

PEM PAL BCoP STUDY VISIT TO LONDON Survey

On April 23-25, 2013 PEM PAL BCOP members from six countries (Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Russia and Turkey) visited London to examine the UK's budget preparation process and to discuss education financing reforms.

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/5S8JL65>

The survey started to collect responses on May 3 and finished on May 14, 2013.

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

9 persons started to response to the survey. 7 (77.8% of started) responses were fully completed.

In this report, we analyze 7 full responses. For further calculation, we take this quantity as 100%.

There are total 18 questions in the questionnaire.

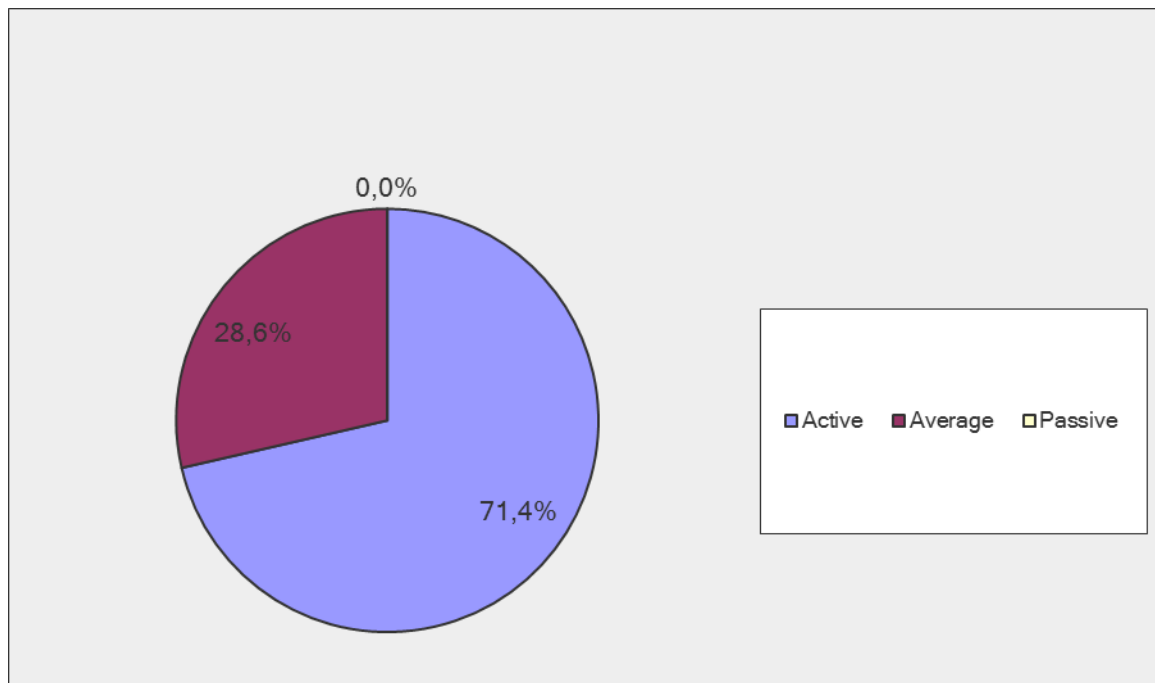
Q1 . Was this your first participation in PEMPAL BCOP event?

7 respondents (100%) answered this question. And 57.1% of them replied “No”.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	42,9%	3
No	57,1%	4

Q2. How do you rate your participation in this event?

7 (100%) answers were given. 5 (71.4%) respondents think that their participation in the event was ‘Active’. 2 (28.6%) respondents think that their participation was ‘Average’. No one chose the option “Passive”.



Q3. How do you rate BCoP meeting duration?

7 respondents (100%) answered this question. And most of them rated the meeting duration in a positive way.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Too short	0,0%	0
About right	85,7%	6
Too long	14,3%	1

Q4. In your opinion, will you be able to apply the knowledge you have acquired at this meeting to your daily work?

7 respondents (100%) answered this question. Average rating is high.

Answer Options	1 not at all	2	3	4	5 completely	Response Count	Average
	0	0	1	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	7	4.28

5 comments were left. Practically all of them are positive.

- 1) The knowledge that we acquired very important our education funding. Because UK education funding system apparent, equal, simple and applicable. We will take into consideration UK education funding system on our education funding process for effective education funding.*
- 2) These meetings are worth more to exchange experience while decision making is the higher level. Certainly we present positive experiences in these meetings in our leading levels*
- 3) Yes, It was very useful meeting because we have gone through all the reforms that England has been applied on education in all the levels.*
- 4) This study visit occurred very useful in applying Great Britain experience in educational and budget spheres of Russian practice.*
- 5) Since I work for Strategic Planning Unit in Office of Prime Minister, my role in the future, based on BCoP gained knowledge, will rely on applying that what I got there in the strategic planning for education sector.*

Q5. Did you feel enough time was allowed for questions and free discussions?

6 (85.7%) respondents answered this question. All of them responded the same way.

Answer Options	1 not enough	2	3	4	5 enough	Response Count	Average
For questions	0	0	0	0	6	6	5
For free discussions	0	0	0	0	6	6	5

4 comments were left.

- 1) The meeting presentation may be present with simulation sample.*
- 2) Yes, it was just perfect combination between the presentations and discussions, which allow us to better clarify all the issues.*
- 3) All questions asked by participants had competent answers (There were many questions, especially from Belarus and Russia).*
- 4) Yes, we had enough time for free discussion and questions.*

Q6. Please read the following statements, and tell us if you agree or disagree with each of them. (Please rate each item):

7 respondents (100%) replied to this question.

Answer Options	1 strongly disagree	2	3	4	5 Strongly agree	Response Count	Average
a) I learned from the experience of other participants in the meeting	0	0	<u>3</u>	1	<u>3</u>	7	4
b) The level of the meeting was appropriate for a person with my experience and knowledge	0	0	0	3	<u>4</u>	7	4,6
c) Participants had about equal level of prior expertise relevant to the meeting topics	0	0	1	<u>4</u>	2	7	4,1
d) The presentations demonstrated during the meeting were relevant and provided useful information	0	0	0	0	<u>7</u>	7	<u>5</u>
e) The time allocated to asking questions of the panel speakers was adequate	0	0	0	0	<u>7</u>	7	<u>5</u>
f) The meeting addressed issues important to my work	0	0	0	0	<u>7</u>	7	<u>5</u>

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

- 1) *I am in charge of budget policy in education sphere*
- 2) *Education funding very important for qualitative education. We must hardworking this topic.*
- 3) *The topic was so relevant for my country as we are going through the reform on the education sector*
- 4) *Issues about budget and education are topical in my daily work*
- 5) *Budgeting for education sector in Kosovo is big issue, plus reforms in this sector are followed with many discussions. Even that UK system is a unique one, however there are some good hints that can be taken from them. It was interesting to see their goal to narrow the gap between low income family students with students that attend best schools, as well as the regulation for high education.*

Q7. Please rate the quality of organization (pre-event administration and logistics, etc.) and administration (staff responsiveness, etc.) of the meeting:

Answered question – 7 (100%). All the ratings are high.

Answer Options	1 low	2	3	4	5 high	Response Count	Average
Quality of meeting organization	0	0	0	0	7	7	5
Quality of meeting administration	0	0	0	0	7	7	5

There were left 2 positive comments:

- 1) *It should be mentioned high professionalism of Maya (PEMPAL Secretariat representative) and of an interpreter (from English to Russian) Elena and tell them Thank you so much!*
- 2) *Every meeting was organized almost perfectly.*

Q8. Did you receive agenda and event information in sufficient time before the event for them to be useful?

7 (100%) answers were given. All respondents replied “Yes”.

Q9. Did you receive practical information (about the accommodation and other facilities, etc.) prior to the event?

7 (100%) answers were given. All respondents replied “Yes”.

Q10. Did the background summary document on UK’s education reform prove useful?

7 (100%) answers were given. All respondents replied “Yes”.

2 comments were left:

- 1) *Given information could be more extensive than, as well as it could include preconditions of these reforms – short description of now reforming system.*
- 2) *Thanks to this document I understood the idea of budgeting per capita in GB, that was very useful during the whole visit*

Q11. Was the approach used to collecting feedback from you for the final study visit report adequate (ie providing report template, having one hour review session)?

7 (100%) answers were given. All respondents replied “Yes”.

1 comment was left: *Very correct approach.*

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

Answered question – 7 (100%). All the answers were the same: ‘satisfied’.

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

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

There are 7(100%) answered question.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Disappoint	0,0%	0
Meet	42,9%	3
Exceed	<u>57,1%</u>	<u>4</u>

Q14. What did you like best about the meeting?

7 comments were left. All of them are valid.

Participants liked best:

- 1) *Possibility to take part in discussion with designated GB authorities representatives*
- 2) *Overall education process in UK are present in presentations.*
- 3) *I liked that the meetings were more in the form of conversation and they were developed in the institutions that deal directly with the strategy and implementation of educational reform in the UK*
- 4) *Everything was the perfect information, Interesting topics, interesting experiences with the English experts and among PEMPAL experts, perfect locaton.*
- 5) *The meetings have been well organized, lecturers were competent individuals engaged in specific activities that were of our particular interest and thus were able to answer to all our questions, i.e. we had quite enough time to hold discussions on the topics of concern. I have also liked the fact that the schedule was not overwhelming, giving us sufficient time to relax and prepare for the following meetings.*
- 6) *Visit to GB Treasury and discussion there as well as visit to GB Department for Education.*
- 7) *Information provided there exceeded my expectations.*

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

7 informative comments were left. 4 of them are comments like “everything is ok”.

It means that there are 3 comments about elements which were not like by participants.

Meeting participants did not like different elements of the event:

- 1) *I liked everything but it would be useful to leave more time for experience exchange with other participants. Also, it would be better to visit an educational institution (school, university): subjects of the reforms’ view of a problem usually helps to understand the situation better and see different points of view.*
- 2) *Some presentation may be present comprehensive and written.*

3) *Maybe, sometimes same information was repeated several times.*

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

7 valid comments were left, and 2 of them consists suggestions.

- 1) *I have already said*
- 2) *Presentation could have more simulation sample.*
- 3) *I would suggest that the BCoP meetings is better to be organized like this study visit than plenary*
- 4) *To be as productive as this one was.*
- 5) *I have already pointed out that this study visit was so far the best organized one with the most qualitative program, and I believe that this approach should be kept in the future as well.*
- 6) *I think it should be more such visits.*

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

There were left 7 (100% of respondents) comments. 7 of them are valid.

And 3 of them mean that a report or presentation has already been done.

- 1) *In the form of workshop*
- 2) *Yes I am preparing study report for all colleagues.*
- 3) *I have done this thing through free conversations with my colleagues showing live experience in UK*
- 4) *Through the report that I have prepared*
- 5) *By holding internal discussions and by delivery of materials regarding this study visit.*
- 6) *I have already sent to the colleagues informational material about this visit. During the next week, I will made for them detailed written report focusing on those aspects in Great Britain experience, which are useful for our country and our budget and education practice.*
- 7) *First, preparing the report and also through informal meetings with them.*

Q18. Are there any other products, research or services that PEMPAL could provide that would be useful for your work?

3 persons (42.9%) responded to this question.

- 1) *Budgetary policy in sport and youth policy; state guarantee principles of financial provision with participation of private (non-government) organization; inter-budget relations in the exercise of budgetary policy in social sphere.*
- 2) *About education, funding you could arrange comprehensive meeting.*
- 3) *Articles and publications in the international media about PEMPAL BCOP activities (especially about exchange with other countries of experience in budget sphere).*