

EVALUATION OF THE EFYE2015 CONFERENCE IN BERGEN

In general

Most of the delegates are very satisfied with EFYE2015 and give positive comments (some even when they are asked to be critical).

Networking is the part that got most positive comments. About 60 (of 114) mentioned networking specific as one of the most positive parts. The keynote speakers were mentioned specifically in a positive way by about 40, the atmosphere and outcome by about 20.

The negative voices are few and it is mainly directed against the food and coffee. But some have a strong opinion about something they did not like. Usually they are alone with their comment. Please read though the comments under: What could we improve next time? ..further down in this document

44 % (114) of the delegates have responded to the web-based survey after 2 reminding's.

Below you will first find a summary off the two first questions:

What was the best thing about the conference?

What could we improve next time?

Below this text you can read all the comments yourself.

We also included all the responses to the questions:

What was the most useful or meaningful idea you took away from the event?

What might you do differently in the future as a result of attending the event?

The rest of the comments on the survey will be shared with future organizers og the EFYE conferences.

If you have any more feedback you will like to give, please send us an email.

Please send your comments to: amnhs@uib.no.

Citations (examples)

We got many of these sorts of comments:

- *I have to say this was the best conference I have ever been to*
- *The brilliant keynotes, inspiring and diverse parallel sessions (diverse in form), and the students participating in organizing the event.*
- *The many opportunities to network with a wide variety of people and the relaxed and informal atmosphere*
- *Great organization, delicious food, beautiful scenery and location! Keep up that spirit.*
- *It was well organised, planned and ran smoothly.*
- *The quality of all of the content!*

-----*on the other hand some had another opinion* -----

- *The location was prohibitively expensive; I feel this was really unfair for those who do not have such big budgets to spend. Also the lunch and breaks were at quite strange times.*
- *Let the networking parts out of the program - and let people mingle in the sparetime if they want to*
- *the webpage is confusing and makes it difficult to prepare for the event.*
- *Many of the sessions were also very theory based and it was a shame there was not more best practice shared which I think a lot of people had expected.*

Before EFYE2015

Most delegates seem to be happy with the information before the conference. We as arrangers got few question before delegates arrived. But some did not agree:

Citations (examples)

- *practical information we got before the conference where ok*
- *the webpage is confusing and makes it difficult to prepare for the event.*
- *Communication prior to the conference - I wasn't sure when to bring my poster or whether my hotel had fully been confirmed!*
- *website was not very easy to navigate and it would be nice if the content was released earlier to make it easier to decide to attend or not.*
- *webpage is confusing and makes it difficult to prepare for the event.*

Under EFYE2015

Networking

More than 50 % were especially satisfied with the opportunity to network. But some suggested different ways to do it and a few were negative.

Citations (examples)

- Meeting the network- and exploring all the fine work which is being done around the 1.year student!
- Would be nice to have Networking sessions at lunch time every day so one can get to know as many delegates as possible.
- The network part and the presentations/workshops was especially positive
- The people attending this kind of Conference! Lots of great discussions and laughs.
- to be apart of a big group working on the same issues/ having the same challenges
- the atmosphere: very open, welcoming, not competitive
- Networking was much better this year- great to make some long term contacts
- Perhaps one of the networking sessions could mix the groups a little - it was good to speak to other student support staff but also would have been good to share with other groups of staff.
- The networking was a great idea, but I would suggest the icebreaker didn't work particularly well. (absolutely no fault of the student running it) Definitely keep the networking session on day 1, but lets have an innovative and effective icebreaker!

- The FYE-activities (Networking) could have been smoother arranged. It wasn't perfectly clear what we were supposed to do and the room we were in wasn't the best place to do it. It still was very useful, but with better information and organisation it would have been even better.
- Let the networking parts out of the program - and let people mingle in the sparetime if they want to

Keynotes

More than 35 % were especially satisfied with the keynotes. All three keynotes were mentioned several times but Vincent Tinto got most positive comments. We could not find any negative comments on the keynotes.

Citations (examples)

- *The brilliant keynotes*
- *Keynotes were so interesting!*
- *Vincent Tinto was very inspiring*

Program

Most of the delegates did not have any negative comments on the program and we have collected many of the negative as Citations (examples) under. The comments give a good picture of all consideration we had to make in making a program that could meet so many different views.

Citations (examples)

- The network part and the presentations/workshops.
- The format works really well - keep it like that
- The diversity of the programme, with a nice balance between content, networking and social activities
- -----
- Some visits (schools, organisations, ...)
- Too much time between sessions, the program could end earlier each day. Total waste of time to have an hour looking at posters for example.
- More time between sessions for coffee, fresh air and a toilet break
- A more coherent theme of the conference would be nice. Also, fewer and longer sessions, with more time to discuss. The programme could also have been a bit more effective, leaving more of the networking until after the formal programme - which could have ended at about 16.00.
- may be less repetitive subjects
- De ulike parallellsesjonene burde deles inn mer tematisk i programmet, slik at det er enklere å se hvem målgruppen bør være til de ulike sesjonene. Det var litt for mange nøkkelord til hver sesjon som gjorde at tematikken virket veldig lik uten at den nødvendigvis var det.
- The various parallel sessions should be more thematic in the program so that it is easier to see who the target audience should be to different sessions. There were too many keywords to each session that made them seem very similar without it necessarily was.

- I would prefer to have one main theme. One could not go into depth regarding the different themes as the sessions were too short. If the conference focused on a different theme each year one could still get an overview on other topics but go into depth in one.
- I would like the sessions to last longer. The sessions were too short to really learn about the topics. You need to work on the name of the lectures and sessions. I went to more than one thing that was irrelevant for me, because of this.

Content

People expect different outcomes from the conference depending on what they do in their institution. You will therefore see in the citations below that some found it to be academic while others found it to be practical oriented.

Citations (examples)

- *More information that was for things outside of the classroom. It was very academic focused.*
- *May be more emphasis on sessions relevant to those working in student support rather than teaching.*
- *I would like more discussions about how to engage students in the subject specific planning of content in the seminars and lectures. I think a lot of the content was about engagement of students in the more administrative and organizational development - which was great and every inspiring! - but it could be great with more academic, content specific experiences.*
- *Many of the sessions were also very theory based and it was a shame there was not more best practice shared which I think a lot of people had expected.*
- *Missed: The impact of physical and digital learning environments.*
- *More time in the program for discussing/sharing about the actual, practical form in which you tutor your students. IN theory some conclusions or solutions sound easy until you have started. How do you provide counselling? By whom? And how can you get anywhere when the students don't really want to be helped (and only afterwards see what your point was). How to proceed without all the money you need, or the time for your tutors. Etc.etc.*

Quality of sessions

In the big picture most delegates were positive to the outcome of the sessions and thus also satisfied with the quality. But some were critical to language, accuracy, missing evaluation and that some made too extensive conclusions from their material. Most of these critical voices are cited under here.

Citations (examples)

- The best thing about the Conference was the sessions which gave us a lot of information and inspiration.
- I think that a few sessions streamed 'impact proven'. To be in this group you have to have demonstrated an improvement in retention & success, rather than just early stage research
- I missed more presentations/posters where the outcome of the actions was clearly evaluated.

- Higher level on parallel sessions. Some were too weak. More time to delve into theoretical frameworks, cases or studies rather than going shallowly through too many.
- Ask for a more scholarly approach from people submitting abstracts and/or distinguish on the programme between workshops/presentations which are just sharing good practice and those which involve some scholarly input. Some of the workshops/presentations were very basic and presenting on small initiatives where no evaluation had taken place. Raise the bar!
- Presenters who have more info to give rather than looking to fellow delegates for the answers and suggestions for their work
- Pay more attention to academic language proficiency with respect to first year's study success

Information

Most delegates seem to be happy with the information under the conference. And our students working in the front desk and supporting the presenters got lots of positive feedback. But our webpage and the hardcopy program have got many suggestions to be improved. Most of these suggestions are cited under here.

Citations (examples)

- There was exactly the right level of information about the conference, presented in a really easy to understand way.
- I missed a short overview of contents each paper session / workshop in the program book. Information was given on website, but on the conference with only the little program book it would have been useful to have the short descriptions
- It would be nice if you could write in the program where the different lecturers work, and what they do. It only had the names written, but nothing about where they came from or what their position was. This would have made it easier to choose the most relevant lecture / workshop / show and tell.
- I missed a short overview of contents each paper session / workshop in the program book. Information was given on website, but on the conference with only the little program book it would have been useful to have the short descriptions
- It would be nice if the programme could provide more information about the kind of education the presenters came from. What kind of school, how many students etc.
- send out participant list prior to the conference so we know who to network with
- It stays too theoretical. More sessions about applications.
- Monday and Tuesday was a bit too long. Not able to concentrate in the last session of each day, difficult to take in all that information.
- Parallel sessions seemed non-aligned to some extent - topics of similar nature might be better to be placed together rather than competition with each other e.g. P27 and PA. Both institutional development
- Some confusion with locations of sessions and twice found myself in wrong session after a late room change
- Time and time again, we found ourselves not sure what to attend, as titles don't give a lot of information in themselves – and ended up with something we had little interest in. I know

there was a lot more info on the website, but that was instead too much, and too unwieldy.
A short summary of each paper/presentation, in the printed program, would be great.

- Make sure everyone giving messages knows how to use a microphone.
- Make sure that every title of papers/show&tell/workshop is clear and give a good expression of what you can expect from the speak/workshop.
- An overview of the educational structure in the different countries

People

It is the all the people that is most important in such a conference.

Citations (examples)

Delegates

- a good mix of participants With different roles and perspectives
- The many opportunities to network with a wide variety of people and the relaxed and informal atmosphere

student helpers

- The student helpers: Charming, quick and effective.

organizers

- The organizers: Including and well prepared.

Practical

Some comments to practical issues.

Citations (examples)

- Start the conference on a Tuesday or Wednesday
- Signing to the sessions would give a better idea how big seminar rooms are needed. In some sessions there were so much people that you didn't have any place to sit etc

Venue

- a good mix of participants With different roles and perspectives
- Not easy to hear and see properly in the small seminar rooms. Sometimes too crowded.

Food

- Coffee! More coffee and on time.
- Walking dinner is better than sitting dinner (networking)
- there were not enough muffins for all the participants on Tuesday afternoon

Evening programm

- Fantastic evening programm twice!

After EFYE2015

We have got few questions from you afterwards. And we hope you now will find all we can provide on our webpage.

- I have not been able to watch keynotes afterwards. Recordings did not operate at least in my computer. It would be nice to see them again
This should be ok
If you go in to the program
http://www.uib.no/en/efye_2015/86475/program
Go to each keynotes page - click link on the bottom of the page.

Our evaluation of you as delegates

With 260 delegates we got a very diverse group of people attending. That made it a challenge to meet all wishes that you might have had. But it seems to us that most of you were well prepared and took all unexpected challenges with a good mood. Even helping each other get most out of the event. Thank you all for sharing especially all the presenters. Hope to meet many of you in Gent in April 2016.

All comments

What was the best thing about the conference?

- Finally meeting Mr.Tinto ! ;)
- Re newing contact, meeting New people etc.
- Interacting with colleagues from different countries
- Vincent Tinto
- Sense of community and sharing ideas and best practices.
- The Key-note speakers
- Inspiring key notes.
- Some of the lectures, the two last key notes.
- The atmosphere and the host.
- networking
- Meeting the network- and exploring all the fine work which is being done around the 1.year student!
- Getting motivation and ideas from other institutions.
- The many opportunities to network with a wide variety of people and the relaxed and informal atmosphere
- people and location
- All three keynotes
- The overall atmosphere - being open, friendly, approachable, having a sense of community.

Also (I know it said one thing) the quality of all of the presentations / workshops I attended was very high.

I have to say this was the best conference I have ever been to, and Harald was a really brilliant and engaging host.

- very friendly and welcoming
- Vigdis Keynote 3

- Key note speakers
- Meeting like minded colleagues
- Getting to meet other delegates
- Getting new perspectives.
- Meeting colleagues from across the world
- Meeting others involved in the same kinds of challenges and with some of the same ideas.
- Ideas to take away and the wonderful hospitality and beautiful location for the conference.
- Great location. The Guests were very welcoming.
- Interesting parallel sessions and key note speakers
- Very interesting sessions / keynotes. Learned a lot. Meeting colleagues
- Interesting and nice people, good keynote speakers, Bergen.
- The City :-)) to be honest: the atmosphere, all these open-minded people who made it so easy to get in contact with.
- The brilliant keynotes, inspiring and diverse parallel sessions (diverse in form), and the students participating in organizing the event.
- Many, many great ideas, with the possibility of choosing what to attend.
- - The atmosphere and Tintos presentation
- Time for networking, community feeling, all of the key notes were inspiring, especially Vincent Tinto.
- Keynotes were so interesting!
The differences of the sessions (S&T, W, P) sometimes going in-depth, other times a short and powerful presentation with discussion afterwards.
- Vincent Tinto was very inspiring. the paper and workshops was also good.
- The nice atmosphere and the good presentations.
- networking
- The network part and the presentations/workshops.
- Connecting/talking With other delegates
- Professor Tinto
- was not able to participate after all.
- Meeting other delegates, sharing knowlegde, key-notes
- Tinto, that it was easy to be social with the other delegates (informal tone).
- Inspiration. Many inspiring people! Understanding of change. Tinto's speech.
- People and sessions.
- Key note Tinto
- The width of presentations that showed the complexity of the issue with FYE, but also showed the creativity aimed at this complexity. Also thought the integration of FYE-activities and the different type of presentations during the conference worked very well! And Bergen of course. And the hosts.
- The networking opportunities the conference affords. The chance to learning from others and gain insights into the latest trends in this field
- Meeting colleagues and friends (both old and new.
- The variety in the parallel sessiona
- The chance to meet and talk to colleagues from around Europe - organised networking sessions were a great idea. The 3 keynote speakers were also really excellent.
- The people attending this kind of Conference! Lots of great discussions and laughs.
- The quality of all of the content!
- Meeting a lot of new people all with the same area of interest.
Tintos keynote
- Meeting like-minded people
- Learning about the differences in HE systems in different countries. I was very appreciative of the structured networking sessions.
- Time for networking, keynotes, location,
- Difficult to choose just one thing, but it would probably be the networking opportunities and the realisation that everyone is struggling with similar problems.
- The wide variation in sessions
- The mixture of
- Networking! It was very inspiring to hear how different institutions have organized e.g. student success, learning and FYE affairs. Always a pleasure meeting motivated, like-minded people. :)

Another favorite were the show and tell presentations that provided info on good practices and what kind of change (percentages etc.) they had triggered.

- - The 2 keynote speakers from UiB
- All praktisk informasjon om konferansen vi fikk før konferansen

- Den praktiske gjennomføringen av konferansen
- Noen av parallellsesjonene som fikk mer enn 10 minutter til å snakke
- Keynote speakers and networking
- networking and sharing ideas - the show and tell worked well.
- Hearing and meeting Tinto was great :-)
- Meeting colleagues from Norway and all over the world!
- Networking, inspiration and best practices.
- Atmosphere and the program, and the people
- The inspiration, ideas and useful conversations I got during the Conference.
- Meeting others and Vincent Tinto
- keynotes and the sharing of ideas with others
- The networking
- Key note
- Tinto
- meeting colleagues and discussing the sessions
- To get an overview of the discussions in different countries and universities and learn from best practice.
- to be apart of a big group working on the same issues/ having the same challenges.
- The people were fantastic, really open about their challenges
- Networking, enthusiastic atmosphere
- Hearing Tinto!
- And talking to so many interesting People, exchanging new ideas.
- - Meeting people from all over Europe and sharing ideas
- How explicitly you made it that meeting people can be hard - and that you had methods to overcome that difficulty
- Hakonshallen was pretty impressive, too (like a Game of Thrones-Set!)
- The mix of different people and the atmosphere
- the atmosphere: very open, welcoming, not competitive.

the programme: a lot of choices, always something that interests you

Fantastic evening programm twice!

- The keynotes and networking, also I liked all the info you could gather from the short poster sessions. It was well organised, planned and ran smoothly.
- Key notes
- The keynotes
- The people!
- The delegates: Very nice and interesting people. Easy networking.
- The student helpers: Charming, quick and effective.
- The organizers: Including and well prepared.
- Can we say everything?! An amazing venue and fantastic networking opportunities; some interesting papers and many interesting people. If I had to pick one thing... I'll narrow it down to the 3 key note speakers. All inspirational.
- Show and tell sessions and key notes
- Meeting other people from different universities.
- Learning New Things about students
- to exchange ideas of how we work with various hands-on practical tools to improve teaching and learning.
- That networking start where facilitated
- Tintos lecture
- The keynotes
- Meeting so many people having the same goal for the students.
- The best thing about the Conference was the sessions which gave us a lot of information and inspiration.
- Networking was much better this year- great to make some long term contacts
- Meeting other people who in different ways and different contexts were interested in the same questions
- The atmosphere
- The people
- The discussions
- Contacts with other delegates
- key Note Speaker Vincent Tinto
- The informal atmosphere, the 'organization' of networking.
- excellent keynotes

- the atmosphere, sharing ideas, problems, etc. Good program, dynamic networking session
- The diversity of the programme, with a nice balance between content, networking and social activities
- the atmosphere, Tinto's keynote
- Meeting other people working with students. Got some good ideas I can use in my work.
- That it was a good mix of participants with different roles and perspectives. The way it was all organized.
- The workshops which allowed for active learning
- Interesting topics.

What could we improve next time?

- The weather? :)
- I am not sure. I thought it was terrific
- Would be nice to have Networking sessions at lunch time every day so one can get to know as many delegates as possible.
- It would be nice if the programme could provide more information about the kind of education the presenters came from. What kind of school, how many students etc.
- The food
- Too much time between sessions, the program could end earlier each day. Total waste of time to have an hour looking at posters for example.

There was very little focus on the importance of the introduction week. Too much focus on dropping out.

- Work on the breaks
- send out participant list prior to the conference so we know who to network with
- Very tight schedule.
- Coffee in the mornings! And enough cake for everyone. And the vice mayor could have done a better job welcoming the guests at the reception.
- The format works really well - keep it like that
- may be less repetitive subjects
- It stays too theoretical. More sessions about applications.
- There was only one thing to improve - perhaps include asking delegates for their dietary requirements ahead of arriving so that people are prompted to provide this information. I had given mine but there was a mix-up in the conference dinner and not all vegetarians had given their requirements, so they ran out of vegetarian food by the time they gave me my dinner. I must say the staff were very apologetic and dealt with it very well by giving me 2 desserts instead.
- perhaps 3 full days rather than such long days, quite tiring
- Monday and Tuesday was a bit too long. Not able to concentrate in the last session of each day, difficult to take in all that information.
- Parallel sessions seemed non-aligned to some extent - topics of similar nature might be better to be placed together rather than competition with each other eh P27 and PA. .both institutional development
- Some confusion with locations of sessions and twice found myself in wrong session after a late room change
- More information that was for things outside of the classroom. It was very academic focused.
- More time between sessions for coffee, fresh air and a toilet break
- I think that a few sessions streamed 'impact proven'. To be in this group you have to have demonstrated an improvement in retention & success, rather than just early stage research
- I missed more presentations/posters where the outcome of the actions was clearly evaluated.
- May be more emphasis on sessions relevant to those working in student support rather than teaching.
- More students involved from other universities.
- Not so much, keep up the good work!
- A more coherent theme of the conference would be nice. Also, fewer and longer sessions, with more time to discuss. The programme could also have been a bit more effective, leaving more of the networking until after the formal programme - which could have ended at about 16.00.
- frankly speaking: I don't know.
- I would like more discussions about how to engage students in the subject specific planning of content in the seminars and lectures. I think a lot of the content was about engagement of students in the more administrative and organizational development - which was great and every inspiring! - but it could be great with more academic, content specific experiences.

- More short, to-the-point presentations (like Show&tell).
Time and time again, we found ourselves not sure what to attend, as titles don't give a lot of information in themselves – and ended up with something we had little interest in. I know there was a lot more info on the website, but that was instead too much, and too unwieldy. A short summary of each paper/presentation, in the printed program, would be great.
- One little thing comes to mind:
In the paper version of the program (which was very useful) you could have included a SHORT text about the presenters. Eg. their position, where do they come from etc.
- you get to talk to a lot of people; personally I think it would be interesting to have not only the contact information of a person but also a picture that goes with it.
- Nothing at this time that is popping into my mind. Great organization, delicious food, beautiful scenery and location! Keep up that spirit.
- Maybe a less filled program on the two first days. It was very long ending in social events both days.
- Make sure everyone giving messages knows how to use a microphone.
- There were some technical problems.
- Very well organized, can't point at anything
- Uneffective food organization. A bit low quality of some of the presentations.
- No idea
- Higher level on parallel sessions. Some were too weak. More time to delve into theoretical frameworks, cases or studies rather than going shallowly through too many.
- I'm sorry, can't come up with anything
- Special diets could be asked beforehand.
- More sessions about teaching and The classroom
Plus The food
- Vegetarian food wasn't great, especially not at the reception and the welcome dinner.

The FYE-activities (Networking) could have been smoother arranged. It wasn't perfectly clear what we were supposed to do and the room we were in wasn't the best place to do it. It still was very useful, but with better information and organisation it would have been even better.

- Advertise the keynotes well in advance and provide both live streaming and recording for later access for a few weeks post conference.

Provide access to the powerpoint presentations used by all the presenters

- I can't think of anything - it was all good.
- Ask for a more scholarly approach from people submitting abstracts and/or distinguish on the programme between workshops/presentations which are just sharing good practice and those which involve some scholarly input. Some of the workshops/presentations were very basic and presenting on small initiatives where no evaluation had taken place. Raise the bar!
- More small food-brakes.
- Some practical stuff: Serve coffee in the morning, organize the lunch so that the line is shorter, serve more than half a cinnamon roll when there is no time for a meal between lunch at 11 and dinner late at night. Also, there were not enough muffins for all the participants on Tuesday afternoon. Small things, but food and drinks is also important :-)
- There is too much going on at the workshops. You should not have more than one presenter each hour but use the time to create a context, tell about the university, the culture and so forth.
- Workshops could have been in bigger rooms so people could fit.
- Perhaps one of the networking sessions could mix the groups a little - it was good to speak to other student support staff but also would have been good to share with other groups of staff. Many of the sessions were also very theory based and it was a shame there was not more best practice shared which I think a lot of people had expected.
- Walking dinner is better than sitting dinner (networking)
Some visits (schools, organisations, ...)
- Lunch was always very early and made the afternoons seem very long (though very interesting!)
- The only thing I'd change would be adding a bit more time between the last parallel sessions and the evening activities. Now we were in a rush to run back to our hotels to change clothes etc., and some of us are big eaters and need time to sneak out for an extra meal as well... :)
- - Parallelsesjoner under 10 minutter ble ofte litt "innholdsløse". Dvs at man ikke fikk nok utbytte av presentasjonen så fremt man ikke hadde lest abstracte på forhånd. "Show and tell" fungerte dermed ikke optimalt
- De ulike parallelsesjonene burde deles inn mer tematisk i programmet, slik at det er

enklere å se hvem målgruppen bør være til de ulike sesjonene. Det var litt for mange nøkkelord til hver sesjon som gjorde at tematikken virket veldig lik uten at den nødvendigvis var det.

- Communication prior to the conference - I wasn't sure when to bring my poster or whether my hotel had fully been confirmed!
- Though a beautiful setting, the conference meal was disappointing for what we paid.
- The website was not very easy to navigate and it would be nice if the content was released earlier to make it easier to decide to attend or not.
- The impact of physical and digital learning environments.
- Overlapping in interesting session is very hard to avoid but now it was a small problem at least. And I have not been able to watch keynotes afterwards. Recordings did not operate at least in my computer. It would be nice to see them again
- The poster Exhibition session (before parallel session 6) should have been at the end of the day.
- Lunch
- more downtime in between daytime and evening events
- Instead of the closing networking session, everybody could write 2 things they will bring home on a "post it" and then posted on a common wall
- More papers
- three more minutes between sessions to move between sessions
- I would prefer to have one main theme. One could not go into depth regarding the different themes as the sessions were too short. If the conference focused on a different theme each year one could still get an overview on other topics but go into depth in one.
- I have never been to an EFYE Conference before and thought it was a well-organised and interesting conference.
- Start the conference on a Tuesday or Wednesday.
- More show and tell session. And the show and tell presentations should really be only five minutes, now some of the peoples were talkin even 10 minutes, the idea was missing. Workshops should be real workshops. I participates in to two workshops, both of these were more like paper shows.
- Day 1 was a bit too "packed" with sessions on my behalf. Also there seemed to be some sound issues but, that wasn't a very big problem.
- I was a bit surprised about the variety behind the workshops. Sometimes I thought that people only chose to give a workshop to have more time to talk about their projects... that was interesting as well, no doubt, but I expected more interaction.
- Nothing at all
- More time in the program for discussing/sharing about the actual, practical form in which you tutor your students. IN teori some conclusions or solutions sound easy until you have start. How do you provide counselling? By whom? And how can you get anywhere when the students don't really want to be helped (and only afterworth see what your point was). How to proceed without al the money you need, or the time for your tutors. Etc.etc.

The pdf of the programm on the website before the start of the conference.

- The location was prohibitively expensive, I feel this was really unfair for those who do not have such big budgets to spend. Also the lunch and breaks were at quite strange times.
- lunch
- Better organization of lunch serving. Coffee available early, before first session.
- The networking was a great idea, but I would suggest the icebreaker didn't work particularly well. (absolutely no fault of the student running it) Definitely keep the networking session on day 1, but lets have an innovative and effective icebreaker!
- Coffee! More coffee and on time.
- I would like the sessions to last longer. The sessions where to short to really learn about the topics.
You need to work on the name of the lectures and sessions. I went to more than one thing that was irrelevant for me, because of this. Also the webpage is confusing and makes it difficult to prepare for the event. You shold also explain what the different sessions are. What is a paper session and so on, on the webpage.
- It would be Nice if you could Write in the program where the different lecturers work, and what they do. It only had the names written, but nothing about where they came from or what their position was. This would have made it easier to choose the most relevant lecture / workshop / show and tell.
- It worked really well. Personally though, I am not a big fan of poster sessions. I think it will be better to include tem in small show and tell sessions.
- The accistics in seminarrooms when many people

- Maybe add more pedagogy lectures from a person with a master's in pedagogy (education in sciences).
- Make sure that every title of papers/show&tell/workshop is clear and give a good expression of what you can expect from the speak/workshop.

Let the networking parts out of the program - and let people mingle in the sparetime if they want to.

- Not easy to hear and see properly in the small seminar rooms. Sometimes too crowded.
- Similar sessions not to be held at the same time
- Later lunches
- Cover in 3/4 days so less rushed
- More variety of sessions
- Presenters who have more info to give rather than looking to fellow delegates for the answers and suggestions for their work
- An overview of the educational structure in the different countries
- Link between recruitment, marketing and the type of student expectation
- The programme was good and varied.
- Signing to the sessions would give a better idea how big seminar rooms are needed. In some sessions there were so much people that you didn't have any place to sit etc
- I missed a short overview of contents each paper session / workshop in the program book. Information was given on website, but on the conference with only the little program book it would have been useful to have the short descriptions
- Nothing that I can think of right now. Except perhaps a shorter closing session?
- -
- in the programme book, a little bit more info of each session: speakers+country+abstract?
- The information in the printed program folder. But that was assessed properly, so this is but a minor point of improvement.
- pay more attention to academic language proficiency with respect to first year's study success
- Hard to say, I was really happy about it all.
- Nothing I can think of.

What was the most useful or meaningful idea you took away from the event?

- " it is Learning that drives us, not our teaching"
- Listen to your students, instead of telling them what to do"
- The role of "intentional" actions - not leaving things to chance.
- First year and study start is more important than we use to think.
- The idea of helping first year students become engaged by the end of their first year. Also, rather than asking " How can we motivate students" we should be asking " How can we create the conditions in which students can motivate themselves.
- To remember the difference between a talented researcher and a talented educator and how to make researchers recognize the importance of teaching. and the difference between high quality and high standard
- That students become students during the first year, and we need to facilitate that transition.
- The idea that academic staff need to be involved in the first year experience.
- Investing in FYE to make pupils into students.
- -
- How to work with the institution, find key people there interested in 1 year stud.
- A couple of years ago I had a small research on academic and social belonging at my department. Now I am going to read all papers within this field (from the conference, not in the world...), and systematically pick out what I can use in a follow-up research.
- Involving incoming first year students in the design and implementation of their own induction and transition so that they co-own the experience
- persevere
- /
- It was the sense of community and what can be achieved if people really have dedicated time to focus on talking about the sharing of ideas.
- Will be using techniques from session re building resilience in students.
- Creating a workshop for teachers, like keynote 3 talked about.

- Keynote speaker - Wednesday
The intersection below holds the solution for a university wide approach for successful student transition
Leadership (power, authority, support), Teachers(scholarly, professional, collegial, SoTL), students (active, responsible, deep)
- The possibility of wider community involvement
- The belonging one.
- Involving becoming new students in planning their own freshmen week.
- Maturity - that planning and organisation come last as the brain develops
- I have been promised a set of guidelines for peer assessment from one of the presenter. this will likely be very helpful when constructing our own guidelines.
- More student engagement and going to try out a new student mentor 'writing cafe'. Going to come with student mentors next year.
- How networking was done. As well as extra things to do while at conference
- Teachers need to tell first year students what is expected of them, and help them identify what they should focus on.
- The importance of academic self-concept, which I will read more about
- That we should not try everything at once to fight drop out.
- Being new in the field I learned a lot about the "standard" basic literature. I learned that others are interested in the field and struggle with the same problems and (maybe most important) that it is possible to institutionalise a whole-institution approach to FY
- Generally that it DOES make sense to engage the students more in developing higher education. That a whole-of-organisation perspective of development is important, and that there are different approaches as to where to start this development (staff, students, management).
- How much better students perform in active, autonomous learning.
- That coordinated strategy/actions/research across the institution is important to not draw in different directions and leave things to chance.
- It's not just about the teachers teaching, it's about the students learning. Enhance the environment into a more motivational place.
- The first year can not be reduced to the first day. Students need to take time during the whole first year. But also teachers and the institution need to facilitate several times during that first year in HE.
- The concept of reaching all students, not just the vulnerable ones.
- It was nice to see how people with knowledge and experience dismissed the idea of some professors and others that certain students aren't "worthy" of attending certain courses or schools and that a high rate of failure is a sign of success to themselves. This misconception is a common problem at my university.
- There are so many data we don't use.
- Work more with students reasons to quit
- Issues raised during last key note
- A whole complexity. Not one.
- See above
- Idea of personal growth during the first year.
- That first year improvements need A coordinated effort from The Whole of The institution
- Be a borrower! - Diane Nutt
- The potential of learning analytics
- International students studying at universities in Europe are perhaps more likely to attain a good degree than at our institution - and it would be useful to understand why and how we can apply this to our institution.
- Develop Training program for tutors
- That the work that my colleagues and I are doing clearly fits within that body of literature and practice which has built up around FYE/transition.
- Keynote Vandvik: tell the scientists to listen to their "scientist-self" when preparing lectures, because as a scientist they are good and innovative, whereas as a lecturer they are often conservative.
- That we do not necessarily have to motivate the students directly, but create the environment in which the students can motivate themselves!
- The thing about using gamification really interested me.
In Tintos Keynote it was interesting to hear his thoughts on retention as part of curriculum.
- A number of things were mentioned which I am now considering - publishing student feedback, postgraduate mentoring, a student blog for WP students and the entire concept of the importance of belonging

- Jeany's: student's who have goals in the long run (job) tend to drop out more than students that stay in the here and now.
 - That there are lots of similar minded people around the world who are all available for inspiration and support.
 - How to include the academic staff in welcoming and implement the new students.
 - resiliens
 - Tinto's idea that the first year is about learning to be a student. How can we help our newbies in this process, and what do they need?
 - - The importance av creating beautiful Meetings. Det er lett å bli for instrumentell i arbeidet med gjennomstrømming. Viktigheten av at studentmassen er mange enkeltmennesker som trenger å finne sin "sosiale boble" i studietiden for å trives og dermed lykkes bedre var viktig for meg å ta mer på alvor.
 -
 - Sense of belonging for part time students and what we should be doing to meet to their needs
 - Working more with students/recent undergraduates to support current students. Lots of different examples at the conference to think about how we'd do it back in my home HEI
 - FYE project won't succeed without the help of the teachers and measures taken IN THE CLASSROOM.
 - Habit forming.
 - The challenges seems to universal regarding the FYE
 - The Academic mentoring idea from Ulster Uni and the Student Success Advisor idea from Uni of Hull.
- And I also picked up som very good Points from all the keynoters.
- We are all struggling with the same problems and no-one has the ultimate solution
 - first year to prepare the student and not just the first year student - but how do we do this?
 - P28 – Changing student expectation through "habit forming": Describing the AIT Business School's evolving student transition model for students entering third level education

The big stick approach

- Mentoring.
- there is no one silver bullet and we must keep trying to improve the things we can control.
- The pre-orientation ideas
- - The realization that it takes a year to become a student (the whole first year).
- Not just the importance of students socializing and participating: why focusing on the teachers is as important as focusing on the students in the first year(s).
- => quality as an event
- => the first year at university as a "journey of engagement" (Vincent Tinto)
- That I need to dive in deeper into theories
- Teaching is not the same as learning, teaching does not guarantee learning!

Student learning should be our focus, not student retention.

- Meeting others working in the same field, I hope it was the beginning of many more conversations.
 - collaboration! Students - adm staff and teaching staff
 - Tinto: It takes one year (the 1. year) to BECOME a student.
 - That we can all be great educators if we play to our strengths.
 - The concept of belonging and becoming
 - It convinced me that we have to get the academic staff on-board to really make a difference.
 - ?
 - Work more with the teachers than the students
 - The keyword, belonging from tinto.
 - The focus: Dropout - Don't blame the victim!
 - That peer-mentoring was not that effect full as thought.
 - The importance of having the scientific staff and the leaders of the university participate in the work for the students. (And not leave the administrative staff to deal with it alone)
 - We are further ahead than we thought
- There is in easy fix
- that the issues about transition and how we meet the students in many ways are the same everywhere and that it is possible to deal with them in a range of different ways.
 - Tinto: the first year is the place to study how to be in the University and the second etc are the years when you learn how to be outside the University"
 - a lot of ideas!
 - "Focus on study is more important than focus on profession afterwards".

- effect of social belonging
- Let future students make their own inductionweek
- Using students to help students!
- The effect of belonging on study success
- Several actions may help students engage, feel sense of belonging and motivated for persistence, but all actions will not work everywhere. Be selective, coordinated and have a long term perspective.
- the use of digital media in FYE
- New ideas on how to follow up on students.

What might you do differently in the future as a result of attending the event?

- More networking - nice to see some more cross institutional collaborations.
- Try to improve quality of study start.
- Apply some of the ideas that would work at my institution as well as treating students as partners in the learning process.
- Mostly I will use my new knowledge in my work with preparing highschoolstudent for the university.
I also think my approach to the researchers has changed, and that I will be better to understand why they react, as they do.
- More focused and planned attention to study skills.
- Not very much.
- organise events together with other teachers and study counselors in order to improve the learning environment
- Actually- keep up Our good work! We are doing right in many ways!
- Present something myself.
Have a more research-based approach to my own research within the educational issues.
- Try out the approach of involving and working in partnership with first years more
- continue devising and trying to implement pedagogical innovations
- /
- I will spend more time and effort on talking to staff face-to-face about ideas from the conference, rather than just sending an 'update' email about the highlights. This way I hope to bring the spirit of the conference back home!
- So many things, but I'll have to consult my notes to be more specific. Listening more to the students, instead of just feeding them information.
- Collect student feedback directly and involve them in curriculum design
- Review the way some of our peer led activities are administered
- I will propose a paper to present.
- Try to inspire teachers to teach as they research
- I want to focus more on implementation
- I will try to get input from bioCEED when reforming our study program.
- More peer mentoring work and dissemination of ideas.
- Encourage colleagues to attend more international congresses :-)
EFYE didn't really change my behavior, it was more inspiring
- Focus on a few measures at the time.
- Engaging students more in developing teaching programmes and events and the administration :)
- Does not really apply to me, as I'm not working directly with these things yet.
- I might try to influence our institution to try and do more systematic/coordinated effort to map drop-out. E.g. suggesting to contact drop outs in a more structured way.
- Try to keep in touch with more people and keep expanding my network. More emphasis on social learning environments and exploring those possibilities.
- Rethinking our introduction. What information is necessary at that time and which information during the different stages throughout the first year.
Making a plan of the first year and pointing out the which support and information is needed at the different times.
- We cannot change anything directly, but will present our findings to the management in our Faculty.
- I will bite back with facts and opinions based upon proper research and theory whenever I hear people promoting the idea that a high failure rate is a sign of quality and success on behalf of the university or school.
- More discussion about follow up the ideas in your own university/university of applied sciences.

- More focus from teaching to learning
- No much
- Engage students even more.
- Stay positive and be more focused on transition as a journey.
- No budget hotel ;D
- Asking more for The students perspektice
- I will broaden my theoretical view on FYE, and read more of the theories and practicies evolving in Australia and New Zeeland, for example.
- Explore how my own institute can harness the power of learning analytics
- Explore this international aspect further.
- Many small areas of good practice. Plus try to link up with other colleagues from the conference working in similar areas to ensure that we keep up this cross-fertilization of idea, research and practice.
- Lots of little improvements, I hope. There is absolutely room for thinking and doing some things differently.
- Consider the socioeconomic background/grades of the students in part of a dropout project. Because it matters!
- Choosing paper sessions instead og workshops.
- When in need of change I will look to the ways in which our colleagues abroad handle processes and decisions to find inspiration
- Less bla bla at the end of the conference 15' is long enough to say goodbye. Seemed in the first place fun for the board of EFYE.
- Introducing year group tutors; induction specifically for local students;
- Implement coping skills in lecture to first year students
- Pack more warm clothes. :)

I can't really think of anything conference wise. I didn't have much time to go through the abstracts beforehand, so maybe reserve more time for that before the next conference.

The conference increased my motivation (how was this possible?) to work for the benefit of our students in the future. I will definitely spread the word about the good practices I learned about, and have already started keeping in touch with my foreign colleagues to swap ideas. Thank you very much for a fantastic conference, well done!

- - Lese flere abstract på forhånd og lese meg opp på de som presenterer og deres universitet
- Look at inclusiveness for part time students and look further into sense of belonging for STEM programmes
- be bale to offer evidence of working with students as supporting experience/progression of students
- - Increase use of sociale media for pre-arrival and induction week
- - Contact colleagues from other institutions in Norway to exchange more experiences
- - Increase effort to engage the leadership of the institution in FYE.
- Integrating the FYE work as a field through the whole organisation both bottom up and top down. Also developing practise locally in the context.
- I will focus more on the basis, and will not try too hard to do something special
- Want to hear more about best practice and get tips and ideas from the practice area.
- Stop with things that dont work
- learning analytics - pull together data to measure students engagement
- Changing the approach to the FYE from being helpful to being helpfull and demanding.
- try to organise some kind of mentor arrangement.
- i will involve students more in our retention strategy
- I hope we could developpe our orientation
- Ask for more help when dealing with first year students! So much expertice available..
- --
- Include more theoretical background
- I will spend more time in engaging our teachers in their role as tutor.
And i am going to discuss with my team what our true vision is regarding FYE. What we really believe, what we really want. And only then start to look at what is possible, and what we can make possible. In stead of just accepting every rule that someone ones came up with but maybe doesn't make sense at all. Bottom line: i want to encourage my team, my boss to ask 'why' a lot!
- Spend more time keeping up with the research literature.
- Take it back to teaching staff (very few for out institution were there)
- Not sure yet. Have to think more about it.

- Listening to how other institutions organise induction, I will certainly consider how we give practical information to students in their first semester.
- I definitely will spend time in my job to advocate for more meetings with the students and not forgetting that student is something you become.
- Because of the length of the sessions, I didn't really get any concrete things I will do. The time limited what the speakers could say and the number of questions you could ask. Fewer topics and longer sessions would be better.
- ?
- Try to connect the practice and the theory.
- Think of the concept 'study start' as many different things - something you can do in perhaps three days, when the students start, or different initiatives during the whole first year.
- Be more aware of the motivation part of the students.
- Work more specific towards this issue and work harder at getting the scientific staff and the leaders to join this work.
- Referring it theory behind change
- It's more about doing the same in a larger extent. Talk to more people and may be have a presentation.
- Read the abstracts more carefully before....
- ???
- Trying to make the teacher education more attractive in itself
- Breaking down the wall between welcome activities of students union and of university staff
- Make more use of the eagerness and capabilities of our students in the supply of our services towards students.
- a little less networking sessions
- Look to other institutions for experiences.
- we have already implemented a stronger social media presence
- Be more active towards the students.