



**EURASIA
PARTNERSHIP
FOUNDATION**

THE SKILLS DIMENSION OF MIGRATION: ETF SURVEY RESULTS FROM ARMENIA AND GEORGIA

**Skills and Employment for Migrants
Yerevan, 30th October 2012**

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Special gratitude to Arne Baumann, ETF

Content

- EU & Armenia Mobility Partnership Agreement and the concept of Circular Migration
- Migration and Skills: survey overview
- Potential Migrants: some survey findings
- Return Migrants: some survey findings
- Summary and recommendations

Joint Declaration on a Mobility Partnership between the European Union and Armenia

Signed on 27 October, 2011 in Luxembourg by the RA and 10 EU members

http://www.mfa.am/en/press-releases/item/2011/10/27/a_eu/

The Declaration has 4 directions:

- I) Mobility, legal migration and integration
- II) Migration and development
- III) Fight against irregular immigration and trafficking in human beings, readmission, identity and travel documents' security, border management
- IV) Fight against irregular immigration and trafficking in human beings, readmission, identity and travel documents' security, border management

Cooperation in the framework of MP: State Migration Service & European Training Foundation

- ▶ Collection of selected labour market information and implementation of research, including elaboration and analysis of data, on migration and skills, facilitating recognition of qualifications and matching between skills and available jobs/vacancies, etc.
- ▶ Sharing experiences and exchange good practices in the field of employment and education policies.

Why ETF works on skills and migration

- Migration of people means also migration of skills: brain drain, brain waste, brain gain, brain circulation
- No universal solution: brain XXX – depends on migration stage, country-specific conditions and individual migrant characteristics
- Skills can be part of the solution and facilitate a better migration outcome for all: e.g. a more efficient employment/skill-matching process
- All parties can win through more cooperation and better management of migration: ‘win-win-win’ scenario
- ETF aims at providing evidence and policy instruments on education and skills for improving the outcome of labour migration

ETF Migration and Skills Surveys

- To better understand the links between migration and skills through collecting evidence from the field
- To learn about migration and return experiences of migrants and their families
- To identify the needs for support for legal migration and circular migration (pre- and post-migration)
 - Migration & skills surveys in Albania, Egypt, Moldova, Tunisia and Ukraine (2007-2009)
 - New migration & skills surveys in Armenia, Georgia and Morocco (2011-2012) to support EU mobility partnerships

ETF Migration & Skills Surveys: Methodology

- **Target groups included:** 4000 respondents in each country
 - “Potential migrants” (2600 respondents)
 - “Returning migrants” (1400 respondents)
- **Sampling methods applied:**
 - stratified random sample for potential migrants
 - snowball technique for returning migrants
- **The sample is largely representative** with respect to:
 - rural/urban distribution
 - gender (male and female)
 - education levels (low: ISCED 1-2, medium: ISCED 3-4, high: ISCED 5-6)

ETF Migration & Skills Surveys: Definitions

Potential migrant (those who intend and not intend to migrate):

- Anyone who is between 18-50 years old, lived in the country at the moment of the interview and was available for being interviewed.
- The survey on potential migrants is representative of the young adult population (18–50 years), so those in the same age group who are not actively seeking to migrate are included in the survey as control group.

Returning migrant (both short and long-term migrants):

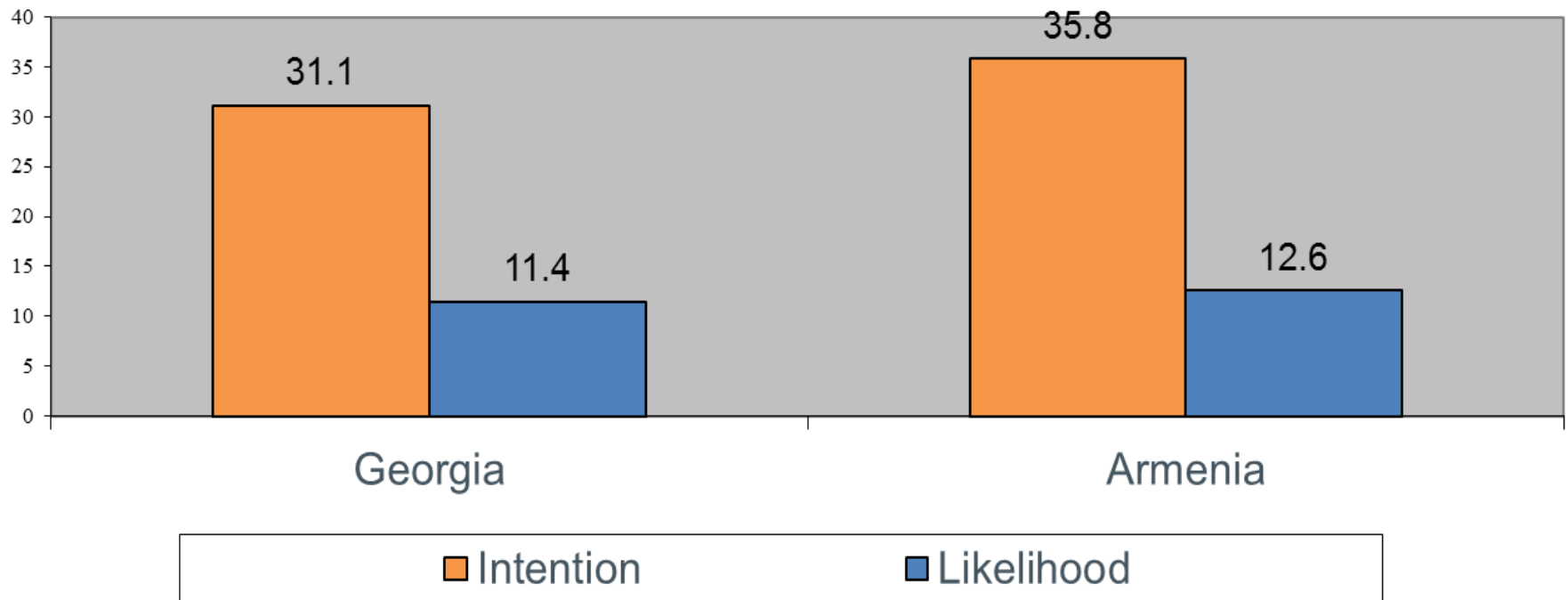
- Anyone who left the survey country aged 18 or over,
- lived and worked abroad continuously for at least three months,
- came back to own country within the last ten years,
- now present and available for interview.

Survey sample of potential migrants

Sample description	ARMENIA	GEORGIA
Sample size	2630 persons	2883 persons
Proportion women	64%	61%
Mean age	33.2 years	34.7 years
Location: capital	37.8%	25.5%
Other urban	31%	27.4%
Rural share	31.3%	47.1%
Education level before migration	Upper secondary general (37%), university (31%), post-secondary vocational (19.4%), upper secondary vocational (6%), lower secondary (6%)	University educated (32%), upper secondary general (29%), upper secondary vocational (15%), lower secondary (12%), post-secondary vocational (11%)

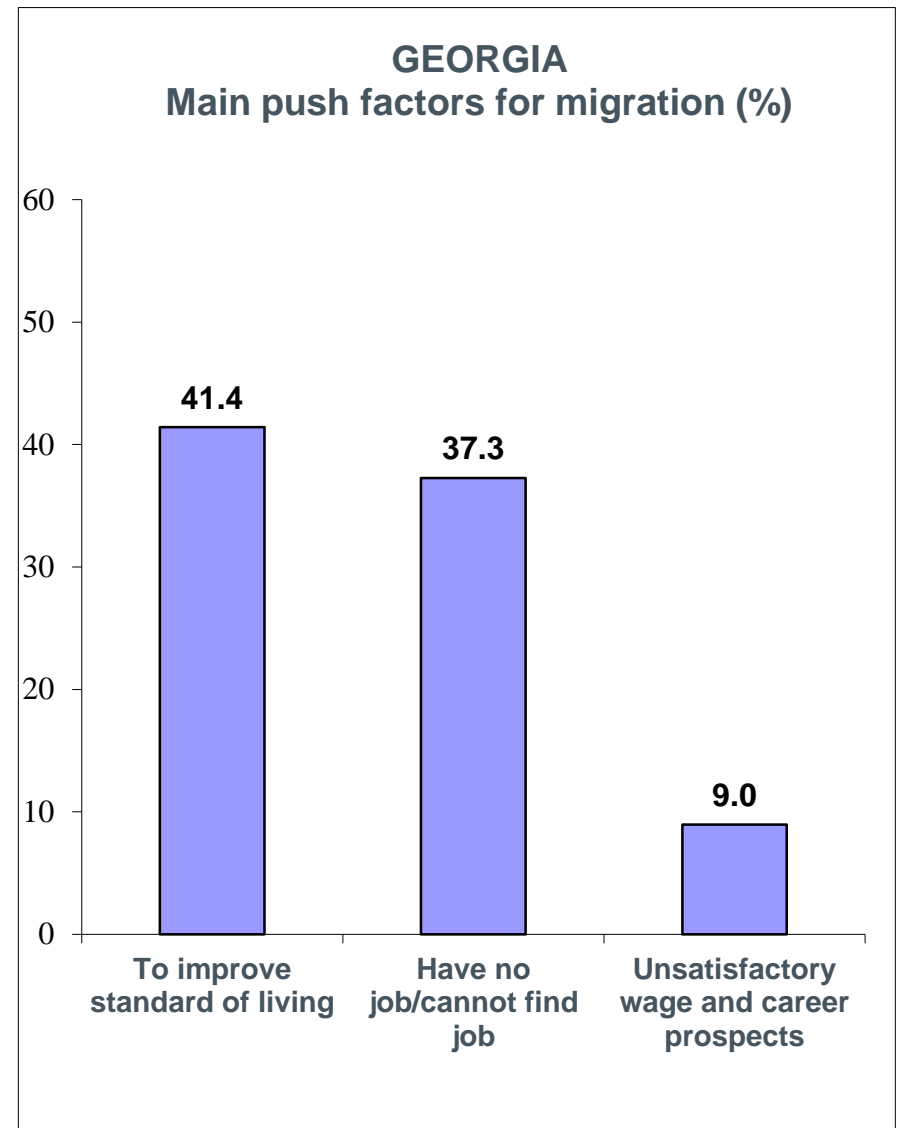
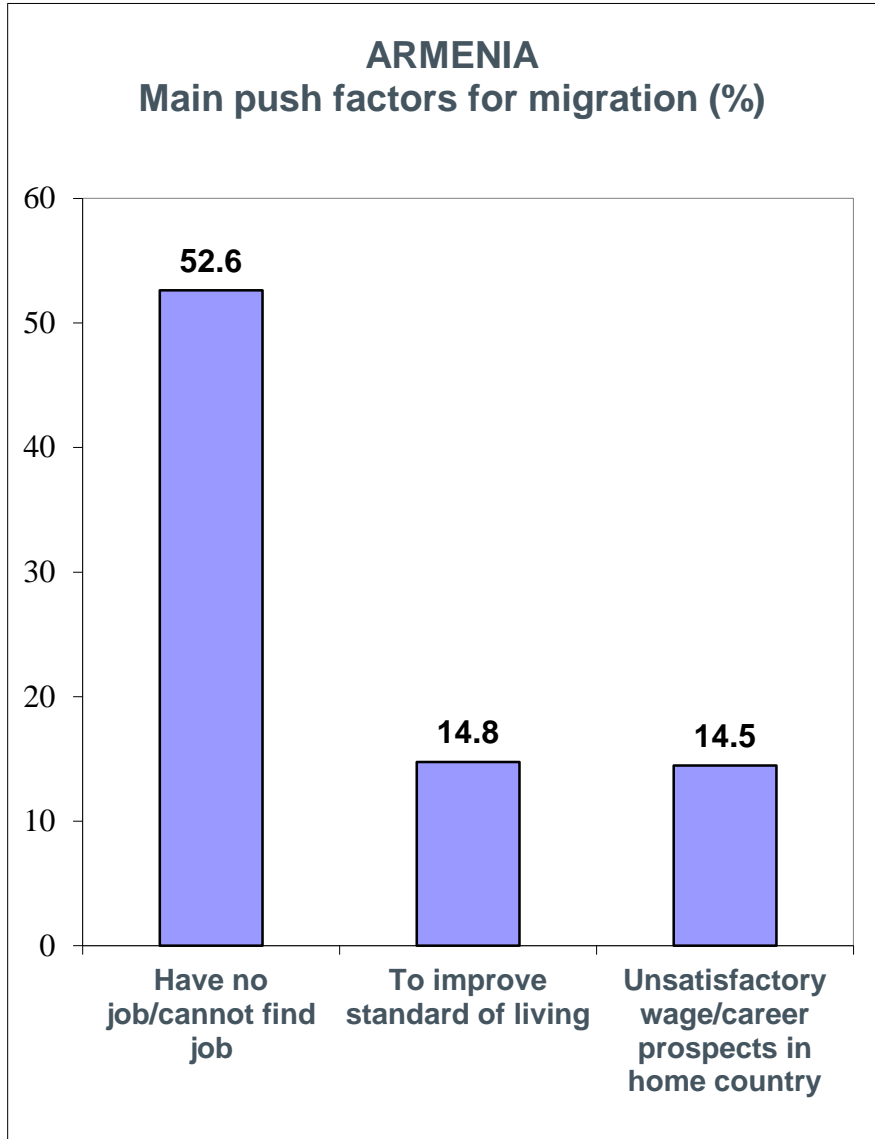
Prospective migrants: intentions and likelihood to migrate

Intention and likelihood to migrate (%)

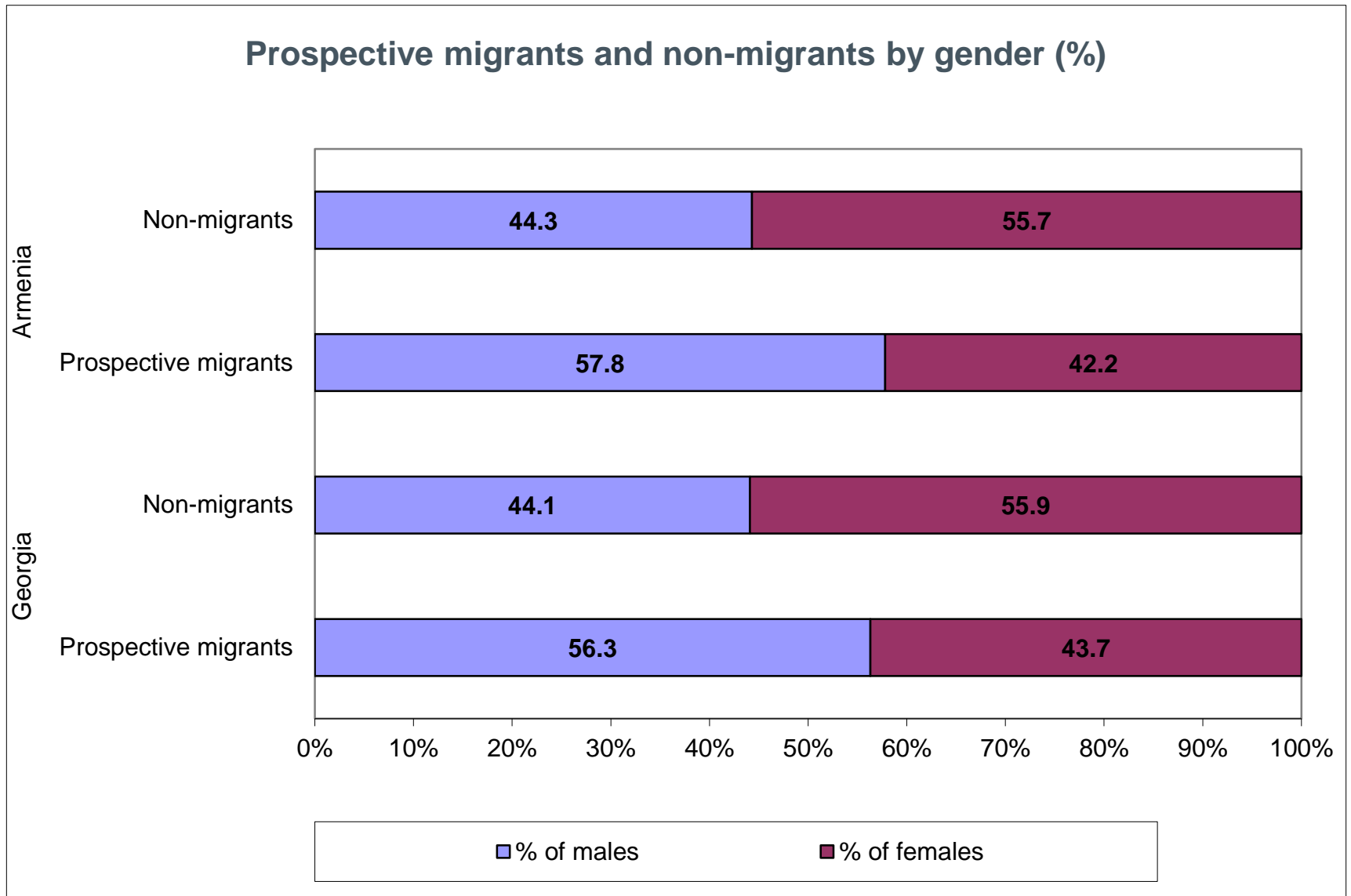


“Likelihood” captures the probability that the intention to migrate translates into action; it takes account of the time horizon given for migrating (within 6 months or within 2 years), the ability to finance the move, knowledge of the destination country and its language, and possession of the required documents.

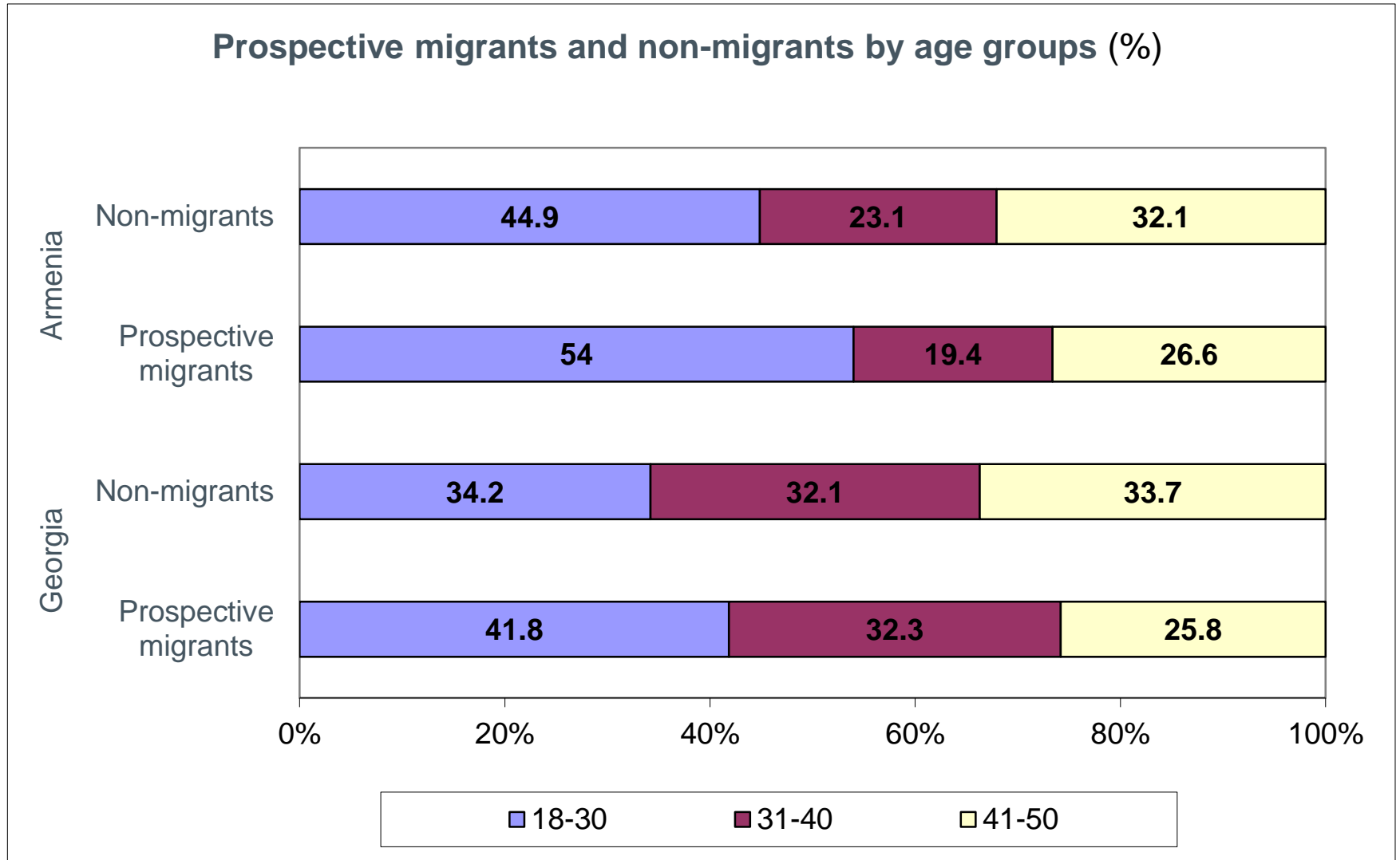
Main push factors for migration



Potential migrants by gender

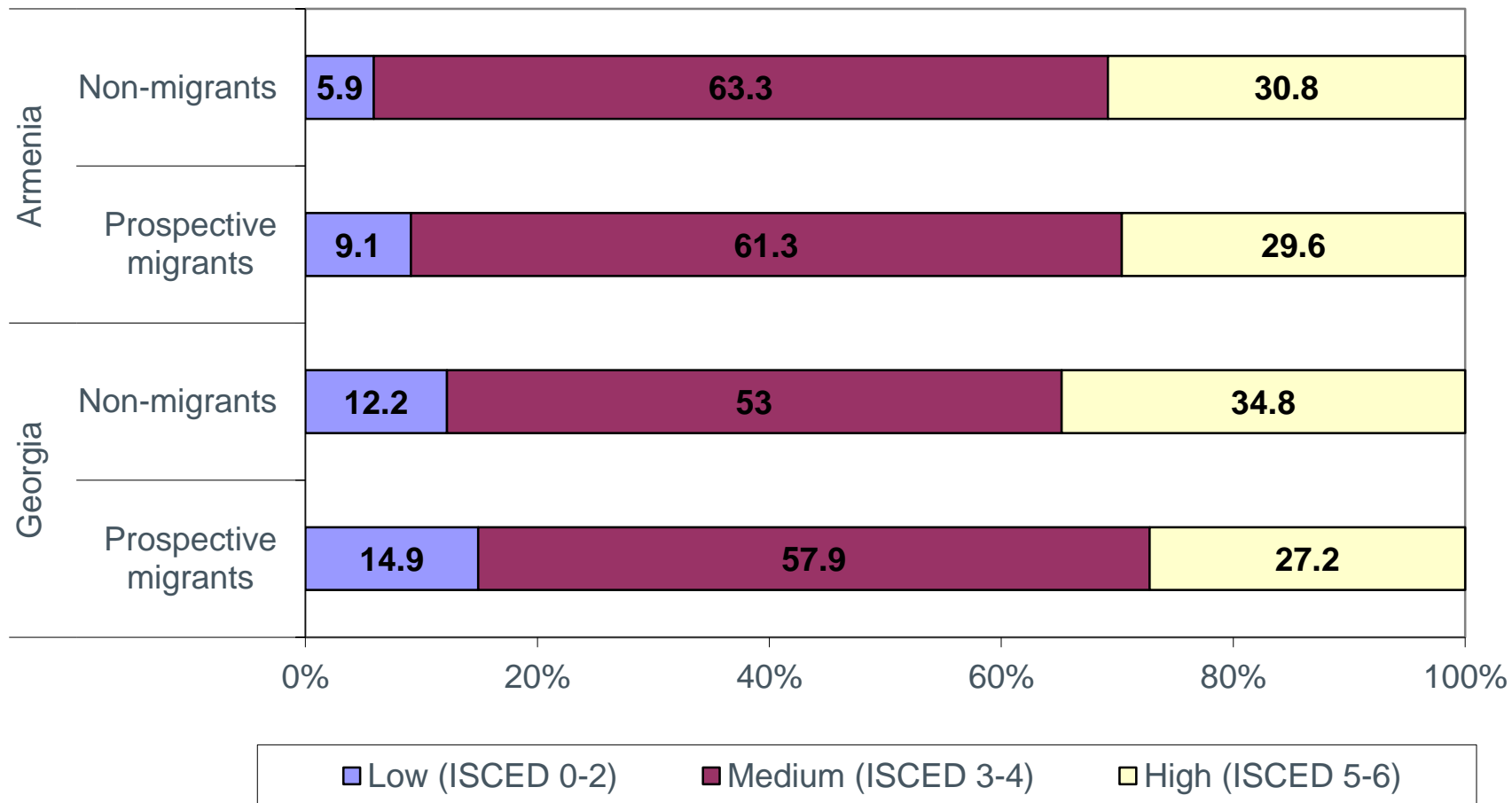


Potential migrants by age groups



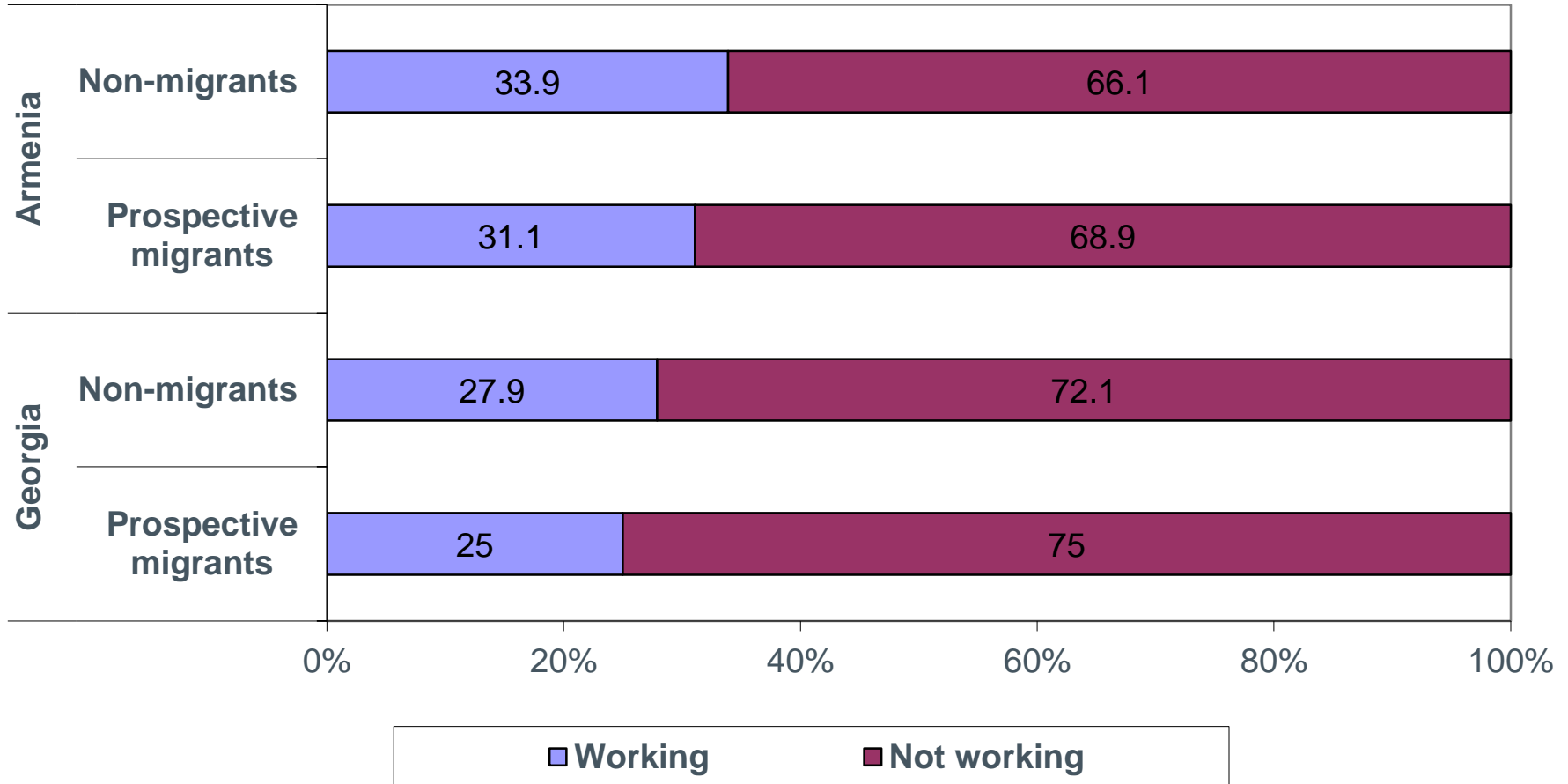
Potential migrants by education levels

Prospective migrants and non-migrants by education level (%)



Potential migrants by working status

Prospective migrants and non-migrants by working status (%)



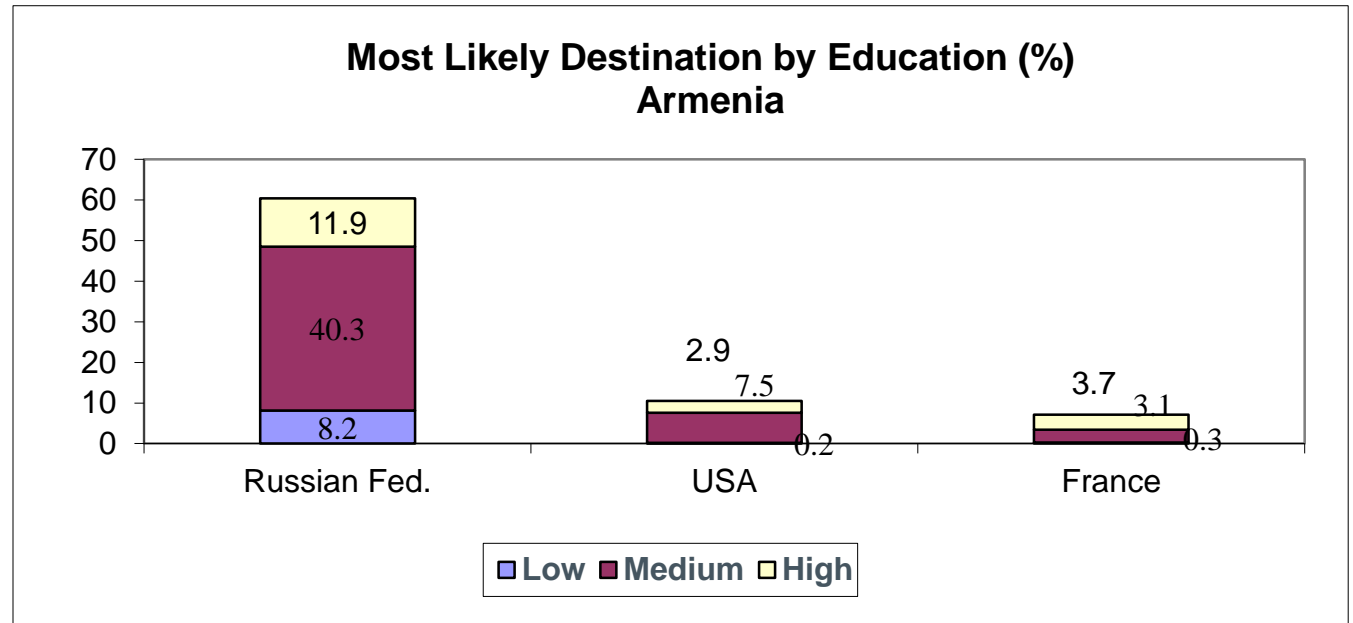
ARMENIA

Prospective Migrants

Russia: 60.4%

USA: 10.5%

France: 7.1%



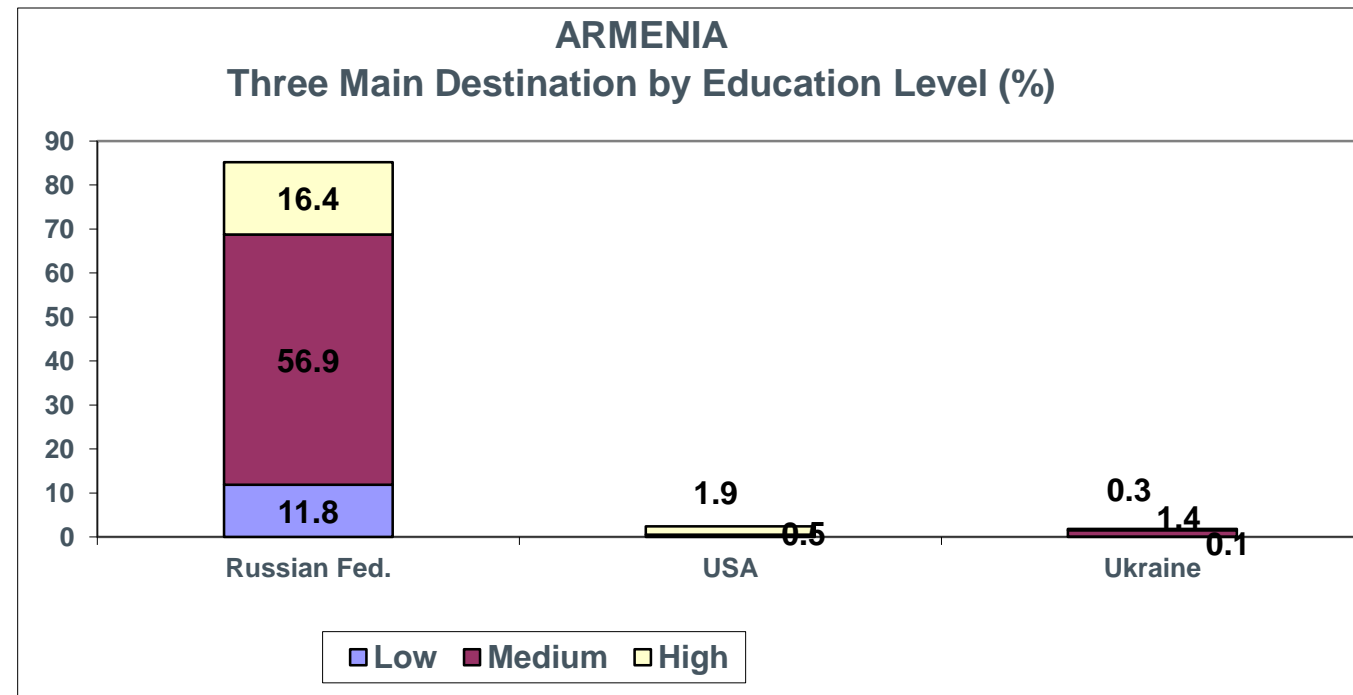
ARMENIA

Returning Migrants

Russia: 85.2%

USA: 2.4%

Ukraine: 1.8%



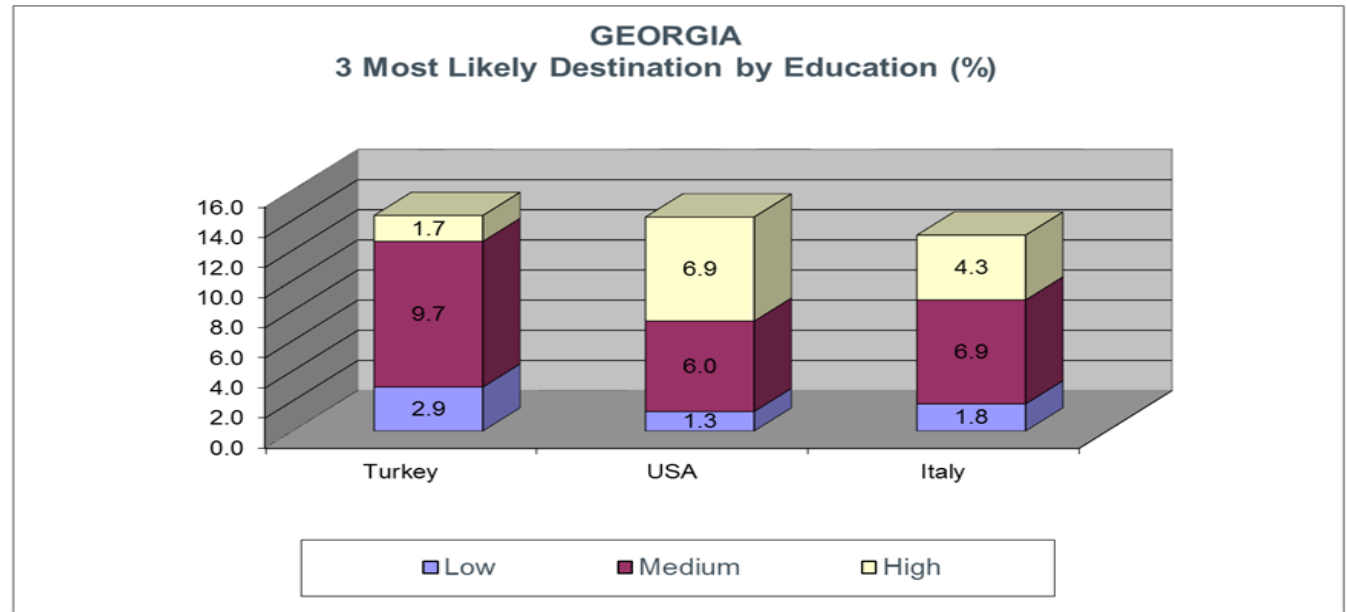
GEORGIA

Prospective Migrants

Turkey: 14.3%

USA: 14.2%

Italy: 13.0%



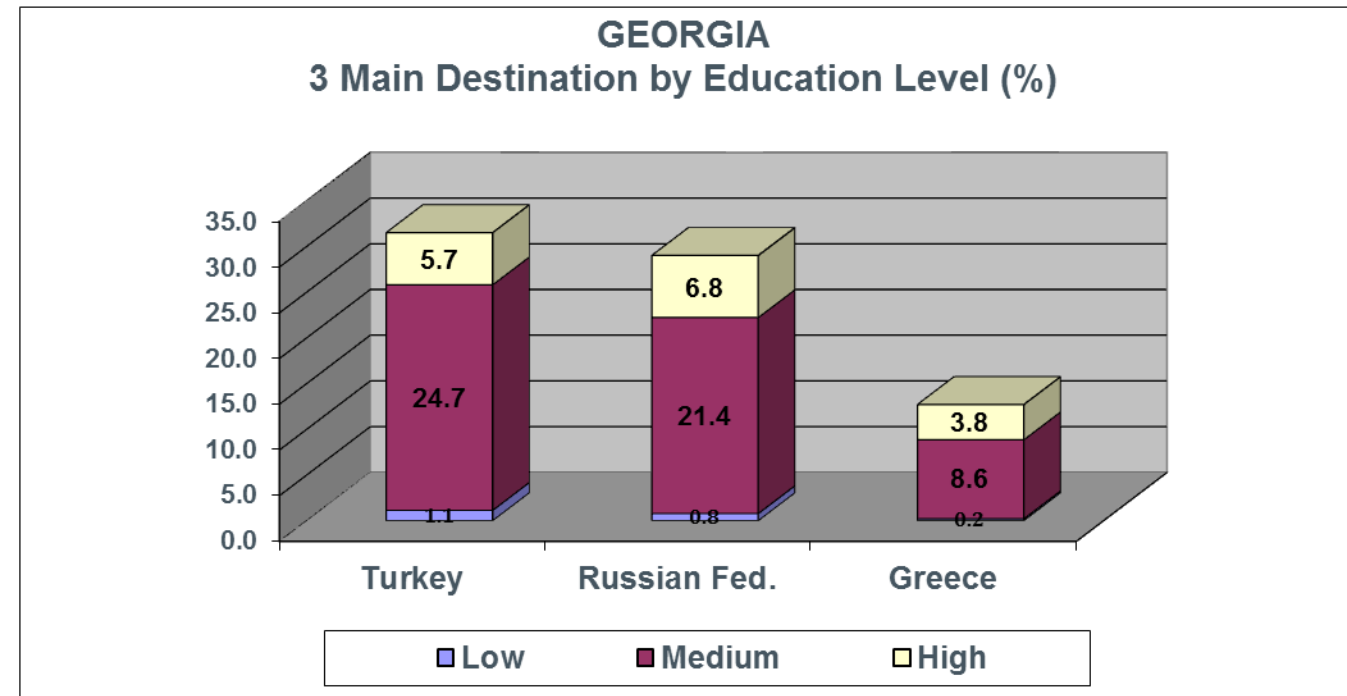
GEORGIA

Returning Migrants

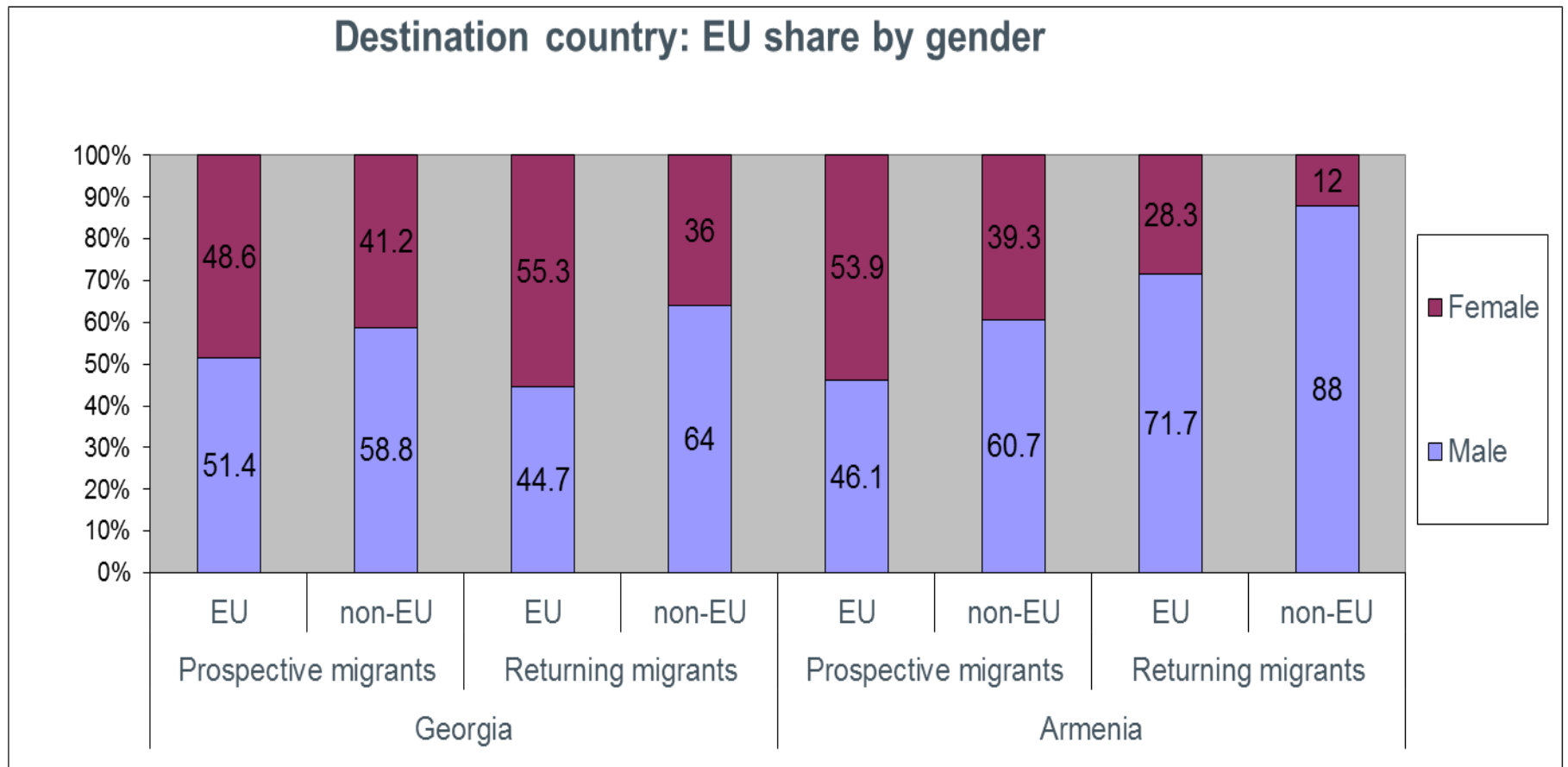
Turkey: 31.5%

Russia: 29.0%

Greece: 12.7%



Destination Country: EU share by gender



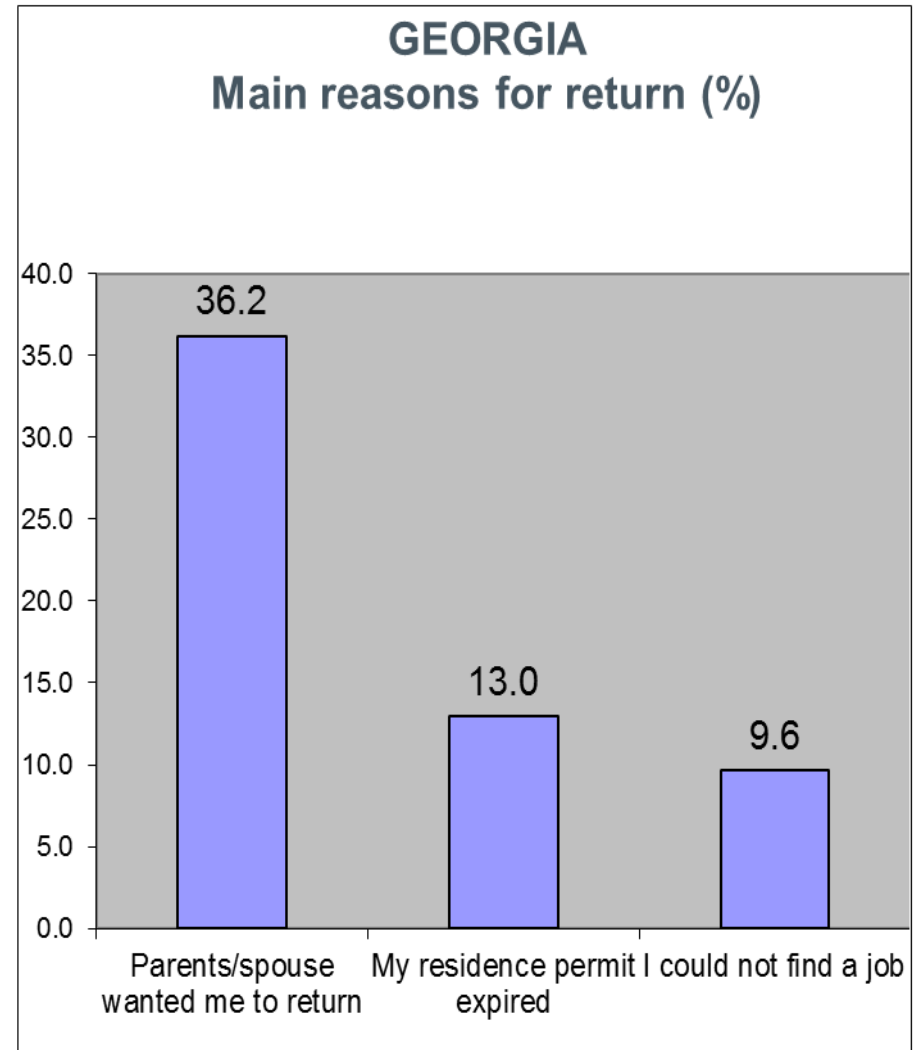
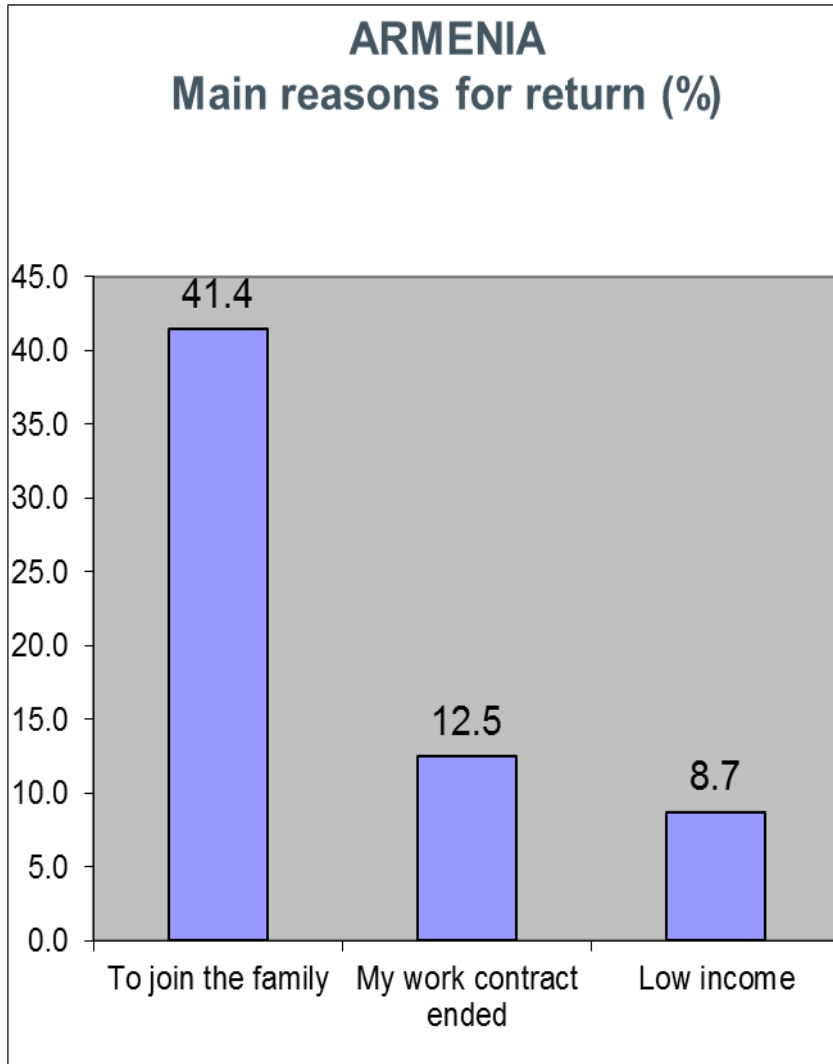
Total EU share as a destination in Georgia: returnees (24%), prospective migrants (44%)

Total EU share as a destination in Armenia: returnees (7%), prospective migrants (20%)

Returnees: survey sample of returning migrants

Description	ARMENIA	GEORGIA
Sample size	1400 persons	1401 persons
Proportion women	13.3%	40.7%
Mean age	36 years	41 years
Location: capital	37.7%	21.0%
Other urban	29.6%	21.6%
Rural share	32.7%	57.4%
Education level before migration	Upper secondary general (42%), university (22%), post-secondary vocational (14%), lower secondary (12%), upper sec. vocational (9%)	Upper secondary general (41%), university (29%), upper secondary vocational (18%), post-secondary vocational (10%)

Reasons of return to home country



Returnees: main sectors of work abroad

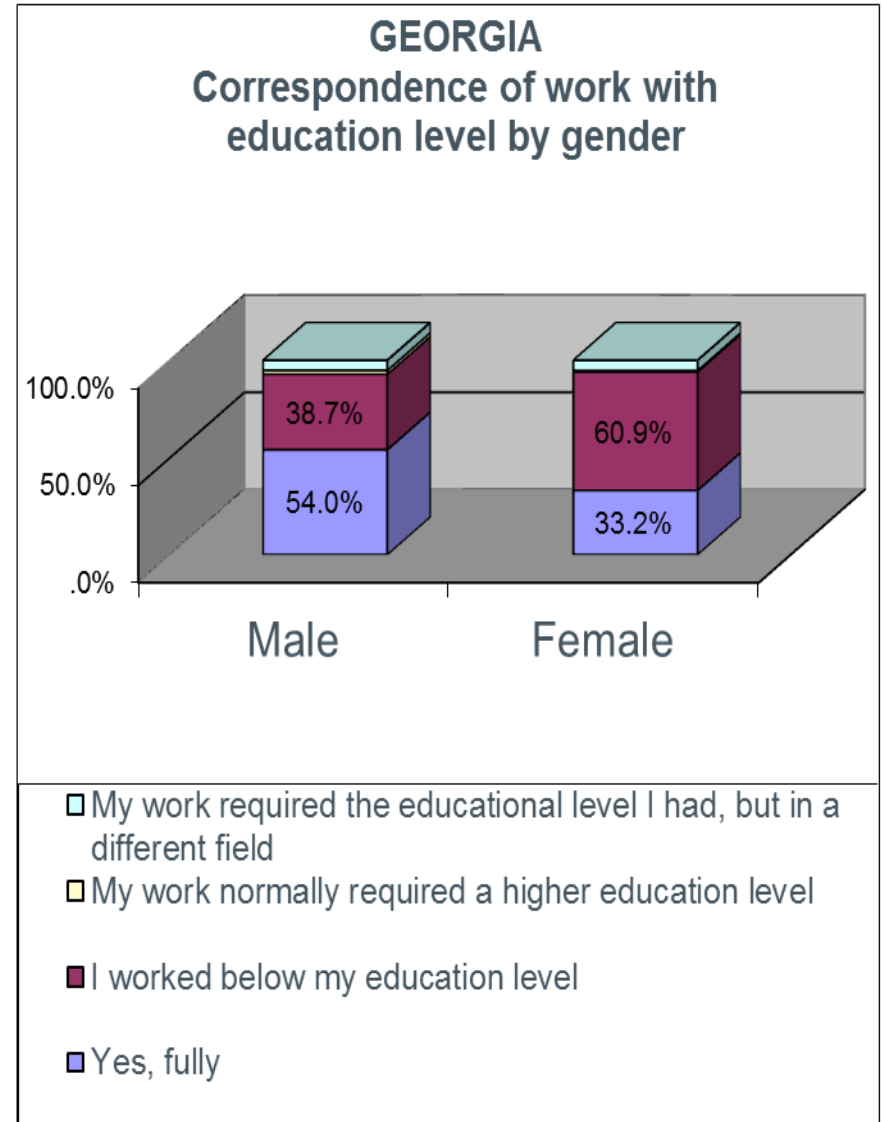
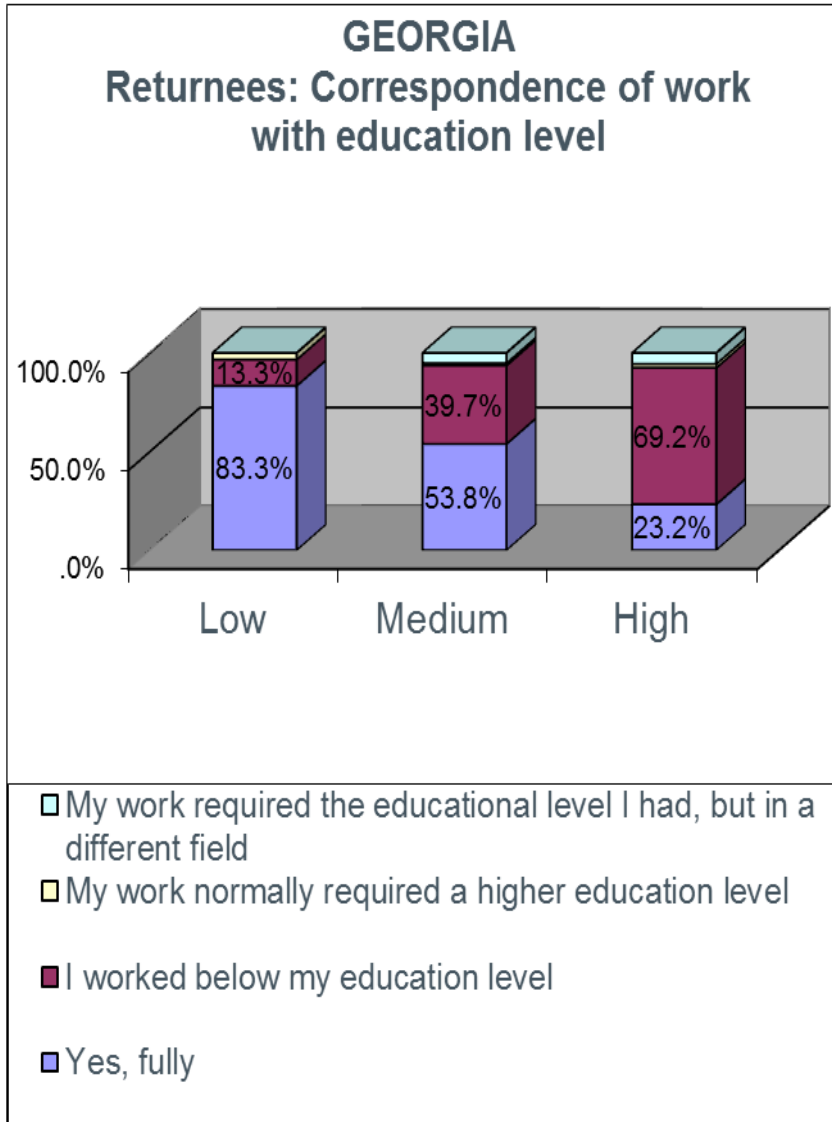
Armenia (male): construction (58.6%), commerce (9.5%), manufacturing (8.4%), transport (7.8%), repairs (3.9%)

Armenia (female): commerce (24.2%), manufacturing (17.6%), petty trade (12.1%), hospitality (8.2%), domestic service (8.2%), other (15.4%), construction (6%)

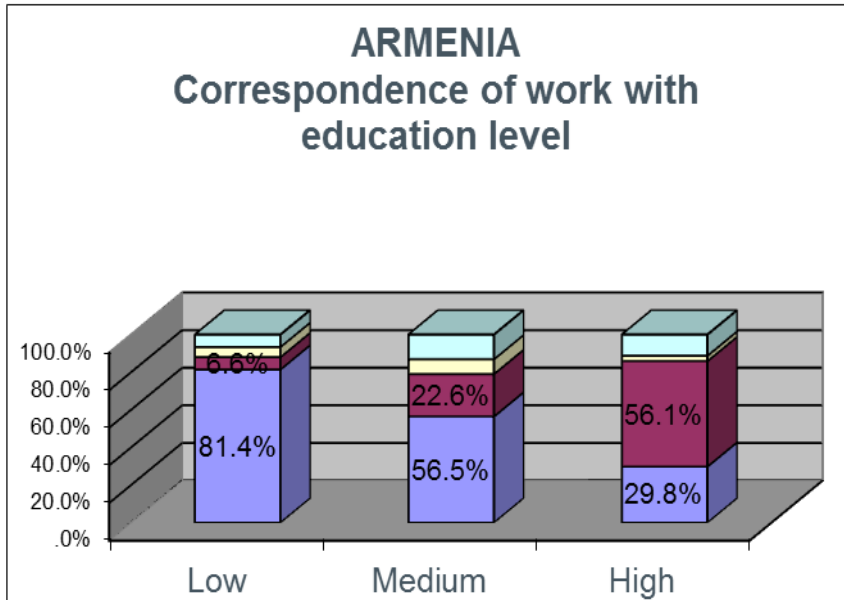
Georgia (male): construction (42.3%), manufacturing (9.7%), agriculture (7.7%), commerce (7.6%), transport (7%), petty trade (5.6%), personal service (4.7%)

Georgia (female): domestic service (50.5%), petty trade (10.6%), hospitality (8.2%), personal service (6.3%), manufacturing (6.5%), commerce (4.1%)

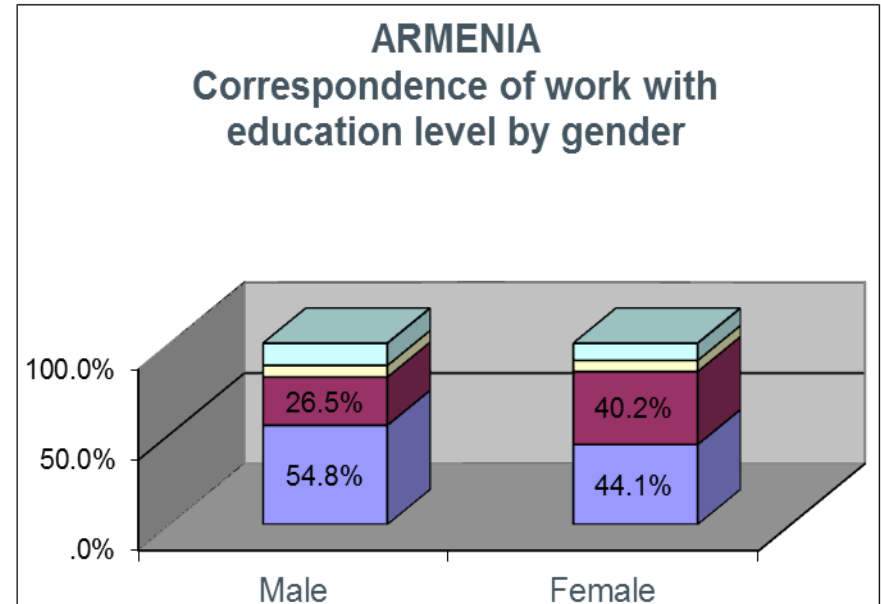
Returnees: correspondence of work with education level



Returnees: correspondence of work with education level



- My work required the educational level I had, but in a different field
- My work normally required a higher education level
- I worked below my education level
- Yes, fully



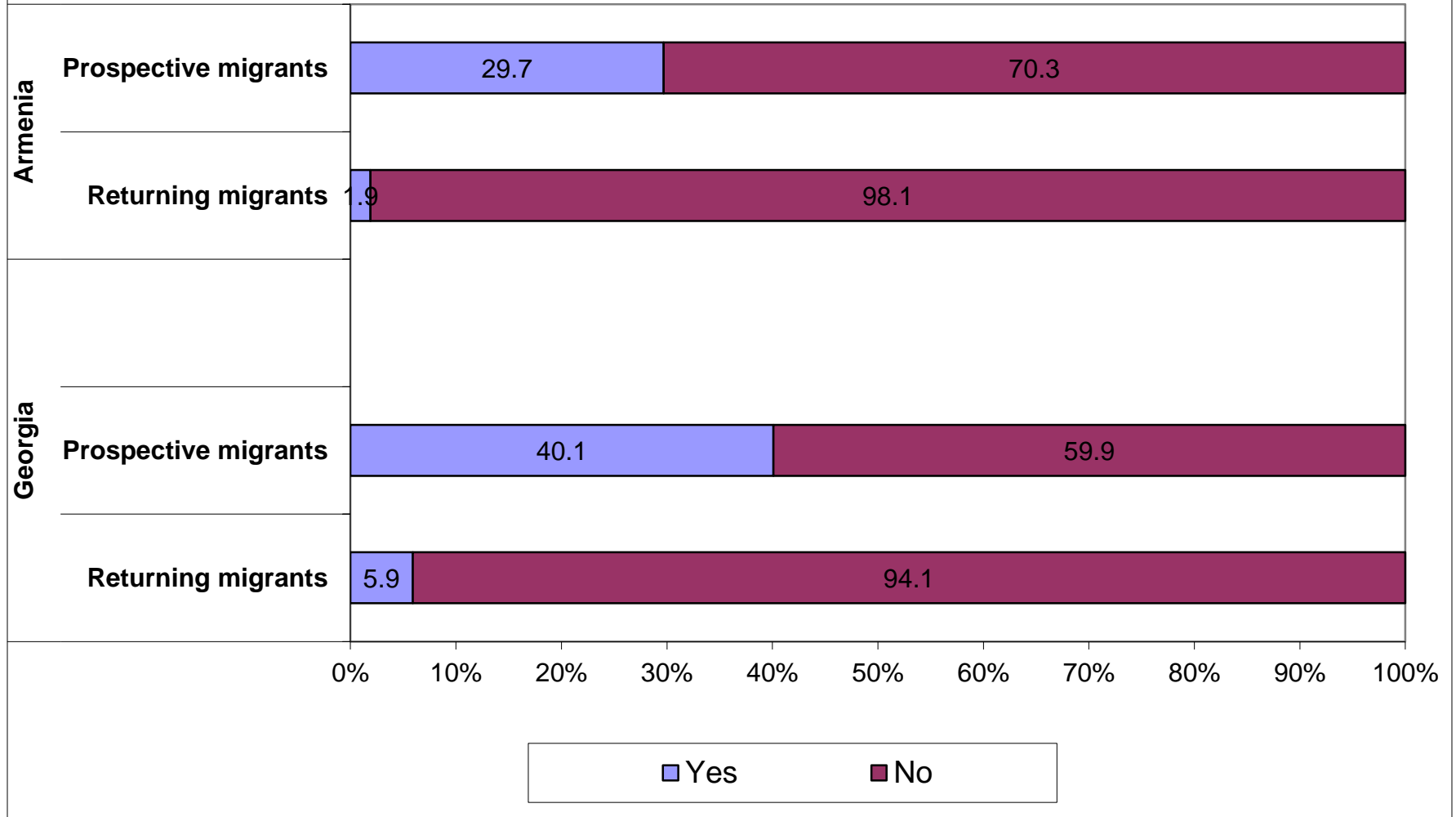
- My work required the educational level I had, but in a different field
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- Yes, fully

Status while Working Abroad

	Armenia (%)	Georgia (%)
Work permit	20	5
Residence permit	12	21
Social security coverage	2	3
Work contract	14	14

The use of pre-departure training

The use of pre-departure training (%)



Use of Remittances for Development at Home

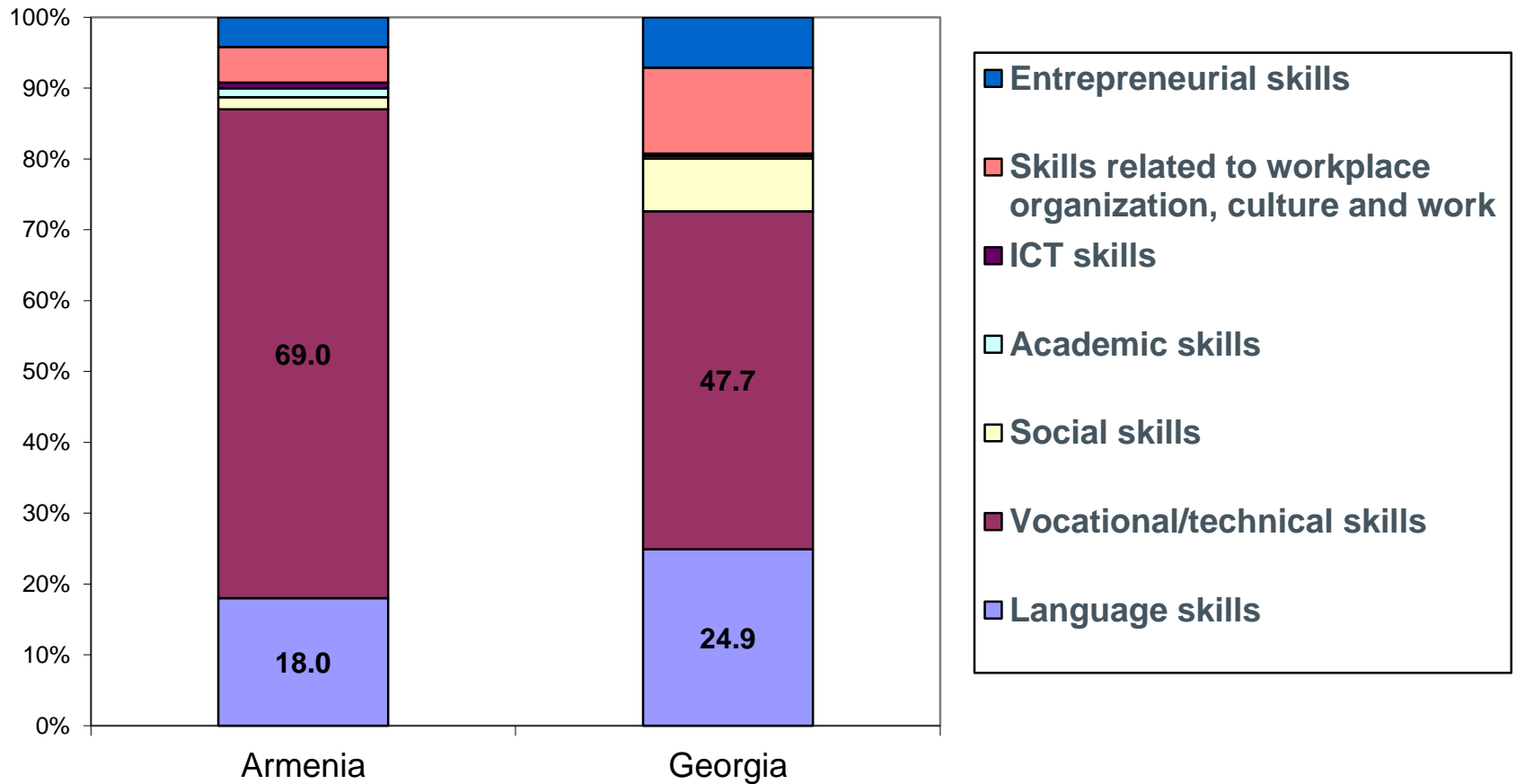
Use of remittances...	Armenia (%)	Georgia (%)
... for education of children	0.6	14.2
... for education of others than children (respondent, spouse of respondent etc.)	8.3	2.1
... for business activity	0.2	0.5
... for living expenses/consumption	95.7	97.0

Portability of Social Rights and Return Outcome

Return Outcome (composite indicator using several variables)	Do you have pension or other social benefits from your work abroad?			
	Armenia		Georgia	
	Yes (%)	No (%)	Yes (%)	No (%)
Highly successful	6.3	0.5	0	0.6
Successful	78.1	55.0	70.0	43.9
Neither	15.6	42.3	30.0	47.2
Unsuccessful	0	2.2	0	8.3
Highly unsuccessful	0	0	0	0
Total	100	100	100	100

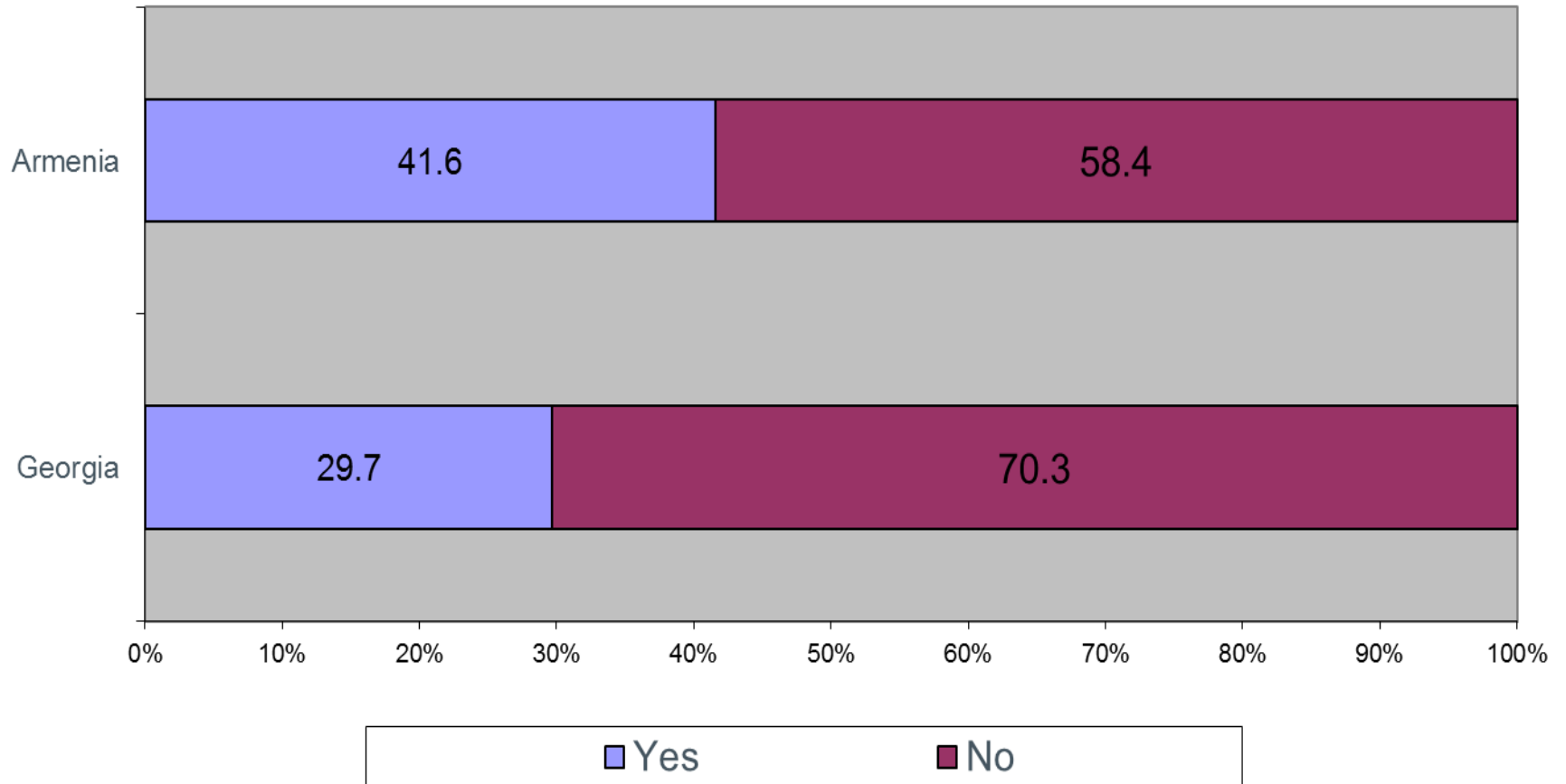
Returnees: most helpful experience abroad

Returnees: most helpful experience abroad (%)

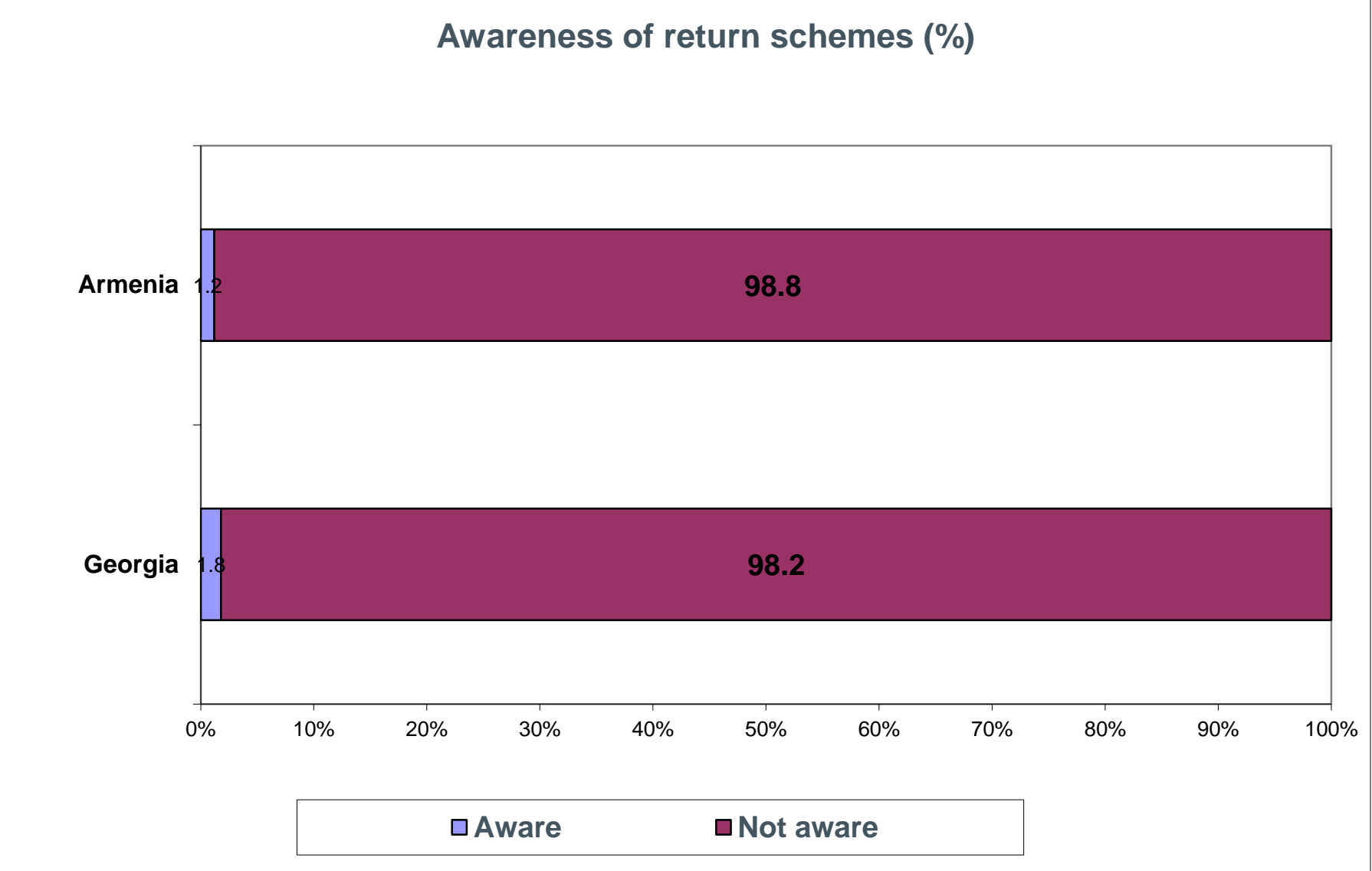


Returnees: work status after return

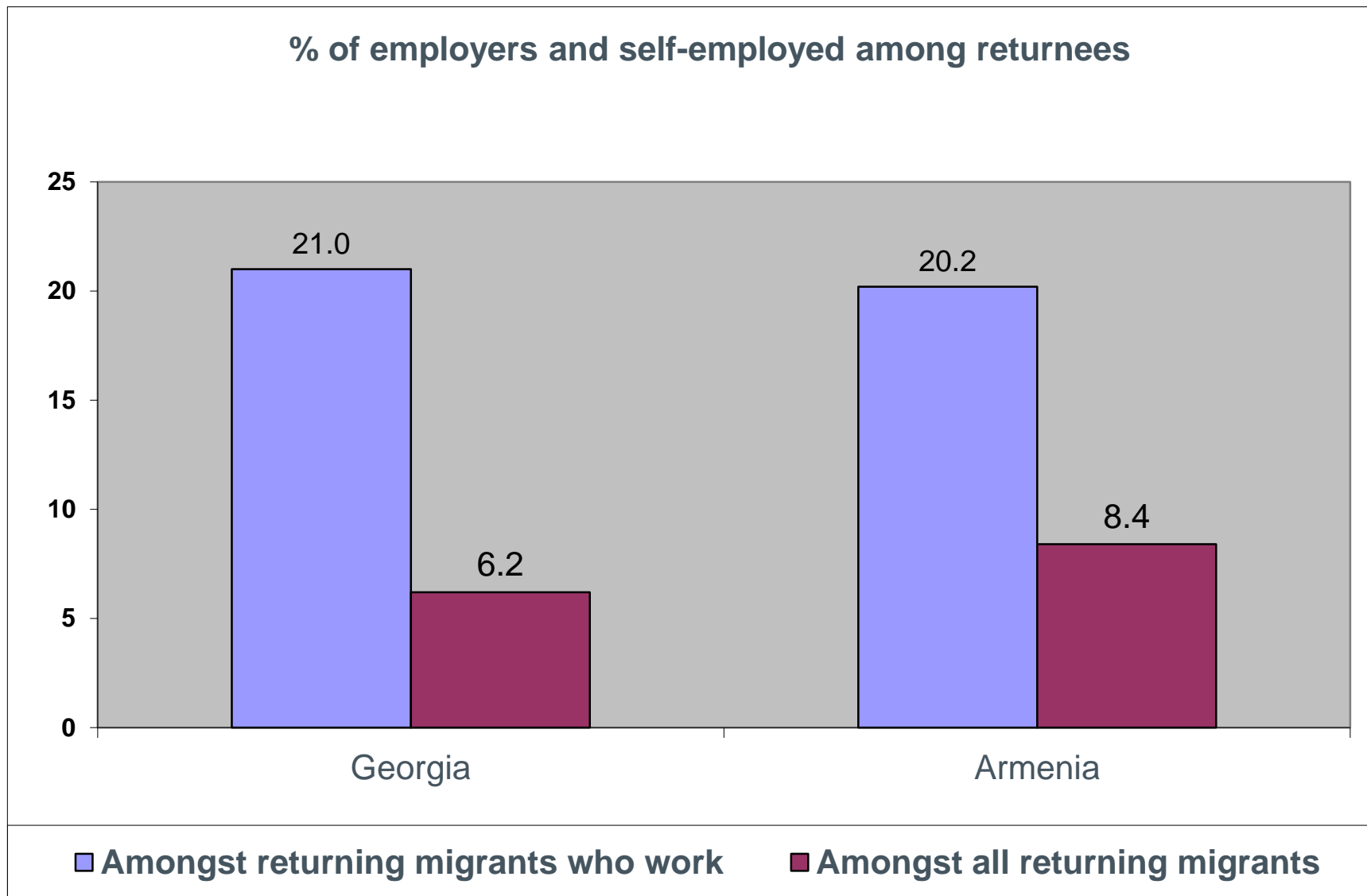
Worked since return? (%)



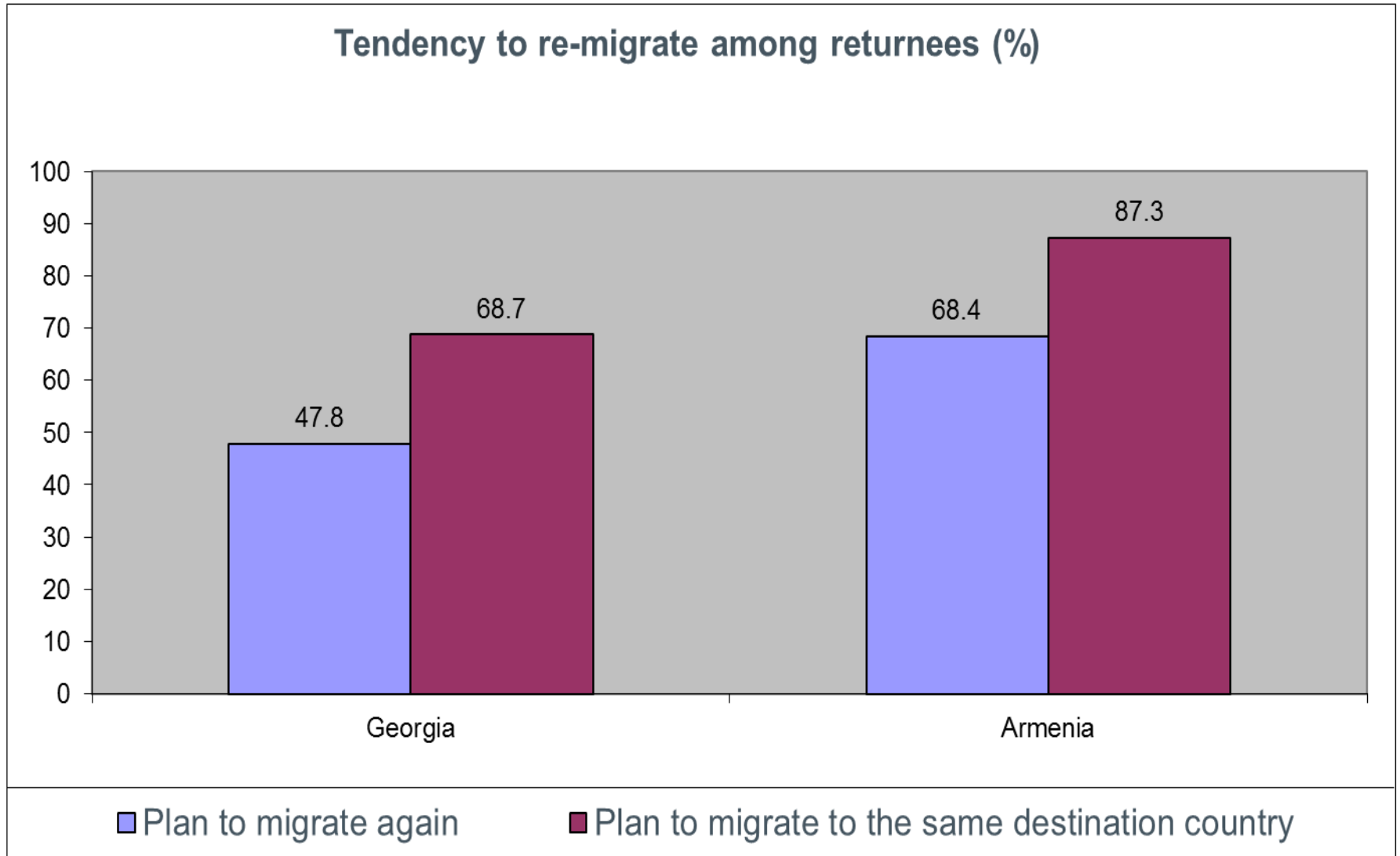
Returnees: awareness of return schemes



Returnees: % of employer and self-employed



Tendency to re-migrate among returnees



Returnees: duration and frequency of migrations

DURATION OF MIGRATION	ARMENIA	GEORGIA
Average time per migration	9 months	17 months
Average time spent in total	19 months	22 months
NUMBER OF MIGRATIONS	ARMENIA	GEORGIA
1 time	59%	77%
2 times	18%	14%
3 times	9%	6%
4 times	5%	2%
5+ times	9%	1%

Summary of findings

- 36% of 18-50 age group in Armenia and 31% in Georgia intend to migrate, but the likelihood decreases to 12.6% and 11.4% when controlled for actual ability to migrate
- Reasons for migration are all economic – lack of jobs, improving standards of living, unsatisfactory wage and career prospects at home – while reasons for return are typically family related
- Pre-departure training: high interest from potential migrants (30-40%), but very little training received in reality (6% in Georgia, 2% in Armenia)
- Most migrants work as unskilled/skilled workers, irrespective of their education level; skills mismatch increases with education and is higher for women
- Post-return work: only 42% in Armenia and 30% in Georgia work after return; high tendency to re-migrate again: 68% in Armenia and 48% in Georgia
- Remittances are used only to a small degree for education and business investments
- Reintegration programmes: awareness of return support and training schemes is very limited among returnees (and participation miniscule)
- Portability of social rights improves the return outcome of returning migrants

Policy Implications

Among others, the findings suggest:

- Effective pre-departure training can be expanded considerably and address issues such as language skills, vocational qualifications, and information about rights & obligations while working abroad.
- Better information about available employment abroad can help to reduce skills mismatch in destination countries; this can be achieved through building up of cross-national placement services (e.g. EURES in the EU).
- Comprehensive recognition of skills/qualifications in destination countries will allow to reduce brain waste by better using the skills of migrants.
- The potential of returning migrants for development of home countries should be used through adequate return support schemes, including through validation of the skills acquired abroad, effective placement services, increased use of remittances for business investment and support of entrepreneurial potential among returnees.
- Strengthening of legal migration needs to pay attention to the motivations behind migration and return, and must aim at providing legal ways for migrants to easily go back and forth between home and destination country. In light of its positive impact, the portability of social rights needs to become a mainstay of agreements between home and destination countries.

Thank you!!!!

**P.S. Other recent studies for your
interest:**

[Report: Social Impact of Emigration and Rural-Urban Migration in Central and Eastern Europe \(2012\)](#)

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/keyDocuments.jsp?pager.offset=0&langId=en&mode=advancedSubmit&policyArea=0&subCategory=0&year=0&country=0&type=0&advSearchKey=EmigrationMigrationCentralEasternEurope&orderBy=docOrder>