

MD3.3 Final Evaluation Report

Grant Agreement Number 951202

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Contents

C	ontents		2
С	ontent of fig	gures	5
С	ontent of ta	ables	5
С	ontributors	and Acknowledgements	6
Αŀ	obreviation	s	7
G	lossary		7
E	kecutive su	ımmary	9
Ве	est-ReMaP	Joint Action	12
1.	Introduc	tion	13
	1.1. Obj	ective of evaluation	13
	1.2. Ele	ments of evaluation	14
2.	Overall	Best-ReMaP assessment	15
	2.1. Ger	neral progress	15
	2.2. Sat	isfaction by partners and stakeholders	16
	2.2.1.	Collaboration and satisfaction within the consortium	16
	2.2.2.	Feedback from stakeholders	20
	2.3. Ger	neral feedback from external evaluators	22
3.	Evaluati	on of the horizontal Work Packages	23
	3.1. WP	1 – Project management	23
	3.1.1.	Overall assessment	23
	3.1.2.	Peer assessment	23
	3.1.3.	Progress of work and performance measures	25
	3.1.4.	Activities organized by WP1	
	3.1.5.	External evaluators feedback on WP1	31
	3.2. WP	2 – Dissemination	32
	3.2.1.	Overall assessment	32
	3.2.2.	Peer-assessment	32
	3.2.3.	Progress of work and performance measures	
	3.2.4.	Activities organized by WP2	
	3.2.5.	External evaluators feedback on WP2	
		3 – Evaluation	
	3.3.1.	Overall assessment	
	3.3.2.	Peer assessment	
	3.3.3.	Progress of work and performance measures	43



	3.3.4.	External evaluators' feedback on WP3	44
3	8.4. WP	4 – Sustainability and integration into national policies	46
	3.4.1.	Overall assessment	46
	3.4.2.	Specific objectives and indicators	47
	3.4.3.	Peer assessment	48
	3.4.4.	Progress of work and performance measures	49
	3.4.5.	Activities organized by WP4	50
	3.4.6.	Determinants of the achievement of the WP objectives	51
	3.4.7.	External evaluators' feedback on WP4	52
4.	Evaluati	on of the core Work Packages	54
4	.1. WP	5 - Reformulation and processed food monitoring	54
	4.1.1.	Overall assessment	54
	4.1.2.	Specific objectives and their indicators	56
	4.1.3.	Peer assessment	57
	4.1.4.	Progress of work and performance measures	60
	4.1.5.	Activities organized by WP5	60
	4.1.6.	Determinants of the achievement of the WP objectives	62
	4.1.7.	External evaluators' feedback on WP5	64
4	.2. WP	6 - Best practices in reducing marketing of unhealthy food products to childr	en
а	ınd adoles	scents	66
	4.2.1.	Overall assessment	66
	4.2.2.	Specific objectives and their indicators	68
	4.2.3.	Peer assessment	69
	4.2.4.	Progress of work and performance measures	70
	4.2.5.	Activities organized by WP6	70
	4.2.6.	Determinants of the achievement of the WP objectives	74
	4.2.7.	External evaluators' feedback on WP6	
4	.3. WP	7 – Public procurement of food in public institutions	78
	4.3.1.	Overall assessment	78
	4.3.2.	Specific objectives and indicators	79
	4.3.3.	Peer assessment	80
	4.3.4.	Progress of work and performance measures	
	4.3.5.	Activities organized by WP7	82
	4.3.6.	Determinants of the achievement of the WP objectives	84
	4.3.7.	External evaluators' feedback on WP7	85
5.	Impact of	of Best-ReMaP	87

Final Evaluation Report



5.1. Imp	act evaluation framework and methodology	87
5.2. Imp	act evaluation results	88
5.2.1.	Consortium partners' evaluation on impacts of Best-ReMaP	88
5.2.2.	Work package leaders' evaluation on impacts of Best-ReMaP	92
5.2.3.	Stakeholders' evaluation on impact	92
5.2.4.	WP3 External evaluators' appraisal	96
5.3. Ove	erview of the expected impact of Best-ReMaP	98
6. Conclus	ions	100
Annexes		102



Content of figures

Figure 1 The evaluation design and methods of Best-ReMaP	14
Figure 2 Overall satisfaction in collaboration within consortium	
Figure 3 Satisfaction in the collaboration between core and horizontal work packages	18
Figure 4 Satisfaction in the work of WP1 within the consortium	24
Figure 5 Satisfaction in the WP1 activities/outputs	24
Figure 6 Participant satisfaction in the Kick-off and the General Assembly meetings	28
Figure 7 Clarity of the project status according to the General Assembly participants	29
Figure 8 Satisfaction in the work of WP2 within the consortium	32
Figure 9 Satisfaction in the WP2 activities/outputs	33
Figure 10 Satisfaction in the work of WP3 within the consortium	42
Figure 11 Satisfaction in the WP3 activities/outputs	43
Figure 12 Theory of Change for WP4	46
Figure 13 Satisfaction in the work of WP4 within the consortium	48
Figure 14 Satisfaction in the WP4 activities/outputs	49
Figure 15 Theory of Change for WP5	55
Figure 16 Satisfaction in the work of WP5 within the consortium	58
Figure 17 Satisfaction in the WP5 activities/outputs	59
Figure 18 Theory of Change for WP6	67
Figure 19 Satisfaction in the work of WP6 within the consortium	69
Figure 20 Satisfaction in the WP6 activities/outputs	70
Figure 21 Theory of Change for WP7	
Figure 22 Satisfaction in the work of WP7 within the consortium	
Figure 23 Satisfaction in the WP7 activities/outputs	
Figure 24 Theory of Change for Best-ReMaP	
Figure 25 Partners' impressions on the impact of Best-ReMaP	89
Figure 26 Stakeholders' impressions on the impact of Best-ReMaP	93
Figure 277 Likelihood of impact according to Best-ReMaP partners and stakeholders	99
Content of tables	
Table 1 Basic information of the biannual questionnaire rounds	16
Table 2 Basic information of the General Assembly meetings	27
Table 3 Evaluation of the deliverables of WP1	31
Table 4 Basic information on the dissemination webinars	
Table 5 Summary of National stakeholder forums	
Table 6 Evaluation of the deliverables of WP2	41
Table 7 Evaluation of the deliverables of WP3	
Table 8 Best-ReMaP Specific Objective related to WP4	47
Table 9 Summary of the Regional Policy Dialogues	
Table 10 SWOT analysis for WP4	
Table 11 Evaluation of the deliverables of WP4	
Table 12. Best-ReMaP Specific Objective related to WP5	
Table 13 Evaluation of internal meetings and trainings of WP5	61
Table 14 SWOT analysis for WP5	63



Table 15 Evaluation of the deliverables of WP5	65
Table 16 Best-ReMaP Specific Objective related to WP6	68
Table 17 Evaluation of internal meetings and trainings of WP6	72
Table 18 EU expert group meetings on marketing of unhealthy foods to children	73
Table 19 SWOT analysis for WP6	75
Table 20 Evaluation of the deliverables of WP6	77
Table 21 Best-ReMaP Specific Objective related to WP7	79
Table 22 Evaluation of internal meetings and trainings of WP7	83
Table 23 SWOT analysis for WP7	84
Table 24 Evaluation of the deliverables of WP7	86
Table 25 Policy Decision Making Forum members expectations on Best-ReMaP	96

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The content of this report represents the views of the authors only and is their sole responsibility; it cannot be considered to reflect the views of the European Commission and/or the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA) or any other body of the European Union. The European Commission and the Agency do not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains.



Abbreviations

AVMSD	Audiovisual Media Services Directive		
BAQ	Biannual questionnaire		
CLICK	A framework to monitor digital marketing of unhealthy products to		
	children and adolescents by WHO		
D	Deliverable		
DG	Directorates-General, a policy department of European Commission		
EFSA	The European Food Safety Authority		
ERGA	European Regulators Group for Audiovisual Media Services		
EU	European Union		
FABLE	EU Food and Beverages labels Explorer by JRC		
database			
GA	Grant Agreement		
GA meeting	General assembly meeting		
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation		
GS1	Non-profit organization, which helps its customers improve and		
	manage the supply chain with open standards		
HaDEA	European Health and Digital Executive Agency		
HLG-NPA	High level group on nutrition and physical activity, a former group of		
	government representatives from all EU member countries		
JA	Joint Action		
JRC	Joint Research Centre		
M1	Month one, the first month of the project, refers to October 2021		
MS	Member state		
NCD	Noncommunicable disease		
NGO	Non-governmental organization		
NPM	Nutrient profile model		
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development		
PDMF	Policy decision making forum		
PFP	Public Food procurement		
SC	Steering committee		
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats; a planning tool		
ToC	Theory of Change		
UN United Nations			
WHO	World Health Organization		
WP	Work package		
WPL	Work package leader		

Glossary

Term	Definition
Biannual questionnaire	A regular online survey conducted every six months to measure the satisfaction of the people working for the partner organizations
Best-ReMaP	Joint Action on Implementation of Validated Best Practices in Nutrition
ClickUp™	An online project management tool
CO-CREATE	A large project funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 programme



External evaluation	Systematic evaluation of the project by external experts and stakeholders
External Evaluator	Two subcontracted evaluators providing independent feedback to ensure the validity of the WP3 assessment
JANPA	The Joint Action on Nutrition and Physical Activity
Impact interviews	Interview of the work package leaders on the anticipated impacts and their determinants
Internal evaluation	Systematic evaluation of the project by consortium members
Performance	Comprehensive list of WP's goals reflecting the processes,
measures	outputs and outcomes of the work
PEN	Policy Evaluation Network (PEN) - Public policies addressing health-related behaviours in Europe
SWOT	A strategic planning tool used to evaluate the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats of a policy, a program, a project or an intervention
STOP	Science and Technology in childhood Obesity Policy, a Horizon 2020-funded project
Theory of Change	A framework to define the relationships between project
(ToC)	activities and objectives



Executive summary

The purpose of evaluation in Best-ReMaP was to ensure that the Joint Action (JA) is implemented as planned and that it reaches its objectives. In addition, evaluation facilitated constant quality assurance and, when needed, corrective measures. The theoretical framework of evaluation was grounded on the Theory of Change that is defined as "a theory driven framework and method in order to improve the evaluation of complex health interventions, such as nutrition and food policy in promoting healthier diets for all, which is expected to bring long-term outcomes".

This document is the Final Evaluation Report (D3.3) of the Best-ReMaP JA. It presents a short description of the applied theoretical framework of evaluation and data collection and analysis methods. For a detailed description of the monitoring and evaluation methodology, please see the D3.1 Evaluation Strategy. The most important evaluation findings are presented and discussed in this document, with more detailed results given in the Annexes. This report covers the time period between M1 and M36 (October 2020 – September 2023) of Best-ReMaP, however, the monitoring findings from the first 18 months of the project are presented in more detail in the D3.1 Mid-term Report on Evaluation. Of note, ten deliverables had the same due date (M36) as this report, and thus could not bet included in the evaluation.

WP3 subcontracted two external evaluators who contributed to the evaluation by commenting and contributing to the draft reports as well as by providing independent feedback on the quality of the deliverables.

The evaluation of Best-ReMaP had two major components. First, formative evaluation for assessing the progress of the project to improve its effectiveness, orienting towards following the tasks and activities foreseen in the Grant Agreement and verifying whether objectives, deliverables, and milestones were appropriately achieved. Also, the quality of outputs and the satisfaction by partners and stakeholders was assessed. Second, summative evaluation aimed to assess the outcomes and impacts of the project. Both evaluation components included internal (the systematic evaluation of the project by internal members) and external evaluation (the systematic evaluation of the project by external experts and stakeholders).

The progress of the project (both quantitatively and qualitatively) was continuously self-monitored with an online project management tool (ClickUp™, https://clickup.com/) by each WP leader team. Satisfaction in collaboration by the people working for the partner organizations was measured by an online survey conducted every six months. Additional qualitative information on the anticipated impacts and their determinants was collected from each WP leader team with impact interviews following the SWOT framework. WP3 also offered support for other WPs' peer evaluation activities by providing online evaluation questionnaires for internal events and trainings. Stakeholders' opinions were collected via online surveys during the events and meetings organized by Best-ReMaP and its WPs. Furthermore, during the last 6 months of the project we conducted a round of online surveys



for partners and stakeholders, specifically asking for their opinions on the impacts of Best-ReMaP.

Based on the formative evaluation, the project progressed mostly as planned. Each core WP either fulfilled its objectives timely or provided explanations for changes or delays in the processes. The slight delays in some deliverables and milestones did not affect the overall progress of the project. The quality of the deliverables was considered high in general both by peers and external evaluators.

The COVID-19 pandemic had an effect on the different project activities, but the inconvenience was overcome well. Organizing events online increased the number of participants and thus facilitated engagement of partners and stakeholders. While face-to-face encounters are important and have clear benefits, the possibility for online participation should be sustained also in future projects.

Overall, the satisfaction in collaboration within the Best-ReMaP consortium was assessed to be very good and the feedback from the partners further improved towards the end. Partners were specifically satisfied with the organized and efficient coordination of the project by WP1. As a way to further enhance the collaboration and engagement in future projects, it is recommended to emphasize internal communication and dissemination, and to pay attention and respect the views of all partners. Also, the stakeholders' opinions on Best-ReMaP progress were in general very positive and the organized events received good feedback.

According to the external evaluators, the engagement of stakeholders of different sectors and the high-level participatory representation of WHO and EU institutions was a substantial added value of the project. They also considered that feeding the data of Best-ReMaP into Joint Research Center database supports the sustainability of the project outcomes. Furthermore, the work in modelling the population impact performed by OECD might facilitate the implementation at national and European level. The comprehensive literature review on health equity aspect of the three policies was praised forward-looking and using the health equity impact assessment criteria in analyzing the three policy areas remarkable from the point of view of Best-ReMaP's outcome. The external evaluators also pointed out that the dissemination of the project improved by its second half, which was justified by the biannual questionnaires. An increasing tendency could be observed also in the involvement of sectors parallel with the proceeding of the project, but even wider inclusion of stakeholders (economic, social, education, environment) was anticipated and recommended for future projects.

Partners, stakeholders, and external evaluators were confident that Best-ReMaP has set in motion processes that will have an impact on national and EU level, especially as the work will be continued in the new JA Prevent NCD. However, concerns were raised on the suitability of the applied methodologies in different country contexts and the feasibility of setting up and maintaining a European level database on branded foods. All agreed that within three years it was not possible to see actual impacts on children's and adolescents' obesity levels, but they were optimistic about the effects that Best-ReMaP can have on EU and national level policies.



As the determinants of success, the work in Best-ReMaP being grounded on previous JAs as well as careful analysis of the present situations and landscapes, identification and engagement of relevant sectors and stakeholders, development of EU level data bases and support from EU institutions, OECD and WHO were mentioned. Also, the policies that were promoted in Best-ReMaP are priority areas in many partner countries, which also facilitated their inclusion in country agendas. Last but not least, the long experience in the field, the expertise, and the enthusiasm and commitment by the coordinator and core WP leaders were commended as a key to the success of Best-ReMaP.

As the determinants of future impacts, networking, knowledge transfer and benchmarking, collaboration with the food system and other relevant stakeholders from different sectors were mentioned as possible measures. The re-establishment of the High-level Group on Nutrition and Physical Activity was aspired. Finally, mandatory as opposed to voluntary measures to push the policies affecting children's and adolescents' food environments were considered to be more effective.



Best-ReMaP Joint Action

Best-ReMaP Joint Action (JA) is a three-year initiative (2020-2023) funded by the European Commission and participating organisations. Altogether, 35 beneficiaries representing 24 European countries collaborated on implementing pilot projects and generating practical lessons in the field of nutrition with special focus on children and adolescents.

Problem statement: Nearly 1 in 4 children in Europe is overweight or obese. One of the reasons behind it is an unhealthy diet. Obesity in children is becoming even more important in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Childhood obesity does not only result in physical discomfort, low self-esteem and discrimination, but in the long term in earlier onset of chronic diseases and reduced average life span. In the first years of life, when constant learning is taking place, food preferences are also forming. Children are exposed to unhealthy food marketing, the easy availability of processed and ultra-processed foods high in salt, sugar and fat either at home or at public institutions where they spend a considerable amount of time.

Best-ReMaP aimed to contribute to an improved quality of food supplied to citizens of Europe by adapting, replicating and implementing effective health interventions, based on practices that have been proven to work in the areas of

- food reformulation
- · framing of food marketing
- public procurement of healthy food in public settings.

To achieve these goals, during its lifetime Best-ReMaP contributed to European initiatives that seek to change the current food environment by:

- providing Member States assistance to produce a snapshot of food currently offered
 to consumers at national markets and with this food snapshot methodology offer an
 opportunity to monitor the impact of national regulations aimed at decreasing the salt,
 sugar and fat contents of processed food
- creating the Food Information Database to ensure the sustainability of data collection on food reformulation at the EU and national levels and of monitoring trends in food reformulation
- delivering a harmonised EU approach to reducing unhealthy (digital) food marketing to children and adolescents and to use already developed tools for harmonised monitoring of (digital) marketing
- improving the quality of menus in the kitchens of public institutions by testing a
 prototype catalogue of food in the public procurement procedure, assuring transparent
 quality of the procured foods and ensuring a more professional and principled
 procurement procedure.

Building on this work, Best-ReMaP supported the implementation, transfer and integration of the JA results, outcomes and recommendations into national and EU level policies, prioritizing participatory engagement of EU and national stakeholders in the field.



1. Introduction

1.1. Objective of evaluation

Evaluation, as defined by the OECD, is "the systematic and objective assessment of an ongoing or completed project, programme or policy, its design, implementation and results. The aim is to determine the relevance and fulfilment of objectives, development efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability". In accordance with the definition, the purpose of the evaluation in Best-ReMaP was to ensure that the JA is implemented as planned and that it accomplishes its objectives. The cornerstone of the evaluation was the assessment of project effectiveness against the four specific objectives (pages 47, 56, 68 and 79) stated in the Grant Agreement (GA). The theoretical framework of evaluation was grounded on the Theory of Change, a theory driven framework and method in order to improve the evaluation of complex health interventions. Equally importantly, the purpose of the evaluation was to facilitate constant quality assurance and, when needed, actions for improvement.

The evaluation in Best-ReMaP was both formative and summative. Formative evaluation assessed the worth of the program while the activities were in progress, target audience being Work Package (WP) leaders and partners. It oriented towards following the tasks and activities foreseen in the Grant Agreement and verifying whether objectives, deliverables, and milestones were appropriately achieved. Also, the quality of what was achieved and the satisfaction from WP leaders and partners as well as different stakeholders was assessed.

Summative evaluation is a method for assessing the worth of a program at the end of the program activities. The focus of the summative evaluation was on outcomes and impacts, the target audience being policymakers, stakeholders, the public, and funders. Impact assessment of Best-ReMaP focused on actions aimed to generate changes in local, national and EU policies, as well as on the actual changes achieved. The impact assessment relied on Best-ReMaP partners' and stakeholders' insights on what may have changed (or may change in the near future) and what contribution project activities may have made to this change. Furthermore, impact evaluation assessed, what were the facilitators and barriers as regards to the fulfilment of project goals, the likelihood that the changes are sustainable and benefit the population equitably, and whether the project has set in motion dynamic processes which will lead to further developments.



1.2. Elements of evaluation

The evaluation of Best-ReMaP had two major components. First, monitoring of the implementation, and second, monitoring the outcomes and impact of the project. The evaluation design of Best-ReMaP is presented in Figure 1. It covered the process, output, and outcomes/impact indicators as agreed in the GA. The process indicators refer to the progress, while the output indicators refer to the results: what the JA has produced. Outcome and impact indicators refer to the long-term effects: what the JA has achieved and how the project has contributed to higher-level strategic goals.

Both evaluation components include internal (systematic evaluation of the project by internal members), and external evaluation (systematic evaluation of the project by external experts and stakeholders). The internal and external evaluation methods are complementary.

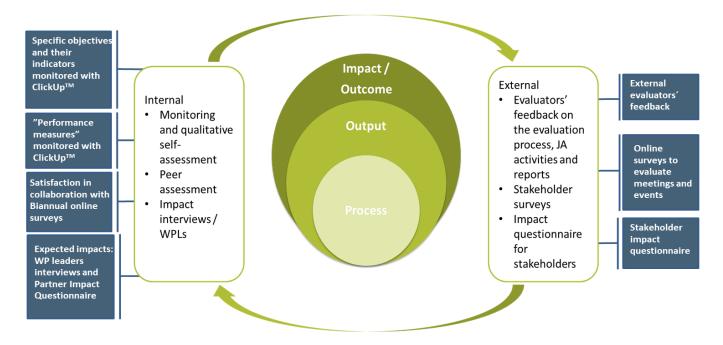


Figure 1 The evaluation design and methods of Best-ReMaP

To monitor the progress of the project, the online project management tool (ClickUp $^{\text{TM}}$) was used. A comprehensive list of the so-called performance measures and their schedule was agreed with the WP leaders at the beginning, to reflect the processes, outputs and outcomes and their achievement. The WP leaders and key employees had access to the ClickUp $^{\text{TM}}$ tool for the duration of the project and marked the measures 'done' and gave a brief qualitative reflection on each measure (see <u>Annex 1</u> for complete list). Performance measures were considered as delayed if the initial schedule was overdue by two months or more.

The satisfaction in collaboration by the people working for the partner organizations was assessed by a regular online survey conducted approximately every six months. Five rounds of these biannual surveys were conducted (see questionnaire in Annex 2).



In addition, WP3 supported the other WPs peer evaluation activities by providing and hosting online evaluation questionnaires for internal events and trainings.

Finally, WP3 collected additional qualitative information on the anticipated impacts and their determinants from the WP leader teams perspective by organizing two rounds of impact interviews (December 2021 - January 2022 and June 2023) for WPs 4-7 leader teams. The structure of the interviews is presented in <u>Annex 3</u>. The SWOT framework was used to guide the discussion. The applied methodology is presented in <u>Annex 3</u>.

The two external evaluators, Eva Martos and Nathalie Farpour-Lambert, subcontracted by WP3 provided their independent feedback and support for WP3 activities during altogether 15 (13 online + 2 face-to-face) meetings. They have reviewed the Mid-term and Final evaluation reports to ensure the validity of the WP3 assessment (Annex 4). They have also evaluated the quality of the deliverables by grading them for their comprehensiveness, clarity, correspondence with what was expected, and chances for implementation.

Stakeholders' opinions have been collected via online surveys during events and meetings organized by Best-ReMaP and it's WPs. In addition, WP3 collected stakeholders' opinions about the impacts that Best-ReMaP has or is likely to create in the future by distributing an online questionnaire to up to 10 national stakeholders identified by Best-ReMaP partners.

2. Overall Best-ReMaP assessment

2.1. General progress

Based on the available data, planned activities have been completed, defined milestones have been reached, and deliverables have been submitted as planned (except for some minor delays at the early phase of the project) and with good quality. The collaboration within the project was evaluated to be very good throughout. Also, stakeholders' feedback on the project activities has been generally good.

The COVID-19 pandemic affected planned events and meetings and effectively stopped face-to-face meetings during the first two years of the project. Nevertheless, the project management as well as WP leader teams overcame the challenge and, towards to the end of the project, the partner and stakeholder satisfaction in the collaboration increased. This reflects the growing competence and confidence in utilizing the online meeting technology, but also the increasing recognition of the benefits of online events (no need to spend time and resources on travel, more participants, etc.).



2.2. Satisfaction by partners and stakeholders

2.2.1. Collaboration and satisfaction within the consortium

2.2.1.1 Biannual questionnaires on collaboration

With the biannual questionnaires, WP3 mapped the satisfaction of the consortium members on the collaboration and enabled the WP-leaders to act if indicated by the questionnaire. Basic information of all of the five biannual questionnaire rounds is presented in Table 1. The respondents were asked to answer only to questions related to the WPs they collaborate with, therefore the number of responses evaluating different WPs varied a lot (from 9 responses for WP3 on round 4 to 39 responses for WP6 on round 1). In general, the response rate for the biannual questionnaires was relatively low and declining (calculated as number of responses divided by the number of persons in the mailing list). One reason might be that the mailing list also included the people no longer working for the project. Nevertheless, due to low response rates the results may not represent the opinions of all people working for Best-ReMaP.

Table 1 Basic information of the biannual questionnaire rounds

	Date	Invitation*	Respondents, n (%)	Percentage of responses from non-WP-leading partners
1st BAQ	May-June 2021	Sent by email to 150 recipients	56 (37%)	86%
2nd BAQ	December 2021- January 2022	Sent by email to 172 recipients + 2 reminders	45 (26%)	80%
3rd BAQ	June 2022	Sent by email to 197 recipients + 2 reminders	51 (25,9%)	78%
4th BAQ	January-February 2023	Sent by email to 227 recipients + 2 reminders	52 (22.9%)	73%
5th BAQ	June-July 2023	Sent by email to 217 recipients + 2 reminders	40 (18.4%)	68%

For each respondent, the following claims were presented, with answer options from totally disagree (1) to totally agree (5):

- Objectives of the WP are clear
- Strategy on how to achieve the objectives is clear
- · Timetable of actions is clear
- My role / Our team's role is clear
- Communication has worked well
- The materials and instructions are clear
- Coordination of WP is effective
- Challenges are effectively overcome



In Figure 2, the average of the scores calculated over the responses given to the claims above is presented for all five biannual questionnaires. More details on the results are provided in the WP-specific sections.

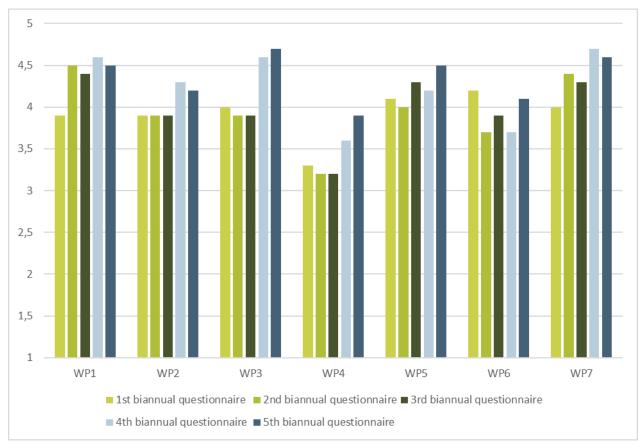


Figure 2 Overall satisfaction in collaboration within consortium

The overall satisfaction with the work was rated approximately good, with some variation between the WPs. The satisfaction remained high and even got better throughout the lifetime of the project. Especially in the last two questionnaires covering the last year of the project, satisfaction has risen from the previous ones; mean of the eight claims had risen from 3.9 (1st BAQ) to 4.3 (5th BAQ) and in all the claims the average was higher in the last than in the first questionnaire by 0.3-0.6 percentage points.

The respondents had also a possibility to give open feedback of the successes of each WP, and what they could enhance. According to the open feedback, coordination, co-operation, communication, delivering the deliverables and organizing meetings were highly praised. Respondents wanted i.e., more meetings and information, and more reminders of upcoming tasks and deadlines. Also, clarification of forthcoming activities was requested. These themes stayed more or less the same in the answers of the 3rd, 4th, and 5th questionnaire although communication and coordination were both praised and criticized. Motivation, being friendly and reachable and guiding the partners along the way and into the right direction and valuing everybody's contributions were mentioned to have been a positive thing, but the instability of the staff, too few person months allocated, and unclear instructions and too tight schedules have made working slightly harder.



Many respondents answered, especially in the 2nd questionnaire, that they don't work with the horizontal work packages (1-4). This prompted the WP leaders to improve the communication and engagement as regards to the horizontal activities. This initiative was seen to work in the 3rd biannual questionnaire, since the percentage of people answering they worked with horizontal WPs had risen 5-10 percentage points (depending on the WP). In the 4th biannual questionnaire the percentages dipped, but in the last questionnaire the percentages were higher again which may reflect the increasing activity of WPs 2, 3 and 4 towards partners in the last phase of the project.

From the 2nd round onwards three questions regarding the collaboration between core and horizontal WPs were added. The results from these questions are shown in Figure 3.

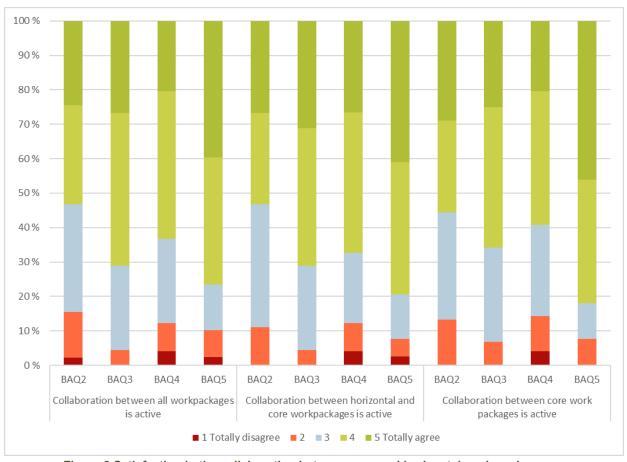


Figure 3 Satisfaction in the collaboration between core and horizontal work packages

The satisfaction in the collaboration between core and horizontal WPs remained quite stable with only minor fluctuations. Noteworthy is that the 3rd round collected the most answers that agreed with the statements and the fourth collected the most answers that "Totally disagreed" with the statements. Maybe in the middle of the project all WPs have come to know each other and each other's aim and way to work which is reflected in the answers.

18



In the last biannual questionnaire two open questions were added: What has worked well in the Best-ReMaP JA and What could be improved in future Joint Actions? Respondents were instructed to concentrate on the internal work of the project. About one third gave an answer to these questions. Clear objectives and tasks, effective communication, frequent and inperson meetings, experience changing between partners, friendly and encouraging atmosphere, and engagement in EU-level collaboration were mentioned to have been working well in Best-ReMaP.

Also, several suggestions for improvements were made. In planning and preparing new projects it would be important to budget enough funds for human resources and traveling to meetings so that also junior level employees could participate in them. Also, more internal joint working meetings of the entire group to exchange experiences and problems and more practical work and meetings between partners to also discuss organisational matters, not only content, were requested. This would enhance communication of for example clear goals and objectives of the project.

Standard requirements for WP leaders, such as communication guidelines, regular updating of the timeline was suggested to keep the workflow fluent and understandable. Collaboration between WP leaders was also emphasized: problems that arise during the project should be clearly and thoroughly discussed during the meetings between WP leaders. Also, reporting "downwards", e.g. about the steering committee suggestions would help also partners in their work. An active involvement of (legislative) stakeholders might help to make the project more sustainable.

2.2.1.2 Feedback collected during General Assembly meetings

General Assembly meetings included representatives of all associated partners, with collaborating partners and possibly other related projects and initiatives invited. The meetings were held to discuss the progress of the project within the consortium. More details on the evaluation of General Assembly meetings are provided in the WP1 chapter (3.1.4.1).

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all but the last (the 4th) meeting were held online. Positively, the majority of the respondents were happy with the technical management of the meetings no disagreeable answers were given in any of the questionnaires – and to the possibility to participate and contribute to the meetings. Also, the relevance of the meetings was considered high. What seems very pleasing is, that the trend of meetings giving a good idea of the status and next steps of the WPs was upward until the last meeting which shows that the feedback has been taken seriously and the WP leaders have wanted to improve. In the 4th questionnaire the question of the status of the WP included sustainability instead of next steps, which may have influenced the results of the 4th questionnaire.

In the open-text responses, the respondents specifically mentioned the importance of GA meetings in offering a possibility to interact, to ask questions, and to get a good overview of the project from all WPs (both horizontal and core). Updates on upcoming deadlines, examples from other countries, and fruitful discussion were appreciated as well as an overview from external organizations like WHO, European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA), Joint Research Center (JRC), and DG Santé. etc. that put the work in the



JA in a bigger perspective. The update on new JA planning activities was important since the continuation of the work was seen as vital. In the last meeting the examples of and interaction with other attendees was considered as the main benefit

Even though the responses were overwhelmingly positive, there were critical comments also. Some respondents felt that discussion was a bit too focused on the process and the timeline, and not enough on the content, the preliminary results, and the challenges of the actual work. In the last questionnaire the answerers suggested to pay very much attention to the venue of these big events and also the sustainability of the foods and materials offered.

2.2.2. Feedback from stakeholders

2.2.2.1 Mid-term Conference and Final Conference

Two key conferences were organized, with participation of associated partners, representatives of different relevant sectors, EU and national stakeholders, representatives of other related projects (i.e. STOP, CO-CREATE) and initiatives, the PDMF to present and discuss the outputs, outcomes and sustainability of Best-ReMaP.

The conference activities (incl. stakeholder dialogues, roundtable and panel discussions, presentations, keynote speeches) were rated very good in both conferences (Mid-term mean 3.2; Final mean 3.4 on a scale of 1-4). The update of the projects and their aims were considered useful in the Mid-term conference, and networking and hearing the results and future projections were the most mentioned benefits in the Final conference. However, respondents pointed out that industry, consumer and health organizations, and retail representatives were missing from the conferences. To maximize the impact of Best-ReMaP and other projects like this, engagement of relevant stakeholders from different sectors, monitoring and benchmarking were mentioned as possible measures.

WP3 external evaluators were asked to participate in the conferences, and they gave their report as part of the evaluation of the Mid-term conference. No evaluation report was asked from the Final conference due to the tight schedule between the conference and the deadline of this deliverable. Overall, the structure of the conference, the targeted presentation of the scientific results of the STOP project in synergy with the Best-ReMaP horizontal WPs, the presentation of the related EU and WHO policies, the round tables synthetizing the presentations and pointing out their relevance for the development of sustainable policies at national and EU level were evaluated to be very successful by them. Several parts of the program and contents were seen to support the engagement of stakeholders. However, evaluators also made a note that representatives from the food industry and the sports sector were not included as stakeholders.



2.2.2.2 Steering committee

The Steering Committee (SC) was the main oversight committee of the JA. It comprised the WP leaders, project management team, and representatives of the European Commission as observers. The objective of the SC was to monitor the overall progress of the JA and accept action plans on specific issues, where needed.

Six SC meetings were organized (04/2020, 01/2022, 06/2022, 11/2022, 04/2023, 09/2023). All meetings were fruitful, and the SC expert members gave comments and suggestions concerning the work of the project and its impact. Some suggestions have been summarized in this chapter and presented in more detail in the WP1 meeting minutes documents.

From the beginning of the project, SC members pointed out that sustainability should be inbuilt into the project – this means developing strong tools and showing their results, evaluating them independently (OECD and internally), gathering inputs and advice, and disseminating them via different channels.

SC members discussed the interlinks between Best-ReMaP objectives and EU policies. Finding linkages with the current strategic documents such as the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, Green Deal and its Farm to Fork strategy and underlining the Best-ReMaP added value to those initiatives represents an opportunity for continuous support from the EU in the future. Close cooperation with relevant stakeholders (e.g., WHO) is useful to break down silos, find synergies, ensure the high level of outputs, and complement all the related work carried out by different sectors. As regards to question of inequality, the population wide measures of the JA aim to reduce inequalities, but more can be done to ensure the dissemination of these measures at large scale.

In all meetings, SC group suggested enhancing both internal and external communication, during the various phases of the project. Content of deliverables, quality of outputs and impacts are important, therefore SC advised to do the assessment carefully before the end of JA; it works as a strong basis to develop the work further in new JA.

In the last meeting which was arranged in connection with the final General Assembly meeting, SC members were impressed by the progress made and delivered outputs. However, they also remarked that the policy tools were not fully implemented yet. While the SC members noted the good opportunity to continue much of the work in the context of a new JA, they also underlined the need to clearly define what the actual achievements of this project are and disseminate then efficiently.

2.2.2.3 Policy Decision Making Forum (PDMF)

The Policy Decision Making Forum (PDMF) was an advisory board to the JA that mainly focused on policy level issues. During the project, three meetings were organized (06/2021, 05/2022 and 05/2023). The attendees included representatives of the DGs (DG Santé, DG-Agri, DG Connect, DG Research, DG JRC, other relevant DGs), representatives of EU Agencies and bodies such as EFSA and ERGA, representatives of the EU Parliament, and



representatives of the current Presidencies. In addition, Best-ReMaP WP Leaders and external evaluators participated in the PDMF meetings. The PDMF was asked to provide critical feedback on the feasibility of implementation at national and EU levels.

Data for evaluation were collected at the end of the meetings with an online poll. The online poll was completed by 7 PDMF members in 2021, 4 in 2022, and 6 in 2023. According to the respondents, the most important factors supporting the implementation of Best-ReMaP on national and EU policy level are the collaborative interactions between policy developers/implementers, scientists, the Commission, JRC, and WHO. Also, good coordination, practical experiences and member state commitments were mentioned.

The responses to questions appraising the potential impacts of the JA on EU and national policy level, and their likelihood of leading to changes in food environments and childhood obesity rates in Europe are presented in chapter <u>5.3.3</u>.

2.3. General feedback from external evaluators

External evaluators verified the findings of the WP3 assessment, and their detailed evaluation reports can be found as Annex 4.

According to the evaluators, the progress of the project has been in line with expectations, in spite of the significant, unforeseeable and unavoidable modifications due to COVID-19 pandemic which had an impact on all partners and work packages. "Overcoming this challenge is also a demonstration of the general commitment of the project partners and of the WP leaders" (Éva Martos). "The COVID-19 pandemic has also highlighted the importance to prevent and control obesity in the EU, as it is an important risk factor for severe forms of COVID-19 as well as NCDs related to COVID-19" (Nathalie Farpour-Lambert).

Overall the work of the consortium was of a high standard and building on scientific evidence, on the results of previous JA and had a close collaboration with other EU projects such as STOP or CO-CREATE. Several conferences, workshops, and knowledge transfer meetings were organised and were well received by the audience. The external evaluators also pointed out that the dissemination of the project improved by its second half, which was justified by the biannual questionnaires. An increasing tendency could be observed also in the involvement of sectors parallel with the proceeding of the project.

The Best-ReMaP JA aimed to contribute to an improved quality of food supplied to citizens of Europe by adapting, replicating and implementing effective health interventions, based on practices that have been proven to work in the areas of food reformulation, restrictions on food marketing and public procurement of healthy food in public settings. "Feeding the data of Best-ReMaP into JRC database supports the sustainability of the project" (Éva Martos). The engagement of stakeholders of different sectors and the high level participatory representation of WHO and EU institutions was considered to be a substantial added value



of the project. "An integrative approach including other sectors than health (economic, social, education, environment) is essential to effectively improve food environments and reduce inequalities" (Nathalie Farpour-Lambert). The work in modelling the population impact performed by OECD might facilitate the implementation in policies at national or European level. The comprehensive literature review document on health equity aspect was forward-looking: using the health equity impact assessment criteria in analyzing the three policy areas and the conclusions are remarkable from the point of view of Best-ReMaP's outcome.

Best-ReMaP started the implementation, transfer and integration of the JA results, outcomes and recommendations into national and EU level policies. However, this work needs to be continued and supported over time to ensure its full implementation and sustainability in the EU.

3. Evaluation of the horizontal Work Packages

3.1. WP1 - Project management

3.1.1. Overall assessment

WP1 has progressed timely, and the quality of processes, outputs, and deliverables has been rated high according to both internal and external evaluation. Specifically, the satisfaction by partners in the consortium was high already after the first 6 months of the project and has increased further.

3.1.2. Peer assessment

32-45% of the people that answered the biannual questionnaires reported to have been working or collaborating with WP1. Satisfaction with the work of WP1 has been good throughout the project, and an ascending trend is seen in almost all of the statements (see Fig. 4; scale 1 (totally disagree) to 5 (totally agree). In the 1st biannual questionnaire, the variation of answerers was high, ranging from 1 to 5, but later there was less variation and no "Totally disagree" answers; in the fifth questionnaire all answers to the claims were between 3 and 5.





Figure 4 Satisfaction in the work of WP1 within the consortium

Outputs of WP1 included in the questionnaire were documents like project policy and GANTT chart, organization of different meetings like WP leaders' monthly meetings and correspondent meeting minutes, some deliverables and progress reports. Satisfaction with these outputs and activities were good and ascending, see Fig. 5 presenting the average of the responses to the claim "My expectations have been met well" as regards to the WP1 activities and outputs, scale 1 (totally disagree) to 5 (totally agree).

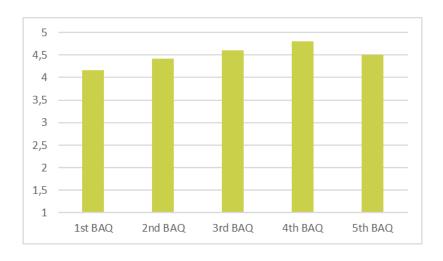


Figure 5 Satisfaction in the WP1 activities/outputs



According to the open feedback, WP1 was very effective on timetables and reaching the objectives as well as in communication and engaging partners and creating links with other projects and organisations. What is also noticeable, being friendly and creating good atmosphere was praised and this certainly affected positively to the atmosphere of the whole project. However, bilateral communication and reminders of important dates and informing earlier of tasks and meetings were asked throughout the project although in the last questionnaire these themes we only thanked, not criticized.

3.1.3. Progress of work and performance measures

The WP1 activities that were monitored with the ClickUp tool were for example establishing project management tools and strategies, e.g., intranet, Consortium Agreement, Project Policy and Financial Policy plans. WP1 organised different meetings and wrote their meeting minutes, such as monthly WPL meetings, Steering Committee meetings (not formally evaluated), three General Assembly meetings (see evaluation results below), two conferences (see evaluation below), and three PDMF meetings (not formally evaluated). The work progressed as planned, and the measures were reached on schedule. The only delay in 19 completed measures was the signing of the Consortium Agreement, which was completed in August instead of March 2021. The Project Policy and Financial Policy were finalized on time but additional extensive comments to the Financial Policy were received, therefore more time was needed to prepare the final version of the document. There are 11 performance measures to be completed before the end of the JA, during September 2023. WP1 has already completed most of the work to fulfil the last activities, and there are no presumptions that there will be major delays.

WP1 has self-reflected the success and setbacks of some of the measures. Some tasks took more time or work than expected, and the Mid-term Conference had to be held online instead of the preliminary plan for a hybrid meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There were some difficulties in getting representatives of all DGs in the PDMF meetings. WP1 was content that the third PDMF was held as a face-to-face meeting.

3.1.4. Activities organized by WP1

3.1.4.1 General Assembly meetings

General Assembly meetings included representatives of all associated partners, with collaborating partners and possibly other related projects and initiatives invited. The meetings were held to discuss the progress of the project within the consortium.

Four General Assembly meetings were organized over the course of the JA. The meetings were evaluated using an evaluation questionnaire distributed among the participants after each meeting. Each meeting evaluation report was shared with the project management team and WP leaders, in order to facilitate quality improvement when necessary.



The questionnaire for the Kick-off (=the 1st General Assembly) meeting was slightly different and longer than the questionnaires for the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th GA meetings. The basic information of the meetings is represented in Table 2 and Figure 6 below. The overall participation rate remained below 50% in the evaluation questionnaires, therefore the evaluation results presented may not represent the opinions of all participants.

Table 2 Basic information of the General Assembly meetings

	Responses / Attendees (%)	Evaluation questionnaire	General satisfaction (scale 1-5)	Clarity** (scale 1-5)	Positive about the meeting	To improve
Kick-off = 1 st General Assembly October 20-21, 2020 (online)	46 / 112 (41%)	Available on the online meeting chat and sent after the meeting	4.2*	3.9*	Majority of the respondents were happy with the technical management of the meeting (early days in the COVID-19 pandemic)	Possibility to interact, to ask questions, and to get a good overview of the project
2 nd General Assembly January 27-28, 2022 (online)	50 / 105 (48%)	At the end of the event and sent after the meeting + three reminders	4.3	4.4	Getting an overview of the project status, update on upcoming deadlines, examples from other countries, and fruitful discussion as the main benefits of attending the meeting.	Discussion was a bit too focused on the process and the timeline, and not enough on the content, the preliminary results, and the challenges of the actual work.
3 rd General Assembly November 16-17, 2022 (online)	30 / 70 (43%)	At the end of the event and sent after the meeting, no reminders	4.5	4.6	93% thought that opportunities to participate and contribute to the meeting were good. 83% stated that it was good use of time. An update from all WPs (both horizontal and core) was very useful. Overview from external organizations like WHO, HaDEA, JRC, and DG Santé. etc. was seen as important.	In the new JA it would be great to reach parents and teachers. We need a platform to exchange experiences between member states.
4th General Assembly September 19-20, 2023 (onsite Paris)	50/123 (41%)	At the end of the event (2 nd day), one reminder by email	4.4	4.4	Examples of other countries' work; Results of the project; Information in relation to next Jas; Information regarding FABLE database; Final picture of the work done in Best- ReMaP	More information on the speakers Hybrid meeting Careful selection of the venue Offer of healthy and sustainable foods and drinks More time for discussions More balanced agenda

^{** &}quot;The presentation gave a clear picture of the status and the next steps of the WPs", average of all WPs

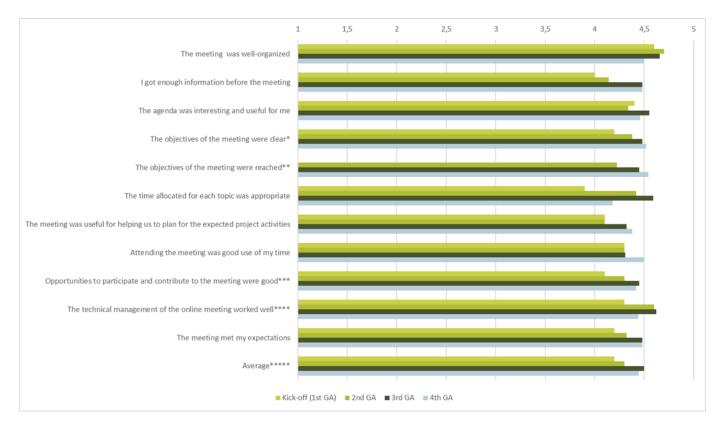


Figure 6 Participant satisfaction in the Kick-off and the General Assembly meetings.

- *The statement was differently formulated in the Kick-Off meeting: The objectives of the meeting were clearly defined and consistent with the agenda
- ** Not asked in the Kick-Off meeting
- ***The statement was differently formulated in the Kick-Off meeting: I felt that I was involved with the meeting and was able to contribute
- ****The 4th GA was only onsite, so the "online" was omitted from the question
- *****The questionnaire was different in the Kick-Off meeting and an average was calculated from the averages of the statements

The general trend of satisfaction to the General Assembly meetings was good and ascending, most of the respondents agreed / totally agreed with the presented positive statements (Figure 6). The percentage of the answerers who disagreed with the statements was the lowest in the 3rd GA questionnaire. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all but the last 4th GA meeting was held online. Positively, the majority of the respondents have been happy with the technical management of the meetings - no disagreeable answers were given in any of the first three questionnaires – and to the possibility to participate and contribute to the meetings. Also, the relevance of the meetings was considered high, with only few disagreeable answers (4%) after the 2nd GA meeting. The meetings also clearly gave the participants a good idea on how to proceed with the work since over 70% agreed or totally agreed with the statement for all WPs, with an upward trend over the course of the project (Figure 7). What seems very pleasing is, that the trend was upward until the last GA which shows that the feedback has been taken seriously and the WP leaders have wanted to improve. In the 4th questionnaire the question of the status of the WP included sustainability instead of next steps, which may have influenced the results of the 4th questionnaire.



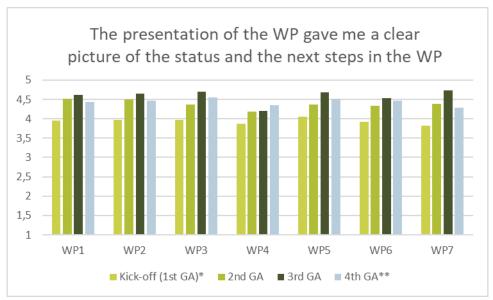


Figure 7 Clarity of the project status according to the General Assembly participants.

*The average was calculated from the averages of these statements: "Objectives of the WP are clear", "Strategy on how to achieve the objectives is clear", "Timetable of actions is clear", and "I got all the information I need to proceed"

**The presentation of the WP gave me a clear picture of the status and sustainability

In the open-text responses, the respondents specifically mentioned the good organization of the meetings, the possibility to interact, to ask questions, and to get a good overview of the project from all WPs (both horizontal and core). Updates on upcoming deadlines, examples from other countries, and fruitful discussion were appreciated as well as an overview from external organizations like WHO, HaDEA, JRC, and DG Santé. etc. that put the work in the JA in a bigger perspective. In the 3rd GA questionnaire, it was also mentioned that an update on new JA planning activities was important since the continuation of the work is seen as vital. In the last GA, examples from other countries and the final picture of the work done related to e.g., the joint database was appreciated.

Even though the responses to the general questions were overwhelmingly positive, there were a few critical responses also. Some respondents felt that discussion was a bit too focused on the process and the timeline, and not enough on the content, the preliminary results, and the challenges of the actual work. In the last meeting, attendees asked for more careful selection of the venue and the food served in it, more information on the speakers (name, background), more balanced agenda, and more time for discussions.

Even though the responses to the general questions were overwhelmingly positive, there were a few critical responses also. Some respondents felt that discussion was a bit too focused on the process and the timeline, and not enough on the content, the preliminary results, and the challenges of the actual work.



3.1.4.2 Mid-term Conference and Final Conference

Two key conferences have been organized, with participation of all Associated Partners, representatives of different relevant sectors, other interested EU and national stakeholders, representatives of other related projects (i.e. STOP, CO-CREATE) and initiatives, the PDMF and other interested EU and MS policy decision makers to present and discuss the outputs, outcomes and sustainability of Best-ReMaP.

The evaluation of the Mid-term conference (online conference 17th and 18th of November 2021) was conducted in collaboration with the World Obesity Forum. The link to the codeveloped online evaluation questionnaire was available at the end of the meeting via the meeting platform and the link was sent by email to the participants after the meeting. There were 332 attendees and 30 of them responded to the questionnaire. Most of the respondents were Best-ReMaP consortium members (53%) or collaborating partners of Best-ReMaP (30%).

The evaluation of the Final conference (on-site and online conference 18th of September 2023) was conducted after the final presentation, no reminders were sent. There were 150 attendees onsite and 101 online and 40 of them (15.9%) answered the questionnaire. Most of them were Best-ReMaP consortium members (51%) or collaborating partners of Best-ReMaP (28%).

Overall, respondents were satisfied with the conferences (mean 4.0 in Mid-term and 4.4 in Final conference on a scale of 1–5) and agreed that the meeting achieved its objectives (mean 3.8 in Mid-term and 4.4 in Final conference). The conference activities (incl. stakeholder dialogues, roundtable discussions, presentations, keynote speeches and discussions) were rated very good (mean 3.2 in Mid-term and 3.4 in the Final conference on a scale of 1-4).

Although the responses to the general questions were very positive, there were a few critical responses as well. Some felt that they did not receive enough information before the meeting and the presentations did not contain enough new information. In the Final conference few mentions were also given about the arrangements of the meeting mostly due to the nature of the premises where it took place (no windows, poor air quality) and the technical arrangements of the meeting although there were no major difference between those attending the meeting only and those on-site.

In the open text-responses, networking, dialogue and gaining new information and insights as the main benefits of attending to the conferences were mentioned. Also, update of the projects and their aims, results and sustainability were considered useful. However, respondents pointed out that industry, retail and consumer and health organization representatives were missing from the conference, and some asked for more proper discussion on lessons learnt. To maximize the impact of projects like Best-ReMaP and STOP in the future, engagement of relevant stakeholders from all different sectors, monitoring and benchmarking were mentioned as possible measures.



WP3 external evaluators were asked to participate in the conferences, and they gave their report as part of the Mid-term evaluation. Overall, the structure of the conference, the targeted presentation of the scientific results of the STOP project in synergy with the Best-ReMaP horizontal WPs, the presentation of the related EU and WHO policies, the round tables synthetizing the presentations and pointing out their relevance for the development of sustainable policies at national and EU level were evaluated to be very successful by them. Several parts of the program and contents were seen to support the engagement of stakeholders. However, evaluators also made a note that representatives from the food industry and the sports sector were not included as stakeholders.

3.1.5. External evaluators feedback on WP1

Project management was very engaged from the beginning and of a high standard, as acknowledged by the partners. The progress of the processes was timely, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, which required the rescheduling of many pre-planned processes. WP1 team has organised several meetings to different target groups in the focus, such as WPLs, General Assembly Meetings and PDMF meetings. Agendas were clear and meetings were well prepared and reported. The satisfaction about WP1 by the consortium members increased continuously to reach high scores.

Table 3 Evaluation of the deliverables of WP1

			Numerical ev			aluation	
DELIVERABLE	Evaluation	Comprehensiveness	Clarity	Correspondence with what was expected	Added value	Chances for implementation	
D1.1 Meeting minutes of the1st PDMF meeting Due: M12	The agenda, objective of the meeting, list of participants, introduction of WP's of the project and conclusions are detailed. The organization was successful with a great involvement of high level EU representatives from different DGs. The document itself is a clear, realistic description of the meeting, covering each topics of the agenda.	5	5	5	5	n.a.	
D1.2 Meeting minutes of the 2 nd PDMF meeting Due: M24	The meeting agenda, objective of the meeting, list of participants, introduction of WP's and conclusions are clearly presented in the deliverable.	5	5	5	<i>4.</i> 5	n.a.	
D1.3: Meeting minutes of the 3 rd PDMF meeting Due:M36	Not evaluated						



3.2. WP2 – Dissemination

3.2.1. Overall assessment

WP2 has had some delays in the deliverables and tasks but has been able to catch up without affecting the progress of the project. The quality of processes, outputs, and deliverables has been rated high according to both internal and external evaluation. Communication and visual identity of materials were specifically appreciated by the consortium members.

3.2.2. Peer-assessment

Of the respondents, 27-40% claimed to have been working or collaborating with WP2. The satisfaction has been quite steady in the first three rounds of biannual questionnaires (3.9 on average, on the scale from 1 (totally disagree) to 5 (totally agree)), but in the fourth, satisfaction was the highest so far, 4.3 and remained high (4.2) in the last questionnaire (see Fig. 8). The variation between respondents was moderate, with responses varying between 3 and 5 in most of the statements and between 2 and 5 only in few statements (e.g. "My role / Our team's role is clear"). However, in the 2nd round, the statements "The materials and instructions are clear" and "Coordination of WP is effective" were the most divisive statements.

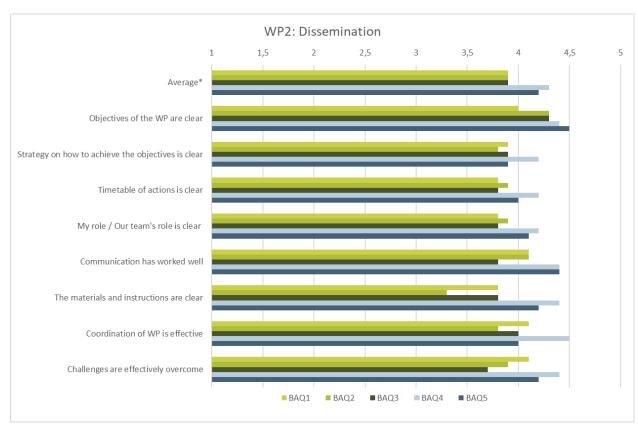


Figure 8 Satisfaction in the work of WP2 within the consortium



Outputs and activities that were asked about in the biannual questionnaires were related to visual entity, templates and info letters etc. to be used in the project, help in pr campaigns, and newsletters and other visual material, trainings and workshops. Expectations regarding outputs and activities were met well on average: During the first three rounds the trend was descending, but in the fourth round, the average was the highest of all rounds (see fig. 9). Variation between answers was high in the first two rounds (from 1 to 5), less in the third and fifth (from 2 to 5) and the least in the fourth round (3 to 5).

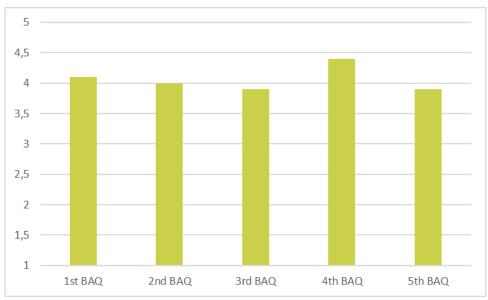


Figure 9 Satisfaction in the WP2 activities/outputs

Outputs, visual identity and look of materials, communication, dissemination, connecting people and the methodology and help concerning the National Stakeholder Forums was valued in open text answers. The templates were quite big in the beginning and smaller ones were requested a couple of times and the information and instructions concerning the National Stakeholder Forums were pending for quite some time, but in the end WP2 created smaller templates in response and created the methodology for the stakeholder forums. Also, some invitation to webinars and events came very late. If some improvements should be required for future projects, firmer timekeeping and earlier info on events, and more effective communication with partners and other WPs would be advisable.

3.2.3. Progress of work and performance measures

The <u>performance measures of WP2</u> which have been monitored with the ClickUp tool were for example stakeholder mapping, dissemination strategy, website, visual identity, engaging social media with newsletters and selecting influencers for dissemination. There were delays in 12 performance measures out of all 43 completed measures. The delayed measures were related to planning the visual identity and related tasks, for example, designing the PowerPoint template and information letter for the JA. In addition, delivering the Dissemination strategy was delayed a bit from the initial plan and therefore the related tasks were a bit delayed. The delayed tasks were during the first year of the JA and It seems that these delays have not affected the overall progress of the work. The planned schedule at the



beginning of the project was too ambitious, however, WP2 was able to catch up with the schedule. 20 measures are remaining for the last month of the JA and they are related to work which has been ongoing throughout the JA. There are no indications that there would be delays in them.

WP2 has self-reflected the success and setbacks in some of the measures. WP2 emphasized that they have had good cooperation on many tasks with WPs, for example with collecting the stakeholder map and collecting the core messages of WPs. WP2 had some setbacks in not being able to use the list of stakeholders due to GDPR. Despite the GDPR issues, WP2 was able to identify almost 300 stakeholders. In addition, WP2 succeeded in the page views of the Best-ReMaP websites and the promotional film did get a lot more views than was initially expected.

3.2.4. Activities organized by WP2

3.2.4.1 Dissemination webinars

Each core work package (WPs 5, 6 and 7) was to organize one dissemination webinar for stakeholders to disseminate their WP's aims and results to at least 25 people. This task was under WP2, so this work package helped the core WPs with the organization of the webinars by organizing instructive workshops, by communicating the webinars outside and moderating the webinars. All three webinars were held between April and May 2023. WP3 evaluated the webinars of work packages 6 and 7, but since the webinar of WP5 was organized as part of another event, there was no evaluation questionnaire for that webinar. The specifics of the webinars evaluated are presented in table 4.

Table 4 Basic information on the dissemination webinars

Webinar	Respondents' country	Respondents′ background	General satisfaction (scale 1-5)	Satisfaction in achieving objectives*			
WP6: Snakes and ladders of food marketing - challenges and facilitators to reducing children's exposure to unhealthy food ads	Portugal, Ireland, Finland, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Estonia, France, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Romania, and Bosnia and Herzegovina (incl. Republic of Srpska)	associated partners 40 %, collaborating partners 35%, stakeholders 5%, other (e.g. student) 25%	4.3	4.6			
WP7: Procurement of nutritious food in public institutions – Conclusions and Outcomes of Regional Policy Dialogues 18.5.2023	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Finland, Greece, Malta, Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria, and Denmark	associated partners 40%, collaborating partners 40 %, stakeholders 20 %	4.5	4.7			
*as defined in the questionnaire							



The respondents stated that the important learnings were to get to have an overview of the things done already and to be done in the future and to get some new ideas and tools to help in their work. Especially the webinar on WP6 offered some concrete advice on the methods and tools. The new ideas will be used in work to help e.g. create new intersectoral contacts and to offer better quality foods to kindergartens.

According to the respondents, the presenters were very well prepared, and the webinars were well organized. In the WP6 webinar especially good were the discussion part at the end and the sum up of the most important things from all of the speakers. Earlier information about the event was asked since the invitation to the WP7 webinar came very late. Also, some technical issues (e.g., low volume) were countered and some claimed they got no new information just a repetition of what was already known. This is likely because most of the audience were partners, not stakeholders, and were already familiar with the work of the work package giving the presentation.

3.2.4.2 National stakeholder forums

All partner countries were mandated to organize one or two National Stakeholder Forums during the lifetime of Best-ReMaP, to inform national stakeholders about the activities of the project and to discuss and build policy concerning key national issues related to food and nutrition, in connection with the topics discussed in the project. WP2 was responsible for the organization and the methodology for these events, WP3 contributed to the methodology by writing the instructions for the evaluation part. The same evaluation questions were asked from every country (translated by the partners into their own language), and the partners translated the open-text answers into English as well. The key features of each event is presented in Table 5. The specifics of the individual events can be found in the Annex 5.

The participants of the National Stakeholder Forums were asked whether they participated onsite or online, the most important learnings from the event, how they will implement those learnings, and whether they have further comments or suggestions. Background questions covered country, institution, and level of employment. The satisfaction with the event was measured (Likert scale from 1 "Totally disagree" to 5 "Totally agree") with 9 statements:

- The event was well-organized
- I got enough information before the event
- The topic was relevant for me
- The objectives were clear
- The event gave new information for me
- Opportunities to contribute were good
- Opportunities to exchange experiences with other stakeholders were good
- I got relevant tools or ideas that I can use
- Attending the event was good use of my time

Confirmed events during the lifetime of Best-ReMaP was reported to have been held in 22 countries out of 24. One country (Portugal) reported that they will organize their event in



October 2023 to maximize the impact of the event. Cyprus did report the date of their event, but no evaluation data was collected and no confirmation if the event was held did not come to WP3. Bosnia and Herzegovina held their 2nd event after this document was finalized, Belgium organized their own evaluation data collection, and Romania did not collect any evaluation data. Also, no evaluation data was collected from the 1st event of Bosnia & Herzegovina. So, all in all, the results presented here cover 19 countries with 23 events. The results of the events were sent to the organizers of the events and are presented in this document in table 5 and Annex 5.

Altogether 404 answers throughout Europe were given to the questionnaire in these National Stakeholder events by the 26th of September 2023. 55.6% of the answers were given from participants that were on-site and 44.4% from the ones who were online. All asked background institutions (11) were represented and some others like NGOs also were mentioned in the open-text answers option. 45% of the answerers were senior level employees, 32% were intermediate level employees, 22% were students, and 1% were junior level employees.

An average of 4.2 was given to the 9 questions that map the satisfaction: answerers were the happiest with the organization of the events (62% totally agreed with the statement) and the topic of the events (60.5% totally agreed). "Opportunities to exchange experiences with other stakeholders were good" and "I got relevant tools or ideas that I can use" were the least liked statements (means were 4.0 for both). The mean varied a lot from country to country: the lowest mean given was 3.4 and the highest 4.9.

Table 5 Summary of National stakeholder forums

Country	Timing of event(s)	Title	On-site/ Online	Answerers /Attendees (%)	Answerers background	General satisfaction with the meeting (mean)
Austria	Nov 2022	Growing Up in Healthy Environment	onsite	39/65 (60%)	pupils and students, aged 14-18 and 18-25 years	3.4
Belgium	Dec 2022	Restricting food marketing of unhealthy foods to children in Belgium	Evaluation	data collected	in a different way – no evaluation da	ta presented here
Bosnia- Herzegovina	April 2023; Sept 2023	Health for all - Celebration of World Health Day; Presentation of achievements of BestReMaP JA	No evalua		ted on the first event n the 2 nd event are presented here; th finalized	ne event was held
Bulgaria	Sept 2023	Food reformulation - overview of activities within Best-ReMaP JA	onsite	15/15 (100%)	food industry, health care, governmental organization, university, local government	4.7
Croatia	Dec 2022;	Child health in the centre - hidden influences behind the screens	onsite & online	7/25 (28%)	governmental organizations, universities, communication, food industry, NGOs	3.3
Cyprus	Sept 2023		No evalua	tion data collec	ted, no information if the event was h	eld
Denmark	March 2022	Annual meeting in the Danish Food Partnership for Health and Climate in collaboration with Best-ReMaP - Challenges and trends in the food area, present and to come.	online	58/108 (53.7%)	food industry. universities, governmental organizations, communication, marketing, catering, retail, NGOs, interest organizations, and trade associations.	3.9
Estonia	Sept 2023	Steps in reformulation and future challenges in Estonia	onsite	8/53 (15.1%)	research institute, food industry, governmental organization	4.4
Finland	Jan 2023	Food marketing towards children and adolescents - current situation and solutions	onsite & online	30/78 governmental organizations, (38%) universities, research institutes, health care, communication, marketing, NGOs, foundations, and consulting		4.0
France	May 2023	Follow up of the food offer by Oqali and its European expansion in the Best-Remap joint action	onsite	3/60 (5%)	Governmental organizations	4.5



Germany	Sept 2023	Monitoring of sugar, fat, and salt in packaged foods - chances for inndustry and retail	online	10/18 (55.6%)	Food industry, associations	3.7	
Greece	July 2023	Best-ReMaP Greece: Lessons learned and and future perspectives	onsite	10/18 (55.6%)	governmental organizations, health care, university and research institute	4.7	
Hungary	March 2023; May 2023	Food reformulation Food environment - Insights from adolescents; The Best-ReMaP project - aims and results	onsite	10/12 (83%) 24/45 55.6%)	Students aged 17-18 Governmental organization, local government, health care, education, catering	4.5 / 4.8	
Ireland	Sept 2023	Updating food marketing codes in Ireland for obesity prevention	onsite	5/17 (29.4%)	governmental organization, education	4.5	
Italy	June 2022		onsite and online	17/28 (60.7%)	university, food industry, health care, governmental organization, consumer organizations	4.7	
Latvia	May 2023	Food marketing to children - challenges and possible solutions	onsite	16/27 (59.3%)	governmental organizations, food industry, health care, research institute, marketing, food trade and NGO	4.5	
Lithuania	Oct 2022; March 2023	Food marketing to children; Challenges and opportunities	onsite	14/22 (64%) 17/31 (54.8%)	governmental organizations, local governments, education, marketing, communication, the food industry, and trade	4.7 / 4.6	
Malta	May 2023	Public Food Procurment	online	7/13 (53.8%)	university students	3.8	
Netherlands	March 2023	Healthy and sustainable food environments-Policy and research priorities	onsite	19/24 (79%)	students and their teachers	3.8	
Poland	Sept 2023		onsite	22/?	education, local government, university, catering	4.9	
Portugal	Sept 2023	Restricting unhealthy food marketing to children in the EU – results from the Best ReMaP Joint Action.			e presented here; the event reported to d (October 2023)	o be held after this	
Romania	May 2023; June2023	Food reformulation - between desire and necessity;	No evaluation data collected				



		Best Remap project - Objectives and results				
Serbia	June 2023	Reducing marketing of unhealthy products to children and adolescents	Online and onsite	20/25 (80%)	health care, governmental organization, university, research institute,	4.3
Slovenia	Oct 2022; March 2023	Presentation of Best-ReMaP JA; Meeting of stakeholders of the Best- ReMaP project	Online; onsite	6/11 (54.5%) 13/31 (41.9%)	university, communication, research institute, and non- governmental organization, marketing, agriculture, NGO	4.5 / 4.4

3.2.4.3 Social media visibility

The achievements of WP2 in visibility of project in different media gives information about the overall interest towards Best-ReMaP project. WP2 has developed and shared newsletters, press releases, videos, leaflet etc. in co-operation with other WPs. Different media have received attention according to these statistics:

- Webpages: 200 visits/month reached; peak=800 visits/day during the film promotion campaign in August 2023
- People registered in the newsletter mailing list: 605
- Number of views of the YouTube videos: 33 videos, in total 384.021 views (with 14.800 hours of watching)

In addition:

- Number of Facebook Page followers: 1516
- Number of Facebook Page likes: 1470
- Number of Instagram Page followers: 217
- Fresh Food Hollywood educational movie campaign: Facebook & Insta: 15 155 069 reaches; 1 123 556 actual views
- The Parliament Magazine article, page views: 1008; Newsletter clicks: 93; Print distribution: 2915; LinkedIn Impressions: 599; Twitter impressions; 1215

3.2.5. External evaluators feedback on WP2

According to the evaluators, the website reflects the state-of-the-art of the project.WP2 made a critical self-evaluation activities regarding the first 18 months of the project. Strong cooperation of WP1 and WP2 as well as other WP leaders on communication activities was considered to be one of the major strengths of the dissemination activity, while on the top of major weaknesses is the low number of stakeholders who can be effectively reached by the newsletters.

The average score of satisfaction of the consortium members with WP2 rated from 3.5 to 4.0, but in the fourth questionnaire the score improved, being was well above 4.0.

Three deliverables are under development yet. Work Package 2 has collected the dissemination activities of all partners of JA Best-ReMaP that were carried out in the first half of the project. All activities that promote JA Best-ReMaP and its goals were considered as dissemination activities. Total of 229 activities estimated to reach 248 625 individuals. WP2 posts regularly at the social media platforms.



Table 6 Evaluation of the deliverables of WP2

	Table 6 Evaluation of the deliverables of WP2 Numerical evaluation					
		, vu	men	ear ev	aiuc	RIOII
DELIVERABLE	Evaluation	Comprehensiveness	Clarity	Correspondence with what was expected	Added value	Chances for implementation
MD.2.1 Introductory leaflet Due: M3	The introductory leaflet is concise, well designed, contains all the necessary information about the project for different audience. The leaflet meets its objective, that is the publication with core project information to promote the JA with easy-to-understand details.	5	5	5	4	n.a.
MD.2.2 Website Due: M3	The website provides project and WP level information on all activities of the project, and it also features a dedicated page for events and newsletters. The website is linked with the JA's social media accounts with a user-friendly layout and high-quality visual experience. The structure of the website and the information are clear, includes enough content, with elegant and consistent visual identity.	5	5	5	5	n. a
D2.3 Dissemination strategy Due: M4	Objectives, target groups and stakeholders, target audiences by work package, the high-level messages of WP's, communication channels, standardized visual identity, social media and newsletters are the main chapters of the dissemination strategy. It includes all modern target group-specific communication tools. The involvement of influencers and preparation of short films are also planned bringing messages closer to the general public.	5	5	5	5	4
MD2.4 Mid-term report on Dissemination Due: M20	The deliverable summarizes the WP2 activities carried out in the first half of the JA. A selfassessment was performed listing the strengths and weaknesses of the dissemination process. The deliverable is clear, comprehensive and of good quality	5	5	5	4	n.a.
D2.5 Promotional movies completed Due: M36	Not evaluated					
MD 2.6 Layman version of the final report Due: M36	Not evaluated					
MD 2.7 Final report on Dissemination Due: M36	Not evaluated					



3.3. WP3 – Evaluation

3.3.1. Overall assessment

WP3 has experienced some delays but has been able to catch up without affecting the progress of the project. The quality of processes, outputs, and deliverables has been rated high according to both internal and external evaluation.

3.3.2. Peer assessment

Of the peer respondents, 17.6-32.7% stated that they collaborated or worked with WP3. The satisfaction with the work of WP3 was quite steady during the first three rounds of biannual questionnaires, but in the fourth and fifth, the average satisfaction was remarkably higher (up to 0.9 percentage points, see fig. 10). This was seen also in the variation between respondents: it decreased from 1-5 from the first round to being 3-5 in the last three. In the 4th and 5th BA questionnaire, at least 50% of the answers were given to the option 5 "Totally agree" in all of the statements.

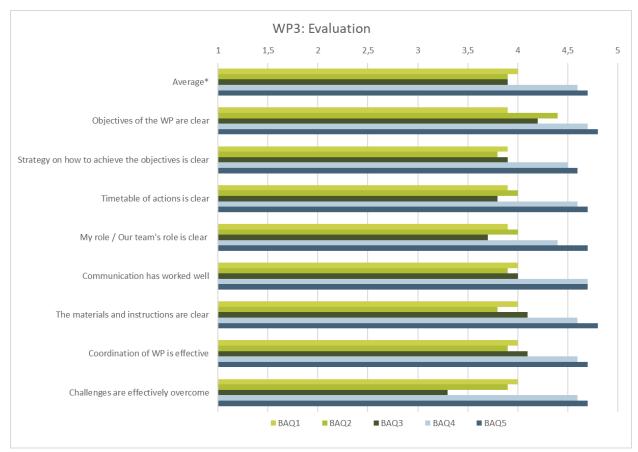


Figure 10 Satisfaction in the work of WP3 within the consortium

Outputs and activities asked in the BA questionnaires have been linked with the evaluation tasks: Webropol evaluation questionnaires and evaluation of some specific events like



general assembly meetings, continuous monitoring with the ClikUpTM tool and the deliverables D3.1 Evaluation strategy and D3.2 Mid-term Evaluation report and an info leaflet of the work of WP3. Satisfaction regarding these outputs and activities has been fluctuating (see Fig. 11) but the variation of answers has decreased from the first to the last questionnaire: in the first there were answers from 1 to 5 in all of the outputs but in the fourth and fifth, answer options 4 and 5 in all but one output.

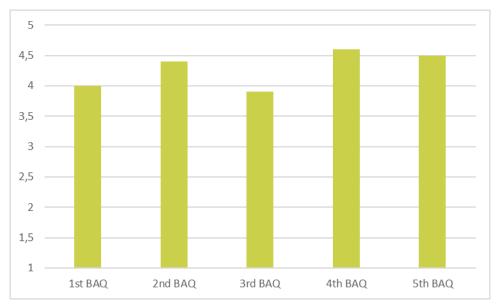


Figure 11 Satisfaction in the WP3 activities/outputs

In open text answers implementation of evaluation tools, coordination, communication, helpfulness, and managing evaluation were praised. However, the tools (Webropol, ClickUp) WP3 uses for evaluation were not known by all respondents during the first rounds and it seemed that the role of this WP was not clear to all partners. To make the role clearer, WP3 sent an informative leaflet to all partners, and it seems that it was well liked (an average 4.6 was given to this output). However, the role of ClickUp TM tool and External Evaluators in the evaluation and monitoring process was still unclear to some partners; the importance of the meaning and objective of every tool used in projects like this should be made clear to all partners.

3.3.3. Progress of work and performance measures

The performance measures marked done according to ClickUp include for example choosing external evaluators, choosing an online data collecting tool, developing the evaluation strategy, creating material for data collection and writing a Mid-term evaluation report. For the Mid-term evaluation report, WP3 collected data with surveys and from WPs, and the External evaluators provided feedback and comments for the report. WP3 has completed 25 of 30 measures, 5 of them late. The delayed measures were about choosing the evaluators and drafting and finalising the evaluation strategy. The delays was due to a strict schedule at the beginning of the project, and WP3 has caught up with the schedule. There are no delays in the measures later in the project. The remaining five performance measures have their



due date at the end of September, and there are no indicators that there would be delays in the last activities.

WP3 self-reflected on the success in measures and wrote that they found excellent candidates for external evaluators, and the co-operation with the evaluators and other work packages has been fruitful. In addition, the technical solutions were found as a success, and WP3 has received good feedback about their strategy and their work. Setbacks were often related to delays; many tasks consumed more time than initially expected, especially the subcontracting process. Moreover, communication with some WPs was challenging at first.

3.3.4. External evaluators' feedback on WP3

The WP of evaluation has generally progressed as planned. A very wide range of methods were used for internal and external evaluation including questionnaires, impact interviews of WPLs and online surveys. To monitor the progress of the project, the online project management tool (ClickUp™) was applied. Overall, the progress of the evaluation is as planned, hampered by the lack of self-assessment in some WPs and the relatively low response rate to the questionnaires. The collaboration with WP leaders/team members, stakeholders and external evaluators was excellent.

In accordance with the objective, WP3 monitors the implementation of JA on the one hand, and the outcomes and impact of the implementation on the other. Various standard methods were used to monitor the project and allow for any necessary adjustments on time. The evaluation involved different target groups such as WP leaders, policy makers, stakeholders, etc. It is worth highlighting, among other things, the use of SWOT analysis in impact interviews, as well as methods allowing the analysis of trends (e.g. numerical assessments).

Overall satisfaction in collaboration of WP3 within consortium according to Biannual questionnaires improved to 4.5 by the fourth round from initial averages of around 4.0.



Table 7 Evaluation of the deliverables of WP3

		Table 7 Evaluation of the deliverables of WP3					
			Nu	meri	cal ev	alua	ntion
DELIVE	RABLE	Evaluation	Comprehensiveness	Clarity	Correspondence with what was expected	Added value	Chances for implementation
D3.1 Ev strategy Due: M5		The evaluation methodology follows that described in GA. It uses a range of evidence-based methods to achieve the broadest possible evaluation of the project as it clearly summarized in Figure of Evaluation design. Tasks and timetables are presented very clear. The indicators are listed for each WP. The evaluation strategy is a comprehensive and clear document.	5	5	5	5	5
D3.2 Mi Evaluati Due: M2		This is a well-edited, logically structured document. It presents the results of the different evaluation methods used in a clear way, and trends over the evaluation period can be easily followed. The quality of deliverables is excellent; they can serve as a base for the evaluation of future projects.	5	5	5	5	n.a.
	nal Evaluation (this document) 36	Not evaluated					



3.4. WP4 – Sustainability and integration into national policies

3.4.1. Overall assessment

The Theory of Change diagram (Figure 12) presents the chain of events that are needed for the expected impacts to be achieved. The work of WP4 is connected with and relies on the outputs and outcomes of the WPs 5-7.

IMPACT

- · Healthy food more available and accessible in the market for European children
- · Reduce overexposure to children's food marketing

OUTCOME

- · Mid and long-term sustainibility of the results of the JA
- · Evidence-based nutritional policies implemented at EU and MS level
- Food system indicators

OUTPUT

- Identified best practices from technical WPs WP5-reformulation, WP6-marketing and advertising and WP7-public procurement
- Policy dialogues with stakeholders from public sector
- · Joint Research Centre (JRC) food database to be upgraded and implemented
- · Report on integration and sustainability in EU and national policies

ACTIVITIES

- · Increase the knowledge about the food environment and food systems in EU
- Desk research of sustainability issues on previous and ongoing initiatives
- · Semi-structured interviews with experts on relevant fields
- · Policy dialogues with key stakeholders and policymakers

INPUTS

- Results from previous JAs
- Relevant EU and MS regulation and recommendations for sustainable/institutionalized actions

Figure 12 Theory of Change for WP4



3.4.2. Specific objectives and indicators

Table 8 Best-ReMaP Specification	ic Objective related to WP4
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Specific Spec	cific Objective Title	e and Description	
Objective ID			
1 To s	upport implementati	on, transfer and integration of the results a	nd outcomes
of the	e Best-ReMaP JA ir	nto national and EU-level policies	
Process Indicator(s)		Target value	Status
Desk research of previou	s and ongoing	At least 10 strategic documents analysed	Completed
European initiatives and		in the desk research, carried out on the	
documents in the area of		official websites of the EU institutions and	
conducted, focused on su	ustainability issues	the MSs, from M1 and completed by M 12	
and previous work			
Semi-structured interview	•	9 interviews carried out from M 6 to M 12	Completed
food reformulation, food r	-		
public procurement of foor relevant fields.	oas with experts in		
Policy dialogues with key	stakeholders and	1 x Mediterranean dialogue, 1x Central	Completed
policymakers	stakeriolders and	European dialogue, 1x Scandinavian /	Completed
policymanore		Northern dialogue, 1 x EU policy	
		dialogue, from M 20 to M34	
Output Indicator(s)		Target value	Status
Policy decision makers s	takeholder	Comprehensive list of Policy decision	Completed
mapping finalised		makers stakeholders' organizations and	·
		position prepared from M 1 to M 12	
Policy dialogue briefs aris	-	4 policy briefs, arising from policy makers	Completed
policymaker dialogues wi	_	dialogs, from M 26 to M 36	
key issues discussed on	•		
reformulation, food marke	•		
procurement of foods, ald			
findings and recommend		The IDC food detabase with inputs for at	Camaniatad
Long-standing, sustainab Centre (JRC) food databa		The JRC food database, with inputs for at least 5 food groups in the database, from	Completed
and implemented by MSs	. •	M 6 to M 36	
Report on integration and		Report to be circulated to targeted	To be
EU and national policies	•	decision making stakeholders in relevant	completed
recommendations for Ste		sectors at EU and national levels, in 27	at the end of
prevention and promotion	•	+2 MSs, from M 32 to M 36	JA
MSs, for uptake of JA fine		,	071
Outcome / Impact Indi	cator(s)	Target value	
Annual reporting meeting	s with HLG-NPA	Two annual reporting meetings with High	HLG has
with updating presentation		Level Group, by M12 and M24	been
reporting meeting with HI		One final reporting meeting with HLG-	discontinued
by a structured response of the MSs on how		NPA with of the implementation plans in	
they plan to approach the	•	MSs for the next 5 year period, by M36	
of the proposed Best-Rel			- -
Development and prop		Food system indicators in the EU	To be
system indicator, for inclu		semester, developed and proposed, by M	completed
semester, possibly linked to EU.	to the presidency	36	at the end of
IU EU.			JA



3.4.3. Peer assessment

Of the respondents, 23-45% stated that they worked or collaborated with WP4. In the first, second and third biannual questionnaires the satisfaction of the partners with the work of WP4 was evaluated as average but in the fourth and fifth round, the satisfaction was rated higher (Figure 13). However, variation between respondents has been wide (1-5 or 2-5) throughout the lifetime of the project.

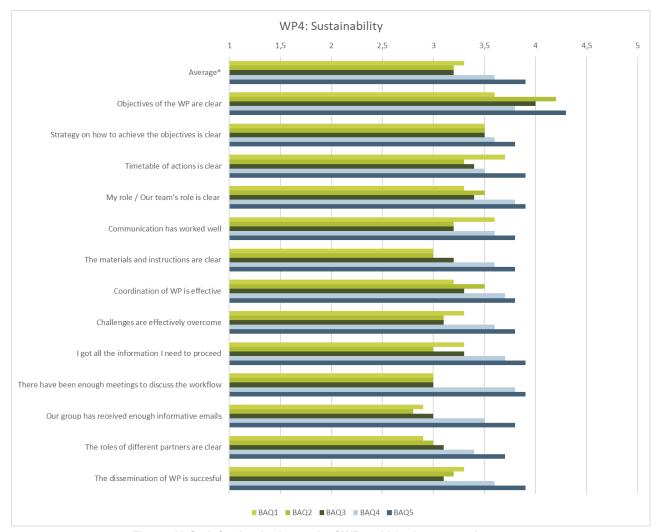


Figure 13 Satisfaction in the work of WP4 within the consortium

The same ascending trend is seen with the outputs of WP4 (Figure 14), including e.g. stakeholder mapping, interviews on sustainability, a summary of the conclusions, findings of previous JAs, and reports related to Policy Dialogues. Variation between respondents was wide (1 to 5) but decreased somewhat (2 to 5) towards the end.



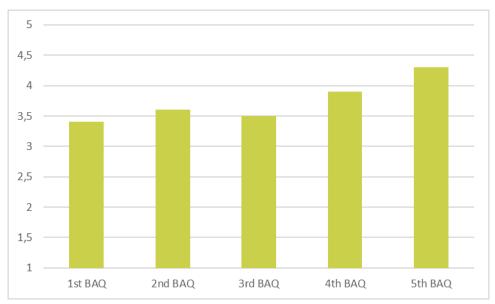


Figure 14 Satisfaction in the WP4 activities/outputs

Apparently, during the first half of Best-ReMaP, the partners were not familiar with the role and work of WP4, since many stated in the open-text answers that the workflow could be enhanced by better communication and clearer roles/responsibilities regarding tasks, activities, timetables, and materials related to this WP. This problem has not been thoroughly solved since the same themes were present also in the last two questionnaires. Besides, some respondents thought more human resources would have been needed. However, this WP was thanked to have linked the work of WPs 5, 6 and 7 and connecting people and in the last questionnaire, several answerers considered Policy Dialogues were successful. Besides, the work of this WP is seen very important for the future. For the next projects, it would be advisable to communicate the objectives, action plan, mode of action etc. clearly and thoroughly to all relevant partners in work packages that link the whole project together and also otherwise be very active in communicating in several ways.

3.4.4. Progress of work and performance measures

To date, WP4 has marked 22 of 35 <u>performance measures</u> done in the ClickUp application. The completed measures are related for example to desk research of sustainability and equity, the interviews of sustainability experts, the Policy dialogues and identifying the policy decision-makers. Six measures related to interviews were completed later than initially scheduled. The remaining activities have their due date at the end of JA and there are no indications that there would be major delays.

For only a couple of measures, WP4 has written some self-reflections. WP4 wrote that the interviews have highlighted valuable suggestions to ensure JA sustainability in the mid-long term. In the literature review, WP4 found mainly grey literature, which was mentioned as a setback. In addition, WP4 was not able to reach all the relevant people for the interviews.



3.4.5. Activities organized by WP4

3.4.5.1 Regional Policy Dialogues

WP4 arranged, with the help of EuroHealthNet, altogether four Policy Dialogues to discuss Best-ReMaP topics and to inform and develop a policy change. Three of the Dialogues were regional Policy Dialogues (see Table 9), and the partners were invited to participate to the Dialogue based on their location. The partners were encouraged also to invite stakeholders such as people from universities, ministries in etc.

Table 9 Summary of the Regional Policy Dialogues

Place	Date	Answers /Attendees (%)	Average satisfaction	Respondents' background
Rome	28.3.2023	10/27 (38.5%)	4.5	5 associated partners, 4 collaborating partners and one stakeholder
Helsinki	5.5.2023	12/28 (38.7%)	4.5	7 associated partners, 3 collaborating partners and 2 others
Vienna	12.5.2023	16/41 (39%)	4.1	8 associated partners, 4 collaborating partners, 1 stakeholder and 2 others

The evaluations of the events are based on the feedback from the participants collected with an online survey and on the observations of two participating members of the Best-ReMaP evaluation team. The satisfaction on the organisation of the Policy Dialogue was asked with 11 statements with Likert scale (1-5) from totally disagree to totally agree (for example 'the meeting was well organised', 'the agenda was interesting and useful for me', 'enough time was allocated for discussion').

According to the respondents, all of the three meeting met their objectives very well. The respondents indicated that the main benefits of the Policy Dialogues were the opportunity to network and to share experiences, to get information about the policies Best-ReMaP has advanced and to make plans for sustainable outcomes and future endeavours. According to the participating members of the evaluation team the discussion in the Policy Dialogue was vivid, enthusiastic, and open. The policies of the Best-ReMaP were discussed from multiple viewpoints in a critical but optimistic manner. All invited member states were represented in the Policy Dialogues to ensure that the circumstances in different member states were expressed and indeed, the differences of countries were widely discussed.

In the first Policy Dialogue in Rome, unfortunately, many participants had to leave in the afternoon, with only two thirds present in the discussions. The evaluation team noted that quite a lot of the time was spent on presenting the work done in the WPs and more time could have been reserved for the discussions. In the second event in Helsinki, the minor difficulties with timetable in the previous dialogue were overcome with slightly changed schedule. There was enough time for debate and the summarising discussion was very much appreciated by the participants. The discussions in Vienna were summarised as follows: we should find common solutions despite the way to work in countries differs, and for that this kind of discussion is valuable. Enough time was allocated for the discussions, and the participants appreciated the opportunity to share experiences in World Café and the summarising discussions.



3.4.5.2 Plenary Policy Dialogue

According to the evaluation team, the discussion in Brussels was enthusiastic, and also critical opinions on different matters were expressed. The policy topics of Best-ReMaP were discussed from multiple viewpoints and many ways to enhance the policy-making process. Participants (66 participants in all, only 4 responses in the survey) considered the policies of Best-ReMaP important and relevant for the prevention of childhood obesity even though the participants suggested different methods to enhance the policies. In the plenary dialogue, there were more representatives of the private sector than in the previous dialogues, which made discussions of cooperation between the private and public sectors vivid. There were some difficulties staying on the schedule of the meeting, but the meeting ended on time.

According to the External Evaluator Eva Martos, the agenda of the Plenary Policy Dialogue was ambitious. The programme was well structured and included each core work packages. The invited contributors put the outcome of the work packages in a broader scope. Achieving one of the key objectives of the project was discussed in working group discussion in the context of a SWOT analysis. The participants were very active, and it would have been interesting to hear detailed reports from each moderator. Overall, the meeting was effective, the participants were given an overview of the current status of the project, and they were able to hear each other's views.

3.4.6. Determinants of the achievement of the WP objectives

WP3 organized two rounds of impact interviews (December 2021 and June 2023), during which WP4 leader team members discussed the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of their work. The applied SWOT methodology is presented in Annex 3. The discussions during both interview rounds are summarized below and in Table 10.

The WP4 divided the biggest threats into the political, scientific, stakeholder engagement and inequality. As a way to overcome the weaknesses and threats summarised in the SWOT table, WP4 emphasized the horizontal nature of the WP and the possibility to summarize the Best-ReMaP messages, raise awareness and to convey them to stakeholders of national and EU level, offering a venue for discussions and finding ways to co-operate. The policy dialogue process was a new and rewarding process. The SWOT methodology was fruitful because it allowed discussions to be carried forward between all interested parties (e.g., decision-makers, scientific stakeholders, private sector). Thus, it allowed to show the various points of view with the aim of trying to find a common balance in terms of policy making. The Policy dialogue methodology could be replicated and used in the forthcoming JAs.

WP4 also emphasised the lack of political will "The goal to prevent and diminish childhood obesity is clear but the policies are not strong enough". They considered that the voluntary regulations may not be sufficient. There is a need for High Level Group support to discuss changes in the legislative framework. According to the WP4, the effectiveness of the WP could have been increased by adding the human resources.



The effect on people with varying socioeconomic background should be considered when making policy decisions. The importance of policies promoted by Best-ReMaP was highlighted by the impressive message by Tim Lobstein, offering an opportunity to reduce inequity by food environment policies.

For WP4, the way to minimise the effect of the threats is to "make scientific evidence a common point of view for evidence-based policy making." Lessons learned for the next JA: the huge job is possible if it is done together and with strong coordination.

Table 10 SWOT analysis for WP4

	Positive V	Negative V
	Strengths	Weaknesses
Internal 🗲	 Horizontal view, responsibility to deliver the results of JA to EU and national policies, collaboration with WPs. WP4 will put efforts to public food provided to children, aim to implement the procurement policies. Target group are policy makers that is seen as additional value. The Policy dialogue could be replicated and used in the forthcoming JAs. 	 Best-ReMaP lacks the power to implement the new policies to legislation. The lack of political will. The goal to prevent and diminish childhood obesity is clear but the policies are not strong enough. The effectiveness would have been increased by adding the human resources.
	Opportunities	Threats
External 👆	 To enhance the nutrition of all European children, advance nutrition on social level and advance environmental aspects of food production. SES differences should be considered when making policy decisions. For example, lunch for children is important in a social point of view. The role of policy makers, civil society, NGOs and sports idols are important in changing the food habits, especially in advertising healthy food. Healthy food available to all children All the countries will adopt a policy to improve food reformulation, marketing, and procurement, "Working together to create a global vision of the topic" is seen the biggest opportunity in the future. 	 Difficulty to translate scientific language into political language. Lack of trust between the stakeholders. COVID-19 increased the gap in food consumption between different SES groups. Technological development may increase inequality because all people do not have similar access to technical devices. The way to minimise the effect of the threats is to "make scientific evidence a common point of view for evidence-based policy making."

3.4.7. External evaluators' feedback on WP4

The specific objective of WP4 is to support implementation, transfer and integration of the results and outcomes of Best-ReMaP into national and EU-level policies. As a consequence of this, the progress of this WP depended a lot on the other core WPs and the WP4 activities



were a bit behind the schedule. WP4 received the lowest score of satisfaction given by the consortium members (3.0 to 3.5 on a scale from 1 to 5), however, the score improved towards the end when the work of WP4 become more visible to consortium members.

Three regional Policy Dialogues were organized (Rome, Helsinki, and Vienna) with the total number of 96 participants. These events aimed to highlight regional differences among MSs, which may pose a major challenge for WP4. The fourth, plenary policy dialogue (organized in Brussels) was well prepared with a good representation of EU institutions. WHO also welcomed the meeting highlighting the importance of policy of marketing unhealthy foods to children. The report of the assessment of equity aspects of nutrition policies given by Tim Lobstein was progressive. The final conclusions based on scientific literature supported that in the three nutrition policy areas mandatory measures, standards, and regulations might be effective from health equity aspects.

One of the major remaining tasks for WP4 is the feeding the JRC branded food database with the data of Best-ReMaP. The constantly growing JRC food database will serve as an excellent opportunity to different stakeholders to make comparisons, and to use the data for developing legislation.

Table 11 Evaluation of the deliverables of WP4

		Numerical evaluation		ation		
DELIVERABLE	Evaluation	Comprehensiveness	Clarity	Correspondence with what was expected	Added value	Chances for implementation
D4.1 Documents retrieved in the desk research Due: M6	As a result of the desk research, 13 strategic documents between 2015 and 2021-most of them at EU or EU presidency country level — were selected to report. An effort has been made to highlight the links between Best Remap WP5-7 in the selected documents. The deliverable is in line with its objective.	4	4	4	4	4
MD 4.2: Integration and sustainability plan (Report on sustainability and integration in national policies) Due: M36	Not evaluated					
Briefs on the four policy dialogues Due: M36	Not evaluated					



4. Evaluation of the core Work Packages

4.1. WP5 - Reformulation and processed food monitoring

4.1.1. Overall assessment

The Theory of Change diagram (Figure 15) presents the chain of events that are needed for the expected impacts to be achieved, with bold font indicating what has already taken place.



IMPACT

- •Implementation of a European Standardised Monitoring system for the reformulation of processed food in 18 European countries
- Data gathered to help to define and assess nutritional policies
- •Improve the quality of food offer

OUTCOME

- •Identification of the priority processed food groups for a European monitoring of the food supply
- Knowledge gained on new technologies and new sources of data for nutritional data collection
- Countries trained to conduct, verify and analyse their own data collection
- Feeding of FABLE (European composition database)
- First European analysis of the trends of the nutritional quality of processed food and their impacts on nutrients intakes for some countries

OUTPUT

- European Guidelines on reformulation monitoring
- •Creation of templates and R programs to conduct statistical analyses on collected data
- •Implementation of a first (4 countries) or a second snapshot (14 countries) of data collection
- Data transfer toward the JRC composition database
- •Report on the first trend assessment of the nutritional quality of the processed food and their impacts on nutrients intakes for some countries

ACTIVITIES

- Analysis of the food groups contributions to the nutrient intakes
- Comparison of traditionnal approach and webscraping / crowsourcing for data collection
- Training of participating countries to the methodology for data collection/treatment
- Standardization and harmonization of existing data according the Best-ReMaP classification in 7 countries
- Collection and encoding of nutritional data in 18 European countries
- Analysis of the nutritional quality of the food offer in 10 European countries
- First trend analysis of the impact of composition evolution (including reformulation) on nutrient intakes
- •First trend analysis of comparisons between countries

INPUTS

- Consumption data from the EFSA comprehensive database
- Composition data at generic level for some countries
- Data collected during Euremo project
- Pre-existing data on food composition at the brand level

Figure 15 Theory of Change for WP5



4.1.2. Specific objectives and their indicators

Table 12. Best-ReMaP Specific Objective related to WP5

Specific Objective ID	Specific Objective T	Title and Description	
2	To implement a Euro of processed food	pean Standardised Monitoring system for the r	eformulation
Process Indicato	•	Target value	Status
Identification of th	e priority processed European monitoring	Analysis of the food groups contributors to the nutrient intakes, for all the WP5 participants from the EFSA comprehensive database. Definition of at least 5 priority processed food groups, by M9	Completed
Training courses European Standa system for the ref processed food of States	rdised Monitoring	6 training courses organised for MS, by M25	Completed
Implementation of snapshot of the no processed food	f the European utritional quality of	Snapshot implementations covering 5 food groups in 19 countries, by M36	Completed in 18 countries
Workshops on ke European Standa system for the ref processed food to stakeholder coord	rdised Monitoring ormulation of o provide key	1x first snapshot workshop with countries, 1x EU stakeholder workshop with countries, by M36	To be completed at the end of JA
Output Indicator	r(s)	Target value	
European Guideli	nes on reformulation d on processed food	European Guidelines on reformulation monitoring to define: -The monitoring methodology -The priority processed food groups to be included -The best sources of data or best technologies to use for the data collection -The conditions for a sustainable European monitoring, by M30	Completed
European Guideli monitoring, based supply Number of first are on nutritional qual food realised and groups covered: of the control of the co	nes on reformulation d on processed food and second Snapshots lity of the processed number of food data collected, lysed, according to	European Guidelines on reformulation monitoring to define: -The monitoring methodology -The priority processed food groups to be included -The best sources of data or best technologies to use for the data collection -The conditions for a sustainable European	Slightly delayed but will be completed before end of JA in 19 countries



	composition data), to promote best practices on reformulation at the European level, by M36	
Outcome / Impact Indicator(s)	Target value	
Implementation of a European	European standardised Monitoring system	Completed
Standardised Monitoring system for	for processed food monitoring implemented	in 19
the reformulation of processed food,	in 20 MS and at European level, by M36	countries
according to the Oqali/JANPA		
methodology.		
Promotion of the food reformulation	Presentation of the impacts of food	To be
policy at the European level, by	reformulation policy on nutrient intakes of	completed
presenting the impact of reformulations	consumers, based on the JRC food	at the end
on nutrient intakes	database, especially for children and	of JA
	adolescents, to the HLG-NPA, by M36 and	
	dissemination of the results to a wide range	
	of stakeholders, by M36	

4.1.3. Peer assessment

Of the respondents, 47-53% stated that have collaborated or worked with WP5. The satisfaction has been quite steady yet somewhat ascending towards the end of the project (Figure 16). In the 3rd, 4th, and 5th questionnaires, all the statements reached an average of four or above. Variation between answerers has been high but steady during the lifetime of the project, ranging from 1 to 5 or 2 to 5 in all questionnaires.



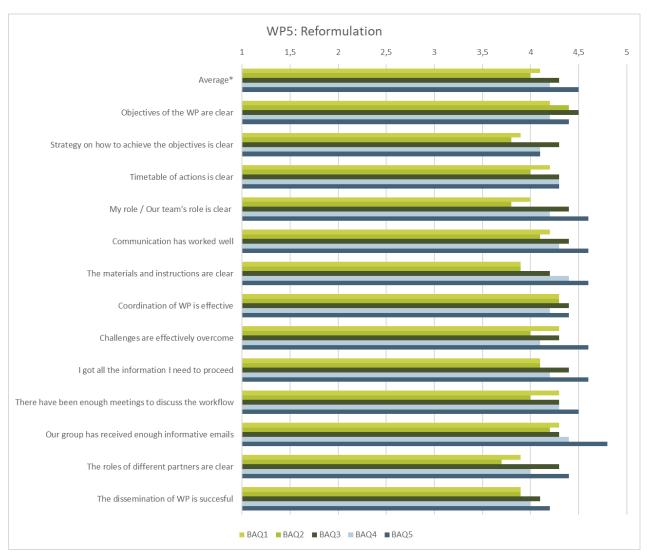


Figure 16 Satisfaction in the work of WP5 within the consortium

Feedback on WP5 outputs was gathered with the first two and the last questionnaires (Figure 17), including e.g. materials for the data collection, webinars, seminars, workshops, and deliverables. Expectations as regards to them were met very well and the variation between different respondents rose from 2-5 to 4-5.



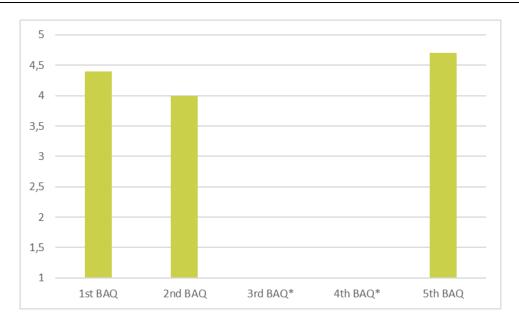


Figure 17 Satisfaction in the WP5 activities/outputs
*No outputs

According to open text answers, WP5 succeeded well in clear and quick communication, coordination, detailed guidance material and clear instructions, explaining the next steps, timely feedback, handling the partners' needs and constraints, and giving support. The workflow could, however, still have been enhanced by creating an overview of relevant work processes, regular updates regarding the process, having a few more meetings regularly with the partners specially to understand the roles and background of different partners, by acknowledging the countries with less data collected so far, and by simplifying some processes and making sure waste work is not done during data gathering. One responder commented that WP5 has succeeded well in: "Being very precise on instructions and ample and flexible with timetables would be advisable when every partner is supposed to work in a harmonized way".



4.1.4. Progress of work and performance measures

WP5 has completed 50 out of the planned 61 <u>performance measures</u>. The completed measures relate to for example defining the list of food categories and subcategories and deciding the priority food categories, guiding the participating countries to use the methodology, collecting the snapshots and formatting data for the JRC database. Three measures have been completed with minor delays due to delays in some partner countries. The remaining measures for the last month of JA are related to analysing the impact of reformulation on nutrient intake for some countries, writing comparisons of reformulations of turnover of products between some countries and the trend assessment of the nutritional quality of the processed foods. WP5 has reported that they are in the schedule with the tasks.

WP5 listed as successes being ahead of time with the measures related to choosing the priority food groups and delivering what was expected. The WP5 mentioned a setback in that one country could not send data because of confidentiality issues. In addition, there were some delays in reporting the data for some countries. WP5 was able to be ahead of the initial schedule for many measures related to data collection, but not all countries reached the agreed deadlines. Statistics and reports caused some concern, and they were delayed from the initial schedule but were finished well in time during the project.

4.1.5. Activities organized by WP5

4.1.5.1 Internal meetings and trainings

Meeting evaluation surveys included the following fields: satisfaction with the meeting in general, how well did the meeting achieve its objectives – these were measured on a scale of 1-5 (1 totally disagree, 5 totally agree). Surveys included also open questions with free text on the following themes: main benefits, whether more information would be needed and suggestions for development. Answerers background information was also collected. These events have been summarized in table 13.

Table 13 Evaluation of internal meetings and trainings of WP5

Training	Date	Respons es / Attendee s (%)	Mean satisfac tion	Achieve ment of the objectiv es	Benefits of the event	More information needed	Suggested improvements for future workshops
Training for the extension of the first snapshot to additional countries	May 2021	4/8 (50%)	4.8	4.8	guidelines, detailed information provided with examples, discussion of challenges and exploration of possibilities, possibility to test knowledge	on case study for data collection in store; the number of retailers to visit to collect the data; details that may occur during data collection; data entry or data analysis	participants wish that materials will be send by mail as well.
Training for the Batch 1 of the second data collection	Jan 2022	7/13 (53.8%)	4.8	4.3	closing of knowledge gaps, detailed information regarding e.g. products, the possibility to test knowledge	what to do in case problems appear (especially due to the COVID-19 pandemic)	
Training to produce T0 statistics by Best-ReMaP subcategories	May 2022	4/14 (29%)	4.7	4.0	Detailed instructions, experience sharing, and guidelines	the food catalogue, database, examples of good practice, number of persons needed for the statistical processing	to generate discussions among partners to enhance partnerships; more work concerning the catalogue and data entry; a reworking meeting to summarize the acquired knowledge
Training for batch 2 of the second data collection	June 2022	6/20 (30%)	4.5	4.3	information, examples, interactive quiz, and confidence to execute the task	gain more information on EUREMO data	
Training to produce T+1 statistics by Best-ReMaP subcategories Part 1 (verification steps)	Oct 2022	4/8 (50%)	4.7	4.5	essential references, a reminder of what must be done (in a practical way) to finish all the WP5's tasks, the training itself because of different software		inviting the partners to turn on their cameras at the end of the session to encourage interaction and learning from each other experience and to ask questions
Training to produce T+1 statistics by Best-ReMaP subcategories Part 2 (producing indicators)	Nov 2022	2/8 (25%)	4.9	5.0	understanding how to analyze the collected data		

4.1.5.2 Guidelines for the data collection

WP5 collected feedback about their guidelines for the data collection twice. The first questionnaire was sent to the T0 partners (Ireland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Poland, Croatia, and Cyprus) on the 26th of April 2022 and the second to the T+1 partners (Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, and Romania) on the 13th of December 2022 for feedback on their data collection, data entry and encoding guidelines. At least one partner per country responded to both questionnaires.

From both questionnaires, WP5 got a good glimpse of how the partners had used the guidelines, how they felt about them and how the data collection procedure has been going. For example, all but two partners considered the guidelines and the leaflet for presenting the project to retailers useful and clear and all but three had used them to actually contact retailers and have access to the shops. The guidelines about how to take pictures of food products in shops to collect data were also considered clear and useful by all but one partner, and all but two partners had used them for data collection. Three have had difficulties in implementing them. The open-text questions gave some practical ideas on the difficulties the partners had during the data collection, e.g., some packages were so shiny that the data collection was hampered by it. Half of the respondents had used an alternative method for data collection mostly because of the problems faced with the permissions to access the shops. All respondents thought that the documents explaining the methodology for data entry and encoding were clear and easy to use and have used them for data codification. In the questionnaire there was also a question regarding the template used of data entry and encoding. In the first questionnaire, only half of the respondents considered it easy to use and half of the respondents answered that they did not manage to fill in all requested fields. But in the second questionnaire the answers were more positive and all but one was able to fill in all requested fields. Practical suggestions were made for improving the template.

4.1.6. Determinants of the achievement of the WP objectives

WP3 organized two rounds of impact interviews, during which WP leader team members discussed the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of their work (Annex 3). The discussions during both interview rounds are summarized below and in Table 14. For the WP5 the main weaknesses and threats were the continuation of food reformulation and monitoring at the national level. There is a lack of resources, especially in the smaller countries. Data collection and implementation of the activities were more difficult what they expected, "burdensome but manageable" for the majority of countries, but not all. The only way to ensure the quality of the data is to continue the work in the new JA and demonstrate how the MSs benefit about the monitoring. Data collection could have been easier if some other sources of data could have been identified and these actions have to be continued. The situation with COVID-19 had a big effect on the project activities and especially if the partners were health ministries, as due to the pandemic, the ministries had several other tasks to manage alongside the project and did not have time for the Best-ReMaP JA.



Table	14	SWOT	analysis	for WP5
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Table 14 SWOT analysis for WP5								
Positive 🗸	Negative $lacksquare$							
Strengths	Weaknesses							
 W5 developed a common methodology for monitoring food reformulation in Europe. MSs can use the methodology and continue the work after JA. WP5 shared a pan European classification system in subcategories of products. The methods have been implemented in France for 13 years and tested in Austria and Romania during JANPA. They are efficient and support the whole Best-ReMaP JA. The use of a common methodology allows comparisons between countries and the establishment of benchmarks to promote reformulation By monitoring food reformulation there is a chance to decrease inequalities. FABLE database (first composition database at branded level across countries) provides a new value in Europe. It facilitates the selection of policies that work best and can help to improve the food quality. 								
Opportunities	Threats							
 JRC will maintain the FABLE database. The impact of the database will grow in the future. The FABLE database can be used e.g., in policy making, research, and at international level in benchmarking the successes in different MSs and manufacturers and assess how the reformulation affects the nutrient intakes. The WP5 has linked the studied subcategories with FoodEx2 to have a link with EFSA food consumption database. The value for people in EU countries: better putritional quality of the food 	 Lack of resources (e.g., for training new members on how to use the methodologies in the future or for implementing the methodology in MSs) COVID-19, WP5 had to work and train from distance, difficulties to go to the supermarkets to collect data. COVID-19 has changed the priorities of industry: economic success seems to be prior to the nutritional content. For this reason, political decisions are more important in the post-covid world. 							
	 Strengths W5 developed a common methodology for monitoring food reformulation in Europe. MSs can use the methodology and continue the work after JA. WP5 shared a pan European classification system in subcategories of products. The methods have been implemented in France for 13 years and tested in Austria and Romania during JANPA. They are efficient and support the whole Best-ReMaP JA. The use of a common methodology allows comparisons between countries and the establishment of benchmarks to promote reformulation By monitoring food reformulation there is a chance to decrease inequalities. FABLE database (first composition database at branded level across countries) provides a new value in Europe. It facilitates the selection of policies that work best and can help to improve the food quality.							

For the WP5, the biggest opportunity is the fact that JRC has developed and will maintain the FABLE database. Its target group is all interested people, researchers, governments, markets and third sector; for instance, ministries can use it to document and assess nutrition policies. JRC will maintain the database in the future that will give value to all the work done by the Best-ReMaP JA. Methodologies and tools developed and used during the project are



shared and remain available for all the European countries. The new JA will continue the analysis and produce more data points in order to get more significant outputs. It also offers an opportunity to follow the food offer at branded level and to establish comparisons between countries. Good quality data provides huge opportunities. For instance, it might produce opportunities to link these data with other datasets on other topics such as health and wellbeing, climate change, sustainability etc. which are linked to each other. The database could include these aspects later and serve as the basis for the expanded database in the future. The data may be used both in Europe and at international level in benchmarking the successes in different countries and manufacturers. The WP5 also codified Best-ReMap subcategories in the FoodEx2 nomenclature in order to link the Best-ReMaP dataset with the EFSA comprehensive food consumption database that provides information on food consumption across the EU. This offers a possibility to assess how the reformulation affects the nutrient intake: "It is possible to make products better! There is factual data for decision making!"

Food offer, industry, retailers say that they are interested to reformulate and support the monitoring and are willing to share more data, but in practice it does not seem to happen. For the industry, the nutrition might not be a priority now because the prices are so high. Therefore, political decisions will be very important in the post-covid world.

4.1.7. External evaluators' feedback on WP5

According to the evaluators, the work package meets the expectations, thanks to the WP leader's experience in this field. The commitment of the participating MS's is also a contributing factor to the appropriate progress.

WP5 progressed as planned and produced a large amount of work to improve and harmonize the monitoring of the processed food offer in the EU. The progress of the processes was as planned with minor variations that do not affect the final outcome of the JA. The progress and quality of the processes are recognized, partners are satisfied with the WP. One of the major tasks being in progress is the creation of an open access database by the JRC, which includes data collected during Best-ReMaP as well as pre-existing data. This data feeding ensures the sustainability of the project, providing opportunity to compare the food offer in the European market, especially the trends of changes their composition (sugars, salt and fats), the direction of reformulation. Moreover, the database may be suitable for use in other two nutritional policy areas (marketing, public food procurement).



Table 15 Evaluation of the deliverables of WP5												
						Numerical evaluation						
DELIVERABLE	Evaluation	Comprehensiveness	Clarity	Correspondence with what was expected	Added value	Chances for implementation						
D5.1 Development of the Guidelines for an European harmonised and sustainable monitoring system of the processed food supply, consultation/ temporary report Due: M9	This is a 475-page document including 19 Annexes, 13 Figures and 33 Tables. The Best-ReMaP nomenclature was created by adapting to the European market the French Oqali nomenclature, which aims to be a common classification system of the processed food across Europe. Numerous illustrations and practical examples make the coding of each food category clear. Overall, this is a high-quality document fulfilling the requirements of a methodological guideline.	5	5	5	5	5						
D5.2 Final Guidelines for a European harmonised and sustainable monitoring system of the processed food supply Due: M30	This is a comprehensive document guiding the readers step by step through the monitoring process. The deliverable is a 777-page document with 22 Annexes, 42 Tables and 28 Figures. Overall, this is a high-quality document with precise description of the monitoring methodology.	5	5	5	5	4.5						
D5.3 Report on reformulation monitoring: monitoring implementation, reformulation comparisons and reformulation impacts on nutrient intakes Due: M36												



4.2. WP6 - Best practices in reducing marketing of unhealthy food products to children and adolescents

4.2.1. Overall assessment

The Theory of Change diagram (Figure 18) presents the chain of events that are needed for the expected impacts to be achieved, with bold font indicating what has already taken place. WP6 updated the diagram for the Mid-term evaluation report, but not for the final evaluation.

One of the expected outcomes was "harmonized MSs approach to transpose the revised AVMSD" but during the work it became apparent that MSs have already started actions in this regard, so harmonization was not timely. Therefore, and according to WP6 aim of going beyond the AVMSD, WP6 is supporting Member-States by providing the tools and guidance for, after transposing the Directive, implementing such actions and measures.



IMPACT

- Fewer/limited food marketing to children and adolescents
- Stronger measures/legislation towards reducing/restricting food marketing to children and adolescents
- · Accurate and continuous monitoring of food marketing to children and adolescents

• Most updated state-of-art evidence and best practices identified at EU level

OUTCOME

- *Harmonised MSs approach to transpose the revised Audio-Visual Media Services Directive AVMSD
- Harmonised EU monitoring protocol for food marketing to children and adolescents
- •EU harmonised Framework for Action
- · Adaptation of the monitoring tools to address health inequalities

- MSs' existing regulations on food marketing to children
- Review of literature
- •EU coordinated nutrient profile model

OUTPUT

- Guidance for the adaptation of the WHO Nutrient Profile Model to national contexts
- Protocol to monitor food marketing to children
- Guidance to implement the protocol to monitor food marketing to children
- Codes of practice and guidelines
- •Best-ReMaP systematic review on the implementation of policies to protect children from unhealthy food marketing"

ACTIVITIES

- •Development of the Questionnaire on legislation and regulation in place and on the Audio-Visual Media Services Directive's (AVMSD) transposition
- Review of literature, projects and studies' results
- Interviews
- Workshops

INPUTS

- Literature
- Studies/Projects, such as STOP, JRC toolkit
- Experts
- · MSs

Figure 18 Theory of Change for WP6



4.2.2. Specific objectives and their indicators

Table 16 Best-ReMaP Specific Objective related to WP6

Cuanifia		Remap Specific Objective related to WP6					
Specific							
Objective ID							
3	To deliver a harmonised EU approach to reduce marketing of unhealthy food products						
		scents and to use piloted tools for harmonised monitoring of					
	marketing						
Process Indica	tor(s)	Target value Status					
	the subgroup of the	3 meetings of the subgroup of the HLG-NPA	Completed				
HLG-NPA, suppo	orted by EU external	held, from M6 to M34, with at least 5 interested					
	(digital) marketing.	MSs included in the HLG-NPA subgroup					
Creation of nation	nal intersectoral	2 meetings of national working groups held in	Completed				
working groups of	n (digital) marketing	participating MSs, per MS, from M9 to M32					
established							
Testing/piloting of	f the Nutrient Profile	At least 3 Member States pilot Nutrient Profile	Completed				
· ·	WHO Nutrient Profile	Model, based on WHO Nutrient Profile Model,					
Model, in implem		from M1 to M28					
	sual Media Services						
Directive (AVMS	*						
	ding principles for	At least 10 participating MSs will be attending	Completed				
participating MSs		the workshop, by M34					
	rocess of the AVMSD						
Output Indicate	or(s)	Target value					
Report on the ma	· · · •	1 Mapping of MSs existing regulations in regard	Completed				
performed on foo	_	to UN Convention on the Rights of the Child,					
children and ado	lescents	from M3 to M13					
Guidance for the	adaptation of the	1 guidance document by M12	Completed				
WHO Nutrient Pr	ofile Model to the		·				
national contexts							
EU pilot protocol	to monitor food	1 EU pilot protocol, based on existing tools and	Completed				
marketing to child	dren, based on	MSs inputs, from M6 to M34	-				
existing tools and	d MSs inputs						
Guidelines for co	des of practices to	3 MSs cases of regulatory codes included and	Completed				
control food mark	ceting to children and	used as input for guidelines, from M13 to M31					
adolescents							
Outcome / Impa		Target value					
Harmonised MS	• •	At least 3 MS involved in the harmonisation	Eliminated				
transposition of A	AVMSD, with the	process, from M4 to M32	because				
focus on nutrition	-		MSs have				
•	ldren and nutrient		already				
'	I in AVMSD within the		transposed				
national contexts			the AVMSD				
Harmonised EU	monitoring protocol	EU monitoring protocol for food marketing to	Completed				
for food marketin	• .	children and adolescents adapted in at least 5					
	recommendations	Member States, by M36					
developed and a	vailable for MSs	-					
	ramework for Action	EU monitoring protocol for food marketing to	Ongoing				
on reducing food	marketing to children	children and adolescents adapted in at least 5					
and adolescents		Member States, by M36					



4.2.3. Peer assessment

Of the biannual questionnaire respondents, 35-60% said to have been working or collaborating with WP6. As is seen in Figure 19, satisfaction with the work of WP6 was high in the first biannual questionnaire (mean 4.2) and varied only slightly between the different statements that map the satisfaction (4.0-4.3). There was only slight variation between respondents (mostly between 3-5; in two statements from 2 to 5). In the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th questionnaire, satisfaction has been average (3.7-3.9) and the variation between statements (0.5-0.6 points) and respondents (from 1 to 5) greater. In the 5th questionnaire, respondents were happier with this WP but again, variation between respondents was high (from 2 to 5).

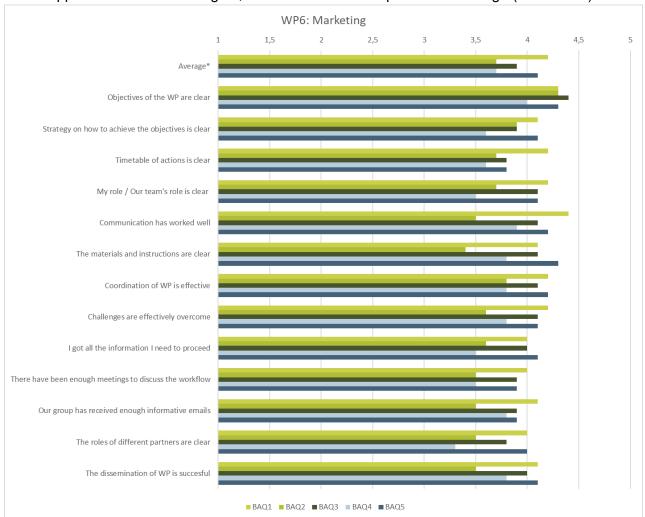


Figure 19 Satisfaction in the work of WP6 within the consortium

Satisfaction in the WP6 outputs were asked in the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th biannual questionnaires, including e.g., instructions, reports, collection of data, guidance, workshops, reviews of codes and protocols. The trend in the satisfaction was ascending (Figure 20) although the variation between respondents was high (1-5 and 2-5).



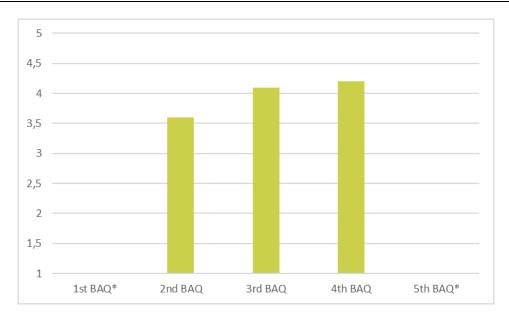


Figure 20 Satisfaction in the WP6 activities/outputs *No outputs

WP6 succeeded well in communication, coordination, keeping into the schedule, organizing interesting meetings, giving clear instructions, interacting with other WP members, being available to the partners, and being responsive. However, the workflow could have been enhanced by clarifying instructions, timetables, deadlines, next steps, and the responsible persons, having more regular meetings and practical trainings to keep the partners up to date on the changes.

4.2.4. Progress of work and performance measures

WP6 has completed 28 of the 51 performance measures. The completed measures are related to the establishment of an EU expert group and national intersectoral working group, mapping of existing regulations and legislation about food marketing to children in participating countries, mapping the transposition of the AVMSD in participating countries, updating and testing the WHO Europe Nutrient Profile Model, and initiating a technical guidance process with interested country partners for developing or updating food marketing codes of practice. According to the ClickUp™ tool, ten measures are delayed from the initial schedule. These measures are related to pilots of the monitoring of food marketing to children, EU monitoring protocol for food marketing to children and adolescents, the literature review on the impact and efficiency of current policies and actions, and expert interviews. WP6 has not self-reflected any of the measures in ClickUp.

4.2.5. Activities organized by WP6

4.2.5.1 Internal meetings and trainings

Meeting evaluation surveys included the following fields: satisfaction with the meeting in general, how well did the meeting achieve its objectives – these were measured on a scale



of 1-5 (1 totally disagree, 5 totally agree). Surveys included also open questions with free text on the following themes: main benefits, whether more information would be needed and suggestions for development. Answerers background information was also collected. These events have been summarized in table 17.

4.2.5.2 EU expert group meetings

WP6 EU expert group is composed of key EU and WHO Health experts and other sectoral experts in the field of reducing marketing of unhealthy foods to children. The role of this EU expert group is to identify effective actions on the best practices to reduce unhealthy food marketing to children. Three meetings with the EU expert group were held during from August 2022 to June 2023. Table 18 summarizes these meetings.

Table 17 Evaluation of internal meetings and trainings of WP6

Training	Date	Respon ses / Attende es (%)	Mean satisfac tion	Achieve ment of the objectiv es (=mean)	aluation of internal meetings and Benefits of the event	More information needed	Suggested improvements for future workshops
Workshop on Nutrient Profiling Capacity Building	June 2021	7/NA (NA)	4.2	3.9		Documented progress on WP6 and successful implementation of the nutrient profile model in specific country; Concrete information on calculations	
Workshop Codes of Practice - Process & Challenges	March 2022	7/30 (23%)	4.3	4.2	Child rights-based approach obliges the states to act.		Surveys should be sent earlier to better answer the questions; provide more information in advance of the meeting to better understand how the meeting is integrated into the overall work package
Workshop Monitoring food advertising: Progress, experiences, challenges, solutions	May 2022	5/40 (13%)	4.5	4.2	Current monitoring methods; Ethical aspects of monitoring; Discussing resources needed to perform monitoring activities	Clearer instructions on where to start.	Other notes: the attendees felt quite confident that they could perform digital monitoring activities in their country (3,8 on average, grades between 3 and 5)
Implementation workshop of the marketing monitoring protocol	June 2023	16/40 (40%)	4.3	4.2	What monitoring protocols are and which and how to use them; To continue work and stay in contact with WP leaders; Sharing the in-detail methodology; How to design monitoring activities; Importance of the children marketing	Ethical clearance issues: Updates on practices in other countries and their activities and experiences related to marketing restriction; How to implement new approaches into existing legislation; Recruiting children and teenagers, legal challenges and how to overcome them	More room for guided discussion (sharing experiences with different protocols) in smaller groups; Protocols and guidelines should be available online

Table 18 EU expert group meetings on marketing of unhealthy foods to children

	Date	Responses / Attendees (%)	Method	Mean satisfaction	Achievement of the meeting objectives (=mean)	Main benefits	Future suggestions
1 st	31.8.2022	3/7 (43%)	The link to the questionnaire was shown in the meeting and two reminders were sent also after the meeting.	4.6	4.3	the exchange of updated information on the status of the project and the development of a common understanding of the tasks and implementation actions in the third year of the Best-ReMaP	more clearly set goals/outcomes of the meeting; clear expectations and questions/topics to be addresses and discussed on the breakout room; to nominate someone to give feedback.
2 nd	24.1.2023	8/16 (50%)	The link to the questionnaire was shown in the meeting and shared via e-mail after the meeting. No reminders were sent.	4.4	4.4	shared information of other countries 'experiences and challenges and staying up to date on the marketing issue	some guiding questions for the breakout meeting of the invited expert group could have helped the issues addressed.
3 rd	27.6.2023	7/15 (47%)	The link to the questionnaire was shown in the meeting and shared via e-mail after the meeting. No reminders were sent.	4.3	4.5	Information about Code, it will be very useful for national recommendation	

4.2.5.3 Evaluation survey - piloting of the EU-WHO monitoring protocol

WP6 ran an evaluation survey on the EU-WHO monitoring protocol piloting actions in June 2023. The survey was sent to the partners involved in the piloting actions of WP6. The survey did not include any background questions in order to keep the survey anonymous. Altogether 19 answers were received.

The purpose was to gather information on what piloting actions have been done in the partner countries and what have been the facilitators and the barriers in implementing them. Some data from the evaluation point of view are presented here.

About half of the answerers had taken part in some implementation practices during Best-ReMaP. Lack of funding and experience were the main reason for not taking part in the piloting actions. The most popular piloting protocols were outdoor, TV, and social media popular brands analysis, but also YouTube Influencers' marketing and CLICK Investigate exposure step and CLICK Capture on Screen step were piloted. All respondents were happy with the collaboration with WP6 on this piloting task (average 6.1 on a scale of 1-7).

Challenges had been encountered in all asked aspects in the progress (ethical clearance, data collection, data coding, recruitment, and data analysis), but the answers differed between the piloted protocols. Several mentioned that the data codification in line with the WHO/Europe Nutrient Profile Model (NPM) was difficult, due to e.g., the fact that some products that appeared in the commercials do not have a NPM food category, the data coding is not automatic and requires a huge amount of work. As benefits the knowledge that is gained with the piloting and the experience exchange were mentioned. Improvement suggestions were also made; sharing successful ethical clearance material, education before starting the piloting were mentioned. Some also thought of the sustainability of the actions: better synchronization and uniformity of piloting process (especially related to reporting) among countries with shared experience and establishing a community of practice that can continue beyond Best-ReMaP were mentioned.

Nearly all of the respondents (84%) will try to implement at least some of the piloting protocols in the future, and more funds, expertise, training, access to experts, and access to expertise of other countries who implemented some protocols were mentioned to be needed in order to perform a comprehensive monitoring protocol in the future. These same themes were mentioned when asked about how the next JA could help partners to implement monitoring protocols in their country.

4.2.5.4 Video on food marketing to children

WP6 and WP2 produced a video which got 24,545 views until 29.08.2023 on the Best-ReMaP YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EP72FHoJTkk

4.2.6. Determinants of the achievement of the WP objectives

WP3 organized two rounds of impact interviews, during which WP6 leader team members discussed the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of their work (<u>Annex 3</u>). The discussions during both interview rounds are summarized below and in Table 19.



	Table 19 SWOT an	<u> </u>
	Positive ♥	Negative $lacksquare$
	Strengths	Weaknesses
Internal 🛧	 The networks and collaboration with partners (JRC, OECD and WHO), partner countries, EU-projects (e.g., PEN, STOP, CO-CREATE), and within the WP6. Inside the Best-ReMaP, the atmosphere was supportive and warm. Strong leadership and professionality in food policies, food marketing, monitoring, and legislation. The network and collaboration are an additional value. Without them the long-term impact would not be possible. 	 Challenges: Delays with subcontracting, and bureaucratic procedure of changing and transferring the funds. Improvement areas: planning the budget and human resources more carefully before the project. Effectiveness can be increased by collaboration and providing flexibility in transferring the funds in needed.
	Opportunities	Threats
External 🗲	 The topic is important. WHO, OECD and EU strategies are in line with WP6 goals in reducing unhealthy food marketing to children and adolescents. Implementation of the tools in MSs provides a great opportunity in the future. Knowledge sharing, education and increasing awareness in making healthy food choices. 	 There is lack of political will to act. If there is the political will, there were the lack of other resources (e.g., time, money, staff) GDPR is too restrictive in investigating and monitoring the unhealthy food marketing to children. Threats can be minimised by putting human rights first and increasing political will for action.

In the WP6, the main weaknesses and challenges were related to delays created by the bureaucratic procedure of subcontracting. WP6 emphasized that it would have been much easier if all human resources the WP6 would have been earlier available. The WP6 hopes more flexibility in transferring the funds when needed. Primarily, the effectiveness could be increased by planning the budget and human resources more carefully before the project.

Also, it was mentioned that the COVID-19 pandemic increased participation and provided more online possibilities as a new opportunity. It was easier to build relationships and possible to include people who were not able to come onsite meetings. People were more and more fluent in online meetings. Online meetings are a huge benefit for the international project. During the Best-ReMaP JA, political atmosphere changed towards monitoring and legal aspects, and awareness increased about healthy food.

The biggest threat was the lack of political will to act in reducing unhealthy food marketing to children and adolescents. One of the main aspects hindering the level of stakeholder engagement was the interpretation of GDPR. It is very restrictive in investigating and monitoring the unhealthy food marketing to children. "If they don't know what children see, they cannot know what works and what doesn't." WP6 points out that threats can be minimised by increasing political will and concentrating human rights: "We should put human rights at the forefront of the conversation for acting towards right direction".



4.2.7. External evaluators' feedback on WP6

WP6 aimed to reduce the marketing of unhealthy foods to children and adolescents. Its overall goal was to share and assess best practices of implemented actions to reduce unhealthy food marketing to children and adolescents at the EU level. An EU-WHO monitoring protocol was developed and pilot tested to support EU MSs monitoring of unhealthy food marketing to children and adolescents, with a particular focus on digital marketing. Results of pilot studies will be incorporated into the updated EU-WHO monitoring protocol and serve as a base to develop an EU Framework for action of implementable best practices to reduce unhealthy food marketing to children.

There was a certain amount of delay in the progress of the WP, which is the consequence of delayed subcontracting. According to the biannual questionnaire the average score of satisfaction in the work of WP6 within the consortium rated around 3.75 except at the first round, when it was slightly better.

The deliverable submitted reports on the piloting program to test these EU-WHO protocol tools and their implementation in MSs and the conclusions were discussed with the MSs in the framework of a workshop. The main lesson was that Member States are at very different levels of knowledge and application of marketing restriction measures, they need resources and support.

The pilot experiences of MSs will be incorporated into the updated EU-WHO monitoring protocol. All the work developed within WP 6 will be merged into final deliverable, an EU Framework for Action of implementable best practices to reduce unhealthy food marketing to children.



	Table 20 Evaluation of the deliverables of WP6					
		Nui	merio	cal eva	aluat	ion
DELIVERABLE	Evaluation	Comprehensiveness	Clarity	Correspondence with what was expected	Added value	Chances for implementation
D6.1 An EU harmonised approach using the WHO nutrient profile model for the identification of foods not permitted for marketing to children Due: M9	This is a proposal for an EU coordinated Nutrient Profile Model (NPM) to identify foods not permitted to be marketed to children and adolescents. Proposed steps and methodology for further adjustments to the WHO Regional Office for Europe NPM are detailed. Nutrients of concern considered per food category, and Comparative analysis of different Nutrient Profile Models are clearly presented in Annexes.	5	5	5	5	5
D6.2 Technical guidance for codes of practice Due: M18	The Technical Guidance for Codes of Practice was developed to support EU MS to implement or update marketing codes on unhealthy foods and beverages to children. The goal of this document is to engage MS in discussion around the requirements for technical guidance on marketing Codes of Practice for food and beverages and then implementing the technical guidance.	5	5	5	5	5
D6.3 Report on pilot EU-wide harmonised and comprehensive monitoring protocol for unhealthy food marketing to children, with a particular focus on digital marketing Due: M32	This report presents the findings of the piloting activities (25 projects from 14 MSs). This is a precise in-depth analysis of the results of piloting process with recommendations for the further adjustment of the protocol. The EU-WHO monitoring protocol will be updated using the pilot experiences of the countries. The biggest challenges are the significant differences between MSs in the level of activities in this area and the lack of resources The EU-WHO monitoring protocol will be updated using the pilot studies of the countries.	5	5	5	5	4.5
D6.4 A harmonised EU framework for Action on reducing unhealthy food marketing to children, within the scope of HLG-N&PA Due: M36	Not evaluated					



4.3. WP7 – Public procurement of food in public institutions

4.3.1. Overall assessment

The Theory of Change diagram (Figure 21) presents the chain of events that are needed for the expected impacts to be achieved, with bold font indicating what has already taken place.

IMPACT

- Increase knowledge on food procurement
- · Improved food choices for children and eventually increasing healthy life years
- · Change in obesogenic environments and prevention of obesity

оитсом

- · Recommendations for possible improvements
- · One network of national focal points for public food procurements per MS
- · Harmonized approaches for PFP at the EU level

OUTPUT

- · Identification of the need for legislative amendments
- · Joint public Catalogue for selected food groups
- Translated and upgraded list of products
- Report with policy recommendations on PFP

ACTIVITI

- Literature overview on Public Food Procurement
- Preparation of situation analyses
- Overview of procurement tools
- Pilot study development
- Food groups selection
- Market analysis
- Training MSs how to use the good practices Catalogue of Foods
- Testing and piloting the Catalogue
- Estalishment of inter-sectoral groups in MSs
- Development of the evaluation criteria, based on the experiences and good practices in the field.
- Establishment of Framework for action on public food procurement in public settings
- Preparation of the policy recommendations and recommendations for future work at the EU and national levels

INPUTS

- · Knowledge and staff of WP7
- Subcontractor
- Computerized pilot (prototype)

Figure 21 Theory of Change for WP7



4.3.2. Specific objectives and indicators

Table 21 Best-ReMaP Specific Objective related to WP7

		MaP Specific Objective related to WP7	
Specific	Specific Objective Tit	le and Description	
Objective ID			
4		public procurement of food through developmen logue of food in the joint public procurement pro	
Process Indicat		Target value	Status
	op on public food	1 national workshop per participating MS by	Completed
	PFP) to define the state	M18	
,	analyses) and plan		
,	ne the process at the		
MSs level.	•		
Knowledge build	ling training workshops	Two knowledge building training workshops	
implemented		organised for participating MSs, from M18 to	
		M24	
Policy level roun	dtable on sustainable	1 report with policy recommendations by	To be
PFP policy deve	lopment	M35	completed
			at the end
			of JA
Output Indicato	• •	Target value	Status
1	tion analyses with	1 situation analysis, for at least 5 MS, from	Completed
initial recommen		M1 to M6	
	participating MSs		
_	ls prepared, based on	1 package of training material for	Completed
	es, with the defined	participating MSs, by M24	
training protocol	end evaluation		
templates	er portioinating MCs	1 guartiannaire an national/regional/legal	Completed
	or participating MSs lore identified national/	1 questionnaire on national/ regional/local public (food) procurement focal points for	Completed
regional/local pu		participating MSs, from M24-M30	
procurement foc	, ,	participating MSS, Iron M24-MS0	
•	nplementation of one	At least 5 MSs involved in the	Completed
· ·	r one food group, in	implementation of one public tender, from	Completed
piloting MS	r one rood group, m	M25 to M30	
	onnaire to describe the	1 template to be applied to each MS by M30	Completed
	periences from the	,	
1 .	n implementing PFP		
actions	,		
Outcome / Impa	act Indicator(s)	Target value	Status
National/regiona		1 network of national focal points for PFP	Completed
national specific	alternative) for the	per MS (at least 5 in total, participating in the	
PFP in public se	ttings identified	implemented public tender from M7 to M18)	
EU harmonized	framework for Action	Framework for Action, established by the	To be
on public procur	ements of foods.	HLG-NPA, by M18	completed
			at the end
			of JA



4.3.3. Peer assessment

Of the biannual questionnaire respondents, 43-58% told to have been either working or collaborating with WP7. Satisfaction with this WP has been ascending as is seen in Figure 22. Variation between different statements was quite small, but variation between respondents varied more, between 2 and 5. The variation between respondents diminished slightly in the last four rounds (more answers between 3 and 5).

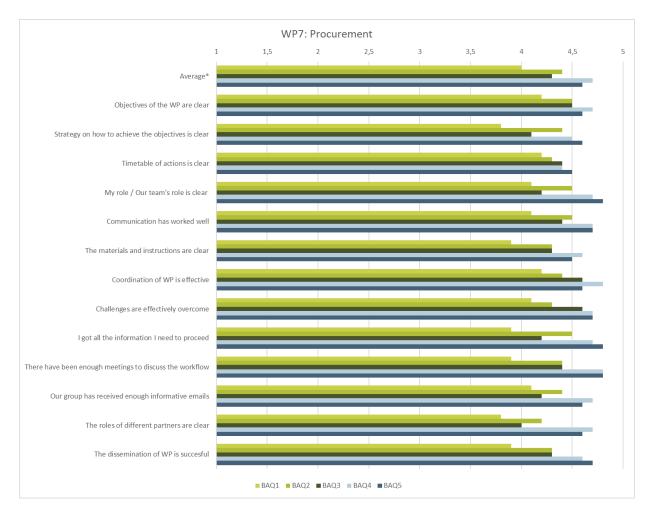


Figure 22 Satisfaction in the work of WP7 within the consortium

Outputs of WP7 include e.g. guidance material, workshops, reports, meetings with WP7 partners, and deliverables. Expectations regarding the outputs have been met very well in every questionnaire, with initially diminishing but later increasing variation between respondents (Figure 23).



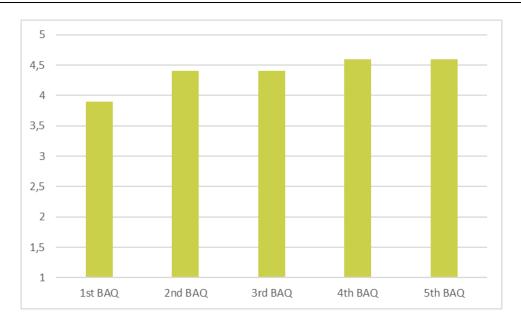


Figure 23 Satisfaction in the WP7 activities/outputs

WP7 got very positive feedback in the free text questions: engagement, co-operation, problem-solving, encouragement, motivation, enthusiastic atmosphere, communication, organization and content of the first deliverable, organization of some trainings and guiding the partners toward reaching the goals of this WP. However, the workflow could have been enhanced by informing earlier about upcoming tasks and their due dates and being more precise regarding the aims and instructions. The partners also gave very concrete ideas on how to further improve the workflow by one-to-one meetings, more interactive workshops, discussion, and reflections and having a more precise view of the aims and clarifying the success already achieved by the partners, creating flexible approaches and more open ways of working that allow for country-specific counterparts. The work and feedback of this WP clearly shows that an energetic and enthusiastic way of work, kindness and strong leadership guides the partners in to working very hard to accomplish the goals set. This should be kept in mind when planning and conducting future projects. However, enough human resources must be allocated to work so that this kind of leadership can be realized.

4.3.4. Progress of work and performance measures

To date, WP7 has completed 19 of the 25 performance measures according to ClickUp tool. The completed measures relate to situation analyses for food public procurement procedures, establishing EU expert group and national working groups, collecting instructions for a situation analysis from the subcontractor and applying the situation analysis, and preparing for the implementation of best practice piloting. One measure "To compose the joint EU list of food products, where relevant, based on the participating MS lists" is delayed from the initial schedule. There are 5 measures left with due date at the end of JA. There are no indications that WP7 couldn't get all tasks done before the end of the JA.

WP7 mentioned that they collected more data from bigger number of countries than they expected. The co-operation with partners has been active and the work with subcontractor



has been successful. Some countries have had some delays in some tasks and the difference in the public food procurement has challenged the work package to make adaptations for different situations. Communication with some partners has started a bit slowly, but WP7 has managed the challenges eventually.

4.3.5. Activities organized by WP7

4.3.5.1 Internal meetings and trainings

WP7 has organized several internal meetings of which some were evaluated by WP3 (see Table 22). The basis of the questionnaires was as in other WP's questionnaires, but WP7 did include questions regarding the atmosphere of the events. And indeed, the atmosphere was well appreciated since it was rated extremely good (average 4.8) in all of the events where it was asked about.

Table 22 Evaluation of internal meetings and trainings of WP7

Training	Date	Response s / Attendees (%)	Mean satisfacti on	Achieve ment of the objective s	Atmos phere	Benefits of the event	More information needed	Suggested improvements
Knowledge transfer training	May 2022	24/25 (96%)	4.3	4.3	4.8	Deeper understanding and new information on the topic; Examples of other countries; Discussions between partners	Other procurement officers using the electronic tool; What are the opportunities to integrate with gs1; National option for shape in catalogue: Next steps	Teams meetings between group meetings; Brief material of the Food Catalogue and good experiences for convincing Ministries or Commerce of Chamber or other relevant stakeholders
Workshop for the develop- ment of criteria	April 2023	17/35 (48.6%)	4.8		4.8	Exchange of information and knowledge between member states; To learn the country's standing in comparison to others regarding PFP	·	On-site meetings; Smaller groups for discussion
Third meeting with partners	June 2023	11/30 (36.7%)	4.5	4.6		Achieving common goals; Learning from each other's experience; Information about procurement evaluation criteria and potentials for developing EU list of food products; Insight in JRC work		
Policy level roundtable	Augu st 2023	13/28 (46.4%)	4.6	4.5		Sharing experiences with each other; hearing different views; guidelines and best practice; Examples from other countries; Policy tools; Networking; Information about upcoming EU initatives on the topic		Pre-material for preparations like sharing the recommendations in advance; More breaks to have informal discussion; Flying for half-a-day meeting is not sustainable, maybe better to combine it with something else

4.3.6. Determinants of the achievement of the WP objectives

WP3 organized two rounds of impact interviews, during which WP leader team members discussed the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of their work (<u>Annex 3</u>). The discussions during both interview rounds are summarized in Table 23.

Table 23 SWOT analysis for WP7

	Positive ♥	Negative ↓
	Strengths	Weaknesses
Internal 🛧	 Collaboration with partners (e.g., WHO, OECD, DGs, JRC). Procurement is increasingly important topic. Good collaboration inside the Best-ReMaP JA, and with stakeholders and inter sectoral working groups for the public procurement of foods in public institutions in the participating MSs. Permanent public food procurement network (now 17 members, 8 MSs). Knowledge building, -sharing and transfer. The network will support MSs to the transfer to new legislation. The network is part of the new JA and it is expected that the network will continue in the future. 	 Importance of food procurement and the catalogue of foods in public procurement procedure is not recognized in many countries. The meaning of the catalogue was not understood, including conceptual barriers. Vocabulary would have been handy. Difficulty to find people working in MSs, language barriers, resources in public food procurement in general. Effectiveness could have been increased by motivating more stakeholders and sharing the knowledge.
	Opportunities	Threats
External 🛧	 PFP, based on quality standards. Impact on nutrition policies for better health and wellbeing. JRC database including work from WP5 and WP6 adds value to EU. High quality of the menus in public institutions by ensuring the quality of the procured foods. Opportunity to change food market in all EU countries, catalogue of foods is expected to have a significant impact on what will be produced and provided. 	 Language barriers, challenges related to communication, resistance to change, lack of resources and interest, COVID-19. Economics: the piloting institutions must invest to build the system.

In WP7, the main weaknesses and threats were related to the testing and piloting the catalogue of foods in the public procurement procedure in MSs. Countries are at the different stages in understanding the importance of food procurement and the catalogue of foods in public procurement procedure (for instance, while Denmark provides 90% organic foods, in Greece there is not legislation about organic foods). The effectiveness of the WP7 could have been increased by motivating more the stakeholders (governmental and markets) and spreading the knowledge. Therefore, co-operating not only with public sector, but also with private sector is seen crucial in the access to high quality, healthy and nutritious food. In generally, more education is needed in the future how to use the catalogue. Some countries such as Denmark has started to develop their own advanced tool based on the catalogue. It may provide new opportunities in the future.



Several aspects enhanced the level of stakeholder engagement such as building trust, effective communication, participation in the events, and continuous evaluation of the stakeholders' opinions. Opportunity to change food market in all EU countries, catalogue of foods is expected to have a significant impact on what will be produced and provided.

4.3.7. External evaluators' feedback on WP7

According to the external evaluators, this WP progressed as planned thanks to the high-level expertise and enthusiasm of WP leader, and to the very committed partners. WP7 was one of the highest scoring WPs among the consortium members. Substantial conclusions have been drawn for future implementation, including that more budget is required for MSs, more stakeholders need to be involved from the private and also from the governmental sector, etc. A Permanent PFP network is a part of a new JA and it is expected that the network will continue his work in the future.



	Table 24 Evaluation of the deliverables of WP7					
		Nui	nerio	cal eva	aluat	ion
DELIVERABLE	Evaluation	Comprehensiveness	Clarity	Correspondence with what was expected	Added value	Chances for implementation
D7.1 Overview/ applicative situation analyses of the existing EU and national legislation Due: M7	The deliverable provides an overview of the existing EU and national legislation related to public procurements of foods in 10 participating Member States. The document includes interesting comparative tables of MS's PFP.	5	5	5	5	5
D7.2 Knowledge transfer training(s) Due: M22	This deliverable contains a detailed report of the agenda and the evaluation of knowledge transfer training (3-day intensive training in Ljubljana) to present to project partners the English version of Catalogue of public procurement for food, to provide the knowledge building, knowledge sharing and knowledge transfer with regard to the Catalogue to the participating EU MSs and to provide the implementation details. Based on the evaluation questionnaire, the partners agreed that the experiences were useful, and they can use some of them at national context. The deliverable includes report on Member States' national inter-sectoral working group meetings. In order to facilitate the partners in organisation, WP7 leader and Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia organised bilateral meetings providing systematic guidance to the partners on how to organise the meetings in the most efficient way. The partners considered the bilateral meetings as very useful.	5	5	5	5	5
D7.3 Pilot Catalogue of foods Due: M32	This deliverable provides a summary of the experiences of MSs in piloting the Slovenian Catalogue of foods. According to most of the piloting countries (except 2) they did not succeed to show that Catalogue of foods was functioning in national contexts, and additional support to overcome the obstacles is needed. On the other hand, they recognized the potential advantages of similar tools.	5	5	5	5	4.5
D7.4 EU harmonised Framework for Action Due: M36	Not evaluated					



5. Impact of Best-ReMaP

5.1. Impact evaluation framework and methodology

Theory of Change (ToC) is a theoretical framework that supports the impact evaluation of complex programs by depicting how a project or intervention is understood to work. It helps to identify specific evaluation questions, relevant variables that should be included in the data collection, intermediate outcomes that can be used as markers of success in situations where the impacts of interest will not occur during the time frame of the evaluation. The Theory of Change for the whole Best-ReMaP project is presented in Figure 24.

IMPACT

- · Change in obesogenic environments and prevention of obesity
- Improved food choices for children and eventually increasing healthy life years
- •Reduced unhealthy food marketing to children and adolescents
- · Higher quality of menus within public institutions

OUTCOME

- •Best practices to offer healthier foods to children have been recognised, tested, implemented and evaluated
- •The knowledge of best practices has been spread in European countries and practices have been (or are planned to be) implemented into national policies

OUTPUT

- Support implementation, transfer and integration of the results, outcomes and recommendations of the Best-ReMaP JA into national and EU-level policies
- European Standardised Monitoring system for the reformulation of processed foods
- Most updated state-of-art evidence and best practices for food marketing to children identified at EU level
- Harmonised approaches for public food procurement at the EU level

ACTIVITIES

- Gain information of current situations and share the learnings in European level
- Develop and test a European Standardised Monitoring system for processed foods and promotion of the food reformulation policy
- Developing and testing a monitoring protocol for unhealthy food marketing to children in member states and sharing the learnings in EU and national level
- Analysing the situation of public food procurements, building a Framework for Action and testing it in pilots

INPUTS

- •JA with expert partners from almost all EU countries
- European Union's Health Programme (2014-2020) financial support
- •Knowledge gained from previous projects and by involving the European experts in the area

Figure 24 Theory of Change for Best-ReMaP



Several methods to measure the impact Best-ReMaP has either already created or is likely to contribute to in the future were implemented, reflecting the specific objectives but also the achievement of different steps of the Theory of Change that was defined in the beginning of the project in collaboration with the WP leaders. The project timeline being only three years, it was clear that measurable effects on e.g., children's and adolescents' obesity rates were not likely to be seen during the project. Therefore, we focused the impact evaluation on consortium partners, WP leaders, and stakeholders (including members of Steering Committee and PDMF as well as the external evaluators for WP3) and asked for their insights of the possibility of impacts as well as ways through which impact might be created. Online questionnaires with fixed and open questions and group interviews were applied as data collection methods.

5.2. Impact evaluation results

5.2.1. Consortium partners' evaluation on impacts of Best-ReMaP

In the 3rd General Assembly questionnaire, we asked the attendees' opinions on the likelihood of the impact of Best-ReMaP (Figure 25). On a scale of 1-5, the average to the questions on the likelihood of impact was rated 3.2. The impact (at least for short-term) was seen least likely for reducing inequality (average 2.9); fulfillment of children's rights (3.1); and child and adolescent obesity rates (3.3). Of the specific practices promoted in Best-ReMaP, the impact on processed food reformulation (average 3.6) was seen the most likely.

When asked about the most important factors supporting the implementation of Best-ReMaP on national and EU policy level, e.g. strong leadership, engagement of the right stakeholders, cooperation with international organizations and associations (e.g. WHO, EuroHealthNet), collective efforts in many different countries simultaneously, clear policy recommendations, mandatory legislative actions, and promoting discussions at the national level among stakeholders were emphasized.

We also asked, how the respondent will support the implementation of the Best-ReMaP results in their country. Dissemination, getting the right information, networking, and being in contact with the relevant stakeholders and policymakers were seen as possible ways to support the implementation.



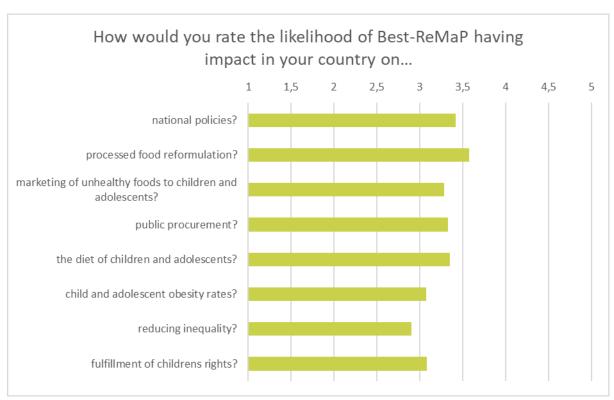


Figure 25 Partners' impressions on the impact of Best-ReMaP

WP3 conducted an additional online questionnaire survey in February-March 2023 to collect Best-ReMaP partners' insights about how they see the project having impact on national level policy and practices in changing the food environment in their country. The questionnaire was distributed to the identified contact persons within each Best-ReMaP partner country. They were asked to discuss the survey questions within their Best-ReMaP team and to provide their common answers. The questionnaire consisted of open text questions, so the respondents could freely reflect their views. Of the 24 partner countries approached, 22 submitted their answers.

What have been the facilitators and barriers for your team to contribute to the objectives of Best-ReMaP?

Regarding the facilitators, there were several issues mentioned that were common for all WPs. In general, the value of implementing this concerted action among European countries and alignment of the Best-ReMaP goals

with national goals were seen as important facilitators of moving things forward in the participating countries. Support and funding from the national public authorities were seen important and necessary, and also commitment by national experts and stakeholders, as well as inclusion of the food system representatives into the work. Last but not least, respondents universally commended the dedication and continuous support by each of the core WP leader teams.



Some common barriers were mentioned as well, such as resistance from the food system, lack of political will and the COVID-19 pandemic, which had a very practical effect on the data collection but may have also impacted the political priorities within the countries. It was also frequently mentioned that Best-ReMaP methodology was not always seen suitable for national purposes.

As regards to WP5, the respondents saw the value of the obtained results nationally in allowing comparisons between countries and verification of initiatives in the field of food policy and food reformulation undertaken at the national level or by individual producers. They will continue mapping the nutrient contents of food groups to supplement the European data base. However, as the WP5 data collection was really laborious, several responses proposed using more advanced data collection methods (e.g. webscraping and crowdsourcing) and collaboration with commercial data suppliers (e.g. GS1 and retailers) and better use of pre-existing data. Also, the differing food offer and product range would have required refinement of the food group classification. For example, whole grains and dietary fiber content are central in the national guidelines in some of the countries, but they were not included into the WP5 data collection.

A frequently mentioned facilitator for the **work in WP6** was the creation of common understanding of the current situation in marketing and the recognition by various stakeholders of the necessity of legislation as well as the establishment of the expert groups at national and EU level. However, due to the nature of WP6, there were quite a lot of barriers encountered by the partners: How to implement EU regulations in Member States was mentioned as a big challenge because national regulations vary. Marketing is, understandably, important for food manufacturers, and many respondents brought up the strong opposition for marketing restrictions from their side. Also, the lack of political will and legal issues related to pilot studies and their data collection as well as monitoring of implementation of restrictions were mentioned as barriers. One of the tasks in WP6 was to promote the use of Nutrient Profile Model, but the issue of defining what in fact can be considered as "un-healthy food" is frequently raised especially by food manufacturers.

The establishment of European Network for people working in public procurement and in general, collaboration and knowledge sharing were seen as the most important facilitators for the **work in WP7**. Prior experience in public procurement and available national data sources and tools were seen helpful as well.

Difficulties in identifying and engaging right stakeholders were mentioned in several answers. According to one respondent country, while aiming to define common goals for promoting healthy and sustainable public procurement of catering services and food, the existing diversity in the EU must be acknowledged and respected. The food environment, namely food culture, food supply on the market, main dietary sources of nutrients, public health challenges and goals, national nutrition recommendations, actions taken to tackle the global climate and biodiversity crisis, and the organization of meals in public organizations, varies substantially between and within member states. Similarly, the reality in which public procurement takes place varies across EU member states. "Hence, any solution, tool, or practice to be disseminated across the member states as a "best practice" must be



adaptable to local contexts. In the case of digital solutions, such adaptability would ideally mean open source to enable further development and adaptations to meet local needs and to facilitate integration into existing processes and systems. Otherwise, adoption and continued implementation is unlikely."

What do you think about the sustainability of your contributions? In your opinion, will the changes be maintained in the long-term? Why? Why not?

All in all, the responses reflected a general notion of the importance of the objectives and work conducted within Best-ReMaP. Even though many respondents stated that the products and tools will not be applicable as such in their country, Best-ReMaP was seen as the important first

step in more advanced policy actions towards a healthier food environment for children and adolescents. An increased understanding of where we are at the moment was mentioned important, as it enables the setting of future goals and designing actions. The continuation of the work in the context of coming JA on health determinants was seen of utmost importance.

As the sustainability supporting elements, respondents mentioned inclusion of the Best-ReMaP goals as priorities in public health programs, commitment by the government, decision makers and stakeholder.

The respondents made some practical proposals:

- More research is warranted on the impacts of the policies.
- In order to achieve a significant impact, common regulation at the EU level is necessary, as branded foods, marketing, and food procurement are cross-border.
- If we want to achieve objectives it is important to have better collaboration with the industry.
- Tools need to be digital and adaptable to country situations.
- Disseminating the findings to decision makers is the key for sustainability

Do you think reaching the aims of Best-ReMaP will increase or reduce health inequalities in your country? Will the actions reach everyone, and in proportion to their needs? If not, why?

Reducing inequalities is a priority in many countries, and there was a general confidence about the Best-ReMaP activities reducing diet-related inequalities, justified also by the report by Tim Lobstein. However, improving the food offer in public institutions, for example kindergartens only reaches the

children who attend, which might be as low as 16% of the age group, as mentioned by one respondent. Some concerns were raised also by the potential effect on food prices, which would affect especially the less well-off families. Given the widespread use of processed foods, especially among those with poorer diets, the reformulation holds potential for improving many people's diets. Monitoring the supply is an important element for nudging manufacturers into reformulation action, and that will require allocated funding.



5.2.2. Work package leaders' evaluation on impacts of Best-ReMaP

WP3 conducted two rounds of impact interviews (December 2021 - January 2022 and June 2023). The aim of the impact interviews was to collect qualitative information on the processes and internal and external factors affecting the achievement of the core WPs objectives and thereby contributing to the impact of Best-ReMaP. Impact interviews were semi-structured group interviews/discussions (approx. 1.5 hour), including the leader and 1 - 3 members of each core WP and the WP3 team. The SWOT framework was used to guide the discussion. The applied methodology is presented in Annex 3.

The results of the interviews are presented in more detail in the respective WP-specific chapters of this document.

The WP4 leader team emphasized the good experience of using the policy dialogue methodology to facilitate discussion on the food systems in EU and they recommended to use it in the forthcoming JAs. The applied SWOT methodology was fruitful because it allowed discussions to be carried forward between all interested parties (e.g., decision-makers, scientific stakeholders, private sector). Thus, it allowed to show the various points of view with the aim of trying to find a common balance in terms of policy making.

For the WP5, the biggest opportunity is the FABLE database which JRC will maintain in the future, with 40 000 branded foods currently. The new JA will continue the analysis and produce more datapoints and get more significant outputs. Good quality data provides huge opportunities, for instance, for health and wellbeing, climate change, sustainability etc. which are linked to each other. The FABLE also includes a link with the EFSA comprehensive food consumption database that provides information on food consumption across the EU.

The WP6 leader team stated that without networks the long-term impact would not be possible. For instance, there are many countries in Europe that have done nothing in the monitoring in food marketing, but now they have started with small steps, while WP6 helped them in the process. Nutrient Profile Model is piloted in many countries, which would not be possible without the Best-ReMaP JA. Even if the impact is difficult to measure, the WP6 sees the impact positive: "What seeds are planted now; you will harvest later."

The WP7 leader team identified several aspects that enhanced the level of stakeholder engagement such as building trust, effective communication, participation in the events, and continuous evaluation of the stakeholders' opinions. The catalogue of foods is expected to have a significant impact on what will be produced and provided in European food market.

5.2.3. Stakeholders' evaluation on impact

5.2.3.1 Stakeholder impact questionnaire

WP3 asked colleagues in all partner countries to contact 3-5 national stakeholders and ask them to fill in a questionnaire about their impressions of Best-ReMaP's impacts. Altogether 54 responses from 20 Best-ReMaP partner countries were received (no responses from 4 countries). Over 60% of the respondents were senior level employees and 30% represented



governmental organisations, 17% universities, and 13% food industry, 13% NGOs, and other institutions to a lesser extent.

The stakeholders were first asked to give their numerical evaluation of the likelihood of impact Best-ReMaP may have (Figure 26), similarly as had been asked from Best-ReMaP partners during General Assembly (see Figure 25). Stakeholders shared very well the impressions of the partners. However, small differences were seen: as compared to Best-ReMaP partners, stakeholders were less confident about the impact on processed food reformulation (avg. 3.2 vs. 3.6) and diet of children and adolescents (avg. 3.1 vs. 3.3), but more confident about the fulfilment of children's rights (avg. 3.3 vs. 3.1).

Stakeholders were also asked about impact on EU policies. Interestingly, they saw the likelihood of impact to be higher on EU policies (avg. 3.7) than on national policies (avg. 3.3). Partners and stakeholders had more similar views about the likelihood of impact than the members of the PDMF (see Figure 27).

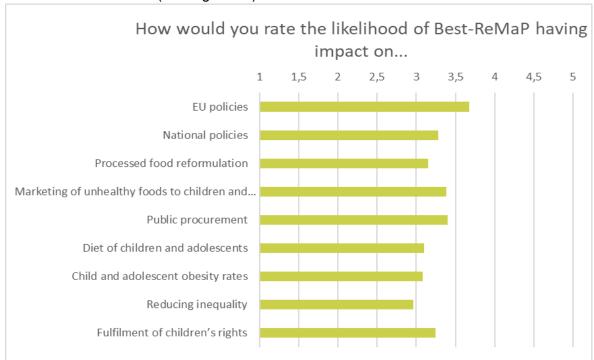


Figure 26 Stakeholders' impressions on the impact of Best-ReMaP

In the questionnaire, the open questions related to the respondent's awareness of the Best-ReMaP actions nationally, their contribution to the attainment of the project aims, the future of policies promoted by Best-ReMaP, and the accessibility and benefit of these policies to everyone.

Around 15% of the respondents were very familiar and less than 20% not at all familiar with Best-ReMaP and its aims. Two-thirds of the stakeholders were aware of an action to attain the aims of Best-ReMaP in their country. Most of the mentioned actions were activities of Best-ReMaP, but in addition, some larger-scale initiatives linked to monitoring, marketing and procurement were mentioned.



Around half of the stakeholders had contributed to the aims of the Best-ReMaP. Some reported participating in Best-ReMaP meetings or other activities, some mentioned that they are advancing related activities or projects, for example reformulating healthier foods in their company, implementing food quality as a procurement principle or promoting health policies in larger scale in the respondent's organisation. For instance:

- o "The ANS is also cooperating with the Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection in the development of quality standards for catering in establishments, kindergartens and residential and care facilities for senior citizens. Besides the fight against obesity and the promotion of a healthy lifestyle, special focus of the ANS has been on nutrition of children as well as the reduction of salt, fat and sugar intake in ultra-processed foods and other food groups. The ANS is contributing to these aims among others through its seal of quality, its educational work and the network of nutritional experts, and by issuing guidelines and position papers."
- "We have launched The Board of Food Marketing in Finland on the 1st of January 2023. The Board is an independent and impartial self-regulatory body, and it operates in connection with the Finland Chamber of Commerce. The task of the Board is to issue statements on whether a food marketing is carried out according to the food marketing guidelines of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the guidelines of the Finnish Food and Drink Industries' Federation."

Most of the respondents saw that the policies related to Best-ReMaP goals will be well received, they are important, and they will make important changes. However, according to some, there are still many things to be done and the topics should be introduced to stakeholders and policy decision-makers more widely. For instance:

- "I think that both experts and politicians in Croatia are aware how important this area is. Therefore, I believe that there will be enough political will to make much-needed changes in this area with the adoption of Best-ReMaP policies, if we want to slow down or reduce the prevalence of obesity among children and young people in Croatia."
- o "Remains to be seen how they will be effectively implemented as bureaucracy is a major issue."
- "They need to be made more known and the food industry needs to be better supported to produce healthier products."
- "In my opinion, in order for the project to be successful, food service managers, procurement experts should be sensitized, so they should understand the importance of the project. It would be necessary to organise training programmes for those involved in public catering. If these are implemented, I see a good change of the project being success."
- "In my country there are a lot of ways Best-ReMaP policies could be implemented in the future. We have similar policies regarding reformulation and public procurement, but our policies could be improved. In the field of marketing restrictions, we have limited experience in our country so this is the policy we could benefit most from. We see opportunities to use best practices from other countries to improve our own policy."

As a response to the question whether Best-ReMaP policies reach and benefit everyone in proportion to their needs, around one-third were hopeful, one-fifth said "probably not" and around half didn't have an opinion. All the Best-ReMaP policies were seen as very relevant to reduce and prevent childhood obesity (mean 4,5 on a scale of 1-5), for instance:

"Almost everyone benefits from a wider range of healthier foods (by reducing salt, sugar and fat content)
in supermarkets. However, if the prices of such foods rise, this could become a problem for people with a
low socioeconomic status."



- o "I think the policies could have the greatest impact on those social groups who -due to their socioeconomic status -typically consume a higher proportion of cheaper foods with less favorable composition and who - due to undereducation - are more affected by advertisements and who are the least health-conscious in their decisions."
- "The question whether the Best-ReMaP policies reach everyone will depend on the acceptance of the consumers (e.g. acceptance of innovative products developed by the food industry on a voluntary basis and according to the individual pace of each company)."
- "Combating childhood obesity has become a major challenge in recent years. However, the causes of obesity are multifactorial, involving a number of lifestyle and lifestyle-independent factors. In addition to diet, physical activity plays a critical role. Today's typical lifestyle is characterized by a significant reduction in physical activity. Even for children, the world of movement has become a world of sitting. We strongly believe it is important to motivate people to adopt a balanced lifestyle, including appropriate levels of physical activity, in order to combat obesity. Therefore, all measures to prevent and reduce obesity must start with consumers themselves and their education. The food sector provides consumers with a broad range of foods adapted to the very different individual nutritional needs and preferences, taking account of various lifestyles and in this way offers the basis for a balanced diet.

5.2.3.2 Steering committee members recommendations

SC members were in general impressed by the progress and outputs of Best-ReMaP but highlighted the risk of frameworks remaining on paper only. They suggested to formulate the policy recommendations clearly and to pay attention on barriers that may prevent stakeholders form accepting and adopting them, and eventually generating an impact. Another essential step is understanding levels (EU / member state) on which frameworks can operate. It must be clear where actions belong and who is accountable for those actions at various levels. Barriers need to be understood and stakeholders' dynamic considered. Stakeholders' dynamic could prevent the effectiveness of frameworks and suggested understanding the barriers is crucial to avoid such situations. As regards to reformulation-related activities, the SC members recommended to be specific about which countries will implement them and how. They also expressed some concerns about the sustainability of setting up and maintaining EU-wide product database.

5.2.3.3 PDMF members evaluation on impact

As part of the evaluation of Best-ReMaP, WP3 engaged the PDMF members in appraising the potential impacts of the JA on EU and national policy level, and their likelihood of leading to changes in food environments and childhood obesity rates in Europe. In addition, impacts on inequalities and fulfilment of children's rights were explored. Data were collected at the end of the meetings with an online poll.

The results regarding the expectations fluctuated during the Best-ReMaP (Table 25); in general, the results of the evaluation should be seen as suggestive due to the low response rate.



Table 25 Policy Decision Making Forum members expectations on Best-ReMaP.

Table 25 Folicy Dec	CISIOII WIANII	ng Forum	members	expectations (on pear-ken	nar.
	2021 ((n=7)	20	022 (n=4)	20	23 (n=6)
Impacts on	Mean	Range	Mean	Range	Mean	Range
EU policies	4.9	4-6	4.0	2-5	5.2	4-6
National policies	5	4-6	4.5	4-5	4.5	4-5
Processed food reformulation	4.1	3-5	5.0	4-5	4.7	3-6
Marketing of unhealthy foods to children and adolescents	4.3	3-6	4.5	3-5	4.3	2-6
Public procurement	4.6	4-5	4.8	4-5	5.0	4-6
Diet of children and adolescents	3.6	3-4	3.5	3-4	4.0	3-6
Child and adolescent obesity rates	3.3	3-4	3.5	3-4	3.8	2-5
Reducing inequality	3.3	3-4	3.5	3-4	3.5	1-4
Fulfillment of children's rights	3.7	3-5	3.5	3-4	3.8	3-5
Scale: 1 (impact unlikely) 6	(impact ver	v likalv)				

Scale: 1 (impact unlikely) – 6 (impact very likely)

As a summary of the polls, the PDMF members were quite confident that BestReMaP will have an impact on EU and national policies, especially public procurement. The capacity of Best-ReMaP to improve diet of children and adolescents, child and adolescent obesity rates, advance societal equality and the fulfillment of children's rights during the timeline of the project were rated relatively modest.

5.2.4. WP3 External evaluators' appraisal

The main concrete achievements of the project are as follows: The development of guidelines for a European harmonised and sustainable monitoring system of the processed food supply which gives a step by step instrument to the MSs for the implementation; the establishment of EU expert group and national intersectoral working group mapping of existing regulations and legislation about food marketing to children in participating countries; set up of permanent public food procurement network; testing the pilot catalogue of food; Best-ReMaP literature review with provision of guidance to policymakers on how food marketing restrictions, food reformulation, or food procurement standards may contribute to the reduction of health inequities; the supportive and active participation of WHO, OECD and a great number of EU institutions.

The Best-ReMaP JA aimed to contribute to an improved quality of food supplied to citizens of Europe by adapting, replicating and implementing effective health interventions, based on practices that have been proven to work. The engagement of stakeholders of different sectors and the high level participatory representation of WHO and EU institutions is considered to be a substantial added value of the project. It is worth underlining that in the second half of the project, cooperation with the EU institutions seems to have become even closer. They look forward to the results of the project and intend to incorporate them into their



existing and forthcoming policy documents. The latter will also facilitate the sustainability of the project. New JA of Prevention NCD will also support continuity of the outcomes. However, representatives from the food industry were scarcely included as stakeholders which may hinder the implementation of policies.

The work in modelling the population impact performed by OECD might facilitate the implementation of the policies at national and European level. Using the health equity impact assessment criteria in analyzing the three policy areas and the conclusions are remarkable from the point of view of Best-ReMaP's outcome.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance to prevent and control obesity in the EU, as it is an important risk factor for severe forms of COVID-19 as well as other NCDs. In addition, unfavourable shifts in food consumption and physical activity patterns have taken place during the pandemic leading to increased health risks. Therefore, it is more important than ever to join forces to change the trend.

The impact of the project on policy level is considered to be likely. However, the different levels of governmental commitment in the Member States as well as the different levels of activities in the three nutritional area make it challenging to integrate the results of Best-ReMaP JA into national policies. The reorganization of the HLG on Nutrition and Physical activity would facilitate this process.

"Building on the work for improving food environments the JA will support implementation, transfer and integration of the results, outcomes and recommendations of Best-ReMaP into national and EU level policies. The strength of the consortium comes from close cooperation of partners, the involvement of a large number of experts at national and EU level, and the wide involvement of national and international stakeholders. The PDMF provides a good opportunity to learn about the state of play of EU strategies and the supportive attitude of the relevant DGs helps to integrate the results of the core WPs into EU level policies" (Éva Martos).

"We may expect that Best-ReMaP will have a significant impact on EU and national policies and regulations (food reformulation, food marketing to children and adolescents, public food procurement) at mid-long-term. It will however be difficult to show an immediate impact on the prevalence of childhood obesity due to its multifactorial origin. Therefore, an integrative inter-sectorial approach including other sectors than health (economic, social, education, environment) is needed to effectively improve food environments and reduce inequity to prevent and control childhood obesity in the EU" (Nathalie Farpour-Lambert).



5.3. Overview of the expected impact of Best-ReMaP

The overarching, long-term goal of Best-ReMaP as defined in the beginning of the project (see Theory of Change in Figure 24) was to change the present obesogenic environment for children and adolescents by improving the food offer, by reducing the marketing of unhealthy foods, and by increasing the quality of food in public institutions such as kindergartens and schools. During the three-years' timeline of the project, actual impacts on children's obesity levels in European countries were not expected (nor measured), but in general both Best-ReMaP partners and stakeholders agreed that the processes that the project has set in motion are an important step towards the right direction. Many of the outputs and outcomes are tangible and will facilitate policy changes in national and EU level. WP leaders recognized several achievements and experiences that will carry the work in the next JA, e.g. the Policy Dialogue methodology, the FABLE branded food database hosted by JRC, the collaboration with OECD on measuring the impacts of the policy actions, and the establishment of working groups and networks on food marketing to children and public procurement of food.

SC members commended the work done during the project but highlighted the risk of frameworks remaining on paper only. They suggested to pay attention on barriers that may prevent stakeholders to accept and adopt the frameworks, and eventually generate an impact. Another essential thing is to be clear where actions belong and who is accountable for those actions at various levels.

It is interesting to compare the Best-ReMaP partners' and stakeholders' (including PDMF members) responses to the same questions on the likelihood of impact of the JA (see Figure 27 presenting the combined, commensurate results).



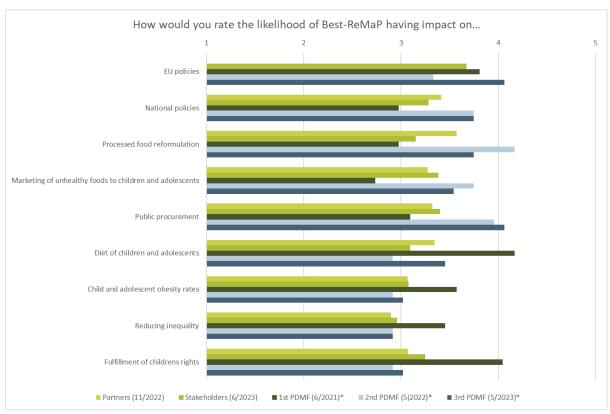


Figure 277 Likelihood of impact according to Best-ReMaP partners and stakeholders

It seems that both partners and stakeholders had a very realistic and relatively similar idea of the impact. Towards the end, the PDMF members, who were presented the same questions 3 times during the project, seem to have become more confident about the impact on EU level policies – and as they are, by definition, the policy decision makers, this is very promising for Best-ReMaP.

As facilitators of the change, partners mentioned e.g. strong leadership, engagement of all relevant stakeholders, cooperation with international organizations and associations, collective efforts in many different countries simultaneously and benchmarking, clear policy recommendations, and mandatory legislative actions. National stakeholders emphasized the relevance of the policies related to Best-ReMaP; however, they called for more discussion and collaboration engaging all actors in the field is necessary. It was also frequently mentioned that Best-ReMaP methodology was not always seen suitable for national purposes, and the diversity in the EU must be acknowledged and respected.

The WP3 subcontracted external evaluators emphasized the importance of engaging stakeholders from different sectors and levels, inlcuding food industry and sports sector, in creating impact in the future. They also praised the work on health equity impact assessment criteria which they expect to be very useful in the future policy work. In general, the reorganization of the HLG on Nutrition and Physical activity would facilitate the impact of Best-ReMaP.



6. Conclusions

WP3 used varied methodology in order to monitor the progress and evaluate the outcomes and impacts of the project, collecting both quantitative and qualitative information and addressing both project partners (=internal evaluation) and stakeholders (=external evaluation). During the project, the collected data were successfully used as the basis for quality management and performance improvement. The biannual questionnaire on collaboration proved to be an efficient method for tracking the satisfaction of partners and should be applied also in future projects. Also, the use of online project management tool ClickUp® facilitated timely follow-up of project activities and outputs and their quality. WP3 conducted numerous online surveys and supported the WPs by evaluating their internal meetings and training seminars, in order to facilitate quality improvement during the project. The response rates to surveys were lower than hoped for (ranging from 10 to 50%), but they served as a base for reflections and improvements.

Based on the formative evaluation, Best-ReMaP progressed as planned and as agreed in the GA. There were slight delays in some of the deliverables and milestones, but they did not affect the overall progress of the project. According to the WP3 external evaluators review, the quality of the submitted deliverables is high and in line with what was agreed in the GA. Ten deliverables had the same due date as this report and are thus not included in the evaluation. The satisfaction in collaboration was assessed to be very good and the feedback from the partners further improved towards the end of the project. Partners were specifically satisfied with the efficient organization and coordination of the project.

Regarding the collaboration within WPs, the overall satisfaction was good, with some variation between WPs. Some frequently mentioned issues were delays in sharing information (e.g. on meetings) and too few opportunities for discussion and knowledge sharing. Furthermore, national contexts were not always taken sufficiently into account while pushing Best-ReMaP practices, which might have a hindering effect on their implementation in the future. The SC suggested enhancing the communication especially during the various phases of the project. The established collaboration with OECD was highly appreciated and the work will continue.

The stakeholders' opinions on Best-ReMaP progress were in general very positive. The Midterm and Final Conferences received very good feedback. However, both stakeholders and external evaluators pointed out that some important stakeholder sectors (e.g. food industry representatives) were missing.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a big impact on many project activities. During the first two years it was impossible to arrange onsite meetings as anticipated in the GA. However, this inconvenience was overcome and organizing all events online in fact increased the number of participants and thus facilitated the engagement of partners and stakeholders. In future projects, the possibility for online participation (hybrid format) is recommendable.



Partners, stakeholders, and external evaluators were confident that Best-ReMaP has set in motion processes that will have an impact on national and EU level, especially as the work will be continued in the new JA Prevent NCD. However, concerns were raised on the suitability of the methodologies applied in core WPs in different country contexts and e.g. the methodologies related to public procurement and monitoring of food offer requiring a lot of manual work. Mandatory as opposed to voluntary measures to push the policies affecting children's and adolescents' food environments were considered to be more effective. The analysis and report on equity effects of the three policies was considered very welcome and will provide a solid base for their country-level implementation in the future.

As success factors the following were mentioned: the work in Best-ReMaP being grounded on previous JAs as well as careful analysis of the present situations and landscapes; identification and engagement of relevant sectors and stakeholders and promotion of dialogues; development and harmonization of methodologies; and support from EU institutions, OECD and WHO. Also, the policies that were promoted in Best-ReMaP are also priority areas in many partner countries, which also facilitated their inclusion in country agendas.

As the determinants of future impacts, networking, knowledge transfer and benchmarking, collaboration with the food system and other relevant stakeholders from different sectors, and developing the methodology to include digital data sources were stated as possible measures. Also improvement of population-level health literacy in the field and, consequently, creating pressure for policy development and regulations/legislations were mentioned. The re-establishment of the High-level Group on Nutrition and Physical Activity to facilitate formal discussion and debate between member states in order to improve the food environment and food offer was aspired.

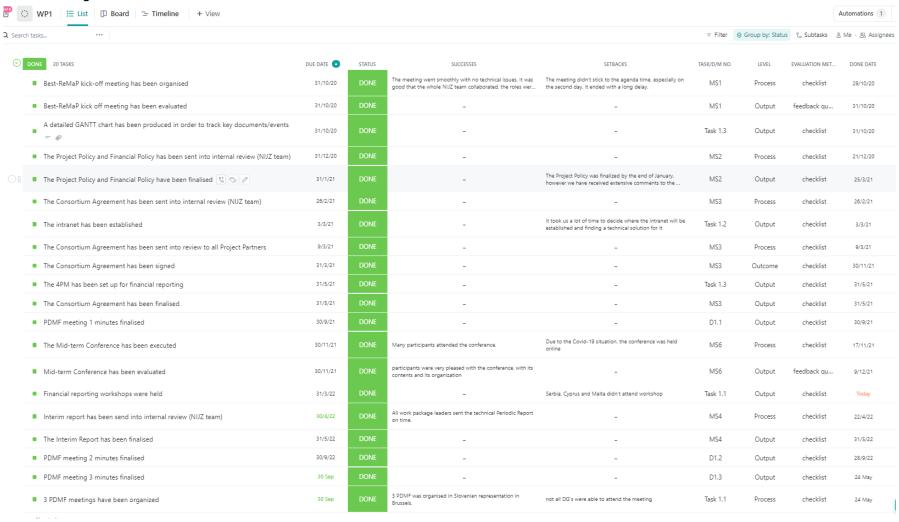


Annexes

- Annex 1 ClickUp™ prints
- Annex 2 Biannual survey
- Annex 3 Cover letter of impact interviews
- Annex 4 Evaluation forms
- Annex 5 National Stakeholder Forums

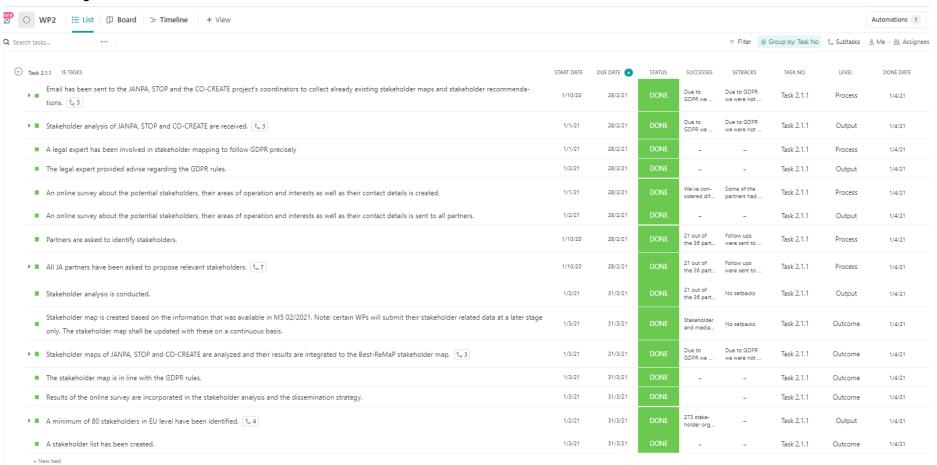
Annex 1. ClickUp™ prints

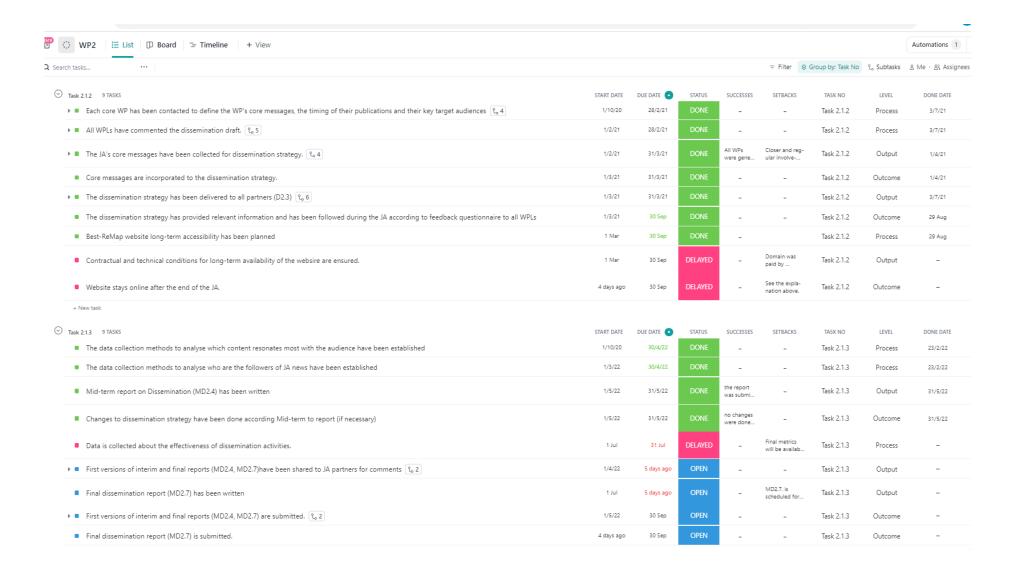
Work Package 1

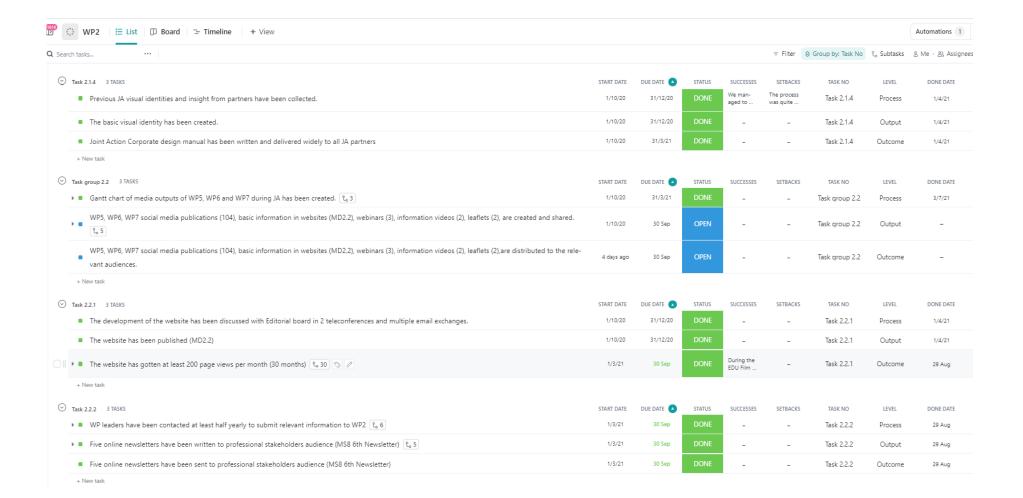


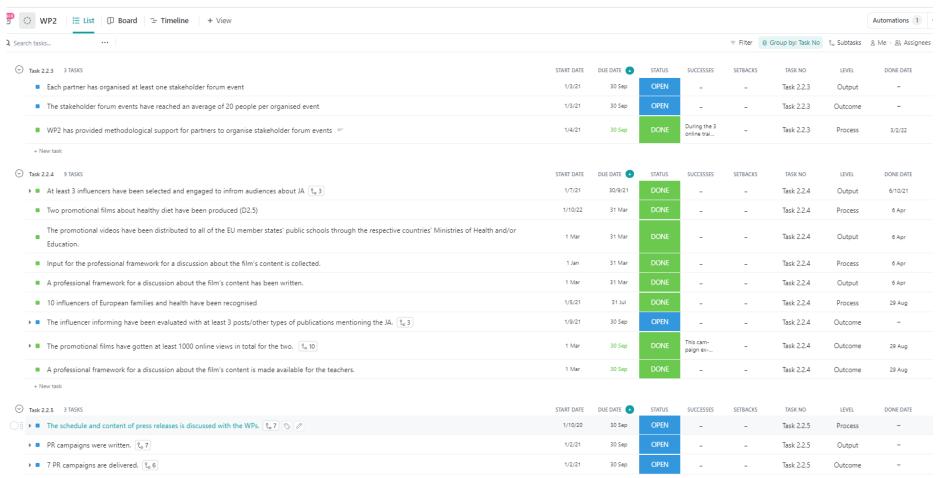


Work Package 2

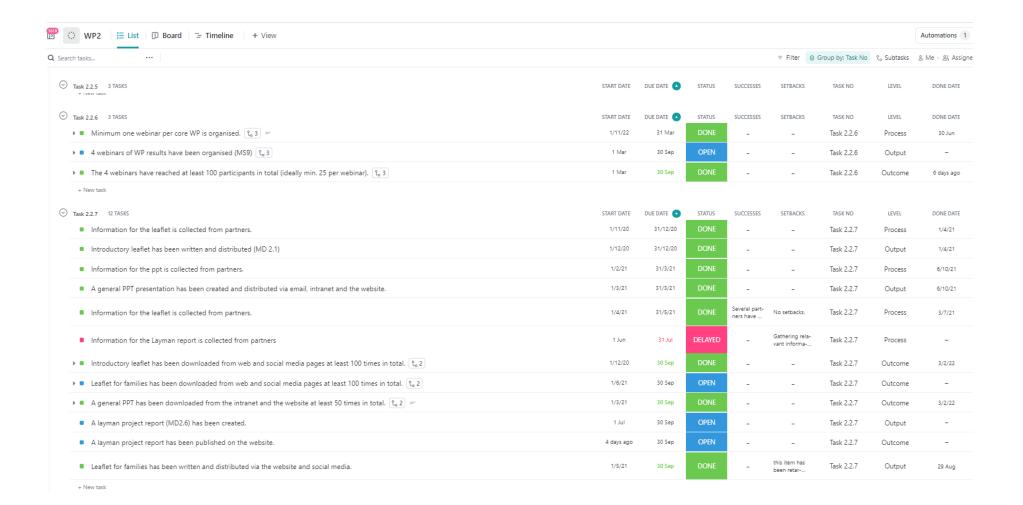


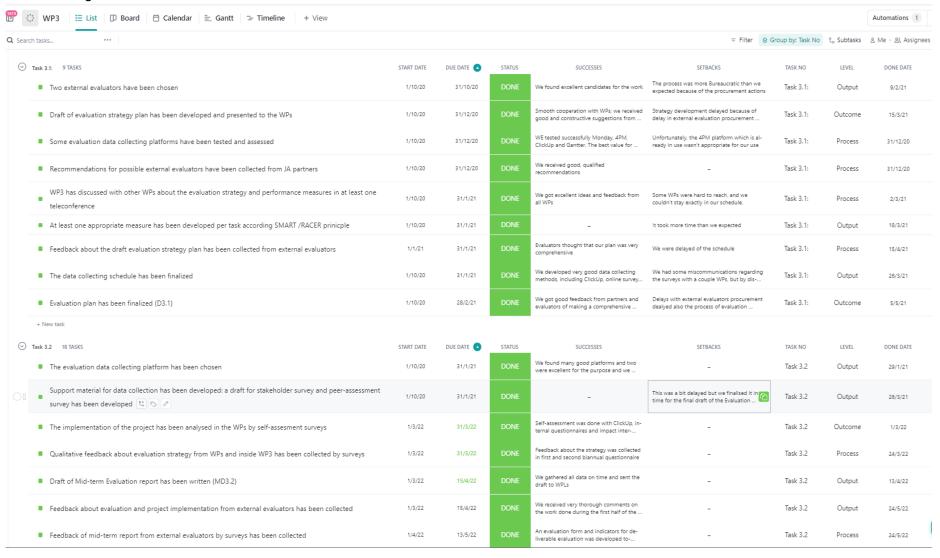


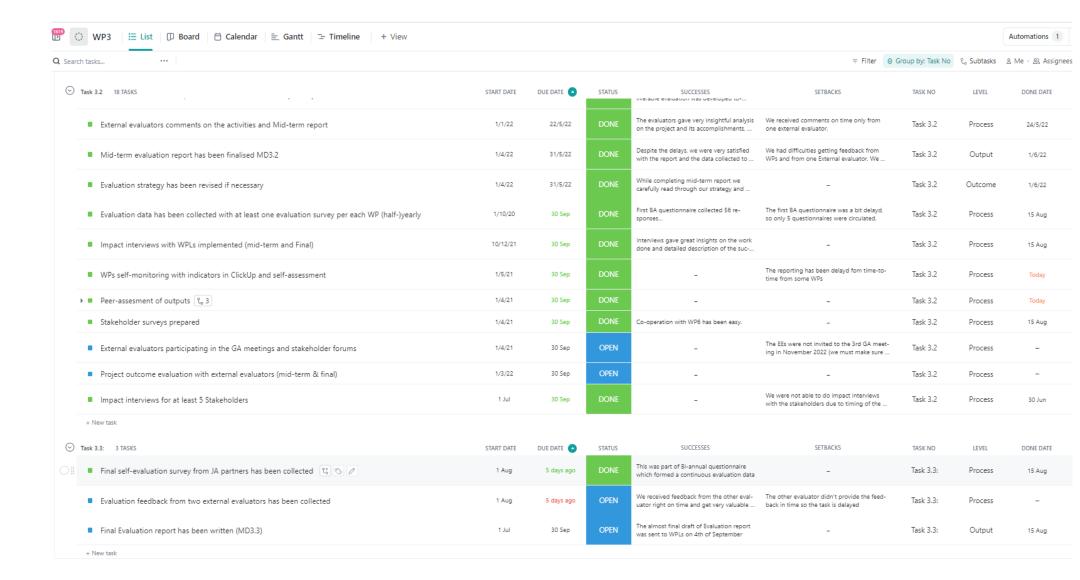


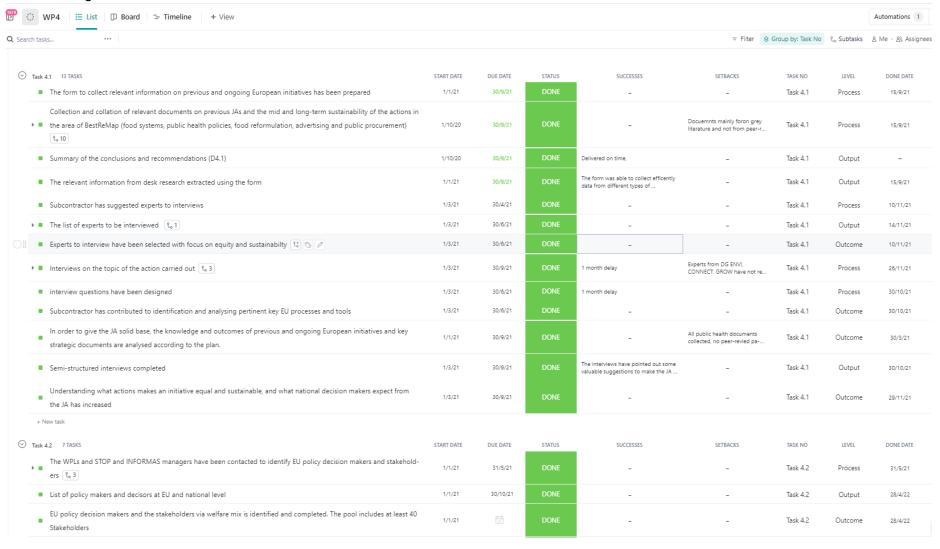


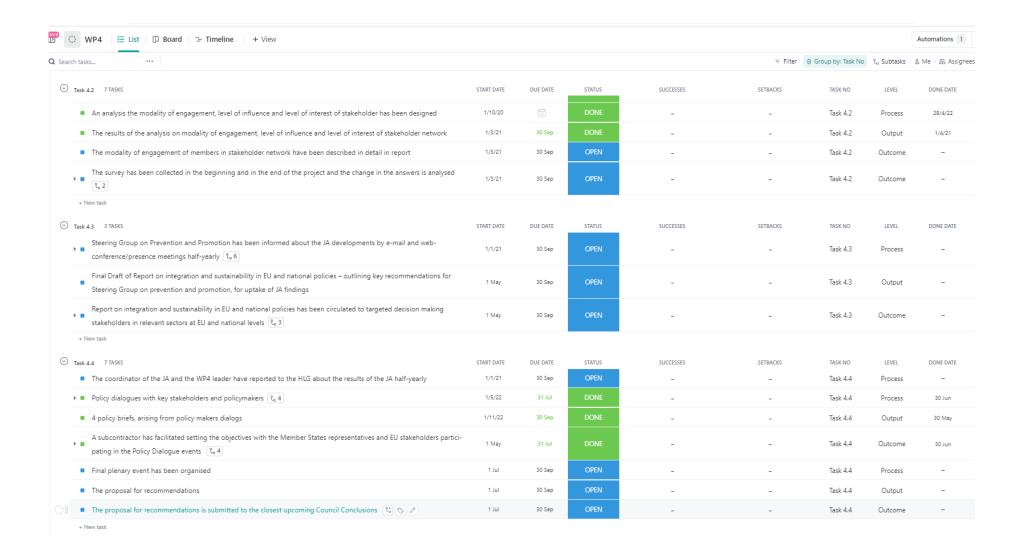
+ New task

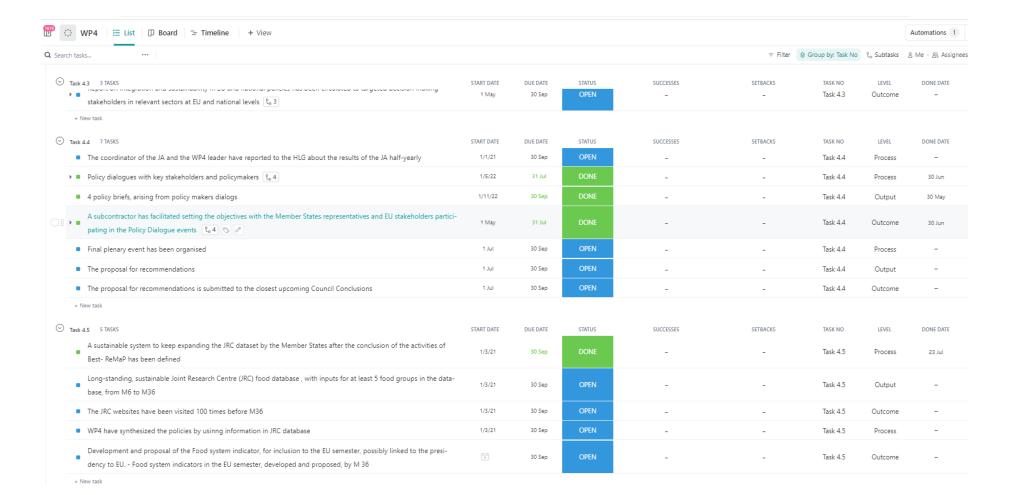




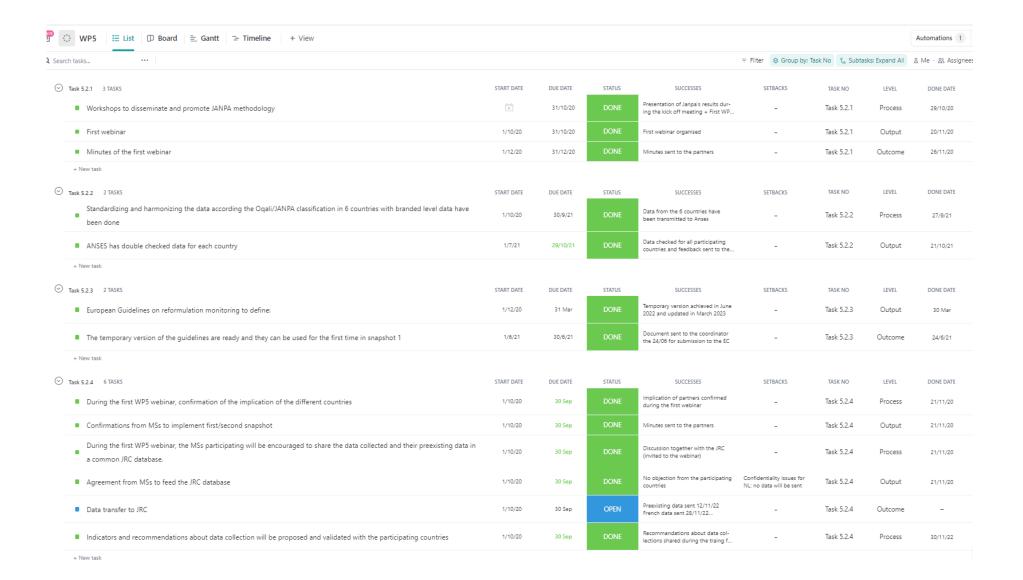


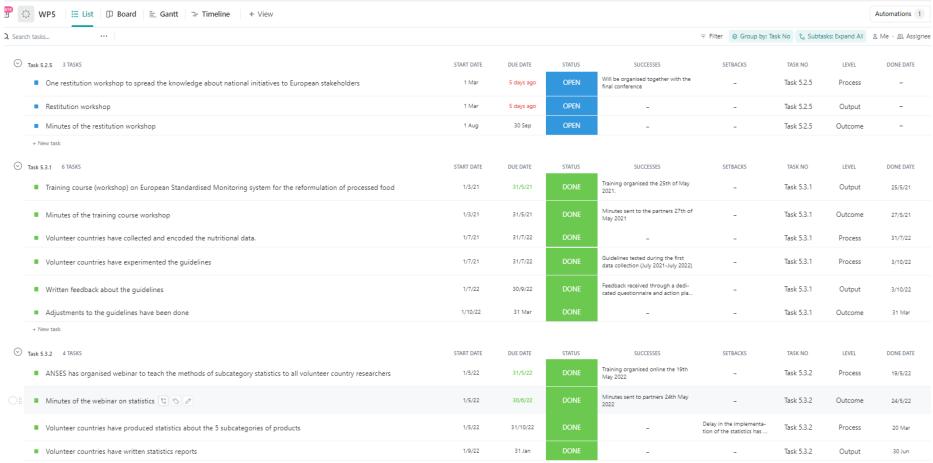




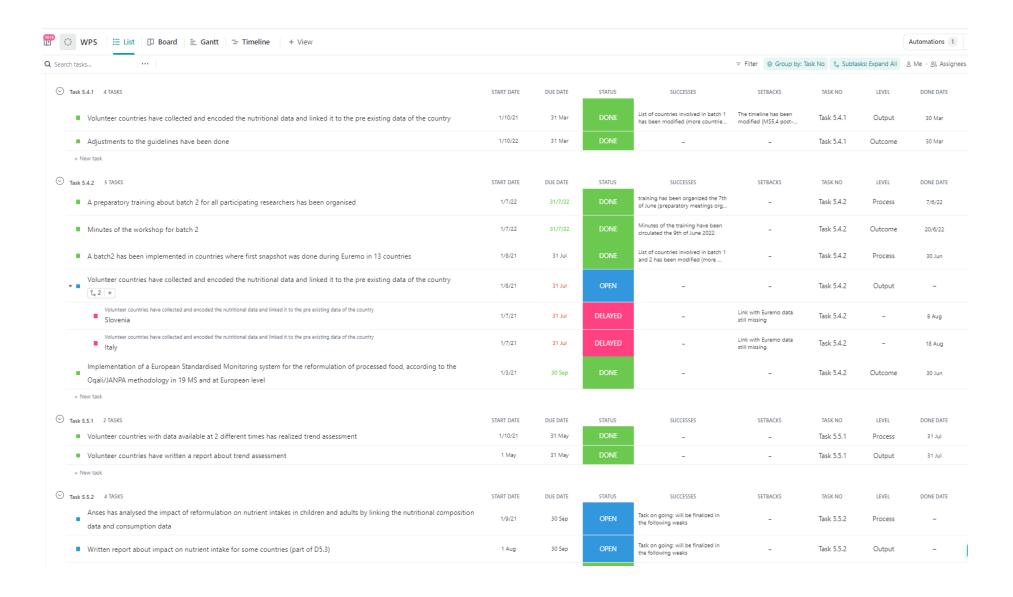


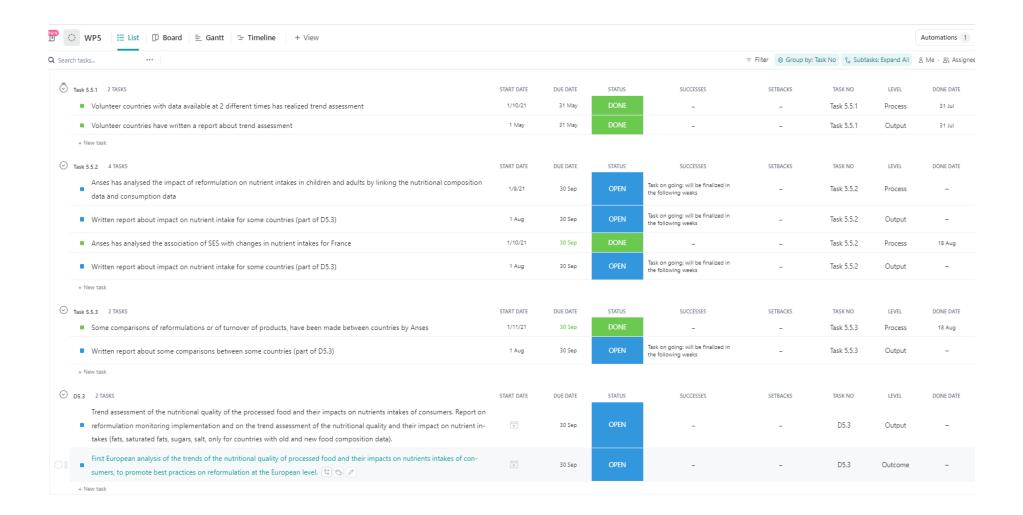
WP5								Automations 1
2 Search tasks ···					Filter ⊗ Group by: 1	ask No 🐧 Subta	sks: Expand All	음 Me - 음 Assignees
○ Task 5.1.1 2 TASKS	START DATE	DUE DATE	STATUS	SUCCESSES	SETBACKS	TASK NO	LEVEL	DONE DATE
 Definition of 10-20 priority processed food groups 	1/10/20	30/6/21	DONE	List of 19 food groups sent to the partners Apr 7	-	Task 5.1.1	Output	9/4/21
Analysis of the food groups contributions to the nutrient intakes, for all the WP5 participants with suitable consumption survey from the EFSA comprehensive database.	1/10/20	30/4/21	DONE	Intake calculated for each nutrient, each country and each population	-	Task 5.1.1	Process	12/3/21
+ New task								
○ Task 5.1.1.2 3 TASKS	START DATE	DUE DATE	STATUS	SUCCESSES	SETBACKS	TASK NO	LEVEL	DONE DATE
The priority food groups have been validated with an e-mail consultation of each country	1/4/21	30/6/21	DONE	Email sent to the partners the 7th of April for a vote before the 21st of	-	Task 5.1.1.2	Process	7/4/21
Correspondence of the selected food groups with pre existing data: EUREMO, JANPA and other projects has been ensured	1/4/21	30/6/21	DONE	The correspondance with Euremo and Janpa data has been validated	-	Task 5.1.1.2	Output	30/3/21
 Final list of food groups for a European monitoring of the food supply. 	1/4/21	30/6/21	DONE	Final list disseminated the 27th of April (email)	-	Task 5.1.1.2	Outcome	27/4/21
+ New task								
○ Task 5.1.2 11 TASKS	START DATE	DUE DATE	STATUS	SUCCESSES	SETBACKS	TASK NO	LEVEL	DONE DATE
Each country with sufficient data (4) has compared traditional approaches with Open Food Facts database as part of D5.2	1/10/20	31 Mar	DONE	All data/resuts have been transmit- ted to Sciensano and the analyses	-	Task 5.1.2	Process	31/3/22
Report on traditional approaches comparison with Open Food Facts database as part of D5.2 collected and written by SCIENSANO	1/10/20	31 Mar	DONE	-	-	Task 5.1.2	Output	22/11/22
 Knowledge gained on the use of Open food facts compared to traditional approaches 	1 Mar	31 Mar	DONE	-	-	Task 5.1.2	Outcome	22/11/22
Each participating country with sufficient data (3) has compared traditional approaches with web scraping for key food supply indicators as part of D5.2	1/10/20	31 Mar	DONE	Data treated by Sciensano	-	Task 5.1.2	Process	31/3/22
 Report on traditional approaches comparison with web scraping D5.2 collected and written by SCIENSANO 	1/10/20	31 Mar	DONE	-	-	Task 5.1.2	Output	22/11/22
Knowledge gained on the use of web scraping compared to traditional approaches	1 Mar	31 Mar	DONE	-	-	Task 5.1.2	Outcome	22/11/22
 Each country with sufficient data (2) has given feedback on the use of GS1 and produce a report as part of D5.2 	1/10/20	31 Mar	DONE	Feedback sent to Sciensano	-	Task 5.1.2	Process	31/3/22
 Country report on the use of GS1 as part of D5.2 	1/10/20	31 Mar	DONE	-	-	Task 5.1.2	Output	22/11/22
 Knowledge gained on the use of GS1 compared to traditional approaches 	1 Mar	31 Mar	DONE	-	-	Task 5.1.2	Outcome	22/11/22
The feasibility of text extraction for ingredients and nutrients from pictures of food packaging has been tested during Euremo	1/10/20	31 Mar	DONE	-	Decided not feasible at this point due to many	Task 5.1.2	Process	20/4/22
 A case study on the experience of ICF with the EUREMO app will be written up 	1/10/20	31 Mar	DONE	Some strengths and limitations of the app have been discussed with	-	Task 5.1.2	Output	20/4/22

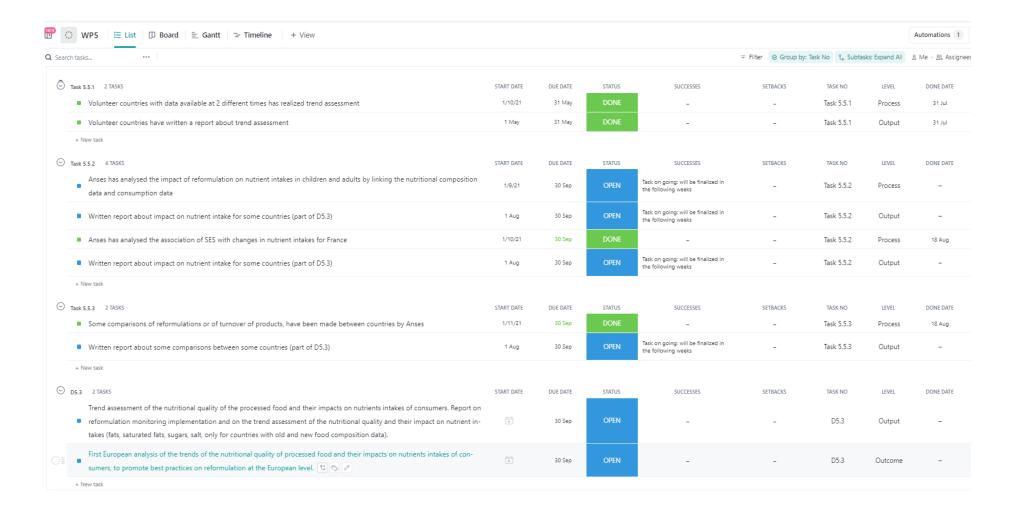


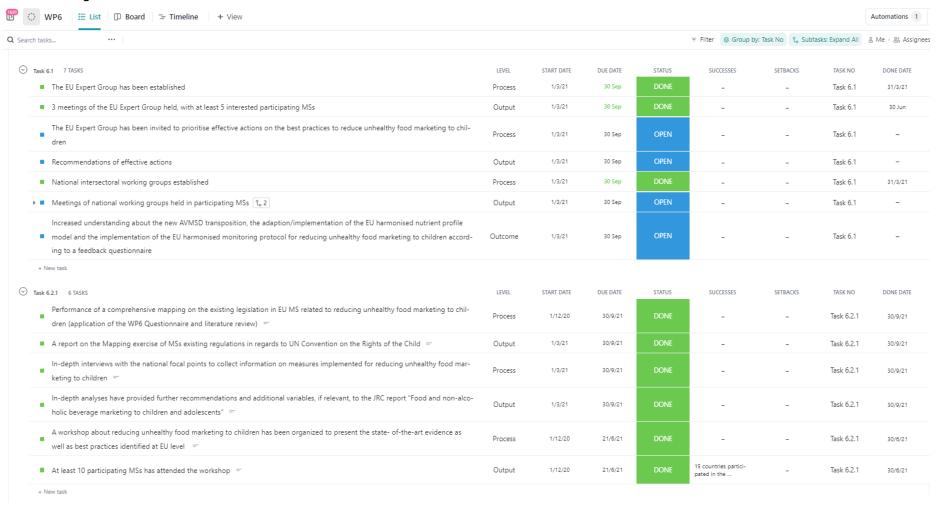


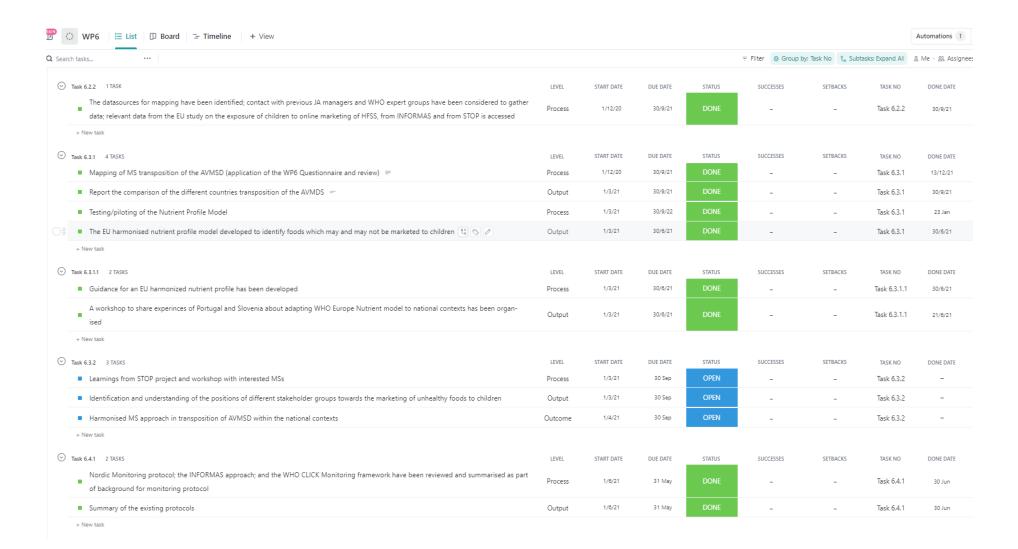
+ New task

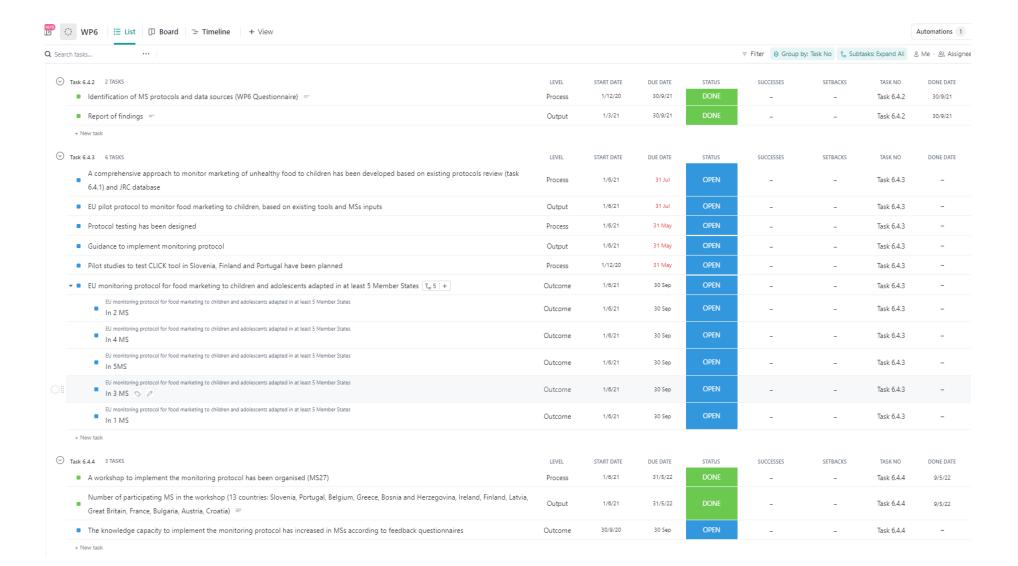


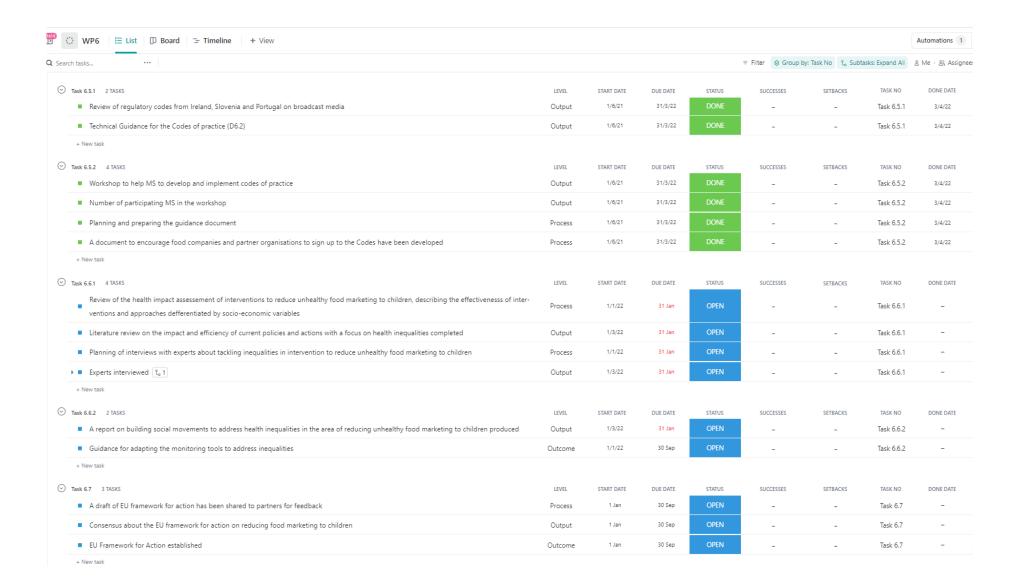


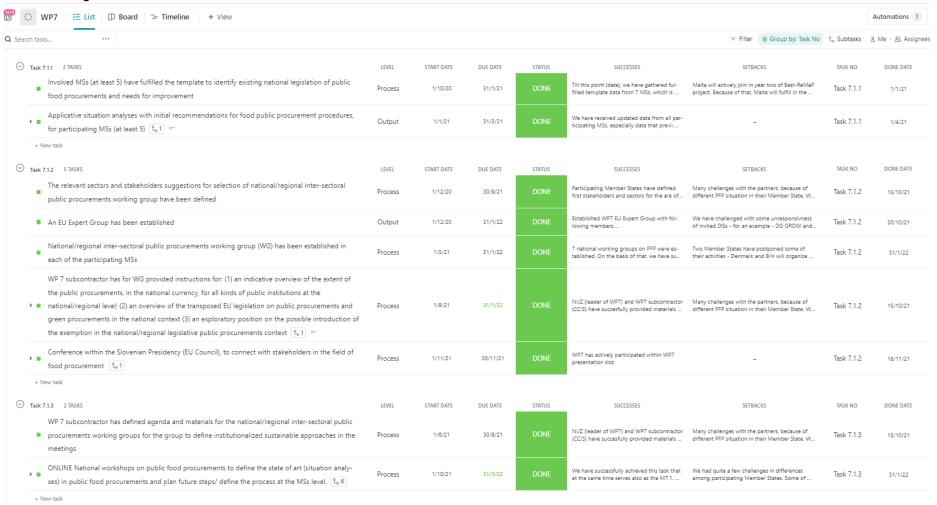


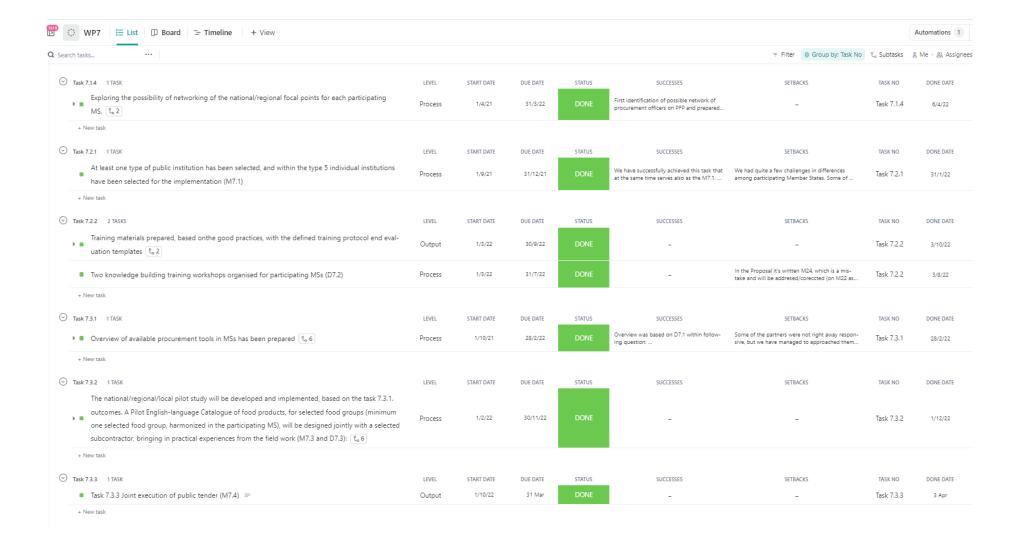












1 Jul

Process

30 Sep

Task 7.7.1

▶ ■ Policy level roundtable on sustainable public food procurement policy development 0, 1

Annex 2. Biannual Questionnaire

Questions of 4th biannual questionnaire as an example of one survey.

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			od	for	а Н	ealthy	y Future	
	WP3: Evaluation		•					
	WF3. Evaluation							
	13. Please rate the degree of your	satisfaction	with t	he Wi	P3 duri	ng the pa	st 6 months	
		1 Totally disagree	2	3	4	5 Totally agree	Not relevant for me	
	Objectives of the WP are clear	0		0		0	0	
	Strategy on how to achieve the objectives is	0		0		0	0	
	clear Timetable of actions is clear	0			0	0	0	
	My role / Our team's role is clear	0		ŏ		ö	0	
	Communication has worked well	ŏ		ŏ		ŏ	0	
	The materials and instructions are clear	ŏ		ŏ		ŏ	0	
	Coordination of WP is effective	Ö	0			Ö	0	
	Challenges are effectively overcome	0		0		0	0	
	15. The workflow within this WP co		//					
	16. My expectations have been me	t well as re	gards	the W	P3 acti	vities/out	puts	
		1 Totally	2		,	5 Totally	Not relevant for me	
	Collecting feedback and suggestions with	disagree				agree		
	this series of Biannual Questionnaires	0			0		0	
	Continuous monitoring with ClickUpTM	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Evaluation of meetings by online questionnaires	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Organization of the meetings with OECD	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	17. Other feedback/comments to the Previous Next	ne WP3	//					



Biannual questionnaire of co-operation in Best-ReMaP

WP3: Evaluation

13. Please rate the degree of your satisfaction with the WP3 during the past 6 months

	1 Totally disagree	2	3	4	5 Totally agree	Not relevant for me
Objectives of the WP are clear	0	0	0	0	0	0
Strategy on how to achieve the objectives is clear	0	0	0	0	0	0
Timetable of actions is clear	0	0	0	0	0	0
My role / Our team's role is clear	0	0	0	0	0	0
Communication has worked well	0	0	0	0	0	0
The materials and instructions are clear	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coordination of WP is effective	0	0	0	0	0	0
Challenges are effectively overcome	0	0	0	0	0	0

14. The leading partner of this WP has succeeded well in
15. The workflow within this WP could be enhanced further by
16. My expectations have been met well as regards the WP3 activities/outputs

	1 Totally disagree	2	3	4	5 Totally agree	Not relevant for me
Collecting feedback and suggestions with this series of Biannual Questionnaires	0	0	0	0	0	0
Continuous monitoring with ClickUpTM	0	0	0	0	0	0
Evaluation of meetings by online	0	0	0	0	0	0

Organization of the meetings with OECD

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Previous Next

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15. The leading partner of this WP h	nas succer	O eded w	ell In.				
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Regional Policy Dialogues follow up -	1 Totally disagree	2	3	4	5 Totally agree	Not relevant for me	
meetings (regarding the Mediterranean, Nordic and Central Europe)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Regional Policy dialogues' reports	0	0	0	0	0	0	
A case for integrating a food system indicator in the European semisiter by SuroHealthNet	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Analysis of the public health policies in							
nutrition across the Joint Action Best-ReMail* Member States by SproMeethNet	0	0	0	0	0	0	
JA Best-ReVal [®] Core Work Packages	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Framework for action by SunchesthNet Dialogues Executive Summery A) Opportunities and Challenges emerging from			Ŭ	_			
the analysis of the public health policies in nutrition across the Joint Action Best-NeWel ³ Member States (2-pager) by SurpHealthNet	0	0	0	0	0	0	
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22. Other feedback/comments to the	e WP4						

	1 Totally disagree	2	3	4	5 Totally	Not relevant for me	
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Strategy on how to achieve the objectives is	0	0	0	0	0	0	
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I got all the information I need to proceed	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Communication has worked well	-	0	0	0	0	0	
There have been enough meetings to							
discuss the workflow in this WP	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Our group has / I have received enough informative e-mails	0	0	0	0	0	0	
The materials and instructions are clear	0	0	0	0	0	0	
The roles of different partners are clear	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Coordination of WP is effective	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Challenges are effectively overcome	0	0	0	0	0	0	
The dissemination of WP is successful	0	0	0	0	0	0	
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21. My expectations have been me	well as re	garde	the W	P4 acti	vities/out	pute	
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21. My expectations have been mel		garde i	the W	P4 acti			
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Regional Policy Dialogues follow up- medings (regarding the Mediteraneae, Nordic and Central Europe)	1 Totally		3		5 Totally	Not relevant	
Regional Policy Dialogues follow up- medings (regarding the Mediternesses, Nordic and Central Europe) Regional Policy dialogues' reports	1 Totally disagree	2	3	4	5 Totally agree	Not relevant for me	
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Objectives of the WP are clear O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O		1 Totally				5 Totally	Not relevant
Strategy on how to achieve the objectives is clear O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O		disagree				agree	for me
Timetable of actions is clear O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O		0	0	0	0	0	0
My role / Our team's role is clear got all the information I need to proceed O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O		0	0	0	0	0	0
My role / Our team's role is clear Q	Timetable of actions is clear	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 got all the information I need to proceed OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO	My role / Our team's role is clear	0				0	0
There have been enough meetings to discuss the workflow in this WP Our group has / I have received enough informative e-mails The materials and instructions are clear O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O	I got all the information I need to proceed						
discuss the workflow in this WP Our group has / I have received enough informative e-mails The materials and instructions are clear O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O	Communication has worked well	0	0	0	0	0	0
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Challenges are effectively overcome The dissemination of WP is successful 24. The leading partner of this WP5 has succeeded well in 25. The workflow within this WP could be enhanced further by 26. My expectations have been met well as regards the WP5 activities/outputs 1 Totally disagree 2 3 4 Totally relevant for me D5.2 Final guidelines for a European harmorized and sustainable monitoring one concessed food supply Contents of the dissemination webinar held April the 20th 27. Other feedback/comments to the WP5	The roles of different partners are clear	0	0	0	0	0	0
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harmonized and sustainable monitoring OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO	26. My expectations have been me	1 Totally				5 Totally	Not relevant
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27. Other feedback/comments to the WP5	D5.2 Final guidelines for a European harmonized and sustainable monitoring	1 Totally disagree	2	3	4	5 Totally agree	Not relevant for me
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Objectives of the WP are clear	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Strategy on how to achieve the objectives is clear	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Timetable of actions is clear	0	0	0	0	0	0	
My role / Our team's role is clear	Ö	0	0			0	
I got all the information I need to proceed	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Communication has worked well	0	0	0	0	0	0	
There have been enough meetings to discuss the workflow in this WP	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Our group has / I have received enough	0	0	0	0	0	0	
informative e-mails The materials and instructions are clear							
The roles of different partners are clear	0	0	0		0	0	
Coordination of WP is effective	0	0	0			0	
Challenges are effectively overcome	0	0	0	0	0	0	
The dissemination of WP is successful	0	0	ö	0	0	0	
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	Totally disagree	2	3	4	Totally agree	relevant for me
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Strategy on how to achieve the objectives is	_		_	_		
clear	0	0	0	0	0	0
Timetable of actions is clear	0	0	0	0	0	0
My role / Our team's role is clear	0	0	0		0	0
I got all the information I need to proceed	0	0	0	0	0	0
Communication has worked well There have been enough meetings to	0	0	0	0	0	0
discuss the workflow in this WP	0	0	0	0	0	0
Our group has / I have received enough informative e-mails	0	0	0	0	0	0
The materials and instructions are clear	0	0	0	0	0	0
The roles of different partners are clear	0	0	0		0	0
Coordination of WP is effective	Ō	0	0			Ō
Challenges are effectively overcome	0	0	0	0	0	0
The dissemination of WP is successful	0	0	0	0	0	0
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36. My expectations have been me	et well as repaired to the state of the stat	gards t	the WF	P7 acti	5 Totally agree	Not relevant for me
36. My expectations have been me Deliverable D7.3 Pilot Catalogue of foods Milestone 7.4: Execution of a joint public	et well as report of the state	gards t	the WF	•7 acti	5 Totally agree	Not relevant for me
36. My expectations have been me Deliverable D7.3 Pilot Catalogue of foods Milestone 7.4: Execution of a joint public tender (30.3)	t well as report to the state of the state o	gards t	3 O O	4 O	5 Totally agree	Not relevant for me
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Biannual questionnaire of co-operation in Best-ReMaP

38. Please rate the degree of your satisfaction with the

	1 Totally disagree	2	3	4	5 Totally agree
Collaboration between all workpackages is active	0	0	0	0	0
Collaboration between horizontal and core workpackages is active	0	0	0	0	0
Collaboration between core work packages is active	0	0	0	0	0

39. What has worked well in the Best-ReMaP JA? Please consider the whole period, not just t	he
last 6 months, and especially regarding the internal work (collaboration) of the project.	

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40. What could be improved in future Joint Actions? Please consider especially the internal work (collaboration) of the project.

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Thank you for your valuable feedback!

The Best-ReMaP JA is funded by the European Union's Health Programme (2014-2020). The content of this document represents the views of the author only and is his is/her sole responsibility; it cannot be considered to reflect the views of the European Commission and/or the Consumers, European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA) or anyother body of the European Union. The European Commission and the Agency do not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains.

Annex 3. Cover letter of impact interviews

IMPACT INTERVIEWS FOR CORE WPs (WPs 4-7)

Aim:

To collect qualitative information on the processes and internal and external factors affecting the achievement of the WPs objectives and thereby contribute to the evaluation of the Best-ReMaP JA.

Who:

Semi-structured group interviews/discussions, including the leader and members of each core WP (1-3 team members, if feasible) and the WP3 team.

When:

Impact interviews (approx. 1.5 hours) will be conducted by WP3 twice during the project. The first round of interviews was conducted in December 2021 - January 2022. Results of the first-round impact interviews are presented in the attachment. The second round of interviews will be conducted in May – June-2023. The interviews will be conducted with Teams and recorded in order to facilitate the correct interpretation of the discussions; the recordings will be erased after the analyses.

Design:

We will use the SWOT analysis (Figure 1) alongside the Theory of Change (ToC) (Figure 2) to guide the impact interviews of the WPs.

During the development of the Evaluation strategy and via dialogues with the WPLs, the ToC diagrams for Best-ReMaP and its WPs were defined based on what has been agreed upon in the Grant Agreement. Before the impact interviews, the ToC will be updated, if necessary, and the achieved objects will be highlighted as the situation update of the WP.

The SWOT analysis is a strategic planning tool used to evaluate the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of a policy, a program, a project or an intervention. The strengths of this method are its simplicity and applicability to different contexts and levels of analysis, including policies and programs' implementation and evaluation. The purpose of performing a SWOT is to reveal positive forces that work together and potential problems that need to be recognized and possibly addressed.

In a SWOT analysis, both internal attributes and external conditions are described:

- Strengths are internal attributes of the program/policy
- Weaknesses are internal attributes of the program/policy that need to be addressed
- Opportunities are external conditions that may facilitate the implementation
- Threats are external conditions that may stand in the way of the implementation

Prior to the impact interview:

The key SWOT questions are presented in the template. Please contemplate the questions within your team prior to the interview. You do not need to return the answers in writing. In addition, please update the ToC and send it to the WP3 prior to the interview.

Analysis and reporting of the results:

The respective ToC will be used as a framework in analysing and reporting the qualitative data collected with the interviews and will complement the data collected via the ClickUp project management tool. Results of the first interviews were included in the Mid-term evaluation report. Results of the second interviews will be included the Final evaluation report.

Figure 1. SWOT

General questions:

- What are your expectations for the future in European countries?
- How could other WPs and stakeholders increase your impact after the BestReMaP?
- What were the most important lessons learned for the next JA?
- What else would you like to add to this discussion?

Annex 4. Evaluation forms

1. Evaluation form filled by Éva Martos

Evaluation form for Best-ReMaP External evaluators for the Final report

WP3

4.4.2023

Dr. Éva Martos, External Evaluator

These questions are to evaluate the work done within the Best-ReMaP project. The purpose is to collect qualitative information from external point of view.

Please write down your detailed views of the Best-ReMaP project after each question below. Your responses, as they are, will be included as an attachment of the Final report, part of responses will be copied on the related parts in the report and a summary of the responses will be written.

1. Overall assessment of the project

1.1 Progress of the work

The progress of the project is in line with expectations, in spite of the significant, unforeseeable and unavoidable modifications of it due to Covid-19 pandemic, which had an impact on all partners and work packages. (Some deliverables are still not available at the time of the evaluation, they are not included in this assessment).

1.2 Main achievements

The main achievements of the project are as followed: The development of guidelines for a European harmonised and sustainable monitoring system of the processed food supply which gives a step by step instrument to the MSs for the implementation; The establishment of EU expert group and national intersectoral working group mapping of existing regulations and legislation about food marketing to children in participating countries; Set up of permanent public food procurement network; Testing the pilot catalogue of food; Best-ReMaP literature review with provision of guidance to policymakers on how food marketing restrictions, food reformulation, or food procurement standards may contribute to the reduction of health inequities; The supportive and active participation of WHO, OECD and a great number of EU institutions.

1.3 Quality of the work

Overall the work of the consortium is of a high standard supporting on scientific evidence, on the results of previous JA and had a close collaboration with other EU projects such as STOP or Co-Create. Several conferences, workshops, knowledge transfer meetings and other fora were organised and well received by the audience.

1.4 Contribution to the state of the art, the added value of the project

The Best-ReMaP JA aimed to contribute to an improved quality of food supplied to citizens of Europe by adapting, replicating and implementing effective health interventions, based on practices that have been proven to work in the areas of food reformulation, restrictions on food marketing and public procurement of healthy food in public settings. The engagement of stakeholders of different sectors and the high level participatory representation of WHO and EU institutions is considered to be a substantial added value of the project. The work in modelling the population impact performed by OECD might facilitate the implementation in

policies at national or European level. The comprehensive literature review document on health equity aspect of measures in the areas of reformulation, marketing restriction and public procurement of food is forward-looking. Using the health equity impact assessment criteria in analysing the three policy areas and the conclusions are remarkable from the point of view of Best-ReMaP's outcome.

1.5 Likelihood of impact

Similar to the previous evaluation the impact of the project is considered to be likely. In addition to the justifications listed in the mid-term external evaluation, it is worth underlining that in the second half of the project, cooperation with the EU institutions seems to have become even closer. They look forward to the results of the project and intend to incorporate them into their existing and forthcoming policy documents. The latter will also ensure the sustainability of the project. New Joint Action of Prevention NCD will also provide continuity of the outcomes.

The different levels of governmental commitment in the Member States as well as the different levels of activities in the three nutritional area make it challenging to integrate the results of Best-ReMaP JA into national policies. The reorganization of the HLG on Nutrition and Physical Activity would facilitate this process.

1.6 Dissemination & stakeholder involvement

The dissemination of the project improved by its second half, which was justified by the biannual questionnaires. An increasing tendency could be observed also in the involvement of sectors parallel with the proceeding of the project. A large number of high level representatives of EU institutions supported the project from the start. Permanent Public Food Procurement Network which was launched within the project is the part of the new Joint Action.

2. Evaluation of WP's & their deliverables

2.1. WP1

2.1.1. Overall evaluation of the work package

Project management was very engaged from the beginning and of a high standard, as acknowledged by the partners. WP1 has submitted high quality deliverables. The progress of the processes was timely, despite the Covid- 19 pandemic, which required the rescheduling of many pre-planned processes.

2.1.2. Progress and quality of the processes, outputs and outcomes (including performance measures, evaluation reports of meetings trainings etc., biannual questionnaire reports)

WP1 team has organised several meetings to different target groups in the focus, such as WPLs, General Assembly Meetings and PDMF meetings. The agendas were clear, the meetings were well prepared, and the meeting minutes reflected objectively their main outcomes. The average score of biannual questionnaires on satisfaction by the consortium members increased continuously and in the fourth case exceeded 4.5.

2.1.3. Quality of deliverables (M19-M34)

D1.2 summarizes the 2nd PDMF meeting which was held via Zoom application.

The main aim of Policy Decision Making Forum (PDMF) meetings is to inform PDMF Members about the Best-ReMaP progress and proposals of the institutionalised / legislative solutions. Depending on the nature of the proposals, meeting documents and agenda topics, the PDMF Members are asked to provide critical feedback on the feasibility of implementation at national and EU level. The meeting agenda, objective of the meeting, list of participants, introduction of WP's and conclusions are clearly presented in the deliverable.

It is worth highlighting that DG Sante has drawn attention to two EU-funded projects on relevant topics to be announced in the near future, which will allow the results of BestReMaP to be taken forward and sustainability to be ensured.(In the meantime, this has been achieved). It is also important to note that in the evaluation of the PDMF meeting respondents thought that the project would have a minimal impact on health inequality. The comprehensive paper prepared by Tim Lobstein on the subject was seen as a corrective step.

The meeting agenda, objective of the meeting, list of participants, introduction of WP's and conclusions are clearly presented in the deliverable.

2.2. WP2

2.2.1. Overall evaluation of the work package

The website currently fully reflects the state-of-the-art of the project.WP2 made a critical self-evalution activities regarding the first 18 months of the project.

Strong cooperation of WP1 and WP2 as well as other WP leaders on communication activities considered to be one of the major strengths of the dissemination activity, while on the top of major weaknesses is the low number of stakeholders who can be effectively reached by the newsletters. Three deliverables are under development yet.

2.2.2. Progress and quality of the processes, outputs and outcomes (including performance measures, evaluation reports of meetings trainings etc., biannual questionnaire reports)

Two newsletters, two press releases were issued and the methodology of organising local stakeholder forum were also developed in line with the GA. Work Package 2 has collected the dissemination activities of all partners of JA Best-ReMaP that were carried out in the first half of the project. All activities that promote JA Best-ReMaP and its goals were considered

as dissemination activities .Total of 229 activities estimated to reach 248 625 individuals. WP2 posts regularly at the social media platforms.

The average score of satisfaction of the consortium members with WP2 rated from 3.5 to 4.0, but in the fourth BQ the score improved, it was well above 4.0.

2.2.3. Quality of deliverables (M19-M34)

D2.4 is a Midterm report on dissemination summarizing the WP2 activities carried out in the first half of the JA. A self- assessment was performed listing the strengths and weaknesses of the dissemination process.

2.3. WP3

2.3.1. Overall evaluation of the work package

The WP of evaluation has generally progressed as planned. According to the objective it monitors the implementation of JA on the one hand, and the outcomes and impact of the implementation on the other. In order to meet the objectives, various standard methods were used to monitor the project, analyse trends and allow for any necessary adjustments on time.

2.3.2. Progress and quality of the processes, outputs and outcomes (including performance measures, evaluation reports of meetings trainings etc., biannual questionnaire reports)

The WP of evaluation has generally progressed as planned. A very wide range of methods were used for internal and external evaluation including questionnaires, impact interviews of WPLs and national stakeholders or online surveys. To monitor the progress of the project, the online project management tool (ClickUp $^{\text{TM}}$) was applied.

Overall satisfaction in collaboration of WP3 within consortium according to Biannual questionnaires improved to 4.5 by the fourth round from initial averages of around 4.0.

It is worth highlighting, among other things, the use of swot analysis in impact interviews, as well as methods allowing the analysis of trends (e.g. numerical assessments).

2.3.3. Quality of deliverables (M19-M34)

D3.2 presents the Midterm report of evaluation.

This is a well-edited, logically structured document. It presents the results of the different evaluation methods used in a clear way, and trends over the evaluation period can be easily followed.

2.4. WP4

2.4.1. Overall evaluation of the work package

The main objective of WP4 is the integration of the results and outcomes of the core WPs into national and European policies. As a consequence of this, the progress of this WP depends a lot on the other core WPs. Currently WP4 is a bit behind the original schedule, but this can probably be overcome.

2.4.2. Progress and quality of the processes, outputs and outcomes (including performance measures, specific objectives and indicators, evaluation reports of meetings trainings etc., biannual questionnaire reports)

To date WP4 is a bit behind the schedule. Three regional policy dialogues were introduced (Rome, Helsinki, and Vienna) with the total number of 54 participants. These dialogues aimed to highlight regional differences among Member States. Differences between Member States pose a major challenge for WP4.

The fourth, the plenary policy dialogue was well prepared, the background papers for the agendas were sent in advance. It was organised this May in Brussels with a good representation of EU institutions. WHO also welcomed the meeting highlighting the importance of policy of marketing unhealthy foods to children. The interlink between EU policies and Best-RemaP outcomes were presented in detail together with the remaining tasks. The report of the assessment of equity aspects of nutrition policies given by Tim Lobstein was progressive. The final conclusions based on scientific literature supported that in the three nutrition policy areas (reformulation, marketing and public procurement) MANDATORY measures, standards, regulations might be effective from health equity aspects.

One of the major remaining task for WP4 is the feeding the JRC branded food database with the data of Best-ReMaP. The constantly growing JRC food database will serve as an excellent opportunity to different stakeholders to make comparisons, and to use the data for developing legislation.

The average score of satisfaction given by the consortium members was between 3.0 and 3.5 based on the biannual questionnaires, in the fourth round reflecting some improvement.

2.4.3. Quality of deliverables (M19-M34)

No deliverable was submitted in this evaluation period.

2.5. WP5

2.5.1. Overall evaluation of the work package

A great number of tasks were performed by this WP in the reporting period. The progress of the processes was as planned with minor variations that do not affect the final outcome of the JA.

2.5.2. Progress and quality of the processes, outputs and outcomes (including performance measures, specific objectives and indicators, evaluation reports of meetings trainings etc., biannual questionnaire reports)

The progress and quality of the processes are recognized, partners are satisfied with the WP. The average score of satisfaction in the work of WP5 within the consortium was around 4.0 with some improvements by the 3rd round, while by the 4th round the score stabilized over 4.0. A wide variety of tasks were completed, such as development of monitoring methodology, common Best-ReMaP subcategories and list of 5 priority food categories were established. Comprehensive guidelines for monitoring have been written and tested by partner countries, ensuring a standardized approach. Furthermore, common tools such as templates for data collection and programs for data entry verification and treatment were shared and tested. Trainings were conducted for data collection, codification, and treatment, involving 19 countries. One of the major task being in progress is the creation of an open access database, which includes data collected during Best-ReMaP as well as pre-existing data being managed by JRC. This data feeding ensures the sustainability of the project, providing opportunity to compare the food offer in the European market, especially the trends of changes their composition (sugars, salt and fats), the direction of reformulation. Moreover, the database may be suitable for use in other two nutritional policy areas (marketing, public food procurement).

2.5.3. Quality of deliverables (M19-M34)

D.5.2 The Final guidelines for an European harmonised and sustainable monitoring system of the processed food supply is a comprehensive document guiding the readers step by step through the monitoring process. The deliverable is a 777 page document with 22 Annexes, 42 Tables and 28 Figures. The objective of this report was to share the methodology and the guidelines for the construction of a shared database that will allow to have an overview of the food offer on the European market and enable to monitor the nutritional quality of processed foods over time.

Overall this is a high quality document with precise description of the monitoring methodology.

2.6. WP6

2.6.1. Overall evaluation of the work package

The WP is focused on reducing the marketing of unhealthy foods to children. Its overall goal was to share and test best practices of implemented actions to reduce unhealthy food marketing to children at the EU level and to develop an implementation and monitoring framework.

Best practices in monitoring the marketing of unhealthy foods and non-alcoholic drinks were reviewed in this phase of the WP. Additionally, an EU-wide monitoring protocol was developed and pilot tested to support Member States' monitoring of unhealthy food marketing to children, with a particular focus on digital marketing.

2.6.2. Progress and quality of the processes, outputs and outcomes (including performance measures, specific objectives and indicators, evaluation reports of meetings trainings etc., biannual questionnaire reports)

An EU-WHO monitoring protocol was designed in collaboration with WHO-Euro. It covers the main channels through which children in Europe are exposed to unhealthy food marketing, namely TV, the internet and outdoor areas surrounding children's facilities. The deliverable submitted reports on the piloting program to test these EU-WHO protocol tools and their implementation in MSs. 25 monitoring studies were included in the piloting program. The conclusions were discussed with the MSs in the framework of a workshop. The main lesson was that Member States are at very different levels of knowledge and application of marketing restriction measures, they are in need of resources and support.

The pilot experiences of MSs will be incorporated into the updated EU-WHO monitoring protocol. All the work developed within WP 6 will be merged into final deliverable, an EU Framework for Action of implementable best practices to reduce unhealthy food marketing to children.

There is a certain amount of delay in the progress of the WP, which is the consequence of delayed subcontracting.

According to the biannual questionnaire the average score of satisfaction in the work of WP6 within the consortium rated around 3.75 except at the first round, when it was slightly better.

2.6.3. Quality of deliverables (M19-M34)

D.6.3 Report on pilot EU-wide harmonised and comprehensive monitoring protocol for unhealthy food marketing to children, with a particular focus on digital marketing.

This report presents the findings of the piloting activities. 25 projects from 14 MSs were contributed to the piloting. The main objective of the piloting program was to generate feedback and learnings regarding the scope, form and applicability of the EU-WHO monitoring protocol and to update the protocols accordingly. In addition, the piloting aimed to identify MSs' views of the main challenges and facilitators for implementation of these protocols.

The significant differences between MSs in the level of activities of this area and the lack of resources were concluded to be the biggest challenges. The EU-WHO monitoring protocol will be updated using the pilot experiences of the countries.

This is a precise in-depth analysis of the results of piloting process with recommendations for the further adjustment of the protocol.

2.7. WP7

2.7.1. Overall evaluation of the work package

In this evaluation period several tasks were performed or are in progress within this WP e.g. situation analyses of the existing EU and national legislation related to public food

procurements (PFP) in the participating MSs; to develop a minimum mandatory sustainability criteria for PFP; to set up an EU network of national focal points for PFP; case studies in 8 MSs; OECD study on economic evaluation of best practices' health outcome.

Substantial conclusions have been drawn for future implementation, including that more budget is required for MSs, more stakeholders need to be involved from the private and also from the governmental sector, etc. Two deliverables were also submitted during this period, one about knowledge transfer trainings and the pilot catalogue of foods was the other.

Permanent PFP network is a part of the new JA and it is expected that the network will continue in the future.

WP7 is one of the highest scoring WPs among the consortium members.

2.7.2. Progress and quality of the processes, outputs and outcomes (including performance measures, specific objectives and indicators, evaluation reports of meetings trainings etc., biannual questionnaire reports)

For more details see item 2.7.1.

There was a high level of satisfaction in the work of WP7 within the consortium proved by the average scores of BaQ (4.0-4.5 in each rounds).

2.7.3. Quality of deliverables (M19-M34)

D.7.2 Knowledge transfer training(s)

This deliverable contains a detailed report of the agenda and the evaluation of knowledge transfer training. The main objective of the 3-day intensive training in Ljubljana was to present to project partners the English version of Catalogue of public procurement for food, to provide the knowledge building, knowledge sharing and knowledge transfer with regard to the Catalogue to the participating EU MSs and to provide the implementation details.

Participants also learned in practice about the benefits of the Food Catalogue during a visit to a kindergarten, which is one of the best in Slovenia regarding public procurement.

Two rounds of online voting provided the opportunity to the participants of knowledge transfer trainings to express their impressions, lessons learnt and recommendations.

It was highlighted, that practices of PFP around Europe are very different, and MSs need more information and practical examples on the Catalogue. Based on the evaluation questionnaire, the partners agreed that the experiences were useful and they can use some of them at national context.

At the end of the workshops partners agreed on future plans to adapt and use the Catalogue of Foods.

The deliverable includes report on Member States' national inter-sectoral working group meetings. In order to facilitate the partners in organisation, WP7 leader and Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia organised bilateral meetings with each of the Member States (MSs) providing systematic guidance to the partners on how to organise the meetings in the most efficient way.

The partners considered the bilateral meetings as very useful.

D.7.3 Pilot Catalogue of Foods

This deliverable provides a summary of the experiences of MSs in piloting the Slovenian Catalogue of foods.

A two-day workshop in Ljubljana was organised with the aim to provide a comprehensive overview of the piloting procedure carried out by 8 MSs. It involved in-depth discussions on quality criteria, presentation of case study findings, and the introduction of the Framework for action.

According to most of the piloting countries (except 2) they did not succeed to show that Catalogue of foods was functioning in national contexts to support successful food procurement procedures. They need additional support to overcome the obstacles they face, such as language barriers, usability issues, compatibility with existing systems. They also need to improve their communication tools with the stakeholders of PFP. On the other hand they recognised the potential advantages of similar tools.

3. Other issues

Evaluation of Deliverables

Please, give a score for each from 1 (low) to 5 (high)

Deliverable	Comprehensiveness	Clarity	Correspondence with what was expected	Added value	Chances for implementation
D1.2 Meeting minutes of the PDMF meetings	5	5	5	5	n.a.
MD2.4 Mid-term report on Dissemination	5	5	5	4	n.a.
D3.2 Mid-term report on Evaluation	5	5	5	5	n.a.
D5.2 Final Guidelines for a European harmonised and sustainable monitoring system of the processed food supply	5	5	5	5	5
D6.3 Report on pilot EU-wide harmonised and comprehensive monitoring protocol for unhealthy food marketing to children, with a particular focus on digital marketing	5	5	5	5	5
D7.2 Knowledge transfer training(s)	5	5	5	5	5
D7.3 Pilot Catalogue of foods	5	5	5	5	5

n.a.:not applicable

Deliverables that are not included in the evaluation, Due date M36

- D2.5 Promotional movies completed
- D2.6 Layman version of the final report
- D2.7 Final report on dissemination
- D3.3 Final Evaluation report
- D4.2 Integration and sustainability plan (Report on sustainability and integration in national policies)
- D4.3 Briefs of the four policy dialogues
- D5.3 Report on reformulation monitoring
- D6.4 A harmonized EU framework for Action on reducing unhealthy food to children
- D7.4 EU harmonized framework for action

Budapest, 09.08.2023

Prof. Dr. Éva Martos

2. Evaluation form filled by Nathalie Farpour-Lambert

Evaluation form for Best-ReMaP External evaluators for the Final report

WP3

Dr Nathalie Farpour-Lambert, external evaluator

27.09.2023

1. Overall assessment of the project

1.1. Progress of the work

The overall progress of the Best-ReMaP Joint Action is excellent, despite the COVID-19 pandemic during a major part of the project. The satisfaction among WPs, partners, experts, and stakeholders was rated good to high.

The number of deliverables in this JA is 27; 10 were evaluated for the mid-term report, 7 are evaluated for this final report, 8 will be finalised at the end of this month and 2 are WP3 (evaluation) deliverables.

1.2. Main achievements

The main achievement of this project is the development of EU frameworks for action on:

- food reformulation;
- food marketing;
- public food procurement.

It contributed to the creation of several EU/national level working groups and to a EU Public Food Procurement Officers Network.

The strengths of this JA are:

- Utilization of evidence-based and multidisciplinary approach
- Cooperation and support between WP leaders/teams
- Analysis of existing EU and national regulations, legislations & strategies
- Identification of sectors and stakeholders
- Engagement of stakeholders and promotion of dialogues
- Supportive and active participation of EU institutions, WHO and OECD
- Methodological developments
- Harmonization of data collection/ validation/ analysis; development of EU level databases
- Knowledge building and sharing
- Health equity impact assessment
- Benchmarking between EU MSs
- Suggestion of steps forward

Several challenges remain to be addressed:

- Sustainability and integration in national policies
- Lack of resources
- Methodological issues (e.g. alternative digital sources of information)
- Improvement of health literacy in this field
- Development of public-private partnerships
- Transfer of knowledge into action: policy development and improvement of regulations/legislations.
- Development of whole-of-society and whole-of-government strategies

1.3. Quality of the work

The overall quality of the work is excellent. Workshops, conferences and knowledge transfer meetings were appreciated by participants.

1.4. Contribution to the state of the art, the added value of the project

The project contributed to review the latest scientific evidence and current EU/national policies, to develop and partially implement effective tools and actions to improve food environments (food reformulation, food marketing, public procurement of healthy foods) for the health and well-being of European citizen with a special focus on children and adolescents.

Best-ReMaP has now started the implementation, transfer and integration of the JA results, outcomes and recommendations into national and EU level policies. However, this work needs to be continued and supported over time to ensure its full implementation and sustainability in the EU.

1.5. Likelihood of impact

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance to prevent and control obesity in the EU, as it is an important risk factor for severe forms of COVID-19 as well as other NCDs. In addition, unfavourable shifts in food consumption and physical activity patterns have taken place during the pandemic leading to increased health risks.

We may expect that Best-ReMaP will have a significant impact on EU and national policies and regulations (food reformulation, food marketing to children and adolescents, public food procurement) at mid-long-term. It will however be difficult to show an immediate impact on the prevalence of childhood obesity due to its multifactorial origin. Therefore, an integrative inter-sectorial approach including other sectors than health (economic, social, education, environment,...) is needed to effectively improve food environments and reduce inequity to prevent and control childhood obesity in the EU.

Dissemination & stakeholder involvement

The internal and external communication regarding meetings, workshops and conferences was initially insufficient (agenda, documents, evaluation), but corrective measures have been taken to ensure a large participation and efficiency of work.

The cooperation and support between WP leaders or team members, as well as the progressive engagement of EU institutions, MSs, experts, partners and stakeholders provided an added value to the JA, on the basis of previous projects and joint actions. The involvement of the OECD in modelling a population impact provided also an additional benefit.

2. Evaluation of WP's & their deliverables

2.1. WP1

2.1.1. Overall evaluation of the work package

The management of the project is good and the quality of processes, outputs and deliverables has been scored high in the internal and external evaluation.

2.1.2. Progress and quality of the processes, outputs and outcomes (including performance measures, evaluation reports of meetings trainings etc., biannual questionnaire reports)

The work of WP1 has progressed as planed and tasks have been completed on time. Project management tools and strategies have been developed. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, WP leaders, general assembly and PDMF meetings, as well as conferences, have been successfully organized online then onsite. Agenda were clear and meetings were well prepared and reported. The satisfaction about WP1 by the consortium members increased continuously to reach high scores.

- 2.1.3. Quality of deliverables (M19-M34)
- D1.2. Meeting minutes of the PDMF meeting is clear and describe adequately the content of the second PDMF meeting.

2.2. WP2

2.2.1. Overall evaluation of the work package

The Best-ReMaP Website describes the JA adequately and shows the contribution of the project. The self-evaluation of activities by the WP2 was critical and useful. There was a good cooperation and support between WP leaders to improve external communication. However, newsletters reached only a small number of stakeholders.

2.2.2. Progress and quality of the processes, outputs and outcomes (including performance measures, evaluation reports of meetings trainings etc., biannual questionnaire reports)

WP2 has produced two newsletters and two press releases, and developed a methodology to organize local stakeholder forums. WP2 collected all dissemination activities of WPs (total 229 estimated to reach 248'625 individuals).

The average score of satisfaction of the consortium members about WP2 was 3.5-4.0 and improved above 4.0 at the end of the project.

2.2.3. Quality of deliverables (M19-M34)

MD2.4 Mid-term report on Dissemination is clear, comprensive and of good quality Three deliverables remain to be completed:

D2.5 Promotional movies

D2.6 Layman version of the final report

D2.7 Final report on dissemination

2.3. WP3

2.3.1. Overall evaluation of the work package

WP3 (evaluation) has progressed smoothly as planned. The collaboration with WP leaders/team members, stakeholders and external evaluators was excellent.

The average score satisfaction by consortium members about WP3 was good and improved up to 4.5 at the end of the project.

2.3.2.Progress and quality of the processes, outputs and outcomes (including performance measures, evaluation reports of meetings trainings etc., biannual questionnaire reports)

The methodology (ClickUp, biannual questionnaires, interviews of WP leaders, stakeholders surveys) which was developed for internal and external evaluation during the first phase of the project has allowed a close monitoring of JA activities and deliverables.

2.3.3. Quality of deliverables (M19-M34)

D3.2 Mid-term report on Evaluation and D3.3 Final Evaluation report summarize well the JA evaluation process and results of questionnaires, surveys and interviews. The quality of deliverables is excellent; they can serve as a base for the evaluation of future projects.

2.4. WP4

2.4.1. Overall evaluation of the work package

The main objective of WP4 is the integration of JA results and outcomes into EU and national policies and regulations. As WP4 depends of other WPs, his work has been delayed. However, different strategies have been developed to reach goals in a next future.

2.4.2. Progress and quality of the processes, outputs and outcomes (including performance measures, specific objectives and indicators, evaluation reports of meetings trainings etc., biannual questionnaire reports)

WP4 has organized three policy dialogues (Rome, Helsinki and Vienna) which included a total of 54 participants. A plenary policy dialogue was organized in May 2023 in Brussels. Several EU institutions, a few MSs and some stakeholders were represented. National specificities and differences between MSs constitute a major challenge for the implementation and sustainability of Best-ReMap.

2.4.3. Quality of deliverables (M19-M34)

No deliverable has been produced during this period.

Two deliverables remain to be completed:

D4.2 Integration and sustainability plan (Report on sustainability and integration in national policies)

D4.3 Briefs of the four policy dialogues

2.5. WP5

2.5.1. Overall evaluation of the work package

WP5 progressed as planned and produced a large amount of work to improve and harmonize the monitoring of the processed food offer in the EU. The close monitoring of food supply over time is essential to evaluate the impact of EU/national policies or regulations aimed at decreasing salt, sugar and saturated/trans- fat contents of processed foods. The Food Information Database will ensure the sustainability of data collection on food reformulation at the EU and national levels, and the analysis of trends.

2.5.2.Progress and quality of the processes, outputs and outcomes (including performance measures, specific objectives and indicators, evaluation reports of meetings trainings etc., biannual questionnaire reports)

The progress and quality of work has been recognized by WP leaders and stakeholders. WP5 accomplished a large number of tasks including the development of a methodology to monitor the food offer and selected 5 priority food categories. WP5 developed also comprehensive guidelines for monitoring, which were assessed by partner countries, ensuring a standardized approach. In addition, WP5 produced and validated common tools such as templates for data collection and programs for data entry verification and analysis. Training was offered to 19 countries to perform data collection, codification, verification and treatment. One of the major task being in progress is the creation of an open access database, which includes data collected during Best-ReMaP as well as pre-existing data being managed by JRC. This database will ensure the dissemination and sustainability of the project and provide the opportunity to compare the formulation of processed foods (sugar, salt and fat) in the European Union and analyze trends over time. This database will also inform other policy domains, such as food marketing and public food procurement. The average score of satisfaction within the consortium about WP5 was around 4.0 during the project and above 4.0 at the end.

2.5.3. Quality of deliverables (M19-M34)

WP5 produced "D.5.2 The Final guidelines for an European harmonized and sustainable monitoring system of the processed food supply" during the last phase of the project. It is a 777 pages comprehensive document describing in details the monitoring process. The objective of this report is to provide the methodology and guidelines for the construction of a shared database that will allow to have an overview of the food offer in the European Union and enable to monitor the nutritional quality of processed foods over time. Overall, the document is long but of excellent quality.

2.6. WP6

2.6.1. Overall evaluation of the work package

WP6 aimed to reduce the marketing of unhealthy foods to children and adolescents. Its overall goal was to share and assess best practices of implemented actions to reduce unhealthy food marketing to children and adolescents at the EU level and to develop an implementation and monitoring framework.

During the last phase of the project, WP6 reviewed best practices to monitor the marketing of unhealthy foods and non-alcoholic drinks. An EU-WHO monitoring protocol was developed and pilot tested to support EU MSs monitoring of unhealthy food marketing to children and adolescents, with a particular focus on digital marketing.

2.6.2. Progress and quality of the processes, outputs and outcomes (including performance measures, specific objectives and indicators, evaluation reports of meetings trainings etc., biannual questionnaire reports)

There was a delay in the progress of WP6, due to delayed subcontracting. An EU-WHO harmonized monitoring protocol has been developed in collaboration with WHO-Euro, covering main channels through which European children and adolescents are exposed to unhealthy food marketing, namely TV, internet and outdoor areas surrounding children's facilities. WP6 submitted reports to assess these EU-WHO protocol tools and their implementation in MSs; the piloting program included 25 monitoring studies. A workshop was organized to discuss results with participating MSs.

Results of pilot studies will be incorporated into the updated EU-WHO monitoring protocol and serve as a base to develop an EU Framework for action of implementable best practices to reduce unhealthy food marketing to children.

2.6.3. Quality of deliverables (M19-M34)

WP 6 completed the "D.6.3 Report on pilot EU-wide harmonized and comprehensive monitoring protocol for unhealthy food marketing to children, with a particular focus on digital marketing". It presents the results of the piloting activities (25 studies in 14 MSs). The main objective of the piloting program was to generate feedback and learnings regarding the scope, form and applicability of the EU-WHO monitoring protocol and to update it accordingly. In addition, the pilot studies aimed to identify MSs' views of the main challenges and facilitators for implementation of these protocols.

The biggest challenges are the significant differences between MSs in the level of activities in this area and the lack of resources The EU-WHO monitoring protocol will be updated using the pilot studies of the countries.

This report is clear and comprehesive and provides recommendations for the further adjustment of the protocol.

2.7. WP7

2.7.1. Overall evaluation of the work package

During the final phase of the project, WP7 performed a large amount of tasks including:

- performing situation analyses of the existing EU and national legislations related to public food procurements (PFP) in the participating MSs;
- developing a minimum mandatory sustainability criteria for PFP;
- setting up an EU network of national focal points for PFP;
- completing case studies in 8 MSs.

In addition, OECD completed a study on economic evaluation of best practices' health outcome.

WP7 concluded that more resources are needed for MSs and more stakeholders should be involved from the private and governmental sectors.

A Permanent PFP network is a part of a new JA and it is expected that the network will continue his work in the future.

2.7.2. Progress and quality of the processes, outputs and outcomes (including performance measures, specific objectives and indicators, evaluation reports of meetings trainings etc., biannual questionnaire reports)

WP6 work progressed as expected and produced quality work (see 2.7.1.). According to the biannual questionnaire, the average score of satisfaction about WP7 within the consortium is one of the highest score (4.0-4.5 in each rounds).

2.7.3. Quality of deliverables (M19-M34)

Two deliverables were submitted during this period:

• D.7.2 Knowledge transfer training(s):

This report contains information about the agenda and the evaluation of knowledge transfer training. The main objective of the 3-day intensive training in Ljubljana was to present to project partners the English version of the Food Catalogue for PFP, to provide knowledge building and transfer, and to provide implementation details. Participants learned in practice about benefits of the Food Catalogue during a visit to a kindergarten, which is one of the best in Slovenia regarding PFP. An evaluation was completed after training; two rounds of online voting provided the opportunity to participants of knowledge transfer training to express their impressions, lessons learnt and recommendations. Results of this evaluation showed that practices of PFP across the EU are very different, and MSs need more information and practical examples on the Catalogue. At the end of the training, partners agreed on future plans to adapt and use the Catalogue of Foods. The deliverable includes report on Member States' national inter-sectoral working group meetings.

D.7.3 Pilot Catalogue of Foods

This report provides a summary of experiences of MSs in piloting the Slovenian Catalogue of foods. A two-day workshop was organized in Ljubljana in order to provide a comprehensive overview of the piloting program carried out by 8 MSs. It included in-depth discussions on quality criteria, presentation of case study findings, and the introduction of the Framework for

action. According to most of the piloting countries, MSs did not succeeded to show that the Catalogue of foods was functioning in national contexts to support successful food procurement procedures. They need additional support to overcome the barriers, such as language barriers, usability issues, and compatibility with existing systems. They also need to improve their communication tools with the stakeholders of PFP. On the other hand they recognised the potential advantages of similar tools.

3. Other issues

Evaluation of Deliverables

Please, give a score for each from 1 (low) to 5 (high)

Deliverable	Comprehensiveness	Clarity	Correspondence with what was expected	Added value	Chances for implementation
D1.2 Meeting minutes of the PDMF meetings	5	5	5	4	NA
MD2.4 Mid-term report on Dissemination	5	5	5	4	NA
D3.2 Mid-term report on Evaluation	5	5	5	5	NA
D5.2 Final Guidelines for a European harmonised and sustainable monitoring system of the processed food supply	5	5	5	5	4
D6.3 Report on pilot EU-wide harmonised and comprehensive monitoring protocol for unhealthy food marketing to children, with a particular focus on digital marketing	5	5	5	5	4
D7.2 Knowledge transfer training(s)	5	5	5	5	5
D7.3 Pilot Catalogue of foods	5	5	5	5	4

Deliverables that are not included in the evaluation, Due date M36

- D2.5 Promotional movies completed
- D2.6 Layman version of the final report
- D2.7 Final report on dissemination
- D3.3 Final Evaluation report
- D4.2 Integration and sustainability plan (Report on sustainability and integration in national policies)
- D4.3 Briefs of the four policy dialogues
- D5.3 Report on reformulation monitoring
- D6.4 A harmonized EU framework for Action on reducing unhealthy food to children
- D7.4 EU harmonized framework for action

Annex 5. National Stakeholder Forums

All partner countries were supposed to organize one or two National Stakeholder Event Forums during the lifetime of Best-ReMaP JA. Work Package 2 was responsible for the organization and the methodology for these events, WP3 contributed to the methodology by writing the instructions for the evaluation part. We asked the same evaluation questions from every country (translated by the partners into their own language), and the partners translated the open-text answers for us. In this Annex, there are short descriptions and evaluation thoughts of the events evaluated. A summary and thoughts on the events altogether have been written in the report in chapter 3.2.4.2 National stakeholder forums. We asked all the participants of the National Stakeholder Event Forums did they participate onsite or online. The satisfaction with the event was measured with 9 statements with a Likert scale from 1 "Totally disagree" to 5 "Totally agree":

- The event was well-organized
- I got enough information before the event
- The topic was relevant for me
- The objectives were clear
- The event gave new information for me
- Opportunities to contribute were good
- Opportunities to exchange experiences with other stakeholders were good
- I got relevant tools or ideas that I can use
- Attending the event was good use of my time

We also asked about the most important learnings from the event, how the answerer will implement those learnings, and whether they have further comments or suggestions. Background questions covered country, institution, and level of employment.

Confirmed events during the lifetime of Best-ReMaP was reported to have been held in 22 countries out of 24. One country (Portugal) reported that they will organize their event in October 2023 to maximize the impact of the event. Cyprus did report the date of their event, but no evaluation data was collected and no confirmation if the event was held did not come to WP3. Bosnia and Herzegovina held their 2nd event after this document was finalized, Belgium organized their own evaluation data collection, and Romania did not collect any evaluation data. Also, no evaluation data was collected from the 1st event of Bosnia & Herzegovina. So, all in all, the results were collected from 19 countries with 23 events. The results of the events were sent to the organizers of the events and are presented in this document in table 5 and in this annex.

Austria

The National Stakeholder event was held on the 22nd of November 2022 under the title "Growing Up in Healthy Environment". In this event, the invited stakeholders were pupils and students, aged about 14-18 and around 18-25 years. Of the attendees 39 answered the questionnaire. Most of those who answered seemed to be pupils (80.6%), and one senior-level employee answered also.

To the questions that map the satisfaction with the meeting in general, the answers varied a lot, from 1 to 5 (on a scale of 1-5) in all the statements. On average, a grade of 3.4 was given, and the different statements got grades between 2.9 ("Opportunities to exchange experiences with other stakeholders were good") and 3.9 ("The topic was relevant to me").

Important learnings from the event were numerous covering different aspects of the topic: advertisement is unnecessary and most times unhealthy; the most important aspects regarding food are taste and price; healthy eating affects everyone regardless of age and everyone needs to find a way to integrate healthy nutrition into their daily routines; social media affects pupils tremendously; a recipe collection and a health app; food is related to politics; the pupils and students have different opinions despite the little difference in age. These lessons will be used in teaching (either current teachers or teachers to be); in shopping and preparing food.

The attendees would have liked to have some group work to get the students and pupils more involved instead of only presentations although the presentations and lecturers were considered interesting.

Belgium

Belgium held their National Stakeholder event in December 2022 under the title "Restricting food marketing of unhealthy foods to children in Belgium". They used a different evaluation method, so the details of the event are not presented here.

Bosnia & Herzegovina

Bosnia & Herzegovina organized two events. No evaluation data was collected from the first event held in April 2023. The country had the National Stakeholder event on the 27th of September 2023 with the title "Presentation of achievements of BestReMaP JA". The evaluation details were not ready before this report was finalized; therefore the details are not presented here.

Bulgaria

The Bulgarian team organized a National Stakeholder Forum Event in September 2023 with a topic "Food reformulation - overview of activities within Best-ReMaP JA". There were 15 participants in the event of which all answered the questionnaire. The attendees were from food industry, health care, governmental organization, university and local government. They were mostly senior level employees (73.3%) but also intermediate level employees (26.7%).

The event in Bulgaria was very successful in terms of evaluation data: all attendees agreed or totally agreed with all the statements the average of the statements being 4.7. In the open-text answers it seems that all the attendees share the same scope of offering healthier foods to Bulgarian people. This event shared information on the EU level monitoring and harmonization of the monitoring of the foods and their reformulation process. The answers were very positive and included some extra monitoring / food reformulation initiatives like plant oils. The ideas will be used in policy measures within the national framework, in work with university students, in work with producers, manufacturers and consumers. The attendees also gave several ideas for the future: visibility of the efforts done and regular future meetings and structured dialogue between the food industry and policy makers.

Croatia

The National Stakeholder event in Croatia was held on the 9th of December 2022 under the title "25 Child health in the center - hidden influences behind the screens". 25 attended both on-site and online, of which 7 (28%) answered the evaluation questionnaire.

The attendees came from governmental organizations, universities, communication, the food industry, and NGOs, and they were mostly senior and intermediate-level employees and junior-level employees.

To the questions that map the satisfaction with the meeting in general, the answers varied a lot, from 1 to 5 (on a scale of 1-5) in all of the statements. On average, a grade of 3.3 was given, and the different statements got grades between 2.9 ("I got relevant tools or ideas that I can use") and 3.9 ("The topic was relevant to me").

The most important learnings from the event were mostly related to the relevant stakeholders' role and cooperation to solve the problem. Also, one lecture concerning nutritional profiling was mentioned. The learnings of the event will be used in the future work of the attendees.

Cyprus

A date for the event in Cyprus was given, but WP3 has no information whether the event was indeed held. No evaluation data was collected.

Denmark

Denmark's National stakeholder event forum was held online on the 17th of March 2023. The event was organized under the Annual meeting of the Danish Food Partnership for Health and Climate in collaboration with Best-ReMaP under the title of Challenges and trends in the food area, present and to come. There were 108 attendees of which 58 (53.7%) answered the evaluation questionnaire. Over half of the attendees (56%) were from the food industry. Other background institutions were universities, governmental organizations, communication, marketing, catering, retail, NGOs, interest organizations, and trade associations. All attendees were either senior or intermediate-level employees.

The attendees' satisfaction with the meeting, in general, varied a lot; only one of the statements ("The event gave new information for me") did not get answers between 1 to 5 (on a similar scale) and that too got answers between 2 and 5. Especially the opportunity to exchange experiences with other stakeholders was not slightly disappointing (average 2.9) and based on the open-text answers, this was due to the online meeting. Still, however, most statements got an average (and mean) of 4 and above, and the average grade for all the statements was calculated to be 3.9.

Several attendees were inspired by a presentation of food trends of today and the future and how the usage of plant-based products can be supported, and that the emphasis should be put on young people. Also, an increase in the unhealthy habits of citizens despite the cumulating work that has been done to prevent it was mentioned. The work of the Best-ReMaP JA was thanked but also criticized – some people from the food industry felt awkward taking pictures in the shops instead of asking food companies for the details. Also, the information on how the data that has been collected during Best-ReMaP will be used, was a bit controversial.

The information from the event will be used in creating more healthy foods and carefully planning the ideal launch time for the products. Also, some future collaboration was anticipated. Some excellent ideas to accelerate the distribution of healthier food habits were given: a national chef/cook – or a celebrity who makes the big move to change people's eating habits – would be needed. Also, school meals and nutrition information in school and to parents should be introduced, this would also help producers that provide healthier food choices. Lastly, counselors in the supermarkets were dreamed of.

Estonia

The Estonian National Stakeholder forum was held in September 2023 with a title "Steps in reformulation and future challenges in Estonia". There were 53 participants of which 8 (15.1%) responded to the questionnaire. The respondents were from research institute, food industry and governmental organization and senior and intermediate level employees. The repondents were happy with the meeting in general: the mean of the statements that map the satisfaction was 4.4. Especially organization of the event, the relevance of the topic, opportunities to exchange experiences with other stakeholders were appreciated. However, some disagreed with the statements that the event gave new information or relevant tools they can use.

The main benefit of the event was to get different stakeholders involved and to know what is expected from the food industry regrading the reformulation of foods. The information will be used in comparing of new foodstuffs to the Estonian market, to help in reformulation of food products. Some concrete suggestions were given: more similar events and discussions should be made, also with different food related topics; events like this should conclude with a call to action or an agreement on the next steps; share more information and status about other ongoing activities in the field of improving eating habits of people to better understand part in the bigger picture; involve as many different stakeholders as possible; producers could claim reformulation on their package and to educate consumers on how to read packages, how to make better choices from a very early on.

Finland

The National Stakeholder event in Finland was held onsite and online on the 19th of January 2023 under the title "Food marketing towards children and adolescents - current situation and solutions". There were 23 attendees onsite and 55 online of which 30 (38%; 13 from onsite and 17 online) provided an answer to the evaluation questionnaire.

The attendees were from governmental organizations, universities, research institutes, health care, communication, marketing, NGOs, foundations, and consulting. They were mostly intermediate and senior-level employees, but also some junior-level employees and students also attended the event.

The attendees were satisfied with the event (a grade of 4.0 on average was given on a scale of 1 to 5). They rated the topic and the information they got to be very good. However, the overall score was slightly negatively affected by the fact that there was too little time for questions and conversation.

The important learning from the event was a more versatile understanding of the opportunities and challenges of welfare policy related to foodstuffs and their marketing. The speeches of the different experts from different fields supported each other and the challenging topic had been successfully presented in an interesting and stimulating way. Practical take-home messages were e.g. that legislation enables the marketing of foodstuffs to children and young people; AVMSD basically allows marketing and marketing can only be restricted nationally; marketers themselves must take responsibility for responsible marketing; The majority of advertising to children and young people takes place via social media. Critical literacy does not necessarily protect against the effects of advertising. The importance of influencer marketing is huge and the older media (such as TV) does not have that big a role; NutriScore or other nutrient profiling is very much needed. The attendees will use these leanings in their work and research.

France

The French stakeholder forum was organized on the 16th of May 2023 as part of another event both onsite and online. There were around 55 attendees of which only 3 answered the Best-ReMaP evaluation questionnaire despite of reminders sent after the event. So, the details presented here do not represent the event as a whole.

The answerers were all onsite in the event and came from governmental organizations and were intermediate or senior level employees. They were very satisfied with it (mean of the statements was 4.5).

In the open text answers the answerers stated that the most important learnings were relevant information on the comparison between countries, the importance of being able to have harmonized food supply monitoring data in Europe and that after reformulations at European level makes it possible to manage European public policies. One also stated that the provision of this type of data is particularly important in the context of the management of public policies and the implementation of measures to improve the offer on the national but also European market.

Germany

The National Stakeholder forum of Germany was held online on the 7th of September 2023 under the title of "Monitoring of sugar, fat, and salt in packaged foods - chances for industry and retail". 18 persons attended the event of which 10 stayed until the end. 10 attendees answered the questionnaire: they were from food industry and associations, intermediate and senior level employees.

The satisfaction with the meeting in general was mediocre (mean 3.7) and varied between the statements a lot (from 2.5 to 4.6). The answerers were the happiest with the opportunities to contribute to the event, thought that the event was well-organized and that it gave new information. But more information would have been needed before the event, objectives should have been clearer, and only 40% thought they got relevant tools or ideas for future use.

The important learnings or take-home messages were related to the procurement of food and the problems in the data collection related to it, especially the need for digitally collectable data, and the importance of the exchange between research and practical applications. There were some negative nuances also for example of the fear that improving the data collection with automation will lead to product bashing. The new information will be used to inform members (of the food industry and associations) and to be discussed with them. Some also noted that the information will not be used at all. The answerers asked for more information and goals prior to the event and the invitation came a bit too late for a good preparation.

Greece

The Greek stakeholder event was organized onsite on the 3rd of July 2023. There were 18 attendees in the event of which 10 answered the questionnaire. The answerers were from governmental organizations, health care, university and research institute and were intermediate and senior level employees.

The answerers were very happy with the event, since the mean of the statements that map the satisfaction with event was 4.7 (on a scale of 1 to 5). They all totally agreed with the statement that the event was well organized. Also the objectives of the event were clear and opportunities to exchange experiences with other stakeholders were good. Some were not sure if they got enough information before the event.

In the open text answers the answerers told that the most important leanings were information regarding e.g. public food procurement, WHO Europe Nutrient Profile Model, children's exposure to marketing and the marketing strategies for advertising products to children, and the need of reformulation of the packaged food and for multisectoral collaboration and agreement between stakeholders at national level for all the 3 work packages of Best-ReMaP, with the aim of a more effective integration of the results of the joint action in Greece. Brainstorming and stakeholder cooperation were also mentioned to have been important. One also stated that I understood the actions that have been done in different levels, but unfortunately, they are not disseminated in every sector and that there is need for intersectoral collaboration.

Some concrete suggestions were also given: the deliverables of the joint action should be available in Greek ministries, the joint action makes specific suggestions for stakeholders, the stakeholders must cooperate, more dissemination for the scientific community to participate more, and collaboration between various sectors such as universities, research centers.

Hungary

Colleagues from Hungary held two National Stakeholder event forums onsite in spring 2023 (March and May). The first event was held for high school students (17-18 years old) under the topic of food reformulation: Food environment - Insights from adolescents. The second event was targeted to Hungarian stakeholders to disseminate the Best-ReMaP project results to them. The stakeholders were from governmental organizations, local governments, health care, catering, university, private institution, foundation, and also an individual entrepreneur in a non-profit municipal company. The stakeholders were intermediate and senior-level employees.

Altogether 35 answers (63.6%) to the evaluation questionnaire were given from these two events. The attendees were generally very happy with the events (average 4.7, variation between 4.5 and 4.9, median for all statements was 5), but still in four of the nine statements the answers varied between 1 and 5. 94% of the answerers thought that the events were very well organized (4.9). The statements "I got enough information before the event", "The topic was relevant for me", and "The event gave new information for me" got the lowest grades (4.5 and 4.6). The students from the first event were generally slightly more critical and their opinions varied more between 1 and 5 than the opinion of the stakeholders' of the second event.

The most important learnings for the students were that they need to take make conscious choices regarding their health and a good diet is part of it. Also, by making healthy choices they can have an impact on the food industry. The stakeholders emphasized the importance of joint thinking and cooperation and that everyone matters. Also, the database (referring to JRC database?) was mentioned, and the willingness of the industry to reformulate their foods voluntarily. The learnings will be used in everyday life, in studies and work – especially in problem solving and motivation - , and the learnings will also be shared with colleagues. One of the students mentioned that these topics (reformulation) should be covered more in detail in the education the students are given in the university. The speakers were thanked of being very well prepared, and the usefulness of the CO-CREATE method was also mentioned. Also, the teaching of how to ponder different points of view on different topics was praised.

Ireland

The National Stakeholder event of Ireland was held in September 2023 with a title of "Updating food marketing codes in Ireland for obesity prevention". 17 participants attended the event of which 5 (29.4%) answered the evaluation questionnaire. The respondents were generally happy with the event; the mean of the satisfaction was 4.5. Four of the statements ("The event was well-organized", "The topic was relevant for me", "The objectives were clear", and "The event gave new information for me") got answers between 4 and 5 (agree and totally agree), and the rest between 3 and 5. No one disagreed with the statements. The most important learnings were to have an update from WP 5 &6 researchers and an update on the process for new advertising codes and expected timelines. Also the need for greater collaboration and the importance of meeting with actors involved in policy was mentioned. The learnings will be used in organizing meetings to discuss research with relevant actors.

Italy

The Italian National stakeholder event was held on Wednesday the 22nd of June in the Ministry of health. The members of II Tavolo tecnico sulla sicurezza nutrizionale (TaSiN) were invited and altogether of the 28 attendees, 17 (60,7%) responded to the questionnaire (the questionnaire was translated to Italian) 69% of the respondents attended the event online. 19% of the attendees were from a university, 35% from the food industry, 29% from health care, 13% from a governmental organization, and 6% from other institutions, namely from consumer organizations. 53% of the attendees were senior-level employees, 35% were intermediate level and 12% were junior-level employees.

The event was very successful in the eye of the contentment of the attendees. A grade of 4,7 on average on a scale of 1-5 was given for the event. In 2 of the 9 statements that map the satisfaction with the event the grade given varied between 2 and 5, in the rest 7 statements, the grade was between 3 and 5 and 4 and 5.

The most important learnings and take-home messages of the Italian event were the three objectives of the Best-ReMaP: food reformulation, monitoring of advertising, and public food procurement. It was said that the importance of intervening in the obesogenic environment and in particular in the family unit (young children) and the need to find a model for promoting a healthy and sustainable diet was important, especially because the project has combined different aspects that converge in the global and multisectoral concept of health promotion. Also, nutritional issues considered of interest at the European level and food groups that are considered to be "potentially under control" and the need to build effective communication plans for the population were mentioned.

The attendees will implement the findings by integrating what is already done e.g. into institutional activity and clinical practice, by writing articles and disseminating them via information channels, as part of the scientific activities, by sharing materials and goals of the project to colleagues and aligning one's team on the project.

The attendees also commented that the identification of specific indicators of effectiveness (eg: verification of any changes to the shopping cart, etc.) is of utmost importance, and if possible it would be very useful to keep food companies informed about the various steps and outputs. Also, it was commented, that the presence of an endocrinologist, metabolist, or diabetologist in the health care team seems indispensable. The attendees also commented that the identification of specific indicators of effectiveness (e.g. verification of any changes to the shopping cart, etc.) is of utmost importance, and if possible, it would be very useful to keep food companies informed about the various steps and outputs. Also, it was commented

that the presence of an endocrinologist, metabolist, or diabetologist in the health care team seems indispensable.

Latvia

The Latvian National Stakeholder event forum was held onsite on the 10th of May 2023 under the title of "Food marketing to children - challenges and possible solutions". There were 27 attendees of which 16 (59.3%) answered the evaluation questionnaire. The answerers were from governmental organizations, food industry, health care, marketing, research institute, food trade, and NGO. They were intermediate or senior-level employees.

The answerers were happy with the event giving an average grade of 4.5 to the statements that map the satisfaction. In all but one statement ("I got enough information before the event") over 50% of the answerers gave five ("Totally agree") as an answer. In three statements a few answers with a grade 2 were given, in the rest five statements the answers varied between 3 and 5. "Opportunities to exchange experiences with other stakeholders were good", "The topic was relevant for me", and "Attending the event was good use of my time" got the best judgments.

In the open-text answers, several different aspects of the most important learnings were covered. Especially exchanging opinions, the WHO-EU Nutrient Profile Model, monitoring of food marketing to children, and the regulatory framework were mentioned. The learnings will be mostly used at work e.g. in improving the implementation of health promotion activities, carrying out supervision when necessary, planning engagement in health promotion policy planning opportunities, and in the preparation of recommendations/proposals for the ministry of the sector. The event was very much appreciated and two responded that more of these events should be arranged in the future.

Lithuania

The first Lithuanian National Stakeholder event was held on Thursday the 20th of October 2022 under the title of "Food marketing to children. Will it be possible to restrict it?". There were 22 attendees of which 14 (64%) responded to the questionnaire (the English version was used). The second event was held on the 24th of March 2023 with the purpose to bring together more stakeholders that were suggested in the first event to discuss whether clearer legislation or more social responsibility is needed. The attendees of the events represented governmental organizations, local governments, education, marketing, communication, universities, the food industry, and the trade. Half of the respondents were intermediate-level and half were senior-level employees, one student also answered the questionnaire. It is not possible to separate the two occasions, so the evaluation data are presented here together from the two events.

An average score of 4.7 (variation from 4.4 to 4.8 on a scale of 1-5) was given to the questions that map satisfaction. Four of the nine statements got grades 4 and 5, and only one statement ("I got enough information before the event") got grades below three. Important learnings from the events were: Learning about the regulation of advertising about children's nutrition and what the problems related to it are, that all steps should start from family and parents' education, new national legislation, and that so many stakeholders are involved in foodstuffs marketing for children (that needs to be discussed in respondent's ministry), sharing good practice, the essentiality of the dialogue between all sides, that complex guidelines on foods that should not be advertised increase the administrative burden on the media, all actors involved in the marketing of foods that are unhealthy must have the same requirements for restricting such marketing which is not currently the case.

The learnings will be implemented in respondents' work and projects, discussions with colleagues, and associated partners. It was also stated that valuable information on how business could make changes to self-regulate on food products marketing was gathered and that solutions to limit advertising of unhealthy foods and harmonization of restrictions for all marketing players will be looked for. The respondents also suggested that the legislation should be clearer and introduced in horizontal and EU-level, that the foodstuffs marketing should be reduced for everybody, not for children only and that the advertisement on TV could be from 9 p.m. only, and that there should be more discussion with stakeholders.

Malta

The National Stakeholder event forum in Malta was held online on the 30th of May 2023. The event concerned public procurement and was held for 13 university students of which 7 provided an answer to the evaluation questionnaire.

On average, the students that answered the evaluation questionnaire were quite satisfied with the event, the average being 3.8 on a scale of 1-5. The statement that got the least satisfactory points, 3.4, was "I got enough information before the event". The students were the happiest with the statements "The topic was relevant for me", "The objectives were clear", and "The event gave new information for me" with a mean of 4.0. The students did not answer in many words to the open-text questions, but the importance of public procurement was mentioned as the most important learning from the day.

Netherlands

The National Stakeholder event forum in the Netherlands was held onsite on the 10th of March 2023. There were 21 students and 3 teachers taking part of which 19 (79%) provided an answer to the evaluation questionnaire.

The attendees' opinions of the meeting in general varied a lot. Their satisfaction on average was 3.8 and the different statements varied between 3.1 ("The event gave new information for me") and 4.1 ("Opportunities to contribute were good" and "Opportunities to change experiences with other stakeholders were good"). The latter probably was due to the nature of the event since an interactive policy discussion in the mode of role-play was part of the agenda. Surprising was that only 5.3% of the answerers totally agreed with the statement that the topic was relevant for them, and sadly only 5.3% totally agreed to have gotten new information from the event.

Important learnings of the event were that there are many different stakeholders involved, that the messages can be interpreted in several different ways, and that's because it is hard to change the policies. The role play was fun and helped to get in the minds of the stakeholders. The importance of using sources was also mentioned which is an important learning for students. Some answered that they did not learn anything new, or they will not apply the newly gained information and skills anywhere. But some said that they will use the learned information in upcoming school projects, that they were going to discuss more with different stakeholders to gain new insights and to look up more info on the Nutriscore.

Poland

The Polish Stakeholder event was held in September 2023 onsite. We are not aware of the amount of people taking part to the event, but 20 answered the questionnaire. Answerers were from education, local government, university, and catering, and seneior and intermediate level employees. Answerers were very happy with the event since the mean of

the answers that map their satisfaction was 4.9. All but one statement ("The event gave new information for me") were given answering options of 4 and/or 5 (agree or totally agree). Unfortunately, we did not receive the translation of the open text answers, but a couple was given in English. The important learnings of the event were the knowledge of the centralisation of public procurement, nutrition education at schools and that there are many people involved in improving the quality of nutrition that it is possible to make a big change. Also seeing the problem from a different perspective was mentioned. One mentioned that talking to local government is how the person will use the newly acquired information.

Portugal

The stakeholder event of Portugal reported to have been postponed to October 2023.

Romania

The National Stakeholder events (2) of Romania were held in May 2023 with titles of "Food reformulation - between desire and necessity" and "Best Remap project - Objectives and results", but no evaluation data was gathered.

Serbia

Serbia held their National Stakeholder event with 25 attendees on the 14th of June 2023. The event "Reducing marketing of unhealthy products to children and adolescents" presented the importance of activities of the Best-ReMaP in general focusing on activities within WP6 and importance on reducing obesity in children and adolescents. 19 (76%) attendees answered the questionnaire. They were from health care, governmental organization, university, and research institute and intermediate and senior level employees.

Most of the respondents were happy with the event since the average of the statements that map the satisfaction was 4.3 on a scale of 1 to 5. But all the statements got answers from 1 to 5 so there were some people that were not that happy with the event. Information before the event and relevant tools and ideas were the statements that got the lowest grades (means 4.0 and 4.2).

Important take-home messages were related to the fact that there is a lot of aggressive marketing to children and the relevance of its prevention. Important were also the messages on how to approach adolescents in order to promote heathy eating habits and avoid unhealthy foods that are advertised and the information on school meals. The information will be used to e.g., calculate the economic impact of unhealthy nutrition on public health, through community health promotion programs, and in the everyday work of the answerers. One answerer commented that all the presentations should be distributed to the audience if required.

Slovenia

The first National Stakeholder event in Slovenia was held on Monday the 24th of October 2022 online. The scope was to hold a General presentation of Best-ReMaP. The event had 11 attendees of which 6 answered the questionnaire (translated into Slovenian). The second Stakeholder event gathered the stakeholders of the Best-ReMaP project together on the 17th of March 2023. 31 stakeholders attended the meeting and 13 (41.9%) of them answered the evaluation questionnaire. It is not possible to separate the two occasions, so the evaluation data are presented here together from the two events.

The attendees' background was in university, communication, research institute, and non-governmental organization, marketing, agriculture, and NGO. They were intermediate-level (32%) and senior-level (68%) employees.

The event was rated very good, since the average grade for the questions that map satisfaction was 4.5 (variation 4.1-4.6 on a scale of 1-5). No one gave a grade below 3 to any of the statements.

Child and adolescent nutrition and EU procurement, information on advertising to children, information on activities carried out in the field of food reformulation, protection of children from inappropriate commercial messages, and WHO profiling for baby food is poorly regulated were marked as the most important learnings from the first event. The attendees will implement these learnings in their work, by checking websites, implementing Best ReMaP information in their projects, tests, and market reviews, and in the study process, education, and dissemination. One answerer commented that it would be important to involve or employ dieticians in schools, kindergartens, hospitals, old people's homes, etc. to implement quality food in menus.

The second event raised the importance of stakeholders' involvement in the topics and the quality of the foods offered. Also, the concept of health and well-being was mentioned more than once; with the hope that this would lead to a changed paradigm of industrial growth and eventually to a change in people's and the planet's health. Again it was mentioned that nutritionists, and/or dietetics are needed to be working alongside the chefs in the public catering. These learnings will be implemented very practically in the attendees' work; in the lectures they give, in the instruction and guidelines of ministries, and in the reformulation of the food products of the company that the attendee represents. Some very practical comments were also given: these events are extremely helpful so the stakeholders should meet more often, and help to tackle the marketing via social networks like social media