

Green & Digital Skills for Youth Employment

Survey conducted by Danube youth Council (DYC)

For 12th International Stakeholder Conference
of Priority Area 9 “People and Skills”
of the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region



Introduction to the workshop





DANUBE YOUTH COUNCIL TEAM (DYC)

Part of the PA9



Maty Mihalko
Slovakia/Austria



Viktorija Cosic
Serbia



Irina Apostol
Republic of Moldova



Biljana Popović
Montenegro



Vana Ćendo
Czech republic/
Croatia



Introduction on the survey





Target groups

Young people entering the labour market

Age 17-29 years

From EUSDR countries

Contacted through: PA9 Network

Danube Youth Council Network (DYC)

Danube Youth Organisation Network (DYON)

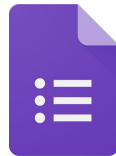




Methodology

The survey comprises a mix of open-ended and closed-ended questions, structured to gather comprehensive demographic data, assess the respondents' green and digital skills, and understand their relevance and application in the job market.

Platform: Google Forms



Period of the survey: **3rd - 16th May**



Methodology



Confidentiality: Ensuring that respondents' personal data is kept confidential and used solely for the purpose of this survey.



Informed Consent: Participants are informed about the purpose of the survey and their voluntary participation.



Quantitative Analysis:

- Closed-ended questions were analyzed using statistical methods to identify patterns and trends.

Qualitative Analysis:

- Open-ended responses went through thematic analysis to extract key themes and insights.
- This will help in understanding detailed perceptions and experiences related to green and digital skills.

Topics of the survey

4 Compartments

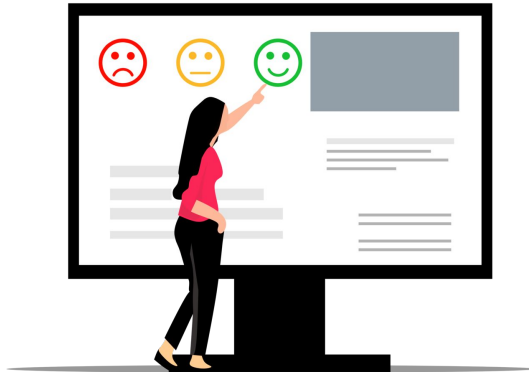
23 Questions,

Of which: 11 with closed answers

12 with open answers

Compartments:

1. Demography
2. Green and Digital Skills
3. Learning and Development
4. Job Market Navigation:





Topics of the survey

4 Compartments

23 Questions,

Of which: 11 with closed answers

12 with open answers



Demography:

1. Country of residence: (Fill in the blank)
2. Age: (Fill in the blank)
3. Briefly describe your current education level (e.g., high school graduate, university student, recent graduate):
4. What is your current economic status?
5. In which field are you currently studying/working? (open ended)

Topics of the survey

4 Compartments

23 Questions,

Of which: 11 closed-ended questions

12 open ended questions



Green and Digital Skills:

6. What do you consider green skills?
7. What do you consider digital skills?
8. How extensively did your education cover green skills?
9. How extensively did your education cover digital skills?
10. Which of the following green skills do you already possess?
11. Which of the following digital skills do you already possess?
12. How confident are you in your current green skills?
13. How confident are you in your current digital skills?
14. How relevant are green skills in your field of study/work?
15. How relevant are digital skills in your field of study/work?
16. How are topics related to green and/or digital skills being tackled in your field of study/work?

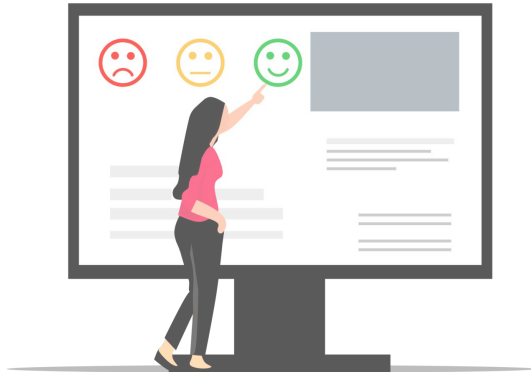
Topics of the survey

4 Compartments

23 Questions,

Of which: 11 closed-ended questions

12 open ended questions



Learning and Development:

17. Thinking about your career goals, which green or digital skills are you most interested in learning to advance your chances of landing a better job?

18. Briefly describe your ideal green and digital job (e.g., job title, industry):



Topics of the survey

4 Compartments

23 Questions,

Of which: 11 closed-ended questions

12 open ended questions



Job Market Navigation:

19. What are the biggest challenges you face in finding a job that utilises green and digital skills?

20. What resources would be helpful for you in finding green and digital jobs?

21. Which of the green skills that you currently possess are particularly useful in your field of study/work?

22. Which of the digital skills that you currently possess are particularly useful in your field of study/work?

23. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions for the workshop?



Goal of the survey

1. **Assess Skill Levels:** Determine current green and digital skills of the youth.
2. **Evaluate Educational Coverage:** Understand education's coverage of these skills.
3. **Gauge Confidence and Relevance:** Measure confidence and relevance of skills in study/work.
4. **Identify Learning Needs:** Discover desired skills for job improvement and career goals.
5. **Understand Job Market Challenges:** Identify challenges and helpful resources for job seekers.
6. **Inform Workshop Development:** Collect data to design a targeted skills workshop.





Limitations

Sampling:

Non-Representative Sample: The survey may not fully represent the diversity of young people entering the labor market in EUSDR countries, with certain subgroups underrepresented.

Self-Selection: Voluntary participation may skew results towards more motivated or interested individuals.

Response Bias:

Social Desirability: Respondents might give socially acceptable answers rather than true opinions.

Misinterpretation: Open-ended questions might be interpreted differently, leading to varied responses.





Findings of the survey:



43 answers

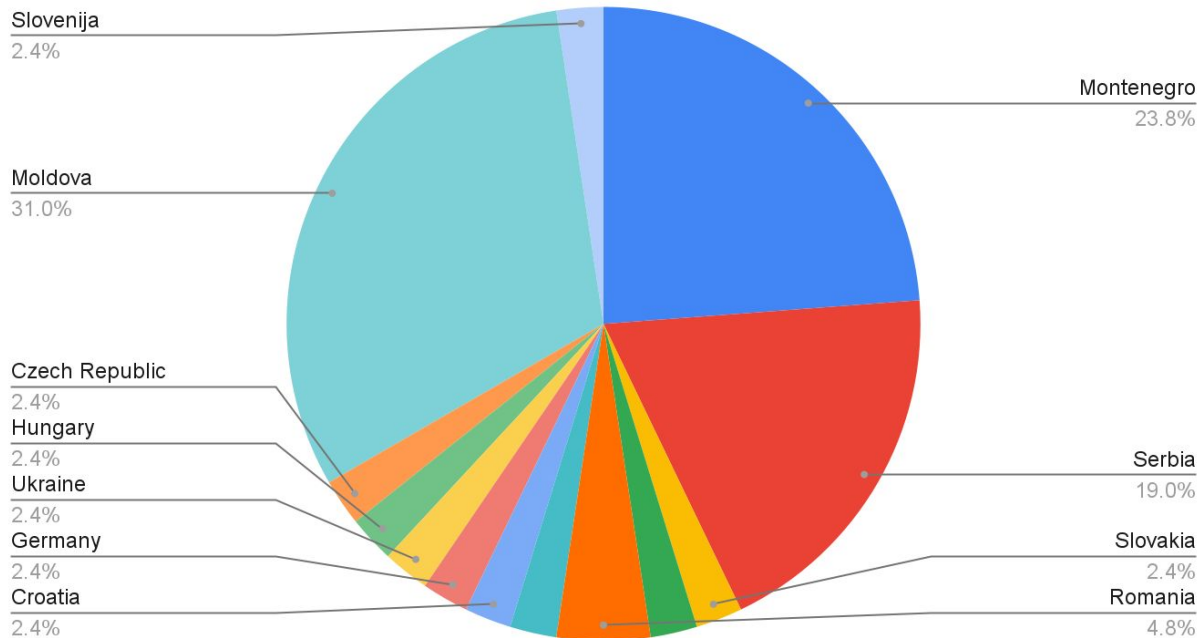
WERE RECEIVED FOR THE SURVEY





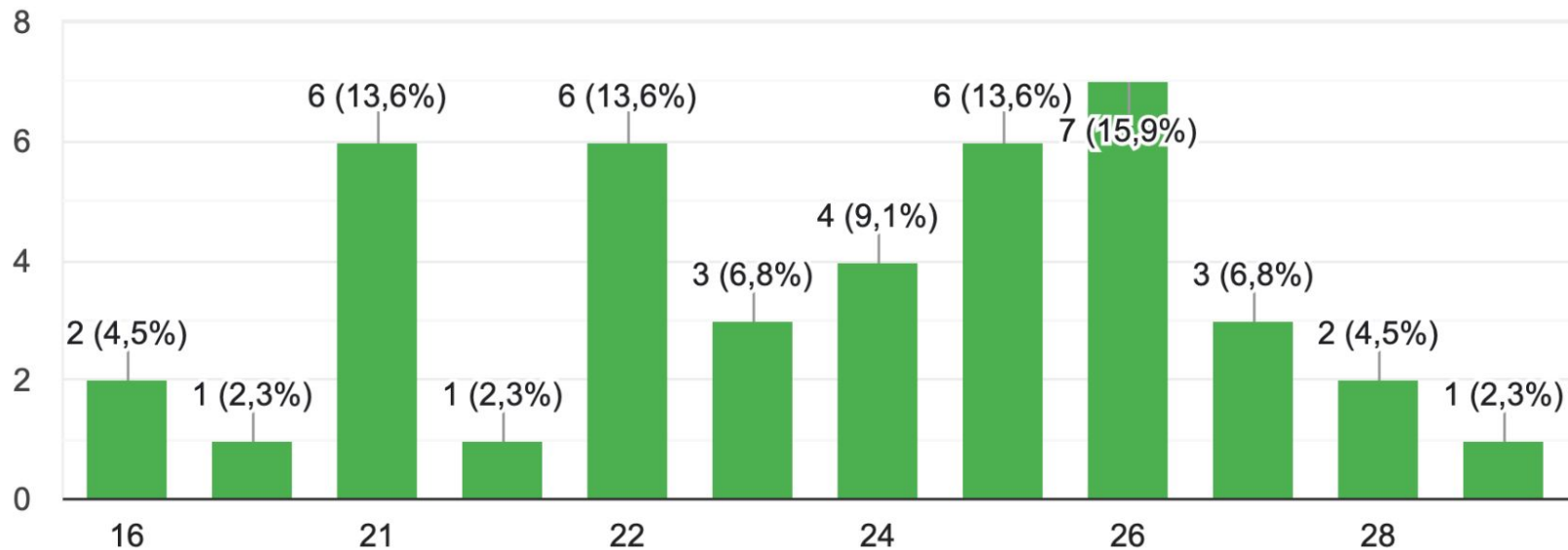
Findings in numbers

Country of residence



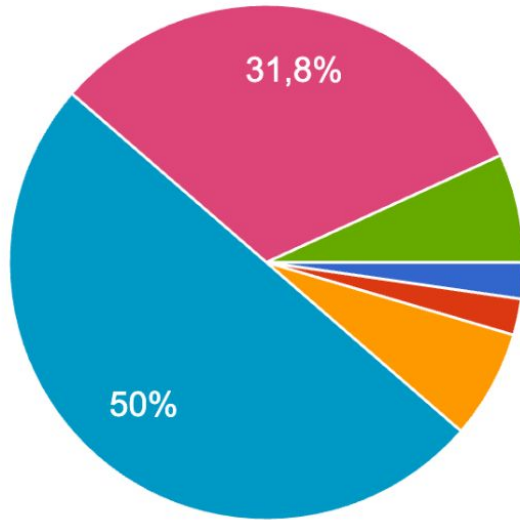


Age of participants





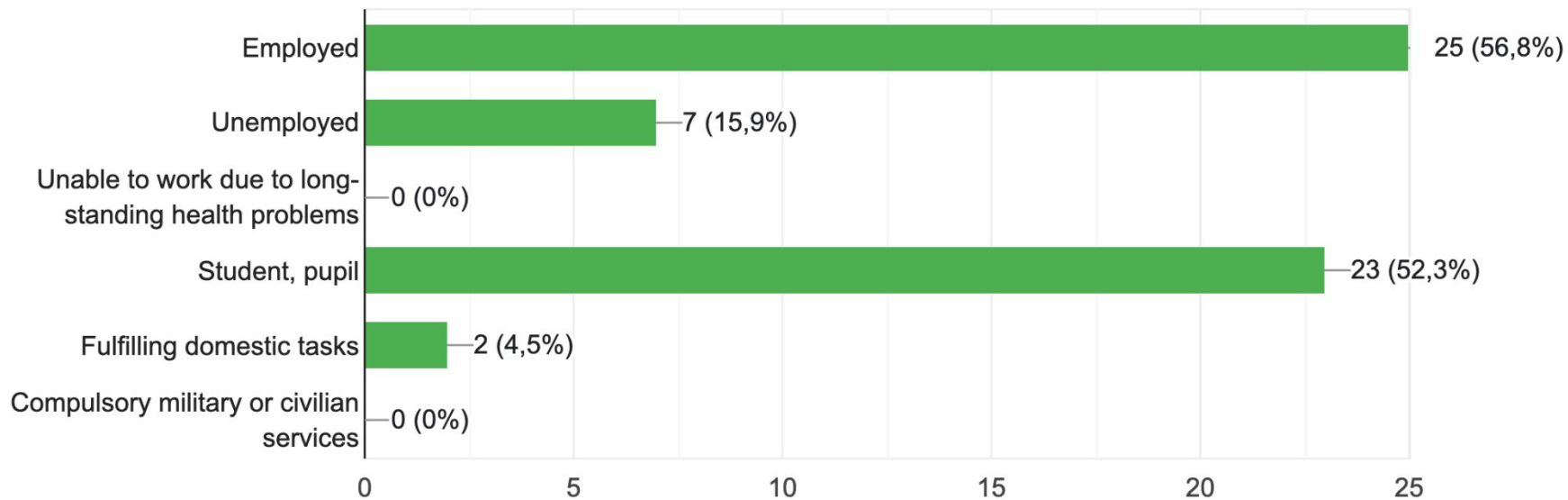
Level of Education



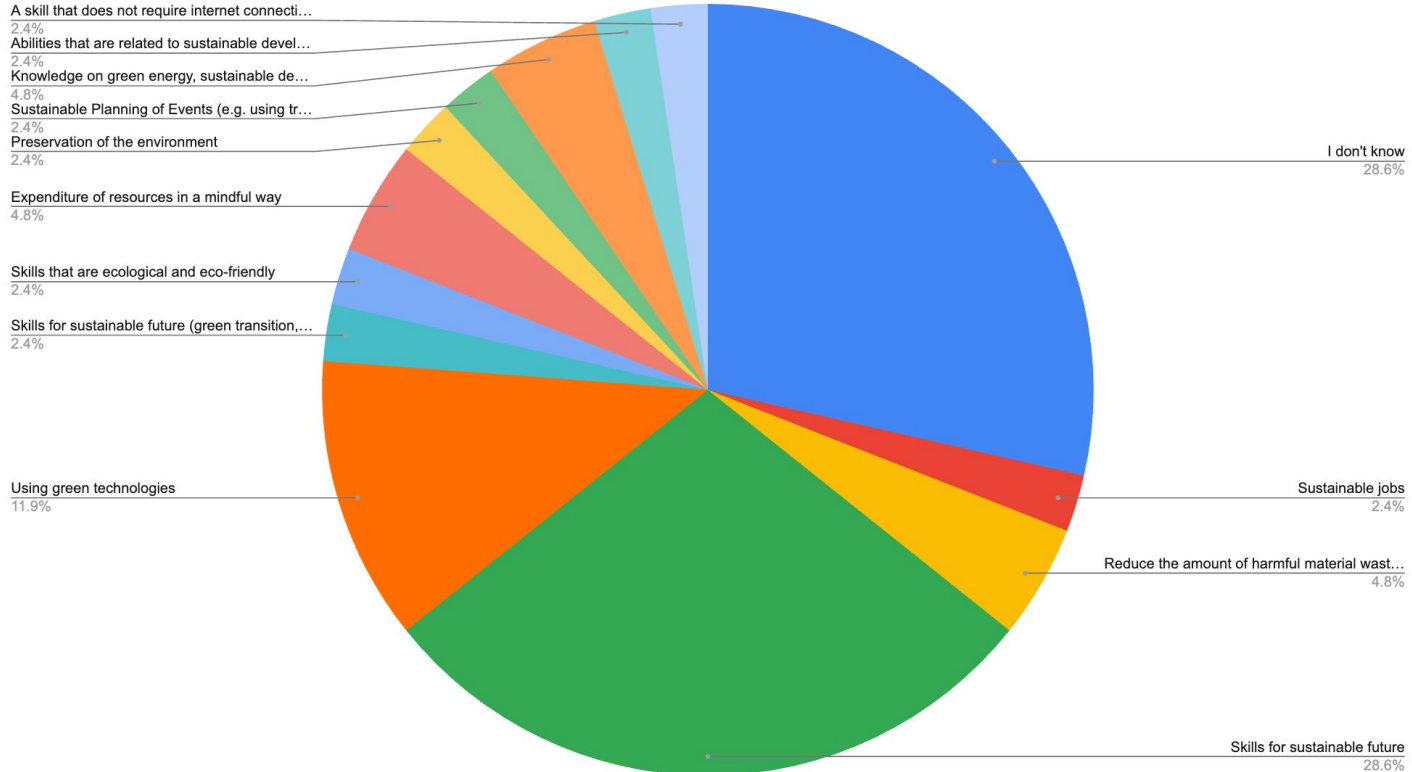
- Primary education
- Lower secondary education
- Upper secondary education
- Post-secondary non-tertiary education
- Short-cycle tertiary education
- Bachelor's or equivalent level
- Master's or equivalent level
- Doctoral or equivalent level



Current economic status

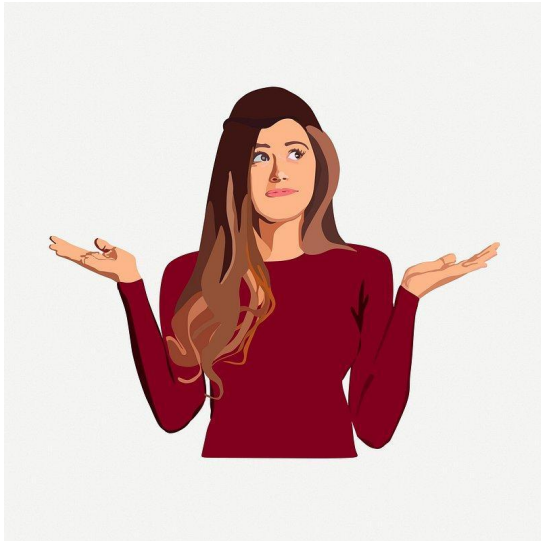


What do you consider green skills?



Interesting point

“I don’t know what green skills are” was an answer equally distributed among participants whose education is related to social science as well those whose education or work field is science or engineering.



1. **Moldova**
2. **Germany**
3. **Serbia**
4. **Montenegro**
5. **Hungary**



Green vs. Digital Skills

12 “I don’t know” answers - Green Skills

9 “I don’t know” answers - Digital Skills

Majority of survey participants who wrote
“I don’t know” for Green Skills answered
the same for Digital Skills



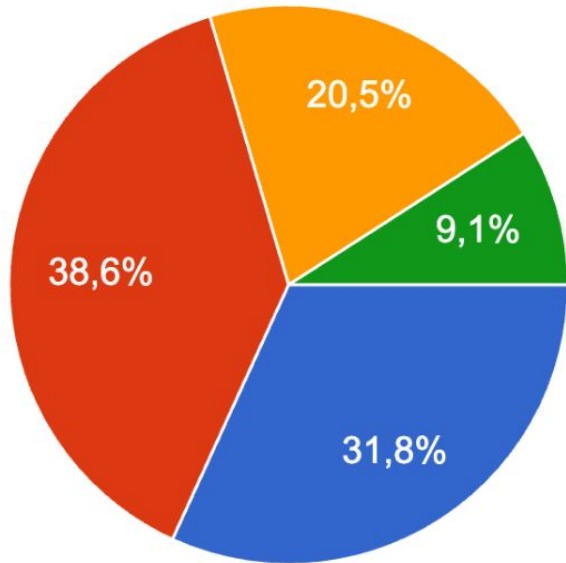


Digital skills

1. Ability to use computers efficiently
2. IT Skills, programming 3x
3. Skills for navigating technology for extracting useful information 3x
4. Utilising technology for learning and work 2x
5. Digital skills are abilities to use digital devices and online platforms 5x
6. Skills related to internet and its related technologies
7. Skills that are connected to digital literacy 2x
8. Microsoft Office, programming, social media management
9. Knowledge of digital tools, AI tools and their appropriate use
10. Using technology to communicate and be safe on the internet
11. Digital skills are skills that range from digital literacy, skills of using digital platforms and tools, knowledge of safety in the digital space and all those competencies to create, work and communicate in the digital era.
12. Abilities to operate with a lot of digital devices of many use in order to simplify the process of completing various tasks.

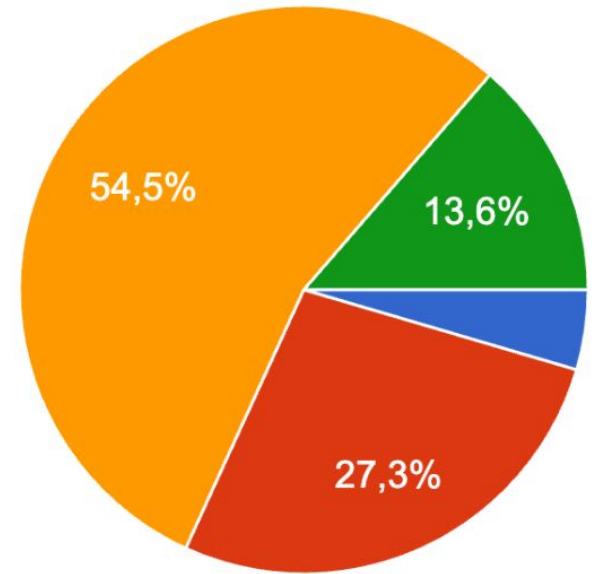
How extensively did your education cover...

Green skills



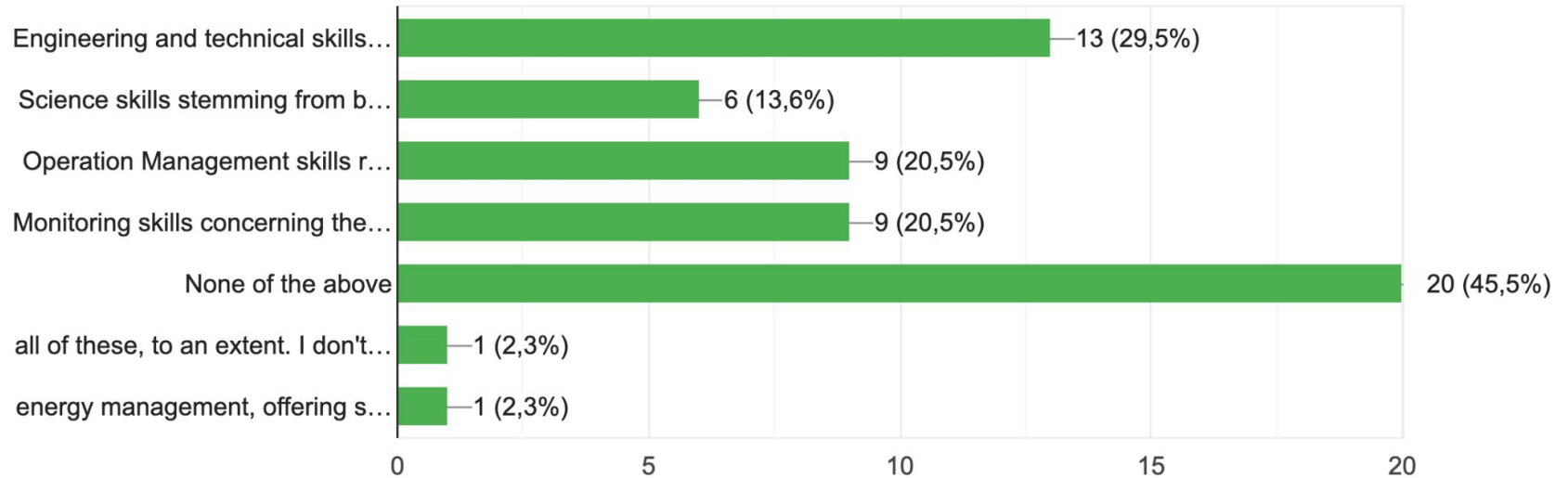
- Never encountered
- A little
- Moderately
- Extensively

Digital skills





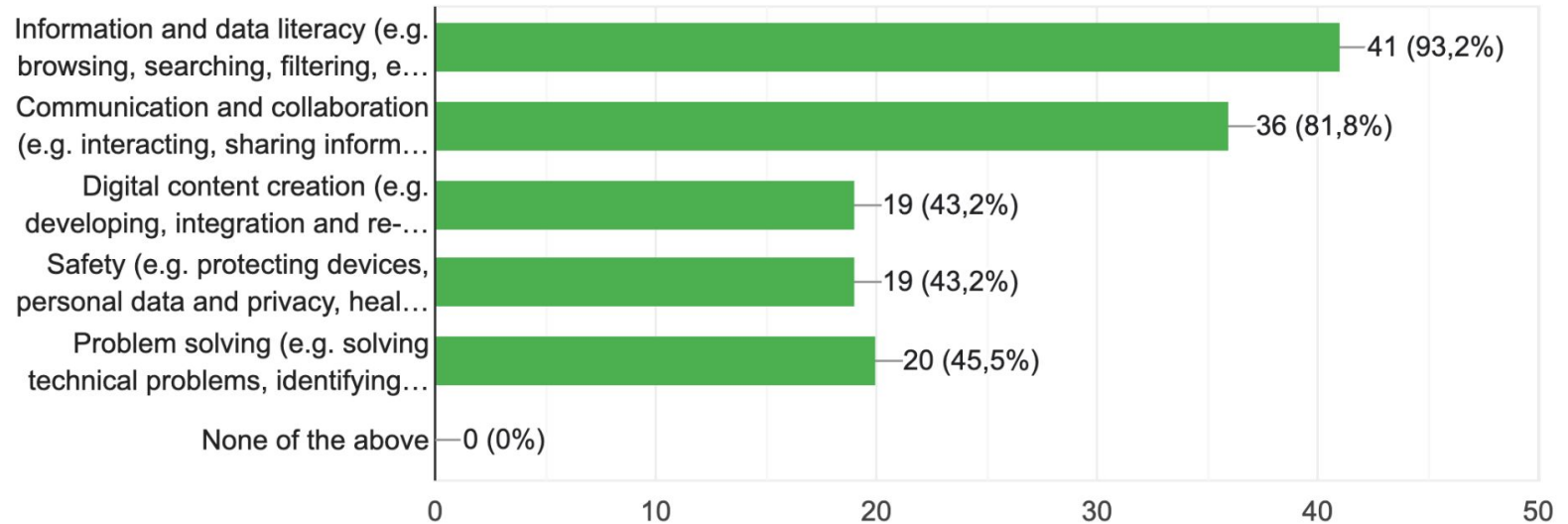
Which of the following green skills do you already possess?



Participant who has all these skills is actually a student of Environmental engineering.



Which of the following digital skills do you already possess?





Interesting point

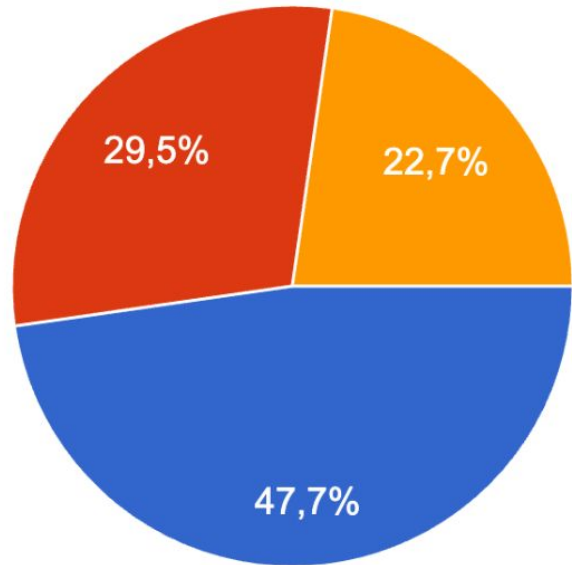
While 20 participants believe they don't possess any of Green Skills, every participant think they possess Digital Skills.

The reason behind that could be
our education system!

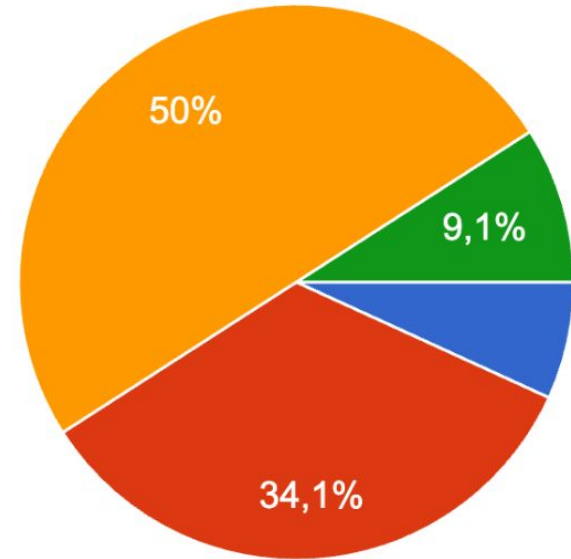


How confident are you in your current...

Green skills



Digital skills



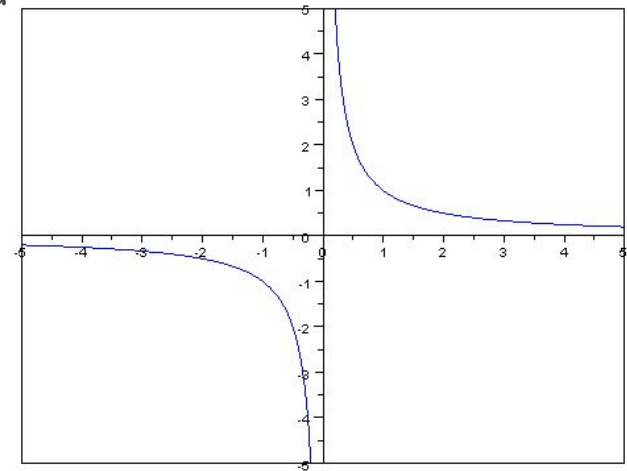
- Not confident
- Somewhat co
- Confident
- Very confiden



Interesting point

There is **inversely proportional** trend among confidence in Green and Digital Skills.

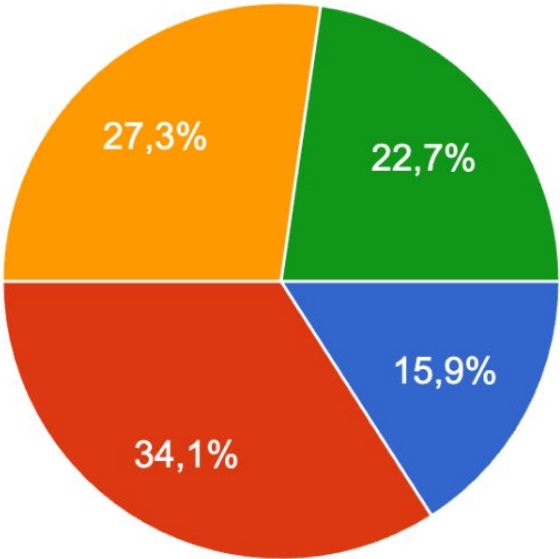
50% of participant is confident in their Digital Skills while around of 50% of participant declared themselves as not confident in their Green Skills



How relevant are ... skills in your field of study/work?

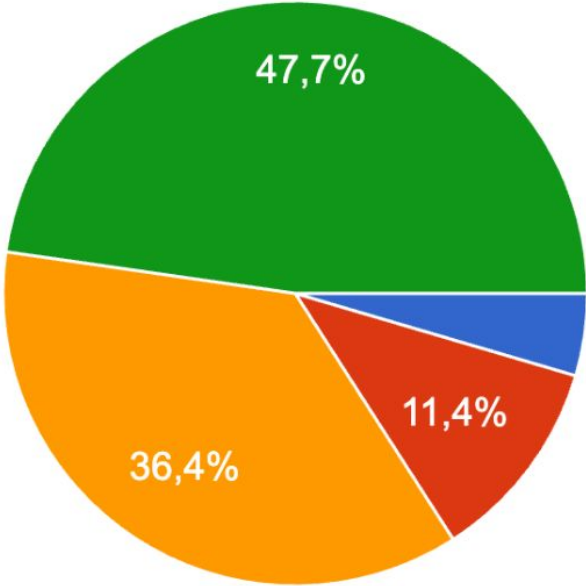


Green skills

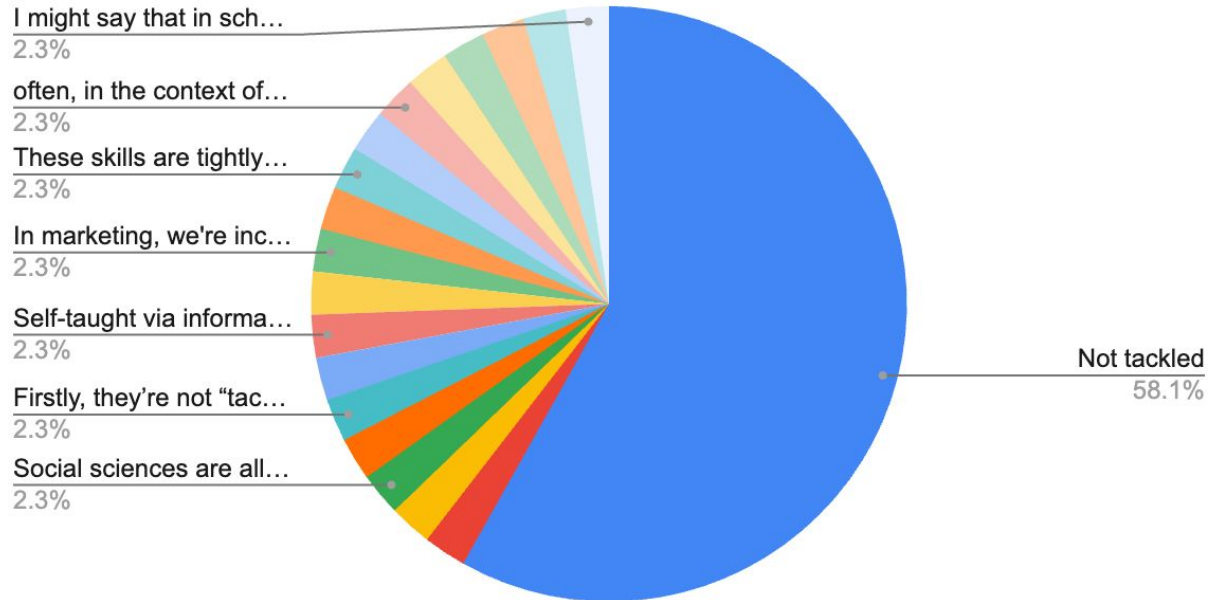


- Not relevant at all
- Somewhat relevant
- Relevant
- Very relevant

Digital skills



How are topics related to green and/or digital skills being tackled in your field of study/work?



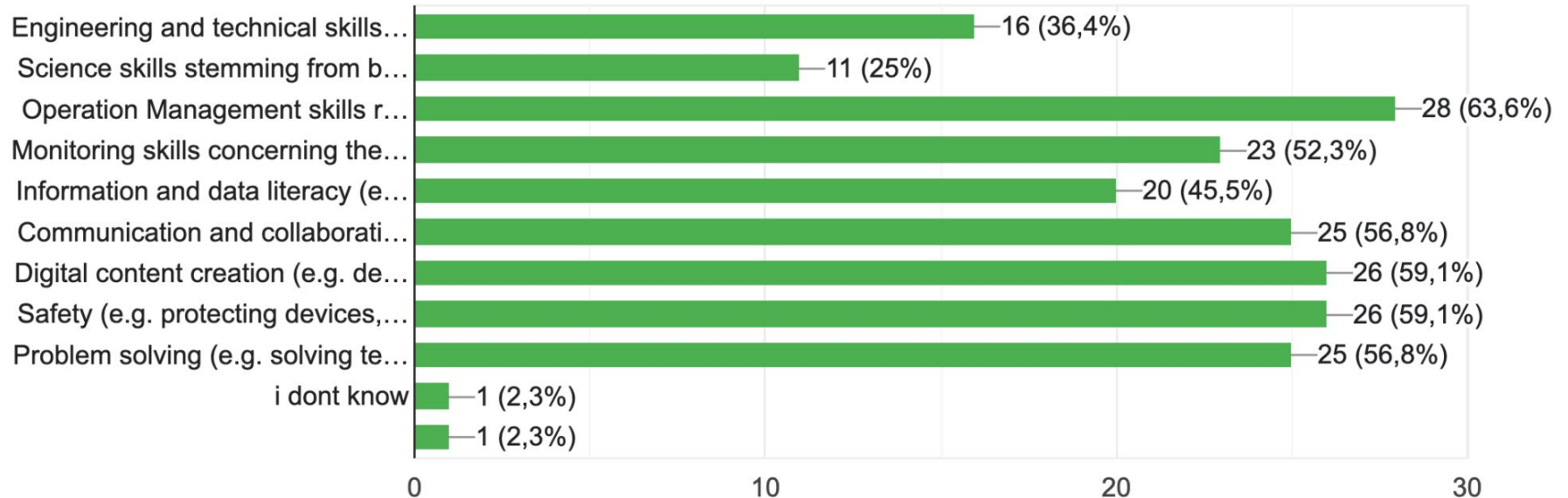


Some comments from our participants

1. I might say that in school this isn't a regular thing that is discussed frequently and meticulously monitored for the purpose of developing all kind of skills in children, but there is sooo much time to implement..or maybe not.. :)
2. Green and digital skills are always a priority beside the economic side, they are an important factor in future decision and the next steps we need to do
3. I use my digital skills during my work in library, so it helps me to make photos, promote communication , make posts in our media resources. What about green skills, it makes my vision clearer so I can share my green skills with children and youth of our library during events, etc.
4. Social sciences are all about critical thinking and digital literacy and references is very connected to that



Thinking about your career goals, which green or digital skills are you most interested in learning to advance your chances of landing a better job?

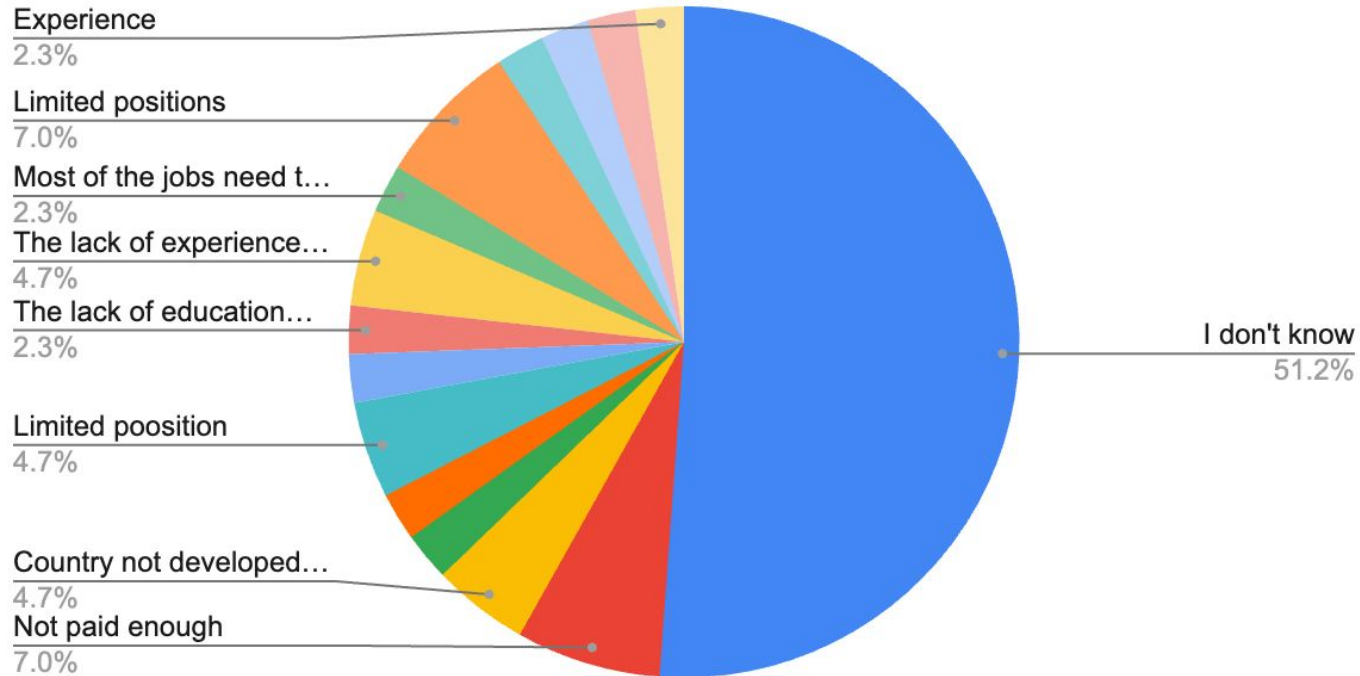




They said about their ideal Green or/and Digital job

1. Green job is pharmacist and digital is software developer
2. Digital job on developing projects for NGOs and other bodies
3. Creating evaluation tools for urban climate governance, Academia/Public sector
4. My ideal job would entail being a part of a universities conservation lab and work group, with consistent funding through national and international projects and state funding, enough employees to cover the administrative and bureaucratic basics
5. My job now, working in a startup that uses recycled and biodegradable materials and uses digital tools to scale the business
6. City(Urban) farmer (in some city or town). Content-creator (cultural, political or social institution).
7. I am not familiar with options
8. Energy Manager - I would like a job beside the economic factor, i prefer my job to have a positive impact on many levels like reducing CO2 emissions, reducing the energy, to change the people's perception and the need of the sustainable development and circular economy,, and beside all of those to make better condition of lives for all people including health, economic and community factors.
9. Empty answer - around 50% of participants

What are the biggest challenges you face in finding a job that utilises green and digital skills?





To sum it up/the biggest challenges

1. Education system
2. Relevant job positions and institutions
3. Salary expectations
4. Development of a country
5. Limited job offers
6. Lack of knowledge or experience

Lack of understanding of these concepts; they are more often used like buzz words rather than being implemented in practice



Solutions our participants proposed

1. Encouraging peers and professors
2. Better promotion of resources
3. Financial support for the time of pre-qualification
4. Inter-university communication and relevant portals, widely known and shared with students through e-mails, group posts, faculty, etc.
5. Explaining what they are (about), how a work day looks like, setting up a platform or a filter that would introduce the option of green and digital jobs
6. Previous studies, experience, volunteering in these fields
7. More information and learning resources
8. Bigger market



Moderated discussion



Wrap Up from the Rapporteur

