

# EFOSEC Questionnaire for Students Summary of Results

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As part of the EFOSEC project EFOS at the beginning of 2007 has done a survey at nine institutions for third-generation education to assess the motivation and feelings of the older students.

The following institutions have carried out the survey:

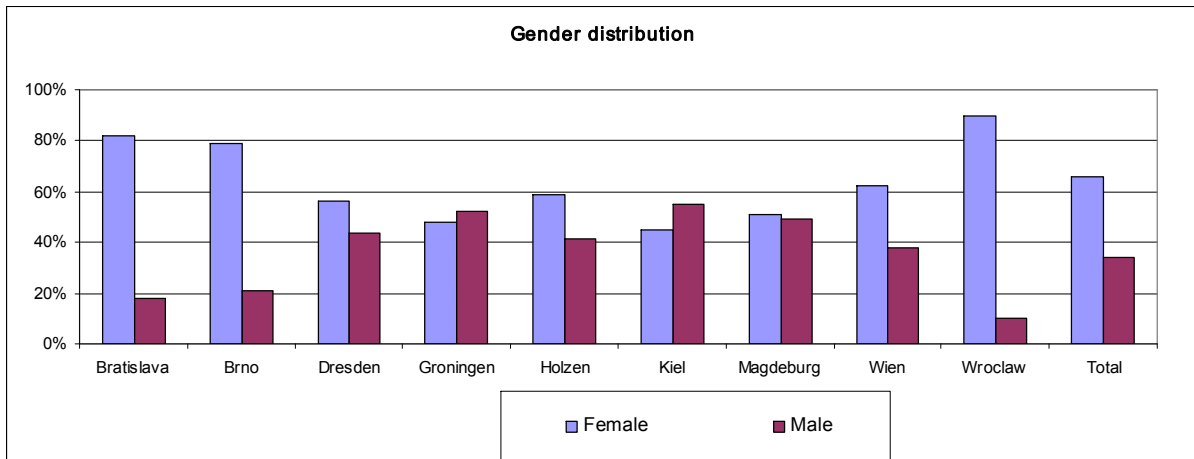
Univerzita Komenského, Univerzita tretieho veku, Bratislava, Slovakia  
 Technical University, Brno, Czech Republic  
 Dresdner Seniorenakademie Wissenschaft und Kunst, Dresden, Germany  
 Senioren Academie Groningen & Drenthe, Netherlands  
 Former students of University Holzen, Germany  
 Kontaktstudium nach Beruf und Familie an der Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel e.V.,  
 Kiel, Germany  
 Otto-von-Guericke University Magdeburg, Germany  
 University Wien, Austria  
 Uniwersytet Wroclaw-UTW, Wroclaw, Poland

## I. Personal information:

	Number of respondents total / female	Average age	Average length of study
Bratislava	133 / 109	64,2	3,9
Brno	193 / 152	66,2	3,8
Dresden	39 / 22	69,1	7,3
Groningen	175 / 84	67,1	6
Holzen	17 / 10	70,4	7,2
Kiel	91 / 41	67,1	3,9
Magdeburg	86 / 44	67,8	8,2
Uppsala			
Wien	8 / 5	between 64 and 83 years	between 1 year and 15 years
Wroclaw	99/89		
Together	841/556	67,4	

## I.2. Number of respondents:

	Bratislava	Brno	Dresden	Groningen	Holzen	Kiel	Magdeburg	Wien	Wroclaw	Total
Female	109	152	22	84	10	41	44	5	89	556 66%
Male	24	41	17	91	7	50	42	3	10	285 34%
Total	133	193	39	175	17	91	86	8	99	841



### I.3. Average age of respondents:

	Bratislava	Brno	Dresden	Groningen	Holzen	Kiel	Magdeburg	Wien	Wroclaw	Total
<b>Female</b>	61,1	63,9	67,9	66,1	70,1	66,2	67,2			
<b>Male</b>	67,3	68,5	70,8	68,2	70,9	67,8	68,5			
<b>Both</b>	64,2	66,2	69,1	67,1	70,4	67,1	67,8	span 64- 83	71,2	67,4

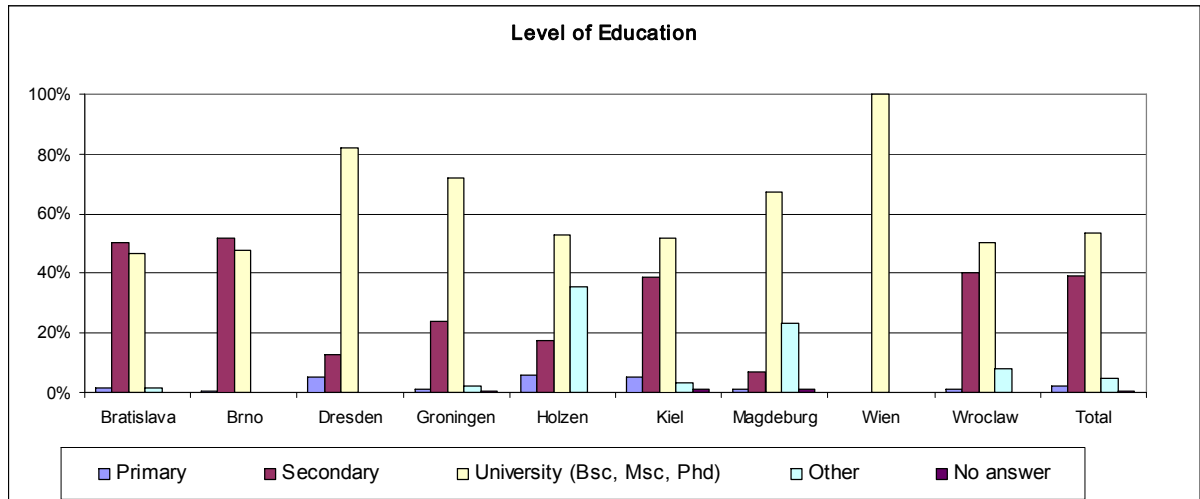
### I.4. How long have you attended education at the university/academy?

	Bratislava	Brno	Dresden	Groningen	Holzen	Kiel	Magdeburg	Wien	Wroclaw	Total
<b>Average number of years</b>	3,9	3,8	7,3	6	7,2	3,9	8,2	1-15	3,67	5,5

### I.5. Level of education

	Bratislava	Brno	Dresden	Groningen	Holzen	Kiel	Magdeburg	Wien	Wroclaw	Total
<b>Primary</b>	2 2%	1 1%	2 5%	2 1%	1 5%	5 6%	1 1%	0	1 1%	19 2%
<b>Secondary</b>	67	100	5	42	3	35	6	0	40	357

	50%	52%	13%	24%	15%	39%	7%		40%	39%
<b>University (Bsc, Msc, Phd)</b>	62 47%	92 48%	32 82%	126 72%	9 48%	47 52%	58 67%	8 100%	50 50%	484 53%
<b>Other</b>	2 1%	0	0	4 3%	6 32%	3 3%	20 23%	0	8 9%	43 5%
<b>No answer</b>	0	0	0	1 1%	0	1 1%	1 1%	0	0	3 0%



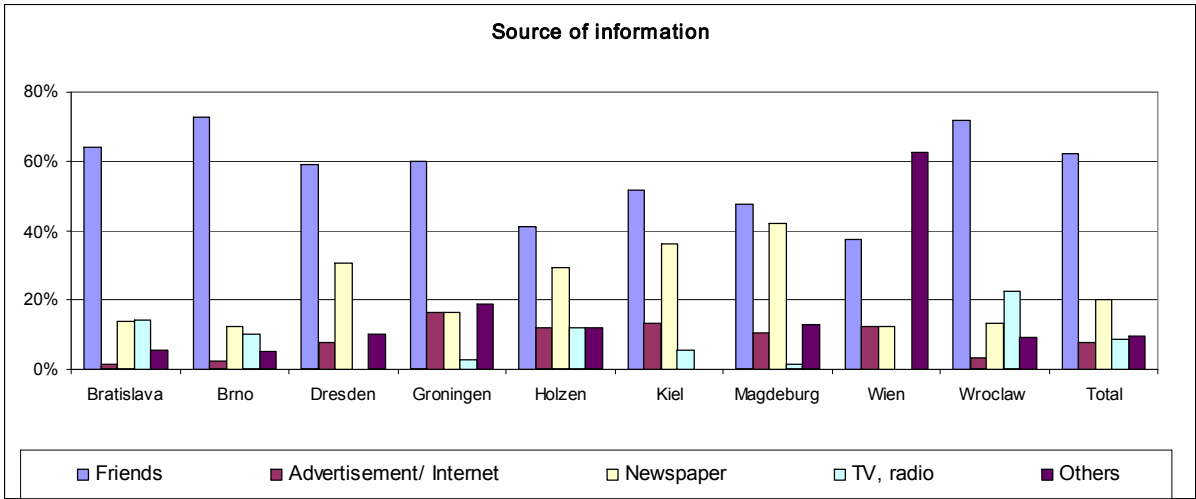
According to the research participants from Slovakia divided UTA students into the following groups:

1. people who can't exist without education (are interested in all kind of study subjects)
2. people who couldn't study before because of many different reasons (politics, religion, family), it is their desire to study now (they are interested in a specific subject)
3. people who don't feel to be enough accepted in the society (they choose subjects which are interesting for the society)
4. people who need to fulfill their free time or try to find social contacts (they are interested in any available subject)

#### I.6. Source of information about the study possibilities:

	Bratislava	Brno	Dresden	Groningen	Holzen	Kiel	Magdeburg	Wien	Wroclaw	Total	
<b>Friends</b>	85	140	23	105	7	47	41	3	71	522	57%
<b>Advertisement/ Internet</b>	2	4	3	29	2	12	9	1	3	65	7%
<b>Newspaper</b>	18	24	12	29	5	33	36	1	13	171	19%
<b>TV, radio</b>	19	19	0	5	2	5	1	0	22	73	8%
<b>Others</b>	7	10	4	33	2	0	11	5	9 *)	81	9%

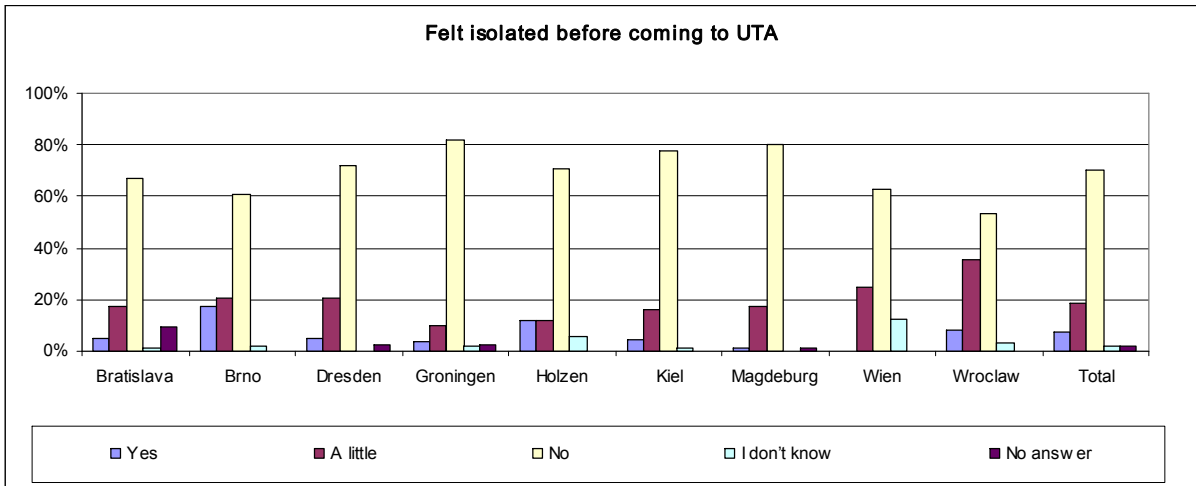
\*) from psychologist



**II. Personal feelings**

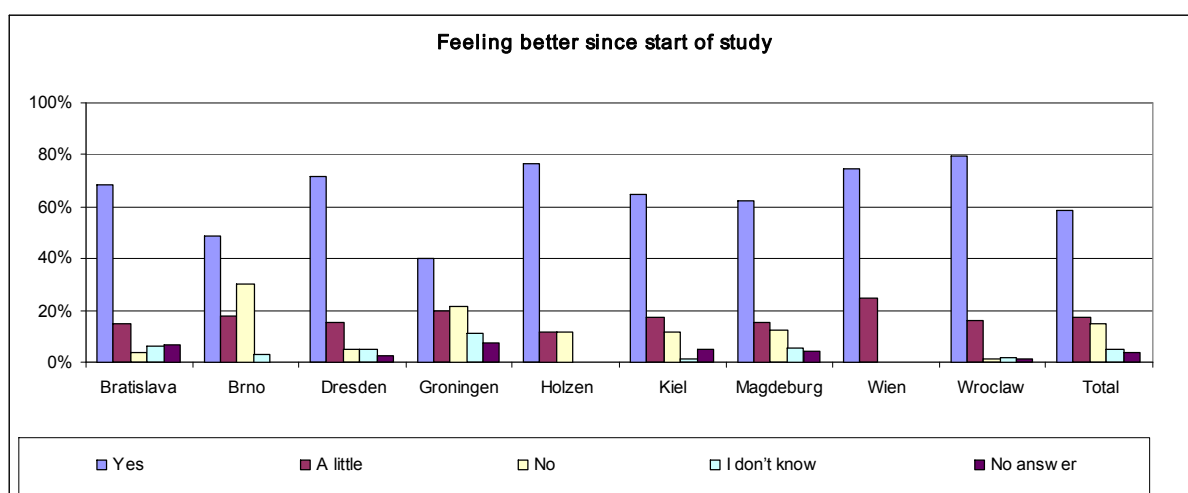
**II.1. Did you feel isolated before your coming to the university/academy?:**

	Bratislava	Brno	Dresden	Groningen	Holzen	Kiel	Magdeburg	Wien	Wroclaw	Total
<b>Yes</b>	7 5%	33 17%	2 5%	7 4%	2 11%	1 1%	4 5%	0 0%	8 8%	64 8%
<b>A little</b>	23 17%	40 30%	8 20%	17 10%	2 11%	16 18%	14 16%	2 25%	35 35%	157 19%
<b>No</b>	89 67%	117 60%	28 72%	144 82%	12 70%	73 80%	67 78%	5 63%	53 53%	588 70%
<b>I don't know</b>	2 2%	3 2%	0	3 2%	1 5%	0	1 1%	1	3 3%	14 2%
<b>No answer</b>	12 9%	0	1	4 2%	0	1	0	0	0	18 2%



## II.2. Do you feel better since you started the study?

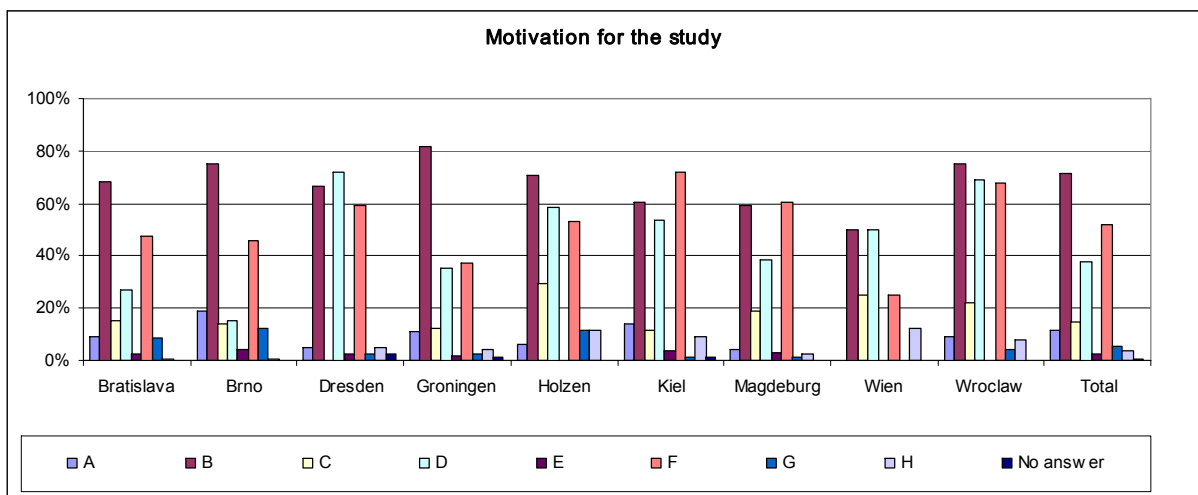
	Bratislava	Brno	Dresden	Groningen	Holzen	Kiel	Magdeburg	Wien	Wroclaw	Total
<b>Yes</b>	91 68%	94 48%	28 72%	70 40%	13 77%	57 63%	56 65%	6 75%	79 80%	494 59%
<b>A little</b>	20 15%	35 18%	6 15%	35 20%	2 12%	14 16%	15 18%	2 25%	16 16%	145 17%
<b>No</b>	5 4%	58 30%	2 5%	38 21%	2 12%	11 12%	10 11%	0	1 1%	127 15%
<b>I don't know</b>	8 6%	6 3%	2 5%	19 11%	0	5 6%	1 1%	0	2 2%	43 5%
<b>No answer</b>	9 7%	0	1 3%	13 8%	0	4 5%	4 5%	0	1 1%	32 4%



## II.3. What motivated you for the study at the university/academy?

- a/ enlargement of knowledge in my own professional subject 11%
- b/ enlargement of knowledge in a different subject than my profession 71%**
- c/ fulfilment of my desire to study at the university/academy 15%
- d/ meeting people and social contacts 38%
- e/ effort to be equivalent to my partner and my environment 3%**
- f/ need to have better quality of life after retirement 52%
- g/ necessity to innovate knowledge for the present profession and work 6%
- h/ another reason 4%

	Bratislava	Brno	Dresden	Groningen	Holzen	Kiel	Magdeburg	Wien	Wroclaw	Total
<b>A</b>	12	36	2	19	1	4	12	0	9	95 <i>11%</i>
<b>B</b>	91	145	26	143	12	54	52	4	74	601 <i>71%</i>
<b>C</b>	20	27	0	21	5	17	10	2	22	124 <i>15%</i>
<b>D</b>	36	30	28	62	10	35	46	4	68	319 <i>38%</i>
<b>E</b>	3	8	1	3	0	3	3	0	0	21 <i>3%</i>
<b>F</b>	63	88	23	65	9	55	62	2	67	434 <i>52%</i>
<b>G</b>	11	23	1	4	2	1	1	0	4	47 <i>6%</i>
<b>H</b>	1	1	2	7	2	2	8	1	8	32 <i>4%</i>
<b>No answer</b>	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	4 <i>1%</i>

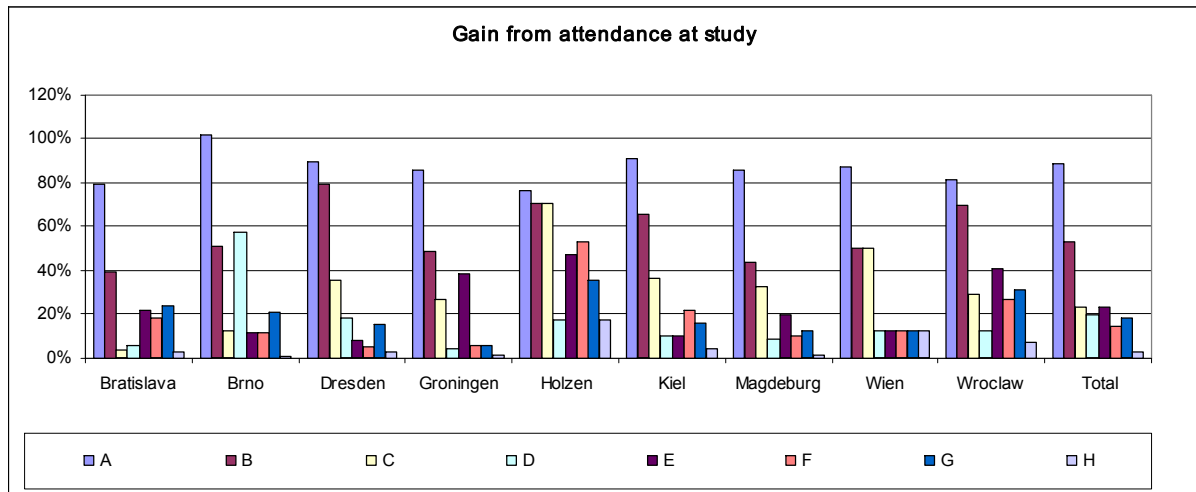


#### II.4. What do you gain from the attendance of university/academy/study courses?

a/ new knowledge	<b>88%</b>
b/ meeting people	53%
c/ better understanding of changes in a society	23%
d/ knowledge of new technologies	20%
e/ different view on the world	24%
<b>f/ better handling of problems</b>	<b>15%</b>
g/ stronger personality	18%
h/ others:	3%

	Bratislava	Brno	Dresden	Groningen	Holzen	Kiel	Magdeburg	Wien	Wroclaw	Total
<b>A</b>	105	197	35	150	13	78	78	7	81	744 <i>88%</i>
<b>B</b>	52	98	31	85	12	40	56	4	69	447 <i>53%</i>
<b>C</b>	5	24	14	47	12	30	31	4	29	196 <i>23%</i>
<b>D</b>	8	111	7	8	3	8	9	1	12	167 <i>20%</i>

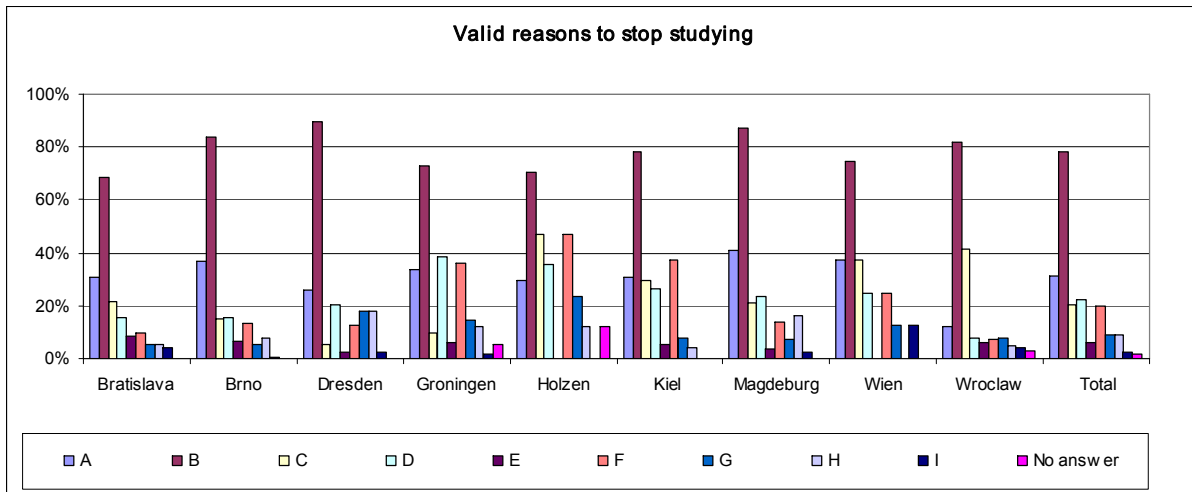
E	29	23	3	67	8	18	9	1	40	198	24%
F	24	23	2	10	9	9	19	1	27	124	15%
G	32	41	6	10	6	11	14	1	31	152	18%
H	4	1	1	3	3	1	4	1	7	25	3%



## II.5. Which would be a valid reason to stop studying?

a/ illness of my partner	32%
<b>b/ my own illness</b>	<b>79%</b>
c/ cancelling of study	21%
d/ not good enough programme for study	22%
<b>e/ bad relationships in a course</b>	<b>6%</b>
f/ no good teachers (well educated)	20%
g/ no good transport possibilities	9%
h/ my own financial problems	9%
i/ others:	2%

	Bratislava	Brno	Dresden	Groningen	Holzen	Kiel	Magdeburg	Wien	Wroclaw	Total	
A	41	71	10	59	5	28	35	3	12	264	32%
B	91	162	35	128	12	71	75	6	81	661	79%
C	29	29	2	17	8	27	18	3	41	174	21%
D	21	30	8	67	6	24	20	2	8	186	22%
E	11	13	1	11	0	5	3	0	6	50	6%
F	13	25	5	63	8	34	12	2	7	169	20%
G	7	10	7	25	4	7	6	1	8	75	9%
H	7	15	7	21	2	4	14	0	5	75	9%
I	6	1	1	3	0	0	2	1	4	18	2%
No answer	0	0	0	10	2	0	0	0	3	15	2%

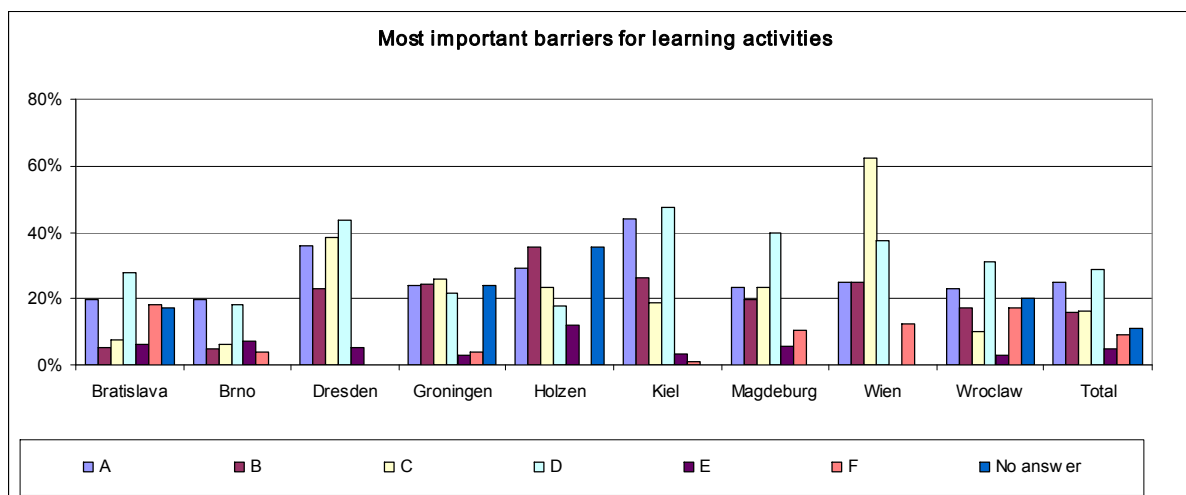


**II.6. Which are the most important barriers (in your opinion) for taking part in learning activities?**

- a/ the venue, too far away 25%
- b the venue, difficult to be reached by public transport 16%
- c/ course fees too high 16%
- d/ other commitments, e.g. caring for and visiting family members** **29%**
- e/ reluctance to go unaccompanied 5%
- f/ others: 9%

	Bratislava	Brno	Dresden	Groningen	Holzen	Kiel	Magdeburg	Wien	Wroclaw	Total	
A	26	38	14	42	5	40	20	2	23	210	25%
B	7	9	9	43	6	24	17	2	17	134	16%
C	10	12	15	45	4	17	20	5	10	138	16%
D	37	35	17	38	3	43	34	3	31	241	29%
E	8	14	2	5	2	3	5	0	3	42	5%
F	24	7	0	7	0	1	9	1	17	76	9%
No answer	23	0	0	42	6	0	0	0	20	91	11%





**Other reasons:** no barriers. We can overcome them all.

**Personal reasons:** low self-confidence, social shyness, lack of time, orientation towards the work and family problems, apathy, fatigue, difficulties to get to U3A, especially in winter time, some of the classes start too early, not enough places, wrong programme, motivation, health, personality, character

**Social reasons:** orientation of the society towards finances, profits. Lack of interest in education, any value of education. Elderly are seen as a burden, lack of interest of the society, too many people, crowd, noise

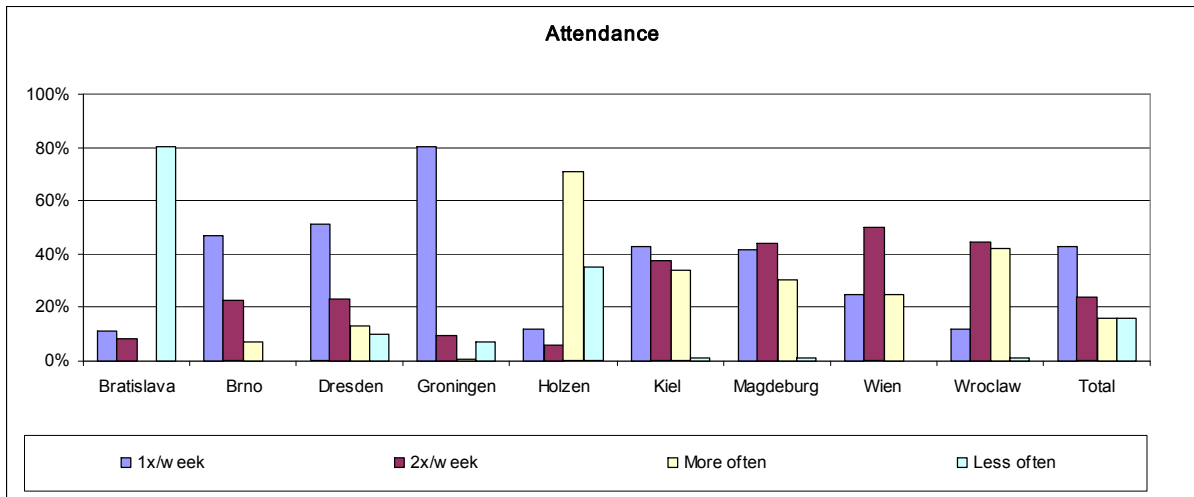
**Financial reasons:** average pension 200-300 Euro in Slovakia,

**Conditions for study:** Interests of elderly are limited by lack of rooms (waiting time for the acceptance is somewhere about 2 years)

### III. Educational process at your University/academy

#### III.1 How often do you come to the university/academy to participate in a course?

	Bratislava	Brno	Dresden	Groningen	Holzen	Kiel	Magdeburg	Wien	Wroclaw	Total
1x/week	15	91	20	141	2	39	36	2	12	358 43%
2x/week	11	44	9	17	1	34	38	4	44	202 24%
More often	0	14	5	1	12	31	26	2	42	133 16%
Less often	107	0	4	13	6	1	1	0	1	133 16%



Does this suit you?

	Bratislava	Brno	Dresden	Groningen	Holzen	Kiel	Magdeburg	Wien	Wroclaw	Total
<b>Yes</b>	123 93%	186 96%	35 90%	167 95%	12 70%	0 0%	0 0%	7 88%		530 63%
<b>No</b>	8 7%	7 4%	3 7%	3 2%	0	0	0	1 12%		22 3%
<b>No answer</b>	0	0	1 3%	5 3%	5 30%	91 100%	86 100%	0		183 22%

Some students would prefer more often than now  
 Answers are not complete, therefore they don't add up to 100%

III.2. How long does your learning process last during one visit?

From 1 to 4 hours

Does this suit you?

	Bratislava	Brno	Dresden	Groningen	Holzen	Kiel	Magdeburg	Wien	Wroclaw	Total
<b>Yes</b>	117 88%	186 96%	32 82%	141 81%	8	0	0	5		489 58%
<b>No</b>	13 10%	7 4%	2 5%	1 1%	1	0	0	1		25 3%
<b>No answer</b>	3 2%	0	5 13%	33 19%	8	91	86	3		218 26%

Answers are not complete, therefore they don't add up to 100%

### III.3 How many hours per week do you spend on your study?

	Bratislava	Brno	Dresden	Groningen	Holzen	Kiel	Magdeburg	Wien	Wroclaw	Total
Average hours per week	3,9	3,4	5,1	5,2	11,8	5,6	4,5	18,3	4,4	

The answer to this question should merely be taken as an indication. In Groningen e.g. some respondents included the time spent at the lectures, others only filled in the study time at home.

### III.4. How many subjects of study have you started (do you attend) this academic year?

	Bratislava	Brno	Dresden	Groningen	Holzen	Kiel	Magdeburg	Wien	Wroclaw	Total
Average	1	2	3	1	3	3	2	2	3	
Minimum	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Maximum	4		5	4	5	11	4	6	7	

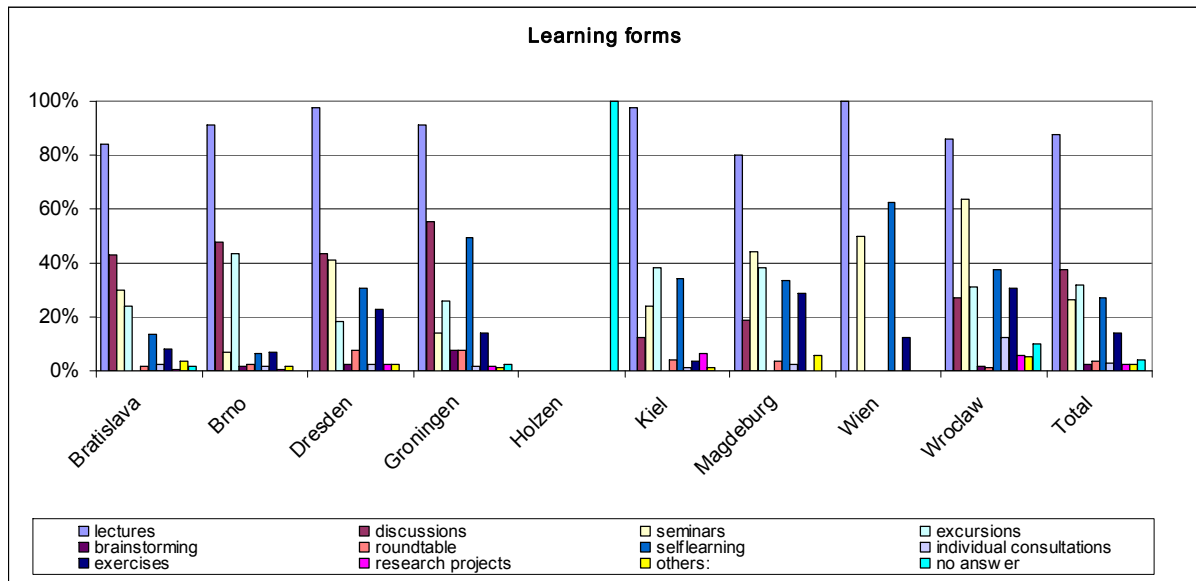
This question too was interpreted in differing ways. In Groningen for instance all courses last for one trimester. Some of the respondents answered the question with the number of courses they took simultaneously, others with the total number of courses per year.

### III.5. What kind of learning forms do you use in the learning process?

(choose 3 mostly used):

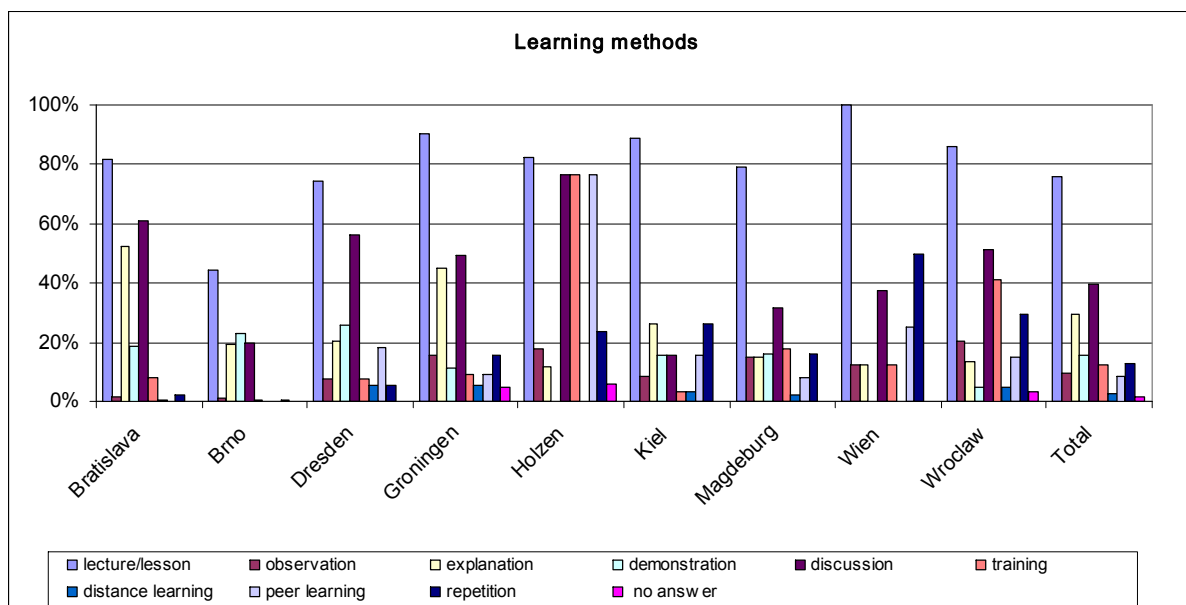
	Bratislava	Brno	Dresden	Groningen	Holzen	Kiel	Magdeburg	Wien	Wroclaw	Total
lectures	112	176	38	160	0	89	69	8	85	737 88%
discussions	57	92	17	97	0	11	16	0	27	317 38%
seminars	40	14	16	25	0	22	38	4	63	222 26%
excursions	32	84	7	45	0	35	33	0	31	267 32%
brainstorming	0	3	1	13	0	0	0	0	2	19 2%
roundtable	2	4	3	13	0	4	3	0	1	30 4%
selflearning	18	12	12	86	0	31	29	5	37	230 27%
individual	3	3	1	3	0	1	2	0	12	25 3%

<b>consultations</b>											
<b>exercises</b>	11	14	9	25	0	3	25	1	30	118	14%
<b>research projects</b>	1	1	1	3	0	6	0	0	6	18	2%
<b>others:</b>	5	3	1	2	0	1	5	0	5	22	3%
<b>no answer</b>	2	0	0	4	17	0	0	0	10	33	4%



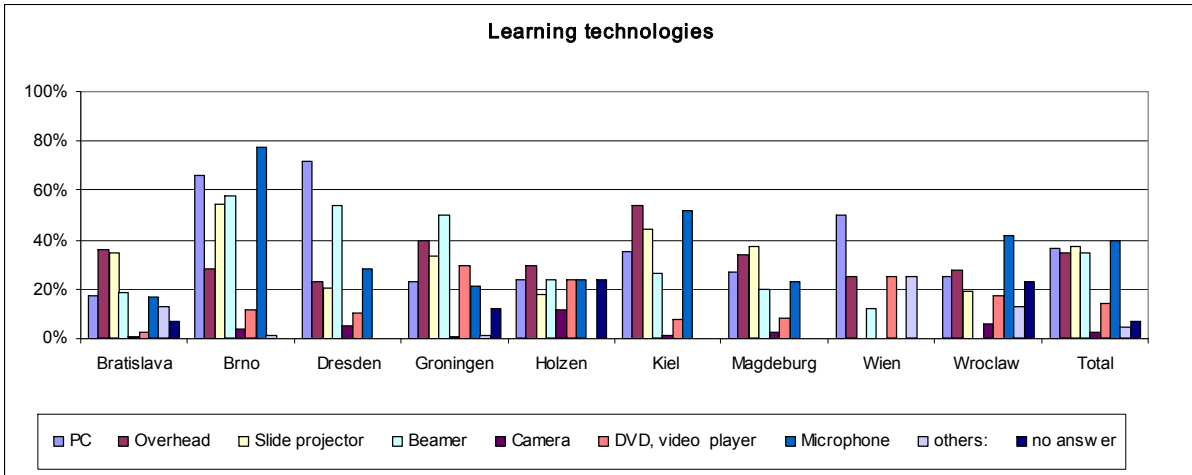
**III.6. What kind of learning methods do you use in the learning process?**  
(choose the 3 mostly used):

	Bratislava	Brno	Dresden	Groningen	Holzen	Kiel	Magdeburg	Wien	Wroclaw	Total	
<b>lecture/lesson</b>	109	86	29	158	14	81	68	8	85	638	73%
<b>observation</b>	2	2	3	27	3	8	13	1	20	79	10%
<b>explanation</b>	70	37	8	79	2	24	13	1	13	247	29%
<b>demonstration</b>	25	44	10	20	0	14	14	0	5	132	16%
<b>discussion</b>	81	38	22	86	13	14	27	3	51	335	40%
<b>training</b>	11	1	3	16	13	3	15	1	41	104	12%
<b>distance learning</b>	1	0	2	9	0	3	2	0	5	22	3%
<b>peer learning</b>	0	0	7	16	13	14	7	2	15	74	9%
<b>repetition</b>	3	1	2	27	4	24	14	4	29	108	13%
<b>no answer</b>	0	0	0	8	1	0	0	0	3	12	1%



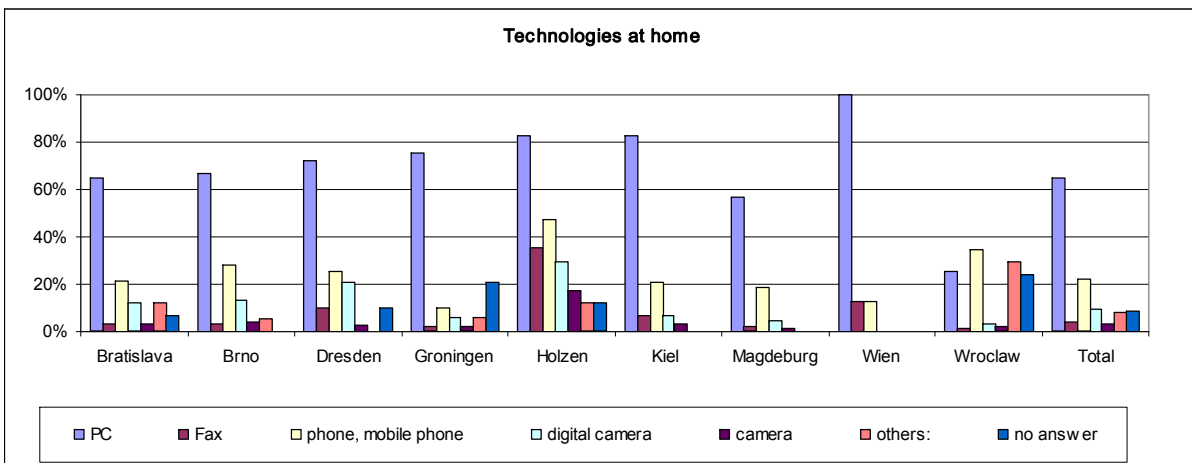
### III.7. What kind of learning technologies are used during the learning process?

	Bratislava	Brno	Dresden	Groningen	Holzen	Kiel	Magdeburg	Wien	Wroclaw	Total	
<b>PC</b>	23	128	28	40	4	32	23	4	25	307	37%
<b>Overhead</b>	48	54	9	70	5	49	29	2	27	293	35%
<b>Slide projector</b>	46	105	8	58	3	40	32	0	19	311	37%
<b>Beamer</b>	25	111	21	87	4	24	17	1	0	290	34%
<b>Camera</b>	1	7	2	1	2	1	2	0	6	22	3%
<b>DVD, video player</b>	3	22	4	52	4	7	7	2	17	118	14%
<b>Microphone</b>	22	150	11	37	4	47	20	0	41	332	39%
<b>others:</b>	17	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	13	36	4%
<b>no answer</b>	9	0	0	21	4	0	0	0	23	57	7%



**III.8. What kind of technical equipment do you use at home for learning?**

	Bratislava	Brno	Dresden	Groningen	Holzen	Kiel	Magdeburg	Wien	Wroclaw	Total	
<b>PC</b>	86	129	28	132	14	75	49	8	25	546	65%
<b>Fax</b>	4	6	4	4	6	6	2	1	1	34	4%
<b>phone, mobile phone</b>	28	54	10	17	8	19	16	1	34	187	22%
<b>digital camera</b>	16	26	8	10	5	6	4	0	3	78	9%
<b>camera</b>	4	8	1	4	3	3	1	0	2	26	3%
<b>others:</b>	16	10	0	10	2	0	0	0	29	67	8%
<b>no answer</b>	9	0	4	36	2	0	0	0	24	75	9%



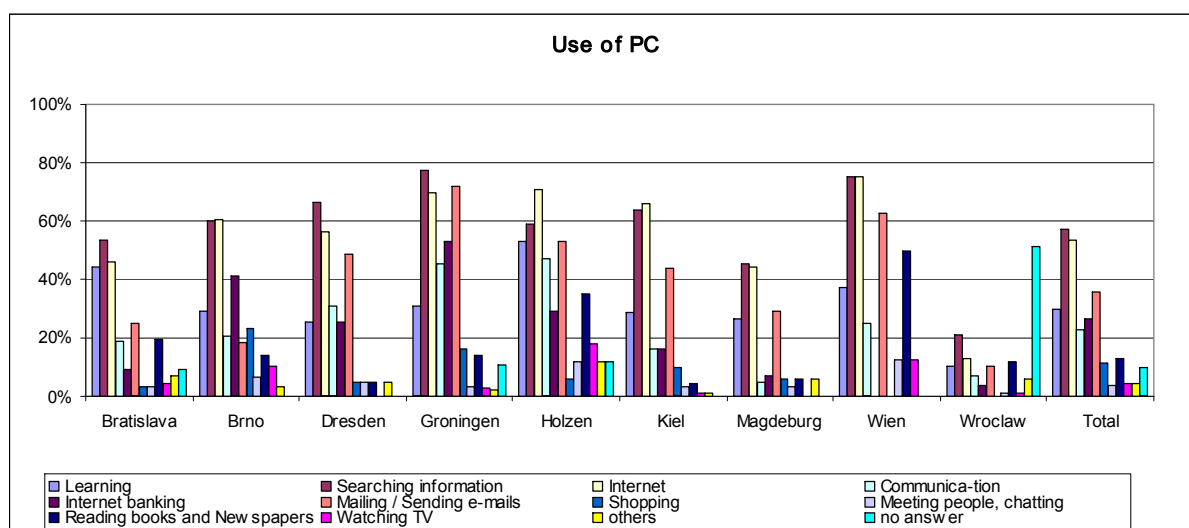
Others:  
**CD, Books, TV, Recorder, Camera, Video, TV satellite, CD's for learning English**

### III.9. What do you use the PC for?

	Bratislava	Brno	Dresden	Groningen	Holzen	Kiel	Magdeburg	Wien	Wroclaw	Total	
<b>Learning</b>	59	56	10	54	9	26	23	3	10	250	30%
<b>Searching information</b>	71	116	26	135	10	58	39	6	21	482	57%
<b>Internet</b>	61	117	22	122	12	60	38	6	13	451	54%
<b>Communication</b>	25	40	12	79	8	15	4	2	7	192	23%
<b>Internet banking</b>	12	79	10	93	5	15	6	0	4	224	27%
<b>Mailing / Sending e-mails</b>	33	35	19	126	9	40	25	5	10	302	36%
<b>Shopping</b>	4	45	2	28	1	9	5	0	0	94	11%
<b>Meeting people, chatting</b>	4	12	2	6	2	3	3	1	1	34	4%
<b>Reading books and Newspapers</b>	26	27	2	25	6	4	5	4	12	111	13%
<b>Watching TV</b>	6	20	0	5	3	1	0	1	1	37	4%
<b>others</b>	9	6	2	4	2	1	5	0	6	35	4%
<b>no answer</b>	12	0	0	19	2	0	0	0	51	84	10%

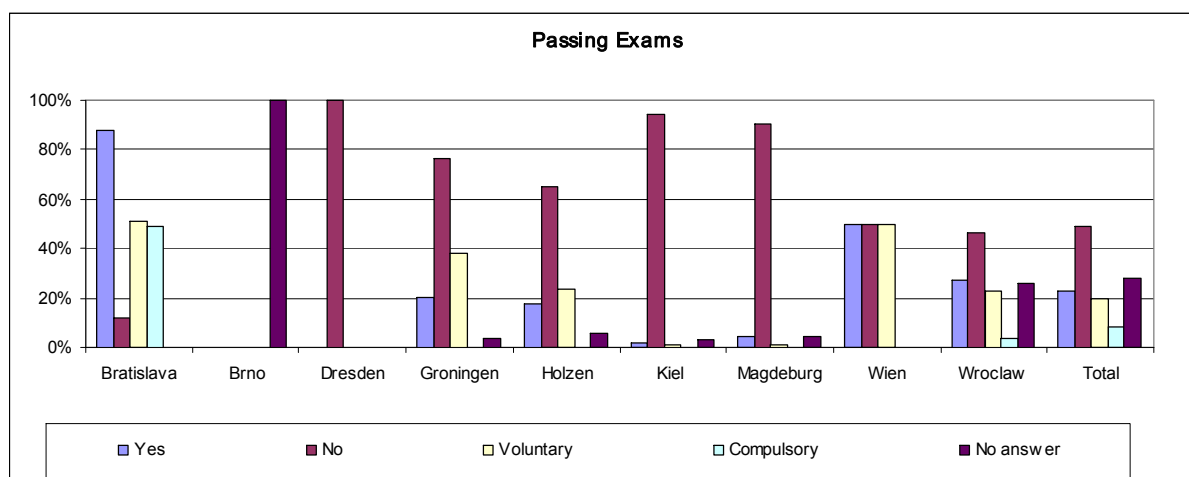
#### Others:

watching gallery of photos and old postcards, games, selection of the best solutions



### III.10. Do you pass exams during your study?

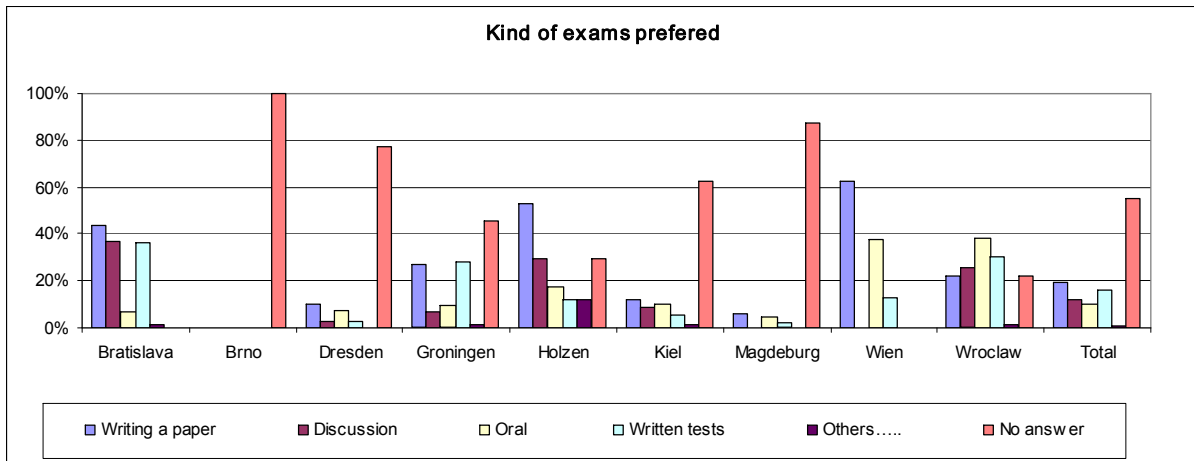
	Bratislava	Brno	Dresden	Groningen	Holzen	Kiel	Magdeburg	Wien	Wroclaw	Total	
<b>Yes</b>	117	0	0	36	3	2	4	4	27	193	23%
<b>No</b>	16	0	39	134	11	86	78	4	46	414	49%
<b>Voluntary</b>	68	0	0	67	4	1	1	4	23	168	20%
<b>Compulsory</b>	65	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	69	8%
<b>No answer</b>	0	193	0	7	1	3	4	0	26	234	28%



### III.11. What kind of exams do you prefer?

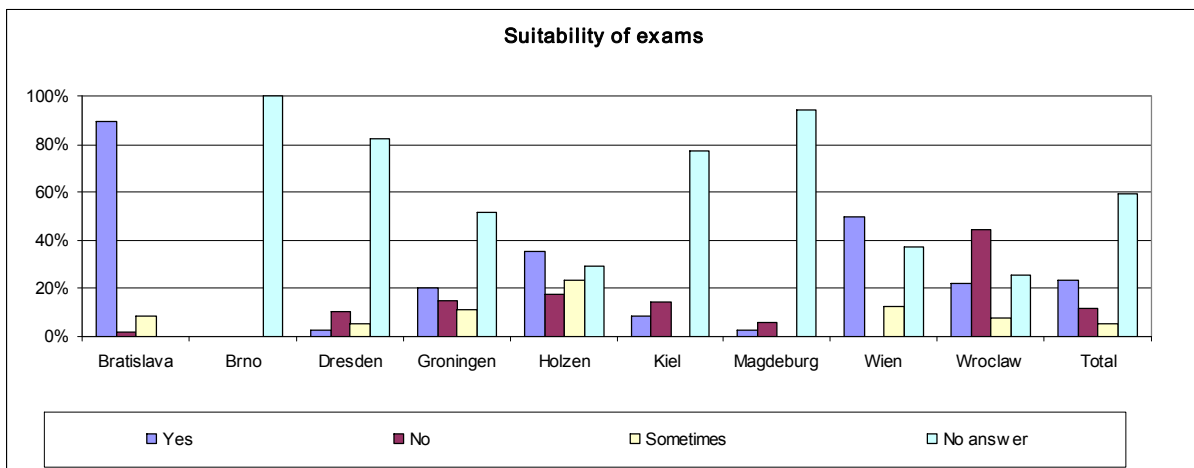
	Bratislava	Brno	Dresden	Groningen	Holzen	Kiel	Magdeburg	Wien	Wroclaw	Total	
<b>Writing a paper</b>	58	0	4	47	9	11	5	5	22	161	19%
<b>Discussion</b>	49	0	1	12	5	8	0	0	25	100	12%
<b>Oral</b>	9	0	3	16	3	9	4	3	38	85	10%
<b>Written tests</b>	48	0	1	49	2	5	2	1	30	138	16%
<b>Others.....</b>	2	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	1	8	1%
<b>No answer</b>	0	193	30	80	5	57	75	0	22	462	55%





### III.12. Do the exams suit you?

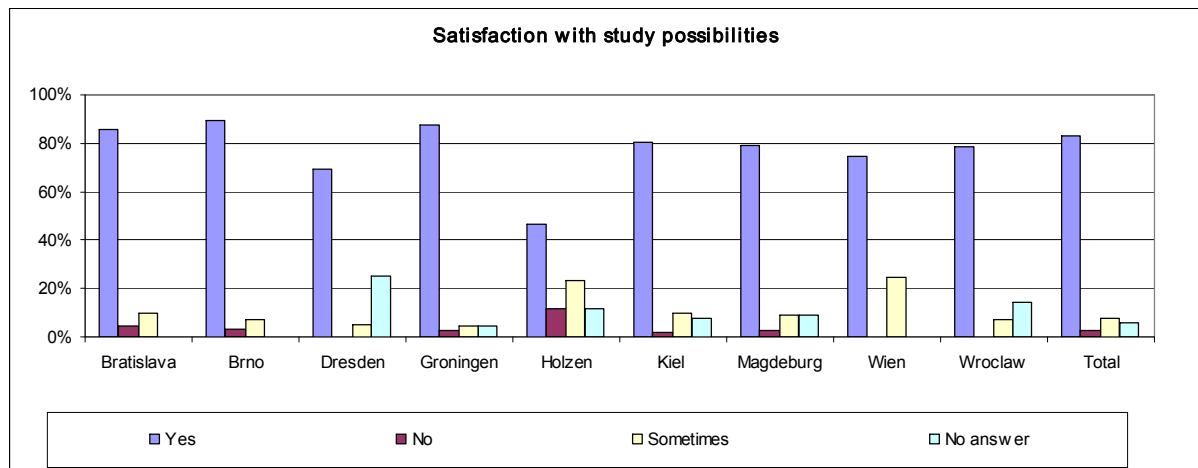
	Bratislava	Brno	Dresden	Groningen	Holzen	Kiel	Magdeburg	Wien	Wroclaw	Total	
<b>Yes</b>	119		1	35	6	8	2	4	22	197	24%
<b>No</b>	3		4	26	3	13	5	0	44	98	12%
<b>Sometimes</b>	11		2	19	4	0	0	1	8	45	5%
<b>No answer</b>	0	193	32	90	5	70	81	3	25	499	59%



### III.13. Are you satisfied with the possibilities of study?

	Bratislava	Brno	Dresden	Groningen	Holzen	Kiel	Magdeburg	Wien	Wroclaw	Total	
<b>Yes</b>	114	173	27	153	8	73	68	6	78	700	83%
<b>No</b>	6	6	0	5	2	2	2	0	0	23	3%

<b>Sometimes</b>	13	14	2	8	4	9	8	2	7	67	8%
<b>No answer</b>	0	0	10	8	2	7	8	0	14	49	6%



## Why?

**In Wien** there is too little offer of courses for seniors, courses are oversubscribed.

### **In Wroclaw:**

- the process of learning is all right. I can enlarge knowledge
- I'm satisfied because I learn a lot
- I'm satisfied with the way of teaching at U3A, the seminar and lectures are interesting

### **Comments to the arrangement of study:**

#### **In Bratislava:**

- Reduce number of students in one study group to be a maximum of 20 participants
- Extend each study year about one month and add to each subject an advanced study
- Don't reduce possibilities to attend more than one subject in one study year
- Extend the scale of study subjects and offer more subjects for seniors (currently 28)
- Add more lectures about important people
- To offer learning for getting qualification

### **Comments to the educational process:**

#### **In Bratislava:**

- Extend the duration of the lectures and always have the break in the middle.
- Offer study material (electronically or written) in each lecture.
- Use more visual and graphical materials and IT during the lectures.
- Manage after each lecture the seminar and discussion at the end of lesson.
- To use bilateral communication (between teacher and students) and allow for reactions. The senior student doesn't want to be a passive listener.
- To establish more strict requirements for students at the end of semester (written report) because of the aspect of transmission of their knowledge to the young generation.

#### **In Groningen:**

- Would like to do a formal study in addition to my present degree.
- I have a busy life. The courses I like I have chosen to enjoy, to relax
- The programme is not varied enough
- I would like more but shorter courses
- There are many interesting classes but the courses are quite expensive and parking facilities are poor and/or costly
- good courses are often too far away

#### **In Dresden:**

- More history courses

### III.14. What would you like to add to the learning process?

#### **In Bratislava:**

- More literary studies, language training in smaller groups

#### **In Wroclaw:**

- to learn to use computer, Internet - computer courses
- to learn to use the mobile phone, digital camera
- to change the topics of lectures, seminars - more actual topics e.g. about art., history of art, culture, literature, social life, not only about illnesses and age - more modern and interesting topics - a wider range of lectures
- to get sheets after lectures or seminars which would help us with the process of learning
- small discussion groups and more space at the lectures
- new subjects e.g. Italian
- more trips
- selection of the teachers
- some sports e.g. volleyball
- more hours for classes
- gymnastics for free

#### **In Groningen:**

- teaching programme must be broad, alpha, beta and gamma sciences. Don't forget biology, climate etc. painting, writing, cinema, theatre, music
- After many years in industry this Senior Academy feels like an oasis where there is place for free thinking and learning according to your ability without the pressure of testing to a standard level
- more input from students on the choice of subjects
- The seminars are an indispensable element for me. My choice of courses is mainly guided by whether or not there are seminars.
- more contacts with students from other European countries

#### **In Kiel:**

- more seminars
- more medicine
- more history
- more excursions
- language courses: e.g. Italian, Spanish

#### **In Magdeburg:**

- more variation
- more room for own experiences

### III.15. Your opinion on why people do not participate in adult learning

#### **In Bratislava:**

- other interests,
- financial problems,
- no education centers for seniors,
- too long way to university
- family tasks
- laziness and idleness
- fear of entering university

- not curious
- too many young students
- too high tuition fees

**In Wroclaw:**

**Outside elements**

- not enough U3A in Wroclaw
- limited capacity at U3A, lack of information about the possibilities - not enough advertising
- lack of possibilities of getting to U3A
- too far to U3A - difficulties to get to U3A
- no one prepare us to retired and to take advantage of free time
- low pensions

**Inside elements**

- laziness
- bad health; duties
- lack of time
- they are busy with housework or family (take care of grandchildren)
- non acceptance of family
- lack of interest and motivation
- lack of tradition because people think that old people should take care of grandchildren
- to be tired of life
- no good physical conditions
- wrong contacts with people - fear of contact with other man
- they are not enough active
- they don't know the value which give lifelong learning
- lack of models
- they think that learning belongs to the younger people and adults shouldn't learn
- they have difficulties to assimilate new knowledge

**In Groningen:**

- time
- too expensive
- afraid of academic level
- not aware of possibilities
- no intellectual interests
- bad health, traveling
- too busy with other things (mostly social)

**In Dresden:**

- unknown with facilities
- little self-confidence
- no interest or other interests

**In Kiel:**

- too far away
- too expensive
- no information, no interest

**In Magdeburg:**

- lack of interest
- costs
- other activities
- afraid to fail

**III.16. Your ideas about what would constitute an ideal learning environment:**

**In Bratislava:**

- all age-groups,
- smaller recreation rooms,
- smaller study groups
- contact with colleagues
- special studies offering training for an occupation for seniors: sports, health, environment, diet, web-design, languages etc.

**From Bratislava Messages to the society:**

- Elderly students are very thankful for the possibility to learn in their age at the UTA, enlarge their intellect and be still active
- They appreciate the good management and the special qualification of the UTA staff
- They feel the necessity to use their knowledge in the society and wish to have opportunities to present it
- Challenge the government to plan in the budget regular financial support for the UTA
- Challenge to the government to be more focused on the learning elderly at the UTA because of:
  1. positive effect on their health, less depressions
  2. elderly students are good example for young generation
  3. higher self-confidence, different view on the world

**In Wroclaw:**

- open the branches of U3A
- easier way to get to U3A
- more professional rooms e.g. photography studio, room for learning languages
- more rooms with good equipment
- to have at U3A computer laboratory
- small groups - to organize the lectures, seminars better
- the lectures and seminars more interesting and better prepared
- to use new technologies in teaching

**In Groningen:**

- good teachers who know the wishes of the older students
- equality of teachers and students
- knowledgeable teachers. Not more than 20 participants
- a university building for older students
- better equipped rooms. Good sound system. No barriers for invalids
- more mixing of young and older students
- near to public transport
- a dedicated teacher and ca. 12 interested and intelligent students, half male, half female. A building with a long history situated in a garden

**In Magdeburg:**

- Seminars
- People with common interests

**III.17. What else would you like to add?****In Bratislava:**

- Some students are afraid to take away a study place of a young student,
- senior studies are a luxury which I greatly estimate,
- more international studies,
- introduction of studies for peace concepts, strategies against overpopulation, new ideas

**In Wroclaw:**

- more possibilities to tour and to take part in the social life

- organize more trips to change the monotony of life
- more U3A in Wroclaw because people need them
- to open U3A at different High Schools not only at pedagogy
- I suggest to show non-typical hobbies e.g. by organizing presentations and discussions about that passions
- clubs of interest, discussions about the art, meetings with the artists, few seminars and lectures about the illnesses and the age!
- make more attractive lectures about the city, country, world, news
- lectures about the new technology, especially medicine and biology
- possibilities to let the students make suggestions
- more discipline at U3A, better social conditions at the rooms
- the programme of U3A is all right I don't want anything to change
- U3A is a place where the seniors fulfill their ideas
- I'm happy to be a student at U3A – the programme is ok
- the discussion during and after lectures
- folders, flyers for students
- professional teachers of languages
- consultations
- to make questionnaire spreadsheets to define the interest of the students of U3A especially students of the first year
- to be in good physical and mental condition
- better financial situation
- to be active with the learning process

#### **In Groningen:**

- most important: freedom of choice and using your own life experience, be active with the learning process
- until now I'm very satisfied with the courses I attended and I hope it will be possible for me to continue for many years to come
- distant learning in addition to courses in the Senioren Academy
- organize more often questionnaires like this, also with forum discussions of people who work with the older students
- The attitude of tutors should be focused on (re)vitalising the thinking process of their older students and not pouring facts upon them
- more contacts with students from other European countries
- I like small groups in which you can introduce yourself to the others

#### **In Dresden:**

- study in Dresden is very varied and well organised
- exchanging ideas with others is important

#### **In Kiel:**

- more information needed
- meeting points for older people
- more discussions