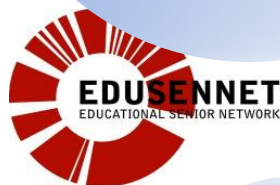


Educational Senior Network



**UTA at Comenius University Bratislava
SLOVAKIA**

**SURVEY AMONG
STUDENTS**

2014 - 2017



Erasmus+

**funded by the European Union
programme for education,
training, youth and sport
2014 – 2020**

The University of the Third Age (UTA) under the auspices of Comenius University was established in 1990 as the first institution of this kind in the Slovak Republic. UTA is located at the Centre for Continuing Education of Comenius University, as one of the centre's department. UTA organizes courses mainly for retired people, for medically retired (physically handicapped) and for people before retirement generally for people over 50. It offers to the students a 3year study programmes in about 39 study branches in 4 cities. Along with Bratislava, there are courses also in Nitra, Martin and in Námestovo (central and North of Slovakia).

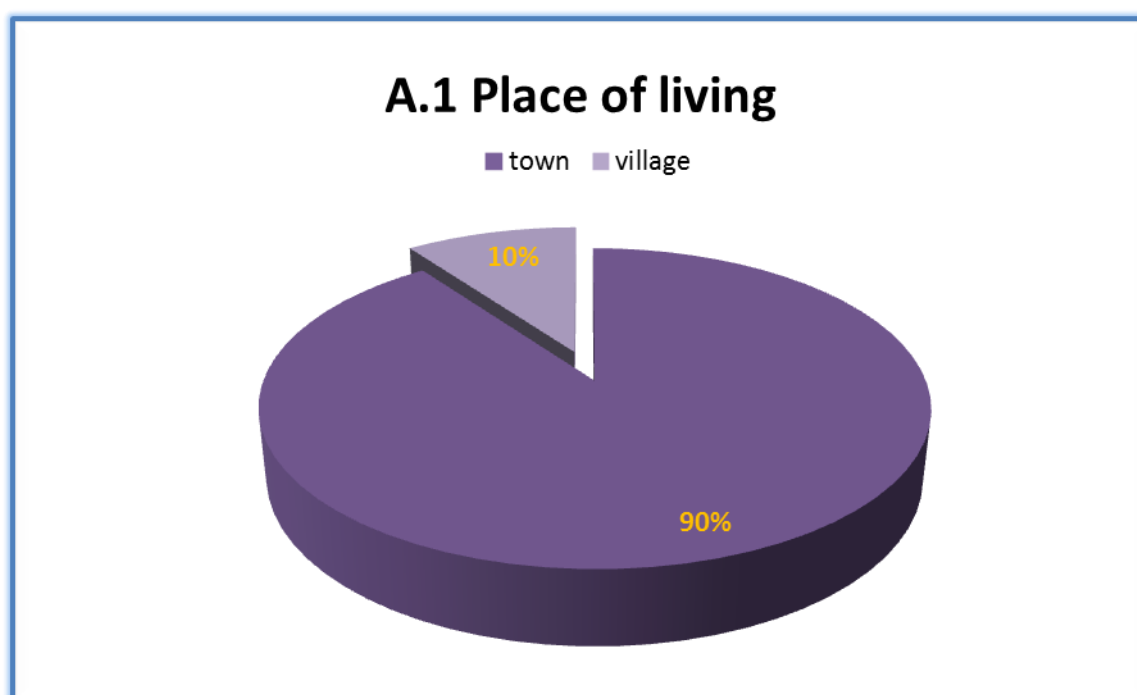
The study plan of each year provides for 14 three-hour lectures to be presented each fortnight. During the first year the students are offered basic lectures from each of the offered disciplines. Their second and third year is devoted to the study of optional disciplines and students enrol in the study of specialised branches. The interest in this form of study constantly increases. Yearly almost 2000 elderly students enrol in 68 study groups. After completing their study, students are ceremonially given certificates. The pedagogical process at the UTA is complemented by other educational and social forms. Along with lectures and seminars, we organise excursions, panel discussions, visits to other universities, informal meetings and conceptualised trips. Topics, which are the same or similar to those in undergraduate courses, are given by university lecturers either from our faculties or from partner ones. There are about 300 lecturers at our UTA altogether.

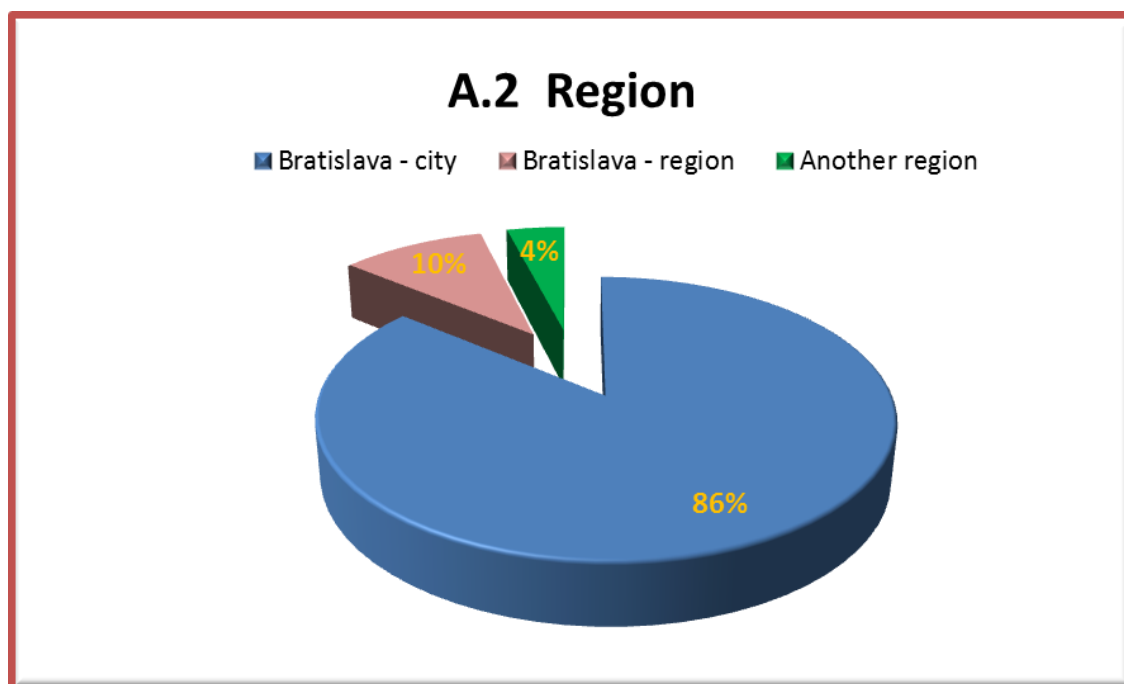
In our survey we have contacted some of our students from many different groups and places of learning, totally group of 329 respondents. The results are described below.

PERSONAL DATA

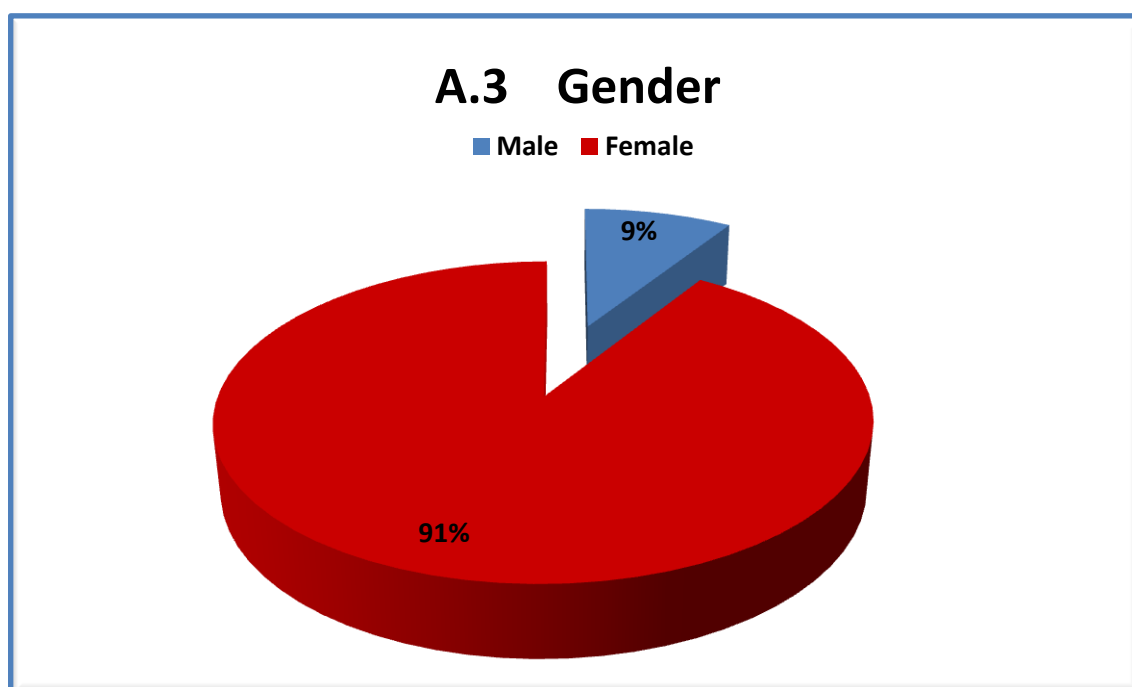
Question A.1 - Place of living

329 respondents

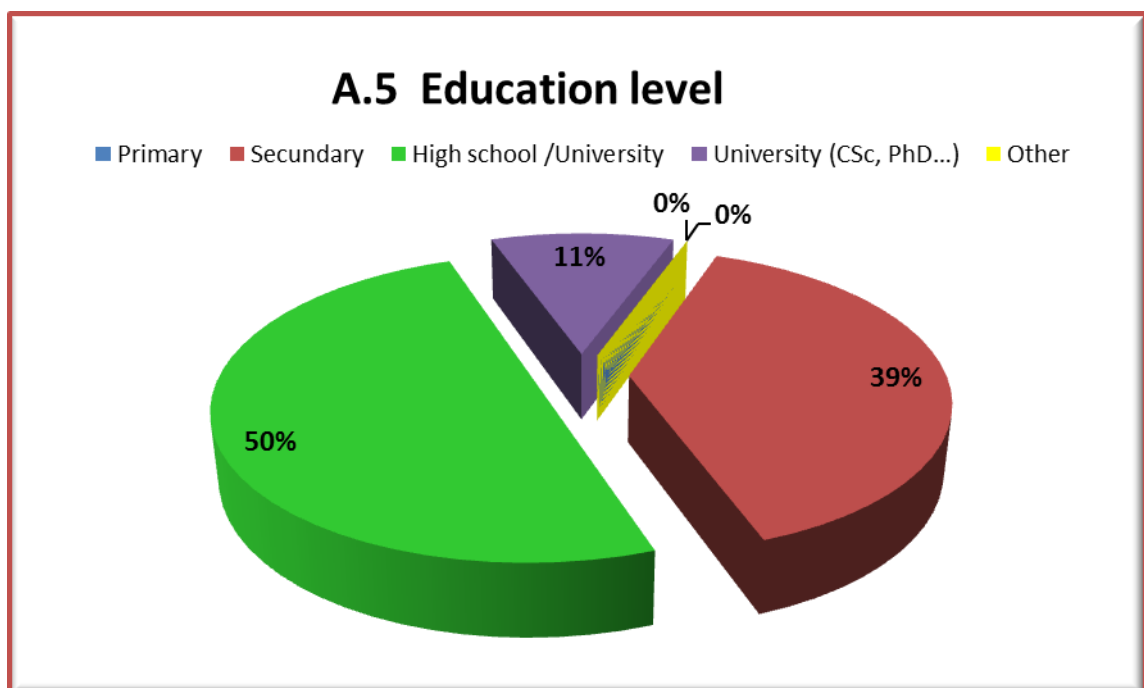
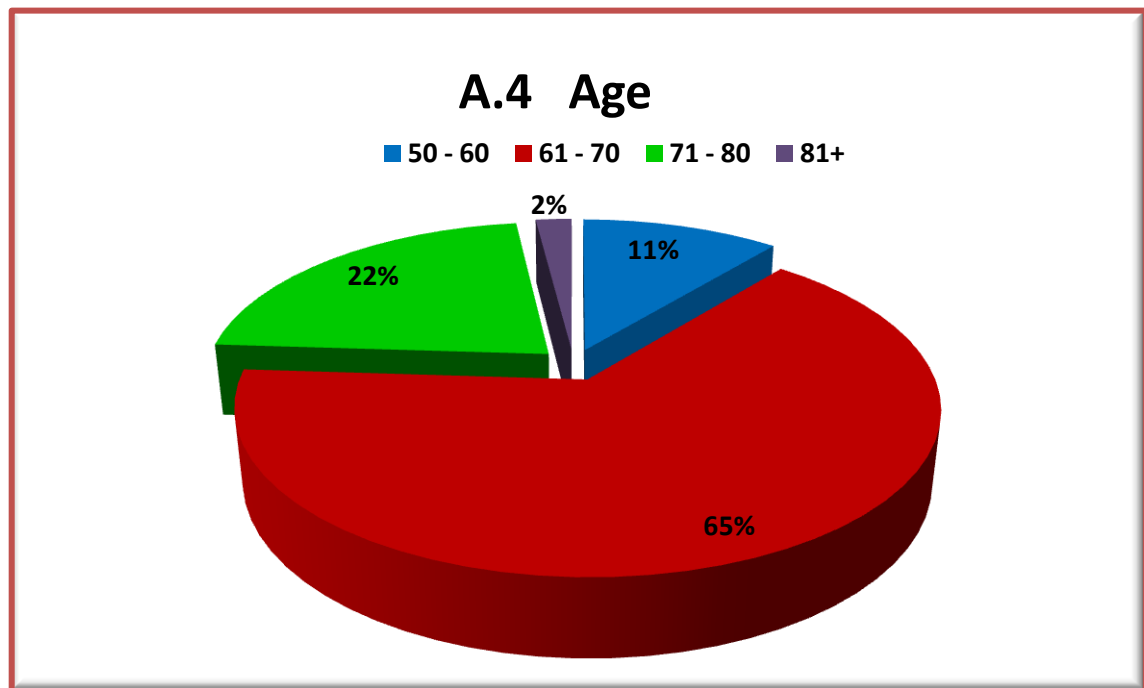




The other areas of respondents living are regions of Trenčín, Trnava, Senec (South-west of Slovakia) and in the central part of Slovakia from Žilina and Banská Bystrica.

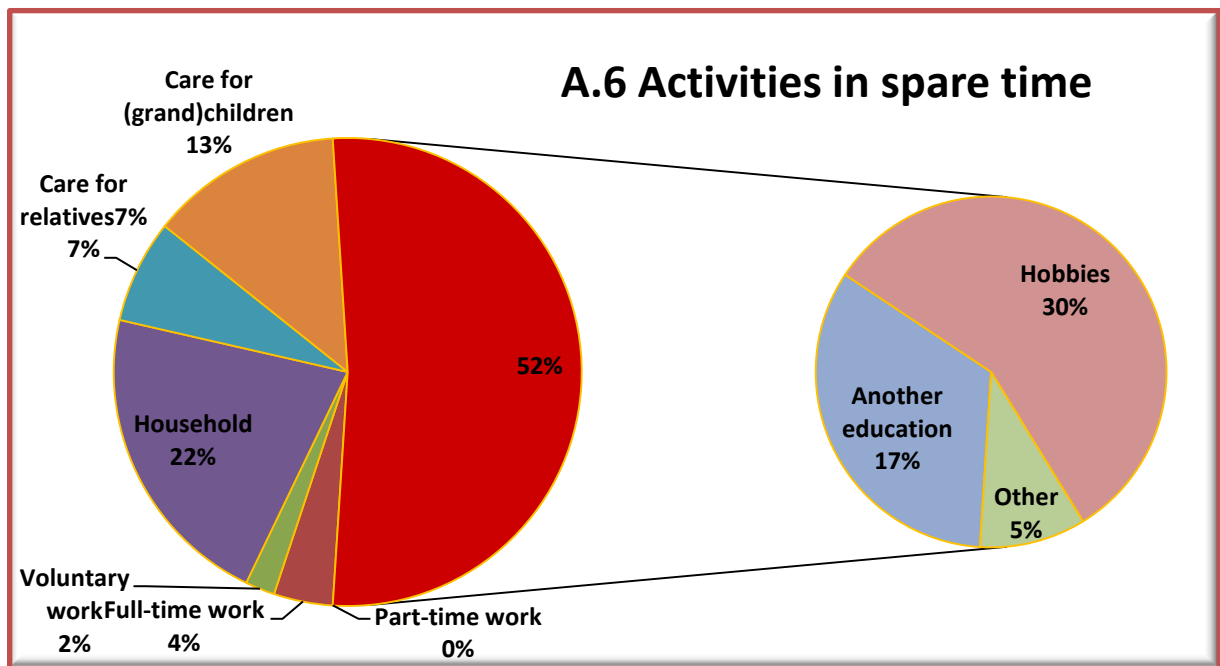


UTA has yearly about 89% of female and 11% of male registered in its learning activities. The survey includes fewer men than are usual in our study programmes.



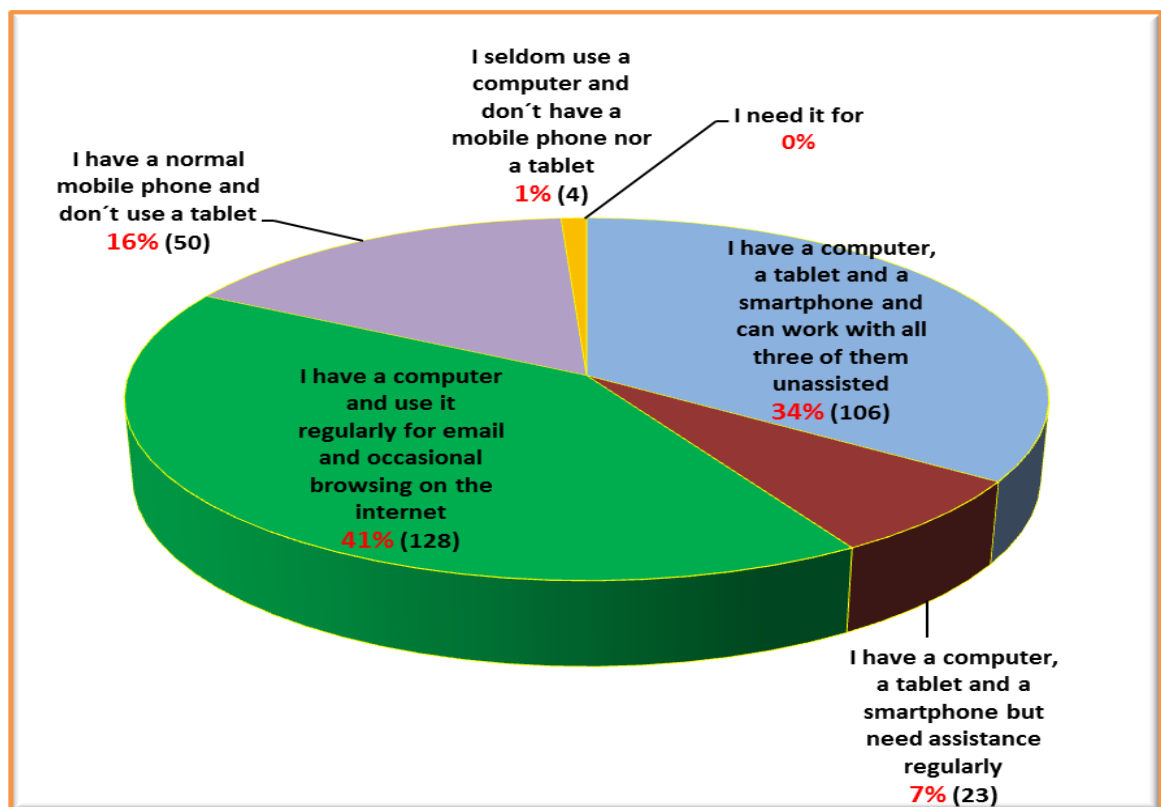
The elderly who want to study at UTA have to graduate from the secondary school and be over 50. Therefore we do not have included the respondents with the primary educational level. Group of the university academic level is 11% which shows high interest of the retired experts to continue in learning.

Question A.6 - Activities in spare time



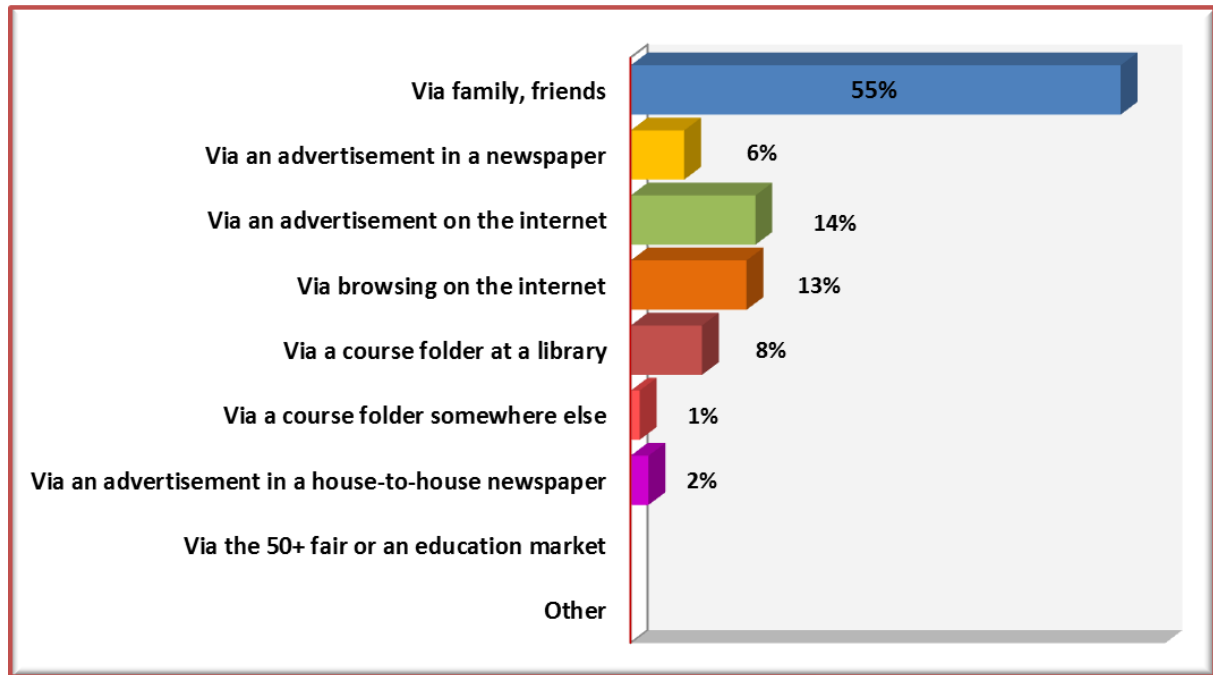
LEARNING

Question B.1 – Which of the following statements fit best to your digital activities



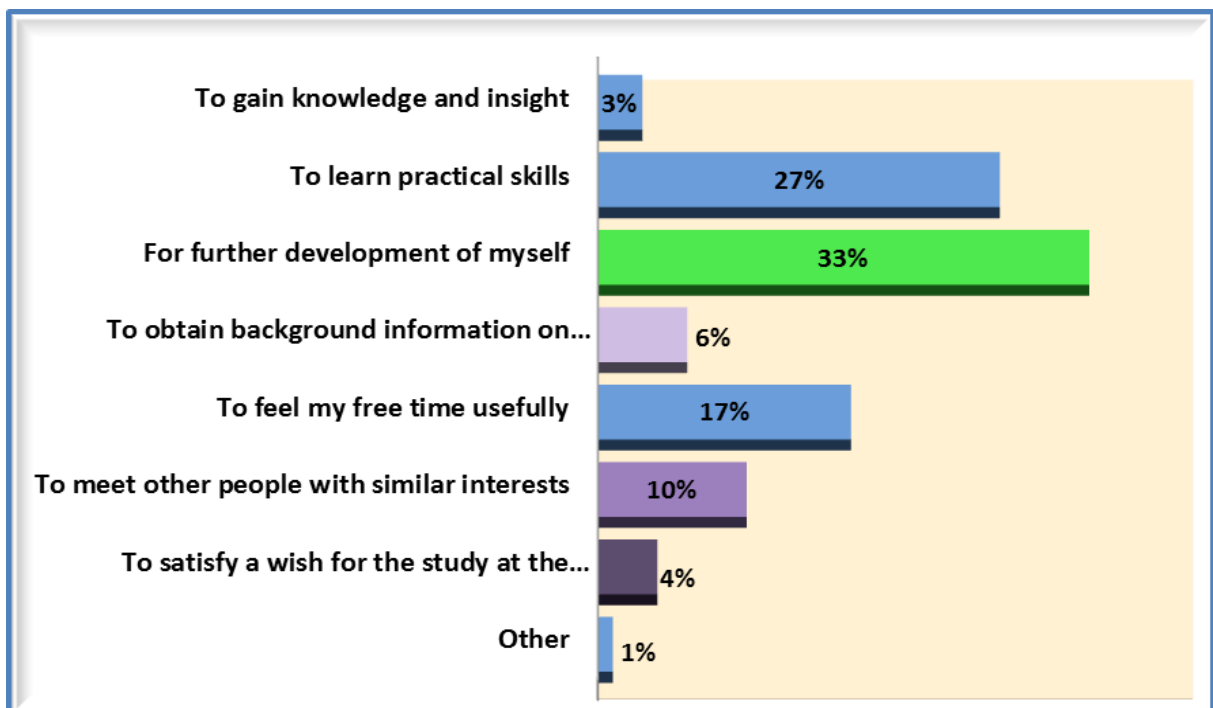
UTA yearly offers PC courses for 100 students to improve digital literacy of the elderly. There is also offer of the financial learning where are the computers regularly used during the lectures.

Question B.2 – *How did you get into contact with UTA?*



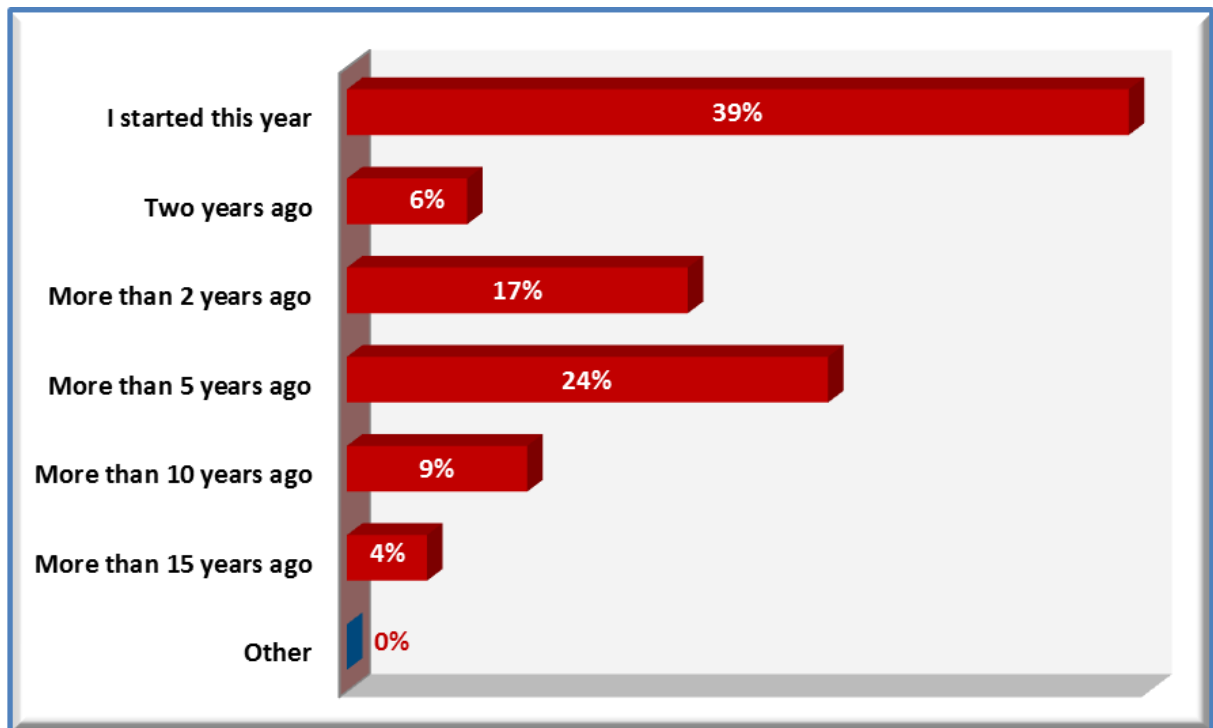
Our UTA is very well known in public and in the society. Since we started in 1990 we have now second generation of the students who have knowledge already from their friend and relatives.

Question B.3 – *What are for you the main motivations for educational activities?*

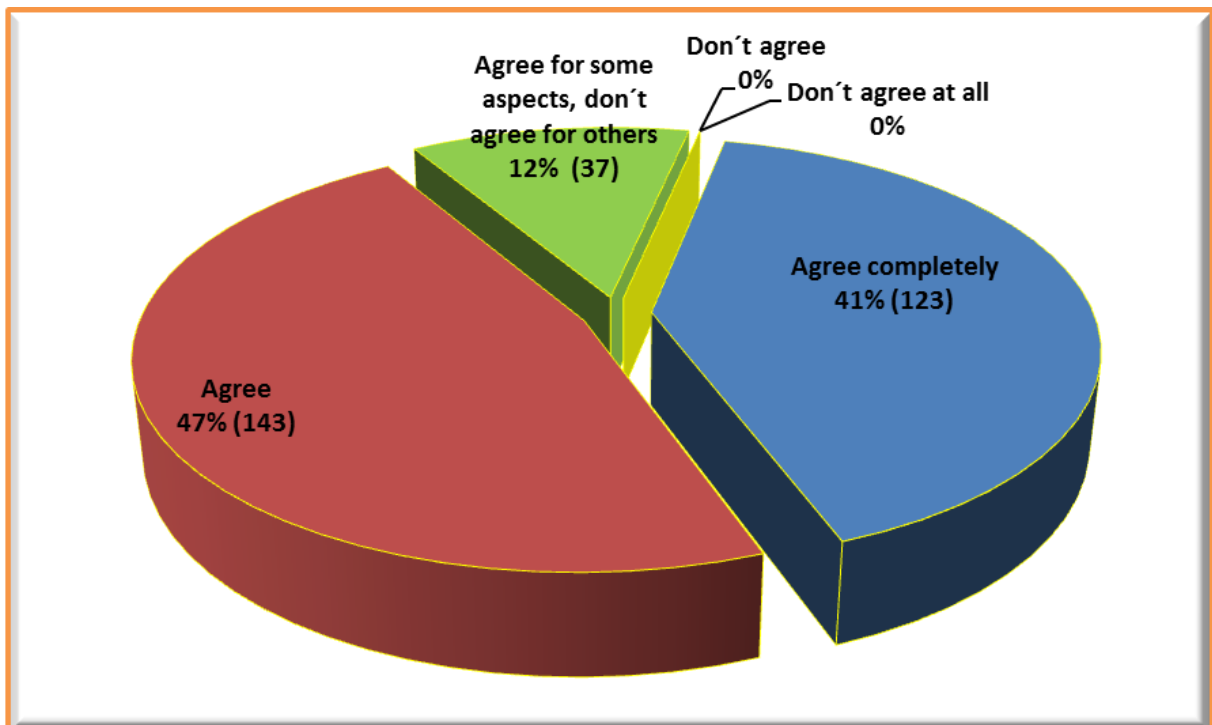


The results show us changing of the senior's motivation. In the past (15 years ago) there was on the top the interest to get knowledge. Now are the interests more practical showing in the categories of personal development and practical skills.

Question B.4 – When did you attend your first educational activities at U3A?

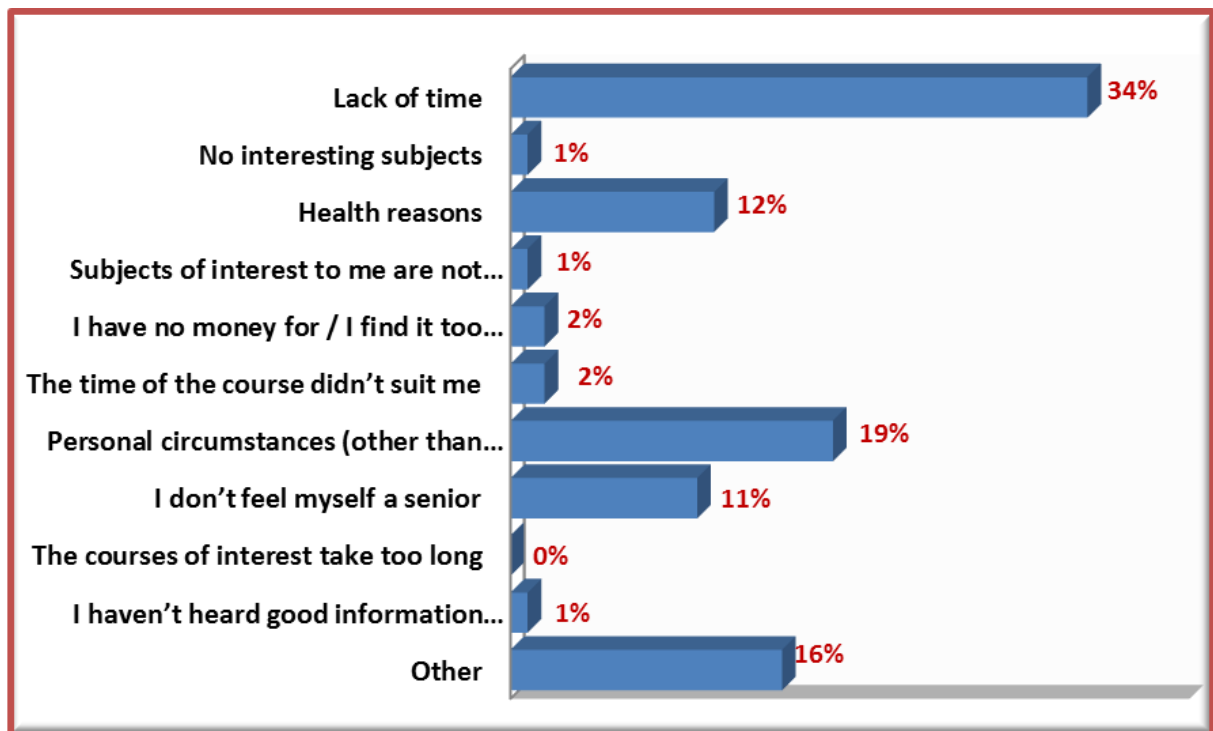


Question B.5 – Give your reaction to the following statement: “The attended educational activities have been up to my expectations”

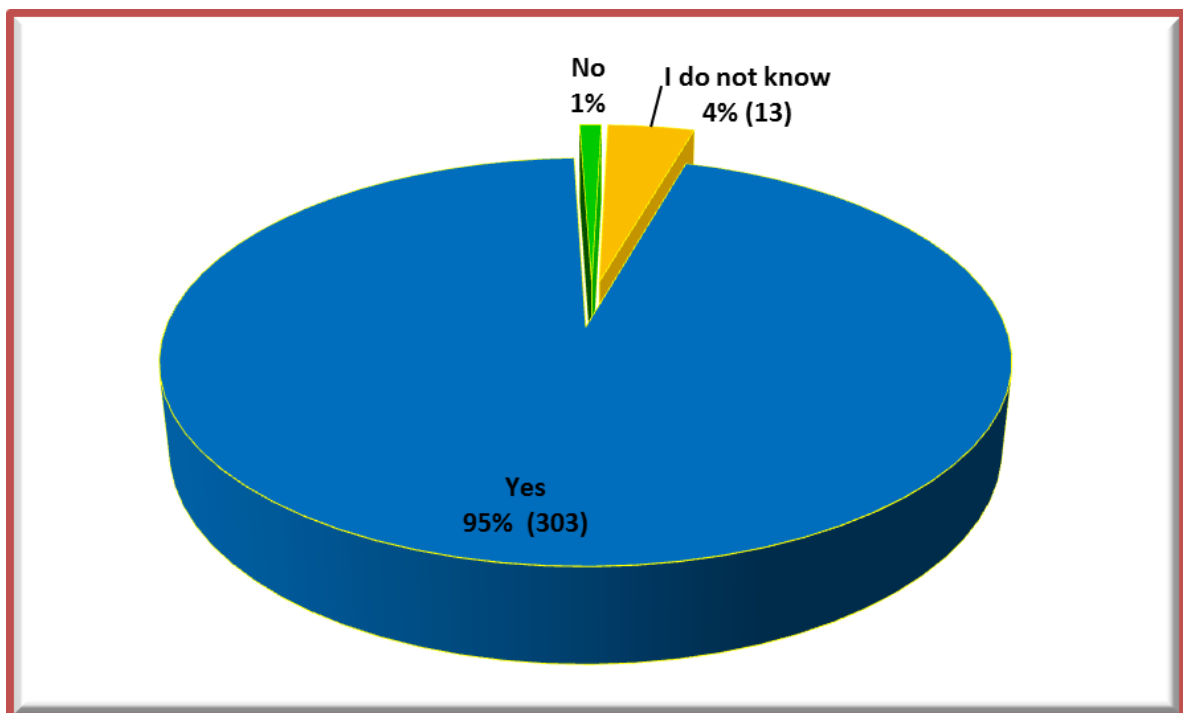


We can see high satisfaction with the educational process, activities and the level of teaching at our UTA. We regularly update the study offer according to the interests of the elderly students and the teaching level is managed on a high level by the lecturers from the faculties of Comenius Universities and the specialists from the scientific university centres.

Question B.6 – *When you didn't attend educational activities, can you state why? (tick max. 2)*

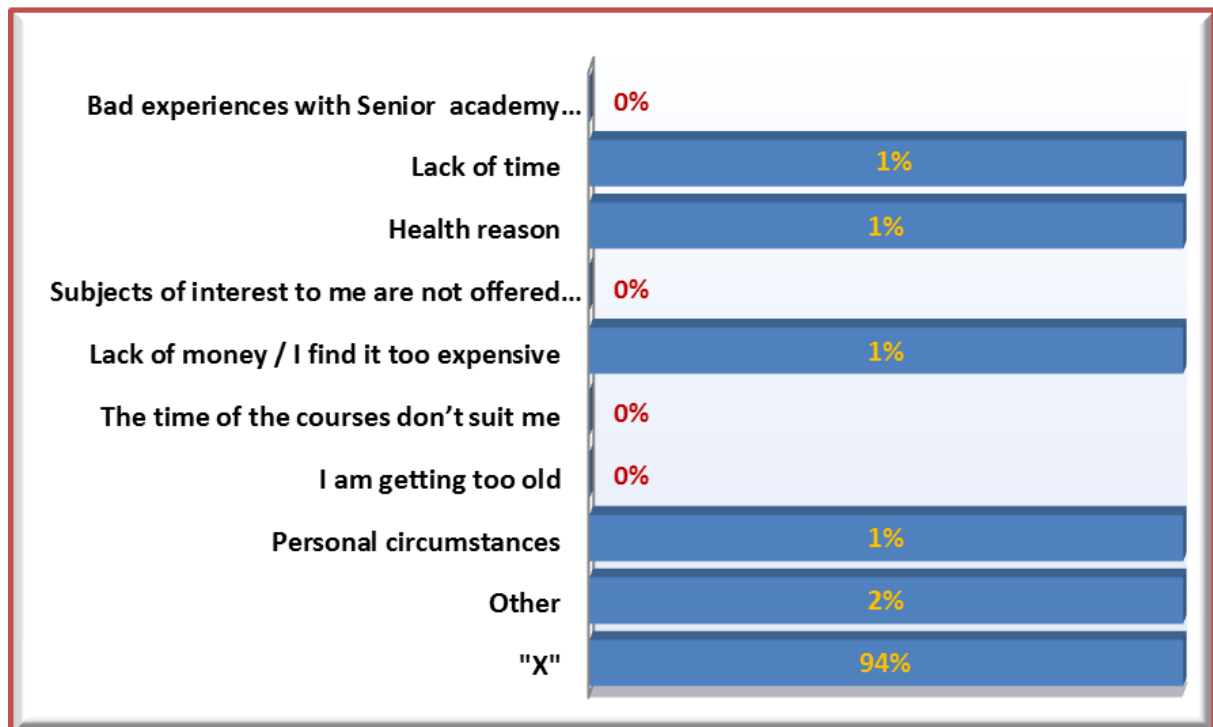


Question B.7 – *Are you planning to attend educational activities at the UTA during the following year?*



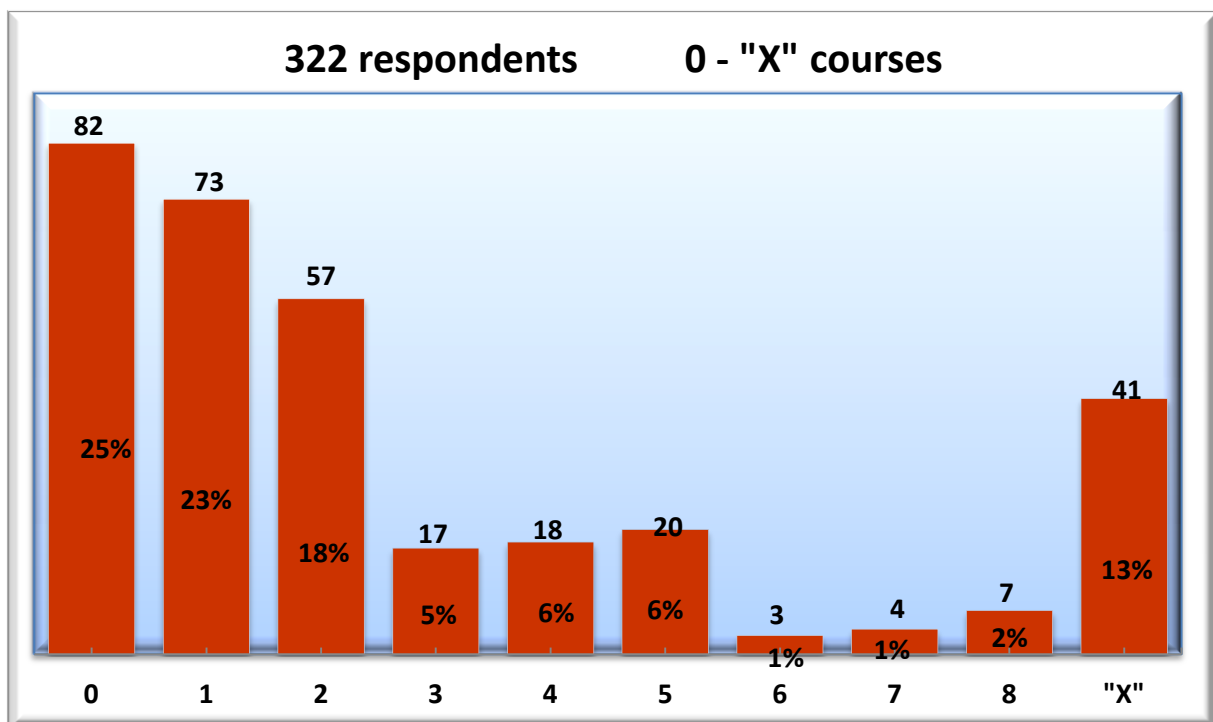
There are many older students at our university who frequently enrol new study subject after finishing the previous one. Therefore we could see also in the Q. B.4, that there are many students who attend more than one study subject and are planning to continue in a next year.

Question B.8 – *You will not attend educational activities. Why?*



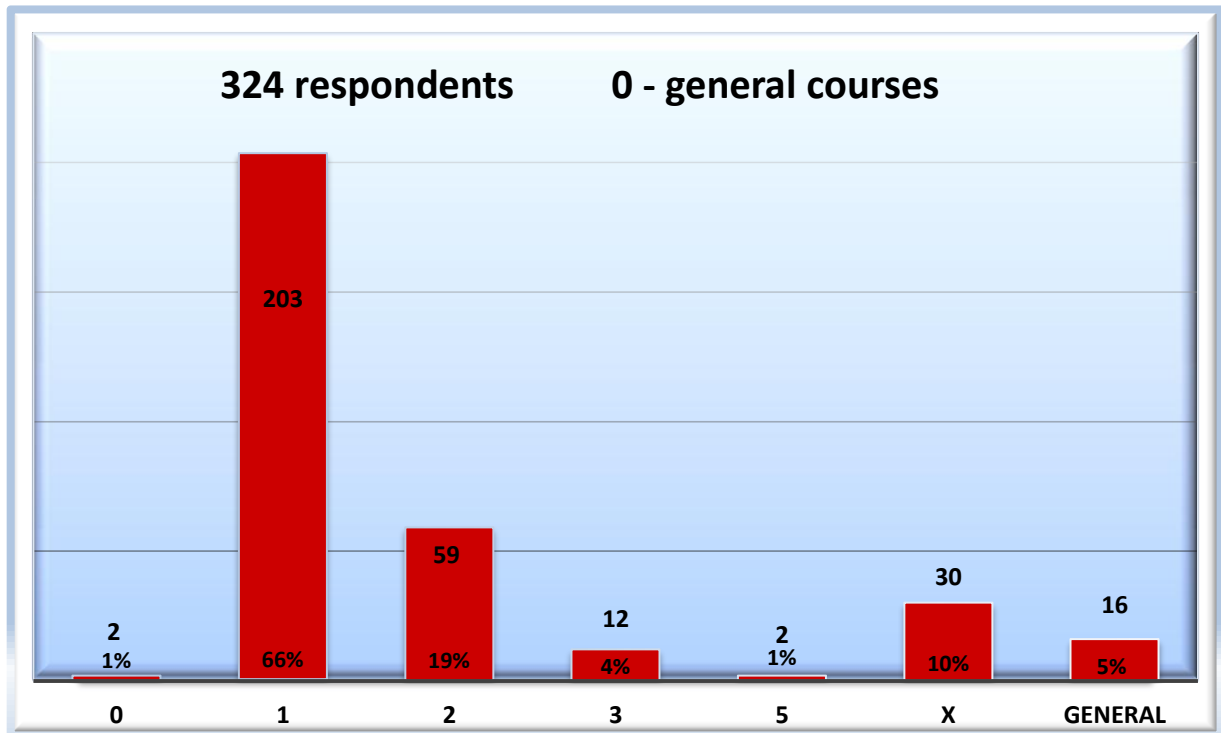
We appreciate very much, that the respondents (UTA students) didn't mention the reasons which refer to the study level and offer of UTA. All chosen categories focus on the personal reasons.

Question B.9 – *How many courses have you attended since?*

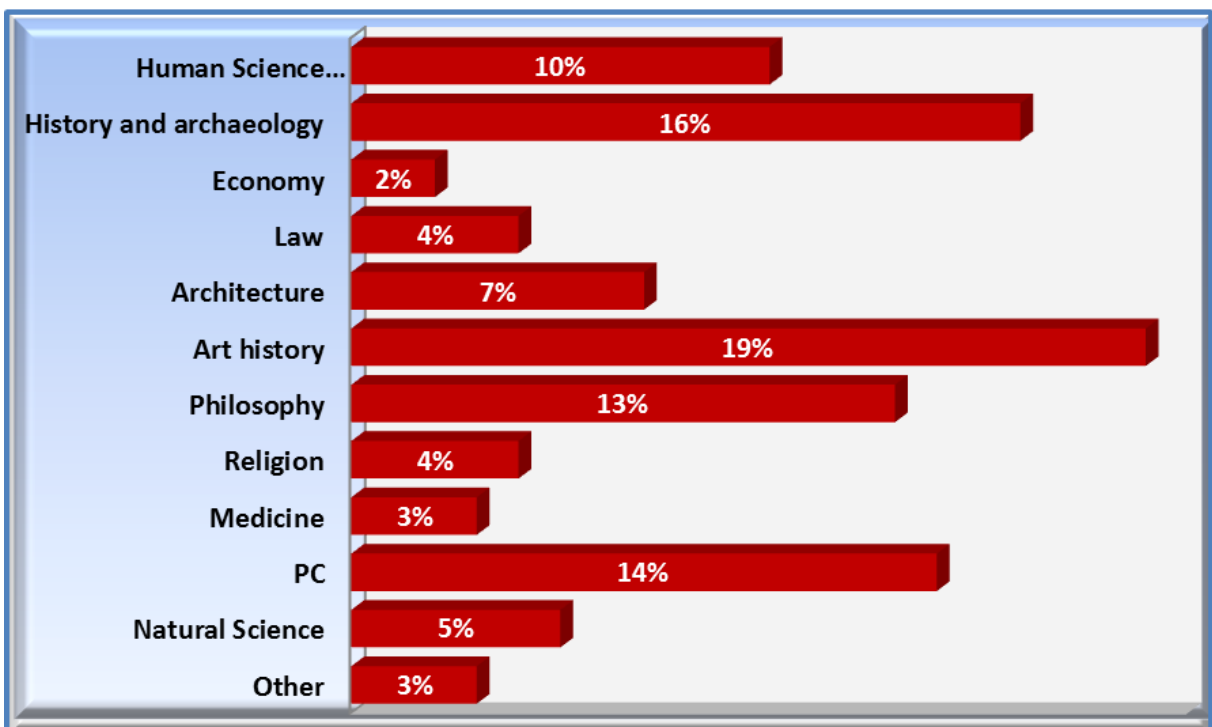


The figure shows that the interest in the study is permanent and many of contacted students attend our studies regularly and periodically.

Question B.10 – How many courses do you attend per year?

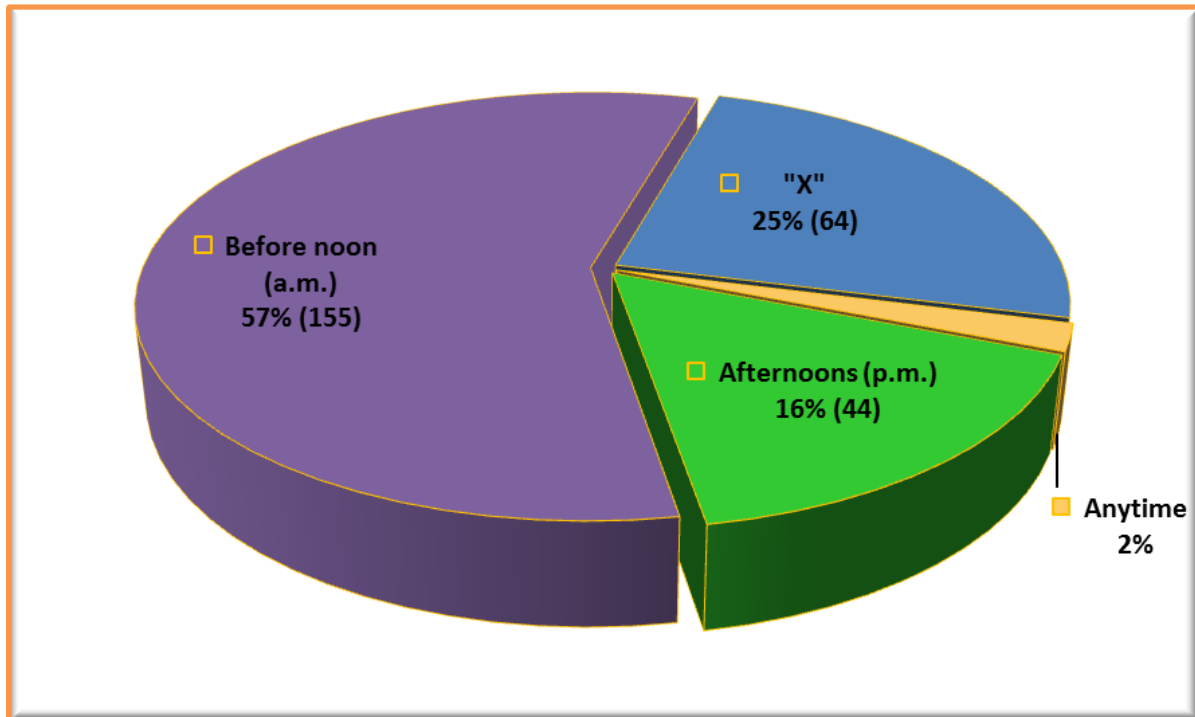


Question B.11 – Which of the following subjects interests you most? (tick max.3)

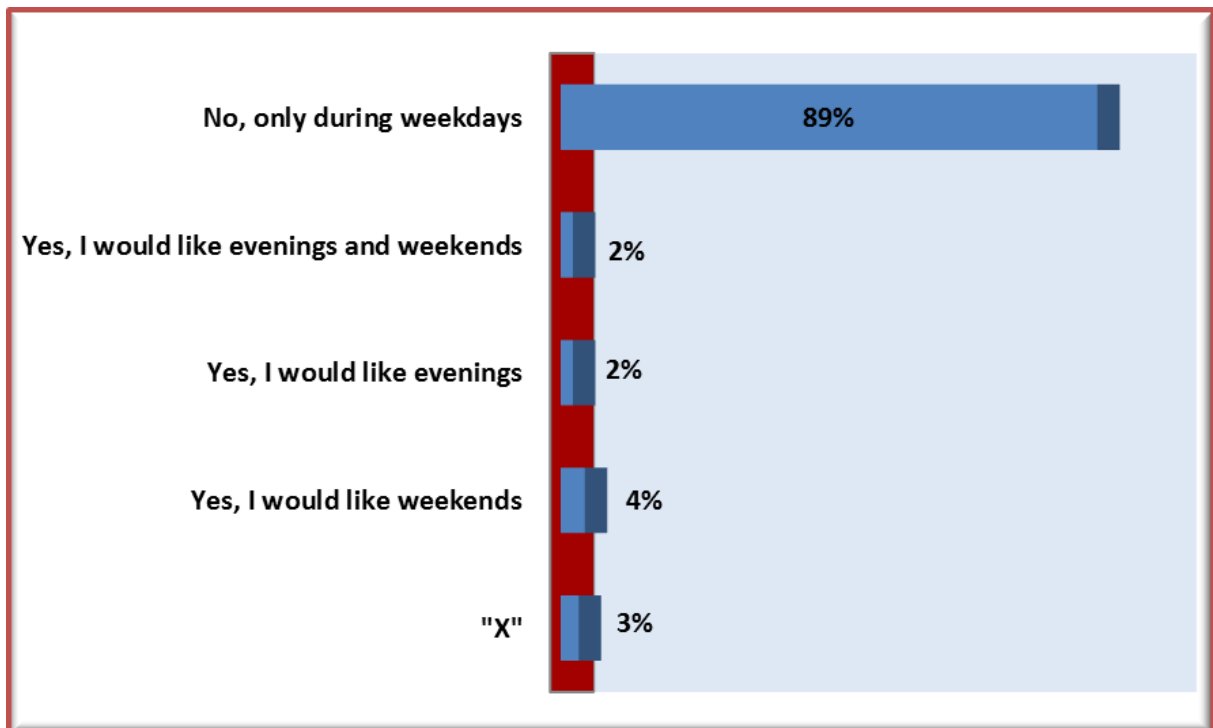


Comenius University in Bratislava has 13 faculties and 12 of them are involved in the study programmes for UTA. Beside that we have half of the students (around 1000) who are enrolled at the Faculty of Arts. Therefore we can see in this survey 58% of the respondents interested in the study subjects belonging to this faculty. Other opinions correspond with the subjects at the Faculty of medicine, Faculty of law, Faculty of National sciences or Faculty of theology.

Question B.12 – Which period do you prefer to attend a course?

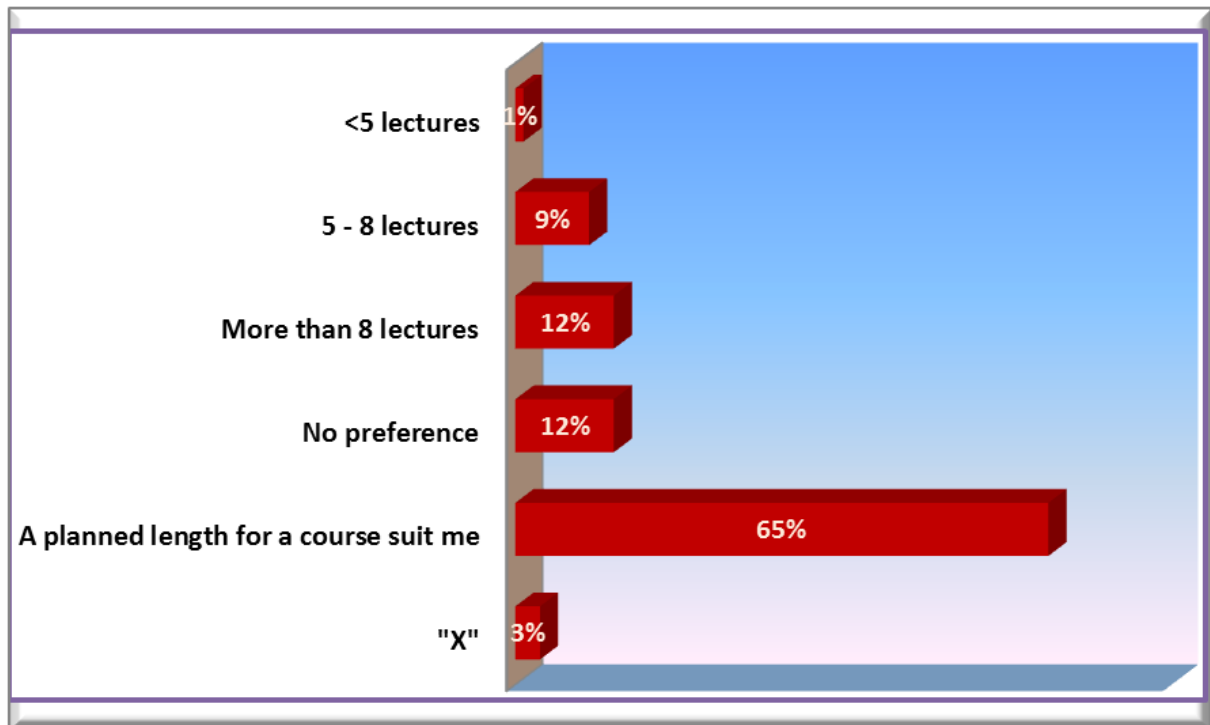


Question B.13 – Are you interested in attending courses in the evening or during the weekend?



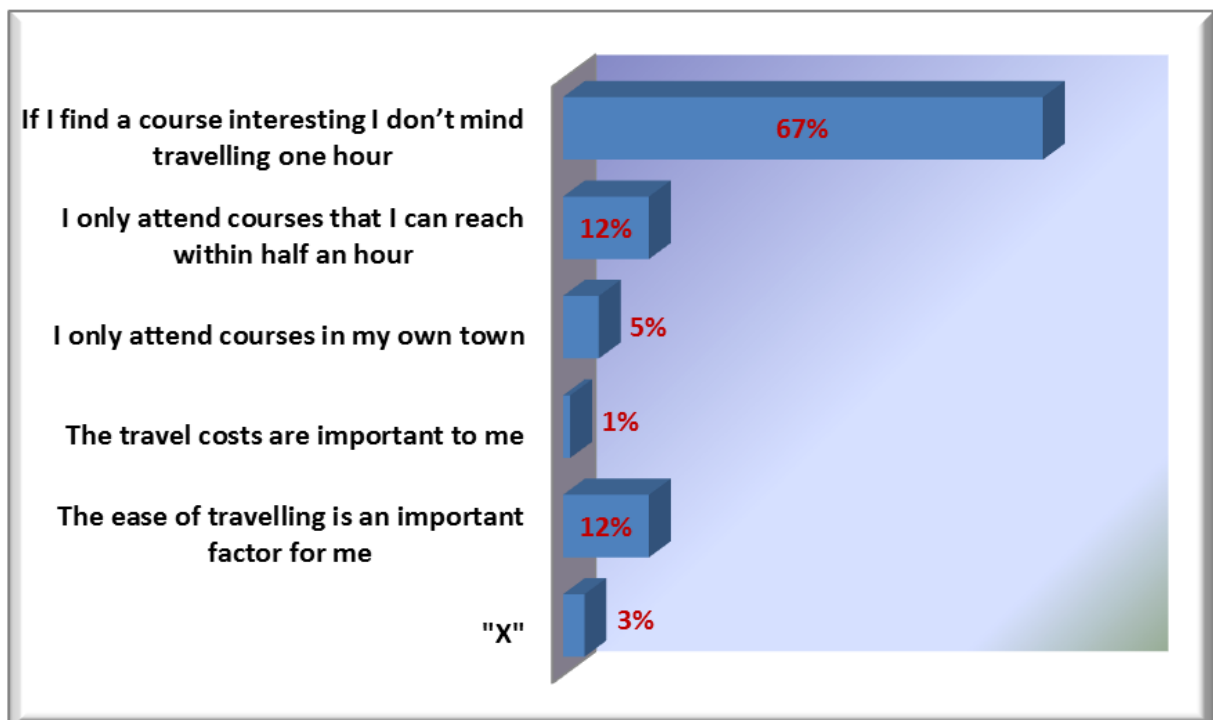
The learning activities as lectures and seminars are usually organised during work days. Seniors don't like to participate on the activities in the evenings. They prefer daily hours because they are mostly already retired. We have only 5% of the students who are still in a professional age (age group 50 – 60). During weekends we usually organise study excursions, if not on workdays.

Question B.14 – What is your preferred length for a course?



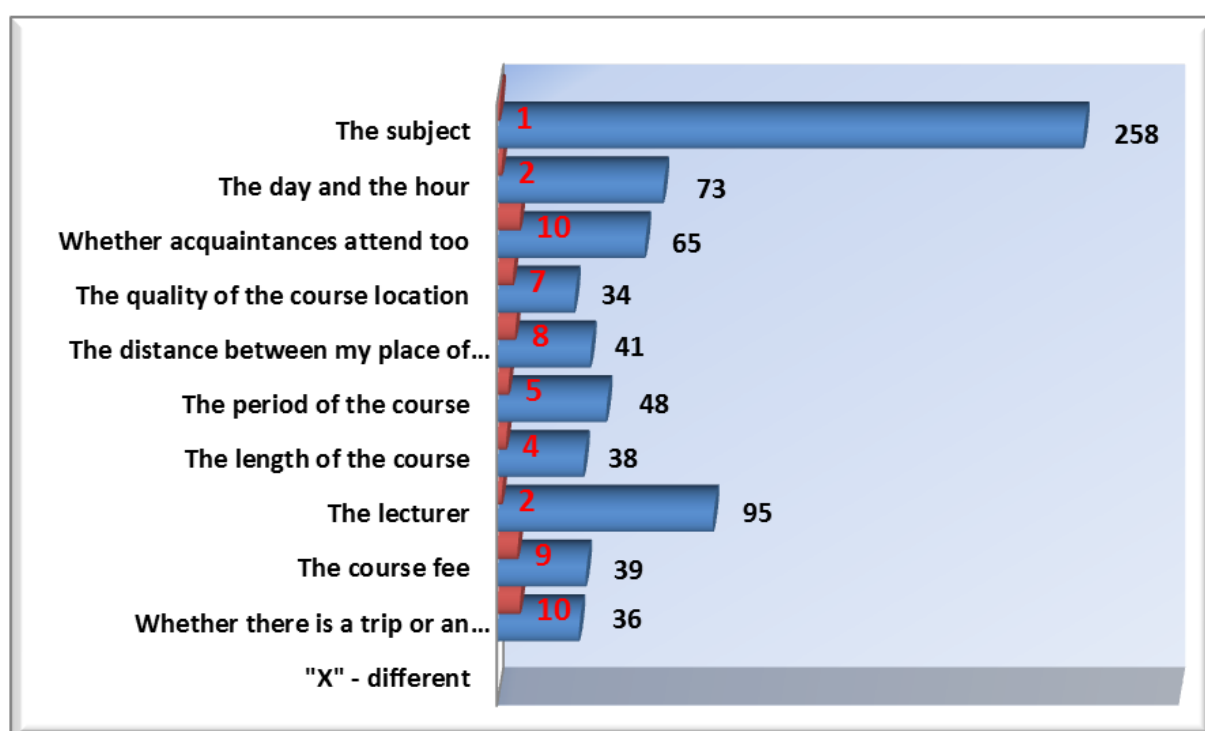
The study program consists of 14 lectures in one academic year. The opinions of the respondents show us that the system of study suits them. Therefore the satisfaction of the respondents shown in Q B.6 and B.8 is very high.

Question B.15 – Which course location has your preference? Indicate which of the following statements you agree with:



24% of the respondents have preference also in the venue of the study courses. Therefore we organise learning in all 39 study subjects in the centre of the city.

Question B.16 – In which sequence of importance would you place the following options for the choice of a course?



(the evaluation is from 1 as most important to 10 as less important)

	A Subject	B Day hour	C Acquaint ance	D Locati on	E Distan ce	F Perio d	G Lengt h	H Lectu rer	I Fee	J Trips
1	258	15	6	4	0	3	3	23	3	8
2	22	73	3	17	8	17	3	95	6	14
3	3	54	18	25	15	31	21	35	17	32
4	0	35	14	25	14	40	38	23	7	26
5	2	20	11	26	21	48	33	32	19	23
6	1	15	10	22	29	29	33	10	26	22
7	1	11	15	34	29	21	36	11	19	18
8	0	7	25	30	41	12	20	11	28	21
9	1	2	34	19	36	9	8	6	39	30
10	1	4	65	8	12	2	8	2	52	36
"X"	29	82	117	108	113	106	115	70	102	89
Respondents	318	318	318	318	318	318	318	318	318	318

(Place 3 and 6 was not given, instead place 2 and 10 twice)

The highest occurrence of responses in each option is considered relevant value. We can see that the subject is most important category for the students. On the second position are the requests on the lecturers, which mean that seniors prefer high quality of the education.