



## EAPC 17<sup>th</sup> World Congress Online

“EXPLORING NEW DIMENSIONS”

Interactive Online Sessions

6 - 8 October 2021

## Final event report

### **Participant numbers:**

Number of registered delegates: 1183

Number of certificates issued: 474

Abstracts submitted 730

Delegates were from 75 different countries (Appendix 1.)

Distribution of delegates by profession and gender are listed in Appendix 2

### **Scientific programme**

The congress scientific programme comprised an extensive range of scientific content. [Abstracts from the 17th World Congress of the EAPC 2021, 2021 \(sagepub.com\)](https://www.sagepub.com/journalsPermissions.nav?lang=en&url=/journals/abstracts-from-the-17th-world-congress-of-the-eapc-2021-2021/abstracts-from-the-17th-world-congress-of-the-eapc-2021-2021.sagepub.com) This included: Plenary lectures, themed sessions, selected free communication sessions, poster presentations and a broad range of ‘on-demand’ content which was available for the duration of the congress and for three months. The programme included the following sessions:

- 8 Plenary sessions (2 specific to paediatrics)
- 21 Parallel Sessions
- 16 Free communication sessions
- 1 Industry sponsored symposia
- 82 oral presentations from abstract submissions
- 484 posters presented in the e-poster gallery

### **Members of the Scientific Committee 2021**

- Christoph Ostgathe, Germany
- Fliss Murtagh, Chair, UK
- Elodie Cretin, France
- Lorna Fraser, UK
- Barbara Gomes, UK
- Kaisa Halinen, Finland
- Ana Lacerda, Portugal
- Irena Laska, Albania
- Piret Paal, Austria
- Kaisa Rajala, Finland
- Judith Rietjens, The Netherlands
- Simone Veronese, Italy

We are also very grateful to all our abstract reviewers (see Appendix 3)

## **Award winners**

- EAPC award winners
  - Post-Doctoral Award: Erica Borgstrom, UK
  - Clinical Impact Award: Harvey Chochinov, Canada
  - Early Researcher Award: Barbara Antunes, UK
- EAPC Award: *Inequalities and Injustice in Palliative Care* Irene Higginson, UK
- Floriani Lecture: *How can palliative care navigate the opioid crisis?* Jim Cleary, USA

## **Parallel sessions**

- PS01 (E) Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) to Enhance Education in Palliative Care
- PS02 (A) Innovative Models of Home Palliative Care
- PS03 (B) Improving Care for People Unable to Self-report: The Role of Person-Centred Proxy-Reported Assessment Measures
- PS04 (B) Management of Fatigue in Advanced Cancer - Psychological, Physical And Pharmacological
- PS05 (F) Economics of Palliative Care: New Approaches to Understand and Demonstrate Effects
- PS06 (A) "There is an app for that" — Leveraging Technology to Advance Palliative Care to Patients and Families Across Care Settings
- PS07 (A) Peer Support in Palliative Care: How to Leverage its Potential?
- PS08 (M) Expanding Palliative Care Beyond Health Care Services: Lessons Learned From International Research
- PS09 (G) Revealing the Current State of Palliative Care for Persons with Persistent Mental Illness in Three High Income Countries
- PS10 (B) (Potential)Pitfalls in Palliative Care Pharmacotherapy
- PS11 (D) Developing an Evidence Base to Support Advance Care Planning in Dementia
- PS12 (B) Treatment Decision-Making: Communicating, Informing and Supporting Patient Choice
- PS13 (C) Children and Young People: The Hidden Carers
- PS14 (E) The Lancet Commission on the Value of Death: A Virtual Exploration
- PS15 (Q) Researcher Award Session
- PS16 (B) Opioids for Chronic Breathlessness - Practical Evidence-Based Prescribing
- PS17 (D) Exploring New Dimensions in Dementia Palliative Care: Making Research Work in Practice
- PS18 (F) Ethical Decision Making at the End-Of-Life
- PS19 (B) Sedation at the End-Of-Life Outside Specialist Palliative Care – International Perspectives
- PS20 (C) Strategies to Improve the Psychosocial Well-Being of Family Carers: How International Collaborations Make a Difference
- PPC (I) Transitioning Children with Palliative Care Needs Between Settings and Phases

## **Free Communication Sessions**

- FC 01 Measuring and Managing Symptoms

- FC 02 Advance Care Planning & Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation
- FC 03 Innovation and New Technologies
- FC 04 Symptoms and Sedation
- FC 05 Palliative Care and COVID - Session 1
- FC 06 Compassionate Communities and Civic Responsibilities
- FC 07 Models of Care
- FC 08 Psychological Symptoms and Communication
- FC 09 Older & Frail People
- FC 10 Education and Workforce
- FC 11 Dementia and Care Homes
- FC 12 Palliative Care Identification and Impact
- FC 13 Advancing Advance Care Planning
- FC 14 Families and Carers
- FC 15 Sharing Learning from across the Globe
- FC 16 Palliative Care and COVID - Session 2

### **Live and On Demand Viewing Figures**

The congress site was accessed 16918 times between the platform opening until the end of 2021.

Between 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> October up to 572 delegates joined the online interactive sessions. The top viewed live sessions were:

1. Opening Ceremony
2. Free communication session on Measuring and managing symptoms - FC01(B)
3. Plenary session 3
4. Plenary session 2
5. Parallel session on Management of fatigue in advanced cancer - psychological, physical and pharmacological - PS4(B)
6. Plenary session 5
7. Parallel session on Innovative models of home palliative care - PS2(A)
8. Plenary session 4
9. Parallel session on Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) to enhance education in palliative care - PS1(E)
10. Free communication session on Advance Care Planning & CPR - FC2(D)

The top viewed on demand recorded presentations were:

1. Cost-effectiveness of sustained-release morphine for refractory breathlessness in COPD: a randomized clinical trial
2. The evidence for prescribing opioids for breathlessness
3. The SILENCE (Scopolamine butylbromide given prophylactically for death rattle) study
4. Updating a Cochrane review on the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of home palliative care services for adults
5. Management of fatigue in advanced cancer - pharmacological therapies
6. Clinical Aspects of Palliative Sedation A Systematic Review of Prospective Studies

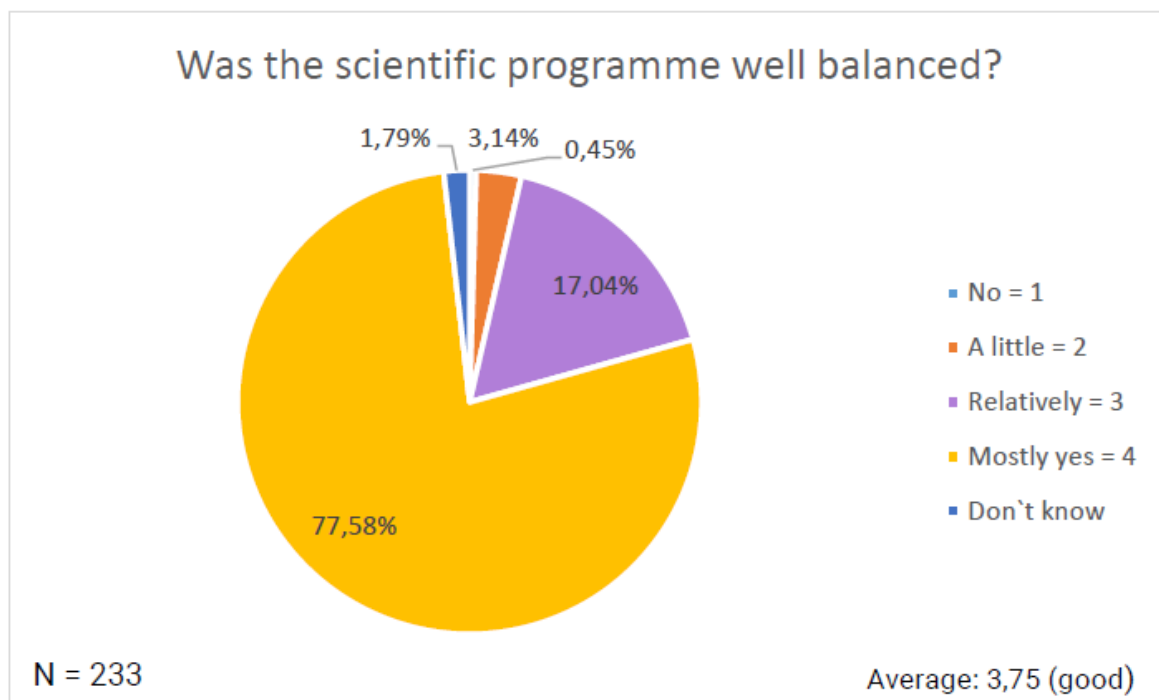
7. Dying at Home: Bereaved Family Caregivers Experiences of Just-in-Case Medications at End of Life
8. Using MOOCs to develop community discussion around death and dying
9. What about other opioids what do we know, what don't we know
10. Death, medicine, immortality, and climate change

**Summary of the Evaluation forms and comments from participants**

Following the EAPC congress, all delegates were invited to complete an online evaluation. As of 31 October 2021, 223 questionnaires were completed (18.87%).

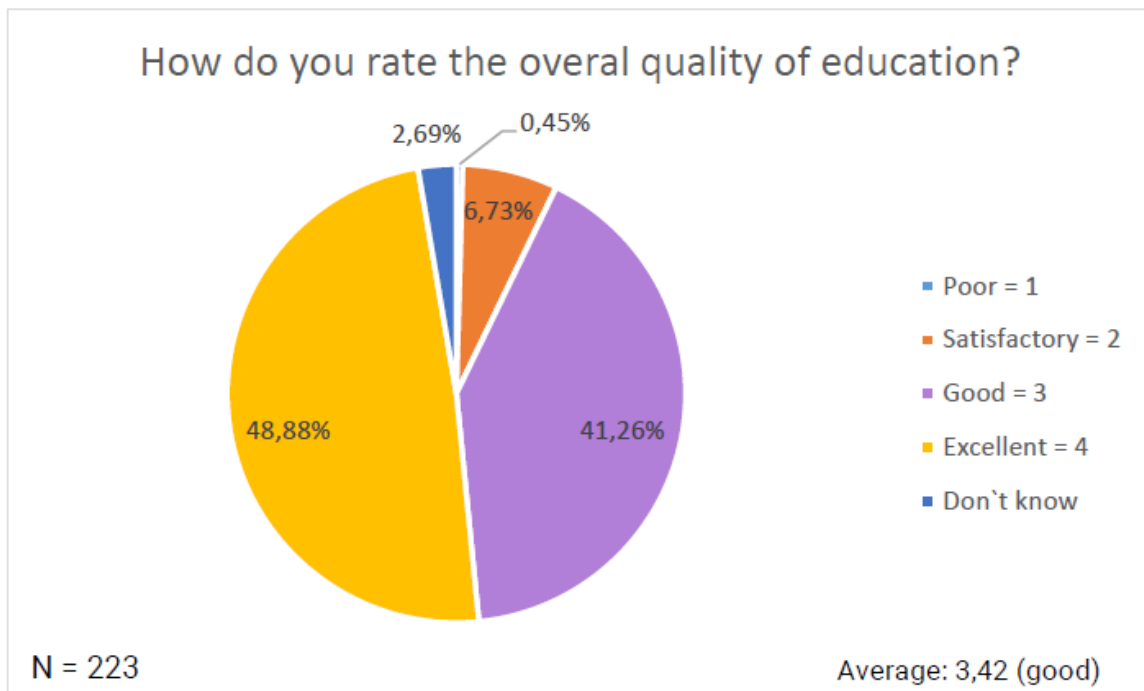
Both the results of the online evaluation and verbal feedback from delegates suggest that the majority of delegates were satisfied with the scientific content of the congress. More than 77% of the respondents reported that the programme was mostly well balanced (see figure 1).

*(figure 1)*



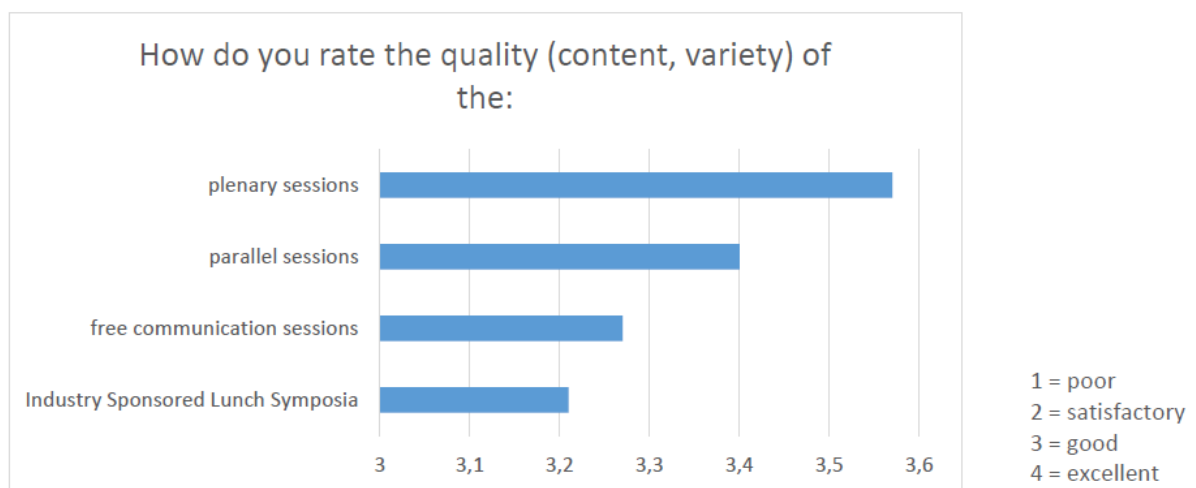
The majority of the respondents (90,14%) also rated the overall quality of education at the congress as “good” or “excellent” (see figure 2).

(figure 2)



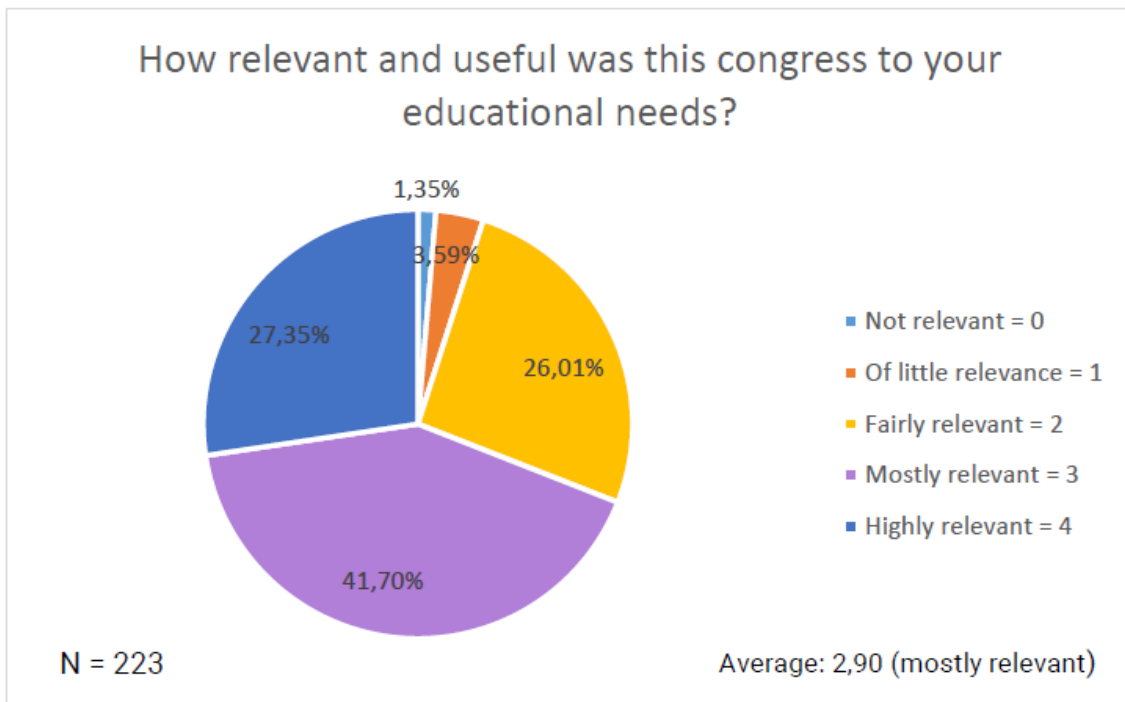
Delegates completing the evaluation have rated the quality of the range of presentations highly. The average ratings of all presentation formats were all between “Good” to “Excellent” (see figure 3).

(figure 3)



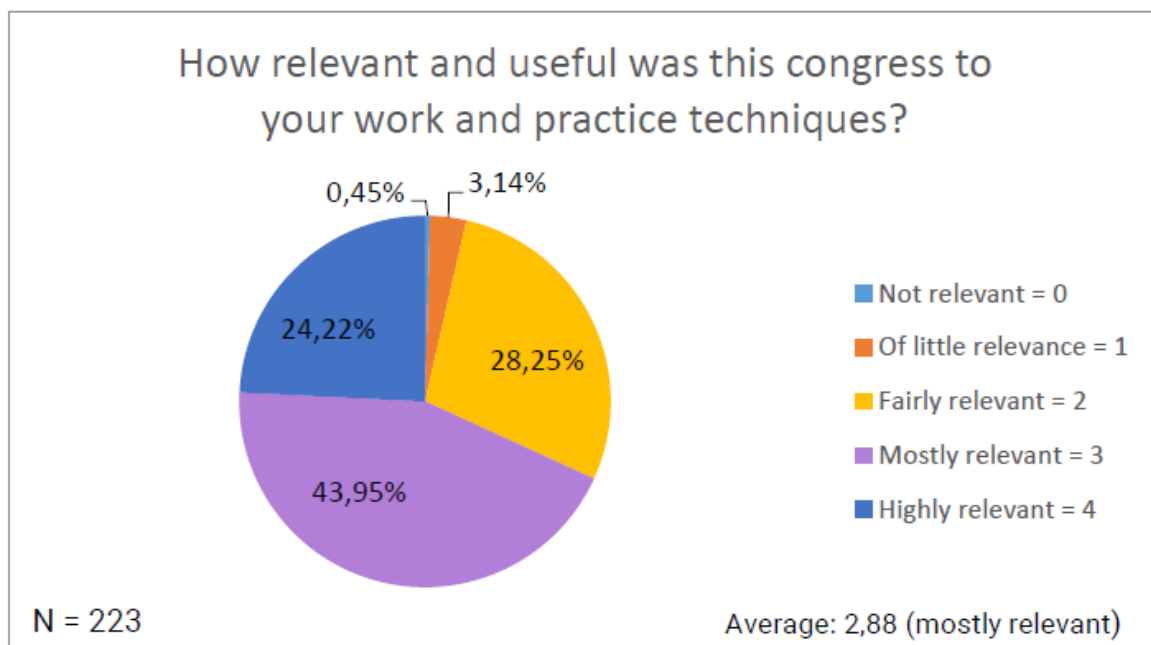
The evaluation suggests that on the whole delegates found the presentations relevant to their educational needs, with 69.05% rating them mostly or highly relevant (see figure 4).

(figure 4)



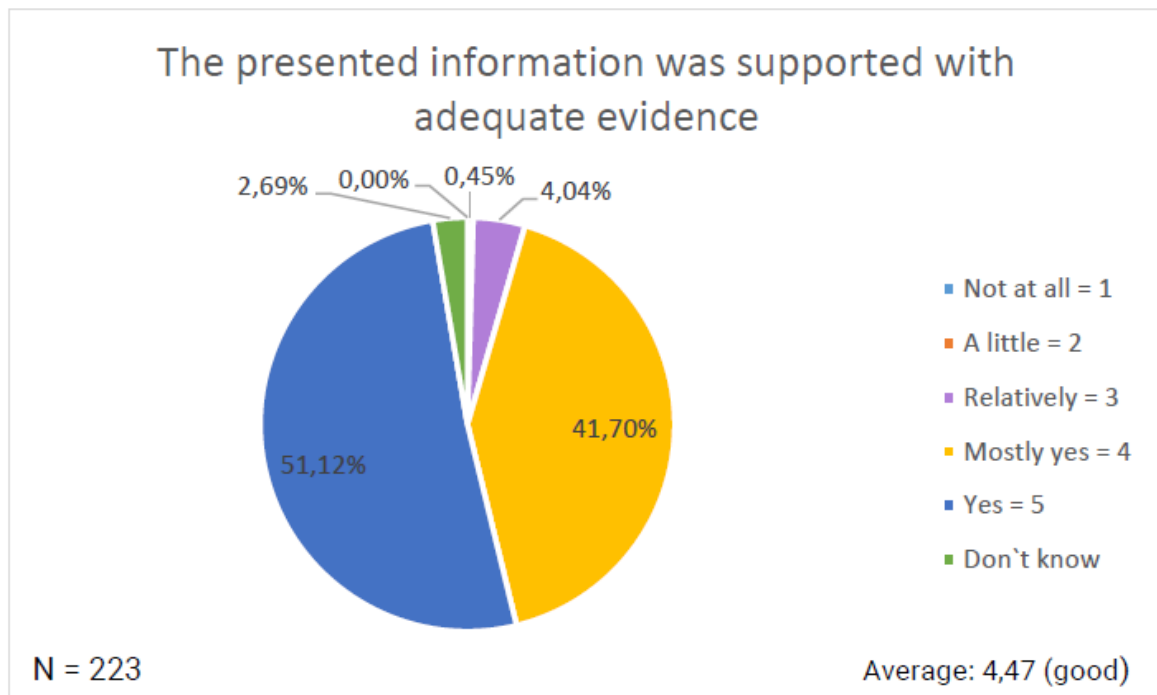
On average, the majority of delegates (68.17%) also found the congress programme relevant and useful to their work and practice techniques (see figure 5).

(figure 5)



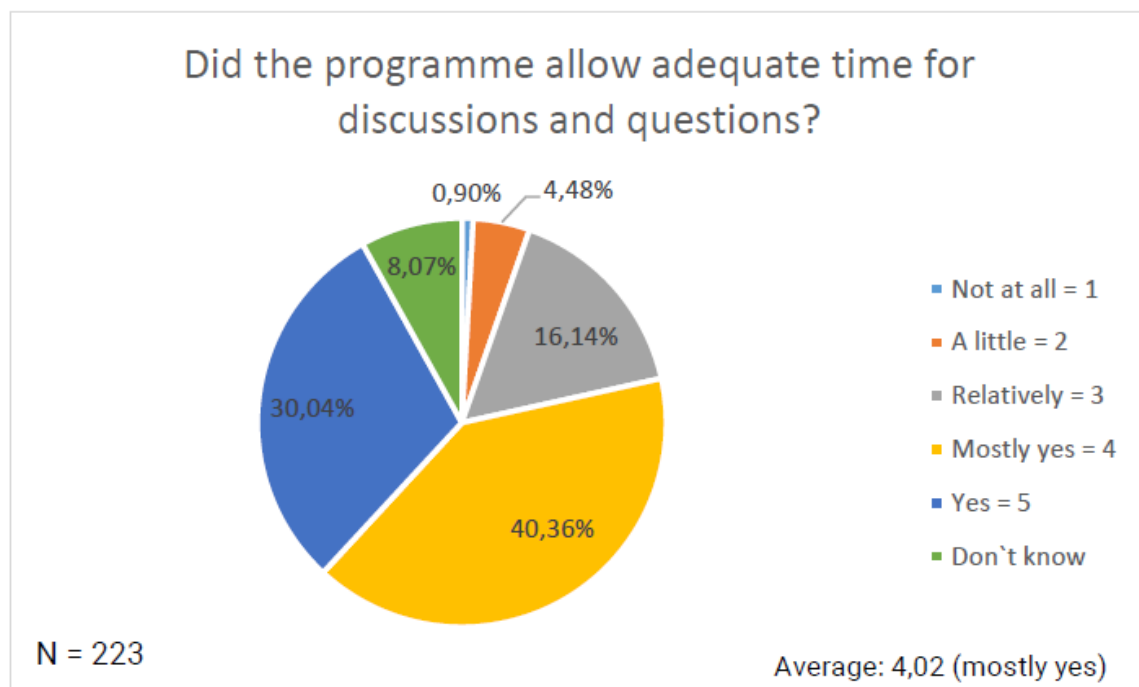
Of those completing the evaluation a significant number (92.82%) felt that sufficient evidence was presented to support the findings of the presentations (see figure 6).

(figure 6)



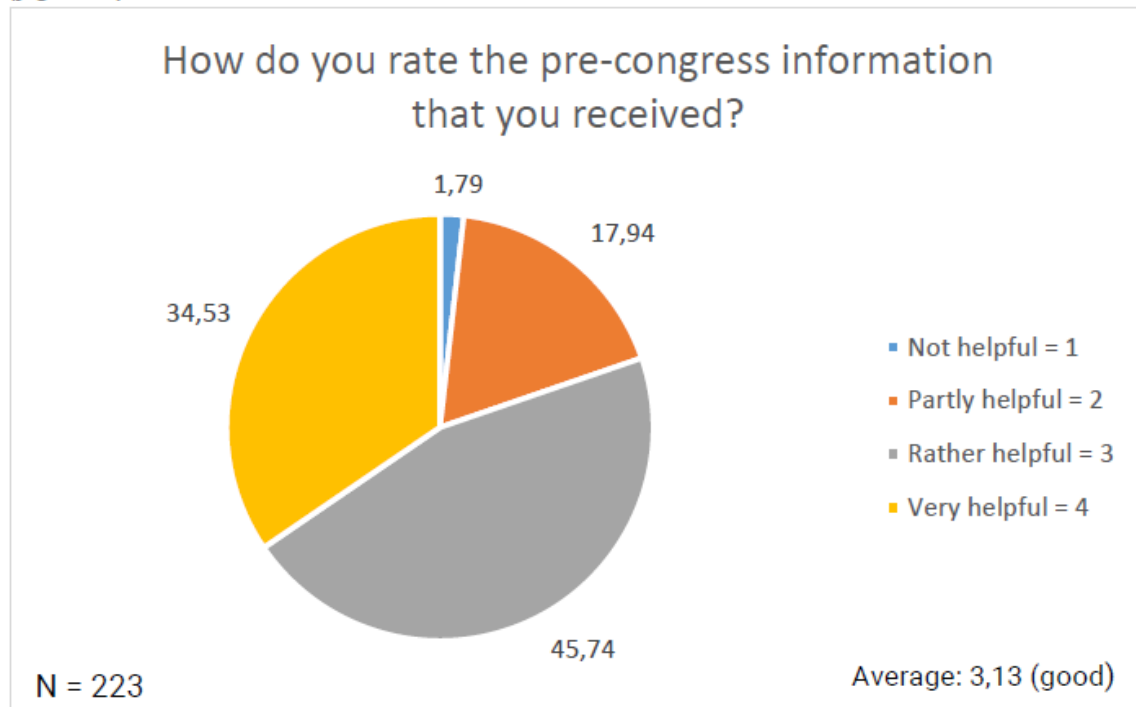
The majority (70.4%) also felt that adequate time for discussion and questions was available during the congress (see figure 7).

(figure 7)



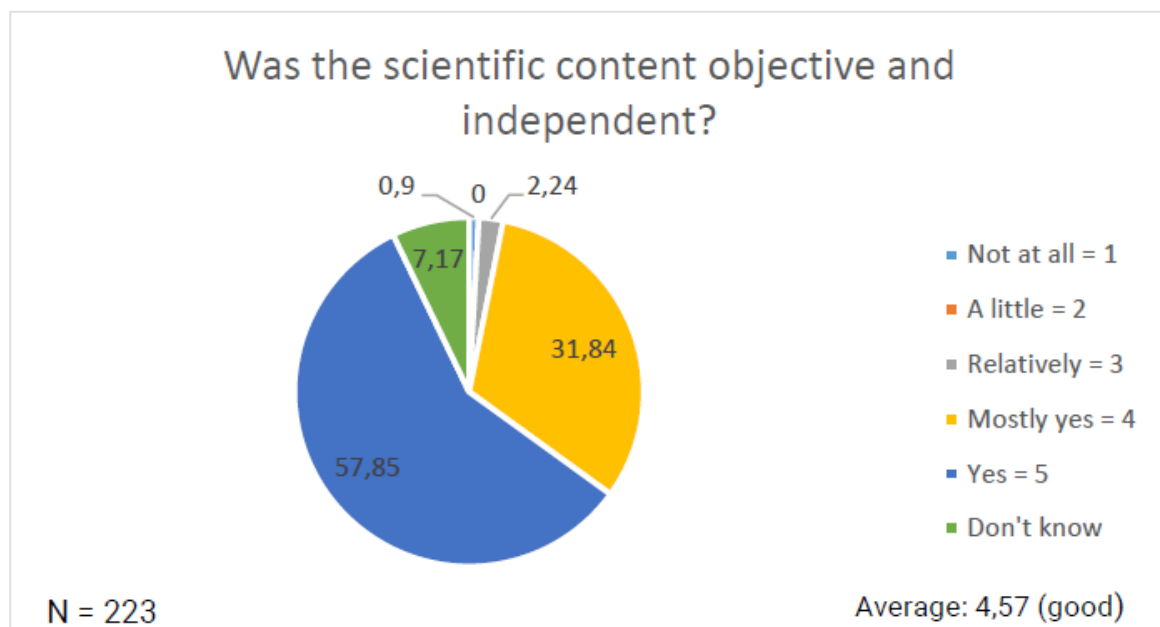
For over 80% of the participants the information they received before the congress were rather (45.74%) or very helpful (34.53%) (see figure 8).

(figure 8)



To the question whether the scientific content was objective and independent (see figure 9) the majority of participants answered with yes (89,69%).

(figure 9)



**Participant's comments about what they liked the most:**

"It was a wonderful Congress and I have really enjoyed it. Inspiring, engaging and educational. Thank you very much!"



“I both love to attend live conferences - but at the same time I love online versions, too. The online format allows me to attend more congresses while still be at work and listen to the talks in the evenings (when kids are asleep) and weekends.”

“It is wonderful that I can go back and see the various lectures at my leisure. At a nonvirtual conference you miss out on a lot of good talks. This way you can have it all.”

“Thank you very much for a great online congress. I really enjoyed attending and after some minor problems at first login (which was promptly solved by support) there were no further technical issues. Gathered a great many new ideas. Thanks to everyone for contributing!”

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

## Appendix 1 - Number of delegates by country

Country	Number of attendees	Country	Number of attendees
United Kingdom	208	Turkey	4
Germany	85	Ukraine	4
Czech Republic	72	Estonia	3
Italy	55	Georgia	3
The Netherlands	50	Lebanon	3
Australia	44	Moldova	3
Finland	43	Slovenia	3
Netherlands	43	Taiwan	3
Austria	40	Uganda	3
Canada	38	Argentina	2
Sweden	37	Belarus	2
Belgium	36	Iceland	2
Portugal	36	Kazakhstan	2
Ireland	32	Latvia	2
Denmark	29	Peru	2
Japan	25	Philippines	2
Singapore	24	Slovakia	2
United States	23	South Korea	2
Spain	22	Albania	1
France	19	Armenia	1
Switzerland	19	Bermuda	1
Norway	17	Bolivia	1
Poland	16	Bulgaria	1
Romania	14	Burkina Faso	1
Hungary	11	Chile	1
Saudi Arabia	11	China	1
India	8	Gambia	1
New Zealand	7	Indonesia	1
South Africa	7	Israel	1
Brazil	6	Jamaica	1
Malaysia	6	Jersey	1
Croatia	5	Jordan	1
Greece	5	Kenya	1
Hong Kong	5	Korea, Republic of	1
Malta	5	Lithuania	1
Russia	5	Malawi	1
Bangladesh	4	Mexico	1
Colombia	4	undisclosed	1
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>1183</b>

## Appendix 2 - Number of delegates by profession and gender

### Number of Attendees by Profession

Physician	502
Researcher	254
Nurse	157
Other profession/not stated	129
Student	41
Administration	37
Social Worker	33
Psychologist	32
Teacher	15
Pharmacist	15
Social Scientist	11
Ethicist	6
Health Economist	6
Clergy/Chaplain	5
Physiotherapist	5
Volunteer	5
Sociologist	4
Arts	1
Occupational Therapist	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1183</b>

### Number of Attendees by Gender

female	868
male	289
undisclosed	26
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1183</b>

### Appendix 3 – Abstract Reviewers

Agar, Meera (Australia)  
Alonso Babarro, Alberto (Spain)  
Alt-Epping, Bernd (Germany)  
Antunes, Bárbara (Portugal)  
Barbaret, Cécile (France)  
Bausewein, Claudia (Germany)  
Benitez Rosario, Miguel Ángel (Spain)  
Benkel, Inger (Sweden)  
Beyer, Sigrid (Austria)  
Bitschnau, Karl W. (Austria)  
Bluebond-Langner, Myra (United Kingdom)  
Boland, Jason (United Kingdom)  
Bollig, Georg (Denmark)  
Bolognesi, Deborah (Italy)  
Borasio, Gian Domenico (Switzerland)  
Broeckert, Bert (Belgium)  
Bruera, Eduardo (United States)  
Busch, Christian (Denmark)  
Capelas, ManuelLuís (Portugal)  
Carneiro, Rui Miguel (Portugal)  
Chambaere, Kenneth (Belgium)  
Chan, Kin-Sang (Hong Kong, SAR of China)  
Cohen, Joachim (Belgium)  
Connor, Stephen (United States)  
Costantini, Massimo (Italy)  
Craig, Finella (United Kingdom)  
Cretin, Elodie (France)  
Cuervo Pinna, Miguel Ángel (Spain)  
Curiale, Vito (France)  
de Visser, Marianne (Netherlands)  
Devins, Mary (Ireland)  
Downing, Julia (United Kingdom)  
Dzięgielewska-Gęsiak, Sylwia (Poland)  
Eisenclas, Jorge Hugo (Argentina)  
Engels, Yvonne (Netherlands)  
Ewing, Gail (United Kingdom)  
Fainsinger, Robin (Canada)  
Filbet, Marilène (France)  
Fineberg, Iris C. (United States)  
Finlay, Ilora (United Kingdom)  
Finucane, Anne (United Kingdom)  
Firth, Pam (United Kingdom)  
Fraser, Lorna (United Kingdom)  
Gomersall, Elizabeth (United Kingdom)  
Gomes, Barbara (Portugal)  
Gonçalves, Edna (Portugal)  
Gootjes, Jaap (Netherlands)  
Gove, Dianne (Germany)  
Grande, Gunn (United Kingdom)  
Grønvold, Mogens (Denmark)  
Guldin, Mai-Britt (Denmark)  
Harding, Richard (United Kingdom)  
Hegedus, Katalin (Hungary)  
Heimerl, Katharina (Austria)  
Hockley, Jo (United Kingdom)  
Hoenger, Catherine (Switzerland)  
Hopkinson, Jane (United Kingdom)  
Hoskin, Peter J. (United States)  
Hudson, Peter (Australia)  
Hughes, Sean (United Kingdom)  
Janssen, Daisy (Netherlands)  
Johnson, Miriam (United Kingdom)  
Keegan, Orla (Ireland)  
Kern, Martina (Germany)  
Kilic Ozturk, Yasemin (Turkey)  
Klepstad, Pål (Norway)  
Kreicbergs, Ulrika (Sweden)  
Krizanova, Kristina (Slovakia)  
Lacerda, Ana (Portugal)  
Laird, Barry (United Kingdom)  
Larkin, Philip J. (Switzerland)  
Laska, Irena (Albania)  
Lehto, Juho (Finland)  
Leppert, Wojciech (Poland)  
Likar, Rudolf (Austria)  
Ling, Julie (Ireland)  
Loucka, Martin (Czech Republic)  
Lundström, Staffan (Sweden)  
Mackova, Marie (Czech Republic)  
Maddocks, Matthew (United Kingdom)  
Maia e Moura, Claudia Maria (Portugal)  
Martins Pereira, Sandra (Portugal)  
McCaffrey, Nikki (Australia)  
McEnhill, Linda Susan (United Kingdom)  
Miccinesi, Guido (Italy)  
Mitreá, Nicoleta (Romania)  
Mosoiu, Daniela (Romania)  
Murtagh, Fliss (United Kingdom)  
Neergaard, Mette Asbjørn (Denmark)

Nijs, Ellen (Netherlands)  
Nolan, Steve (United Kingdom)  
Normand, Charles (Ireland)  
O'Brien, Tony (Ireland)  
O'Connor, Margaret (Australia)  
Olagunju, Andrew (Nigeria)  
Oliver, David (United Kingdom)  
O'Reilly, Maeve (Ireland)  
Ostgathe, Christoph (Germany)  
Paal, Piret (Germany)  
Panagiotou, Irene (Greece)  
Papadatou, Danai (Greece)  
Parker, Deborah (Australia)  
Pascual, Antonio (Spain)  
Pasman, H. Roeline (Netherlands)  
Pautex, Sophie (Switzerland)  
Payne, Sheila (United Kingdom)  
Pedersen, Natasha (Norway)  
Pelttari, Leena (Austria)  
Peruselli, Carlo (Italy)  
Petruta, Ananina (Romania)  
Pigni, Alessandra (Italy)  
Pimenta, Cibele (Brazil)  
Portenoy, Russell (United States)  
Powell, Richard Antony (United Kingdom)  
Rajala, Kaisa (Finland)  
Rasmussen, Birgit (Sweden)  
Read, Sue (United Kingdom)  
Reigada, Carla (Spain)  
Reitinger, Elisabeth (Austria)  
Reyners, An (Netherlands)  
Rietjens, Judith (Netherlands)  
Rodio, Gustavo Francisco (Argentina)  
Rukhadze, Tamari (Georgia)  
Ryan, Karen (Ireland)  
Sampson, Elizabeth (United Kingdom)  
Sapeta, Paula (Portugal)  
Schmidlin, Esther (Switzerland)  
Schneider, Nils (Germany)  
Scott, Ros (United Kingdom)  
Simões, Catarina (Portugal)  
Sjøgren, Per (Denmark)  
Stone, Carol (United Kingdom)  
Stone, Paddy (United Kingdom)  
Tarquini, Daniela (Italy)  
Taubert, Mark (United Kingdom)  
Tishelman, Carol (Sweden)  
Toma, Stefan (Romania)  
Turner, Mary (United Kingdom)  
Van den Block, Lieve (Belgium)  
Van Den Noortgate, Nele (Belgium)  
van der Heide, Agnes (Netherlands)  
Van Nes, Marie-Claire (Belgium)  
Van Nus, Jose (Netherlands)  
Veronese, Simone (Italy)  
Vissers, Kris (Netherlands)  
Volicer, Ladislav (United States)  
von Gunten, Charles (United States)  
Walshe, Catherine (United Kingdom)  
Wens, Johan (Belgium)  
Wood, Chantal (France)  
Zaninetta, Giovanni (Italy)  
Zernikow, Boris (Germany)