



ANGEL Summer School
for early career researchers

Researching Global Education & Learning: Using literature

University of Bologna, June 21-24

Event report & Evaluation



UNESCO Chair in
Global Citizenship Education
in Higher Education



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA



Chair



Co-funded by
the European Union

Background

The first ***International Summer School on Researching Global Education and Learning***, with a focus in 2022 of '*Using literature*', stems from cooperation between the UNESCO Chair of Global Citizenship Education at the University of Bologna, the Academic Network on Global Education and Learning (ANGEL) and the Development Education Research Centre (DERC) at UCL, with the support of Global Education Network Europe (GENE). This event, along with the other activities of the ANGEL network, are co-funded by the European Union.¹

The Summer School aimed to provide students with a theoretical overview of global education research and the practical skills to conduct a literature review, focusing on methods to (systematically) explore academic literature. The programme offered a wide range of approaches and practical tools for querying databases, systematic reviews and the recent development of qualitative reviews, various types of syntheses and meta-analyses.

Faculty

The Summer School Faculty belong to different European Universities and Research Centres:

- ANNETTE SCHEUNPFLUG, University of Bamberg, Germany
- CLARE BENTALL, University College London, England
- KARIN HANNES, University of Leuven, Belgium
- LUCA GHIROTTI, Qualitative Research Unit at Azienda USL, Italy
- RITA MARZOLI, INVALSI CENTRE, Italy

Lectures

Professor [Annette Scheunpflug](#) led the first lecture on semantic and conceptual questions.

Professor [Clare Bental](#) led the second module on the role of literature analysis in research in general. The third module, led by Professor [Karin Hannes](#), explored the transition from the research question to the systematic approach of literature analysis.

The fourth and fifth modules were conducted by Dr [Rita Marzoli](#) and Professor [Luca Ghirotto](#), and offered literature research guidelines to build an effective literature research strategy in the field of education.

¹ The establishment of the ANGEL network, and the running of this event, has been made possible with funding support from the European Commission.

The activities and publications of the network are the responsibilities of the organisers (the Development Education Research Centre and the University of Bologna), and can in no way be seen as reflecting the views of the European Commission.

Groupwork

From approximately 17.00 to 18.15 each day, all participants were divided into 6 ‘language groups’ to proceed with the literature analysis in the national databases. At the end of the week, they presented a systematic research paper on GEL topics. This work still needs to be combined and finalised. This material will be used for the future Digest.

Groups composition (Dark blue: name of group supervisor)

Clare Bentall	British	ENG	ENG mother tongue
Anna Callaghan	Irish	ENG	ENG mother tongue
Aoife Titley	Irish	ENG	ENG mother tongue
Bright Golden	Irish	ENG	ENG mother tongue
Fiona king	Irish	ENG	ENG mother tongue
Kathryn Abell	British	ENG	ENG mother tongue

Magdalena Kuleta-Hulboj	Polish	POL	ENG L2
Dobrawa Aleksiak	Polish	POL	ENG L2
Seánín Hoy	Irish	ENG	ENG L2
Aishling Silke	Irish	ENG	ENG L2
Laura Griffin	British	ENG	ENG L2
Kristína Rankovová	Slovakian	SLOVAK	ENG L2

Carla Inguaggiato	Italian	ITA	Spanish
Diego Posada	Uruguyan/Italian	SPA	Spanish
Francesca Aloï	Italian	ITA	Spanish
Silvia Espinal Meza	Peruvian	SPA	Spanish

Francisco Parrança da Silva	Portuguese	POR	Portuguese
Andreia Vieira Reis	Portuguese	POR	Portuguese
Paula Lopes Gomide	Brazilian	POR	Portuguese

La Salete Coelho	Portuguese	POR	French
Riikka Suhonen	Finnish	FIN	French
Frederick Fondenyuy Njobati	Cameroon	LAMNSO	French
Nyiramana Christine	Rwanda	KINYARWANDA	French
Niyibizi Emmanuel	Rwanda	KINYARWANDA	French
Souzana Yiamaki	Greek/Cyprus	ENG/FRA	French

Susanne Timm	German	DE	German
Eva Verena Kleinlein	Germann	DE	German
Rachel Kate Ann Bowden	German/British	DE/ENG	German

Marcella Milana	Italian	ITA	Italian
Stefania Moser	Italian	ITA	Italian
Giulia Filippi	Italian	ITA	Italian
Claudia Paganoni	Italian	ITA	Italian
Elisa M.F. Salvadori	Italian	ITA	Italian
Valeria Cotza	Italian	ITA	Italian
Francesca Gabrielli	Italian	ITA	Italian
Laura Landi	Italian	ITA	Italian
Lamberti Mattia	Italian	ITA	Italian
Rika Nakamura	Japanese	JAPANESE	Italian

Place and dates

June 22 – 24, 2022

The Summer School fee was 350 euros, and included accommodation, a social dinner, lunches and coffee-breaks. Transport to and from Bologna was provided by shuttle. The overall cost of the summer was EUR 350, or 300 for ANGEL members. The low cost of attendance, chosen to accommodate young students from different countries, was made possible by GENE's financial support.

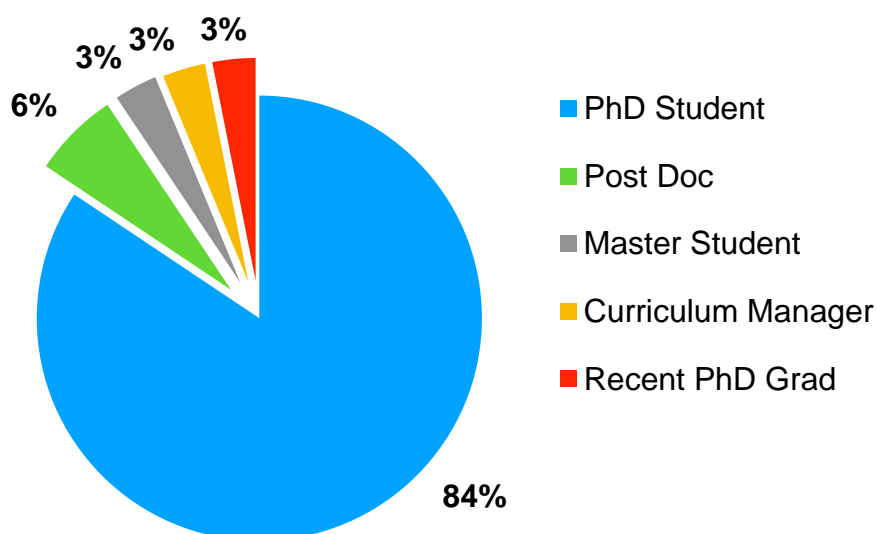
The event was 3 full days (9:00-13:00 and 14:00-18:00) and took place in the Bertinoro conference centre of the University of Bologna, located in historical castle in an isolated village on the hills near Bologna and Forlì. Students were housed in the CEUB facility and classes were organised in the castle's various halls.

The fourth day (24th) was dedicated to attending the UNESCO GCED Chair in Higher Education launch conference in Bologna, Palazzo Farnese, in the presence of the city mayor, the rector and distinguished guests, as well as scholars of the subject including Liam Wegimont.

Participants

Over 100 applications were received. From these applications, a group of 40 students was selected based on a review conducted by a scientific committee (ANGEL Advisory Board) set up to ensure the correct level of experience of participants, their relevance to the theme, and general heterogeneity (unfortunately not in a gender distribution). There was also a waiting list of about 15 students.

After some dropouts due to some health and personal problems, confirmed attendees numbered 32 (2 from the last-minute waiting list). Most of the students were female and aged 24-30 (male 30/32). There were some older participants, but all were early career researchers, except 3 assistant professors.

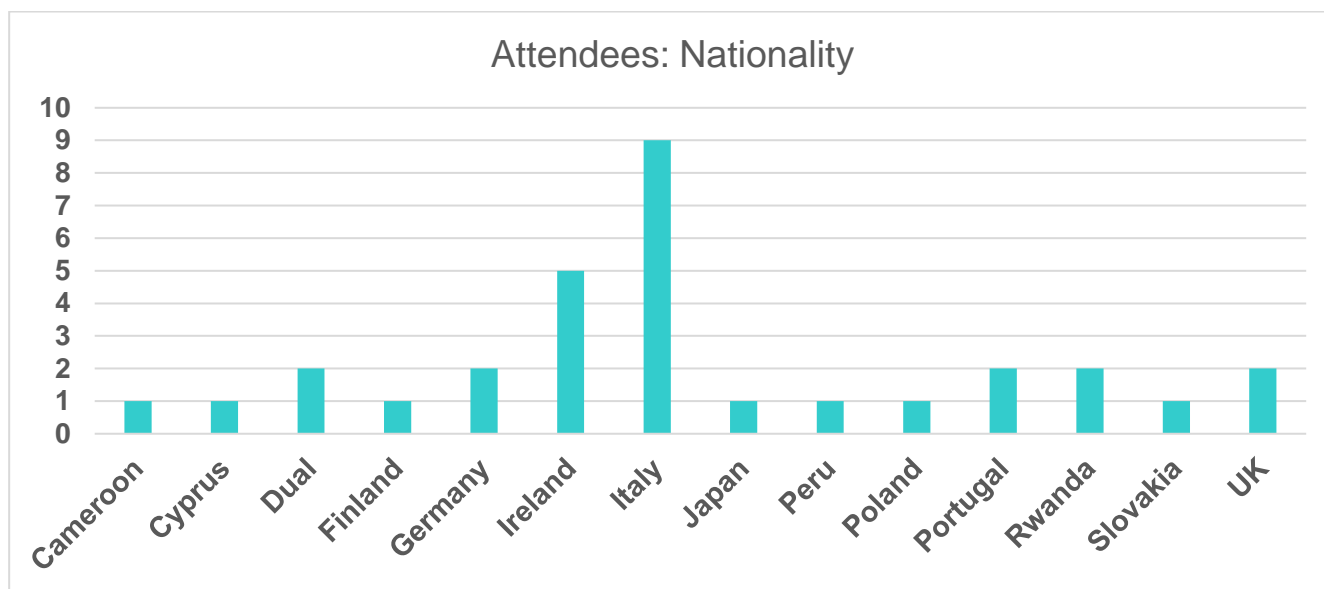


Students' background

The different topics of participants' research interests were collected in a shared document and based on the frequency of the reported themes, the research background of the participants can be summarized in this word-cloud².



The summer school was attended by students of 14 different nationalities, some of them having dual citizenship. Students spoke different mother tongues: English (9), Polish (1), Slovak (1), Kinyarwanda (2), Lamnso (1), Spanish (2), German (3), Italian (9), Portuguese (3), Finnish (1).



Participants came from Universities and Research Centres from across the world, with many seemingly working outside of their country of birth.

Many (48%), but not all, were ANGEL members.

² Number of participants who shared their topics of interest: 20. Topic frequency above 5.

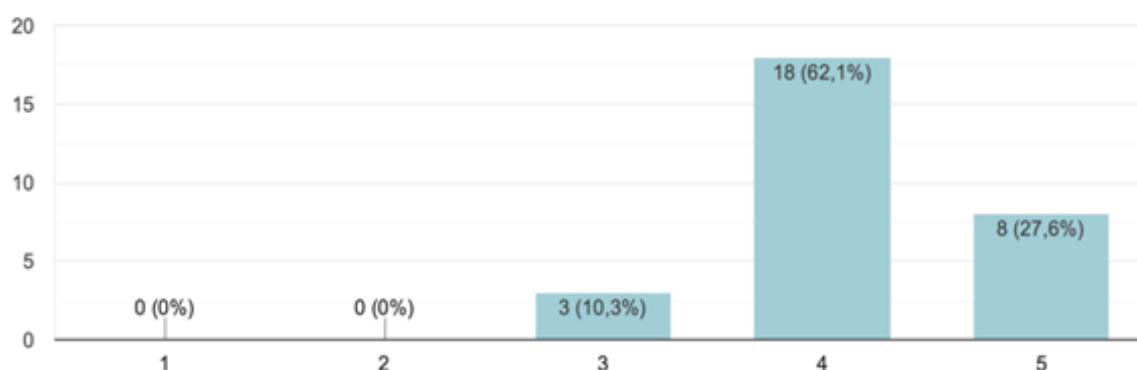
Evaluation / Feedback

On the last day, the participants were asked to fill in an on-line evaluation form. We have collected 29 responses out of 32. The form consisted of 5 closed questions in which participants had to rate specific aspects, and 3 open questions in which participants could add comments and suggestions. Further questions were asked in order to collect participants' personal information.

In general, there was a very high appreciation rate: about 90% of attendees declared they were satisfied or very satisfied with the overall experience. The theme of the Summer School was highly appreciated and the various lectures were rated highly informative. More diverse opinions were collected about the accommodation. This was due to the fact that some rooms had more comforts than others, and the wifi connection did not always work adequately.

In the description below we organise the collected comments in order to emphasise insights for future improvements.

QUESTION 1. Please rate the overall experience of this Summer School (1: Poor / 5: Excellent)



Comments:

"Overall I really enjoyed the event and I appreciate the staff's prompt supports and the efforts"

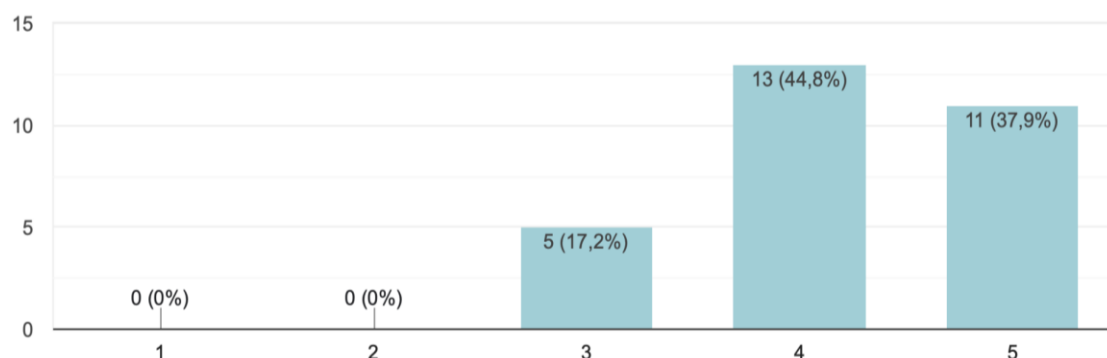
"As a first summer school organised by the network, I would say that it was good"

"It was a great experience not only in terms of information I got but also in terms of people that have attended. Very safe and comfortable environment"

"I had a wonderful time with wonderful people. I learned a lot of valuable lessons regarding my research thank you"

"The summer school was energetic, informative and thought provoking and the lecturers clearly communicated and engaged us as a student cohort"

QUESTION 2. Please rate how informative you have found this event (1: Not informative / 5: Extremely informative)



Comments:

"I found the summer school really interesting and informative, above all for the methodological approach that has characterized all the even"

"Inspiring lectures, really enjoy all the teachers/speakers, learn so much with them"

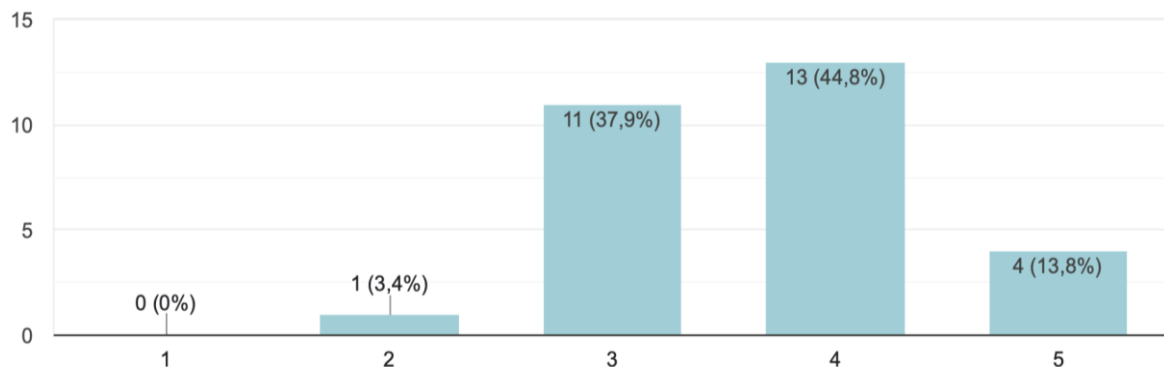
"More active methodologies to facilitate discussion and a more balanced view about literature reviews"

"The content of the summer school was extremely relevant. Expert facilitators were chosen. Facilitation especially time and related tasks would be reflected in the future"

"The classes and lectures in general were informative and interesting (maybe just the one on databases was not well prepared), but too long and sometimes not clearly presented"

"I found the content extremely useful - relevant for literature reviews and research projects in general. It was powerful to hear about methods from the perspectives of different people"

QUESTION 3. Please rate the venue and the accommodation (1: Poor / 5: Excellent)



In general, participants rated the venue as good, but they have also brought to light two criticisms: Wifi connection and outdated rooms.

Comments:

"My main problem was the lack of air conditioner in the locations. Due to the high temperatures (> 35°C) during the summer school, I had problems to sleep"

"Internet connection from my experience was very irregular, limiting the possibilities to do online tasks or download materials on time"

"Issues with accessing wi-fi was problematic as we needed to use our devices to complete the research tasks"

"The venue has a lot of potential, but the level of accommodation was very different across participants"

"The event was very well organised but the venue was not ideal"

The wifi was a problem throughout the summer school - it just did not work

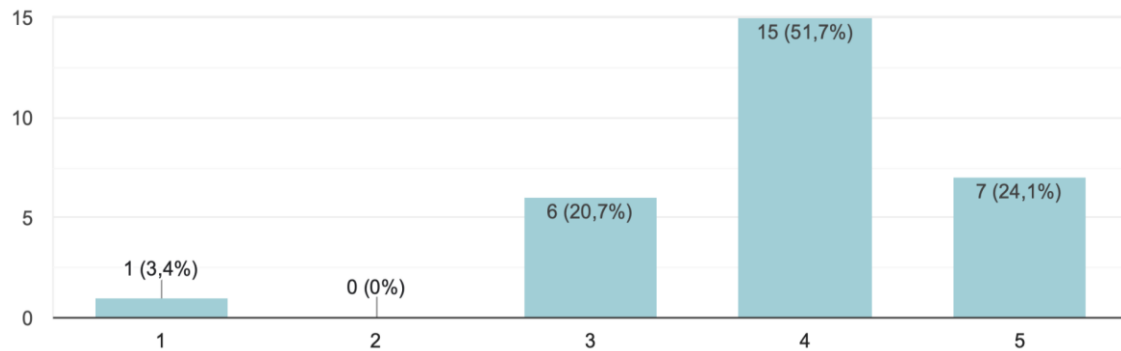
"Very functional sleeping rooms, excellent food service. Very bad classrooms: the location is wonderful but not functional, with small, hot classrooms"

"Some rooms at the venue were very uncomfortable and hot for the participants"

"While the venue was beautiful, the accommodation was not of a good standard. Room was not big enough for two people and could be cleaner"

QUESTION 4. Please rate the organisation of the event (1: Poor / 5: Exceptional)

The participants appreciated the organisation of the event. However, the process of sharing information was not always clear and the group work could have been better managed.



Comments:

"Some of the activities were not very clearly planned - e.g language group or workgroup on the last day"

"I think the days were too long for optimum engagement and concentration, particularly the last task of the day from 5pm to 6pm"

"Everyone did a great job behind the scenes. Things ran smoothly and there was always a smiley face to ask questions to."

"It should be better to improve the process of sharing information for participants "

"Organization of the event was done very well. We were informed about everything, the transportation, accomodation and food were well organized. There was also a kind and personal touch towards the participants from the staff."

"I think that the tasks could have been communicated a little bit better. Ideally, if at all possible, it would be great to have the instructions written down clearly and possibly sent in advance "

"Especially Friday without any provisions, at least water!/, has been catastrophic, and even more the information policy"

Other Comments and Suggestions

"Maybe a few sessions in which participants discuss their own research and provide mutual feedback could be useful, specially for PhD students."

"it would be amazing if we could share our research interests and background with each other even before the summer school started. I think this would be make the whole experience even more enriching."

"Perhaps one afternoon could be set aside for formal or informal sharing"

"More active methodologies to facilitate discussion and a more balanced view about literature reviews"

"More time was needed for discussion between participants about personal research projects to learn from one another, essentially more time to think and reflect".

"Please consider to provide more time and maybe some methods to get to know each other and their research in the beginning"

"it would have been interesting to discuss our approach to literature in relation to a range of research methodologies that go beyond the traditional social scientific approach"

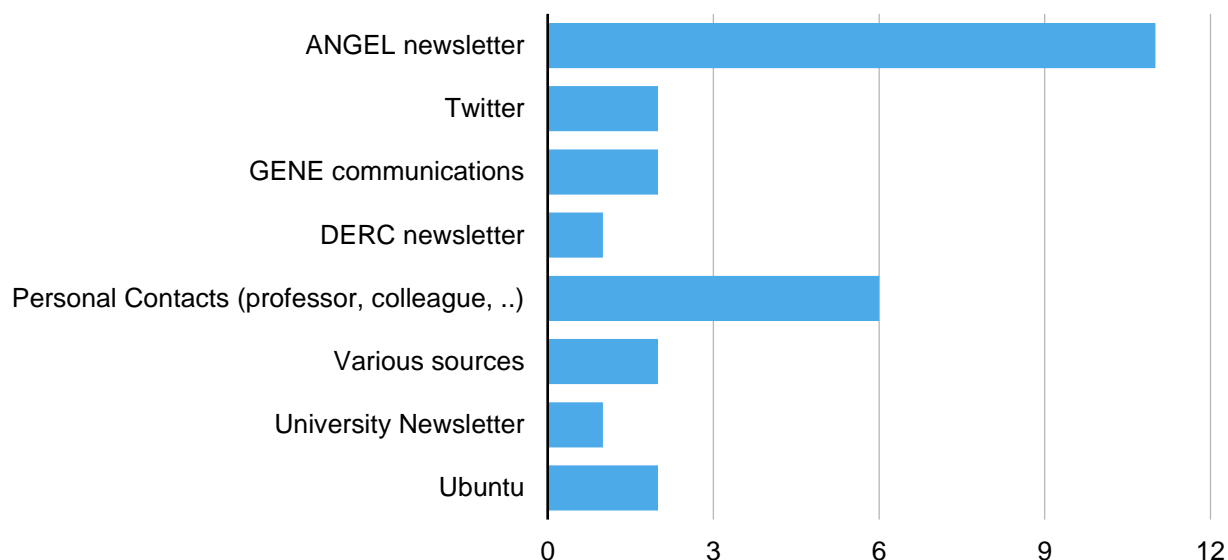
"Definitely vegetarian (or vegan) food only. I don't understand in general how people teaching global education can eat meat and unfortunately it is a majority ..., but I am sure they would not mind eating vegetarian for 3 days ;)"

"Please consider to provide more time and maybe some methods to get to know each other and their research in the beginning. Also shorter days or more variety in formats are necessary to ensure concentration and motivation"

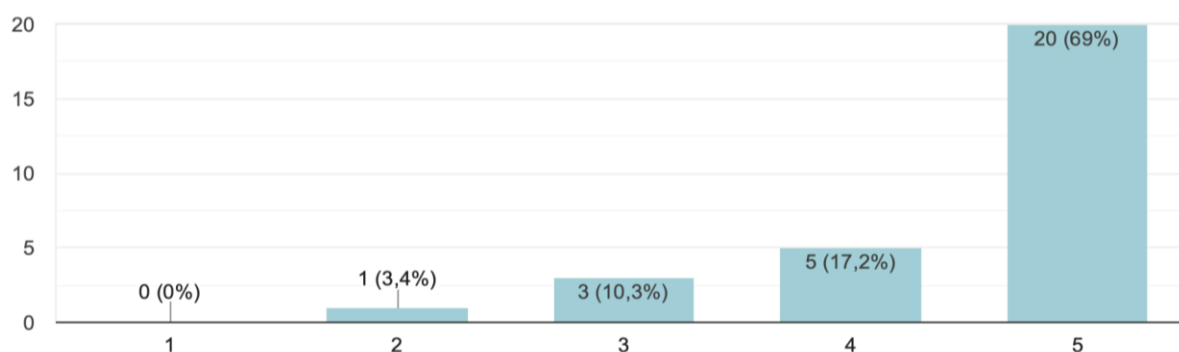
"Deepening on a shared understanding of global education and further possibilities of enhancing and researching on the related aspects"

QUESTION 5. How did you hear about this event?

Participants heard about the Summer School in very different ways. A good portion of them (11) were reached by the ANGEL Newsletter, while the others through: personal contacts such as professors, supervisors, colleagues (6), Twitter (2), GENE communication (2), Ubuntu Network (2), DERC Newsletter (1), University Newsletter (1) and 'Various sources' (2).



QUESTION 6. Would you attend future summer schools? (1: No chance / 5: Definitely)



What We Have Learnt

Participants highly appreciate the summer school and the large majority of them declared their intention to participate again. Therefore, based on students' comments and suggestions, and our own reflections, we have identified 4 main aspects to act on in order to improve the overall experience:

1. To ensure space for students to talk about their research interests.
2. To guarantee Wifi connection and a more comfortable accommodation.
3. To improve the organisation of the afternoon group work, giving some information even before the start.
4. To include evaluations for individual lectures in the evaluation form.