

Engineering for Development (E4D) School

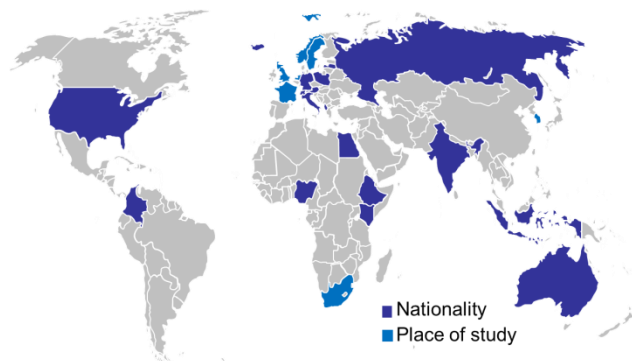
Low-Carbon Energy and Development Strategies

Feedback and evaluation

The E4D School on Energy took place from 9 to 28 July 2017 as part of the programme “Engineering for Development – Science & Technology for the South”, funded by the Sawiris Foundation for Social Development. It was organised by ETH Global, the Energy Policy Group and the Energy Science Center of ETH Zurich, and hosted by the University of Cape Town, South Africa.

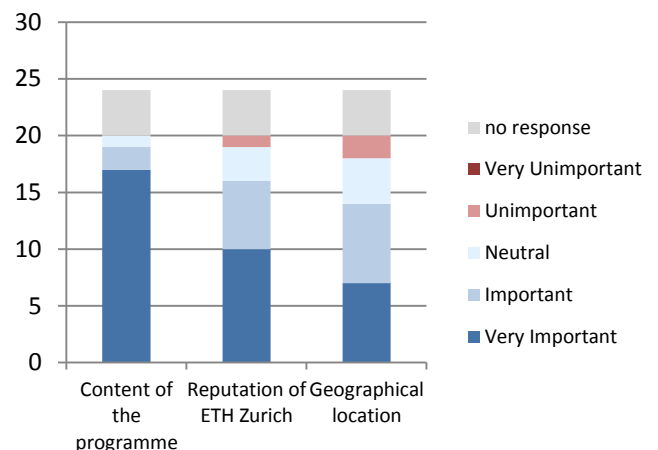
Participants

24 students from 17 different countries—from Iceland to Australia—attended the E4D School on Energy, ten of which were female.

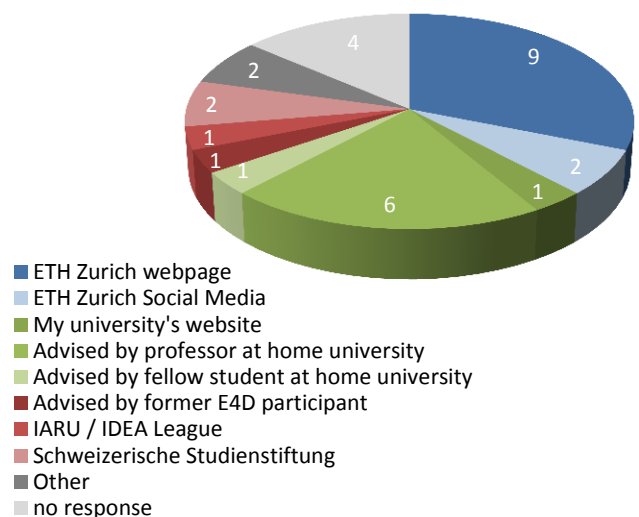


The students were asked to participate in two surveys. One was conducted after the first week with questions mainly concerning the lectures and the preparation of the School. 20 out of 24 students answered these questions. The second survey was conducted at the end of the E4D School to evaluate the programme, the overall impression and students’ satisfaction with the logistics and management. 23 out of 24 students responded to the second survey. If questions were asked in both surveys, the diagrams show the average results.

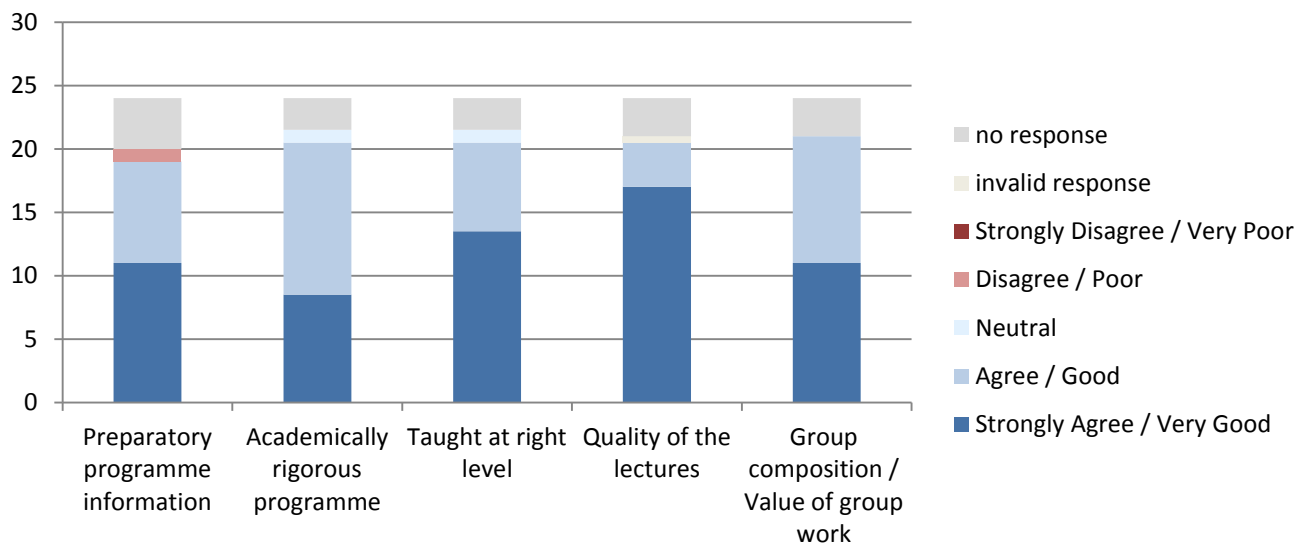
The main motivation for students to participate in the E4D School was the topic of Low-Carbon Energy and Development Strategies, but the ETH reputation also played a role.



Most students learned about the E4D School via ETH communication channels (11), while for others their home university was the main source of information (8) [multiple responses possible].



Academic programme



“Low-Carbon Energy and Development Strategies” (LCEDS) seek to decouple energy use and economic development from environmental degradation and are becoming a new paradigm for policy-makers. The three-week programme of the E4D School covered four subthemes related to LCEDS:

1. Renewable Energy Technologies and Policies
2. Political Economy of the Power Sector
3. Electricity Access
4. Sustainable Development Benefits

The programme took place at the University of Cape Town (UCT) located in South Africa. It consisted of lectures, group work on model countries, negotiation games and field excursions.

Lectures

A team of six lecturers of the *Energy Policy Group* and the *Energy Science Center* of ETH Zurich together with South African experts shared their knowledge with the students. The high profile and interdisciplinary background of the academic lecturers laid the basis to address the challenges of LCEDS and offered tools, methods, and concepts to address them. South African lecturers came from UCT, the *Council for Scientific and Industrial Research* in Pretoria, the private companies *New Horizons Energy* and *Restio Energy* as well as the NGOs *Sustainable Energy Africa* and the *Sustainability Institute Innovation Lab*.

With very few exceptions the students rated the academic programme as very good or good.

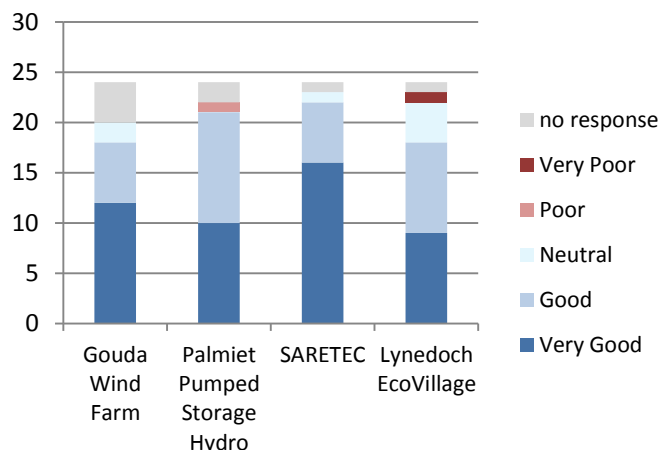
Excursions

As an introduction, the students had a touristic excursion to the city of Cape Town and a campus tour, which familiarised the group with the history of South Africa and the role which UCT played during and after the apartheid era.

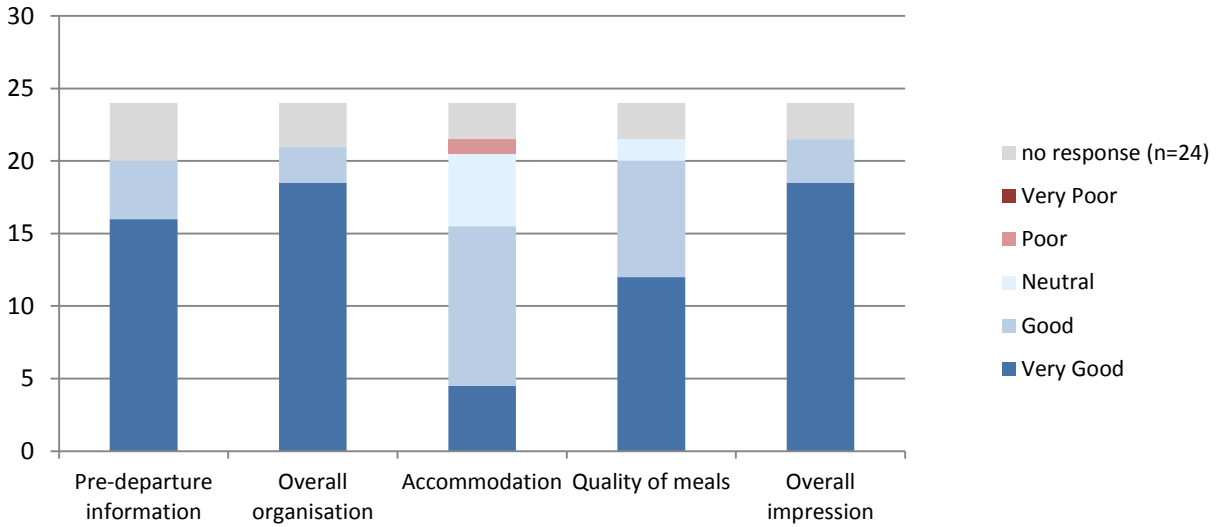
Four field trips showed various facets of South Africa’s energy policies and technologies:

Gouda wind farm approximately 100km northeast of Cape Town; the Palmiet pumped storage hydroelectric scheme in the Western Cape mountains; the South African Renewable Energy Technology Centre (SARETEC) at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology; and the Lynedoch EcoVillage of Stellenbosch University.

Touristic excursions to the Peninsula and the winelands showed the beauty of the Cape region and contributed to the positive group dynamics.



Organisation

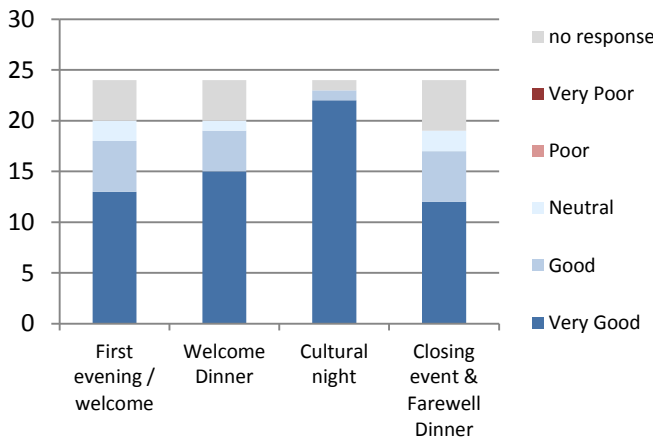


Overall, the students were very satisfied with the organisation of the E4D School. UCT provided an excellent environment and support in making the three weeks a successful event.

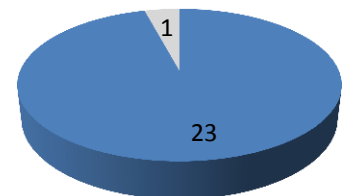
Minor criticism referred to weak internet connection and insufficient group rooms at the guest house.

A special highlight was the cultural night, which everybody enjoyed greatly (photo below).

All students agreed unanimously that they would recommend the E4D School on Energy to their peers, as reflected in the comments below.



- Yes
- no
- no response



Voices of the participants

Thank you very much for your effort in organizing such an inspiring programme

Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of this project.

Thanks so much to all of the organising and teaching team for all your hard work in putting this together - it really was a privilege to be a part of it.

Definitely! Tobias and the team are great lecturers.

I think the program is excellent. All the external and internal presentation were of very high quality. I have learnt a lot and will definitely apply it in the future. In addition to this I think I know what I want to do with my life. My horizons have definitely opened up. Thank you very much.

Absolutely. Thank you so much for making this possible and for giving me the opportunity to be part of it!

Thank you

Thank you for the great work! I enjoyed it very much.

Absolutely! This was such a wonderful experience. Thank you for the opportunity! Just want to add as well that all the lecturers in week 2 and 3 were amazing.

Absolutely. Thank you so much for your time and effort

It was a great time with many important learnings. Thank you all for allowing me to participate in this great school.

Thank you for this opportunity

Thanks romana for helping us throughout; Thanks barbara for choosing me for scholarship; Thanks lucia for taking care of me when I am sick and also buying me medicines. Thanks tobias and his team for such a great course. It is really an honour to sit in your lecture Tobi.



More Information:

→ www.bit.ly/E4D_energy

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