LATIN AMERICAN AERONAUTICAL COMMUNITY PERCEPTION OVER PSYCHOLOGY.

Mónica Gómez Caniella1,2, Laura González de Silva1,3, Marcia Regina Molinari Barreto1,4, Pedro Acuña Mercier1,5, Andrea Garriga Bell1,5, Pilar Iberos1,6 Santiago Izquierdo1,7, Laura Verónica Massolo1, 8, Isabel Závory1,8

ULAPA

INTRODUCTION

The Latin American Union of Aeronautical Psychology Associations - ULAPA - was created with the objective of contribution towards scientific development and towards the practice of Aeronautical Psychology, benefiting operational safety and health, in the areas of civil and military aviation.

To contribute to the role of the psychologist in a strengthening and enhancing manner, in Latin America aeronautical context we consider: knowing what the expectations are and what knowledge do the different stakeholders have, in the aeronautical community, in different regional countries over the role of the psychologist, necessary, to create relevant evidence.

For this reason, a survey was performed with the objective of identifying the perception of aeronautical personnel over the role of the psychologist in Latin American context.

METHODOLOGY

A descriptive survey was performed through an anonymous questionnaire, formed by 15 questions, in which 12 were closed questions and 3 were opened questions.

The survey was sent online to professionals of different areas in aviation, forming a total of 16 Latin American countries.

The participants were contacted through social media of the associations that form part of ULAPA.

The results obtained were analyzed, quantitative and qualitatively, in the following way:

Closed questions: the statistical treatment of the results was performed by calculating simple frequencies and percentages of each given answer.

Opened questions: permitted clarification and better understanding of the respondent's perception, content analysis was applied for data processing method.

To perform this analysis, the following stages were followed:

- **Data preparation - Category identification - Data codification - Data analysis - Statistical management**

RESULTS

1. Age / 2. Gender / 3. Country of Residence

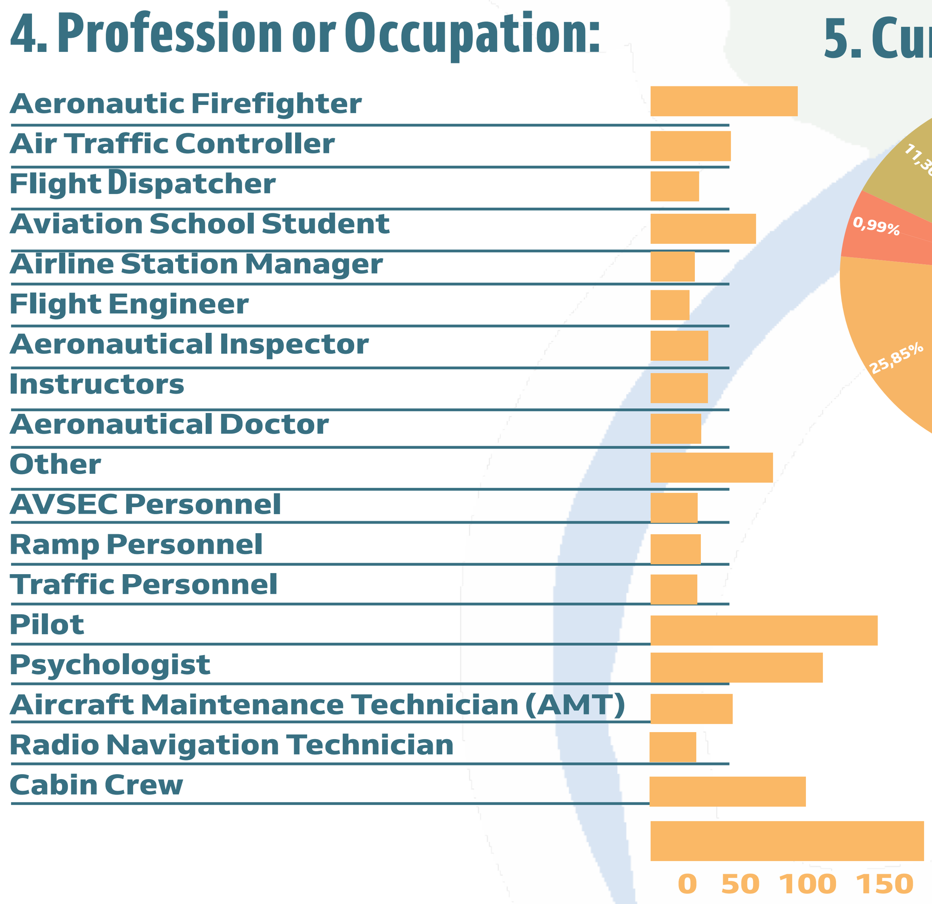
The sample was formulated by 704 valid questionnaires of the respondents, which perform or performed, part of the aeronautical industry. The ages comprehended were between 16 and 51 years, from 16 countries of Latin America. 59.2% correspond to male gender and 40.6% to female gender.

AGE 16 TO 51 YEARS

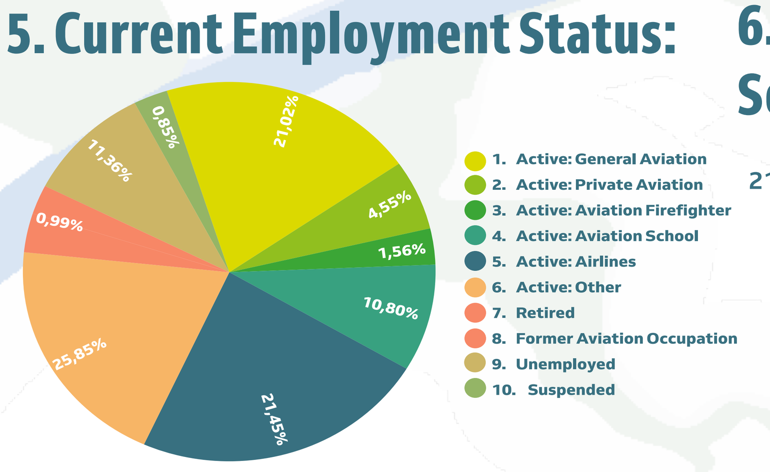
Female 40,6%

Male 59,2%

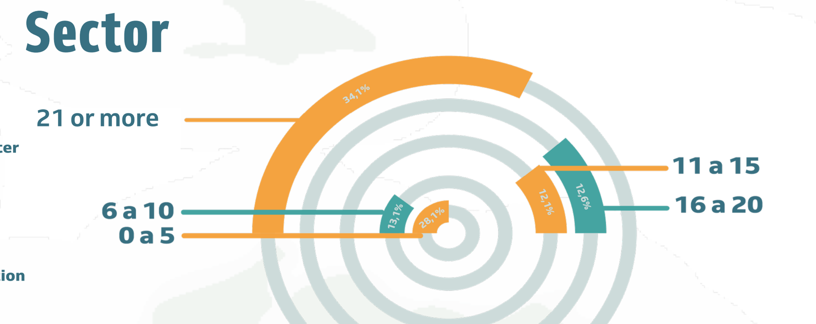
4. Profession or Occupation:



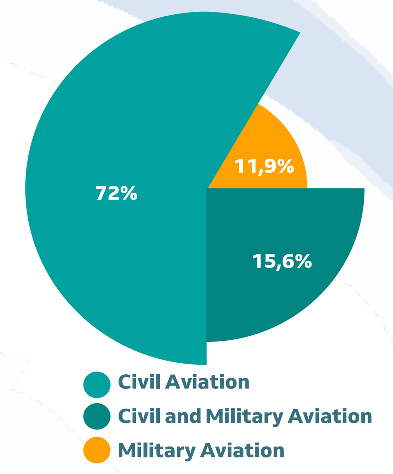
5. Current Employment Status:



6. Years of experience in Aeronautical Sector



7. Aeronautical Area



1.	Argentina	23,15%
2.	Bolivia	0,57%
3.	Brazil	1,99%
4.	Chile	0,85%
5.	Colombia	25,43%
6.	Ecuador	2,70%
7.	El Salvador	0,1%
8.	Outside Region	4,69%
9.	Guatemala	0,14%
10.	Honduras	0,1%
11.	Mexico	9,09%
12.	Panama	0,3%
13.	Paraguay	1,42%
14.	Peru	16,76%
15.	Dominican Republic	1,70%
16.	Uruguay	3,98%
17.	Venezuela	6,53%

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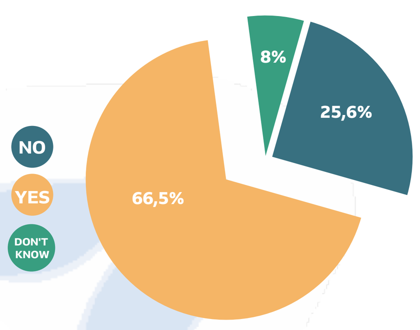
In the organization where you work or worked, does the feature of the psychologist exist?



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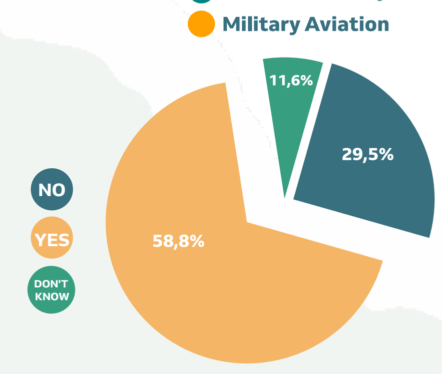
Does there exist a departmental area, Aeronautical Psychology or Human Factors unit in your organization?



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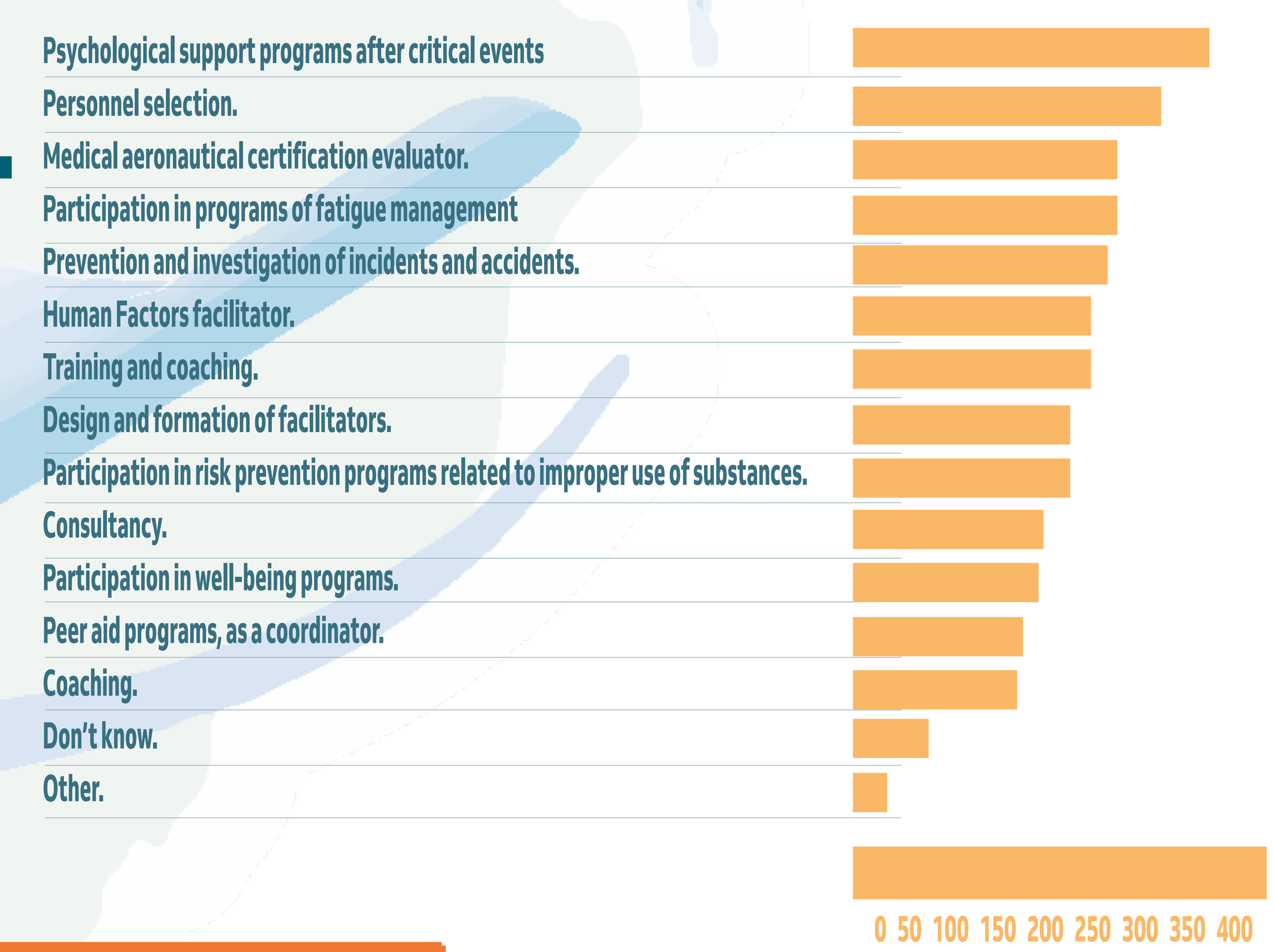
What activity does the Aeronautical Psychologist perform?



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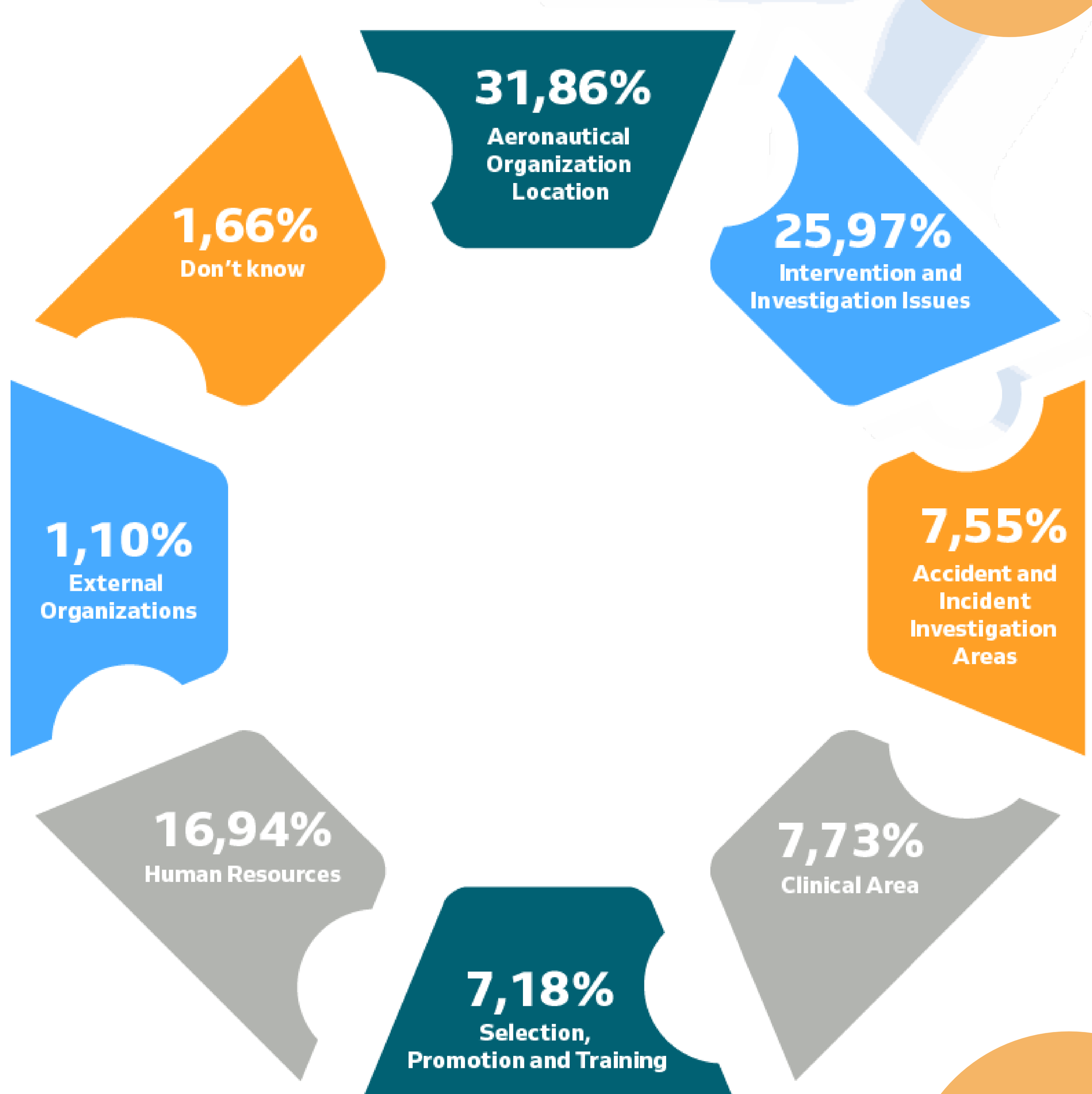
In what other areas should the Aeronautical Psychologist intervene?



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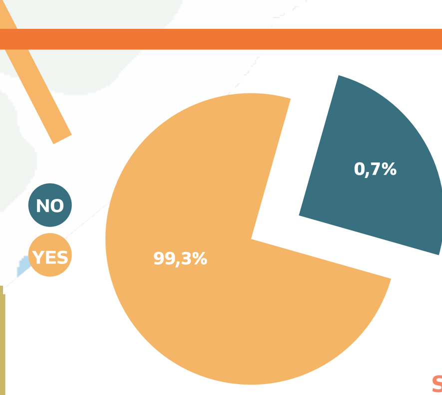
Do you consider that the role of the psychologist is useful for operational safety?



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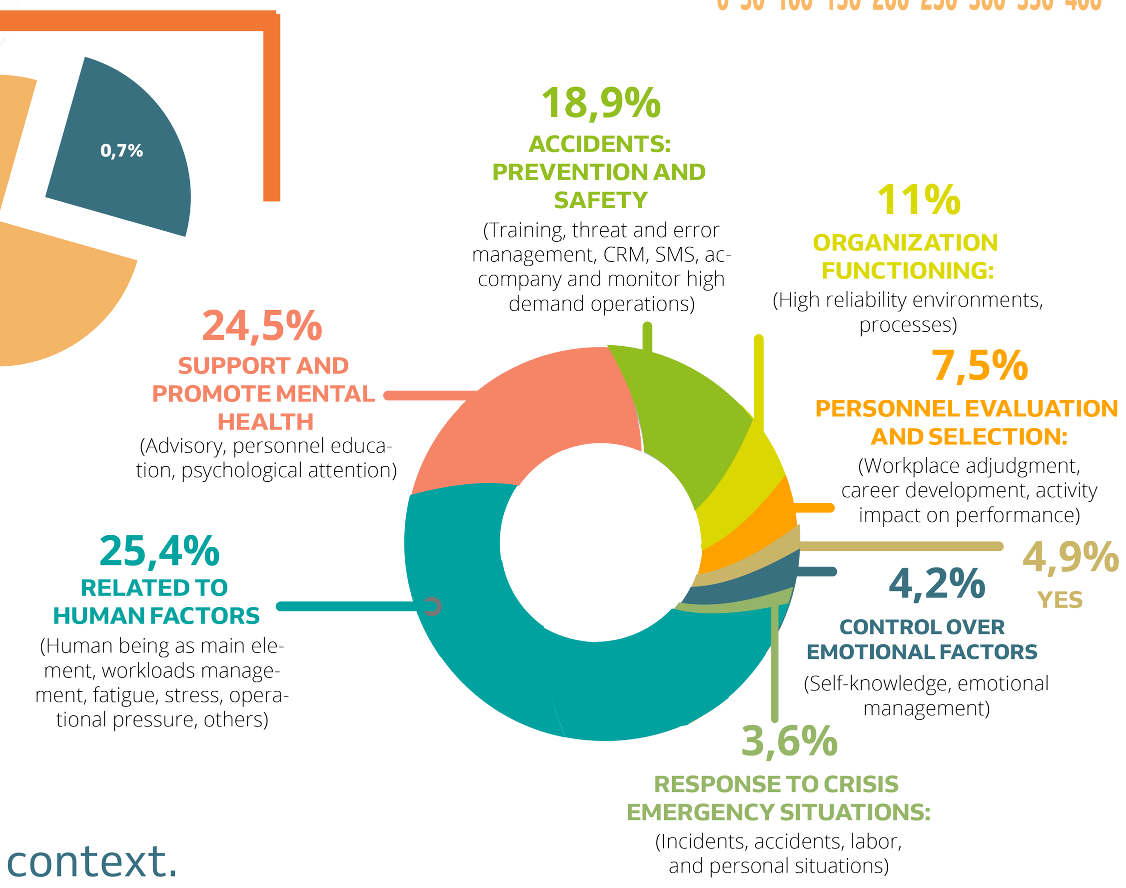
Briefly explain the question above.



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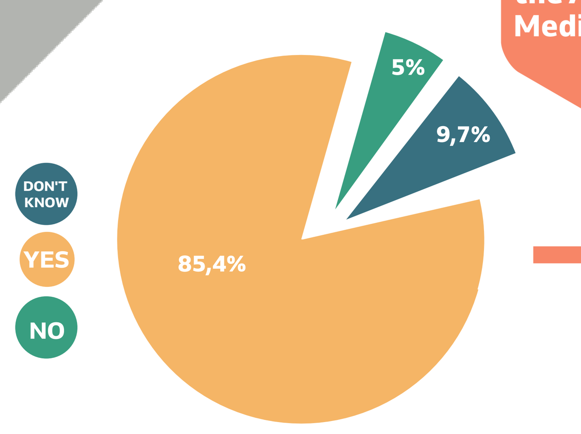
In your country does the psychological evaluation form part of the Aeronautical Medical Certification?



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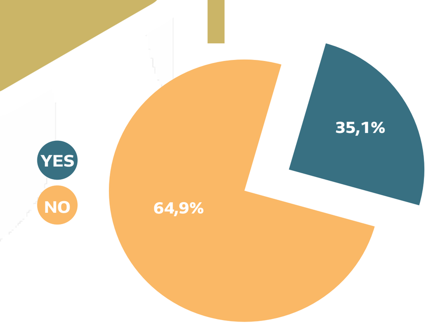
Have you ever used Aeronautical Psychology services?



DISCUSSION

- The collected data, permitted to identify the variety of activities that psychologists develop in the regional aeronautical context.
- Most of the respondents (99,3%) showed a positive perception over the role of the aeronautical psychologist in operational safety. The justifications presented were divided in seven categories, as previously shown in results. 35,1% of the respondents indicated use of psychological services, which indicates that it would be important to develop future investigations to examine the factors that might contribute or not to these services. Therefore, it is important to highlight what studies have demonstrated that the presence of stigmas, related to mental health in aviation, (Hubbard, 2016) contributes to reluctance in seeking help.
- This investigation provided a general vision, which permitted ULAPA to develop:
- Strategies that optimize greater awareness to aeronautical personnel over the role of the psychologist in relation to operational safety, health, and mental well-being.
- Activities that contribute to continuous professional development of aeronautical psychologists in Latin America.
- New investigations that generate evidence to deepen more in specific issues and give effective responses.
- Continue to perform joint actions with the aeronautical personnel to be able to naturalize our presence.

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- Bardin, L. (2011). Analysis Content. São Paulo: Edition 70.

ULAPA MEMBERS

1. Latin American Union of Aeronautical Psychology Associations -ULAPA **2.** Uruguayan Association of Aviation Psychology -AUPA **3.** Venezuelan Association of Aeronautical Psychology -AVEPSA **4.** Brazilian Association of Aviation Psychology -ABRAPAV **5.** Chilean Association Aeronautical Psychology (under construction) **6.** Peruvian Association of Aeronautical Psychology -APAP **7.** Colombian Association of Aeronautical Psychology -ACPA **8.** Argentine Civil Association of Aeronautical Psychology -ACAPA

A.U.P.A ACAPA APAP ASOCIACIÓN DE PSICÓLOGOS AERONÁUTICOS DEL PERÚ ACPAER ABRAPAV ACPA Asociación Colombiana de Psicólogos Aeronáuticos AVEPSA