

EVALUATION OF THE APRIL 2014 CES PLENARY SESSION
(Summary of replies to the evaluation questionnaires)

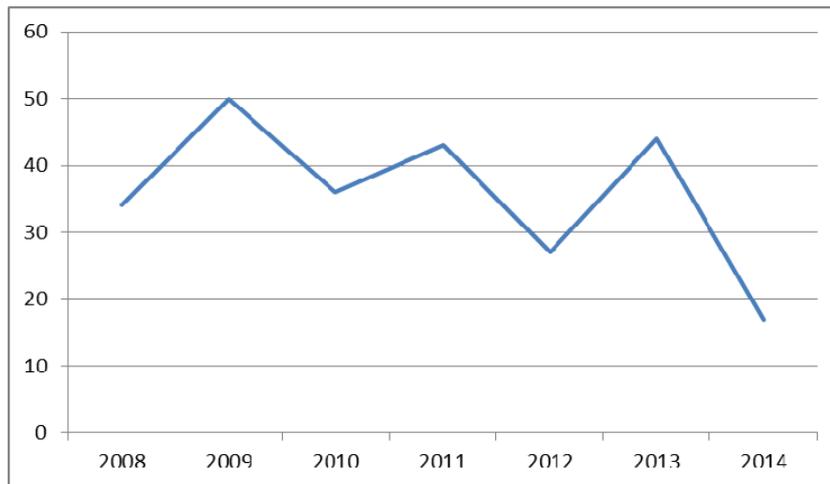
Prepared by the Secretariat

*The document presents the results of the evaluation questionnaires of the 2014 CES plenary session to the Bureau for information. The response rate to the questionnaire this time was very low since the evaluation questionnaires filled after the first day were lost. Therefore, there is no detailed summary of responses to each question. **The Bureau is invited to review the evaluation of the CES 2014 plenary session and provide advice on how to carry out the evaluation of the CES plenary sessions in the future.***

I. INTRODUCTION

1. As a rule, all participants in the meetings organised under the CES work programme are asked to fill in an evaluation questionnaire at the end of the meeting. Below is the summary of the evaluation questionnaires received from the participants of the 2014 April CES plenary session.
2. In total, 158 registered participants took part in the Conference (excluding members of the UNECE secretariat). The secretariat could process only 27 replies to the evaluation questionnaires which constitutes a response rate of 17%. Therefore, the paper does not provide a detailed summary of the results to each question. The general evaluation of the quality of the CES plenary session remains quite consistent with the previous years.
3. A declining trend in the response rate can be observed over the years. In 2014 the response rate is much lower than usual (see Figure 1), particularly due to the fact that the folder containing the replies to the CES evaluation questionnaire from the first day was lost.
4. To collect additional feedback, all participants were asked to fill in an online questionnaire in English, French and Russian after the CES plenary session. However, as the questionnaire is anonymous, it is not possible to say whether any of the participants may have filled both the paper and the electronic form.

Figure 1. Response rate to the CES evaluation questionnaires

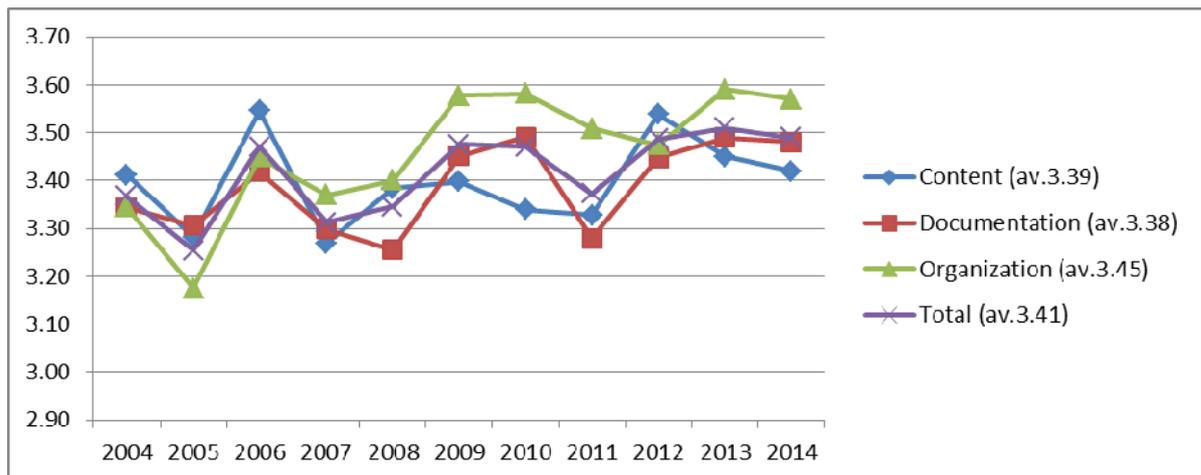


II. GENERAL SUMMARY OF REPLIES

5. The document does not make a detailed analysis of the replies as the response rate was low and also because there can duplicate responses in the replies received on paper and through the electronic questionnaire. In general, the meeting was evaluated as good or very good by 96% of the respondents from the content viewpoint, by 100% of respondents from the documentation viewpoint and by 94% from the organisational viewpoint.

6. The overall evaluation was consistent with the evaluations of the previous CES plenary sessions (it is slightly above the average, see Figure 2). A detailed summary of responses is provided in the Annex.

Figure 2. Evaluation of the quality of the CES plenary session in 2000 - 2014



Note: 4 – very good; 3 – good; 2 – fairly good; 1 - unsatisfactory

III. COMMENTS BY PARTICIPANTS

7. The evaluation questionnaire includes a space for written comments and suggestions for improvement. Among the comments (provided in the Annex), it can be noted that several participants highlighted the need for concrete and practical proposals to be made as an outcome of the seminars.

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND PROPOSAL

8. The evaluation questionnaires are prepared as a routine for the meetings and workshops organized under the CES umbrella. The purpose of the CES evaluation questionnaire is to:

- Monitor the satisfaction of participants with the CES plenary session;
- Gather proposals for improvement, in particular for the CES seminars.

9. **Therefore, it is proposed to continue with the evaluation questionnaires even though the response rate in some years is lower.**

10. **To make it easier for participants to fill in the questionnaire and for the secretariat to summarize the results, the secretariat proposes in future to conduct the evaluation only through an electronic questionnaire.**

ANNEX I. SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO THE EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE

1. How do you evaluate the quality of the meeting in general?				
	Very good	Good	Fairly good	Unsatisfactory
Content	12 (48%)	12 (48%)	1 (4%)	0
Documentation	11 (47%)	12 (52%)	0 (0%)	0
Organisation	14 (60%)	8 (34%)	4 (6%)	0
2. Are you satisfied with the organization of the seminars?				
	Very good	Good	Fairly good	Unsatisfactory
What is the value of official statistics and how do we communicate that value?				
- Organisation	15 (60%)	9 (36%)	1 (4%)	0
- Discussion	10 (43%)	13 (56%)	0 (0%)	0
Migration statistics				
- Organisation	12 (48%)	11 (44%)	1 (4%)	1 (4%)
- Discussion	7 (29%)	15 (62%)	1 (4%)	1 (4%)
3. How do you evaluate the discussion under the “formal business” part of the meeting?				
	Very good	Good	Fairly good	Unsatisfactory
Modernization of Statistical Production and Services	7 (28%)	16 (64%)	1 (4%)	1 (4%)
Reports, guidelines, recommendations, etc. prepared under the umbrella of the Conference	7 (29%)	16 (66%)	0 (0%)	1 (4%)
Coordination of international statistical work in the UNECE region	9 (37%)	14 (58%)	0 (0%)	1 (4%)
UNECE Statistics Programme of work	9 (37%)	14 (58%)	0 (0%)	1 (4%)

4. Which topic/session did you find most helpful and why?

Number of votes:

Seminar on value of official statistics: 10

Seminar on migration statistics: 7

Modernisation: 2

Climate change: 1

Microdata access: 1

5. Suggestions for improvement and other comments:

General comments:

- Excellent organization and a very interesting meeting
- It would be nice if all participants were equally engaged in the discussion. Some participants did not intervene even once
- Everything was in place
- More room around the table is needed

Documentation and presentations:

- Harmonization of methodology
- Too many documents. They should not exceed 4-5 pages.
- Not all documents were translated into Russian, and some were not on the website before the conference.

Organization of seminars:

- The organization is good
- The Seminar organizer should explain in the beginning clearly who will talk when and why. It was not so clear all the time if the seminar or session organizer were talking.
- Need to discuss more how to implement the very important findings from the seminars
- Seminars are a bit long. Consider reducing their duration.
- I think there is a need to debate or to make concrete/practical proposals. The debate is very general and some topics have been discussed for several years. It would be useful to establish priorities.

Contents of seminars:

- On modernisation clear example of beneficial collaboration among countries and positive impact could be useful to foster the possible involvement of other countries
- It is necessary to find or to debate about concrete topics, solutions, actions. It is too general. The seminar on Migration was long and without any concrete proposals.
- Some subjects were very theoretical, not concrete, same topics since several years ago.

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