



Thematic Network Project
in the Area of Languages III



Languages for language-related industries and professions:

changes, needs, action

- National reports
- Synthesis report
- Copenhagen conference reports
- Consultation

Primary activities in the language-related industries and professions

- translating and interpreting
- language-related project management tasks
- language-related data-base management tasks
- editing
- technical documentation
- terminology work

Current changes in language-related work

Findings from Consultation data

Graduates:

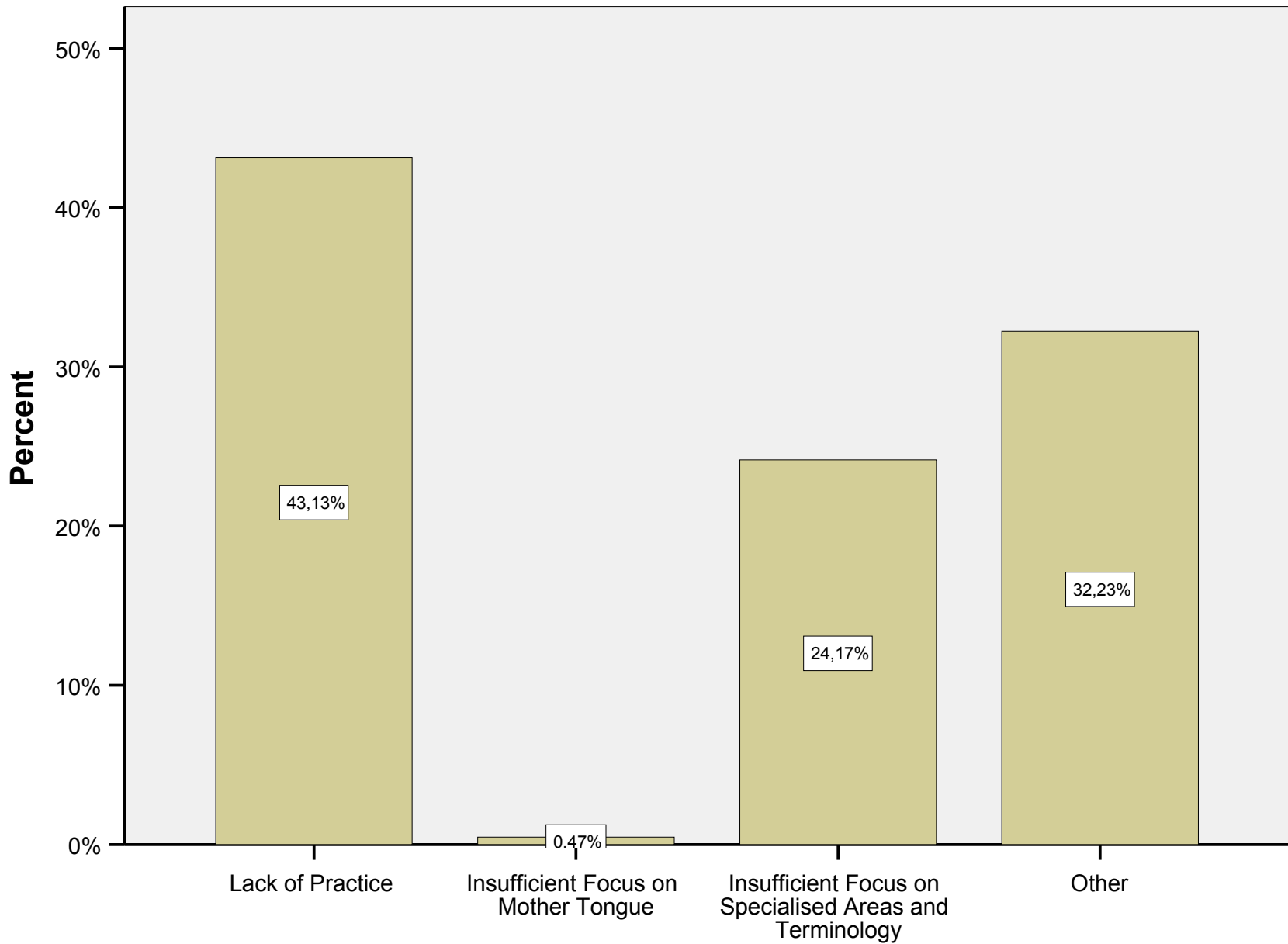
- increasing importance of IT
- increasing specialisation
- customer concern with quality

Current changes affecting the type of language-related work carried out by your organisation

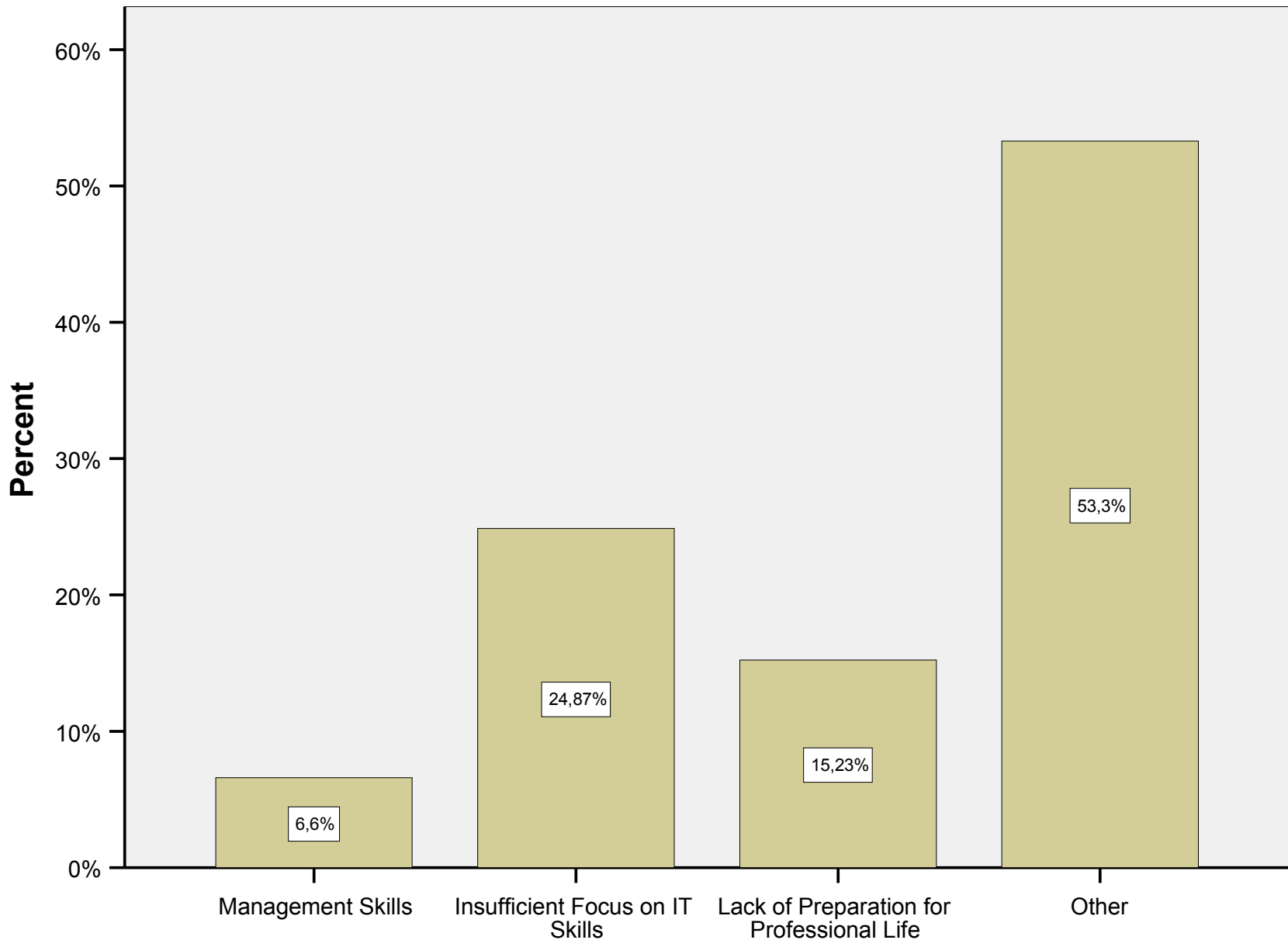
Findings from Consultation data

Employers:

- increasing demand for revision
- impact of new technologies
- increasing specialisation
- customer concern with quality



Most serious shortcomings of your HE programme(s) in relation to language-related skills



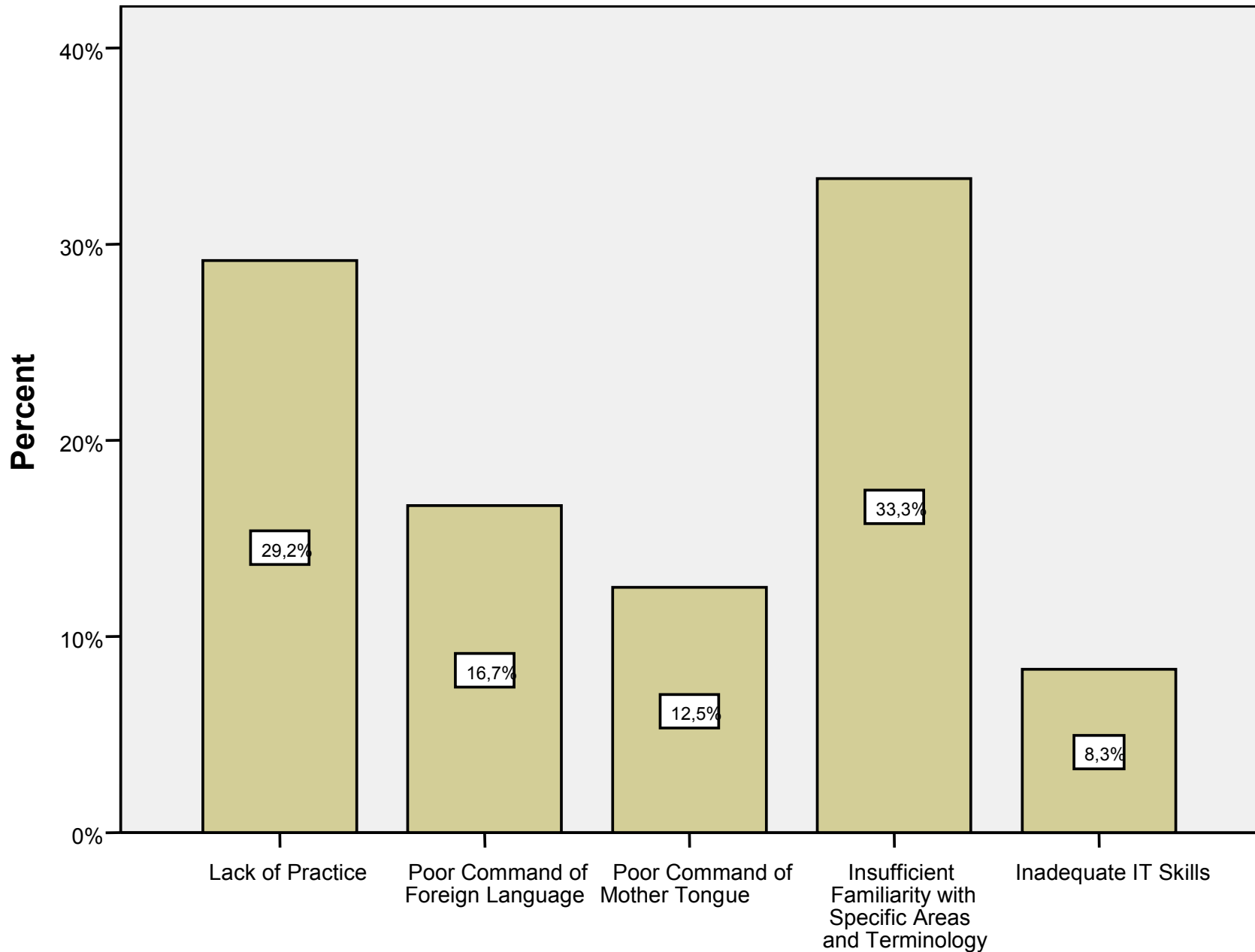
Most serious shortcomings of your HE programme(s) in relation to other key skills

How can HE meet the **needs** of language students preparing for work?

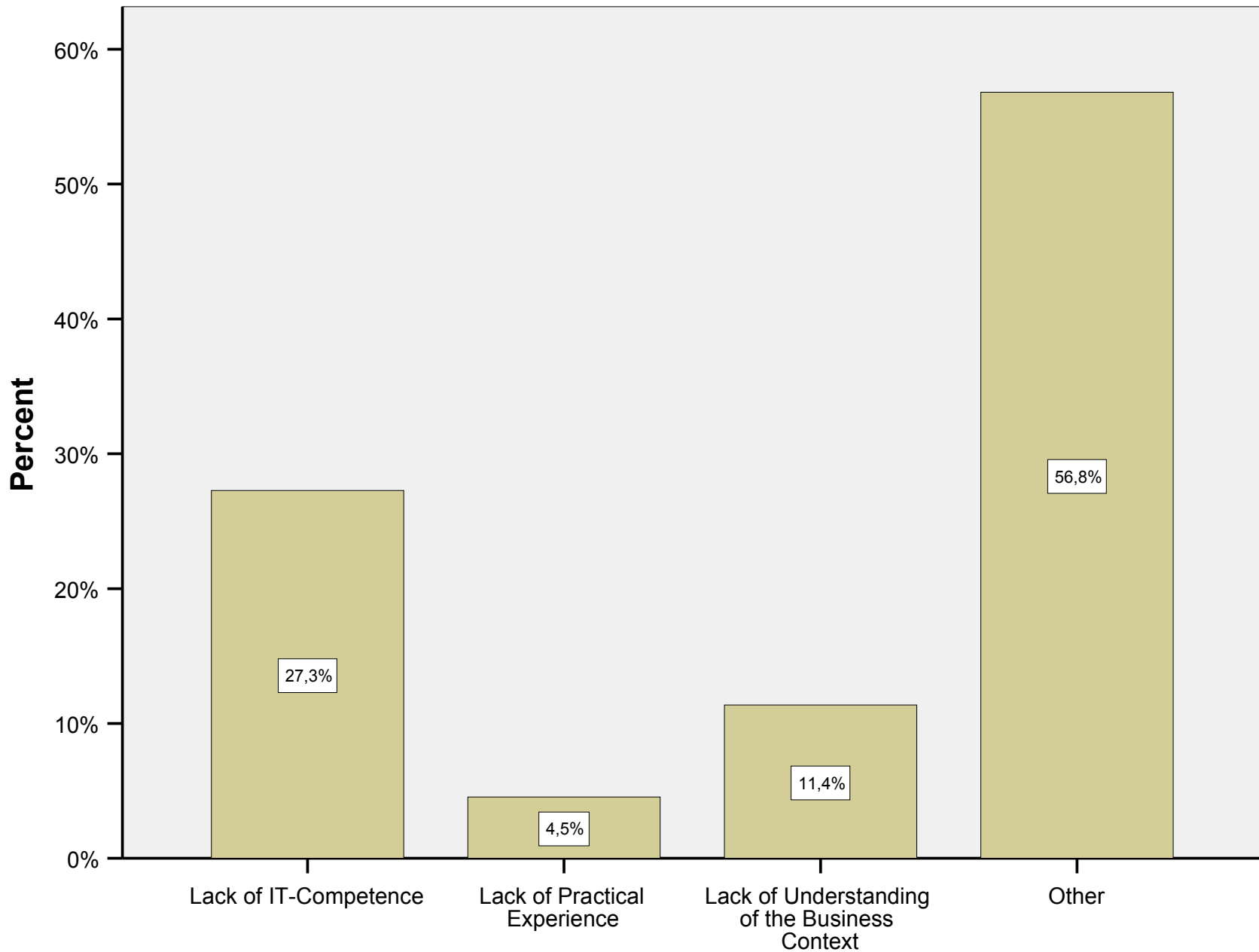
Findings from Consultation data

Graduates believe there should be more

- practical experience gained through work placements and real-life tasks in class
- focus on terminology and specialist areas
- training in the new technologies
- preparation for professional life
- management skills



Shortcomings in Higher Education in Relation to Language Skills



Shortcomings in Higher Education in Relation to Other Key Skills

How can HE meet the **needs** of language students preparing for work?

From language graduates employers want more

- domain-specific knowledge and knowledge of terminology
- practical knowledge and experience
- perfect command of foreign and mother tongue
- IT competence
- understanding of the business context
- precision

Measures to equip students for the demands of work

Findings from Consultation data

Graduates and employers:

- an improvement in the level of consultation and cooperation between employers and HE institutions
- forums for the exchange of information

Measures to equip students for the demands of work

- ‘take’ the student into the work environment through internships and work placements
- ‘bring’ professional practice into the learning context
- set up permanent HE-employers’ forums

Measures to equip students for the demands of work

Internships / work placements

- part of the curriculum or extra-curricular?
- monitored?
- assessed?
- covered by a contractual agreement?
- duration?
- learning outcomes?

Measures to equip students for the demands of work

HE courses and professional practice

- courses on the use of computer-assisted translating tools
- courses on elements of technical writing
- language professionals to teach on courses
- alternative forms of teaching
- professional criteria in the learning environment
- teachers with a good command of new technologies

Measures to equip students for the demands of work

Permanent HE-employers' forums

- a set of common language industry work placement guidelines?
- a European work experience portfolio?
- further thematic network research?
- ?