

IETM Plenary Meeting 2007, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Réunion Plénière IETM 2007, Ljubljana, Slovénie



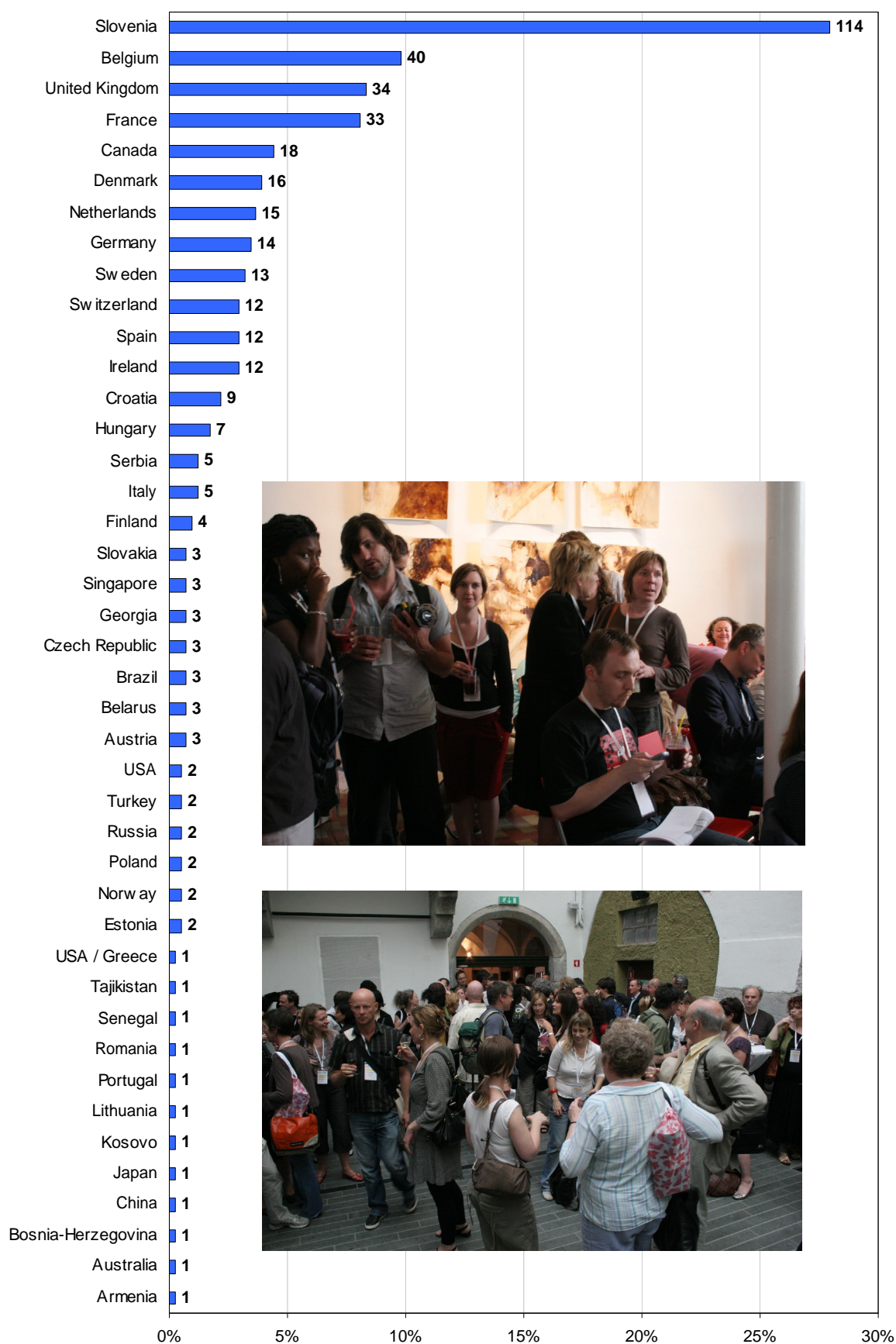
LJUBLJANA MEETING IN NUMBERS

LA RÉUNION DE LJUBLJANA EN CHIFFRES

The Plenary Meeting in Ljubljana counted a total of 408 registered participants coming from 42 different countries, 30 European countries and 12 countries from outside of Europe. From the total delegates 28% came from Slovenia, 63% from elsewhere in Europe and 6% from outside of Europe.

The graph shows also a large number of participants coming from Belgium, United Kingdom and France.

Number of participants coming from different countries / Nombre de participants venants de pays différents.

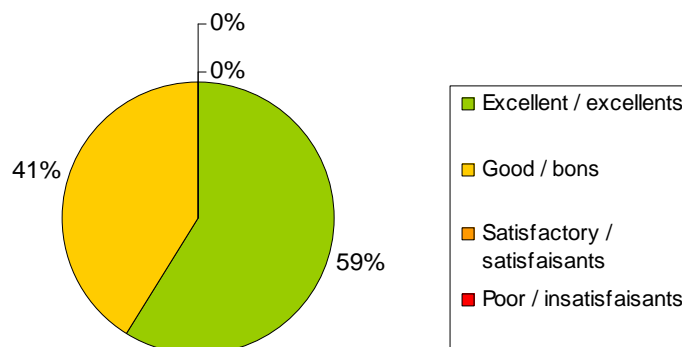


FEEDBACK / EVALUATION

We received the feedback of 62 participants, giving a response of 15%.

GENERAL / GÉNÉRAL

The overall response to the meeting was extremely positive, with 59% of the participants rating the service and facilities at the meeting as excellent, and 41% as good.



Positive comments seem to focus on Ljubljana as a wonderful city for a meeting, the positive and relaxed atmosphere, the accessibility of the venues and the organising team as very welcoming. The participants made also a lot of positive comments on the program. A lot of people found the topics discussed very interesting. Some people were in particular enthusiastic about the Artistic itineraries, Brainstorm and the possibility to present their own project. Participants also mentioned the broad range and quality of the performances. Last, but not least, a lot of positive response was given on the networking possibilities at the meeting and the broad range of participants.

- *A la fois la bonne humeur, la disponibilité des organisateurs et de l'équipe pour les demandes variées de tous.*
- *The atmosphere, the scale, the location, so it was easy to talk to / meet new people in a relaxed way, the structure of the working groups was good - the hosts were very welcoming and Ljubljana a great city.*
- *Ljubljana is a very beautiful city, small and nice. It was good because all the locations of the performances where close, so we didn't have to walk long. And also the picnic, with the food and everything else!*
- *Organisation super/ lieux de rencontres très bien. La disponibilité et l'ouverture des gens d'une manière générale. Un certain enthousiasme à échanger.*
- *Panels and working groups were very inspiring.*
- *The structured and centred topic and the good preparation of 'deeper' and complex questions, which was remarkable on the panels.*
- *La qualité des spectacles.*
- *Variety of theatre performances and some very good performances.*
- *La possibilité de rencontrer des collègues de l'Europe entière, en particulier des pays nouveaux entrants de l'UE et des Balkans, jusqu'à l'Asie centrale*
- *Meeting back good contacts, getting a good update on what's happening in Europe in contemporary performing arts.*
- *My favourite part must be getting the opportunity to meet and connect with so many people from all over the world, and learn that we face many of the same challenges and desires.*
- *Meeting people from other countries and talking to them about my work enabled me to share and discuss the work I am doing. It also gave me a chance to test out some ideas with fellow IETM colleagues and gave me confidence in the work I am doing. I found people extremely friendly and even though it was my first meeting managed to establish a couple of wonderful peer and friend relationships.*

Improvements suggested were mainly focused on the content sessions. The respondents would like to see more diversity in the panels, found the discussions sometimes hard to follow and suggested longer discussions, smaller groups and more interactivity. Special attention should be given to competent speakers and moderators. The respondents also suggested to make the program less packed and to provide more formats focused on meeting people.

- *Also the panels need to reflect a diversity of people, gender, age, cultural background. The workshops I attended where all with panels with men in a bout the same age.*
- *The content and the discussions of the info cells where too theoretical due to my taste. We're not at university most of us are practioners.*
- *Intégrer plus d'échanges avec le public lors des sessions de travail : les gens s'écoutaient souvent beaucoup trop parler, et cela nuisait au dynamisme de groupe.*
- *Working groups: they were interesting but maybe too big to have a real chance for all the participants to express their point of view.*
- *The panels and the debates need further thought to ensure that the facilitators keep the discussions on track. The debates sometimes wander a little too far off subject and end up losing the audience (mentally if not physically).*
- *More time needs to be given to networking/chatting time; the schedule needs to acknowledge that people need time to talk/share/introduce themselves. Therefore a very tight schedule is frustrating because one is pulled between trying to connect with colleagues, yet wanting to attend all sessions.*
- *C'est toujours compliqué de choisir entre beaucoup d'activités qui se chevauchent. je n'ai pas de solution, mais c'est parfois frustrant.*
- *There were too many things going on at the same time.*
- *Maybe creating alternative situations to make people get to know each other.*

Other improvements suggested were about the description of the activities, the performance program, the general use of languages and practical aspects as signposting, computer access, etc.

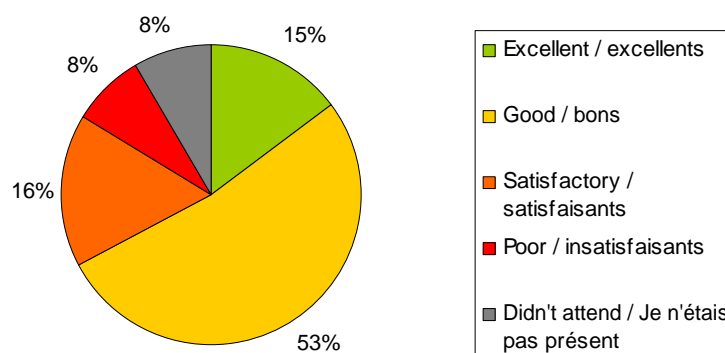
ACTIVITIES / ACTIVITÉS

There was a very concentrated and intense program of activities that meant one had to make difficult choices between things (...) the variety of views and participants made for strong panels and working groups.

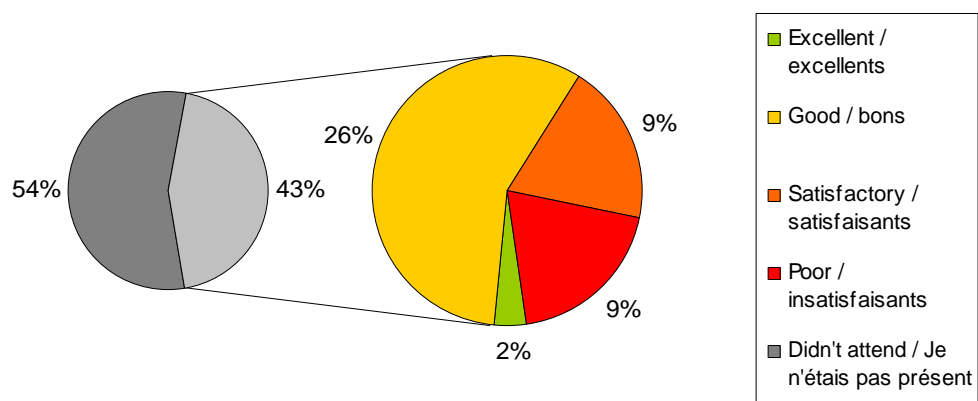
Très intéressant et nourrissant.

As ever - the experience of the sessions depends largely on what the member brings to them.

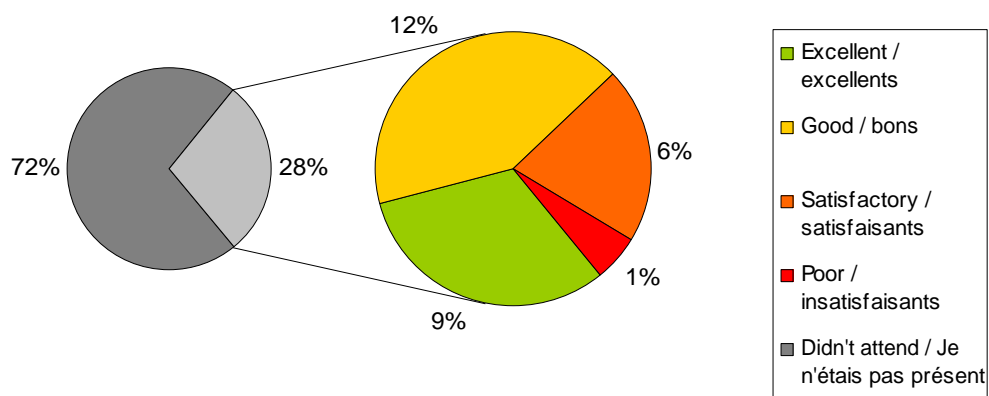
We asked the participants to rate different kinds of activities at the meeting. Most of the participants were positive about the **content sessions** (Working groups, Info cells, Plenary discussion), with 15% rating them as excellent and 53% as good. However, 16% found the content sessions only satisfactory and 8% even poor.



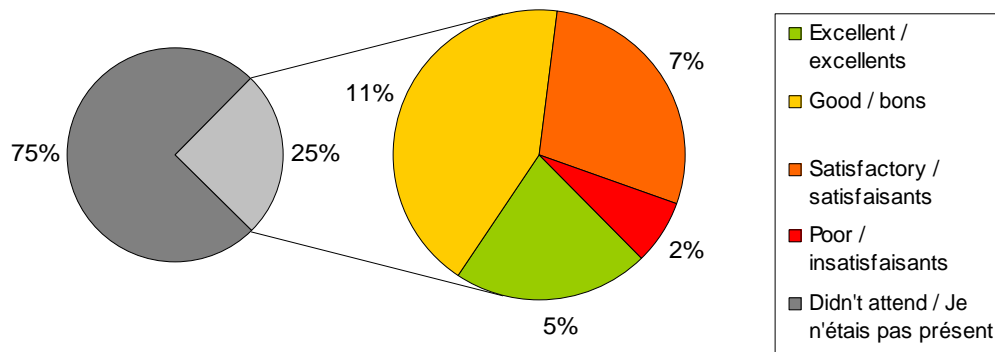
From the 43% of participants that attended the **learning sessions**, the majority was positive, rating them as good. However, approximately 20% of the respondents that attended one of these sessions rated them as poor.



Although only 28% of the respondents participated at **Newsround**, the overall response to this format was very positive, with 21% rating the project presentations as excellent or good, and only 1% as poor.

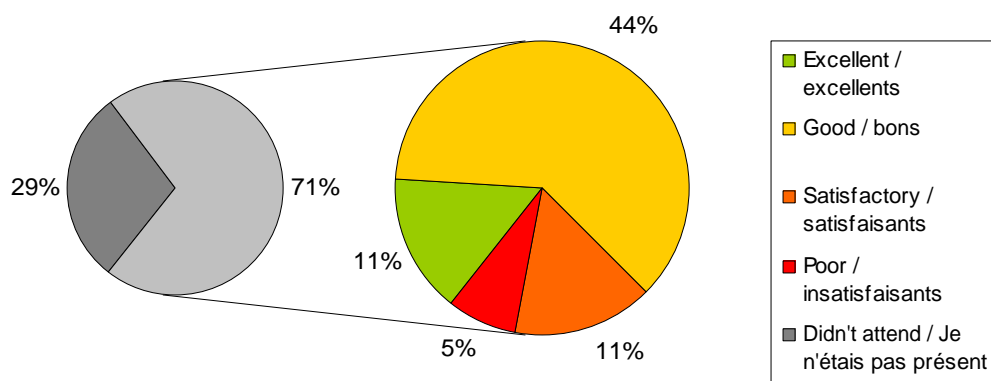


The same result is observed for **Brainstorm**: from the 25% of respondents that attended this activity, 16% found the sessions excellent or good and only 2% rated them as poor.

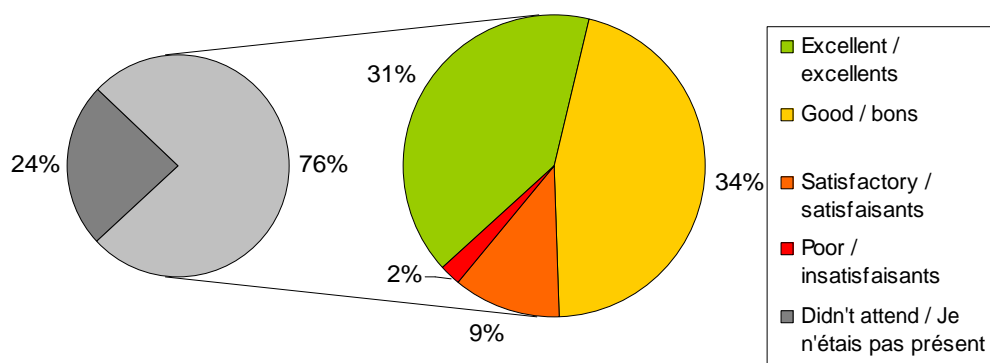


- *Brainstorm continues to be my favourite IETM session.*

It is remarkable that 71% of the participants that filled out the feedback form participated to the **IETM talks and listens**. As it seems impossible that 71% of all the participants attended this session, it seems that participants attending this activity are more likely to fill out the feedback form or vice versa. The overall response to IETM talks and listens is very positive, 55% of the respondents rating this session as excellent (11%) or good (44%), and only 5% as poor.

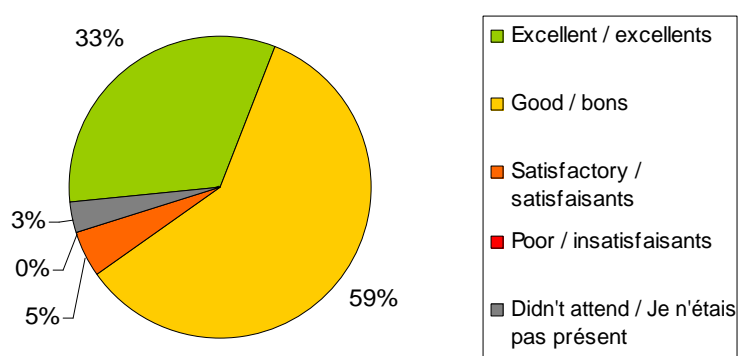


76% of the respondents attended the **Artistic Itineraries**. They were evaluated extremely positive, 31% thought they were excellent, 34% rated them as good, and only 2% as poor.



- *The artistic itinerary was particularly enjoyable and informative.*

The **social gatherings** were definitely the most popular activity at the meeting and were evaluated extremely positive: 33% of the respondents rated them as excellent, 59% as good, and nobody as poor.



- *As usual, the informal activities were the most profitable - both socially and, in an intangible way, professionally. Since One Yellow Rabbit does not attend to either "buy" or "sell," but rather to network and meet new people, IETM acts as an ideal personal and professional development experience.*

We specifically asked the participants how they evaluate the **structure of the content sessions**, that followed a different format at the Ljubljana meeting, with four Panel Discussions (A, B, C and D) introducing themes, then several Working Groups that focused on specific aspects of those themes (A1, A2, A3, B1 etc.).

A lot of participants evaluated the structure positively. They found that the structure felt more coherent, enabling to follow a strand and facilitating deeper discussions. For some of them, the discussions could still be improved by having at least one speaker from the Panel Discussions in the Working Groups, paying attention to good moderation, making smaller groups, ...

- *Pour moi, cela a plus ou moins bien fonctionné. Je pense que c'est un assez bon principe, car à priori, cela permet d'aller plus loin, d'échanger sur des expériences concrètes.*
- *Yes, this structure worked well as it allowed participants to make a decision to follow particular strands, to potentially accompany other participants through a number of sessions thus facilitating deeper discussion.*



Other respondents were positive about the structure, but aren't convinced that it works in practice, as they mixed between the themes.

- *I thought the structure was good - although I didn't always stick to the 'pattern' if I thought one working group was more interesting.*

Although they liked the idea, some respondents were complaining about the packed program, forcing them to make choices between different interesting themes.

- *Structure intelligente et invitante - mais comme d'habitude (et c'est bien ainsi), il y a plusieurs sujets qui nous interpellent et nous étions rapidement tentés de butiner au loin de nos premières intentions... Mais pour quelqu'un qui reconnaîtrait dans un de ces thèmes un intérêt prioritaire, alors c'est parfait puisque très facile à suivre!*
- *Yes and no together. Yes, because almost all that I'd attend were interesting to me. No, because everything was at the same time, I mean it was hard to choose between working group which were after panel discussion where I've been and working group which seemed to be interesting to me.*

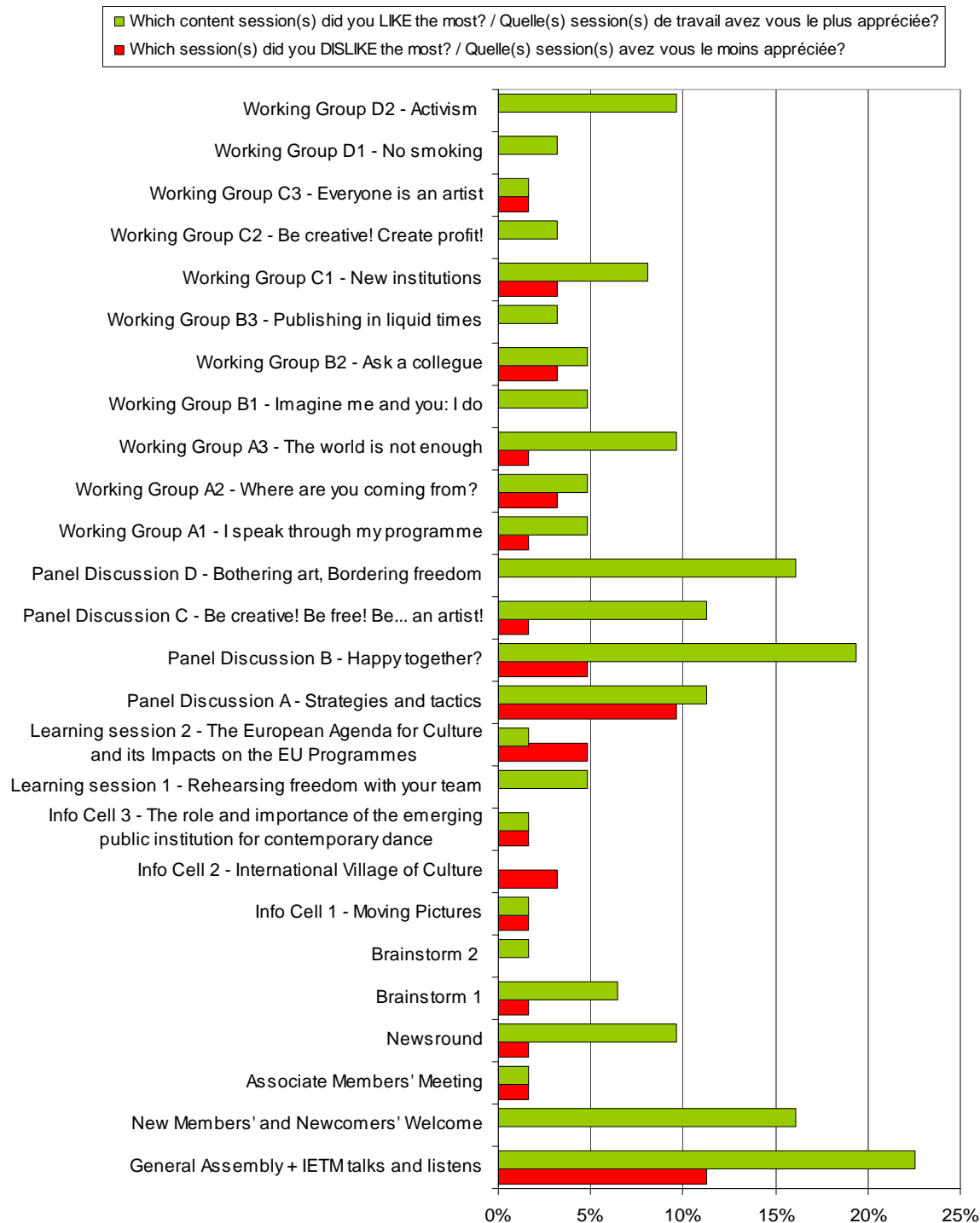


Other respondents didn't like the structure, for a range of different reasons. They found it too time consuming, confusing, too dispersed, not useful ... or prefer Working Groups above Panel Discussions.

- *Not really, I suspect, hardly anyone would have had the time to go to the panel discussion and then the following working group. Although a great idea in practice, people don't have the luxury of time to go to both. Or a panel discussion might sound interesting personally but the working group not and vice versa.*
- *No; I found this format too disparate. Would prefer longer (one session/per topic) so that it is fresh and immediate. Rather than a little contrived.*
- *No. I have a feeling that people had enough in the panel discussions and didn't feel that they need more in working groups.*
- *Pas forcément, même si l'idée de base est bonne. Je trouvais cela plutôt confus.*
- *I am not a fan of panel discussions. So, that did not work for me. I enjoyed working groups. No good working group without a good and sharp chairman and a clear focus.*

CONTENT SESSIONS / SESSIONS DE TRAVAIL

We asked the participants to choose the content sessions that they liked or disliked the most.



We also asked the participants to specify why they liked or disliked a session most. **Success factors** raised for a good content session were: interesting topic, good speakers and well moderated, comprehensible and practical, discussed what is written in the program, meeting people, different points of view and diversity, clear focus, intellectually challenging.

- *Good mix of people in the panel and open for the attending people to get into the discussion. Interesting theme and discussion.*
- *C'était simple, sympathique, et les objectifs étaient clairs.*
- *Interesting panellists, good moderation, exciting topic.*
- *I liked being able to meet others that worked in the same area (artists' networks) that I do and sharing ideas and models with them.*
- *The discussions talked about issues from a philosophical and macro perspective rather than being preoccupied with the local issues of any one country. I found them very interesting. I also liked the fact that there were contrary and provocative speakers on the panel to interrupt the consensus.*
- *I could understand them!*



Main **reasons for disliking** a content session were bad moderation or speakers, too academic and difficult to follow, unclear and lacking focus, format prohibiting an active discussion, false expectations made by the program and the environment.

- *Too academic and a bit pointless. The general assembly had really bad sound quality.*
- *Les formats ne sont pas adaptés (temps de parole, nombre de participants, participation).*
- *The panels weren't engaging, and didn't successfully ignite many discussions. The discussions bared little resemblance to the information written about them. I also didn't understand much of the discussion, for people at different stages of development; it was hard to grasp what they were discussing.*
- *I found it very difficult to follow and not particularly relevant!*
- *The moderator did not 'allow' the participants to get involved into the discussion; he did not really open the podium.*



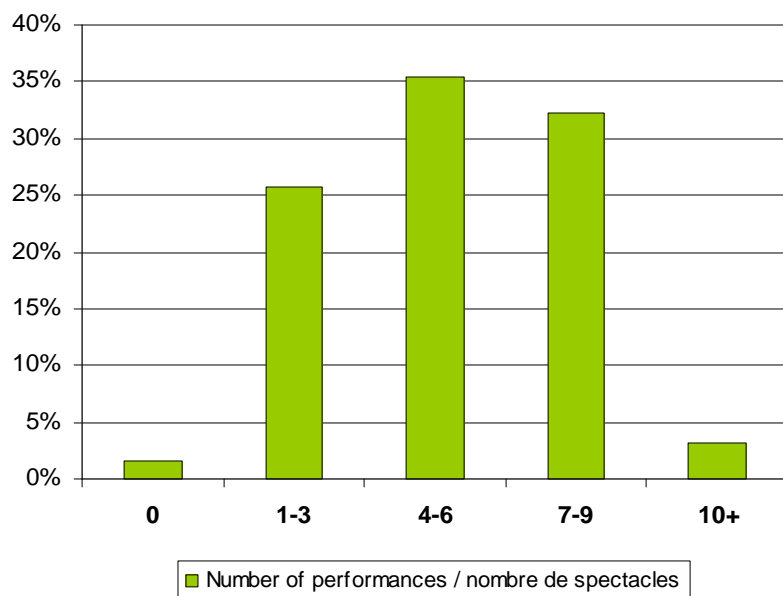
Improvements suggested are better moderation, engaging speakers, more practical sessions, clear topics, smaller groups, longer sessions, ...

- *It depends a lot on the speaker... being a good speaker does not all ways come together with good knowledge in the subject.*
- *Engaging people, topics that were well written about, ground work on a discussion topic.*
- *Keep the groups smaller; keep the subject matter more practical.*
- *Better moderation. A moderator should definitely not act as a speaker.*
- *Longer time, not so many statements before the possibility of discussion, perhaps another format: for example moderated working tables in smaller groups (like ietm talks and listens) possibility of continuity of a session or discussion... More working formats (I don't like to come as a consumer to the meetings, I like to reflect things together with other members).*

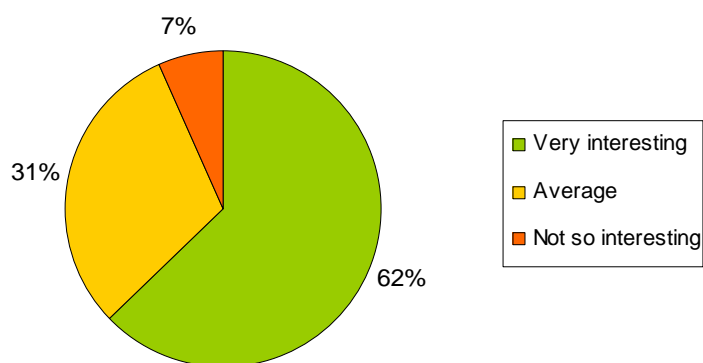


PERFORMANCES / SPECTACLES

Almost all the respondents attended one or more performances, although only a few attended ten or more shows. 25% saw one up to three performances, and almost 75% more than three.



The overall impression of the performances was positive: 62% found them very interesting, 31% average and only 7% not so interesting.



Positive comments focused on the broad range of performances and the quality of certain performances. Most respondents were also enthusiast to discover the Slovenian arts scene, even though not always liking what they saw.

- *Great to see such a wide variety of talented artists given such a small country of only 2 million people!*
- *It was one of the more interesting artistic programs at an IETM meeting that I have attended, some performances were really good, but there were too many not so good to be "very interesting".*
- *There was some very interesting work from across the spectrum of the arts and it was really refreshing to see good quality work.*

- *It was interesting to see the current Slovenian performance scene anyway.*
- *A mixed bag (quality wise) of performances, but I really enjoyed the variety*
- *Some excellent work, very passionate; some under-rehearsed and unpolished.*
- *Itinéraire sympathique au sein de la scène slovène, mais pas forcément toujours my cup of tea.*
- *The performance selection challenged my expectations - from utterly boring, to fascinating but unsuccessful, to mind-blowing. And I have the strong suspicion that others found it the same, but would not be able to agree on which performances fell into which category. A very enlightening snapshot of Slovenian culture. Thank you.*
- *Même si je n'ai pas trop apprécié les spectacles en soi, le choix important de spectacles proposés était très bien.*
- *Nothing felt special, new or different in any way.*

FUTURE MEETINGS / PROCHAINES RÉUNIONS

Very diverse topics for future content session were raised, including conflict management; site specific performances; exchange beyond Europe; the arts public; encouraging innovation; rural touring; the role of the arts in culturally led re-generation of cities; young people making the arts a part of their desires for happy life; rehearsing democracy; accepting difference; different modes of production; conditions of hosting performances from abroad; working conditions of artists; community art; international co-production; translation, subtitling, performing in another language; impact of high oil prices on mobility; environmental issues; ethics of using others' material.

Other suggestions focused on formats for the meeting, like business meeting and project presentations; bringing more artists to the meetings and more (cultural) diversity in the panels.

56% of respondents stated that they would like to contribute to future meetings and 52% will definitely be coming to Zurich in November.

