First Multiplier Event Report

INVITE

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Date of event:	**27th of September 2023**
Date of report:	**12th of October 2023**
Responsible Organization:	**Hellenic Mediterranean University (HMU)**
Partner Organizations:	**Aalborg University (AAU)** **University of Torino (UNITO)** **Columbus Association**

Disclaimer

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This report reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

Table 1 - Document factsheet

Project Number:	**KA220-HED-2021-006**
Project Acronym:	**INVITE**
Project Title:	**Developing Competences and Innovative Designs for International Virtual and Blended Modalities**
Title of Document:	**First Multiplier Event Report**
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Reviewed by:	**All Partners**
Approved by:	**All Partners**

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Table 2 - Consortium

	Name	Short Name	Country
1	**AALBORG UNIVERSITY**	AAU	**Denmark**
2	**HELLENIC MEDITERANNEAN UNIVERSITY**	HMU	**Greece**
3	**UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI TORINO**	UNITO	**Italy**
4	**COLUMBUS PARTNERS**	CP	**France**

Table 3 - Contents

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1) Introduction

Developing Competencies and Innovative Designs for International Virtual and Blended Modalities (INVITE) aims to improve existing and inspire new modes of international virtual and blended methodologies in higher education institutions (HEI). Running from 2022 to 2025, the project tackles different layers of current challenges of digitalisation that are part of the second Digital Education Action Plan (2021-2027), a renewed European Union (EU) policy initiative. The shared vision of the agenda is to enable high-quality, inclusive, and accessible digital education in Europe and to support all Member States of the EU in linking their education and training systems to the stage of digitalisation.

Through the INVITE project, several important outcomes and valuable results are expected, including:

- Understanding the innovative ways for international collaboration in virtual and blended modalities in HEI by overviewing the existing literature and collecting primary data to draw a profile of the most innovative and adaptable methodologies currently used.

- Designing, implementing, and assessing student-centred international virtual and blended modalities through developing a learning design framework proposal for student-centred activities in cross-border blended and virtual environments and guidelines on innovative methodologies that could be effective for improving T&L in international virtual and blended modalities.

- Equipping teachers and Institutional staff with the skills and resources for designing, implementing, and sustaining international virtual and blended programs via providing online interactive training modules and micro-credentials and developing a repository of open materials to share tools and guidelines to support the design of international virtual and blended programs.

- Mobilizing teachers and institutional staff for designing innovative international virtual and blended projects aiming to solve global and societal challenges. Through the development of a digital learning ecosystem that will host training modules and hackathons, bringing together teachers to design innovative international collaborations addressing urgent problems.

- Linking bottom-up initiatives with institutional policies and strategies through an evidence-based report and policy recommendations based on a deliberative dialogue with stakeholders.

2) Objective

The objective of the one-day multiplier event held at HMU Campus in Sitia on the 27th of September 2023 was to present and promote the work that has been done so far regarding the three first intellectual outputs of the INVITE project and to maximize their impact on the targeted audience (students, academics, and stakeholders). Furthermore, it aimed to showcase and discuss with the online and in vivo participants the "Open Interactive Digital Ecosystem" that will be developed in intellectual output n.4.

To achieve that, two sessions were programmed during the "1st Athena Technology Forum" that was organized from 25th - 29th of September in HMU Campus in Sitia. We chose to host our multiplier event within this event, to benefit and share the first findings of the INVITE project with a large, international, and

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influential audience that included students, academics, and stakeholders not only from many European Universities but also from other HEIs around the world. Hence, a high level of networking was achieved, while at the same time stakeholders and an expert's audience of high relevance was reached. The event was also attended by several representatives from local authorities (such as the Municipality of Sitia) and interested local companies in the sector of technology or other sectors.

3) Organization

Responsible organization for the first multiplier event of the INVITE project was the Hellenic Mediterranean University. The event was implemented during the 20th month of the project. The multiplier event was organized so attendees could participate both in vivo and online. We decided to fruitfully combine two different sessions aiming to benefit the greatest by the high relevance, expertise, and the important international experiences of the attendees. To this line, a 90-minutes length round table discussion and a 45-minutes length interactive presentation were planned. The title and special focus of each session will be showcased in the next section.

Dissemination material of the event included a printed and a digital brochure. The printed brochure was hand out to the participants of the "1st Athena Technology Forum" from 25th - 27th of September. The digital brochure was the same as the printed but included further information on the online participation option (registration link, CET time of the sessions). The digital brochure was distributed via email by the partner organizations towards their network and suitable stakeholders. The brochure was also uploaded in the social media pages of the project to inform interested parties and attract online audience.

Figure 1: Multiplier events' dissemination brochure

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The scheduled multiplier event sessions were also distributed to a broad international audience through the official site and dissemination acts of the organizing committee of the "1st Athena Technology Forum" considering that the two sessions were included in the official conference program (available at https://1stathenatf.hmu.gr/nutrition-dietetics-health-and-technologies/).

The multiplier event room was Amphitheatre E, located in the HMU campus in Sitia. The main speaker was Vidakis Nikolaos, Vice Rector of HMU and Associate Professor at the Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering. The presented material was formed upon receiving all the necessary information and PowerPoint slides by the partner organizations. During both sessions, online and in vivo participants could participate actively by posing questions, sharing information and ideas, and making comments/observations. Online participants had also the opportunity to write down comments.

4) Implementation

The round table discussion was entitled "Developing competencies for new virtual and blended modalities of international collaboration - The "INVITE" project" and was held first to shortly present the aim of the entire project and to disseminate the project outcomes so far. In this session, special focus was given on capitalizing project results on R1 (report on current trends and best practices in virtual mobilities), and R2 (learning design framework for fostering the educational value of virtual mobilities). Moreover, the under develop framework of R3 was presented (training modules and open repository) and emphasis was given on inviting attendees to participate in the upcoming training activities that will be implemented by UNITO during the next months. A thorough discussion and knowledge sharing followed regarding the most important information/results that have emerged from the project so far and how INVITE project can further contribute and enhance the development of digital competencies and online collaboration as part of virtual modalities, along with exploring the opportunity of additional dissemination channels.
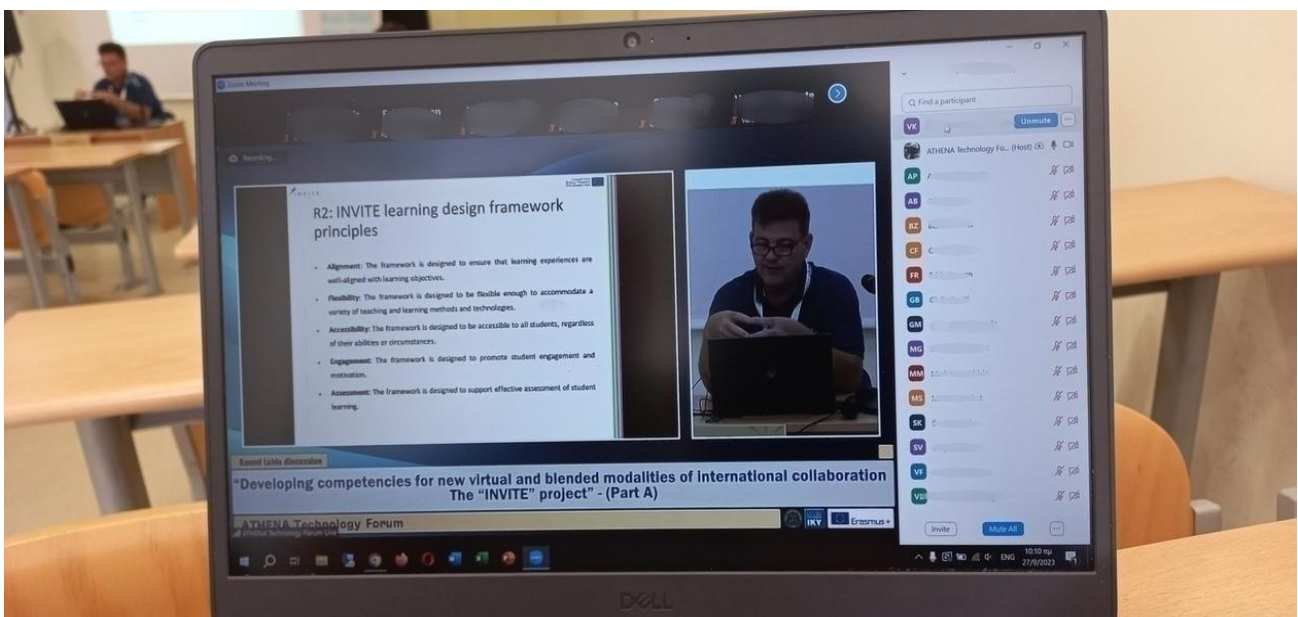
Figure 2: The virtual presentation of the round table discussion as experienced by the online attendees

In addition, an interactive presentation entitled "Current trends, learning and digital competencies in virtual mobilities - Developing an Open Interactive Digital Ecosystem (INVITE-EcoDigSys)" was scheduled for later that day. Participants of the round table discussion was kindly invited to also attend this session and provide their valuable inputs/recommendations and ideas on how to develop the INVITE-EcoDigSys. EcoDigSys is a comprehensive eLearning platform that will host training modules and hackathons, inviting different stakeholders to actively participate in designing new innovative virtual and blended mobilities that aims, among other modalities, to be able to host international hackathon events. The interactive discussion and ongoing stakeholder engagement that emerged during the presentation served as an important brainstorming tool that will facilitate the creation and implementation of this intellectual output. Many ideas, recommendations, and insights emerged during this session.

Figure 3: Audience brainstorming was encouraged during the INVITE-EcoDigSys interactive presentation

The overall event and sessions planned aimed at making participants reflect on the concepts of international virtual and blended modalities, digitalisation in HEIs, and developing competencies for teachers and institutional staff. The event also aimed at informing the participants as regards the opportunity to participate on the online action training that will be implemented by UNITO in line with the R3. Our objective was also to make the audience realize the importance of the INVITE project in tackling the current challenges of digitalisation HEIs and enhancing the shared vision of the Digital Education Action Plan (2021-2027) to enable high-quality, exclusive, and accessible digital education in all member states of the European Union.

The sessions were recorded via the Zoom platform, nevertheless, there was also the possibility of live streaming through a YouTube channel created for this purpose by the organizing committee of the "1st Athena Technology Forum" https://www.youtube.com/@athenaeuropeanuniversity/live .

Overall, the event was attended by several representatives of higher educational institutions, including academics, students of various disciplines and academic levels, institutional staff, stakeholders, local authorities, employees or owners of Greek IT companies, and many other local interested parties. The number of attendees (excluding participants from associate partners and partner organizations) exceeded the targeted audience number, which was 80. It is important that a large number of foreign participants was reached, although local and virtual participants were slightly less that the expected.

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In vivo participants filled their name on the paper registration sheets that were distributed during the sessions and reported organization and role information, e-mail address, and signature (Appendix 1). In vivo participants filled in different registration sheets for each session; therefore, some names are reported twice. The online participants had to pre-register to attend the event, providing information such as name, email, country/region, organization, and job title (Appendix 2). In addition, data were collected regarding the registration time, the start time, and the end time of their connection.

The two sessions were also attended by several attendees through a live-streaming YouTube channel; nevertheless, information on the enrolled participants is not available to us. The only valid information is that 73 registered users attended the livestreaming service of Amphitheatre E during the entire "1st Athena Technology Forum".

5) Evaluation

Furthermore, an evaluation form was designed to help us collect feedback from the participants of the INVITE first multiplier event. Online attendees had already received the evaluation link along with their registration form. For the in vivo participants, a QR code was provided in the last slide of the presentation that guided the audience to the evaluation form. The QR code remained a sufficient time in the disposal of the participants, since the las slide was shown during all the discussion and following up questions. The evaluation form included in total eight Likert-scale questions about the event and one open-ended question for comments and suggestions. The evaluation form can be found in the link below: https://forms.gle/dcEHdAsfp8d1N5kh7

Figure 4: Seeking to be evaluated

According to the evaluation results, all the participants (100%) stated that they could easily understand the topic and tools presented. The topic of the sessions was relevant to the interests of the majority of the participants (93.75%), who also stated that that the information provided would be useful much or a great deal to them (93.75%). In addition, the activities implemented were considered interesting by the majority (87.75%) of the attendees.

The organization of the multiplier event was rated high or very high (93.75%), whereas the information disseminated before the event was considered as very good or excellent (87.5%). Finally, the overall multiplier event was evaluated as high or very high (77.5%), with 81.25% of the participants stating that it was worthy of their expectations. Some final comments/suggestions made by the participants in the open-ended questions were: "It seems a very good work and research!!", "More detailed examples would give better insights. But maybe this is too early in the progress of the project", "Very interesting! Thank you for the interesting presentation!". The analytical evaluation results can be found in Appendix 3.

6) Conclusions

In conclusion, the first INVITE multiplier event successfully brought together an international academic audience of students, researchers, and professors, fostering a rich exchange of ideas and insights surrounding knowledge exchange, collaboration, and innovation in virtual and blended international education. The diverse perspectives shared during the event underscored the importance of collaborative efforts in enhancing educational practices and creating impactful learning experiences for academia, underlying the significance of our project.

Participants engaged in meaningful discussions about the challenges and opportunities presented by virtual and blended learning environments, emphasizing the need for ongoing innovation and adaptability in educational methodologies and the important role of technology in facilitating implementation. The dissemination of the project's preliminary results inspired fruitful conversations, gave ideas for further research, and could foster future collaboration among attendees.

As the INVITE project team moves forward, we should embrace the feedback received during this event to drive further advancements in the field according to the academia beliefs and stretched needs. The positive feedback and enthusiasm demonstrated during this event by the majority of the participants showcased that our project's continuous efforts to enhance digital and blended learning models and strive toward a more interconnected and innovative educational landscape is very important in the new, post-Covid academic era.

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Appendix A
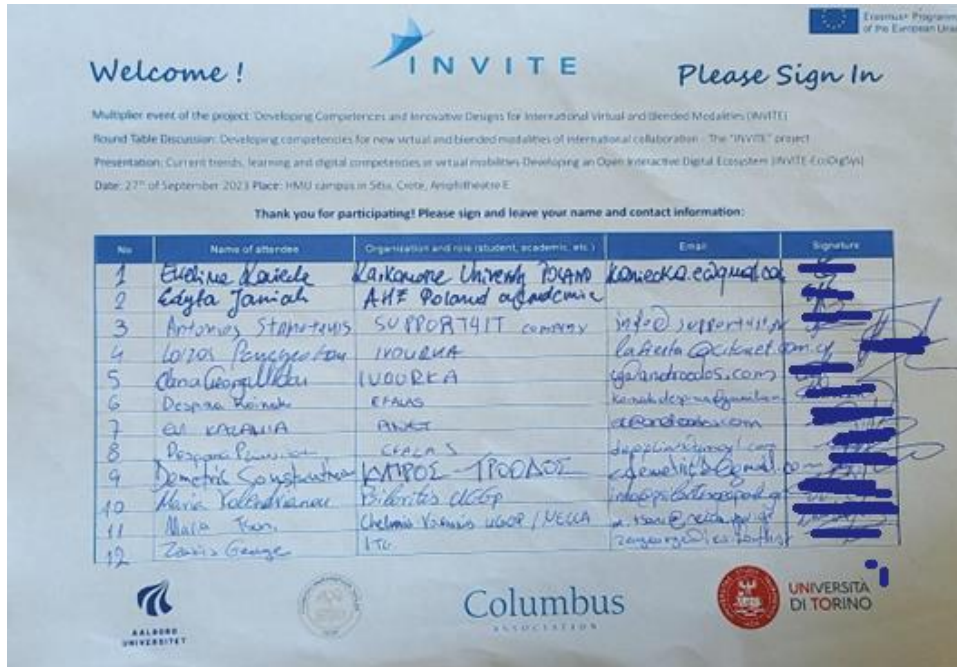
Figure A1: In vivo participants (first page)
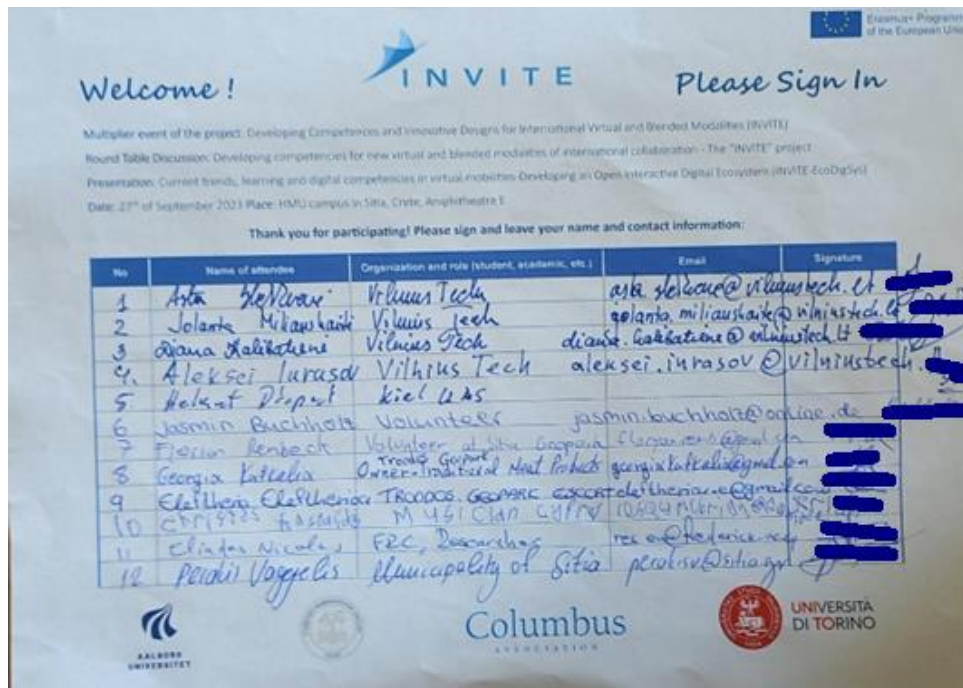
Figure A2: In vivo participants (second page)
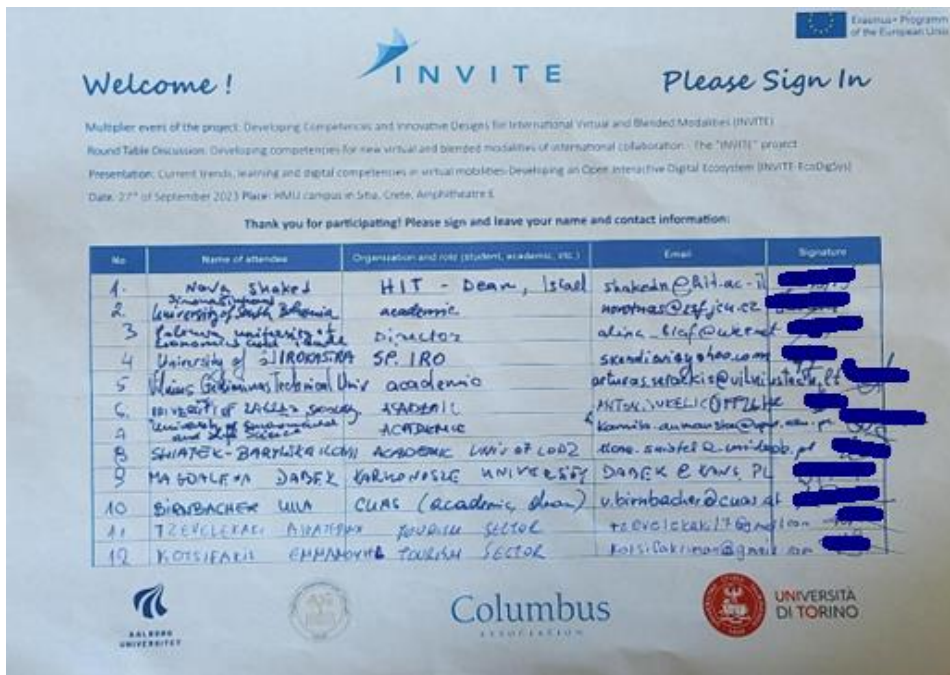
Figure A3: In vivo participants (third page)
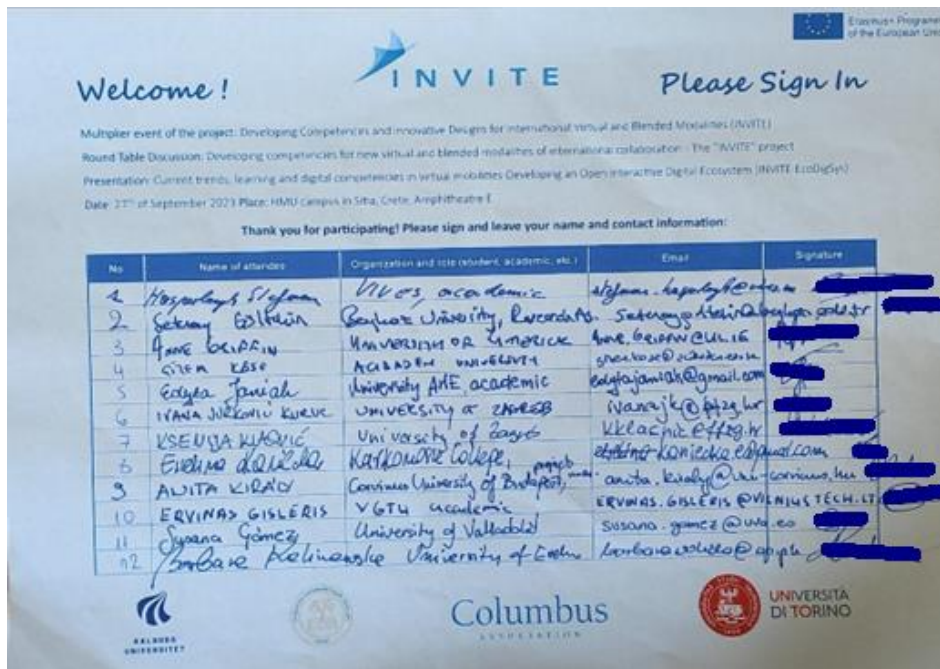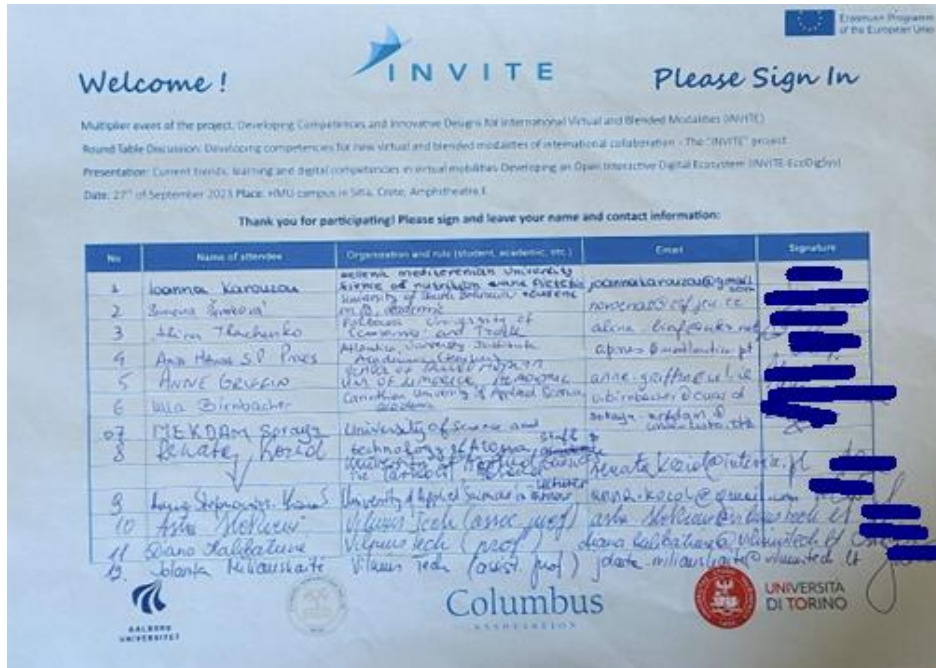

Figure A4: In vivo participants (fourth page)

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Figure A5: In vivo participants (fifth page)
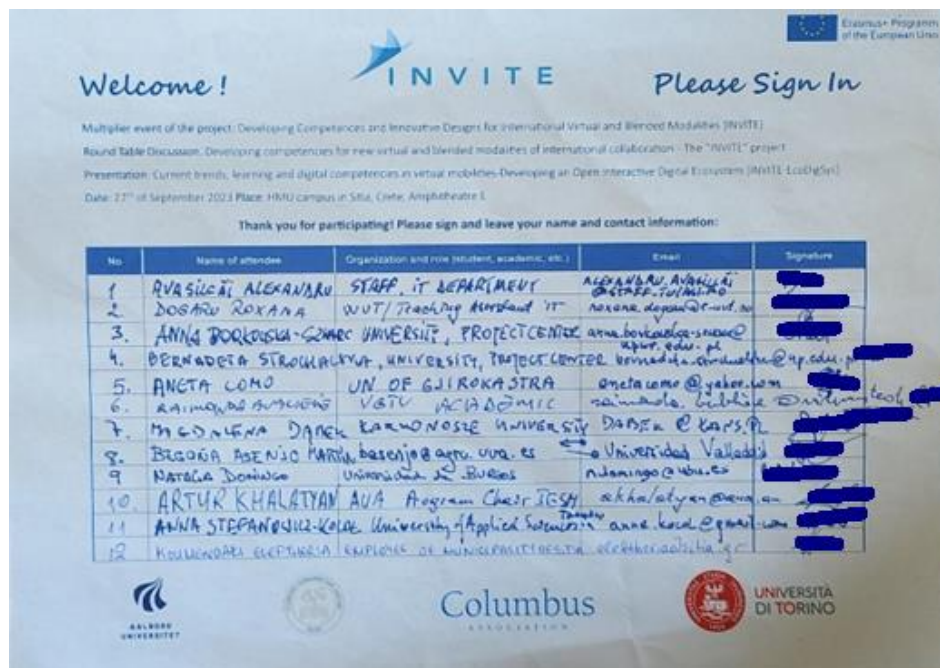
Figure A6: In vivo participants (sixth page)
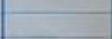
Figure A7: In vivo participants (seventh page)

Figure A8: In vivo participants (eighth page)

Figure A9: In vivo participants (ninth page)

Appendix B

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	First Name	Last Name	Email	Registration Time	Approval Status	Country/Region	Organization	Job Title	Country/Region Name	
2	Alice	Barana	alice.barana@unito.	2023-09-21 15:23:00	approved	IT	Università di Torino	Postdoctoral researc	Italy	
3	Cecilia	Fissore	cecilia.fissore@unito	2023-09-21 15:50:29	approved	IT	University of Turin	Researcher	Italy	
4	Marina	Marchisio	marina.marchisio@u	2023-09-21 15:52:51	approved	IT	University of Turin	Full professor	Italy	
5	Giulia	Boetti	giulia.boetti224@ed	2023-09-21 16:07:16	approved	IT	Università degli Stud	Dottoranda	Italy	
6	Valeria	Fradiante	valeria.fradiante@un	2023-09-21 16:07:29	approved	IT	Università di Torino	Dottoranda	Italy	
7	Matteo	Sacchet	matteo.sacchet@uni	2023-09-21 16:16:50	approved	IT	University of Turin		Italy	
8	Francesco	Floris	francesco.floris@uni	2023-09-21 16:56:25	approved	IT	Università di Torino		Italy	
9	Vittoria	Bonanzinga	vittoria.bonanzinga@	2023-09-21 18:46:34	approved	IT	Mediterranean Unive	Professor	Italy	
10	Adamaria	Perrotta	adamaria.perrotta@u	2023-09-22 9:45:20	approved	IE	UCD	Assistant Professor	Ireland	
11	Vlad	Petcu	vlad.petcu@e-uvt.ro	2023-09-22 20:23:12	approved	RO	West University of Ti	Deputy General Dire	Romania	
12	Mamadou	GUEYE	mamadou.gueye@u	2023-09-23 23:09:48	approved	FR	UPPA	Enseignant-Cherche	France	
13	Sandra	Kucina	sskucina@srce.hr	2023-09-24 21:16:29	approved	HR	SRCE	Assistant director	Croatia	
14	Beatrice	Zorzi	beatrice.zorzi@edu.	2023-09-25 9:47:17	approved	IT	Università degli studi	Laurea triennale in r	Italy	
15	Mirela	Ruvić	mirela.ruvic@gmail.	2023-09-25 11:18:01	approved	HR	University Computing	IT Specialist	Croatia	
16	Mirela	Ruvić	mirela.ruvic@srce.hr	2023-09-25 11:43:55	approved	HR	University Computing	IT Specialist	Croatia	
17	sonja	visentin	sonja.visentin@unito	2023-09-25 11:54:08	approved	IT	Università degli Stud	Associate Professor	Italy	
18	Fabio	Roman	fabio.roman@unito.i	2023-09-25 11:58:43	approved	IT	University of Turin	Postdoctoral researc	Italy	
19	Cosmin	HERMAN	cosmin.herman@ele	2023-09-25 17:47:30	approved	RO	eLearning Software	Innovationb Manage	Romania	
20	Giuseppe	Mammolo	giuseppe.mammolo	2023-09-26 11:30:14	approved	IT	Università degli studi	Tecnico amministrat	Italy	
21	Kostas	Arvanitidis	arvanitidisk@outlook	2023-09-27 8:25:30	approved	GR	Streamia		Greece	
22	Vasilis	Kontoulis	vkontoulis@hmu.gr	2023-09-27 8:42:30	approved	GR	HMU	IT	Greece	
23	Vittoria	Bonanzinga	bonanzingavittoria@	2023-09-27 9:32:15	approved	IT	Università di Reggio	Docente	Italy	
24	Vittoria	Bonanzinga	bonanzingavittoria@	2023-09-27 9:41:40	approved	IT	Università di Reggio	Professor	Italy	

Figure B1: Registered online participants of the round table discussion (first session)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	First Name	Last Name	Email	Registration Time	Approval Status	Country/Region	Organization	Job Title	Country/Region Name	
2	Alice	Barana	alice.barana@unito.	2023-09-21 15:23:35	approved	IT	Università di Torino	Postdoctoral researc	Italy	
3	Cecilia	Fissore	cecilia.fissore@unito	2023-09-21 15:51:40	approved	IT	University of Turin	Researcher	Italy	
4	Marina	Marchisio	marina.marchisio@u	2023-09-21 15:53:30	approved	IT	University of Turin	Full Professor	Italy	
5	Valeria	Fradiante	valeria.fradiante@un	2023-09-21 16:08:04	approved	IT	Università di Torino	Dottoranda	Italy	
6	Giulia	Boetti	giulia.boetti224@ed	2023-09-21 16:08:23	approved	IT	Università degli Stud	Dottoranda	Italy	
7	Matteo	Sacchet	matteo.sacchet@uni	2023-09-21 16:17:38	approved	IT	University of Turin		Italy	
8	Francesco	Floris	francesco.floris@uni	2023-09-21 16:56:48	approved	IT	Università di Torino		Italy	
9	Vittoria	Bonanzinga	vittoria.bonanzinga@	2023-09-21 18:47:56	approved	IT	Università Mediterrar	Professore	Italy	
10	Adamaria	Perrotta	adamaria.perrotta@u	2023-09-22 9:45:46	approved	IE	UCD	Assistant Professor	Ireland	
11	Mamadou	GUEYE	mamadou.gueye@u	2023-09-23 23:10:53	approved	FR	Université de Pau et	Enseignant-Cherche	France	
12	Beatrice	Zorzi	beatrice.zorzi@edu.	2023-09-25 9:48:09	approved	IT	Università degli studi	Laurea triennale in r	Italy	
13	Mirela	Ruvic	mirela.ruvic@gmail.	2023-09-25 11:17:53	approved	HR	University Computing	IT Specialist	Croatia	
14	Mirela	Ruvić	mirela.ruvic@srce.hr	2023-09-25 11:43:59	approved	HR	University Computing	IT Specialist	Croatia	
15	sonja	visentin	sonja.visentin@unito	2023-09-25 11:54:50	approved	IT	Università degli Stud	Associate Professor	Italy	
16	Fabio	Roman	fabio.roman@unito.i	2023-09-25 11:59:22	approved	IT	University of Turin	Postdoctoral researc	Italy	
17	Cosmin	HERMAN	cosmin.herman@ele	2023-09-25 17:48:15	approved	RO	eLearning Software	Innovation Manager	Romania	
18	Giuseppe	Mammolo	giuseppe.mammolo	2023-09-26 11:29:43	approved	IT	Università degli studi	Tecnico amministrat	Italy	
19	Kostas	Arvanitidis	arvanitidisk@outlook	2023-09-27 13:29:44	approved	GR	Streamia		Greece	
20	Vasilis	Kontoulis	vkontoulis@hmu.gr	2023-09-27 13:29:44	approved	GR	HMU	IT	Greece	
21	Vittoria	Bonanzinga	bonanzingavittoria@	2023-09-27 14:20:40	approved	IT	University of Reggio	Professor	Italy	

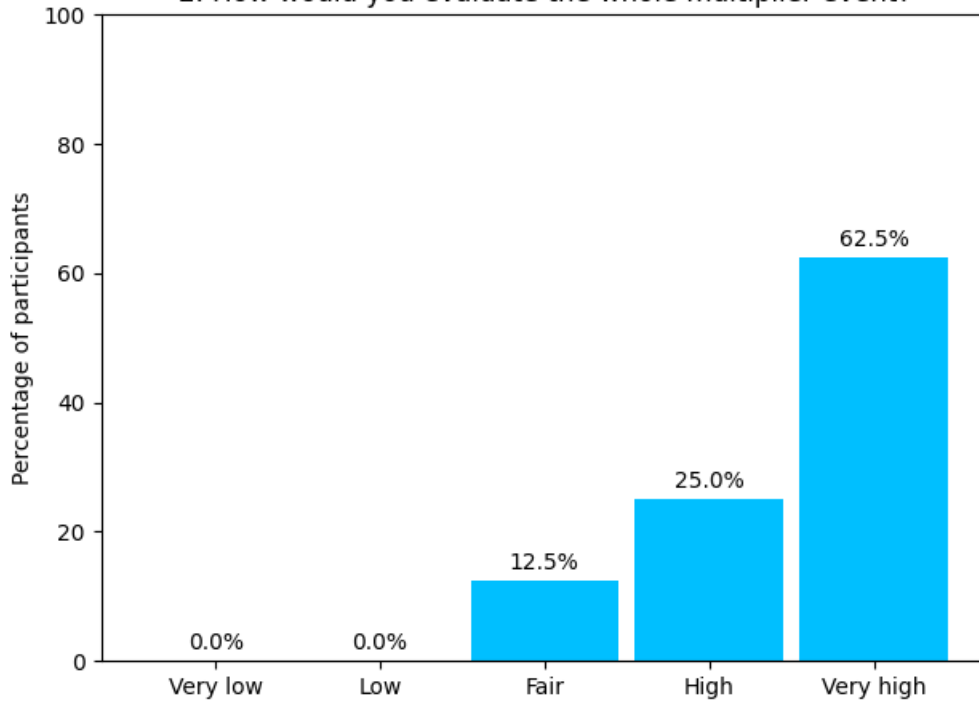**Figure B2:** Registered online participants of the presentation (second session)

Appendix C

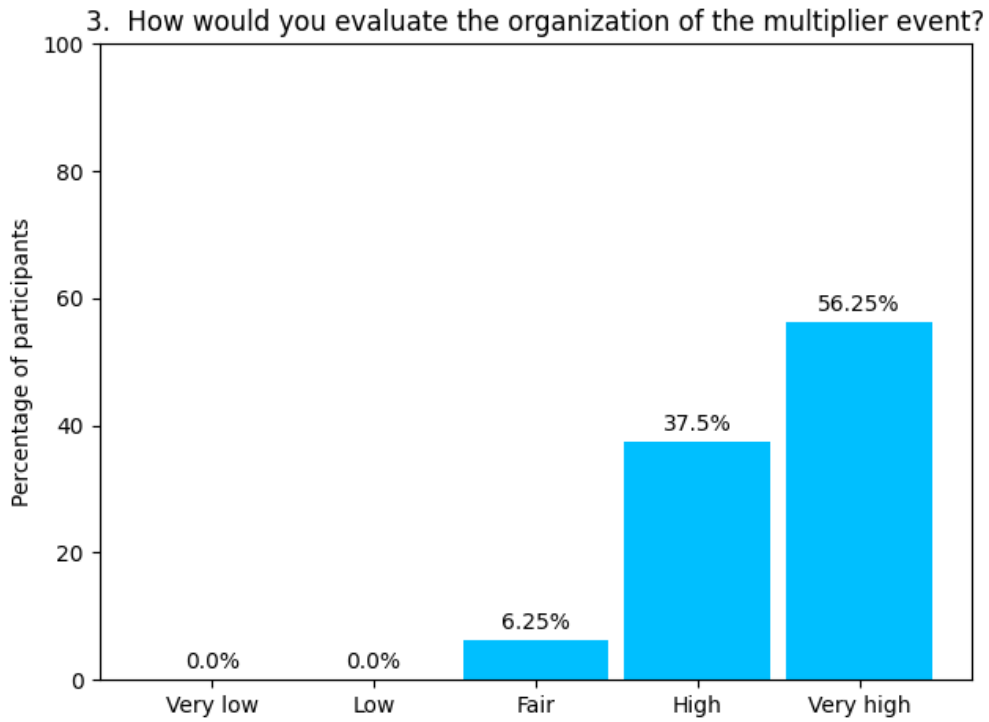## 1. How would you evaluate the information you received before the event?
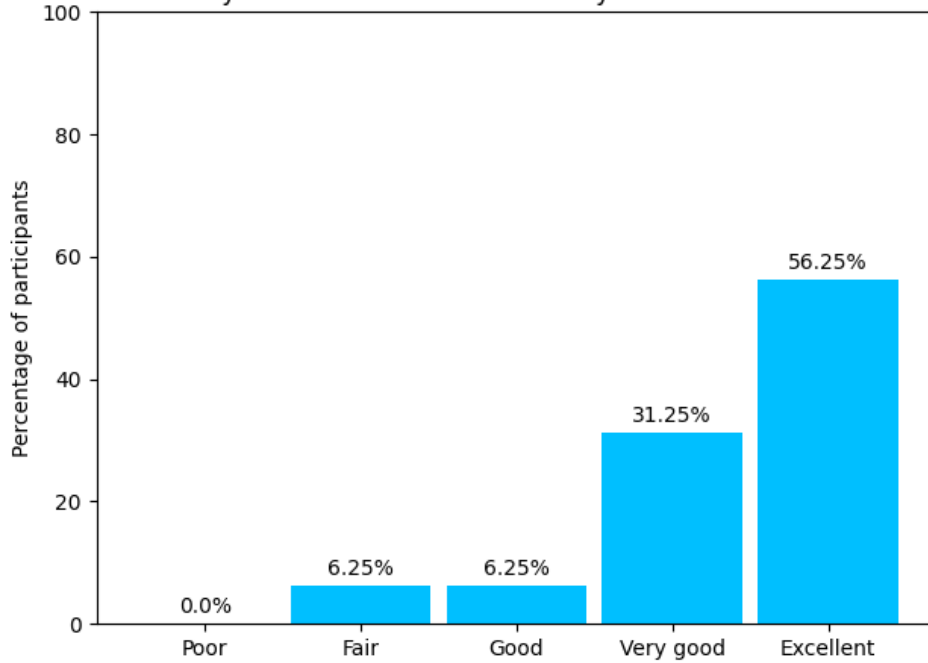
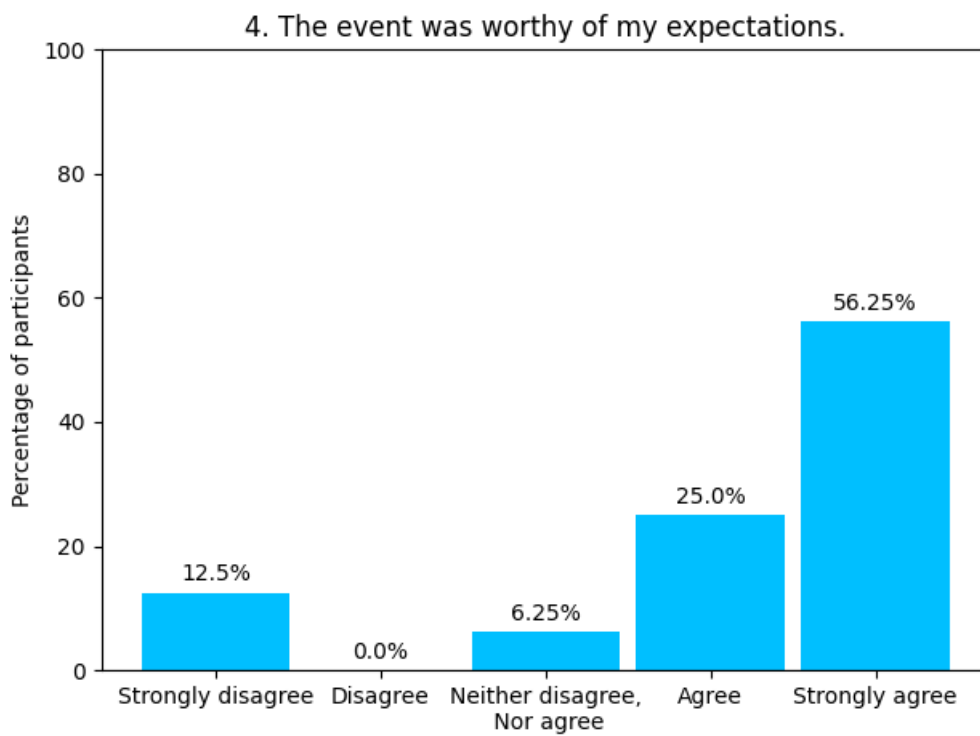**Figure C1:** Evaluation question number 1 results
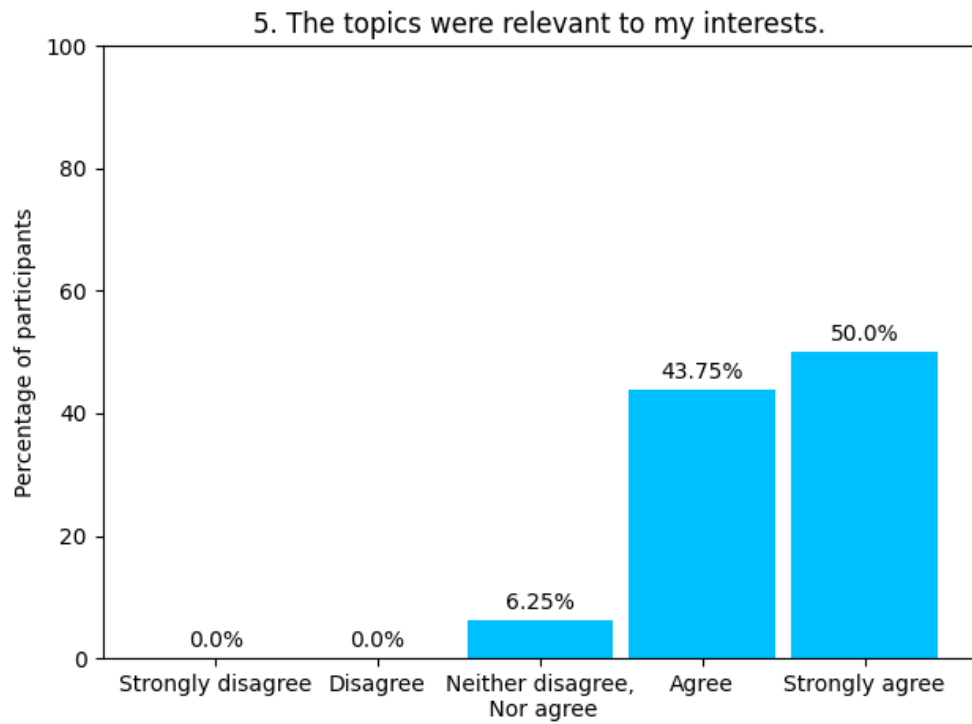
2. How would you evaluate the whole multiplier event?
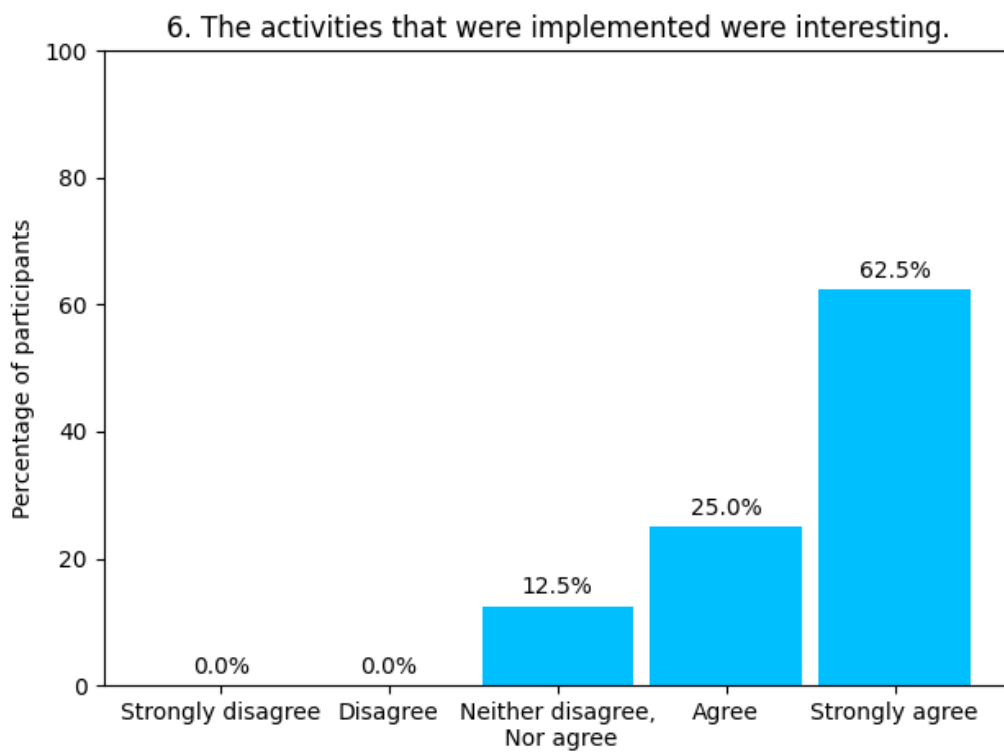

Figure C2: Evaluation question number 2 results

3. How would you evaluate the organization of the multiplier event?

Figure C3: Evaluation question number 3 results

4. The event was worthy of my expectations.

Figure C4: Evaluation question number 4 results

5. The topics were relevant to my interests.

Figure C5: Evaluation question number 5 results

6. The activities that were implemented were interesting.

Figure C6: Evaluation question number 6 results

7. I could understand easily the topics/tools presented.
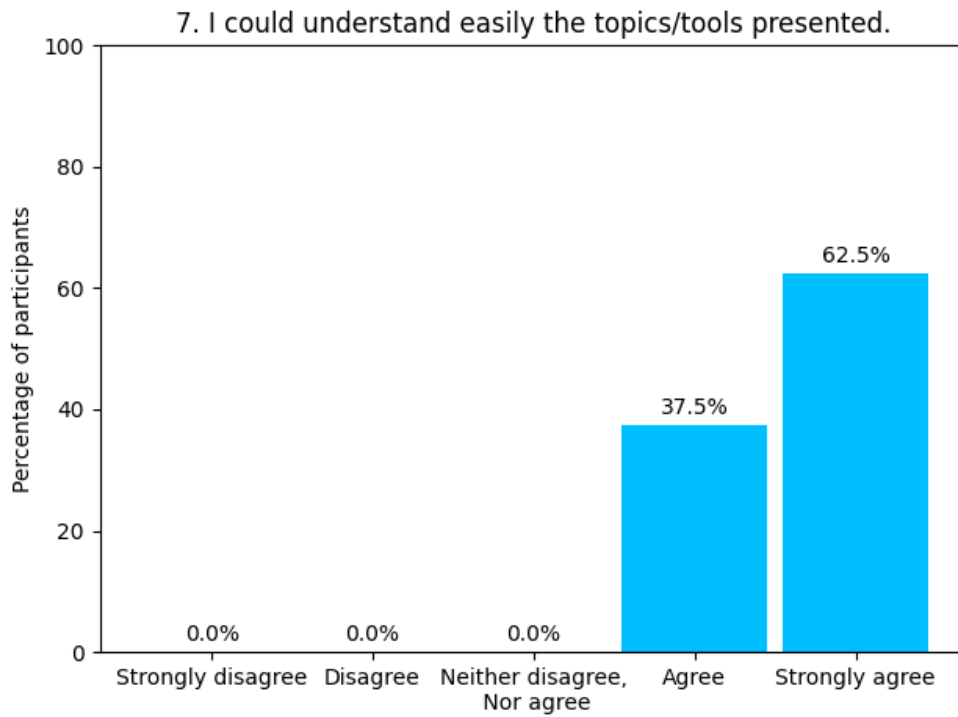
Figure C7: Evaluation question number 7 results

8. What I learned will be useful to me.
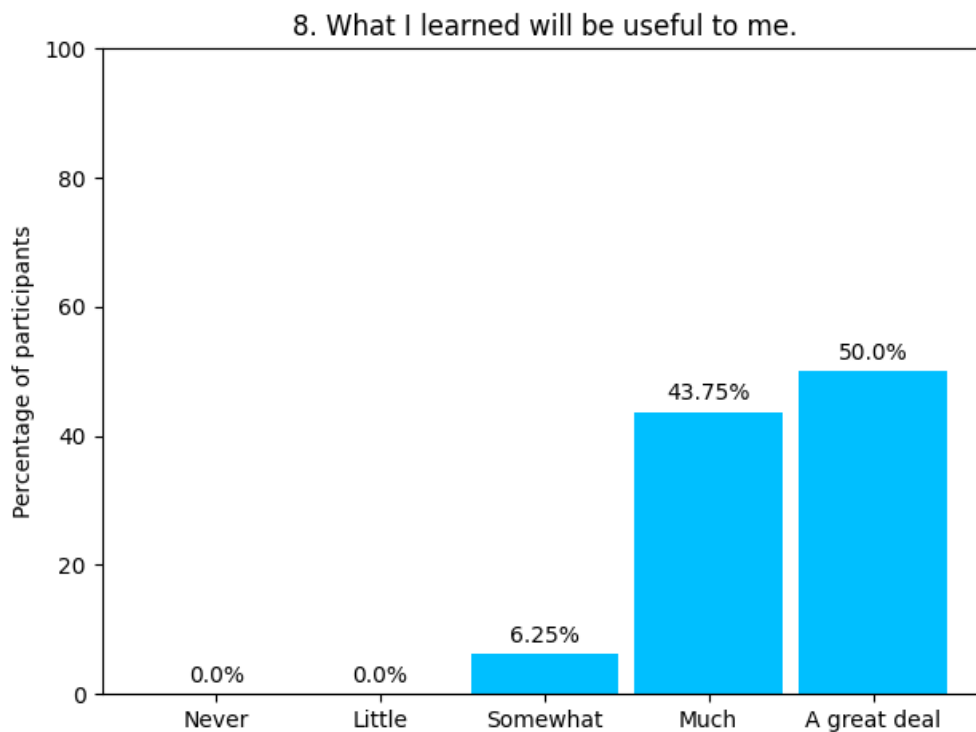
Figure C8: Evaluation question number 8 results