



Deaf Senior Education for Active Living

Project Number: 2020-1-IT02-KA204-079227

**IO1 - Deaf Senior needs in Europe:
Analysis and Abstract**

NATIONAL COUNTRY REPORT

Organisation: IRSAM



NATIONAL BACKGROUND

2.5 million people aged over 55 in France are deaf and hard of hearing

France has a number of associations or institutions which support deaf children and young adults throughout the country.

Technical platforms / resources of professionals trained in deafness provide early support to deaf people in France. However, the support of deaf adults over 65 is in the elderly sector and they are not a priority audience today. So isolated elderly deaf people may encounter a number of difficulties to their social integration and thus their disability is a source of marked exclusion.

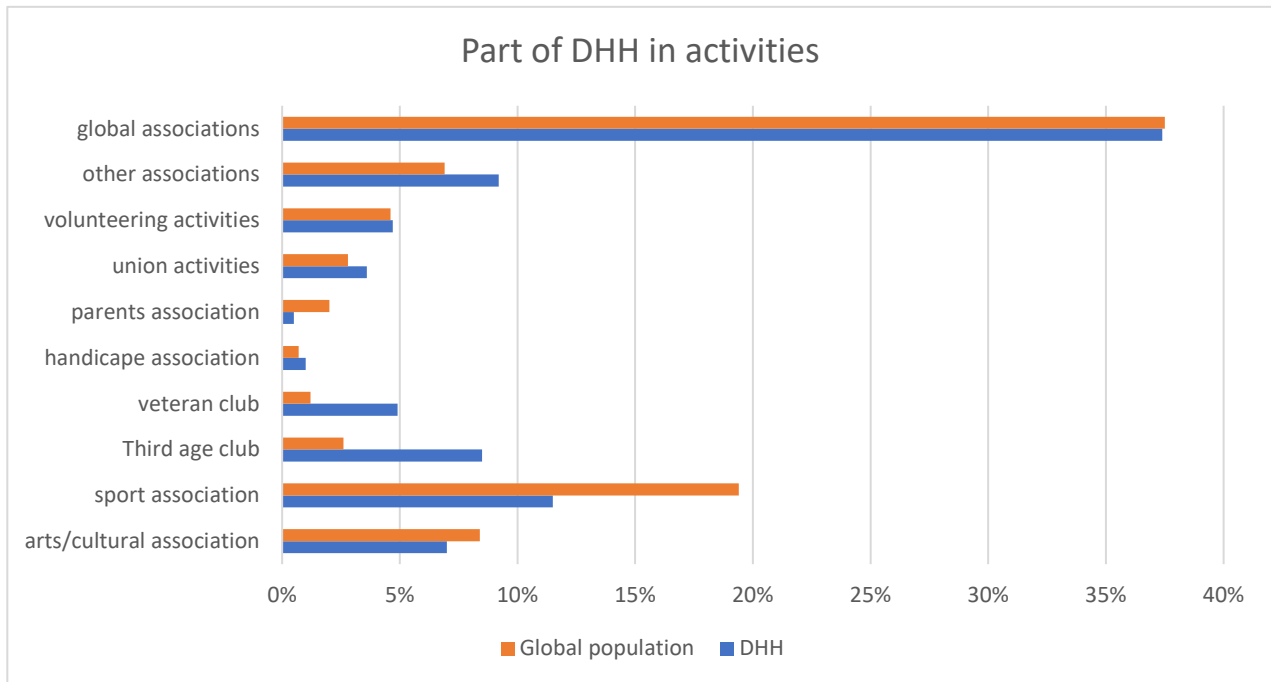
The development of new technologies facilitates access to information for young deaf who have easily received training / access to these technologies, which is not the case for deaf elderly who cannot benefit from access to social networks or administrative procedures accessible only via the internet. Elderly deaf people in France can see their social situation severely impacted by this lack of access and training.

65% of deaf people over 65 suffer from sometimes severe associated disorders that reduce their degree of autonomy in the actions of daily life. Elderly people which received help at home are very often faced with professionals who do not master the communication tools adapted to their deafness and cannot communicate in good conditions with these home helpers.

A number of human care systems exist for the elderly in France, but these services do not specialize in deafness and are sometimes in difficulty in supporting isolated elderly deaf adults. However, there are sign language training centers

Locating these older deaf adults in need of help is not always easy due to their isolation and lack of access to new technologies.

	DHH	Global population
arts/cultural association	7%	8,40%
sport association	11,50%	19,40%
Third age club	8,50%	2,60%
veteran club	4,90%	1,20%
handicape association	1%	0,70%
parents association	0,50%	2%
union activities	3,60%	2,80%
volunteering activities	4,70%	4,60%
other associations	9,20%	6,90%
global associations	37,40%	37,50%



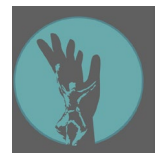
QUESTIONARY FINDINGS

These surveys are being conducted as part of the international DESEAL project (Deaf Senior Education for Active Living), funded with support from the European Commission under the Erasmus + Programme. The aim is to identify the needs of senior citizens in terms of various forms of education and activation (i.e., active participation in society). The gathering of the answers will help the Project team to create an international guide about educating and activating seniors.

All questions have been written in English and every partner has translated it in their national language. So, in French for IRASM Organisation. Then we translate all questions and answers in French Sign Language (LSF) in videos. The surveys were put online and we send the link to answer to all deaf associations on the area of Lyon. But the online system is not really adapted for the population of deaf seniors. Then we print the surveys and send them to deaf seniors, give out surveys in deaf association meeting.

For the survey for professionals, we sent the link to IRSAM professionals who work specially with deaf seniors.

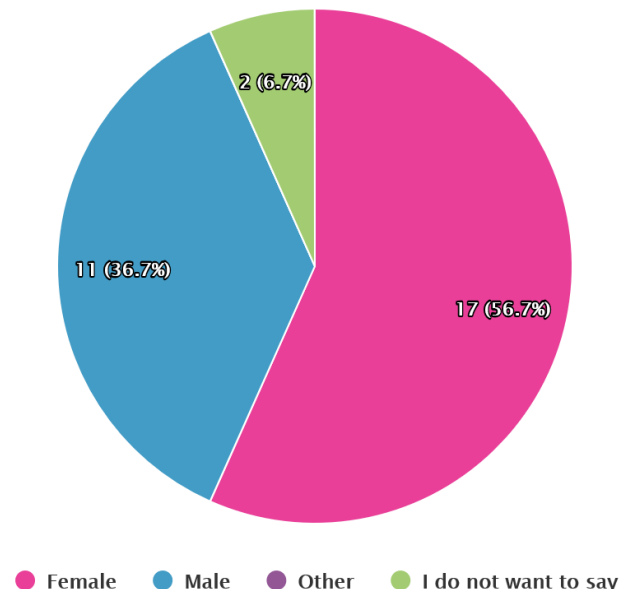
At the end we got 30 surveys completed by deaf seniors and 13 by professional who work with them.



SURVEY FOR DEAF SENIORS:

1. Sex

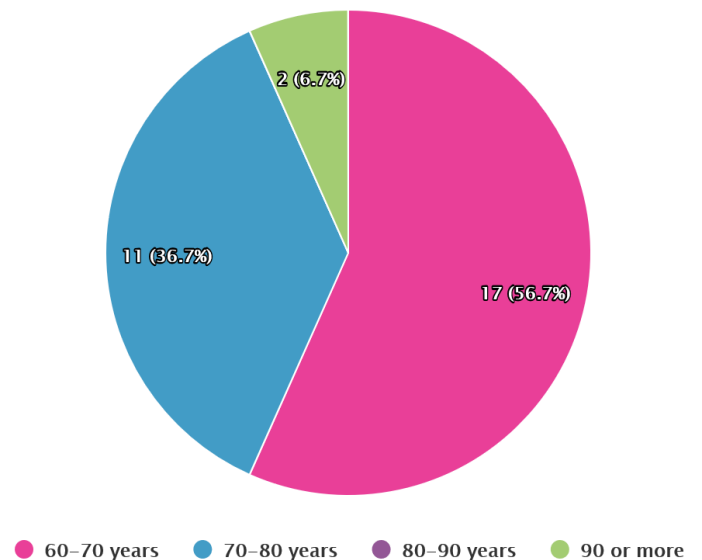
A majority of female has answered.



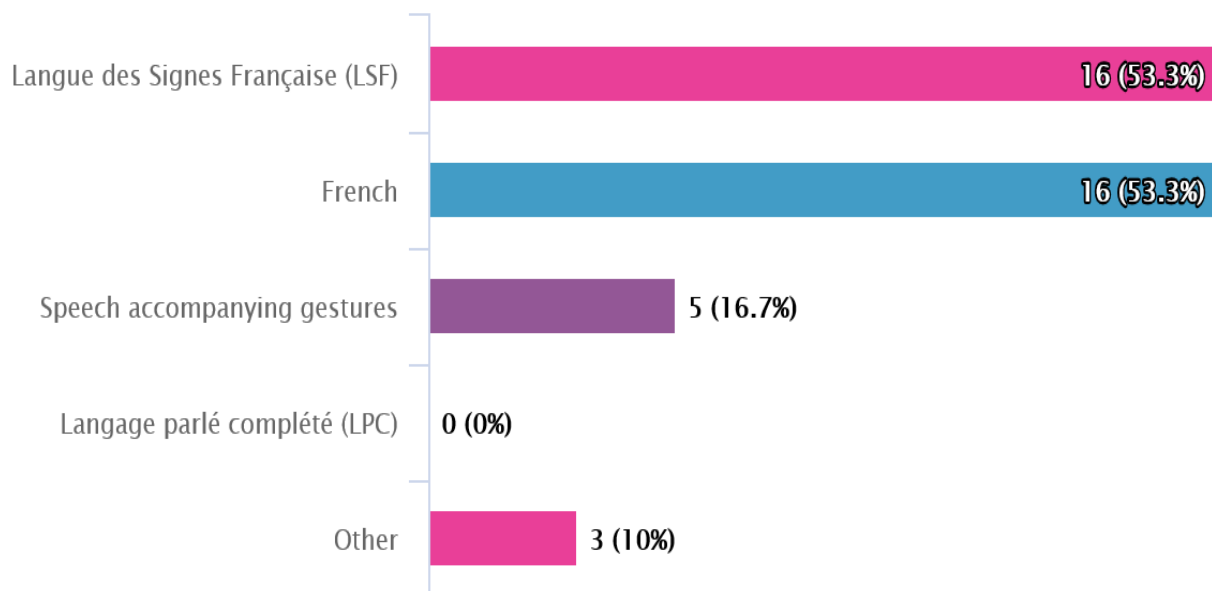
2. Age

The majority of the participants are between 60 to 70 years.

We noted that no one of participants are between 80 to 90 but 2 people over 90 years olds has answered.

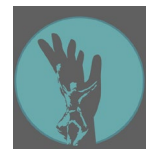


3. What is your preferred form of communication?

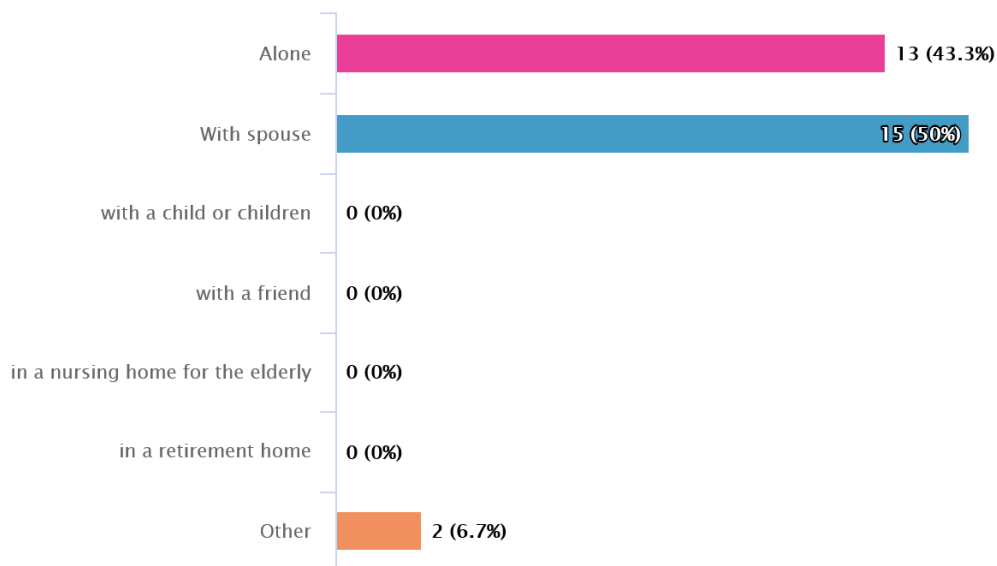


Others: lip reading, tactile LSF

Signe language and oral French are the preferred form of communication (16 answers each).



4. *You live:*

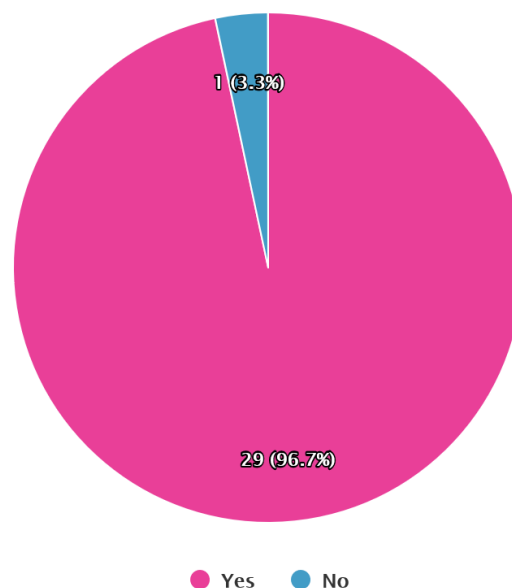


15 people who lives as a couple has answered the survey and also 13 who lives alone. It is pretty much equality.

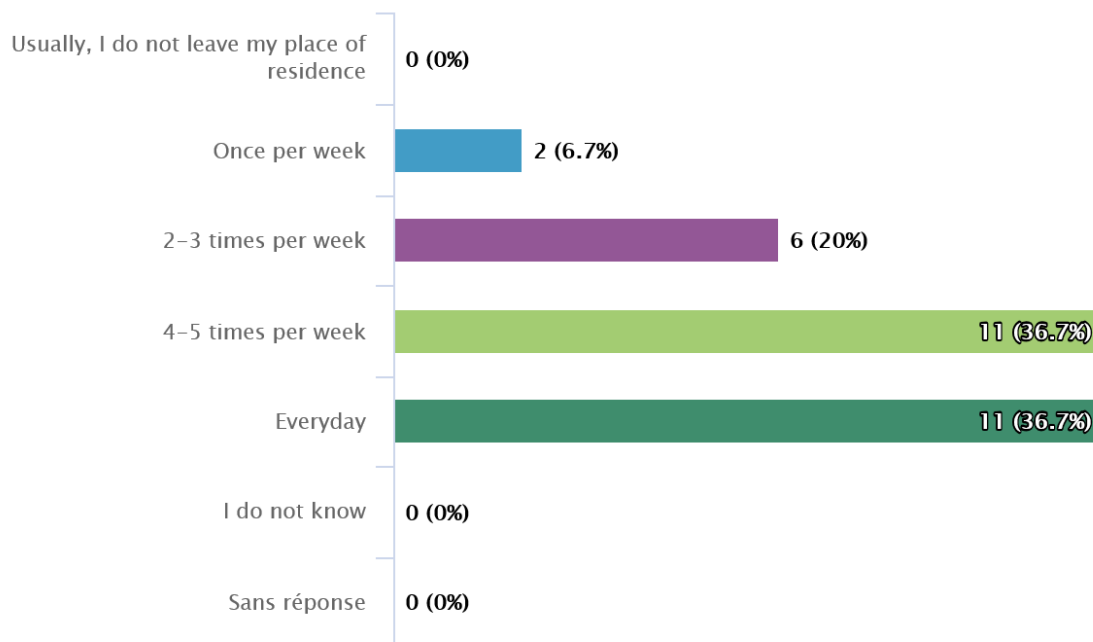
2 people who lives in a nursing home for deaf people with others disabilities participated.

5. *Are you able to go where you want to go?*

Just one person quotes “no” at this question, so it is an exception.



6. *If you marked “Yes”, how many times per week are you away from home?*

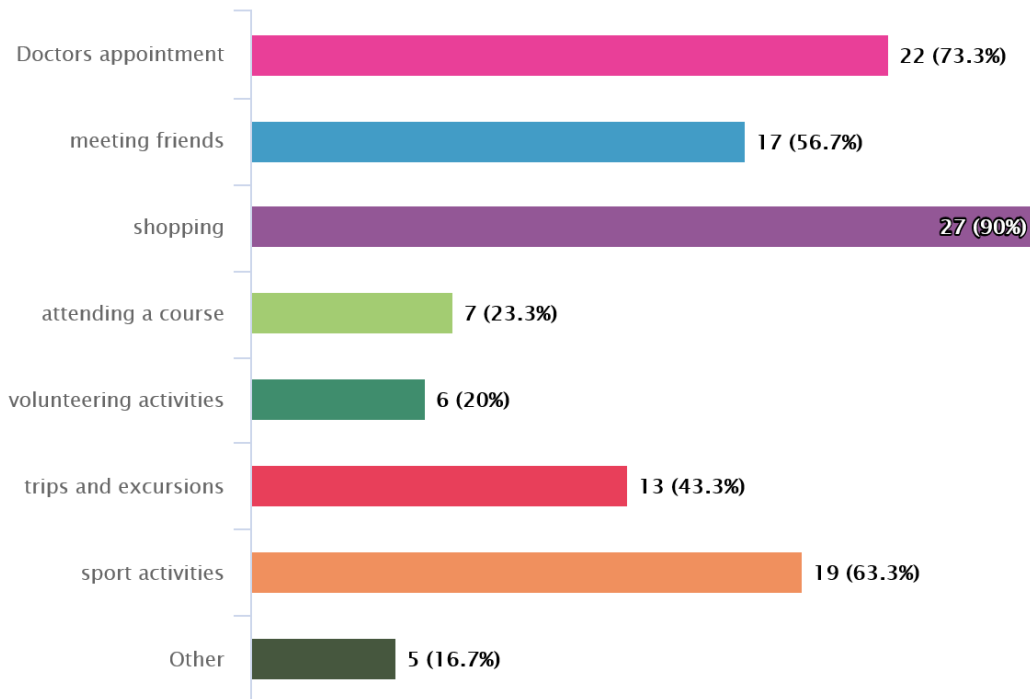


We can notice an equality of “4-5 times a week” and “everyday” (11 answers each). None of participants do not leave their residence less than one per week.

7. *If you marked “No”, why?*

No answer for this question.

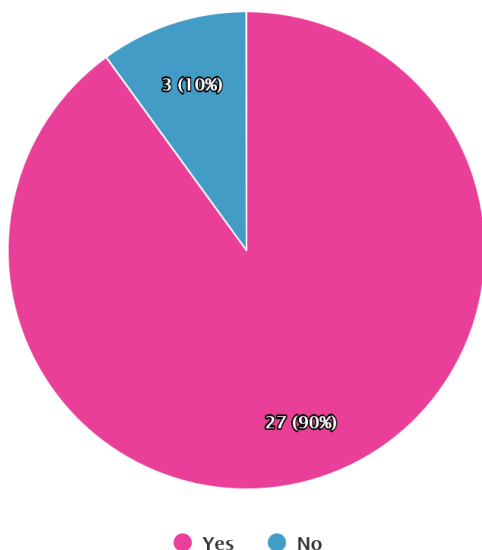
8. *Why do you leave home? (tick all that apply)*



Other : moto, Going to museum and movies, Going to the church, Qi Gong classes

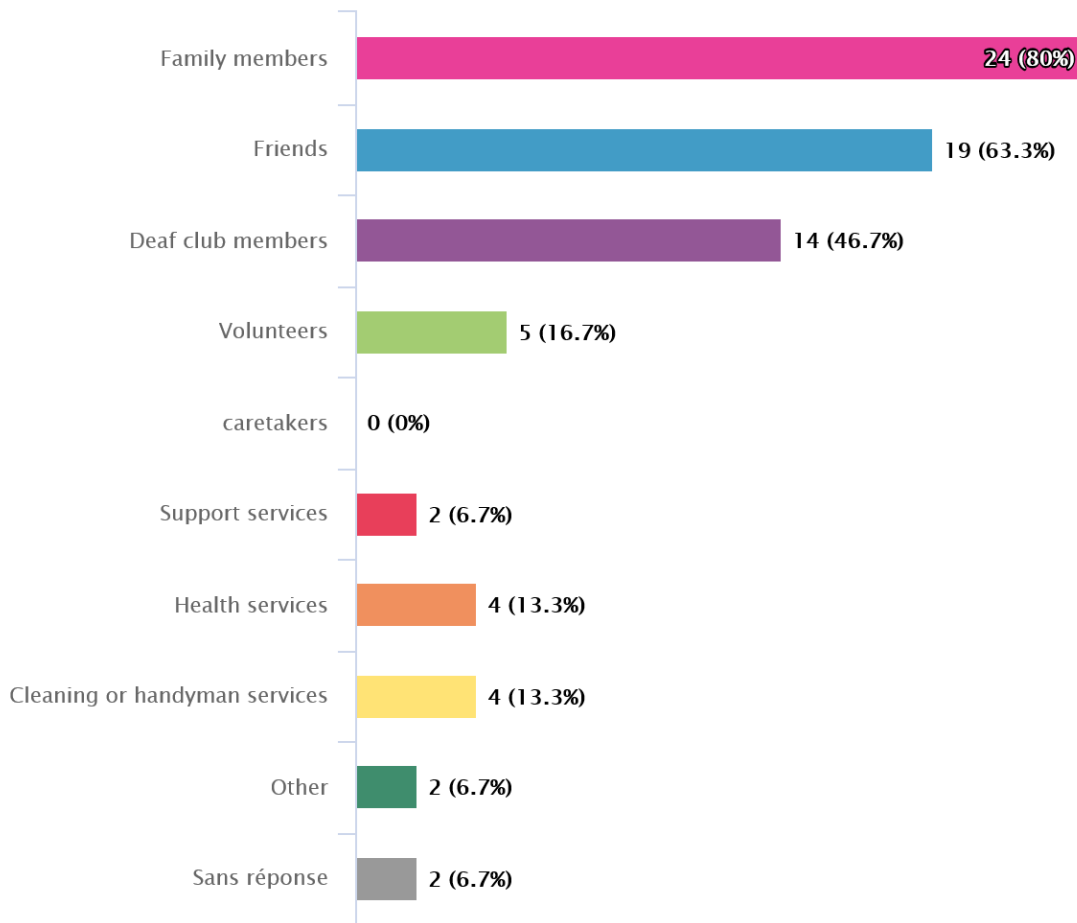
The participants have many reasons to leave their residences and all of the possibilities to answer have been ticked. The majority reason to leave home is to go shopping.

9. Do you have contact with other people in your daily life?



3 of participants ticked no at this question. It shows that 10 % are isolated.

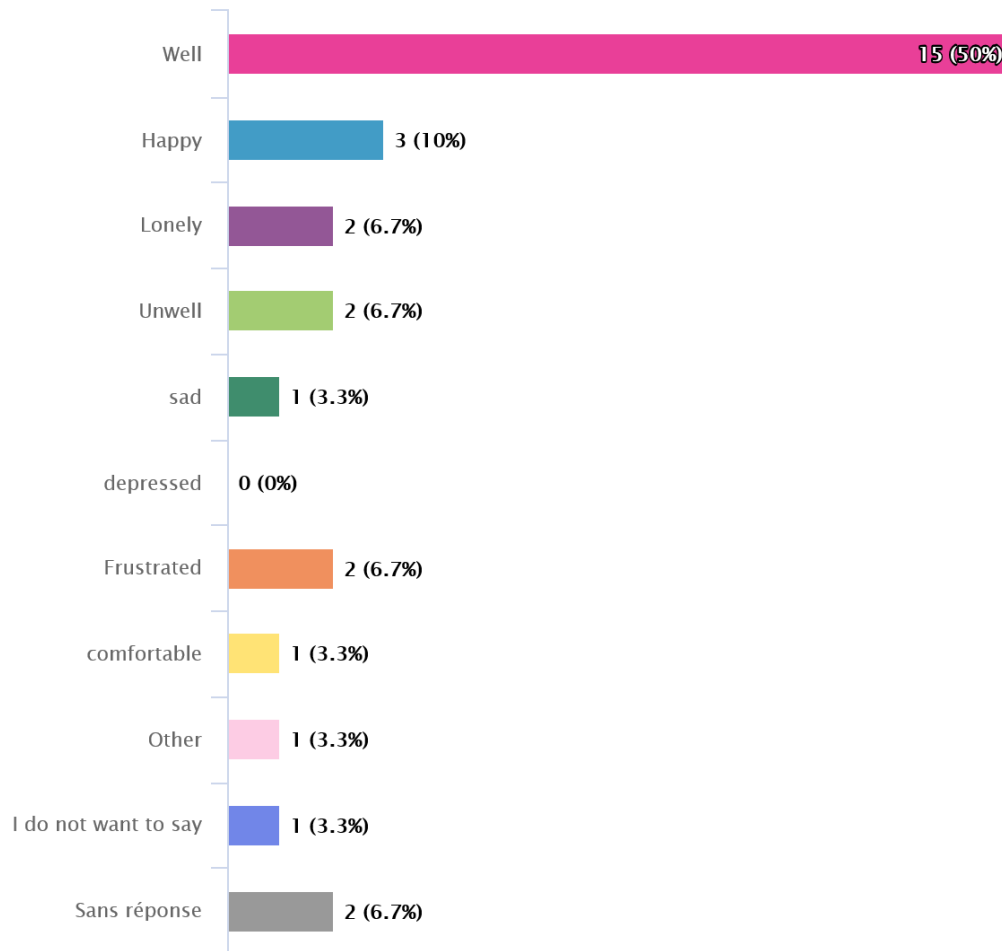
10. If you marked "Yes", who?



Other: neighbours

Family members and friends are the majors contacts, then it is deaf club members and volunteers, health services and cleaning/handyman services, and finally support services.

11. *How would you describe your wellbeing at the present time? Do you feel mostly...*



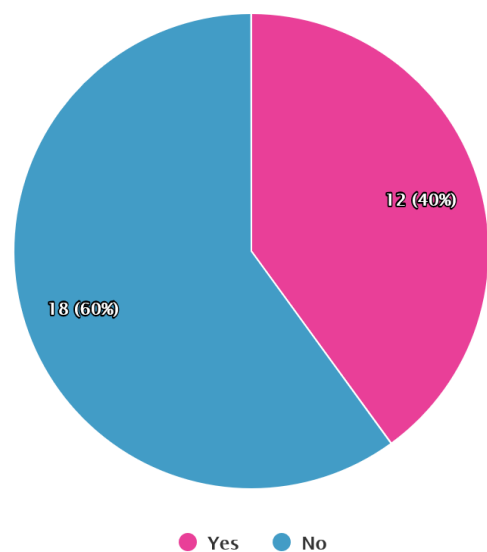
Other: i'm getting old and Covid's period is difficult as my friends are far away

The half of the participants are feeling well (50 %) and 10 % are feeling happy. The others answers are quite equal but we notice that 26 % has a bad feeling (lonely, unwell, frustrated, sad, other).

12. Do you know of education and activation opportunities in your locality?

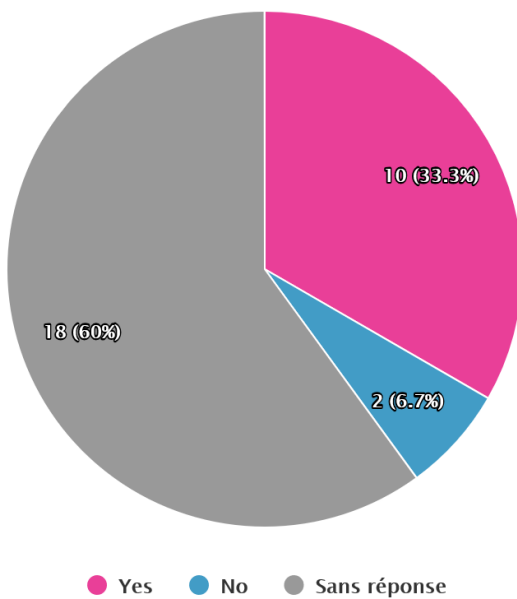
60 % are aware of education and activation opportunities in their locality.

That is the purpose of this project: to help the deaf seniors who have not access to an active living. In this case, it is 40 % of the participants at the survey.





13. If you marked "Yes" do you use them?



60 % of the participants have not answered this question so it is difficult to analyse the result.

Also, 33 % ticked "yes" so it shows that even if people are aware of what kind of activities they can do, they might not go for it and this people might need support.

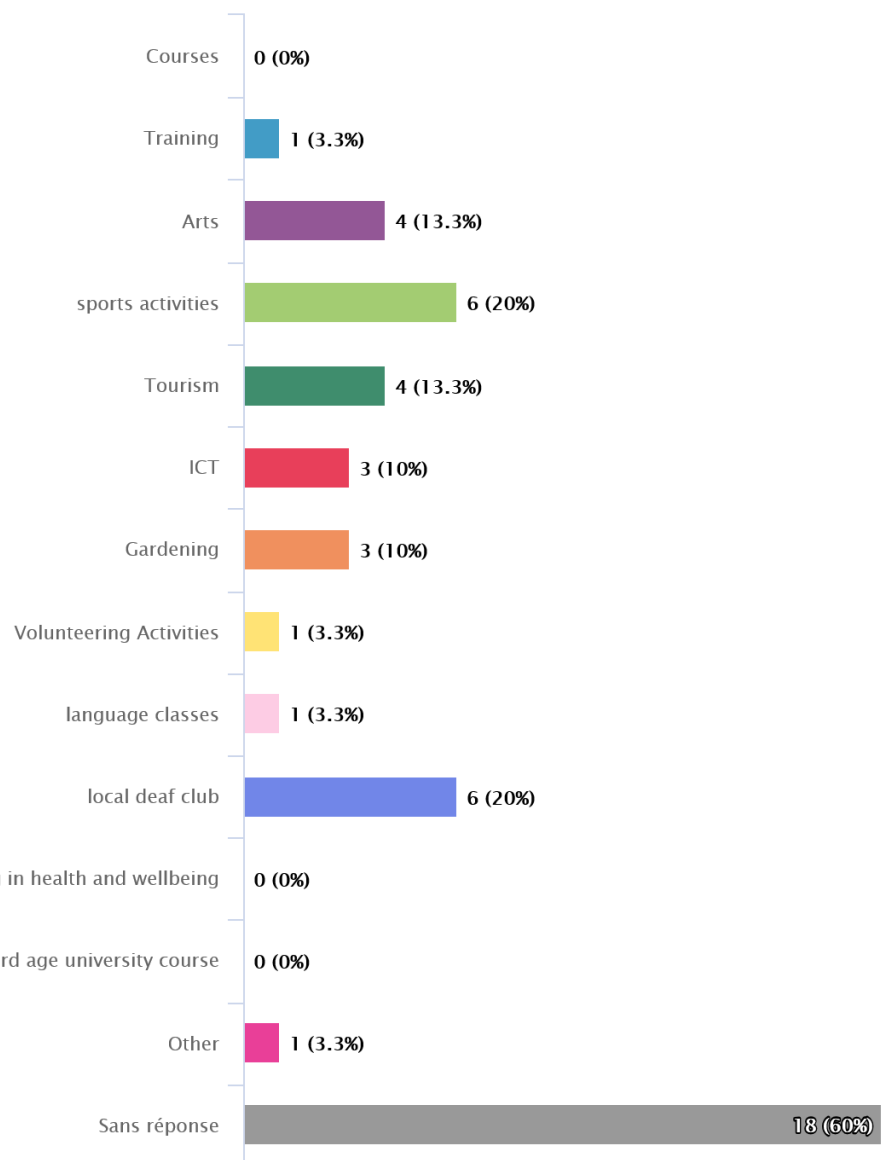
14. If you marked "Yes" which one did you use?

Other: sign language classes, cooking, cross stitch, trips

Sports activities and deaf club are the most plebiscites (20 % each)

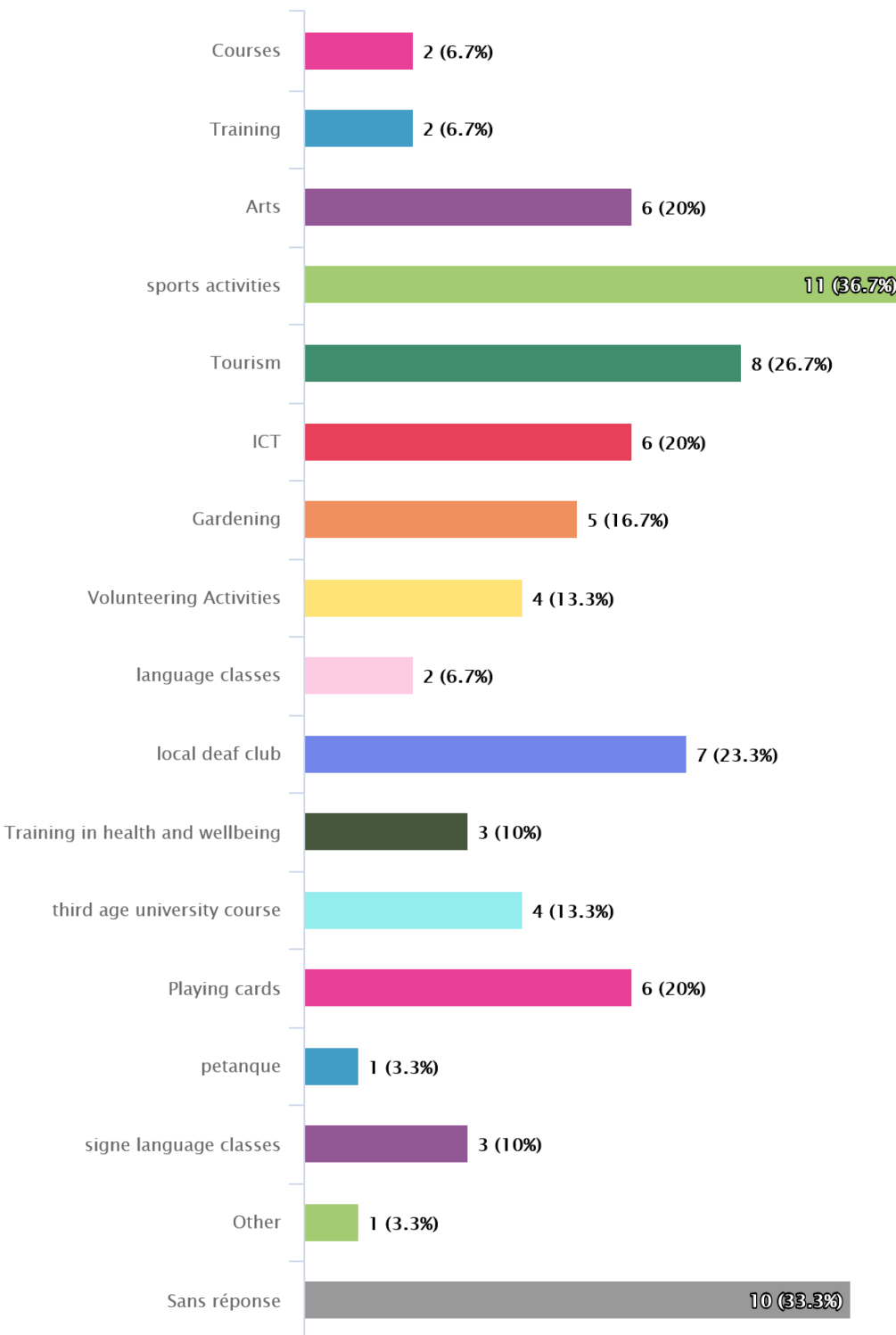
After it is arts with 13 % of the votes.

Then ICT and gardening has 10 % of votes each.





15. If you marked "No" which activities, you would like to do? (tick a maximum of 5 answers)



It is Sports activities the most representative choice with 36 % of the votes and Tourism has 26 % of the votes.

Then local deaf club has 23 % and Arts, ICT, playing cards has 20 % each.

We can see that the objectives of the deaf senior population are various.



16. *What activities usually make you happy or satisfied?*

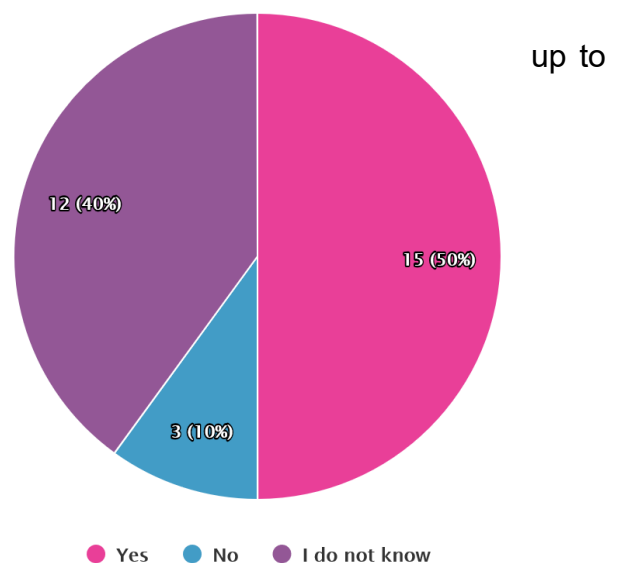
- *Free activities, painting classes*
- *Sport, trip, movies, theatre, reading*
- *Deaf social club*
- *Handcraft*
- *SUDOKU, news from “deafworld”*
- *tourism and local deaf social club*
- *movies, tourism in France and other countries, visiting my family*
- *Qi Gong classes are relaxing*
- *golf*
- *sport*
- *walking*
- *ICT*
- *local deaf club*
- *sewing*
- *local deaf club and playing cards*
- *sports activities*
- *cultural visits*
- *I don't Know (ten answers)*

All these answers show us that sports, arts, movies, reflexions activities are very popular. Meet other deaf people at deaf club is also a good hobby.

17. *Would you like to connect with other deaf elderly people in Europe?*

50 % has ticked Yes: it shows a desire to open the world for half of the participants.

10 % does not know and 40 % are not interested.

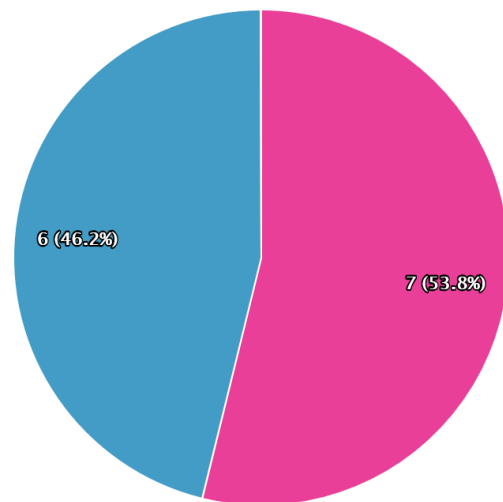




SURVEY FOR PROFESSIONAL WORKERS

1. Sex

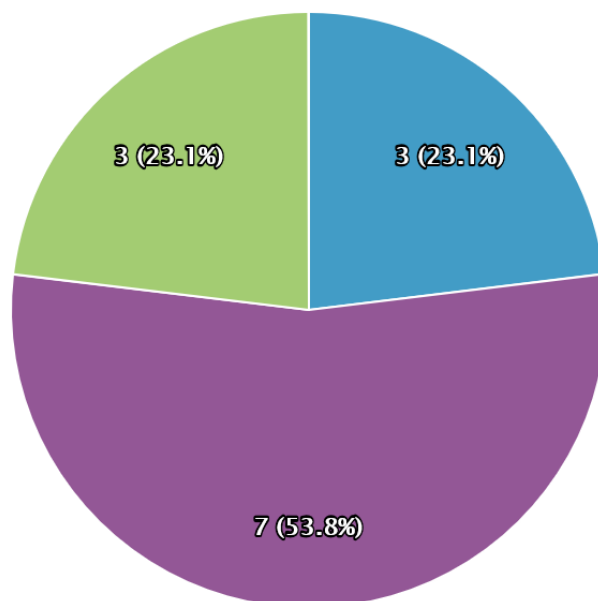
The participants are well mixed between male and female.



● Female ● Male ● Other ● I do not want to say ● Sans réponse

2. Place of work

The majority of workers lives in a city more or less 100,000 inhabitants, simply because IRSAM organisation has distributed the questionnaires mostly in the Lyon area.



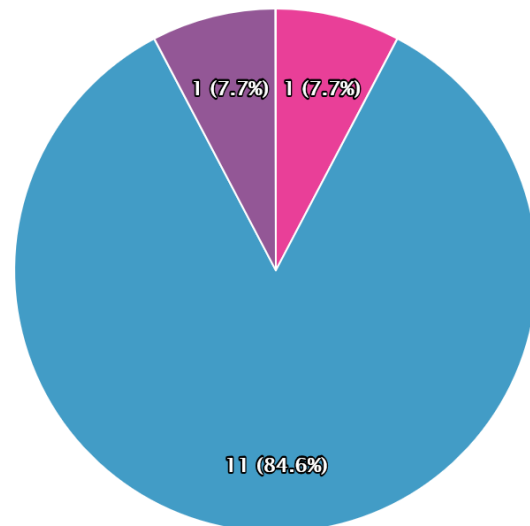
● A village ● a city of up to 50,000 inhabitants
● a city of up to 100,000 inhabitants ● a city of over 100,000 inhabitants
● Sans réponse

3. Profession



- trainer and mediator
- I'm taking care of my mother
- social worker
- social worker for deaf senior with other disabilities
- social worker for deaf seniors with other disabilities

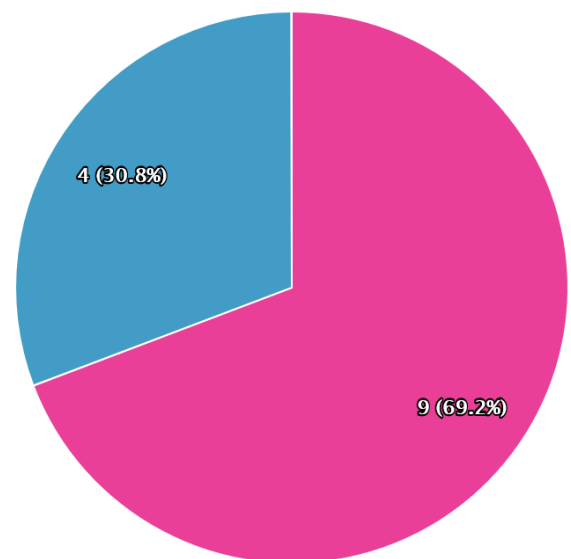
84 % of participants works with/for D/deaf seniors. That is the first target of the survey.



● I work with/for seniors ● I work with/for D/deaf seniors ● Other
● Sans réponse

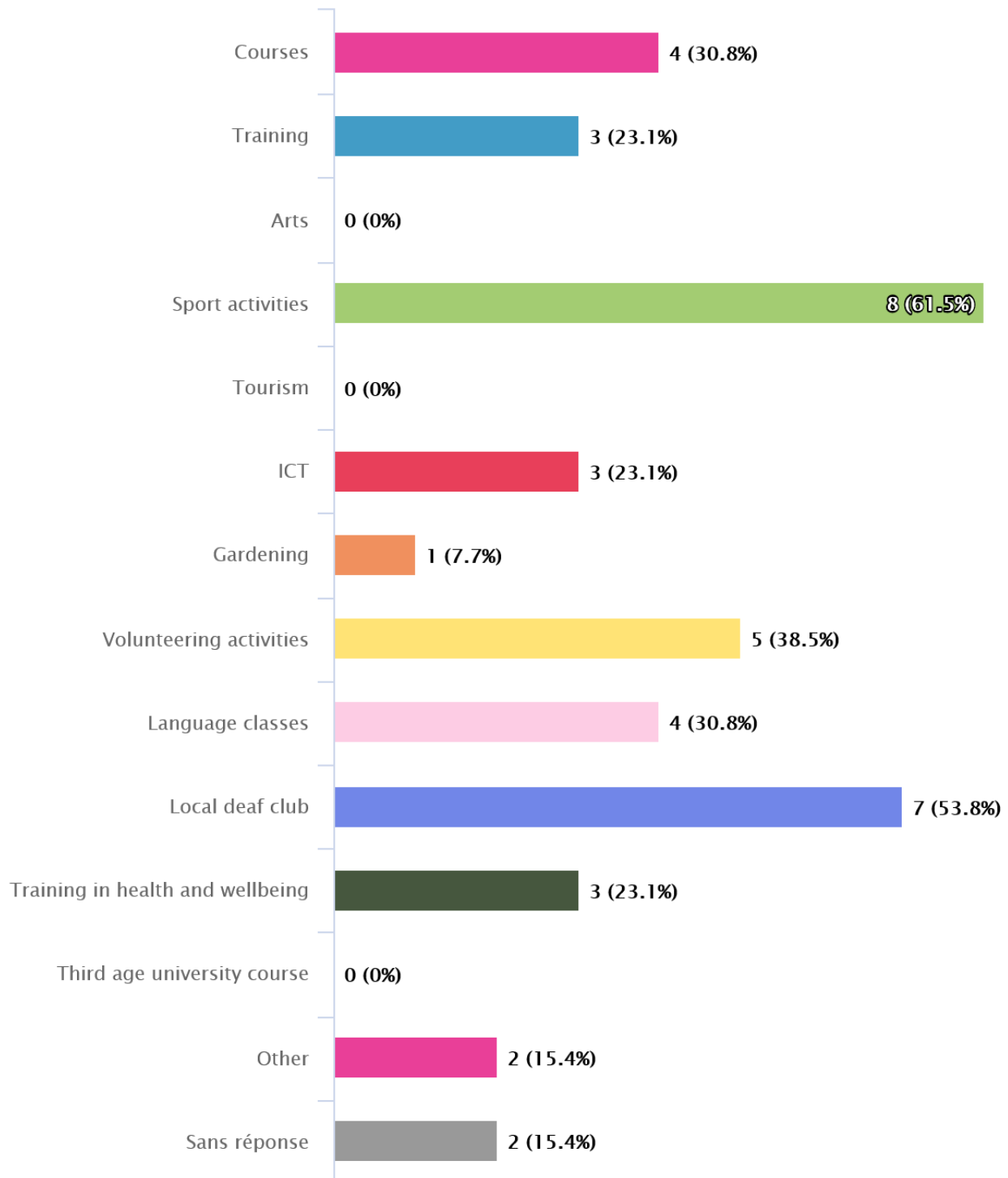
4. *Are there any opportunities for education and activation available for deaf seniors in your local area?*

Almost 70 % of the participants knows about opportunities for education and activation available for deaf seniors in a local area. Then 30 % doesn't. DESEAL Project's objective is to help these professionnals to have a better access to these opportunities, in order to help more the people they support.



● Yes ● No ● Sans réponse

5. *If you marked "Yes", please choose which one:*





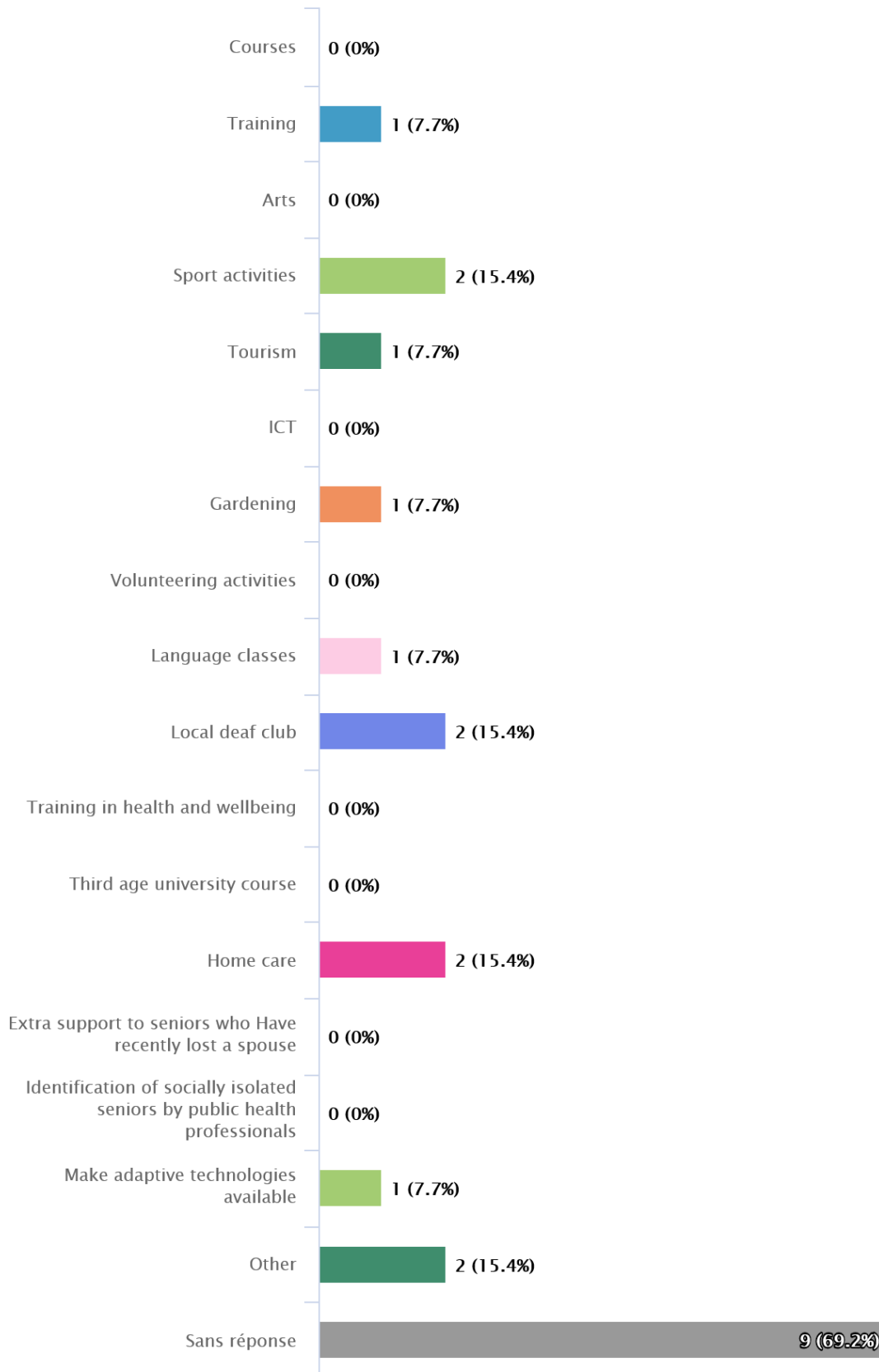
Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



The professionals's participants at the survey knows more about sport activities (61%) and local deaf clubs (53%), then volunteering activities (38%), language classes and courses (30 % each).



6. If you marked "NO" which activities would you like to be available for deaf seniors in your local area?



In that question, sport activities, local deaf clubs and home care gets 15 % each.

This shows the three main themes to be developed for a better active life.



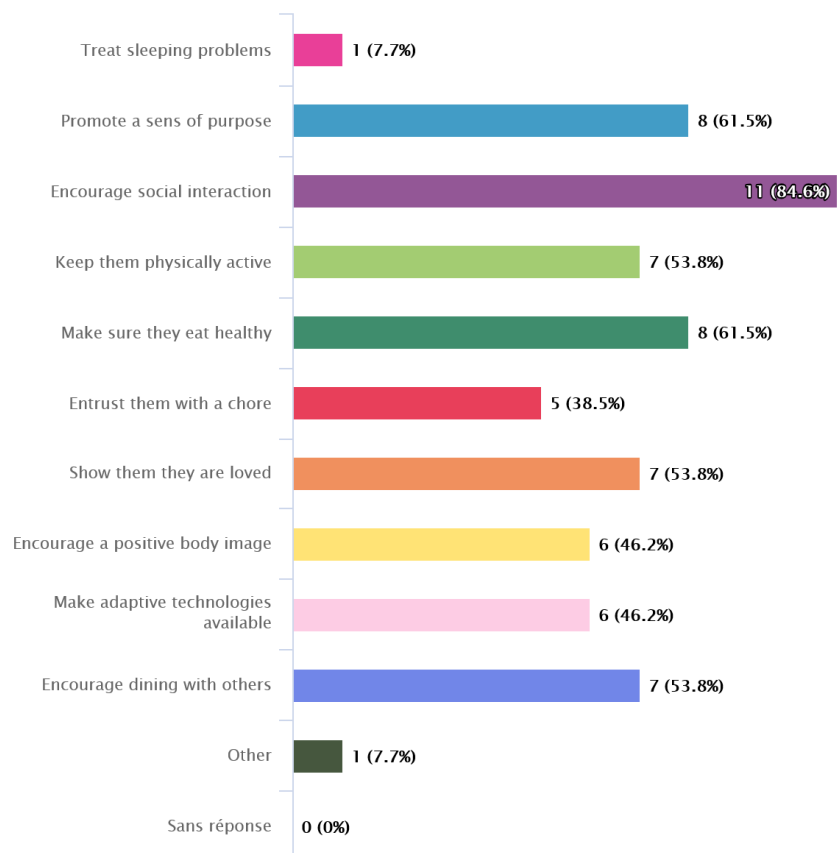
7. *Thinking about your local resources, what changes are needed so that deaf seniors can participate more willingly and more often in social life?*

- Deafness awareness
- don't know
- adapted transportation at the foot of the house, LSF interpreting time, individual accompaniments
- more associations related to deafness open to different forms of disability
- sign language should be mandatory for all hearing employees
- An adapted leisure offer
- More support for communication
- A higher proportion of caregivers and attendants of people who are deaf or hard of hearing
- sign language interpreters available
- Adapted housing, "à la carte" services
- Development of the LSF accessible to all and opening of the mentalities
- better location of isolated deaf people

The different answers at this question can be resume in a better knowledge of deafness (handicaps, solutions, ...), a better communication (sign language, interpreters available, ...) and also a better localization of deaf seniors in order to link them with appropriate support and opportunities for a better active life.

8. *Which of the following methods have you used to support deaf seniors in the developing their psycho-social activity and their independence?*

Professionals social workers have most used to encourage social interaction (83%) ; to promote a sens of purpose (61%), to to make sure the eat healthy (61%) ; then to show them they are loved, to keep them physically active, to entrust them with a core (53 % each)



9. *In the field of education and activation, what kinds of activities, methods, and forms of support are most important and need to be developed?*



- *we are fighting in France for the access to deaf people in a medical-social service like a daily care center*
- *don't know*
- *help in communication with the society*
- *interrelationship between deaf children and deaf seniors*
- *anything that promotes social interaction with other people (not necessarily deaf, for openness to others)*
- *educative time*
- *cultural activities*

These answers learn us how much openness is important for deaf seniors in our society : sports, culture, social interaction are the main themes to be developed in order to help deaf seniors to open themselves to our society. By doing that, the society will be more inclusive and more aware of deaf culture.

10. *What kind of training would you like in order to work with deaf seniors?*

- *awareness of visual gestural communication*
- *don't know*
- *training in aging and age-related physical disorders and LSF Communication*
- *situational training, visual and olfactory awareness training, development, and information of communication tools*
- *socio-cultural animator*
- *LSF communication*
- *Psychology knowledge of deafness and LSF*
- *training in new Technologies*
- *LSF training*
- *Wellness, care, adapted communication, artherapy*
- *LSF training*
- *training in psychology*

Communication seems to be the main issue to support deaf seniors: answers shows a lot of sign language training but also psychology and age related physical disorders.



CONCLUSION

The survey for deaf seniors shows us that this population has quite an active life: they leave regularly their residence but might have few contacts in their lives: 40 % lives alone.

The half of the participants are feeling well (50 %) and 10 % are feeling happy. But in the same time, 26 % has a bad feeling (lonely, unwell, frustrated, sad, other).

60 % are aware of education and activation opportunities in their locality but only 33 % confirms they use it. So it shows that even if people are aware of what kind of activities they could do, they might not go for it and this people might need support.

The interests of this population are various: Sports activities and deaf social club are the most plebiscites (20 % each) but also playing cards, cultural activities, tourism, and new technologies are things they would like to do.

At the end, 50% said they were interested in opening up to the Europe and exchanging with deaf people from other European countries.

The survey for professionals were distributed in the area of Lyon mostly to men and women who works with/for D/deaf seniors.

30 % of the participants doesn't know about opportunities for education and activation available for deaf seniors. That confirms the problem we've noticed in the national background: professional social workers are not specialized in deafness or elderly deafness. This is an obstacle because they can't facilitate access to opportunities that exists.

The mains themes developed in the area is sports activities (61%) and local deaf clubs (53%), the same as the survey for deaf seniors, then volunteering activities (38%), language classes and courses (30 % each). The popularity of local deaf club shows also that deaf people are a strong community.

The areas of improvement are a better knowledge of deafness (handicaps, solutions, ...), a better communication (sign language, interpreters available, ...) and a better localization of deaf seniors to link them with appropriate support and opportunities for a better active life.

The needs in courses for the professionals are mostly around communication. If social workers are not aware of all the ways to communicate with deaf seniors, it is a big problem to support them and link them to opportunities of active living.

At the end, we can say that the target population have a kind of an active life, but this can be much improve by going through some points:

- a better localization of the deaf seniors isolated
- a better communication between them and professional workers who support them
- an openness of deaf people to the world and people around them to create a more inclusively society