



Q2016 Conference Evaluation Report

**National Statistical Institute
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Table of contents

1. Introduction	5
2. Quantitative indicators of attendance at the conference sessions.....	7
3. Satisfaction survey of the Conference attendees	11
3.1 Characteristics of the survey	11
3.2 Overall evaluation and organizational issues	12
3.3 Evaluation of the Scientific Programme.....	15
4. Report of the sessions' chairs.....	19
5. Evaluation of the Q2016 training courses: Satisfaction survey analysis.....	21
6. Final comments: lessons learned for future conferences	25
Annexes.	27
Annex 1. Programme and number of participants in each session.	29
Annex 2. Conference evaluation form.	31
Annex 3. Conference satisfaction survey: Selected responses to the open questions.	33
Annex 4. Session Chair's form	41
Annex 5. Session Chair's Report: Selected responses to the Open question.....	43
Annex 6. Training courses' evaluation form.	45

1. Introduction¹

A special emphasis on evaluating the results of the conference has been given during the Q2016 with a two-fold objective: on the one hand, to assess to what extent its goals have been achieved; on the other, and with a broader perspective, with the aim of taking advantage of the acquired experience when improving the organization of future conferences.

To this end, we have implemented different tools which allow us to conduct a complete assessment. In particular, we have made use of both quantitative —such as number of attendees — and qualitative indicators —based on data from satisfaction surveys—. The surveys collected information both from participants on the courses as well as from attendees to conference sessions and activities.

For these tools a data Analysis has been set up: Quantitative analyses assessed different areas of attendees' experience and satisfaction; and descriptive statistics (mean, standard deviations, and frequencies) have been calculated for each area of the questionnaire.

This report presents the results of these evaluation systems and it is organized as follows: Section 2 presents an evaluation of quantitative indicators of attendance of the different sessions and activities; Section 3 performs an evaluation based on satisfaction surveys of conference attendees; Section 4 presents the results collected in the report from the sessions' chairs; Section 5 carries out an evaluation based on satisfaction surveys of participants in the training courses.

Finally, Section 6 presents the conclusions and highlights some lessons learned and recommendations for future conferences.

The report is complemented by 6 annexes, providing details of the different evaluation tools: the Conference Programme and the number of participants in each session (Annex 1); the Conference evaluation form (Annex 2); selected responses to the open questions of the satisfaction survey (Annex 3); Form of the Session Chair's Report (Annex 4); selected responses to the open comments of the Chair's Report (Annex 5); the Training courses' evaluation form (Annex 6).

¹ This document has been written by Agustín Cañada, (INE Quality Unit, Director) with writing assistance from Luisa Muñoz and Sara Carrascosa (INE Quality Unit).

2. Quantitative indicators of attendance at the conference sessions

During the Conference, the number of session attendees was monitored. For that purpose, the organization of the event (contractor) had an attendee counting system available in every session and room: the ancillary staff in charge of the speaker's assistance performed the counting process and recorded the result electronically. The information from every room and session was then automatically downloaded in a centralized database. The computation of the average attendees was done after the session started.

Attendance was counted of all sessions at the Q2016 conference: the three plenaries, the thirty-six multi-paper sessions, the eight special sessions and the four speed-talk sessions.

These figures are obviously approximate given the likelihood of one person being counted multiple times (potential inflation of the total number of attendees).

Before commenting on the attendance to the sessions, it is worth remembering the general structure of the conference Programme with a total of 47 sessions (See Annex 1):

- i) 32 Paper sessions selected by the Programme Committee.
- ii) 8 Special sessions, focused on issues related to official statistics. These sessions had been promoted by persons/ specific institutions:
 - 3 sessions selected by Eurostat: "Peer reviews: A Tool to Enhance Trust in European Statistics?"; "Governance and Coordination of the National Statistical Systems in the Enlargement and ENP-East countries"; "The Statistics Code of Practice for the ENP South Countries".
 - One session proposed by the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB): "Opportunities and Challenges for Quality of Official Statistics-The Future of the ESS Code of Practice".
 - One session proposed by the National Institute for Statistics of Italy (Istat): "Competence Management in Statistics".
 - The Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) organised the session on: "Quality of International Statistics. The Challenges for International Statistics at Global, National and Local Levels".
 - The University of London session was on: "Synergies for Europe's Research Infrastructures in the Social Sciences and Official Statistics".
 - Another Special session was promoted by INE (Agustín Cañada): "Big Data and Official Statistics: Challenges and Opportunities".
- iii) 4 "Speed talk" sessions: It was a novelty of Q2016, as it was the first time that this format had been used at the Q conferences. Like many conferences, Q conferences are moving away from traditional poster presentation towards alternative mechanisms for presenting research, such as these speed talk sessions.

iv) And three Plenary Sessions, with the participation of a selected Invited Speaker:

- Opening Plenary Session: a keynote Speech, by Mr. Wayne Smith, Chief Statistician of Statistics Canada.

- A second Plenary Session: a keynote Speech by Ms. Genoveva Ruzic, Director General of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia.

- The closing Plenary Session consisted of a panel discussion on the state-of-the-art and emerging trends in Quality in Official Statistics. It involved a public discussion moderated by Eurostat and with 7 prominent participants of different statistical institutions.

A total of 204 papers were presented in these sessions (145 in the Paper sessions, 34 in the Special sessions) and 25 papers in the Speed talk sessions.

Table 1 shows information on the Session attendance by day and time slot, specifying also broad categories of sessions in each slot. The distribution by time slot is a reference when it comes to assess the attendance at the conference by type of session.

Table 1. Total and average number of attendees by day and time-slot.

Sessions by Day/ Time slot/ Type of session	No. attendees	Mean average
1/ Early morning /Plenary Session 1 – Opening Session	360	---
1/ Mid-morning / Multiple tracks (5)	380	76.0
1/ Lunch/ Speed (2)	118	59.0
1/ Early afternoon/ Multiple tracks (5)	388	77.6
1/ Late afternoon/ Multiple tracks (5)	290	58.0
1/ Late afternoon/ Speed (2)	112	56.0
2/ Early morning/ Multiple tracks (5)	352	70.4
2/ Mid-morning / Multiple tracks (5)	359	71.8
2/ Early afternoon / Multiple tracks (5)	298	59.6
2/ Late afternoon/ Plenary Session 2	320	
3/ Early morning / Multiple tracks (5)	327	65.4
3/ Mid-morning/ Multiple tracks (5)	320	64.0
3/ Early afternoon / Plenary Session 3 – Closing – Panel Session	340	---

Session attendance by start time is also shown in Table 1. Session start times were divided into categories of early morning (i.e., 9:00-10:30 am), mid-morning (i.e., 11:00-12:30 am), early afternoon (i.e., 2:30 - 4:00 pm) and late afternoon (i.e., 4:00 -5:15 pm).

The plenary sessions were single track, while the 32 Paper sessions y the 8 Special sessions were multiple track, with five parallel sessions run in separate rooms at the same time. For that reason, in the case of multiple tracks, the mean average of participants in each track has been added.

Attendance at the conference did not vary significantly from one day to another: the first day of the conference (Wednesday, 1 June) had the highest average attendance per session (M=62), but there were no significant differences with Thursday (an average of

38 participants attending each session) and Friday (an average of 64 participants per session).

Session attendance by type of session (e.g., Special, Multi-paper), is shown in Table 2

Table 2. Attendance at the conference by type of session

Plenary	340
Special sessions	84
Multiple tracks	64
Speed-talk	58

It is worth noting the attendance to the three plenary sessions averaging 340 participants per session.

Plenary sessions apart, the Special sessions had the highest average attendance (M=84) followed by the multi-paper sessions (M = 64 participants) and then the Speed-talk with an average of 58 participants. As regards the Speed sessions, it is worth mentioning those sessions were held outside the regular schedule: two were celebrated during lunch time and; the two remaining sessions from 17, 00 P.M.).

Table 3 offers the 15 sessions with the greatest number of attendees (excluded plenary sessions).

Table 3. Top 15 session's attendance

SESSION	No. Attendants	% Attendants in its time slot
34 - SPECIAL SESSION: Big Data and Official Statistics:	180	46.4
40 - SPECIAL SESSION: The future of the ESS CoP	133	41.6
20 - Big Data Oriented Systems	120	33.4
4 - Administrative Data: Cross-Cutting Issues	98	25.8
33 - SPECIAL SESSION: Peer Reviews	88	23.2
9 - Quality Management Systems 1	88	30.3
1- Enterprise Architecture in Statistical Offices	87	22.9
17 - Quality Reporting	87	24.2
13 - Coordination of Statistical System	84	23.9
27 - Big Data & Web Scraping	81	24.8
16 - Quality Assessment & Audits	79	22.4
21 - Administrative Data Systems	77	25.8
Speed-Talk session 1	76	64.4
26 - Data Collection & Burden respondent	71	21.7
39 - SPECIAL SESSION: Quality of International Statistics.	71	21.7

Among this group we can highlight the Special sessions: four of them are included in this top 15 list sessions. An outstanding feature within those special sessions is the interest in the issue of Big Data and its application and possibilities within official Statistics: Special Session 24, "Big Data and Official Statistics: Challenges and Opportunities", organized and chaired by the INE of Spain, had the greatest number of attendees at the Conference; a total 180 attendants, a 46.4 percentage of the total of

attendees within that slot time.

Furthermore two remaining sessions on Big Data held 3rd y 10th position respectively in the ranking of attendance: session 20, "Big Data Oriented Systems", (120 attendees , 3.,4 percentage of the total within that slot time); and session 27, "Big Data & Web Scraping", (81 attendees; 24.8 percentage of the total within that slot time).

A second group of sessions with a high number of attendees were those special sessions organized by the European institutions regarding institutional frameworks on quality in the European statistical system; session 40, "Opportunities and challenges for quality of official statistics-the future of the ESS Code of Practice", organized by the ESGAB, (133 attendees, 41.6 percentage within that time slot; and session 33 "Peer Reviews: a tool to enhance trust in European Statistics?", organized by Eurostat (88 attendees, 23.2 percentage of the total).

The third group of sessions with a great number of attendees were the sessions regarding the use of administrative data, especially session 4, "Administrative Data: Cross-Cutting Issues", (98 attendees, el 25.8% percentage of the total within that slot time); and session 21, "Administrative Data Systems", (77 attendees, 25.8% percentage of the total within that time).

3. Satisfaction survey of the Conference attendees

3.1 Characteristics of the survey

The conference attendee satisfaction survey is the main evaluation tool. The evaluation questionnaire addressed issues relevant to attendees to rate their satisfaction with each of the activities, and to provide feedback to be used in the strategy of future conferences.

The survey was designed under standardized criteria for this type of Survey. Its basic principles were:

- On-line questionnaire.
- Simplified approach to facilitate appropriate responses.
- Use of the Likert Scale” for questions on the level of satisfaction (five categories of answers: 1. Unsatisfactory; 2. Standard; 3. Satisfactory; 4. Good; 5. Excellent).

Following the conference, the subcontractor sent an e-mail to all the participants’ asking for their collaboration in this survey. A round of reminder e-mails were sent to those who had not completed a form in order to increase the response rate.

The questionnaire content consisted of 22 questions on three kinds of items:

a) Issues related to the organization of the conference broken down by:

- Previous information received before the conference (5 questions): Web page, Conference APP, etc....
- Organizational issues during the Conference (9 questions): conference venue; accreditation process; attention received by the staff of the organization; venue installations; social Activities...

b) Evaluation of the Scientific Programme. (A total of 6 questions):

- 1 question on the general programme assessment (“Q.15. Scientific programme content”).
- Three assessment questions broken down according to the 3 types of sessions: Plenary Sessions; Parallel sessions; Speed sessions
- 1 open question on the sessions considered most relevant to the attendees (Q.19).
- Another open-question (Q.20) to assess how well the conference met the attendees’ expectations regarding the scientific content of the conference and giving an idea of those that didn’t fulfil expectations: “In your opinion, was the scientific programme balanced in terms of the topics included? Which topics not in the programme would you like to have in the next conference?”

Specific details concerning data analysis are outlined in section 4 for each of the major areas of interest.

c) Questions addressed to the speakers.

Two specific questions addressed to the speakers were included in the survey whose

aim was to assess the management of the abstracts: (Q.21) abstract submission process; (Q.22) abstract confirmation process.

2.4. Satisfaction survey for training course participants

The aim of this survey was to rate the degree of satisfaction of those attending the short courses celebrated the previous day to the Conference. Those courses were selected on a voluntary basis by Conference participants (upon payment of the registration fee for the corresponding course).

The structure of the survey is similar to the general survey of the conference mentioned above Surveys. Their basic principles were:

- Simplified Approach to facilitate appropriate responses.
- Use of the Likert Scale" for questions on the level of satisfaction (five categories of answers: 1. Unsatisfactory; 2. Standard; 3. Satisfactory; 4. Good; 5. Excellent),

The questionnaire content consisted of 14 questions on three kinds of block:

- Organization: 4 questions on: Course organization; Classroom conditions; Course duration; Course schedule
- Training activity. 5 questions: Knowledge acquired; methodology used for the intended objectives; teaching materials (documentation); educational media (exercises, case studies); pedagogical capabilities of the trainer
- For questions regarding overall evaluation: compliance with the course objectives; application of content to their professional work; global satisfaction of the course; fulfilling the course expectation. The last question allowed the respondent to justify the response

Finally, an open question on the conference (comments and suggestions): "Please feel free to let us know any comments or suggestions you might have".

3.2 Overall evaluation and organizational issues

The attendee survey results are summarized in Table 4. The overall number of responses obtained was 193, which implies a response rate of 39.4%. However, in the case of answers to questions 21 and 22, addressed exclusively to the conference speakers, response rates were higher, with 138 respondents out of a total of 200 speakers, (69% response rate).

Apart from those questions, response rates were very similar in all cases except for fully justified exceptions: Question 12, referring to "Attention to people with specific needs (special food requirements)"; Question 18 regarding "speed sessions" which had a lower attendance than the multi-paper sessions; and question 4, regarding the conference' app, which was only evaluated by people who had a mobile device during the conference.

The result of the survey are very positive: On a scale of 1 to 5, the average of almost every question is greater than 4. In addition, all the answers have a modal value and median of 4 or 5, which means that all the aspects asked about are valued positively. On the other hand, most of the survey questions got a percentage of positive responses

(4 or 5) greater than 80%.

Table 4. Statistical analysis of the satisfaction survey to the attendees to Q2016

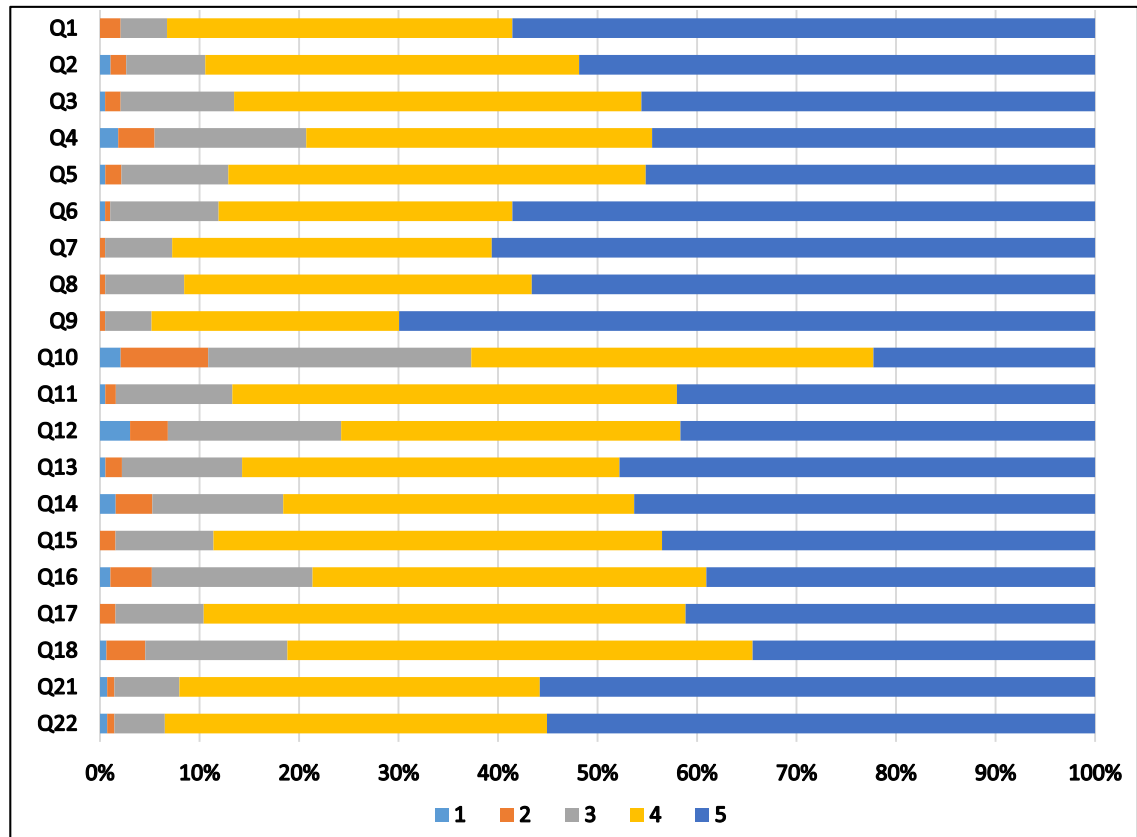
Question	n	Mean	S.D.	Median	Mode	% Higher scores (4+5)/ Total
<i>Organization previous to the conference</i>						
Q1. Organization and planning of the conference	193	4.50	0.69	5	5	93.3
Q2. Previous information received before the conference	189	4.38	0.79	5	5	89.4
Q3. Web page of the conference	193	4.30	0.77	4	5	86.5
Q4. Conference APP	164	4.16	0.94	4	5	79.3
Q5. Registration and accommodation system	186	4.30	0.77	4	5	87.1
<i>Abstracts administration (only speakers)</i>						
Q21. Was it easy to do the administration process (abstract submission)	138	4.46	0.72	5	5	92.0
Q22. Abstract confirmation process	138	4.46	0.70	5	5	93.5
<i>Conference venue, facilities and services</i>						
Q6. Conference venue	193	4.45	0.75	5	5	88.1
Q7. Quickness in the accreditation process and indicative signage	193	4.53	0.65	5	5	92.7
Q8. Conference and Courtesy material	189	4.48	0.67	5	5	91.5
Q9. Attention received by the staff of the organization	193	4.64	0.60	5	5	94.8
Q10. Quality and comfortability of the venue installations (equipment, meeting rooms, WIFI, Audio Visual)	193	3.72	0.98	4	4	62.7
Q11. Congress Secretariat and Slide Center	188	4.25	0.78	4	4	86.7
Q12. Attention to people with specific needs (special food requirements)	132	4.05	1.04	4	5	75.8
Q13. Social Activities (welcome reception, touristic visits, official dinner)	182	4.31	0.79	4	5	85.7
Q14. Catering Services (coffee-break, lunch and refreshments)	190	4.21	0.92	4	5	81.6
<i>Scientific programme content</i>						
Q15. Scientific programme content	193	4.31	0.71	4	4	88.6
Q16. Plenary Sessions (opening, plenary and closing sessions)	192	4.11	0.90	4	4	78.6
Q17. Parallel sessions	192	4.29	0.69	4	4	89.6
Q18. Speed sessions	154	4.10	0.83	4	4	81.2
Q19. Which sessions did you find more interesting? Why?	91	---	---	---	---	---
Q20. In your opinion, the scientific programme was balanced regarding the topics? Which topics are not in the programme and you would like to have next conference?	74	---	---	---	---	---

It should be noted that the best rated question was Q.9, "Attention received by the staff of the organization" with an average of 4.64 and a percentage of 93.3% of positive responses (score 4 + 5). In contrast, the question with a lower average score is question Q.10, "Quality and comfort of the venue installations (equipment, meeting rooms, WIFI, Audio Visual)" with a mean of 3.72 and a 62.7% positive responses.

The survey questions were divided into 3 blocks: the organization in the period prior to

the conference (including the questions addressed to the speakers); attention and services during the conference; and the content of the conference's programme. The best rated block of questions was the pre-conference organization, with a positive average of 88.7% (including questions addressed to the speakers), followed by the content of the program (84.5%) and the Development of the conference (84.4%).

Chart 1. Percentage of scores by each question



The first block includes a first general question, which is actually a global evaluation of the conference. The result of this question is very positive: the average yields a value of 4.5 (SD = 0.69), with mode and median equal to 5 (the highest score).

Furthermore, within these pre-conference aspects, the last column of the table above shows that, for almost all questions the percentage of positive responses is close to 90%. The only exception is the question about the conference APP, with 79.3% positive responses.

The table shows that the average rating of the aspects related to the process of sending and confirming abstracts has been very positive (4.46), reaching a score of over 90% positive ratings.

In the following groups of questions, "During the Conference", the results were also very positive achieving a score of 90% positive answers. In contrast, the venue and facilities (Q10.) received the lowest, although still a fairly high satisfaction rating.

3.3 Evaluation of the Scientific Programme

Regarding the questions about the content of the scientific programme, again high percentages of positive responses were observed. Question 15, which is a general opinion question, ("Scientific programme content") reached a mean of 4.31, and 88.6% positive answers.

By type of session, the most highly rated sessions were the multi-paper ones (including special sessions) with a mean of 4.29 and a percentage of 89.6% positive answers. Plenary Sessions got a mean of 4.11 and 78.6% positive answers, and Speed sessions, a mean value of 4.10 and 81.2%.

In addition, it is possible to get more information about the evaluation of the programme from the analysis of open questions 19 & 20.

i) Exploitation of Question 19.

The answers to question 19 (" Which sessions did you find more interesting?") show us which topics are most interesting for attendees.

Table 5 shows the most positive sessions as remarked on by the respondents to the open question 19.

Table 5. Most positive Sessions as remarked on by the respondents to the open question 19

Session	No of respondents
Big Data sessions	26
Administrative sessions	11
Plenary sessions	10
S12. Enhancing Statistical Literacy	10
S33. SPECIAL SESSION: Peer Reviews: a tool to enhance trust in European Statistics?	9
S6. Peer Review: Learning from countries' experiences	8
S23. Quality Management Systems 2	7
S28. Integrated Production & Business Process Model	6
S16. Quality Assessment & Audits	6
S9. Quality Management Systems 1	5
S32. Quality Management Systems 3	5
S14. Satisfying User's needs: Communication	5

A group of five subject groups attracted the attention of participants:

- Big Data sessions (26 out of 90 respondents (29%);
- Administrative sources sessions (11 respondents);
- The Plenary Sessions, (10 respondents).
- The two sessions on Peer Review, (9 respondents: 1 regarding the Special session and the remaining to the parallel sessions).
- The sessions of quality management (5 or more respondents). Especially the session 23 was remarked by 7 respondents.

Let us also mention the session 12 “Enhancing Statistical Literacy”, selected by 10 respondents.

ii) Exploitation Question 20 (“In your opinion, the scientific programme was balanced regarding the topics?”)

70 participants replied to question 20. With a positive response as regards the Programme of the Conference: 37 out of 69 respondents (36.9%) answered that the programme was balanced.

It should also be noted that thirty-two respondents to question 20 made suggestions on topics to be included in future editions of the conference. In summary:

- General suggestions: "A summary of 2-3 main topics at the end of the conference as well as the opportunity to share ideas and information for next conferences";
- Modernisation: "Standards and standardisation processes"; "Changes in NSIs on the basis of Modernisation paths"; "GAMSO"; "Modernisation initiatives within the ESS, such as integrated Social Statistics"; "A session on the VIP projects and their contribution to quality"; "Specific experience of production Units in implementing the quality assessment processes of the GSBPM".
- By statistical domains: "environmental statistics and indicators and their use in policy-making"; "emerging needs in: population statistics, economic statistics, environmental statistics"; "Quality in economic statistics".
- Dissemination, users: "more discussions on work with users and public relations"; "assessment of the satisfaction of users with official statistical information and the level of credibility"; "new approaches for the dissemination of official statistical information through the official website"
- Different quality topics: More sessions on quality management; "Quality assurance through statistical risk management"; "managing production by quality indicators, norm-value for quality indicators";
- Other Statistical topics: "experiences on non-sampling error estimation"; "innovations in data collection"; "Managing data storage systems"; "respondent burden"; European experience about record linkage - probabilistic approach - for administrative data"; "statistical quality control"; "surveys: response vs. representatively"; "time series and its application".

It needs to be emphasized again that the interests of the audience in Big Data issues can also be seen in some of the open questions: "more practical experience with regard to big data usage for statistical purposes"; "more technology related sessions: e.g. semantic technologies, machine learning, big data technologies"; "big data and statistical literacy".

There were five critical opinions within the content of the Programme Conference highlighting the considerable time for discussing certain issues: "Too much focus on the monitoring of quality, instead of how to improve quality"; "Too much attention on administrative data"; "Some overlapping"; "There were too many sessions on big data"; "Too much emphasis on IT systems that standardised and/or harmonise. Too much emphasis on quality output reporting".

Some suggestions on the organizational aspects were made by three participants in the question 20, such as, for instance:

- To reduce the number of parallel sessions for facilitating the attendance to others sessions (5 respondents)
- They also remarked on the possibility of decreasing the number of papers with the aim of facilitating discussions (a maximum of four papers would be desirable).
- Two respondents suggested to open the floor for debate immediately after the presentation of the paper and not wait to the end of the session as was established in this conference.

4. Report of the sessions' chairs

Another innovation included in the Q2016 regarding previous conferences consists of a brief questionnaire filled by the Session Chair after the session was over and given to the conference staff.

The survey includes four questions.

1) An objective question regarding the compliance of the Programme. 1) Were all the assigned papers presented? [Yes/ no - Which]

2) Subjective question on the development of the session: "In your view, how were the papers received from the audience overall?"

4 response options:

- Hardly any discussion occurred.
- There was discussion only around 1 or 2 papers.
- All papers were well received.
- All papers were exceptionally well received.

3) Open question on the summary of the session ¿ could we request you to provide us your feedback on the overall session? Could you kindly summarize some of the session's main messages?

4) One open question on suggestions about aspects to be considered in future conferences: Do you have any suggestions on how the sessions could be improved in future conferences?

A total of 45 forms were recorded. It included some information on the following sessions: the 8 Special sessions, the 32 parallel sessions, 4 speed sessions, and the panel session within the "Closing Plenary session".

Question 1 of that report aimed to detect the degree of compliance of the programme as well to verify if all the accepted papers were presented at the Conference. The degree of compliance was very positive (in 4 out 45 was underline the absence of some presentation). In fact, only 5 papers out 200 in the final programme were not presented at the sessions.

The purpose of Q.2 was to obtain information on the chair's opinion about the development of the session. "In your views, how were the papers received from the audience overall?" A total of 40 responses out of 41 (It is worth mentioning that in Speed-sessions there was no planned time for discussion).

Table 6. Answers (Q.2) regarding the Chairs' sessions

	No. sessions	%
Hardly any discussion	1	2.5
Discussion around 1 or 2 papers	1	2.5
All papers well received	23	57.5
All papers exceptionally well received	15	37.5
Total	40	100.0

As shows Table 6, in 38 of 40 sessions the presentation of the papers were well or exceptionally well received.

It is important to remark on the high level of collaboration of the Chair in the compliance of this report, especially in open questions: Question 3, ("Feedback & main messages") was answered by 41 of the chairs; and 21 chairs answered Question 4 ("Do you have any suggestion on how the sessions could be improved in future conferences?"). Some of the answers are summarized as follows:

- Five comments were made by the chairs towards the organization of the Conference
- Five comments were underlined regarding the organization of the sessions.
- In addition to those suggestions the chair proposed opening discussion before each paper and rather jointly at the end of the session (as it was planned in this Conference?)
- Ten chairs made suggestions about the facilities of the rooms of the site of the Conference (improving technical aspects - PC, sound...)
- Three comments regarding the content of the session were made by the chairs as well as one comment related to the presented papers: one of the chair suggested repeating the session on Quality Assessment & Audits in future conferences, due to the interest in this subject for the European system.
- Big data was also suggested as a main topic to be included in future conferences.
- There was also a negative comment regarding the distribution of the papers in the sessions to avoid the heterogeneity of the sessions.

5. Evaluation of the Q2016 training courses: Satisfaction survey analysis

The courses were held on 31 May 2016. They had a length of about 7 hours (started at 9:30 am to 17:30 pm, including a lunch break). All training courses ran in parallel. The title and trainers of the five courses were the following:

1. Quality management in statistics – a path for implementation. Lecturers: Marina Signore (Istat); Maria João Zilhão (INE-Statistics Portugal).
2. Data Visualization for the Communication of Official Statistics. Lecturer: Alberto Cairo (University of Miami)
3. Multisource Statistics: Quality and Statistical Methods. Lecturer: Li-Chun Zhang (University of Southampton – Statistics Norway)
4. Big data for official statistics: Applications of machine learning for statistical production. Trainers: Luis Lago (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid); Gonzalo Martínez, (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid).
5. Modernization of production systems in Official statistics (CSPA). Trainers: Steven Vale (UNECE); Guillaume Duffes (INSEE); Jean-Marc Museux (Eurostat)

Table 7 shows general information on the courses, number of received forms by course and response. It is worth mentioning that each course was limited to a maximum of 50 participants.

Table 7. Number of completed forms by course and response rates.

	(a) No participants	(b) No respondents	(b)/ (a) Response rate (%)
Quality management in statistics – a path for implementation	40	15	37.5
Data Visualization for the Communication of Official Statistics	26	18	69.2
Multisource Statistics: Quality and Statistical Methods	30	10	33.3
Big data for official statistics: Applications of machine learning for statistical	36	11	30.6
Modernization of production systems in Official statistics (CSPA)	19	11	57.9
Total	151	65	43.0

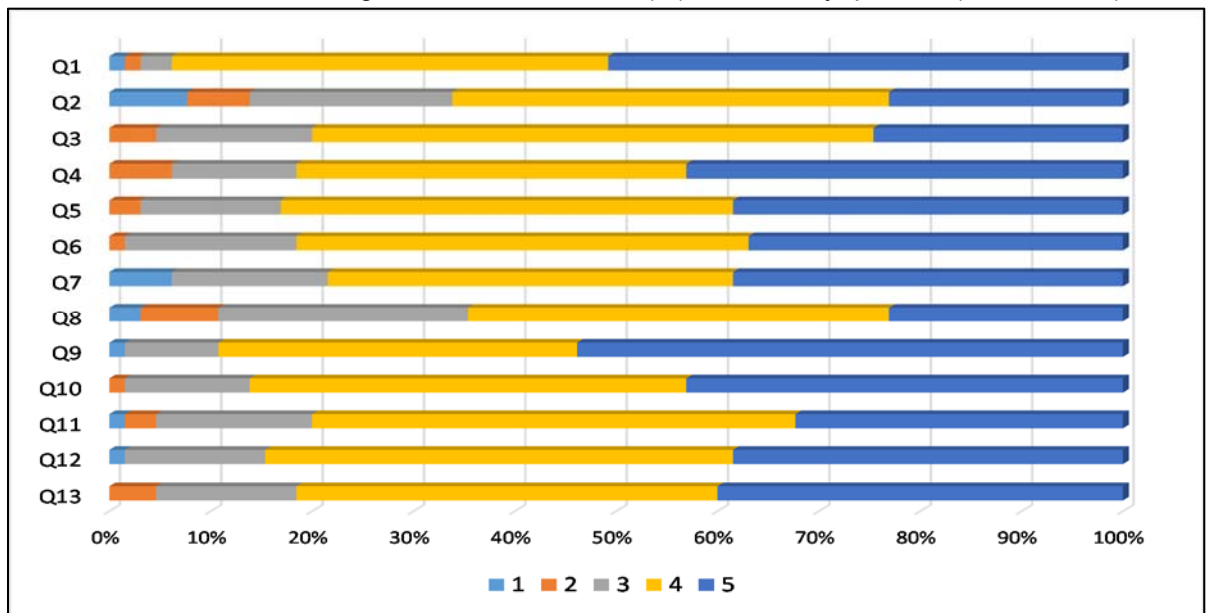
In total, 65 questionnaires for the course surveys were received, representing a 43% response rate. The largest number of responses in terms of the number of students was in the "Data Visualization ..." course with 69.2% of questionnaires received and in "Modernization of production ..." with 57.9%.

In their replies to the questionnaire (Table 8 and Chart 2), a substantial majority of attendees expressed satisfaction with the courses. This can be seen in responses to the general evaluation question, "Global satisfaction with the course", with a mean of 4.2 and median and mode values of 4.

Table 8. Q2016 Training Courses - Data analysis of the evaluation survey (sum of participants in all the courses)

Question	% Highest scores (4+5)	Mean	S.D.	Median	Mode
Q1- Course organization	93,8	4,40	0,77	5	5
Q2- Classroom conditions	66,2	3,68	1,13	4	4
Q3- Course duration	80,0	4,00	0,77	4	4
Q4- Course schedule	81,5	4,18	0,88	4	5
Q5- Knowledge acquired	83,1	4,18	0,79	4	4
Q6- Methodology used for the intended objectives	81,5	4,17	0,76	4	4
Q7- Teaching materials (documentation)	78,5	4,05	1,05	4	4
Q8- Educational media (exercises, case studies)	64,6	3,74	1,00	4	4
Q9- Pedagogical capabilities of the professor	89,2	4,40	0,79	5	5
Q10- Compliance with the course objectives	86,2	4,28	0,74	4	5
Q11- Application of content to their professional work	80,0	4,06	0,86	4	4
Q12- Global satisfaction of the course	84,6	4,20	0,79	4	4
Q13- Fulfilling the course expectation	81,5	4,17	0,84	4	4
TOTAL ANSWERS	80,8	4,12	0,89	4	4

Chart 2. Q2016 Training Courses - Distribution (%) of scores by question (total courses)



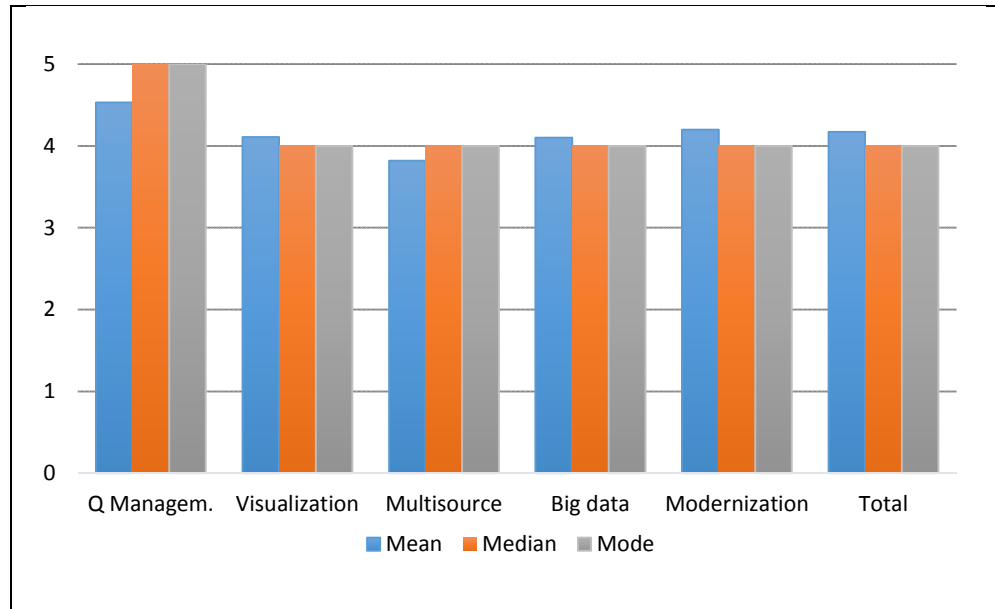
The most highly rated aspects were:

- "Course organization" (Question 1) with a mean of 4.4, reaching both the median as mode, the highest score of 5. Moreover, it is the question with the largest percentage of higher scores (4+5): 93.8% of total answers.
- "Pedagogical capabilities of the lecturer"(Question 1), with a mean of 4.40 and also with the maximum values (5) in the median and the mode. Percentage of highest scores is also remarkable: 89.2% of total answers.
- "Compliance with the course objectives" (Question 1) with a mean of 4.28, median of

4 and mode of 5, with the percentage of highest scores of 86.2%.

Chart 3 shows the statistical indicators for the different courses in comparison to the total figures.

Chart 3: Statistical indicators for Q13 "Global satisfaction with the course"



Those opinions are also reflected by the answers to the open question: "Please feel free to let us know any comments or suggestions you might have". Although the number of responses was relatively reduced (just only 21 out 65 respondents) some aspects could be underlined:

- The need of "more practical hands-on exercises" and more interaction of the participants in the courses (7 responses).
- Lack of room facilities (4 respondents)
- Positive evaluation of the lecturers, in 3 responses.
- The course should be extended by at least two days (3 respondents).
- Other comments on the organization and lecturers (4 respondents).

6. Final comments: lessons learned for future conferences

As results of the previous analysis it follows that the overall assessment of the Conference was very positive for most of the participants to the Conference. Different tools implemented for assessing the conference also provided us a complete evaluation of the different aspects of the conference.

As a summary, we would like to underline in this section some lessons learned from the Q2016 exercise that could be considered as suggestions for future conferences.

Overall organization

- Some of the participants at the conference highlighted the need to extend the deadline of the Conference in particular regarding the Programme with the aim of, planning participation at the Conference more effectively².
- There were some opinions regarding the high cost of the registration fee to the conference. In future editions of the Conference it could / would be useful to offer different fees according to attendee. (Eg. To reduce fees for students or people from remote areas).
- The limitation of facilities at the site of the Conference had a negative impact on the participants. Aspects such as the availability of a Wi FI connectivity throughout the whole site are crucial in any field of activity and also in this type of events.
- A special mention is the app designed for mobile devices. The use of this application in this event is a novelty with regard to previous editions. However, different problems arose during the conference which would have to be taken into account in future conferences. On the one hand, problems arisen from the limited Wi FI at the conference site; on the other hand, the short time period available close to the celebration of the Conference for testing the application affected the use of this tool. A broader dissemination of this application before the conference, would be an objective for future editions.
- Closed linked to the above, a suggestion for future conferences is that the improvement of those technical aspects and facilities have to be oriented to provide the networking of participants; these aspects were mentioned by some respondents in the questionnaire.

Organization of the Programme and development of the sessions

The following issues, merging form the opinions of the attendees, are common in almost every scientific Conference:

- Which is the appropriate number of sessions running in parallel? In the Q2016 there were five sessions in every time slot (one special session plus four multi-paper sessions). Although it is true that a great number of sessions ran in parallel, reducing them would face several problems: on the one hand, lack of time, given that this kind of Conference could not overrun three days (four if the previous day of the training courses

² It is worth mentioning that the organization of Q2016 has been faced with a relevant problem: this edition has been organized with less time than previous editions.

are included); if this time constraint is accepted, reducing number of parallel sessions would imply to reduce the total number of accepted papers.

- Another question regards the organization and duration of each time slot. There seems to be a consensus that ideally each time-slot should be 1.5 hours. Some participants at the conference suggested restricting the number of papers per session to 4 as a maximum. Along these lines, the distribution of time would be: 1 hour for the 15 minutes presentations of the 4 papers, and half an hour for the discussion. Also in this situation the lack of items and / or the reduction of the number of papers of the conference is an issue that needs to be carefully examined.

- Another issue regards which is the adequate moment for the debate and discussion about papers: "after each paper" vs. "at the end of all presentations" - as in the Q2016-. Discussion following each presentation would ensure the initial agility of the session. It would also however, necessitate distributing the half hour of discussion among the papers and would run the risk of eliminating necessary time for discussion for the last papers presented in each session.

Evaluation tools

The main tool for evaluating this kind of events is still today the Satisfaction Survey. These tools face a recurrent problem: How to balance the needs of information needed with the respondent burden linked to detailed surveys.

Regarding the Q2016' Satisfaction Survey, that balance was made and also the balance in the distribution of questions, with the aim of covering the needs of information on two main aspects for assessing the conference: the scientific content (the main issue of a conference) and its organization. Some suggestions arise from the Q2016 experience:

- In future conferences, the questionnaire should include general questions such as the respondent's 'perception on the fulfilment of their conference expectation.
- An additional suggestion for next conferences consists of the design of a standardized questionnaire (almost some core questions), enabling comparisons of different editions over time.
- Another issue (usual in the surveys) is how to deal with the (usually) low response rate. There are procedures for facing this problem, such as the one used in this Survey Q2016: online survey, fast and easy to fill-in...Even so, it is necessary developing new tools to motivate people to answer the questionnaires.
- App for mobile devices could play an important role in the future. In fact, it is easy for the attendees to use this during the sessions and send feedback and opinions simultaneously. This possibility was considered in the app but finally it was not viable, for the above- mentioned reasons. This option would be a basic improvement for the next conference.
- As regards the Chair reports, it would be necessary for next editions of the conference to prepare an electronic version of the Chair report and to provide a form to fill it in and submit directly on-line.

Annexes.

Annex 1. Programme and number of participants in each session

Annex 2. Conference evaluation form

Annex 3. Conference satisfaction survey: Selected responses to the open questions.

Annex 4. Session Chair's form

Annex 5. Session Chair's Report: Selected responses to the Open question

Annex 6. Training courses' evaluation form

Annex 1. Programme and number of participants in each session.

Time slot	Course/ Session title	No. Attendees
<u>Tuesday 31 May 2016 (Training Courses)</u>		
09:00-17:00	1. Quality management in statistics – a path for implementation	40
	2. Data Visualization for the Communication of Official Statistics	26
	3. Multisource Statistics: Quality and Statistical Methods	30
	4. Big data for official statistics: Applications of machine learning for statistical production	36
	5. Modernization of production systems in Official statistics (CSPA)	19
<u>Wednesday 1 June 2016</u>		
09:00-10:30	Fernando de Rojas - "Plenary Session 1 (Opening): "Producing Good Quality Official Statistics: A Shared Experience"	360
11:00-12:30	Fernando de Rojas - SPECIAL SESSION: Peer Reviews: A Tool to Enhance Trust in European Statistics?	88
	Columnas - Enterprise Architecture in Statistical Offices	87
	Antonio Palacios - Quality Improvement Methods in Household Surveys	69
	Valle Inclán - Quality Challenges in Social Statistics: Preserving Privacy and other Issues	38
	Ramón Gómez de la Serna - Administrative Data: Cross-Cutting Issues	98
13:10-13:55	Columnas - Speed Talk Session 1	76
	Antonio Palacios - Speed Talk Session 2	42
14:00-15:30	Fernando de Rojas - Quality Management and Governance	58
	Columnas - SPECIAL SESSION: Big Data and Official Statistics: Challenges and Opportunities	180
	Antonio Palacios - Peer Review: Learning from Countries Experiences	50
	Valle Inclán - Quality Indicators	70
	Ramón Gómez de la Serna - Integrated Production and Quality	30
16:00-17:30	Fernando de Rojas - SPECIAL SESSION: The Statistics Code of Practice for the ENP South Countries	46
	Columnas - Quality Management Systems 1	88
	Antonio Palacios - Business Register	43
	Valle Inclán - Models & Early Estimates	60
	Ramón Gómez de la Serna - Enhancing Statistical Literacy	53
17:35-18:20	Columnas - Speed Talk Session 3	64
	Antonio Palacios - Speed Talk Session 4	48

<u>Thursday 2 June 2016</u>		
09:30-11:00	Fernando de Rojas - Coordination of Statistical System	84
	Columnas - SPECIAL SESSION: Competence Management in Statistics	56
	Antonio Palacios - Satisfying User's Needs: Communication	68
	Valle Inclán - Methodology: Linkage and Modelling	65
	Ramón Gómez de la Serna - Quality Assessment & Audits	79
11:30-13:00	Fernando de Rojas - Quality Reporting	87
	Columnas - Multi-Source Statistics	69
	Antonio Palacios - SPECIAL SESSION: Governance and Coordination of the National Statistical Systems in the Enlargement and ENP-East countries	37
	Valle Inclán - Human Resources Development: A Quality Culture	46
	Ramón Gómez de la Serna - Big Data Oriented Systems	120
14:30-16:00	Fernando de Rojas - Administrative Data Systems	77
	Columnas - SPECIAL SESSION: Synergies for Europe's Research Infrastructures in the Social Sciences and Official Statistics	62
	Antonio Palacios - Macroeconomics	45
	Valle Inclán - Quality Management Systems 2	49
	Ramón Gómez de las Serna - Metadata Systems	65
16:30-17:30	Fernando de Rojas - Plenary Session 2: "Quality of Statistical Processes and Outputs and Quality Assurance"	320
<u>Friday 3 June 2016</u>		
08:30-10:00	Fernando de Rojas - SPECIAL SESSION: Quality of International Statistics. The Challenges for International Statistics at Global, National and Local Levels	71
	Columnas - Methodology: Sampling/Non-Sampling Errors & Calibration	51
	Antonio Palacios - Data Collection & Burden Respondent	71
	Valle Inclán - Big Data & Web Scraping	81
	Ramón Gómez de las Serna - Integrated Production & Business Process Model	53
10:15-11:30	Fernando de Rojas - SPECIAL SESSION: Opportunities and Challenges for Quality of Official Statistics-The Future of the ESS Code of Practice	133
	Columnas - Data Collection: Cross-Cutting Issues	48
	Antonio Palacios - Satisfying User's Needs: Dissemination	65
	Valle Inclán - Administrative Data: Topic Oriented	30
	Ramón Gómez de la Serna - Quality Management Systems	44
11:30-12:45	Fernando de Rojas - Plenary Session 3 (Closing). Panel Session: "	340

Annex 2. Conference evaluation form.

PREVIOUS TO THE CONFERENCE

1. Organization and planning of the conference
2. Previous information received before the conference
3. Web page of the conference
4. Conference APP
5. Registration and accommodation system

DURING THE CONFERENCE

6. Conference venue
7. Quickness in the accreditation process and indicative signage
8. Conference and Courtesy material
9. Attention received by the staff of the organization
10. Quality and comfort of the venue installations (equipment, meeting rooms, WIFI, Audio Visual)
11. Congress Secretariat and Slide Center
12. Attention to people with specific needs (special food requirements)
13. Social Activities (welcome reception, touristic visits, official dinner)
14. Catering Services (coffee-break, lunch and refreshments)

ABOUT THE CONTENT

15. Scientific programme content
16. Plenary Sessions (opening, plenary and closing sessions)
17. Parallel sessions
18. Speed sessions
19. Tell us what sessions you found more interesting? Why? -
20. In your opinion, the scientific programme was balanced regarding the topics? Which topics are not in the programme and you would like to have next conference?

SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO SPEAKERS

21. Was it easy to do the administration process (abstract submission).
22. Abstract confirmation process

Annex 3. Conference satisfaction survey: Selected responses to the open questions.

a) Q19. Tell us what sessions you found more interesting? Why?

1	About Big Data because it is a new subject for Official Statistics.
2	Administrative data sources.
3	Administrative data, because it is related to my work.
4	All session related to big data were interesting
5	All sessions attended were interesting, though technical papers were sometimes not well enough presented, due to the short time for presentations. I would prefer less papers, with more time for presentation, and discussion directly after each presentation.
6	All sessions having dealt with big data.
7	All sessions which I attended, were interesting. Thanks
8	All the sessions I assisted to were interesting, though some of the presentations more than others. I especially liked the Closing Plenary session 3
9	All the sessions I attended were well organised, with balanced and good content and it was difficult to choose which one of the parallel sessions to attend. I was very interested in Session 6 Learning from Countries' experience, particularly the experience of Turkey as an enlargement country in the second round of peer reviews. The peer review in B-H is planned for the 2nd quarter of 2017 so we were interested to hear how Turkey, as an enlargement country, implemented it.
10	All sessions were interesting, different topics and formats but all of them were useful
11	Almost was good.
12	Answer to the question 10 is so bad because it was almost impossible to log in to wifi network.
13	Attendance to only two: multisource-statistics and admin. data
14	Big Data , Administrative sources
15	Big Data examples
16	Big Data sessions
17	Big Data, Data Visualization, ... They are interesting and current topics
18	Big Data sessions
19	Big Data & Web Scraping
20	Business Register, because it gave us guidelines to improve our work
21	Business register to get know the development in the EGR topic, Integrated Production and Quality and GSBPM to frame out system to the standards.
22	Business register, satisfying user's need : communication, quality management system 2, quality assessment: audit
23	Data collection as there are very rare occasions to discuss this very important issue from national perspective; big data because this is new challenge for NSIs and it is very valuable to exchange our experiences and views; CoP as it is important to hear different views to which extent it should be adapted.
24	Due to my job specifications, I found sessions on the cop and peer reviews more interesting.
25	Due to responsibility to census, I was interesting sessions and presentation about census and sessions about architecture system and integration.
26	ESGAB session - high profile
27	Enhancing Statistical Literacy. It summarizes the Challenges for the profession's future.
28	For me especially interesting were sessions 1, 6, 12, 13, 19, 23, 28, 30.
29	For me, very interesting was the Keynote Speech of the Director General of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, Ms. Genoveva Ruzic. Very useful session was the Peer Reviews session: A Tool to Enhance Trust in European Statistics and Learning from countries experiences.
30	Found the speed sessions very successful. Key messages were communicated quickly and to the point. Also found the closing panel discussion on the Code of Practice very insightful, although there should have been more time for discussion.

31	Future competence, Key note sessions. Wifi did not work!
32	Human Resources Development: A Quality Culture - it was great at all!!!
33	I attended big data and administrative data sessions mostly and they were to my interest. It is nice to hear and see what other colleagues have done in the subjects. I am waiting for the presentations and papers to come to the website of the conference.
34	I attended just a few, the one about Big Data was very good.
35	I found most interesting sessions about Big data, it was very fresh, on the wave topic with nice presentations and experiments implemented in countries
36	I found the Satisfying User Needs: Communications session most interesting. There was lots of information directly relevant to the work I do and new ideas presented. I also was able to make contacts where I could share innovations in my own work with the presenters.
37	I found the sessions on Big Data interesting because it is a hot topic and one of increasing importance to government statistical agencies.
38	I found the speed talk sessions particularly engaging. The presentations were lively, brief and informative. If you were interested in a topic - further detail could be obtained later from the presenters or their papers.
39	I found very interesting the sessions related to big data and web scrapping, as well as those related to satisfying user's needs.
40	I like the speed sessions. They provided enough information to get a taste of the work but kept the sessions moving. In the heat, this was a good thing to keep attendees attention.
41	I very much enjoyed the topical discussions with other NSI's and found the Q & A at the end of each session very useful.
42	I want to say about all topics was very interesting. For me was more interesting sessions - Quality Indicators, Quality Management Systems, Quality Assessment and Audit, Quality Reporting, Metadata Systems, Integrated Production and Business process Model, Satisfying user's needs: Dissemination. Why? - Because I work in the Quality management and metadata department and all these topics have relations to my job
43	Inaugural and final sessions and also sessions related with administrative data because that's my working area.
44	It is difficult to say, since there were too many sessions in parallel, and one could not attend those of interest. Sometimes I regretted to have attended some sessions that resulted less interesting than expected, instead of others. There were many papers misplaced in the session that limited the quality of the sessions themselves.
45	Lecture coming from Portugal on register of buildings and dwellings. The concept of the presentation was very informative, in 10 minutes many things were covered. The presenter had very good presentation skills, and had sense for the time and how to retell story in an interesting way. His presentation was a sugar of the session.
46	Number 27 and 1. Interesting for my job
47	PEER REVIEWS, Because of that external audit is much better than the external audit as well as a comparison between the dos and statistics and other private European
48	Plenary sessions and Quality Management sessions were all very relevant and provided useful insights on the state of the art in quality assurance.
49	Quality evaluation, labelling, indicators
50	Quality assessment and audit, administrative data, user engagement - as the topics directly relate to my work. My lower mark for speed sessions wasn't because of the design - I really like the idea, but more because most people weren't very good at delivering an impactful presentation in 5 mins. The chairing of it was very good. It's worth sticking with the approach as I think people will get better at it having gone through it once.
51	Quality in Official Statistics / because it touches the origin of my work

52	Quality management systems, peer reviews and organic data. Probably I paid more attention to them because, now, we are at the moment when we want to start implementing the quality management systems and to start the preparations for the next round of peer review.
53	Quality management, as it is my main concern at my current work
54	Session about the data collection, because it was concrete and it presented applications that are in production
55	Session on administrative data.
56	Session on models and early estimates. It's more applied than other sessions.
57	Session 3 (Quality Challenges in Social Statistics) because the main focus of the session was the protection of privacy and sensitive data. Session 15 (Methodology: Linkage and Modeling) which included interesting presentations, and in particular the one by the people from Statistics Estonia.
58	Session 4, because this session included presentations which were good. That means that the presentation started right away with interesting contents. Many other sessions had good, but also unfortunately bad presentations. Meaning that the presentation started very generally and sometimes with an historical overview (not really interesting) and then the time limit comes and then the most interesting part is skipped because of the time constraint. I also liked the session where only 4 speakers... Because 12 minutes are very short and were 4 speakers were, the presentation wasn't cut in the middle of the interesting stuff and more time could be invested in the presentation.
59	Session 12 and Session 19
60	Session 18: multi-source statistics. Because there were arguments very useful for the future of my work
61	Session 20, because it addressed a very challenging problem (quality of big data and their integration with official statistics).
62	Session 33 - SPECIAL SESSION: Peer Reviews: a tool to enhance trust in European Statistics? 6 - Peer Review: Learning from countries' experiences. 12 - Enhancing Statistical Literacy. 13 - Coordination of Statistical System. 37 - SPECIAL SESSION: Governance and Coordination of the National Statistical Systems in the enlargement and ENP-East countries. 24 - Metadata Systems. 28 - Integrated Production & Business Process Model. 40 - SPECIAL SESSION: Opportunities and challenges for quality of official statistics-the future of the ESS Code of Practice. All the topics were very important from a view point to share experience and study recent developments.
64	Session 34 Big Data
65	Session 34 - Useful and operational; related to core topics that the Italian National Institute of Statistics - Istat is dealing with. Session 12 - Useful and operational; related to core topics that the Italian National Institute of Statistics - Istat is dealing with. Session 36 - The Session's contents were very challenging and well-related one another. The Chair of this Session (Professor Roberta Pace) was very clever and effective; the discussion was very interesting, with useful input for the future tasks. Sessions 18 and 20 - Useful and operational; related to core topics that the Italian National Institute of Statistics - Istat is dealing with... Session 21 - Useful and operational; related to core topics that the Italian National Institute of Statistics - Istat is dealing with. Keynote Plenary Session 2. Session 27 - Useful and operational; related to core topics that the Italian National Institute of Statistics - Istat is dealing with.
66	Sessions about the peer reviews and quality assessments, because it provided some new ideas
67	Sessions on governance, because they relate to my work

68	Sessions on methodological developments and sessions on specific Big Data applications. These sessions provide useful tools to quickly improve quality of statistics, rather than just monitor the quality of statistics.
69	Sessions: Quality Indicators, Enhancing Statistical literacy, Quality Assessment and Audit, Metadata Systems and sessions on Quality Management were most interesting as these are topics which are directly connected the work we do at our office. Thus the knowledge and experience I got at these sessions will help me to improve my experience in this field.
70	Sessions where it was set aside time for interaction with the audience.
71	Sessions 19 and 36: training and competence development is my area of interest
72	Special session 34: Big Data and Official Statistics: Challenges and Opportunities. Reason: It gave an interesting insight into the opportunities of the use of Big Data, but above all it also mentioned the risks and the necessity for a sensitive and careful preparation of the data. Session 15 Methodology: Linkage and modelling; reason: Exchange of experiences on Data Linkage. Session 30 Satisfying User's Needs: Dissemination; reason: It was very interesting to have an insight on the work of Dissemination and the questions that are being addressed when it comes to visualisation and content of dissemination.
73	Special sessions
74	The Big Data Session and the Final Conclusion session. The Final Conclusion session sketched the way forward in the context of the approach to Big Data and the cop.
75	The course on data visualisation
76	The different information obtained during the Conference
77	The most interesting sessions where those on big data and statistical literacy because these are topics that i am working on.
78	The most interesting was session about Big data since this is a quite new challenge for statisticians in whole world.
79	The most interesting topics for me were "Dissemination and Addressing User's Needs", "Satisfying User's Needs: communication", "Enhancing Statistical Literacy". Work with users is a key aspect of the work on improvement of the image and promotion of official statistics. These sessions provided an opportunity to exchange best practices, compare the level of development of statistics of the Republic of Belarus to the level of development of statistics of European countries, and formulate proposals for improvement of the strategy of cooperation with the users in the Republic of Belarus.
80	The opening sessions on Monday and all the sessions on Friday
81	The plenary sessions were of particular interest as they addressed the vision of facing the new challenges in official statistics.
82	The sessions about quality aspects of different data sources (admin data and new big data sources). The special session about opportunities and challenges for quality of official statistics - the future of the ESS code of practice
83	The sessions on Big Data - my interest field
84	The sessions that I found particularly interesting were those connected with the experience of the countries in relation to the peer review exercise. That because I believe that peer reviews are one of the best instruments (if not the best) for the dissemination of good practices (among them, quality)
85	The speed sessions were very interesting as a variety of topics were covered and also key points of each individual topic was summarized and compressed as key takeaways.
86	The topic of Javier Montero "Towards a global education in official statistics". His presentation was excellent! All presentations and speeches of Mariana Kotzeva.
87	The training course - the whole day session enabled the presenter to go into depth on their topic. I also found the presentations on quality indicators very informative.
88	The variety of the topics discussed during the parallel sessions were excellent, provided the opportunity to find what was most interesting for everyone concerns.
89	They were all good and informative
90	Those related to georeferentiation. Because in my organization we are beginning with that issue.

b) Answers to Q20: In your opinion, the scientific programme was balanced regarding the topics? Which topics are not in the programme and you would like to have next conference?

1	A summary of 2-3 main topics at the end of the conference as well as the opportunity to share ideas and information for next conferences
2	All Ok
3	Almost all relevant topics were covered by the programme.
4	Balance seemed fine to me
5	Considering the wide variety of topics which come under quality, I think the programme was balanced. In future I would like to see a bit more on respondent burden, and how we can seek to minimise this, as well as reporting on it.
6	Details on infrastructure
7	European experience about record linkage - probabilistic approach - for admin data
8	For the next Conference, a focus also on: - Standards and standardisation processes with regard to methods and tools: how to facilitate them; - Changes in NSIs on the basis of Modernisation paths; - Dealing with Modernisation within NSIs: evaluating the different impacts.
9	From this point conference was prepared excellent
10	How to do surveys faster
11	I expected that something will be presented about the new statistical model GAMSO, proposed by UN which contains GSBPM.
12	I found it well balanced. Coordination was given a considerable importance, but it is, indeed, an important topic.
13	I think conference program in general was quite comprehensive, as included diverse sessions and was useful for beginners, as well as experienced professionals; also it was useful for methodologists from different subject matter areas as well as for professionals who work on quality on organizational level.
14	I think that the programme was balanced; nonetheless, I would like to see more about environmental statistics and indicators and their use in policy-making.
15	I think the program and the topics were well balanced. The only issue which could be corrected, maybe, is the fact that there were several presentations which I wanted to attend in the same time.
16	I think the scientific programme was appropriate and I missed topics related to the management of the data storage and realise systems.
17	I think was balanced!
18	I thought the scientific program was balanced.
19	I was happy with the programmes range of subjects.
20	I would encourage the presentation of experiences on non-sampling error estimation. Also to have a session on the VIP projects and their contribution to quality would have been interesting. Opening keynote was below the expectations, Closing plenary was excellent.
21	I would like to get more information on assessment of the satisfaction of users with official statistical information and the level of credibility to this information, new approaches for the dissemination of official statistical information through the official website
22	Il would like more practical experience with regard of big data usage for statistical purposes.
23	In my opinion there was too much focus on the monitoring of quality, instead of how to improve quality.

24	It was a pity that so many interesting sessions were held in parallel and hence impossible to attend. Some more sessions on quality management would be useful
25	It was a well-balanced programme, however I did feel that there were too many presentations in each session. Less presentations in the sessions would allow presenters to provide more depth/detail to their presentations. I would like to see topics around quality assurance through statistical risk management at the next conference
26	It was balanced (probably a little more attention on administrative data). I would like to see more about methodological aspects (perhaps modelling techniques or informatics).
27	It would be good if we can see unique innovations that are applied in each agency for their data collection.
28	It would be good to have more technology related sessions (e.g. semantic technologies, machine learning, big data technologies)
29	It would be very interesting and useful to learn more about the specific experience of different Professional Units (and not of Special Quality Unit) within the National Statistical Offices, in implementing the quality assessment processes of the GSBPM.
30	Missing: Sessions relating to emerging needs in specific disciplines, such as within population statistics, within economic statistics or within environmental statistics.
31	More discussions on new modern tools and standards on quality issues.
32	More discussions on work with users and public relations
33	No special comments.
34	None
35	Not many examples
36	Overall happy with the mixed content.
37	Programme was good - presentations not always so. There is a need to emphasise the importance of slides that are suitable for presentation (possible to read, having a message). Keep time limits, and be pointed and clear. A mutual responsibility of all participants!
38	Quality in economic statistics
39	Quite balanced
40	Remark concerning questions 11 & 12: marked "1", because you did not offer "not applicable". I did not make use of the slide center and had no specific needs.
41	Review of quality changes from/after the last conference
42	Some overlapping, but OK. The web questionnaire doesn't work properly...
43	Some presentations, including speed talks, did not fit well with the session topic.
44	Some sessions included very different topics which made it difficult to get stable audience and good discussion
45	Statistical quality control. Maybe I will try to present it in next conference.
46	Surveys: Response vs. Representativity
47	Sustainability of statistics
48	The Conference was well balanced.
49	The program was balanced, the quality of the presentations was different.
50	The scientific programme was balanced regarding the topics.
51	The scientific programme was quite balanced, though some sessions related to some modernisation initiatives within the ESS, other than those related to Big Data - such as integrated Social Statistics, etc. - could have been included.

52	The scientific programme was varied but too full. There were too many sessions, too many papers, too many presentations. It is extremely difficult to have a discussion in depth or that a presentation makes a lasting impression. I would propose that in the future the conference is focused on fewer topics/papers.
53	The topics of the conference was excellent but some session were crowded with presentations
54	There was for some sessions too different presentations with regards to topics. Maybe the invitation was a bit wide. In order to have better discussions the contributions should more or less be about within the same topic.
55	There was too much session about the big data.
56	Time series and it is application.
57	Too much emphasis on IT systems that standardised and/or harmonise, without seeing the explicit link to quality. Hardly any attention for measuring quality, and managing production by quality indicators, too much emphasis on quality output reporting. When talking about quality indicators, there is no attention for the norm-value, when is it good enough?
58	Yes
59	Yes
60	Yes
61	Yes
62	Yes the programme was balanced regarding the topics, and I would like to have next conference.
63	Yes, it was balanced. Big data and statistical literacy
64	Yes, it was balanced.
65	Yes, it was balanced.
66	Yes, it was ok.
67	Yes, it was pretty well balanced. Since I can't write general comments about the conference venue and venue installation, I will do it here. The wifi was sluggish and some days impossible to use. The rooms changed between too hot and too Cold (depending on whether the aircon was on or not). There were no vegetarian options at the lunch buffet. Finally, let there be coffee and tea in the morning before the programme Begins!
68	Yes, it was.
69	Yes, it was. Sorry but I find nothing more to add on it.
70	Yes, the topics were appropriate regarding the current questions on quality we are facing

Session Chair's Report

Note: As a Session Chair, you are requested to fill this brief Report immediately after your session is over and give it to the conference staff.

Session Number/ Name:

Were all the assigned papers to the sessions presented? (Tick ✓) ☐ YES ☐ NO

If "No", which were NOT presented? _____

In your views, how were the papers received by the audience overall? (Tick ✓)

☐ ☐

Hardly any
discussion
occurred.

☐ ☐

There was discussion
only around 1 or 2
papers.

☐ ☐

All papers were well
received.

☐ ☐

All papers were
exceptionally well
received.

Could we request you to provide us your feedback on the overall session: Could you kindly summarise some of the session's main messages?

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•

•

Do you have any suggestion on how the sessions could be improved in future conferences?
(You may write on the back side if necessary)

**** We would like to extend our sincere thanks to you for chairing this session****

Annex 5. Session Chair's Report: Selected responses to the Open question

The session was representative of the different perspective involved in enterprise architecture: 1) Strategy; 2) Business; 3) IT. One central point of discussion was the value and how to approach EA: should we it piece focusing on benefits or having a large coordinated approach. The debate is open but experiences tend to privilege the former.
Quality management as overarching framework; Focus on process
Change of paradigm in statistical production,
Audits = as an important part of PDCA with integrated improvement actions implementations; Audits = as a very powerful tool for assessing the quality of process-products; Audit= as an important tool for system-level recommendations (improvements= supporting an integrated approach to production according to e.g GSBPM).
A number of first approaches to BD + official statistics presented. - There is a need to gain experience with BD issues; - It is necessary to include data scientists in projects. - It will be necessary to develop methods to deal with information from different sources. There is an issue of selecting data from available offers' - QI are needed for new data sources like big data.
New challenges for Q assessment: - Mainstreaming use of adm. data requires revision of quality assessment tools. - Leading indicators to satisfy demand of policy makers; - Compilation of SDGs. - Macroeconomics
Performance management = measurement performance- very important issue helps decision making at survey level. Recommendations of the OECD. Impact to the statistical environment. Mission and vision quality declarations should not be only written in books....They should be implemented and checked! Be truthful with commitments on quality assurance!
Official statistics need to find a common way to communicate quality to users in that way the users can evaluate.
It is needed to work on more user-friendly approach of quality reports.
Importance of coaching-organised and fully hedge; Smoothing work across the survey cycle => programmed exercise improvement of staff in the change; A new role for managers - boost motivation; Need for creating global value - creating flow and important of teams as working cells; Importance of relations science/society/statistics (belong to the same communities); Need of networks.
Competence needs should be mapped very well within NSI.
Flexible competence systems are needed also in order to represent new skills.
Quality management systems can only implemented with a strategy for integrating the staff.

LEVEL OF SATISFACTION

1. Unsatisfactory | 2. Standard | 3. Satisfactory | 4. Good | 5. Excellent

Course you attended:

ORGANIZATION

- 1- Course organization
- 2- Classroom conditions
- 3- Course duration
- 4- Course schedule

TRAINING ACTIVITY

- 5- Knowledge acquired
- 6- Methodology used for the intended objectives
- 7- Teaching materials (documentation)
- 8- Educational media (exercises , case studies)
- 9- Pedagogical capabilities of the professor

OVERALL EVALUATION

- 10-Compliance with the course objectives
- 11-Application of content to their professional work
- 12-Global satisfaction of the course
- 13-Fulfilling the course expectation

Please feel free to let us know any comments or suggestions you might have:

