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Responses to free-text questions

All of these were at the end of the feedback survey.

What did you find most valuable about the weekend? For example, something you learnt, someone you met, a decision you made. Please expand.

- Plan making
- Bouncing ideas for career off people
- Having people push back on my own career plans. Meeting people with similar career goals to me.
- Meeting other EA members and discussing career choices etc. Cemented some decisions and clarified doubts about my career choices. Good to also discuss certain concepts and develop a better understanding of them.
- Meeting people, engaging with the community, making contacts, having space and time to talk about things at length
- Talking to other EAs to network (get contacts) and get resources
- Finding people happy to help to discuss my ea related problems to
- Defiantly going to do a masters degree, will consider AI more carefully
- Meeting other EAs, 1-1s, contacts from other attendees
- Talking to people with direct experience in the jobs/masters that I'm interested in. It was important that I was a) aware that these people had that knowledge to offer and b) had the opportunity to talk to them at length
- Meeting people and potentially helping them to change their ideas about cause prioritisation, but the same conversations helping me to reflect back on my own thoughts and plans about this

- Meeting other EAs for the first time, and actually feeling part of a community. I learnt about different approaches to the same ultimate goals, and it was valuable to remind myself about the importance of efficacy and efficiency.
- Have conversations with people which caused me to the long-term value of my current career plan.
- Generally learning a lot of things and getting to know a lot of new people.
- Meeting people interested in same field
- Getting feedback about my career ideas, and getting ideas about productivity, and making accountable commitments on things. Feeling more connected to EAs personally will help me avoid value drift and reinforce any altruistic intentions.
- I offered two or three people career advice/ideas that they seemed to appreciate and may in some way (hopefully positive!) influence their careers
- Hamming
- Realising that I should have a career session with David and reread some of give well, deciding it would be good to run productive disagreement workshops.
- Forming career plans, reinforcing intentions to do good, meeting AI Safety people, including talking to Holly
- Just in general speaking to people who were on a similar wavelength of morality & rationality and were intelligent and motivated — bulwark against value drift and dissolution of motivation
- Meeting people involved in EA; the decision-making workshop
- I learnt more about clean meat chatting to others and tried vegan pizza for the first time!
- Not sure yet, maybe I'll reflect in 60 years or so. Probably it will be people I met y a y. In the career club I was given good advice like starting a blog. I'm going to consider animals more after talking to people. Murphyjitsu was useful to summarise what I'd learnt although I didn't make dates for next steps ooopz
- Unsure

What was the most enjoyable about the weekend?

- 1-1s (3)
- 1-1
- Making new potential friends.
- Meeting other EA members.
- The social aspect
- Feeling like a community and meeting people
- Meeting peeps
- Being part of a friendly, open-minded group of people with many shared values
- Being able to go outside while talking
- The general vibe / community <3

- Discussing with people face to face things that I haven't yet been able to talk about before in such depth.
- Meeting new people. Pizza!
- 1-1s, the overall experience
- Going to the park for one to ones
- Socialising
- 1-on-1s
- Productive disagreements
- Meeting other energetic people
- Various discussions/talk that took place overall
- Chatting to people who are passionate about doing good
- Talking, learning new things.....? Feeling like I was doing a good thing and part of a community aw
- Some of the discussions in the free time

What was the least enjoyable about the weekend?

- Hard questions in the hamming circles round
- -
- I got bad hayfever during circling so couldn't concentrate, but that was my fault
- Weather somewhat tiring
- Some of the workshops were trivial/ unhelpful
- Intensity - drained by the end of day 2
- General sense of need to talk / socialise to people (I'm relatively introverted)
- The journey getting here!
- I became frustrated with how many discussions don't have a productive conclusion. However I accept this is part of process, as within these were small number of incredibly useful conversations which had a big impact. It was also also hard to predict when these conversations would occur.
- Pizza
- N/A
- Nothing specific to point out
- Larger group discussions (Due to the format not the subject)
- Being really tired (through no ones fault)
- Productive Disagreement Workshop. Hard to find disagreement. Many statements were too hard to have a confident belief on.

- Overall it was great; my only issues are fairly minor.
Decision making workshop – felt that I didn't learn much that was new to me (but I personally have done lots of thinking about decision-making)
Explaining concepts – some concepts I wasn't sure if I understood but actually did so had to sit through a lot of explanation about things I already knew. A 1-line description accompanying concepts, or some kind of pairing process, might have been more efficient. And some terms were fairly jargon-y and not too useful so maybe leave them out – people who came across these relatively uncommon terms could easily look them up if interested.
- The introduction was scary. Maybe feeling like I wasn't useful to anyone or a poor conversationalist at points. Not being able to hear people if they were further away.

Was there anything that made you feel uncomfortable or unwelcome during the event?

- No (6)
- -
- Not really
- Felt slightly uncomfortable with being allocated 1 to 1s with people I'd already spoken to a bit - but this still turned out to be useful so was worth it
- Having my values challenged can be quite uncomfortable, but was also really useful in reaffirming them.
- Ice breakers before introductions would have been nice.
- I don't like standing up to introduce myself. I prefer games. [deleted name] knows all about name games!
- No :)
- No
- No.
- David threw my half eaten wrap away >:(

Is there anything that should have been done differently?

- Some resources/specific things to think about beforehand, questions that are new that will be asked so there's more time to think
- How to talk about EA earlier in day
- One or two more lightning talks?
- No
- Perhaps a little more discussion about actual causes e.g. what should be done about AI
- I'd have preferred some of the discussions being workshops (how to talk about EA)
- Except making the workshops better, no.

- Lighter sessions on 2nd afternoon
- More provision of / linking to potentially useful resources on the topics discussed, e.g. in Sam's workshop.

Comparatively less time spent explaining - open up to questions or to put into practice on personally relevant examples? May benefit me more than others though because I tend to ask lots of questions and not be embarrassed doing this, whereas lots of people are.

- I think it would've been nice to have some music on or something during breaks. Might have helped with feeling drained.
- Some of the sessions could have been slightly better prepared or better structure. (Eg the session on specific topics could have been better structured, eg asking people to get up and suggest a topic to talk about and then let people to join any of the discussions, do something else or move between sessions [sometimes called 'open space'])

In addition to the 1-1s(which were really useful), the could have been some more structured socialising (eg having people come together in groups of 3 and talk about what they care about, what their problems are, etc and switch groups in eg 5 minute intervals)

Sometimes speakers were really difficult to understand due to the acoustics (though probably slightly better articulated or thoughtful speaking could have helped, as done speakers didn't have problems to be heard)

- Maybe one minute intros could be on a post it on a wall so that people coming a day late still know who does what. The talking about ea workshop could be more outcome focused, e.g. at the end of it you should have picked 3 people to talk to about ea and have a plan for how you're going to pitch it to each of them.
- I missed day 1, but I would have enjoyed more introductions
- Nothing major. But I would reinforce the point that scheduled things don't need to be attended and designate a location (likely outside) for people to meet and chat if they don't want to skip something (thereby basically facilitating some extra 1-on-1s)
- I found the monetary scoring and non-linearity of the feedback scores here was difficult to think about I suspect I did it badly.
- More time on talking about ea including role play would have been good
- Someone could have mentioned how David could help people more
- Tiny, pedantic point: it's better to give activity sheets out after a speaker has described them, otherwise some of us will start filling those in before the speaker has finished describing how to fill them in.
- David throwing my half eaten wrap away

Maybe better room acoustics

Some events were on at the same time but I wanted to do both, for example circling and decision-making workshop. Also more time for circling because we didn't really get into it.

Is there anything else you would like to tell or ask us?

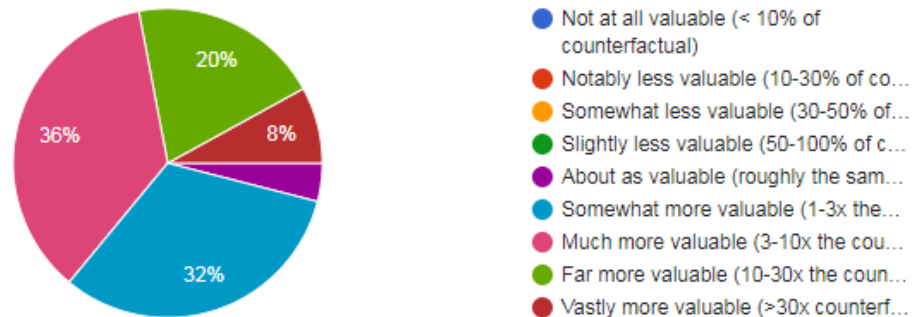
- How regularly do you think these events should happen?
- Thank you for organising this event - I have found it very valuable and I now feel that I am in a better position to pursue the career I want than I was before this event.
- Careers chats felt slightly like overkill by that point in the event - had already inevitably discussed careers lots and lots over the course of the weekend. Either shift earlier, or substitute some of the 1 on 1s for this?
- In our diversity discussion we discussed a desire to have more racial and class diversity in the movement. I suggested ea could fund some research into which interventions would be most effective in this area
- No
- Thank you for organising this!
- This was really awesome and probably the best EA event I have been to! There should be more of these! I would personally also welcome the opportunity for more small (2/3 people) semi-structured discussions at other events!
- One to Ones etc were great but quite tiring. I took part in one additional un-scheduled one to one and I think I took part in the right number.
- I really liked that it was all vegan!!! I also feel that the amount of people & the selection (level of knowledge of EA is the only criterion I know of) was just right. Also I would have liked to come for the second day but i had intervening social commitments and felt quite drained after the first day anyway (in a good way).
- I feel as if I have joined a cult, albeit one I want to join. I looked it up afterwards and found this, which is from 2017 so you may already have seen it:
<http://slatestarcodex.com/2017/08/16/fear-and-loathing-at-effective-altruism-global-2017/> The things that most stood out for me after reading the article: being dogmatic about not being dogmatic is what will (hopefully) prevent any problematic cult-like aspects; I have also rescued worms/creepy crawlies, if we ever do any promotional/marketing that is something to bear in mind; I agree with the writer about how wrong it would be to remove top level predators; the Qualia research place has caught my attention before and sounds fascinating.

Responses to rating scale questions

How did EA Weekend compare to what you would have done if you didn't come?

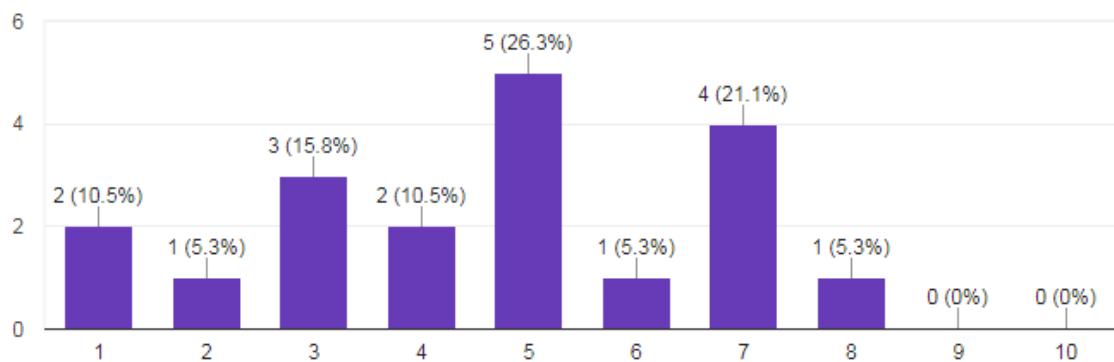


25 responses



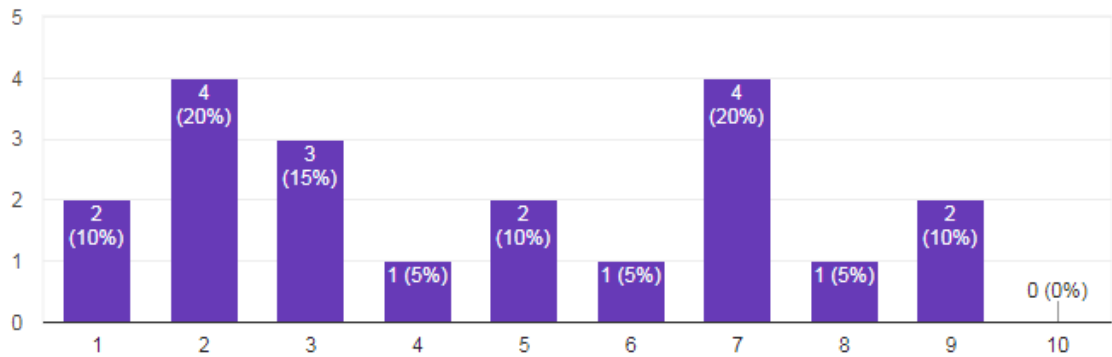
1 minute introductions: how useful? Note that an event could have been useful indirectly. Skip if you didn't participate.

19 responses



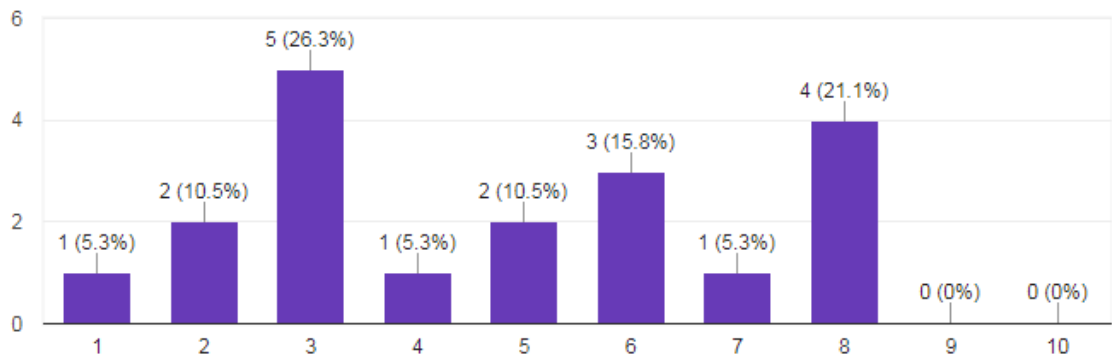
Explaining concepts: how useful (for having a greater positive impact)?

20 responses



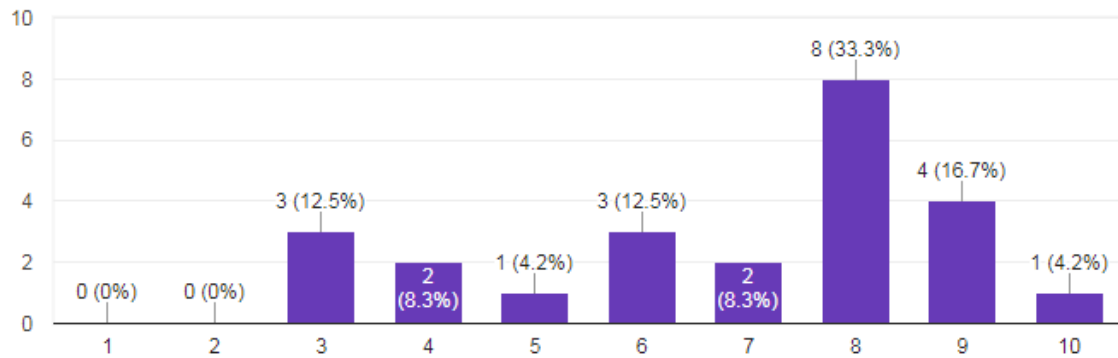
Productive disagreements workshop: how useful?

19 responses



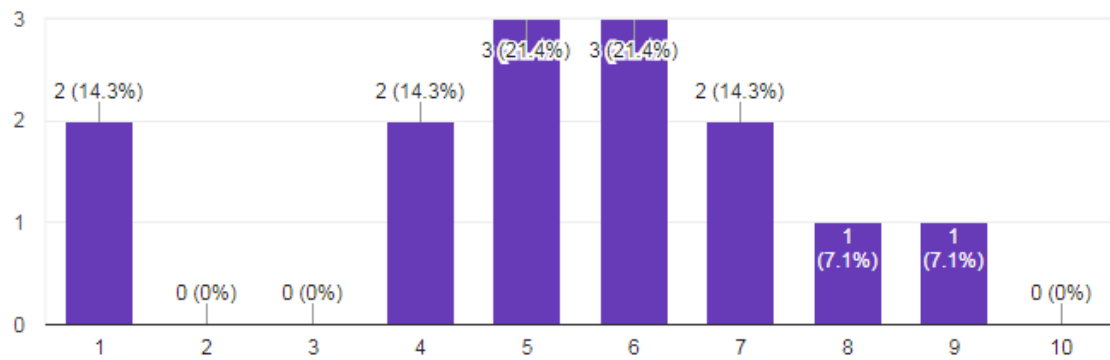
1-1s: how useful?

24 responses



Decision-making workshop: how useful?

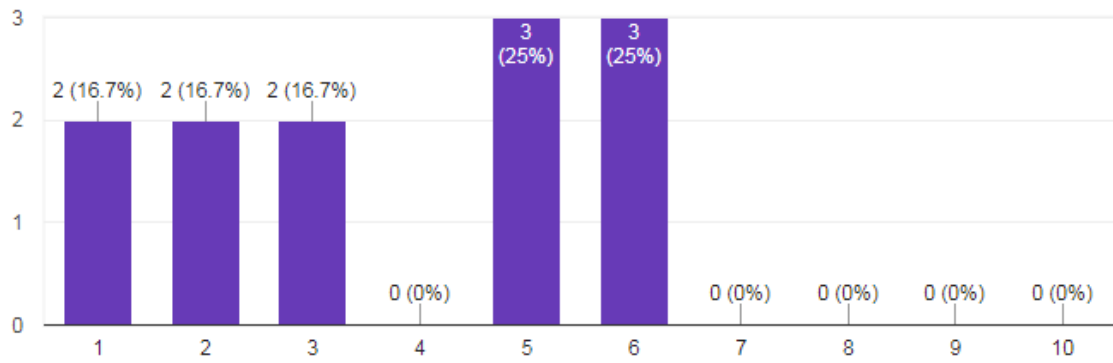
14 responses



Circling: how useful?

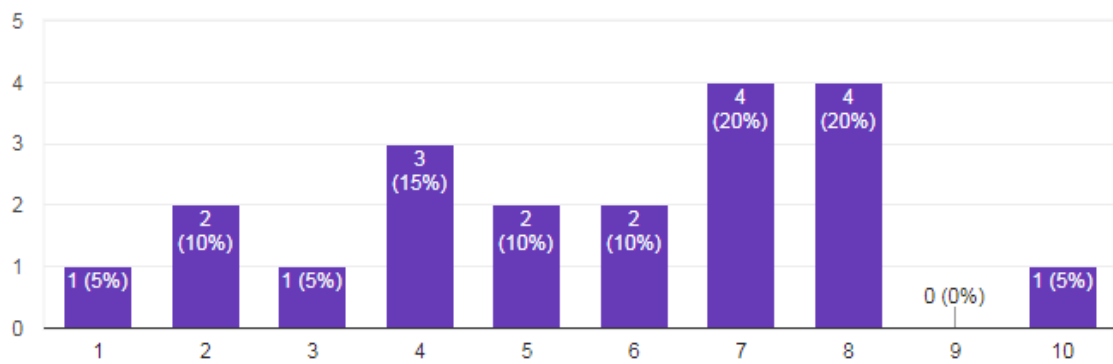


12 responses



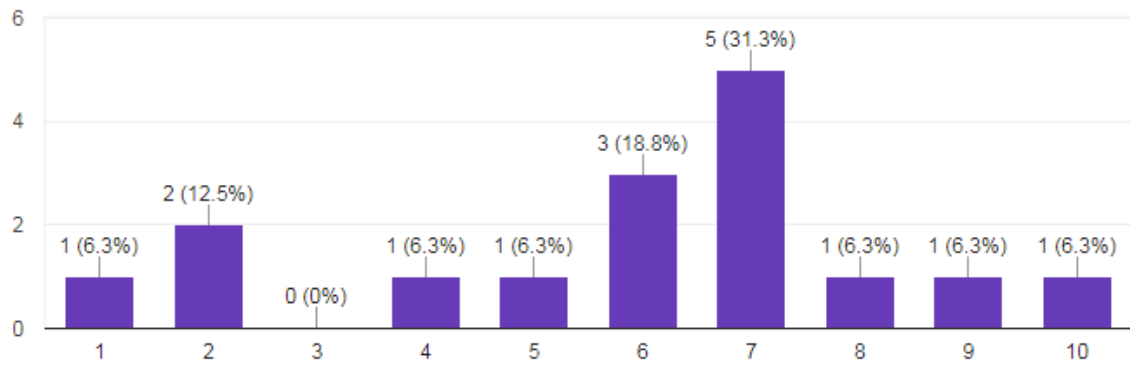
Hamming circles/Planning for the year: how useful?

20 responses



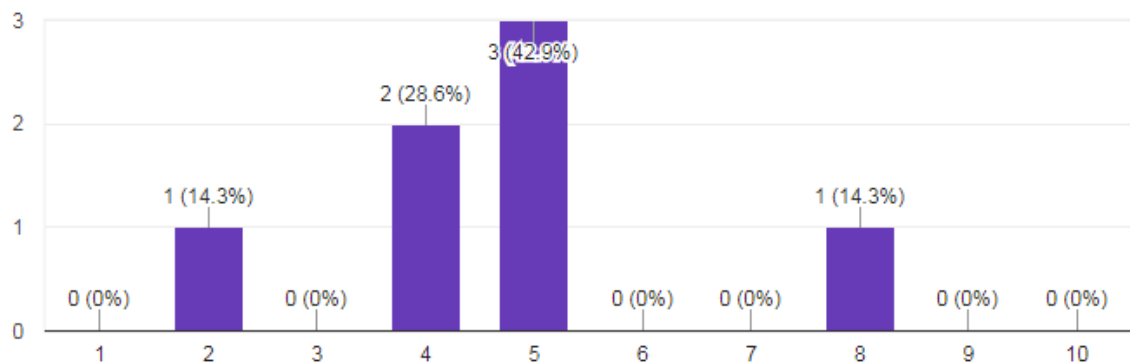
Career club: how useful?

16 responses



Discussion about where to donate: how useful?

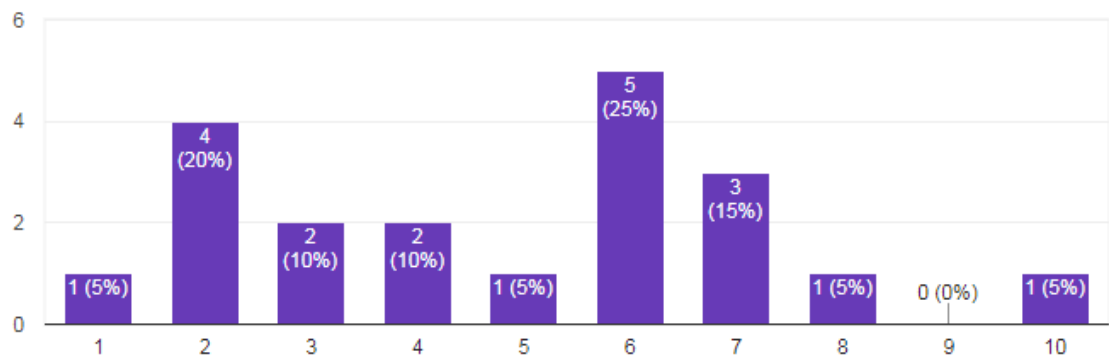
7 responses



Lightning talks (moral circle expansion and tax efficiency): how useful?

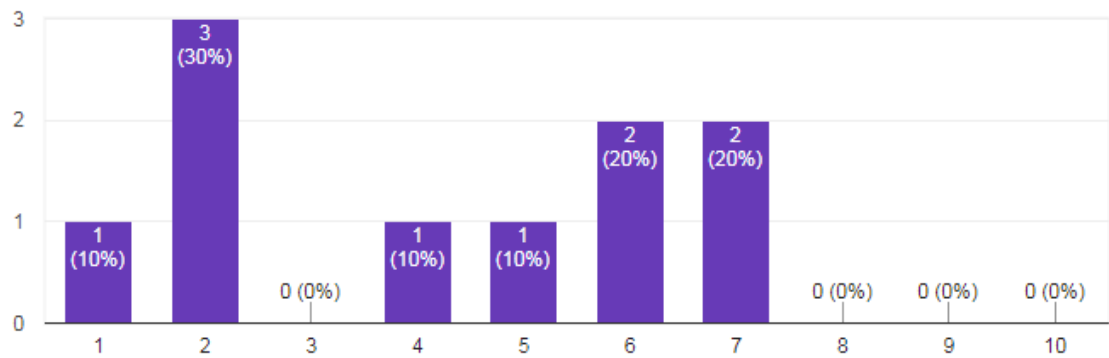


20 responses



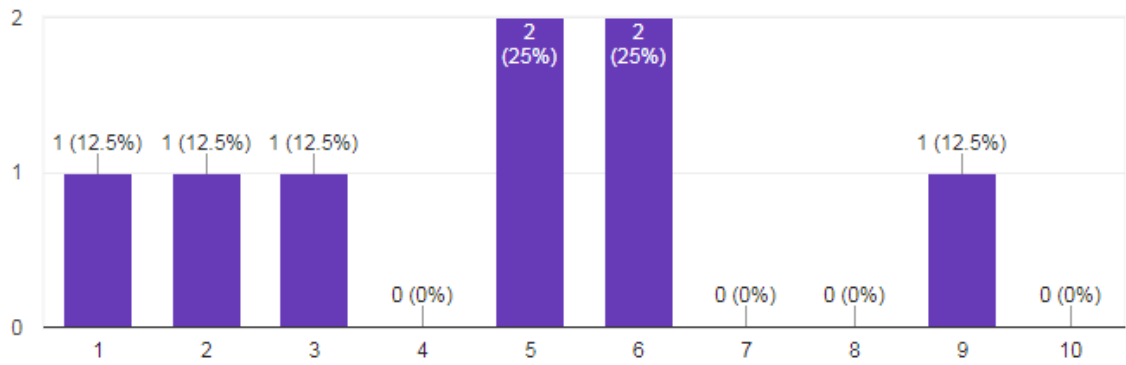
Discussion about diversity: how useful?

10 responses



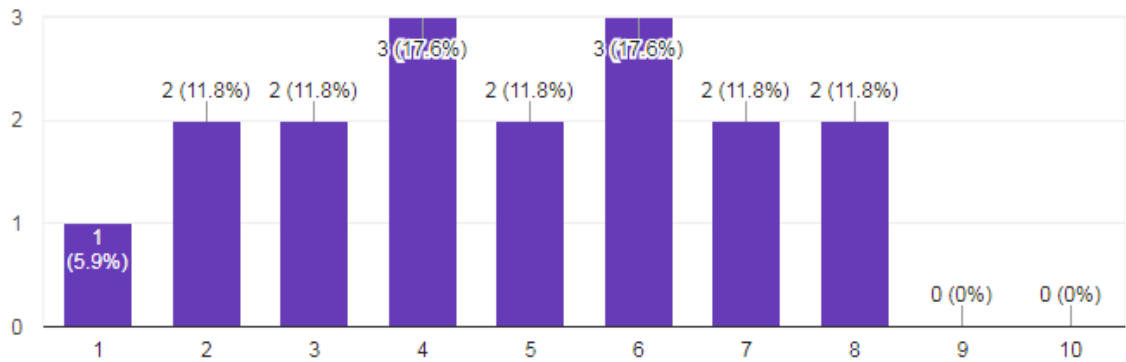
Self-improvement skill building and productivity workshop: how useful?

8 responses



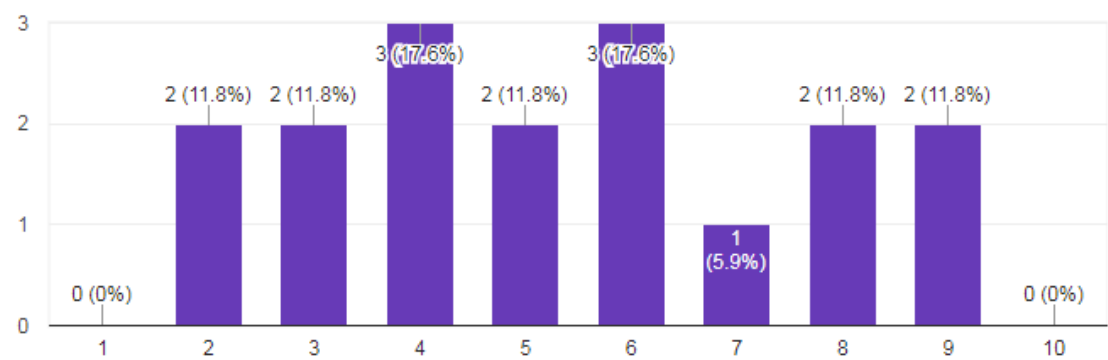
"How to talk about EA" workshop: how useful?

17 responses



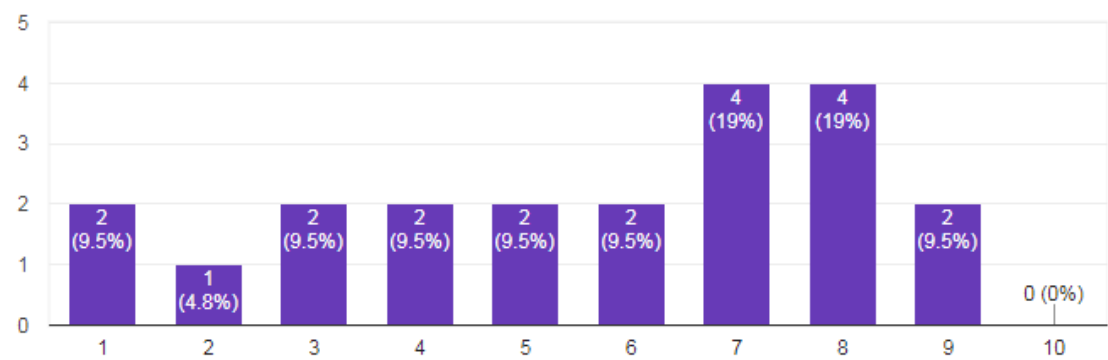
Murphyjitsu (next steps): how useful?

17 responses



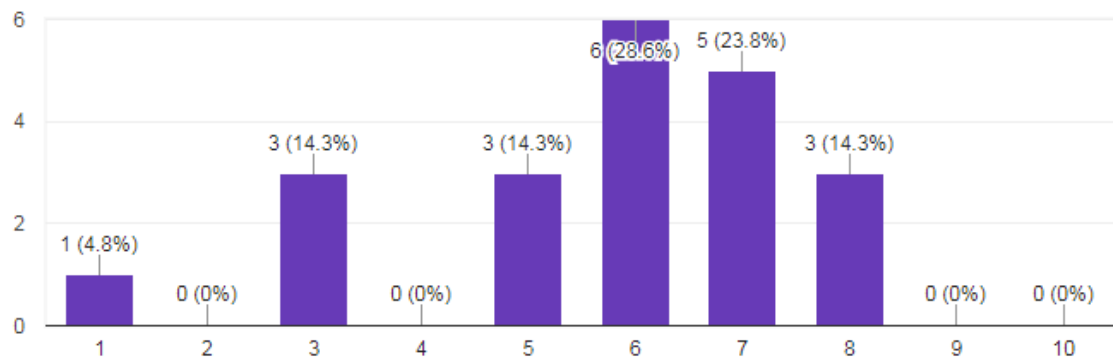
Socialising after the events: how useful?

21 responses



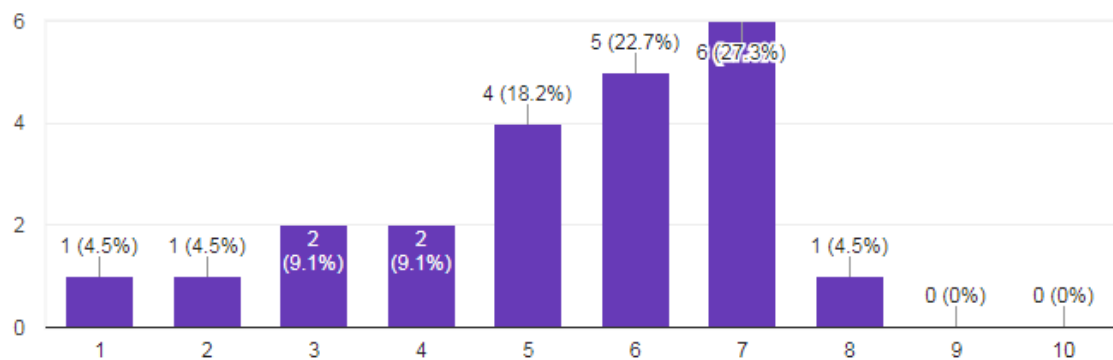
How draining did you find the first day to be?

21 responses



How draining did you find the second day to be?

22 responses



In which of these events would you want to participate again? (with different people)

25 responses

