



Survey REPORT

Subject:
“Human rights and
Conscientious Objection in Bulgaria”

Youth Society for Peace and
Development of the Balkans



HR Management: Stefan Posliyski
Vasko Vatev
Analyses: Vesselin Iliev
Data Processing: Ivaylo Bedrov
Bistra Nikolova

Overall data

According to the official Bulgarian statistics during the year 2002/2003 there were 230513 students enrolled in Bulgarian Universities and colleges. When the sample was planned the figure was still not available about the year 2003/2004, which is now known to be 228468, enrolled in 51 institutes of Higher education.

The number of the students in the private Universities and colleges is 32802 (14,4% of all students enrolled in higher education institutions).

The current survey covers all state Universities in Bulgaria (excluded are the private ones and the ones that are subordinate to the Ministry of Defense). The sample size and the number of interviews for each University is calculated using the official data of the Ministry of Education concerning the number of ordinary undergraduate students for 2002/2003, as follows:

No	University	Number of ordinary students enrolled	Number of planned interviews
1	Sofia University	22595	218
2	University of National and World Economy - Sofia	11871	115
3	University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy – Sofia	3200	31
4	Technical University - Sofia	12288	119
5	University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy – Sofia	3346	32
6	University of Mining and Geology – Sofia	2321	22
7	University of Forestry Technology – Sofia	1697	16
8	Medical University – Sofia	3143	30
9	National Sports Academy – Sofia	1876	18
10	National Academy of Theatre and Film Arts - Sofia	513	5
11	National Academy of Arts – Sofia	790	8
12	National Academy of Music – Sofia	837	8
13	Plovdiv University	7299	70
14	University of Food Technologies – Plovdiv	2245	22
15	Agricultural University – Plovdiv	1940	19
16	Academy of Music and Dance – Plovdiv	795	8
17	Medical University - Plovdiv	3317	32
18	Technical University – Sofia, Plovdiv branch	1845	18
19	Veliko Tarnovo University	6064	58
20	University of Economics – Varna	5856	56
21	Technical University – Varna	5428	52
22	Medical University - Varna	3097	30
23	University “Prof. A. Zlatarov” - Bourgas	3205	31
24	South Western University - Blagoevgrad	4530	44
25	Shoumen University	4685	45
26	Rousse University	4879	47
27	Thracian University – Stara Zagora	2635	25
28	"D. Tsenov" Academy of Economics - Svishtov	5339	52
29	Technical University – Gabrovo	3570	34
	Total	131206	N=1265

In 2002 the population of the country is 7 845 841 (according to the national census, carried out by the National Statistics Institute), 3 816 162 of them are male. 69,4% of the Bulgarian population lives in urban areas whereas 30,6% in rural.

1 021 671 people (or 13% of the population) are young people below 18 years of age. Around 573 000 people (or 7,3% are the youngsters 18-25 years).

The chosen sampling method is simple random sampling with N=1265.

The interviews were carried out in November and early December 2003.

The questionnaires were processed in January and February 2004.

The analysis was carried out in March and early April 2004.

Survey Results

1. Human Rights questions

1.1. Are you acquainted with the Human Rights Charter?

	Percent	Percent of responses
No	59.7	63.5
Yes	34.3	36.5
Subtotal	94.1	100,0
No response	5.9	
Total	100,0	

1.2. Do you know what do you must to do and where to go if somebody violates your rights?

	Percent	Percent of responses
No	55.9	59.5
Yes	38.1	40.5
Subtotal	94.0	100,0
No response	6.0	
Total	100,0	

1.3. Are you acquainted with the procedures of making complaints in the Human Rights Court in Strasbourg?

	Percent	Percent of responses
No	81.8	86.7
Yes	12.6	13.3
Subtotal	94.4	100,0
No response	5.6	
Total	100,0	

1.4. Do you think that somebody is violating your rights?

	Percent	Percent of responses
No	57,9	62,5
Yes	34,8	37,5
Subtotal	92,7	100,0
No response	7,3	
Total	100,0	

2. Questions about Conscientious Objection:

2.1. Do you know about the possibility, given from the Bulgarian and European legislation, for substitution of the military service with an alternative?

	Percent	Percent of responses
No	44,7	55,2
Yes	36,2	44,8
Subtotal	80,9	100,0
No response	19,1	
Total	100,0	

2.2. Would you substitute your military service with an alternative?

	Percent	Percent of responses
No	31,1	50,6
Yes	30,4	49,4
Subtotal	61,4	100,0
No response	38,6	
Total	100,0	

2.3. Why would you substitute your military service with an alternative?

	Percent	Percent of responses
I will not acquire new knowledge of skills, it is waste of time	26,9	64,8
Conscientiously	10,0	24,0
Other reason	4,6	11,2
Subtotal	41,5	100,0
No response	58,5	
Total	100,0	

Answer “Other” from the above question 2.3. – Please write down the other reason.

	Percent
I wouldn't	,3
I have already been in the army	,3
I don't want to stay in misery	,3
Because it is unmoral	,3
It is a waste of time	,3
I will become stupid	,2
Because of my bad health	,2
I have better things to do	,2
I don't want to	,1
I am from the other sex	,1
I think it is not suitable for me	,1
Waste of time, but you become more disciplined	,1
Every man should go in the army	,1
I will think when it comes	,1
It's now easier and not so miserable	,1
I want to go	,1
Fatherland exists – state – no	,1
For religious reasons	,1
I don't know	,1
I am afraid of violation of my rights	,1
It makes no sense	,1
It is not a place for an ambitious man	,1
It's not effective enough	,1
There are Gypsies and Turks	,1
Pacifism	,1
Because of my family	,1
Valid	96,6
Total	100,0

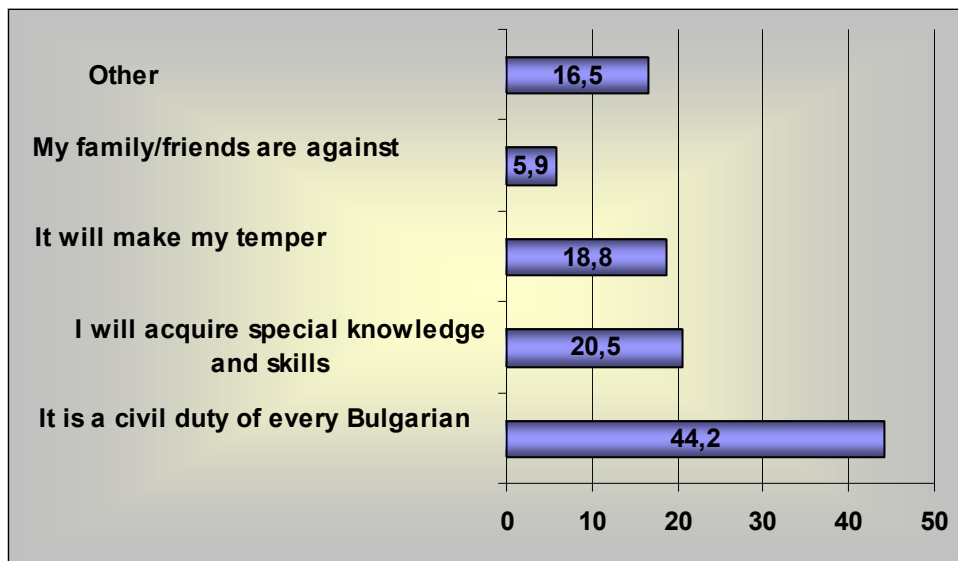
2.4. Where would you like to have your alternative service?

	Percent	Percent of responses
In state and local authorities	12,5	28,4
In NGO	10,4	23,7
In healthcare and education	8,1	18,4
Environment	6,8	15,5
In the army, without beating arms	3,8	8,6
In the community services	2,3	5,3
Subtotal	43,9	100,0
No response	56,1	
Total	100,0	

2.5. Would you participate in a promotion campaign of the alternative service?

	Percent	Percent of responses
Depends on the campaign	21,6	39,6
No	17,6	32,2
Yes	15,4	28,2
Subtotal	54,6	100,0
No response	45,4	
Total	100,0	

2.6. Why wouldn't you substitute your military service?



Answer "Other" from the above question – Please write down

	Percent
All the above	,3
Answers 1+3	,2
I don't know	,2
The military is shorter than the alternative	,1
I will feel a man of less quality	,1
It's shorter	,1
I don't like the conditions	,1
It will be an unforgettable half year	,1
No opinion	,1
I won't do any service	,1
The military is shorter	,1
Military training makes sense	,1
I don't want	,1
1+2+3	,1
I would escape from Bulgaria because of the military service	,1

Survey report – Youth Society for Peace and Development of the Balkans

It takes twice the time	,1
It is longer and hard to get	,1
I would substitute it	,1
Because it is twice as long	,1
I don't have time to waste	,1
I was there and I am content	,1
The service is shorter	,1
I want to try everything	,1
It's a place where a man can appreciate freedom	,1
The alternative is too long	,1
Just so	,1
I won't break for 6 months	,1
It gives privileges	,1
The alternative service is a bigger waste of time than the army	,1
It's longer than the usual	,1
I have been in the army. It's an useful experience.	,1
Because I am indifferent to the alternative service	,1
Because of the time I will be engaged	,1
It's shorter than the alternative	,1
It takes more time than the normal	,1
Waste of time	,1
I am released from the army	,1
The alternative takes more time	,1
I personally think for me it would be better to join the army	,1
To harden my temper	,1
I don't think I will go in the army	,1
I am released	,1
I don't want to be occupied longer time	,1
I don't like the idea	,1
Valid	95,9

2.7. How long should the alternative service be?

	Percent	Percent of responses
Equal to military	31,2	60,9
Twice as long as the military	12,5	24,3
Other	7,6	14,8
Subtotal	51,3	100,0
No response	48,7	
Total	100,0	

Answer “Other” from the above question – Please write down

	Percent
3 months	,3
Shorter than the military	,2
1 month	,2
I don't know	,1
4 times longer	,1
3 times longer	,1
1,5 times longer	,1
2 times shorter than military	,1
6 months	,1
2 years	,1
1 year	,1
It depends	,1
from 3 to 6 months	,1
5 years	,1
I am not sure there should be military service in the first place	,1
According to each individual	,1
It's none of my business	,1
There should not be such	,1
By the judgment of the military men	,1
7 months	,1
5 months	,1
At least 1 year	,1

Survey report – Youth Society for Peace and Development of the Balkans

I think the service should not be compulsory	,1
It should be paid well for the corresponding branch	,1
Military values are redundant	,1
3 years	,1
According to the service	,1
10 times longer	,1
3-5 years	,1
2 months	,1
Not very long	,1
Valid	92,8

PERSONAL DATA

7.1. Year of birth:

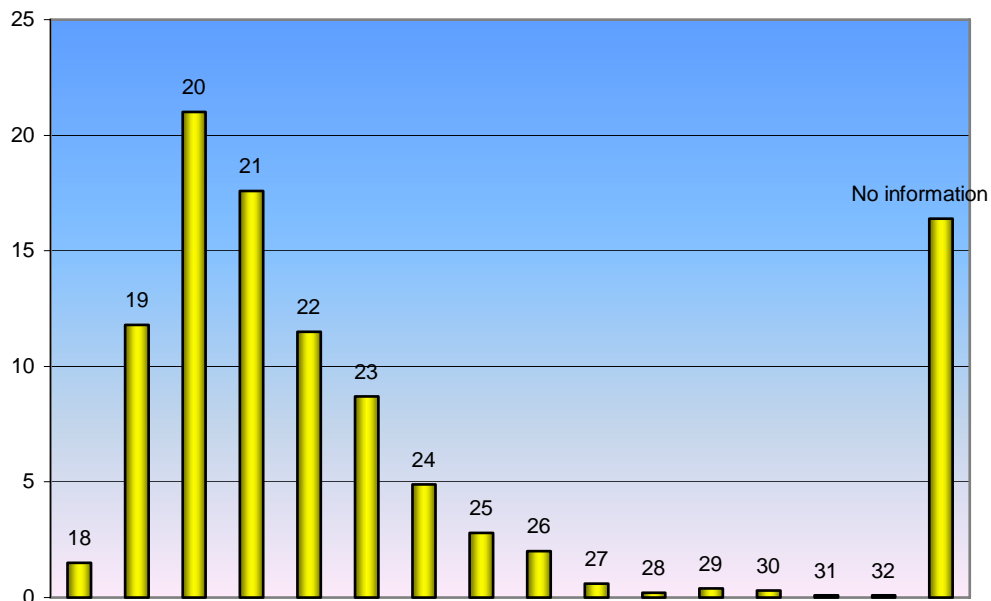


Figure . Age distribution of Bulgarian student

	Average Percent	Standard Error
Age	21,35	,07

Table 93. Average

7.2. Sex

	Percent	Percent of responses
Male	50,7	50,7
Female	49,3	49,3
Total	100,0	100,0

Table 94. Gender distribution of Bulgarian students