

Training Course on Marine Spatial Planning processes

ICES TRAINING COURSE REPORT



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1 Summary

A training course on marine spatial planning was delivered to 15 participants attending from North America and Europe and composed of administrators, scientists and consultants from 18 to 22 February 2019 at ICES Headquarters, Copenhagen, Denmark. The course focused on planning processes as well as the management of such processes informed by stakeholder consultations and scientific advisory processes. It introduces the participants to the different spatial and temporal considerations when planning from an ecological, cultural, social and economic basis based on the ICES Cooperative Research Report No. 327 on marine spatial planning quality management system. The course was delivered through lectures supported by reading material and discussions. The board game edition of the MSP Challenge was used to allow the participants to put into practice the concepts and approaches from the lectures through role playing. Used primarily during second half of the day, the board game is used to apply the concepts of morning lectures and generate discussions.

2 Background

In July 2014, the European Parliament and the Council adopted legislation to create a common framework for maritime spatial planning in Europe. While each EU country is free to plan its own maritime activities, local, regional and national planning in shared seas need a minimum common requirements and approaches. Competition for maritime space – for renewable energy equipment, aquaculture and other growth areas – has highlighted the need for efficient management, to avoid potential conflict and create synergies between different activities. The intent of Maritime Spatial Planning in Europe is to:

- **Reduce conflicts** between sectors and create synergies between different activities.
- **Encourage investment** – by instilling predictability, transparency and clearer rules. This will help boost the development of renewable energy sources and grids, establish Marine Protected Areas, and facilitate investment in oil and gas.
- **Increase coordination** – between administrations in each country, through the use of a single instrument to balance the development of a range of maritime activities. This will be simpler and cheaper.
- **Increase cross-border cooperation** – between EU countries, on cables, pipelines, shipping lanes, wind installations, etc.
- **Protect the environment** – through early identification of impact and opportunities for multiple use of space.

3 Context

Marine spatial planning has become a significant planning process for dealing with the ever-increasing uses of the world's oceans and the need to protect and conserve marine biodiversity. Marine spatial planning activities have been initiated in North America, in some parts of the Pacific, and, in particular, in European regional seas. It provides an operational framework for the implementation of an ecosystem management approach to spatial and temporal uses of the marine environment. Based on Ehler, Zaucha, and Gee (2019):

“Marine/maritime spatial planning (MSP) is about managing the distribution of human activities in space and time to achieve ecological, economic and social objectives and outcomes.”

Today, it is considered to be a practical approach to sustainable development in the oceans with more than 20 countries having implemented marine spatial plans. Marine spatial planning is a policy driven process informed by authorities, stakeholders, science and technical expertise. In contrast to marine spatial planning that integrates an ecosystem approach, maritime spatial planning tends to be a sector planning activity as, for example, in the European Maritime Spatial Planning Directive and the European Marine Strategic Framework Directive.

3.1 Objectives

The key learning objective is to acquire an understanding of the need for a structured planning process including organizational structures needed for consultation and advisory processes. The objectives also includes an understanding of the importance of legislation and policies in establishing the scope and the context of the planning process. It introduces the students to the different spatial and temporal considerations when planning from an ecological, cultural, social and economic basis.

The course is organized along informational and conceptual lectures with a particular attention to feedback and discussions. The board game edition of the MSP Challenge through role playing to produce a marine spatial plan. Used primarily during second half of the day, the board game is used to apply the concepts of morning lectures and generate discussions.

3.2 Level

This training course is intended for planners and managers that are leading and managing marine spatial planning initiatives while providing an opportunity for scientist to gain a more in-depth understanding of the planning process and the information needs of such process.

4 Course Programme, Product, Deliverance and Instructions

4.1 Programme

European maritime spatial planning policy context

This topic introduces the student to European, transnational and national marine spatial policies. It includes European maritime development objectives and sub-regional seas agreements with examples from national contexts. It establishes the policy context needed for a maritime spatial planning process and the regulatory processes that a typical plan may support once implemented.

Maritime spatial planning, engagement, and advisory processes

This topic introduces the student to maritime spatial planning frameworks and approaches in policy development and operational plans. It introduces risk and quality management concepts for the planning process set within European development policy. It also introduces the roles of the specific disciplines that will be providing advice. Although the natural sciences play a key role in understanding ecosystem concerns in planning, the social sciences are discussed in terms of understanding cultural aspects of ecosystem services followed by the role of economic analysis in costs and benefits of management options. Finally, stakeholder engagement and public communication are discussed in terms of consultation and feedback requirements.

Maritime spatial planning process of engagement and negotiation

This topic introduces the student to the practice of engagement and negotiation that is at the heart of the most planning process. Based on the MSP challenge, a gaming approach is used where students are given a specific role and negotiation objectives within a maritime planning context. The game objective is to develop a marine spatial plan that takes into consideration legislative constraints, development objectives, industry sectors operational needs, community of interest concerns as well as environmental constraints and lack of information.

4.2 Course products

Further Readings

Gee, K., Zaucha, J., 2019. [Maritime spatial planning: past, present, future](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-98696-8), 1st ed. Palgrave MacMillan, Cham, Switzerland. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-98696-8>

This open access book is the first comprehensive overview of maritime or marine spatial planning. Countries across the globe are beginning to implement maritime spatial plans; however the authors of this collection have identified several key questions that are emerging from this growing body of MSP experience. Situated at the intersection between theory and practice, the volume draws together several strands of interdisciplinary research, reflecting on the history of MSP as well as examining current practice and looking towards the future. The authors and contributors examine MSP from disciplines as diverse as geography, urban planning, political science, natural science, sociology and education; reflecting the growing critical engagement with MSP in many academic fields.

As course preparation, we suggest reading Chapter 1 Maritime/Marine Spatial Planning at the Interface of Research and Practice.

Cormier, R., Kannen, A., Elliott, M., and Hall. P. 2015. [Marine Spatial Planning Quality Management System](#). ICES Cooperative Research Report No. 327. 106 pp.

This report combines elements of marine spatial planning processes and concepts of ecosystem management systems and ecosystem risk management frameworks to design a quality management system for a marine spatial planning process. In addition to providing background context, the report also provides further reading and quality assurance checklists of questions to help the reader design a QMS for their purpose and need. The report does not discuss or compare various QMS approaches as it is aimed at providing guidance for practitioners involved in marine spatial planning.

Key figures has been extracted for reference purposes during the course (Marine Spatial Planning Handout).

Ehler, Charles, and Fanny Douvère. [Marine Spatial Planning: a step-by-step approach toward ecosystem-based management](#). Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and Man and the Biosphere Programme. IOC Manual and Guides No. 53, ICAM Dossier No. 6. Paris: UNESCO. 2009 (English).

This is guide is one of the most well-known step-by-step approach to undertake an MSP processes. Steps are illustrated with relevant examples.

Ehler, Charles. 2014. [A Guide to Evaluating Marine Spatial Plans](#), Paris, UNESCO, 2014. IOC Manuals and Guides, 70; ICAM Dossier 8.

This guide is an attempt to undertake steps to monitor and evaluate the performance of marine spatial plans once implemented.

Other sources of information

UNESCO

Marine Spatial Planning Program

<http://msp.ioc-unesco.org/>

European MSP Platform

<https://www.msp-platform.eu/>

European Atlas of the Sea

https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/atlas/maritime_atlas/#lang=EN;p=w;bkgd=5:1;theme=2:0.75;c=1253866.2175874896,7043096.157867512;z=4

US Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning

<https://cmsp.noaa.gov/>

Australian Marine Spatial Information System

<http://www.ga.gov.au/scientific-topics/marine/jurisdiction/amsis>

4.3 Deliverables

European maritime spatial planning policy context

Specific learning objectives:

- EU Maritime Spatial Planning Directive
- European, transnational and national institutional and governance structures
- Role of European Regional Seas agreements in maritime spatial planning
- Links between maritime spatial planning and environmental assessment processes

Maritime spatial planning, engagement, and advisory processes

Specific learning objectives:

- Maritime spatial planning processes and governance
- Management of the planning process
- Ecosystem approach to management and monitoring
- Cultural, social and economic aspects and ecosystem services

Maritime spatial planning process of engagement and negotiation

Specific learning objectives:

- The role of the competent authority, governance and actors in decision-making
- The role of planning objectives as well as established processes and steps
- The process of engagement, feedback and negotiation
- The role of scientific and technical advisory processes and uncertainty
- The use of policy, feedback and advice in the design of spatial management measures

4.4 Course instructors

Andreas Kannen and Roland Cormier, Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht, Germany

4.5 Recommendations

The course focus and scope have to be adapted and tailored to the backgrounds and interests of the participants attending the course even though the training material, MSP Challenge board game and learning objectives are the same for each training session.

Annex 1: List of participants

Name	Institute
Anna Madriles Helm	COFAD Consultants for Fishery, Aquaculture and Regional Development mbH
Camille Vogel	Ifremer
Cem Serimozu	Middle East Technical University, Northern Cyprus Campus
Julie Krogh Hallin	ICES Secretariat
Karolina Andersen	ICES Secretariat
Liisi Lees	Estonian Marine Institute of Tartu University
María Gómez Ballesteros	Spanish Institute of Oceanography
Mario Caña Varona	IEO
Olvido Tello	IEO
Pablo Durán Muñoz	Instituto Español de Oceanografía Centro Oceanográfico de Vigo
Paul Coleman	Marine Institute
Sarah Wong	Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change
Theodora Paramana	University of Athens
Therese Harvey	NIVA Denmark Water Research
Tom Brook	APEM Limited - Marine Consultancy (Fisheries)

Annex 2: Agenda

Timeline	Course program and learning activities
Monday 10:00	ICES opening remarks and housekeeping logistics Introductions and learning expectations of the participants Course material and program briefing
Monday 13:30	Marine spatial planning case studies in Europe
Monday 14:30	MSP Challenge Board Game – Getting familiar with the issues
Monday 18:00	<i>ICES “ice breaker” meet and greet</i>
Tuesday 09:00	Managing the marine spatial planning process
Tuesday 13:30	MSP Challenge Board Game – Scope and context of policy
Wednesday 09:00	Marine spatial planning process engagement and advisory processes
Wednesday 13:30	MSP Challenge Board Game – Stakeholder consultation and feedback
Thursday 09:00	Evaluation of the effectiveness and feasibility of marine spatial allocations
Thursday 13:30	MSP Challenge Board Game – Monitoring and review of spatial allocations
Thursday 19:00	<i>Group diner (participants own expense)</i>
Friday 09:00	General debrief of the learning objectives and MSP Challenge board game Review of the participants expectation and course curriculum
Friday 13:00	Course evaluation and discussion on future improvements
Friday 15:00	End of the course

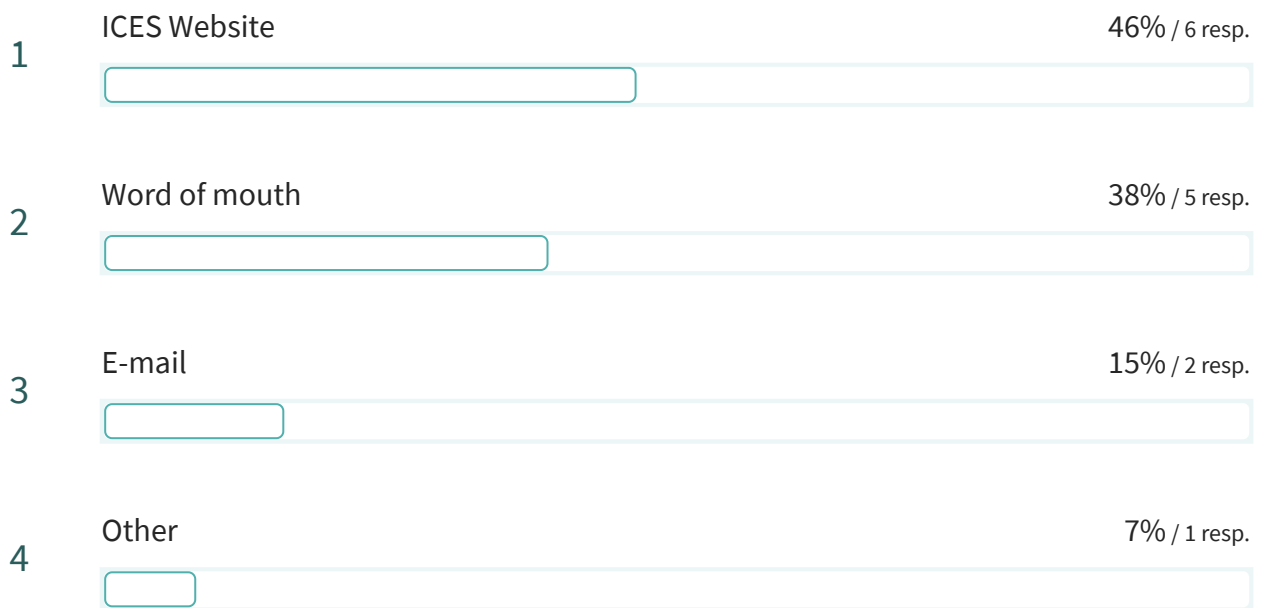
Annex 3: Results of the survey

ICES TC Survey - TCMSP2019

13 responses

How did you hear about this course?

13 out of 13 answered

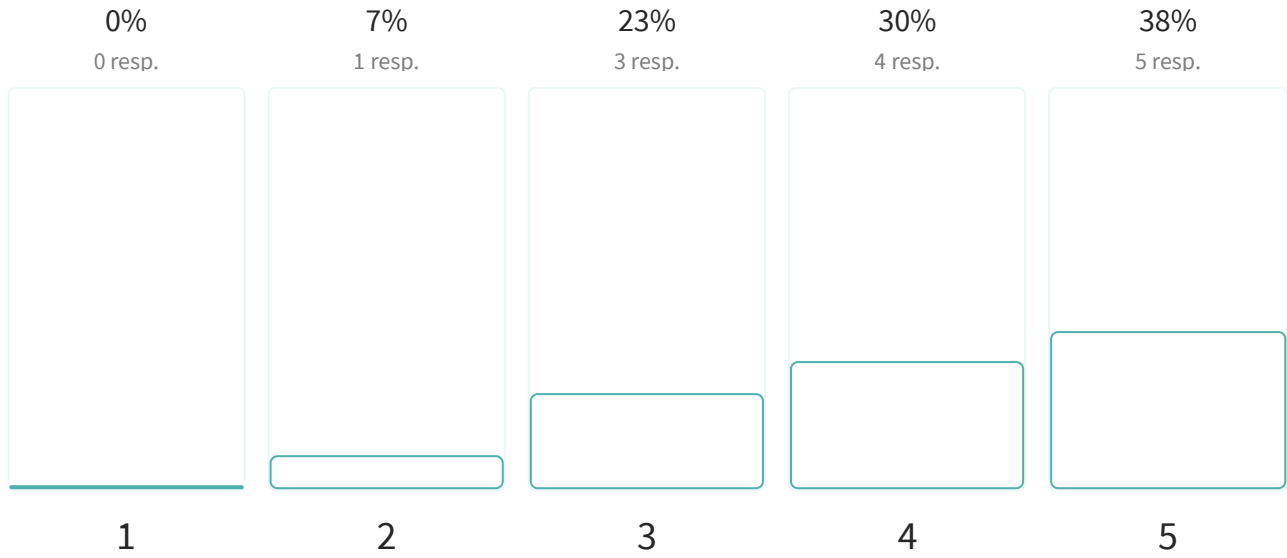


Course content

Did the Training course meet your expectations?

13 out of 13 answered

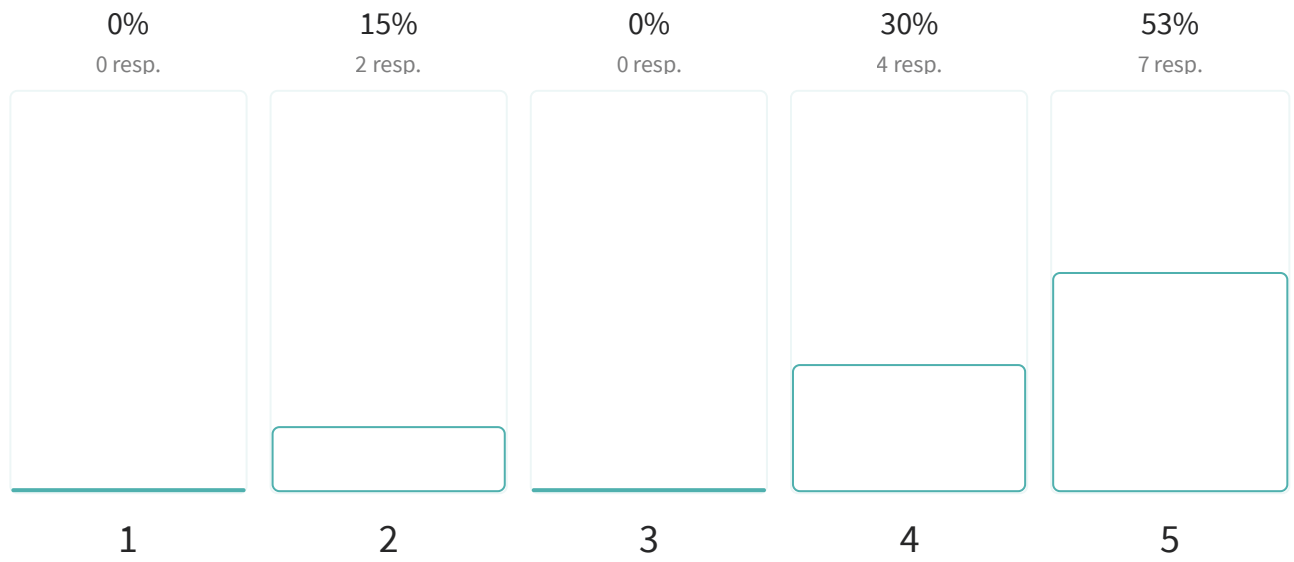
★ **4.0 Average rating**



Was the level of instruction appropriate?

13 out of 13 answered

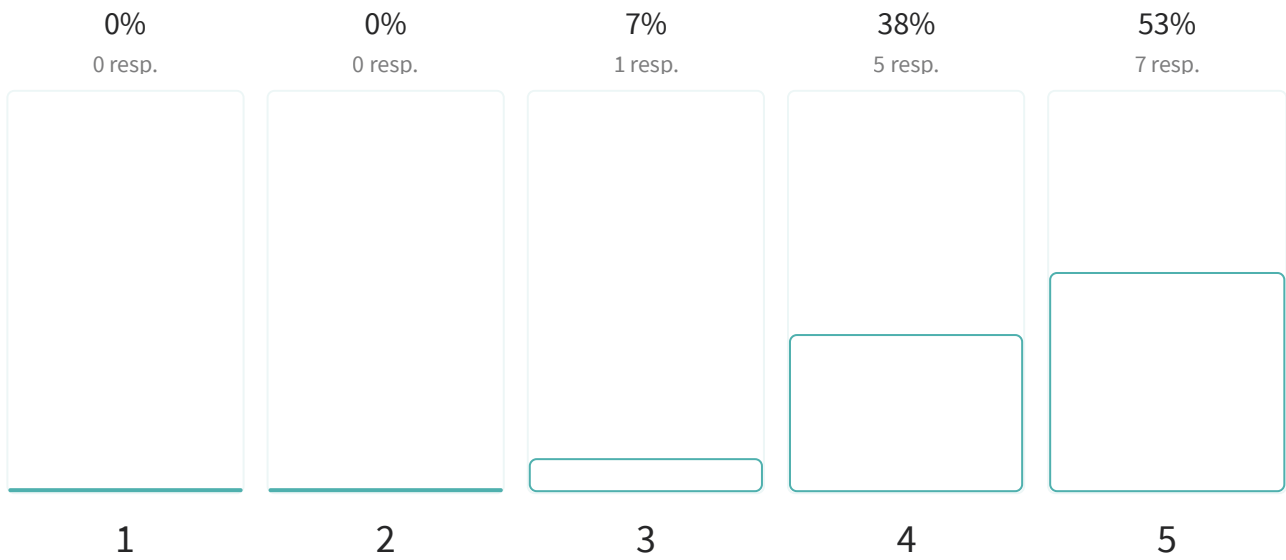
★ 4.2 Average rating



Was the length of the training course appropriate?

13 out of 13 answered

★ 4.5 Average rating

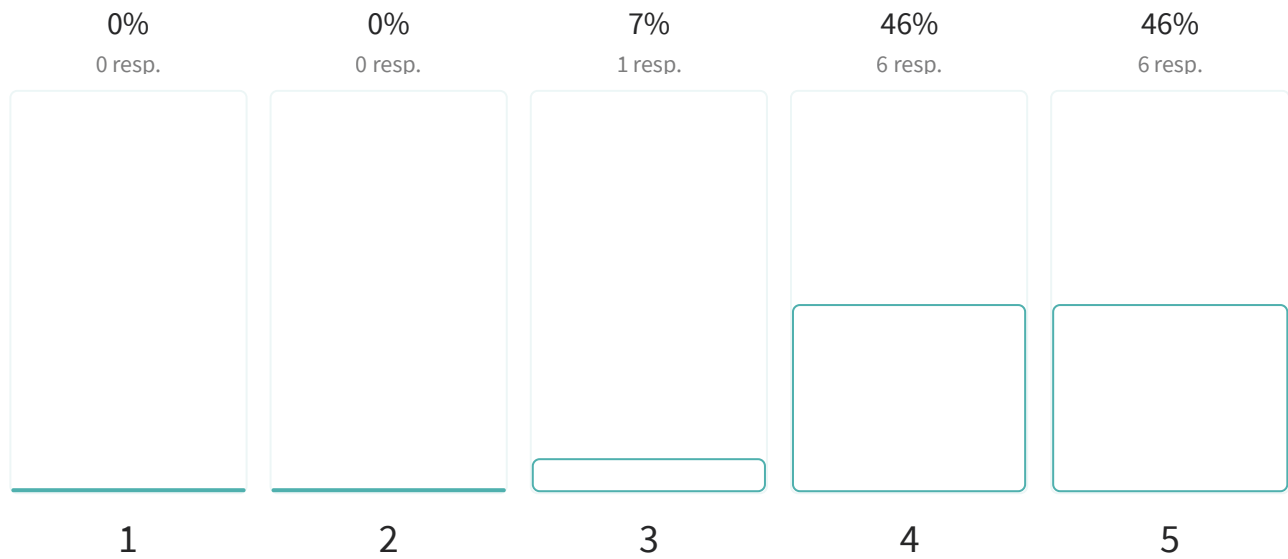


Course Organization

Inscription to the training course and communication with organizers were efficient.

13 out of 13 answered

★ 4.4 Average rating

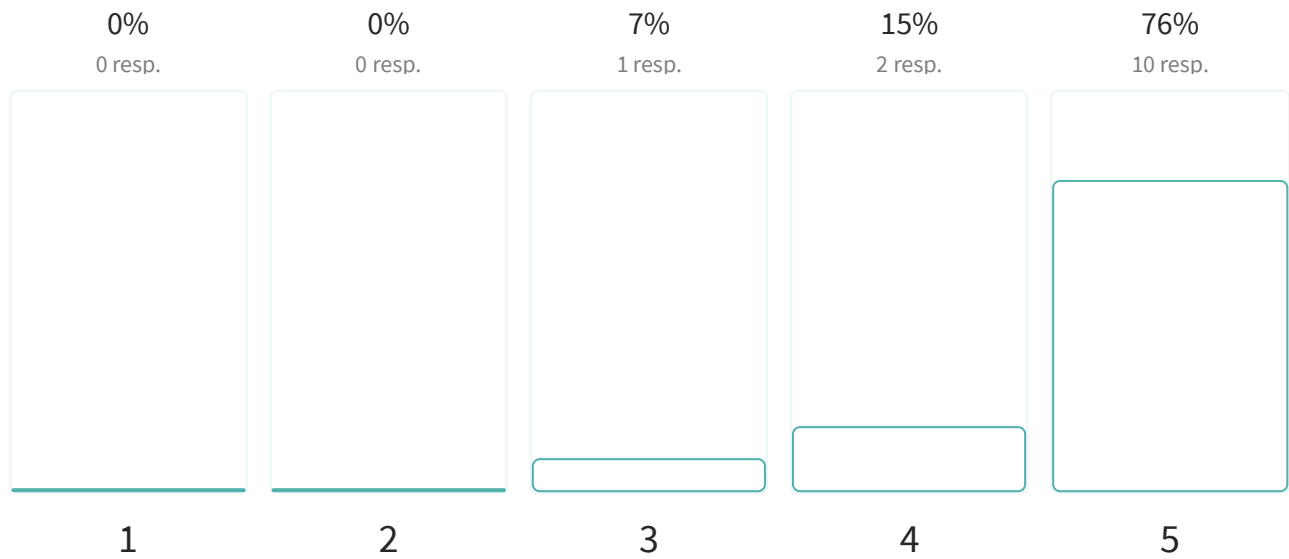


Teaching and Learning Support

The instructors were helpful, informative, and approachable.

13 out of 13 answered

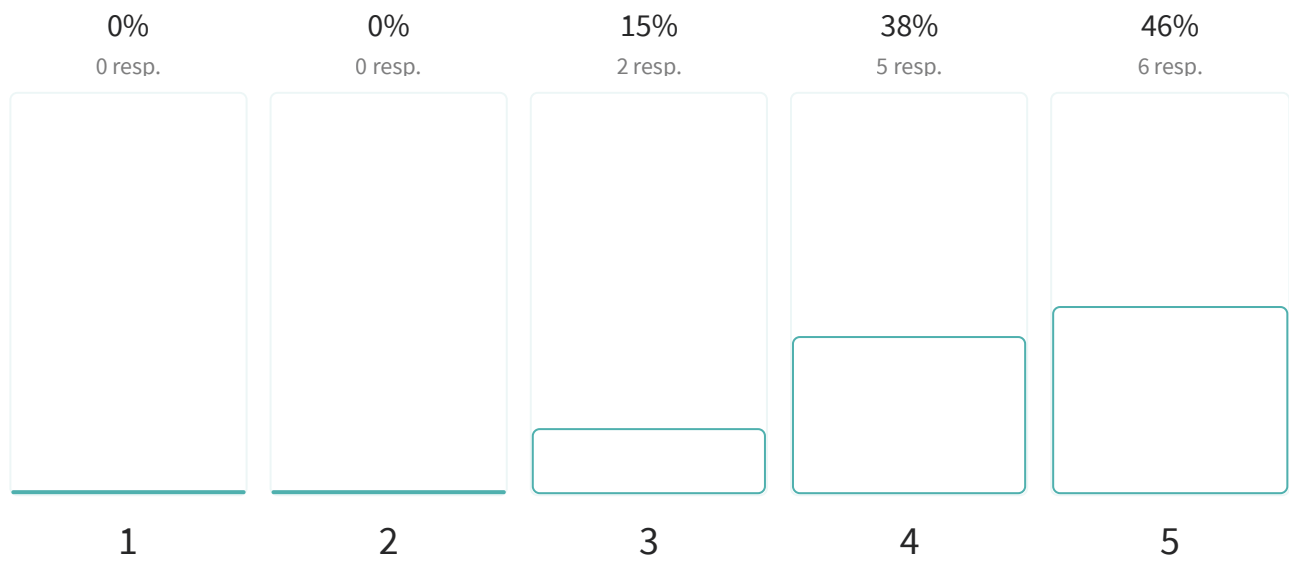
★ 4.7 Average rating



The working documents were presented in a way that facilitated learning.

13 out of 13 answered

★ 4.3 Average rating

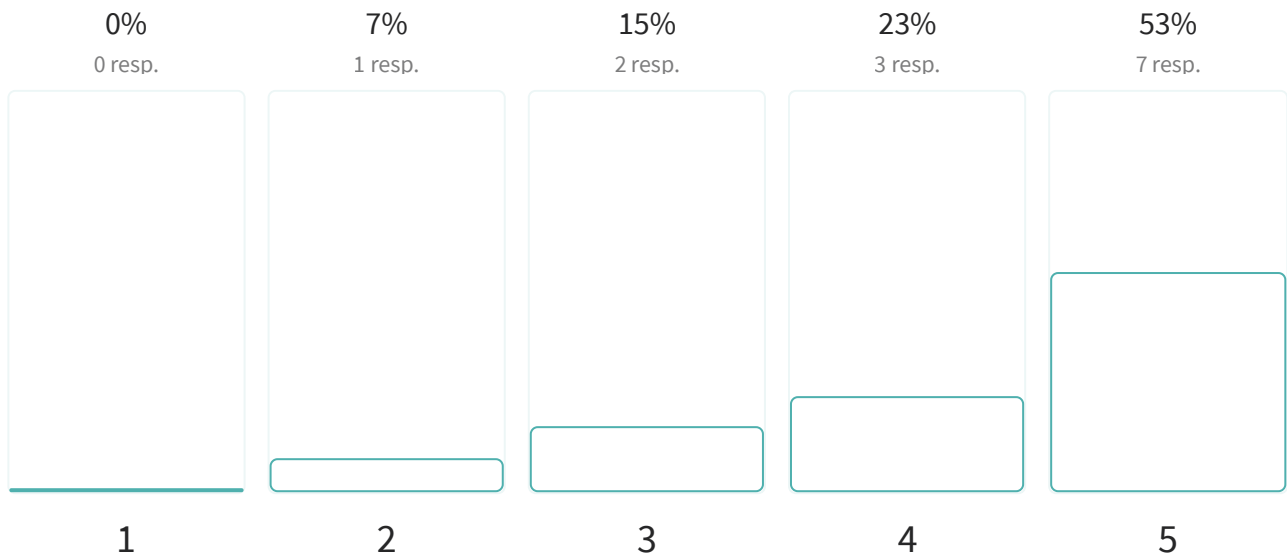


Overall Evaluation

How would you rate this training course?

13 out of 13 answered

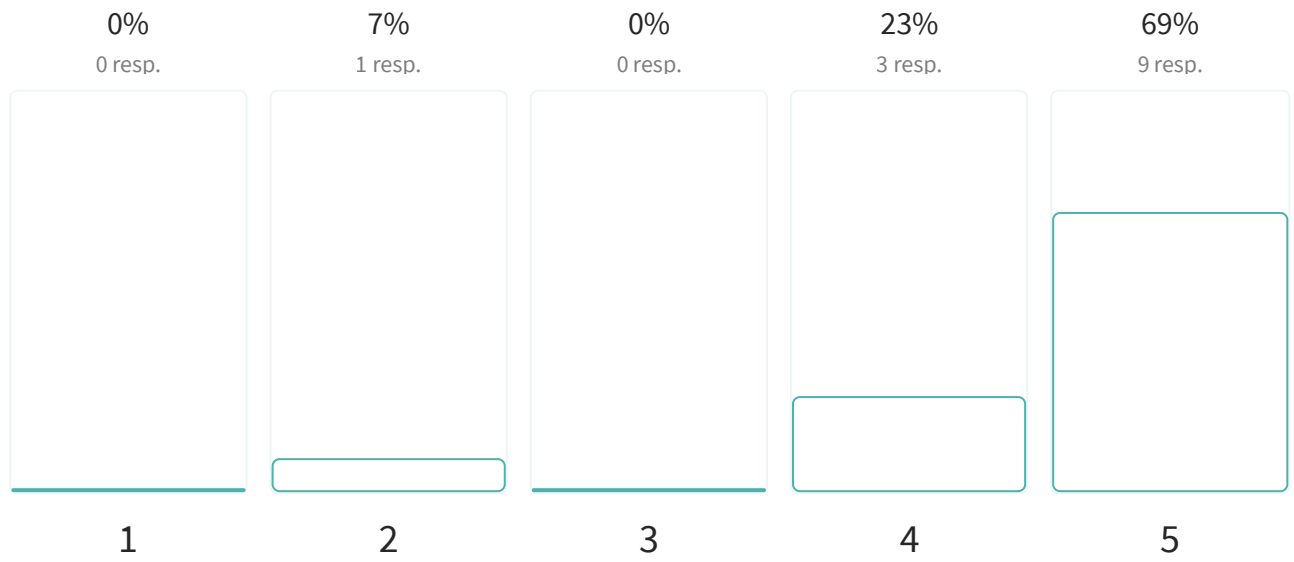
★ 4.2 Average rating



How would you rate the quality of the teaching?

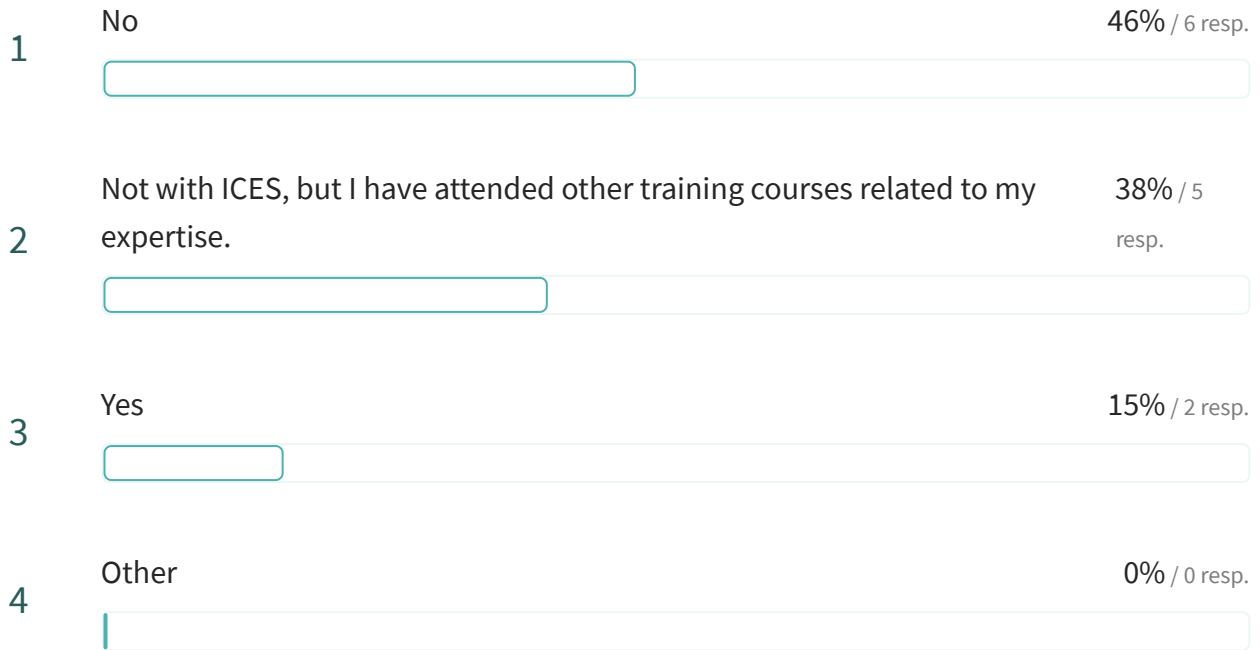
13 out of 13 answered

★ 4.5 Average rating



Have you taken any other ICES training courses?

13 out of 13 answered



Would you be interested in another training course within ICES?

13 out of 13 answered



Social Event

Do you feel that you have benefited from networking opportunities on the course?

13 out of 13 answered

