



Overcoming Distance

The potential of eTandem Language Learning for German as a foreign language in Colombia

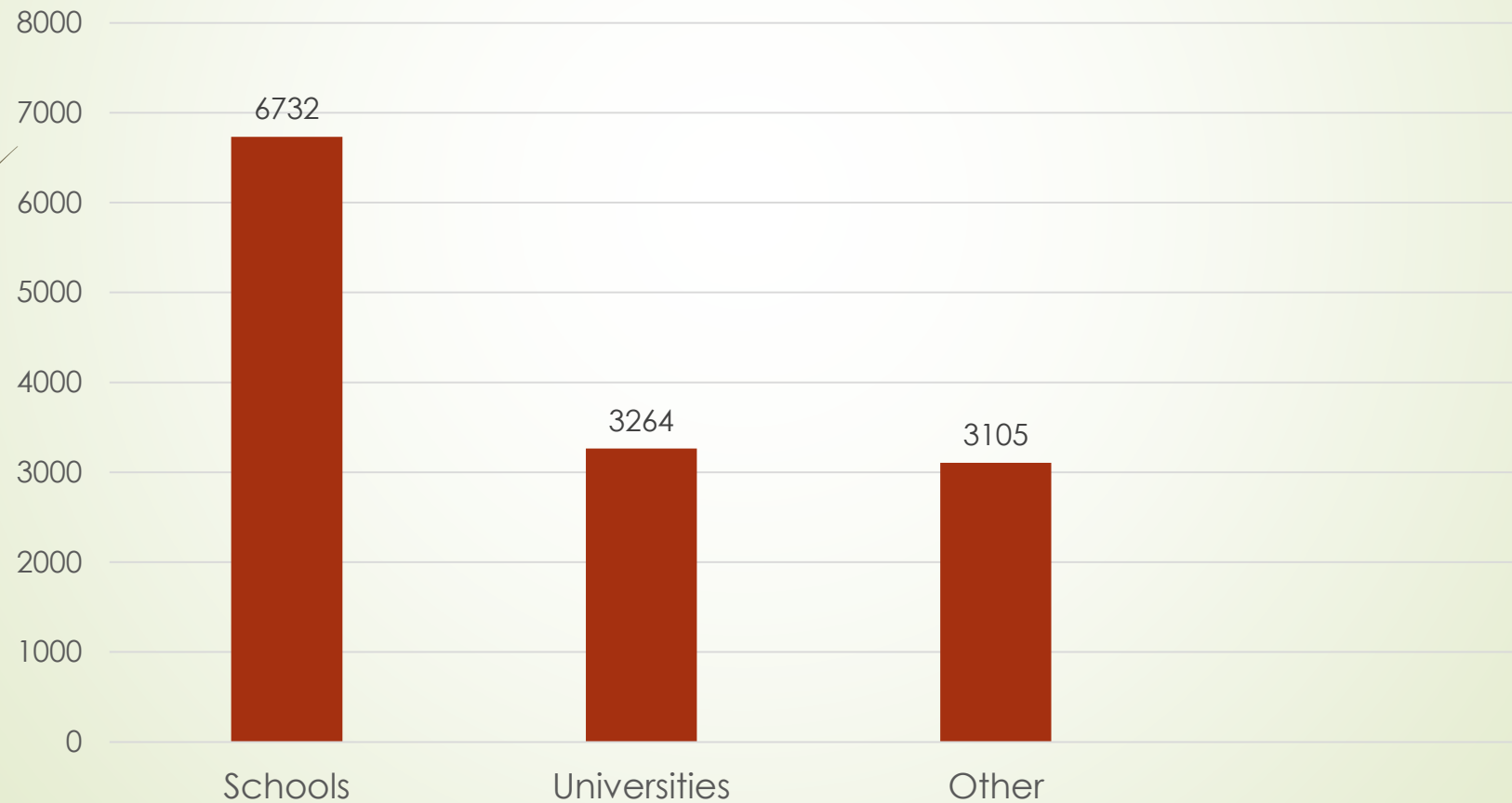
Yasmin El-Hariri, University of Vienna

Overview

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- German as a foreign language in Colombia
 - (e)Tandem Language Learning
 - The FAME project
 - The study
 - Summary and Outlook

German in Colombia

2005: 7.781 (StADaF) / **2013: 13.101** (Goethe Institut)



German in Colombia



- Geographical and linguistic distance
- Part-time students (German not as their major)
- Little to no contact with German speakers



Overcoming the distance

(e)Tandem Language Learning

Tandem Language Learning



(c) V. Lanski-Waldt

eTandem Language Learning

Autonomous
Learning

Intercultural
Learning

Co-operative
Learning

Computer
Mediated
Communication



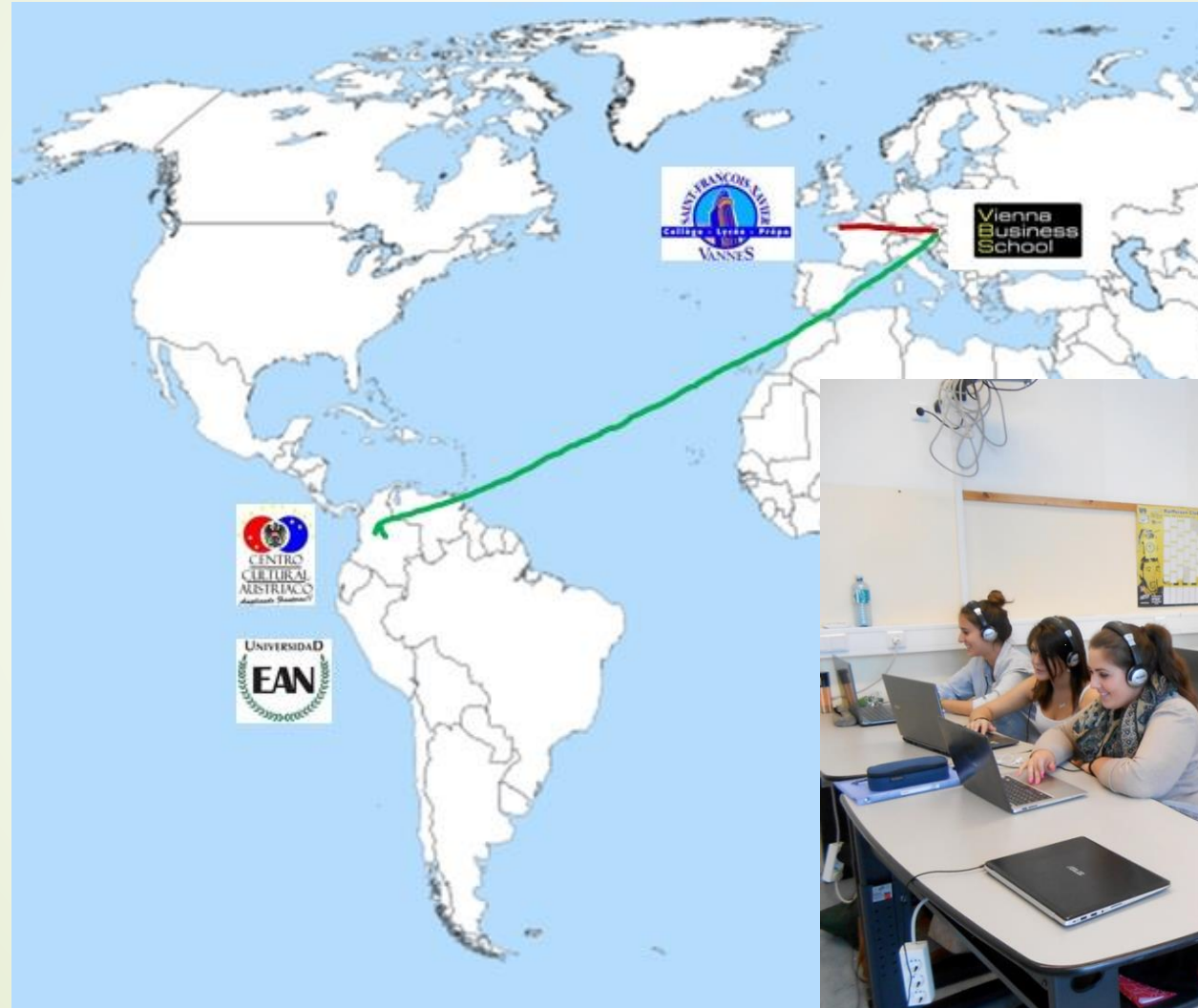


Fostering Autonomy and Motivation through E-Tandems

A Sparkling Science project funded by Austrian's Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy (BMBWF)

Project leader: Eva Vetter (University of Vienna)

The Project Partnership





The study

The potential of eTandem Language Learning for German as a foreign language in Colombia from the learners' perspectives

Research Questions

Why did learners choose German as a foreign language?

How do they rate the role of contact with German speakers?

What beliefs & attitudes do learners in Colombia hold about (e)Tandem Language Learning?

Participants

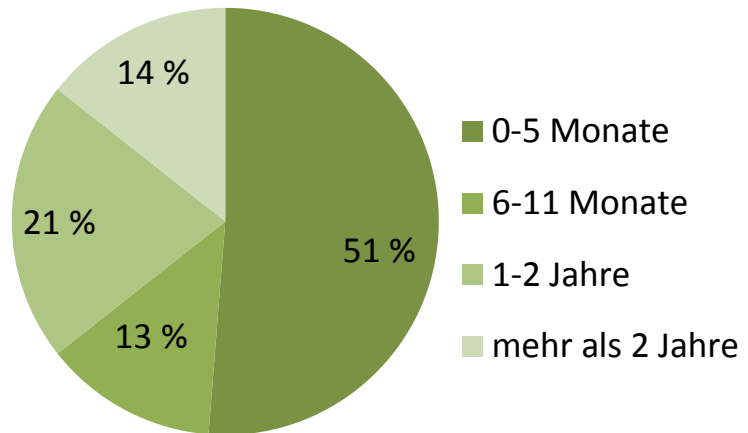
Total		164
Gender	Female	89
	Male	74
Age	<15	3
	15-19	58
	20-24	63
	25-30	31
	>30	7
University students	Yes	130
	No	30

➤ Fields of study

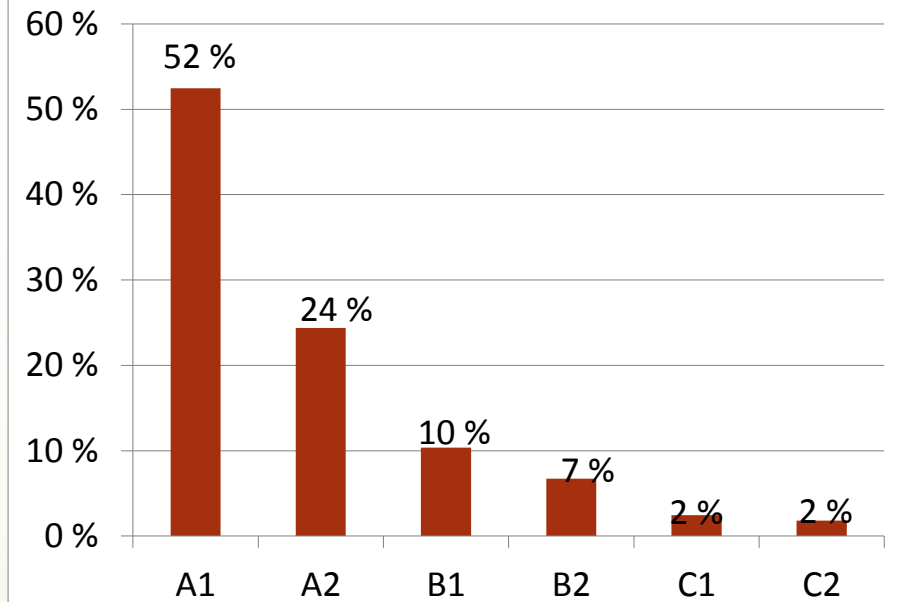
- Modern Languages (57)
- Engineering (27)
- Other: Business, Economics, Communication, Biology, Law, International Relations, Psychology, Design, Chemistry, Literature, Information Science, Environmental Management, Philosophy, Linguistics, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine

Participants

Time of instruction



Level of knowledge



Reasons for choosing German as a foreign language



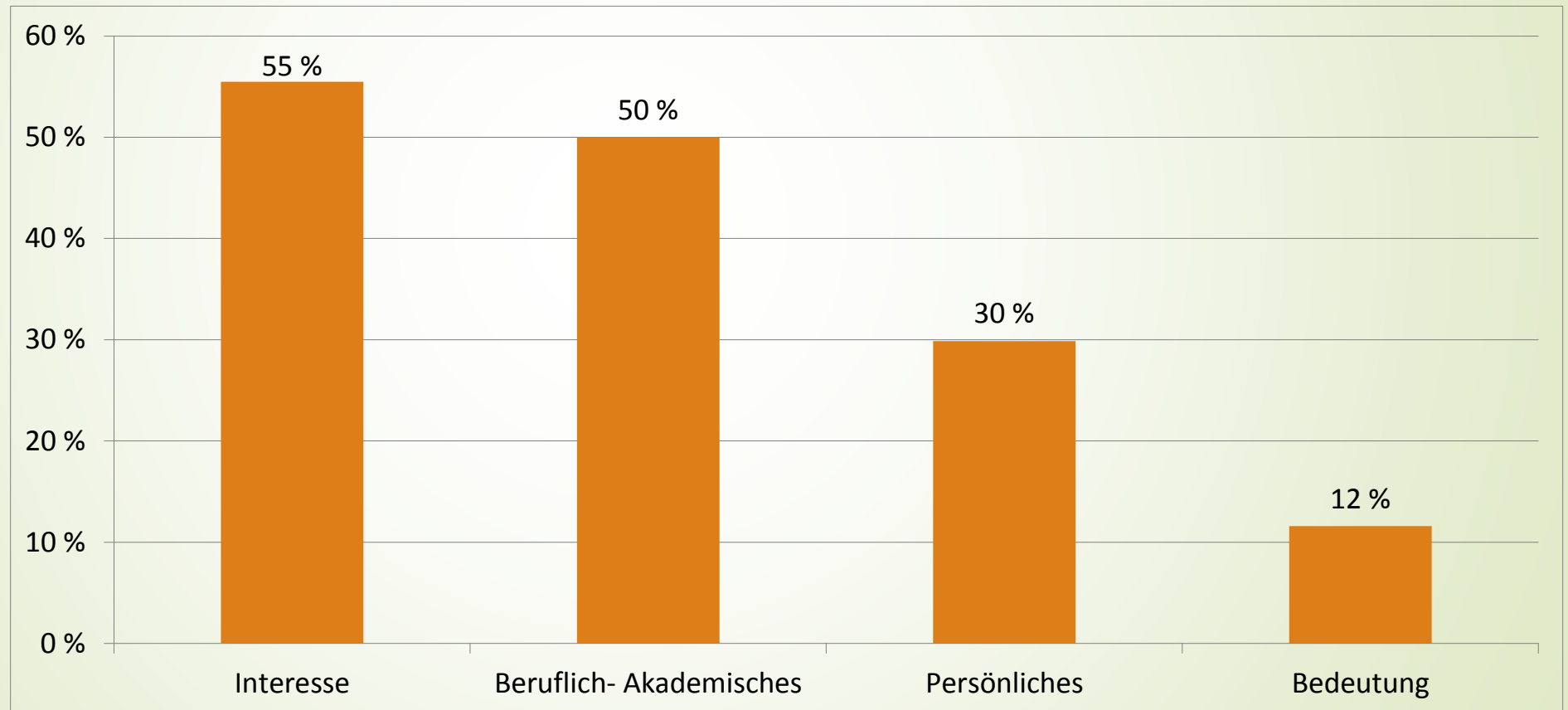
General
Interest

Academic/
Professional

Personal
reasons

Role of
German(y)

Reasons for German as a foreign language



Contact with German speakers

- ▶ 95 % clearly expressed their desire to regularly communicate with German speakers



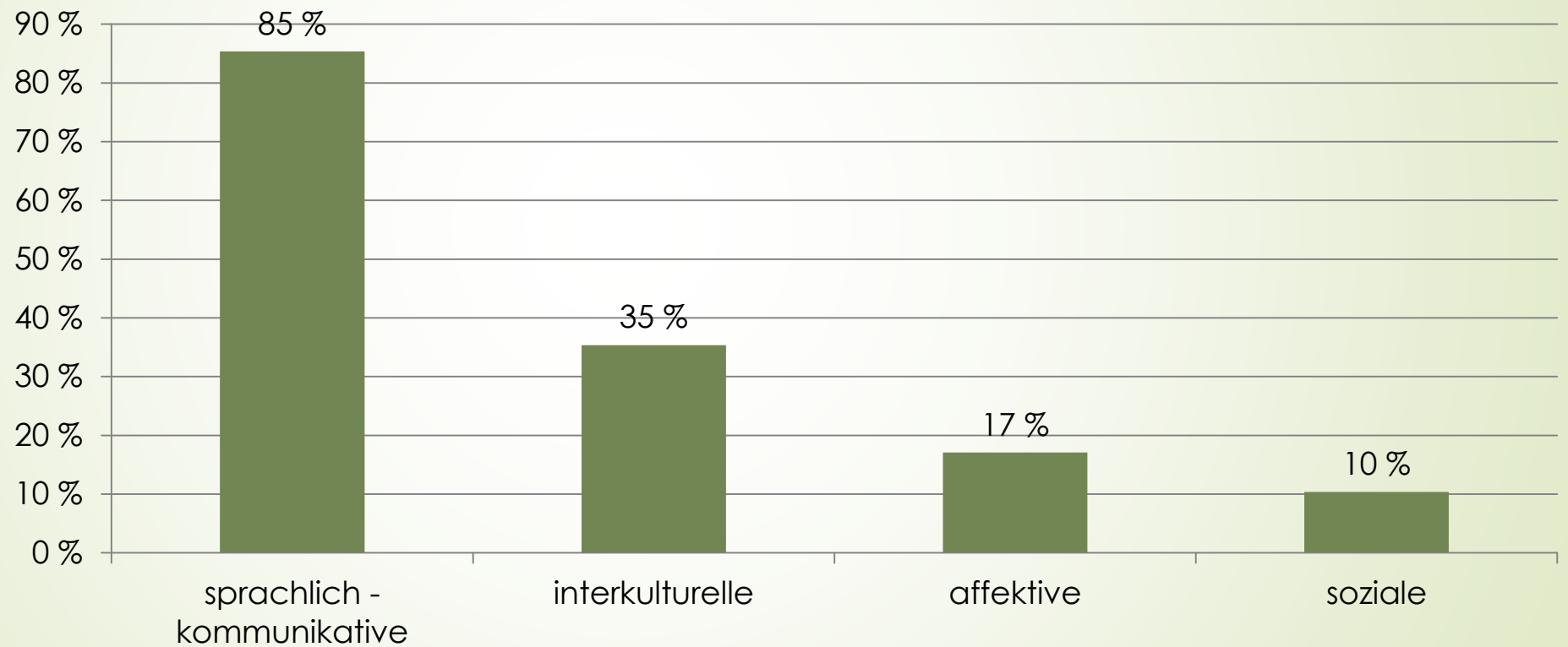
Linguistic

Intercultural

Affective

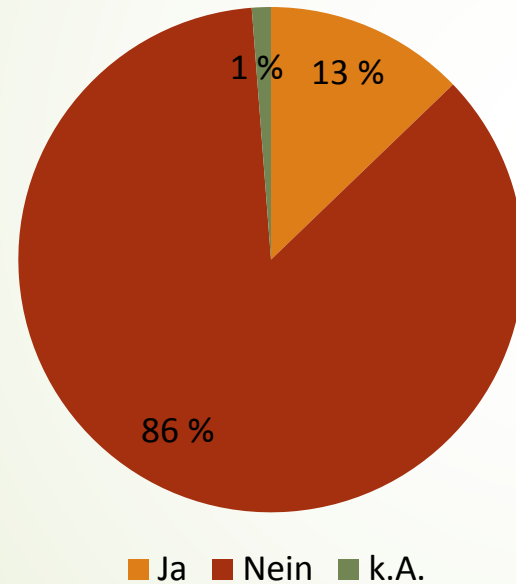
Social

Contact with German speakers

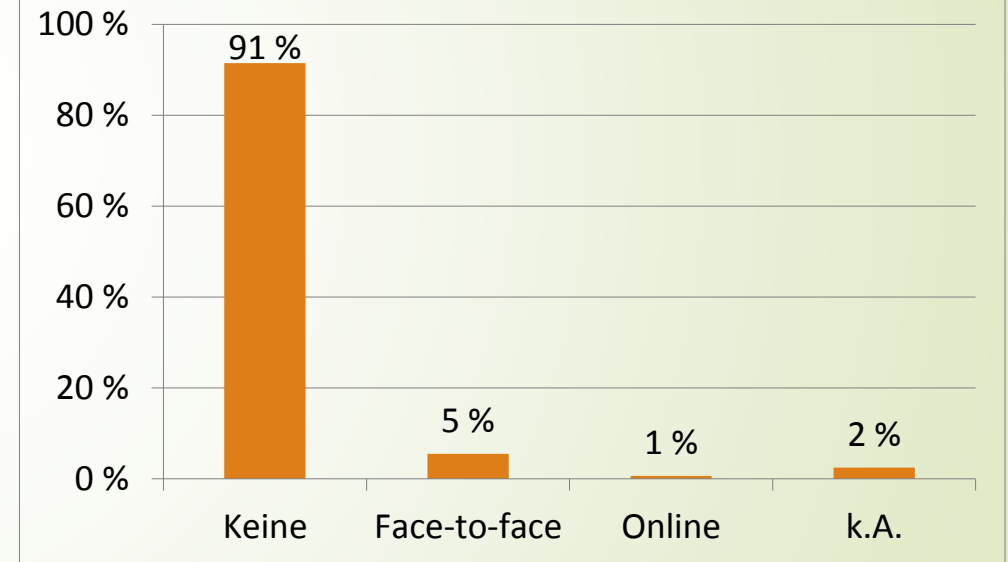


Experiences

Have you heard of Tandem Language Learning?

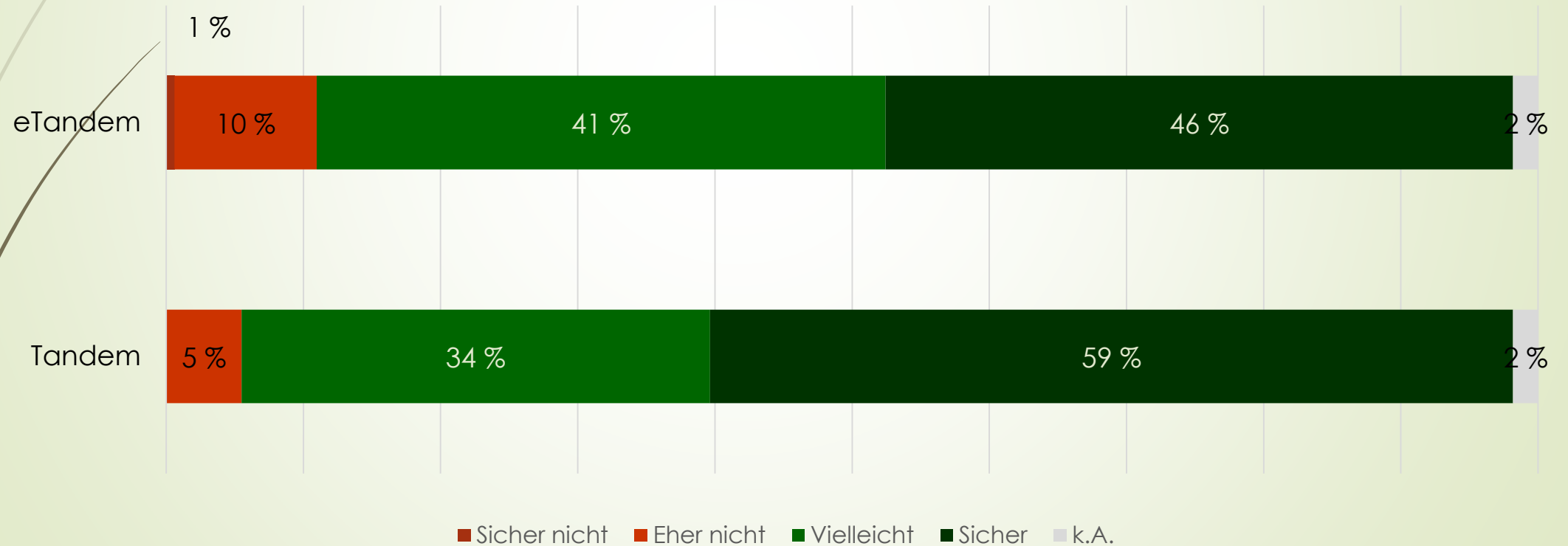


Experience with (e)Tandem Language Learning



Attitudes towards (e)Tandem

► „I can imagine to communicate with a german speaking person through Tandem / eTandem“



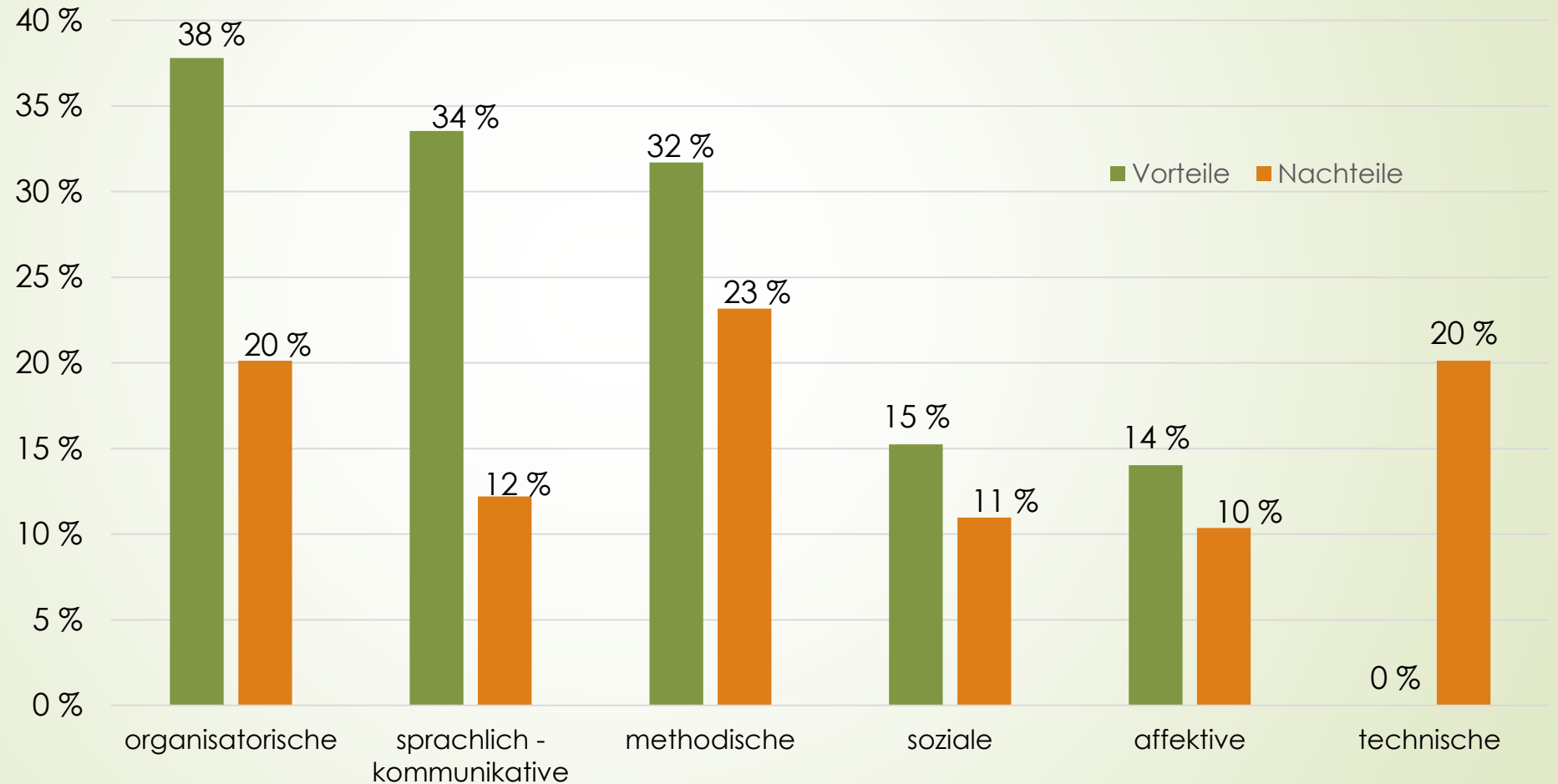
Expected Advantages



Expected Disadvantages



Advantages & Disadvantages



Summary

- ▶ High potential for eTandem Language Learning among learners in Colombia
 - ▶ Strong desire for more contact to German speakers
 - ▶ Little opportunities in „real life“



Practice
Flexibility (local, temporal)
Intercultural exchange
Working on and with the internet



Time difference
Availability (computer/internet)
Linguistic proficiency
Lack of formality (!)

Implications

- ▶ eTandem Organisation
- ▶ Guidance
 - ▶ Close contact between learners, teachers & scientists
 - ▶ Workshops
 - ▶ Supplementary materials
- ▶ Awareness-raising
 - ▶ Co-operative learning
 - ▶ Non-formal autonomous learning

Future Research

- ▶ Learner perceptions during and after 2 years of eTLL

- ▶ Individual differences



- ▶ Task design for eTandem Language Learning

Thank you!



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