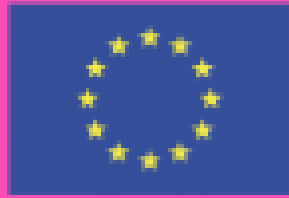


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# LET'S TALK ABOUT DRUGS:

Assessment of drug education in  
Bulgaria, Hungary, Lithuania,  
Poland, and Serbia



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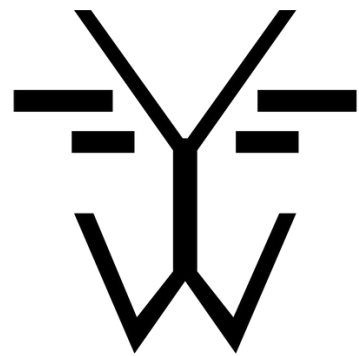
# Partners



reGeneration



YOUTH ORGANISATIONS  
FOR DRUG ACTION



YOUNG WAVE

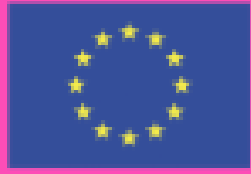


eurasian harm reduction association



Kecskeméti  
Színhátszö Műhely





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# Methodology

The goal of the study was to assess existing drug education and its effectiveness, look at what information on drugs is available and how it is perceived by young people, examine the methods and tools used by different actors to talk about drugs with youth, and gather best practices.

To achieve this goal, the following steps were undertaken:

- Desk review
- Qualitative assessment of existing drug education practices and their perceived effectiveness
- Quantitative assessment of youth experiences with drug education and its effectiveness, through the analysis of their knowledge and opinions about drugs and drug use

# Qualitative part

- **Focus group and/or semi-structured interviews 1:** group for the youth workers, social workers, educators who are not working in the field of prevention, harm reduction, drug education but have access to young people;
- **Focus group and/or semi-structured interviews 2:** group for the youth workers, social workers, peer-to-peer educators, specialists who are working in the field of prevention, harm reduction, drug education and have access to young people;
- **Focus group and/or semi-structured interviews 3:** group for the young people who would be able to share their opinion and knowledge about drug education in their country;
- **5 semi-structured interviews** with national experts on drug education.

# Quantitative part



The questionnaire was translated into national languages and uploaded to SurveyMonkey.

The questionnaire included three blocks of questions:

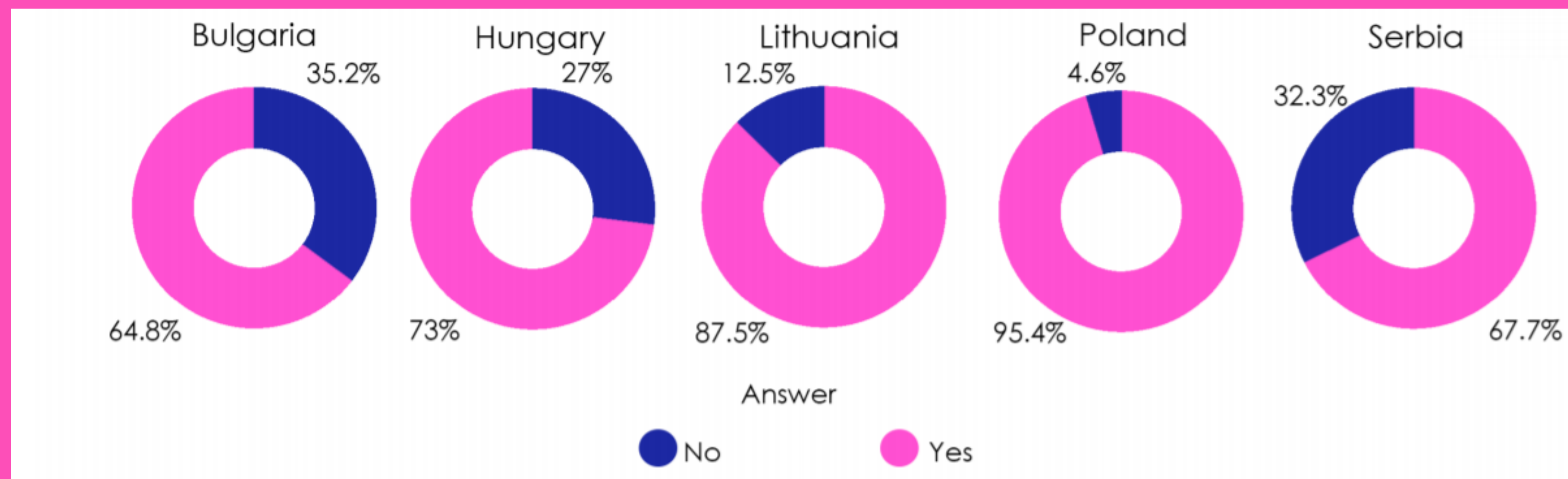
- Demography (6 questions)
- Experience in drug education (12 questions)
- Opinions and knowledge about drugs and drug use (13 questions)

## Ethics and confidentiality

All participants were fully informed about the study, their right to opt out of it and of the existing procedures to ensure the confidentiality. Prior to the interview and survey, each participant signed Informed consent form. To maintain confidentiality, the names of participants were not recorded in any form that was entered into the database; rather, identification numbers (codes) were used for identification purposes in all forms.

Hungary and Serbia received Ethics committee approval.

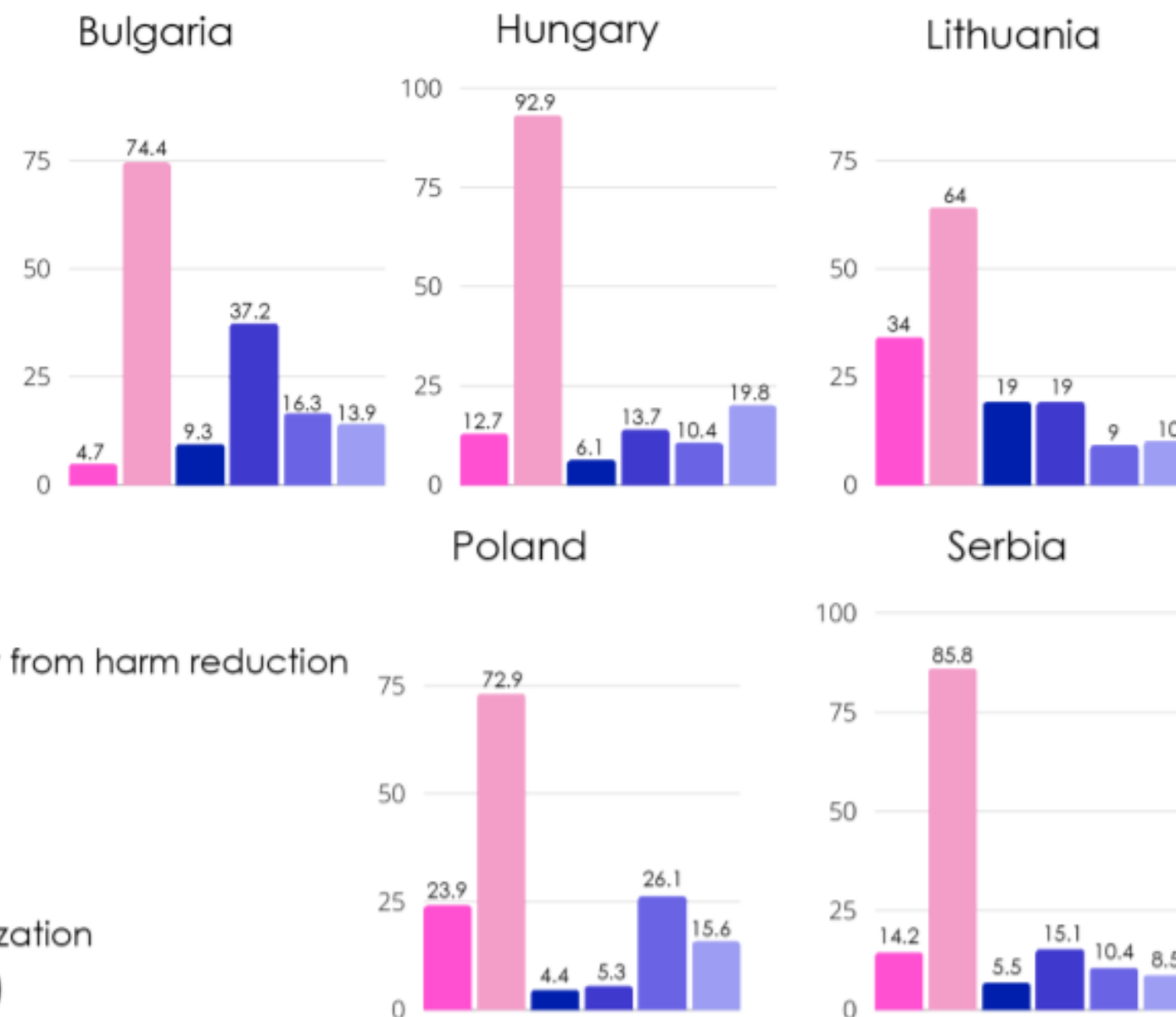
# Lifetime prevalence of use of illicit substances



The most common method of drug administration: **smoking**, followed by **oral administration** and **snorting**.

Young people in **all countries** reported that it would be **fairly easy to find illegal substances** (responses of “very easy” and “fairly easy” combined): 91% in Poland, 81% in Bulgaria, 78% in Serbia, 73% in Lithuania, and 72% in Hungary

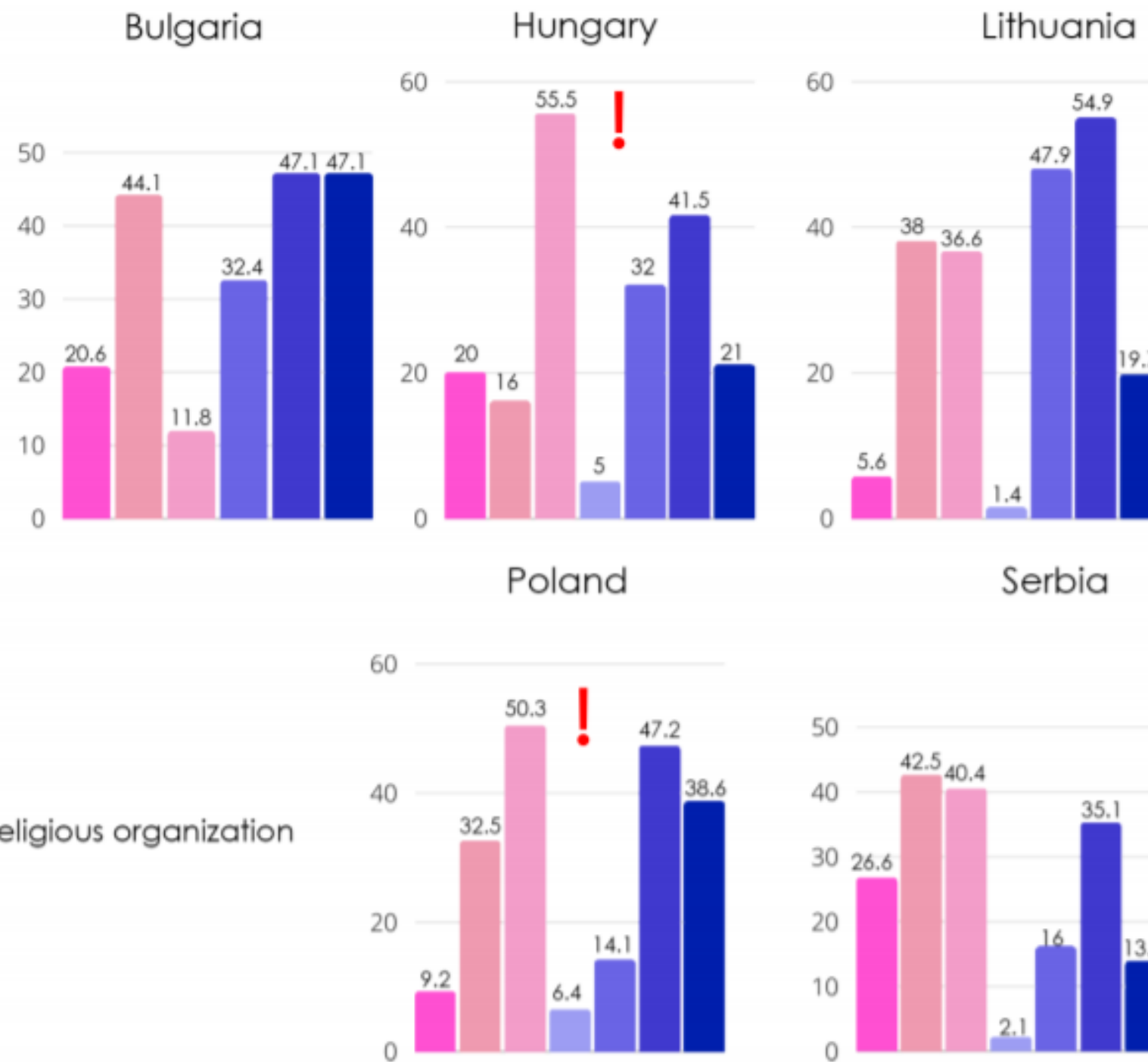
# Settings where study participants received drug education



**Bulgaria 53%**  
**Lithuania 51%**  
**Poland 40%**  
**Hungary 23%**  
**Serbia 15%**

of the respondents reported that they had **never received** any form of drug education.

# Who provided it? (in school, university)

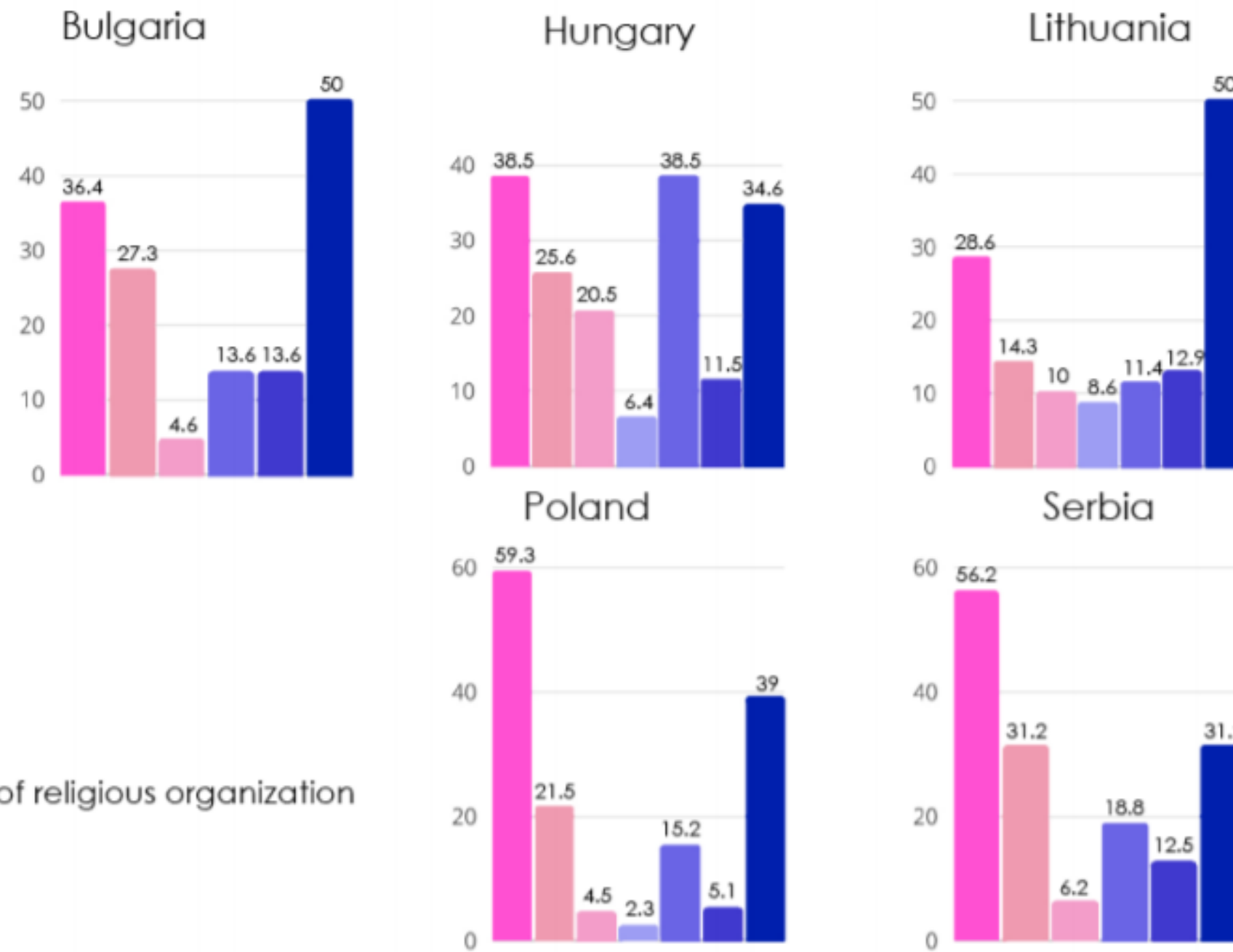


Bulgaria 79%  
 Hungary 84%  
 Lithuania 79%  
 Poland 87%  
 Serbia 83%

information was provided as a **one-off formal lecture.**

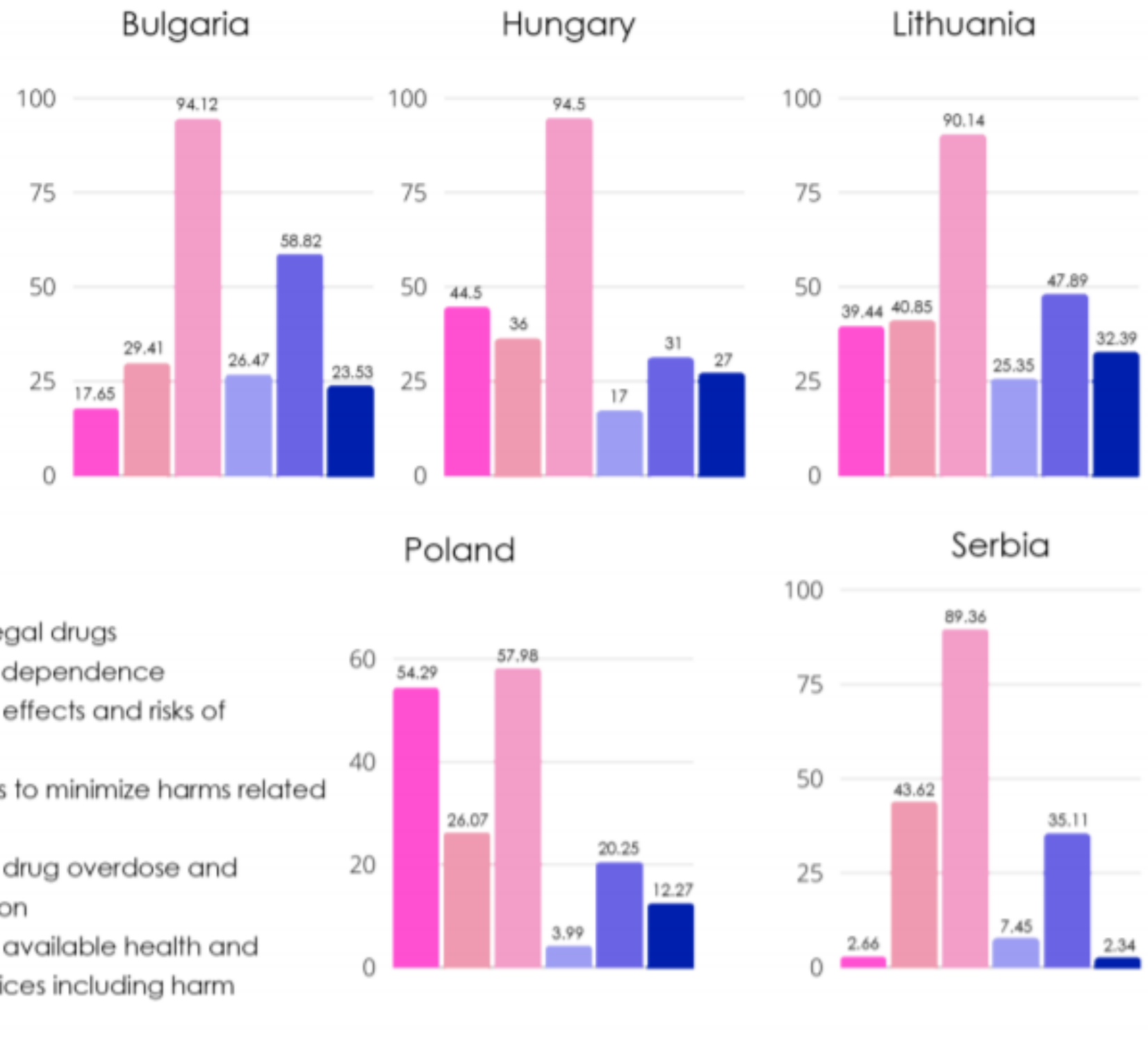


# Who provided it? (other settings)



- The most common places where respondents received drug education outside of schools and universities are:
- festivals/parties where information is provided by harm reduction organisations
  - youth organisations
  - harm reduction organisations

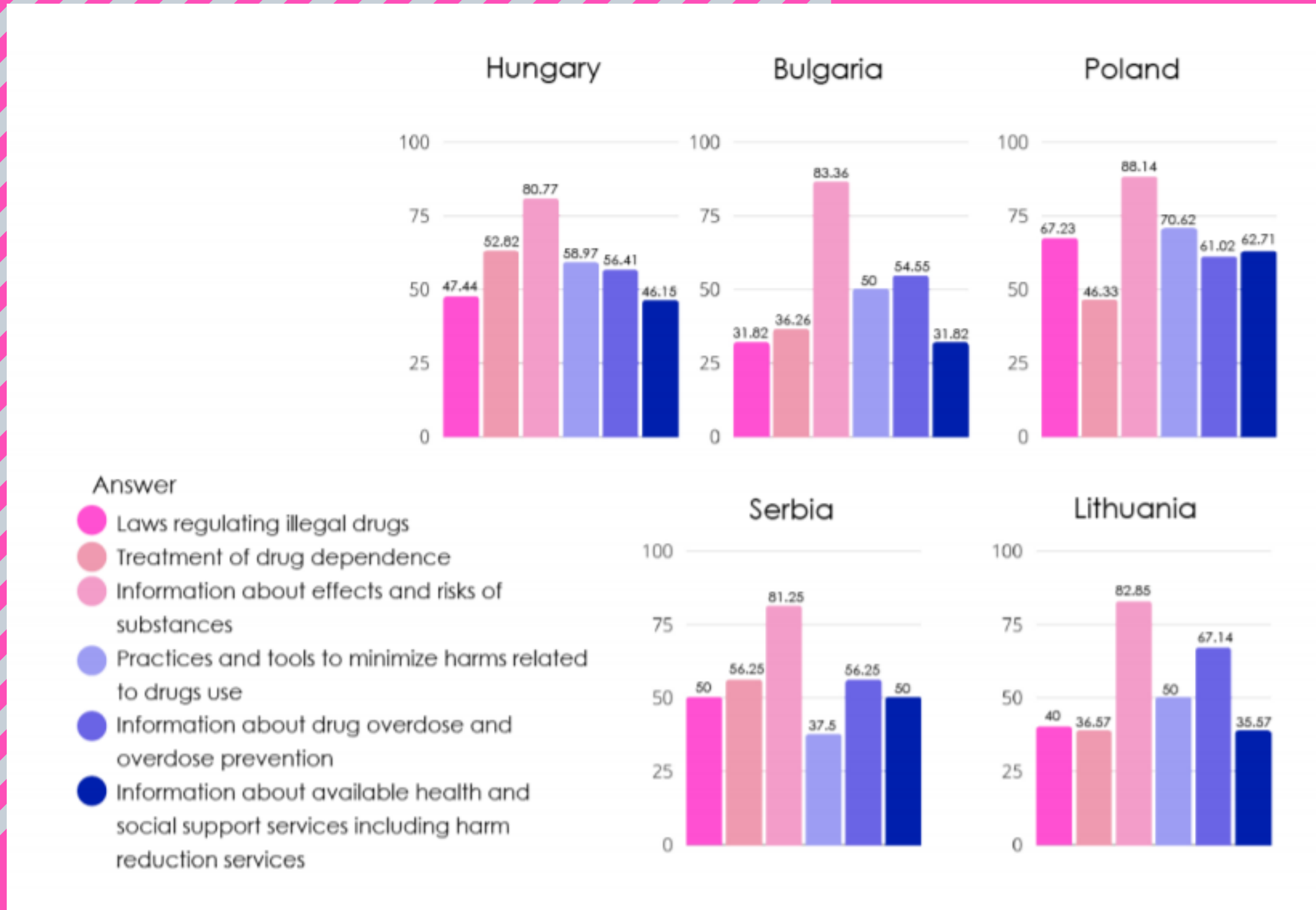
# What information did you receive during the session? (school, university)



In Poland **61%** said that they did not learn a lot from these sessions, **51%** disagreed with the statement that the education was provided in a non-judgmental way, and **47%** stated that could not honestly share their experience.

Similar trends are seen in the other four countries

# What information did you receive during this session? (other settings)



Education received outside of schools was evaluated more positively; it was assessed as being less judgmental, participants thought they received more new, honest, and useful information than during the education delivered at schools or universities.

**Drug education should be provided:**

- **by a person who has received special training on substance use and has first-hand experience of substance use;**
- **in a non-judgmental way, based on scientific evidence;**
- **In an interactive manner, using engaging, modern tools and platforms;**
- **preferably in small groups in a safe environment; and**
- **in a format of open and honest dialog.**

**Thank you!**

**<https://drugeducationyouth.org/>**