

ESTONIAN MILITARY ACADEMY



Teaching and Learning Russian as a Foreign Language
at the Estonian Military Academy. Nowadays.

Anna Hainoja, PhD

- About the Academy
- About the Russian language in Estonia
- Briefly about the research
- The outcomes and findings
- The importance of the topic
- Further steps in research



Military education

The Estonian Military Academy (EMA) is an institution of vocational training, developing on secondary education, for applied higher education and military research related to national defence. The only one of a kind in Estonia.



THE FIELDS OF STUDY

Army, air force and navy cadets [BA]

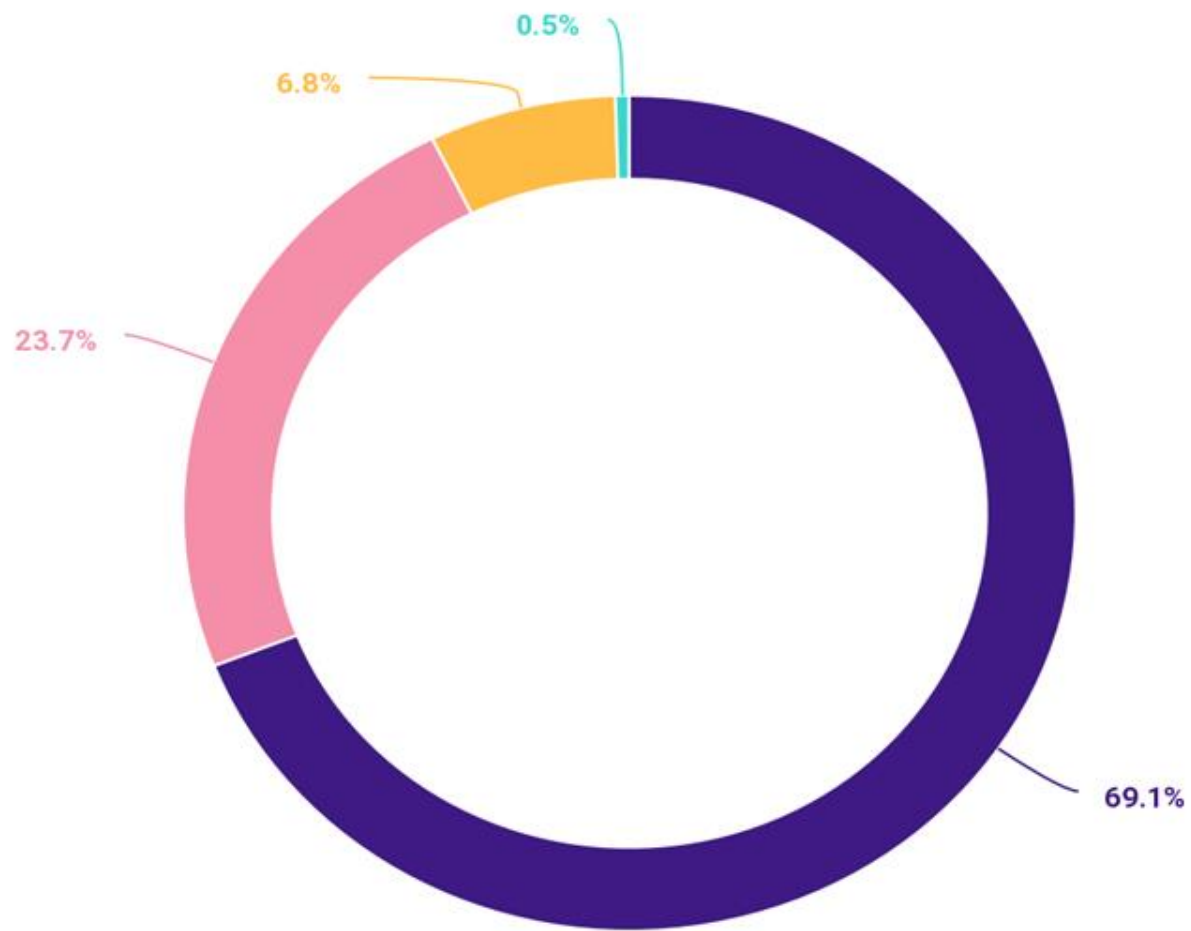
Advanced officers' course [MA]

Senior staff officers' and higher staff officers' training courses



Population distribution by ethnic nationalities | 2022

Source: Statistics Estonia



- Estonians
- Russians
- Other ethnic nationalities
- Ethnic nationality unknown



Population by ethnic nationalities 2018-2022

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Estonians	905,677	907,628	909,552	914,896	919,693
Russians	328,864	328,299	327,802	322,700	315,242
Other ethnic nationalities	69,678	71,483	78,387	85,333	90,149
Ethnic nationality unknown	14,914	17,410	13,148	7,139	6,712



Mother tongues spoken in Estonia, 2000



Mother tongues spoken in Estonia, 2021

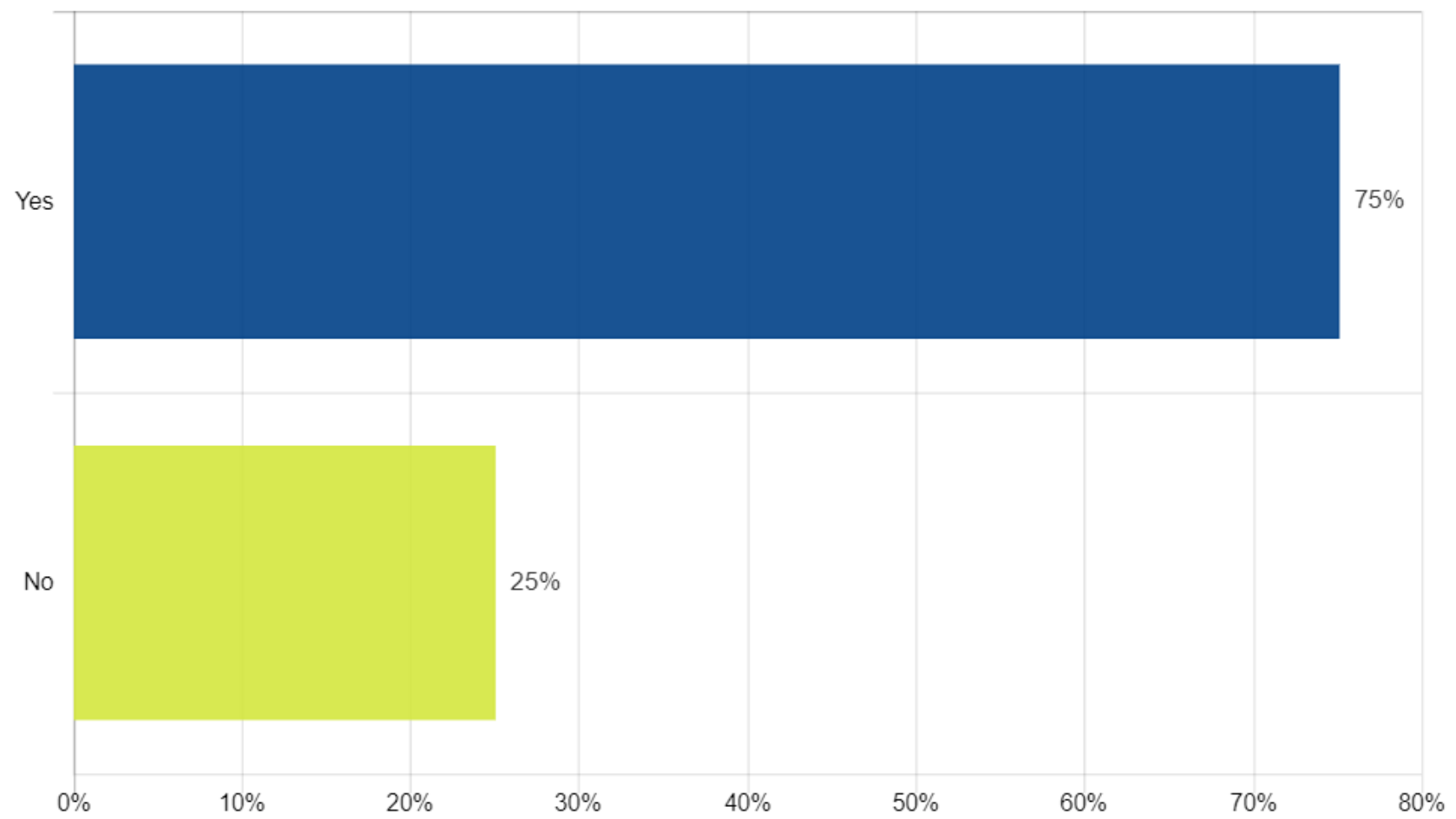


Target group: the cadets and the officers, who study Russian during 2022/2023 academic year

82% and 80% have given the answers



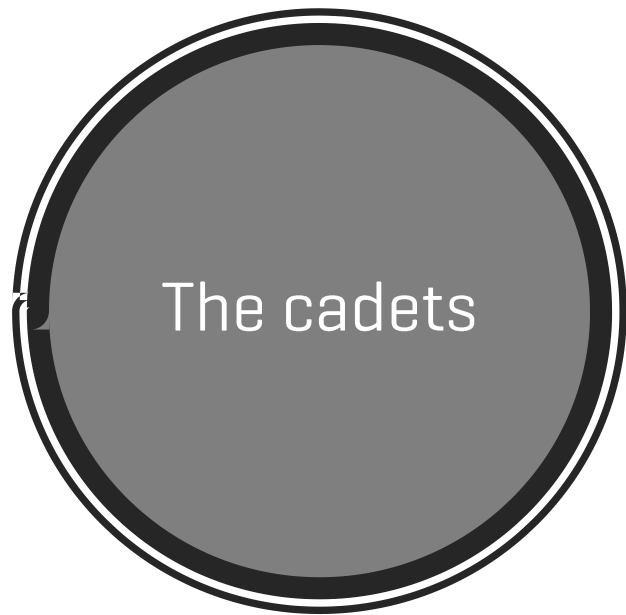
Do you think knowing Russian in Estonia is important nowadays?



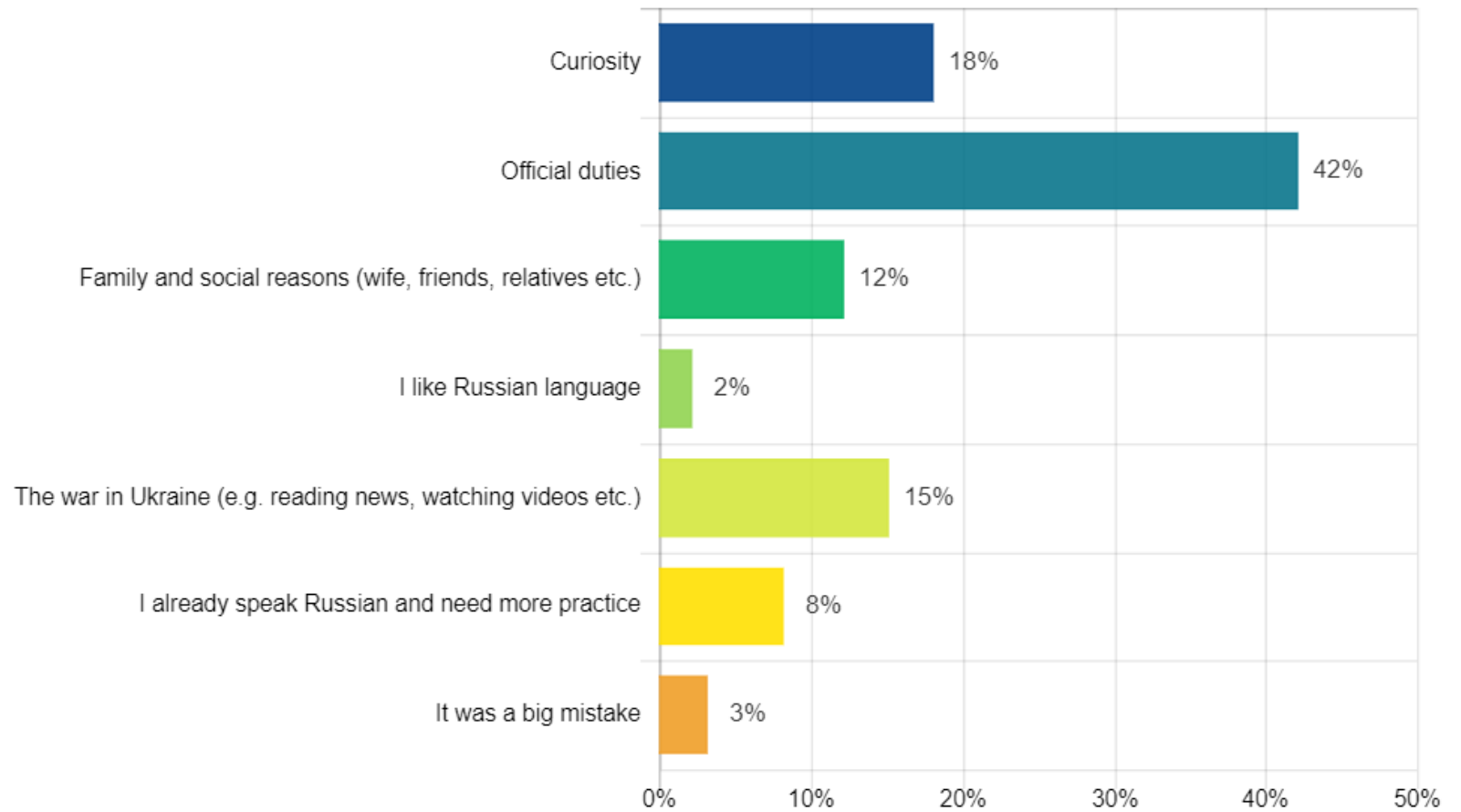
The students' reasoning

- a) Communication with Russian speakers;
- b) Knowledge of any language is enriching;
- c) Russian helps to perform official duties;
- d) Russian is not needed.



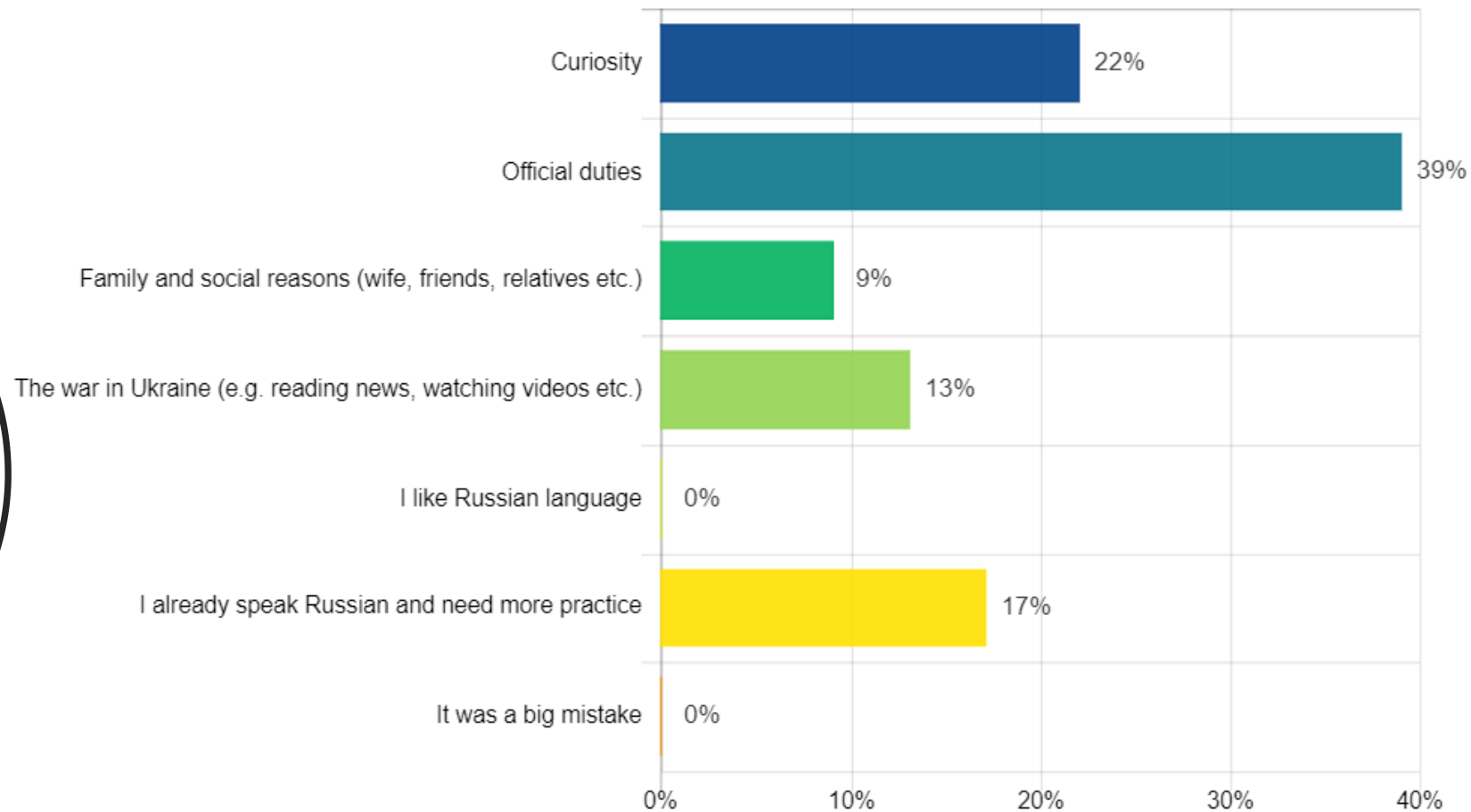


Why are you learning Russian?



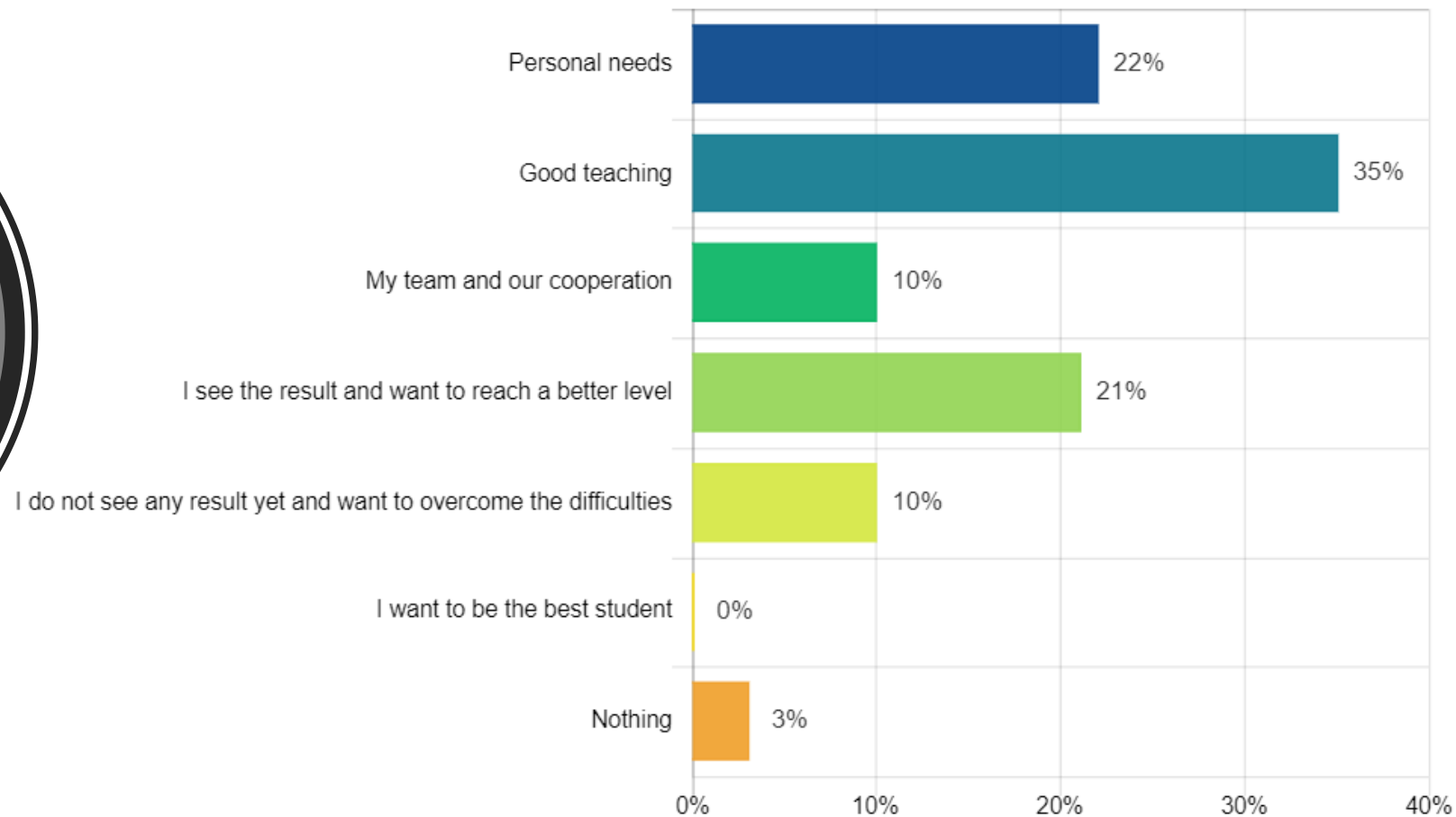


Why are you learning Russian?



The cadets

What motivates you to learn Russian?



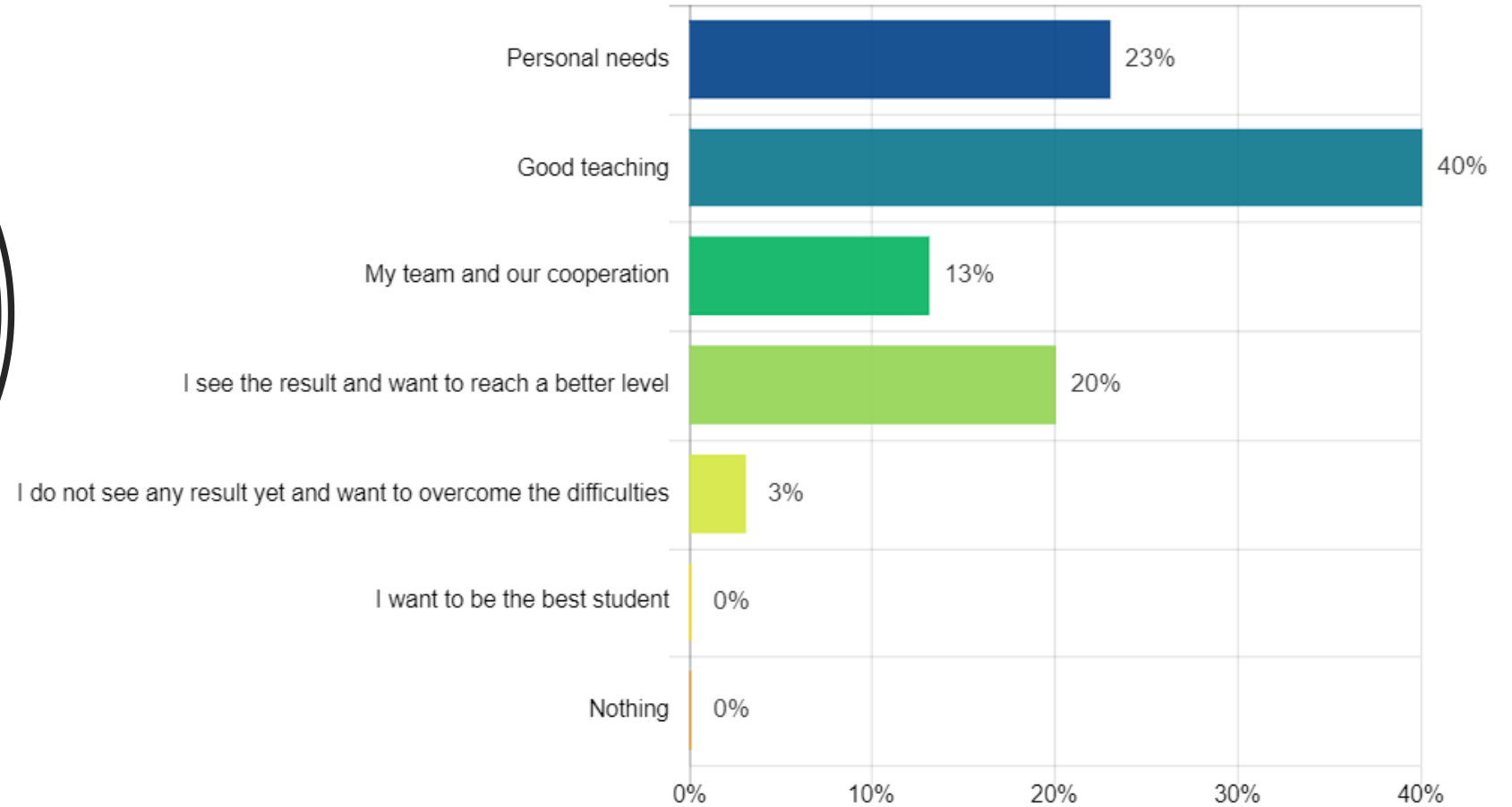
The students' answers

- There are people who speak only Russian, both in civilian and in the service;
- Because of the growing aggression that is in motion right now. Since Estonia has mutual history with Russia and many Estonians don't even speak Estonian because all they know is Russian;
- Just the other day a soldier couldn't clearly explain himself due to the language barrier. Learning Russian just might help with that;
- Language learning develops us.



The officers

What motivates you to learn Russian



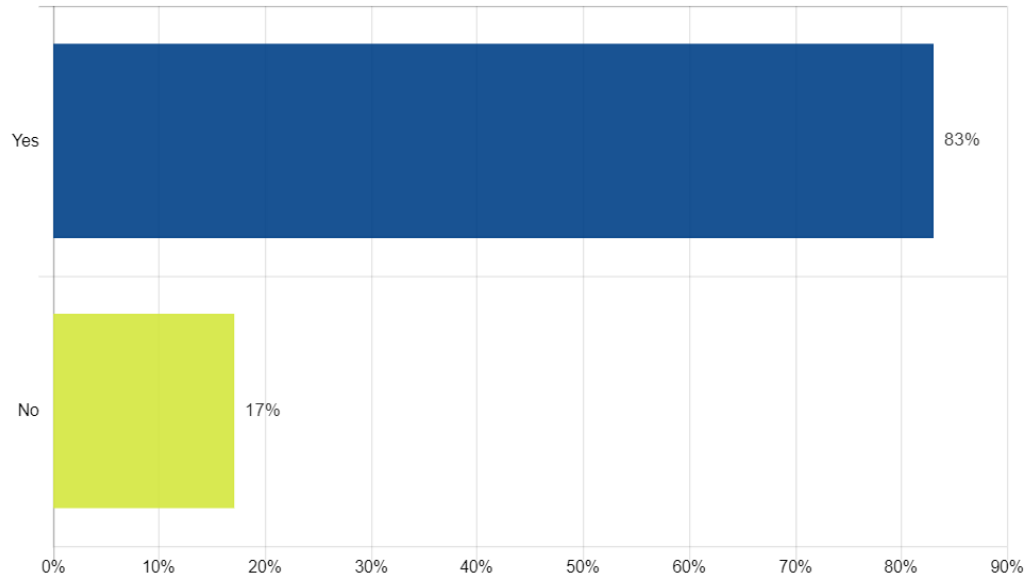


The students' answers

- Language barriers must be broken from both sides as much as possible;
- The more one human being can learn the more he/she is understanding the way the World works;
- Our neighbour isn't going anywhere in the near future.

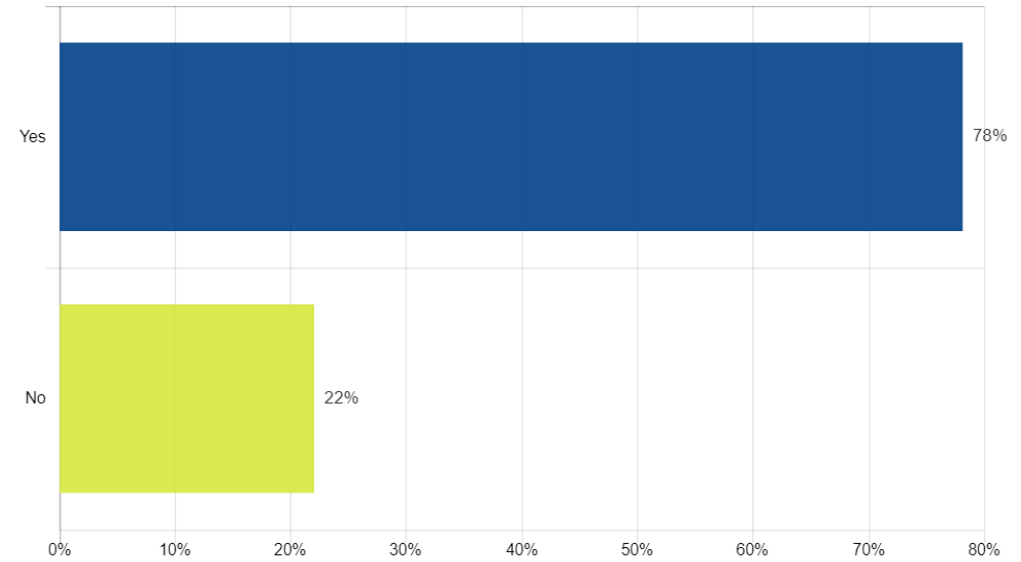


Do you think learning (and/or teaching) Russian in Estonia is important nowadays?



The officers

Do you think learning (and/or teaching) Russian in Estonia is important nowadays?



The cadets



The students' answers

- Because the Russian-speaking community is quite large in Estonia;
- There are people who speak only Russian, both in civilian and in the service;
- No matter what international language learning is important;
- Learning Russian doesn't mean we speak less Estonian. It helps us understand Russian-speakers living in Estonia. And that way we can help them to learn Estonian.



I highly appreciate your attention!

Mente et ense pro patria!

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