



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

I. Date and method of evaluation

Feedback from doctoral students was collected from 22 April to 30 May 2025 via a university-wide questionnaire in MS Forms that was available in two language versions (Czech and English). The questionnaire is included in Appendix 3.

Compared to the questionnaire surveys among doctoral students conducted in 2021 and 2023, some parts of the questionnaire were slightly modified. Some questions were clarified, some were added. Most of the questions remained unchanged so that the results could also be compared with the results of the previous feedback collected from doctoral students.

II. Participation data

A total of 157 doctoral students were contacted and 68 questionnaires were submitted (64 of which were in Czech and 4 in English). The response rate at the UHK was 43.3%, which is a decrease compared to previous surveys (in 2023 and 2021, participation was 46.5% and 46.6%, respectively). The return rate at individual faculties ranged from 38.5% to 56%; details are provided in Appendix 1.

III. Summary of evaluation results

Graphs showing the results of the evaluation of individual questions are provided in Appendix 2. Additional verbal comments provided more information on the evaluations.

A) Organisation of doctoral studies and related facilities

The first five questions focused on the organisational aspects of doctoral studies and the facilities available to doctoral students (workspace, computer, and equipment). For all questions, the majority of responses were positive or agreeable, although the degree of positive and critical evaluation differed slightly across faculties. For example, in response to the question *How do you evaluate the facilities available at the department/institute (especially your workplace, computer or other necessary equipment)?*, 28% of respondents from the PdF rated them as poor or bad, compared to 15% at the FIM and 5% at the PŘF.

B) Duties set within the doctoral studies

The second part of the questionnaire assessed the obligations set out in the doctoral programme (number of courses to be completed, quality of teaching, teaching requirements, foreign mobility, involvement in other activities, demands on creative activity), including whether the structure of obligations allows sufficient time to be devoted to the preparation of the dissertation, whether the procedure for monitoring its progress is appropriate, and whether doctoral seminars are appropriately designed. In case of these questions, too, positive or favourable assessments prevailed, and in some cases the degree of positive assessment differed between faculties. For example, there are differences between faculties in the assessment of the quality of teaching in doctoral programmes. A lower assessment of the quality of teaching was chosen by 7% of respondents from the FIM, 15% from the FF, 29% from the PdF and 20% from the PŘF. Five percent of respondents from the FF rated the quality of teaching as poor.

A total of 16% of respondents at the UHK do not consider the requirements for creative output (publications, etc.) to be reasonable, but the results vary between faculties, with 38% of respondents at the FIM, 20% at the PŘF, 10% at the FF, and none at the PdF. Overall, 17% of respondents somewhat or strongly disagreed that the structure of their doctoral study obligations allows them to devote sufficient time to preparing their dissertation. At the FIM, this view was shared by 28% of respondents, compared with 15% at other faculties.

C) Creative activity and publication of its results

The third part of the questionnaire focused on creative activity and the publication of its results – information on how to conduct research, motivation for creative activity beyond the scope of study obligations, information on the possibility of participating in specific research projects, the possibility of participating in projects funded by external providers, information on how to write research grant applications, and where to publish professional texts.

Most of the statements were again rated positively or agreeably overall, but in this part there was a higher rate of disagreeable responses compared to the previous two parts of the questionnaire, and there are also significant differences in ratings between individual faculties. For example, to 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?*, 83% of respondents at the UHK answered positively (“definitely yes” or “rather yes”), while at the PŘF it was 95%, 85% at the PdF, 80% at the FF, and 64% at the FIM.

There was also a significant difference in the assessment of faculty motivation to carry out creative activities beyond the scope of doctoral studies. While 80% of respondents at the FF answered positively (“definitely yes” or “rather yes”), the proportion was 50% at the FIM and the PdF, and 48% at the PŘF.

When asked, *Do you have enough information about the possibility of participating in specific research projects and other internal competitions at your faculty?*, 100% of respondents at the FF, 93% at the PdF, 79% at the PŘF, and 65% at the FIM answered “definitely yes” or “rather yes”.

There was also a difference in the evaluation between faculties in case of the question *Do you have a real chance (from the department/institute, supervisor) to get involved in research projects that are financed by external providers (e.g., GA ČR, TA ČR, NAKI, etc.)?* Overall, 59% of respondents at the UHK answered positively (“definitely yes”/“rather yes”), but while the proportion was 84% at the PŘF and 64% at the FIM, only 42% of respondents answered positively at the FF and the PdF.

When asked, *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 41% of respondents answered “definitely yes” or “rather yes”, while the majority (59%) leaned towards “rather no” or “definitely no”.

When asked, *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 72% of respondents answered “definitely yes” or “rather yes”, while 28% answered “rather no” or “definitely no”. However, there were noticeable differences between faculties – while at the FF the rate of positive responses (“definitely yes” or “rather yes”) was 85%, it was 50% at the PdF.

D) Activities beyond the individual study plan

In this part of the questionnaire, doctoral students were asked whether they would welcome educational courses beyond their studies and whether they were interested in informal meetings across the university. Seventy-one percent of respondents expressed interest in educational courses beyond their studies, with the most common topics of interest being AI in research, data management methods, and academic writing. Sixty-three percent of respondents expressed interest in informal meetings between doctoral students across the university.

E) Overall evaluation

This section focused on the overall evaluation of studies and the adequacy of doctoral bursaries. When asked, *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 answered “definitely not” (58%), with another 15% answering “rather not”. A positive response was given in 11% of the questionnaires (1%

for “definitely yes” 1%, 11% for “rather yes”), while 15% responded that the question was irrelevant.

IV. Measures

Given that all doctoral study programmes are accredited at the faculty level, measures that can be adopted at the university level are focused on establishing an institutional environment conducive to improving the quality of doctoral studies. Further measures fall within the remit of the faculties and their respective bodies.

Based on the results of a questionnaire survey among doctoral students at the University of Hradec Králové, the following measures have been established with the aim of strengthening the quality of doctoral education within the UHK Doctoral School:

- **Unification of requirements and obligations:** An analysis of the current requirements and obligations imposed on doctoral students at individual faculties will be carried out. In case of new accreditations or re-accreditations, the Doctoral School will, in accordance with its strategy, submit an opinion aimed at unifying the scope of these requirements and ensuring a comparable study and research workload across faculties.
- **Support for doctoral students in research and publishing:** The Doctoral School will ensure the systematic provision of information and support for doctoral students in key areas of research activity, in particular in conducting research, writing academic texts and publishing the results of creative activity.
- **Expansion of educational offerings:** In addition to compulsory courses, educational courses reflecting the current needs of doctoral students will be gradually introduced. Priority will be given to areas such as the use of artificial intelligence in research, data administration and management, and academic writing.
- **Support for informal cooperation and experience sharing:** The Doctoral School will strengthen opportunities for informal meetings between doctoral students across the university. The aim is to create a space for mutual support, experience sharing and community building.
- **Increasing the availability of support and consultations:** The frequency and awareness of *Open Office* – a space for solving problems and answering questions directly with the Doctoral School coordinator – will be strengthened.
- **Motivation for creative activities beyond the scope of study:** Doctoral students will be further motivated to engage in active creative activities beyond the scope of their compulsory study and research activities through internal competitions and other motivational tools.
- **Support for supervisors in mentoring and networking:** An analysis will be carried out of the possibilities for introducing specialised mentoring and networking courses for supervisors, with the aim of improving the quality of doctoral student supervision and strengthening their involvement in international and interdisciplinary networks.

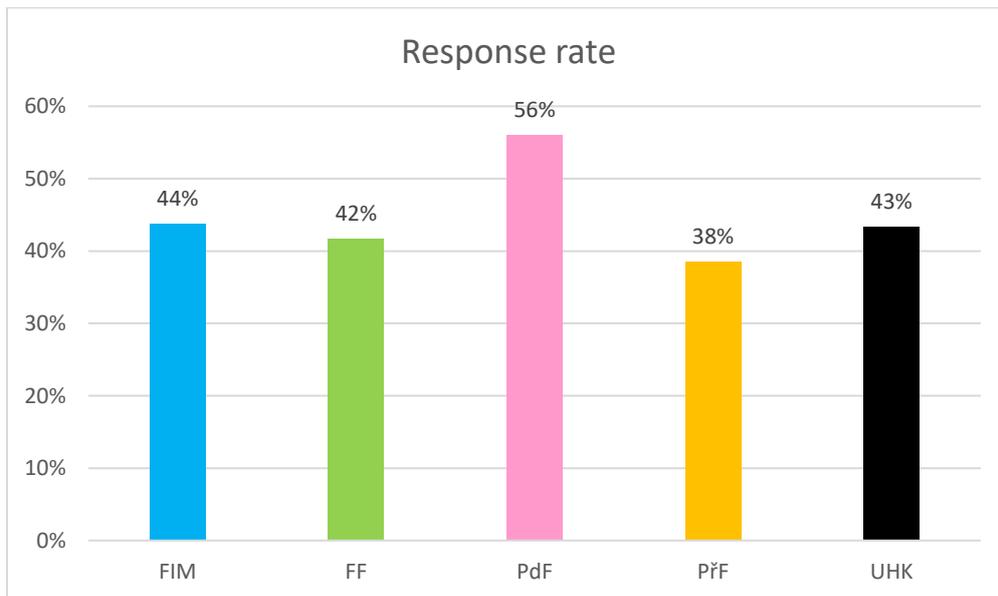
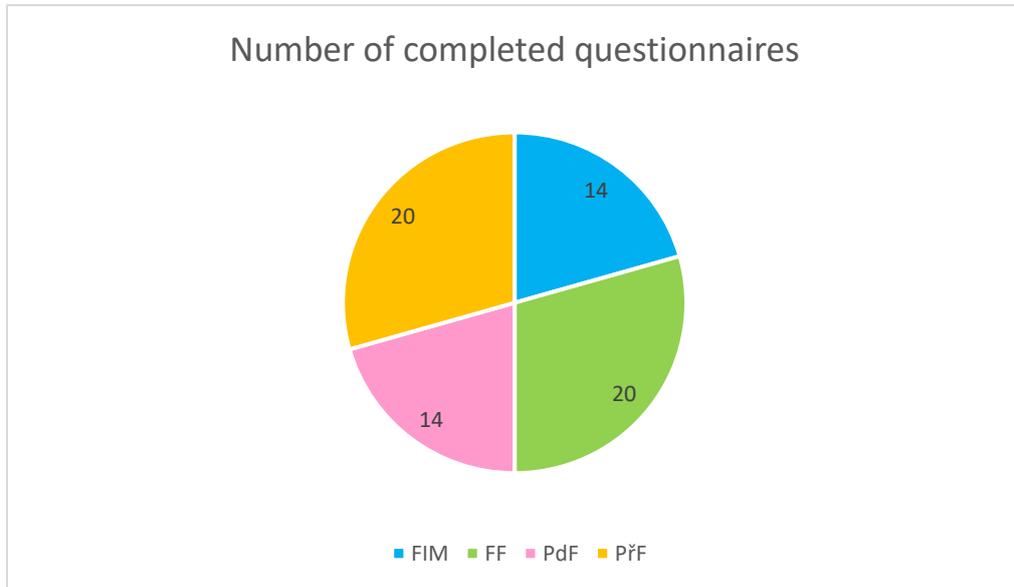
Appendices:

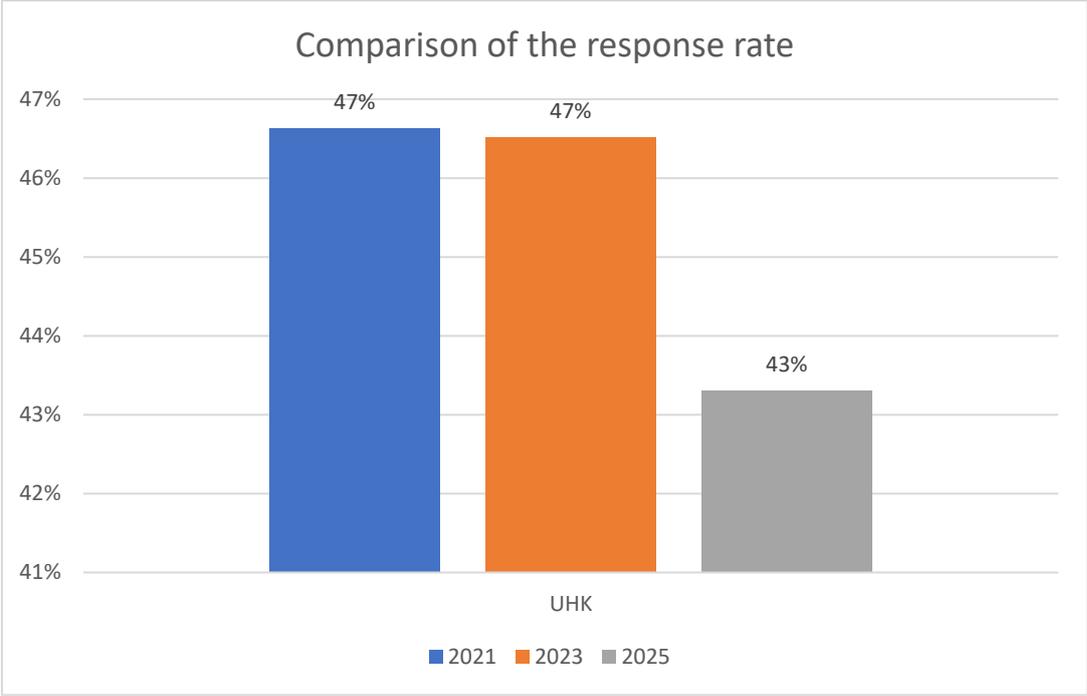
Appendix No. 1: Participation in the evaluation of doctoral studies

Appendix 2: Evaluation results

Appendix 3: Questionnaire

Appendix No. 1: Participation in the evaluation of doctoral studies

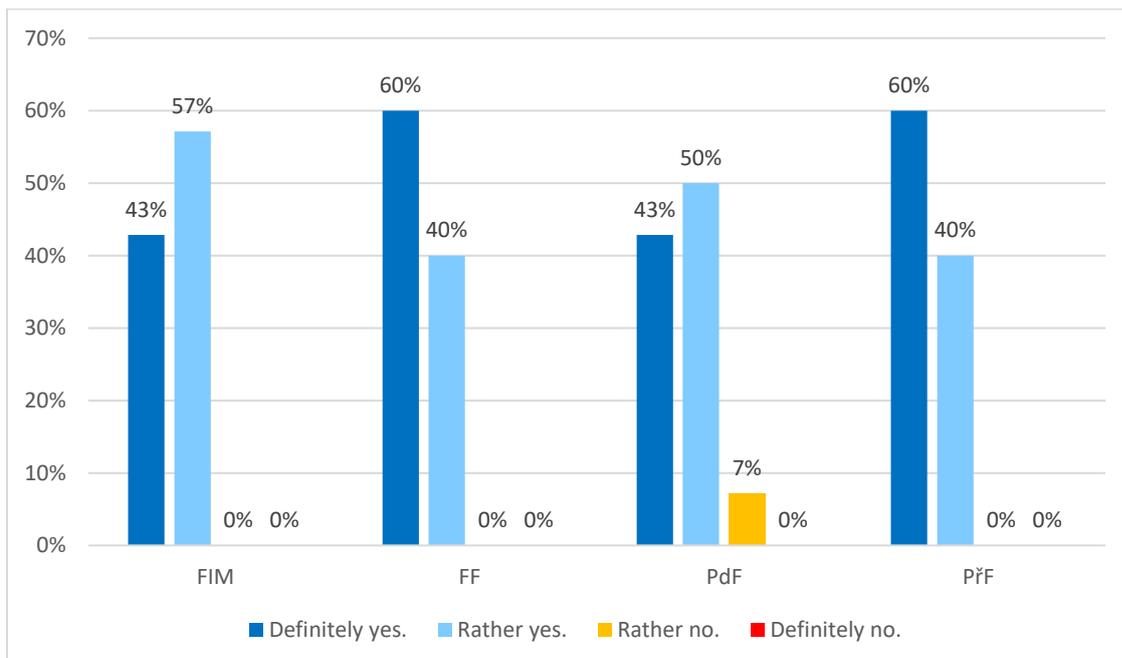
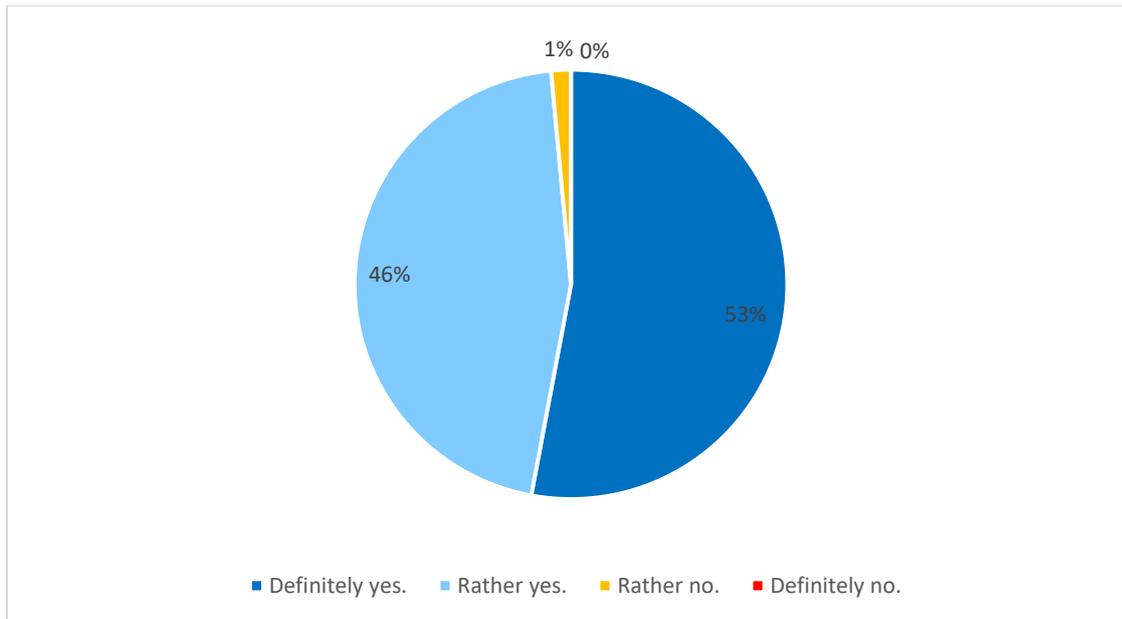




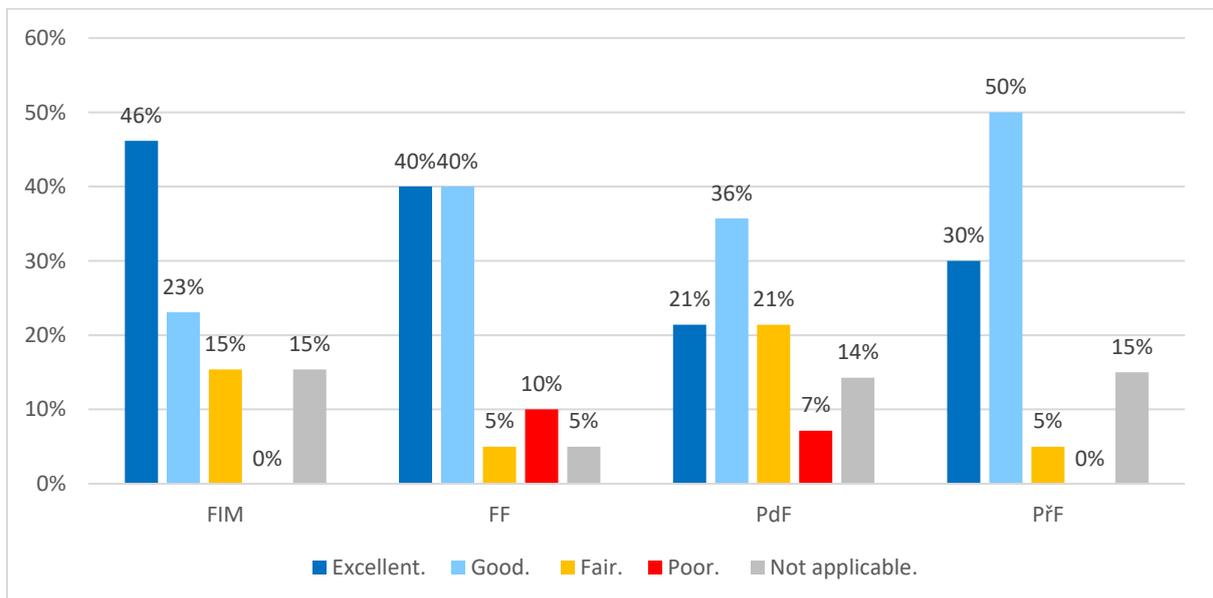
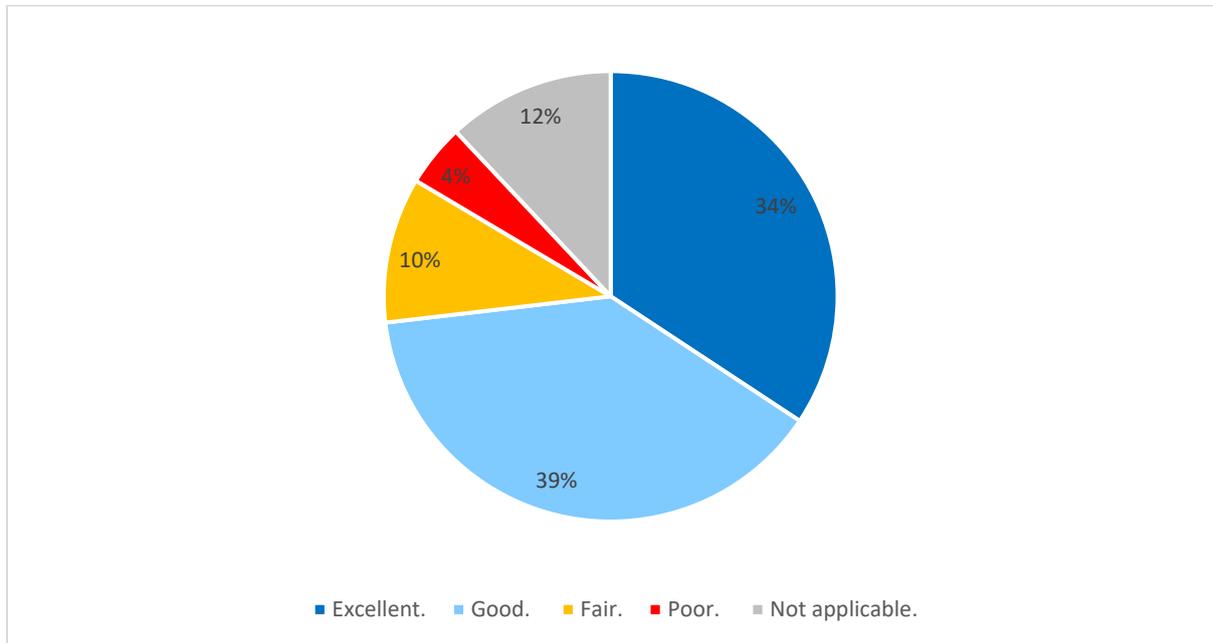
Appendix 2: Evaluation results

A) Organization of the PhD studies and related facilities

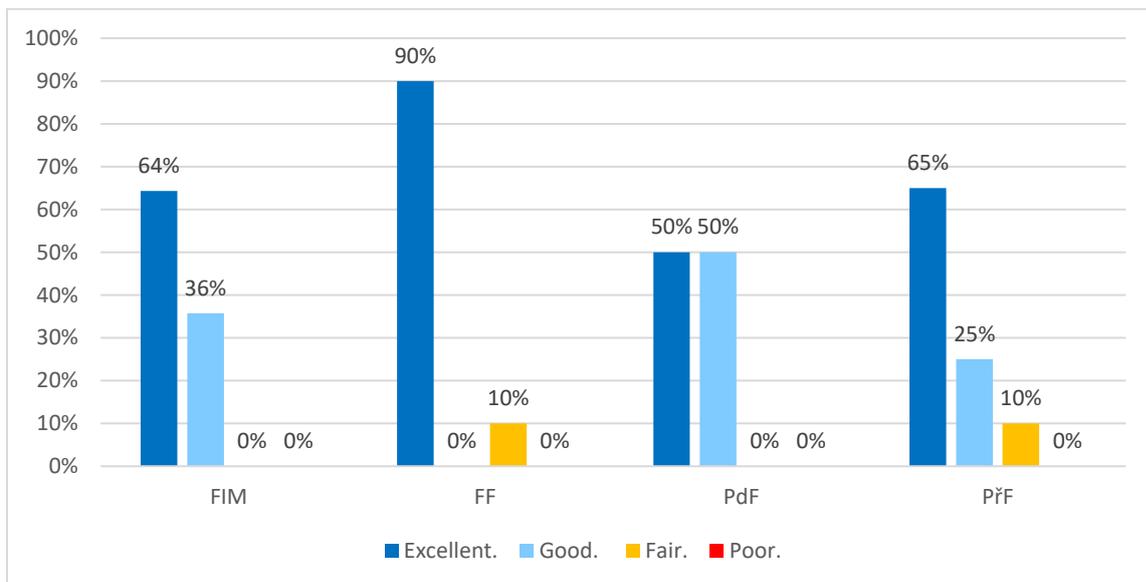
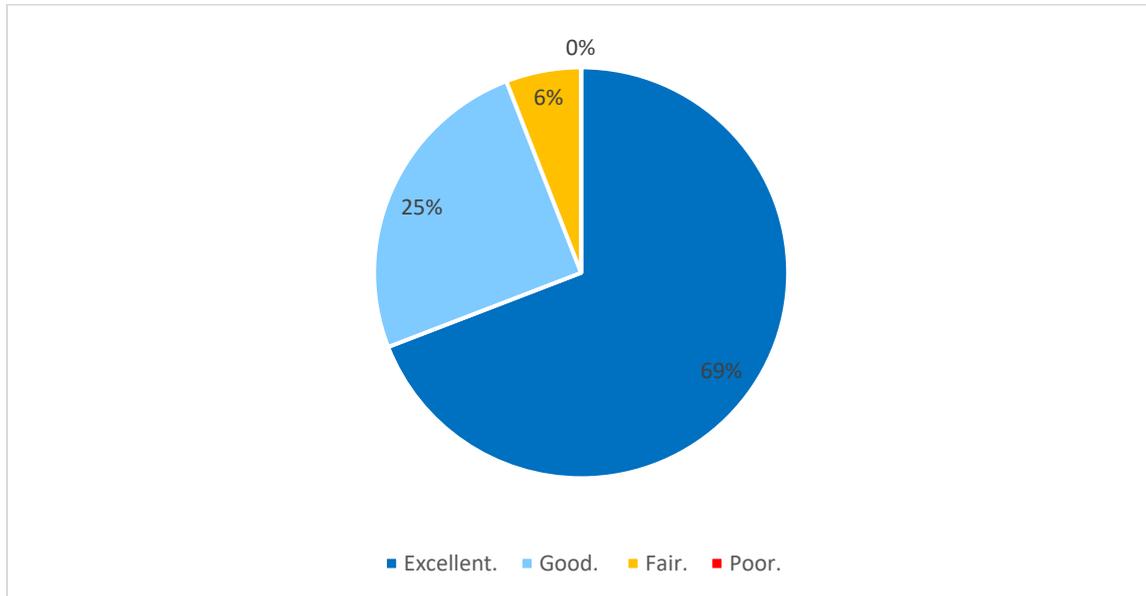
1) Do you have all the necessary information for your studies (study/teaching/publication/departmental duties, schedule, etc.)?



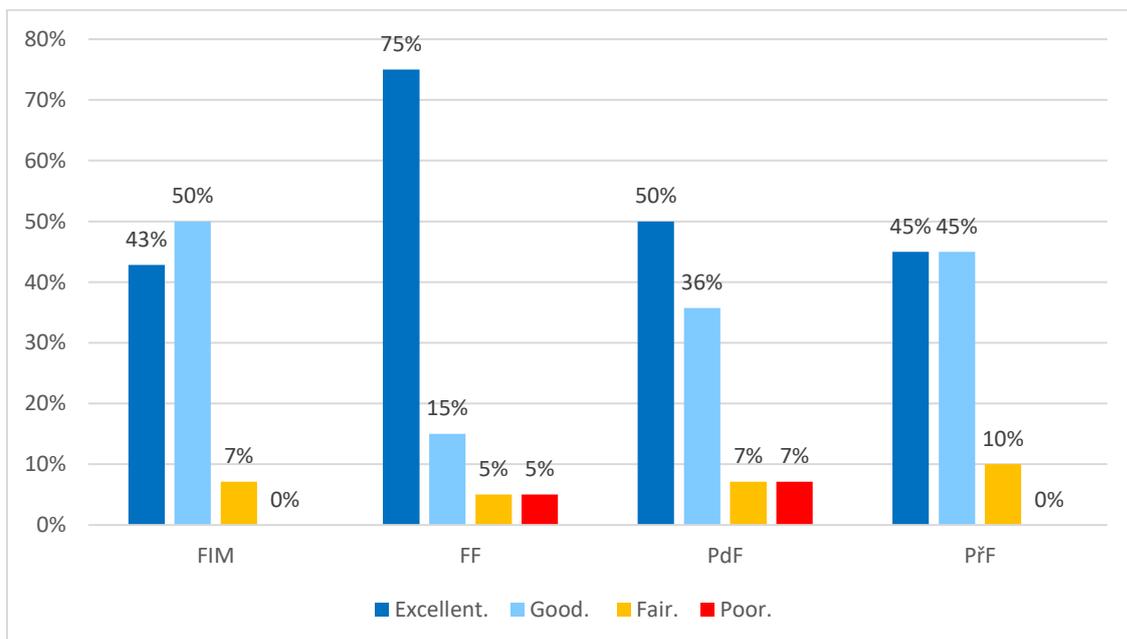
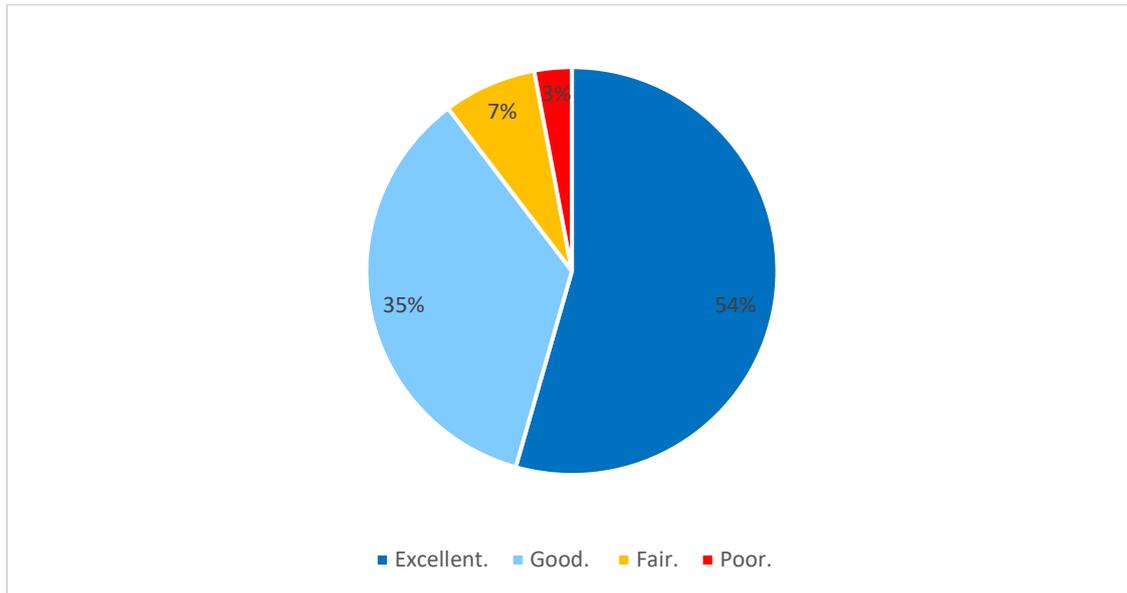
2) How do you rate the facilities available at your department/institute (e.g., workspace, computer, or other necessary equipment)?



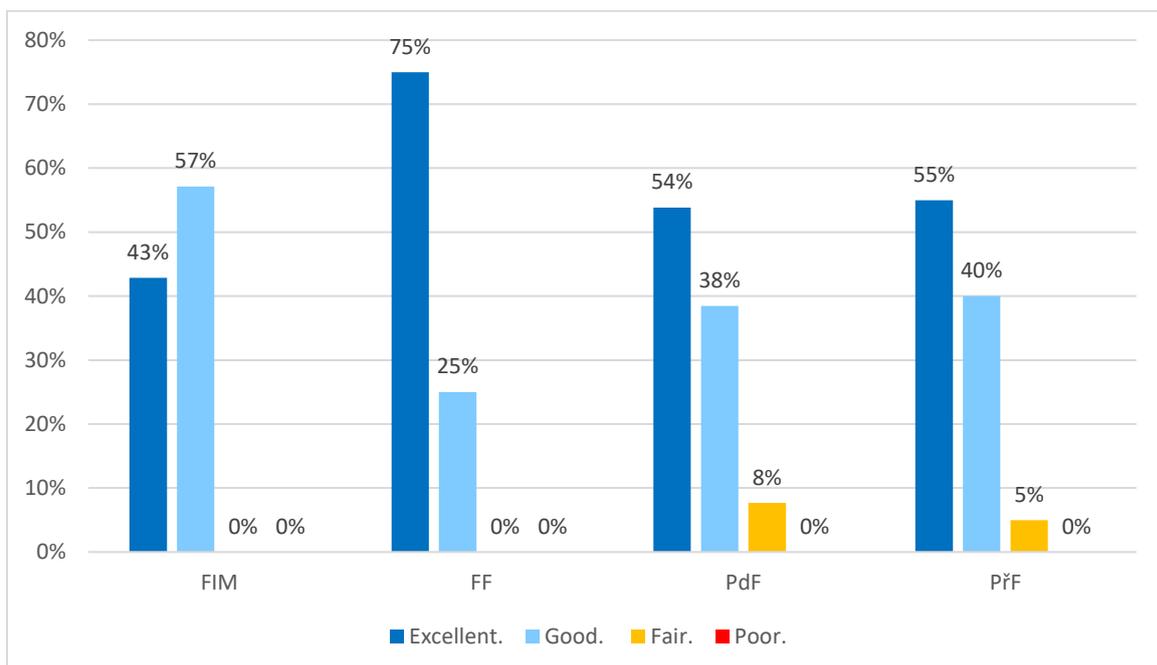
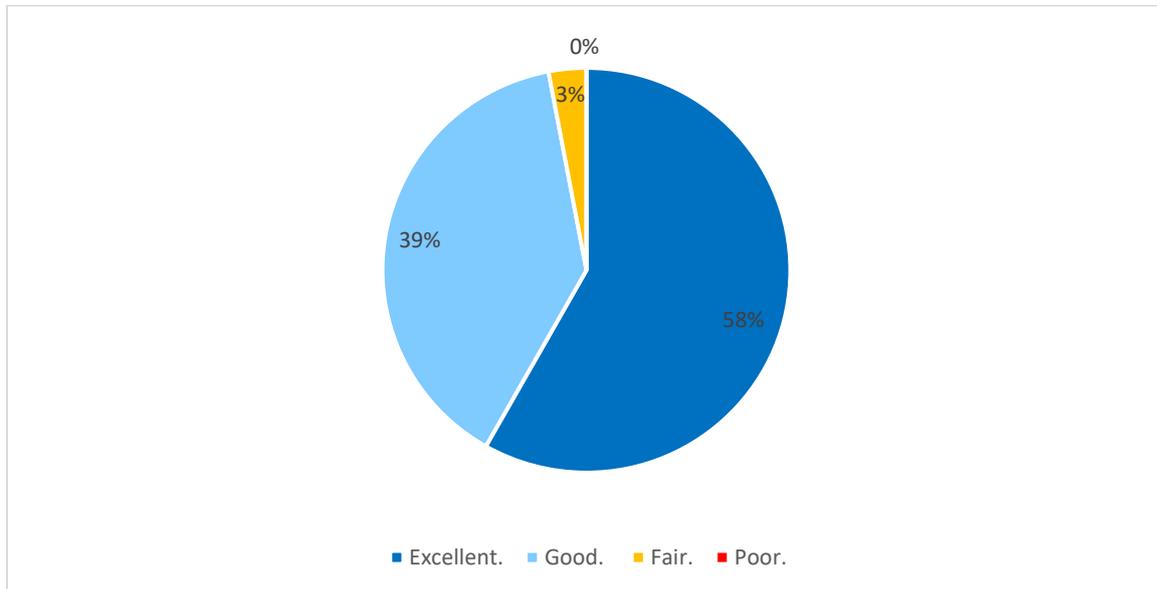
3) How do you rate the communication and guidance from your supervisor (availability, consultations, comments on and discussion about publication outputs, planning of study milestones)?



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

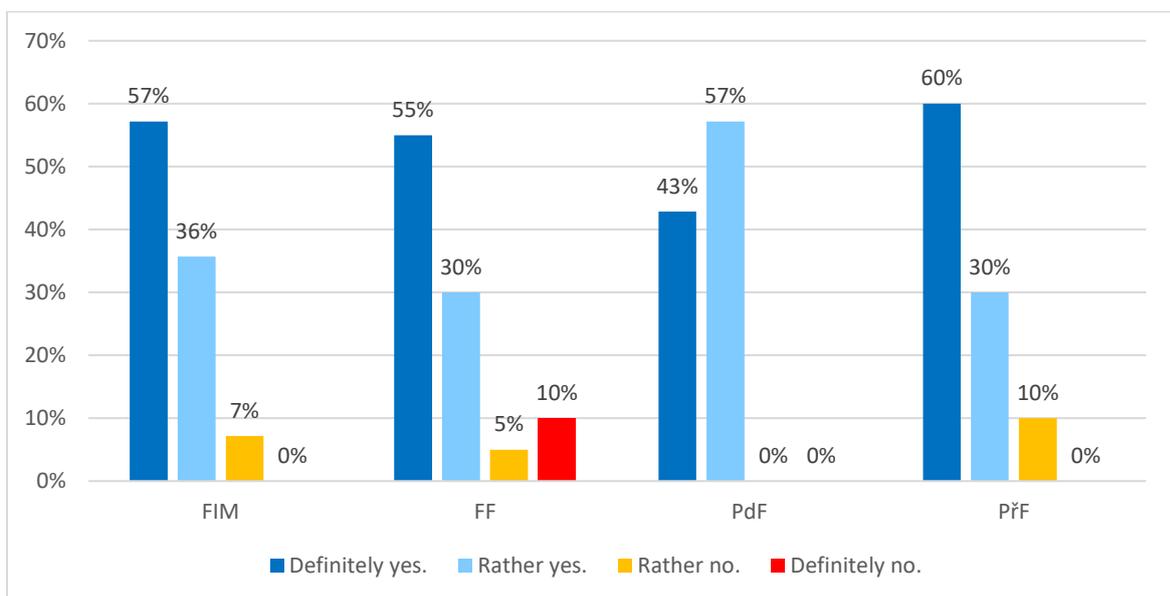
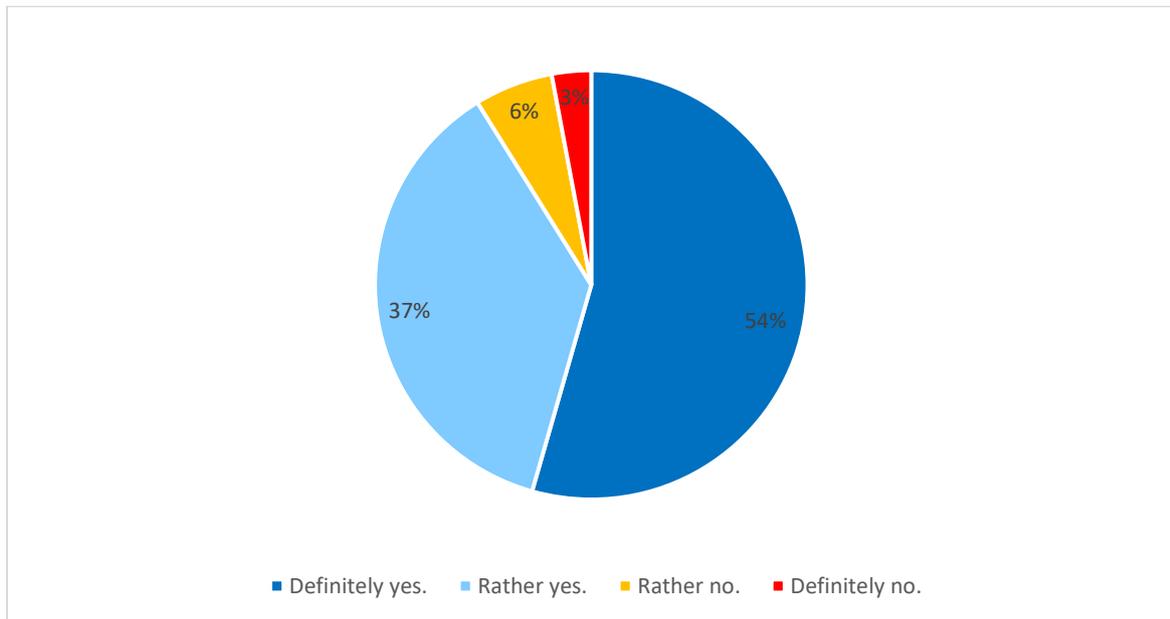


5) How do you rate the communication from the dean's office (foreign department, science department, study department): availability, willingness/ability to provide relevant information for doctoral students?

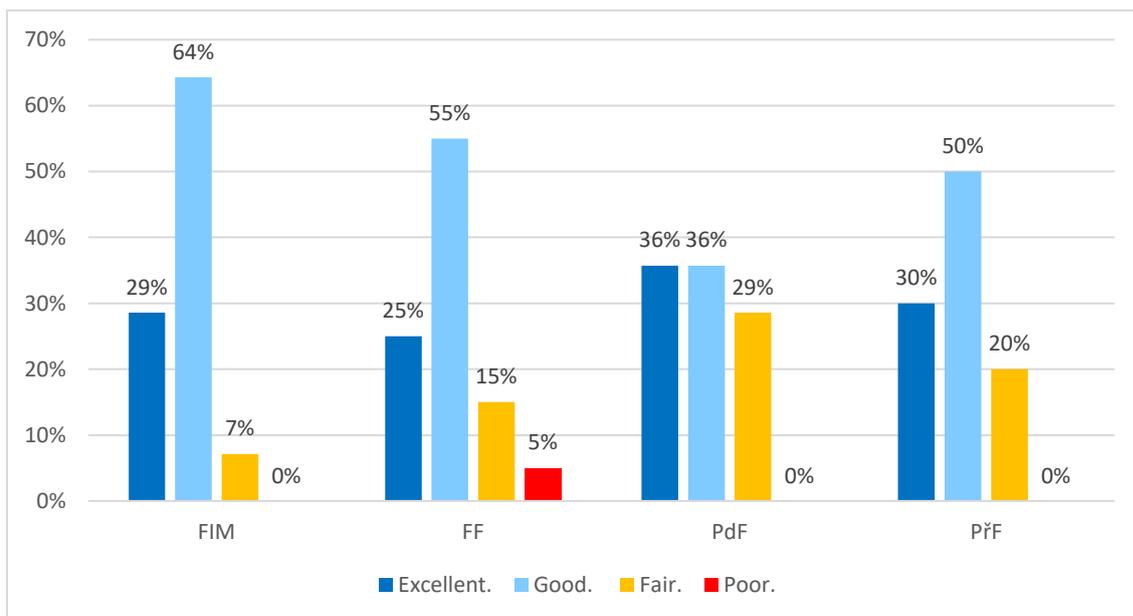
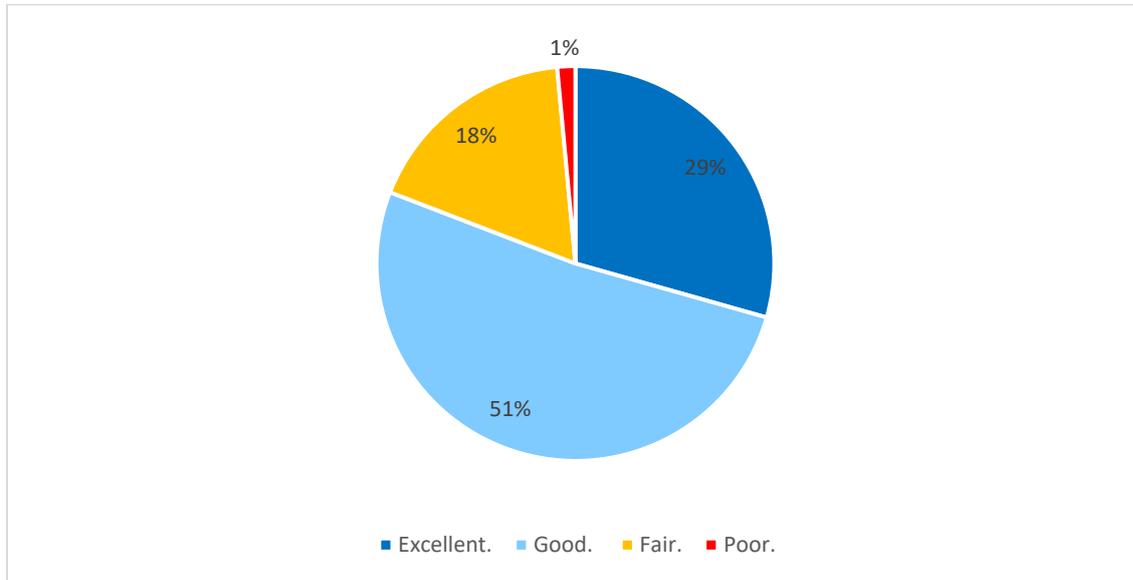


B) Duties set within the Doctoral studies

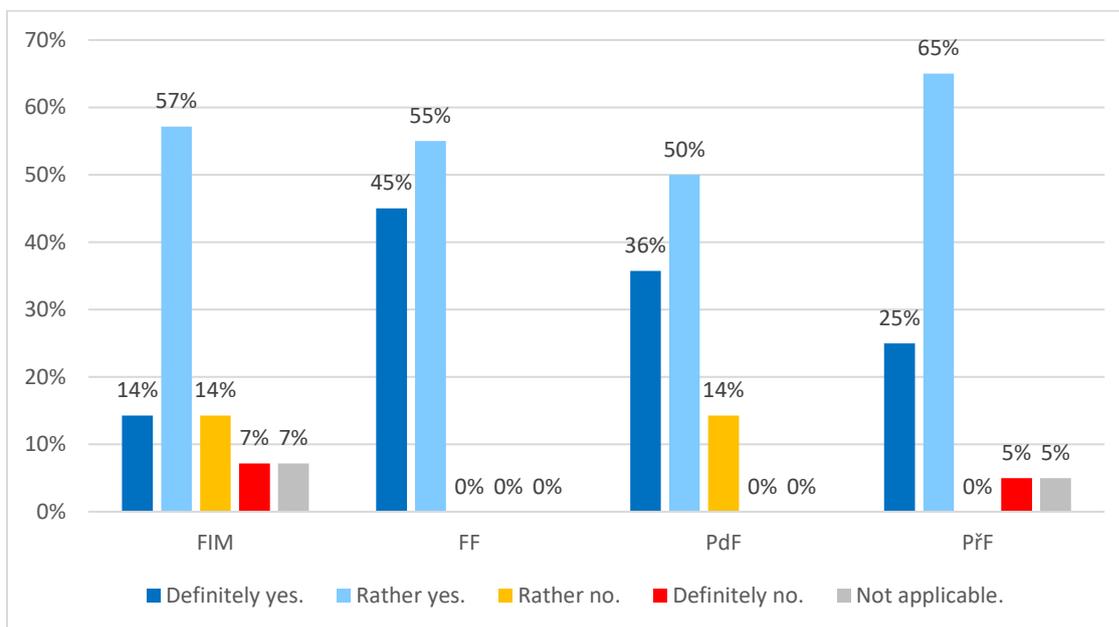
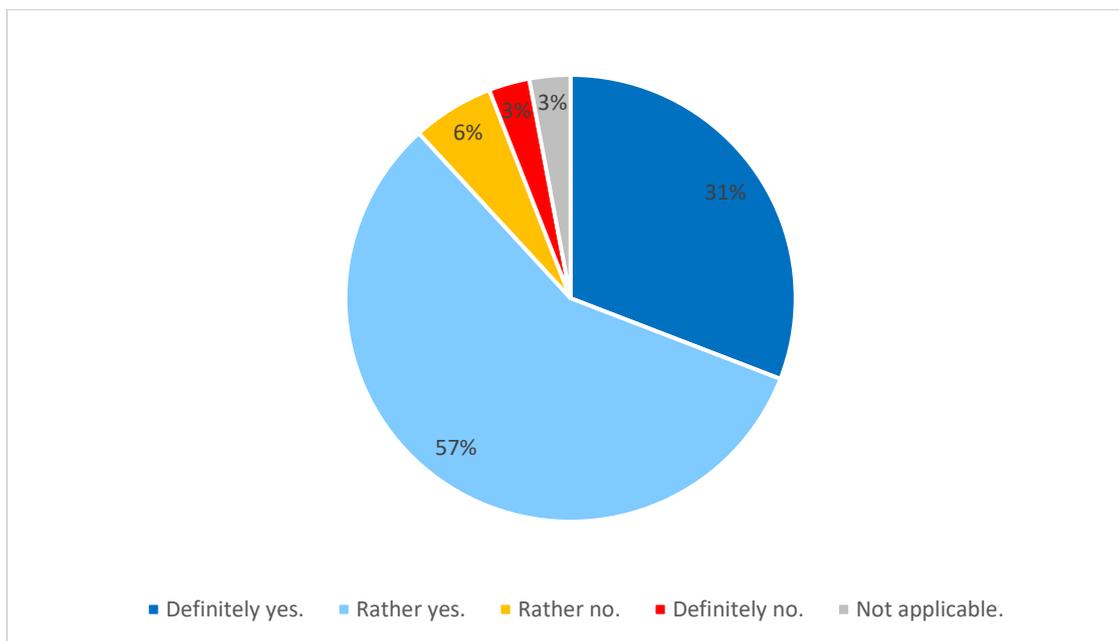
6) Do you consider the number of subjects you have to complete during your studies to be adequate?



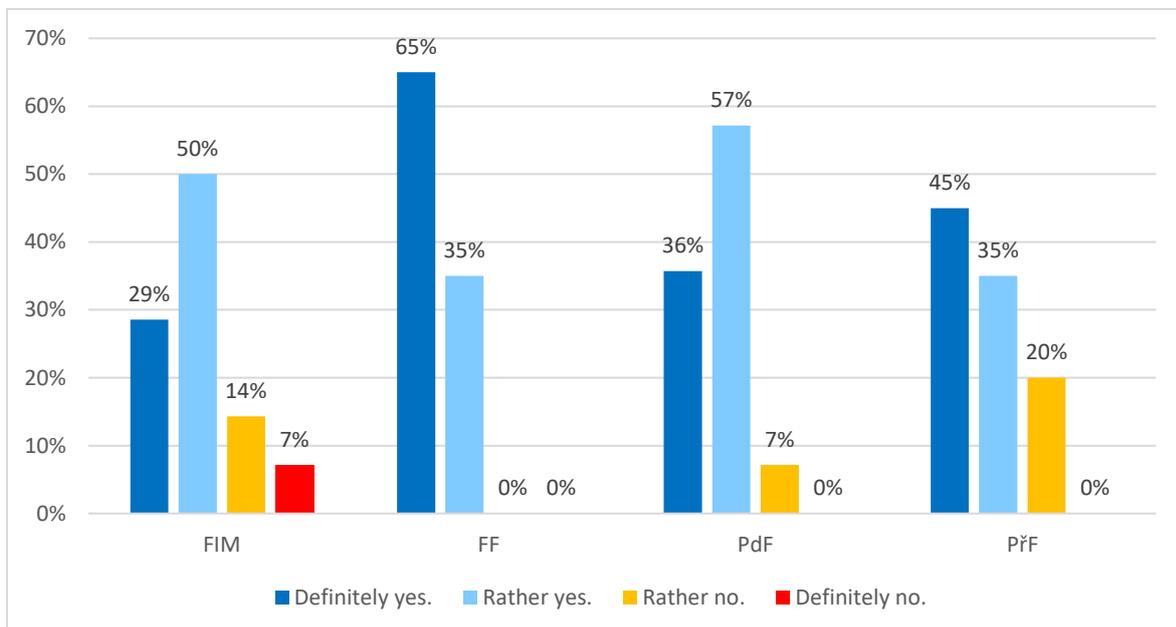
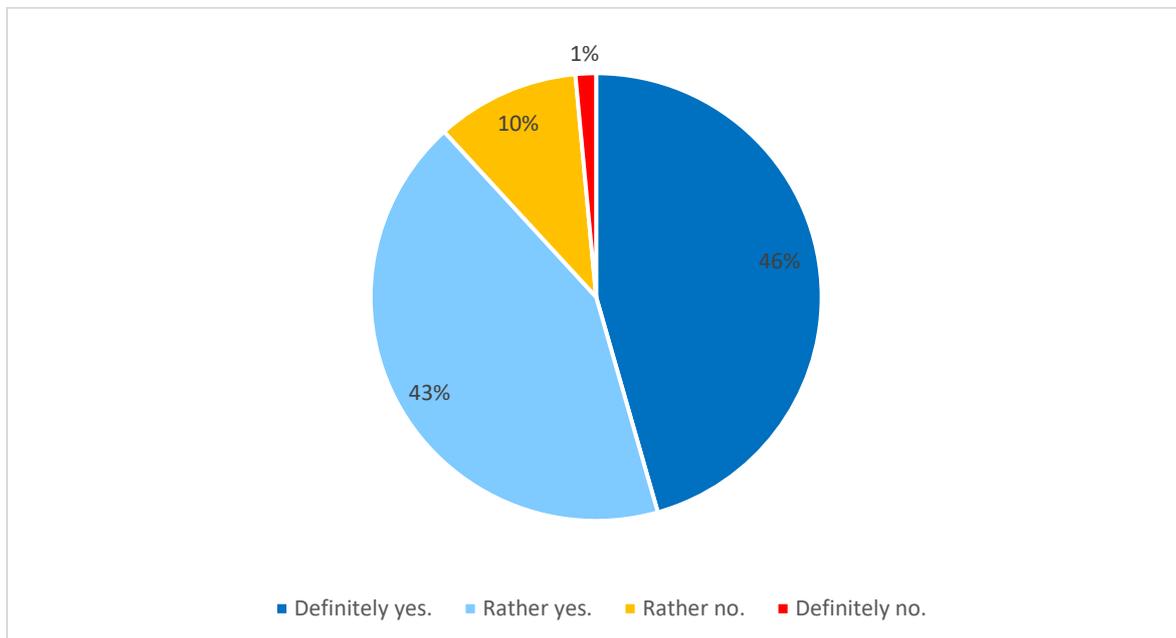
7) How do you rate the overall quality of the courses in your doctoral studies?



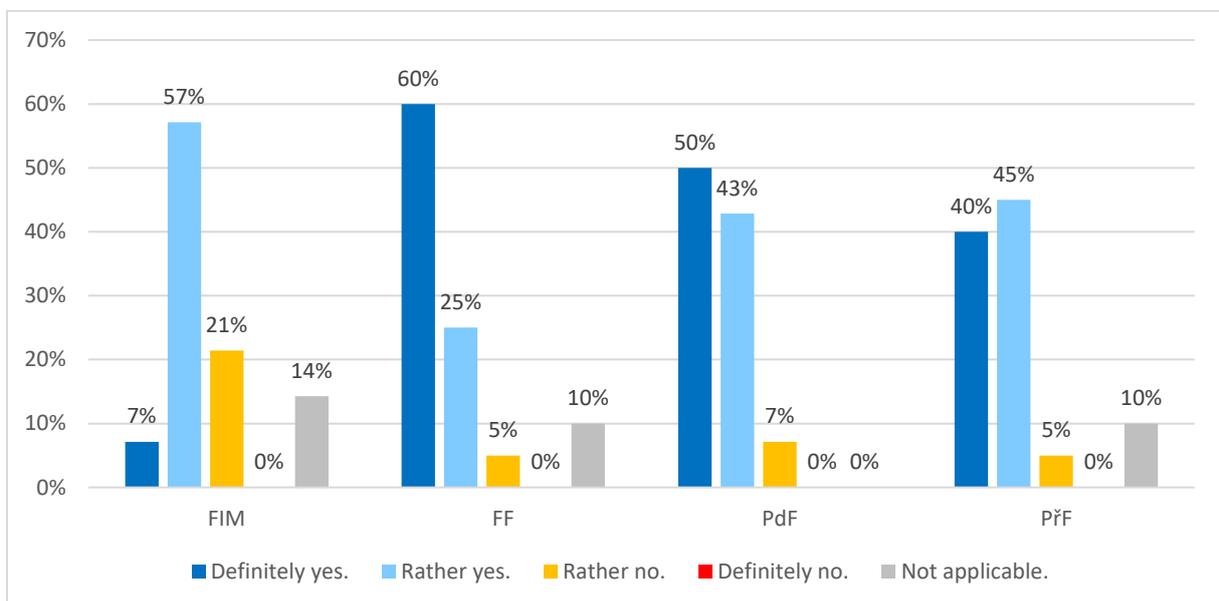
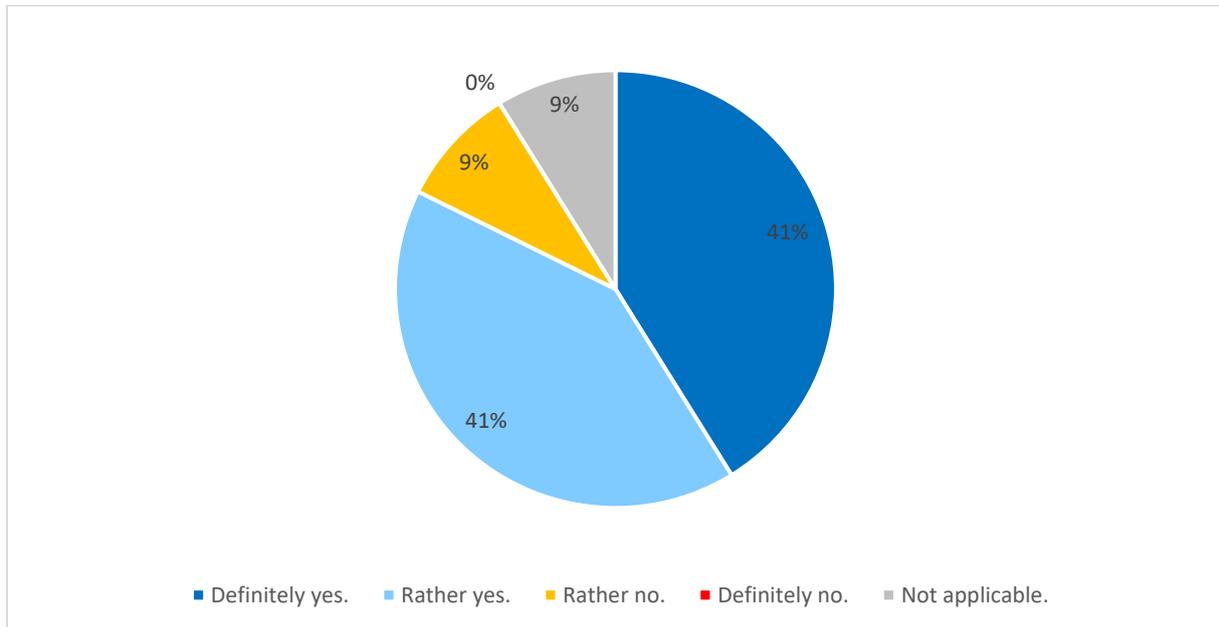
8) Do you consider the requirements for your teaching activities within the study to be adequate?



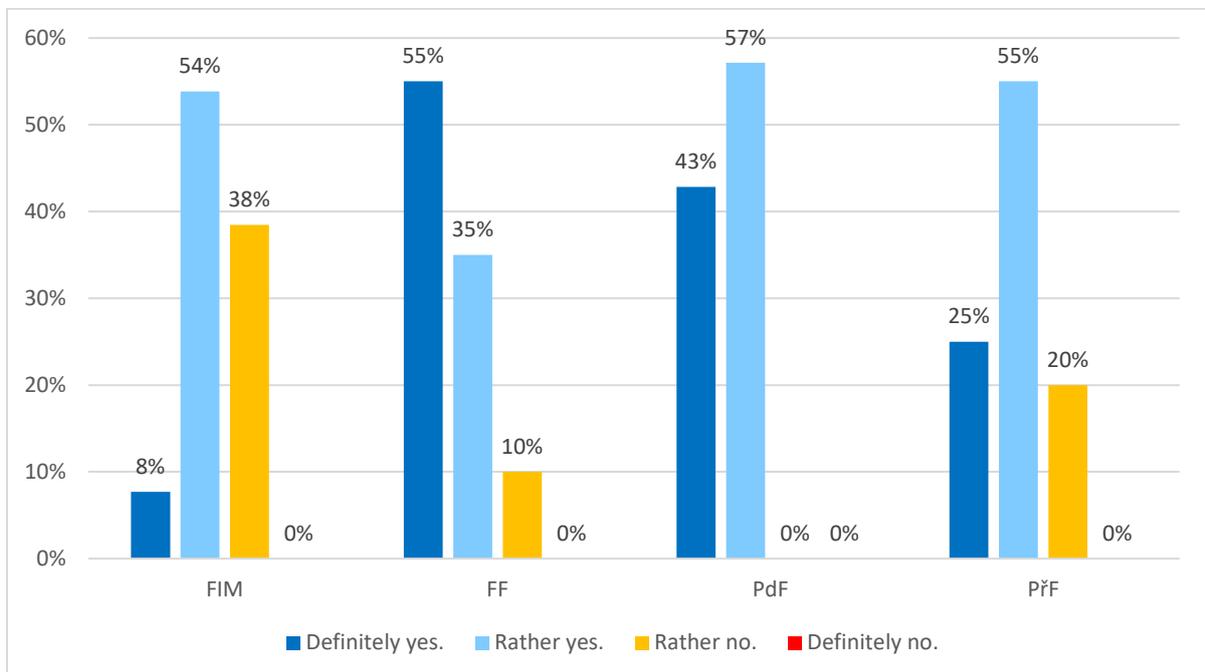
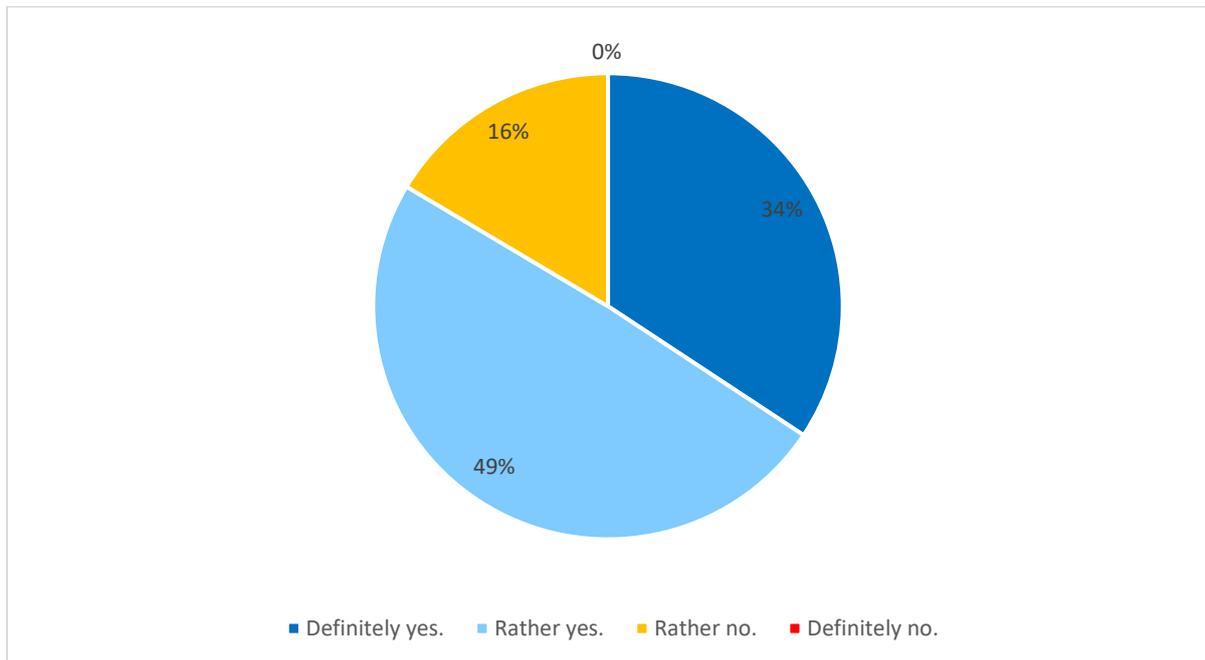
9) Do you consider the requirements for foreign mobility or participation in other forms of international cooperation within your studies to be adequate?



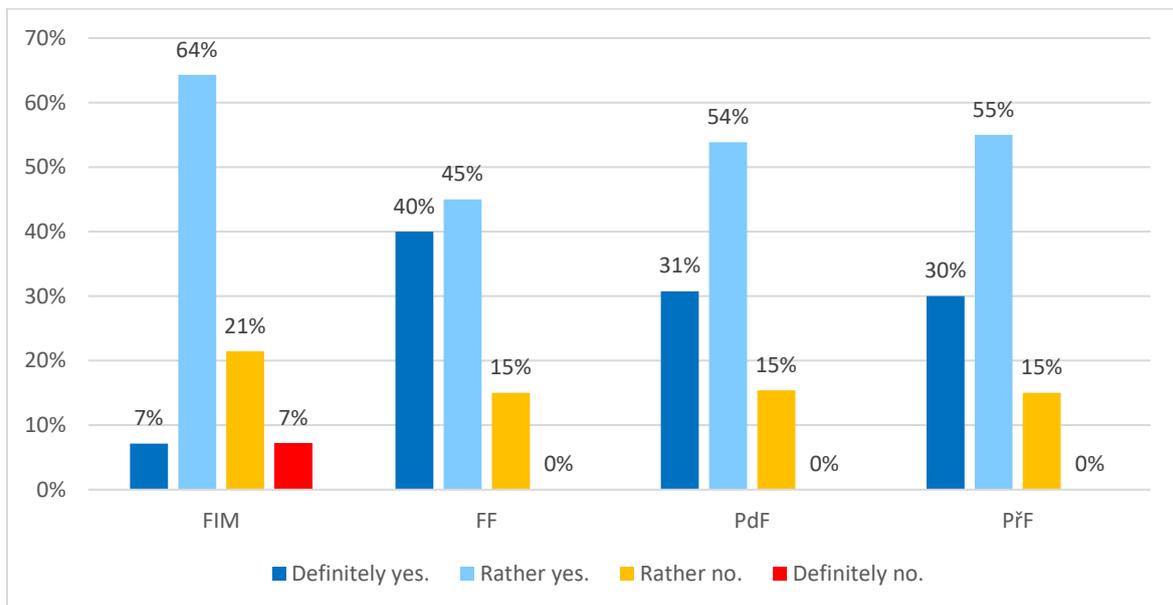
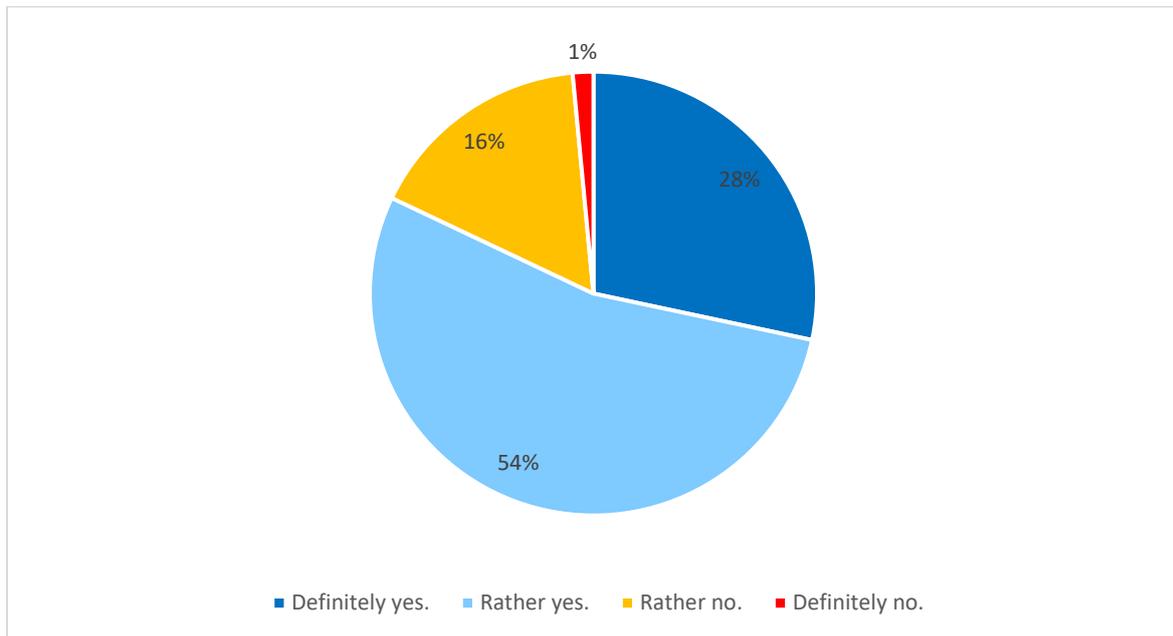
10) Do you consider the requirements for your involvement in other departmental/institute activities (besides teaching) (such as activities for popularizing science, organizing conferences, open days, etc.) to be adequate?



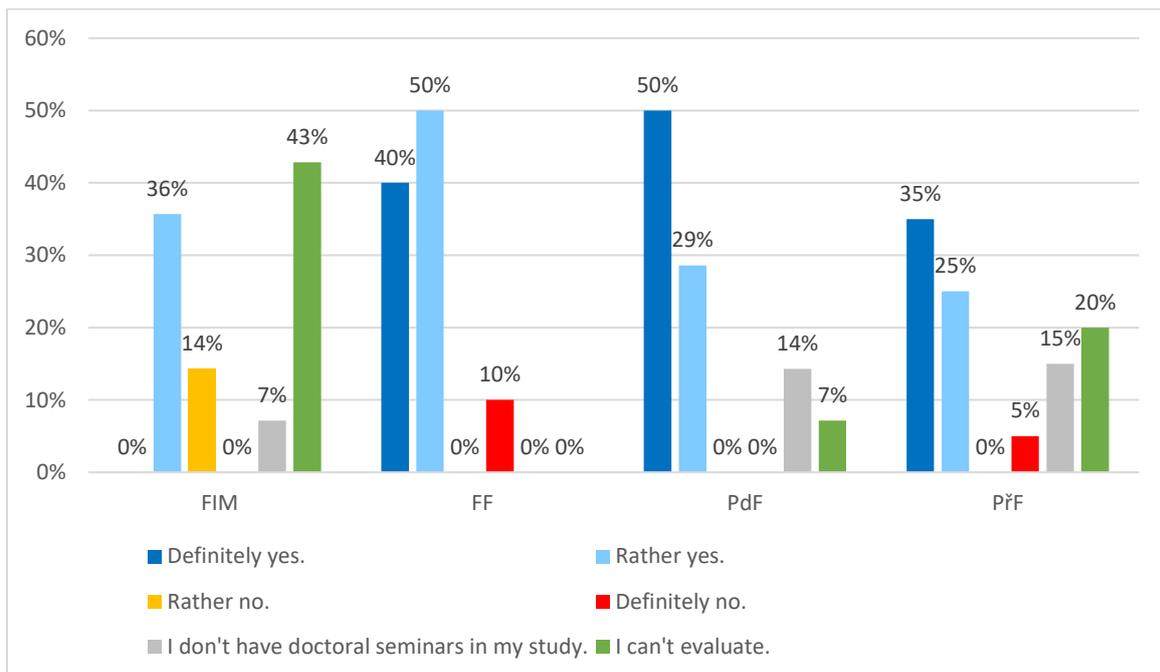
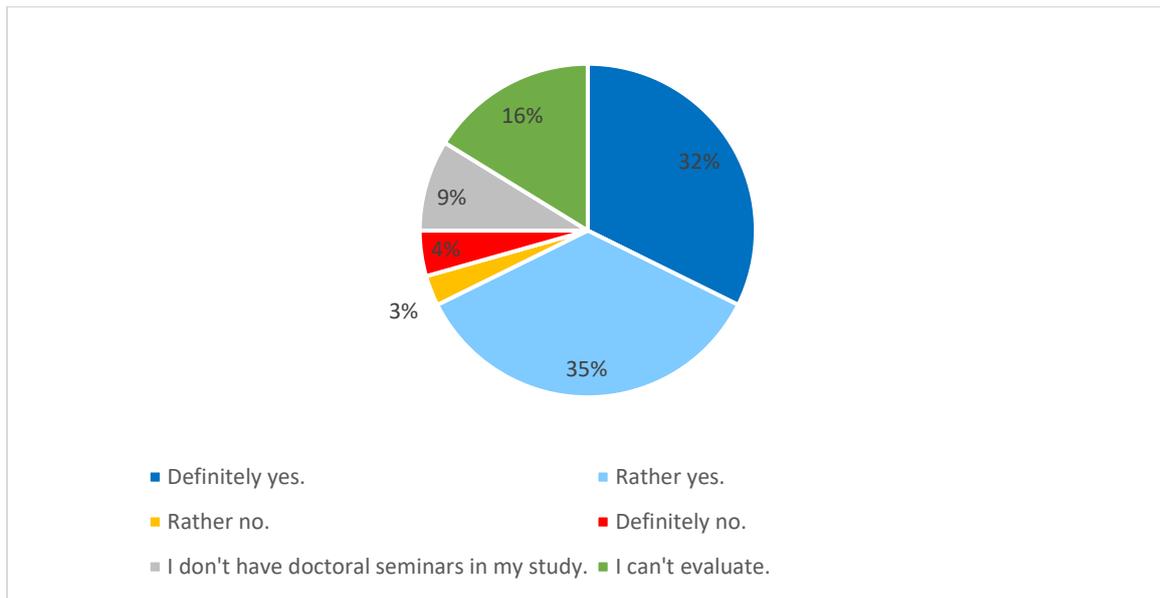
11) Do you consider the requirements for your creative outputs (publications, etc.) within the doctoral studies to be adequate?



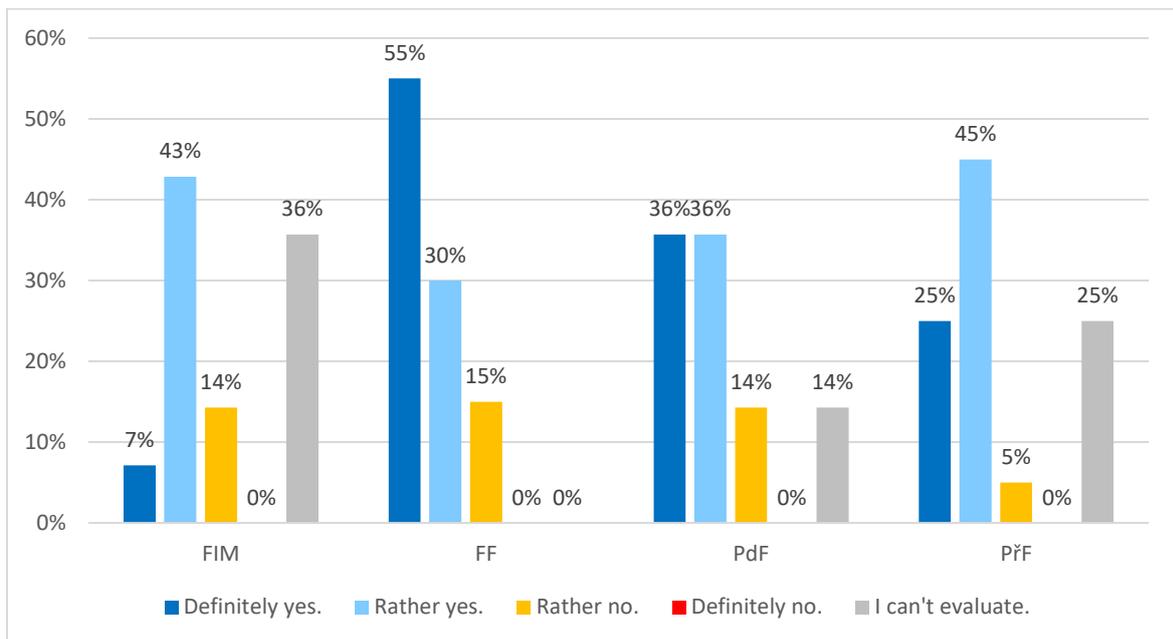
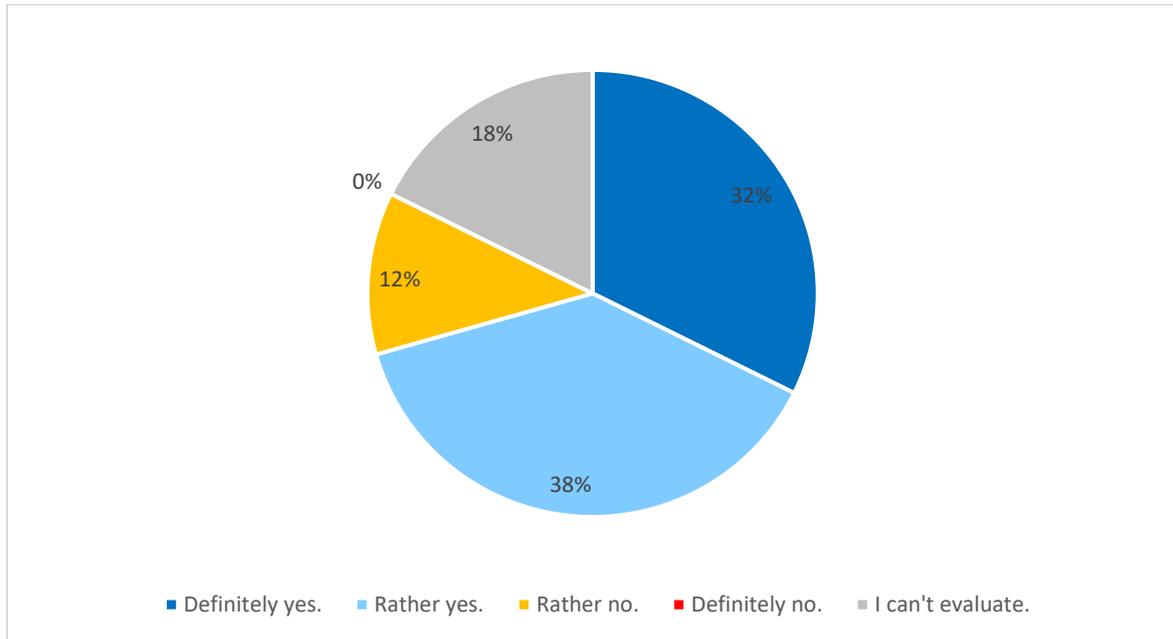
12) Does the overall structure of duties within your doctoral studies allow you to dedicate sufficient time to preparing your dissertation?



13) Do you think the doctoral seminars are appropriately designed?

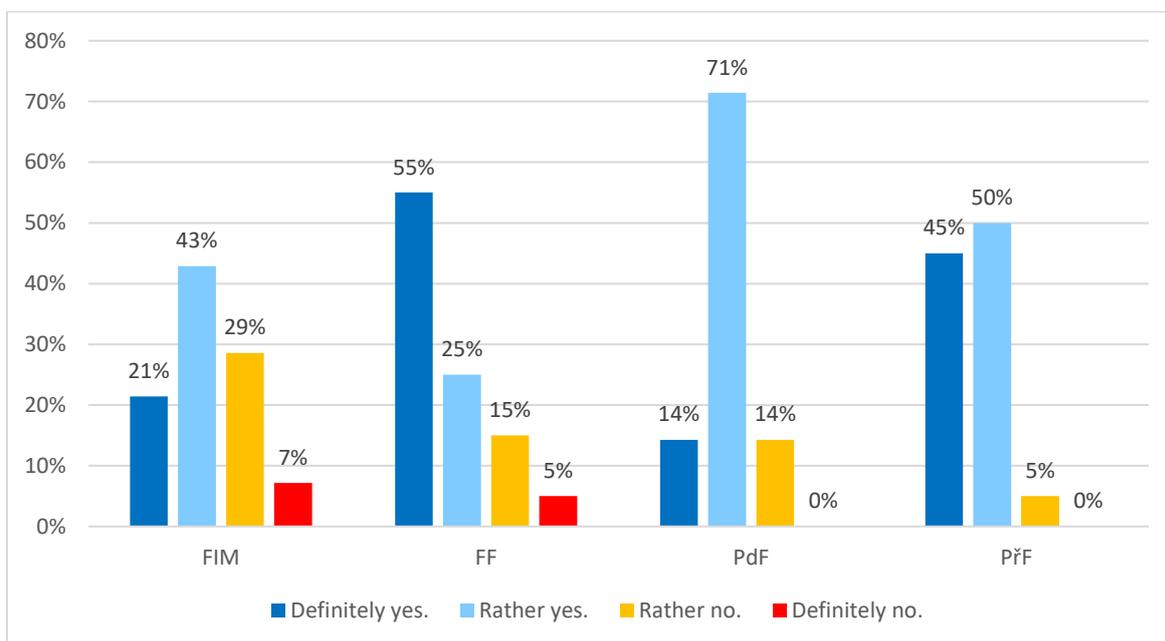
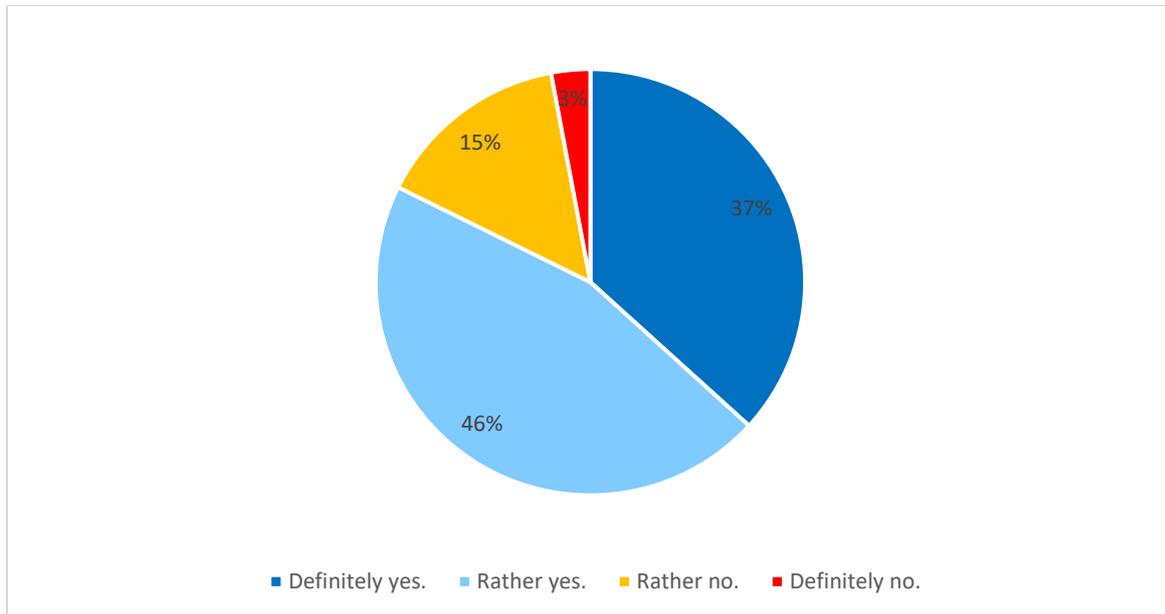


14) Do you think the method of monitoring the progress of your dissertation is appropriate?

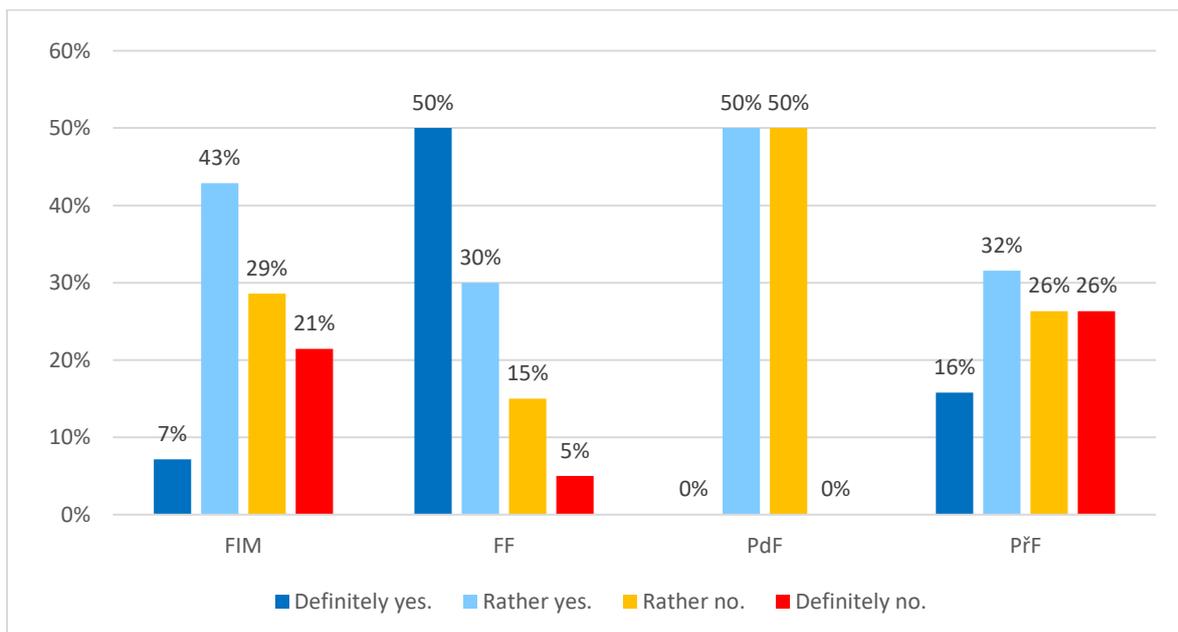
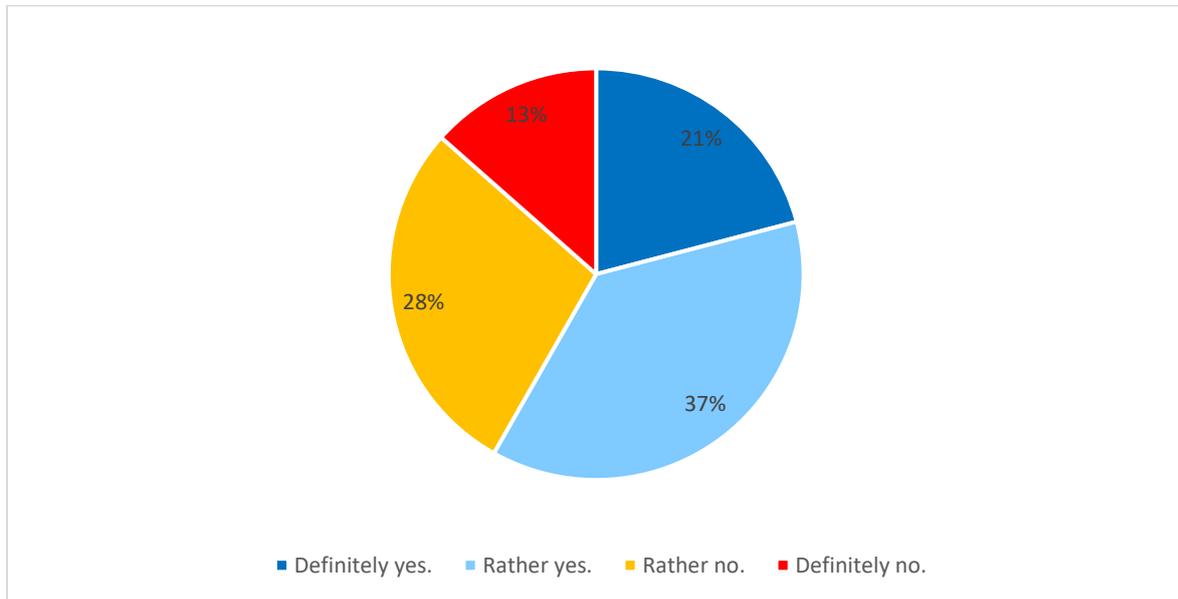


C) Creative work and publication of its results

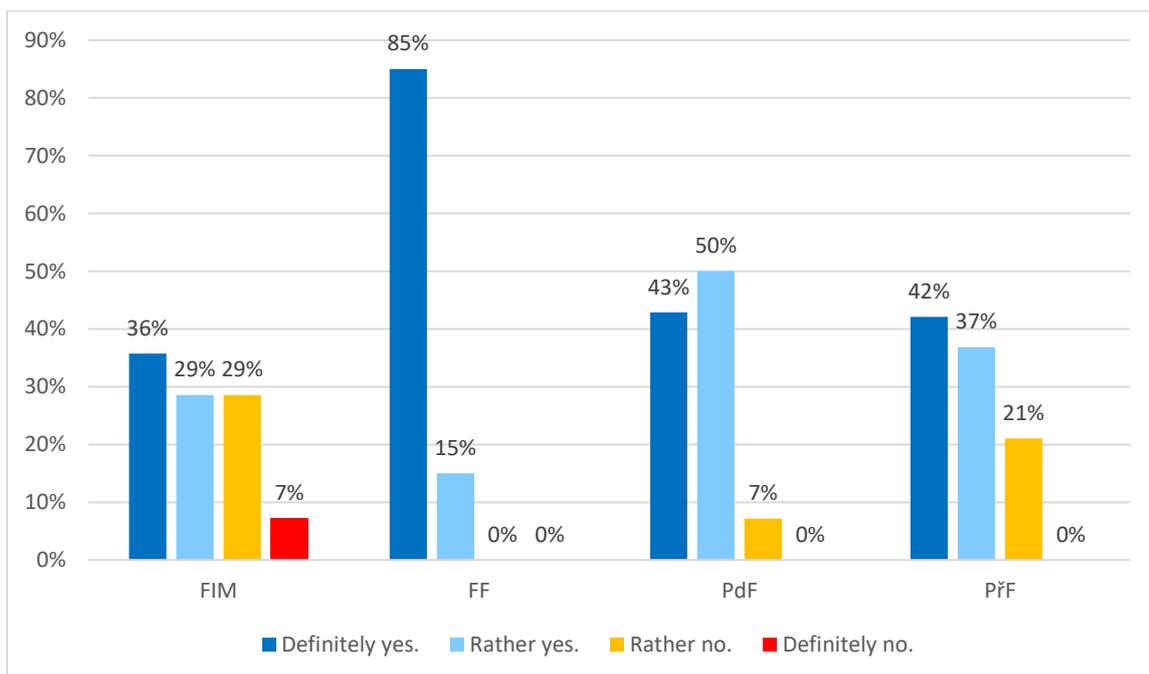
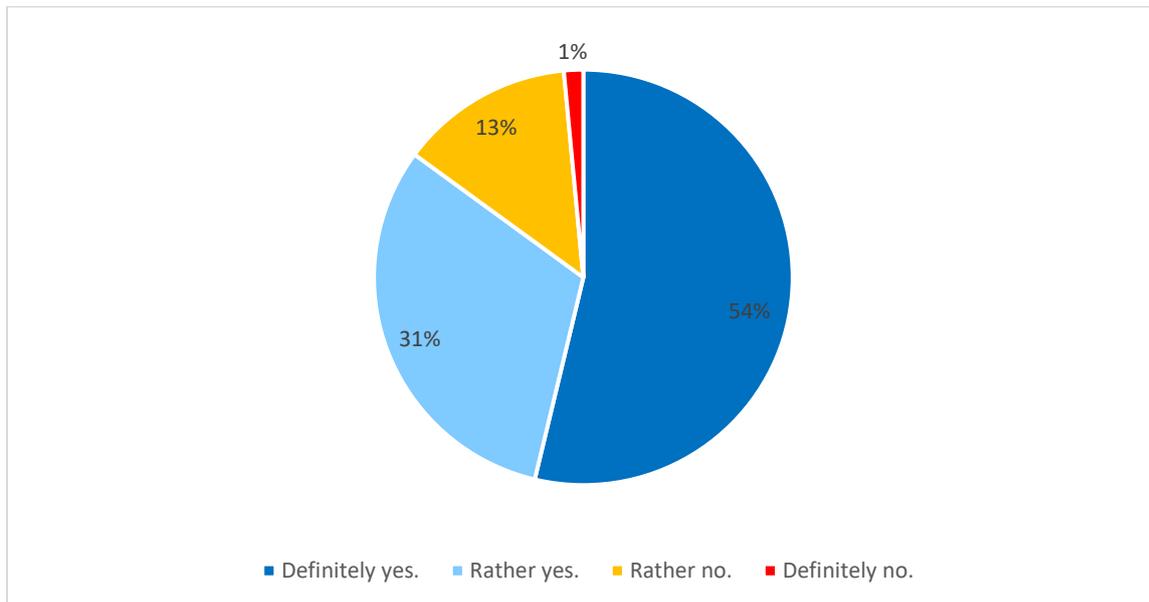
15) Do you have sufficient information on how to conduct research in your field and how to write and publish the results of your creative activities?



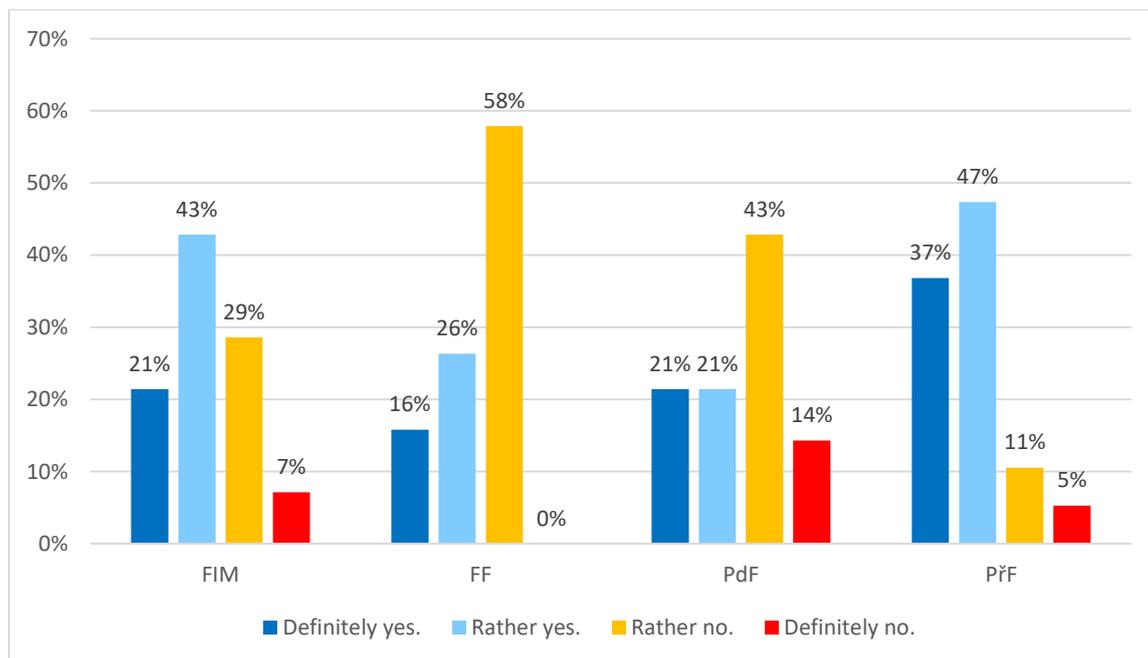
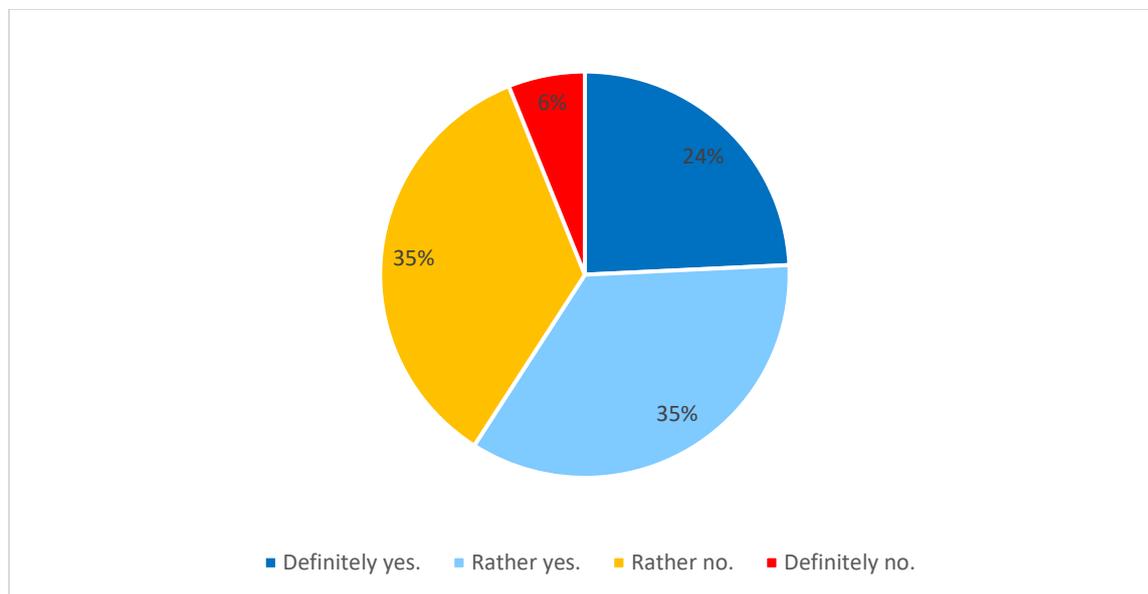
16) Does the faculty sufficiently motivate you for creative activities beyond the obligations of doctoral studies (special scholarships, rewards for publications, etc.)?



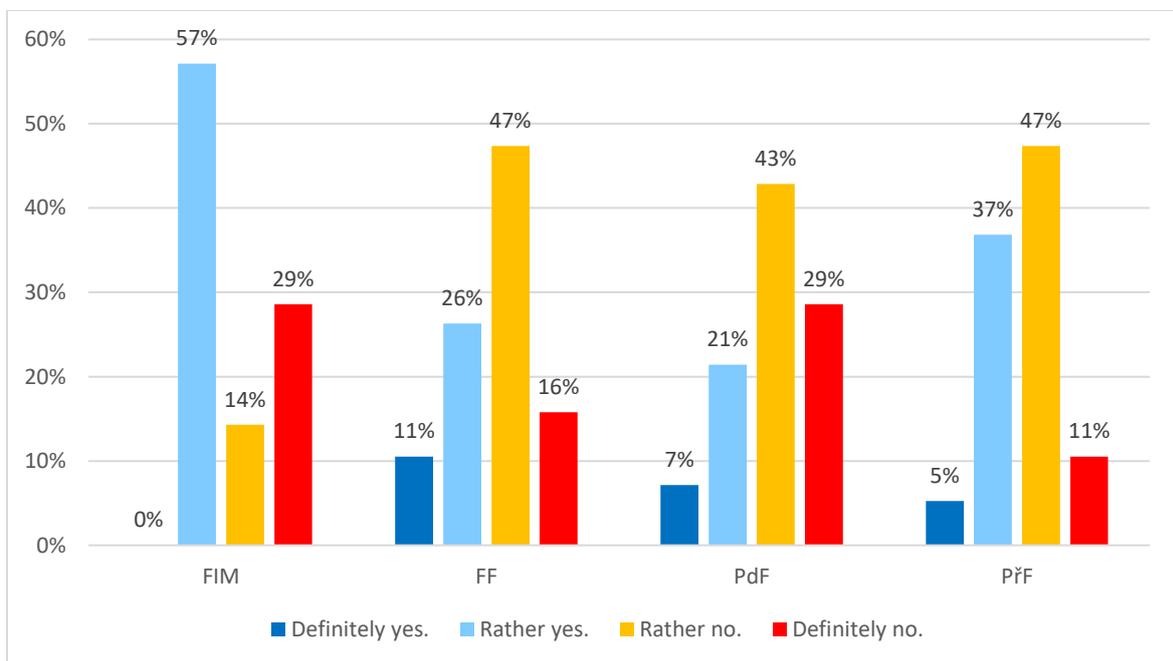
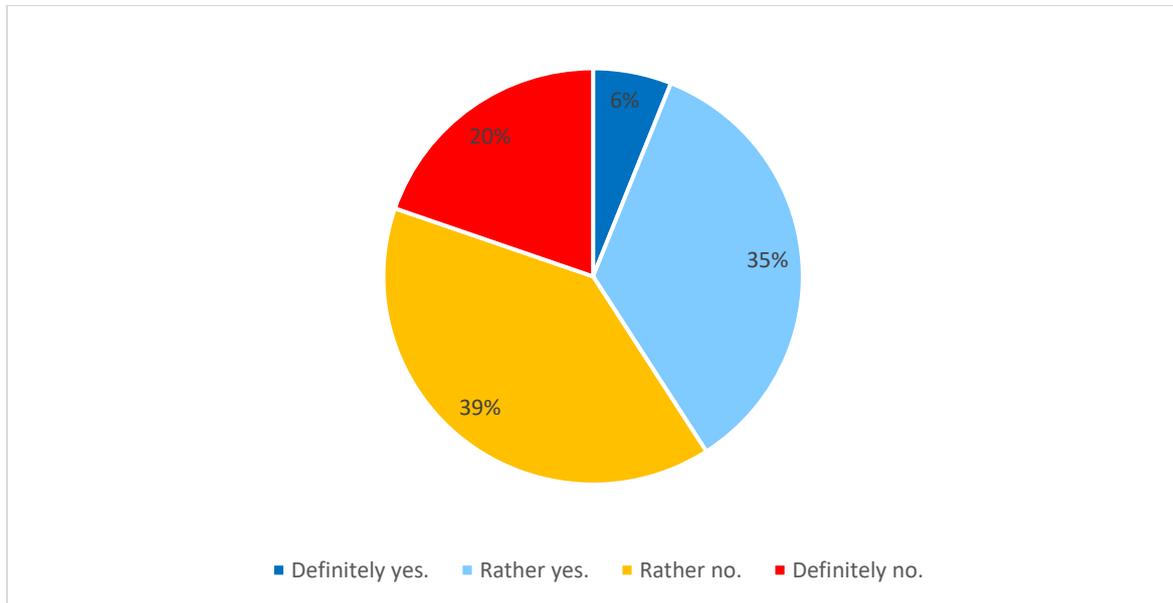
17) Do you have sufficient information about the possibility of participating in specific research projects and other internal competitions at your faculty?



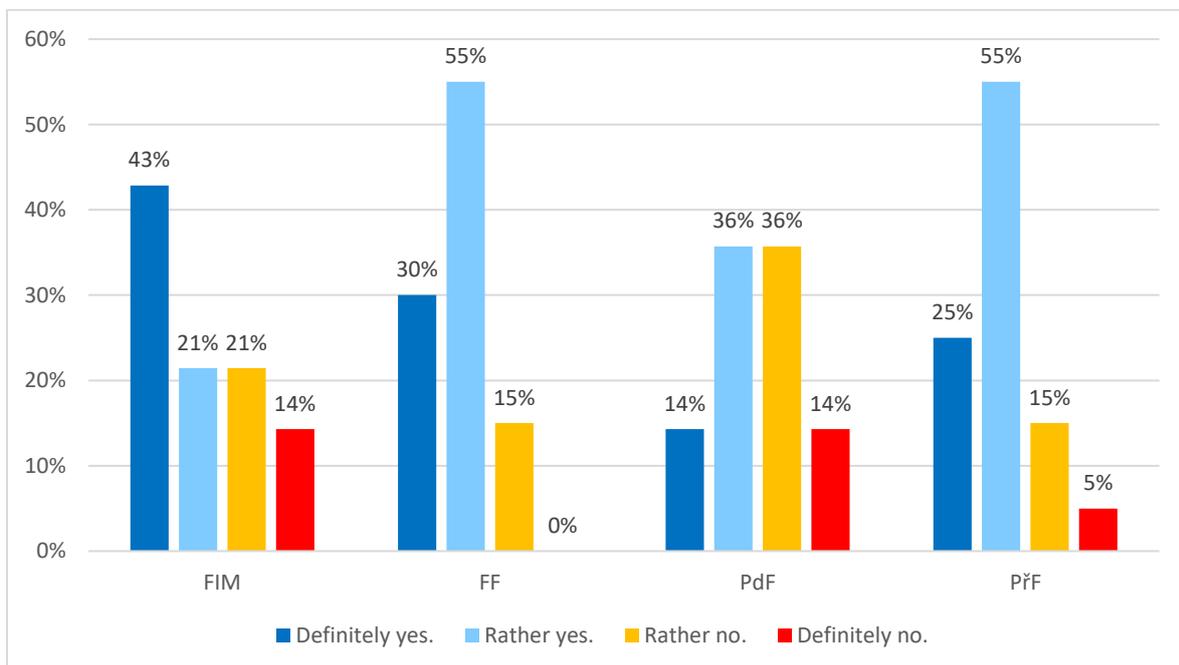
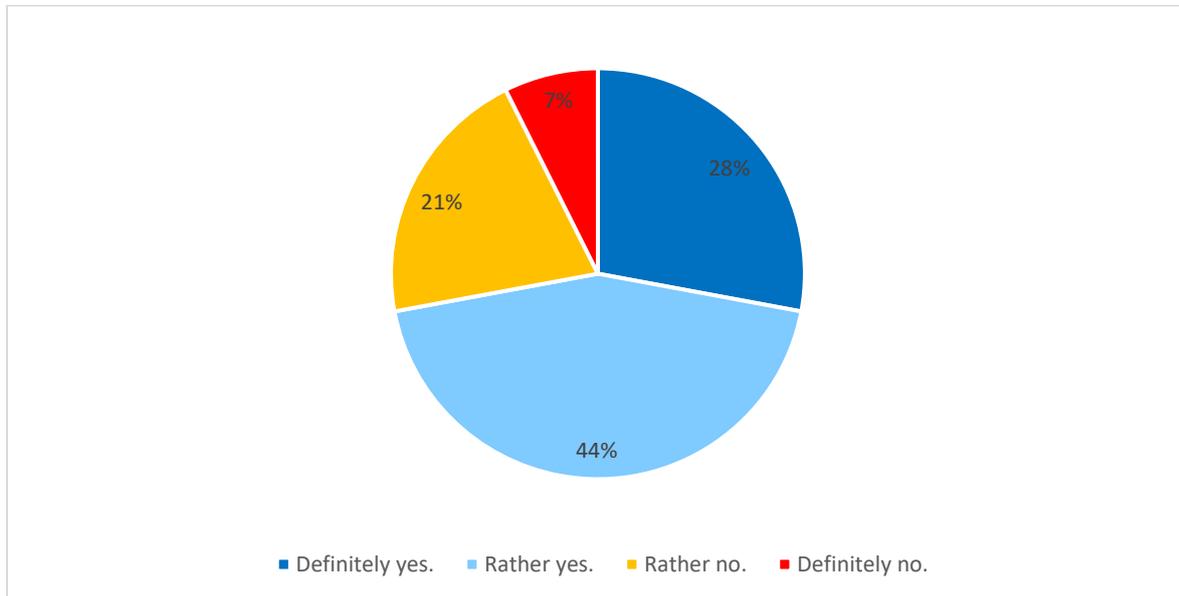
18) Do you have a real opportunity (from the department/institute, supervisor) to participate in ongoing research projects funded by external providers (e.g., GA ČR, TA ČR, NAKI, etc.)?



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

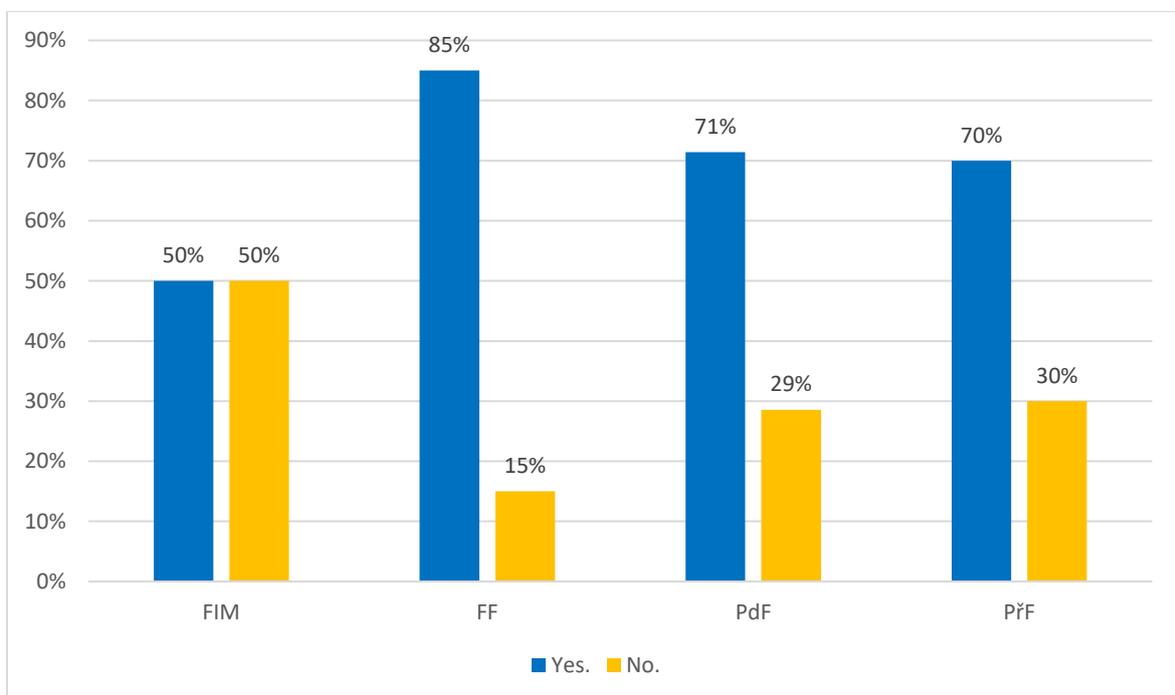
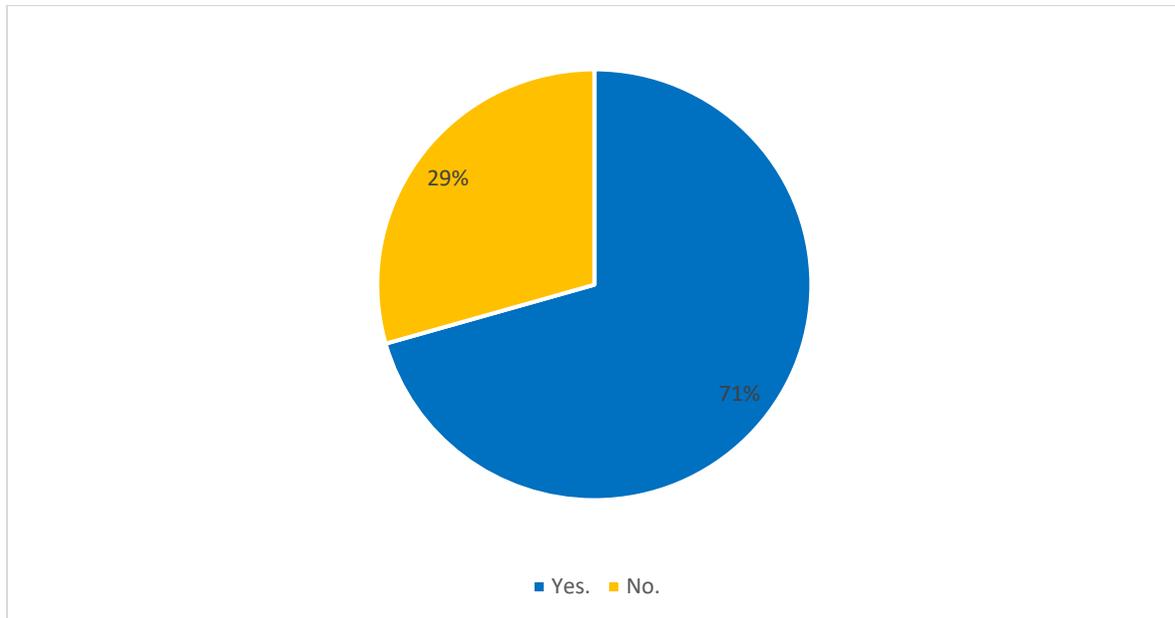


20) Do you have sufficient information about which domestic or foreign journals to publish your professional texts in (awareness of predatory journals/publishers; journal rankings by subject areas – quartiles, top deciles in WoS, Scopus, Scimago)?

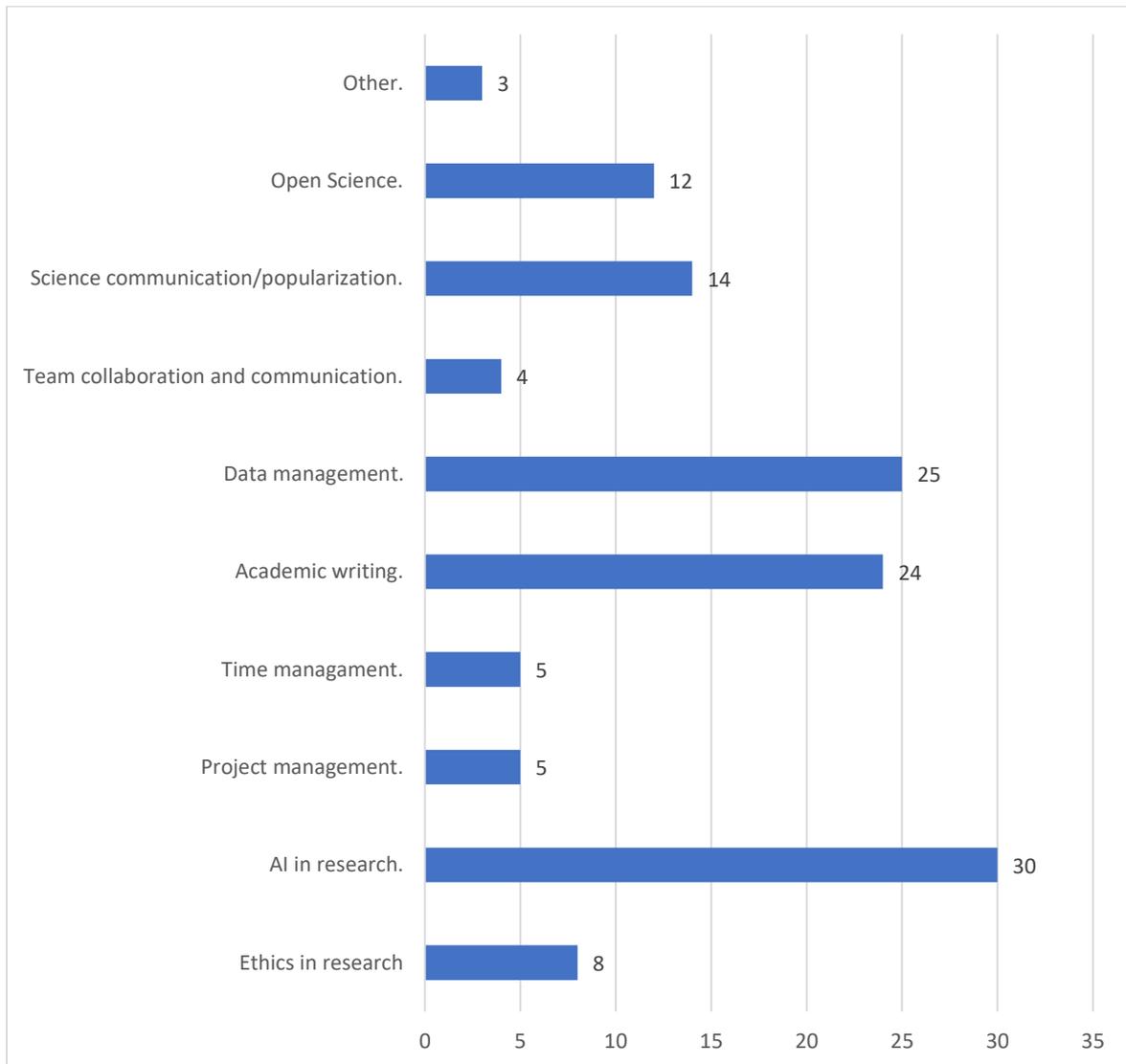


D) Activities Beyond Individual Study Plan

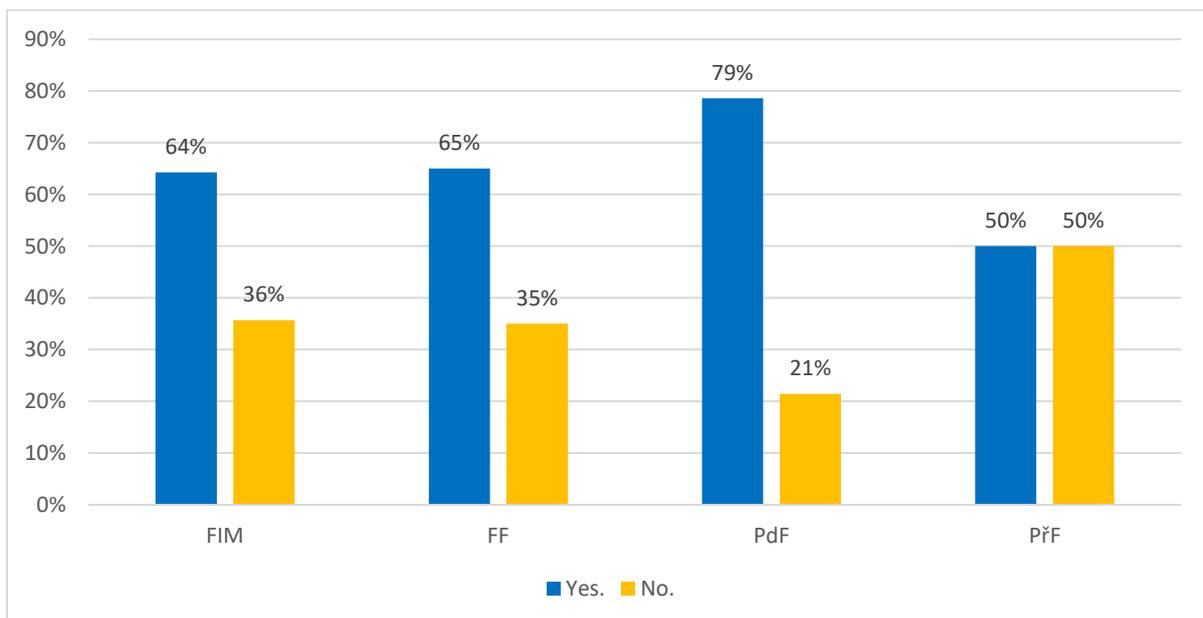
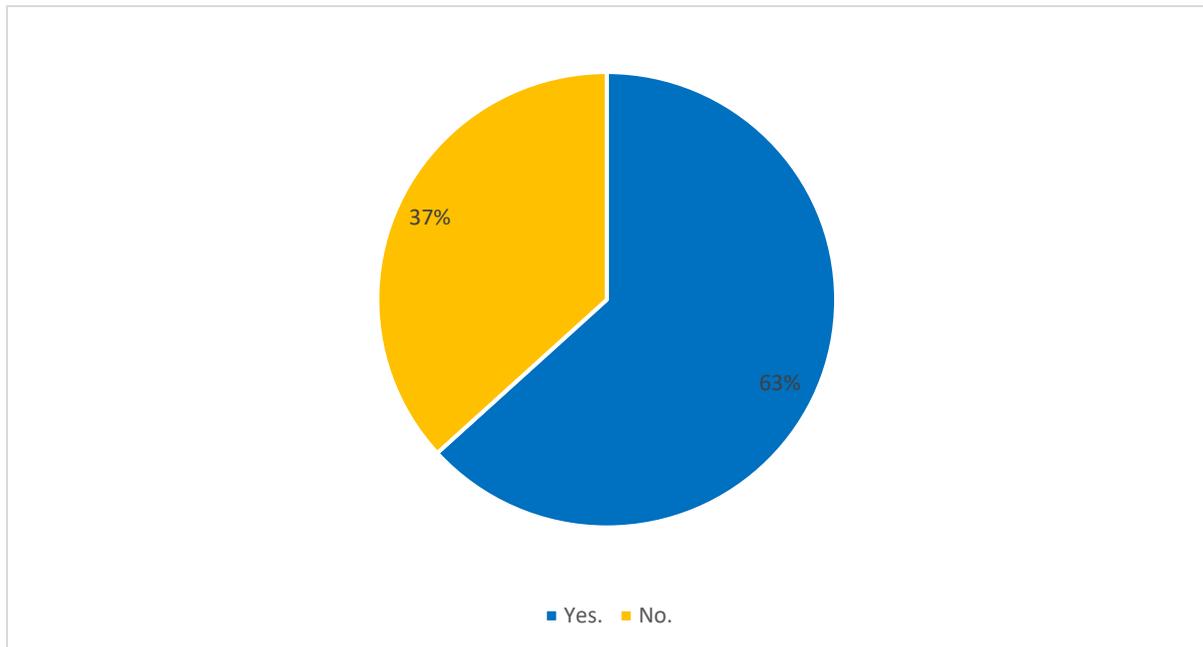
21) Would you welcome training courses for doctoral students beyond the scope of your study?



22) What topics would interest you the most? You can select up to 3.

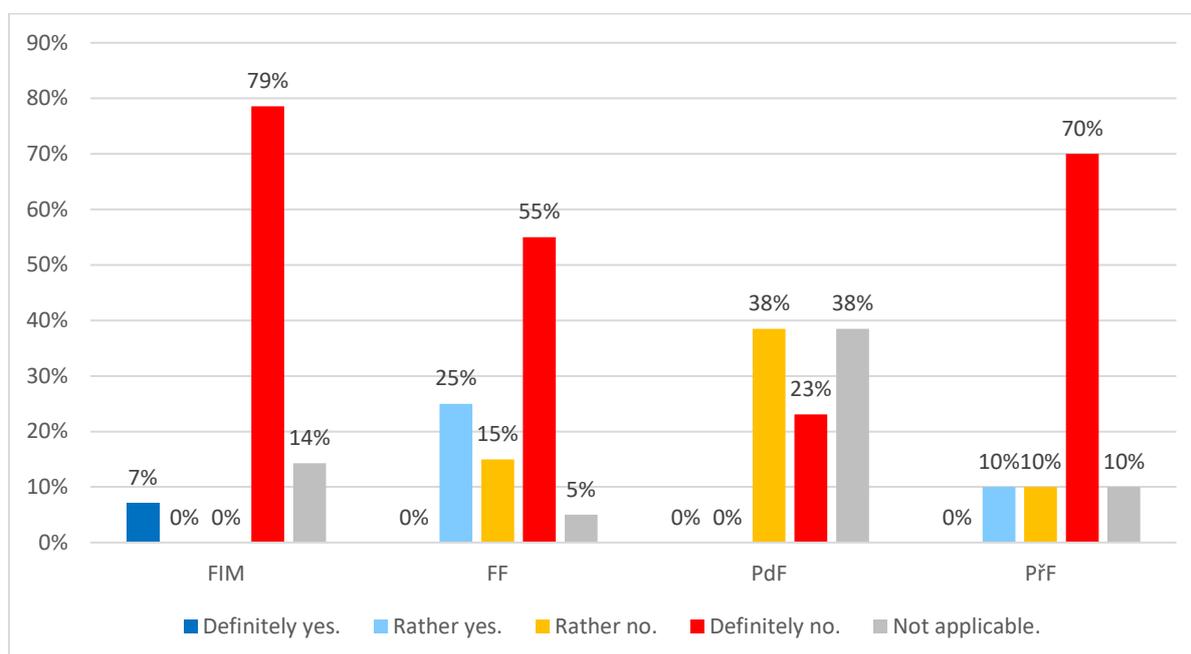
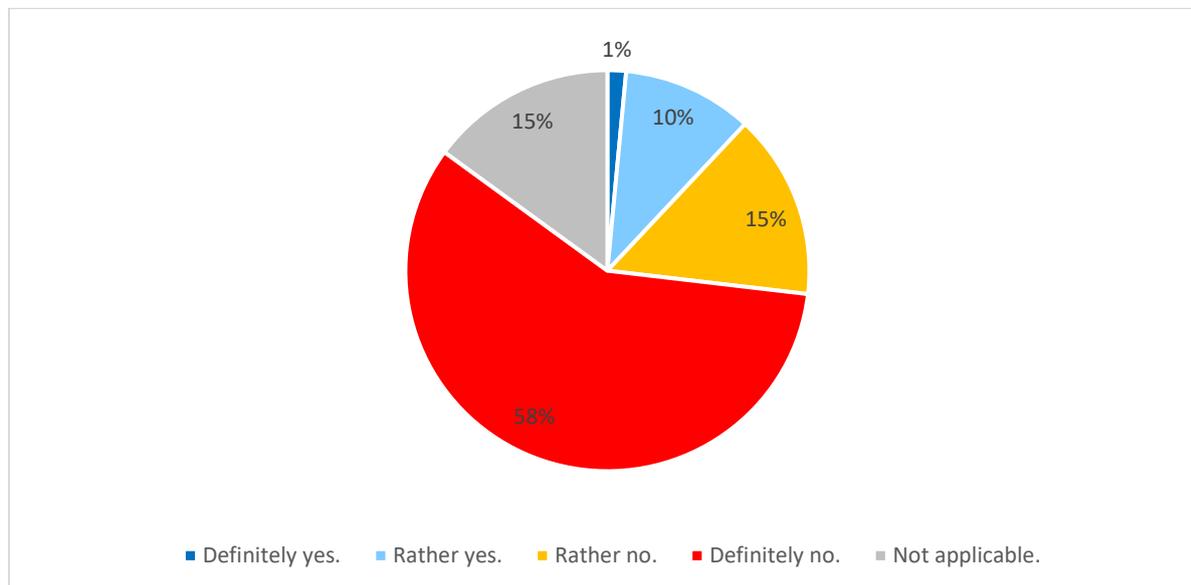


23) Are you interested in informal meetings of doctoral students across the university?



E) Overall evaluation

24) Do you think the amount of the doctoral scholarship is sufficient to cover your living expenses and allow you to adequately fulfill your doctoral study obligations?



Appendix 3: Questionnaire

1. Please select the faculty where you are studying for your doctoral degree.
 - Faculty of Education.
 - Philosophical Faculty.
 - Faculty of Informatics and Management.
 - Faculty of Science.
2. Please select your study program or field of study. (*For PhD students from Faculty of Informatics and Management*).
 - Applied Informatics.
 - Economics and Management.
 - Systems Engineering and Informatics.
3. Please select your study program or field of study. (*For PhD students from Philosophical Faculty*).
 - Political Science (African Studies or Latin American Studies).
 - Philosophy.
4. Please select your study program or field of study. (*For PhD students from Faculty of Science*).
 - Toxicology.
 - Biology and Ecology.

A) Organization of the PhD studies and related facilities

5. Do you have all the necessary information for your studies (study/teaching/publication/departmental duties, schedule, etc.)?
 - Definitely yes.
 - Rather yes.
 - Rather no.
 - Definitely no.
6. Please provide your comments on the study information.
7. How do you rate the facilities available at your department/institute (e.g., workspace, computer, or other necessary equipment)?
 - Excellent.
 - Good.
 - Fair.
 - Poor.
 - Not applicable.
8. Please provide your comments on the facilities.
9. How do you rate the communication and guidance from your supervisor (availability, consultations, comments on and discussion about publication outputs, planning of study milestones)?
 - Excellent.
 - Good.
 - Fair.
 - Poor.

10. Please provide your comments on the communication and guidance from your supervisor.
11. How do you rate the communication from the department/institute or the secretary of the subject-area board (availability, consultations, willingness/ability to provide information about the organization of doctoral studies)?
- Excellent.
 - Good.
 - Fair.
 - Poor.
12. Please provide your comments on the communication from the department/institute or the secretary of the subject-area board.
13. How do you rate the communication from the dean's office (foreign department, science department, study department): availability, willingness/ability to provide relevant information for doctoral students?
- Excellent.
 - Good.
 - Fair.
 - Poor.
14. Please provide your comments on the communication from the dean's office.

B) Duties set within the Doctoral studies

15. Do you consider the number of subjects you have to complete during your studies to be adequate?
- Definitely yes.
 - Rather yes.
 - Rather no.
 - Definitely no.
16. Please provide your comments on the number of subjects.
17. How do you rate the overall quality of the courses in your doctoral studies?
- Excellent.
 - Good.
 - Fair.
 - Poor.
18. Please provide your comments on the quality of courses.
19. Do you consider the requirements for your teaching activities within the study to be adequate?
- Definitely yes.
 - Rather yes.
 - Rather no.
 - Definitely no.
 - Not applicable.
20. Please provide your comments on the requirements for your teaching activities within the study.

21. Do you consider the requirements for foreign mobility or participation in other forms of international cooperation within your studies to be adequate?
- Definitely yes.
 - Rather yes.
 - Rather no.
 - Definitely no.
22. Please provide your comments on the requirements for mobility and international cooperation within your studies.
23. Do you consider the requirements for your involvement in other departmental/institute activities (besides teaching) (such as activities for popularizing science, organizing conferences, open days, etc.) to be adequate?
- Definitely yes.
 - Rather yes.
 - Rather no.
 - Definitely no.
 - Not applicable.
24. Please provide your comments on the requirements for involvement in other departmental/institute activities.
25. Do you consider the requirements for your creative outputs (publications, etc.) within the doctoral studies to be adequate?
- Definitely yes.
 - Rather yes.
 - Rather no.
 - Definitely no.
26. Please provide your comments on the requirements for creative outputs.
27. Does the overall structure of duties within your doctoral studies allow you to dedicate sufficient time to preparing your dissertation?
- Definitely yes.
 - Rather yes.
 - Rather no.
 - Definitely no.
28. Please provide your comments on the structure of duties and the possibility to sufficiently dedicate yourself to preparing your dissertation.
29. Do you think the doctoral seminars are appropriately designed?
- Definitely yes.
 - Rather yes.
 - Rather no.
 - Definitely no.
 - I can't evaluate.
 - I don't have doctoral seminars in my study.
30. Please provide your comments on the doctoral seminars.
31. Do you think the method of monitoring the progress of your dissertation is appropriate?
- Definitely yes.
 - Rather yes.

- Rather no.
- Definitely no.
- I can't evaluate.

32. Please provide your comments on the method of monitoring the progress of your dissertation.

C) Creative work and publication of its results

33. Do you have sufficient information on how to conduct research in your field and how to write and publish the results of your creative activities?

- Definitely yes.
- Rather yes.
- Rather no.
- Definitely no.

34. Please provide your comments on the information regarding research and publication of its results. Also, please mention from whom you most frequently obtain this information (supervisor, program guarantor, department head, vice-dean for science, colleagues, etc.).

35. Does the faculty sufficiently motivate you for creative activities beyond the obligations of doctoral studies (special scholarships, rewards for publications, etc.)?

- Definitely yes.
- Rather yes.
- Rather no.
- Definitely no.

36. Please provide your comments on the motivation for creative activities.

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

- Definitely yes.
- Rather yes.
- Rather no.
- Definitely no.

38. Please provide your comments on the information about involvement in internal projects.

39. Do you have a real opportunity (from the department/institute, supervisor) to participate in ongoing research projects funded by external providers (e.g., GA ČR, TA ČR, NAKI, etc.)?

- Definitely yes.
- Rather yes.
- Rather no.
- Definitely no.

40. Please provide your comments on the possibility of involvement in external projects.

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

- Definitely yes.
- Rather yes.
- Rather no.

- Definitely no.

42. Please provide your comments on the information regarding writing grant or scholarship applications.

43. Do you have sufficient information about which domestic or foreign journals to publish your professional texts in (awareness of predatory journals/publishers; journal rankings by subject areas – quartiles, top deciles in WoS, Scopus, Scimago)?

- Definitely yes.
- Rather yes.
- Rather no.
- Definitely no.

44. Please provide your comments on the information regarding where to publish your professional texts.

D) Activities Beyond Individual Study Plan

45. Would you welcome training courses for doctoral students beyond the scope of your study?

- Yes.
- No.

46. What topics would interest you the most? You can select up to 3.

- Ethics in research.
- AI in research.
- Project management.
- Time management.
- Academic writing.
- Data management.
- Team collaboration and communication.
- Science communication/popularization.
- Open Science.
- Other.

47. What other topics for training courses would you welcome?

48. Are you interested in informal meetings of doctoral students across the university?

- Yes
- No

49. Please elaborate on your answer. For example, why you would or would not be interested in the meetings, what format would suit you, what you would like to gain from such meetings (contacts, light conversation, and feedback on research topics and methods, etc.).

E) Overall evaluation

50. Do you think the amount of the doctoral scholarship is sufficient to cover your living expenses and allow you to adequately fulfill your doctoral study obligations?

- Definitely yes.
- Rather yes.
- Rather no.
- Definitely no.

- Irrelevant.

51. Please provide your comments on the doctoral scholarship.

52. Please provide an overall evaluation of what you appreciate the most during your doctoral studies and what you think could be different and better.