

Why study psychology?

A cross-cultural collaborative teacher-student
research project

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Abstract

The aim of the presentation is to describe collaborative project to investigate students' motivation for, and perceived outcomes of, studying psychology. Preliminary results from over 300 respondents from Great Britain and Slovakia have shown that one of the students' expectations towards psychology studies is to develop transferable life skills (interpersonal understanding and communication, self-cognition etc.).

INTRODUCTION

AIMS

- To compare study motivation for psychology in the cross-cultural context,
- To promote the idea of teaching psychology,
- To support cooperation among psychology teachers and students in Europe,
- To share good practice in psychology teaching.



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RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- Why students choose to study psychology?
- What is the most important outcome of psychology studies from the students' point of view?
- Are there any differences in motivation towards and perceived outcomes of studying psychology across Europe?



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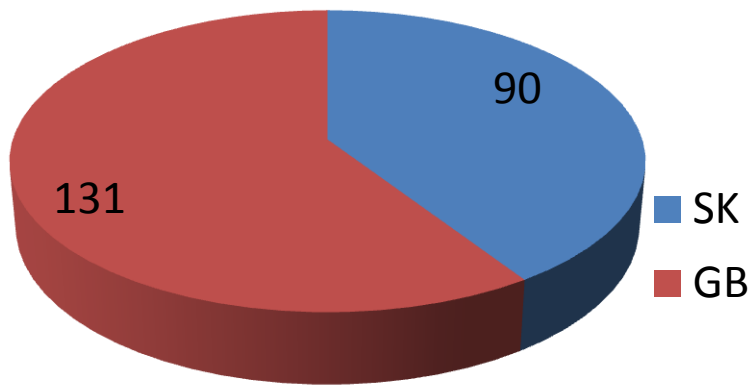


METHOD

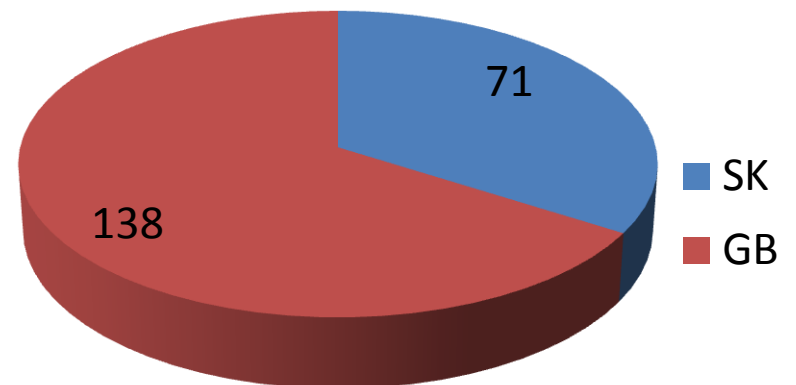
- **43-item online questionnaire on perceived outcomes**
 - 5 demographic questions
 - 2 open questions
 - 36 Likert-scale questions grouped into 6 categories
- **40-item online questionnaire on motivation**
 - 5 demographic questions
 - 1 open question
 - 34 Likert-scale questions grouped into 7 categories

PARTICIPANTS

Motivation



Outcomes



	Britain	Slovakia	Total
Male	8	48	56
Female	261	113	374



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Data analysis of the Slovak and British part of the sample

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

QUESTIONNAIRE CATEGORIES

MOTIVATION

- Difficulty
- Psychotherapy
- Intrinsic motivation – help others, work with people
- Intrinsic motivation – interest in discipline as such
- Gender
- Future job
- „Life success“

PERCEIVED OUTCOMES

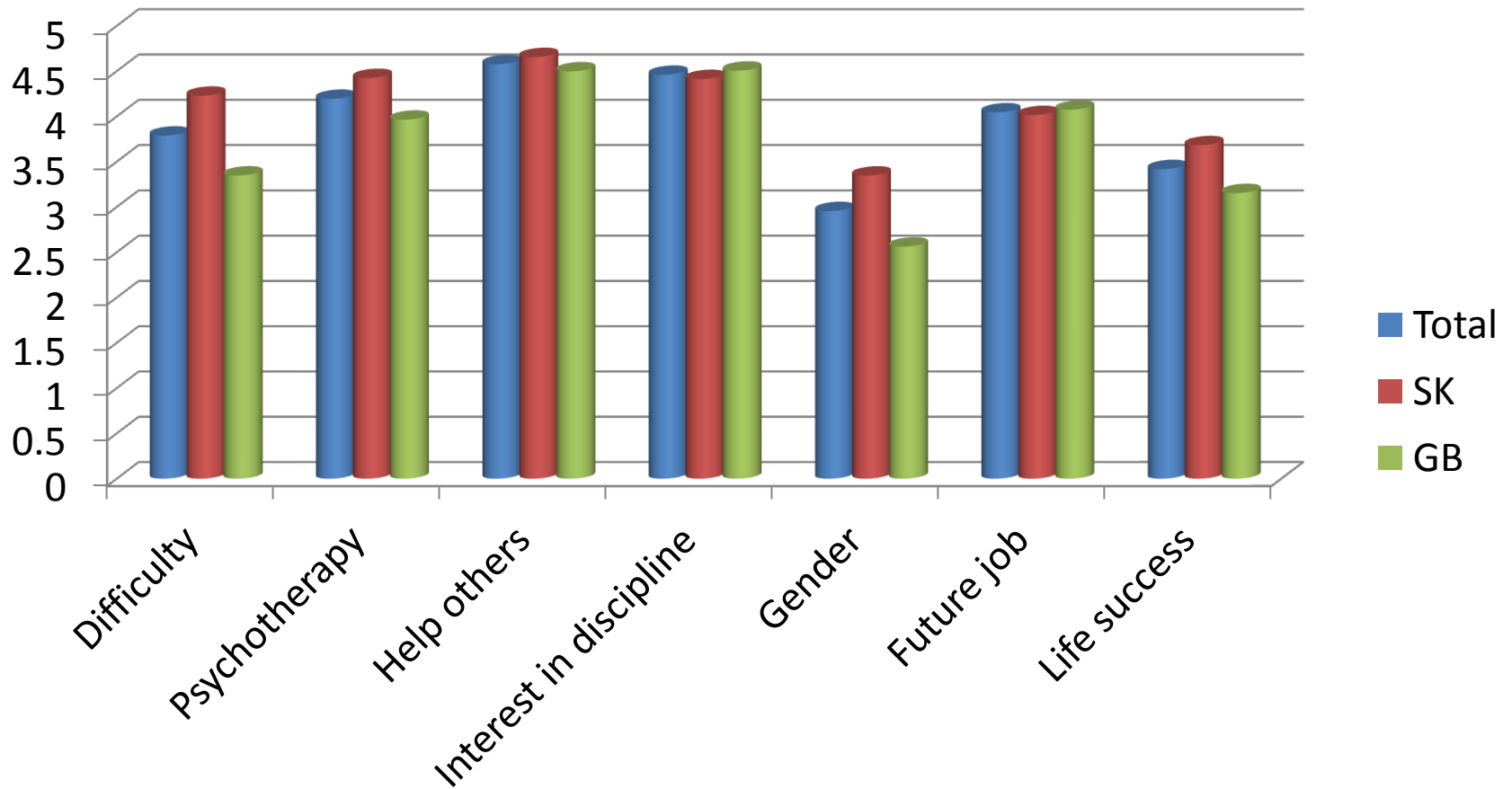
- Self-understanding and psychological thinking
- Critical thinking skills
- Skills of scientific thinking and application of scientific method
- Study skills
- Job skills
- Interpersonal communication and relationships



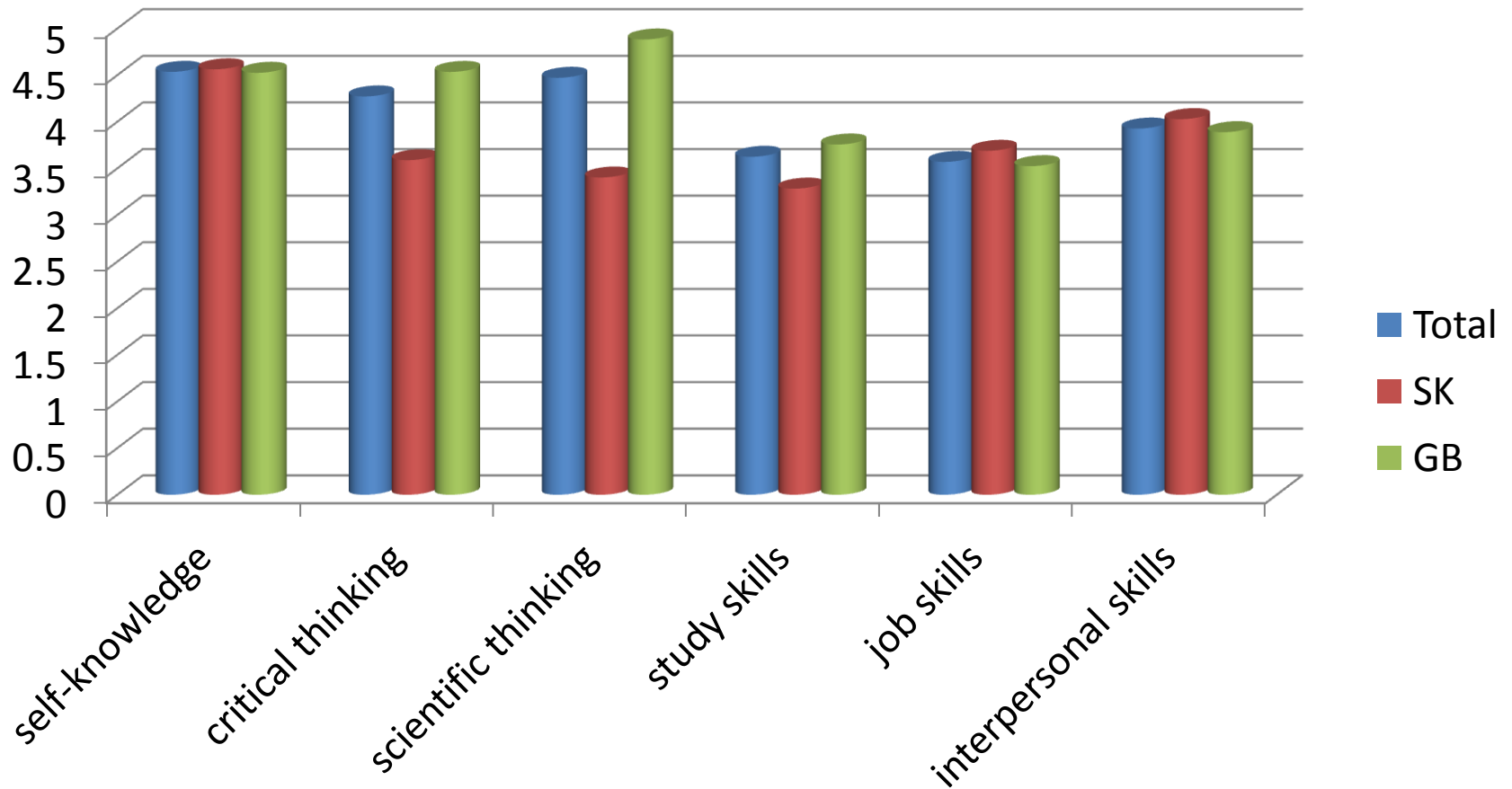
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MOTIVATION TOWARDS STUDYING PSYCHOLOGY



PERCEIVED OUTCOMES OF STUDYING PSYCHOLOGY



FURTHER CATEGORIES BASED ON OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

MOTIVATION

- Personal experience with psychologist or psychology teacher
- Recommendations from friends
- Perceived „talent“ for psychology

PERCEIVED OUTCOMES

- Being prepared for university studies
- Understanding non-verbal communication
- Stress management
- „personal change“
- more interest in psychology as such



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CONCLUSION

In further international discussion the results may open the door to the research on:

- Psychology curriculum: content, objectives and competences,
- Subject-specific competences, professional requirements and skills of psychology teachers,
- the role of psychology in developing key competences in secondary school students.

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THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION