

Where do we live? Values of B&H society and
perceived social work student competencies
Ready for a (professional) life?

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In this presentation

Overview of values research in Bosnia and Herzegovina (European Values Study, 2019)

Presentation of research on self-assessment of professional competencies of social work students

Discussion on where do we live and how ready we are for professional life?!

European values research

Values

permanent beliefs that influence the choice of a particular way of behaving or targeting existence in

values are based on the motivational dimension of personality and are considered the guiding principles in the life of an individual

sketch of a society

professional values with/in the context

Community

Trust

Tolerance

Solidarity

Types of Community based on Values

Traditional/materialistic

- Social identity - a firm attachment to one of the elements of identity
- Affiliation - strong attachment to one's own group/community, social trust particularized
- OTHERS - solid border/confinement to other groups
- Focus on economic and physical security

Modern/post-materialistic

- Social identity - flexibility of the limits of one's own identity
- Affiliation - fluent, social trust - general
- OTHERS – fluent boundary to other groups
- Focus on human freedoms, greater choice and emancipation, increased autonomy and focus on quality of life

Values in social work

Six core values of the social work profession

- Service.
- Social justice.
- Dignity and worth of the person.
- Importance of human relationships.
- Integrity.
- Competence.

European *Values* Study

In what kind of community do we live in? - EVS 2019 results

Sample

1724 respondents

Gender

- 751 men and 973 women

Level of education

- 135 without completed primary school;
- 212 primary school;
- 1071 high school
- 262 higher education and
- 23 respondents have completed a master's degree or doctorat

Marital status

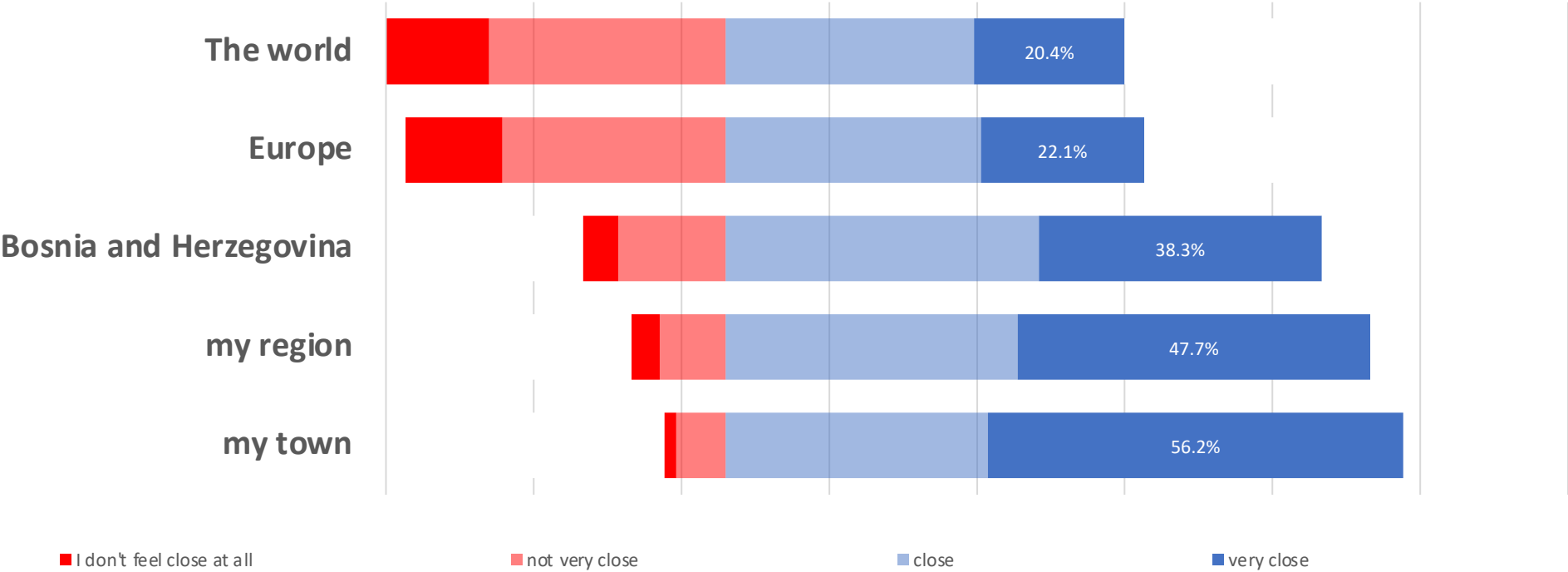
- married (942);
- 460 respondents are single;
- 222 respondents are widows/widowers;
- 56 respondents are divorced;
- 18 respondents live in a partnership;

European *Values* Study

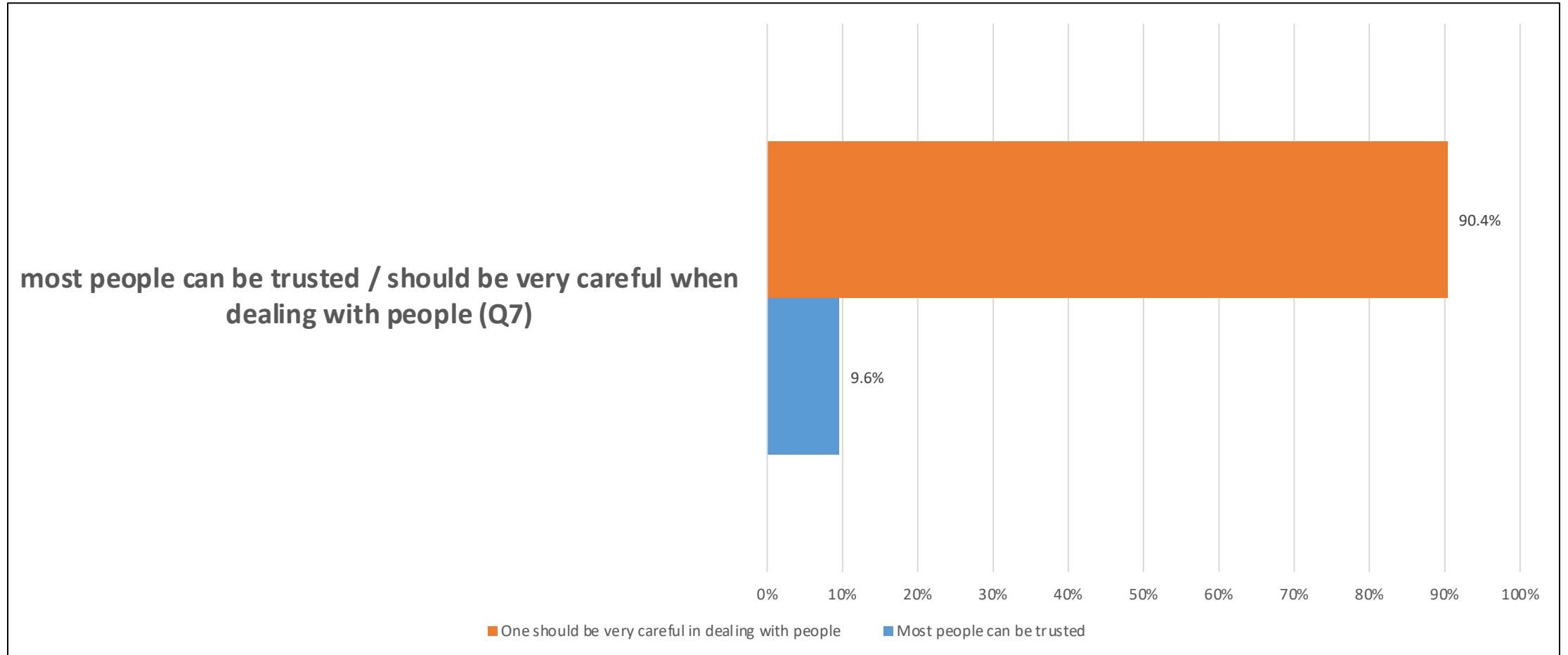


Identification

How close do you feel to:

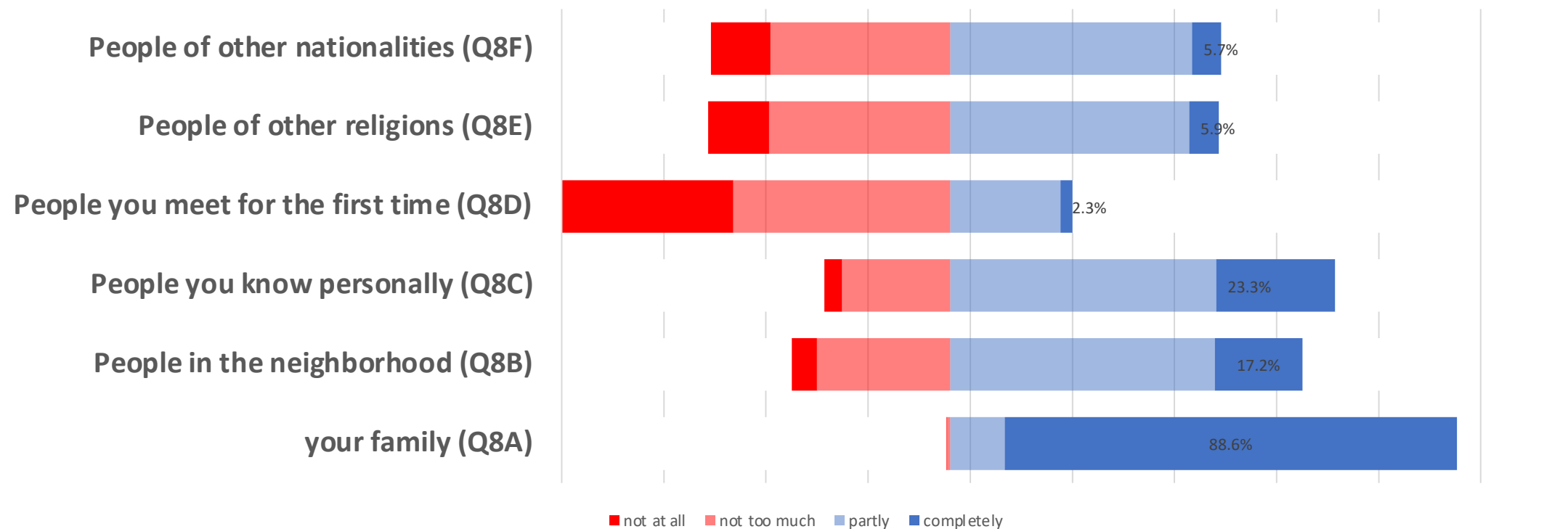


Social trust - general



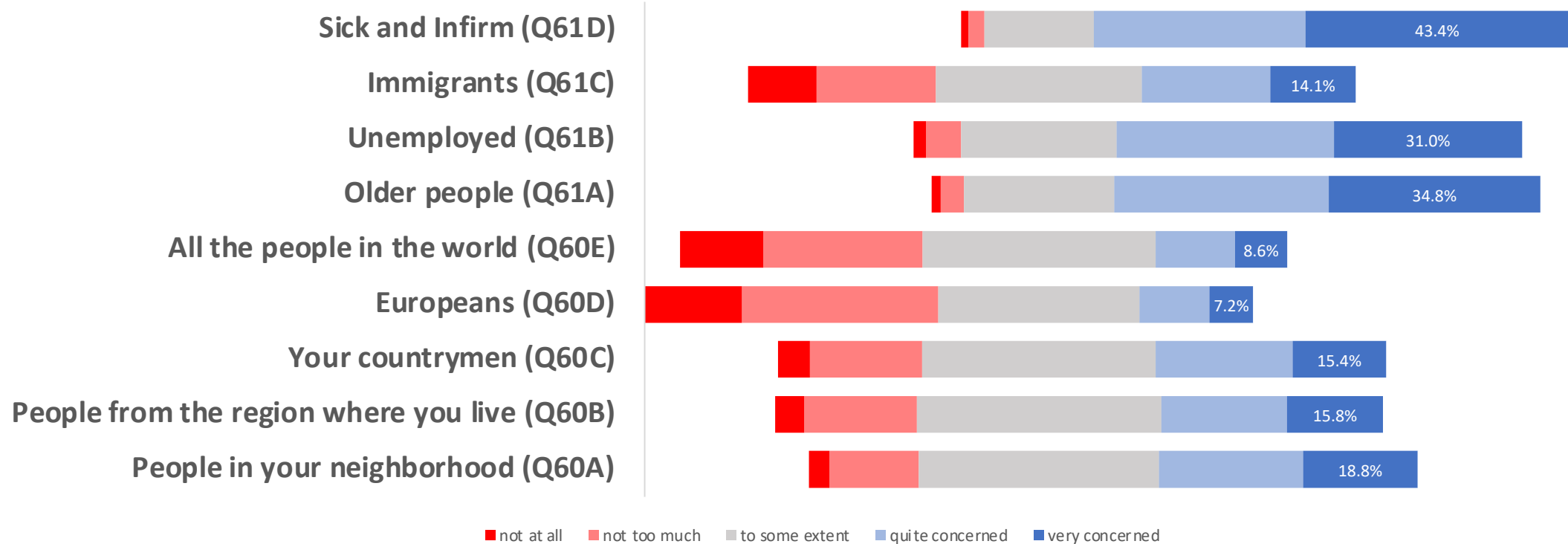
Social trust - particularized

how much do you trust:

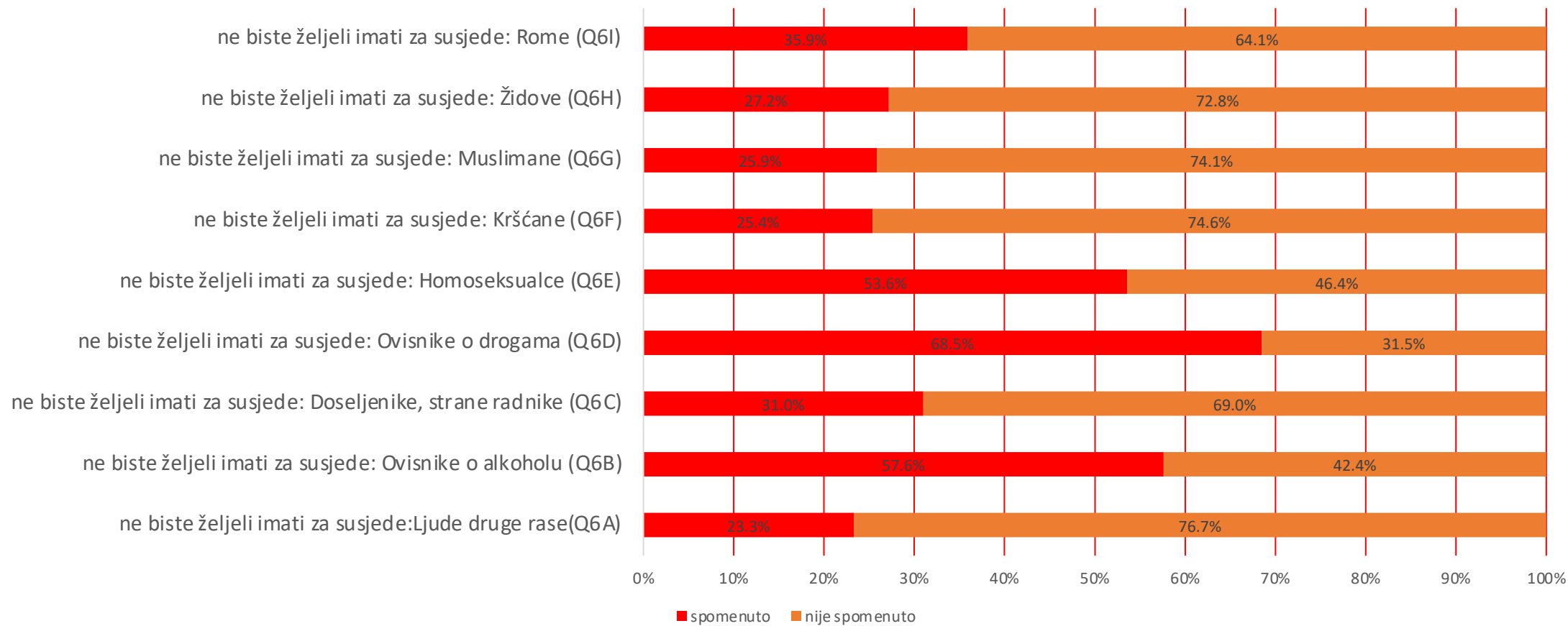


Solidarity - general and specific

are you concerned about living conditions of:



Tolerance



The state of community

survival values in
relation to self-
expression values

"the absence of
modernity"

The research of students' competencies

Model of professional competencies in social work

Competencies relate to knowledge, skills and values/attitudes.

1. Metacompetencies consist of:

- a) cognitive or conceptual competencies aimed at problem solving, critical thinking, analytical approach and creativity
- b) interpersonal competencies aimed at creating connecting relationships, providing support and cooperation
- c) personal or professional concerning the attitude of the expert towards the profession and
- d) values and ethics.

2. Process competencies

- the process of **working with the user** is at the center, for which the dimensions of assessment, intervention, communication and presentation of professional work are important (Bogo, 2010)

SURVEY SAMPLE – STRUCTURE OF RESEARCH RESPONDENTS

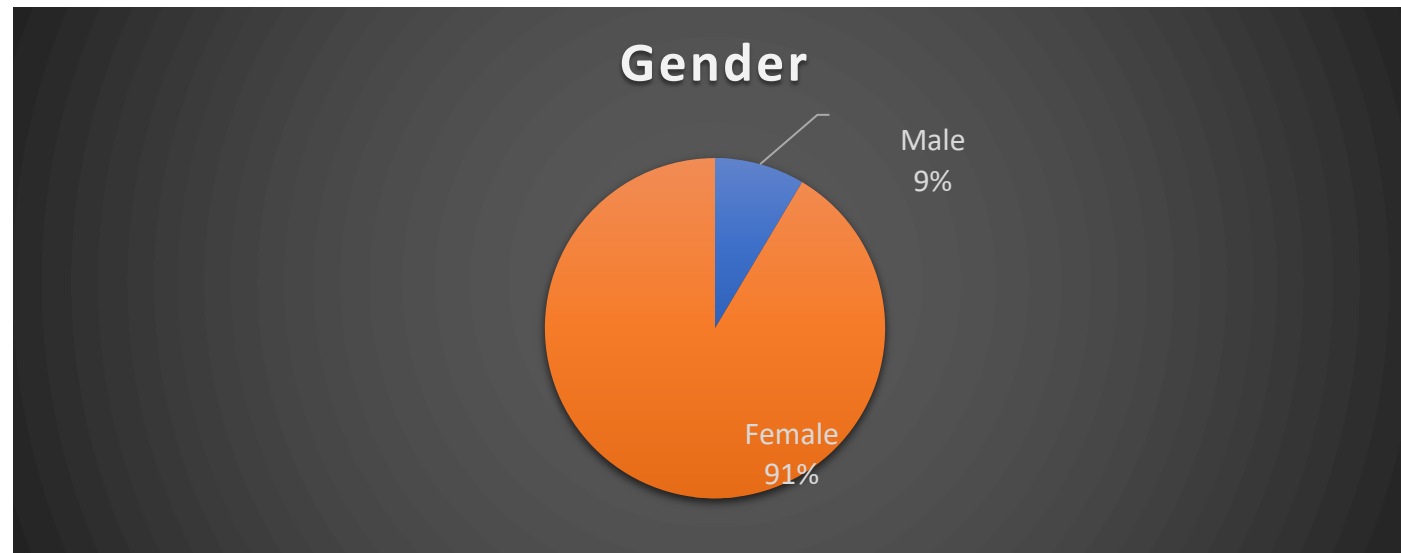
Research sample:

Appropriate sample

Students of the Department of Social Work, Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Sarajevo,
academic year: 2019/2020

N = 112

Chart No.1- Gender of survey respondents



Instruments

1) adoption of key competences for psychosocial work

2) perceived competences for psychosocial work

KNOWLEDGE / adoption of key competences for psychosocial work

Key competencies	1 Not at all	2 Predominantly not	3 Predominantly yes	4 Yes, completely
	Response frequency			
1) Establishing a quality relationship with customers	2 (1,8 %)	10 (8,9 %)	38 (33,9 %)	62 (55,4 %)
2) Assessment of problems / difficulties of user (diagnostics)	1 (0,9 %)	14 (12,5 %)	60 (53,6 %)	37 (33 %)
3) Writing expert findings and opinions (social history)	3 (2,7 %)	11 (10,2 %)	46 (41,1 %)	46 (41,1 %)
4) Active listening (paraphrasing and reflecting)	1 (0,9 %)	10 (8,9 %)	36 (32,1 %)	65 (58 %)
5) Work on changing user behavior (treatment work)	5 (4,5 %)	19 (17 %)	49 (43,8 %)	39 (34,8 %)
6) Approaching the user with empathy and understanding	2 (1,8 %)	2 (1,8 %)	26 (23,2 %)	82 (73,2 %)
7) Work in accordance with ethical values	4 (3,6 %)	5 (4,5 %)	25 (22,3 %)	78 (69,6 %)
8) Scientific research work	11 (9,8 %)	21 (18,8 %)	41 (36,6 %)	33 (29,5 %)
9) Treatment planning	6 (5,4 %)	19 (17 %)	49 (43,8 %)	38 (33,8 %)
10) Treatment performance evaluation	4 (3,6 %)	22 (19,6 %)	44 (39,3 %)	42 (37,5 %)

Results (+) competence adoption

Accessing the user with empathy and understanding

Work in accordance with ethical values

Establishing a quality relationship with service users

personality traits, personal preferences, past experiences, etc. shape our intrapersonal and interpersonal relationships

study already in accordance with their personalities and preferences

SKILL / perceived competence for psychosocial work

Self-evaluation	Complitlety NO	Mostly NO	Mostly Yes	Yes, completely
1) I can successfully build a treatment program together with the user:	4 (3,6 %)	19 (17 %)	52 (46, 4 %)	37 (33 %)
2) They can successfully motivate users to change non-functional behavior:	1 (0,9 %)	16 (14, 3 %)	59 (52, 7 %)	36 (32,1 %)
3) They can successfully teach users specific skills to deal with their problems:	4 (3,6 %)	18 (16, 1 %)	46 (41,1 %)	44 (39,3 %)
4) I can successfully teach users communication skills	2 (1,8 %)	15 (13,4 %)	52 (46,4 %)	43 (38,4 %)
5) I can successfully advise parents on educational procedures:	3 (2,7 %)	10 (8,9 %)	50 (44,6 %)	49 (43,8 %)
6) I can successfully work on changes in the behavior of children and young people:	3 (2,7 %)	15 (13,4 %)	51 (45,5 %)	43 (38,4 %)
7) I can successfully approach users empathetically:	3 (2,7 %)	3 (2,7 %)	32 (28,6 %)	74 (66,1 %)
8) I can successfully provide users with emotional support:	2 (1,8 %)	7 (6.3 %)	31 (27,7 %)	72 (64, 3 %)
9) They can successfully achieve such a professional relationship that users can feel accepted as they are:	1 (0,9 %)	6 (5,4 %)	30 (26,8 %)	75 (67 %)
10) They can successfully assess family relationships and the mutual influence of members	1 (0,9 %)	14 (12,5 %)	43 (38,4 %)	54 (48, 2 %)
11) They can successfully apply in practice the acquired knowledge from social theories	4 (3,6 %)	19 (17 %)	46 (41,1 %)	43 (38,4 %)
12) They can successfully diagnose the user's difficulties and needs:	4 (3,6 %)	9 (8 %)	52 (46,4 %)	47 (42 %)
13) They can successfully assess the socio-economic status of the family:	3 (2,7 %)	9 (8 %)	50 (44,6 %)	50 (44, 6 %)
14) Can successfully assess the emotional, behavioral and social characteristics of an individual:	3 (2,7 %)	10 (8, 9 %)	51 (45,5 %)	48 (42,9 %)
15) I consider myself a culturally competent social worker:	2 (1,8 %)	7 (6, 3%)	42 (37,5 %)	61 (54,5 %)

Results - Skills

Particles of empathy and relationship building mostly represented (+)

direct work in practice (+)

- build a treatment program together with the user:
- motivate users to change non-functional behavior:
- teach users specific skills to deal with their problems:
- teach users communication skills:
- advise parents on educational procedures:
- work on changing the behavior of children and youth

application of theoretical knowledge in practice (+/-)

Values in social work

Six core values of the social work profession

- **Service.**
- Social justice.
- **Dignity and worth of the person.**
- **Importance of human relationships.**
- Integrity.
- **Competence.**

So....

- How can we bridge these two researches?
- Are social workers prepared for implementation of social work values and welfare state into society that we are living in?
- Can we hypothesize that they are living in everyday gap/disruption between values in which they are living and working and social work professional values?!
- How do they resolve that gap on individual level or professional level?! How that is reflected into their everyday work?
- What are some of the key elements that social work study curriculum needs to have in order to prepare a young person for work in the conditions in which he or she lives, while nurturing the key values of social work as a profession?
- Are “social workers” the ones who can promote welfare state? Who can bear modernization of B&H society?

Thanks for attention!