

25th International Population Conference Tours, 2005



Evaluation

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Introduction

The 25th International Population Conference, organised by the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) and the French National Organizing Committee (NOC), took place in Tours, France, from 18 to 23 July 2005. Over 2,100 population specialists from 108 different countries and representing 119 different nationalities attended the Conference, of which 1,826 were officially registered with the IUSSP. The additional participants were invited by the NOC as institutional partners of the Conference, participants to the European Population Day or journalists.

The IUSSP decided to carry out an evaluation of this Conference, as it had done for the Conference that took place in Bahia, Brazil, in 2001, by asking participants to fill in a questionnaire after the meeting. The main purpose of this evaluation is to prepare a successful International Population Conference in 2009, retaining what appeared to be successful for this Conference and ameliorating those aspects that were less successful. Preferences for the dates and duration of the next Conference were also investigated.

The evaluation questionnaire was sent by Internet in October 2005, in the three official languages used at the Conference (English, French and Spanish), to all the registered participants for whom the IUSSP had accurate Internet addresses, which amounted to approximately 1,600 participants. The IUSSP received completed questionnaires from 422 participants, which represents a response rate of over 25%, considerably higher than the response rate for the evaluation of the Bahia Conference (800 questionnaires sent out, 129 returned). In general respondents answered all questions in the questionnaire. Throughout this evaluation report, all the graphs presented are based on the total population of respondents ($n = 422$), except when specified otherwise.

Although the respondents may not faithfully represent the views of the majority of participants at the Conference, it remains, with 422 participants, large enough to draw significant conclusions from the data. Furthermore, the respondents are comparable for many of the demographic criteria with the participants registered for the Conference.

General conclusions and recommendations

This evaluation indicates that the 25th International Population Conference was a major success. Assessment of the various features of the Conference was overwhelmingly positive and, most importantly, the evaluation shows that a vast majority of the respondents were satisfied with the scientific quality of the Conference. Many other features that have to do with the way the Conference was organised appear to have been appreciated by most of the respondents: these include the Conference website, the printed documents, and the registration process.

The evaluation also highlights some aspects that were instrumental in ensuring that the Conference was a success and ought to be maintained:

- Funding by IUSSP and French NOC allowed many people to participate in the Conference who would otherwise not have been able to. The focus on data concerning those who received IUSSP and French NOC funding shows that their assessment of the scientific quality of the Conference was more positive than the rest of the respondents, an indication that they benefited from and valued the experience.
- Debate sessions were attended by most of the respondents and a vast majority of them wish to see the IUSSP continue to sponsor them.

A few features, however, require adjustment or improvement:

- Despite the fact that the poor evaluation of the food service owes a lot to an over-representation of European, and especially French respondents, this point cannot be considered trivial. Organisers should make sure that this service is improved for the next Conference.
- This evaluation clearly shows that the translation services were useful. While over two-thirds of the respondents say they understand English correctly, a significant proportion of the respondents cannot understand presentations made in English only; the high level of use of simultaneous translation by many participants indicates that this is a very important service and considerable effort should be put into raising funds to ensure that optimal simultaneous translation is made available for the next Conference.
- A majority of respondents believes that there should be discussants for all sessions.

In addition to the above, planning of the 2009 Conference should also take into account the issue of the size of rooms available for sessions and try to assure that the conference facility will have more large meeting rooms than were available at the Vinci Centre. Inability to attend sessions due to overcrowded rooms was mentioned by many respondents. If the IUSSP Council chooses to organise a Conference with as many sessions as were held in Tours, then it needs to assure that the conference facility will have adequate space to accommodate the added numbers of participants who will attend. Criteria other than paper submission numbers, such as the popularity of some speakers or topics should be used to make room assignments.

Finally, planning of the next International Population Conference should take into account the list of topics that respondents felt had been given insufficient attention: international and domestic migration; historical demography, gender issues, urbanisation, ageing in developing countries, HIV/AIDS and child and maternal health; in addition to these topics, issues of theory, methods and data quality were frequently cited, in particular the need for sessions on qualitative and anthropological methods, use of GIS, spatial analyses and remote sensing techniques.

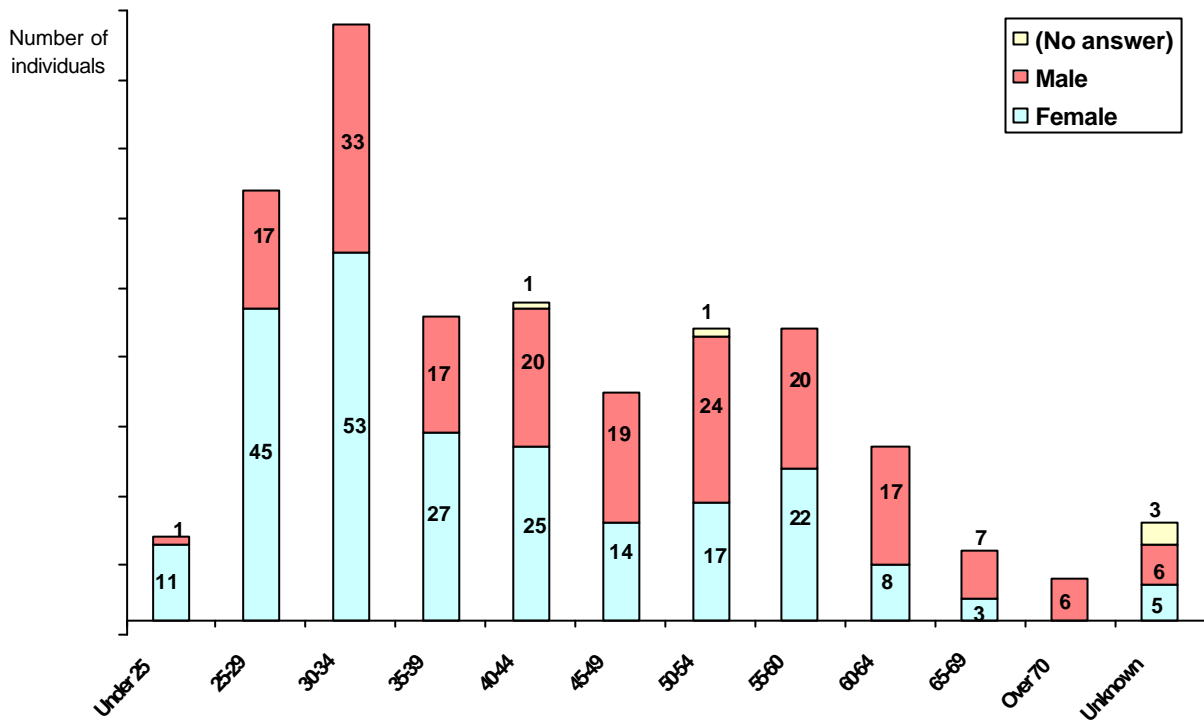
As for the duration of the next Conference, most respondents consider that it should ideally last at least 5 days.

I. Characteristics of the respondents

1/ Sex and age (Questions 31a and 31b):

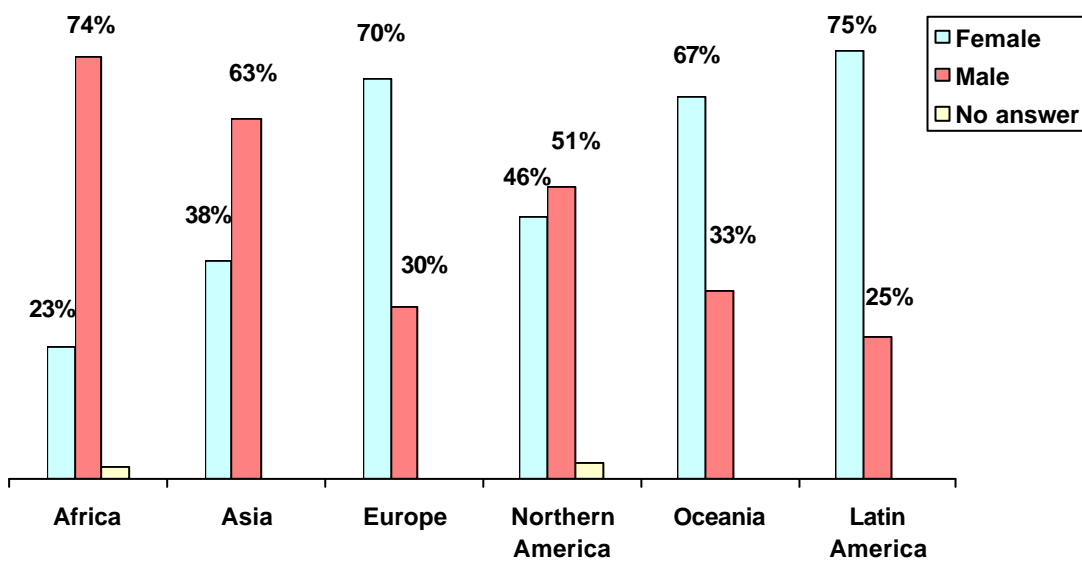
- Women constituted slightly more than half the respondents: 55%.
- Women respondents were significantly younger than men: women comprised 68% of the respondents under 35 years old but only 40% of those aged over 55.

Distribution of respondents by sex and age



- Women respondents make up a large proportion of residents of Europe and Latin America, while they are a small proportion among residents of Africa and Asia.

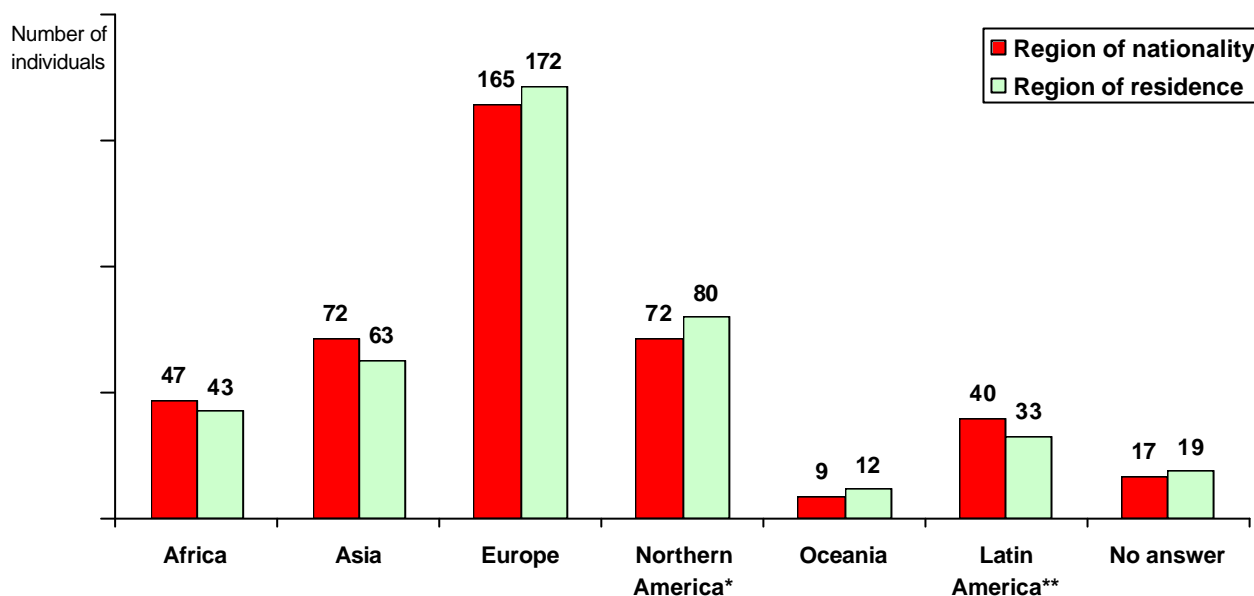
Gender distribution by region of residence



2/ Nationality and region of residence (Questions 32a and 32b)

Respondents of 70 nationalities took part in this evaluation. The figures by nationality show a large proportion of European respondents (165 respondents - 39% of respondents), followed by North Americans and Asians (72 respondents each - 17%), Africans (47 respondents - 11%), Latin Americans (40 respondents - 9%) and people from Oceania (9 respondents - 2%). (There are too few respondents from Oceania for their responses to be considered significant, so throughout this evaluation, no reference will be made to the figures for Oceania.).

Distribution of respondents by region of nationality and by region of residence



(*Northern America consists of Canada and USA; **Latin America includes Mexico and the Caribbean)

The figures by residence are very similar to those by nationality, though they are slightly higher for residents as compared to nationals for Europe and Northern America and slightly lower for Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Indeed, many scholars work and live in foreign countries, especially developing country population specialists who work in developed countries. On the whole, among respondents to this evaluation, 10% of developing country nationals reside in developed countries, while 4% of developed country nationals reside in developing countries.

This explains why, in the following tables, the figures for residence are higher for some developed countries like the United States of America or the United Kingdom than the number of nationals represented. This also explains why there are more Indian and Mexican nationals than there are residents from those countries.

The five countries of residence most represented

Count	Country of Residence
78	France
62	United States of America
25	India
20	United Kingdom
18	Canada

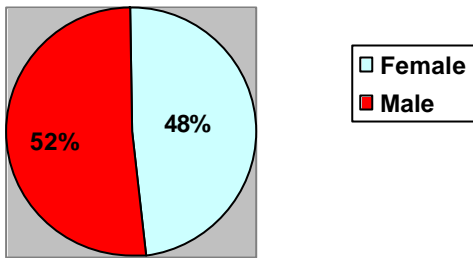
The five nationalities most represented

Count	Country of Nationality
78	France
55	United States of America
32	India
17	Canada
13	Mexico

3/ Comparison of the respondents to Conference participants

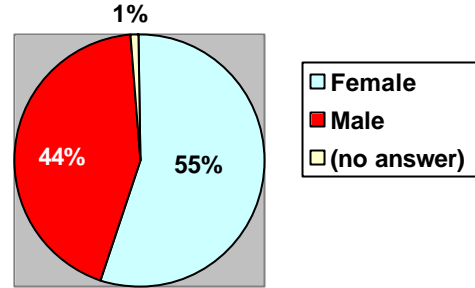
- Women are slightly over-represented among respondents as compared to Conference participants: the gender distribution (M/F) was 52/48 for the registered participants vs. 44/55 for the respondents.

Gender distribution of participants



n = 1826

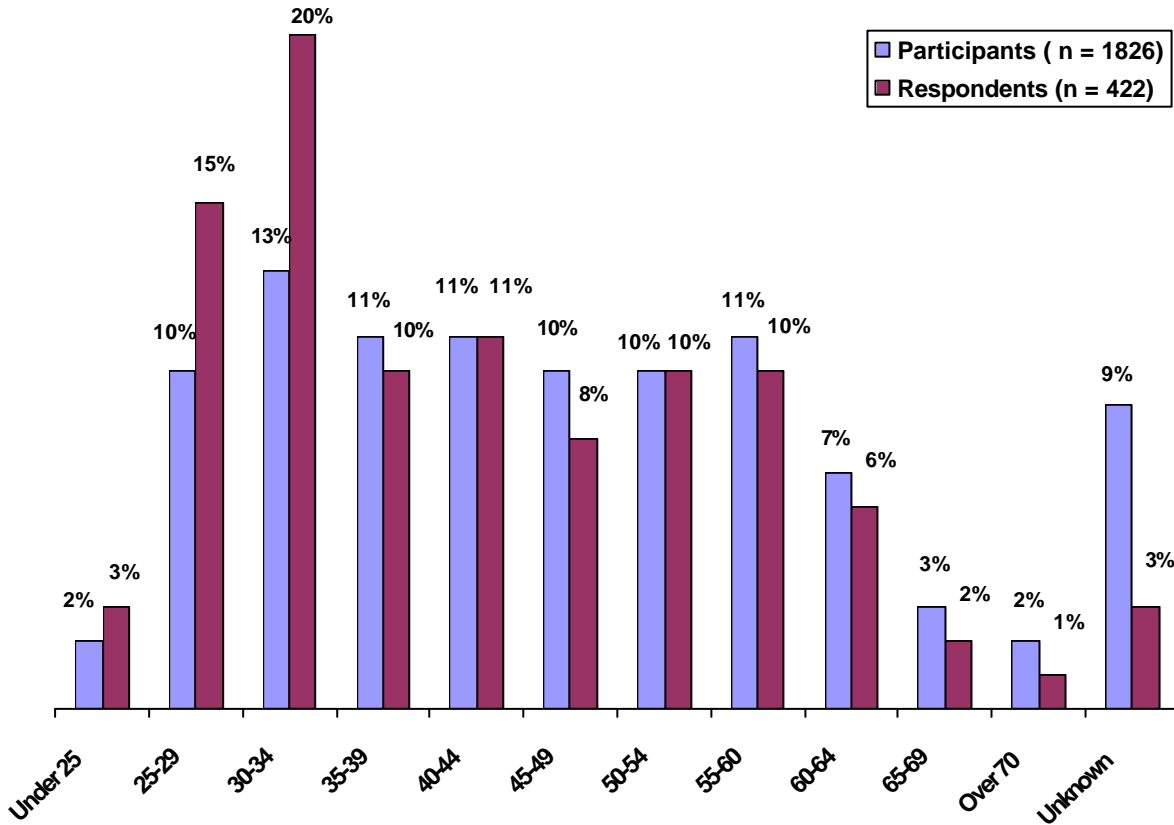
Gender distribution of respondents



n = 422

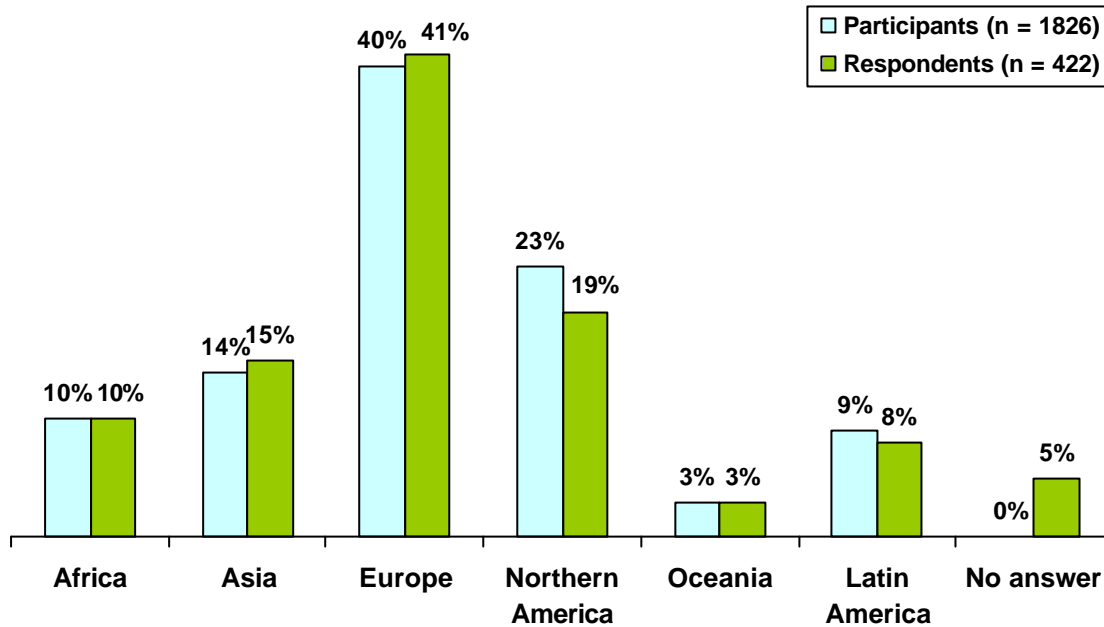
- The age distributions of respondents and participants follow a similar pattern, although younger age groups are over-represented among respondents: 15% vs. 10% for ages 25 to 29, and 20% vs. 13% for ages 30 to 34.

Age distribution of participants and respondents

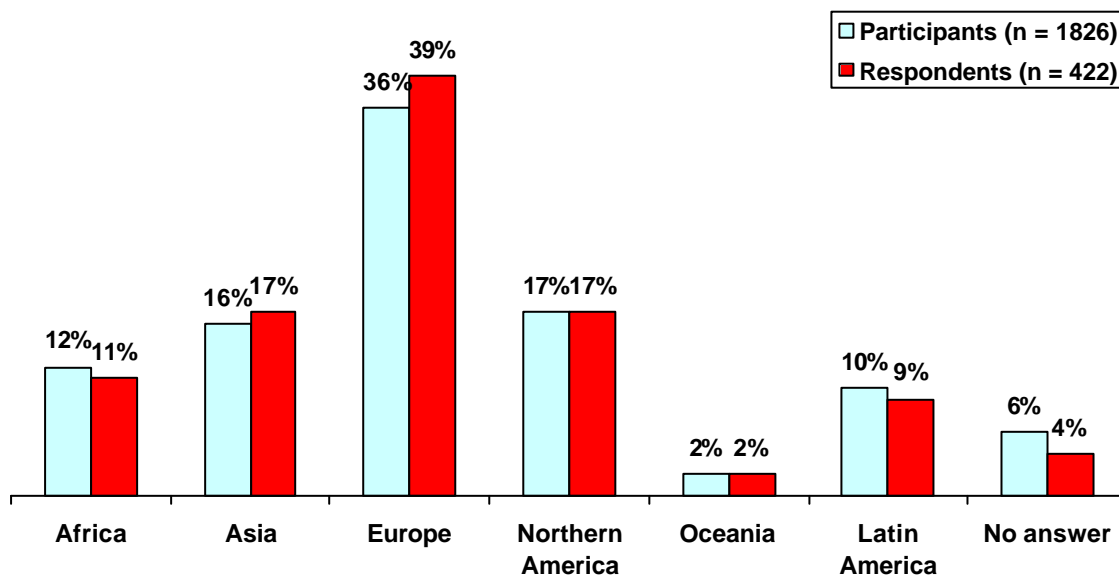


- Distributions of Conference participants and evaluation respondents by country of residence and nationality are roughly comparable. However, residents from Northern America are slightly under-represented among respondents (19% vs. 23% for participants) and European nationals are slightly over-represented among respondents (39% vs. only 36% for participants).

Distribution by region of residence of participants and respondents



Distribution by region of nationality of participants and respondents

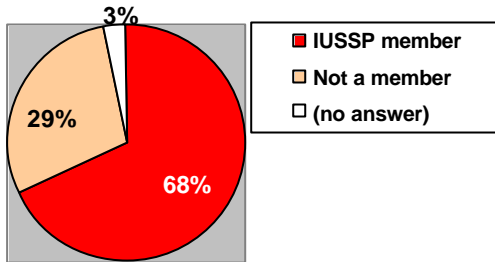


On the whole, the views expressed by the respondents can probably be considered fairly representative of the total population of those who attended the Conference, with a likely over-representation of those participants who were most active in the Conference. With respect to demographic criteria, one should keep in mind for some of the questions in this evaluation that there is a slight over-representation of women, of younger scholars and of European nationals and an under-representation of residents from Northern America.

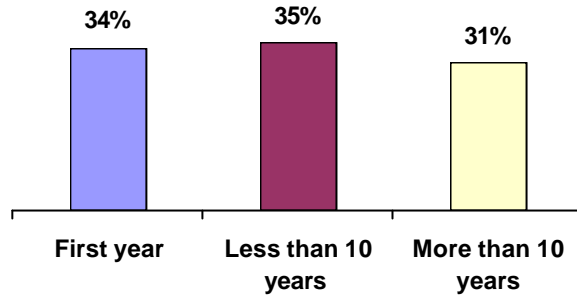
4/ IUSSP membership (Questions 33 and 34):

- IUSSP members made up 64% of participants at the Conference but constituted 68% of the respondents, so they are slightly over-represented among respondents. One third of these IUSSP members have been so for more than a decade, one third for less than a decade, and one third only joined this year in order to attend the Conference.

Proportion of IUSSP members



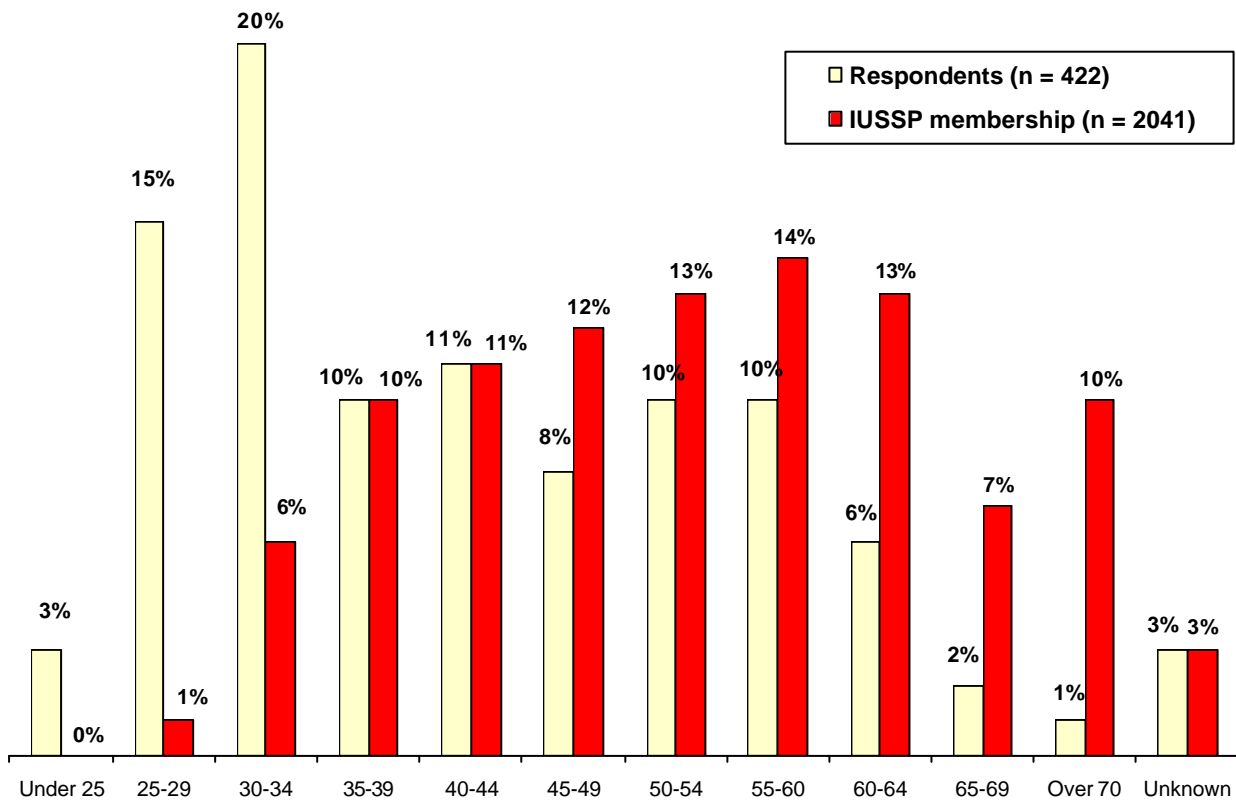
Date of IUSSP membership



Based on the 288 participants who said that they were IUSSP members

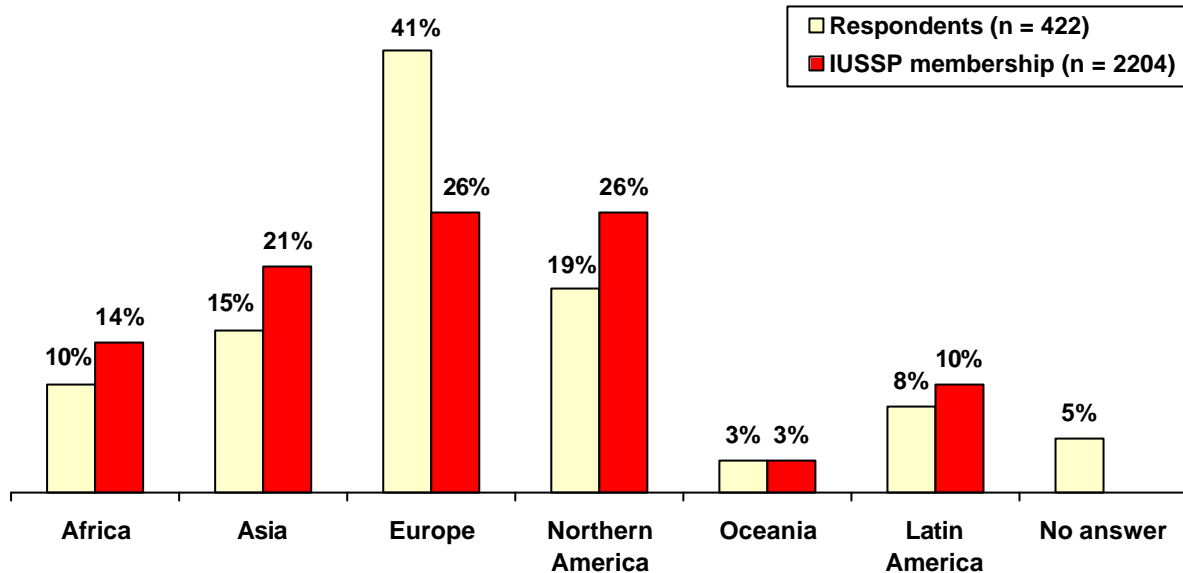
- Though IUSSP members constitute over two-thirds of the respondents, respondents to this evaluation are not at all representative of IUSSP membership: women constitute 55% of the respondents but only 37% of current IUSSP membership. The following graph shows that the age distribution of respondents and membership differ considerably: respondents tend to be far younger than current IUSSP membership.

Age distribution of respondents as compared to current IUSSP membership (January 2006)



- The distribution by region of residence of respondents and of current IUSSP membership do not correspond either: European residents are far more represented among respondents (41%) than in IUSSP membership (26%).

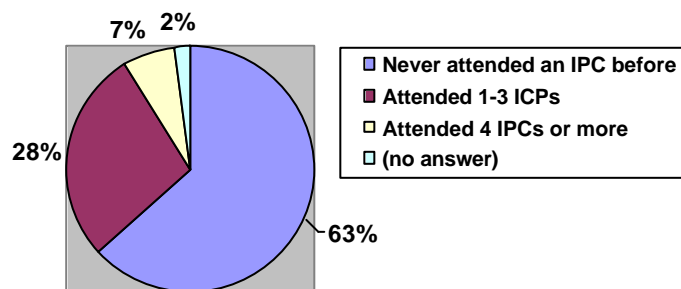
Distribution by region of residence of respondents as compared to current IUSSP membership



5/ Previous attendance at International Population Conferences (Question 35):

For 7% of respondents, this Conference was at least their fifth IUSSP Conference; 28% had attended one to three previous Conferences; but for 63% of respondents, this IUSSP Conference was their first.

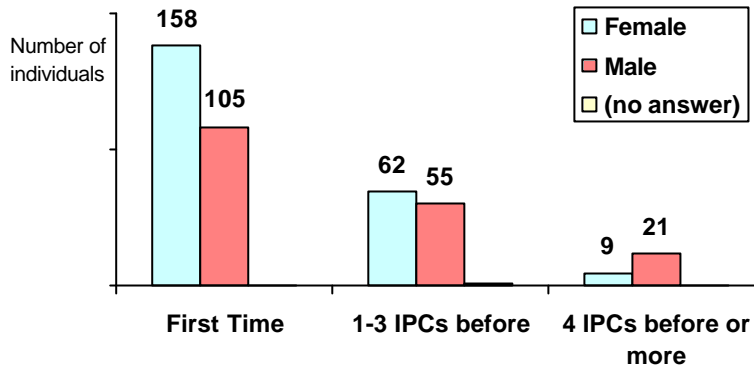
Number of Conferences attended before



It is a very important to keep in mind when reading through this evaluation that nearly two thirds of the respondents had never before attended an IUSSP Population Conference, which means that they are comparing this Conference to other types of meetings or conferences.

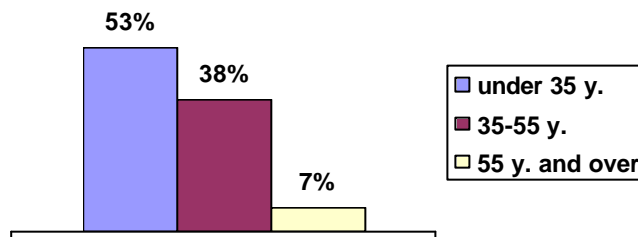
- Three fifths of respondents attending their first IUSSP Conference were women, a larger proportion than for respondents who had attended IUSSP Conferences before.

Previous attendance at IUSSP Conferences by gender



- A majority of respondents attending their first IUSSP Conference were under 35 years old.

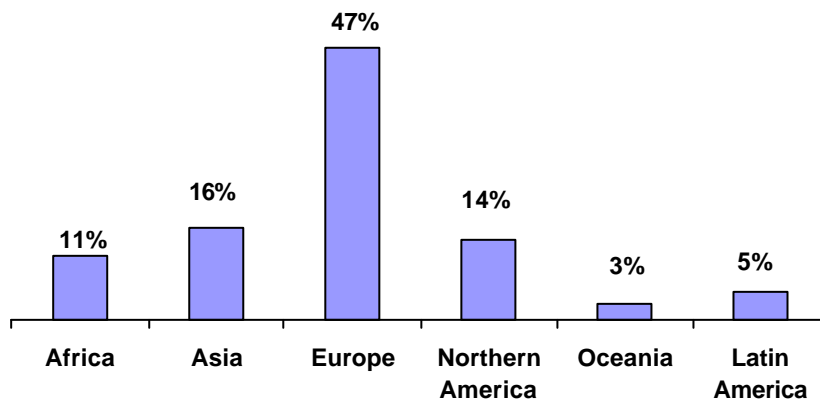
Proportion of each age group among first-timers



Based on the 264 respondents who were attending their first IPC

- Almost half of respondents attending their first IUSSP Conference were European residents.

Region of residence of first-timers



Based on the 264 respondents who were attending their first IPC

II. Level of attendance and participation

1/ Level of attendance (Questions 26, 1, 3, 4, 8, 9)

a) Number of days of attendance:

Three quarters of the respondents stayed at the Conference for at least five days, 17% stayed for 4 days, and 6% stayed for three days or less. However, for this question, we suspect a bias: those who attended every day might be more inclined to respond to an evaluation questionnaire than those who attended only part of the Conference.

b) Number of regular sessions attended each day

Most respondents attended three or four sessions each day (64% of respondents); 26% attended only one or two sessions each day; 9% attended five or more each day.

c) Level of attendance at poster sessions:

Half the respondents attended one or two poster sessions, 40% attended three or more.

d) Number of visits to the exhibition booths

Half the respondents visited the exhibition booths once or twice, 40% visited them three times or more.

e) Number of plenary and debate sessions attended

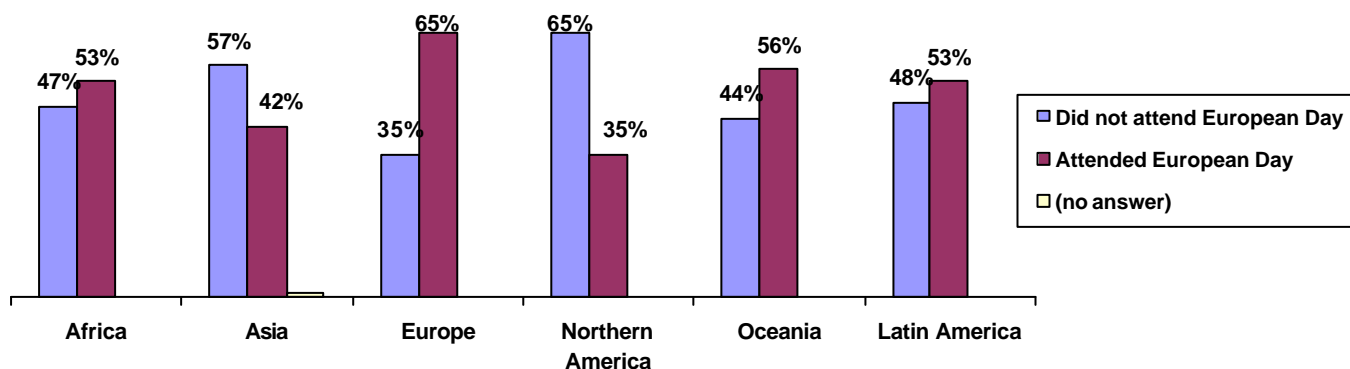
More than half of the respondents attended one or two plenary and debate sessions, 26% attended three or more.

f) Attendance at European Population Day sessions

The International Organising Committee (IOC) decided that the special sessions treating national population issues be scheduled in the middle of the Conference rather than before or following the Conference, as had been done for previous IUSSP Conferences. In addition, the French NOC decided to extend the theme beyond France to include Europe and called the NOC-organised part of the Conference “European Population Day”.

These decisions considerably increased participation: 52% of the respondents attended at least one European Population Day session. The breakdown by region shows that there was a predominance of Europeans (39%) among those who participated in at least one European Population Day session. But the following graph also shows there was significant attendance by residents of other regions. While two thirds of the Europeans attended at least one session of European Population Day and approximately half the respondents in other regions, only one third of North American respondents attended at least one of these sessions. This shows that there is significant interest for the demography of Europe by population specialists from other regions.

Attendance at European Population Day sessions by region of residence

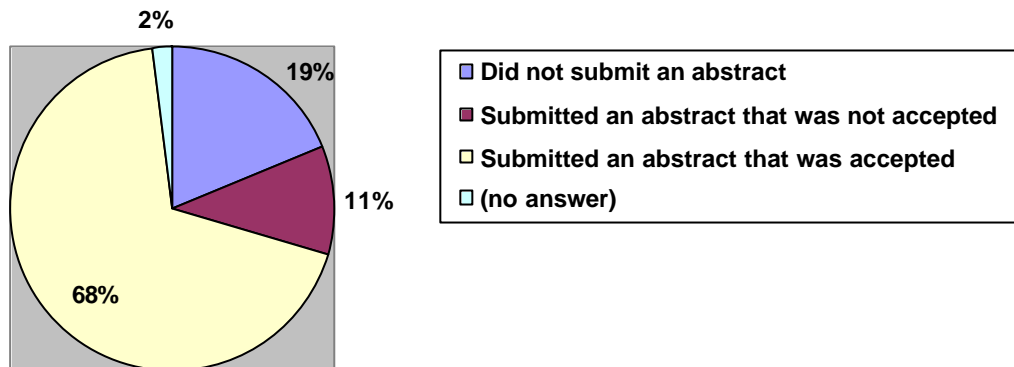


2/ Level of participation (Questions 28, 29, and 30)

a) Submission and acceptance of abstracts

A large proportion of the respondents submitted at least one paper abstract (80%). For 87% of these, their paper was accepted for the scientific programme, which amounts to 68% of the respondents.

Proportion of respondents that submitted an abstract

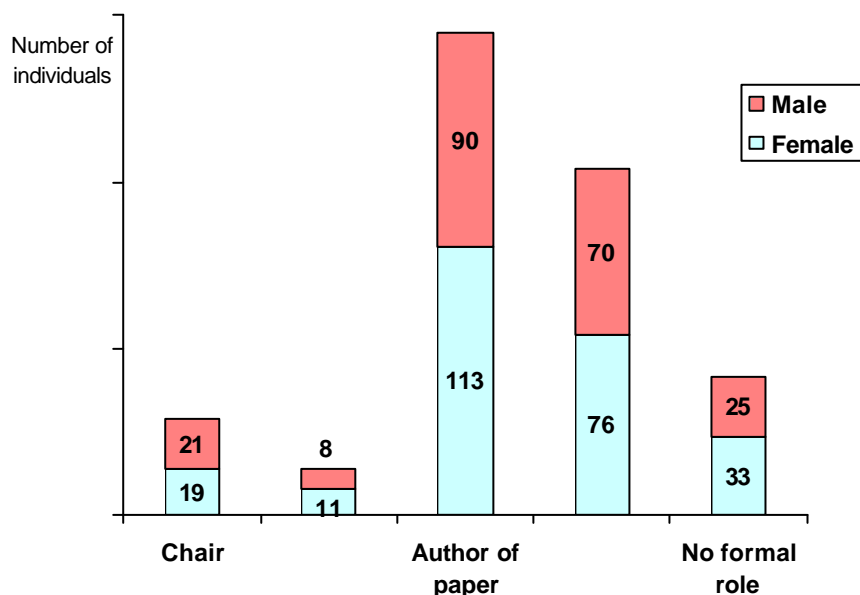


b) Scientific role

All the different roles in the scientific programme are represented among respondents: 40 session chairs (10% of the respondents); 19 session discussants (5% of the respondents); 204 authors or co-authors of scientific papers (48% of the respondents); 147 authors or co-authors of posters (35% of the respondents). A minority (59 respondents - 13%) attended the Conference without having any formal role in the scientific programme. [Respondents could tick more than one role and many respondents had more than one role in the Conference.]

The gender distribution for each of these scientific roles was generally well balanced, with women slightly out-numbering men among authors of papers and abstracts.

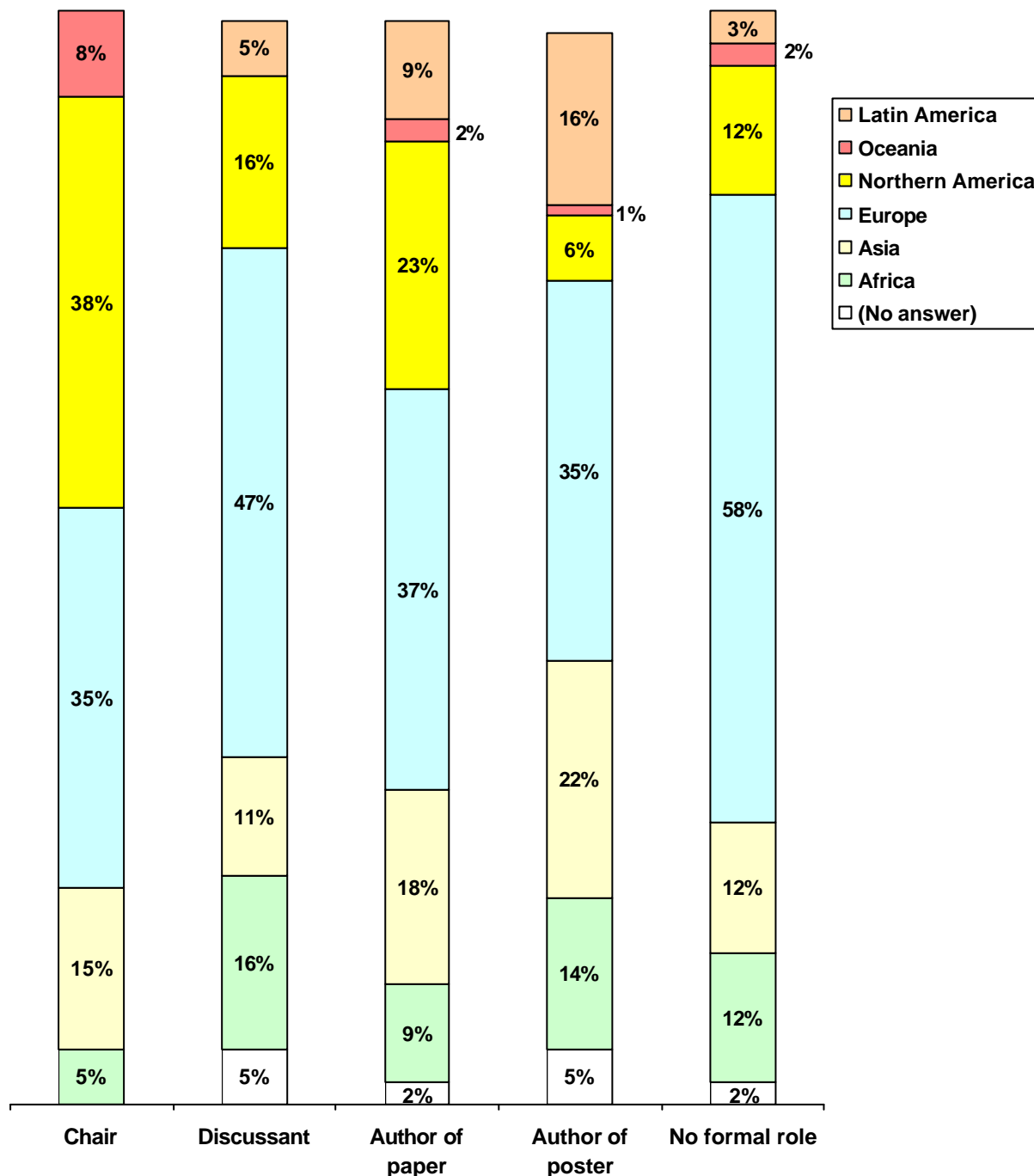
Scientific role and gender distribution



($n > 422$ because question 30 is a multiple-choice question)

As for the region of residence, most chairs and discussants who responded to this evaluation were from Europe and Northern America but, on the whole, many of the respondents who played an active role in the scientific programme - authors of abstracts and posters - came from all regions of the world.

Role in the scientific programme by region of residence



(n > 422 because question 30 is a multiple-choice question)

III. General assessment of different features of the Conference

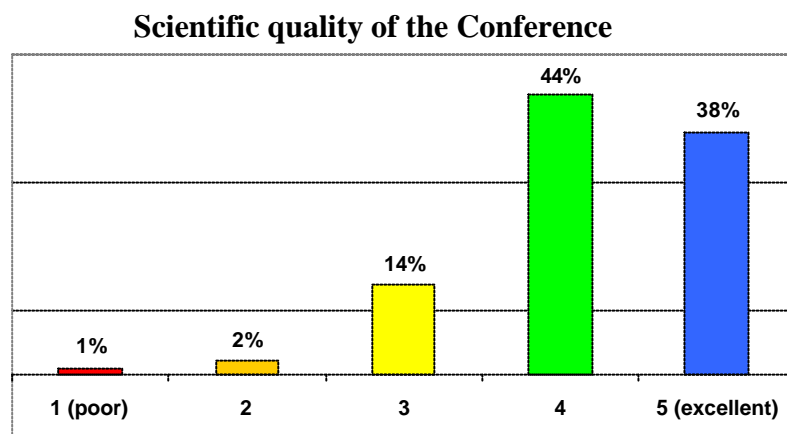
1/ Rating of different features of the Conference (Question 20)

For this question, ratings of each feature are calculated on the basis of respondents evaluating it (respondents who could not or did not rate the feature are not counted).

Respondents were asked to respond to a general question assessing different aspects or features of the Conference.

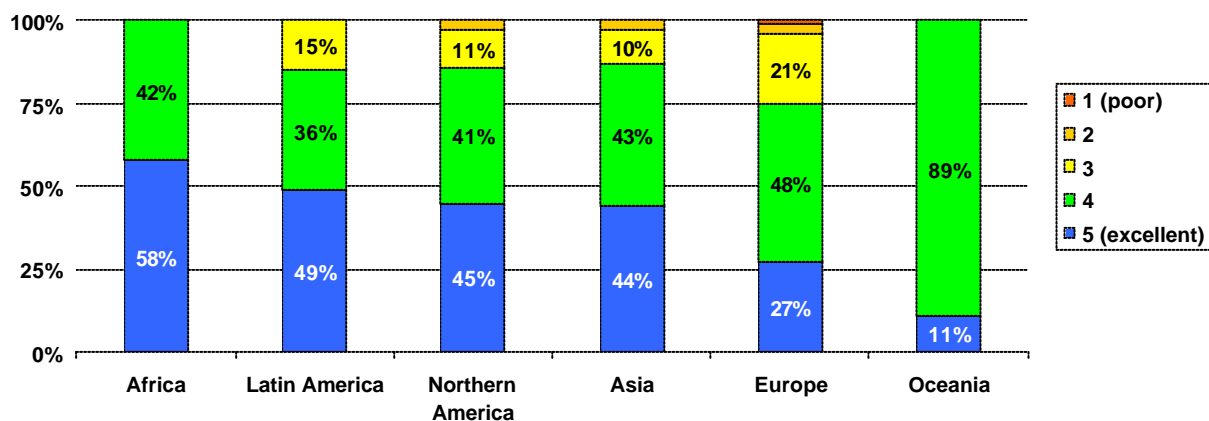
a) Scientific quality

The scientific quality of the Conference was rated very positively: 38% of those who rated this item considered it to be excellent and the total for positive ratings was 82%.



As we can see in the following graph, the evaluation of the scientific quality of the Conference varied by respondents' region of residence. The most positive ratings were given by respondents residing in Africa, Northern America, Latin America and Asia - over 80% of respondents from those regions rated the Conference as excellent or very good. While European respondents were less likely than respondents from other regions to rank the Conference as excellent (only 27% did so), three quarters of them also gave the Conference favourable scientific rating. This may, however, reflect the way different countries use rating scales in schools and universities. In France, for instance, the highest grade is rarely given, whereas in the United States, it is far more common to give the highest grade. This should be kept in mind for all the data relying on ratings in this evaluation.

Assessment of the scientific quality of the Conference by region of residence

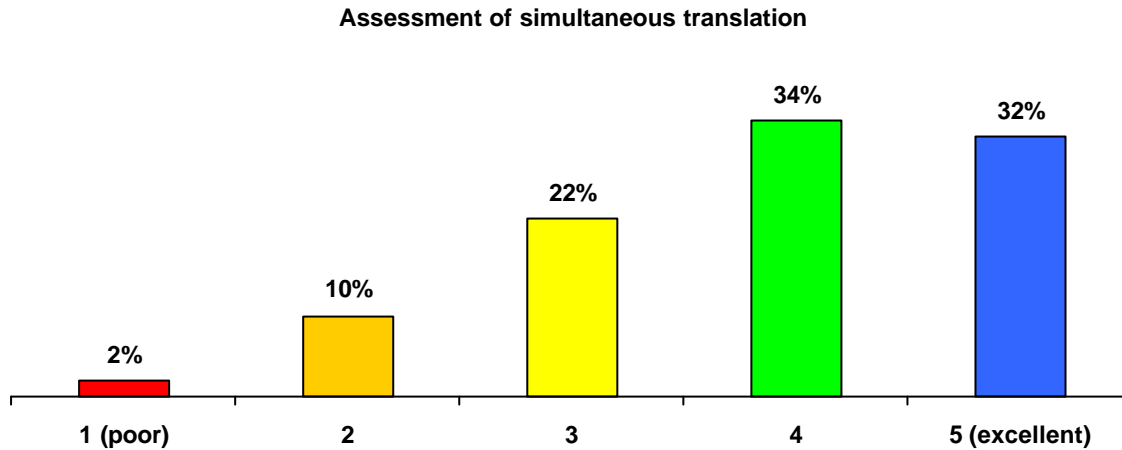


b. Conference website

The Conference website was rated as excellent by 51% of those who rated the service and the total for positive ratings was 77%.

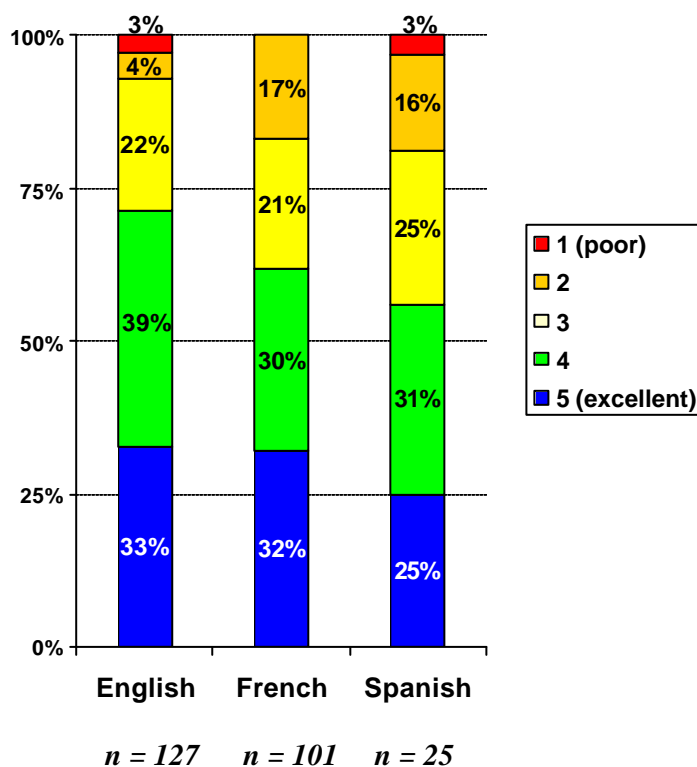
c. Simultaneous translation

Simultaneous translation received mixed evaluations; while 26% rated it as excellent (total positive: 66%), 34% rated it as average or lower. (19% did not rate this service, mostly because they did not use it.)



Translations into English appear to have been slightly more satisfactory than translations into French and Spanish: 38% of the respondents who were listening to translations into French and 44% of those listening to translations into Spanish rated the simultaneous translation as average or below average, as compared with only 28% of those listening to English. A more precise evaluation of simultaneous translation will be given in the following chapter.

Assessment of simultaneous translation by language



d. Conference facilities

The Conference facilities were considered excellent by 46% of the respondents (total positive ratings: 78%).

e. Audiovisual services

Audiovisual services for presentations were rated as excellent by 55% of respondents (total positive ratings: 89%).

f. Time control system

The time control system was positively received - 36% rated it as excellent and 34% rated it as good. Only 31% considered it average or below average.

g. Cyber Café

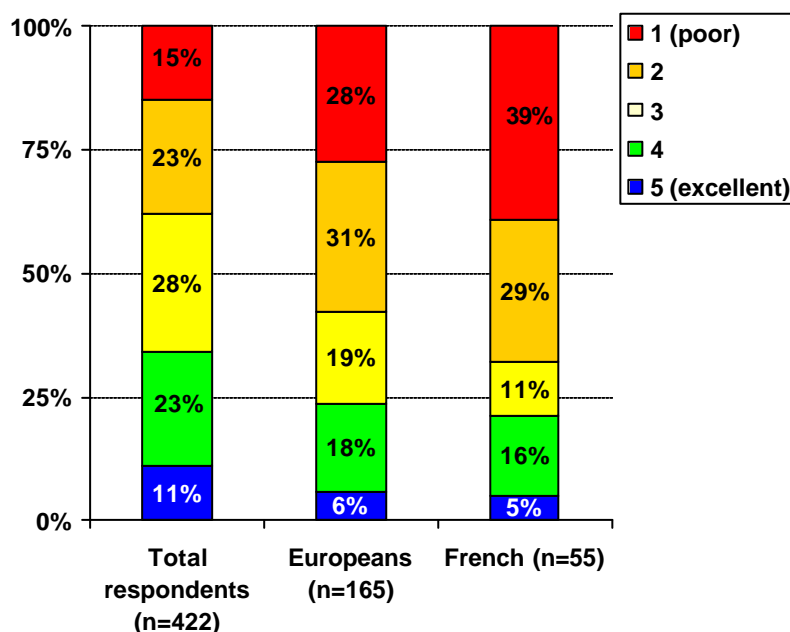
The Cyber Café was appreciated by those who used it: 56% of those respondents rated it as excellent, (total positive: 89%). Only 11% rated it as average or below average.

h. Food service at Vinci centre

The assessment of the food service was mixed. Fully a quarter of the sample said that they could not assess the quality of the food service, presumably because they did not use that service. Since food was available at lower prices outside the centre, this would not be surprising given that many participants were on limited budgets. Among respondents who did use the food service, only 11% found it to be excellent (total positive: 34%). In contrast, two thirds of users said that it was average or below average.

As we can see in the following graph, Europeans and, among them, especially the French were far more critical of the food service than the rest of the respondents (58% of the Europeans and 68% of the French rated the service below average, compared to 38% of all those who rated the service). Since they constituted a significant proportion of the attendance, because the Conference took place in France and because both Europeans and French are over-represented among respondents as compared to the whole attendance, there is a slight bias in the degree of dissatisfaction with the food service. The overall rating remains nevertheless very low.

Assessment of the food service by Europeans and French, as compared to all respondents



i. Hotel reservation service

Hotel reservation service received mixed ratings: 37% of those who rated the hotel reservation service considered it as excellent (total positive ratings: 67%). But one third of the them rated it as average or below average. (26% of the respondents did not use this service.) The fact that participants could not request a specific hotel or location, as is the case for most conferences, may have been a factor that contributed to the negative evaluations of this service.

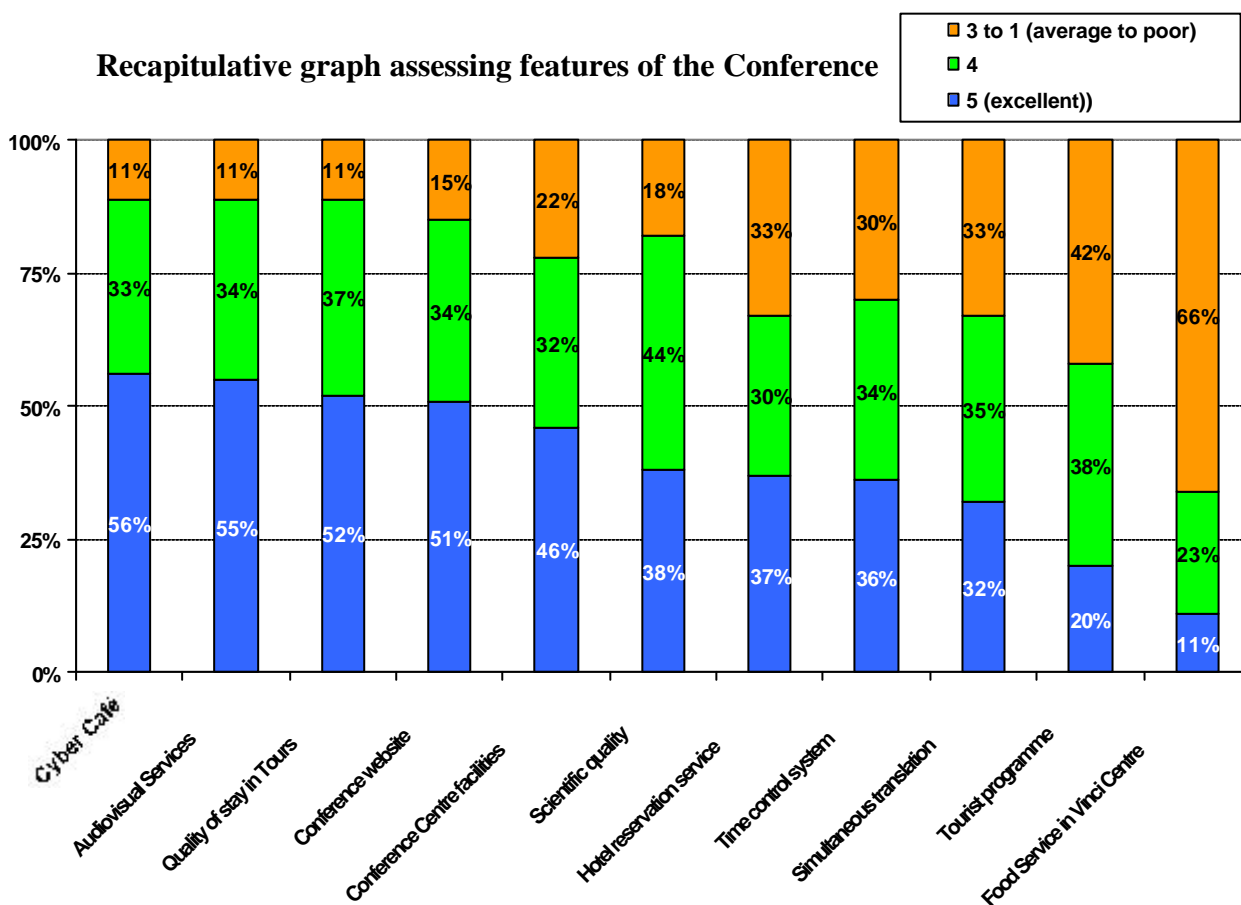
j. Tourist programme

The tourist programme too was rated diversely. Fully half of respondents said they did not use the service. Among those who did take advantage of the tourist programme, 58% rated it positively, while 42% rated it as average or below average.

k. Stay in Tours

The final question, dealing with the stay in Tours, received remarkably good ratings: 52% of the respondents rated their stay as excellent and the total positive rating was 89%.

From these ratings, we can conclude that the Conference was a major success with regard to its most important feature: the scientific quality of the proceedings. In addition, participants were overwhelmingly positive about the host city of Tours and the conference centre facilities. Several specific features were particularly appreciated: the audiovisual services for presentations, the Conference website, and the cyber café. Three minor points could have been improved: the time control system, the hotel reservation service and the tourist programme. The feature that was viewed most negatively was the food service at Vinci centre. As for the quality of the simultaneous translation, it was judged diversely, as we will see in the following section.



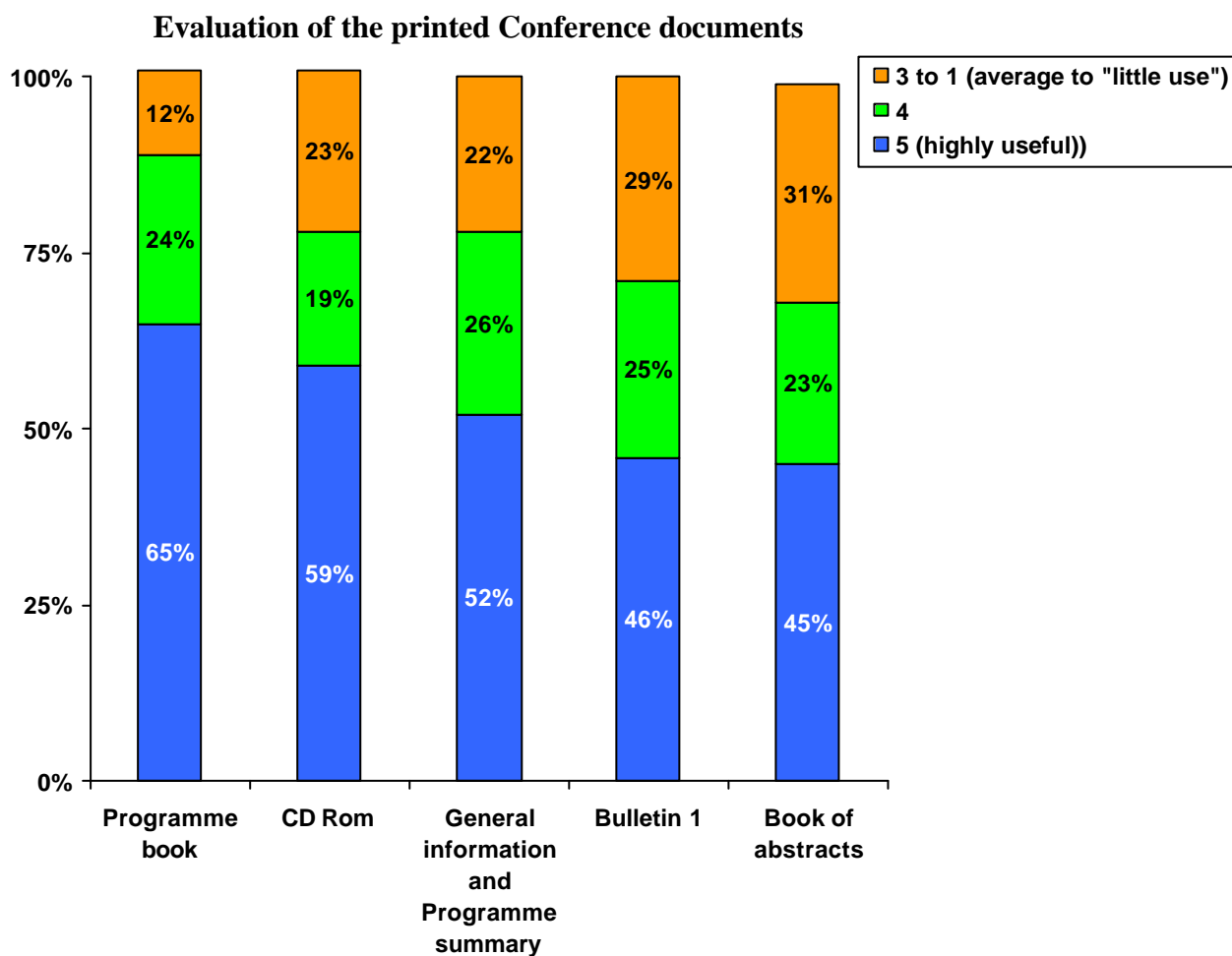
Figures in this graph are given in percentages of respondents evaluating each item. The number of respondents varies for each feature. Percentages for all respondents can be found in Appendix 2.

2/ Rating of printed documents for the Conference (Question 19)

For this question, ratings of each feature are calculated on the basis of respondents evaluating it (respondents who could not or did not rate the feature are not counted).

Respondents rated all the documents published for the Conference very positively, with at least half of them giving the highest rating to three of these documents: the programme book, the CD-Rom and the General Information and Programme Summary.

- The Programme Book was considered highly useful by 65% of those who rated it; total positive: 88%; (5% did not rate it)
- The CD-Rom was considered highly useful by 59% of those who rated it; total positive: 77%; (5% did not rate it)
- The General Information and Programme Summary was considered highly useful by 52% of those who rated it; total positive: 78%; (3% did not rate it)
- The Bulletin 1 was considered highly useful by 46% of those who rated it; total positive: 71%; (10% did not rate it)
- The Book of Abstracts was considered highly useful by 45% of those who rated it; total positive: 69%; (3% did not rate it)



Figures in this graph are given in percentages of respondents for each item. The number of respondents varies for each item. Percentages for all respondents can be found in Appendix 2.

IV. Focus on specific aspects of the Conference

1/ Assessment of the time allocated for each presentation (Question 2)

The time allotted for each presentation was 12 minutes. Three quarters of the respondents considered the time allotted for each presentation just about right, while over one fifth thought this time was too short. Qualitative data in the questionnaires indicates that some of those who considered the time allotted for each presentation to be too short would have preferred fewer presentations everyday but more time for each presentation in order to permit them to be more detailed.

2/ Duration of the registration process at the Conference (Question 18)

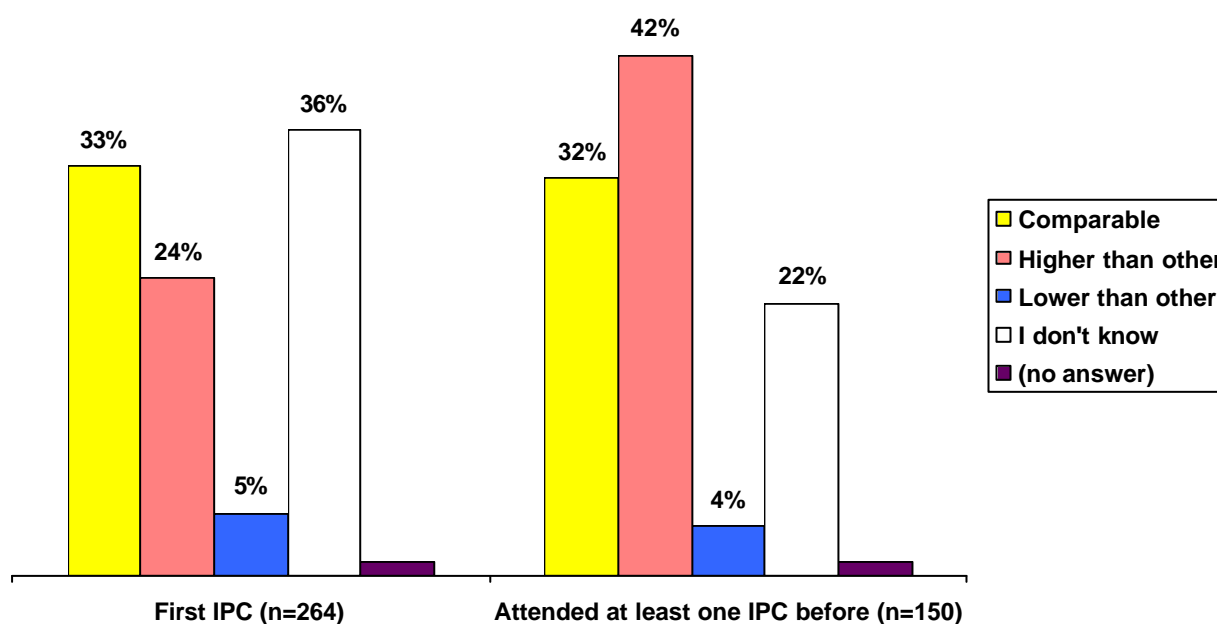
The registration process was perceived as very efficient: the on-site registration was completed in only a few minutes by 70% of the respondents; 9% waited in line for about one half-hour while 6% waited longer.

3/ Evaluation of the registration fee for the Conference (Question 13)

Approximately one third of the respondents found the Conference fee to be comparable to other similar conferences, one third found it higher, and one third said that they had no means of comparing.

As we can see in the graph below, those who had attended previous IUSSP International Population Conferences were more inclined to consider the fee to be higher than other conferences of the same kind: 42% of those who attended at least one IUSSP Conference before considered the fee to be higher than for other similar conferences vs. only 24% of the first-timers.

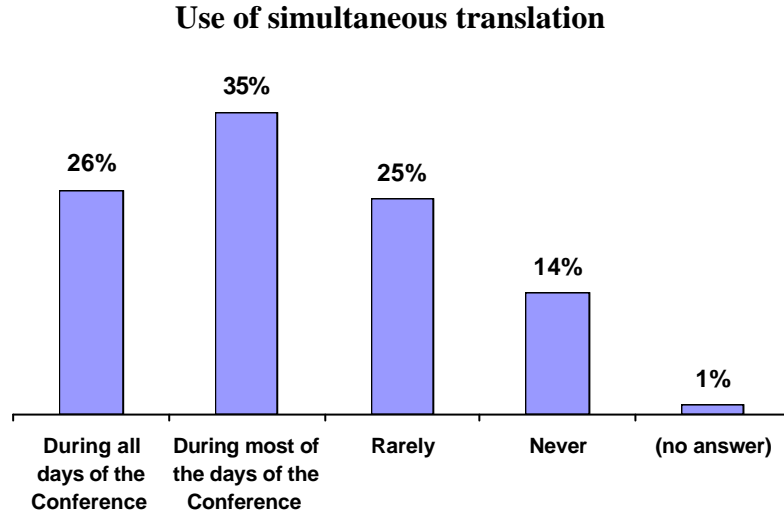
Evaluation of registration fee by previous attendance at IPCs



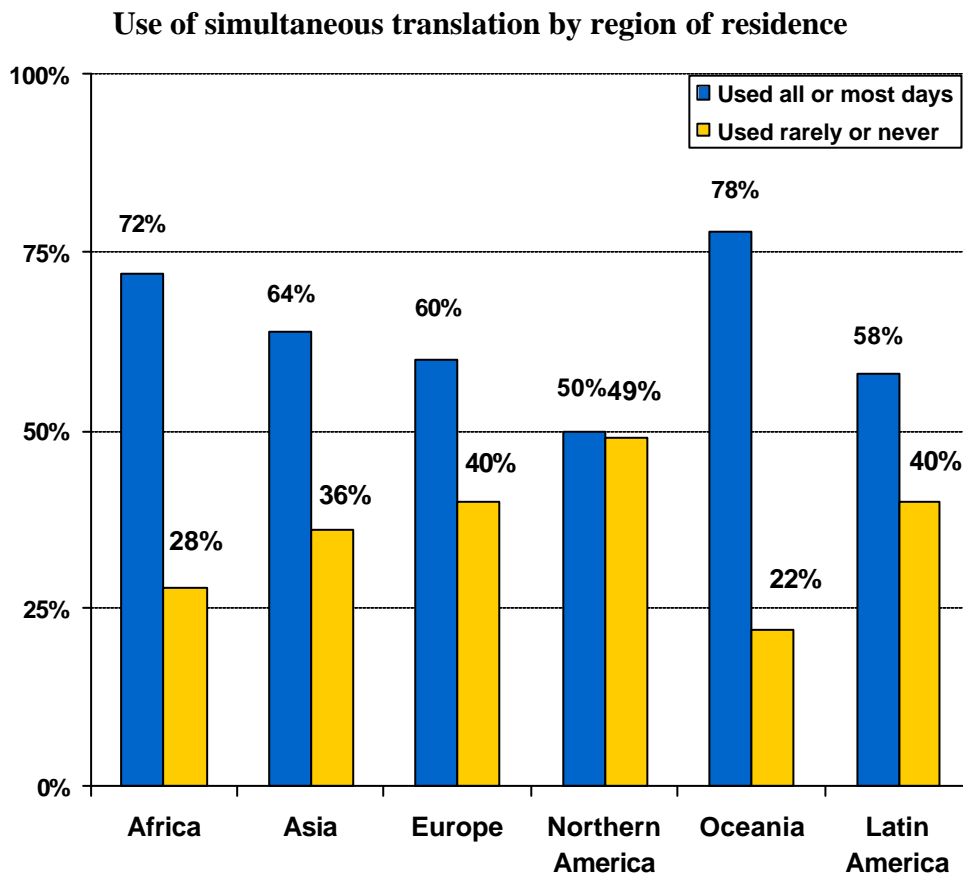
4/ Use and usefulness of simultaneous translation (Questions 5, 6, and 7)

a) Use of simultaneous translation

Simultaneous translation was very important for a large share of the respondents. That service was used by 85% of the respondents: 60% used it regularly, either every day (26%) or almost every day (35%), and 25% used it only rarely; 14% said that they did not use it at all.



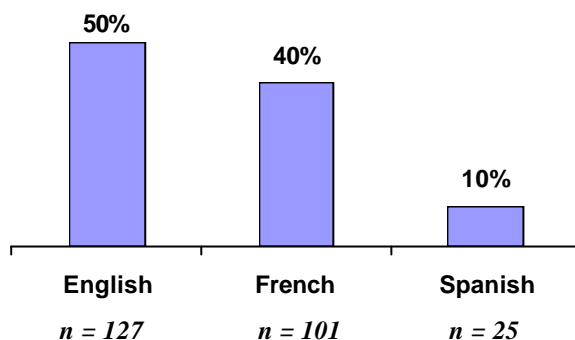
On the following graph, which shows the regular use of simultaneous translation by region of residence, we observe that residents of Africa used it most (72%), followed by Asians (64%), Europeans (60%) and Latin Americans (58%). North Americans used it least (50%).



b) Language of simultaneous translation

Of the 253 respondents who said that they used simultaneous translation regularly, 127 (50%) listened to translations into English, 101 (40%) listened to translations into French and 25 (10%) listened to translations into Spanish.

Language used for simultaneous translation

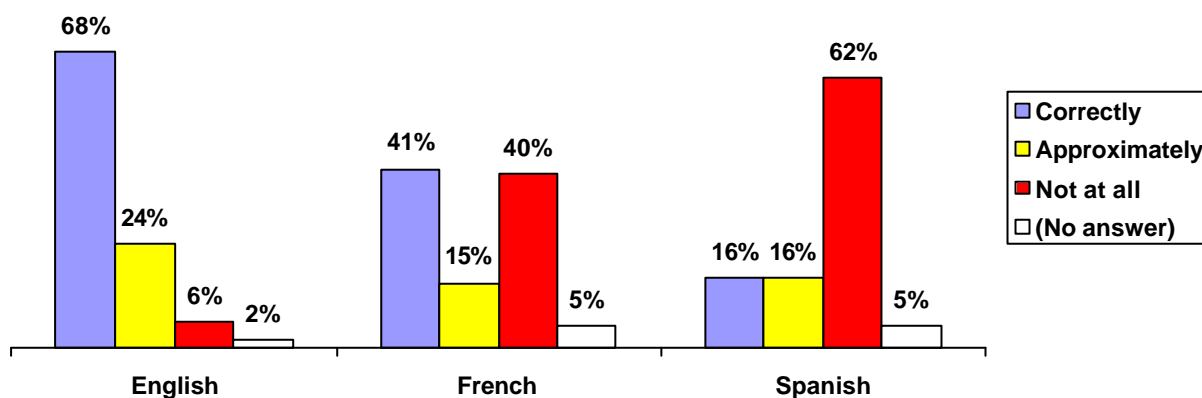


c) Knowledge of the three official languages

Two thirds of the respondents said that their knowledge of English is sufficient to understand correctly presentations in that language; 41% have good understanding of French; only 16% of them could understand Spanish.

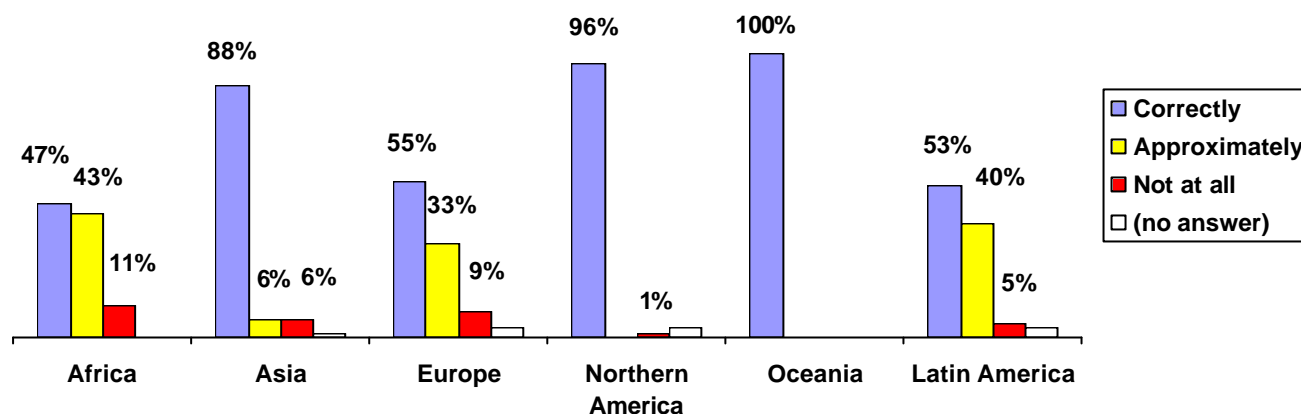
Conversely, 62% of the respondents say that they would not understand a presentation in Spanish, 40% would not understand a presentation in French and only 6% say that they would not understand a presentation in English. It is not clear what the response “approximately” indicates.

Ability to understand presentations made in each of the 3 official languages



To summarise this information on simultaneous translation, it is clear that English is the language that most respondents can understand. Only a minority understand French and fewer even understand Spanish (though this reflects in large part the location of the Conference in France rather than somewhere in Latin America for instance). But we can also highlight the fact that a significant proportion of the respondents cannot understand English correctly and large numbers did use the translation services. Furthermore, as we see in the following graph, knowledge of English is strongly linked to the country of residence: only about half of the respondents from Africa, Europe and Latin America said that they could understand English correctly. In contrast, 88% of Asians said they could understand English fully. Simultaneous translation is therefore essential to keep these Conferences open to all regions of the world and not only to regions where English is best understood. Translations into English also allow English speaking participants to have access to communications in foreign languages.

Ability to understand presentations in English



5/ Use of the cyber café and WiFi connection (Questions 14, 15, and 16)

The cyber café was used by 83% of the respondents, of which 94% said that they never waited more than a few minutes for the service. This explains the very good ratings for this service.

There was also access to a WiFi connection, but only 6% of the respondents used it, perhaps because of the fee, perhaps because the cyber café was satisfactory and perhaps because they were not equipped (did not have a laptop computer or their computer was not equipped with a WiFi card). Nevertheless, one should keep in mind that in four years' time, depending on the location of the next Conference, this service might be more desirable to participants given that WiFi is expanding rapidly.

6/ Use of the tourist programme (Question 17)

Only one third said that they or their companion used the tourist programme to do one or more visits. More than half did not look at the programme. This is understandable as most of the participants did not come for tourism.

7/ Size of rooms and sessions scheduled at the same time (qualitative data)

Qualitative data in the questionnaire pointed out two aspects that caused frustration for a number of respondents. The first issue was the small size of some rooms. This is largely a result of the choice to stage nine sessions simultaneously instead of the six initially planned for when the Conference centre was chosen. The Vinci centre does not have nine rooms large enough to accommodate more than 100 participants, so there were always three sessions taking place in fairly small rooms. The issue also arose during very popular sessions. Room assignments were made using the number of papers submitted to a session as an indicator of general interest in the topic. It might have been useful to consider additionally the potential of better known speakers (or more popular topics) to draw a large audience as a criterion in determining room size for some sessions. Although it is difficult to determine in advance how popular a given session may be, more thought should be given to try to anticipate this and offer adequate sized rooms to sessions that are likely to attract a larger audience. The best way to avoid this problem in the future is to assure that the Conference facility has 8-10 meeting rooms that will accommodate 100 plus participants.

The second problem that some respondents mentioned was that they would have liked to attend sessions that were taking place at the same time. This problem emerged because the number of sessions held at the Conference was double that of Bahia and recognising the fact that demography/population studies address a relatively small number of topics and many of those topics are of interest to most demographers. Nonetheless, planning of the Conference should try to ensure that no sessions on similar topics are scheduled at the same time.

V. Focus on recipients of IUSSP or NOC funding

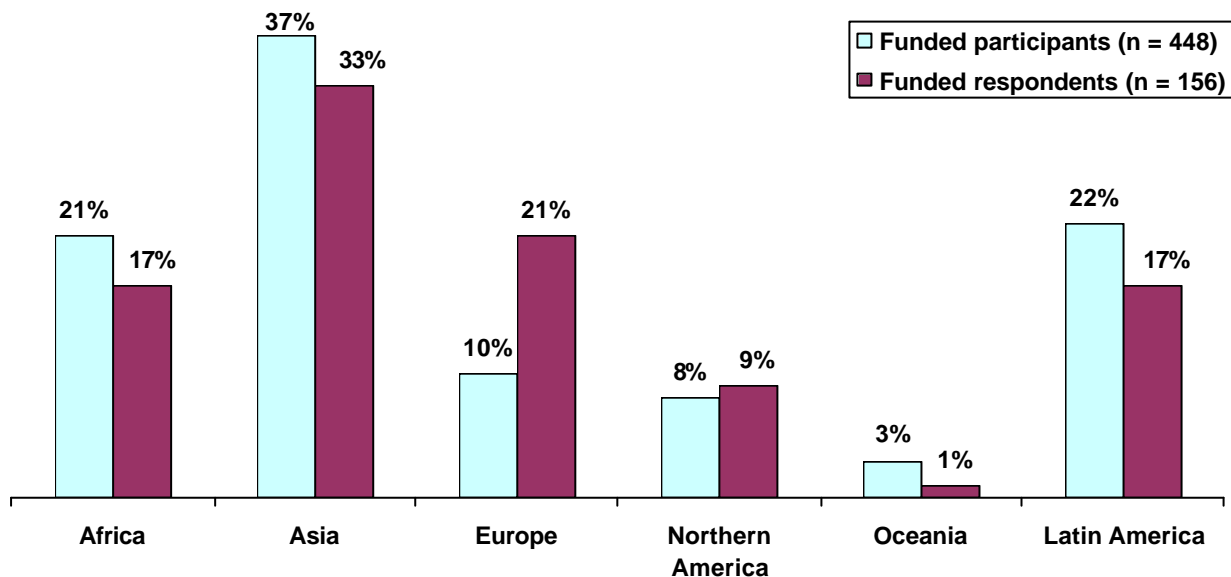
1/ Characteristics of the respondents funded by IUSSP or NOC (Question 10 and 11)

A total of 448 participants received partial or full financial assistance from the IUSSP and French National Organizing Committee (NOC); of these, 156 responded to this questionnaire, which means the response rate was 35% (as compared to 25% for the general response rate).

These 156 respondents funded by IUSSP or the French NOC constituted 37% of the respondents.

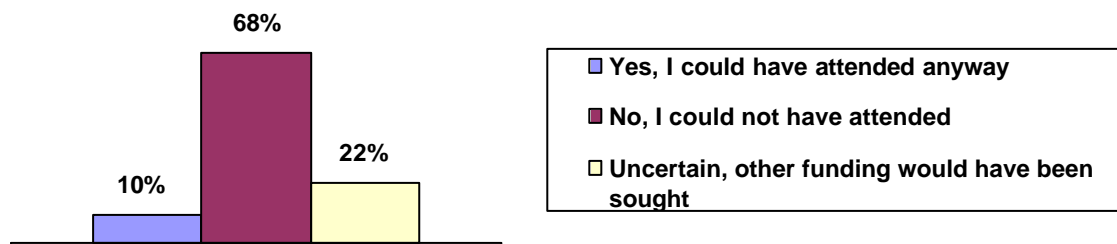
They were mostly residents from Asia (33%), from Europe (20%), from Africa (17%), from Latin America (17%), and from Northern America (9%). The distribution by region of residence of funded respondents differs from the distribution of funded participants: funded respondents residing in Europe are significantly over-represented while funded respondents from Africa, Asia and Latin America are under-represented.

Breakdown by region of residence of participants and respondents who received funding from IUSSP or NOC



For most of the participants, this funding was essential: 68% of those who received financial assistance from IUSSP or NOC said that they could not have attended without this funding. An additional 22% are not sure they could have secured alternative funding.

Ability to attend the Conference if not funded by IUSSP or NOC

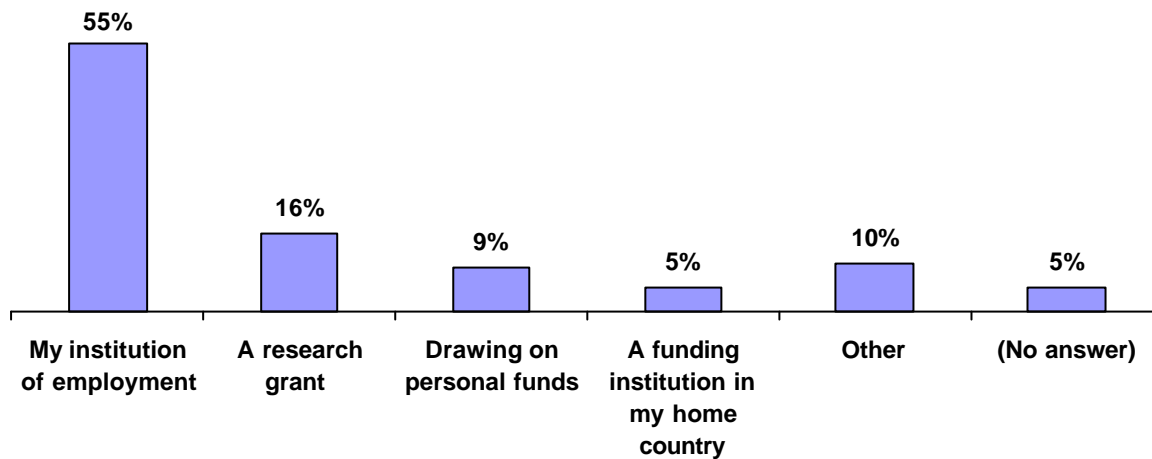


Based on the 156 respondents who received IUSSP or NOC funding

2/ Financial resources of those who did not receive IUSSP/NOC funding (Question 12)

Among respondents, almost all of those who did not receive financial assistance from the IUSSP or NOC received assistance from another funding source: 55% from their employer, 16% from a research grant, 5% from an institution in their home country; 9% said that they paid for the cost themselves, drawing on personal funds.

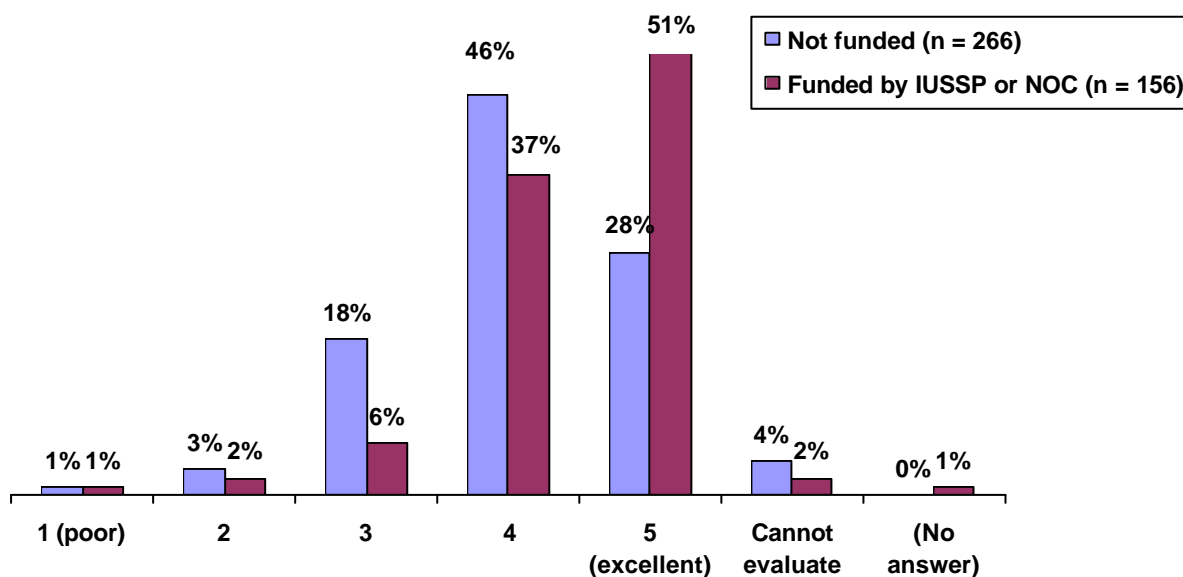
Financial resources of the 266 respondents who did not receive IUSSP or NOC funding (Question 12: Who paid for travel, registration and/or per diem expenses? Check all that apply)



3/ Assessment of the scientific quality of the Conference by those funded by IUSSP and NOC

Respondents who had received funding from the IUSSP or NOC rated the scientific quality of the Conference significantly higher than the other respondents: 51% of those funded rated it as excellent vs. only 28% of those who had not been funded.

General appreciation of the Scientific quality of the Conference



VI. Planning the 26th IPC in 2009

1/ Desirable topics for the next IPC (Question 21 and 22)

Roughly one third of the respondents believed some important topics had not been given sufficient attention in the programme and would like to see them addressed in the next population Conference; one third felt no topics had been neglected and one third said that they had no opinion on the matter.

When asked to list the topics that had received insufficient attention, 124 respondents suggested one to three topics that should be addressed at the next Conference. The topics that were cited most often were: international and domestic migration; historical demography, gender issues, urbanisation, ageing in developing countries, HIV/AIDS and child and maternal health; in addition to these topics, issues of theory, methods and data quality were frequently cited, in particular the need for sessions on qualitative and anthropological methods, use of GIS, spatial analyses and remote sensing techniques. See Annex 1 for full list.

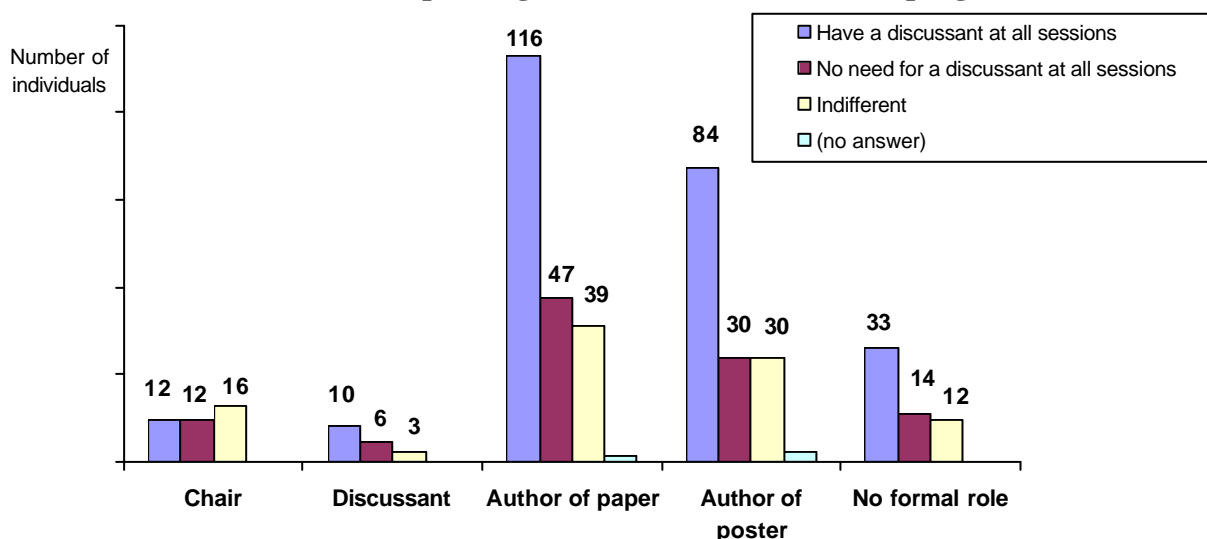
2/ Debate sessions and presence of discussants (Question 23 and 24)

A vast majority of respondents (77%) evaluated the debate sessions very highly and wish to see the IUSSP continue to sponsor them.

Most respondents would have preferred to have a discussant for each session (55%, vs. 23% who would have preferred not to have a discussant for each session and 20% who said that they are indifferent). Some respondents complained in their questionnaires about the absence of discussants at certain sessions. Respondents said that the discussant puts the papers presented at a session into a broader context. While many respondents wanted discussants, many were also dismayed by chairs and discussants who did not read the papers in advance and did not provide a summary statement and appraisal of papers presented. Several respondents indicated in their qualitative comments that they did not get any critical feedback or suggestions for improvements on their paper.

As we can see in the following graph, the authors of papers and of posters are those who most prefer that the sessions have a discussant (more than half of the authors of papers and posters vs. only 30% of chairs).

Preference for discussants depending on the role in the scientific programme



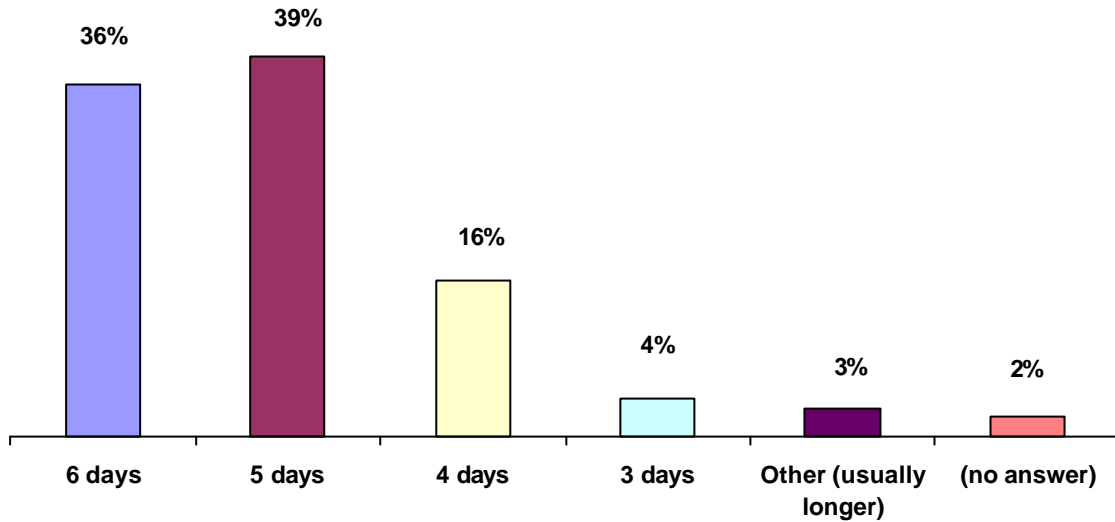
(n > 422 because question 30 is a multiple-choice question.)

3/ Duration of the next Conference (Question 27)

The 25th IUSSP Conference lasted 6 days: the first day was dedicated to the Opening Ceremony, which was followed by 5 full days of communications and debates.

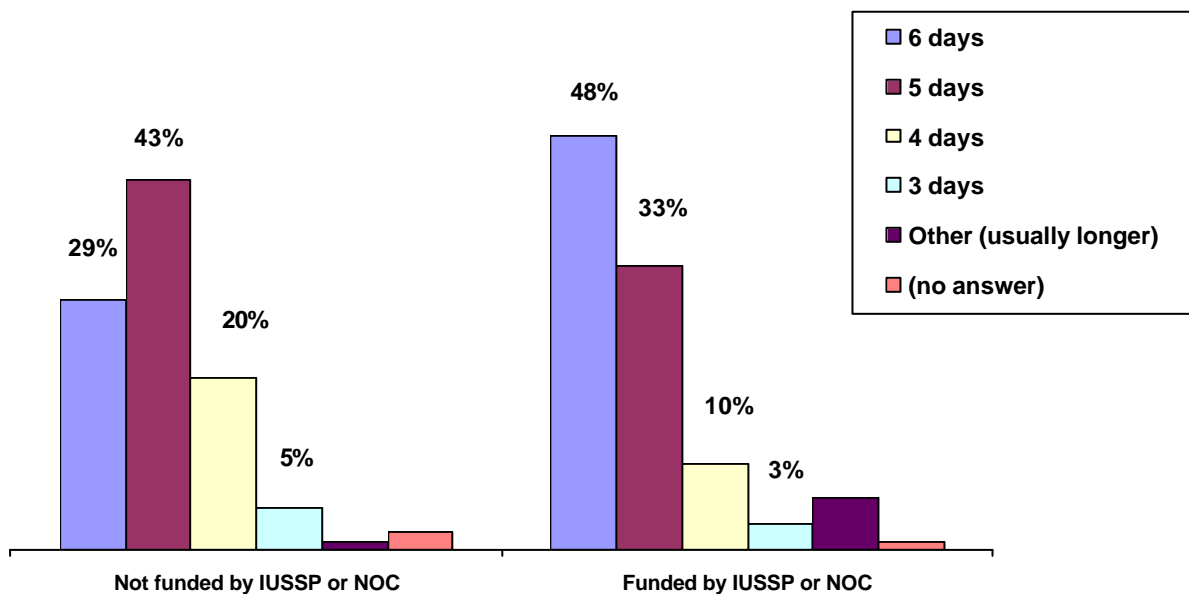
According to the respondents to this evaluation, the next Conference should last 5 days (39% of the respondents) or 6 days (36%). Only 20% would prefer a shorter conference (3 or 4 days).

Preferred duration of the Conference in 2009



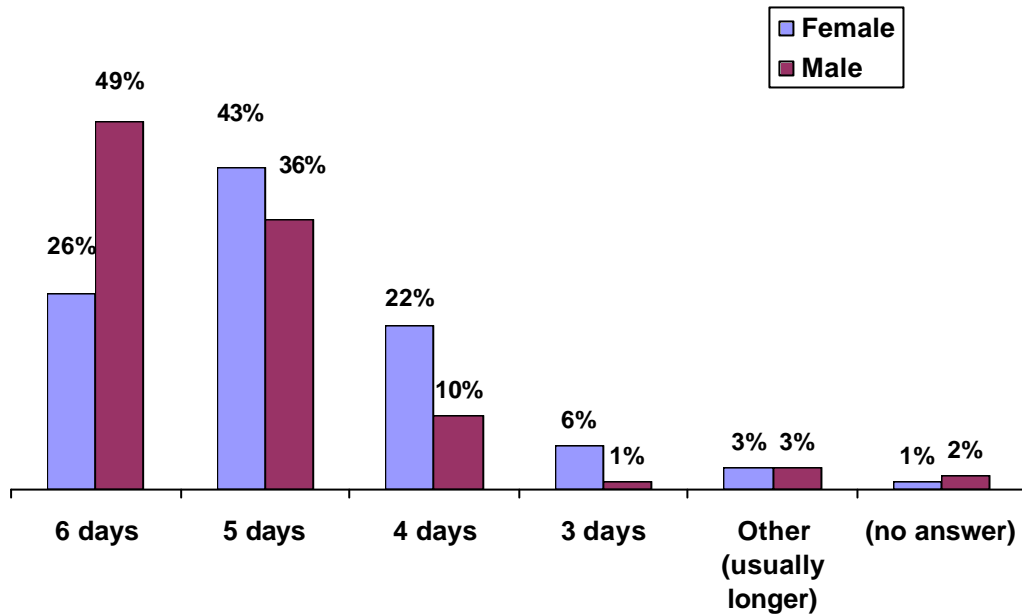
Further analysis found that a greater proportion of respondents who received IUSSP or NOC funding prefer a 6-day conference (48%), as compared to those who did not receive that funding (29%).

Preferred duration of next Conference by funding status



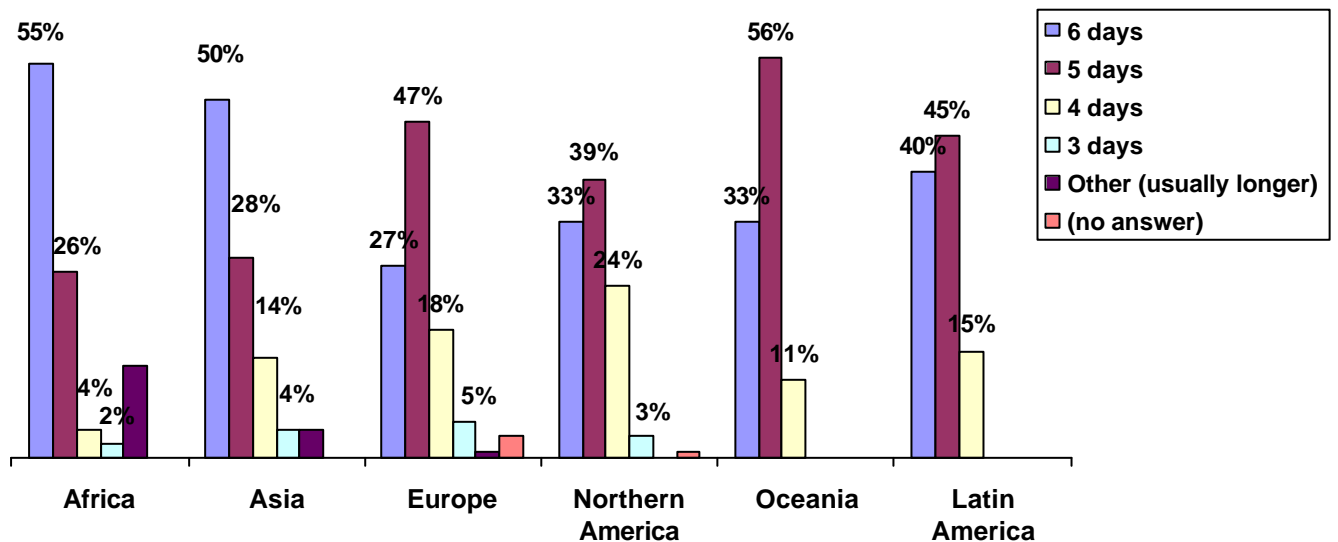
Gender also has a very strong influence on the answer to the question of the duration of the Conference: 49% of the male respondents prefer a six-day conference vs. only 26% of women. A majority of women would prefer a five-day conference (43%).

Preferred duration of next Conference by gender



Region of residence also correlates with length of Conference preferences. A majority of respondents from Africa (55%) and Asia (50%) prefer a 6-day conference, whereas a majority from other regions prefer a 5-day conference.

Preferred duration of next Conference by region of residence

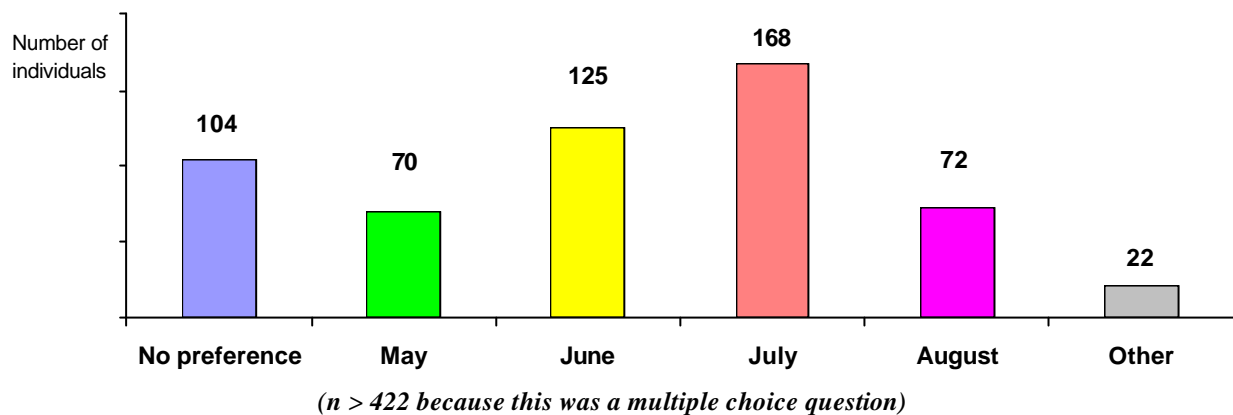


4/ Timing of the next Conference (Question 25)

In general, July received highest ratings for the timing of the next Conference, followed by June.

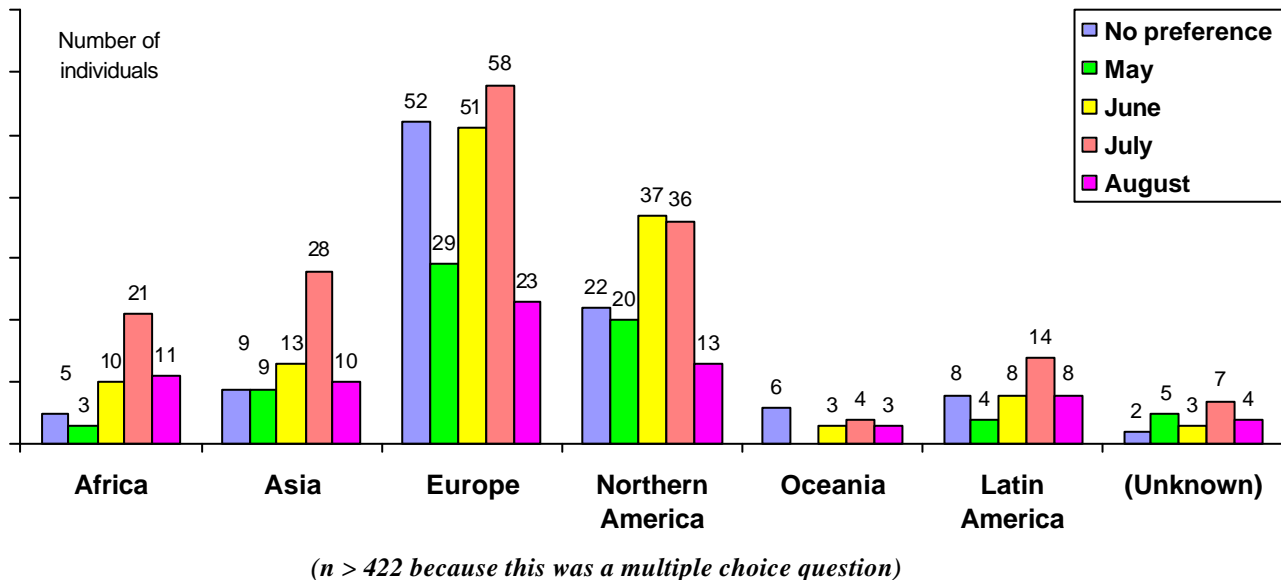
Multiple answers were accepted: 168 respondents (40%) prefer July; 125 respondents (30%) prefer June; 72 respondents (17%) prefer August and 70 respondents (17%) prefer May; while 104 respondents (25%) say that they have no preference.

Preferred month for the 2009 Conference



Looking at the region of residence, we can see an overall preference for July, except in Northern America, where June is (very slightly) preferred to July. In Europe too, June gets good ratings. In other regions, July is preferred to June or August, which get similar ratings.

Preferred month for the 2009 Conference by region of residence



Nevertheless, it is important to point out that there may be a bias here since those who were questioned were able to attend this Conference, which took place in July. Perhaps some people would have attended the Conference had it been scheduled at another period. The same bias is identifiable in the Bahia evaluation, where those who preferred that the next Conference take place in August were a strong majority (the Bahia Conference took place in August). The only way to eliminate this bias would be to ask all IUSSP members what their preference is for the dates of the next Conference. This could only be done once the location is determined, as there are many other local factors to take into account.

Appendix 1 – Questionnaire for the Conference Evaluation

IUSSP XXV International Population Conference 18-23 July 2005, Tours, France Participant Evaluation

Dear Conference Participant,

The IUSSP XXV International Population Conference has ended but already the IUSSP is starting to plan for its 2009 Conference. In order to help the IUSSP prepare for the 2009 Conference, it is important to obtain feedback from participants on program elements that worked and those that should be changed or improved. We would be very grateful if you would answer the following questions. (NOTE: check only one answer to each question unless otherwise indicated.)

The 2005 Conference. Your participation and your appreciation

1. There were four time periods daily during which regular sessions were held. How many regular sessions did you attend each day, on average?
 - a) None
 - b) One or two
 - c) Three or four
 - d) Five or more (I stayed for 1-2 papers and then went to another session)

2. Did you find the time allotted for each presentation to be
 - a) Too short
 - b) Too long
 - c) About right

3. There were 5 poster sessions at the Conference, one each day. How many poster sessions did you attend?
 - a) None
 - b) One or two
 - c) Three or more

4. How many times did you visit the exhibition booths during the Conference?
 - a) Never
 - b) Once or twice
 - c) More

5. Did you use simultaneous translation
 - a) During all days of the Conference
 - b) During most of the days of the Conference
 - c) Rarely
 - d) Never

6. Which language did you listen to when you used simultaneous interpretation?
 - a) English
 - b) French
 - c) Spanish
 - d) I did not use the interpretation services

7. If simultaneous translation had not been available, would you have been able to understand presentations made in each of the 3 official languages used at the XXV Conference (answer for each language)?
 - a) English Yes, correctly Yes, approximately No
 - b) French Yes, correctly Yes, approximately No
 - c) Spanish Yes, correctly Yes, approximately No

8. There were plenary and debate sessions each evening. How many of those sessions did you attend?
- a) None
- b) One or two
- c) Three or more
9. Did you attend any of the Europe Day sessions?
- a) Yes
- b) No
10. Did you receive partial or full financial assistance from the IUSSP or the French National Organizing Committee (NOC) to help cover your participation costs?
- a) Yes [go to question 11]
- b) No [go to question 12]
11. If you answered YES to question 10, would you have been able to attend the Conference if you had not received financial assistance from the IUSSP or NOC?
- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Uncertain, other funding would have been sought
12. If you answered NO to question 10, were your travel, registration and/or per diem expenses paid by one of the following (check all that apply):
- a) Your institution of employment
- b) A research grant that you have
- c) Yourself, drawing on personal funds
- d) A funding institution in your home country
- Specify name _____
- e) Other (specify) _____
13. Did you consider the Conference registration fee to be:
- a) Comparable to that charged for other international conferences
- b) Higher than that charged for other international conferences
- c) Lower than that charged for other international conferences
- d) I don't know
14. A computer cyber café was available for use by participants. Did you use this cyber café?
- a) Yes [go to question 15]
- b) No [go to question 16]
15. If yes, when you visited the cyber café, how long did you wait to use a computer?
- a) I usually waited a half hour or more
- b) I never waited more than a few minutes
- c) I never had any wait at all
- d) I never used the cyber café during the Conference.
16. Access to WiFi connection was available for a fee at the Vinci Centre. Did you use the WiFi service?
- a) Yes
- b) No
17. A tourist programme was prepared during the Conference. Did you or your companion(s) use it?
- a) Yes for 1 visit
- b) Yes for 2 visits or more
- c) No, the program did not meet my expectations
- d) No, I did not look at the tourist programme
18. How would you describe your on-site registration experience?
- a) I finished the on-site registration experience in a few minutes
- b) I waited in line for about 30 minutes
- c) I waited in line for over 30 minutes

19. Several printed Conference documents were produced and distributed to participants. Score the usefulness of each of those documents from 1 (of little use) to 5 (highly useful).

- a) Bulletin 1, May 2004 (Call for paper, sessions' abstracts...) /____/
- b) Programme Book, July 2005 (distributed at Conference) /____/
- c) General Information and Programme Summary, July 2005 (distributed at Conference) /____/
- d) CD rom, July 2005 (includes papers presented at Conference) /____/
- e) Book of Abstracts, July 2005 (distributed at Conference) /____/

20. What is your general appreciation of the Conference. Score each item from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent), or enter 9 if you cannot evaluate the service.

- a) Scientific quality of the Conference /____/
- b) Conference website /____/
- c) Simultaneous translation /____/
- d) Conference centre facilities (sessions rooms, plenary hall, ...) /____/
- e) Audio-visual services for presentations /____/
- f) Time control system to limit speakers presentations (amber and red lights) /____/
- g) Cyber café /____/
- h) Food service in Vinci Centre /____/
- i) Hotel reservation service /____/
- j) Tourist programme /____/
- k) Quality of your stay in the city of Tours /____/

The 2009 Conference. Your expectations

21. In planning the next Conference, were there any scientific topics that you thought were given insufficient attention in the programme?

- a) Yes [go to question 22]
- b) No [go to question 23]
- c) No opinion [go to question 23]

22. If YES, please list the 3 most neglected topics

- a) (topic 1) _____
- b) (topic 2) _____
- c) (topic 3) _____

23. Should the IUSSP continue to sponsor debate sessions at its 2009 Conference?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Indifferent

24. Many sessions had no discussant. Would you have preferred a discussant in all sessions?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Indifferent

25. Which months would you prefer for the 2009 Conference? (check all that apply)

- a) No preference
- b) May
- c) June
- d) July
- e) August
- f) Other, please indicate.....

26. The length of the 2005 Conference was 6 days. How many days did you spend at the Conference?

- a) One or two days
- b) Three days
- c) Four days
- d) Five days or more

27. In 2009, how many days would you recommend for the Conference?
- a) 6 days conference
 - b) 5 days conference
 - c) 4 days conference
 - d) 3 days conference
 - e) Other, please indicate :.....

Individual Information

28. Did you submit a paper abstract for the Conference using the online submission system (PAMPA)?
- a) Yes [go to question 29]
 - b) No [go to question 30]

29. Was one or more of your paper abstract(s) accepted for the scientific programme?
- a) Yes
 - b) No

30. What was your scientific programme role (check all that apply)?
- a) Chair of a session
 - b) Discussant at a session
 - c) Author/co-author of a scientific paper
 - d) Author/co-author of a poster
 - e) Participant, no formal scientific programme role

- 31a. What is your sex?
- a) Male
 - b) Female

31b. What is your year of birth?

32a. In which country do you reside?

32b. What is your nationality?

33. Are you a member of the IUSSP?
- a) Yes [go to question 34]
 - b) No [go to question 35]

34. If YES, how many years have you been a member?
- a) I just joined this year in order to attend the Conference
 - b) I joined in the last 5 years
 - c) I have been a member for 5-10 years
 - d) I have been a member for more than 10 years

35. How many IUSSP previous international Conferences (Bahia, 2001; Beijing, 1997....) have you attended?
- a) I never attended a previous Conference
 - b) I attended 1-3 previous Conferences
 - c) I attended 4 or more previous Conferences

36. If you have any other comments on the 2005 Conference or suggestions that you would like to make for the IUSSP 2009 Conference, please share them with us in the space below.

Thank you for your time.