

PARTICIPANT Evaluation

Validation of Informal learning

In European projects and partnerships

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Introduction

On November 13, 2011, at the closure of the European training course: Validation of informal learning in European projects and partnerships, a detailed questionnaire was provided to each participant to assess :

1. the level of attainment of the course objectives and level of fulfilment of expectations
2. the course content, methodology and delivery
3. the specific gains of participants after the course, namely: learning about validation approaches and Level 5 and developing ideas for its implementation
4. the practical course arrangements.

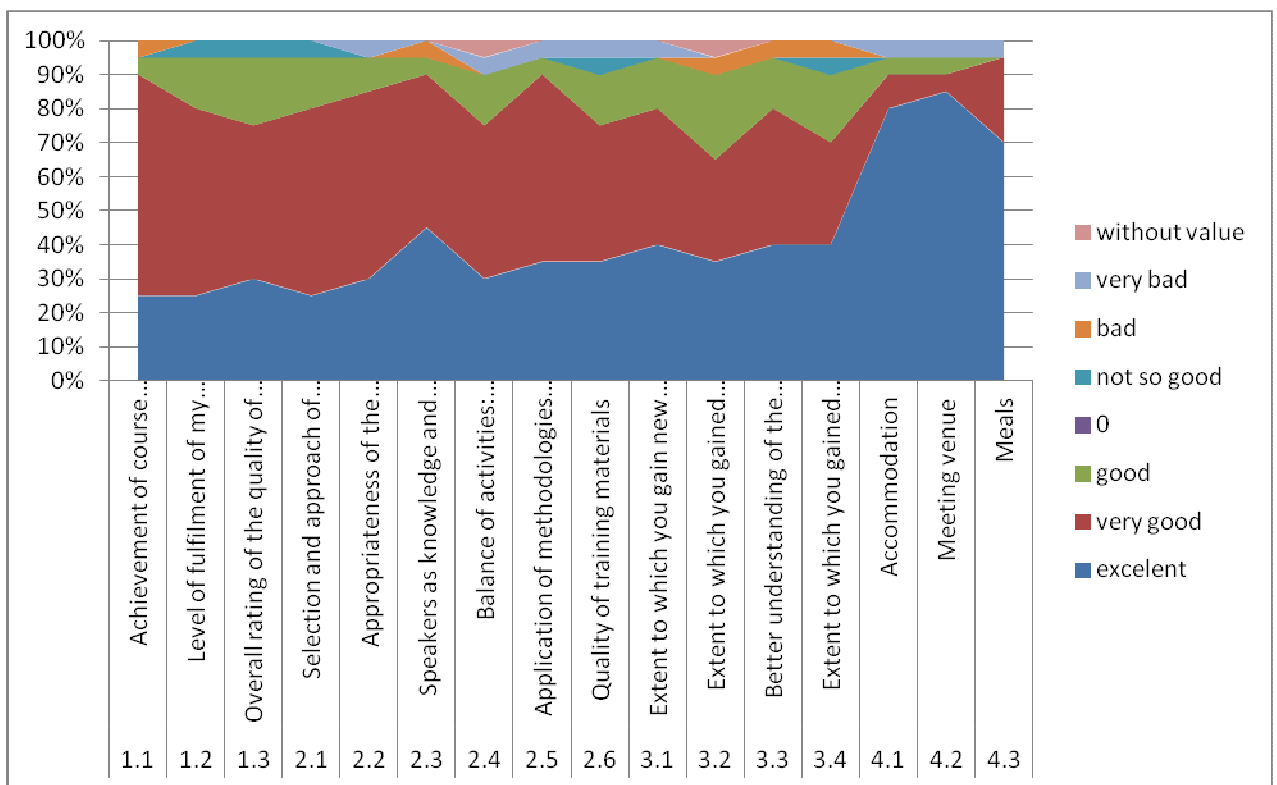
The questionnaire also asked participants for the part of the programme that they found more useful, and for recommendations for the future. 22 participants from 12 nationalities attended the course. 90 % attended. Following is a summary table of the questionnaire. It includes a detailed rating and shows a unanimous high level of satisfaction of participants.

| | | excellent | very good | good | 0 | not so good | bad | very bad without value | Total |
|-----|---|------------|------------|-----------|----------|-------------|----------|------------------------|------------|
| 1.1 | Achievement of course objectives | 5 | 13 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 20 |
| 1.2 | Level of fulfilment of my expectation | 5 | 11 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 20 |
| 1.3 | Overall rating of the quality of the course | 6 | 9 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 20 |
| 2.1 | Selection and approach of themes addressed | 5 | 11 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 20 |
| 2.2 | Appropriateness of the content, clear relation to course aim | 6 | 11 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 20 |
| 2.3 | Speakers as knowledge and communication skills workshop leader | 9 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 20 |
| 2.4 | Balance of activities: icebreaking, plenary presentations, workshops, breaks etc. | 6 | 9 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 20 |
| 2.5 | Application of methodologies which enhance active participation and learning | 7 | 11 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 20 |
| 2.6 | Quality of training materials | 7 | 8 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 20 |
| 3.1 | Extent to which you gain new knowledge about validation of informal learning | 8 | 8 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 20 |
| 3.2 | Extent to which you gained new knowledge and insight about LEVEL 5 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 20 |
| 3.3 | Better understanding of the vision of REVEAL | 8 | 8 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 20 |
| 3.4 | Extent to which you gained ideas for implementation LEVEL5 in your projects/learning activities | 8 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 20 |
| 4.1 | Accommodation | 16 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 20 |
| 4.2 | Meeting venue | 17 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 20 |
| 4.3 | Meals | 14 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 20 |
| | TOTAL | 134 | 128 | 38 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 8 | 320 |

Table: Ratings of participants to each item of the course questionnaire

1. Level of satisfaction of participants

The following graphic visually shows the high level of satisfaction of the participants that attended the course and the items which they were more satisfied at.



Graphic: Level of satisfaction of participants in relation to each item of the questionnaire

2. Comments of participants

The comments by participants to the items of the questionnaire are reflected as follows: (Questions 1.1 – 4.3):

- “Very good method and variety of themes”
- “The course was well organised, with the exception of the Level 5 should be at the 1st day.”
- “Thank you for this course because I have a much better understanding of Level 5 and its possible application with our target groups.”
- “Possible improvement on methods: less individual reporting in plenary (there are other ways to fulfil the same aims to be more time effective).”
- “Overall I LIKED THE WORKSHOPS VERY MUCH. Thanks for the great and good work!”

SUMMARY: The comments of participants about the training course are all positive by all participants with the exception of 1. Even the only participant, who evaluated above between bad and very bad did not comment here and we can suspect, that the participant confused negative with positive. If he/she would have had such a bad impression of the course the participant should have taken the opportunity at this point to comment.

3. Parts of the Programme that participants found more useful

Following is a summary of the participant's view on the most useful parts of the programme.

- "The Workshop on setting up a new reference system."
- "The workshops in group and tandem activity."
- "The working group and the Level 5 Experience (work on the platform)"
- "Workshops"
- "Practical exercise"
- "All. Completing the grid and practical exercises."
- "Practical exercises-maybe it was repeated too much..."
- "Input by LEIDEN Prof. + practical sessions (tandem, filling out ref sys.)"
- "Workshops, software session"
- "The software activities, the workshop about mobility project, in general all the activities connected with how to create a reference system, reflection about this and the levels and dimensions"
- "Concept of the competence reference systems."
- "The first 3,5 days."
- "Revealing Reveal"

SUMMARY: The comments are mostly directed to the practical part of the course. This demonstrates that participants have understood the theory and were motivated to gain practical experience.

4. Recommendations for future courses of this type

The following points indicate the recommendations proposed by the course participants.

- "More structured workshops, better time management"
- "More free time in the evening (more unorganized time)"
- "More time for valorisation and network sustainability."
- "Better time planning in means of keeping the breaks in place."
- "Sometimes the time schedule was not clear; changes in the schedule were not communicated in a clear way...that was sometimes confusing for planning the work in workgroups."
- "We must involve more funders (NAs, regional institutions) and replicate shorter training sessions in our countries/regions for dissemination. The EU is working on a similar tool, even if it may not be as flexible as Level 5. Gaining support from NAs could give more way to Level5."
- "To organize a workshop for consultancy development."
- "Maybe be more precise during the presentation of the software, for instance we did not know that we had to lock the inventory part to go further, or how to save the comments on the last part. Maybe give a mini manual, short and simple in fact to use the software. Maybe one suggestion will be to give an example of a real project evaluated with Level 5 (reference system created for the project, how did it work, results, feelings of the people evaluated...) THANK YOU VERY MUCH."

- “More practice and a not overloaded website.”
- Maybe a day shorter + ???

SUMMARY: Most of the comments ask for a more structured time planning of the course with more free time for informal networking. One comment is directed to the target group and future dissemination activities and some request even more practical work. We can conclude, that the content was transmitted in a satisfactory way and recommend a tighter time schedule for doing so next time.