

BE POSITIVE NATIONAL REPORT

Project Identification

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CONTENTS

<i>INTRODUCTION - STAFF.....</i>	3
<i>HEALTH STATUS OF THE CLIENTS</i>	3
<i>CHALLENGES / BARRIERS FOR YOUR CLIENT IN DAILY LIVE.....</i>	3
<i>POSITIVES ATTRIBUTES THAT HELPS CLIENTS IN THE DAILY LIVE.....</i>	4
<i>INTRODUCTION - CLIENTS</i>	5
<i>THE CLIENTS SOCIAL BACKGROUND.....</i>	5
<i>BARRIERS IN THE DAILY LIVE AND WHEN SEARCING FOR WORK / TRAINING</i>	6
<i>POSITIVE ATTRIBUTES THAT HELP IN THE DAILY LIFE.....</i>	7
<i>FUN THINS IN THE DAILY LIFE</i>	7
<i>RESULTS FROM THE QUESTIONNAIRES</i>	7

INTRODUCTION - STAFF

In total, 7 interviews with guidance and vocational training professionals were held in Greece by team members of the Institute of Entrepreneurship Development. All interviewees are occupied in the guidance and vocational training field as freelancers or as owners of private firms / offices. The age of the staff – interviewees ranges between 28 to 50 years old so, consequently, there was a wide range of experience in the field. Regarding the interviewees' social background, there was also a variety there, as some are married and have their own family and some not.

Extending the analysis of this section on the demographic and social background of the interviewees' clients (young unemployed), the following findings are worth mentioning:

- **Age range:** 15 to 60 years old
- **Educational background:** high school students, high school graduates, postgraduate students, university graduates
- **Gender:** both female and male
- **Ethnicity:** mainly Greeks but also Greek Roma and Albanians
- **Immigration status:** almost the absolute majority of the clients are not immigrants
- **Social disadvantage:** unemployment, socially vulnerable groups, single-parent families
- **Family backgrounds:** urban and rural families
- **Living status:** either living with their family, or in their own home
- **Level of social engagement:** very good but with some signs of social isolation due to their social disadvantages

HEALTH STATUS OF THE CLIENTS

Health condition is a crucial factor that affects many aspects of a person's life, both social and personal. In addition, it affects the person's psychological status and, therefore, his/her will and ability to successfully find a job.

According to the interviewees, the majority of their clients appear to have excellent health and psychological condition, although there are cases with health problems such as moving disabilities and psychological problems such as depression and stress / anxiety.

Another fact worth mentioning is that some of the clients were not receptive to the process of career guidance and counseling, as if they didn't want to find a job. Obviously, this phenomenon can be explained by the bad psychological condition of these clients.

CHALLENGES / BARRIERS FOR YOUR CLIENT IN DAILY LIVE

Nowadays, Greece faces the most severe economic crisis throughout the history of the nation. High unemployment, high dismissal rates, poverty are only few of the crisis's outcomes.

As a result, the challenges and the barriers young unemployed have to face become more difficult to overcome.

According to the interviewees, the challenges / barriers their clients have to face in their daily lives are as follows:

- ❖ Economic crisis / high unemployment, which leads to a very high competition for each job vacancy
- ❖ Interference of the parents and others in career choices
- ❖ Lack of confidence / self-awareness
- ❖ Stress and anxiety for the possibility of failure in finding a job
- ❖ Wrong career choices
- ❖ Lack of guidance and career counseling
- ❖ Lack of information
- ❖ Lack of knowledge / skills / qualifications

POSITIVES ATTRIBUTES THAT HELPS CLIENTS IN THE DAILY LIVE

According to the interviewees, some positive attributes that they have detected and they think that help clients in the daily live, are:

- ✓ Will to work / find a job
- ✓ Advanced social skills
- ✓ Support from family and friends on an economic, professional and psychological level
- ✓ The hope that this situation will be reversed

INTRODUCTION - CLIENTS

In total, 6 interviews with young unemployed and/or NEETs were held in Greece by team members of the Institute of Entrepreneurship Development.

Demographic information about the clients / interviewees:

	Interviewee 1	Interviewee 2	Interviewee 3	Interviewee 4	Interviewee 5	Interviewee 6
Age	40	22	21	29	27	31
Education	Postgraduate studies	Graduate student	Graduate studies	Postgraduate studies	Graduate studies	Graduate studies
Gender	Female	Female	Male	Male	Male	Male
Ethnicity	Greek	Greek	Greek	Greek	Greek	Greek

THE CLIENTS SOCIAL BACKGROUND

Analyzing the social background of the young unemployed / NEETs, the following factors / parameters were examined:

- ✓ Family backgrounds
- ✓ Kind of home the interviewees live in
- ✓ Social life and how it is affected by unemployment

FAMILY BACKGROUND	
Interviewee 1	My mother is a retired nurse, my father a retired chemical engineer and my brother owns a gift shop in the city of Larissa.
Interviewee 2	My parents have graduated elementary school. My father is self-occupied as a lumberman and, at the same time, with agricultural activities. My mother is in charge of the household. I have two sisters, the older one has graduated a private college and works in the field of cosmetics and the other one is a graduate student in the field of computer science.
Interviewee 3	My father is self-occupied as a building contractor and my mother is in charge of the household. Both have graduated elementary school.
Interviewee 4	Mother: secondary education with specializing as a nurse, she works as a nurse in the public hospital of Larissa Father: works a technician in the Hellenic Telecommunications Organization Brother: works as a bank employee
Interviewee 5	Parents have graduated the elementary school and brothers are university graduates.
Interviewee 6	Both parents are retired public servants, graduates of elementary school.

HOME THEY LIVE IN						
	Interviewee 1	Interviewee 2	Interviewee 3	Interviewee 4	Interviewee 5	Interviewee 6
Alone			✓			
With family						✓
With friends		✓				
With companion / husband / wife	✓			✓	✓	

SOCIAL LIFE	
Interviewee 1	Satisfactory social life, it could be better but unemployment and the economic crisis affects the quality of one's social life.
Interviewee 2	Social life is quite satisfactory and the fact that I am unemployed provides me with more time to spend with my friends and socialize.
Interviewee 3	My social life is not affected by the fact that I am unemployed and it is as good as I wanted to be.
Interviewee 4	High level of social life, but unemployment often affects my psychological condition and that has a negative impact on my social relationships.
Interviewee 5	Limited social life due to the fact that unemployment leads to limited economic resources that would allow me to have a normal social life.
Interviewee 6	Economic crisis and unemployment have affected in a negative way my psychological condition and therefore, my social life.

BARRIERS IN THE DAILY LIVE AND WHEN SEARCHING FOR WORK / TRAINING

As mentioned above, Greece faces the most severe economic crisis throughout the history of the nation. Therefore, it is obvious that the barriers and challenges young unemployed have to face create many difficulties when searching for work / training.

The interviewees pointed out the following barriers / challenges:

- Lack of jobs / Labor supply shortage for my field of study
- Employers have unrealistic expectations and high requirements without offering the proportionate economic motive.
- Age restrictions
- Low salaries
- Extremely high competition for a job vacancy
- Difficulties in searching and finding job opportunities

POSITIVE ATTRIBUTES THAT HELP IN THE DAILY LIFE

As a “weapon” against the above barriers / challenges, young unemployed should develop certain positive attributes and exploit them in order to improve their life conditions.

Some of the positive attributes that interviewees have developed are:

- ✓ Optimism / positive attitude
- ✓ Adaptability to the new conditions the economic crisis has created
- ✓ Critical thinking
- ✓ Insistence and patience

FUN THINGS IN THE DAILY LIFE

According to the interviewees, some fun things in the daily life are the following:

- Reading
- Travels
- Cinema
- Gym
- Video games
- Athletics / sports

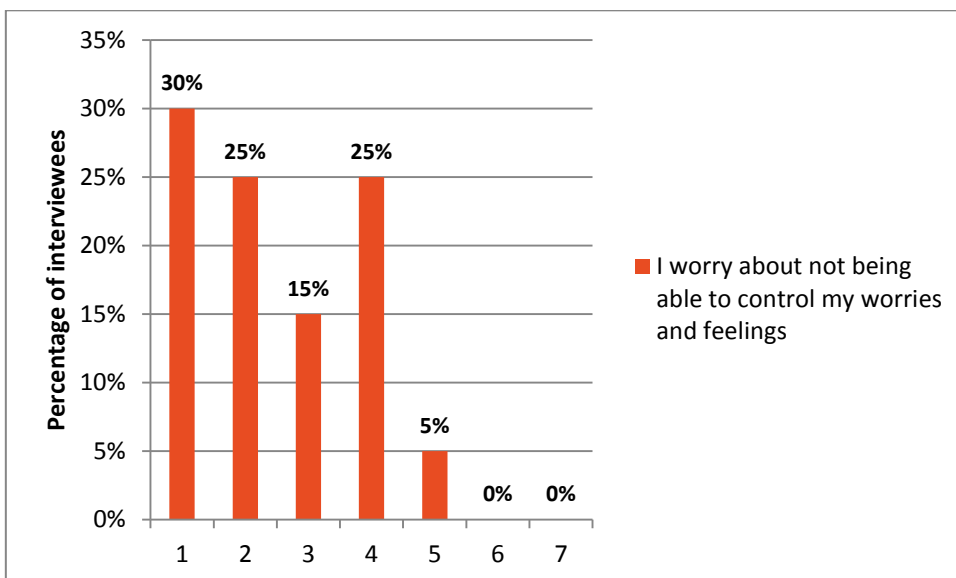
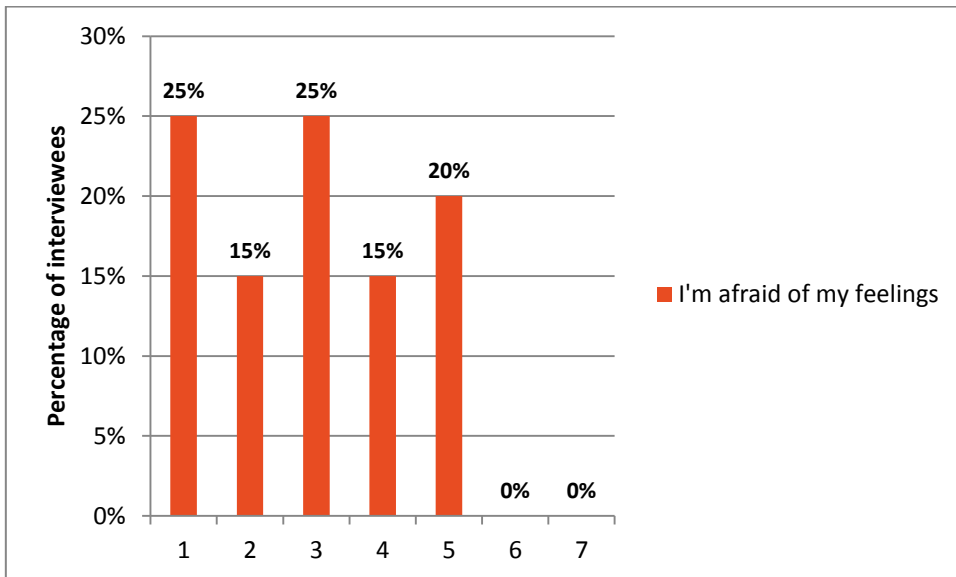
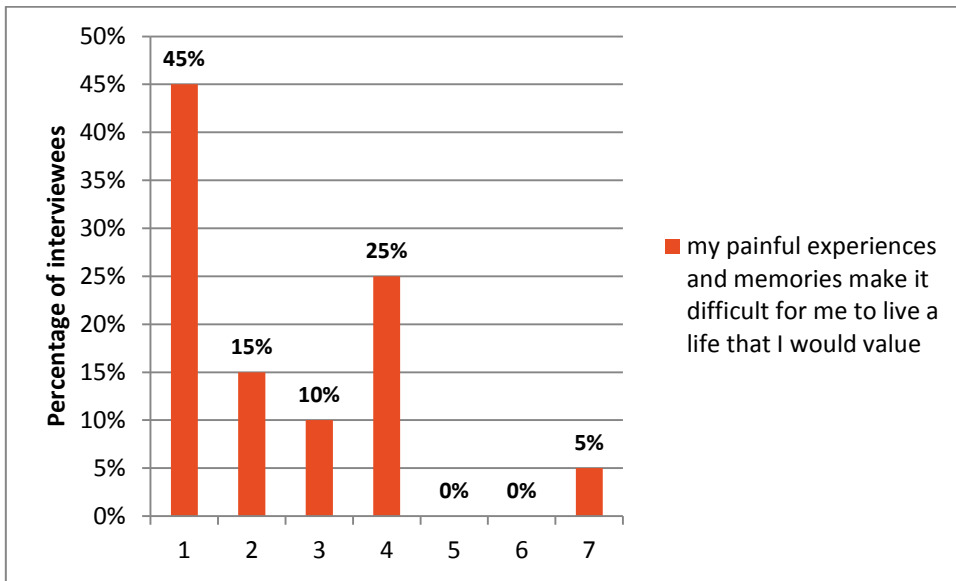
RESULTS FROM THE QUESTIONNAIRES

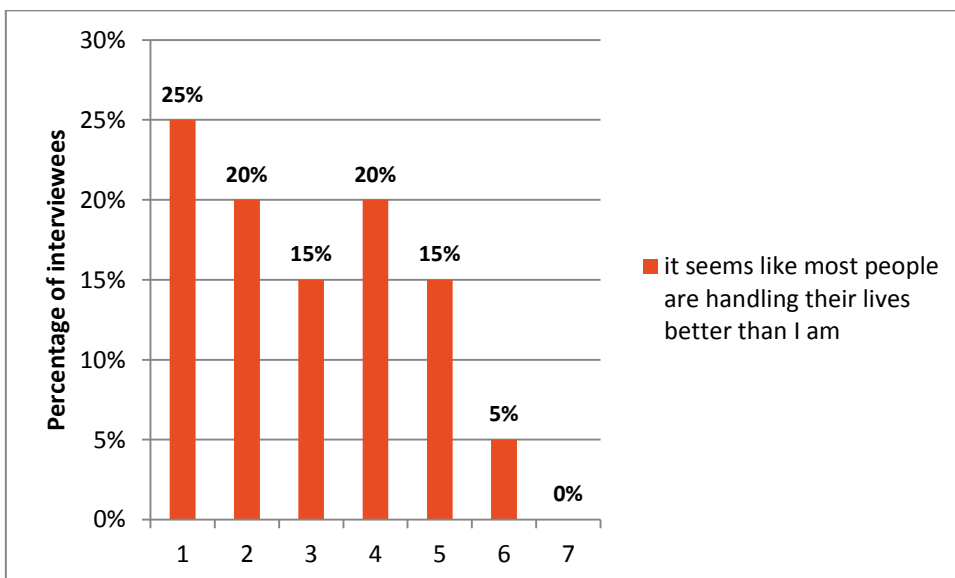
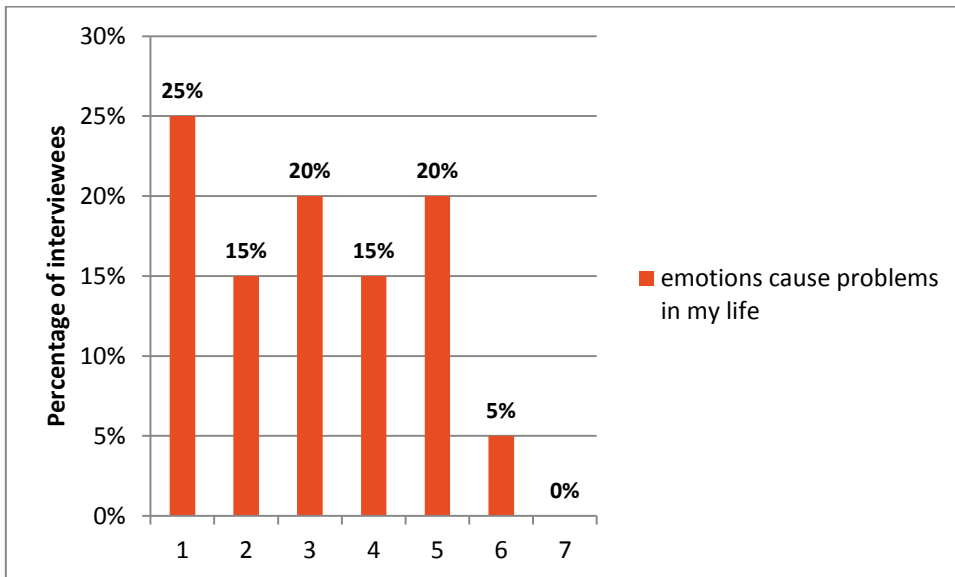
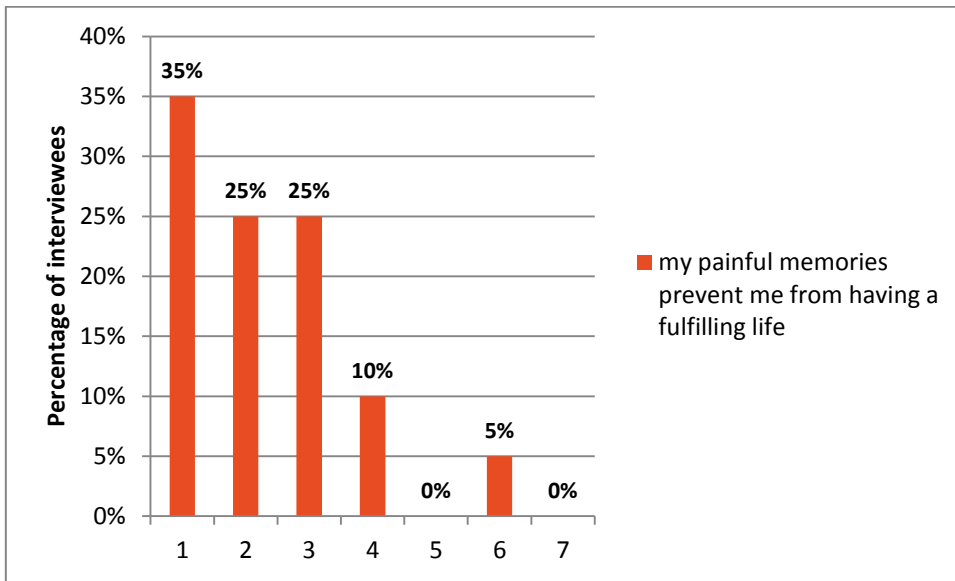
To further support and deepen the analysis of this report, 20 questionnaires were given to young unemployed and/or NEETs.

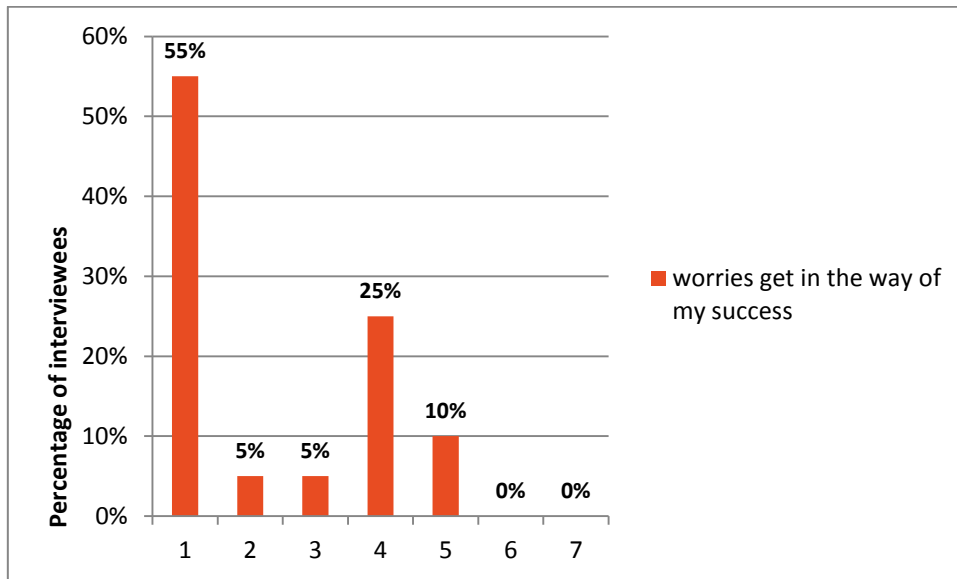
In the first section of the questionnaire there are some statements that are examined how true or not they are for each interviewee. The following scale was used in order to provide answers for each statement:

1 = never true , 2 = very seldom true , 3 = seldom true , 4 = sometimes true , 5 = frequently true , 6 = almost always true & 7 = always true

The following charts show the percentage of interviewees’ answers / scale choice for each statement:

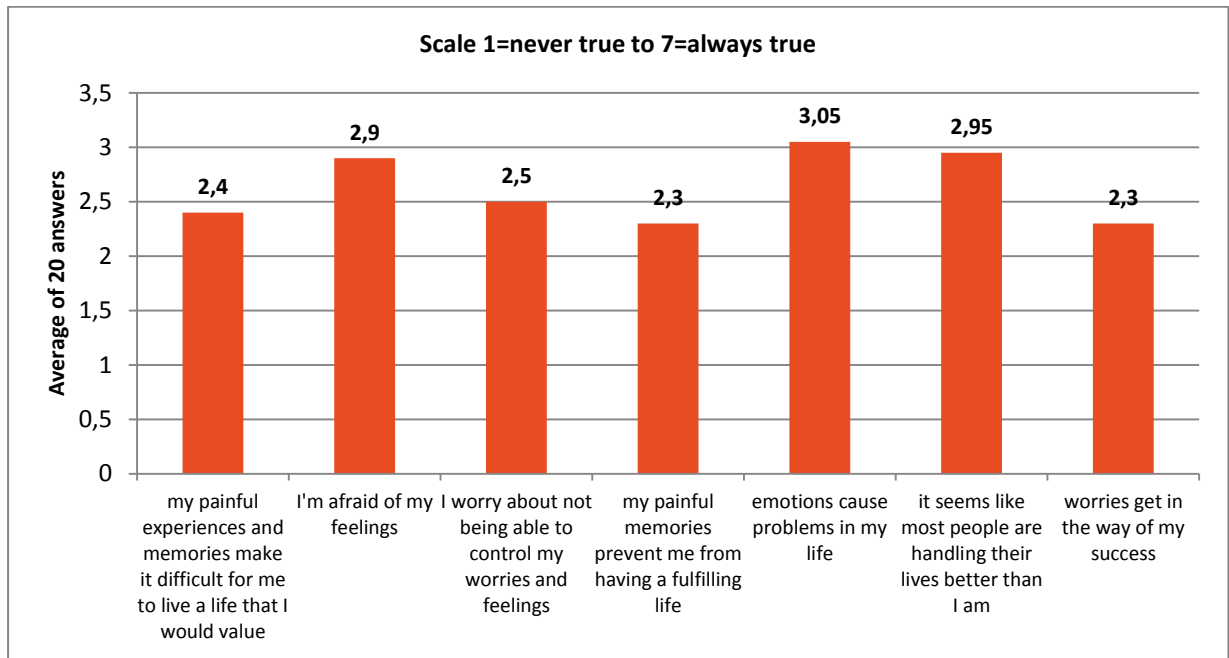






- 45% of the interviewees declare that painful memories and experiences create no difficulties in living a life that they would value. On the other hand, there is a small percentage (5%) that declares that such difficulties exist and come from painful memories and experiences.
- 25% of the interviewees find the second statement never true, 15% very seldom true, 25% seldom true, 15% sometimes true and 20% frequently true.
- 30% of interviewees are never worried about not being able to control their worries and feelings. 25% find this statement very seldom true, 15% seldom true, 25% sometimes true and 5% frequently true.
- 35% of the interviewees don't think that painful memories prevent them from having a fulfilling life. 25% find this statement very seldom and seldom true, 10% find this statement sometimes true and 5% almost always true.
- Approximately half of the interviewees (40%) declare that emotions create problems in their lives. On the other hand, 25% find this statement never true, 15% very seldom true and 20% seldom true.
- Regarding the statement "it seems like most people are handling their lives better than I am", 25% find it never true, 20% very seldom true, 15% seldom true, 20% sometimes true, 15% frequent true and 5% almost always true.
- The majority of the interviewees (55%) declare that worried don't get in the way of their success. 10% find this statement very seldom and seldom true, 25% sometimes true and 10% frequent true.

The following chart shows the average of 20 answers for each statement of the first question.

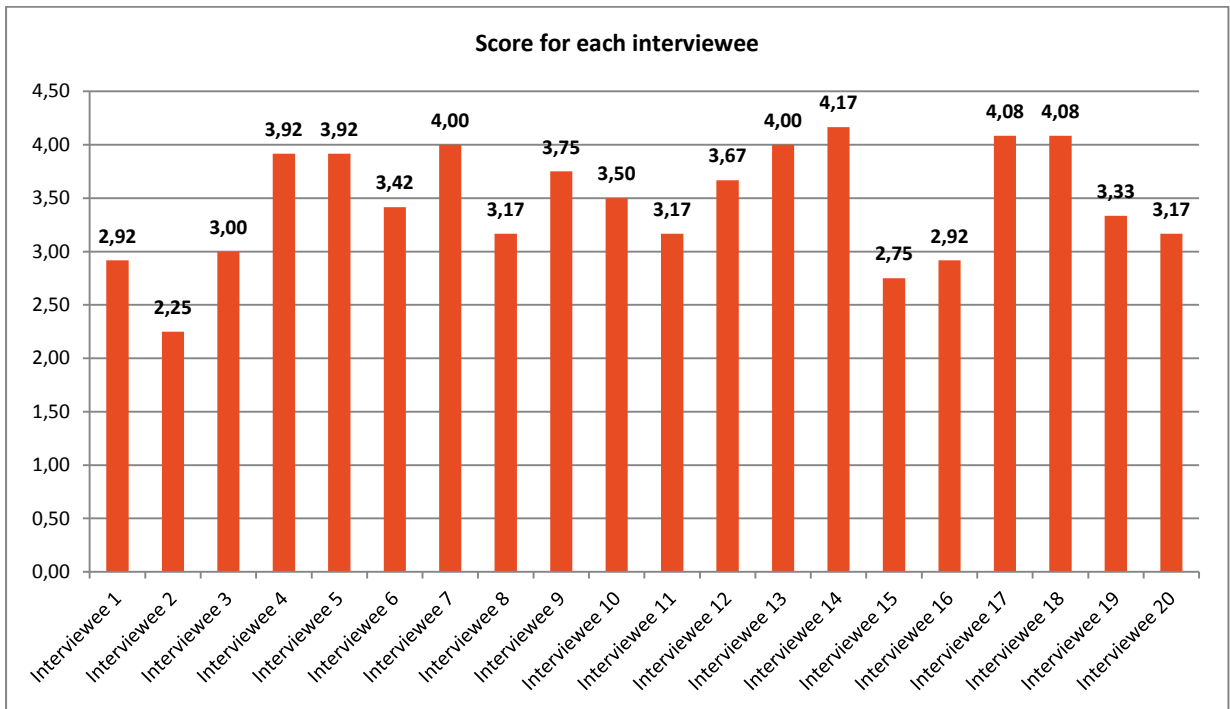


In the second section of the questionnaire, the Grit scale was used in order to have results on how gritty or not the interviewee is. For each answer the interviewee provided with, there was an equal score. In the following chart we can see the score for each interviewee.

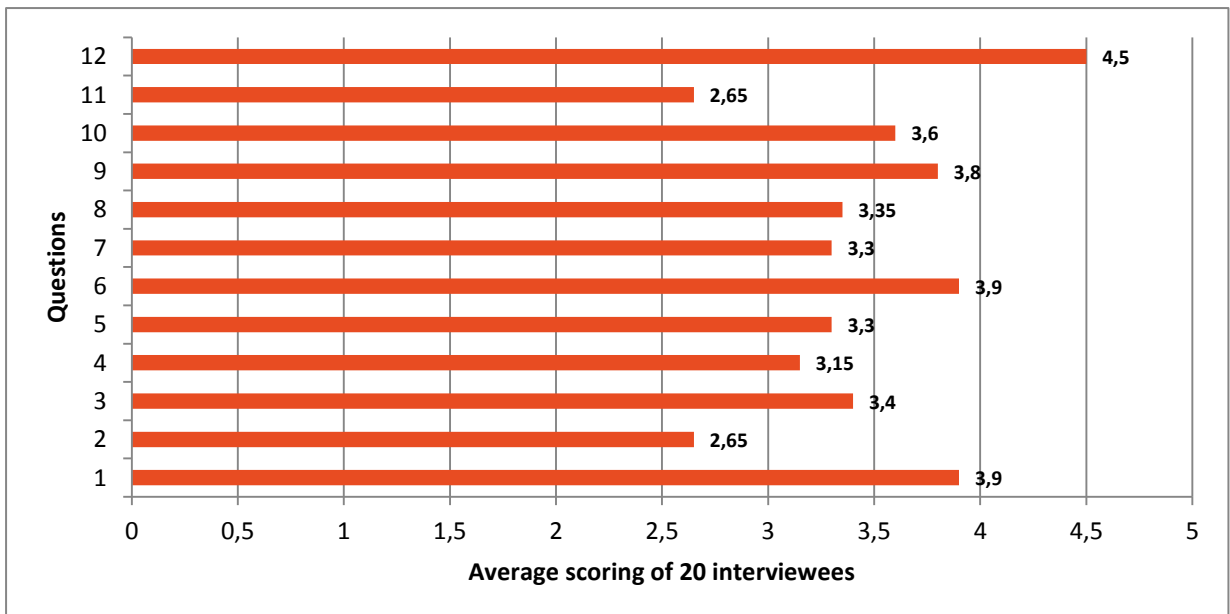
Moreover, in the second chart we can see the average score for each question of the Grit scale out of 20 interviewees.

In this section, the following scale was used:

1 = very much like me , 2 = mostly like me, 3 = somewhat like me , 4 = not much like me , 5 = not like me at all



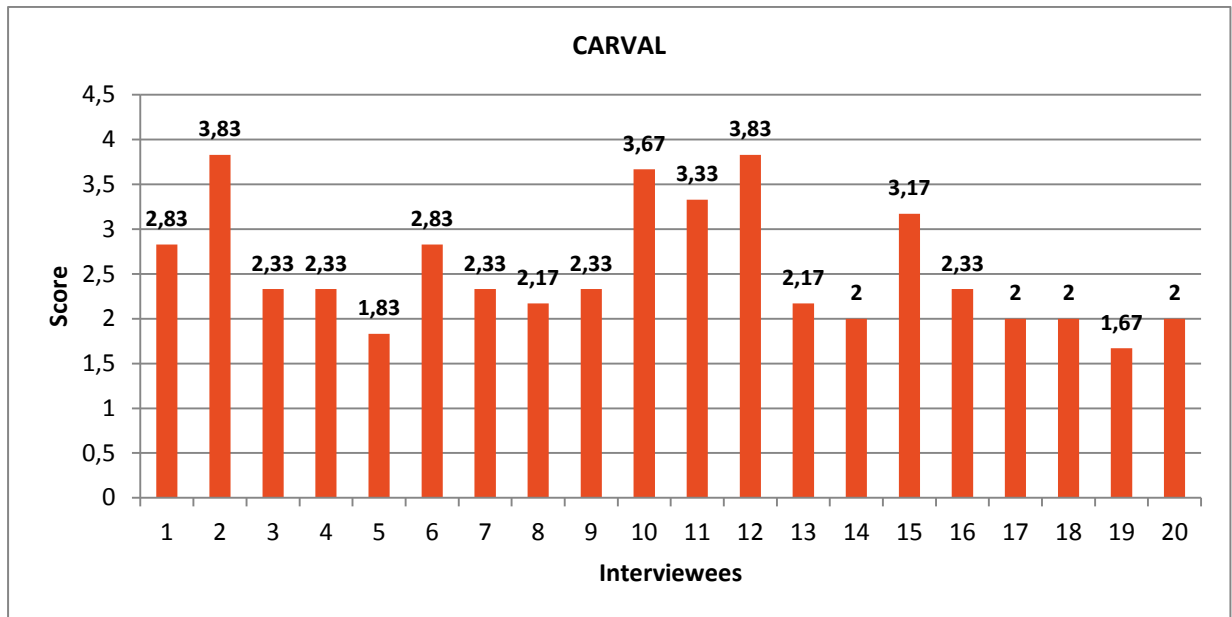
- 80% of the interviewees are above the average score (≥ 3)
- 35% of the interviewees are very close to the highest score (5)
- Only one interviewee (interviewee 2) has very low score, therefore is not as gritty as he/she should be



In the third section of the questionnaire (CARVAL), each interviewee had to provide with answers to specific statements using the following scale:

1 = strongly disagree , 2 = moderately disagree , 3 = slightly disagree , 4 = slightly agree , 5 = moderately agree , 6 = strongly agree

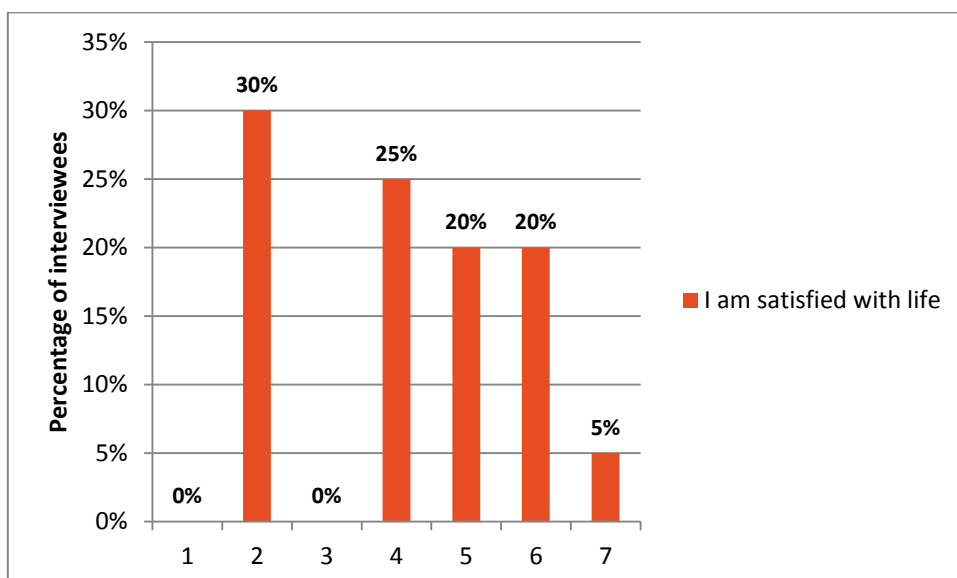
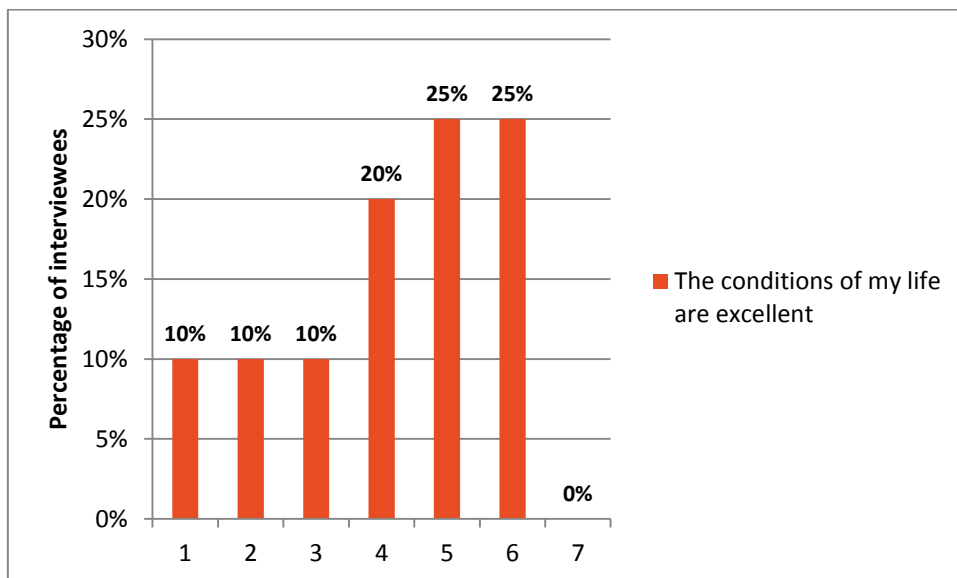
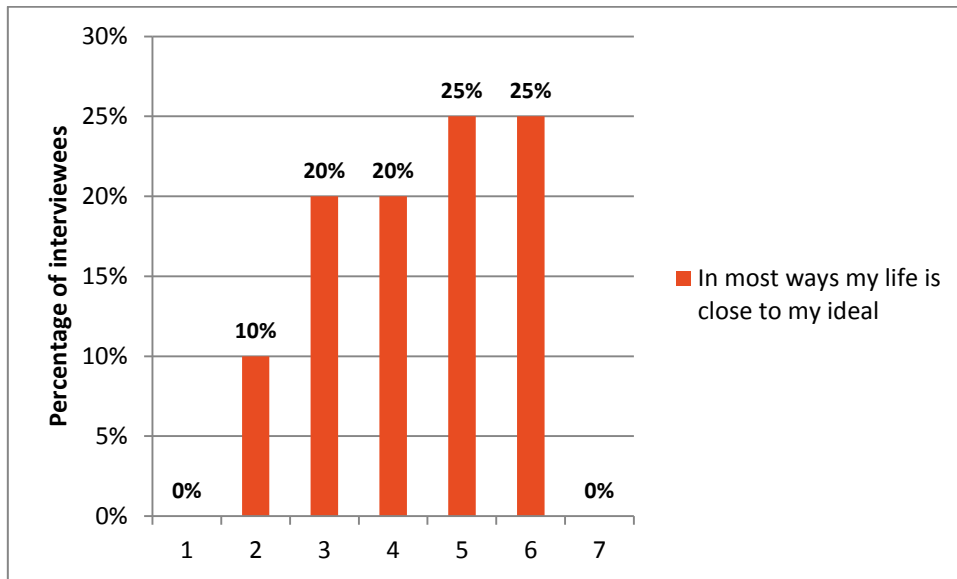
The purpose of this section is to measure the interviewee’s negativity, so the highest score the interviewee has the highest his/her negativity. In the following chart, the score per interviewee is displayed.

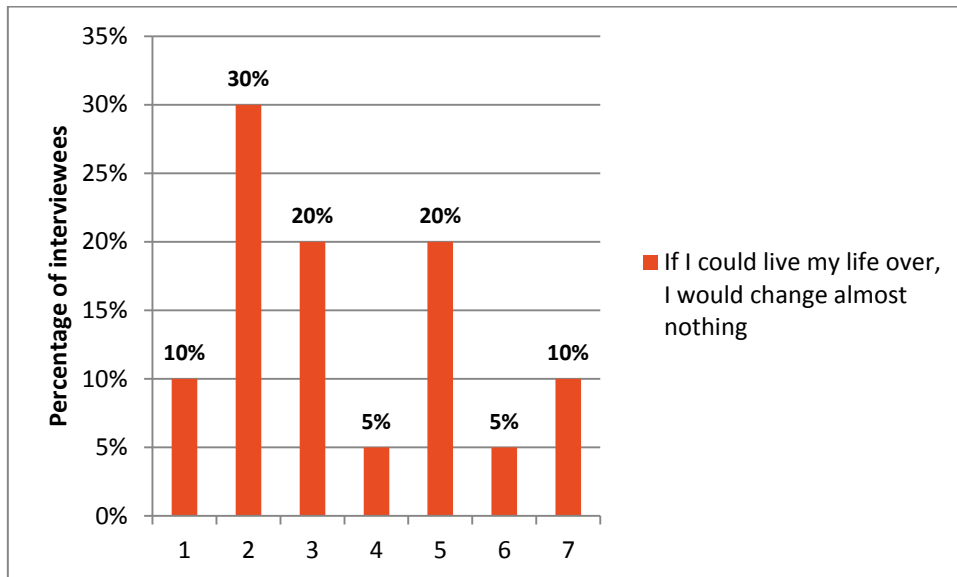
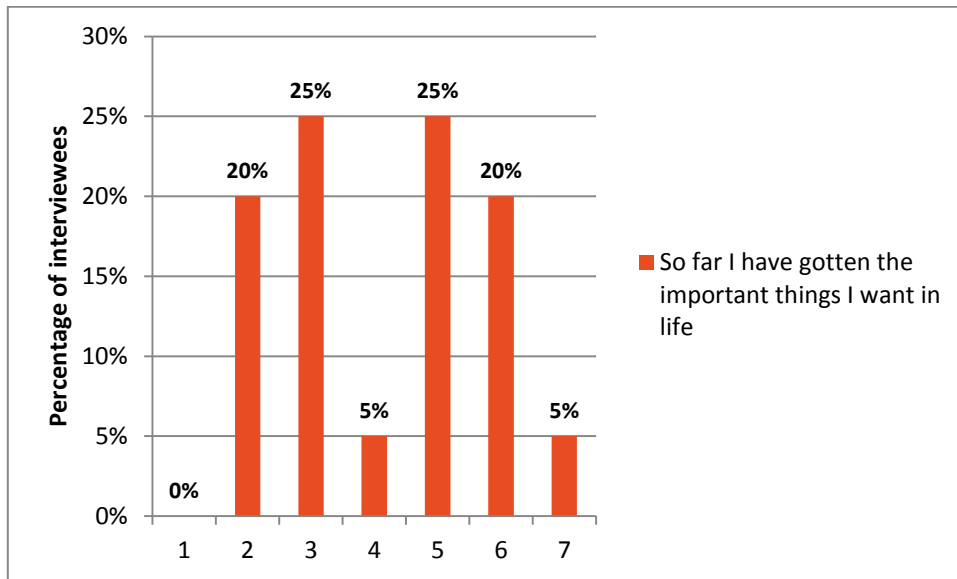


- 25% of the interviewees have a score above 3
- 65% of the interviewees have a score below 2,5
- Comparing the findings of this section with the findings of the Grit scale section, we can see that the same interviewees that have a low score on the Grit Scale have the highest scores in this section

In the last section of the questionnaire the interviewee could find some statements regarding the satisfaction from his/her life. Using a 1 = strongly disagree to 7 = strongly agree scale had to provide with only one answer for each statement.

The following charts show the percentage of interviewees’ answers / scale choice for each statement.





- 50% of the interviewees agree with the fact that, in most ways, their lives are close to their ideal. On the other hand, 10% disagree, 20% slightly disagree and 20% neither agree or disagree.
- 30% of the interviewees disagree with the statement that the conditions of their lives are excellent (10% strongly disagree, 10% disagree and 10% slightly disagree). On the other hand, 50% agree with this statement (25% slightly agree and 25% agree). Finally, 20% of the interviewees neither agree or disagree.
- 45% of the interviewees are satisfied with their lives and 30% are not. 25% of the interviewees didn't give a specific answer.
- 50% of the interviewees seem to have gotten the important things they wanted in life so far. On the other hand, 45% seem that haven't achieved that.
- 35% of the interviewees seem to regret for some things in their lives as they declare that if they could they would change some things about their lives. On the other hand, 60% seem to be confident about their choices as they wouldn't change a thing.