



**Coimbra Group**  
**Scholarship Programme**  
**for the European Neighbourhood**

**Evaluation Survey**  
**2009-2013 grant holders**

**Coimbra Group Office**

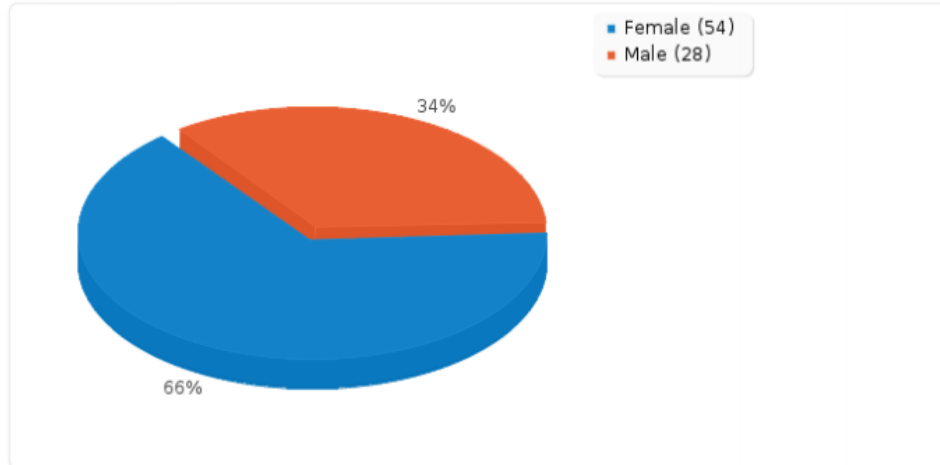
**January 2015**

**Response rate 87%** (82 respondents out of 94 people questioned)

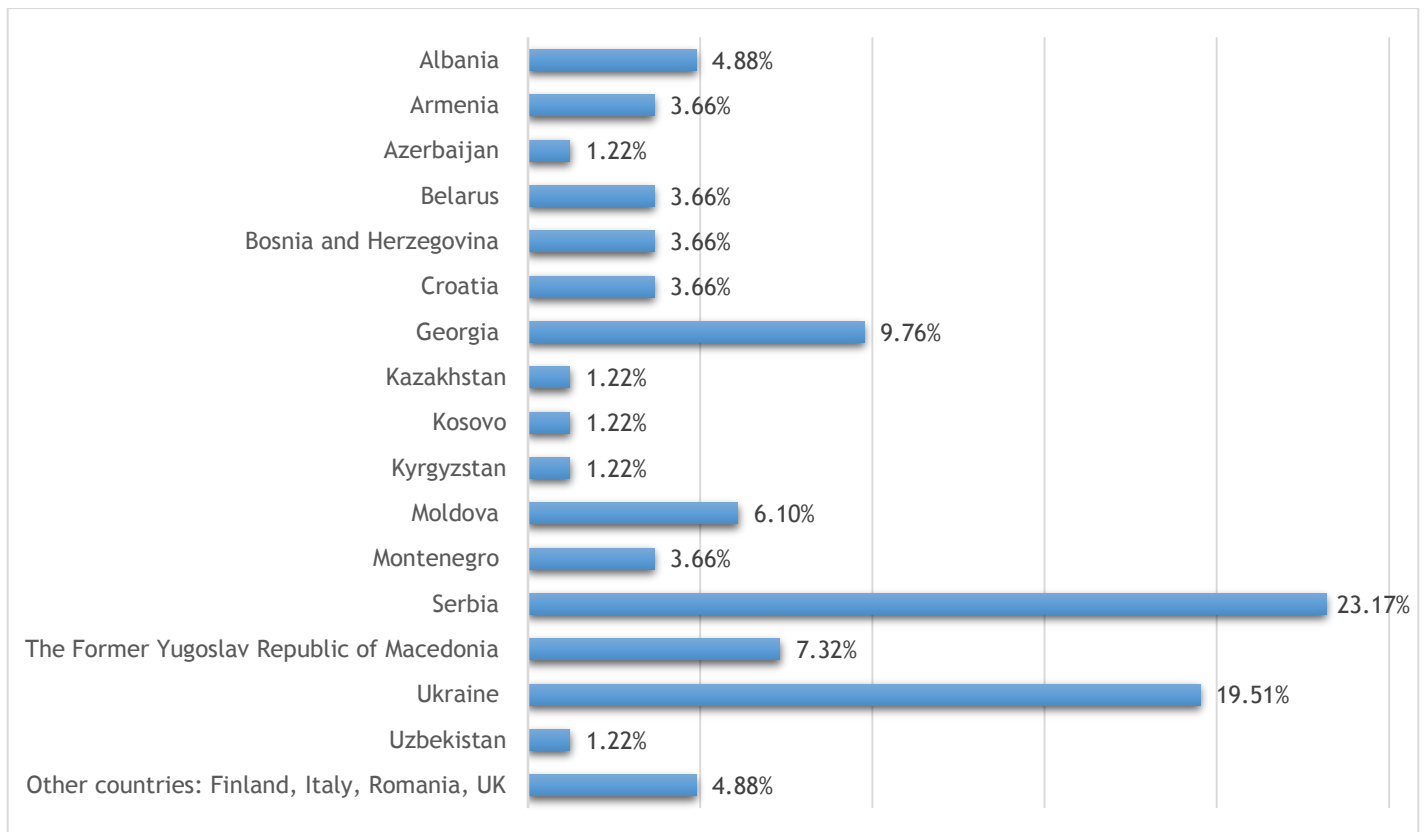
**Average age** when answering the survey: **32.7**

### Gender

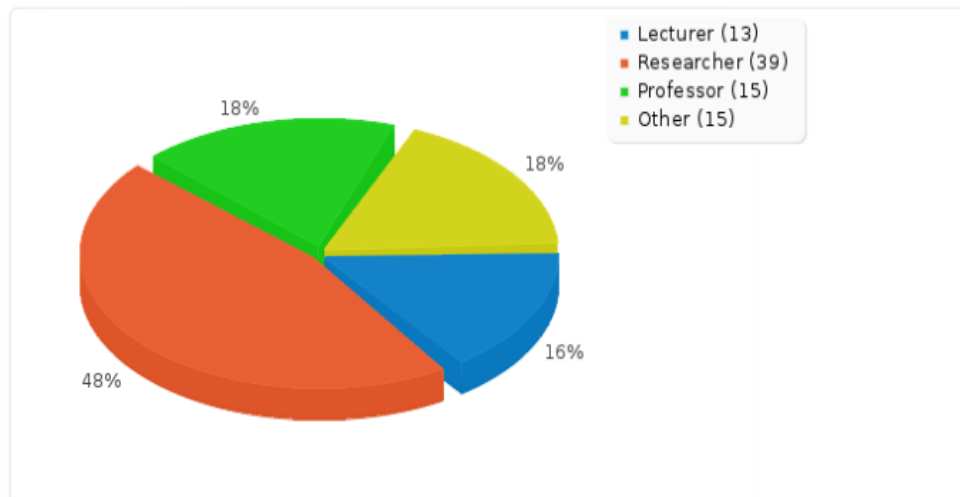
66% women, 34% men



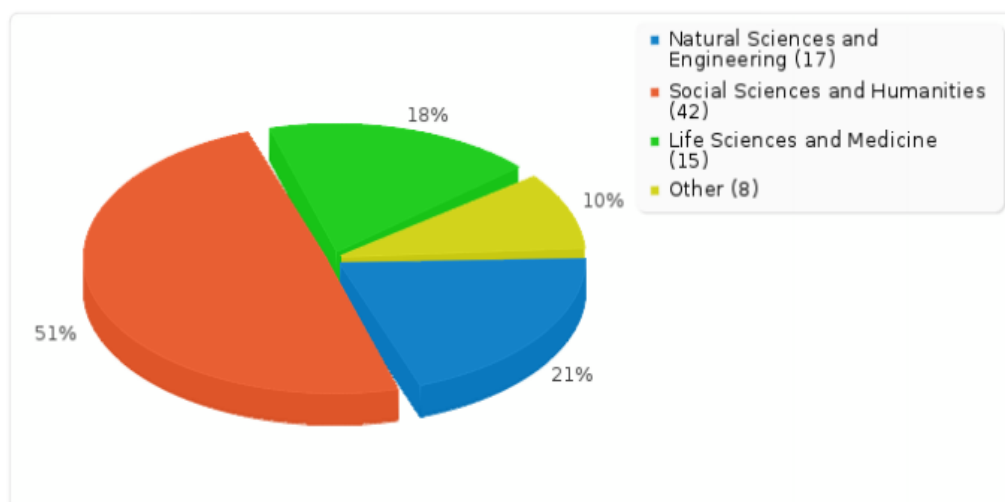
### Country of home university



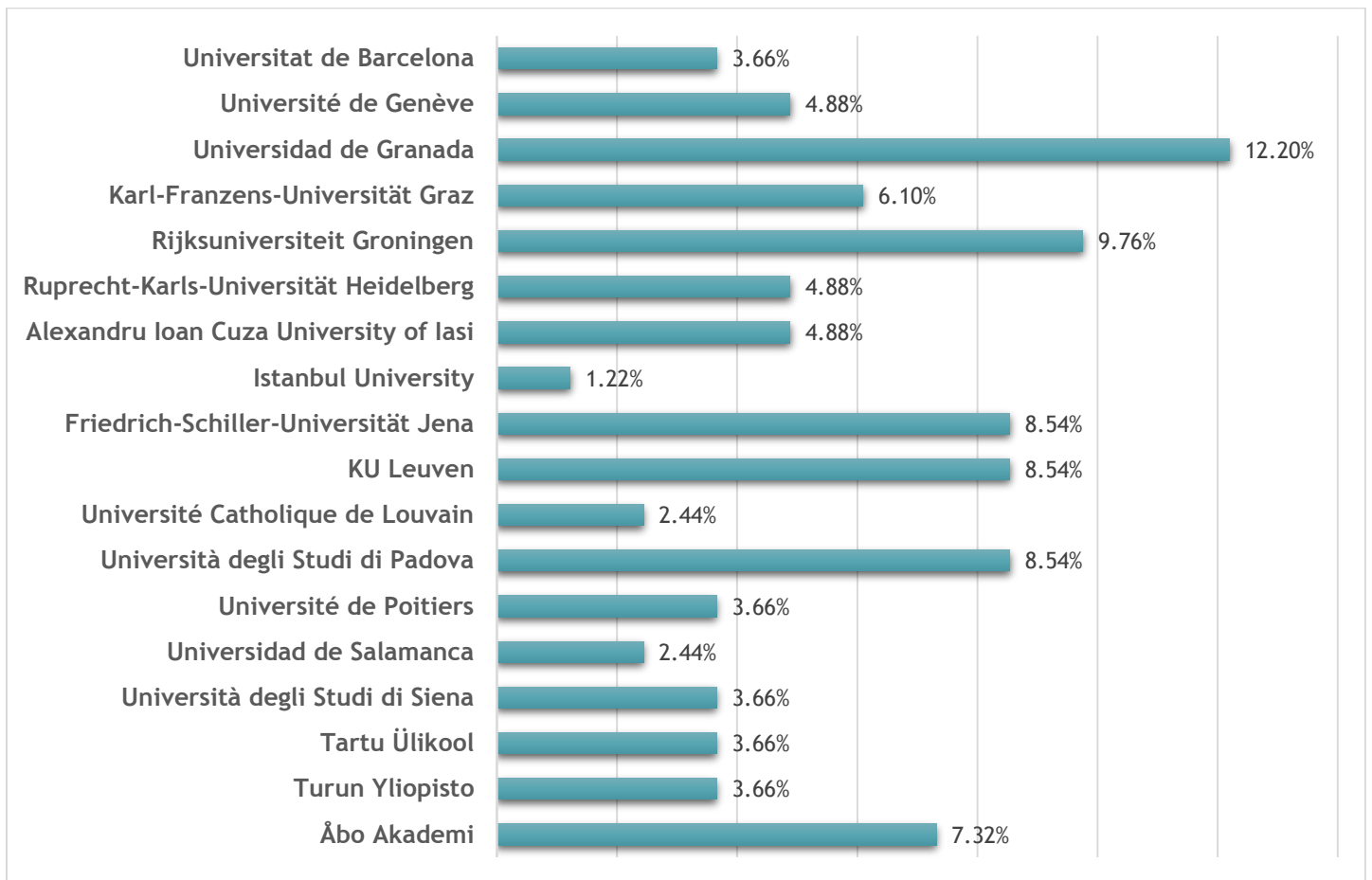
## Position at home university



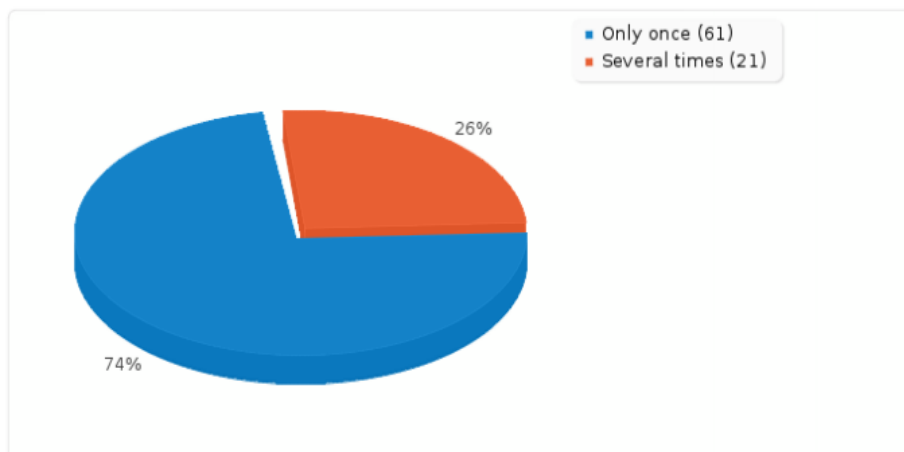
## Field of research



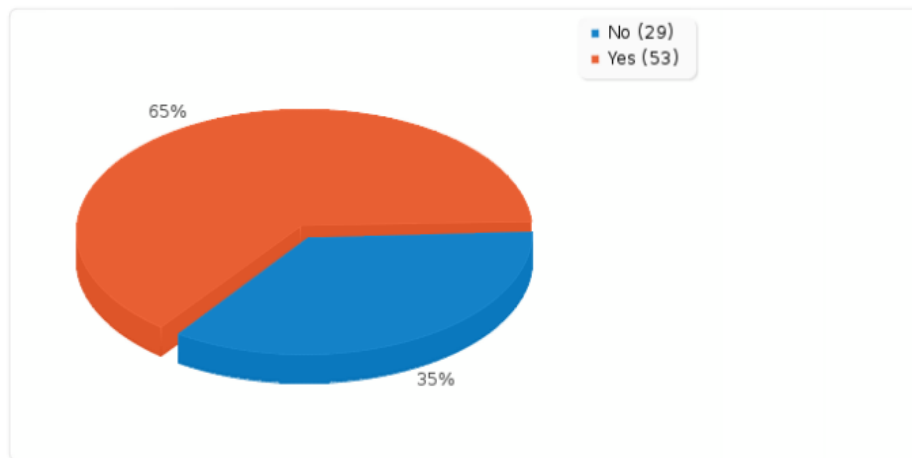
## Host university



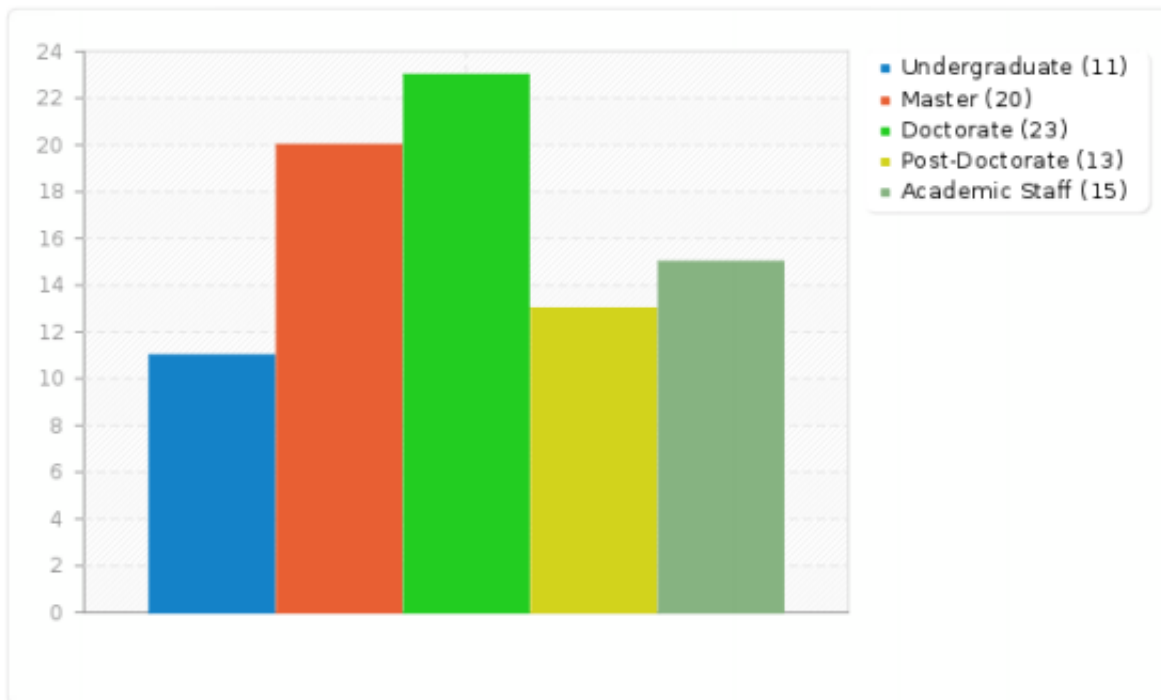
## How many times did you apply for a Coimbra Group Scholarship?



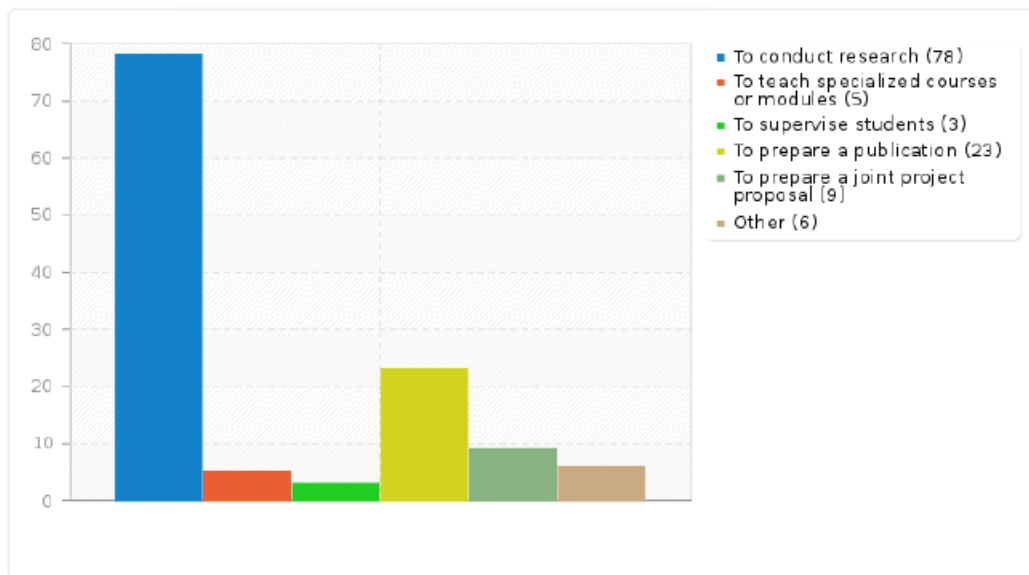
## Have you ever stayed at a foreign university before?



## At which academic levels?



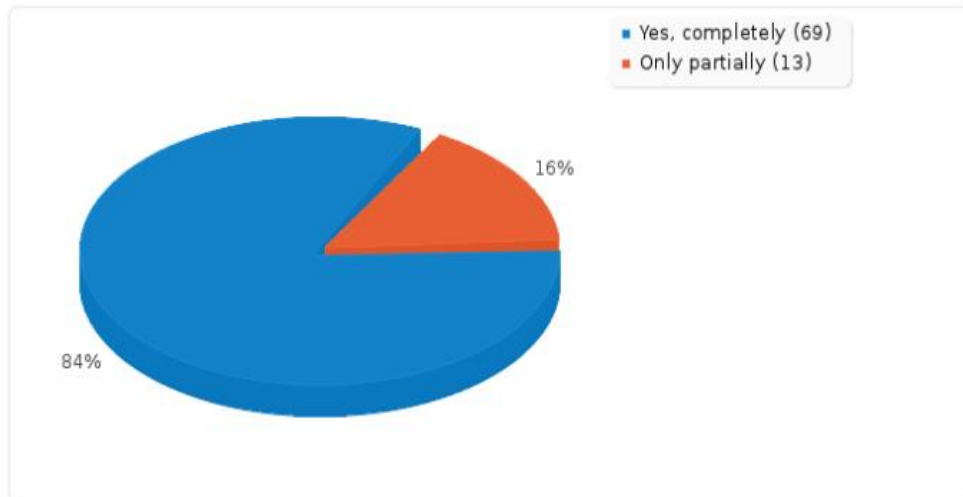
## What were the main objectives of your stay?



### Other objectives:

- *"to work in libraries"*
- *"to find new scientific contacts"*
- *"to give open lectures and presentations and to acquire experience about the education system"*
- *"to study Italian experience in my topic of the research"*
- *"to prepare for the defence of my PhD thesis"*
- *"to give open lectures in Lecture Series at the host University"*

## Did you achieve these objectives?



**Comments:** main reason for the partial achievement of the objectives: the **duration of the scholarship was too short.**

*"Stay was only one month."*

*"Time was not enough."*

*"Two-month stay was not enough to finish serious research."*

*"I stayed at the [university] for two months and collected the material for my research, but it was impossible to finish the research or even read all that material. Also, I attended some lectures, group meetings, conferences and made contacts."*

*"Because of limited time."*

*"My stay at the host university was too short, therefore I didn't have enough time to study all the sources I needed for my research."*

*"The stay was too short"*

*"Short time of 3 months is not enough to generate significant research outcome"*

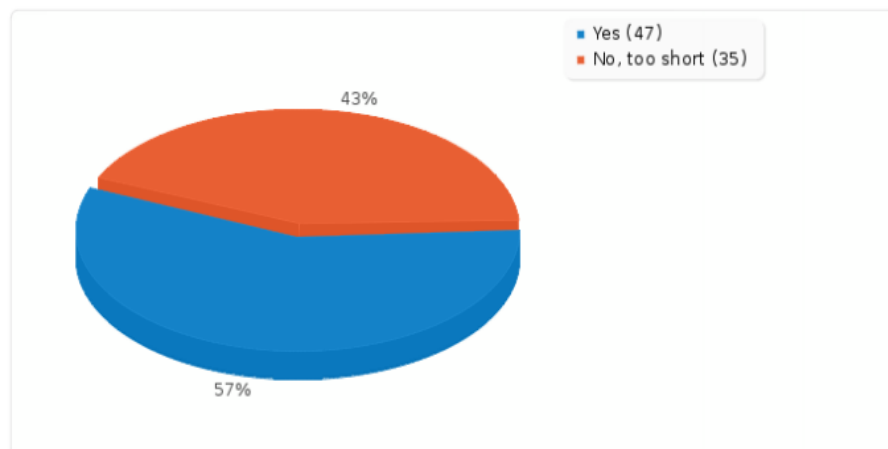
*"It was necessary to provide a scholarship for at least two months"*

*"During my stay at the University of [...] I visited University of [...] and University of [...] to make contacts with potential partners. We submitted one project proposal to the Tempus in 2014, but unfortunately the area of expertise of these three universities did not match with the proposal."*

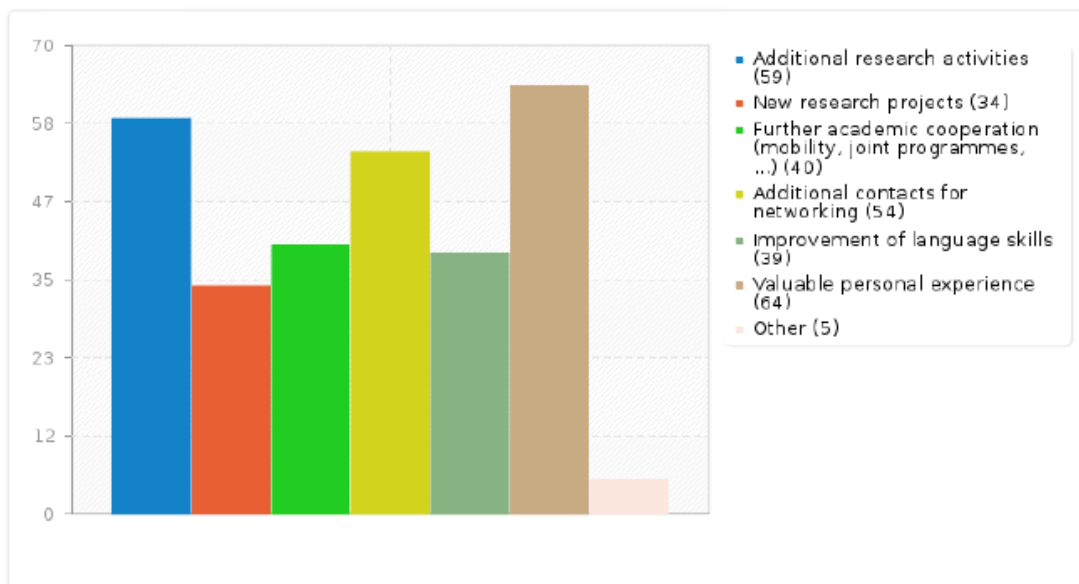
## How long did you stay at the host university?

Average: **2.5 months**

## Was the duration adequate?



## What were the main benefits of your stay?



### Other benefits:

*"Further academic cooperation, valuable personal experience and preparation for the future and further research."*

*"Explore new research methods."*

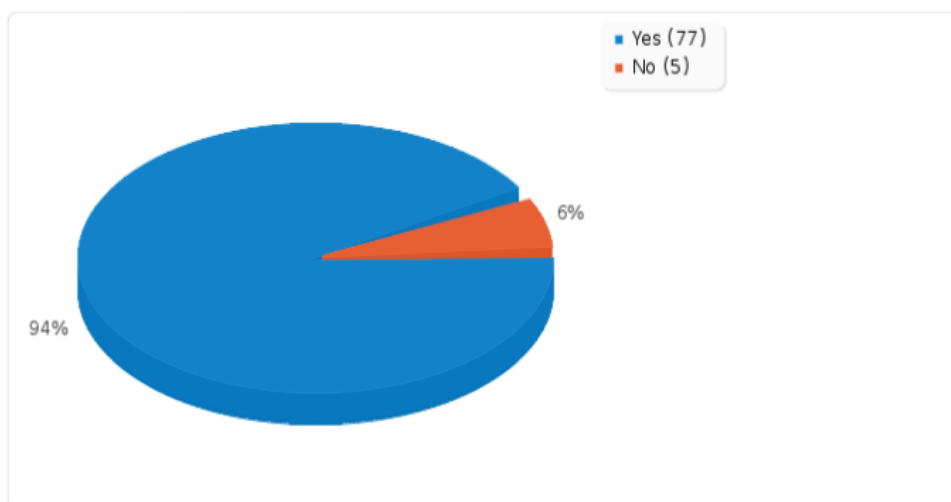
*"Materials from the library."*

*"I'd selected a lot of materials not available in Ukraine."*

*"It has helped me boost my career, introduce to other well-known academics in different countries my own work and feel self-confident about my own academic contribution."*



## Was it easy to find a supervisor or contact person at the host university?



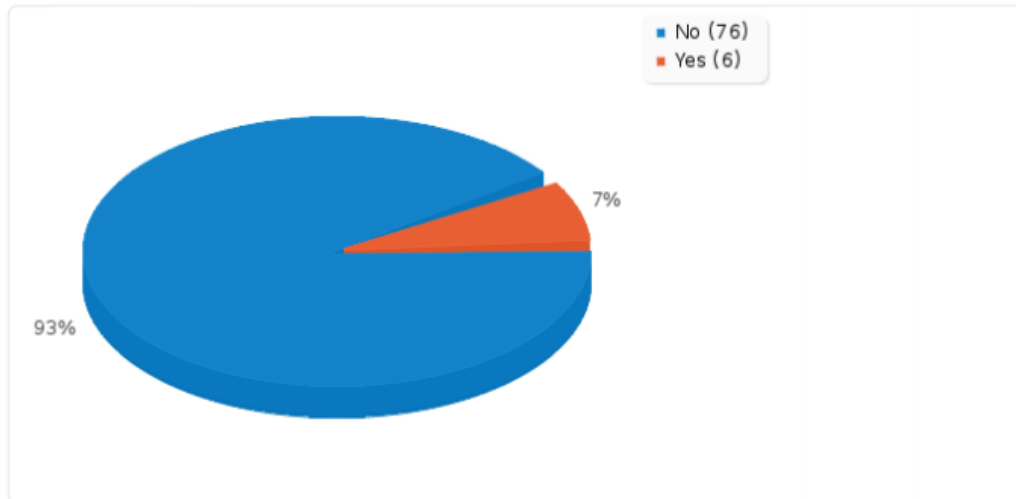
### Comments:

*"I did not know my supervisor personally before the application, but it was easy to find information about the research groups which work in the field that interests me on the webpage of the university."*

*"I contacted about 10 persons, and finally only one agreed, but I guess it was a matter of luck."*

*"It is important to be persistent. Professors are very busy, sometimes I had to wait for five days for a reply and I was confused waiting [for the] response."*

## Did you encounter any special problems before or during your stay at the host university?



### What kind of problems?

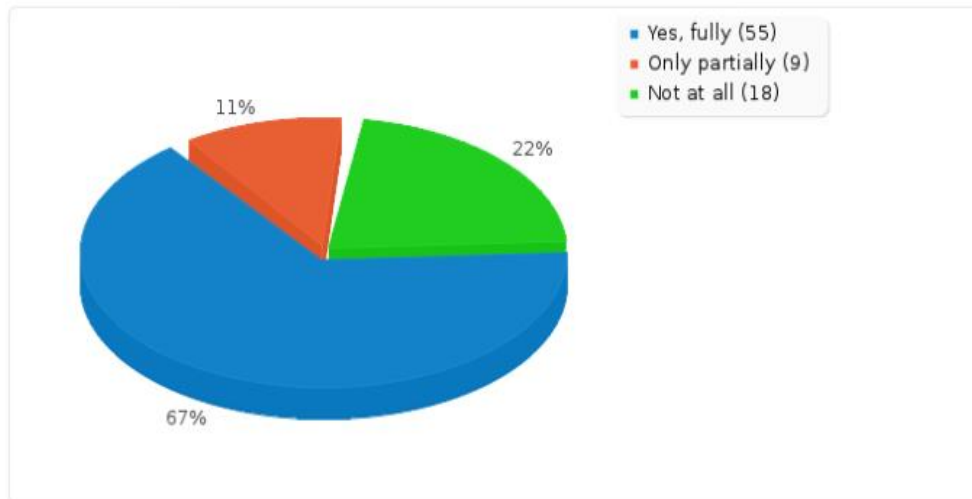
*"I had problem with the **opening of a bank account and transferring my scholarship there**, because I am not an EU resident, and then special procedures should be applied. But staff from the International Office at [university] did their best to solve the problem."*

*"[Getting the] **visa**"*

*"After receiving the confirmation of receiving the scholarship, for a long time **couldn't contact anyone from the university**. Nobody answered my mails. This fact frustrated me [because] I needed some documents for my home university."*

*"**Accommodation** problems"*

## Was your stay abroad supported by your home university?



### Comments:

#### **Non-financial support**

*"My **teaching load was planned for the second part of the academic year.**"*

*"My home university **recognized COIMBRA Group Scholarship as a very good opportunity for my future career in every possible way** (researching, teaching, doing joint projects, etc.). Some extra support I got from my Ph. D. supervisor."*

*"I only got a **letter of recommendation.**"*

*"[My home] university allowed [me] to use samples obtained there and allowed to **shift my working schedule.**"*

*"They supported me only in getting the **visa.**"*

*"My home university did not support my stay at the University [...] financially. CGHS programme covered costs of my stay in Granada and I covered travel cost by myself. However, I got support from home university in sense of **allowance for a few months absence**, as well as in sense of **support and approval of my research work** done in Granada, which was the base for future cooperation of the two universities, especially cooperation of my research teams from two universities."*

*"The authorities of the University were glad that I worked on my personal research [project]."*

*"My home university has supported only the necessary data."*

#### **Regular salary**

*"I could still get my **monthly salary** after having completed my teaching obligations to the university before leaving. But there was no other support of any kind."*

## No support

"It is my **personal research**, my colleagues from the home University are not involved in it."

"**Not only they didn't support my visit, they didn't even pay me my salary**, which was illegal."

"My home University **wasn't able to support me financially** (to cover my travel expenses, for instance)."

"I was in business trip **without financing from my University**."

"I didn't have any other grant or reimbursement."

"Unfortunately, Ukrainian universities **do not provide any additional support for mobility** of researchers outside [the country], because of financial issues."

"My home University **does not have funds** for such kind of stays."

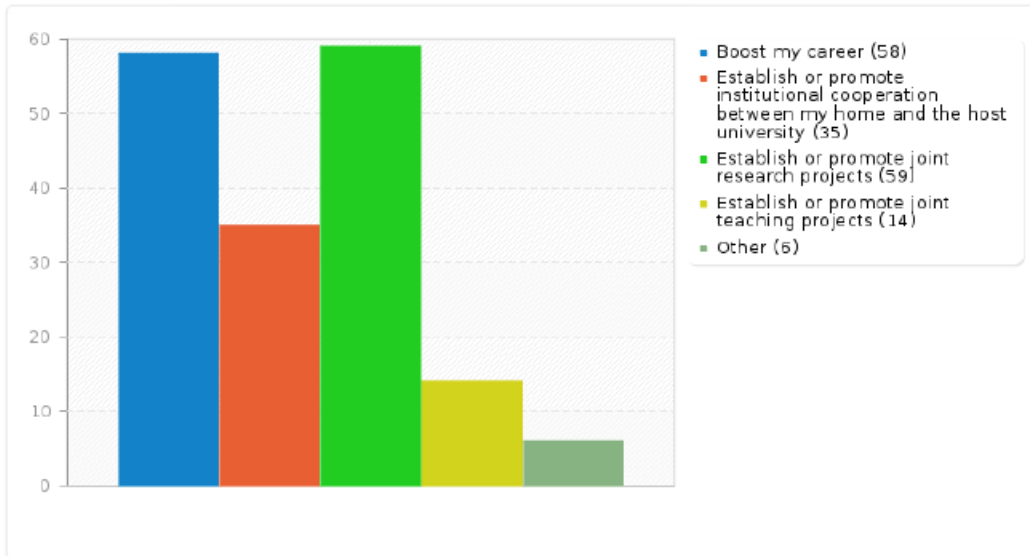
"**Financially I had no support** except for the Coimbra scholarship."

"**They allowed me to go abroad, but were not too glad about this**. I had to go through a lot of bureaucratic formalities before going to [...]."

"**No financial support**."

"Because I was awarded with Coimbra Group Scholarship, my university [...] **stopped paying the monthly salary and fees for pension** in reimbursement fund, as well quitted my **health insurance** during the 3 month while I was stayed in [...]. The university's argument for those gestures was that the Macedonian law for University & High education does not allow to pay-off the salary for the researcher while the researcher gets a scholarship. It is a terrible condition. [...] I complained, but without any success. The university administration explained that Macedonian law for high education does not allow researchers to get paid leave."

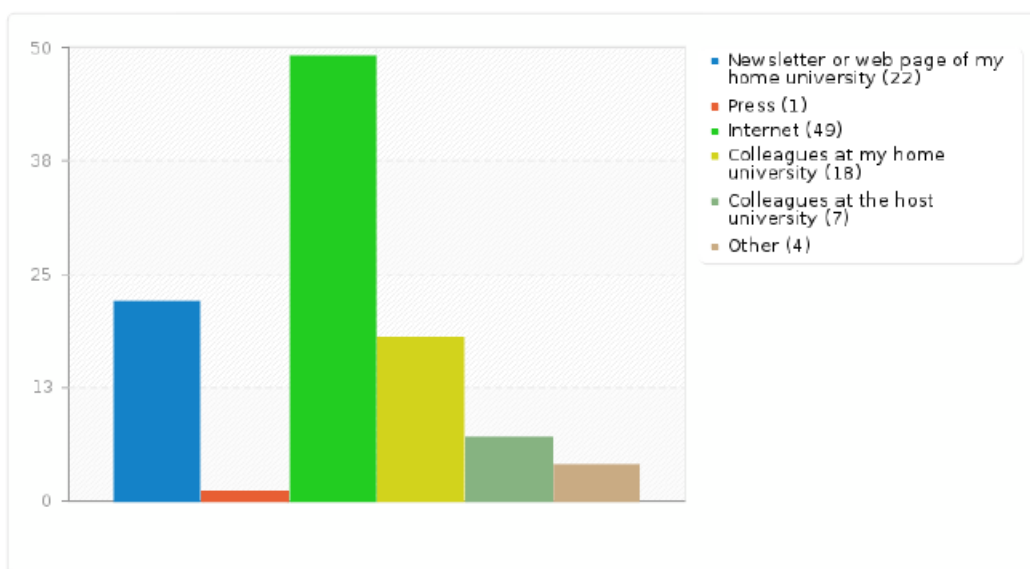
## What kind of impact do you think your stay at a Coimbra Group university will have?



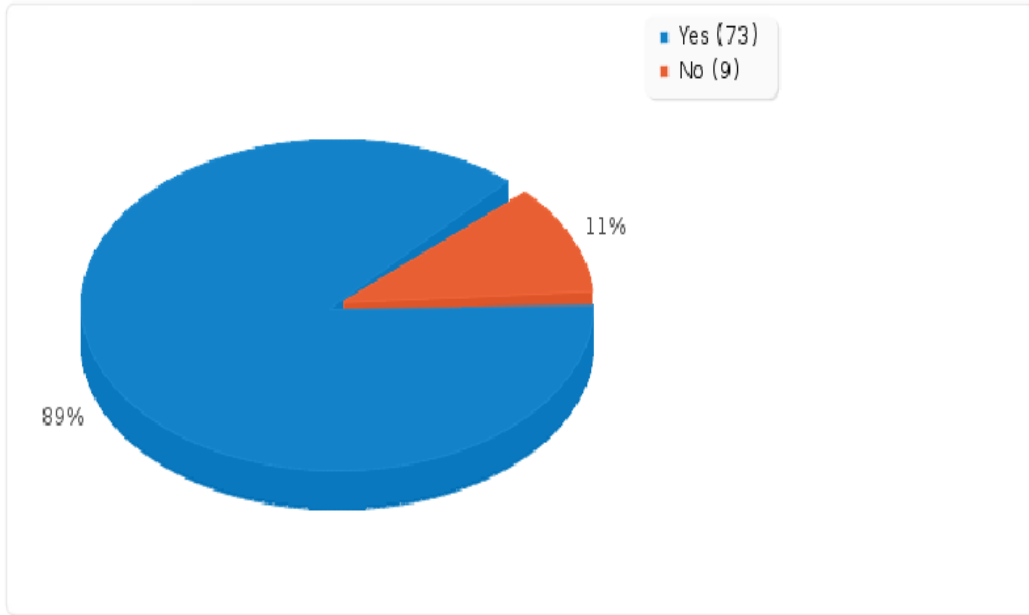
### Others:

- "develop me as researcher"
- "establish personal/professional contacts with colleagues, gain experience of teaching in English and consulting non-Georgian students"
- "I gathered enough materials to finish my PhD thesis"
- "enable me, as young researcher and PhD student, to be informed with the latest publications"
- "it does not influence my career, only my knowledge"
- "to promote French language in my country"

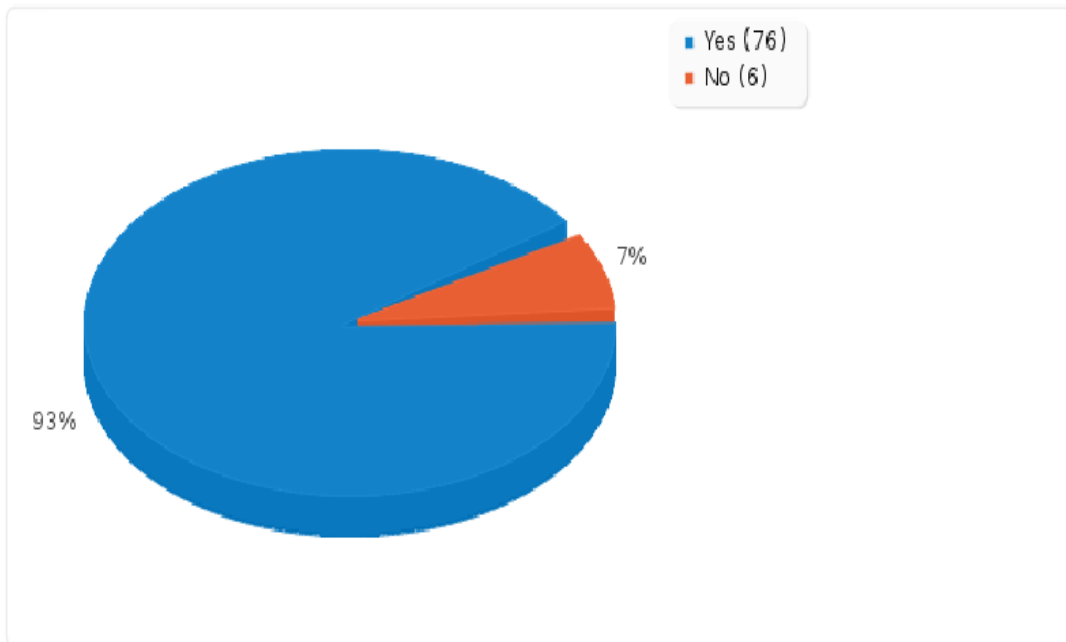
## How did you come to know about the Coimbra Group Scholarship Programme?



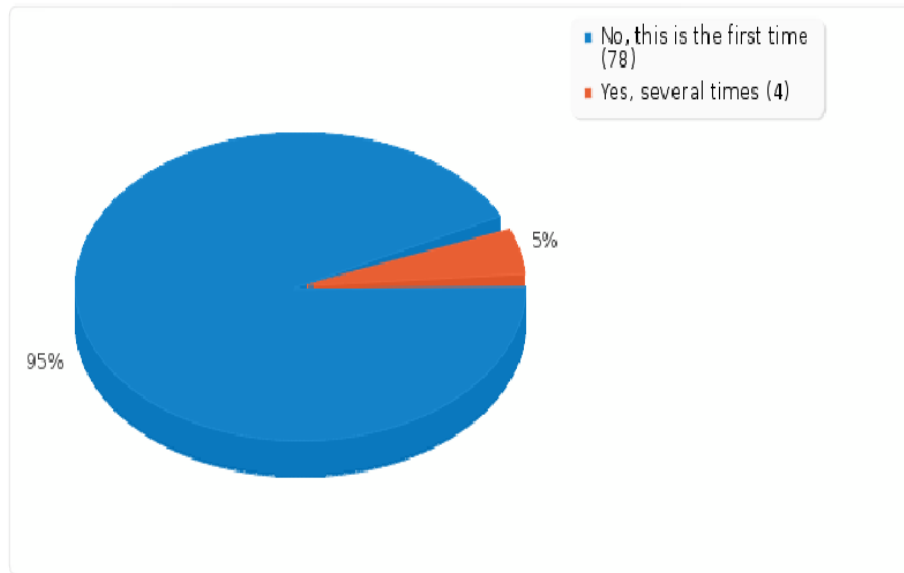
**Would you be willing to become an ambassador or advisor for future Coimbra Group Scholars?**



**Would you like to join a Coimbra Group Alumni Association?**



## Were you ever granted a Coimbra Group Scholarship before?



## Additional comments or suggestions

### *Administrative assistance*

"I have got a lot of help and support from the Heidelberg University staff during my stay there. Ms [...] from the International Relationships Department was of a great help. My host, Prof. [...] has been the best host partner I have had in my history of collaborations. I am thinking now about submitting a new project in partnership with his team. I hope very much it will work out!!!"

"[This person] was very efficient during the submission of the documents and for all further questions I had at that time."

"I would like to thank the Coimbra Group Administration, [...] and staff of the Åbo Akademi University for the opportunity to participate in such an excellent internship. It was very valuable experience for me. [...] I must say that Åbo Akademi University provided me with an excellent working and living conditions. [...] and his colleagues exceedingly supported me in academic research and gave me very useful advices in my research. [...] was very helpful in the organization issues. She made my stay comfortable and pleasant. In general, everyone who was acquainted with the administration process within the Programme was extremely helpful and worked as [a] well organized team. I highly recommend Coimbra Group Scholarship Programme for students, researches and academic staff. It will be a pleasure for me to make any contribution in the development of this Programme. Please, feel free to contact me if you have any questions or propositions."

## Positive feedback

"It is one of my most valuable research experiences!"

"1) thanks for a really unchangeable experience; 2) Will be glad to participate once more in the program, since I started totally new research after visiting Tartu University and additional 1-2 months in other university will be beneficial for my research ."

"It was great pleasure to work in Finland with my supervisor and other new colleagues."

"Coimbra Group Scholarship has been one of the best experiences I have had with different mobility scholarships."

"I am very grateful to the Coimbra Group for a great opportunity to carry out my scientific research in the genuine academic atmosphere of the famous Friedrich Schiller University in Jena, and to Prof. [...], who helped me to avail of this opportunity to the full extent. It is one of my most valuable research experiences!"

"The Coimbra Group Scholarship is one of those organizations and programs that can really make a significant change in nowadays academic life for many scholars. I wish I had another opportunity to be part of the activities of the Coimbra Group and share my experience with other scholars or contribute with my own academic experience as an Alumnus and help to get more support for Coimbra Group in the future. I feel proud and privileged for having been part of this great academic experience and I aim [willing] to be part of it in any way that the CG will promote in the future."

"Thank you for the great opportunity!!!"

"You are doing a great job - continue it!"

"I would like, with pleasure, to cooperate with the program Coimbra and to present it to the young researchers in Serbia because it is very important."

## Suggestions

"I would like to thank Coimbra Group for their project with post Soviet countries for the unique possibility to see another world and share our work results."

"It would be very useful to create a group of Coimbra fellows in order to keep in touch and share information."

"I would like the period of scholarship to be extended at least to 6 months."

"I think it would be better to create a scholarship under Coimbra Group that would be addressed to researchers and academic teachers beyond 35 years, giving us possibility to develop ourselves and establish joint programmes using our knowledge, experience and accomplishments."

*"I think former Coimbra scholars such as myself should be given the opportunity to apply for other more specific scholarships and also participate and present in conferences and work-shops were they can present their experience and their academic achievements thanks to Coimbra scholarship."*

*"This program is suitable for scientists. However, the duration is short and the scholarship is limited to age 35 years. Few people know [about] this program. It is necessary to disseminate information about the program in developing countries."*