Annual
Groningen Declaration Network meeting
Paris

April 2018

Evaluation of Meeting

Introduction

The following evaluation report reproduces the feedback received from about a third of the attendees at the 2018 annual Groningen Declaration Network meeting.

We value this feedback and acknowledge the challenges identified in relation to the 2018 Annual Meeting. The GDN Board of Directors will address the issues raised in preparation for the 2019 AM in Puebla, Mexico , especially the top four issues identified in this report: more timely start of the annual planning and organization cycle; better provision of information to attendees and the network in the running up to the AM; reconsideration of the formula and ingredients that go into the AM programme; and last but not least, provision of flawless digital services during the AM.

Thank you for your continued participation, commitment to and support for the GDN - it is much appreciated as we continue to build our globally networked community!

Neil Robinson, President, Groningen Declaration Network

Herman de Leeuw, Executive Director, GDN Office

Contents

Chapter 1: Research plan

1.1 Research goal
The aim of the present evaluation is to find out how participants of the Groningen Declaration Annual Network Meeting rated the meeting held in Paris in April 2018.

1.2 Methodology
For the purpose of the evaluation an online questionnaire was sent to all participants. After a lapse of 2 weeks, those participants that had not yet filled out the questionnaire received a reminder. Higher Ed Services processed the results and produced the report.

1.3 Commissioner, contractor and editor
Commissioner: Herman de Leeuw
Contact person: Herman de Leeuw
Contractor: Karen Hanna, Higher Ed Services
Editors: Mirriam Chiyaba, Karen Hanna, Herman de Leeuw

Chapter 2: Results
The annual meeting attracted one hundred and sixty-seven delegates. Forty-three (43) delegates responded to the evaluation survey representing a response rate of almost 30%. The results are not considered representative but indicative.

How would you rate your overall experience at the Groningen Declaration Meeting 2018 in Paris?

Overall experience	Count	Percent
Excellent	7	16.3%
Very good	18	41.9%
Good	11	25.6%
Fair	7	16.3%
Poor	0	0.0%
Times answered	43	100.0%
Times skipped	0	0.0%

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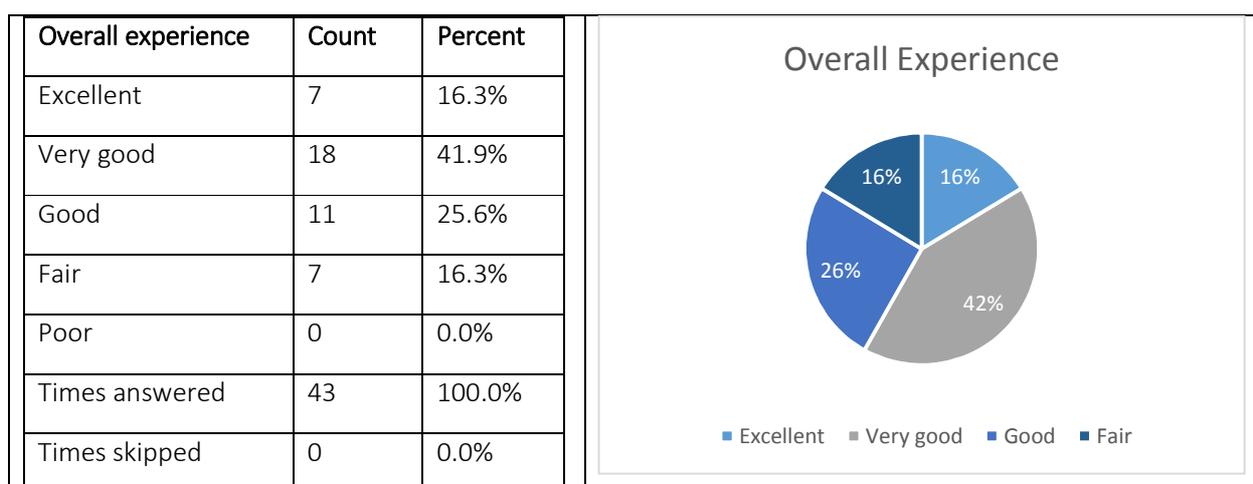
Which days did you attend?

Days attended	Count	Percent
All days	38	88.4%
Wednesday	5	11.6%
Thursday	6	14.0%
Friday	1	2.3%
Times answered	43	100.0%
Times skipped	0	0.0%

Which days did you attend?

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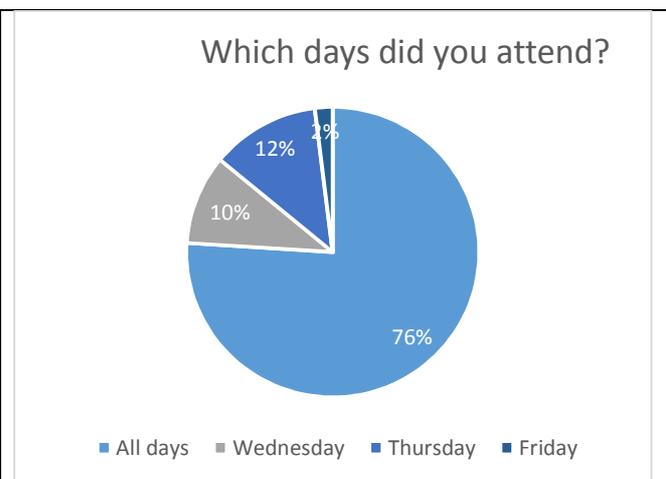
How would you rate the Wednesday 18 April opening keynote? - Mehdi Gharsallah

	Count	Percent
Excellent	3	7.7%
Very good	10	25.6%
Good	21	53.8%
Fair	5	12.8%
Poor	0	0.0%
Times answered	39	90.7%
Times skipped	4	9.3%

Mehdi Gharsallah keynote
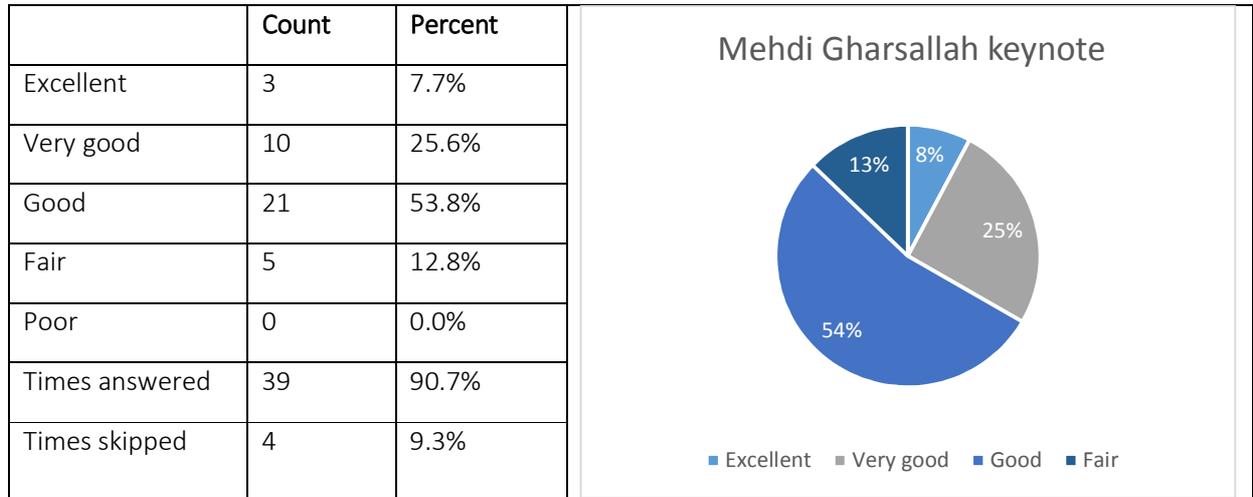
How would you rate the Thursday 19 April keynote? - dr. Francis Fabri

	Count	Percent
Excellent	3	7.7%
Very good	13	33.3%
Good	10	25.6%
Fair	11	28.2%
Poor	2	5.1%
Times answered	39	90.7%
Times skipped	4	9.3%

dr. Francis Fabri keynote

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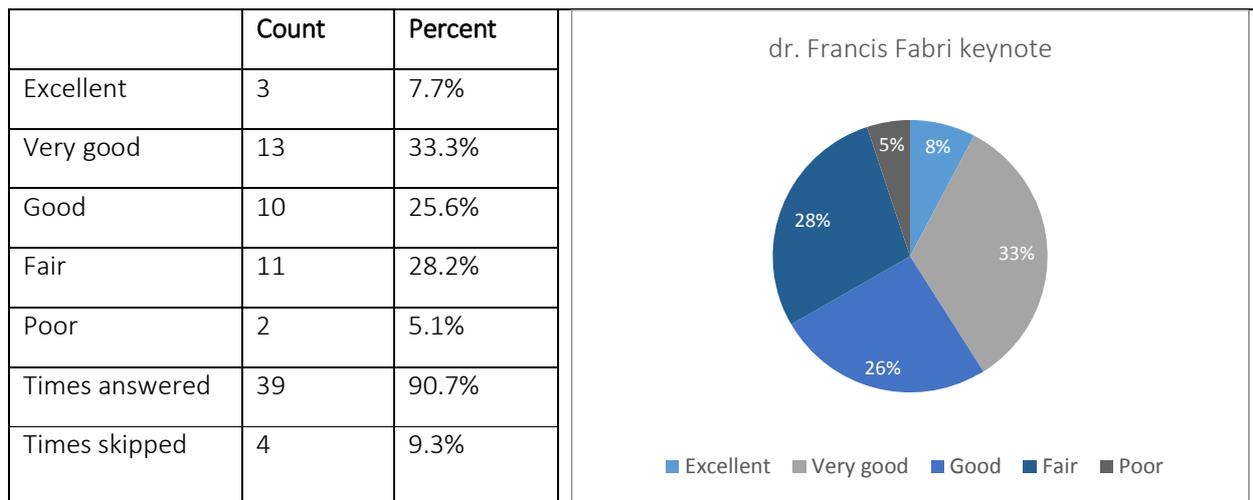
How would you rate the Friday 20 April keynote? - Stig Arne Skjerven

	Count	Percent
Excellent	6	15.8%
Very good	10	26.3%
Good	19	50.0%
Fair	3	7.9%
Poor	0	0.0%
Times answered	38	88.4%
Times skipped	5	11.6%

Stig Arne Skjerven keynote

■ Excellent ■ Very good ■ Good ■ Fair ■ Poor
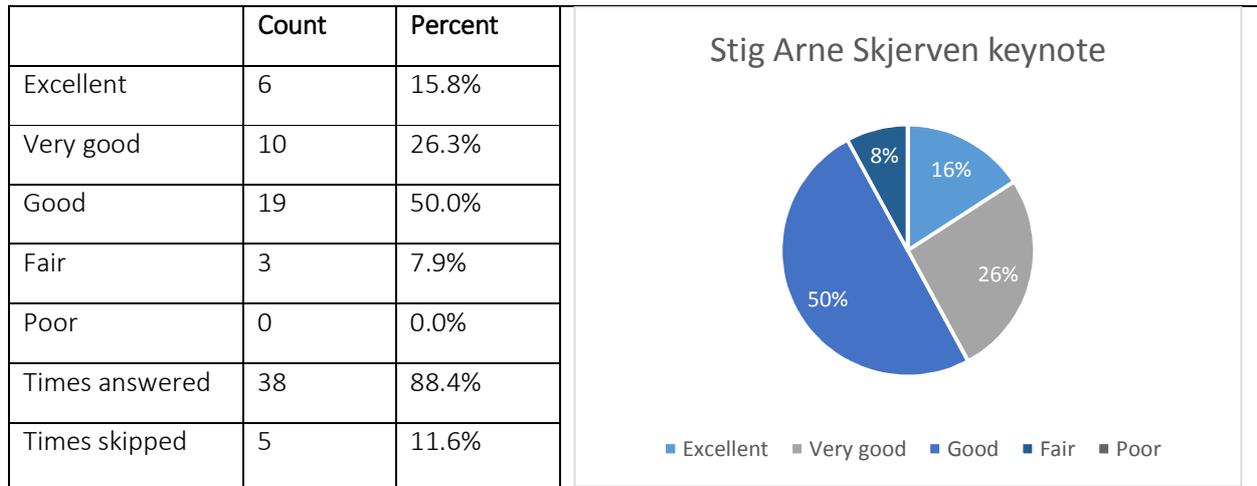
How would you rate the closing keynote by Sir John Daniel and the closure of the meeting?

	Count	Percent
Excellent	3	8.60%
Very good	16	45.70%
Good	15	42.90%
Fair	1	2.90%
Poor	0	0.00%
Times answered	35	81.40%
Times skipped	8	18.60%

Closing keynote - Sir John Daniel and the closure of the meeting?

■ Excellent ■ Very good ■ Good ■ Fair ■ Poor

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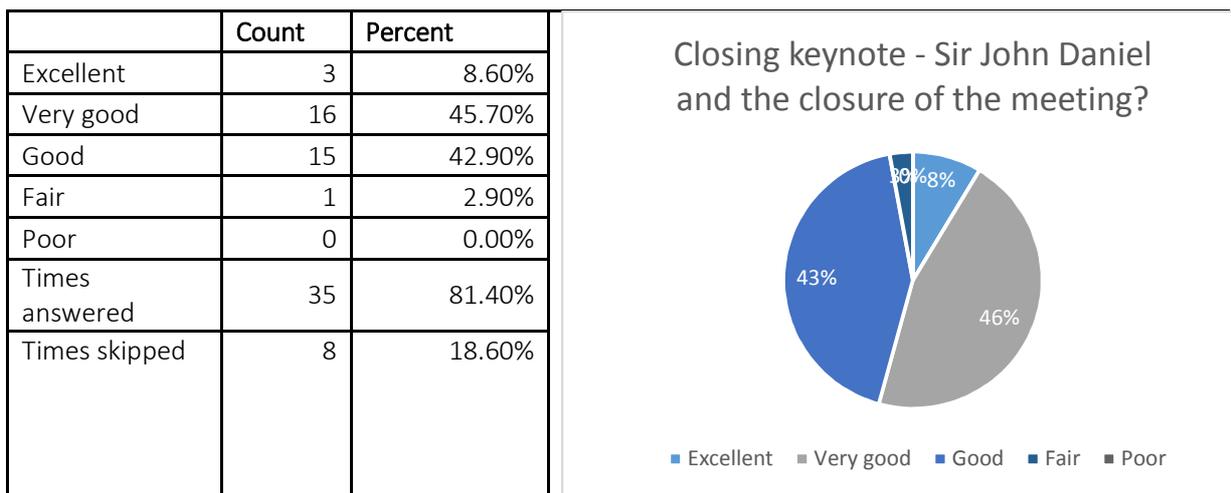
Responses to 'Further comments on the plenary sessions'.

The presentation from Dr Fabri did not seem to focus on the themes of the conference.
Good for now
I personally find that the most valuable plenary addresses have been those where you learn about national initiatives and the state of electronic exchange in various regions, and not so much policy speeches, which are less actionable.
it may be considered useful to focus more interest and participation from all segments of the world, particularly emerging countries
I Think it would be helpful if the day chair summarizes questions asked by the audience and the answers given by the panel members.
The plenaries as less useful or interesting than the break - out sessions. Have fewer.
The closing keynote was the only one that really engaged my attention as it took a stance on an issue (somewhat controversial) and made an argument, using humour (there was not a lot of humour in evidence...or dynamism).
Some of them were very general
Didn't take notes on individual presentations so it wouldn't be fair of me to rate them now
Plenary sessions should be selected to focus on the core mission of the GDN (i.e., student mobility) and move away from general educational topics.

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Which of the concurrent sessions did you attend?

	Count	Percent
Ia – Open Badges in the Higher Education Student Lifecycle - Marica Franchi, CINECA, Italy	5	12.2%
Ib - The Comprehensive Student Record Movement Today in Theory and Practice. - Dr. Rodney Parks, Elon University, USA and Dr. Matthew Pittinsky, Parchment, USA	12	29.3%
Ic - Beyond Qualifications - Sharon Robertson, Vetassess, Australia	9	22.0%
Id - Groningen Blockchain in Education Field Lab - Johan Tillema, Quintor, the Netherlands and Hidde-Jan Jongsma, TNO/Groningen Blockchain in Education Field Lab, The Netherlands	15	36.6%
IIa - Digital Credentials in Medical Licensing in The United States - Michael Dugan, Federation of State Medical Boards, USA	3	7.3%
IIb - Everyday Digital - Credential Accessibility and Security is Now Business as Usual - Anthony Manahan, University of Melbourne and Joanna Browne, University of Auckland, New Zealand	8	19.5%
IIc - How Not to Lose Your Head but Innovate with Blockchain in Mobility and Education - Hennie Bulstra, Vera Mol and Dik van der Wal, all three from DUO, The Netherlands	19	46.3%
IId - Authenticating the Origin of Public Documents in the Digital Age - Is There a Need? - Mayela Celis, Hague Conference on Private International Law, The Netherlands, Rick Torres, National Student Clearinghouse, USA and Chris Jackson, Paradigm Inc., USA	6	14.6%
IIIa - Credentialing in a World of Digital and Technological Transformation - Franklin Shaffer, CGFNS International, Inc., USA	6	14.6%
IIIb - DEQAR, the European Database of External Quality Assurance Results and Decisions - Melinda Szabo and Kathryn Máthé both EQAR, Belgium	6	14.6%
IIIc - EXTRAsup Project Toolkit and Endorsement of Open Badges to Foster Student Mobility - Caroline Bélan-Ménagier, Confederal University Leonardo da Vinci, France	1	2.4%
IIId - How the World's Biggest Student Exchange Programme is Going Digital - João Bacelar, European University Foundation/Erasmus without Paper, Luxembourg	21	51.2%
IVa - PESC GEO Code: A Use Case Study - W. Matt Bemis, University of Southern California, USA and Emily Tse, International Education Research Foundation, USA	5	12.2%
IVb - The Blockchain in Education - Chris Jagers, Learning Machine, USA	18	43.9%
IVc - Lifelong Student Identity - Bryan Georges, EVERNYM, United Kingdom	11	26.8%
IVd - South African Steering Mechanisms for Mutual Recognition of Qualifications Agreements: Enhancing Student Articulation and Mobility Globally - Dr. Shirley Lloyd, Department for Higher Education and Training, South Africa.	7	17.1%
Times answered	41	95.3%
Times skipped	2	4.7%

Overall, how would you rate the following aspects of the concurrent sessions?

Ninety-five point three (95.3%) of respondents rated the following aspects of the concurrent sessions.

	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor
Did the session descriptions match the presentation?	10 (24.4%)	20 (48.8%)	11 (26.8%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Were the slides relevant?	7 (17.1%)	22 (53.7%)	11 (26.8%)	1 (2.4%)	0 (0.0%)
Did the presentations meet your expectation?	7 (18.4%)	15 (39.5%)	15 (39.5%)	1 (2.6%)	0 (0.0%)

Responses to 'Further comments on the concurrent sessions'

good for now
Generally, very pleased with the breakouts.
Presentation from João Bacelar was very useful!
The timing went horribly wrong and the rooms were not so easy to find at first.
People spent a lot of time racing between sessions. Some speakers went way over time (the Maltese keynote speaker in particular). There was not enough time given to interactive sessions, which is a missed opportunity, as many people feel that there is more value in this lecture-style presentation.
The concurrent were generally excellent and on-topic. Barely enough time for the topics. Little time for discussion.
Coordination of location information for sessions was very problematic; some were difficult to locate because signage was inadequate.
Too many presentations in a short period of time - had to include moving from one room to another

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Which of the showcase sessions did you attend?

	Count	Percent
IIa – Australia and New Zealand - My eQuals Program, sharing learnings of the first 18 months in operation	17	44.7%
Ib – India - CDSL NAD Presentation	8	21.1%
Ic - Belgium - Belgian Blockchain Proof of Concept	15	39.5%
IIa – Canada - Advancing Student Mobility for Canada	13	34.2%
IIb – Germany - Bracing for Europe and beyond: A German perspective on EMREX	9	23.7%
IIIc – India - Digital Empowerment of Students and Universities in India – NAD a beginning	9	23.7%
IIIa – China - On Privacy, Trust and Verification of China Higher Education Information	17	44.7%
IIIb - EMREX global update	7	18.4%
IIIc – South Africa SAQA Update: National, Regional and Continental African Activities	7	18.4%
Times answered	38	88.4%
Times skipped	5	11.6%

Overall, how would you rate the following aspects of the showcase sessions?

Eighty-eight point four (88.4%) of respondents answered the question regarding the aspects of showcase sessions.

	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor
did the session descriptions match the presentation?	13 (34.2%)	18 (47.4%)	7 (18.4%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
were the slides relevant?	8 (21.6%)	19 (51.4%)	10 (27.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
did the presentations meet your expectation?	11 (29.7%)	15 (40.5%)	11 (29.7%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)

Overall, how would you rate the showcase presenters in regards to:

Ninety-five point three percent of respondents rated the showcase presenters.

	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor
the presenter(s) knowledge of the topic?	19 (46.3%)	19 (46.3%)	3 (7.3%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
clarity and effectiveness of delivery?	10 (24.4%)	24 (58.5%)	6 (14.6%)	1 (2.4%)	0 (0.0%)
adequately respond to questions?	11 (27.5%)	18 (45.0%)	10 (25.0%)	1 (2.5%)	0 (0.0%)
engagement with the audience?	12 (30.8%)	18 (46.2%)	8 (20.5%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (2.6%)
use of allocated time?	10 (25.0%)	16 (40.0%)	9 (22.5%)	4 (10.0%)	1 (2.5%)

Please comment on these topics

	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor
Registration process	12 (27.9%)	13 (30.2%)	11 (25.6%)	6 (14.0%)	1 (2.3%)
Information provided prior to the meeting	8 (18.6%)	9 (20.9%)	12 (27.9%)	12 (27.9%)	2 (4.7%)
Information provided during the meeting	7 (16.7%)	9 (21.4%)	11 (26.2%)	12 (28.6%)	3 (7.1%)
Programme Format	6 (14.0%)	12 (27.9%)	16 (37.2%)	8 (18.6%)	1 (2.3%)
Social networking opportunities	13 (32.5%)	9 (22.5%)	12 (30.0%)	4 (10.0%)	2 (5.0%)
First Timer Breakfast	6 (24.0%)	5 (20.0%)	6 (24.0%)	6 (24.0%)	2 (8.0%)
Opening Reception	8 (20.0%)	6 (15.0%)	10 (25.0%)	12 (30.0%)	4 (10.0%)
Annual Meeting Dinner	6 (16.7%)	3 (8.3%)	10 (27.8%)	11 (30.6%)	6 (16.7%)
Farewell Reception	7 (25.0%)	4 (14.3%)	12 (42.9%)	4 (14.3%)	1 (3.6%)

Responses to 'Please share suggestions to improve future Annual Groningen Declaration Network Meetings'

I suggest that future meetings are anchored by some objectives we want to achieve from the conference (i.e. agree how we progress data standards, methods of exchange etc). Perhaps include workshops around such themes in the program Less emphasis on policy matters that are specific to geographies/the hosting nation. Much of this is interesting, but not really contributing to the objectives and ambitions of GDN Add more interactive sessions (workshops) to program, less on-way show-and-tell Agenda was quite confusing. Should be available earlier and seemed to change every day during the conference Perhaps we should create a GDN "scorecard" to see how we're progressing. KPIs like #signatories, # of initiatives that operationalise GDN objectives, # of students having access to digital records globally, etc To close on a positive: Kudos for venue given the need for last minute change
The concurrent/breakout sessions are of no use and all sessions should be conducted in main hall itself to benefit all attendees. Programme needs to be structured properly as last minutes changes in venue and schedule makes it inconvenient for the attendees. It is suggested that such annual meeting needs to be hosted by one of the GDN members so that coordination is easier and effective.
There could be an attendee page in the GND main web site, that show cases people's names, photo and details of their work, interest, so people can start communicating with each other, and catch up with the people we were not able to meet directly
The last day, the thanks and the change of board of directors part, we suggest to inform the relevant personnel in advance, so that when their names are mentioned, they can stand up or go to the stage, rather than when a name is called, the said one is not on site, people want to see them and to show thanks to all the ones who contributed to the meeting and GDN, also want to say goodbye to the directors who will leave the board.
Extremely difficult to find rooms beyond the auditorium. No signage at all. Also, the moving of the venue was really confusing.
I think the change of venue was largely responsible for the poorer quality conference than we have experienced before and a lot of things were outside the control of the organisers
Working Wi-Fi!
I would suggest that we speak of vendors as "Partners" and allow sections of the conference, perhaps concurrent sessions, to be dedicated to new solutions they provide. Primarily it is the partners that innovate and the education/organizations who apply: both have great stories to tell, it is a great partnership and one that I think has great value.

The logistics of this meeting did not seem to meet the standard that I have seen at previous GDN meetings. The content of the meeting was good; however, many of the little details seemed to fall through the cracks. The catered lunches were good. I know that some things are out of your control but I have to mention that the restrooms were absolutely terrible.

The focus should be on the break-out sessions. Keep the presentations to 10 minutes, leaving 20 minutes for questions and discussion.
The lunch "format" was good.
Registration could be clearer as far as fees for multiple attendees from the same institution.

Clarity and timing of information prior to the meeting could be enhanced substantially.

It would be helpful to use the website (or a mobile conference app) for updates of the programme.
Please provide a list with names of the attendees with contact info prior to the conference
Quality of venue and food was excellent!
Maybe more interactive sessions: round tables, discussions
Add more information to the website: background information about organisations, online forum (?), Q&A, list with relevant publications, etc.
Alternatives to involve vendors

I understand that the venue had to be changed very late in the piece with had a major impact.

Have more interactive sessions with the audience.

Panel discussions should be actual discussions (i..e the moderator is knowledgeable enough to prompt and pose questions and facilitate an actual discussion) not simply each panel member presenting their spiel and then answering questions one by one. A real discussion.

When questions are invited from the audience, don't collect them and then have the speaker/panel member answer them all. It would be much more dynamic and engaging for the question asked simply to be answered and then move on to the next one.

Perhaps have a formal debate on a controversial/current issue.

A seminar configuration for the venue would assist with the above but i recognize that the late change of venue may have impacted this.

Use network members to generate topics for debate/discussion in advance of the meeting (in addition to submitting proposals for presentations). Perhaps some virtual debates or sessions during the year so that there is some momentum going in to the annual meeting (recognising time zones can be an issue but they could be rotated).

Better use of technology (e.g. an app for the program and notes - AACRAO did this very well at SEM; ensure WIFI is available) and use professional event organizers (ideally these people could be sourced from the host institution). Perhaps it should be a pre-req for the hosting of the GDN annual meeting that the host is a member that that there is a designated organisation who will provide the venue.

A programme and a map of the venue should be distributed before the meeting
When registering more info should already be available
Too many concurrent sessions at the same time
Strict Timekeeping is of the essence

Being aware that the location changed in last minute, the organization of the smaller rooms were a bit confusing. An announcement stating that ALL sessions A are held in the main room, and all others upstairs, would have made it simplified. One day the time had changed from the sent out agenda, why most were late for the first meeting.

In all the organization was very good! There are however, still some advice I would like to point out for the future which would have made the impression of the meeting even better:

- The long break between the first timer breakfast and the opening could/should have been shortened. It became a lot of excitement of being there, and then suddenly 2 h of vacuum for us newbies.
- From an environmental perspective, the garbage should have been sorted into plastic/paper and food waste - by us the participants right away. Thus more baskets for the different types of garbage.
- A presentation of how the board work is functioning, for example with the nomination procedure and the election of the new candidates. It would have been great if also the newly elected board could have presented themselves in terms on how they view upon the Declaration and why they are interested in the work of it (would have been more out of interest for the participants).
- Even though the closure of the meeting was excellent, it could also have been nice to have someone attending the meetings to round up the meeting. This might have been the idea, I´m aware of the sick-leave for the last End-note, but would like to point it out if that was not the case.
- Signing ceremony was great, however: e-signatures on a conference about digitalizing work? :)

Thank you for a great meeting, I am looking forward to possibly continue to join the meetings and hopefully as a signatory member next time!

The location was amazing though the venue itself was underwhelming - I understand matters were beyond control.
The social activities could have been a little more structured.
The food and beverage options were also substandard in my opinion.

The GDN community is a grand network of organisations/agencies coming together to discuss thought leadership in this area of global mobility.
Getting the balance b/w commercial/community interests will become obvious if not managed well.

Conference needs to be more professionally organised. Paris wasn't, and it showed. Communications regarding logistics were not clear. The venue was poor (men's toilets were terrible), and WiFi was unreliable. The biggest disappointment was that there was no annual dinner - it was hors d'oeuvres only and most people left to get their own food.

Washington DC and Melbourne were by far the most well-organised years by far. We need to learn from them.

Suggest that every GDN meeting is organised by a professional event management company so that Herman and the Board can focus on content for the AM.
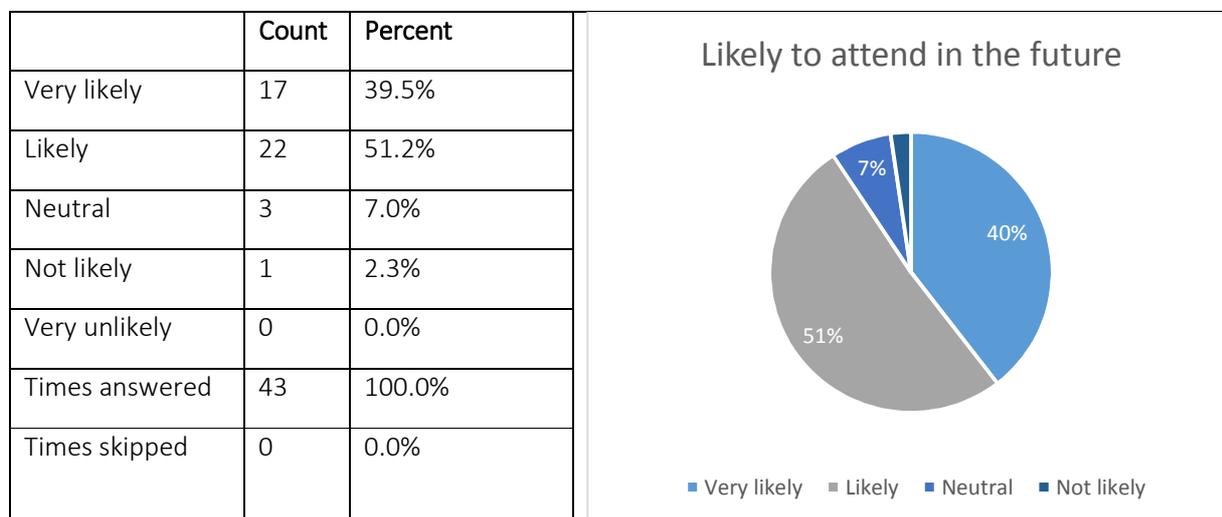
At the last part of the meeting, some certain people are mentioned and appreciated, it is better if they could be informed in advance so when they were mentioned they could stand up and accept our thanks.

Sticking to the timetable/schedule continues to be a problem for the GDN meeting; sessions start late, presenters spend too much time making introductions and overshoot their time, and there is not enough time between sessions to accommodate moving to a new location and getting settled.

The dinner should be a dinner in a proper hall or restaurant with seating, service, and of course HVAC.

Fewer presentations to allow for more engagement and networking with different partners present at the meeting

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How likely are you to attend future Groningen Declaration Meetings?

	Count	Percent
Very likely	17	39.5%
Likely	22	51.2%
Neutral	3	7.0%
Not likely	1	2.3%
Very unlikely	0	0.0%
Times answered	43	100.0%
Times skipped	0	0.0%

Chapter 3 Summary Results

Overall results summarized below on each category of response indicate a rating from the respondent at "good, very good and excellent".

	Count	Percent
Overall Experience	36	83.7%
Keynote (Garsallah)	34	79.1%
Keynote (Fabri)	26	60.1%
Keynote (Skjerven)	35	81.4%
Closure	34	79.1%

The 2018 Annual GDN Meeting on average once again scored very favourably, but this should not deflect the attention from a number of pertinent criticisms. On the whole, the annual planning and organization cycle should be professional and should start earlier than was the case. At each step in the planning cycle, the utmost attention should be paid to providing full and clear information to the target audience. Outcomes of each step in the planning cycle should be systematically communicated with all interested parties. The final conference programme should be available at least 8 weeks in advance of the conference. Local services should be taken care of by a committed local host, who will have to take full responsibility for providing a professional service. Special attention should be given to anything digital – the common denominator for anything the GDN represents. So, WiFi connectivity is rightly pointed out by many respondents as a big issue; and having a digital self-service and self-describing application platform for prospective signatories would simply fulfill one of the GDN's core missions – to let our target audience conduct its business with the GDN wherever they are, whenever and with whomever. Good points were also raised about the timing of presentations, time keeping and networking opportunities.

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