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Seafood and Nutrition Security**

Project Acronym
SSNS

Study visit at the Institute of Aquaculture –
University of Stirling - Evaluation report
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Prepared by: EUROTraining



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General comments

In the framework of WP2 academic professionals from Asian HEIs and European partners travelled to Stirling, UK in order to witness first-hand the work implemented at the Institute of Aquaculture (IoA) of the University of Sterling (UoS). All participants filled-in an evaluation questionnaire prepared and distributed by EUROTraining in order to gather valuable feedback that will contribute to the improvement of future relevant activities. In total, 31 responses were gathered.

This report aims to provide feedback particularly on:

- the clear definition of study visit's objectives
- the improvement in partners' understanding and knowledge of the subject
- the level of interaction
- the balance between theory and practice
- the organizational part of the study visit

Evaluation Analysis Results

The participants had the opportunity to evaluate the study visit including different aspects as mentioned before by rating from 1 to 6, according to the questions provided and the level of satisfaction. The level of satisfaction was assessed from 1, which stands for the worst rating, to 6 which stands for the best rating.

1. Name and Surname

The first question of the questionnaire was about personal information of the participants, meaning their name and surname, where every partner answered.



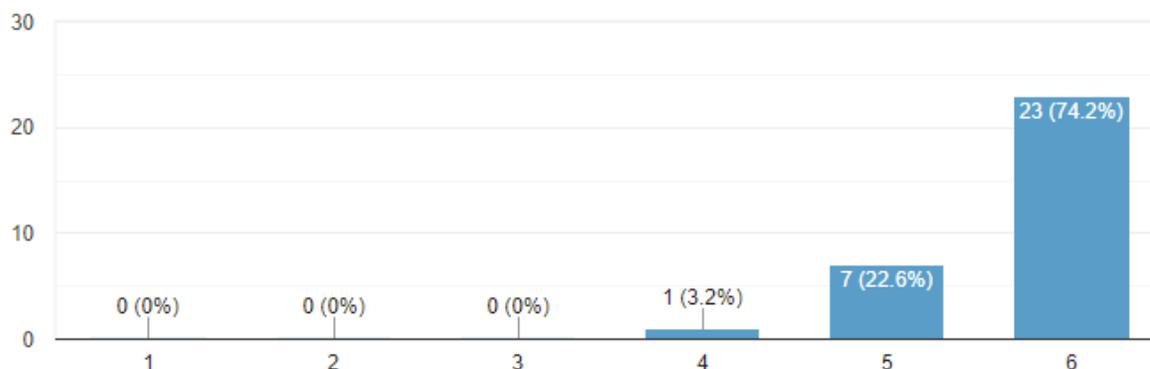


2. Profession and Institute

In this question all partners referred the University/partner organization that they represented and their position within the University/partner organization.

3. The objectives of the study visit were clearly defined

31 responses



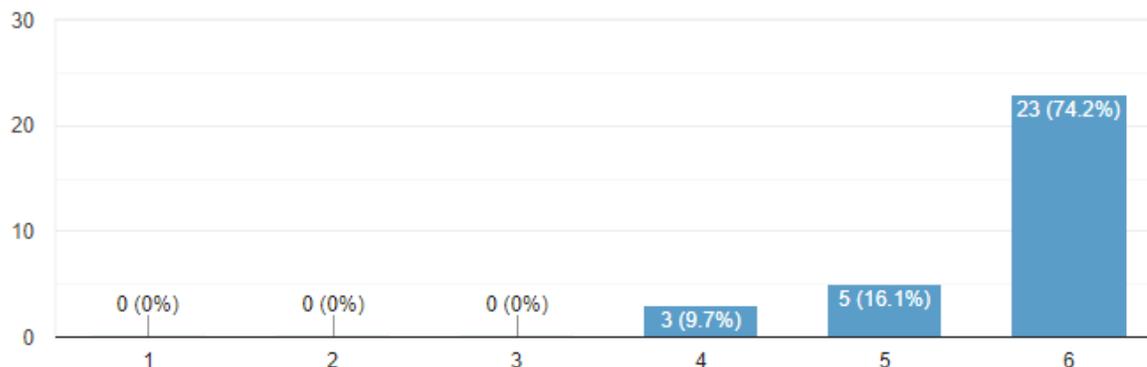
As the graph shows, the vast majority of participants (74.2%) “Totally agreed” that the objectives of the study visit were clearly defined. This is a very good sign, indicating that participants were well aware of the objectives of the visit, thus were suitably prepared.





4. The study visit improved my understanding of the subject.

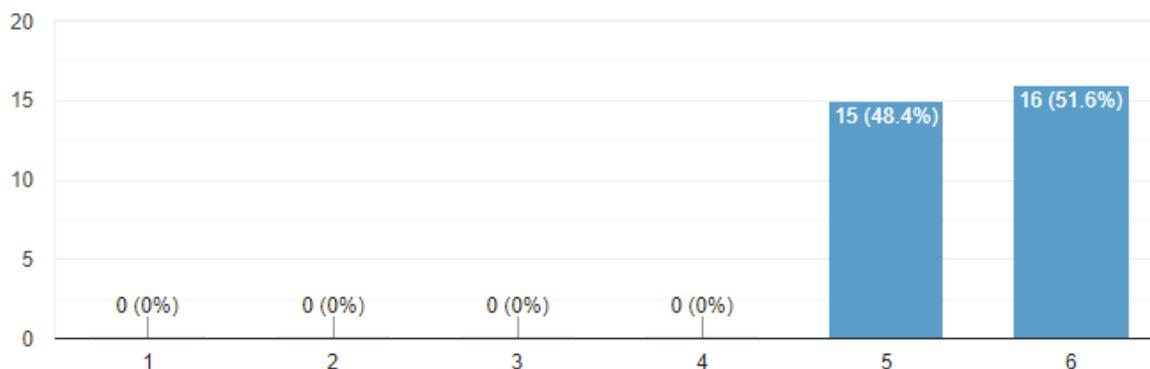
31 responses



Likewise, twenty three out of thirty-one participants “Totally agreed” that the study visit contributed to their understanding of the subject. Considering that is one of the main objectives of the visit, these results are very encouraging regarding the overall evaluation of the study visit.

5. I will be able to utilize the knowledge acquired, at some level.

31 responses



As far as the future ability of participants to utilize the acquired knowledge is concerned, evaluation results were almost evenly shared between two levels: Sixteen participants “Totally agreed” that

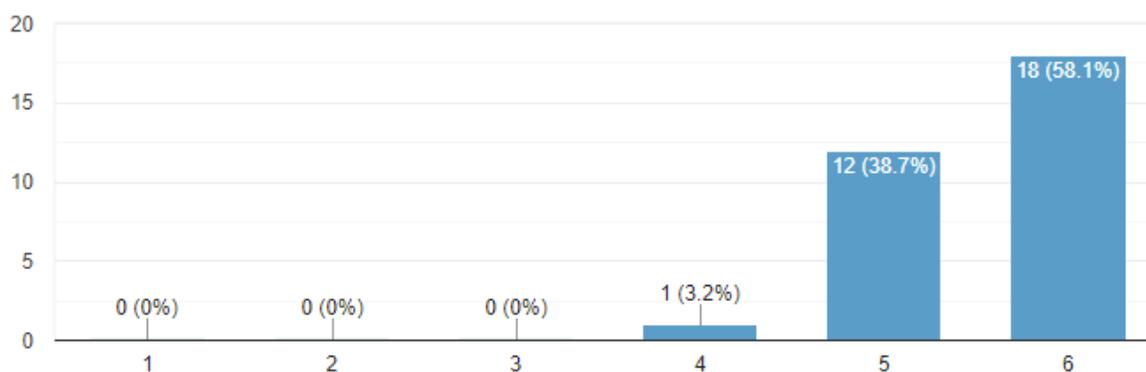




they will somehow put in practice the knowledge acquired during the study visit, while fifteen participants “Agreed”. This distribution of responses might indicate different academic and/or professional backgrounds of participants, that will enable them to apply the acquired knowledge at different levels.

6. Participation and interaction were encouraged.

31 responses



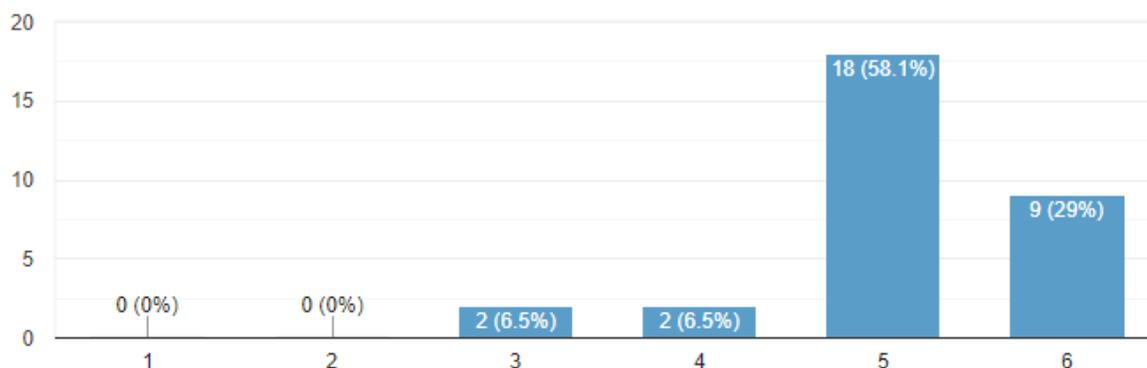
More than half of participants (58.1%) “Totally agreed” that participation and interaction were encouraged during the different sessions of the study visit, while 38.7% of participants “Agreed”. In general, it can be said that most participants were satisfied by the participation and interaction levels of the visit.





7. There was a correct balance between the theoretical part and discussion.

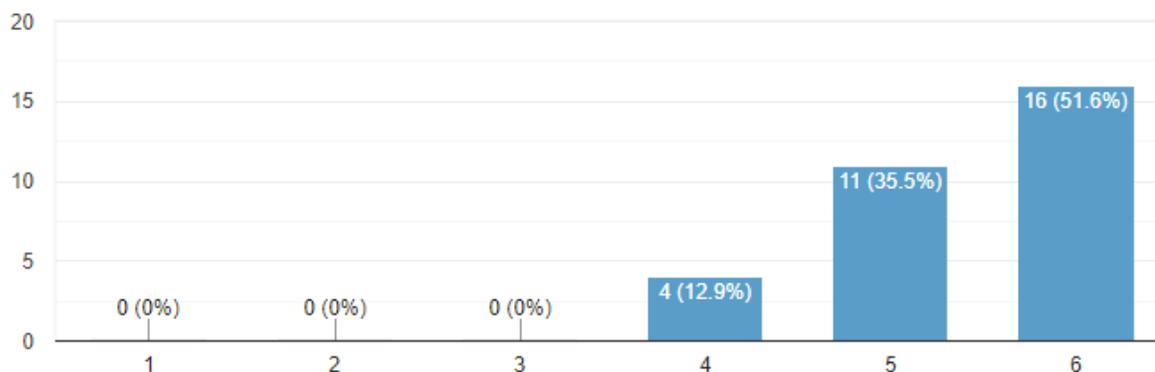
31 responses



In this question, participants were asked to evaluate the balance between theory and discussion. Here, responses were distributed among different answers: Nine participants “Totally agreed” that the relevant balance was correct, eighteen “Agreed”, two “Rather agreed”, and another two “Rather disagreed”. These results can provide the fundamentals for future improvement in this specific aspect of the study visit, particularly in organizing a more balanced between theory and discussion visit.

8. The objectives of the study visit were met.

31 responses

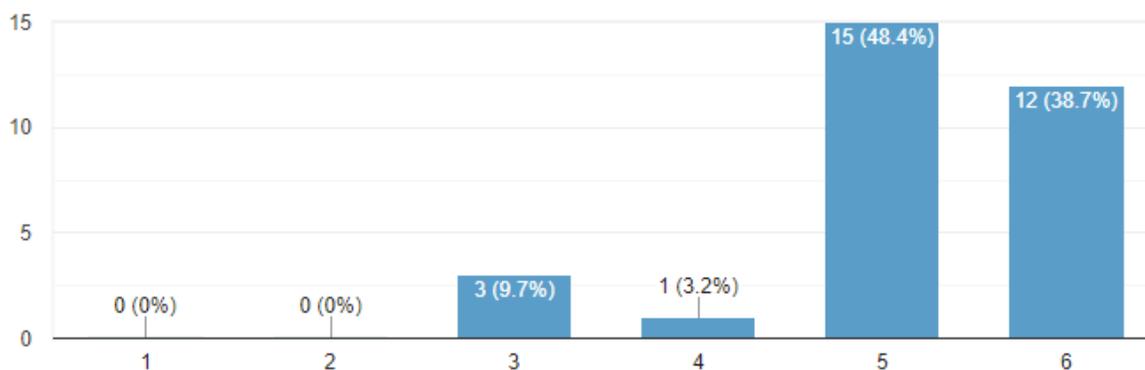




Regarding the achievement of the study visit’s objectives, about half of participants “Totally agreed” that they have been achieved. Eleven out of thirty-one participants “Agreed” with that, while four “Rather agreed”. In overall, it can be considered that even though most participants were at some level satisfied by the achievement of the foreseen objectives, there is still room for improvement on this particular aspect.

9. How do you rate the duration, date and timing of the study visit?

31 responses



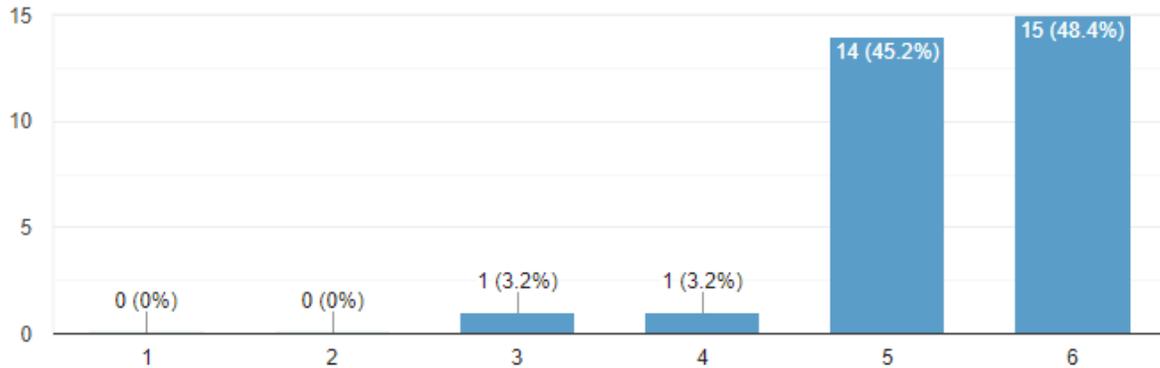
The responses regarding the duration, date and timing of the study visit were mixed: Twelve participants found these aspects of the visit “Excellent”, fifteen “Very good”, one “Good”, and another three “Balanced”. There is clear indication that some participants had higher expectations regarding the duration, date and timing of the visit, that unfortunately were not fully satisfied.





10. Overall evaluation of the study visit.

31 responses



In general, most participants (48.4%) evaluated the study visit as “Excellent”, fourteen out of thirty-one as “Very good”, one as “Good”, and another one as “Balanced”.

11. Which aspects do you think could be improved for the next study visit? Any additional comments? (optional)

As this was an optional question where participants were asked to recommend possible ways of improvement or add any other comment, only eighteen responses were gathered:





18 responses

- Industrial visit (for example : at seafood processing industry)
- Course Development
- more discussion among partners
- please should organize separately the welcome reception and the welcome dinner in different day.
- Module design and learning outcomes
- The aspects could be improved for the next study visit: Ethical procedures for research and human health.
- 1) More practice of writing course outlines instead of theoretical lecture, 2) Addition of seafood market during the farm visit could have better use of time when the visit of processing plant was cancelled.
- Perhaps, the more advanced learning of practical/course design and balanced topics for SSNS i.e. Add more field visit and topics about utilization and processing.
- The presentations and other resources from the study visits need to be shared among all participants.
- Extend more time for field visit
- Nothing
- I would like to add field trip especially fisheries processing or finished seafood products.
- Visit more fish farms and companies who recruit graduates
- the extention of this subject to other relative scientific fields, such as "fish hygiene"
- The duration of the study visit can be longer so that the participant can be more acknowledge on how to make a good Master course module.
- Groupe discussion in smaler groups (4-5 participants) should be used more often.
- More time for discussions in small Groups
- The aspect that needs to be improved is the time provided for practice and field visits.





Summary and Conclusions

The results of the evaluation of the study visit at the University of Stirling were satisfying. Both the quantitative and qualitative parts of the evaluation provided a valuable feedback for assessment of the overall purpose of the study visit, its organization and the gained knowledge achieved.

The rating system that has been used during this evaluation was based on a scale rate from one (1) to six (6). The best rate that could have been given was 6 and the worst 1, according to each question. In all questions, the average rates were between 5 to 6, while in five questions there were one or two answers with rate 4 and 1 answer with rate 3. Those outcomes are satisfactory and show that partners had the chance to exchange valuable information as well as experiences and learn new things that would be helpful for the implementation of project's next steps.

The only less satisfying aspects that have been identified in this evaluation were:

- the balance between the theoretical part and discussion
- the level of achievement of the study visit's foreseen objectives
- and duration, date, and timing of the visit's activities.

Additional comments were provided by participants, recommending, among others, the allocation of more time to the activities of the visit and the visit in general, the inclusion of more field visits, as well as promotion of more vivid discussion between participants.

The aforementioned issues will be used as feedback for the organization of next study visits.

