

Evaluation Report: ERNICA CDH & ECMO Hands-on Course 2026

1. Introduction

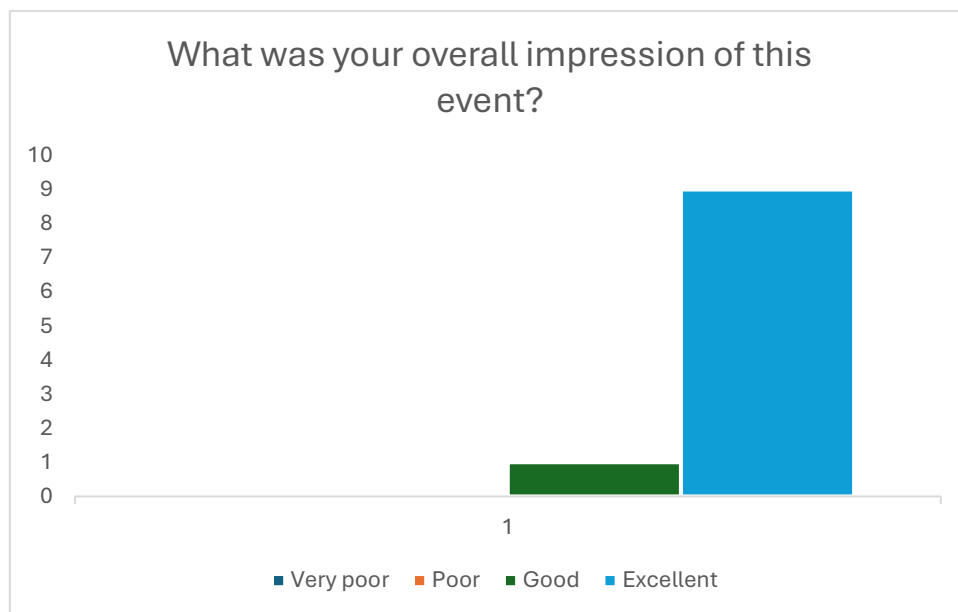
The ERNICA CDH & ECMO Hands-on Course, which took place in Rotterdam on the 29-30 January 2026, aimed to provide an educational experience for senior residents, fellows and junior paediatric surgeons.

This evaluation report summarises participants feedback based on the anonymous survey responses. Most participants (10/13) responded to the survey.

2. Summary of Participant Feedback

2.1 Quality of the Event

- Usefulness: Participants found the event either useful or extremely useful (average score: 3,5/4 with 1 being not useful and 4 being extremely useful).
- Overall Impression: The majority of participants rated the event as excellent (average score: 3,9/4 with 1 being a very poor overall impression and 4 being excellent).



- **Best Aspects (Strengths)**
 - Strong emphasis on practical exercises, simulations, and hands-on scenarios, which participants found highly valuable.
 - Well-balanced combination of lectures, discussions, and practical training.
 - High-quality, clear and well-prepared lectures with good organization.
 - Excellent overview of complex CDH pathology and management, including controversial topics.
 - Professional and well-structured programme, including effective simulation training.

- Valuable interdisciplinary discussions and opportunities to address practical management and surgical issues.
- Overall excellent organization and positive course atmosphere (including venue and catering).
- **Areas for Improvement**
 - Time management.
 - Request for more advanced or difficult case practice (e.g., complex CDH types).
 - Suggestion to include a basic introductory overview of ECMO (how it works and key parameters).
 - Interest in a brief participant and faculty introduction round at the beginning of the course.
 - Suggestion to strengthen course publicity/recruitment.

2.2 Relevance of the Event

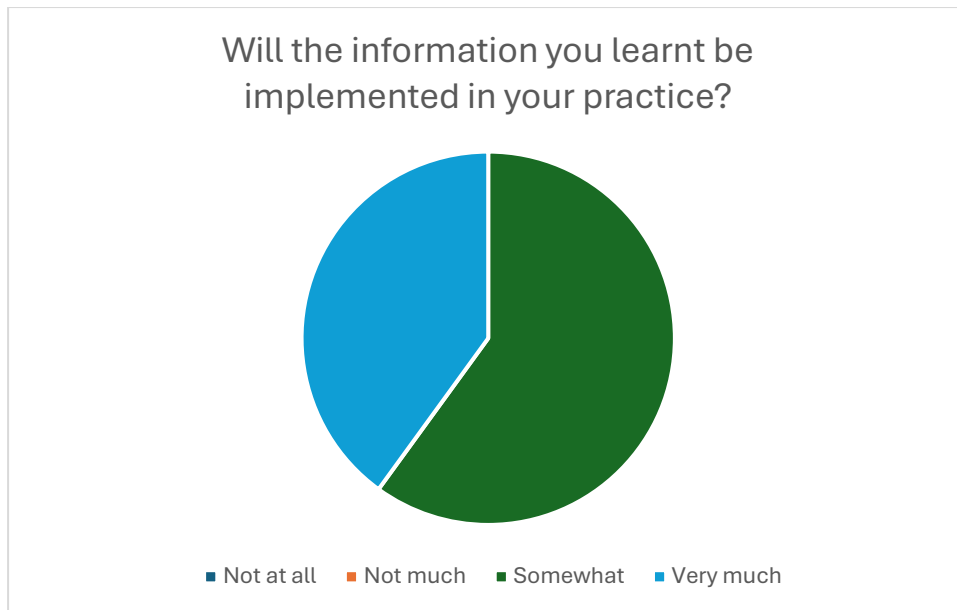
- Achievement of Educational Goals: Participants largely agreed that their learning objectives were met (average score: 3,9/4 with 1 being not at all and 4 being very much).
- Scientific Validity: Content was well-supported by scientific evidence (average score: 4/4).

2.3 Suitability of Formats Used

- Adequacy of Discussions & Engagement: Most participants felt there was sufficient time for interaction (average score: 3,7/4). One participant reported insufficient time for scenarios and discussions, limiting feedback opportunities.
- Innovative Elements Identified by Participants
 - Interactive question rounds and use (and suggestion for increased use) of interactive digital tools such as Mentimeter to enhance audience participation.
 - Inclusion of an ECMO basics lecture, tailored to residents and less-experienced pediatric surgeons.
 - Use of simulation-based training, including simulators and PediatrictBoxx models for hands-on surgical skills practice.
 - Surgical demonstration videos supporting practical learning.
 - Encouragement of interactive discussions, allowing topics to evolve organically and promoting peer exchange.

2.4 Impact on Clinical Practice

- Implementation of Learning: Majority of participants indicated they would apply the knowledge gained in their clinical practice (average score: 3,4/4, with 1 being not at all and 4 being very much).



2.5 Commercial Bias

- Conflict of Interest Disclosure: Participants confirmed that most faculty members disclosed potential conflicts (average score: 3,4/4).
- Bias-Free Information: The course content was considered free from commercial influence (average score: 3,9/4).

3. Conclusion and Recommendations

The feedback indicates a highly positive overall evaluation of the ERNICA CDH course, with participants particularly valuing the strong focus on hands-on simulation, practical exercises, and interactive discussions combined with clear, well-structured lectures. Suggestions for improvement mainly related to time management, inclusion of more advanced case practice, and expansion of introductory ECMO content, providing constructive guidance for further strengthening future editions of the course.