

FRANCE – LATIN AMERICA/CARIBEANS

Scientific impact of the program PREFALC (2002-2018)

MESRI-DAEI / MEAE

2021

<http://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr>

GENERAL PRESENTATION OF THE PROGRAM

Creation : 2003

The purpose of this program is to develop exchanges and training opportunities between higher education institutions from France and Latin-America and/or Caribbean countries (LAC) and develop projects at master level

Survey conducted from 2002 to 2017

Total budget from 2007 to 2017 : (France) : around 110 000 € / year

>> including budget from MESRI : around 100 000 € / year

>> including budget from MEAE : around 10 000 € / year

Average budget per project : around 14 000 € / year

Number of new funded projects per year : around 7 to 8

Period : 2007, 2009 and 2011 to 2017 :

119 applications submitted

80 projects funded

DATA SOURCES

Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme (2007-2017)

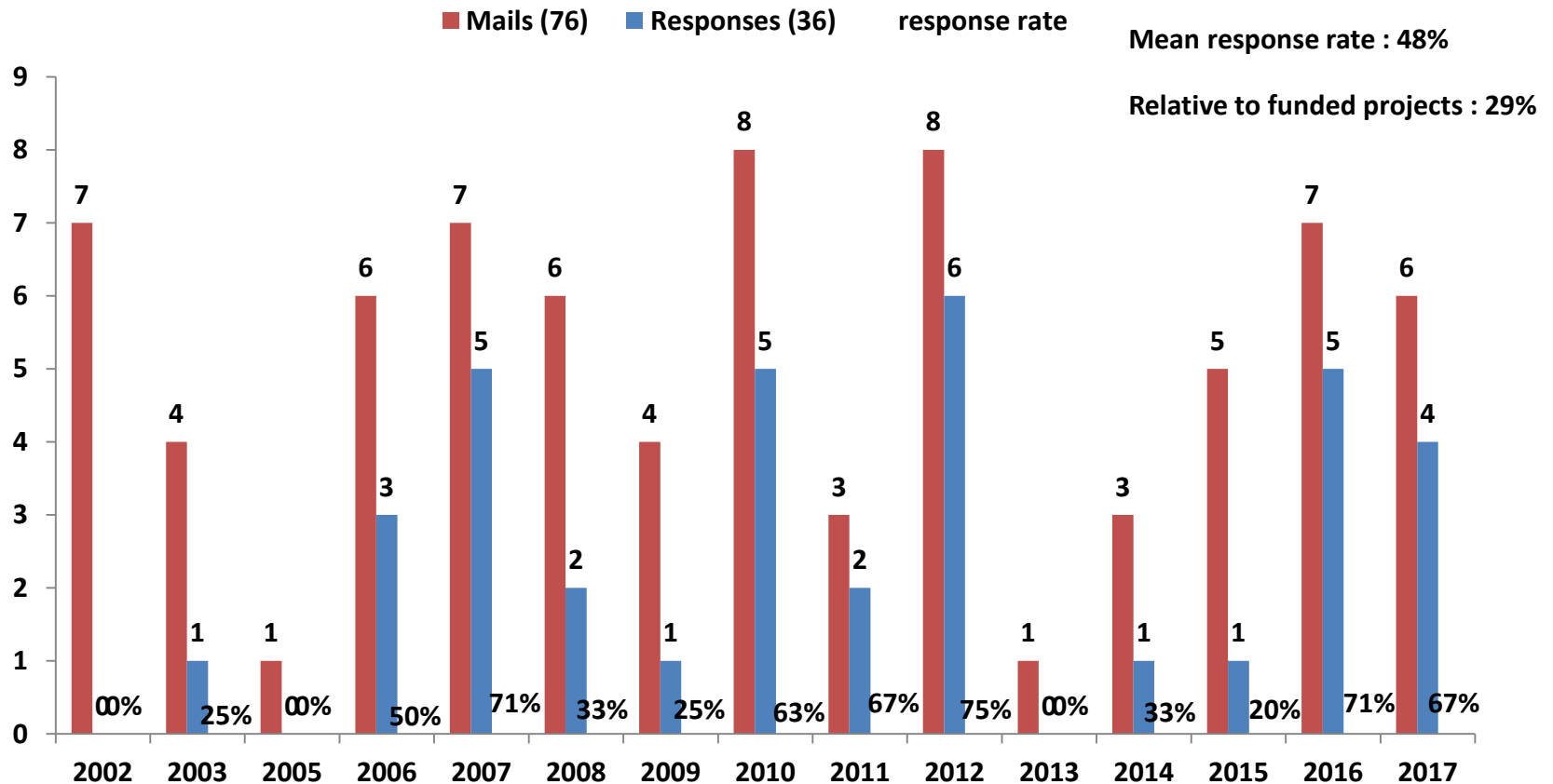
- Information about the PREFALC applications

Survey (2002-2018)

- Target : French Principal Investigators of selected projects between 2002 and 2018
- Survey duration :11 weeks between February and May 2020
- **48%** response ratio (36 respondents for 75 queries)

ANSWERS TO THE SURVEY

Average response rate to the survey : **48 % (36 answers)**



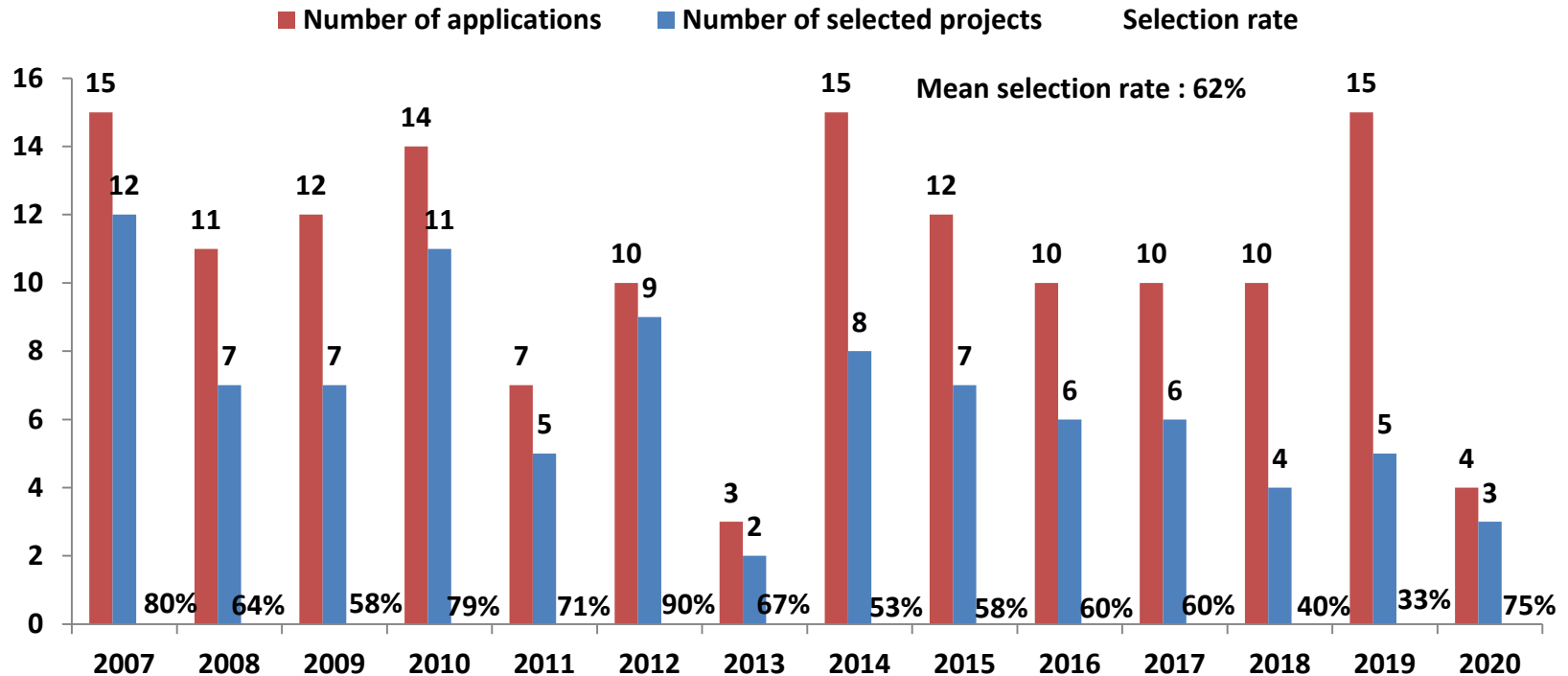
126 funded projects between 2002 and 2017, 75 valid email addresses

2002-2018

Key Points

NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS AND SELECTION RATE

Average selection rate from 2007-2017: **62%**



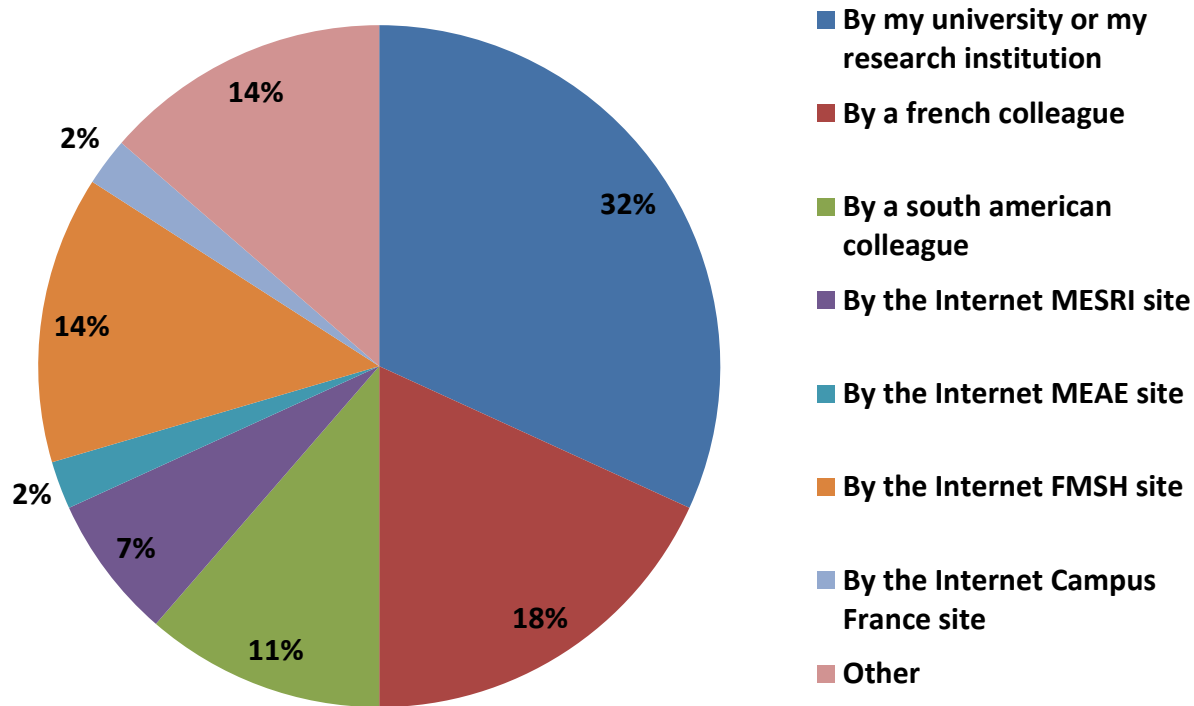
Small decrease in the number of applications since 2014

Number of selected projects 2002-2017 : 126 vs unknown number of applications

Number of selected projects 2007-2020 : 92 vs 148 applications

BEFORE THE PREFALC PROJECT (1/2)

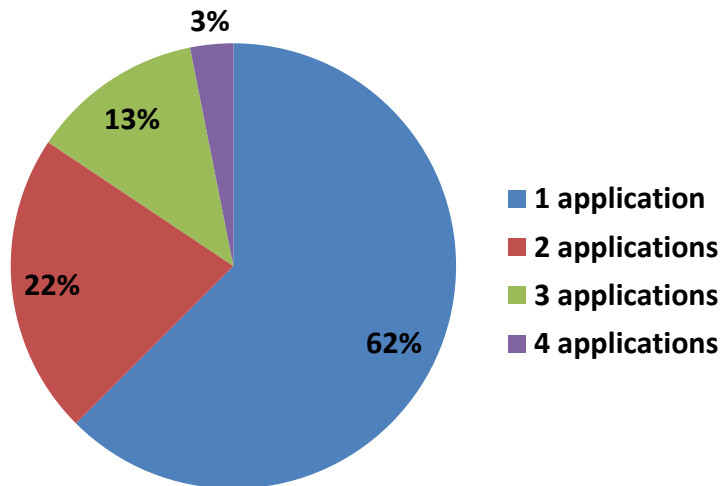
How did you get the information about the PREFALC program ?



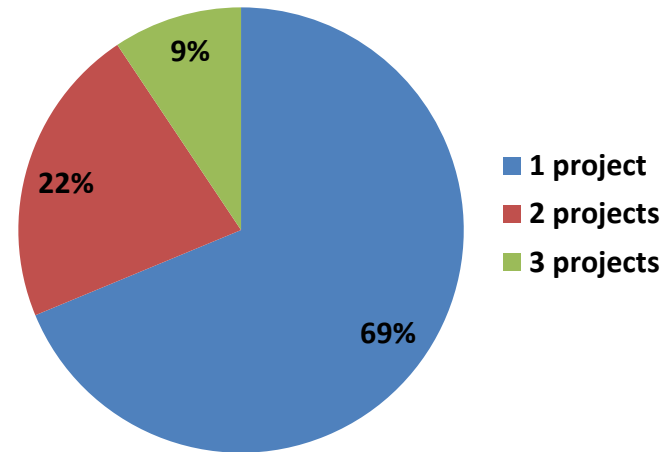
Data from 32 responses

BEFORE THE PREFALC PROJECT (2/2)

How many applications have you submitted for a PREFALC project ?



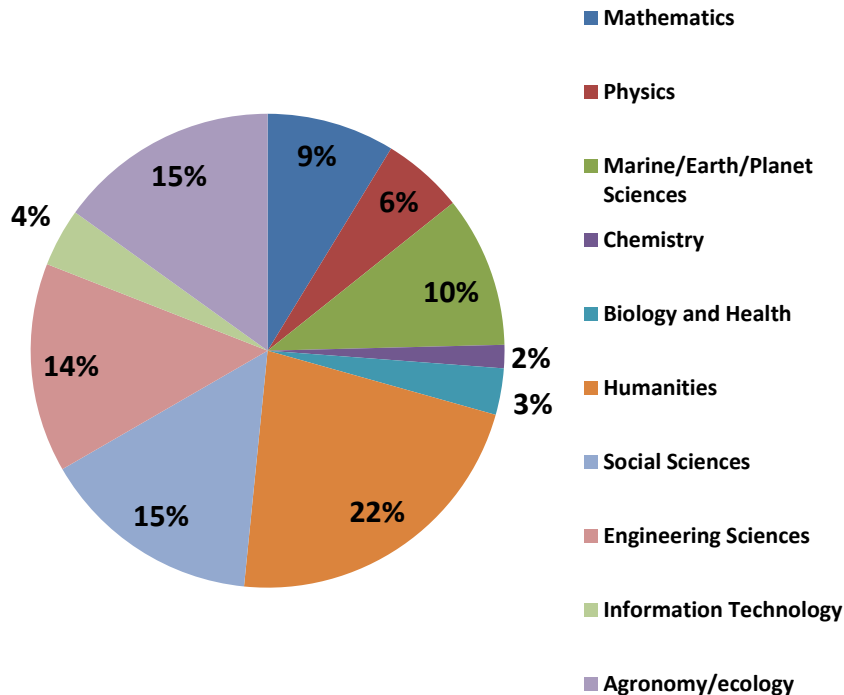
How many PREFALC projects have you coordinated ?



Data from 32 responses

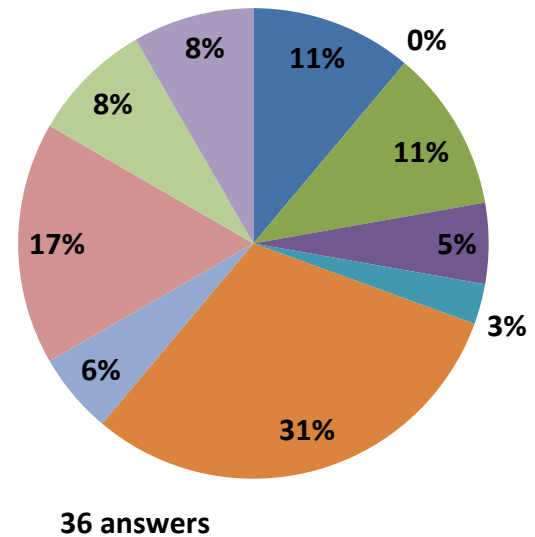
SCIENTIFIC DOMAINS OF PROJECTS

Data from FMSH



126 funded projects

Data from the survey

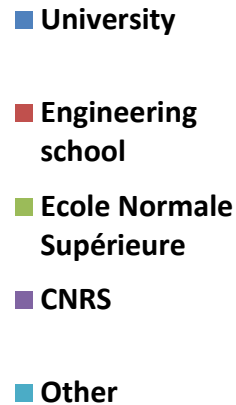
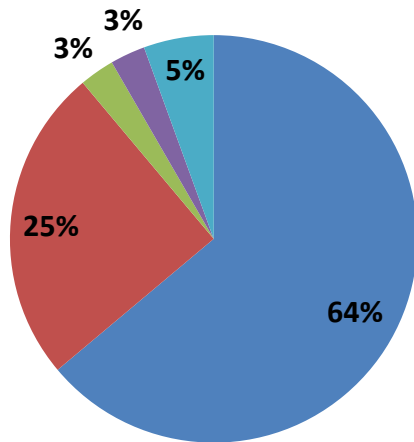


36 answers

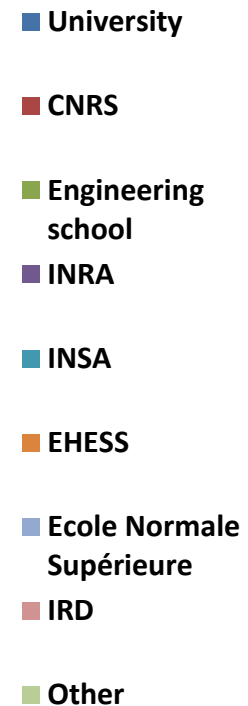
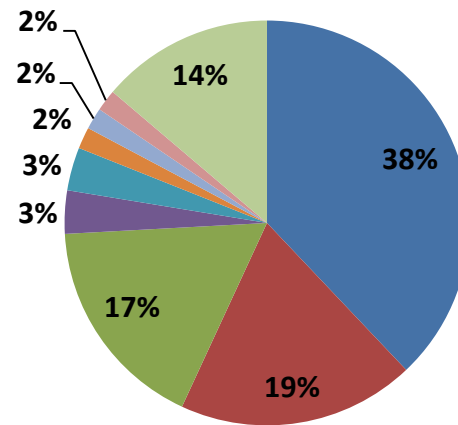
36 responses

FRENCH PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

PI's employers

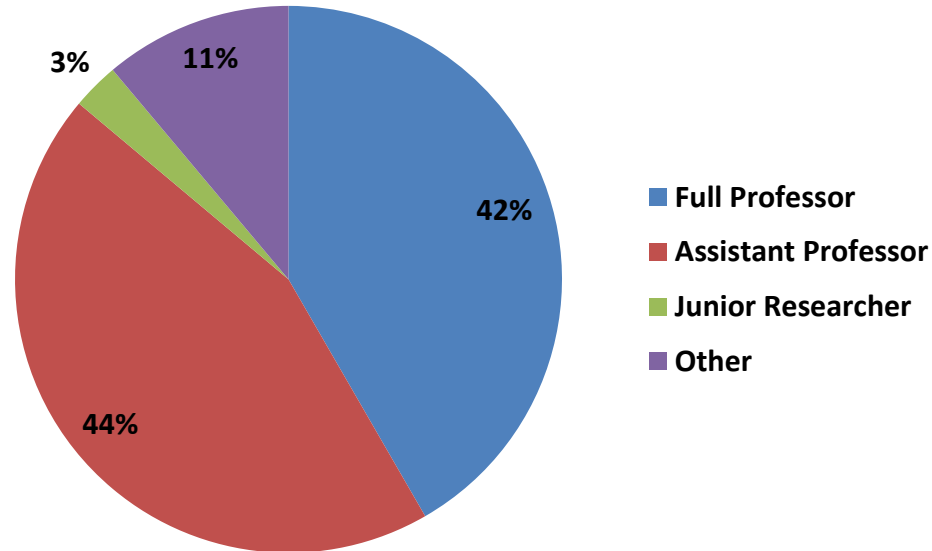


Laboratories authorities



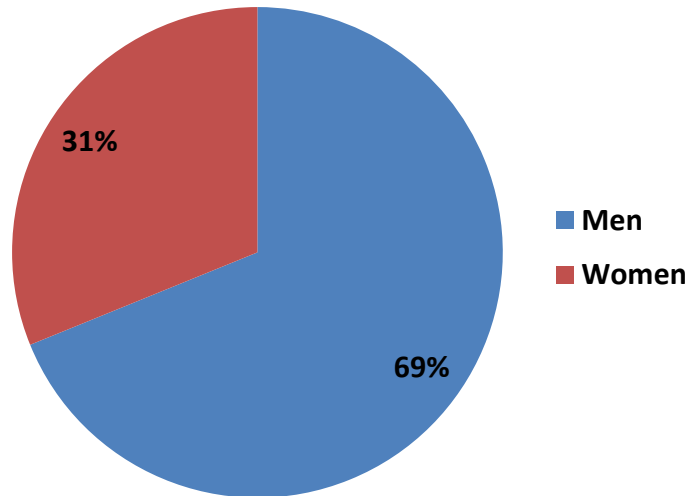
FRENCH PIS (PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS) : STATUS

Professional status (at the beginning of the project)

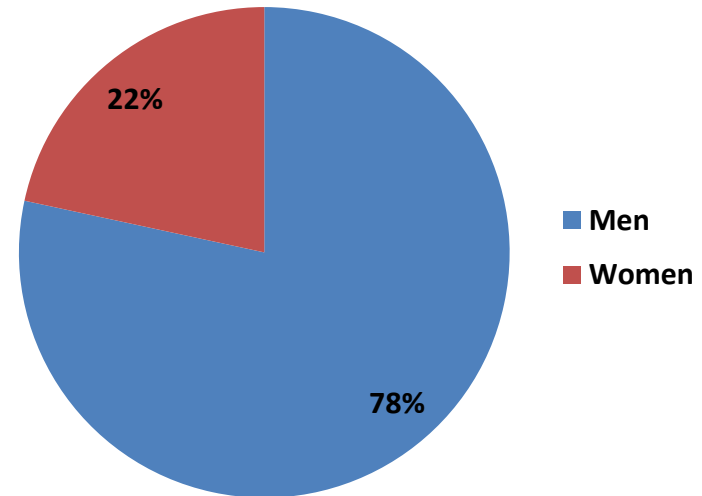


IMPLICATION OF WOMEN (FRANCE)

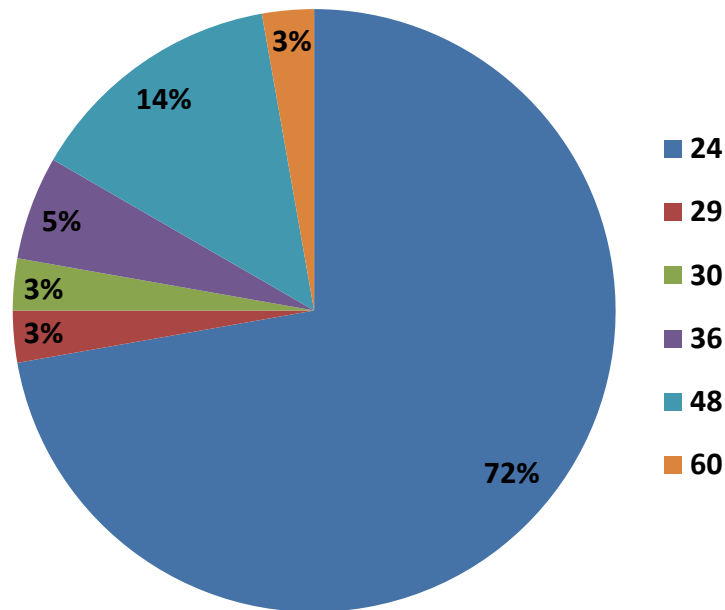
All selected projects (122)



From the survey (36)



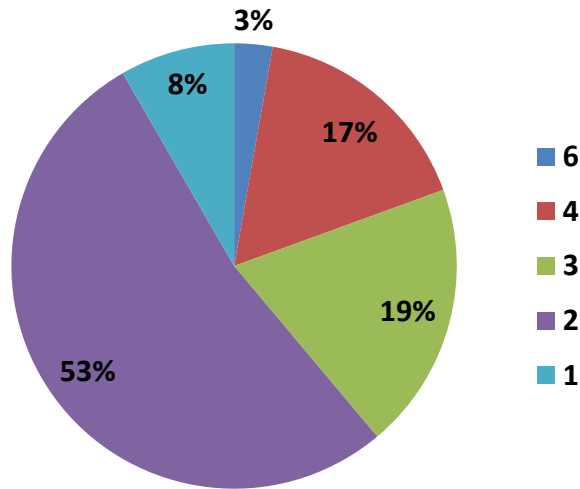
DURATION OF THE PROJECT (MONTHS)



Total months : 1055

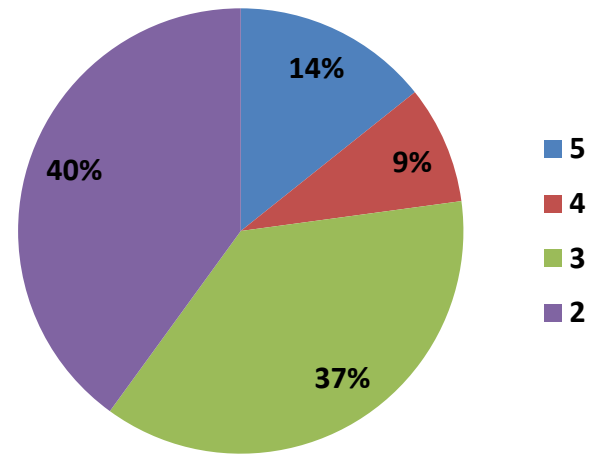
NUMBER OF PARTNERS PER PROJECT

Total number of french partners



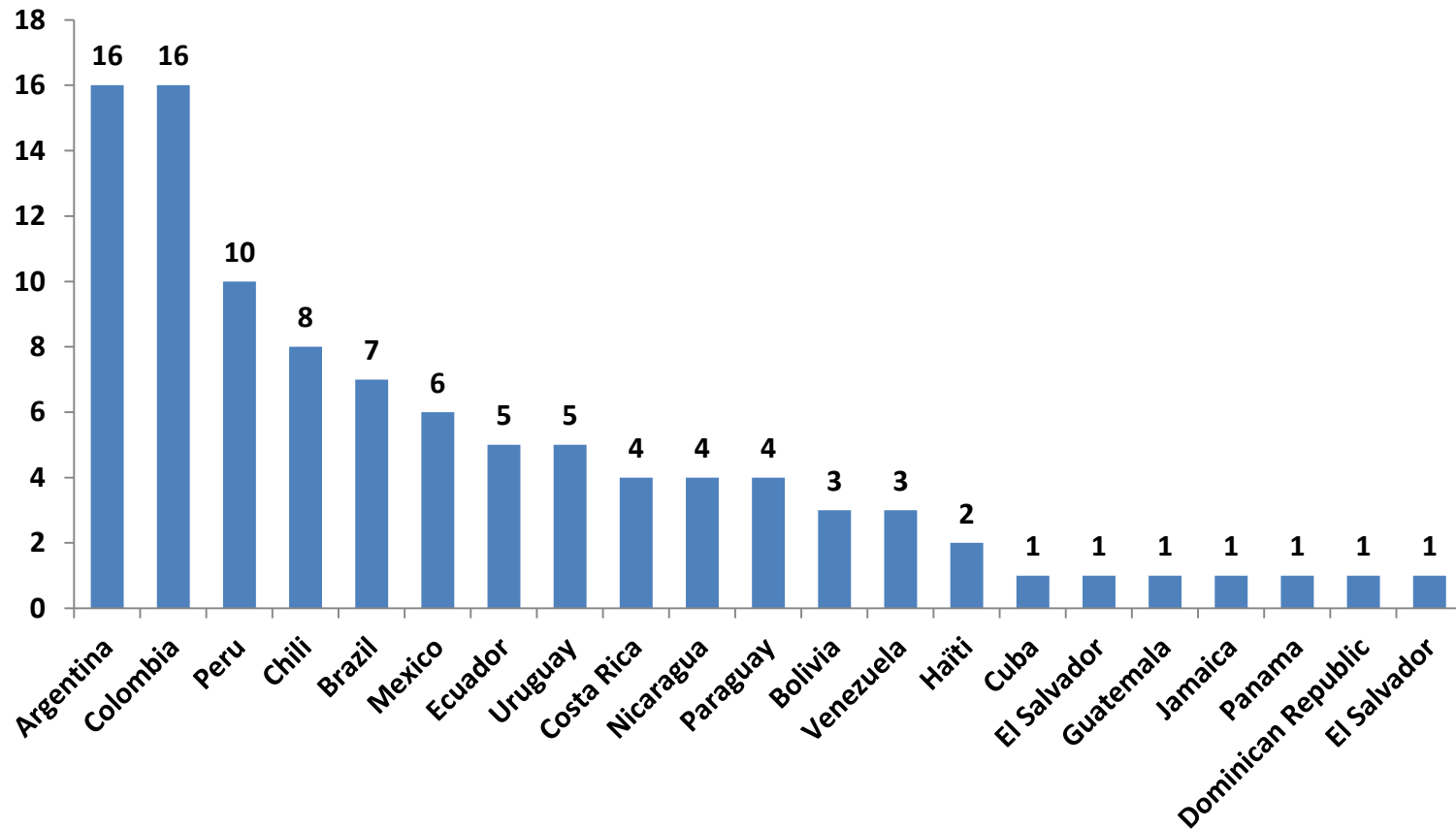
Data from 36 responses

Total number of latin american and/or caribbean partners



Data from 35 responses

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTNER COUNTRIES

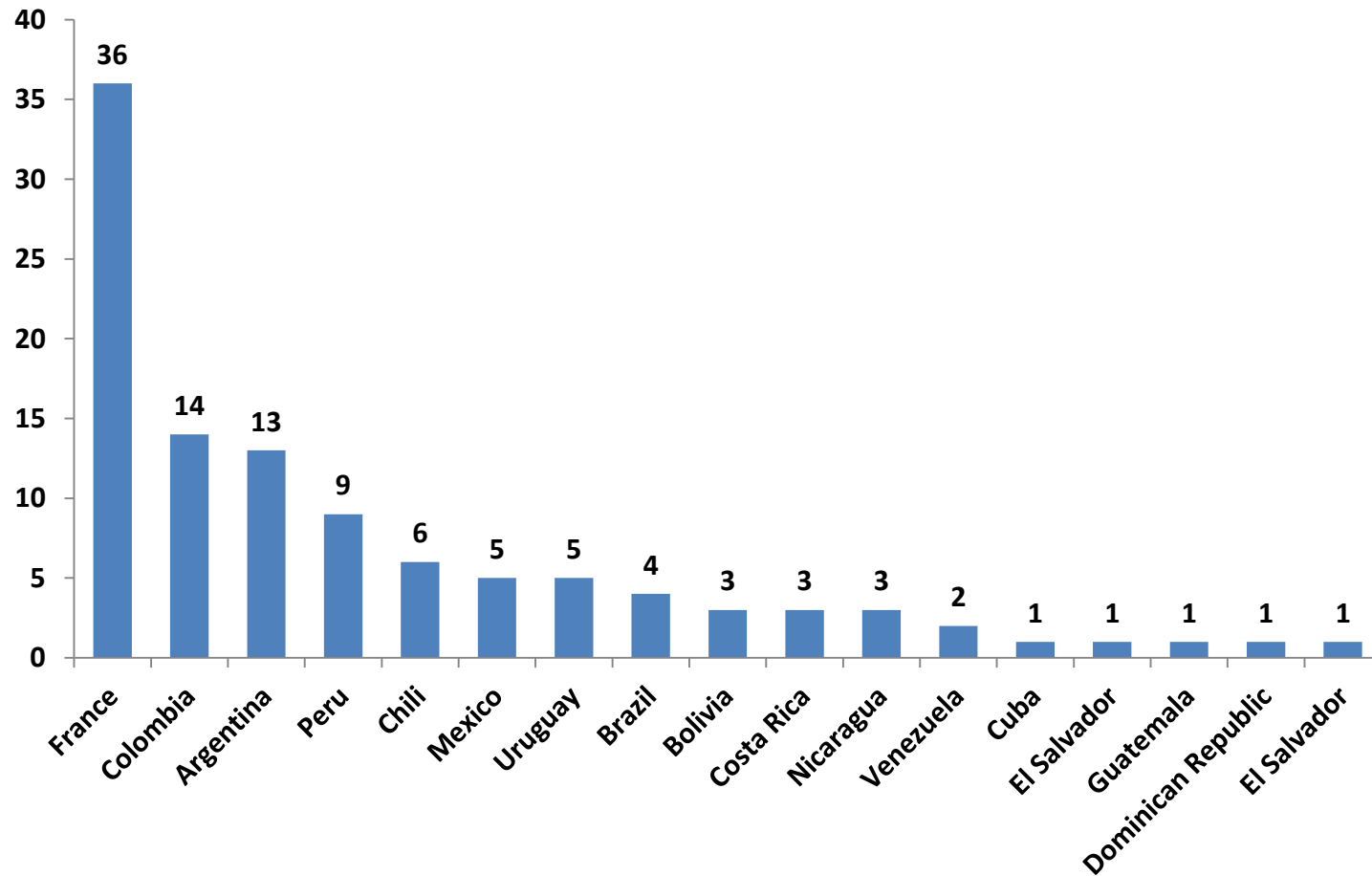


2002-2018

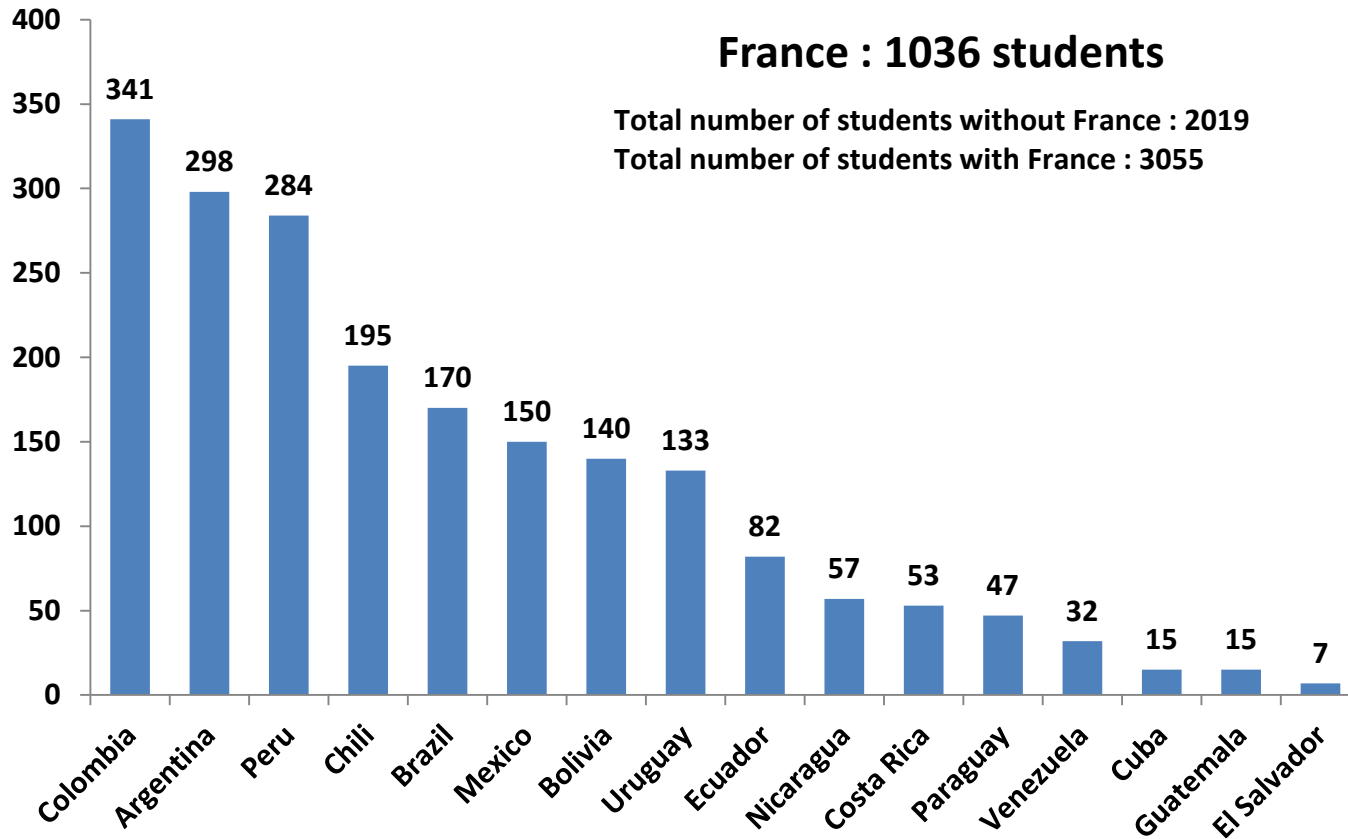
FOCUS ON EDUCATION

<http://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr>

LOCATION OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS



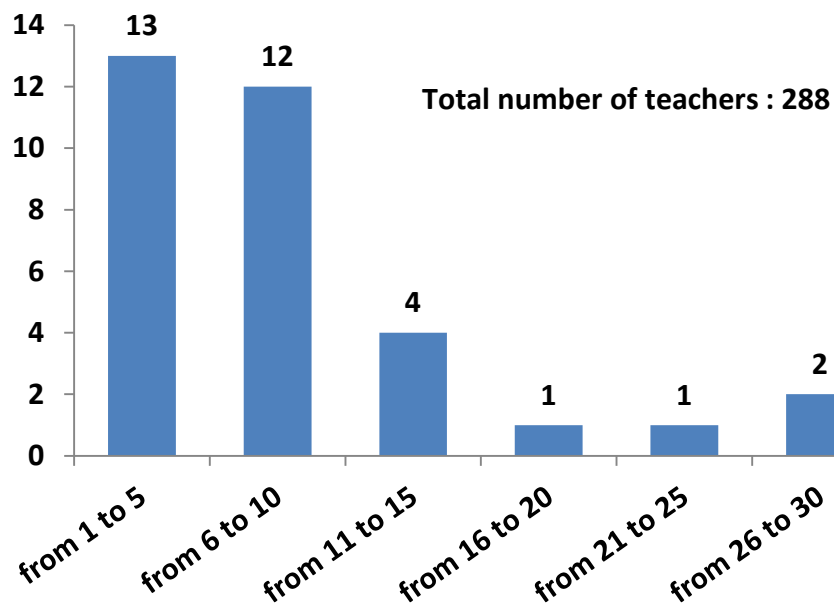
NUMBER OF STUDENTS PER COUNTRY



On average per project 122 french students and 238 LAC students are concerned by PREFALC

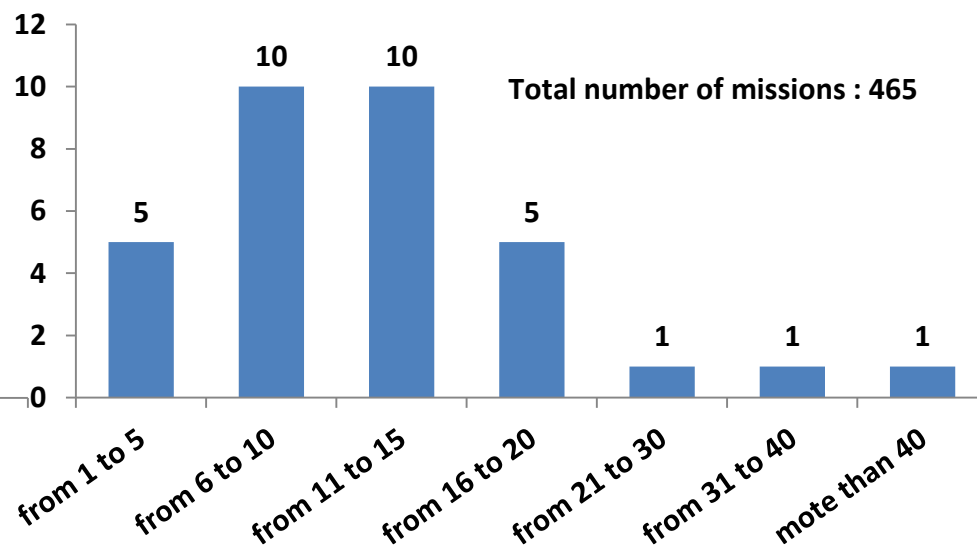
TEACHING MOBILITY

Number of teachers in mobility per project



On average 8 teachers in mobility per project and 17 teachers in mobility per year

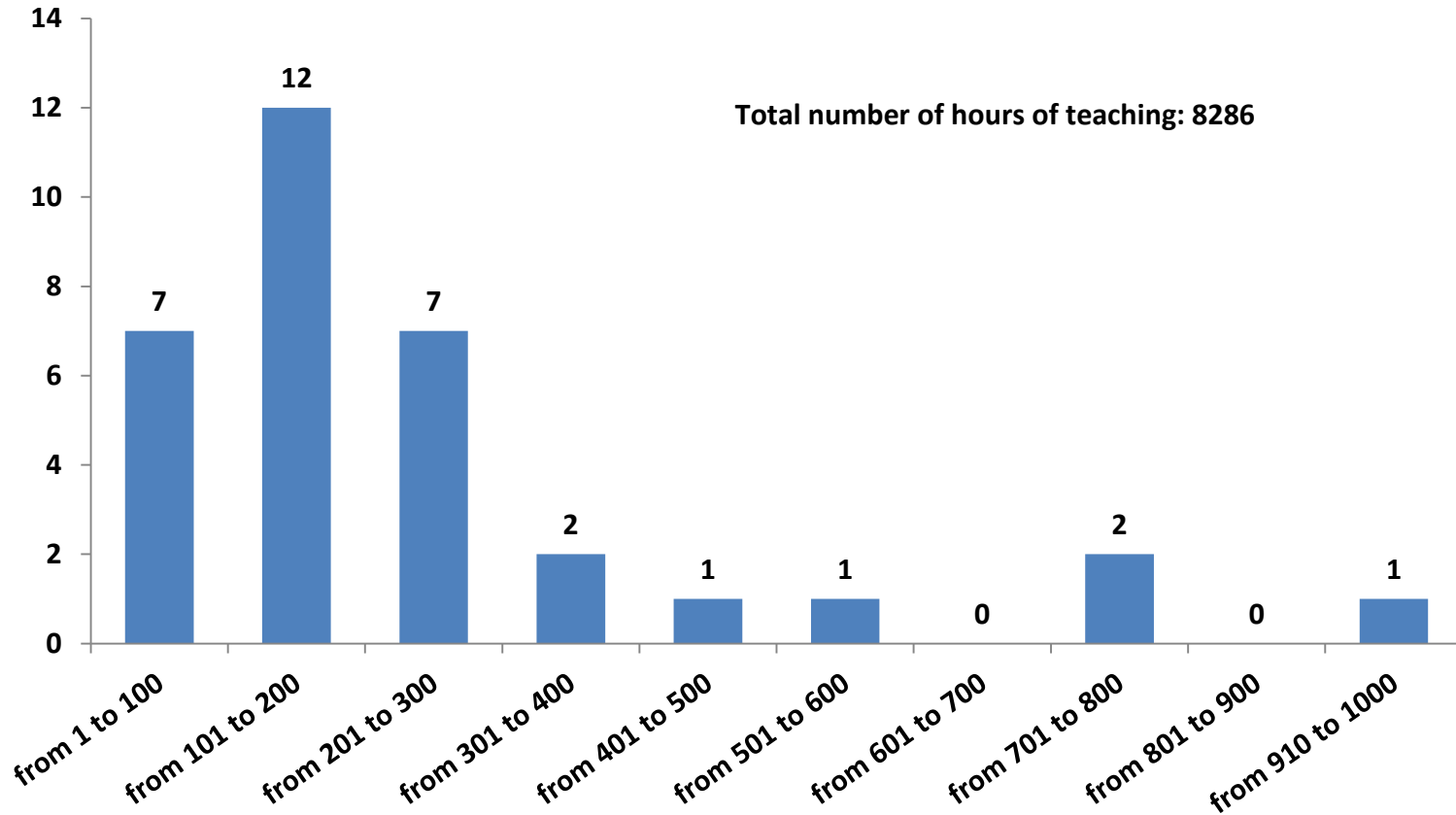
Number of missions abroad per project



On average 13 missions per project and 27 missions per year

TEACHING HOURS

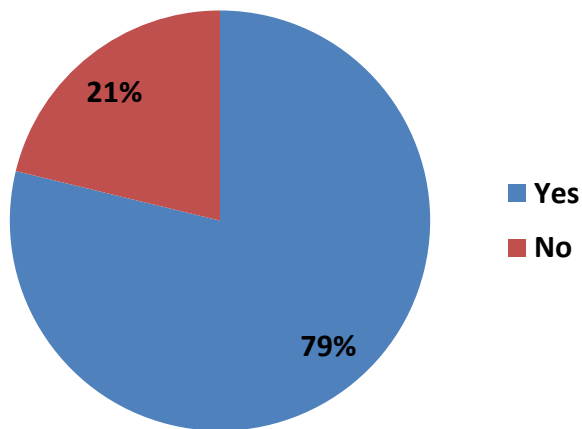
Number of hours of teaching per project



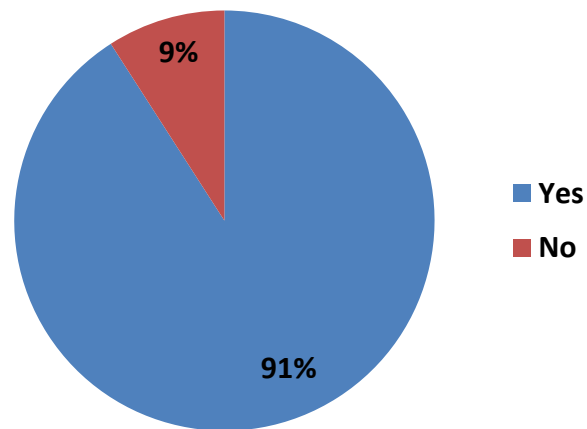
On average 975 hours of teaching per project

EDUCATION : COMPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

French validation of teaching units



Other activities besides teaching

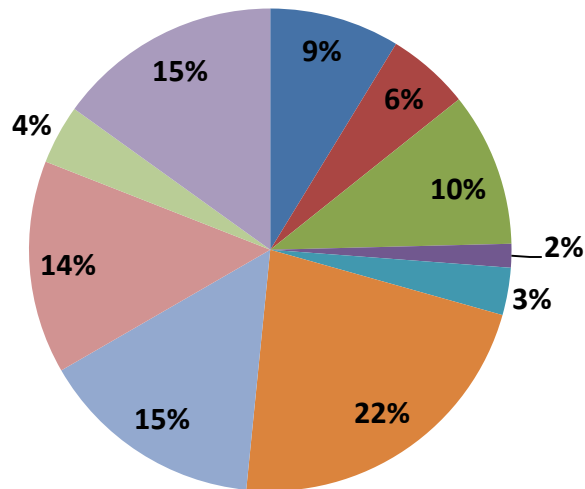




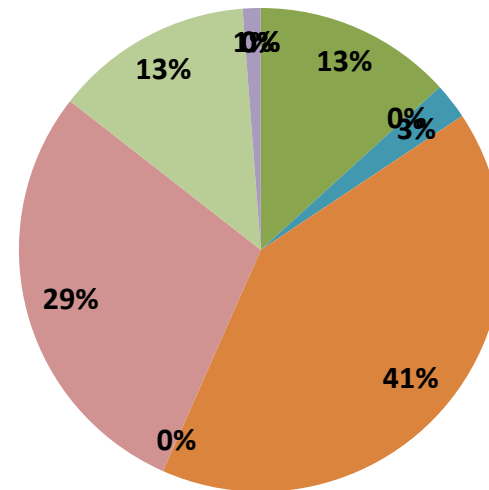
SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTION 2002-2018

SCIENTIFIC DOMAINS OF PROJECTS

Total number of funded projects : **126**



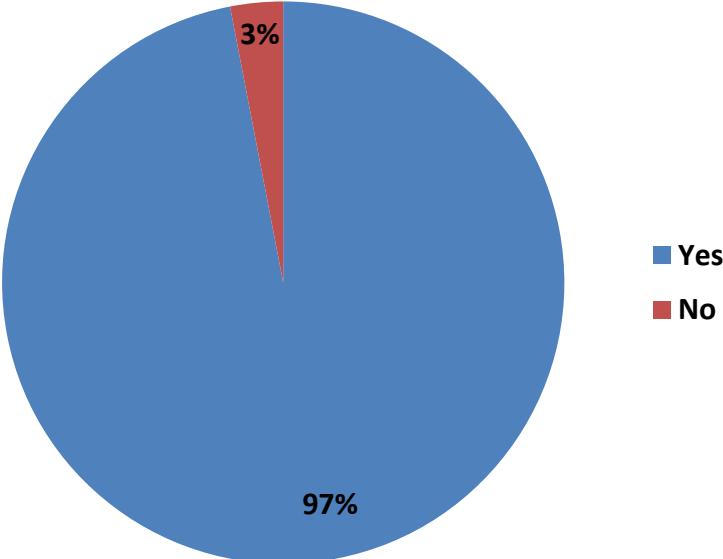
Percentage of copublications (36 responses)



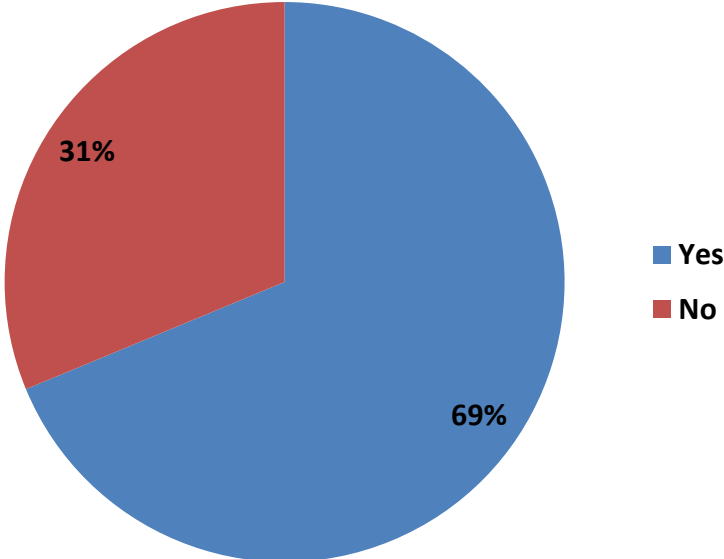
- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| ■ Mathematics | ■ Physics |
| ■ Marine/Earth/Planet Sciences | ■ Chemistry |
| ■ Biology and Health | ■ Humanities |
| ■ Social Sciences | ■ Engineering Sciences |
| ■ Information Technology | ■ Agronomy/Ecology |

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER A PREFALC PROJECT ?

CONTINUATION OF THE COLLABORATION (1/5)



Continuation of the collaboration : **97%**



Continuation of the collaboration with other sources of subvention : **69%**

Data from 33 responses (continuation) and 32 responses (financing)

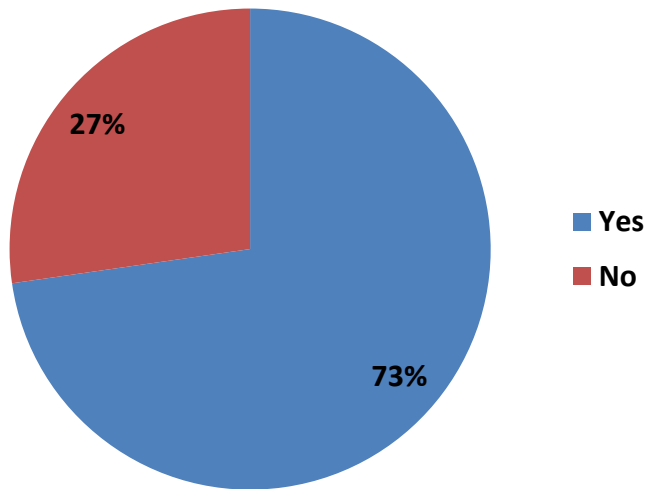
CONTINUATION OF THE COLLABORATION (2/5)

97% of the collaborations continued after the PREFALC project

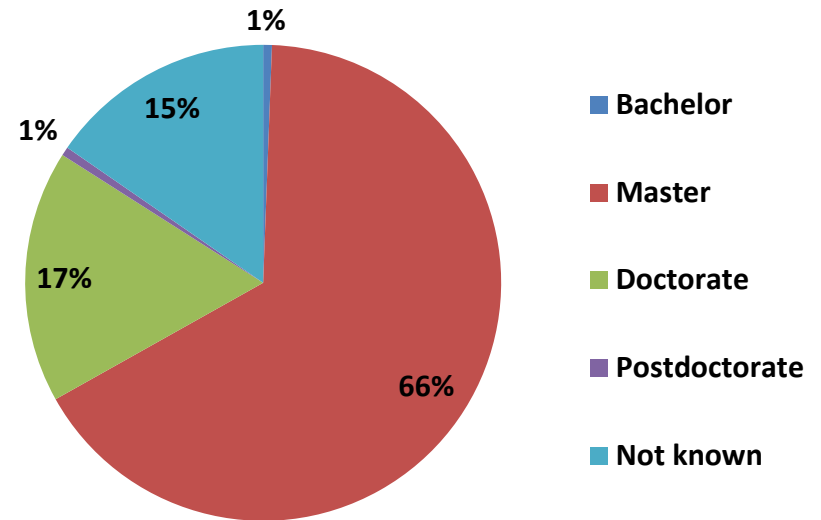
Which activities?	
On-going of the agreement	28%
Initiation of a research program	23%
Master level education	14%
Master level education : joint diplomation	9%
Others	26%

STUDENT MOBILITY POST PROJECT (1/4)

Have you been informed about students mobility post project ?



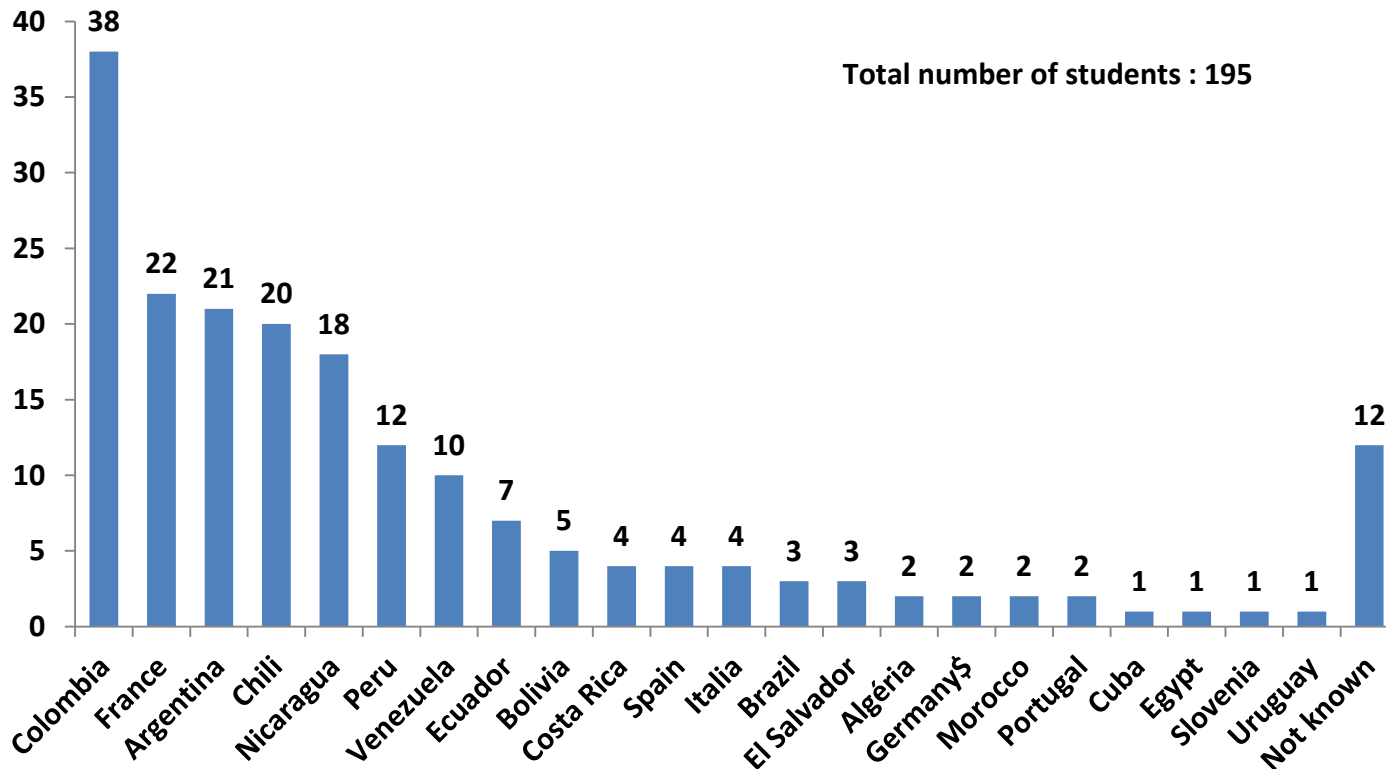
What about their academic cursus ?



Total number of students : 169

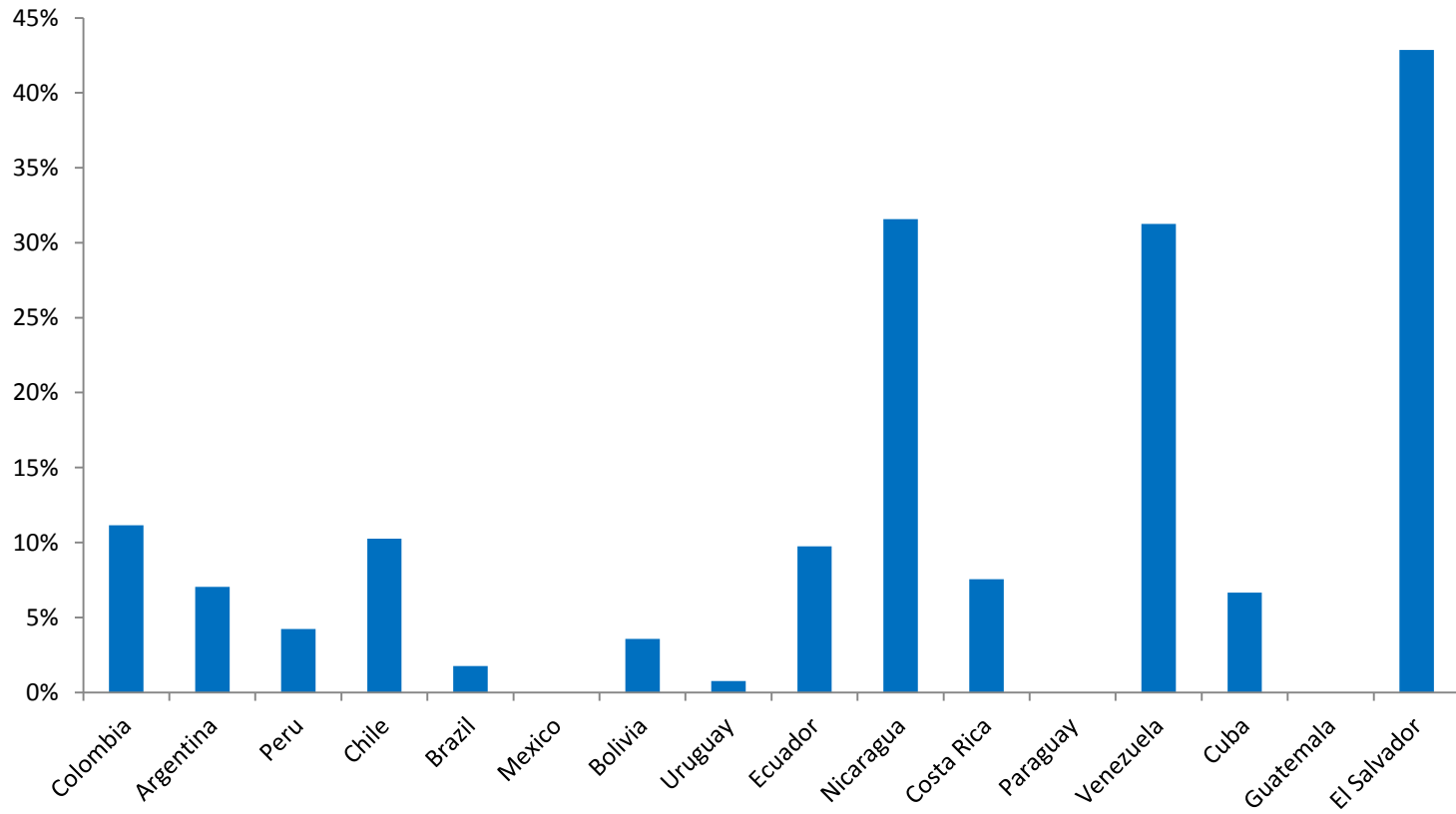
STUDENT MOBILITY POST PROJECT (2/4)

Student mobility post project : number of students per country



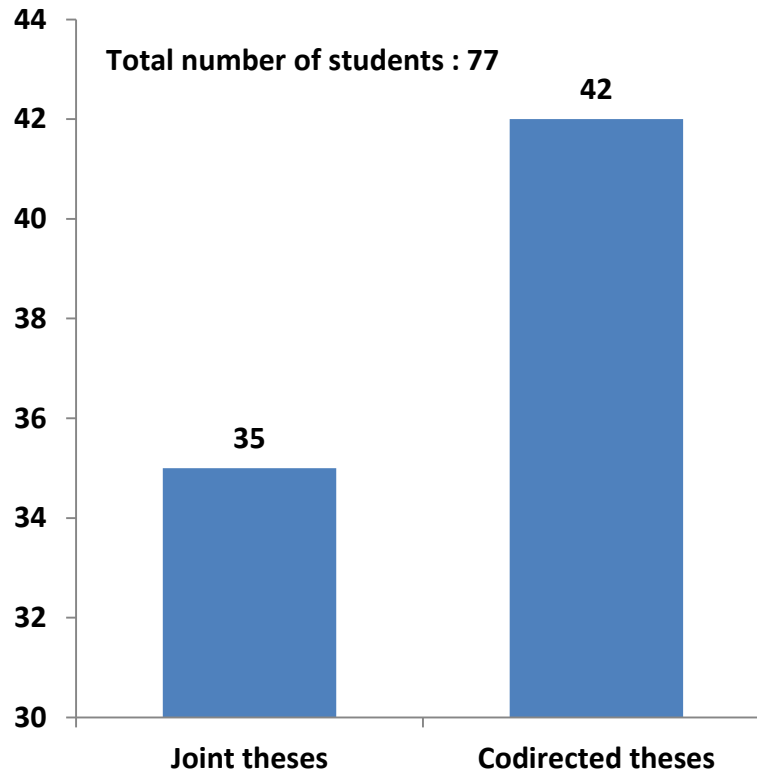
STUDENT MOBILITY POST PROJECT (3/4)

Student mobility post project : number of students in mobility post project relative to the number of students in the projects



STUDENT MOBILITY POST PROJECT (4/4)

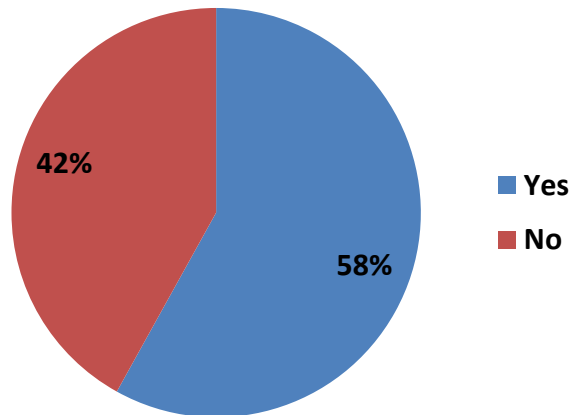
How many joint or codirected theses post project ?



On average 9 theses per project

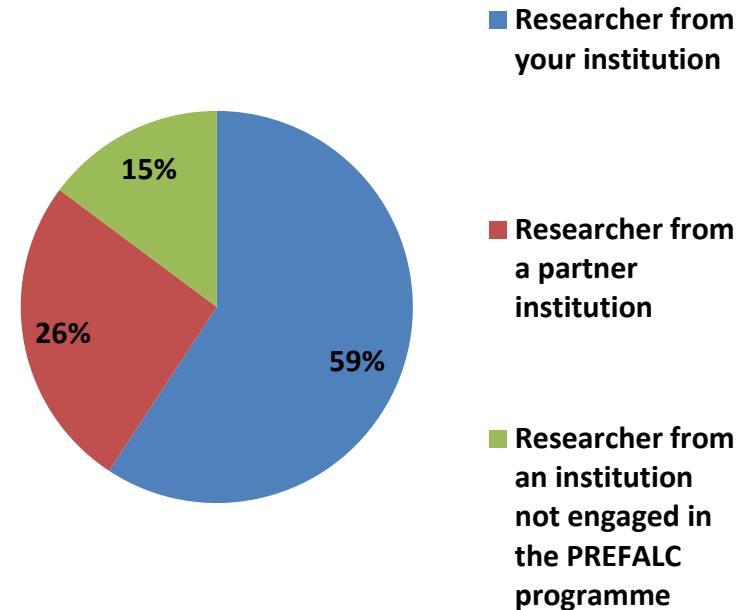
WIDENING OF THE PROGRAM

Has your experience of the PREFALC program incitated other researchers to apply to this program ?



Data from 31 responses

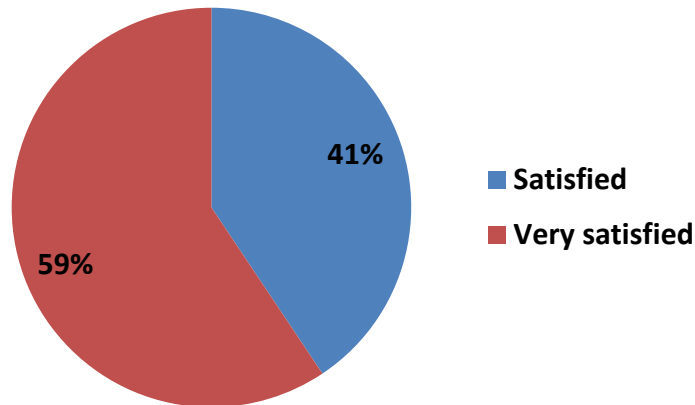
Which researchers ?



Data from 27 responses

GENERAL OPINION OF FRENCH PIS ON THE PROGRAM (1/3)

100% of French principal investigators are satisfied



Data from 32 responses

GENERAL OPINION OF FRENCH PIS ON THE PROGRAM (2/3) POSITIVE COMMENTS



SURVEY OF 32 FUNDED PROJECTS

Strengths of this program	Number of occurrences (out of 205)	% (out of 32)
Allows an international scientific collaboration	29	81%
Allows the mobility of the researchers	23	64%
Allows a knowledge of the country partner	23	64%
Simplicity of the application process	21	58%
Easy implementation (administrative flexibility)	20	56%
Sufficiently long duration of the projects	15	42%
Allows exchanges which allow a scientific production	14	39%
Allows the training of the young researchers	14	39%
Is used as starting for raising other funds	12	33%
Good scientific appreciation compared to the financial investment	12	33%
Financial means sufficient for the expenditure of mobility	11	31%
Transparency of the methods for selecting the projects	5	14%
Others	6	17%
<i>Total number of occurrences</i>	<i>205</i>	

GENERAL OPINION OF FRENCH PIS ON THE PROGRAM (3/3) NEGATIVE COMMENTS



SURVEY OF 32 FUNDED PROJECTS

Weaknesses of this program	Number of occurrences (out of 88)	% (out of 53)
No funding of the operation and capital expenditures	17	47%
Difficult perpetuation of collaboration	15	42%
Financial means insufficient for the expenditure of mobility (transport)	14	39%
Financial means insufficient for the expenditure of mobility (per diem)	14	39%
Too short duration of the projects	12	33%
Administrative heaviness of the missions management	5	14%
Insufficient communication on the evaluation's results	4	11%
Lack of transparency on the methods of projects selection	2	6%
Heaviness of the process of applications	0	0%
Other	5	14%
Number of occurrences	88	

PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS

Preliminary conclusions suggest that the funding scheme has efficiently contributed to create (or to maintain) fruitful and long-term educational cooperation between France and latino-american and/or caribbean partners



High number of students involved in the program

High number of mobilities

Set up of joint formations

Scientific impact and performant number of co-publications

High rate of continuation of collaborations



Low number of applications

Decrease in the number of applications

Generous rate of selection

PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Improve the communication for the call for offer**
- **Better define the different scientific domains in order to reduce the heterogeneity**
- **Adapt the amount of fundings**
- **Open the support to other actions such as lessons, seminars, internet trainings...**

French national ministries (MESRI / MEAE) will provide a complete analysis of the survey. It will be sent to the recipients of the funding and participants in this symposium.

CONTACTS

robert.gardette@recherche.gouv.fr

marie-pierre.macian@recherche.gouv.fr

christophe.delacourt@recherche.gouv.fr

Thank you for your attention