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EU HEALTHY GATEWAYS JOINT ACTION
GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER: 801493

PREPAREDNESS AND ACTION AT POINTS OF ENTRY
(PORTS, AIRPORTS, GROUND CROSSINGS)

EU HEALTHY GATEWAYS:

Interim and Final

Evaluation Reports

Deliverable D3.1

PART A – INTERIM EVALUATION REPORT

PART B – FINAL EVALUATION REPORT

Work Package 3: Evaluation

Work Package Leader: Ministero della Salute, Italy

Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Italy

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INTERIM EVALUATION REPORT

Deliverable D3.1 – PART A

Version Number 01

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Work Package 3: Evaluation

Work Package Leader: Ministero della Salute, Italy

Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Italy

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Abbreviations/ definitions

DG SANTE	The Commission's Directorate General for Health and Food Safety
IHR	International Health Regulations
JA	Joint Action
PoE	Point of Entry
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats
WHO	World Health Organization

1 INTRODUCTION

This document describes the Interim Evaluation Report (Deliverable D3.1) produced under Work Package 3 - Evaluation of the EU HEALTHY GATEWAYS Joint Action. The EU HEALTHY GATEWAYS Joint Action has received funding from the European Union, in the framework of the Third Health Programme (2014-2020).

The evaluating period covered in this report is from the 1st May 2018 until 31th October 2019.

2 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the evaluation of this Joint Action is to verify if the project is being implemented as planned.

The objectives of the evaluation are:

- to monitor the Joint Action development
- to contribute to the attainment of Joint Action objectives and to the continuous improvement of the joint action quality
- to assess the Joint Action effectiveness and overall outcome
- assess the Joint Action strengths and weaknesses in relation to opportunities and threats

3 METHOD

The evaluation answers three basic questions:

- progress evaluation: How is the Joint Action progressing in relation to the project objectives and milestones? Is there any unexpected development? ;
- Outcome evaluation: What are the effects of the Joint Action on strengthening national capabilities at point of entry in preventing and combating cross-border health threats from the transport sector? ;
- Impact evaluation: What are the intended, unintended and mid-term effects on controlling health threats at point of entry?

In order to answer the questions and achieve the abovementioned objectives, a descriptive study design was used including an internal and an external evaluation.

Internal evaluation:

The internal evaluation answers the questions in relation to each one of the specific objectives of the Joint Action, by means of progress, output and outcome/impact indicators. It includes surveys with questionnaires at various stages of the joint action and review of reports and other documents on the activities of the Joint Action, to allow progress, output and outcome/impact evaluation.

External evaluation:

The external evaluation has the purpose of identifying and describing strengths and weaknesses of the Joint Action, by means of the SWOT analysis, a strategic planning technique used to help an organization identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats related to a project planning and evaluation. It is a technique intended to identify the internal and external factors that are favourable and unfavourable to achieving project's objectives. In order to ensure further objectivity and rigour, the activity has been subcontracted to an external evaluator. This activity will be conducted after the completion of this report and submitted as a separate report at the end of March 2020.

4 RESULTS INTERNAL EVALUATION

4.1 ACTIVITIES EVALUATED FROM 1ST MAY 2018 TO 31ST OCTOBER 2019

From 1st May 2018 to 31st October 2019 the following activities have been evaluated:

- Kick-off meeting. Varna, Bulgaria; 12 - 13 June 2018
- 1st General Assembly meeting. Hamburg, Germany; 13 - 14 June 2019
- Training of the trainers' course "Preparedness and response to public health events at ports". Piraeus, Greece; 12 - 14 March 2019
- Training of the trainers' course "Preparedness and response to public health events at airports" Belgrade, Serbia; 18 – 20 September 2019
- Webinars

Webinar 1: Inspection Grading System. 12 September 2018

Webinar 2: Border health measures to reduce the potential for the introduction or exportation, and spread of public health diseases of international concern. 11 December 2018

Webinar 3: Issues on disinfection and disinfection on aircrafts. 19 March 2019

Webinar 4: Inspection Grading System – an update. 17 April 2019

Webinar 5: Preparing and responding to chemical events at Points of Entry: ports. 28 May 2019

Webinar 6: Preparing and responding to chemical events at Points of Entry: airports. 6 August 2019

Webinar 7: Crossing Borders: Tools and Strategies to Reduce the Risk of Importation and Exportation of Tuberculosis across the U.S. Border. 22 October 2019

Moreover, a questionnaire has been distributed to the consortium members with questions related to coordination and dissemination of activities and the two deliverables listed below.

- D2.1 Leaflet (WP2)
- D2.3 Web-site (WP2)

4.1.1 Kick-off meeting. Varna, Bulgaria; June 2018

The questionnaire utilized for the evaluation of the kick-off meeting and its results are shown in **Annex 1**.

Respondents to the questionnaire report a general satisfaction in relation to the contents, the method and the organization of the event, with around 80% of assessment criteria as good or very good.

4.1.2 1st General Assembly meeting. Hamburg, Germany; 13 - 14 June 2019

The questionnaire utilized for the evaluation of the 1st General Assembly Meeting is shown in **Annex 2**.

The results of the evaluation show that the meeting was generally/completely successful in achieving its objectives, according to an average of 65% of respondents to the evaluation questionnaire (**Annex 3**).

4.1.3 Training of the trainers' course "Preparedness and response to public health events at ports". Piraeus, Greece; 12 - 14 March 2019

The questionnaires utilized for the evaluation of the course are shown in **Annex 4** and **Annex 5**.

The results of the evaluation are shown in **Annex 6** and highlight positive values, with an average of 80% scoring excellent or good.

4.1.4 Training of the trainers' course "Preparedness and response to public health events at airports". Belgrade, Serbia; 18 – 20 September 2019

The questionnaires utilized for the evaluation of the course utilize the same structure and criteria as for the questionnaires.

The results of the evaluation are shown in **Annex 7** and highlight positive values, with an average of 85% scoring excellent or good.

4.1.5 Webinars

A total number of 8 webinars was carried out until 31 October 2019 for a total of about 700 registered participants with a total of 658 views (live and recorded). The questionnaire utilized for the evaluation of each webinar is shown in **Annex 8**. The response rate to the questionnaire was an average of 44% (min. 23% - max. 57%). The overall impression was highly positive: 99.6% of the respondents would recommend the webinar to others. The teaching material was very clear for 87% of the respondents, the presenter very effective for 99%, the webinar delivery was very easy for 95% and clear to use for 86%.

The detailed results of the evaluation are shown in **Annex 9**.

4.1.6 Interim evaluation 2019

The questionnaire distributed to the work packages leaders for the interim evaluation is shown in **Annex 10** and the detailed results of the evaluation are show in **Annex 11**.

Overall, the respondents report a high degree of satisfaction for the evaluated issues. The coordination was considered to be very effective/effective and very appropriate/ appropriate by an average of 86% of the respondents (minimum 79% - maximum 92%). The achievement of the project objectives was considered to be in a very high degree by 38% of the respondents and in a high degree by 33% of them. According to 38% of the respondents the dissemination strategy is implemented in a very effective way and for 50% in an effective way to reach the stakeholders.

The deliverables of the WP 2, leaflet (D2.1) and Website (D2.3) were considered to be effective and appropriate in a very high/high degree by an average of 84% (minimum 75% - maximum 88%). Quality and effectiveness of the newsletter was very well/well considered by 92% of the respondents.

4.2 DELIVERABLES AND MILESTONES

The status of Deliverables and Milestones achieved per work package for the reporting period (month 1 to month 18) is presented in table 1 and table 2, respectively.

Milestones were revised to reflect the latest timetable as this was approved by the steering committee of the joint action and CHAFEA.

Table 1. Deliverables' status.

Deliverable	Description	Month	Status
D1.1	Consortium agreement	1	Delivered
D1.2	Web-based network for points of entry	27	In progress
D2.1	Leaflet	3	Delivered
D2.2	Layman version of the final report	36	In progress
D2.3	Web-site	3	Delivered
D3.1	Interim and final evaluation report	36	In progress
D4.1	Report on the integration in national policies and sustainability	36	In progress
D5.1	State of the art report for ground crossing	21	In progress
D5.2	Strengthening core capacities at ground crossing: best practices on core capacities implementation for event detection, surveillance and management and contingency planning; table top /simulation exercises; tool for contingency plan development and assessment; options for improving the detection and surveillance of public health events	36	In progress
D6.1	Strengthening core capacities at airports: best practices on core capacities implementation for event detection, surveillance and management and contingency planning; table top /simulation exercises; tool for contingency plan development and assessment; options for improving the detection and surveillance of public health events	36	In progress
D7.1	Best practice for inspection auditing and for inspecting conveyances for vectors and guidelines for focused inspections of conveyances in case of outbreaks	23	In progress
D7.2	Strengthening core capacities at ports: best practices on core capacities implementation for event detection, surveillance and management and contingency planning; table top /simulation exercises; tool for contingency plan development and assessment; options for improving the detection and surveillance of public health events	36	In progress
D8.1	Tool to assess chemical preparedness at Ports, Airports and Ground Crossing	36	In progress

D9.1	Web-based training resources catalogue for points of entry including international, EU and national courses	35	In progress
D9.2	SOPs for vector surveillance and control activities at PoE	23	In progress
D9.3	Report from the implementation of the multisectorial table top /simulation exercise at ports at European level	24	In progress
D9.4	Guidelines for intercountry communication and information flow in outbreak investigations and management of public health events	27	In progress

Table 2. Milestones achieved per work package.

Milestone	Title	Month	Status
M 1.1	Management Plan developed	2	Completed
M 1.2	Consortium Agreement signed	2	Completed
M 1.3	Kick-off meeting for Joint Action	2	Completed
M 1.4	Establish information system (web-network) working group	4	Completed
M 1.5	Information system (web-network) working group meeting	2	Completed
M 1.6	Establish the network of professionals	5	Completed
M 1.7	Updated integrated information system (web-network) for points of entry	27	In progress
M 1.8	Support implementation of 1st General Assembly meeting	14	Completed
M 1.9	Support implementation of 2nd General Assembly meeting	35	Pending
M 1.10	Steering Committee meetings	1-18	Completed
M 1.11	Advisory Board meetings	2 and 14	Completed
M 1.12	Work progress monitoring reports produced by the Coordinator	2-18	Completed
M 1.13	Annual review meetings with the Steering Committee	11	Completed
M 1.14	Interim report describing JA implementation & results achieved	18	Completed
M 1.15	Work progress reports submitted by each WP leader to Coordinator monthly	1-18	Completed
M 2.1	Conduct stakeholder analysis	4	Completed
M 2.2	Develop dissemination plan	3	Completed
M 2.3	Develop model national dissemination plan & distribute to partners	3	Completed
M 2.4	Develop web portal	5	Completed

M 2.5	Corporate visual identity (leaflets, banners, logos, PPT & letter templates)	4	Completed
M 2.6	Develop social media & YouTube channels	5	Completed
M 2.7	Develop & disseminate bi-monthly e-newsletters	6-18	Completed
M 2.8	Monitor reports (for national dissemination plans & implementation)	5-16	Completed
M 2.9	Develop final report (Layman version)	36	Pending
M 2.10	Final conference	35	Pending
M 3.1	Establish Evaluation Working Group	4	Completed
M 3.2	Develop evaluation questions	5	Completed
M 3.3	Meeting to design evaluation methods & data collection tools	6	Completed
M 3.4	Develop Evaluation Plan	7	Completed
M 3.5	Conduct External SWOT Analysis	23	In progress
M 3.6	Data Collection & Evaluation Reports	3-36	In progress
M 3.7	Interim Evaluation Report	18	Completed
M 3.8	Final Evaluation Report	36	Pending
M 4.1	Develop sustainability plan	18	Completed
M 4.2	National sustainability plans/actions produced (documents on integration in national policy)	23	In progress
M 4.3	1st General Assembly meeting	14	Completed
M 4.4	Conduct multisectorial table-top exercise at EU-level	25	In progress
M 4.5	Report from conduct of multisectorial table-top exercise at EU-level	27	Pending
M 4.6	Progress reports on implementation of national sustainability plans	14-36	Pending
M 4.7	Draft of documents with recommendations (sustainability activities & by DG SANTE request)	12-35	In progress
M 4.8	Reports from sustainability working group meetings	2-24	In progress
M 4.9	Report from Ministry of Health Site Visits	17-33	In progress
M 4.10	2nd General Assembly meeting	35	Pending
M 5.1	Establish ground crossings working group	5	Completed
M 5.2	Facilitate face-to-face training course <i>Preparedness and response to public health events at ground crossings</i>	29	In progress
M 5.3	Prepare <i>State of the Art</i> Report (parts A, B, C, D, E, F)	21	In progress

M 5.4	Produce technical content for training material (or adopt WHO Learning Package)	24	In progress
M 5.5	Draft tool for contingency plan development/assessment for ground crossings	22	In progress
M 5.6	Pilot-test tool for contingency plan development/assessment for ground crossings (in 2 countries)	23	In progress
M 5.7	Develop version 1 of tool for contingency plan development/assessment for ground crossings (considering pilot-test results)	24	In progress
M 5.8	Develop version 1 of table-top/simulation exercise for ground crossings	22	In progress
M 5.9	Develop model MoU (between competent local authorities for ground crossings)	22	In progress
M 5.10	Conduct 4 table-top/simulation exercises for ground crossings	29	In progress
M 5.11	Produce 4 reports from table-top/simulation exercises for ground crossings	30	In progress
M 5.12	Develop version 2 of table-top/simulation exercise for ground crossings (collecting reports and considering results)	32	In progress
M 6.1	Establish air transport working group	4	Completed
M 6.2	Identify best practices in air transport	24	In progress
M 6.3	Develop SOPs for vector surveillance/control at airports	23	In progress
M 6.4	Develop options for improving detection/surveillance of public health events at airports	31	In progress
M 6.5	Develop version 1 of tool for contingency plan development/assessment for airports	24	In progress
M 6.6	Report on legal framework of countries (contact tracing in air transport for public health events)	20	In progress
M 6.7	Produce technical content for training material (or adopt WHO Learning Package)	15	Completed
M 6.8	Develop model MoU (between competent local authorities for airports)	20	In progress
M 6.9	Pilot-test tool for contingency plan development/assessment for airports (in 2 countries)	26	In progress
M 6.10	Develop version 2 of tool for contingency plan development/assessment for airports	31	In progress
M 6.11	Develop version 1 of table-top/simulation exercise for airports	22	In progress
M 6.12	Produce reports from table-top/simulation exercises for airports	32	In progress

M 6.13	Develop version 2 of table-top/simulation exercise for airports	35	In progress
M 7.1	Establish maritime transport working group	4	Completed
M 7.2	Operate E-learning Platform (based on instructions from WP 7 & WP 9 teams)	3-36	Completed up to M18 and In progress from M19 to M36
M 7.3	Identify best practices in maritime transport	24	In progress
M 7.4	Produce technical content for training material (or adopt WHO Learning Package)	15	Completed
M 7.5	Develop version 1 of table-top/simulation exercise for ports	24	In progress
M 7.6	Develop model MoU (between competent local authorities for ports)	20	In progress
M 7.7	Develop forums (in web portal) for: inspectors of conveyances, depository for table-top/simulation exercises	5-36	Completed up to M18 and In progress from M19 to M36
M 7.8	Develop options for improving detection/surveillance of public health events at ports	31	In progress
M 7.9	Develop version 1 of tool for contingency plan development/assessment for ports	24	In progress
M 7.10	Updated training platform (for vocational training & port health officers)	1-36	Completed up to M18 and In progress from M19 to M36
M 7.11	Develop SOPs for vector surveillance/control at ports	23	In progress
M 7.12	Pilot-test tool for contingency plan development/assessment for ports (in 2 countries)	24	In progress
M 7.13	Develop version 2 of tool for contingency plan development/assessment for ports	28	In progress
M 7.14	Updated integrated information system (web-network) for points of entry	27	In progress
M 7.15	Develop operations manual for web portal	14	Completed
M 7.16	Develop guidelines for inter-country communication & information flow in outbreak investigations and public health event management (with Work Package 9)	21	In progress
M 7.17	Produce reports from table-top/simulation exercises for ports	32	In progress
M 7.18	Produce reports from inspection audits	34	In progress

M 7.19	Develop version 2 of table-top/simulation exercise for ports	35	In progress
M 7.20	Develop annual inspection schedule for passenger ships at EU-level (apply target factor)	36	In progress
M 7.21	Update published list of grade A inspection results in web portal	9-36	Completed up to M18 and In progress from M19 to M36
M 8.1	Develop training materials	10	Completed
M 8.2	Conduct 2 workshops	17	Completed
M 8.3	Identify best practices for chemical threats	18	In progress
M 8.4	Produce guidance document for chemical threats (preparedness & safety)	28	In progress
M 8.5	Develop assessment tool for chemical preparedness	28	In progress
M 9.1	Conduct overview of characteristics of highly effective education & training interventions	11	Completed
M 9.2	Conduct inventory of needs assessment & training objectives (per stakeholder group)	12	Completed
M 9.3	Develop version 1 of tool for countries to assess risk profile for points of entry	28	In progress
M 9.4	Coordinate development of guidelines to improve event detection/surveillance of public health events at ports, airports, ground crossings	31	In progress
M 9.5	Pilot-test tool for countries to assess risk profile for points of entry	30	In progress
M 9.6	Develop multisectorial table-top exercise for national-level	29	In progress
M 9.7	Coordinate development of SOPs for vector surveillance/control at points of entry	23	In progress
M 9.8	Evaluate training materials (in pilots)	29	In progress
M 9.9	Conduct final review of training materials (make adaptations/amendments based on pilots)	29	In progress
M 9.10	Develop version 2 of tool for countries to assess risk profile for points of entry	32	In progress

M 9.11	Develop training materials	29	In progress
M 9.12	Coordinate conduct of 4 Trainings of Trainers' (3-day face-to-face training courses)	30	In progress
M 9.13	Develop 6-month webinar schedules	32	In progress
M 9.14	Develop & conduct table-top/simulation exercises (cooperate with technical teams of Work Packages 5/6/7/8)	32	In progress
M 9.15	Develop web-based training resources catalogue for points of entry	35	In progress

4.3 INDICATORS

The status of process and output indicators used to evaluate the Joint Action activities is presented in **Table 3** and **Table 4**, respectively. Outcome/Impact indicators per specific objective, according to the grant agreement, will be evaluated after month 24.

Indicators were revised to reflect the latest timetable as this was approved by steering committee of the joint action and CHAFEA.

Table 3. Process indicators per specific objective (SO) of the Joint Action.

Process indicators per SO	Description	Target	Level of achievement	Evaluation tool
SO1: To facilitate Member States evaluating and monitoring of core capacities at points of entry by using the existing guidance and tools from international organizations, and according to the International Health Regulations 2005 and Decision No 1082/2013/EU of 22 October 2013, by month 23.				
Inclusion of monitoring of the indicators for PoE in the Sustainability plans of the participating Countries (WHO Joint External Evaluation tool for IHR technical questions PoE.1.4-5, PoE.2.1,2,4,5).	At least 50% of the participating countries in the joint action have included in their national sustainability plans monitoring of the indicators for PoE (WHO Joint External Evaluation tool for IHR technical questions PoE.1.4-5, PoE.2.1,2,4,5) that are relevant to the joint action activities, in cooperation with the authorities of their country that are responsible to	50% of countries Month 22	In progress	Questionnaire administered to the partners of the Joint Action

	monitor core capacities at designated points of entry, by month 22.			
<p>SO2: To put in place a network to communicate and notify rapidly in case of cross-border risks to health, by strengthening inter sectoral and cross sectoral collaboration and using electronic means, supplementing and avoiding overlapping with existing systems, by month 12.</p>				
Development of a web-based network for PoE	A web-based network for PoE has been developed by month 12, considering the lessons learned and experience from previous EU actions, and considering users' needs	Month 12	In progress	Questionnaire administered to the partners of the Joint Action
Access to the web-based network ensured to all designated PoE.	All designated PoE of the joint action participating countries have been given access to the web-based network by month 27.	Month 27 Number of designated PoE at the countries (to be reported and updated by countries)	In progress	Questionnaire administered to the partners of the Joint Action
Access to the web-based network ensured to the national competent authority.	The national competent authority/ies of each participating country has been given access to the web-based network.	26 authorities	In progress	Questionnaire administered to the partners of the Joint Action

S03: To produce catalogues of tested best practices, guidelines and validated action plans, for the use of the Member States' health authorities to be implemented at operational level through agencies and stakeholders in the field of transport, covering all types of health threats, contingency planning, risk communication and advice for event management, by cooperating with international organisations, competent and other transport authorities, pilot-testing and validating deliverables and taking into consideration lessons learned from previous public health emergencies of international concern, by month 24.

<p>Inclusion of all types of health threats in the catalogue of best practices, guidelines and validated action plans produced by the joint action.</p>	<p>All types of health threats have been addressed in the catalogues of tested best practices, guidelines and validated action plans produced by the joint action. Events of infectious disease, vectors, threats of environmental origin and chemical agents have been addressed.</p>	<p>All types of threats addressed</p>	<p>Partially achieved In progress</p> <p>For the best practice catalogues the questionnaire and collected data so far addressed all health threats</p>	<p>Questionnaire administered to the Leaders of WP5 ground crossing, WP6 Air transport, WP7 Maritime transport at month 24.</p> <p>Data collected (Month 6 – Month 9) via questionnaire from all consortium on best practices</p>
<p>Engagement of representatives from international organisations, other competent authorities including transport authorities and the industry in the development process of the joint action guidelines.</p>	<p>The working groups responsible to develop the joint action guidelines have engaged in the development process representatives from international organisations, other competent authorities including transport authorities and the industry.</p>	<p>Engagement of multiple sectors</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>SOP's for guidance development and working group participants</p> <p>Questionnaire administered to the Leaders of WP5 ground crossing, WP6 Air transport, WP7 Maritime transport at month 24.</p>
<p>70% response rate in surveys for situation analysis at ground crossing</p>	<p>At least 70% response rate in the surveys conducted for situation analysis at ground crossings.</p>	<p>70% response</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>Report of the situational analysis.</p>
<p>Incorporation of pilot-testing and validation results into the final version of the deliverables.</p>	<p>Pilot-testing and validation has taken place and results have been incorporated in the final version of deliverables.</p>	<p>Deliverables tested</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>Review of deliverables.</p>
<p>Lessons learned from previous public health emergencies of</p>	<p>Lessons learned from previous public health emergencies of international</p>	<p>Lessons learned considered</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>Review of deliverables.</p>

<p>international concern taken into account in the deliverables.</p>	<p>concern have been considered when developing the deliverables.</p>	<p>d from EVD, ZVD</p>		
<p>SO4: To provide capacity building including training on tested best practices, guidelines and validated action plans, at European, country and local level, by month 36, considering the local and national context and ensuring replicability, transferability and sustainability.</p>				
<p>Table top /simulation exercises and training materials for event management delivered for pilot testing by month 15.</p>	<p>First version of table top /simulation exercises and training materials for event management have been delivered for pilot testing by month 22.</p>	<p>Month 22</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>Review of work progress report of WP9 and review of training materials.</p>
<p>Reports describing the effectiveness of PoE in responding to public health events at PoE for the Member states that have implemented table top /simulation exercises.</p>	<p>Member states that have implemented table top /simulation exercises have produced reports describing the effectiveness of PoE in responding to public health events at PoE.</p>	<p>23 reports</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>Review of reports.</p>
<p>Training materials and table top /simulation exercises finalised by month 36, considering the feedback received by the countries that used the material in implementing training courses and table top /simulation exercise.</p>	<p>Training materials and table top /simulation exercises have been finalised by month 36, by considering the feedback received by the countries that used the material in implementing training courses and table top /simulation exercises.</p>	<p>Month 36</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>Review of training materials and review of feedbacks sent on the training materials.</p>

S05: To facilitate the Member States implementation of best practice documents provided for coordinating and executing hygiene inspections on conveyances, in order to prevent cross border disease spread and improve compliance with European legislation standards, throughout the duration of the joint action.

<p>Identification of best practices on hygiene inspections of conveyances and lessons learned from previous EU actions relevant to conveyance inspections.</p>	<p>Best practices on hygiene inspections of conveyances and lessons learned from previous EU actions relevant to conveyance inspections are identified by month 23.</p>	<p>Month 23</p>	<p>Partially Achieved Best practices have been collected via a questionnaire</p>	<p>Work progress report of WP5 ground crossing, WP6 Air transport, WP7 Maritime transport-Review of web-based catalogue of best practices Review of deliverable D 7.1</p>
<p>Development of documents for auditing of hygiene inspections on conveyance, considering the best practices identified and the existing materials and tools developed and implemented in relevant EU actions.</p>	<p>Documents for auditing of hygiene inspections on conveyance developed considering the best practices identified and the existing materials and tools developed and implemented in relevant EU actions, by month 3.</p>	<p>Month 3</p>	<p>Achieved</p>	<p>Work progress report of WP5 ground crossing, WP6 Air transport, WP7 Maritime transport-Standardised forms for inspection audits and review of inspection audit reports</p>

SO6: To promote coordinated cross sectoral actions and interoperability of plans to combat all types of health threats, including infectious disease transmission and possible vectors for pathogens on ground transportation, on ships, and in aircraft, throughout the joint action implementation, by involving actors from different sectors and levels (strategic, regulatory, implementation) and by performing table top /simulation exercises.

<p>Engagement of all actors and stakeholders both from private and public sectors in the design of table top /simulation exercises and in their implementation phase at local, national and EU level.</p>	<p>Table top /simulation exercises have engaged all actors and stakeholders both from private and public sectors in the designing and implementation phase at local, national and EU level.</p>	<p>Actors and stakeholders from public, private sectors at local, national, EU levels</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>Work progress report of WP9 training. List of engaged actors</p>
<p>Identification of best practice for vector surveillance at PoE</p>	<p>Best practice for vector surveillance at PoE has been identified by month 23.</p>	<p>Month 23</p>	<p>Partially Achieved</p>	<p>Work progress report of WP5 ground crossing, WP6 Air transport, WP7 Maritime transport. Data collected (Month 6 – Month 9) via questionnaire from all consortium on best practices</p>

S07: To support response to possible future public health emergencies of international concern (implementation of International Health Regulations) upon request from the European Commission, the Health Security Committee and the Member States, and by ensuring coherent implementation of temporary recommendations issued by the WHO and avoiding unnecessary interfering with international transport and trade.

<p>Response to the request for activating the emergency mode of the action within 36 hours and composition of technical expert ad hoc working group to address any requests.</p>	<p>Response to the request for activating the emergency mode of the action within 36 hours and composition of technical expert ad hoc working group to address any requests.</p>	<p>36 hours</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>Review of SOP's for developing guidelines and review of timing of guideline development</p>
<p>Composition of technical expert ad hoc working group.</p>	<p>Composition of technical expert ad hoc working group within 3 days to address any requests from European Commission.</p>	<p>3 days</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>Review of SOP's for developing guidelines and review of timing of guideline development</p>
<p>Lessons learned from the activities implemented during the emergency mode operation.</p>	<p>Results of lessons learned from the activities implemented during the emergency mode operation are used to revise the joint action deliverables.</p>	<p>Revision process conducted</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>List of the lessons learned and deliverables review</p>

Table 4. Output indicators per specific objective.

Output indicators per SO	Description	Target	Level of achievement	Evaluation tool
<p>SO1: To facilitate Member States evaluating and monitoring of core capacities at points of entry by using the existing guidance and tools from international organizations, and according to the International Health Regulations 2005 and Decision No 1082/2013/EU of 22 October 2013, by month 23.</p>				
<p>Indicators achievement for PoE (WHO Joint External Evaluation tool) updated in the national sustainability plans of Joint Action's partners.</p>	<p>At least 50% of the participating countries in the joint action update the indicators achievement for PoE (WHO Joint External Evaluation tool) in their national sustainability plans, by month 36.</p>	<p>50%of countries Month 36</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>Progress reports on implementation of national sustainability plans</p>
<p>National sustainability plans updated with the designated PoE in participating Countries.</p>	<p>At least 60% of the participating countries in the joint action update their national sustainability plans with the designated PoE in their country.</p>	<p>60%of countries</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>Progress reports on implementation of national sustainability plans</p>

<p>S02: To put in place a network to communicate and notify rapidly in case of cross-border risks to health, by strengthening inter sectoral and cross sectoral collaboration and using electronic means, supplementing and avoiding overlapping with existing systems, by month 12.</p>				
<p>Use of the communication network by designated PoE.</p>	<p>At least one user per each designated PoE of 70% of the participating countries has used the communication network.</p>	<p>70%of countries One user per designated PoE</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>Questionnaire administered to the partners of the Joint Action Review of the users of the communication network</p>
<p>Degree of satisfaction with the functionality of the communication network.</p>	<p>At least 70% of the users of the different components of the network are satisfied with the functionality.</p>	<p>70%of users</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>Questionnaire administered to the partners of the Joint Action</p>
<p>S03: To produce catalogues of tested best practices, guidelines and validated action plans, for the use of the Member States' health authorities to be implemented at operational level through agencies and stakeholders in the field of transport, covering all types of health threats, contingency planning, risk communication and advice for event management, by cooperating with international organisations, competent and other transport authorities, pilot-testing and validating deliverables and taking into consideration lessons learned from previous public health emergencies of international concern, by month 24.</p>				
<p>Identification of best practices for event management, contingency planning, vector surveillance and risk communication at PoE.</p>	<p>Best practices for event management, contingency planning, vector surveillance and risk communication at PoE have been identified by month 9.</p>	<p>Month 9</p>	<p>Achieved The questionnaire and collected data so far addressed all health threats</p>	<p>Data collected (Month 6 – Month 9) via questionnaire from all consortium on best practices</p>

SO4: To provide capacity building including training on tested best practices, guidelines and validated action plans, at European, country and local level, by month 36, considering the local and national context and ensuring replicability, transferability and sustainability.				
Participation in face-to-face training course and degree of satisfaction.	At least 70% of the participating countries in the joint action have participated in the face-to-face training courses implemented at European level and 80% of them found that the courses meet their needs.	70% of the participating countries	In progress 70% of EU participating countries in the Course on <i>Preparedness and response to public health events at ports</i> (Piraeus, March 2019), with an average of 92% of respondents very satisfied or satisfied with the training and for 97% meeting training needs 74% of EU countries participating in the Course on <i>Preparedness and response to public health events at airports</i> (Belgrade, September 2019), with an average of 87% of respondents very satisfied or satisfied with the training and for 65% meeting training needs.	Attendance list to the courses Questionnaires of training activities
Implementation of at least one training course for PoE at national level.	At least 70% of the participating countries have implemented one training course for all types of PoE at national level.	70% of the participating countries	In progress	Attendance list to the courses.
Participation of all designated PoE in the national training course	All designated PoE of the country participating in the face – to – face training courses for PoE conducted at national level.	Designated PoE per country	In progress	Attendance list to the courses

<p>Use of the tool for contingency plan development and assessment by participating countries.</p>	<p>At least 70% of the participating countries have used the tool for contingency plan development and assessment and then have implemented table top /simulation exercises at the designated PoE in their country.</p>	<p>70%of the participating countries</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>Review of the users of the tool Attendance list to the table top /simulation exercises the designated PoE in their country.</p>
<p>Participation in one table top /simulation exercise at international level.</p>	<p>At least 70% of the participating countries in the joint action have participated in one table top /simulation exercise at international level.</p>	<p>70%of the participating countries</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>Attendance list to the table top /simulation exercises at international level.</p>
<p>Incorporation of the training courses and table top /simulation exercises in national plans/ framework for national dissemination and sustainability</p>	<p>At least 70% of the participating countries in the joint action have incorporated the training courses and table top /simulation exercises in their national plans/ framework and update the national dissemination and sustainability plans.</p>	<p>70%of the participating countries</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>Review of national dissemination and sustainability plans of the participating countries in the joint action and the dissemination and sustainability monitoring reports.</p>
<p>S05: To facilitate the Member States implementation of best practice documents provided for coordinating and executing hygiene inspections on conveyances, in order to prevent cross border disease spread and improve compliance with European legislation standards, throughout the duration of the joint action.</p>				
<p>Production and implementation of annual plans of passenger ships inspection</p>	<p>Annual plans of passenger ships inspection coordination are produced and implemented by at least 70% of the participating countries.</p>	<p>70%of the participating countries</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>Review of annual inspection plan</p>

Schedule of inspections to inland navigation	At least 20% of inspections are scheduled to inland navigation vessels and ferries sailing on international voyage.	20% of inspections	In progress For 2018 Partially achieved: 15% (7 out of 47) For 2019 partially achieved: 11% (10 out of 87) Justification for not achieving the target: The total number of inspections was doubled and the denominator was higher than the initial estimations	Review of annual inspection plan
Auditing of inspections.	Auditing of inspection practices according to the agreed guidelines for executing hygiene inspections on ships has taken place in at least 15 of inspections conducted annually.	15 inspections annually audited	In progress For 2018 – Partially achieved: auditing of 12 inspections Justification for not achieving the target: Cancellation of inspections and therefore the audits due to weather conditions and due to lower level of river water For 2019: Achieved: 20 audits were conducted	Review of annual auditing plan
Satisfactory results of auditing results of inspection practices.	Auditing results of inspection practices are satisfactory in at least 80% of inspections of passenger ships.	80% of inspections	Achieved 90% of audit results are satisfactory	Review of standardised forms for inspection audits
S06: To promote coordinated cross sectoral actions and interoperability of plans to combat all types of health threats, including infectious disease transmission and possible vectors for pathogens on ground transportation, on ships, and in aircraft, throughout the joint action implementation, by involving actors from different sectors and levels (strategic, regulatory, implementation) and by performing table top /simulation exercises.				
Satisfaction with the outcomes of the table top /simulation exercise conducted at EU level.	At least 70% of participants in the table top /simulation exercise conducted at EU level are satisfied with the outcomes of the exercise.	70% of participants	In progress	Review of evaluation questionnaire of table top/simulation exercise
Completeness of table top /simulation	Reports from the table top /simulation exercises	Reports content	In progress	Reports review

<p>exercise reports in relation to roles and responsibilities and the feedback from all participating stakeholders and recommendations for improvements.</p>	<p>include the roles and responsibilities and the feedback from all participating stakeholders and recommendations for improvements.</p>	<p>complete</p>		
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<p>S07: To support response to possible future public health emergencies of international concern (implementation of International Health Regulations) upon request from the European Commission, the Health Security Committee and the Member States, and by ensuring coherent implementation of temporary recommendations issued by the WHO and avoiding unnecessary interfering with international transport and trade.</p>				
<p>Completeness of response rate to all requests from European Commission.</p>	<p>Technical expert ad hoc working group reply to all requests from European Commission, using existing evidence.</p>	<p>Replies to all requests Evidence based replies</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>Review of the replies and guidelines produced</p>
<p>Perceived effectiveness of the dissemination and communication plans.</p>	<p>Evaluation of the joint action shows that at least 70% of the responders are satisfied and declare that the dissemination and communication plans were used effectively so that the information for coherent implementation of temporary recommendations issued by the WHO reaches the stakeholders responsible to implement such measures.</p>	<p>70% of the responders</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>Questionnaire administered to the partners of the Joint Action</p>

5 OBSERVATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

The indicators and milestones of the joint action were successfully achieved in accordance with the revised timetable of the joint action. The adjustments made to the delivery date of some milestones did not affect any other activities. The evaluation of the activities carried out in the Joint Action (meetings, training courses, coordination and dissemination) highlight a very high degree of satisfaction from the participants, rating around 80-90% as excellent/good as far as their technical contents, quality, effectiveness and organizational aspects are concerned. An area for improvement may be represented by the response rate to the evaluation questionnaires that does not reach 100% of the participants. The external evaluation will be able to collect the information to have a complete view of strengths and weaknesses of the joint action, external criticalities and opportunities offered by the environment.

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ANNEXES

Please click on the link below to download the Annexes listed below:

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username: **pracss**

password: **gt54A1!**

- Annex 1: Questionnaire utilized for the evaluation of the kick-off meeting in Varna, Bulgaria.
- Annex 2: Questionnaire utilized for the evaluation of the 1st General Assembly Meeting in Hamburg, Germany.
- Annex 3: Results of the evaluation of the 1st General Assembly Meeting.
- Annex 4: Daily evaluation questionnaire utilized in the Training of the trainers' course "Preparedness and response to public health events at ports", in Piraeus, Greece.
- Annex 5: Overall evaluation questionnaire utilized in the Training of the trainers' course "Preparedness and response to public health events at ports", in Piraeus, Greece.
- Annex 6: Results of the evaluation of the Training of the trainers' course "Preparedness and response to public health events at ports", in Piraeus, Greece.
- Annex 7: Results of the evaluation of the Training of the trainers' course "Preparedness and response to public health events at airports", in Belgrade, Serbia.
- Annex 8: Questionnaire utilized for the evaluation of the webinars carried out in 2018 and 2019.
- Annex 9: Results of the evaluation of the webinars.
- Annex 10: Questionnaire utilized for the Interim Internal Evaluation.
- Annex 11: Results of the Interim Internal Evaluation.



Co-funded by
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**EU HEALTHY GATEWAYS JOINT ACTION
GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER: 801493**

**PREPAREDNESS AND ACTION AT POINTS OF ENTRY
(PORTS, AIRPORTS, GROUND CROSSINGS)**

FINAL EVALUATION REPORT

Deliverable D3.1 – PART B

Version Number 01

APRIL 2022

Work Package 3: Evaluation

Work Package Leader: Ministero della Salute, Italy

Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Italy

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Annexes

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- Annex 2: questionnaire for the evaluation of the 2nd General Assembly Meeting
- Annex 3: results of the evaluation of the 2nd General Assembly Meeting
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Abbreviations/ definitions

DG SANTE	The Commission's Directorate General for Health and Food Safety
IHR	International Health Regulations
JA	Joint Action
PoE	Point of Entry
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats
WHO	World Health Organization

1 INTRODUCTION

This document describes the FINAL Evaluation Report (Deliverable D3.1) produced under Work Package 3 - Evaluation of the EU HEALTHY GATEWAYS Joint Action. The EU HEALTHY GATEWAYS Joint Action has received funding from the European Union, in the framework of the Third Health Programme (2014-2020).

An interim evaluation report was submitted in November 2019 covering the period from the 1st May 2018 until 31st October 2019. The evaluating period covered in this final evaluation report is from the 1st November 2019 until 30th April 2022.

Following the WHO declaration of the COVID-19 as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) on 30 January 2020, the Joint Action moved from its inter-epidemic mode to the emergency mode, in order to support the coherent response of Member States to Decision N. 1082/2013/EU and implementation of temporary recommendations issued by the WHO according to International Health Regulations. Moreover, given the high workload and time constraints during COVID-19 pandemic, an amendment to the grant agreement timetable and workplan of the Joint Action was requested and granted, extending the joint action until 30th April 2022 (Reference: AMD-801493-12).

Therefore, target months and certain evaluation indicators of the specific objectives were revised to match the extension of the joint action timeline. The changes in the specific objectives, indicators and targets are shown in Annex 1.

2 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the evaluation of the Joint Action is to verify if the project is being implemented as planned.

The objectives of the evaluation are:

- to monitor the Joint Action development,
- to contribute to the attainment of Joint Action objectives and to the continuous improvement of the joint action quality,
- to assess the Joint Action effectiveness and overall outcome,
- assess the Joint Action strengths and weaknesses in relation to opportunities and threats,

3 METHOD

The evaluation answers three basic questions:

- progress evaluation: How is the Joint Action progressing in relation to the project objectives and milestones? Is there any unexpected development?
- Outcome evaluation: What are the effects of the Joint Action on strengthening national capabilities at point of entry in preventing and combating cross-border health threats from the transport sector?
- Impact evaluation: What are the intended, unintended and mid-term effects on controlling health threats at point of entry?

In order to answer the questions and achieve the abovementioned objectives, a descriptive study design was used including an internal and an external evaluation.

Internal evaluation:

The internal evaluation answers the questions in relation to each one of the specific objectives of the Joint Action, by means of progress, output and outcome/impact indicators. It includes surveys with questionnaires at various stages of the joint action and review of reports and other documents on the activities of the Joint Action, to allow progress, output and outcome/impact evaluation.

External evaluation:

The external evaluation has the purpose of identifying and describing strengths and weaknesses of the Joint Action, by means of the SWOT analysis, a strategic planning technique used to help an organization identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats related to a project planning and evaluation. It is a technique intended to identify the internal and external factors that are favourable and unfavourable to achieving project's objectives. In order to ensure further objectivity and rigour, the activity has been subcontracted to an external evaluator. This activity has been conducted between June 30th, 2021 and January 31th, 2022.

4 RESULTS OF THE INTERNAL EVALUATION

4.1 ACTIVITIES EVALUATED FROM 1ST NOVEMBER 2019 TO 31ST MARCH 2022

From 1st November 2019 to 31st March 2022 the following activities have been evaluated:

- **2nd General Assembly meeting. Lavrio, Greece. March 10, 2022**
- **Final Conference. Lavrio, Greece. March 11, 2022**
- **Courses**

Course 1: Web-based training of the trainers' course: Preparedness and response to public health events at ground crossings. 26th May 2021

Course 2: 2nd web-based workshop on Chemical threats at Points of Entry. 7th October 2021

- **Webinars**

Webinar 1: *Health measures at points of entry to decrease the possibility of importation of Coronavirus cases (2019-nCoV) in EU Member States.* (Broadcasted live on Wednesday 5 February 2020)

Webinar 2: *Risk communication at PoE in times of crises.* (Broadcasted live on Thursday 20th February 2020)

Webinar 3: *Events related to COVID-19 at ground crossings.* (Broadcasted live on Thursday 26th November 2020)

Webinar 4: *Public health emergency contingency plan at ports - EU HEALTHY GATEWAYS advice.* (Broadcasted live on 10 February 2021)

Webinar 5: *Interim advice for restarting river cruise ship operations and experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic.* (Broadcasted live on 17 December 2021)

Webinar 6: *Standard Operating Procedures for mosquito surveillance and control activities at Points of Entry.* (Broadcasted live on 23 February 2022)

- **Multisectorial Table-Top Exercise at EU Level, web-based, 24th March 2021**

4.1.1 2nd General Assembly meeting. Lavrio, Greece. March 10, 2022s

The 2nd General Assembly Meeting was carried out in Lavrio, Greece on 10th March 2022.

The questionnaire utilized for the evaluation of the 2nd General Assembly Meeting is shown in annex 2.

The evaluation team collected questionnaires from 30 participants on-site and 25 connected via the web.

The results of the evaluation are very satisfactory and show that 94% of participants rate overall the General Assembly sessions as good/very good/excellent; 95% of the participants rate the presentations in terms of usefulness of the information provided as good/very good/excellent. The degree of success in achieving the meeting's objectives was considered generally successful/completely successful for 98% of participants in relation to appraising outcomes of the EU HEALTHY GATEWAYS activities. It was considered generally successful/completely successful for 94% of participants in relation to plan for the sustainability of activities and future actions.

The results of the evaluation of the 2nd General Assembly Meeting are shown in Annex 3.

4.1.2 Final Conference. Lavrio, Greece. March 11, 2022

The Final Conference was carried out in Lavrio, Greece on 11th March 2022.

The questionnaire utilized for the evaluation of the 2nd General Assembly Meeting is shown in annex 4.

The evaluation team collected questionnaires from 42 participants on-site and 26 connected via the web.

The results of the evaluation are very satisfactory and show that 96% of participants rate overall the Final Conference sessions as good/very good/excellent; 100% of the participants rate the virtual poster session as good/very good/excellent; 100% of the participants rate the presentations in terms of usefulness of the information provided as good/very good/excellent. The degree of success in achieving the objective of the final conference (to disseminate the results of the Joint Action to stakeholders) was considered generally successful/completely successful for 90% of participants.

The results of the evaluation of the 2nd General Assembly Meeting are shown in Annex 5.

4.1.3 Courses

Web-based training of the trainers' course: "Preparedness and response to public health events at ground crossings" 26th May 2021.

The course was organised on 26 May 2021 by the National Institute of Public Health - National Institute of Hygiene (NIPH-NIH), Poland, the National Public Health Centre under the Ministry of Health, Lithuania, Public Health England, UK and the National Institute of Public Health (NIJZ), Slovenia in collaboration with the University of Thessaly – Laboratory of Hygiene and Epidemiology (UTH), Greece, National Institute of Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), Netherland.

The purpose of the training of the trainers' course is to increase competence and capacity for managing public health events in ground transport including risk assessment, decision-making and crisis communication. In the frame of the course, Public Health England (PHE), UK and the National Institute of Public Health (NIJZ), Slovenia organised a workshop on **managing public health events due to chemical agents at ground crossings**.

A total of 60 people participated in the course from 19 European region countries (14 EUMS and 5 non-EU countries). The overall evaluation of the course was highly satisfactory, with an average value above 4.3 in a Likert scale 1-5, where 1 = completely disagree and 5= completely agree (figure 1).

Figure 1. Overall evaluation of the *Web-based training of the trainers' course: "Preparedness and response to public health events at ground crossings"* 26th May 2021

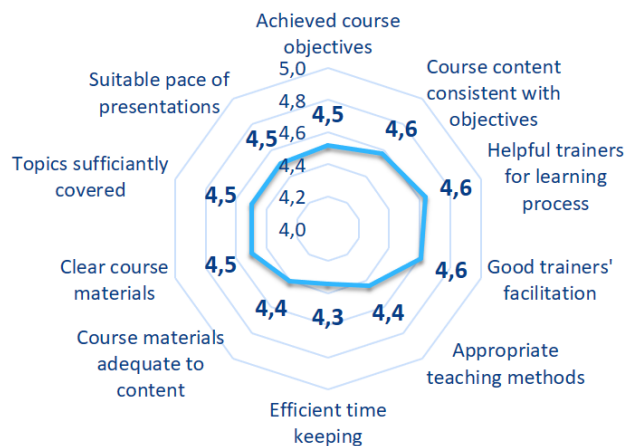


Figure 2 shows course effectiveness and figure 3 shows the perceived impact in terms of gained knowledge.

Figure 2. Effectiveness of the *Web-based training of the trainers' course: "Preparedness and response to public health events at ground crossings"* 26th May 2021

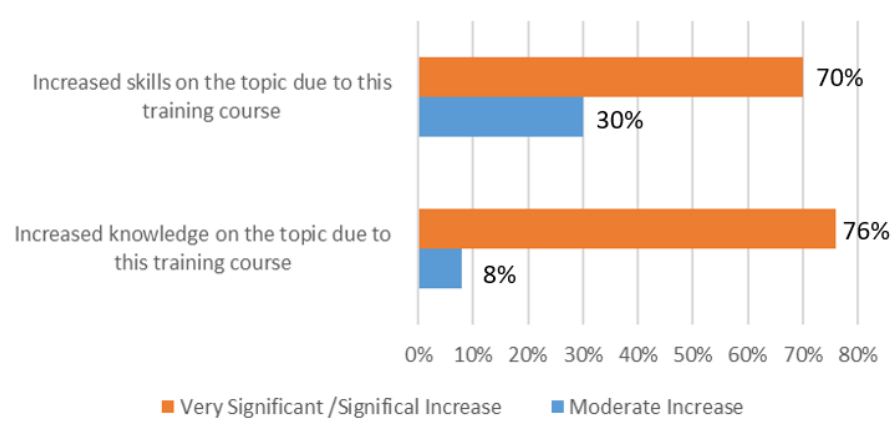
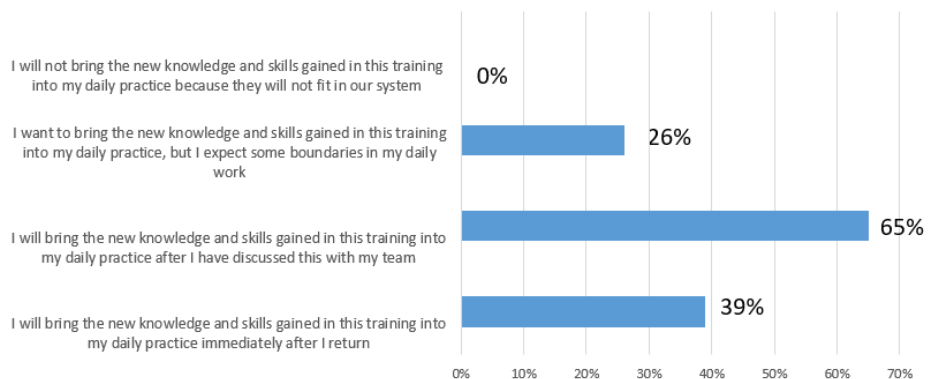


Figure 3. Perceived impact in terms of gained knowledge in the *Web-based training of the trainers' course: "Preparedness and response to public health events at ground crossings"* 26th May 2021

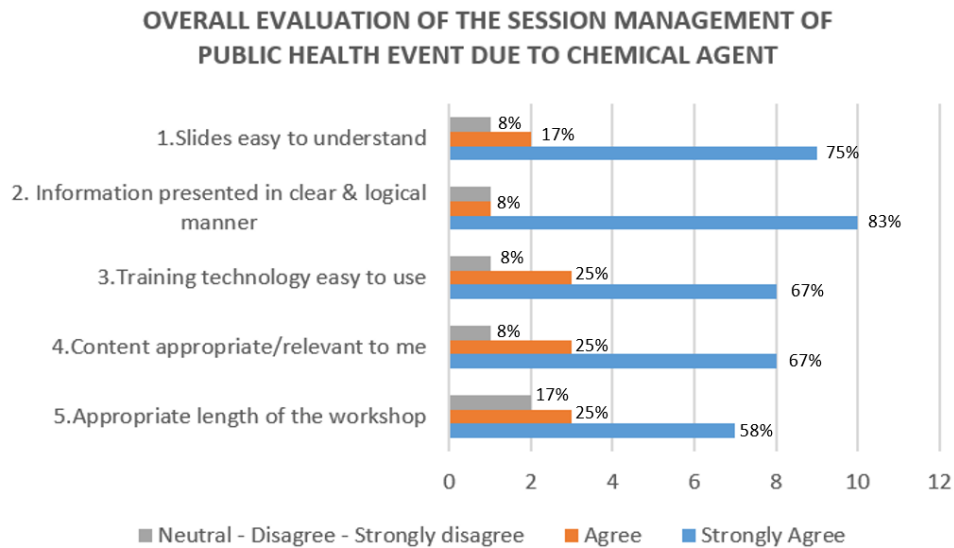


Out of 60 participants, 40 persons joined the Session: Management of public health event due to chemical agent and 12 participants provided answers to the evaluation questionnaire (response rate = 30%).

The evaluation of the workshop was largely very positive, as figure 4 shows. However participants suggested areas to improve on such as: more practical training for chemical emergency response plans, more on risk assessment, conducting training at national or regional levels and include chemical hazard databases.

Annex 6 shows the evaluation report of the course.

Figure 4. Overall evaluation of the session “Managing public health events due to chemical agents at ground crossing”.



2nd web-based workshop on Chemical threats at Points of Entry. 7th October 2021

The 2nd web-based workshop on Chemical threats at Points of Entry was held on 7th October 2021. The workshop was organized by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and the National Institute of Public Health (NIJZ), Slovenia, with the support of the University of Thessaly – Laboratory of Hygiene and Epidemiology (UTH), Greece.

The purpose of the web-based workshop on chemical threats at points of entry was to increase competence and capacity for managing public health events due to chemical agents at PoE including risk assessment, plans for preparedness and action for dealing with a chemical incident at PoE. The results of the evaluation show that the workshop was generally/completely successful in achieving its objectives.

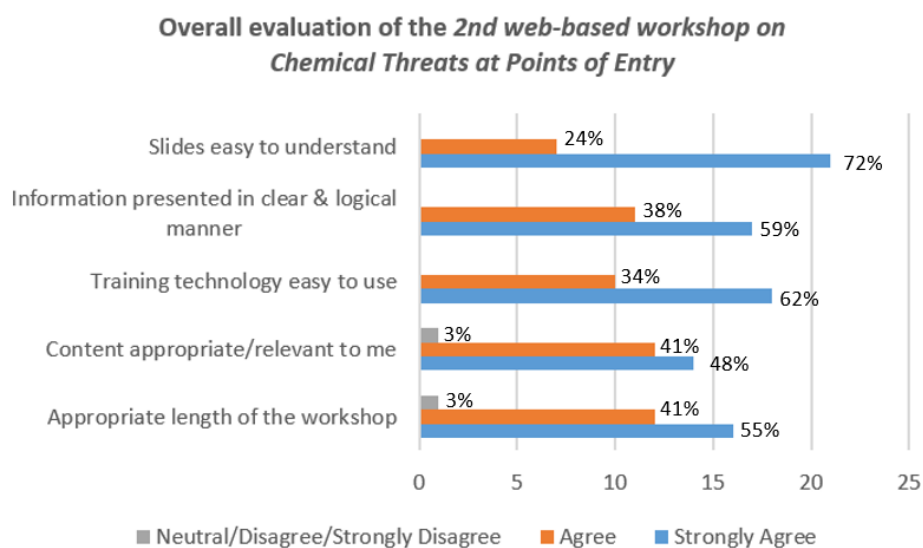
A total of 29 questionnaires were completed out of the 35 participants (response rate = 83%). Most of the participants strongly agreed (scale 5) or agreed (scale 4) that slides were easy to understand (97 %), the presenter presented the information in clear and logical manner (97%), the training technology was easy to use (97 %), the content was appropriate/relevant (90 %), the length of the workshop was appropriate (97 %).

The evaluation of the workshop was overwhelmingly positive, with 97% of participants recommending the course to others. However, among the areas to improve on participants suggested: shorter workshop, more practical examples, more scenarios, examples for emergency plans on chemical threats

(how recognize the chemicals, how to communicate to general population, the measures to reduce the impact to health of the hazards); experience with the use of biomarkers in assessing the consequences of chemical incidents; substances used in terrorism and the actions of the public health system.

Figure 5 illustrate the overall evaluation of the workshop.

Figure 5. Overall evaluation of the *2nd web-based workshop on Chemical Threats at Points of Entry*. 7th October 2021



The evaluation report of the workshop is shown in annex 7.

4.1.4 Webinars

The Joint Action carried out 7 webinars from 1st November 2019 to 31st March 2022, for a total of 155 participants. The degree of satisfaction and perceived effectiveness of the webinars was very high, since the vast majority of the participants (99%) would recommend EU Healthy Gateways webinars to others (figure 6).

Figure 6. Webinars satisfaction and perceived effectiveness.

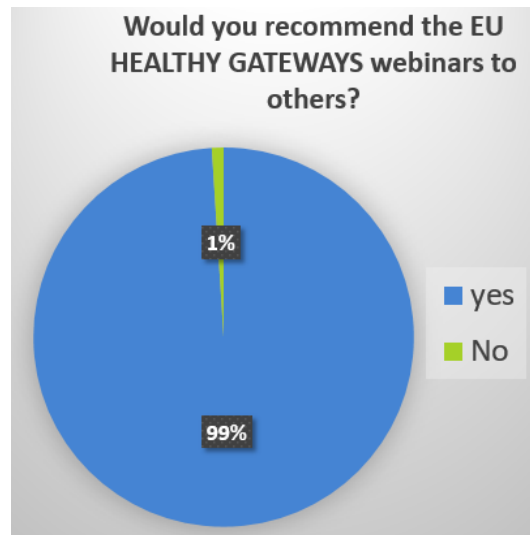
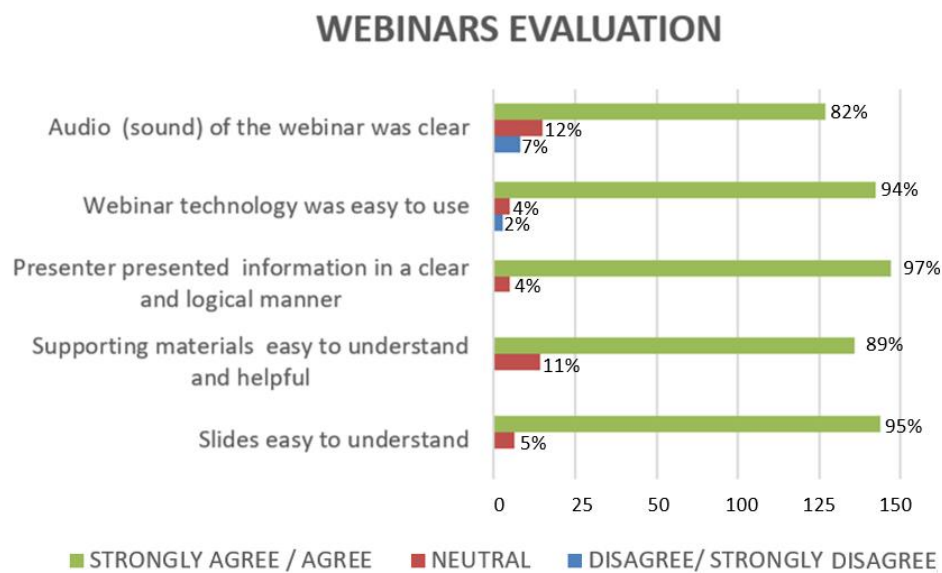


Figure 7 shows the mean results of the evaluation of the webinars, that highlight a very high degree of satisfaction for the webinars carried out. Among the observations, participants suggested more communication among participants, and more time for questions and answers.

Figure 7. Webinars evaluation



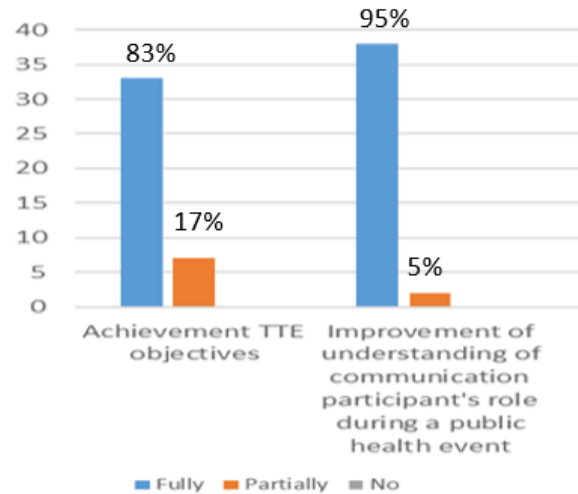
The data of the webinars evaluation are shown in annex 8.

4.1.5 Table Top Exercise

A Table Top Exercise (TTE) on communication of information at EU level for public health events on ships was held on 24th March 2021 aiming to help the competent authorities and organisations at national and European level test the guidelines produced for inter-country communication and information flow in outbreak investigations and management of public health events. The exercise provided the opportunity to participants to interact with and understand the structures, procedures, roles and responsibilities (e.g. leading investigation authority, who decides when the event has finished and who gives feedback to the authorities) when responding to an event. A total of 30 persons from five countries (Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands and Spain), two shipping companies and ECDC participated as players. Additionally, 63 persons participated as observers (36 from 20 EUMS, 9 from two cruise ship companies, and 18 persons from DG SANTE, DG MOVE, WHO, EMSA, ECDC, US CDC, Taiwan CDC, Japan).

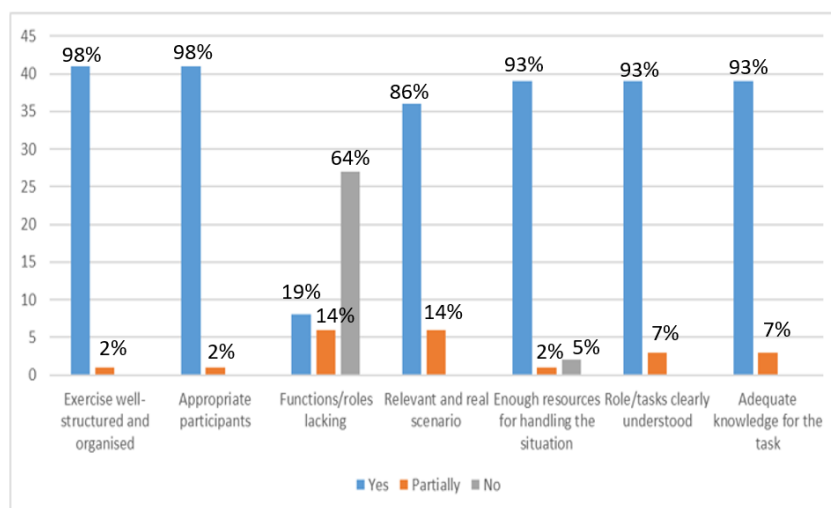
The TTE achieved its objectives and was highly rated by the participants with 95% of the evaluation questionnaire respondents declaring they improved their understanding of their role in the routes of communication during a public health event and 72.5% rated the TTE as highly effective in identifying areas for improvement (figure 8).

Figure 8. Achievement of TTE objectives and improvement of understanding of communication participant's role.



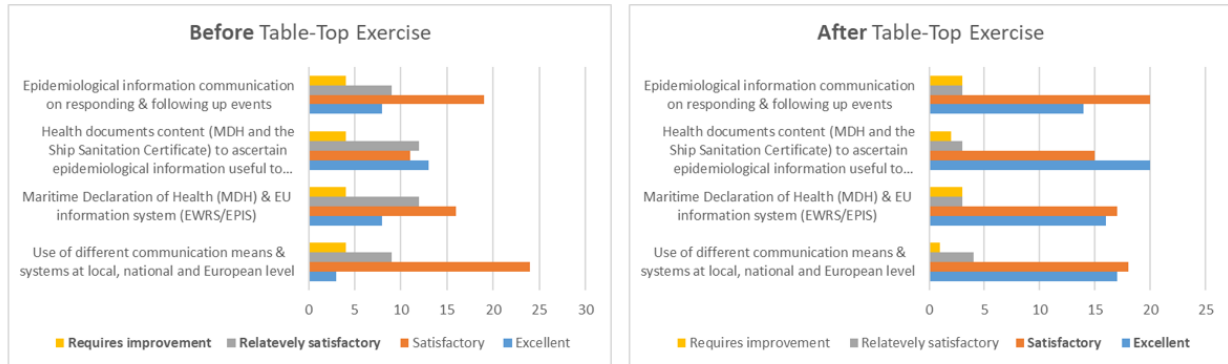
A hot debriefing questionnaire was distributed online and total of 42 participants completed it. Figure 9 illustrates the main results of the hot debriefing questionnaire, that report a very high degree of satisfaction and perceived quality of the event.

Figure 9. Main results of the hot debriefing questionnaire.



An online questionnaire was shared one week after the end of the exercise to all participants (players and observers). A total of 40 participants completed the online cold debriefing questionnaire. A comparison between participants' answers before and after the TTE highlights an increase of participants' opinion as satisfactory and excellent for all the variables explored (figure 10).

Figure 10. Before and after Table-Top Exercise



The detailed report of the evaluation of the TTE is shown in Annex 9.

4.2 FINAL INTERNAL EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

The final internal evaluation was carried out by means of a questionnaire that has been distributed online to the partners of the Joint Action from March 15 to April 7, 2022. The questionnaire is shown in Annex 10. Out of a total number of 30 partners, responses to the questionnaire were collected from 19 partners, with a response rate of 63%. The response rate in beneficiaries was 65% and in the collaborating partners was 62%. The results of the questionnaire are shown in Annex 11.

Overall, participants to the Joint Action report a very high degree of satisfaction and positive assessment in relation to the variables used in the internal evaluation questionnaire, namely:

- Joint Action support to participating countries in evaluating core capacities at point of entries.
- Joint Action contribution to the improvement of response capacities for COVID-19 at point of entries.
- Increase of the mean score of the IHR core capacities for point of entries.
- Positive impact of Joint Action documents on countries' response at PoE.
- Joint Action support in sharing information for coherent implementation of temporary recommendations issued by the WHO to the stakeholders responsible to implement such measures during COVID-19 pandemic.
- Joint Action improvement of Countries' response capacities to the PHEIC/public health events.
- Joint Action contribution and support to the temporary recommendations issued by the WHO to be implemented in a coherent way by and avoiding unnecessary interfering with international transport and trade.
- Participants' satisfaction with the functionalities of the web-based network for PoE.
- Improvement of the competence for performing a risk assessment of the competent authority.
- Increase of national capacities to respond to public health events/COVID-19 by means of the advice documents produced for PoE by the Joint Action.

4.3 INDICATORS

Process, output and outcome/impact indicators per specific objective, according to the grant agreement and used to evaluate the Joint Action activities is presented in Figure 11, 12, and 13.

Figure 11. Process indicators per specific objective (SO) of the Joint Action.

Process indicators per SO	Description	Target	Level of achievement	Evaluation tool
<p>SO1: To facilitate Member States evaluating and monitoring of core capacities at points of entry by using the existing guidance and tools from international organizations, and according to the International Health Regulations 2005 and Decision No 1082/2013/EU of 22 October 2013, by month 48.</p>				
Evaluating core capacities	At least 50% of the participating countries in the joint action considered that the joint action supported them in evaluating core capacities at points of entry, by month 48.	50% of countries Month 48	Achieved 59% -10/17 beneficiaries 84% - 16 countries out of the 19 countries that completed the questionnaire	Questionnaire administered to the partners of the Joint Action
<p>SO2: To put in place a network to communicate and notify rapidly in case of cross-border risks to health, by strengthening inter sectoral and cross sectoral collaboration and using electronic means, supplementing and avoiding overlapping with existing systems, by month 48.</p>				
Development of a web-based network for PoE	A web-based network for PoE has been developed by month 47, considering the lessons learned and experience from previous EU actions, and considering users' needs	Month 47	Achieved	https://www.healthygateways.eu/User-Login?returnurl=%2fPOENET
Access to the web-based network ensured to all designated PoE.	All designated PoE of the joint action participating countries have been given the option to have access to the web-based network by month 48.	Month 48	Achieved	All PoE identified by the joint action partners have received an invitation to join the EUPoENET on 14/4/22 (month 48). The invitation

				<p>email was sent to approximately 821 recipients including IHR authorised ports, PoE (designated, in process and not-designated) and EUSIS inspectors.</p> <p>Out of the total PoE identified by partners, there are 97 designated ports from 13 countries, 46 designated airports from 16 countries and 6 designated or in process of being designated ground crossings from 4 countries.</p> <p>Officers from 10 PoE (Regional/Local) from 7 countries (Spain, Portugal, UK, Cyprus, Italy, Greece, Germany) not initially in the list requested to register</p>
<p>Access to the web-based network ensured to the national competent authority.</p>	<p>The national competent authority/ies of each participating country has been given the option to have access to the web-based network.</p>	<p>26 authorities</p>	<p>Achieved</p>	<p>105 National Authorities are registered to the web-based networked as of 14/4/2022 (month 48) (Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia,</p>

				Lithuania, Malta, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, United Kingdom).
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<p>S03: To produce catalogues of tested best practices, guidelines and validated action plans, for the use of the Member States' health authorities to be implemented at operational level through agencies and stakeholders in the field of transport, covering all types of health threats, contingency planning, risk communication and advice for event management, by cooperating with international organisations, competent and other transport authorities, pilot-testing and validating deliverables and taking into consideration lessons learned from previous public health emergencies of international concern, by month 46.</p>				
<p>Inclusion of all types of health threats in the catalogue of best practices, guidelines and validated action plans produced by the joint action.</p>	<p>All types of health threats have been addressed in the catalogues of tested best practices, guidelines and validated action plans produced by the joint action. Events of infectious disease, vectors, threats of environmental origin and chemical agents have been addressed.</p>	<p>All types of threats addressed</p>	<p>Achieved</p>	<p>Questionnaire administered to the Leaders of WP5 ground crossing, WP6 Air transport, WP7 Maritime transport.</p>
<p>Engagement of representatives from international organisations, other competent authorities including transport authorities and the industry in the development process of the joint action guidelines.</p>	<p>The working groups responsible to develop the joint action guidelines have engaged in the development process representatives from international organisations, other competent authorities including transport authorities and the industry.</p>	<p>Engagement of multiple sectors</p>	<p>Achieved</p>	<p>SOP's for guidance development and working group participants</p> <p>Questionnaire administered to the Leaders of WP5 ground crossing, WP6 Air transport, WP7 Maritime transport at month 24.</p>
<p>50% response rate in surveys for situation analysis at ground</p>	<p>At least 50% response rate in the surveys conducted for situation analysis at ground</p>	<p>50% response</p>	<p>Achieved 71% - A total of</p>	<p>Report of the situational analysis.</p>

crossing	crossings.		10 countries out of the 14 participating countries with ground crossings (Norway, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia, and Greece) completed the questionnaire, which was answered by different stakeholders related to 71 ground crossings.	
Incorporation of pilot-testing and validation results into the final version of the deliverables.	Pilot-testing and validation has taken place and results have been incorporated in the final version of deliverables.	Deliverables tested	Achieved	Review of deliverables.
Lessons learned from previous public health emergencies of international concern taken into account in the deliverables.	Lessons learned from previous public health emergencies of international concern have been considered when developing the deliverables.	Lessons learned considered from EVD, ZVD	Achieved	Review of deliverables.
SO4: To provide capacity building including training on tested best practices, guidelines and validated action plans, at European, country and local level, by month 48, considering the local and national context and ensuring replicability, transferability and sustainability.				
Table top /simulation exercises and training materials for event management delivered for pilot testing by month 42.	Table top /simulation exercises and training materials for event management have been delivered for pilot testing by month 42.	Month 42	Achieved - At EU and Local Level (July 2021) - At National level:	Review of work progress report of WP9 and review of training materials.

			multisectorial exercise (October 2021)	
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S05: To facilitate the Member States implementation of best practice documents provided for coordinating and executing hygiene inspections on conveyances, in order to prevent cross border disease spread and improve compliance with European legislation standards, throughout the duration of the joint action.				
Identification of best practices on hygiene inspections of conveyances and lessons learned from previous EU actions relevant to conveyance inspections.	Best practices on hygiene inspections of conveyances and lessons learned from previous EU actions relevant to conveyance inspections are identified by month 32.	Month 32	Achieved Best practices identified via questionnaire (for further information see Periodic Technical Report)	Work progress report of WP5 ground crossing, WP6 Air transport, WP7 Maritime transport- Review of web-based catalogue of best practices Review of deliverable D 7.1
Development of documents for auditing of hygiene inspections on conveyance, considering the best practices identified and the existing materials and tools developed and implemented in relevant EU actions.	Documents for auditing of hygiene inspections on conveyance developed considering the best practices identified and the existing materials and tools developed and implemented in relevant EU actions, by month 32.	Month 32	Achieved Auditing guidelines for hygiene inspections were developed. In 2018, 12 audits were conducted to test how best practices for inspection auditing and for inspecting conveyances are applied in participating countries. In 2019, 20 audits	Work progress report of WP5 ground crossing, WP6 Air transport, WP7 Maritime transport- Standardised forms for inspection audits and review of inspection audit reports

			by three experts were conducted in EU MS ports.	
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<p>SO6: To promote coordinated cross sectoral actions and interoperability of plans to combat all types of health threats, including infectious disease transmission and possible vectors for pathogens on ground transportation, on ships, and in aircraft, throughout the joint action implementation, by involving actors from different sectors and levels (strategic, regulatory, implementation) and by performing table top /simulation exercises.</p>				
<p>Engagement of all actors and stakeholders both from private and public sectors in the design of table top /simulation exercises and in their implementation phase at local, national and EU level.</p>	<p>Table top /simulation exercises/in-action or after-action review have engaged all actors and stakeholders both from private and public sectors in the designing and implementation phase at local, national and EU level.</p>	<p>Actors and stakeholders from public, private sectors at local, national, EU levels</p>	<p>Achieved</p> <p>For EU level:</p> <p>The players that participated in the exercise were representing the following sectors/roles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Public health authorities at the ports (local level) •Central level coordination authority of the country •IHR National Focal Points •EWRS National Focal Points • ECDC • Cruise Ships / Shipping companies 	<p>Work progress report of WP9 training.</p> <p>List of engaged actors</p>

<p>S07: To support response to possible future public health emergencies of international concern (implementation of International Health Regulations) upon request from the European Commission, the Health Security Committee and the Member States, and by ensuring coherent implementation of temporary recommendations issued by the WHO and avoiding unnecessary interfering with international transport and trade.</p>				
<p>Response to the request for activating the emergency mode of the action within 36 hours and composition of technical expert ad hoc working group to address any requests.</p>	<p>Response to the request for activating the emergency mode of the action within 36 hours and composition of technical expert ad hoc working group to address any requests.</p>	<p>36 hours</p>	<p>Achieved Ad-hoc working group established (10/1/2020) & DG Santé approval operation of emergency (27/1/2020)</p>	<p>Review of SOP's for developing guidelines and review of timing of guideline development</p>
<p>Composition of technical expert ad hoc working group.</p>	<p>Composition of technical expert ad hoc working group within 3 days to address any requests from European Commission.</p>	<p>3 days</p>	<p>Achieved</p>	<p>Review of SOP's for developing guidelines and review of timing of guideline development</p>
<p>Lessons learned from the activities implemented during the emergency mode operation.</p>	<p>Results of lessons learned from the activities implemented during the emergency mode operation are used to revise the joint action deliverables.</p>	<p>Revision process conducted</p>	<p>Achieved Advise documents revised taking into consideration new developments (some documents revised up to 6 times. Training courses and table top exercises</p>	<p>List of the lessons learned and deliverables review</p>

			conducted were adjusted to focus on COVID-19 response and include best practice)	
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Figure 12. Output indicators per specific objective (SO) of the Joint Action.

Output indicators per SO	Description	Target	Level of achievement	Evaluation tool
<p>SO1: To facilitate Member States evaluating and monitoring of core capacities at points of entry by using the existing guidance and tools from international organizations, and according to the International Health Regulations 2005 and Decision No 1082/2013/EU of 22 October 2013, by month 48.</p>				
<p>Indicators achievement for PoE (WHO Joint External Evaluation tool) updated in the national sustainability plans of Joint Action's partners.</p>	<p>At least 50% of the participating countries in the joint action considered that the joint action contributed to improvement of response capacities for COVID-19 at point of entries, by month 48.</p>	<p>50%of countries Month 48</p>	<p>Achieved 53% (9/1) of total beneficiaries 82% (9/11) of beneficiary countries that completed the questionnaire 79% (15/19)</p>	<p>Questionnaire administered to the partners of the Joint Action</p>

			total countries that completed the questionnaire	
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SO2: To put in place a network to communicate and notify rapidly in case of cross-border risks to health, by strengthening inter sectoral and cross sectoral collaboration and using electronic means, supplementing and avoiding overlapping with existing systems, by month 48.

<p>Use of the communication network by designated PoE.</p>	<p>At least one user per each designated PoE of 50% of the participating countries has used at least one of the web portal components of the joint action.</p>	<p>50% of countries One user per designated PoE</p>	<p>Achieved 53% (16/30) of total partners (beneficiaries & collaborating) 59% (10/17) of beneficiaries. Users from 42 designated and in process of being designated PoE (30 ports and 12 airports in 16 countries)</p>	<p>Review of register users with access to one of the components of the web-portal, including POENET (EU HG website), SIS and E-learning.</p>
<p>Degree of satisfaction with the functionality of the communication network.</p>	<p>At least 70% of the responders are satisfied with the functionality.</p>	<p>70% of users</p>	<p>Achieved 94% (16 out 17 responders to questionnaire,</p>	<p>Questionnaire administered to the partners of the Joint Action</p>

			excluding responders that selected not applicable)	
<p>SO3: To produce catalogues of tested best practices, guidelines and validated action plans, for the use of the Member States' health authorities to be implemented at operational level through agencies and stakeholders in the field of transport, covering all types of health threats, contingency planning, risk communication and advice for event management, by cooperating with international organisations, competent and other transport authorities, pilot-testing and validating deliverables and taking into consideration lessons learned from previous public health emergencies of international concern, by month 46.</p>				
<p>Identification of best practices for event management, contingency planning, vector surveillance and risk communication at PoE.</p>	<p>Best practices for event management, contingency planning, vector surveillance and risk communication at PoE have been identified by month 32.</p>	<p>Month 32</p>	<p>Achieved</p>	<p>Data collected via questionnaire from all consortium on best practices</p>
<p>SO4: To provide capacity building including training on tested best practices, guidelines and validated action plans, at European, country and local level, by month 48, considering the local and national context and ensuring replicability, transferability and sustainability.</p>				
<p>Participation in face-to-face training course and degree of satisfaction.</p>	<p>At least 70% of the participating countries in the joint action have participated in the face-to-face training courses implemented at European level and 80% of them found that the courses meet their needs.</p>	<p>70% of the participating countries</p> <p>80% satisfied</p>	<p>Achieved</p> <p>70% of EU participating countries in the Course on <i>Preparedness and response to public health events at ports</i> (Piraeus, March 2019), with an average of 92% of respondents very satisfied or satisfied with the training and for 97% meeting training needs</p> <p>74% of EU countries participating in the Course on <i>Preparedness and response to public health events at airports</i> (Belgrade, September 2019), with an average of 87% of respondents very</p>	<p>Attendance list to the courses</p> <p>Questionnaires of training activities</p>

			<p>satisfied or satisfied with the training and for 65% meeting training needs.</p> <p>62% of participating countries in the joint action however two European region countries (Albania and Ukraine) participated. For this indicator we should consider that not all EUMS were interested for ground crossing course as they do not have external borders with EU and also due to covid-19 difficult to assign personnel to attend</p>	
<p>Implementation of at least one training course/ exercise/ action review for PoE at national level.</p>	<p>At least 50% of the participating countries have implemented one training course/exercise/ action review for PoE at national or local level</p>	<p>50% of the participating countries</p>	<p>Achieved 53% 9 out of 17 beneficiaries</p>	<p>Attendance list to the courses.</p>
<p>S05: To facilitate the Member States implementation of best practice documents provided for coordinating and executing hygiene inspections on conveyances, in order to prevent cross border disease spread and improve compliance with European legislation standards, throughout the duration of the joint action.</p>				
<p>Production and implementation of annual plans of passenger ships inspection</p>	<p>Annual plans of passenger ships inspection coordination are produced and implemented by at least 70% of the participating countries in 2018 and 2019 (before COVID-19).</p>	<p>70% of the participating countries</p>	<p>Achieved Achieved (70% of the participating countries): 10 countries out of the 17 beneficiaries participate in the inspection plans and 6 more collaborating countries participated in the inspection plans</p>	<p>Review of annual inspection plan</p>
<p>Satisfactory results of auditing results of inspection practices.</p>	<p>Auditing results of inspection practices are satisfactory in at least 80% of inspections of passenger</p>	<p>80% of inspections</p>	<p>Achieved 90% of audit results are satisfactory</p>	<p>Review of standardised forms for inspection audits</p>

	ships in 2018 and 2019 (before COVID-19).			
<p>S06: To promote coordinated cross sectoral actions and interoperability of plans to combat all types of health threats, including infectious disease transmission and possible vectors for pathogens on ground transportation, on ships, and in aircraft, throughout the joint action implementation, by involving actors from different sectors and levels (strategic, regulatory, implementation) and by performing table top /simulation exercises.</p>				
<p>Satisfaction with the outcomes of the table top /simulation exercise conducted at EU level.</p>	<p>At least 70% of participants in the table top /simulation exercise conducted at EU level are satisfied with the outcomes of the exercise.</p>	<p>70% of participants</p>	<p>Achieved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - exercise well-structured and organised according to 98% of participants - relevant and reflecting reality for 86% of participants - enough resources (injects, plans, guidelines) available for 93% of participants - table-top-exercise objectives fully achieved according to for 82,5% of participants - exercise highly effective in identifying areas for improvement for 72.5% of participants 	<p>Review of evaluation questionnaire of table top/ simulation exercise</p>
<p>S07: To support response to possible future public health emergencies of international concern (implementation of International Health Regulations) upon request from the European Commission, the Health Security Committee and the Member States, and by ensuring coherent implementation of temporary recommendations issued by the WHO and avoiding unnecessary interfering with international transport and trade.</p>				
<p>Completeness of response rate to all requests from European Commission.</p>	<p>Technical expert ad hoc working group reply to all requests from European Commission, using existing evidence.</p>	<p>Replies to all requests</p> <p>Evidence based replies</p>	<p>Achieved</p>	<p>Review of the replies and guidelines produced</p>

Perceived effectiveness of the dissemination and communication plans.	Evaluation of the joint action shows that at least 70% of the responders are satisfied with the contribution of the joint action in supporting the sharing of information for coherent implementation of temporary recommendations issued by the WHO to the stakeholders responsible to implement such measures during COVID-19 pandemic.	70% of responders	Achieved 72% of responders	Questionnaire administered to the partners of the Joint Action

Figure 13. Outcome indicators per specific objective (SO) of the Joint Action.

Outcome indicators per SO	Description	Target	Level of achievement	Evaluation tool
SO1: To facilitate Member States evaluating and monitoring of core capacities at points of entry by using the existing guidance and tools from international organizations, and according to the International Health Regulations 2005 and Decision No 1082/2013/EU of 22 October 2013, by month 48.				
Perceived increasing of the mean score of the IHR core capacities for points of entry	At least 50% of the participating countries in the joint action considered that the joint action helped increasing the mean score of the IHR core capacities for points of entry, by month 48.	Mean score considered as increased Month 44	Achieved 82% (9/11) beneficiaries that responded to questionnaire 74% (14/19) responding countries	Questionnaire administered to the partners of the Joint Action

			53% (9/17) of total beneficiaries participating in the joint action	
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Outcome indicators per SO	Description	Target	Level of achievement	Evaluation tool
<p>SO2: To put in place a network to communicate and notify rapidly in case of cross-border risks to health, by strengthening inter sectoral and cross sectoral collaboration and using electronic means, supplementing and avoiding overlapping with existing systems, by month 48.</p>				
<p>Improvement of the risk assessment of the competent authority</p>	<p>Web portal components have improved risk assessment of the competent authorities as reported in the final evaluation by the 50% of the respondents who have used the web portal at points of entry.</p>	<p>50% of respondents</p>	<p>Achieved 62% of responders</p>	<p>Questionnaire administered to the partners of the Joint Action</p>

Outcome indicators per SO	Description	Target	Level of achievement	Evaluation tool
<p>SO3: To produce catalogues of tested best practices, guidelines and validated action plans, for the use of the Member States' health authorities to be implemented at operational level through agencies and stakeholders in the field of transport, covering all types of health threats, contingency planning, risk communication and advice for event management, by cooperating with international organisations, competent and other transport authorities, pilot-testing and validating deliverables and taking into consideration lessons learned from previous public health emergencies of international concern, by month 46.</p>				
<p>Use/consideration of the advice documents provided by the joint action in everyday work/national or local</p>	<p>At least 50% of participating countries' PoE have used/considered the advice documents provided by the joint action in their everyday</p>	<p>50% of participating</p>	<p>Achieved 80% of responders to questionnaire</p>	<p>Questionnaire administered to the partners of the Joint Action</p>

preparedness and contingency planning as well as in their response to COVID-19 of participating countries	work/national or local preparedness and contingency planning as well as in their response to COVID-19.	countries' PoE		
Support to detection and management of COVID-19 cases at PoE	At least 80% of partners declared that advise documents for COVID-19/tool for contingency plan development and assessment/the focused interim advice/guidance for preparedness and response to the outbreak of COVID-19 (air, maritime, ground-crossing) to support detection and management of COVID-19 cases at PoE produced for PoE by the joint action have increased their capacities to respond to public health events/COVID-19.	80% of partners	Achieved 84% of responders (16/19 countries, 21/25 responders)	Questionnaire administered to the partners of the Joint Action

Outcome indicators per SO	Description	Target	Level of achievement	Evaluation tool
SO4: To provide capacity building including training on tested best practices, guidelines and validated action plans, at European, country and local level, by month 48, considering the local and national context and ensuring replicability, transferability and sustainability.				
Impact of training activities on daily work/ preparedness capacities to respond to public health events	At least 70% of respondents in impact evaluation of training activities/exercises/in-action review or after-action reviews	70% of respondents	Achieved Achieved for the Course on Preparedness and response to P.H. events at ports (Piraeus, March 2019): more than 89% of participants will bring the new knowledge and skills gained in the training in their daily	Training activities evaluation questionnaires

	declared that training activities impacted their daily work/the preparedness capacities to respond to public health events/their response to COVID-19 pandemic.		<p>practice</p> <p>Course on Preparedness and response to P.H. events at airports (Belgrade, September 2019): 39% will bring the new knowledge and skills in their daily practice</p> <p>Course on ground crossing: 26%</p>	
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Outcome indicators per SO	Description	Target	Level of achievement	Evaluation tool
<p>SO5: To facilitate the Member States implementation of best practice documents provided for coordinating and executing hygiene inspections on conveyances, in order to prevent cross border disease spread and improve compliance with European legislation standards, throughout the duration of the joint action.</p>				
<p>Violations found in inspections of ships for each year in 2018 and 2019</p>	<p>Repeated violations are found in less than 10% of inspections when comparing inspection results per ships for the years 1 (2018) and 2 (2019) of the joint action.</p>	<p><10% of inspections</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Not achieved*</p> <p>- Of the 86 inspection in 2019, 18 of them were conducted on ships that were also inspected in 2018.</p> <p>- 5 out of these 18 inspections (27.8%), identified one or more violations that were identified also in 2018.</p> <p><i>*Inspections due to the pandemic were not continued in 2020 and 2021 in order to improve compliance with hygiene standard. This highlights the importance of continuing the inspection programme to improve compliance with hygiene</i></p>	<p>Documents review</p>

			standard and ensure that repeated violations are not found in the following years.	
Applications for resolution of dispute inspection findings received by industry for inspections of ships conducted for each year in 2018 and 2019	Applications for resolution of dispute inspection findings received by industry for less than 10 % of inspections conducted in 2018 and 2019 (before COVID-19).	<10 % of inspections	Achieved 2019: 2 dispute findings (2.3%) out of the 86 inspections In 2018: 1 dispute findings (2.4%) out of the 41 inspections	Documents review

Outcome indicators per SO	Description	Target	Level of achievement	Evaluation tool
<p>SO6: To promote coordinated cross sectoral actions and interoperability of plans to combat all types of health threats, including infectious disease transmission and possible vectors for pathogens on ground transportation, on ships, and in aircraft, throughout the joint action implementation, by involving actors from different sectors and levels (strategic, regulatory, implementation) and by performing table top / simulation exercises.</p>				
COVID-19 advice documents impact on countries' response at PoE	COVID-19 advice documents produced from the joint action positively impacted countries' response at PoE	70% of the participating countries	Achieved 91% (10/11) beneficiary countries completed the questionnaire	Questionnaire administered to the partners of the Joint Action

Outcome indicators per SO	Description	Target	Level of achievement	Evaluation tool
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S07: To support response to possible future public health emergencies of international concern (implementation of International Health Regulations) upon request from the European Commission, the Health Security Committee and the Member States, and by ensuring coherent implementation of temporary recommendations issued by the WHO and avoiding unnecessary interfering with international transport and trade.

<p>Improvement of response capacities to PHEIC</p>	<p>Impact evaluation of the joint action shows that at least 80% of responders were benefited and improved response capacities to the PHEIC/public health events</p>	<p>80% of responders</p>	<p>Achieved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 71% (17/24) of responders agreed/strongly agreed • 17% (4/24) were undecided • 73% (8/11) of beneficiary countries responding to questionnaire 	<p>Questionnaire administered to the partners of the Joint Action</p>
<p>Contribution and support to temporary recommendations issued by WHO</p>	<p>At least 80% of responders in the impact evaluation, including the industry believed that the joint action contributed and supported the temporary recommendations issued by the WHO to be implemented in a coherent way by avoiding unnecessary interfering with international transport and trade.</p>	<p>80% of responders</p>	<p>Achieved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60% (15/25) of responders • 32% (8/25) of responders were undecided 	<p>Questionnaire administered to the partners of the Joint Action</p>

5 EXTERNAL EVALUATION: SUMMARY

In the framework of Healthy Gateways Joint Action, it was envisaged the opportunity of collecting qualitative data in order to:

1. Identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to the achievement of the Healthy Gateways Joint Action objectives
 2. Explore feasible solutions to the identified problems.
 3. Review and provide comments on the EU HG Joint Action evaluation plan, including the data collection tools developed.
 4. Review and provide comments on the interim evaluation report and final evaluation report that will be produced under the EU HG Joint Action
- The external evaluation involved 31 respondents from partners (beneficiaries and affiliated entities) and EU and non-EU collaborating stakeholders.

The chosen method to carry out the external evaluation was represented by the SWOT analysis, a strategic planning technique used to help an organization identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats related to a project planning and evaluation. It is a technique intended to identify the internal and external factors that are favourable and unfavourable to achieving project's objectives. The external evaluation should also focus on the impact of the joint action especially during the COVID-19 pandemic and while operating under the emergency mode.

The external evaluation was carried out by an evaluator that was not involved in the Joint Action activities. A questionnaire was developed in order to collect the needed information.

A total of 31 individual responses to the on-line questionnaire were received from partner institution's representatives. The analysis of collected data was carried out through a series of tables and descriptive text. A smaller number of personal interviews was conducted by phone. The partnership includes 27 EU Member States (EUMS) and (+Taiwan) and includes 35 Authorities (17 partners, 3 affiliated entities, 15 collaborating stakeholders).

The main **strengths** highlighted by the SWOT analysis relate to:

- Governance: it arranged clear communication, support and information, expertise, reactivity, availability, homogeneity, reliability, and a useful point of reference; the swift swerve to emergency mode was very beneficial in responses to COVID 19
- Switch to response mode: with collaboration with other relevant parties, including WHO Regional Office Europe, IHR Focal points, POE sites, DG Move, EU Europa SANTE and other
- Passenger Locator Form: it allowed a common level for all EUMS while allowing personalisation
- Guidance documents and network

- Timeliness: advice documents developed by the Joint Action at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic supported public health authorities in their response at points of entry
- Training
- Cruise ship inspections

Among the **weaknesses**, participants mentioned:

- Governance: EU HG was very broad, far reaching with too much influence of the maritime sector, when more resources were required to develop the air and ground crossing activities
- Workload: the pandemic resulted in everyone in this area being overworked, making it difficult to find time for additional rapid responses, participating in training exercises, etc.
- Ground crossing: given free movement across borders under the Schengen agreement, the clarity of controls on movement in pandemic emergency situations need to be strengthened
- Air transport: while most passenger activity is by air, evidence from the pandemic is that early shutdown of flights may have slowed the rapid spread of infection, if not preventing worldwide transmission
- Sustainability: the JA network depends on the EC external funding; more should be invested on the sustainability and diversification of resources to continue the activities

Among the **opportunities** it is worth mentioning that there is a renewed and better understanding of the reasons why control of infections on ships, aircraft and across borders is important as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional work needs to be done to prepare for the next pandemic and to develop generic preparation for transport related issues including climate change and other threats.

The most important **threats** to EU HG include issues of sustainability and the continuation of activities in training, preparation, inspection, network, technical advice.

Figure 14 illustrates the most important strengths of the JA and figure 15 illustrates the main opportunities for successful development of the Joint Action.

Figure 14. Most important strengths of the Joint Action

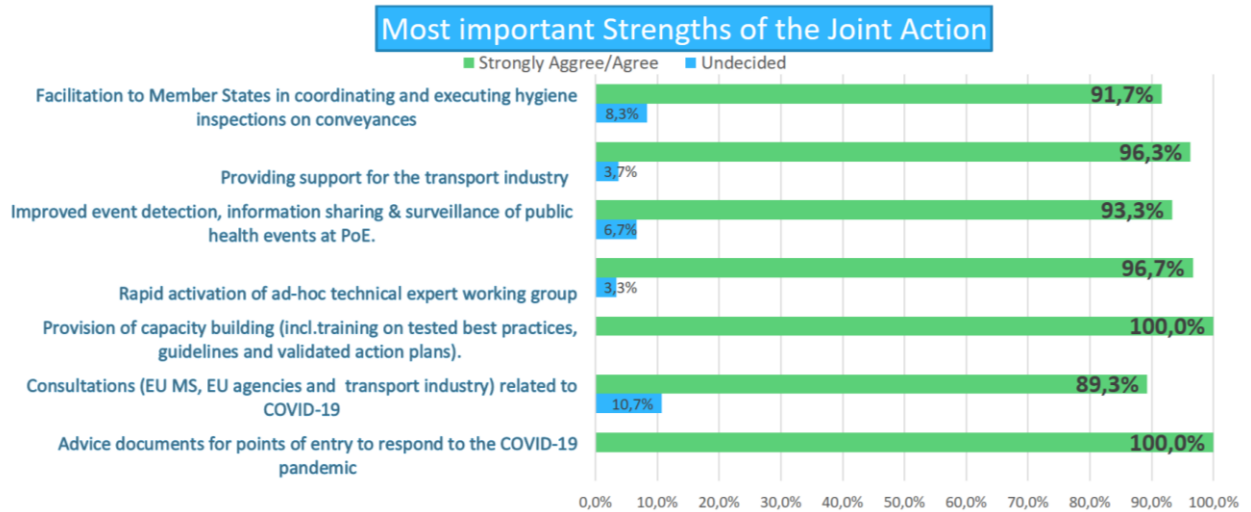
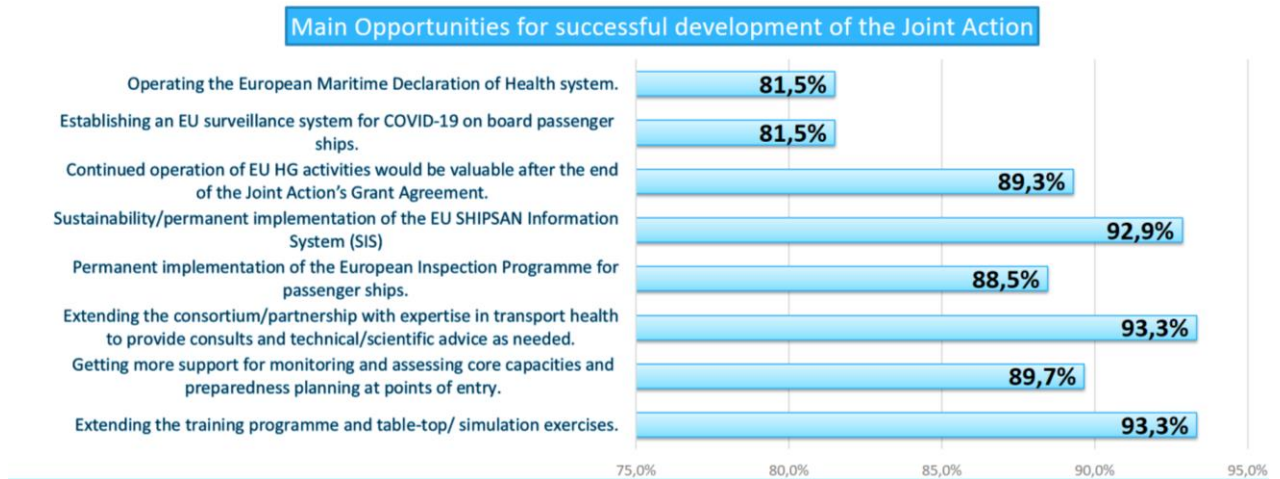


Figure 15. Main opportunities for successful development of the Joint Action.



The full report of the external evaluation is shown in Annex 12.

6 OBSERVATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation of the activities carried out in the Joint Action (meetings, training courses, exercises, coordination and dissemination) highlights a very high degree of satisfaction from the participants, generally rating around 80-90% as excellent/good as far as their technical contents, quality, effectiveness and organizational aspects are concerned.

The JA moved rapidly from the outlined program to an emergency response mode. It provided useful guidance documents and responses that helped in the pandemic.

Therefore, there is an urgent on-going need to maintain and develop the system of networks, inspections, communications, and expertise that worked well in this pandemic but are also of importance in longer term management of healthy transport gateways.

Among the recommendations highlighted by the external evaluation, it is worth noting the crucial role of transport systems in the transmission of respiratory viruses around the world highlighted by COVID-19, and the strong need for additional legislation to make state controls and inspections of hygiene inspections on passenger ships. Similarly, it is very important to further tackle air and ground crossings; to further work to improve common standards across Europe, with more guidelines and tools; and to strengthen central control and model it into a more institutional body residing as an outpost of some other EU body (e.g. ECDC).

In conclusion, the Joint Action proved to be a very important tool to support cross-border safety at EU level.

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Annexes

Annexes are available for download from the following link:

https://www.healthygateways.eu/Portals/0/plcdocs/FER_Annexes.zip

- Annex 1: changes in the specific objectives, indicators and targets, following the amendment to the grant agreement (Reference: AMD-801493-12)
- Annex 2: questionnaire for the evaluation of the 2nd General Assembly Meeting
- Annex 3: results of the evaluation of the 2nd General Assembly Meeting
- Annex 4: questionnaire for the evaluation of the 2nd General Assembly Meeting
- Annex 5: results of the evaluation of the 2nd General Assembly Meeting
- Annex 6: evaluation report of the *Web-based training of the trainers' course: "Preparedness and response to public health events at ground crossings"* 26th May 2021
- Annex 7: evaluation report of the 2nd web-based workshop on Chemical threats at Points of Entry. 7th October 2021
- Annex 8: data of the webinars evaluation
- Annex 9: report of the evaluation of the Table Top Exercise at EU level
- Annex 10: Internal Evaluation Questionnaire
- Annex 11: Internal Evaluation Results
- Annex 12: SWOT analysis final report