

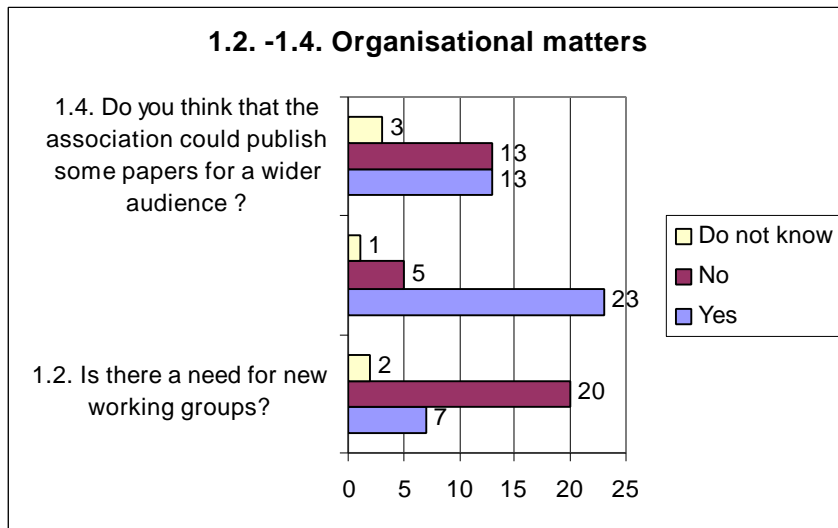
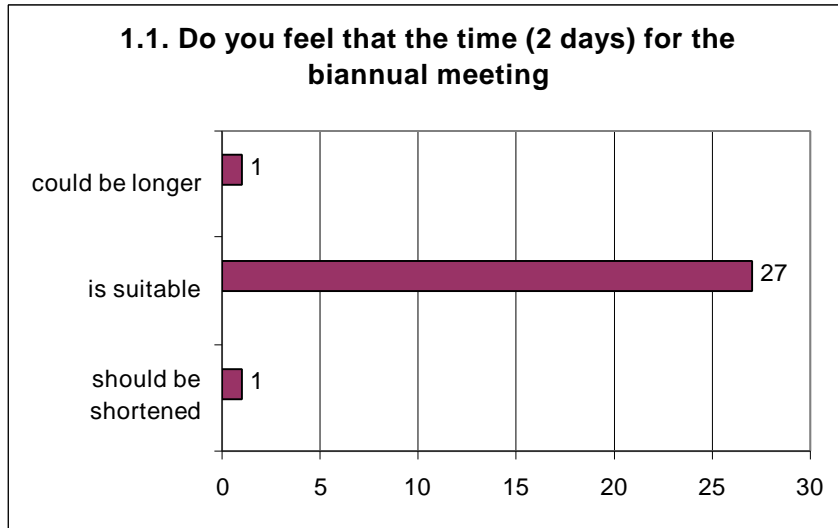
ANALYSIS OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE ON AIECE
CO-OPERATION

AIECE meeting in Brussels October 27th, 28th and 29th 1999
ETLA / IRES

Various ways to develop co-operation between AIECE-institutes were discussed intensively in the general meeting in October 1998, in connection with the 40th anniversary of the association. It was also suggested that a follow-up questionnaire would be carried out, analysing the views of the member institutes.

A summary and a brief analysis of the 29 answers is presented below.

1. Organisational matters



Comments on questions on organisational matters:

1.2. Is there need for new working groups?

What areas ?

- Developments in EMU are were mentioned 3 times
- "Workshops" on special issues were mentioned 2 times
- Economic policies
- European enlargement
- Convergence of economic policies inside EMU
- It was also suggested that the World Trade Group could be dropped as it duplicates the general discussion
- Implication of EU policies to third countries

1.3. Do you think that the association should have a higher profile in European policy discussion (e.g., in discussing the developments within EMU) ?

- Economic policy in the euro area (fipo, mopo or labour market policy) was mentioned 9 times.
- Euro area outlook was mentioned twice
- EMU issues was mentioned four times
- Business cycle discussion was mentioned three times
- More focus on Europe in global context
- Trade issues
- Structural reforms
- Eastern enlargement of EU was mentioned three times
- Development outside EU area

1.4. Do you think that the association could publish some papers for a wider audience ?

What kind of publications?

- General report was mentioned seven times
- Papers from working groups was mentioned four times
- Special studies was mentioned once
- Summary of national forecasts was mentioned once

On the other hand three institutes were against publishing as there is, in fact, no common view of the institutes. It is also difficult to achieve such view.

1.5. How would you like to develop the current web page of the association?

- A permanent forum to discuss important issues.
- Exchange of information between members
- It could be developed to serve as a preparatory tool for the next meeting.
- Addresses should be arranged also in such a way that all of them can be printed at the same time.
- It depends on the development of co-operation in the association.
- Information for members.
- Relevant links.
- Reports for downloading
- It is ok.

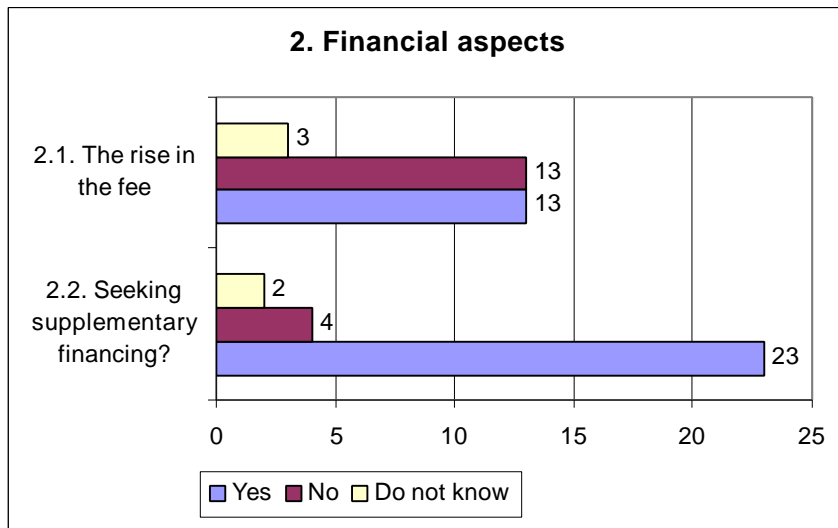
In General more modern page were waited for.

2. Financial aspects

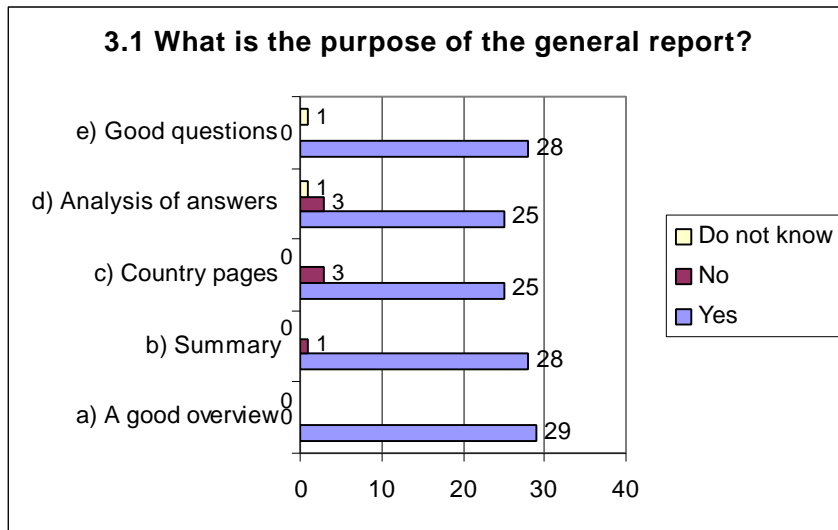
2.1. The fee (100 euros) has been unchanged since 1980. Would you be ready to raise the membership fee to cover, for example, interpretation costs in the spring meetings or costs of inviting outside experts to the meetings ?

2.2. Do you think that the association should seek supplementary financing from, e.g., the EU or some European foundations ?

2.3. Other comments on financial aspects.



3. General report



Comments on questions on the general report:

3.1. What is the purpose of the general report?

a) A good overview of economic developments

- The reporters assessment should be compared to the AIECE-view
- Should be structured in a similar way from time to time
- Overview could be shorter

b) Summary of forecasts

- More weight on the analysis of forecasts
- There is a problem with outdated forecasts
- Absolutely necessary
- Forecast period should be extended

c) Individual country pages

- Very good idea
- Problem of outdated forecasts
- Problems with consistency
- Should focus more on policy issues

d) Analysis of the answers to the questionnaire

- Not a purpose in itself
- To analyse differences in approaches, majority/minority etc.
- More quality to the answers
- Answers should be utilised only in drafting

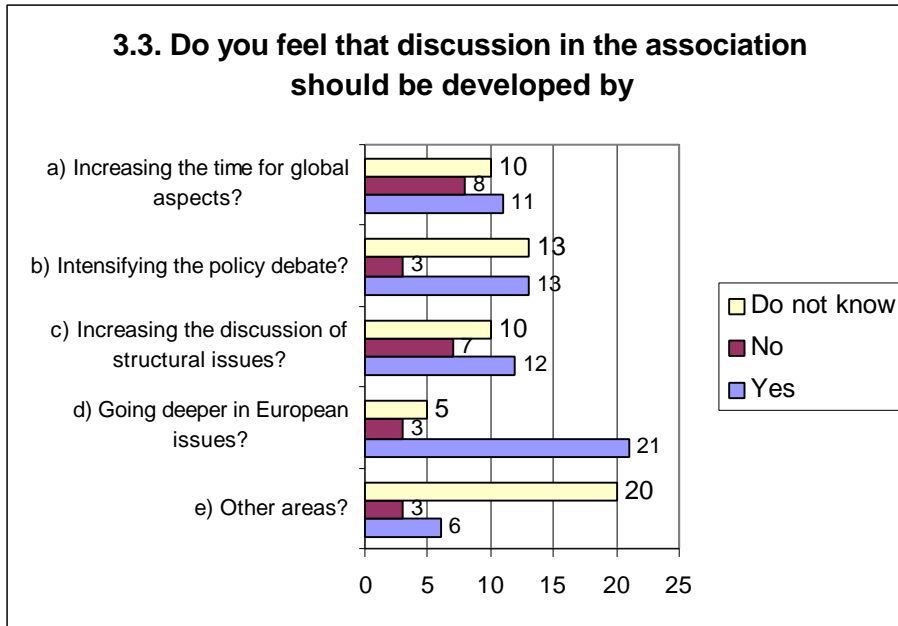
e) Good questions for the discussion

- As an attachment
- Proposals from the institutes
- Fewer questions, more discussion

In general questions were regarded as important to guide the discussion

3.2. Other comments on the general report

- More standardisation would be most helpful for both writers and readers
- The reports should be regarded as read
- Better concentrate on what we know i.e. Europe
- A value added should be brought by e.g. as up-to-date forecasts
- Presentations are often too long
- Should be concentrated on institutions opinions and "hot issues"
- "Post mortem analysis"



3.3. Do you feel that discussion in the association should be developed by

Comments on the development of discussion

a) Increasing the time on global aspects

- Systemic risks of international financial architecture
- Global position of EU
- Developing countries
- Monetary policy in the different areas
- Two institutes answers were no.

b) Intensifying the policy debate

In what areas ?

- Monetary and Fiscal policy
- EMU / Euro
- Employment
- Environment
- Welfare state
- Trade policy
- Risks of the forecast
- Enlarging of the EU

- One institute opposed the intensifying.

c) Increasing the discussion of structural issues
In what areas ?

- Economic growth and employment
- Economic growth and inflation
- Potential output and equilibrium unemployment rate
- Enlarging the EU
- Labour market issues
- Public finance
- Environmental issues
- Link between short and medium run
- Liberalisation of goods and service markets
- Competitiveness issues
- There were three negative responses. It was suggested to deal these issues only in a working group to avoid duplicate discussion.

d) Going deeper into European issues ?

- EMU
- Enlargement of the EU
- Role of the EU in a global economy
- ECB strategy in medium term
- Labour market issues

e) Other areas

- Labour markets
- Central European issues
- Discussion on smaller economies
- Enterprise and household behaviour
- EU enlargement
- Lessons from transformation

4. General Remarks

Why not more English and Spanish institutes?

