



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

I. Date and way of evaluation

The evaluation was conducted from 24th April to 21st May 2023 through a questionnaire in MS Forms, which was available in two language versions (Czech and English). Respondents also had the option to complete the questionnaire offline and submit a printed version, although this option was not used. The questionnaire is available in Annex 3.

The evaluation was based on the same questionnaire as in 2021, so this report also presents the results in the context of comparing them to the feedback collected from doctoral degree students in the previous survey.

II. Information about participation

A total of 187 doctoral degree students were asked to complete the questionnaire, and 87 questionnaires were submitted (of which 81 were in the Czech language, and 6 were in English). The overall response rate at UHK was 46.5% (compared to 46.6% in 2021). At individual faculties, the response rate ranged between 44.4% and 50%, so there were no significant differences in the return rates of the questionnaires among the faculties (details can be found in Annex 1).

III. General results of evaluation

Graphs showing the results of the assessment of each question are presented in Annex 2. Additional verbal comments provided more information on the ratings.

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 or agreeable 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 or poor by 38% respondents at FIM, 25% at FF, 8% at PdF and PŘF. Communication from the Dean's office was most positively

evaluated at PdF (100% of respondents rated it as excellent or good), while it was 87% at PŘF, 85% at FF and 75% at FIM.

No major differences were noted compared to the previous evaluation, which took place in 2021, although the 2023 evaluation was slightly more critical on these issues. The exception is the evaluation of the communication and guidance by the supervisor, which was slightly more positive in 2023.

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 activity), 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. It was also the case for these questions that positive or affirmative ratings were predominant and that the rate of positive ratings varied between faculties. For example, there are differences between faculties in the evaluation of the quality of teaching of classes in doctoral studies. (Respondents chose excellent ratings as follows: 38% at FF, 33% at PdF, 29% at PŘF, 13% at FIM). On the other hand, 38% at FIM, 29% at PŘF, 17% at PdF, and 6% at FF chose a poor rating. 17% of respondents did not consider the number of courses they have to take within their studies to be adequate (16% rather wrong and 1% absolutely wrong). In terms of the assessment of the adequacy of the requirements, the highest rate of disagreement was in the requirements for the outputs of creative work (16% rather wrong, 5% absolutely wrong).

Interfaculty differences are visible, for example, in the question of the assessment of the adequacy of the demands on teaching activities, which is perceived as absolutely or rather adequate by 58% of respondents at PdF, while at other faculties it is more (91% at FF, 75% at PŘF, 69% at FIM). 32% of respondents rather disagree or absolutely disagree with the statement that the overall structure of their doctoral study duties allows them to devote sufficient time to preparing their dissertation. It is 57% of respondents at FIM, 41% at PdF, 25% at PŘF and 24% at FF.

Compared to the previous evaluation, which took place in 2021, the evaluation was more critical for all questions.

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 generally rated positively, but there was a higher rate of disagreement in this section compared to the previous two sections of the questionnaire, and large differences in ratings across faculties are also visible. For example, for 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?"* 78% of the respondents answered positively (absolutely true or rather true) at the UHK, 92% at PŘF and PdF, 80% at FF, and 44% at FIM.

There were significant differences in the evaluation of faculty's encouragement for engaging in creative activities beyond duties within PhD studies. While 73% of respondents at FF answered positively (absolutely true or rather true), the figures were 51% at FIM, 57% at PŘF, and 58% at PdF.

Regarding the question, *"Do you have enough information about the possibility of participating in the specific research projects and other internal competitions at your faculty"* 97% of FF respondents answered definitely true or rather true, 92% at PdF, 71% at PŘF, and 57% at FIM.

Differences in assessment among faculties were also evident in response 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.)?"* Overall, 69% of UHK respondents answered positively (absolutely true/rather true), but the numbers were 75% at PŘF and 56% at FIM.

Regarding 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 scholarships?"* approximately 48% of respondents answered absolutely true or rather true, while the majority (52%) leaned towards rather wrong or definitely wrong.

For 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)?"* a total of 70% of respondents answered absolutely true or rather true, on the contrary 30 % chose rather wrong or absolutely wrong. There were visible differences among faculties – while 83% of PdF respondents gave a positive evaluation (absolutely true or rather true), it was 50% at FIM.

Compared to the previous evaluation conducted in 2021, respondents were more critical in all of these questions. The most significant difference can be observed in the question, *"Does the faculty encourage you sufficiently to do creative work beyond your duties within your PhD studies (special scholarships, remuneration for publishing etc.)"* where the agreement rate decreased by 13%.

D) Overall evaluation

This part focused on the overall evaluation of the study and the adequacy of the amount of the doctoral scholarship. In response to the question *"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?"* the majority of respondents (56%) answered absolutely wrong, 21% rather wrong, 10% rather true, 2% absolutely true, 10% irrelevant. The rate of responses that disagreed increased by 29% compared to 2021.

IV. Measures

Since all doctoral programmes are accredited by faculties, the measures that can be taken at the university level are aimed at setting up an institutional environment to enhance the quality of doctoral studies. Other measures are the responsibility of the faculties and their respective bodies.

At the university level, the following measures relate to evaluation results (including verbal comments):

- Continue to provide university-wide educational activities for doctoral degree students, focused in particular on publishing the results of creative activities (including consideration of social sciences and humanities), on writing applications for research grants/projects or international scholarships, and expand them to offer educational activities focused on other topics (e.g. development of pedagogical competences). Support the development of a range of training activities (focused on the needs of specific scientific disciplines) for PhD students at the faculties.
- Intensify the use of platforms for sharing good practice among faculties and study programmes, in particular by introducing regular meetings of guarantors of all doctoral study programmes.
- Seek ways to increase funding for doctoral scholarships to improve the financial conditions of doctoral degree students so that they can devote more time to their studies and complete their studies on time.
- Immediately introduce the training of supervisors according to the discussed and approved framework "Standards for a supervisor".
- Actively seek financial resources to strengthen the central professional, organizational and administrative background for improving the quality of doctoral studies at UHK.

Annexes:

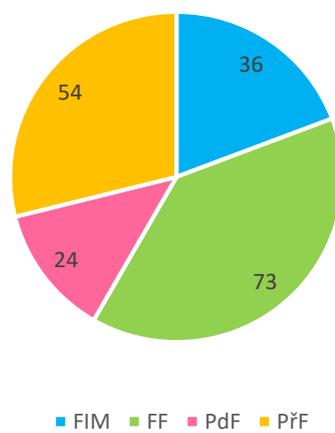
Annex 1: Participation in the evaluation of doctoral studies

Annex 2: Results of evaluation

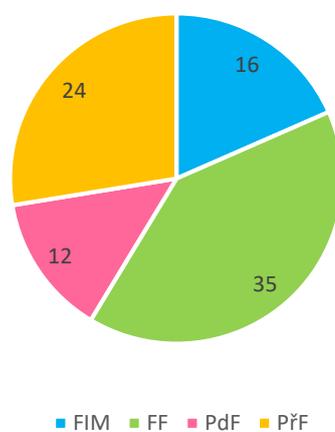
Annex 3: Questionnaire

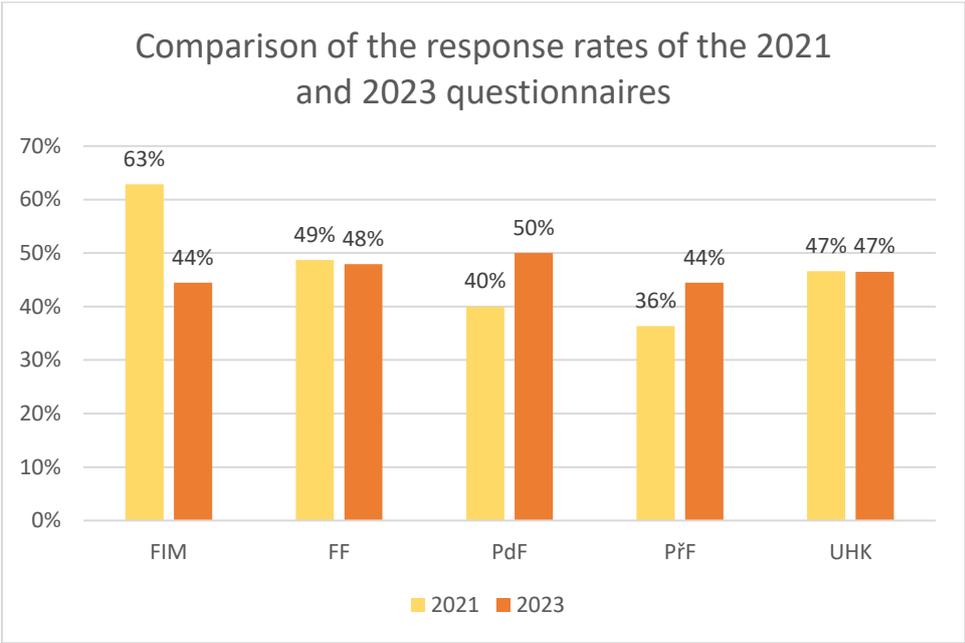
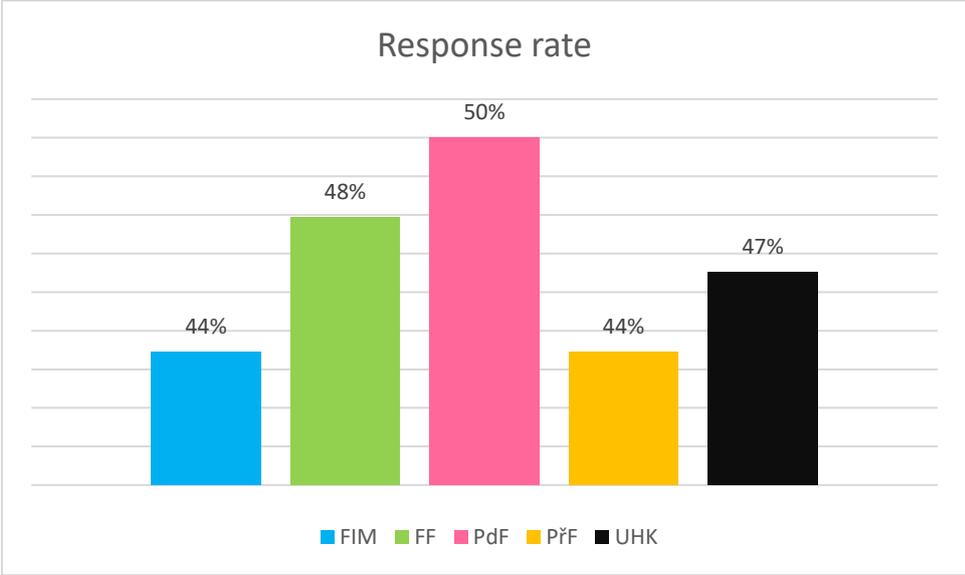
Annex 1: Participation in the evaluation of doctoral studies

Numbers of addressed PhD students



Numbers of completed questionnaires

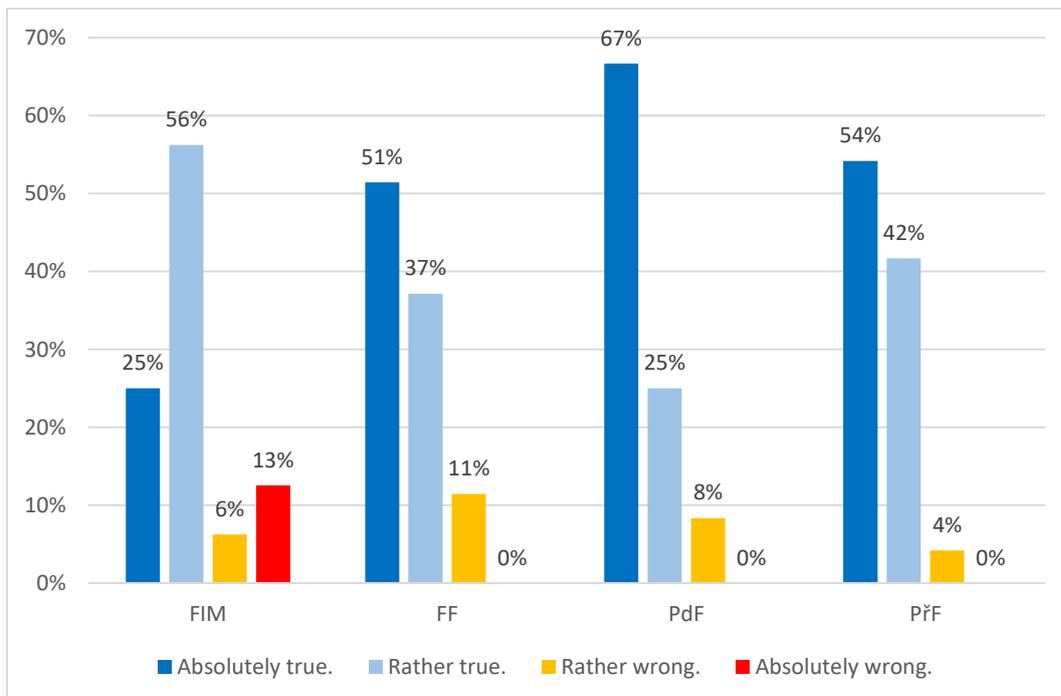
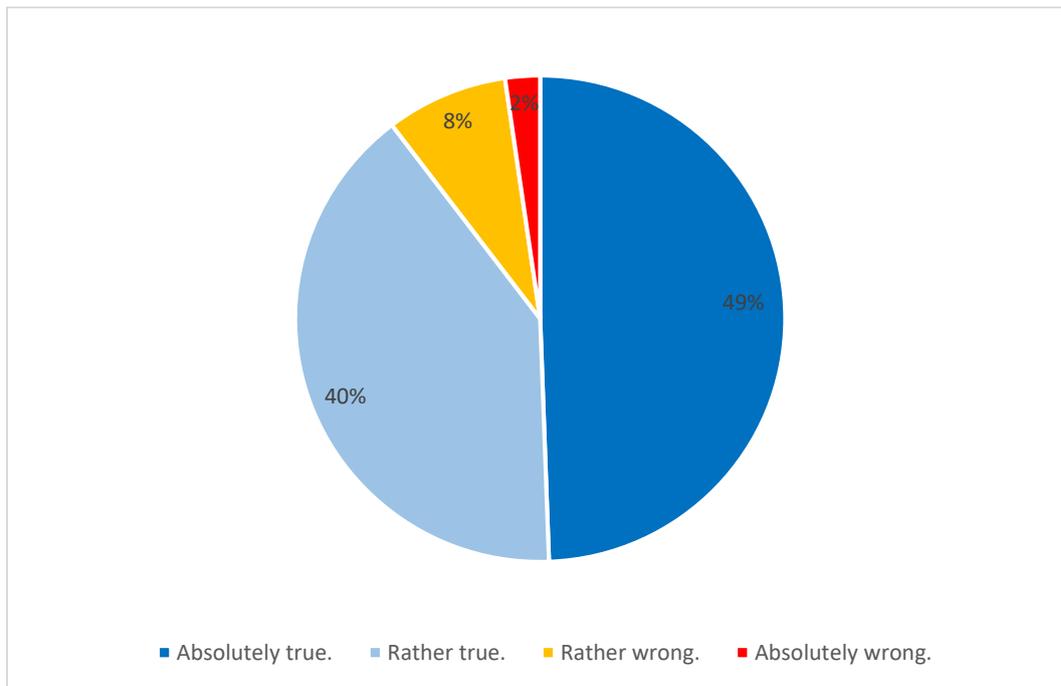


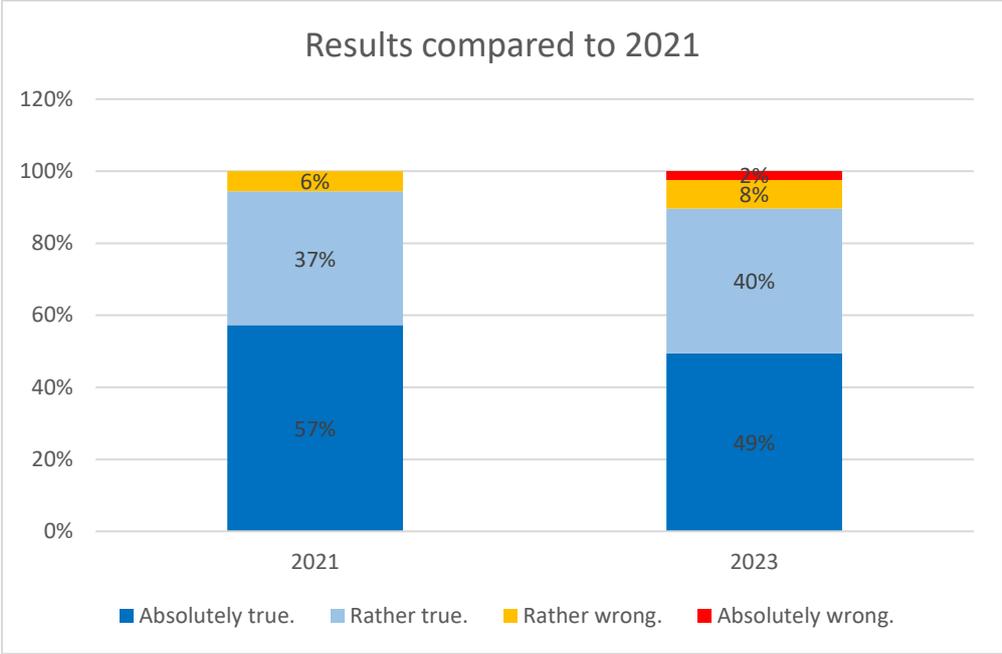


Annex 2: Results of evaluation

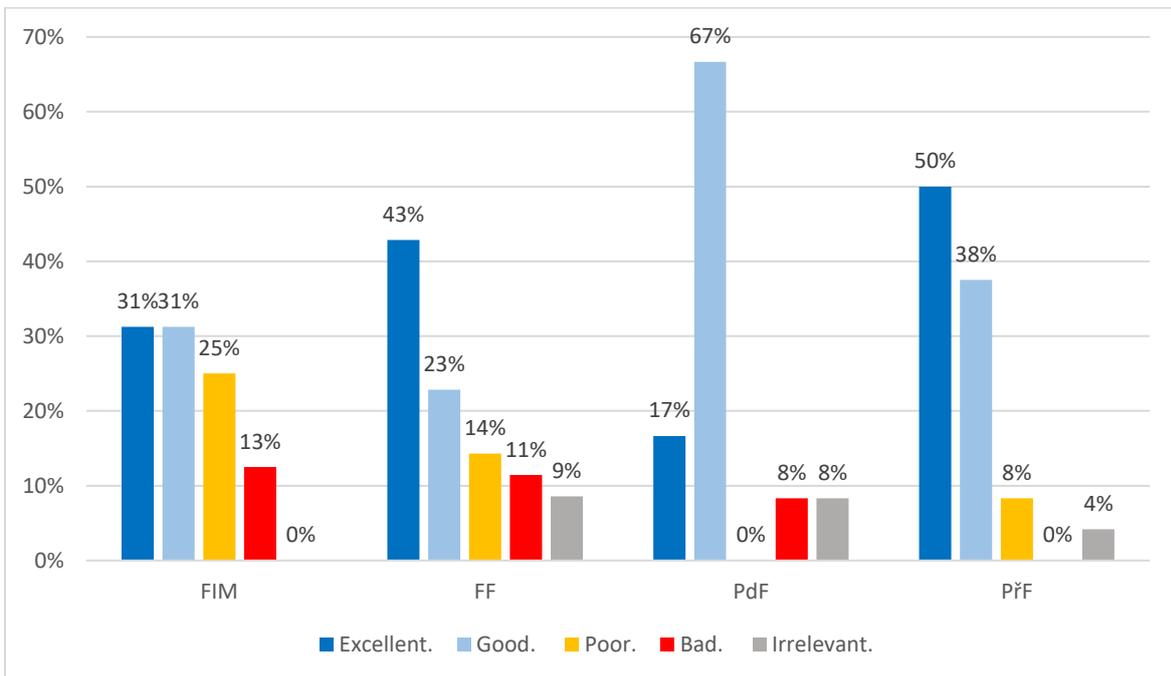
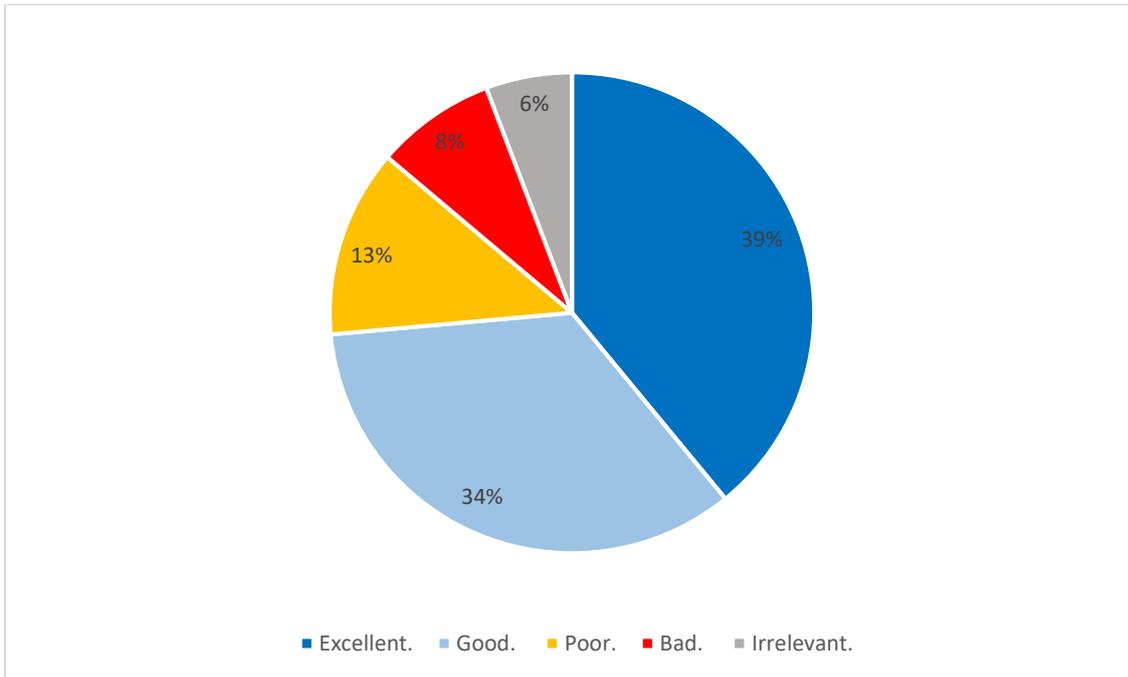
A) Organization of the PhD studies and related facilities

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

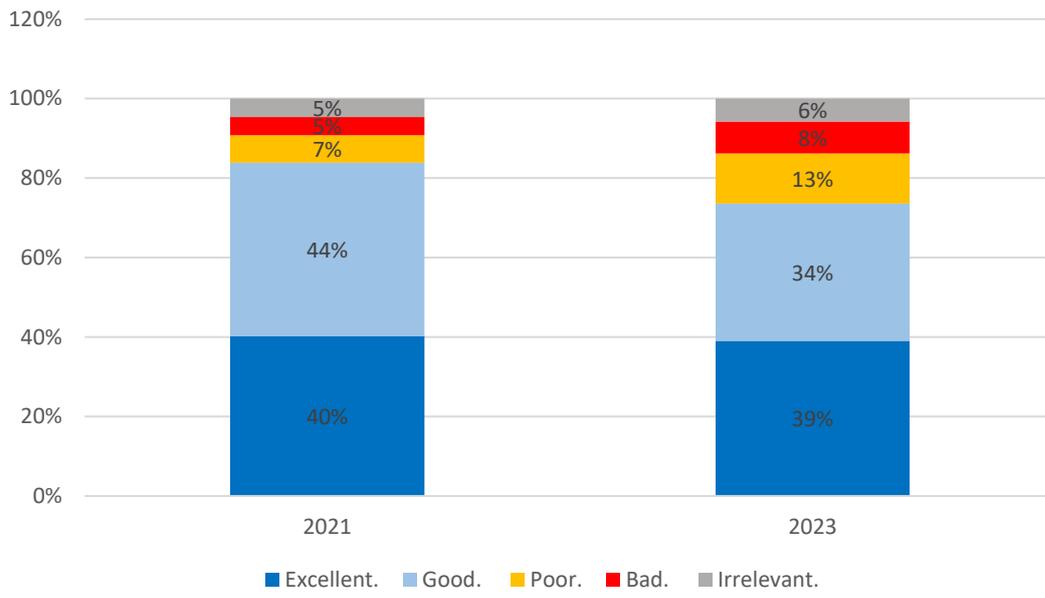




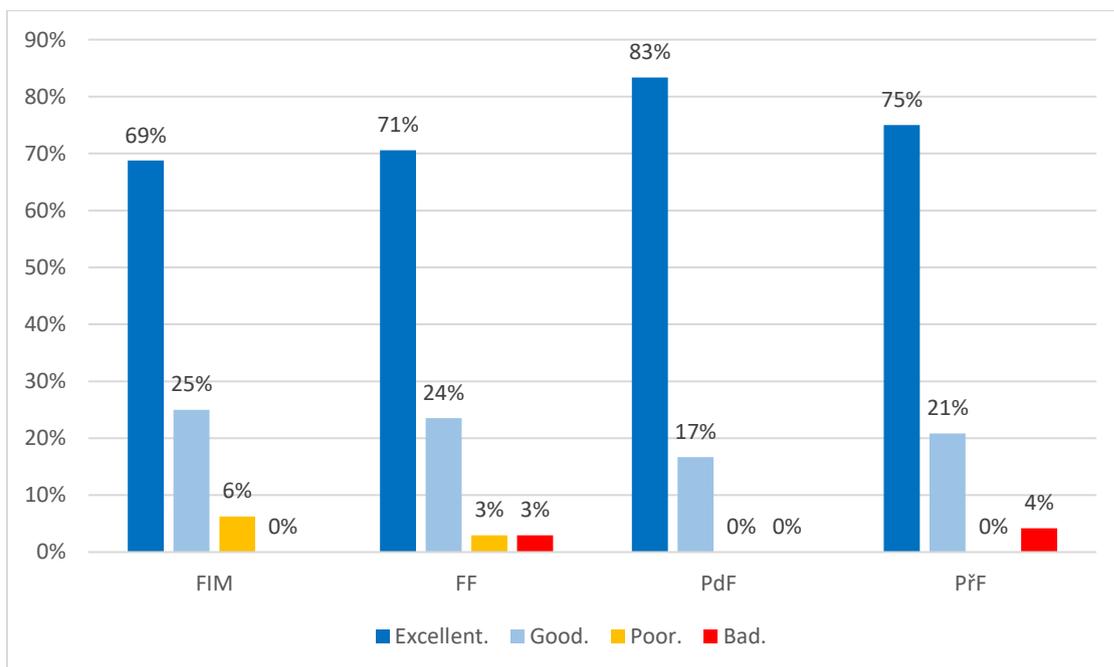
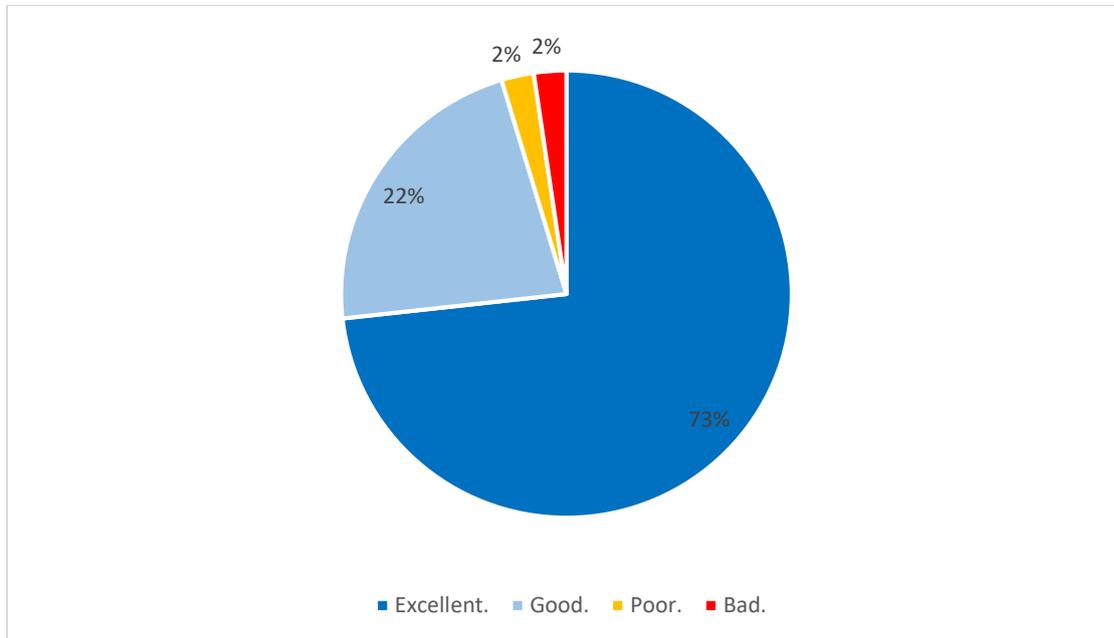
2) How do you evaluate the facilities available at the department/institute (especially your workplace, computer or other necessary equipment)?

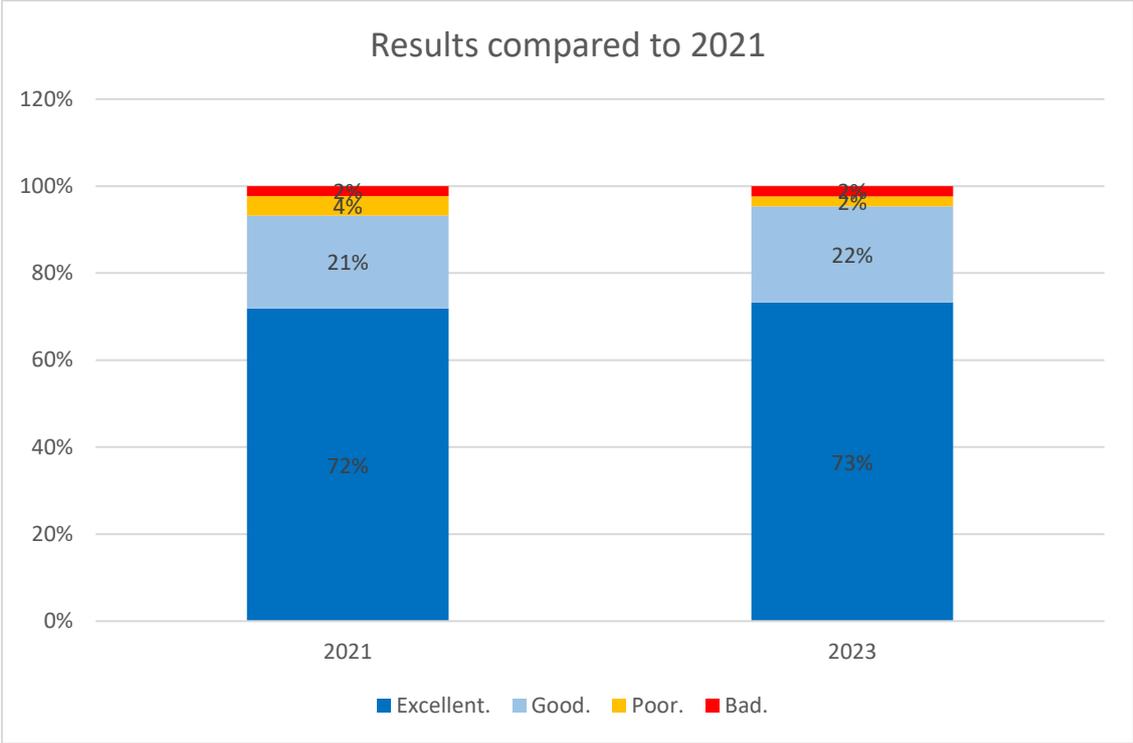


Results compared to 2021

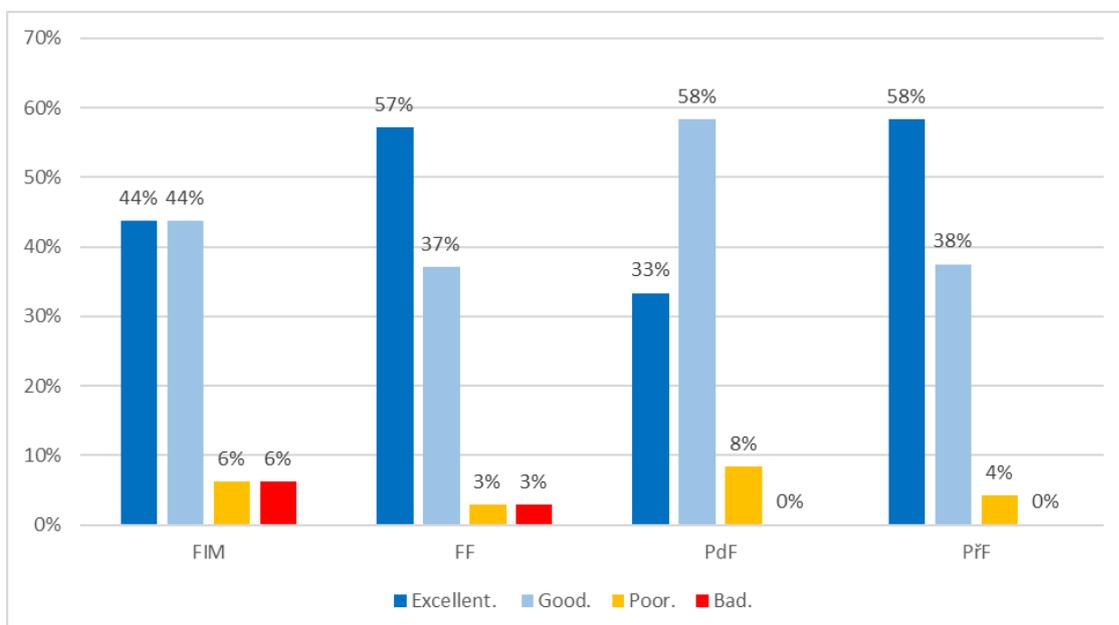
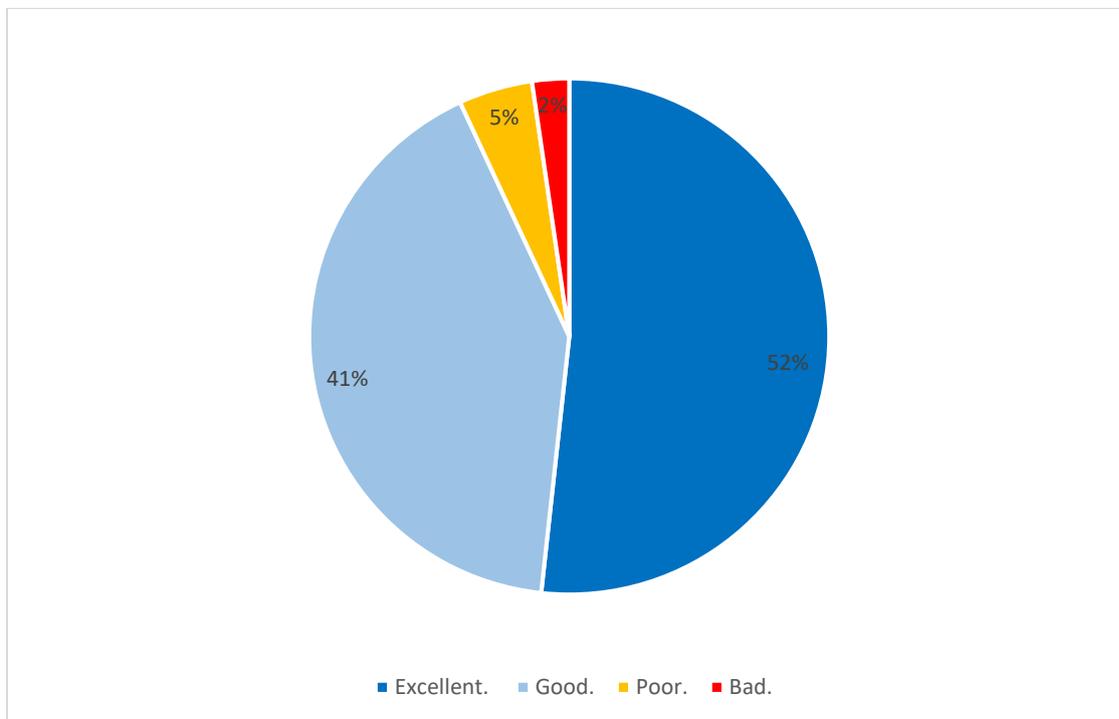


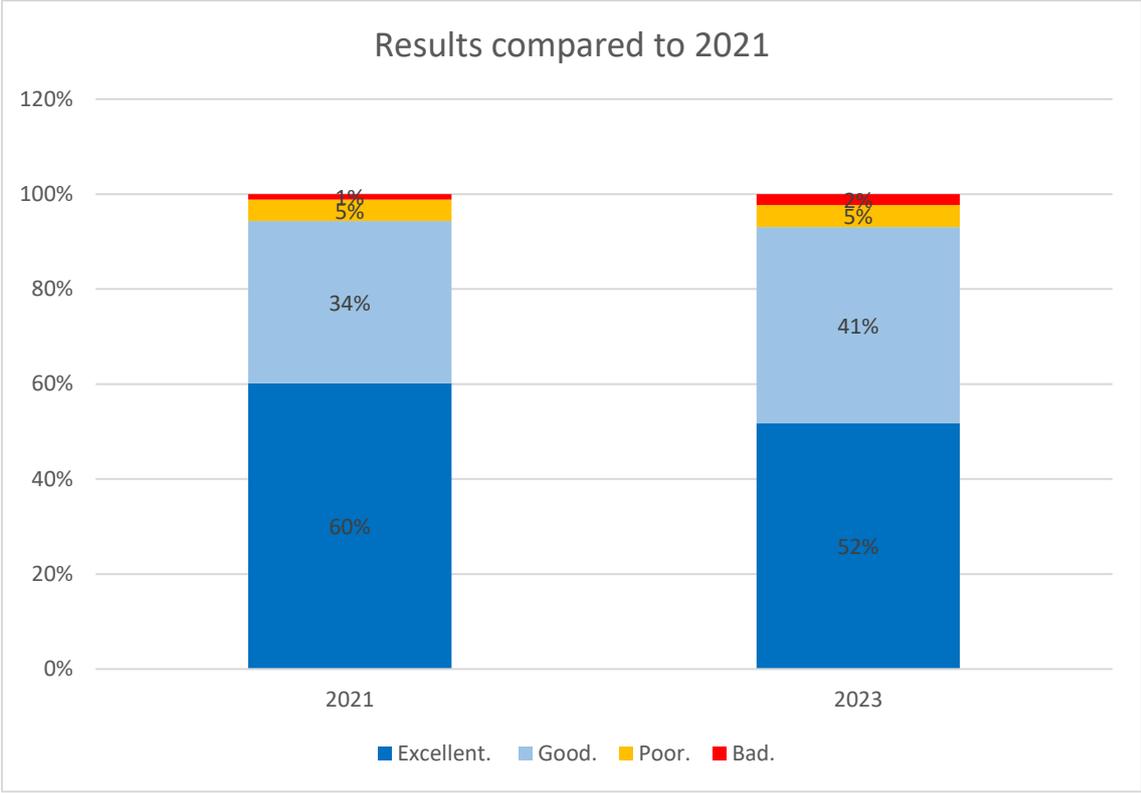
3) How do you evaluate communication and guidance by your supervisor (availability, consultations, comments and discussion about publication outputs, planning of the milestones of your studies)?



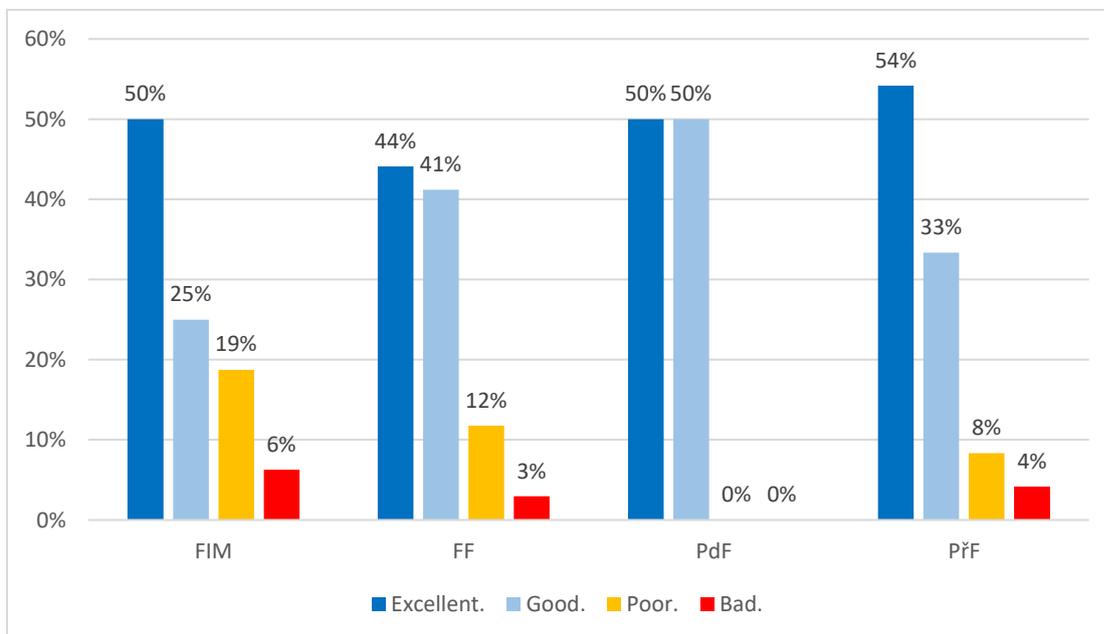
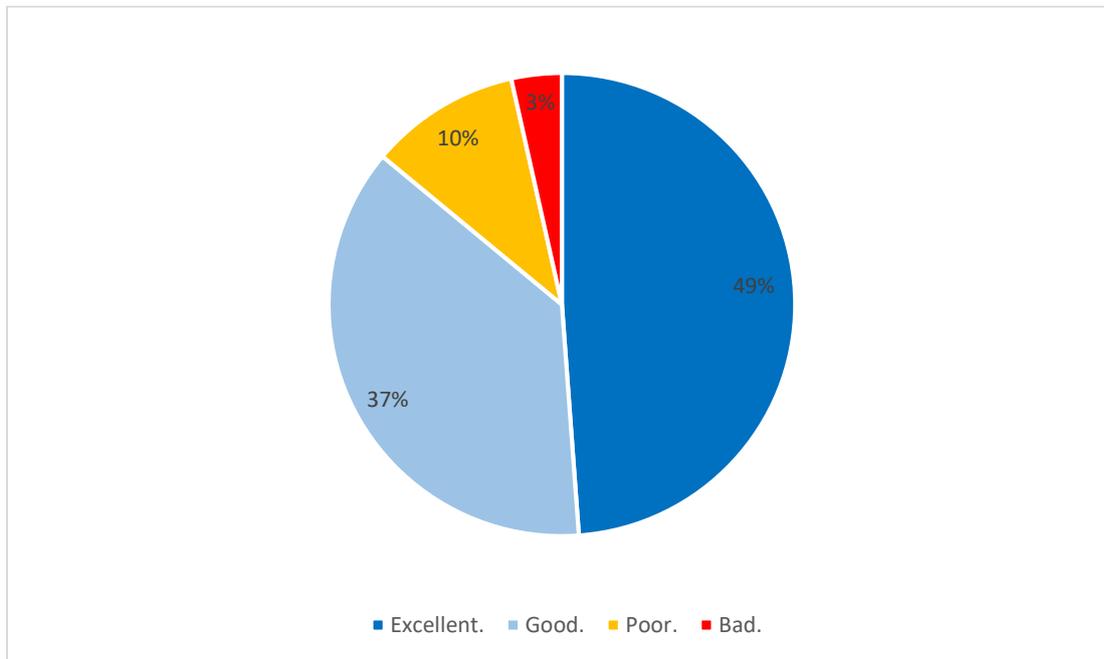


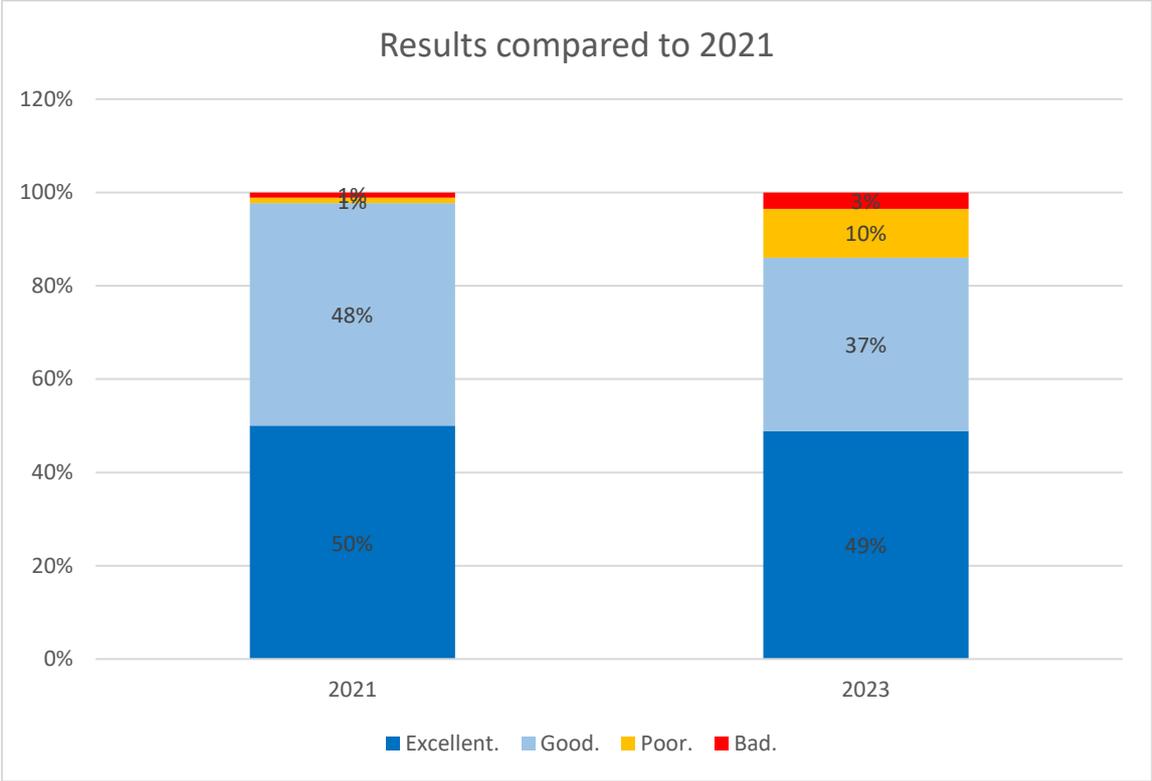
4) How do you evaluate the communication of the department/institute, eventually the secretary of the subject-area board (availability, consultations, willingness/ability to provide information about organization of the PhD studies)?





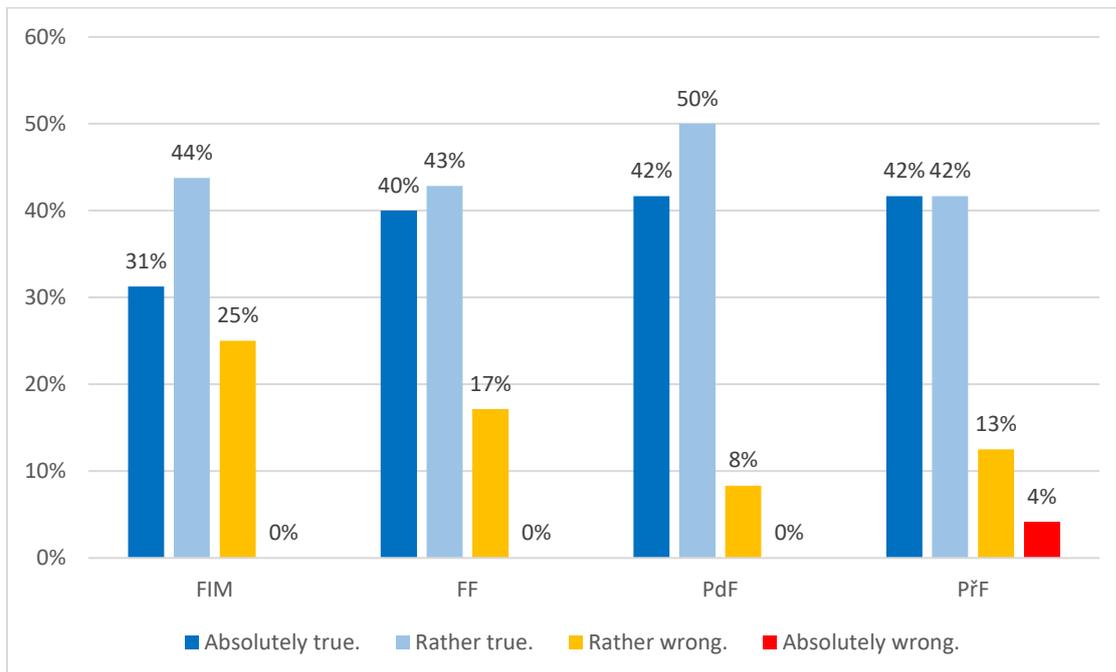
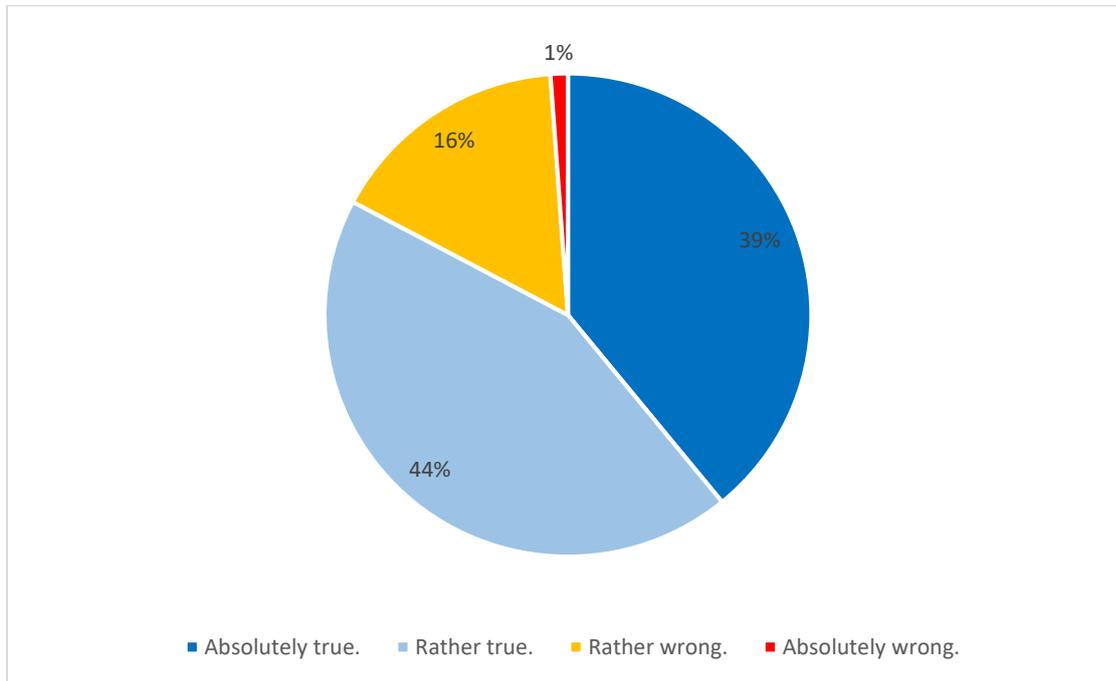
5) How do you evaluate communication of the Dean’s office (International Office, Science and Research Department, Study Department): availability, willingness/ability to provide relevant information for PhD students?



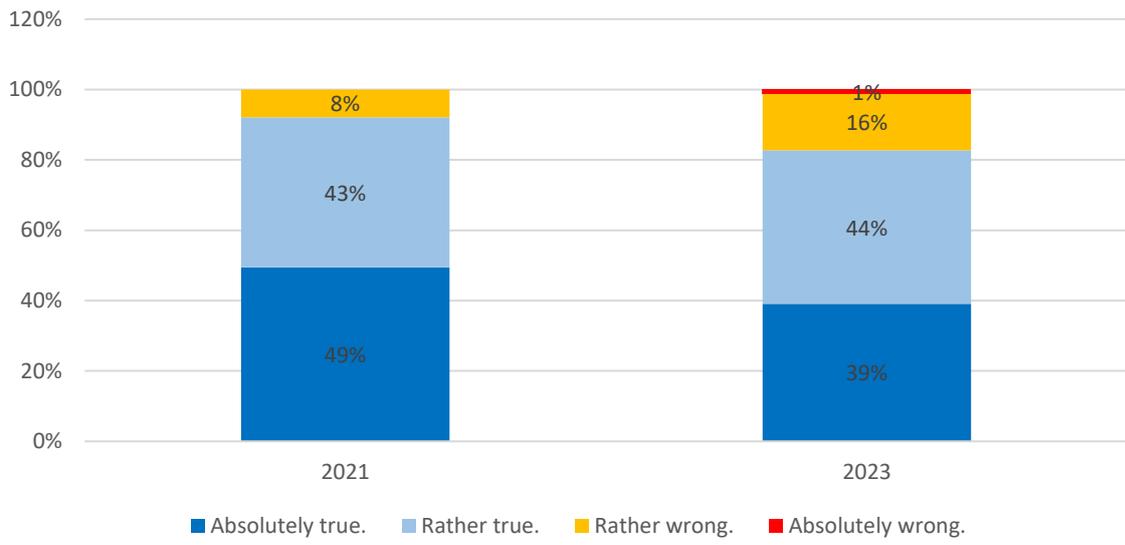


B) Duties set within the Doctoral studies

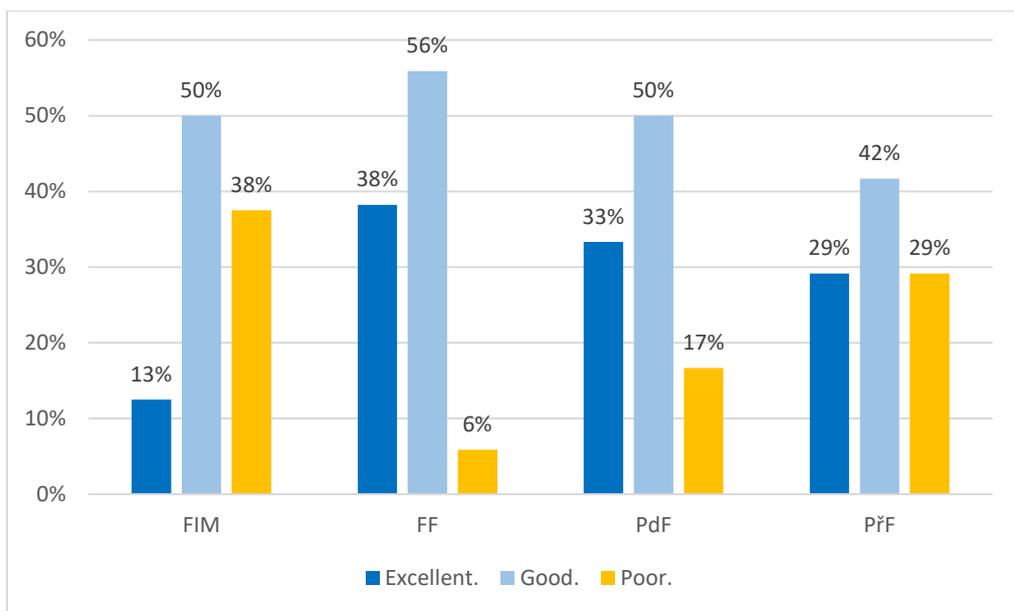
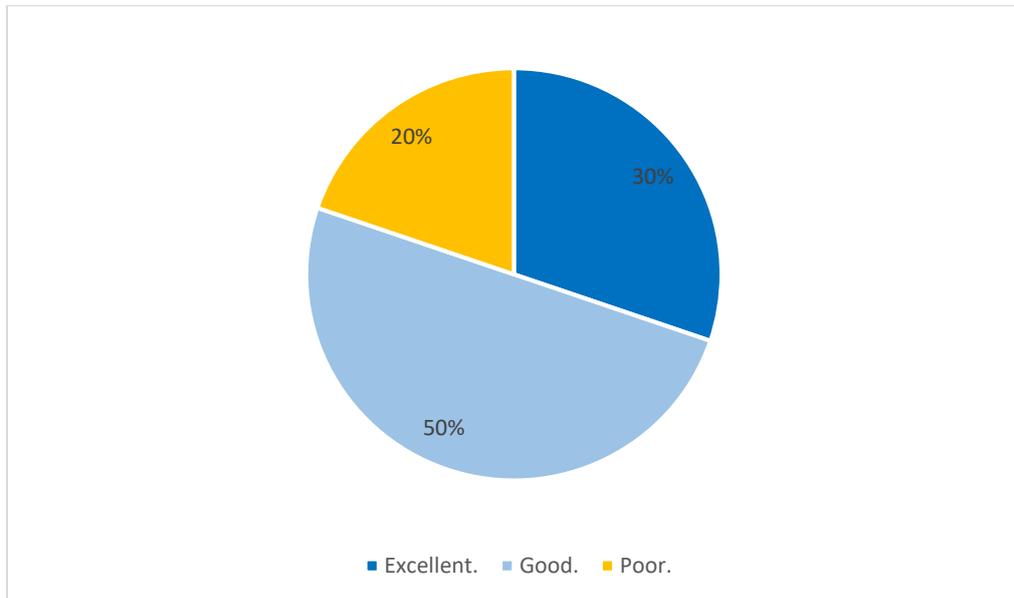
6) Do you think the number of courses you need to finish during your studies is adequate?



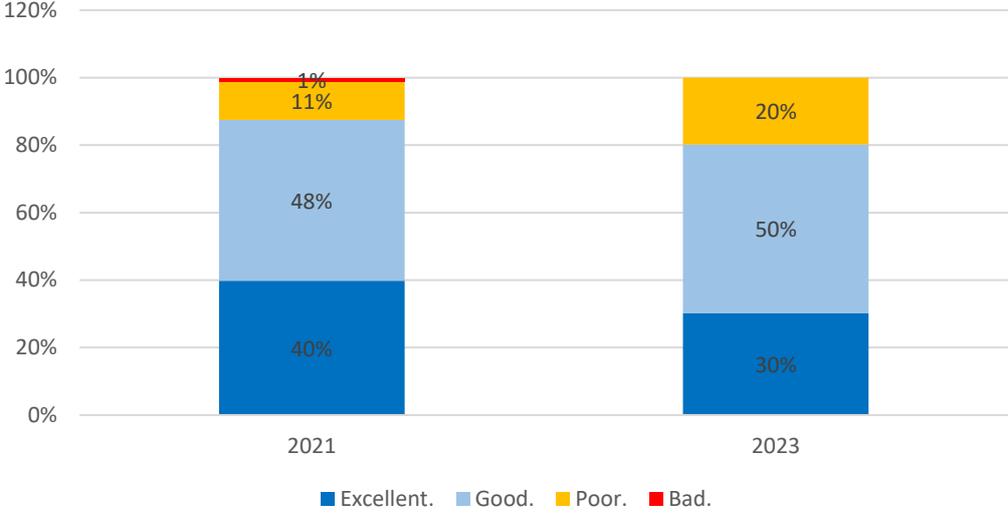
Results compared to 2021



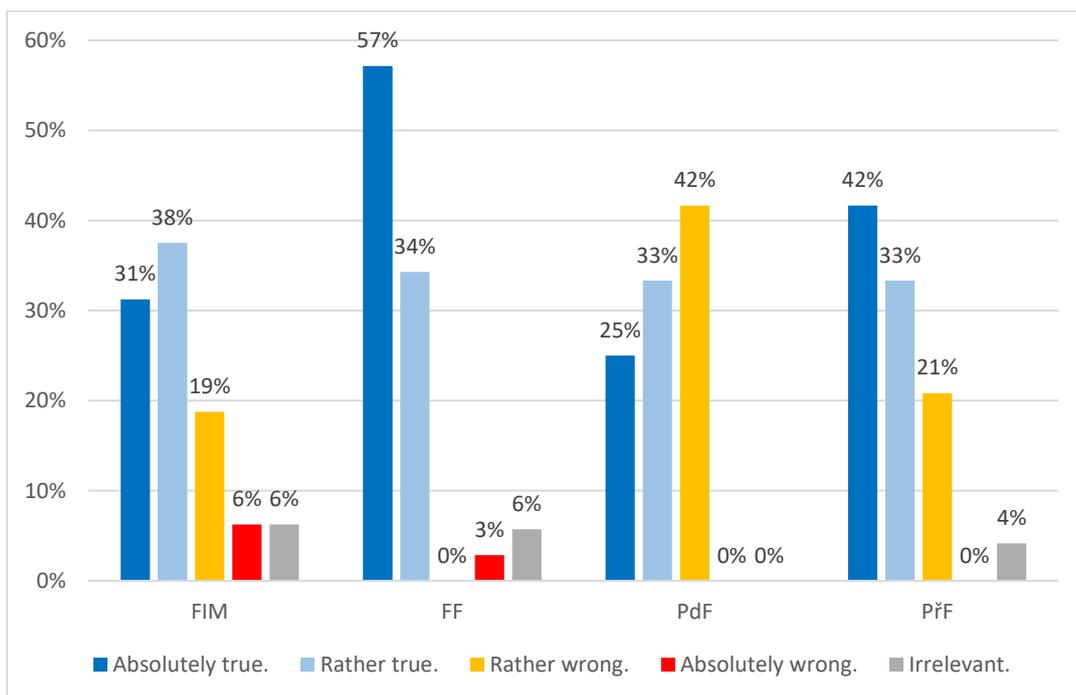
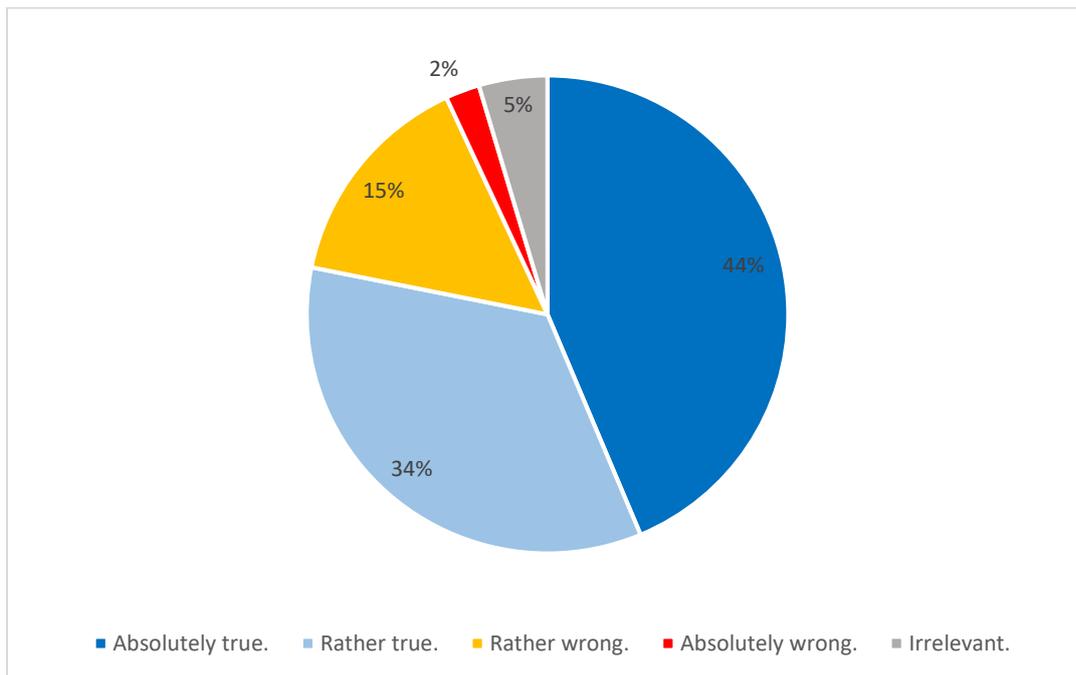
7) How do you evaluate the overall quality of the classes in the PhD study programme?



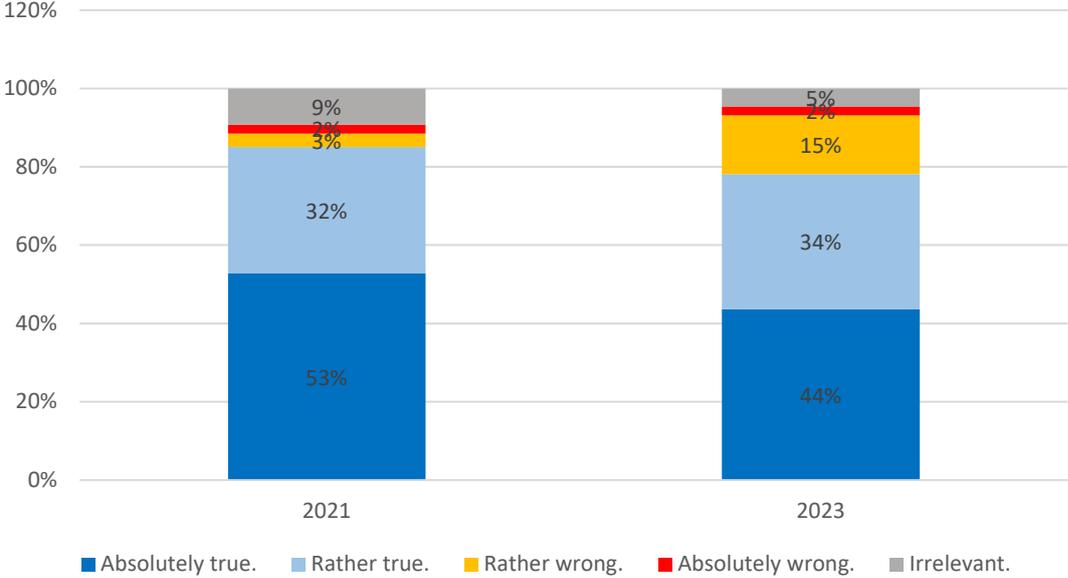
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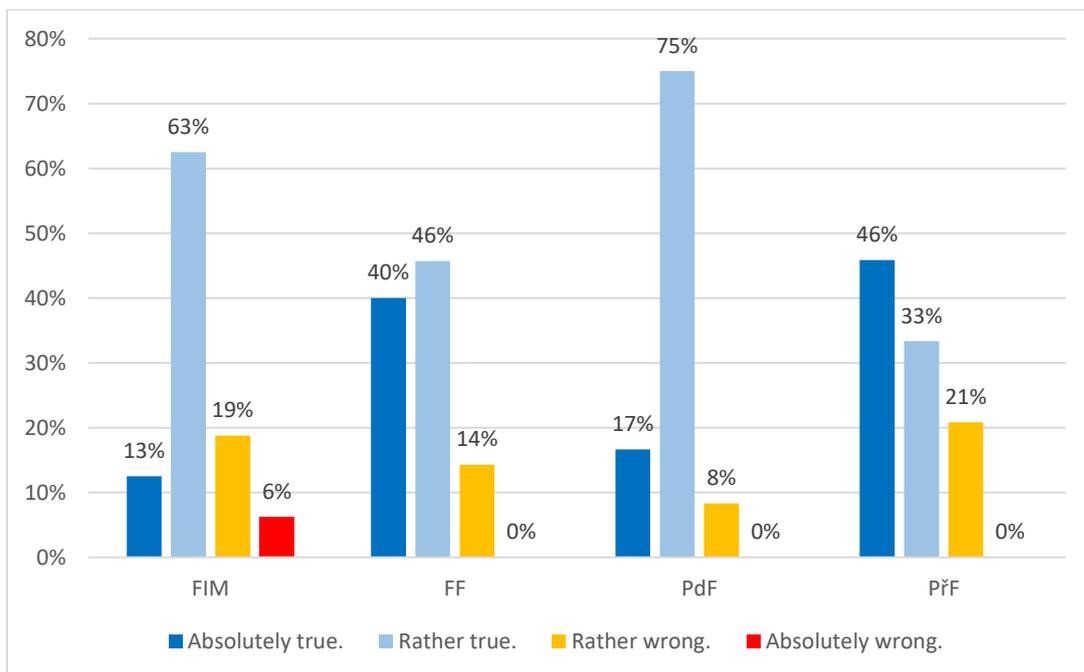
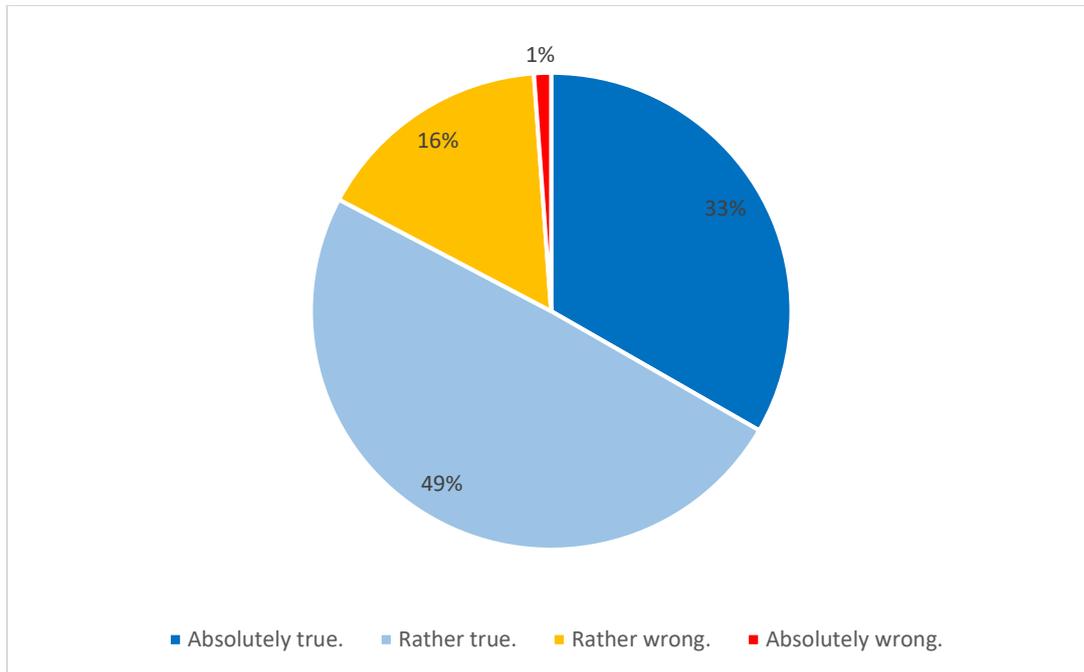
8) In your opinion, are the demands on the classes you must teach within your studies adequate?

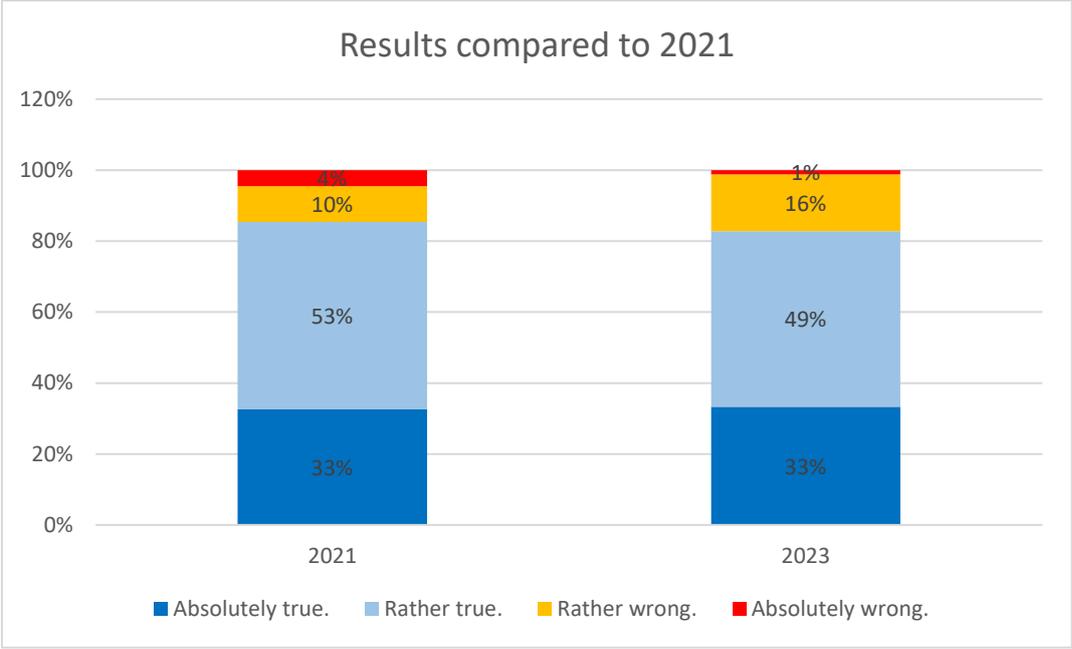


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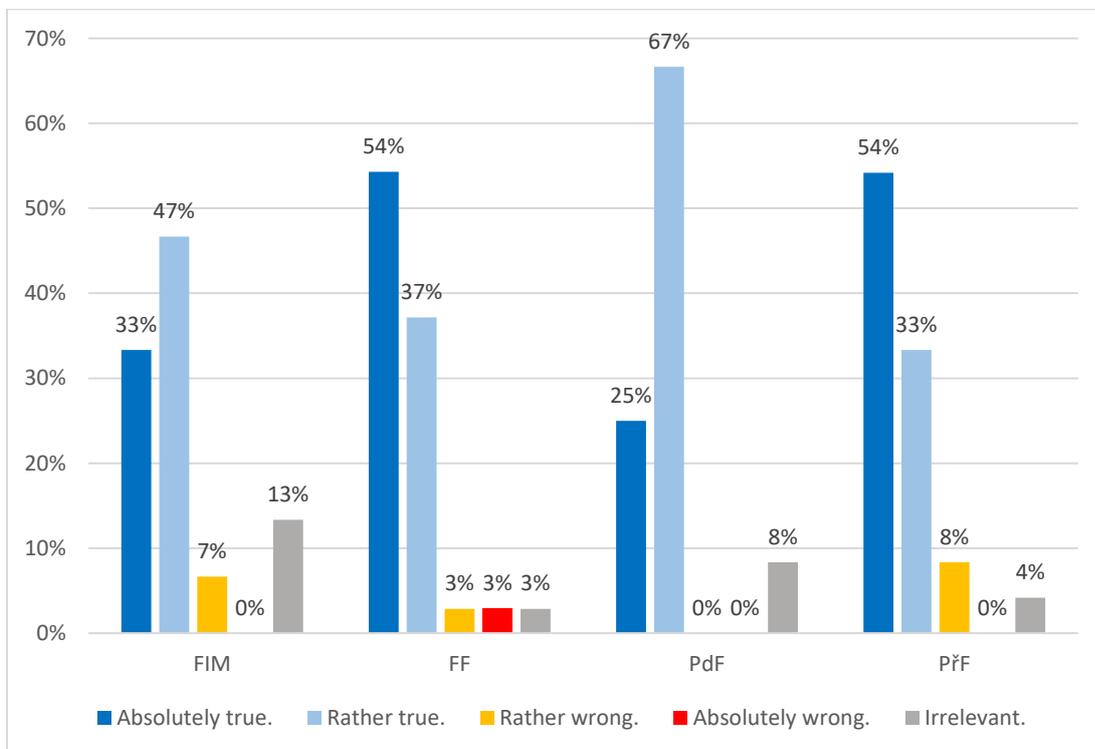
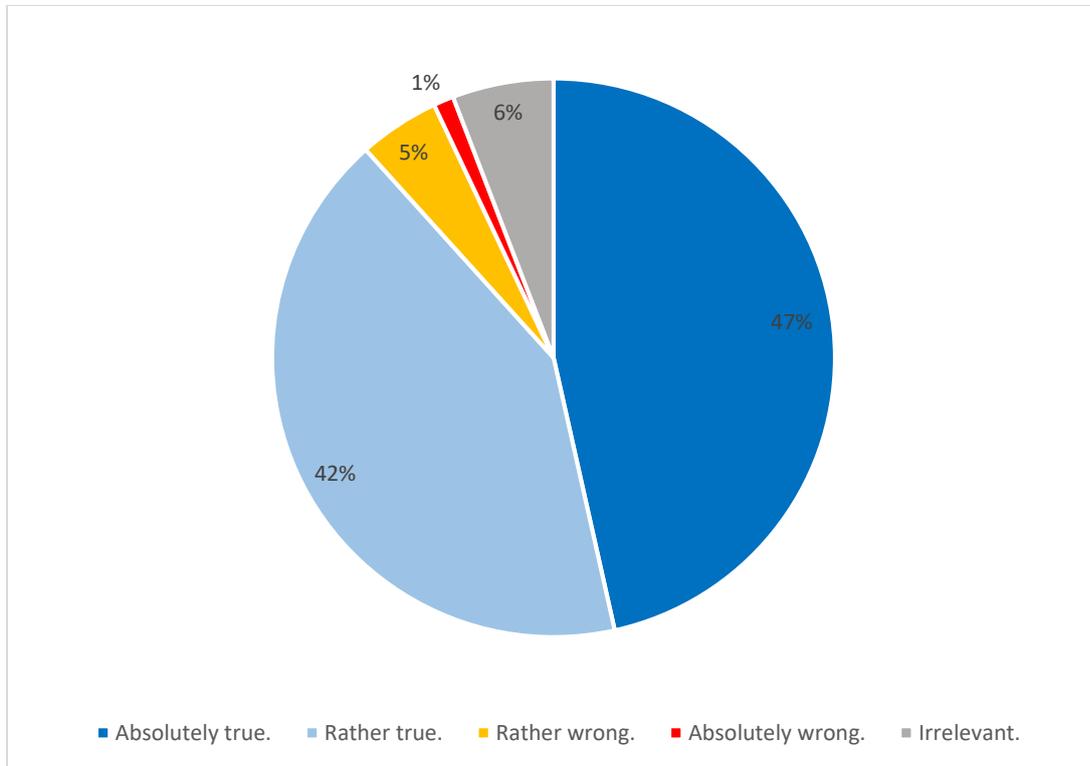


9) In your opinion, are the demands on realizing mobilities abroad or participation in other forms of international cooperation within your studies, adequate?

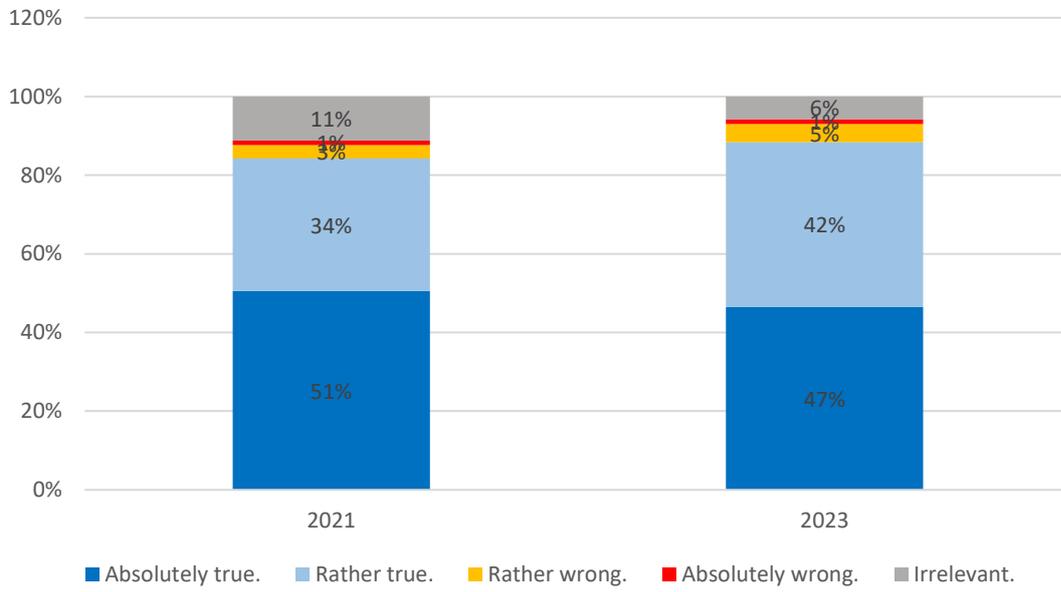




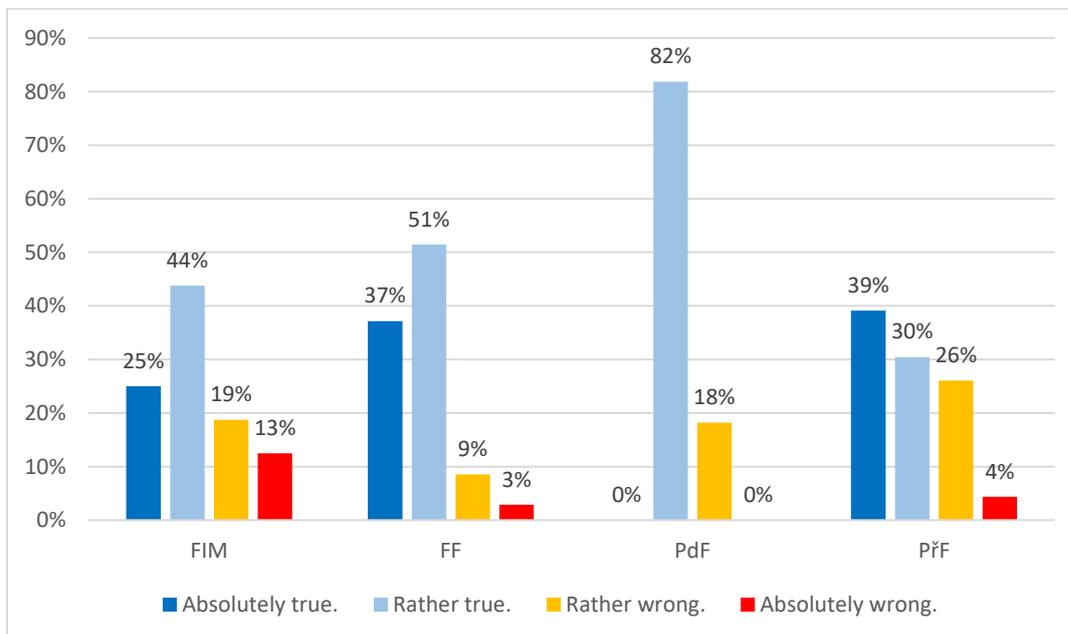
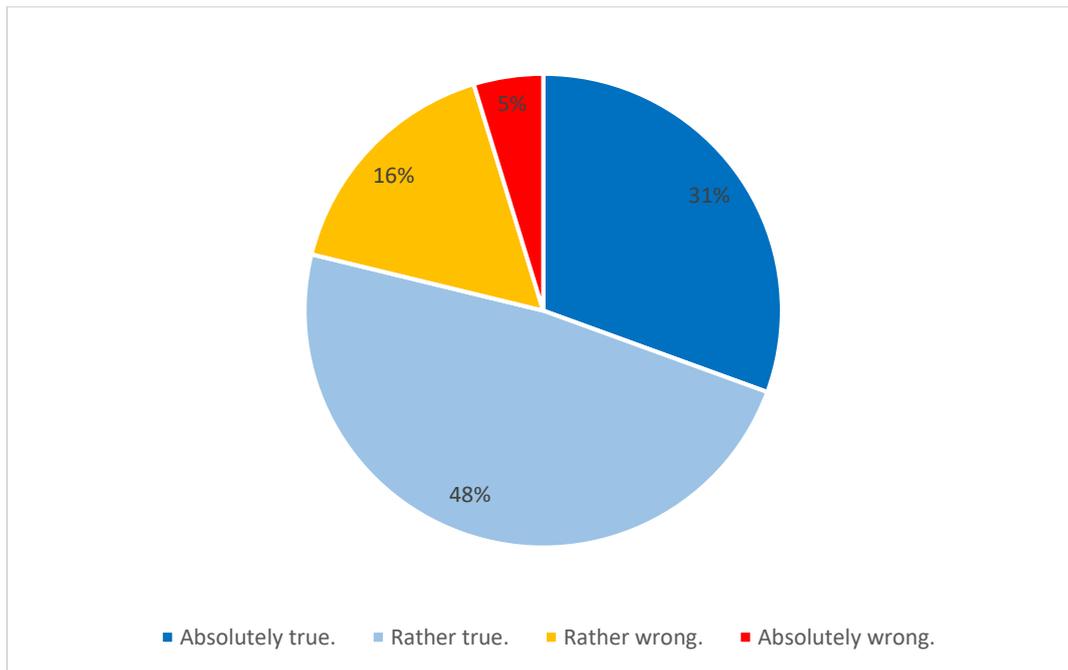
10) Do you think the demands on your participation in other activities of the department/institute (apart from teaching) (as for example activities aiming at science popularization, participation in organizing conferences, open days etc.) are adequate?



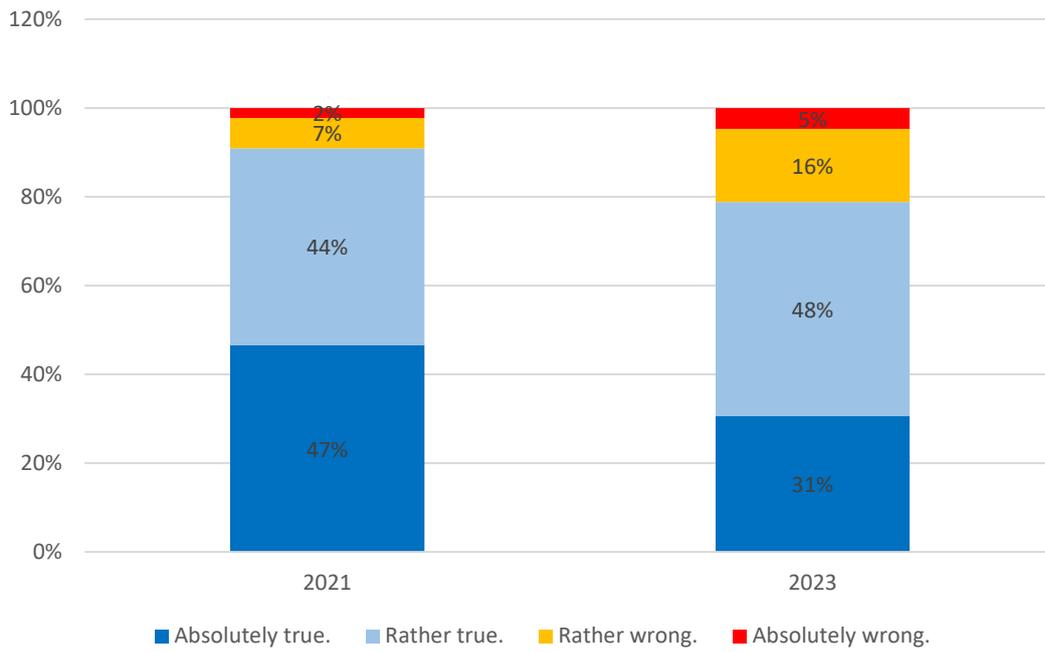
Results compared to 2021



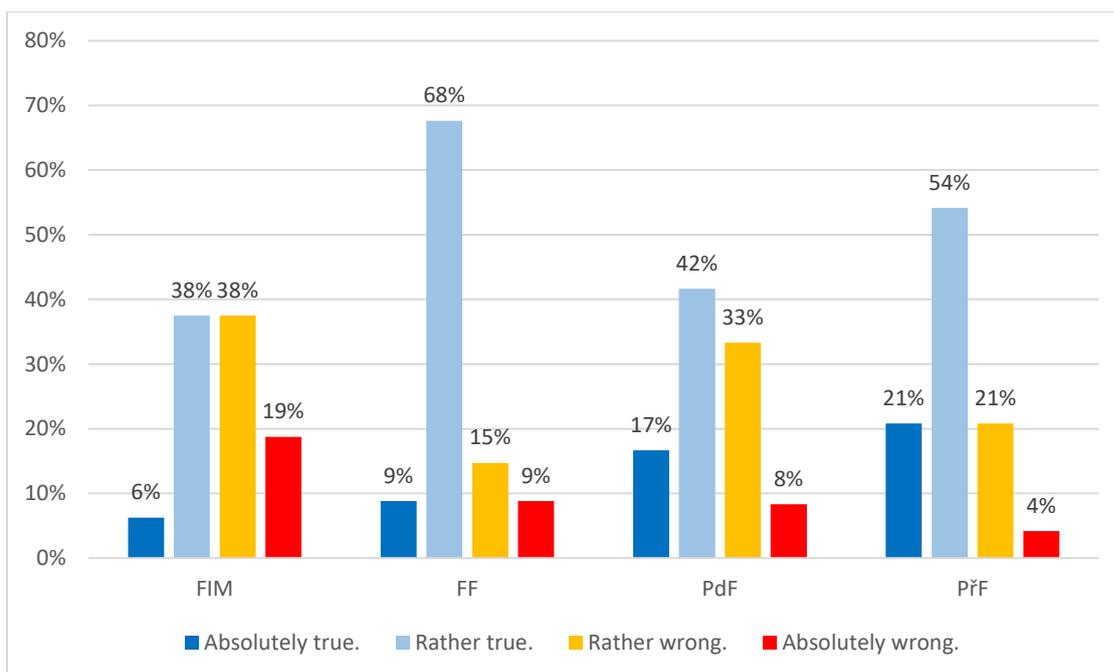
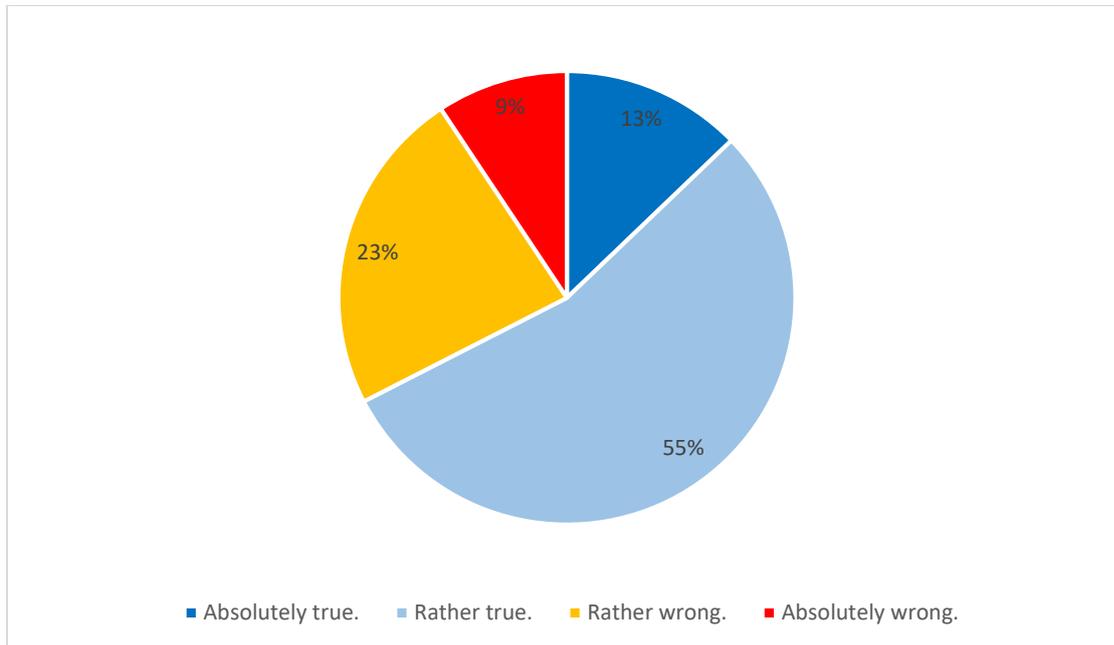
11) Do you think the demands on outputs of your creative work (publications among others) within your PhD studies are adequate?



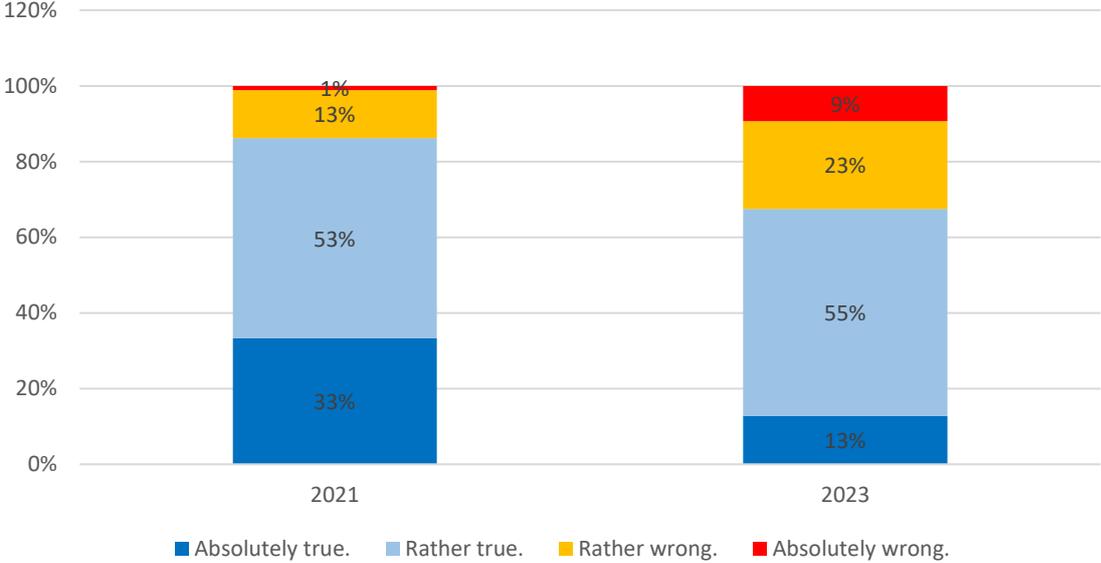
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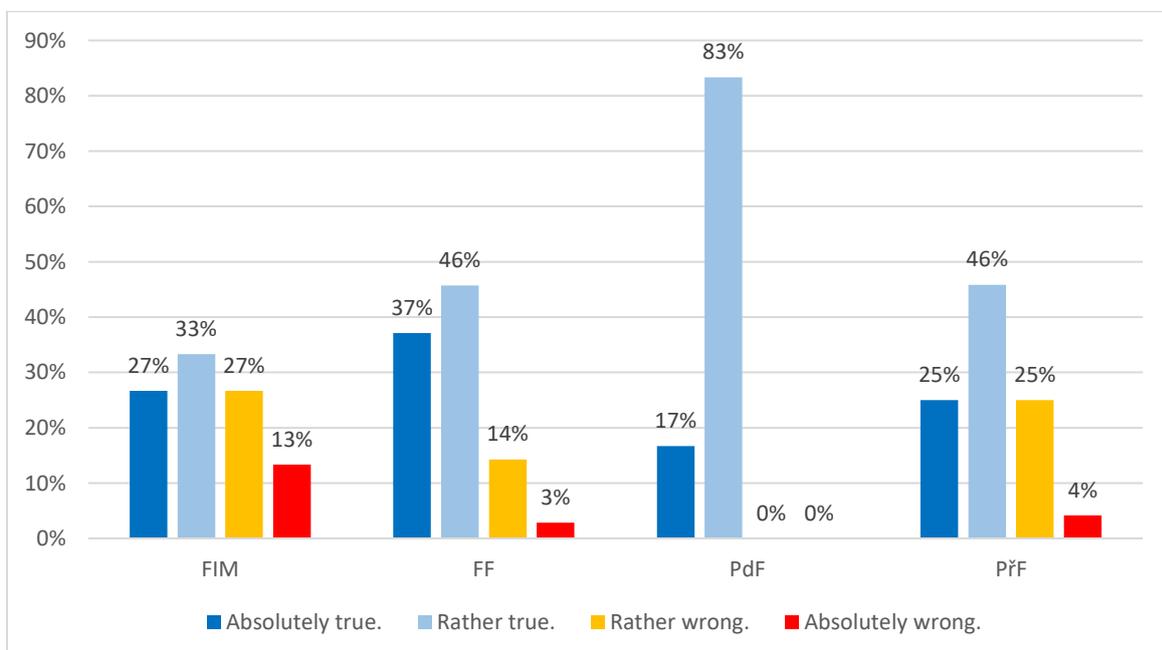
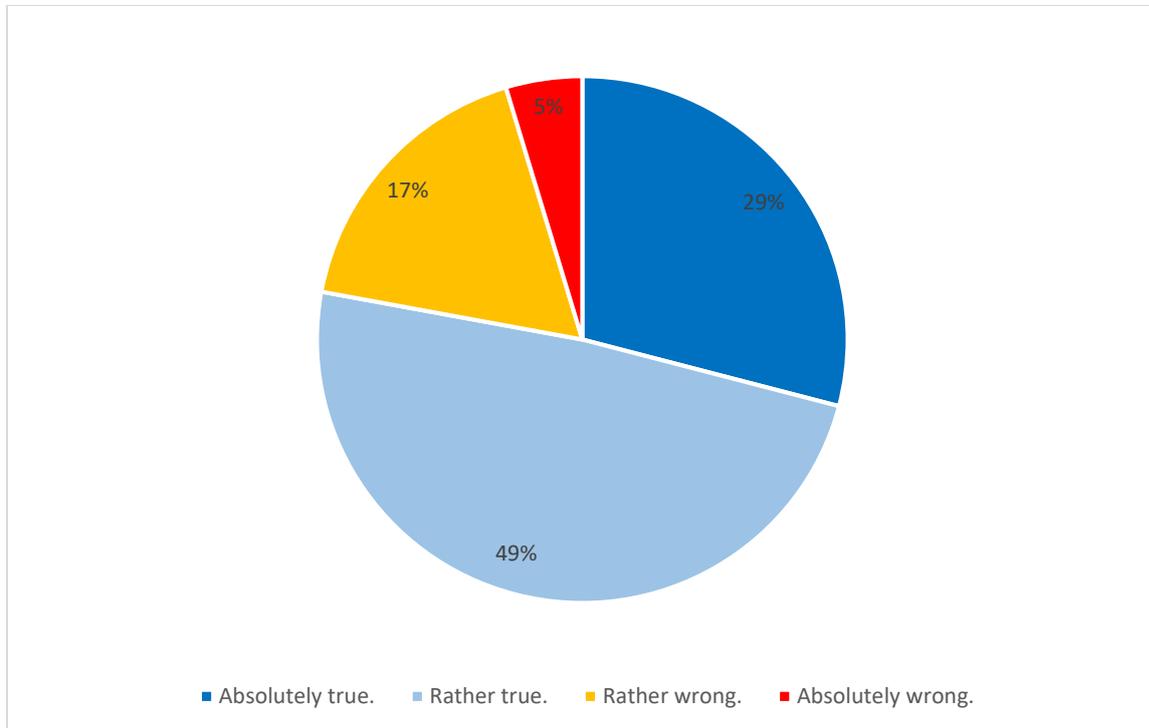
12) Does the overall structure of your duties within your studies enable you to dedicate enough time to the preparation of your dissertation thesis?



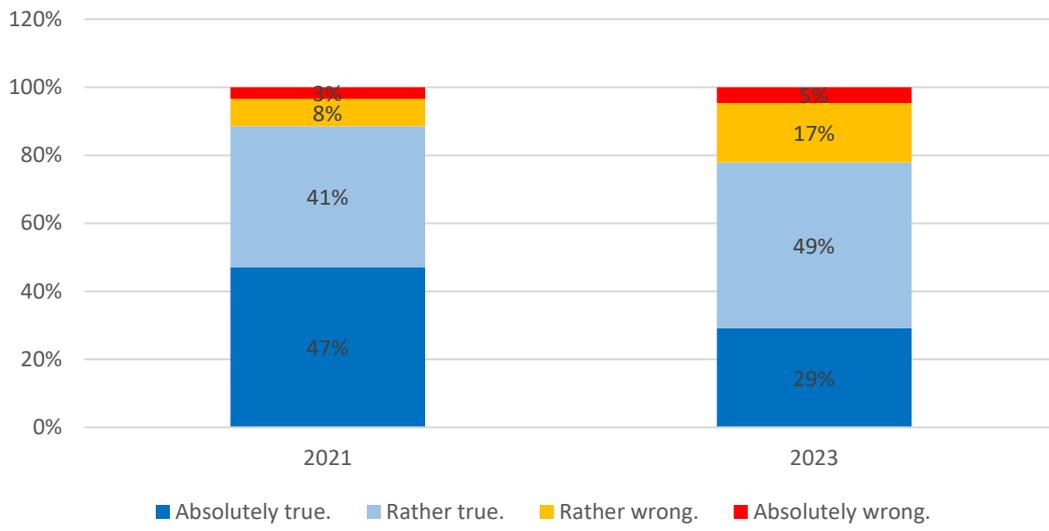
Results compared to 2021



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.)?

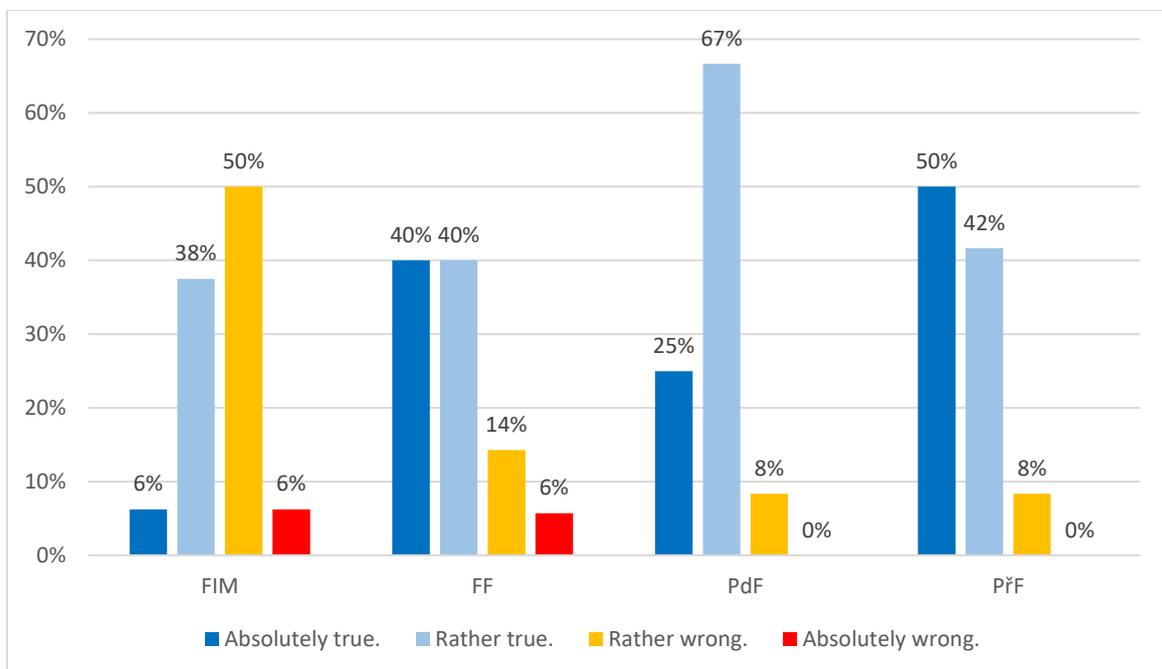
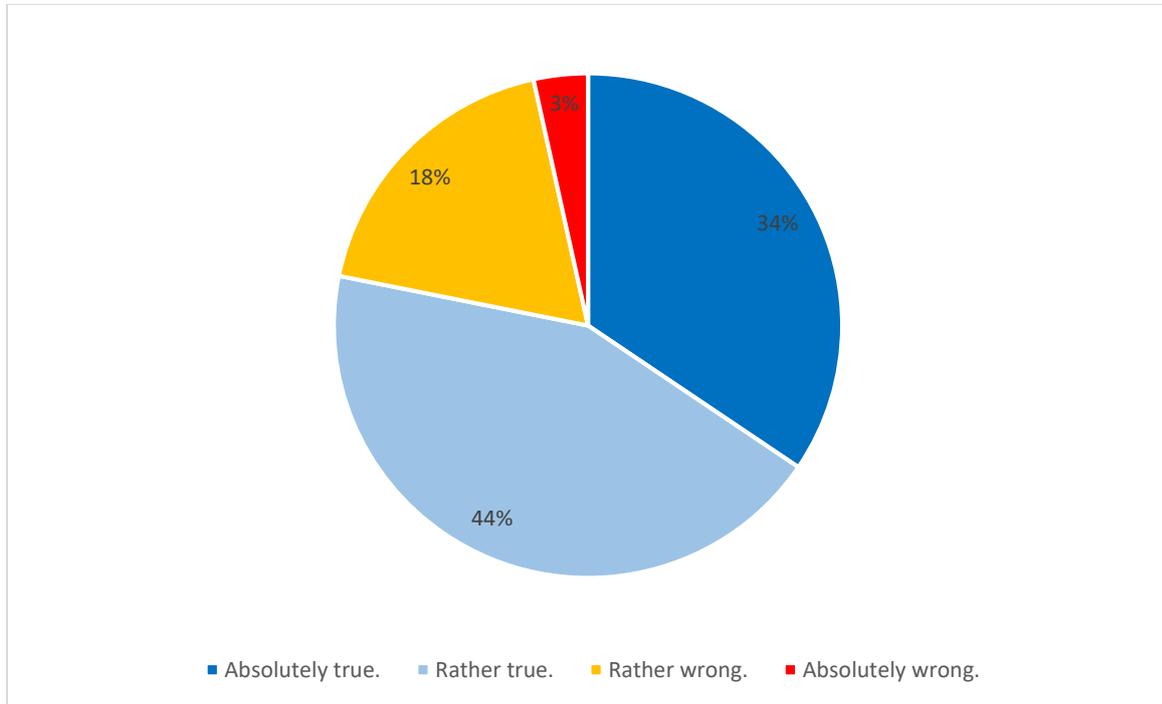


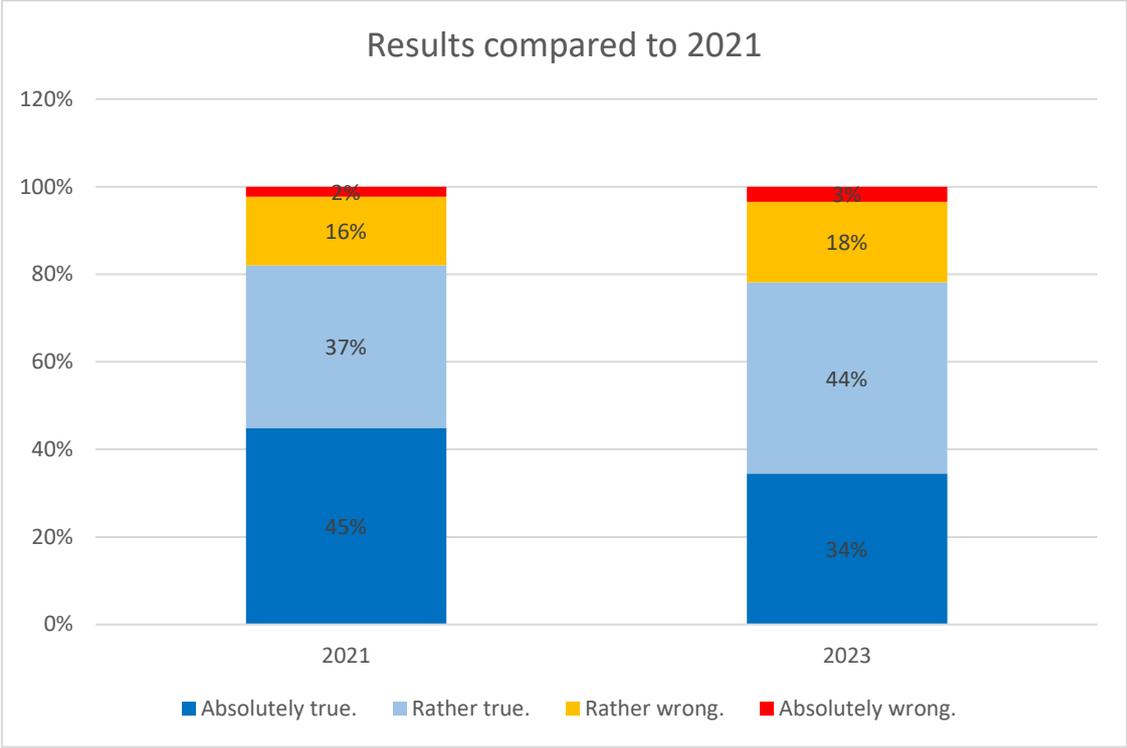
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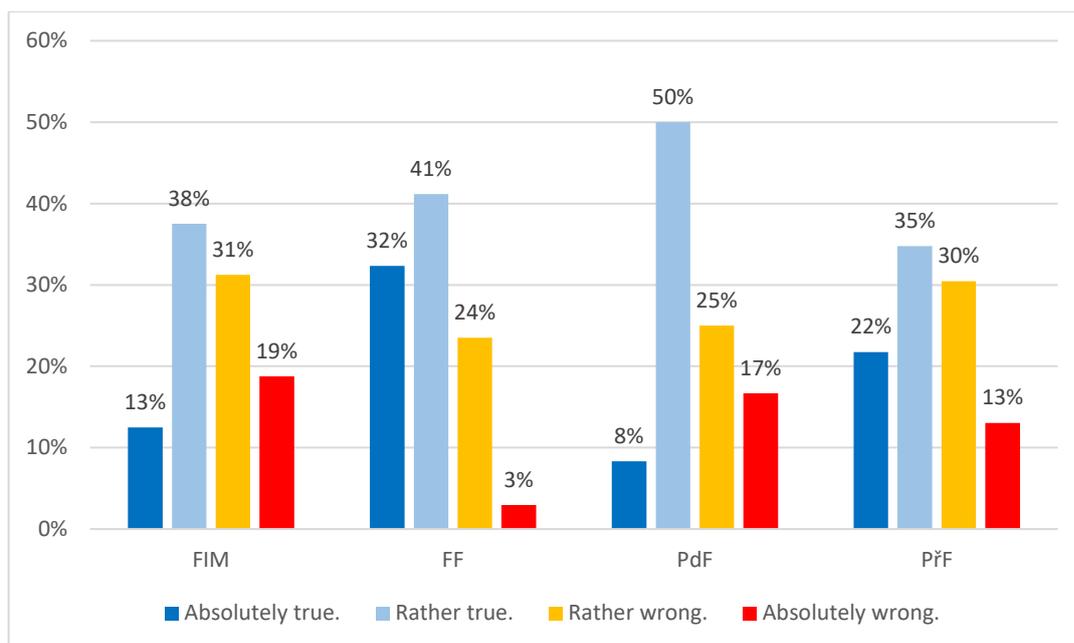
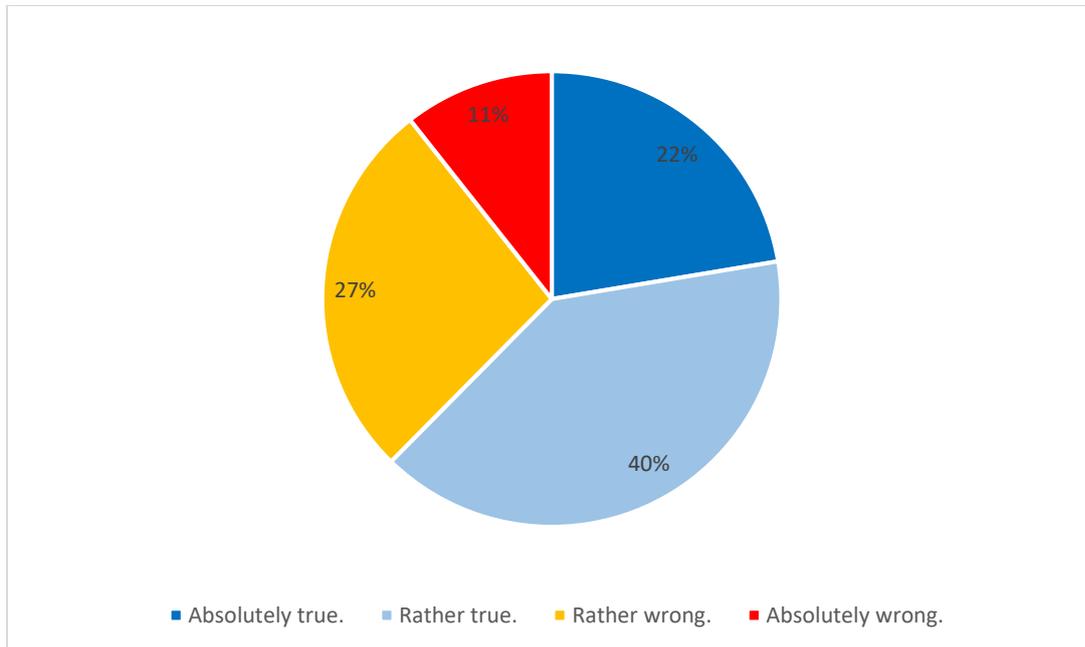
C) Creative work and publication of its results

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?

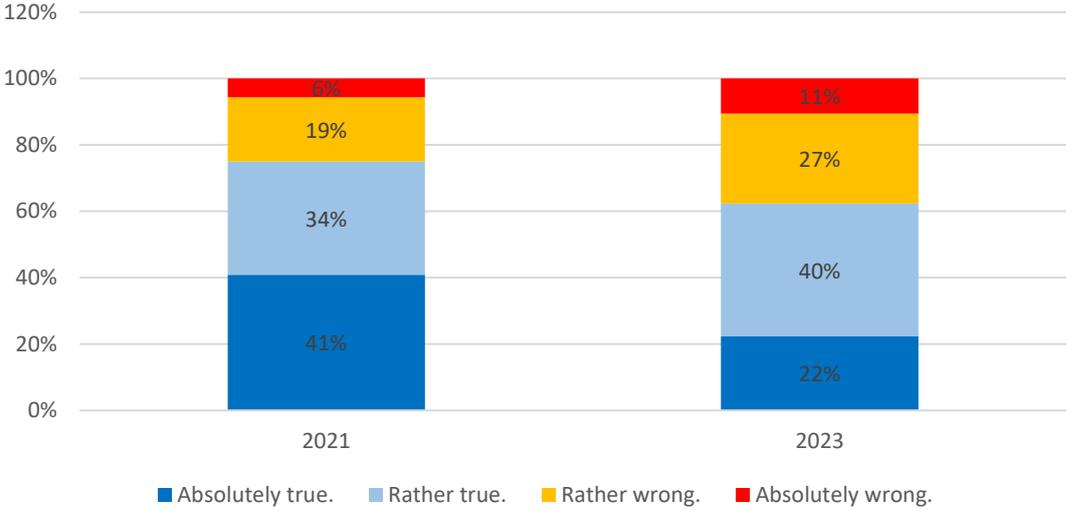




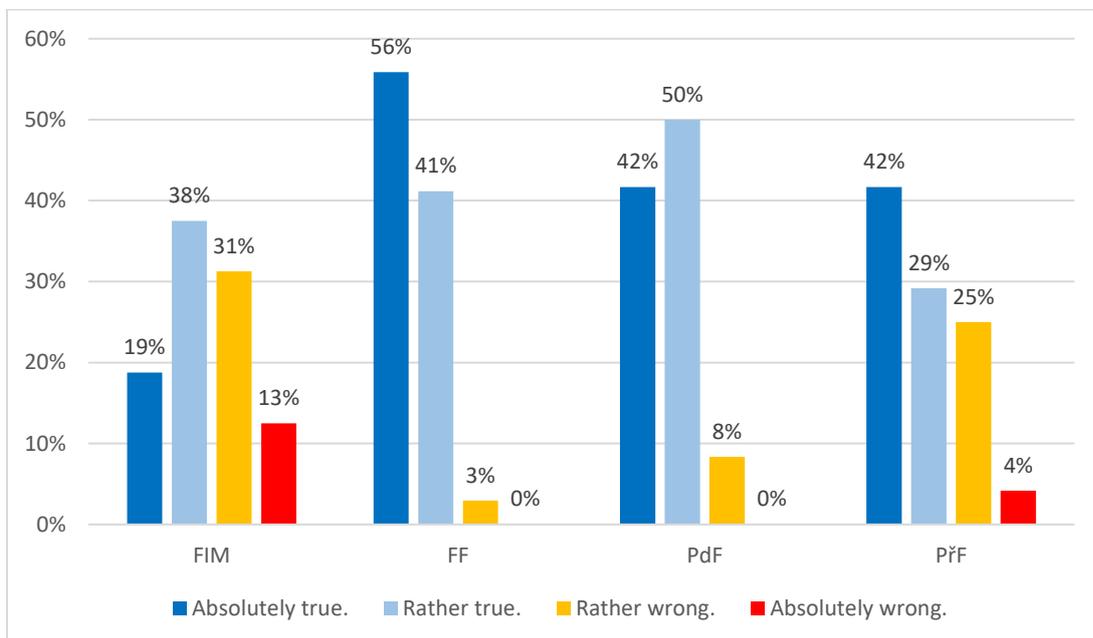
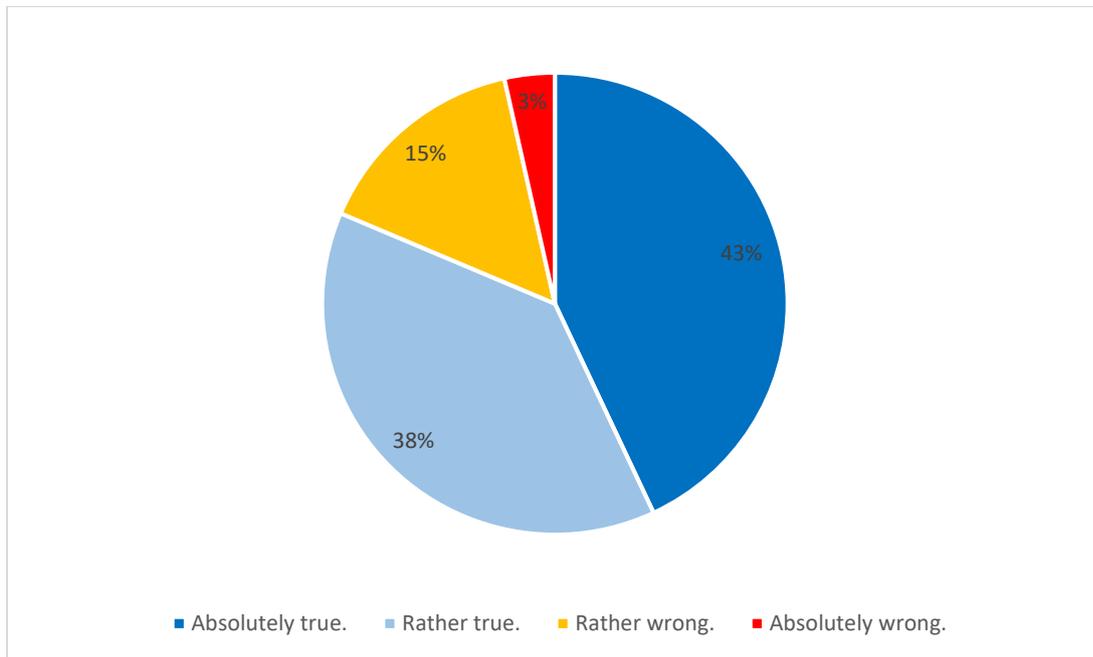
15) Does the faculty encourage you sufficiently to do creative work beyond your duties within your PhD studies (special scholarships, remuneration for publishing etc.)?

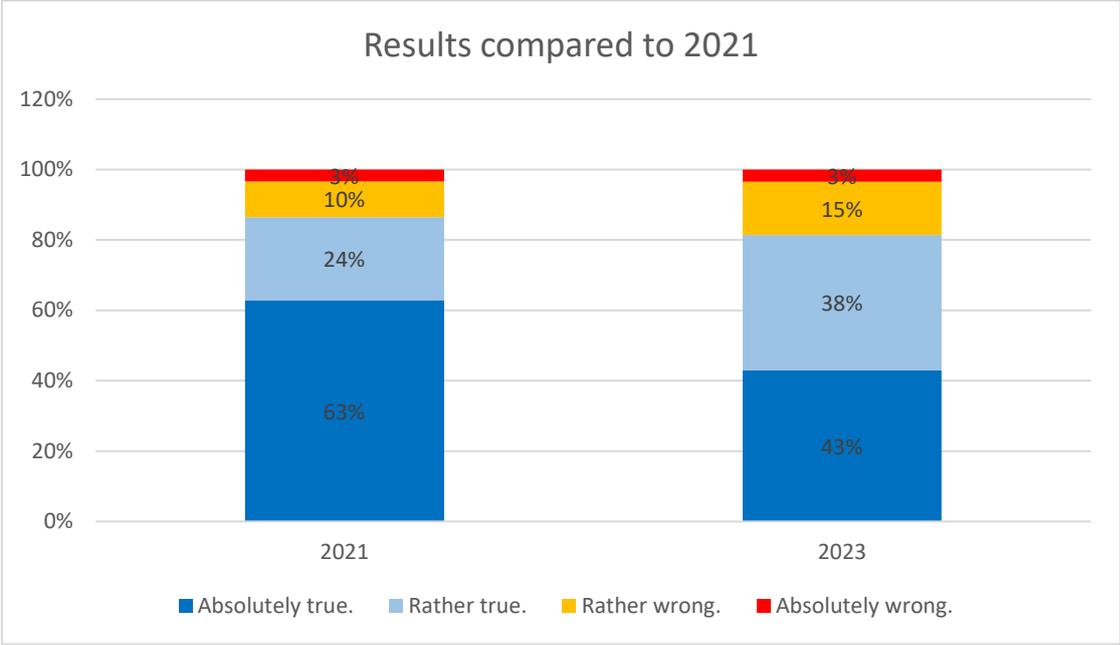


Results compared to 2021

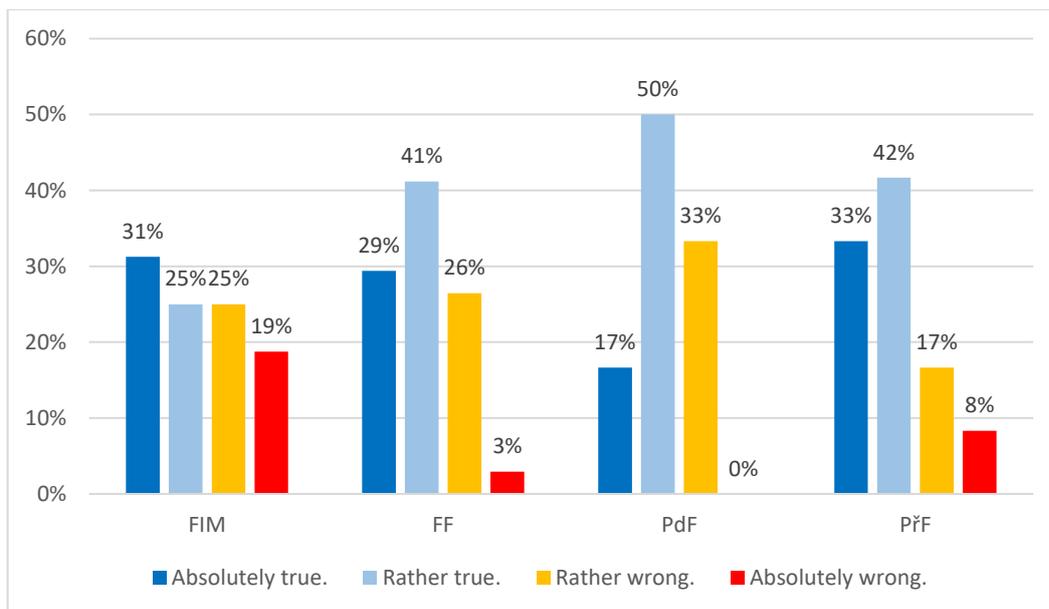
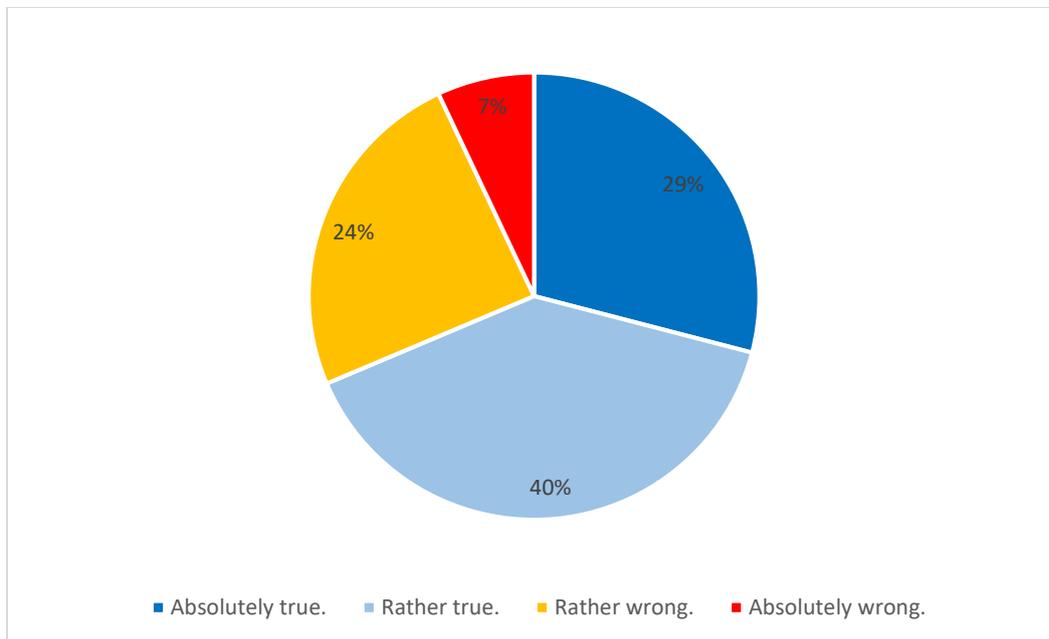


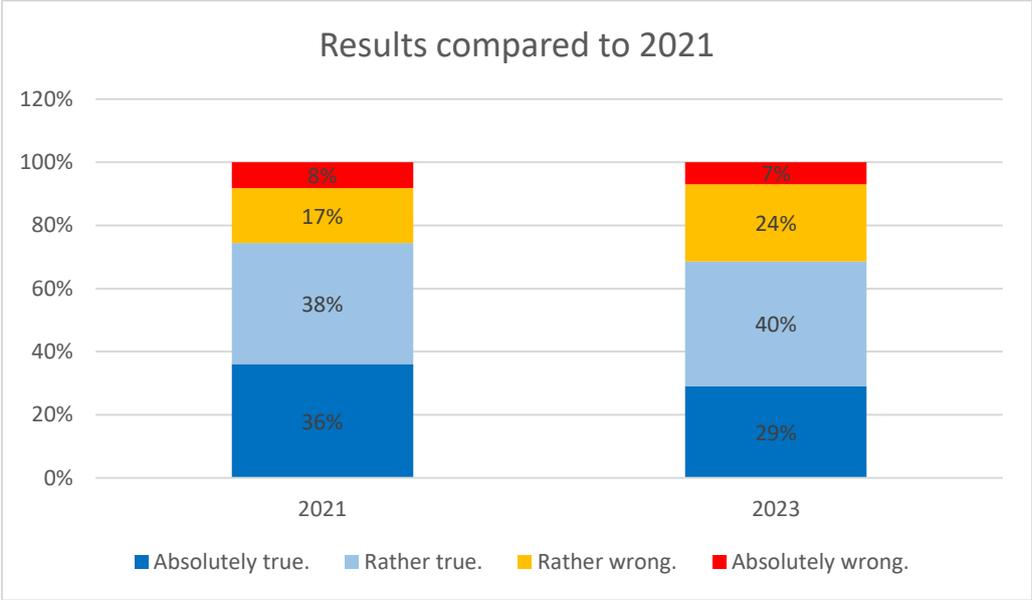
16) Do you have enough information about the possibility of participating in the specific research projects and other internal competitions at your faculty?



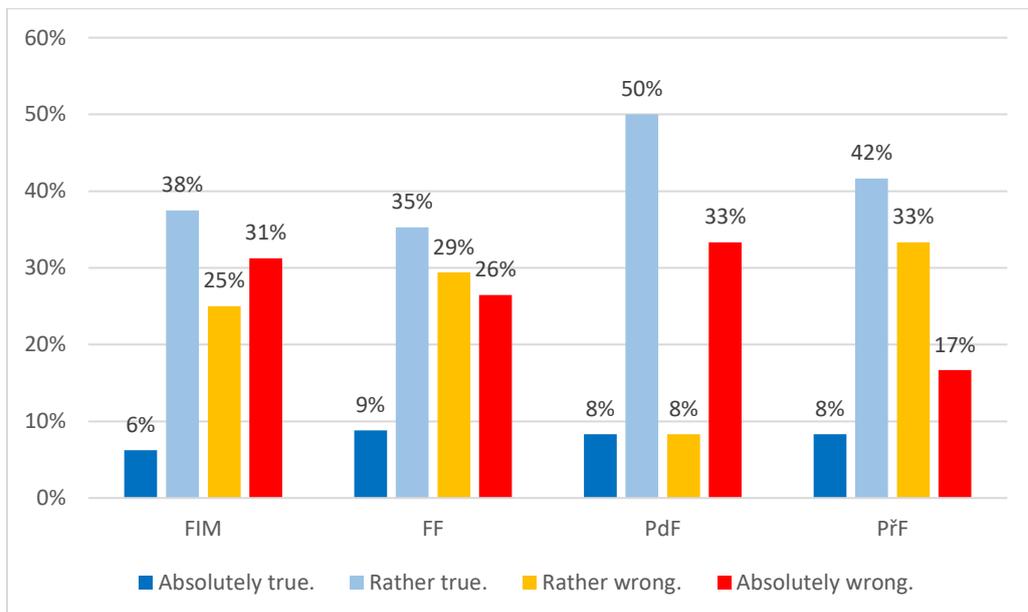
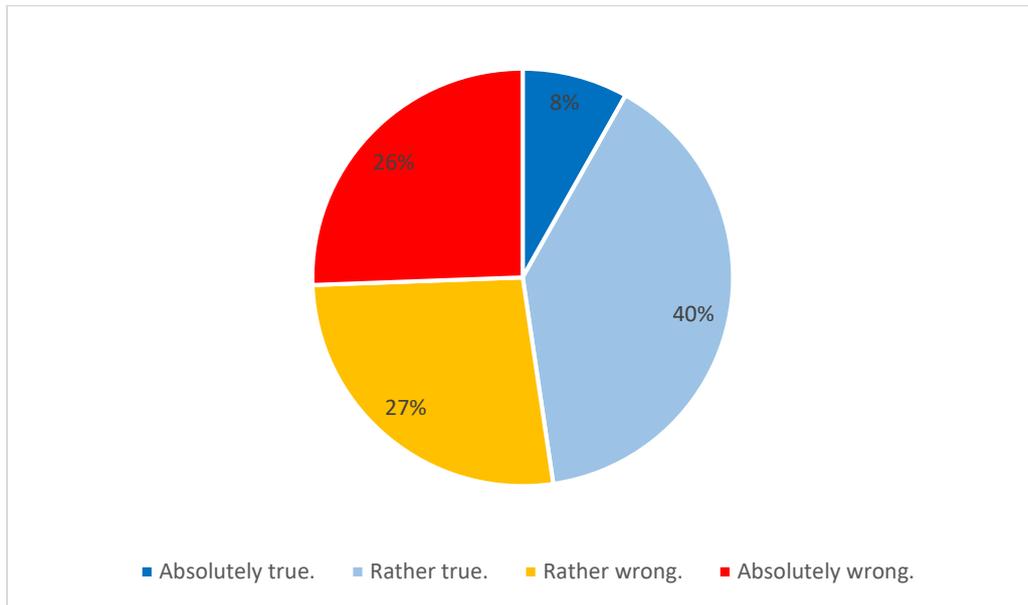


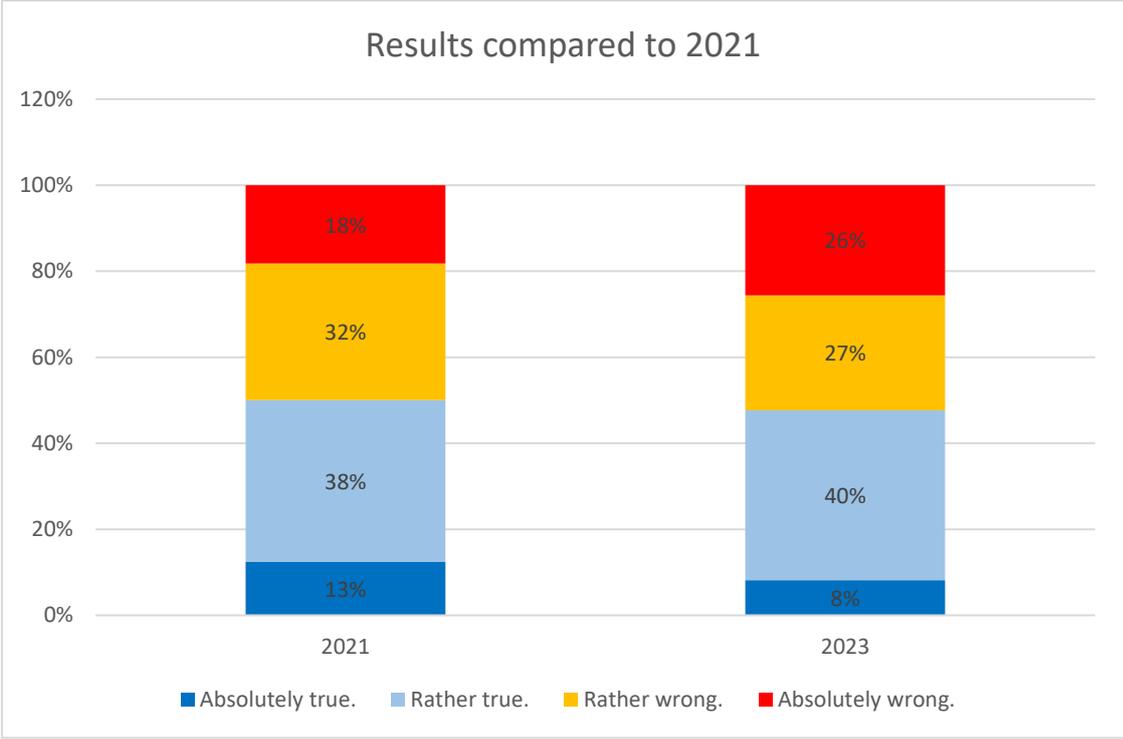
17) Do you have a real chance (from the department/institute/your supervisor) to get involved in research projects that are financed by external providers (e.g. GA ČR, TA ČR, NAKI etc.)?



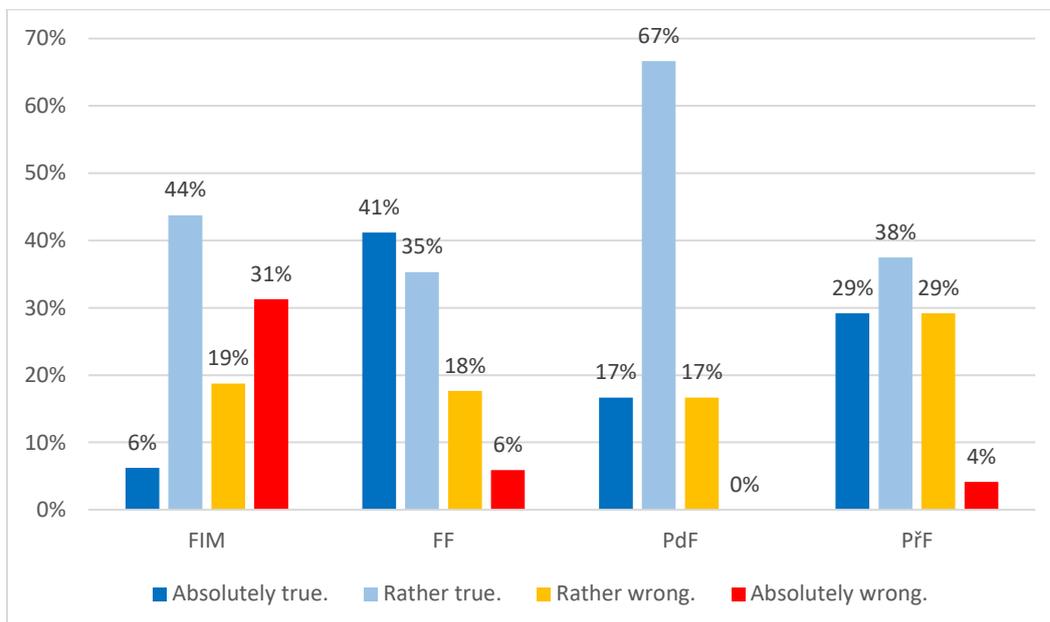
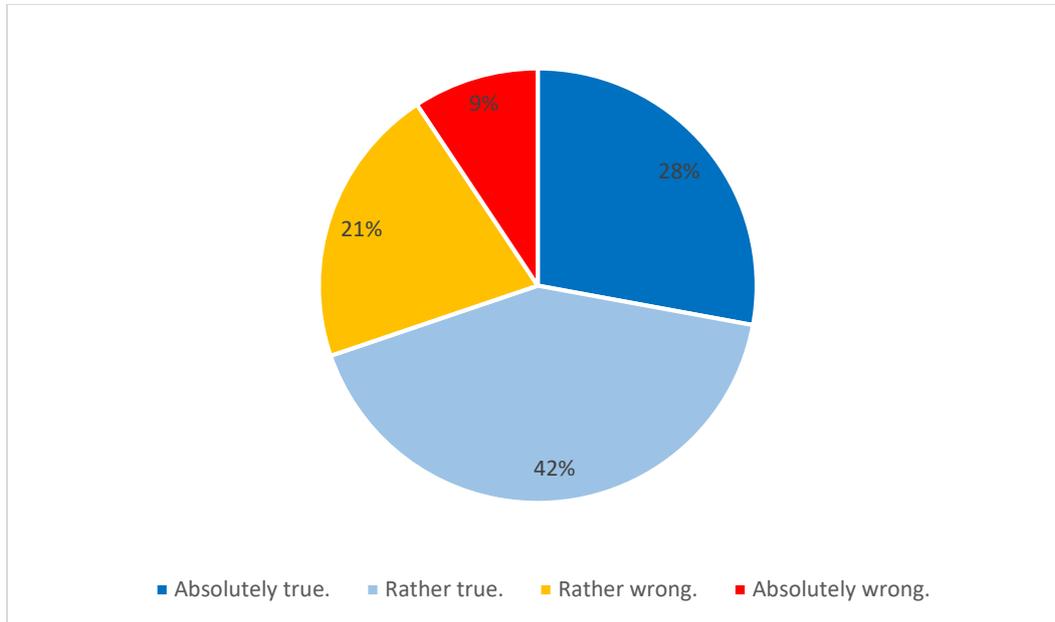


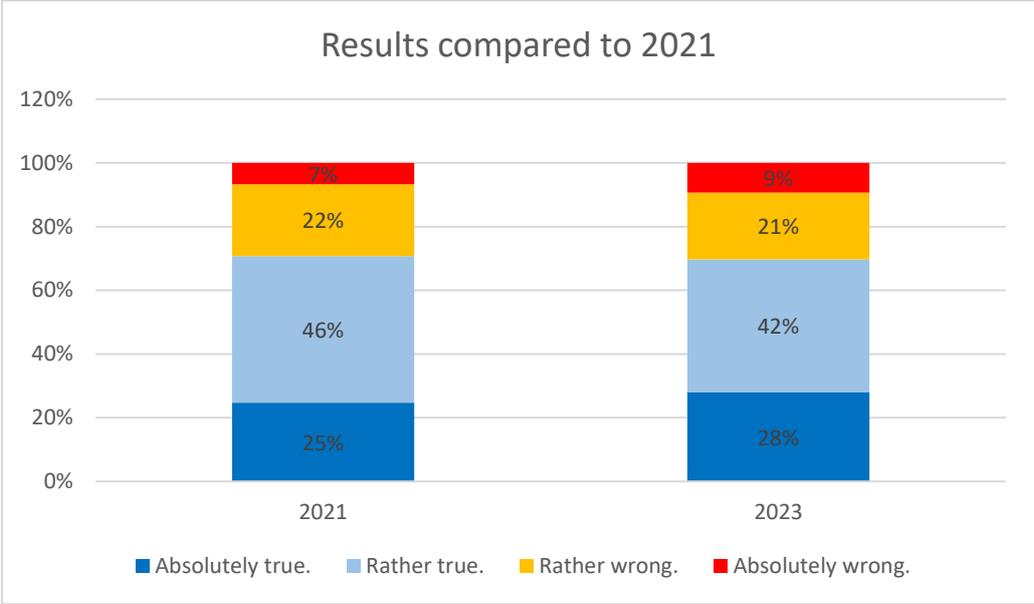
18) Do you have sufficient information on how to write applications for research grants by external providers (e.g. GA ČR, TA ČR, NAKI etc.), or applications for prestigious international scholarships?





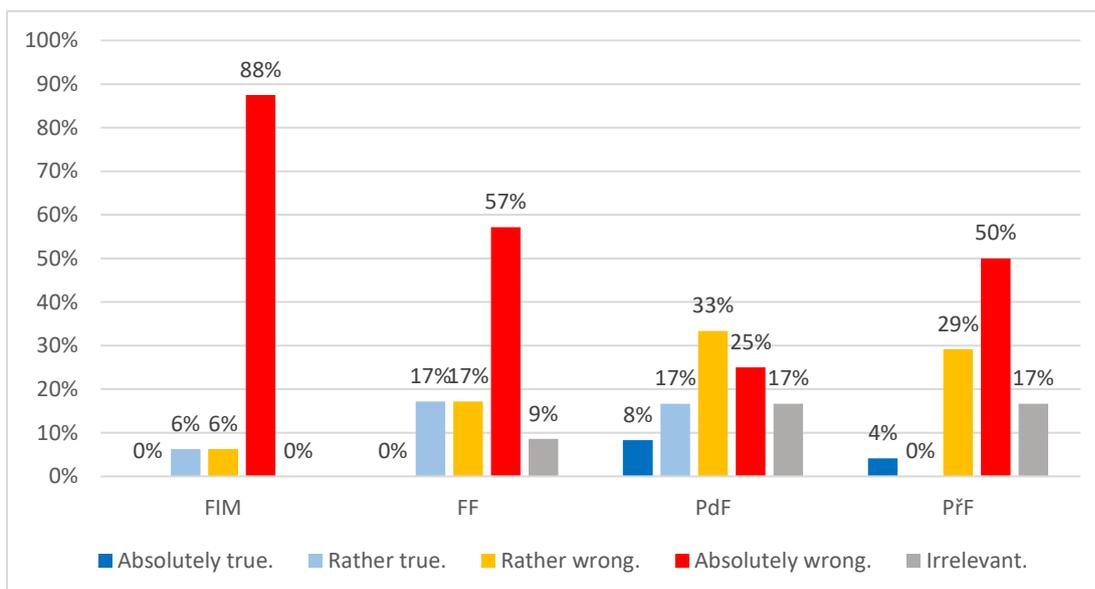
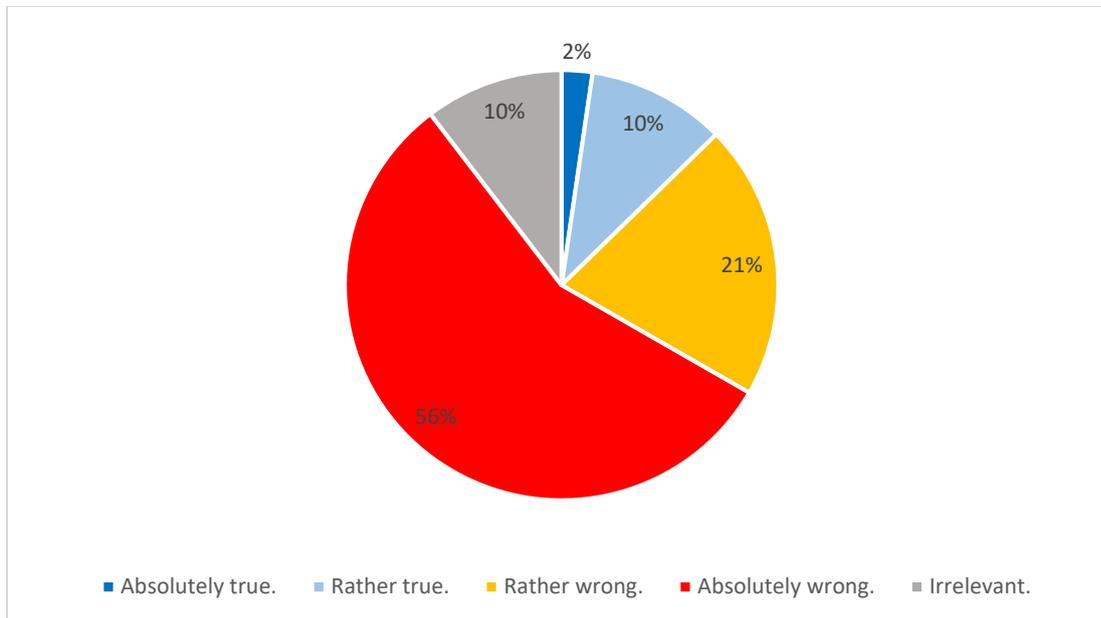
19) Do you have sufficient information concerning national or foreign journals where you can publish your professional texts (awareness about predatory journals/publishers; magazine rankings according to the field areas – quartiles, top deciles in WoS, Scopus, Scimago)?



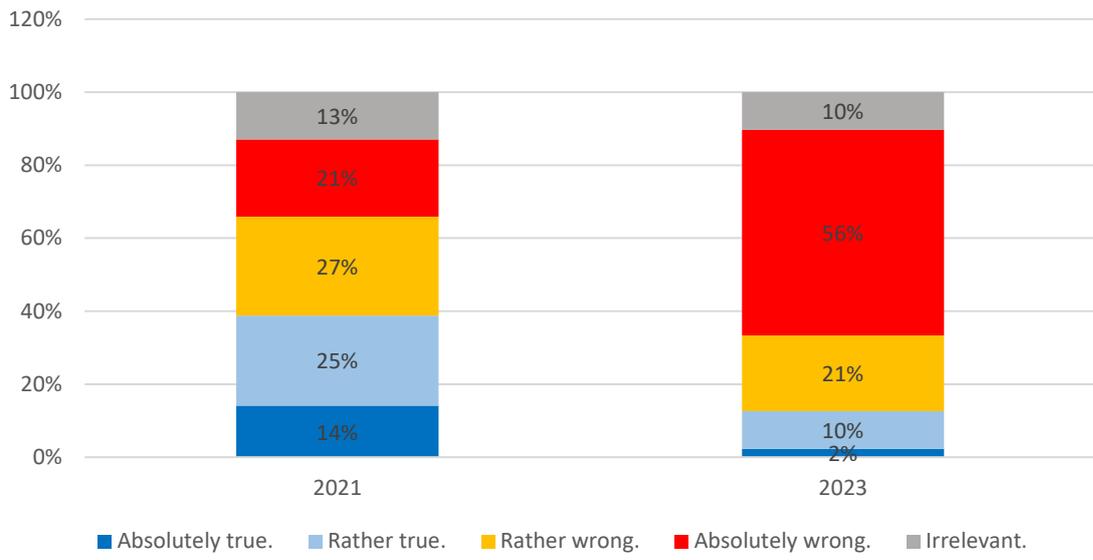


D) Overall evaluation

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?



Results compared to 2021



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.
 - Toxicology.
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?