

5th SUMMER UNIVERSITY FOR DEMOCRACY

EVALUATION REPORT

Prepared by the European Association
of the Schools of Political Studies of the Council of Europe
November 2010

INTRODUCTION

This evaluation survey was conducted among the participants of the 5th Summer University for Democracy, which took place from 28 June to 2 July 2010. A questionnaire in English and Russian was distributed to the participants from the 16 Schools of Political Studies who came to Strasbourg to attend the event.

The 5th Summer University for Democracy welcomed 551 participants. This year saw an overall rise in the number of respondents, a sign of greater commitment on the part of the participants and of the important assistance provided by the Directors of the Schools in distributing and collecting the questionnaires. Out of the 551 questionnaires issued, 468 were completed, giving a response rate of 85% (compared with 77% in 2009 and 79% in 2008).¹

The results were analysed according to the type of question asked. The multiple-choice questions were analysed in terms of percentage response rate, while the replies to open-ended questions were ranked by frequency of citation and/or rank order.

All results presented in this report are based on the questionnaires returned and not on the real number of participants of the 5th Summer University.

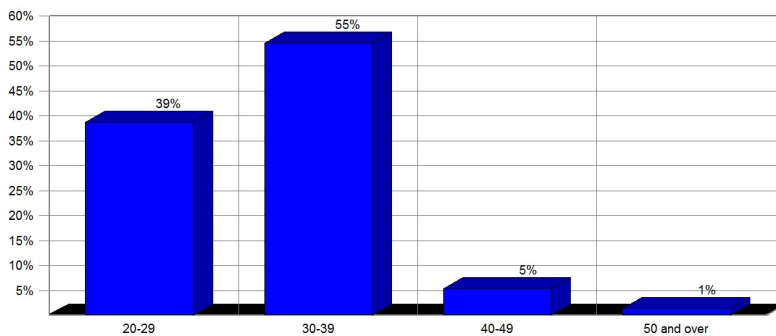
The aim of the report is to assess the event in the light of participants' replies, to identify ways to develop and to increase the visibility of the Schools' Network and its Association, as well as to take participants' recommendations and grievances into consideration so that the next Summer University for Democracy in 2011 would be better prepared.

¹ The figures mentioned in this report in relation to the 2009 Summer University are derived from *Evaluation of the Summer University 2009, final report*, DGDPA, September 2009

ANALYSIS OF THE RESULTS

1. Characteristics of the participants

Graph 1: To which age group do you belong?

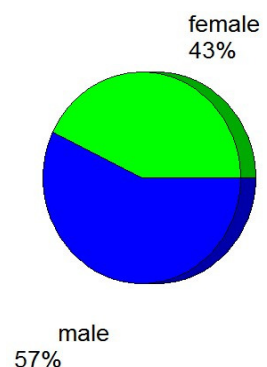


The data from this part of survey indicate some changes in the age of participants who took part in the event, compared with the 2009 survey results. The participants of the Summer University tended to be slightly older this year with fewer people in the 20-29 age group and a 10% increase in the number of people in the 30-39 age group (comparative graph by school, see appendices, cross graph 1).

Whereas the majority of participants of the 5th Summer University remain masculine (57% of men compared to 43% of women), the gender balance of the participants of each School was mainly respected (comparative graph by school, see appendices, cross graph 2).

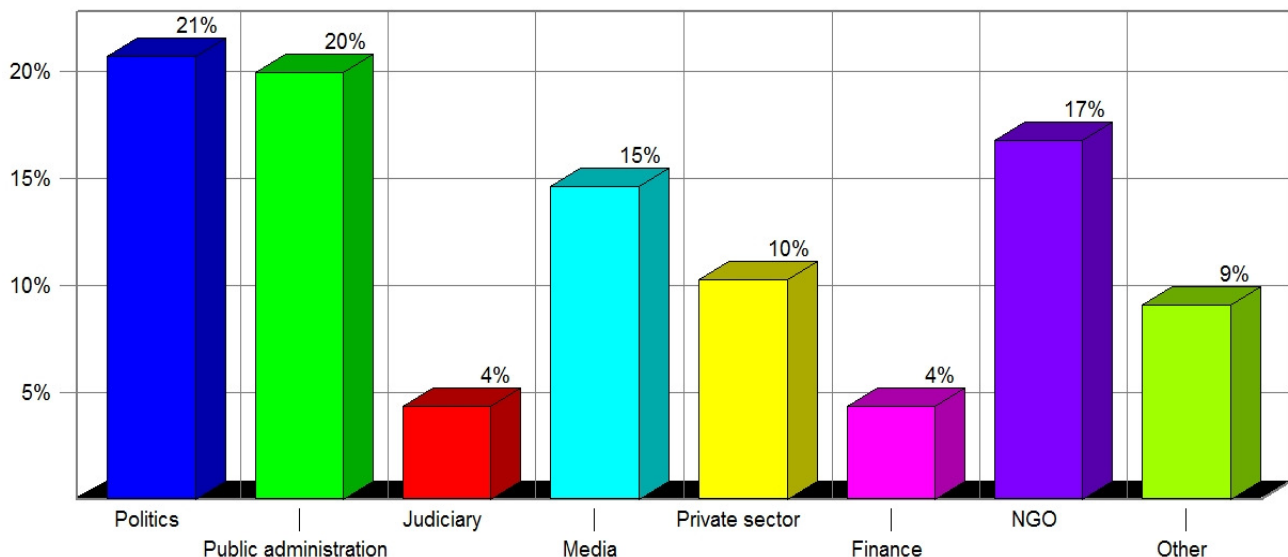
As in the previous year, we note a large diversity of the professional sectors represented at the Summer University: politics, public administration, judiciary, media, civil society, business and finance. Though most of the participants were from the public sector, primarily the political sphere and public administration, the survey results show that a balance of participants from different sectors of activity was mainly respected (comparative graph by school, see appendices, cross graph 3).

Graph 2: Are you male/female?



The sectors such as education, international organisations, diplomacy, health and church were also represented but to a lesser extent, amounting to 9% of the total number of participants.

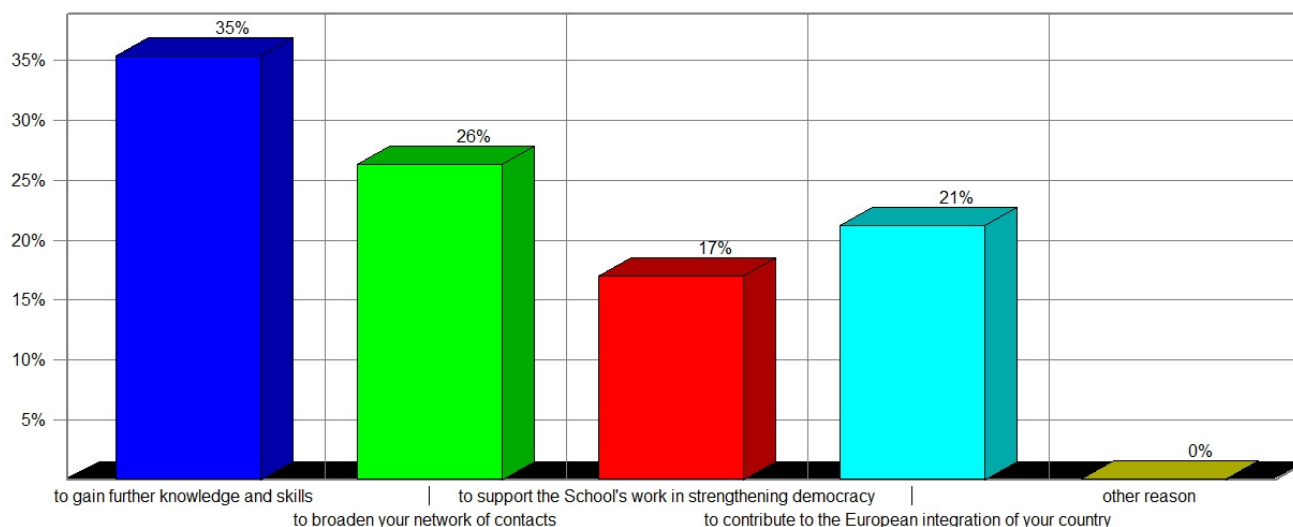
Graph 3: What is your field of work?



2. Participation in the School of Political Studies programme

To gain further knowledge and skills was the most commonly cited reason for attending a School of Political Studies (35%). Next came the desire to broaden their network of contacts (26% of respondents) and to contribute, through this programme, to the European integration of their country (21%). The desire to support the School’s work in the strengthening democracy in their country was the primary reason for 17% of participants. The last statement is especially true for the participants coming from former Soviet Union states (comparative graph by school, see appendices, cross graph 4).

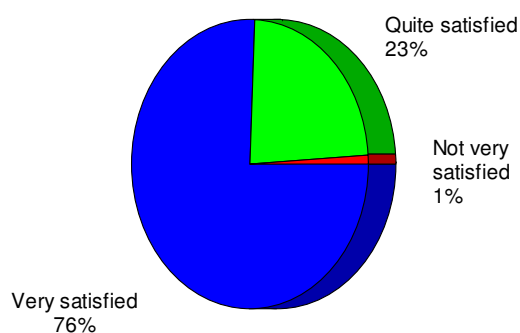
Graph 4: Why did you wish to attend a School of Political Studies?



According to the survey results, 12% of the participants were not admitted to the School of Political Studies the first time they applied. A look at the general table by country (see appendices, cross graph 5), shows that 38% of participants from Kyiv and 22% from Zagreb were not admitted the first time they applied, which may reflect a high selection criteria and/or a significant number of applicants for the programme.

A large majority of participants replied that they were satisfied with the national seminars organised by their respective Schools (76% of very satisfied and 23% of quite satisfied) and would like such seminars to be organised more frequently (comparative graph by school, see appendices, cross graph 6). Nevertheless, they would prefer more foreign and international experts to be invited, more practical cases and work in groups, as well as more information provided concerning democracy and human rights in Europe.

Graph 5: How satisfied were you with the national seminars organised by your School?



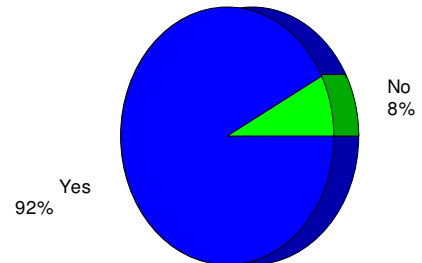
Apart from the Summer University, 95% of participants find it would be necessary to have bilateral/regional seminars with other Schools of Political Studies during the academic year (comparative graph by school, see appendices, cross graph 7).

As in the previous year, the survey results indicate that participants often use the knowledge acquired through the School of Political Studies in their work. Only 1% of respondents claimed not to use it, while 59% said they use it quite often and 27% very often (comparative graph by school, see appendices, cross graph 8). The knowledge acquired during the Schools’ seminars is particularly useful for the

participants from political, media and NGO sectors and to a lesser degree, for judiciary and finance.

Only 40% of participants of the Summer University said they had followed other programmes similar to that of the Schools of Political Studies, like *Open World Programme* (USA), *Young Leaders* run by “Robert Schuman Foundation” (Hungary), *School of Political Excellence* by “Conrad Adenauer Foundation” (Germany), *School of Leaders* (Poland). Similar to the Council of Europe Schools of Political Studies, these programmes are aimed at young political leaders from the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and offer training in democracy, human rights, regional co-operation and intercultural dialogue. However, in comparison, the Schools of Political Studies’ programme is described by the participants to be more interesting, dynamic and interactive, offering excellent opportunities for exchanging information and broadening their network of contacts.

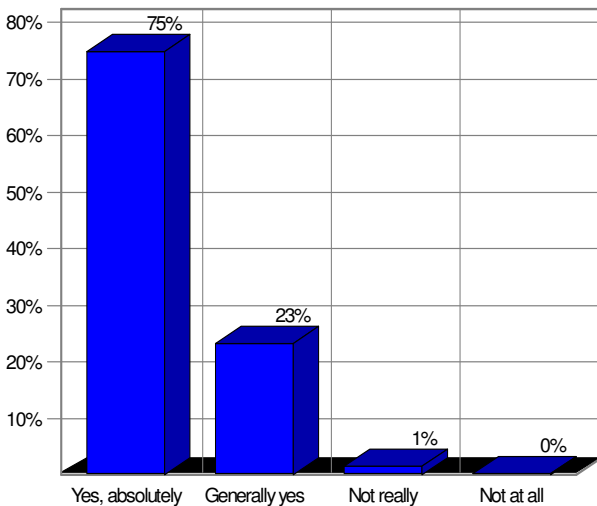
Graph 6: Would you like to see the possibility of extending the School’s curriculum, within an academic framework, leading to a degree?



Moreover, 92% of participants would like to see the possibility of extending the School’s curriculum within an academic framework leading to a degree (comparative graph by school, see appendices, cross graph 9).

3. Opinion on the Network of Schools of Political Studies

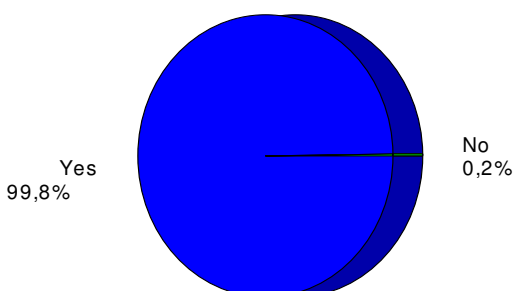
Graph 7: Has your participation in the School of Political Studies helped you to extend your network of contacts?



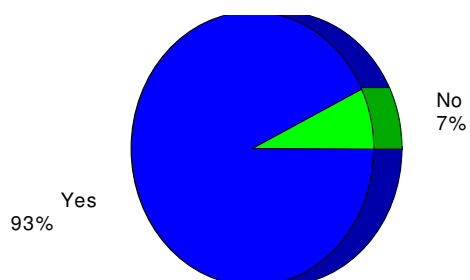
Making and maintaining contacts with colleagues is seen by the participants as very important and remains one of the main reasons to take part in the programme. Nearly 98% of the respondents expressed agreement that the participation in the School helped them to extend their network of contacts (comparative graph by school, see appendices, cross graph 10).

Thus, it is worth noting that 99.8% of respondents said they intended to keep in touch in the future with the participants from their School and 93% of participants intended to maintain contacts with their colleagues from other Schools (comparative graphs by school, see appendices, cross graphs 11 and 12).

Graph 8: In the future, do you intend to keep in touch with the participants of your School?

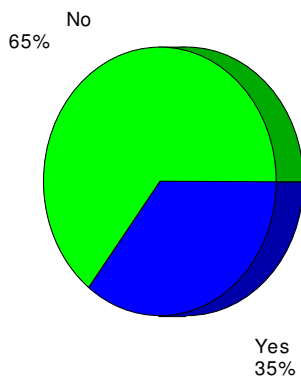


Graph 9: In the future, do you intend to keep in touch with the participants from other Schools you met during the Summer University?



The participants would also like to have access to more information on how other Schools operate, the seminars they organise and the experts they invite. This demand is in line with the priorities set by the European Association of the Schools of Political Studies of the Council of Europe: the development of a common interface for the Network in the form of a website, so that the participants could find about the activities of the other Schools and discuss European issues. The Association’s website had been created two months before the evaluation survey was conducted (May 2010). Thus, only 35% of participants assert to have visited the newly created website (comparative graph by school, see appendices, cross graph 13).

Graph 10: Have you already visited the Associations’ website (www.schoolsofpoliticalstudies.eu)?



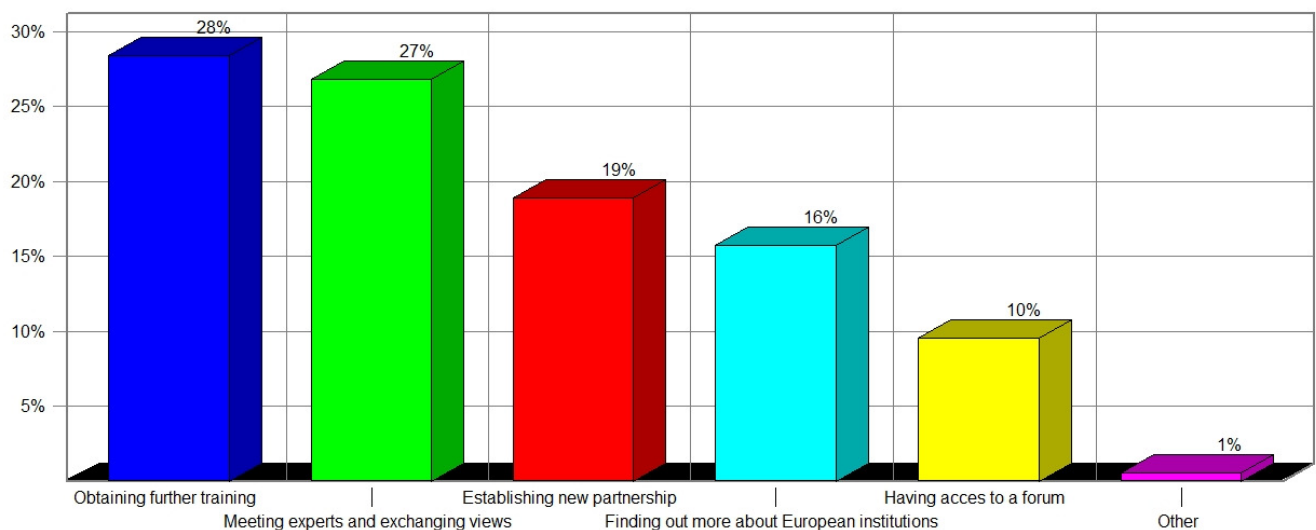
The survey results indicate at the same time that 61% of participants admitted they were aware of the European Association of the Schools of Political Studies (comparative graph by school, see appendices, cross graph 14) and hope that it would contribute to the future development of the Schools’ Network.

As in the previous year, it is worth noting that a large majority of participants (93% of the respondents) would like to become a member of the Association (comparative graph by school, see appendices, cross graph 15), in order to maintain contacts established during national seminars and the Summer University, to exchange information, knowledge and experiences, as well as to increase the co-operation between the Schools.

4. Expectations and assessments of the 5th Summer University for Democracy

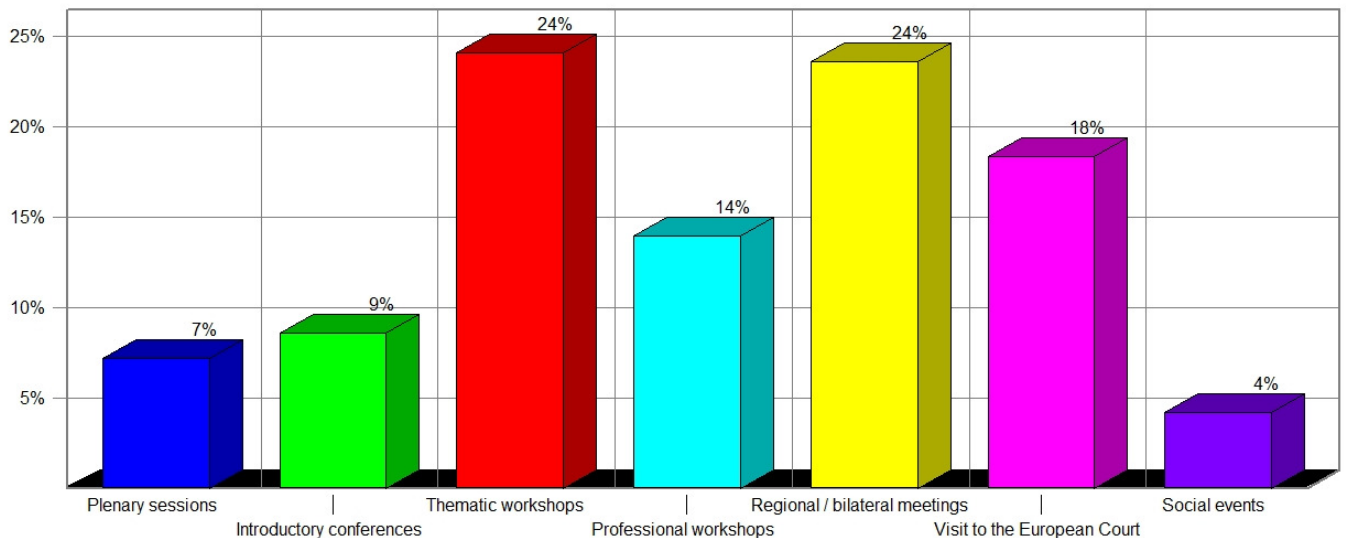
As regards the participants’ expectations of the Summer University, whereas in 2009 the majority of participants hoped to use the event mainly to meet experts and exchange views with prominent European figures, this year the primary concern was to obtain further training in the Council of Europe’s fields of competence: democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Moreover, it should be noted that the number of participants that had come to Strasbourg to find out more about European institutions and the Council of Europe in particular, was multiplied by two, growing from 8% in 2009 to 16% in 2010 (comparative graph by school, see appendices, cross graph 16).

Graph 11: What was your main expectation in regards to the Summer University?



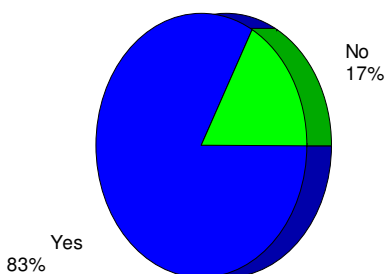
If we consider the totality of the different activities held during the Summer University, the graph below shows that 24% of participants rated the thematic workshops and the regional/bilateral meetings highest, while only 7% put the plenary sessions top of their list (versus 17.5% in 2009). Furthermore, the analysis of the data indicate a significant increase in the number of participants that preferred the programme at the European Court of Human Rights with 18% in 2010, compared to 11% in 2009 and 6% in 2008 (comparative graph by school, see appendices, cross graph 17).

Graph 11: What activity did you appreciate most at the Summer University?



This year, the working format of professional workshops was slightly different from the previous edition, allowing participants to discuss specific issues related to each field of activity, rather than in relation to the general theme of the Summer University. The survey results indicate that this working format for professional workshops produced good results and was quite appreciated by the participants, especially by the participants from media sector and civil society (comparative graph by school, see appendices, cross graph 18).

Graph 12: Did you find it interesting and constructive to take part in the professional workshop?

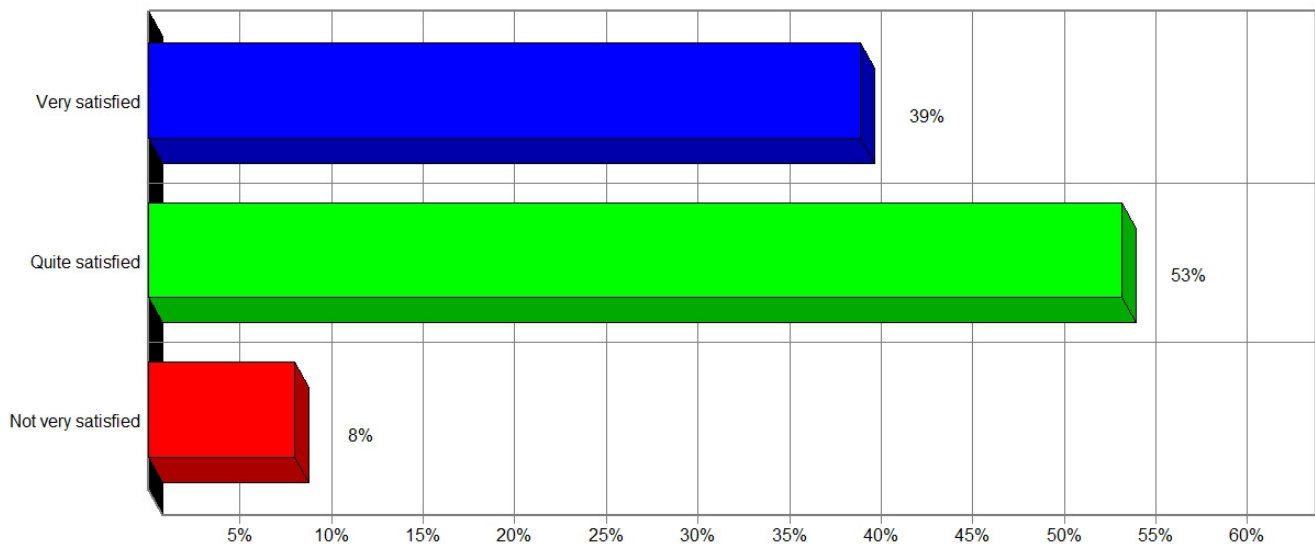


Indeed, according to the participants, this form of working sessions allowed them to share and exchange opinions with colleagues from the same field of work but different countries, to learn more about different political contexts in which these professions are lead to practice. Furthermore, it helped participants to create new acquaintances for future co-operation. The high level of experts invited to these workshops was also highlighted by the participants.

Those participants who didn't appreciate the professional workshop consider that the questions discussed were too general and that, in some groups, too many people attended the workshops reducing opportunities for constructive discussions.

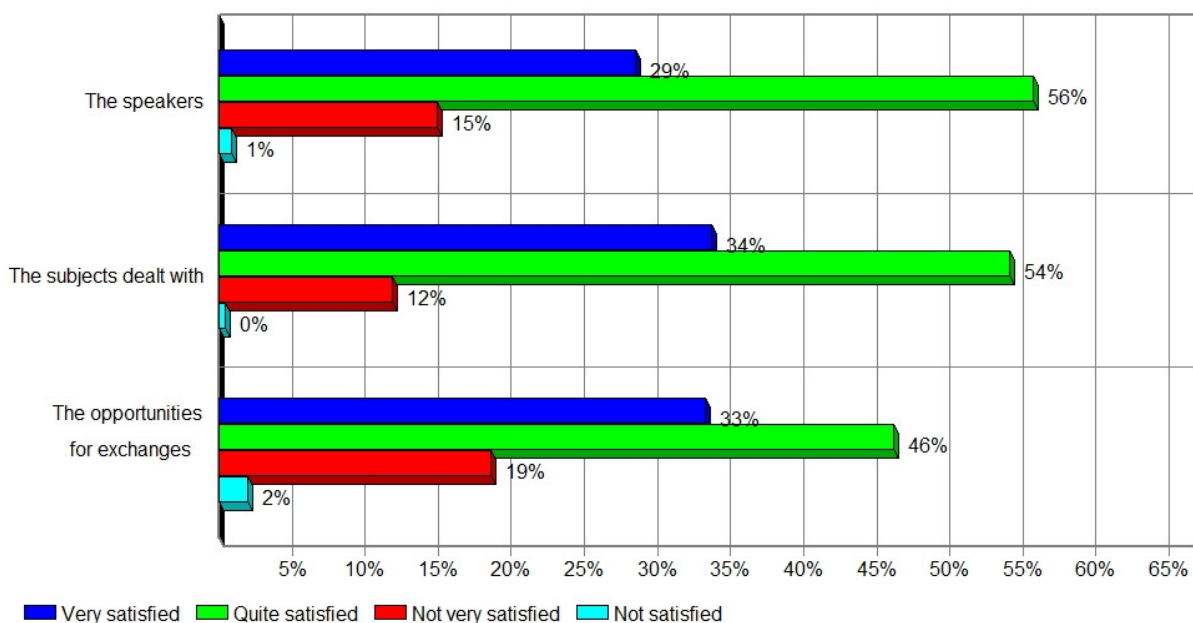
A large majority of the participants reported being satisfied with the 5th Summer University (92% in 2010 compared with 88% last year). Moreover, the survey data indicated a complete reduction in the number of participants not satisfied with the event and a slight decrease in the number of participants that are “not very satisfied” (8% in 2010 as against 11% in 2009). Comparative graph by school, see appendices, cross graph 19.

Graph 13: What activity did you appreciate most at the Summer University?



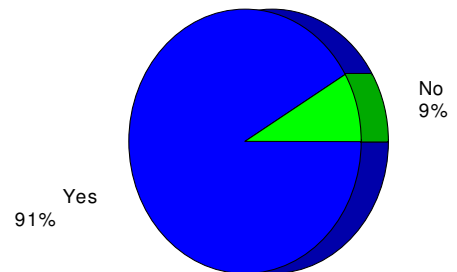
In order to allow a more detailed assessment of the 5th Summer University, the survey inquired more specifically about participants’ satisfaction with the speakers, the subjects dealt with and the opportunities for exchanges between the participants. The graph below provides a summary of the results obtained in this respect.

Graph 14: More specifically, how satisfied were you with regards to the speakers, the subjects dealt with and the opportunities for exchanges between the participants?



This part of the survey indicates that 56% of participants state they were quite satisfied with the **speakers invited to the Summer University** and 29% very satisfied (comparative graph by school, see appendices, cross graph 20). One of the innovations in the working format of the 5th Summer University for Democracy was the involvement of a large number of non-European experts, particularly in the framework of co-operation with the International Center on Non Violent Conflict. Thus, in reply to the question “Do you think the involvement of experts from outside Europe is a valuable contribution to the debates at the Summer University?” 91% of participants answered “yes” (comparative graph by school, see appendices, cross graph 21).

Graph 15: Do you think the involvement of experts from outside Europe is a valuable contribution to the debates at the Summer University?

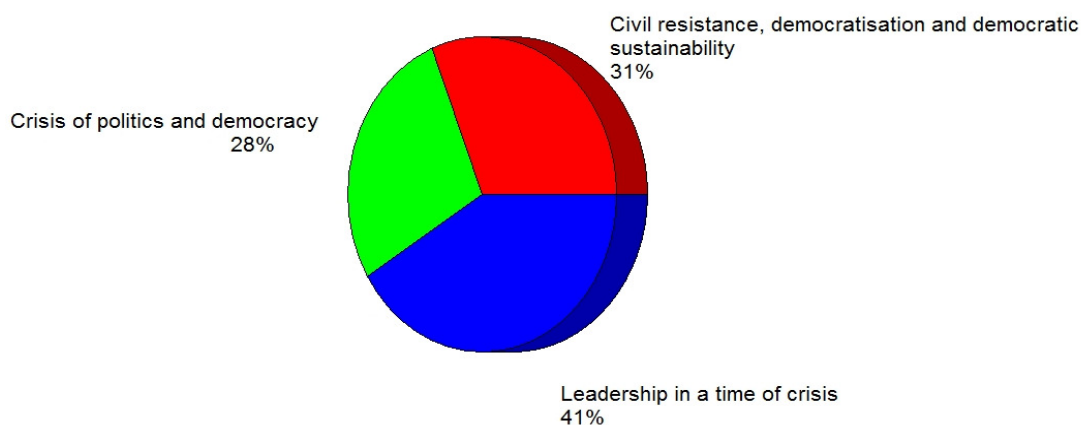


According to the participants, the involvement of non-European experts helped them to understand that concerns such as democratic stability, economic crisis and corruption are worldwide. They shared their experiences, offered a new perspective and different points of view, which made the debates more fruitful and constructive. Moreover, many participants considered that the experts invited by the International Center on Non Violent Conflict were the best prepared.

As regards the **subjects dealt with**, the large majority of participants were satisfied (34% very satisfied and 54% quite satisfied). It should be noted that the participants of the 5th Summer University were more satisfied with the general topic than the participants of the previous editions (comparative graphs by school, see appendices, cross graphs 22).

Among all issues discussed at the Summer University during the introductory conferences and their related workshops, the most popular topic was “The leadership in a time of crisis”. Two other key topics “Crisis of politics and democracy” and “Civil resistance, democratisation and democratic sustainability” were ranked almost equally by the participants. It is worth noting that in 2010 the relevant balance between the main topics was better respected than last year.

Graph 16: Which of the subjects addressed this week do you consider the most relevant?



The workshop topics that made the greatest impression on the participants were those addressed by Nancy Forbord on the American experience of leadership in a crisis and by Shaazka Beyerle and Vijay Anand on the role of citizens in the fight against corruption.

The **opportunities for exchanges between participants** met the majority of their expectations. However, regarding the last statement, the comparative graph by School (see appendices, cross graph 23) indicate that 44% of the participants from Skopje and 42% from Sofia were not very satisfied with this point, arguing that the Summer University for Democracy gathers too many people to make any interaction possible and effective.

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The evaluation survey results indicate that the 5th Summer University for Democracy was a success. From year to year, we perceive an important improvement both in terms of working format and programme content of the event. This edition received the best feedback from the participants since its creation in 2006.

To further improve the organisation of the Summer University for Democracy, a number of constructive ideas were put forward by the participants. First of all, they expressed a desire to have an opportunity to visit Strasbourg municipality and other local authorities and to meet their representatives. There were also a number of requests concerning visits to other European institutions in Strasbourg, in particular the European Parliament.

The survey results indicated that the participants frequently confuse the European Union with the Council of Europe. Therefore, to include a brief presentation on the Council of Europe and its competences during the national/regional seminars and the Summer University in Strasbourg would be in line with the participants demand. Indeed, one common request was for more attention to be given to the issue of democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

More regional activities between the Schools

As in the previous years, the participants insisted on more bilateral and regional meetings between the Schools, not only during the Summer University for Democracy, but also throughout the academic year. Expanding the bilateral and regional meetings would contribute to the further development of the Schools' Network. Thus, it is important to find a way of bringing more participants together and more often. The meetings, whether bi- or trilateral, could, for instance, take the form of encounters based around particular professional groups or clearly defined topics.

Strengthening the Network of Schools and Association's development

The European Association of the Schools of Political Studies should play a key role in the extension and further development of the Schools' Network in the long term. To become the link element between the Schools, the Association should increase its visibility. The survey results indicated that those participants who didn't wish to join the Association explained their unwillingness by the lack of information about the Association and the possibility to join it. In addition, some participants highlighted that the Association's website is hard to find on the web. Thus, the Association should work on its visibility and conduct a membership campaign, among the Alumni and current participants of the Schools. The creation of the online membership system could facilitate and improve this process. To develop communication within the Network, a quarterly newsletter could be also carried out in the framework of the European Association of the Schools of Political Studies.

A number of ideas for developing the website were advanced by the participants: articles and other analytical materials, database of Alumni and experts and their contacts, more detailed information about the activities of the Schools as well as a forum where participants could exchange views. According to the participants, a social media application would make this website more popular.

Summer University for Democracy: towards a large scale international event

A close look at the results of this satisfaction survey reveals an important fact: the participants of the Schools of Political Studies would like to have the possibility during the Summer University to meet their colleagues from Western Europe to exchange ideas and share experiences. It would allow them to create new acquaintances for future co-operation. There were already quite a few requests to this effect in 2009 and in 2010 the calls became almost unanimous.

In this respect, partnerships could be established with the authorities, organisations, universities and other structures in France, Germany and Italy with a view to inviting their representatives to the next Summer University.

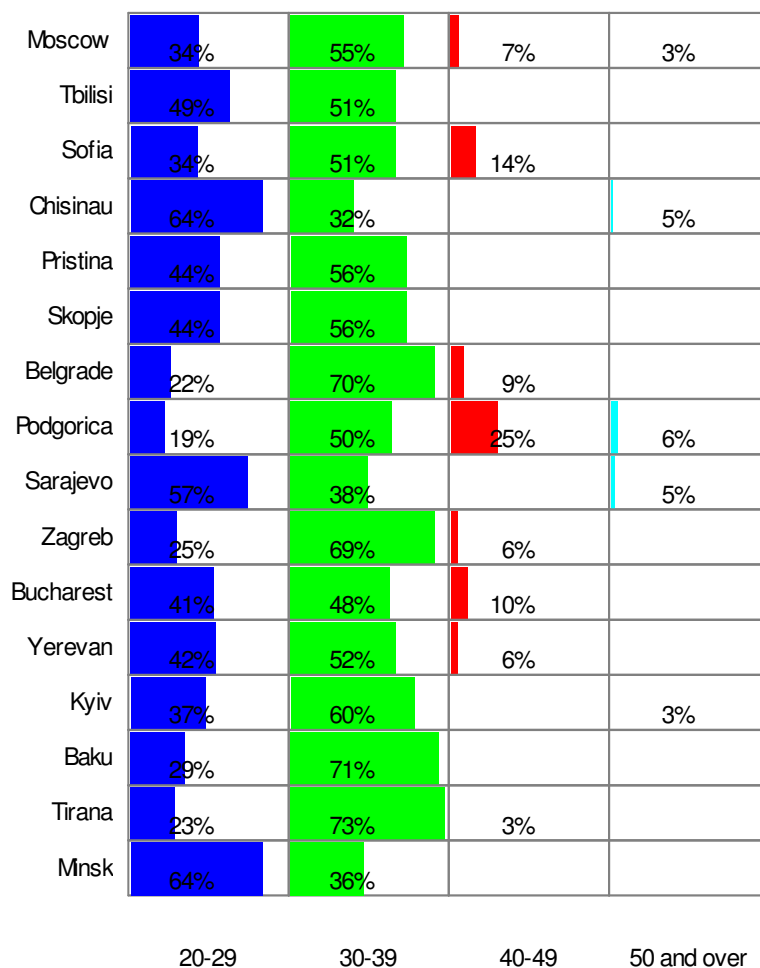
The participants also strongly recommended inviting prominent European figures and leading politicians from all over the world. They also thought it was important to have not only European experts but also experts from other parts of the world, such as Africa, Asia and the United States. Taking into consideration that in a globalised world the challenges to democracy are worldwide, these continents should be represented at the Summer University, which is a major forum for discussing democracy in Europe.

The last two proposals made by the participants are in the conformity with the idea of the Strasbourg International Forum for Democracy, carried out jointly by the Council of Europe, European Association of the Schools of Political Studies and the City of Strasbourg, to be held in 2012.

APPENDICES

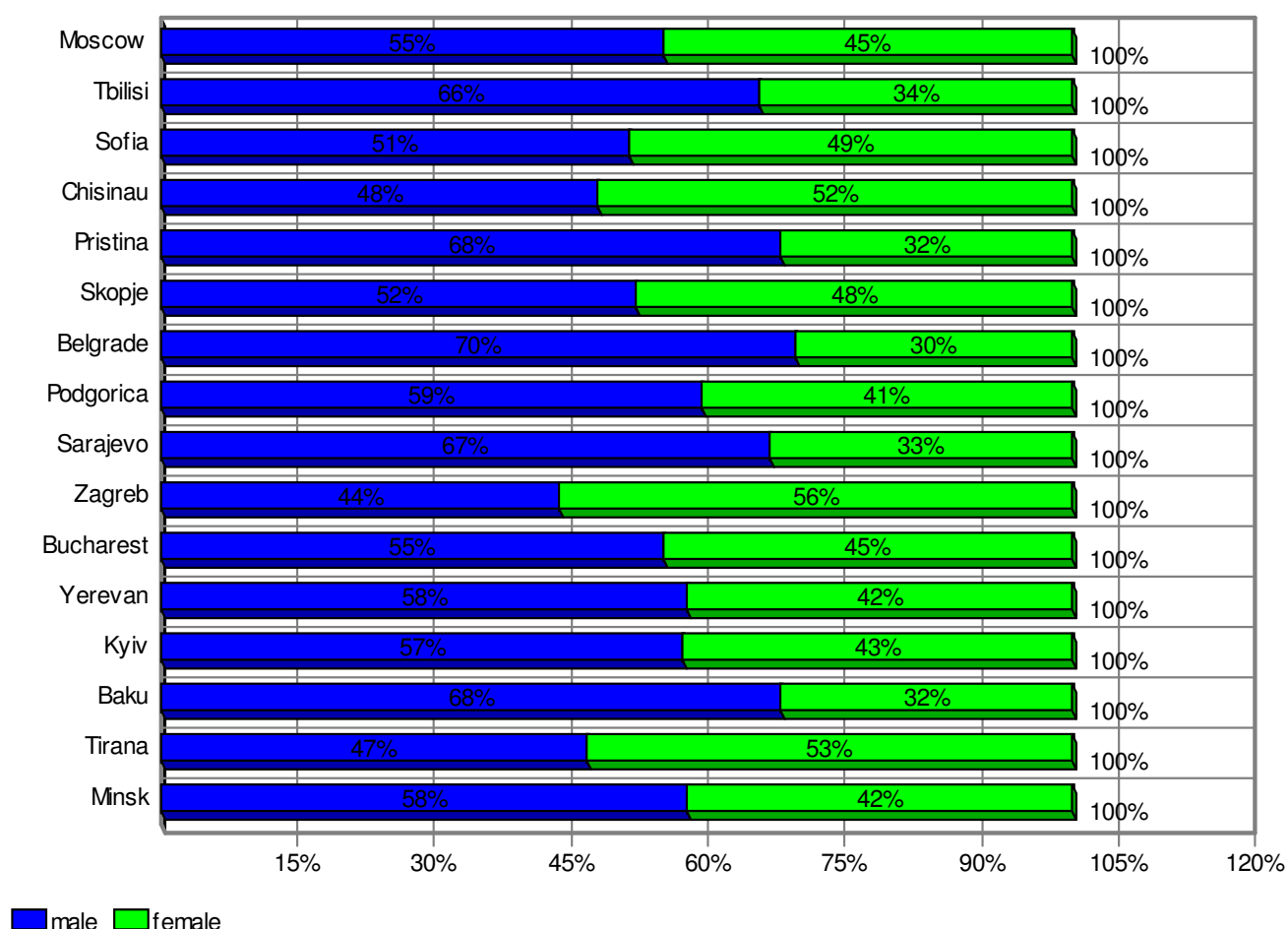
Cross graph 1: To which age group do you belong?

N.B.: The average age of the participants of the 5th Summer University was calculated on the basis of the number of respondents to the questionnaire and not on the actual number of participants from each School. Thereby, the results presented in the graph below may be slightly different from the actual average age of the participants.

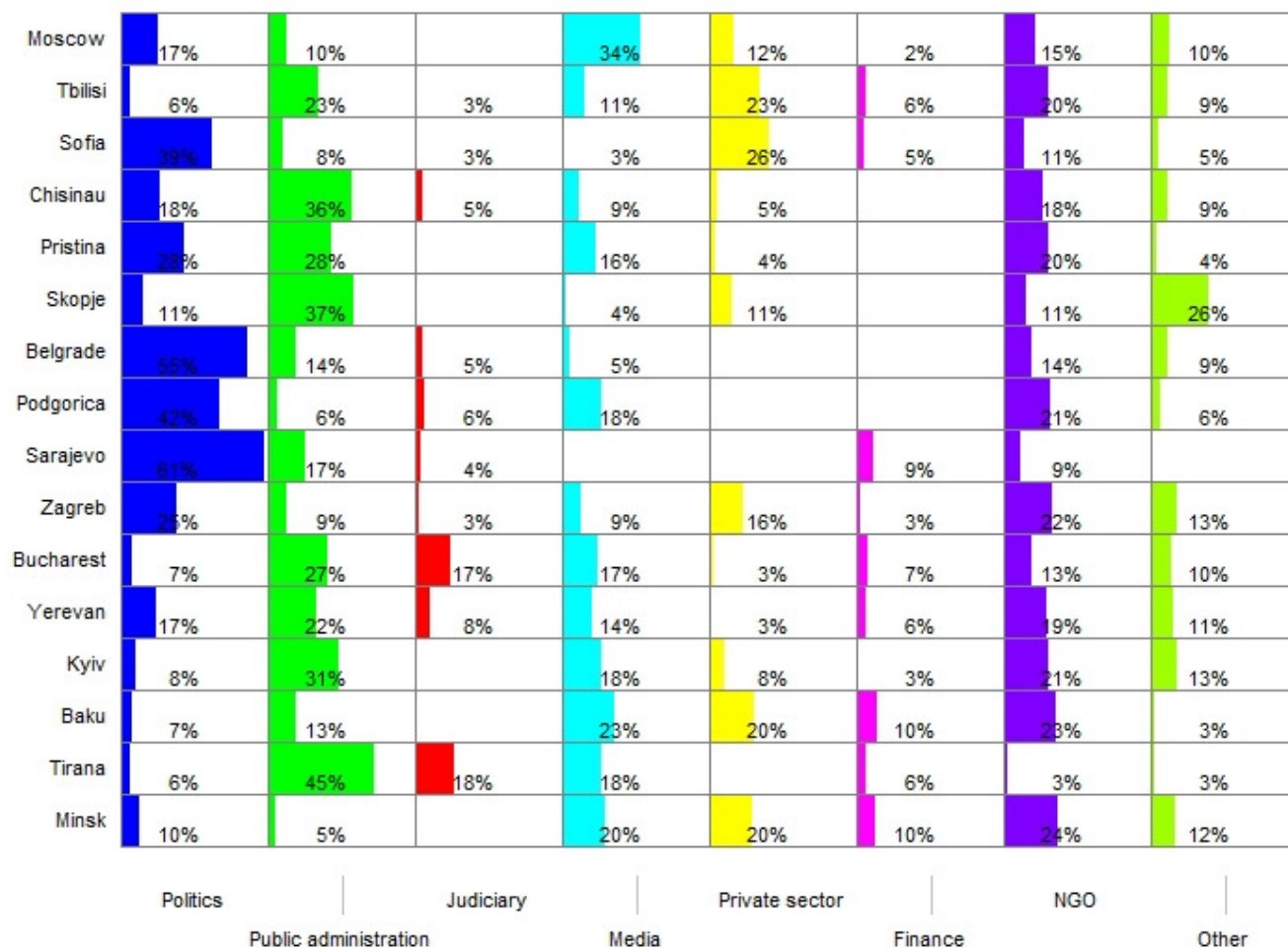


Cross graph 2: Are you male/female?

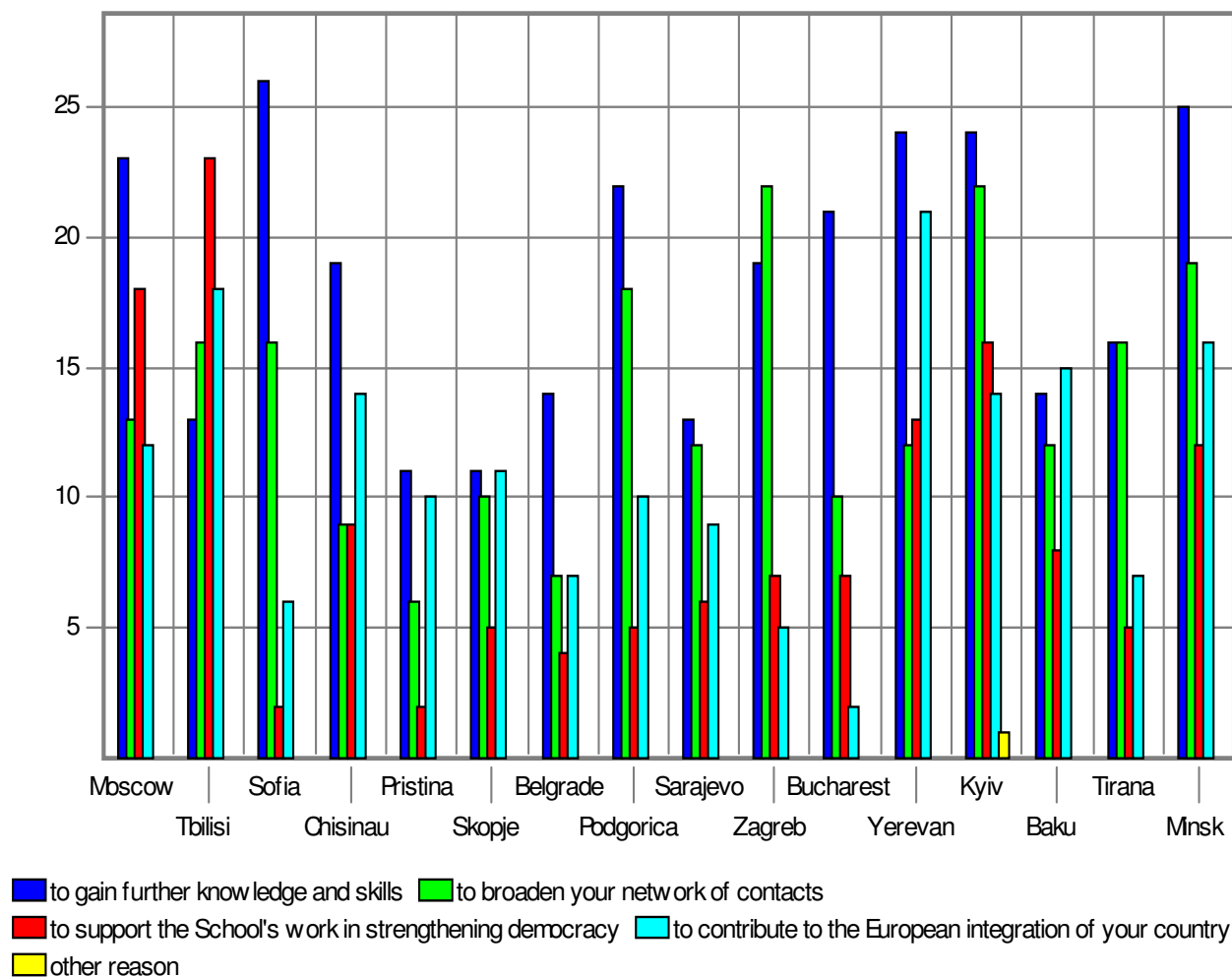
N.B.: The gender balance of the participants of the 5th Summer University was calculated on the basis of the number of respondents to the questionnaire and not on the actual number of participants from each School. Thereby, the results presented in the graph below may be slightly different from the actual gender balance of the participants.



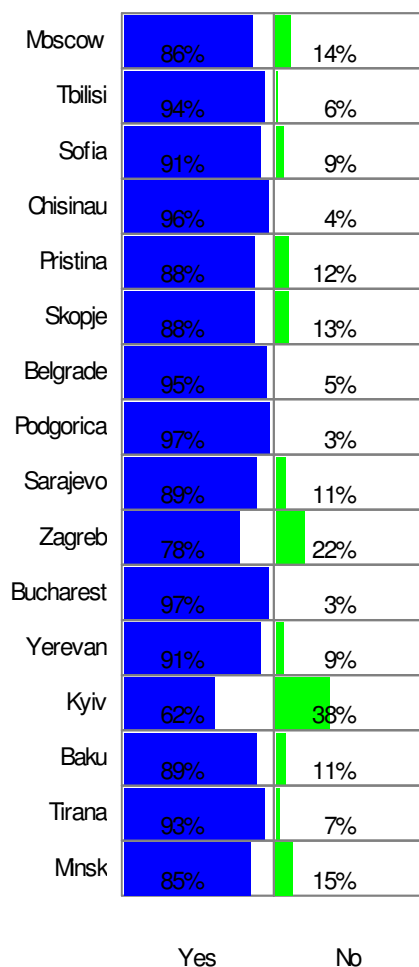
Cross graph 3: What is your field of work?



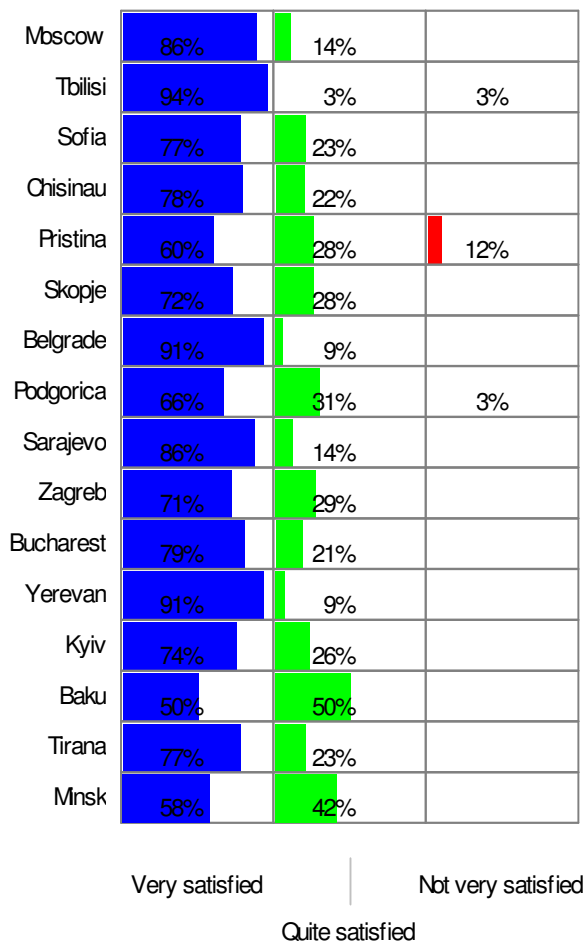
Cross graph 4: Why did you wish to attend a School of Political Studies?



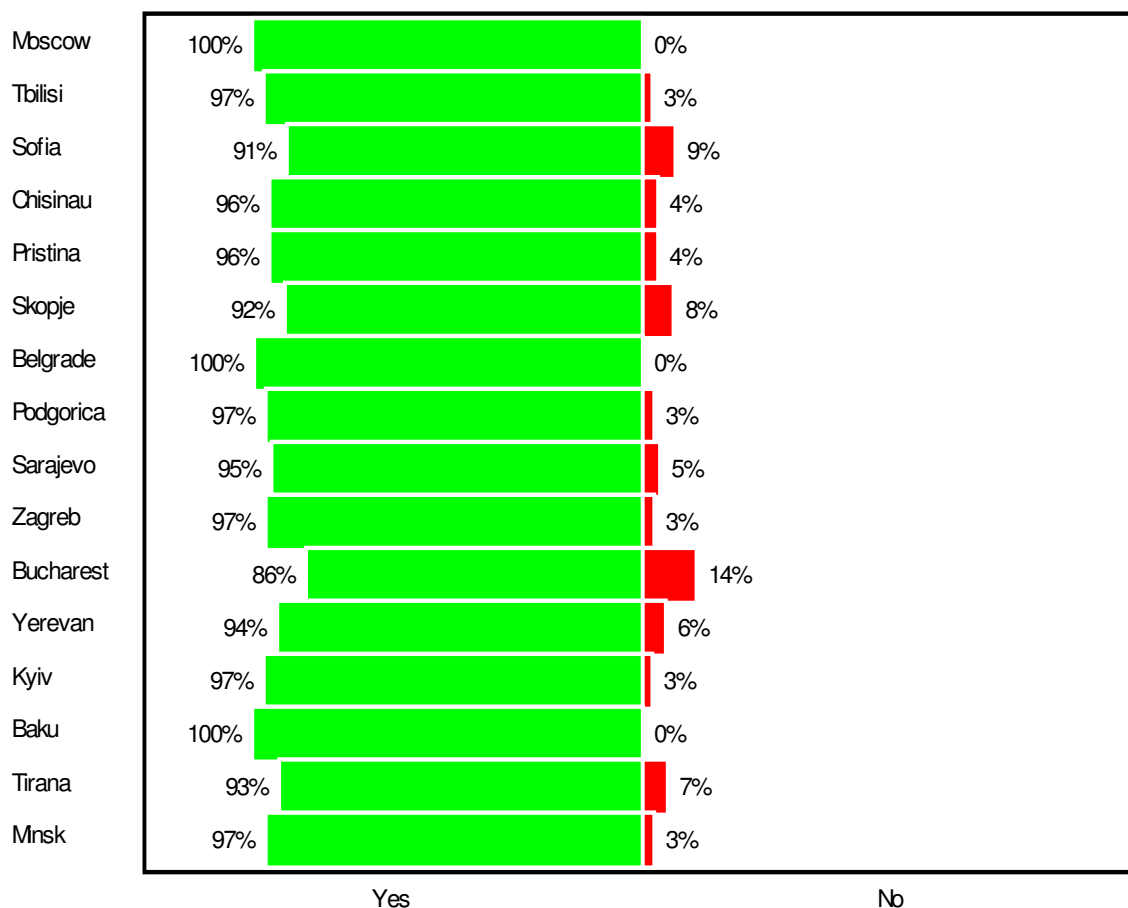
Cross graph 5: Were you admitted to the School of Political Studies the first time you applied?



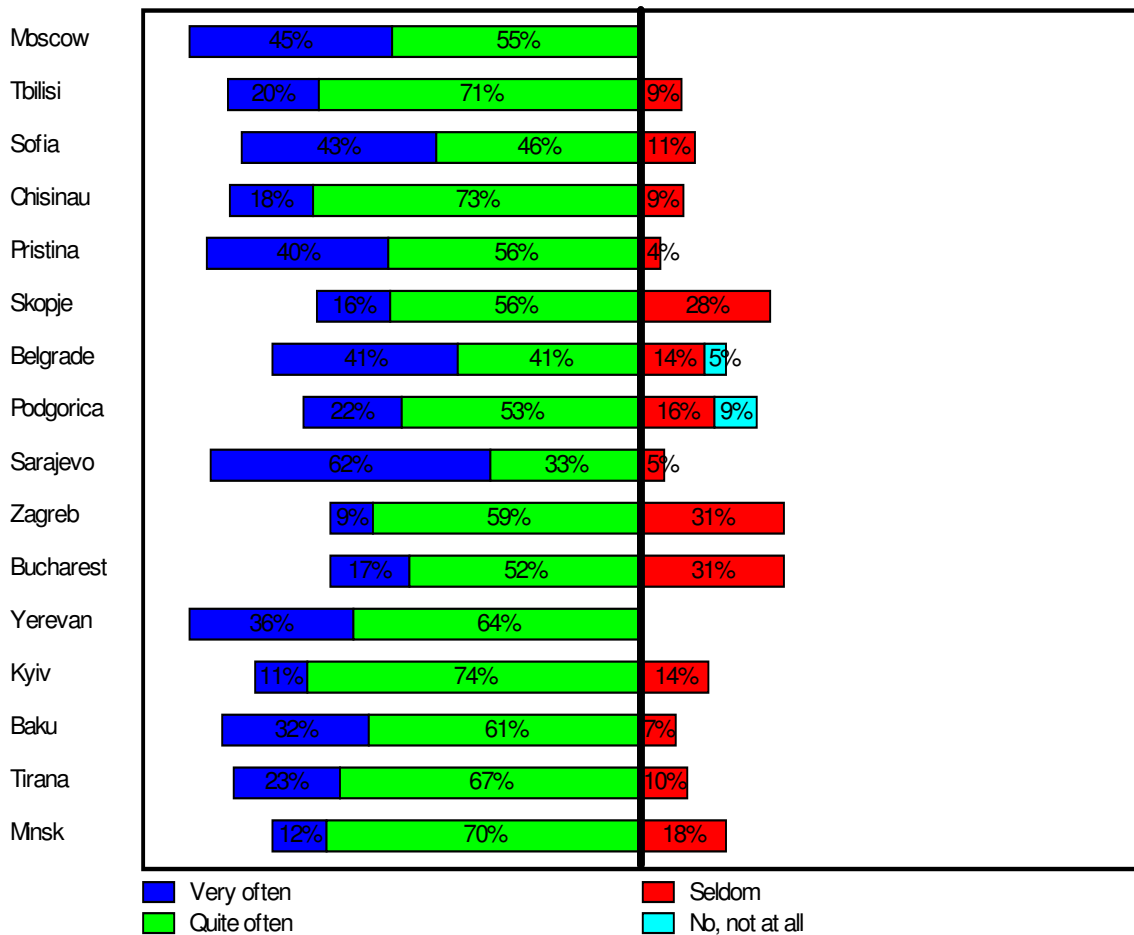
Cross graph 6: How satisfied were you with the national seminars organised by your School?



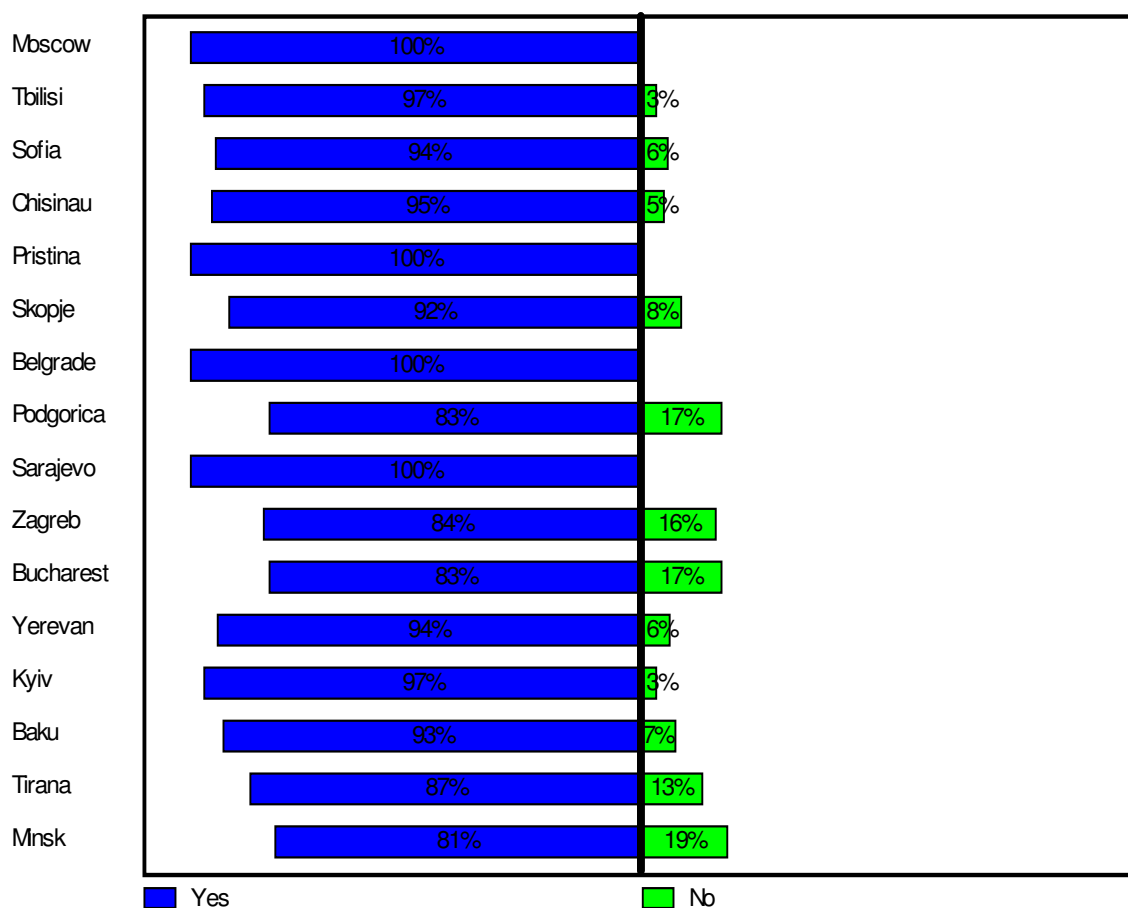
Cross graph 7: Apart from the Summer University, do you find it necessary to have meetings with other Schools of Political Studies during the year?



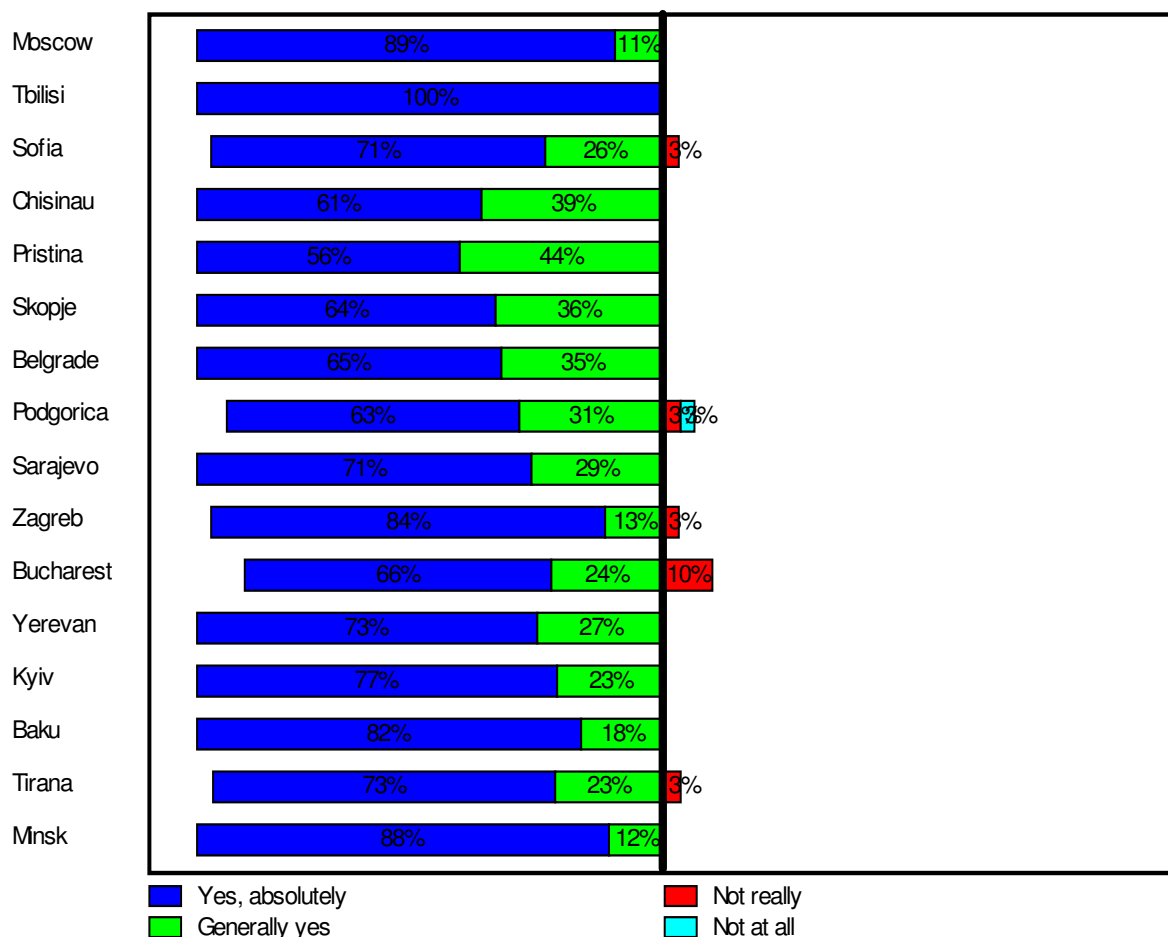
Cross graph 8: Do you use the knowledge you have acquired through the School of Political Studies programme in your work?



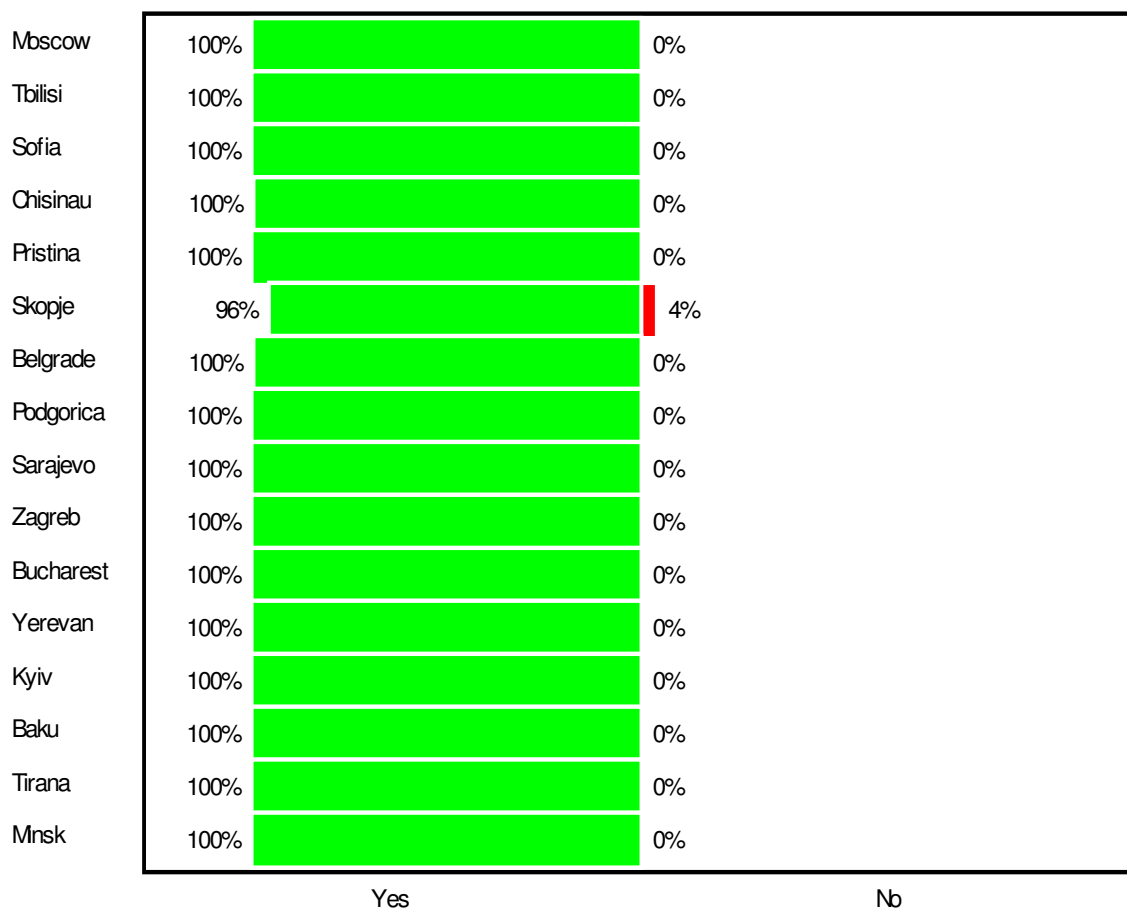
Cross graph 9: Would you like to see the possibility of extending the School’s curriculum, within an academic framework, leading to a degree?



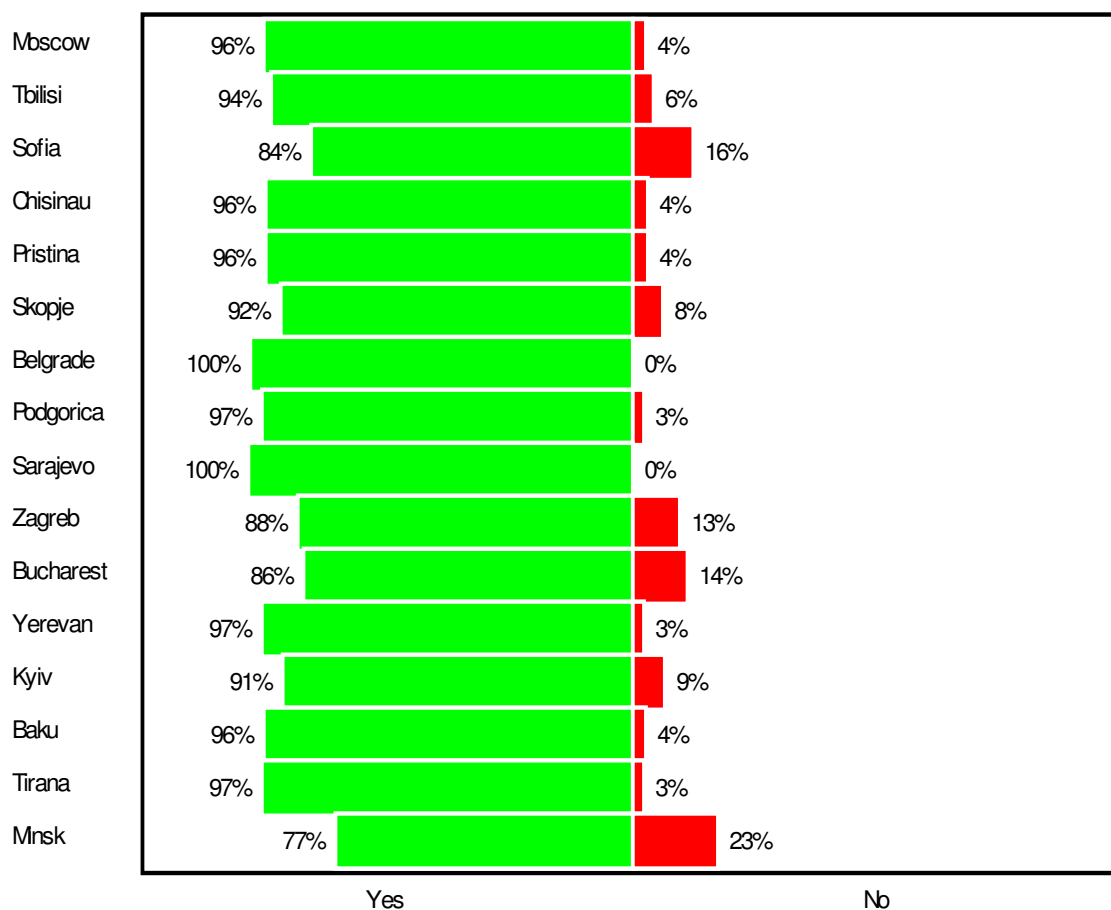
Cross graph 10: Has your participation in the School of Political Studies helped you to extend your network of contacts?



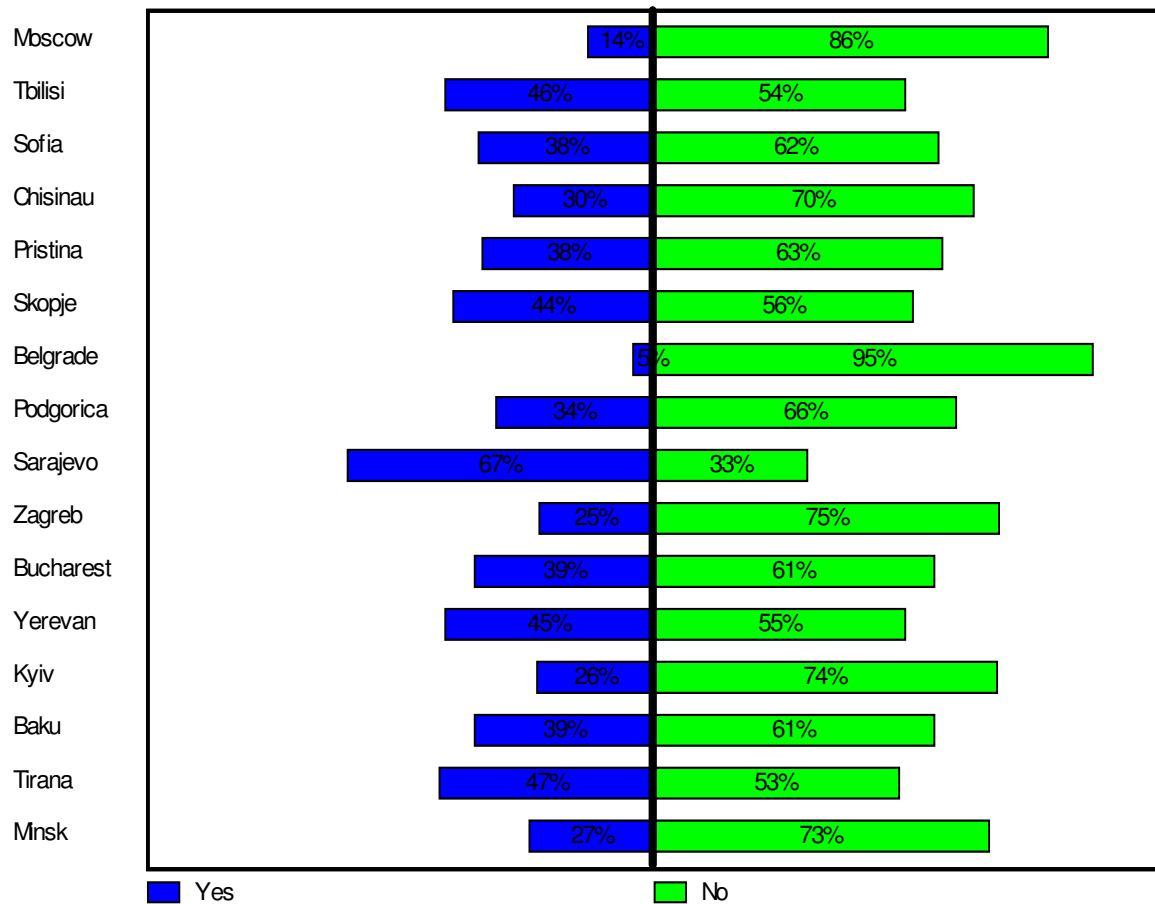
Cross graph 11: In the future, do you intend to keep in touch with the participants of your School?



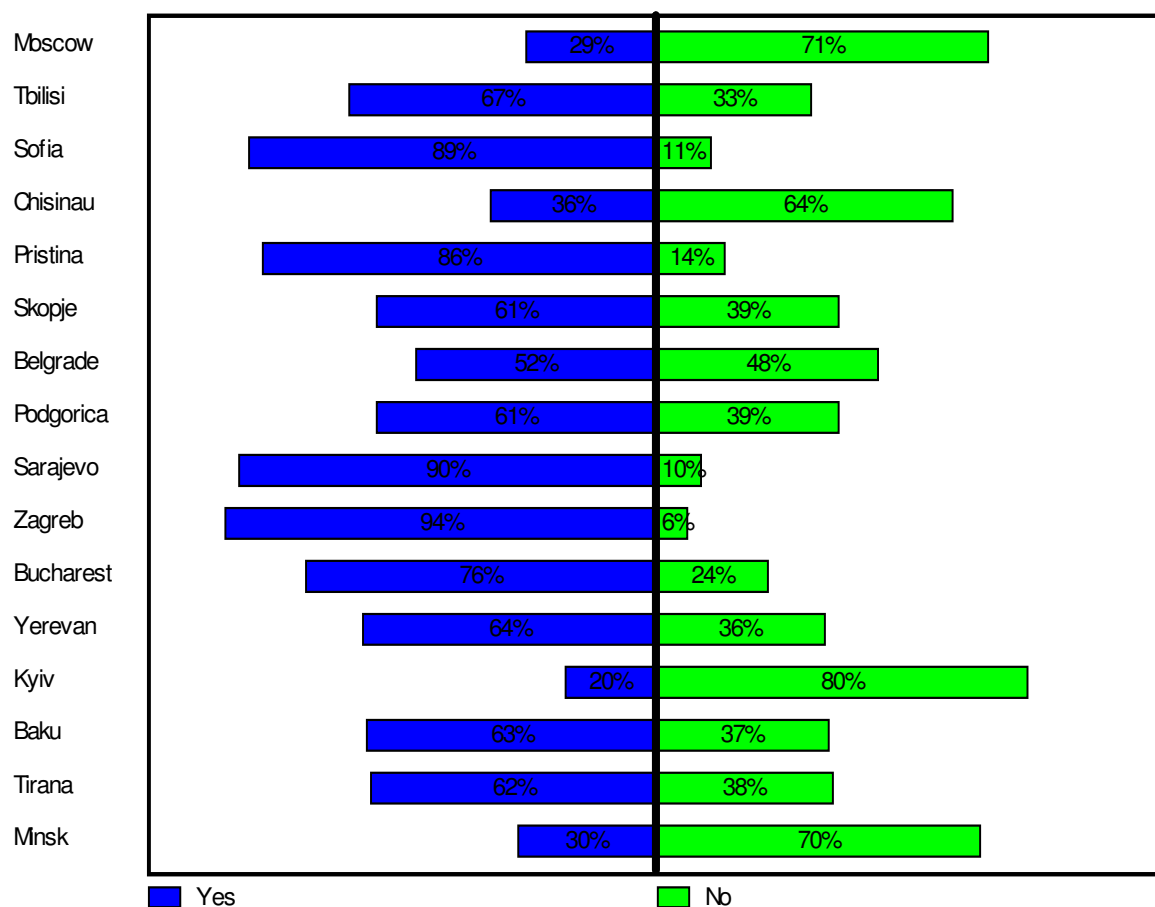
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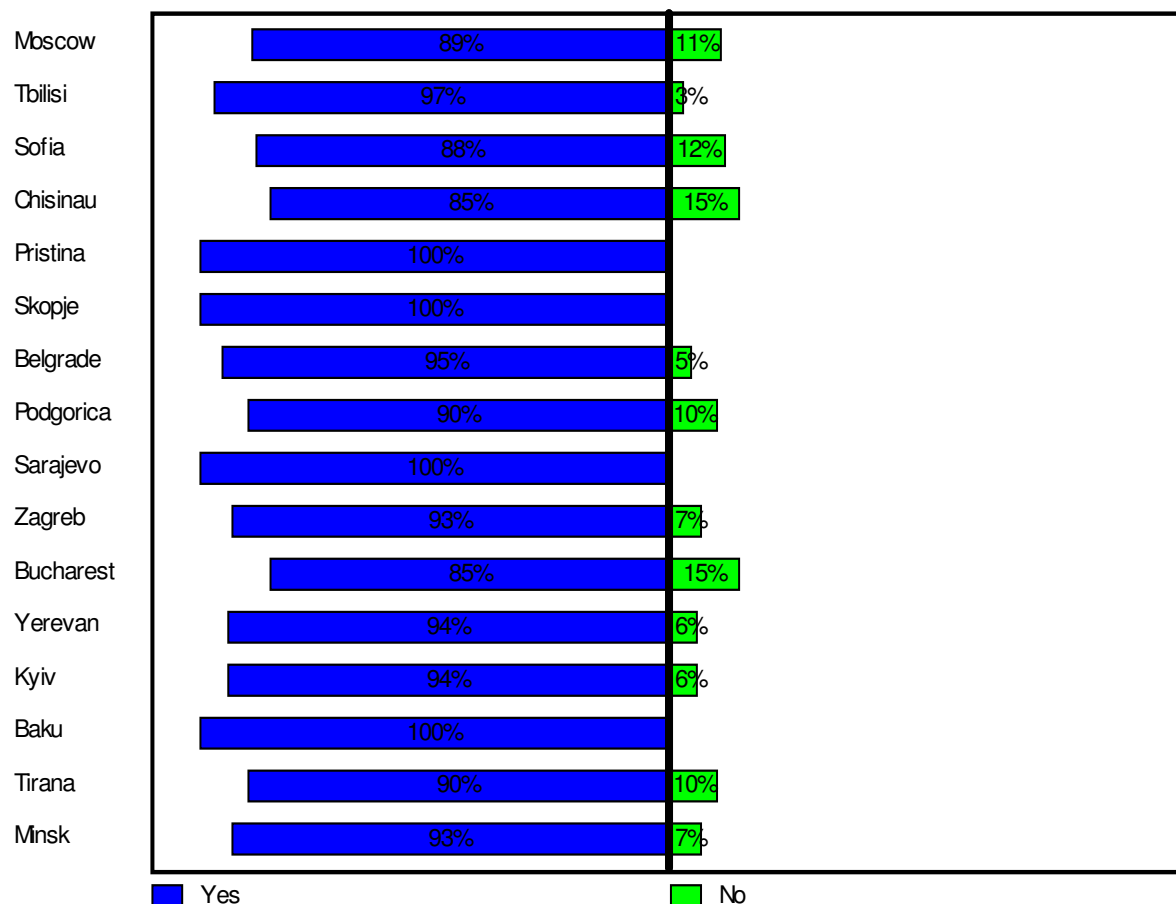
Cross graph 13: Have you already visited the Associations’ website (www.schoolsofpoliticalstudies.eu)?



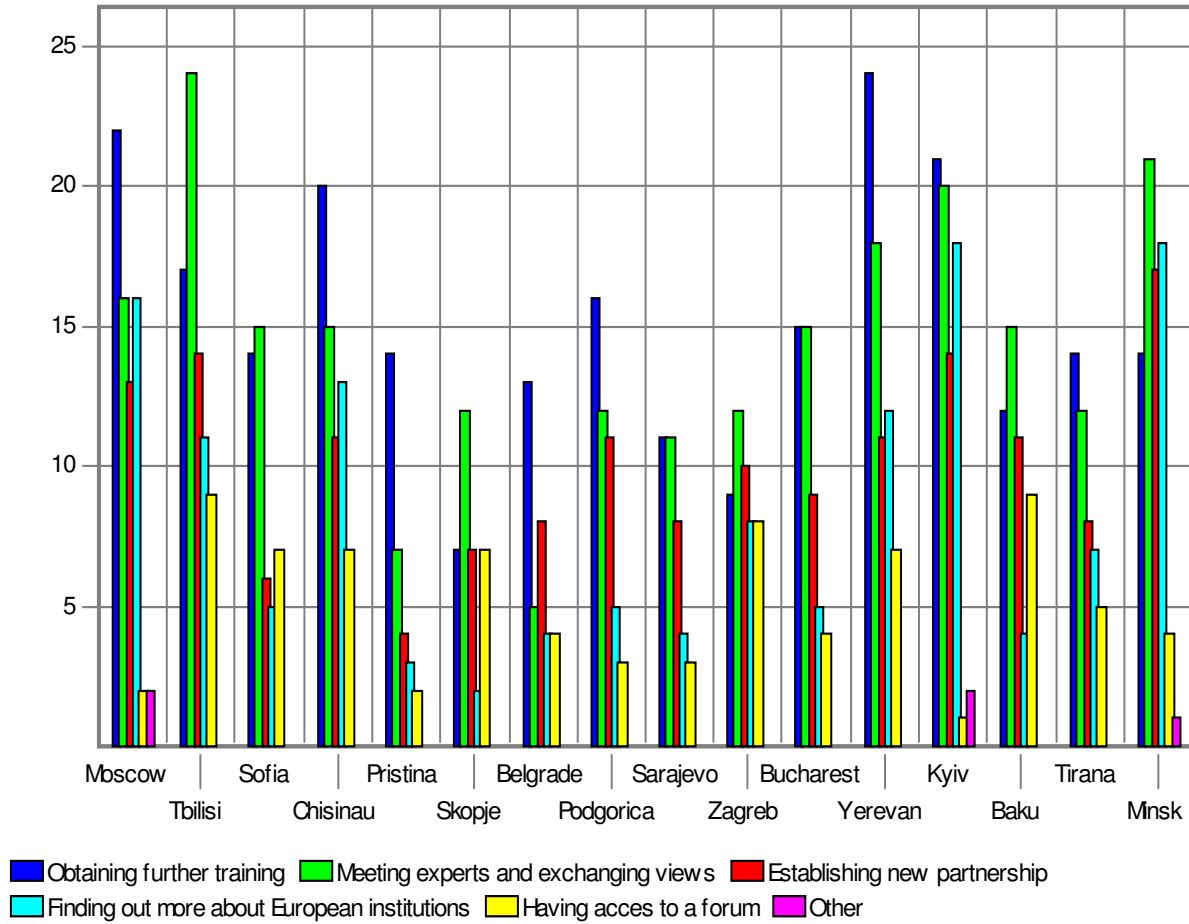
Cross graph 14: Are you aware of the European Association of the Schools of Political Studies?



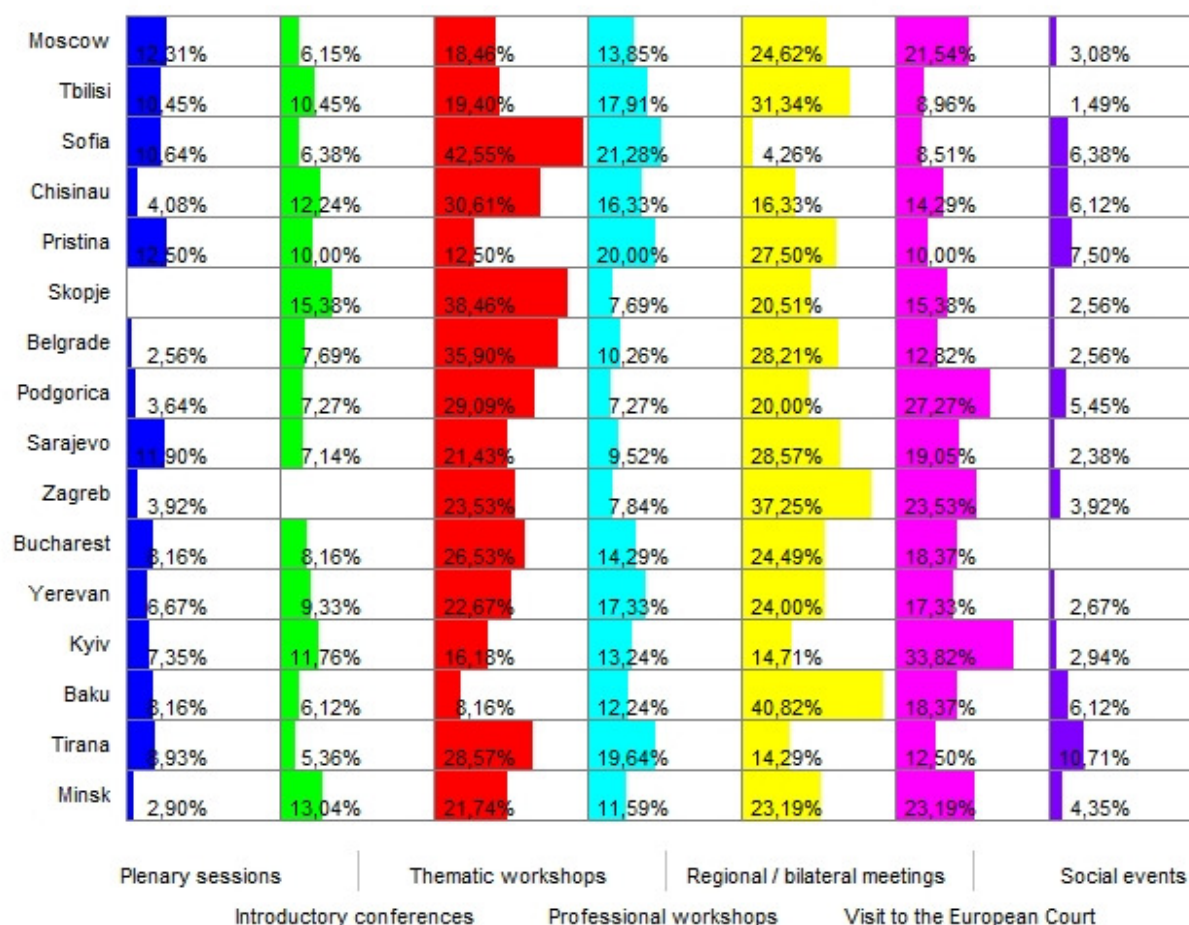
Cross graph 15: Would you like to become a member of the European Association of the Schools of Political Studies?



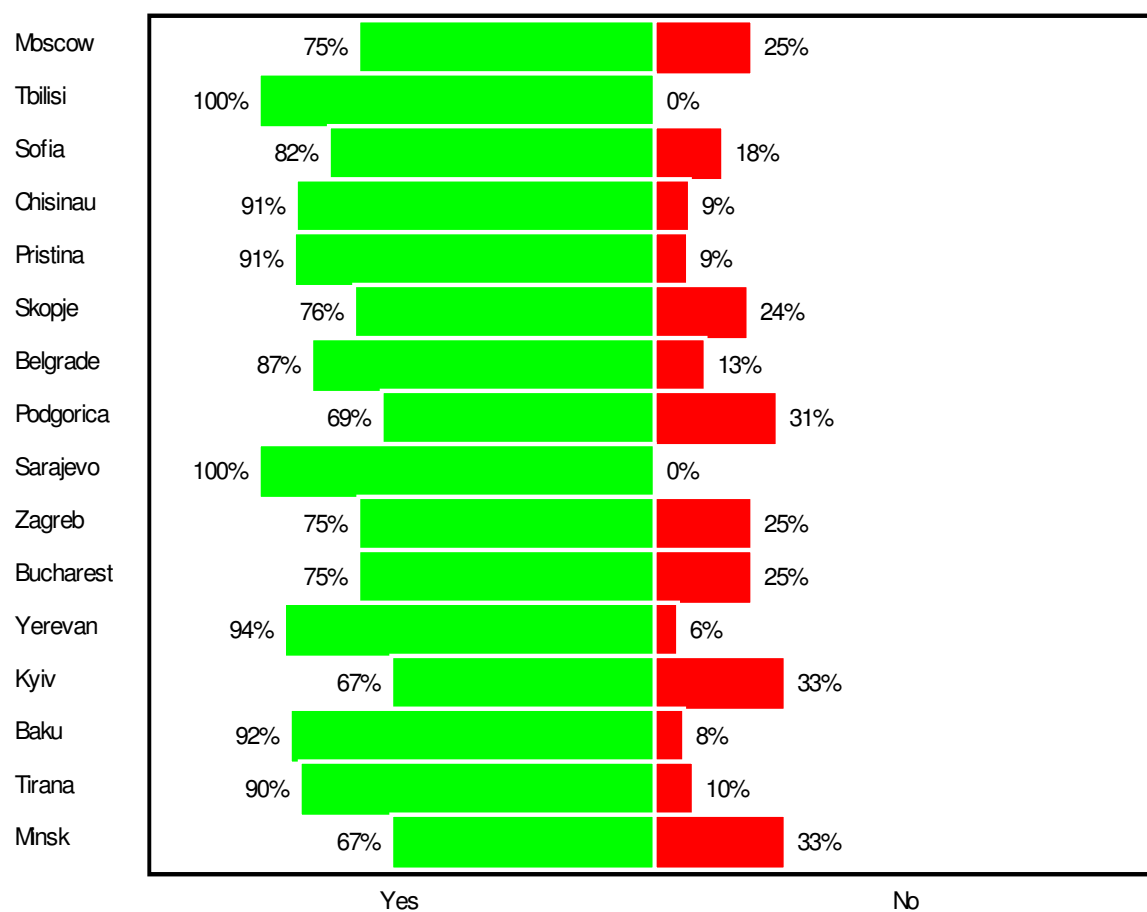
Cross graph 16: What was your main expectation in regards to the Summer University?



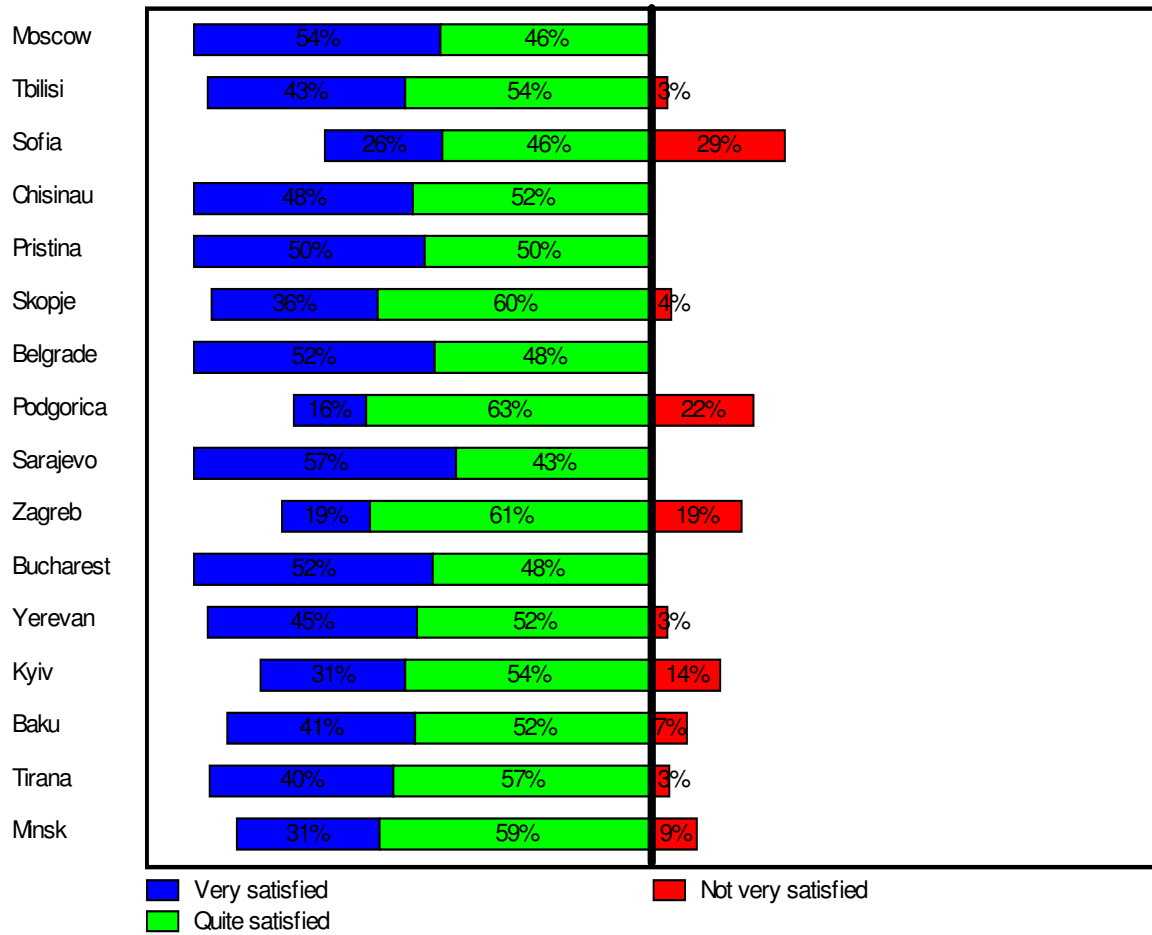
Cross graph 17: What activity did you appreciate most at this Summer University?



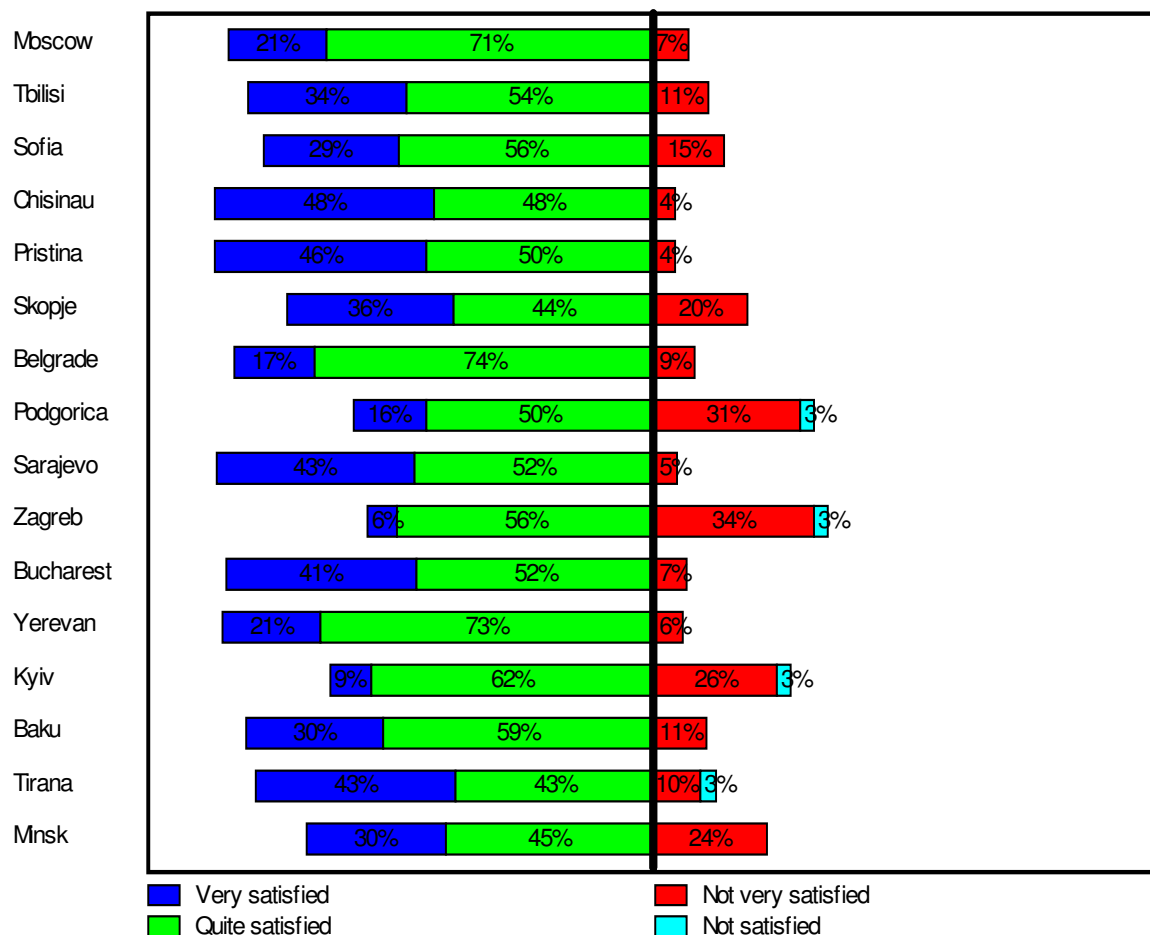
Cross graph 18: Did you find interesting and constructive to take part in the professional workshop?



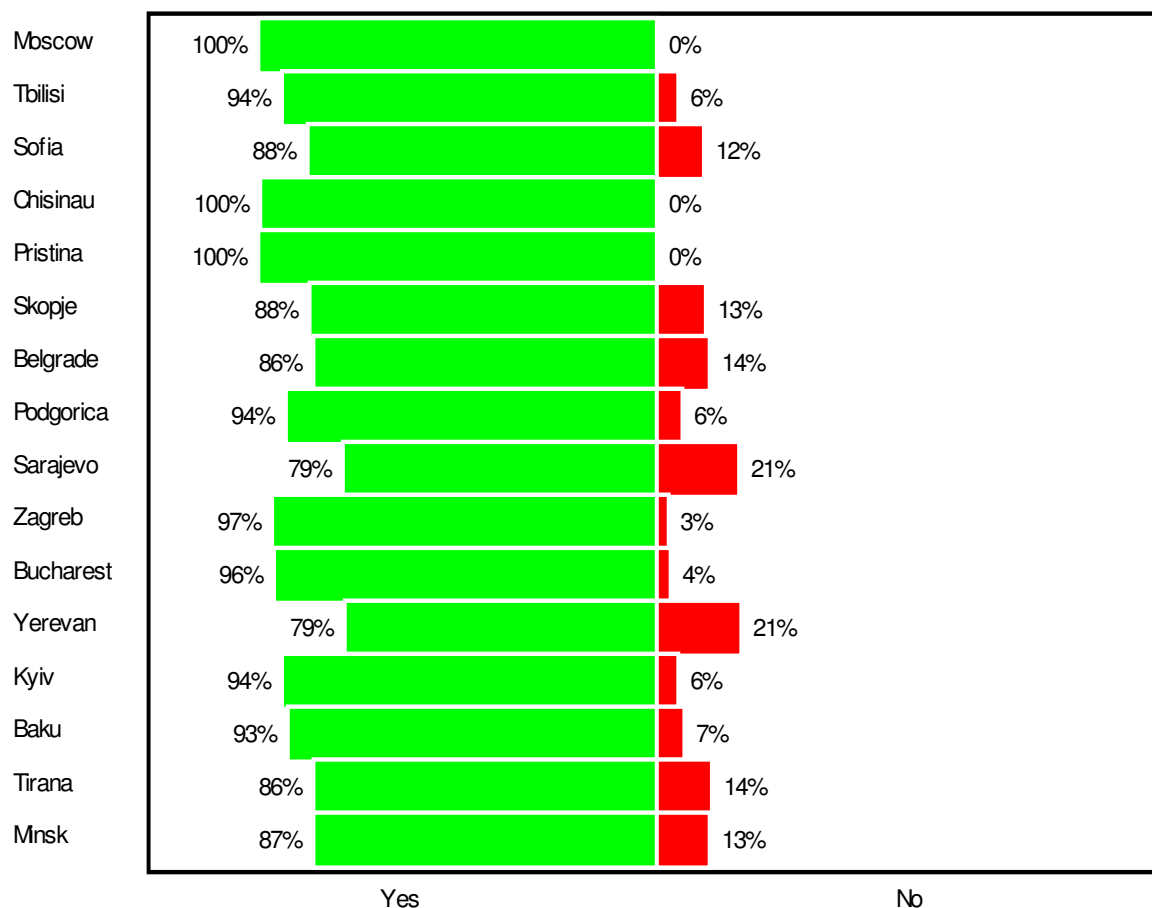
Cross graph 19: How satisfied were you with the Summer University with regards to your expectations?



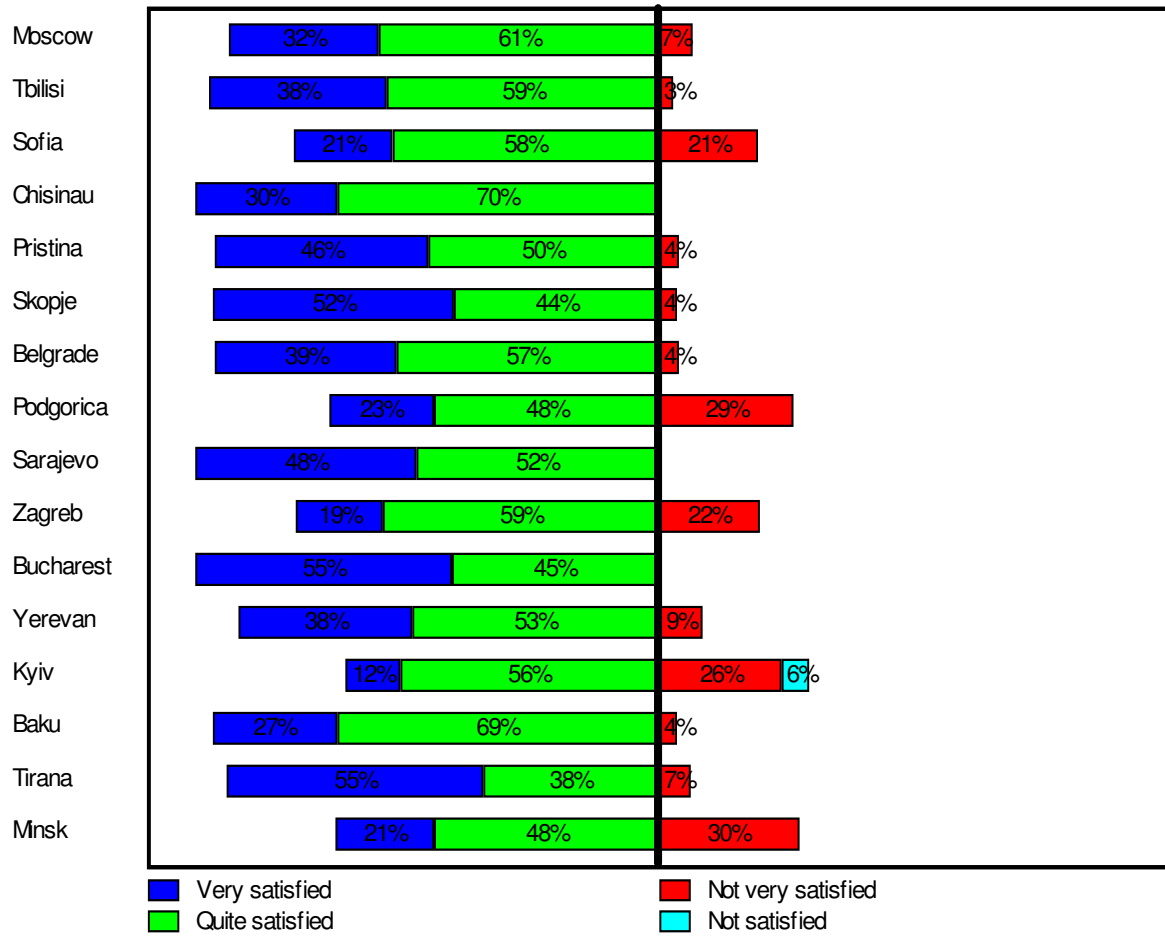
Cross graph 20: How satisfied were you with regards to the speakers?



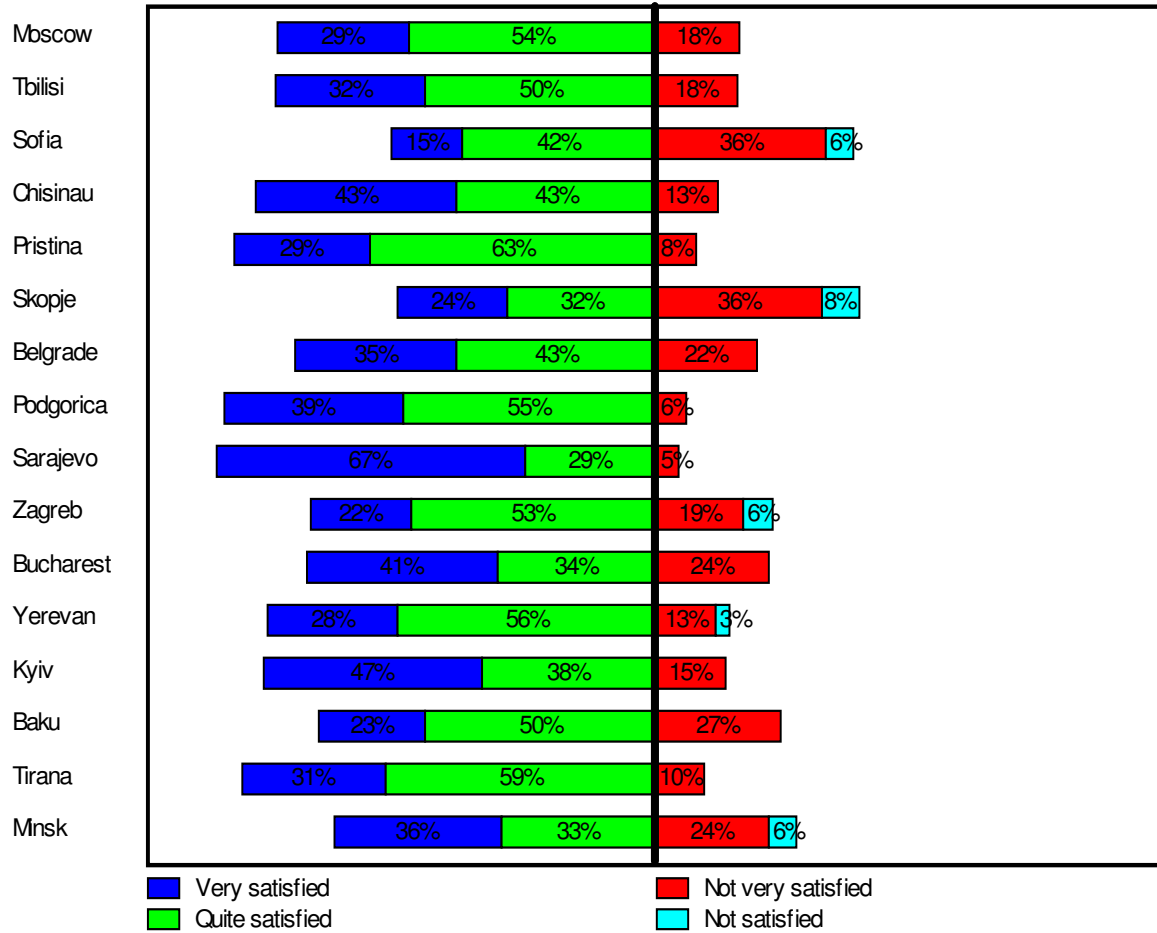
Cross graph 21: Do you think the involvement of experts from outside Europe is a valuable contribution to the debates at the Summer University?



Cross graph 22: How satisfied were you with regards to the subjects dealt with?



Cross graph 23: How satisfied were you with regards to the opportunities for exchanges between the participants?



QUESTIONNAIRE

1) Which School of Political Studies do you represent at the Summer University? (please state the country)

.....

2) Are you?

- male
- female

3) To which age group do you belong?

- 20-29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50 and over

4) What is your field of work?

- Politics
- Public administration
- Judiciary
- Media
- Private sector
- Finance
- NGO
- Other, please specify

5) How long have you been professionally employed?

- less than 5 years;
- 5-10 years;
- over 10 years

A YEAR AT YOUR SCHOOL OF POLITICAL STUDIES

6) What was your main motivation to attend the School of Political Studies?

- to gain further knowledge and skills
- to broaden your network of contacts
- to support the School's work in strengthening democracy in your country
- to contribute, through this programme, to the European integration of your country
- other reason, please specify

7) Were you admitted to the School of Political Studies the first time you applied?

- Yes
- No

8) How satisfied were you with the national seminars organised by your School?

- Very satisfied
- Quite satisfied
- Not very satisfied
- Not satisfied

9) In your opinion, how could national seminars be improved?

.....

10) Apart from the Summer University, do you find it necessary to have common (bilateral/ regional) seminars with other Schools of Political Studies during the year?

- Yes
- No

11) Do you use the knowledge you have acquired through the School of Political Studies programme in your work?

- Very often
- Quite often
- Seldom
- No, not at all

12) Have you already followed other programmes similar to that of the School of Political Studies?

- Yes
- No

If so, which ones and how do they compare to the Schools of Political Studies programme?

.....

13) Has your participation in the School of Political Studies helped you to extend your network of contacts?

- Yes, absolutely
- Generally yes
- Not really
- Not at all

YOUR OPINION ON THE 5TH SUMMER UNIVERSITY FOR DEMOCRACY

14) What was your main expectation in regards to the Summer University?

- Obtaining further training in the Council of Europe's fields of competence (democracy, human rights, the rule of law, etc.)
- Meeting experts and exchanging views with prominent European figures
- Establishing new partnerships with a view to future co-operation
- Finding out more about European institutions
- Having access to a forum for expressing and exchanging ideas
- Other, please specify

15) What can you say about your own participation in the debates at the Summer University?

- Very active
- Quite active
- Not very active
- Not at all active

16) What activity did you appreciate most at this Summer University?

- Plenary sessions
- Introductory conferences
- Thematic workshops
- Professional workshops
- Regional / bilateral meetings
- Visit to the European Court of Human Rights
- Social events

17) Did you find it interesting and constructive to take part in the professional workshop?

- Yes
- No

Please explain why?

.....

18) Which of the subjects addressed this week do you consider the most relevant?

.....

19) Do you think the involvement of experts from outside Europe is a valuable contribution to the debates at the Summer University?

- Yes
- No

Please explain why?

.....

20) How satisfied were you with the Summer University with regards to your expectations?

- Very satisfied
- Quite satisfied
- Not very satisfied
- Not satisfied

21) More specifically, how satisfied were you in regards to:

The speakers

- Very satisfied
- Quite satisfied
- Not very satisfied
- Not satisfied

The subjects dealt with

- Very satisfied
- Quite satisfied
- Not very satisfied
- Not satisfied

The opportunities for exchanges between the participants

- Very satisfied
- Quite satisfied
- Not very satisfied
- Not satisfied

22) Do you have any suggestions in regards to the organisation of the next Summer University for Democracy?

.....

.....

YOUR OPINION ON THE NETWORK OF THE SCHOOLS OF POLITICAL STUDIES

23) In the future, do you intend to keep in touch with the participants of your School?

- Yes
- No

and with the participants from other Schools you met during the Summer University?

- Yes
- No

24) Are you aware of the European Association of the Schools of Political Studies?

- Yes
- No