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GMOs AND GENOME EDITING: PUBLIC PERCEPTION AND ATTITUDE IN ALBANIA

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Funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme of the European Union

PlantEd COST Action CA18111
Genome Editing in Plants
Novi Sad, 5-7 November 2019

Albania

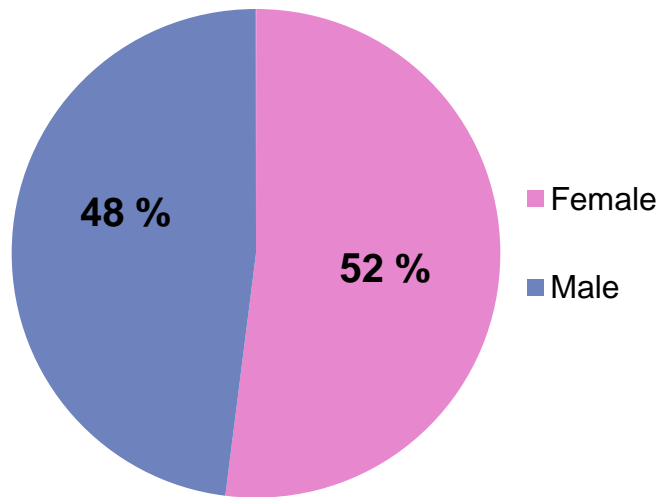
- Located in Southeastern Europe
- Population - 2.88 million (census 2019)
- Total area - 28 748 km²
- Agriculture land -12 010 km²
- Arable land 22.7 %



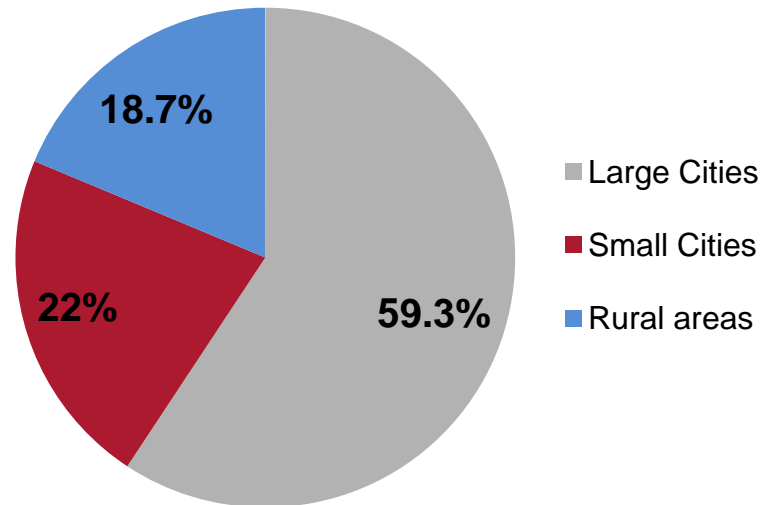
Demographic characteristics of respondents

■ n = 300 respondents

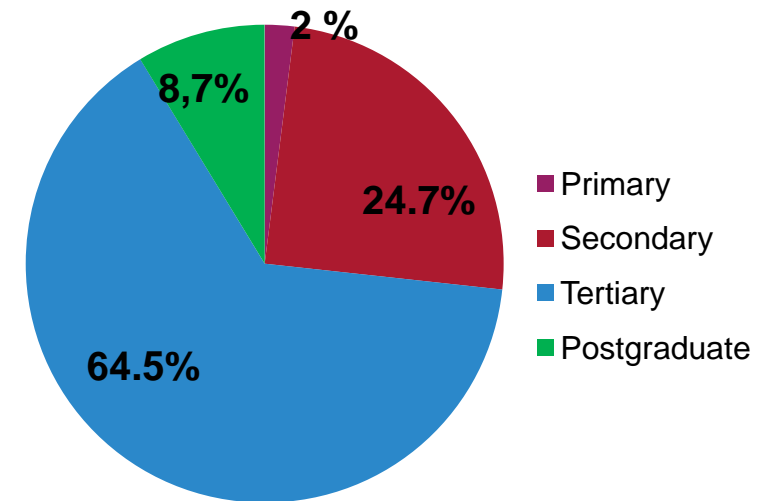
Age Range 17-68 years (mean 32.7)



Gender



Place of living

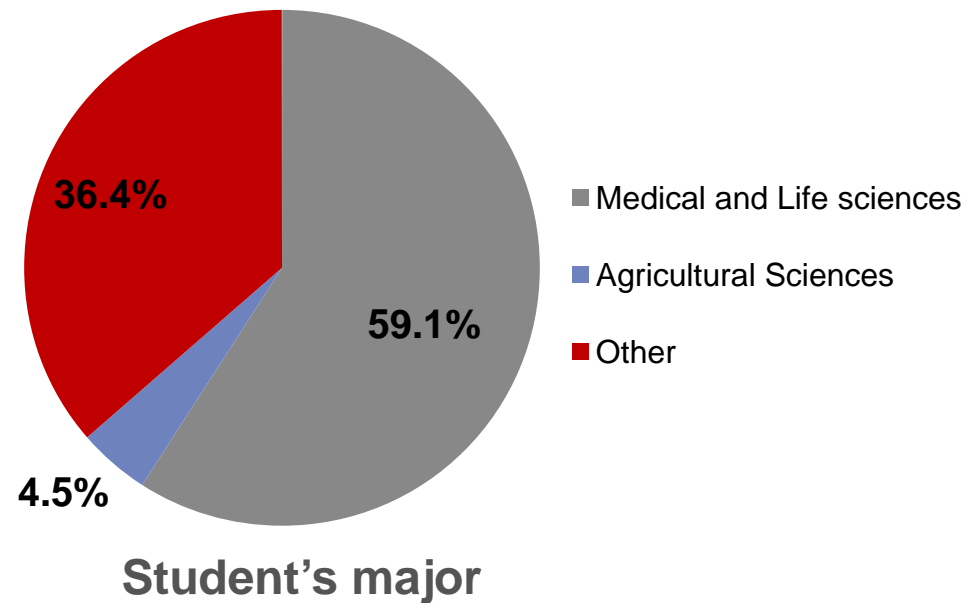
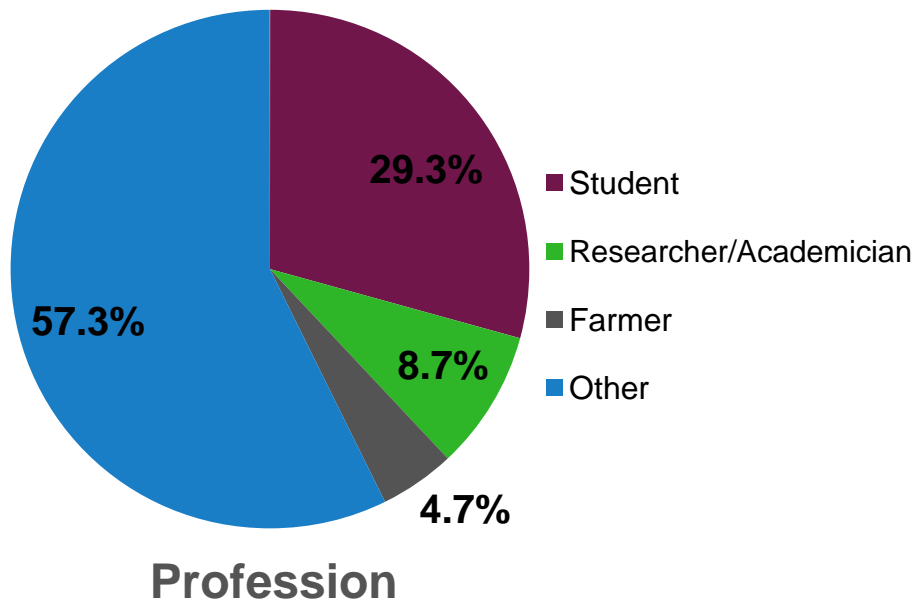


Education

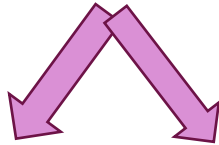
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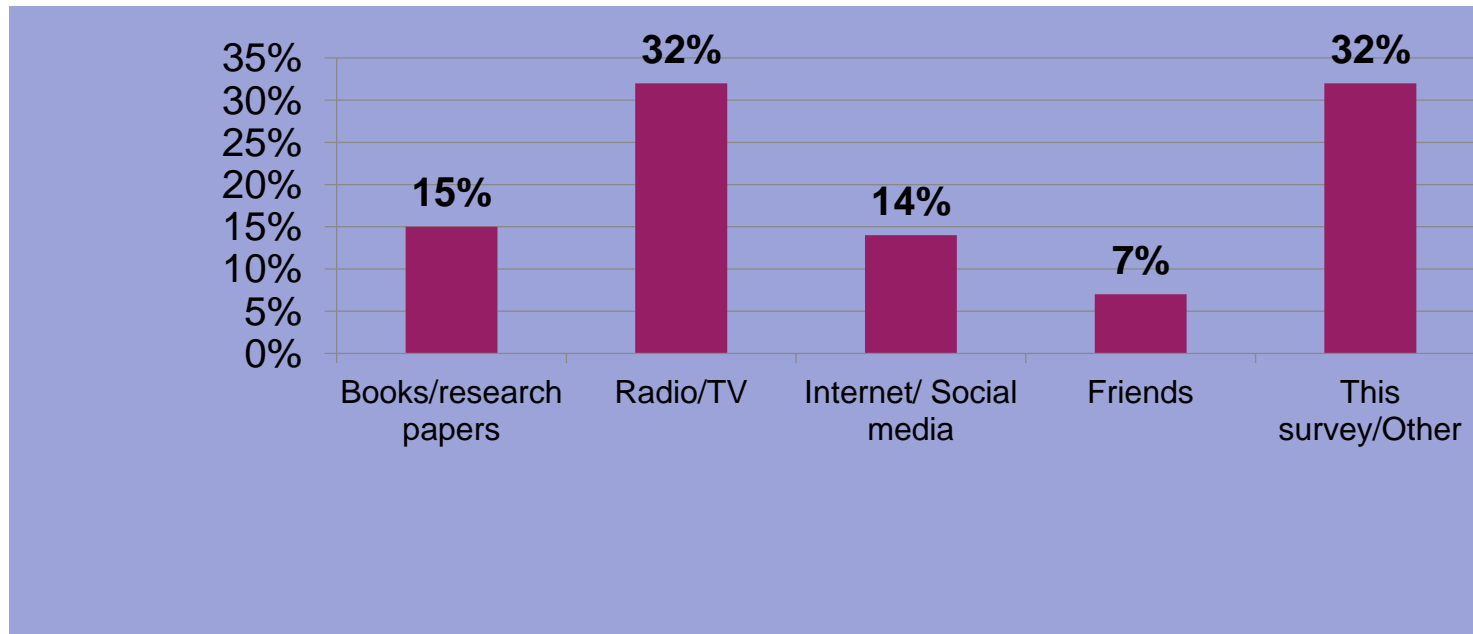
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Knowledge on GMOs

- **71.7 %** had knowledge about GMOs (different levels)
 - 28.3 % know nothing at all
 - **86%** are willing to have more information on GMOs
 - **82 %** have no knowledge about regulatory framework on GM food and safety in Albania
- **69%** believe that GM food and derived products were available in market
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- 57.3 % do not read food labels
 - 42.7 % read food labels

Source of information



Perception of GM food

Characteristics		Positive %	Negative %	Neutral %
Gender	Female	16.4	68.4	15.2
	Male	21.2	63.3	15.5
Place of living	Large cities	20	66	13.3
	Small cities	21	53	25
	Rural areas	10.7	78.5	10.8
Education	Primary	25	50	25
	Secondary	24.3	59.4	16.3
	Tertiary	14.6	69.8	15.6
	Postgraduate	23	65	12
Profession	Academician	50	50	-
	Other	13.3	68.9	17.8
	Farmer	25	75	-
	Student	15.4	69.2	15.4
Students	Life/Medical Science	-	50	50
	Other	25	75	-

Impact and GM technology perception

Impact of GMO	Risk	Safe	Neutral
Human Health	78%	4.6%	17.4%
Enivornment	46.2%	14.5%	39.3%

■ GM technology

- 42 % agree in application for plant and animal improvement
- 51% agree in application in medicals production

■ Price influence

- **71,3 % no influence**
- 21.4 % May be
- 7.4 % Yes

Conclusions

- The perception and attitude in Albania is not highly correlated with the gender, education or place of living, in majority respondents opposed GM food but they advocated in some extent the application of genome editing in plant improvement and medicinal production
- There is need to develop education programs to increase public awareness on GMOs, particularly targeting younger people