

# 'Excellence' for everybody Conference

*revisited: Lessons learned for  
collaborative conferences*

#wissnet #konfEFA2015



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From Nov 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the first interactive conference 'Excellence for everybody!? Citizen Science, higher education institutions and Science Shops – looking ahead' took place in Oldenburg/Germany with approximately 100 participants (from higher education and research institutions, policy, CSOs and NGOs). Prototype for the 'Excellence' was the International

Living Knowledge Conference format. The 'Excellence' was organized by seven German Science Shops and two Knowledge Transfer Agencies of HEIs. It focused on interaction by combining different formats i.e. workshops, World Cafés, lectures, Project-Speed-Dating with 36 contributions in 14 sessions.

**The overall objective** has been to include as many citizen as possible to balance the input and discussion to citizen's needs.

### Covered topics

- Citizens participation in science and innovation: methods
- Participation in research policy: equality and transparency
- DIY (do it yourself) and DITO (do it together)
- What means social and ecological 'excellence' for everybody!?

### Results

1. The atmosphere at the conference has been evaluated as alive and productive for most participants and organizer
2. Beside the conference location the operating range of organizing Science Shops represented the location of participants (Fig.1)
3. The overall objective to include citizen suitably failed (Fig.2)

### Conclusions

The approach of a National Living Knowledge Conference with high involvement of citizen taught some conceptual limits to the organizer. To engage more citizen in future, regional face to face conferences in parallel would be appropriate. To connect the regional events it is advocated to use web-conference tools. The activity in social media is of a fundamental importance. To realize a D-A-CH-wide conference it is postulated to have more Science Shops.

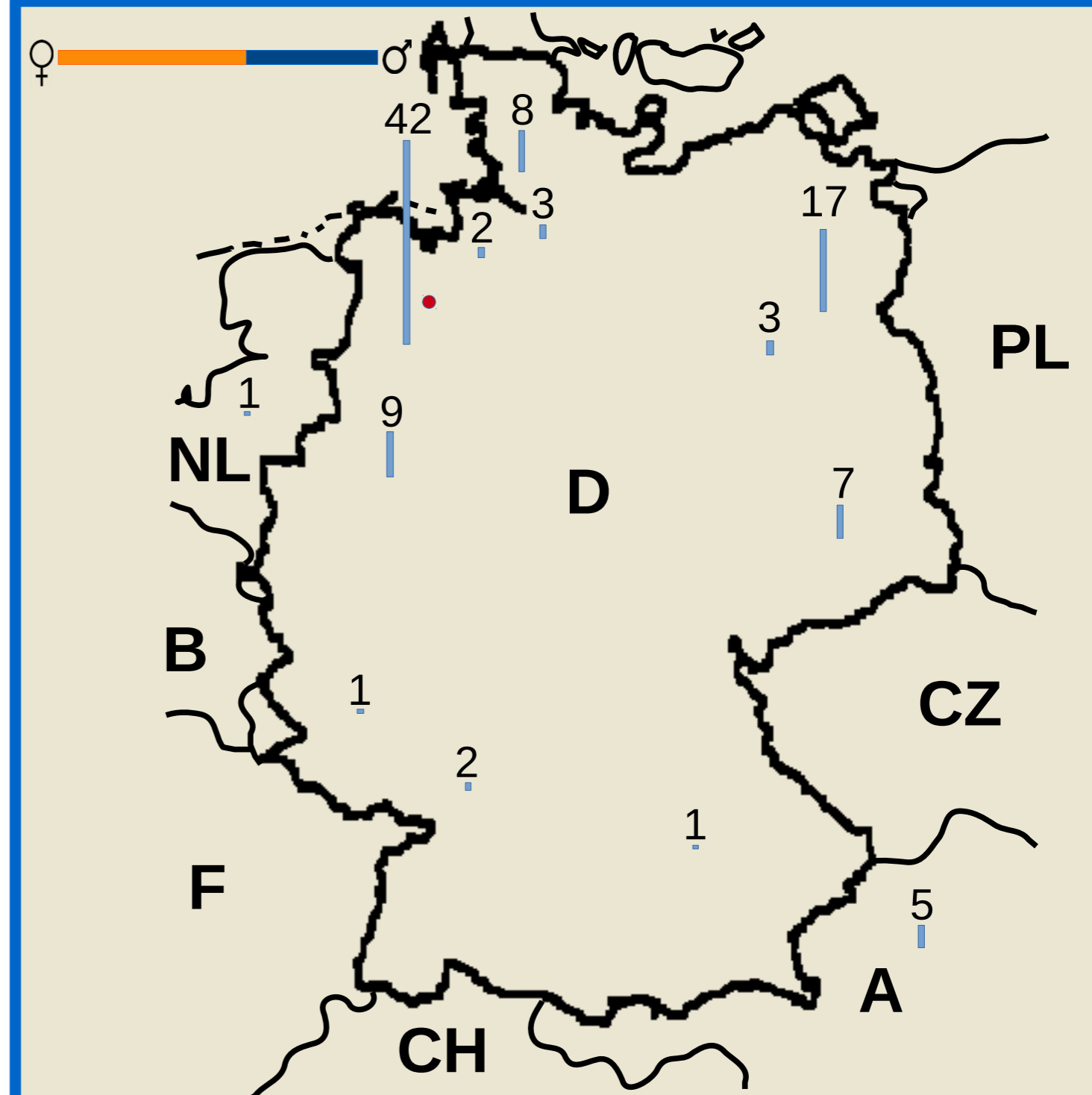


Fig.1: blue: Location of participants; red: Location of the conference

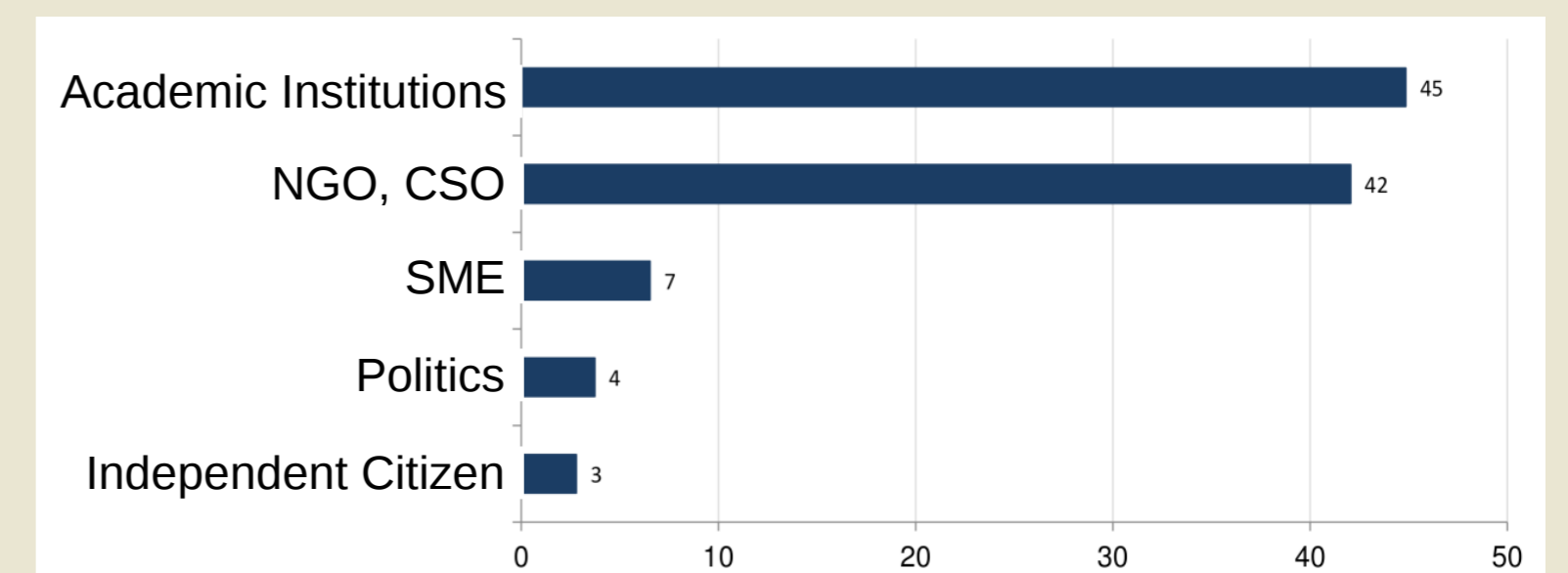


Fig.2: Institutional affiliation of participants



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