

THE EVALUATION OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE IN MARITIME EDUCATION: A CASE STUDY AT FACULTY OF MARITIME STUDIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA



V. Šutalo, L. Maglić, A. Perić Hadžić & L. Maglić

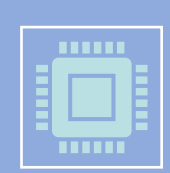
University of Rijeka, Faculty of Maritime Studies

Introduction

- PP AT FMSRI – part of 5 graduate and 5 undergraduate study programs within the courses and independently as stand-alone courses.



FORMS OF PP:



Technical skills: laboratory exercises, work on various simulators, computer programs



General educational activities: field trips, guest lectures



PP outside the FMSRI: training grounds, navigation on a school ship, field trips and PP in maritime companies

Methodology

- The paper presents a detailed analysis of the representation of professional practice in FMSRI study programs

Statistical analysis of the representation of PP at the FMSRI

- current study programs, previously reaccredited and accredited by the UNIRI
- data obtained from Students' Record Office

Results obtained based on workshops with students and teachers

- 3 workshops → 50 students and 17 teachers
- the forms of PP evaluated: navigation practice, work on a simulator, work on a training ground, field trips, PP in maritime companies and guest lectures.
- average of 10 minutes per participant
- answers recorded in writing

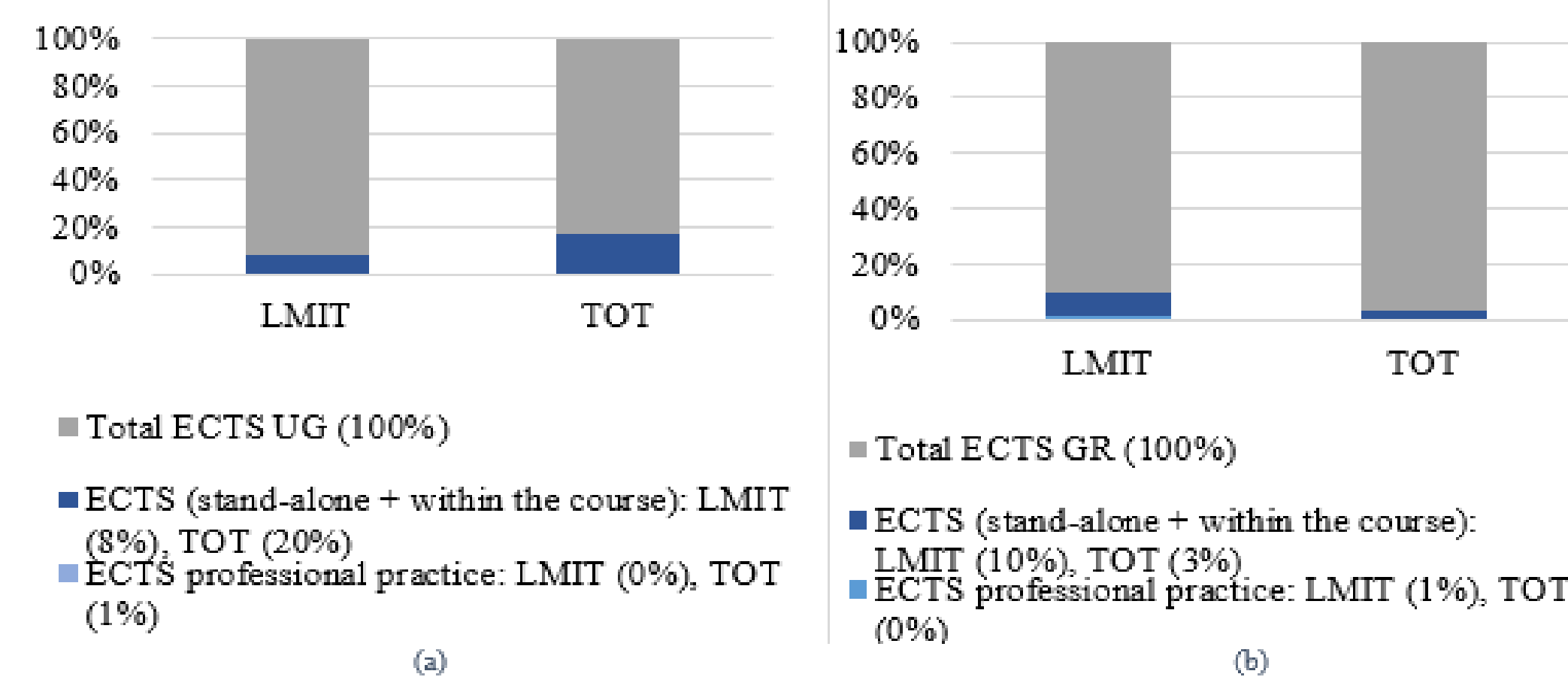
Results obtained based on survey method used to collect the opinions of maritime companies on ways to improve PP

- questionnaire contained 27 questions (11 - short answer, 12 - multiple choice, 4 - rated on a scale of 1 to 5)
- questionnaire completed by 33 companies

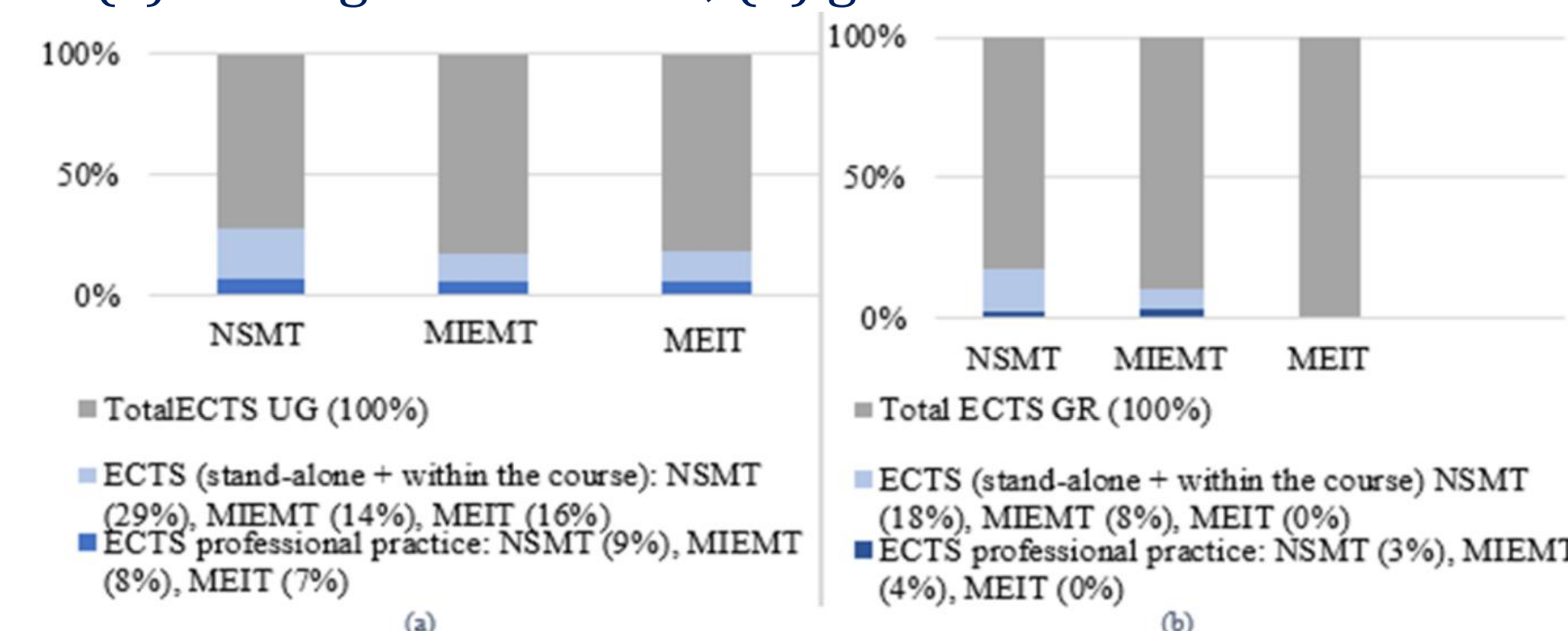
SWOT analysis

- identifies strengths and opportunities for improvement PP as well as weaknesses and threats that make it difficult for the FMSRI to achieve the desired goals

Representation of PP by study programs and levels of studies



Representation of PP within NSMT, MIEMT, and MEIT programs at (a) undergraduate level; (b) graduate level



Representation of PP within the LMIT and TOT programs at (a) undergraduate level; (b) graduate level

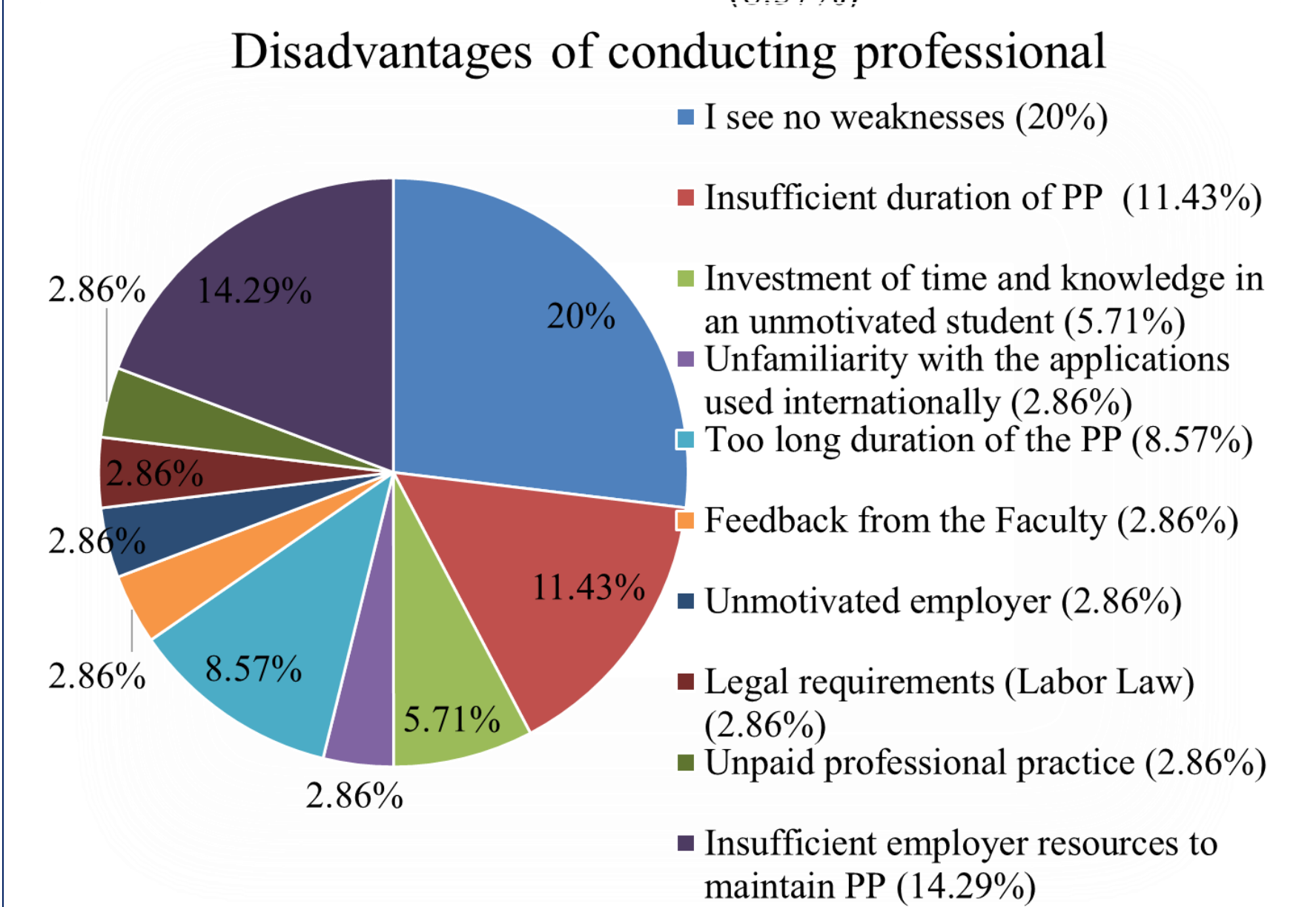
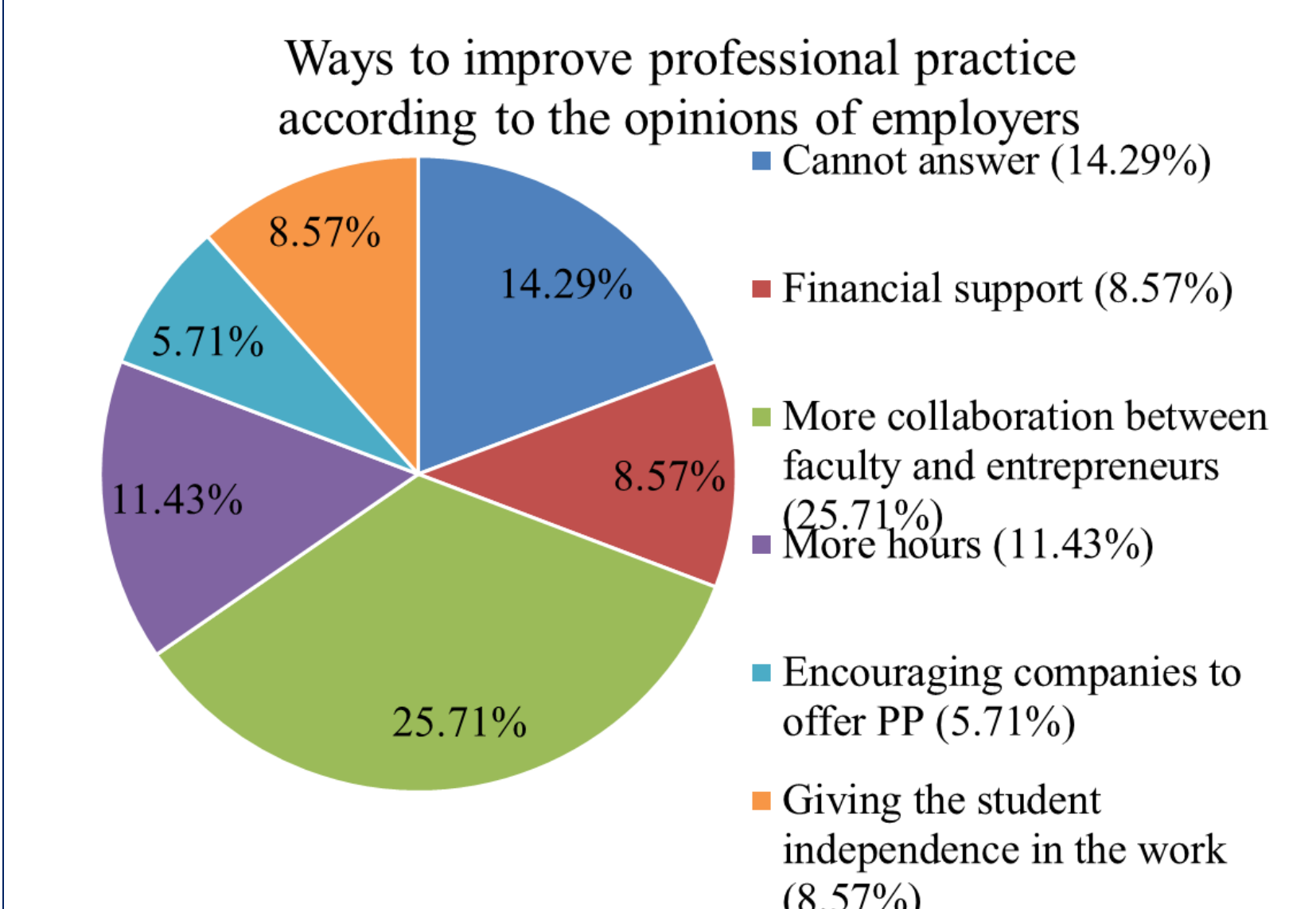
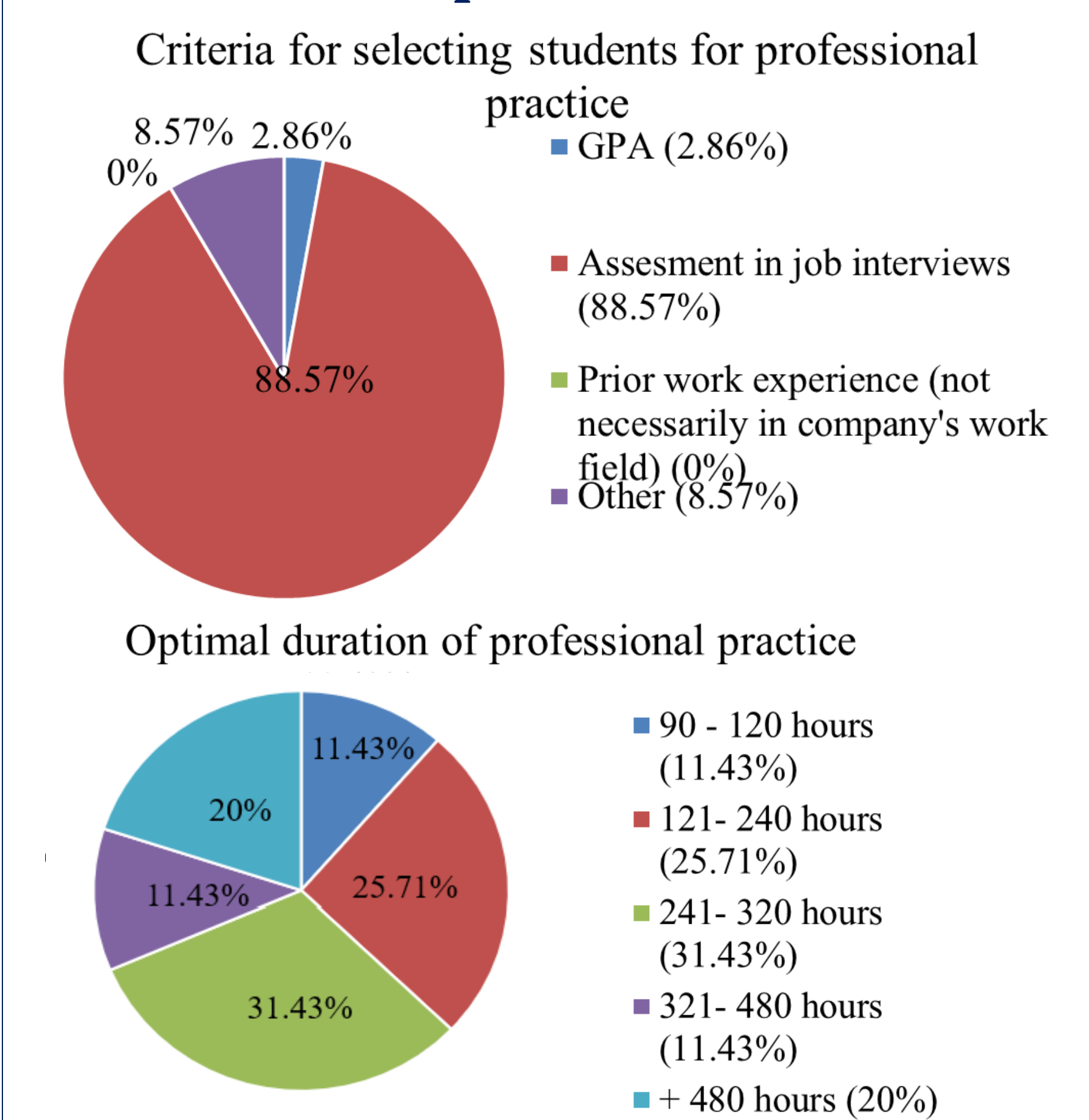
Guidelines obtained based on a workshops with students and professors

Guidelines for improving navigation practice:	Guidelines for improving PP on simulators:	Guidelines for improving PP on the training ground:	Guidelines for improving field trips:	Guidelines for improving PP in maritime comp.	Guidelines for improving guest lectures:
increase the duration	increase the duration	increase the duration	more field trips	organize PP to increase students' skills and readiness to enter the labor market and perform work tasks	organize a larger number
improve the laboratory exercises	increase the number of courses	include this form of PP in the LMIT and TOT study programs	better organization	should be based on practical knowledge	
offer more practical work	provide more different simulators		more practical work		
	smaller groups		led by port or terminal staff		

SWOT analysis

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
- Diversity of forms of PP	- The organization of PP has no logistical and administrative support
- Recognizability and uniqueness	- Inadequately developed models PP
- Qualified teaching staff	- Mechanisms for evaluating PP are not established
- Many experts from industry are involved in teaching	- Insufficient interest of employers in the implementation of PP
- International mobility (staff&students)	- Underdeveloped mentoring system
- Many different simulators	- Lack of master's and bachelor's theses
- Use of e-learning systems	- Financial constraints
- Close cooperation with the business community	- Lack of systematic linkage in the employer-teacher-student triangle
- Continuous training of professors for the use of special tools	- Inadequate number of teachers involved in the implementation of PP
- Sources of funding from EU funds	- Inadequate attendance and activity of students in class
- Continuous investment in equipment	
- Training grounds outside the faculty	
- Use of the ship "Kraljica mora,, for PP	
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
- Willingness of employers to collaborate with the Faculty of Maritime Studies	- Shortage of employees on the labor market
- Willingness of employers to cooperate in establishing criteria for hiring	- Unstable epidemiological situation
- Availability of EU funding	- Growth and intensification of competition in the field of higher education
- Development of modern technology to support the teaching process	- Rapid obsolescence of technology
- Demand of the labor market for employees with specific skills	- Dominant share of micro and small entrepreneurship, because of international segmentation of the maritime market
- Cooperation with alumni of the Faculty	- Limitation of space for mass placement of students into professional practice in maritime companies
- Desire of employers to hire the best stud.	- Lack of time for employers to devote to students
- The possibility of increasing the number of hours of the PP	
- Most employers do not have students at the PP	

Guidelines obtained based on a survey questionnaire sent to maritime companies



Conclusion

- RESULTS SHOW THAT:**
- most companies do not have students in PP
 - those that have PP want to give students the opportunity to gain professional experience but it is hard to involve students in their daily work
 - they believe that internships should be mandatory
 - employers have emphasized that they would prioritize interview skills over grades when hiring
 - study programs should hold more frequent workshops, such as "How to shine in a job interview?,"
 - companies expressed interest in possibly collaborating with FMSRI organization of PP lacks logistical-administrative support and is often individualized
 - mechanisms for evaluating PP are not established, making it difficult to implement
 - the inadequate linkage of the tripartite student-teacher-employer relationship leads to an underdeveloped mentoring system
 - lack of bachelor's and master's theses written in collaboration with the maritime industry
- A starting point for further training and design of professional practice at the FMSRI was obtained, which can greatly influence the quality of PP but also the satisfaction of all participants.