

ONLINE

ESCAIDE

European Scientific Conference
on Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology

16-19 November 2021

ESCAIDE 2021: EVALUATION REPORT

14 December 2021



#ESCAIDE2021

Summary

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3041

Registrations, representing 123 countries. There was a six-fold increase in overall registration numbers in comparison to in-person editions.

+2700

Comments, questions and messages exchanged during the conference. 2448 were sent on *Swapcard* and 310 in the MS Teams meetings where a few sessions took place (Poster tours, BarCamp and Career Compass).

2427

Active participants logging into the conference platform to view sessions, add new contacts, bookmark info-stands, etc., during the conference days.

316

Abstracts submitted: From the 165 accepted, 53 were presented as oral communications and 112 as a poster. The acceptance rate was 48%, which is similar to previous years.

+200

Speakers and moderators involved in 4 plenary sessions, 9 side-events, 53 individual oral abstract presentations, 11 fireside chats and 22 poster tours.

172

Reviewers: To ensure a fair and transparent abstract review and selection, a well-defined decision process was applied, where each abstract is reviewed by three scientific reviewers.

+100

Sessions discussing the latest scientific research and challenges in infectious disease epidemiology, public health microbiology and related scientific fields.

48

Hours of content over the four days of conference. ESCAIDE 2021 presentations and scientific posters remain accessible for registered participants to view or review until end of December 2021.

5

Stars attributed by the feedback survey responders to the overall satisfaction, quality, relevance and organisation/organisers.

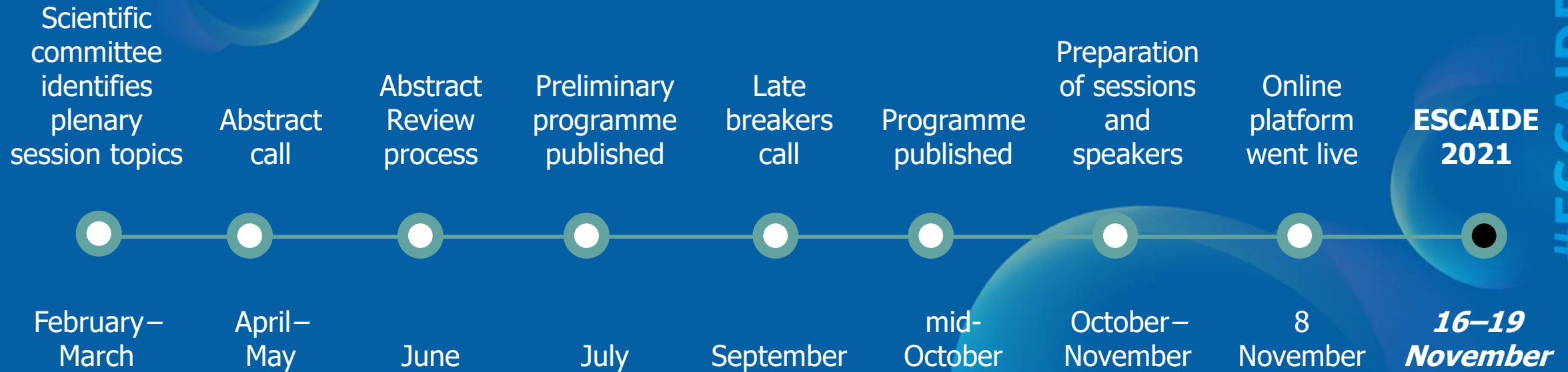


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Timeline



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ESCAIDE 2021

*Overview of programme and
main features of the
conference*



ESCAIDE

Programme

The programme for ESCAIDE 2021 is made up of plenaries, abstract-led sessions and side-events. ESCAIDE 2021 offered more than 100 sessions, with a more than 200 speakers and moderators. There were about 48 hours of content over the four days of conference. ESCAIDE 2021 presentations and scientific posters remain accessible for registered participants to view or review for three months, until end of December 2021.

Plenary Sessions	Abstract-led		Side Events	Daily Welcome And Wrap-up Sessions
4 Sessions	11 Fireside panels 53 Abstract pitches	22 poster tours 112 posters	8 side events	8 sessions
14 speakers 10 moderators	165 presenters 25 moderators		29 speakers 12 moderators	1 Master of Ceremonies
6 hours	27 hours		13 hours	2 hours

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Programme

Plenaries provide an opportunity to discuss public health challenges and scientific advances, bring together experts in cross-cutting fields to enable evidence from infectious disease research and epidemiology to be translated into improvements in public health. The content of plenaries is proposed by the ESCAIDE Scientific Committee (10 cross-field members), who invite high level speakers to deliver inspiring presentations and address questions from the audience. There are four plenary sessions at ESCAIDE 2021, chaired by the ESCAIDE Scientific Committee. The format of each varies from panel discussions, interviews and debates.

Plenaries

Communicating science and scientific uncertainty during an evolving pandemic



Modelling epidemics in real time: coming of age?



Digital health opportunities for Public Health: how far from reality?

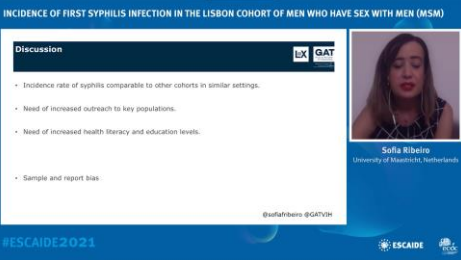

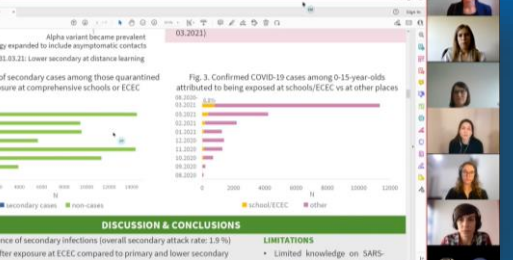



The inequality pandemic




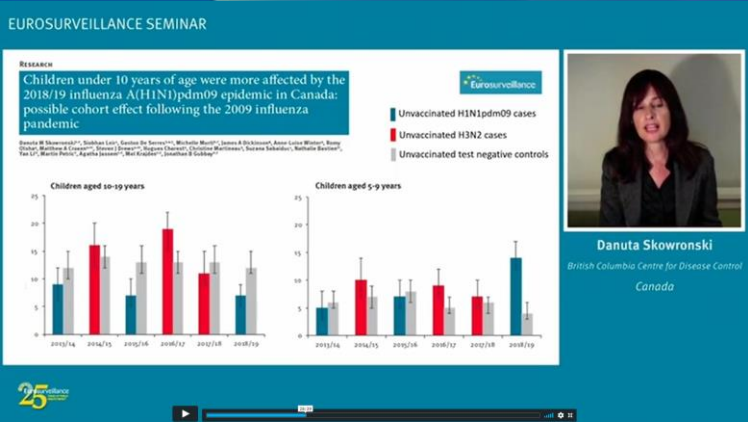
Programme

Abstracts are submitted to ESCAIDE and reviewed by a group of reviewers and the Scientific Committee. Those selected represent the latest in cutting-edge research from a broad spectrum of fields including infectious disease epidemiology, microbiology, surveillance, implementation science, modelling, preparedness and more. Abstracts are either presented as oral presentations (Abstract pitches) or as posters. In the programme, there were moderated fireside panels and poster tours, in which presenters have the opportunity to delve deeper into their research and take questions from the audience.

Abstract-led			
53 Abstract pitches	11 Fireside sessions (Q&A)	22 Poster tours	112 Posters
			

Programme

Alongside a packed scientific programme, many events were hosted at ESCAIDE this year. For the first time the European Antibiotic Awareness Day (EAAD) took place at ESCAIDE. *Eurosurveillance* celebrated its 25th with a seminar at ESCAIDE that included a reflection on the work of *Eurosurveillance* to date, and an in-depth discussion of the translation of virological and immunological observations, into research into practice.

EAAD 2021	<i>Eurosurveillance</i> 25 th anniversary seminar
In times of COVID-19, don't forget about antimicrobial resistance. Stay united to preserve antimicrobials.	Epidemiology and immunology – from observation to explanation and public health action
<div></div>	<div></div>

Programme

In the context of ESCAIDE, side-events aim to seed discussion on topics that were particularly relevant during the year, or to show case relevant work done in a certain field. They can take several formats (presentations, trainings, workshops, symposia, debates, etc.) and are organised by third parties, who are given latitude to self-organise and are free to experiment with form and content.

Side sessions



Using social science methods to support the prevention and control of infectious diseases in Europe: results from the SONAR-Global project

MediPIET in focus: The past and the future of a regional field epidemiology programme in the EU neighbourhood

Collecting NPIs in response to a large-scale pandemic: lessons learned and future outlooks

EAN: Career Compass, BarCamp, Photo contest, General Assembly

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ESCAIDE 2021 in numbers

Abstracts, registrations and platform usage

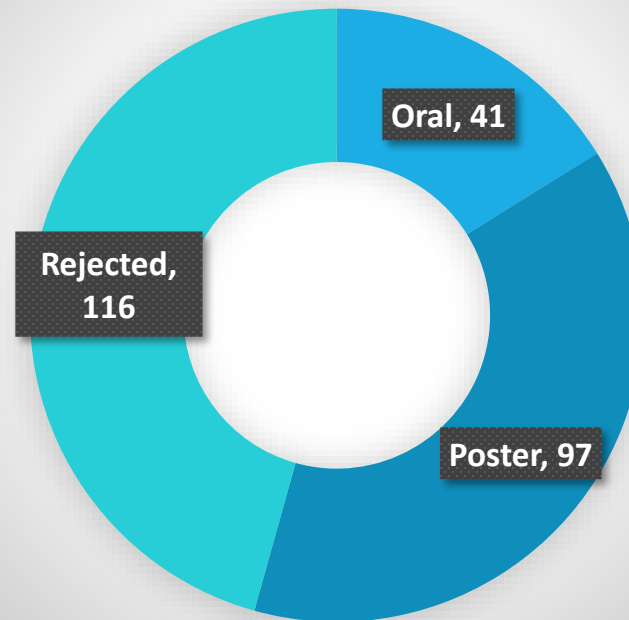


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Abstract submissions, review and selection

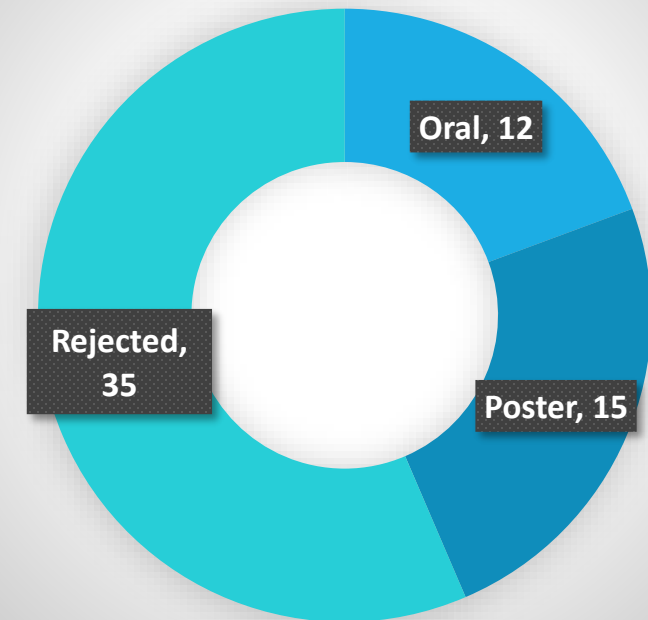


Standard abstract call



Total submitted: 254 | Total accepted: 138

Late breaker call



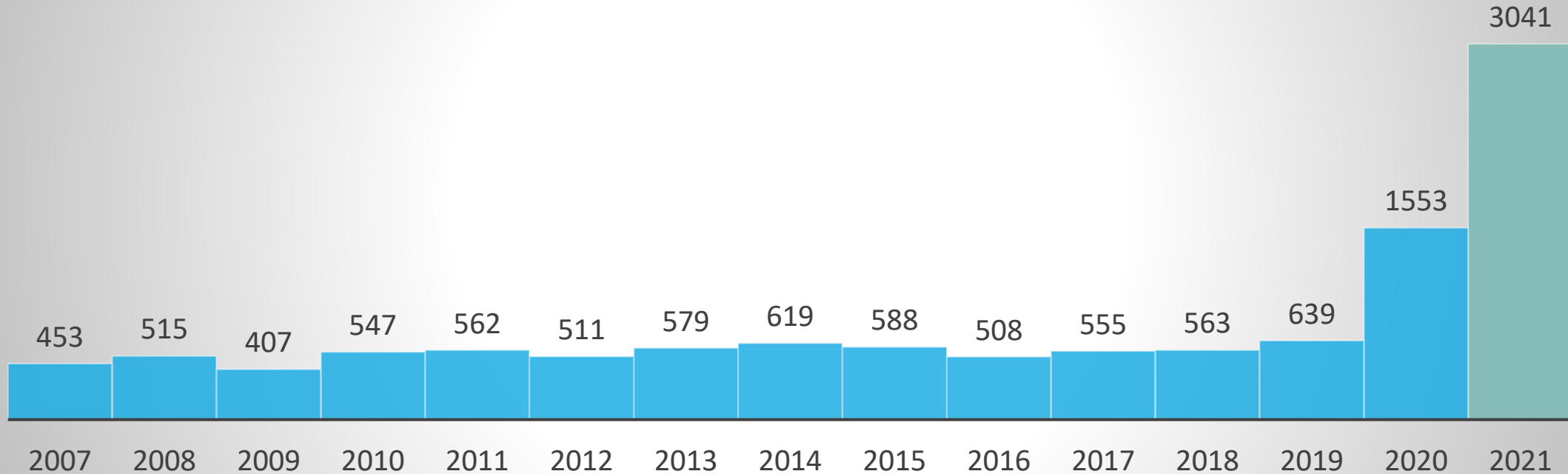
Total submitted: 62 | Total accepted: 27

ESCAIDE 2021 received 316 abstract submissions. 53 were accepted for oral communications and 112 were presented as a poster. The acceptance rate was 48.5%, which is similar to previous years (48 in 2020 and 46% in 2019, 2018 and 2017).

Registered participants

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Number of registered participants by year



ESCAIDE 2021 received 3041 registered participants. There was a two-fold increase in overall registration numbers in comparison to last year's online edition and a six-fold increase comparing to in-person editions.

Country representation

123

COUNTRIES
REPRESENTED

29

EU/EEA

94

Outside
EU/EEA



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ESCAIDE 2021 registered participants indicated they were from 29 countries inside EU/EEA (2076) and from 94 countries outside EU/EEA (965). Similarly to last year, when ESCAIDE went online for the first time, this is again an indication that the online format has created more opportunities for attendance for participants who might not attend in normal circumstances due to costs, travel, etc.

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Active poll

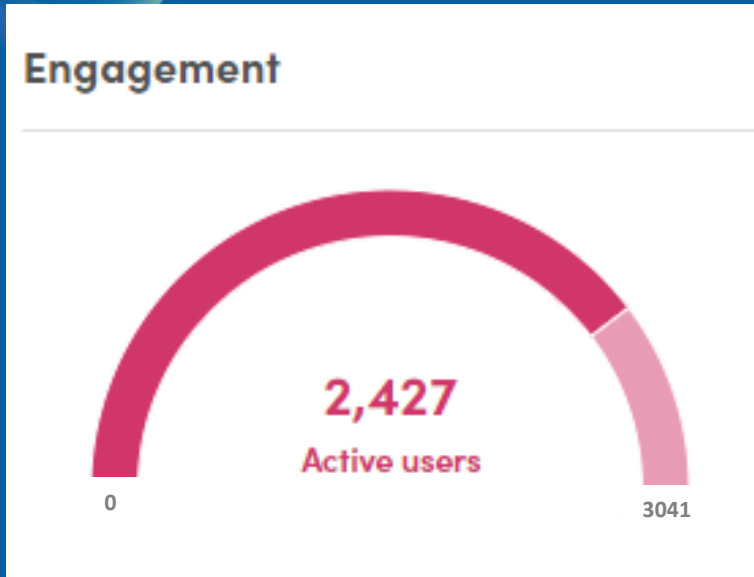
86

What is your specialism or job title?

A word cloud visualization of responses to the question "What is your specialism or job title?". The words are arranged in a circular pattern, with larger fonts indicating higher frequency. The most prominent words include "Epidemiologist", "Public health", "medical doctor", "Student", "Epidemiology", "Senior epidemiologist", "FETP Fellow", "Scientific Coordinator", "training programme head", "Public Health Informatics", "MD, Epiet fellow", "microbiology", "events", "Interim", "Head of NRL", "Trainee in ECDC", "Quality Assessor", "Veterinary epidemiology", "Public Health Professiona", "Epidemiologist EPIET", "Field epidemiologist", "Public Health Microbiolog", "Researcher", "Medical Writer", "Public Health Resident", "Senior Scientist", "PhD Student", "Scientific editor", "Doctor lecturer", "public health specialist", "Public health training", "Director Research", "EUPHEM fellow", "infectious diseases", "Epiliet fellow", "Master Health Management", "Doctor, public health", "Medical epidemiologist", and "Senior epidemiology".



Activity in the platform



From the total of registered participants, 2427 logged in during the conference days and engaged in the platform by viewing sessions, adding new contacts, bookmarking info-stands or registering to sessions.

It seems that 614 users registered to ESCAIDE 2021 but did not log in during the conference days. As the platform remains open, it will be interesting to see if these registered participants will access the content during this period.

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Content views

From 16-19 November

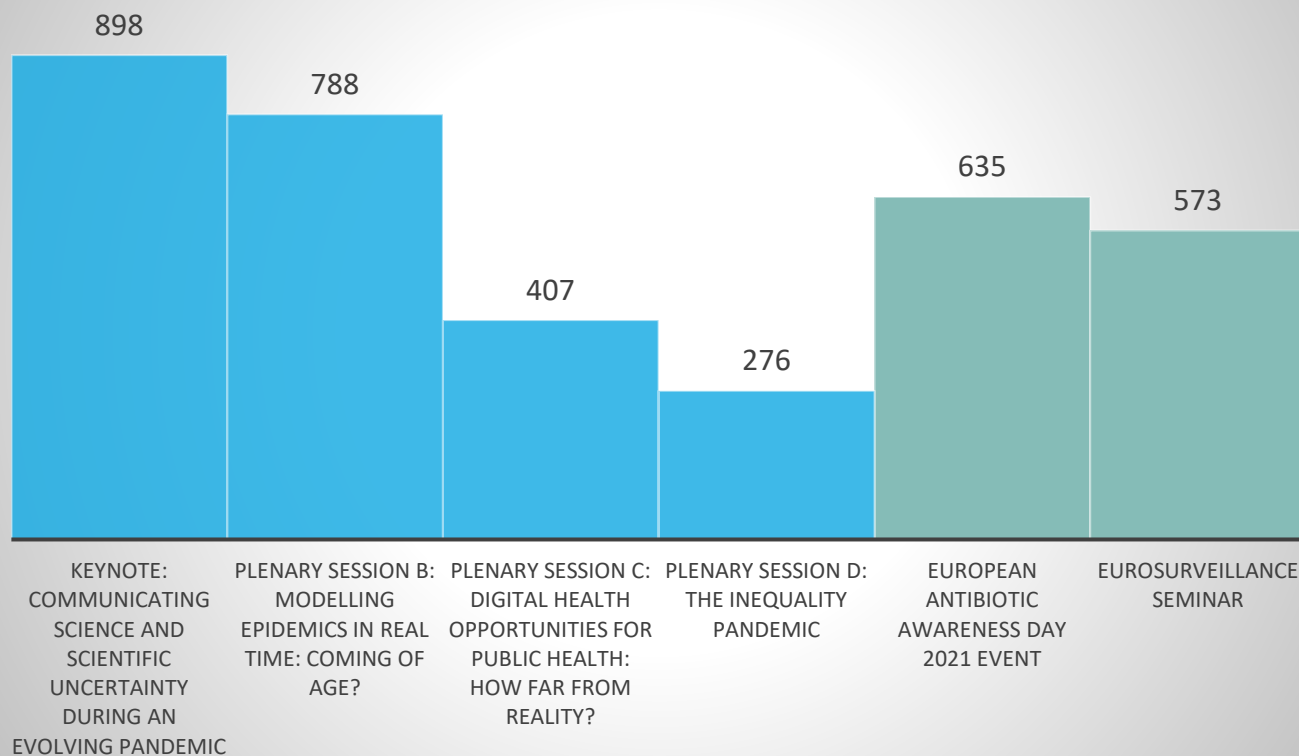


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Plenary sessions

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Number of unique viewers

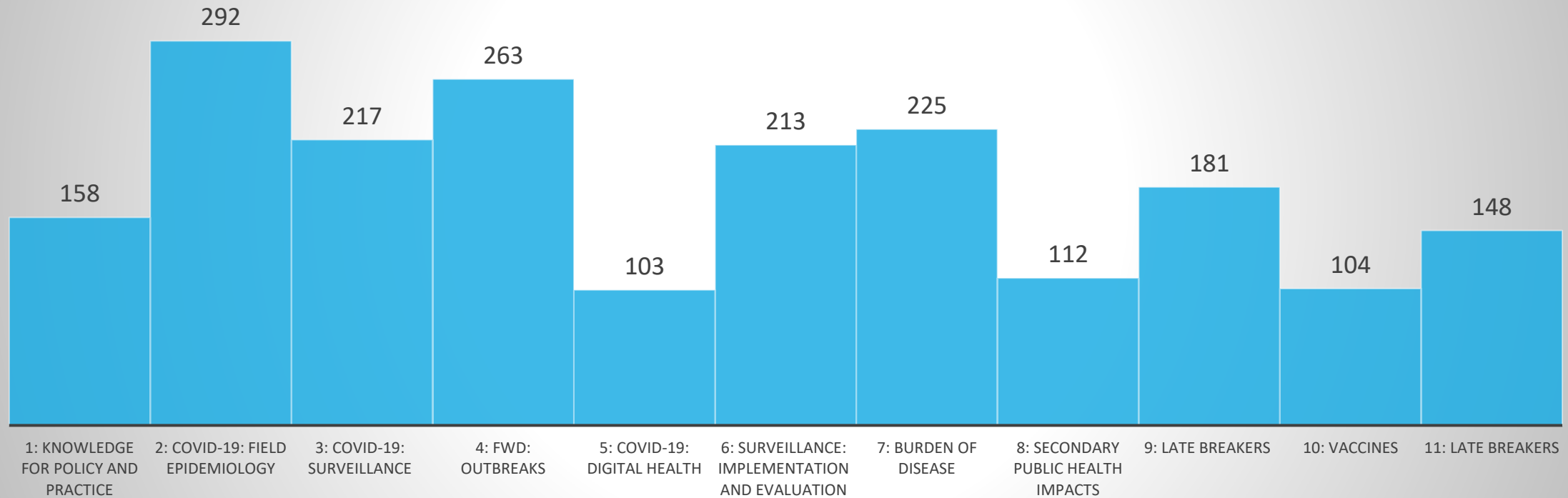


Viewers were counted as “unique viewers”, which means that even if they watch more than once, that person counts as one unique viewer. Measuring “unique viewers” gives a clearer picture of the audience size.

Fireside sessions

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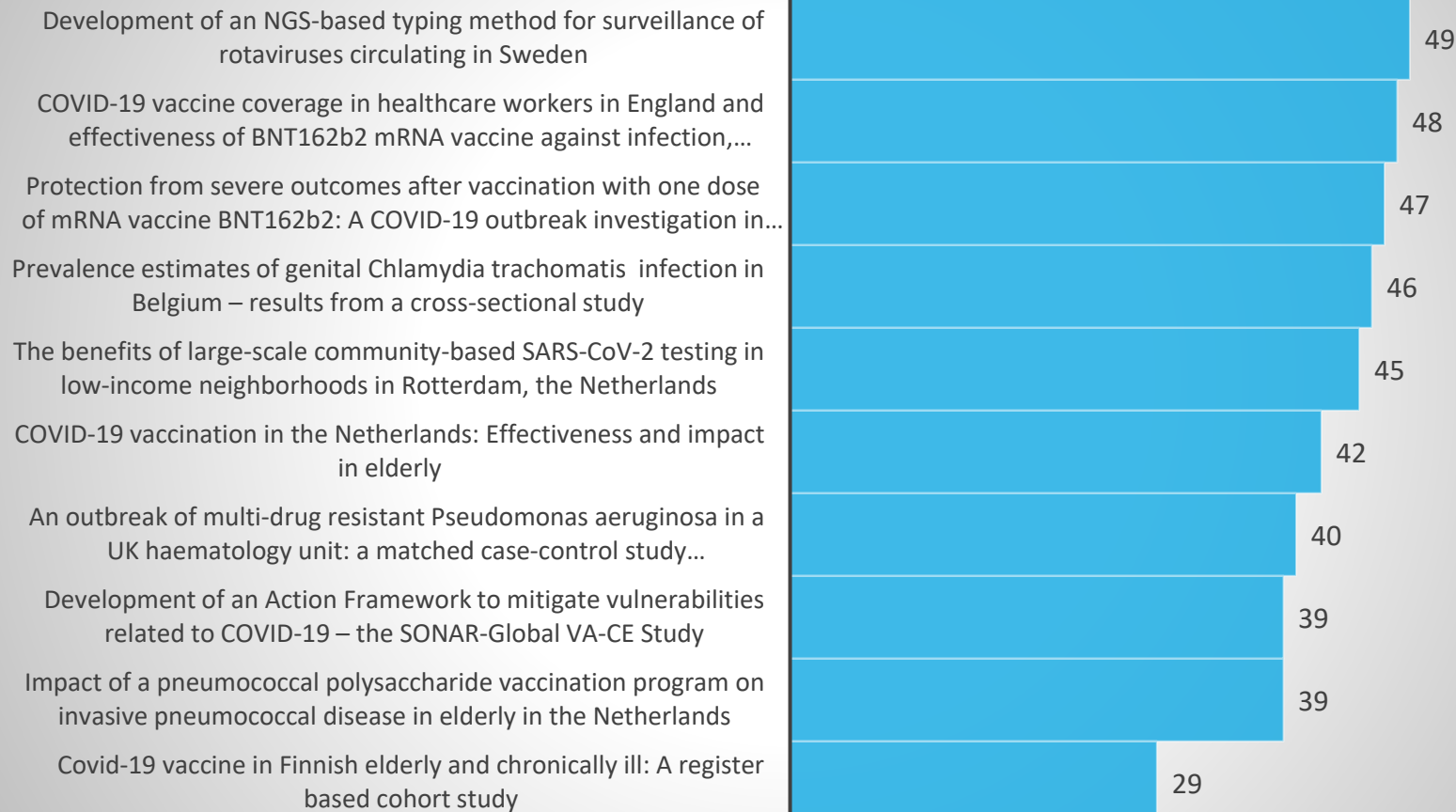
Number of unique viewers per Fireside session



Fireside sessions were held in parallel and could be viewed on the *Swapcard* platform.

Abstract pitches

10 most viewed abstract videos (16-19 Nov)



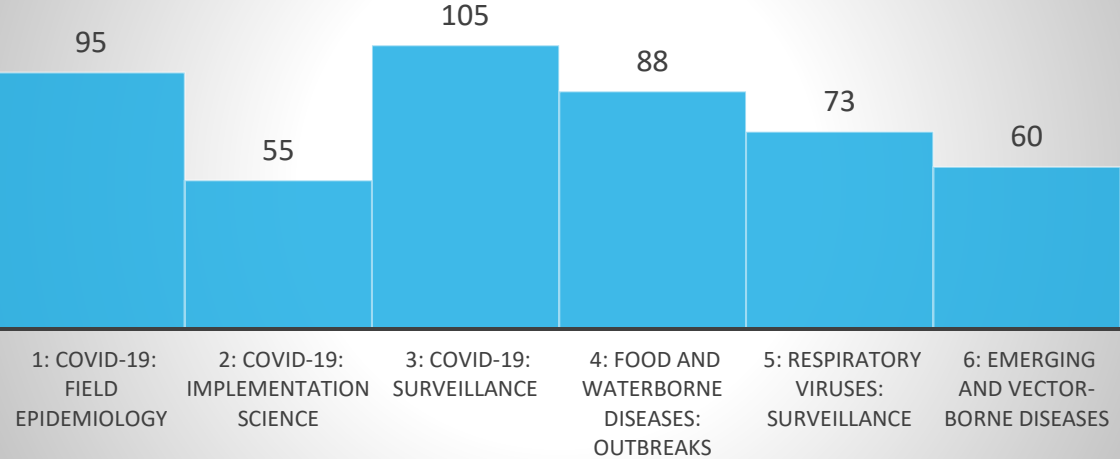
In total, the 53 Abstract Pitches were viewed by 4,675 unique viewers during the 4 days of the conference.

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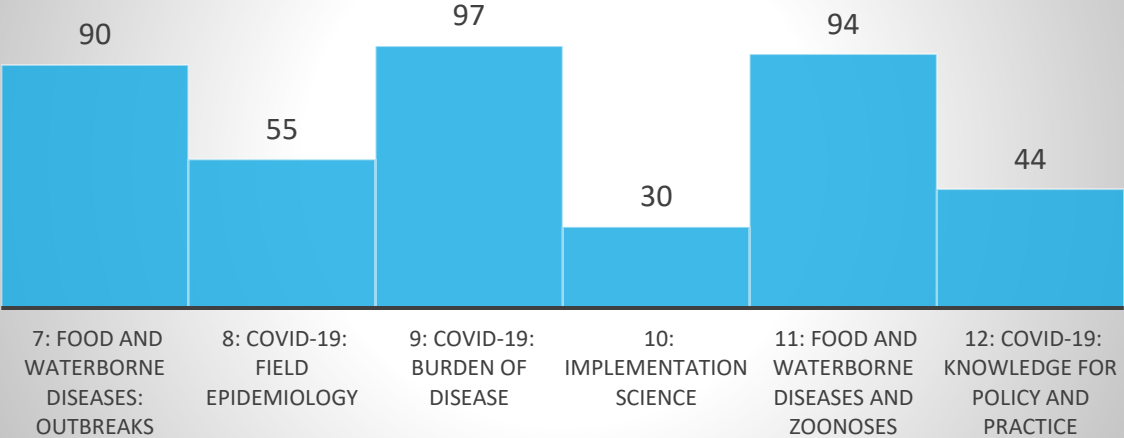
Poster tours

Poster tours were held in parallel and took place in MS Teams meetings, which were accessed through the *Swapcard* platform.

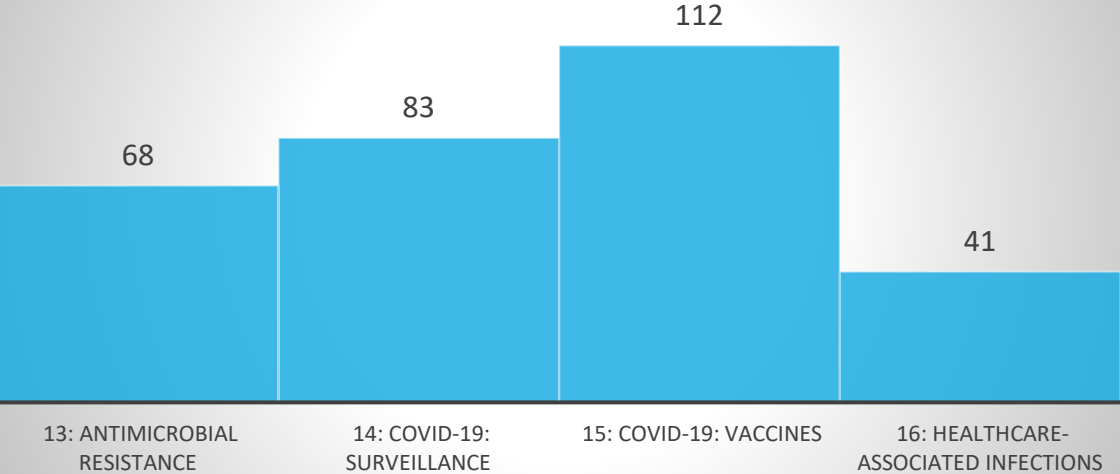
Attendance Poster Tours Day 1



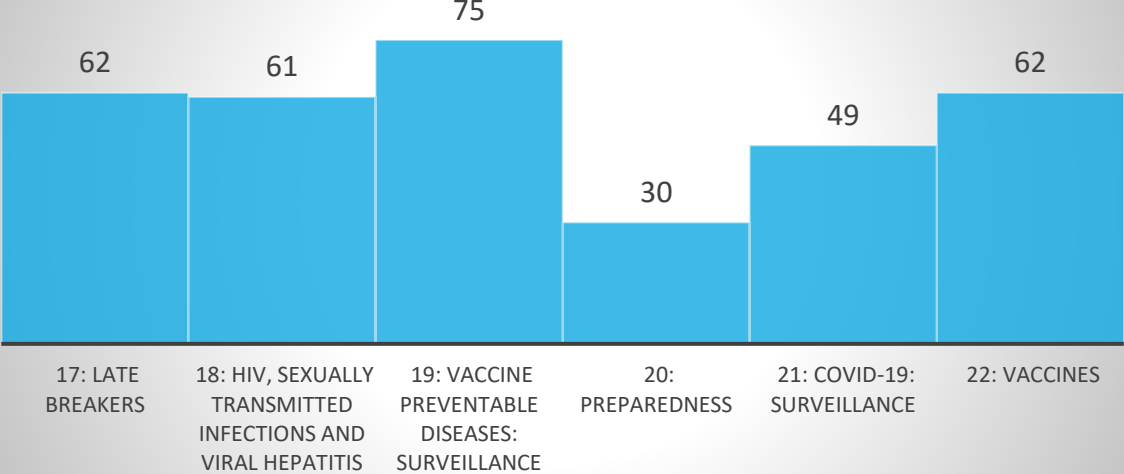
Attendance Poster Tours Day 2



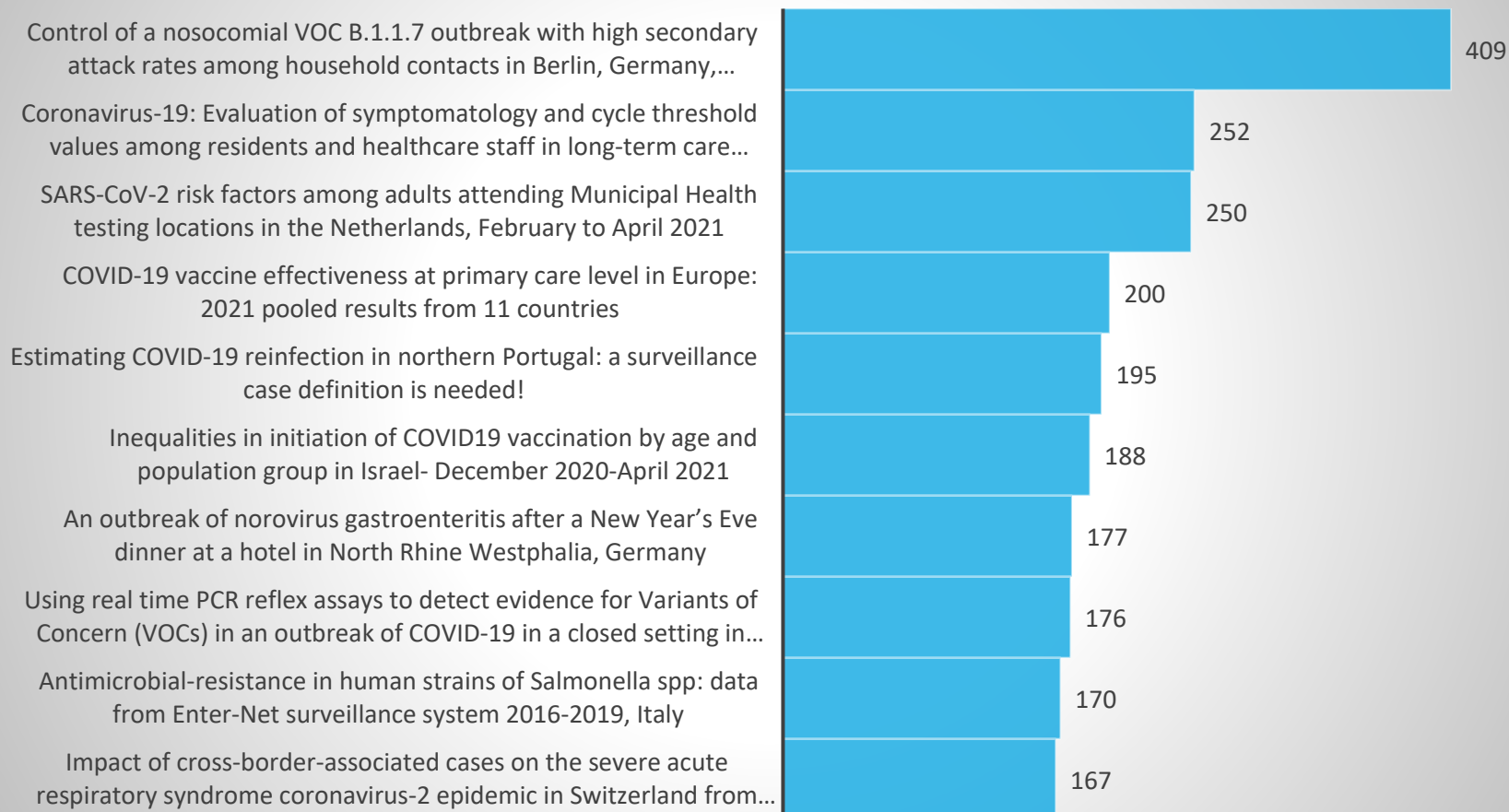
Attendance Poster Tours Day 3



Attendance Poster Tours Day 4



10 most visited posters (16-19 Nov)

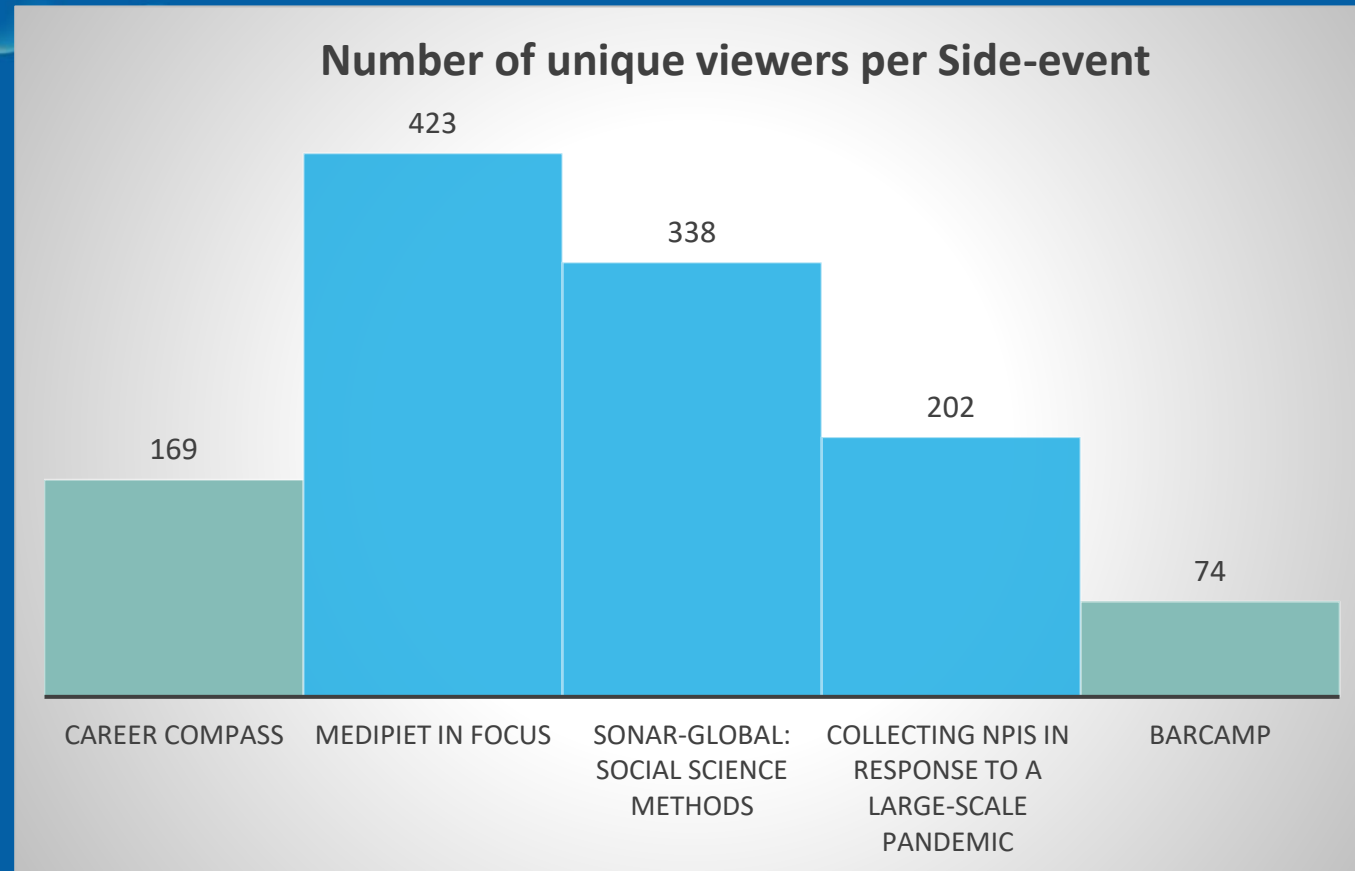


In total, the 112 posters displayed received in total 11,166 visits during the 4 days of the conference.

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Side-events

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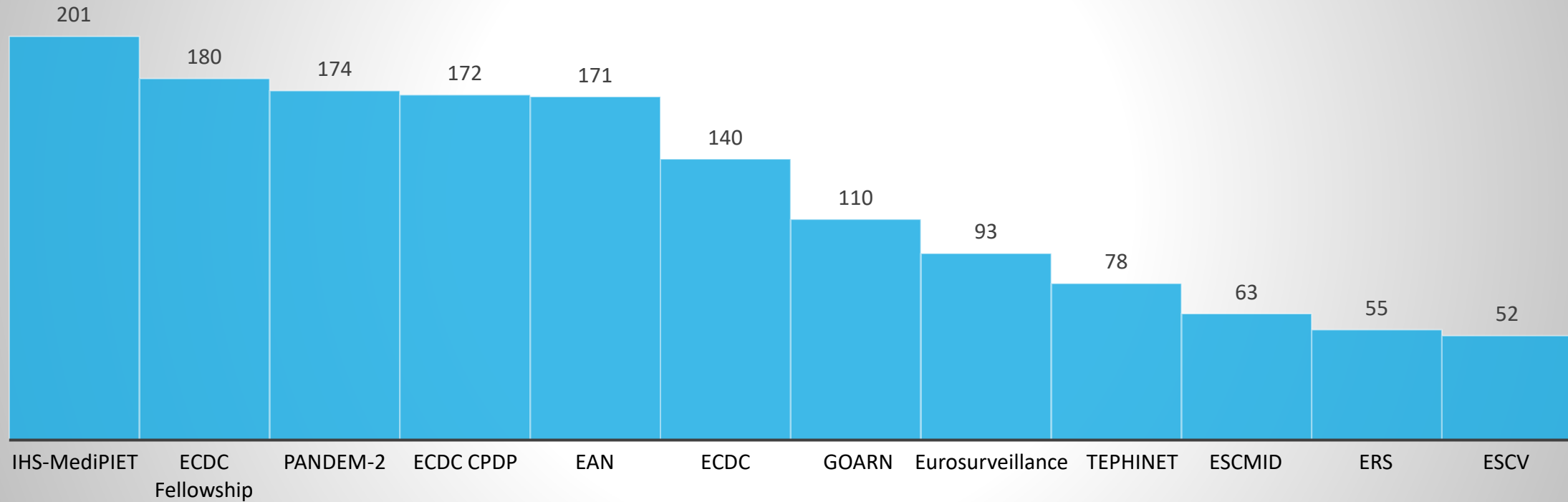


The Career Compass and BarCamp number refer to attendance to the MS Teams meeting.

Info-stands

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Total unique visitors



Feedback from participants

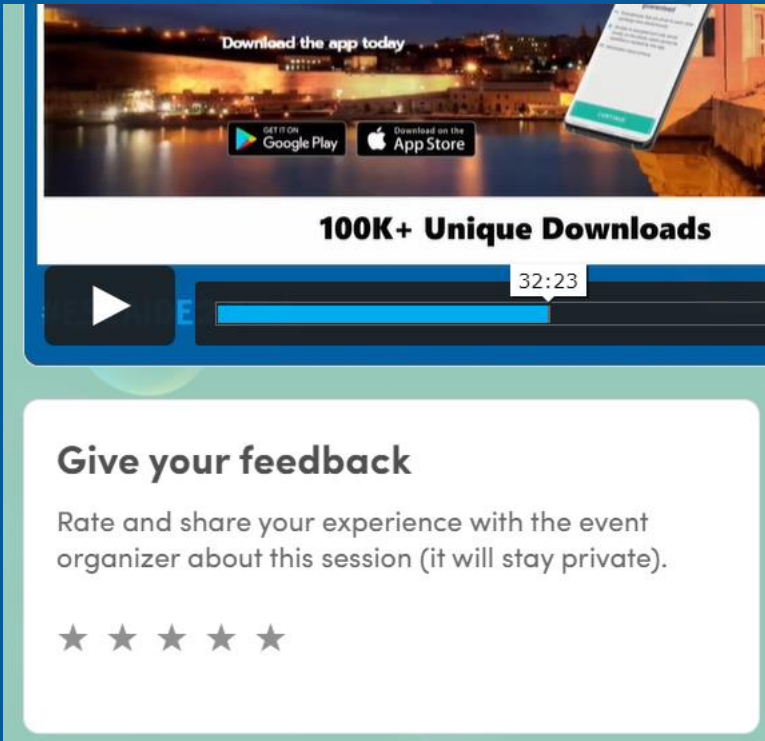
*Rating polls, feedback survey,
social media*



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Rating polls

Plenaries



After each live session a star rating poll was shown to the participants in the page of the session and in the notifications.

	Score	n	
Plenary A	4.53	32	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Plenary B	4.67	9	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Plenary C	4.39	18	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Plenary D	4.73	11	★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The number of participants that used the rating function was very low therefore we cannot infer that the opinions expressed reflect those of the majority of the participants.

Rating polls

Other

	Score	n						
MediPIET (16 Nov)	4.32	14	★	★	★	★	★	★
Career Compass (16 Nov)	4.70	20	★	★	★	★	★	★
SONAR-Global (17 Nov)	4.67	6	★	★	★	★	★	★
Collecting NPIs (17 Nov)	4.20	10	★	★	★	★	★	★
BarCamp (17 Nov)	4.60	5	★	★	★	★	★	★
European Antibiotic Awareness Day event (18 Nov)	4.78	9	★	★	★	★	★	★
<i>Eurosurveillance</i> seminar (19 Nov)	4.44	9	★	★	★	★	★	★



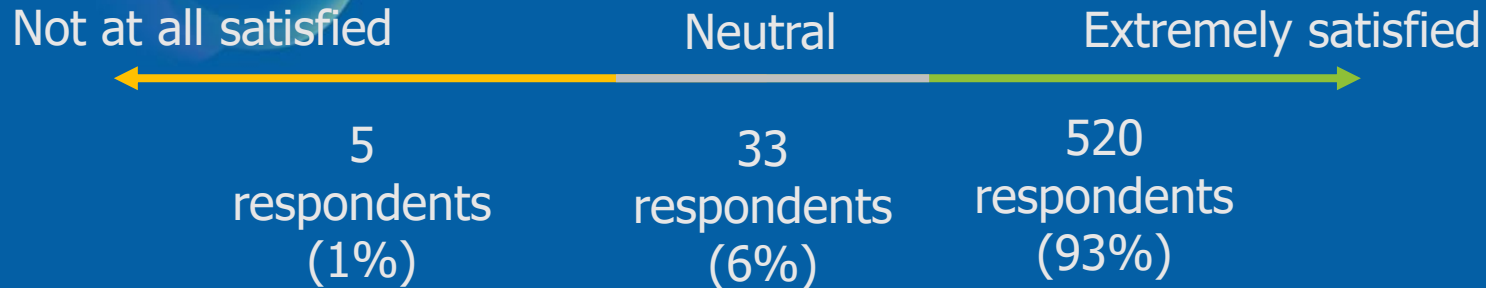
The number of participants that used the rating function was very low therefore we cannot infer that the opinions expressed reflect those of the majority of the participants.



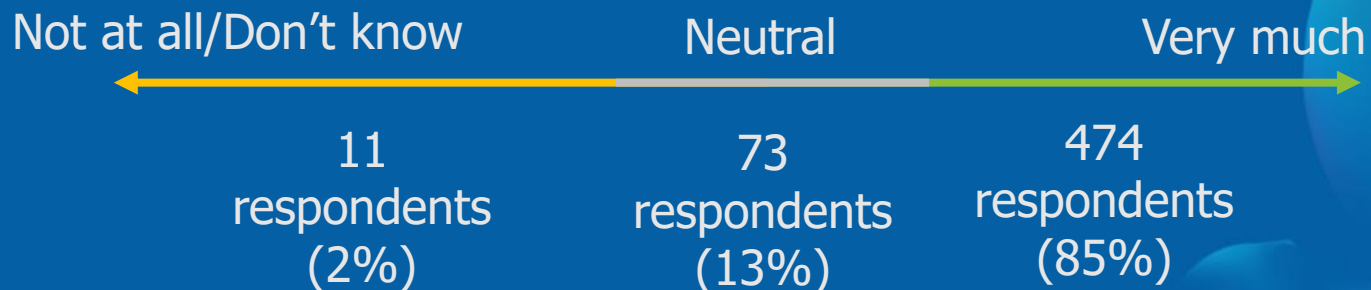
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Feedback survey results

Overall satisfaction



I will recommend ESCAIDE 2022 to others



n=558

Two email invitations and a notification to complete the survey reached out to 3041 registered participants and 558 completed the survey, from 19 until 30 November.

The response rate was 18% percent, similar to 2020 (20%) and half of previous years (42% in 2019, 2018, 2017).

The results from the feedback survey indicated a high satisfaction with the event.

On a scale from 1 (Not at all satisfied) to 5 (Extremely satisfied), 93% of respondents indicated they were "very" or "extremely" satisfied with the event.

85% of respondents indicated they would "Very much" recommend ESCAIDE 2022 to others.

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Feedback survey results

5. How do you rate the following aspects of ESCAIDE?

	1 star	2 stars	3 stars	4 stars	5 stars	Score					
Quality	2 0.4%	2 0.4%	20 3.6%	170 30.5%	364 65.2%	4.6	★	★	★	★	★
Relevance	1 0.2%	1 0.2%	28 5.0%	118 21.2%	410 73.5%	4.7	★	★	★	★	★
Format	4 0.7%	18 3.2%	66 11.8%	180 32.3%	290 52%	4.3	★	★	★	★	★
Duration (4 days)	2 0.4%	21 3.8%	78 14%	180 32.3%	277 49.6%	4.3	★	★	★	★	★
Online implementation	6 1.1%	9 1.6%	53 9.5%	168 30.1%	322 57.7%	4.4	★	★	★	★	★
Online platform (Swapcard)	6 1.1%	8 1.4%	68 12.2%	170 30.5%	306 54.8%	4.4	★	★	★	★	★
Organisation/organisers	3 0.5%	3 0.5%	25 4.5%	137 24.6%	390 69.9%	4.6	★	★	★	★	★

The respondents evaluated different aspects about ESCAIDE 2021 through a scale of five stars, where five was 'Excellent' or 'Extremely satisfied' and one star was 'Very poor' or 'Not at all satisfied'. The results showed that the respondents were highly satisfied with all aspects indicated.

Feedback survey results

6. To what extent do you agree with the following statements about ESCAIDE 2021?

ESCAIDE fulfilled my educational goals and expected learning outcomes.



What I learned will be implemented in my practice.



The information presented was supported by a valid scientific evidence base.



ESCAIDE created opportunities to establish meaningful connections and network.



The programme was free of commercial and other bias.



■ Very much ■ Somewhat ■ Not much ■ Not at all ■ Don't know

Feedback survey results

7. How would you best describe the following events at ESCAIDE 2021?

Plenary A: 'Communicating science and scientific uncertainty during an evolving pandemic'



Plenary B: 'Modelling epidemics in real time: coming of age?'



Plenary C: 'Digital health opportunities for Public Health: how far from reality?'



Plenary D: 'The inequality pandemic'



European Antibiotic Awareness Day 2021 event



Eurosurveillance 25th anniversary seminar



■ Improved my knowledge ■ Useful for my work ■ Not relevant ■ Didn't attend

Feedback survey results

7. How would you best describe the following events at ESCAIDE 2021?

'MediPIET in focus: The past and the future of a regional field epidemiology programme in the EU neighbourhood'



'Using social science methods to support the prevention and control of ID: results from the SONAR-Global project'



'Collecting NPIs in response to a large-scale pandemic: lessons learned and future outlooks'



Career compass



BarCamp



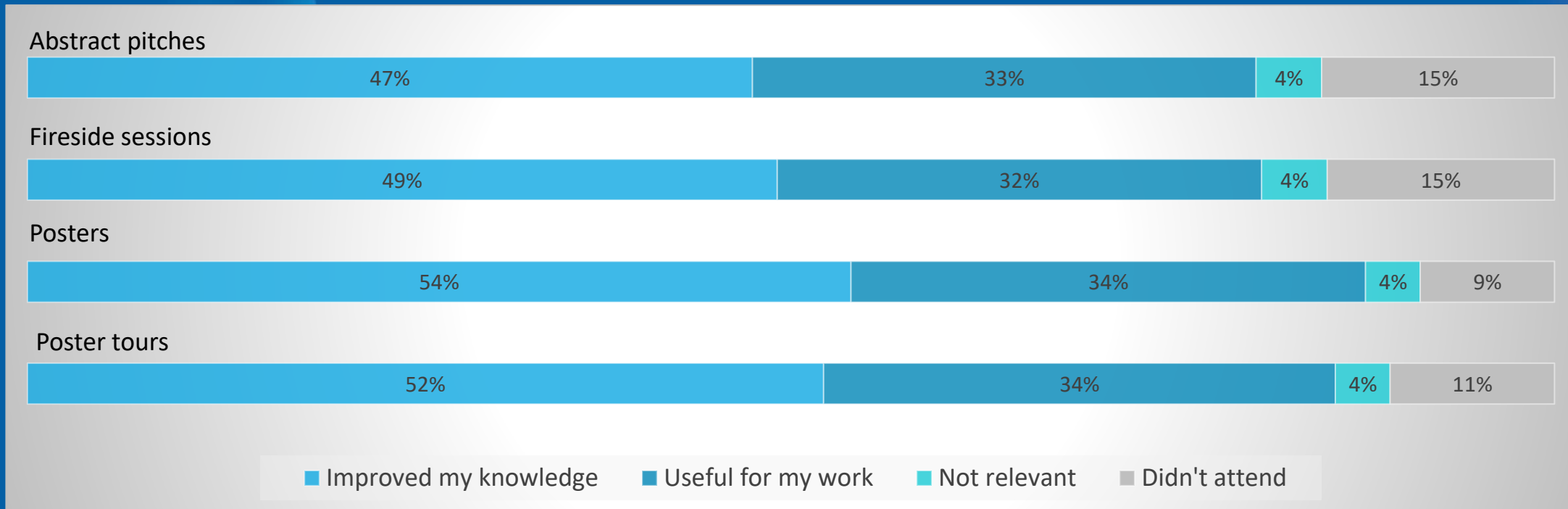
Wrap-up sessions



■ Improved my knowledge ■ Useful for my work ■ Not relevant ■ Didn't attend

Feedback survey results

7. How would you best describe the following events at ESCAIDE 2021?



Feedback survey results

8. How would you best describe the following interaction and networking initiatives at ESCAIDE 2021?

Live chat



Talkspace: Social corner



Talkspace: Reflection roundtable



Talkspace: Research exchange



Coffee lounge



Possibility to contact other participants



EAN photo contest



■ Improved my knowledge ■ Useful for my work ■ Not relevant ■ Didn't participate

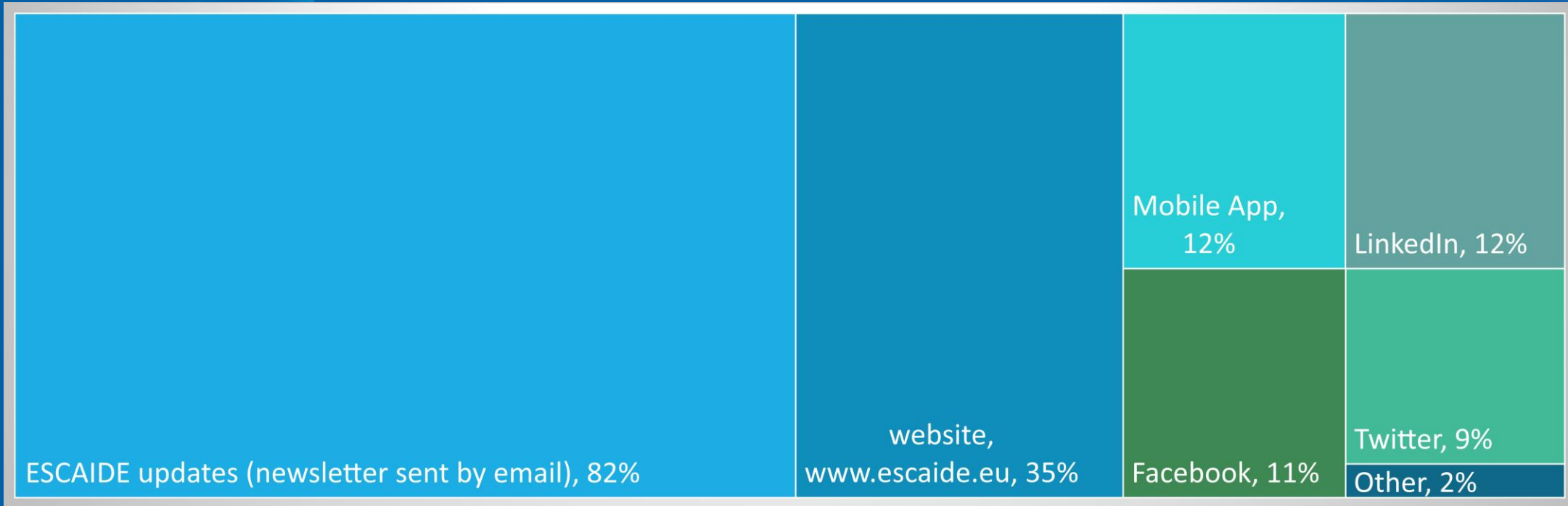
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n=558

Feedback survey results

9. How do you like to receive ESCAIDE related content?



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Feedback survey results

10. Anything you would like to add about what you did LIKE about ESCAIDE 2021?

11. What did you DISLIKE about ESCAIDE 2021 and how could we improve it?

General comments received	Nr
Positive	170
Negative	167

The respondents were invited to add anything they liked or disliked about the conference and identify areas for improvement in two free text questions.

Specific comments received	Nr
Oral abstract presenter	9
Poster presenter	17
Reviewer	3
Plenary & side-event speaker	5
Moderator	7
Press and media	1
Info-stand owner	3
Side-event organiser	4

Additionally, those who had an active role at ESCAIDE (e.g. reviewers, presenters, moderators, etc.) were asked to comment on their experience. In total, 386 comments were received.

Feedback survey results

	LIKE	DISLIKE
Programme (general)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of speakers and topics. • Relevant and interesting. • Right level for people to be able to follow the content and gain new information to fill knowledge gaps. • Sessions generally well moderated. • Plenary topics and speakers were generally great. • Several positive comments about the availability of recordings, as this allowed attendees to review sessions they had missed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several mentioned that they had to choose between two interesting sessions in parallel, so scheduling could be more 'relaxed' to allow for attending more sessions. • Few comments about ESCAIDE being too ECDC and EPIET focused. • Not enough time for discussion and audience questions. interesting questions went unanswered.
Abstract sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally well organised and moderated. • Availability of abstract recordings to watch in their own time to prepare for sessions. • Poster tours welcomed as an opportunity to interact with presenters (compared to last year). • A few reviewers mentioned that process was efficient, well supported and of high quality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Few comments that the posters and abstracts themselves were not available to read on <i>Swapcard</i>, which suggests difficulties encountered in navigating the platform to find them. • Posters: Having to enter MS Teams calls, rather than the sessions being embedded on <i>Swapcard</i>; difficult to see on the screen share; allocated time was too short.
Side events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A few comments mentioned that the side events including the EAAD event, <i>Eurosurveillance</i> seminar and the EAN sessions were excellent. 	

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All written responses were categorised according to which aspect of the conference they referred to, grouped by similar comments and summarised with verbal qualifiers according to frequency. Here we have highlighted comments that show the general perceptions of attendees, and included some comments made by a few respondents that highlighted certain areas of interest.



Feedback survey results

	LIKE	DISLIKE
Info-stands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A few info stand organisers stated that the set up was easy and worked well. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Info-stand organisers mentioned but that visibility was low
Conference organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many respondents gave general comments with high praise for the organisation of the conference overall, stating that it was an excellent learning opportunity in the field. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some comments highlighting technical issues (sometimes low-quality video, people not muting, slides out of sync, etc.).
Duration and timings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many people found the 4 days too long. Appreciation of the fact that a lot of varied content goes hand in hand with a packed schedule. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several commented that it was hard to follow sessions due to time difference. Need for larger gaps between sessions.
Online vs. in person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many comments about the event being more accessible to those who would otherwise not be able to attend due to cost or other commitments. Many requested for an in-person aspect to return, at least hybrid. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many commented that it was harder to interact and network online. Some found there is greater exhaustion attending full day online than in person, so it is harder to maintain concentration.
Networking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some appreciated the networking features that were available on the platform and found that ESCAIDE 2021 was a positive experience but expressed that in-person would be better. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several found networking options on the platform were not well implemented or used by attendees. Suggestions for improvements included having facilitators for chat rooms, a speed-dating session and a space to discuss future work and collaboration.

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Feedback survey results

12. ESCAIDE 2022 is planned to be held in Stockholm, from 23 to 25 November. To what extent do you agree with the following statements about ESCAIDE 2022?

n=558

I would prefer to attend ESCAIDE 2022 in-person



I would prefer to attend ESCAIDE 2022 online



I would prefer for ESCAIDE 2022 to be a hybrid event



Very much Somewhat Not much Not at all Don't know



n=121

When asked about their plans to attend ESCAIDE in 2022, 52% of respondents said they would prefer to attend in person.

On the last day of the conference, a poll was launched asking a similar question. 121 participants responded, with 44% indicating they would prefer to attend ESCAIDE 2022 in-person. Only 12% responded that they would prefer to participate only online and that result is quite different from the feedback given in the survey, where 40% said they would "Very much" prefer to attend online.

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Conclusions



Conclusions

ESCAIDE 2021 online reproduced the main elements of the in-person event: plenary sessions, oral and poster presentations, side events, info-stands.

The conference received 3041 registrations, representing 123 countries. There was an increase in overall registrations and attendance numbers in comparison to last year and previous in-person editions. The high number of participants and broader country representations clearly indicates that the online format has created opportunities for attendance for participants who might not attend in normal circumstances due to costs, travel, etc. We note however that attendance was still low from certain countries historically underrepresented at ESCAIDE and on the European public health stage, including Poland, despite the online format.

Notwithstanding the high number of registered participants, the number of active users on the platform varied every day, with a maximum number on the first day of the conference (2119) and minum on the last day (1654).

In general terms, ESCAIDE online created opportunities to establish connections and network. The amount of comments, questions and discussions left in the chat boxes for sessions demonstrates active participation of the viewers.

The key results from the feedback survey conducted after the conference indicated a high satisfaction with the event. However, it is important to acknowledge that the results in this report refer to the population who completed the survey, and we cannot conclude that the opinions expressed do reflect those of the majority of the participants.

ESCAIDE 2021 required a thorough planning, preparing, and practicing to ensure that everything run as smoothly as possible from a technical perspective and in facilitating discussions and interactions. We built on learnings from 2020 to further streamline the online experience and this will be valuable for future editions of ESCAIDE where an online aspect will form an important part of the conference.

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Thank YOU!

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Stay connected!

Subscribe to the newsletter by sending an email to escaide.conference@ecdc.europa.eu

Visit ESCAIDE website <https://www.escaide.eu/en>

Follow @ESCAIDE on Social media

Access ESCAIDE content available on ESCAIDE2021@Swapcard (until end of December, only for registered participants)

Watch #ESCAIDE2021 YouTube videos (to be available by January 2022)



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