



# Report on Evaluation of Educational Activities by Students of Doctoral Degree Programmes

## I. Date and way of evaluation

The evaluation was performed from 6 May till 31 May 2021 by means of a questionnaire in MS Forms. The questionnaire was available in two languages (Czech and English). The respondents were also allowed to complete the questionnaire offline and to deliver it in printed form (which was done in one case). The questionnaire forms Annex 3 hereof.

## II. Information about participation

One hundred and ninety-three doctoral students were asked to complete the questionnaire; 90 questionnaires were submitted (78 and 12 questionnaires in Czech and English, respectively). The response rate was 46.6% at the UHK; however, it differed faculty to faculty: the highest response rate was at the FIM – 63%, while the lowest one was at the PŘF – 36% (for details, see Annex 1).

## III. General results of evaluation

Annex 2 shows graphical processing of answers to individual questions. More information about the evaluation can be found in supplementing textual comments.

### A) Organization of the PhD studies and related facilities

First five questions were aimed at organizational aspects of doctoral studies and facilities available to the doctoral students (workplace, computer, equipment). Most of answers to all these questions were positive although the rate of positive and more critical evaluation differed across the faculties. For example, the question *How do you evaluate the facilities available at the department/institute (especially your workplace, computer or other necessary equipment)?* was answered as “Bad” and “Poor” by 11% and 11%, respectively, respondents from the FF while there were no such respondents at the PŘF. 10% of respondents from the FIM consider communication and guidance by their supervisor as “Bad” while there is no such evaluation at all at other faculties. Except for the FIM, prevailing evaluation of communication and guidance by the supervisor was “Excellent” (FF 87%, PŘF 85%, PdF 60%, FIM 38%). Communication of departments/institutes or dean’s offices was mostly evaluated positively at all faculties.

## **B) Duties set within the doctoral studies**

The second part of the questionnaire evaluated the duties set within the doctoral studies (numbers of courses that must be finished, quality of classes, demands on teaching, mobilities abroad, participation in other activities, demands on creative work), including questions whether the structure of duties allows dedicating enough time to the preparation of doctoral thesis and whether the control of the progress of the dissertation thesis elaboration is adequate. Positive evaluation prevailed in these questions and the rate of positive evaluation differed across the faculties as well. For example, there are differences across the faculties in the evaluation of quality of classes in doctoral studies. (The quality of classes was evaluated as “Excellent” by 55%, 53%, 14%, and 11% of respondents from the PřF, FF, FIM and PdF, respectively. On the contrary, quality of classes was evaluated as “Poor” by 29%, 8% and 5% of respondents from the FIM, FF and PřF, respectively. At the PdF, it was 0% but 11% respondents at this faculty evaluated the quality as “Bad”).

As to the evaluation of demands during the studies, results of evaluation of mobilities abroad or other forms of international cooperation must be mentioned because totally 14% of the UHK respondents consider the demands as “Rather wrong” or “Absolutely wrong”. There were 40%, 24%, 8% and 5% of such respondents at the PdF, FIM, FF and PřF, respectively. In other demands made on the doctoral students during their studies, there were not so many respondents that would consider them “Rather wrong” or “Absolutely wrong” (5% in demands on teaching, 4% in participation in other activities of the respective doctorand’s department, and 9% in demands on creative work). Differences across the faculties can be seen, for example, in the evaluation of the question whether the structure of duties allows dedicating enough time to the preparation of doctoral thesis (50% of PdF respondents while only 3% of FF respondents answered “Rather wrong”), as well as in the evaluation of the system of control of the progress of the dissertation thesis elaboration (for example, all PřF respondents and 75% of FIM respondents answered “Absolutely true” or “Rather true”).

## **C) Creative work and publication of its results**

The third part of the questionnaire was aimed at creative work and publication of its results – information on how to do research, encouragement to do creative work beyond the duties within the Ph.D. studies, information about the possibility of participating in specific research projects, about possibilities of involvement in research projects financed by external providers, information on how to write applications for research grants or where to publish professional texts.

Again, most questions were answered positively; however, differences across the faculties were more visible (e.g., the question *Do you have enough information on how to do your research in your scientific field and how to write and publish the results of your creative work?* was answered “Absolutely true” or “Rather true” by 95% and 50% of respondents from the PřF and PdF, respectively). Encouragement by the faculty to do creative work beyond the duties within the Ph.D. studies differed markedly. While 87% of respondents

at the FF answered positively (“Absolutely true” or “Rather true”); there were 30% of positive answers at the PdF.

Answers to the question *Do you have a real chance (from the department/institute/your supervisor) to get involved in research projects that are financed by external providers (e.g., GA ČR, TA ČR, NAKI etc.)?* differed across the faculties. 74% UHK respondents answered positively (“Absolutely true” or “Rather true”); while there were 95% positive respondents at the PŘF, there were 20% of them only at the PdF.

The question *Do you have sufficient information on how to write applications for research grants by external providers (e.g. GA ČR, TA ČR, NAKI etc.), or applications for prestigious international scholarship?* was answered “Absolutely true” or “Rather true” by approx. 50% of respondents while the other half answered “Rather wrong” or “Absolutely wrong”. The respondents commented several times that they have not searched for such information or have not required them yet.

The question *Do you have sufficient information concerning national or foreign journals where you can publish your professional texts (awareness about predatory journals/publishers; magazine rankings according to the field areas – quartiles, top deciles in WoS, Scopus, Scimago)?* was answered “Absolutely true” or “Rather true” by 71% of respondents while 29% answered “Rather wrong” or “Absolutely wrong”. In their comments, the respondents mentioned several times the need to spread information about this issue.

## **D) Overall evaluation**

This part was aimed at the overall evaluation of studies and the adequacy of the doctoral bursary. The question *Is the sum of the PhD scholarship sufficient to cover your life expenses and allow you to dedicate yourself adequately to your duties within your PhD studies?* was answered negatively (“Rather wrong” or “Absolutely wrong”) by more respondents (48%) than positively (“Absolutely true” or “Rather true”, 39%); the others answered “Irrelevant”. It followed from the comments that many students must have another income/employment, which can influence fulfilment of some study duties.

## **IV. Measures**

As all doctoral study programmes are accredited at the faculties, measures that can be taken at the University level are aimed at setting the institutional environment in a way leading to an increase of the doctoral studies quality. Other measures fall within the powers of faculties and their respective bodies.

The following measures will be taken at the University level:

- The UHK will ensure all-university educational activities for doctoral students aimed in particular at publishing of the creative work results (taking account of social sciences and humanities), at elaboration of applications for scientific and research grants/projects or international scholarships.

- The UHK will make the use of platforms for good practice sharing among faculties more intense; for example, encouragement of doctoral students to do creative work, their involvement in research projects and structure of doctoral studies as in some cases, the evaluation results showed differences across the faculties.
- The UHK will strive to find ways how to increase the doctoral bursaries in order to improve the financial conditions of doctoral students, allowing them to devote more to fulfilment of their study-related duties and to complete their studies in time.
- The UHK will focus on measures improving the students' work-life-study balance as there were comments in the questionnaire mentioning difficulties with combining some duties (e.g. internships abroad) with employment or family life.

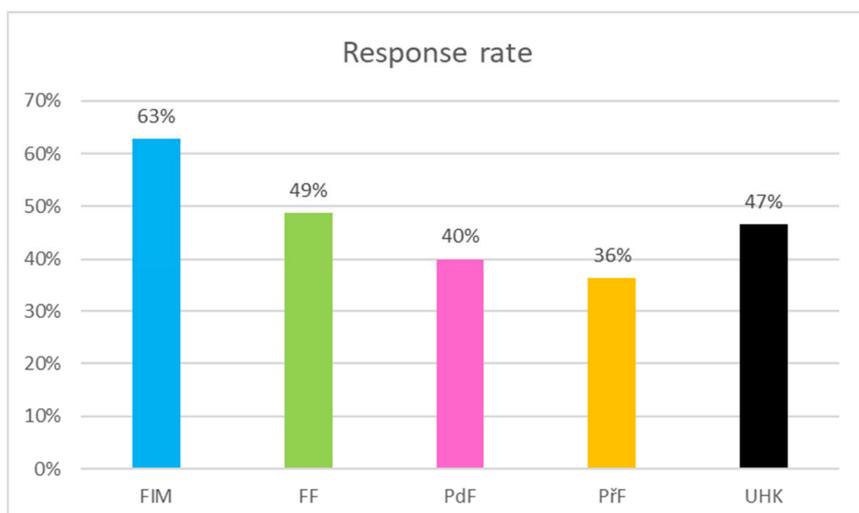
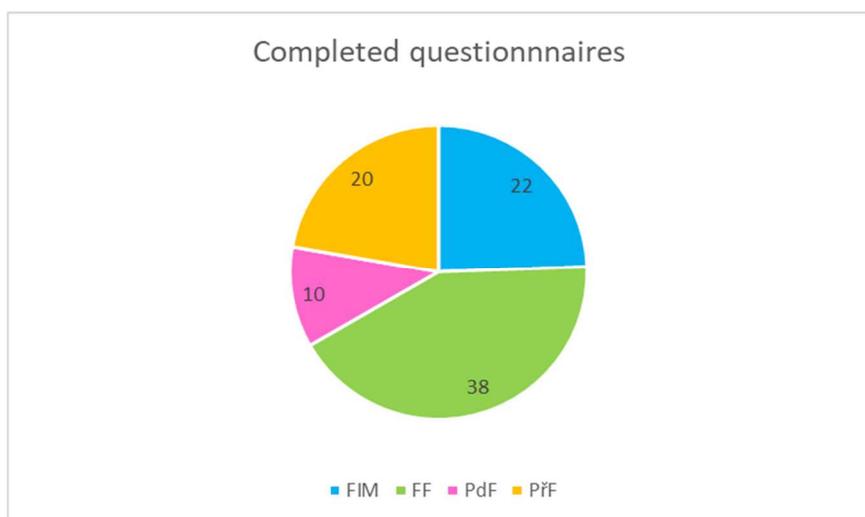
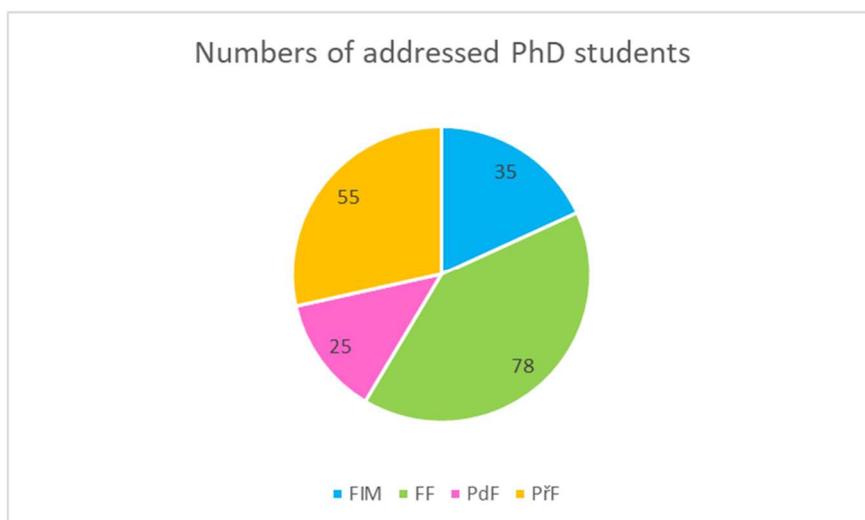
**Annexes:**

Annex 1: Participation in the evaluation of doctoral studies

Annex 2: Results of evaluation

Annex 3: Questionnaire

## Annex 1: Participation in the evaluation of doctoral studies<sup>1</sup>

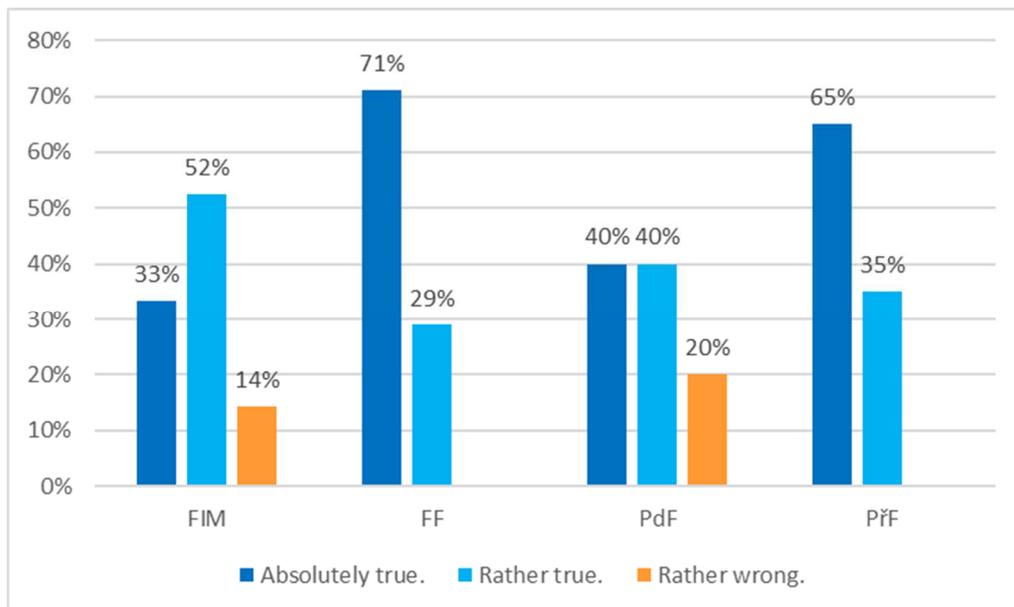
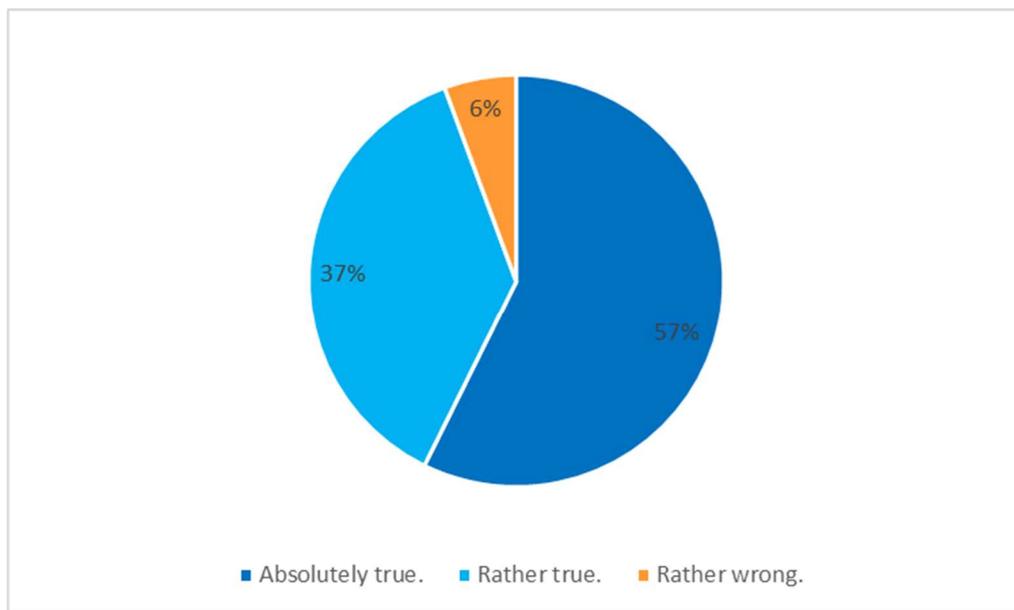


<sup>1</sup> FIM = Faculty of Informatics and Management; FF = Philosophical Faculty; PdF = Faculty of Education; PŘF = Faculty of Science; UHK = University of Hradec Králové

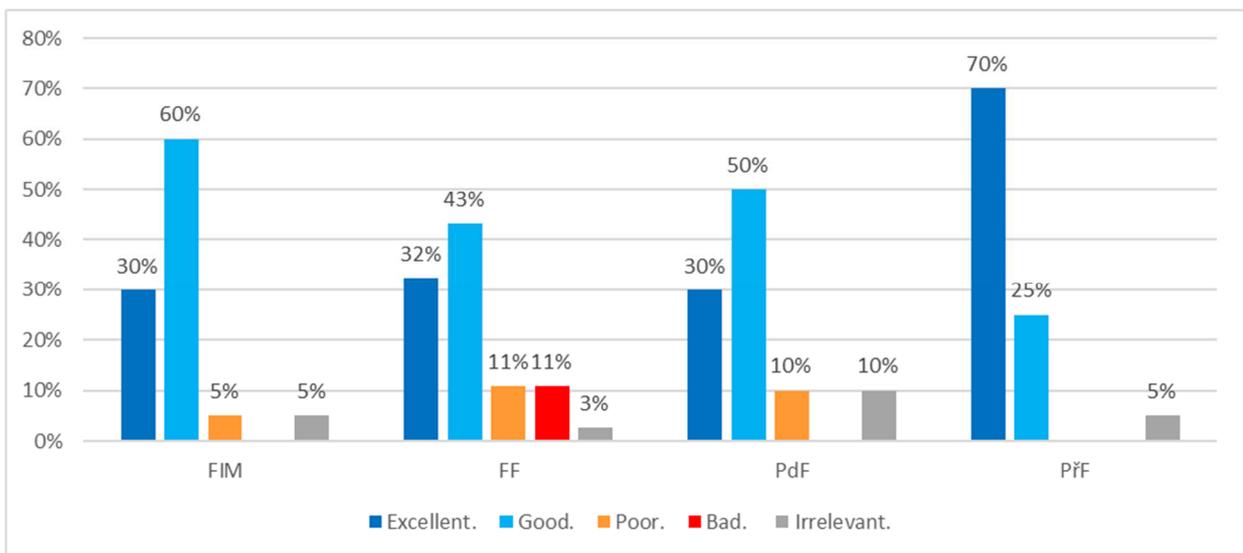
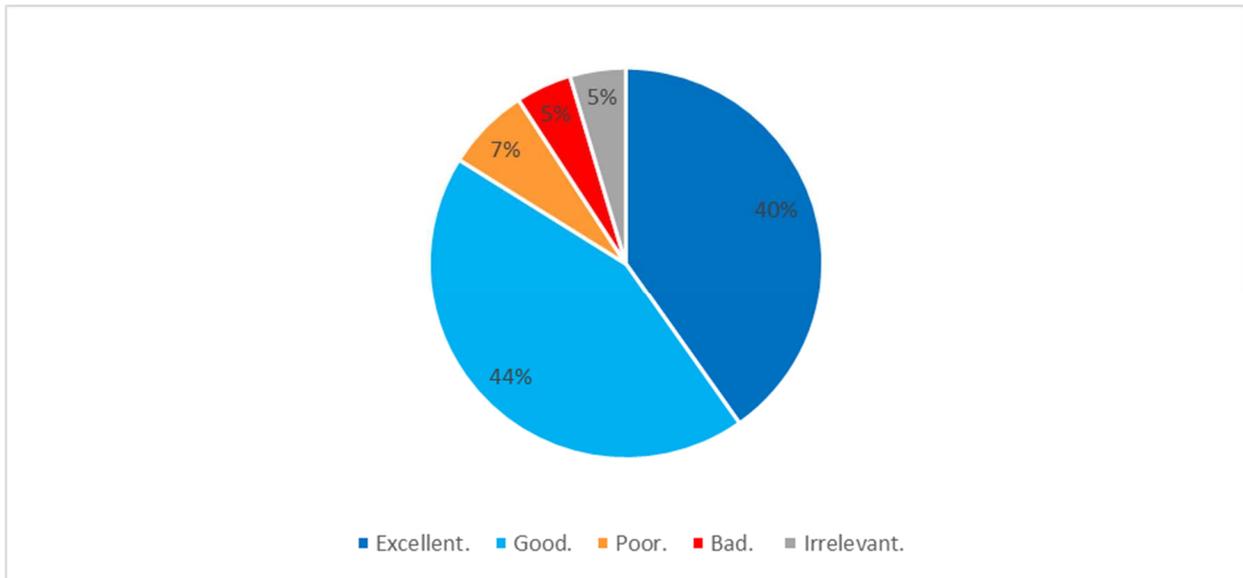
## Annex 2: Results of evaluation

### A) Organization of the PhD studies and related facilities

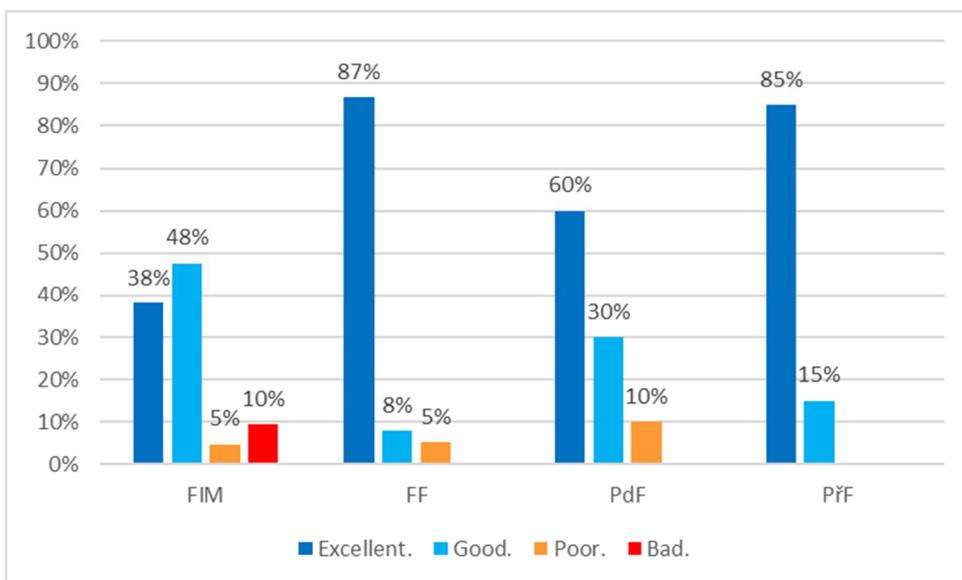
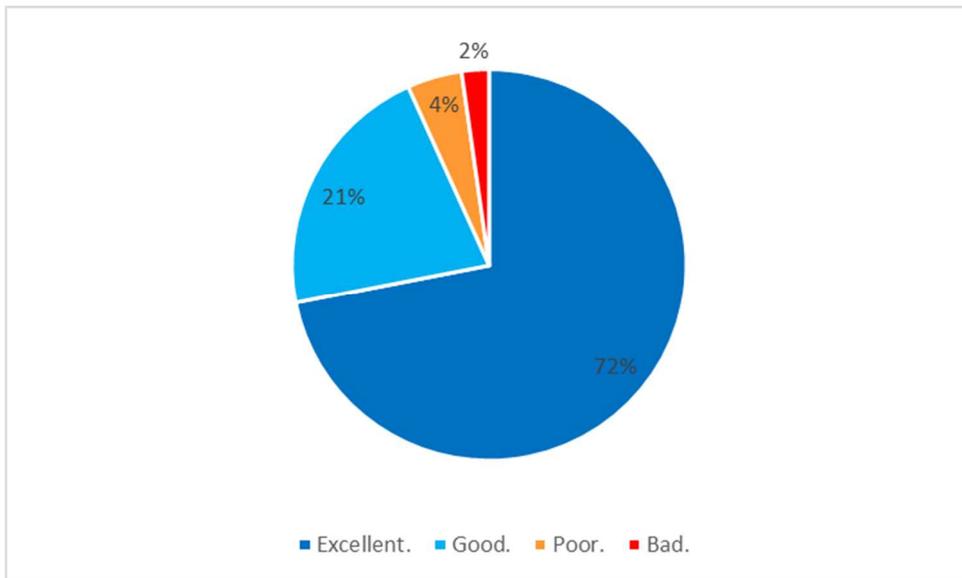
1) Do you have all necessary information concerning your studies (about your studies / classes / publications / your duties at the department / schedule etc.)?



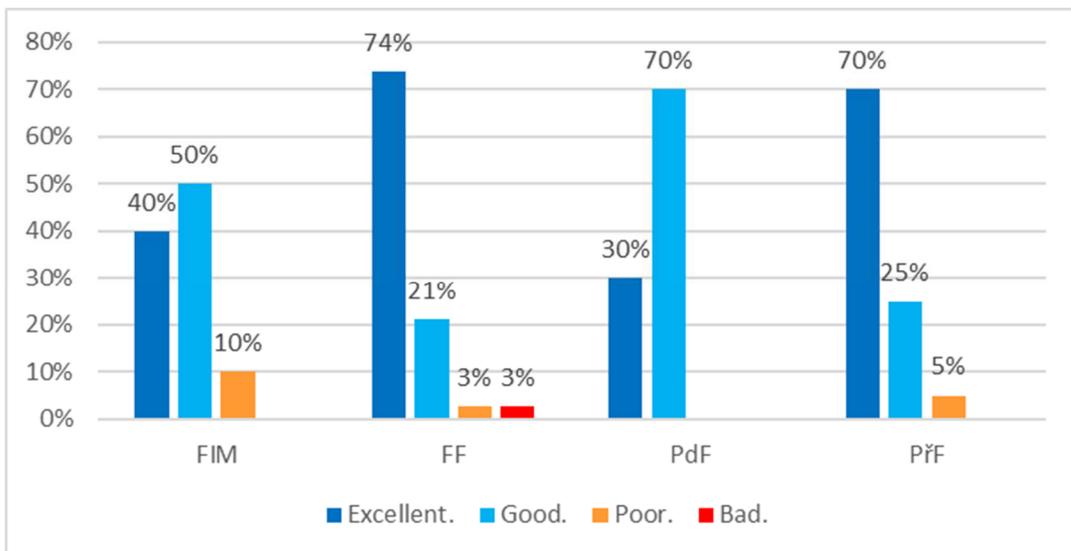
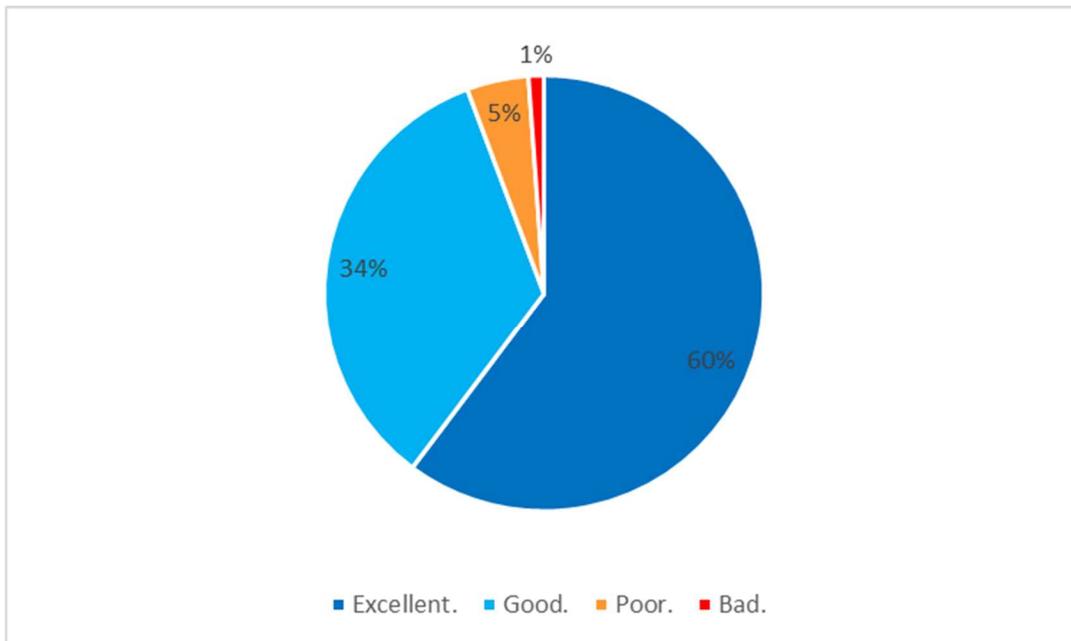
2) How do you evaluate the facilities available at the department/institute (especially your workplace, computer or other necessary equipment)?



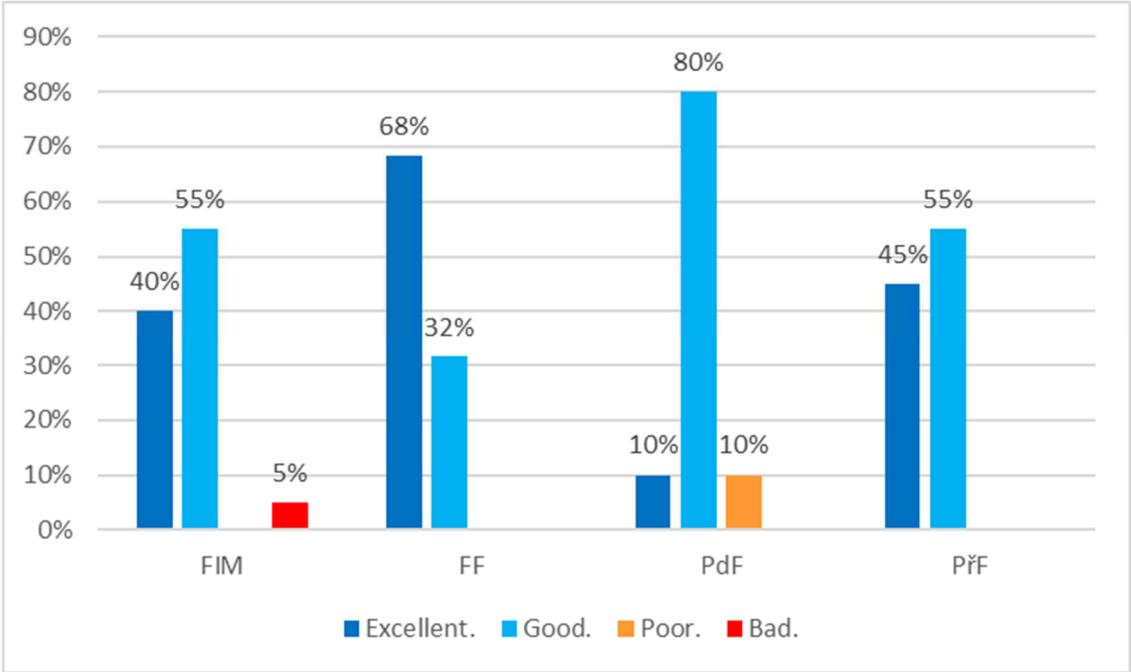
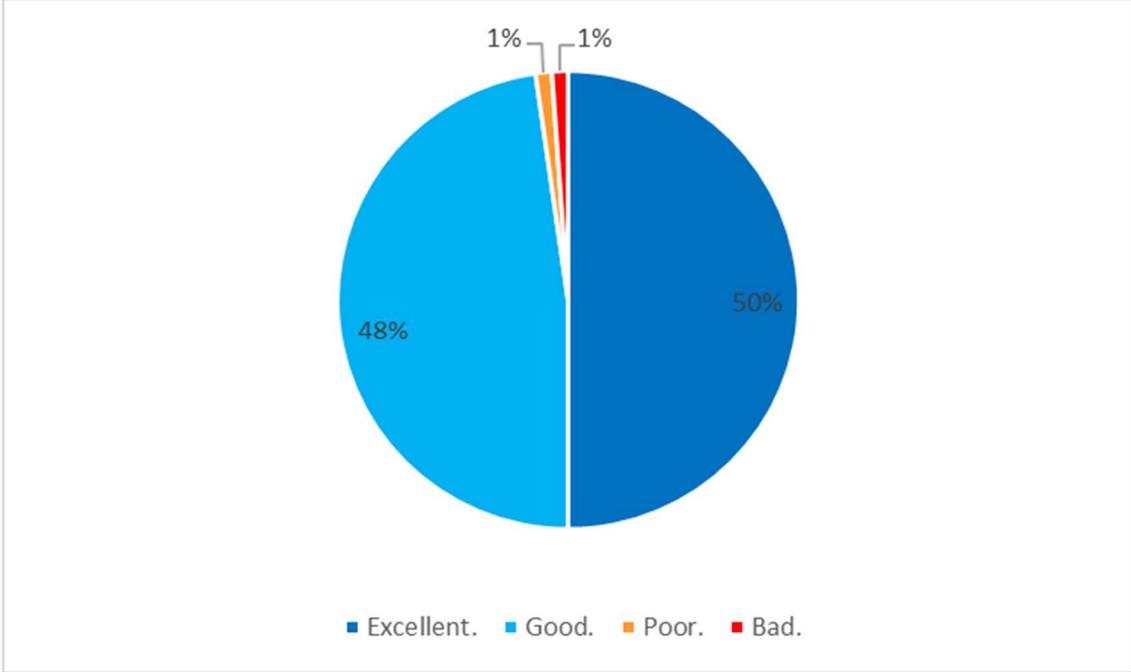
3) How do you evaluate communication and guidance by your supervisor (availability, consultations, comments and discussion about publication outputs, planning of the milestones of your studies)?



4) How do you evaluate the communication of the department/institute, eventually the secretary of the subject-area board (availability, consultations, willingness/ability to provide information about organization of the PhD studies)?

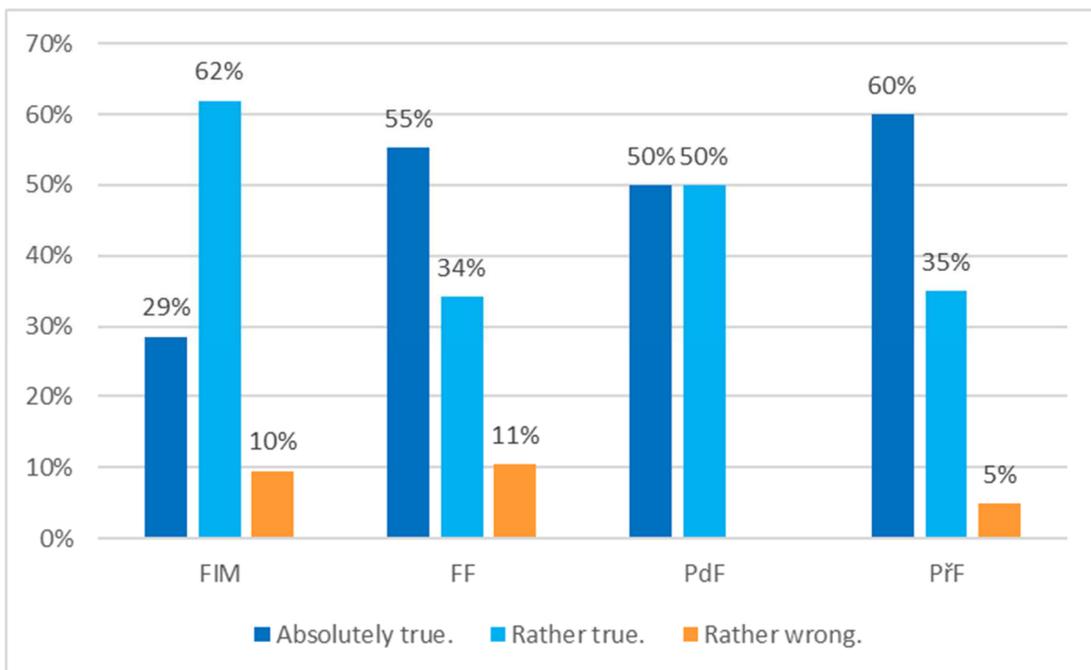
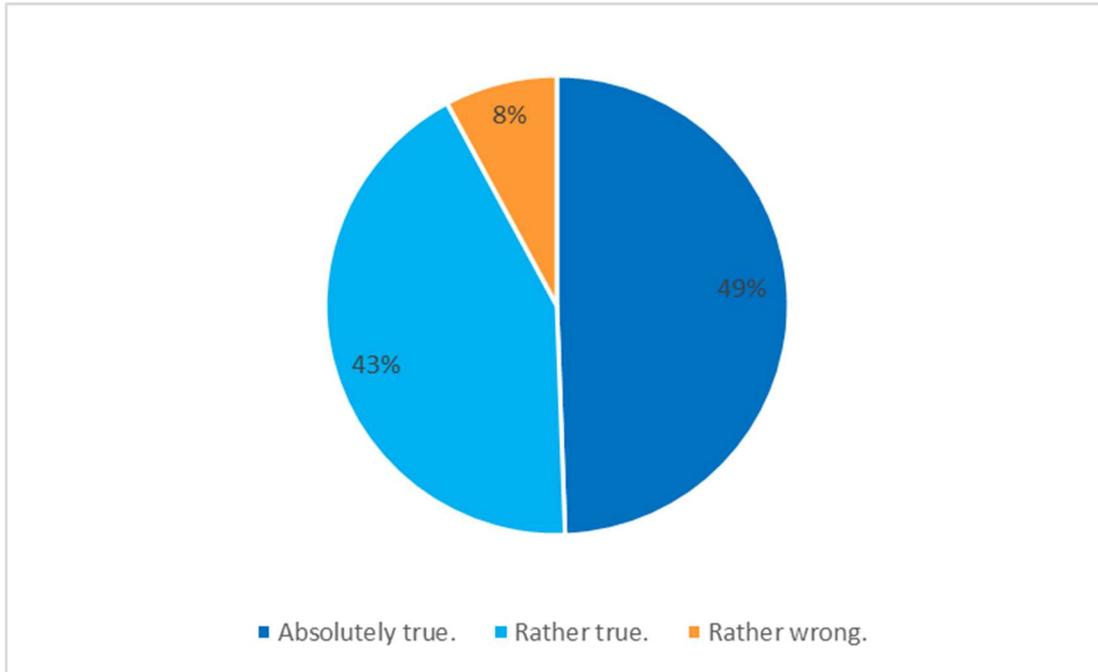


5) How do you evaluate communication of the Dean’s office (International Office, Science and Research Department, Study Department): availability, willingness/ability to provide relevant information for PhD students?

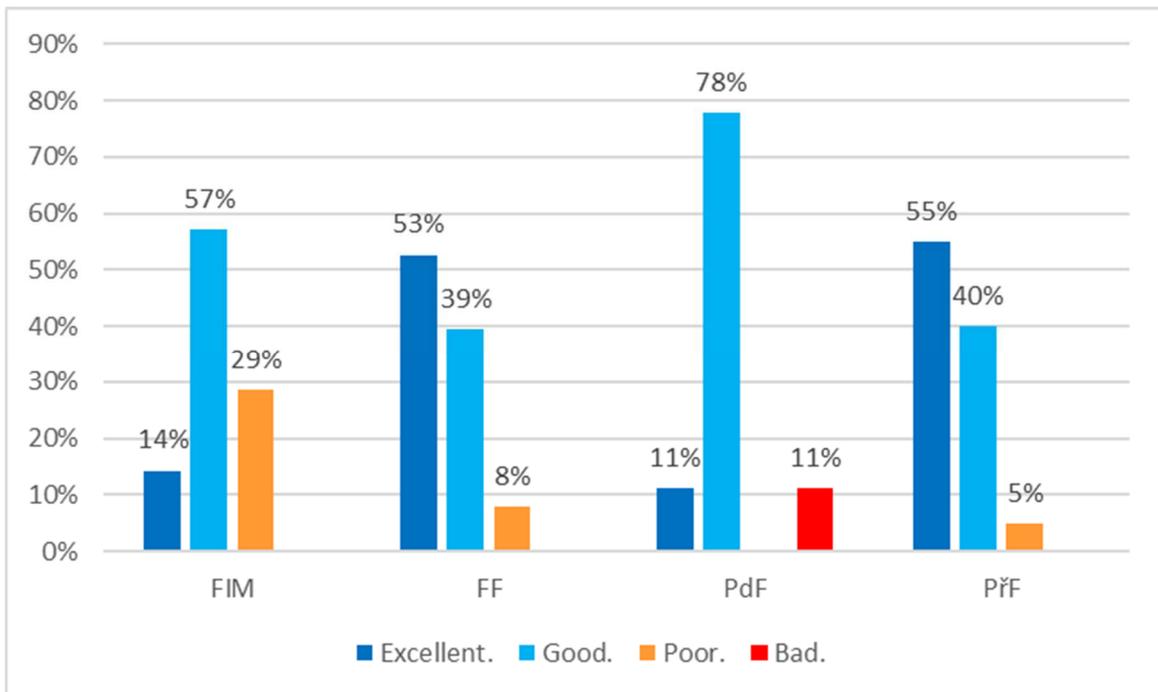
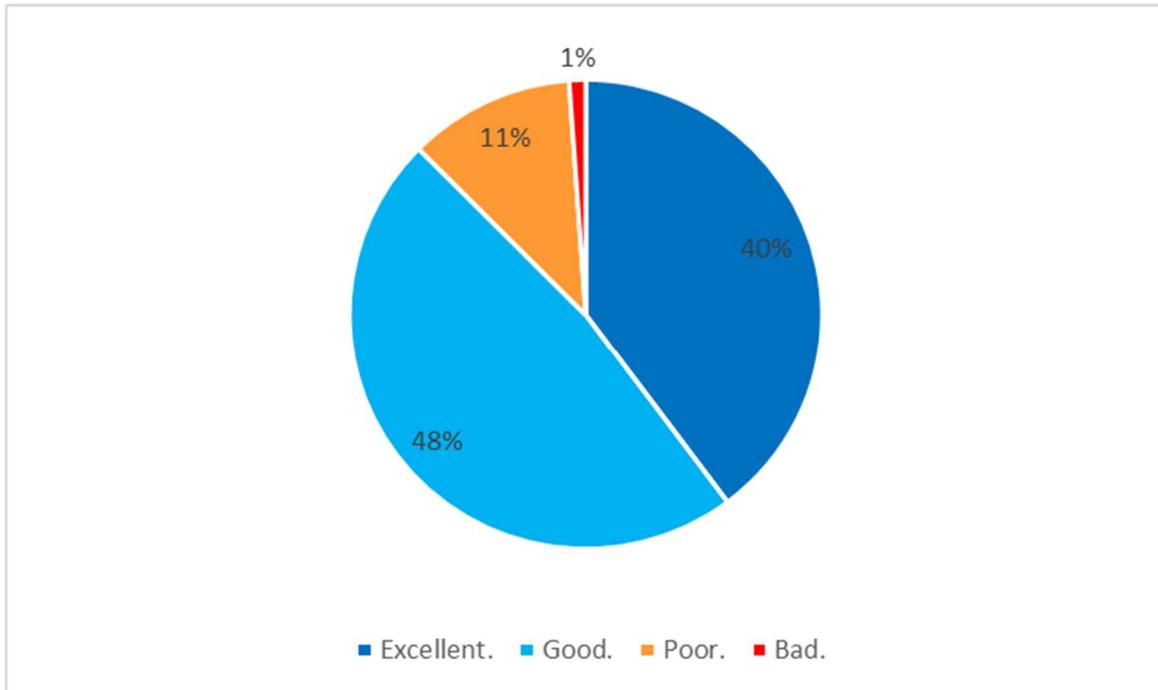


## B) Duties set within the Doctoral studies

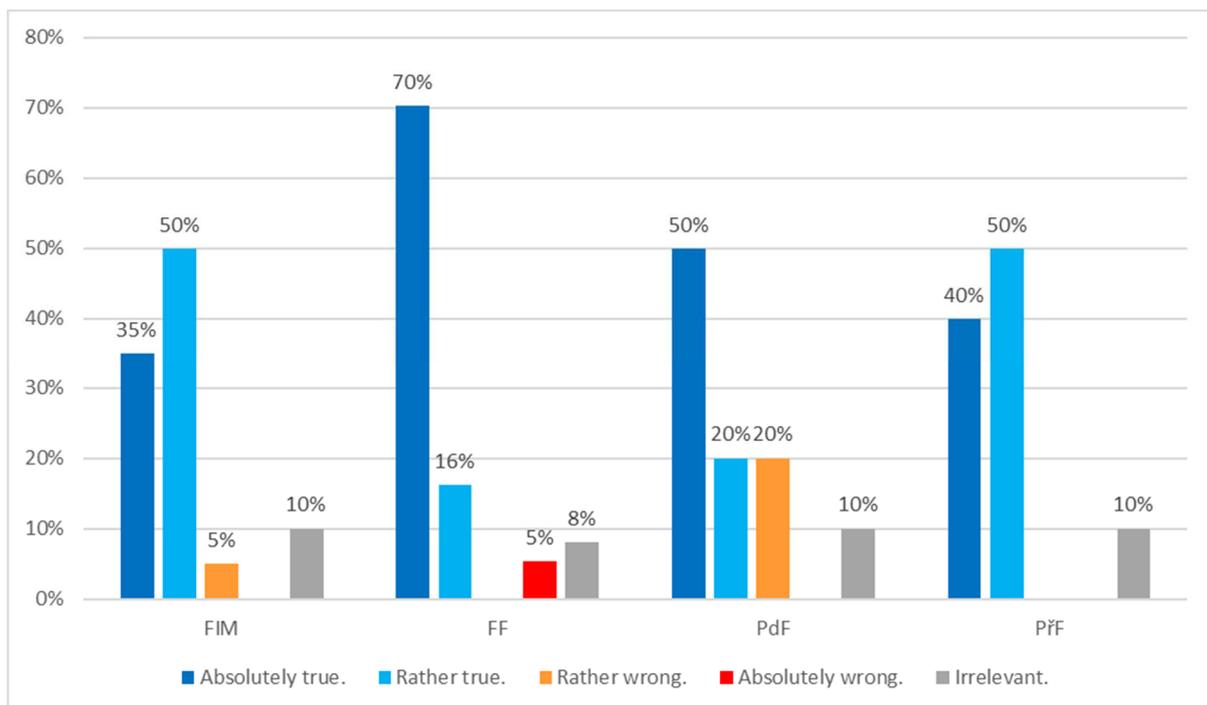
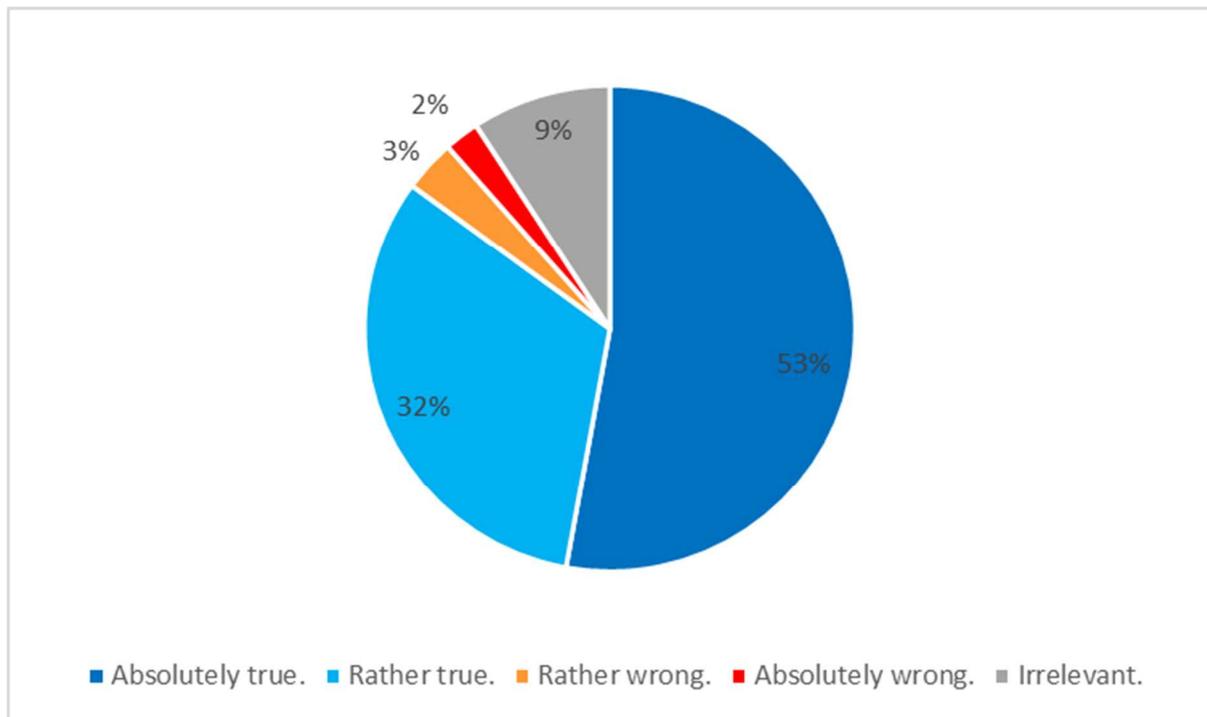
6) Do you think the number of courses you need to finish during your studies is adequate?



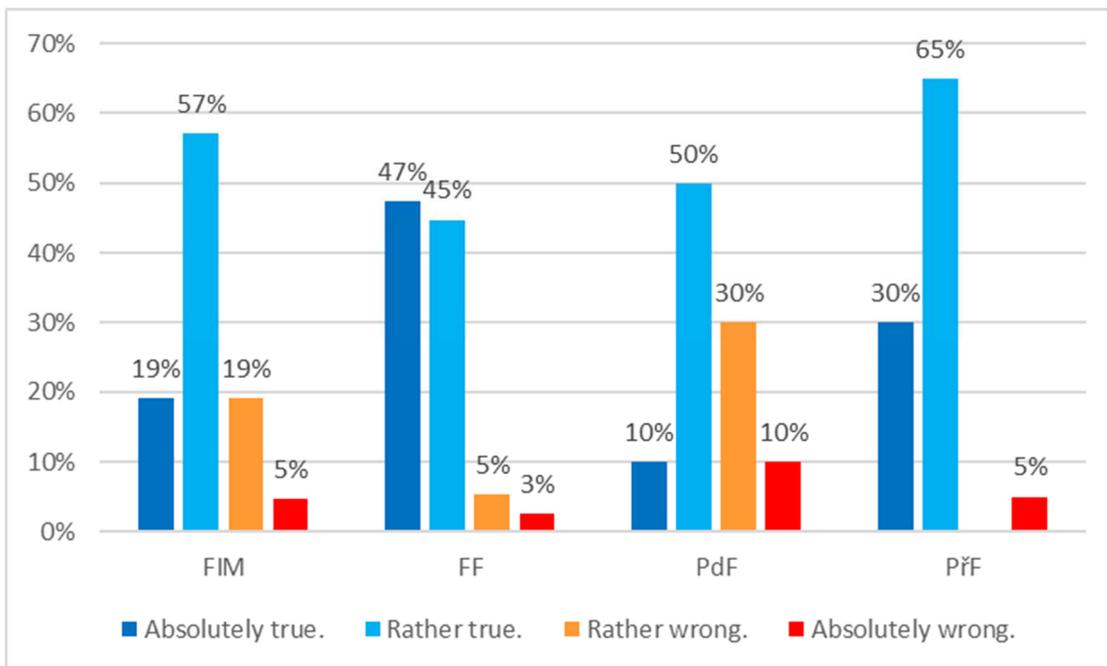
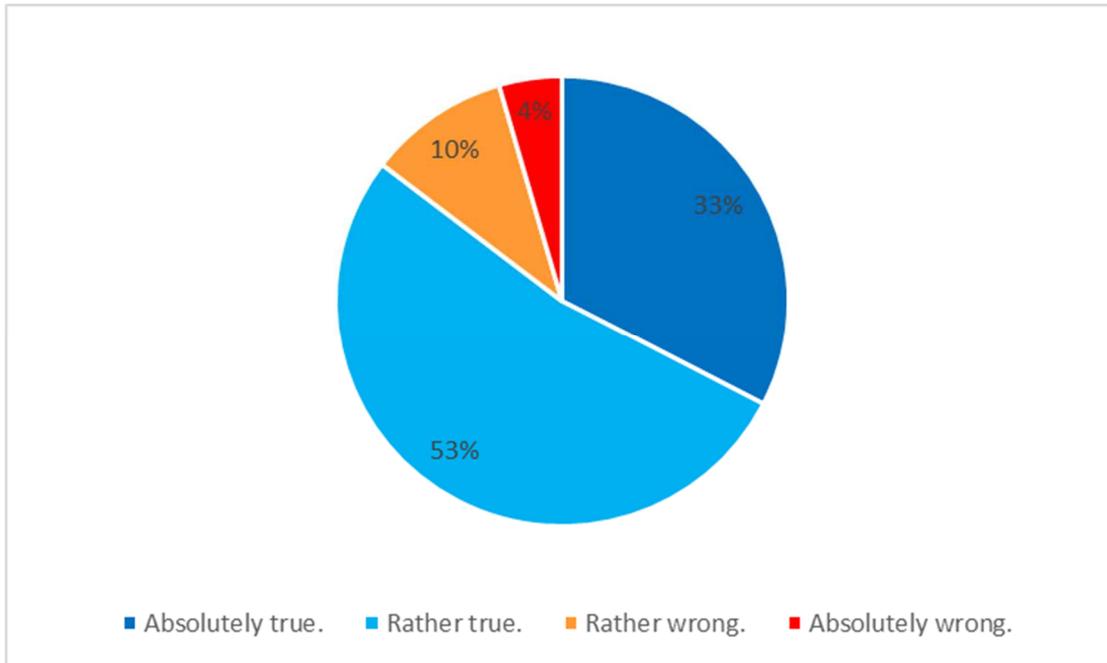
7) How do you evaluate the overall quality of the classes in the PhD study programme?



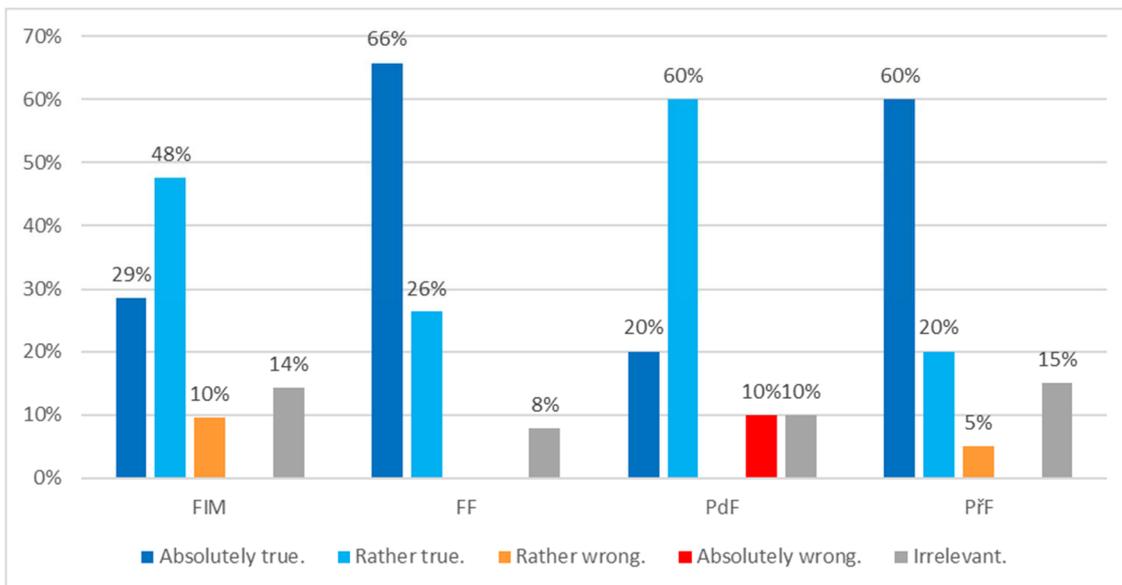
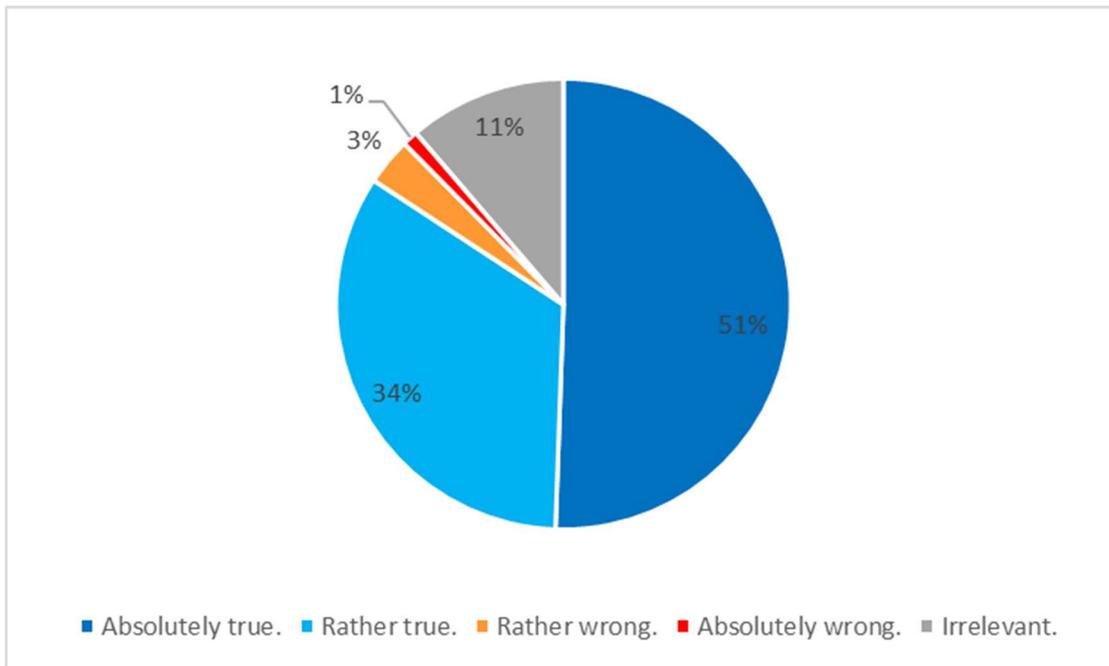
8) In your opinion, are the demands on the classes you must teach within your studies adequate?



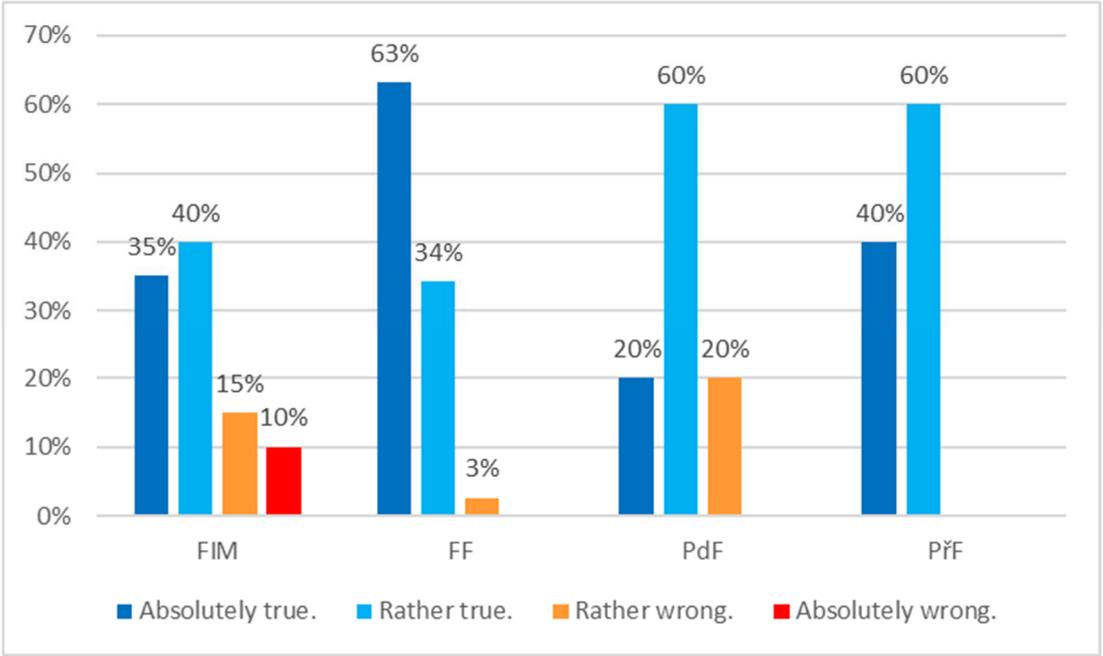
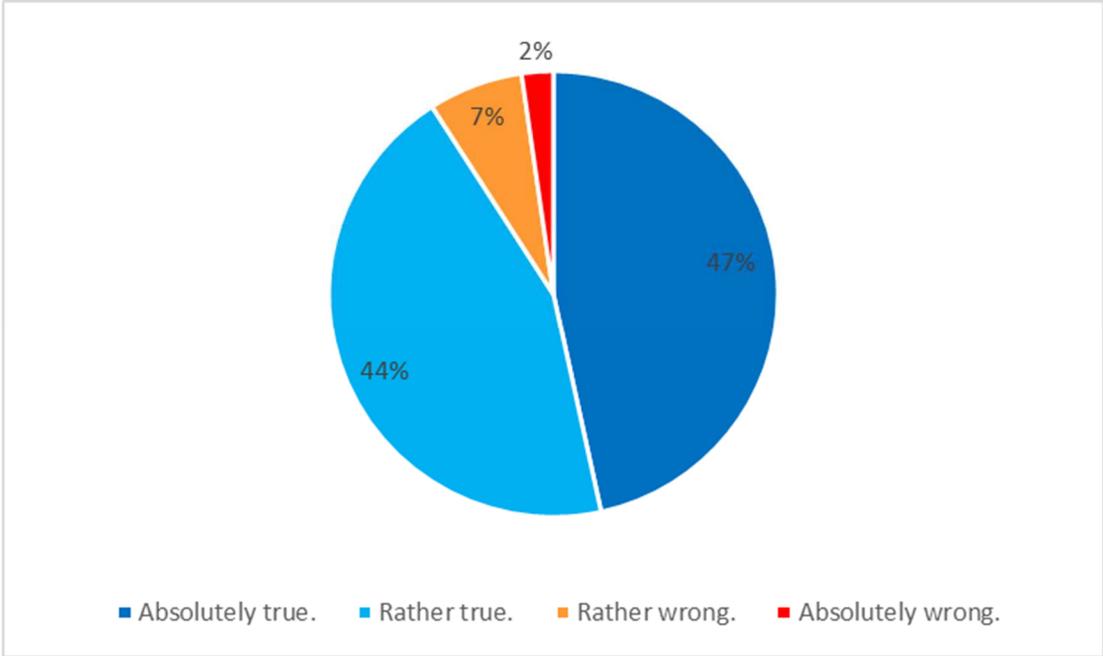
9) In your opinion, are the demands on realizing mobilities abroad or participation in other forms of international cooperation within your studies, adequate?



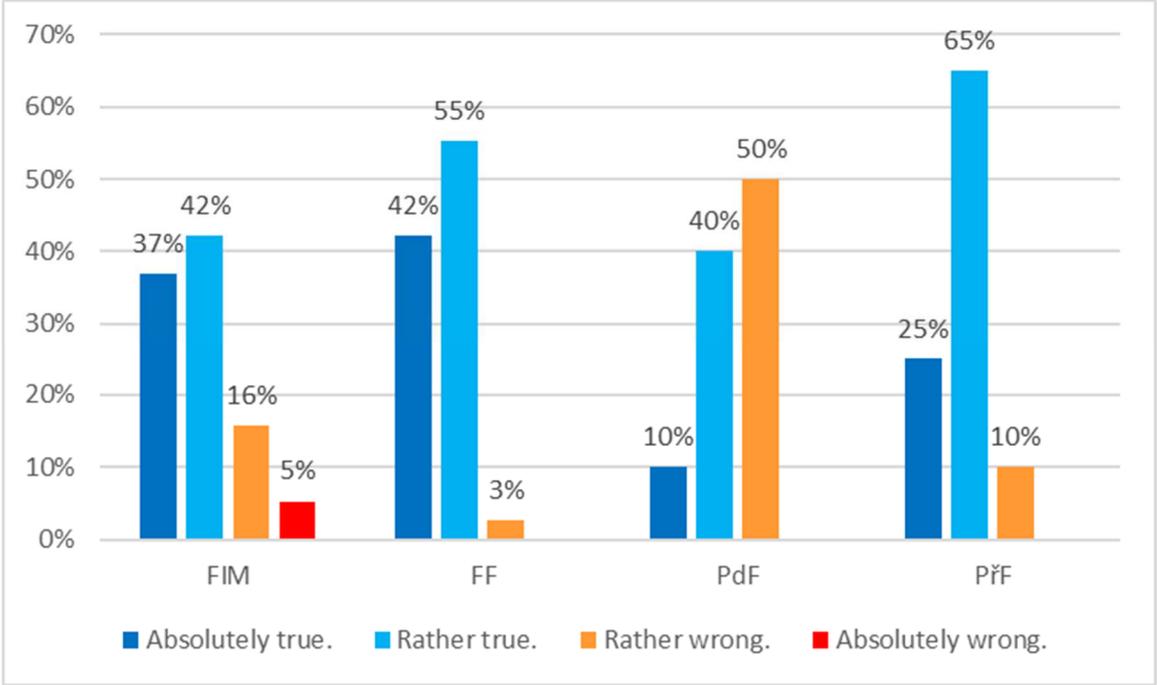
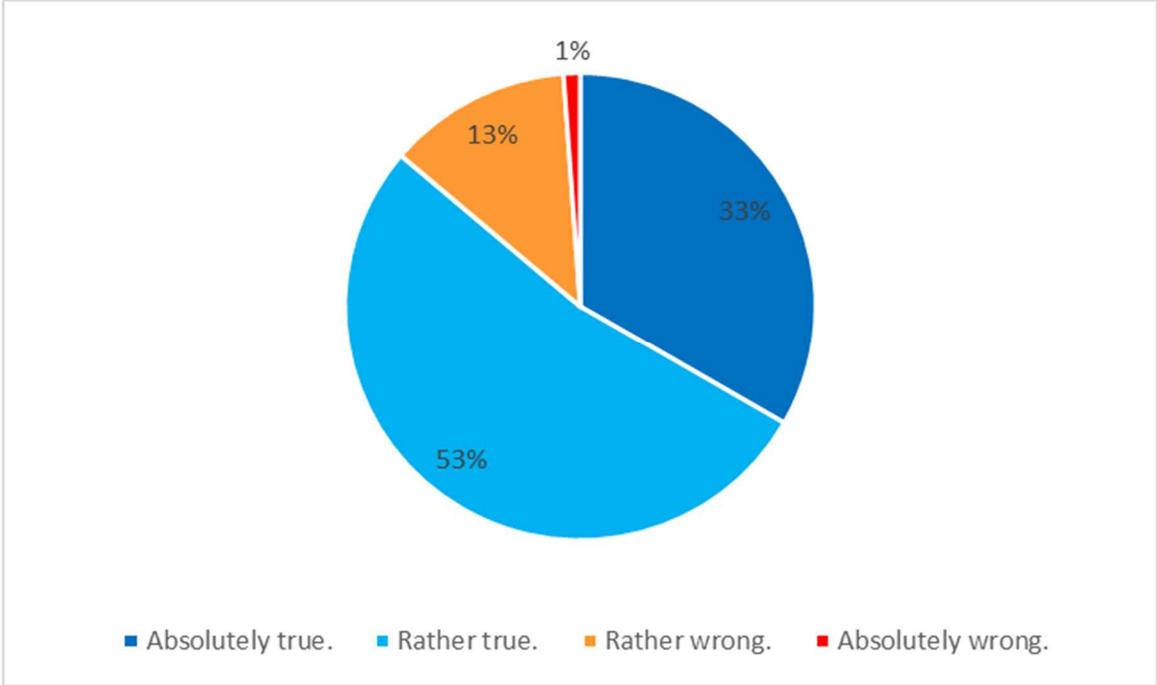
10) Do you think the demands on your participation in other activities of the department/institute (apart from teaching) (as for example activities aiming at science popularization, participation in organizing conferences, open days etc.) are adequate?



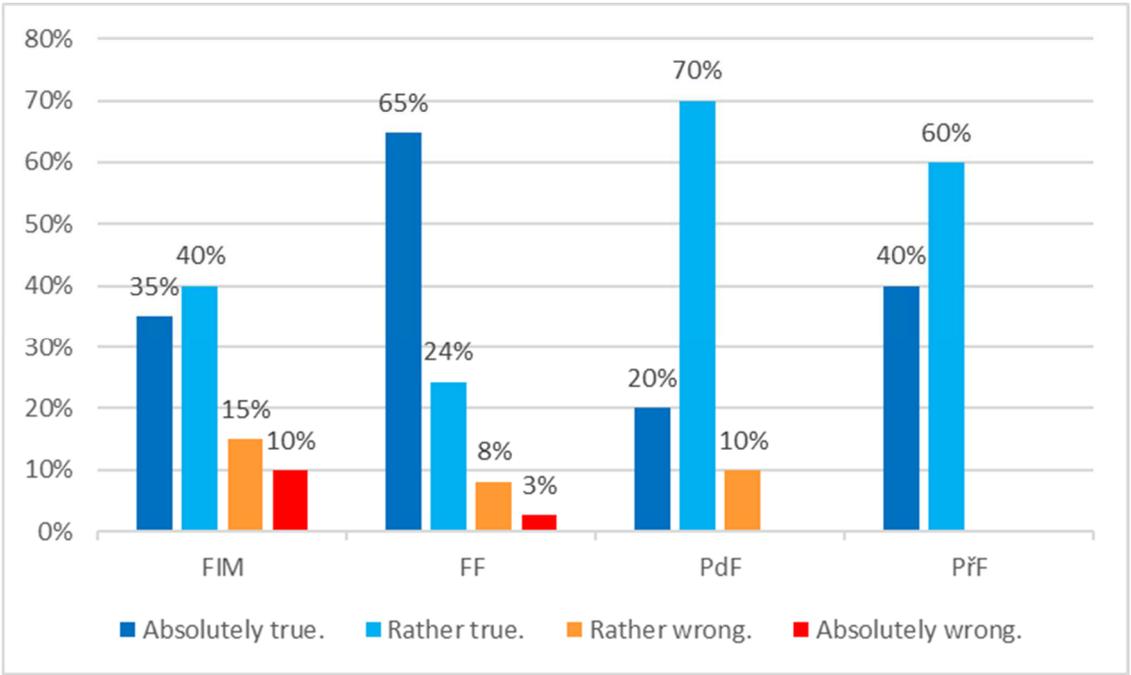
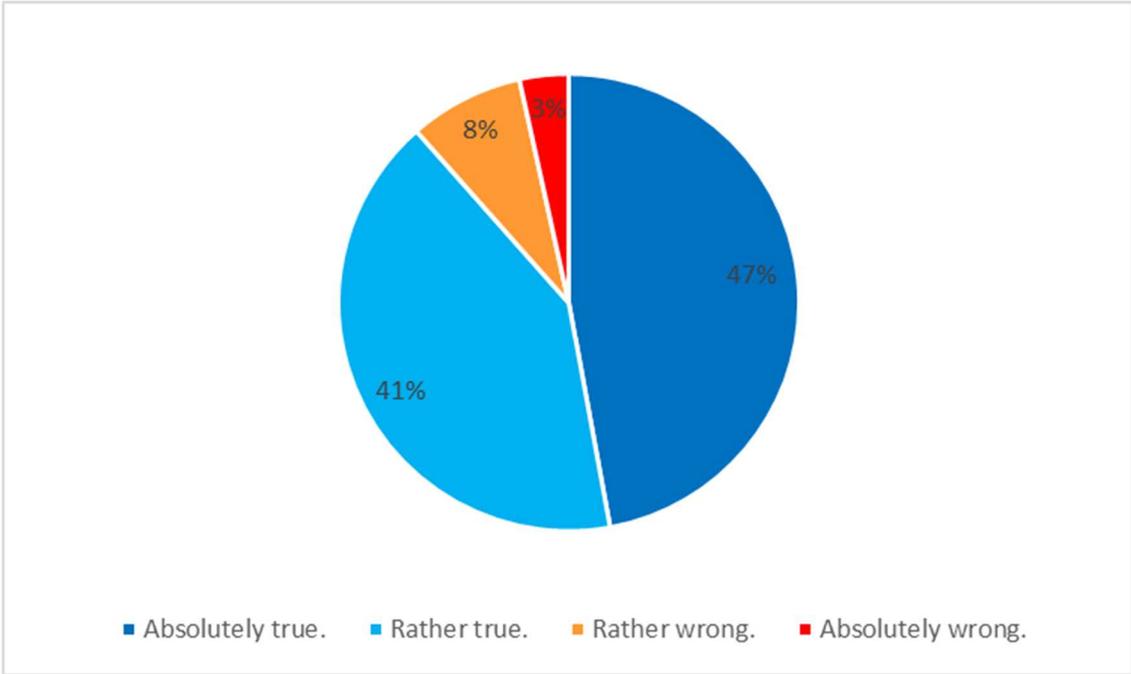
11) Do you think the demands on outputs of your creative work (publications among others) within your PhD studies are adequate?



12) Does the overall structure of your duties within your studies enable you to dedicate enough time to the preparation of your dissertation thesis?

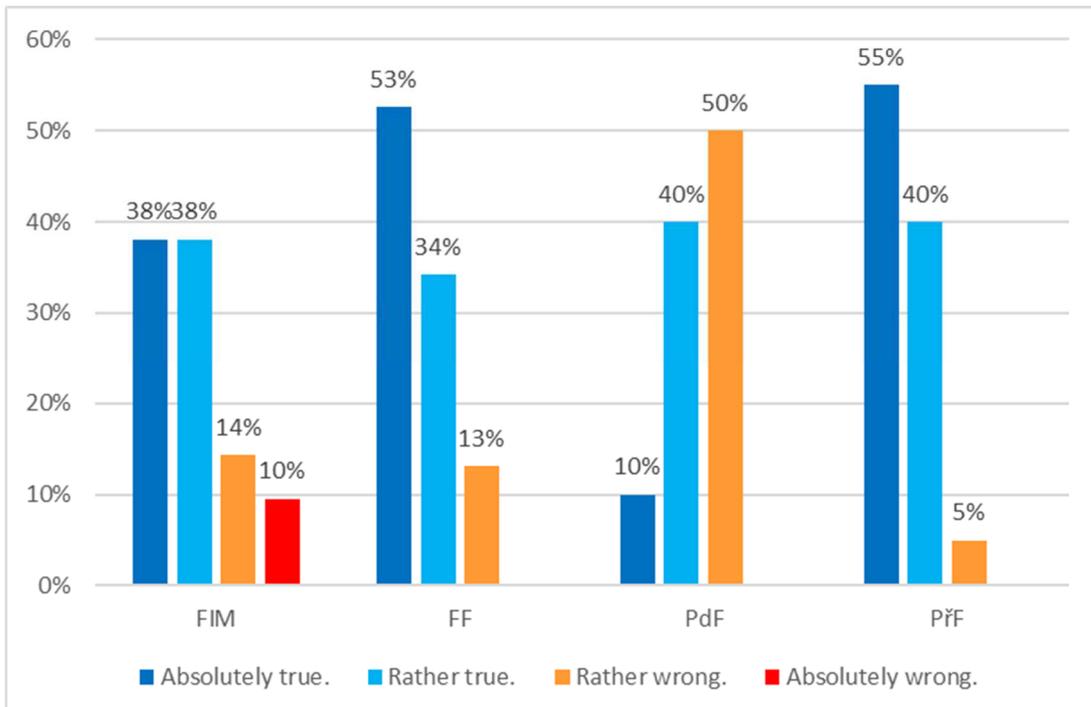
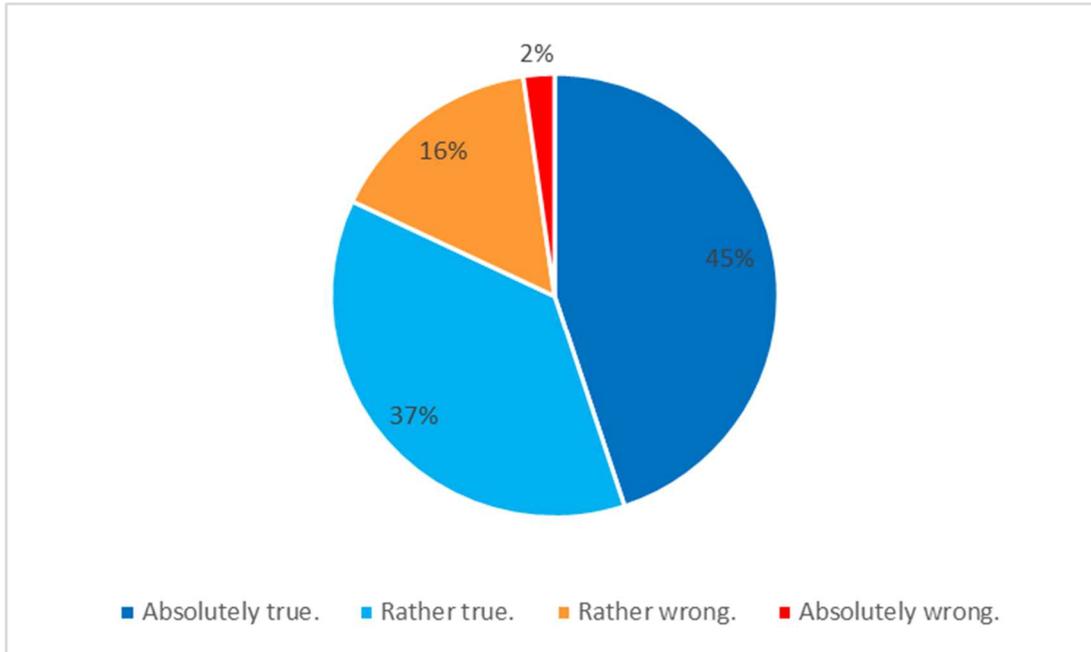


13) In your opinion, is the system of control of the progress of elaboration of your dissertation thesis adequate (in the sense of putting emphasis on continuous work on your dissertation thesis, presentation of partial results at the PhD seminars etc.)?

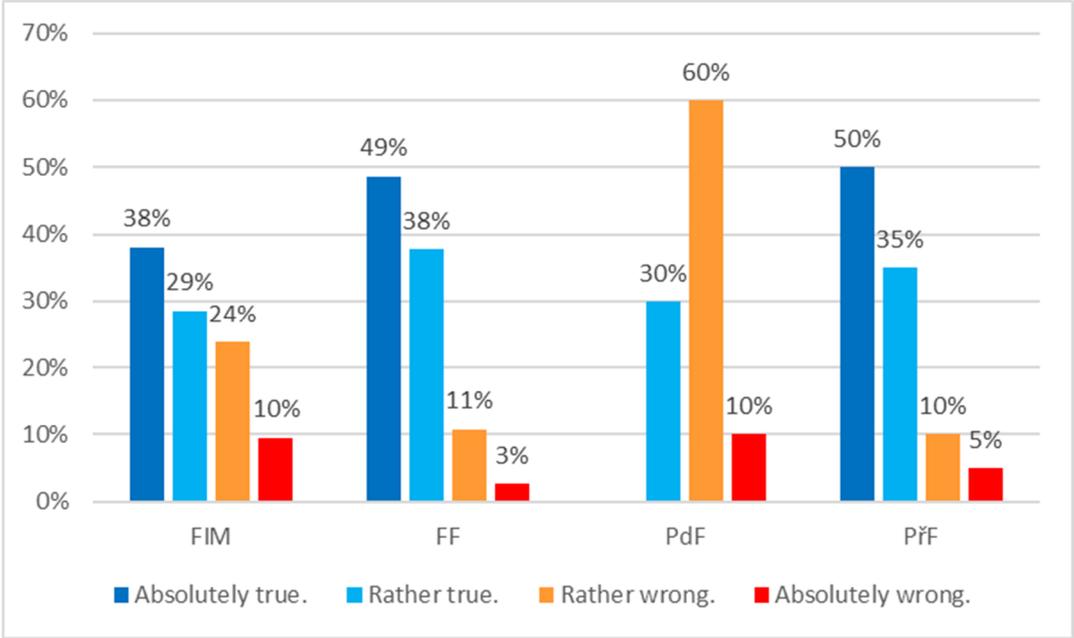
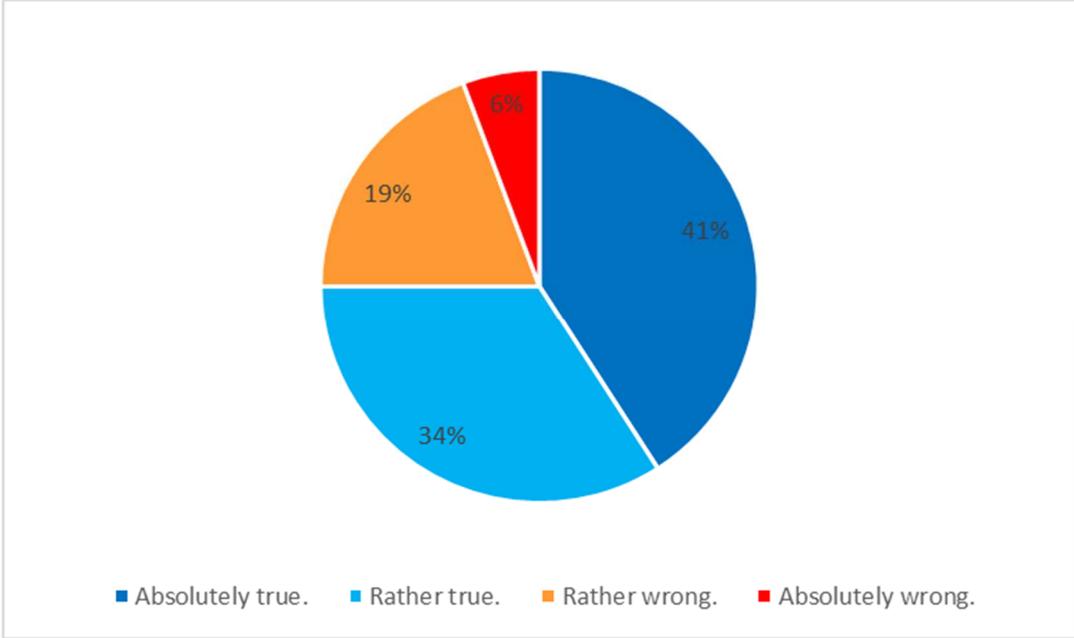


### C) Creative work and publication of its results

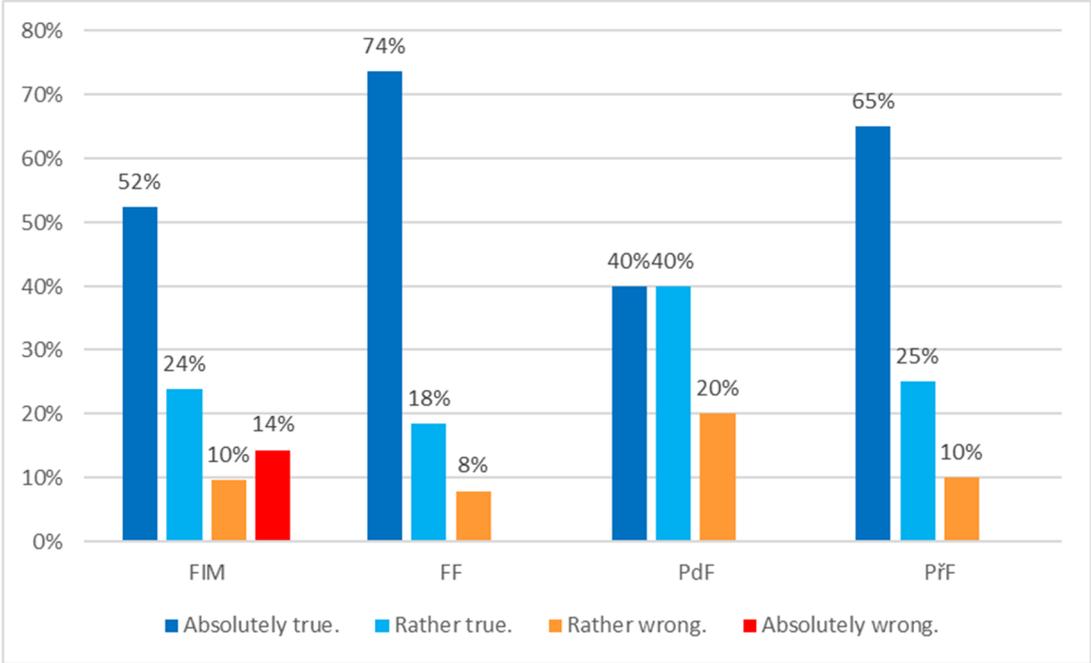
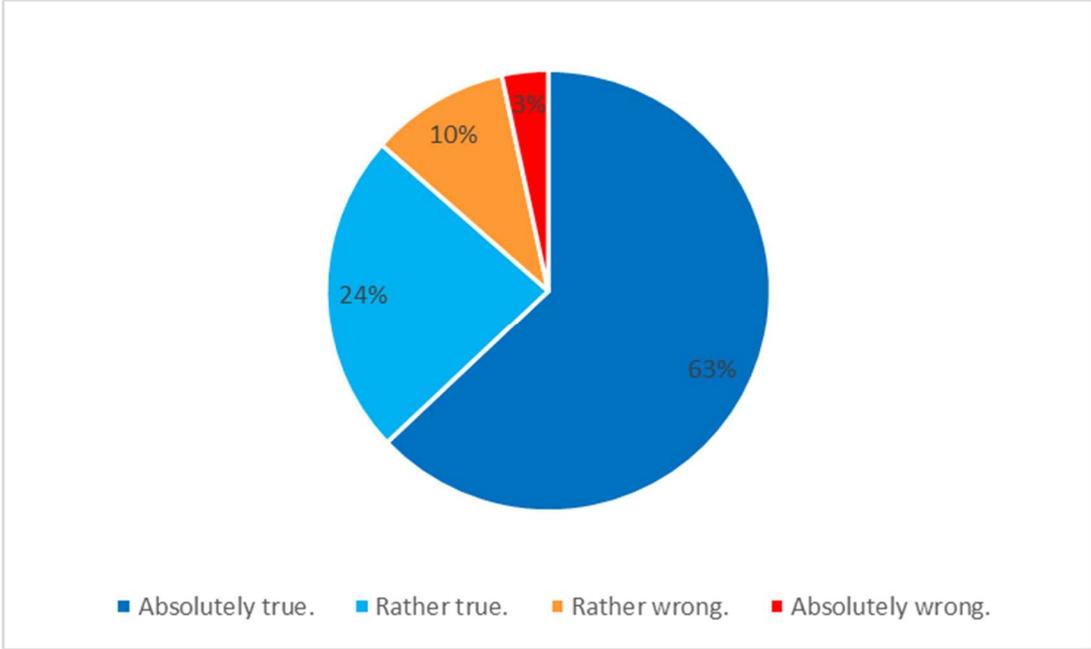
14) Do you have enough information on how to do your research in your scientific field and how to write and publish the results of your creative work?



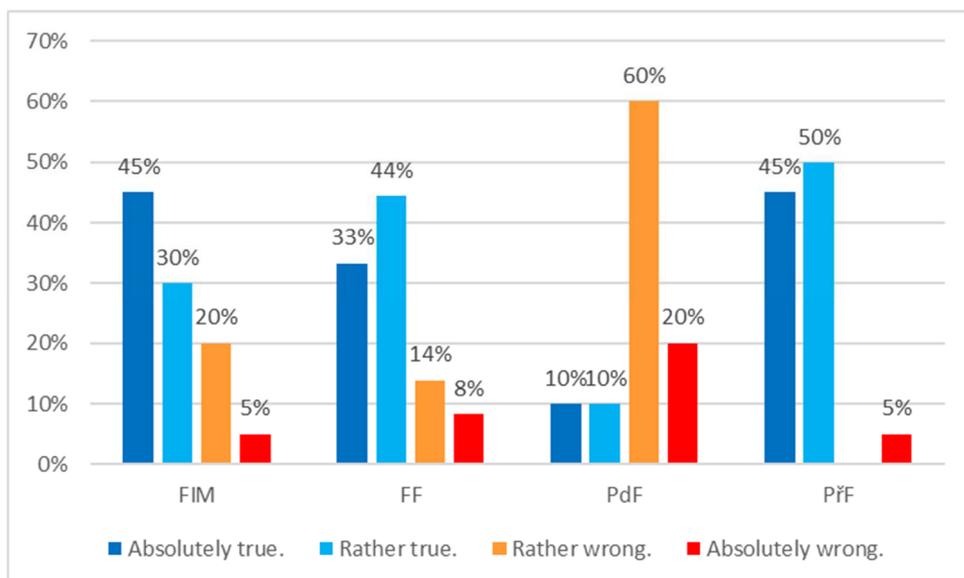
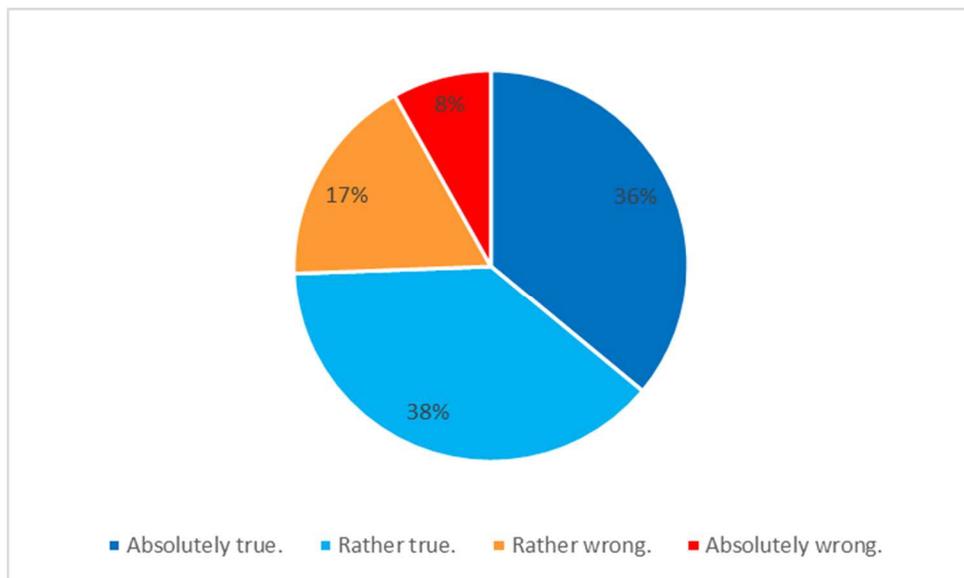
15) Does the faculty encourage you sufficiently to do creative work beyond your duties within your PhD studies (special scholarships, remuneration for publishing etc.)?



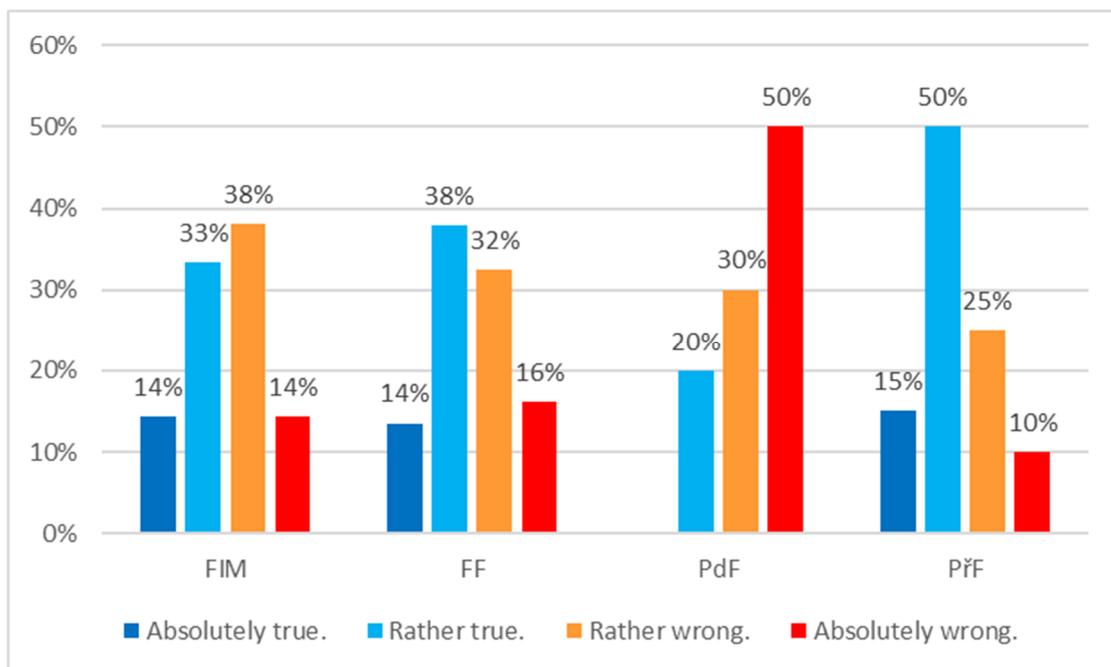
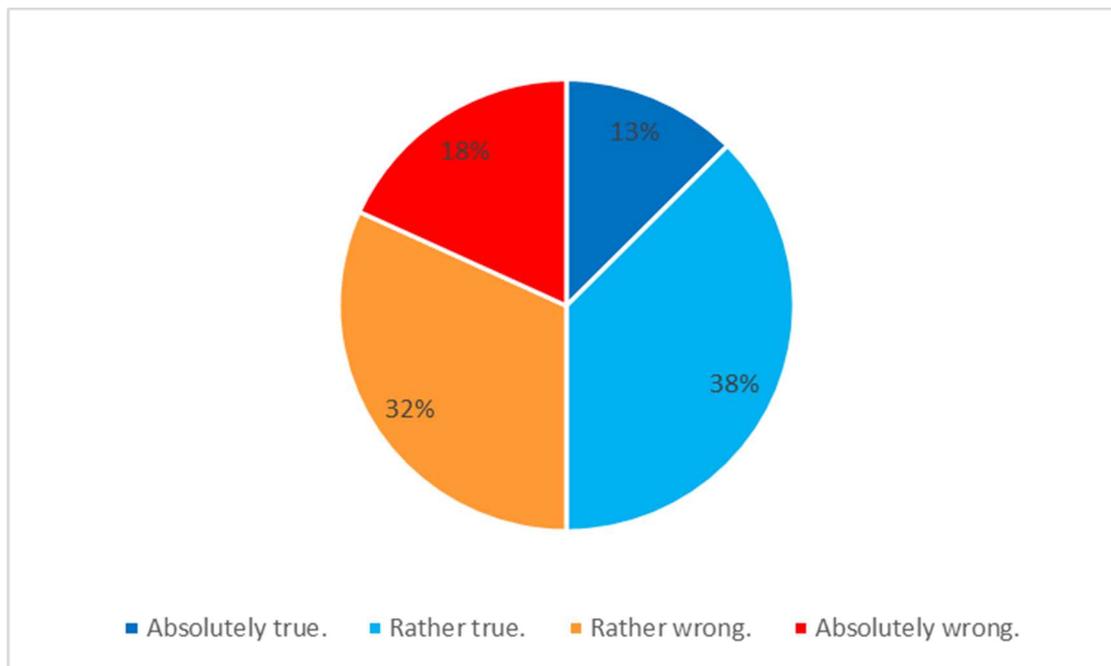
16) Do you have enough information about the possibility of participating in the specific research projects and other internal competitions at your faculty?



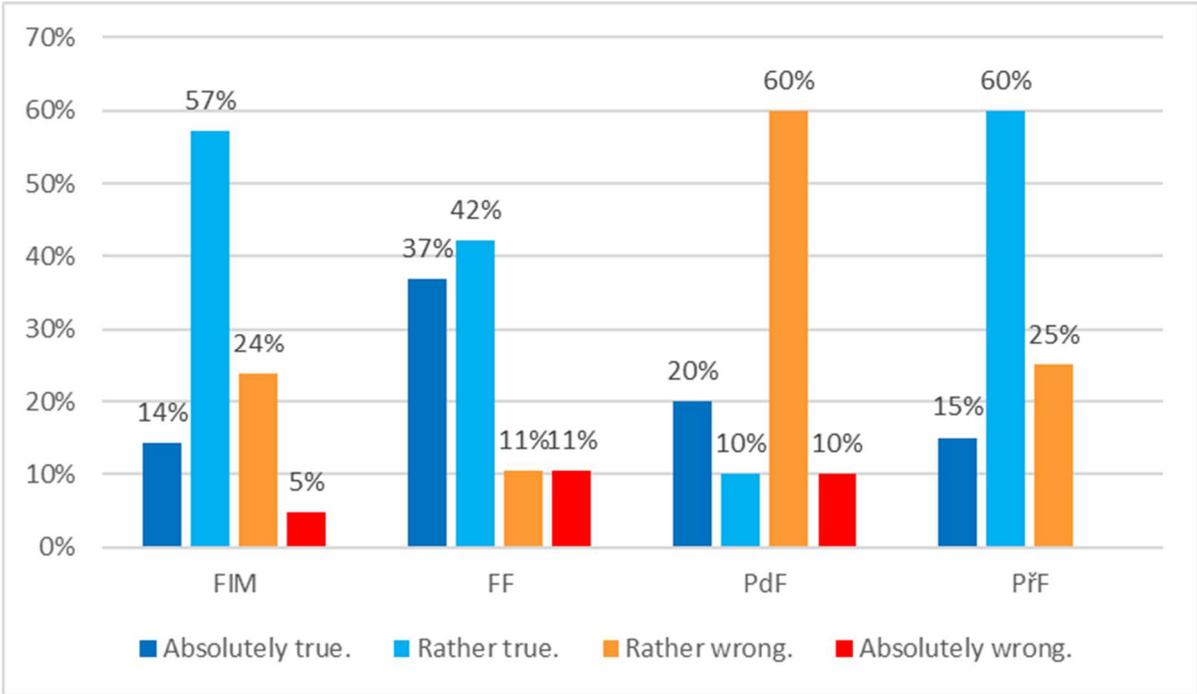
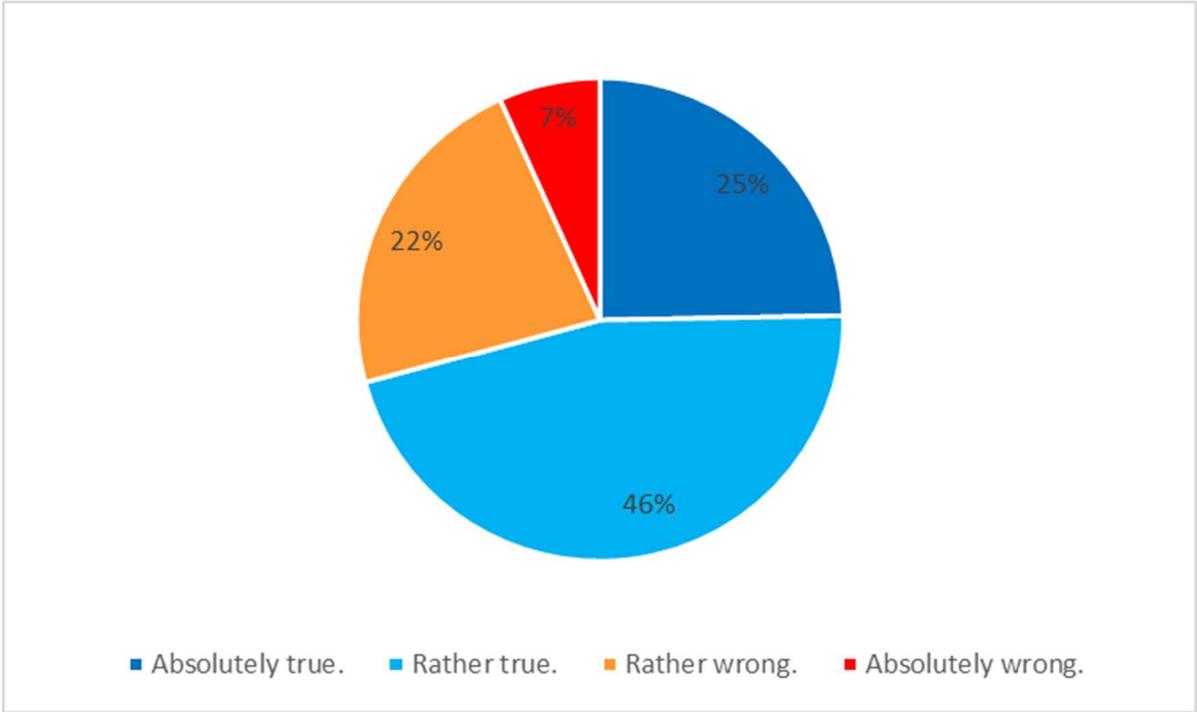
17) Do you have a real chance (from the department/institute/your supervisor) to get involved in research projects that are financed by external providers (e.g. GA ČR, TA ČR, NAKI etc.)?



18) Do you have sufficient information on how to write applications for research grants by external providers (e.g. GA ČR, TA ČR, NAKI etc.), or applications for prestigious international scholarships?

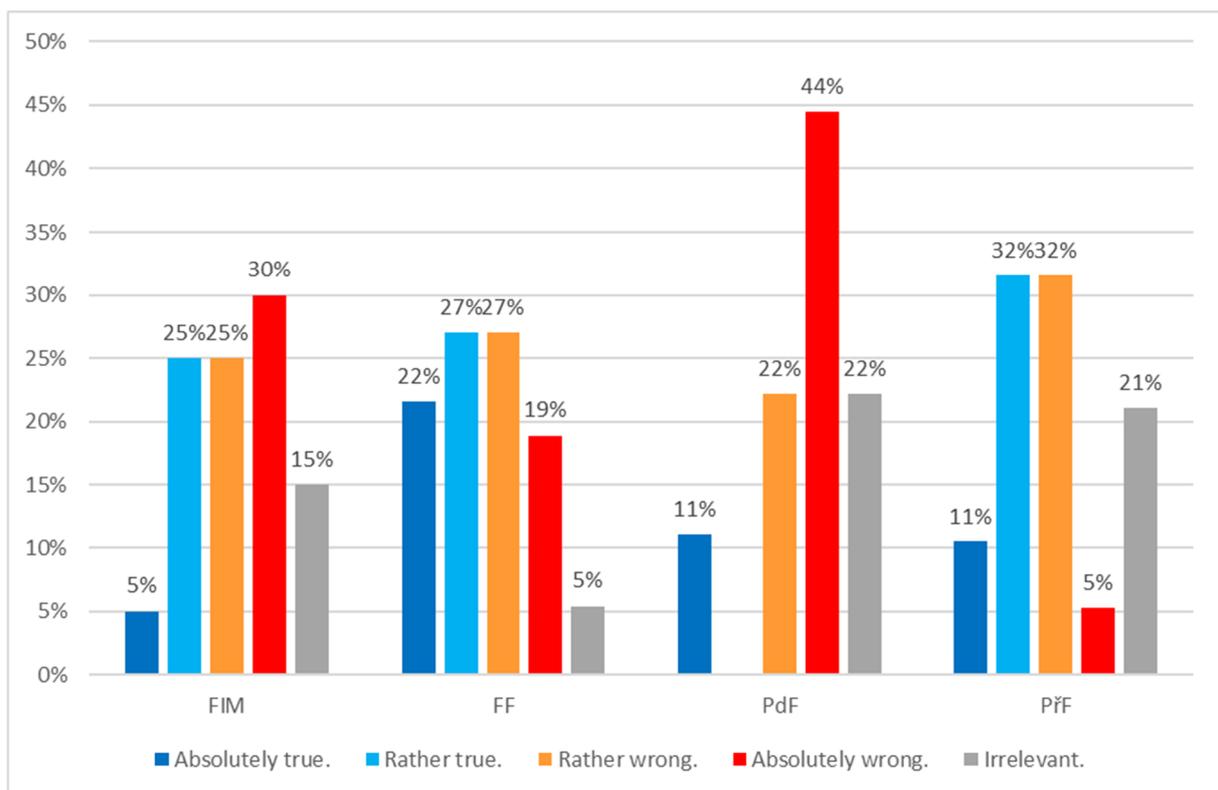
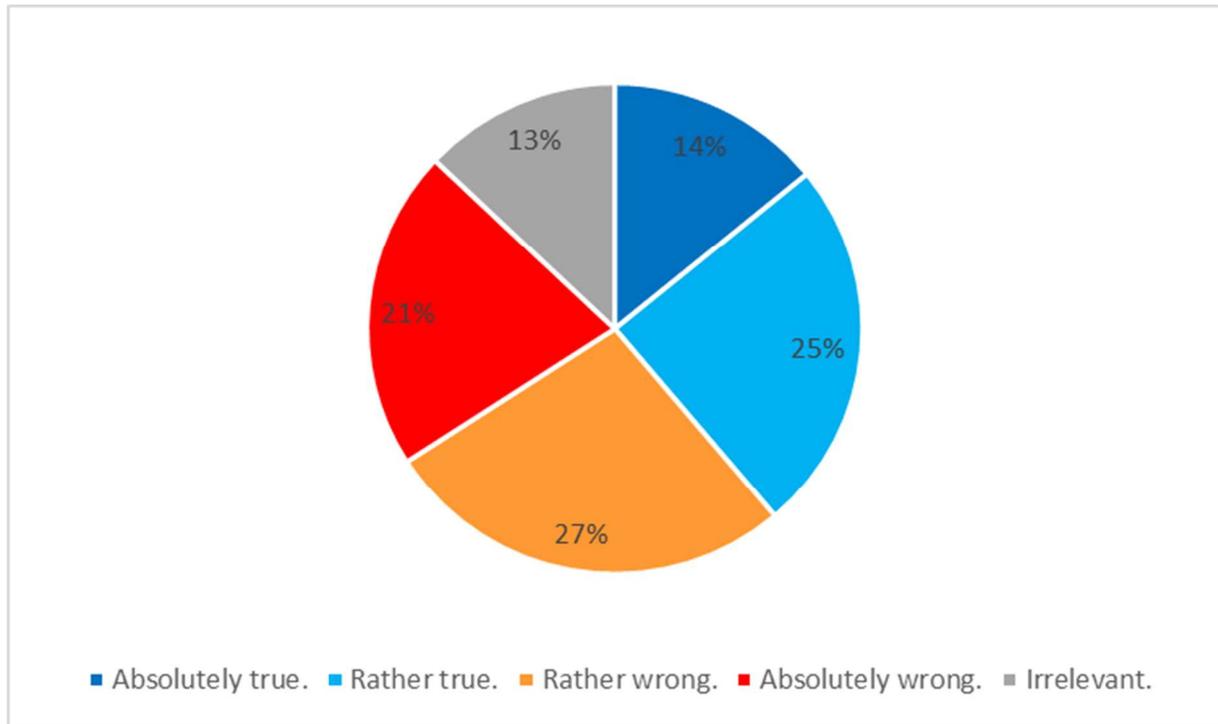


19) Do you have sufficient information concerning national or foreign journals where you can publish your professional texts (awareness about predatory journals/publishers; magazine rankings according to the field areas – quartiles, top deciles in WoS, Scopus, Scimago)?



## D) Overall evaluation

20) Is the sum of the PhD scholarship sufficient to cover your life expenses and enable you to dedicate yourself adequately to your duties within your PhD studies?



### **Annex 3: Questionnaire**

1. Please select the faculty where you are studying a doctoral degree programme.
  - Faculty of Informatics and Management.
  - Philosophical Faculty.
  - Faculty of Education.
  - Faculty of Science.
2. Please select your doctoral degree programme or field of study. (*Only for PhD students of Faculty of Informatics and Management*).
  - Applied Informatics.
  - Systems Engineering and Informatics or Information and Knowledge Management.
3. Please select your doctoral degree programme or field of study. (*Only for PhD students of Philosophical Faculty*).
  - Philosophy.
  - Political Science (African Studies or Latin American Studies).
4. Please select your doctoral degree programme or field of study. (*Only for PhD students of Faculty of Science*).
  - Biology and Ecology.
  - Didactics of Chemistry.
  - Didactics of Physics.
5. Please state your doctoral degree programme or field of study. (*Only for PhD students of Faculty of Education*).

#### **A) Organization of the PhD studies and related facilities**

6. Do you have all necessary information concerning your studies (about your studies / classes / publications / your duties at the department / schedule etc.)?
  - Absolutely true.
  - Rather true.
  - Rather wrong.
  - Absolutely wrong.
7. Please comment the previous question.
8. How do you evaluate the facilities available at the department/institute (especially your workplace, computer or other necessary equipment)?
  - Excellent.
  - Good.
  - Poor.
  - Bad.
  - Irrelevant.
9. Please comment the previous question.

10. How do you evaluate communication and guidance by your supervisor (availability, consultations, comments and discussion about publication outputs, planning of the milestones of your studies)?

- Excellent.
- Good.
- Poor.
- Bad.

11. Please comment the previous question.

12. How do you evaluate the communication of the department/institute, eventually the secretary of the subject-area board (availability, consultations, willingness/ability to provide information about organization of the PhD studies)?

- Excellent.
- Good.
- Poor.
- Bad.

13. Please comment the previous question.

14. How do you evaluate communication of the Dean´s office (International Office, Science and Research Department, Study Department): availability, willingness/ability to provide relevant information for PhD students?

- Excellent.
- Good.
- Poor.
- Bad.

15. Please comment the previous question.

## **B) Duties set within the Doctoral studies**

16. Do you think the number of courses you need to finish during your studies is adequate?

- Absolutely true.
- Rather true.
- Rather wrong.
- Absolutely wrong.

17. Please comment the previous question.

18. How do you evaluate the overall quality of the classes in the PhD study programme?

- Excellent.
- Good.
- Poor.
- Bad.

19. Please comment the previous question.

20. In your opinion, are the demands on the classes you must teach within your studies adequate?

- Absolutely true.
- Rather true.
- Rather wrong.
- Absolutely wrong.
- Irrelevant.

21. Please comment the previous question.

22. In your opinion, are the demands on realizing mobilities abroad or participation in other forms of international cooperation within your studies, adequate?

- Absolutely true.
- Rather true.
- Rather wrong.
- Absolutely wrong.

23. Please comment the previous question.

24. Do you think the demands on your participation in other activities of the department/institute (apart from teaching) (as for example activities aiming at science popularization, participation in organizing conferences, open days etc.) are adequate?

- Absolutely true.
- Rather true.
- Rather wrong.
- Absolutely wrong.
- Irrelevant.

25. Please comment the previous question.

26. Do you think the demands on outputs of your creative work (publications among others) within your PhD studies are adequate?

- Absolutely true.
- Rather true.
- Rather wrong.
- Absolutely wrong.

27. Please comment the previous question.

28. Does the overall structure of your duties within your studies enable you to dedicate enough time to the preparation of your dissertation thesis?

- Absolutely true.
- Rather true.
- Rather wrong.
- Absolutely wrong.

29. Please comment the previous question.

30. In your opinion, is the system of control of the progress of elaboration of your dissertation thesis adequate (in the sense of putting emphasis on continuous work on your dissertation thesis, presentation of partial results at the PhD seminars etc.)?

- Absolutely true.
- Rather true.
- Rather wrong.
- Absolutely wrong.

31. Please comment the previous question.

### **C) Creative work and publication of its results**

32. Do you have enough information on how to do your research in your scientific field and how to write and publish the results of your creative work?

*Comment please on who do you most get information from (your supervisor, guarantor of the study programme, Head of the department, Vice-Dean for Science and Research, your colleagues etc.).*

- Absolutely true.
- Rather true.
- Rather wrong.
- Absolutely wrong.

33. Please comment the previous question.

34. Does the faculty encourage you sufficiently to do creative work beyond your duties within your PhD studies (special scholarships, remuneration for publishing etc.)?

- Absolutely true.
- Rather true.
- Rather wrong.
- Absolutely wrong.

35. Please comment the previous question.

36. Do you have enough information about the possibility of participating in the specific research projects and other internal competitions at your faculty?

- Absolutely true.
- Rather true.
- Rather wrong.
- Absolutely wrong.

37. Please comment the previous question.

38. Do you have a real chance (from the department/institute/your supervisor) to get involved in research projects that are financed by external providers (e.g. GA ČR, TA ČR, NAKI etc.)?

- Absolutely true.
- Rather true.
- Rather wrong.
- Absolutely wrong.

39. Please comment the previous question.

40. Do you have sufficient information on how to write applications for research grants by external providers (e.g. GA ČR, TA ČR, NAKI etc.), or applications for prestigious international scholarships?

- Absolutely true.
- Rather true.
- Rather wrong.
- Absolutely wrong.

41. Please comment the previous question.

42. Do you have sufficient information concerning national or foreign journals where you can publish your professional texts (awareness about predatory journals/publishers; magazine rankings according to the field areas – quartiles, top deciles in WoS, Scopus, Scimago)?

- Absolutely true.
- Rather true.
- Rather wrong.
- Absolutely wrong.

43. Please comment the previous question.

#### **D) Overall evaluation**

44. Is the sum of the PhD scholarship sufficient to cover your life expenses and enable you to dedicate yourself adequately to your duties within your PhD studies?

- Absolutely true.
- Rather true.
- Rather wrong.
- Absolutely wrong.
- Irrelevant.

45. Please comment the previous question.

46. Please evaluate in general, what you appreciate the most in your PhD studies and on the other hand what you think could be different and better?