



# **Summary feedback on the 23rd FIPS World Congress**



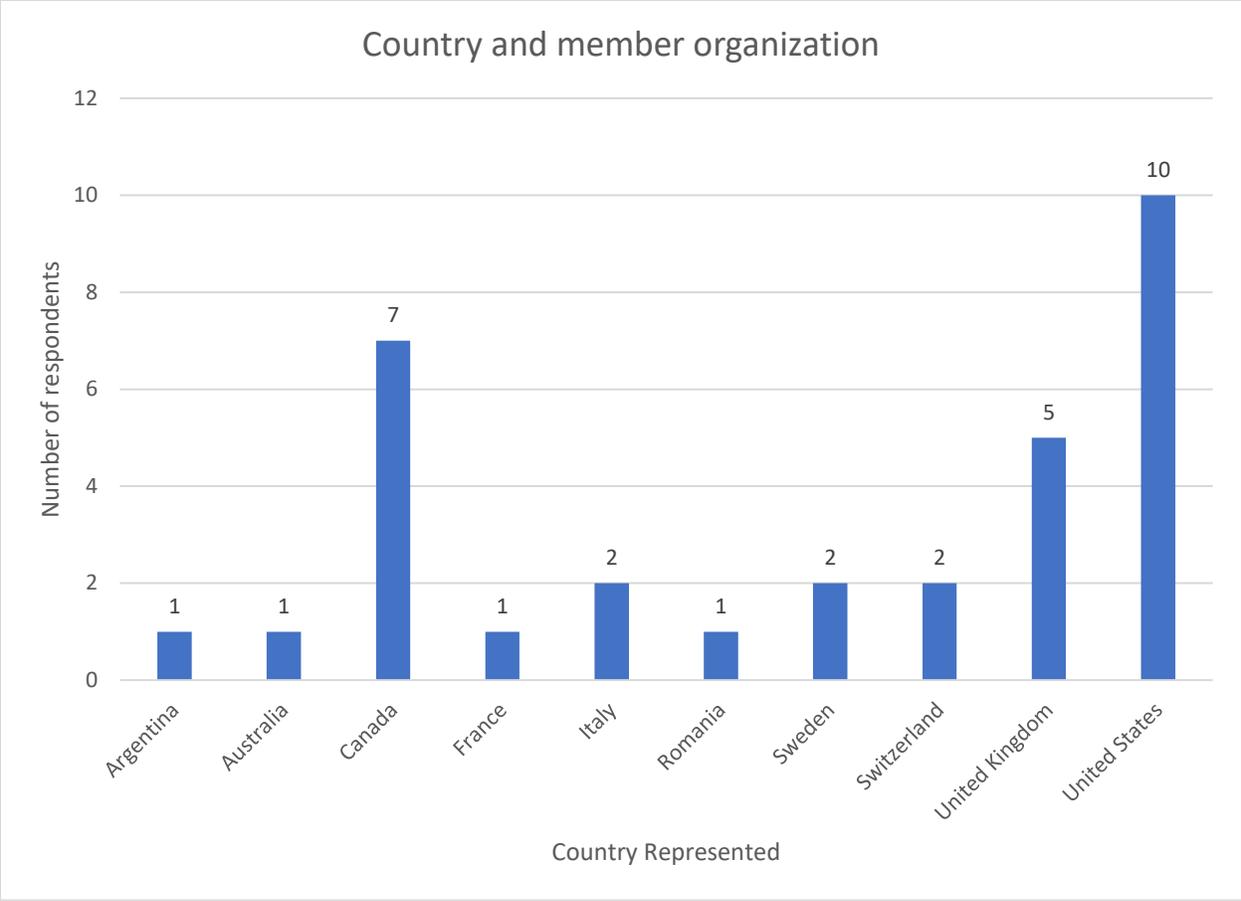
**Val Thorens, France**

**April 23 – 30, 2022**

The 23<sup>rd</sup> FIPS World Congress held in April, 2022 at Val Thorens, France was attended by 110 ski patrollers and associates from around the ski patrol organization federation.

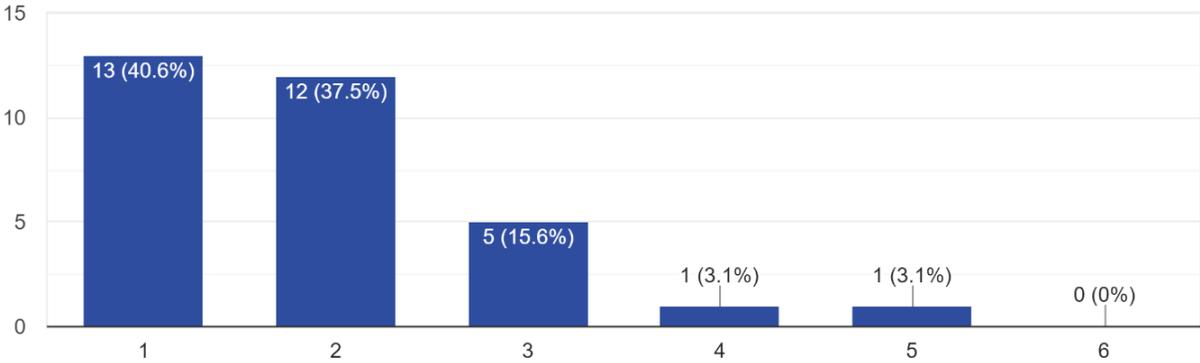
Following the Congress, a survey was circulated to solicit views to provide guidance in planning and presenting the 2024 FIPS World Congress to be held in Riksgränsen, Sweden, 300 km north of the arctic circle. 32 responses were received from different member organizations as noted in the first bar chart. This reflects a response rate of 29%.

The full detailed survey response with all comments has been provided to the organizers and the FIPS executive for consideration in planning future events. A summary of the survey is provided here for all FIPS members.



Your overall FIPS 2022 congress experience was...

32 responses

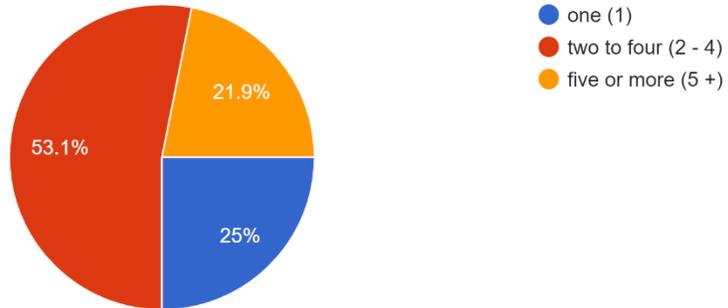


- 1. Very Satisfied
- 2. Satisfied
- 3. Neutral

- 4. Unsatisfied
- 5. Very Unsatisfied
- 6. Not Applicable

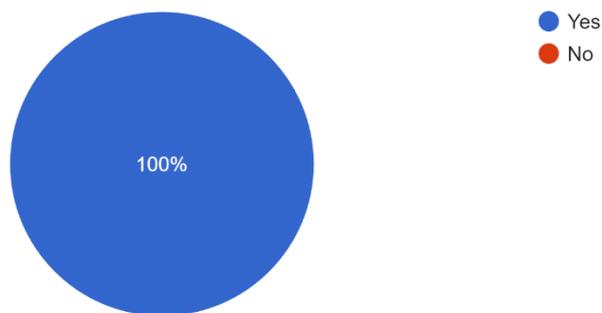
How many FIPS congresses have you attended?

32 responses



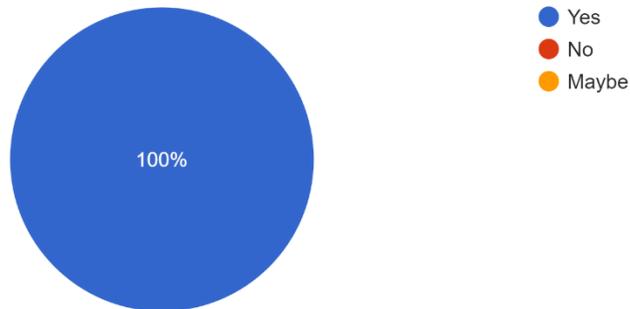
Do you intend, at this time, to attend the next congress in Riksgränsen, Sweden in 2024?

32 responses



Would you recommend FIPS congresses to others?

32 responses



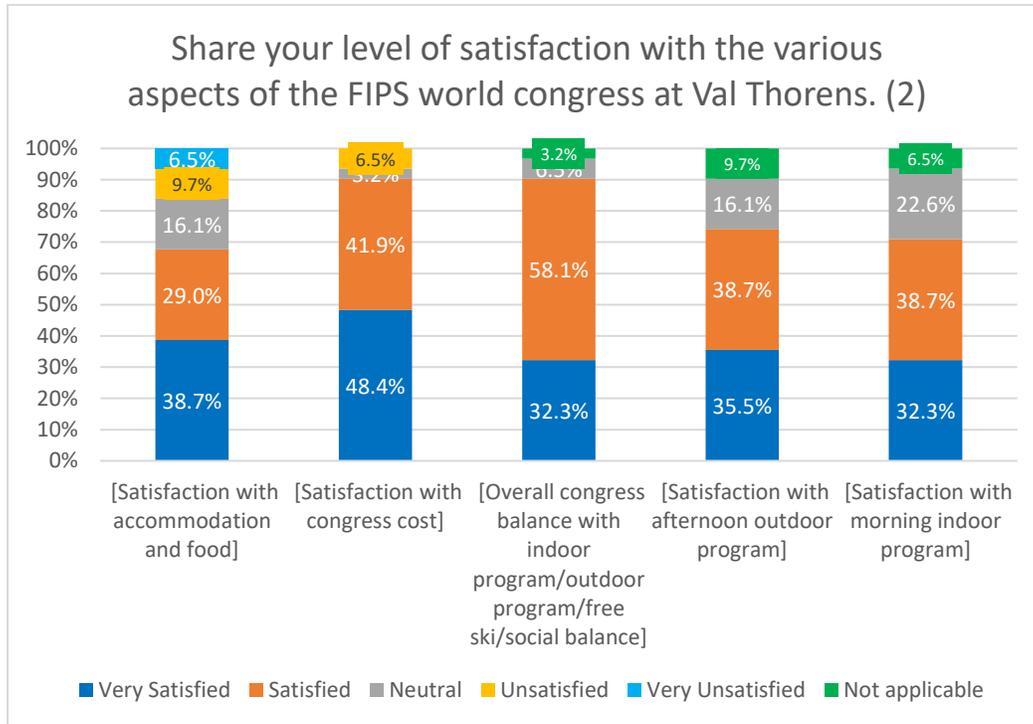
The 23<sup>rd</sup> Congress had been rescheduled due to the Covid – 19 world pandemic. It was decided in the fall of 2021 to schedule the Congress to April 2022, to be held at Val Thorens, France.

The majority of participants found the Covid protocols in place according to local and national requirements. However, 66% of respondents exhibited Covid – 19 symptoms or positive tests during or immediately following the Congress.

All scheduled sessions in the program were well attended, however, there were requests to consider different scheduling of the program to maximize the skiing aspects. Afternoon on-mountain sessions were attended by fewer participants compared to those who chose to “free ski”.

It is recognized there was a great deal of tentativeness and consideration in making the decision to proceed with the Congress in 2022. As a result, the registration process was unique in that even though the registration process opened a final decision to continue was not made until January. With the unique situation it is not surprising that less than 50% of survey participants were satisfied with communication prior to and during the Congress. The latter being the result of a skeleton organization group present due to the international Covid restrictions on travel.

The following graph shows levels of satisfaction with various aspects of the Congress. Specific suggestions on how a congress participant experience may be enhanced have been shared with the 24<sup>th</sup> Congress organizing committee. They include suggestions related to lecture/presentation facilities, timing of program schedule being released, in congress communication, etc. With regard to cost, approximately 15% of respondents indicated they received financial support from their national organization to attend the Congress.



Suggestions for topics at future congresses included introduction of “hands on” sessions in morning sessions, ski and toboggan driving techniques, ski/ride instruction, discussion of advanced first aid instruction curriculums in different countries as well as strategies for recruitment/retention, critical stress management and mentoring. Also having an internal trade show with Congress sponsors or ski industry suppliers was identified.

Respondents were also asked if they would like to be involved in a Special Interest Group (SIG). Where indicated, names have been shared with the SIG chairs.

Questions or comments related to this 23<sup>rd</sup> FIPS World Congress may be directed to:

[secretary@fips-skipatrol.org](mailto:secretary@fips-skipatrol.org)

September 2022