

SUSPLUS conference at Estonian University of Life Sciences (EULS)

Title: Innovative education towards sustainable food systems

12. June 2018, Tartu, Organic Farming Research Centre of the EULS

Time: 11.00-16.00

Programme:

10.30- 11.00 Registration, **degustation of organic products**

Presentations

- Sustainable food systems?- Anne Luik, Eesti Maaülikool (EULS)
- Advantages of organic food and how to get it? – Elen Peetsmann, Organic Farming Research Centre of the EULS
- Innovative education towards sustainable food systems - SUSPlus project activities, results of study about Estonian student expectations in education of sustainable food systems - Liina Talgre, (EULS)

Organic lunch

- New challenges in teaching of SUSPlus course - Eve Veromann, (EULS)
- Experience of learning in SUSPlus course and teaching in secondary school- Mariana Maante, (EULS)
- Group project work for solving real practical problems - new positive experience in education - Diana Salf, (EULS)
- Discussion and conclusions - Liina Talgre, (EULS)

16.00 Introduction of organic field experiments for interested people in Eerika experimental field

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Conference is organized by SUSPLUS Project (ERASMUS Plus programme).

Conference summary

In total 33 people participated in conference, together with project partners and students. 25 people were from other institutions than the Estonian University of Life Sciences: 56% of the participants were from educational sector, 40% from organic sector (organic farmers, processors, traders) and 4% from public sector (Tartu city government).

All presentations were carefully discussed. Presentations are on homepage:

<http://mahekeskus.emu.ee/tegevused/rahvusvahelised-projektid/susplus/konverents-12062018/>

Overall problem was brought out: awareness in sustainable food systems should increase. 78 % students are interested in more sustainable food systems but only 56% of students had studied something in certain subjects. At University is still missing special holistic curricula about sustainable food systems. In education more innovative training methods are needed - like group work - learning by solving of real problems of enterprises and also sharing of knowledge in lower educational levels. These are increasing knowledge transfer efficiency. Teaching and learning in all levels should be related with real farming.

Feedback of conference

All participants (except project people) got feedback questionnaires but only 14 were totally filled.

The main reasons for attending in conference were: content, personal development and speakers (Fig.1). 64 % participants felt that attending this conference was worthwhile (Fig 2.)

The conference encouraged strongly 50% people to implement some of the presented educational initiatives within their work (Fig.3). Participants like to use yourself/recommend to educators 'Students Internships' (cooperation with stakeholders) (Fig.4). 64 % respondents answered that thanks to conference they learned about new innovative learning/teaching methods (Fig.5). From the presented tools were more highly internship (cooperation with stakeholders) (Fig 6). In general people were satisfied with overall organisation of conference, programme and this conference experience in general (Fig.7). 79% people marked that the conference fulfilled their reason for attending (Fig. 8) and also 79% participants would like to recommend this conference to others (Fig.9). 64% of respondents plan to share their experience from the conference at staff meeting (Fig.10). 57% participants are attending 1-2 and 43% attending 3-5 external conferences in a year.

What was the most beneficial aspect of the conference? (open question) answers were: organic food production, different teaching methods, information about the events like this.

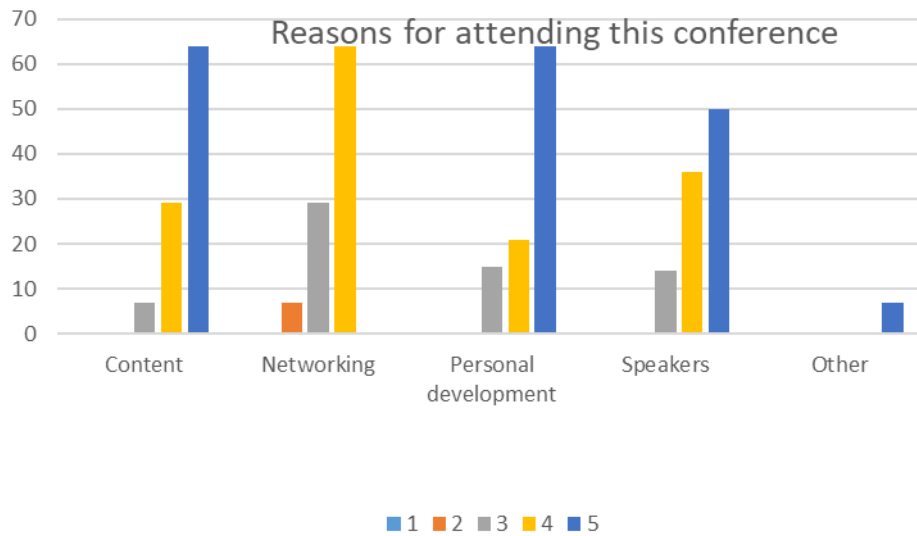


Figure 1. Please rate the reasons for attending this conference, 1 is the lowest and 5 is the highest (% of respondents, n=14).

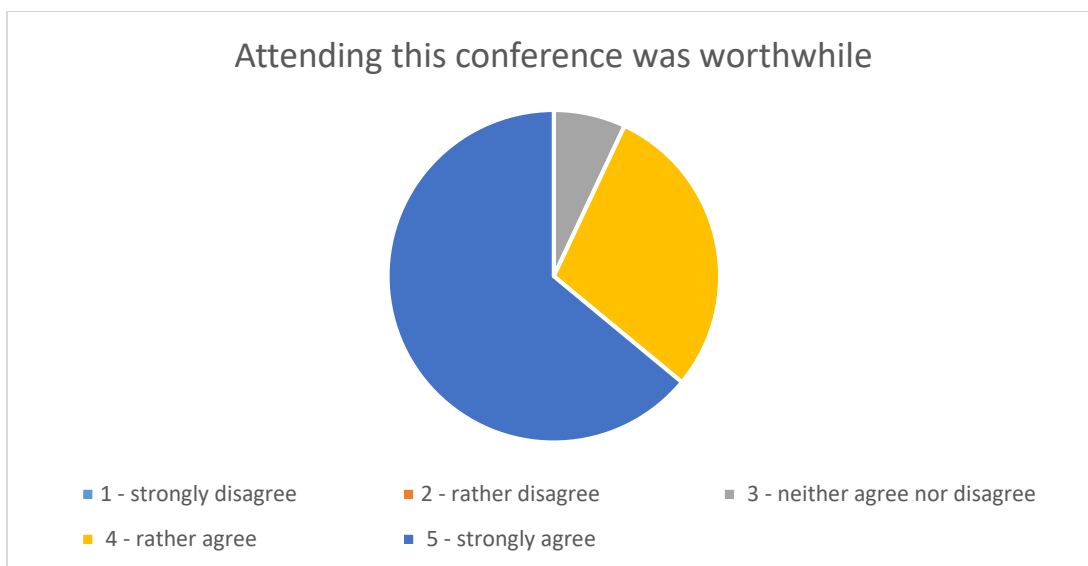


Figure 2. Attending this conference was worthwhile (Strongly agree=5, rather agree=4, neither agree nor disagree=3, Rather disagree=2, strongly disagree=1, % of respondents, n= 14).

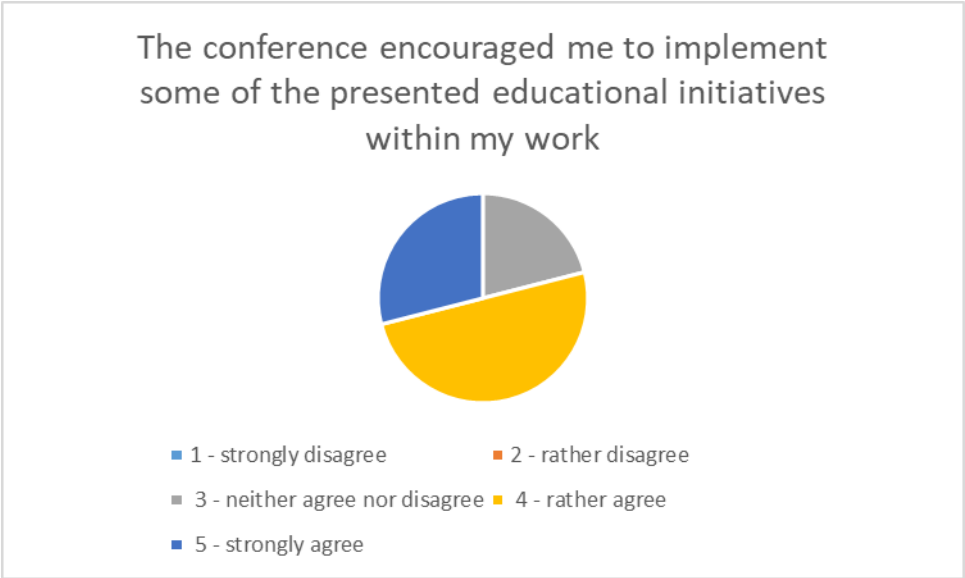


Figure 3. The conference encouraged me to implement some of the presented educational initiatives within my work (Strongly agree=5, rather agree=4, neither agree nor disagree=3, Rather disagree=2, strongly disagree=1, % of respondents, n= 14).

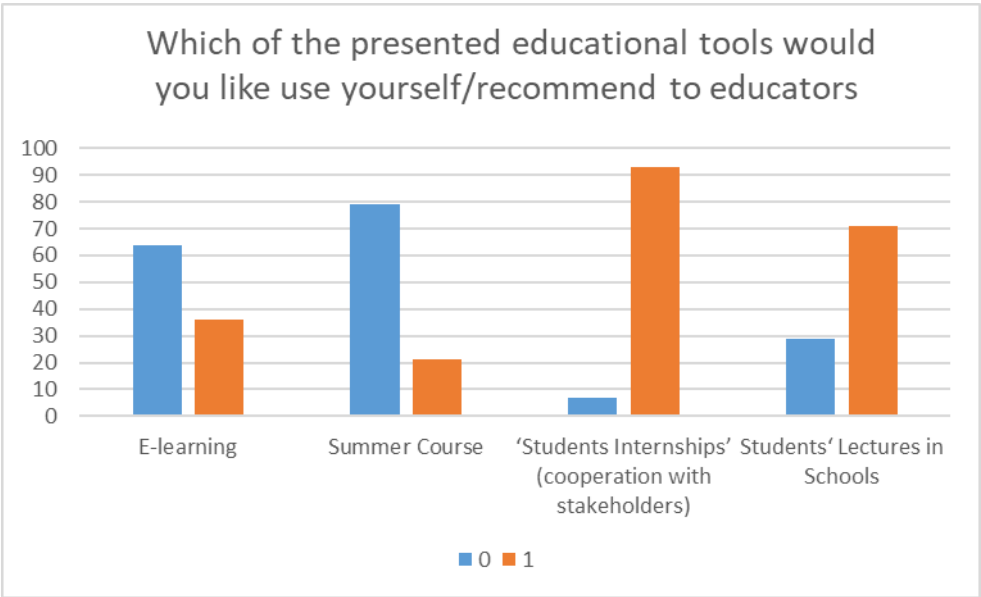


Figure 4. Which of the presented educational tools would you like to use yourself/recommend to educators? (0/1)

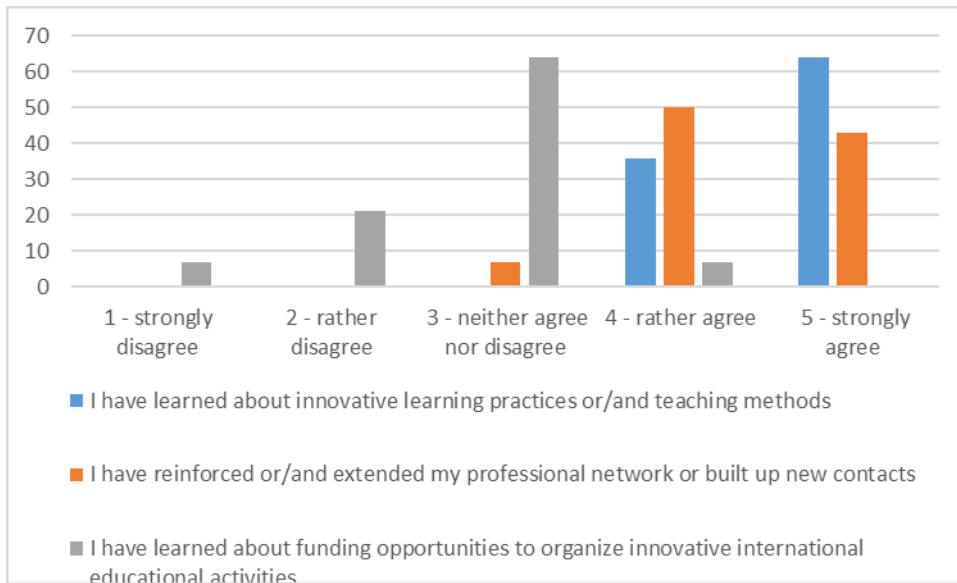


Figure 5. Thanks to this conference... (Strongly agree=5, rather agree=4, neither agree nor disagree=3, Rather disagree=2, strongly disagree=1, % of respondents, n= 14).

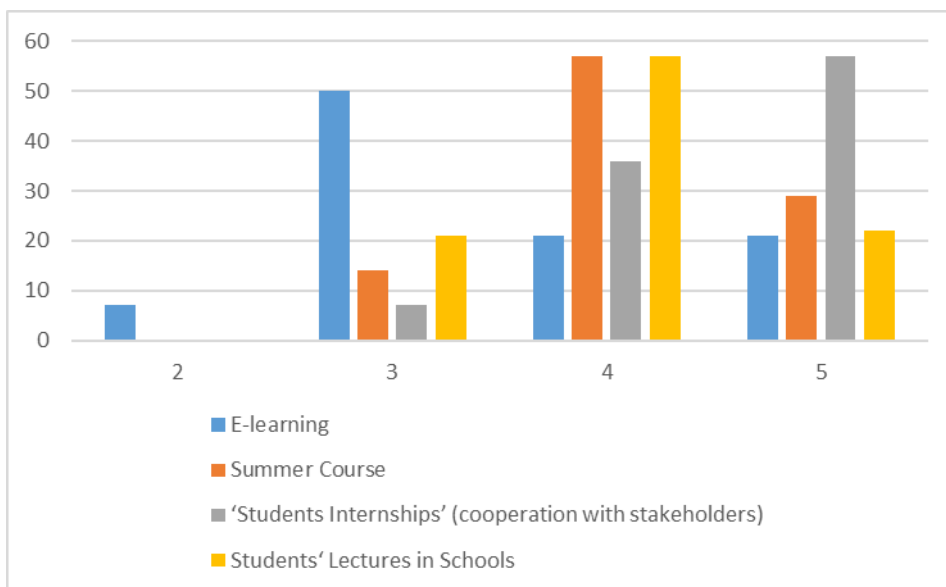


Figure 6. Please rate the presented educational tools, 0 is the lowest and 4 is the highest (% of respondents, n=14).

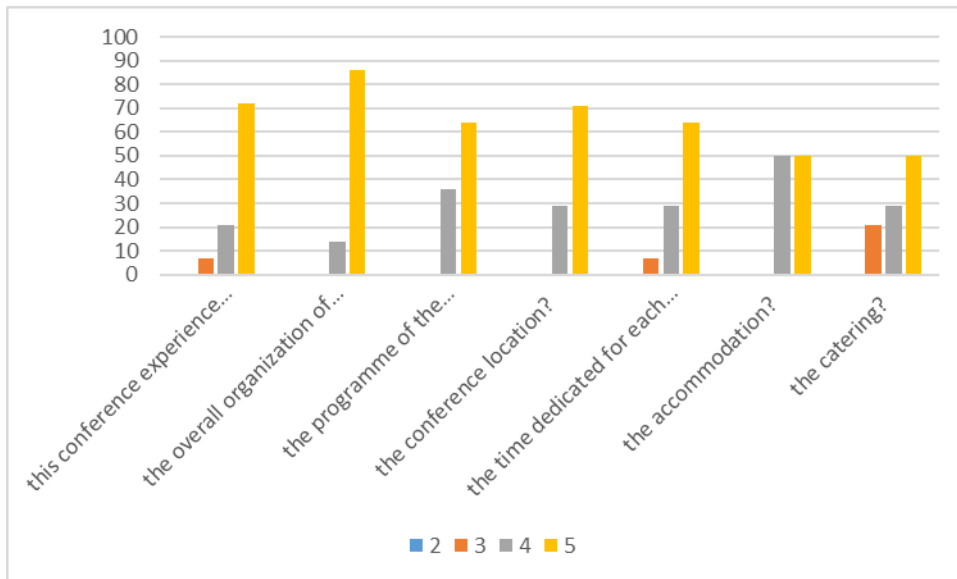


Figure 7. How satisfied were you with.. (% of respondents, n= 14).



Figure 8. Did the conference fulfill your reason for attending? (% of respondents, n= 14).



Figure 9. Would you recommend this conference to others (% of respondents, n= 14).

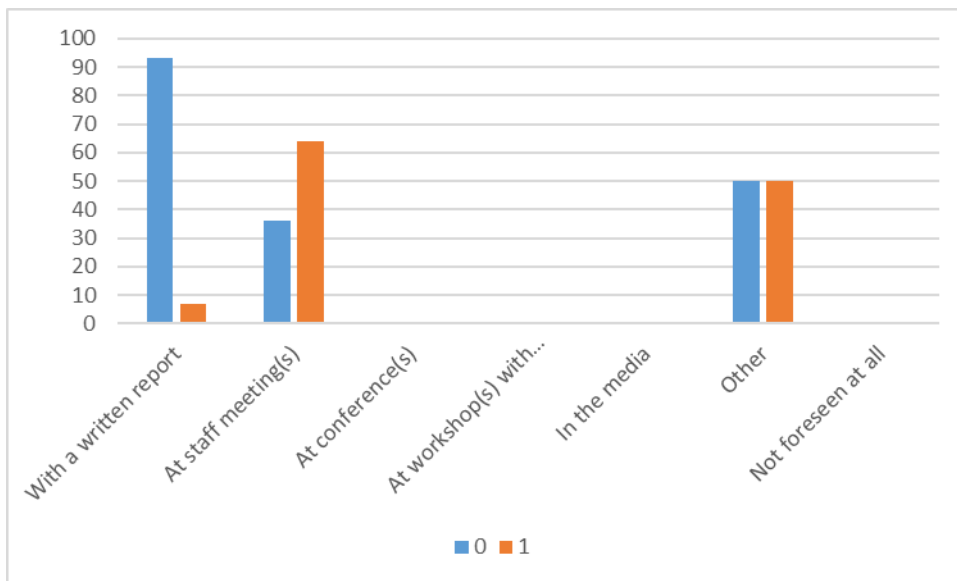


Figure 10. How do you plan to share your experience from the conference? (% of respondents, n= 14).

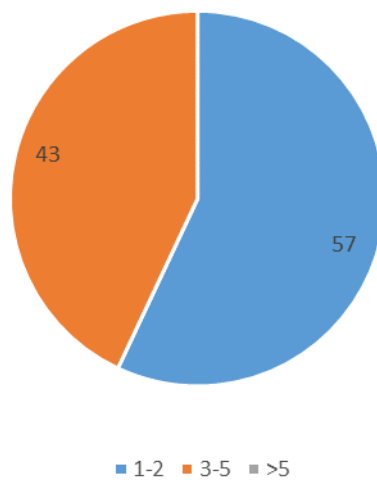


Figure 11. How many external conferences/seminars do you attend, on average, in a year? (% of respondents, n= 14).

