

**National Release Centre Annual
Report 2018**



**SNOMED CT Governance Group Annual report
2018**



About SNOMED Irish National Release Centre

Foreword

Health is information-intensive, generating huge volumes of data every day. Safe, reliable healthcare depends on access to, and the use of, information that is accurate, valid, timely, relevant, and complete.

SNOMED CT is a terminological resource that can be implemented in software applications to represent clinically relevant information reliably and reproducibly, thereby providing a standardised way to represent clinical information, improving our ability to code, retrieve, and analyse clinical data.

SNOMED CT the most comprehensive clinical terminology available internationally. It is organised in 19 hierarchies such as diseases, symptoms, procedures. It consists of concepts, descriptions and relationships. The most recent release contained 466,612 concepts, 1,451,467 descriptions and 1,024,719 relationships. As such, it aims to define all of the concepts within medicine.

In September 2017, the governance group for SNOMED was set up and the Terms of Reference were written, in collaboration between the Health Information and Quality Authority and the Office of the Chief Information Officer within the Health Service Executive. The governance group comprises a number of key stakeholders including, representatives from the Health Information and Quality Authority, the Department of Health, the Health Service Executive, the Health Research Board, National Standards Authority of Ireland, academia, the Council of Clinical Information Officers, the clinical care programmes and a patient representative.

A work plan was developed to guide us through our first year. We focused on engaging our stakeholders, developing our process and procuring services to support the implementation of the processes. Our efforts in 2018 was very much about getting the foundations in place to support the adoption and successful roll out of SNOMED CT in clinical information systems in Ireland. This resulted in us being in a position to test our release process with a beta Irish edition being released in late 2018 and accessible to our members.

Kevin O Carroll; HIQA

SNOMED Governance Group Chair

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Background

In late 2016, the HSE in partnership with the Department of Health procured the SNOMED CT licence for Ireland, this was an exciting new service that would help Ireland to be best placed to manage clinical terminology in electronic charts and enable the eHealth Ireland strategy to be delivered. This followed a number of initiatives that had been undertaken by various bodies, this included

- 2012 – WHO eHealth Strategy
- 2013 – Overview of Healthcare interoperability standards published by HIQA
- 2013 – Guidance document on terminology & classification systems standards published by HIQA
- 2013 – eHealth Strategy Ireland published by the Department of Health
- 2014 – HIQA recommends SNOMED CT.
- 2015 – HSE Knowledge & Information Plan

This vision and strategy

The Irish Strategy echoed the vision and strategy that SNOMED International had developed, to progress clinical terminologies be used globally, which would result in better health, supported by one language of health.

The SNOMED Governance group was established in September 2017, a Terms of Reference at the time a one year strategy document were created.

The goals and objectives of this strategy were to deliver on the following

- Policies and procedures
- Tooling
- Education
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Projects and Implementations
- Governance

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Activities

Below is a list of activities undertaken in relation to SNOMED CT in 2018.

Events and Conferences

Ireland took part in the International Conferences in London in April 2017 and 2018, Bratislava in Oct 2017 and Vancouver in Oct 2018. There was representation by General Assembly representatives and Member Forum representatives.

Taking part in these International meetings allowed for networking, development of the understanding of SNOMED and how it is delivered in other member countries and helps to grow a clinical terminology knowledge, all of which can be leveraged to develop SNOMED in Ireland.

The representatives took part in many of the work streams, including, Member Forum, General Assembly, Content Management Advisory Group, E-Learning Advisory group, Terminology Release Advisory Group, Cancer Synoptic Reporting group and Tooling use Advisory group.



Niall Sinnott General Assembly Representative
Dept of Health and Theresa Barry Member Forum
Representative OoCIO, HSE, attending Business
meetings in Vancouver Oct 2018



Forum representative attending a work shop for the
managed service with Cathy Richardson, SNOMED
International , Content Management Advisory Group
Chair, In Vancouver Oct 2018

Vendor Engagement Day

On February 14th 2018 the Irish NRC held a specific event for vendors, this was part of the creation of awareness regarding SNOMED and how it will be managed in Ireland.

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The event was held in Dr Steevens Hospital Board Room with approximately 70 attendees all from various software companies (Appendix)

The Enterprise Architecture team gave a presentation of their various work areas and the work that was being completed there and how this will affect all ICT projects going forward. There were 3 attendees from SNOMED International Ian Green (Client Relationship Manager), Rory Davidson (Technical Lead) and Nick Egharos (Vendor Engagement manager). In the afternoon there was round table discussions where the vendor community had the opportunity to ask questions directly to the vendor engagement team, the various discussion groups were EHR, Radiology, MN-CMS/MEDLis, Summary Care Record (SCR). The vendor community found the event to be very useful and wished to enquire when or where the next events would be held in this space. A survey was carried out on the day and the results are attached here. (Appendix 1)

Also the National Release Centre's Manager Theresa Barry presented at a number of events in order to build stakeholder awareness as agreed in the one year strategy, these included

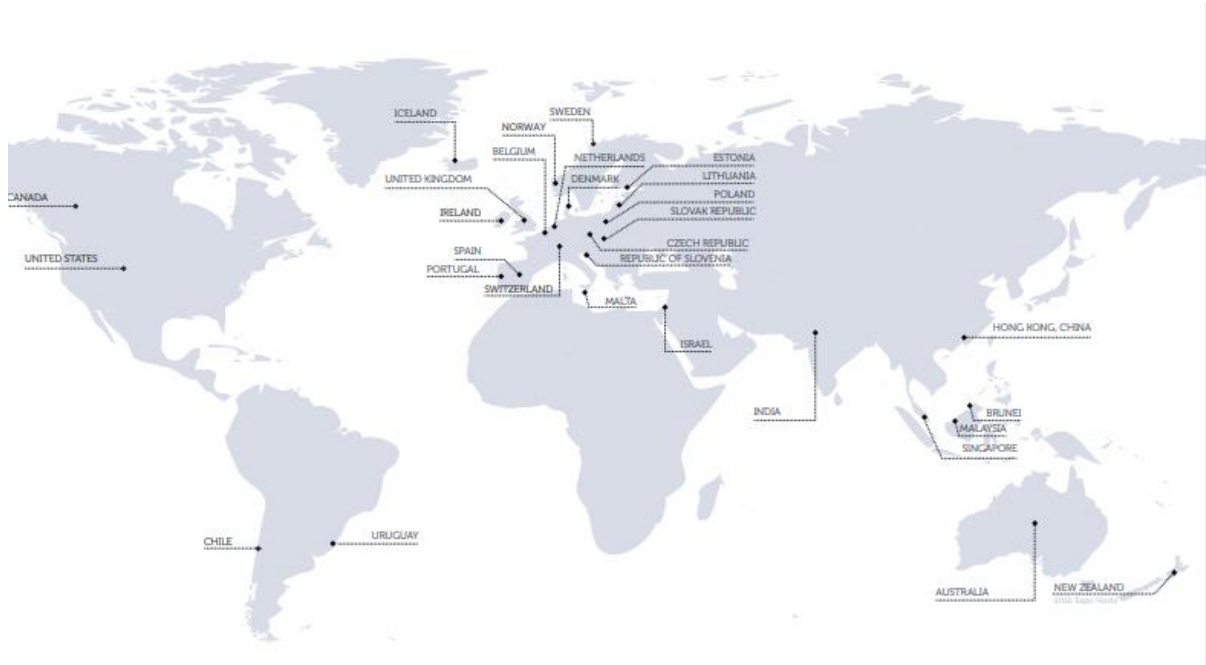
- The Council of Clinical Information Officers in May 2018,
- UCC 4th medical students In November 2018,
- South/South West Senior Nursing management , October 2018
- MSc Digital Health postgraduate students in UCC, November 2018
- MSc in Health Informatics students in UL November 2018
- Enterprise Architecture Information Day November 2018
- HSE Environmental Protection Agency Data Policy Workshop November 2018

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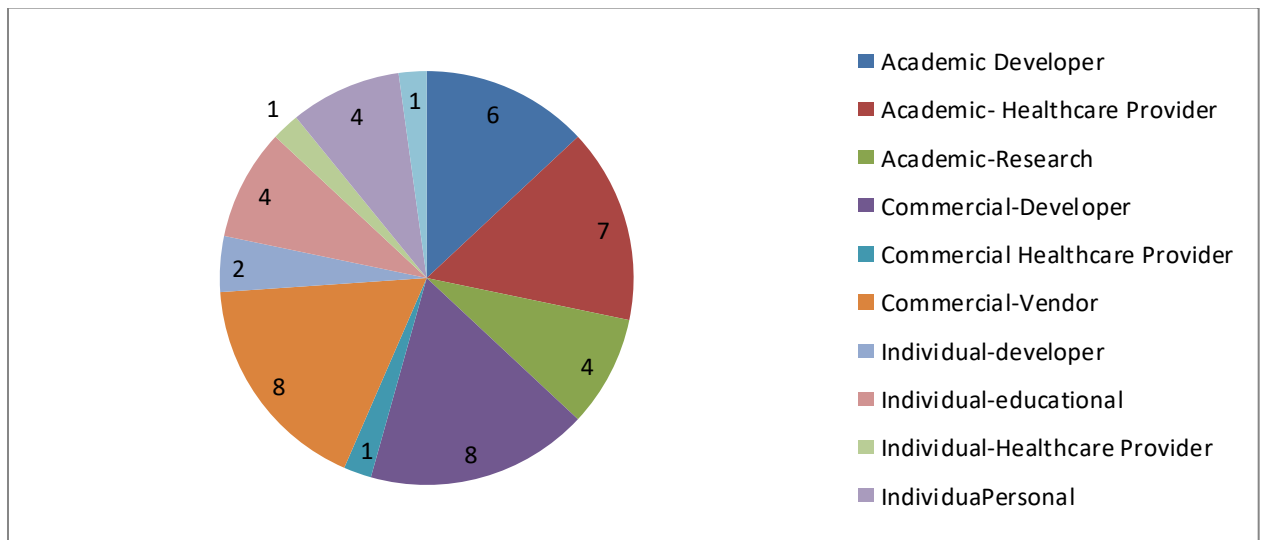


Membership

SNOMED International now has a membership of 36 countries, with Ireland becoming the 29th member in November 2016.



As of December 2018, The Irish NRC has 46 affiliate licence holders.



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Customer & Stakeholder Relationship Management.

Collaboration

The Irish NRC has collaborated with the following groups to assist in developing their business cases prior to procurement and grow the stakeholder groups.

- The national EHR on both the Clinical documentation and Technical work streams
- The National Acute Floor Information System
- The National Rehabilitation Hospital

There has also been collaboration internationally with other NRC's including the UK and the NHS, Canada and Infoway, Kazakhstan Ministry of Health and Australia. These collaborations have been 2 way, with Ireland gaining information and best practice guidelines from them, and they have also leveraged from the developments in Ireland.

There has also been collaboration internal to the Office of CIO and HSE, with information days being developed and delivered to various stakeholders including the Project management office and with some of the SNOMED International team invited to present, this has allowed for recommendations made by the SNOMED International team to be adopted.

There was also collaboration with the Open National Contact Point Program in relation to enable sharing of electronic Patient Summaries and electronic Prescriptions to the identified semantic European standard. An extensive piece of work conducted involved gap analysis of identified data sources domestically to populate both clinical datasets. As an output from this work a roadmap is currently being developed to address the identified gaps nationally. In parallel the NRC is providing input to the EU Common Semantic Strategy due for completion May 2019.

This collaboration has had its foundations laid with Technical Architecture in 2017/2018 and the semantic interoperability for Ireland was established in 2018 with SNOMED NRC.

Vendor Engagement

The Irish NRC developed a Vendor Engagement document for all vendors requiring to use SNOMED within their systems in Ireland. This was developed in collaboration with some of the International member countries, SNOMED International and the Irish EHR and AFIS project teams. It is now ready for distribution.

Clinical Engagement

The Irish NRC has engaged with various clinical groups through delivery of presentations at key events over 2017/2018,

- The Clinical Council
- The South/South West Senior Nursing management team
- The Nursing clinical metrics team
- Medical students
- The National EHR clinical documentation group

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- The Medicinal drug catalogue group.



Education and Support

The education material that is available from SNOMED International has been made available in HSELand and other education and training material as it becomes available will also be made available in this space. SNOMED International are constantly making updates to the courses, such as The Foundation course, Implementation course and authoring course .

Managed service

The Irish NRC procured the managed service from SNOMED International in September 2018, this included 2 days of onsite training and knowledge transfer. The managed service includes

- Irish Managed Service Authoring Tool
- Irish members Licencing and Distribution Service
- Reference Set and Translation Service
- SNOMED CT Browser-Irish Extension
- SNOMED International Content Request Service .

Irish Release

In November 2018 the Irish NRC had its first beta release, this allowed for an Irish namespace to be published and some new content was created. The files were distributed via the MDLS and made available to all licensees. The first full release of the Irish Edition of SNOMEDCT is scheduled for April 21st 2019

Governance

The membership of the group was defined using the OoCIO Knowledge and Information plan aligning with the NHS governance model. The memberships of the group for the year are as follows

- Kevin O Carroll HIQA, Chair
- Niall Sinnott Department of Health General Assembly representative Vice Chair (new)
- Kevin Conlon Dept of Health General Assembly Representative (Retired)
- Peter Connolly Head of Enterprise Architecture OoCIO
- Theresa Barry HSE, OoCIO Member Forum Representative
- Lilly Walsh Business Architecture Lead OoCIO
- Helen Lambert Compliance, Assurance and Information Governance Lead OoCIO
- Martin Tully Information Architecture Lead OoCIO
- Loretto Grogan National Clinical Information Officer, Nursing and Midwifery
- Damon Berry National Standards Authority of Ireland
- Gaye Stephens Patient Representative, TCD
- Dr Conor O Shea, GP, Clinical Council representative
- Anne O Donoghue, Health Research Board.

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- Dr Pamela Hussey Assistant Professor, Health Informatics, DCU

The SNOMED Governance group met 2 monthly with minutes being distributed and available prior to each meeting.

Key decision made during the year were

- To procure the managed service
- To develop education and training
- To engage with International community through international meetings
- To engage with vendor community and develop a vendor engagement document
- To publish Terms of Reference, strategy and presentations as delivered at vendor day and Information day on eHealth Ireland website
- To speak at conferences'
- To start developing SNOMED CT community in Ireland
- To develop formal process for engagement for projects
- To connect projects with relevant national and international colleagues
- To develop reference sets only for national projects
- To develop a 3 year strategy after one year of the governance group had elapsed.
- To develop a process for end-users to engage with the NRC
- To refresh the membership of the group after 1 year

About SNOMED International

SNOMED International is owned and governed by its international Members, which numbered 35 by December 31, 2018. It is a not-for-profit organisation that works on behalf of healthcare systems and provides full support to their global Members and licensees, ensuring that their combined resources achieve significant shared benefits that resonate around the world. They own, administer and develop SNOMED CT, a commercial product that enables them to establish semantically accurate clinical terminologies for consistent use across all health systems, services and products worldwide. They strive to improve the health of humankind and are constantly seeking to determine global standards for health terms. They believe that the global healthcare community must safely, accurately and effectively exchange health information to help patients everywhere. In January 2017, SNOMED International was made the trading name of the International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation, a private company limited by guarantee.

A message from SNOMED International, Management Board Chair, Lady Barbara Judge.



In our increasingly digital age, the ability to share accurate, comprehensive and unambiguous health information is an expectation of both patients and providers in most countries around the world. The benefits to care delivery that this offers is evident across the majority of the world's health systems by the many recent large-scale investments in electronic health record infrastructure. A critical building block in this equation is the requirement of structured clinical terminology to support providers as they share information for the purposes of care delivery, research, and the need for data analytics to support

health system improvement. Accordingly, SNOMED CT is considered the most comprehensive multilingual health-related terminology globally. It facilitates direct patient care, clinical decision support, collaboration among health professionals, and data analytics which is made possible by the enormous volumes of health data originating from today's health system.

SNOMED International is fundamental to this growth, as is the commitment of a diverse and thriving Community of Practice. SNOMED International is governed by a General Assembly made up of Member country representatives, and coupled with a dynamic Management Board. In this way the stewardship of SNOMED International, and by extension, SNOMED CT, is unique and agile. Reflecting on the 2018 fiscal year, this Community has further contributed to the quality of SNOMED CT

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through its Clinical Reference Groups, engaged vendors, Member representatives and Advisory Group participants. These interdependencies while complex, are the bases of a focused and representative Community, to which new participants are always welcome.

A message from CEO Don Sweete



Don Sweete CEO

In my role as CEO of SNOMED International, I am pleased to present the organization's Annual Report. Never before has there been a time when SNOMED CT has been in such demand by potential Members, affiliates, collaborative partners and stakeholders. This is an important distinction to recognize given the resulting impact on the elasticity of this lean and agile organization. We continue to meet the increasing demand and maintain consistency in staffing, while also addressing new priorities.

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Appendix 1

The topics discussed on the day included

What are the roles and responsibilities going forward for Vendors?

SNOMED International will shortly be publishing a document for all project managers involved in Procurement for ICT systems, this will be shared with the teams when ready

How will project managers in OoCIO manager SNOMED in their systems?

The process of engagement has been mapped and is awaiting sign off by the Governance group

What version/edition of SNOMED will Ireland use?

Ireland will be using the International version and will release its own edition in June 2018, this will then follow with an Irish release in October and March 6 monthly

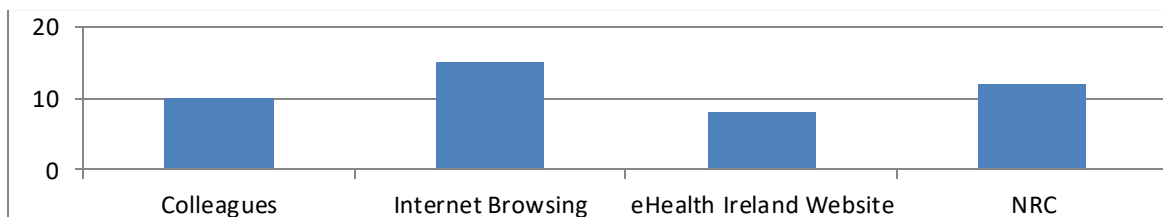
Will there be training and education for SNOMED?

Yes the NRC will post some education and training on the eHealthIreland web site in the next few weeks and will create a community of SNOMED users, with further plans yet to be completed

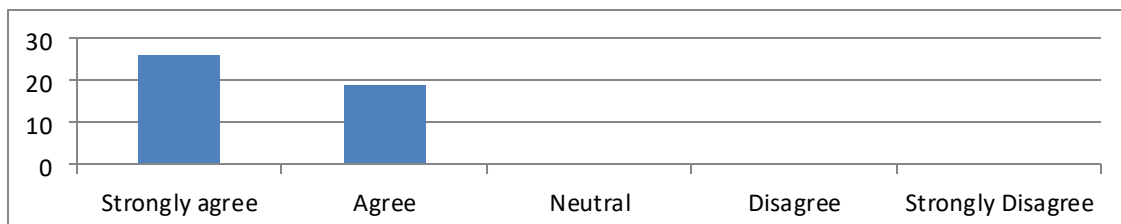
Survey Report of SNOMED Vendor engagement day on February 14th 2018

45 surveys were completed out of an attendance of 70. In order for the NRC to judge the level of knowledge of the stakeholder group at the SNOMED meeting and in order to plan for the level of engagement and educational requirements a questionnaire was circulated on the day, and the findings are defined here.

Q 2 Where re have you found information on SNOMED CT?



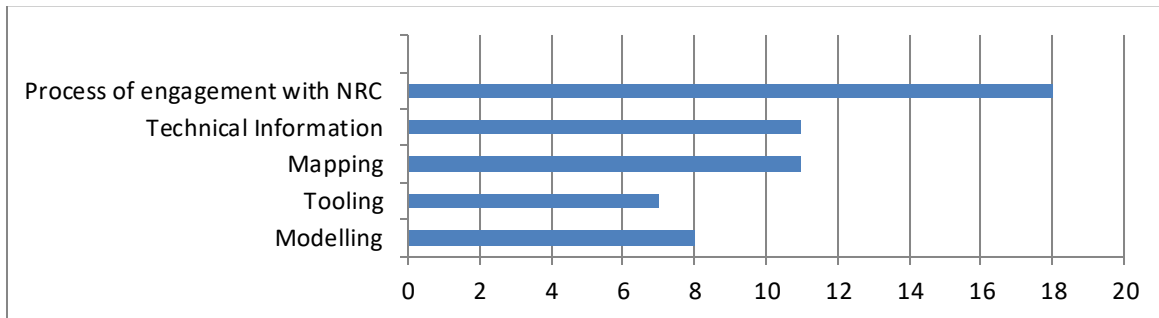
Q3 The information on SNOMED CT delivered in this session was useful



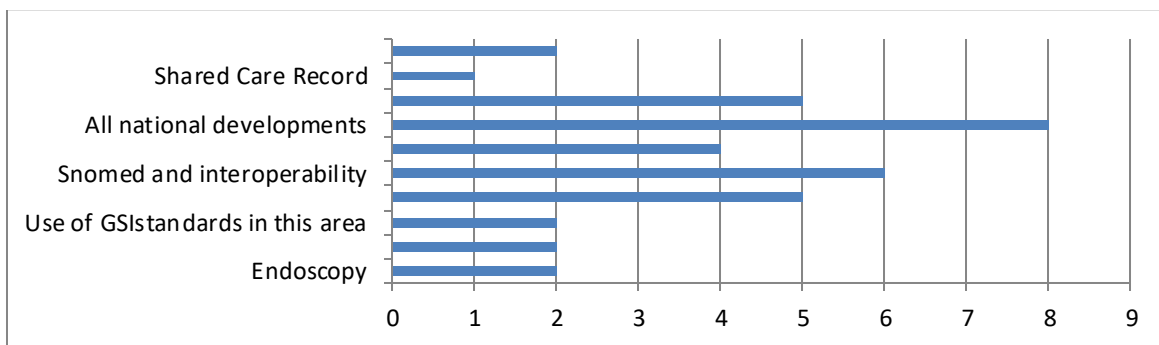
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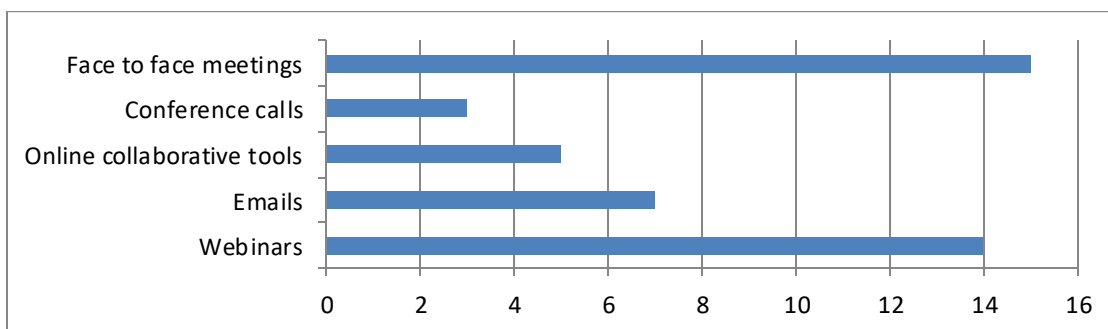
Q4 The topic I would like to see more information on would be



Q5 My specific area of interest is



Q6. What form of communication would you find most useful in the future to gain information on SNOMED?



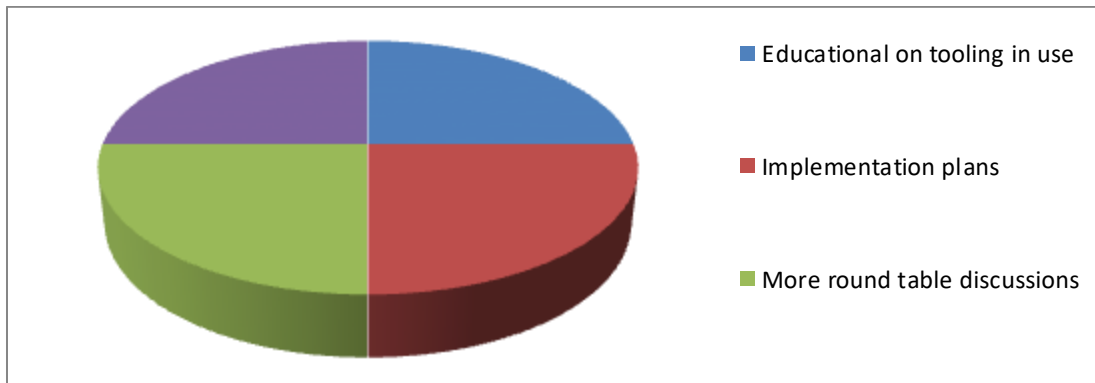
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Q 6 What did you like most about the session?



Q 7 Additional educational sessions would you like to see in the future?



“Thank you”

“Important all stakeholders are included and end users are considered”

“Very informative and really useful collaboration”

“Well organised and some great speakers”

“Interesting to see how Enterprise Architecture is working in HSE and the amount of work being done”

“Great to understand how vendors are going to be part of this journey with HSE”

“Thanks for organising, when is the next one?”