

Mini XP Day 2010 – Participant feedback on the conference

What did you like?

- High quality of the sessions. Location + food
- Nice lunch, good opportunities to chat
- diverse mensen met diverse disciplines
- the talks, the venue
- volere
- ideas for improving coaching skills; bookshelf: good titles
- good sessions, meeting people
- all sessions
- good content, feedback at multiple moments, meeting (talking to other people, sharing the same background)
- the openness, interactive element, hear from other people how they are doing stuff, talk about my problems and experiences, and I learned some things :)
- openness, interactions
- uses strip! Focus on outcomes first
- all sessions; the way program was made -> the best of
- interactive sessions, meeting an re-meeting new people, refresh the agile scrum Kanban knowledge
- networking, interactivity of workshops, informal nature
- most of the speeches, good organization
- various interesting sessions about coaching
- enthusiastic presenters; interactive sessions
- low step-in; networking; lunch
- timing, good presenters with great content
- open atmosphere, new ways of looking at things
- simultaneous sessions, feedback, PO tools
- open atmosphere
- open atmosphere; interaction; location
- different experiences were in the conference
- meet old friends, did a session again and still had did interesting missed session
- I liked the sessions where people with hands-on experience talked; the fairy-tale agile sessions was also very amusing
- Portia's session on coaching
- informality; well organized, (mostly) good presenters with insights from experience
- nice balance in different types of presentation (coaching, coding); meeting other agile-minded people
- the atmosphere, the location, the presentations
- very collaborative group of people; everyone willing to share; venue was great; choice of sessions was good
- atmosphere, workup session
- I liked the small cozy approach
- theory and implementations presentations

- interactive sessions; meeting other visitors
- user stories striptease; yellow brick road
- the user story striptease was specifically insightful; ask the way of think/questions introduced in "the yellow brick road"
- the informal way things were discussed. The different kind of organizations present
- agile spirit

How would you make the conference perfect?

- The 1 minute feedback round at the end. Was less prepared than last time
- extra focus on small projects, focus on customers and their role
- state clearly when a laptop is needed for a session
- more technical coding sessions
- open space sessions
- more coffee, was missing after break midday, usb with presentation
- more fresh air in rooms
- more time to discuss (evaluate) sessions -> retrospectives, even more interactive elements some sessions I found to be too much presentations
- easily reachable by public transport
- more info on how to get at the conference by train or from the airport to the conference.
- balance between sessions, techy ones exclude non-techies
- start the Zen session in the morning a little later; distribute a list of participants
- organize it in Antwerp
- add an open space
- more time to practice coaching skills
- it is good enough
- more sessions but then it is no longer mini
- keep innovating, how do you know you are doing good job, is staying immobile, not really going backwards
- perhaps more sessions to choose from
- session idea box
- bigger audience; open space
- more pre-explanation about content and prerequisites
- dinner
- beginner sessions
- some presentations could have been better (separate forms)
- more time to simply interact with other people; normal xp days probably had open space, why not here
- make sure that limited space sessions don't run beside audiences with limited audience (e.g. yellow brick road (18 max) + Kata (java devs only)
- 10 out of 10
- 15 people more, I found it sometimes a little bit scaring quiet
- where can I download the presentations
- trying better to describe the goal group of a presentation
- less coffee breaks and coffee at dinner
- some faster planning, less time between sessions

- had the feeling some previous knowledge was necessary for certain presentations, the level of this preknowledge was not clear enough
- cold drinks all along

Which (new) things are you going to apply?

- Coaching problem. Product owner tools
- Ask product owner to use a definition of ready before entering a user story on the backlog
- not sure yet
- product owner tools
- volere
- none
- asking right questions
- Fitness, lean, product owning
- coaching techniques, definition of ready
- visualize product backlog of business goals, coaching skills ("imagine" of 3 roles coach, Dorothy and observer)
- solution focused approaches to agile coaching and the coaching hats; the yellow brick road game when I think it's good if someone thinks more from a certain type but I don't want to say that directly
- solution focused approach; train our product owner to use definition of ready and planning map
- perfection game, solutions coaching
- visual business case, story mapping, find a peer
- focus, easiest path first, peer-to-peer coaching
- learn more about coaching, have a course
- some for me new agile things
- coach, coachee, observer; product owner role
- way of questioning product owners; solution focused coaching/ yellow brick road
- fitness I hope, information of presentation of Serge
- use more coaching, asking more questions, use team/peer coaching all levels
- coaching, user story slicing
- definition of ready; portfolio alignment wall
- product owner subjects, coaching
- story mapping, solution base coaching
- solution focused methodology; architectural refactoring; product owner values; setting agile office
- simplest thing first
- another way of looking at problems
- stickies!
- solution focus; question by giving feedback (to test understanding of problem)
- pair coaching + solution focus
- coaching techniques
- solution focused approach; perfection game; maybe some feature flow
- nothing new, just go further, perhaps try to get the Product owner role more explicit
- the axes of the agile office: communication, fun and nature

- solution focused coaching; Kanban implementation
- concept give-when-then
- strip user stories
- breaking down user stories in more measurable pieces
- learn practices

What would you like to see in a next conference?

- focus on small projects
- surprise me :)
- don't know
- pair programming, refactoring (more technical stuff)
- Lean in Practices
- coaching skills, product ownership
- more about role of scrum master and the problems he runs into -> based on real life cases
- more relation back to agile manifesto, values and principles
- a success story, scrum applied outside a development environment
- Kanban, tool used for coaching
- one of the founding "fathers" /gurus
- maybe more pm related courses
- don't know yet
- Kanban metrics explained
- architecture
- more practical exercises with enough time
- more change
- skipped coding/automated testing sessions this time, might try those next time
- open space
- more workshops than presentations
- how to persuade colleagues to try an agile approach + that failure (small + early) is ok
- connection between mind and body via sessions like: wakeup, open/close, aiki stuff
- try to link concepts from agile in a system
- new agile techniques
- how to introduce agile in your organisation

Any other feedback?

- nice atmosphere, good speakers it was worth the travelling
- nope carry on
- no
- great day, gives energy, I will definitely join more xp days
- great conference center
- hope we can continue to have these kind of events; to meet "colleagues", to refresh our knowledge to learn new things and to be motivated by inspired people
- nice to see everybody again
- :)
- nice location

- more exercises from Olivier
- nice location; good presentations, keep up the good word
- great conference

How did you find out about the conference?

- Previous times
- Mailing, Agile Holland
- Colleague
- grapevine
- agile Holland
- Internet
- Regular visitor
- Internet
- agile Holland
- one of the mailing lists, I guess (xpdays, agile Holland, linked in don't know which group)
- from Portia
- mail
- mail, site xp day 2009
- internet, agile games
- from a colleague
- Colleague told me
- mail
- regularly visit web site
- from a hired in freelance developer
- agile Belgium
- spam
- I am an organizer
- a friend invited me because he had a spare ticket
- through a customer
- colleague/boss
- visited it in previous years (normal xp days). Got an email with invite
- via email because of previous visit
- from Portia
- from last edition
- from email
- through our scrum coaches
- newsletter; agile Holland
- email
- via colleague
- best of version = quality