



Participant Evaluation eD2009

The participant survey was conducted via an online questionnaire one week after the conference (SurveyMonkey.com). The evaluation aimed to find out if the participants' expectations were met and to measure their level of satisfaction of the eD2009 Conference.

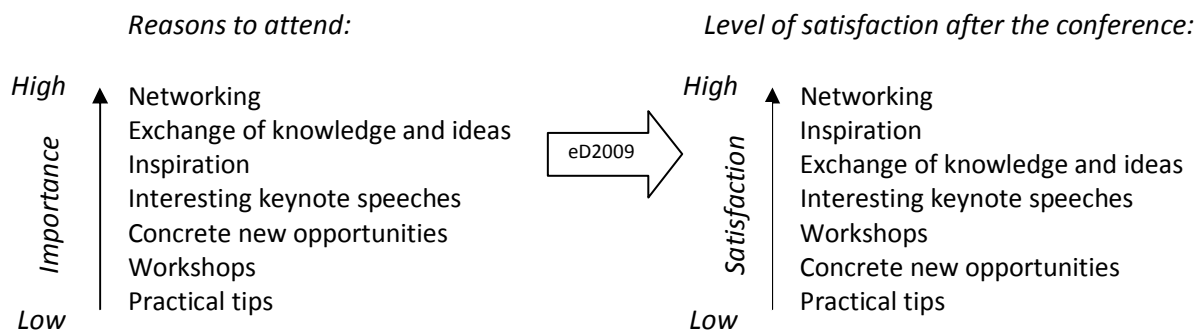
1. Participant Profile

A total of 170 participants took part in the conference. 58% of them were international, representing 33 countries, and the rest - Dutch (42%). The gender division was 67% male and 33% female. Fields of work represented by the participants included: practitioners, trainers, experts, policy makers and entrepreneurs.

2. Survey Response

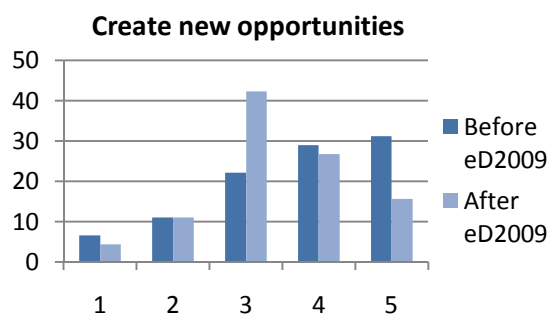
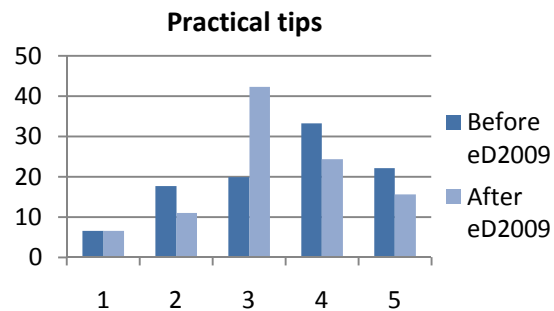
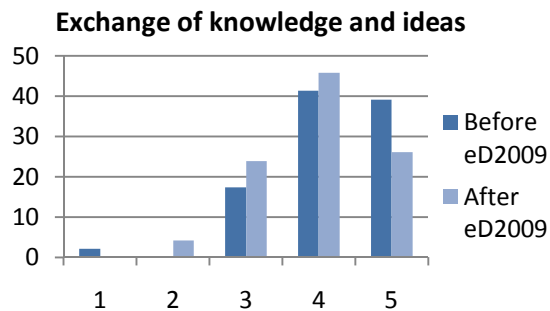
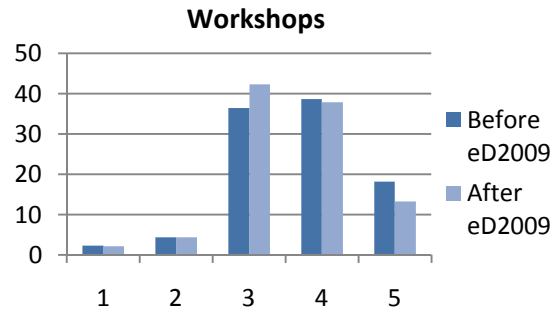
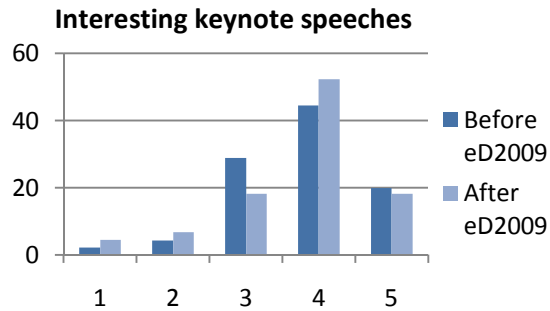
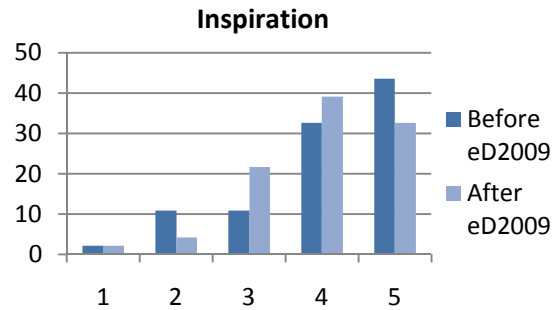
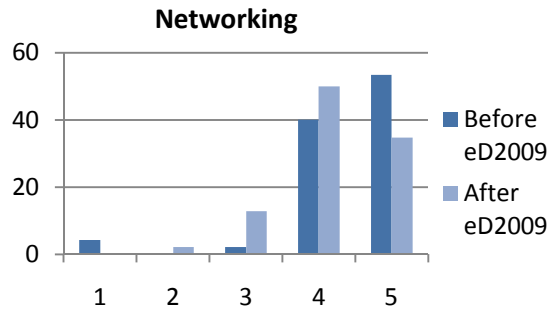
Within the time frame of a week, 46 participants (29%) completed the survey. The gender division corresponded to the general participant profile with the majority being male (67%). The share of Dutch and international respondents was almost even, with 47.5% Dutch and 52.5% international. 38% participated on the 29th, while 62% participated on both days (29th & 30th of October).

When asked to evaluate the importance of the reasons for attending the conference, most respondents rated "networking" as being the most important and "practical tips" as the least (on a scale of 1-5, 5 being very important/satisfied).



When asked to evaluate their level of satisfaction with the results, most of the categories did not shift much in importance. "Networking" for instance, was still rated as most successful category among the responds. The workshops were valued higher after attending the conference, while practicality was considered as least satisfactory. This suggests that further efforts should be put in including more practical tips in speeches and workshops, while putting the focus on creating new opportunities. As a whole it can be concluded that expectations were met since the top four reasons to attend the conference were rated as satisfactory or above expectations afterwards.

The following figures show how participants rated the importance of each category prior to the conference and how it was evaluated afterwards.



Results show that networking was rated high by most of the respondents. When asked how many contacts did they make during the conference, 58,7% replied to have made at least 1 new contact, while 39,1% pointed out to have made even more than 10 (see fig.1 below).

More than 2/3 of all respondents continued to keep in touch with their new contacts in the first week after the conference (see fig.2).



Fig.1 Number of new contacts made

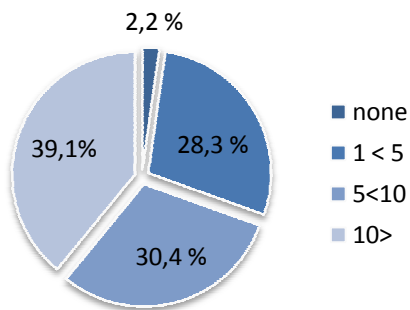
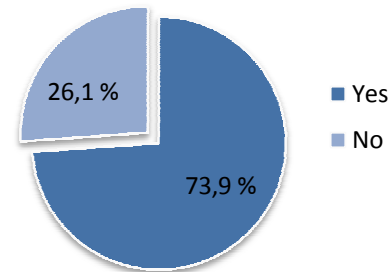


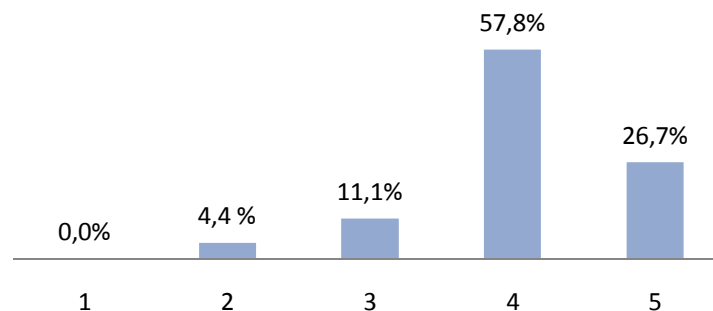
Fig.2 Contact follow-up after eD2009



It should be noted here that whether the participants were satisfied with the number of contacts they made during the conference, depends on their prior personal expectations and goals. For some participants 1-2 contacts, thus with the right people, would be a great achievement, while for others that try to promote a project or an organization even 10 can turn out to be not satisfactory.

The overall quality of the conference was mostly rated as *high* (see fig 3. below) which suggests that the expectations of the respondents have been met or even exceeded. More than a fourth of the respondents considered that the quality of the conference was *very high*.

fig.3 Overall Quality



The general satisfaction with the quality of the conference suggested a positive attitude towards a repetition of the event. Almost 90% of all respondents saw an added value of visiting the next conference in 2010.

The follow-up also seems to be of high importance to the respondents. 78 % would like to receive the information gathered by means of presentations and a general report. 67% also considered it useful to keep in touch with all participants in a platform created especially for the eD2009 event (linkedin.com group as an intermediate solution).



3. Testimonials

3.1 Participants' comments (sent within one week after eD2009 by own initiative)

"I would like to congratulate you and all other organizers of the ED2009 Conference on its undoubted success ! The speakers and events were very well chosen and the event was extremely useful from my point of view. And while all speakers were very experienced, I was particularly impressed by the enthusiasm and knowledge of two young entrepreneurs, Danny Mekic and Leo van Loon. Their enterprising and positive attitude was inspirational indeed. "

Milan Vemic,
Faculty for Management Studies, Novi Sad, Serbia

"May I congratulate you on your professionalism in the conference management. I enjoyed the conference and meet the team and made some good friends. It was a very good conference with potential of nurturing the links to develop new and innovative projects for the future. May I also take this opportunity to thank colleagues for supporting me in this conference. I would be interested to learn more on how I can contribute and add value to the debate of entrepreneurial thinking and creating new mind-sets for creating a new generation of entrepreneurs across the world. Thanks again for your professional approach and humility. It is greatly appreciated."

Balvir Dhillon, Coleg Powys, UK

"I would like to thank you for eD2009 conference. It was my greatest pleasure to meet you. You have done wonderful job towards meeting expectations almost all participants. It was great event to know more people, to share experience and to reload (!!!) our minds for future. Looking forward to meet you again in future."

Samvel Gevorgyan, BSC Armenia

"Can I send my thanks for a wonderful 3 days in Rotterdam, the conference was organised wonderfully well, the talks and visits were extremely interesting and I would like to congratulate the team on an extremely well run and enjoyable conference."

Susan Poole, Swansea College, UK

"Thank you for a well organized and rewarding conference!"

Ulla Gredemyr, OFB Tools Sweden

"Thank you very much for your for organizing such useful event. I hope this will be first step towards our cooperation and we will meet in Palestine soon."

Ibrahim Abu Kteish,
Birzeit University, Palestine Territories

"I thank all of you again for the Conference which gave me much interesting information about methods and experiences of supporting small enterprises and local development."

Massimo del Vasto,
Direzione Politiche Comunitarie, Italy



3.2 Survey responses

"Thank you for perfect organisation and very interesting people I've met. I believe in few months there will be some practical results in partnership and new projects among participants at the conference."

"I was a bit reserved at first on what to expect. But this is the first conference that I have ever attended also the second day. Usually the second day is of no added value. I really found it to be interesting."

"Thanks for the good conference and for attempts to keep us connected even thereafter"

"Excellent conference"

3.3 Suggested points of improvement by survey respondents

"More presentation from the practice especially government economic policy tolls at plenary part"

"I suggest to have even more entrepreneurs as a speakers"

"Only two from the key-note speeches were interesting. The young entrepreneur and Klaas Moolenaar. The others were either not properly prepared and/or outdated. Open Space is and can be interesting but do not run at the same time as workshops. Run it as a separate activity where everybody HAS to participate. Closing session: change roles. The key-note speakers should formulate each a key question and the participants should react (from their practical field experiences)."

"I would really recommend to have real interactive workshops where you have to do something instead of more presentations and a bit of discussion."

"Overall the conference was excellent. However the visit to the factory needs some revising if it is to be held in the future"

"It is of importance to have some sort of Proceedings where presentations can be found, so we can build on previous experiences, instead on repeating individual experiences."

"Survey zou volgende keer gedetailleerder/beter moeten. Ik denk niet dat deze leidt tot info die heel bruikbaar is voor een volgende conferentie, en slechts tot een zeer algemeen positieve balans komt."

"Add more evening activities/events for more interactions & networking opportunities."

"More focus is needed...too broad...better positioning of theme of the conference...i did not expect a big focus on entrepreneurship education"

"Linkedin is quite primitive for these purposes"

"Let bij de simulatiewerkshops erop of er wel genoeg tijd voor is. Nu was het een beetje rommelig en kwam het neit uit de verf"