

EQALM Microbiology Working Group

Survey Results

January 2016

The contents of this report express the responses and opinions expressed by those organizations that chose to respond to the EQALM Microbiology Working Group electronic survey that was sent out November 2015—January 16. Organizations received 3 notices of the survey and opportunities to respond.

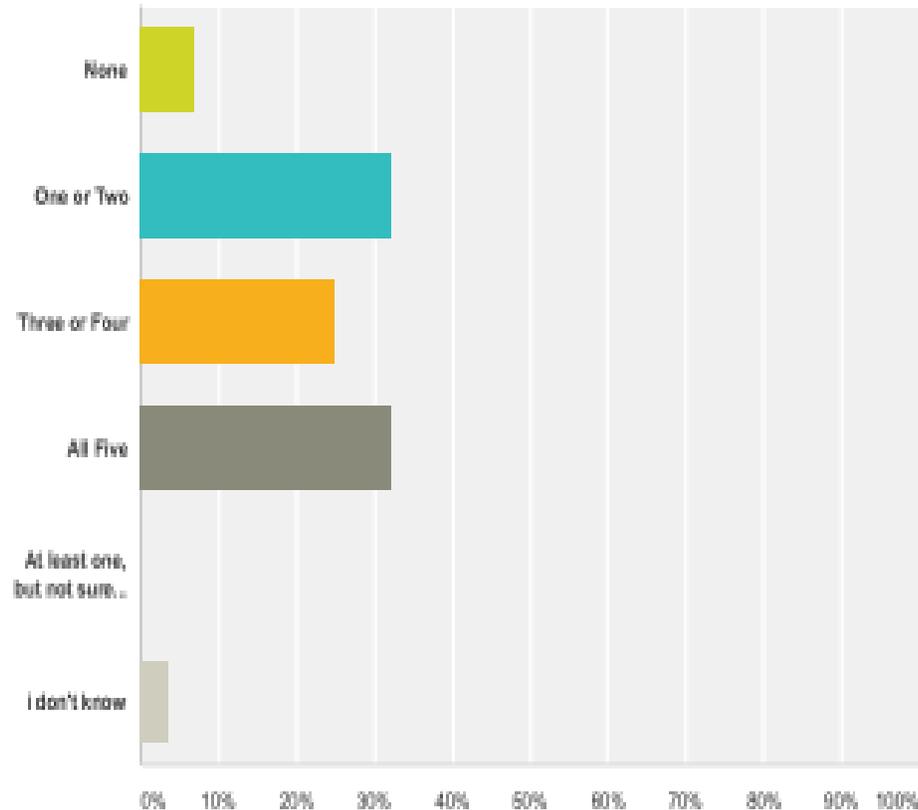
In total 29 organizations from 17 countries responded with 24 responding to all questions. Responders were all prior EQALM Working Group Meeting attendants and included participants both from Europe and beyond.

Your participation in this survey is much appreciated.

EQALM Microbiology Working Group Survey

Q2 How many EQALM Microbiology Working Group meetings have you (or others from your organization) attended over the last 5 years?

Answered: 28 Skipped: 1

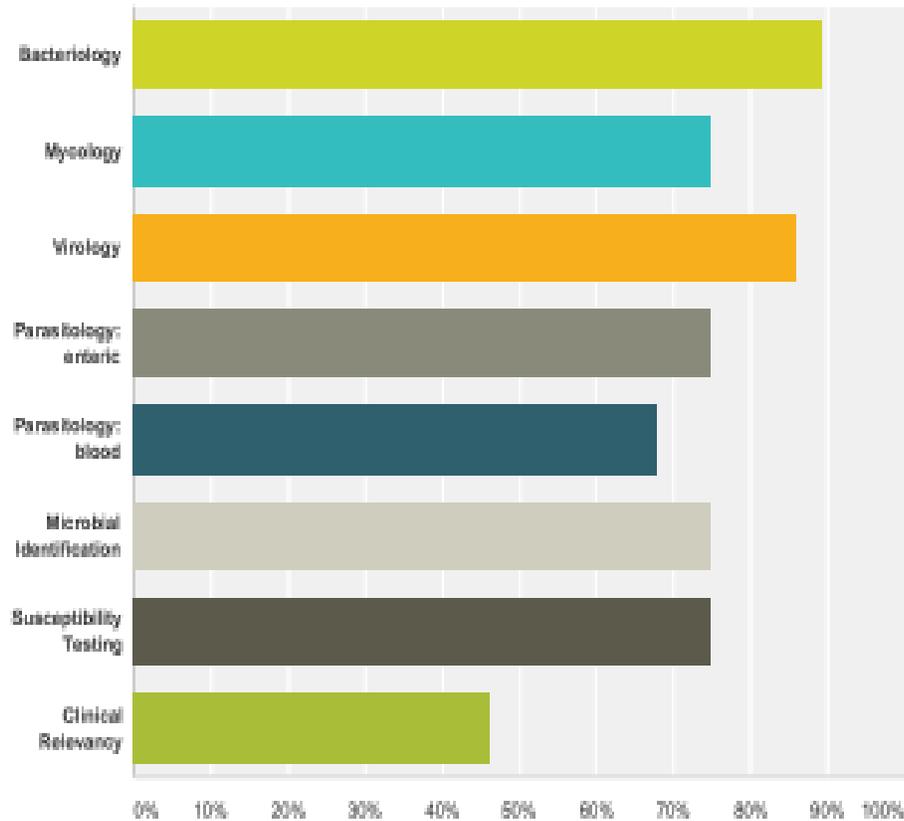


Answer Choices	Responses
None	7.14% 2
One or Two	32.14% 9
Three or Four	25.00% 7
All Five	32.14% 9
At least one, but not sure how many	0.00% 0
I don't know	3.57% 1
Total	28

EQALM Microbiology Working Group Survey

Q3 Which components of Microbiology does your EQA program address?(Check all that apply)

Answered: 25 Skipped: 1

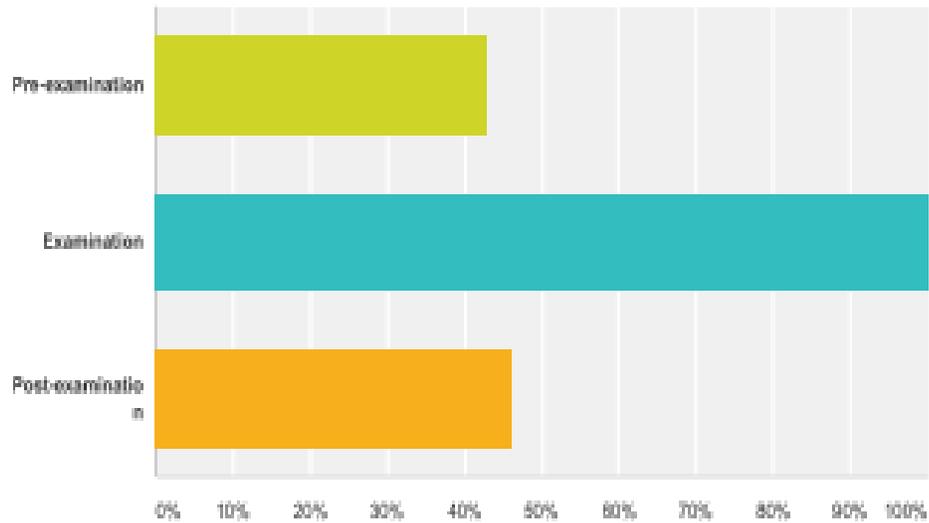


Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Bacteriology	88.00%	25
Mycology	76.00%	21
Virology	84.00%	24
Parasitology: enteric	76.00%	21
Parasitology: blood	68.00%	19
Microbial Identification	76.00%	21
Susceptibility Testing	76.00%	21
Clinical Relevancy	48.00%	13
Total Respondents: 28		

EQALM Microbiology Working Group Survey

Q4 Which phase or phases of the laboratory cycle does your EQA program address? Check all that apply

Answered: 28 Skipped: 1

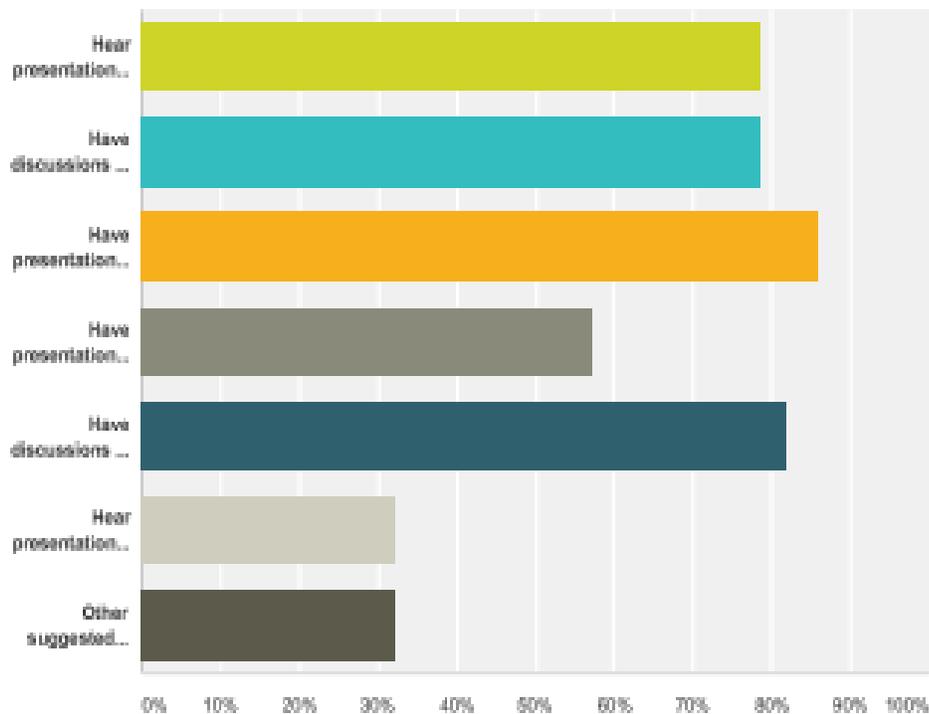


Answer Choices	Responses
Pre-examination	42.86% 12
Examination	100.00% 28
Post-examination	46.43% 13
Total Respondents: 28	

EQALM Microbiology Working Group Survey

Q5 What are the activities you would like to see in future EQALM Microbiology Working Group? Check any or all of the listed activities, or include others in the Comment Box

Answered: 28 Skipped: 1

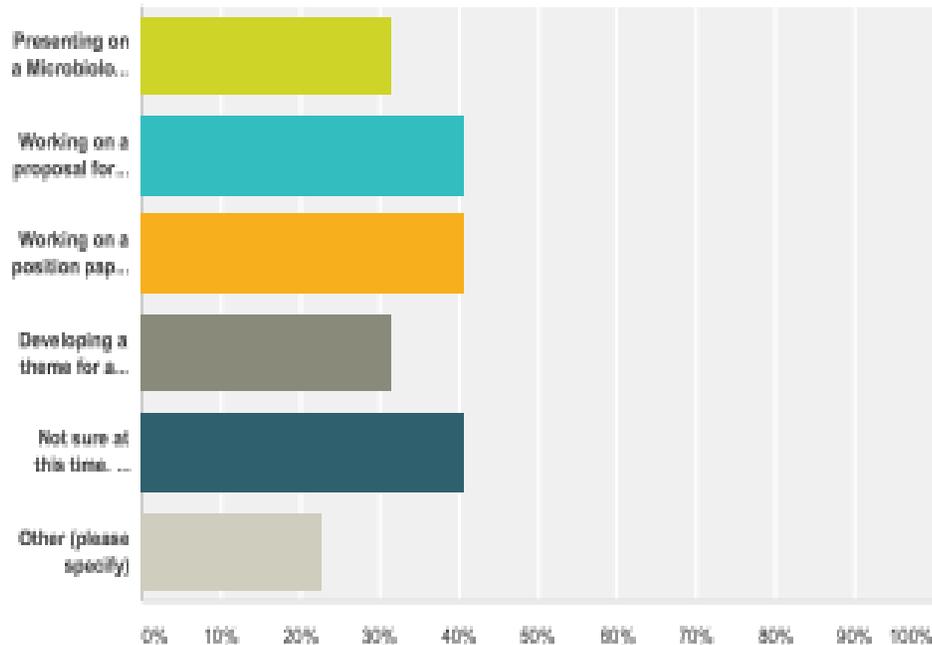


Answer Choices	Responses
Hear presentations from other Microbiology EQA groups on current activities in their organizations	78.57% 22
Have discussions on possible shared Microbiology EQA projects in which we might be able to participate	78.57% 22
Have presentations on new or novel activities/EQA projects that other organizations are developing that might enhance Microbiology EQA	85.71% 24
Have presentations from suppliers that have new or developing products that could enhance Microbiology EQA	57.14% 16
Have discussions on topics (such as changing international regulations) that could potentially impact on the delivery of Microbiology EQA products and/or services.	82.14% 23
Hear presentations on current activities in my organization	32.14% 9
Other suggested topics?	32.14% 9
Total Respondents: 28	

EQALM Microbiology Working Group Survey

Q6 We would like to participate in a future Microbiology Working Group meeting by... (You may check more than one response)

Answered: 22 Skipped: 7



Answer Choices	Responses
Presenting on a Microbiology EGA subject of interest to us.	31.82% 7
Working on a proposal for a joint Microbiology EGA project	40.91% 9
Working on a position paper that would be of interest for Microbiology EGA	40.91% 9
Developing a theme for a survey that could be sent out to Microbiology EGA Working Group members.	31.82% 7
Not sure at this time. Ask us again later.	40.91% 9
Other (please specify)	22.73% 5
Total Respondents: 22	

EQALM Microbiology Working Group Survey

Q7 If you might be interested in giving a presentation on a topic during a Microbiology Working Group meeting, please provide a short description of the topic.

Answered: 10 Skipped: 19

#	Responses	Date
1	I already made two presentations during the EQALM meetings (Birmingham 2008 and Bergen 2015), part of them regarding the rapid tests in microbiology in Switzerland.	12/8/2015 3:53 AM
2	Extrapolating EQAs results to the quality health care on the population level	12/5/2015 11:18 AM
3	Multi resistant control	12/2/2015 10:08 AM
4	To present our experience after 18 years with 200 private and public laboratories	12/2/2015 7:24 AM
5	Molecular Diagnostics for intestinal parasites; 4 years experience of the Dutch QC program with real and unfixed stool samples.	11/30/2015 3:01 AM
6	Depends on the evolution (see answer to question 6)	11/27/2015 7:43 AM
7	Global HPV proficiency studies - outcome and implications	11/18/2015 12:49 AM
8	Microbiology EQA in Romania	11/13/2015 1:01 AM
9	Bioestatistis Tool to uses to interpret the results	11/12/2015 5:04 PM
10	The use of dried blood spot for molecular diagnosis	11/12/2015 1:21 AM

EQALM Microbiology Working Group Survey

Q8 If you would be interested in working on a survey that would be of interest to the Microbiology Working Group, please give a short description of the topic and some of the questions you might want to include.

Answered: 8 Skipped: 21

#	Responses	Date
1	Multi resistant control	12/2/2015 10:08 AM
2	How to increase the number of participants in the External Quality Assessment program	12/2/2015 7:24 AM
3	Depends on the evolution (see answer to question 6)	11/27/2015 7:43 AM
4	How does each organisation follow up the laboratory results of their EQA programs and to see if action for improvements have been taken or that the whole exercise of EQA has been taken seriously?	11/18/2015 12:49 AM
5	Compare scoring schemes	11/13/2015 1:07 AM
6	Susceptibility for Microbiology EQA materials	11/13/2015 1:01 AM
7	1-Pre-examination PT 2-True Turnaround Time	11/12/2015 5:49 PM
8	Reference material to give to the participants or how to prepare Quality Material	11/12/2015 5:04 PM

EQALM Microbiology Working Group Survey

Q9 Is there a subject around which you believe it would be relevant for the EQALM Microbiology Working Group to develop a position paper?

Answered: 7 Skipped: 22

#	Responses	Date
1	Minimum standards in microbiology EQAs	12/5/2015 11:18 AM
2	yes	12/2/2015 10:08 AM
3	Depends on the evolution (see answer to question 6)	11/27/2015 7:43 AM
4	Need to give some more thought on this.	11/18/2015 12:49 AM
5	Creating a bank (repository) of scenarios for pre- and post assessment	11/13/2015 1:07 AM
6	Transport of Dangerous Goods	11/12/2015 5:49 PM
7	yes it is important to training the organizer of External Quality Assessment to elaborate and produce material.	11/12/2015 5:04 PM

EQALM Microbiology Working Group Survey

Q10 We would be interested in participating on a joint Microbiology EQA project on the following theme...

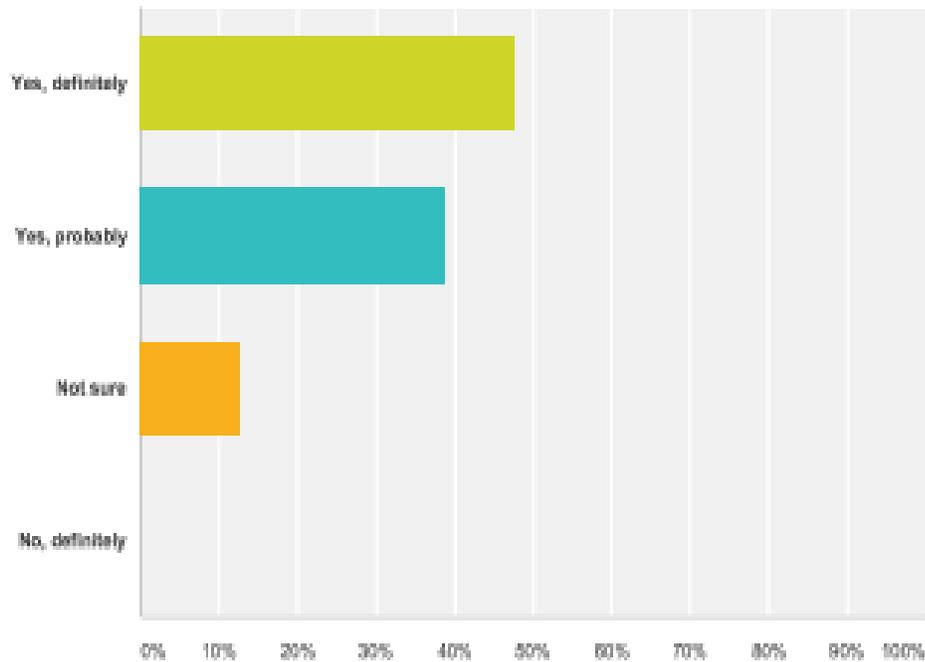
Answered: 9 Skipped: 20

#	Responses	Date
1	results evaluation comutability (how to prepare samples)	1/13/2016 5:58 AM
2	- Developing of EQA of pre-examination phase and a collection of clinical / laboratory cases/conditions for this kind of scheme.	12/9/2015 7:15 AM
3	detection of multiresistance in bacteria	12/5/2015 11:18 AM
4	Not this time	12/2/2015 10:08 AM
5	To improve de diagnostic of urine infections particularly positve gram. To improve the selection of antibiotics por Urine infections.	12/2/2015 7:24 AM
6	It depends on what would be proposed. "New" proposals also have to be discussed within the meeting with our comittee of experts before being accepted.	11/27/2015 7:43 AM
7	Borrelia diagnosis	11/18/2015 12:49 AM
8	pre-analytical EQA for Microbiology	11/13/2015 1:01 AM
9	Our experience in Guatemala for 18 years and are participating about 200 Guatemalan Medical Laboratories	11/12/2015 5:04 PM

EQALM Microbiology Working Group Survey

Q11 Is your organization planning to participate Microbiology Working Group at the 2016 EQALM meeting in Barcelona Spain?

Answered: 23 Skipped: 6



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes, definitely	47.83%	11
Yes, probably	38.13%	9
Not sure	13.04%	3
No, definitely	0.00%	0
Total		23

EQALM Microbiology Working Group Survey

Q12 Thank you for participating in this survey. A summary report, which will not include the identification information from the Demographics section, will be sent to participants. Please leave any final comments.

Answered: 8 Skipped: 21

#	Responses	Date
1	Thank you for this opportunity.	12/9/2015 7:17 AM
2	Thank you for the survey!	12/8/2015 3:53 AM
3	This is an respons from several participants [REDACTED] who were present at EQALM Meeting in Bergen. We have a little EQA scheme to primary Health care due to Microbiology. Many of the topics in your survey is not very relevant for us.	12/3/2015 3:26 AM
4	congratulations	12/2/2015 10:09 AM
5	it is very important this survey to know the real situation of Exdernal Quality Program in each country.	12/2/2015 7:25 AM
6	The "biggest problem" will probably be that the majority of organizers don't produce their own samples but by them (from other organizers or companies; which has lead in the past to the fact that it were always the same 3 or 4 organisations gave presentations. it will be a challenge to find a manner in which "non sample-producing" organizers could participate.	11/27/2015 7:48 AM
7	Good survey m4like and timely following shortly after the meeting. Best wishes	11/13/2015 1:08 AM
8	Good luck!	11/13/2015 1:02 AM

Comments

The group of respondents represents approximately 65 percent of the organizations to which an email invitation was sent. The response rate may be considered as low. Part of this may reflect an absence of interest in participation or may reflect a change in the email contact for these groups. It can not be interpreted as being representative or non-representative of a larger group. It is reflective of the opinions expressed by those who chose to respond to the survey. That being said, as seen reflecting the thoughts of a group regular conference attenders (Q2) and participators in the Microbiology Working Group. This represents a solid foundation for going forward.

The group reflects the broad diversity of areas of focus in Microbiology oriented EQA (Q3) , and the emphasis on examination issues (Q4). That being said, close to half of programs say they monitor Microbiology laboratory performance beyond the technical aspects of examination.

Three questions (Q5,6,7) were asked about what the group would like to see in future meetings of the EQALM Microbiology Working Group. Some interesting offers for presentations were made. Many thanks.

Further questions (Q8.9.10) were asked about possible surveys, position papers, and common projects. We can and will discuss these further. While the number of suggestions was limited, there clearly is interest and some excellent suggestions were made.

Lastly, while I understand that a response to a survey is not an absolute commitment, it appears there is much interest in our next meeting.

As the new Chair of the Microbiology Working Group, I will move forward as we plan for our next meeting.

With thanks

Michael A Noble

Michael Noble

Chair, EQALM Microbiology Working Group