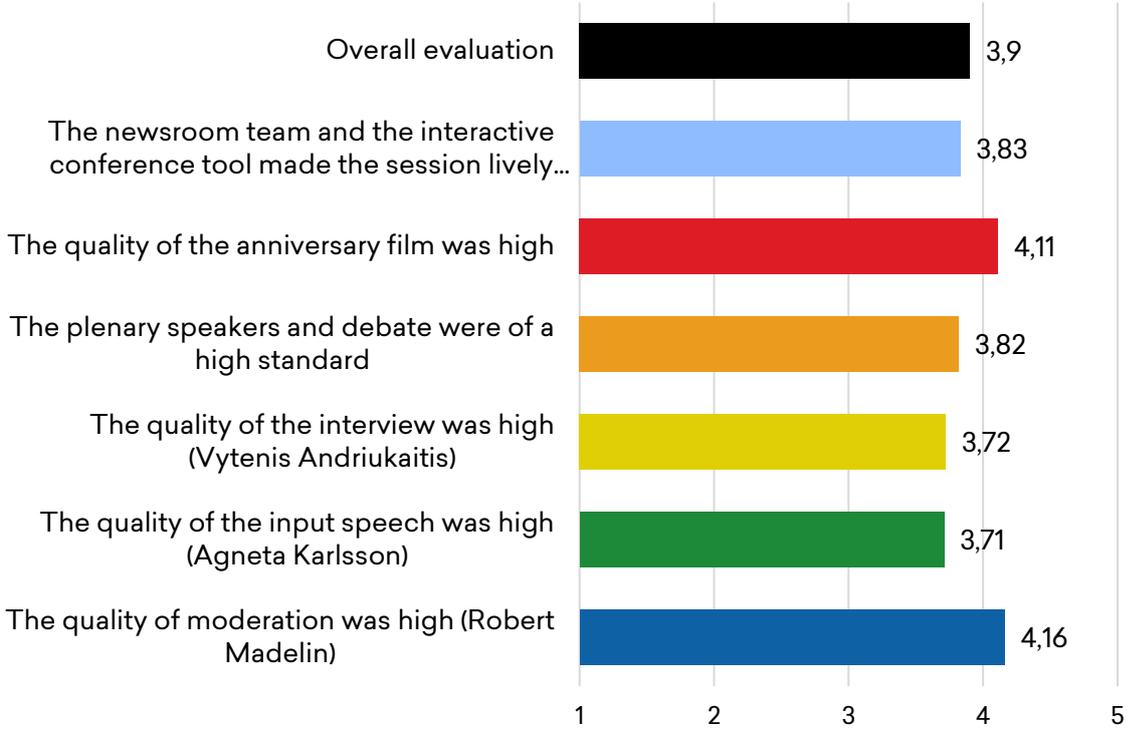


### Selected comments on the Thursday Plenary:

“Great, but no air in the room (warm day).”

# Closing Plenary Session

1=total disagreement, 5=total agreement



n=85

## Selected comments on the Closing Plenary:

“The Closing Plenary was at least an hour too long. It could easily have been cut to 1,5 hours and it would have improved the session.”

“The closing plenary appeared to have little relevance to the topics discussed during the three days. The speakers raised interesting points and other topics, e.g., maternal health, abortions, agriculture, which, however, would belong to a conference with a rather different thematic structure. The people checking comments appeared to select strangely or have little understanding of topics raised by comments (e.g., commenting 'this one has already been answered'), although thankfully the moderator was better at bringing some interesting points back to the discussion. Perhaps there are very good reasons for this, but not asking the audience directly for questions -indirectly and directly asking an audience of hundreds of people to write the comment in a platform- reduces the energy level in the room.”

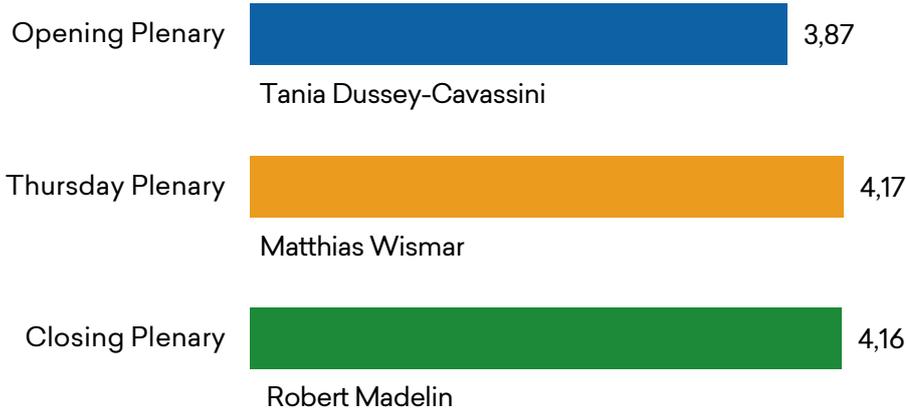
# Comparison of the plenary sessions – average ratings

1=poor, 5=excellent

## Overall session quality assessment



## Quality of the session moderation assessment

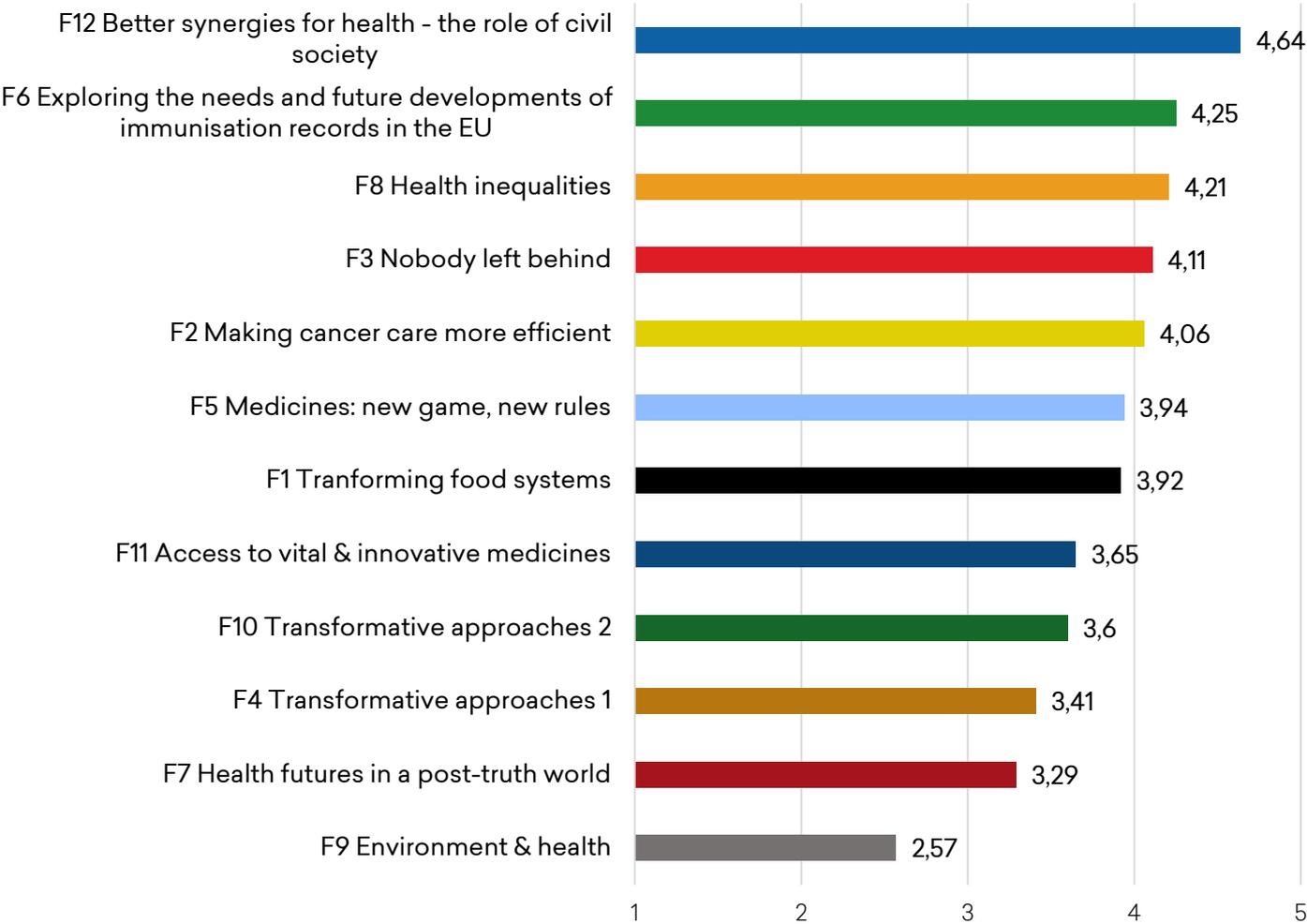


## Quality of speakers & debate assessment



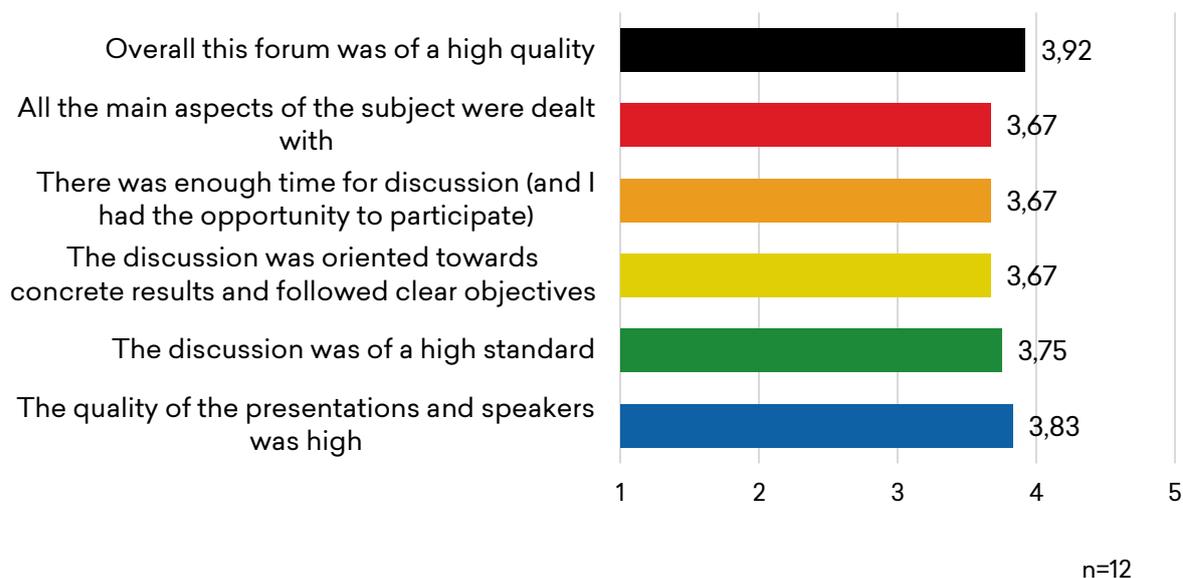
# Comparison of the parallel forum sessions – average quality rating

1=poor, 5=excellent | top-down



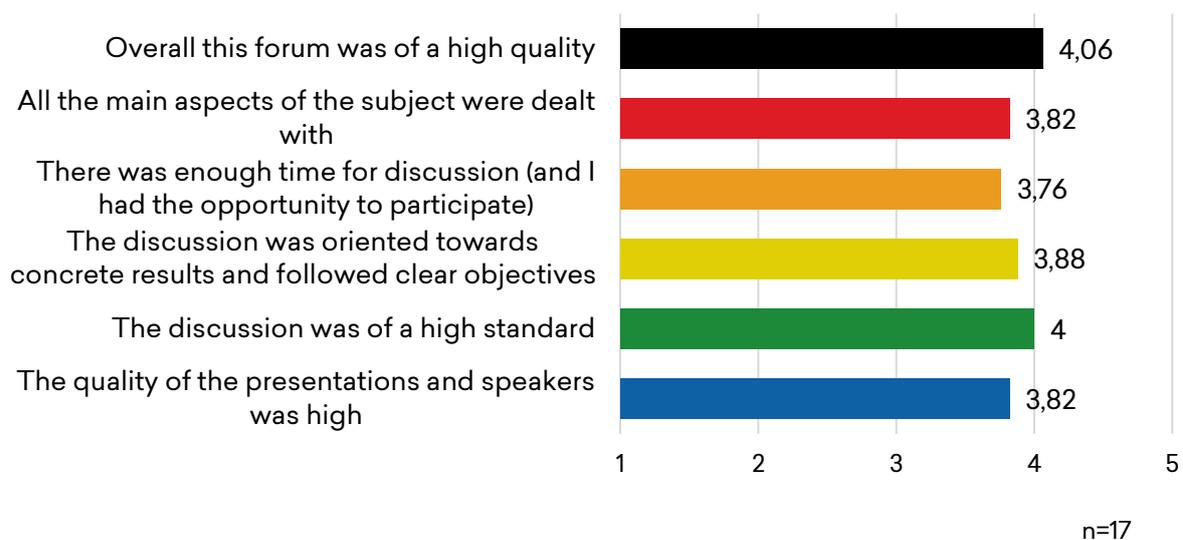
## F1: Transforming food systems

1=total disagreement, 5=total agreement



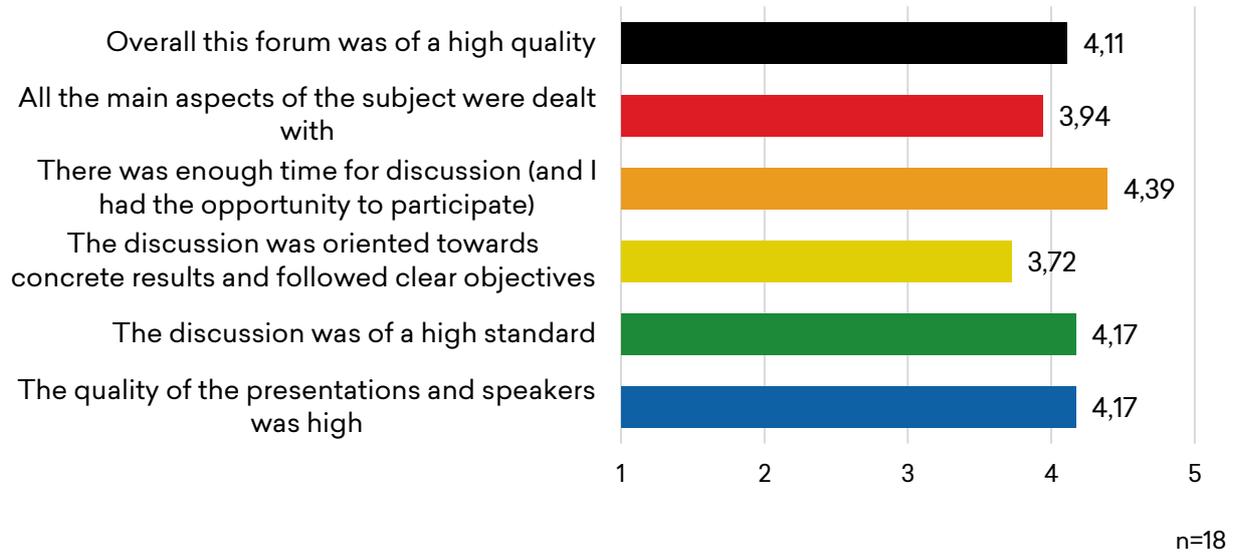
## F2: Making cancer care more efficient

1=total disagreement, 5=total agreement



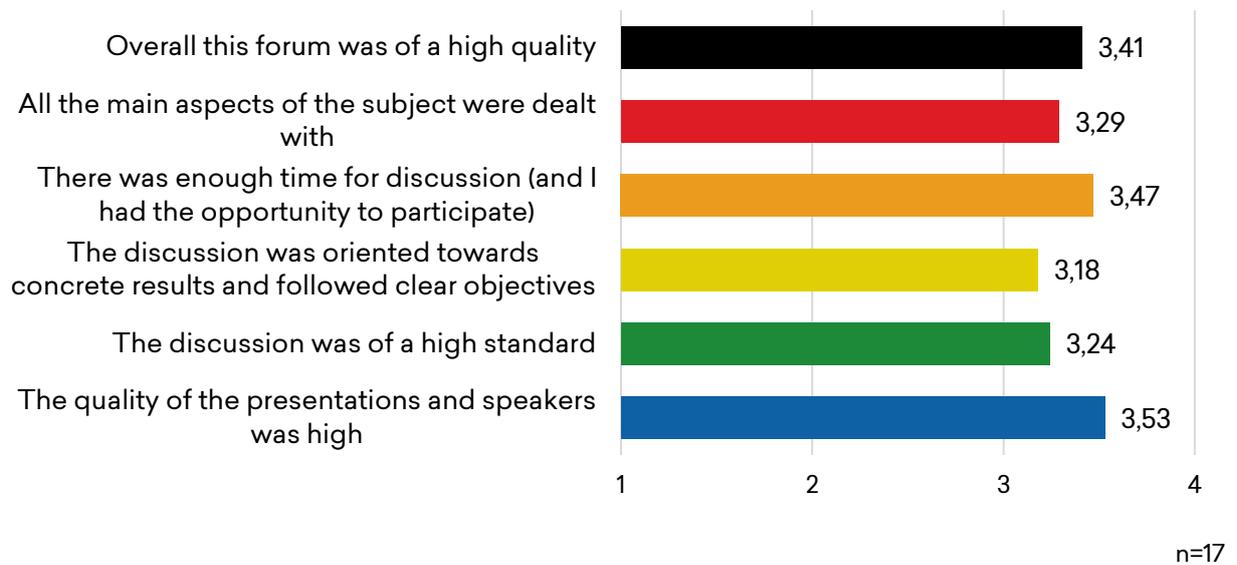
### F3: Nobody left behind

1=total disagreement, 5=total agreement



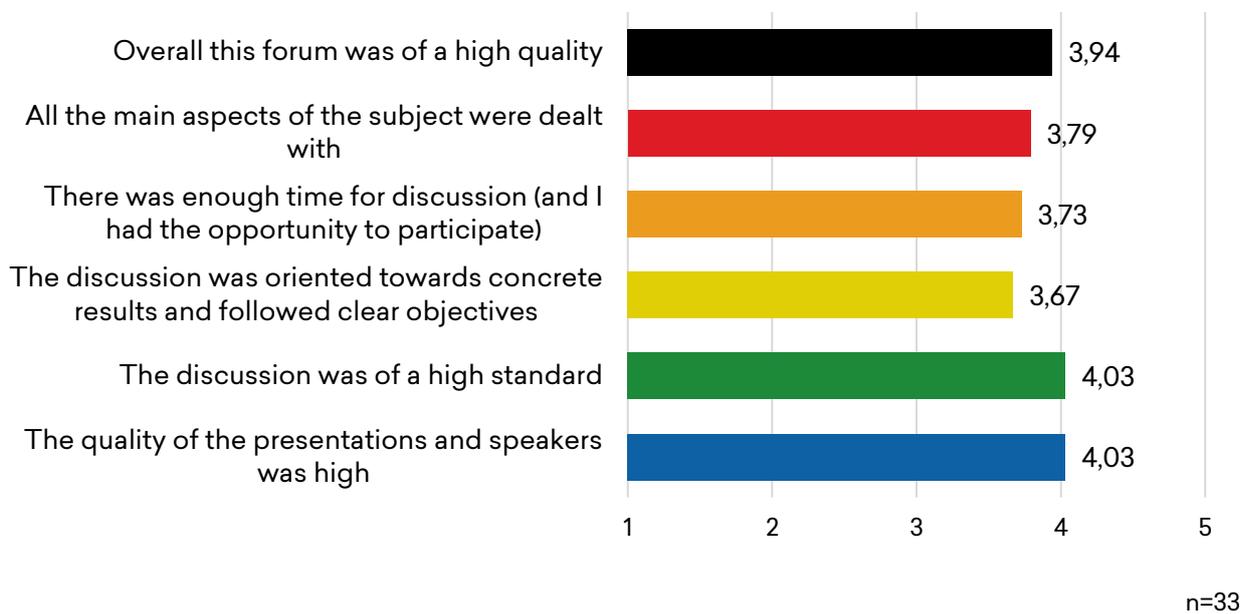
### F4: Transformative approaches 1

1=total disagreement, 5=total agreement



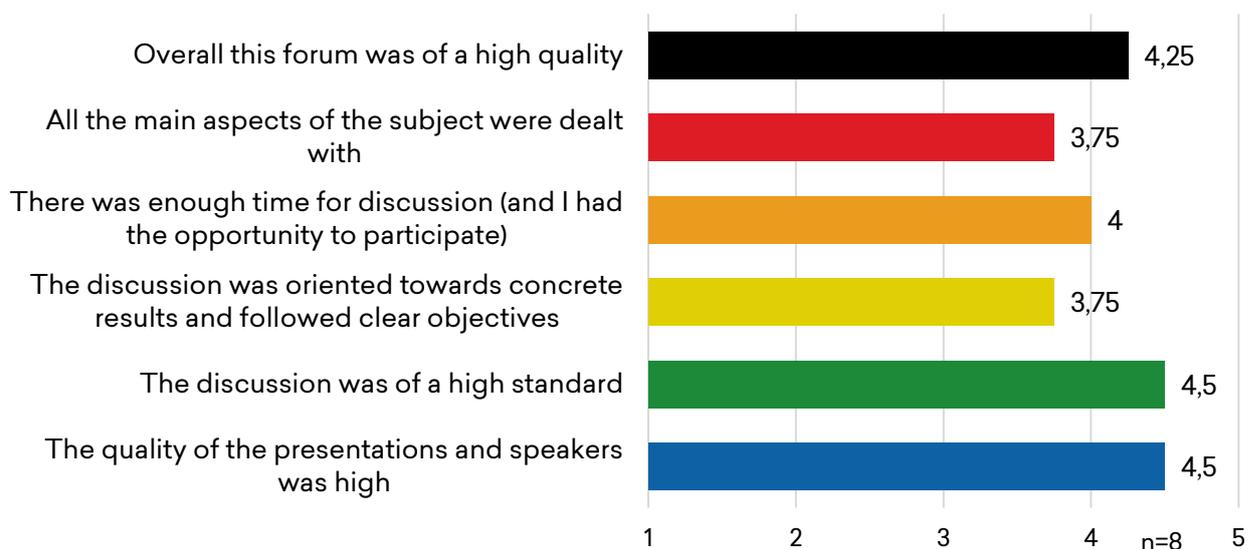
## F5: Medicines: new game, new rules

1=total disagreement, 5=total agreement



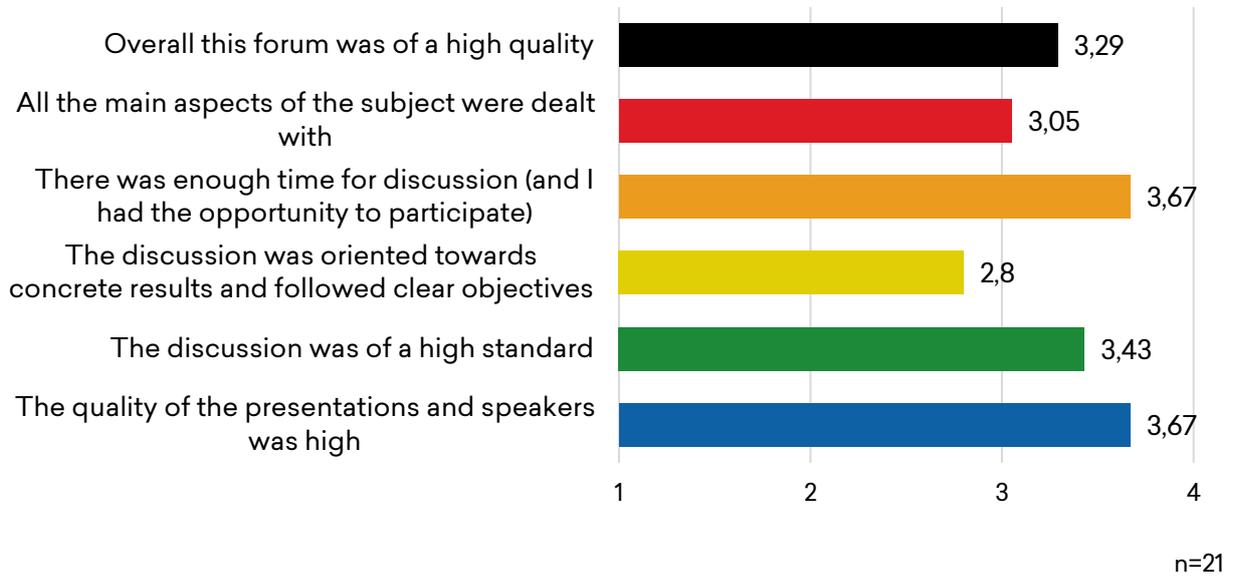
## F6: Exploring the needs and future developments of immunisation records in the EU

1=total disagreement, 5=total agreement



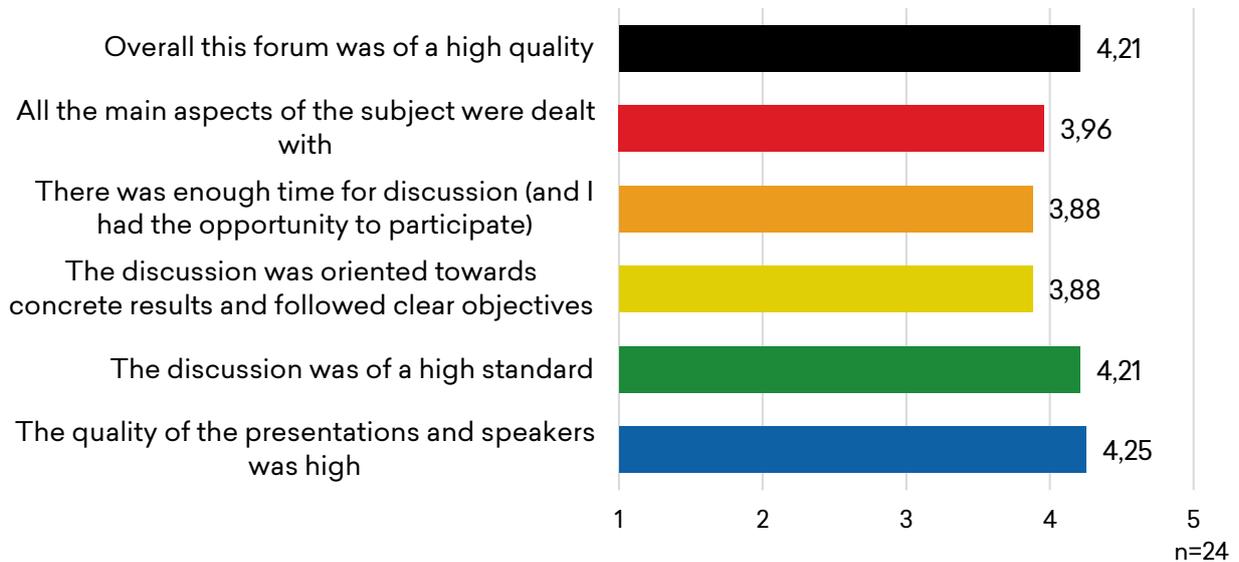
## F7: Health futures in a post-truth world

1=total disagreement, 5=total agreement



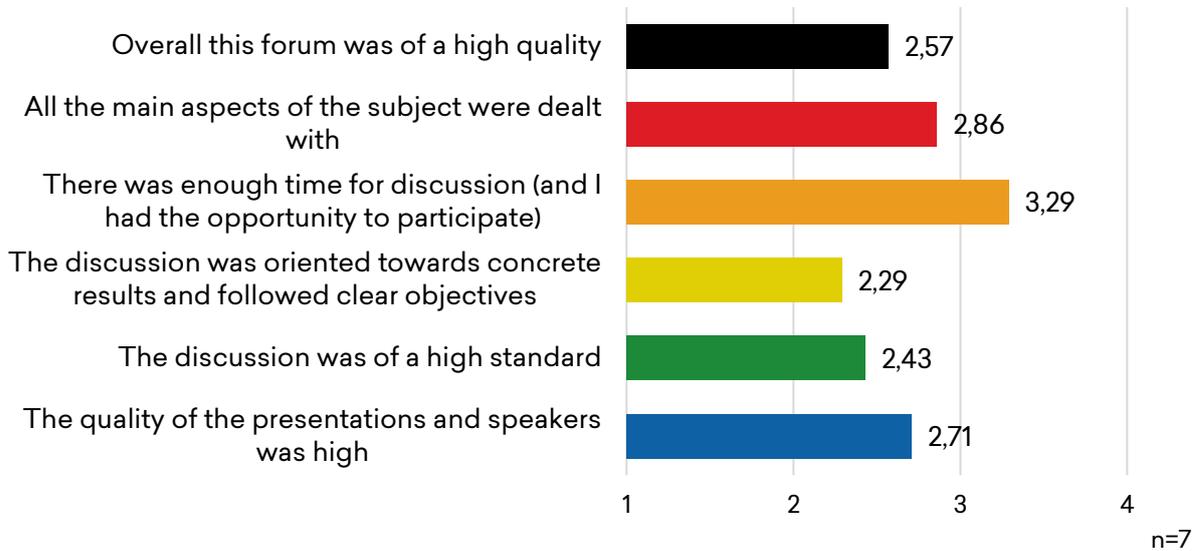
## F8: Health inequalities

1=total disagreement, 5=total agreement



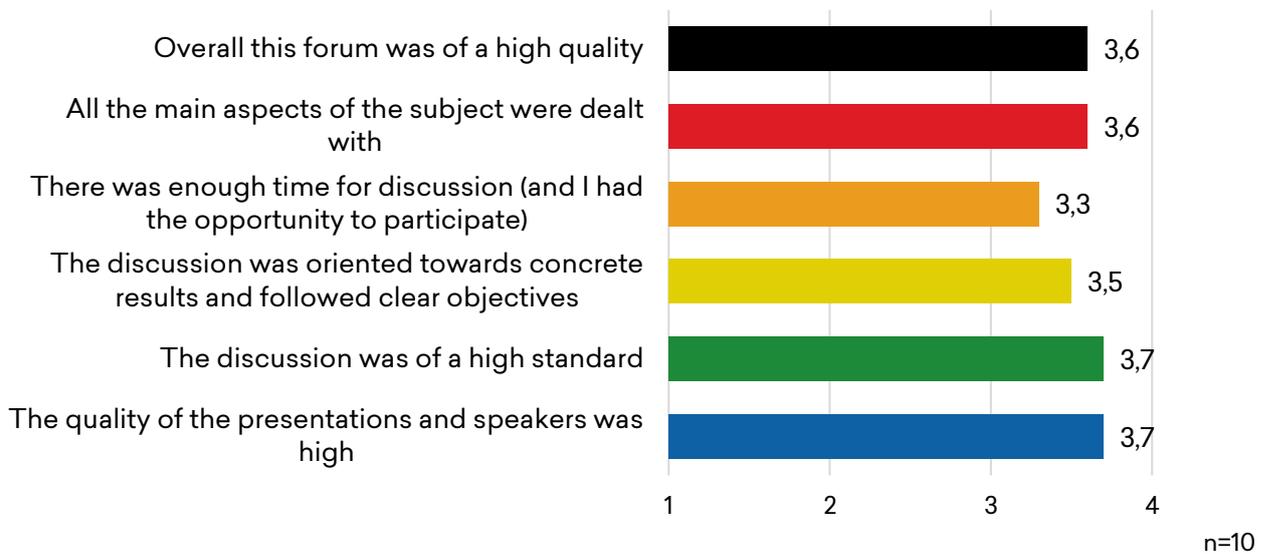
## F9: Environment & health

1=total disagreement, 5=total agreement



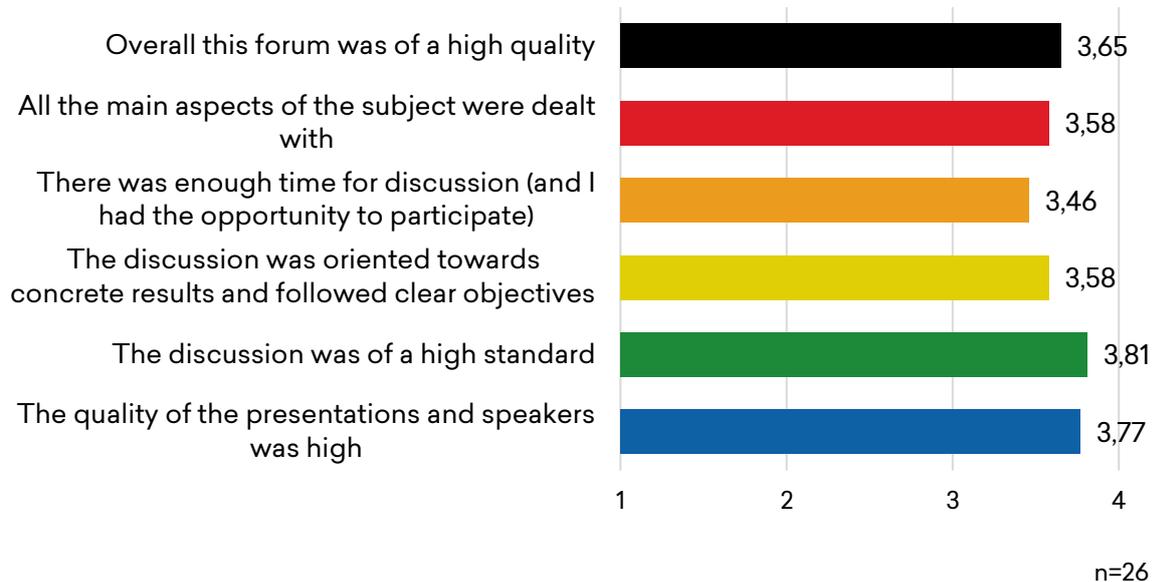
## F10: Transformative approaches 2

1=total disagreement, 5=total agreement



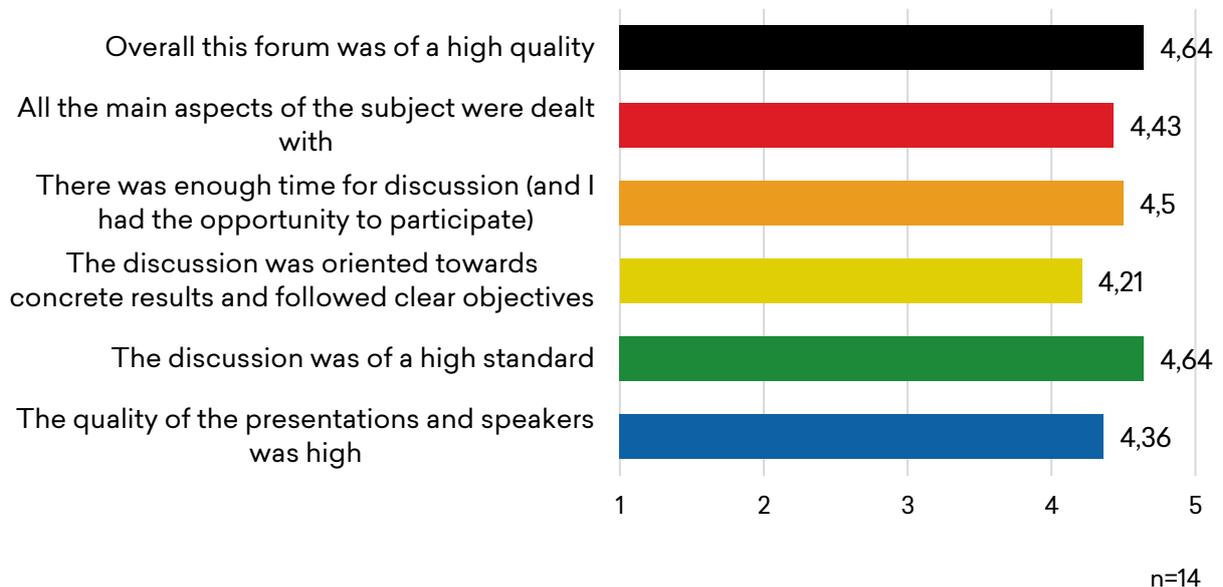
## F11: Access to vital & innovative medicines

1=total disagreement, 5=total agreement



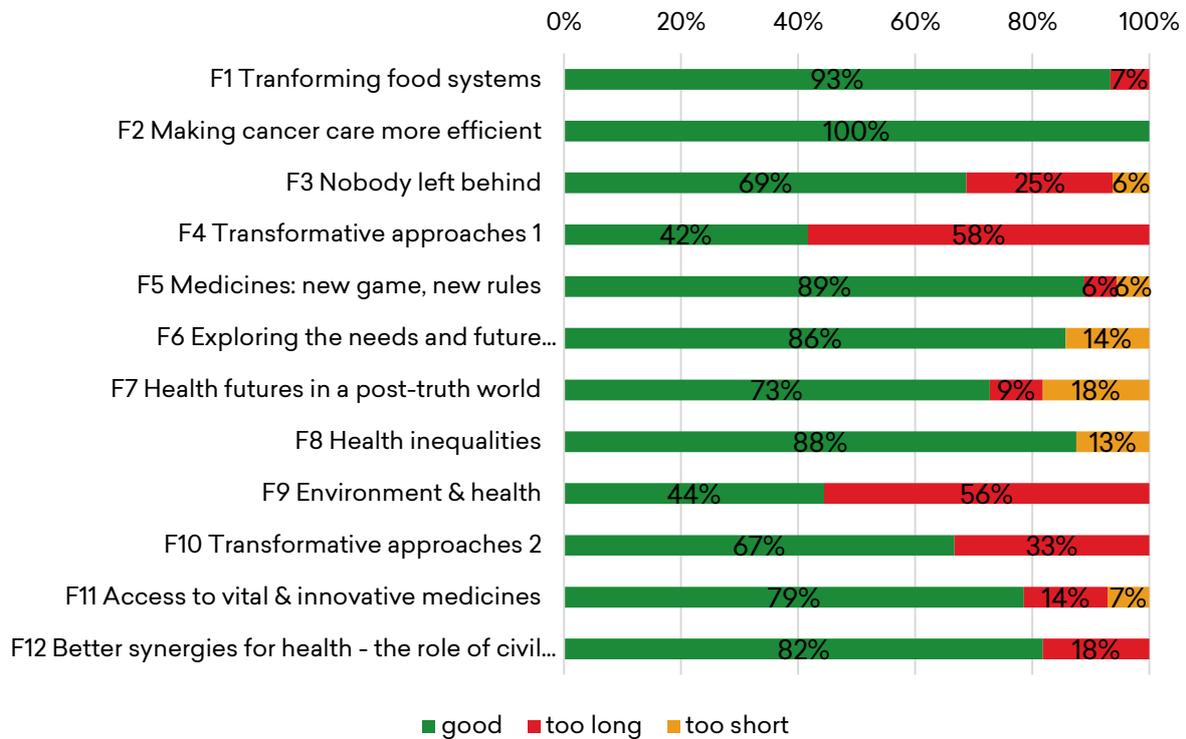
## F12 Better synergies for health-the role of civil society

1=total disagreement, 5=total agreement

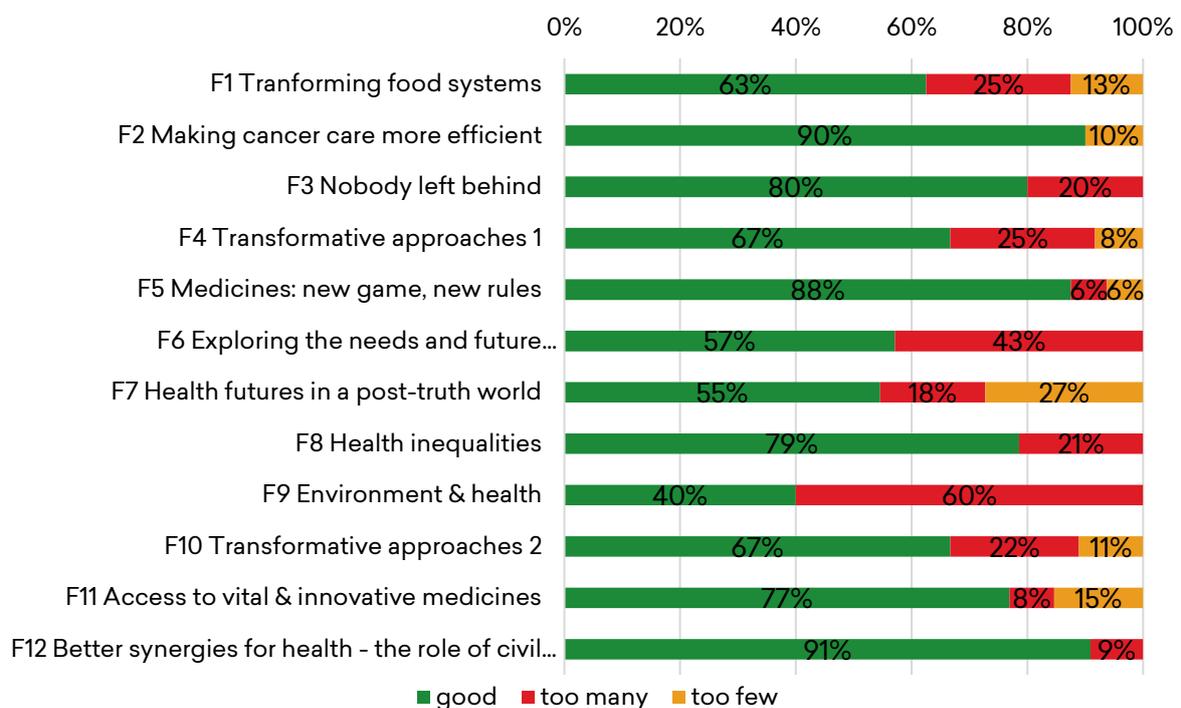


## Comparison between all parallel forum sessions

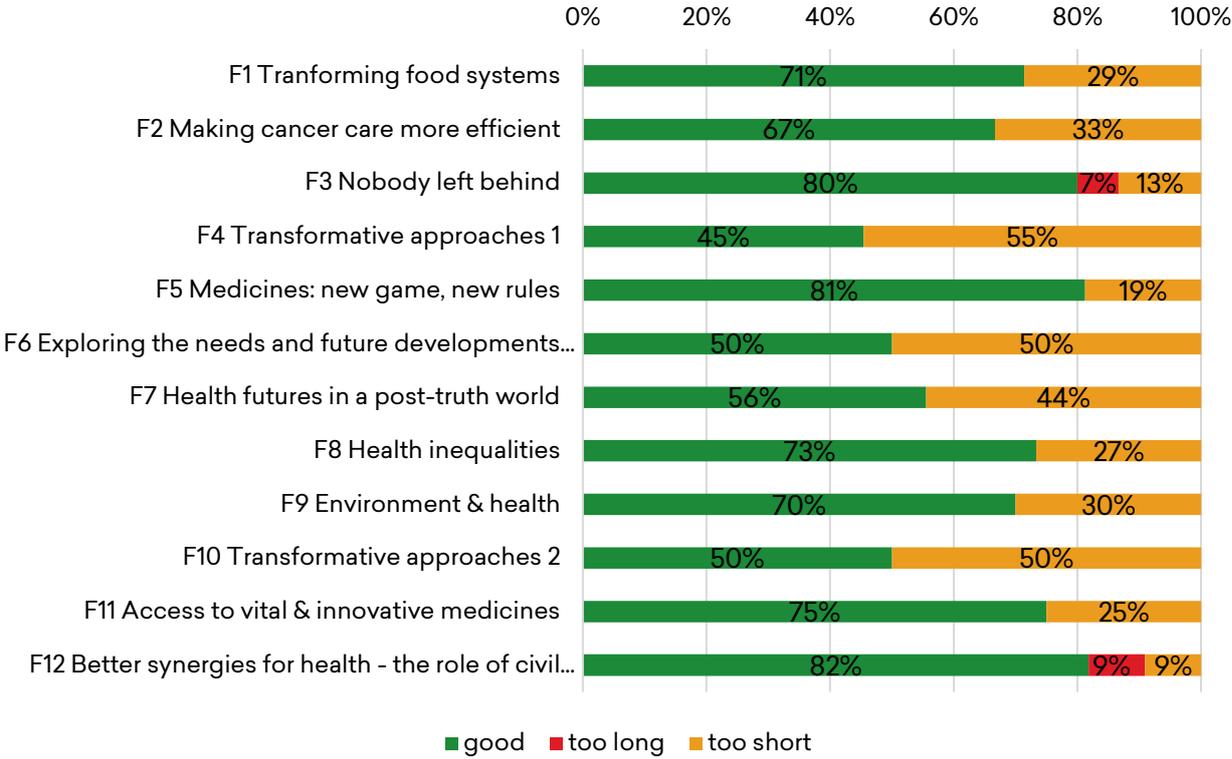
### Assessment of length of presentations



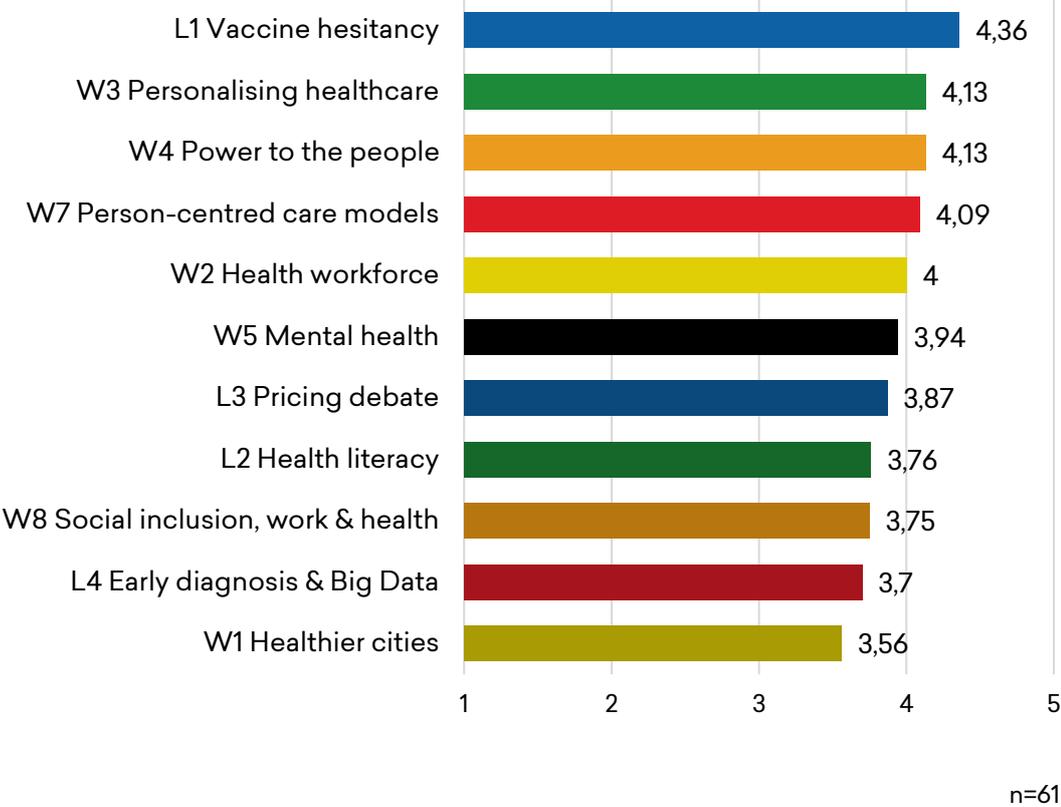
### Assessment of number of presentations



# Assessment of time allocated for interactive discussion

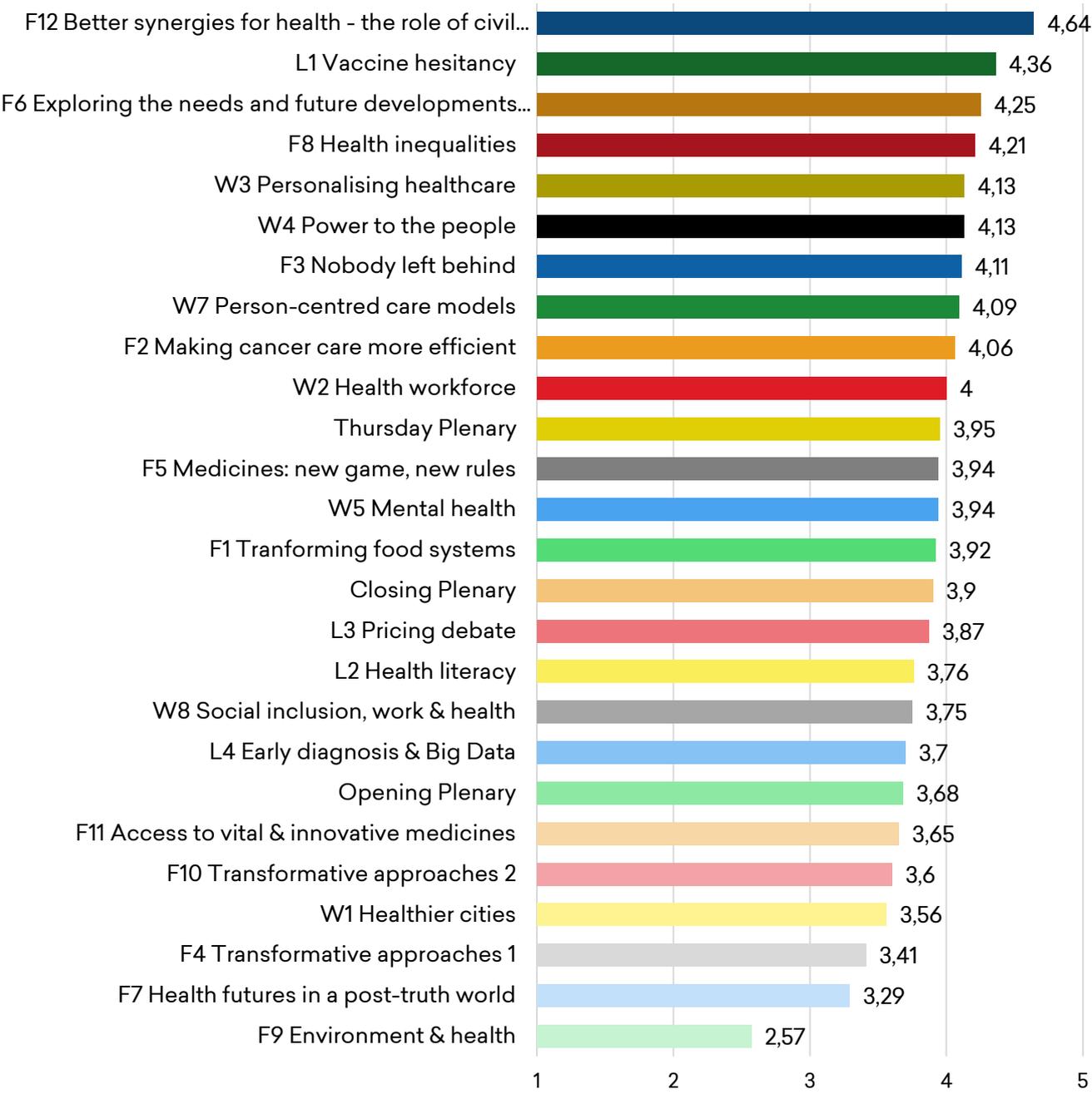


# Evaluation of workshop sessions



# Comparison of all sessions – quality assessment

1=poor, 5=excellent | top-down



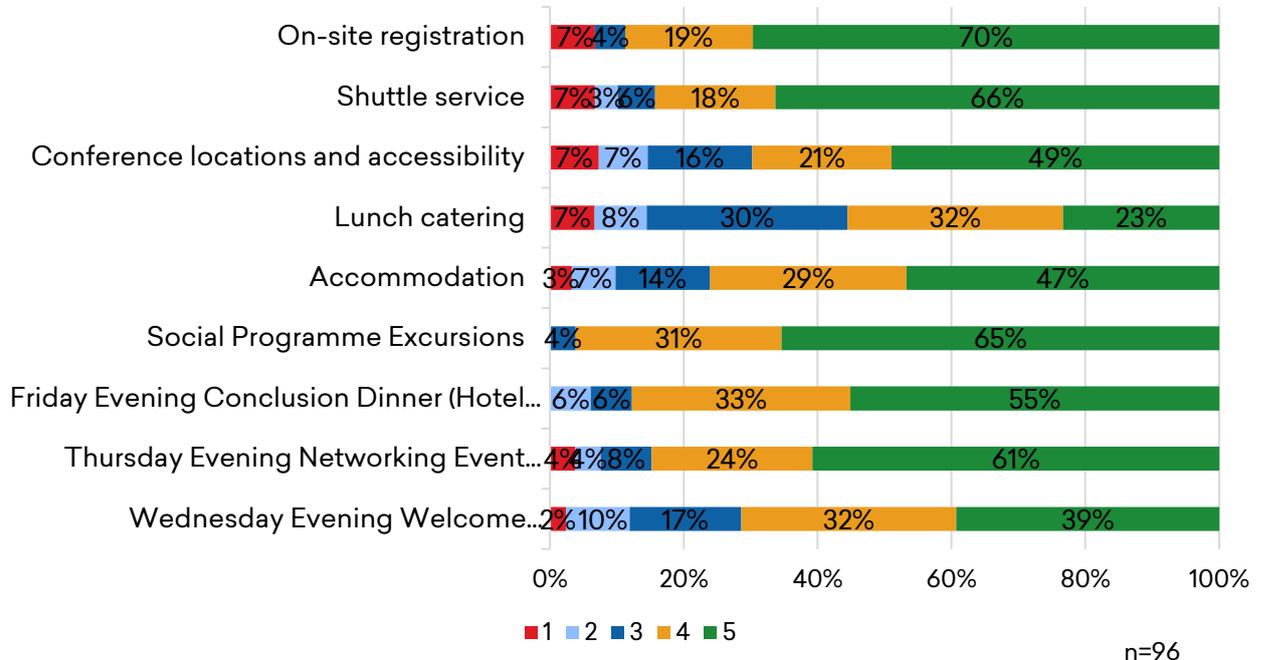
# Registration & organisation



# Registration, organisation & overall impression

## Evaluation of organisational elements of the conference

1=poor, 5=excellent



“The lunch networking is poor at best - people leave to get good food and thereby networking opportunities are not good.”

“Lunch per se wasn't bad, the time window to enjoy was just way too small. Suggestion for improvement: Always leave a basket of fruits etc. available throughout the day.”

“Welcome reception would be better in a place that is one large room. Thursday evening was a lot of fun. Food was not that good unfortunately.”

“Everything went very smooth, organization was very good. I wondered how accessible all facilities were for people with a disability.”

“Wednesday evening the music was too loud. It was almost impossible to network with others. I suggest having no music at all the first evening or starting with it later.”  
 “Hotel Zum Toni is great but too far. Lunch at 11:00 was definitely too early.”

“The catering was really good. There was literally food always and everywhere. I was slightly surprised that most of the food was still predominantly meat-oriented. Also, the cakes were divine. The fruit was nice, but maybe add some healthy alternatives? Some raw bars and balls maybe, some raw nuts? Not necessarily as a criticism, but as a health conference, it could be really good to push this a little, make a statement. The organization went absurdly smooth. The availability of taxis wherever we went.

Everything was thought through and so well arranged. Your graphic designer deserves an award. All materials looked so stunning. And it was so fun to engage in the difference video and art projects. This all greatly contributes to fantastic and attractive atmosphere and experience.”

“Having the welcome reception in the Kursaal may be better, as it wasn't easy to find people/move around tables in the Alpenhaus, and it was very noisy.”

“Several people were delayed because of relative difficulty reaching venue.”

“The timing between the end of the conference program and the dinner were very short, which made it difficult to refresh/change without missing any sessions. Also, the lunches were very early, so there was a long gap between lunch and dinner.”

“As a wheelchair user, the time given to go from one session to another, often located in different buildings, was just too short, which made it difficult to arrive on time and also influence which session(s) I could attend. Access to the Kursaal rooms especially couldn't be done independently (the entrance is not adapted). Finally, most of the networking space/time were designed for people standing and not always accessible.”

“Shuttle service - there was a problem with a shuttle on Saturday morning. Almost full bus was waiting for 30 minutes for 3 people, who apparently were not picked up from their hotel by a taxi as agreed. Also - it was a bit pointless to pick us up from the hotels with small buses to bring us to Alpenhaus for a bigger bus - we could have walked it. Lunch catering - the sandwiches on Wednesday and Thursday (lunch workshops) are not the best lunch during the long conference days. A plus for fruits! :)”

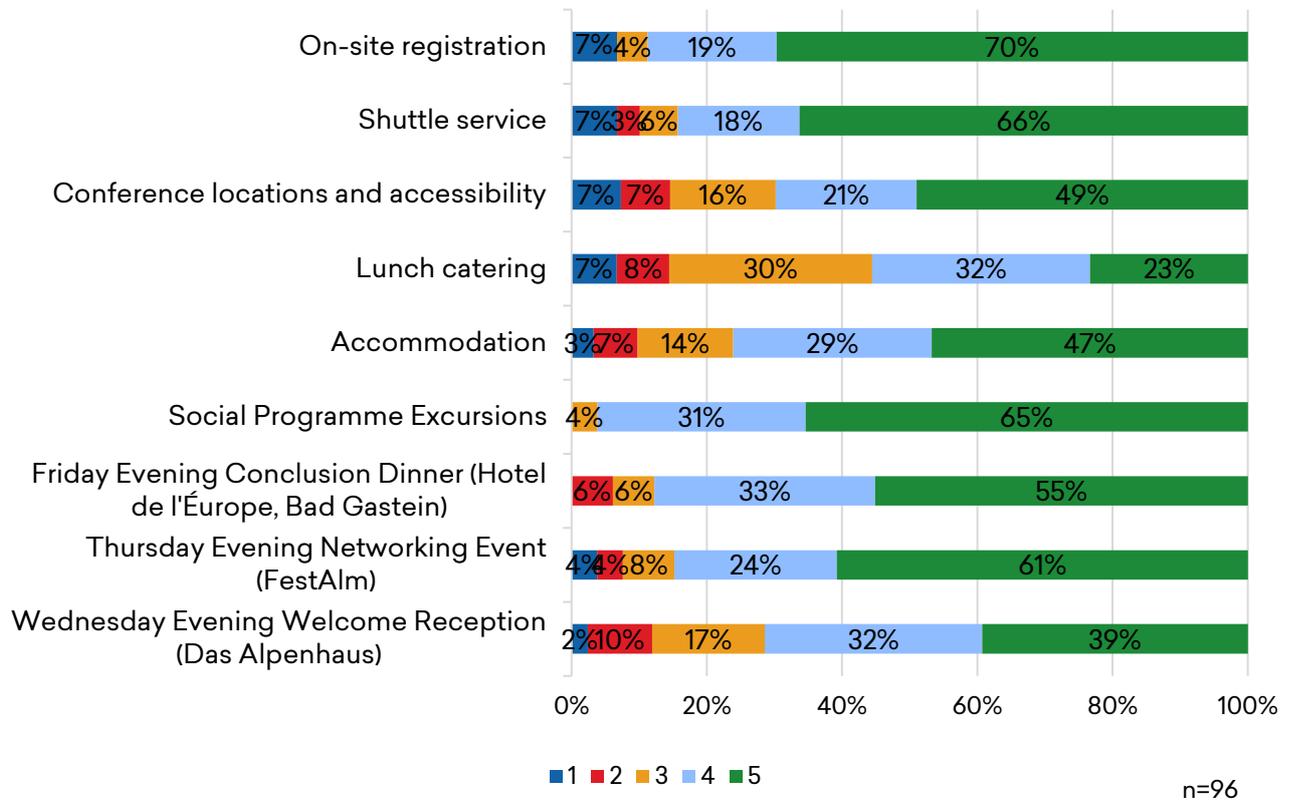
“The town of Bad Hofgastein is a wonderful location, but there are easier (and much lower carbon) places to get to.”

“Wonderful energy of all the young people supporting the event (e.g., registration desk). Thank you for an excellent event. I would have liked to see more visibility to all projects that were shortlisted for the EHA (e.g., event to bring us together) as I only managed to speak to the winner, and would have gladly swapped one of the dinners for an excursion.”

“Everything was VERY well organized.”

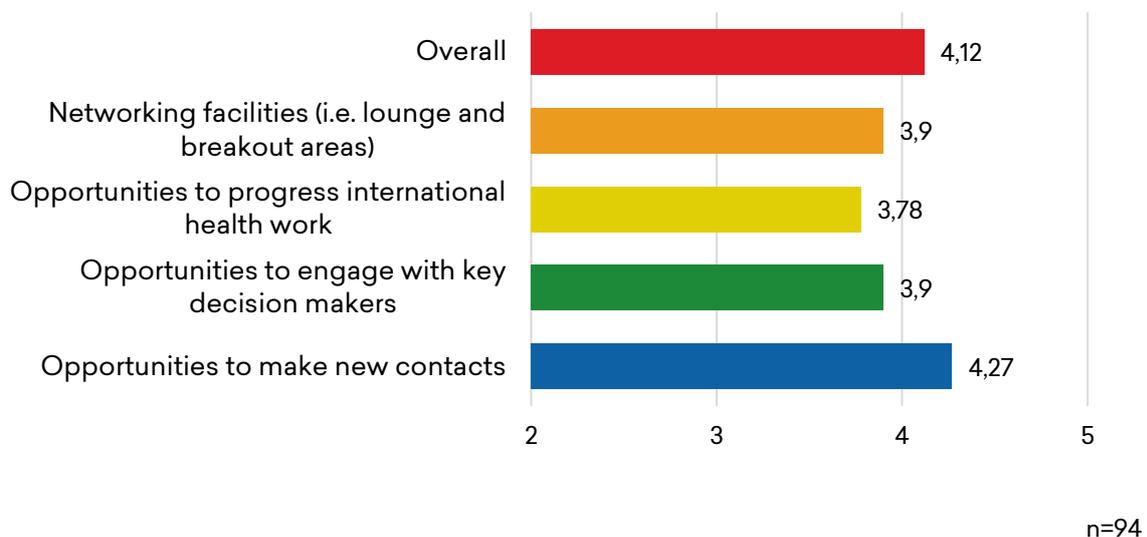
## Evaluation of organisational elements of the conference

1=poor, 5=excellent

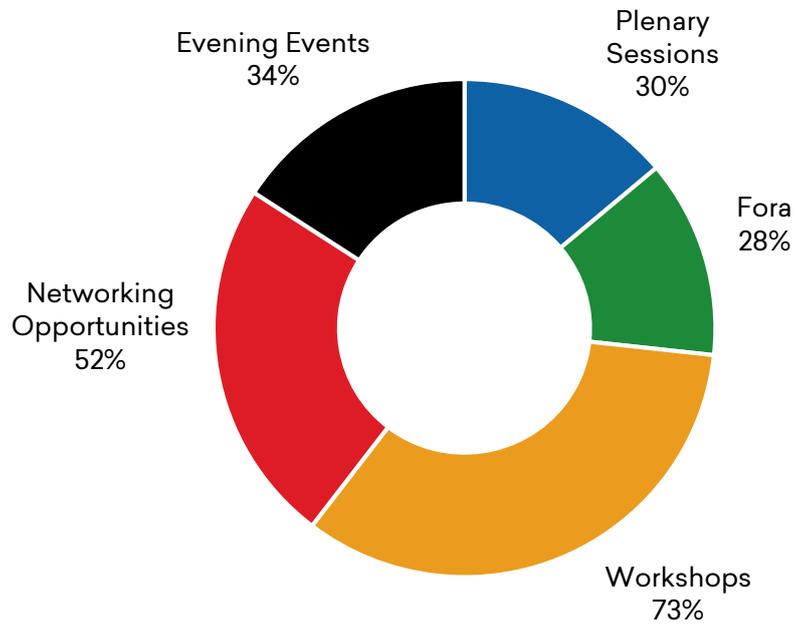


## Rating of conference networking

1=poor, 5=excellent

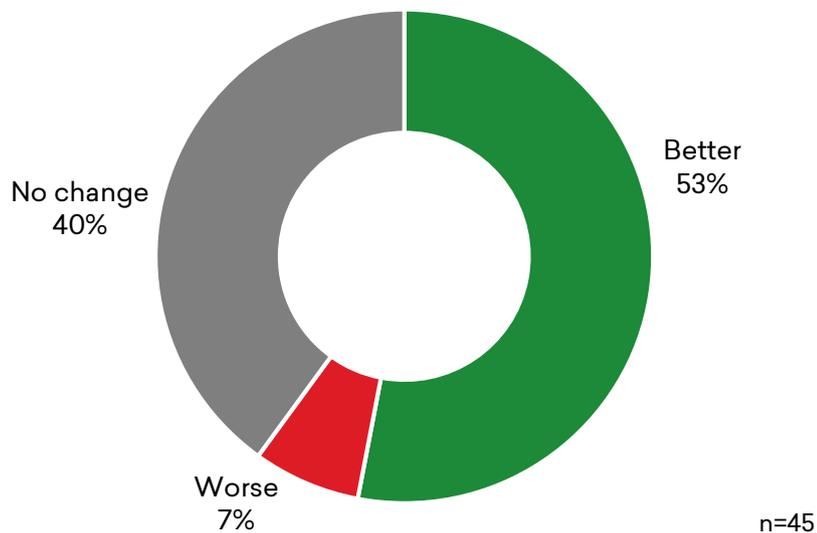


## Most rewarding activities at the conference



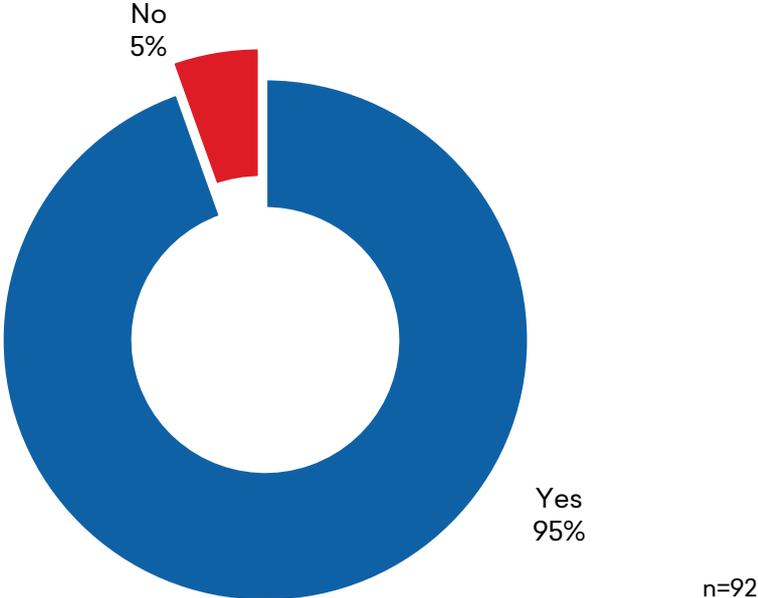
n=93

## Comparison to previous EHFGs



n=45

# Would you participate in the conference again?



# Open questions



# Open questions

Respondents were asked to give recommendations for how to improve the organisational aspects of next year's conference.

This question was answered by 20 respondents.

Respondents were asked to share any final thoughts on their experience at EHFG 2017.

This question was answered by 27 respondents.

"Too few relevant present policy topics, too much science, overall lower level of participants, no high-ranking Commission, WHO Member States and industry participants. Also, what happened to the past permanent topic of the EU presidency activities, especially as Austria is next in line?"

"As a first-time participant, I was mostly amazed by the relevancy and variety of speakers, topics and professionals. As a Young Gasteiner, I also felt very welcome and appreciated, in general the atmosphere was good for learning and creating networks."

"You should think about changing up the social activities and venues of evening events. Everything else was perfect. I hope to see you next year in the amazing Bad Hofgastein!"

"Please, circulate participants' lists in advance. This would be great to set up meetings and to take the most out of it. If there are concerns regarding data protection, just ask people to tick a box when they register. There were almost no decision-makers from the Commission or Parliament present - very unfortunate. Felt like health community talked to themselves without anyone else around."

"Overall fantastic experience, thank you very much."

"EHFG is always inspiring in terms of public health policies. I would like to encourage to move on with further initiatives like health futures which can consolidate the prestige of EHFG."

"Amazing! Great work as always :)"

"Great opportunity for learning and training in health diplomacy! "

"A wonderful opportunity to pass a message across to a large number of people who can put things into action."

"This was one of the best organized events I have ever attended. On-site staff was extremely helpful and friendly. Some sessions did not make a break and were therefore too long. Maybe one could remind session organizers to include a short break when planning their workshop or forum. "

"Sessions of two hours are quite long to keep people focused. The interaction obtained from the audience in W4 was particularly successful."

“It would be nice to have more concrete examples, ideas, good practices, even local ones. The biggest emphasis was on problems and challenges, but it would also be important to see solutions.” “Excellent overall - maybe more prominent speakers next time.”

“I find the existence of closed sessions and the organisation/composition of the advisory committee not as transparent as Gastein could be.”

“Networking: a list of all participants would be extremely useful to have to facilitate networking. Plenary: the plenaries are rarely useful, because it's often a repetition of what we all know already (a short presentation about the current challenges may be sufficient, no need for 2 hours of it.)”

“Generally, more workshops/facilitated debates/interactive sessions may be useful to get somewhere and come up with new ideas rather than simply summing up what has been done and what challenges remain.”

“The location and the people were great, but the sessions were too long and many of them only problem- (not solution) oriented.”

“There was a variation in the degree of innovation and productiveness of the various sessions. The best sessions were based around real-life examples and experiences of policy or technical action.”

“Interesting, friendly, forward thinking.”

“It was a great conference and the topic most relevant. It would be great if the printed programme was more up-to-date. A plus for a shorter plenary on Thursday - one hour is definitely OK.”

“More workshops followed by team-specific networking could be a good way of bringing people together.”

“Networking opportunities were amazing, people very accessible and friendly. Topics of sessions were skewed in the direction of disease prevention and disease management. I would be very happy to see more health promotion topics.”

“It would be good to have more senior policy-makers, the rest is really good!”

“An attendees list would be very helpful for networking. It would also be good to print the delegate name on both sides of the badge, in bigger letters!”

“No need to print the catalogue in the future!”

“Just keep up the good work, looking forward to attending next editions!”

“This was excellent. Much better than earlier years. Congratulations!”

EHFG 2017  
Organisers & sponsors



# Organisers & Sponsors

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have been able to realise our goals. We are looking forward to continuing these partnership on our way towards

*CREATING A BETTER FUTURE FOR HEALTH IN EUROPE*

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