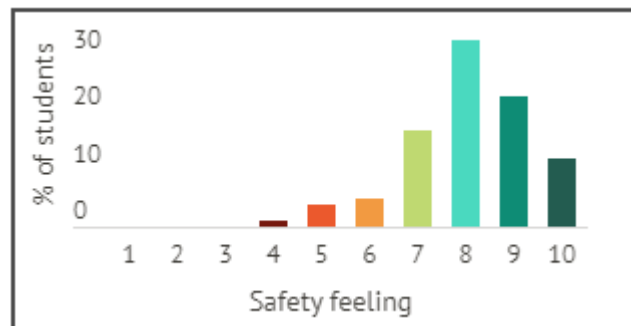# SECURITY – DO STUDENTS FEEL SAFE AND ARE THEY INTERESTED IN SECURITY STUDIES?

Although Europe in general and partner countries are considered safe places to live, do our students feel safe in their living and studying environment? Do they think that the security situation in the region has grown worse in recent years? Many Universities and training institutions offer security studies or include security related courses in their study programmes. But do we teach security sufficiently to our students?

Those were the questions that six partner universities of ERASMUS+ SECUREU project asked their students and teachers in autumn 2022.

281 students and teachers from 6 partner Universities from Latvia, Finland, Norway, Spain, Lithuania and the Netherlands took part in the survey.

Although Europe in general and project partner countries can be considered safe places for living, the survey shows that only 12.8% of the students evaluated safety with the highest mark – 10 points. 23.9% of the students on a scale from 1 to 10 chose 9 and the highest percentage of students 33.2% chose 8. 30.1% of all students evaluated their safety feeling under 8 points.

The main reasons mentioned for not feeling safe were the war in Ukraine, unstable political situation, intolerance towards minorities, financial uncertainty, rising crime rate, growing social uncertainty, media and information uncertainty, cyber-attacks, increased polarisation and badly handled immigration situation.

56.8% of the respondents point out that the **security situation in the region has grown worse** during the past year.
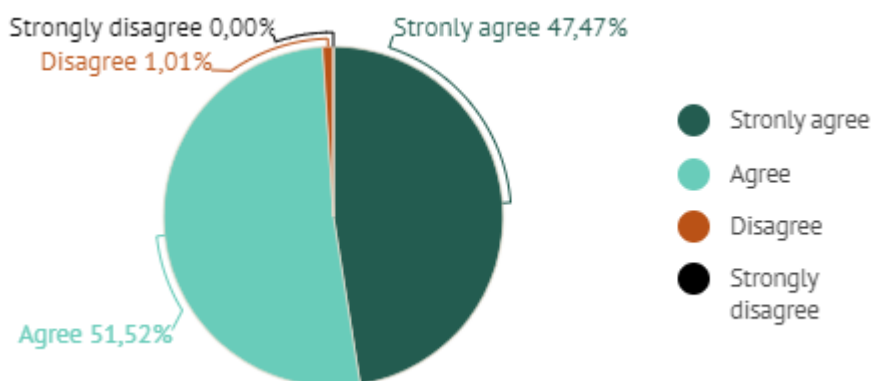
Most of the respondents - 72% of the students confirmed that they have studied security courses at their University. At the same time we have to emphasize that the majority of survey respondents are students of the security field and related programmes. But even these students emphasized that only 68% of them have taken courses on risk management and 55% on crises management.
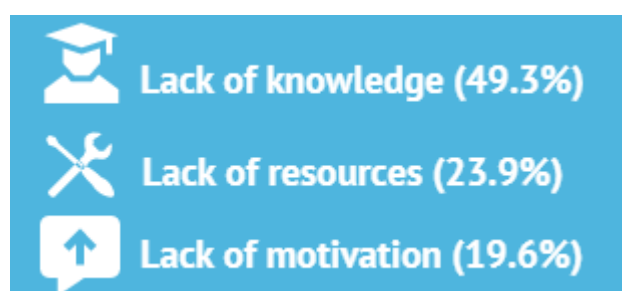

96% of students and teachers agree that security is an important subject nowadays which should be included in study programmes. And 74% think that the university should teach more or include more courses on security in their study programmes.

The interesting fact is that 98% of the survey participants agree that companies and organisations nowadays should pay more attention to security in general, as well as to security risk management. 47.1% of them strongly agree with the statement and 51.8% agree with this statement. This shows very high awareness in the academic world regarding security issues.

The main reasons why companies and organisations are not paying sufficient attention to security and risk management are:

CONCLUSIONS

This survey shows that the security perspective is changing all around the world, in Europe and in countries which are traditionally considered as safe places for living as well. The safety feeling among students in their countries is not so high anymore. Respondents mention that they feel insecure because of different reasons – the political situation, war in Ukraine, financial and social instability, cyber-attacks and polarisation in the society. More than half of the respondents (56.8%) feel that the security situation in the region has grown worse during the past year.

Students as well as lecturers strongly agree that Universities should teach more about security! 96% of respondents agree that security studies and more courses should be included in different study programs. This means that Universities should consider the integration of security and risk management related courses in different study programmes and not just those that train and educate young security specialists.

98% of the respondents agree that companies should pay more attention to security – now is the time to teach more practical solutions and actions, to teach how to handle such situations! It is important to learn more about security risk management and to motivate employees in companies to asses and monitor security risks.

This Survey was implemented in frame of ERASMUS+ Strategic partnership project «Digital education tools for security risk management, project number: 2021-1-LV01-KA220-HED-000023056. The survey was organised by 6 project partners:

February 2023