

# NFP4HEALTH

## NEWSLETTER VOL. II 2/2023



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## INTRODUCTION

Dear colleagues,

on behalf of the Italian Coordination Team, we are honoured to continue working on the JA NFP4Health project in order to reach our objective and support the implementation of the EU4Health Programme. As known, the Project is contributing to the reinforcement of the EU4Health NFPs network that is growing step by step.

We are excited about the upcoming Project's activities and we hope to reach effective and efficient results.

Thank you to all JA NFP4Health Consortium for their effort!



# WORK PACKAGES NEWS



## WP 2: COMMUNICATION

The most significant update from our point of view was the upgrade of Dissemination Strategy, inspired by practical experience and identified needs of Consortium. In the new updated Strategy, we widened our target group, identifying 3 different types with different needs and interests - 1. Partners of JA Consortium, 2. NFPs` network, and finally 3. wide pool of stakeholders on national/ regional level. Our communication activities will be adjusted according to their expectations, based on planned survey, which is going to be launched soon.

Second important update in Dissemination Strategy is connected to social media communication, where we decided to use LinkedIn and Twitter for different forms of communication. While LinkedIn currently serves as an information and outputs` presentation channel, Twitter is more of a medium of the moment with published flashes of actual day-to-day updates.

Apart from strategy, there were some updates on our webpage and we invite you to check it out!

## WP 3: EVALUATION

WP3-Evaluation main objective is to monitor and assess JA NFP4Health, specifically the monitoring the achievement of tasks, milestones and deliverables and ensuring that the JA reaches its specific objectives as well as accomplishes the impact in three levels: EU4Health programme implementation, NFPs capability and participation of stakeholders.

Two key deliverables were successfully launched, D3.1 Evaluation Plan (March 2022) and D3.2 Assessment Plan (May 2022), including both, a set of KPI to monitor and assess the JA, using SMART criteria, as well as the methodology and frequency to collect, analyse and report them.

As part of the above-mentioned monitoring process, the First Monitoring Wave, that was carried out from October 2021 to June 2022, included a series of follow up meetings and a KPI data collection. Results were included on an Interim Report Wave and contributed to the first Technical Report.



The Second Monitoring Wave, from July 2022 to May 2023, will take place in the forthcoming months and the results of those two data collection waves will be included on the D3.3. Interim Evaluation Report (May 2023).

On the other hand, WP3 is systematically assessing the JA throughout different surveys launched at online webinars and onsite trainings. Up to the moment, a total of 7 evaluation surveys have been launched after both onsite training session and online webinars.

Furthermore, targeted surveys for stakeholders are planned to be launched at the end of different events to collect information related to the three levels of impact mentioned.

## WP 4 : SUSTAINABILITY OF ACTION AND INTEGRATION IN NATIONAL POLICIES

The WP 4 "Sustainability of action and integration in national policies" is devoted to support the implementation of the EU4Health Programme. During the last months we have been working on elaborating the NFP Profile Deliverable, a strategic document defining the key characteristics and peculiarities of the EU4Health NFPs and, therefore, contributing to the strengthening of the NFPs performance and Programme Implementation.

In the upcoming months, JA NFP4Health consortium will focus on the development of recommendations on the implementation of the EU4Health Programme at the respective national levels. The constant promotion of DG SANTE Annual Work Programmes with national/regional programmes and services will be promoted.

# WORK PACKAGES NEWS



On the 14th of February the “EU Stakeholders survey on National EU4Health Focal Points Profile” was launched in order to collect feedback from the relevant stakeholders at the EU level as the NFP Profile is a technical deliverable defining the role of the NFP service and, therefore, contributing to the EU4Health programme implementation support. The survey results will contribute to the definition of the deliverable that will be updated throughout the project’s life course.

## WP 5: SUPPORT SYNERGIES WITH OTHER HEALTH-RELATED EU FUNDS/PROGRAMMES

Since September 2022, Work Package 5 has completed its first large-scale assessment activity and published the ‘Report on the state-of-play of interactions between EU4Health National Focal Points and National Focal Points/National Contact Points of other health-related EU funds and programmes’ (Deliverable 5.1 under the Joint Action).

The report is based on the outcomes of the ‘Survey to assess national networks’, which was circulated to NFPs in early summer of 2022, and provides an overview of current connections between EU4Health NFPs and their counterparts of other relevant European programmes, as well as a first analysis of strengths, weaknesses, threats, and opportunities arising from the identified interactions. The report is/will be available on the NFP4Health website.

WP 5 aims to contribute to strengthening of national networks and knowledge management structures for better utilization of synergies between health-related EU funding at implementation level. Based on mapping of existing interactions between NFPs and on current national strategies we will develop and disseminate a set of recommendations for NFPs. We also aim to create fora for exchange of best practices in series of events and workshop activities.

In the next few months, a range of activities by Work Package 5 will build on the information gained from its first published report. A second assessment activity will commence shortly with the ‘Survey on synergies at national level’. This assessment will collect information on current practices at national and regional level regarding the promotion of cross-programme synergies for health, and its findings will likewise be published in a report (Deliverable 5.2 under the Joint Action).



The Hungarian Work Package partners will host a workshop for NFPs and other NFP4Health partners in Budapest in the spring of 2023, which will provide space to discuss initial findings of the second assessment activity and to identify how the findings could be used in the future to strengthen NFP capacity in the area of synergy promotion. The Austrian Work Package partners will also host a webinar in early summer 2023 that will build on outcomes of both the Budapest workshop and the Deliverable 5.1, discussing hurdles that NFPs face in strengthening interactions with their national counterparts of other health-related funds and programmes, as well as highlighting emerging good practice examples.

## WP6: CAPACITY BUILDING FOR NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS

In the framework of the WP6 “Capacity building for national focal points”, the Training Plan has been launched last April 2021 with the first webinar part of the Training Online targeting the NFPs. Since then, various fruitful events and trainings were organised about those you can read in the next section NFP4Health events.



## WEBINAR: EU4HEALTH TENDERS - 21. SEPTEMBER 2022

Webinar “EU4Health Tenders” targeted both, technical and soft skills. The objective of the session was to provide the NFPs and stakeholders with a general overview of the EU4Health Tenders, with a specific focus on the management.

## EU4HEALTH TECHNICAL/SOFT SKILLS - MODULE I 10/II OCTOBER 2022 (ROME, ITALY)



The first edition of Module 1 - EU4Health Training Technical/Soft Skills was organized in Rome on 10th and 11th of October and was attended by participants from Italy, Latvia, Norway and Slovakia. The training stimulated interaction among NFPs and included a mix of technical skills, in terms of EU4Health Programme knowledge, genesis and implementation, including synergies in the framework of the whole EU 2021 – 2027 Programming and soft skills, in terms of developing concrete personal and professional tools to perform the role of NFPs.

## NFP PROFILE: A PRACTICAL TOOL FOR DEFINING EU4HEALTH NFPs KEY CHARACTERISTICS AND PECULIARITIES TO IMPLEMENT EU4HEALTH PROGRAMME 24. NOVEMBER 2022 (WEBINAR)

This webinar took place on 24th November creating space to present a very important deliverable “NFP Profile” elaborated by colleagues from ISCIII with the contribution of all Consortium and External Advisory Board, as it is strategic document defining the role of the EU4Health NFP Profile and, therefore, contribute to the strengthening of the NFPs performance and programme implementation. The NFPs Interaction Platform will be finally launched in February. As announced during the Executive Board Meeting hold on the 9th February, as part of the WP6’s activities, the Interaction Platform will become a concrete tool aiming at reinforcing the EU4Health NFPs’s network also within the wider scope of maximizing the EU4Health divulgation and impact on the national, regional and local ecosystems.

# NFP4HEALTH EVENTS



## EU4HEALTH TECHNICAL/SOFT SKILLS - MODULE 1 21/22. NOVEMBER 2022 (VIENNA, AUSTRIA)

The second edition of Module 1 - EU4Health Training Technical/Soft Skills was held on 21st and 22nd November in Vienna. The training was attended by participants from Austria, Italy, Poland, Serbia and Spain. The training included a mix of technical skills, in terms of EU4Health Programme knowledge, genesis and implementation, including synergies in the framework of the whole EU 2021 – 2027 Programming and soft skills, in terms of developing concrete personal and professional tools to perform the role of NFPs.



## EU4HEALTH TECHNICAL/SOFT SKILLS - MODULE 1 26/27. 01. 2023 (BRUSSELS, BELGIUM)

The third edition of Module 1 - EU4Health Training Technical/Soft Skills was held on 26th and 27th of January in Brussels. The training was hosted by HaDEA. Besides the participants from Lithuania, France, Iceland, Sweden, Greece, Ireland and Denmark, it was a honour to welcome colleagues from Ukraine that attended the training and reinforced the capacity. In addition to the technical concepts and the working group activities focused on soft skills, the training in Brussels was also targeting the communication activities. HaDEA's communication team was providing a comprehensive presentation relating to the way of providing an efficient communication.





WP 5 elaborated its Deliverable 5.1 *Report on the state-of-play of interactions between EU4Health National focal points (NFPs) and National focal points/National contact points (NCPs) of other health-related EU funds and programmes (HREUFPs)*.

The report analyses current interactions between EU4Health NFPs and other EU funds and programmes at national level and represents one of the key activities under the WP5. Moreover the report analyses the strengths, weaknesses, threats, and opportunities arising from interactions identified.

Let's find out more in the interview with Cara Pries from The Austrian National Public Health Institute (Gesundheit Österreich GmbH, GÖG). Cara is a Work package 5 leader and austrian National focal point.

## As an introduction, could you briefly describe WP5 and the background of Deliverable 5.1?

As the readers of the Newsletter surely know, EU4Health does not exist in isolation in terms of EU Funds and Programmes with a potential to improve health of EU citizens. We - as a WP5 - are set out to support the synergies between existing EU Funds and Programmes at the national level, help to strengthen national ecosystems for synergies and provide NFPs with a few more tools to understand these synergies, harness them nationally and instruct stakeholders on how to make the best use of different EU Programmes that connect to health. Every such activity must start with an assessment of the state of play.

And this is when the Report – deliverable 5.1 comes in. It's the first building block for understanding which interactions and activities already take place between EU4Health NFPs

and their national counterparts of other programmes. We also attempted to create a SWOT analysis to tell us what further steps we need to take. To briefly summarize outcomes:

- Most NFPs who took part in the survey already at this moment have a very strong connection nationally to the HORIZON EUROPE Programme but there is a long way to go in connecting with all other health related programmes.
- Many challenges are common among NFPs when it comes to strengthening these interactions – e.g. on national level it's mostly lack of resources, and missing pre-established networks where all the counterparts of EU programmes come together to discuss health aspects; and on EU level it's the fact that NFPs do not necessarily have a good overview on concrete possibilities for implementation synergies in health and how the different EU-programmes are relevant to their own stakeholders.
- A lot of NFPs have already identified a large number of counterparts at national level, so there is a good starting point and in some countries there are first efforts to build larger mechanisms where the counterparts of EU programmes come together around health.

There is a long way ahead of us but there are definitely some seeds already to get that started.

## What was the biggest challenge in terms of elaboration of this deliverable?

Initial mapping of all health-related programmes and decision on which of them to include in the survey. In the phase when we designed the survey, we were able to use some of the work presented by the European Commission regarding synergies between EU4Health and other programmes, but a prior systematic mapping did not exist. And also in terms of descriptions how other programmes are connected to health there were few materials or information.

# WORK PACKAGE 5 INTERVIEW



We did not really anticipate this before and it took us long time and was very challenging. We do believe the identification and communication of concrete options and examples of programme synergies at implementation level will be an ongoing theme, not only for us in WP5 but overall within the NFP4Health project and in tandem with the European Commission efforts around this.

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## Could you briefly describe what is ahead of you/ your next steps?

Our next steps will be based on outcomes of the first report.

On the one hand under the Task 5.1 led by Austria, we will be organizing a webinar in May 2023, which will give the opportunity to discuss the outcomes of the first survey and address our common challenges, but also our aim is to highlight good practices from countries who already started to build their national networks.

Under the Task 5.2, which belongs to Hungarian colleagues, there are some follow-up assessment activities coming. Colleagues are designing the survey which will be even one level up from our first survey. It will look beyond interactions on the individual level between different contact points of health-related programmes, and look at the strategic and policy level when it comes to what countries are already doing to promote cross-programme synergies. On the top of that, it will also look deeper into best practices and examples of already existing synergic activities. The outcome of this activity will be another report plus an on-site event, which will take place in May 2023 in Budapest and will be focused on brainstorming and networking around synergy-creating strategies.

And just to go a bit further into the future, as our last deliverable we plan to provide set of recommendations for countries to improve their strategies around cross-programme synergies. This will mark the cumulation all the work done before and also include outputs from interactive activities. This one is set to be published in 2024.

## In what way do you think the NFPs could/should benefit/learn from the findings of the report?

In terms of 5.1, the report provides starting point for understanding what national relations with other programmes look like at the moment and enables NFPs to see where they stand in comparison to other countries. However, we think there are already number of things that NFPs can take away from participation on the survey itself.

Many countries reported that in order to participate in the survey they tried to map their counterparts of other programmes at the national level for the first time, which in our opinion provides a good starting point for them in order to engage further with these counterparts.

The report also includes the scope of reported activities with other counterparts with many examples of activities that already take place in different countries – joint events, publishing joint informational materials, referring to each other via website, joint Newsletters and other options, which could serve as an inspiration.

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## What should be the next steps of NFPs?

On one hand, there is the ongoing work within the WP5, where we want to offer activities and recommendations for NFPs and therefore one of the next steps for NFPs is to keep engaged with us, e.g. to attend the upcoming webinar and Budapest workshop and actively share gathered experience and best practice or examples with building their national networks.

On the other hand the first steps that NFPs can take individually is to reach out bilaterally to their counterparts which they have now identified nationally in scope of the survey, get engaged with them and start building some of the joint activities. And of course, those NFPs with already many existing contacts may go beyond bilateral interactions and pursue joint

# WORK PACKAGE 5 INTERVIEW



activities with more than one counterpart at a time to lay groundwork for national networks across programmes.

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**Were there any findings that were unexpected/surprising for you as the authors of the survey? If yes, what was it and why?**

There were some findings, which were not necessarily unexpected, e.g., a discrepancy between strong interaction with the HORIZON programme, and on the other hand lack of interaction with other programmes. This was just a confirmation for us that there is still a long way to go and a lot of work to do here.

However, what we think was positively surprising, was the range of interactions that already exist with HORIZON counterparts and how strong the cooperation is. In addition, not completely unexpected, but nice to see was the fact that quite a few countries were already in first stages of effort to develop larger networks and exchanges with other programmes nationally. That is definitely something we can learn from.

On top of that, it was interesting to see how these activities differ among different countries and to be able to map all identified health-related counterparts across participating countries in scope of the report.

**Back when identifying the key HREUFPs for the questionnaire, was there a programme of which health related aspects you were unaware?**

I would not say completely unaware, as we knew that they might have some health-related aspects. However, performing this mapping of HREUFPs gave us the opportunity to see how far it goes, to deepen our understanding and really look at how these funds and their calls can contribute to health objectives.

There were funds and programmes that are, let us say a bit more specialized and distant from EU4Health stakeholder perspective like e.g. European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund, however we were able to see that there are also some connection to health in these, especially in some countries.

There were also a few programmes that we actually did not include into the initial mapping but that came up through respondents e.g. in Austria – Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV) or in France - Emergency Support Instrument (ESI).

**For which HREUFPs you consider the level of interactions between the national counterparts and the EU4Health NFPs surprisingly low/high?**

Not surprisingly high – HORIZON, which mirrors our own national experience, to lesser degree also Digital Europe Programme, Technical Support Instrument, European Social Fund +, Programme for Environment and Climate Action and European Regional Development Fund with relatively strong interactions, which did not surprise us so much.

What surprised me a bit was the Single Market Programme in terms of low interactions throughout the entire respondent group, especially as we know since the pandemic, how many aspects of trade, joint procurement, and single market are crucial to healthcare delivery; perhaps I would have expected at least some existing interactions there.

For me personally, the interesting fact was also that the ERASMUS programme had higher reported interaction than some other programmes, where I would have expected it more - though of course ERASMUS connects to health priorities through aspects of health workforce education and similar topics.

# UPCOMING EVENTS



Training: Procurements of EU4Health  
14 March 2023  
Online  
Presentation of "Procurement"  
instrument  
TBC

NFP4Health Workshop on  
World Public Health Congress  
2/6 May 2023  
Rome - Italy  
TBC

Training: Module 1 - EU4HEALTH  
(Technical/Soft Skills)  
Edition 4  
30/31 March 2023  
Prague- Czech Republic  
\*limited to NFP4Health group

Training: Module 1 - EU4HEALTH  
(Technical/Soft Skills)  
Edition 5  
22/23 May 2023  
Lisbon- Portugal  
\*limited to NFP4Health group

Training: Horizon Europe General  
information & Cluster Health  
6 April 2023  
Webinar  
TBC

Training: Technical Support  
Instrument  
6 June 2023  
Webinar  
TBC

\*webinars will be recorded and made available for partners' communication channels

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