Comparison of driving habits of drivers living in Hungary and Romania

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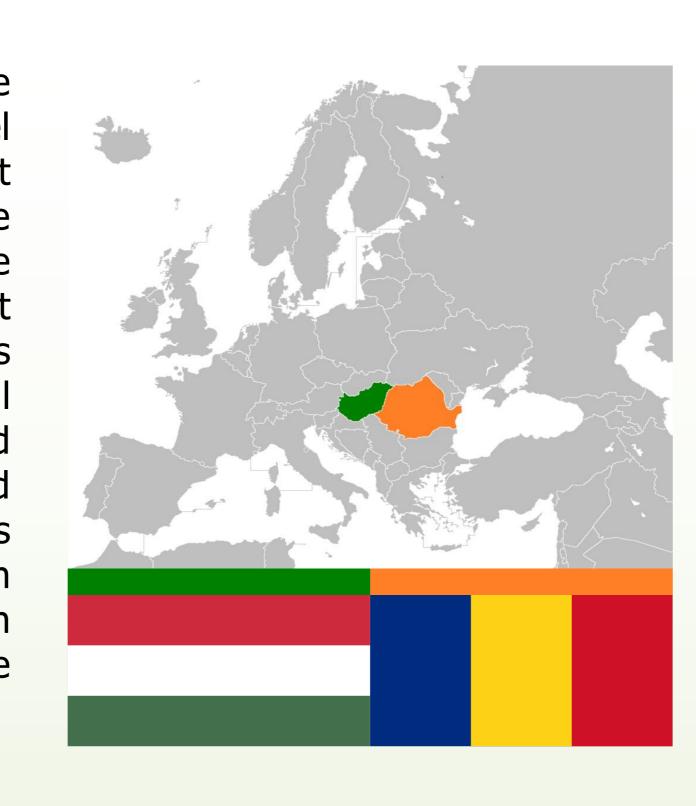[2]Babeș-Bolyai University, Faculty of Geography, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
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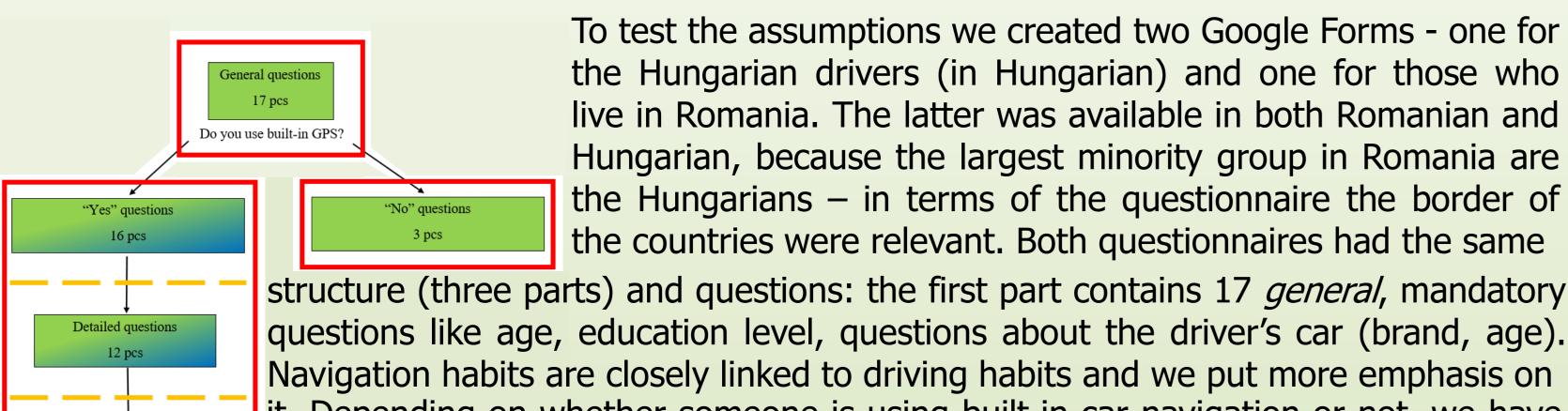
Introduction

People had a basic need for moving – since the very beginning. What has changed is the hows and the whys of the route. With the advancement of technology we can travel faster and in a more comfortable way. Of course, not only the vehicles themselves, but also the devices inside them are becoming more modern and faster. One of the - maybe the most important - tools is the built-in navigation. It should have fast response time and it must provide appropriate amount of information to the driver. We assumed that driving habits are influenced by lots of things, such as age, sex or residence. Drivers living in Hungary and Romania were examined in our project. Hungary is in Central Europe, in the Carpathian Basin. With about 10 million residents, it is a medium-sized member state of the European Union. Romania is at the junction of Central, Eastern, and South-eastern Europe and it is the 12th largest country and also the 7th most populous member state of the EU with almost 20 million inhabitants. The area difference between the two countries is already one aspect, which is supposed to be associated with different driving habits. Differences in road quality, GDP or infrastructure can also have an effect on it.

The questionnaire

To test the assumptions we created two Google Forms - one for the Hungarian drivers (in Hungarian) and one for those who live in Romania. The latter was available in both Romanian and Hungarian, because the la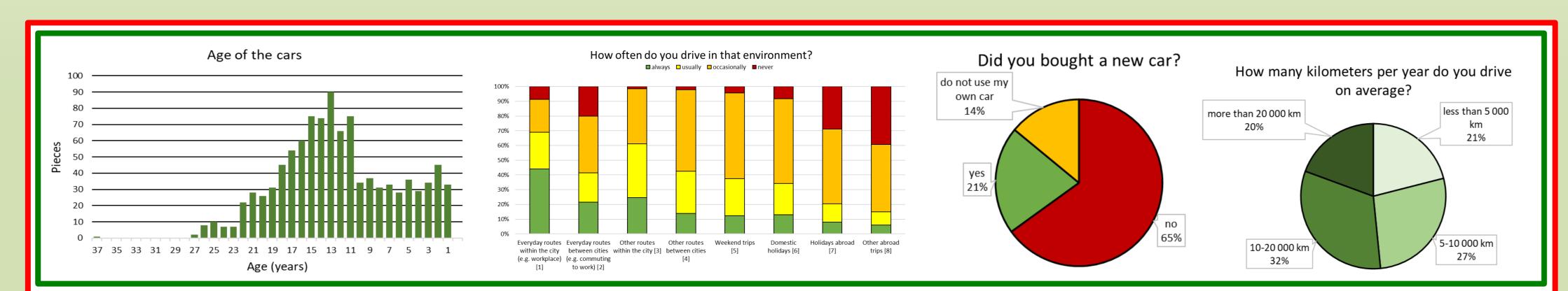rgest minority group in Romania are the Hungarians – in terms of the questionnaire the border of the countries were relevant. Both questionnaires had the same structure (three parts) and questions: the first part contains 17 *general*, mandatory questions like age, educ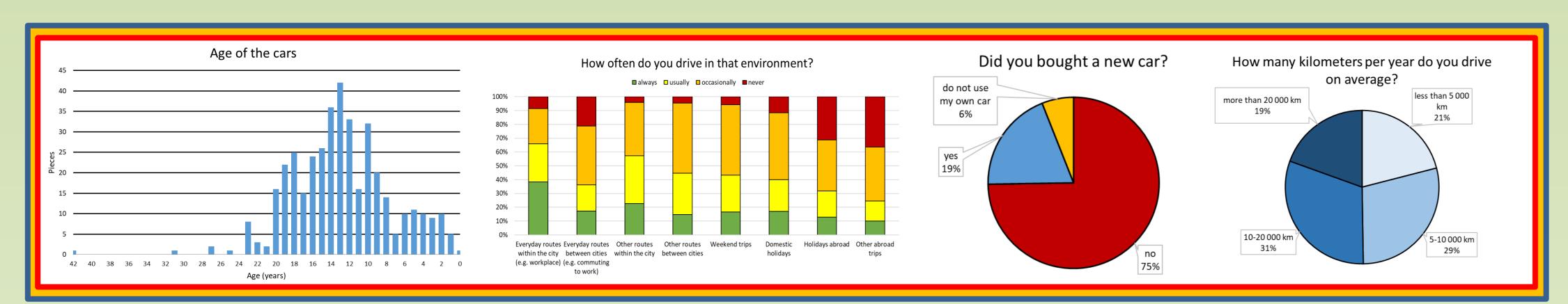ation level, questions about the driver's car (brand, age). Navigation habits are closely linked to driving habits and we put more emphasis on it. Depending on whether someone is using built-in car navigation or not, we have asked different questions – 3 if the filler does not have one, and 30 if (s)he has in-built car navigation GPS. Most of our questions were about these tools but we gathered some information about mobile application usage too.
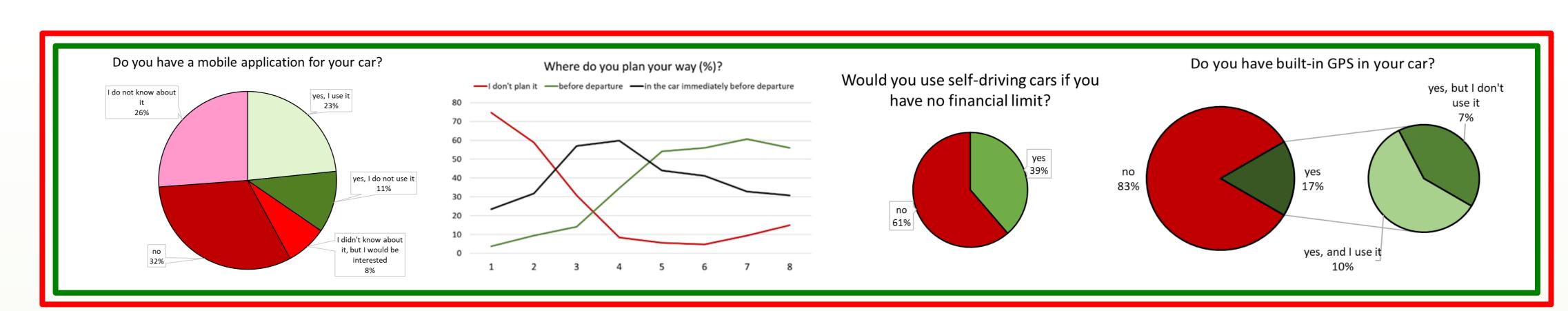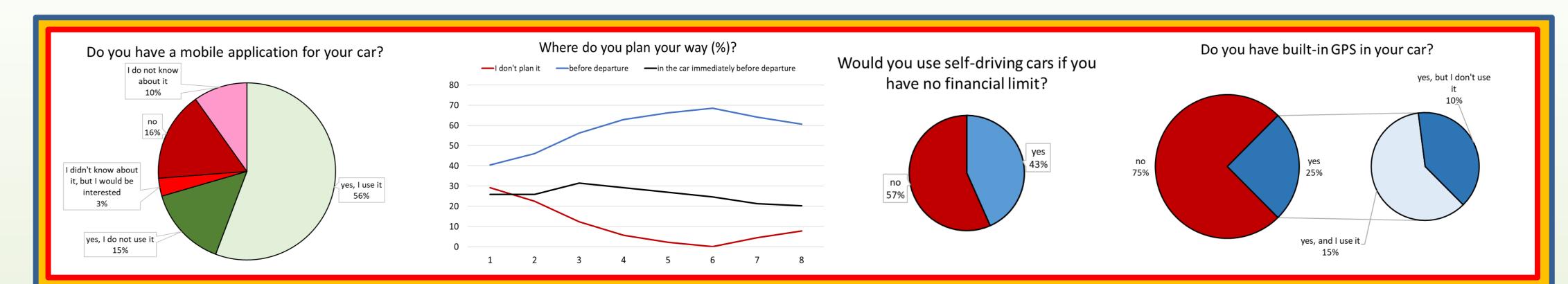
Obiceiuri de navigare în timpul conducerii. // Autóvezetés közbeni navigációs szokások.

Vă rugăm să selectați o limbă! Kérjük, válasszon nyelvet! *
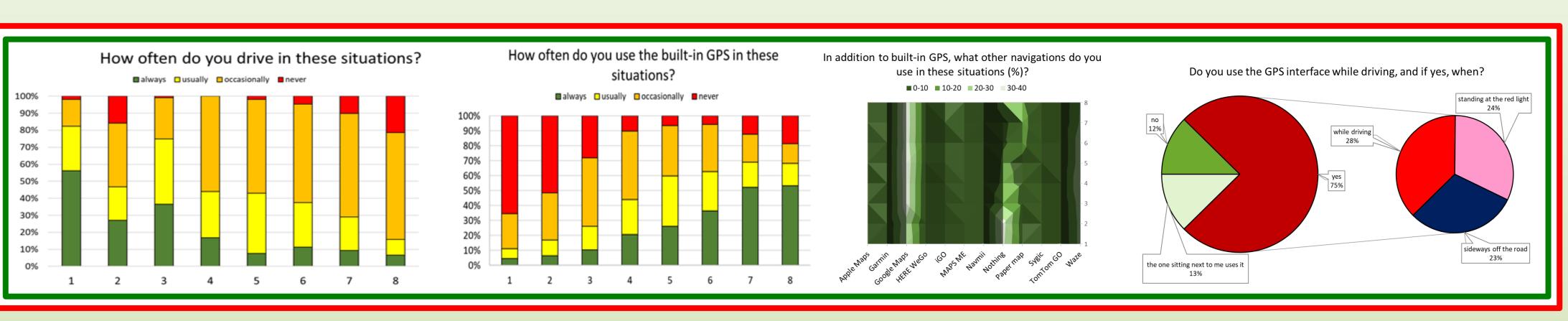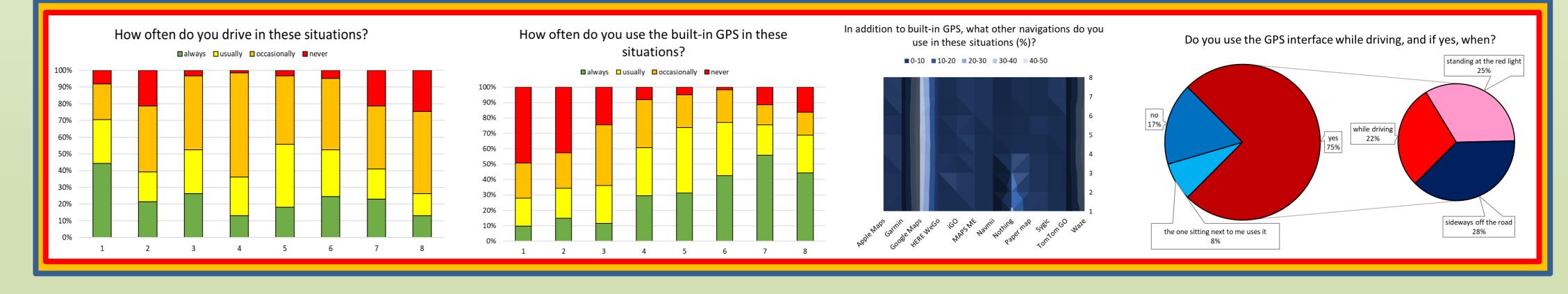- Română
- Magyar

Results

General results

Who use built-in GPS

Conclusion

Differences: In Romania, fewer people buy brand new cars, but more have their own (not another family member's) car. Yet, although there are more used cars, Romanian cars are a year younger - but still 2.5 years older than the European average (ACEA REPORT 2018). Perhaps that is why Romanian cars have a higher percentage of built-in GPS, which is also used more often. There are also significantly more cars with mobile apps and a lot of people use them too. Romanians tend to plan ahead in any driving situation and use some sort of navigation aid.

Similarities: For the other aspects examined, the responses received in the two countries are almost exactly the same.

Acknowledgement