

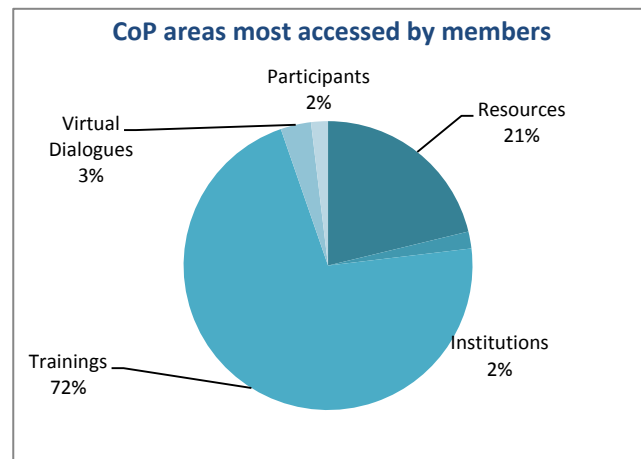
Community of Practice (CoP) Member Survey, March 2017 Summary of Findings

In March 2017, the [UN Women Training Centre Community of Practice \(CoP\)](#) circulated a survey among its members to learn more about their interests. The survey will inform the design and delivery of CoP activities in 2017 – ensuring that these cater to the needs and interests of our members, and helping us to make the CoP a more dynamic forum for exchange and learning on training for gender equality.

Overview of Responses

The response rate for the survey was fairly strong, with a total of 267 responses from CoP members (161 in English; 82 in Spanish; and 24 in French). The vast majority (96.63%) consider the content of the CoP to be useful, and most respondents like the new CoP design (94.21%).

The survey results shed light on how often members visit the CoP platform, the reasons they do so, the aspects they consider most useful, and suggestions for changes to make the platform more dynamic, useful, and attuned to members' interests.



Current visits to the platform



The areas of the CoP most often accessed by members are training opportunities (72%), followed by resources (21%). The importance of trainings underlines the need for greater visibility to training opportunities on the CoP platform.

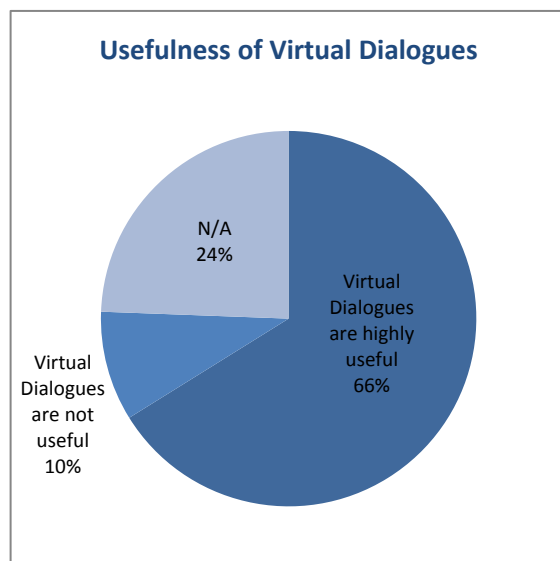
Most respondents visit the platform to deepen their knowledge and expertise (26%), access training materials and resources (24%), and view information on events and opportunities (20%). Other reasons include opportunities for collaboration; job opportunities; obtaining tools for working on gender equality; and enhancing knowledge of gender equality in users' daily lives.

Useful aspects of the CoP

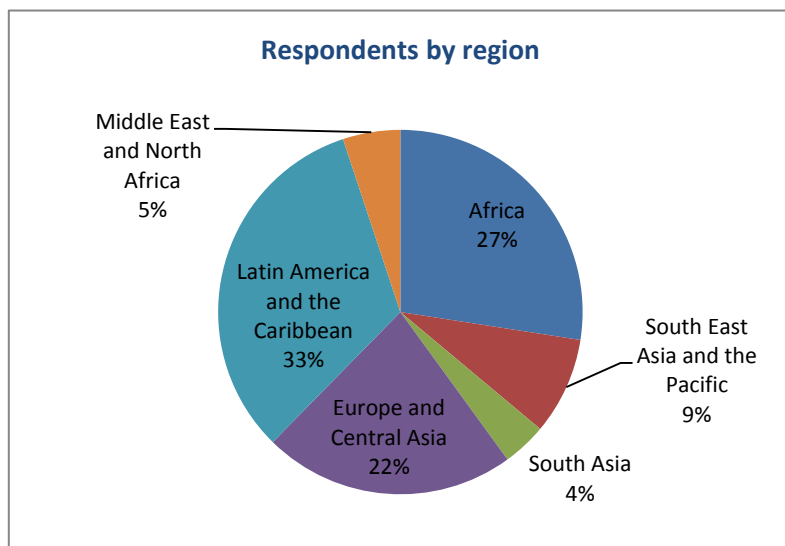
In general, respondents praised the platform as a useful site for interaction, the exchange of knowledge on training for gender equality, particularly between organisations and individuals from different countries and contexts. Responses highlighted the utility of the CoP as a “one stop site” by which they can access a wide range of up-to-date, reputable information – including useful training resources – news, and training opportunities – particularly free online courses.

Virtual Dialogues

Respondents specifically highlighted the usefulness of the Virtual Dialogues with the majority identifying them as “highly useful”. However, a high proportion of respondents (24%) replied “Not Applicable” to the question on the Virtual Dialogues. This suggests that a substantial number of CoP members are not engaged in the Virtual Dialogues, despite the fact that these are considered significantly useful overall.



Demographic characteristics of respondents

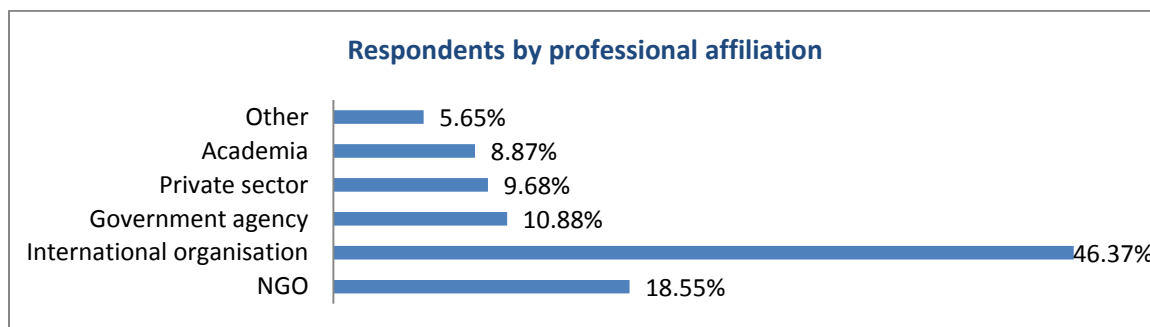


Women comprised the majority of survey respondents (76%). Nonetheless, a significant proportion of men (23%) also responded to the survey, particularly to the French-language survey (41.67%), and to a slightly lesser extent to the English survey (27.5%). Men comprised only 7.59% of Spanish-speaking survey respondents. In terms of their age, the majority of respondents are between 26 and 45 (66.45%), suggesting that CoP members are generally working professionals.

With respect to their geographic location, the bulk of respondents are based in Latin America and the Caribbean (32.55%), followed by Africa (27.45%) and Europe and Central Asia (22.35%). The majority of French speakers among the respondents are in Africa (78.26%), as are a significant proportion of English speakers (33.9%). Most Spanish-speakers are in Latin America and the Caribbean (81.01%) followed by Europe (17.72%).

Most respondents are affiliated with international organisations (46.37%). Analysis comparing responses to the English, Spanish and French surveys reveals that the bulk of English-speaking respondents work for international organisations (56.69%), including UN agencies, as do French-speaking respondents (41.67%). In both cases, a significant proportion also works with/for NGOs – 15.29% in the case of

English speakers, and 25% of French-speaking respondents. The Spanish survey, however, reveals that respondents are equally affiliated with NGOs or international organisations (20.51% each), and a significant proportion work for government agencies (17.95%). In terms of “other” occupations, respondents were also independent experts, freelance consultants, or worked for other kinds of foundations or associations.



How can we improve the CoP? Changes suggested by members

- Diversification of **content** (e.g. more information, contents, and resources from different regions)
- Greater **accessibility** (e.g. more materials in different languages, and a database of participants)
- Varied **engagement and communication** (e.g. tools or channels to engage members including social media, live-stream lectures, newsletters, testimonies, etc.)
- Simplification of **technical aspects** (e.g. making the CoP platform more user-friendly and dynamic).

Recommendations for Action

The following actions are recommended to enhance the dynamism and usefulness of the CoP:

- Create a discussion forum where members can post threads, interact, and engage in discussions with one another, overseen by the CoP Consultant as a dedicated moderator.
- Make the platform more user-friendly/easier to navigate – e.g. by making the list of training opportunities easier to consult by ensuring that the newest opportunities automatically appear first.
- Continue to add in up-to-date training resources, with a focus on issues not already covered within the current database, e.g. more resources from different regions.
- Encourage direct dialogue between members both through an open discussion forum and by instituting a function by which members can send one another private messages.
- Enhance the visibility of the Virtual Dialogues via promotion on UN Women social media channels.
- Clearly distinguish between the two aspects of the Virtual Dialogues – Webinars and the three-week long dedicated forum discussion – in order to incentivize participation in *both*.
- Follow-through on the planned activities in the CoP Consultants Work Plan to collect and present testimonials/personal stories from experts in the field, trainers and training participants, to showcase real experiences of training, and disseminate these on the CoP platform.
- Promote the UN Women Training Centre’s lecture series via the CoP.
- Translate more key messages on the CoP into Spanish and French wherever possible.
- Seek ways of connecting with institutions/specialists in other fields and grass-roots organisations.