

PEM PAL TIRANA BCoP MEETING Survey

On February 25-28, 2013 PEM PAL BCOP met to discuss aspects of reforms in program budgeting in Tirana, Albania.

After the event, the on-line survey in three languages was created. The aim of the survey was to receive event feedback and to learn plans for the future.

Link to the survey – <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/N39MRCF>?

The survey started to collect responses on March 8 and finished on March, 2013.

Invitations to take part in the survey were sent to all participants of the meeting. We sent 81 invitations – 19 to the resource persons and invited speakers and 62 to the representatives of PEMPAL-countries.

50 persons started to response to the survey. 35 (70% of started) responses were fully completed.

From this 50 responses – 10 was from the resource persons and invited speakers, 38 from the representatives of PEMPAL-countries, and 2 persons did not indicate this information.

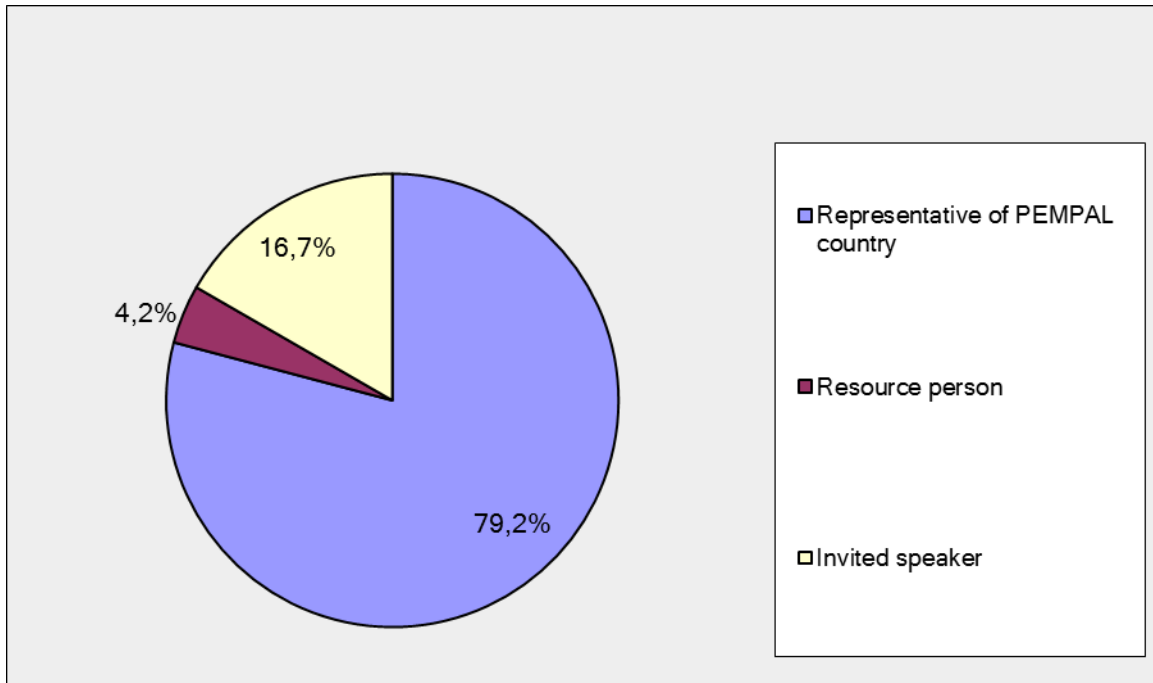
In this report, we analyze all 50 responses. For further calculation, we take this quantity as 100%.

The questionnaire comprises five parts: Information, Event Delivery, Event Administration, Overall Impression, and Plans for the Future. There are total 20 questions in it.

INFORMATION

Q1 You are...

48 (96%) respondents gave answers. Among them: 38 representatives of PEMPAL member country, 2 Resource persons, and 8 Invited speakers.



Q2. Was this your first participation in PEMPAL BCOP event?

49 respondents (98%) answered this question. And 38.8% of them replied “No”.

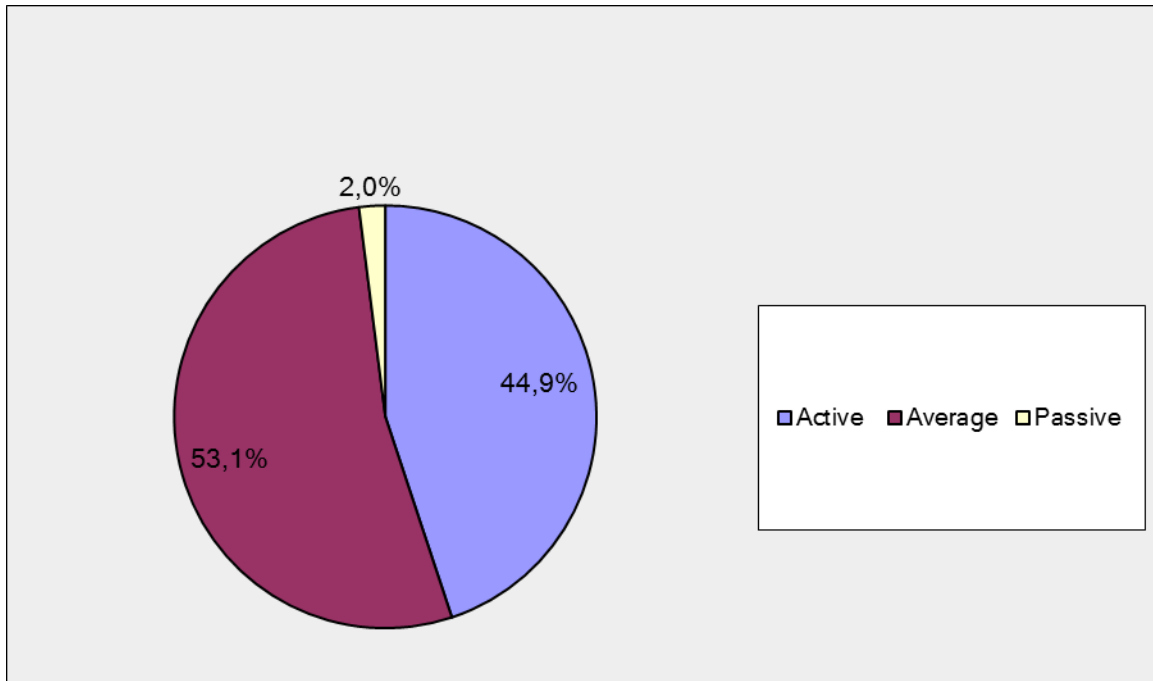
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count			
		all	representatives	Resource persons	Invited speakers
Yes	<u>61,2%</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>21</u>	1 ¹	<u>6</u>
No	38,8%	19	16	1	2

¹ Please note that 2 respondents did not replied on the first question (are they representative of PEMPAL countries or resource person/invited speakers). That effects on figures here and below.

PART I EVENT DELIVERY

Q3. How do you rate your participation in this event?

49 (98%) answers were given. 22 (44.9%) respondents think that their participation in the event was 'Active'. 26 (53.1%) respondents think that their participation was 'Average'. 1 (2%) chose the option "Passive".



Among them:

2 resource persons were "Average"

2 invited speakers were "Active" and 5 – "Average"

19 representatives of PEMPAL countries were "Active", 18 – "Average", and 1 was "Passive"

Q4. How do you rate BCoP meeting duration?

49 respondents (98%) answered this question. And most of them rated the meeting duration in a positive way.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count			
		all	representatives	Resource persons	Invited speakers
Too short	38,8%	19	<u>16</u>	0	3
About right	<u>44,9%</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>
Too long	16,3%	8	6	0	0

Q5 Did you like the approach of having three blocs to follow the natural steps in introduction of program budgeting?

49 respondents (98%) answered this question. All of them replied “Yes”.

Answer Options	Response Percent		Response Count		
	all	all	representatives	Resource persons	Invited speakers
Yes	<u>100%</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>
No	0	0	0	0	0

Q6. In your opinion, will you be able to apply the knowledge you have acquired at this meeting to your daily work?

47 respondents (94%) answered this question. Average rating is positive.

Answer Options	1 not at all	2	3	4	5 completely	Response Count	Average
	0	5	15	<u>16</u>	11	47	3,7

Representatives of PEMPAL countries

Answer Options	1 not at all	2	3	4	5 completely	Response Count	Average
	0	2	12	<u>13</u>	9	36	<u>3.8</u>

Resource persons

Answer Options	1 not at all	2	3	4	5 completely	Response Count	Average
	0	0	<u>2</u>	0	0	2	<u>3.0</u>

Invited speakers

Answer Options	1 not at all	2	3	4	5 completely	Response Count	Average
	0	<u>3</u>	1	2	1	7	3.1

19 comments were left. Practically half of them are positive.

10 respondents were not sure. For example: “I have acquired useful knowledge at this meeting, but not detailed enough to use in my daily work.” (10), “All the experiences gained cannot be applied because we are in the initial stages of this process.” (3 and 4)

Others think that they be able to apply the knowledge to their daily work. For example: “Step-by-step implementation of program budgeting is envisaged in Republic Uzbekistan’s Concept of Budget Policy Main Directions and Development. I think, I can fully apply all knowledge and experience, acquired in BCOP Plenary meeting.” (7) “The presentations were very useful in describing where different countries are in terms of Budget Planning, Evaluating and Monitoring.” (16)

Q7. Did you feel enough time was allowed for questions and free discussions?

45 (90%) respondents answered this question.

Answer Options	1 not enough	2	3	4	5 enough	Response Count	Average
For questions	3	6	4	13	<u>18</u>	44	<u>3.8</u>
For free discussions	2	<u>10</u>	6	10	<u>11</u>	39	3,5

Representatives of PEMPAL countries

Answer Options	1 not enough	2	3	4	5 enough	Response Count	Average
For questions	3	2	2	9	<u>17</u>	33	<u>4.1</u>
For free discussions	2	<u>6</u>	5	7	<u>9</u>	29	<u>3.5</u>

Resource persons

Answer Options	1 not enough	2	3	4	5 enough	Response Count	Average
For questions	0	0	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	0	2	3.5
For free discussions	0	<u>1</u>	0	<u>1</u>	0	2	<u>3</u>

Invited speakers

Answer Options	1 not enough	2	3	4	5 enough	Response Count	Average
For questions	0	<u>4</u>	1	2	0	7	<u>2.7</u>
For free discussions	0	<u>3</u>	1	1	2	7	3.3

14 comments were left.

In 5 of them respondents mentioned, that not enough time was allowed for discussions: «*There were too many presentations in a short time, thus not leaving enough time for free discussion. Working in small groups gives more opportunity for the experience exchange among member countries.*» (2)

In 5 comments, respondents mentioned “*My opinion is that all questions were answered.*” (10) There are suggestions in 4 comments how to improve time balance. For example: “*Just an observation: country members seemed to be more forthcoming in asking questions and having discussion in the group format. It might have something to do with culture of being balanced and not provocative in big meetings. Perhaps, it is worth considering to have a short "ice breaker" topical discussion. For instance, participants divided into groups but seating in one big audience could be asked to come up with three most challenging issues in the implementation of program budgeting within 15-20 minutes. Then each group presents their list in 2 minutes. The "ice breaker" session could be held after formal speeches by a hosting country.*” (11)

Q8. Please read the following statements, and tell us if you agree or disagree with each of them. (Please rate each item):

45 respondents (90%) replied to this question.

Answer Options	1 strongly disagree	2	3	4	5 Strongly agree	Response Count	Average
a) The meeting addressed issues important to my work	0	1	4	14	<u>26</u>	45	<u>4,4</u>
b) I learned from the experience of other participants in the meeting	0	0	10	<u>20</u>	15	45	4,1
c) The level of the meeting was appropriate for a person with my experience and knowledge	0	3	5	15	<u>22</u>	45	4,2
d) Participants had about equal level of prior expertise relevant to the meeting topics	0	<u>7</u>	13	<u>15</u>	9	44	<u>3,6</u>
e) The presentations demonstrated during the meeting were relevant and provided useful information	0	1	6	<u>22</u>	15	44	4,2
f) The time allocated to asking questions of the panel speakers was adequate	<u>4</u>	3	7	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>	44	3,8
g) The topics for the small group discussions were relevant and time allocated to them adequate	0	4	4	<u>19</u>	18	45	4,1
h) The balance between experts' and participating countries' presentations was adequate	0	1	<u>16</u>	15	12	44	3,9

In addition, respondents were asked to comment the last statement. 13 comments were left.

7 respondents agree with the statement: *“it was enough countries and experts”* (5)

Others wrote suggestions and commented not the balance but content of the presentations: *“It was too many presentations per day, and so too much information. It was not easy to acquire so much information.”* (6), *“butgeting is connected with countries' administrative structure directly. There was not enough knowledge at presentations about this.”* (8), and *“It would be useful to share with speakers results of the PEMPAL survey prior to the CoP meeting so that they could tailor their presentations better to country needs.”* (11)

PART 2 EVENT ADMINISTRATION

Q9. Please rate the quality of organization (pre-event administration and logistics, etc.) and administration (staff responsiveness, etc.) of the meeting:

Answered question – 45 (90%). All the ratings are positive.

Answer Options	1 low	2	3	4	5 high	Response Count	Average
Quality of meeting organization	0	0	1	11	<u>33</u>	45	4,7
Quality of meeting administration	0	0	4	10	<u>31</u>	45	4,6

Representatives of PEMPAL countries

Answer Options	1 low	2	3	4	5 high	Response Count	Average
Quality of meeting organization	0	0	1	6	<u>27</u>	34	4,8
Quality of meeting administration	0	0	1	8	<u>25</u>	34	4,7

Resource persons

Answer Options	1 low	2	3	4	5 high	Response Count	Average
Quality of meeting organization	0	0	0	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	2	4,5
Quality of meeting administration	0	0	0	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	2	4,5

Invited speakers

Answer Options	1 low	2	3	4	5 high	Response Count	Average
Quality of meeting organization	0	0	0	3	<u>4</u>	7	4,6
Quality of meeting administration	0	0	3	1	<u>4</u>	7	4,7

There were left 9 comments: All of them are very positive. For example: “*The quality of organization was very high, both in terms of pre-event administration and administration of the meeting. Everything was in line with planned activities and there were no problems at all.*” (4)

Q10. Did you receive agenda and event information in sufficient time before the event for them to be useful?

45 (90%) answers were given.

Answer Options	Response Percent		Response Count		
	all	all	representatives	resource persons	Invited speakers
Yes	<u>95,6%</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>7</u>
No	4,4%	2	1	<u>1</u>	0

Q11. Did you receive practical information (about the accommodation and other facilities, etc.) prior to the event?

45 (90%) answers were given. And 100% of responses are “Yes”.

PART 3 OVERALL IMPRESSION

Q12. Overall, my satisfaction with the event was...

Answered question – 45 (90%). There were no negative answers. And most of the respondents considered themselves as ‘satisfied’.

1 not satisfied	2	3	4	5 satisfied	Response Count	Average
0	0	7	14	<u>24</u>	45	4,4

Representatives of PEMPAL countries

1 not satisfied	2	3	4	5 satisfied	Response Count	Average
0	0	4	12	<u>18</u>	34	4.4

Resource persons

1 not satisfied	2	3	4	5 satisfied	Response Count	Average
0	0	0	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	2	<u>4.5</u>

Invited speakers

1 not satisfied	2	3	4	5 satisfied	Response Count	Average
0	0	<u>3</u>	1	<u>3</u>	7	<u>4</u>

Q13. Did the meeting disappoint, meet, or exceed your expectations?

There are 38(92.7%) answered question.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count			
		all	representatives	Resource persons	Invited speakers
Disappoint	4,4%	2	1	0	1
Meet	<u>80,0%</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
Exceed	15,6%	7	3	0	<u>3</u>

Q14. What did you like best about the meeting?

38 comments were left. All of them are valid.

Participants liked best:

Exchange of experience/ work with colleagues (18 comments) – *“I liked best to discuss about the budget (in every aspects) with practitioners from so many countries”* (5)

Small group discussions / work in small groups (11 comments) *“Small groups with representatives of several countries only. Small group work enables the experience exchange in easy and friendly way, and provides concrete examples which give complete information to participants.”* (21)

Presentations of Austria (3 comments) – *“Very good presentation of the representative of Austria at the plenary meeting.”* (8)

Presentations of experts and learning their opinion (4 comments): *“Tom Ferris’s presentation which addressed problems confronted by most of our countries...”* (2)

Organization and administration of the meeting (2 comment) *“Organization and preparation of the event was excellent, as usual. The Resource Team did a great job.”*(1)

Q15. Which elements of the meetings you did not like?

34 informative comments were left. 7 of them are comments like *“Everything was at the expected level”*. (4)

It means that there are 27 comments about elements which were not like by participants.

Meeting participants did not like different elements of the event, for example:

-*“Sometimes was boring because it was so much information and people got tired.”* (10)

-*“Insufficient time to discuss the topic (PBB) and to go into detail; 2. Presentation of Results of the BCoP Survey on the PEMPAL Countries Experiences.”* (15)

-*“The agenda was a bit tight, leaving little time for questions”* (23)

Q16. Have you any suggestions to improve the content, approach and other aspects of the BCOP meetings:

31 valid comments were left, and 28 of them consists suggestions.

Here are some quotations:

“I think that the event was well targeted to the interests of the participants, but it would be good to know in advance more about the level of knowledge and experience of participants in the matters being discussed so that presentations can be better targeted to their interests and level of knowledge.” (31)

“I think it will better if people from all languages will be presented in one group.in that case we will have opportunity i) to be familiar with the experience of non-neighbor countries and ii) to meet and know other participants.” (27)

“Meetings should be organized in a way that enables participants to give feedback and make comments about the topic and exchange experiences, instead of running through presentations and placing participants in the position of silent observers. It is better to have three presentations (tentatively) and ensure the participation of all members, instead of repeating what we had in Tirana..” (1)

“Duration of meeting - one week; 2. Focus on practical and concrete examples; 3. More time for group work, questions and discussions; 4. More time for Mr. Dirk Jan Kraan, IMF PFM Advisor for South East Europe, to share his experience, views and advices regarding PBB.” (14)

Q17. How do you plan to brief your colleagues on this meeting?

There were left 35 (70% of respondents) comments. 34 of them are valid.

And 4 of them mean that a report or presentation has already been done.

For example: *“I briefed other employees about all topics that were discussed at the meeting and emphasized some specific examples. I also instructed them how to access electronic presentations and disseminated some hard copy materials.”* (24)

Some quotations:

“On my return at the work place I must to issue a report about this plenary meeting and after its approval I could give my colleagues to read it.” (18)

“By disseminating printed materials received by the organizer.” (15)

“Taking concrete example of presentation of Albania in the working group as well as gradual implementation experience gained from this meeting.” (7)

PART 4 PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Q18. Would it be useful for you or your colleagues to attend the future BCOP meetings?

41 persons (82%) responded to this question and 100% of the answers are positive.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count			
		all	representatives	Resource persons	Invited speakers
Yes, BCOP plenary meeting next year	36,6%	15	8	1	5
Yes, BCOP plenary meeting next year and small working group meetings,	63,4%	26	22	1	2
No	0,0%	0	0	0	0

Q19. Please rate from 1 to 4 (1 being the best) each of the 4 different types of work which you would like to see in future PEMPAL events:

41 persons (82%) responded to this question.

Варианты ответа	1	2	3	4	NN responses	Average
general presentation on history and best global practices	<u>16</u>	5	14	6	41	<u>2,2</u>
country case studies	11	6	<u>13</u>	11	41	<u>2,6</u>
smaller work groups (as was the case in Tirana)	<u>15</u>	5	7	14	41	2,5
practical joint work during presentations in plenary meetings - step-by-step process of preparing/analyzing documents discussed in the presentation (for example, if the topic is expenditure review to do a step-by-step process of preparing a spending review)	10	10	<u>12</u>	9	41	2,5

Q20. Is your country interested in participating in the OECD Budgeting Practices and Procedures Survey? Please consult with your Minister and record below your Ministry's response.

23 responses (46%) were received.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count			
		all	representatives	Resource persons	Invited speakers
Yes	65,2%	15	12	0	3
No	34,8%	8	6	0	1

22 comments were left. 15 of the m are valid.

There is contact information in 9 of them.