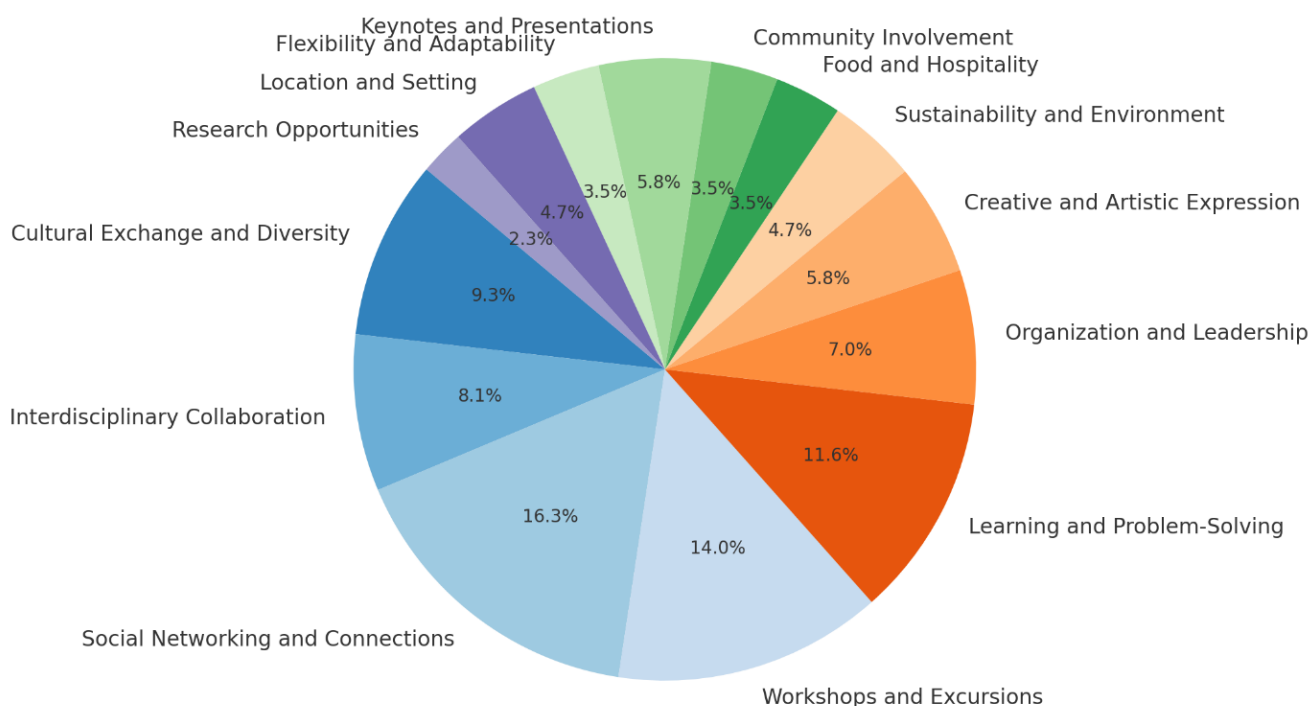**Context:** This report analyses the written answers provided by workshop participants at the end of the first TELOS summer school in Nürtingen from June 24 – July 3, 2023. The analysis has been compiled by master student assistant Shashank Yadav with support of AI analysis tools. The analysis does not distinguish between student at staff.

The analysis is based on the inputs provided by 31 participants. The participant submitted answers to 3 questions as follows;

1. What were the highlights for you?
2. What were the lowlights for you?
3. What did you learn from the workshops?

Based on these questions, the report contains 3 parts**.**

Part 1: Summary of the Highlights

Analysis of the Highlights Pie Chart
The pie chart showcases the proportion of mentions across 14 refined themes, reflecting what participants highlighted as valuable aspects of their experience. Here's an analysis based on the data:

1. **Social Networking and Connections (22%)**
   - This theme represents the largest portion of feedback. Participants greatly valued meeting new people, engaging in discussions, and building networks with peers, supervisors, and local actors.
   - Highlights how the forum facilitated personal and professional relationship-building.
2. **Workshops and Excursions (19%)**
   - The second most significant theme highlights the importance of experiential learning. Activities such as landscape walks, excursions, and events were deeply appreciated. These activities provided hands-on exposure and enriched the learning experience.
3. **Learning and Problem-Solving (16%)**
   - A significant portion of feedback points to knowledge acquisition and skill-building. Participants appreciated opportunities to tackle complex issues collaboratively and learn new problem-solving methods.
4. **Cultural Exchange and Diversity (12%)**
   - Feedback emphasized the diversity of participants and the cultural exchange as a cornerstone of the forum's success. Many appreciated the multi-cultural environment for broadening their perspectives.
5. **Interdisciplinary Collaboration (11%)**
   - This theme highlights the forum's ability to unite people from varied disciplines. Participants recognized the value of cross-disciplinary approaches to tackle challenges, showing the forum's relevance to modern, complex problems.
6. **Creative and Artistic Expression (8%)**
   - A notable subset of participants enjoyed creative activities, such as artistic presentations and art-based exploration. This suggests that incorporating creative methods resonated with attendees.
7. **Keynotes and Presentations (8%)**
   - High-impact sessions led by key speakers and presentations were praised, reflecting the importance of well-structured content in the forum.
   Supporting Themes
8. **Organization and Leadership (10%)**
   - Participants appreciated the effort of the organizers, particularly individual leaders like Ellen and Dirk. Good management contributed significantly to the forum's positive reception.
9. **Sustainability and Environment (6%)**
   - A segment of participants appreciated the emphasis on sustainable practices, such as pedestrian-friendly mobility and edible gardens, highlighting the forum's alignment with global environmental goals.
10. **Location and Setting (6%)**
    - The venue and local landscapes were frequently noted as positive factors, emphasizing the role of the forum's physical environment in enhancing the overall experience.
11. **Community Involvement (5%)**
    - Engagement with local residents, knowledgeable guides, and community-based activities left a positive impression.
12. **Flexibility and Adaptability (5%)**
    - Participants noted how teams adapted to challenges, valuing the flexibility and resilience demonstrated throughout the forum.

13. **Food and Hospitality (5%)**
    o A smaller but meaningful portion of feedback appreciated the food and hospitality, which reflects how logistical details can enhance attendee satisfaction.
14. **Research Opportunities (3%)**
    o A few participants highlighted academic benefits, such as gaining ideas for future research, which underscores the forum's value for career development.

Insights and Recommendations

1. **Strengthening Core Experiences**:
   o The strong emphasis on networking, interdisciplinary collaboration, and cultural diversity suggests these should remain central to future forums.
   o Workshops and excursions should continue to be a priority as they are highly engaging.
2. **Enhancing Underrepresented Areas**:
   o Sustainability and community involvement, though appreciated, could be more prominently featured. Designing additional activities around these themes might enhance their impact.
3. **Attention to Logistics**:
   o Positive feedback about organization and food suggests these areas are crucial for overall satisfaction. Maintaining high standards here will reinforce the forum's reputation.
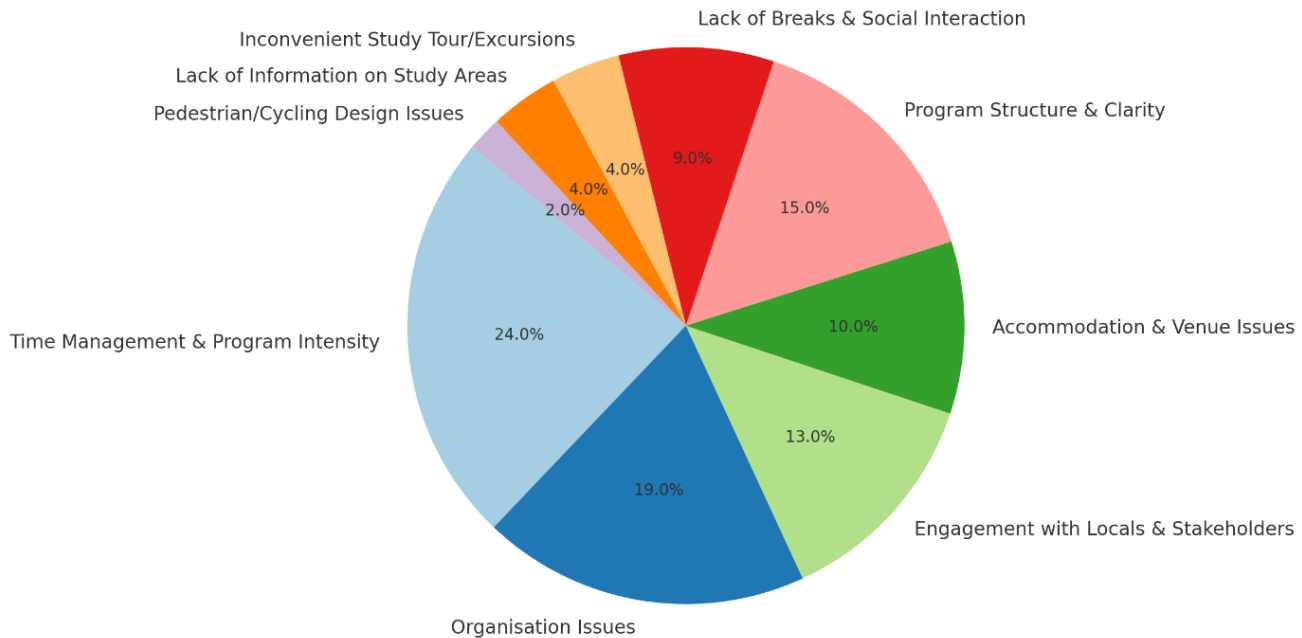4. **Balancing Creative and Academic Elements**:
   o Creative activities such as artistic exploration resonated well with participants. Balancing these with academic outcomes (e.g., research opportunities) could ensure broader appeal.
5. **Utilizing Location Effectively**:
   o Participants enjoyed the venue and landscapes; future events could integrate these elements more deeply into the program for an immersive experience.

Part 2: Summary of the lowlights

Here is the expanded pie chart showing the frequency of various themes from the lowlights of the Landscape Forum 2023. You can see that now, in addition to the most prominent concerns like Time Management & Program Intensity and Organisation Issues, there are additional themes such as Accommodation & Venue Issues, Inconvenient Study Tour/Excursions, and Pedestrian/Cycling Design Issues.

Detailed Breakdown of the Pie Chart Themes:

1. **Time Management & Program Intensity (24%)**:
    o   This was the most frequently mentioned issue. A significant number of participants complained about the forum's **intense schedule**, with **too little time for tasks**, **excessive workloads**, and **no downtime** to relax. This resulted in fatigue, stress, and difficulty in staying focused.
    o   **Key Issues**: Overburdened schedules, insufficient time to engage deeply with topics, lack of breaks, and a heavy workload that overshadowed more creative and social interactions.
2. **Organisation Issues (19%)**:
    o   Many participants felt that the forum lacked smooth **coordination and structure**. This included issues like **unclear itineraries**, **last-minute schedule changes**, and the **confusion about meeting points** for working groups.
    o   **Key Issues**: Disorganized scheduling, unclear communication about expectations, and a lack of clarity regarding logistical details which left participants feeling frustrated and unprepared.
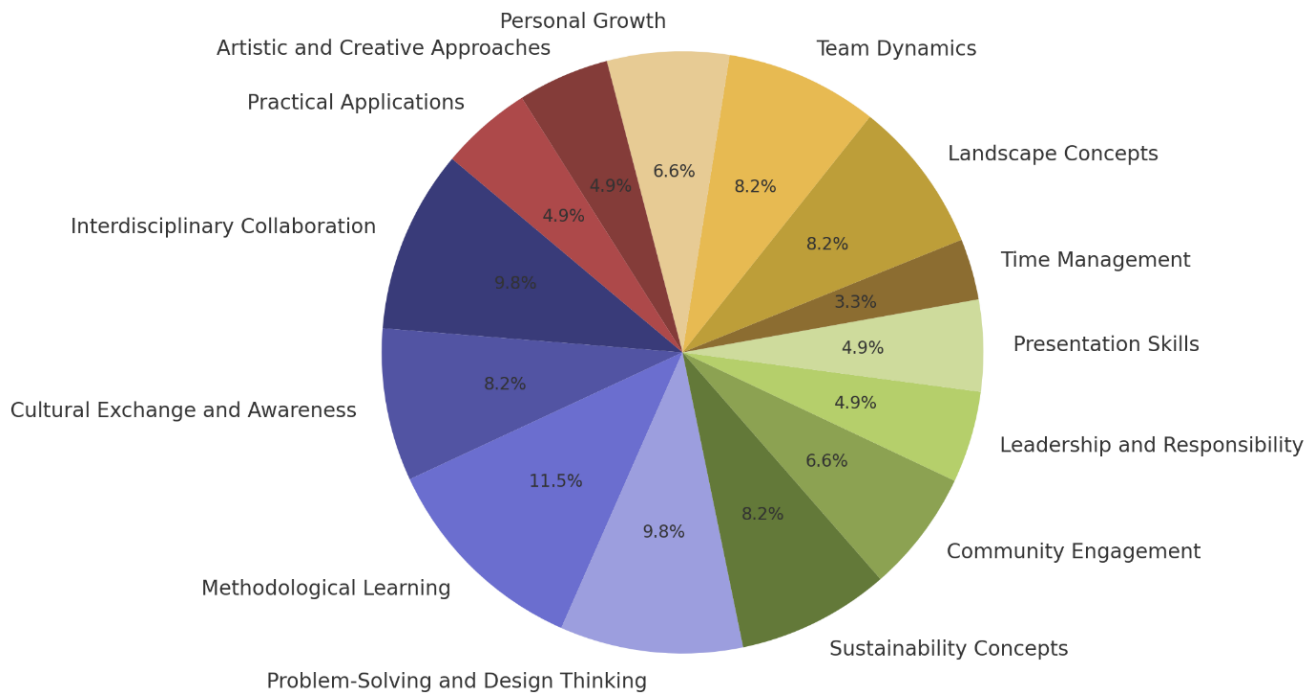3. **Engagement with Locals & Stakeholders (13%)**:

- o Several participants felt that the **lack of interaction with local communities and stakeholders** hindered the effectiveness of the forum. This was especially relevant as many wanted more engagement with **local decision-makers** and **community leaders** to create a more **locally informed** and **inclusive** experience.
- o **Key Issues**: Minimal interaction with local actors, limited opportunities to engage in local issues directly, and a lack of **on-site feedback** that could have guided the participants' projects.

4. **Accommodation & Venue Issues (10%)**:
   - o A portion of the participants noted concerns regarding their **living conditions** and the overall **venue setup**. Issues ranged from inadequate accommodation to difficulties in navigating the city of **Nurtingen** due to poor infrastructure.
   - o **Key Issues**: Uncomfortable sleeping arrangements, difficult accommodation locations, and poor urban infrastructure affecting the experience and convenience of attending the forum.

5. **Program Structure & Clarity (15%)**:
   - o Many participants felt that the program was not well **structured** and lacked the **clarity** needed to understand the purpose and flow of the activities. They mentioned feeling lost at times about what was expected of them and how the activities related to the broader goals of the forum.
   - o **Key Issues**: Ambiguities around the roles and expectations of participants, unclear integration of topics, and a **lack of direction** for some of the collaborative work.

6. **Lack of Breaks & Social Interaction (9%)**:
   - o Some reviewers expressed that there were too few **opportunities for informal socializing**, **networking**, and **relaxation**. This lack of downtime contributed to stress, as well as a missed opportunity to **bond** with peers and **engage with experts** in a more casual setting.
   - o **Key Issues**: Insufficient time for breaks, little to no social activities outside of official work hours, and limited opportunities for team-building and personal interactions.

7. **Inconvenient Study Tour/Excursions (4%)**:
   - o A few participants found the **timing of the study tour** (specifically the trip to **Stuttgart**) inconvenient. They suggested that the trip should have been scheduled at the beginning to give participants a **better understanding of the region** before diving into intensive work.
   - o **Key Issues**: The study tour's placement in the middle of the program disrupted the flow, making it harder to connect the visit to the work at hand.

8. **Lack of Information on Study Areas (4%)**:
   - o Some participants felt that there was **insufficient background information** about the study areas they were working on. This led to challenges in creating well-informed projects.
   - o **Key Issues**: Inadequate context for understanding specific **landscape elements** or **local issues**, which could have impacted their ability to make accurate assessments and proposals.

9. **Pedestrian/Cycling Design Issues (2%)**:
   - o A small number of participants raised concerns about the **design of pedestrian and cycling systems** in **Nurtingen**. They felt the city's infrastructure could have been better organized to facilitate movement and accessibility, which impacted the overall experience.
   - o **Key Issues**: Poor design of pedestrian-friendly and cycling routes, making it difficult to navigate the city in a convenient and environmentally-friendly manner.

Summary Insights from the Pie Chart:

- The **biggest concerns** revolved around the **program's intensity**, **time management**, and **organisation**. These issues collectively accounted for **43%** of the feedback, indicating that the workload and scheduling caused a significant amount of frustration and stress among participants.
- **Engagement with locals** and the **lack of clear structure** also appeared frequently (28% combined), suggesting that better interaction with local stakeholders and clearer guidance could have enhanced the overall effectiveness of the forum.
- Issues such as **accommodation quality** and **social interaction** (both at **19%**) were also important, showing that the experience could have been improved with more comfort and relaxation opportunities.

This detailed breakdown provides a clearer picture of the aspects that participants found challenging and indicates areas for improvement in future workshops or forums.

Part 3: Summary of what the participants learned

Here's the pie chart visualizing the expanded themes from the "What participants learned" section. Each theme's share represents the frequency of mentions in the feedback.

Analysis of "What Participants Learned"

The expanded pie chart breaks down participants' learning experiences into 14 granular themes. Here's the detailed analysis:

Methodological Learning (16%)

- o This is the most cited area, indicating participants valued learning new techniques, methodologies, and tools. Examples include brainstorming techniques, new approaches, and processes for problem-solving.

- o Emphasizes the importance of practical and technical learning opportunities.

2. **Interdisciplinary Collaboration (14%)**

- o Learning to work across disciplines was a prominent takeaway. Participants noted insights gained from interacting with peers from diverse academic and professional backgrounds.

- o Suggests that such collaboration is a cornerstone of the forum's success.

3. **Problem-Solving and Design Thinking (14%)**

   o Participants highlighted gaining skills to tackle challenges creatively and effectively.

   o This indicates the forum's design thinking activities successfully engaged attendees in solution-oriented processes.

4. **Cultural Exchange and Awareness (12%)**

   o Learning about other cultures, lifestyles, and even languages was a significant aspect.

   o Reinforces the value of international and multi-cultural engagement in broadening perspectives.

5. **Sustainability Concepts (12%)**

   o Participants appreciated the emphasis on sustainable landscapes and urban systems, highlighting the forum's alignment with global environmental concerns.

6. **Landscape Concepts (12%)**

   o Insights into mobility, landscape systems, and urban fabric were notable.

   o Suggests the forum succeeded in delivering discipline-specific knowledge.

7. **Team Dynamics (12%)**

   o Participants reflected on group collaboration, negotiation, and conflict resolution.

   o Indicates the forum emphasized soft skills that are critical for teamwork.

8. **Community Engagement (9%)**

   o Engagement with local communities, understanding their values, and incorporating these into projects resonated with participants.

   o Suggests the importance of maintaining strong local stakeholder involvement.

9. **Personal Growth (9%)**

   o Self-awareness, learning from peers, and reflections on personal development were key outcomes.

   o Shows the forum fostered an environment for introspection and growth.

10. **Leadership and Responsibility (7%)**

    o Some participants highlighted learning leadership skills and taking initiative.

    o Indicates the need to further emphasize leadership development in future forums.

11. **Artistic and Creative Approaches (7%)**

    o The use of art and creativity as problem-solving tools was appreciated.

o   Demonstrates the value of integrating artistic methods into academic and professional workshops.

12. **Presentation Skills (7%)**

o   Participants learned to improve presentation techniques and emphasized the importance of rehearsals.

o   Indicates that public speaking and presentation remain crucial skill areas.

13. **Practical Applications (7%)**

o   The emphasis on applying learnings in real-world contexts, such as urban spaces or local landscapes, was a takeaway for some.

o   Highlights the forum's real-world relevance.

14. **Time Management (5%)**

o   A smaller but significant segment of participants focused on managing tasks effectively in short timeframes.

o   Reflects the high-paced environment of the forum.

Insights and Recommendations

1. **Enhance Methodological Learning**:

o   Continue emphasizing new tools and processes as these are highly valued.

o   Consider adding workshops focused on specific techniques to deepen this aspect.

2. **Strengthen Cultural and Interdisciplinary Exchange**:

o   International collaboration was appreciated; future forums could integrate more structured cross-cultural team-building exercises.

3. **Focus on Sustainability and Practical Solutions**:

o   Sustainability and real-world applications resonated well with participants. Increasing the depth of these themes may enhance the impact.

4. **Leverage Creative and Presentation Skills**:

o   Art and presentation-related activities were impactful. Designing sessions that explore these areas more could benefit participants.

5. **Encourage Leadership Development**:

o   Expand opportunities for participants to take on leadership roles during the forum.