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PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

ANALYSIS

of the survey results concerning the opinion of Bulgarian researchers, journalists and professionals for the profession "Researcher" in Bulgaria

The main objective of this survey was to collect reliable original information about the researchers' career, status and profession in Bulgaria. A total amount of 207 responses were collected from 4 Bulgarian towns– Sofia – Sofia University and Technical University, Ruse, Stara Zagora and Varna during the project REGGAE.

The questionnaire included 7 general sections: General information, Researcher's image in the society, Researchers in Europe, Impact of the researchers and science on every-days people's life, Researchers career, section dedicated to researchers and section dedicated to journalists.

The obtained results are interesting for analyses as they reveal from one side the opinion of students and young researchers in the beginning of their career, and on the other hand experienced researchers with long professional experience.

Section A. General information

The sample consists of researchers 29%, students 54%, PhD students 3%, journalists 4%, and others – 10%. The distribution according to gender is: 53% women and 47% men. The generalized results show that 56% of the respondents are in the range of (19-25) years old and 28 % are over 45 years old (Table 1). 18% of the respondents hold PhD degree, 25% have university education and 57% - high-school education;

Table 1 Age distribution of the respondents

Age groups	Ratio (%)
Under 18 years	0%
19-25 years	56%
26-35 years	11%
36-45 years	5%
Over 45 years	28%
Total	100.0%

Section B. Researcher's image in the society

The second section tried to discover what the public image of the researchers in Bulgaria is. On the question "would you like to be researcher" 53% responded affirmatively, 29% negative and 17% don't know. On the next question asking for clarifications and comments about the reasons to become researcher, some of the responses are:

- Doing research is interesting and fascinating job, provoking curiosity and inspiration;
- Personal interests in the research and in the concrete research area,
- Personal satisfaction;

Many of the responses revealed that researcher's profession is chosen because of the fascinating and interesting job, but poor working conditions, lack of infrastructure and small remunerations are important barriers for the young people. Many of the students and young people comments are that because of the low financial status and moral recognition of the research profession in Bulgaria they will choose another career. Another point is that there are many young people doubting if they have enough talent or are gifted to become researchers, because "in research man has to invest too much effort and time and only few realize their potential".

On the question: "What do you think about researchers", the majority of the respondents describe researchers as "clever and intelligent" (75%), "good theoreticians" (40%), rich personalities (40%) and mainly old people (30%). On the next question about the attitude of the society toward researchers, 43% of the respondents find out that in Bulgaria, researchers don't get neither financial neither moral support for their work. As fundamental reason for this people pointed out the regressive state attitude, low financial incomes, lack of cooperation with business and applied sciences, politics lack of long term vision for research and others.

Table 2 Opinion on the society attitude towards the researchers

	Ratio (%)
I think that researchers are highly respected in the society	3%
The researcher's profession is not sufficiently recognized in our society	34%
The researchers enjoy moral recognition, but their payment is not sufficient	19%
No, the researchers do not enjoy the due recognition - neither moral, nor material	43%
Total	100.0

The fact that only 3 percents of the respondents has filled in the answer "the researchers enjoy the respect of the society" and that over 40% of the respondents think that the profession "researcher" does not meet an adequate recognition in the Bulgarian society is worrying. Only 19% of the respondents claim that researchers enjoy moral recognition, but their payment is not sufficient. Therefore, we can deduce that according to a significant part of the respondents in Bulgaria, the researchers have neither high financial status neither public nor moral recognition in the society.

Some of the comments provided on the question "Why the recognition of the researchers work in Bulgaria is on that level" are that poor financing for the research resulted in inadequate solutions for business and economy, and thus the public opinion generally is that research is not in the service of the society but it is some unclear and not-practical-oriented activity. A big number of respondents point out that lack of state and political support are among the main reasons for the bad perception of the researchers' work within the society. This opinion is repeated again concerning media image of the researchers, discovering that there are only few publications about researchers and science because of the media interests in fashion trends, sensations and bad news. On the question "how to improve researchers image in the society" researchers pointed out as crucial formulating long term state policy about Bulgarian science development, clear priorities and financial support, attractive conditions for young people to become researchers, media and PR

activities etc. Finally 56% from the respondents find out that Bulgarian state administration don't support enough researchers and researchers work.

Section C Researchers in Europe

On the first question “do you think that EU support researchers” – 55% agree absolutely, 16% find out that EU provide support but not bigger than national support, and a big number of respondents 24% don't know. About 56% of the respondents have heard about different EU initiatives for the researchers. Among the most popular European initiatives are financing of research projects and researchers night. The figure below provides detailed information for the different activities.

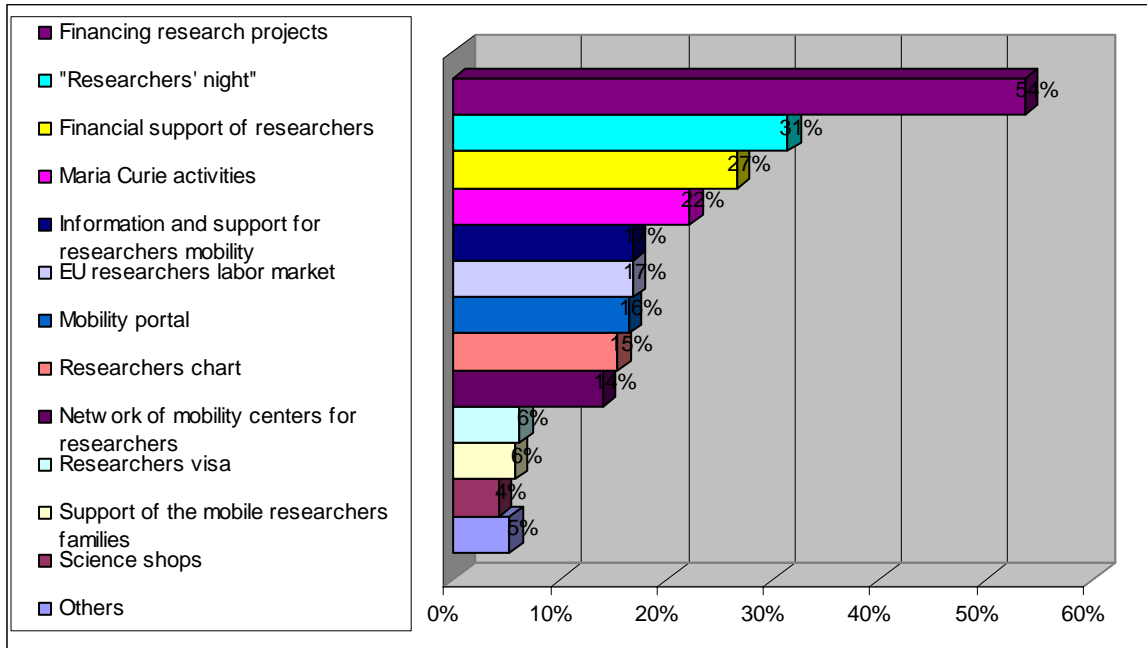


Figure 1 What European initiatives for researchers do you recognize?

Section D Impact of the researchers and science on the society

This section includes some questions concerning researchers' contribution to the every day life. On the first question “Do you think that researchers and science contribute to the economy development”, 46% responded strongly yes, 37% agree and only 5% are negative. Among the responses provided, there was pointed out that researchers' contribution is crucial for human and social development, facilitate people's life, provide new technologies, new instruments for cognition and finally provide new horizons. Some of the most popular Bulgarian researchers' inventions and discoveries are: photoelectric theory, interphone, computer ABC, anti-babe contraception pills, bacillus bulgaricum, nivalin and many others. Many of the respondents recall for John Atanasoff (computers), akad. Balevsky (lead industry), akad Dimov (physics) and many others...

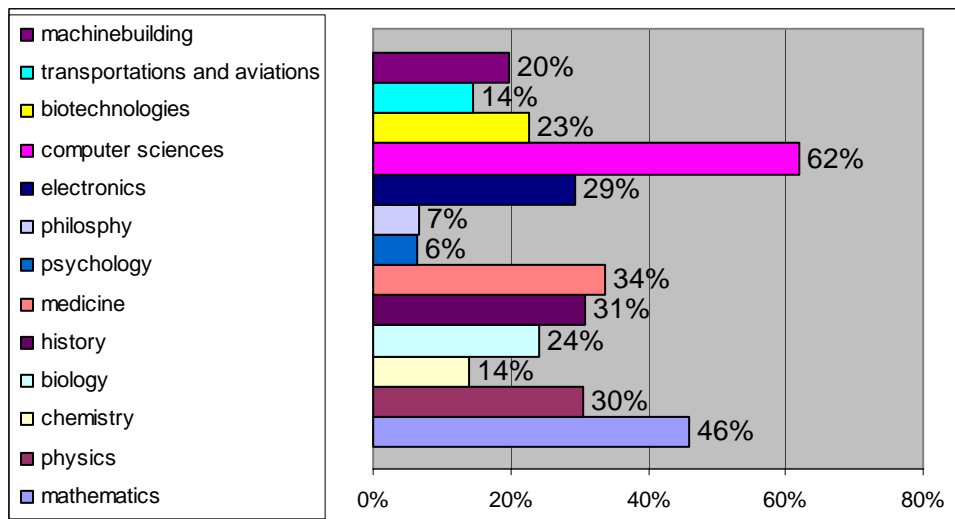


Figure 2 Science areas where Bulgarian researchers have recognized contribution

Section E Researchers career

In order research to become attractive activity for young people, the respondents identified several priorities as shown on fig.3. The first priority is to increase researchers' remunerations (81%), followed by different incentives for public support of the researchers activity (75%), researcher's infrastructure improvement (56%) and others.

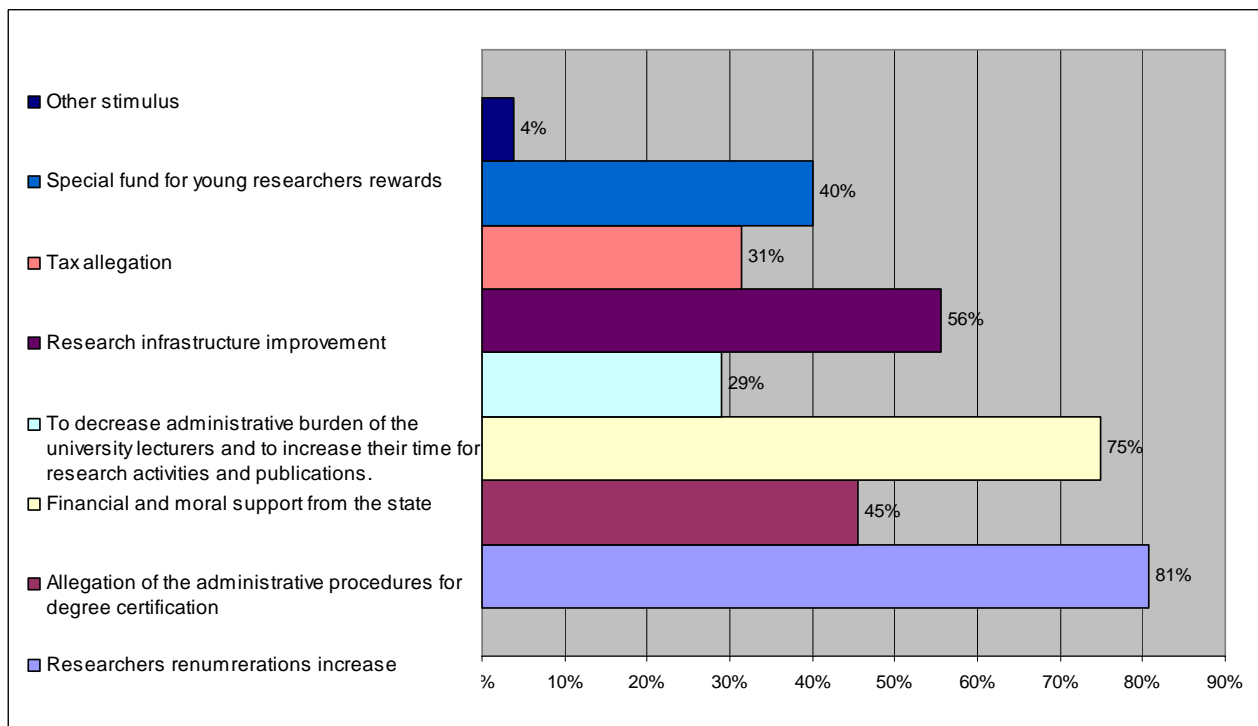


Figure 3 Stimulus in order to attract young people to the research career

There was provided a question about the part the Bulgarian school is playing in building respect for science and Bulgarian researchers among children and young people. The generalized data show that only 5% of the respondents are convinced that the Bulgarian school plays an active role in this respect. Nearly 36% of the survey respondents think that only some schools form a serious

attitude and respect for science and scientific work, 39% of respondents stated that this is a very rare event, and 12% of the respondents are firm in their opinion that the Bulgarian school does not perform this function. Some of the comments about how to improve school – science interactions, point out the following issues: closer cooperation between secondary schools and universities and research centres, various activities and incentives for students with researchers, providing interesting materials; new and more interesting school textbooks, redesign of the learning materials and didactics, simulations and experiments in class, research projects for schoolchildren, increased qualification of the teachers and others.

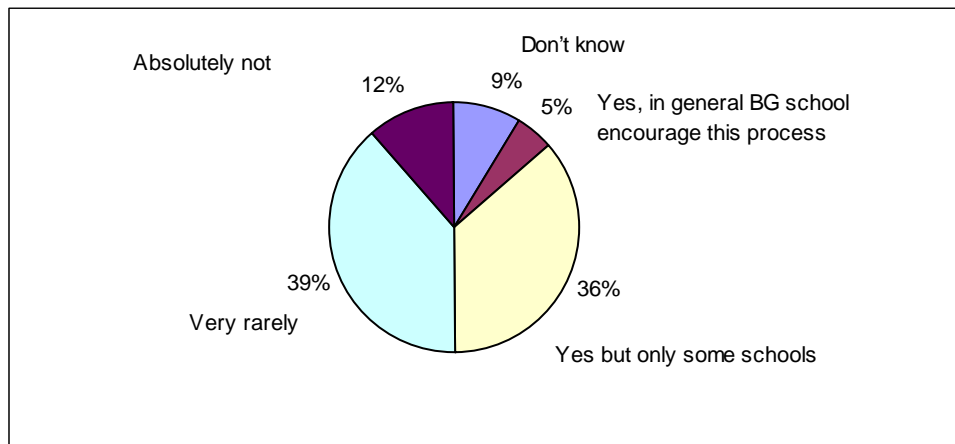


Figure 4 Do you think that BG school build respect to the science of young people and children

On the question “have you took part before in similar surveys dedicated to the researchers and their problems”, about 61% of the respondents claim that this is the first time they take part such survey. About 13% of the respondents have participated at least on 1 survey for the research problems, and 26% don't remember or don't know.

Section D

Section D is filled only by researchers. There are about 105 respondents working as researchers, among them – 26 assistants and junior researchers, 27 assistant professors/ senior researchers, 6 professors, and 46 don't have research degree. On the question “Do you think that your research institution can attract and support young people”, 20% answered “yes”, 30% point out “yes on the same level as the other institutions”, and 22% answered “no”. Some of the comments suggest that positive results are obtained because of the personal involvement of the managers, while the negative results are due on the low material infrastructure, low status of the researchers within the society and lack of promotions, lack of motivations to become researcher, lack of motivation to work for Bulgarian research institution.

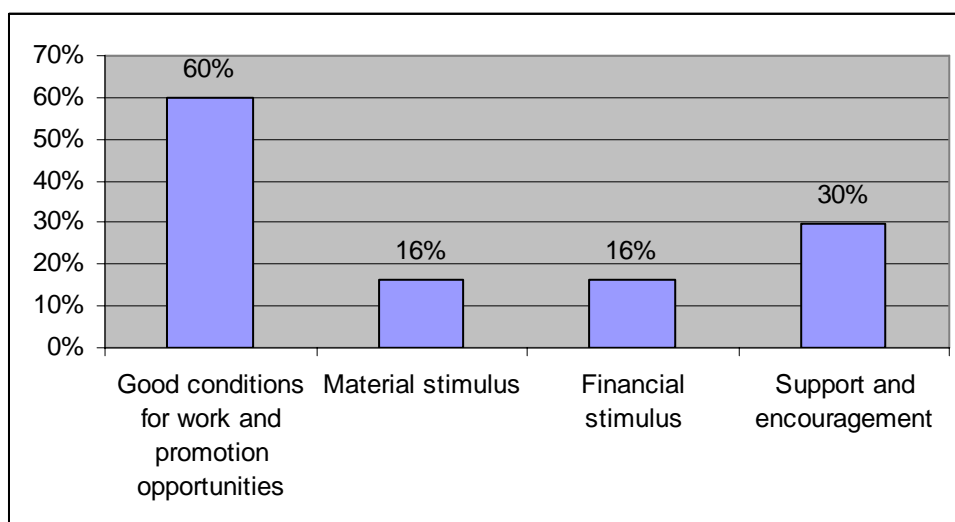


Figure 5 What are the most important stimulus for your work as researcher?

On the figure 5 are provided details about the most important stimulus for researchers. As shown on the graphic, most important for the researchers are good working conditions allowing researchers to perform quality work and to receive recognition and career progress. On the second place with 30% are stated support and non-financial stimulus. This result indicates that researchers need much more recognition and moral support than material and financial stimulus.

Section E

Section E is dedicated to journalists, representing 17% or 35 of the respondents. On the first question – “are you interested in the development of science and research”, 86% of the journalists answer affirmatively, 8% responded negatively and 6% don’t know. Some of the explanations provided include personal interests in research and science and professional interests. The next question concerns how journalists understand research discoveries and inventions and their specifics and terms. Only 11% of the journalists claim to be able to fully understand the research terms and explanations, about 36% declare general understanding, and 25% cannot answer. About 22% of the journalists admit that they’re not familiar with researcher’s terms and specifics. The last question, would you dedicate publications or broadcasts for the researchers and their contribution for the progress, about 53% marked “yes”, 11% - “no” and 35% - don’t know yet. Among the explanations are listed: desire to contribute for the popularization of the researchers’ image in the society and improvement of their status, professional and personal interests in some research topics. On the other hand journalists claim that preparing materials for researchers’ discoveries and inventions require additional time and efforts, as well suitable media in order to publish this. Other responded that they cannot answer, because it takes time and good luck to find a good topic for publication.

Survey Analysis in Sofia

Sofia University “St. Kl. Ohridski”

During the Researcher’s night event in Sofia University main building, a feedback for the activities there and the event have been provided by 84 persons.

It is encouraging that most people like the event, and would like to visit it again and consider that it should become an annual event. It is promising that the majority of guests measure the impact of the Researchers Night as a positive one, both for better acceptance of researchers in society and for attracting young people in research.

The results of the survey are summarised below:

	Yes	No	No response
The exhibitions	95%	0%	5%
The Music-poetry evening of Bulgarian scientists	69%	12%	19%
Modus vivendi performance	81%	6%	13%
Technical University Stand	73%	2%	25%
Stand of the satellite exhibitions	70%	2%	27%
The newspaper „HOMO Sciens”	90%	1%	8%

	Yes	No	No response
Will you visit the event next year?	99%	0%	1%
Will you recommend the event to your colleagues/friends?	98%	2%	0%
Do you think that ‘Researchers Night’ should become an annual event?	98%	2%	0%
	Yes	No	No response
Do you think that such events contribute to the better understanding and acceptance of researchers in the society?	89%	5%	6%
Do you think that such events could attract young people to science and to a research and technology career?	88%	8%	4%

Among the comments or recommendations obtained it is worth to note the following:

- wider popularity of the event
- earlier announcement of the event and the exact location of program items.
- desire to make the music-poetry evening in a tradition;
- compared to similar festive events in most EU countries and desire to organize again in the future, as well as to have more similar events;
- general assessment of the organization as very good, and provision of excellent conditions for a festive attitude.