

Feedback & Suggestions
from attendees of the
2013 YAPC::Europe Perl Conference

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Introduction

This document includes many fragments from comments that were received from attendees of the 2013 YAPC::Europe Perl Conference during a survey taken after the conference had completed. Each survey provided the attendee with the ability to provide suggestions for future events and feedback on the 2013 event.

It should be borne in mind while reading this report, that everyone's time and effort in putting on the conference was given freely. All the organisers have full time jobs and we are fortunate enough that they have partners and family who were willing to put up with losing them for several days and nights over the previous year, while they organised the conference for the benefit of the Perl community. A big thank you to everyone involved.

Suggestions and Feedback

Rating the Conference

Would you like to expand on any strong views?

- Sorry, the table above is too crazy, I prefer to spend my life doing more pleasurable things.
- I have a feeling that talks were weaker than at previous YAPCs. The schedule was changing even during the conference (or a day before, sort of last-minute changes), which was a bit confusing. If you announce things like "choose your t-shirt until August 1st (2nd?)", it'd be nice if you announce it a week earlier not 2 (3?) days earlier. Aside from that, it was very good. There were a lot of things I've never seen on a Perl conference before, a lot of great work was put into it. Thank you, you're awesome!
 - Everything was very well done.
 - I think the main problem is that I got sick, so I did not manage to get as much out of this conference as earlier and therefore I also got picky about food and such.
 - It was really hard to find out the place where the conference should be in Kiev on website. There is a banner on top, but without the place name.
 - I would love to see longer more in depths talks instead of the somewhat short 20/40 min. talks.
 - Excellent organization, excellent venue in a central location of a beautiful city of Kiev (plus air-conditioned rooms made a huge, and I cannot spell it how huge, difference to YAPC in FRA), fantastic Ukrainian food (and great food service in general), top schedule (10 minute breaks between talks was an absolute killer-feature - thank you for that!), amazing river cruise (what an idea!), meeting Larry Wall (long live!), nice social events, some very good but some very bad talks as well (I will rate them separately)
 - Nope
 - Wifi access was difficult and only available in conference rooms but not at coffee breaks. If anything it should be the other way around, so people aren't checking their twitter for the first five minutes of the next talk.
 - The bus service for the boat cruise was very useful; having it to *return* from the cruise would have been even more useful: there were people on crutches and wheelchairs. Not everybody can walk 3km.
 - The food *quality* was good, but PLEASE do NEVER label seafood as "steak". I am very allergic to seafood, and when whatever is packed inside something local-speciality, and the staff doesn't speak anything other than Ukrainian, there is no way to see or know that this will go wrong. Put OBVIOUS and CLEAR marker at the food for what is fish or what is meat (vegetarians)
 - An event with free beer (by conference or sponsor) should include free not beer too. Leaving banquet attendees in the middle of the city at 11pm without clear instructions on the best way home is not good. The walk was uphill. We should have been given a map with the nearest metro stop marked.
 - I would definitely vote for a common t-shirt design in general, even more since the individual shirts did not end up right for everyone, and the front design did not get enough attention, probably as a consequence of the individual focus, imho. schedule was GREAT this year!
 - Great conference! Only score below maximum is for the food service, which is mostly based on the trek upstairs to the 5th floor and the lack of wifi up there.
 - As for the t-shirt, the timeframe (few days) to choose details on the website was too short. As planned, it would have been great to announce the results of the golf game at the end in

the main room. Also, as planned initially I seem to recall, having at the beginning of each day 1 minute per speaker to tease people about their own presentation, would have been good. Sponsors were not really explicitly mentioned nor really thanked for at beginning or end of meeting. Letting sponsors having few minutes to present things at beginning or end would have been a good gesture. Schedule was kept on time at all time, this was very good! Having each morning someone making a summary of the previous day and maybe doing some highlights of the present day would have been useful. Food distribution during lunches & coffee breaks could have been improved (too far from other rooms, too long queues where more than one spot for the same thing), and quantities were kind of low. Taste was good however!

- Registration process: The t-shirt disaster
- I like workshops along with the talks. Especially if you have issues with some of the modules presented in the talks. then it is nice to have the author along. In most cases people just moved along to catch the next talk.
- Recommended hotels were cheaper on Booking.com (even after the 5% discount)
- Having rooms closer together would be nice
- a wifi system not designed by grandma (facilities), ice during food service, iced espresso/coffee, not boiling hot espresso/coffee, more organized return or formal instructions on how to walk back to Dnipro/National house or formal instructions how to walk to the Metro after river cruise, some souls might have been lost on the river cruise return expedition, better instructions for wed party
<https://twitter.com/bmxkris/status/367637734380564480> these instructions are a joke, what is the name of the place? Bochka Piva. what is the street address? Khreshchatyk 19A. I shouldn't have to know the local language to know those 2 things. More updates because this <http://act.yapc.eu/ye2013/news/> went dead before the conference. No BOFs seemed to have scheduled themselves during this YAPC. The badge printing issue should have been put on ACT that there will be a printer at the registration desk, and it is suggested but not required to print your badge at home.
- <http://weknowmemes.com/2013/08/maslows-hierarchy-of-needs-updated/>
- Airco was sometimes a bit too much (but you cannot please everyone). Food distribution could have been a bit more efficient, but for the price of the conference I really cannot complain. River cruise - the trip there by bus; great. Left to our own devices afterwards; not so great.
- YAPC::EU needs set of Mikrotik RB 751 or alike that sort of travel with the conference.
- The web part of the registration process was very good, including the possibility to print out the conference ticket, instead of standing in line, but then you still have to stand in line for the t-shirt and armband for the tour, and this seemed very disorganized.
- I'm not happy with having YAPC::EU in easternest europe. The food was terrible, the availability of flights limited and the overall status of things not what I expect from living in a civilized country.
- Having the refreshments (coffee, etc) be four floors above the conference halls was awkward at best. This is not a comment on the having attendees perform physical exertion, but about convenience. At other YAPCs I've attended the refreshment area was very convenient. Such convenience facilitates many of the important conversations that happen at events: impromptu. By making access to refreshments inconvenient the opportunity for impromptu conversations was significantly reduced.
- No but I would **strongly** recommend you reverse the direction of the previous table! All the talk forms go from less/bad/0 to more/better/10. I'd also zebra stripe the field names since I still had some difficulty following the correct row when the field name (like Staff) was short.
- The organisers put too much attention to the stupid Perl 7 meme. The Perl 7 talks were not

really about Perl 7 and tried to bust Perl 6 just a bit, and mostly turned out to be either marketing talks for the company of the speaker, or pro-Perl 6 talks. The titles of these talks were just embarrassing.

Feedback

For the Kiev organisers

Do you have any feedback you would like to give specifically to this year's organisers?

- You guys rock!
- You are most excellent!
- Kiev was an amazing place, thanks for holding the conference in an venue in an awesome city! It was a strong factor in my attendance.
- Thank you very much, guys!
- Kyiv was great, the staff were fantastic.
- You are the best)
- Thank you for organizing! There was very little choice for vegetarians. This did not concern me, but other people were unhappy with that. The bus transfer to the boat was great (and important). I think a bus transfer back to the venue would also have been important, but as I understand, even the buses were organized last-minute, and not every budget allows for that. The most problematic thing to me was, that there was no time between the end of the conference day and the bus transfer and that was not announced earlier.
- It was really hard to find out the place where the conference should be in Kiev on website. There is a banner on top, but without the place name.
- Thank's a lot it was nice event!!!
- The organizers did a very good job. Well, there were several org issues like bad wifi, issue with t-shirts, not the best place for pre-conf meet up, but in general the organization was very good and I am completely satisfied attending the conf. For those 3 days; Thank you, guys
- thanks a lot for a great conference!
- Excellent organization, excellent venue in a central location of a beautiful city of Kiev (plus air-conditioned rooms made a huge, and I cannot spell it how huge, difference to YAPC in FRA), fantastic Ukrainian food (and great food service in general), top schedule (10 minute breaks between talks was an absolute killer-feature - thank you for that!), amazing river cruise (what an idea!), meeting Larry Wall (long live!), nice social events, some very good but some very bad talks as well (I will rate them separately)
- This was my first YAPC. Everything was cool! Thank you!
- Great job guys.
- Put the videos online, please. We are still waiting for Riga also.
- Thank you for a very well organized event. The organized events gathered people together very well and contributed to many new discussions.
- projector positioning in room 1 & 2 was suboptimal (screen too small, off-center) please make talk recordings available please publish a post-mortem including rough budget figures (loss/profit)
- The dining room was a bit small. Apart from that the organization was fantastic!
- It would be really nice to be able to see videos of all talks. Thanks for the great conference!
- +1 for the watercoolers, that was very, very useful
- Very well organized. Starting after 10 is a good idea ;-) I have some doubts about the city beforehand, but it was much easier than expected, so Kiev added something to our "experience". Well done.

- Cool conference, thanks for organizing!
- Thank you
- Finally its in Ukraine! Everything was perfect! I was at Lisbon last time, for other ones I was rejected in getting visa :(So I'm really excited to have it in Kiev
- I really loved the river boat cruise! Thanks so much.
- The food *quality* was good, but PLEASE do NEVER label seafood as "steak". I am very allergic to seafood, and when whatever is packed inside something local-speciality, and the staff doesn't speak anything other than Ukrainian, there is no way to see or know that this will go wrong. Put OBVIOUS and CLEAR marker at the food for what is fish or what is meat (vegetarians)
- My first YAPC, and I was very impressed, there's much more of a community than I had previously thought. Very social, friendly, and a wide array of interesting talks. Good job!
- Like in Frankfurt, they had incredible issues dealing with pre-ordered shirts. That should work much better (don't give shirts to people who didn't pre-order or wrong size). I disliked a bit the high rate of hiring people to do the basic work of organizers and then don't find a member of the organizer team doing the registration process and Garu from Brazil had to do. That's neither fair nor acceptable from my point of view.
- A lot of effort was taken to organize it, and it was very clear. Great job!
- Was very very good, well except the WIFI, which was unstable on all days
- beamer setups in room 1 and 2 were not that good. everything else was really well done, thumbs up!
- Great job guys! I thought you were crazy doing custom T-shirts but you made it work.
- Altogether a very nicely executed conference (but not without WiFi problems :-() !
- You did a fantastic job! Well done!
- Please don't offer customizable t-shirts, if you can't handle this. Since my green "use perl or die t-shirt" wasn't there, I had to come ten times to the desk. In the end I was happy to get the last t-shirt in my size (a black "Perl 5" t-shirt). The layout of the t-shirts is not very Kiev specific. E.g. the Riga logo with the cat or this years logo in the promo video (with the statue on top of the A) were much better. The river cruise was a great idea. The start at 10 and the ten minute breaks between the talk was very good. I missed the lady with the books and the auction.
- Great people, fast feedback, excellent locations
- Just thank you!
- Food was great and even better having it inclusive. The cruise was also a great choice. Thank you for organising yet another successful conference
- Well done! Thank you!
- Dont get a facility where you have to install your own wifi network. If you do get such a facility, get someone with an associate degree in network design. Why on earth were the APs all different SSIDs. Why no 1 central DHCP server for the network? Make some formal instructions/images/google map links on how to get back to hotel dnipro or the metro from the river cruise. No YAPCers knows if that area of Kiev is a criminals den at night or not. Custom t-shirt idea was great. Food service needs ice. River cruise idea was great, execution poor due to nobody knowing how to get home and all the native CIS folks grabbed cabs and disappeared instantly leaving westerners blindly walking around lost.
- Best organized YAPC I've attended apart from Riga (which was perfect in every way). Good food but small portions and rude staff. Wifi spotty but better than most conferences. Location excellent. Schedule was a bit too long and tiring - 10 to 17 would have been preferable since I had to skip most lightning talks due to exhaustion.
- Great conference! Kiev was beautiful and the venue was very well suited. Apart from being transported /to/ the cruise but not /from/ the cruise was a bit inconvenient, but other than that I have few complaints. Mostly praise, actually. Thanks!

- Thank you. Enjoyed a lot.
- Thank you!!!!!!!
- Thank you!
- I'd prefer that all the t-shirts are the same, so that I am sure that the t-shirt size is something actually in my size range (in the end I decided to opt out of a custom shirt, and still ended up with a t-shirt I'll probably never wear because it's too big -- and I'm not a small person).
- Great conference! I had a wonderful time! Thanks!
- The air conditioning in the talk rooms is a bit too cold. On the other side, in the halls, there was no air conditioning and the temperature was neither too cold nor too hot. Fortunately, I had a pull-over available which I put when in a talk room. The meals: not very abundant, but anyhow, there was enough for everybody, because I have seen a few trays that were not empty at the end of the lunch pause. So it is a good point. Anyhow, the ability to eat on the venue is always better than having to leave the venue to find a restaurant or sandwich shop in the neighbourhood. The venue: many stairs to climb to reach the location of the lunch/coffee breaks. Even if there is a lift and an escalator, it is not convenient.
- Thanks for a great conference. The only minor issues were with long queues for food, and that we had to go straight from the venue to the buses for the dinner cruise. Most people were staying in hotels very near, so even a 10 minute break would have allowed people to leave their bags at the hotel, get changed, put on sunscreen, etc.
- Air conditioning was too chilly. Two smaller halls had very small screens.
- The presentations were simply not of the usual quality. It obviously took a lot of effort to get sufficient presentations (even with one track less than usual), and the program shows. Very disappointing, and almost leading to me not going at all.
- Fantastic job, with the possible exception of those with babies/walking difficulties getting back off the river boat.
- Overall I did like the conference, it was quite good organised. I did miss workshops on the days before / after the conference. I did like the Perl 6 Hackathon. I really disliked the Perl 7 shit, it was very embarrassing and was really not helpful for the community. The stories I heard about the partner program were very positive,
- Yay, the aircon worked.
- Thank you for such a fantastic conference. It was really well organized in a fantastic venue, with many nice touches, such as making people print their own badges, and the river cruise was most enjoyable too. Your frequent newsletter updates were very useful in many ways: for learning practical matters about the conference, for chivvying us on into writing/booking/organizing our parts, and for generally making us get excited anticipating the conference.

For future organisers

Do you have any suggestions for improvement (please give examples where possible)?

- Wifi is still not working well enough. I would not have a problem to pay slightly more if that would help to solve the issues.
- WiFi should be set up and tested in advance, maybe under stress conditions.
- Consider declining talk proposals by those who rank very poorly in feedback from this conference. There were only 1-2 that were that bad, but it was not their first time and it would be helpful not to have them waste time in the schedule again.
- Consider arranging for bus transfer beforehand, unless the meeting points are conveniently reachable on foot. Remember that not everybody is good on foot, or can walk longer distances.
- More days ;)

- Just follow the standard as it was set by Kiev organizing team, and you will make it a fantastic and memorable event
- If you have any town treasure to reveal, like Kiev seen by night from Dniepr river, show it to conference attendees. Socializing works much better in extraordinary places, rather than in darkened drink bars, at least at first go ;).
- Put the videos online, please
- Referring to previous questions: Sponsors are greatly welcome to the events, and they enrich the conference. That is the modern business. So effort for getting more "content" in any kind via Sponsors is good thing. And lower attendee prices are good for getting new people to the community, which is good things since many well employed people don't necessarily have any time to contribute to Perl community because of other duties.
- the river cruise was very nice because there were no set tables. The same was true for the YAPC in Braga. I strongly suggest to have attendees dinners as a "standup" event (with some optional seating for tired people)
- always assume that Wifi providers don't believe you when you say "we have 400 people with 2-3 devices each". Request 10 bit DHCP pool, and NAT to with multiple public addresses.
- Yeah, don't forget your russian/ukrainian people! We are hard to getting somewhere else...
- PLEASE do NEVER label seafood as "steak". I am very allergic to seafood, and when whatever is packed inside something local-speciality, and the staff doesn't speak anything other than Ukrainian, there is no way to see or know that this will go wrong. Put OBVIOUS and CLEAR marker at the food for what is fish or what is meat (vegetarians)
- Some of the talks were too short and the speaker ran out of time before finishing. Bumping more talks from 20 minutes to 30 minutes might help.
- Keep at least 10 minutes between any sessions. Keep a snack break just before the lightning talks, which should never be first thing in the day. Try to arrange a room where attendees can gather in the evening for games or bofs.
- maybe more infos on local specialties like uzvar, kvas borscht and alike. Some links for people who do also the tourist thing or other specialities of the place like also clothes
- I'd strongly vote to have a responsible person for each slot in each room. Coverage was good this year, but not complete.
- The WiFi needs to be *really* good. Consider putting the lunch, coffee breaks, and talk rooms closer together than in Kiev if possible. Dinner on a boat is awesome!
- Enhance/simplify lunches & coffee breaks (closer to the other rooms, less waiting lines and/or more time)
- Find a way to deliver awesome WiFi.
- Only one great t-shirt design is absolute fine, if there are enough t-shirts in each size. An auction of some special items would be cool. I would recommend to start again at 10 o'clock. It's good to have some more time to recover from the nights. If talks are rescheduled, please provide the current schedule somewhere, e.g. show it after the announcements.
- Add workshops to some of the most popular talks
- an active announcements mailing list would be nice.
- More hackathon days and/or training classes. Diet soda or artificial sweetener packets, and ice for cold caffeine at food service. Test the wifi network yourself, make sure you get 15 mbps down on an empty AP with full bars. Provide a back-up registration/badge method for those who can't print their own badges due to them leaving home already for the destination city. For all non-conference hall event locations, provide the mailing/street address, and if necessary where in the building the location is (suite number/north/south/etc side of building, behind 3rd from left unlabeled door, etc) in addition to a GIS coordinate.
- Nothing is more important than working wifi (even food!) - especially when you don't give

- out printed programme schedules.
- Don't trust venue to organize internet access. Food on site keeps people on schedule - no restaurant nearby can handle lunch break. Known location of 24 hours "silent" pub is a plus. See you in Bulgaria next year.
 - Good luck!
 - Please, somebody get enough IP addresses so we can all connect. I am sure many people know a lot about networks, including myself, and would therefore be happy to help. If a talk is about a specific module/subject and it's not obvious from the title, can you include it as a second title in the schedule? I missed a talk that I would really have liked to attend because I couldn't connect to the wifi, and therefore didn't see the full descriptions. I'd prefer that all the t-shirts are the same, so that I am sure that the t-shirt size is something actually in my size range. T-shirt sizes the concept of XS - XXL varies by country/region, for example, US L is usually Western Europe XXL, and women's XXL is usually the same as a men's L, if the t-shirts are unisex, but often refers to a t-shirt that is more shapely. So maybe you should have some true women's style t-shirts, or at least t-shirts in the right size range? (I know, funny, I am complaining about the free t-shirt).
 - Please see my comment about convenience of refreshments.
 - Looking forward to visiting Sofia! :D
 - I prefer meals served on the venue than having to leave the venue and find a restaurant or sandwich box and waiting for my order and coming back late for the first afternoon talk. Please pay attention to air conditioning in the venue: not too cold, just enough to be comfortable, without catching a "chaud et froid" (do not know the English word) when leaving the room.
 - Speakers are generally getting better at making sure their laptops work with the projectors, but there's still some room for improvement. Perhaps tell anyone using Windows 7 that they can press windows key and P to immediately access the projector/display settings.
 - More vegetarian menu
 - Check out what Europython in Florence has been doing: an Overflow tent with headsets with live hookup to the video in the room so if a room is full or you didn't get inside in time, you can still watch a talk (this helps with when you miscalculate how popular a talk may be). The cameras had also europython guys behind them switching contextually between speaker-only, slide-only and side-by-side. The final product is the same as the video uploaded. Also they had large laptops sitting next to speakers with timers counting down (not including the 5 minutes for questions, which was a new countdown) so speakers didn't have to try to pick out someone in a dark audience, as the laptop usually sat next to the speaker area. Some good ideas I saw there.
 - Please organise workshops and hackathons before / after the conference. Hackathons: QA Hackathon, Perl 6 Hackathon, P5P Hackathon. Workshops: Perl 5 / 6 for beginners ; DBI / DBIx::Class ; Make your own modules for CPAN ; Project management. Please organise a partner program. It is so much fun to see partners and children at the social events and every now and then at the conference itself. Please organise a game night during the conference. It can coincide with the welcome dinner, the attendees dinner or whatever.
 - I was surprised by how close to the conference the schedule was published. Previously (I think) most conferences had published a provisional schedule at least a month in advance. Having a provisional schedule visible is useful to some people, if they need to justify to their boss why it's something worth attending. Previously conferences seem to have managed fairly regular e-mail updates (even if they didn't have lots to actually say). This didn't seem to happen this time (nor did obvious blog posts), but maybe I wasn't looking in the right place. (But if so, that's a failure to direct me to the right place) Would be useful if conference organisers gave some advance idea of (1) how long one should allow to travel back to the airport (2) how long the airport might take. Nothing went wrong this time (or Riga, or

Lisbon), but some airports have turned out to be a bit close, particularly if you assume that everywhere else can actually run an airport (contrast with Heathrow). In this case the potential spanner was traffic to the airport - just because it took 30 minutes to get from the airport (I'm told) is no guarantee that it will take you 30 to get back. Please try to battle test your wifi network. It seemed that in Kiev the routers were set up with defaults appropriate for most use cases, but not a conference full of geeks. In particular, giving out IPs via DHCP starting from .100, and a default lease of 45 minutes. I guess that these were factory defaults, but both conspired to hurt badly. If possible, please figure out how to reconfigure the Wifi with shorter lease times (people move around), and to give out as many IP address as possible via DHCP. One crafty way to battle test the wifi has been to have training days or similar before - you get to ramp the number of users up slowly, and find the problems gradually.

- Congratulations. Best of luck for organizing next year's Perl Europe conference. It was fantastic to have a partners' programme again this year. I appreciate this is a very minor part of the conference and not something you want to be spending a lot of time thinking about, but a good partners' programme does enable some Perl hackers to attend who otherwise wouldn't be able to. Unfortunately this year's days of guided tours didn't seem to be quite what most partners needed: * The actual need is 'Please keep these people occupied and not bored while their partners are doing geeky things we don't understand; it isn't important what they do, so long as they are enjoying themselves'. This year's tour guide seemed instead to be working to a brief of 'These people only have 3 days to see all of Kiev, and it's really important that they see as many sights as possible, so please have long days at high-speed with few breaks, to fit in as much as possible'. The mismatch can be seen in the large number of partners on the river cruise who weren't on the partners' programme, as well as from chatting to both partners who avoided the programme (and said why) and those who went on it (but felt it was physically demanding). * Obviously not all partners will want precisely the same things. Maybe it would be nice to simply have a designated 'partners tourism meeting' place (at the conference venue or hotel) and time each morning, where partners who wish to do touristy things and would like some company can meet and see if any of them have the similar interests and requirements, then go off in separate smaller groups. * Larry's opening sermon often contains a large amount of less technical content, such as 2013's photos of pavement hazards in Kiev. It would be great for partners to stay and see this talk -- the partners' programme should start after it (or after the first coffee break). It was nice to have so many newsletters and Tweets in advance of the conference, keeping us informed, prompting us to book things, and generally getting us excited. It can be hard for everybody to make it in for the 10-minute announcement slot at the start of each day. Please can announcements also be Tweeted. Thanks. A buffet (not necessarily on a boat!) works really well for the conference dinner, because it enables mixing and socializing with a large number of people -- that's much better than being sat on a table with the same few people for the entire evening. Having 10-minute gaps between talks in Kiev made transitions much easier than in previous years with smaller gaps, where one late-running speaker can cause a knock-on effect of problems in both that and other rooms. However, also in Kiev the room chairs were being really strict, cutting people off exactly on time, which even experienced speakers struggled with. Please be more lenient, and if you have 10-minute-gaps, allow speakers to overrun into them slightly. (Also, you can still allow them to take questions while the next speaker is setting up.) Obviously scheduling is really hard, but it would nice if where there are a few talks on related matters they are grouped together in one room in a morning or afternoon, rather than sprinkled across the days and rooms. (This would mean not necessarily always putting the most-starred talk in the biggest room, so as to keep similar talks in the same room as each other.) For instance in 2013 there were talks on the module toolchain (CloudPAN, Replacing Module::Build), Perl versions (several!), Perl community

(Grassroot Community Improvements, HowTo: Perl Popularity), business issues (Growing a Perl Team, Agile Companies, Working with Non-Techies), and even a couple on cron-like things. Please don't let a company (such as Net-a-Porter on the Wednesday evening this year) publicize a sponsored social if the only free drinks are beer. There are many non-drinkers in the Perl community, and it can be ostracizing to that minority to act like they are weird for not drinking. Obviously you can't stop a company running whatever unofficial social events it wants, but you can set rules for any which are publicized by the conference.

Summation

Thank you to all the attendees who completed their surveys. These comments and suggestions have been passed to the organisers, both to the current and next year's hosts. They are also used to help supplement thoughts and suggestions for the book “Perl Jam – how to organise a conference and live to tell the tale” (<http://perljam.info>).

Thank you too, to all the organisers and their staff for putting on the event. Without their efforts the conference wouldn't have taken place.

While there are always common factors that receive complaints within the surveys, it is worth noting that while the organisers may have taken great pains to negotiate sponsorship or technical support, it is sometimes beyond their resources to provide everything that you expect of a conference.

At its heart the conference is about bring people together to discuss a common interest. In our case this is Perl and all the many projects that it has inspired. It is also about bringing new people into the community and providing a supportive and inspirational event to which they will return and/or encourage others to attend. Anything additional that organisers can provide for attendees is a bonus.

If you are interested in running a YAPC::Europe event in the future, read the book to get a feel what is involved, talk to previous organisers or read previous proposals online. See if you can possibly organise a small technical event or even a Perl Workshop to give you some experience. If you do submit a proposal to host a future YAPC, don't feel too disheartened if you don't get the chance to host straight away, you can always submit again the following year.

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[1] <http://act.yapc.eu/ye2013/>

[2] <http://yapc-surveys.org>

[3] <http://www.perlfoundation.org/>