



# NFP4Health

REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF THE EU  
STAKEHOLDER SURVEY: Collecting  
feedback from relevant EU Stakeholders  
regarding the EU4Health NFP Profile



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

## ABSTRACT

This document has been elaborated in the context of the Joint Action NFP4Health (Grant Agreement no. 101035965) WP4 that focuses on analysing, testing and/or improving existing and new roles/actions/paths of the National Focal Points (NFPs) in order to support the effective and sustainable implementation of the EU4Health programme at national level.

This report provides the finding of a survey targeted to EU Stakeholders aimed at collecting feedback regarding the NFP service's mission, functions, tasks, and key principles. The survey has been drafted on the basis of the EU4Health NFP profile document (mission, functions, tasks and principles) and it will enforce the basis of an institutionalized NFP network, starting from the national priorities, characteristics and needs.



## Sommario

1	Introduction.....	3
2	The Survey .....	4
3	Findings .....	7
6	Other feedback.....	15



## 1 Introduction

This report provides the finding of a survey launched in the framework of the JA NFP4Health WP4 “Sustainability of action and integration in national policies” and targeted to EU Stakeholders. The survey has been drafted on the basis of the EU4Health NFP profile document, that provide an ideal NFP profile. The survey has been aimed at collecting feedback regarding the NFP service’s mission, functions, tasks, and key principles and it will help to establish an institutionalized NFP network, starting from the national priorities, characteristics and needs.



## 2 The Survey

The survey has been designed to ensure that the list of questions was well understood, including not only a number of closed-ended questions (33), but also an open-ended question looking for specific qualitative feedback. Moreover, closed-questions have been designed using a 5 points Likert Scale (where 1 means “strongly disagree” and 5 means “strongly agree”). Furthermore, the layout of the survey has been designed to reduce the likelihood of errors by the respondents.

The survey was published on the Joint Action website <https://www.nfp4health.eu/> and was disseminated and promoted by all NFPs to their national stakeholders, remaining open for two months until 15 April 2023.

The formulated question was common to all the first 33 questions “How much do you agree with the following sentences?”

1. NFPs promulgate general and specific documentation on the EU4Health Programme (Strategic related documents, Annual Work Programme, Stakeholders Consultations and any other document published by the European Commission and/or by HaDEA)
2. NFPs organize promotional events and info days at national level with the aim of: promoting Annual Work Programme-in liaison with the European Commission and the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA)
3. NFPs organize promotional events and info days at national level with the aim of: disseminating the results
4. NFPs organize promotional events and info days at national level with the aim of: Informing on the impact generated by the Programme at the national level
5. NFPs raise awareness of: Funding opportunities under the EU4Health Programme published in the Funding&Tender Portal
6. NFPs raise awareness of: Synergies with other health related programmes at European/national level, while improving cooperation with national and EU key stakeholders
7. NFPs support potential applicants with the participation to the Programme aiming at increasing the participation and the performance
8. NFPs explain the scope and the modalities of types of action foreseen in EU4Health as well as ensuring that the proposals fall under the financial framework
9. NFPs, when appropriate, organise courses and training sessions to strengthen the knowledge of relevant stakeholders
10. NFPs report to the European Commission the results, opportunities and difficulties encountered by applicants to participate and make proposals for improvement purposes
11. The services of NFPs will be established, operated and financed under the responsibility of the Member States and Associated Countries
12. In accordance with national law, consolidated rules for ensuring confidentiality and for avoiding conflicts of interest should be established
13. A dedicated national EU4Health Programme info-page has to be set up by the appointed national organization, in accordance to existing web portals: European Digital and Health Executive Agency (HaDEA), European Commission, European Centre for Disease Prevention & Control, NFP4Health website (the latter applicable during the project's life)



14. The NFPs service should be driven by the principles of transparency and equal access to the programme
15. The NFPs service should be impartial and independent
16. According to the scope of the mandate of the host organizations or national authorities, NFPs should be supported in terms of staff and equipment
17. The NFPs service should ensure an efficient communication channel (functional mailbox accessible during work hours, telephone number)
18. The NFPs should be knowledgeable with the relevant sources of advice on related programmes in their country (NCPs, Managing Authorities, National networks...etc.)
19. Considering the collaborative nature of EU programmes and the European Health Union's objectives, the Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach and intersectoral action capacities, NFPs should participate actively in transnational networks (according to each national ecosystem in each MS)/European platforms in the field (NFPs Interaction Platform, EU Health Policy Platform. etc.) and develop mutually supporting relationships
20. NFPs should acquire technical/soft skills and ensure an excellent communication and information channel, adapting to the variety of relevant stakeholders involved
21. NFPs should ensure timely and comprehensive exchange of relevant information with their national representatives on the EU4Health Programme Committee and Steering Group where applicable
22. With regards to Horizon Europe, every NFP should be aware and overall knowledgeable regarding the objectives, principles and programme content and should aim to identify opportunities for health stakeholders, provided by related programme
23. With regards to Digital Europe, every NFP should be aware and overall knowledgeable regarding the objectives, principles and programme content and should aim to identify opportunities for health stakeholders, provided by related programme
24. With regards to Erasmus+, every NFP should be aware and overall knowledgeable regarding the objectives, principles and programme content and should aim to identify opportunities for health stakeholders, provided by related programme
25. With regards to the Technical Support Instrument, every NFP should be aware and overall knowledgeable regarding the objectives, principles and programme content and should aim to identify opportunities for health stakeholders, provided by related programme
26. With regards to the Next Generation EU, every NFP should be aware and overall knowledgeable regarding the objectives, principles and programme content and should aim to identify opportunities for health stakeholders, provided by related programme
27. With regards to the NRRPs (National Recovery and Resilience Plans), every NFP should be aware and overall knowledgeable regarding the objectives, principles and programme content and should aim to identify opportunities for health stakeholders, provided by related programme
28. With regards to the ESF+ (European Social Fund Plus), every NFP should be aware and overall knowledgeable regarding the objectives, principles and programme content and should aim to identify opportunities for health stakeholders, provided by related programme
29. With regards to the ERDF (European Regional Development Fund), every NFP should be aware and overall knowledgeable regarding the objectives, principles and programme content and should aim to identify opportunities for health stakeholders, provided by related programme

30. With regards to the LIFE Programme, every NFP should be aware and overall knowledgeable regarding the objectives, principles and programme content and should aim to identify opportunities for health stakeholders, provided by related programme
31. With regards to the Connecting Europe Facility, every NFP should be aware and overall knowledgeable regarding the objectives, principles and programme content and should aim to identify opportunities for health stakeholders, provided by related programme
32. With regards to the Invest EU, every NFP should be aware and overall knowledgeable regarding the objectives, principles and programme content and should aim to identify opportunities for health stakeholders, provided by related programme
33. With regards to the ETC (European Territorial Cooperation), every NFP should be aware and overall knowledgeable regarding the objectives, principles and programme content and should aim to identify opportunities for health stakeholders, provided by related programme

The last question was open ended:

34. Please, provide your suggestions and comments relating to NFPs' Mission, Functions and Tasks and Key Principles

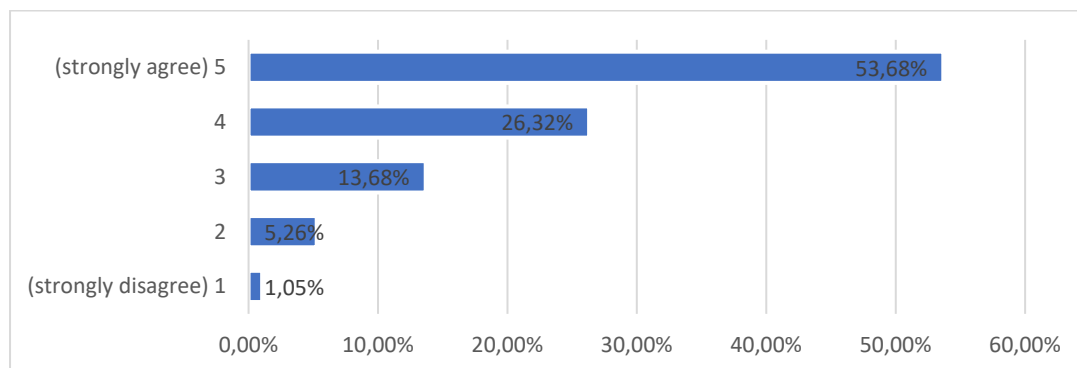




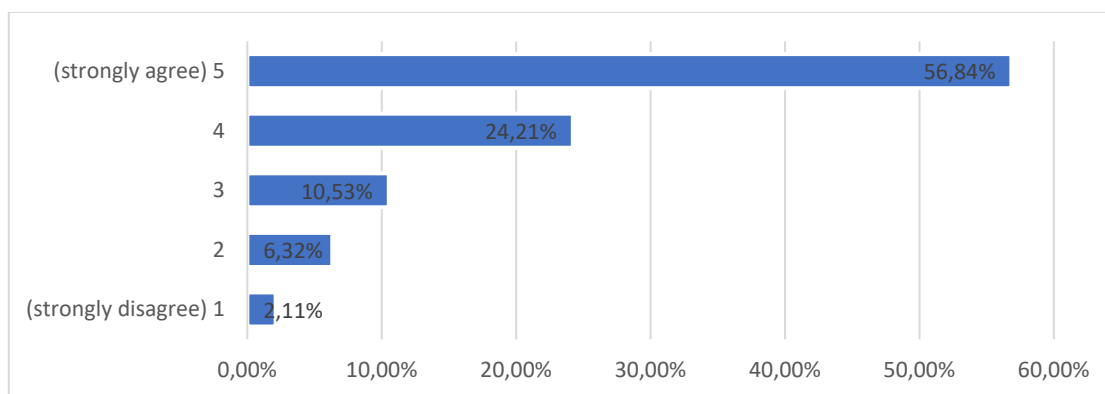


### 1<sup>st</sup> Group of surveyed Function of the NFP: Informing and awareness raising

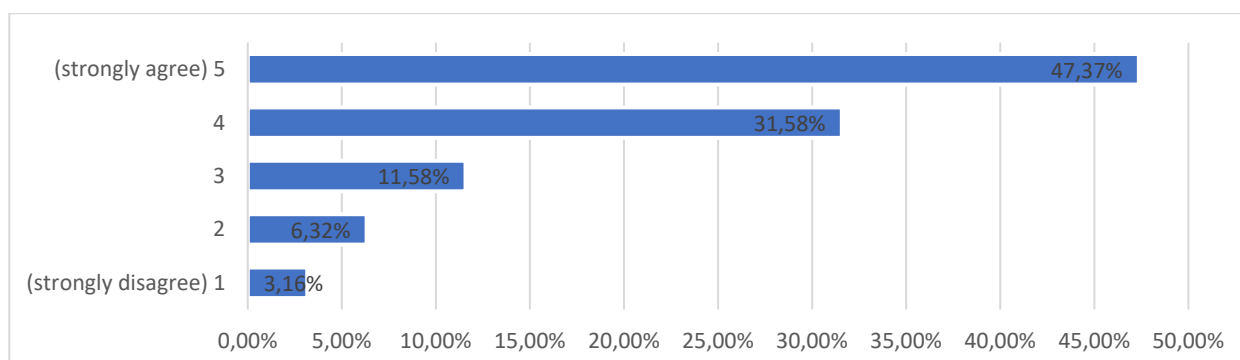
For at least 80% of the respondents, NFPs promulgate general and specific documentation on the EU4Health Programme (Strategic related documents, Annual Work Programme, Stakeholders Consultations and any other document published by the European Commission and/or by HaDEA).



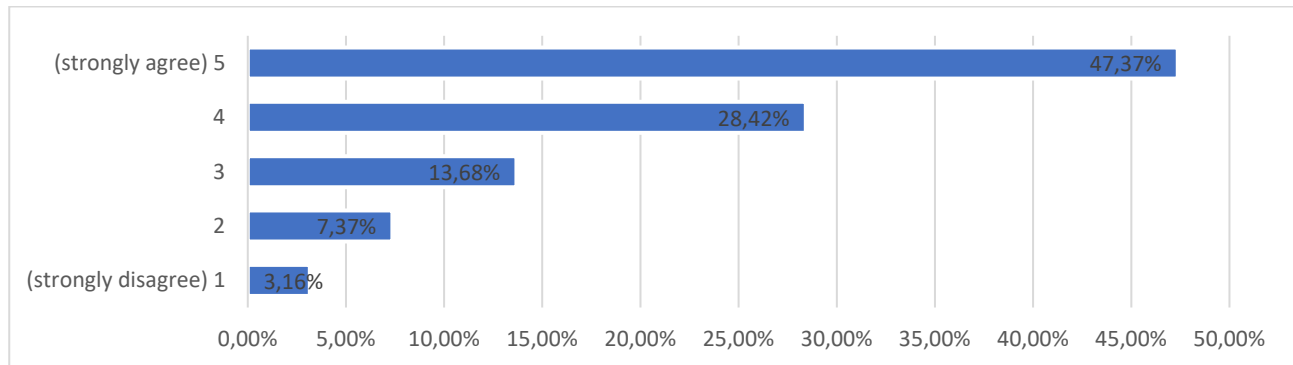
For at least 81% of the respondents, NFPs organize promotional events and info days at national level with the aim of: promoting Annual Work Programme-in liaison with the European Commission and the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA).



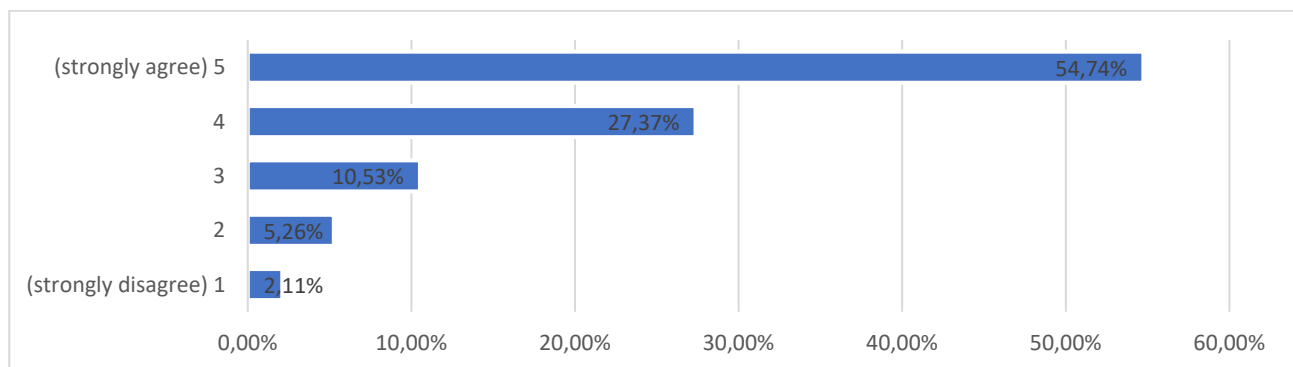
For at least 78,95% of the respondents, NFPs organize promotional events and info days at national level with the aim of: disseminating the results.



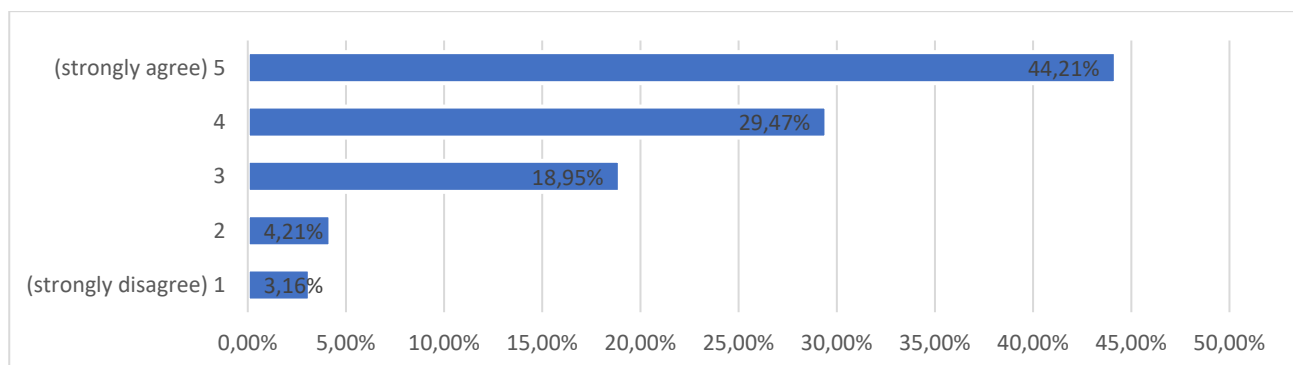
For at least 75,8% of the respondents, NFPs organize promotional events and info days at national level with the aim of **informing on the impact generated** by the Programme at the national level.



For at least 82% of the respondents, NFPs raise awareness of **funding opportunities** under the EU4Health Programme published in the Funding&Tender Portal.

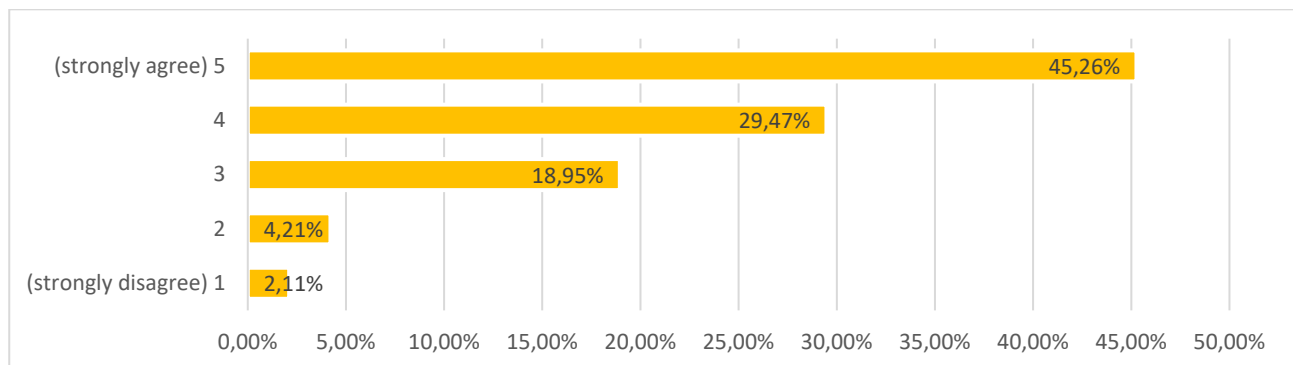


For at least 73,68% of the respondents, NFPs raise awareness of **synergies with other health related programmes at European/national level**, while improving cooperation with national and EU key stakeholders.

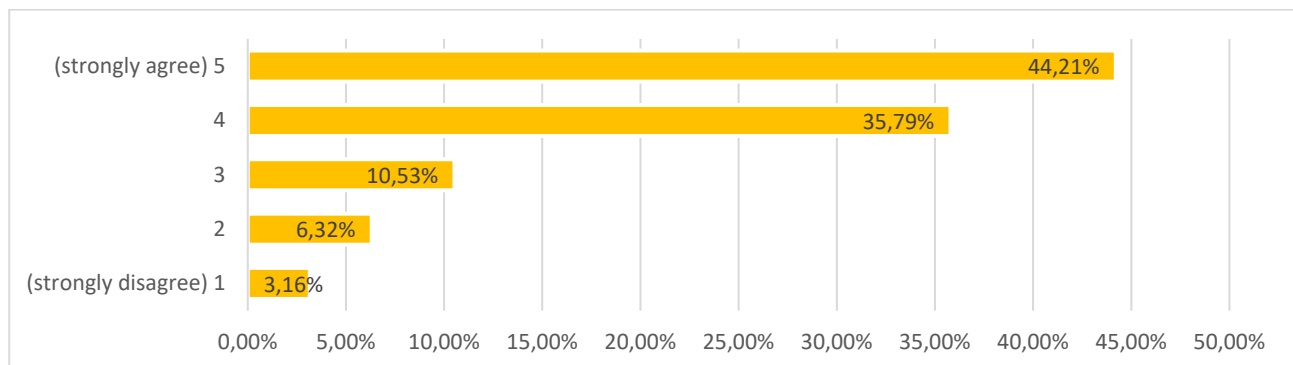


## 2<sup>nd</sup> Group of surveyed Function of the NFP: Support and capacity building

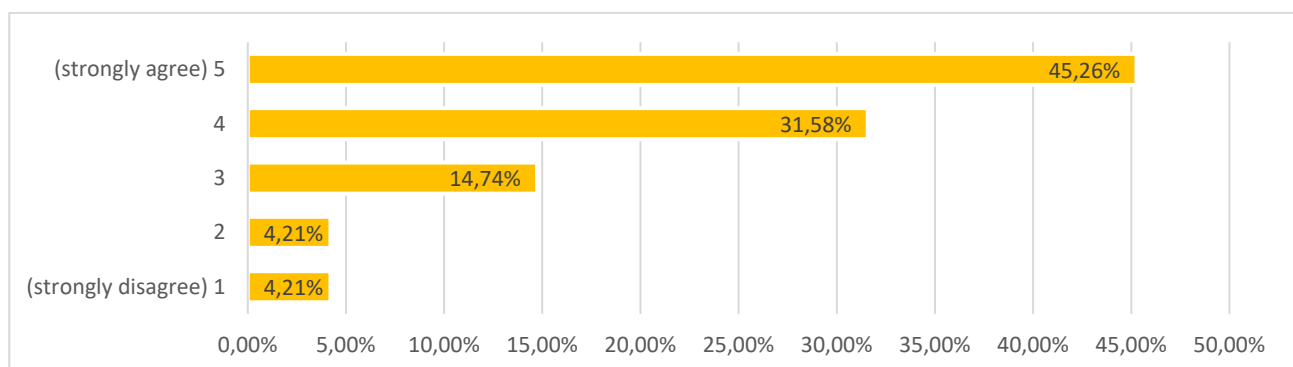
For at least 74,74% of the respondents, the NFPs support potential applicants with the participation to the Programme aiming at increasing the participation and the performance.



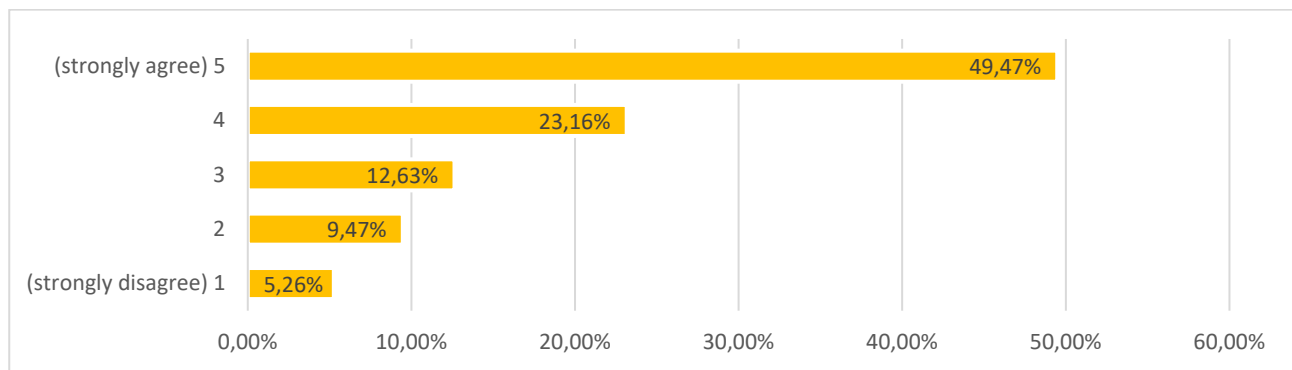
For at least 80% of the respondents, the NFPs explain the scope and the modalities of types of action foreseen in EU4Health as well as ensuring that the proposals fall under the financial framework.



For at least 76,84% of the respondents, the NFPs, when appropriate, organise courses and training sessions to strengthen the knowledge of relevant stakeholders.



For at least 72,63% of the respondents, the NFPs report to the European Commission the results, opportunities and difficulties encountered by applicants to participate and make proposals for improvement purposes.



Moreover, respondents outlined that the input and support that NFPs can offer is an important opportunity for national /regional authorities regarding the EU4Health programmes. Engagement with local entities is key for the effective involvement in EU programmes. Offering on-site training and exchange might help those subjects that are still struggling to be fully involved.

#### Surveyed key principles and requirements governing and establishing a NFP

The large majority of the respondents (76,84%) strongly agree and significantly agree that the service of NFPs has to be established, operated and financed under the responsibility of the Member States and Associated Countries.

The vast majority of the respondents (85,26%) strongly agree and significantly agree that, in accordance with national law, consolidated rules for ensuring confidentiality and for avoiding conflicts of interest should be established with respect to the NFP activities.

The large majority of the respondents (75,79%) strongly agree and significantly agree that a dedicated national EU4Health Programme info-page has to be set up by the appointed national organization, in accordance to existing web portals: [European Digital and Health Executive Agency \(HaDEA\)](#), [European Commission](#), [European Centre for Disease Prevention & Control](#), [NFP4Health website](#).

At least 89,47% of the respondents answered that the NFPs services should be driven by the principles of transparency and equal access to the programme.

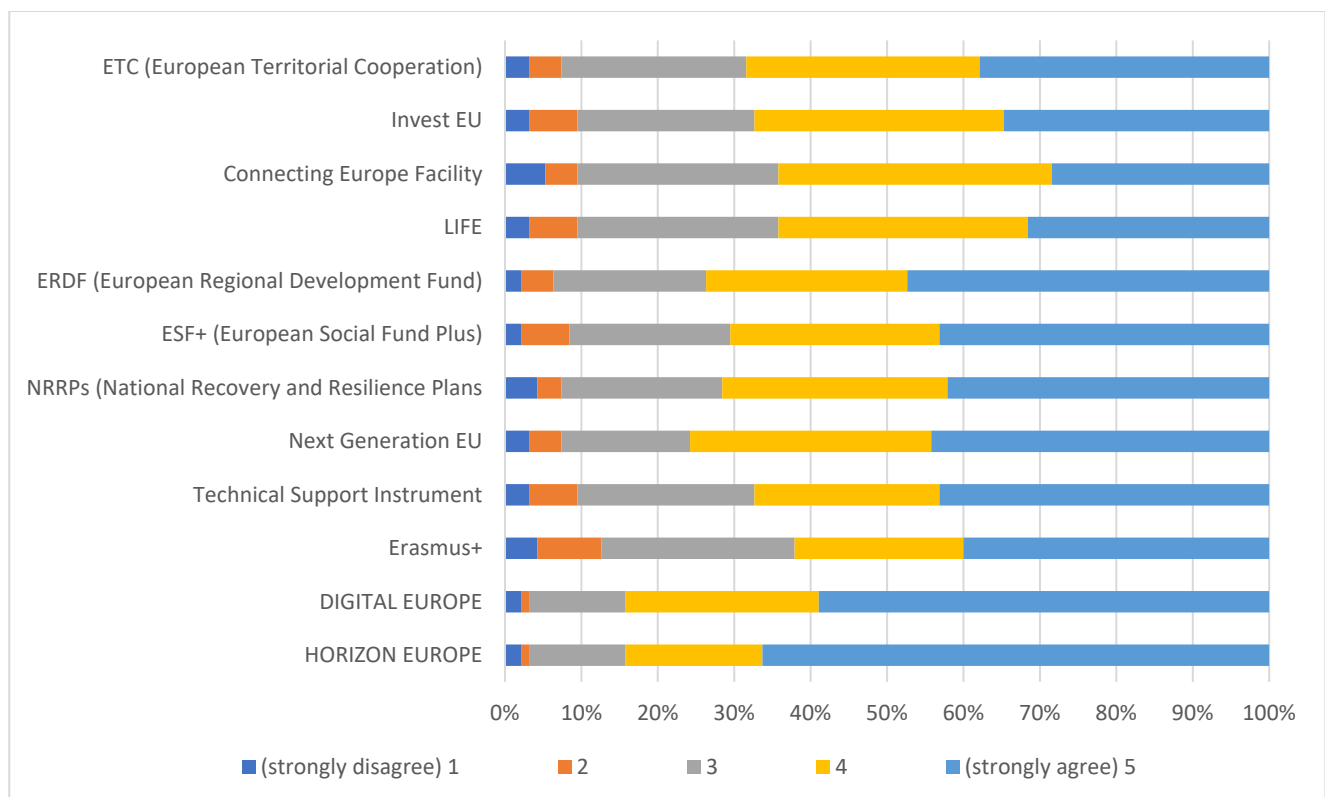
At least 88,42% of the respondents expressed that the NFPs service should be impartial and independent

At least 85,26% of the respondents agreed that, according to the scope of the mandate of the host organizations or national authorities, NFPs should be supported in terms of staff and equipment.

The percentage of 93,68% favourable responses (agrees) was expressed in relation to the capacity of the NFP's service to ensure an efficient communication channel (functional mailbox accessible during work hours, telephone number).

With reference to the Funding programmes listed below, respondents were asked to agree or disagree with the need for each NFPs to be aware and overall knowledgeable regarding the objectives, principles and programme content in order to identify opportunities for health stakeholders.

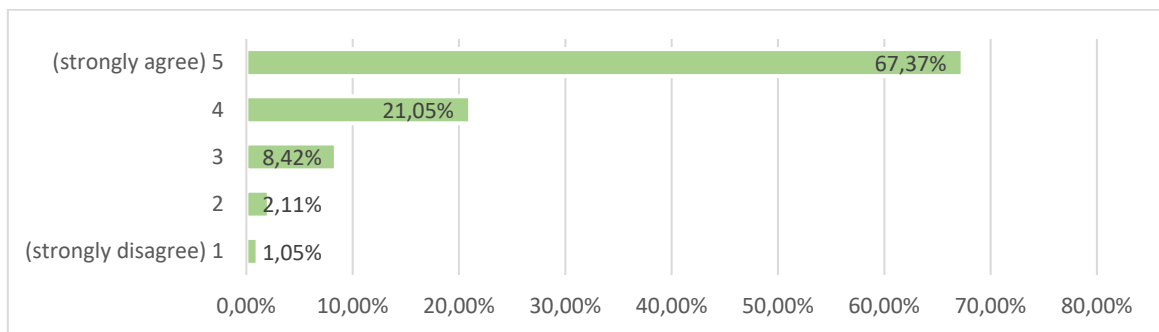
- Horizon Europe
- Digital Europe
- Erasmus+
- Technical Support Instrument
- Next Generation EU
- NRRPs (National Recovery and Resilience Plans)
- ESF+ (European Social Fund Plus)
- ERDF (European Regional Development Fund)
- LIFE
- Connecting Europe Facility
- Invest EU
- ETC (European Territorial Cooperation)



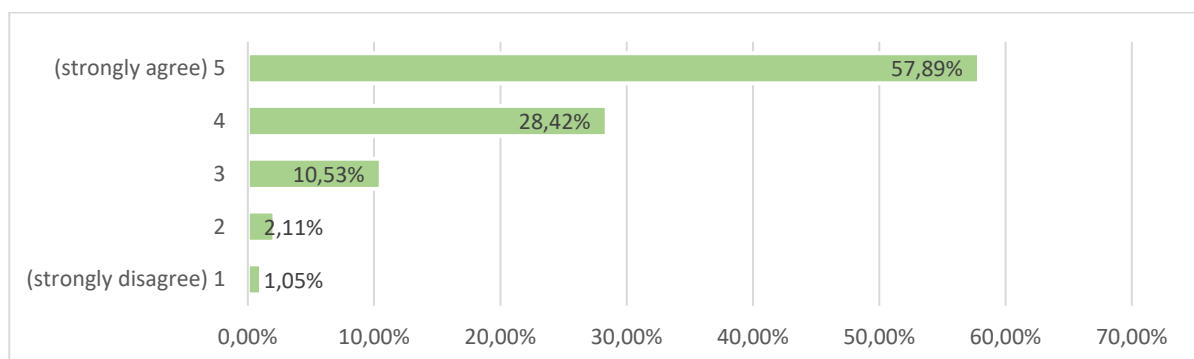
Respondents agree that the knowledge and awareness of the NFPs on the various EU Programme is important, with particular reference to the Horizon Europe programme which scores 84,21% of very favourable, as well as the Digital Europe Programme. On the other hand, the programme which obtained a

lower cumulative percentage of consent, even if largely prevalent, is the Erasmus+ Programme (62,11% of agrees).

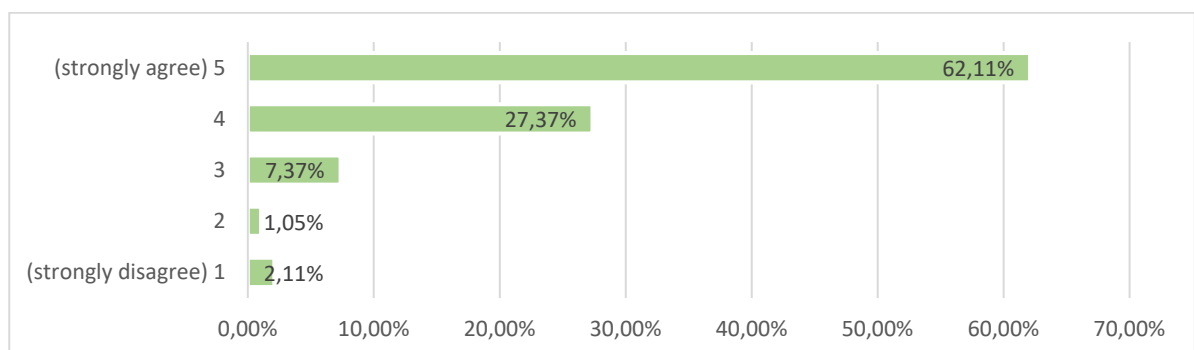
Respondents strongly agreed (88,42%) that the NFPs should be knowledgeable with the relevant sources of advice on related programmes in their country (NCPs, Managing Authorities, National networks...etc.).



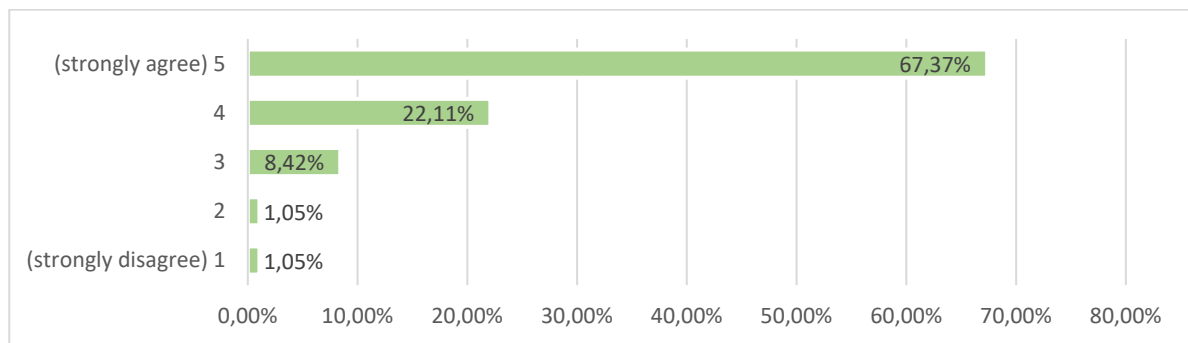
Considering the collaborative nature of EU programmes and the European Health Union's objectives, the Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach and intersectoral action capacities, the survey respondents strongly agreed (86,32%) that NFPs should participate actively in transnational networks (according to each national ecosystem in each MS)/European platforms in the field (NFPs Interaction Platform, EU Health Policy Platform. etc.) and develop mutually supporting relationships.



Respondents strongly agreed (89,47%) that the NFPs should acquire technical/soft skills and ensure an excellent communication and information channel, adapting to the variety of relevant stakeholders involved.



Respondents strongly agreed (89,47%) that the NFPs should ensure timely and comprehensive exchange of relevant information with their national representatives on the EU4Health Programme Committee and Steering Group where applicable.



## 4 Other feedback

The following is the feedback received in response to the open-ended question.

1. We are in agreement with the NFPs' Mission, Functions, Tasks and Key Principles. We acknowledge that the EU4Health programme is complex with multifaceted mechanisms, topics and stakeholders. To ensure that the NFP (and by extension the EU4Health Programme) can function optimally, we would welcome the following supports/provisions to be implemented as outlined below:

Dissemination of opportunities:

- A detailed timeline of launch dates for grants (action grants, operating grants, etc.)
- A detailed list of tenders (by type of service/contract/framework, etc.) for publication (and linked to Topics within the work programme)
- An indicative timeline of publication of tenders (detailed timeline would be preferable if possible).

Training to provide application support:

- Training on what constitutes a good/weak application, examples of evaluation reports, what to avoid, etc.
- Attendance of NFPs at evaluation meetings to better understand how the evaluation criteria are applied.
- Training on procurement types/what constitutes a strong bid (format, etc.)

Training on Synergies with other health related programmes:

- Provision of training on EU programmes and examples of how these could be used in synergy with EU4Health programme, addressing limitations/rules on co-funding, etc.

Dissemination of results:

- Rapid provision of results of EU4Health grants & tenders for efficient reporting and dissemination.

2. NFP should take all the support, administrative and treasury functions, so other stakeholders can act as experts and actors.
3. NFP supporting EU4H should have the same structure and resources as Horizon Europe NCPs. They provide valuable services. The contacted NFP lacks resources to organise networking event or to provide as informative and strong support as NCPs do. For instance, we can have a meeting with an NCP if we participate in a proposal or coordinate to ask for advice. Furthermore, NFPs should be a lot more open to stakeholder views, not only national/regional health authorities.
4. The annual consultation of EU4H programme is good but it is a bit passive.



5. NFPs should be selected jointly by the national authority and the EU Commission in order to objectify the selection process.
6. NFPs should also be involved in lobbying/advocating activities at EU level and promote use of EU4Health opportunities to promote recognised EU/national/regional best practices
7. We would welcome funding available in the following areas and provided in individual EU member countries:
  - peer counselling as it represents a pillar of mental health
  - ambulant physiotherapy services and services of clinical psychologists and logopaedists
  - in addition, there is monitoring needed in the area of Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities compliance.

