

# National University of Architecture and Construction of Armenia (NUACA)

## The NUACA Graduates' Profile Report

(Pilot Survey)

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Tempus

YEREVAN - 2015

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## **1. Introduction**

The NUACA Graduates' Profile Report (hereinafter Report) is a pilot survey which executed within the HEN-GEAR Tempus project (October 2012-October 2015) and it is based on the AlmaLaurea Interuniversity Consortium (Italy, Bologna) experience, who is a key project partner. It contains an analysis of the features and performance of the graduates of the National University of Architecture and Construction of Armenia (NUACA) in 2014, focusing on a number of variables coming out from the six sets of the on-line platform's questionnaire used for the graduates' interviews. Particularly, the following six sets are included in the questionnaire:

1. Personal information
2. Education and training
3. Information on the course that graduate is completing now
4. Evaluation of the course that graduate is completing now
5. Information about the family
6. Future intentions and perspectives

The objectives of the Report development are:

- to outline the main features of the NUACAs' graduates,
- to provide the information to those, who are interested by the NUACA or involved in a policy development for the university education system further progress,
- to provide a tool kit for the university study programs development and choice.

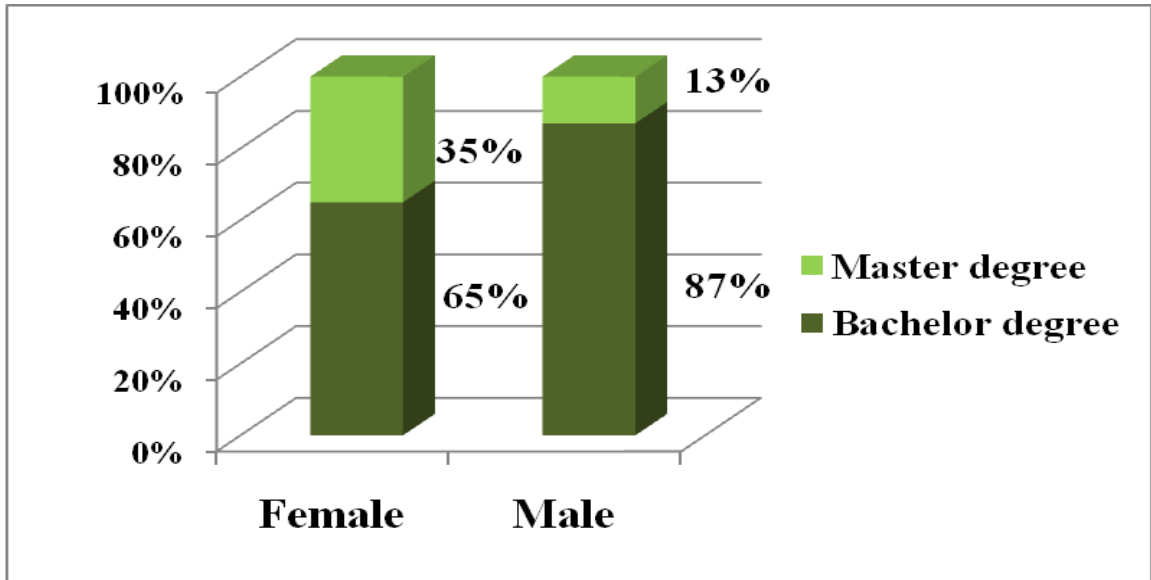
## **2. Sampling of NUACA graduates surveyed**

The total number of NUACA graduates in 2014 made up to 300, out of which 164 were registered and filled in the questionnaires in the HEN-GEAR platform. The sample of the eligible questionnaires was developed for the pilot survey. The Report contains a survey results based on the sample including 100 eligible questionnaires that were selected from the total number of filled in questionnaires which is 164. The eligible questionnaires were selected via manner of applying the exclusion criterion on completeness to the questionnaires. Particularly, the questionnaire completeness criterion is satisfied, if the graduate presented a comprehensive information at least for 3 questions of the questionnaire out of total 6 questions that are considered as essential for the Report, particularly:

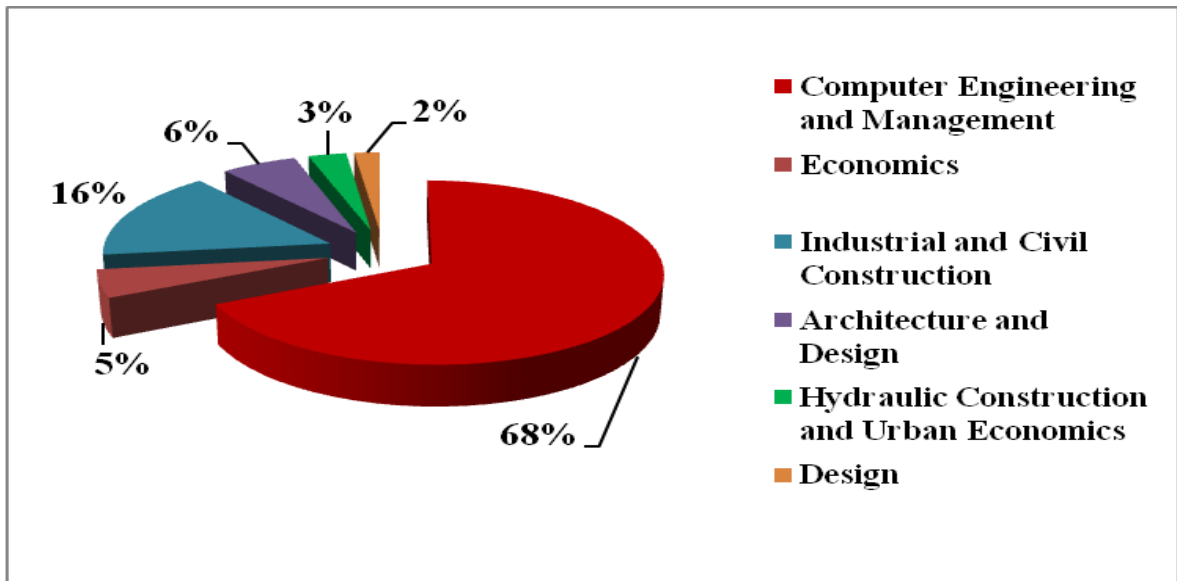
- parents' educational qualification,
- training and learning methods assessment,
- study abroad experience,
- work experience during university study,
- overall evaluation of the university experience,
- intention to pursue further studies.

The sample includes 100 graduates' questionnaires, out of each 40 questionnaires were filled in by females and 60 – by males. The bachelor degree program's (four years study) students within females and males are made respectively 65% and 87%, and the master degree program's (two years study) students within females and males are made respectively 35% and 13% (Fig. 1). All of the sample's graduates are full time students which means that they are earned their credits through the class work achieved by the university attending. The sample of graduates interviewed includes a several specialties, particularly computer engineering and management, economics, architecture and design, etc. The main part of the sample (68%) makes the graduates of "Computer Engineering and Management" specialty (Fig. 2).

**Figure 1. The qualification level of study program of the survey sample's graduates within females and males (percentage)**



**Figure 2. The specialties of the sample's graduates interviewed (percentage)**



### 3. Education and trainings of graduates including in the sample

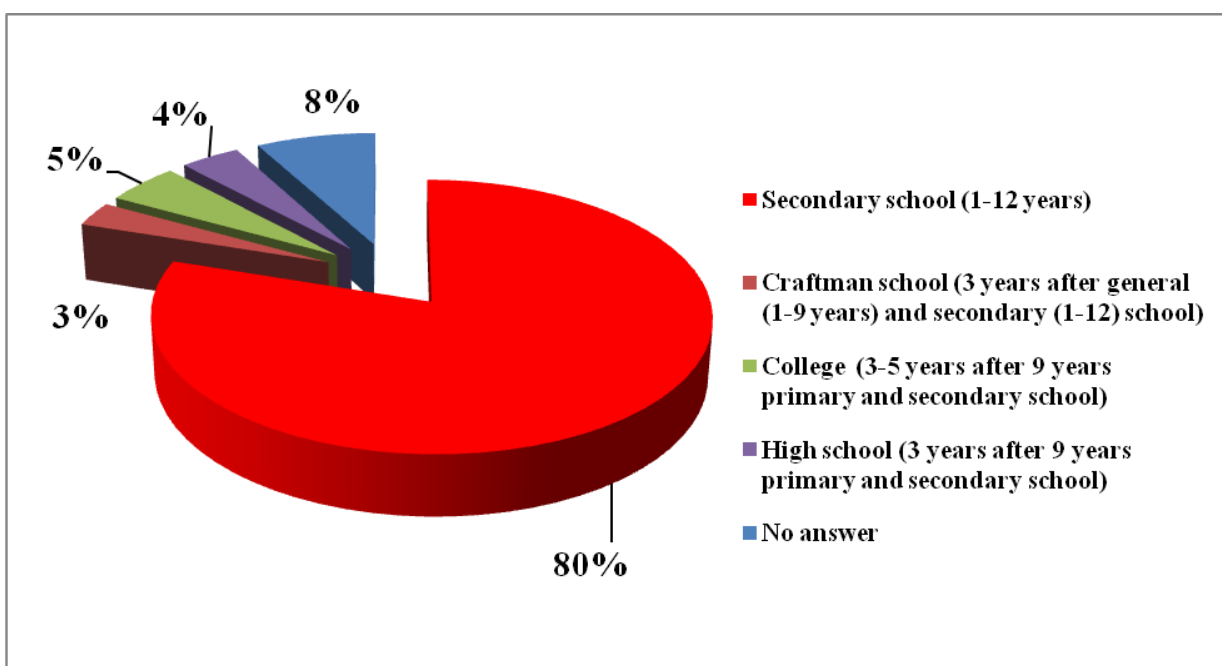
The majority of graduates (80%) included in the sample have a secondary school diploma awarded for 12 years study at the secondary school. Among graduates, who is a holder of secondary school diploma, more than half (52%) have graduated a high school in Yerevan, and 25% of them were studied in other small cities of Armenia (particularly, Echmiadzin, Abovyan, Charentsavan, Artashat, Ashtarak, Ararat, Kapan, etc.), and 23% - in different villages of the country (for instance, Baghramyan, New-village, Achajur, Arbat, etc.) (Fig. 3).

The answers to the question “Have you already achieved another academic degree prior to academic degree that you are now completing?” showed that 80% of the interviewees ignored this question, 17% of respondents gave a positive answer, and only 3% - answered negatively. From our perspective, the phenomena of such high level of question ignoring could be explained presumably because the majority of respondents are bachelor degree students. Among the 17% of the respondents, who has a prior academic degree, 76% - have a bachelor degree and 24% - master degree. Ninety four percentage (94%) of the sample’s respondents answered negatively to the question on “Have you started any other academic course different from the current one, but without completing it?”

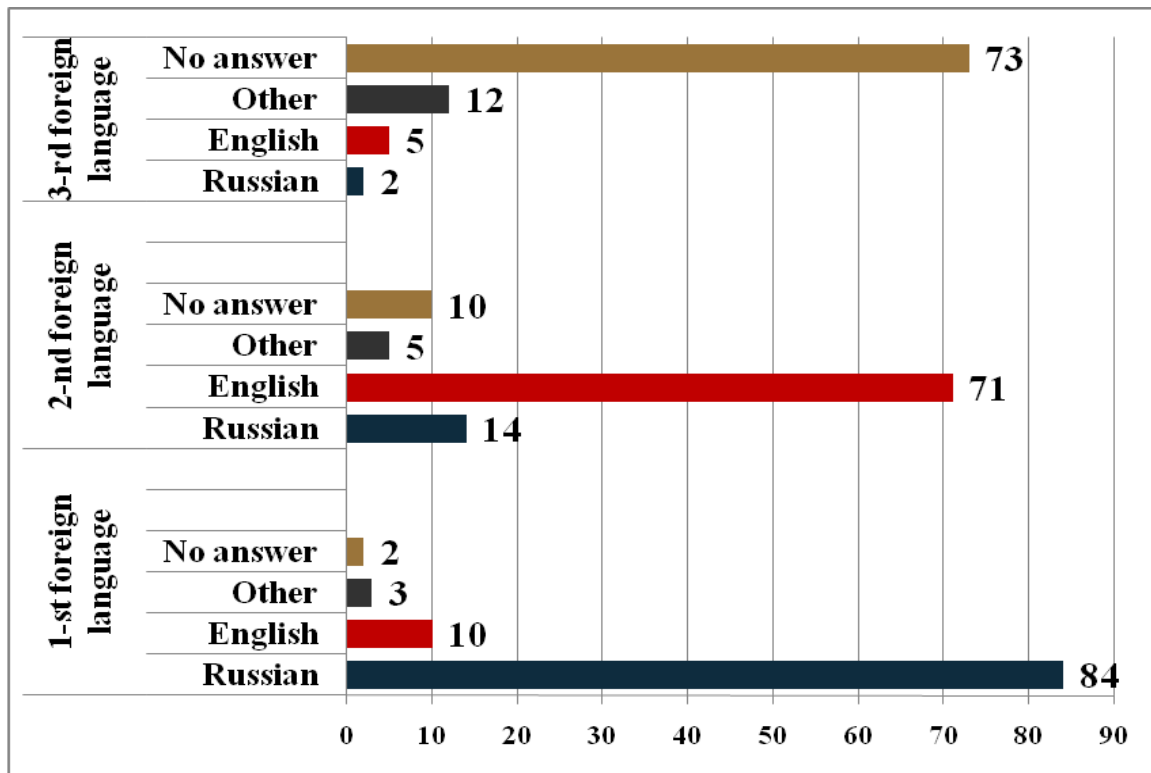
Regarding to the language skills, Armenian language is the mother tongue for 92% of the sample’s respondents. Among these respondents for 84% of them the first foreign language is Russian, and for 10% - is English. 71 % of 92 respondents indicated that the second foreign language for them is English, and 14% mentioned the Russian as a second foreign language (Fig.4).

As the Figure 5 shows, 61% of the interviewed graduates are excellent skilled in web surfing and 45% are excellent skilled in word processing.

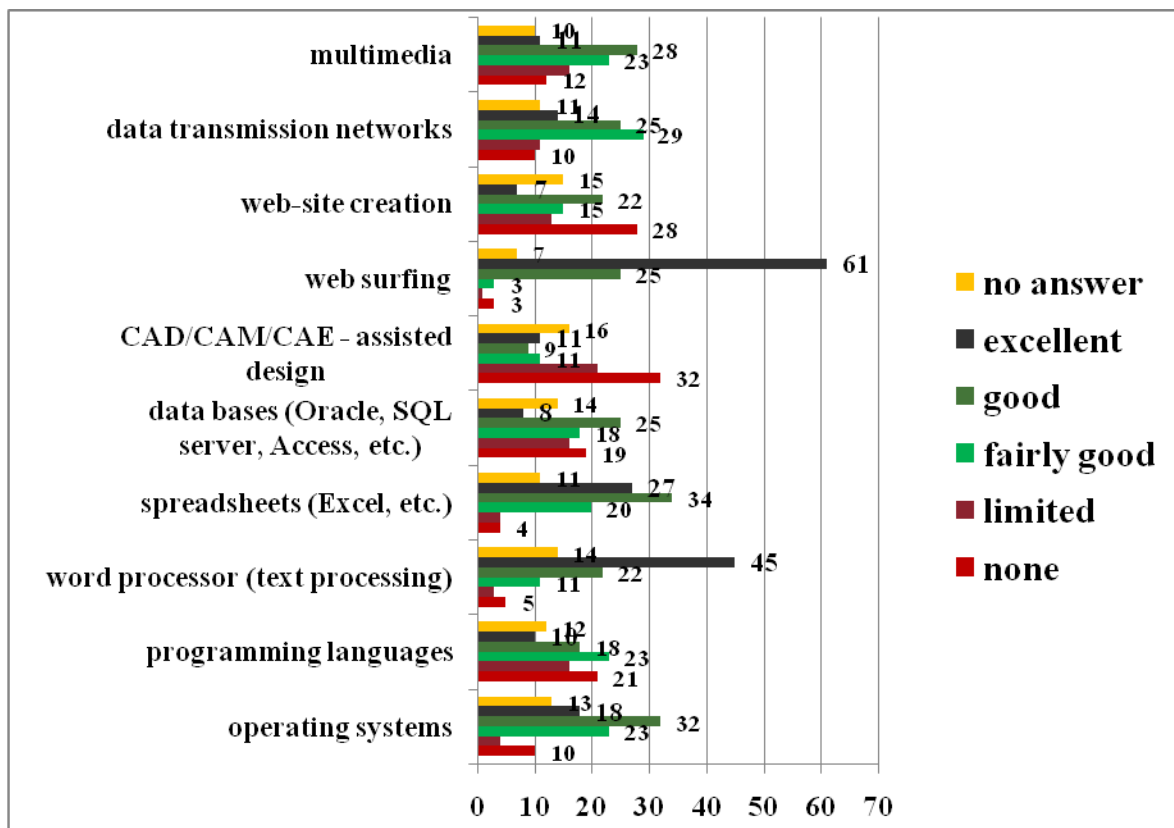
**Figure 3. Kind of Graduates' high school diploma (percentage)**



**Figure 4. A language skill for those graduate whose native language is Armenian (for 92% of respondents) (percentage)**



**Figure 5. IT skills of Armenian graduates interviewed (percentage)**

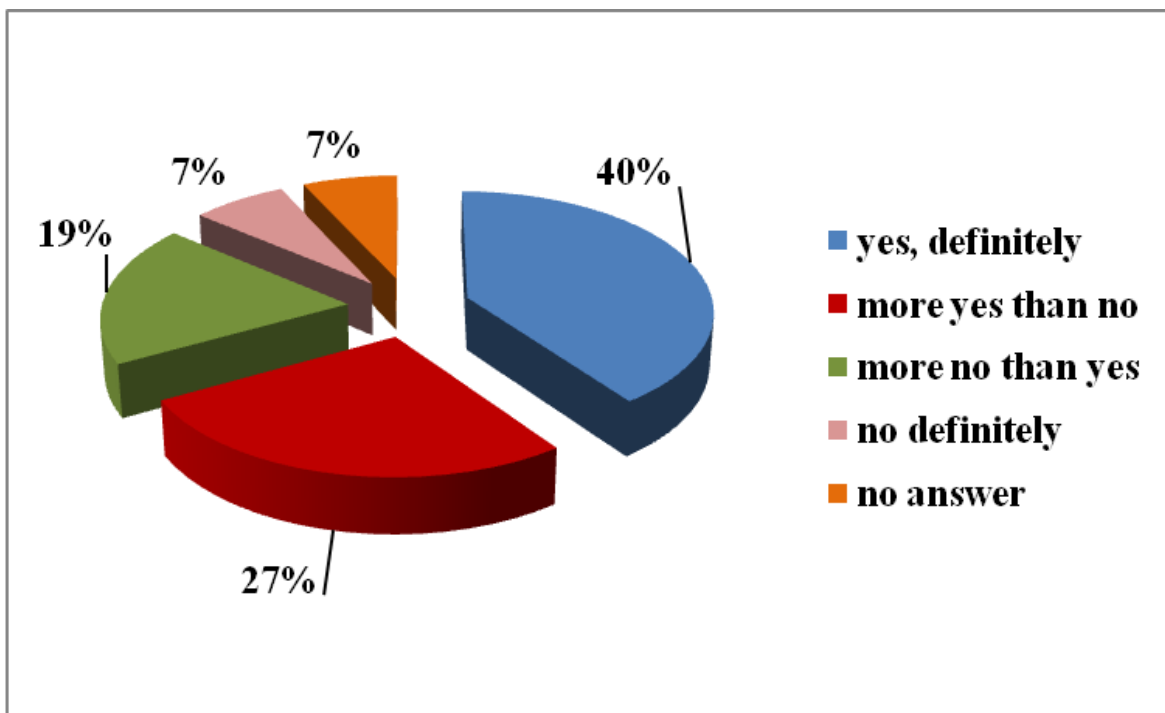


#### 4. Information on the course that graduates are completing now

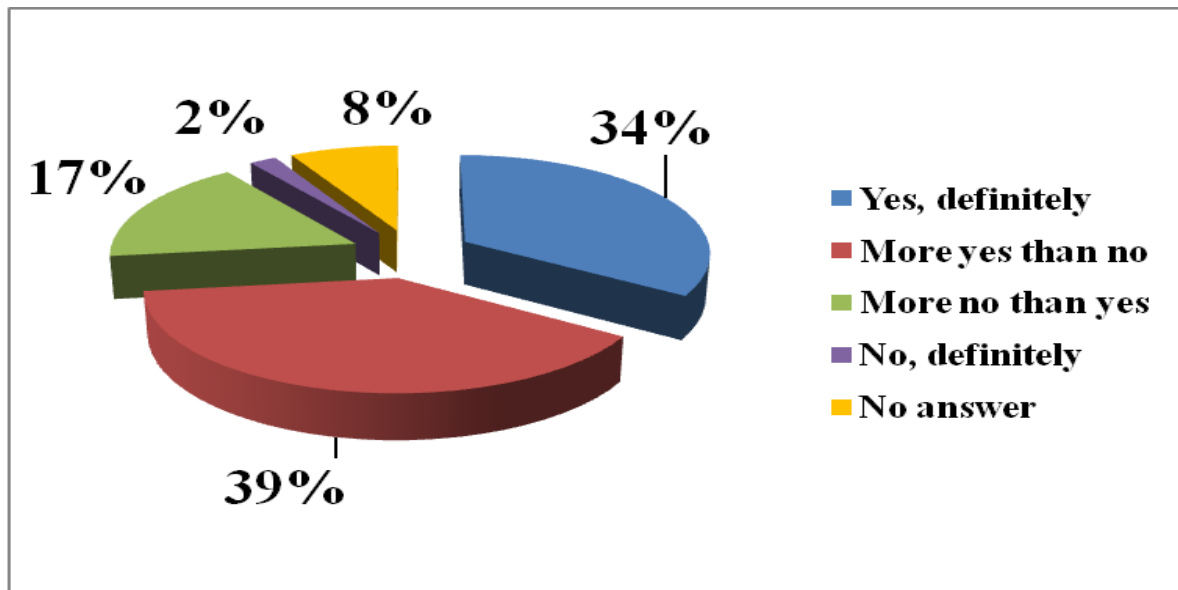
The most of the interviewed graduates indicated that they have known before enrolling at the university what knowledge and skills they were going to acquire by the end of the chosen course of the study. Particularly, 40% of the respondents answered “yes, definitely” and 27% - answered “more yes than no” to the question on “Before enrolling at the university, did you know what knowledge and skills you were going to acquire by the end of the chosen course of study?” (Fig. 6).

The graduates’ satisfaction with the training and learning methods was analyzed based on the information received from the answers of graduates given by them to the question on “Were the training and learning methods used appropriate for ensuring the acquisition of the expected knowledge and skills?” of the Questionnaire. The results of statistical analysis are displayed graphically on the Figure 7. It shows that the majority of the respondents are satisfied with the training and learning methods used at the university during their study. Particularly, 34% of the respondents gave the answer “yes, definitely” and 39% - “more yes than no”.

**Figure 6. The distribution of the answers to question on “Before enrolling at the university, did you know what knowledge and skills you were going to acquire by the end of the chosen course of study?”(Percentage)**



**Figure 7. Graduates' satisfaction with the training and learning methods (percentage).**

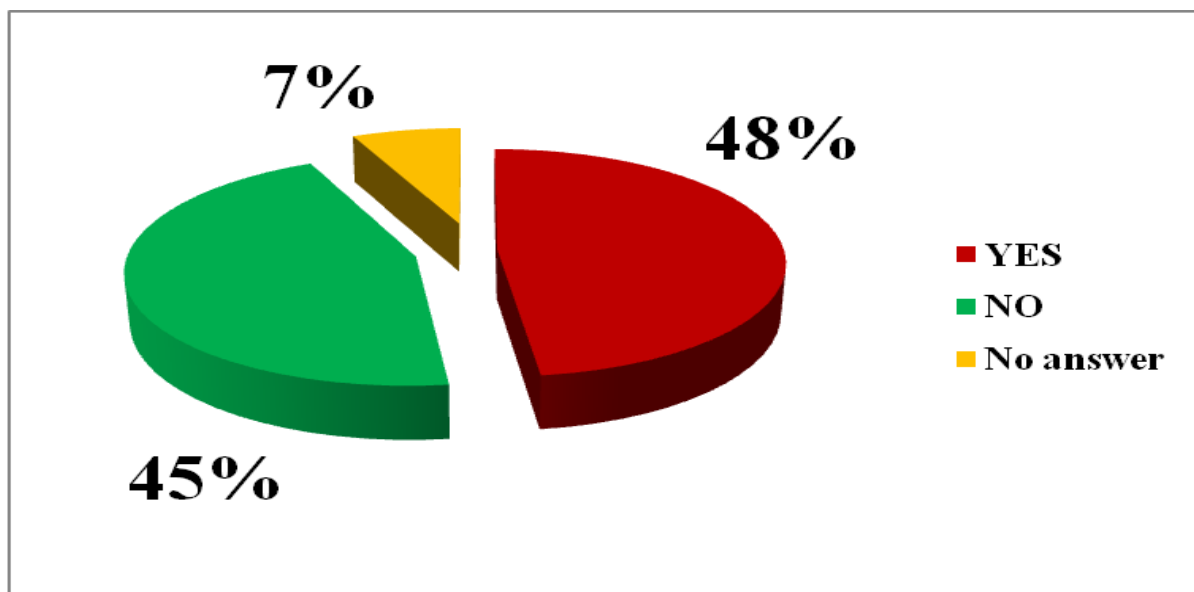


The work experience of graduates during the study was analyzed based on the information received from the answers given by the graduates to the following questions of the Questionnaire:

- Did you carry out a working activity while attending classes?
- At the time of your university studies did you spend time out of class on a working activity?
- Are you currently working?

The results of statistical analysis are displayed on the Figures 8, 9 and 10.

**Figure 8. Graduates' current working (percentage)**

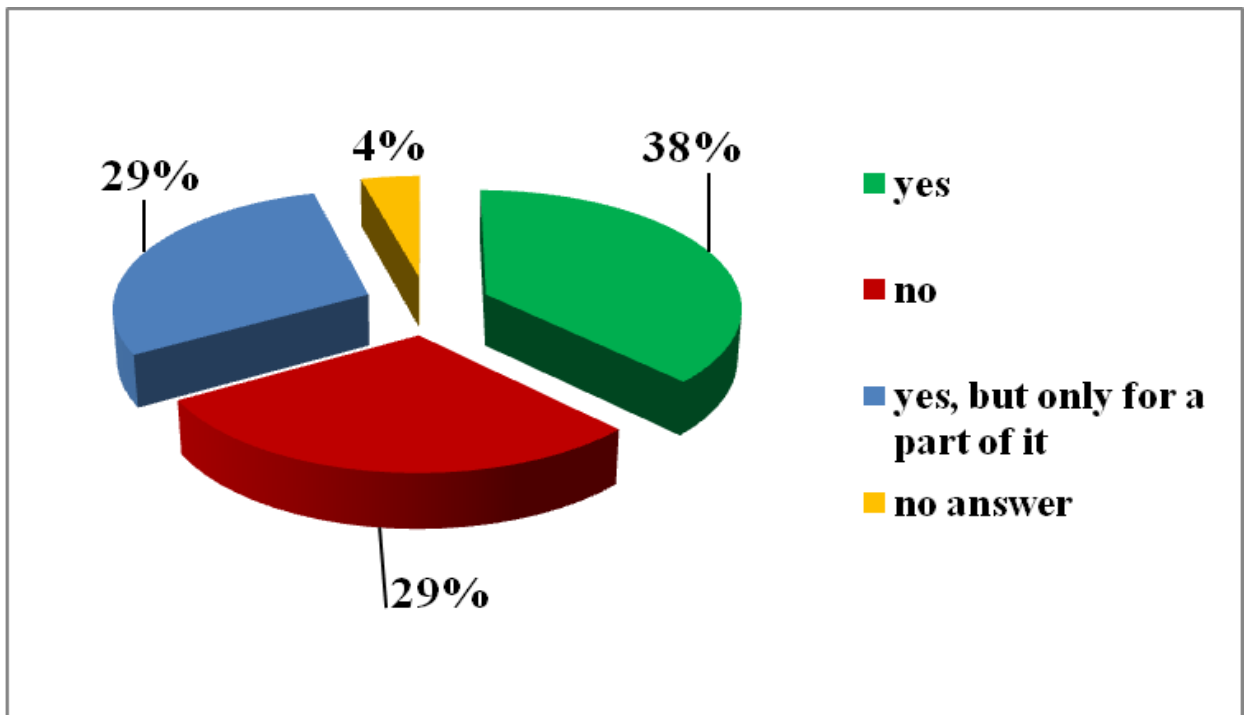


As the chart of Figure 8 shows, 48% of respondents indicated that they are currently working. Presumably the high number of current working graduates could be explained by chargeable high education. It is notable that among the graduates who have a current working activity

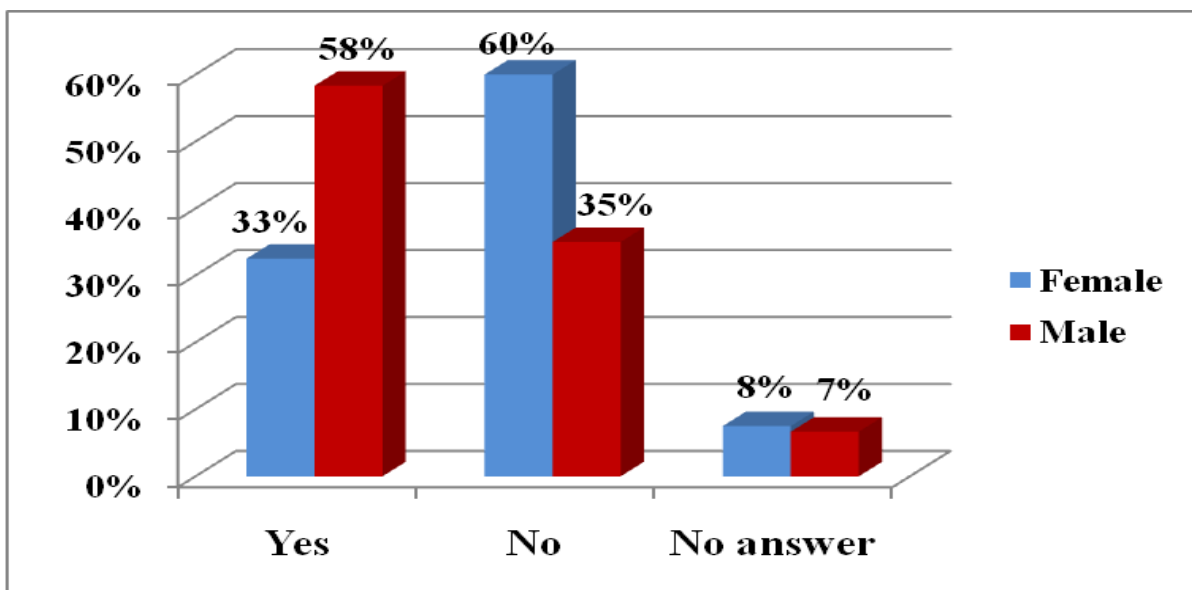


simultaneously with the university study 38% and 29% of interviewees indicated respectively that their current working activity is relevant or relevant partially to the university studies carried out. However 29% gave a negative answer to the question on “Was the working activity relevant to the university studies carried out?” (Fig.9).

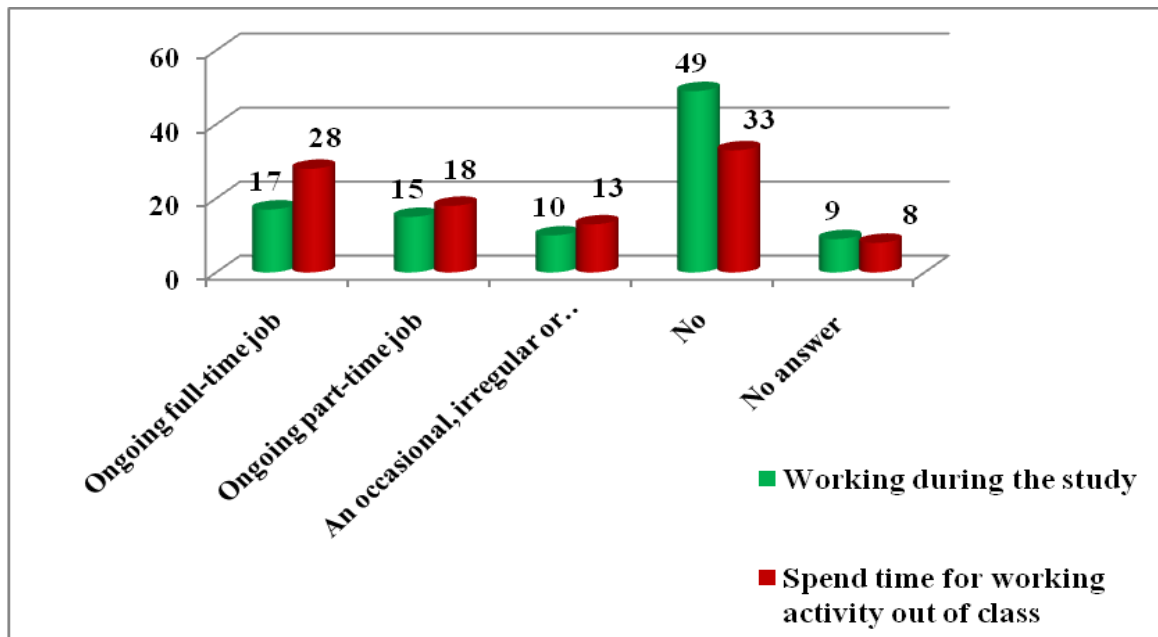
**Figure 9. Graduates’ answers to the question on “Was the working activity relevant to the university studies carried out?” (percentage)**



**Figure 10. Female and male Graduates’ current working (percentage)**



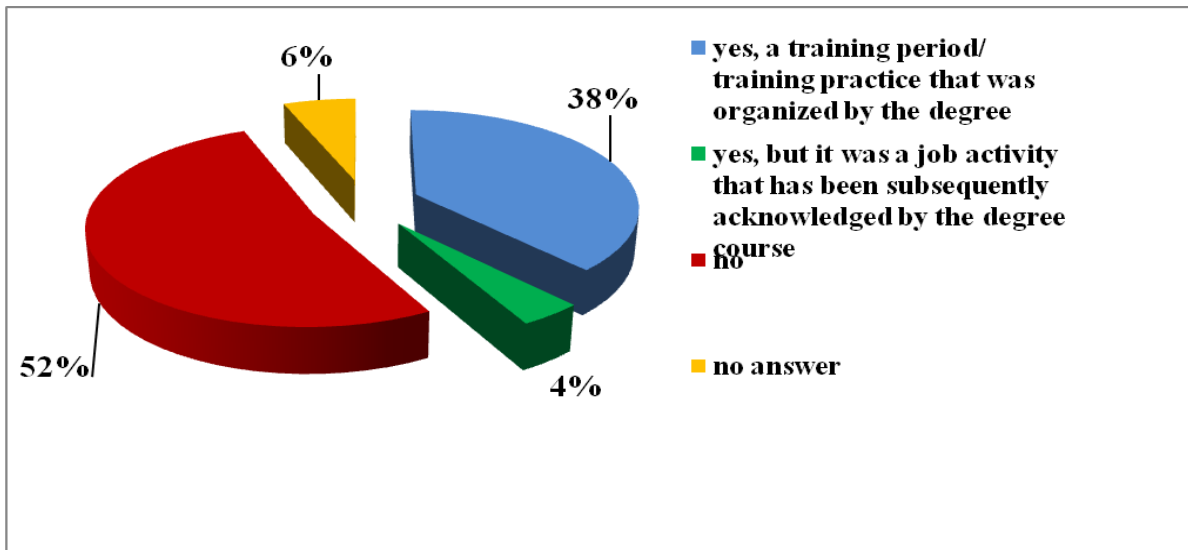
**Figure 11. The graduates' working activity during the study at the university (percentage).**



The database information collected from the 100 quality questionnaires indicates that no graduates have an experience of study abroad. This indicator allows making an assumption on lack mobility among the students of the university despite the surveyed sample is not so big. The mobility programs for the university students are activated in 2014 within the European Commission «Erasmus+ INFINITY» project launched in 2013. However the number of students involved in the mobility programs is remained still very small.

As the statistical analysis shows, the majority of the interviewed graduates (52%) haven't carried out any trainings during the university study period. 38% of the respondents answered that they have some training practice that was organized by the degree course and 4% have showed that they had a job activity that has been subsequently acknowledged by the degree course (Fig.12).

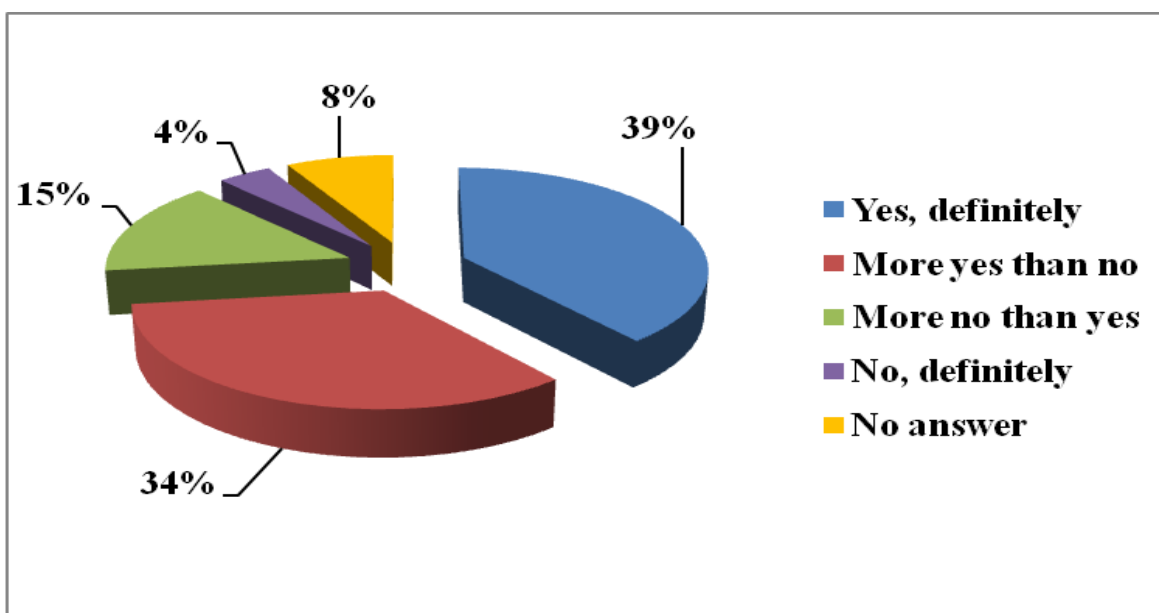
**Figure 12. Proportion of answers to question on “During your university studies, have you carried out any training period/training practice subsequently acknowledged by the degree course?” (percentage).**



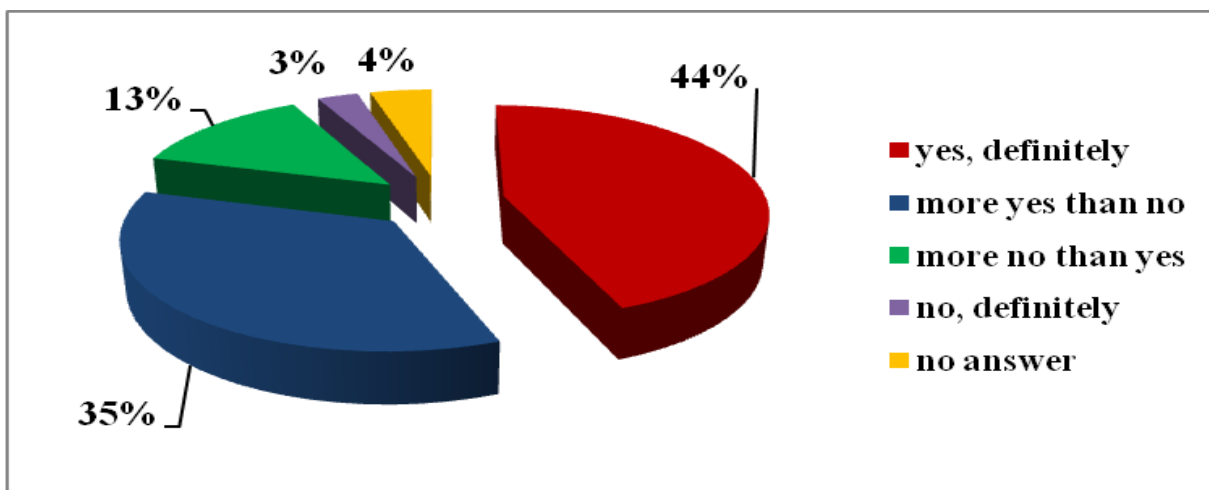
## 5. Evaluation of the course that graduates are completing now

The graduates' overall evaluation of the university experience was analyzed based on the information received from the answers of graduates given by them to the question on “Are you on the whole satisfied with your course of study?” of the Questionnaire. The majority of the respondents answered to this question positively. Particularly, 39% answered “yes, definitely” and 34% - “more yes than no”. The results of statistical analysis are displayed graphically on the Figures 13. As the main part of the sample (68%) makes the graduates of the “Computer Engineering and Management” specialty, by us it makes sense to identify the satisfaction of this stratum. The results of analysis have shown that 44% of the respondents are satisfied by the university experience definitely, and 35% of the respondents indicated that they are more satisfied than no. (Fig. 14).

**Figure 13. Overall evaluation of the university experience based on the answers to question on “Are you satisfied with your course of study?” (percentage).**

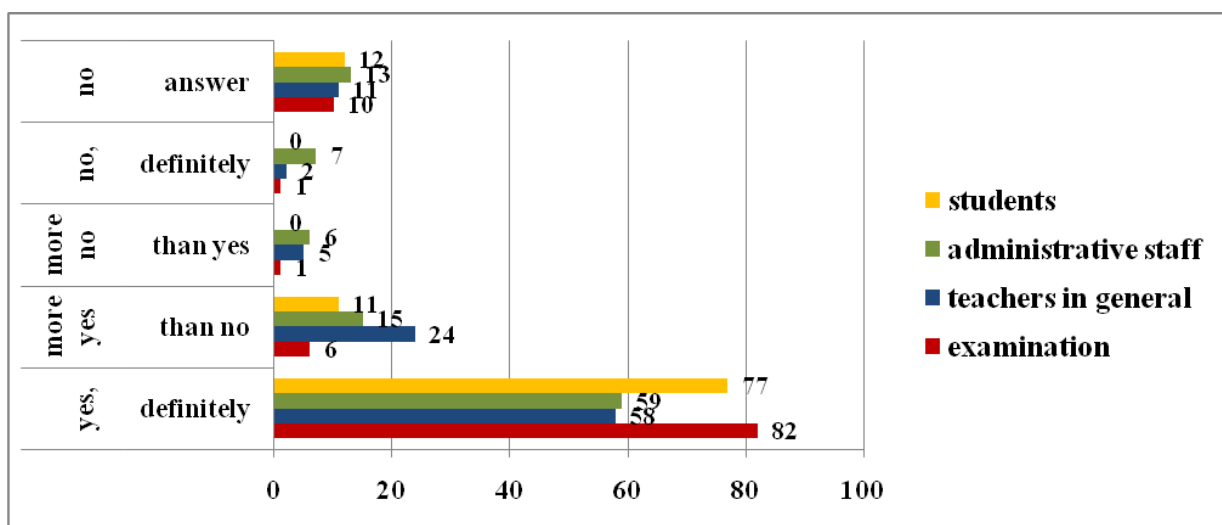


**Figure 14. Overall evaluation of the university experience by the graduates of the “Computer Engineering and Management” specialty (percentage).**

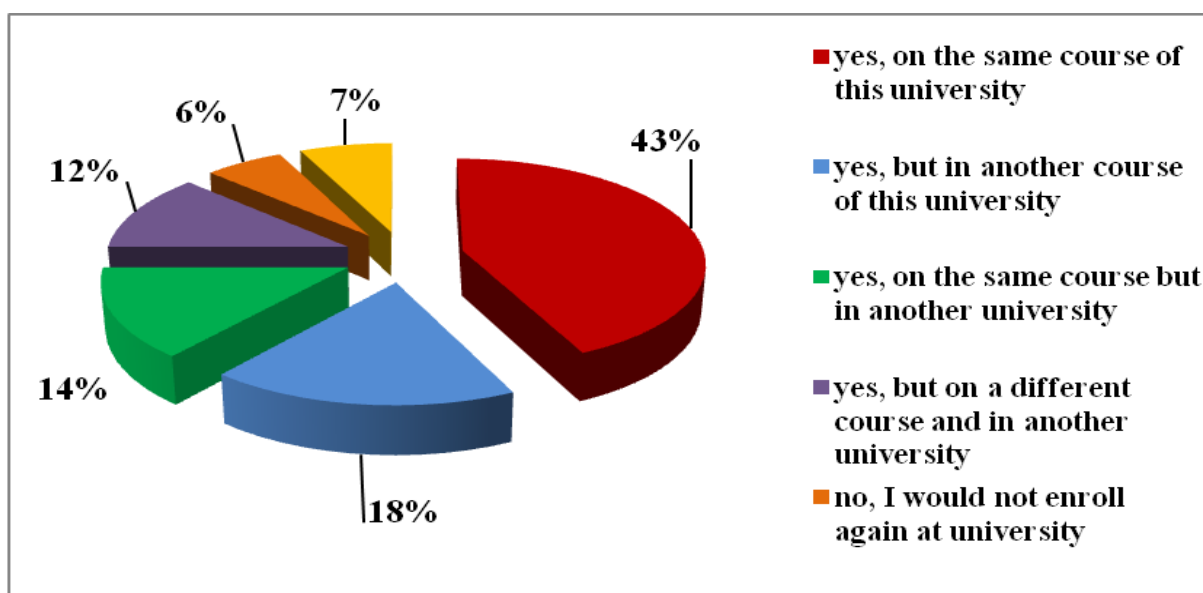


It is notable that the majority of the respondents are satisfied with the examination (82% ), teachers (58%), administrative staff (59%) and students (77%) of the university (Fig.15). The fact that the majority of the graduates answered respectively to the question on “If you could go back in time, would you enroll again at the university?” that they want to be enrolled «on the same course of this university» (43%) and «on the same university but in another course» (18%) is excited (Fig 16).

**Figure 15. Graduates satisfaction with the examination, teachers, administrative staff, students (percentage).**

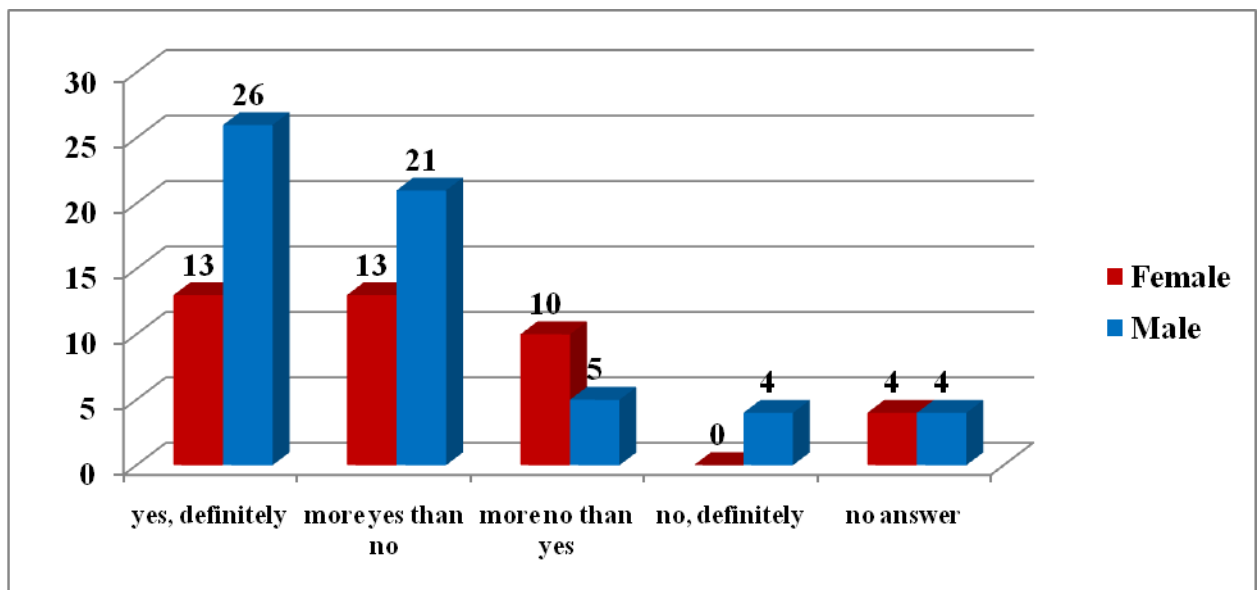


**Figure 16. Graduates' answers to the question on “If you could go back in time, would you enroll again at university?” (percentage).**



Statistical analysis has showed that the percentage of people satisfied with university experience among the males is higher than among the females. Particularly 47 males (or 78%) out of total 60 males indicated that they are satisfied definitely or more satisfied than no, while 26 females (or 65%) among the total 40 females indicated that they are satisfied or more satisfied than no. (Fig.17).

**Figure 17. Overall evaluation of the university experience by the females and males (people).**



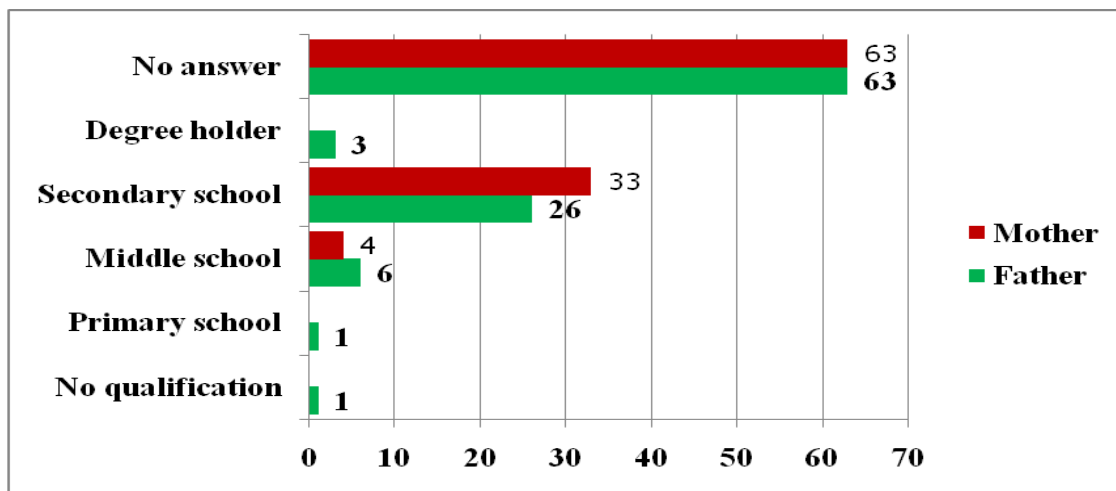
## 6. Information about family

As it is mentioned above, the question on parents' educational qualification was selected as one of the essential question among others. The statistical analysis shows that 63 interviewees (63%) out of total number of eligible (quality) 100 questionnaires didn't give any answers to this question without mention any reason. The fact of ignoring this question by too much respondents needs additional survey. However, we would like to outline a few assumptions regarding no answering reasons, particularly:

- graduates are not inclined to mention their parents' non-qualified level,
- graduates have no idea on the parents' qualifications,
- graduates didn't understand the question completely.

Graphical display of the statistical analysis' results of graduates parents' educational qualification is presented below on the Figure 18.

**Figure 18. Parents' educational qualification (number of people).**

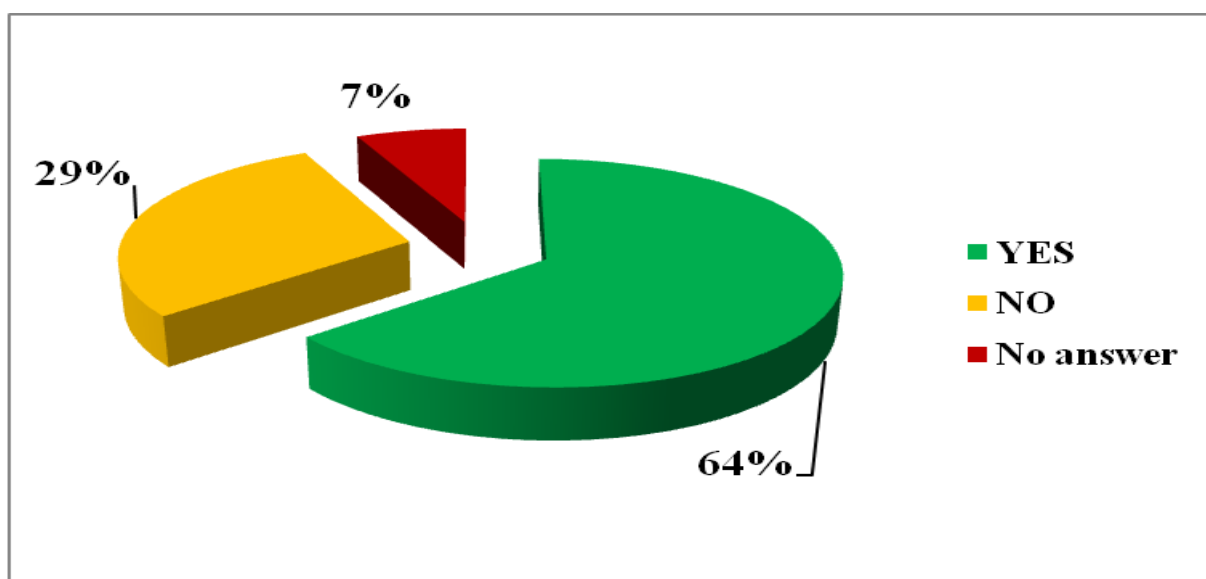


The significant part of 37 respondents, who gave the answer to this question, indicates that their parents (89% of mothers and 70% of fathers) have a higher education.

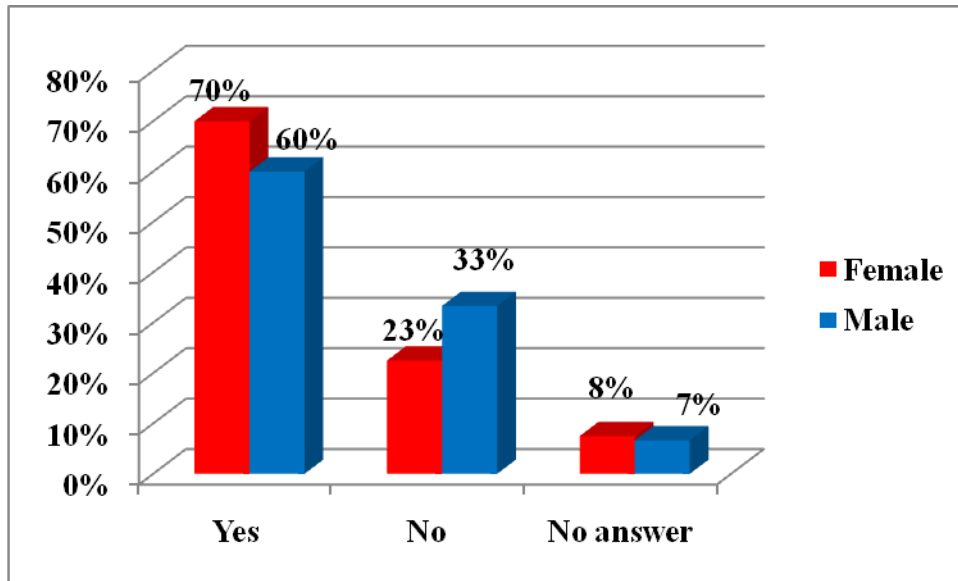
## 7. Future intentions and perspectives

The graduates' intention to purpose postgraduate education was analyzed based on the information received from the answers of graduates given by them to the question on "Do you want to continue study?" of the Questionnaire. The results of statistical analysis are displayed graphically on the Figure 19. As it shows, 64% of respondents answered to this question positively. It is notable that among the females and males respectively 70% and 60% of total number of each stratum answered "yes" (Fig.20).

**Figure 19. Graduates' intention to purpose postgraduate education analyzed based on the answers to question on "Do you want to continue study?" (percentage)**

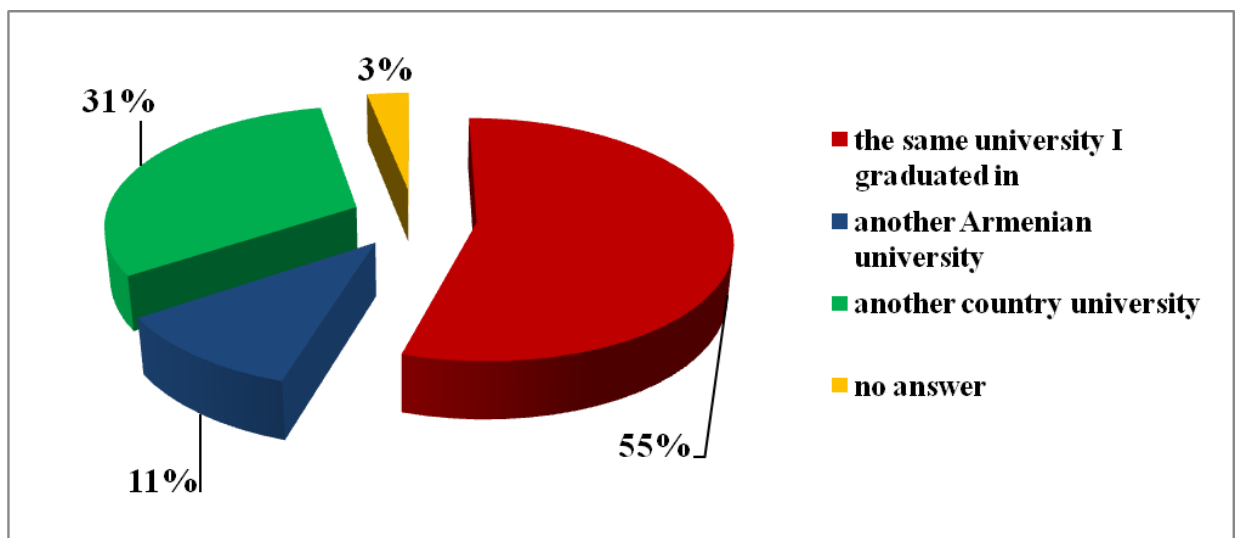


**Figure 20. Females' and males' intention to purpose postgraduate education (percentage)**



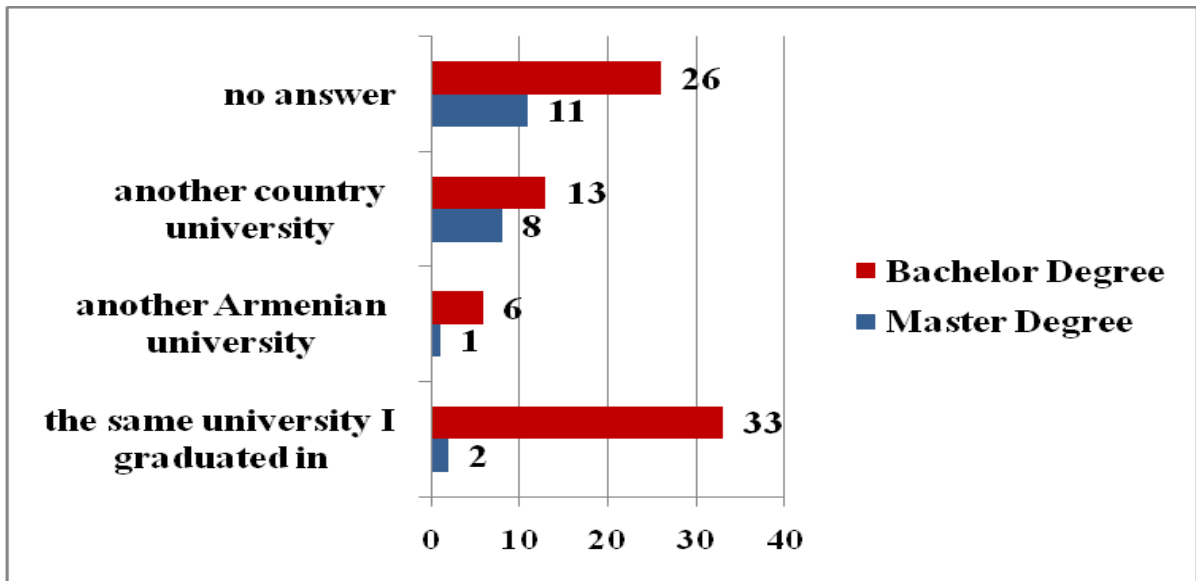
Among the 64 respondents, who indicated her/his interest to postgraduate education, 55% told that they would like to enroll at the same university that they graduated, 31% indicated another country university and 11% - another Armenian university. (Fig.21). 33% of Bachelor and 2% of Master degree students are preferred the same university for postgraduate study (Fig 22).

**Figure 21. Graduates' preferences regarding to selection the university for postgraduate study (percentage)**



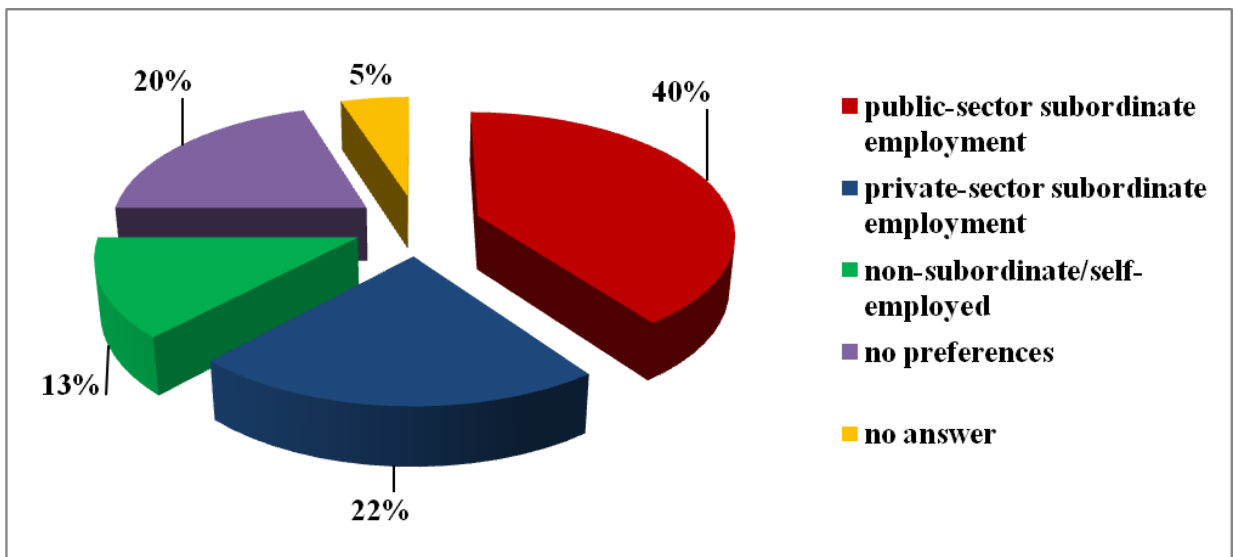


**Figure 22. Master and Bachelor degrees Graduates' preferences regarding to selection the university for postgraduate study (percentage)**



The 40 % and 22% of the sample's respondents preferred respectively the public sector and private sector for their job with subordinate employment, while only 13% have a preference to be self-employed. (Fig.23). Presumably the high percentage of public sector preference could be explained by more protected condition from the point of remuneration view.

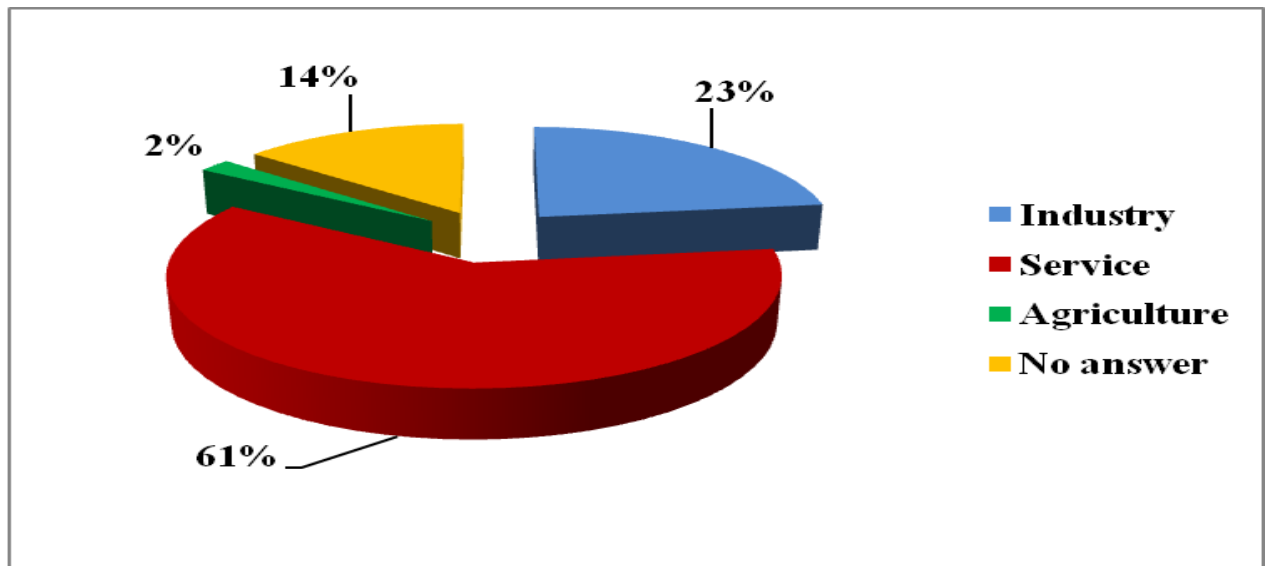
**Figure 23. Graduates' preferences regarding to selection the kind of job (percentage)**



The majority of interviewed graduates (61%) preferred the services field for the further job, particularly commerce, hotels and other public commercial concerns (2%), credit and insurance (7%), legal and administrative advice, accountancy (4%), advertising and public relations (1%),

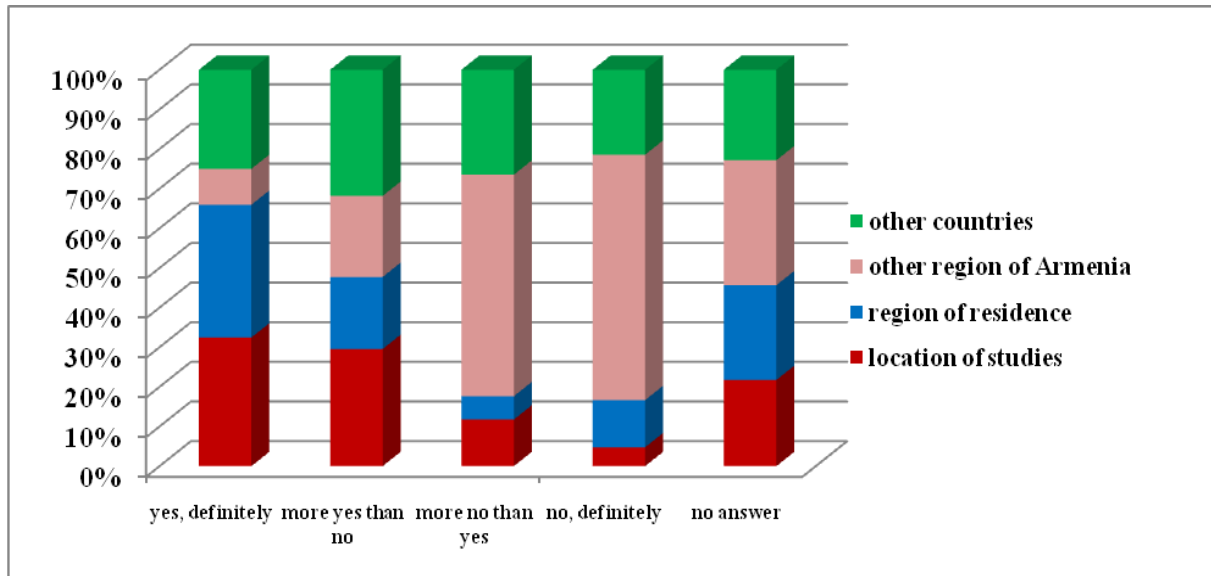
informatics, data elaboration and acquisition (30%), public administration (3%), health service and social welfare (2%), environmental protection (1%), transport, communications and telecommunications (3%), education (1%), research and development (2%), other public, social and personal services (1%), international organizations (4%). Twenty three percentage (23%) of respondents indicated that they are preferred the industrial field for the further job, particularly building, constructing, planning and installing (16%), production of machines, mechanical and transport devices (3%), other industrial activities (4%). Only 2% of graduates indicated agriculture field as a preference for the further job (Fig 24).

**Figure 24. Graduates' preferences regarding to selection the economic sector (percentage)**

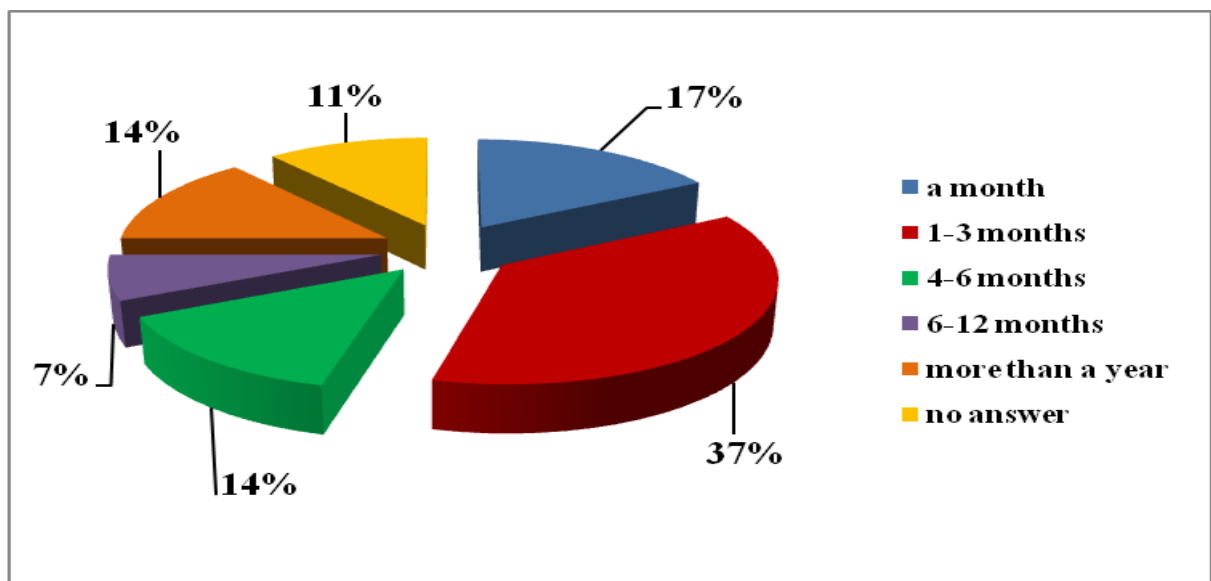


An analysis of graduates' preferences regarding the areas to work has been implemented based on the question "In which areas do you wish to work?" The majority of the respondents indicated that they prefer for the further work the Republic of Armenia, particularly location of the university study (62%), region of residence (52%) or other region of Armenia (29%). 57% of the respondents indicated the other countries as a preferable place for the further work (Fig. 25). The respondents believe that a month (17%), or 1-3 months (37%), or 4-6 months (14%) will make the time of looking for job after the university graduation. 14% of graduates interviewed indicated that they are expecting to spend more than a year to find a job after university graduation (Fig.26).

**Figure 25. Graduates' preferences regarding the work areas (percentage)**



**Figure 26. Graduates' answers distribution to question "How long do you think it will take for you to find a job after the graduation from the University?"**



## 8. Conclusions

The following conclusions could be considered as the results of the NUACA graduates' survey executed for 2014:

- The sample includes 100 graduates' questionnaires, out of each 40 questionnaires were filled out by females and 60 – by males. It includes a several specialties, particularly computer engineering and management, economics, architecture and design, design,

industrial and civil construction, hydraulic construction and urban economics. The 68% of the sample's graduates are belonged to the specialty of «Computer engineering and management». The majority of the graduates interviewed are bachelor degree program students. 80% of the interviewed graduates have a secondary school diploma.

- For the majority of graduates (92%) Armenian language is the nature and almost for all of them the first foreign language is Russian and the second is English. The significant part of the graduates doesn't own the third foreign language.
- The graduates interviewed are skilled mostly in web surfing and word processing.
- The majority of the respondents are satisfied with the training and learning methods used at the university during their study.
- 48% of sample's respondents are working currently. Out of them 38% and 29% of interviewees indicated respectively that their current working activity is relevant or relevant partially to the university studies carried out. 29% of respondents are engaged currently in the working activity that is not relevant to the university study carried out.
- 64% of sample's graduates want to continue their study. Among the 64 respondents, who indicated her/his interest to postgraduate education, 55% told that they would like to enroll at the same university that they graduated, 31% indicated another country university and 11% - another Armenian university.
- No graduates of the sample have an experience of study abroad. This indicator allows making an assumption on lack mobility among the students of the university despite the surveyed sample is not so big.
- The 40 % and 22% of the sample's respondents preferred respectively the public sector and private sector for their job with subordinate employment, while only 13% have a preference to be self-employed.
- The majority of interviewed graduates (61%) preferred the services field for the further job. Twenty three percentage (23%) of respondents indicated that they are preferred the industrial field for the further job. Only 2% of graduates indicated agriculture field as a preference for the further job.
- The respondents believe that a month (17%), or 1-3 months (37%), or 4-6 months (14%) will make the time of looking for job after the university graduation. 14% of graduates interviewed indicated that they are expecting to spend more than a year to find a job after university graduation.
- It is recommended to enhance the survey sample representing of an appropriate proportion between all specialties listed in the NUACA so to provide more reliable analysis of the graduates' profile.