

Smooth Transition from Academia to a Career in AgroBiotechnology:

Designing Carrier Plan

2023-1-SK01-KA220-HED-000160349

SURVEY REPORT

Reported by SUA



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Introduction

General Survey Application

The project partners held an online meeting to revise project activities together. After the kick-off meeting, they began undertaking their assigned tasks.

Responsibilities and Tasks

- UMH was the leading partner of Work Package 2. SUA took the lead in developing the initial survey content. The partners based this on 4 different topics in career development in line with the contemporary requirements.
- All the partners participated in survey question preparation and data collection through questionnaires, literature reviews, and teamwork.
- After the question preparations and arrangements, partners applied the surveys to their students, agrobiotech academicians and other relevant experts.
- Partners prepared their survey reports, including survey results and highlighting 5 important outcomes at the end.

Date of Evaluation

03.06.2024

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Aims and Objectives of the Survey Application

The survey is designed to gather valuable insights from individuals interested in pursuing careers in the field of agrobiotechnology. The responses of the questions would directly contribute to the development of five key modules that will equip agrobiotech students and graduates with the knowledge, skills, and strategies necessary to navigate their professional pathway.

Overall Objective:

Understand the aspirations, challenges, and needs of individuals in order to enter the agrobiotechnology industry.

Section-Specific Objectives:

Section 1: Demographic Information

- Identify the current position of the participants
- Determine the participants' seniority in sector/years of study in university

Section 2: Self-Assessment and Goal Setting

- Encourage self-reflection and analysis of personal strengths and weaknesses.
- Help individuals visualise their ideal work environment within agrobiotechnology.
- Develop an understanding of the skills and qualities valued in the industry.

Section 3: Networking, Job Search Strategies, and Interview Tips

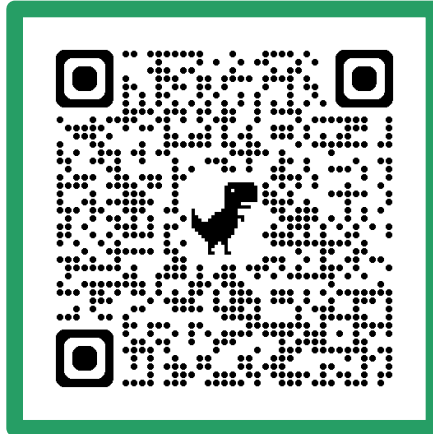
- Highlight the importance of networking in building successful careers.
- Inquire about job search strategies within the agrobiotechnology sector.
- Reveal the strategies for preparing and excelling in job interviews.

Section 4: Professional Development and Training

- Identify obstacles faced by individuals seeking professional development opportunities.
- Analyse the ideal balance between theoretical knowledge and practical experience.
- Showcase examples of effective training programs within agrobiotechnology.

Section 5: Career Advancement, Mentorship, and Coaching

- Define the qualities individuals seek in a mentor within agrobiotechnology.
- Identify key leadership qualities for aspiring managers in the industry.
- Explore strategies for fostering collaboration and innovation in team settings.



We invite interested researchers and educators to see the survey questions on an anonymous survey form whose QR code is provided above and share their opinions with us as well.

Methodology

Evaluation Methods

Participants filled in a survey form including 4 multiple choice questions and 20 with checkboxes.

Sample

25 responders participated in the survey applied in Nitra, Slovakia. 9 of them were academicians, 10 were sector representatives, 4 students, and 2 other.

Data Analysis Procedures

For all questions the frequencies of the answers were calculated.

The open-ended questions asking participants to specify their answer if they marked “other” provided an insight into the opinions of participants. And their evaluation were made through content analysis.

Results

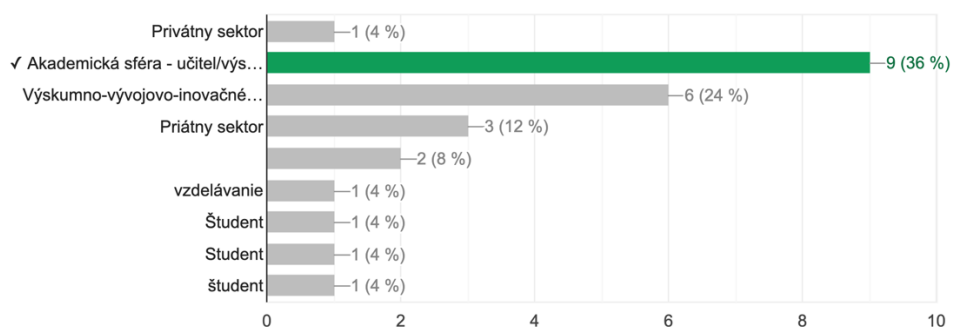
Results by Section

Section 1

Q1

1. Sektor, v ktorom vykonávate svoju činnosť

9 správnych odpovedí z 25

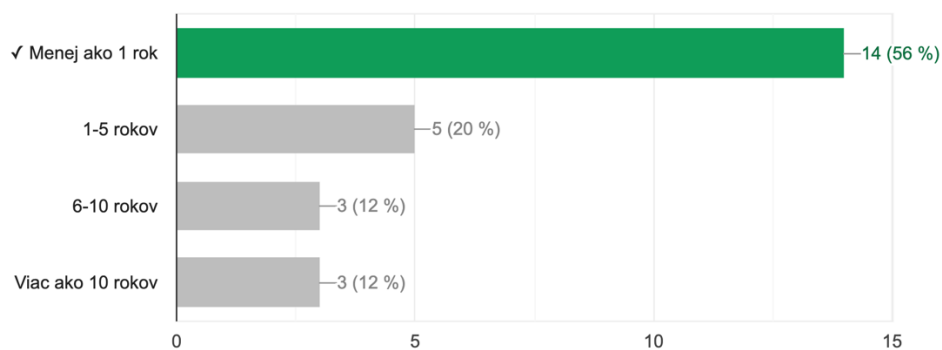


25 responders participated in the survey applied in Nitra, Slovakia. 9 of them were academicians, 10 were sector representatives, 4 students, and 2 other.

Q2

2. Vaše skúsenosti v biotechnologickej oblasti

14 správnych odpovedí z 25

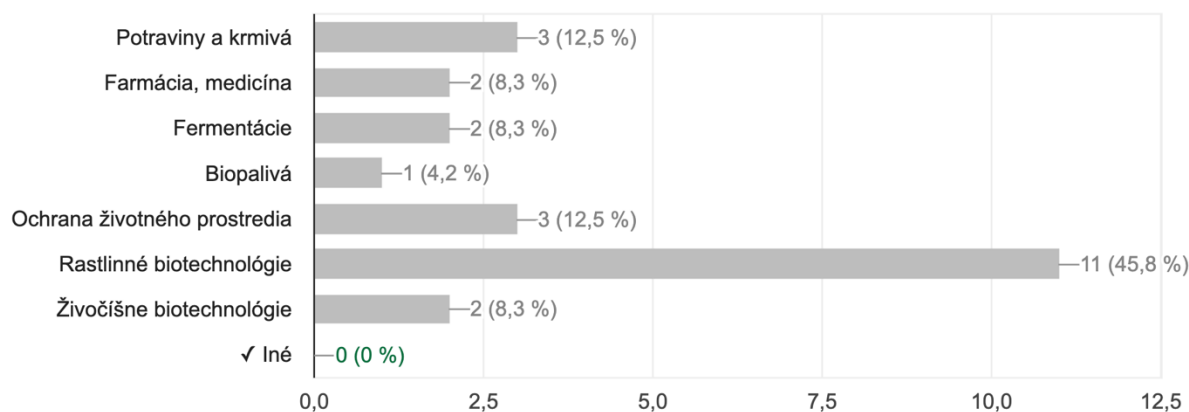


The most of the participants had experience in their field less than 1 , which is 56% participants with 1-5 years of experience followed them.

Q3

3. V akej hlavnej biotechnologickej oblasti pracujete?

0 správnych odpovedí z 24

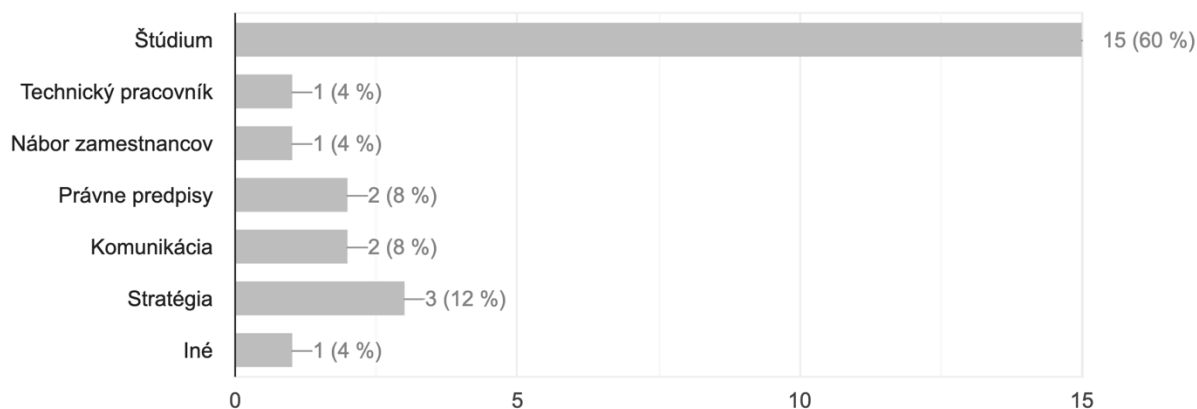


11 participants declared that they worked or wanted to work in plant biotechnology field which is 45.8% of the responders.

Q4

5. Aká je vaša úloha v organizácii, v ktorej pracujete?

0 správnych odpovedí z 25



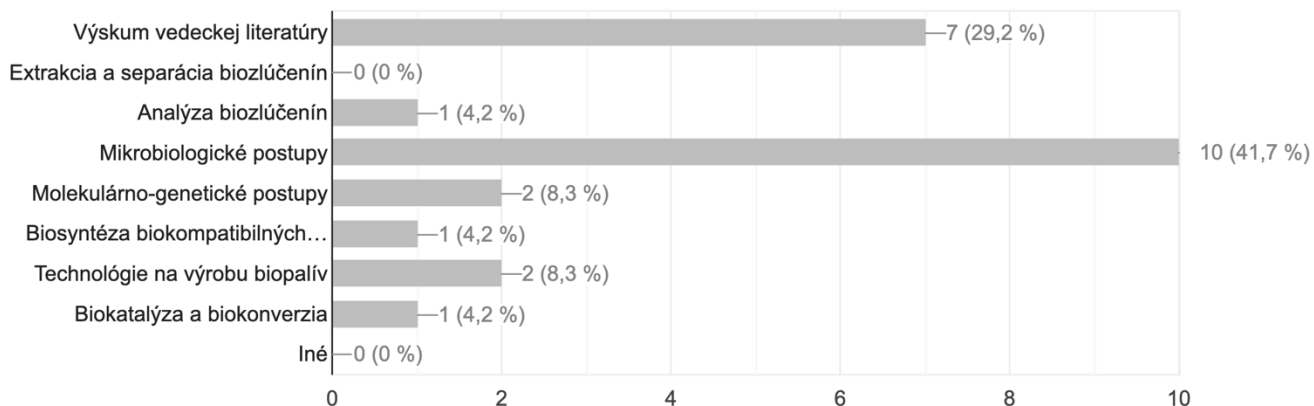
15 participants (60%) replied this question, that they study. Other works in strategy (12%).

Section 2

Q1

1. Aké odborné zručnosti ste získali na akademickej pôde a môžu byť užitočné v priemysle?

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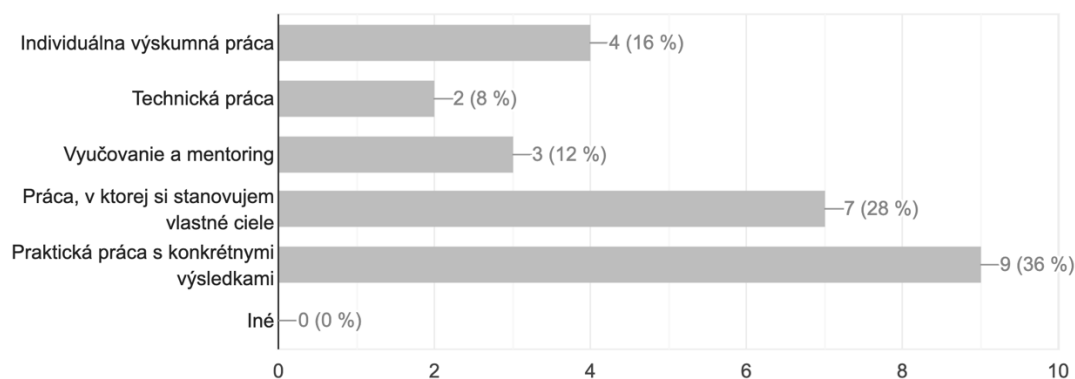


The most marked skill was microbiology with 41.7 %. Other preferred skills were respectively; scientific literature research (29.2%), molecular biology (8.3%)

Q2

2. Aký typ práce uprednostňujete?

0 správnych odpovedí z 25

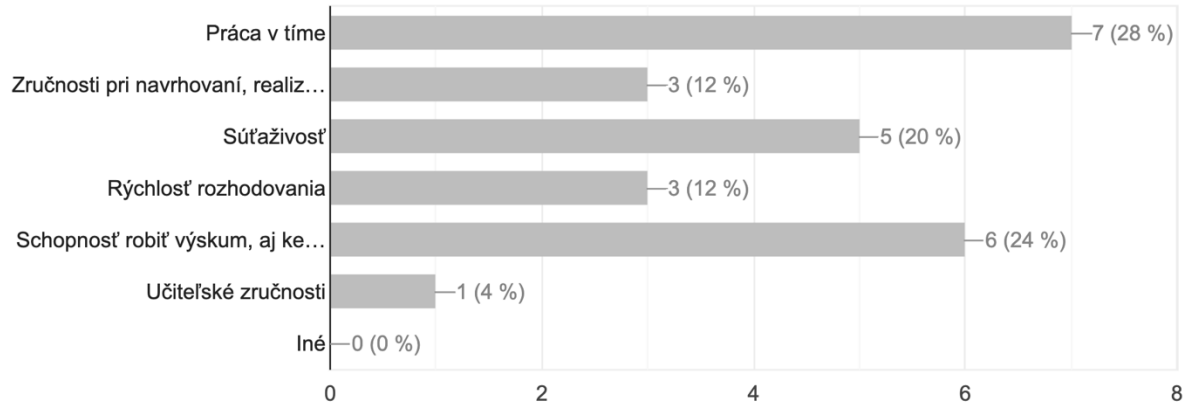


36% of participants prefer practical work with results (36%) and 28% prefer to have their own results.

Q3

3. Čo považujete za svoje silné stránky?

0 správnych odpovedí z 25

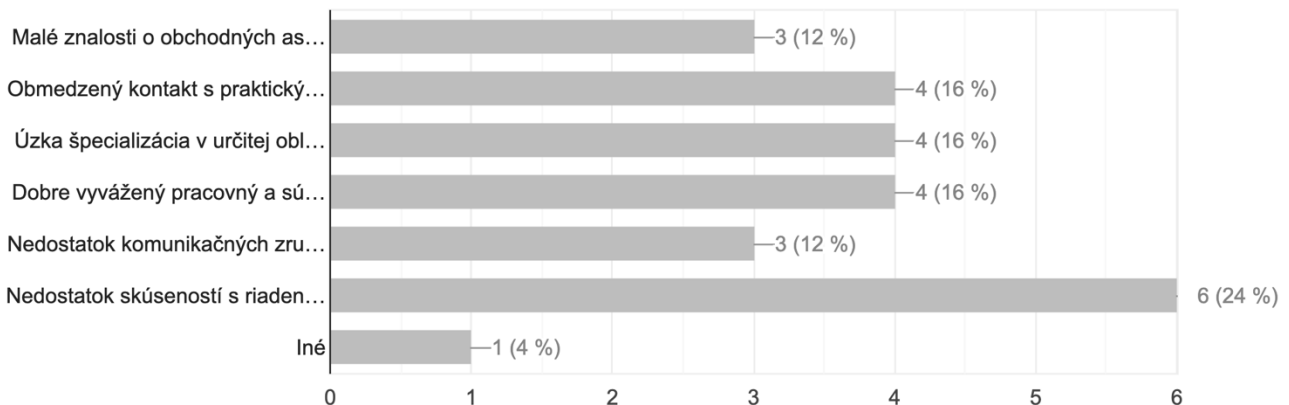


What do you consider your strengths? 28% consider the ability to work in a team to be their greatest strength. The second most selected strength, (24%) suggesting that many respondents have resilience and determination in research.

Q4

4. Čo považujete za svoje slabé stránky?

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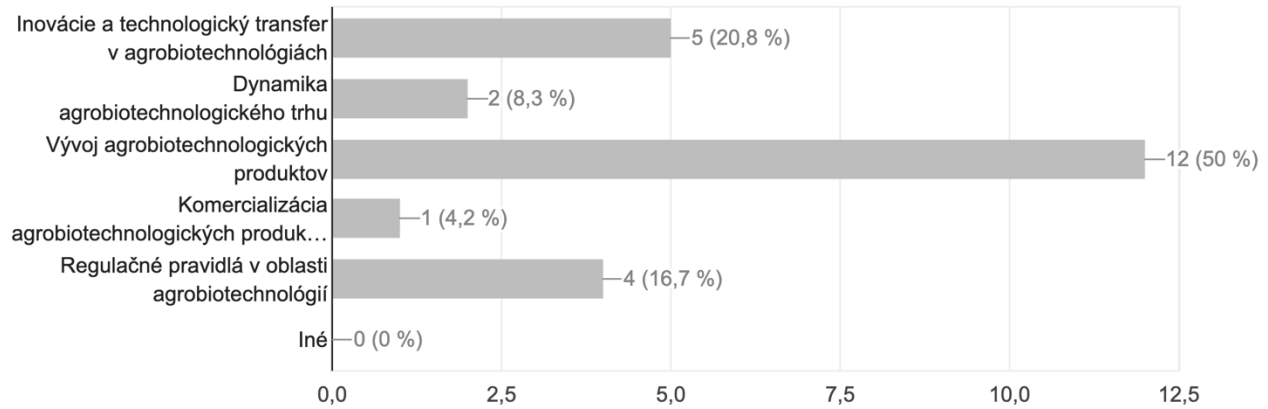


Weaknesses 24% of the participants considered their lack of experience. 16% of the participants voted narrow specialization, underdeveloped working and private life, and limited contact with practical methods as the weakest points.

Q5

5. Ktorý z nasledujúcich kurzov by vám podľa vás pomohol zlepšiť vaše vedomosti týkajúce sa biotechnologického priemyselného prostredia?

0 správnych odpovedí z 24



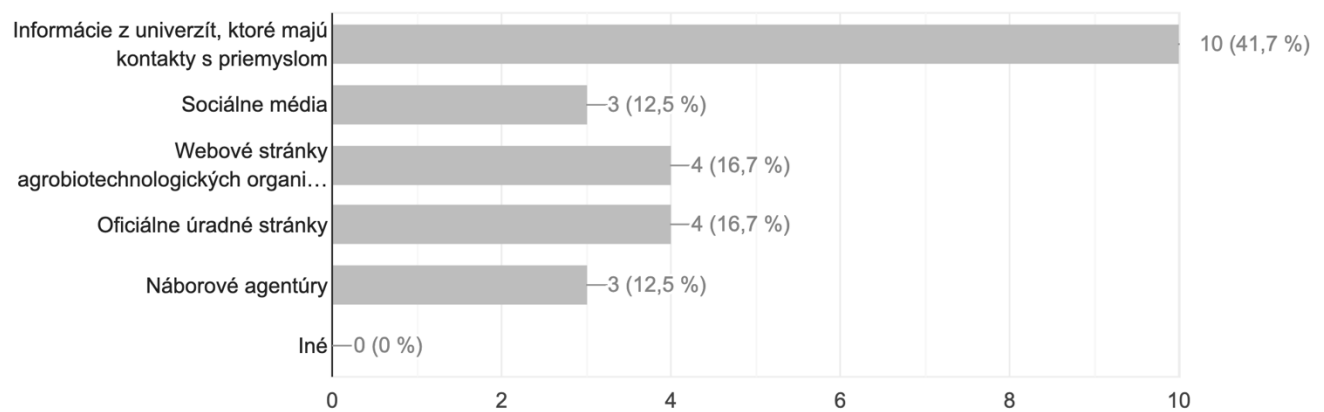
50% of participants chose attending the agri-biotech product development course as the course that would improve their knowledge the most.

Section 3

Q1

1. Aké stratégie sa používajú pri hľadaní práce v biotechnologickom priemysle?

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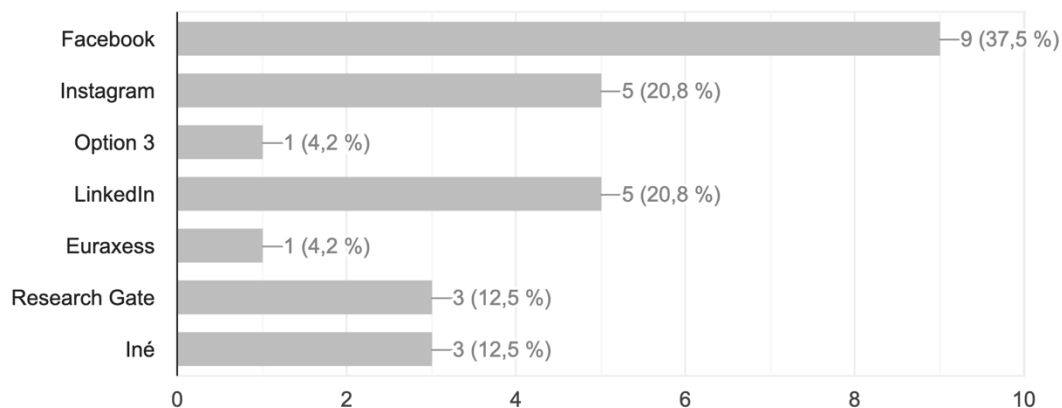


41.7% of participants use contacts from universities when looking for a job.

Q2

2. Ktorú z týchto sietí používate na hľadanie práce?

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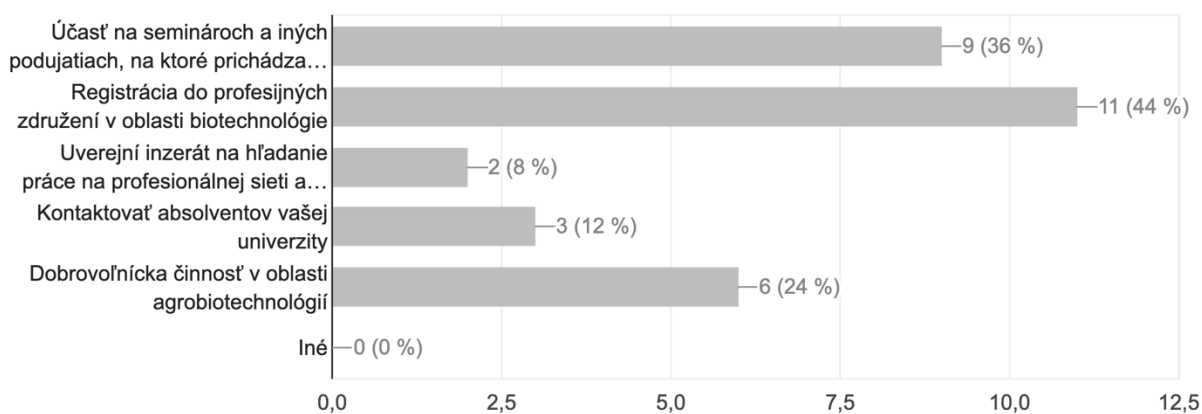


37.5% of participants search for a job on the social networking site facebook, 20.8% on the social networking sites instagram and linkendln.

Q3

3. Čo považujete za dôležité urobiť pre rozvoj kariéry a viac príležitostí nájsť si prácu?

0 správnych odpovedí z 25

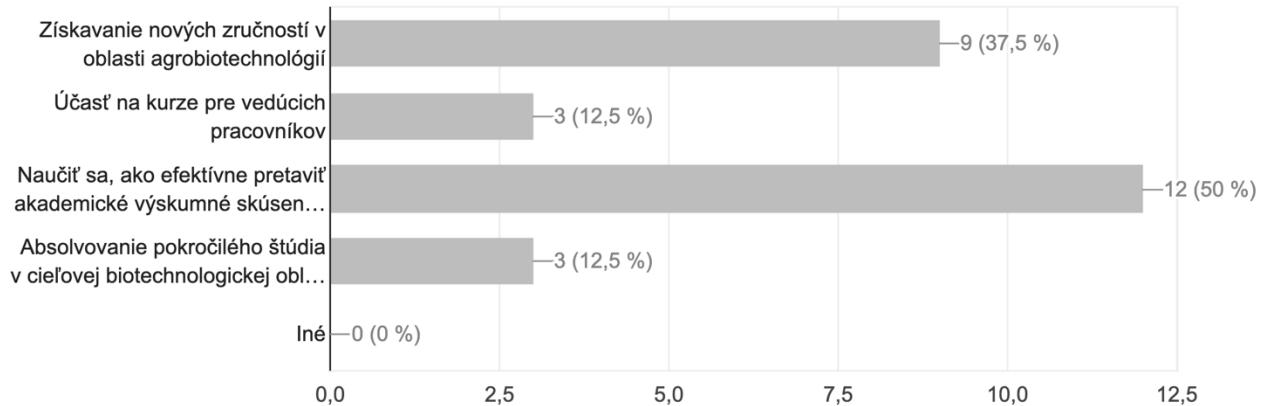


From a career perspective, 44% of participants say it is most important to register with professional associations. 36% of participants think it is important to attend seminars.

Q4

4. Ako plánujete zlepšiť svoje vedomosti, aby ste zvýšili svoje šance nájsť si prácu v biotechnológiách?

0 správnych odpovedí z 24

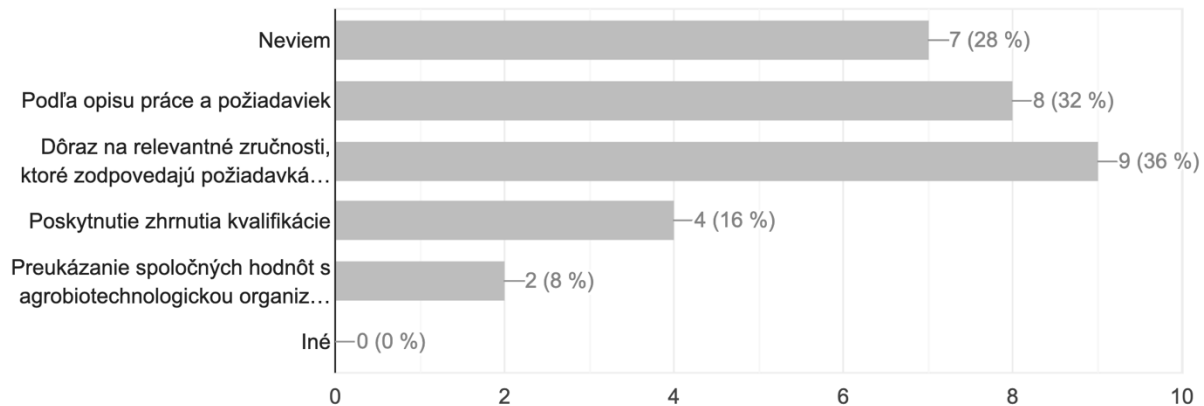


To improve their knowledge, 50% of the participants want to learn how to present their skills effectively. 37.5% want to learn and gain new knowledge.

Q5

5. Ako pripraviť efektívnu žiadosť o zamestnanie v oblasti agrobiotechnológií?

0 správnych odpovedí z 25



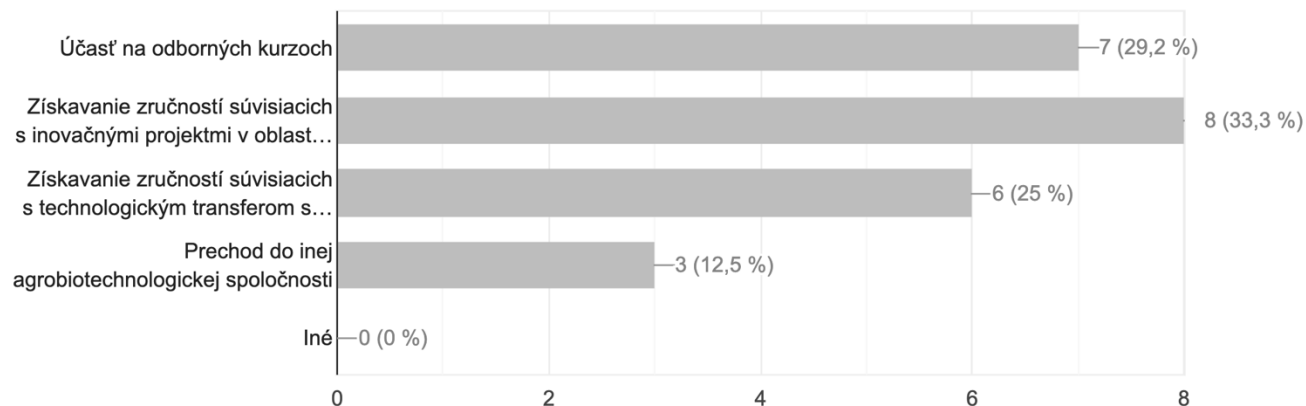
The most emphasized options were highlighting my skills needed for the job requirements (36%), summarizing my skills (32%), and stating the common values I share with the biotechnology recruiting firm (8%). And 28% percent of participants don't know.

Section 4

Q1

1. Ako plánujete rozvíjať svoju kariéru v oblasti agrobiotechnológií?

0 správnych odpovedí z 24

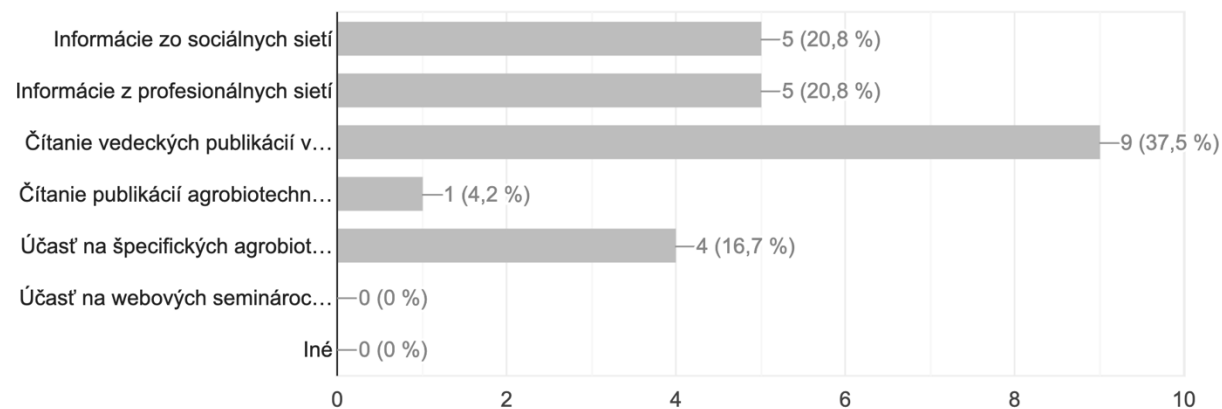


To the question “how do you plan to develop your career in agro-biotech?” 29.2% of the participants gave the answer “by participating in professional training courses” and 33.3 % declared that by gaining skills related to the innovative projects in the agro-biotech field.

Q2

2. Ako sa plánujete informovať o nových trendoch v agrobiotechnológiách?

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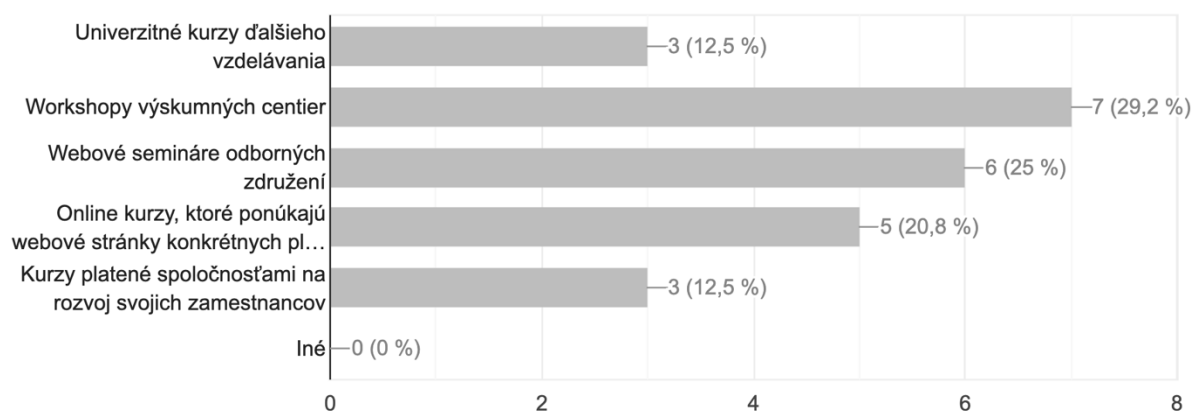


It is observed that participants use a diversifying range of resources to learn about the new trends in agro-biotechnology. The most used way was “reading the scientific publications about the new trends in agro-biotechnology (37.5%).

Q3

3. Existuje mnoho študijných programov, ktoré môžete navštevovať, aby ste si zlepšili svoje zručnosti. Ktoré z nich sú podľa vás najužitočnejšie?

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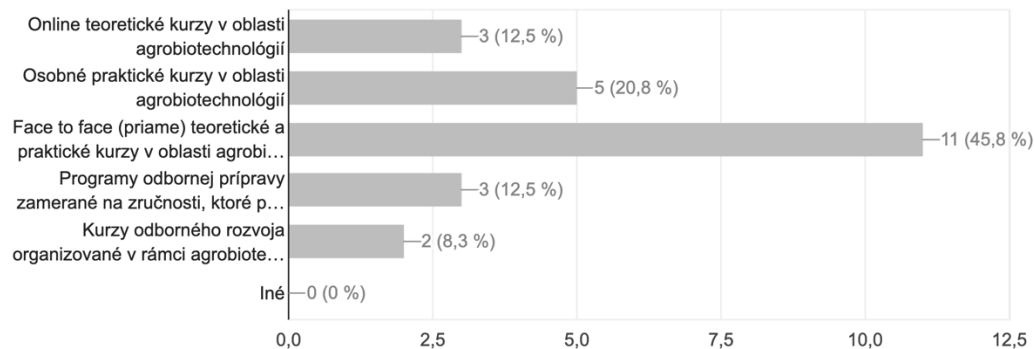


Universities’ training courses (12.5%), research centre workshops (29.2%), webinars of professional associations (25%), online courses of website platforms (20.8%), and paid courses that the companies sent their employees (12.5%) were declared by the participants.

Q4

4. Aký druh vzdelávacích programov uprednostňujete?

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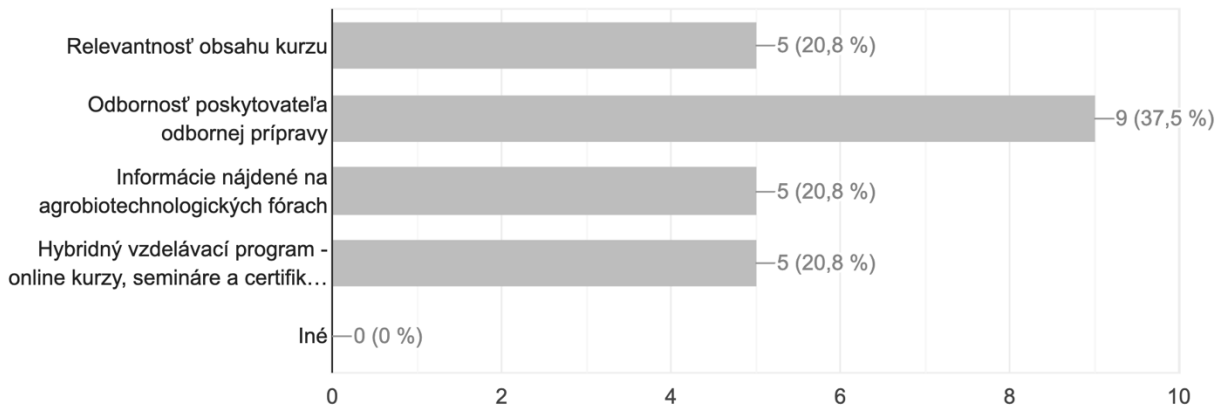


For professional development, face-to-face theoretical and applied courses were the most attractive to the participants (45.8%).

Q5

5. Pre najlepši odborný rozvoj v oblasti agrobiotechnológií je dôležité:

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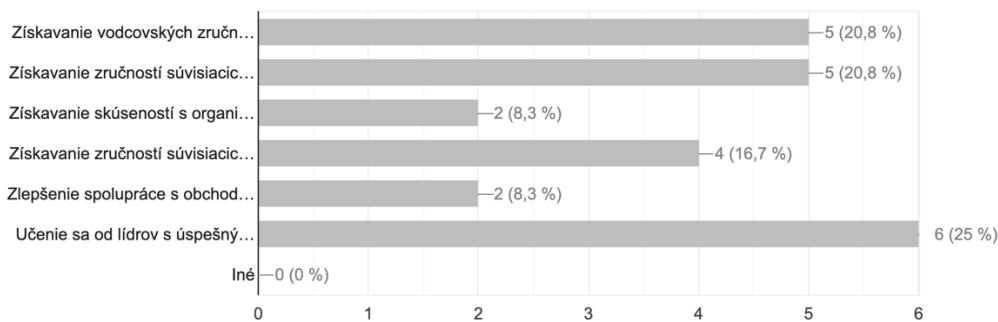
For the best professional development, 37.5 % of the participants declared that the expertise of the trainer mattered.

Section 5

Q1

1. Ako plánujete napredovať v kariére v oblasti agrobiotechnológií?

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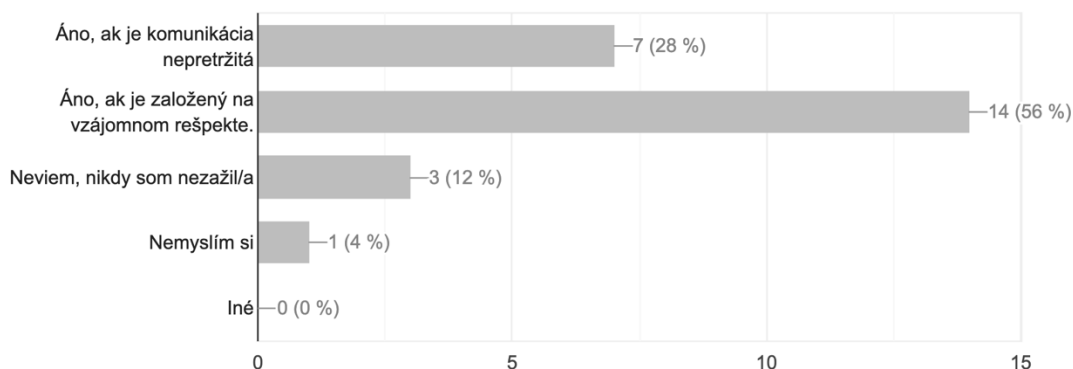


To the question “How do you plan to make progress in your career?” 20,8% of the participants gave an answer “by gaining leadership skills” and “by gaining skills to organise works in agro-biotechnology field”. 25 % stated that they would like to collaborate with other trading partners.

Q2

2. Myslíte si, že vzťah mentor - študent môže byť účinným spôsobom kariérneho postupu v agrobiotechnológiách?

0 správnych odpovedí z 25

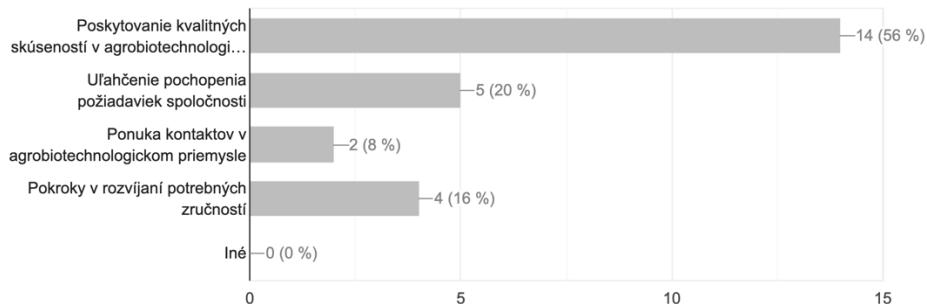


56% of participants think that the mentor-student relationship can be an effective means of career advancement as long as it is based on mutual respect.

Q3

3. Ako vám môže mentor pomôcť pri vašom profesionálnom rozvoji v oblasti agrobiotechnológií?

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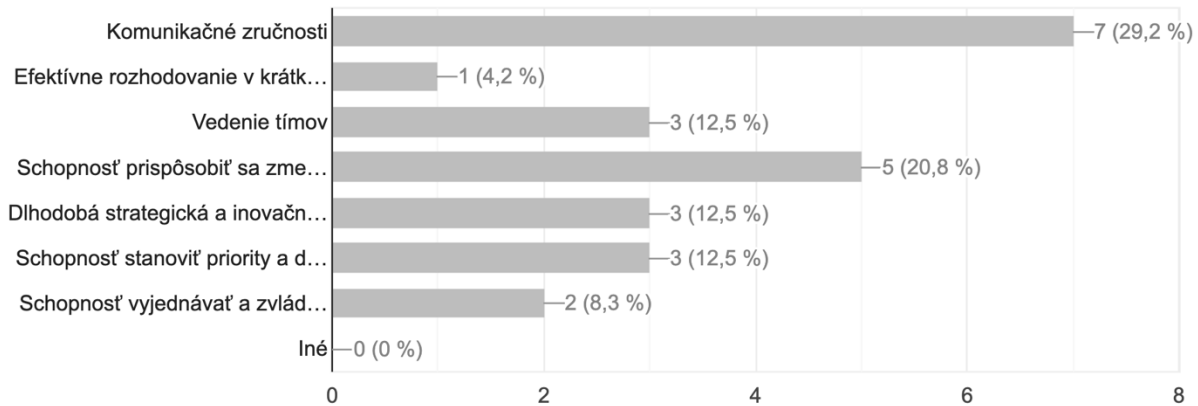


56% of participants think a mentor can provide quality information and experience in the field of agri-biotechnology.

Q4

4. Aké máte zručnosti, ktoré z vás môžu urobiť manažéra v agrobiotechnologickom priemysle?

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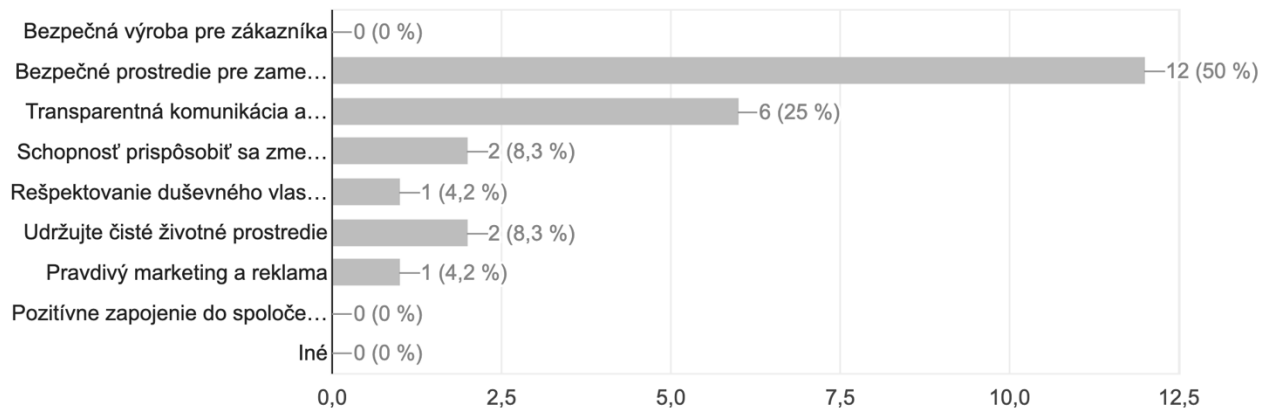


Skills that could help in career growth to manager were identified by 29.2% of the participants as communication skills, 20.8% of the responses were adapting to change.

Q5

5. Ktoré z nasledujúcich etických princípov považujete za dôležité dodržiavať ako manažér v agrobiotechnologickom priemysle?

0 správnych odpovedí z 24



50% of participants consider a safe environment at work as one of the most important principles.

Analysis and Discussion

Conclusion

Summarise 5 main takeaways from the analysis in 5 items.

- Most of the participants (56%) were former agbiotech students who have been working in the agbiotech sector for less than one year.
- (49%) participants declared that they worked or wanted to work in plant biotechnology field
- Facebook and Instagram were the most preferred social platform for job seeking and networking
- All participants agreed that acquiring new skills in the field of agricultural biotechnology is essential for job seekers to enhance their knowledge and improve their prospects in the industry
- Moreover, participants utilize a variety of resources to stay informed about emerging trends in agro-biotechnology, with the most popular method being reading scientific publications on the latest developments