

# ecee 2009 Summer Study: Key figures and participant evaluation<sup>1</sup>

The 2009 edition of the ecee Summer Study was held at La Colle sur Loup near Nice (Southern France), 1 - 6 June 2009.

This year's event – the 9th since 1993 – attracted **376 conference participants**, which is more than in any previous year. 33 accompanying persons also enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere at the venue and the surrounding area.

The number of submitted abstracts has also grown regularly over the years, reaching **415 abstracts** in 2009, with a total of **195 final papers** included in the conference proceedings.

The following evaluation details result from figures and conclusions drawn at each stage of the Summer Study organisation, and from the **evaluation forms filled in by 160 participants** (43% of all Summer Study participants).

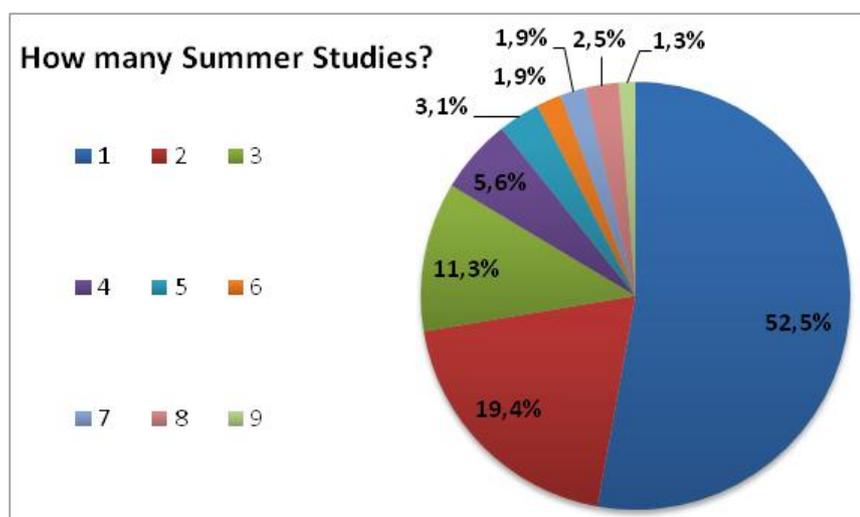
## 1. Key figures

### *About participants*

The number of Summer Study participants grew considerably at the past 2007 edition, with an increase of nearly 50% from 2005 to 2007. This trend levelled off this year with 376 conference participants, a 4% increase compared to 2007.

Participants	2005	2007	2009
Conference participants	240	357 (49% increase)	376 (4% increase)

**More than half of the respondents to the post Summer Study evaluation attended the conference for the first time.** 19.4% attended it for the second time, and 27.3 % have attended at least three Summer Studies.



<sup>1</sup> Revised January 2011 – affiliation figures added.

### Participation by country

The table gives a detailed overview of where participants, and authors and co-authors came from in 2005, 2007 and 2009 respectively.

Country of origin	Authors and co-authors of papers and posters			Participants		
	2005	2007	2009	2005	2007	2009
Australia	7	14	7	3	7	2
Austria	21	32	27	6	14	12
Bangladesh		1	1			
Belgium	10	9	7	8	13	13
Brazil			5	1		
Bulgaria						1
Canada		4	6	3	3	3
Chile					1	
China		1	3	1		5
Croatia		1				
Cyprus		2			1	
Czech Republic		2	1	2		2
Denmark	17	20	37	21	33	43
Estonia		1				
Finland	1	5	12	3	5	5
France	44	62	65	30	48	49
Germany	45	56	66	13	25	39
Greece		3	2		1	
Hungary	8	10	14	3	2	5
India		2	1		6	4
Ireland					1	3
Italy	13	12	25	5	6	9
Japan	16	6	5	8	9	5
Latvia	2			1	1	1
Lebanon						1
Morocco						1
New Zealand		1	1		1	1
Norway	22	10	16	21	22	18
Palestine territories			1			1
Philippines	1					
Poland	2		1			6
Portugal	8	7	22	3	4	8
Romania		3		2	3	1
Serbia-Montenegro					1	
Singapore			1			
Slovakia						1
Slovenia		3	2			1
Spain	1	1	7	1		3
Sweden	24	43	60	27	49	53
Switzerland	1	10	6	2	6	6
Thailand		1				
The Netherlands	33	49	20	18	26	24
Tunisia	1					2
United Arab Emirates						1
Ukraine						
United Kingdom	48	84	49	32	45	20
UAE			1			
USA	73	93	46	21	21	27
Undisclosed				4	3	
Vietnam			1			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>376</b>

Countries of origin – Not very surprisingly considering previous Summer Studies’ attendance, the main countries represented among participants are Sweden (52 persons), France (49 persons), Denmark (43 persons), Germany (39 persons) & The Netherlands (24 persons).

**Several new countries were represented compared to 2007:** Albania, Bulgaria, China, Czech Republic, Lebanon, Morocco, the Palestine Territories, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates. This enlarges the scope of the Summer Study to Eastern Europe, Mediterranean countries and Asia, although their participation remains lower than hoped for.

*Note: France includes IEA participants, Belgium includes 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 always complete and some times based on an assessment of an individual’s affiliation. In some cases, multiple affiliation is also given and in those cases we have picked the one that seems most likely.

Type of affiliation	2003		2005		2007		2009	
university/research inst	71	33%	81	33%	119	33%	139	37%
intergov't organisation	11	5%	9	4%	11	3%	11	3%
National gov't/energy agency	44	21%	66	27%	83	23%	64	17%
Local government/energy agency	11	5%	4	2%	7	2%	9	2%
Consultants	30	14%	41	17%	61	17%	58	15%
energy utility & utility associations	5	2%	3	1%	29	8%	40	11%
Esco (*)	4	2%	1	0%	1	0%	3	1%
Journalist, magazine etc	1	0%	1	0%	3	1%	2	1%
Supplier of EE products/services (*)	6	3%	4	2%	21	6%	23	6%
NGO	9	4%	9	4%	14	4%	16	4%
Trade organisation (for equipm suppliers)	6	3%	4	2%	6	2%	6	2%
Other private firms (**)	5	2%	11	5%	n/a	0%	n/a	0%
Other, unknown	9	4%	9	4%	2	1%	5	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* the categories “Escos” and “Supplier of EE products/services” are increasingly becoming blurred.

\*\* The category “other private firms” was omitted in 2007.

### Developments and observations

- 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 23 in 2009).
- 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 (It should be said, however, that some of these may see themselves as representing both.)
- At previous Summer Studies, participants have stated that it would be good if more equipment suppliers could join the conference and this saw a drastic increase in 2007 which was sustained in 2009.
- Participants from energy utilities have seen a dramatic increase in both absolute and relative numbers. Here, some of these also represent utilities R&D and/or research divisions.
- 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 four Summer Studies, but the trend for consultants is growing.

### Abstracts & Papers

**415 abstracts were submitted** to the 2009 Summer Study, the highest figure since its first edition and with an increase of 13% compared to the 2007 conference.

The process was more selective with less panels (8 instead of 9) resulting in fewer abstracts selected by the Panel Leaders (278) compared to 2007 (303).

Abstracts	2005	2007	2009
Abstracts submitted	302	367	415
Abstracts selected	221	303	278 *

\* Among which 18 abstracts were to be merged: this resulted in 269 accepted abstracts net.

After withdrawals and drop-outs and the review process, 195 final papers were finally included into the Summer Study proceedings. Note that some authors withdrew their papers immediately after notification since they may have ended up with several accepted abstracts due to the blind review process.

Final papers	2005	2007	2009
Total	165	222	195
Of which were posters	20	51	35

This indicates a rate of withdrawn, dropped-out and rejected papers of 27.5%, but also a higher rate of 34% withdrawn/drop-out posters. These figures are very similar to those of the 2007 Summer 'Study.

Drop-out rate (including rejected papers)	2005	2007	2009
Total	28%	26%	27.5%
Poster drop-out rate	49%	34%	34%

#### *Distribution of orally presented papers between Panels in 2009*

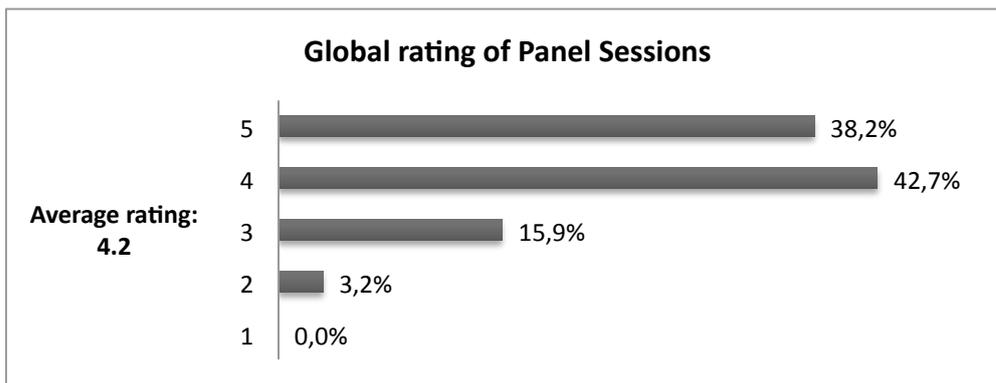
Panels	No. of final papers
Panel 1. The foundations of future energy policies: Initiating change and breaking walls	23
Panel 2. Policy implementation: Learning from the past, improving the future	22
Panel 3. Monitoring & evaluation: Understanding change and how to deliver energy efficiency	21
Panel 4. Residential and commercial sectors: Delivering lower energy use in buildings	20
Panel 5. Energy efficiency in industry	22
Panel 6. Energy efficiency in transport and mobility	14
Panel 7. Innovative buildings technologies	18
Panel 8. Dynamics of consumption	20

## 2. Evaluation by the participants

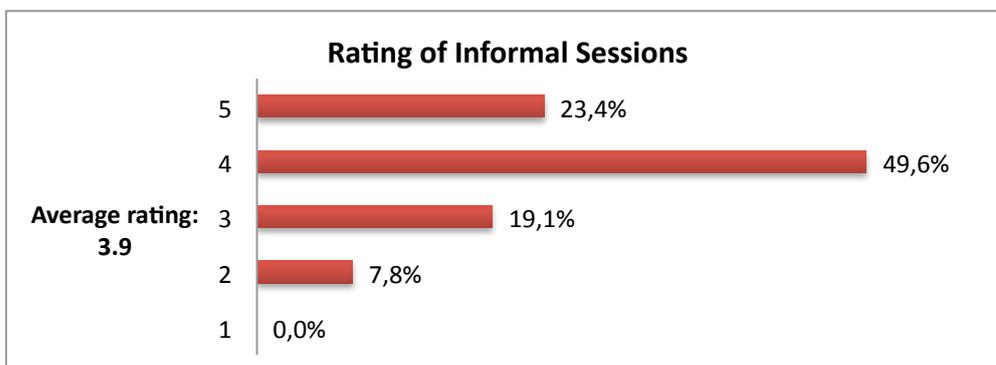
Evaluation results are based on 160 forms, i.e. a response rate of 43%. Participants were asked to rate the following topics from 1 to 5 (5 being the highest rating) by encircling one option only<sup>2</sup>. They could also write additional comments on every topic.

<sup>2</sup> 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).

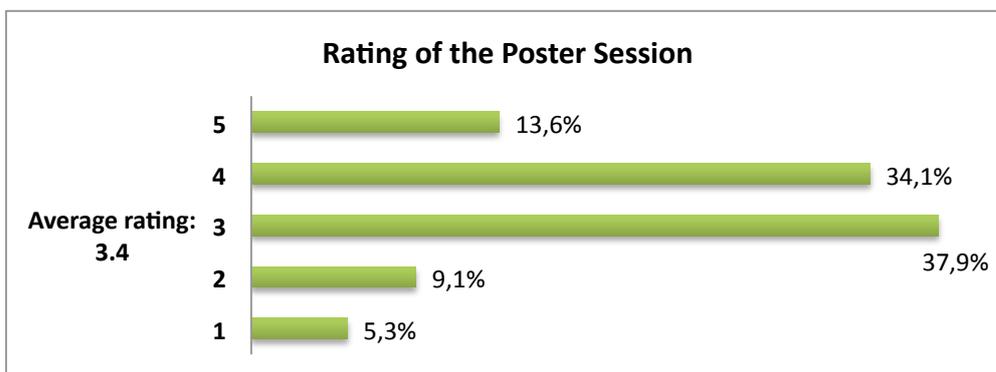
**Participants global rating of the scientific part of the conference**



Panel sessions, the heart of the Summer Study, received an **average rating of 4.2**. They are the most appreciated feature after the proceedings (average rating of 4.5). Respondents often underlined the high quality of papers presented and of the following discussions. Suggestions were made about encouraging presentations by Eastern Europe authors and private companies, and some respondents expressed a wish for more numerous policy results and links with related issues (climate change, energy shortage, economical & sociological challenges...).



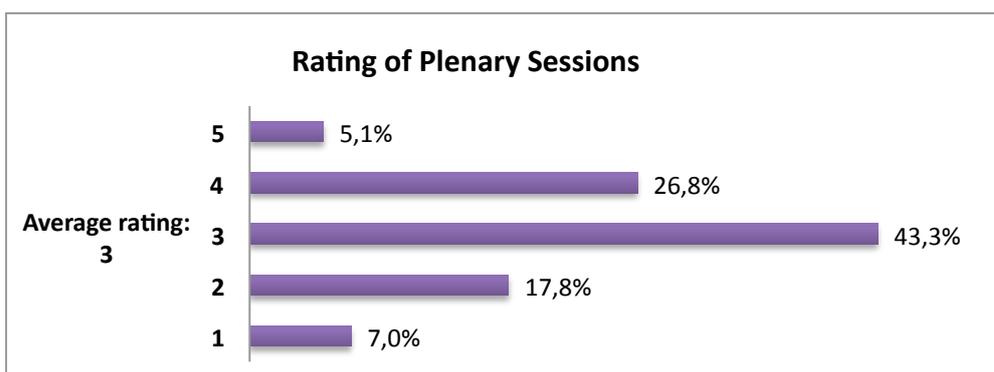
Informal sessions were organised on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. These sessions continue to be well ranked: 3 out of 4 respondents rated them 4 or 5, with an **average rating of 3.9**. The interactive aspect and the time given to get deeper into a subject were often mentioned. Some suggestions were made about organising even more informal sessions, with a preference for short sessions of 45 minutes.



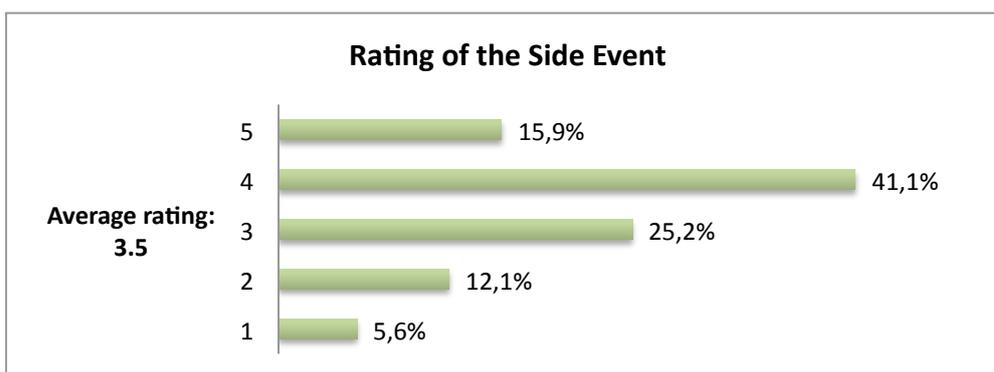
35 short papers were included in the proceedings this year, among which 31 were presented as posters during the Summer Study.

Participants' attendance to the Poster session was again quite high (and indeed 83% of respondents rated it), leading to a crowded 1,5 hour session that may explain the slightly contrasted votes seen above and the lower **average rating of 3.4** compared to other features. This remains a highly appreciated moment of the Summer Study. Several

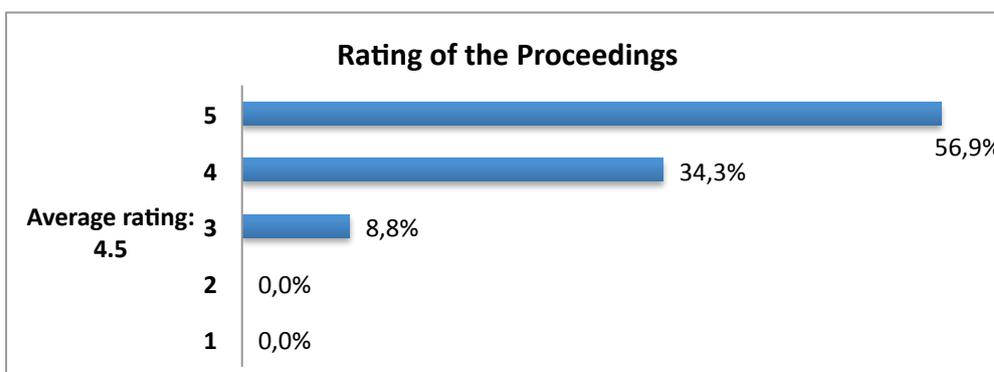
respondents suggested to let the posters be up all week at the venue, and to give a longer time to the Poster session.



Similarly to previous Summer Studies, Plenary sessions received a lower rate than other types of sessions (**average rating of 3**). According to several comments by respondents, this could be explained by the long 2 hours at the end of an already busy day, and by the general scope on energy efficiency chosen by keynote speakers. Some respondents expressed a wish for sessions focused on one topic, for challenging debates on current issues (lifestyles were quoted as an example) and on policy proposals, and for speakers from nearby fields *“to broaden everybody’s mindset”*. Respondents also mentioned that they appreciated the *“funny openings”* by the conference co-chairs.



The side event on smart metering received the **average rating of 3.5**, similarly to the 2007 edition. The topic chosen this year was found interesting, and some respondents indicated that it was too short.



The conference proceedings were given **the highest average rating with 4.5**, which is even higher than in 2007. More than half of the respondents rated it 5. Lots of them also commented on the USB key, which was found a good idea. They valued its content to

“keep the memory fresh” and “to be used for future work”. The book of abstracts was also a great success (this was suggested by participants in the 2007 evaluation forms!).

### Participants’ rating of the thematic panels

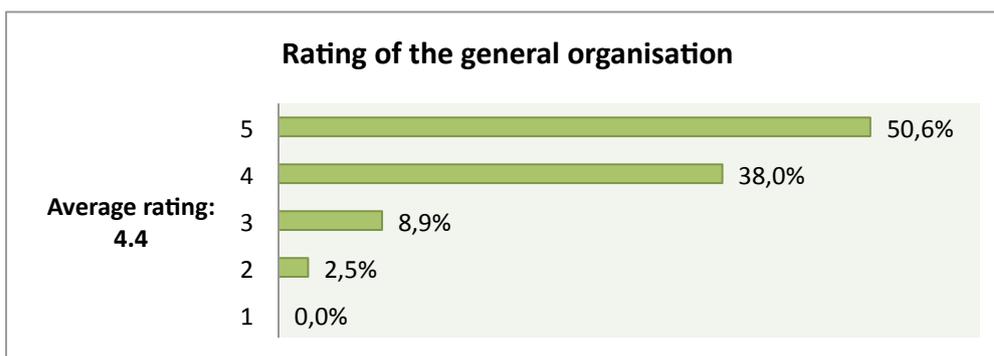
Panels	Average rating	1	2	3	4	5	Average attendance*
<b>Panel 1.</b> The foundations of future energy policies: initiating change and breaking walls	<b>4,2</b>	x	1%	16%	48%	35%	<b>62%</b>
<b>Panel 2.</b> Policy implementation: learning from the past, improving the future	<b>4,2</b>	1%	1%	18%	41%	39%	<b>56%</b>
<b>Panel 3.</b> Monitoring & evaluation: understanding change and how to deliver energy efficiency	<b>3,9</b>	x	6%	27%	38%	29%	<b>54%</b>
<b>Panel 4.</b> Residential and commercial sectors: Delivering lower energy use in buildings	<b>4</b>	1%	1%	18%	49%	31%	<b>53%</b>
<b>Panel 5.</b> Energy efficiency in industry	<b>3,8</b>	x	9%	27%	33%	31%	<b>33%</b>
<b>Panel 6.</b> Energy efficiency in transport and mobility	<b>3,6</b>	x	15%	30%	37%	18%	<b>21%</b>
<b>Panel 7.</b> Innovative buildings technologies	<b>4</b>	x	6%	15%	49%	30%	<b>43%</b>
<b>Panel 8.</b> Dynamics of consumption	<b>4</b>	3%	5%	14%	40%	38%	<b>53%</b>

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

All thematic panels received good ratings, above 3.5. Panels 1 (The foundations of future energy policies) and 2 (Policy implementation) were the most popular panels in terms of both attendance and rating. Panels 3 (Monitoring & evaluation), 4 (Residential and commercial sectors) and 8 (Dynamics of consumption) also attracted a good crowd with an average attendance rate of over 50% of all respondents.

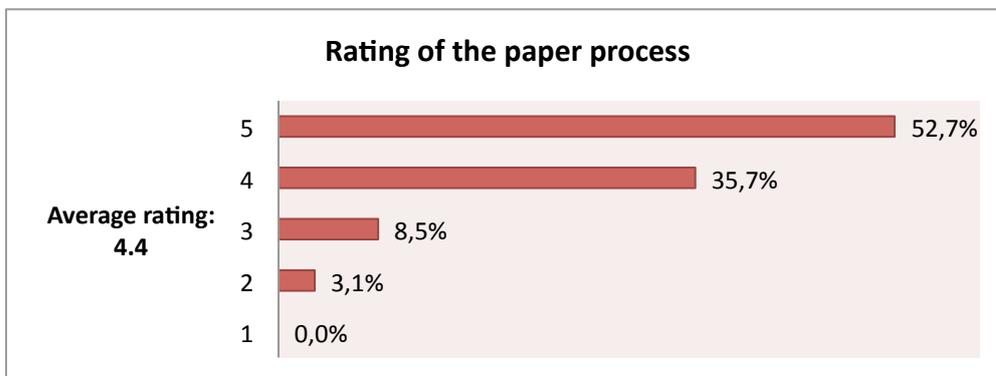
As in 2007, the more specialized panels “Energy efficiency in industry” and “Energy efficiency in transport and mobility” attracted the smallest crowds. Despite its low attendance rating, Panel 6 on transport and mobility is considered by many respondents as an important panel requiring a larger number of papers submitted and speakers.

### Participants’ rating of the organisational features

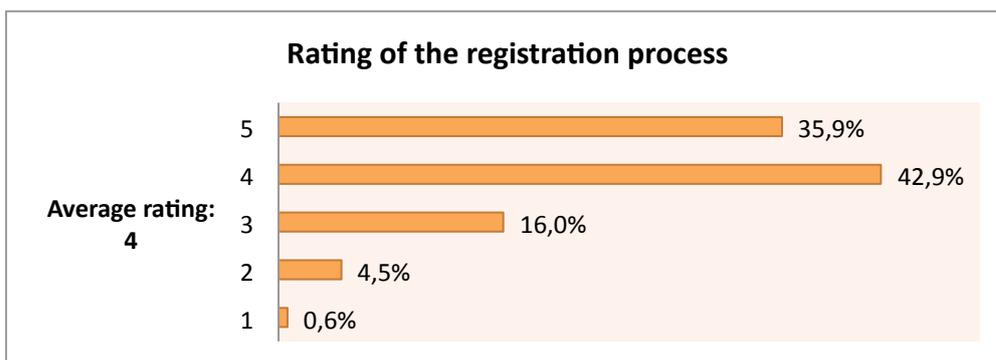


The general organisation of the 2009 Summer Study received a very good **average rating of 4.4**, with more than 50% of respondents rating it 5 and almost 90% of them rating it 4 or 5. The “friendly” atmosphere was often mentioned as an appreciated part of it.

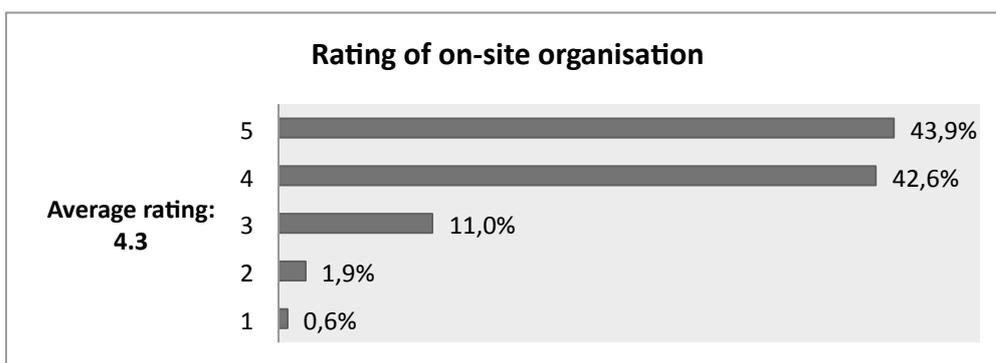
Respondents were satisfied with most items related to the organisational aspects.



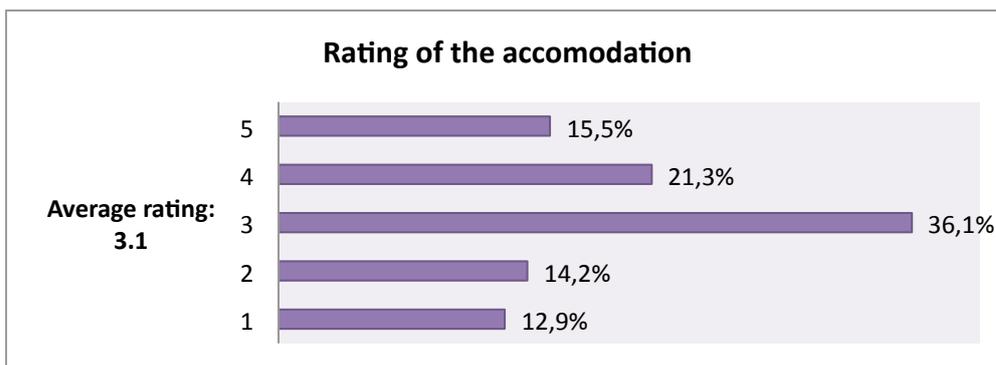
They rated the paper submission, review and preparation process with **an average of 4.4**, an improvement partly due to a longer experience in preparing the ecee Summer Study. The involvement of the Panel leaders at every stage of the Paper process may also explain this high satisfaction level, along with a peer-review process often described as “very helpful” and “to the point”.



The registration process received an **average rating of 4**, with more than 3 out of 4 respondents rating it 4 or 5.



With an **average rating of 4.3**, on-site organisation was also one of the most appreciated features considering the preparation and organisation items.

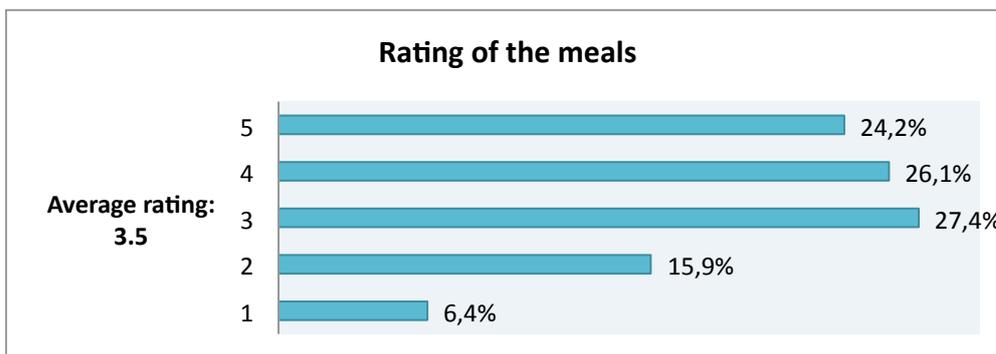


As in the 2007 edition, accommodation (**average rating of 3.1**) and meals (**average rating of 3.5**) received the lowest rating.

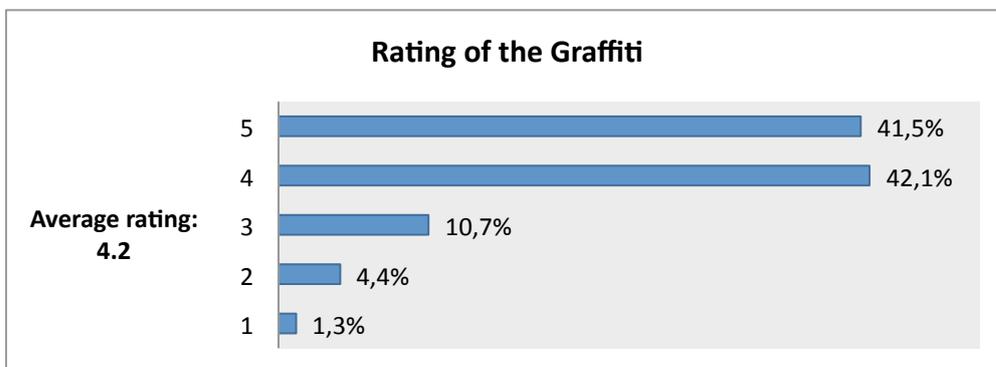
The selection of the venue prioritized conference facilities and capacity versus comfort. Although the panel rooms, the site location and the greenery are considered as a valuable asset, rooms have not been refurbished since the previous conference and some respondents expressed higher expectations on this matter.

The other main complaint about the venue concerns the internet access, which the high number of participants connecting at the same time has made quite slow on several occasions. This is also something to address and improve in future Summer Studies.

Finally, accessibility of the site from a train station and by public transportation means was also mentioned by a few respondents as an issue to be taken into account for the choice of future venues.

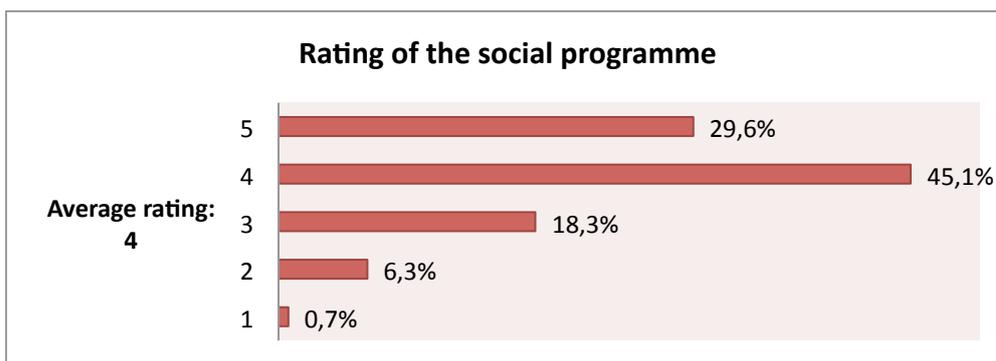


Meals are the second low rating regarding organisational aspects. Participants to previous Summer Studies noticed an improvement in the quality of the vegetarian food and the creation of a dedicated vegetarian buffet was appreciated. However, respondents pointed out that the next step was to diversify the choice for vegetarian meals over the week of the conference.



As usual, the daily conference newsletter - the Graffiti - remains a key feature. It was described as entertaining and informative, and as creating a good atmosphere at

breakfast. Well, there were a few requirements about the weather forecast – the weather has been challenging us this year!



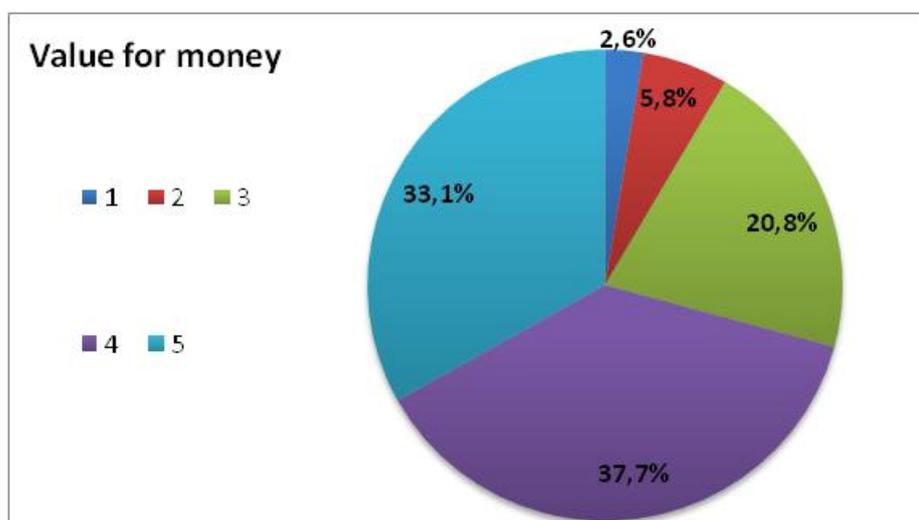
As usual, a social programme was proposed to the participants with this year two pétanque tournaments, a folkloric dance initiation class, a wine and cheese tasting, several excursions to the surrounding medieval villages (Vence, Saint-Paul-de-Vence) and beaches (Cagnes-sur-Mer). The music band and disco on the last night were apparently so much enjoyed by the participants that several respondents asked for more dancing during the week!

### **Global assessment of the event**

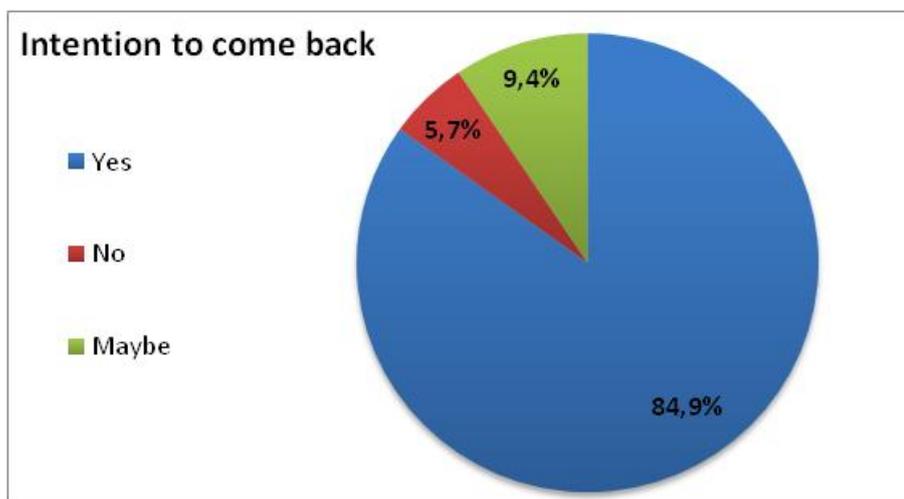
As a whole, the 2009 Summer Study received a general satisfaction rating of 3.9 (with similarly 3.9 for the “scientific value of the event”, and 3.9 for its organisational aspects). When looking separately at the respondents’ assessment according to their affiliations, the following results on satisfaction ratings can be obtained:

Type of affiliation*	Average rating
NGO	4,2
Energy utility & utility association	4,1
University / Research institute	4
National government / energy agency	3,9
Consultants	3,7

\* Due to a low number of respondents, results for the following types of affiliations cannot be presented in this table: inter-governmental organisation, local government / energy agency, supplier of EE products / services, trade organisation.



**71% of respondents give the value for money (Summer Study as a whole in relation to the fee) a 4 or 5 rating.** In the cases of lower ratings and according to respondents' comments, these results can be explained by expectations for higher-standard accommodation facilities, or by lower budgets available for NGOs and students who may want to attend the conference.



Finally, **when asked about their intention to come back to future ecee Summer Studies, 85% of respondents answered “yes”** and underlined the following reasons:

- Opportunity to learn more and get the trends, wide scope of topics related with energy efficiency.
- See what is going on in Europe and other regions, and a good place to display own work.
- Discuss new ideas, and bring them back home.
- Meet interesting persons, well-known partners & new contacts.
- Relaxed, informal and friendly atmosphere.
- Help keeping in mind why you do what you do, that is, trying to make a difference!
- Most enjoyable conference on energy efficiency in Europe.

15 respondents (9.4%) answered “maybe”, mostly because of uncertainty regarding future work topics and funding.

9 respondents (5.7%) do not intend to return. Most of these explain that they will be retiring in the meantime or changing jobs.