NFP4Health

Deliverable D4.4

Stakeholders' Consultation on EU4Health Programme

D4.X Consultation on EU4Health Report

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ABSTRACT

The deliverable contains insights into the concerns, priorities and achievement submitted by stakeholders during the concluded consultation on EU4Health programme.

STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY

This deliverable contains original unpublished work except where clearly indicated otherwise. Acknowledgement of previously published material and of the work of others has been made through appropriate citation, quotation, or both.

DISCLAIMER

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In the framework of the JA NFP4Health WP4 has been organized a consultation on EU4Health programme which has been addressed to stakeholders belonging to the European Health Community and who are beneficiaries of the Programme invited to share their views on the performance and concerns of the EU4Health. These insights provide input and will feed into the ongoing strategic planning process for the next periods.

Stakeholder consultation on the implementation of the EU4Health Program was launched by Promis on the 29th June and concluded on 15 September 2023 through the completion of an online questionnaire and the organization of a face-to-face consultation day on 09.12.2023, which served to acquire some additional focuses, which are reported in the boxes.

A total of 49 responses were submitted as written responses to the questionnaire. Of these, 12 contributors responded with regards to WPs 2021-2022-2023 strand "Health promotion & disease prevention", 10 with regards to WPs 2021-2022-2023 strand "Health systems & healthcare workforce" and 19 to both strands.

The respondents decided to answer all the questions.

The consultation can be divided in six sections:

- Section A asked for information about the respondent's profile.
- Section B collected views on the priorities and the strategic actions to be strengthened.
- Section C focused on the presentation and communication of the actions.
- Section D collected evaluations about the monitoring and evaluation systems.
- Section E focused on the synergies with other Programmes.
- Section F aimed to take stock of what stakeholders are currently experiencing with the administrative procedures.

EU4HEALTH at a glance

The actions funded under the EU4Health programme pursue 4 goals and 10 specific objectives. The actions (call for proposal, call for tenders) are framed within 4 strands of actions.

The actions funded under the EU4Health programme pursue 4 goals and 10 specific objectives.	*In the annual Work Programme, the actions funded under the EU4Health have been clustered in "strand of actions".*

GOALS and OBJECTIVES

- To improve and foster health in the Union:
    o Disease prevention & health promotion.
    o International health initiatives & cooperation.
- To tackle cross-border health threats:
    o Prevention, preparedness & response to cross-border health threats.
    o Complementing national stockpiling of essential crisis-relevant products.
    o Establishing a reserve of medical, healthcare & support staff.
- To improve medicinal products, medical devices, and crisis-relevant products:
    o Making medicinal products, medical devices, and crisis-relevant products available and affordable.
- To strengthen health systems, their resilience and resource efficiency:
    o Strengthening health data, digital tools & services, digital transformation of healthcare.
    o Improving access to healthcare.
    o Developing and implementing EU health legislation and evidence-based decision making.
    o Integrated work among national health systems.

STRANDS of ACTIONs

- Health promotion & disease prevention.
- Health systems & healthcare workforce.
- Digital Health.
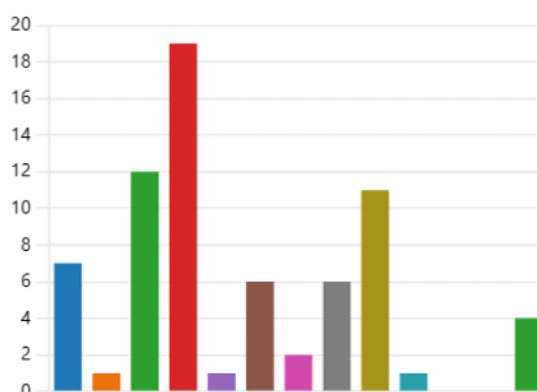- Crisis preparedness.

Transversal strand: Cancer.

Section A - Overview of the respondents

In total, 49 respondents completed the questionnaire. Around 14% (8 out of 49) of respondents are JA NFP4HEALTH appointed EU4Health NFPs and 1 is an Affiliated Entity of the JA NFP4HEALTH. The majority (31%) is represented by Member States authorities that are responsible for health at national, regional, or local level. The other stakeholders are:

- o Organisations representing patients, civil society, and other parties active in public health and social issues (NGOs...).
- o Healthcare professionals.
- o Healthcare service providers, primary care delivery organization.
- o Hospitals.
- o Researchers, academia, education establishments.
- o Expert networks in the field of health.

Among the respondents there are neither health insurances nor businesses and their associations, including pharmaceutical companies, medical devices manufacturers, digital companies.

This presentation is part of the action "NFP4Health" which has received funding from the European Union's Health (20144-2020) under grant agreement No 101035965.

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Section B - Identifying priorities and strategic actions to be strengthened

In the annual Work Programme, the actions funded under the EU4Health have been clustered in "strand of actions", plus a transversal strand, namely "Cancer".

The respondents were asked to "name the most important strand of action that would help to address the current and upcoming needs in health". Only 1 expressed a "neutral" opinion. The answers span different strands, the most important one is "health promotion & prevention" identified as "very important" by 67,3% of respondents and at least "important" by 89,8% of respondents, followed by the strands "health systems & healthcare workforce" and "digital health" scored "important" or "very important" by 83,7% and 85,7% of respondents respectively. In terms of importance, the "crisis preparedness" is the lowest scoring strand (but in any case, important or very important for 73,4% of respondents) and the "cancer" strand is considered at least "important" by 81,6% of respondents.

4. In your opinion, which strand of action is the most important for addressing the current and upcoming needs in health?
1=very unimportant 2=unimportant; 3=neutral 4=important 5=very important
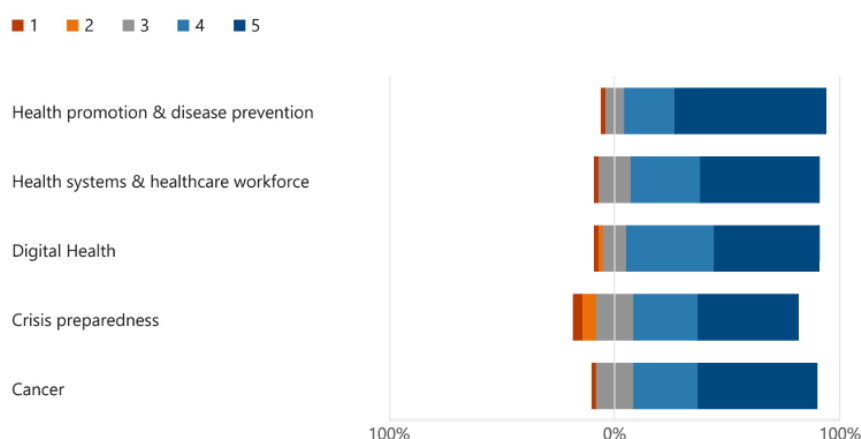
More specifically, the respondents' opinions on the needs to be reinforced were mainly focused on "the need for more focus on placing disease prevention as the cornerstone of any health system and the need to address the socio-economic determinants of health" and "the need to address mental health challenges in particular amongst the most vulnerable groups". Secondarily "the need to give more attention to cardiovascular health through actions that tackle primary and secondary prevention of cardiovascular diseases, and that strengthen patient care" and "the need for Interventions to reduce behavioural risk factors

such as awareness-raising on alcohol-related harm and tobacco/nicotine use, and health education" were chosen.

> First focus: an area that is transversal is communication. In relation to the digital health level there are difficulties (at a legal as well as practical level) in combining ed use data collected from different sources, being still a lack of regulation.

7. With reference to the strand "health promotion & disease prevention" what are the main needs to be reinforced?
*1=very unimportant 2=unimportant 3=neutral 4=important 5=very important*

Most respondents rated the strands of actions as suitably covered. However, 18,4% reported that "the health systems & healthcare workforce" strand is not financially covered and needs a reinforcement under the upcoming WPs. 14,3% reported that also "health promotion & disease prevention", "digital health" and "crisis preparedness" strands need to be financially incrementally supported and only 10,2% indicated the "cancer" strand to be additionally supported.

5. In your opinion what are the strands of action that haven't been suitably covered and need a reinforcement in financial support, under the EU4Health upcoming WPs?
**1=not covered at all 2=not covered 3=neither covered or uncovered 4=covered 5=very well covered**
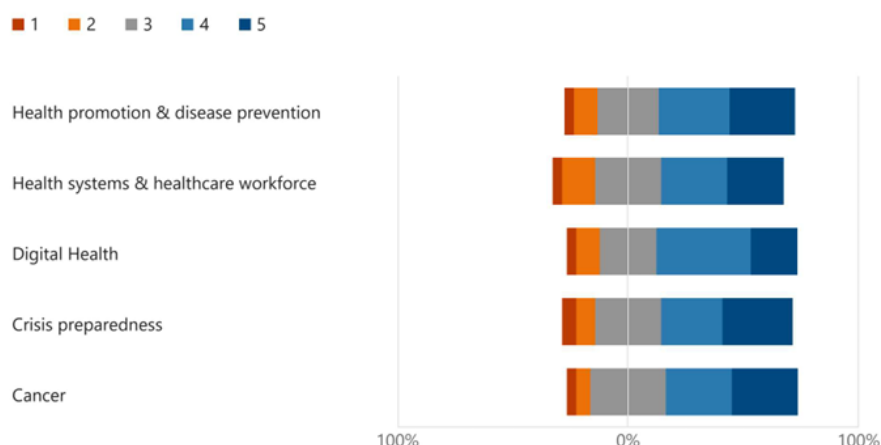
Among the strands not considered adequately financed, the respondents were asked to express an assessment on the type of action that is not covered. There is a greater polarization of responses at the extremes of the scale as regards the "grants for actions co-financed with Member State authorities (JAs)". With regard to grants, the responses are quite balanced, and no prevailing position emerges. There is no clear position regarding the procurement action type, where the "neutral" answer is more recurrent.

6. Based on the above answer, concerning the strand(s) of action that has(have) been "not very covered" or "not covered", in your opinion, which particular type of action is not covered?
1=not covered at all 2=not covered 3=neither covered or uncovered 4=covered 5=very well covered
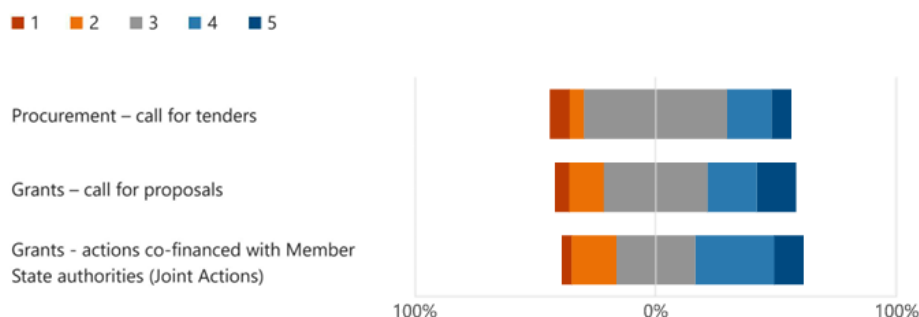
The same neutral response is obtained in the evaluation of a very complex proposition on the ability of current procurement actions under EU4Health to access innovation, maintaining a competitive industry.

10. The procurement actions under EU4Health are inadequate to ensure "access to innovative, sustainable & high-quality health care, while unlocking the full potential of new tools, technologies and digital solutions for a healthy society and maintaining an innovative, sustainable and globally competitive health-related industry": they renounce to aggregate demand and promote innovation
1=strongly disagree 2=disagree 3=neither agree or disagree 4=agree 5=strongly agree

3.47
Valutazione media
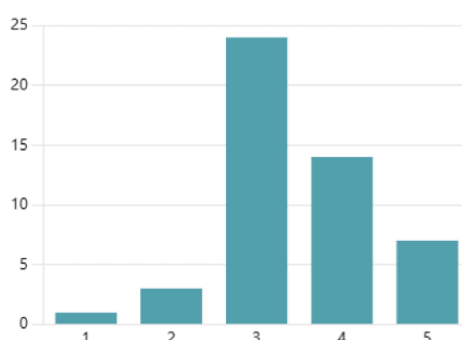
As regards the need to enforce the cross-border and innovation drivers in public procurement to pursue the response to cross border health threats and to improve medicinal products, medical devices availability and affordability, stakeholders from different groups underlined a clear agreement (average score of 4 out of 5).

8. To pursue the response to cross-border health threats and to improve medicinal products, medical devices availability and affordability, the cross-border innovation public procurement actions should be enforced
1=strongly disagree 2=disagree 3=neither agree or disagree 4=agree 5=strongly agree

4.06
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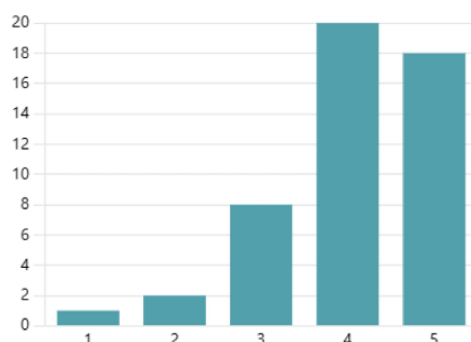
Only the 4% of the respondents "disagree" or "strongly disagree" and the 63,26% "agree" or "strongly agree" that "the EU4Health Programme can help to ensure best use of research results and facilitate the uptake, scale-up and deployment of health innovation in healthcare systems and clinical practice, subject to the implementation or funding of forward looking innovation procurement and value-based procurement".

15. The EU4Health Programme can help ensuring best use of research results and facilitate the uptake, scale-up and deployment of health innovation in healthcare systems and clinical practice, subject to the implementation or funding of forward looking innovation procurement and value-based procurement
1= strongly disagree 2= disagree 3= neither agree or disagree 4= agree 5= strongly agree

3.84
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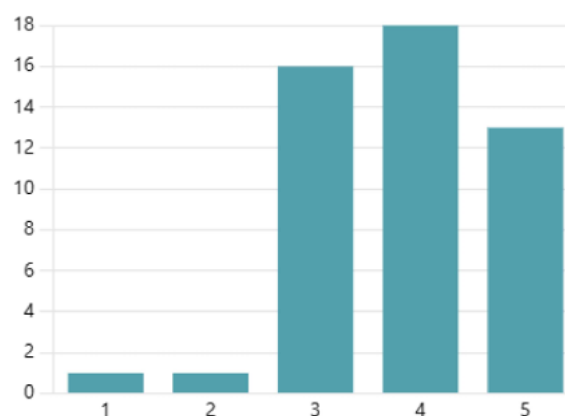
Second focus: Despite of the wide range of public sector challenges at regional and local levels that require development and deployment of new solutions, innovation procurement happens less frequently in Europe than in other parts of the world. The recent centralization has widened the gap, as it fails to be close to the problems. Compared to some other large competing regions of the world, in Europe public procurement takes place even more predominantly at local and regional level. The lack of the European procurers proactively acquainting themselves with emerging innovations and steering industrial developments to meet future public sector needs also slows down the adoption rate of innovative solutions in the public sector in Europe. The aggregation and cross-border dimension are key drivers in public procurement. An important objective is to create a link between EU4Health and the Territorial cooperation Programmes.

Finally, on the planning of strategic priorities, the congruity (or otherwise) of the timing between the development of the strategic vision and the implementation in the WP was investigated, to determine significant results. The 51% of the respondents "agree" or "strongly agree" that the number of years before the priorities enter into force determine the risk that the calls reflect an outdated vision and funded actions produce minimal incremental results.

9. The priorities of EU4Health have been identified on the basis of a strategic vision developed over a number of years before the entry into force of the WP. This carries a double risk: the calls reflect an outdated vision and the funded actions produce minimal and linear increments of known results

1=strongly disagree 2=disagree 3=neither agree or disagree 4=agree 5=strongly agree

3.53
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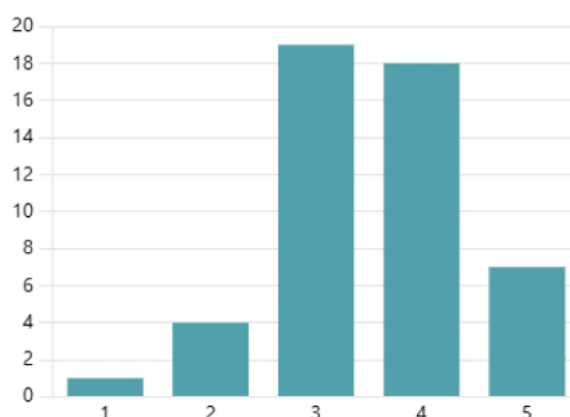
Section C – evaluation of the presentation and communication of the actions

To set up targeted communication and promotion actions, almost all the respondents confirmed that it would be helpful to integrate the presentation of the grant - calls for proposals with explicit information on the target beneficiaries and that a tabular format download function would be helpful to facilitate the search for calls.

38,8% of respondents agree that the publication of the tentative planning for calls under EU4Health, Horizon Europe Health and Single Market Programme Food (europa.eu), does not allow easy use and research. 44,9% of respondents has expressed a neutral opinion "neither agree or disagree".
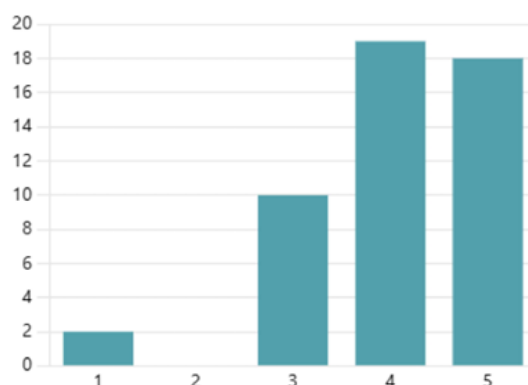
The TED eTendering -search tool has a funding program identifier, it is advisable that the reference to the EU4Health funding WP is included in the title of the call for tenders, in order to facilitate the search and identification of the actions.

57,1% of respondents answered the question about the adequacy of the TED eTendering-search tool, confirming the advice to include the reference of EU4Health funding WP in the title of the call for tenders, to facilitate the search and the identification of the calls to be promoted.

12. To facilitate the search for calls, a tabular format download function would be helpful

1=very unimportant 2=unimportant 3=neutral 4=important 5=very important
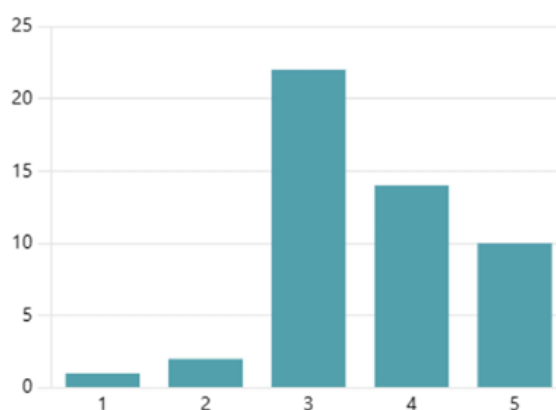
4.04
Valutazione media

13. The publication of the tentative planning for calls under EU4Health, Horizon Europe Health and Single Market Programme Food (europa.eu), does not allow easy use and research

    1=strongly disagree 2=disagree 3=neither agree or disagree 4=agree 5=strongly agree

3.61
Valutazione media

14. The TED eTendering-search tool has a funding program identifier, it is advisable that the reference to the EU4Health funding WP is included in the title of the call for tenders, in order to facilitate the search and identification of the actions

    1=very unimportant 2=unimportant 3=neutral 4=important 5=very important

3.76
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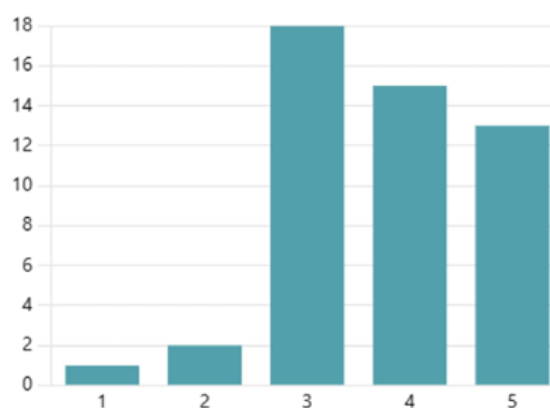
Section D- Monitoring and evaluation systems

Some respondents saw weaknesses in the monitoring and evaluation systems, expressing a substantial agreement with the following sentences:

o 38,8% of respondents "agree" or "strongly agree" that in EU4Health WPs the goals and objectives are not explicitly related to strands of action. Monitoring the contribution of the strand's action to the achievement of goals and specific objectives of the WPs is hampered by this non explicit link.

o Most respondents (59,2%) "agree" or "strongly agree" that the establishment of the Executive Agencies has helped to increase the efficiency of the evaluation and the contractual phase. However, separating the definition of the WPs and their priorities from the evaluation, has created discontinuity. Without feedback from completed actions it remains difficult to design new programs, avoiding duplications and covering the gap.

o Only 42,8% of respondents "agree" or "strongly agree" that the mechanisms that allow proposers to appeal the Evaluation Summary Report are fundamentally ineffective and purely formal and do not allow to dispute the contents of the assessment.

16. In EU4Health WPs the goals and objectives are not explicitly related to the strands of action. Monitoring the contribution of the strand's action to the achievement of goals and specific objectives of the WPs is hampered by this non-explicit link
1=strongly disagree 2=disagree 3=neither agree or disagree 4=agree 5=strongly agree


3.35
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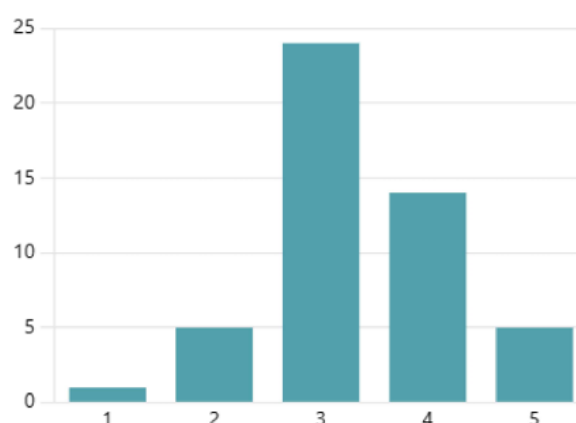
17. The establishment of the Executive Agencies has helped to increase the efficiency of the evaluation and the contractual phase. However, separating the definition of the WPs and its priorities from the evaluation has created discontinuity. Without feedback from completed actions it remains difficult to design new programs, avoiding duplications and covering the gap

1=strongly disagree 2=disagree 3=neither agree or disagree 4=agree 5=strongly agree

3.78
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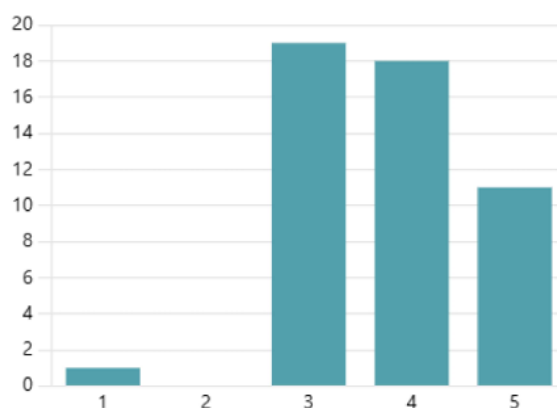
Third focus: Offering tutoring activities and providing ongoing feedback to potential participants before submitting proposals could have a significant positive impact on the quality and quantity of the proposals.

21. The mechanisms that allow proposers to appeal the Evaluation Summary Report are fundamentally ineffective and purely formal, and do not allow to dispute the contents of the assessment

1=strongly disagree 2=disagree 3=neither agree or disagree 4=agree 5=strongly agree

3.53

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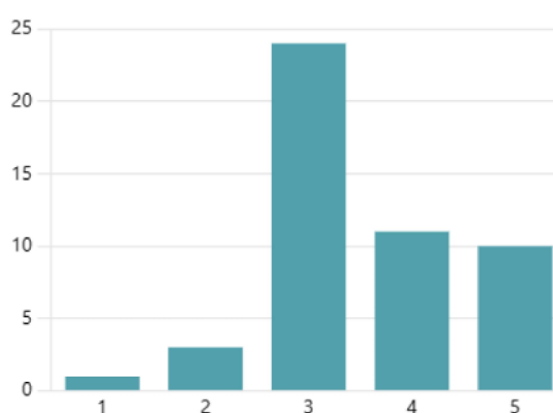
Some of the following proposals have been agreed to as a way to address these issues.

o   50% of respondents "agrees" or "strongly agrees" that it is advisable to strengthen the mechanisms for valorising the results and outcomes of the projects, in particular through the introduction of KPIs strictly related to the 4 goals and 10 specific objectives that makes ex post monitoring effective.

18. It is advisable to strengthen the mechanisms for valorising the results and outcomes of the projects, in particular through the introduction of KPIs strictly related to the 4 goals and 10 specific objectives that makes ex post monitoring effective
1=strongly disagree 2=disagree 3=neither agree or disagree 4=agree 5=strongly agree

**3.59**
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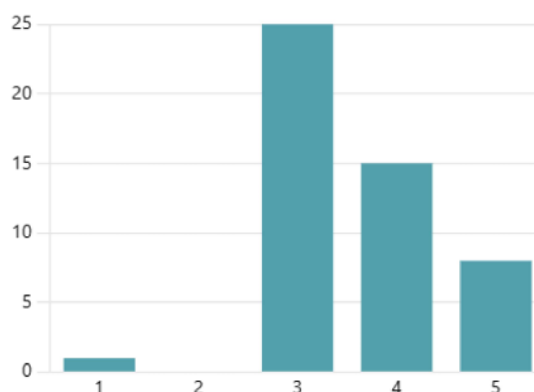
o   63,2% of respondents "agree" or "strongly agree" that the "assessment by evaluators" method can be improved, creating a continuity process between the strategy formulated by the European Commission in the WP and the evaluation of how the actions respond to them, for example by assuring the involvement of policy officers more systematic in evaluators' briefings.

19. The "assessment by evaluators" method can be improved by creating a continuity process between the strategy formulated by the European Commission in the WP and the evaluation of the actions. For example, this can be achieved by ensuring a more systematic involvement of the policy officers during evaluation briefings
1=strongly disagree 2=disagree 3=neither agree or disagree 4=agree 5=strongly agree

3.71
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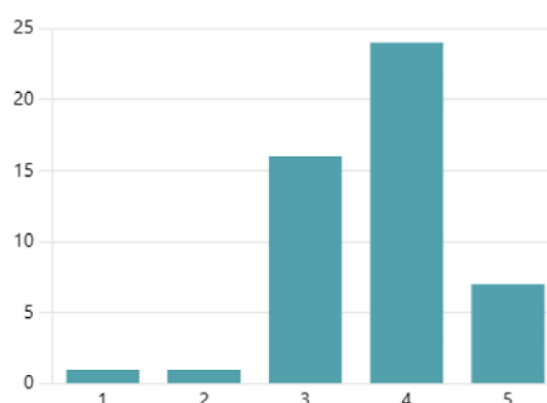
o 77,5% of respondents "agrees" or "strongly agrees" that it is useful to improve the interaction mechanisms between proposers and evaluators, with the dual objective of (i) making it possible to discuss the merits of the proposals (and not just the procedural aspects), and (ii) providing proposers with concretely useful elements for future proposals.

20. In order to improve the interaction mechanisms between proposers and evaluators, it is important to focus on the the merits of the proposals (and not just the procedural aspects), and to provide proposers with concretely useful elements for future proposals
1=strongly disagree 2=disagree 3=neither agree or disagree 4=agree 5=strongly agree

4.10
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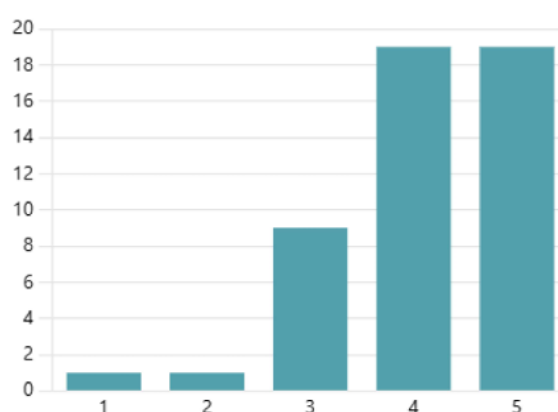
o   57% of respondents proposes to make use of a reserve fund of the order of 5-10% of the entire annual amount of WP to be dedicated only to actions that emerged after the initial planning phase and a sudden crises and emergencies (geopolitical, health, etc.). In case the reserve fund doesn't come used, the resources set aside can only be recovered and used in the last calls.

22. A reserve fund of the order of 5-10% of the entire annual amount of the WP should be dedicated only to actions that emerged after the initial planning phase and a sudden crisis or emergency (geopolitical, health...)
1=strongly disagree 2=disagree 3=neither agree or disagree 4=agree 5=strongly agree

3.57

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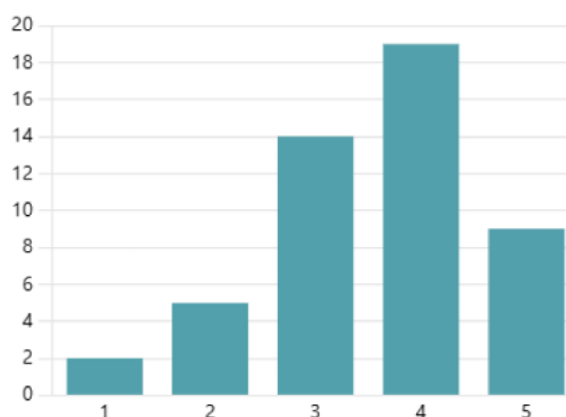
Section E – Synergies.

It is generally agreed that to be able to guide potential beneficiaries in choosing the financing programme better suited to their project ideas and therefore to increase interconnections between funding programs, the NFPs and EC need to have an in-depth vision of the programmes of EUHealth, Horizon Europe "HEALTH" and Single Market programme – FOOD[1].

The charts below show the responses to the closed questions "how much do you agree with the following":

o   To further encourage and enable synergies between funding programmes, it is advisable that the WP identifies a priori calls for proposals that lend themselves to synergies that can be financed with other instruments.

o   Since public expenditure and public health strategies are mainly carried out at the local level, it would be advisable to strengthen the involvement of Member States at regional and/or local level, to develop multiple-level governed actions and to benefit the less advanced regions.

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[1] EU4Health is the fourth and largest of the EU health programmes. The EU4Health programme goes beyond an ambitious response to the COVID-19 crisis to address the resilience of European healthcare systems. The programme provides funding to national authorities, health organisations and other bodies through grants and public procurement, contributing to a healthier Europe.

Horizon Europe is the research and innovation programme of the EU for the period 2021-2027. The aims of Cluster 1 'Health' include improving and protecting the health and wellbeing of citizens of all ages by generating new knowledge, developing innovative solutions, and integrating a gender perspective to prevent, diagnose, monitor, treat and cure diseases.

The EU Single Market Programme brings together the Union actions in the fields of competitiveness of enterprises, especially SMEs, consumer protection, customers and end-users in financial services, policymaking in financial services and in the plant, animal, food and feed areas.

24. To further encourage and enable synergies between funding programmes, it is advisable that the Work Programmes would identify in advance calls for proposals that lend themselves to synergies and that could be funded by other instruments
1=strongly disagree 2=disagree 3=neither agree or disagree 4=agree 5=strongly agree

4.19

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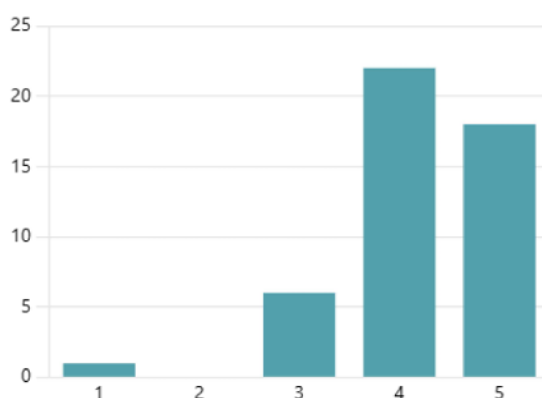
25. Since public expenditure and public health strategies are mainly carried out at the local level, it would be advisable to strengthen the involvement of Member States at regional and/or local level, in order to develop multiple-level governed actions and to tackle regional inequality
1=strongly disagree 2=disagree 3=neither agree or disagree 4=agree 5=strongly agree

4.15

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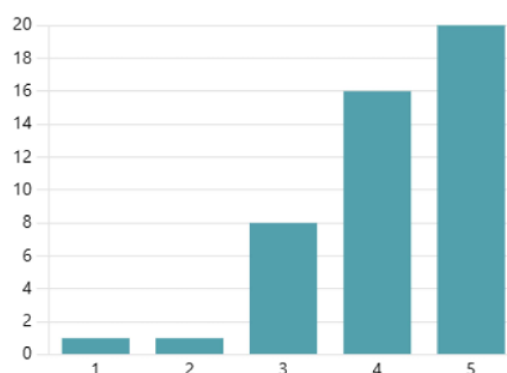
26. What are the most important EU Funding programmes for targeting complementarities and synergies with EU4Health WP?
1=very unimportant 2=unimportant 3=neutral 4=important 5=very important
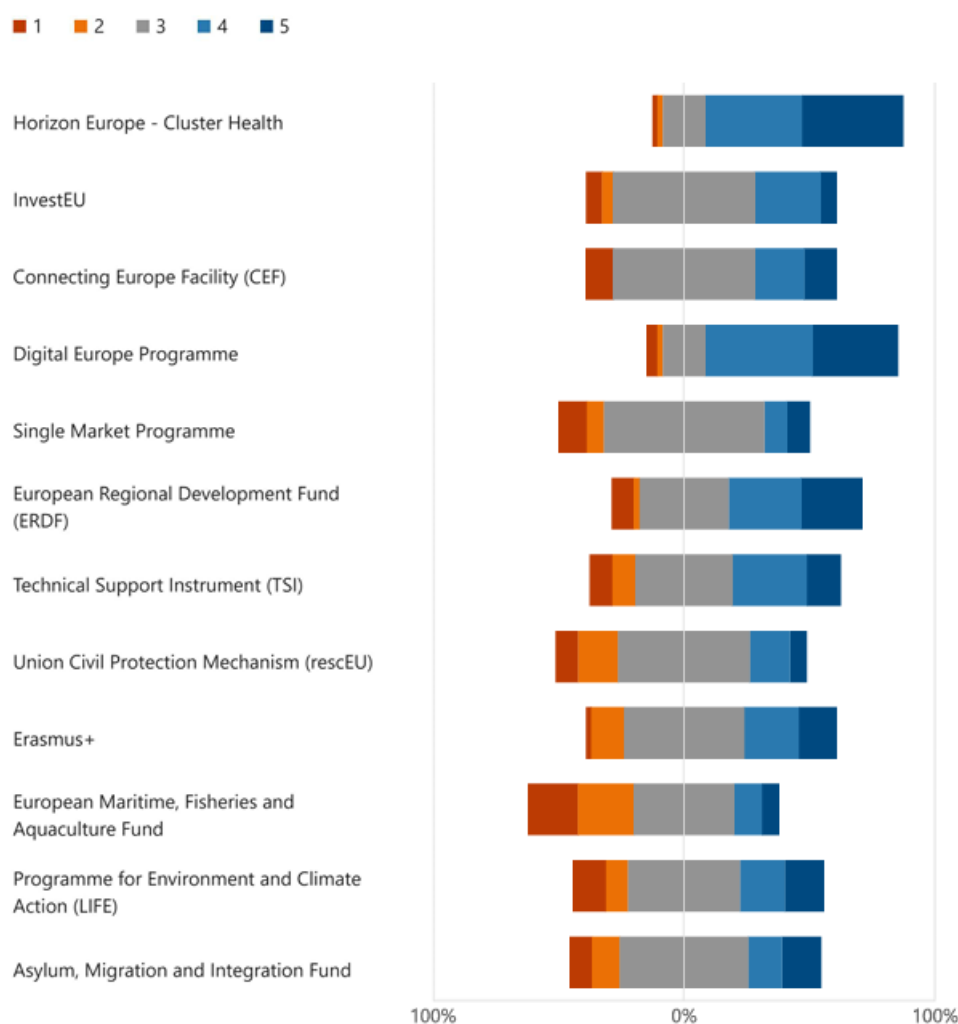
The chart above shows that, according to the respondents, the EU Funding programmes that target complementarities and synergies – even if unexploited – with EU4Health WP are Horizon Europe – Cluster 1[2], Digital Europe Programme and European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), secondarily Technical Support Instrument (TSI) and Erasmus+, followed by LIFE, Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, InvestEU, Connecting Europe Facility (CEF).

It should be noted that some respondents may have indicated the Programmes with which more complementarities and synergies are possible, without considering whether they have been already exploited or not.

The respondents were asked to think of the suitable areas to maximize synergies with other EU spending programmes and to optimise the added value and impacts from investments funded. 2 out of 49 stakeholders haven't answered this question.

- According to 81,6% of respondents, the Research & Innovation area is "important" or "very important".
- According to 83,7% of respondents, the Digital transformation area is "important" or "very important".
- According to 75,5% of respondents, the social dimension including lack of medical staff, gender inequalities, equal access to health care areas are "important" or "very important".
- According to 73,5% of respondents, crisis preparedness & response area is important" or "very important".
- According to 67% of respondents Climate & environment area is "important" or "very important".

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[2] Horizon Europe is providing and will provide support to beneficiaries thought many types of actions, differently funding: recurrent are the RIA (which is the prevalent type in Cluster 1.) , IA (which is underrepresented in Cluster 1), CSA (common type of action also in cluster 1), programme co-fund action (mainly focused on public-public or public-private partnerships) , innovation and market development, training and mobility action (MSCA, slightly modified and renamed), PCP(Pre-commercial procurement), PPI (Public procurement of innovative solutions...

The cluster health objective is to improve and protect the health of citizens at all ages, by developing innovative solutions to prevent, diagnose, monitor, treat and cure diseases; mitigating health risks, protecting populations and promoting good health; making public health systems more cost-effective, equitable and sustainable; and supporting and enabling patients' participation and self-management. Based on that, the synergies with EU4Health are relevant.

The areas of intervention under the Cluster 1. Health are:

- Health throughout the life course
- Non-communicable and rare diseases
- Tools, technologies and digital solutions for health and care, including personalised medicine
- Environmental and social health determinants
- Infectious diseases, including poverty-related and neglected disease
- Health care systems

Synergies can be exploited when the programmes address similar topics and are synchronized in time or scope.

27. In order to optimise the added value and impact from investments funded, EU4Health will seek to maximise synergies and complementarities with other EU spending programmes, which are the most important areas for developing synergies?
*1=very unimportant 2=unimportant 3=neutral 4=important 5=very important*
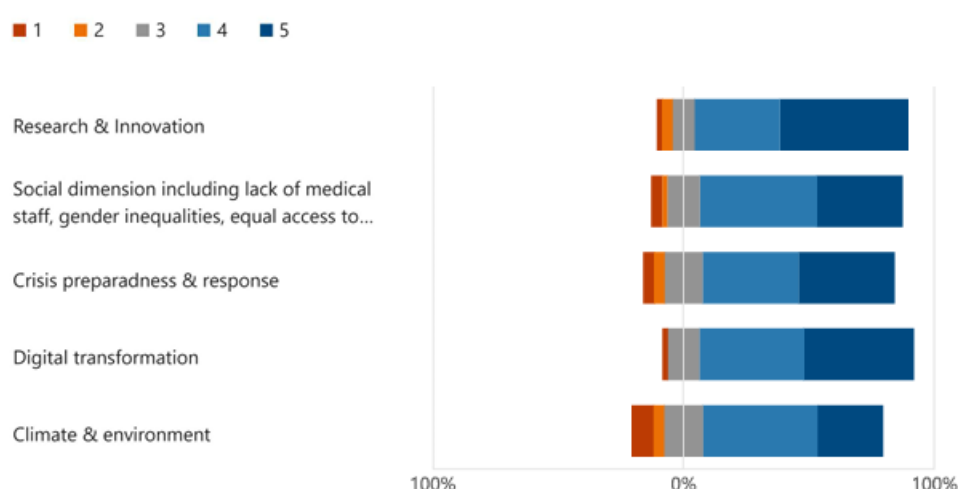
EU4Health will work closely with the European Commission's main research programme, [Horizon Europe](#), which includes a health cluster. Horizon Europe will finance research and innovation on topics such as life-long good health; environmental and social health determinants; non-communicable and rare diseases; infectious diseases; tools, technologies and digital solutions for health and care and healthcare systems. It will also include a Horizon Europe research & innovation [mission on cancer,](#) one of the Commission's top priorities in health policy. The EU4Health Programme can help to ensure best use of research results and facilitate the uptake, scale-up and deployment of health innovation in healthcare systems and clinical practice, funded under Horizon EU. However, the assessment of the impact generated using the knowledge and technologies developed under the Horizon Europe Programme is difficult, in the absence of tools/mechanisms that verify ex post increases in Technology readiness levels (TRL). The majority of respondents (61,2%) agrees that this ex-post verification is key to enable these synergies.

This presentation is part of the action "NFP4Health" which has received funding from the European Union's Health (20144-2020) under grant agreement No 101035965.

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28. As known, EU4Health is expected to work closely with Horizon Europe in order to ensure best use of research results and facilitate the uptake, scale-up and deployment of health innovation in healthcare systems and clinical practice. However, the assessment of the impact generated by the use of the knowledge and technologies developed under Horizon Europe is challenging, in the absence of tools/mechanisms that verify ex-post increases in the technology readiness levels (TRL). This ex-post verification is key to enable these synergies

1=strongly disagree 2=disagree, 3=neither agree or disagree 4=agree 5=strongly agree

3.81
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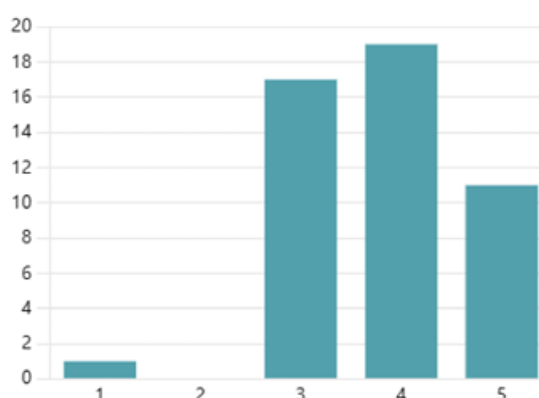
Section F- Implementation and administrative procedures concerning the calls

The adequacy of the procedures for the participation to EU4Health were analysed to propose simplification measures. 11 dimensions were subjected to evaluation, based on a scale of 5 values. The average rating stands at an intermediate average value of 2.78 - 3.35, with a significant prevalence of neutral responses.

1) The calls for proposals under EU4HEALTH were published frequently enough.
2) The calls for tenders under EU4HEALTH were published frequently enough.
3) Finding the right call for proposal was/is easy.
4) The communication activities to attract applicants were/are adequate.
5) The time taken to evaluate proposals were/is adequate.
6) The feedback received from the evaluation was clear and informative.
7) The time to sign the grant was adequate.
8) The cost calculation rules were/are clear.
9) The mechanism for project monitoring and reporting were/is adequate.
10) The support received by the NFPs services during preparation and implementation was satisfactorily.

11) The balance between checking and trust in beneficiaries was adequate.

30. The calls for tenders under EU4Health were published frequently enough
    1=strongly disagree 2=disagree 3=neither agree or disagree 4=agree 5=strongly agree

3.33
Valutazione media
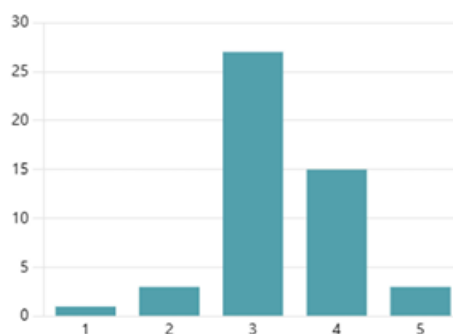
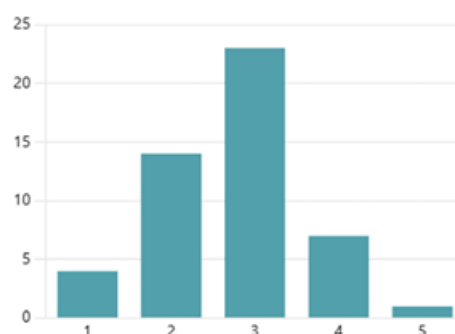31. Finding the right call for proposal was/is a easy process
    1=strongly disagree 2=disagree 3=neither agree or disagree 4=agree 5=strongly agree
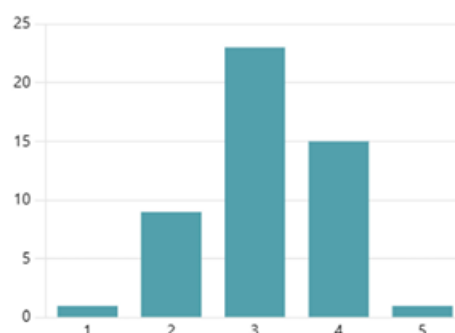
2.78
Valutazione media

32. The communication activities to attract applicants were/are adequate
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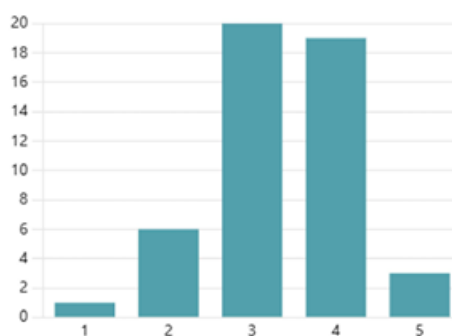
2.73
Valutazione media

33. The time taken to evaluate proposals was/is adequate
1=strongly disagree 2=disagree 3=neither agree or disagree 4=agree 5=strongly agree

3.12
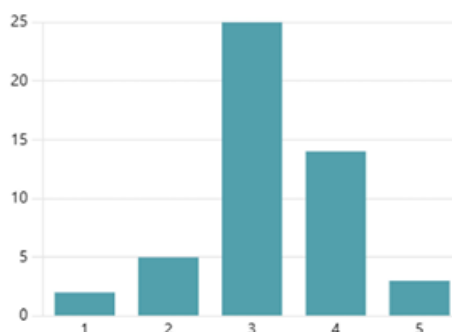Valutazione media

35. The amount of time allocated to the signature of the grant was/is adequate
1=strongly disagree 2=disagree 3=neither agree or disagree 4=agree 5=strongly agree

3.35
Valutazione media

34. The feedback received from the evaluation was/is clear and informative
1=strongly disagree 2=disagree 3=neither agree or disagree 4=agree 5=strongly agree
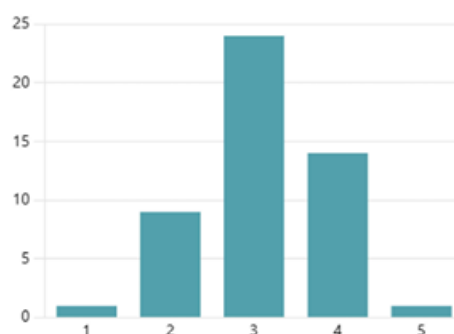
3.22
Valutazione media

36. The costs calculation rules were/are clear
    1=strongly disagree 2=disagree 3=neither agree or disagree 4=agree 5=strongly agree
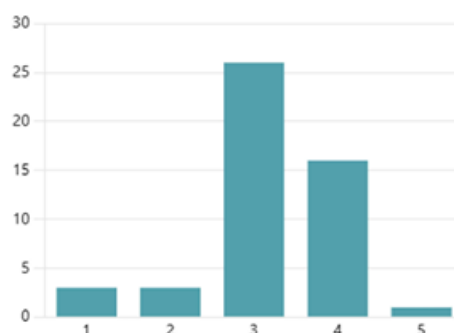

3.10
Valutazione media

37. The mechanisms for project monitoring and reporting were/are adequate
    1=strongly disagree 2=disagree 3=neither agree or disagree 4=agree 5=strongly agree

3.18
Valutazione media

38. The support received by the EU4Health NFPs services during preparation and implementation was satisfactory
1=strongly disagree 2=disagree 3=neither agree or disagree 4=agree 5=strongly agree

3.33
Valutazione media
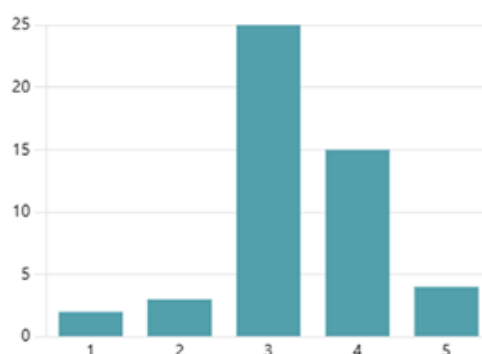
39. The balance between active monitoring checks and trust in beneficiaries was/is adequate
1=strongly disagree 2=disagree 3=neither agree or disagree 4=agree 5=strongly agree

All consultation participants replied to the question on the benefits of participating in EU4Health, among a list of 13 issues, with the request to select a maximum of 5:

- Improved cooperation with partners from other countries (within the EU and beyond).
- Improved excellence in scientific results (e.g., more high impact publications and patents).
- Improved international visibility.
- Strengthened critical mass to address pan-European challenges.
- Strengthened cooperation between organisations representing patients, civil society, healthcare professionals and businesses.
- Strengthened interdisciplinary cooperation.
- Possibility to finance projects which otherwise could not be supported at national and/or regional level.
- Reimbursement of costs at a higher level than in national and/or regional programmes.
- EU4 Health covers topics not covered by national and regional Programme.

- There are no additional benefits compared to national / regional support.
- There is an adequate mix of calls for proposals addressing specific topics (top-down) and calls for proposals without a pre-defined topic (bottom-up).
- The effort needed to participate in EU4Health compared to that of other Health programs is lower.
- Work programmes is formulated clearly – the budget and proposal size is clearly evidenced.

The findings outline that the main benefits of participating in EU4Health compared to national and/or regional programmes in EU Member States or Associated countries are represented by the "Improved cooperation with partners from other countries (within the EU and beyond)" and the "possibility to finance projects which otherwise could not be supported at national and/or regional level", followed by the possibility to "gain improved international visibility", to "strengthen interdisciplinary cooperation" and to "strengthen critical mass to address pan-European challenges".

40. In your view, what are the main benefits of participating in EU4Health compared to national and/or regional programmes in EU Member States or Associated countries? **Select the options that you agree with the most (up to a maximum of 5)**

|	
Improved cooperation with part...	42
Improved excellence in scientific...	14
Improved international visibility	23
Strengthened critical mass to ad...	18
Strengthened cooperation betw...	18
Strengthened interdisciplinary c...	19
Possibility to finance projects w...	33
Reimbursement of costs at a hig...	8
EU4Health covers topics not cov...	14
There are no additional benefits...	1
There is an adequate mix of call...	2
The effort needed to participate...	0
Work programmes are clearly fo...	4
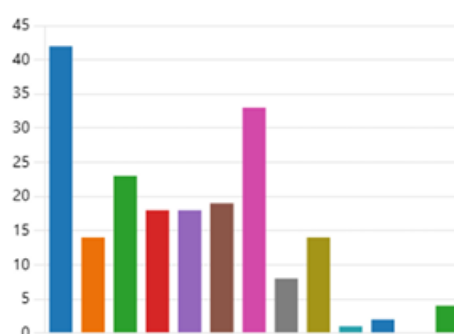
3.31
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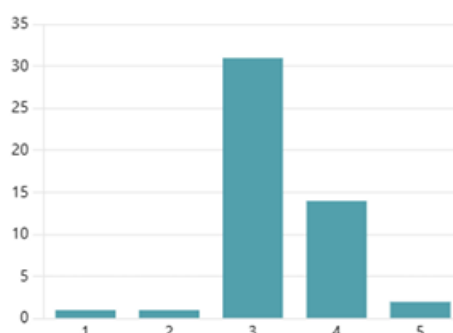
Different stakeholders pointed out the "limited financial/human resources to prepare a proposal" and the "inadequate knowledge of the Funding framework programme" as the main important reasons that may have prevented potential beneficiaries from participating in EU4Health, followed by the "application process which result to be cumbersome", the "difficulties in finding project partners" and "the limited opening window of the call", to mention the 5 answers which were frequently mentioned and highly agreed to.

The question was a platform to express agreement regarding these possible obstacles to participation:

- Inadequate knowledge of the Funding framework programme.
- Limited attractiveness compared to other European or international programmes.
- Limited attractiveness compared to other national or regional programmes.
- The application process is cumbersome.
- Success rates are too low to be worth applying.
- Difficulties in finding project partners.
- Lack of a relevant area/topic for my research interests.
- Concerns about sharing valuable knowledge with partners.
- Limited financial/human resources to prepare a proposal.
- The calls remain open for periods that are too short.
- The effort needed to participate in EU4Health compared to that of other Health programs is greater.

41. In your view, what are the main reasons that may have prevented potential beneficiaries from participating in EU4Health? **Select the options that you agree with the most (up to a maximum of 5)**

|	
Inadequate knowledge of the F...	35
Limited attractiveness compare...	10
Limited attractiveness compare...	10
The application process is cumb...	22
Success rates are too low to be ...	14
Difficulties in finding project par...	18
Lack of a relevant area/topic for ...	5
Concerns about sharing valuabl...	6
Limited financial/human resourc...	36
The opening window of the call...	17
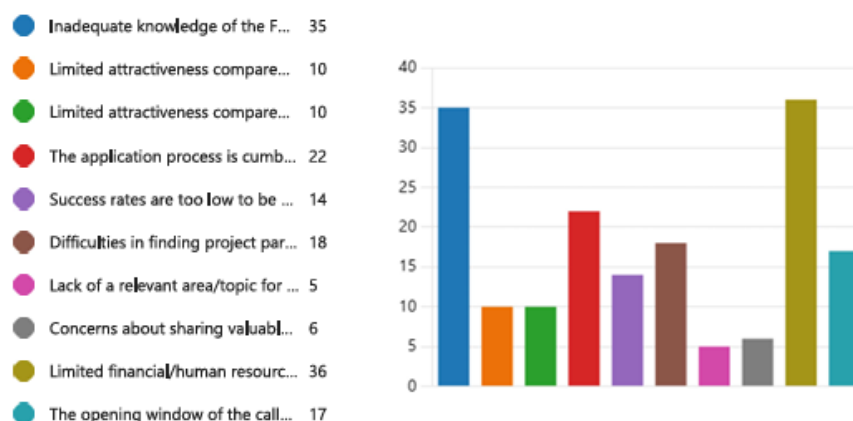
> Fourth focus: In this context, in Italy ProMIS will undertake efforts to engage Regions and related stakeholders planning workshops. Finally, the Piedmont Region expressed its willingness to share experiences and good practices on the basis of collaboration with France in international projects (please see Annex I).

While the opening window of the call was evaluated as limited, the frequency of publication was considered sufficient.

29. The calls for proposals under EU4HEALTH were published frequently enough
*1=strongly disagree 2=disagree 3=neither agree or disagree 4=agree 5=strongly agree*

3.33
Valutazione media
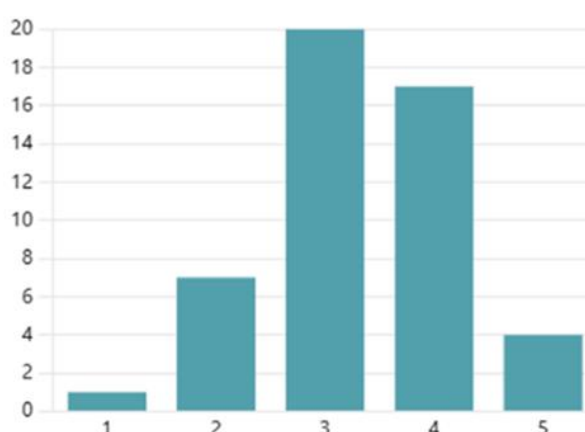
According to the majority of the respondents, the uniformity and standardization of the rules of participation, of the procedures, of the contractual rules and the generalization of lump sum financing were agreed to be helpful in simplifying the entire management process of calls for tenders and in facilitating participation.

42. The uniformation and standardization of the participation, procedural, and contractual rules as well as the generalization of lump sum financing could facilitate call/tender participation and management
1=strongly disagree 2=disagree 3=neither agree or disagree 4=agree 5=strongly agree
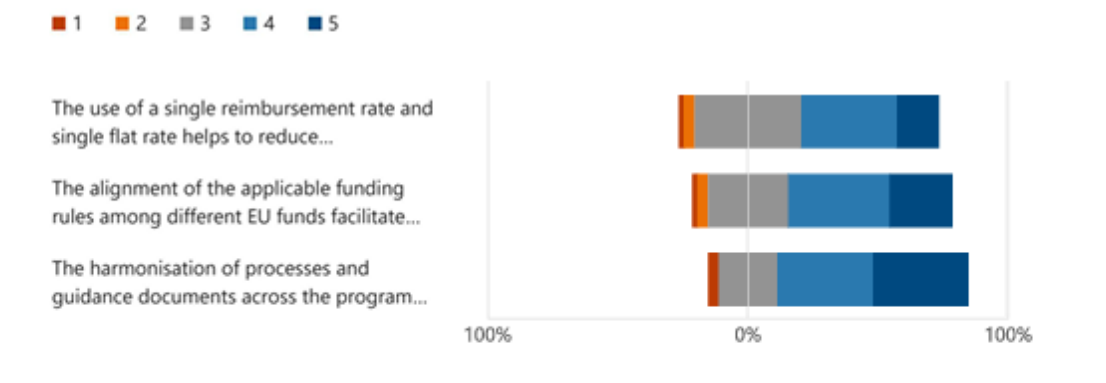
3.49
Valutazione media
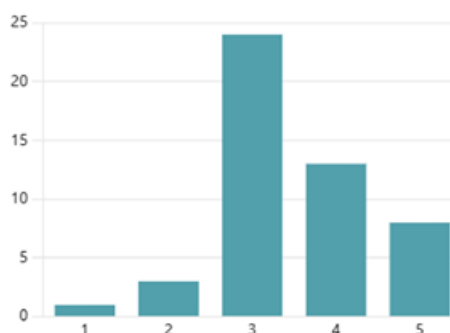
The consultation participants were asked to indicate what are the simplification measures introduced in EU4Health that (can) help reducing administrative burden and the answers provided confirmed the importance of all the following simplifications:

- The using of a single reimbursement rate and single flat rate helps to reduce administrative burden.
- The alignment of the applicable funding rules among different EU funds facilitates participation.
- The harmonisation of process and guidance document across the programme facilitate participation.

43. What measures could be introduced to EU4Health to help with reducing administrative burden?
   1=strongly disagree 2=disagree 3=neither agree or disagree 4=agree 5=strongly agree

This presentation is part of the action "NFP4Health" which has received funding from the European Union's Health (20144-2020) under grant agreement No 101035965.

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Annex 1

PROSANTÉ - COOPERATION PROJECT FOR HEALTH PROCEDURES Italy-France Cross-Border Cooperation Program "Alcotra" 2014-2020.

Almost 700 clinical cases were taken care of by the Prosanté cross-border project which networked the hospitals of Susa and Briançon to offer a better healthcare service to the inhabitants of Val Susa and the valleys immediately across the border. The initiative allowed the sharing of experiences and professionalism of four specialties of the two hospitals: anaesthesiology, dermatology, cardiology, and gynaecology. Specifically, women from Val Susa, who in the past chose to have their children born in Briançon, were offered the possibility of referring to the hospitals of Susa and Rivoli for all prenatal diagnostics, reducing the journey. On the other hand, thanks to the Italian structures the French have been able to access high-level dermatological care that the Briançon hospital did not previously guarantee. The advantages Furthermore, for some time now, the exchange of medical records, skills and in some cases entire teams has allowed patients to undergo surgical operations outside their own country by undertaking the entire pre-operative process in the offices closest to home. In urological and cardiological cases, telemedicine developed by the Italian healthcare company has offered the additional convenience of quicker discharges and home checks.

Thanks to Prosanté the following were financed:
INFRASTRUCTURES: ADAPTATION OF THE ELIPIST TO NIGHT FLIGHT REFURBISHMENT OF THE BILINGUAL SIGNS IN THE SUSA HOSPITAL
INSTRUMENTAL EQUIPMENT: ULTRASOUND DIGITAL DERMATOSCOPE