



13th World Congress of the European Association for Palliative Care

Palliative Care – The Right Way Forward

ESMO SUPPORTED CONGRESS REPORT

From May 30th to June 2nd, Prague, Czech Republic welcomed palliative care representatives from all over the world. 2295 attendees from 87 countries attended the 13th congress of the European Association for Palliative Care. 72 percent of the attendees came from Western European Countries, 11 percent from Eastern European countries. With 388 delegates, participants from the rest of the world made up the remaining 17 percent. The highest number of attendees came from UK (362) followed by Germany (175) and Netherlands (161). Only two Eastern European countries could be found in the top 20 list of countries with the highest number of attendees – Czech Republic (61) and Poland.

A large part of the scientific content was built on the abstracts which were submitted in the foreplay of the congress by the participants themselves. All in all 1092 abstracts were submitted in the framework of the 13th EAPC congress.

From the 1092 abstracts, 16 were rejected by the 213 independent reviewers and 116 abstracts were withdrawn by the submitters after their abstracts were accepted. This left 960 abstracts which were presented at the congress either orally or by poster.

	overall submitted	rejected by reviewers	withdrawn after acceptance	overall presented	oral presentation	poster discussion	poster presentation
End of Life Care	145	3	15	127	13	2	112
Education	121	0	12	109	5	0	104
Organisation of Services	120	4	12	104	6	4	94
Other Symptoms	82	2	9	71	2	4	65
Audit & quality control	78	0	4	74	0	0	74
Assessment & measurement tools	74	2	6	66	3	2	61
Pain	70	1	7	62	5	1	56
Family & Care Givers	53	1	6	46	9	0	37
Psychology & communication	48	0	8	40	6	1	33
Non-Cancer	47	0	5	42	9	0	33
Palliative Care in Children and Adolescents	43	1	7	35	2	0	33
Policy	36	1	2	33	5	1	27
Palliative Care in the Elderly	34	0	4	30	5	1	24
Ethics	26	0	2	24	1	0	23
Spirituality	26	0	5	21	2	1	18
Research Methodology	19	0	4	15	0	1	14
Medical Sociology	18	1	0	17	0	0	17
Epidemiology	15	0	4	11	1	0	10
Advocacy & Media	14	0	2	12	2	0	10
Basic & translational research	12	0	2	10	0	0	10
Bereavement	11	0	0	11	2	0	9
	1092	16	116	960	78	18	864

Figure 1: Abstracts allocated by category

Congress Programme

The scientific congress programme was partly built on the abstracts submitted and partly on the contribution of invited speakers and chairs. The EAPC was very happy to welcome a number of 196 speakers and chairs from all around the world to give lectures and lead discussions in the different session types.

The programme consisted of

5 Plenary sessions with each two plenary lectures and an EAPC News flash giving some specific information on e.g. guidelines, networks, strategy.

29 Parallel Symposia, covering the “the right way forward” motto from various sides

16 Meet-the-expert sessions gave room for a more interactive way of learning in which the direct contact and communication with the speakers was set focus on.

13 Free communication sessions and 2 Poster discussion sessions gave the room to orally present the best abstracts submitted beforehand.

2 Industry sponsored symposia gave insights in recent pharmacological developments and provided the attendees with information useful for the practice of caring for patients.

864 posters presented in two poster sets – one on Friday and one on Saturday.

The collected abstracts of the meeting and many other information can be found at the EAPC homepage among the congress overview at:

<http://www.eapcnet.eu/Corporate/Events/EAPCpastcongresses/2013Praguereport.aspx>

Due to the multidimensionality-of palliative care and the multi-professional background of the attendees, the scientific programme was designed with a broad and heterogeneous scientific content, addressing carers and researchers from different disciplines to inform and learn from them about the daily challenges in Palliative care and possible solutions. The scientific programme needed to cover a great variety of topics accordingly.

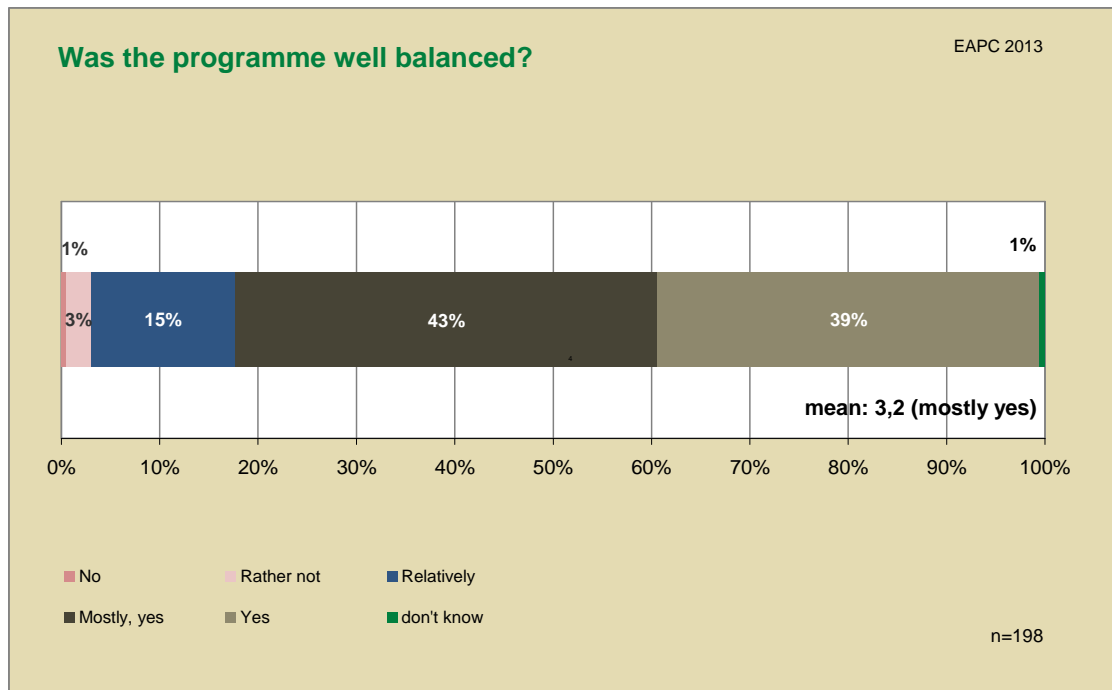
Palliative care was treated from different perspectives and gave insights in symptom management (e.g. “Pain”, “Gastrointestinal Symptoms” and “Dyspnoea”), clinical patterns (e.g. oncology, dementia), patient groups (e.g. Palliative Care in children and patients of old age) and psychosocial and spiritual topics. The major thematic thread in the scientific program was related to access to palliative care as a human right. The program discussed the gaps where this human right is not yet available, but also discussed different models and ways to make palliative care available and accessible for everybody who needs it. This discussion touched ethical, legal, economical, medical, and social challenges.

Summary of the Evaluation forms and comments from participants:

In the aftermath of the EAPC congress all congress attendees were invited to fill in an online evaluation questionnaire. Until June, 24 a number of 198 questionnaires was completed (8 percent of the attendees).

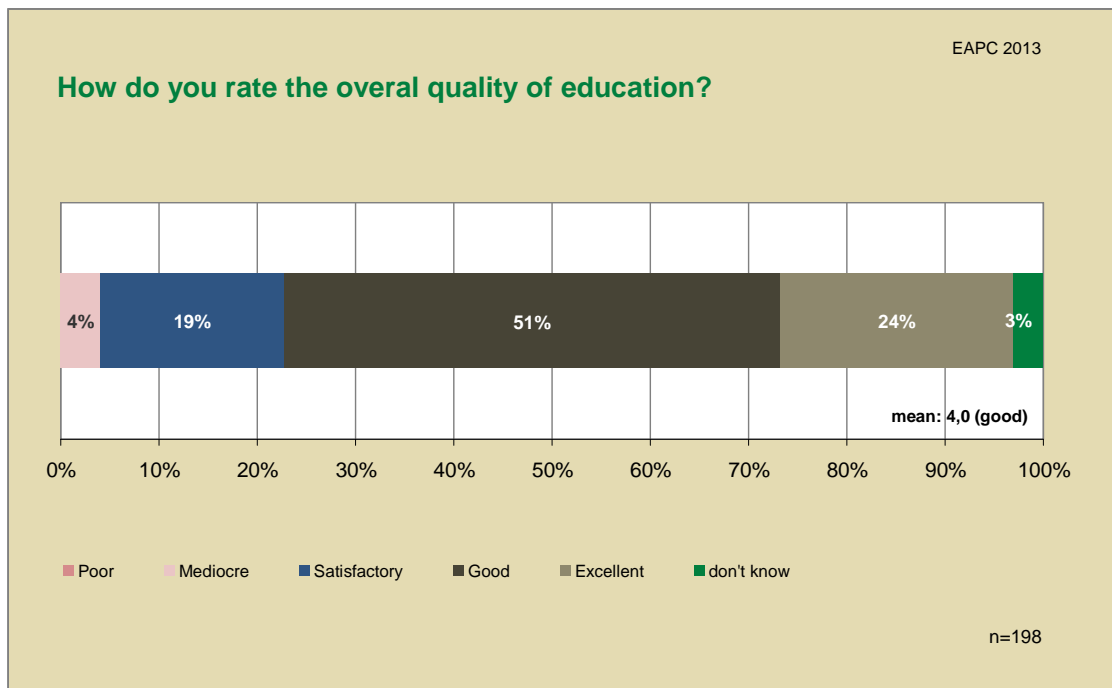
The results of the online evaluation as well as personal feedback received on and after the congress, it seemed that this standard was reached with the scientific programme presented at the congress. All in all 82 percent of the respondents reported that the program was well or mostly well balanced (see *figure 2*).

Figure 2



Corresponding to the good balance of the scientific content in the program the majority of the respondents (75 percent) also rated the overall quality of education as “good” or “excellent” (see figure 3).

figure 3



The rating of the respondents in the congress evaluation shows that all the presentation forms meet a rather high quality standard (see figure 4). With the exception of the industry symposia all the sessions were on average rated with “good”. The comparatively low rating of the industry symposia is,

according to the comments, not due to a low quality of the presentations but rather because the pharmaceutical focus of the presentations does not fulfill the requirements of “non-doctors”.

figure 4

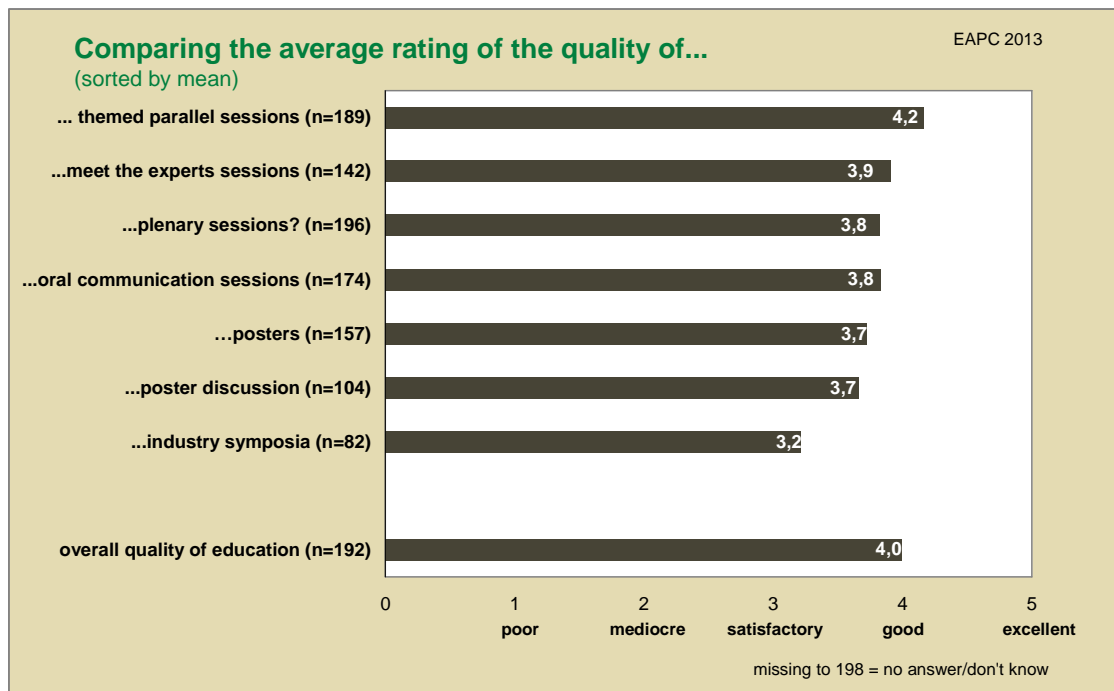
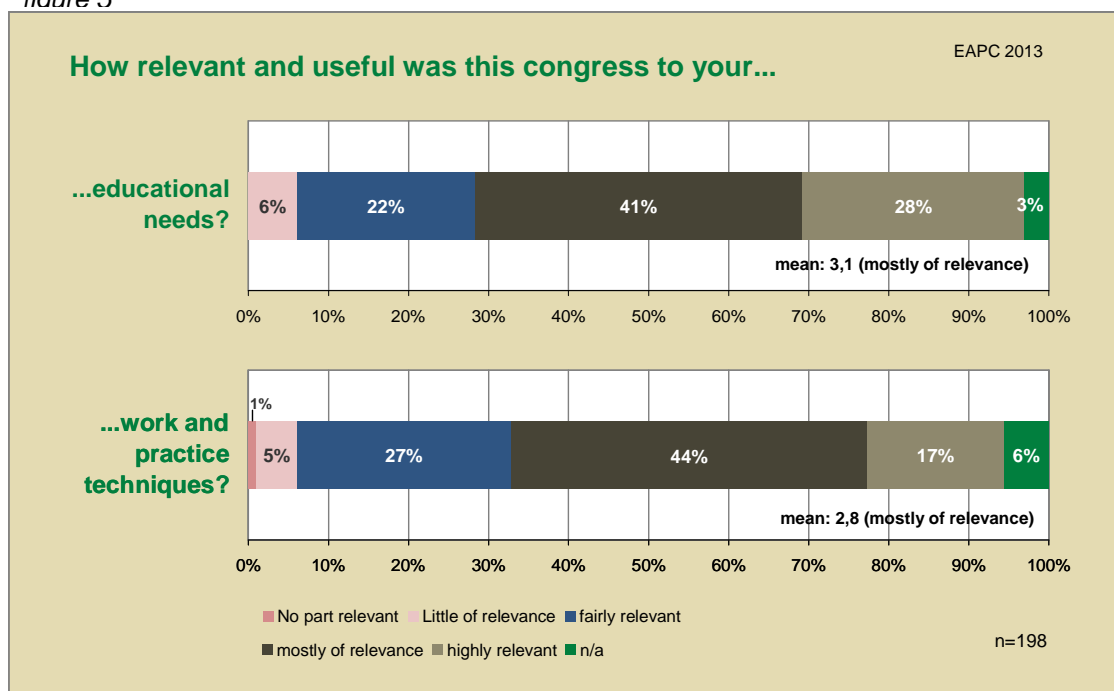


Figure 5 shows that quality in other areas of the congress was rated satisfactory as well. The relevance of the congress to the respondent’s educational needs as well as for the work and practice techniques were rated by more then two-thirds of the respondents with having been “mostly of relevance” and “highly relevant”.

figure 5



Time for discussions and questions and the evidence of the presented information were evaluated mostly positive.

figure 6

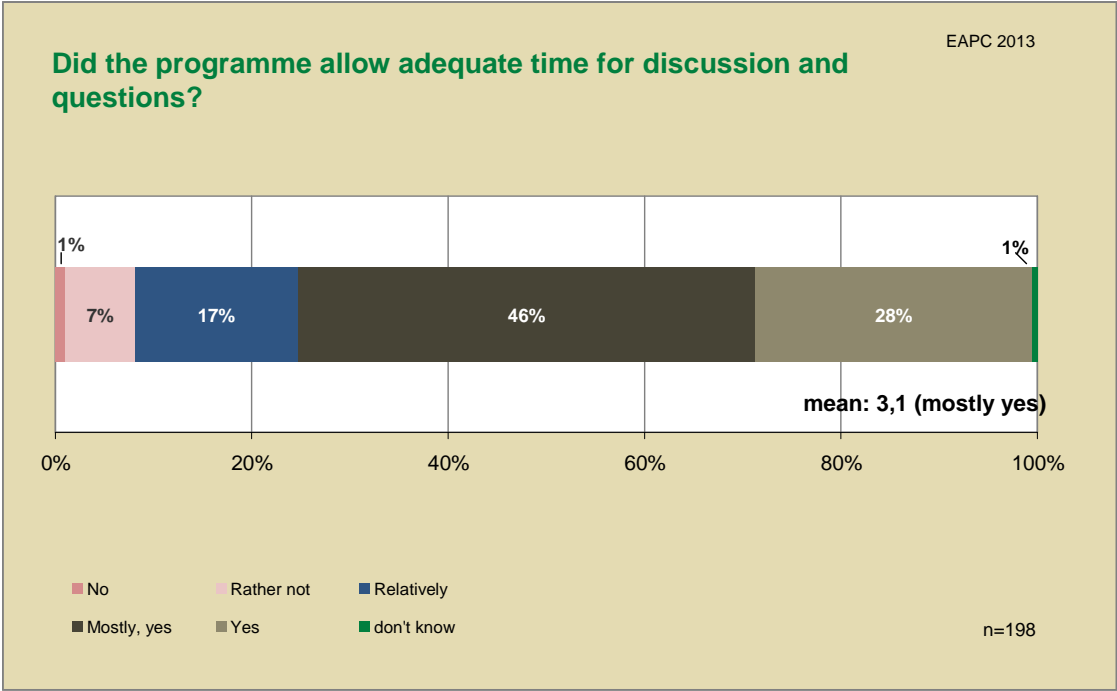
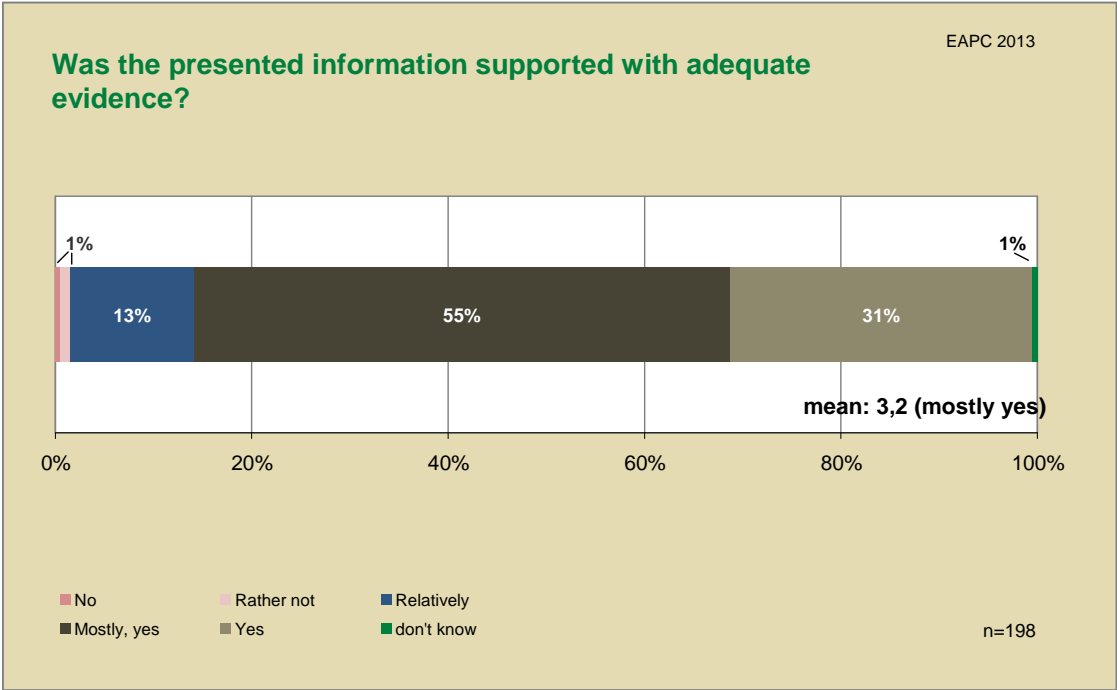


figure 7



For more information on the next EAPC main congress taking place in Copenhagen in 2015 please see <http://www.eapc-2015.org/>

Further, on June 5-7, 2014 the 8th World Research Congress of the EAPC will be taking place in Lleida, Spain, giving palliative care professionals the opportunity to present new findings and discuss them with their international colleagues.

The EAPC would like to thank the Scientific Committee for their engagement as well as all the speakers, the abstract submitters, the reviewers and the advisory board, our colleagues on site and all the others who made this congress such a success and formed this warm memory.



(Image: EAPC)

Scientific Congress Chair and former president of the EAPC, Lukas Radbruch, opens the scientific program.



(Image: EAPC)

Time for questions in one of the many scientific sessions at the 13th EAPC world congress in Prague