

# Strengthening National Reference Laboratories

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6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the  
**Global Soil  
Laboratory  
Network**  
(GLOSOLAN)



**GLOSOLAN**  
GLOBAL SOIL LABORATORY NETWORK





Operates through  
Regional Soil Laboratory Networks  
(RESOLANs)



Operates at the national level through **registered laboratories** and **National Reference Laboratories** especially, which are tasked to establish **National Soil Laboratory Networks**

*Global  
(GLOSOLAN)*



*Regional  
(RESOLAN)*



*National  
(NASOLAN)*

National Reference Laboratories are **critical** to the implementation of GLOSOLAN activities at the country level



## National Reference Laboratories are tasked to:

- Attend the meetings of GLOSOLAN and their RESOLAN in order to contribute to regional and global decision making;
- Attend regional and global trainings on the implementation of good laboratory practices and other GLOSOLAN/RESOLANs initiatives;
- Implement GLOSOLAN standards and decisions;
- Timely reply to GLOSOLAN emails, providing information such as the laboratory procedures they daily implement as needed;
- Promote GLOSOLAN, motivating other laboratories in their country and region to join the network;
- Lead the establishment of their National Soil Laboratory Network (NASOLAN) and the organization of national trainings and meetings at the purpose of transferring the knowledge and skills acquired in GLOSOLAN/RESOLANs to other laboratories;
- Report on their activities to their GSP national focal points and to the GLOSOLAN Coordinator as needed.

<https://www.fao.org/3/ca7509en/ca7509en.pdf>

## Considerations:

- So far National Reference Laboratories (NRLs) have been appointed by the national focal point for a country to the GSP
- In some countries, National Reference Laboratories are partially or fully NOT complying with their TORs

## **WHAT TO DO?**

### Proposals from the RESOLANs:

1. Establish a monitoring scheme for National Reference Laboratories, e.g. the online survey they completed in 2022 APPROVED
2. Elect NRLs instead of having them appointed by the GSP focal points. NASOLANs to discuss what lab would better serve in the position and propose it to the national focal point for endorsement. ELECTED

Over the past months, we kindly asked National Reference Laboratories to complete an online survey to monitor the implementation of the Terms of Reference for the position of national reference laboratory at the country level and to keep GSP national focal points informed on country progresses on laboratories.

EN survey: 50 responses

ES survey: 9 responses

FR survey: 8 responses

RU survey: 2 responses

*Is it worth investing in translating  
the surveys??? YES*

**69 replies** in total out of **132 NRLs** in the network

By the end of this year, GLOSOLAN will launch a survey to do the **Global Soil Laboratory Assessment 2022**.

Note: it was agreed to do this type of assessments every 2 years.

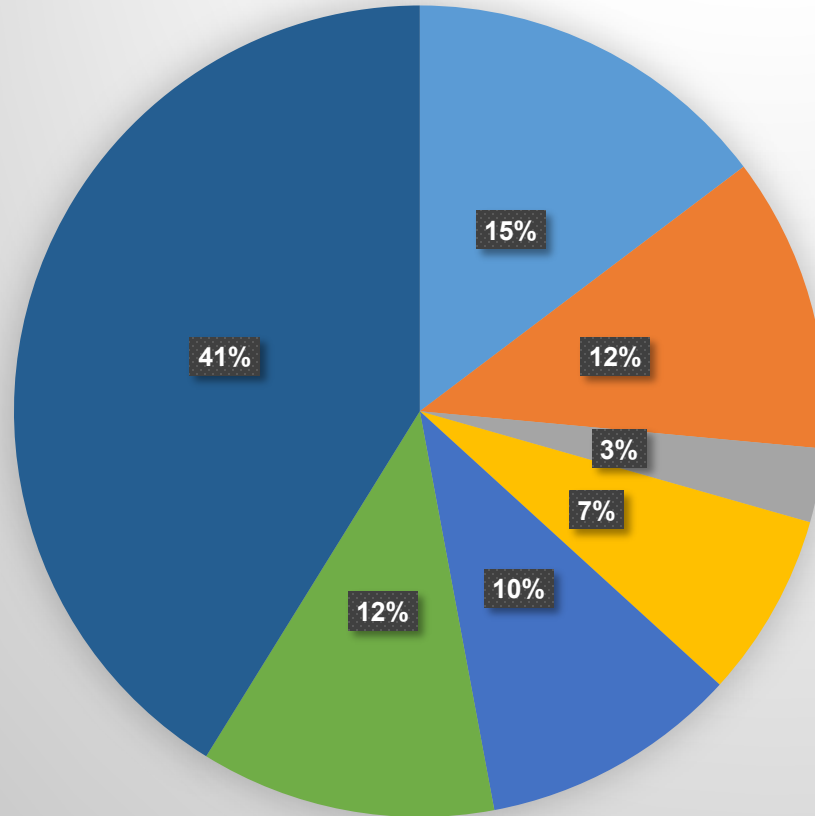
*Shall we translate that survey in multiple languages??? YES*

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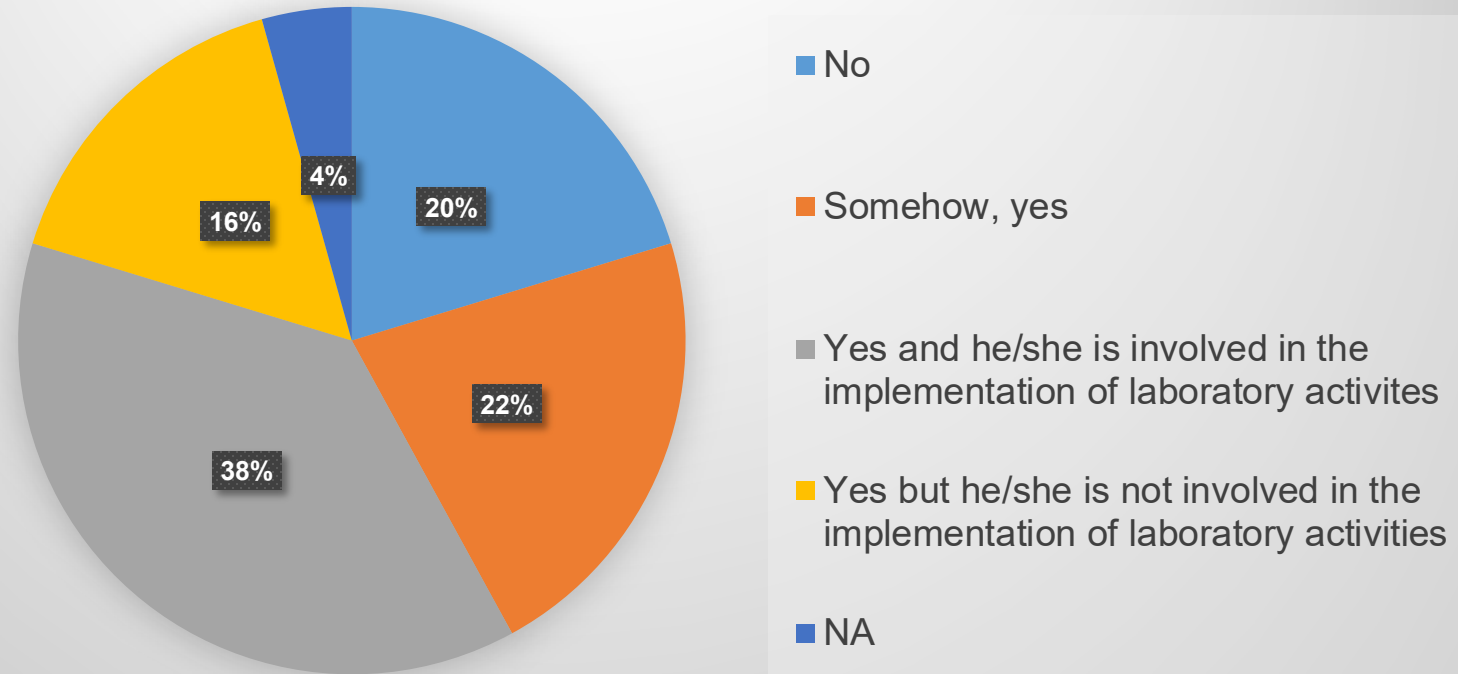
## Are you keeping your GSP national focal point informed on yours and GLOSOLAN/RESOLAN activities?



- No, I am the GSP focal point for my country
- No, I did not know that I have to keep him/her informed
- No, I do not think that he/she is interested in knowing what is happening in GLOSOLAN and in my laboratory
- No, other
- Yes, I contact him/her every time I come across a GLOSOLAN activity of major interest for my country
- Yes, I send regular updates by email to the GSP focal point
- Yes, I talk to the national focal point for my country on a regular basis

It is not clear who is the GSP focal point in my country / I do not know who the focal point is / The focal point changes frequently

**Is the GSP national focal point for your country keeping in touch with you and asking for regular updates on GLOSOLAN and laboratory activities/updating you on GSP activities?**



*Please note that the communication between the national focal point and the head of the National Reference Laboratory should be bilateral*

# What can be done to support the work of NRLs?

Proposals from the RESOLANs: APPROVED!

1. Preparation of a brochure for national focal points and policy makers that shows the added value of GLOSOLAN in decision-making processes. **Decision making oriented content** APPROVED!
1. Preparation of a brochure for soil laboratories, to motivate them to join GLOSOLAN and NASOLAN. **Technical content** APPROVED!



Over the year 2022, GLOSOLAN received several requests for laboratories wishing to visit other laboratories in the network. However, GLOSOLAN has not been able to provide timely and precise responses to these requests.

## Proposal from the RESOLANs:

1. Establishment of a **database** reporting laboratories available to host peers for capacity development APPROVED

What information on the labs available to host peers should be reported in the database?

- **Lab details:** full name of the lab, address and country
- **Is the laboratory accredited?** Yes/No Note: Accreditation doesn't guarantee quality. It just evidences that people are doing what they say they should be doing. Perhaps you should add information about research interests. Pairing organisations on aligned interests to gain research funds are a practical way to edliver capacity strengthening
- **Lab open to:** training OR visits. Training you need a good trainer but visiting you can share what ever you have and exchange with the lab that you visit
- **Lab open to share experience on:** Quality control, implementation of SOPs, reagents preparation, personnel management, instruments calibration and maintenance, maintaining laboratory accreditation, health and safety, waste management, development of transfer functions
- **Lab open to train:** head of the labs OR lab technicians
- **Soil analysis performed (methods and equipment):** chemical, physical, biological, plants, water, food. **We need to complement this with their performance in PT.** Allow labs to train other labs only on those analysis/aspects that they are competent on
- **Status of the lab facilities:** excellent, good, fair, poor
- **Availability to host peers:** from...to...
- **Open to peers from:** list of regions/countries or global **OR speaking language**
- **Maximum number of peers that can be hosted at the same time:** #
- **Availability of accommodation facilities for peers:** YES/NO
- **Provision of financial support to peers:** YES/NO

**On the webpage, add a list of potential sponsors for these exchanges:**

- There are schemes for exchanges to the UK for example - The Royal Society and the Royal Society of Chemistry, Commonwealth Scholarship Council UK - a few of the audience have used these.
- apply in the TAIEX ([https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/funding-and-technical-assistance/taiex\\_en](https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/funding-and-technical-assistance/taiex_en)). You can apply for the workshop, expert mission or study visit ( they can go three people)
- Focal points, particularly of developed countries, could provided information about the multiple opportunities offered by their countries to implement this activity



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*Thanks for your attention*

