

QUESTION OF THE WEEK, WEEK 18–19 (29.4–10.5.2026)

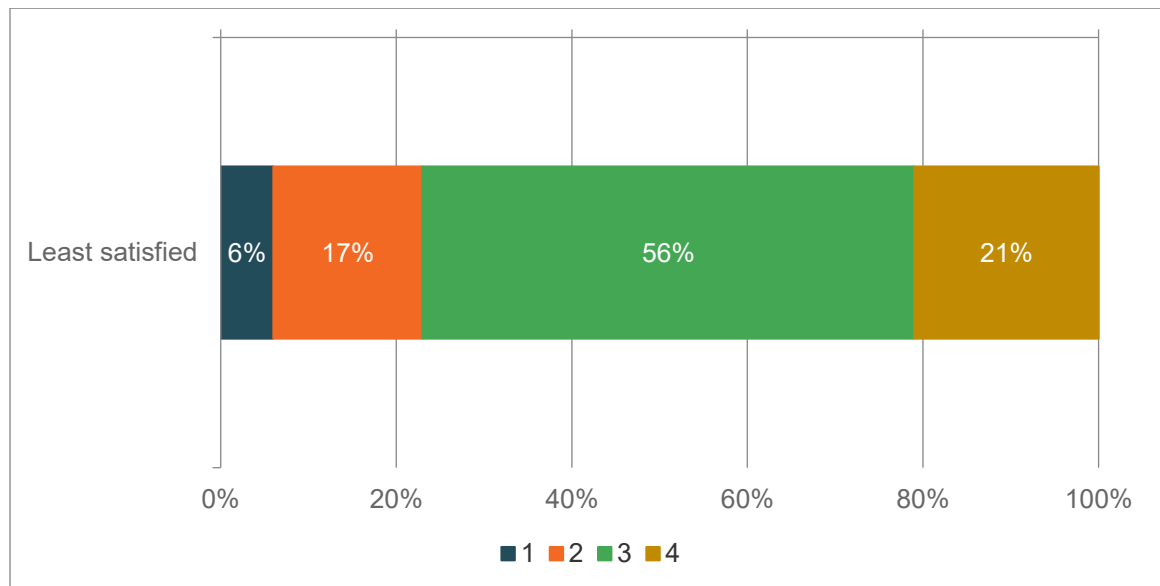
NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS: 286

The margin of error is 6 % and thereby the answers are considered to reflect the opinions of the population in Jakobstad fairly well.

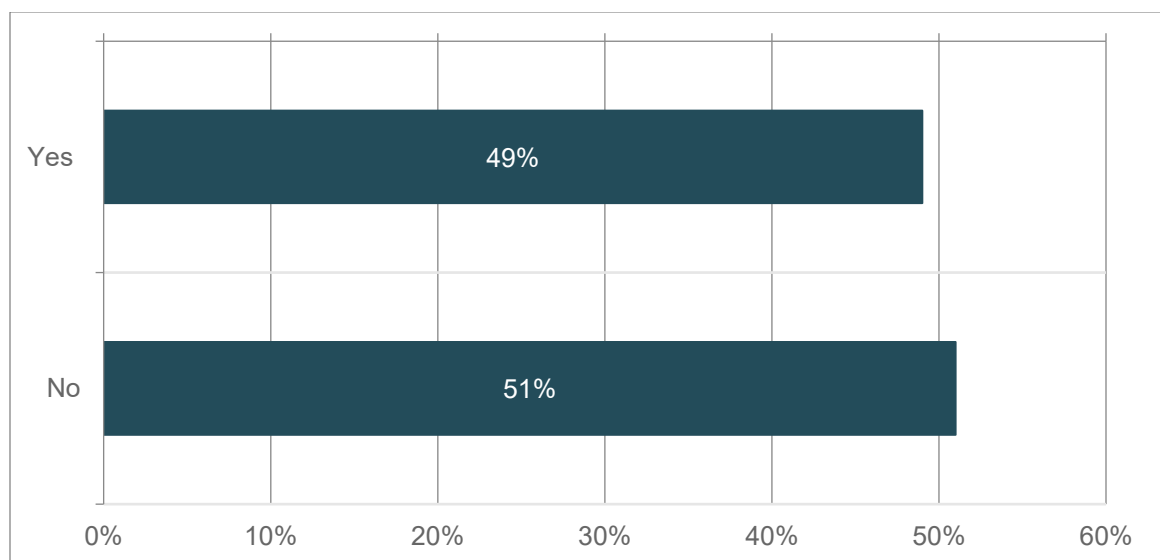
THE SELECTION OF COURSES AT ARBIS AND TYÖVÄENOPISTO

In the Question of the Week the residents were asked: *“Arbis and Työväenopisto arranges many courses and lectures yearly. To further improve the activities, we would like to receive suggestions on courses and lecturers, both Finnish and Swedish speaking.”*

How happy are you with the selection of courses? 1–4 (1 = least satisfied, 4 = most satisfied)”



“I have attended at least one course at Arbis or Työväenopisto during the last year.”



“Do you have suggestions on courses that could be arranged? Please tell us.”

146 people responded to this voluntary question. The suggestions show a wide range of wishes, with practical courses in crafts, technology, and everyday skills being particularly common, such as welding, woodworking, bicycle maintenance, clothing repair, and renovation. At the same time, many creative and cultural courses are requested, for example in art, music, dance, writing, photography, and various forms of handicrafts.

Language courses are another clear category, both in common languages (e.g. Spanish, French, German) and more unusual or profession-oriented ones (e.g. Sami or Swedish for healthcare), often with requests for different levels and a focus on conversation.

Many also highlight the need for health and fitness courses, as well as activities for specific target groups such as children, seniors, families, or people with special needs. In addition, there is an emphasis on shorter and more flexible course formats, more bilingual courses, and activities that promote interaction between language groups.

“Suggestions on lectures?”

74 people responded to this voluntary question. Residents’ suggestions for lectures at Arbis/Työväenopisto are varied and span several themes, with particular emphasis on **health, well-being, and life management** (e.g. stress, nutrition, mental health, and different stages of life). **Local history, nature, and current social issues**—such as climate, future development, and the development of the town—are also recurring areas of interest, along with a desire for inspiring speakers and cultural elements.

There is also a clear interest in **practical, everyday topics** such as finance, working life, digital tools, gardening, and courses (e.g. languages and technology). At the same time, there is a demand for **greater linguistic inclusion**, particularly more lectures in Finnish or bilingual events, in order to reach a broader audience.

“Suggestions on teachers?”

37 people answered this voluntary question. As several personal names are mentioned, they are not presented here.

NEXT STEP

We thank all respondents for their valuable suggestions. The responses help us develop the activities of Arbis and Työväenopisto and plan the future course offerings. The suggestions will be reviewed and, where possible, efforts will be made to implement them already during the next academic year.

More information:

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