



Micro-54 Survey Results

October 18 – 22, 2021

Virtual Athens, Greece



<http://www.microarch.org/micro54>

Overall Stats

- 10 Questions
- 101 Responses
- 1:40 Mean Time to Do Survey

Please respond to this year's survey:

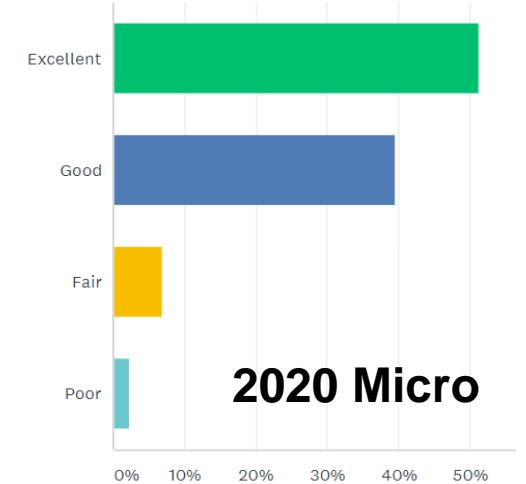
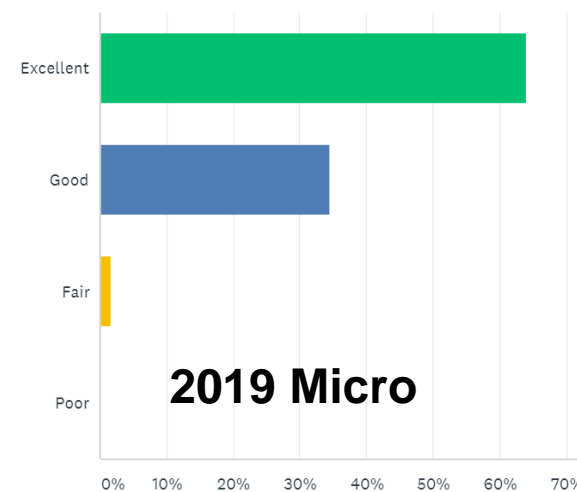
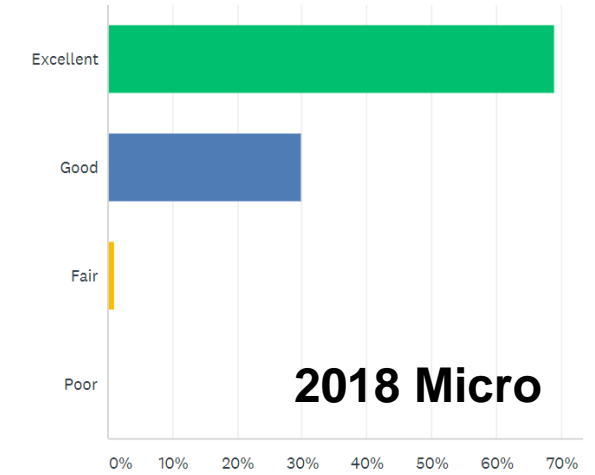
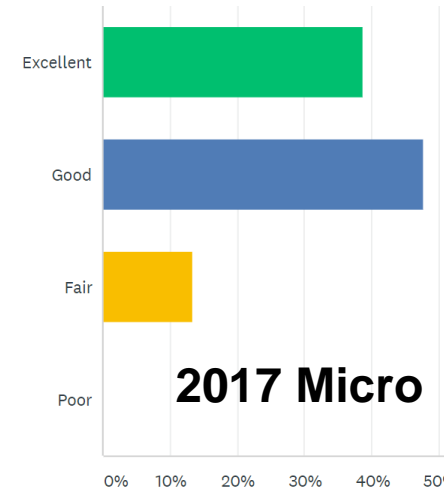
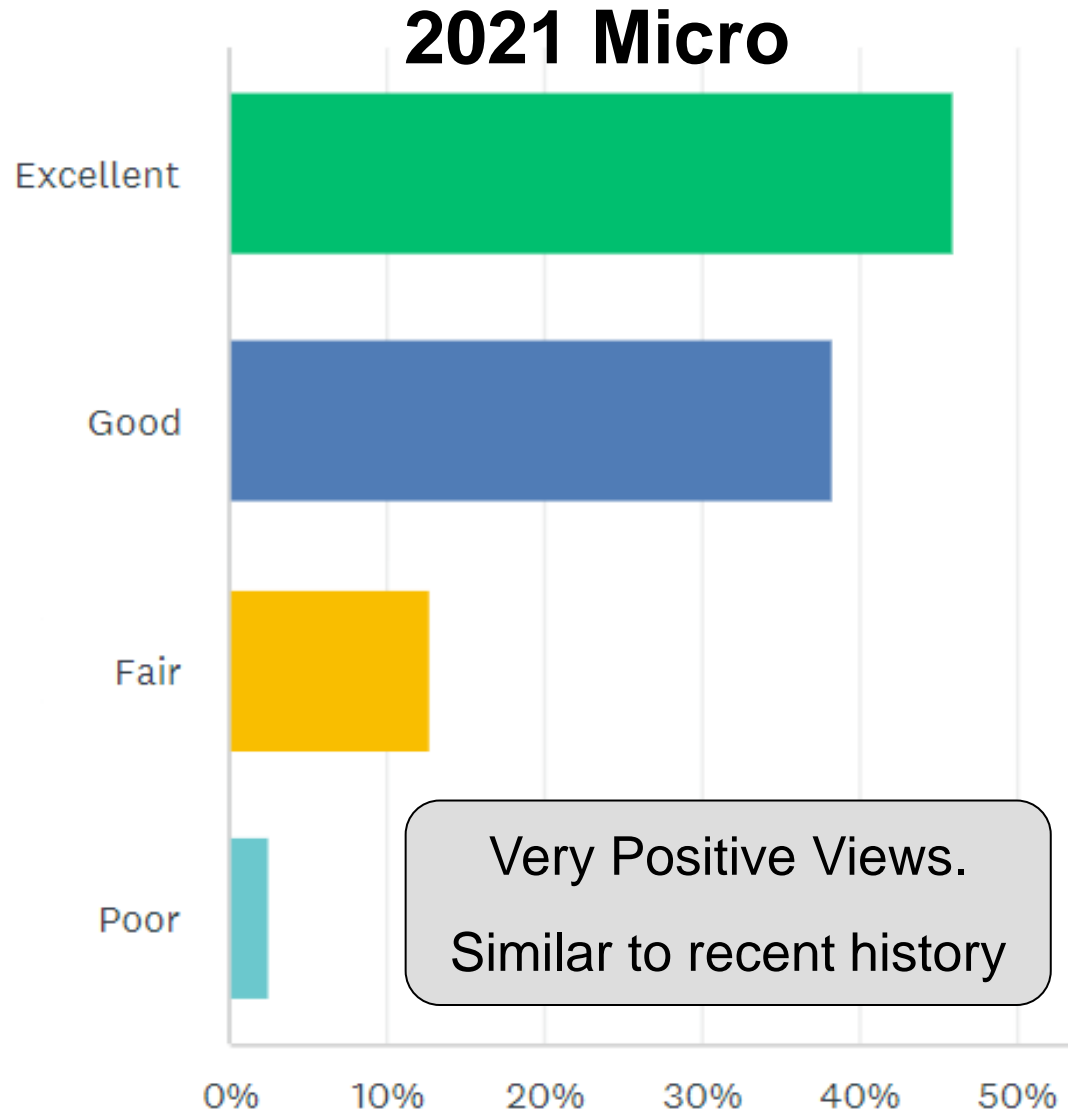
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Observations

1. Overall sentiment was very positive – similar to 2020.
2. There was marginal improvement in views of the virtual format.
 - a. More like Zoom than Whova but both improved over 2020
 - b. Most found Gathertown ineffective for networking
3. Most watched no videos or only a few before the conference.
4. People attended a smaller fraction of Micro than in 2020.
5. About half have attended more conferences since Covid.
6. But about a third have attended fewer conferences.

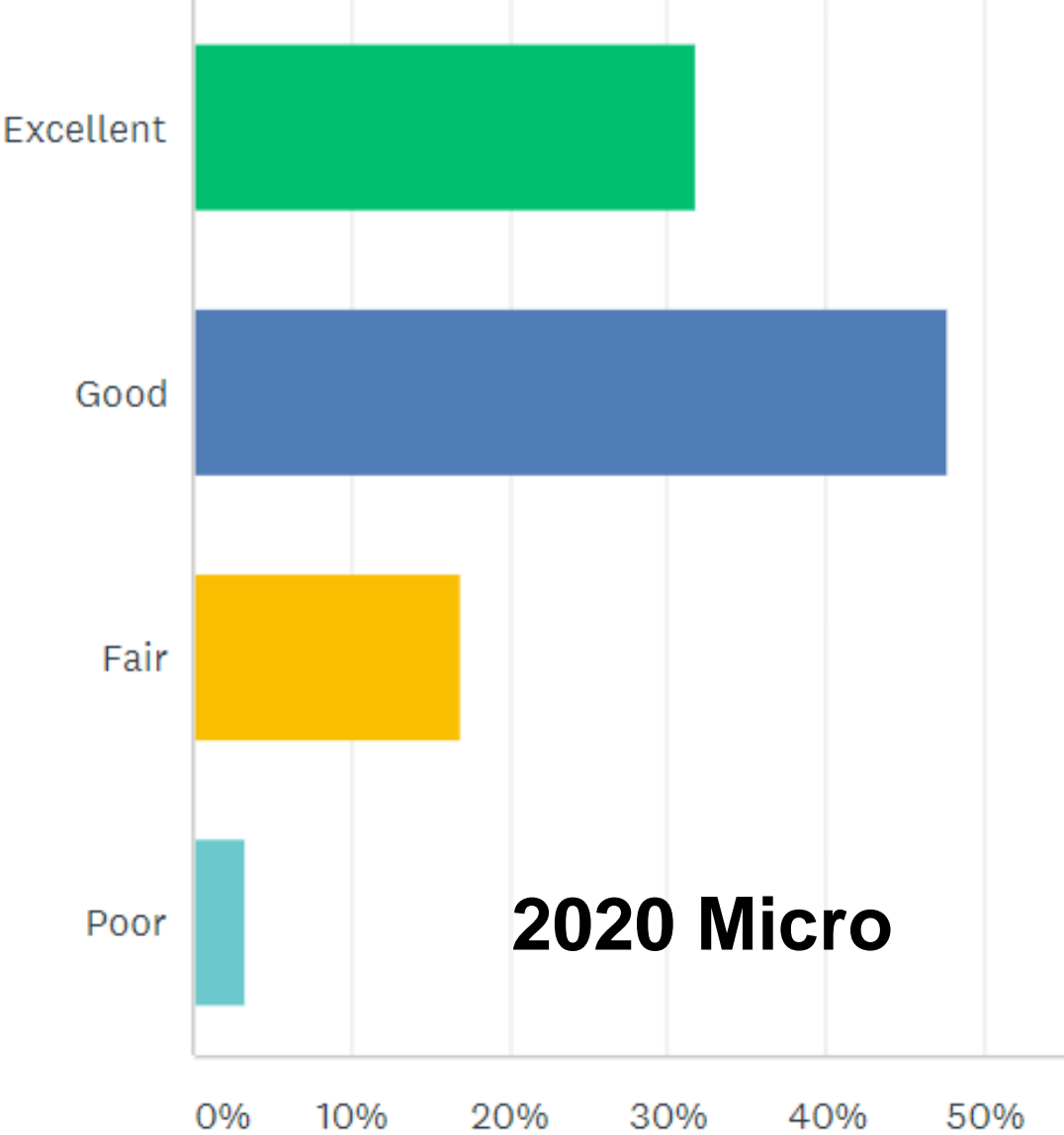
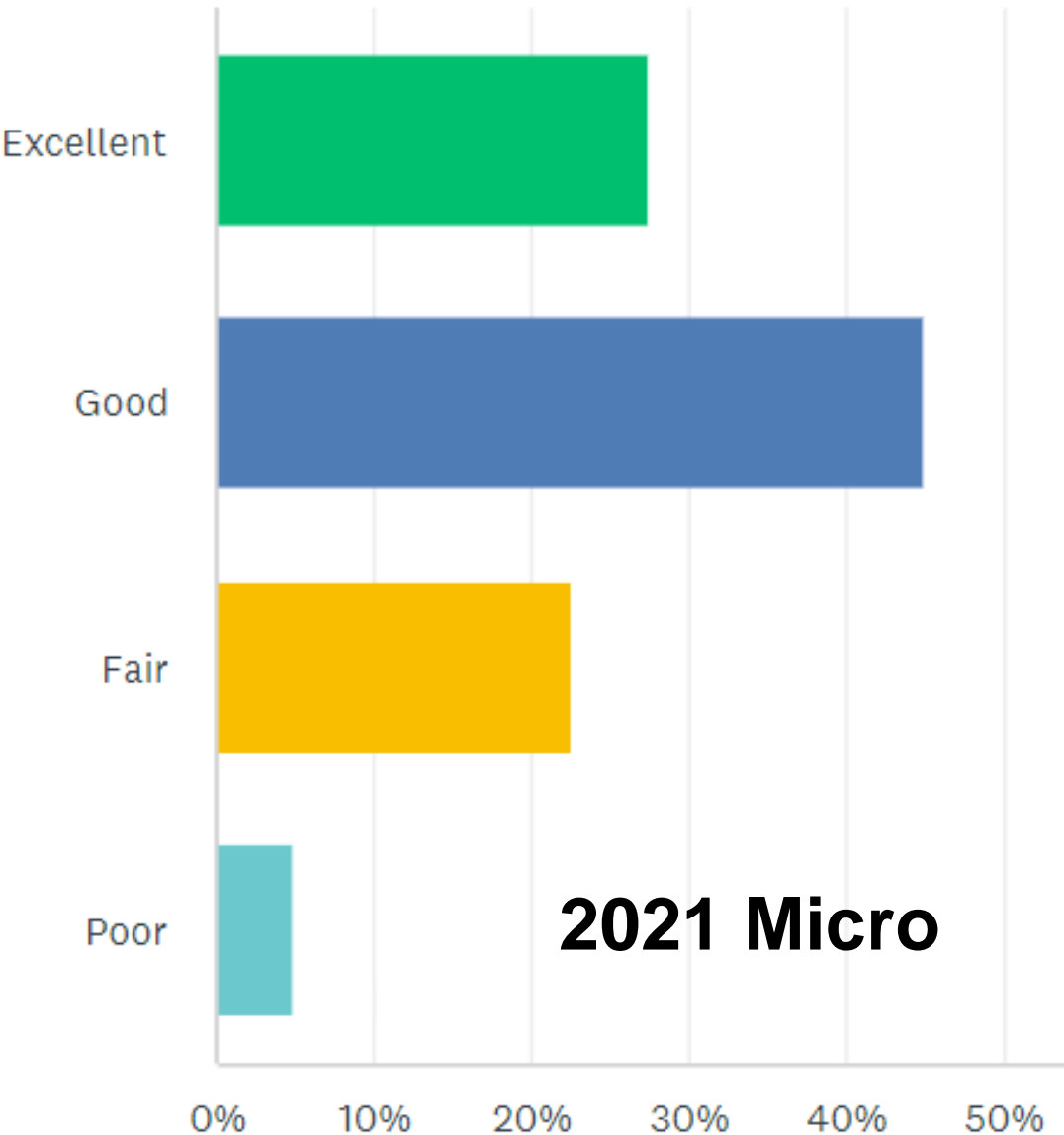
1. Overall Impression of Micro



1. Comments – Overall

- Lots of low quality papers
- The 15 minute talks and room for discussion was an innovative move.
- It would have been better to spend more time during technical sessions on paper presentations and less time on Q&A. So paper presentations should be 7-8 minutes with the remaining time for Q&A (so attendees can understand without having to watch the 20+ minute video)

2. How effective was the virtual format of Micro?

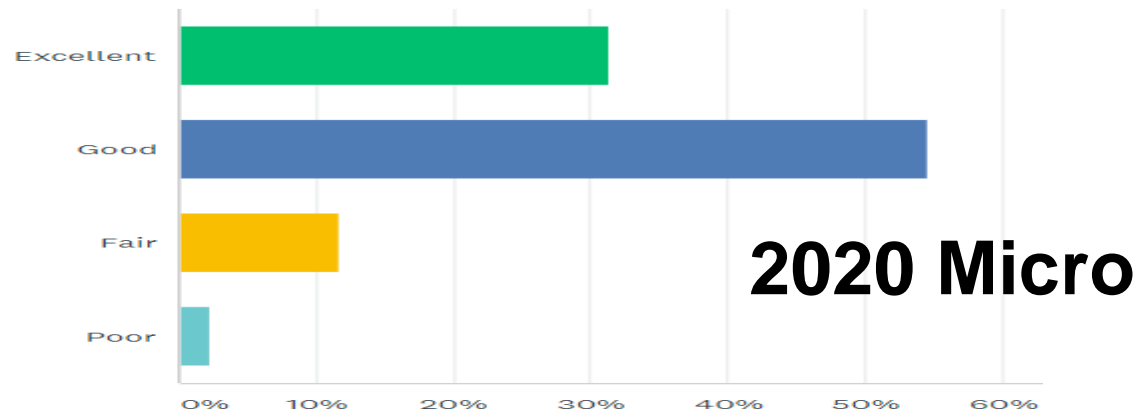
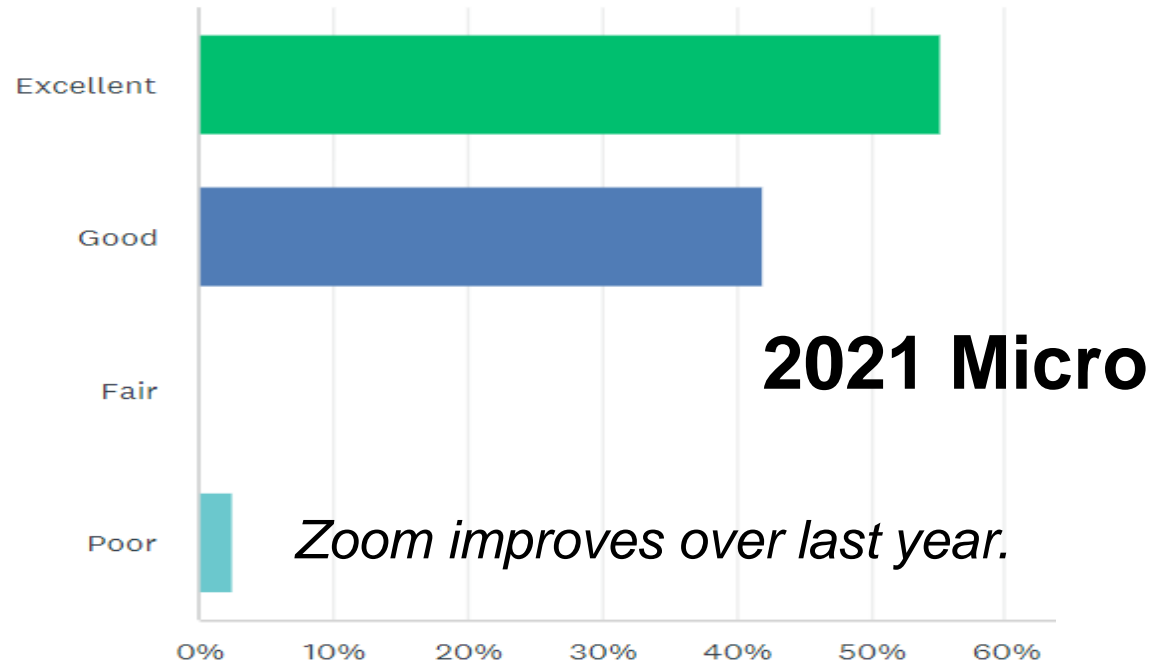


2. Comments – Virtual Format

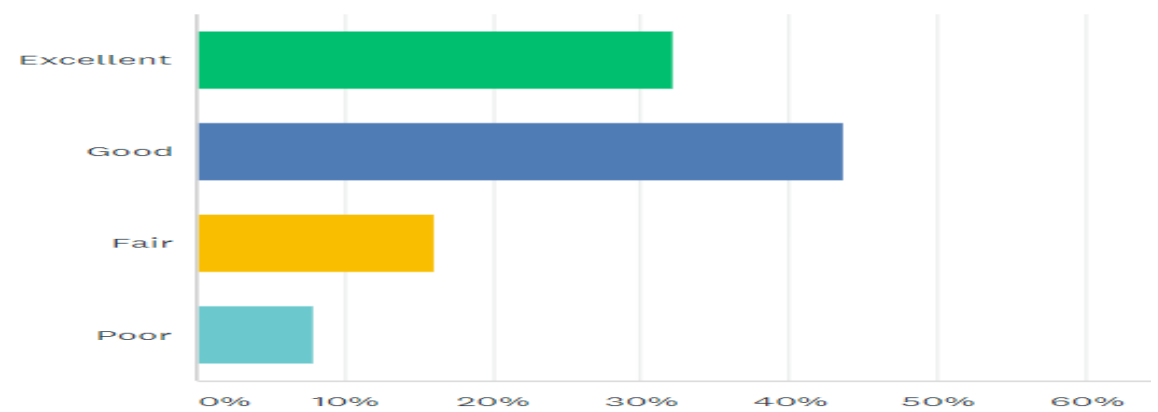
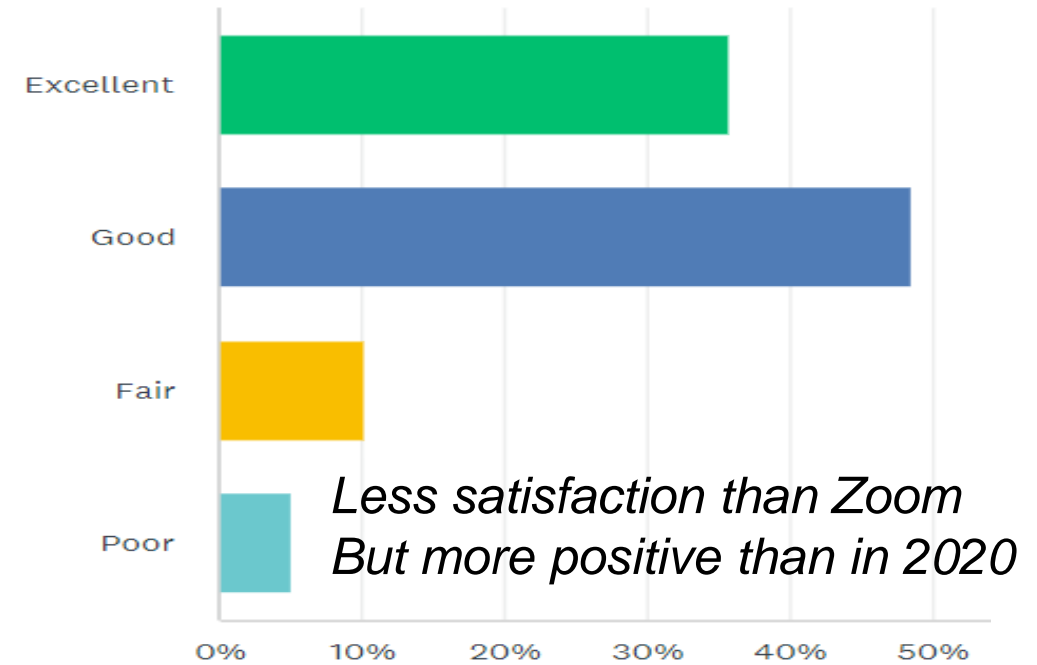
- It would be better if you could record the livestreams and make it available for a few days. Also, whova's app-first approach leaves something to be desired. Their web interface is terrible.
- It is not micro-specific. Relative to no-conference: Good. Relative to physical: Poor. Relative to ideal virtual: Fair/Good
- The networking is not effective online
- I think Micro was as good or better than any other virtual conference I've been to, but virtual conferences are just not as good as in-person. I hope we return to in person as soon as it is safe to.

3+4: Impression of Zoom and Whova efficacy for Micro?

Zoom



Whova



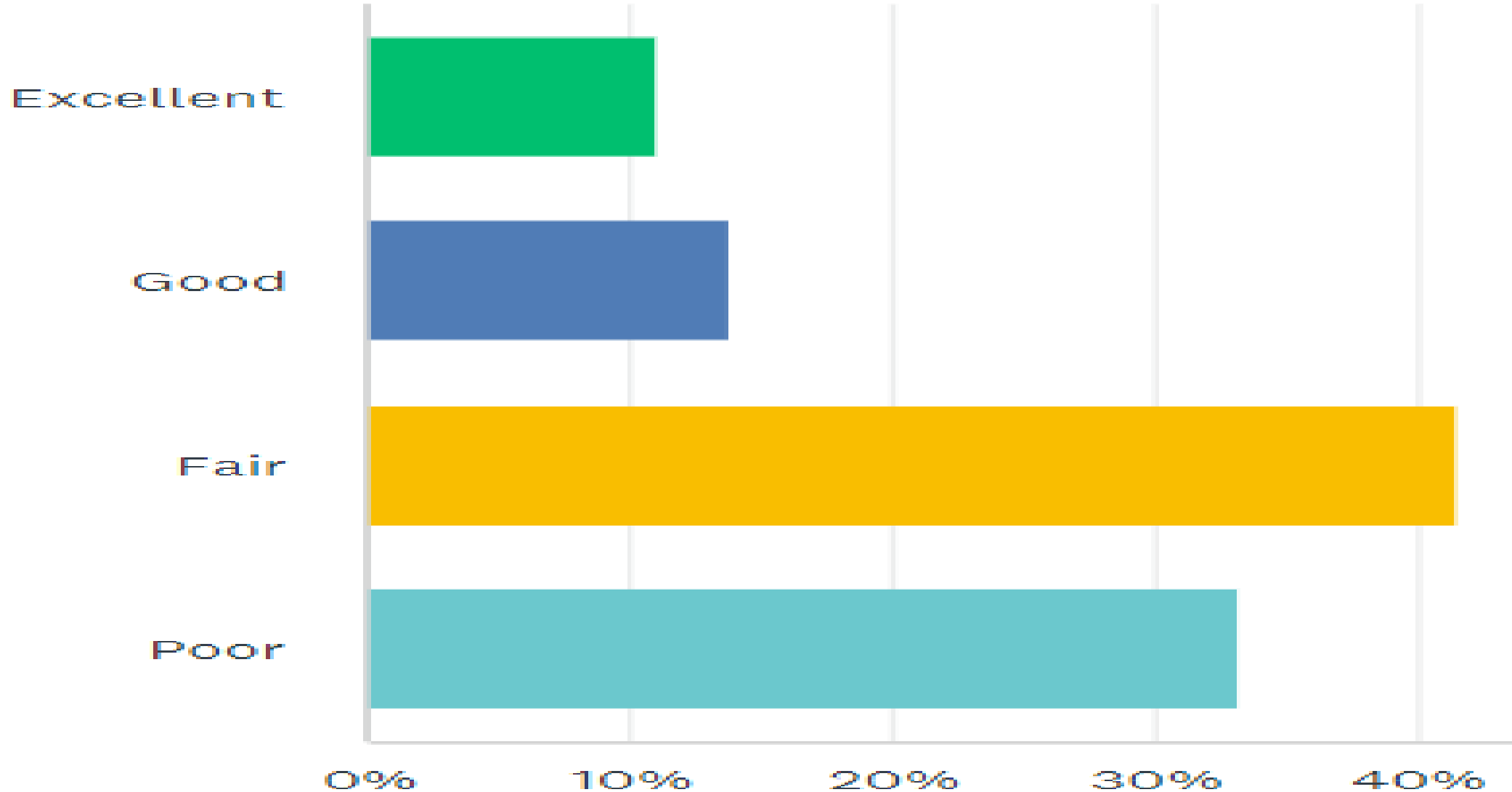
3. Comments – Zoom

- Streaming was Ok most of the time.
- I wish there is an option to ask the presenters to voluntarily do a duplicate live sessions for talks not in my timezone (half of the live-sessions are after midnight).

4. Comments - Whova

- Navigation is better than in the past, but still it would be nice to see a single video w/ the entire current session info.
- The Whova interface is painful to navigate. It is never clear if you can get back by clicking on the page or by clicking on "previous" in the browser.

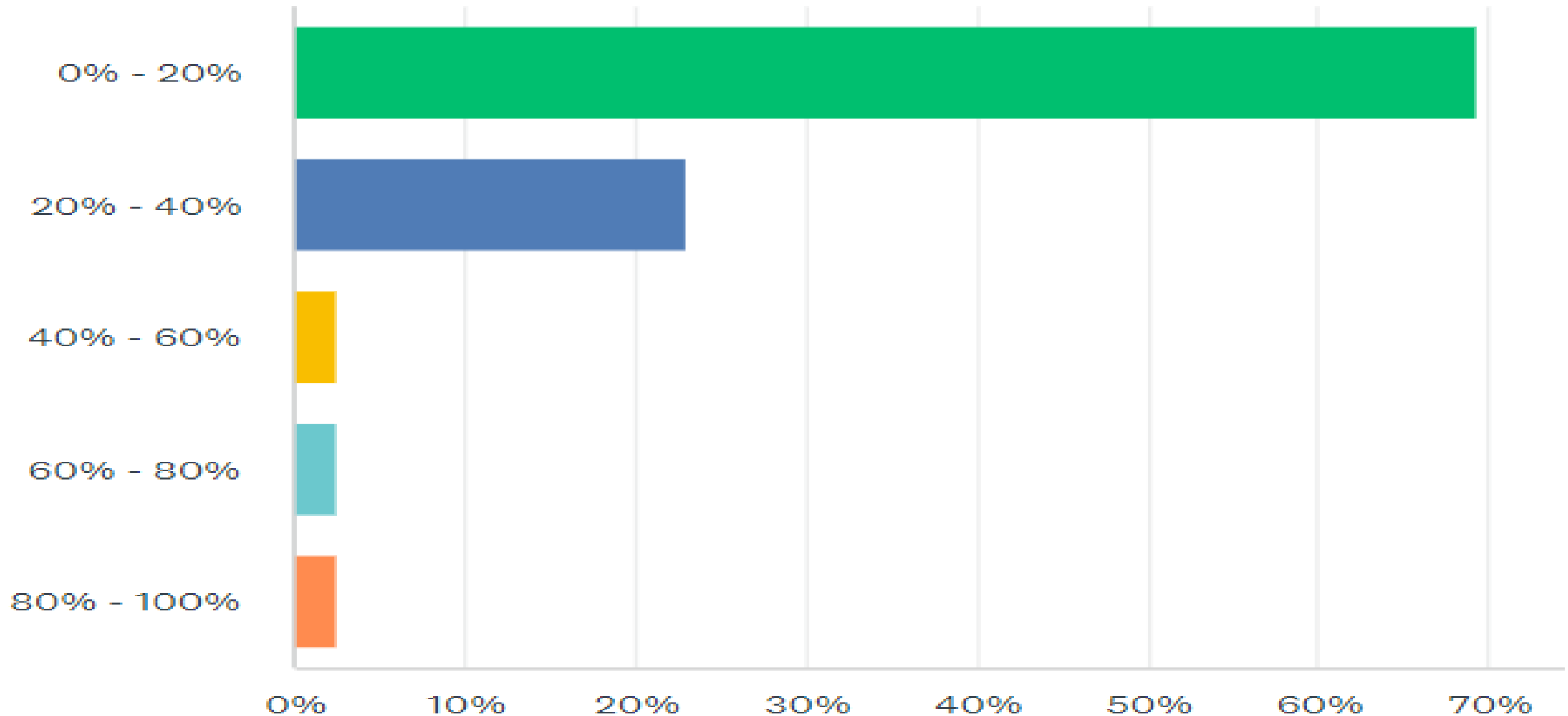
5. How well were you able to meet and network with other Micro attendees (e.g. Gathertown space)?



5. Comments - Gathertown

- Did not use at all.
- GatherTown is quite good but it is still awkward. I think the reason is that you cannot really tell if/what you are going to interrupt by joining a conversation.
- This is a hard one to address to be honest. I think this might require a mix of off-hour gathering and unofficial panels. It might be a good idea to 1) use gathertown to break things down in the any theme-based discussion/gathering (for technical, social and career development) and 2) find a method to organize this informal gathering across the three major timezones (US, Europe and Asia) to accommodate the audience from each timezone.
- Virtual gatherings are an oxymoron
- Gathertown was an innovative step but is far away of a physical networking event.
- Through Whova messages.
- I didnt have a chance to join Gathertown due to lack of time.
- Gathertown was pretty good, but it can't compare to in person.

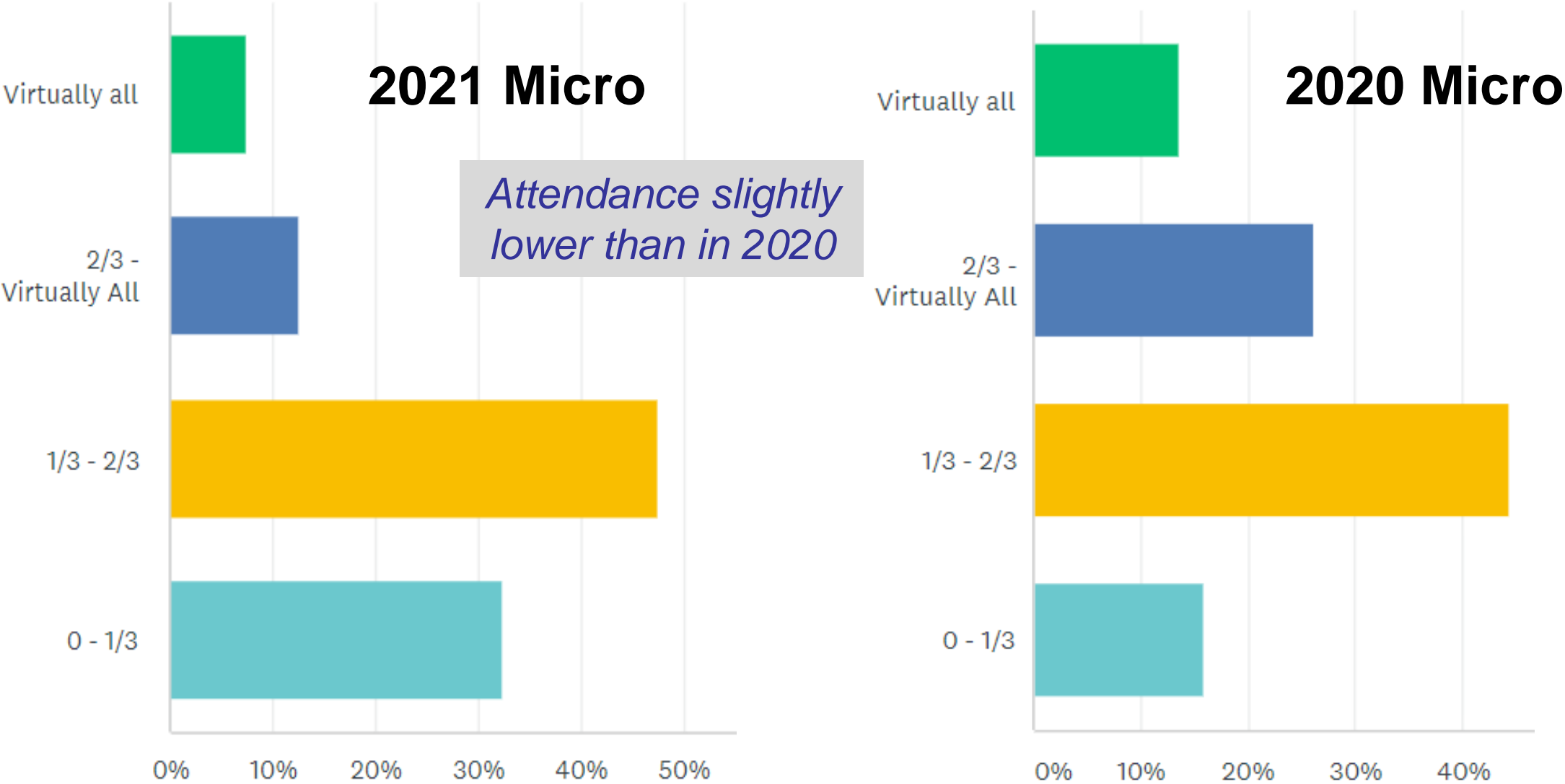
6. What percentage of talk videos did you watch before the Oct 18 start of Micro?



6. Comments – Talk Videos

- Very little, and I regret that...
- Percentage compared to what I was interested to watch.
- Its very hard to find time ahead of the conference and then also attend. I'd prefer full, live presentations during the conference time.

7. How much of Micro were you able to attend?

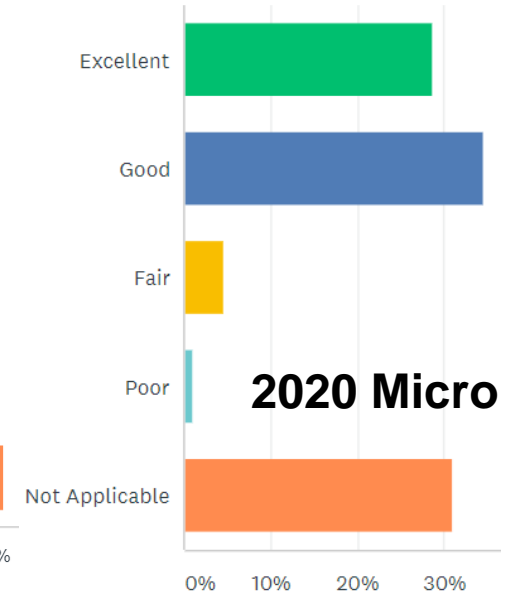
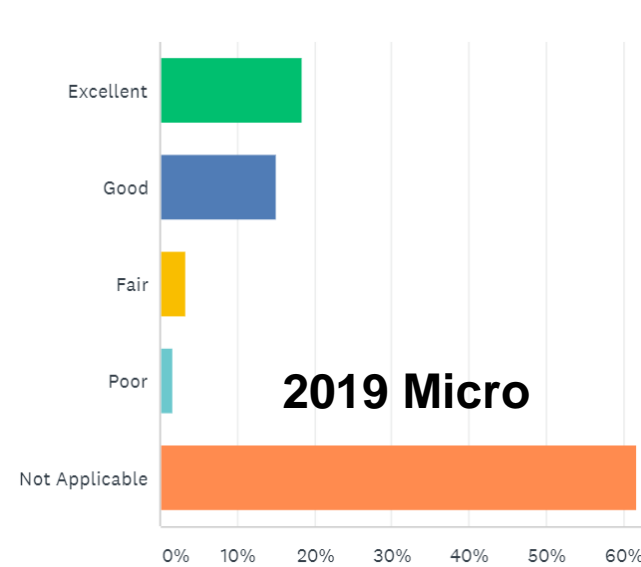
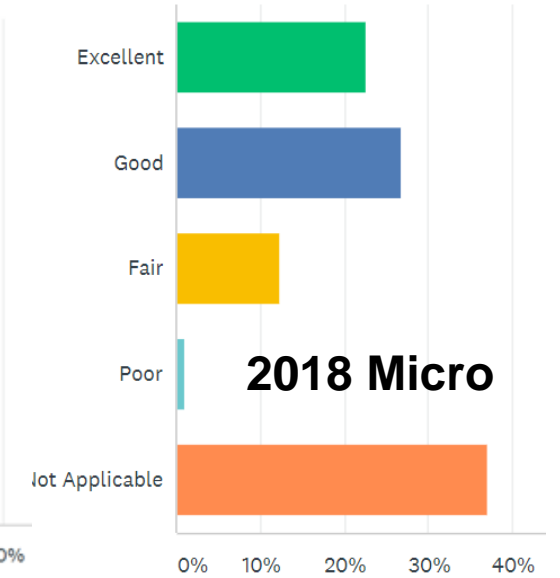
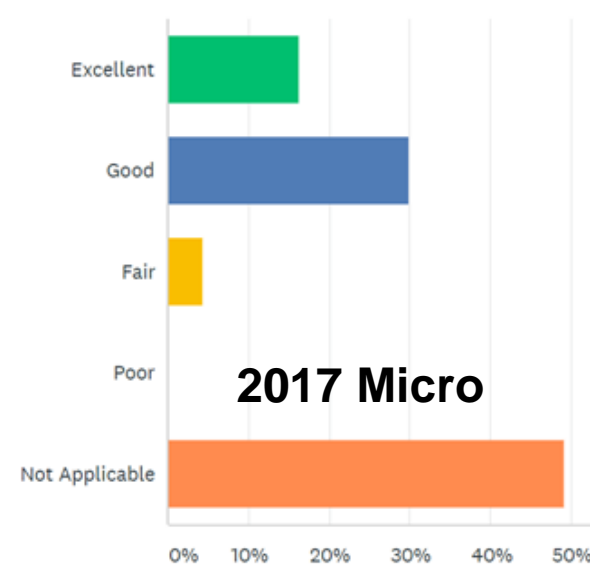
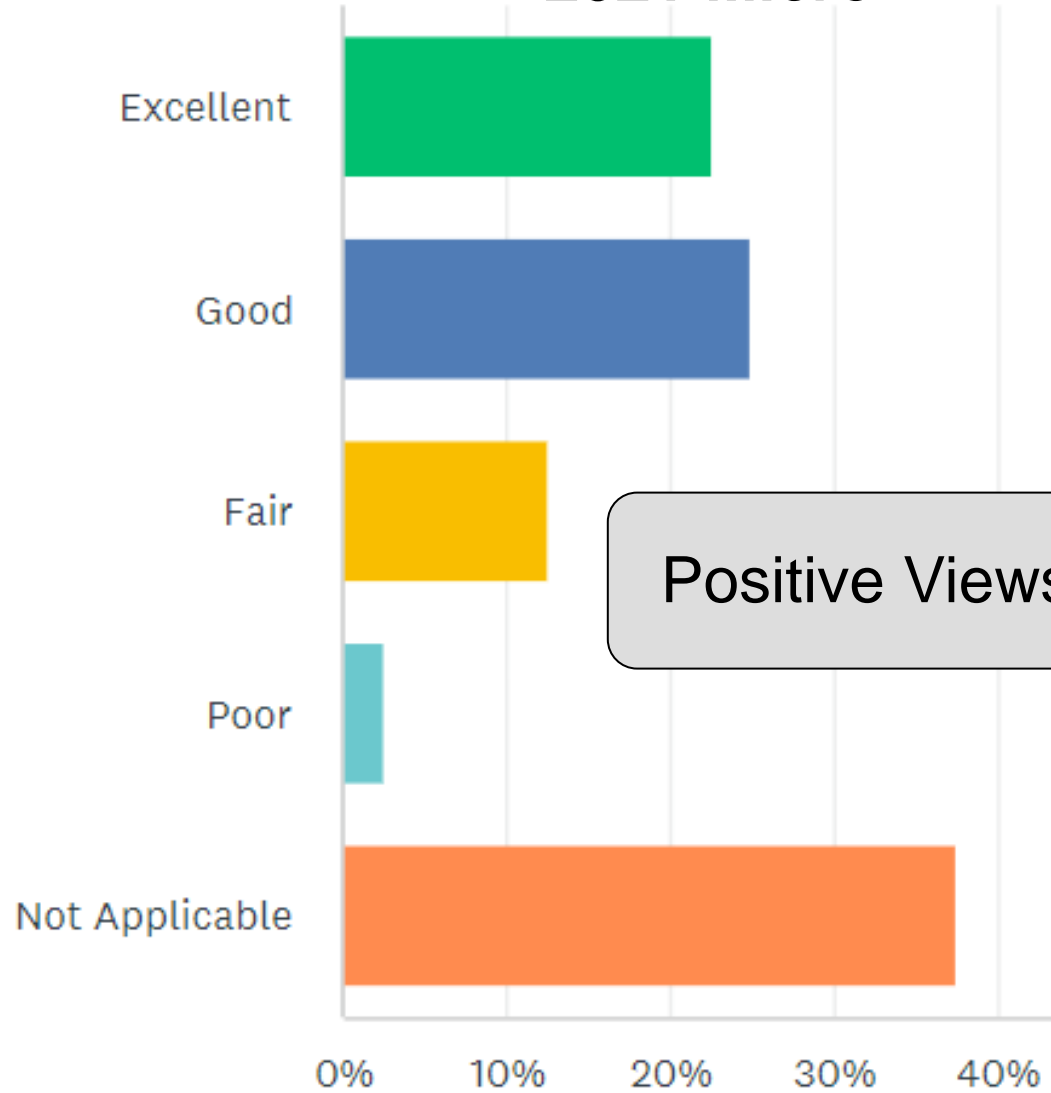


7. Comments - Attendance

- One of the issue of having it virtual - you do not focus on the conf, you pick less paper/sessions to see.
- I am in China. Due to the time zone, I can only attend part of the program.
- I was sick but planning to watch afterwards
- Timezone difference is the issue here. It is very hard to be up after midnight when I need to lecture in the morning.

8. Workshops and Tutorials

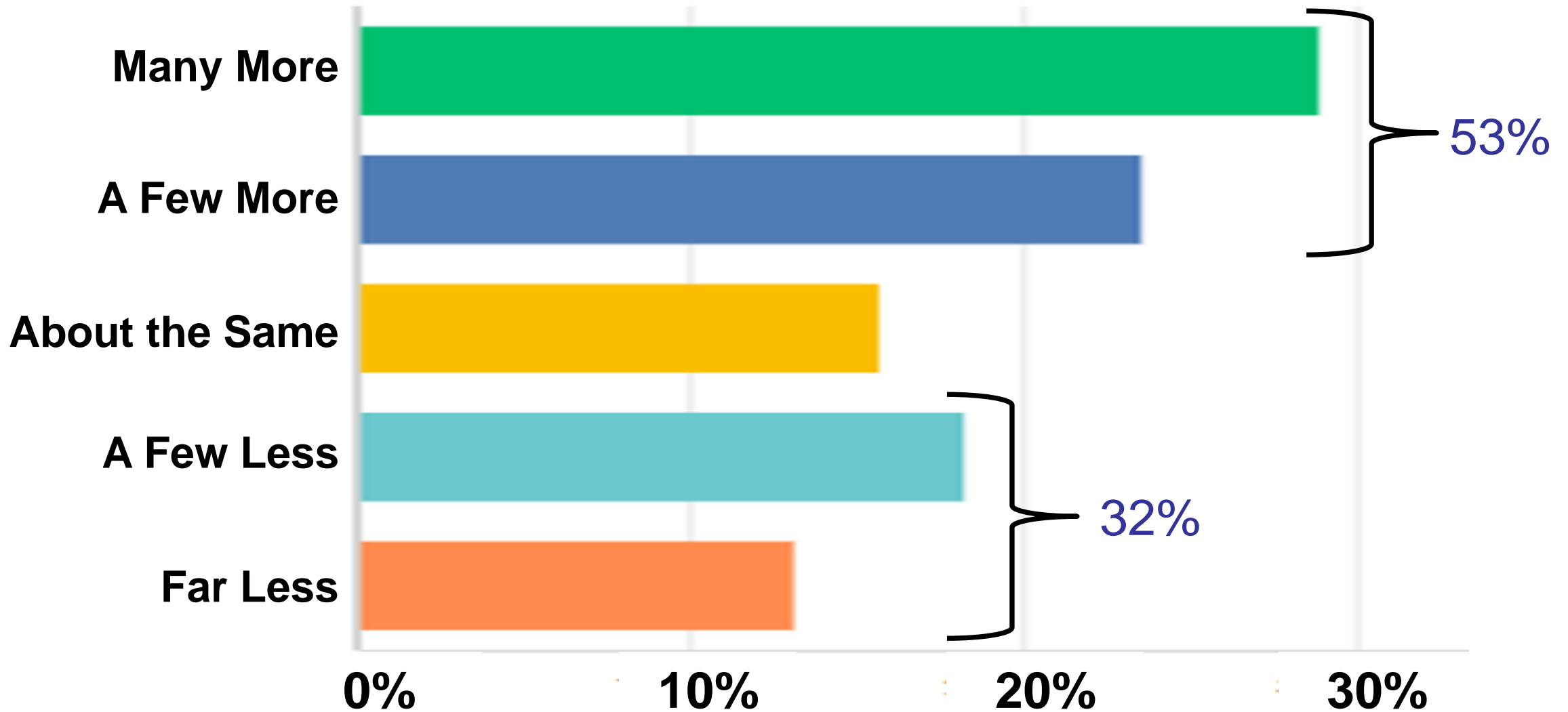
2021 Micro



8. Comments – Workshops and Tutorials

- I attended only a part of the precision health - was good.

9. How has the number of conferences you attend changed since Covid-19?



9. Comments – Change Since Covid

- The elimination of trip and the reduced cost allow "attending" more conf, usually smaller part of them though...
- Conferences are very cheap and no travel is required, which is very convenient.
- Student: This was my first conference
- Due to the virtual format, I'm getting the chance to attend top conferences from home. The reduced ticket fee and the fact that we don't have to travel to the venue, greatly helps.
- Virtual conference helps with traveling and logistic, but timezone difference can potentially kills this.
- Virtual conferences enable anybody (students who might otherwise not receive travel grants etc) to join with lower costs.
- I really do not like virtual conferences but I wanted to attend and watch the videos for Micro.

Other Comments – 1

1. Can we see videos of the keynotes and special sessions?
2. This is just a small tidbit about virtual conference. Locally, if the regional or national community is big enough, it could be interesting to organize a "local" MICRO that just restreams the live zoom stream, to still get some amount of live networking. It would also allow a clear "break" between personal and professional time : I am sure many people attended from home during what is usually personal time (I did). That would however mean not much networking on e.g., GatherTown. Just a thought.
3. Could the papers be released earlier so we can read thoroughly and raise more questions?
4. Please have MICRO as a hybrid conference so that it is accessible to students and researchers all over the world.
5. I really hope that the virtual format stays and can be organized alongside the in-person ones. I do not think that this can happen at the same time, but I think one thing that can be addressed is to have a virtual conference that happens during the hours (or even the date) that works for people at different timezones than the main venue. This way, the main venues, and all the speakers can be at the local site. Then, virtual attendees who cannot travel to the site can attend the virtual conference at a time that is more convenient to them. This might likely require a separate virtual team, but I think it can potentially allow more researchers and students to attend the event.

Other Comments – 2

6. I do not wish to attend any future virtual conferences. I will continue to submit papers and present them at virtual conferences, but there is simply no point to attending the other parts of virtual conferences.
7. GatherTown was underrated. Most emphasis should be given to it. Probably some events/contests live, would bring more people in the platform to socialize.
8. Overall, the organizers did a phenomenal job. Cudos to Dimitris who ran this and the previous edition of Micro excellently. Too bad I could not come to Athens. Cudos to the Jaleel and Jinshen for innovating on the paper selection proces by collecting feedback on the quality of reviews. This is very much appreciated and will likely have impact on future review processes. Thanks for your effort. It is very much appreciated.
9. I'd prefer if any potential future conference also has a virtual option to open access to more people.
10. I think having a recording of the talks is super valuable and we should certainly keep that feature even after we go back to in-person. Also having a hybrid component of the conference allows for a more inclusive community, where people that may not have the money or the time to travel may still be able to participate, even if it a fraction of the conference. Perhaps it would be good to develop a hybrid pricing model to allow those participants to attend remotely but not for the full price.