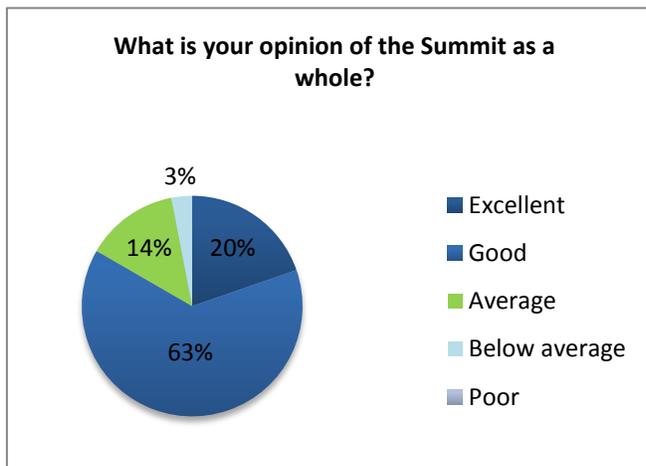


Summit 2009 evaluation

The Summit

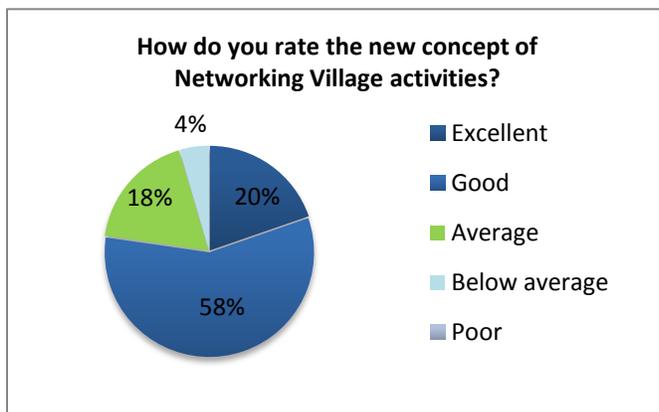
The 11th BDF Summit was held in Stockholm 5-6 October under the theme “Boosting Top of Europe” .The Summit started with an early arrival programme on Sunday 4 October, hosted by the European Commission in Stockholm. This year’s Summit gathered app 550 participants; during the Summit we conducted 67 questionnaire supported interviews with our participants.



The general feedback from the participants was very positive, “Excellent” and “Good”, was given by 83 % of the respondents. This is a slight increase compared to last year’s figures that compiled to 80% positive remarks. 82% of the responses indicate that the agenda of the Summit is covering the most important topics of the region and an overwhelming majority of the respondents expressed that they found the Summit heading relevant (74%). Just like last year the participants appreciated the high level of speakers and moderators 86% of the respondents gave the speakers a positive evaluation, which was a little higher compared with last year’s 81% positive marks.

Networking and the Networking Village

The main reason for participation among this year’s participants was Networking 46 %, Specific sessions 16% and fact-finding 19%. Since networking has been the by far main reason for participation in BDF Summit during the past years, and the concept of the Networking Village was a highly valued part of the 2008 Summit, it was additionally developed for this year’s Summit. The new extended Networking Village was positively evaluated by the responders.



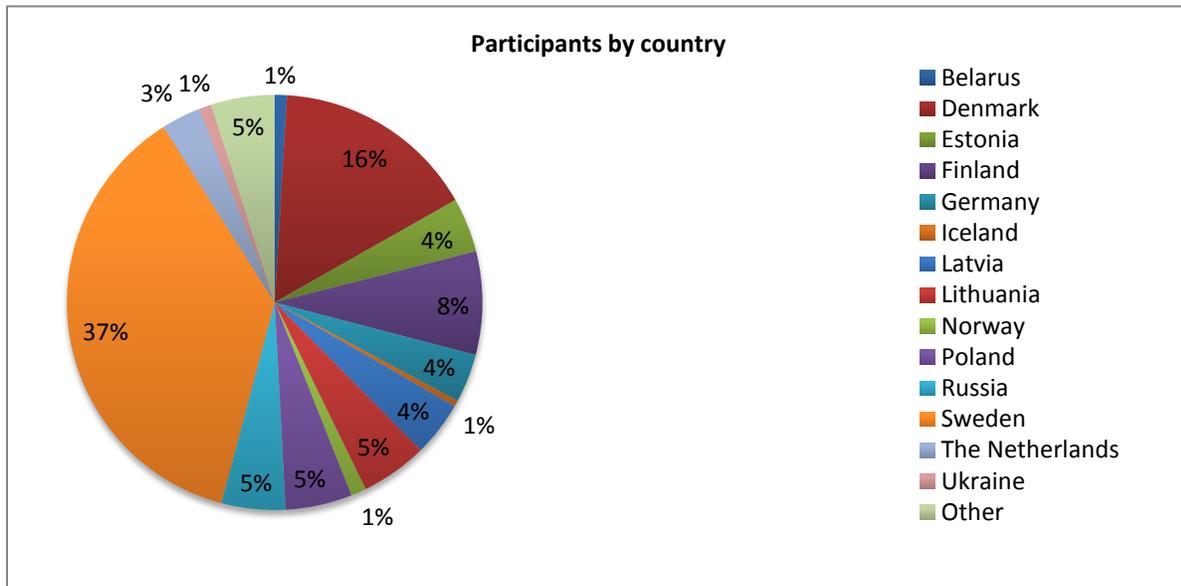
The possibilities for networking are given a positive response by 74% of respondents with the mark “Excellent” by 20% and “Good” by 54%. When it came to rating the exhibitions and their contribution to the content of the Summit, the marks were more moderate with 54% “Excellent” and “Good”, and 32% “Average”.

Participation

550 participants registered for the Summit 2009 which is an overall 10 % decline caused among other factors by the closeness of the annual conference of BSSSC and the overlapping in time with the Open Days in Brussels. Due to the chosen venue, Sweden took lead in the breakdown of national representatives with 37% followed by Denmark, the host country for the last year’s Summit. Participation from Poland, Germany and Russia is still not sufficiently high, but has increased from last year’s figures

with 25-50% when counted as percent of participants. Looking closer at Germany the slight increase should be seen as a positive tendency considering that 2009 was a “superwahljahr” and that the national scene gathered most of the attention. Participants from Ukraine and Belarus accounted for 1% respectively which is also a small increase. The participants from the Baltic countries; Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, accounted for 13% of the total, which is an increase by approximately 40 % comparing with last year. What is not visible from the statistics but is another positive feature, is the broad participation on the ministerial level from the three countries. Taking into consideration the severe crisis in the Baltic countries the high level of participation is even more positive.

The graph below shows the distribution of the main nationalities present at the Summit.



Participants by sector

The concept of the BDF Summit is to offer cross sector, cross level, and cross border meetings and networking possibilities. The triple helix structure can be recognized in the chart below. Academia was not as good represented as during last year’s Summit. This was to some extent compensated by the qualitative commitment to involve more academia in the session discussing a regional Think Tank contribution and in Networking Village activities.

