

# LEARNING THROUGH PLAY IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

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AUGUST 2018



# About the Learning through Play program in Central African Republic (CAR)



- Interactive training sessions with the goal of **improving the teaching skills of primary school teachers in CAR**. Using creative and playful methods, the children develop a joy for learning, which allows them to succeed in mastering all learning outcomes. This contributes to a reduction of illiteracy, which in CAR stands at about 50%.
- Teachers are trained and their schools receive educational tools: ABCbooks, letter and number sets as well as an illustrated syllabary: ABC na yanga ti Sango and a reading manual in Sango: Mbeti ti diko na sango.
- Educational murals have been painted on classroom walls in participating schools. They have been valuable teaching tools in the absence of books and other teaching materials.
- Promotion of teaching in Sango from Senior Kindergarten until Grade 2, following **UNESCO** recommendations on teaching mother tongues in multilingual countries.

# Awards for the Learning through Play program in CAR



- In 2016, SIRIRI officially launched the Learning through Play program in CAR based on a 1-year pilot program. The program was endorsed by **the Czech Prime Minister** at the time, Bohuslav Sobotka.
- In June 2018, at a ceremony held at Czernin Palace, the Czech Development Agency awarded SIRIRI the “Sustainable Development Goals” Prize of the Czech-UNDP partnership for its Learning through Play program.



# Review of the program over 4 years



- Between 2015 and 2018, **SIRIRI trained a total of 688 teachers in CAR.**
- Trainees arrived from around 100 schools; religious and public, urban and rural.
- Six week-long interactive training sessions were delivered in three cities in CAR.



*Closing session with teachers, August 2018.*

# Pedagogical tools for teachers



- Teachers trained by **SIRIRI** received **pedagogical tools**.
- Between 2015 and 2018, 10,250 syllabaries, 1000 copies of the 5 Pedagogical Principles, 300 teaching guides, 750 readers, 2000 sets of letters and 600 sets of numbers have been distributed in CAR. Also, 50 educational murals were painted on classroom walls.

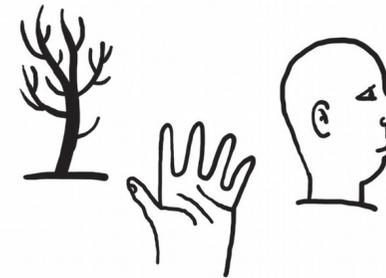


*Murals and pedagogical tools created for the Learning through Play program in CAR.*

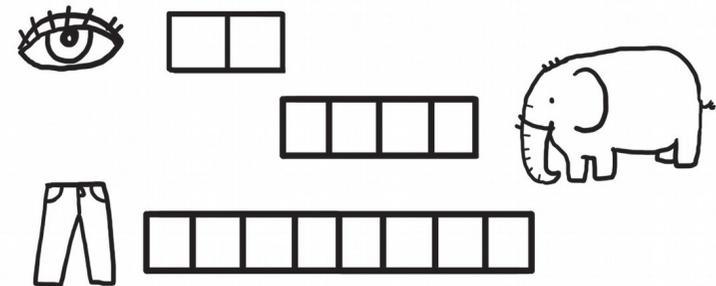
# Annual reports in CAR



- With this **new and modern method**, **60,000 students** are taught in Sango in CAR.
- Once a year, representatives from SIRIRI visit classrooms in CAR to perform evaluations. They have already visited **hundreds of classrooms**, in which trained teachers are teaching.
- During these evaluations, approximately 1500 students passed tests to verify their progress.



MA BOKO  
LI  
KEKE



LA A SU LA SO.  
EMIL A FA MBETI.  
MAMA A PIKA GOZO.  
DAVID A SAMBELA.

*Example of a test given to CAR students in their native language*

# CAR teachers are part of the team



- Between 2015 and 2018, **25 European volunteers** - trainers and two artists travelled to CAR.
- Training was also provided by 27 CAR teachers.



*European-CAR team, August 2018*

# Financing the program



- The Learning through Play program in CAR is 80% financed by private donations.
- SIRIRI has found that a growing number of Central African teachers are expressing interest in a new teaching method, one that is modern, simple and effective. The Central African Ministry of Education has expressed a desire to extend the program to all Grade 1 classes in all primary schools in CAR.
- If SIRIRI cannot attract new funding sources this year, it will not be able to grow the program.

# **Learning through Play in CAR**

## **Results of a survey taken of training participants**

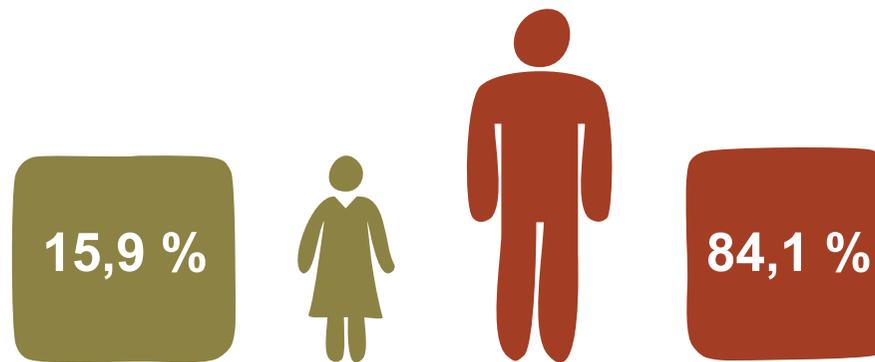
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Our thanks to InsignLab, s.r.o. for its assistance  
in the design of the survey, data processing,  
and data graphics.

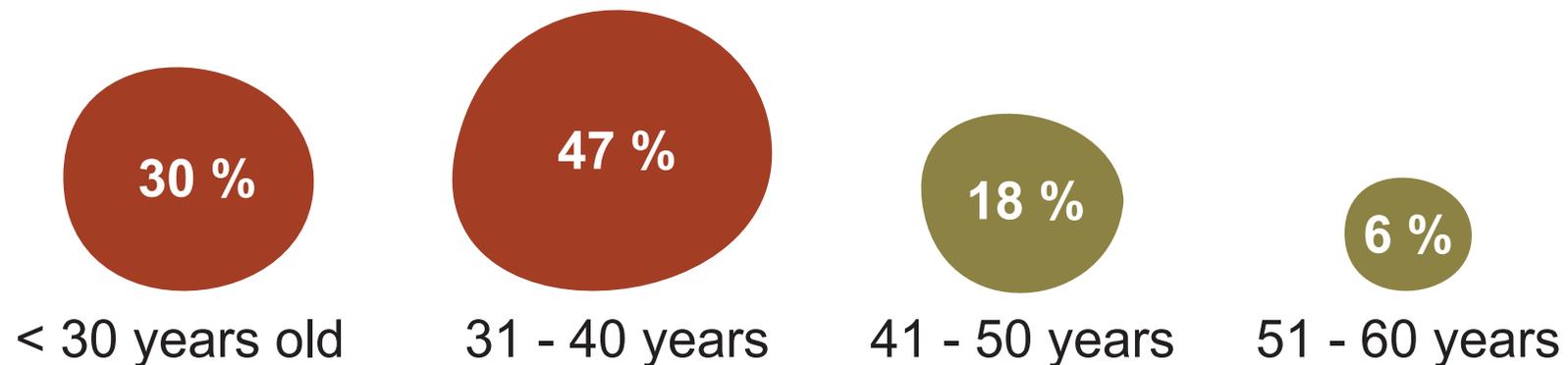
# Most of the teachers are men under 40 (in %)



Proportion of female and male participants



Age: 77% of participants were < 40 years old



# Most participants were teachers, half of whom had at least a high school education

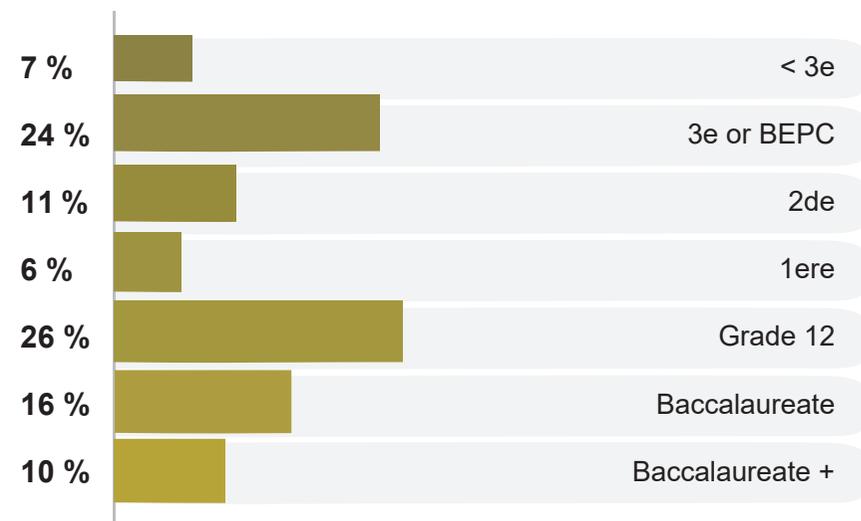
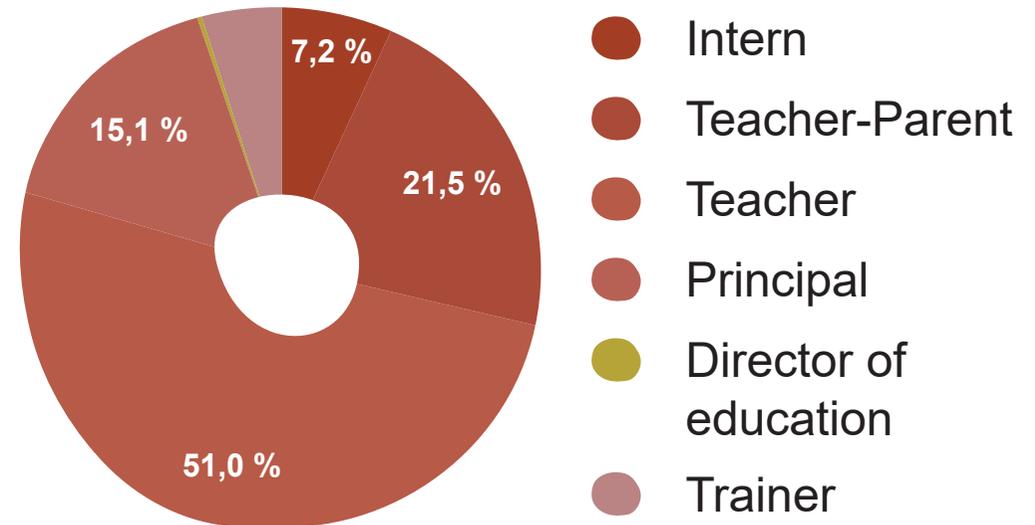


## Who are the participants?

The Teacher-Parents are trained for 45 days at a regional training centre and receive no further professional training. Their salary is paid by the parents of their students.

## Level of education

The education system in CAR resembles the French system: 6 years primary school, 4 years middle school and 3 years high school. A Baccalaureate is equal to 13 years of schooling.



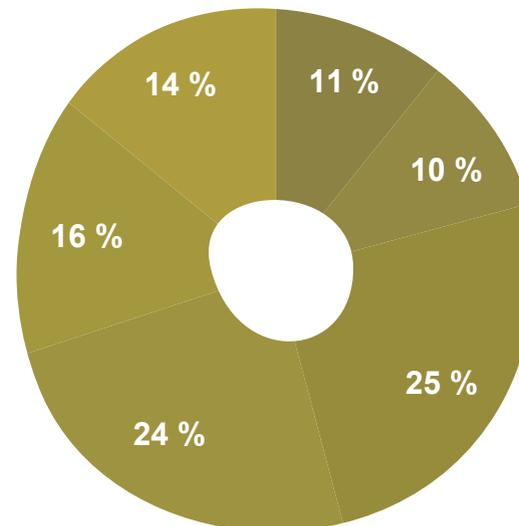
# Classes have very high Student to Teacher ratios (in %)



## Number of students per class

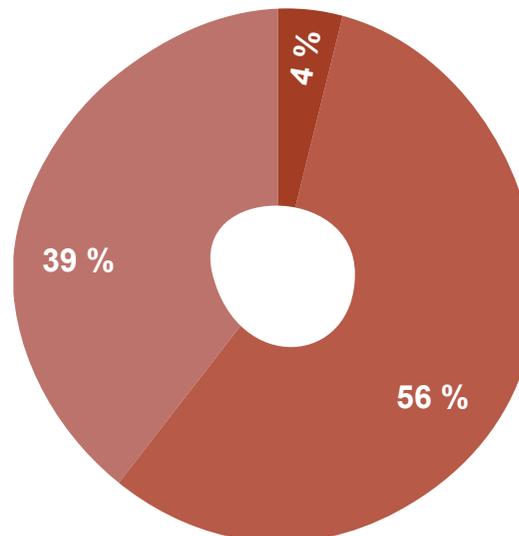
54% of teachers have more than 50 students.

The average is 89 students per teacher in CAR.



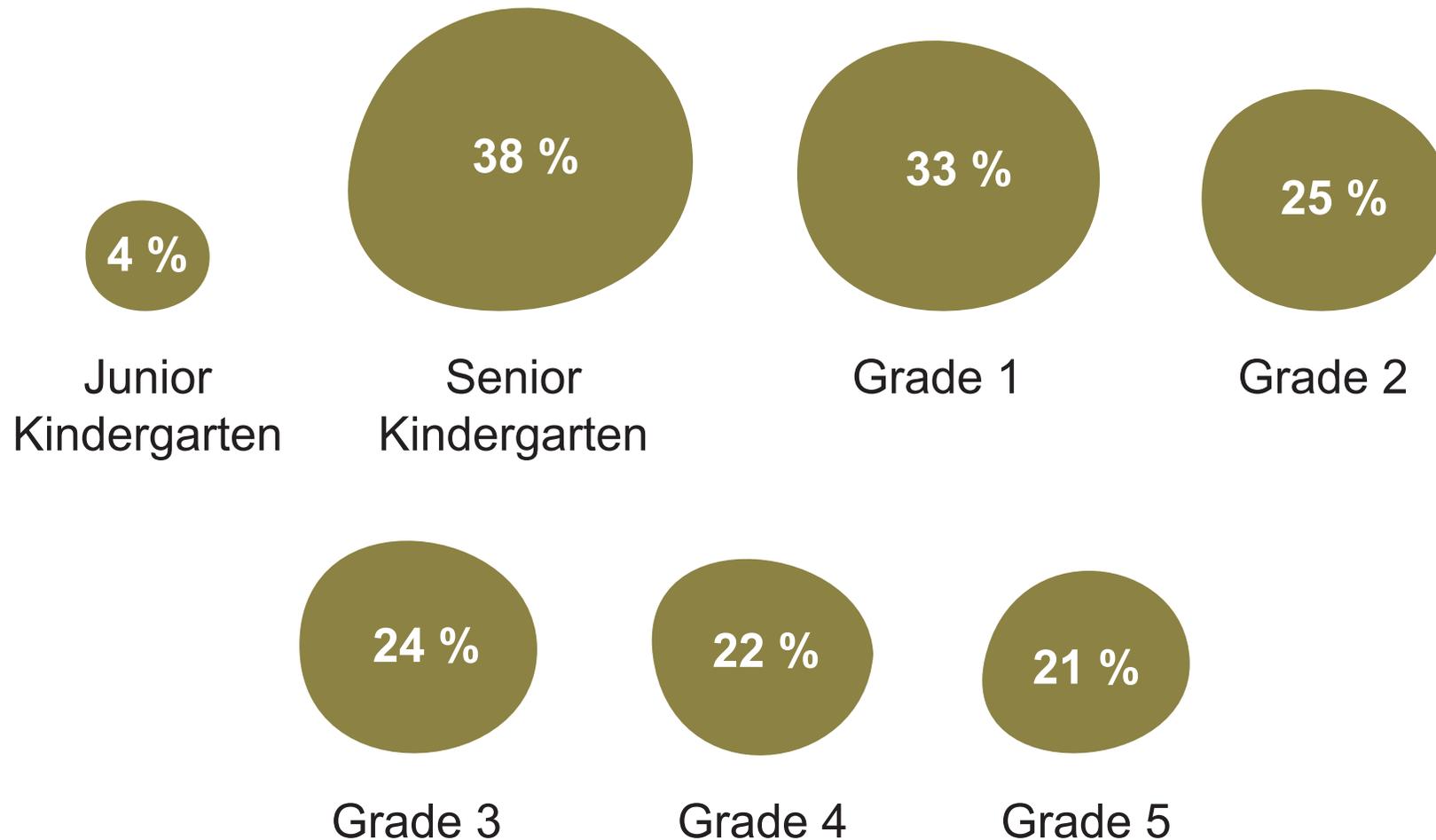
- No answer
- < 30 students
- 31 - 50 students
- 51 - 70 students
- 71 - 99 students
- > 100 students

## Type of school by participant



- No answer
- Religious school
- Public School

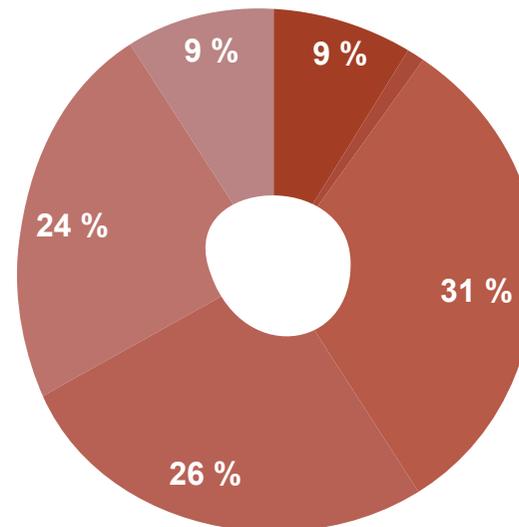
# One third of the trainees teaches in Senior Kindergarten and Grade 1 (in %)



# Students often repeat a year, having not mastered all learning outcomes (in %)

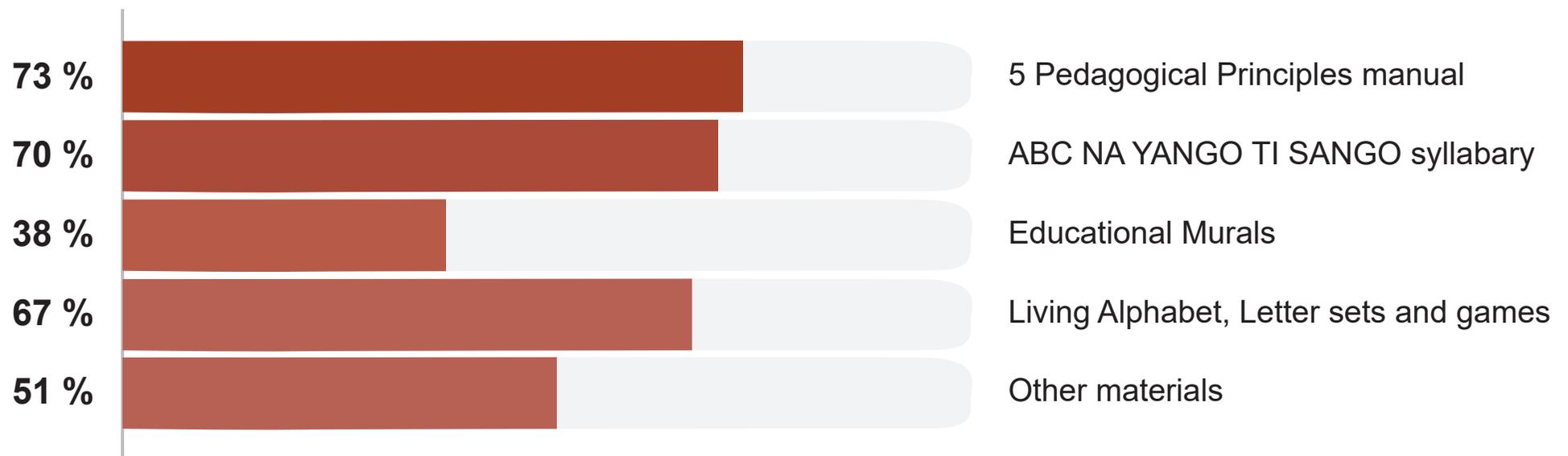


Number of students who have repeated a year

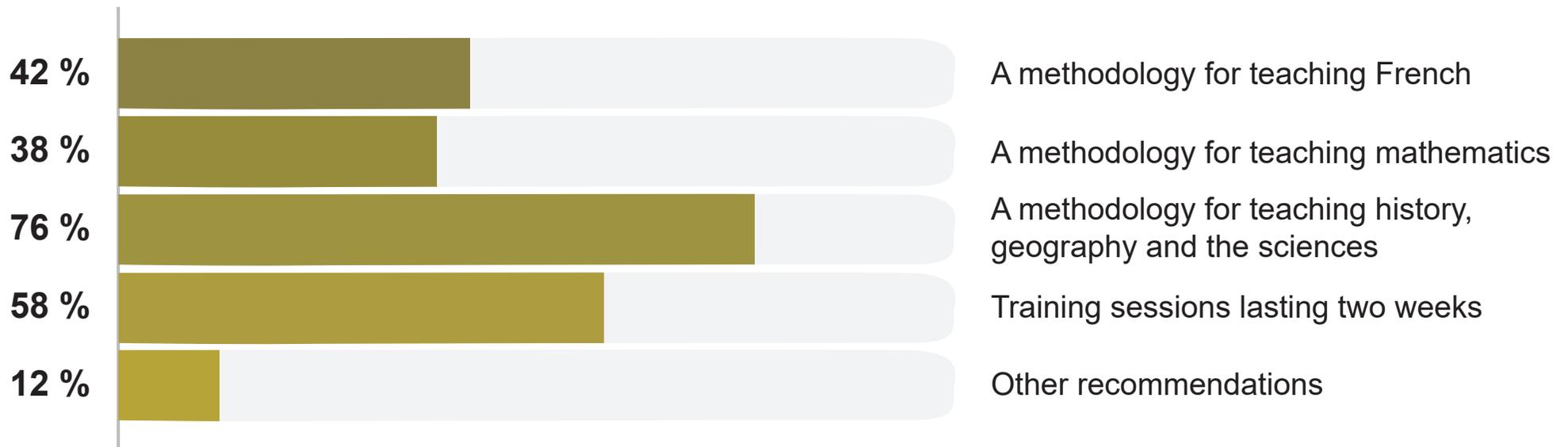


- No answer
- None
- 1 - 4 students
- 5 - 9 students
- 10 - 19 students
- 20+ students

# Teachers who had previously participated in the training using the tools (in %)



# Trained teachers wishing to participate in further training sessions and having ideas on subjects and themes they wish to explore...



**To continue training teachers, to supply classrooms with teaching materials, to produce school books and manuals, to encourage early years teaching in their native language and facilitate easier learning of French in later years, the Czech NGO SIRIRI needs your support: moral, technical, conceptual, linguistic, political... and financial.**



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