



WHAT ARE THE OPINIONS OF UASVM STUDENTS REGARDING URBAN TINY FORESTS

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Introduction

- The tiny urban forests represent a tree planting method invented in **1970's** by the Japanese botanist dr. **Akira Myiawaki**;
- They are defined as all forest and tree resources in (and close to) urban areas;



Introduction

- They **encourage biodiversity** and **absorb more CO₂** than plantations grown for timber;
- The **aim** of this study was to assess the opinions of the UASMV-B students regarding the importance of tiny urban forests.



Materials and methods

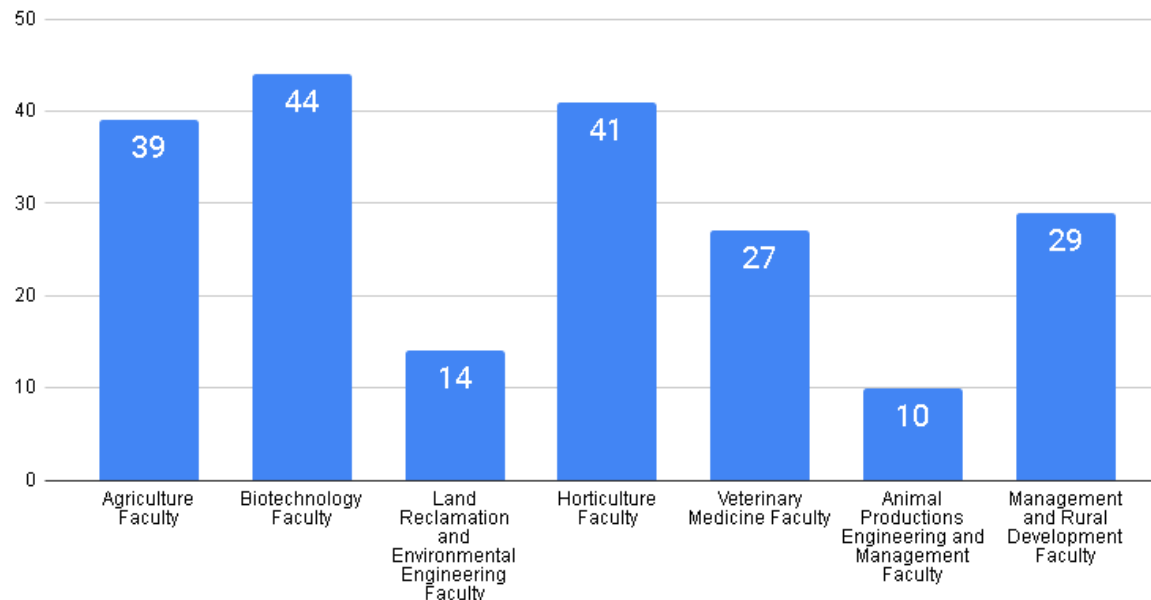
- Google Forms Questionnaire
- 28 questions (26 close-questions and 2 open-questions) about general data and about the opinions regarding tiny urban forests
- completion period: 12/10/2023-21/10/2023
- via Whatsapp students groups



Results and discussions

- The questionnaire was completed by 204 students from all the 7 faculties;
- 71 students were men and 133 were women;
- There were students from all the years of study who completed;
- About the ages, the majority of students who completed were between 18 and 24 years old (170 students), but there were also students over 24 years old (34 students);
- About the sectors of Bucharest, the results show that in all the 6 sectors there are students who live.

What faculty do you study at?



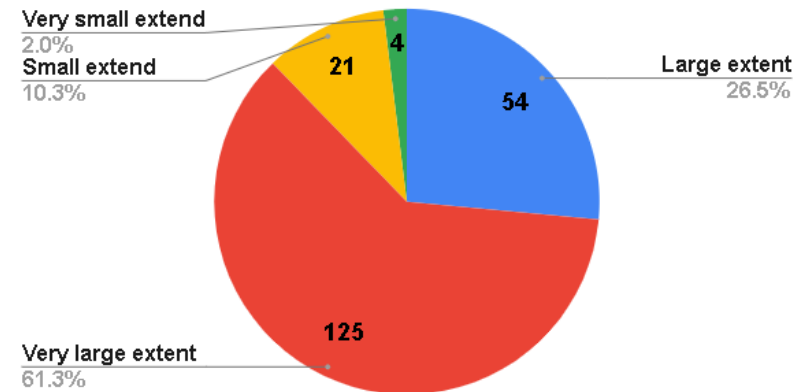


Results and discussions

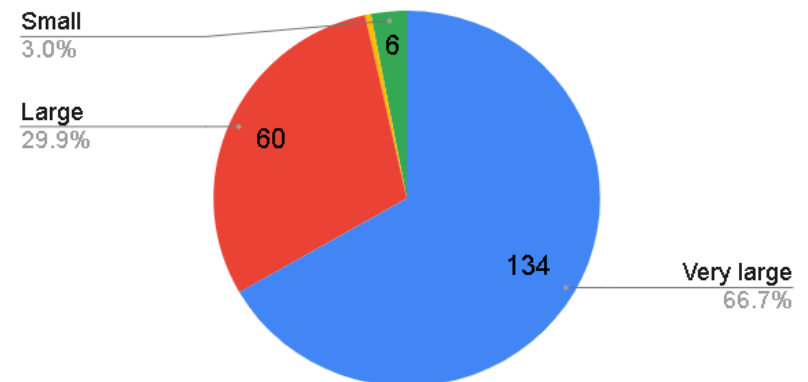
According to the questions and answers of the questionnaire, the results are down below:

- 166 students (78,4%) **visited at least one of the forests around Bucharest** and 44 of them (21,6%) did not;
- 179 students (87,8%) consider **the forests around Bucharest help increase the air quality** in a "Very large" and "Large" extent and 25 students (12,2%) consider in a "Small" and "Very small" extent;
- 202 students consider the forests/green spaces inside the capital change the air and life qualities and 2 students do not;
- 194 students consider **the forests/green spaces inside the capital change the air and life qualities** in a "Very large" and "Large" extent and 7 students consider in a "Small" and "Very small extent".

To what extent do you consider that they help increase air quality in Bucharest?



If the answer to the previous question is YES, to what extent do you think it would change?

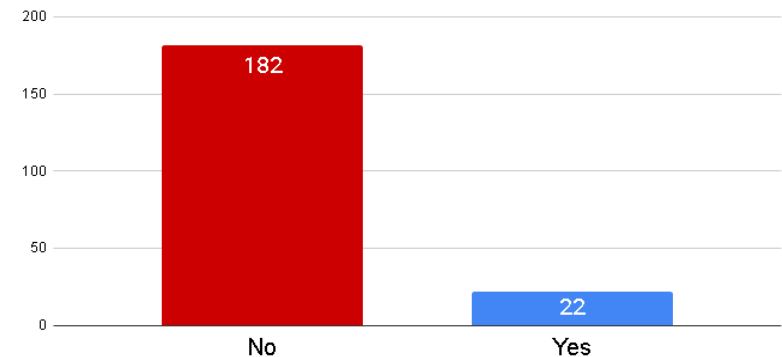




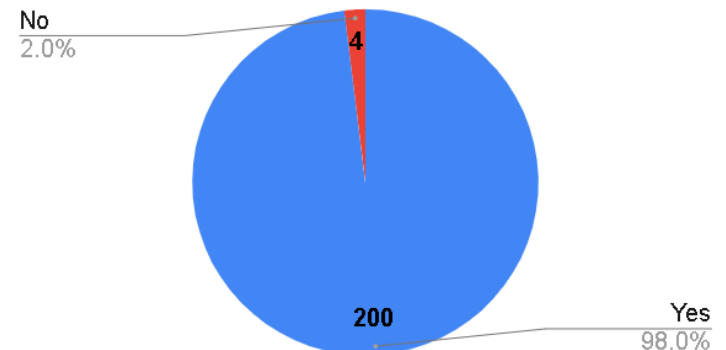
Results and discussions

- About the recommendation of EU regarding of the average area of green spaces should be 26 square meters per capita, 22 students consider the index reaches this level in Bucharest, but 182 students do not;
- 202 students think the area of green spaces should be extended in Bucharest and 2 do not;
- 200 students consider the urban forests represent a way of expansion of green spaces in Romania and 4 students do not;

The European Union recommends that the average area of green space per capita be 26 square meters? Do you consider that in the capital the index reaches this level?



Do you consider that the urban forests represent a way to expand green spaces in Romania?

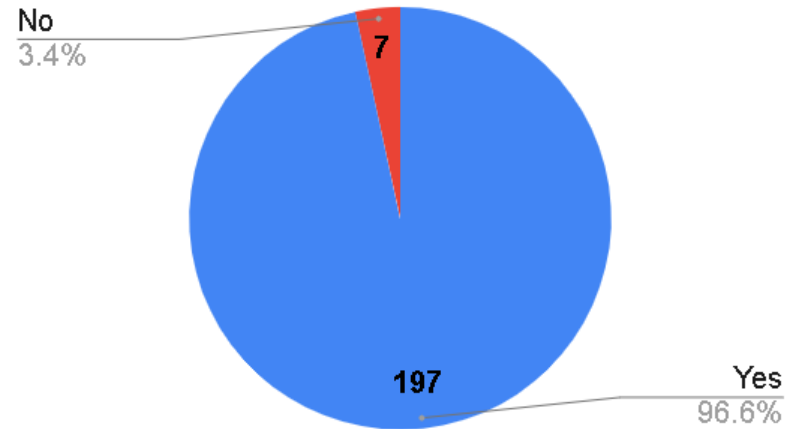




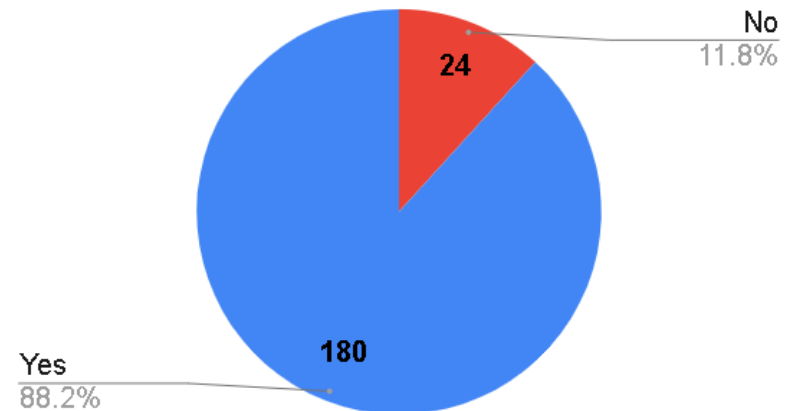
Results and discussions

- 197 students consider the urban forest could be an ally against noxious and 7 students do not;
- 199 students consider the urban forests could be an ally against the heat and 5 students do not;
- 180 students consider the urban forests could be an ally against the city noises and 24 students do not.

Do you consider that urban forests can be an ally against noxious?



Do you consider that urban forests can be an ally against the noise of the cities?

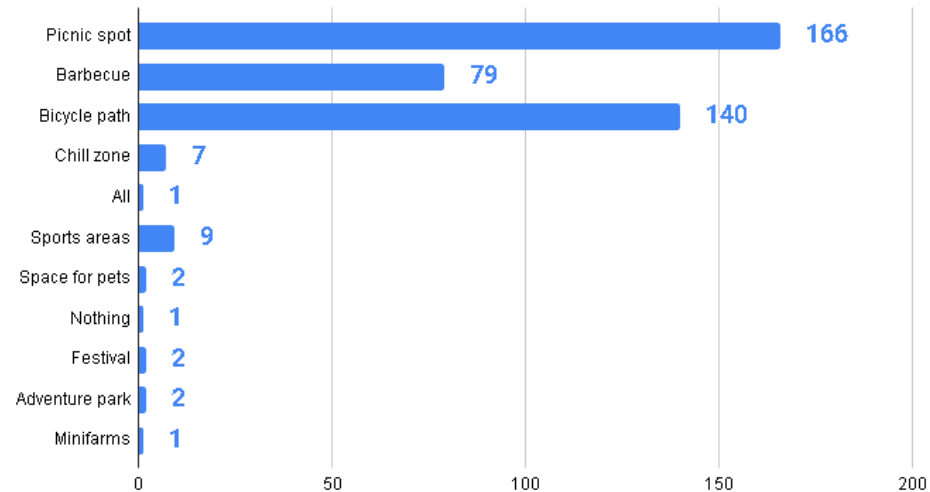




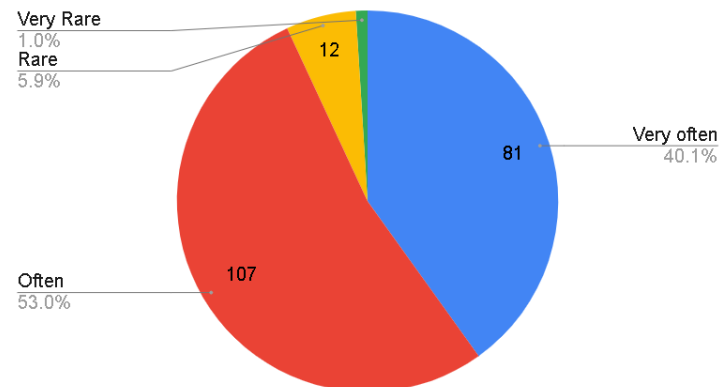
Results and discussions

- About **the activities in an urban forest**, an open-question was asked and the answers are: Picnic spot - 166, Barbecue spot - 79, Bicycle path - 140, Sports areas - 9, Chill zone - 7, Space for pets - 2, Adventure park - 2, Festival - 2, Minifarms - 1, All - 1, Nothing - 1;
- 124 students consider there is a **space around their home where a tiny urban forest could be created** and 78 students do not;
- **If an urban forest would be around their home** 188 students would go "Very often" and "Often", but 14 students would go "Rare" and "Very rare";

What activities would you like to be in an urban forest?



How often would you go to an urban forest, if it would be around your home?

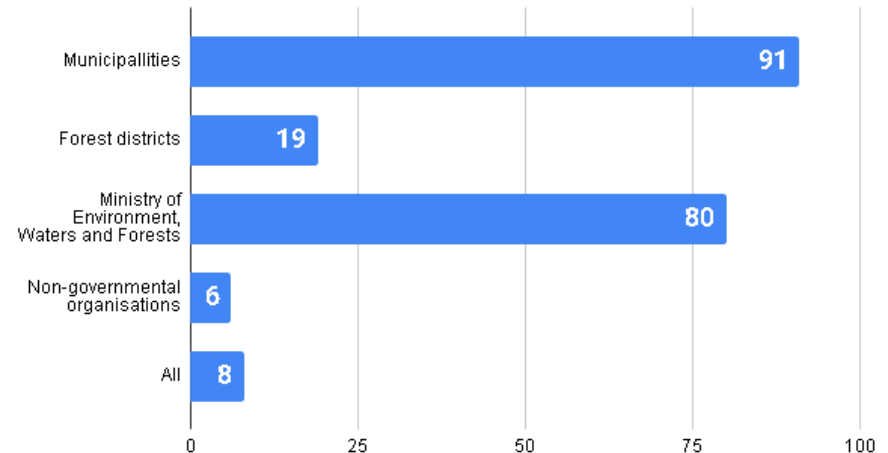




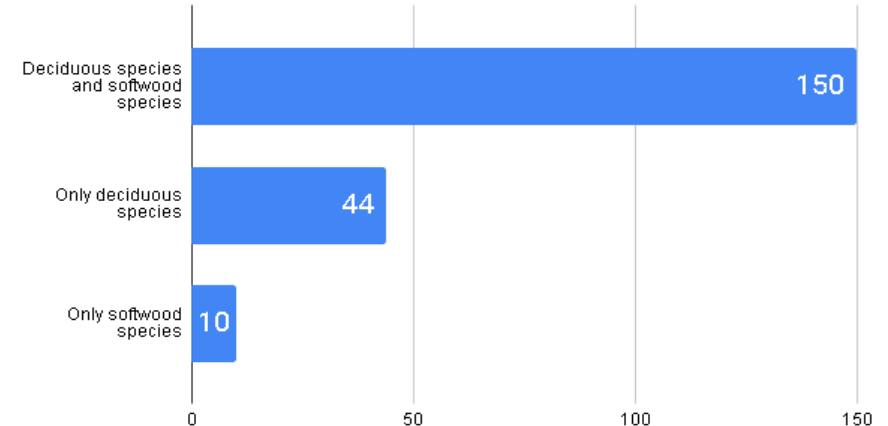
Results and discussions

- About **who should set up a forest**, the students answered: "Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests" - 125, "Municipalities" - 58, "Non-governmental organisations" - 7, "Forest districts" - 6, "All" - 8;
- About **who should take care of urban forests**, the students answered: "Municipalities" - 91, "Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests" - 80, "Forest districts" - 19, "Non-governmental organizations" - 6, "All" - 8;
- About **the preferred tree species for forming an urban forest**, the students answered: "Only softwood species" - 10, "Only deciduous species" - 44, "Softwood species and deciduous species" - 150;
- About the **number of species**, the students answered: "Only one species" - 4. "Two species" - 16, "Three or more species" - 184;

Who should take care of the urban forests?



What tree species would you like to be an urban forest formed?

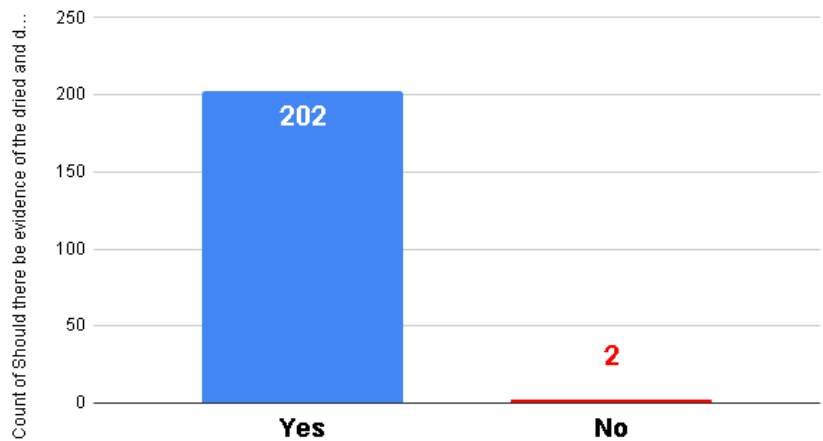




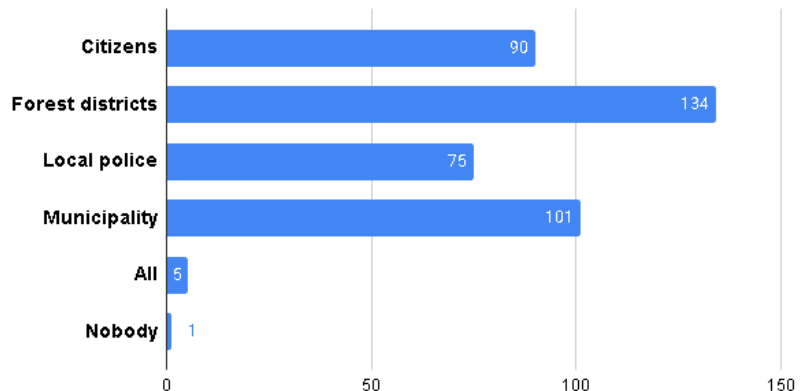
Results and discussions

- 202 students consider it should be an evidence of the dried and damaged trees and 2 students do not;
- About who should notify the identification of the dried and damaged tree, an open-question was asked and the answers are: "Citizens" - 90, "Forest districts" - 144, "Local police" - 75, "Municipality" - 101, "All" - 5, "Nobody" - 1;
- Regarding who should be responsible on extracting the dried and damaged trees, the students answered: "Municipality" - 97, "Forest districts" - 98, "Local police" - 8, "Nobody" - 1;

Should there be evidence of the dried and damaged trees?



If the answer to the previous question is YES, who should notify their identification?

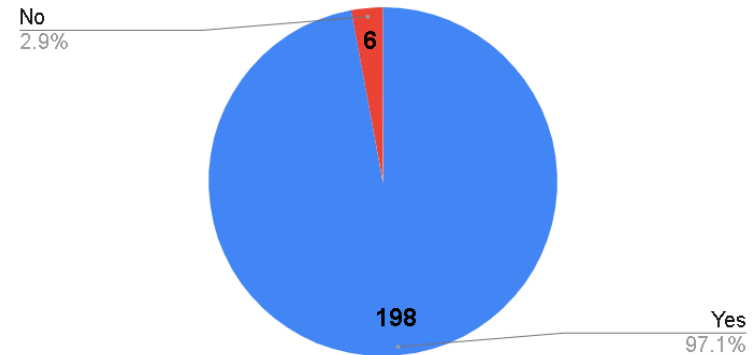




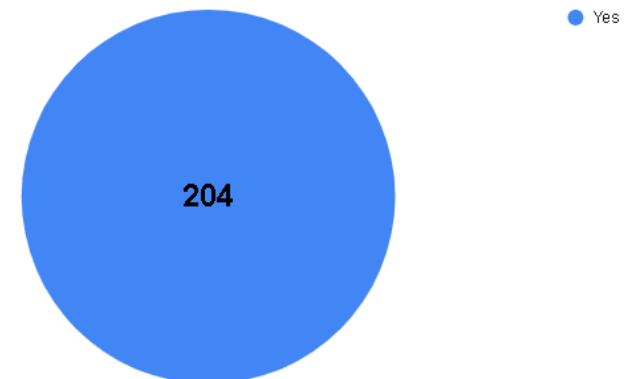
Results and discussions

- On 2021, a planting of 2000 seedlings took place in Sector 1 (Bucharest). 198 students consider this measure helps to expand the green space in the capital and 6 students do not;
- 188 students consider at the level of the whole capital it should be a project of formation of several tiny urban forests, but 16 students do not.
- All the students consider the air and life qualities will grow if a project at the level of whole Bucharest would be implemented.

On 2021 a planting of 2000 seedlings took place in Sector 1. The purpose of the action was to create the first tiny urban forest in Bucharest. Do you consider this measure helps to expand the green space in Bucharest?



Do you consider that the air quality and life quality will grow if such a project would be implemented?





Conclusions and recommendations

- The actual questionnaire aroused interest around students because of the high number of answers made in a short time;
- The interest between students about the green topics is high;
- There is a general negative perception regarding the average area of green spaces in Bucharest;
- The results show that there is a need of expansion for green spaces in Bucharest;
- There is a need of places for activities in green spaces/forests from Bucharest;
- The public institutions and authorities are seen as the main responsible for creating and taking care of urban forests;
- The questionnaire aroused more interest to the women than to the men;
- The tiny urban forests are seen as a way of the expansion of green forests;
- The tiny urban forests are seen as an option of combating the spread of pollution in the big cities.

Thank you for your attention!

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