

Survey Report of Bunsen-Tagung 2021 Multi-Scale Modelling & Physical Chemistry of Colloids

The online survey for the Bunsen-Tagung 2021 ran directly from the end of the conference from May 12 to 27, 2021. The survey was structured according to topics and included questions about the profile of the participants, evaluation of the registration, the organization, the course of the event and the scientific program. The evaluation was based on a four-point scale from “very satisfied” to “unsatisfied”. Sometimes there was the possibility to add comments. In addition, opinions on the Bunsen-Tagung 2021 as a whole were obtained, as well as statements on what the participants envision for the upcoming conference.

A total of 265 people took part in the survey for the Bunsen-Tagung, 241 of whom answered the survey completely, which corresponds to a survey participation of 44%, measured by all conference participants (550). A comparison to the Bunsen-Tagung 2019 is only possible to a limited extent due to the different event formats (presence vs. online).

Profile of Participants

Answers: 251

51% of the participants were students / doctoral candidates. The age group “under 30 years” dominated with 53%, the next larger group (21%) were the 30 to 40-year-olds, 13% belonged to the age group 51-60 years. The proportion of DBG members was 38%, and 6% also stated that they are members of the Colloid Society.

Organization and Process

Answers: 247

The next question related to how the participants found out about this year’s Bunsen-Tagung. Most (36%) were made aware of the event at the university, almost as many (34%) of the survey respondents regularly take part in the Bunsen conference.

Further questions about the course of the event concerned the registration and the supply of information on the conference website. The majority of survey respondents were satisfied with the registration (90%) and the supply of information was also perceived as successful (78% satisfaction).

*„Fantastic work by the organisation team
around Prof. Nürnberger and Dick!”*

Online Format

Answers: 246

The feedback on the online format of the conference was overall very positive. Most participants (86%) were very satisfied or satisfied with the online platform. Digital communication among each other was also very popular, with 72% using the tools provided, such as direct chat, video groups, or the discussion rooms. Only 12% stated that they had technical difficulties while using the online platform.

*„The virtual platform on which the
Bunsen Tagung was held was
outstanding!”*

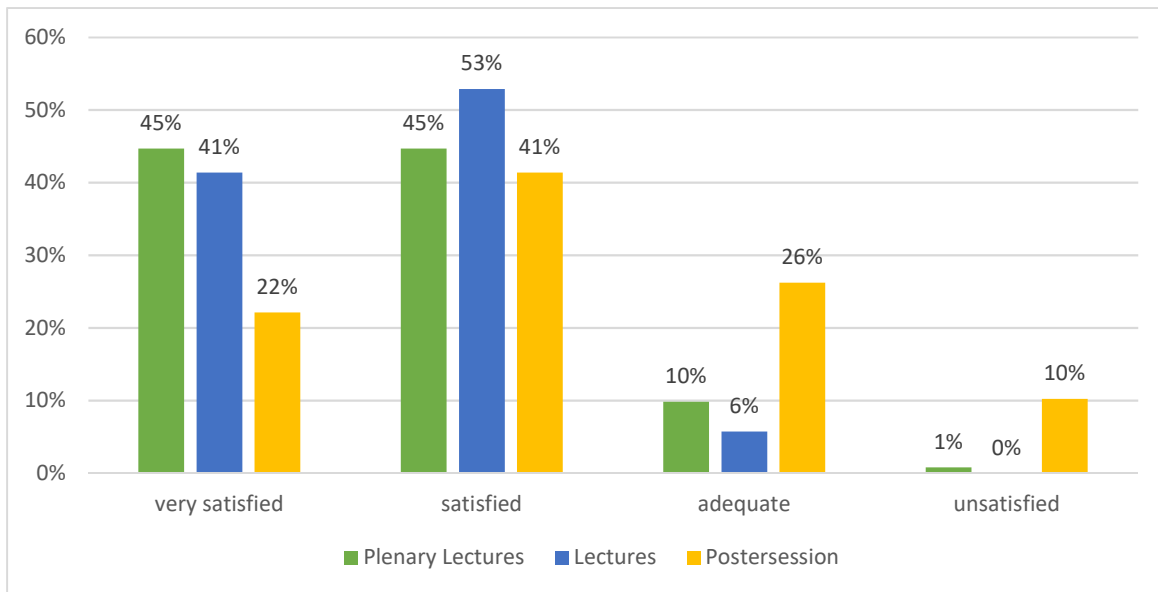
*„Excellent software!
Enjoyed the event a lot”*

Scientific Program

Answers: 244

Similar to the Bunsen-Tagung 2019, the quality of the presentations was largely rated as good to very good. Back then, however, the plenary lectures had received the top grade in 29% of the surveys, this year there was a sharp increase to 45%. Regarding the lectures, the trend is in the opposite direction, the top grade was given in 41%, whereas in 2019 this had been the case in 58% of the surveys.

Overall, the presentations were generally very well received, and it should be emphasized that not a single “unsatisfied” vote was given from the 244 survey respondents.



The response to the poster session was mostly positive with 63% satisfaction, but generally appealed less to participants than did the virtual lectures. From the comments, it can be seen that the main points of criticism cited were technical difficulties and the limited ability to prepare for the new format.

Bunsen-Tagung 2021 & 2022

Answers: 241

Despite some criticism, such as the above-mentioned complications with regard to the poster session, the participants expressed their overall satisfaction with the conference, both in terms of content and with the online format. Many were surprised at how varied and smooth the virtual Bunsen-Tagung was. The fact that the participants also benefitted from the scientific exchange in this Bunsen-Tagung is also clearly demonstrated by the fact that 71% plan to attend the Bunsen-Tagung again in 2022 on September 7-9. As expected, most of them would like to have back a face-to-face conference. For the

*“In person, if not, learning from the mistakes from this time.
But still it was very good, CORONA just made it nearly undoable, but you did it :)”*

“Very interesting online format with a lot of possibilities to take part in small discussions. It's really the best one can do in these difficult times. However to really make good connections for collaborations a face to face talk at a conference in presence is much better.”

poster session, a larger time slot or two slots is requested as well as more transparency in the assessment by the poster-prize jury.

Conclusion

The results of the survey reveal that the participants were largely satisfied with the first virtual Bunsen-Tagung. The greatest potential for improvement was identified in relation to the poster session. The DBG management will discuss the results of this survey with the topics committee, the board of directors, and the organizers of the upcoming Bunsen-Tagung and will take up the points of criticism in order to further increase the attractiveness of the Bunsen-Tagungen.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the survey!