

WHAT THE POLISH BUSHCRAFTER PREFERS? – A STATISTICAL APPROACH TO THE FOREST MAN

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The introduction

- Where did our research come from?
 - What exactly is bushcraft and who is a bushcrafter?
 - *Overnight in the Forest/ Zanocej w lesie* – the State Forest project
 - Research questions
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Bushcraft – the definition

„Bushcraft is the use and practice of skills, thereby acquiring and developing knowledge and understanding, in order to survive and thrive in a natural environment.”

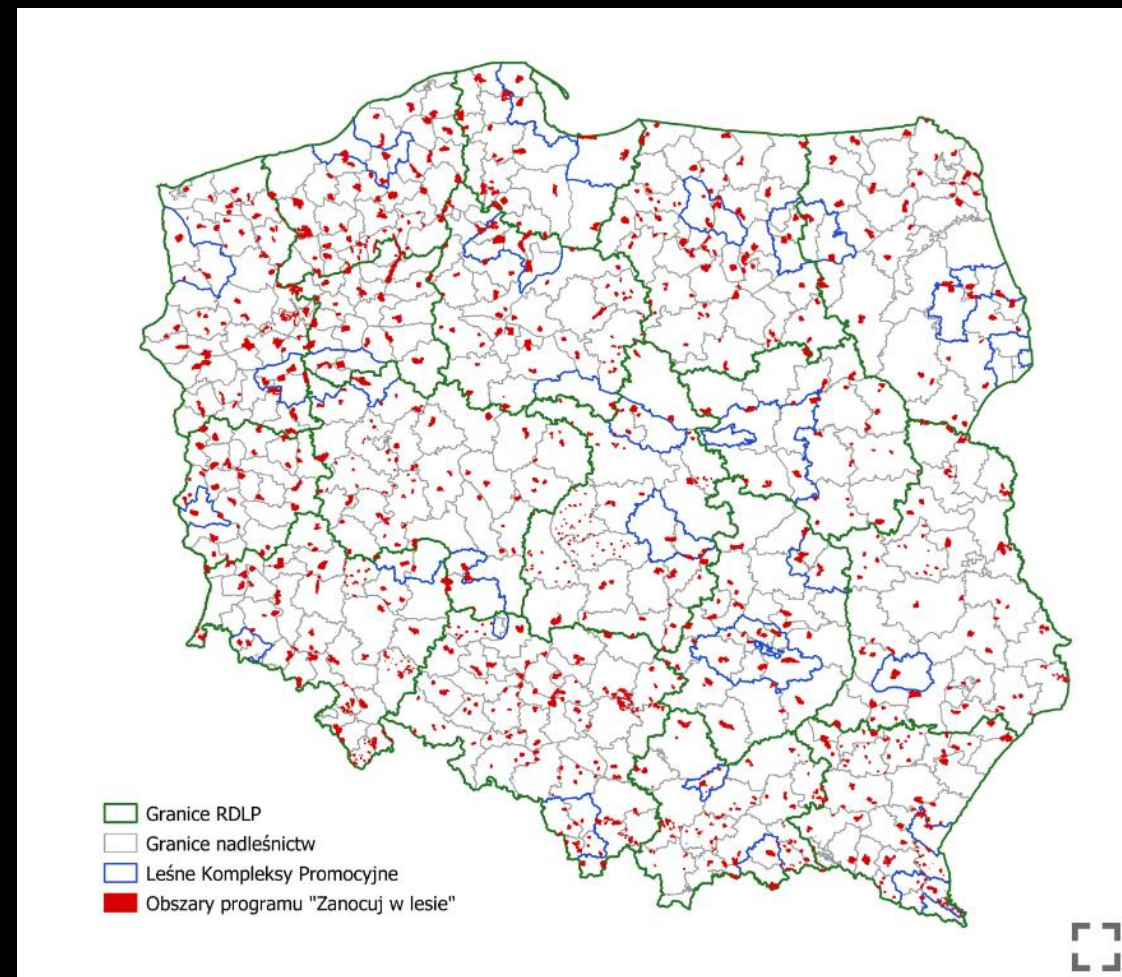
Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org>

Overnight in the forest/Zanocuj w lesie

In 2021 the State Forests has designated special forest areas of over 600 000 ha in 425 forest districts where bushcraft and survival enthusiasts are able to do their hobby without fear of violating the Forest Act.

All the information needed to safely take part in the program can be find at the internet site given below:

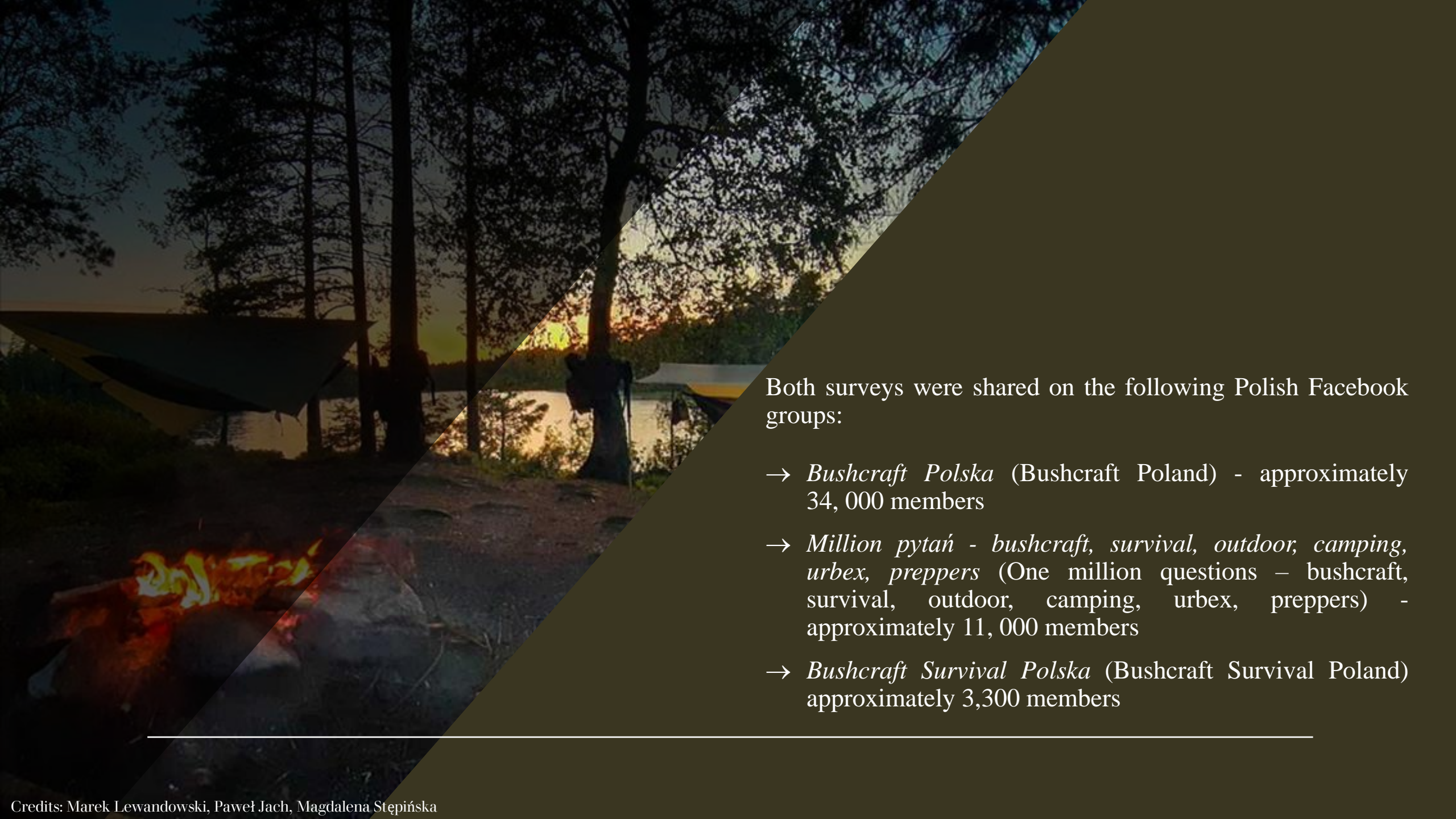
<https://zanocujwlesie.lasy.gov.pl>



Methods

We conducted two surveys:

- the first one took place in December 2022 and regarded mainly the *Overnight in the forest program*, it included 13 questions.
 - the second one was carried out in April 2023 and was focused more on the detailed characteristic of a bushcrafter, it consisted of 21 questions.
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Both surveys were shared on the following Polish Facebook groups:

- *Bushcraft Polska* (Bushcraft Poland) - approximately 34,000 members
- *Million pytań - bushcraft, survival, outdoor, camping, urbex, preppers* (One million questions – bushcraft, survival, outdoor, camping, urbex, preppers) - approximately 11,000 members
- *Bushcraft Survival Polska* (Bushcraft Survival Poland) approximately 3,300 members

Our surveys included following questions which can be divided in certain thematic parts:

1. Personal data.
 2. Experience in bushcraft and personal preferences.
 3. *Overnight in the forest* program.
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Results



Summary of:

- 70 answers from the first survey
- 88 answers from the second survey

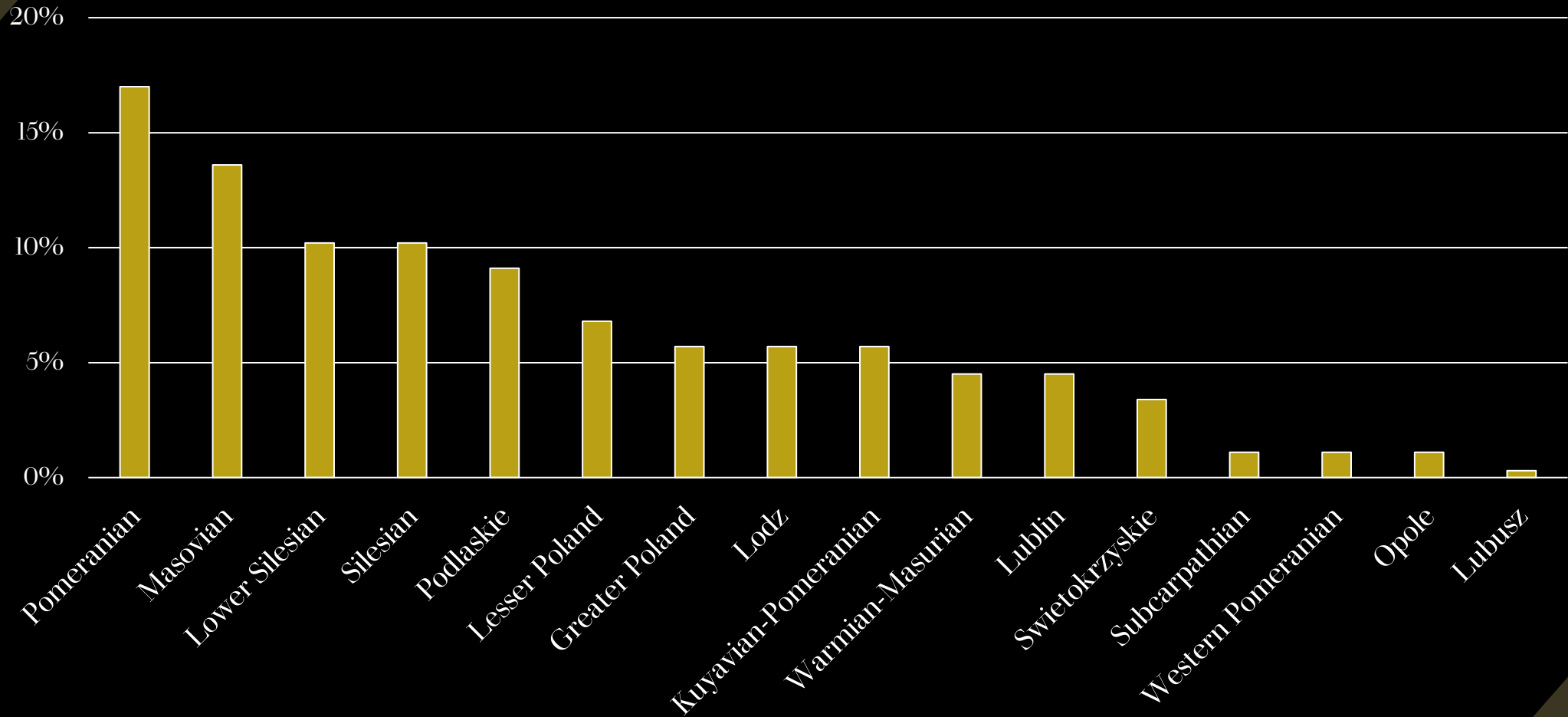
Personal data

Average Polish bushcrafter is a 34 years old man who has accomplished at least secondary education.

He lives in a town with estimated number of residents of 20, 000 – 100, 000 residents and currently has full-time job.

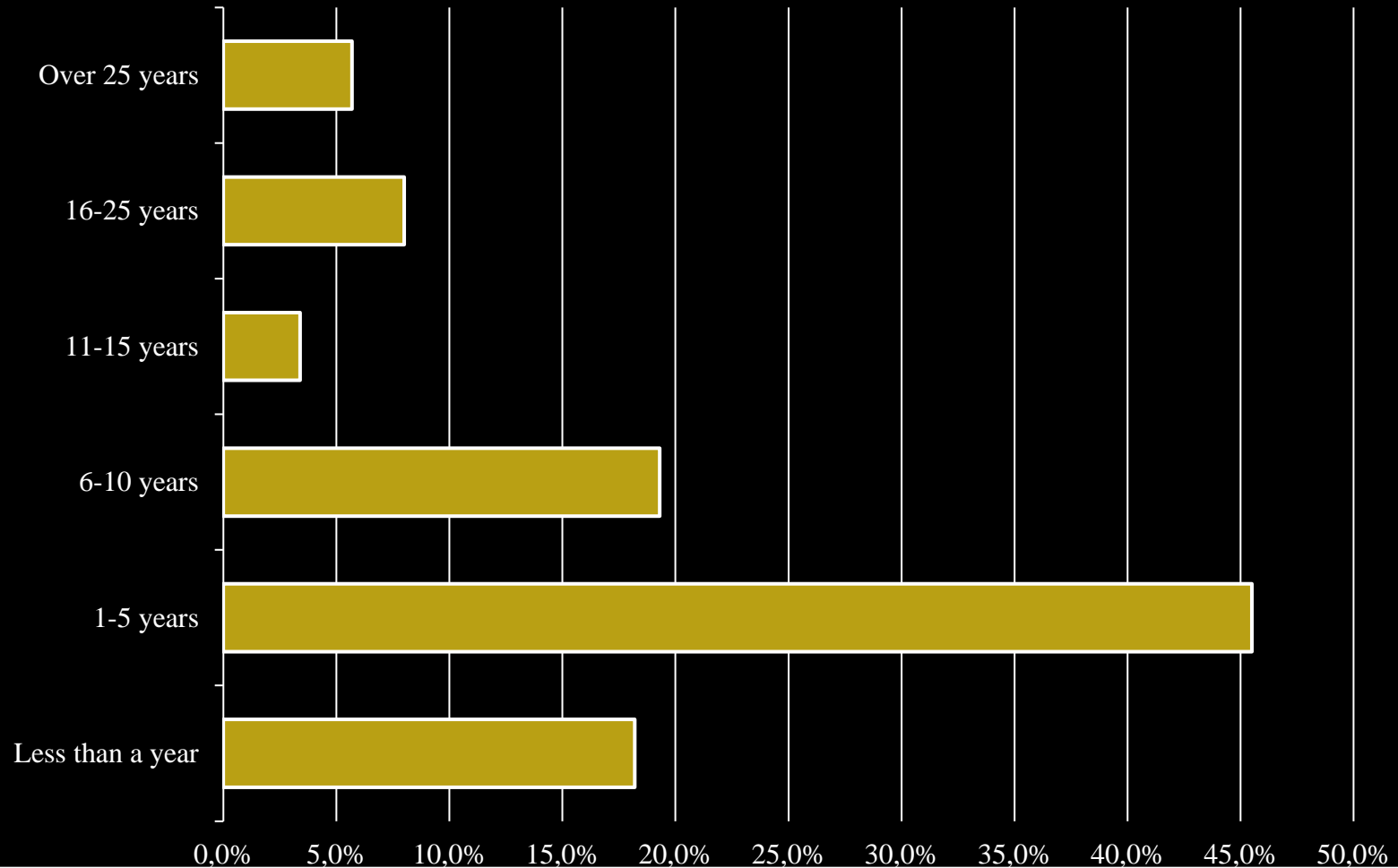


Place of origin

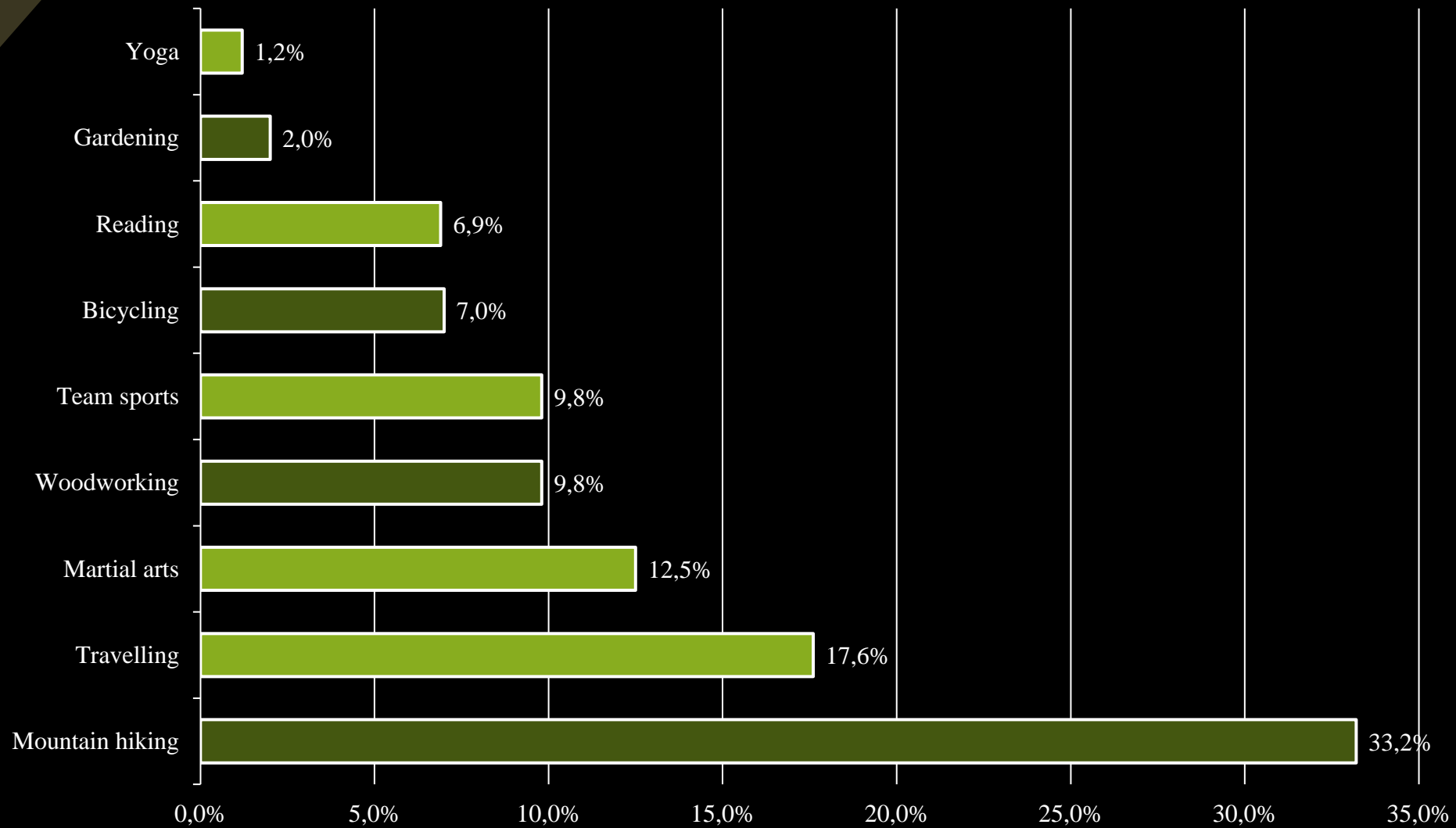


Experience in bushcraft and personal preferences

How long have you been involved in bushcraft?



What are your other interests?



Overnight in the forest program

Surprisingly, 15% of the respondents haven't heard about the program.

Others found out about it mainly from social media (most of them from Facebook) and YouTube.

Average frequency of sleeping in the forest for Polish bushcrafter is once in a month. He usually spends there 1 to 3 nights maximum.

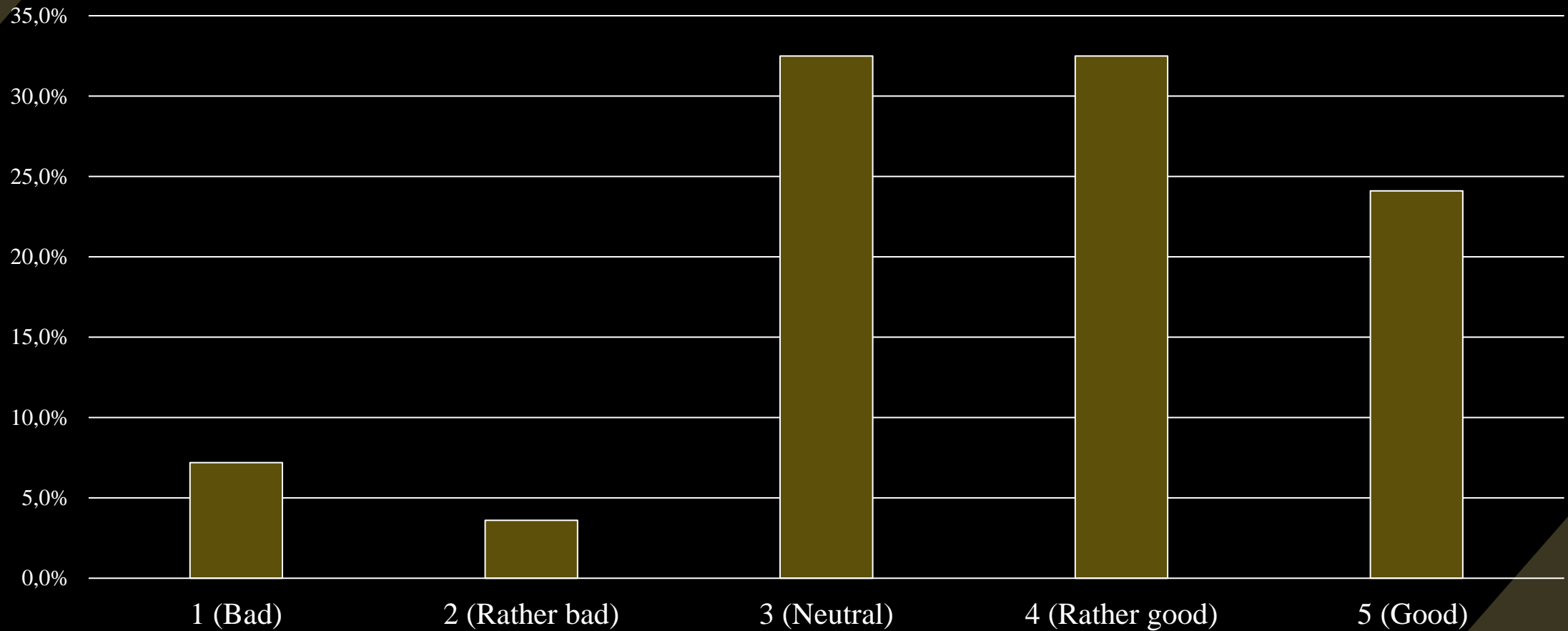
His preferred type of accomodation includes a hammock or a tent, possibly situated close to the water or in the middle of the forest.

While staying in the woods, Polish bushcrafter bases his daily diet on his own supplies and foraged plants/mushrooms, he doesn't shop for groceries outside of the forest.

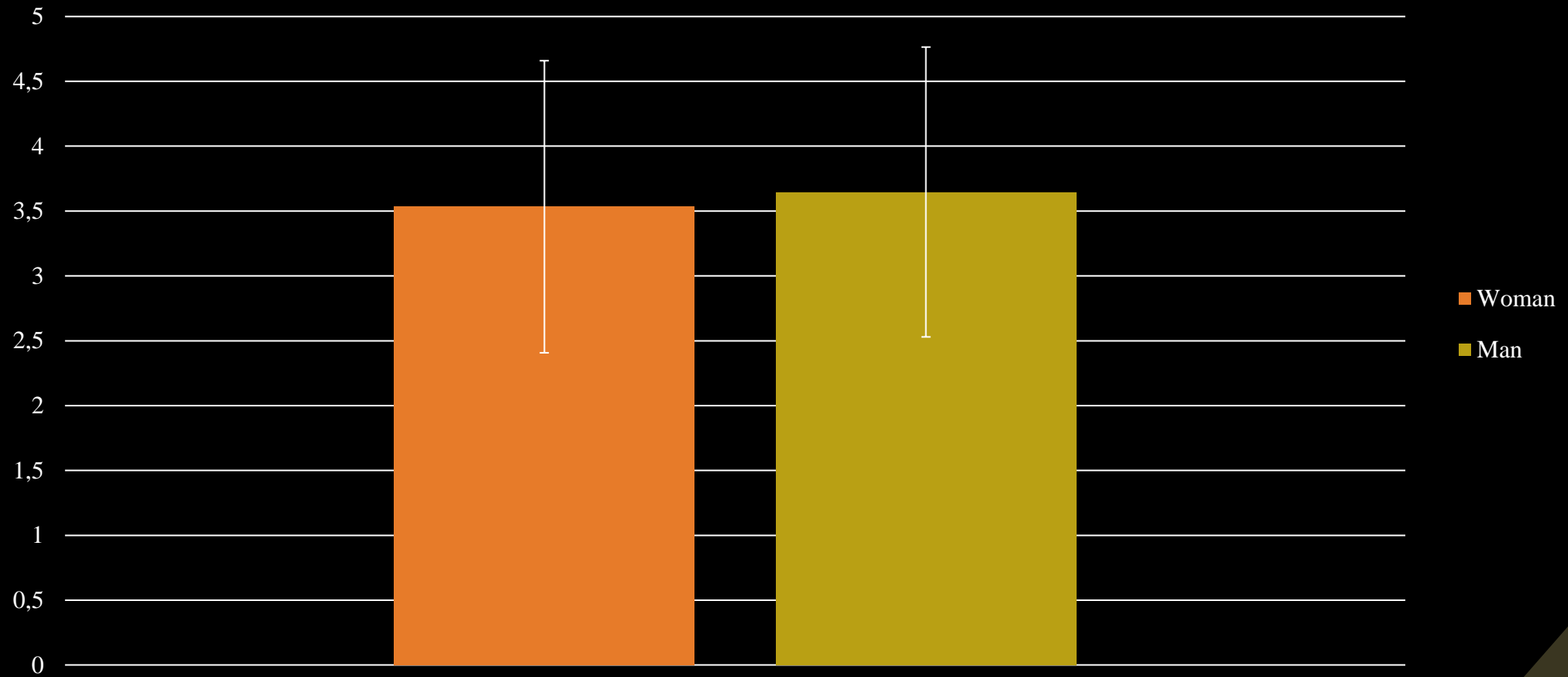


Credits: Małgorzata Kowalczyk

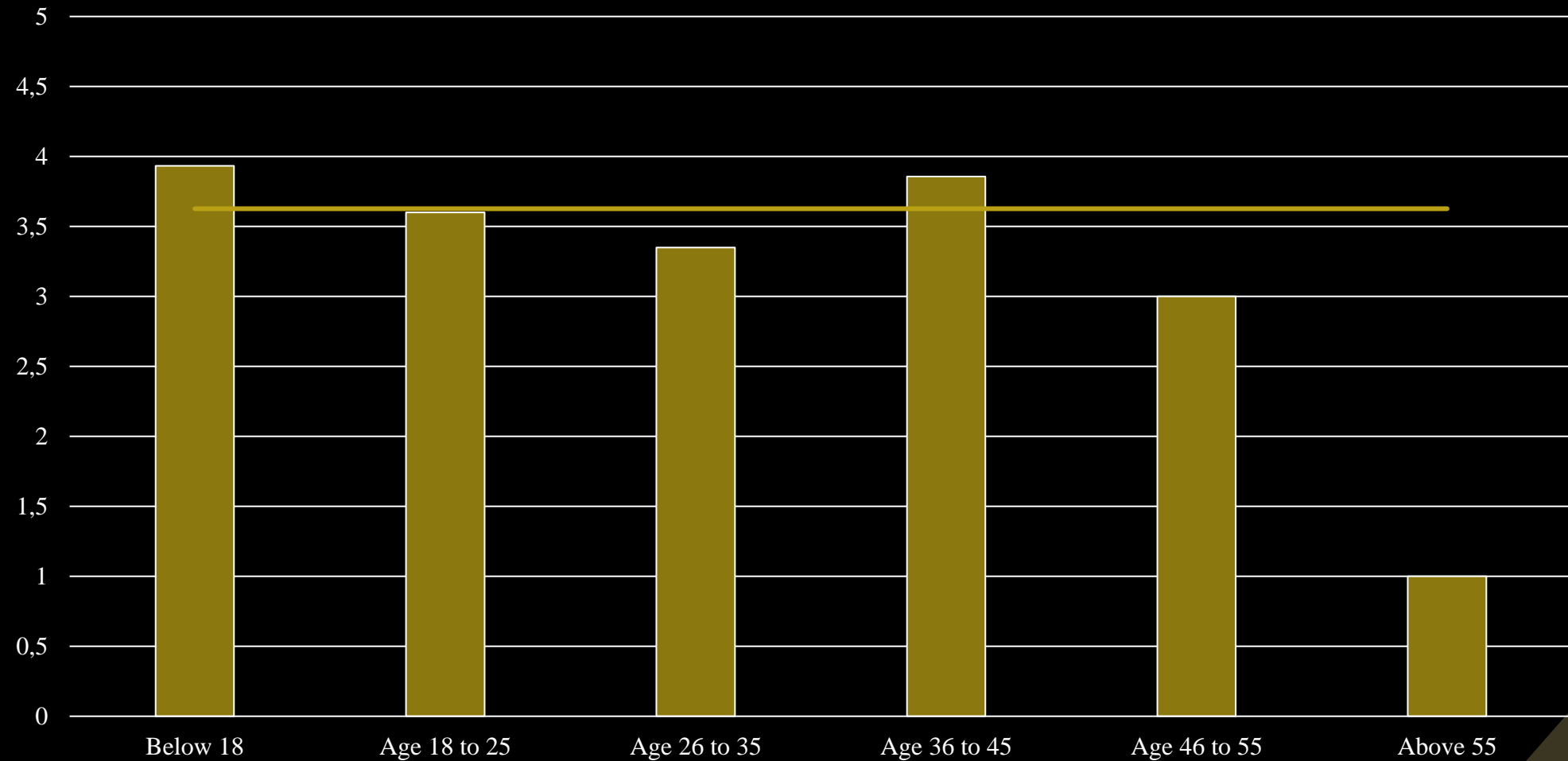
How would you rate the program *Overnight in the forest* on a scale of 1 to 5?



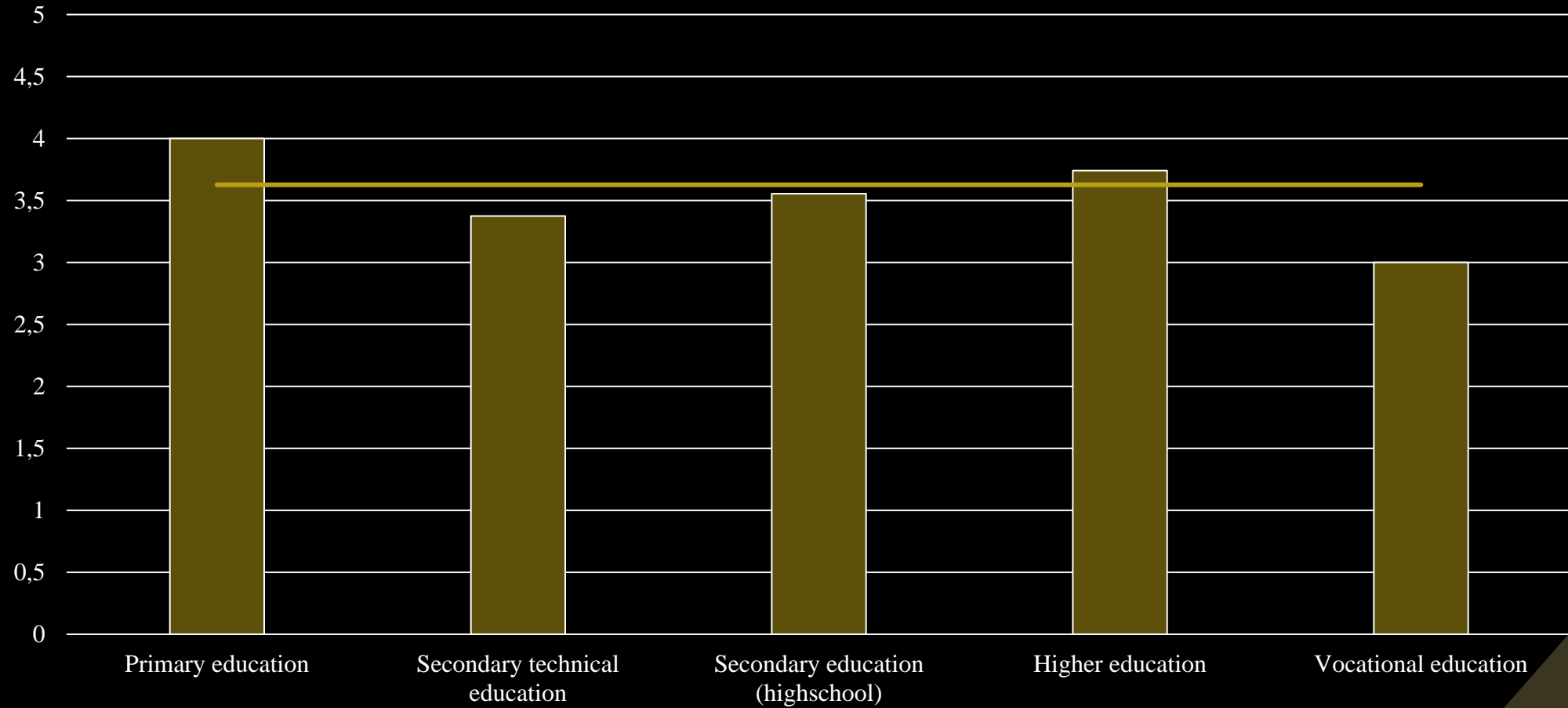
Average rating of *Overnight in the forest* program according to the gender of respondents



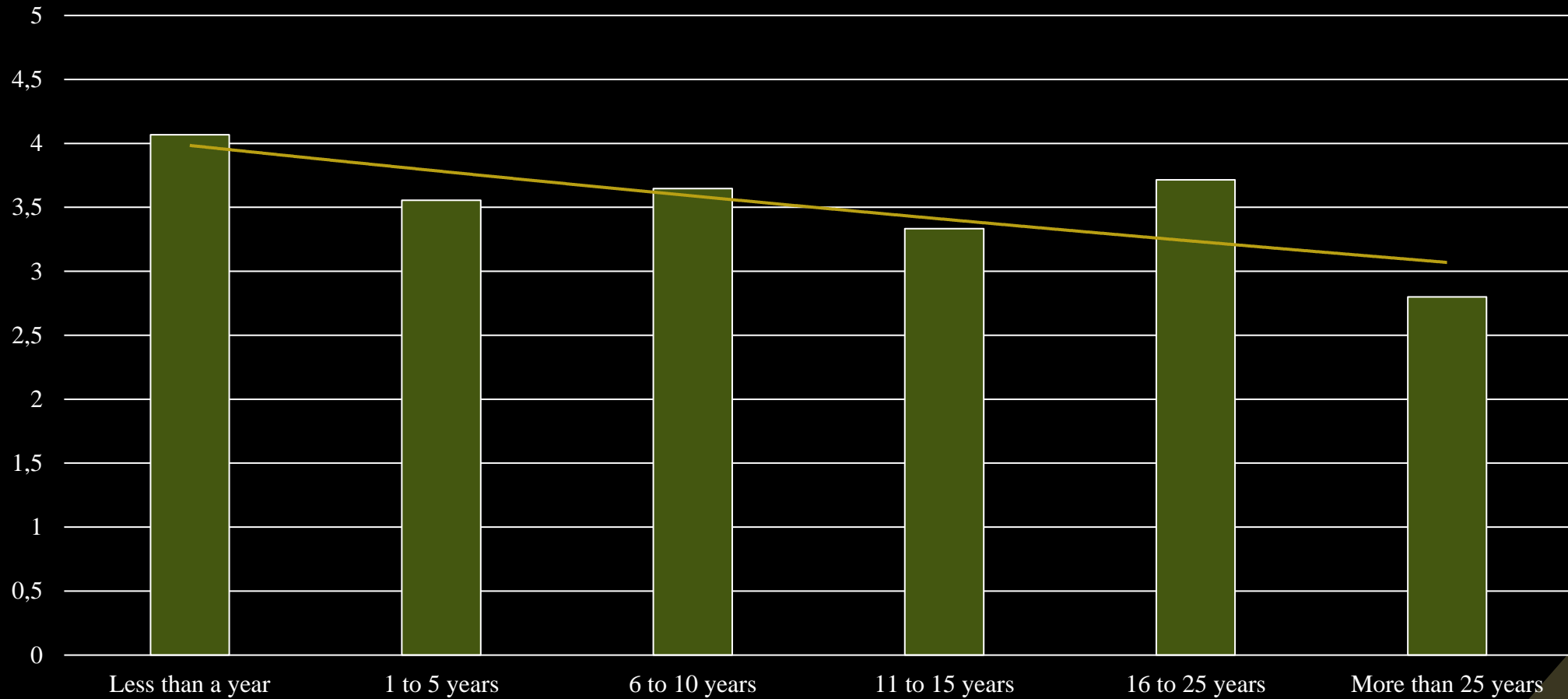
Average rating of the *Overnight in the forest* program according to the age of respondents



Average rating of the *Overnight in the forest* program according to the educational level of respondents



Relation between respondents' bushcraft experience and average rating of *Overnight in the forest* program



Discussion

- How does Polish bushcrafter look like compared to the peers from other countries?



Scandinavian bushcraft

- Scandinavian bushcraft vein
- Right of Public Access

Bushcraft practice in the UK

- Bushcraft courses and schools
- New laws



THANK YOU!
