

PEM PAL BCOP PLENARY IN ARMENIA

FEEDBACK SURVEY

On February 11-13, 2015 BUDGET COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE (BCOP) met to discuss Fiscal consolidation in Yerevan, Armenia.

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

Link to the survey <https://ru.surveymonkey.com/r/SPYJGKH>

The survey started to collect responses on February 16 and finished on March 02, 2015.

Invitations to take part in the survey were sent to 53 participants of the meeting.

23 responses were received (43,4%). In this report, we analyze all 23 responses. For further calculation, we take this quantity as 100%.

All these responses will be included in the general Feedback Event Database. All responses are not identified by source and sent on a confidential basis to Nina Duduchava of the World Bank who prepares this report.

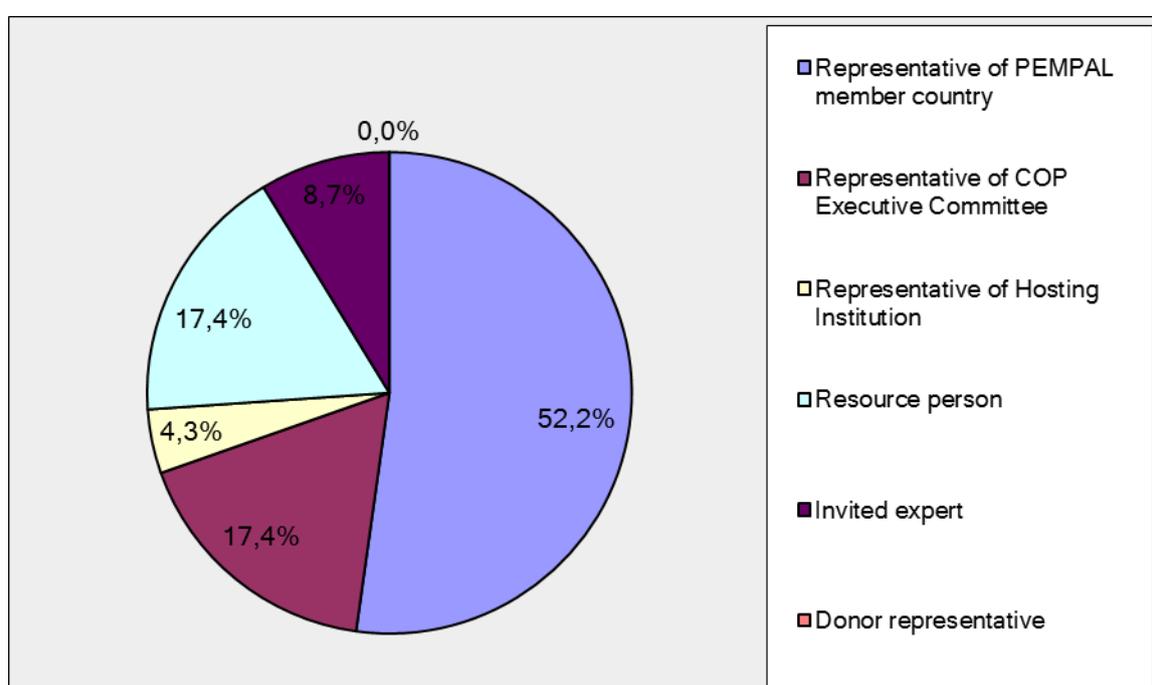
The questionnaire comprises five parts: About the Respondent, Event Delivery, Event Administration, Overall Impression, and Recommendations for the Future. There are total 23 questions.

ABOUT THE RESPONDENT

Q1 You are..

23 (100%) respondents gave answers/

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Representative of PEMPAL member country	52,2%	12
Representative of COP Executive Committee	17,4%	4
Representative of Hosting Institution	4,3%	1
Resource person	17,4%	4
Invited expert	8,7%	2
Donor representative	0,0%	0



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

23 respondents (100%) answered this question.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	30,4%	7
No	69,6%	16

Q3. How many PEMPAL events have you attended before?

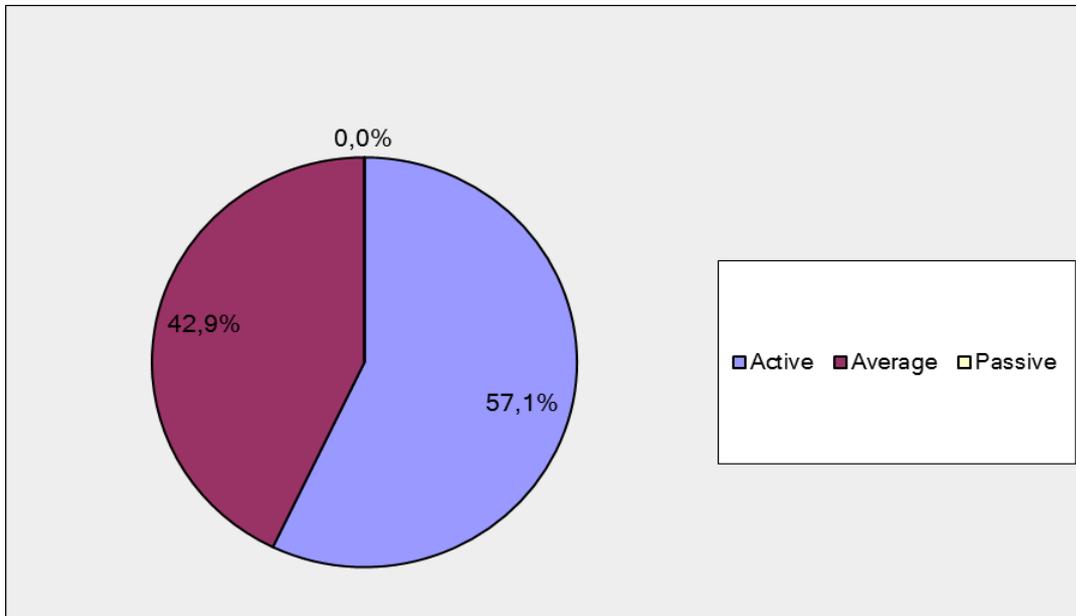
This question was seen only by those respondents who chose “No” in the previous question. 15 respondents answered this question.

1-2	3-4	5-6	more than 6	Response Count
3	5	1	6	15

PART I EVENT DELIVERY

Q4. How do you rate your participation in this event?

21 (91.3%) answers were given. 10 (47.6% from responded) respondents think that their participation in the event was 'Active'. 11 (52.4%) respondents think that their participation was 'Average'. And nobody chooses the option "Passive".



Q5. How do you rate the duration of the event overall?

21 respondents (91.3%) answered this question.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Too short	14,3%	3
About right	<u>85,7%</u>	<u>18</u>
Too long	0,0%	0

Q6. How much do you agree with the following statements about the participants of the event?

20 respondents (87%) replied to this question.

Answer Options	1 strongly disagree	2	3	4	5 Strongly agree	Response Count	Average
a) The level of the event was appropriate for a person with my experience and knowledge	0	0	2	5	<u>13</u>	20	<u>4,6</u>
b) I learned from the experience of other participants in the event	0	<u>1</u>	2	7	<u>10</u>	20	4,3
c) Participants had about equal level of prior expertise relevant to the event topics	0	0	6	<u>10</u>	4	20	3,9
d) Content of presentations, hand-outs and other materials were appropriate for a person with my level of knowledge	0	0	2	7	<u>11</u>	20	4,5

Q7. How much do you agree with the following statements about the content design of the event?

21 responses (91.3%) were received.

Answer Options	1 strongly disagree	2	3	4	5 Strongly agree	Response Count	Average
a) The event agenda was properly planned	0	0	0	6	<u>15</u>	21	4,7
b) The content of the event was properly prepared	0	0	0	3	<u>18</u>	21	<u>4,9</u>
c) The event addressed issues important to my work	0	0	<u>1</u>	6	<u>14</u>	21	4,6
d) The event covered a right number of topics for the amount of time available	0	0	0	10	<u>11</u>	21	4,5
e) Presentations made during the event were relevant and useful	0	0	<u>1</u>	<u>12</u>	8	21	<u>4,3</u>
f) Enough time was reserved for questions to speakers	0	0	<u>1</u>	4	<u>16</u>	21	4,7

1 comment was left:

In general, all presentations were informative and understandable.

Q8. How much do you agree with the following statements about the outcomes of the event?

20 responses (87%) were received.

Event objective has been achieved:	1 strongly disagree	2	3	4	5 Strongly agree	Response Count	Average
a) Share PEMPAL and international approaches to fiscal consolidation, particularly expenditure measures such as spending reviews, their impact and lessons learnt.	0	0	0	9	<u>11</u>	20	4,6
b) Provide the opportunity for BCOP member countries to exchange experiences and discuss possible approaches and options to fiscal consolidation challenges in the context of discussion groups.	0	0	0	7	<u>13</u>	20	<u>4,7</u>
c) Provide an update to members on the work of the BCOP since the last plenary meeting.	0	0	0	7	<u>13</u>	20	<u>4,7</u>
d) Gather feedback on priorities from members to inform the development of the BCOP Action Plan 2015-17.	0	0	0	7	<u>13</u>	20	<u>4,7</u>

1 comment was left:

Exchange of experiences and discussions were held at the proper level.

PART 2 EVENT ADMINISTRATION

Q9. Please rate the quality of the organization and administration of the event:

Answered question – 20 (87%). All of the ratings are the highest.

Answer Options	1 low	2	3	4	5 high	Response Count	Average rating
Quality of organization	0	0	0	0	20	20	5,0
Quality of administration	0	0	0	0	20	20	5,0

There were left 2 comments.

I fully satisfied with the work of the personnel.

The whole team work as a clock, pointed the right in time.

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

20 (87%) answers were given. And all the responses were “Yes”.

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

20 (87%) answers were given. And all of them were “Yes”.

Q12. Are you satisfied with the quality of simultaneous interpretation provided during the event? Q13. Are you satisfied with the quality of written translation of event materials?

19 responses were given (82.6%) to Q12 and 20 (87%) — to Q13.

Answer Options	1 low	2	3	4	5 high	Response Count	Average rating
simultaneous interpretation	0	0	1	<u>12</u>	6	19	4,3
written translation	0	0	0	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	20	<u>4,5</u>

There were left 3 comment to Q12 and 1 comment to Q13. (Here and after pieces of critical feedback are underlined.)

Q12

An interpreter should have some knowledge and terminology.

I cannot comment, as I can understand both languages Russian and English

The head set were not of good quality and the batteries kept failing but despite this, the translation was good.

Q13

Some materials were without translation.

PART 3 OVERALL IMPRESSION

Q14. Did the event disappoint, meet, or exceed your expectations?

There are 20 (87%) answered question.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Disappoint	0,0%	0
Meet	75,0%	15
Exceed	25,0%	5

Q15. What did you like most about the event?

17 comments were left. Participants liked different aspects of the meeting:

Presentations: (mentioned in 10 comments)

*The presentation: "Fiscal consolidation: experience and approaches of the IMF" Presentation
"Main concepts, questions and examples of successful fiscal adjustment "*

...the majority of presentations were good...

Quality expert presentations...

...presentation and practical examples...

I liked the presentation made by Ilya, where he presented not only theory of fiscal consolidation, but also the Russian experience on fiscal consolidation

The quality of the presenters was very high.

Possibility to exchange experiences (mentioned in 3 comments)

possibility to exchange experiences and obtain additional information

... opportunity to exchange experiences with representatives of other countries.

Theme of the meeting (2 comments)

Possibility to discuss the practical aspects of budget consolidation on real examples.

Actual theme

Organization and administration (mentioned in 4 comments)

Higher level of involvement of BCOP Executive Committee

...the efficiency and responsiveness of the resource team.

... cultural program was excellent.

Work in groups (mentioned in 5 comments)

...quality of group discussions presentations appeared better than in the previous years

The group discussions were very informative and useful.

Other comments

Participants, their experience, professionalism and friendliness...

I liked practically all: from organization to the presentations of the participants, as well as the exchange of experiences within the group

Acquiring of an amazing experience. Meeting new interesting people. Excellent interpretation.

Useful knowledge about the other countries experience

There was found a balance of time between the presentations of experts and representatives of countries and group work

Belief that you are a part of a professional body and you have the opportunity to exchange the experience.

Q16. What did you not like most about the event?

8 informative comments were left. 3 of them is a comment: “I liked everything” For example: *Everything was well organized.*

It means that there is 5 comment about elements which were not like by participants.

Very little time to summarize the presentation and discussion in groups. Strange format. Fits all does not happen, rather it is necessary that each participant prepares proposals for their country.

Discussion went outside of the scope of the topic we were supposed to discuss.

Last minute cancellations of participants

Too busy day. It was difficult to acquire the information

You can provide more time to prepare presentations on the basis of discussions in the working groups

Q17. Do you plan to brief your colleagues on this event?

19 responses were given (82.6%).

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	<u>94,7%</u>	<u>18</u>
No	5,3%	1

Q18. How do you plan to brief your colleagues?

19 responses were given (82.6%).

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Share materials	<u>78,9%</u>	<u>15</u>
Make a presentation	15,8%	3
Prepare a back-to-office report	<u>78,9%</u>	<u>15</u>

No comments were left.

Q19. How much do you agree with the following statement?

20 respondents (87%) replied to this question.

Answer Options	1 strongly disagree	2	3	4	5 strongly agree	Response Count	Average
I will be able to apply the knowledge acquired at this event to my work	0	<u>1</u>	1	<u>10</u>	8	20	4,25

Q20. How can you apply the acquired knowledge?

10 comments were left.

1. *In my future work*
2. *In preparing proposals on improving acts on budget law.*
3. *Application in the budget process some of the fiscal consolidation mechanisms*
4. *In this moment in Croatia we have in-depth analysis of expenditure (expenditure reviews) performing by expert teams organized for this purpose, under the direct coordination of the State Treasury where I work. These meetings provide an appropriate framework and a foundation upon which to fiscal consolidation measures be implemented, but each country, in my opinion, must determine their specificity and to develop their own measures and tools that match in the process.*
5. *In preparing the results of inspection teams who worked on the review of expenditures and in preparing the budget for next year.*
6. *Trying to influence specific decisions*
7. *I will be able to, when proposing measures for expenditure savings in the budget of the Republic of Serbia. In addition to the proposed fiscal consolidation measures we will necessary to look at the possibility of applying measures that are applied in other countries.*
8. *As I train the specialists in public finance sector, the acquired knowledge could be used for my teaching materials*
9. *The combination of adjustment expenses / income*
10. *I intend to use bibliographical materials to redefine some performance indicators.*

Q21. Overall, my satisfaction with the event was...

Answered question – 20 (87%). And 75% of the respondents (16) considered themselves as ‘highly satisfied’. Rating given by 4 persons (25%) was “4”. Average rating is 4.8.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Q22. Do you have any suggestions to improve the content, approach and other aspects of such events in future?

8 comments were left and 3 of them consist suggestions.

- 1. I suggest to have in addition to standard pre-event survey to ask each country (or PEMPAL on behalf of the each member country) filled the specific schemes describing the financial and economic situation in the country (macroeconomic indicators, deficit, employment, average salary, etc.) if they exist in the form of a standardized questionnaire*
- 2. "1. More work in groups 2. Recommendations from the expert side for each country "*
- 3. Probably it would be useful to change the time dedicated for working groups.*

Q23. Are there any other products, research or services that PEMPAL could provide that would be useful for your work?

8 informative comments were left.

- 1. It would be good to have another products for use in our work*
- 2. -Bibliographic resources*
- 3. It will be great to be announced about new additions to the library (for example which informational materials were added)*
- 4. Management of capital projects*
- 5. Yes. Sometimes we need to study the experience of other countries. In such cases, PEMPAL could organize a video conference with the participation of a country that has a positive experience for specific issue.*
- 6. I would like to receive any discussion or study materials that will be associated with the budget, in particular, program budgeting, budgeting and budget execution, or, if possible, take part in discussions on these topics*
- 7. Perhaps, Russian translations of the best examples of international surveys and studies on best practices of performance budgeting and program approach to budget management*
- 8. Electronic library.*