FRANCE – LATIN AMERICA/CARIBBEANS

Scientific impact of the program PREFALC (2002-2018)

MESRI-DAEI / MEAE

2021

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

• 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)**

Mean response rate: 48%

Relative to funded projects: 29%

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

- 32% By my university or my research institution
- 18% By a French colleague
- 14% By a South American colleague
- 14% By the Internet MESRI site
- 11% By the Internet MEAE site
- 7% By the Internet FMSH site
- 2% By the Internet Campus France site
- 2% Other
BEFORE THE PREFALC PROJECT (2/2)

How many applications have you submitted for a PREFALC project?

- 62%: 1 application
- 22%: 2 applications
- 13%: 3 applications
- 3%: 4 applications

How many PREFALC projects have you coordinated?

- 69%: 1 project
- 22%: 2 projects
- 9%: 3 projects

Data from 32 responses
SCIENTIFIC DOMAINS OF PROJECTS

Data from FMSH

- Mathematics: 15%
- Physics: 4%
- Marine/Earth/Planet Sciences: 9%
- Chemistry: 14%
- Biology and Health: 2%
- Humanities: 22%
- Social Sciences: 10%
- Engineering Sciences: 6%
- Information Technology: 1%
- Agronomy/ecology: 3%

126 funded projects

Data from the survey

- Mathematics: 31%
- Physics: 11%
- Marine/Earth/Planet Sciences: 8%
- Chemistry: 6%
- Biology and Health: 17%
- Humanities: 3%
- Social Sciences: 5%
- Engineering Sciences: 11%
- Information Technology: 8%
- Agronomy/ecology: 0%

36 responses
FRENCH PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

Data from 36 responses
FRENCH PIS (PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS) : STATUS

Professional status (at the beginning of the project)

- 42% Full Professor
- 44% Assistant Professor
- 11% Junior Researcher
- 3% Other

Data from 36 responses
IMPLICATION OF WOMEN (FRANCE)

All selected projects (122)

- Men: 69%
- Women: 31%

From the survey (36)

- Men: 78%
- Women: 22%
DURATION OF THE PROJECT (MONTHS)

Data from 36 responses
NUMBER OF PARTNERS PER PROJECT

**Total number of french partners**
- 53% (6 responses)
- 19% (4 responses)
- 17% (3 responses)
- 8% (2 responses)
- 3% (1 response)

Data from 36 responses

**Total number of latin american and/or caribbean partners**
- 37% (5 responses)
- 40% (4 responses)
- 9% (3 responses)
- 14% (2 responses)

Data from 35 responses
DISTRIBUTION OF PARTNER COUNTRIES

- Argentina: 16
- Colombia: 16
- Peru: 10
- Chile: 8
- Brazil: 7
- Mexico: 6
- Ecuador: 5
- Uruguay: 5
- Costa Rica: 4
- Nicaragua: 4
- Paraguay: 4
- Bolivia: 3
- Venezuela: 3
- Haiti: 2
- Cuba: 1
- El Salvador: 1
- Guatemala: 1
- Jamaica: 1
- Panama: 1
- Dominican Republic: 1
- El Salvador: 1
LOCATION OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS
NUMBER OF STUDENTS PER COUNTRY

France : 1036 students
Total number of students without France : 2019
Total number of students with France : 3055

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of teachers in mobility per project</th>
<th>Number of missions abroad per project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>from 1 to 5</td>
<td>from 1 to 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>from 6 to 10</td>
<td>from 6 to 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>from 11 to 15</td>
<td>from 11 to 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>from 16 to 20</td>
<td>from 16 to 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>from 21 to 25</td>
<td>from 21 to 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>from 26 to 30</td>
<td>from 26 to 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of teachers: 288</td>
<td>Total number of missions: 465</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

Total number of hours of teaching: 8286
French validation of teaching units: 79% Yes, 21% No.

Other activities besides teaching: 91% Yes, 9% No.
SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTION 2002-2018
SCIENTIFIC DOMAINS OF PROJECTS

Total number of funded projects: **126**

- Mathematics: 15%
- Physics: 22%
- Marine/Earth/Planet Sciences: 10%
- Chemistry: 3%
- Biology and Health: 6%
- Social Sciences: 14%
- Information Technology: 9%
- Humanities: 4%
- Engineering Sciences: 15%
- Agronomy/Ecology: 2%

Percentage of copublications (36 responses):

- Mathematics: 0%
- Physics: 41%
- Marine/Earth/Planet Sciences: 0%
- Chemistry: 3%
- Biology and Health: 41%
- Social Sciences: 0%
- Information Technology: 13%
- Humanities: 0%
- Engineering Sciences: 13%
- Agronomy/Ecology: 10%
WHAT HAPPENS AFTER A PREFALC PROJECT?
Continuation of the collaboration: 97%

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

Data from 33 responses (continuation) and 32 responses (financing)
97% of the collaborations continued after the PREFALC project

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Which activities</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On-going of the agreement</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initiation of a research program</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master level education</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master level education : joint diplomation</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Have you been informed about students mobility post project?

- Yes: 73%
- No: 27%

What about their academic cursus?

- Bachelor: 66%
- Master: 17%
- Doctorate: 15%
- Postdoctorate: 1%
- Not known: 1%

Total number of students: 169
Student mobility post project: number of students per country

Total number of students: 195
Student mobility post project: number of students in mobility post project relative to the number of students in the projects.
How many joint or codirected theses post project?

Total number of students: 77

- Joint theses: 35
- Codirected theses: 42

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?

- Yes: 58%
- No: 42%

Which researchers?

Data from 31 responses:

- Researcher from your institution: 59%
- Researcher from a partner institution: 15%
- Researcher from an institution not engaged in the PREFALC programme: 26%

Data from 27 responses:
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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strengths of this program</th>
<th>Number of occurencies (out of 205)</th>
<th>% (out of 32)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allows an international scientific collaboration</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allows the mobility of the researchers</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allows a knowledge of the country partner</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simplicity of the application process</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easy implementation (administrative flexibility)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sufficiently long duration of the projects</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allows exchanges which allow a scientific production</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allows the training of the young researchers</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is used as starting for raising other funds</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good scientific appreciation compared to the financial investment</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial means sufficient for the expenditure of mobility</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transparency of the methods for selecting the projects</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total number of occurencies</strong></td>
<td><strong>205</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## GENERAL OPINION OF FRENCH PIS ON THE PROGRAM (3/3) NEGATIVE COMMENTS

### SURVEY OF 32 FUNDED PROJECTS

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

- Improve the communication for the call for offer
- Better define the different scientific domains in order to reduce the heterogenity
- 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

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Thank you for your attention