



HOPES-LEB
HIGHER AND FURTHER EDUCATION
OPPORTUNITIES & PERSPECTIVES

EDU-SYRIA
A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER MEETING

THE EU MADAD FUND'S REGIONAL ALUMNI NETWORK FOR HIGHER EDUCATION



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Technical Key suggestions

For a more productive meeting

- > Kindly add your name and organisation
- > Please mute your microphone during all presentations
- > For questions during/directly after the presentations, please add them in the chat, we will answer them during the discussion
- > During the discussion, once the moderator gives you the floor:
 - please turn on your microphone.
 - Turn off your microphone after your intervention.



AGENDA

10:00 - 10:15	Welcome addresses and brief introduction
10:15 - 10:35	1. Alumni needs and Priorities ➢ Presentation of the results of the Needs Assessment Survey conducted with former and current scholarships holders of the higher education projects funded by the EU Madad Fund
10:35 - 11:30	2. The Development of a Regional Alumni Network ➢ Presentation of the planned Regional Alumni Network of scholarship holders in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey ➢ The added value of the network (by representatives of the Student Alumni Board) ➢ Discussion on recommendations and identification of priorities and possible activities ➢ Level of involvement of the institutions
11:30	Outlook and closing remarks.



Welcome

- > **Ms. Orla COLCLOUGH**, International Aid Cooperation assistant - EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis, Higher Education focal point at the Delegation of the European Union to Lebanon
- > **Dr. Carsten WALBINER**, HOPES-LEB Project Director

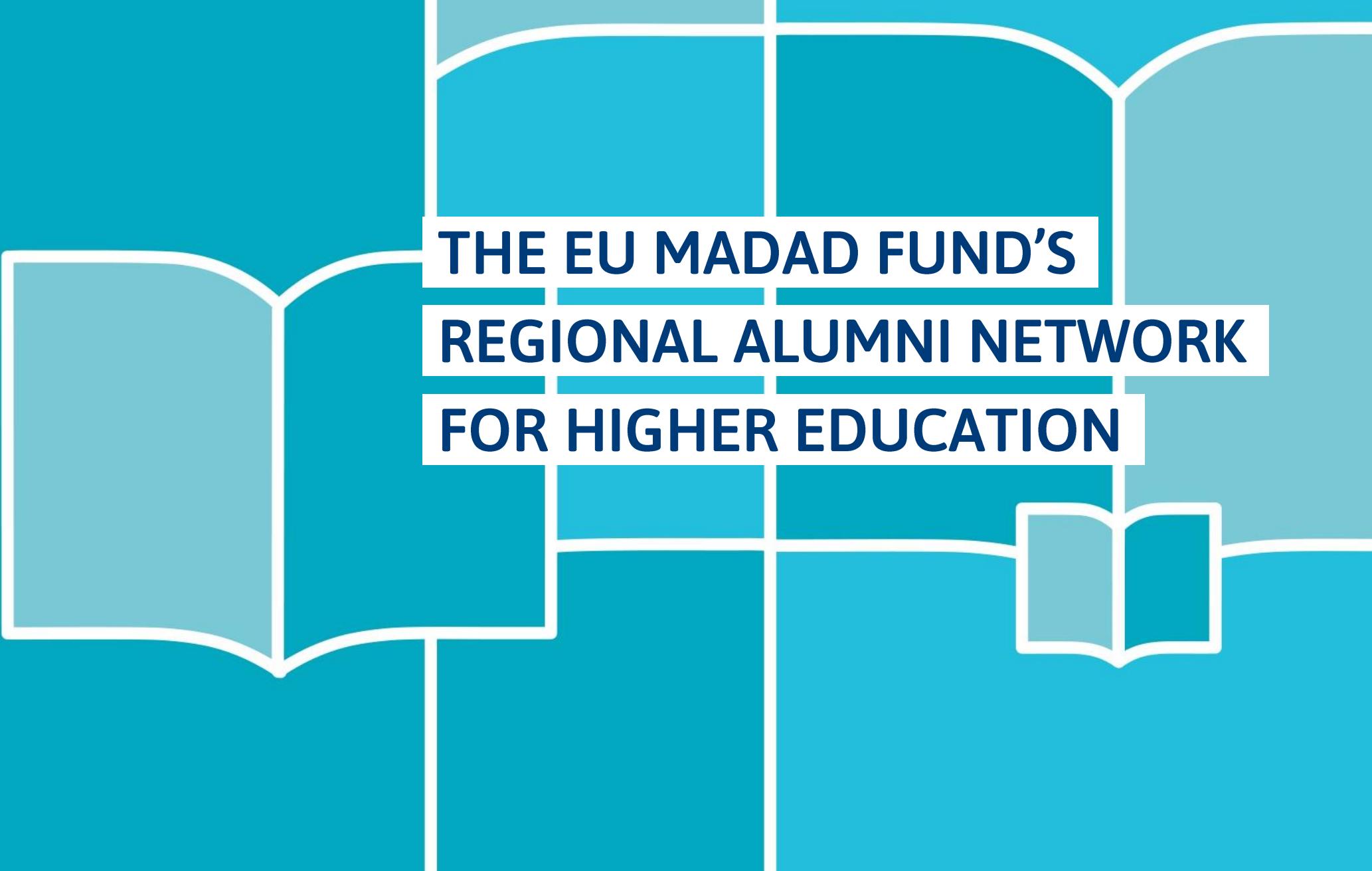


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THE EU MADAD FUND'S REGIONAL ALUMNI NETWORK FOR HIGHER EDUCATION



The European Union,
through the EU Regional
Trust Fund in Response to
the Syrian Crisis, the “EU
Madad Fund”

Funded programmes

HOPES & HOPES-LEB

EDU-SYRIA

SPARK

REGIONAL ALUMNI NETWORK

- > Since 2015, the European Union has been committed to providing youth, refugees and host communities in **Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey** with the necessary support to better access quality further and higher education opportunities.
- > Unified regional alumni community and network of former and current EU-funded scholarship holders in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey
- > Objective: To facilitate exchange and increase further educational and labour market prospects at the national, regional and international levels.

Implementing partners:

- > HOPES-LEB (German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Campus France and Nuffic)
- > in collaboration with EDU-SYRIA project (led by the German Jordanian University),
- > Active participation of alumni and students of other higher education projects funded by the EU Madad Fund
- > In collaboration with higher education institutions and organisations in the region.



The EU Madad Fund's Regional Alumni Network for Higher Education

Exchange, coordination & connections

Better study and employability prospects

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

BETTER SUPPORT

Collaborative outreach and participative approach

Objectives:

- > to facilitate exchanges and the building of relationships and connections
- > To provide potential educational and labour market opportunities at the regional and international levels.



The EU Madad Fund's Regional Alumni Network for Higher Education

**Information on Study Programmes
(language, online, TVET etc..)**

**Information on Labour Market
opportunities , volunteering, internships,
job platforms**

Online seminars & Courses

Networking Discussions

Online Events

Target Groups:

- > Graduated students from the host communities & Refugees from Syria in Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, Egypt and Turkey
- > Alumni of HE projects in the region including the first phases of the projects ending in 2020

Institutions:

- > Higher education institutions and institutions (NGOs) including education and scholarship providers, training centers, Language Centres, community centers etc.
- > Private sector: Organisations and enterprises (including education, job platforms, webinars etc.)

ALUMNI STUDENT BOARD



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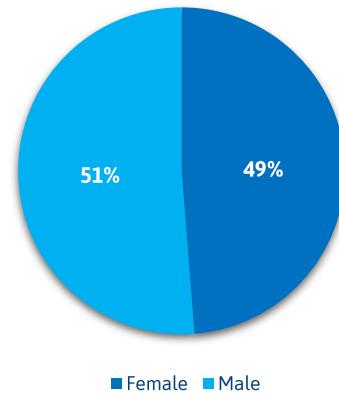
ALUMNI NEEDS & PRIORITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Profile of the participants

Overall, 482 participants

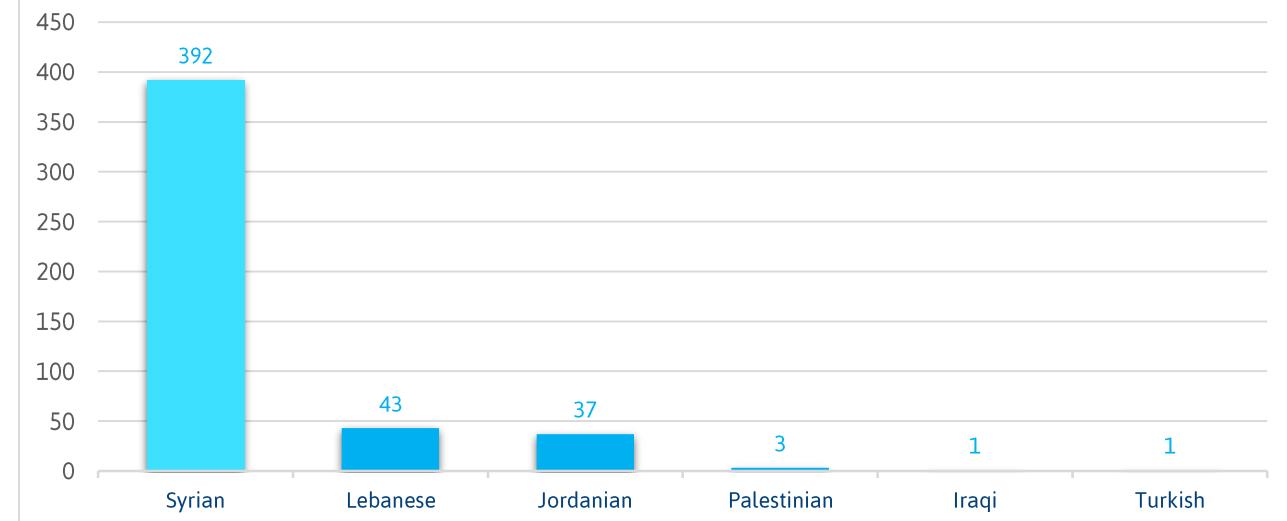
> 235 (48.76%) females and 247 (51.24%) males.

Breakdown of participants by gender



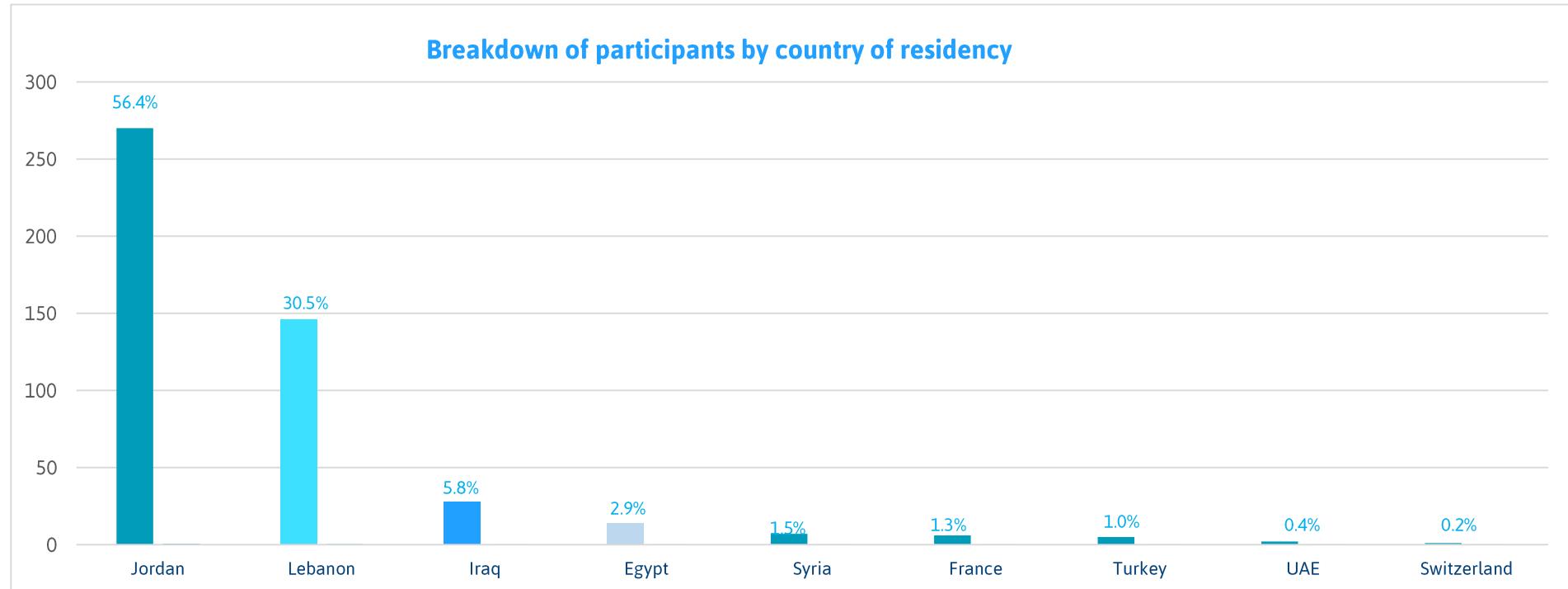
> Of the 477 persons who answered the question about nationality, 392 are Syrian (82.2 %), 43 are Lebanese (9%), 37 are Jordanian (7.8 %), 3 are Palestinian, 1 is Iraqi, and 1 is Turkish.

Breakdown of participants by nationality



Profile of the participants

> The majority of the participants (270) reside in Jordan; 146 live in Lebanon, 28 in Iraq, 14 in Egypt, 7 in Syria, 6 in France, 5 in Turkey, 2 in the UAE, and 1 in Switzerland.

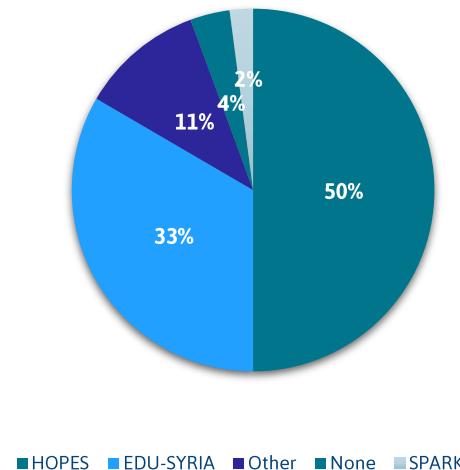


Educational background

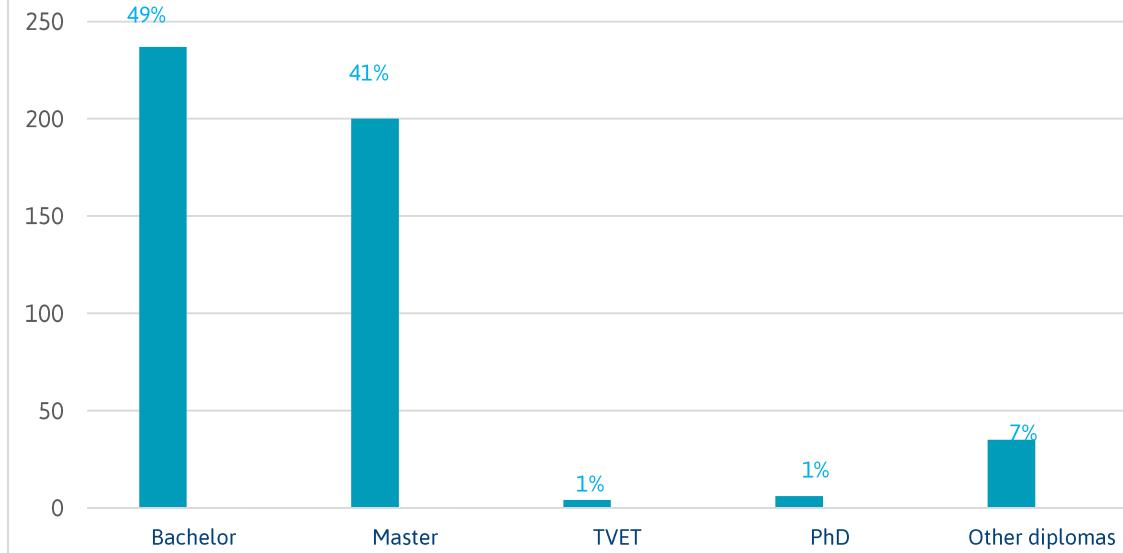
All except 17 participants have previously or recently received a scholarship.

- > The majority are HOPES alumni (240 participants); 161 are from EDU-SYRIA (GJU) and 10 are from SPARK. The remaining participants received scholarships that were not funded by the 'EU Madad Fund'.
- > 237 participants hold a bachelor degree, 200 a master degree, 4 a Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) certificate, 6 a PhD, and 35 other diplomas.

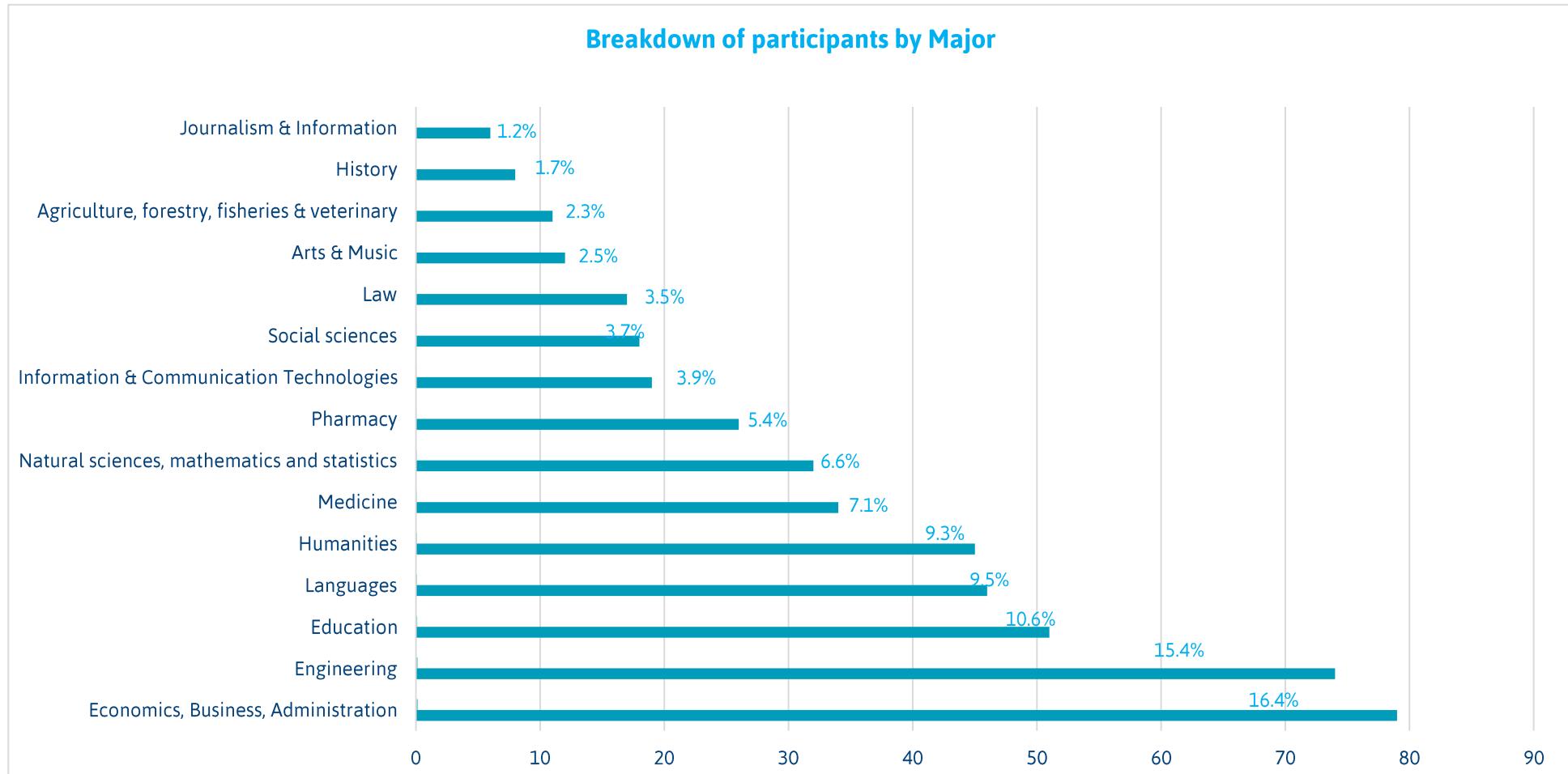
Breakdown of participants by scholarship



Breakdown of participants by academic level



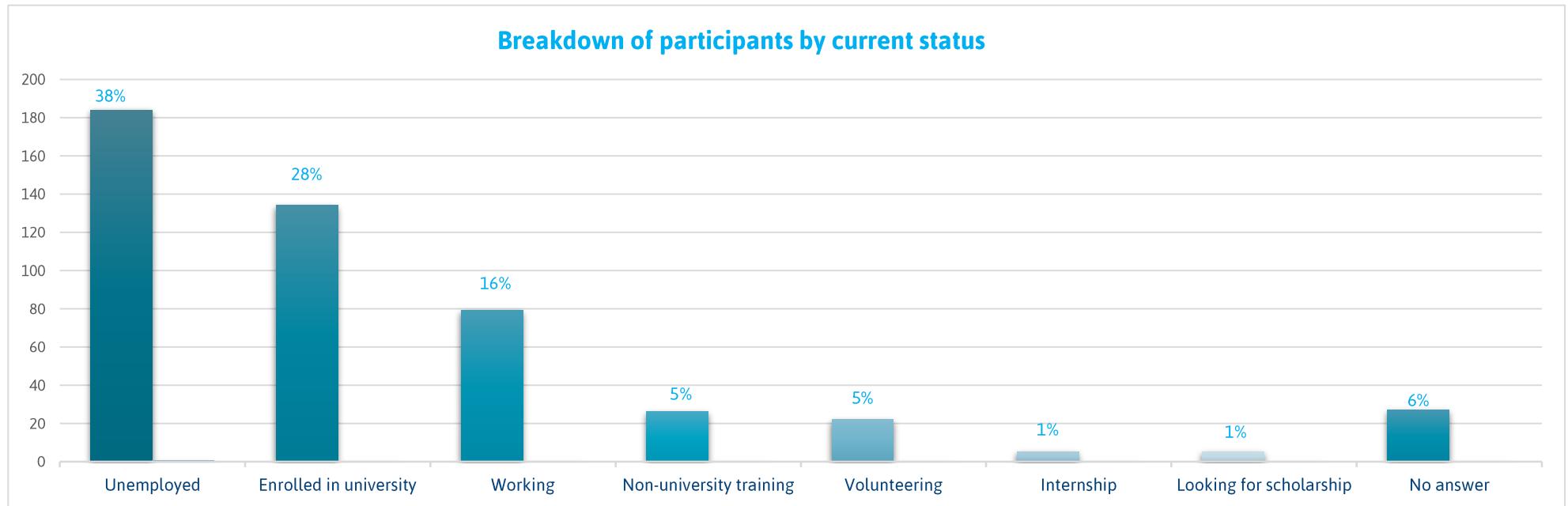
Educational background



Current Status

Most of the participants have graduated between 2018 and 2020.

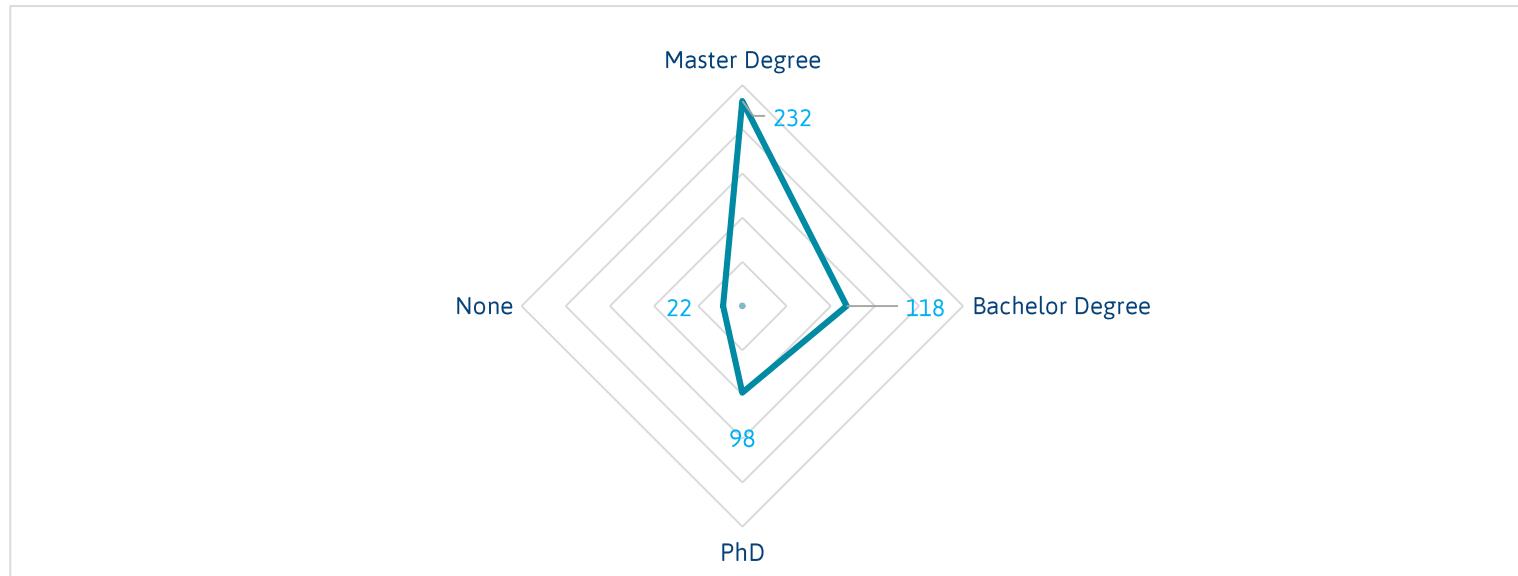
> 184 persons are unemployed (5 of which are taking care of their family), 134 are currently enrolled at a university, 79 persons are working, 26 are participating in a non-university training, 22 are volunteering, 5 are interns, and 5 are looking for a scholarship to continue their master or PhD. (27 persons didn't answer this question.)



Current Needs

In terms of information on higher education study and scholarship programmes

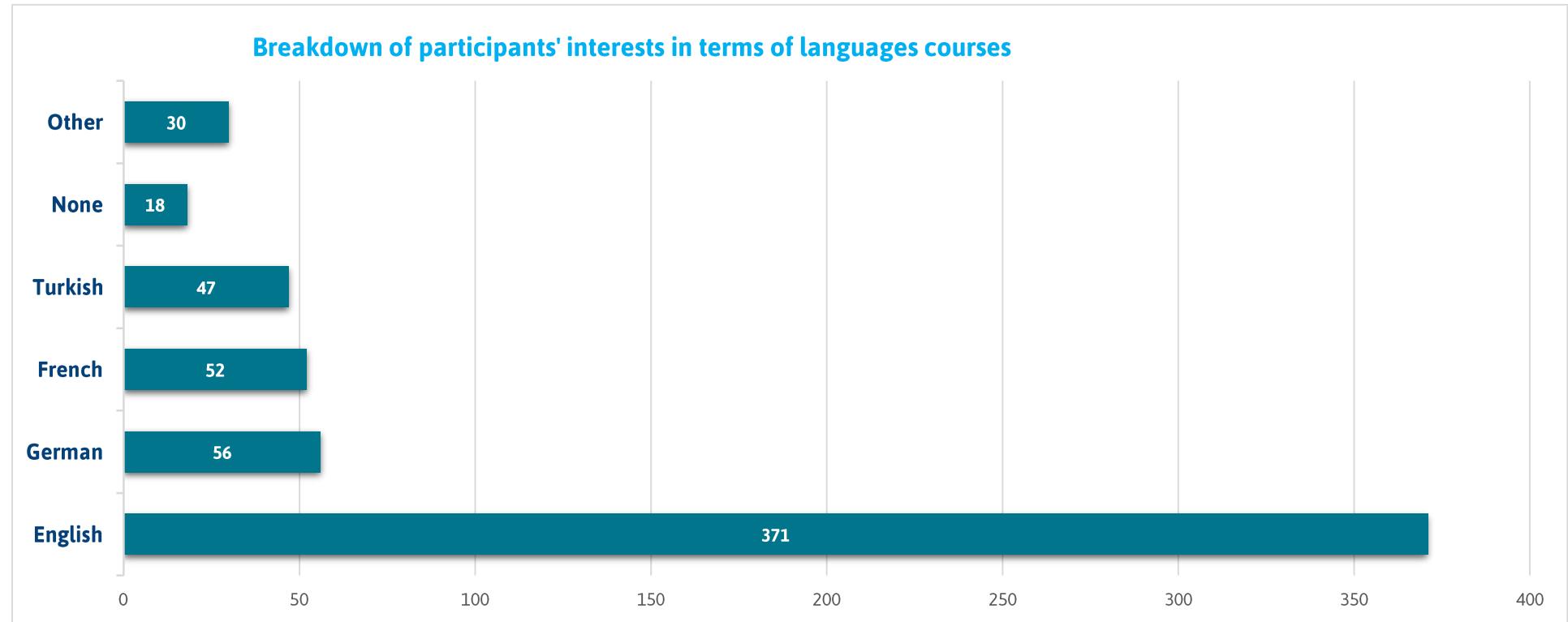
- > 232 persons are interested in master degrees, 118 persons in bachelor degrees, 98 persons in PhD, and 22 persons aren't interested in any of the above.
- > Among those who showed interest in higher education study and scholarships programmes, 73.26% are interested in programmes on an international level, 64.17% in their country of residence, and 38.5% in the region.



Current Needs

In terms of language courses

> 371 persons are interested to learn English, 56 German, 52 French, 47 Turkish, and 18 persons aren't interested in language courses. Whereas 30 persons chose other languages

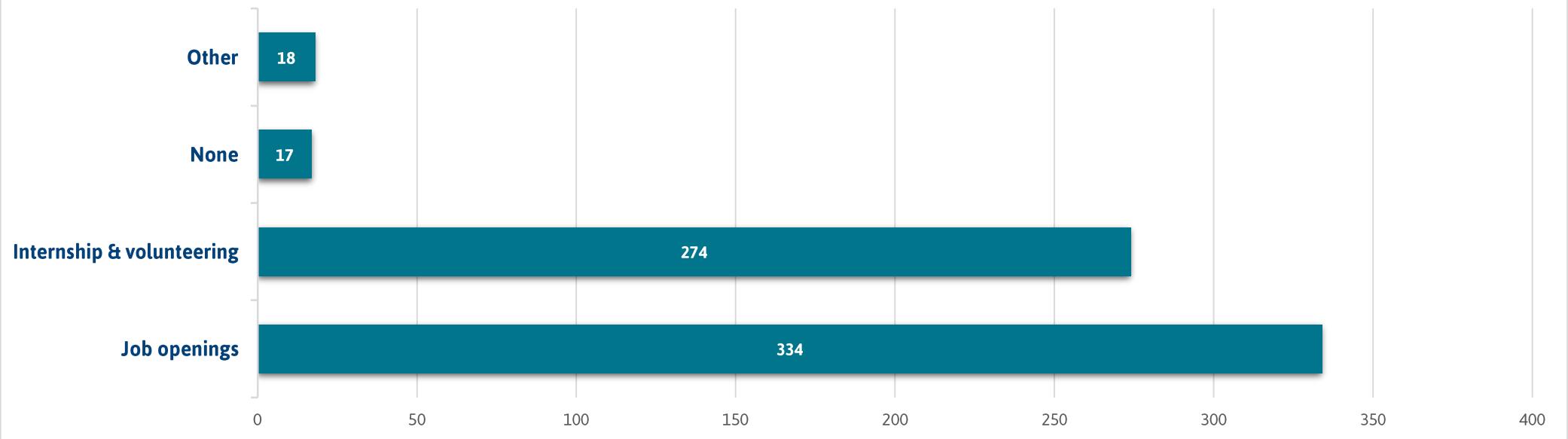


Current Needs

In terms of further needed information

- > The majority of participants (334) are interested to receive information on job openings and vacancies.
- > 274 persons are interested in internship and volunteering opportunities.

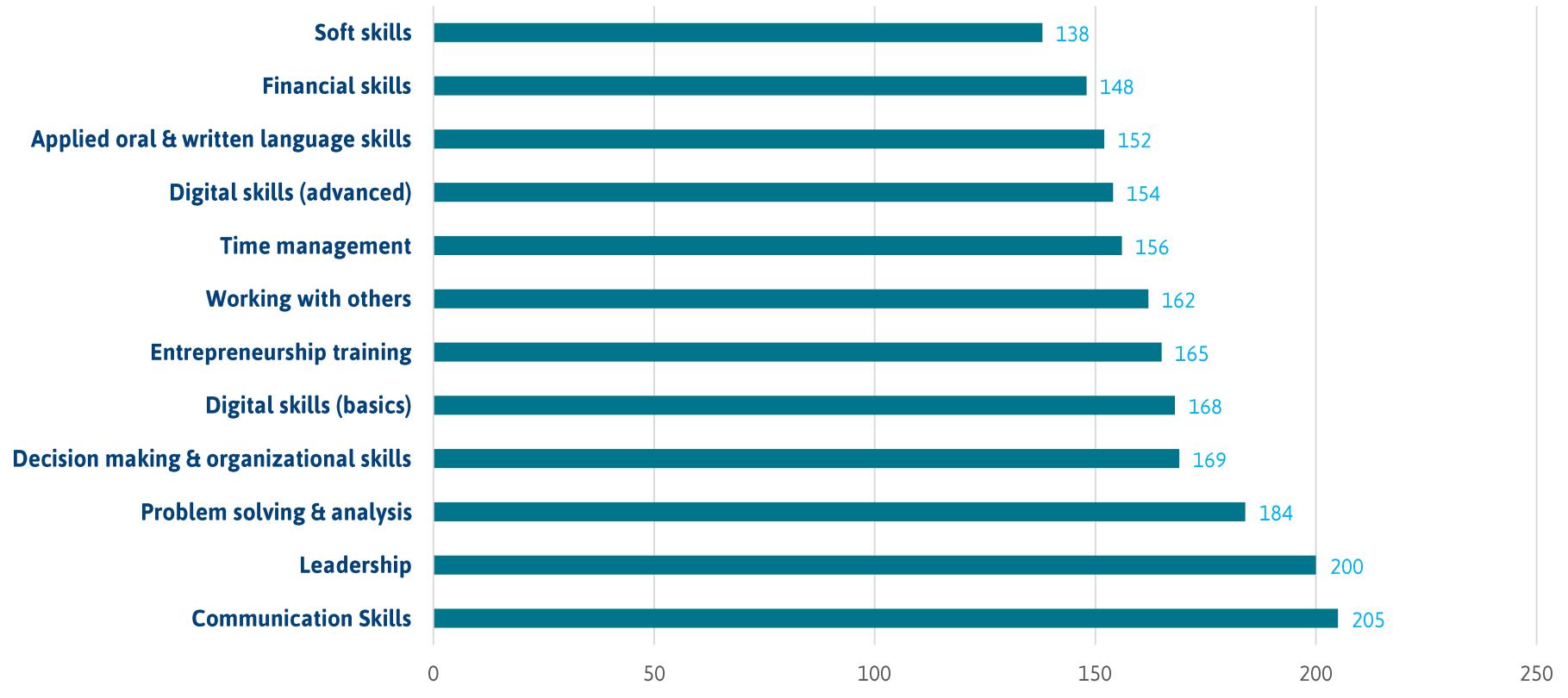
Breakdown of participants' interests in terms of other needed information



Current Needs

In terms of online training sessions and seminars

Breakdown of participants' interests in terms of online training sessions and seminars





Current Needs

In terms of online training sessions and seminars

- > Other areas of interest were mentioned such as:
 - > Programming, artificial intelligence,
 - > Modern and contemporary history,
 - > Research methodology,
 - > Public health issues,
 - > IELTS and TOEFL Preparation Courses,
 - > Cosmetics and any other things related to pharmacy, medical analysis, medical courses,
 - > Project management,
 - > Human resources (writing reports / social protection),
 - > Photoshop, photography, graphic design,
 - > Training of Trainers (ToT).

Current Needs

In terms of topics that participants would regard important to talk over during networking discussions

- > The most relevant answers received can be split as follows: (The answers had to be formulated by the participants and could not be selected from a pre-defined list.)

Exchange of experiences:

- Sharing experiences with experts in various professional fields,
- Exchange of experience between alumni.

Topics related to the alumni majors:

- Teaching in the era of online learning,
- Pharmacy related topics,
- Disabilities and Inclusion,
- How language and psychology are interrelated,
- Economic affairs,
- Digital marketing,
- Engineering topics,
- Psychology.

Personal development:

- Communication skills and working within a team,
- How to focus on personal improvement and find opportunities for work despite the country's economic and social problems,
- Development of individual practical life skills,
- Motivational topics,
- Mental health and dealing with depression (How to control one's life),
- How to improve self-confidence,
- Problems and solutions for working remotely in the current situation,
- How do develop networking skills,
- Leadership,
- Positivity and how to improve oneself / being positive even in negative situations.

Entrepreneurship:

- Creating sustainable businesses,
- Entrepreneurship topics,
- How to start a new business after graduation,
- How to set up a small business.

Current Needs

In terms of topics that participants would regard important to talk over during networking discussions

Pursue higher education and be ready for the labour market:

- How to search for opportunities,
- Scholarships abroad, how to apply, and how to fill out the application?
- How to benefit from job opportunities outside the area of residence?
- The jobs of the future,
- Developing digital libraries in times of Covid-19, giving students more access to needed sources and resources,
- Needed skills to enter the labour market,
- Classroom administration and individual differences at the university level,
- Dialogue about the obstacles university graduate students are facing,
- The gap between educational outcomes and market requirements,
- How to write a CV, prepare for interviews and create presentations,
- Freelancing and work using global platforms such as shutterstock & freepik,
- Looking for job opportunities using LinkedIn,
- The difficulties faced by Syrian refugees in terms of higher education and the labour market.

Technology:

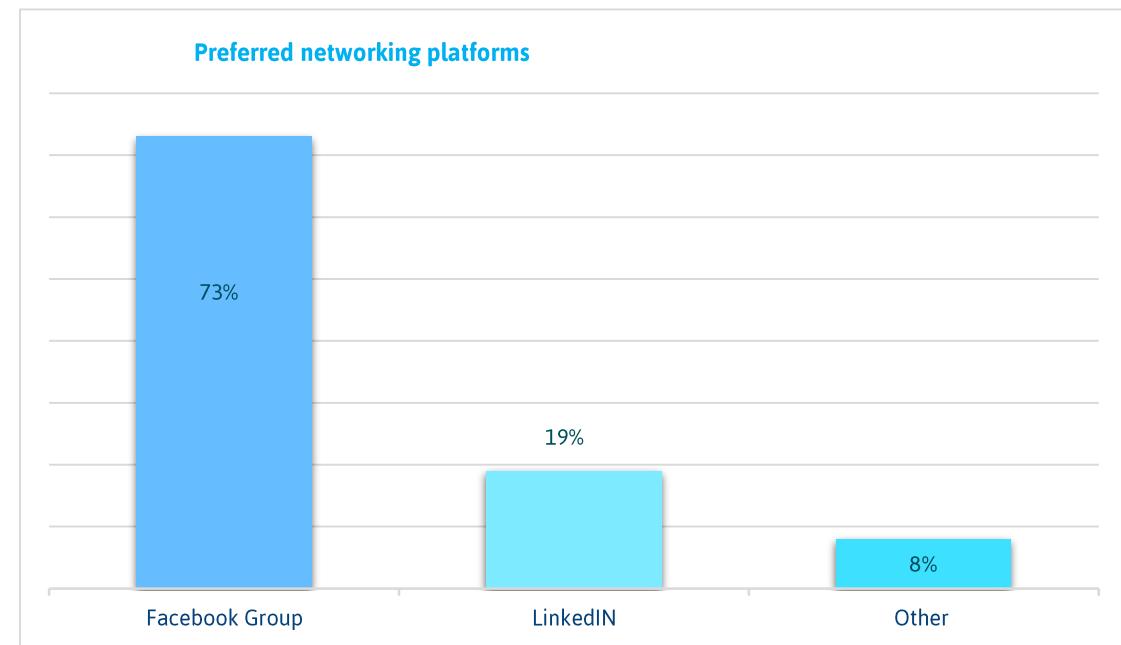
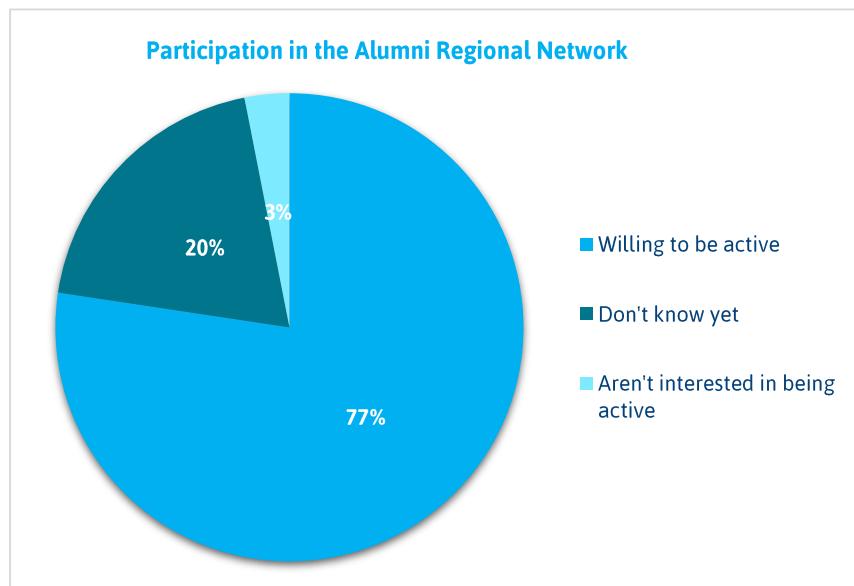
- Social media and strengthening the ties between civilizations through technology,
- Ways to benefit from technological development,
- Networking with the international community.

Other topics:

- The impact of media on public opinion,
- Freedom of expression in religions,
- What's next

Alumni Engagement

- > 276 participants chose Facebook Group as the preferred networking platform for the alumni network, while 71 participants suggested LinkedIn, and a few opted for other platforms such as Zoom, WhatsApp, Telegram, Instagram, Teams, and Twitter.





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THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGIONAL ALUMNI NETWORK

Overview of what has been done

Preparation meetings

Focus Groups

Survey

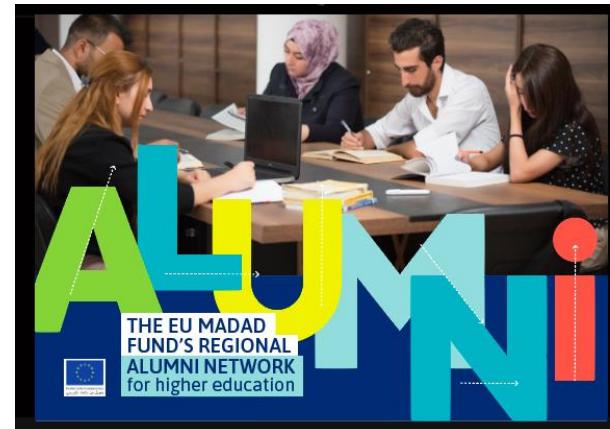
Establishment of working committees

Student Alumni Board

Communication & visibility: Network's identity (in progress)

Preparation of the Web Platform and social media (in progress)

Thematics & Priorities



Activities & Themes

Information on Study Programmes (language, online, TVET etc..) and labour market opportunities

Online seminars & short Courses & workshops

Labour Market Context & Regulations

Searching for a Job / Internship

- job opportunities & building a professional network
- Importance of internships / volunteering and where to find them
- LinkedIn course (what is LinkedIn? How to create your profile? How to search for a job? Etc.)

How to Get Ready for the Labour Market

- How to prepare a good CV , cover letter, job interview

Needs of the Labour Market

- Needs of the Labour market
- Career orientation

Going Digital

- Digitalization of the labour market in times of Covid-19 / post Covid-19
- Basic and Advanced digital skills (e-commerce, SEO, etc.)
- Online teaching training for teachers

Networking Discussions

Online Events

Personal Development

- Problem solving techniques
- Conflict management and Teamwork
- Time management / planning skills
- Communication
- Leadership training
- Stress Management Networking Talks

Innovation & Entrepreneurship

- How to turn your idea into business
- Entrepreneurship & incubation

English language courses

- IELTS / TOEFL preparation courses



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ADDED VALUE

REGIONAL ALUMNI NETWORK



Added Value

- > **Mr. Louay Haji** – (Alumni HOPES)
- > **Mr. Ibrahim Al Hariri** – (Alumni EDU-SYRIA)
- > **Ms. Nawar Rahmouni** – (Alumni SPARK)



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DISCUSSION

RECOMMENDATIONS & CONTRIBUTION