

# Aid & Eastern Europe Conference 14.12.09 Dublin

## Feedback Report

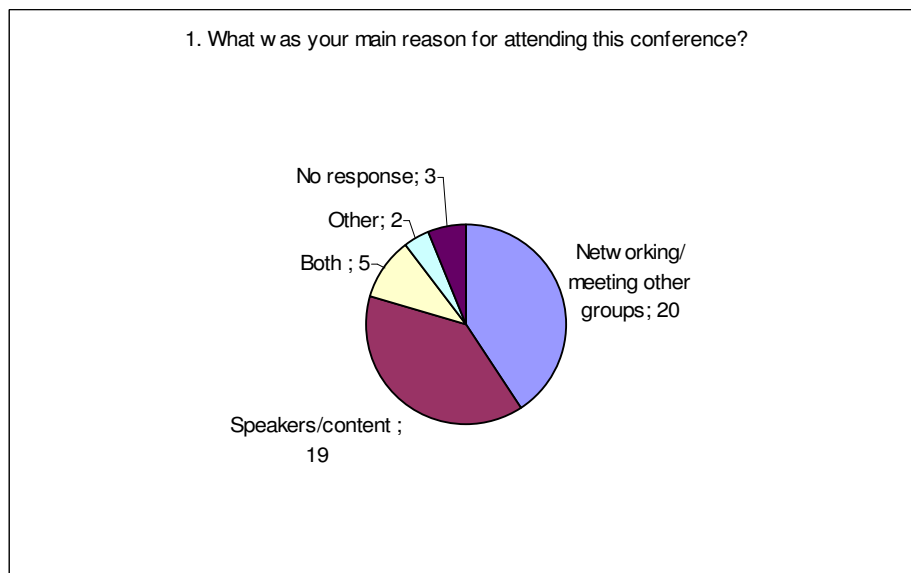
**Summary:** 49 feedback forms were received from attendees at the conference, as well as informal feedback and post-event correspondence. Overall, respondents indicated a very high level of satisfaction with the conference and cited networking and content as the highlights. Suggestions for improvements include greater diversity of topics and space for smaller group discussions and workshops. Overall, feedback indicated that there was a real need for a forum for groups working in Eastern Europe to discuss region specific issues and develop closer communication in the future.

### Number of respondents

49 feedback forms were received out of a total of 113 attendees (43%)

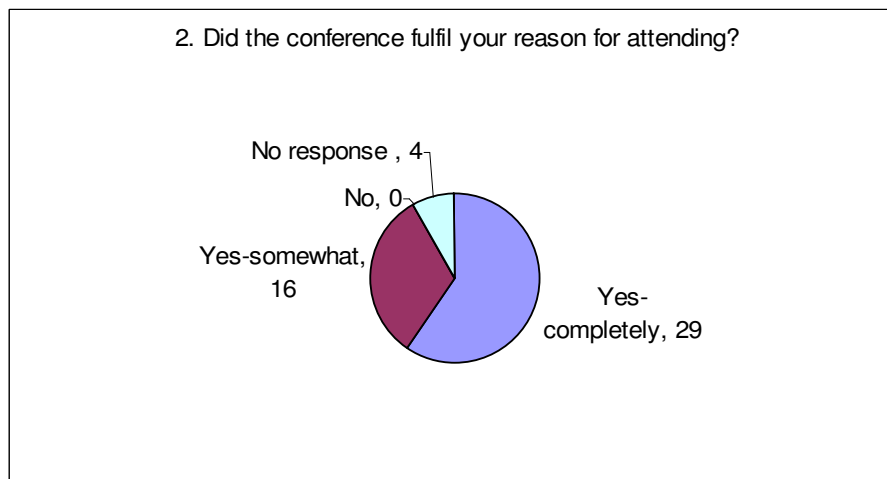
### 1. Reason for attending conference

There was a fairly even divide between networking and content as the primary reason for respondents attending the conference.



### 2. Satisfaction with fulfilling reason to attend

A large majority of respondents (45) felt that their reason for coming was satisfied either completely or somewhat.

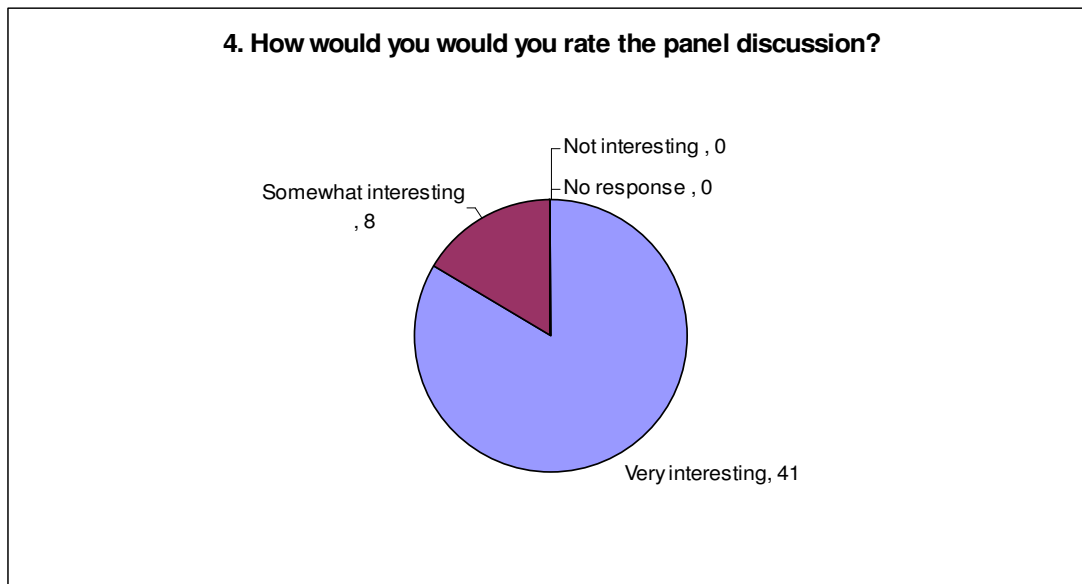


### 3. Quality of speakers

All speakers were rated either 'excellent' or 'good' by most the respondents, indicating a high overall level of satisfaction with speaker quality.

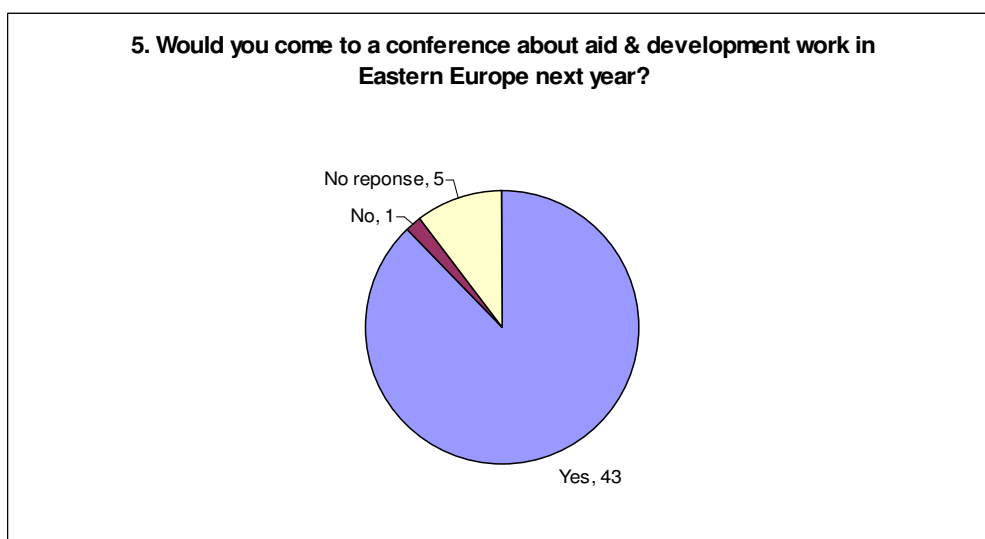
### 4. Panel discussion

A large majority of respondents (41) indicated that the panel discussion was 'very interesting'.



### 5. Future events

All respondents who answered the question, bar one, indicated they would attend a conference next year on the same theme.



Suggestions for topics to be covered in the future by respondents include:

#### Community & Rural development

- *Poverty reduction strategies in different eastern European countries; community and rural development; case studies etc*
- *Rural development in Romania*
- *working in rural areas/ development*

### Humanitarian Aid

- *Delivery of aid to countries in Eastern Europe and maybe informative person who would know procedures and laws*
- *Aid in general - not focus too much on one item*

### Policy & Government

- *Lobbying Governments*
- *Greater variety of activities and issues, greater info about government policy*
- *Partnership with state bodies in implementing projects of the support of families and preventing taking children away from it*
- *Progress with EEAN*

### Childcare & disability

- *Update on progress groups have made with alternatives to institutions; programs in operation currently*
- *Romanian orphanages*
- *Ideas on adoption, is there any way around it?*
- *Life skills.*

### Other issue specific

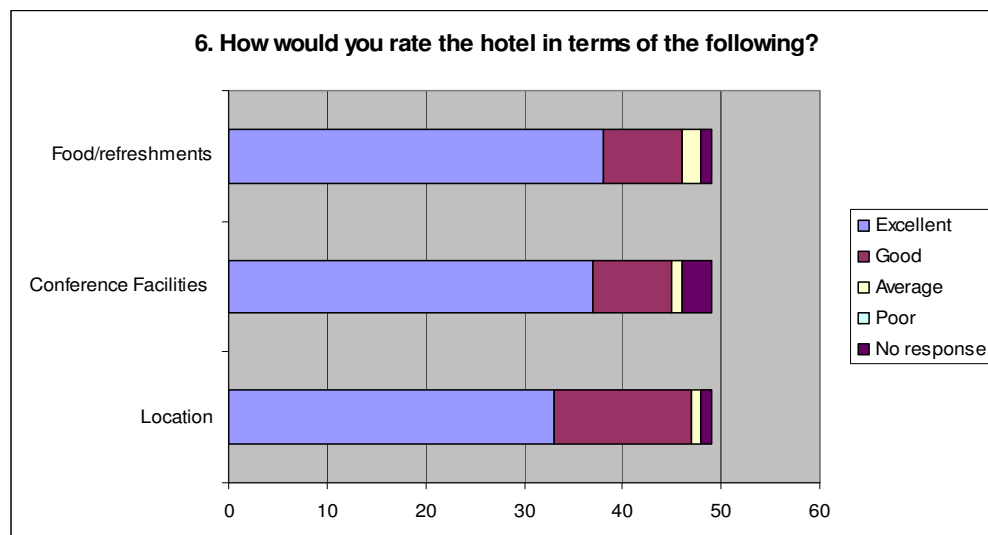
- *Civil society strengthening in the region*
- *Health & Education*
- *Healthcare*
- *People trafficking; child prostitution*

### Organisation partnerships & governance

- *Number of organisations networking as a result of conference*
- *How to effectively network/communicate with other organisations working in the same area as us*
- *Working together*
- *Progress on topics discussed at this conference*
- *Combine sharing our experiences and what is now working*
- *Ethics. How money is spent. Media coverage.*
- *Corruption and dealing with it*
- *Some information on where to apply for grants*

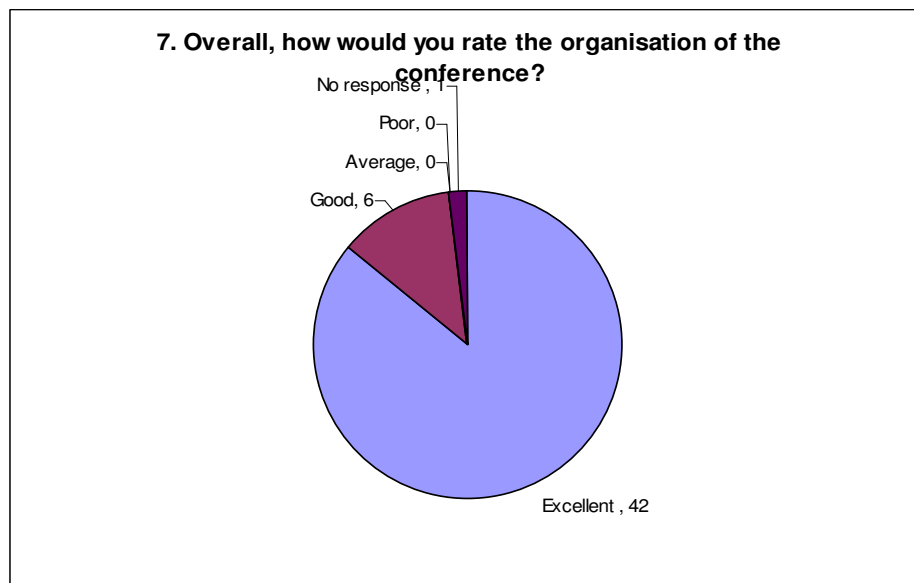
### 6. Satisfaction with conference venue

Overall there was a high level of satisfaction with the conference location, facilities and food/refreshments.



## 7. Event organisation

The majority of respondents (42) indicated that the event organisation was 'excellent'.



## 8. Highlights of conference

When asked what was the best thing about the conference, respondents chiefly focussed on networking and content and gaining new insight into issues discussed. The best thing about the conference, according to respondents, includes:

### Networking & sharing

- *Witnessing the Irish effort in Eastern Europe*
- *Seeing just how many people are involved in this type of work*
- *Realising that there were so many groups with one common goal*
- *Learning about other charities and the open forum/ discussion*
- *Hearing what others are doing- the more we can work together the greater force we can be*
- *Sharing information and experience*
- *I love that people take the time out to co-operate and share*
- *Diverse participation*
- *Networking*
- *Communication*
- *Find out what other groups did in various countries and who is who*
- *Potential for communication between groups, organisations and individuals.*
- *Meeting lots of people and hoping that communication will help us move forward*
- *Very well organised, interesting people*

### Speakers & content

- *Excellent presentations on aid*
- *Listening to the speakers*
- *The content and the overall message*
- *New ideas*
- *New pictures and understanding*
- *Plenty of information and gave me a lot of ideas for the future*
- *Listening to all the different views of the speakers etc*
- *Listening to other people's ideas on how to help*
- *Getting new thought provoking information and ideas*
- *Sharing of information*

- *Open dialogue, clear presentation of problematic issues, real interest and care for people with disabilities in eastern Europe*
- *Learning about deinstitutionalisation - this is not our area of work, but extremely interesting!*
- *For me, information as about work in EE. Within Ireland tends to be huge focus on Africa*

### **Delia Pop**

Dr Delia Pop's contribution was listed 5 times as the best thing about the conference.

### **Panel discussion**

The panel discussion was listed 5 times as the best thing about the conference.

- *Very good floor discussion*
- *Interesting, stimulating, intelligent discussion*
- *Panel was best part of day*

## **9. Suggestions for improvements**

Suggestions for improvements on the event centred on practical issues, more diversity in content and having break out sessions. Suggestions received on feedback form and informally suggest that the panel and conference was focussed on institutional care and de-institutionalisation and a greater variety of topics and issues would be advisable for future events. Informal feedback also advised having a yellow/red card system for speakers. Suggestions made to improve conference include:

### **Practical**

- *Punctuality*
- *A little bit shorter to catch transport home*
- *Small break before the panel discussion*
- *Air-conditioning*
- *More vegetarian options for food*

### **Break out sessions**

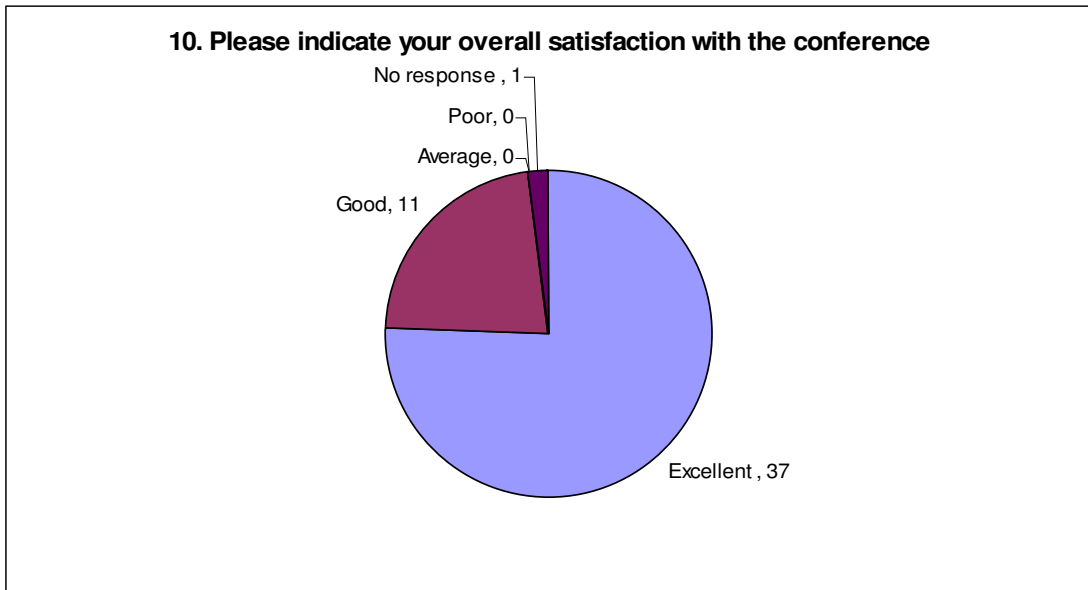
- *Some small group discussion*
- *Organise small round table discussions*

### **Content**

- *Less lectures, more discussion*
- *Where was the development?*
- *Invite partners from State bodies and local partners*
- *Set up some goals maybe*
- *The range of issues covered*
- *More information/tips for those volunteers working hands on, on the ground*
- *Cover more countries in Balkans, e.g. Kosovo, Albania etc*
- *Less top down control of panel discussion*

## 10. Overall satisfaction with conference

The majority of respondents (37) indicated that overall they found the event 'excellent'.



## 10. Additional Comments

Additional comments received were mostly thanks from respondents, though one did suggest a follow up to conference was needed.

### Some additional comments received by email post-event include:

- *I thoroughly enjoyed the day and feel a lot of good has and will come from it.*
- *I really enjoyed my attendance to it, as I attended to most of the day's speeches I found the Conference really informative, inspiring and really good for networking specially for those who work in the same area.*
- *It was wonderful to meet the many people doing great work across the different organisations in Eastern Europe as well. The conference gave me the much-needed opportunity to network more as networking is so important!*
- *I really enjoyed the day. Your speakers were excellent and a mine of information. I really hope this is the first of many conferences like this.*
- *It was indeed a success and a great opportunity to network. Hopefully, groups of like-mind will stay in touch and develop more cooperation and coordination of our work as a result.*
- *It was terrific to meet so many people and hear of their experiences. The contacts will be very helpful in our own work. The idea of getting all these people out of Internats is terrific and also the only solution. It will take a long time in Belarus, but we must start somewhere.*
- *It was pleasure to be there! Very interesting conference and fruitful networking.*

Appendix 1: Feedback Form

## Aid & Eastern Europe Conference 14.12.09 Feedback Form

<b>1. What was your main reason for attending this conference?</b> <input type="radio"/> Networking / Meeting other groups <input type="radio"/> Speakers / Content <input type="radio"/> Other .....	
<b>2. Did the conference fulfil your reason for attending?</b> <input type="radio"/> Yes- Completely <input type="radio"/> Yes- Somewhat <input type="radio"/> No	
<b>3. How would you rate the speakers below?</b>	
1. Mr. John Gilroy, Irish Aid <input type="radio"/> Excellent <input type="radio"/> Good <input type="radio"/> Average <input type="radio"/> Poor  2. Ms. Jane Corboy, First Step Georgia <input type="radio"/> Excellent <input type="radio"/> Good <input type="radio"/> Average <input type="radio"/> Poor  3. Ms. Tanya Buynovskya, HealthProm <input type="radio"/> Excellent <input type="radio"/> Good <input type="radio"/> Average <input type="radio"/> Poor  4. Mr. Cristian Ispas, Motivation Romania <input type="radio"/> Excellent <input type="radio"/> Good <input type="radio"/> Average <input type="radio"/> Poor	5. Ms. Alena Halauniova, Ministry of Education, Belarus <input type="radio"/> Excellent <input type="radio"/> Good <input type="radio"/> Average <input type="radio"/> Poor  6. Dr. Delia Pop, Hope and Homes UK <input type="radio"/> Excellent <input type="radio"/> Good <input type="radio"/> Average <input type="radio"/> Poor  7. Mairead McGuinness, MEP <input type="radio"/> Excellent <input type="radio"/> Good <input type="radio"/> Average <input type="radio"/> Poor <b>Comments:</b>
<b>4. How would you rate the panel discussion?</b> <input type="radio"/> Very interesting <input type="radio"/> Somewhat interesting <input type="radio"/> Not Interesting	
<b>5. Would you come to a conference about aid &amp; development work in Eastern Europe next year?</b> <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <b>If yes, what topics would you like to see covered?</b>	
<b>6. How would you rate the hotel in terms of:</b>  <b>Location</b> <input type="radio"/> Excellent <input type="radio"/> Good <input type="radio"/> Average <input type="radio"/> Poor  <b>Conference facilities</b> <input type="radio"/> Excellent <input type="radio"/> Good <input type="radio"/> Average <input type="radio"/> Poor	<b>Food/ refreshments</b> <input type="radio"/> Excellent <input type="radio"/> Good <input type="radio"/> Average <input type="radio"/> Poor  <b>Comments:</b>
<b>7. Overall, how would you rate the organisation of the conference?</b> <input type="radio"/> Excellent <input type="radio"/> Good <input type="radio"/> Average <input type="radio"/> Poor	
<b>8. What was the best thing about the conference?</b>	
<b>9. What could have been improved about the conference?</b>	
<b>10. Please indicate your overall satisfaction with the conference:</b> <input type="radio"/> Excellent <input type="radio"/> Good <input type="radio"/> Average <input type="radio"/> Poor	
<b>11. Other comments</b>	
<b>Thank you</b> for coming to the conference & taking the time to complete this form.	

This information is being collected by Comber ([www.comber.ie](http://www.comber.ie)). All reports to third parties (eg. funders) concerning these feedback forms will be completely anonymous.

*You can fill in your details here if you wish –THIS IS OPTIONAL*

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Organisation:** \_\_\_\_\_