

SUMMARY OF STUDENT FEEDBACK ON THE 4 WEEK PROGRAMMES IN
DUBLIN NOVEMBER 2019,
LITHUANIA OCTOBER 2018
ITALY JULY 2019

Generally, the responses were very positive. In particular, the usefulness of the course topics to the participants was ranked highly. A similarly very positive result was found in the general evaluation of the courses, with the international dimensions of the courses rated very highly. Although all responses to the usefulness of the course topics were positive, the usefulness of the course work on learning Kolb's cycle was ranked lower than the other topics. In the general questionnaire, all responses were positive, but the question of the relevance of the course to the respondents' daily work was rated somewhat lower than the others.

In the responses to the questions on whether the courses were too broad/narrow and too elementary/advanced, several questionnaires found that the courses were rated both as too broad and as too advanced. This may not have meant however that the levels were pitched wrongly, since a broader based course would normally be expected to cover topics at a less advanced level. The result could have been due a misunderstanding by the respondents of the scoring system.

There were many written comments about the excellence and professionalism of the teaching. Most of the areas for improvement commented on related to administrative issues, such as prior information being available on the course content, the location of the accommodation, a request for more imposing certificates on completion of the course, and problems on the distribution of the money to cover subsistence expenses. Constructive suggestions were also made on course content, such as having more material on NCDs.

A fuller breakdown of responses for each course is shown below.

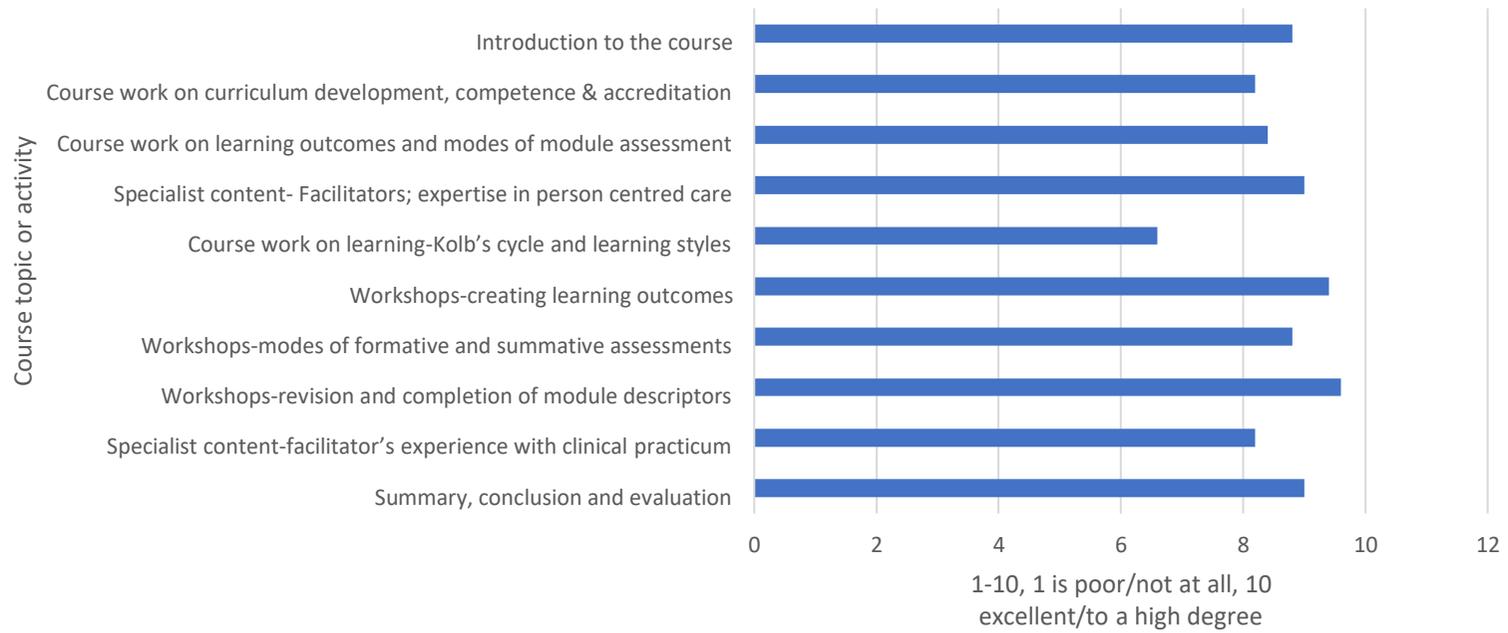
1. Courses for visiting students.

University College Dublin

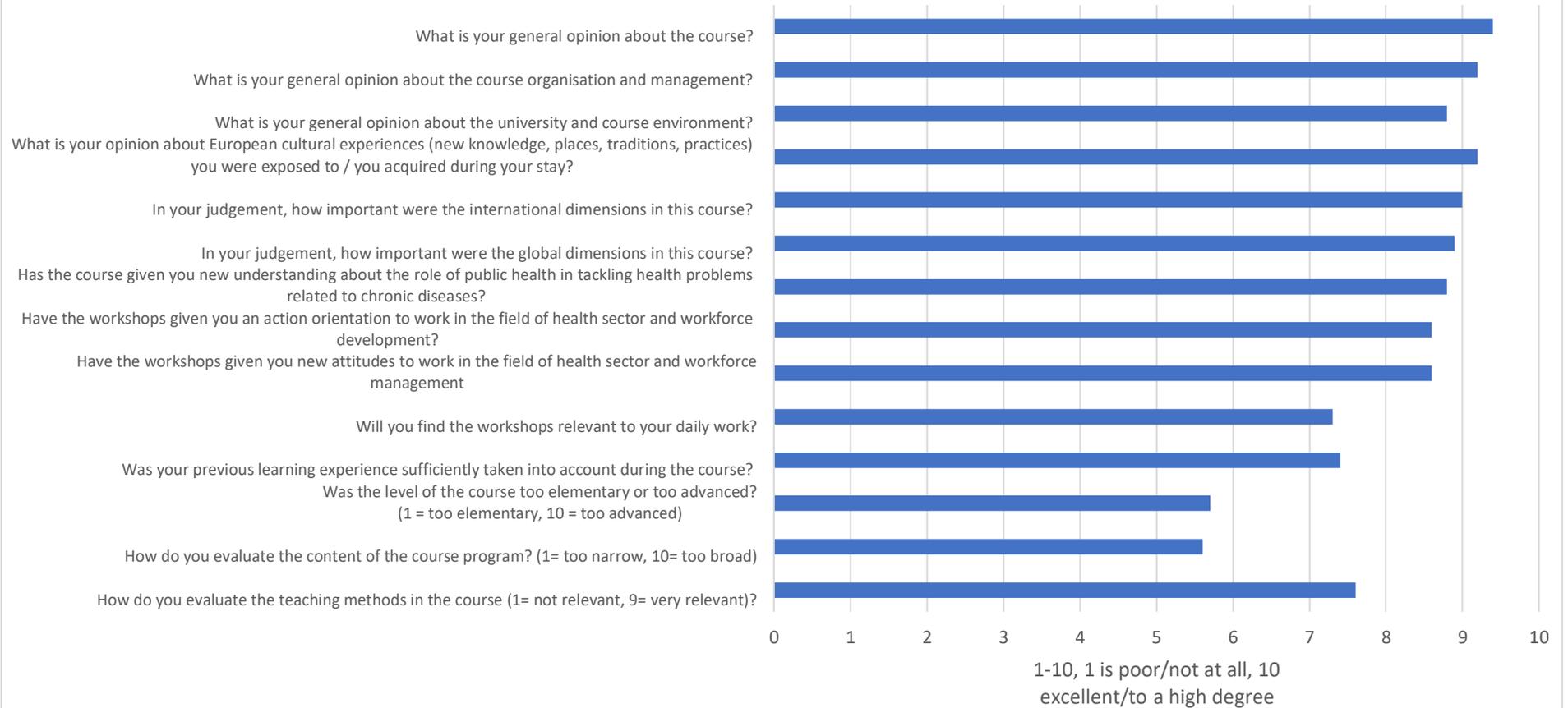
November 2019, 4 weeks.

23 questionnaires completed.

Usefulness of course topics to respondents



General Questionnaire



Comments.

Strengths and advantages of the course:

“University is excellent”

“Thank you for excellent organisation, interesting lessons, interactive lectures and kind relation to foreign students.”

“UCD in my heart”

“The programme was brilliant! Thank you for your work and organisation of the programme”

“Valerie you are our fairy!”

“All good!”

Areas for improvement:

“I’d like to give comment for future accommodation. It was hard, but sometimes funny to live with four persons in one small room. Probably on the future you will have ability to improve accommodation. But it not so important! We had a wonderful time in Dublin. Amanda, Mary and Valerie, you are amazing. We really love you”

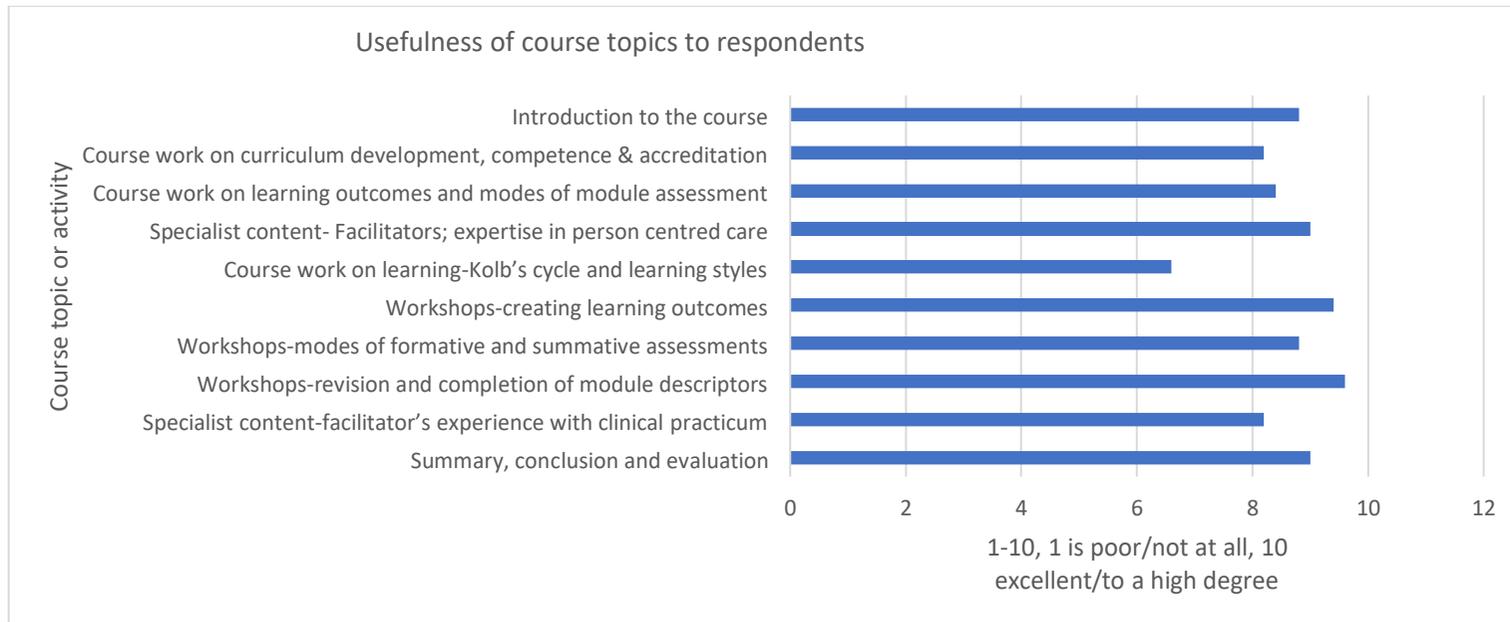
“Thank you”

“The Weather ☺”

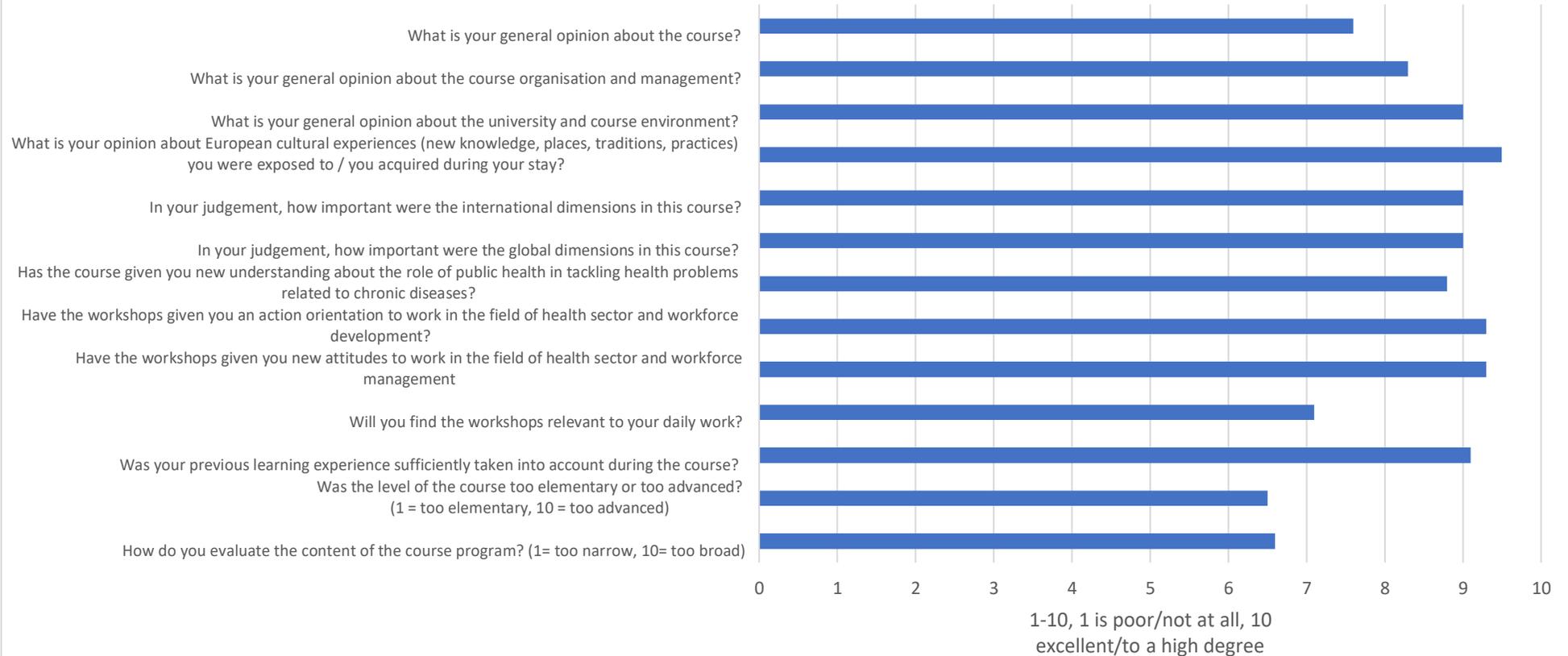
Lithuanian University of Health Sciences

November 2018. 4weeks

20 questionnaires completed.



General Questionnaire



Comments

Strengths and advantages of the course:

“No weaknesses”, “Very professional teachers”, “Almost all teachers very interesting and professional”, “Course content very useful”, “Good organisation”, “Useful contrast for physician looking at public health”, “Great teachers”, “Everything was great”.

Areas for improvement:

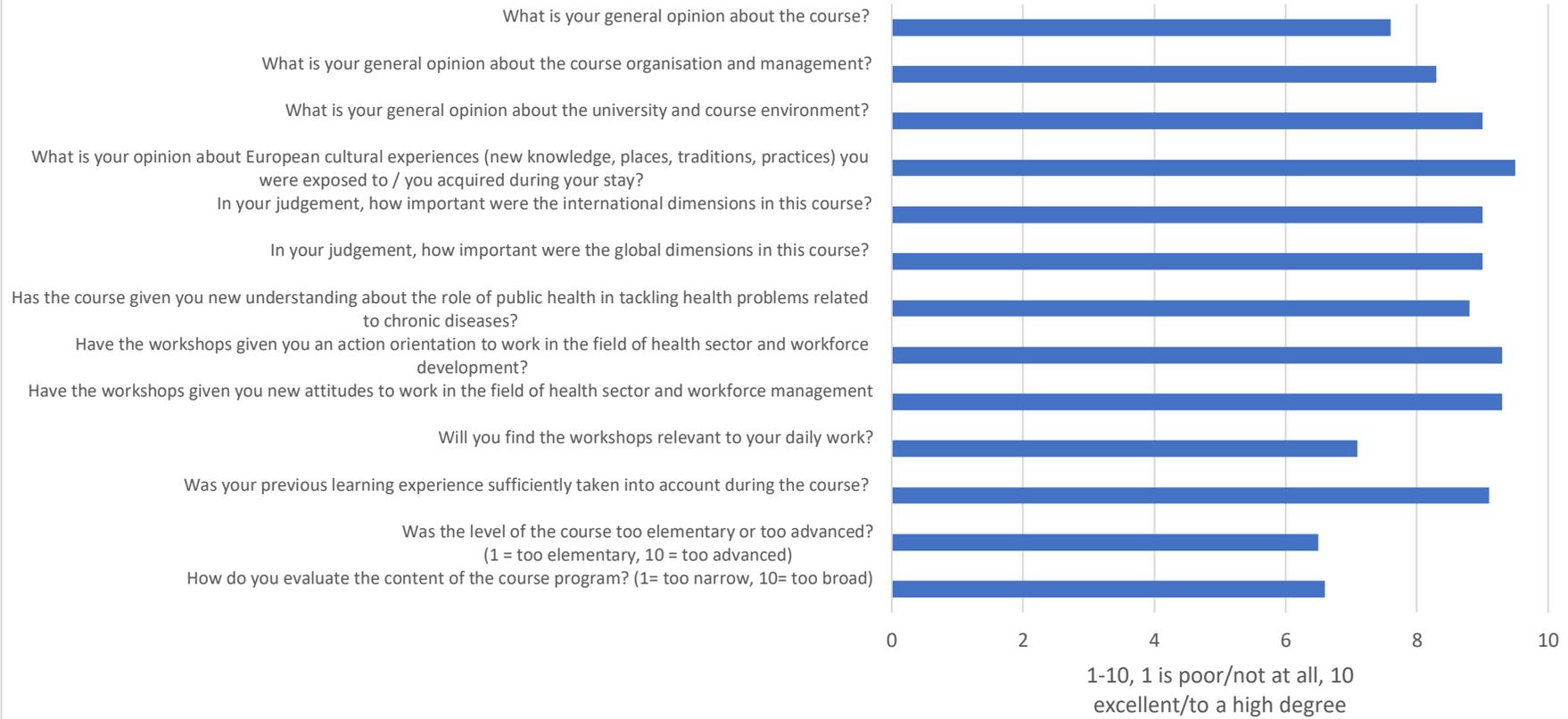
“Some topics too elementary, too advanced for others”, “Course too broad”, “Promised visit to info centre did not happen”, “Needs more focus on NCDs”, “More discussion needed about public health in different countries”, “Would be useful to have prior information about course”.

University of Pavia

June/July 2019. 4 weeks

8 questionnaires completed.

General Questionnaire



Comments

Strengths and advantages of the course:

“This course provided me medical knowledge in various aspects which support my career a lot and also enhance my knowledge and logical thinking in medicine. Most of course I have enjoyed a lot and I highly appreciate supports of Prof. Giovanni for giving us wonderful content of the course.”

“The professors are very nice and friendly. The course is very useful, some lectures are very interesting.”

“(i) Professors with vast global experience, well-respected experts in their own fields, and with a satisfactory knowledge of the home countries of the IHOD participants. (ii) Exchange of ideas and cultures from the three participating countries, Russia, Vietnam, and Uzbekistan, as well as the local Italian fellows. (iii) A balance between indoors class-activities and other academic activities, like site visiting. (iv) The academic coordinator, Prof. Giovanni, proved to be very dedicated, passionate, professional and paying special attention to details during the entire duration of the program. The program coordinator, Ms. Michela, did her background work amazingly as well. (v) The visit to the vineyard was an excellent idea (Ideas worthy to be awarded a special prize) which became the single stone that killed many birds; more was achieved! More of such outdoors (or out of the classroom) activities are recommended for future programs. (vi) There was a balance between the global aspect of chronic diseases and the corresponding clinical aspects, thereby accommodating all the participants from different academic backgrounds. (vii) There was a good balance between collective academic time and individual free time. (viii) Most of the Professors provided useful links and contacts. (ix) The duration of the stay was ample enough to capture a significant amount of the desired qualities and ideas. (x) The choice of the location of the hosting university was ideal - a simple and easy to navigate small town. (xi) The local people were sociable and welcoming.”

“The teachers, all of whom are really experienced and good in their fields, and the great final dinner.”

“This course allow to know new in different areas in medicine”

Areas for improvement:

“The only thing that disappointed me most is related to the finance thing. There have been no money transferred to us which made our stay so difficult and uncomfortable.”

“We have not received money from Erasmus as announced.”

“There were no weaknesses as such; maybe just a few minor details and alternatives that one might find interesting to consider, for example: (i) The constituency of the IHOD participants was gender imbalanced, as reflected by 5 males against 12 females. A relatively gender-balanced group could be an option to consider. (ii) Central coordination of transport logistics to and from the airport is recommended. (iii) The participating IHOD group had the potential to be more diverse, by the inclusion of other nationalities for example, without unnecessarily changing the number of participants. Inclusion of participants from India, Africa, Middle East, etc, for example, would enrich the experience sharing among the participants. (iv) A well-pronounced follow-up strategy is recommended on all the IHOD participants; in order to foster a fertile environment for further productivity and implementation of practical projects in the home countries of the participants; and also, to avoid zeal from extinguishing. (v) Obviously, the main goal was not to have comfort but to

learn, however, there was significant potential to improved the accommodation services. (vi) It is recommended to consider the option of organizing interactive encounters of IHOD participants and local university students (and other foreign students at the hosting university) (vii) Inclusion of a delicately measured dose of sports and cultural activities in the program would be an interesting option to think about, especially with a bias towards the integration of the IHOD group and the local students or related medical staff. (viii) It is recommended to consider providing the participants' stipends during the course of the program. (ix) There is potential to improve the quality and contents of the certificate issued. The certificate could include, for example, a transcript showing the areas covered, corresponding academic hours and/or credits. Equally, the closing ceremony could be improved as well. (x) It is recommended to create a society of IHOD fellows, with the aim of sharing the progress on different projects in different countries. This could also help to motivate other IHOD fellows to engage more in community projects. (xi) Having a common end-prize for all, which is a simple one-page certificate, has its well-known benefits, like teamwork, cooperation, etc, however, it might possibly lack the maximum force to encourage the optimum involvement of all participants. Having one or two special prizes at the end, like a simple nomination for participating in a certain project, being named brand/program ambassador, etc, would be an option to consider as a further incentive (Since humans perform better in the presence of a possible special (not common) incentive, according to psychologists like Clark Hull)”
“Accommodation (hostel).”