



REPORT

on the III International Conference

“Innovative approaches to working with children with special needs: Kyrgyz and international experience”

Jannat Hotel, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
18 – 20 May 2016

Organizers:
Ministry of Labour and Social Development KR, Ministry of Healthcare KR,
Ministry of Education and Science KR
Kelechek Plus NGO, Hand in Hand NGO, National Network Zhanyryk
ICCO Cooperation, Eurasia Foundation, FSDS NGO



In all actions concerning children with disabilities the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Article 7.



КЕЛЕЧЕК



Ministry of Healthcare of KR



Ministry of Labor and Social Development of KR



Ministry of Education and Science of KR

Рука в Руке
Общественная Организация
развития детей-инвалидов в КР



Brot für die Welt



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70 YEARS FOR EVERY CHILD

Acknowledgments

Kelechek Plus Public foundation wholeheartedly thanks the Foundation's team of staff members and volunteers for working hard to prepare and conduct the III International Conference. Hand in Hand NGO headed by Jyldyz sadykova made a significant contribution to the Conference when their team was responsible for developing the main structure of the programme and formed main participants' list; which helped us to form the final programme and invite all participants. We also sincerely thank Anara Nadirbekova from Eurasia Foundation Central Asia for her preparatory job on PR and event's moderators during final months before the event.

We would like express our deepest gratitude to members of the Conference's organizing committee who despite being very busy found time to meet, share responsibilities and monitor preparation to the important event from November 2015 until May 2016. Members include:

Jyldyz Sadykova, chair of the Janyrk Naitonal network and Hand in Hand NGO
Gulzat Temirova, programmes officer, ICCO Cooperation
Shaten Toktogaziev, project manager, Janyrk Naitonal network and FSDS NGO
Anara Nadirbekova, project manager, Eurasia Foundation Central Asia
Munir Mamadzade, Chynara Dumagulova, Cholpon Imanalieva, UNICEF
Ukei Muratalieva, chair, Nazik Kyz NGO
Aidai Soltobaeva, office manager, Moving Forward NGO
Gulzada Akunova, Dinara Asanova, Janyl Alybaeva, Ministry of Labor and Social Development
Gulmira Najimidinova, Ministry of Healthcare
Saltanat Mambetova, Ministry of Education and Science

Such a large-scale event with participants from 16 countries and all 7 regions of Kyrgyzstan would not take place without substantial financial support from the following organizations:

HealthProm funded The Big Lottery Fund
ICCO Cooperation
UNICEF
Eurasia Foundation Central Asia
Soros Foundation - Kyrgyzstan
Bread for the World
FSDS Public Foundation

The National network Janyryk which was formed at the 2nd International Conference in 2011 was the partner of this 3d conference in 2016 and we appreciate their support very much.

Thank you very much to you all!

Kelechek Plus Public Foundation

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The International Conference "Innovative approaches to working with children with disabilities and their families: Kyrgyzstan and international experience" was held in Bishkek during 18-20 May 2016. This time, the Conference was attended by about 240 participants from 16 countries, such as Austria, Bulgaria, Great Britain, Germany, the Netherlands, Latvia, Portugal, United States, Japan, as well as Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, including all 7 regions of Kyrgyzstan. About 80 speakers made presentations on 60 different topics about early intervention, education, and sustainability of child disability services. The event was opened by Gulmira Kudaiberdieva, Deputy Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan, Jyldyz Polotova, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Development, Dr. Joseph Long, A member of the HealthProm's Board of Trustees as well as by heads of donor organizations based in Kyrgyzstan.

The main purpose of the event - the exchange of experience and knowledge on the issues of childhood disability in the field of early intervention and access to education. A separate topic for discussion was the issues of stability of day care centers, which are an alternative to orphanages and boarding schools.

The main objective of the Conference was to address child disability issues through experience and knowledge exchange on early intervention, education and sustainability of day care services which was considered as an alternative to residential institutions.

The Conference had a significant practical part, having 95% of the entire program, and this is what made previous two Conferences in 2009 and 2011 successful. The program had many interesting reports, practical presentations on early intervention, education, new technologies for children with special needs, teaching children with multiple disabilities, successful fundraising of NGOs and others.

Among organizers of the international Conference were various organizations: HealthProm through Kelechek Plus, Ministry of Labour and Social Development, Ministry of Healthcare, Ministry of Education and Science, "Hand in Hand NGO of parents of children with autism, Janyryk National network, ICCO Cooperation, Eurasia Foundation Central Asia (EFCA). It was first time when so many and different nature organizations came together to organize one even for children with disabilities.

The donors of the Conference were the Big Lottery Fund through HealthProm, followed by UNICEF, Soros Kyrgyzstan Foundation through EFCA, ICCO Cooperation, Bread for the World, and FSDS NGO.

In general over 90% respondents evaluated the event's organization and its content between excellent and good.



Ms. Gulmira Kudaiberdieva, Vice Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan:

Development of early intervention, inclusive education, social, psychological and pedagogical support, rehabilitation services has become one of the most important trends in the social policy of Kyrgyzstan over the past 5 years. The Conference will contribute to the consolidation of efforts of public and non-governmental sectors to improve the quality of care for children with disability.

Introduction

Work on the May Conference began about a year before the event, immediate preparation began in September 2015 when ministries expressed their interest and several donors such as ICCO cooperation, UNICEF, Soros Foundation Kyrgyzstan were willing to fund. We formed a working organizing group on preparing for the Conference, which included the following organizations: Kelechek Plus, Hand in Hand NGO, National Network Janyryk, Nazik Kyz NGO, Moving Forward NGO, EFCA, UNICEF, three Ministries – of Labour and Social Development, Healthcare and Education and Science. In total we held 7 meetings on a monthly basis since November 2015 and included regular communication between the members via emails and telephone.

International 3-day Conference "Innovative approaches to working with children with disability and their families: the experience of Kyrgyzstan and international countries" on 18-20 May 2016 was organized by the following organizations in partnership – Kelechek Plus NGO, Hand in Hand NGO, Janyryk National network, Eurasia Foundation Central Asia (EFCA), the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, Ministry of Healthcare, Ministry of Education and Science.

The Conference was funded by The Big Lottery Fund through HealthProm (UK), UNICEF, Soros Foundation Kyrgyzstan through EFCA, ICCO Cooperation (Netherlands), Bread or the world (Germany), and FSDS NGO (Kyrgyzstan).

Conference's main aim was to discuss the problems of children with disability and their families in Kyrgyzstan and develop solutions to improve their lives in the light of experience and knowledge of participants from different countries, as well as the recent changes in the country's politics.

Conference's main objectives:

- Provide a platform for experience and knowledge exchange on innovative approaches and methods of work with children with disability,
- promote effective interdisciplinary and intersectoral cooperation,
- contribute to early intervention, inclusive education and social protection of children with disability,
- promote sustainability of day care services.

According to some participants the event of such a level was organized for the first time, not only in Kyrgyzstan but also in Central Asia and Kazakhstan. 42 professionals and experts came from outside of Kyrgyzstan, including 28 from former USSR countries (incl. Latvia and Georgia) and 14 more from outside of it. Most came with support of donors who financed the Conference. Several international experts from countries such as the USA, Latvia, Russia, came at their own expense, which we believe suggests that there is an interest in the child disability Conference.



Ms. Jyldyz Polotova, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Development of the Kyrgyz Republic:

The state policy of the Kyrgyz Republic is designed to ensure the comprehensive development of children, including children with disabilities. State guarantees for children with disabilities different types of social benefits and entitlements, provides social services in residential social institutions and within the social contracting framework. A number of international projects aimed at strengthening the national policy on children are being implemented. Existing problems will be resolved together with partners constantly and consistently in order to ensure the interests of children with disabilities and achievement of Sustainable development goals.

Overall, the Conference saw representatives of government agencies and non-profit organizations from 16 countries: Austria, Bulgaria, Great Britain, Germany, the Netherlands, Latvia, Portugal, United States, Japan, as well as Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, including all 7 regions of Kyrgyzstan. About 80 speakers talked about 60 different topics on early intervention, education, and sustainability of services.

Around 220 participants attended every day, on the first day there were about 240 participants, which was expected. And that was instead of the planned 200 participants who had already been registered by the end of March 2016. By the end of April the number of those wishing to participate in the Conference had exceeded 220 people (many of them were willing to dine at their own expense).

The Conference was attended by representatives of the following organizations: from government agencies (Government, Ombudsman, relevant ministries, Department for Education as well as educational institutions from Bishkek, children's residential care homes), local and international non-governmental organizations, local businesses, including several persons with disabilities. Most participants came from NGOs sector - day care/ rehabilitation centers and various organizations of parents of children with special needs (from self-help groups to parent associations) from all 7 regions of the country.

Participants:

- about 220 participants (initially planned 200);
- from all 7 regions of Kyrgyzstan;
- 16 countries: Austria, Bulgaria, Great Britain, Germany, the Netherlands, Latvia, Portugal, United States, Japan, as well as Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan;
- 85% were women.

International participants	15
Participants from ex-USSR countries	29
International organizations and NGOs in Kyrgyzstan	23
Government agencies	46
Organizations that do not work on disability issues	8
Organizations working on child disability issues in Kyrgyzstan	120
Total number	241

There about 240 people on the first day (including those who did not sign in and mass media). HealthProm with support of the Big Lottery Fund had invited 8 experts / consultants from 5 countries: Tanya Buynovskaya from UK as a manager of the Kyrgyzstan project, Jonathan Watkins, UK, and Dr.Nazira Mukhamedjanova, Tajikistan on early child support, Joao Pedro from Portugal on using apps for child therapy, Maria Perfilieva from Russia on inclusive education, Elena Fomina from Russia on inclusive schools, Pavel Burykin from Belarus on hospice, and Dr Joseph Long from UK as a HealthProm's trustee and an expert on autism.

Conference papers were published and were distributed to all participants, along with 250 DVDs containing useful materials, presentations and some videos. We had also handed out approximately 200 guidance on volunteering published within the HealthProm project funded by the Big Lottery Fund, as well as more than 200 directories by ARDI, 300 publications by EFCA, 200 booklets about information system (database) and many other printed materials.

The Conference provided an opportunity to examine different approaches to community based support of children with disability in Kyrgyzstan and abroad. The event has become a kind of platform where parents, experts, government representatives and NGO activists from all regions of the country were able to discuss, share experience, contacts, and learn about how they can work together to improve support to families with children disabilities in the country.



Elnura Boronbaeva, senior specialist at the Ministry of Healthcare: *I think the Conference went at a high level. What's more as far as I know the Conference of this level has been held for the first time. Therefore, as a representative of the Ministry of Healthcare I express my appreciation to all organizers, partners for the support and opportunity for our [medical] professionals to attend and share their experience!*

Conference format

Conference consisted of 2 parts – plenary and small group sessions in 3 sections, and included reports, presentations, workshops, seminars and discussions.

During the Conference there was experience presented on the following:

- models of providing early support to children,
- methods of psychological and educational support for children disability and their families,
- comprehensive rehabilitation and socialization of children and youth with disability,
- forms of integration and inclusion of children with special educational needs,
- an inter-agency approach to working with children with special needs and their parents,
- sources of sustainability of services offered by day care centers and parents-led organizations.

The Conference was opened by the Vice Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan Ms Gulmira Kudaiberdieva, who recognized the importance of issues addressed by the Conference. Then, the participants were greeted by Mr. Kubat Otorbaev, the Ombudsman of the Kyrgyz Republic, Mr. Joseph Long, a member of HealthProm Board of Trustees (UK), Ms. Visser Henja, representative of the ICCO Cooperation Global office (Netherlands), Ms. Dinara Musabekov, EFCA Executive Director, Mr. Munir Mammadzade, Deputy Representative of UNICEF in Kyrgyzstan, and Mr. Alphonse Walton, Vice President of the UNICEF Executive Board through a video message.

The Conference consisted of:

1) plenary sessions on the 1st and final days – reports and presentations for 10 min, plus additional time usually 2-5 minutes for questions and answers session after presentations. All together 10 presentations for about 1 ½ hours.

2) Small group work each day in 3 sections (seminars, presentation, discussions) on such three topics as early intervention, education and sustainability; all together 50 presentations for 27 hours. Time varied from 10 min (for reports) up to 80 min (for workshops). Each section had 2 moderators representing a government agency and an NGO.

The programme was very intense, nevertheless participants were given freedom of choice to participate in any section, each having presentations and workshops. At the end of the day each moderators in each section would give time for Q&A session, discuss recommendations.

International presenters had always a large number of participants at their workshops which indicated that people wanted to learn from international experience, to compare and use those models and approaches that can be applicable in local conditions. The Conference also gave an opportunity for Kyrgyz participants to learn more about local unique experiences and successful models of working with disabled children in Kyrgyz Republic.



Ms. Eliso Rekhviashvili, Women's Union "Raja", Georgia:
We are very grateful that you have invited us to participate at the international conference. We have established useful contacts, there was a lot of interesting speakers: the program is so rich. Although I would recommend more small breaks for a future event to allow participants to refresh and share their thoughts. Overall, the conference was interesting and useful.

Each section for small group sessions had media-projectors, screens, laptops, boards, markers and everything needed for group work. We took photos and in some cases video. There were 2 moderators in each section, representing different sectors - public, non-governmental, who noted down recommendations. Moderators helped to lead discussions and were time-keepers although in many cases efficient time-keeping was not possible especially during plenary sessions.

Conference time-table:

Registration began on May 18 at 8:30 am.

- 18 May: start at 9:20 am and end at 6 pm, with for a 30 min coffee break after lunch. Lunch from 12.00 pm to 1.00 pm.

- 19 May: 9 am till 6 pm, with two 30 min coffee breaks. Lunch 12.00 - 1.00 pm.

- 20 May: 9 am till 5 pm, with a break for 30 minutes. Lunch 1.00 pm - 2.00 pm.

On the final day: adoption of a resolution and a group photo.

The number of participants in sections.

Each section had an average of 70 participants (varied from 50 up to 100). In the passage to the main Conference hall we put up on the wall three flip charts with the sections names and themes of presentations on each day (early intervention, education and sustainability). Participants wrote down their names on a certain flip according to their interests.

Venue

Plenary presentations took place in the Royal Ballroom main Conference room.

The practical sections were held in three halls – on Early Intervention in the main Royal Ballroom Conference hall (1st floor), on Education in the Jannat hall (1st floor) and on Sustainability in the Columns hall (3rd floor).

All Conference rooms were located in one wing of the hotel and connected by elevators. One of the elevators went to the street for the convenience of those using wheelchairs.

On the third day morning main moderators presented recommendations to the entire audience, which had been consolidated and developed as a resolution (attached in Annexes).

Conference coverage

Almost all leading mass media of the capital had been invited to the Conference. The National TV channel, 5 channel and NTS TV channel (first 2 broadcast on the whole country) came to cover the Conference. Information about the event was posted by leading news agencies such as Akipress, Kabar, K-News; it was also posted on ministries' web-sites and our electronic resources.

To inform about preparations for the conference we launched a Facebook page in August 2015, where we posted information about organizing committee's meetings, as well as photo and posts about the work of the conference.

<https://www.facebook.com/internationalconference2016/>

Last autumn we also launched a website in Russian and English to post basic information about the conference itself, its aims and objectives, the programme and information on how to participate.

<http://conference2016kg.wix.com/2016>

The conference was the first one to have a page and a website, as a growing number of organizations and parents in Kyrgyzstan receive information via Internet.

Ali Umarov, a boy with autism (through his mother), Kyrgyzstan:

Thank you very much to Joao from Portugal for presentation on using apps for children with autism! I didn't like reading but this game is so interesting – it's fun to learn reading glowing letters in the dark!

(Photo by Ali's mother)



The main results of the Conference

In general, at this level and in this format such an event for the first time took place in our country's history. Interviews with key participants were positive about the Conference, and they also provided their recommendations for a future.

The main point for improvement that respondents noted, - it was the lack of time for many interesting presentations and following discussions, as well as the Conference's intensive programme. Many participants regretted that they could not take part in other presentations, which were held at the same time in other sections.

The Conference had the following immediate results:

- Ratification of the UN Convention on Disabled Persons' Rights was again put forward before the government and the parliament;
- Contacts established between local and international organizations, both within Kyrgyzstan and abroad;
- New ideas for joint activities and projects discussed (eg, exchange visits, training, creation of networks, etc.);
- Formation of a Central Asian network on early intervention was announced;
- Right after the Conference there were several trainings, workshops, working meetings organized for local organizations and parents together with experts from abroad;
- A number of organizations dealing with children in orphanages, boarding schools have decided to combine their efforts to jointly address common issues;
- A resolution adopted which has been sent out to all interested parties, including the Government, represented by Vice Prime Minister G.Kudaiberdieva, ministries, international organizations and local NGOs.

Resolution of the Conference

The Third International Conference "Innovative approaches to working with children with disabilities: the experience of the Kyrgyz Republic and countries abroad" took place at the Jannat Hotel in Bishkek on May 18-20, 2016 within the framework of the implementation of Social development program in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2015-2017 years.

Conference organizers were: Ministry of Labour and Social Development of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic, Ministry of Healthcare of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Janyryk National Network, Kelechek plus NGO, Hand in Hand NGO, Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia.

Donors of the Conference: The Big Lottery Fund through Healthprom, UNICEF, Soros Foundation - Kyrgyzstan, Brot fur die Welt, ICCO Cooperation, and FSDS NGO.

The event had three sections:

Section 1. Early Identification and Intervention - the Path to Development.

Section 2. Education: Opportunities and Prospects

Section 3. Sustainability of Alternative Services for children with disability and their parents.

Preamble

5 years after the Second International Conference dedicated to the support of children with disability (CWD) in Kyrgyzstan, participants from 16 countries working on child disability issues have come to an agreement on important joint objectives to create an inclusive space to accommodate interests of children with disabilities.

They came to an agreement on the following proposals, principles and priorities:

- Every child, regardless of his/her needs (health, behavior, social status, etc.) has the right to childhood, receive education and all other necessary services for his mental, intellectual and physical development.
- The Kyrgyz Republic needs to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Create and improve infrastructure and transportation.
- Keep and further develop different forms of education for CWD, including specialized educational institutions, special teaching classes, individual (home-based) education.
- Develop a system of rehabilitation centers for children with disabilities;
- Recognize and respect the role of parents in the learning process, education and socialization of their CWD,
- Consider development and care of children in the family as a priority.
- Promote decent pay for teachers educating children with disabilities.
- Advance a system of early intervention and development, support and socialization.

When providing comprehensive support to children with disability humanistic values should prevail.

Representatives of government agencies taking into account the Conference papers prepared by the organizing committee, reports of national and international importance, the results of sections, are grateful to the non-governmental sector for their support of the principles of child- and family-centered approach. and recognize the progress in implementation of the rights of CWD in the Kyrgyz Republic.

During the work in three sections participants discussed the following:

Participants appreciated positive aspects and shortcomings of the existing system of special and inclusive education in the Kyrgyz Republic, social development and rehabilitation, lack of early diagnosis and intervention capabilities.

Positive aspects are: expanding opportunities for comprehensive support to children with disability from early childhood through the development of various types of rehabilitation, inclusion and socialization. Eliminating social stereotypes in inclusive educational space of preschool and school age. The adoption by the state various actions for integration of persons with disability in society over the past decade.

However, the following weaknesses were noted:

- Uncertain status of CWDs; absence of the concept of children with special educational needs, and as a consequence, exclusion of children at risk from teachers' attention;
- Insufficient budgeting of social support, additional education and health services for CWDs;
- Absence of additional pay for working with CWDs in the social sector, schools, which lead to low quality of services;
- Lack of medical staff, psychologists, speech therapists in educational establishments, which could provide an integrated approach to rehabilitation of CWDs;
- Absence of equipped medical offices in educational institutions.
- Lack of professional pediatric, specialized teaching staff, lack of full conditions for organization of rehabilitation and education process of CWDs;
- Absence of a specialized accessible CWD-friendly environment.
- Government's weak support and attention to private health care, education and rehabilitation services, and learning and adoption successful experience from private service providers.

The participants of the Conference suggest:

- Conduct systematically and on a regular basis information campaigns about healthcare, social, educational organizations' work; have educational activities for parents and

communities on health, access to education, social services; promote healthy parent-child relations and support to family in crisis, by involving civil society organizations;

- Organize from early childhood various forms of education for CWDs;
- Organize training of specialists in adaptation and implementation of the International Classification of Functioning (ICF) in Medical Social Expert Commission and public healthcare establishments;
- Implement international guidelines for monitoring child development for early detection of developmental delays in the pilot family support medical centers in Bishkek followed by expansion to the primary level of health care of the Kyrgyz Republic;
- Implementation of ICF in rehabilitation department of the Ak-Suu public rehabilitation centre with its subsequent replication;
- Ensure mandatory participation of parents of CWDs in the work of social services, parent school committees, supervisory boards;
- Introducing a model of inclusive education in those only educational establishments that are provided by qualified special teaching staff, appropriate to CWD needs;
- Provide family with CWD access to various services of comprehensive support in education, healthcare and social support regardless of where they live;
- Develop and approve state educational standards of education for CWDs, which will let introduce special curriculums in school educational programs adapted to each category of CWDs;
- Review regulations of Psychological medical and pedagogical consultations, perform continuous psychological, medical and educational support of a CWD;
- Fix in an individual rehabilitation program for a CWD suitable forms of education and passing a final examination;
- Revise the system of certification of children with disabilities;
- Provide specific training of medical, social, pedagogical professionals, necessary for implementation of high-quality diagnosis, treatment, inclusive education (a psychiatrist, neurologist, rehabilitation specialist, social worker, speech therapist, clinical psychologist, special education teacher, therapeutic pedagogue);
- Maintain the highest professional level of training (specialty with its own codes) of all professionals working with children with special educational needs: special teachers, curative teachers, physiotherapy instructors, etc.) Introduce in the practice unscheduled mandatory additional professional (methodological) re-training and advanced training of medical and teaching professionals working with CWDs based on a short-term training program;
- Implement innovative approaches and improve the rehabilitation infrastructure, especially for those with severe disabilities, i.e. actively continue the process of modernization and optimization of building a system of medical, social and complex rehabilitation and habilitation of CWDs, improving the effectiveness of state rehabilitation organizations;
- Develop and implement best practices and models of effective rehabilitation and social support technologies of CWDs and their families, aimed at a comprehensive solution of problems of families - to promote the development of alternative sources of income for families with CWDs;
- Develop technologies to improve the quality of social services with active inclusion in this work professional associations;
- Expand resources for training and re-training, including the use of modern information technologies for distant training, etc.
- Develop mechanisms for disability prevention, especially among children, which requires to develop a plan for early intervention;
- Approve a common regulation of funding for schools with special (rehabilitation) classes, with students CWDs in inclusive education schools, home-based education, with the transformation of the latter into a distant learning beginning from grade 5; resolve other issues through an open public discussion of a draft regulation;
- Develop a draft legislation and organize public hearing with the Kyrgyzstan parliament On the procedure of creation of state correctional and special schools, special classes, rehabilitation centers for children with motor, multiple disabilities and autism;
- Improve provision of technical aid to persons with disability with involvement of representatives of NGOs and the professional community;

- Initiate together with organizations of persons with disability analysis of the current legislation and based on its outcomes prepare a draft regulation On the provision of social, medical and educational services to CWDs provided by rehabilitation day centers;
- Introduce the practice of cross-sectoral tenders within the social contracting framework.

Participants of the Conference "Innovative approaches to working with children with disabilities: the experience of the Kyrgyz Republic and countries abroad," express hope that joint efforts will contribute to the adoption and effective implementation of activities aimed at integrating children with disabilities into society, improving their quality of life and inclusion in the educational process.

* * *

Evaluation of the Conference

This time the Conference evaluation's results came through the SurveyMonkey website, answers for printed version of the evaluation forms were also included. Despite some setbacks during the Conference 88 respondents generally rated the event between the 4 (good) and 5 (excellent) on a five-point scale. The organizing committee's members appreciated had a more critical view on organization and holding of the Conference, which was related to the fact that this event was organized and carried out for the first time by organizations from different sectors: NGOs, international organizations and government agencies.

Many participants agreed that the event was practical and useful and at the same time provided a platform for the representatives of different organizations from 16 countries to present different models and experiences on innovative approaches to working with CWDs and their families and exchange contacts. Some experts although noted that the event was hardly 'innovative'. It's hard to disagree, if experts come from abroad or participants had visited different countries to study international innovative experience. However, in the first place the Conference was organized for local actors, for the vast majority of whom some if not most things were new.

Every day the Conference was attended by 216 participants according to organizers, there were about 240 participants on the first day, including high officials and representatives of international organizations, who left on the first day of the event. The presence of a large number of participants during all three days was an achievement for this kind of social forums.



Anara Nadirbekova, Eurasia Foundation Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan:
I thank all my colleagues for their cooperation. Through joint efforts we organized a fruitful event. There were many interesting speakers. It was nice working with you all and I hope that this experience will be repeated again, the next year.

The Conference achieved its goals, objectives and expected results, which was confirmed during the Conference as well as by this evaluation of the event.

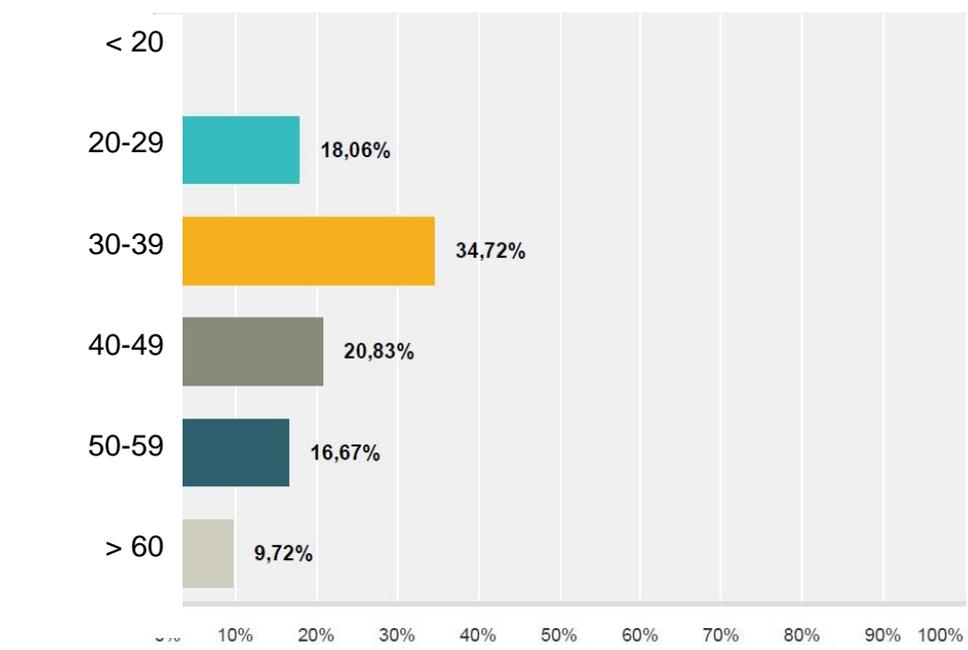
Out of the 88 responses received, nearly 34% of the participants represented parent-led NGOs, 26% - other NGOs working on disability issues – altogether 60% (at the conference in 2011, there were 67%), 12% - local and international organizations, only 1.35% represented government agencies. The vast majority which is 84% of respondents were women (85% in 2011).

The Conference's audience was mostly young according to 72 respondents' answers (16 missed for various reasons): about 35% were between 30-39 years (whereas in the past conference this was about 52%), followed by 21% of those who indicated their age between 40-49 (in 2011 - 32%); and 18% between 20-29 years. Overall, almost 55% of respondents were aged between 30 and 49 years old.

About 13% (in 2011 - 16%) indicated as having disability.

You represent	Number	%
NGO of parents of children with disabilities	33,78%	25
NGO working on disability (not run by parents or persons with disability)	25,68%	19
NGO of persons with disabilities	2,70%	2
NGO not working directly on disability issues	4,05%	3
NON-governmental rehabilitation day centre	6,76%	5
Governmental (state) / municipal rehabilitation centre	0	
Government agency	1,35%	1
Government (state) boarding institution for children with disabilities	0	
Public school	0	
Special school for CWDs	1,35%	1
International organization located in Kyrgyzstan	12,16%	9
International organization located outside of Kyrgyzstan	4,05%	3
Just a parent of child with special needs	2,70%	2
Other (please indicate):	5,41%	4

Age



The Conference was rated quite high – it scored almost 97% between excellent and good, including 63.6% who rated the event as excellent. Equipment, the programme, and speakers were also evaluated positively, with at least 50% rating them highly.

Around or more than 90% of respondents evaluated between excellent and good all other questions re details of the programme, speakers, organizational issues, further plans.

Comments from evaluation:

I gain experience from countries abroad and CIS.

I liked the presentation by Tatyana Buynovskaya: brief, clear, concise with specific recommendations as well as the vision of HealthProm. I was also impressed by the presentation of the Dutch physiotherapist [Huib Cornelja] who works on the programme and system based on community based rehabilitation.

The third international conference was held at a high level, because the Government and ministries participated which suggests that issues of child disability is among priorities in the agenda of the Government and the Ministry of Social Development. We have all seen that the representatives of the Ministry of Labour and Social Development responsibly participated all three days.

An excellent conference, a lot of attendants and a large number of various officials actively participating at the conference

I gained a lot on child disability as well as from the Georgian experience on employment of persons with disabilities, established contact with Moving forward NGO; we plan to have vocational training for people with disability, and become a member of the Janyryk network.

I met so many people, many of them approached themselves such as guests from Tatarstan, Georgia, Russia, Netherlands, Scotland. They said that home visitation approach was very interesting and important form of work. And they would like to exchange information.

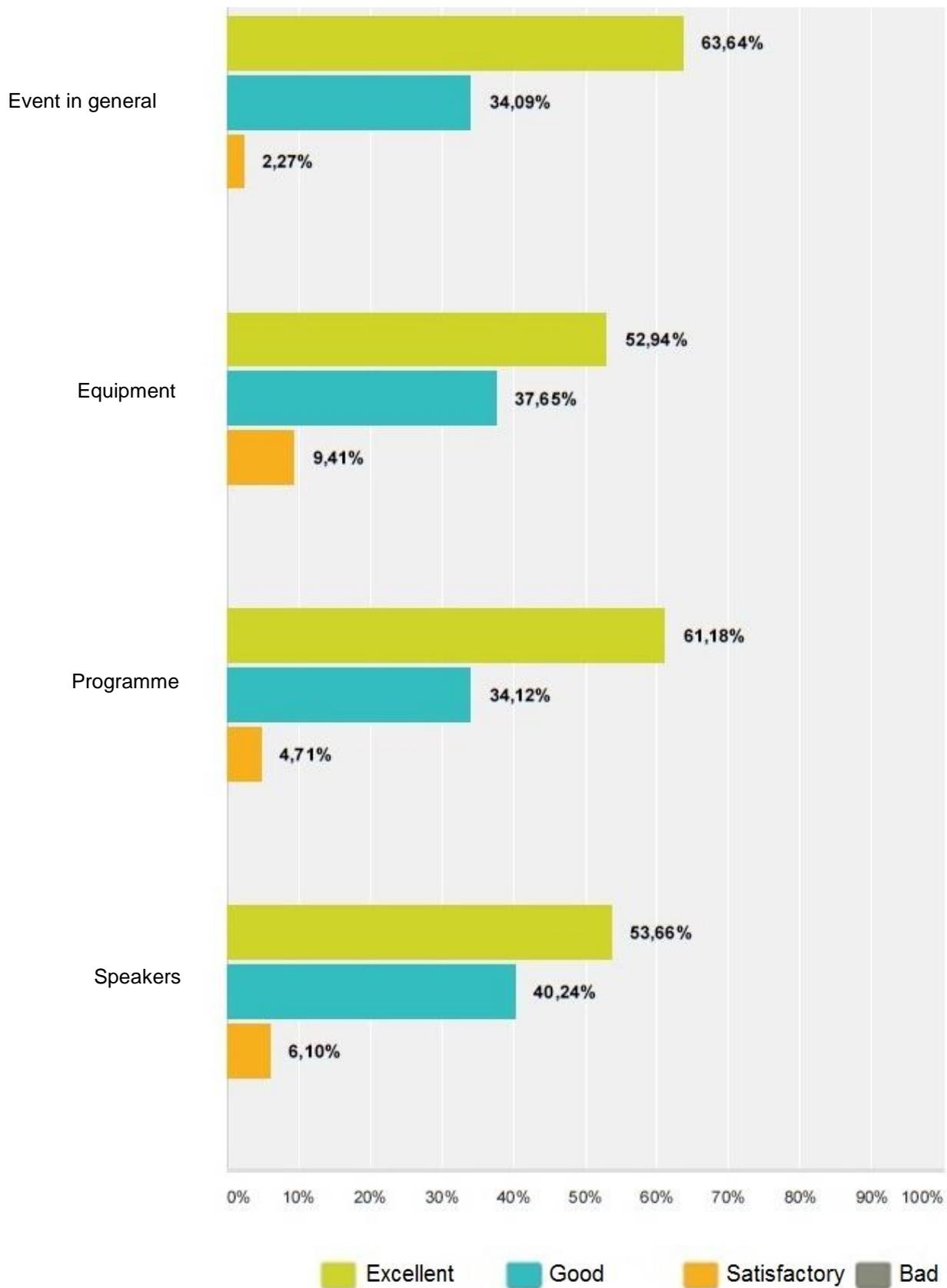
I wanted to participate in all plenary sessions, but we are happy that the organizers have recorded everything on disk. We will have an opportunity to apply lessons learned in practice in organizations

I wanted to participate in all plenary sessions, and we are glad that the organizers have a disk with all the materials. We will have an opportunity to apply lessons learned in practice in our organization.

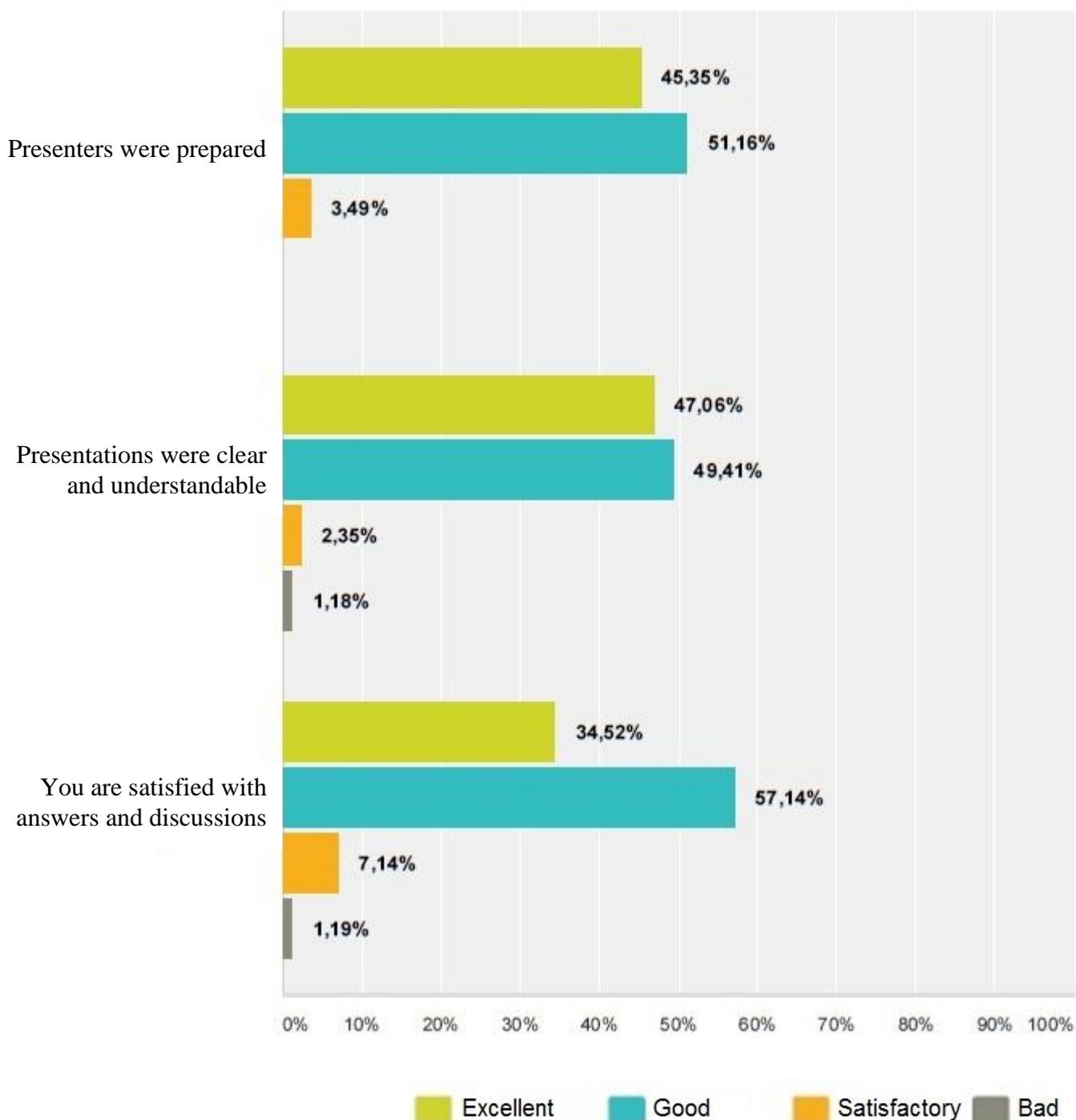
There was a good presentation of Russian colleagues on child sensory integration, methodology on sensory development, and it was very accessible and easy to understand. It would be nice to have the materials sent out.

I was able to determine for ourselves what activities supporting families, children's development we have to catch up on, what kind of experience we can apply in practice, and what points were weak in our work with children and families.

Event's overall evaluation



Evaluation of speakers/presenters



Organizers generally believe that the conference achieved its main objectives, and there was everything for work – an intensive programme, experts, participants and knowledge and experience from different countries. There were many positive and friendly comments as well as helpful suggestions to improve some aspects of the event. Some technical things required improvement, such as the presentations, breaks, distribution of promo bags. On the other hand, participants wanted to learn experience and knowledge from as many countries as possible, which explains the intense programme. These points will be considered for future similar events. (It is interesting to note that at the 2009 conference of a much smaller scale and a lot of time for presentations, many participants noted that there was not enough time to explore and discuss issues.)

Comments from the evaluation sheets:

The program was very intense, a lot of information to comprehend. Setting up a media-projector taken long time from speakers so that slides will go together with sound. Out of 10 minutes given [during plenary session] 5 minutes were taken by the projector. As a result 5 minutes of the presentation were not enough to explore the topic.

A very dense programme, there was virtually no opportunity to discuss it. This is not enough.

Few practical workshops.

Some presentations were not well prepared.

Distribution of participants into sections had to be organized. Some new parents did not know where to go or what was going on.

These and many other points will be considered when organizing similar event in the future. Despite this it is most encouraging that:

95% have gained additional knowledge and skills on issues of child disability, 91% intend to apply knowledge when they return home, 88% have established new contacts with local organizations, while 83% - with international ones. 96% outlined new plans and projects, and 92% have joined or are planning to join a network (the respondents' answers are presented below in the form of charts.)

In general, the organizers during a final working meeting on the event's evaluation indicated following things to improve: hand-out materials (including bags), more focused programme and more time for breaks and sufficient discussions, more time to study an international experience and models, and a different venue for plenary presentations (as Jannat Hotel had columns in the middle of the hall).

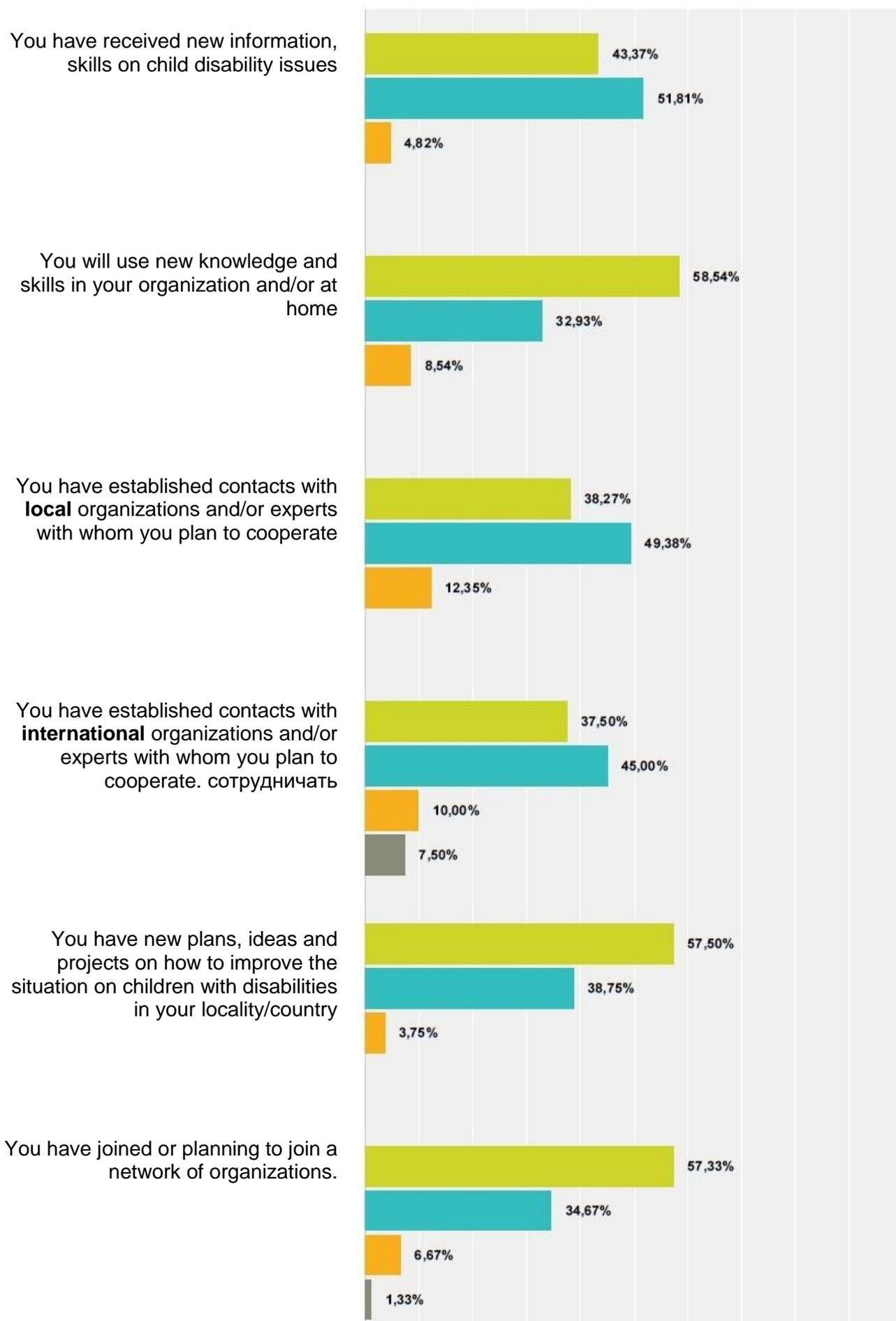
Detailed answers can be found by following the link (in Russian):

<https://ru.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-RT3QV7MR/>

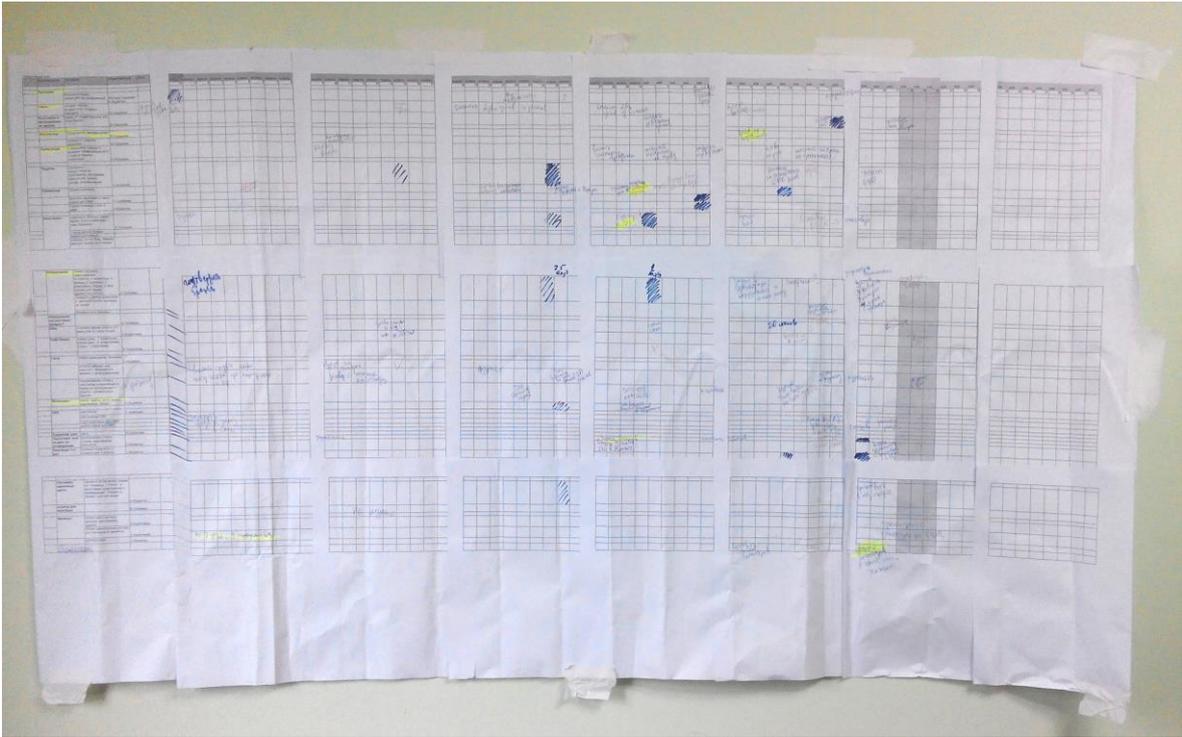
or a PDF version can be downloaded from the Kelechekplus web-site:

<http://kelechekplus.kg/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/%D0%9E%D1%86%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%BD%D1%84%D0%B5%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%BD%D1%86%D0%B8%D0%B8-18-20-%D0%BC%D0%B0%D1%8F-2016-%D0%B3.pdf>

Conference impact



Detailed action plan several months before the Conference.



Flags of the countries present at the Conference.

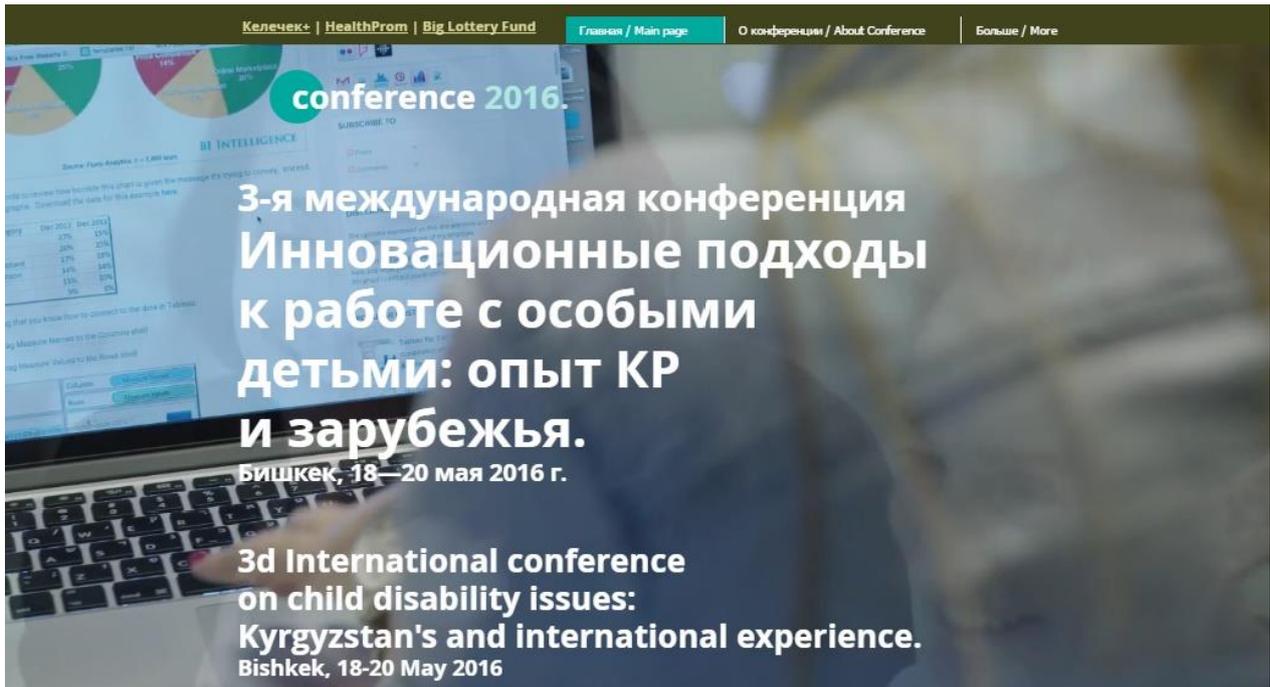


Conference papers (as a publication) and some hand-outs.

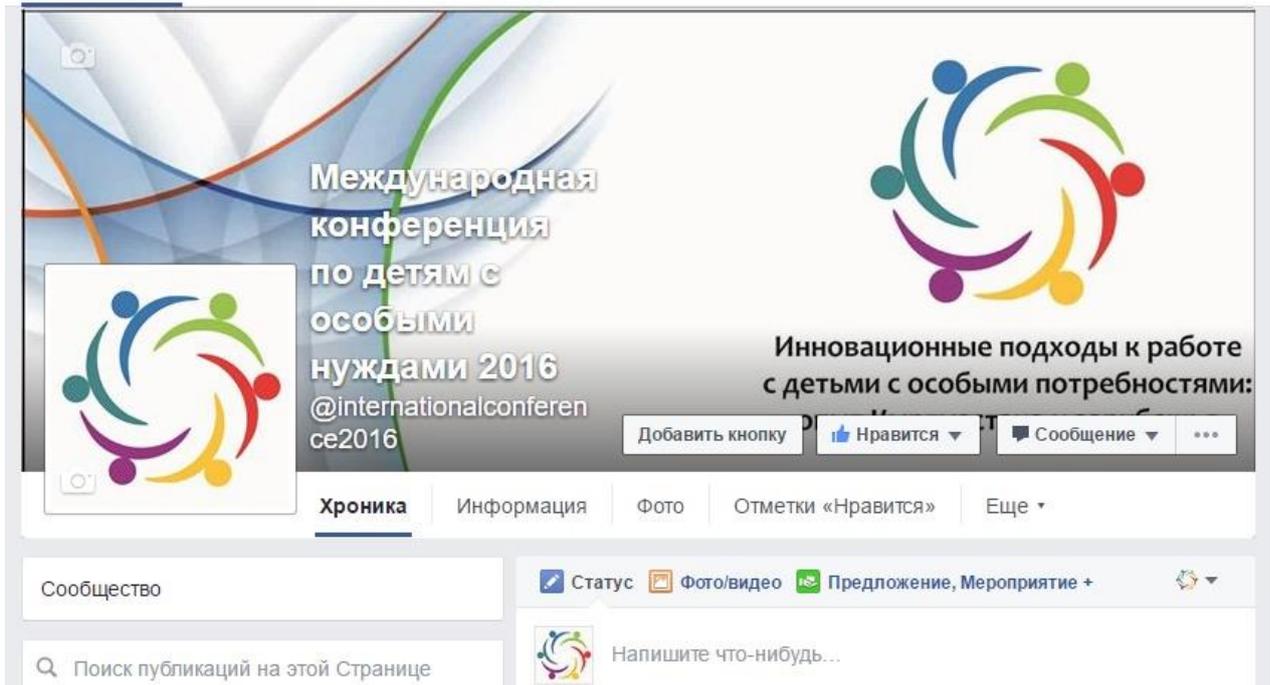


Conference's electronic resources

Web-site



Facebook page



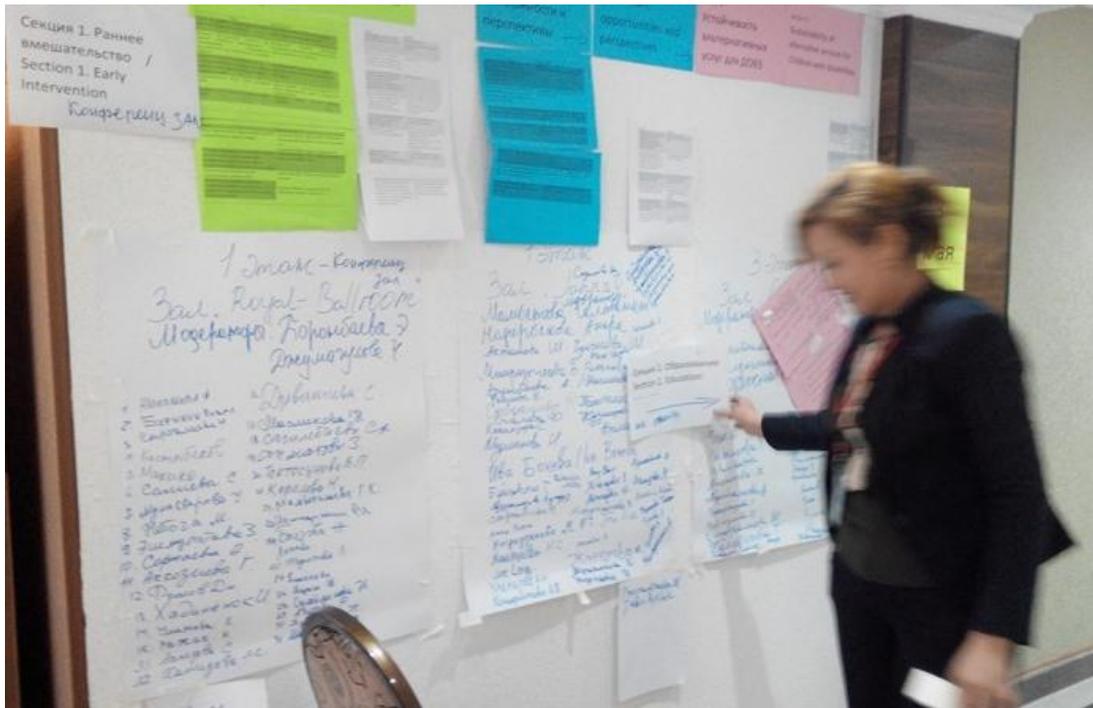
Conference opened by the Vice Prime Minister Ms G.Kudaiberdieva



Participants in the main conference room – Royal Ballroom.

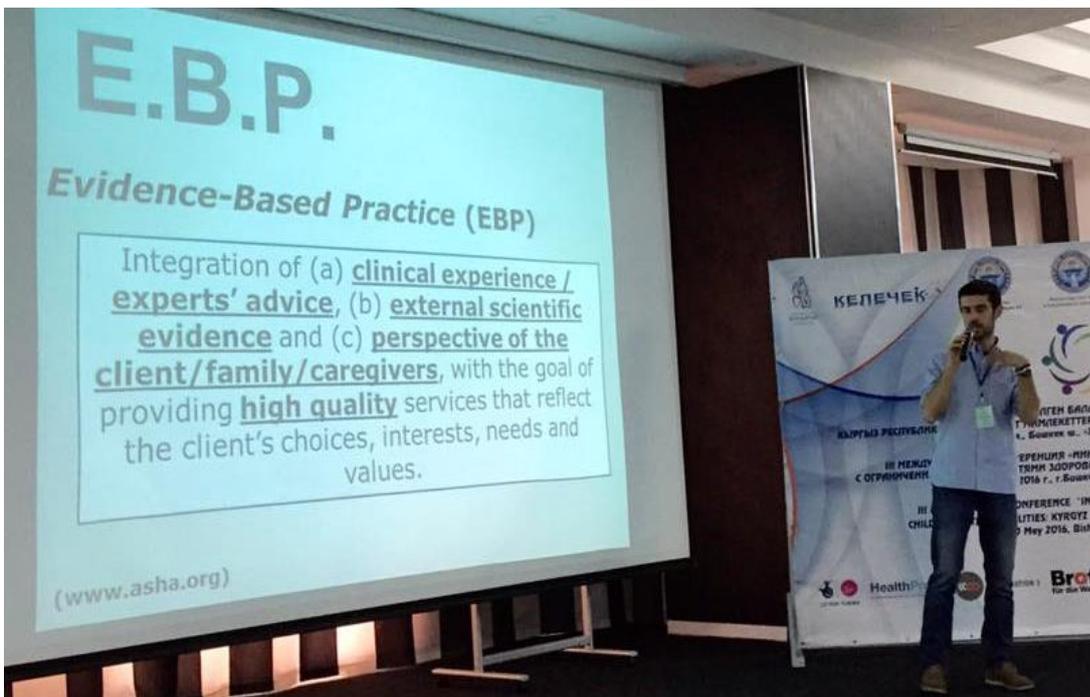


Flip charts with topics and speakers names in 3 sections which participants could write their names on.



Some presentations.
Tanya Buynovskaya, HealthProm operations director.





Work in 3 sections.



Participants.



(Last 2 photos by Hand in Hand NGO.)

Crafts Fair at the conference.
(Photo by Hand in Hand NGO.)



Group photo (not all included).

