

EXTENSION & KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Working party 9.01.03

Forest Knowledge Exchange: Advancing Innovation with Tradition.

Post Conference Evaluation



Conference
October 8-12, 2023
Padua, Italy
(Post Conference Tour - October 12-14, 2023 - Slovenia)

The group 9.01.03 - Extension and knowledge exchange - IUFRO meets every two years for a meeting on the group's theme of extension and knowledge exchange in the forestry sector. This year's event, organized by IUFRO Unit 9.01.03, focused on dissemination and knowledge exchange, held from 8-12 October in Veneto, with an optional field trip after the conference, on 13-14 October, to the Karst area on the Slovenian-Italian border.

PEFC Italy organized this event with the collaboration of Veneto Agriculture, accompanying the group to the regional forests of Cansiglio certified according to the PEFC Italy scheme for Sustainable Forest Management.

The theme of this meeting was the exchange of forestry knowledge and, specifically, advancing innovation with tradition, starting with the history of forest management and the importance in the history of the Serenissima (Venice Marine Republic): we visited the old maps and the old management plans of The Cansiglio forest stored in Venice State Archive, with a following visit to the same forest, now managed and harvested in a sustainable way.

This conference had the objective, which was largely achieved, of presenting, highlighting, and focusing on the fusion of our new tools and technologies with the inclusion of local information and traditions. The event was attended by 32 dissemination experts 6 countries (Table 1 and 2)

Table 1. Number of Attendees in the IUFRO Unit 9.01.03 conference by Country

Number of Attendees	Country
22	United States of America
3	Italy
3	Slovenia
2	Slovakia
1	Ireland
1	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

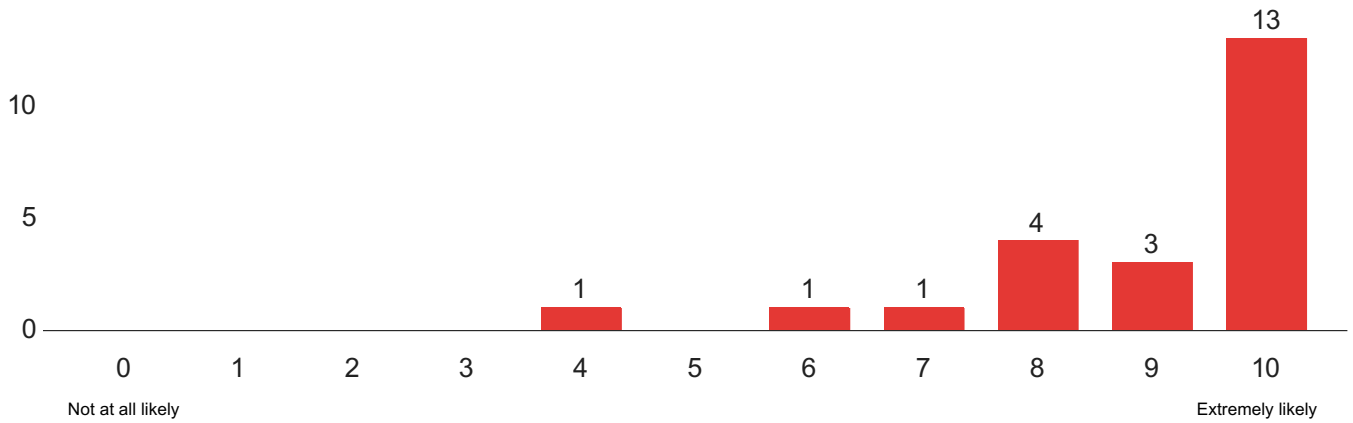
Table 2. Number of attendees in the IUFRO Unit 9.01.03 conference by qualifications of participants

Number of Attendees	Qualifications of participants
2	Forestry advisors
1	Woody Biomass and Forest Products Advisor
3	Assistant Teaching Professors of Forestry sector
1	Forest Services Associate IT Director
1	Associate Professor (Practice), Extension Forestry Agent
3	Extension specialists
1	Extension Fire Program Manager
1	Forest Stewardship Education Coordinator
2	Forestry Extension Specialists
1	Forestry Liaison Officer
1	Leader of Sector for Forest Measures
6	Researchers
1	Postdoctoral Research Associate
1	Senior Forest Advisor
2	Administrative Technicians
1	Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist
1	Graduate Research Assistant
1	Environmental Educator
1	Communications Specialist / Student
1	Associate Dean

Following the event, a post evaluation was conducted utilizing an online survey containing 10 questions. The purpose of the evaluation was to seek input from participants on the quality of the conference and if the conference met their needs. A summary of the results follows.

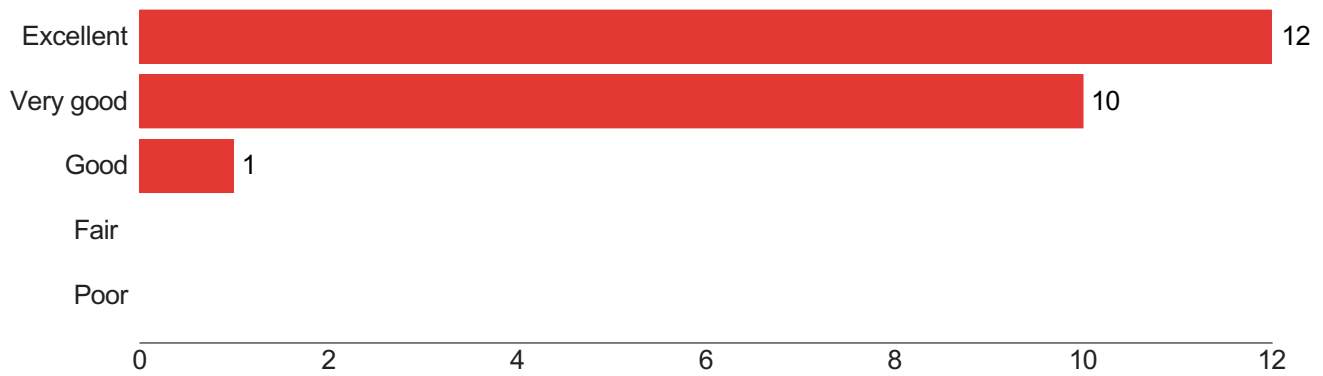
How likely are you to recommend this event to a friend or colleague?

23 Responses



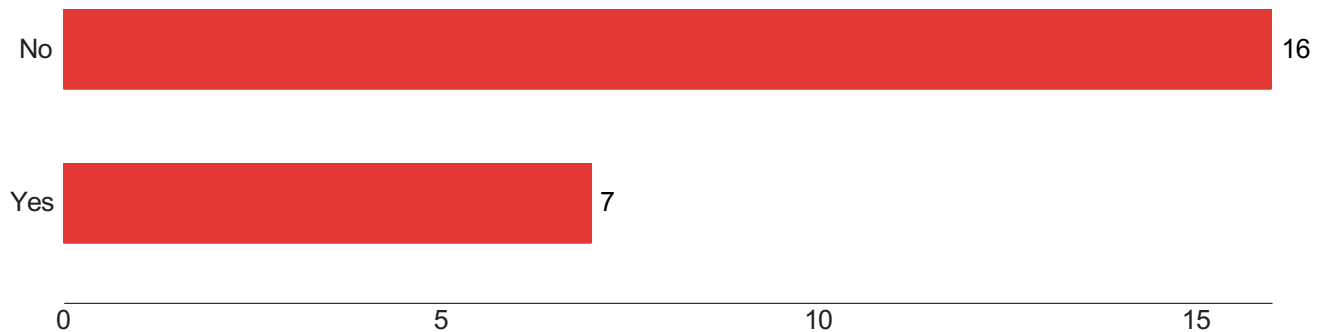
Overall, how would you rate this event?

23 Responses



Did you participate in the post conference tour?

23 Responses



What did you like most about the event?

Saw some great forests and forest history and got to know a lot of great people.

I enjoyed interacting with Extension professionals from around the world and learning about forestry in a country I had never visited before.

There was a lot of consideration of what the attendees would want out of the location and event. It was easier to sit in a conference room knowing that there was built-in time to explore and eat and enjoy the area.

The small group size made it easy to chat to new people. Going to the state archives was a highlight!

The opportunity to visit rare forestry documents and to visit the forests that were described hundreds years ago

Connecting with colleagues from across the US and internationally. Learning about what they do, their ideas and work, and how I can bring this new information back to my own area to serve my community better. These connections are invaluable.

Networking (and being in Italy!)

The international aspect of it and getting to know professionals who do Extension work from around the globe.

The Archives of Venice to look at the maps + going out to the forest

1)The friendship created by the participants. 2) the topic of "Extension Knowledge"

I learned a lot of new information about forest management in other countries.

The balance between events types-- not stuck in conference room all day

archive tour and cansaglio follow up

The State Archive in Venice was a fantastic activity. I also enjoyed the breadth of the presentations.

visit to the archive (presentation of maps) + practical presentation of sites

Very interesting presentations and excellent excursions.

Everything.

local tour of the archives

the spirit of the people and the flow of knowledge

The diversity of the presentations, and the location of the event.

What did you like least about the event?

Maybe too much time spent dining. I like to dine, but was actually exhausted with so many long meals.

NA

Maybe the location of the venue (the hotel was in an industrial area)

I would have preferred more communication about conference details well in advance of attending the event. Maybe about a month before the event, receiving detailed information on the schedule, including more details about the post conference tour, like lodging/activity locations (if possible, I know some things are always last minute). But more specifically, the level of physical activity that we'd be doing (for the whole event). This would have helped me pack/prepare better. I recall that some things were communicated as being "easy" but it was tougher for some folks to physically complete. So being aware of this ahead of time would have allowed those folks to prepare better and make a more informed decision on how they would participate.

Getting off of schedule

Nothing actually! It was all great.

I loved it all.

nothing

I would have preferred to have a bit more information up front regarding the program and timing. I wanted to go on the post-conference tour, but felt like there wasn't enough information to know where it ended and how to make plans to leave the country for my plane ticket.

Would like to see more attendance for increased networking opportunities

low number of participants

I wasn't 100% sure of the agenda or the location of the event until just before the conference.

under-representation of presenters from other countries/worlds (Europe and USA only)

There was no such a thing I did not like.

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I wish there was more representation from other US states, and countries. In addition, it would be great if there was a way to add a hands-on workshop, or some of the presentations more interactive.

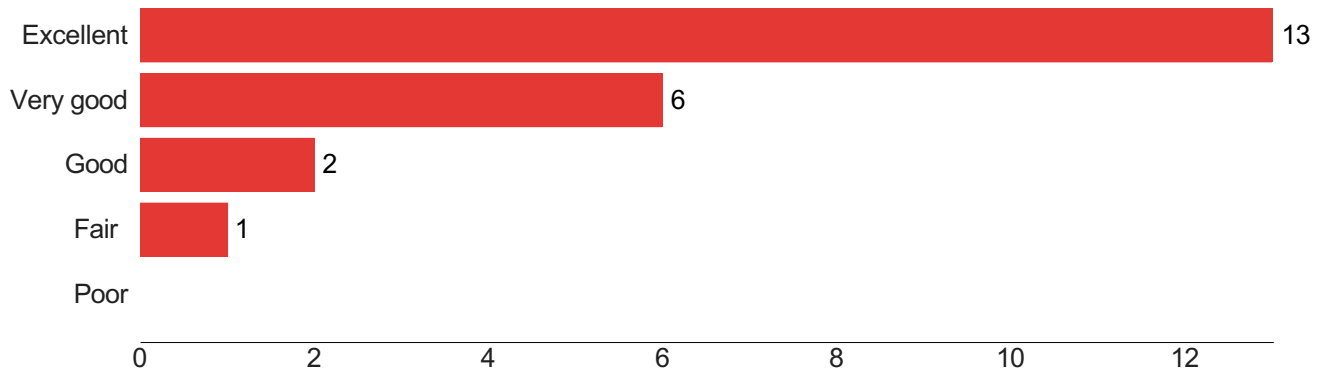
The website needed work

Too much food! It was tasty, but way too much.

hotel had issues with room AC, locks working etc etc.

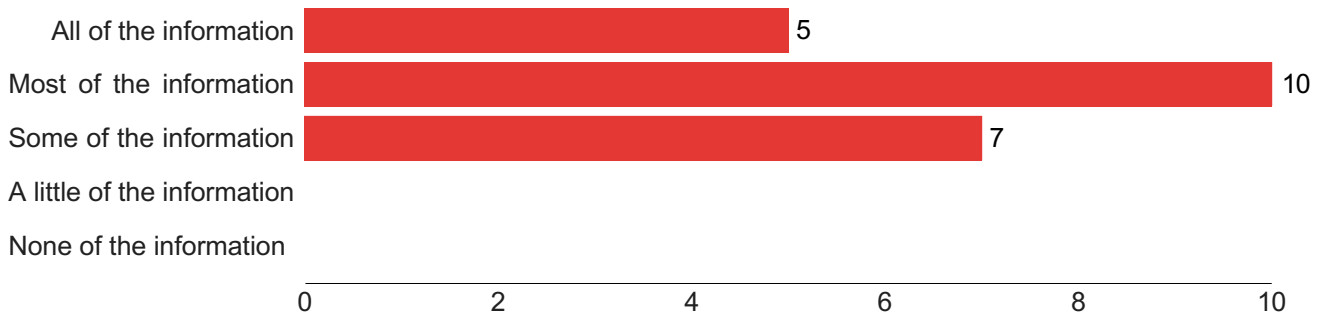
How would you rate the value for money of the event?

22 Responses



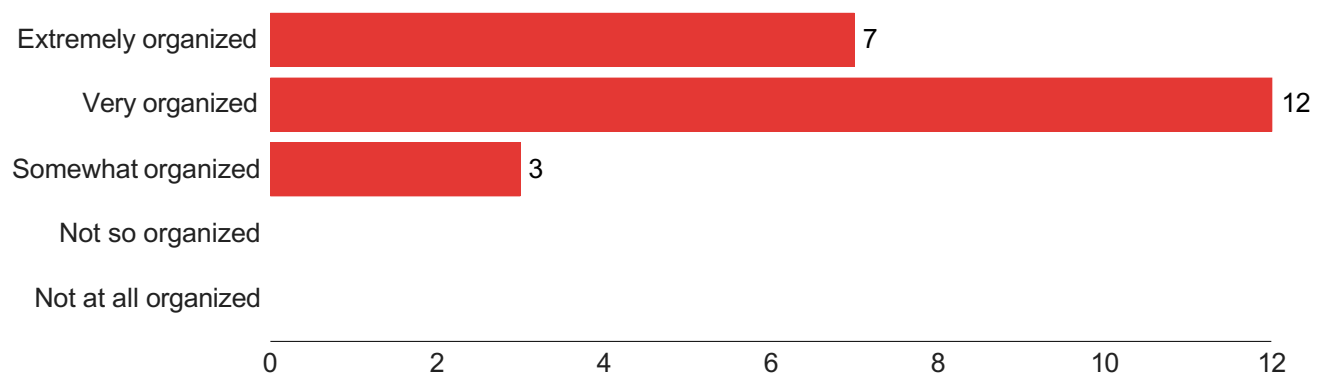
Prior to the event, how much of the information that you needed did you get?

22 Responses



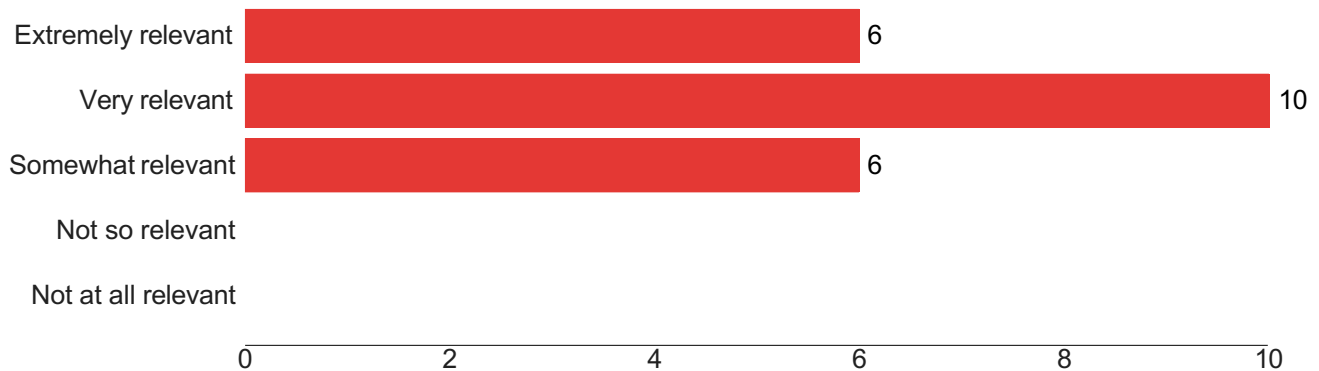
How organized was the event?

22 Responses



How relevant were the conference presentations to your needs?

22 Responses



Is there anything else you would like to share about the event?

What a great opportunity this was to get an international perspective on forestry. thanks so much for all the hard work of organizing.

I liked the blend of experience and the willingness to exchange them by the participants

Thank you to everyone involved in making this event happen! I had a fantastic time, made great connections, and left feeling like I not only understood more about Italian/Slovenian forestry/Extension work, but the culture as well. This is a really important part of international experiences, and I so appreciate the thought, care, and planning that our hosts put into this event to give us an authentic experience. It is one I will truly never forget, and I'm already ready to go back.

Also, the tours were amazing, and I feel so lucky to have the opportunity to visit the Archivio and see the maps, meet the experts, go to the forest itself, and have such fantastic Italian hosts.

Same for the Slovenian tour - it was phenomenal, and I learned so much. I so appreciate the level of planning that our hosts put into that tour, including the comprehensive folder that I will keep as a resource.

Thank you to ALL involved in every aspect of this event! I can't wait for the next one.

It was wonderful! Thank you for the awesome opportunity.

Please do it again!

I would have appreciated more upfront information. However, once in Italy everything was very well organized. I also recommend marketing a bit more and when doing so putting a bit more context of what is IUFRO EKE and why should we invest time in a group like that.

the event was organised with classroom presentations, forest outings and a visit to the state archives in venice where the world's earliest examples of forest divugation could be viewed

Perhaps more participants from other countries on following events for sharing experience.

It was a splendid experience for me. Thank you!

Thank you so much to our Italian hosts! Everything was so wonderful, and I especially loved the tour of the archives followed by going to see the forest afterwards. All of the meals (including the conversation) were also so great. Perhaps there's a way we could try to get more people from other countries to enjoy the conference with us next time. Thank you to everyone that helped bring this all together!

It was awesome! I've been telling everyone they need to come to the next working group meeting.

Thank you for allowing plus 1's to attend. I appreciate all of the time and energy put in to both the conference and post-conference tour. I look forward to the next gathering!

It was a wonderful opportunity and event, hope to attend more in the future.