

eceee 2007 Summer Study: Key figures and participant evaluation

Summary

The 2007 edition of the eceee Summer Study was held at La Colle sur Loup near Nice in Southern France 4 - 9 June 2007. This year's event – the 8th since 1993 – attracted 357 participants, which is more than 50 percent more than in 2005. The number of submitted abstracts has also grown considerably over the years. This was also shown in the conference proceedings, with 222 printed papers, which is a 35% increase compared to 2005.

The participation from Eastern and Central Europe, and the Former Soviet Union on one hand, and from Southern Europe (Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece) on the other hand remains lower than hoped for. We have managed to attract participants from a few new countries, but again, some countries with previous participation had no presence this year.

138 individuals or 39% of all participants filled out the post summer study evaluation form (In 2005, the response rate was 84 individuals or 35%). Participants keep valuing the summer study very highly in general, and many comment that the eceee Summer Study is the most important and interesting energy efficiency event in Europe.

46% of *all respondents* have attended 2 or more summer studies (including the 2007 edition). In 2005, 13% of respondents had attended at least 4 summer studies. In 2007, this number has dropped to 4% which confirms that the event steadily attracts new audiences. 88% of all respondents said that they intend to attend future summer studies.

As usual, of the contents part of the summer study, the panels, the informal sessions, the proceedings and the conference newsletter Graffiti are valued the highest. This year's poster session was much more successful than in the past two editions: 45 posters were presented and the session received one of its highest ratings ever.

Plenary sessions also received a higher rating than in 2003 and 2005. Although many are tired at the end of the already busy day, the high ratings reflect the efforts to attract high-level speakers who are able to capture the interest of Summer Study attendees.

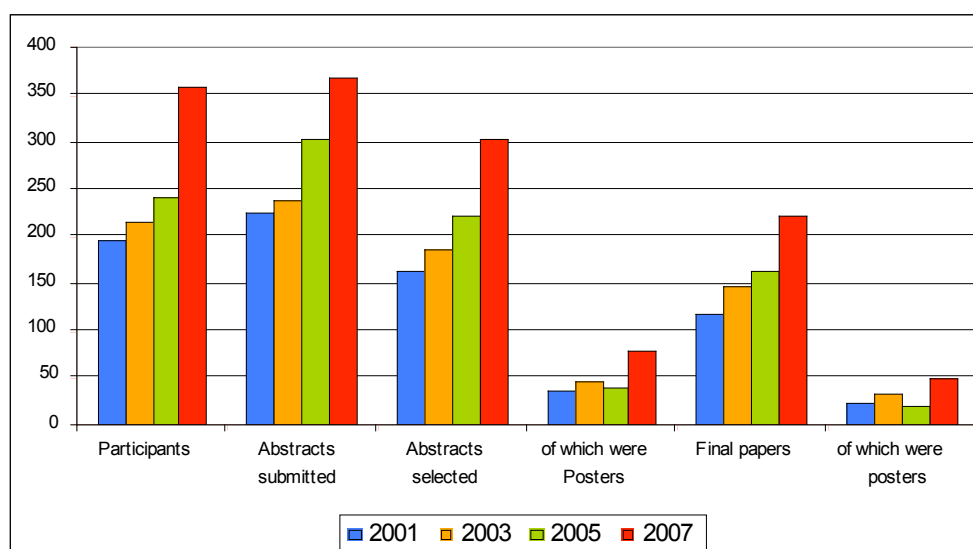
The general organisation of the summer study was well rated by participants, with 93% of all respondents rating it as 4 or 5 (where 1 is lowest and 5 the best), an extremely good rating considering the unexpected increase in papers and participants. Although several authors and reviewers and each and every panel leader suffered during the paper review and preparation stage, this process got an average rate of 4,0. On-site organization, registration and the social program all received high scores; whereas accommodation and meals was clearly the weakest point in terms of how participants rated the organization.

Finally, 76% of respondents give the value for money (summer study as a whole in relation to the fee) a 4 or 5 rating, and if the 3 rating is included the total is 93%.

A. Key figures

Participants, abstracts and papers

	2001	2003	2005	2007	change 2005-2007
Number of summer study participants	196	214	240	357	↗ 49%
Number of abstracts submitted	224	237	302	367	↗ 22%
Number of abstracts selected	165	185	221	303	↗ 37%
Of which were posters	37	45	39	80	↗ 105%
Number of final papers received	118	146	165	222	↗ 35%
Of which were posters	22	32	20	51	↗ 155%
Drop-out rate (abstracts selected vs. final papers published)	28%	21%	28%	26%	↘ 7%
Poster drop-out rate	41%	27%	49%	34%	↘ 31%



Drop out rates are lower than in 2001 and 5 but higher than in 2003. We cannot draw conclusions from this.

Distribution of papers between panels in 2007

Panel no. and theme*	no. of final papers
Panel 1. The Foundations of a future energy policy	19 (n/a in 2005)
Panel 2. Strategies and general policies	22 (32 in 2005)
Panel 3. Local and regional activities	22 (n/a in 2005)
Panel 4. Monitoring and Evaluation	21 (21 in 2005)
Panel 5. Energy efficient buildings	40 (35 in 2005)
Panel 6. Products and appliances	32 (20 in 2005)
Panel 7. Energy efficient industries	22 (n/a in 2005)
Panel 8. Transport and mobility	27 (13 in 2005)
Panel 9. Dynamics of consumption	15 (21 in 2005)

Participation

The table gives a detailed overview of where participants and main authors came from in 2003, 2005 and 2007 respectively.

Country of origin	Authors of papers and posters			Participants		
	2003	2005	2007	2003	2005	2007
Argentina	1					
Australia	2	2	5	2	3	7
Austria	4	9	15	9	6	14
Bangladesh			1			
Belgium	3	7	4	13	8	13
Brazil					1	
Bulgaria	1			3		
Canada			3	1	3	3
Chile						1
China			2		1	
Croatia			1			
Cyprus			1			1
Czech Republic			1		2	
Denmark	5	8	10	13	21	33
Estonia			1			
Finland	3	1	2	3	3	5
France	8	17	23	18	30	48
Germany	23	16	20	20	13	25
Greece						1
Guinea					1	
Hungary	4	2	2	3	3	2
India			2	1		6
Indonesia				1		
Ireland						1
Italy	7	8	4	8	5	6
Japan	4	4	2	9	8	9
Latvia		1			1	1
New Zealand						1
Norway	9	7	7	20	21	22
Poland				1		
Portugal	5	2	2	5	3	4
Romania	1		1	1	2	3
Russia	1			2		
Serbia-Montenegro						1
Slovakia	1			1		
Slovenia			1			
Spain					1	
Sweden	16	12	20	27	27	49
Switzerland	3		4	3	2	6
Thailand	1					
The Netherlands	11	16	21	13	18	26
Ukraine	2					
United Kingdom	19	27	31	24	32	45
USA	11	24	35	12	21	21
Uzbekistan	1			1		
Undisclosed	-	-	-	-	4	3
Totals	146	163	221	214	234	357

*Due to differences in the database's detailed information, totals do not match exactly.
Note: France including IEA participants, Belgium including EC, European Parliament participants and other international/European-wide organisations.



Participants affiliation

Affiliation information is taken from the ecee database, where the information is not complete and some times based on an assessment of an individual's affiliation. In some cases, multiple affiliation is also given. The below table should, however, be able to give a fair understanding of what sort of organisations Summer Study participants represent.

It is encouraging to note that the number of suppliers of energy efficient equipment and efficiency services has increased significantly, both in percent and in absolute numbers (with a jump from 4 participants in 2005 to 21 in 2007). Since trade organizations have been rather stable over the years, it is very encouraging that the individual firms now find it worthwhile participating in the Summer Study. At previous Summer Studies, participants have stated that it would be good if more suppliers could join the conference. Participants from energy utilities have seen a dramatic increase in both absolute and relative numbers.

Participants from research institutes and academia remain stable with approx. 1/3 of all participants. It should be noted that several of these participants also represent private research institutes. The share of energy agencies/governments, consultants and research institutes also remains more or less the same over the past three Summer Studies, but the trend for consultants is growing.

Type of affiliation	2003		2005		2007	
university/research inst	71	33%	81	33%	127	34%
intergov't organisation	11	5%	9	4%	11	3%
National gov't/energy agency	44	21%	66	27%	87	23%
Local government/energy agency	11	5%	4	2%	7	2%
Consultants	30	14%	41	17%	68	18%
energy utility & utility associations	5	2%	3	1%	29	8%
Esco	4	2%	1	0%	1	0%
Journalist, magazine etc	1	0%	1	0%	3	1%
Supplier of EE products/services	6	3%	4	2%	21	6%
NGO	9	4%	9	4%	14	4%
Trade organisation (for equpm suppliers)	6	3%	4	2%	6	2%
Other private firms (*)	5	2%	11	5%	n/a	0%
Other, unknown	9	4%	9	4%	2	1%
Total	212	100%	243	100%	376	100%

* The category "other private firms" has been omitted in 2007.

B – Evaluation by the participants

Nota bene: Evaluation results are based on 138 forms, i.e. a response rate of 39%.

Attendance frequency, intention to come back

How many times have you attended the ecee Summer Study (including this year)?

	2007	2005		2007	2005
1 time	55%	52%	5 times	4%	0%
2 times	15%	20%	6 times	4%	6%
3 times	10%	15%	7 times	5%	1%
4 times	8%	6%			

New participants among respondents represent 55% this year, up from 52% in 2005 but down from around 60% in 1999 and 2001. Six respondents have attended 7 of the 8 editions of the Summer Study.

Do you intend to come back in the future?

88%	YES	6%	NO
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Participants who intend to return to future summer studies answered:

- “Interesting and challenging presentations in the panel sessions, valuable networking”
- “Key event for energy saving specialists”
- “Unique concept, high level discussion, informal atmosphere, lovely people”
- “It’s the place to be for people in our field”
- “A very rich place to exchange ideas and initiate new R&D projects”
- “It’s the only important European conference in my field”
- “Because I like it so much!”

Eight respondents answered maybe.

Eight respondents do not intend to return. Most of these explain that they are leaving academia or changing jobs.

Participants global rating of the scientific part of the conference

Participants were asked to rate the following topics from 1-5 by encircling one option only.¹

(1= not useful, 3 = useful, 5 = very useful)

	Average rating	1	2	3	4	5
Panel sessions	4,4	0%	1%	9%	40%	49%
Informal sessions	3,9	1%	7%	24%	42%	26%
Poster session	3,5	2%	17%	29%	35%	17%
Plenary sessions	3,8	1%	7%	29%	40%	22%
Side Event	3,5	4%	12%	28%	38%	18%
Proceedings	4,4	1%	4%	8%	31%	56%
Graffiti	4,3	1%	2%	11%	40%	47%

The 8th edition of the Summer Study was globally well rated by respondents with many important indicators showing improved satisfaction levels.

Panel sessions, the heart of the Summer Study, are the most appreciated feature alongside the proceedings (although many respondents noted that they had, of course, not yet read the 2000-page 4-volume collection of papers). Respectively 89% and 87% of respondents find them quite useful or very useful (4 or 5 rating) and if the 3 rating is included (=useful) over 90% of respondents find both the panel sessions and the proceedings useful or better. If seen the other way, only 8% of respondents found the panel sessions and only 5% found the proceedings *less* than useful.

Although the nature of informal sessions has slightly evolved since the earlier summer studies (some are no longer quite as informal as in the past), these sessions continue to be well appreciated: two out of three respondents find them quite useful or very useful, mainly because they foster networking. Only 8 percent find them *less* than useful.

The 2007 poster session was a good success compared to previous years: around 45 posters were presented (more than ever at the Summer Study!) and attendance was also quite high (92% of respondents attended and 81% rated the session useful or better). This high number led to a crowded and noisy two-hour session that may explain the slightly contrasted votes seen above.

¹ The percentages of ratings 1 to 5 are calculated in relation to the number of people who answered the question (i.e. those who wrote “didn’t attend” or did not answer the question at all are not included).



Plenary sessions also received a better score than in previous editions: only in 1993 (the first Summer Study) and 2001 did the plenary sessions receive higher *average* grades than this year. Again, it is interesting to note that more than 90% of respondents find the 2007 plenary sessions useful or better (and only 8% find them *less* than useful), which is a very good result. Although many are tired at the end of the already busy day, the high ratings reflect the efforts to attract high-level speakers who are able to capture the interest of Summer Study attendees.

Finally, Graffiti, the daily conference newsletter remains a key feature: “a collective memory”, “very useful”, “essential”, “fun”.

Overall, the 2007 edition of the Summer Study can be considered quite a success: the “scientific value of the event” reached a global rating of 4,0, which puts 2007 in the top three Summer Studies, alongside 1993 and 2005². It is also encouraging that we seem to have been able to maintain this high quality of two consecutive events, despite the strong growth in the number of participants and paper.

Participants’ rating of the thematic panels

Participants were asked to give their global rating by encircling one option from 1-5. They were also asked to specify if they did not visit some panels.

(1= not useful, 3 = useful, 5 = very useful).

	Average rating	1	2	3	4	5	Attendance ³
P1 The foundations of a future energy policy	4,1	0%	2%	18%	44%	35%	63%
P2 Strategies and general policies	4,1	0%	1%	14%	51%	33%	60%
P3 Local and regional activities	3,8	0%	3%	32%	46%	19%	45%
P4 Monitoring and evaluation	4,1	0%	1%	15%	56%	28%	58%
P5 Energy efficient buildings	4,2	0%	2%	12%	49%	37%	62%
P6 Products and appliances	4,1	0%	4%	17%	47%	31%	50%
P7 Energy efficient industries	4,0	0%	6%	21%	43%	30%	38%
P8 Transport and mobility	3,7	0%	6%	33%	46%	15%	35%
P9 Dynamics of consumption	4,4	0%	2%	9%	33%	55%	61%

All thematic panels received good ratings. Panels 1, 2, 5 and 9 were the most popular panels in terms of both attendance and rating. Whereas 2, 5 and 9 are traditional eeeee themes, Panel 1 was an innovative take on energy efficiency that attracted a good crowd and received high scores. “Dynamics of Consumption” received the exceptional rating of 4,4 followed by “Energy efficient buildings”. “Monitoring and evaluation” and “Products and appliances” were also very positively graded by participants.

Among the more specialised panels, “Energy efficient industry” and “Transport and mobility” attracted the “smallest” crowds, small meaning in this case more than 125 participants. The panel focused on “Local and regional activities”, introduced in 2007, also appears to meet a significant need since about 160 participants attended some or many of this panel’s presentations.

² The 1999 edition actually received a 4.1. However, the evaluation was based on a low 25% response rate that year.

³ The “attendance” column records the number of respondents who rated this panel. It is therefore a rough evaluation of the level of attendance.

Organisation, social programme and value for money

Participants were asked to give their global rating by encircling one option from 1-5.

(1= not useful, 3 = useful, 5 = very useful).

	Average rating	1	2	3	4	5
The general organization of the Summer Study?	4,6	0%	2%	5%	25%	68%
The paper submission, review and preparation process?	4,0	0%	8%	14%	45%	32%
The registration process?	4,3	1%	1%	15%	36%	47%
On-site organization?	4,4	1%	2%	8%	29%	60%
Accommodation & Meals	3,5	6%	12%	29%	29%	23%
Social program	4,0	0%	6%	22%	37%	35%
Value for money (summer study as a whole in relation to the fee)	4,0	3%	4%	17%	42%	34%

Accommodation and meals are the only items to receive a low rating. The selection of the venue prioritized conference facilities and capacity versus comfort. The good news is that the hotel is programmed for renovation next year. The main complaint about the meals is the lack of choice for vegetarians, which is a recurring problem in France and should be addressed somehow in future Summer Studies.

Apart from this weak point, the 2007 Summer Study received exceptionally good ratings. This is very good news for the entire organization team, which faced a dramatic increase in both papers (+35%) and participants (+49%) this year. 93% of respondents rated the general organization 4 or 5 and three out of four consider the Summer Study good value for money.

General comments and recommendations from participants

Participants were asked the question: “In general, what recommendations would you make for the next Summer Study?” Some of these recommendations are reproduced below:

- **Participation:** Quite a few respondents commented on the size of the Summer Study and consider that it should not grow any larger in order to maintain its informal atmosphere. These participants felt that there was less interactions in such a large group.

Several respondents comment on the lack of representatives from certain regions (Central, Eastern and Southern Europe) or types of participants (policy-makers, representatives of the end-users, psychologists, etc.).

- **Programme:** A few participants consider that the programme is a challenge with each day starting at 9 am and finishing at 8 pm.

Another group felt that having nine panels run in parallel is too many since it makes it much more difficult to choose which presentations to attend.

- **Paper quality:** A number of respondents consider that, as the number of papers grows, so should the quality criteria and therefore the review process should be more critical. They commented that the review criteria need to be much more detailed so that authors know from the start on what basis their paper will be judged (up until now, panel leaders and reviewers were accorded a great deal of freedom in judging draft papers).
- **Abstract selection process:** a few comments were made about the abstract selection process by respondents who believe that the process is unfair to some.



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However, it hard to see how this could be made more fair: currently, abstracts are selected blindly, i.e. that the selection committee has no knowledge on authorship when selecting or rejecting abstracts.

- Miscellaneous: Several respondents proposed that a book of abstracts be distributed at the start of the Summer Study.