



CEDEFOP

European Centre for the Development
of Vocational Training



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme



Study visits programme and its impact on participants

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Knowledge sharing seminar for 2011/12 organisers

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Study visits (structure)

European Commission

(responsible for overall implementation of LLP)

Cedefop

(coordination of the programme at EU-level)

National Agencies

(35 in all participating countries)

Organisers of study visits in participating countries

(about 240 visits per years)

Participants

(about 2700 grants per year)

Cedefop

European agency for the development of vocational training

coordinates the study visits programme for education and vocational training specialist and decision makers at EU level on behalf and in cooperation with the European Commission





Cedefop's tasks

- calls for proposals - annual catalogue
- promotion of the programme
 - including to specific target groups (social partners)
- calls for applications - composition of groups
- support to quality of visits
 - coherence with European policy priorities
 - support to all involved
- assessment and evaluation of implementation and results
- dissemination of results



Study visits in 2011/12

221 visits – 29 countries

- **30 topics**
- **fields of education and training**
 - general education - 79 visits
 - vocational education and training - 49 visits
 - mixed type - 93 visits

1st round 1194 selected participants - 32 countries

2nd round – the call is ongoing till 14 October 2011!

Study visits participants in 2008-11 (by category, in %)

Category of participants	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12*
head teachers, teacher trainers	25.0	25.0	26.8	25.1
directors of education and vocational training institutions, centres or providers, guidance centres, validation or accreditation centres	18.2	15.8	15.3	15.7
heads of departments	7.3	7.1	7.7	10.0
representatives of local, regional and national authorities	10.0	11.2	10.7	8.8
pedagogical or guidance advisers	10.2	8.0	8.2	8.5
representatives of social partners	4.5	6.2	6.0	7.3
educational and vocational training inspectors	5.5	6.0	5.1	5.3
representatives of education and training networks and associations	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.7
representatives of educational services, labour offices or guidance centres	2.8	4.1	3.4	3.5
researchers	2.3	3.5	3.5	3.3
other	10.6	9.4	9.9	8.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Data of the 1st round 2011/12



Impact on study visits participants

- *based data of the survey conducted in April-June 2010,*
- *data of 2009/10 survey conducted in spring 2011 will be available by end of 2011*

2008/09 – 2532 questionnaires sent, 983 respondents, 39% response rate

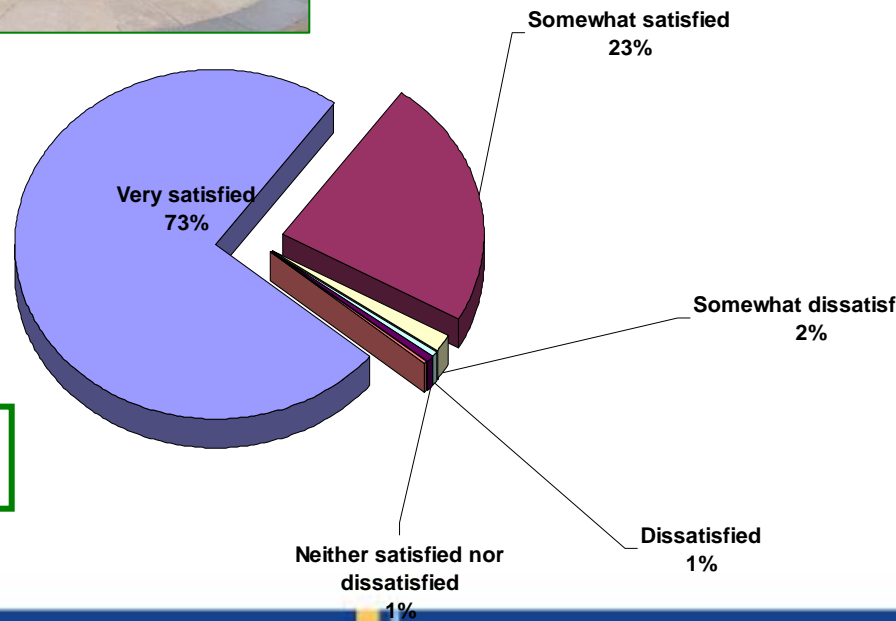
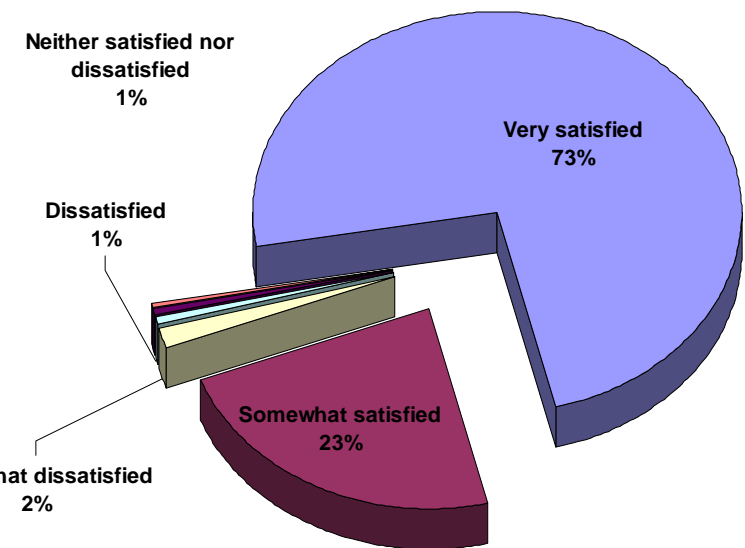
2009/10 – 2358 questionnaires sent, 995 respondents, 42% response rate



2008/09



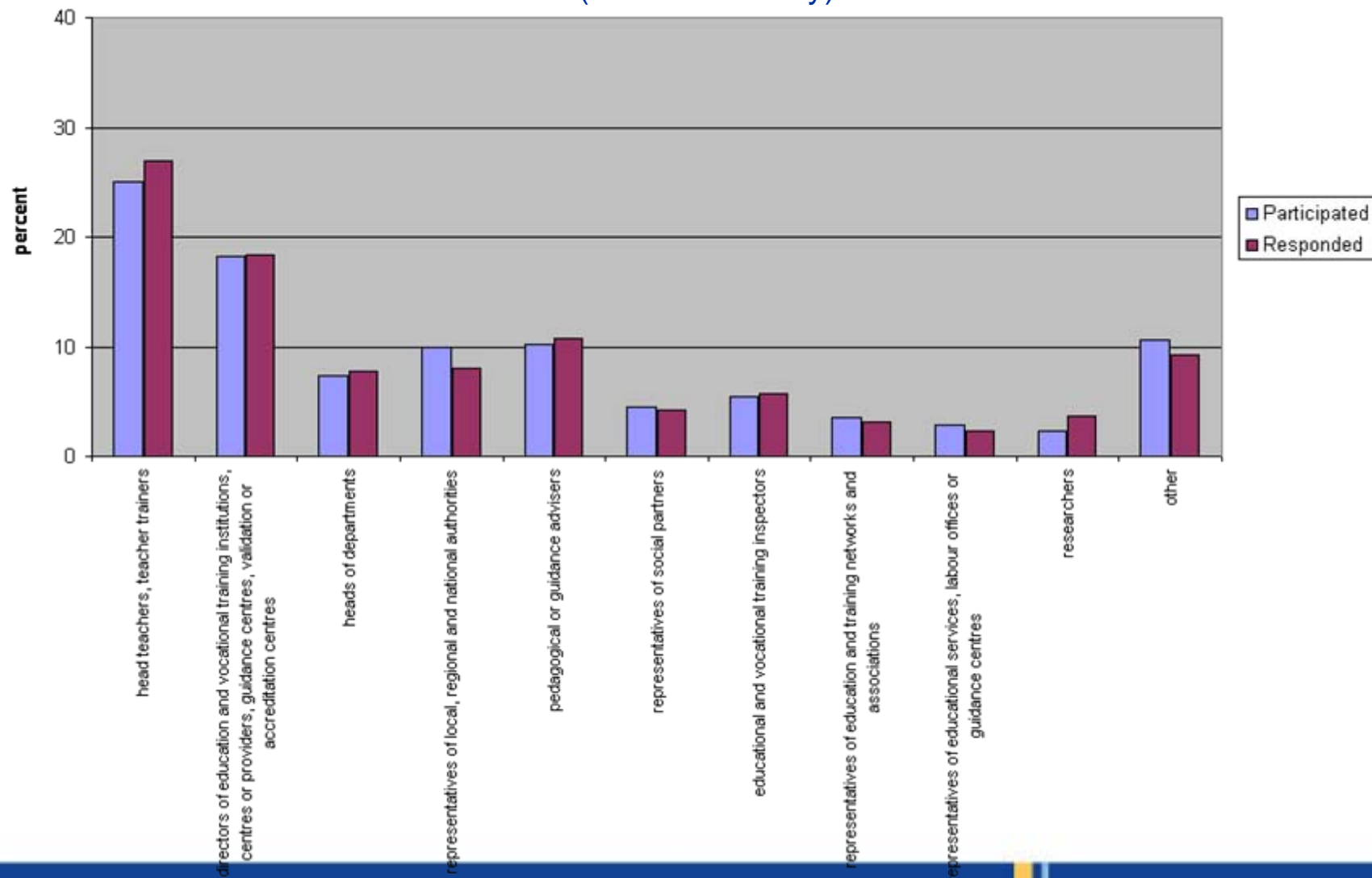
2009/10



SV participants' satisfaction

Response rate and distribution of participants

(2008/09 survey)



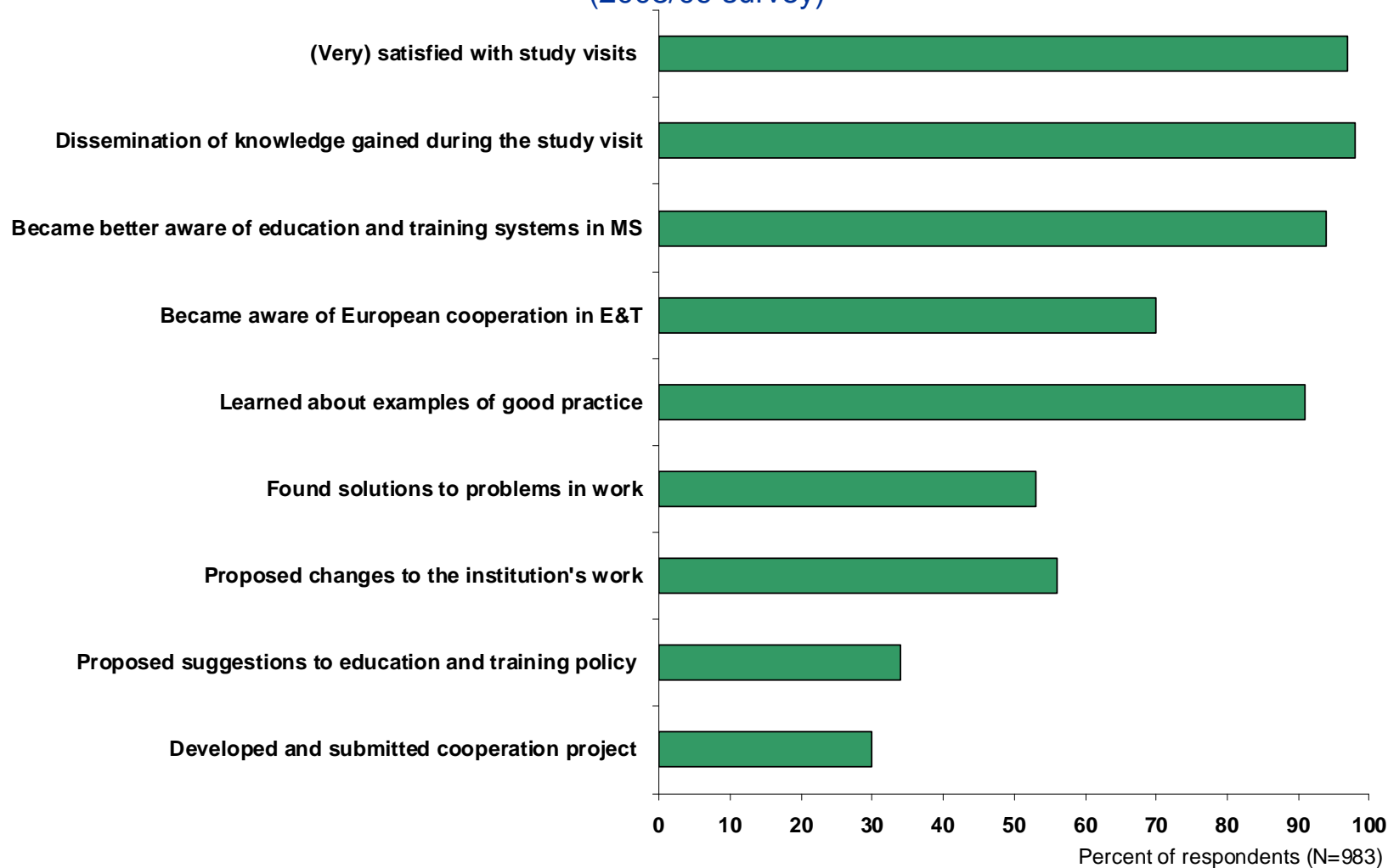


Most beneficial from study visits



Benefits from study visits

(2008/09 survey)



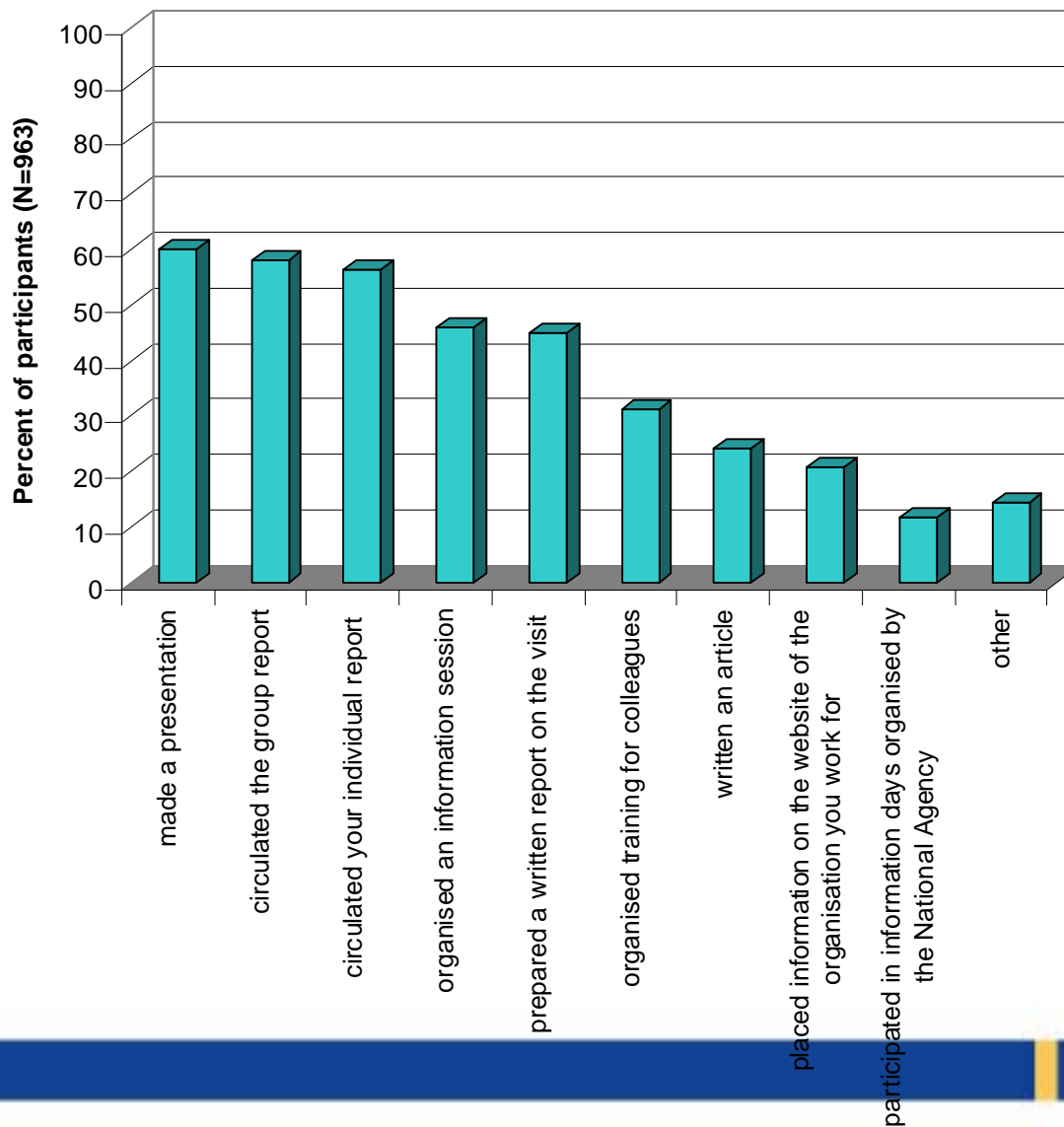
Source: Cedefop (2010), *Impact assessment of 2008/09 study visits*



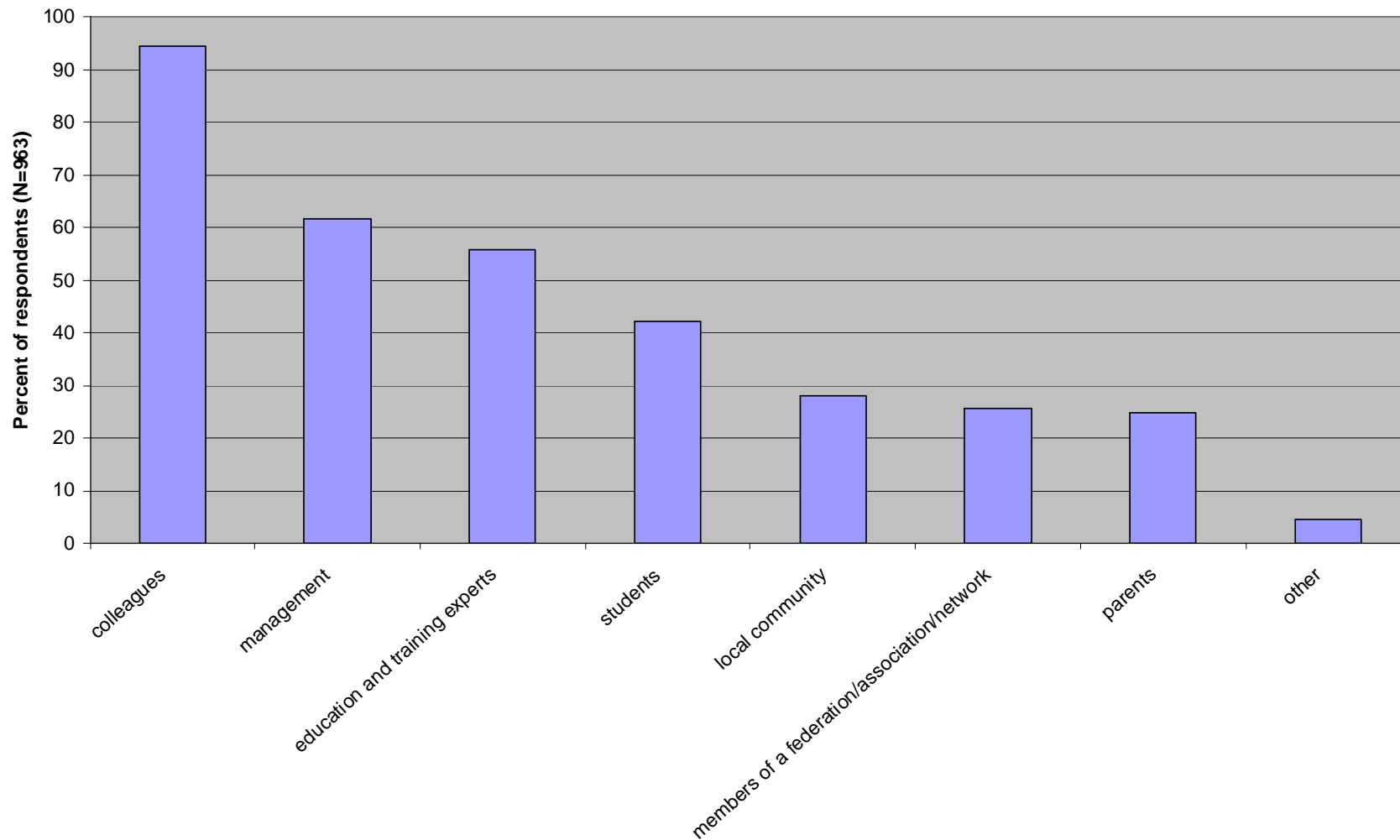
Participants became better aware of the following:

education and training systems in European countries	93%
European cooperation in the field of education and training	70%
the lifelong learning strategies of the EU and Member States	50%
the lifelong learning programme 2007-13	42%
benchmarks for education and training in Europe	41%
European networks	41%
the quality framework in education and training	40%
the European framework of key competences	37%
European tools that support mobility (EQF, ECVET, Europass)	24%
other	3%

How do the participants share their learning?



Who do the participants share their learning with?





After returning from study visits, participants

Suggestions taken on board

yes

to some extent

proposed changes to
improve the work of
institution

55%

32%

50%

made suggestions to
policies

34%

24%

46%



What are the proposed changes about?

- **New philosophy of management**
 - Team work, team teaching, communication, mutual support
- **Cooperation**
 - Apprenticeship scheme
 - School marketing
- **Learner-centred teaching**
 - Focus on competences
- **Partnerships with business**
 - Flexible teaching methods
- **Environmental education programme**
- **Inclusive classrooms**

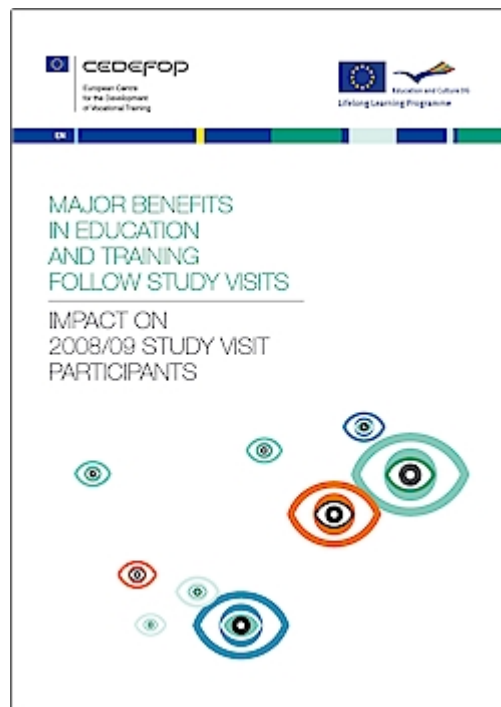


What policies do participants suggest to improve?

- cooperation,
- early start,
- education manager training,
- investing in ICT,
- longer placements for student teachers,
- involving enterprises into schools,
- university ranking,
- smaller classes,
- revising inspectorate structure...



Publication 'Major benefits in education and training follow study visits' (Cedefop, 2011)



Study visits proved to be:

- a **real opportunity**
 - *to learn*
 - *to get new ideas*
 - *to build contacts*
 - *to improve skills*
- a **powerful tool**
 - *to stimulate discussions and improve policies and practice*
 - *to spread information*



STUDY VISITS ORGANISERS

play a **key role** in making the study visits as successful as they are and the evidence shows they are doing a very good job!



Obstacles that prevent the participants from using the results

SV did not meet the objectives (did not match description)	Change of job/field	No real opportunity	Lack of interest from policy-makers
Materials not provided in English	Needs too much time and effort	Too rigid rules and regulations (curriculum, etc); bureaucracy	Not a priority in the country
Not relevant/too radical for situation in my country	Position does not allow	Leadership not open to new ideas	No money
	No access to policy-makers	No chance for bottom up change	Too early

Thank you!

Wish you fruitful and enriching visits!

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