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## **Deliverable 2.1 (1)**

# **Evaluation of the NCP Structures in Latin America**

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## **Final Evaluation of a survey of NCPs in Latin America**

**(October 2009-July 2010)**

### ***Methodology:***

Questionnaires were elaborated, improving the forms used for earlier surveys, which is based on a catalogue of questions used by INCONTACT. Those questionnaires (see Annex I) were sent to 13 Latin American NCP national coordinators.

From eleven countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay) responses were returned, which corresponds to a success rate of 85 %. Panama was one of them, but has no officially nominated NCP yet. There were no responses from Paraguay and Nicaragua.

In the questionnaire 15 polar or multiple choice questions were used and two open questions were added for statements.

The 15 questions were:

1. How had the NCP been constituted? By nomination? Election? Other?
2. Where is the NCP situated? In the government? Research institution? University? NGO? SME? Industry?
3. How many people work as NCP in your country?
4. Will the personnel change by numbers?
5. Since when does the NCP exist?
6. Since when does the NCP personnel have experience?
7. Is the NCP getting public funding?
8. Are you participating regularly in NCP meetings in Brussels?
9. Do you have other duties than those as NCP? If yes, to what extend?
10. How many clients do you have registered?
11. Do you think you have enough clients registered?
12. What kind of dissemination methods are you using? Info Days? Conferences? Matchmaking events? Special Seminars? Newspapers? Web pages?
13. Do you have regular contacts to the EU?
14. Do you have to hand in regular reports on your work as NCP?
15. Is the NCP work evaluated externally?

The open questions are asking for expectations towards FP7 and the problems the NCP is dealing with.

### ***Results:***

94 % of the national coordinator NCPs are situated in governmental organisations, and all were nominated by their governments. The only non governmental national coordinator NCP is BBICE from Brazil.

### **Background Information on EU contact offices (Oficinas de Enlace)**

The EU has/had bilateral S&T agreements (5 y contracts) with 4 Latin American States (out of 19 worldwide international agreements with third countries):

Argentina since 28/05/2001, renewal 2006

Brazil since 7/08/2007

Chile since 10/01/2007

Mexico since 13/01/2005 renewal was due 13/6/2010

Due to these agreements all of these states have bilateral projects, which support the establishment of NCPs in the third countries.

The EU contact offices which host the governmental NCPs in those 4 Latin American countries are called "Oficinas de Enlace".

Argentina BILAT-Project ABEST II

<http://www.abest.mincyt.gov.ar/en/index.php>

Brazil BILAT-Project B.BICE

<http://bbice.ibict.br/index/conteudo/cod/154/lan/en/Mission>

Chile BILAT-Project CHIEP II

[http://www.chiep.cl/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=774&Itemid=0&lang=en](http://www.chiep.cl/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=774&Itemid=0&lang=en)

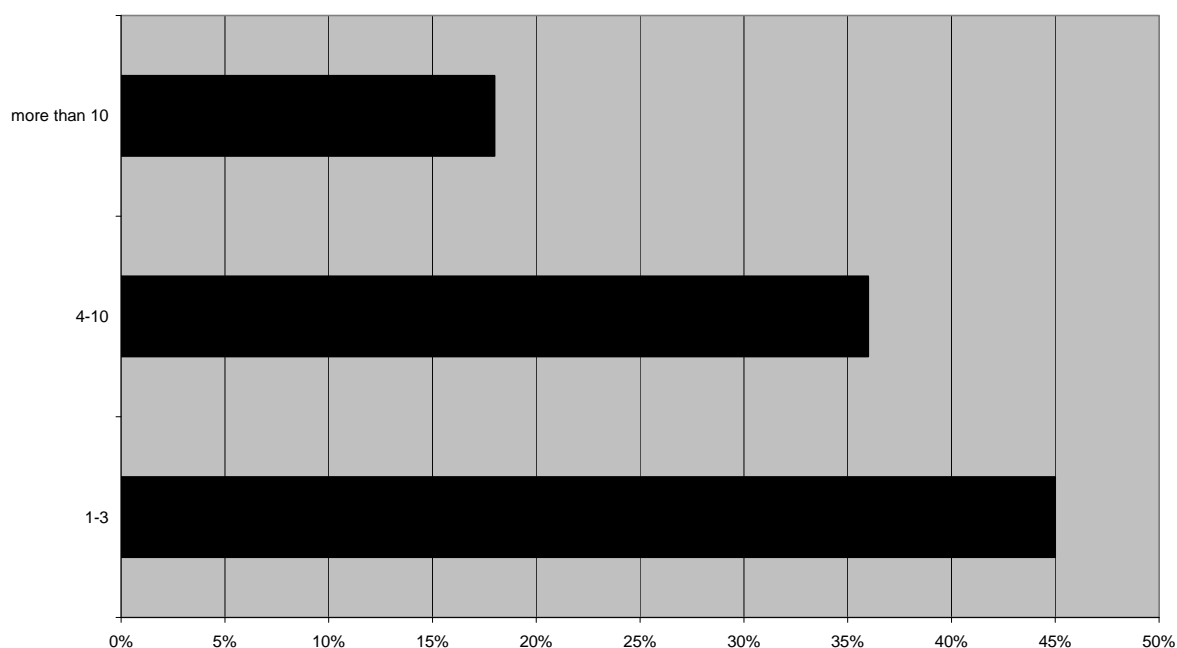
Mexico BILAT-Project UEMEXCYT II

<http://www.conacyt.gob.mx/uemexcyt/Acerca/index.html#>

Thematic NCPs are only found in countries with BILAT projects and in Uruguay and Cuba. Those NCPs are mainly situated in universities or research institutions.

Most people working as NCPs in one country were 28 in Brazil, of which the majority is not actively working as NCP (22). This is due to nominations of thematic experts, without their knowledge of the duties as NCP. In Mexico there are 19 people working as NCP. Argentina, Chile, Cuba and Uruguay lay in the middle range. This is exceptional for Cuba and Uruguay, who in contrast to the other countries in that range have no EU contact office, and therefore no financial support from the EU. Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Costa Rica have only 1-3 employees working as NCP. None of the Mesoamerican countries have a NCP yet, with exception of Costa Rica.

### Number of people working as NCP in the country

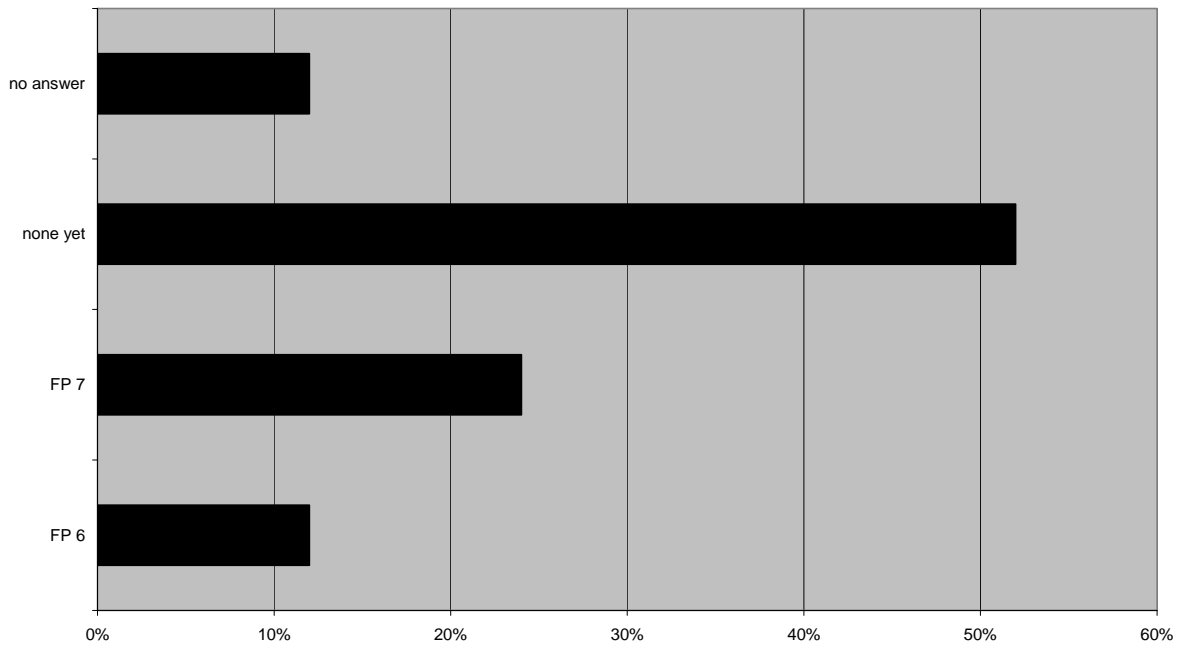


Half of the countries plan changes in personnel, of which more than a half want to increase its personnel.

94 % of the NCPs are working since the 7<sup>th</sup> Frame Programme, from 2007 or 2008 on, while only Mexico was working already in the 6<sup>th</sup> Frame Programme from 2006 on.

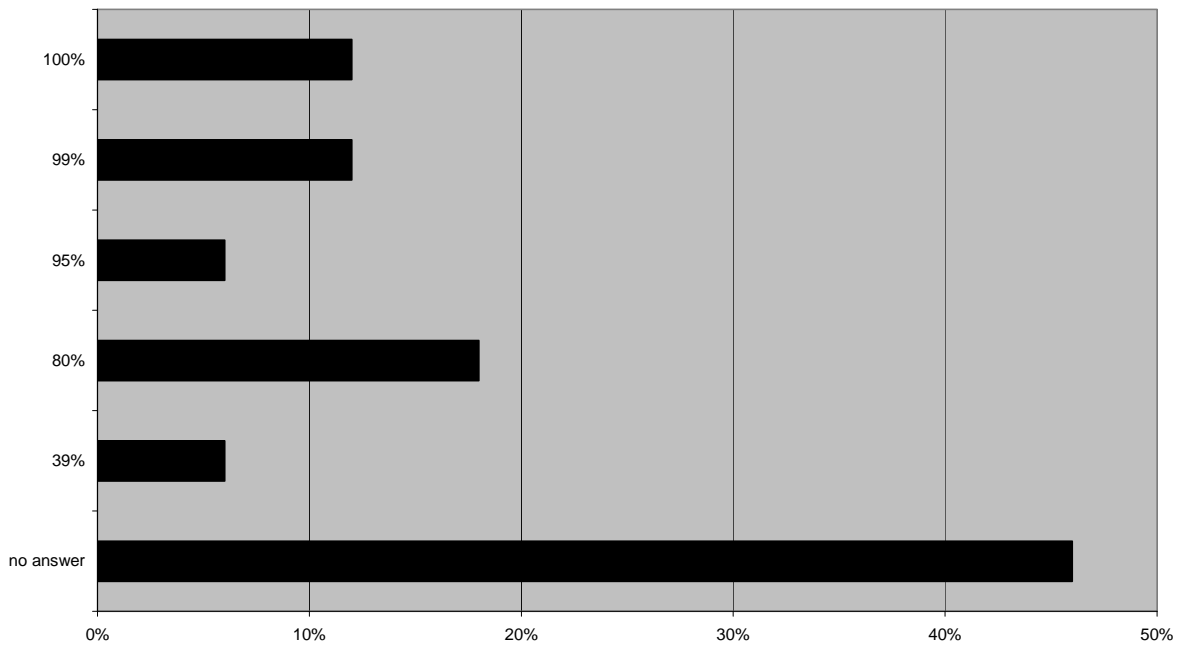
12 % of the NCP staff has experience from FP 6 on (Argentina and Mexico), while 24 % of the NCP staff has experience since FP 7. An overwhelming majority of 52 % of the officially nominated NCPs has no experience at all. Consequently there is a need for sound trainings in most of all countries.

### Experience of personnel since when?



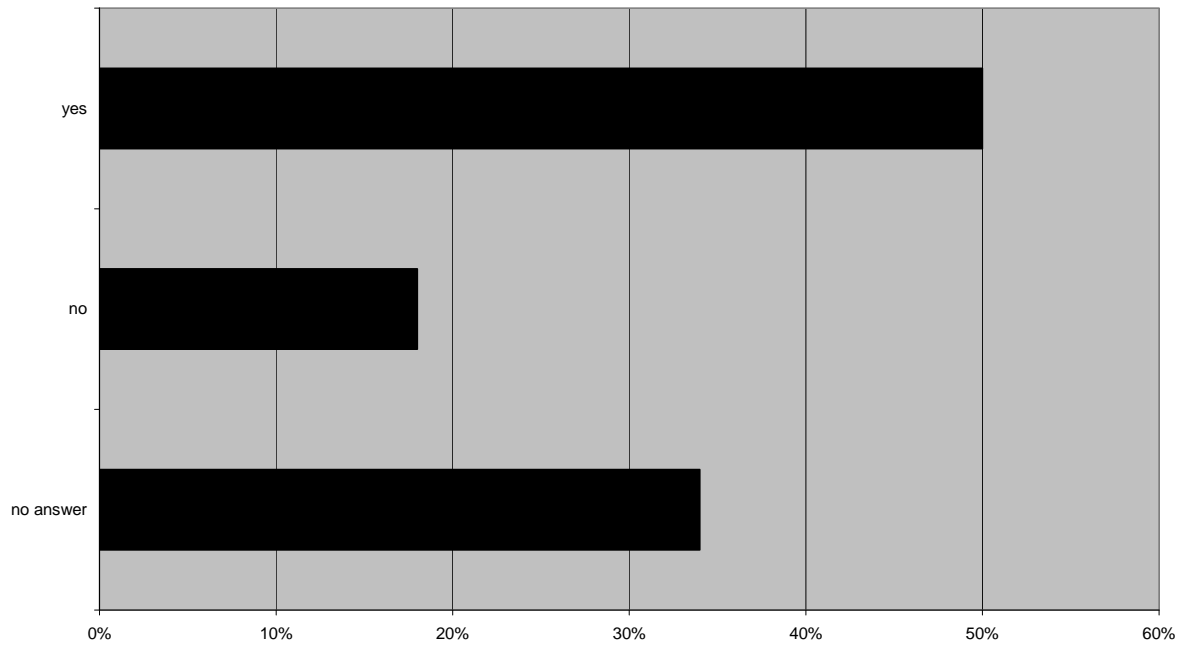
One half of the NCPs get public financing. But this doesn't mean that those NCP are working as NCP exclusively. On the contrary an overwhelming 88% are working on other duties. Nearly 50 % of the people are working in other duties to more than 80 % up to 100 %. Over 50 % maintained silence about the percentage of their extend working in the other duties, which might be a clear hint to reality.

### Other duties to what extend?



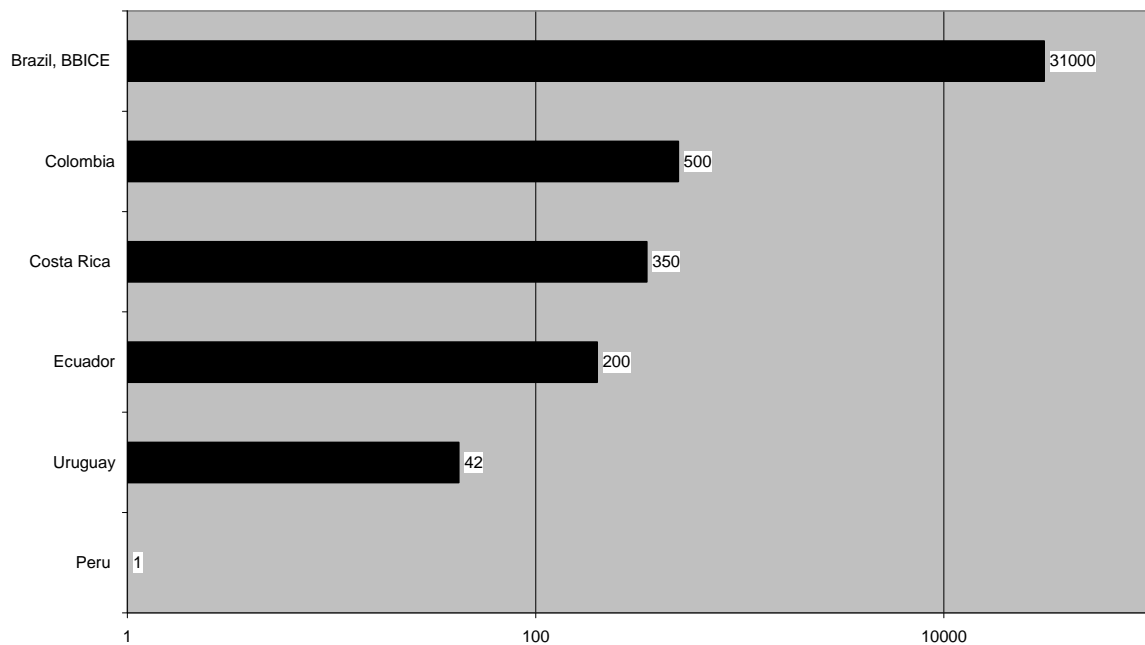
Only 50% of the NCPs have definitely a data base. Half of those NCPs (52 %) are not satisfied with the number of registered clients.

**Do you have a data base?**



Regarding databases or registers of clients the variance was exponential.

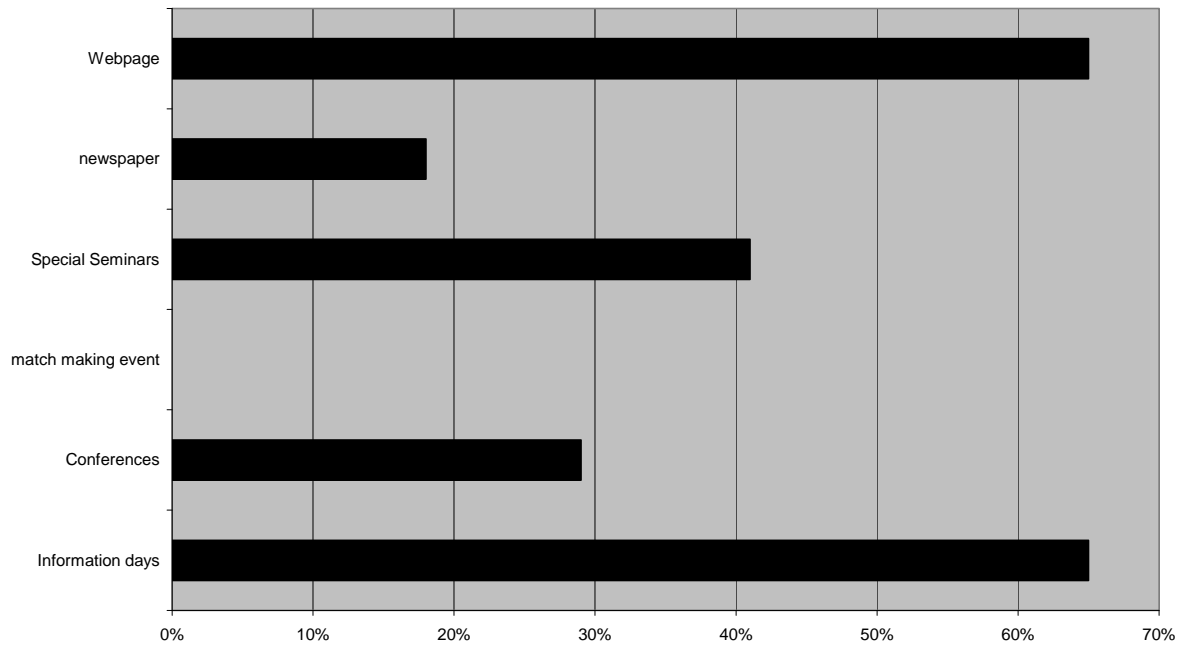
**How many clients do you have registered?**



65 % of all NCPs have web pages and arrange Information Days.

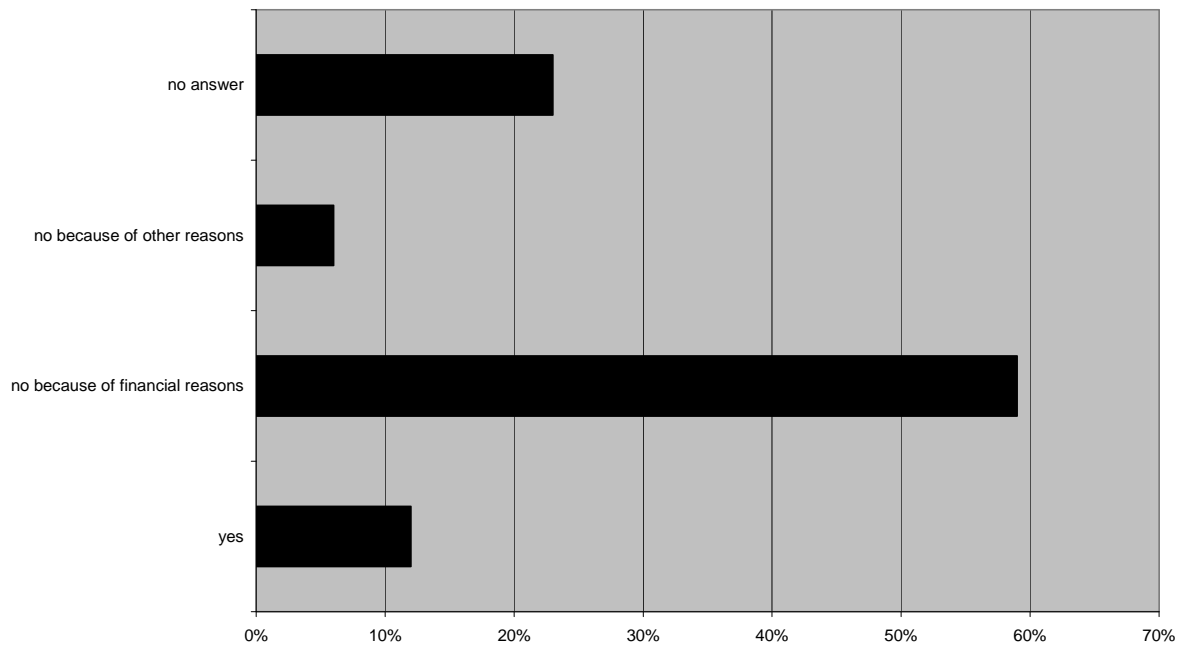
The point “match making activities” was seemingly not understood, because of the (European!) Spanish diction. provided by the Spanish NCP national coordinator.

### Information distribution activities

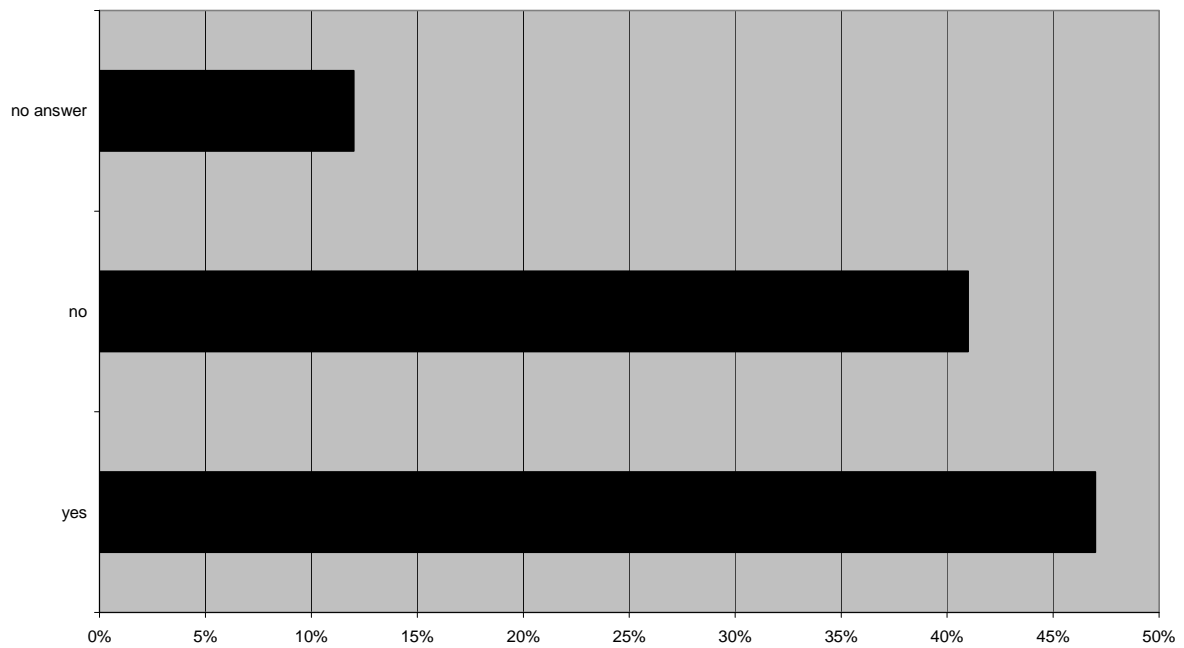


Only 12 % of the NCPs are regularly attending NCP meetings in Brussels. 59 % of the NCPs are not attending due to financial restrictions. But even half of the NCPs (47 %) are in contact with the EU.

### Regular participation in NCP meetings in Brussels?



### Regular contacts with the EU



The survey asked for **expectations of the NCPs**, these were the nominations:

- International cooperation at a high level
- Regional integration
- Building up excellence networks
- Elevating the participation in FP7
- Facilitating the bi-regional dialog
- cosmopolitan contacts and understanding

Asking for the **problems that the NCPs have**, the answers were:

- Shortage of money and time
- Problems with the English language
- Complexity of the topic
- Differences in the financing system (LA and EU)
- Need of trainings for project proposal writing

## **Summary:**

The point of departure is quite different for the 11 interviewed countries. Mexico, Argentina, Brazil and Chile have the longest tradition and got the longest support for an establishment of a full thematic NCP network within their bilateral projects since 2005.

Most of the other Latin American countries just have 1-3 people working as NCP. As national coordinators mostly are political officials after political changes the NCP staff changes regularly.

So there are great losses of knowledge and no continuous work on client data bases is possible. This leads to continuous needs for trainings and the loss of skilled personnel and support for researchers who want to join EU-projects. Additionally a huge majority of all NCPs (88 %) has other duties to a dominant extend of 80 % and more.

To have contact to the EU is not the rule in LA NCPs, only 47 % stay in contact with the EU. And the majority of the NCPs cannot attend regularly NCP meetings in Brussels due to high expenses.

Only the Argentinian EU contact office ABEST and the NGO B.BICE seem to work at a professional standard, ABEST, because they have no other duties apart from the NCP work and B.BICE, because they need to be successful as freelancer. At least the numbers are speaking in their favour. Eventhough ABEST had no client base so far. But B.BICE has an impressive one of 31.000 researchers.

The evaluation was concluded with latest data from July 2010. Since then there is continuous dynamic development ongoing. Argentina nowadays has 12 NCPs, as well as Chile. Uruguay has 16 NCPs actually.

## Annex I Questionnaire

País		
Rellenado de quién? Nombre y función		
1. El PCN fue	nombrado	<input type="checkbox"/> por
	elegido	<input type="checkbox"/> por
	otro	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. El PCN dónde está situado?	En	
	el gobierno	<input type="checkbox"/>
	una institución de investigación	<input type="checkbox"/>
	una universidad	<input type="checkbox"/>
	una organización no gubernamental	<input type="checkbox"/>
	una PyME	<input type="checkbox"/>
	la industria	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Cuántas personas trabajan en todos PCN en su país?		
4. Cambiará la situación del personal?	sí <input type="checkbox"/> más personal <input type="checkbox"/> menos personal <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Desde cuándo existe un PCN? (PM ... 4, 5, 6, 7?)		
6. Experiencia de los empleados desde cuando? (PM ..)		
7. Financiamiento público?	sí <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
8. Participan en reuniones de los PCN en Bruselas regularmente?	sí <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/> por qué no? razones pecuniarias <input type="checkbox"/> otras razones <input type="checkbox"/>
9. Aparte del trabajo de los PCN tienen otras tareas?	sí <input type="checkbox"/> por que %?	no <input type="checkbox"/>
10. Cuántos contactos de clientes tienen registrados?		

11. Son suficientes los contactos registrados en relación a la cantidad de investigadores que existen en su país?	sí <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
12. Que herramientas de diseminación usan?	jornada informativa	<input type="checkbox"/>
	conferencias	<input type="checkbox"/>
	acontecimiento del corretaje	<input type="checkbox"/>
	seminarios especiales	<input type="checkbox"/>
	periódico	<input type="checkbox"/>
	pagina web	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Tienen contactos regulares con la UE?	sí <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
14. Entregan reportajes regulares sobre el trabajo del PCN ?	sí <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
15. El trabajo del PCN se evalúa por externo?	sí <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>

16. Cuáles son sus expectativas en cuanto a PM7?

17. Cuáles son sus problemas?

PM = Programa marco UE = Union Europea PyME = Pequeñas y Medianas Empresas