

PoI-PRIMETT II



Tackling Metal Theft



Second Expert User Group Meeting Report

Rome, Italy

Tuesday 1st July 2014

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Welcome and Pol-PRIMETT II overview

Steve Welsh, Pol-PRIMETT II Project Director welcomed the 51 delegates to the second Pol-PRIMETT II EUG meeting in Rome, Italy.

SW stated that Pol-PRIMETT II is co-funded by the European Commission to help develop and sustain public-private partnerships to combat the common threat of metal theft across the EU.

Today the meeting will look at case studies and practical solutions that has been identified and implemented within the project.

The National Crime Agency (Pol-PRIMETT II's lead partner) began in October 2013 and its primary mission is to lead the fight against serious and organised crime including metal theft. Throughout Europe we are seeing an increase in organised criminal activity surrounding incidents of metal theft. As public and private partnerships are being created across the EU they are removing the level of opportunistic theft however organised criminals are identifying new ways to steal and dispose of metal causing great damage to the infrastructure and economy of EU MS.

Pol-PRIMETT II has 10 official partners and associate partners however the level of stakeholders continues to grow and add value demonstrating the need for such a project across many EU MS.

Pol-PRIMETT II covers a number of workstreams including:

- Understanding the involvement of OCGs
- Legislation and voluntary codes of practice
- Develop / share good practice; awareness raising; prevention and enforcement techniques to reduce and deter metal theft
- Identifying gaps in knowledge and intelligence
- Encouraging public-private collaboration

The UK has recently begun implementing legislation which penalises someone who is 'actively involved in an OCG'. This was developed following the success of similar legislation in Italy and will enable UK LEAs to track individuals who have been convicted of offences related to organised crime.

The involvement of Europol is crucial to the progress of Pol-PRIMETT II as it enables the project to link to the EU's Organised Crime Threat Assessment (developed by Europol) and helps to build knowledge around metal theft.

Research areas include understanding the involvement, business models, structures and anticipating the future threats posed by OCGs plus understanding where metal goes to once it has been stolen and where the money goes to that is generated from metal theft.

Agemfor Italia is tasked with identifying key knowledge gaps and links to other criminology. Metal theft is not conducted in isolation – research shows an increase in metal theft being linked to other offences and it is Pol-PRIMETT II's task to identify what those other offences are. Initial studies show links to environmental crime, human trafficking and tax evasion.

Case study

A team from Metropolitan Police (in the UK) went to search a SMD in Kent. Once they got past the formidable security team, they found a large quantity of catalytic converters. When searching the premises the officers found:

- Equipment which could alter the manufacturer's reference number on a catalytic converter
- Extraction tools and cutting devices to access the interior of the catalytic converters
- Professional engraving equipment to enable manufacturer reference numbers to be changed
- Large quantities of selenium
- An XRF analyser that is used to determine what elements are present
- Information showing detailed intelligence gathering on the levels of platinum that would be expected in certain catalytic converters

The police had discovered an OCG that was adulterating the content of catalytic converters by adding selenium to exaggerate the platinum levels on the XRF analyser. This would make the catalytic converter more attractive to other dealerships and would increase the price they would receive. One dealership had paid over €1 million in total to the OCG believing they were purchasing high quality catalytic converters. Other compounds added by the OCG were hafnium and tantalum.

As catalytic converters do not have a unique serial code it proved difficult to evidence the stolen nature of the catalytic converters found.

As a result of the Pol-PRIMETT II network, the Metropolitan Police was able to:

- Determine the process and criminality of the OCG through discussions with the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining
- Link the OCG to another OCG in Portugal through discussions with GNR

By discovering this link, the Metropolitan Police identified a criminal network which involved Bulgaria, Portugal, Spain, Italy and the UK. They also found that some of the catalytic converters found in the UK had been stolen in Portugal, transported to Italy where part of the adulteration process had taken place and then they were shipped to Spain before being imported into the UK. This movement of stolen goods denotes large scale VAT fraud.

This case study shows the evolution of success that is being driven by partnership working championed by Pol-PRIMETT II. BTP will take this type of good practice forward and share it across the metal theft tackling community.

SW encouraged delegates to visit the Pol-PRIMETT II website – www.pol-primett2.org – to see more examples of good practice. SW stated that the Pol-PRIMETT II website is linked to the Scrapwatch website which is a metal theft alert platform which enables members to map and view metal thefts from across the UK.

Examples of high profile metal theft cases in Italy and sharing best practice

Aldo Madia, Agenfor Italia and Francisco Cavuoto, GdF provided a number of metal theft case studies from Italy.

The case of Electra

Francesco Cavuoto from the GdF presented the case of Electra in the absence of Prosecutor Silvia Santoro.

EMPACT

Cristina Checchinato, Europol and Francois Despres, Gendarmerie Nationale...

These presentations were delivered in Italian and a translation has not been provided.

Mapping metal theft across the EU

Jose Pires, UIC stated that four years ago the UIC acknowledged that metal theft across the railways was growing to an unmanageable level and became overwhelming for operations and businesses.

As the European railway structure is evolving so does the security of the railways. UIC has united railway companies from a number of EU MS and provided a platform for the railways to raise concerns and share good practice across the sector.

Railway networks are very important to each nation and disruption of services has a massive impact on its customers and reputation.

Research was conducted to develop a better understanding of the context and level of metal theft across the European railways. This will enable LEAs and the railway networks to tackle and deter metal thieves and secure the railway infrastructure. Also UIC was keen to learn where the railways were in relation to the other targets for metal thieves – utilities and telecommunication companies. Finally analysis was undertaken to see where the metal went to after being stolen from the railways.

UIC found that the railways are targeted by mobile, organised thieves and low level opportunistic criminals that mainly originate from poorer countries or regions.

The European rail network has over 100,000km of track therefore it is impossible to secure all of it all of the time. Criminals have become adept at identifying the weaker, unsupervised areas of the network and targeting them. UIC highlights high priority areas for thieves such as signalling boxes and recommends rail companies focus their security on those key areas to minimise the disruption and reduce incidents.

UIC is willing to share information with other European intelligence networks such as Europol and Pol-PRIMETT II. This will help to avoid any duplication and broaden the knowledge basis of each organisation and partnership.

Mapping of metal theft is primarily done through the collation and analysis of the statistics received from the railway companies across the EU.

UIC uses this information to demonstrate the impact of metal theft to decision makers and hopefully to introduce a change in how governments tackle metal theft. Similarly UIC uses this information to show railway customers the impact of metal theft on them to demonstrate that metal theft is not a 'victimless' crime as previously believed.

The number of metal thefts from the railways began to decrease in 2013-2014 due to the improved partnership working and good practice shared through networks such as Pol-PRIMETT II. However this level of partnership working needs to be maintained in order to keep the level of thefts decreasing. If the focus is moved to another threat or crime then the level of metal theft may rise once more.

At the last LandSec meeting (the European Commission's Land and Transport Security Group), UIC was tasked with establishing and mapping the level of metal theft across the rail networks in the EU. The initial stage is to develop a baseline of statistics as thefts are recorded differently across different MS. The added issue is language as all thefts are recorded in the native language.

UIC will present the findings of their research at a later stage and will collaborate with Pol-PRIMETT II in order to conduct the research.

Workshop 1 - Collating and mapping data to create a picture of metal theft across Europe

Chaired by Steve Welsh, NCA

Context:

There is an obvious desire on the part of all stakeholders within the public and private sectors to know more about the phenomenon of metal theft. This might include; the location and frequency of incidents; the 'type of criminals' involved; their modus operandi in stealing and disposing of metal and whether other crimes are committed or enabled as a result of the theft of metal.

One method of gaining a greater insight into metal theft is the notion of a 'mapping exercise' where crimes are counted and collated in an agreed manner to provide an accurate picture of the phenomenon. In order to move this process forward a workshop was organised for delegates from Pol-PRIMETT II's EUG.

What should be mapped?

Producing a 'heat map', which shows the location of reported metal theft incidents on a transnational scale is not straightforward. Not all LEA's record metal theft as separate crimes, or have a way of flagging metal theft incidents in their crime pattern analysis systems.

The problem becomes more challenging if other factors such as mapping the stolen metal supply chain, or identifying patterns of behaviour are considered.

Delegates pointed out that MS start from different positions and operate under different constraints in their processes for recording crime.

The way forward

In order to move the concept of mapping metal theft forward, a number of actions were discussed, which could form the basis of an action plan for Pol-PRIMETT II members to follow:

- Discover what is currently recorded in the participating MS or recorded by other transnational bodies such as Europol, Railpol or UIC
- Understand the legislative position in participating MS
- Seek an existing model within a MS that might be transferable to others
- Agree the nature of what is to be recorded (complexity v simplicity) a simple heat map of incidents or a system that records additional data?
- Consult the private sector regarding their recording methods, which might form the basis of Pol-PRIMETT II's survey methodology

Next steps

Pol-PRIMETT II partners will discuss the early outcomes of the workshop at their next meeting and action relevant partners to undertake work to begin the process of finding an accurate method of mapping metal theft in MS.

Workshop 2 - Links to other crime types and identifying knowledge gaps

Chaired by Sergio Bianchi, Agenfor Italia.

Knowledge gaps - judiciary

SB stated that Agenfor Italia needed access to judiciary files in order to develop case studies from each MS. They would like to interview prosecutors, investigating officers and prisoners in order to develop a picture of metal theft in each MS. They asked each MS to identify five cases which matched a specific criteria and send them to Agenfor Italia. The country responses are below:

- **Bulgaria:**
Links with the prosecutor's office are tentative. There are official lines of communication between the Ministry of Interior and the prosecutor's office however these can be quite slow and bureaucratic. With the election due in October the communication lines may change depending on the outcome of the election and who comes into post
- **Greece:**
Contact has been made and ERFC may be able to facilitate the interviews and will liaise with Agenfor outside of the meeting. The public sector is willing to learn from the good practices developed in Pol-PRIMETT II and ERFC would like to see an increased participation from Greece at future meetings. ERFC will try to identify five cases to share with Agenfor by August 2014
- **France:**
The only issue OCLDI has is confidentiality of the cases that they deal with. If the cases are still active they will have to have names removed however the MO's will be able to be shared. If the cases have been closed they will be able to disclose the full details
- **UK:**
The UK stance would be similar to France however the NCA and BTP should be able to share relevant information
- **Portugal:**
Representative was unable to speak on behalf of GNR

SB stated that the cases must be submitted to Agenfor Italia by August so the first version of the report can be completed in September/October 2014.

Knowledge gaps – links between LEAs and the private sector

SB invited Ross Barkley, EUROMETREC to provide a European perspective on LEA – private sector collaboration.

RB stated there are a number of European federations that could work together more closely on a 'position paper' to find some commonalities in best practice in metal theft and share this with Pol-PRIMETT II.

There are varying levels of national collaboration between LEAs and the private sector. The UK, for example, has very high levels of cross sector collaboration with many other MS far behind. The question is how can we improve the cross sector collaboration at national level?

Ian Hetherington, BMRA stated that the largest supplier of scrap metal to dealers is the rail network followed by telecommunication companies and utility companies. IH stated that these companies fail to recognise the level

or worth of assets they have. If this question is raised to these companies it may help them to prioritise and invest in security in relation to their asset worth.

John Minary, Trace-in-Metal stated the biggest knowledge gap is where the stolen metal going. SB stated that this forms part of the research framework. Initial studies in Italy showed stolen metal being shipped to Pakistan and China. The belief is the metal travelling to Pakistan eventually ended up in China also. The reason for the diversion is to reduce costs and possibly for tax evasion reasons. Another example showed Rotterdam and then the UK as an alternative route before ending in China. The system/routes can be easily switched depending on the custom levels of each country.

JM stated that the whole metal theft supply chain should be analysed including A to B (where metal is stolen from) and B to C (where stolen metal goes after sale).

Open forum – Q&A

Q: Are there any issues not currently being addressed by Pol-PRIMETT II?

A: How to tackle illegal scrap metal sites – good examples of legislation to tackle this issue in France and the UK.

Next steps for Pol-PRIMETT II

- Pol-PRIMETT II partners will discuss the early outcomes of workshop 1 at their next meeting and action relevant partners to undertake work to begin the process of finding an accurate method of mapping metal theft in MS
- Approach insurance companies and encourage them to participate in the project identifying the benefits of their involvement
- Close collaboration with UIC regarding mapping metal theft across the EU
- Developing criteria for transferability of good practice

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Acronyms

ACPO	Association of Chief Police Officers
AVCIS	ACPO Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service
BMRA	British Metals Recycling Association
BTP	British Transport Police
EU	European Union
EUG	Expert User Group
EUROMETREC	European Metal Trade and Recycling Federation
FEDEREC	Fédération des Entreprises du Recyclage
FER	Federación Española de la Recuperación y el Reciclaje
GdF	Guardia di Finanza
GNR	Guarda Nacional Republicana
LEA	Law Enforcement Agency
MS	Member state
OCG	Organised Criminal Group
OCLDI	Office Central de Lutte contre la Délinquance Itinérante (Gendarmerie Nationale)
PoI-PRIMETT II	Police – Private Partnership to Tackle Metal Theft II
PUAC	People United Against Crime
SMD	Scrap Metal Dealer
SNCF	Société Nationale des Chemins de fer Français; 'French National Railway Corporation'
UIC	International Union of Railways
UK	United Kingdom
VAT	Value Added Tax

Appendix 2 - List of participants

First name	Surname	Organisation	Country represented
Ross	Bartley	EUROMETREC	Belgium
Sergio	Bianchi	Agenfor	Italy
Michele	Busciolano	Enel	Italy
Francesco	Cavuoto	Guardia di Finanza	Italy
Cristina	Checchinato	Europol	Italy
Mark	Colley	AVCIS	UK
Francesco	Collodoro	Sigurconsult S.r.l.	Italy
Alfredo	Criscuolo	Enel	Italy
Francois	Despres	Gendarmerie Nationale	France
Jose Luis	Diego	Valencia Local Police	Spain
Miquel	Dominguez	Valencia Local Police	Spain
Alison	Evans	British Transport Police	UK
Maria Cristina	Fiorentino	Ferrovie dello Stato Italiane S.p.A.	Italy
Franco	Fiumara	Ferrovie dello Stato Italiane S.p.A.	Italy
Robin	Forrest	SNCF	France
Fabiola	Furnari	Procura Della Repubblica Tribunale Palermo	Italy
Stefano	Garioni	Enel	Italy
Wayne	Goodwin	South Yorkshire Police	UK
Nicola	Grillo	Airmet	Italy
Alena	Havlova	CER	Belgium
Nikki	Henderson	British Transport Police	UK
Jose	Herrera	Valencia Local Police	Spain
Ian	Hetherington	British Metals Recycling Association	UK
Chris	Hillier	National Crime Agency	UK
Marilyne	Hopkinson	People United Against Crime	UK
German	Hormaza	Galea Electric	Spain
Susanne	Kufeld	DB	Germany
Maria	Ladu	Agenfor	Italy
John	Laene	Railpol	Netherlands
Aldo	Madia	Agenfor	Italy
Florian	Manet	SNCF	France
Tonino	Marinucci	Compagnia dei Popoli Pescara	Italy
Andrea	Mazzeo	Airmet	Italy
John	Minary	Trace-In-Metal	UK
Joao	Nascimento	GNR	Portugal
Lubov	Panayotova	European Institute	Bulgaria
Helen	Parr	People United Against Crime	UK
Nellie	Petropoulos	European Regional Framework for Cooperation	Greece
Jose	Pires	UIC	France

Tess	Pozzi	FEDEREC	France
David	Ransom	People United Against Crime	UK
Nicola	Rentell	National Crime Agency	UK
Jorge	Roma	GNR	Portugal
Nadya	Sabotinova	Bulgarian Association of Recycling	Bulgaria
Sonia	Sanfona	PSAT	Portugal
Silvia	Santoro	Prosecutor - Pescara	Italy
Katerina	Sotiropoulou	European Regional Framework for Cooperation	Greece
Marco	Tiseo	Telecom Italia	Italy
Damiano	Toselli	Telecom Italia	Italy
Andrea	Via	CC, National Observatory on Metal Theft	Italy
Steve	Welsh	National Crime Agency	UK

Appendix 3 - Evaluation

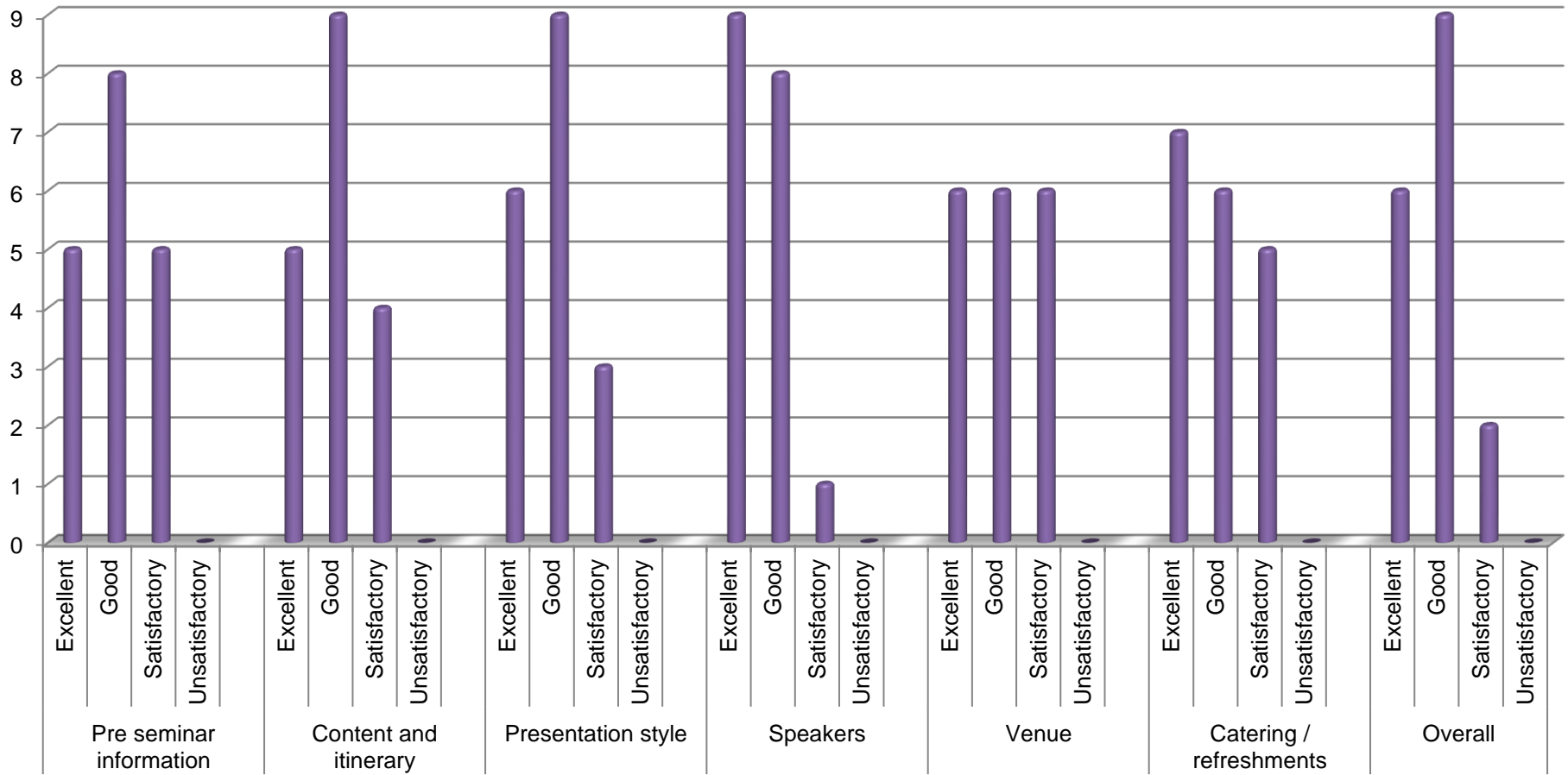
The information below is based on the feedback received from delegates who attended the EUG2.

Summary of findings

- 51 delegates attended the EUG meeting and 18 evaluation forms were completed. This is a 35% response rate
- Overall responses ranged from 'excellent' to 'satisfactory' with the average response being 'good'
- Speakers received the highest average score of 3.4 = 'good'
- Comments included:
 - Pol-PRIMETT 2 EUG suffered from a too tiny conference room and from the fact it was difficult to look at the screen
 - Good organisation, interesting information
 - Somehow previous preparation of the meeting should involve the timely information and dynamics. Left feeling that additional case for the organisation should be a priority
 - Excellent speakers and very interesting and challenging content. Very good networking opportunities which appear to be making a positive difference to tackling metal theft. An exciting arena to tackle future problems
 - PP2 must keep moving forward in terms of new content and information, otherwise there is a danger that we lose impetus and as a consequence, loose following. A critical factor going forward is the need to transnationalise and share individual success in separate MS
 - We need information on what are the procedures and legislation in each MS in connection to closing an illegal site, geofencing the criminals
- Recommendations for future topics and activities were:
 - European Law (Directive 2008/98/EC) allow that all scrap yards have to be either Permitted or Registered. Should Pol-PRIMETT questions how this law is applied in each MS? Who has the database of Permits? Who has the Register? Who enforces this law against illegal scrap sites? Responses to this can support that the law be amended to demand MS maintain national publicly available databases of Permits and Registrations
 - Public Private Partnerships
 - Less criminal rates
 - Good practices from all over Europe
 - The rise of catalytic convertor thefts in Europe
 - Accuracy of the operational approach, with a clear involvement of public-private agencies. A better information regarding the state of play of other WP, especially regarding a uniform approach on the contents of questionnaire to be used as an informational gathering methodology
 - Transnational collaboration opportunities and activities. How to influence DG Home/DG Move more efficiently
 - The production of transferable guidance which provides the essential elements for reducing the phenomenon of metal theft, e.g. type and style of regulation/legislation which is proving effective; the style and scope of police operations which may be determined by legislation; different LEA's working conditions
 - To value the opportunity to involve the customs in Europol and in this meeting. They have important data about the flows of metal waste (not only copper) and the relationships between

- companies in different countries (because they sell and buy these goods and declare them to the customs) this could be help to know hidden chains
- Public -private partnership examples from different countries, case studies on providing information and data collection on illegal site and resolved case. Are there any problems connected to sentencing?

The graph below summarises the responses received:



There were 51 delegates who attended the EUG meeting and there were 18 responses.

Summary information

4= Excellent, 3= Good, 2= Satisfactory, 1= Unsatisfactory

	Median response	Range	Mean
Pre-meeting information	Good	Excellent – satisfactory	3.0
Content and itinerary	Good	Excellent – satisfactory	3.1
Presentation style	Good	Excellent – satisfactory	3.2
Speakers	Good	Excellent – satisfactory	3.4
Venue	Good	Excellent – satisfactory	3.0
Catering / refreshments	Good	Excellent – satisfactory	3.1
Overall	Good	Excellent – satisfactory	3.1

Each category received responses varying from 'excellent' to 'satisfactory' with the average response being 'good'.

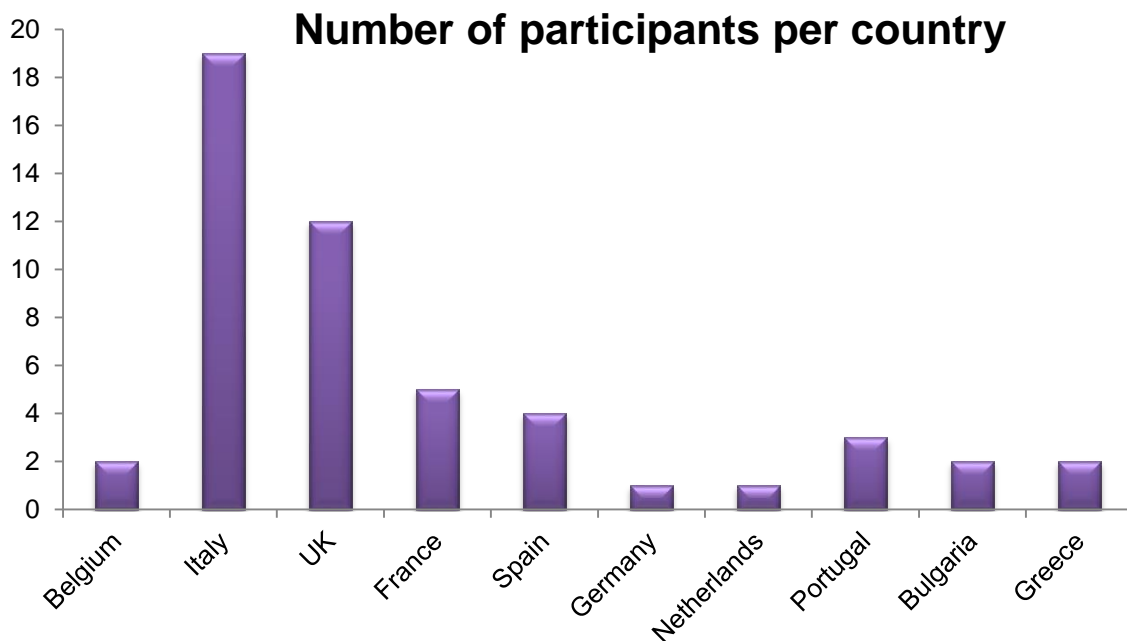
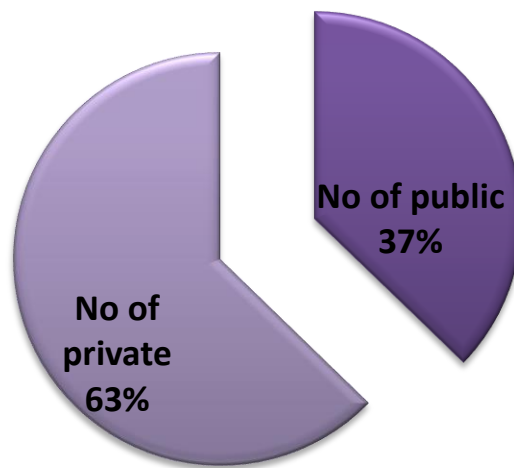
Based on the mean score delegates were most positive on the speakers (3.4 = 'good'), and least on the pre-meeting information and venue which received a score of 3.0 = 'good'.

Overall the event was rated as 'good', with responses ranging from 'excellent' to 'satisfactory'. The overall mean was 3.1 = 'good'.

Appendix 4 - Analysis of delegates

No of delegates	51
No of organisations	35
No of countries	10
No of public	19
No of private	32

Public and private sector split



Including the meetings from the first Pol-PRIMETT project, there have been 10 EUG meetings since 2010:

Location	Date	No. of attendees	No. of organisations	No of countries represented
Sheffield, UK	November 2010	35	18	5
Rome, Italy	March 2011	48	26	5
Wakefield, UK	June 2011	33	23	6
Sofia, Bulgaria	December 2011	75	31	5
London, UK	March 2012	54	34	9
Athens Greece	July 2012	78	46	9
Valencia, Spain	November 2012	67	43	10
Valencia, Spain	March, 2013	44	31	11
London, UK	June, 2013	71	48	12
*London, UK	February 2014	91	48	11

*The first Pol-PRIMETT II EUG meeting.



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