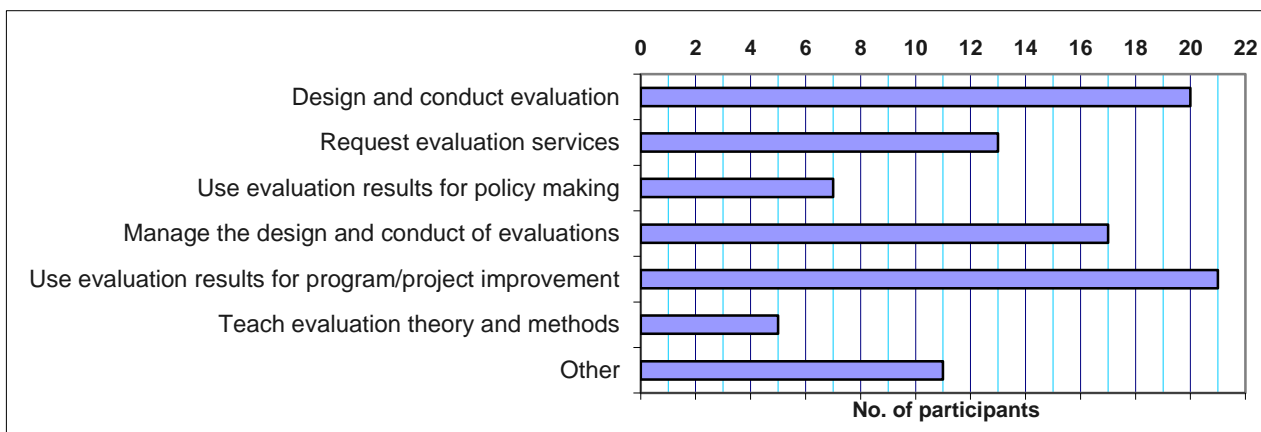


EPDET 2014 - EVALUATION

Cilistov, Slovak Republic, August 31 - September 5, 2014

1. Which of the following describes your primary evaluation function? (Please check as many as appropriate)

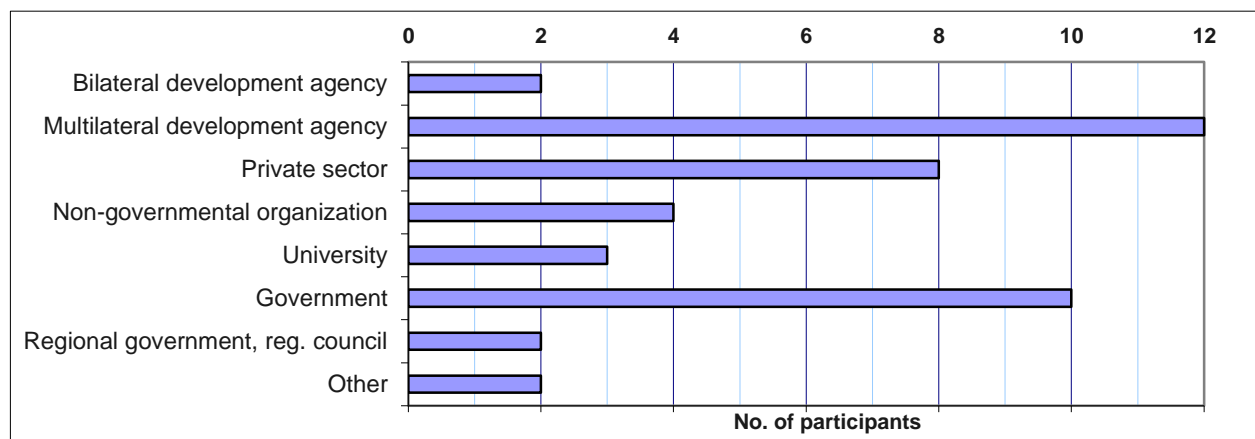
Design and conduct evaluation	20
Request evaluation services	13
Use evaluation results for policy making	7
Manage the design and conduct of evaluations	17
Use evaluation results for program/project improvement	21
Teach evaluation theory and methods	5
Other	11



Most of respondents are primarily involved in designing and conducting evaluations but significant part is also managing evaluations and using the evaluation results.

2. In which type of organization do you work?

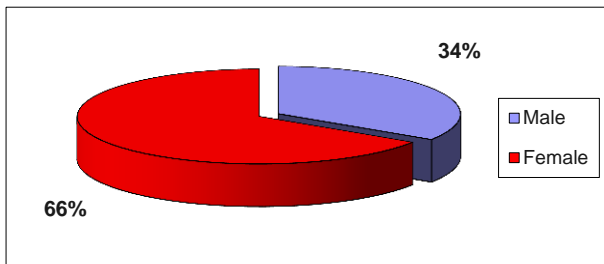
		%
Bilateral development agency	2	5
Multilateral development agency	12	28
Private sector	8	19
Non-governmental organization	4	9
University	3	7
Government	10	23
Regional government, reg. council	2	5
Other	2	5



We received 41 questionnaires from 48 graduates (85% response rate).

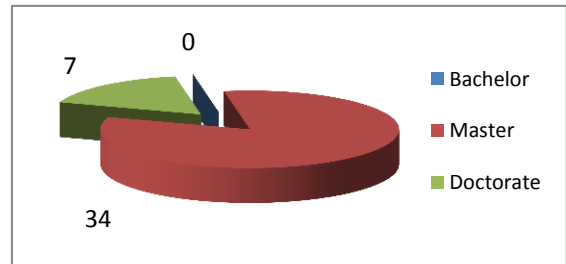
3. Gender

Male	14
Female	27



4. Academic degree

Bachelor	0
Master	34
Doctorate	7



The questionnaire was responded by 14 men and 27 women.

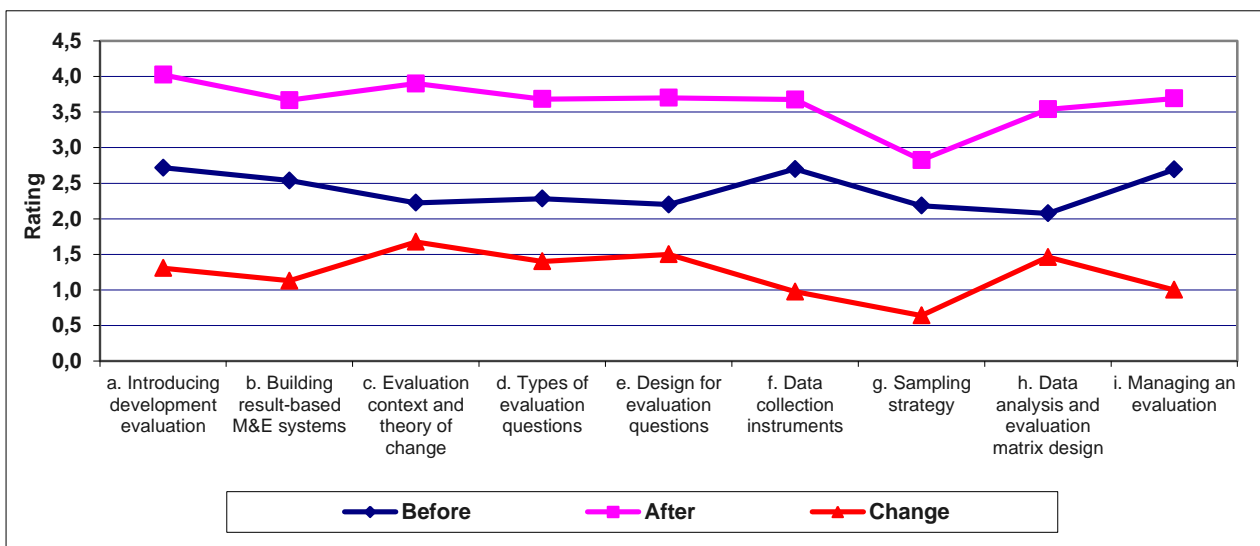
Most of respondents (83 %) completed Master degree, 17 % have a higher academic degree.

5. How much do you believe you have gained in knowledge and skills as a result of the training?

1 = Low

5 = High

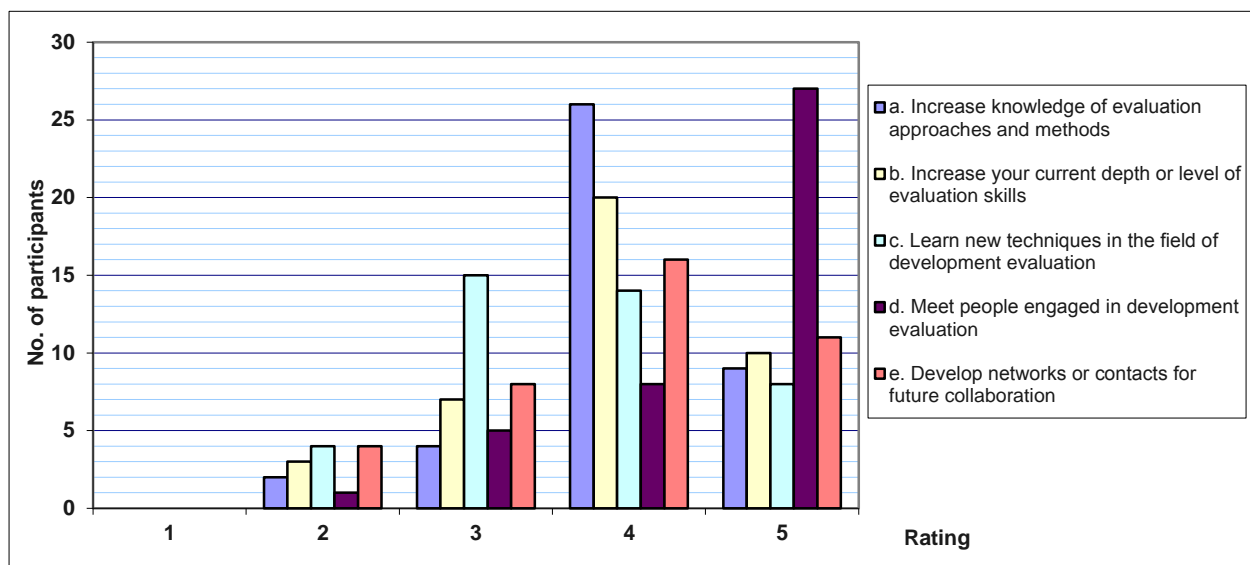
Knowledge	Before	After	Change	% change
a. Introducing development evaluation	2,72	4,03	1,31	48,11
b. Building result-based M&E systems	2,54	3,67	1,13	44,44
c. Evaluation context and theory of change	2,23	3,90	1,68	75,28
d. Types of evaluation questions	2,28	3,68	1,40	61,39
e. Design for evaluation questions	2,20	3,70	1,50	68,18
f. Data collection instruments	2,70	3,68	0,98	36,11
g. Sampling strategy	2,18	2,83	0,64	29,34
h. Data analysis and evaluation matrix design	2,08	3,54	1,46	70,37
i. Managing an evaluation	2,69	3,69	1,00	37,14
Mean	2,16	3,27	1,11	47,04



In general, the participants estimated the improvement of their skills and knowledge by 47 %. The most significant improvement was reported in the field of evaluation questions (increase by 110 %) where the level of knowledge before the training showed minimal values. The highest level of knowledge/skills before and after the training was in the area of Evaluation context and theory of change (2,23 before and 3,90 after, on the scale 1-5), while minimal reported improvement 29,34 % concerned Sampling strategy.

6. To what degree has EPDET helped you meet the following objectives?

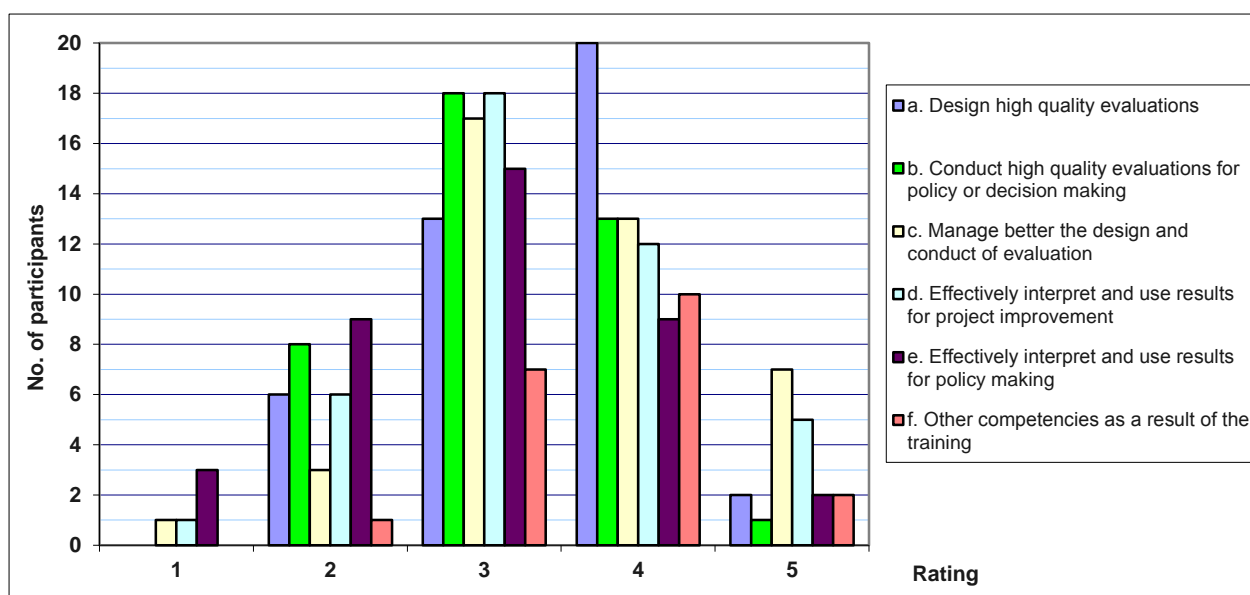
	Rating	%	n
a. Increase knowledge of evaluation approaches and methods	4,02	75,61	41
b. Increase your current depth or level of evaluation skills	3,83	70,73	41
c. Learn new techniques in the field of development evaluation	3,63	65,85	41
d. Meet people engaged in development evaluation	4,49	87,20	41
e. Develop networks or contacts for future collaboration	3,87	71,79	39



There was quite a high satisfaction with meeting specific objectives of EPDET - rating varied between 3,63 (65,9 %) for Learning new techniques and 4,49 (87,2 %) for meeting people engaged in development evaluation.

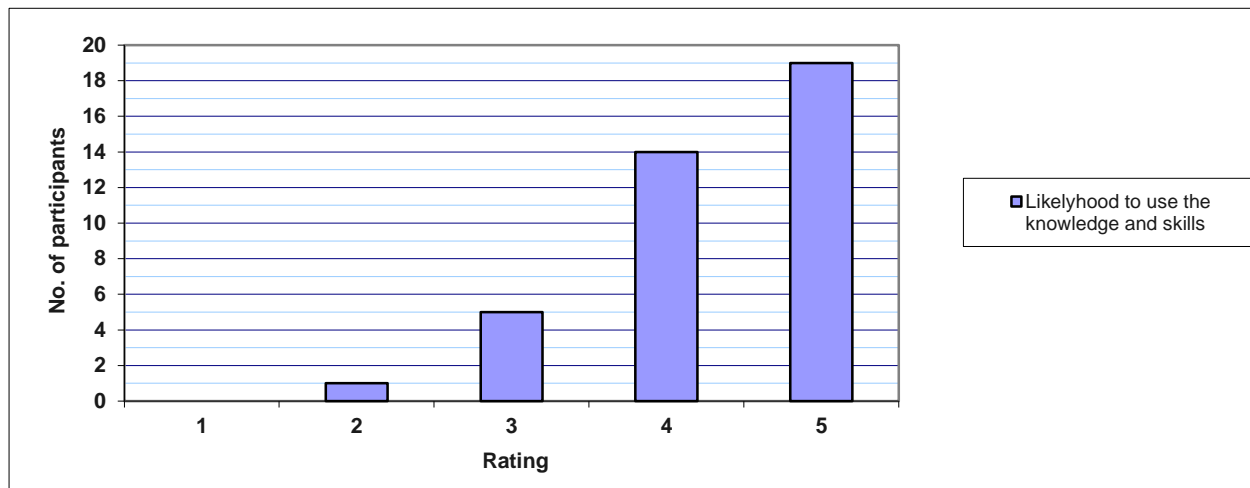
7. To what degree has EPDET enhanced your abilities or competencies to do the following?

	Rating	%	n
a. Design high quality evaluations	3,44	60,98	41
b. Conduct high quality evaluations that produce sound knowledge for policy or decision making	3,10	52,44	41
c. Manage better the design and conduct of evaluation	3,54	63,41	41
d. Effectively interpret and use results for project improvement	3,33	58,33	42
e. Effectively interpret and use results for policy making	2,87	46,79	39
f. Other competencies as a result of the training	2,70	42,59	27



There is a moderate enhancement of practical abilities and competencies expected by participants - the rating varies between 3,26 (56,4 %) and 3,79 (69,9 %).

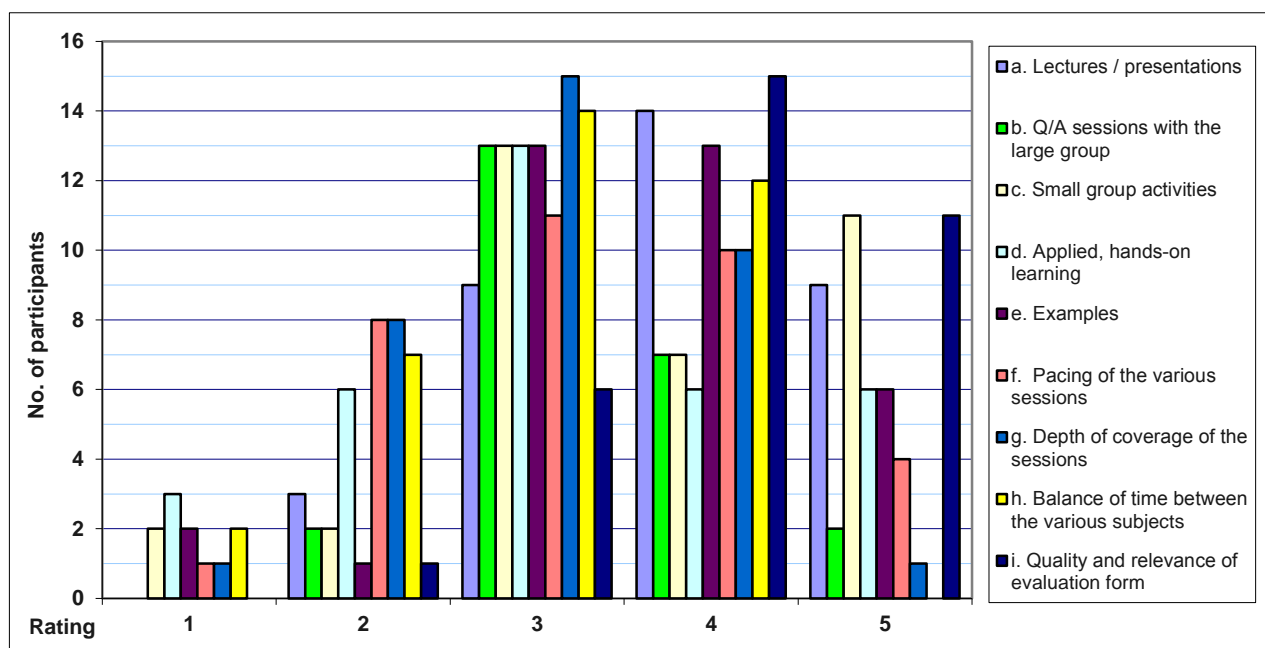
	Rating	%	n
8. What is the likelihood that you will use the knowledge and skills (obtained at the EPDET)?	4,31	82,69	39



There is a high probability that the respondents will use the gained knowledge and skills (4,3 points = 82,9 %).

9. How would you rate the quality of the design and delivery of the program?

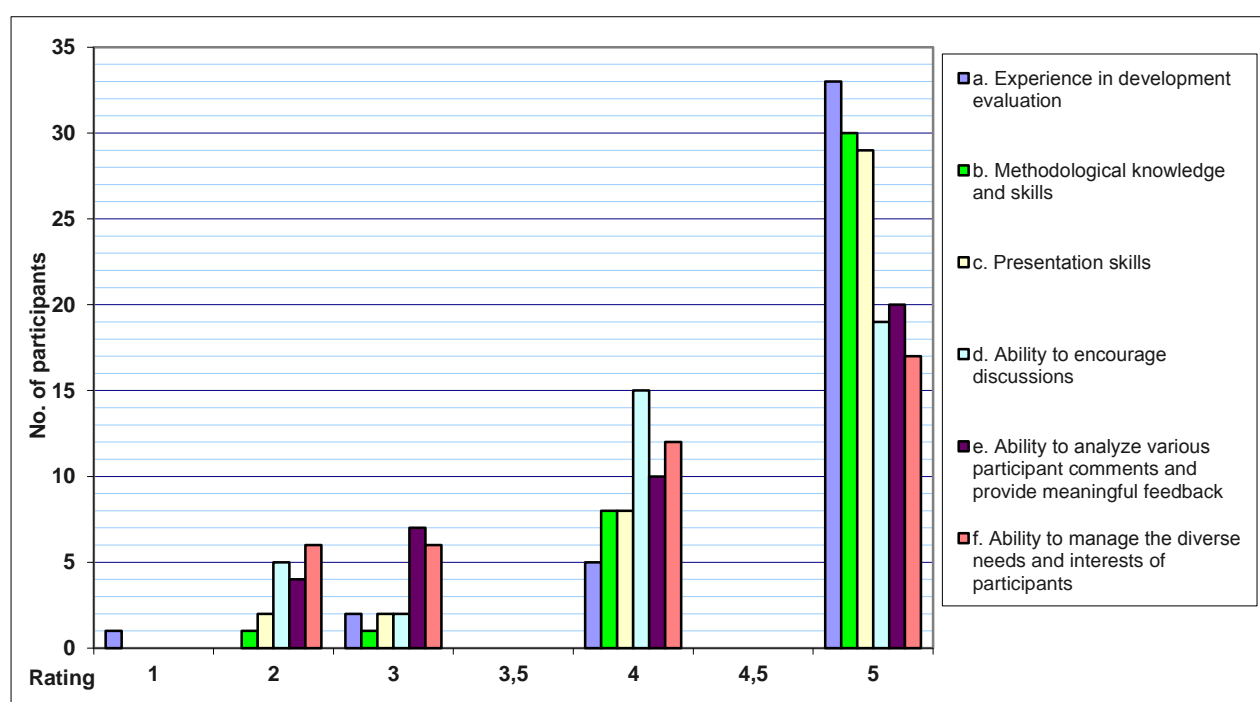
	Rating	%	n
a. Lectures / presentations	3,83	70,71	35
b. Question and answer sessions with the large group	3,24	56,00	25
c. Small group activities	3,66	66,43	35
d. Applied, hands-on learning	3,09	52,14	35
e. Examples	3,57	64,29	35
f. Pacing of the various sessions	3,14	53,57	35
g. Depth of coverage of the sessions	3,06	51,43	35
h. Balance of time between the various subjects	3,03	50,71	35
i. Quality and relevance of evaluation form	3,86	71,43	35



Most of the aspects got a positive response of 3,03 - 3,86 points (50,7 - 71,4 %) with the lowest rating for the balance of time between various subjects.

10. How would you rate EPDET lecturer Linda G. Morra on the following?

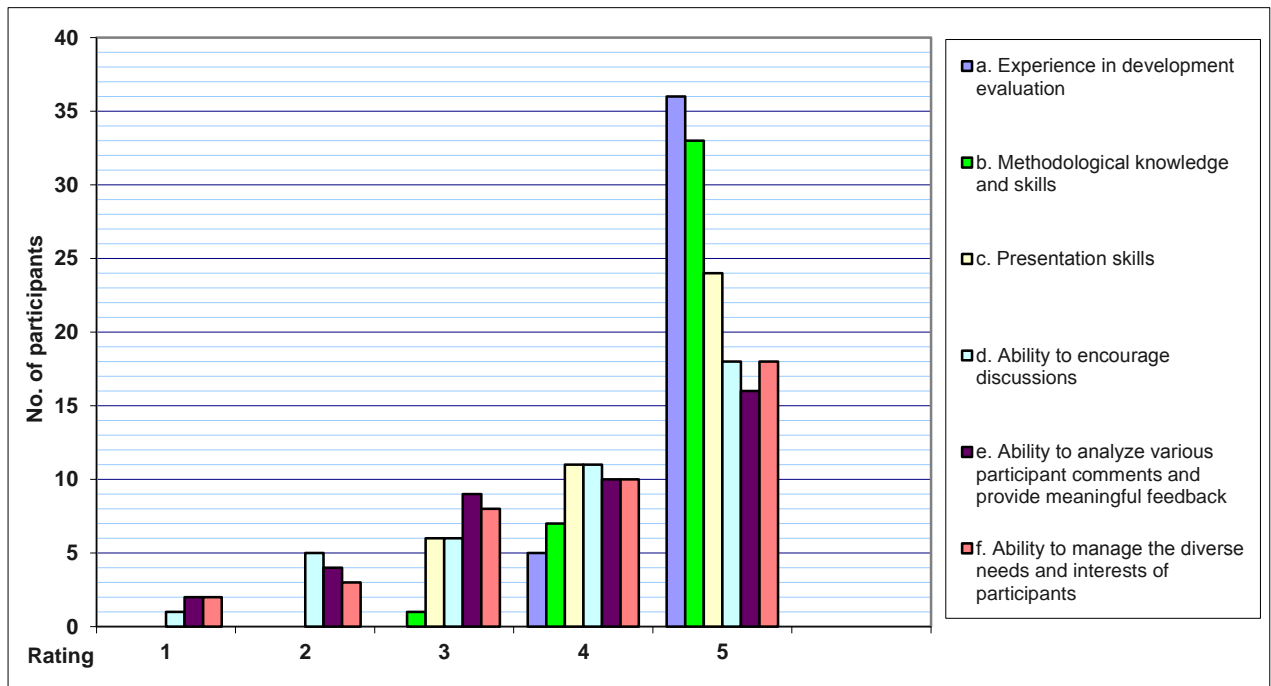
	Rating	%	n
a. Experience in development evaluation	4,68	92,07	41
b. Methodological knowledge and skills	4,56	89,02	41
c. Presentation skills	4,56	89,02	41
d. Ability to encourage discussions and the exchange of knowledge in an open and challenging environment	4,17	79,27	41
e. Ability to analyze various participant comments and provide meaningful feedback	4,12	78,05	41
f. Ability to manage the diverse needs and interests of various participants	3,98	74,39	41



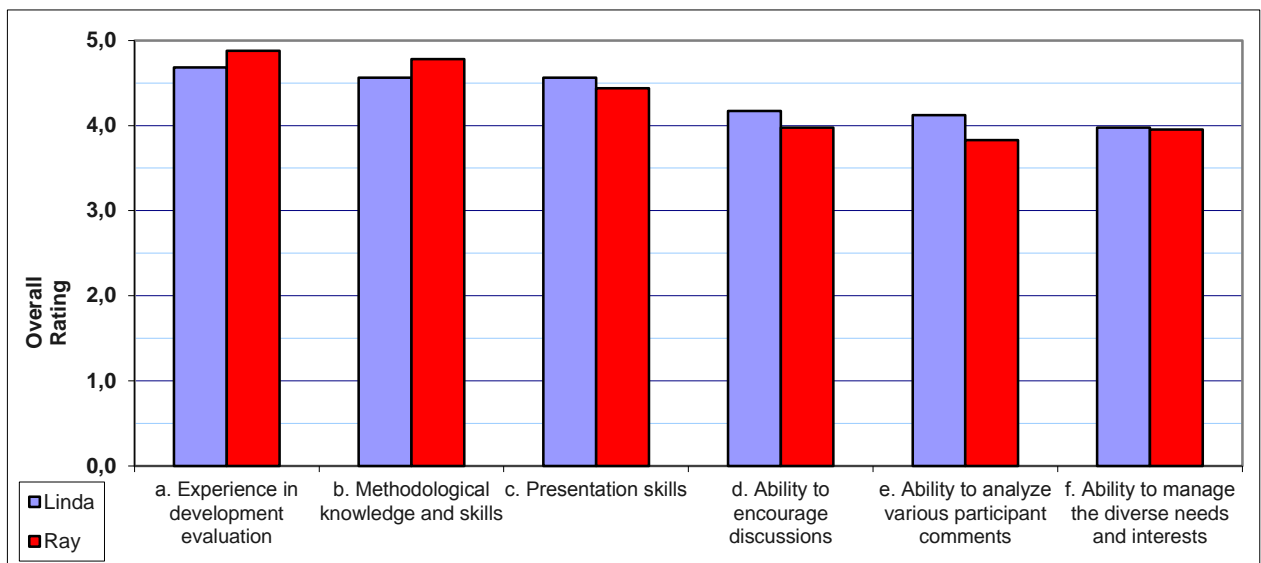
Evaluation of Linda's performance confirms high professionalism. Rating from 3,98 to 4,68, i.e. satisfaction between 74,4 and 92,1 % is excellent. The bottom level on the scale was given for encouraging discussions and the exchange of knowledge as well as the ability to analyze comments of the participants and provide meaningful feedback. The participants appreciated namely the experience in development evaluation, clear explanation and presentation, good examples and empathy.

11. How would you rate EPDET lecturer Ray C. Rist on the following?

	Rating	%	n
a. Experience in development evaluation	4,88	96,95	41
b. Methodological knowledge and skills	4,78	94,51	41
c. Presentation skills	4,44	85,98	41
d. Ability to encourage discussions and the exchange of knowledge in an open and challenging environment	3,98	74,39	41
e. Ability to analyze various participant comments and provide meaningful feedback	3,83	70,73	41
f. Ability to manage the diverse needs and interests of various participants	3,95	73,78	41

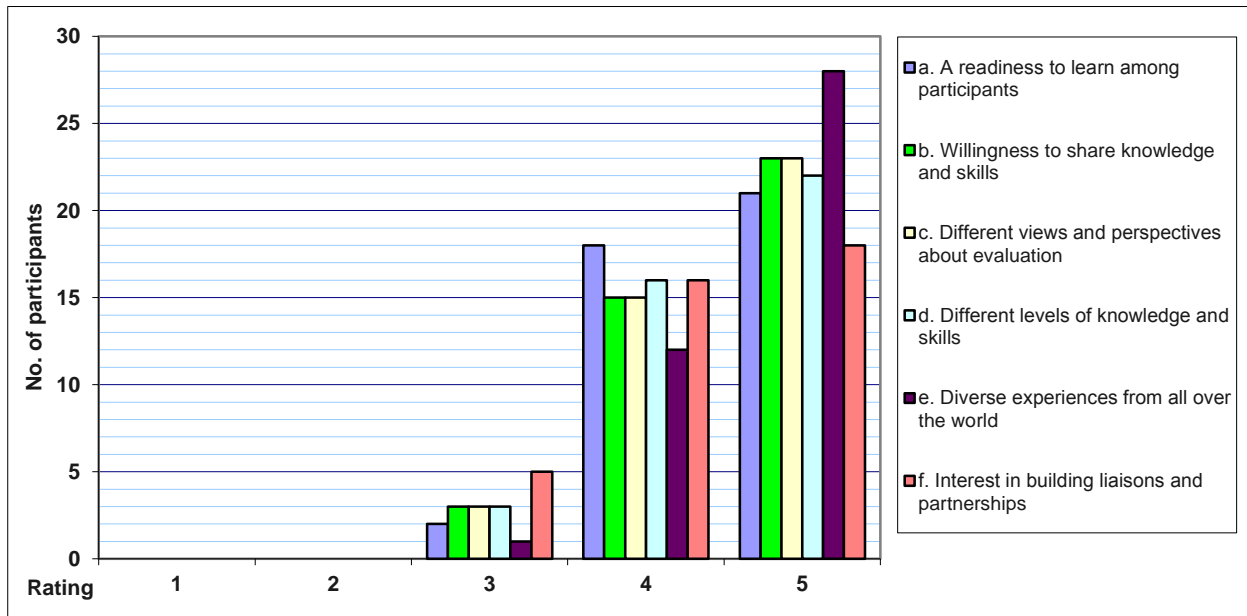


The evaluation of Ray's performance is equally positive (3,83 - 4,88 points, i.e. satisfaction 70,7 - 97%), the least positive ranking was linked to the ability to encourage discussions and ability to analyze different participants comments. Regarding special comments, the respondents appreciated strong experience and among the features that could be improved they mentioned time keeping, more space for questions, correct addressing of questions and less anecdotes.



12. Please rate your fellow participants on the following characteristics:

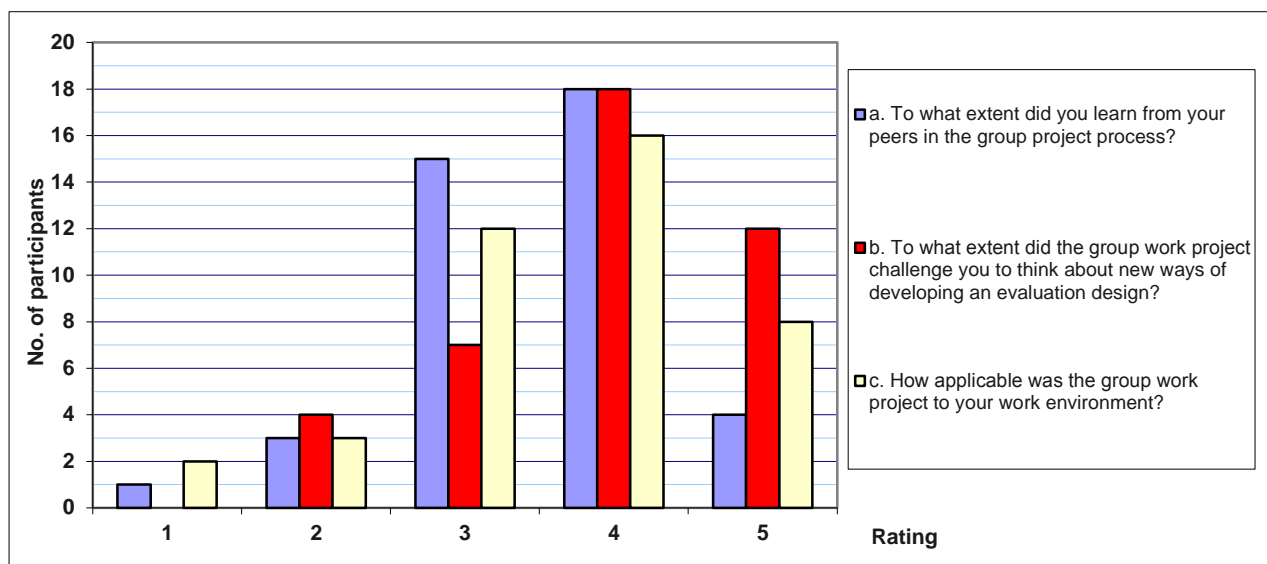
	Rating	%	n
a. A readiness to learn among participants	4,46	86,59	41
b. Willingness to share knowledge and skills	4,49	87,20	41
c. Different views and perspectives about evaluation	4,49	87,20	41
d. Different levels of knowledge and skills	4,46	86,59	41
e. Diverse experiences from all over the world	4,66	91,46	41
f. Interest in building liaisons and partnerships	4,12	78,05	41



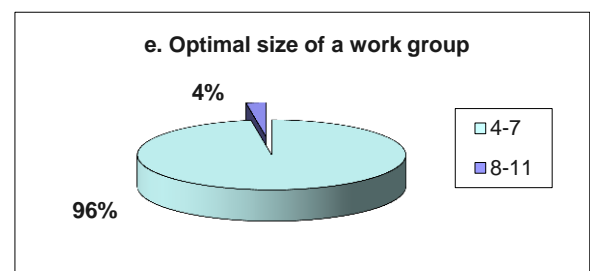
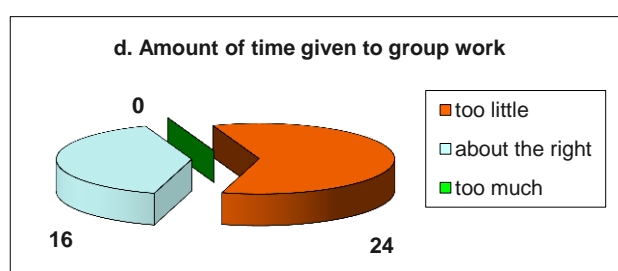
The rating of cooperation among participants was very good (4,12 - 4,66 points, i.e. 78 - 91,5 %) with roughly the same rating of various features.

13. Group work project (team exercises)

	Rating	%	n
a. To what extent did you learn from your peers in the group project process?	3,51	62,80	41
b. To what extent did the group work project challenge you to think about new ways of developing an evaluation design?	3,93	73,17	41
c. How applicable was the group work project to your work environment?	3,61	65,24	41



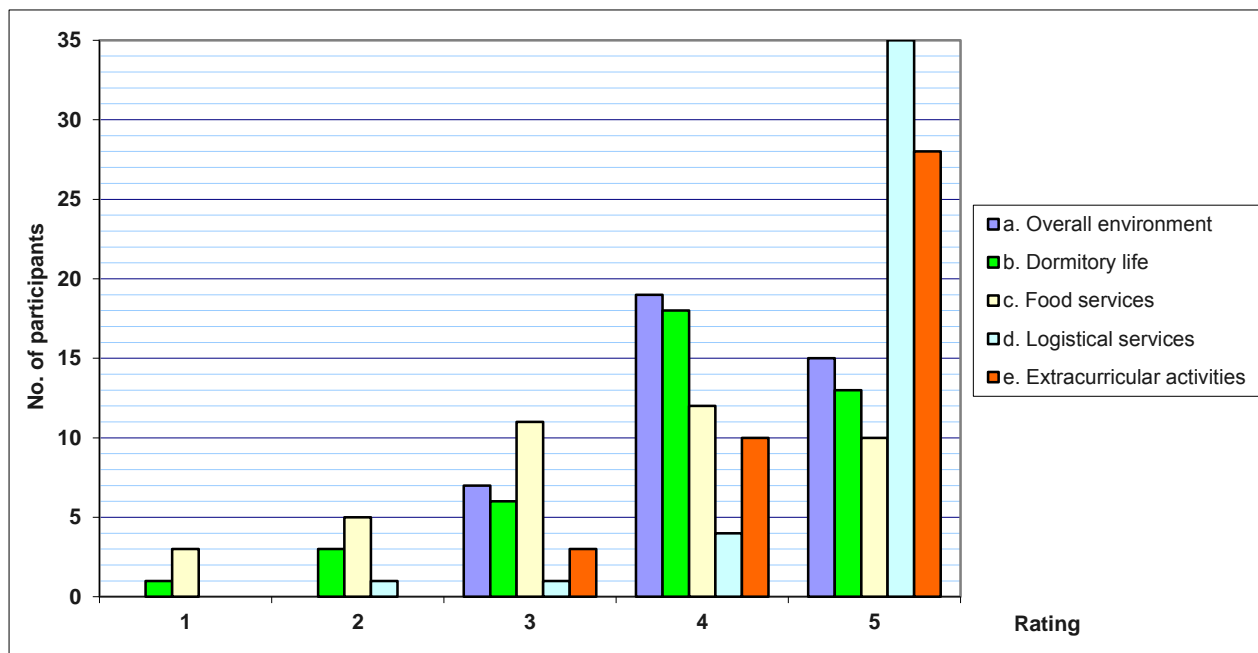
Despite good cooperation the evaluation of the group work was slightly less positive within a range of 3,51- 3,93 (62,8 - 73,2 %).



About 83 % of participants think there was about the right amount of time given to group work, only 7% resp. 5% think it was too little or too much. 96 % of respondents agree that the size of 4 - 7 participants is optimal for the group work.

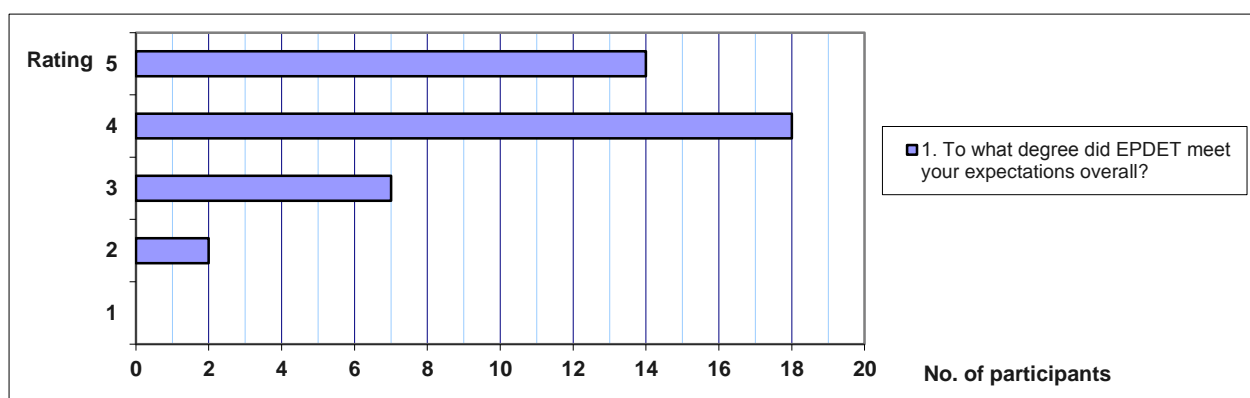
14. Please rate the quality of:

	Rating	%	n
a. Overall environment	4,20	79,88	41
b. Dormitory life	3,95	73,78	41
c. Food services	3,51	62,80	41
d. Logistical services (registration, SES support, transport, etc.)	4,78	94,51	41
e. Extracurricular activities (sport, trip, graduation dinner, etc.)	4,61	90,24	41



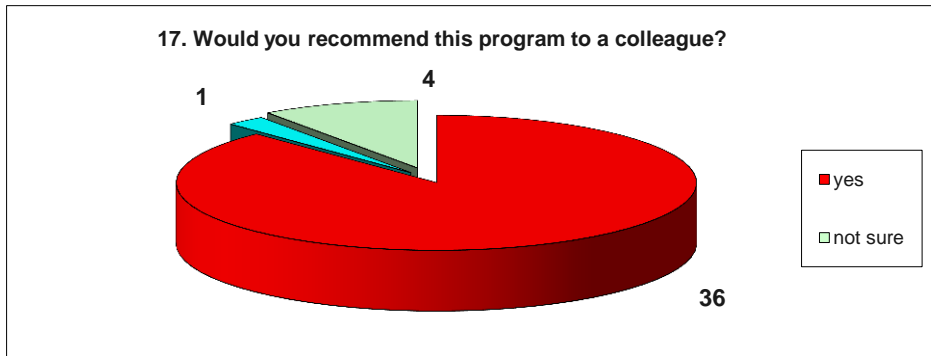
There was a positive response to overall organization of EPDET - rating from 3,51 /62,8 % (food service) to 4,78 / 94,5 % (logistical services).

	Rating	%	n
15. To what degree did EPDET meet your expectations overall?	4,07	76,83	41



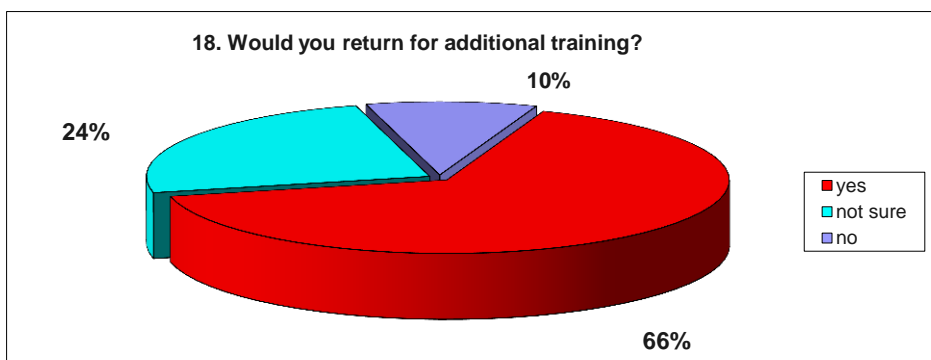
We are pleased by a high rating of 4,21 (80,2 %) for meeting overall expectations. This is very binding for us to keep or to even enhance the training quality in the next years.

16. Would you recommend this program to a colleague?	yes	no	not sure
	36	1	4



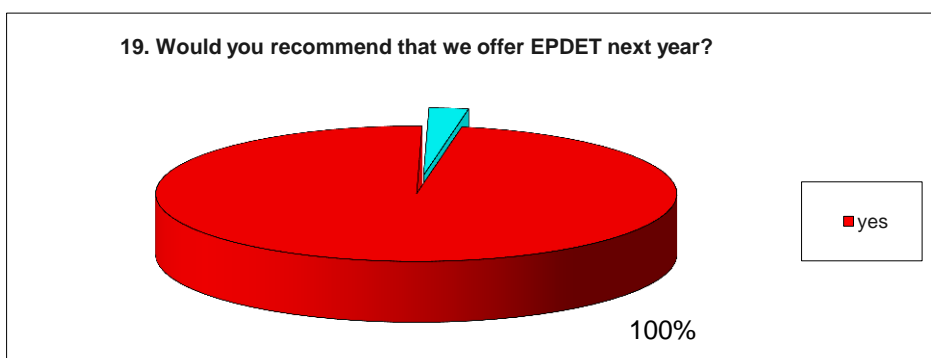
One of the most positive messages from respondents is that 36 (88 %) of the participants would recommend this program to a colleague and 4 participants were not sure.

17. Would you return for additional training?	yes	not sure	no
	27	10	4



66 % of respondents would return for an additional training, 24 % are not sure and 10 % would not.

18. Would you recommend that we offer EPDET next year?	yes	not sure
	40	1



All respondents recommend us to continue in providing EPDET next year. In addition, the respondents estimate that around 50 of their colleagues might be interested to participate in EPDET 2015.

19. What is your most useful take-away from EPDET?

There are many positive responses to the added value of EPDET. Besides materials - toolbox of methodologies (the book and presentations), contacts, practical skills, etc., the participants appreciated gained knowledge on theory of change, new contacts, useful overview of elementary evaluation issues, other views and perspectives, international experience.

20. What did you find least useful from EPDET?

Most of the participants considered repetition of the theory read in the textbook a bit redundant. Some complained about less clear instructions for group work assignment and too much lecturing in a traditional way. The group work concept was appreciated but it would have been more useful to have smaller groups, more time and more comments and assistance.

21. What are suggestions for improvements to enhance the effectiveness and usefulness of EPDET?

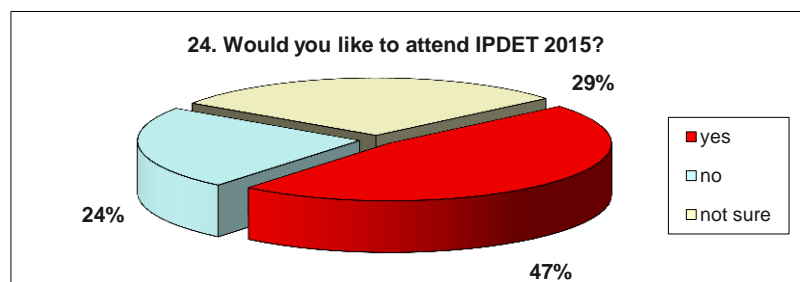
The proposals from participants suggested to share a reading material in advance, more time to be spent on some modules and mainly on work in groups, more case studies, examples and discussion, one case should be done under the supervision of lecturers, or presentation of group work after each lecture, presentations should be adapted to mini-IPDET, the training should be one day longer (at least).

22. What did you like best about the week? Why?

The respondents appreciated mainly good group of people, networking, environment, training sessions, environment, friendly and informal relationships, perfect work of both lecturers and organizer, peer interactions, meeting new people, exchanging ideas, experiences. Networking was highly appreciated - possibility to meet interesting people with different background and a lot of expertise to share.

23. Would you like to attend IPDET 2013 in Ottawa?

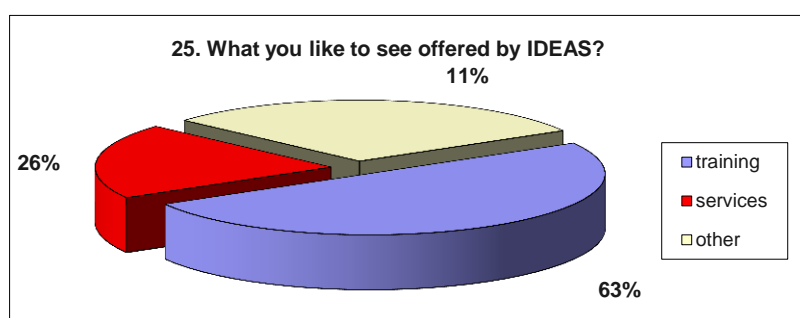
yes	no	not sure
16	8	10



There is another positive response, 47 % of participants would like to attend IPDET 2015 in Ottawa, 29 % were not sure and 24 % had no interest.

24. What type of future training or services in evaluation would you like to see offered by IDEAS?

training	services	other
5	2	3



The following topics were mentioned as subject of the suggested training: specialized training, sample analysis, statistics, and case study. For the services provision of experts, training for organization and coaching was mentioned as well.

25. General comments and recommendations:

In general the respondents mentioned some areas for possible improvement but majority of the comments were positive and here are a few quotations: Everything was just perfect. & Great presenters and excellent organization of the training. Great event. Continue the efforts to make evaluation field as recognized and respected with professional designation similar to other social science profession.

Big thank to all EPDET 2014 graduates for the active participation at the training, for open and valuable discussions and cooperation. Informal, pleasant and creative atmosphere of EPDET was highly appreciated.

**Dagmar Gombitova EPDET coordinator
Chairwoman of the Slovak Evaluation Society**