



# CEI 2015: Portfolio of reviews

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## Portfolio of reviews from CEI 2015

The following themes have been organized according to the answers given by the delegates to our evaluation form. Under each theme, there are the respective direct quotes.

### 1. Ocean literacy

*I was so impressed by how intelligent and passionate these young adults are for conserving our planet. I was pleasantly surprised how much I learned from them!*

*I loved the fact that, even though we are all from different countries, some very far away from mine, we all come together for a cause: saving the oceans and protect them.*

*You mustn't miss dealing with the ocean and seeing it*

*Quoting one participant, the most important part of the conference was listening different projects and scientific approaches connecting the ecological subjects.*

*Teenagers can do a lot to protect our environment. They are full of enthusiasm, energetic. CEI is a very good way to gather teenagers from different countries.*

*The strongest feeling about the conference is our ocean has been polluted seriously; we should all raise awareness on protecting it. The other is the ecosystem is seriously damaged, when the photos were shown, there's a strong feeling of we need to start altering our lifestyle and make a better world.*

### 2. Scientific aspect of the conference

*Amazing projects from very young scholars*

*It was my first time being the facilitator of project presentation. I enjoyed the presentations and the interactions during the sessions. I am impressed that all students were passionate and knowledgeable about their projects and they listened carefully to other presenters (even though sometimes the English was difficult to understand and one Portuguese project was very scientific with jargon). It was a pity that we could only select 3 to present in the third round. I wish there were selected 6-8 projects.*

### 3. Friendship

*Harmonia e unidade entre todos os participantes, independentemente da nacionalidade, etnia ou crença. Vontade de partilhar trabalhos e culturas.*



Marina Konopleva and Tatyana Khodyreva with Fátima Almeida

*Some dialogues and feedback during the teachers meetings were good. I met many old friends and some new friends during the meetings, working sessions and dining time. I enjoyed the dance working session (taught by Miguel and Isa who were really nice) . Although my partners change many times,*



*we still collaborated and had fun together.*

A lot of people referred to this aspect when answering the question about the strongest feeling they had during the conference:

*The strongest feeling was that we all, no matter what country we come from really want the same for our Earth and that we all feel a warm friendship across borders.*

*Meeting new people, Field trips and workshops*

*The strongest feeling I think was to feel the friendship all the time.*

*Friendship without borders*

*The feeling of being accepted by everyone - in multiple activities that involved meeting and talking to others*

*friendship, happiness, share of experience, knowledge, union*

*I feel really good when i met fantastic people. I will miss them and in the last day I felt very sad.*

*The friendship and collaboration among teachers and students during the week.*

*It's often nice to meet people, especially those learnt from previous CEIs. It's an annual reunion event.*

*At nights, when in your room you can speak with your mates*

**As far as I'm concerned, cultural night was a dominant activity that showed the significance of friendship. In the beginning of the conference, we might not know many other participants well or just nodding acquaintances. However, through cultural night, we got to learn about different culture, respect all of them and admire the beauty. Moreover, we were able to build friendship with others through the participation in every performance. Besides friendship, collaboration was also indispensable during the activity. Every group member should work together to accomplish a complete and impressive performance. Thus, joining in the cultural night performances is not only a fantastic way to build friendship rapidly but a representative activity of collaboration.**

In the same attitude, there were also notions to multiculturalism and its importance.

#### **4. Collaboration**

As before, many delegates mentioned collaboration as the strongest feeling they experienced during the conference:

*The friendship and collaboration among teachers and students during the week.*

*Students were very interested and curious about each other's' work.*



**Workshop: Creating candles**





*Attracting young people to ecological problems by working together*

**Workshops**, u must communicate with others to make something.



**March of the Oceans**

During the **march for the oceans**: collaborating with the teams to prepare materials

*With the games, our team and I, had to work together. I tried to do my best in such contexts and also taking part in every game was another way of showing an active participation*

*Working session for workshops (Food consumption): I tried to be more active to express my own opinion and group my teammates' together to be one idea for a better performance.*

*I valued the importance of friendship whenever me and my delegation had to practise for the **cultural night**. Being with friends made everything easier and funnier. I also think that friendship and collaboration between people is very important during the working sessions, because it is not just work, we can also laugh with each other and enjoy being with different people.*

*(About the moment they valued more collaboration:) maybe in the fieldtrips , because we need to walk in the beach , and it is quite dangerous , usually we will help each other immediately . For how did I actively participate in such contexts . I will first meet some friends that I knew on Day one , then I will go with them and meet other new friends , so when we need to do things together we will cooperate well because we are friends already .*

*I value the importance of friendship and collaboration between people in all the activities that we made. I participated in it speaking with people and try to help someone that needed help.*



**Cultural night: Girl from Hungary with traditional dress**

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*I was able to help with some alumni work which was nice. Laura and Jana were both amazing en-suite organizers.*

*I think this was an area that needed help. As I mentioned above, there was a lack of a venue to allow for much informal socialization to take place. The informal socialization is often the most important and where the greatest friendships are developed. Not having this, I felt I was only able to connect with a select few in the small, private spaces of the facility. I did try to connect with each teacher, however, throughout the week.*

*I felt that it was during meal breaks that people can open up their social spheres and discuss on all things from projects to culture. I made it a point to sit with someone different every break to open up discussion and get to know someone new/better. I also enjoyed structured cooperation as experienced during the working sessions.*



From the Welcome evening: dance performance from Gomes Ferreira Secondary School

*Students did very well on this part. It is sometimes quite difficult for Asian and European to work together.*

## 5. Socialization/ social events

*Para mim a noite cultural e o mercado foram dois pontos altos.*

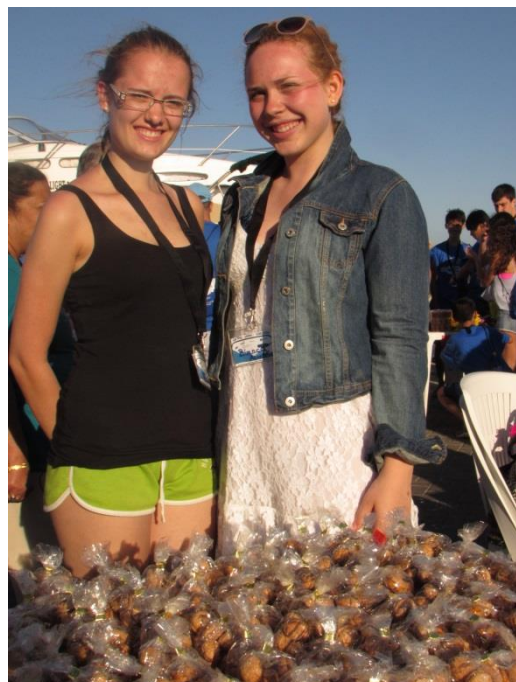
*Games and fun and dances and songs bring people together.*

*The talent show night was amazing to see how warm and encouraging everyone was to each others performances! The energy was so vibrant and it was great to see the support everyone provided each other.*

*Cultural night: with the help of everyone the night could reach a new level where all spent a good night and participated in the activities.*

*During the cultural night: preparing students to participate and dinamize the session*

*Cultural evening is the peak of when people can appreciate each other's background. Food and fun market helps everyone to create memories of their new friendships through memorabilia*



From the Food and Fun Market: Austria's table



In all, but the strongest moments were probably the **Food and Fun Market**, the cultural evening and the **March for the oceans**

## 6. Organization and processing of the conference

Young people can fulfil the job of the adults. Young people can behave in a very tolerant and peaceful manner.

The theme of the conference was very strong. I felt it throughout and with great intention. The theme was also a very good one for projects to develop around. It was also very evident in the types of field trip that were provided to the delegates.

## 7. Life-changing experience / feelings

Through the evaluation form, a lot of delegates found the opportunity to express themselves in a deeper way, as can be seen by the following quotes, where they reflect holistically on the conference and their feelings.

*Foi uma experiência que nunca mais irei esquecer em toda a vida.*

*This conference made my world bigger, and I could make different friends from other country to break the wall of people.*

*It's really great to have such an experience working to gain knowledge about the ocean and cooperating with different people from various countries. I was able to practice English, meet new friends and broaden my horizons to learn much more about the environment, about the world at the same time during the conference. It's indeed a meaningful and educational activity to join in, and I'll always keep those unforgettable memories in mind!*

- Peace: Location of Inatel - by the ocean
- Anticipation : Student Presentations
- Humor/Vibrance : Cultural Performances



From the closing ceremony: certificates to organizers and alumni

*I knew that I made some friends when*

*I got home and I started needing them to talk, to hug, to live with them, it was a perfect experience, we knew that all the people there had the same objective: be a better person for the world; we had a feeling of freedom to be ourselves with no fears, without fear of being excluded. I talked a lot with people I didn't even know, that wasn't a problem, I knew that they were people that I could trust, they were and they are caretakers, people that are different from others, people that care a lot about the world in which they live, people that don't only care only about them.*

*For one week I was more happy than in the last year, I made friends that helped me going through a depression, it's really sad to say that as I am only 16, but that's the world we live in, people care more about taking the others down than taking care about the rest of the people*



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*and the world, that's why CEI is so important and it can't stop, because you're connecting people with same ideas and same way to face the world.*



## 8. Lessons to take back home

1. *A língua não é barreira para coisa nenhuma!*
2. *Partilhar experiências é muito importante!*
3. *Termos orgulho nas nossas raízes e no nosso país e sermos "embaixadores" do mesmo faz todos o sentido.*

1. *Don't throw trash on the street*
2. *Clean beaches*
3. *Don't let other people to throw garbage and make friends, relatives, etc. clean the areas near rivers and seas*

1. *We need to spend time to preserve the world, the ecosystems are not well balanced and that is our fault.*
2. *We can always do something in order to preserve the nature.*
3. *Being a caretaker is not being special, is being normal, because helping the planet is something that we all should do, unfortunately that doesn't happen.*

1. *Communication is powerful*
2. *Young people can create big things*
3. *Different people from very different places can work together to a better world*

1. *Reinforcement the idea of the importance of teamwork;*
2. *The importance of action for environmental, not only theoretical knowledge*
3. *Sharing time, space, friendship with so many countries.*

1. *It is very important to protect natural resources, in this case, the oceans. They have huge impact on societies and countries and it's up to us to keep them safe.*
2. *When people unite for a cause, they CAN make a difference and change the world.*
3. *If we want something to happen, we have to do something about it instead of waiting for someone else to do it for us. It's very important to, for example, participate in this kind of organizations.*

1. *Making friends in the conference is very important, if not you will be very lonely*
2. *I learnt that we should help each other when they are in need*
3. *We should care about other countries environmental problems*

1. *It's got an essential importance to keep in mind the audience of your presentation.*
2. *You must be interesting and providing new information.*
3. *You must take care of others people's time.*

1. *We are global citizens*
2. *Environmental changes or impacts starts from the youth*
3. *Education is of the essence*

1. *Meet new people is fantastic.*
2. *I have to improve my English.*

1. *The importance of sharks*
2. *The impact of plastic use/consumerism towards the ocean*
3. *The significance of encouraging students to open up during rare events as these and also to give reminders to those who were 'overly' social*



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1. After presentations the students discussed what can they take for themselves. There is one more chance to think the projects over.
2. March for the ocean
3. Preparing national food

1. Many countries are now putting efforts on protecting environment. Save the environment is the biggest task for the whole world.

2. Students can learn a lot in CEI, such as presentation, social skills.

1. There's a spirit to being a Caretaker and the conference always reminds me of it. I need to somehow show that throughout the year with my students.

2. It's important to learn basic languages of other countries. Even the simplest "hello" connects people in powerful ways.

3. Similar to #1 I need to use the energy of my delegates while trying to recruit others to participate as it is often difficult for me to identify students who would best benefit from attending a CEI Conference.



Workshop: Sea Game

1. Surprisingly I could dance! haha! :)

2. As adults, we should encourage kids to love the earth by interesting and interactive ways. Make change from our daily life, such as reducing the use of plastic stuff.

3. It is good to have more free time during the conference. The participants can rest or do social activities by themselves. (This year we had more free time than the previous events. Last year I really made the agenda too intensive)

1. Our group worked on the subject of micro plastic. Through the work, I've learnt we should avoid using household products that contains micro plastics. You could find if there are micro plastics in the product if it listed there are saline.

2. We should eat local fisheries. We need to avoid eating overseas' seafood as they have to transport by vehicles more, and indirectly pollute the environment.

3. Our ocean has already been seriously polluted, we could join some clean-up campaign. Most importantly, not to throw rubbish in the sea, because it will also lead to health problems on human beings, indirectly.

1. The workshop w Jana about social Media gave some good ideas that I will use

2. Interesting 10 min talks from ASPEA and others

1. Be active and open-minded towards every activity and enjoy yourself.

2. Every small action can make a change if you are willing to help improve the environment.

3. Always try to cultivate the ability of seeing things in a more global aspect when facing any matters.

1. The importance of ocean



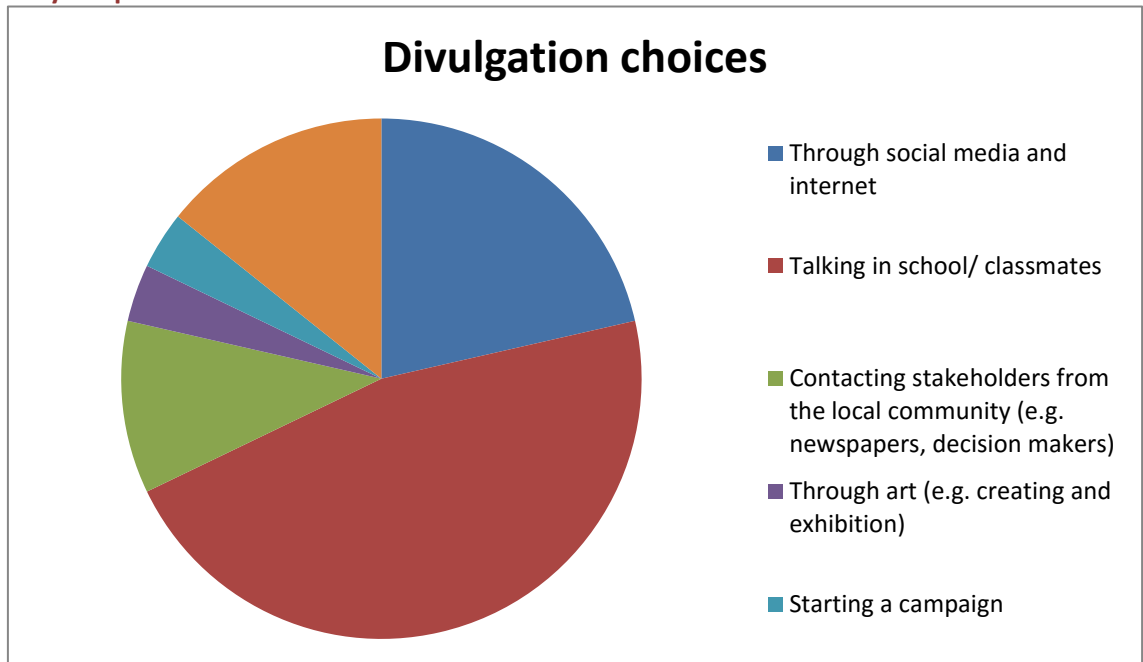
2. The close relationship between us and the ocean
3. Many countries actually did lots of things with ocean which worth us to learn from

*I learnt a lot more than I thought I would about the differences between water quality in different countries and how different countries approached the issue. I also learnt to co-operate with strangers and to communicate even when there were language barriers.*

1. Just do
2. Do before, think
3. English is very important

1. The conference spurred my wish of travelling more
2. I want to know more about their cultures
3. Spain is an amazing country for the rest of countries, more than I thought.

### 9. Ways to pass the word about the conference



### Other:

*1. We already exposed our project in a national conference with scientists and that conference was recorded, so it's on the social media, we keep passing the word to friends and expose our ideas in some conversations.*

*2. Having a sharing session that involves our students and children of the local community*

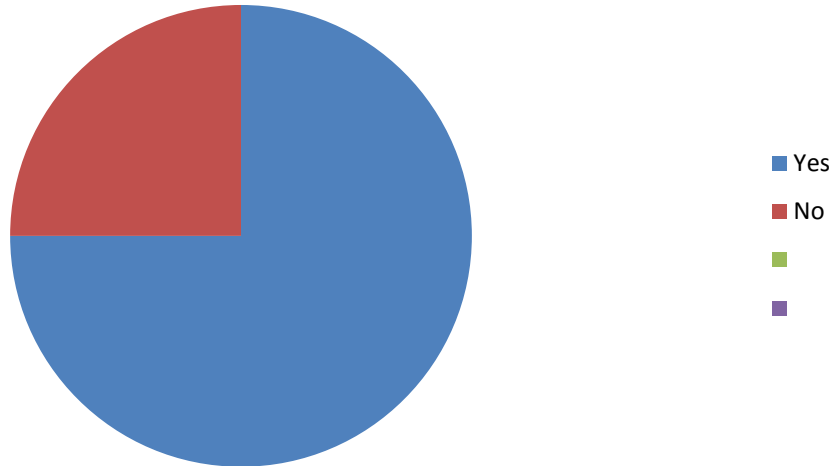
*3. I will share the conference experience with my colleague and other schools. I will collect reflections from the three Taiwanese teams and follow their project progress and their plan for the next CEI.*

*4. Next year I am planning on applying for alumni and my project will be with school children.*



10. Did the meaning of being a Caretaker change in your mind?

Did the meaning of being a Caretaker change in your mind?



If yes, how?

*Até participar na Conferência entendia o conceito de uma forma, depois de participar e ver o que era na realidade a minha maneira de entender o conceito modificou-se por completo.*

*It showed me how important teamwork and collaboration is on a global scale.*

*Being a "Caretaker" is something that we all must be in order to live in a safer planet. We need to take care of the nature because it can't take care of itself.*

*Before I think caretaker is just people who take care of the environment or things , but now I found that caretakers need to help the world to say and affect people not to do things to destroy our world.*

*Now I know that I cannot be a caretaker alone, I need other caretakers to be my colleagues in this worldwide movement.*



Assembly of Caretakers in the Opening Ceremony

*At the beginning, the word 'Caretaker' didn't mean so much for me... only other word. But after the Conference...the word 'Caretaker' remember to me so many beautiful things and*



*so fantastic people that I met.... Now, is one of my favourite word, I know their meaning more than before this.*

*Students developed their interests in the environment/ nature after the conference. Caretaker could be actualized in many ways in everyday life*

*The meaning of being a "Caretaker" did change in my mind. Before I join the conference, I tried to conserve electricity, water... And think that protecting the environment is only one's responsibility. Then I worked on the project, micro plastic, and I learned that saving the ocean must be done together, even the smallest thing could damage the ocean. after joining the conference, I've learnt to take more responsibility, to promote to others.*

*A caretaker not only symbolizes one's friendliness towards the environment but also stands for the responsibility one needs to take.*

*I used to think that being a "Caretaker" was an easy job which was only being environmentally friendly. However, after the conference, I thought the meaning of being a "Caretaker" should be not only being environmentally friendly yourself but also trying to affect the others by delivering messages.*

*Yes, because I used to be a "passive" caretaker, I mean, I helped the environment only with my thoughts. Now it's different, I turned active. My mission now is to try to educate people.*

**No, because...**

*Well, we kept talking about being a "caretaker" but I felt we can do more action than "talk". A lot of the projects were research based and talks about theories, which is great, but I feel we could get involved in more "action" based activities. Like say, having a session where we brainstorm to conduct a group action between 2 countries to do something like a beach clean up in our own countries after the conference and sharing them in a virtual platform as a form to motivate the kids, or directly calculating amount of carbon emission used to travel to the conference and donating to a tree-planting foundation as part of the CEI initiative, etc.*

*I get it. :)*

## **11. Suggestions for improvements**

### **a. People in charge**

*Sometimes it was difficult to tell who was in charge. Though I appreciate the efforts all put forth, having alumni in charge... Or at least stated in charge is not a good idea. Jana, in particular, put forth excellent effort, but did not have the skills and/or maturity to be effective in the absence of Fatima. Laura needed to be identified from the beginning as the person in charge. Knowing this would have clarified the roles of the coordinators and alumni.*

*Better attitude during the project presentations of the Alumni team (I am talking just about one polish girl...), but there were attitudes like Nicky's one which were really nice (Thanks Nicky! ;))*

*More people have to help the alumni and the host. This year students, like myself, had to help because they were understaffed.*

*We need to have the teachers more involved in taking care and educating their students during the conference. Have at least 1:25 ratio of organizers to delegates ( at least 1 organizer being in charge of 25 delegates)*





**b. Program structure**

*Program can be more intensive. Formal workshops provided by local people allow students to learn more about Lisbon's environment*

*Maybe a 10 minutes pause in the middle of the time to present the projects, it is very tiring to be listening to 5 projects without taking a pause, listening to a project is more than paying attention, it is think over the subject, we need to think about it, not only listen and to do that we need obviously a pause.*

*Also after the very nice Project presentations it would be good to have a break where the students can discuss each their Projects somehow*

*The cultural night could be longer and the people who talk in the opening ceremony can be shorter , and more clear.*

*There was need for more of an ability to "socialize" for both student delegates and teachers/educators. I think it is crucial that conference hosts are able to secure a place where socialization can take place for both the youth and adults.*

*The 10 minutes talks should be actually max.20 min. otherwise everybody are Bored. **Outdoor activities** for the students weren't the same and some them had chance to go Zoo some of them not.*



From the outdoor activities

*Having a rubric for project presentations pre-conference*

*Having more ice-breaking activities for both students and teachers (ex.having a musical chair*

*format where there are topic cards at different stations like "local food" or "hobbies" that people can share with their random groups during this game.)*

*More activities amongst teachers to discuss/design collaborative projects between schools that will really be conducted.*

*- a questionnaire at the poster exhibition can be informative (it was in Taiwan)*

*- during the March we can sing songs or shout slogans all together*

*- to give the opportunity to watch all **short films** during the conference and vote*



Voting for the short-fil contest



*Could be more than 10 minute talks. More days in the conference.*

*More intensive program for students*

**Versus**

*The evening activities after the field trips will have to be very carefully planned as people are very tired after being active all day long.*

*Doing activities related to science which can allow us to take part in it, not only reading or writing.*

*I think you should make more free time and less project presentations*

*Working sessions: I enjoyed my dancing session but I heard that some other sessions had too many participants. Better to control the number of participants under 30 people.*

*Poster exhibition: some posters were really good and informative. Don't do the session after the field trips as all buses return in different time and people were exhausted.*

*1- Fulfilment of the program. The design was excellent, but it wasn't fully implemented.*

*2-More attractive workshops*

*3-I would have liked a more extensive visit to Lisbon*

*The poster exhibition did not quite work out for us, since we had not come back from the field trip when that was and the next day we were at the school, so they did never get to explain their posters and we don't even know if any poster was considered extra interesting.*

*I think the organization has done very good this year. The field trips are located in places that fits just right for the theme. The **workshops** are also good as they are related so closely to daily lives. I hope we could hear all the group presentations from all the countries, so that we could have more benefits of ideas to save the earth.*



**From the workshop: Food Consumption**

**c. Communication**

*Give announcements on the day in the assembly, students can be therefore better prepared for their day.*

*The helpers may let teachers and students know the details before CEI starts. For example, we didn't get any information about field trips and outdoor activities the day before. We try to let students know where will they go but it failed. I hope Denmark's team will give teachers more information before CEI starts.*

*Field trips: participants want to know their destinations before the day.*



#### d. Time management

*I think that the time it takes to get people organize was a bit miscalculated on the schedule causing us to be behind on some things and miss certain things entirely. I do sympathize with the effort it takes to organize 300 people especially given the circumstances of Fatima's illness. I think that the conference ran very well and everyone put in a lot of great work to make it the success it was!*

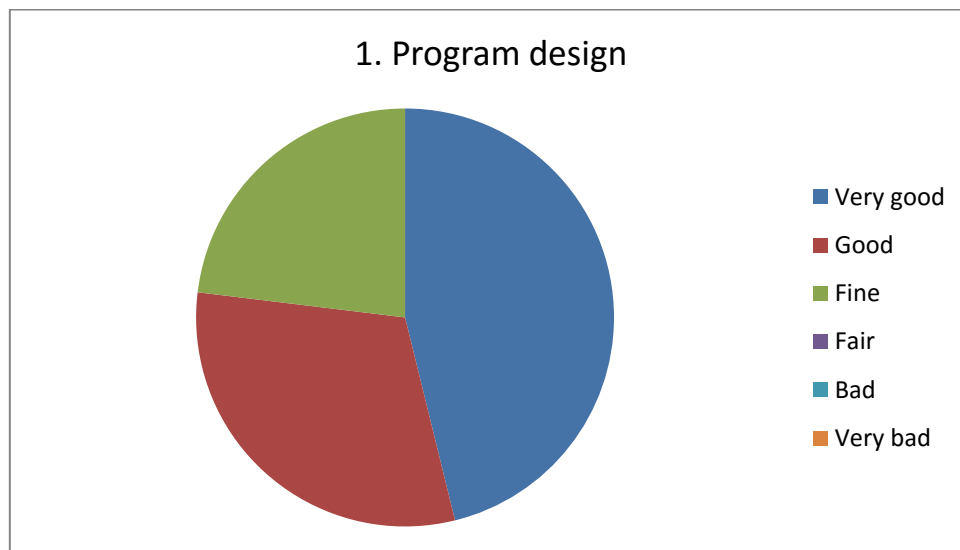
*Registration: needs to be more effective. Name tags/ bags/ field trip info can be given as a group, not by individual. For sign-up activities, people need time to consider and choose, so don't do it during the registration.*

#### e. Accommodation and meals

*The venue is extremely important. A place that is secluded enough and big enough to foster socialization of everyone.*

*Food were very yummy. The service could be faster in the school.*

## 12. Evaluation charts



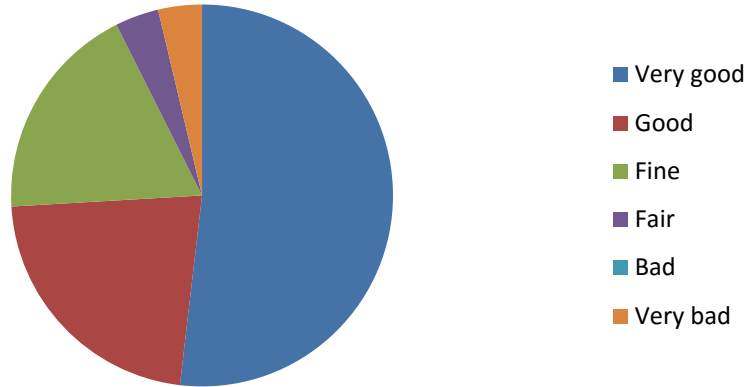
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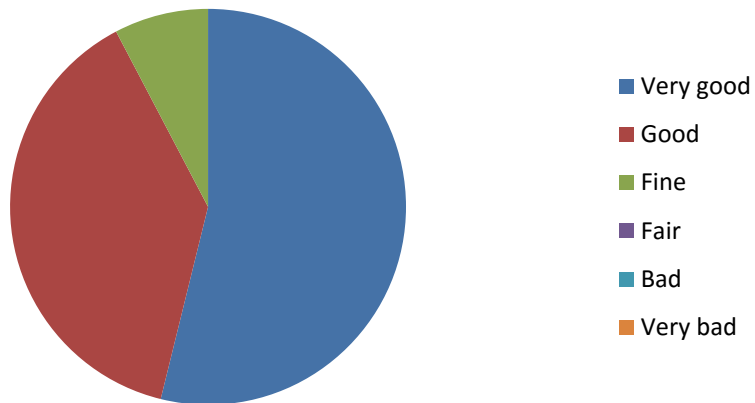
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## 2. Accommodation and Meals



## 3. Transportation





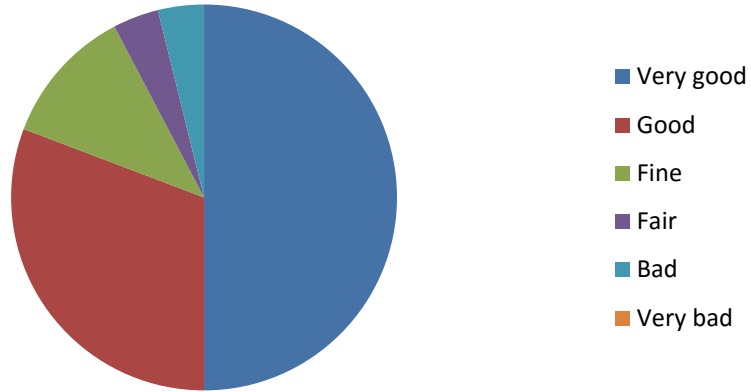
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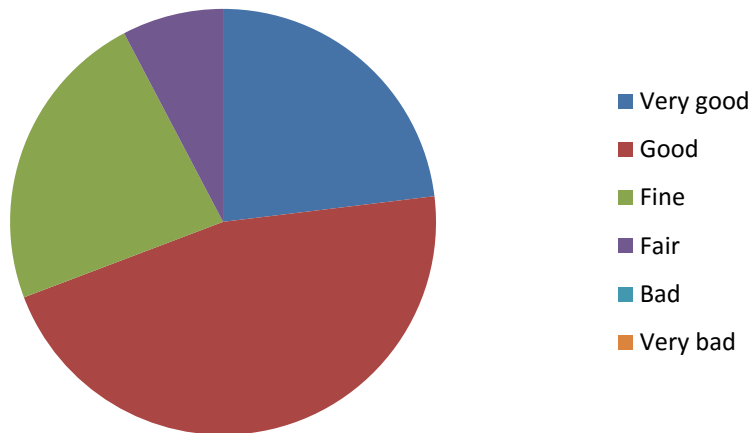
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#### 4. Fieldtrips and Outdoor activities



#### 5. Project presentations and poster exhibition



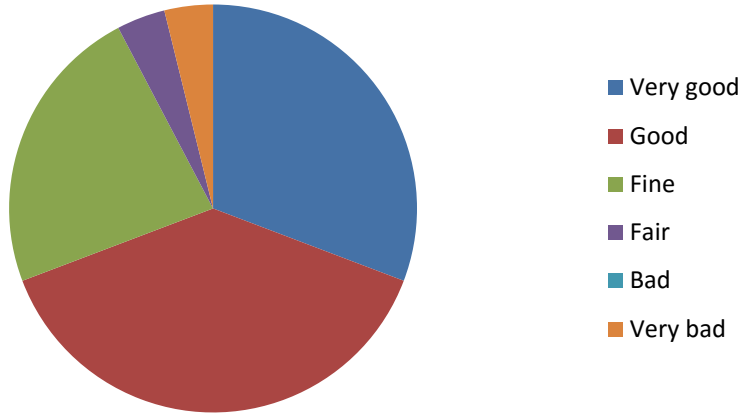
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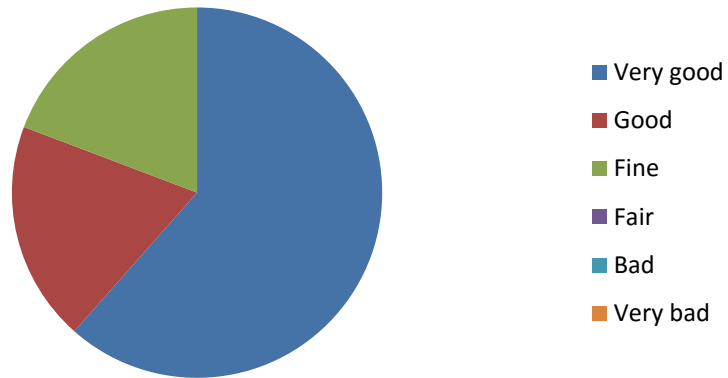
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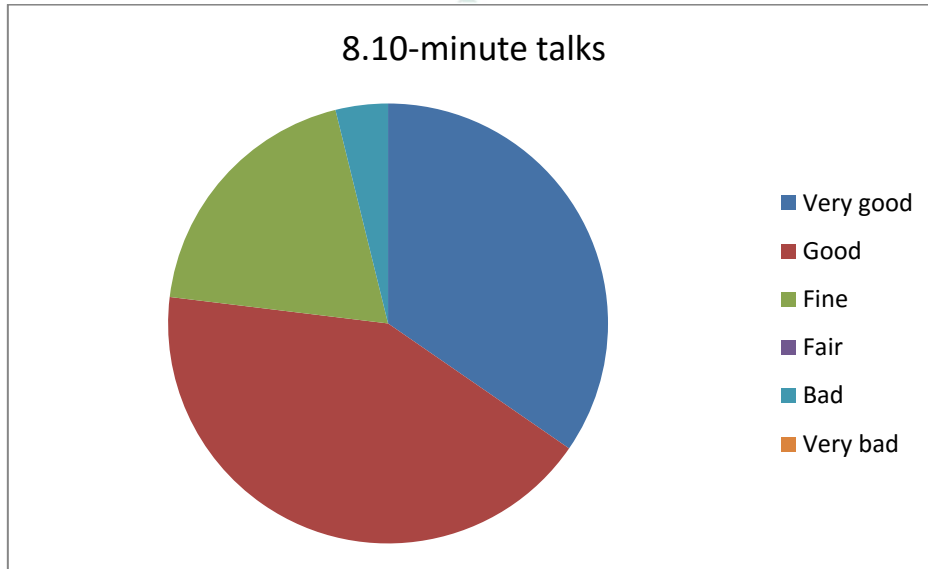


### 6. Working sessions and workshops



### 7. Social events (icebreakers, cultural night, Food & Fun market, catwalk)





### 13. Overall impressions

*Overall, it was an excellent conference. Really amazing people were involved. It was great to see the teachers more engaged and the students really accepted each other and embraced the meaning of being a Caretaker.*

*Every CEI conference is different. I think this year the atmosphere was more relaxed and laid-back than the previous four conferences.*

*For me the CEI is like a family now. So I'm always full of excitement to see and meet old friends. Thank you for the kindness and love I received.*

*Overall, the conference was a very memorable one. Thank you so much ASPEA!*

*Thank you so much for all your efforts. For me and my students, this was another life changing experience and I'm grateful for the opportunity to participate.*

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH! WE LOVE PORTUGAL AND ENJOYED THE CONFERENCE A LOT!**

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CEI 2015 assembly after Closing Ceremony



Laura, Fátima and Niki from ASPEA