



Training across national frontiers: mid-term results of the NECOBELAC Project



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introduction

NECOBELAC (Network of Collaboration Between Europe and Latin American-Caribbean countries) is a European project involving Italy, Portugal, Spain and UK in Europe and Brazil and Colombia in Latin America. Focused on **scientific writing** and **open access** publishing of research results in **public health**, it aims at abating cultural barriers limiting the free and proper circulation of information by means of **cooperation** and **training activity** addressed to different stakeholders (researchers, librarians, editors, policy makers).



training methodology

NECOBELAC acts through a **two-level training approach**:
T1 courses (training for trainers) and **T2 courses** (local training) (Figure 1).
The courses consist of flexible, integrated, and extensible modules.
The methodology includes the use of **topic maps** as an innovative tool based on semantic web technology for the dissemination of sound and validated contents.

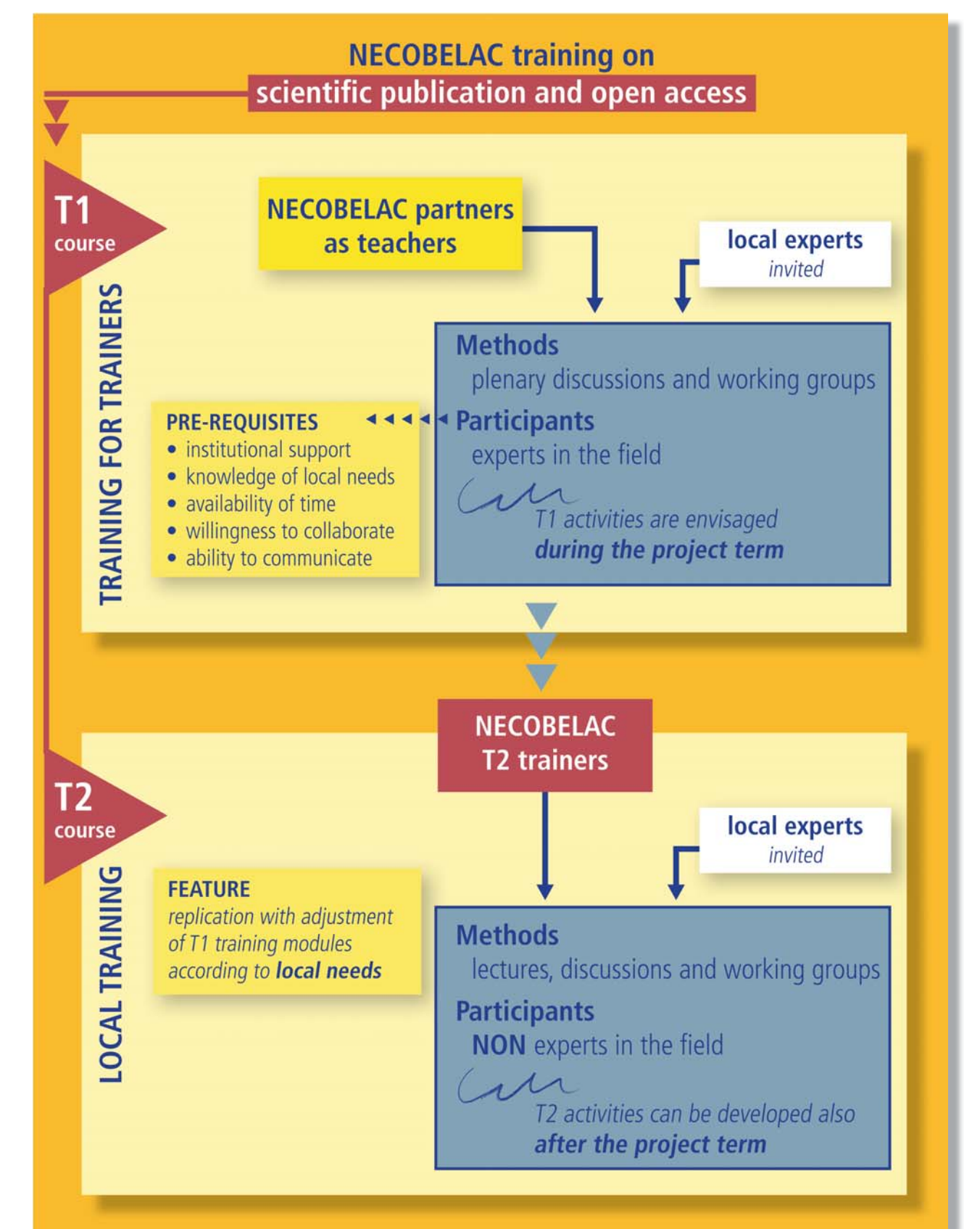


Figure 1. NECOBELAC training methodology

results

At present (April 2011), **7 T1 courses** and **11 T2 courses** have been performed and planned both in Europe (Italy, Portugal and Spain) and Latin America (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Mexico and Peru) involving over 1,000 participants as a whole. Figure 2 shows the type of training activity performed in the NECOBELAC network, which currently includes 4 countries in Europe and 11 in Latin America for a total of 59 and 79 institutions respectively. These figures prove the **success of the project** and stress the general need for training in health information production and dissemination, sharing international quality standards and best practices thus **overcoming cultural differences**.



PUBLISHING TODAY: a challenge towards democratization of knowledge

Scientific research is a complex process and foresees the publication of its results. Yet, spreading research outcomes has to face many obstacles, such as:

- writing an editorially correct article
it is a difficult task scientists need to learn, especially graduates and young researchers often receiving manuscript rejections or requests for major revisions.
- disseminating information through ITC technologies
it represents a new commitment for authors, editors and librarians who have to learn how to cope with the open access opportunities.



Figure 2. Types of training activity in the NECOBELAC network (in brackets the number of institutions per country)

conclusions

NECOBELAC training experience in Europe and Latin America shows how **bidirectional international cooperation** is an added value contributing to the capacity building process by embedding new information dissemination practices in distant geographical areas with diverse cultural and technological scenarios.

NECOBELAC partners



NECOBELAC in brief

COORDINATOR
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Spanish

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SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAM
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