FAIRWAY
Farm System Management and Governance for Good Water Quality and Drinking Water Supplies

FAIRWAY REPORT series

Actor's feedback on practices for improvement of water quality in FAIRWAY case studies and interim project results

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

DST – decision support tools
SME – small and medium-sized enterprises
NGO – nongovernmental organisation
WP – work package
DG AGRI – directorate general for agriculture
DG ENVI – directorate general for environment
JPC – joint policy conference
MAP – Multi-Actor Platforms

Actor's feedback on practices for the improvement of water quality in Fairway case studies and interim project results

1. SUMMARY

The task 7.2 aims: (i) to obtain feedback on the evidence-based practice in the different FAIRWAY case studies to improve water quality, based on the results of Task 7.1 *Evaluation on barriers and issues in providing integrated scientific support for EU policy* and (ii) to obtain detailed views on FAIRWAY project interim results. The researchers conducted two surveys. The first survey was performed among project's Multi Actors Platform (MAP) stakeholders in the form of paper questionnaire to evaluate possible correlations between the EU and local level on practices for the improvement of water quality in FAIRWAY case studies. This part includes the reflection on the main findings from discussions with actors in task 7.1.

The second survey was performed among different recognised stakeholders at EU level to obtain reflection on interim project findings. The stakeholders in both surveys were selected based on their field of expertise in water policy regulations/protection or by any other different involvement in protection/pollution of water resources in EU, national or local level.

Regarding the main findings from discussions with actors in task 7.1, stakeholders in all FAIRWAY project MAPs agree that s**tronger involvement of all actors in the science-policy interface is a** solution for science integration into policy**.** Most respondents also agree or strongly agree that **it is good that member states have a voice in solving problems on local level** relating agricultural pollution of drinking water resources and that **MAPs are the right way to engage stakeholders** in this issue **closely.** However, the idea of **separation of pesticides and nitrates in projects and policy communications** has considerably lower support in the MAPs as on EU level.

In the second survey, the respondents stressed that there is an **absolute need to have the key and essential final project results presented shorter and in a language understandable to policymakers.**

The idea of possible long-term relationship/communication flows between research projects and political agenda, including **Taskforce water intending to design project clusters** seems very useful to the vast majority (i.e. 86 %) of respondents.

Finally, the respondents agreed that the most effective ways to receive interim project results are presentations at conferences and workshops or via executive summaries of deliverables. Meanwhile, the final results of the project can be best communicated via executive summaries of deliverables, and secondly by conferences/workshops, articles in scientific journals and YouTube videos.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO TASK 7.2

The aim of Task 7.2 is to obtain feedback on the evidence-based practices in the different FAIRWAY case studies to improve water quality. This paper is a continuation of the work in task 7.1 Evaluation *on barriers and issues in providing integrated scientific support for EU policy*. The results of the report D 7.1 was based on a desk study research, workshop and individual interviews on barriers and issues in providing integrated scientific support for EU policy. Its main objective was to discuss the EU regulations related to drinking water resource protection against pollution of nitrates and pesticides with representative EU-level actor organisations.

The deliverable Task 7.2 consists of two parts. The first part summarises and discusses, the actor's feedback on the evidence-based practices for water quality improvement of the different Fairway case studies. This part includes the evaluation of the main findings of discussions with actors in task 7.1 in the project's Multi-Actor Platforms (from now on the MAP), using paper questionnaires. The questionnaire aimed to evaluate possible correlations between the EU and local level on barriers and issues in providing integrated scientific support for policy regulations related to drinking water resource protection against diffuse pollution of nitrates and pesticides from agriculture.

In the second part of this deliverable, a survey was conducted based on a questionnaire for all stakeholders that received an invitation to the Joint Policy Conference meeting held in Brussels on 7th December 2018, organised as part of the work in Task 7.2 (Milestone 7.2). This survey was conducted to measure the usefulness of interim findings of work packages 3 to 8 of Fairway project for different stakeholder groups, such as researchers, local, regional and national authorities, agro-industry, SMEs, NGOs and farmers.

3. ACTOR'S FEEDBACK ON PRACTICES FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF WATER QUALITY IN CASE STUDIES

3.1 METHODOLOGY

3.1.1 The questionnaire

The researchers assessed the responses of MAP leaders to a questionnaire sent by email. The duration of the survey was 40 days, starting with 10th April 2019 and finishing with 20th May 2019. In this period, two reminder emails were sent to obtain more results.

The questionnaire included both close-ended questions with single choice answering and open-ended questions with predefined answers, offering respondents the possibility to grade on a Likert scale of agreement (from 1= do not agree to 7= very much agree) with the findings from task 7.1. For open-ended questions, additional questions were provided, to ask respondents if they have a different (not already presented) view on specific topics. This part is considered of great importance for the survey as it provides additional valuable material for recognising specific needs on the local level.

The questionnaire included four blocks. The first and second blocks focussed on nationality and stakeholder groups, respectively. The third block dealt with barriers and issues concerning integrated scientific support between the national and local level. Moreover, the fourth block focussed on the improvement of the system; what are the possible solutions for integrated scientific support for policy on protecting drinking water resource against nitrates and pesticides pollution.

3.1.2 Survey sample

The survey was targeting all MAPs presented in the Fairway project (13 MAPs). From each MAP at least four different fully finished paper questionnaires had to be supplied, which meant four different stakeholder group representatives per MAP, which would result in a survey sample of 52 questionnaires. Finally, 30 questionnaires were supplied from seven MAPs, coming from seven countries: United Kingdom, Slovenia, Portugal, Germany, Netherlands, Ireland and Romania (Table 1).

Table 1: Origin of Multi-Actor Platforms that contributed to the results, number of returned questionnaires per Multi-Actor Platform, a stakeholder group that corresponded (farmers, advisory, policy makers, water policy implementation, retail, regional management and water company)

MAP origin	**Number of returned questionnaires**	**Stakeholders group**							
		Farmers	**Advisory**	**Policymakers**	**Water policy implementation**	**Retail**	**Research and science**	**Regional management**	**Water company**
United Kingdom	5	1	1			1	2		
Slovenia	7	3	2		2				
Portugal	5	1		1			1	1	1
Germany	3	1	1				1		
Netherlands	3				2		1		
Northern Ireland	2		1		1				
Romania	5	1	1	1			2		

MAPs are conducted of different stakeholder groups and involve case studies and national authorities. Better presented is below in Figure 1 of Fairway conceptual framework.

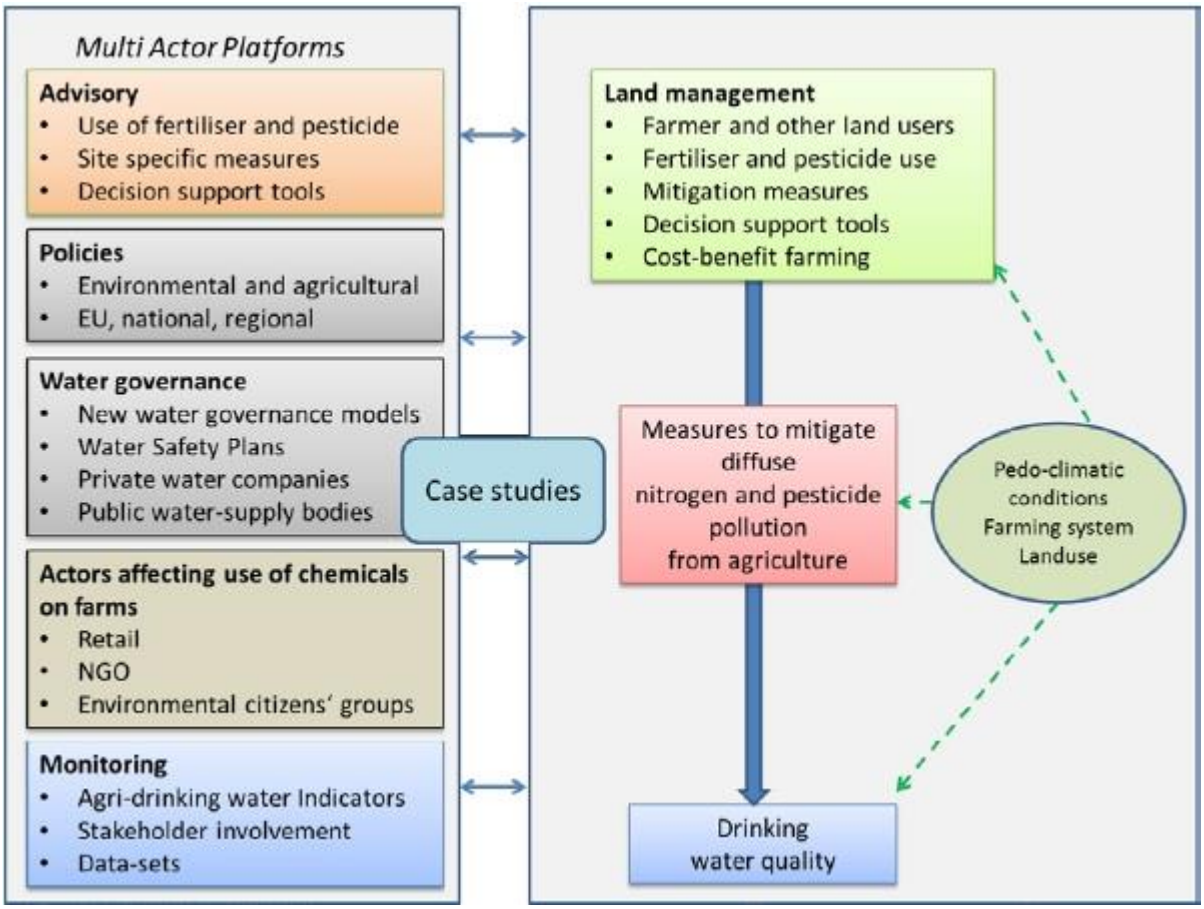

Figure 1: Fairway conceptual framework

The representatives of the different stakeholder groups that were asked to fill out the questionnaires are not necessarily experts in the field of protecting water resources. They are within their professional duties involved in the process of making decisions or otherwise influencing how to maintain drinking water resources protected on a daily or regular basis. Selected representatives gave as a survey sample of important actors involved in different fields of the protection of drinking water resources.

The responses received enabled to conduct a so-called incomplete DELPHI method.

The **Delphi method** (also known as Estimate-Talk-Estimate (ETE)) is a structured communication technique or method, originally developed as a systematic, interactive forecasting method which relies on a panel of experts (Dalkey and Helmer, 1963). In the complete DELFI method researchers want to connect experts and structure communication about the idea so that consensus can be achieved. A selection of experts is a critical element. They are chosen based on professionalism and not a coincidence. Likewise, a selection of presenters of different characters involved in different fields of protection drinking water resource was made in this incomplete DELPHI method to get their feedback on the evidence-based practices for water quality improvement of the different Fairway MAPs. MAPs placed in different EU countries enabled to observe and analyse the difference between them in the context of their legal system, geographical position and in the historical context

of connecting new and old members of EU. Last but not least, the opinion/feedback of united MAP's data was also analysed and commented.

For statistic analayse an average of Likert scale, standard error and coefficient of variation was calculated for every statement presented in figures. **The coefficient of variation** (from now on CV) ranged between 6 and 75 %, in most statements it ranged between 15 and 45 %. Data sample with CV of up to 25 % goes in first quartile (Q1), 25 to 35 % goes in second quartile (Q2) and 35 to 45 % goes in third quartile (Q3). This means that statements that received CV in Q1 contain least fragmented data sample and therefore they could show a sufficiently high certainty in comparison to other statements taken into account in the claims. Statements that received CV in Q2 have more fragmented data sample. Statements that received CV in Q3 contain most fragmented data sample and should be taken with great caution in interpretation.

3.2 RESULTS

In task 7.1, EU representatives were asked to define some major issues and barriers for solving issues related to drinking water resource protection against diffuse pollution of nitrates and pesticides from agriculture in the EU. The researchers were interested if representatives of different stakeholder groups could agree with the opinion of EU representatives, concerning their national and local level and to what extent. Their answers were present in three forms.

In the first form, as a structure of responses in the Likert scale. In the second form, as an average of Likert scale for all MAPs in the sample. The coefficient of variation (from now on CV) and standard error was calculated as well. The CV is essential because it gave a percentage of variation between statements within MAPs. A decision was that average of Likert scale that has CV in Q1 (< 25 %) in figures is coloured with a yellow point.

Moreover, in the third form, as an average of Likert scale calculated for four individual MAPs that contributed at least five complete questionnaires, i.e. MAPs coming from the United Kingdom, Slovenia, Portugal and Romania. Their differences in average of Likert scale are presented. A CV and standard error for every type of answer were calculated and discussed if necessary. Here the decision was that statements that receive CV in Q2 or Q3 (> 25 %) are presented in figures with labels in stripes.

3.2.1 Type of stakeholders that the respondents represent

The majority of answers came from the advisory sector (24 %), farmers (21%), research and science (21%) and water policy implementation (15 %) (Figure 2).

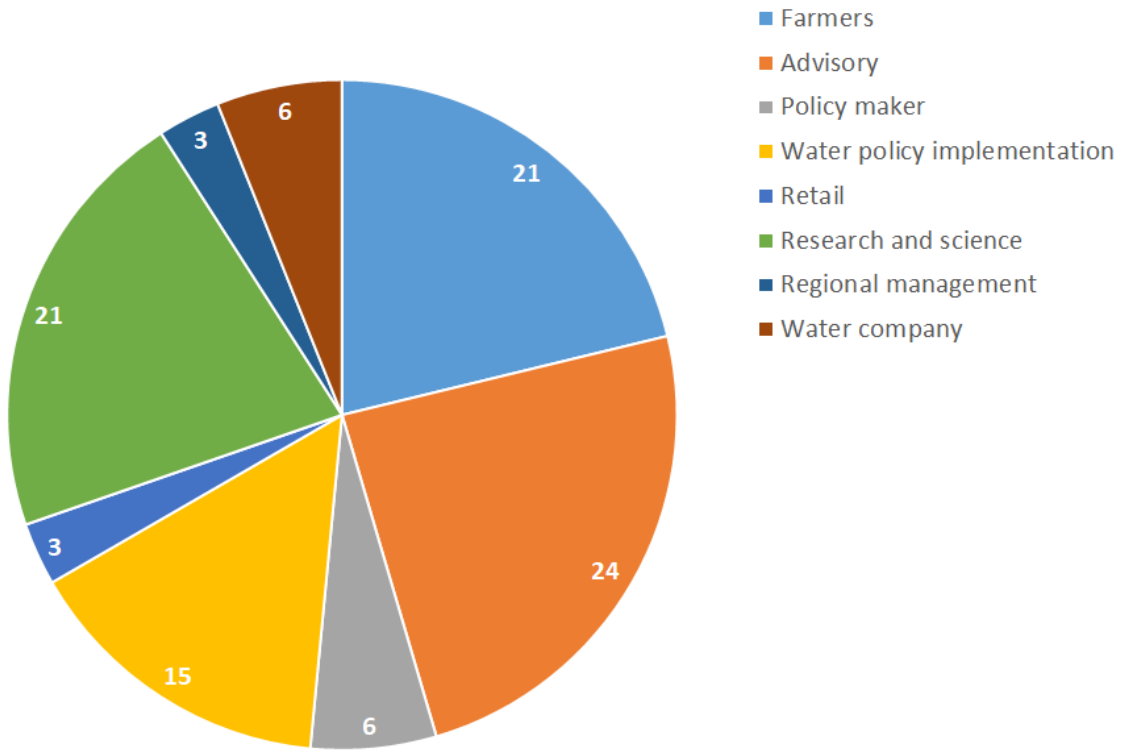

Figure 2: Percentage of stakeholder groups that the respondents represent, n=30

3.2.2 Do you agree with the opinion of EU representatives of issues concerning the protection of drinking water resource?

Figure 3 presents the structure of responses of the MAP representatives on the opinion of EU representatives. The structure of responses shows that more respondents slightly agree to strongly agree with all the issues presented.

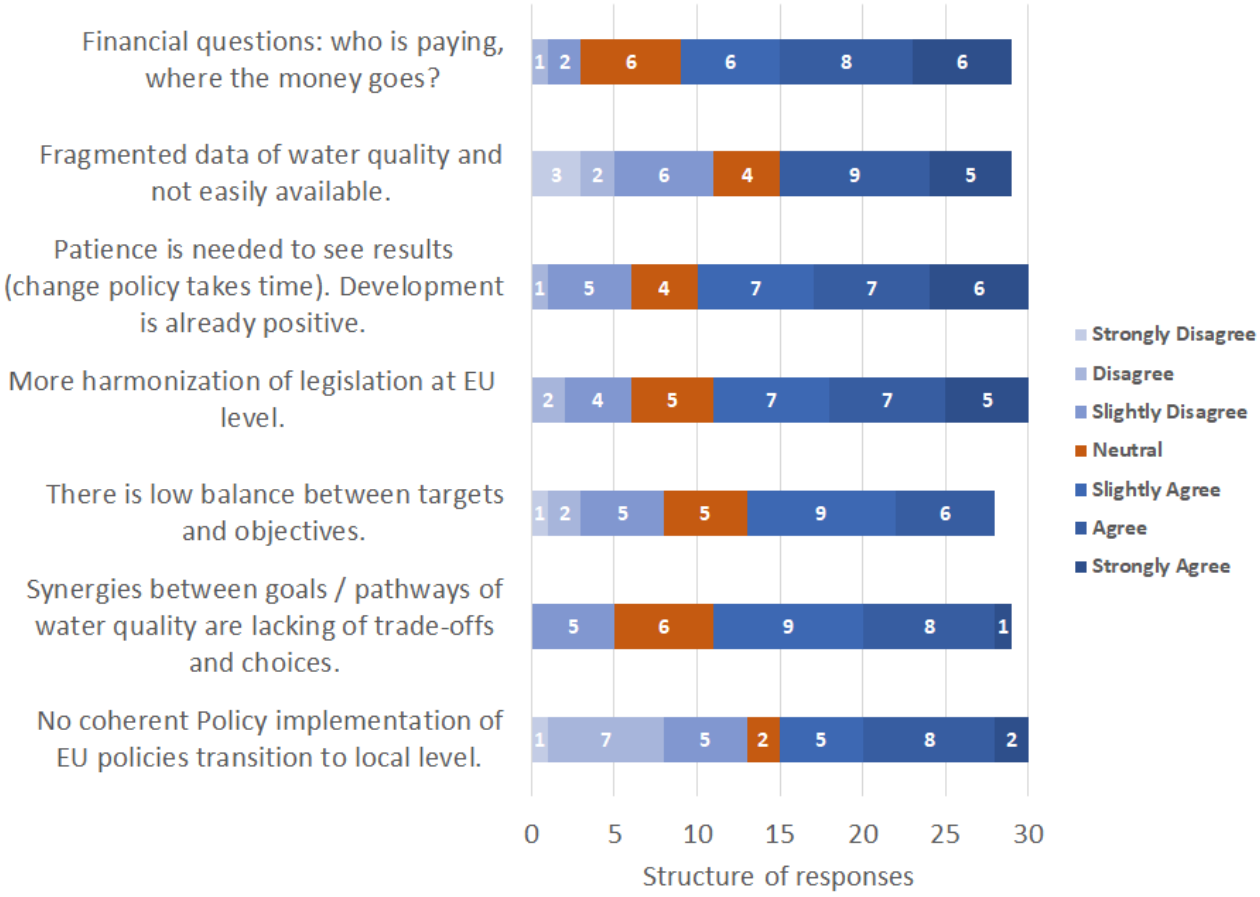

Figure 3: Structure of responses in the Likert scale for all MAPs on issues concerning the protection of drinking water resource on the local level, n=28-30

Next, the average of Likert scale showing differences in agreement with the statement was made (Figure 4). It shows which statements are more agreeable among respondents and which are less. The *Financial question "who is paying, where the money goes?"* has the highest average in the Likert scale and could be the most crucial issue for all MAPs. However, this statement has CV > 25 %, what shows more fragmented data and less certainty than the yellow coloured statement "*Fragmented data of water quality and not easily available" (*CV < 25 %). The other statements have CV > 25% which means they have more fragmented data and therefore are less reliable in the result.

A more extensive survey is needed to obtain more reliable results for all statements. Nevertheless, the average Likert scale is always higher than, which means that the stakeholders recognise these issues with a slight agreement in their local environment. However, stakeholders do not recognise specific issues between them to the same degree.

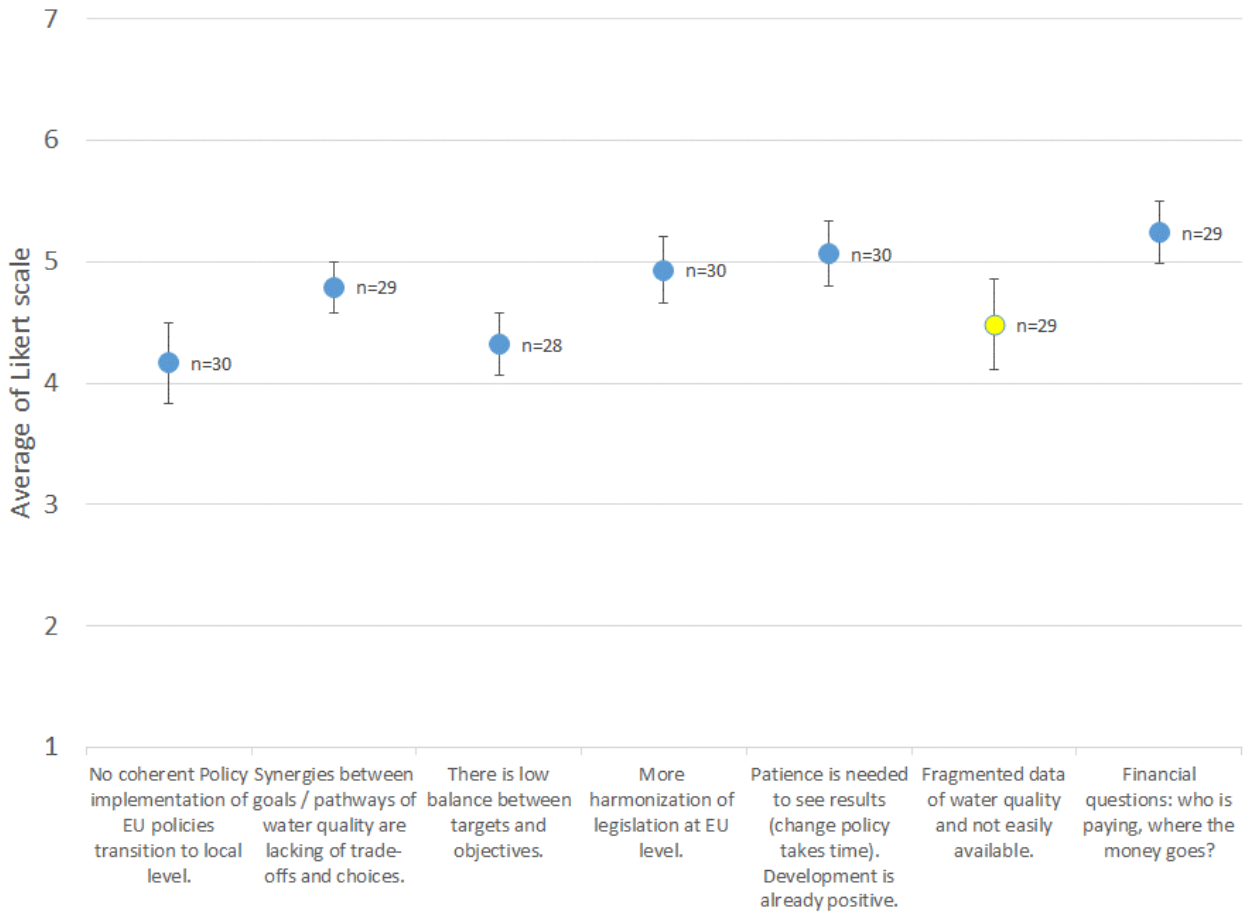

Figure 4: Average of Likert scale for all MAPs on issues concerning the protection of drinking water resource on the local level, yellow colour showing statements that have CV < 25 %

The results also show substantial differences between the four MAPs (United Kingdom, Slovenia, Portugal and Romania) (Figure 5). It shows how different member states of the EU have different individual issues for the protection of drinking water resources and respond differently with proposed issues that are of high importance at the EU level.

Figure 5 presents responses with CV higher than 25 % and with points on vertical stripes. For the United Kingdom, the statement with the lowest average on the Likert scale was (CV 54 %): *No coherent Policy implementation of EU policies transition to the local level.* In the Slovenian MAP, the lowest average on the Likert scale was for *Fragmented data of water quality and not readily available (*CV 75 %). In the MAP of Portugal two statements: *No coherent Policy implementation of EU policies transition to the local level* and *there is a low balance between targets and objectives*, both had CV 60 %.

Romanian MAP did not agree with statements: *No coherent Policy implementation of EU policies transition to the local level* (CV 58 %) and *More harmonisation of legislation at EU level* (CV 51%). Nevertheless, they all slightly to strongly agree that *patience is needed to see results (change policy takes time). Development is already positive.* This statement was also the only one with more certainty (CV < 25 %) for all four MAPs.

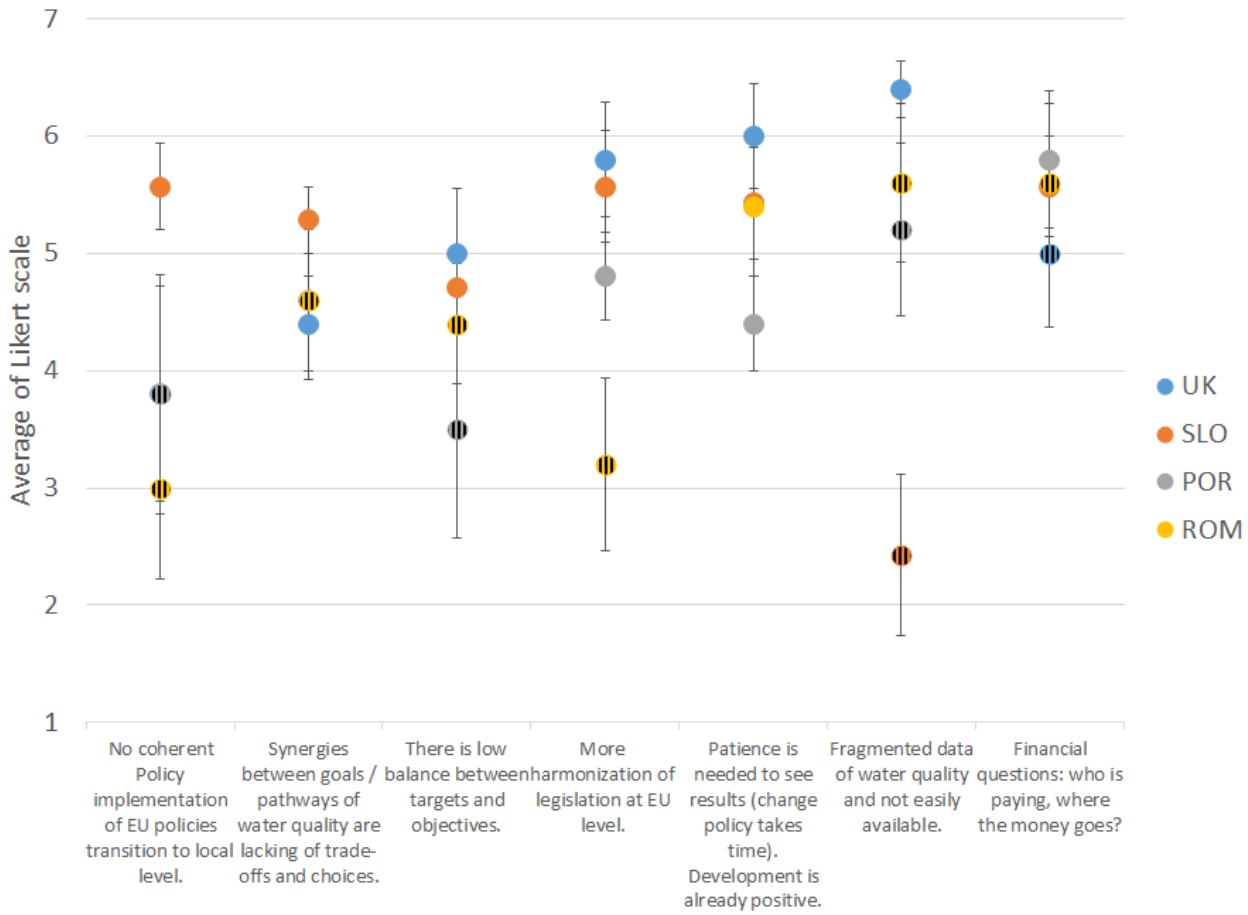

Figure 5: Average of Likert scale between four MAPs on issues concerning the protection of drinking water resource on the local level, labels with stripes showing statements that have CV > 25 %, n=5-7

3.2.3 Do you agree with these barriers in solving the issues of EU representatives within your national and local regulations?

The structure of responses (Figure 6) shows us more strong agreement than in the previous question. Most of the respondents decided that for barriers presented in the questionnaire, they could agree and strongly agree that they are also present in their local environment. Sixteen respondents decided that they strongly agree with the barrier. *There is a time lag between action (measures) and results (water quality).* This barrier that received most responses for agree and strongly agree (24 in total).

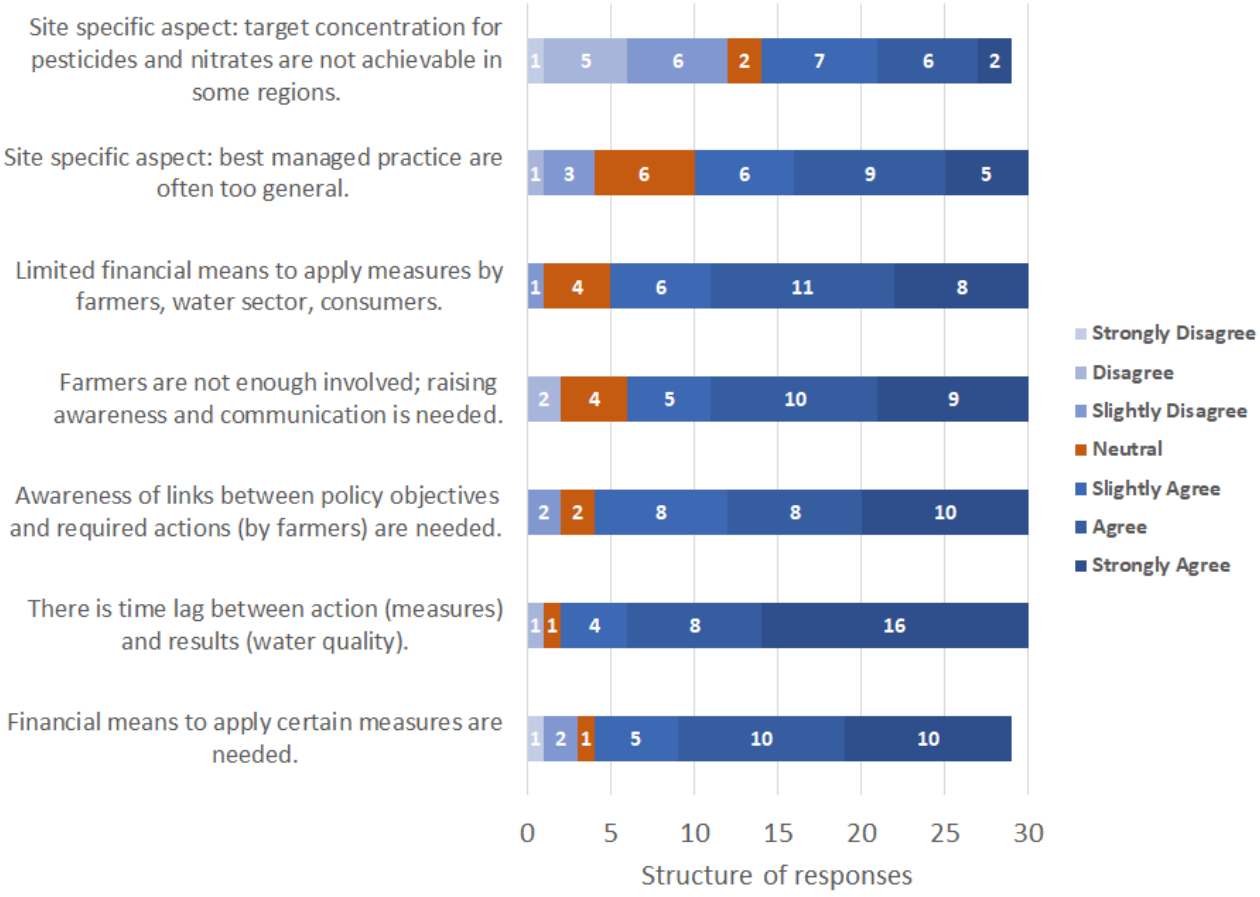

Figure 6: Structure of responses in a Likert scale for all MAPs on barriers in solving the issues concerning the protection of drinking water resource on the local level, n=29-30

The response to this question (Figure 7) shows a high average of Likert scale with the barriers related to the protection of drinking water resources on the local level. Most of the recognised barriers (5 of 7) have an average of Likert scale 5.1 or more, which means that these barriers are highly recognisable within all MAPs in the sample. Three statements have CV less than 25 % (coloured with yellow). Only barrier *Site-specific aspect: target concentration for pesticides and nitrates are not achievable in some regions* has CV 41 %, which means there are problems with a unified opinion of the importance of this barrier for MAPs. Other barriers have CV 26 and 27 %, which makes data quite unified and trustable. A reasonable conclusion can be made that in most cases, the barriers that were recognisable among EU representatives are also moderately to highly recognisable among MAPs.

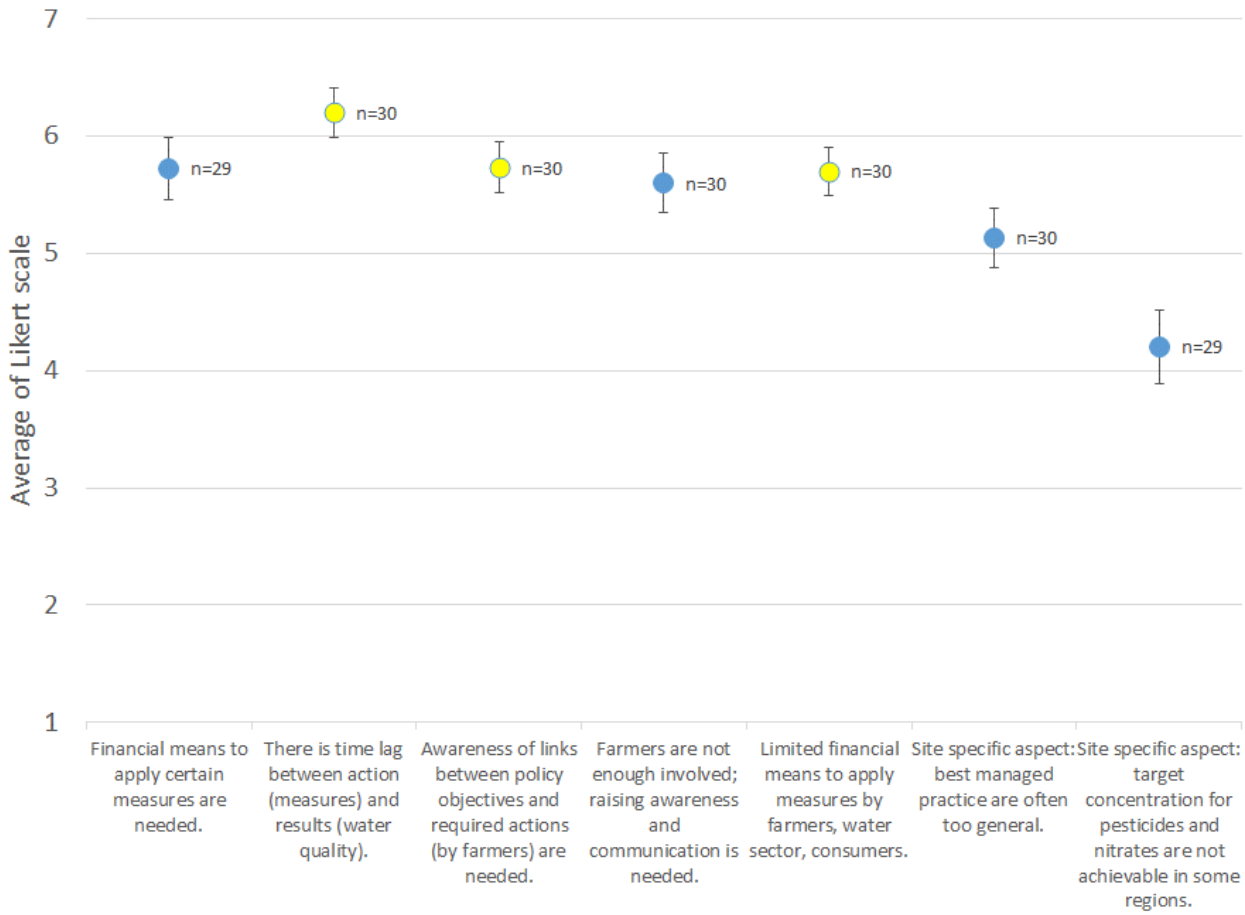

Figure 7: Average of Likert scale for all MAPs on barriers in solving the issues concerning the protection of drinking water resource on the local level, yellow colour showing statements that have CV < 25 %

Figure 8 shows the difference in response between the four different MAPs. In contradiction to the other MAPs, the Romanian (CV < 25 %) and Portuguese (CV of 53 %) stakeholders disagree with the statement that *Site-specific aspect as target concentration for pesticides and nitrates are not achievable in some regions*. EU representatives also recognised that this is a barrier only in part of the regions. The average of Likert scale is highest among MAPs for the barriers:

- There is a time lag between action (measures) and results (water quality),
- farmers are not enough involved; raising awareness and communication is needed and
- limited financial means to apply measures by farmers, water sector, consumers.

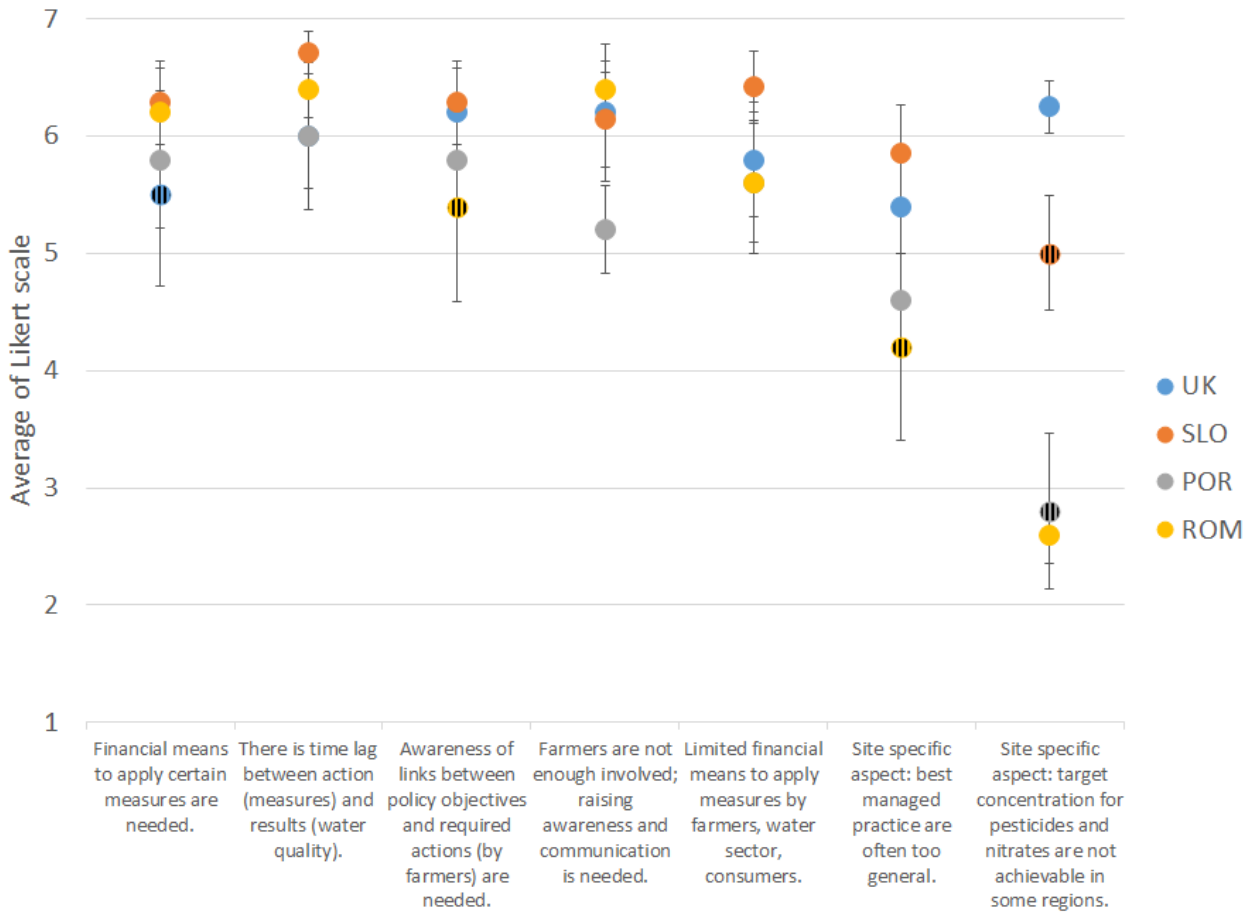

Figure 8: Average of Likert scale between four MAPs on barriers in solving the issues concerning the protection of drinking water resource on the local level, labels with stripes showing statements that have CV > 25 %, n=5-7

3.2.4 Do you agree with the opinions of EU representatives about the relationship between experts and policy within your national and local regulations reflected in your legislation?

The EU representatives were also asked to define how the relationship between experts and policy in the EU regulations reflects in EU legislation and how the system at EU level can be improved. The question was asked: What are the possible solutions for integrated scientific support for EU policy, with particular attention to drinking water resource protection against diffuse pollution of nitrates and pesticides from agriculture. In this bloc of questions, stakeholders of MAPs marked how much do they agree with the opinions of EU representatives.

The results show that most respondents slightly agree to strongly agree in all statements concerning the actor's issues of science integration into policy on the local level (Figure 9). However, the structure of responses shows that in statements *(in legislation, it is seen that in certain policymakers lack knowledge, more education and communication is needed*, and *science - policy relationship could be improved; both populistic and economically driven decisions* are observed) neutral reaction to the statements does not exist. That shows that most respondents slightly agree to strongly agree with the statements and that few respondents slightly disagree to disagree with the statements.

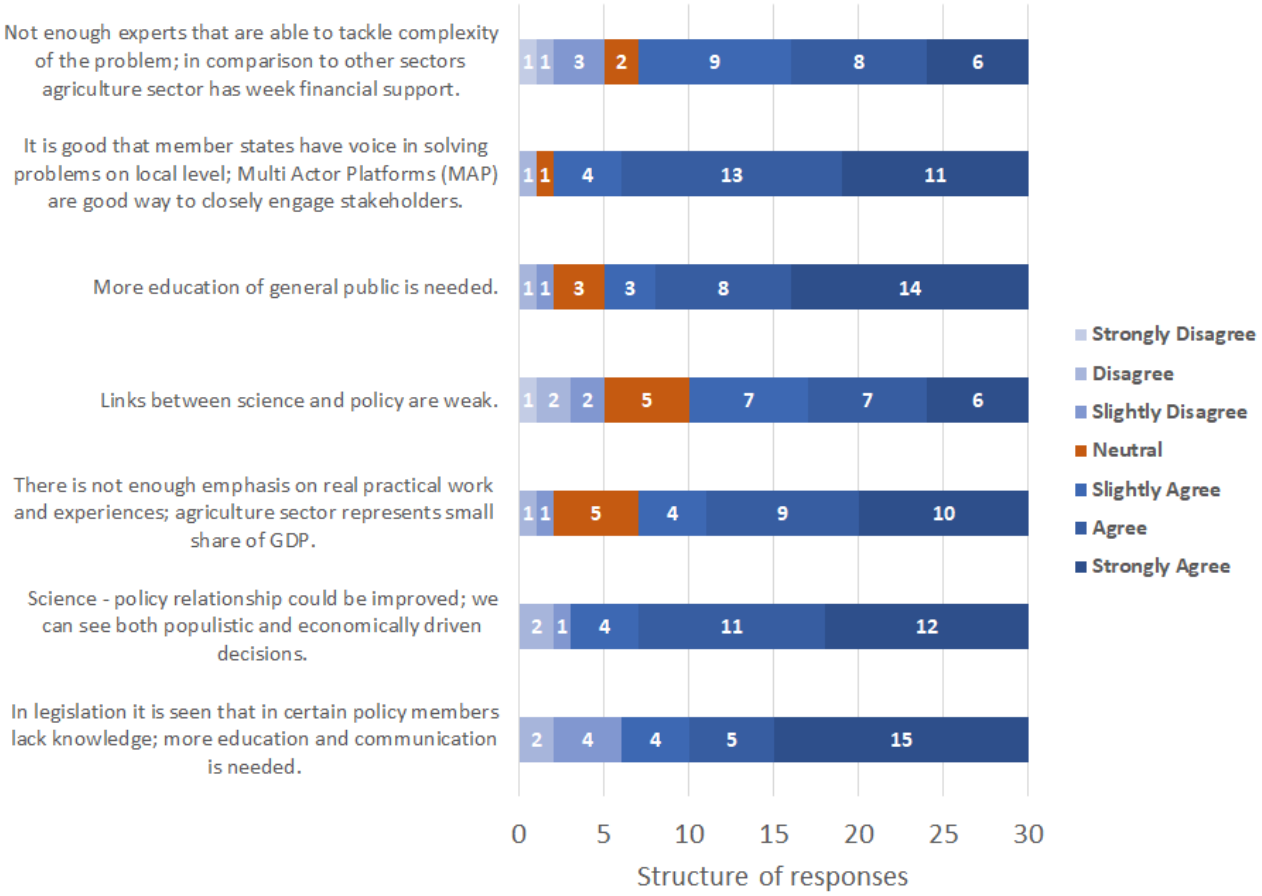

Figure 9: Structure of responses in a Likert scale for all MAPs on reflection of science integration into policy on the local level, n=30

Next, the results show a high average of Likert scale with all statements concerning the actor's issues of science integration into policy on the local level (Figure 10). The average Likert scale was between 71 and 86 %, which means that these issues are also recognised at the local level and not exclusively at EU. The CV was moderate and ranged between 18 and 30 %. Integration of science into policy is quite a challenge in all assessed MAPs.

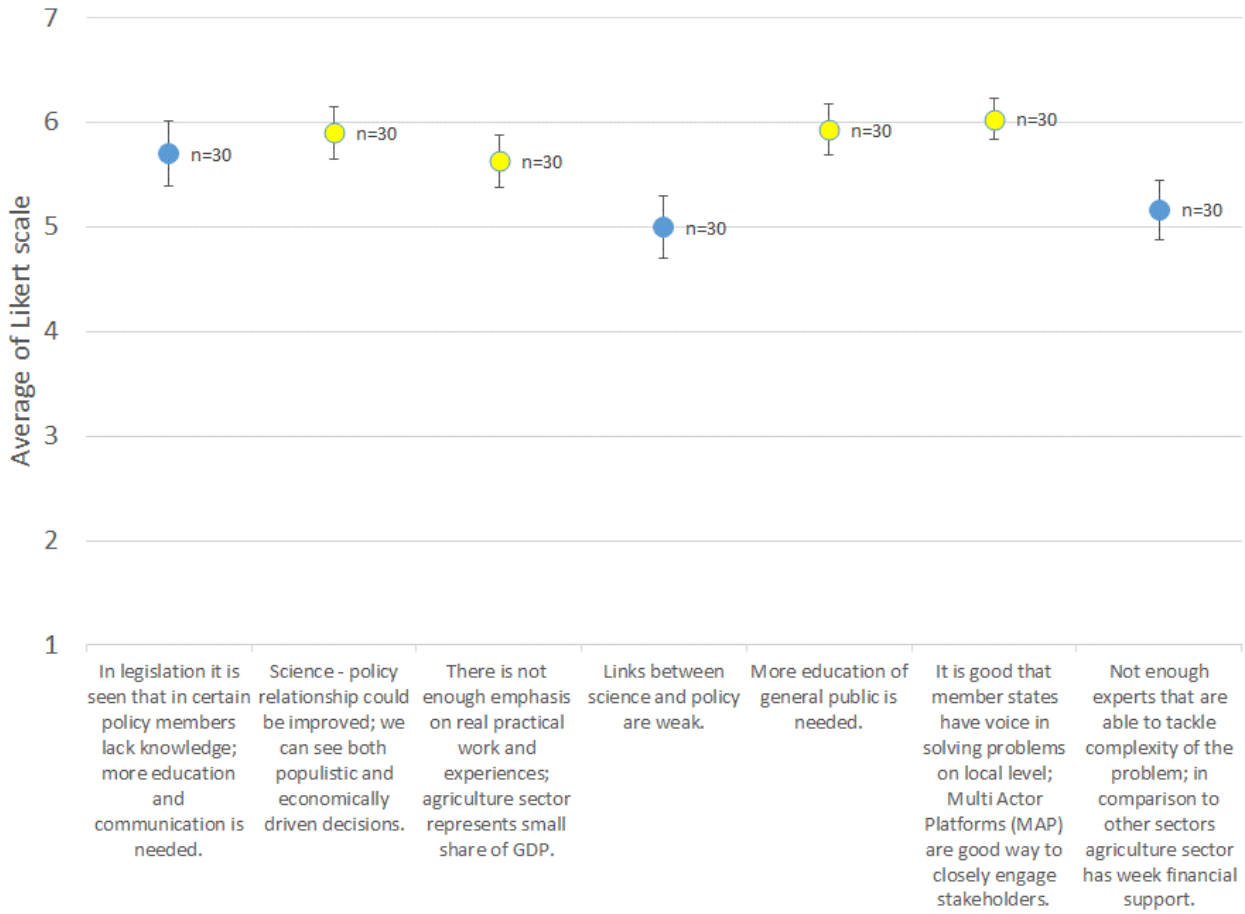

Figure 10: Average of Likert scale for all MAPs on reflection of science integration into policy on the local level, yellow colour showing statements that have CV < 25 %

In contradiction to the previous questions, there were small differences between the four MAPs for almost every statement (Figure 11). United Kingdom had the highest CV (30 %). *In Slovenia statement Legislation shows that certain policymakers lack knowledge, more education and communication is needed*, scored a CV of 0 %, which means a unified opinion. However, Slovene actors show highly fragmented data with the statement that there are *Not enough experts that can tackle the complexity of the problem; in comparison to other sectors agriculture sector has week financial support (*CV of 28 %). For the Portugal case, three statements had CV more than 25 %. These statements are: *In legislation it is seen that in certain policymakers lack knowledge, more education and communication is needed* (CV 38 %)*; science - policy relationship could be improved; populistic and economically driven decisions* are observed (CV 38 %)*; there is not enough emphasis on real practical work and experiences; and agriculture sector represents a small share of GDP* (CV 27 %). In the MAP in Romania, the CV was 29 % for statement *In legislation it is seen that in certain policymakers lack knowledge, more education and communication is needed*, and 41 % for *Links between science and policy are weak*.

Unified opinion (CV < 25%) among all four MAPs is presented in two issues of integration science into policy:

- More education of the general public is needed and
- It is good that member states have a voice in solving problems on the local level, Multi-Actor Platforms (MAP) are the right way to closely engage stakeholders.

The first one is very general, and the second one being particular and gives a good sign that the conceptual framework of FAIRWAY is recognised as a right solution at all MAPs in the sample and needed for integration of science into policy.

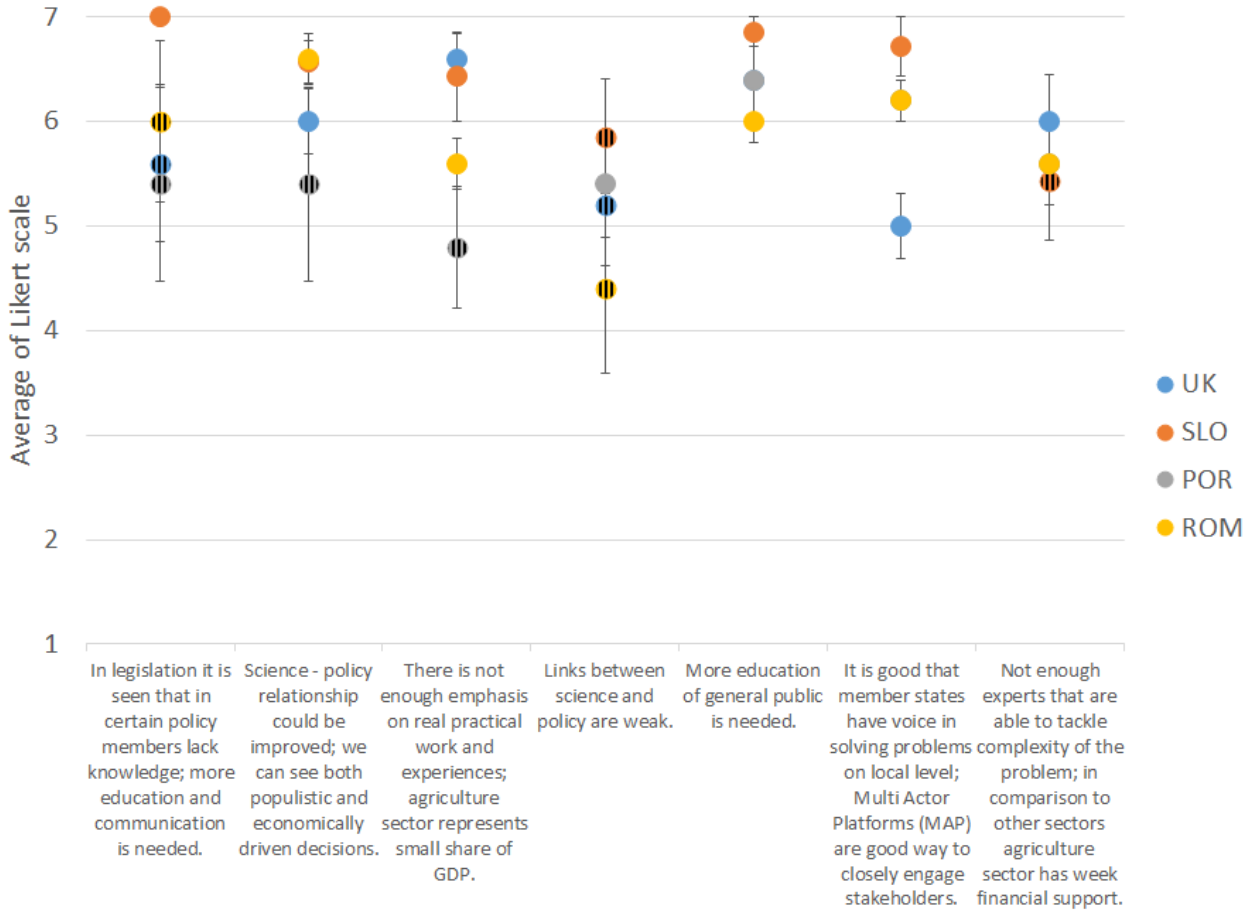

Figure 11: Average of Likert scale between four MAPs on reflection of science integration into policy on the local level, labels with stripes showing statements that have CV > 25 %, n=5-7

3.2.5 Do you agree with these solutions of integrated scientific support within your national/local policy?

MAPs were asked to present their opinion on solutions for better integration of science into policy. Most respondents decided that with most solutions (5 of 6) slightly agree to strongly agree (Figure 12). However, a solution to *Separate Pesticides and Nitrates in projects and policy communications* has almost equally distributed several responses between slightly disagree to disagree (11 in total) and agree to strongly agree (12 in total). This result can mean that this solution is not a solution for all MAPs in the sample and that further research should be done to investigate reasons beyond.

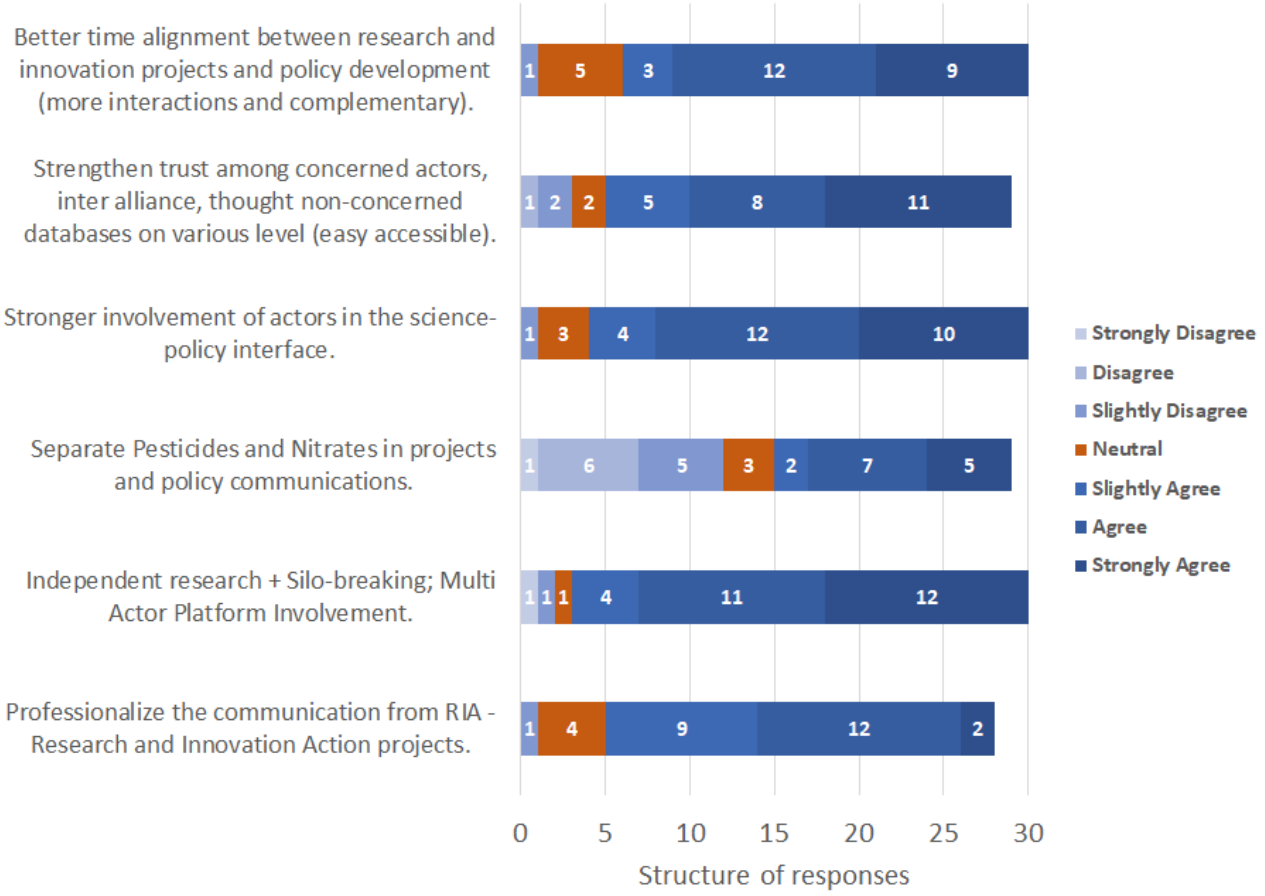

Figure 12: Structure of responses in a Likert scale for all MAPs on solutions of science integration into policy on the local level, n=28-30

The results (Figure 13) show a high average of Likert scale (more than 75%) in the opinions of different stakeholders in different MAPs with the proposed solutions. The average of Likert scale was noticeably lower for the statement **Separate Pesticides and Nitrates in projects and policy communications.** This statement had a CV of 45 %, and an average of Likert scale of 63 %, suggesting this solution does not work for all stakeholders and MAPs. Results suggest that if EU representatives seriously think about separating Pesticides and Nitrates in projects and policy communications, they should invite different MAPs to share their opinion on the matter and listen to them.

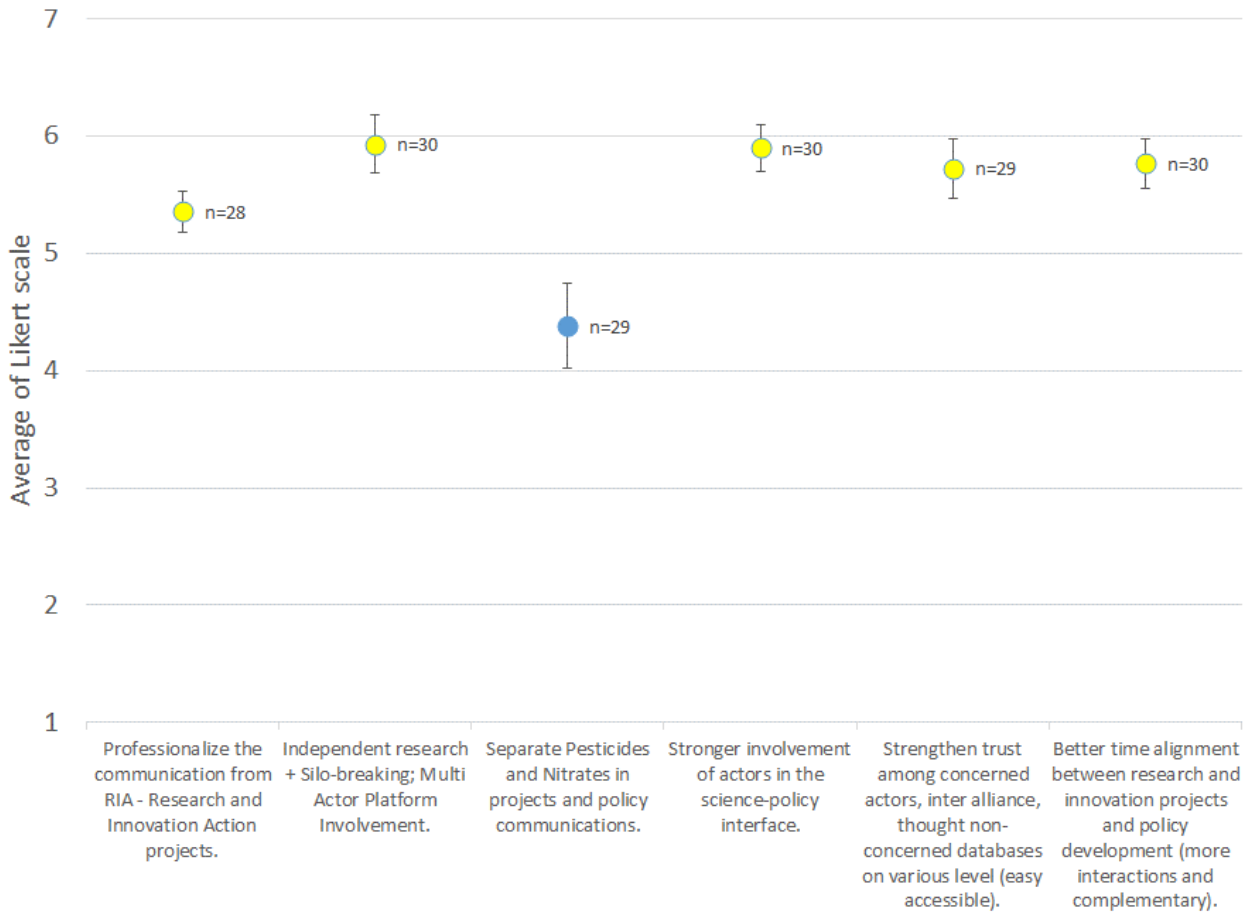

Figure 13: Average of Likert scale for all MAPs on solutions of science integration into policy on the local level, yellow colour showing statements that have CV < 25 %

In Romania, the proposed solution to *Separate Pesticides and Nitrates in projects and policy communication* scored the lowest average (CV was 16 %; Figure 14). Other solution scored high average in the Romania case and had a high agreeability among stakeholders (CV between 14 and 19 %) for all solutions except one: *Strengthen trust among concerned actors, inter-alliance, thought non-concerned databases on various level (easily accessible)* (CV 27 %). Also, in Portugal case, the solution to separate pesticides and nitrates scored low, but the CV was relatively high (43 %). This result points on different opinions of the stakeholders (very fragmented data) in the Portugal MAP. These results are essential because a solution for a particular issue has the highest perspective if it has the support of a broad group of stakeholders. In the United Kingdom case, the CV was less than 25 % for only one statement: *Stronger involvement of actors in the science-policy interface* (CV 16 %). For all the other solutions proposed stakeholders have different views, having a CV between 27 and 43 **%. In the Slovenia case, all presented solutions have a high average of Likert scale and quite unified opinion among stakeholders (CV between 6 and 23 %).**

The solution **Stronger involvement of actors in the science-policy interface** has a unified opinion (CV < 25 %) among all MAPs. This result makes sense according to previously mentioned results were MAPs recognised that **It is good that member states have a voice in solving problems on the local level; Multi-Actor Platforms (MAP) are the right way to closely engage stakeholders.**

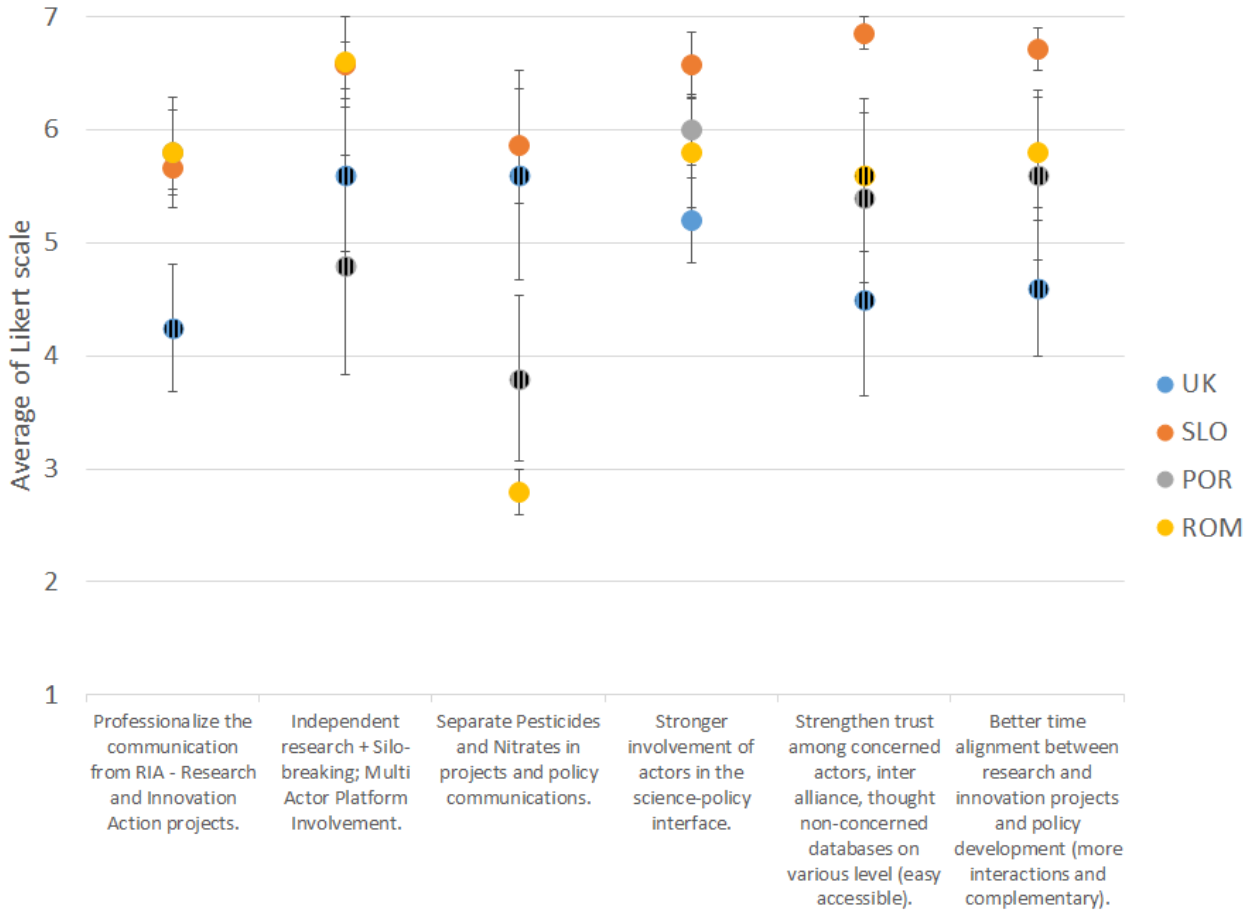

Figure 14: Average of Likert scale between four MAPs on solutions of science integration into policy on the local level, labels with stripes showing statements that have CV > 25 %, n=5-7

3.3 CONCLUSION ON FAIRWAY CASE STUDIES

The findings from WP 7.1 were distributed among all project's MAP leaders in the form of paper questionnaire to evaluate possible correlations between the EU and local level, on barriers and issues in providing integrated scientific support for policy regulations related to drinking water resource protection against diffuse pollution of nitrates and pesticides from agriculture.

Different stakeholders that were asked to fill out the questionnaires were not necessarily experts; however, they are involved daily in the process of making decisions of how to maintain drinking water resources protected. The survey sample thus included the critical stakeholders involved in different fields of protection drinking water resource. Although the sample size (30 questionnaires) could be larger, we were able to conduct an incomplete DELFI method (explained in the introduction), which provided higher result importance.

An average of Likert scale to statements for each MAP was calculated and presented in Figures. Also, a coefficient of variation (from now on CV) and standard error was calculated. Results showed that CV ranges from 15 to 45 %; results with a CV less than 25 % are considered as a high agreement among all MAPs.

MAPs were asked to decide how much could they agree or disagree on the Likert scale of 1 to 7 for different issues that EU representatives recognised as necessary for the protection of drinking water resources. The average Likert scale for these issues was always higher than 60 %. Stakeholders recognise that these issues are also important in their local environment. However, specific issues are considered as not essential or not evenly important between stakeholders (fragmented data). The issue: **Patience is needed to see results (change policy takes time). Development is already positive** is highly agreed by all presented MAPs (CV < 25%).

The results of the assessments show a higher average of Likert scale with the statements on barriers that are present in solving the issues concerning the protection of drinking water resources on the local level. The agreeability among MAPs was highest for the barriers:

- **There is a time lag between action (measures) and results (water quality),**
- **farmers are not enough involved; raising awareness and communication is needed** and
- **limited financial means to apply measures by farmers, water sector, consumers.**

These results imply that EU representatives should work on solving these barriers because they are uniquely recognised among different MAPs and different stakeholder groups.

In the third part, results show a high average of Likert scale with statements concerning the actor's issues of science integration into policy on the local level. Average was between 71 and 86 %, which means that this is recognised issues also at the local level and not exclusively at EU. CV ranged between 18 and 30 %, which gave in most cases satisfactory unified opinion on the matter. Integration of science into policy is quite a challenge in all MAPs in the sample.

Two issues of integration science into policy have Higher agreeability among all MAPs:

- **More education of the general public is needed** and
- **It is good that member states have a voice in solving problems on the local level; Multi-Actor Platforms (MAP) are the right way to engage stakeholders closely.**

The first one is very general. However, the second one is particular and gives a good sign that FAIRWAYs conceptual framework is recognised as the right solution at all MAPs in the sample and needed for integration of science into policy.

MAPs were also asked of their opinion on solutions for better integration of science into policy. There was a high average of Likert scale for all statements, except for the solution **Separate Pesticides and Nitrates in projects and policy communications.** This statement had a CV of 45 %, and a relatively low average (63 %), suggesting that this solution is not a solution for all stakeholders and MAPs. Results indicate that if EU representatives seriously think about separating Pesticides and Nitrates in projects and policy communications, they should invite different MAPs to share their opinion on the matter and listen to them.

The agreeability among all MAPs was highest for the solution: **Stronger involvement of actors in the science-policy interface.** Stronger involvement corresponds with a reflection on science integration into policy, where MAPs recognise that **It is good that member states have a voice in solving problems on a local level; Multi-Actor Platforms (MAP) are the right way to engage stakeholders closely.**

4. ACTOR'S FEEDBACK ON PRACTICES FOR WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT IN INTERIM PROJECT RESULTS

4.1 METHODOLOGY

4.1.1 The questionnaire

The first idea was to use only the responses from questionnaires filled in by attendants of the Joint Policy conference held in Brussels on 7th of December 2018. There were 53 attendants, and 12 fully finished paper questionnaires. It was decided to increase the sample of solved questionnaires with the use of CAWI method (Computer-Assisted Web Interviewing), which is a data gathering via the internet. A link to the web questionnaire was sent to all stakeholders that have accepted to be on the Fairway mailing list for receiving information or invitations to an event. This list has also been used for the invitation for the Join Policy conference. The link to the web questionnaire of 306 mail addresses was sent on 27th of February 2019 with eight days to finish the web questionnaire. In this period, no other type of emails or other ways were used to increase the number of received questionnaires. After the due date, we received 23 questionnaires, of which 11 were fully finished (48% completion rate), but we were able to use 17 of 23. For the full analysis, we took answers of both the paper and web questionnaires (total of 29 fully finished questionnaires) and analysed them together.

Completion rates lower than 60 % in web questionnaires, should be examined for possible major errors in the survey design or logic (Liu and Wronski, 2018). The duration of the questionnaire was approx. 10 minutes. This is a questionnaire with long duration (10 – 15 minutes) according to Trouteaud (2004), and the completion rate of the questionnaire with this duration is statistically lower than in questionnaires with a short duration (3 – 5 minutes). This questionnaire is considered as more complex, as it contains open-ended questions and multiple choice questions with many words. The inclusion of difficult questions reduces a survey's participation rate and increases the chances of respondents engaging in undesirable survey practices, such as item nonresponse or the use of heuristics like straight-lining (Liu and Wronski, 2018). The survey literature has shown that some survey formats are inherently more challenging to respond to than others. For example, a lengthy question imposes both comprehension and mapping difficulties (Holbrook, Cho, & Johnson, 2006). Also, open-ended questions are typically associated with higher dropout rates because they are more burdensome and require higher cognitive efforts than closed-ended questions (Manfreda & Vehovar, 2002). In a mail survey experiment, Dillman, Sinclair, and Clark (1993) found that the completion rate decreased when a difficult question was asked.

The primary goal of the survey was to gain suggestions for direction and improvement of Fairway and obtain a measure of the quality of interim findings of the Fairway project. This means that the number of responses is meaningful, even with lower completion rates (Archer, 2008). The web questionnaire was designed in the free licensed Slovene web program 1KA (www.1ka.si), which is specialised in constructing web surveys of this kind.

The questionnaire combined open-ended questions and multiple-choice questions with predefined answers offering respondents the possibility to choose and/or rank among several options or the possibility to grade on a "very low" to "very high" scale. The questionnaire had four blocks. The blocks were divided according to the work packages, in the first block there were findings of WP 3 to 6, in the second and third block there were findings and solutions of WP 7, and in the fourth block, there were questions of WP 8.

In the questionnaire held in Brussels, we designed some explanatory questions, asking respondents to explain their opinion on matters concerning the interim findings of WP 7. Analysis of answers showed that they often repeated, a decision was made that for the web questionnaire the explanatory questions will be upgraded into multiple choice questions were the section *Other* (for other opinions

different than proposed) was permitted.

Questions with the Likert scale were used when we wanted to find out how useful or not are interim findings to the respondents. We used a Likert scale for the interim findings of WP 3 (indicators), WP4 (measures), WP5 (decision support tools) and WP6 (governance). Questions in the survey and web survey were based according to the Likert scale from 1 to 7, where one meant not useful, and seven meant very useful to the respondent. Respondents were asked to put their choice according to the Likert scale proposed in the instructions. In the analysis of the results, we presented an average of Likert scale for each interim finding for each work package. Standard error and coefficient of variation (CV) were calculated.

In WP 7 (policy support) we wanted to know if the respondents agree with a solution (which was explained through the sketch in survey and e-survey) that the lead partners of WP 7 proposed as an answer to the interim findings of this WP. Only close-ended questions were proposed. In addition, the respondents were asked if they would choose other solutions, and if so, which solution.

For the interim findings of WP 8 (communication and dissemination) the respondents had some troubles understanding the instructions in the questionnaire, and to ease them answering an upgrade into multiple choice question in web questionnaire was made.

4.1.2 Survey sample

In total, 306 experts, actors, policy-makers, farmers, non-governmental organisations, small and medium-sized enterprises and big companies from European Union countries were selected to conduct the Survey. They received an invitation to attend the Joint Policy Conference (JPC) held in Brussels and 53 of them respond and attend. At the conference, the paper questionnaires were distributed among all attendants. After the conference, the decision was made by WP 7 lead partner (UNI LJ) to send a link to an upgraded web questionnaire to all stakeholders that first received an invitation mail to join the JPC.

The stakeholders were selected by their field of expertise in water policy regulations/protection and the Pesticides and Nitrate Directives of EU or field of involvement in protection/pollution of EU water resources or integrated life within water protection areas.

4.2 RESULTS

4.2.1 Respondents

The majority of respondents were from research institution (27 %), followed by the industry sector (20 %), regional institution (13 %), EU commission (13 %), national institutions (10 %), NGO (10 %) and 7 % respondents from SMEs. From the industry sector, the respondents defined their enterprises as fertiliser company, water supply company and pesticides industry. None respondent came from the stakeholder group – farmer (Figure 15).

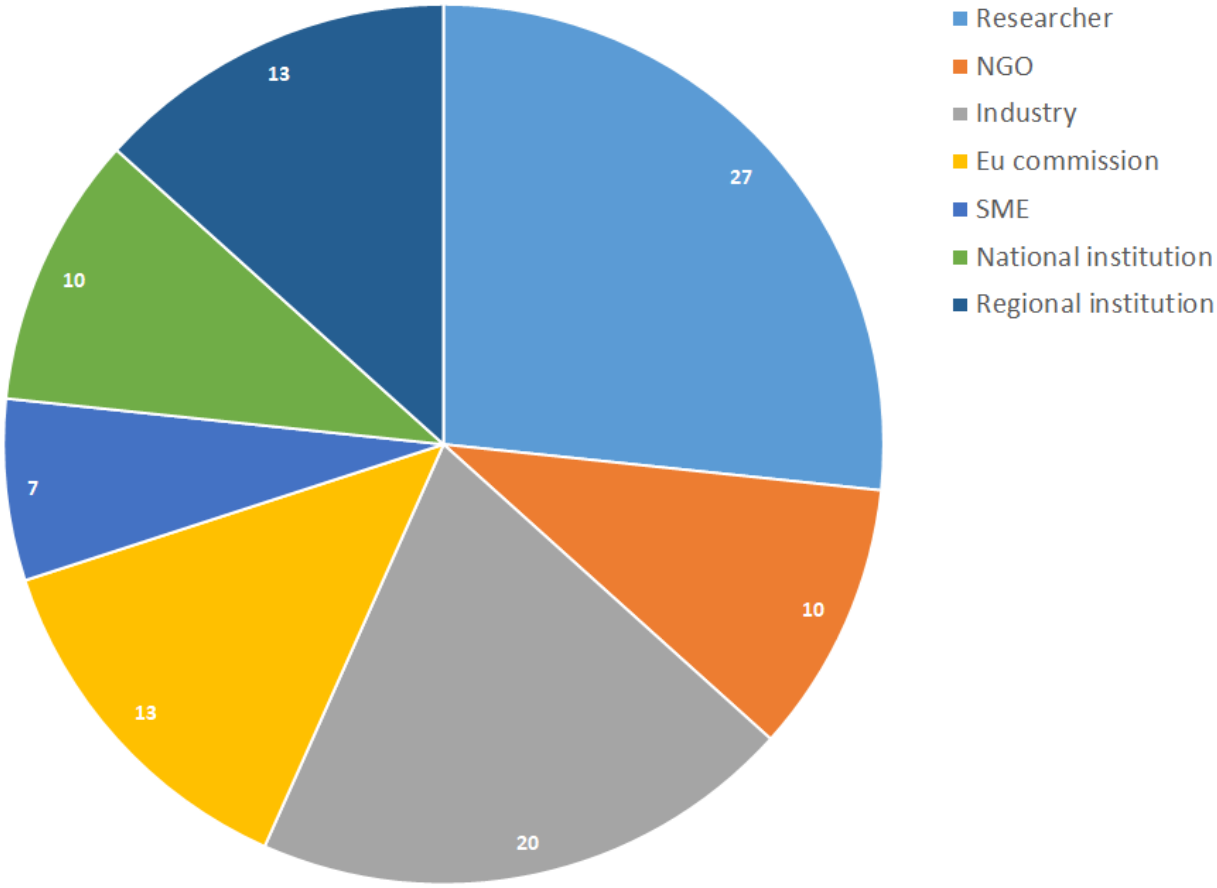

Figure 15: Type of institution that the respondents represented (%) in the survey and e-survey together

4.2.2 Interim findings of WP 3 to 6 – How useful are the interim findings to the respondents?

In this block, the interim findings of WPS: WP3 (indicators), WP4 (measures), WP5 (decision support tools) and WP6 (governance), were presented in sentences. The respondents were asked to state the usefulness of these findings with the help of a Likert scale from 1 to 7, where one meant not useful, and seven meant very useful. The answers were collected from survey and e-survey and combined, and the arithmetic mean was calculated. Standard error and CV was calculated for each of the interim findings of each of the work package. The interim findings are presented below, and the results are presented in the paragraph.

Interim finding WP3_a:

The most critical pressure indicators for the quality of drinking water on farms depend on the type of catchment.

Interim finding WP3_b:

Some link between pressure indicators and states indicators can statistically be performed.

Interim finding WP4_a:

There are many possible measures to decrease the pesticides pollution of drinking water supplies. Most effective measures are (i) spray drift reduction through technical modifications of the spraying technique, (ii) pesticides input reduction through integrated pest management measures, (iii) no spraying zones and vegetated buffer zones, and (iv) erosion reduction measures. Tillage measures appear to have little effect.

Interim finding WP4_b:

There are many possible measures to decrease the nitrate pollution of drinking water supplies. Most effective measures are (i) nitrogen input control, (ii) adjustment of crop type and/or crop rotation, (iii) growth of cover crops, (iv) minimum tillage and surface mulching, and (v) nitrification inhibitors. Fertiliser type appears to have little influence, while the effectiveness of buffer strips greatly depends on soil and hydrological conditions.

Interim finding WP4_c:

The estimated costs greatly vary between measures and also between countries. Some measures are cost-effective. Accurate cost information is scarce.

Interim finding WP5_a:

All participating countries have their own decision support tools (DSTs) developed to support water quality/agri/environment policy makers operating at a regional or national level, and those intended to support sustainable nutrient management at the farm level.

Interim finding WP5_b:

Only a few of the evaluated DSTs, evaluated at FairWay project, are primarily aimed at improving water quality. Instead, they are a farm (nutrient/pesticide) management tools based on the assumption that the efficient use of nitrogen and pesticides indirectly improves water quality. Only a few DSTs consider the impact of mitigation methods on water quality.

Interim finding WP5_c:

Decision support tools are not easily transferred from one country to another because they all operate within the context of the more comprehensive advisory frameworks in place in

their respective countries, in addition to issues around language and requirements for country/specific data, calibration, etc.

Interim finding WP6_a:

The regulatory structures in all countries are very comprehensive and fragmented, to the extent that stakeholders are not able to fully understand them.

Interim finding WP6_b:

The governance structures between countries have considerable differences. Partly explanation lays in historical, cultural and political differences between countries.

Interim finding WP6_c:

Between countries, it is a high degree of divergence in scales of governance.

Results show that most findings were considered as useful to strongly useful (Figure 16). However, neutral reaction to interim findings is also quite strong. The most useful interim findings are WP5_b and WP6_a, where only 3 and four respondents (out of 25) decided that these findings are neutral or not useful to them.

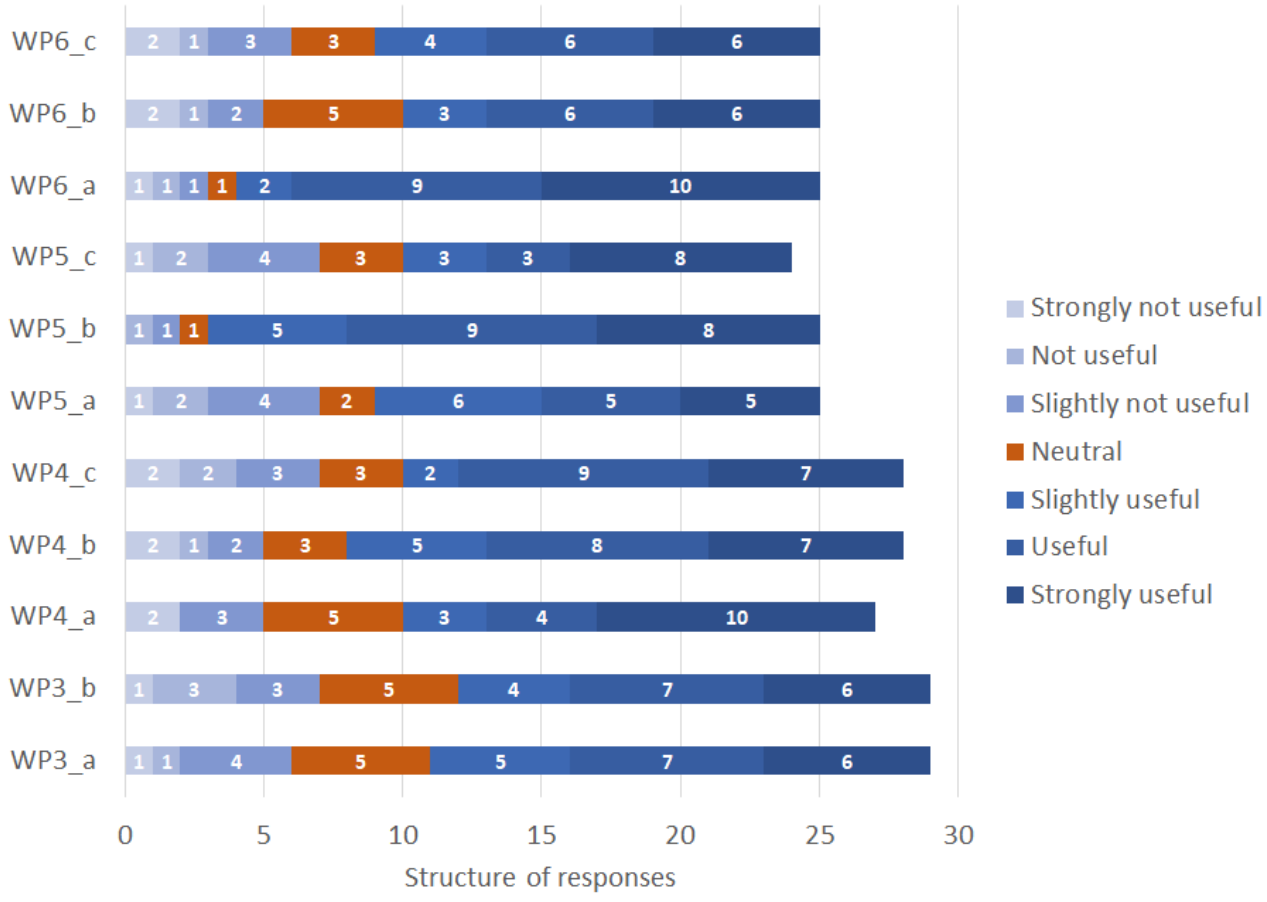

Figure 16: Structure of responses of interim findings of WP 3 to 6, (see text for explanation of the interim findings), n=25-29

The majority of answers has an average of Likert scale (Figure 17) between 70 and 74 %. The interim findings of the FairWay project's WP 3 to 6 are considered as at least slightly useful to the majority of the respondents. However, the average is higher when the findings are more precise, not so general, and therefore ready for further consideration.

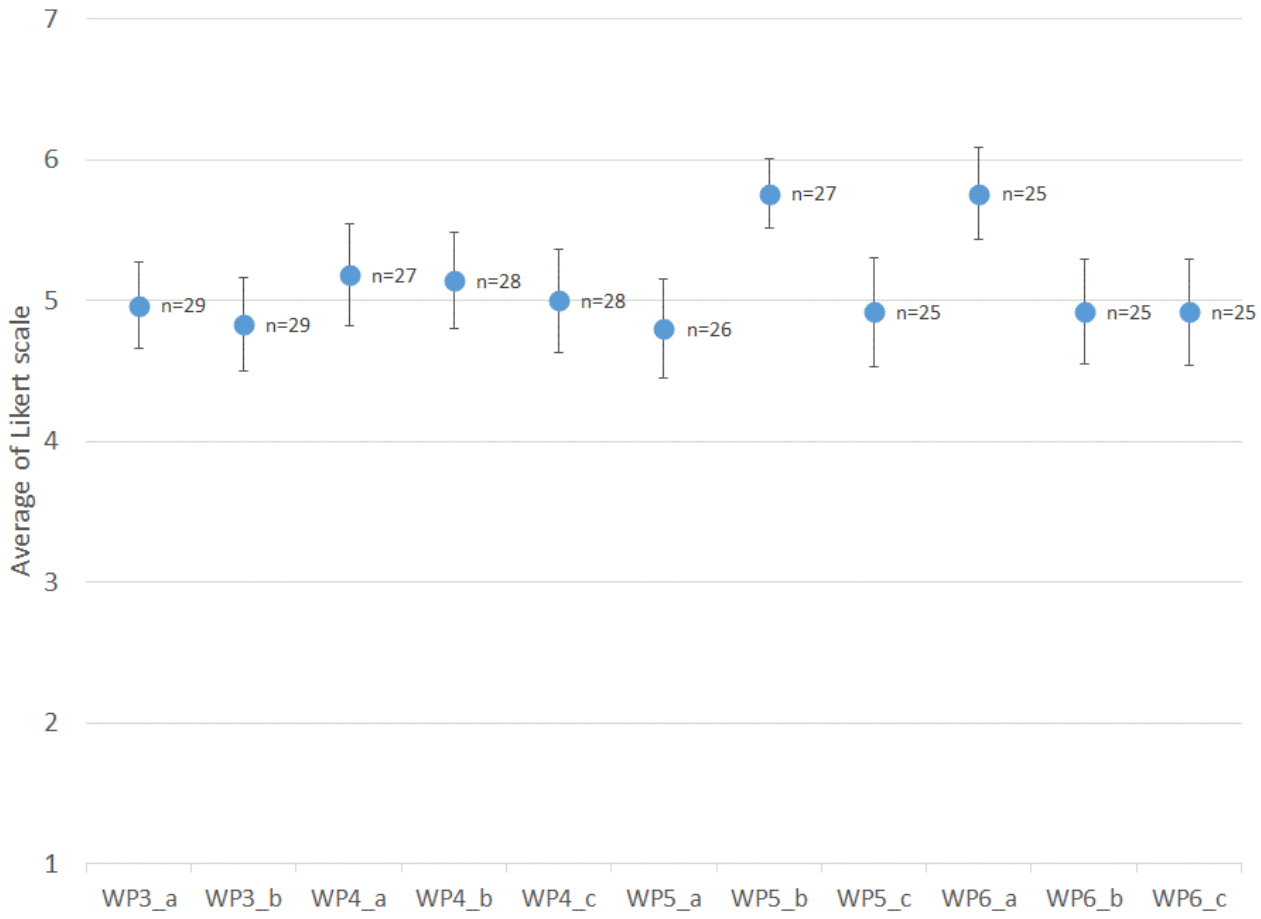

Figure 17: Average of Likert scale of interim findings of WP 3 to 6, (see text for explanation of the interim findings).

4.2.3 Interim findings of WP 7– feedback on barriers and issues concerning low interaction of projects findings between researchers and policymakers in the EU

In the first part of WP 7.1. we discussed with EU members about barriers and issues concerning low interaction of project dissemination between researchers and policymakers in the EU.

4.2.3.1 Interim finding WP7_a

The first finding of WP 7.1. was as follows:

> *Results show that EU research project dissemination is not followed through to the European Commission.*

We wanted to know the opinion of respondents, the reason why this occurs, and their suggestion for improvement. In the questionnaire on paper, the questions were open-ended and explanatory, that means we gave respondents the freedom to express their opinion, without any forewarning possible answers. During the analysis of the answers, it was shown that answers were repeated and can be put together into common points. Therefore, we upgraded the explanatory questions into multiple choice questions for web questionnaire and added the section *Other*, for letting express their opinion if it could not be put into any of suggested common points. However, the analysis of the web questionnaire results showed that all the answers could be still put together within the common points. The results are shown below with the paragraph.

The most frequently cited answer was **Complex governance system where key measures are easily lost.** (cited ten times), followed by **Often to academic terminology** (cited eight times) and **Not well communicated** and **Not sufficiently bottom-up approach** (both cited seven times)**.** These answers were the crucial issues that respondents recognise as problematic for inefficient project dissemination followed through to EU (Figure 18).

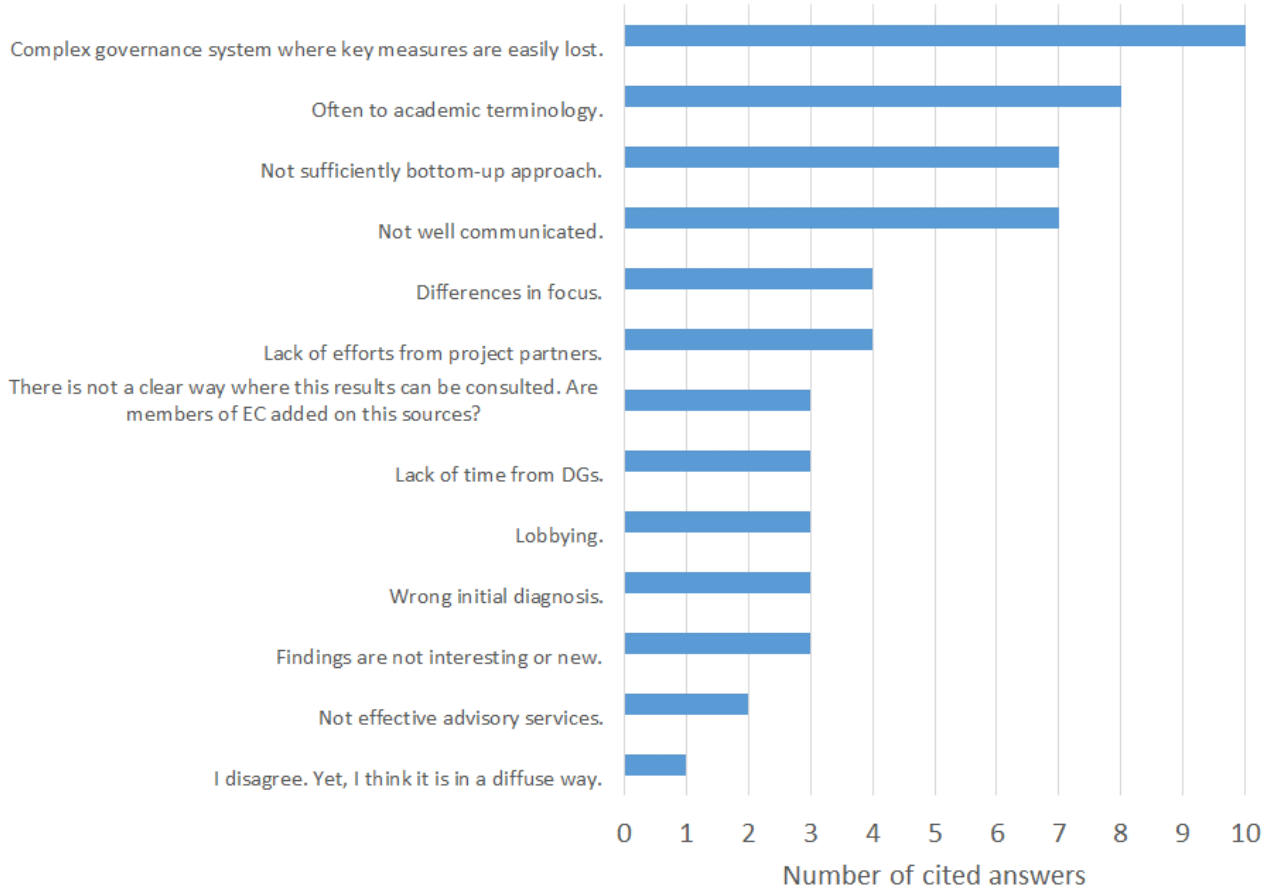

Figure 18: Number of cited answers for question: Why is project dissemination not followed through to EU?

Almost all of the answers offered were equally selected among respondents, which suggests that the respondents recognised solving these issues in multiple ways and on multiple scales. The cited answers range from 5 to 8, showing that solutions cited eight and seven times, could be preferred and solutions cited 6 and five times, could be supplementary for improvement of project dissemination efficiency (Figure 19).

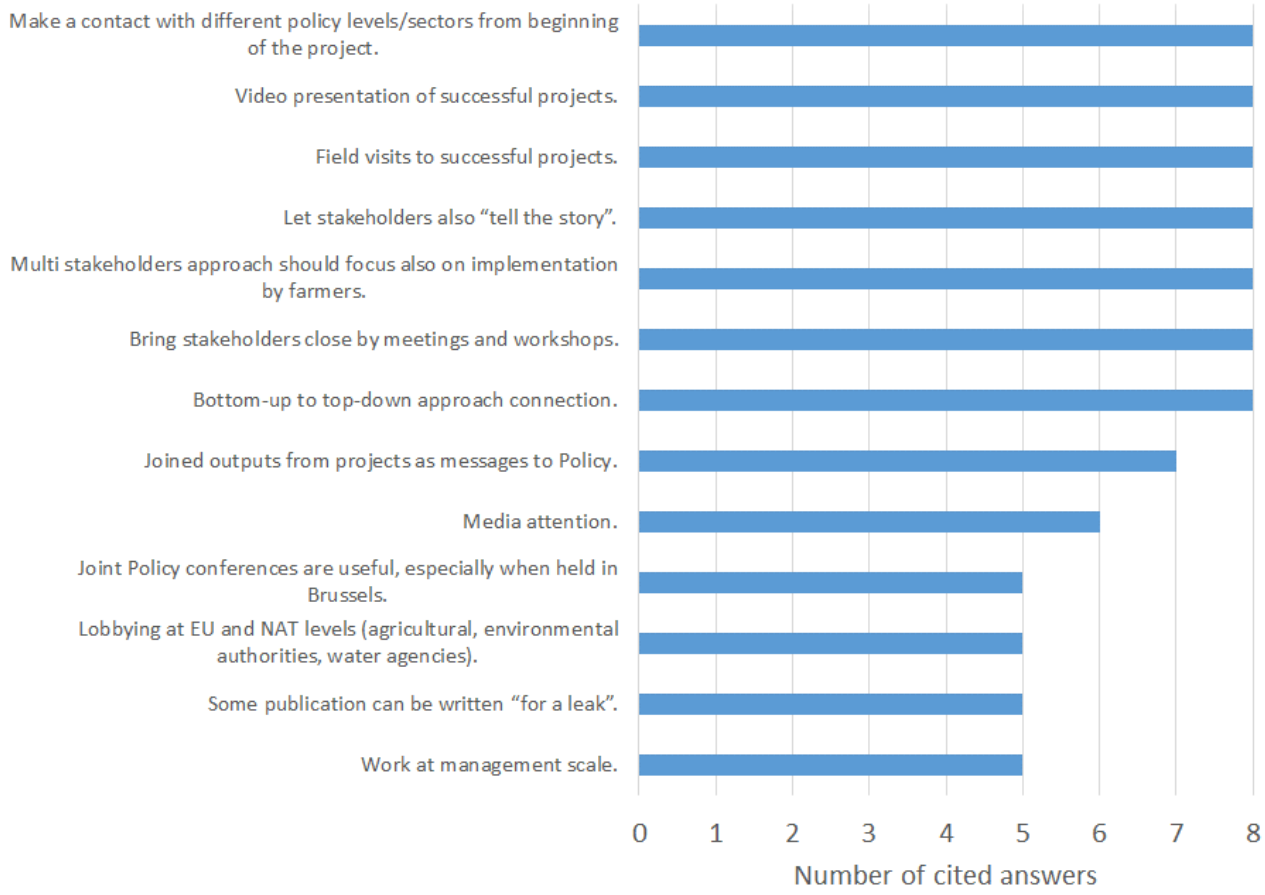

Figure 19: Number of cited answers for a suggestion for the improvement of more efficient project dissemination followed through to EU

4.2.3.2 Interim finding WP7_b

Next, we asked respondents how much do they agree with the statement:

> *The need is to have key and important final project results shorter and in a language understandable to policymakers.*

We asked to rate this last interim finding of WP 7.1. With a Likert scale from 1 to 7, where 1 meant not agree, and 7 meant very much agree. It can be seen from Figure 20, that the structure of responses is undoubtedly pointed to the right, where most of the respondents chose that they agree or strongly agree with the statement.

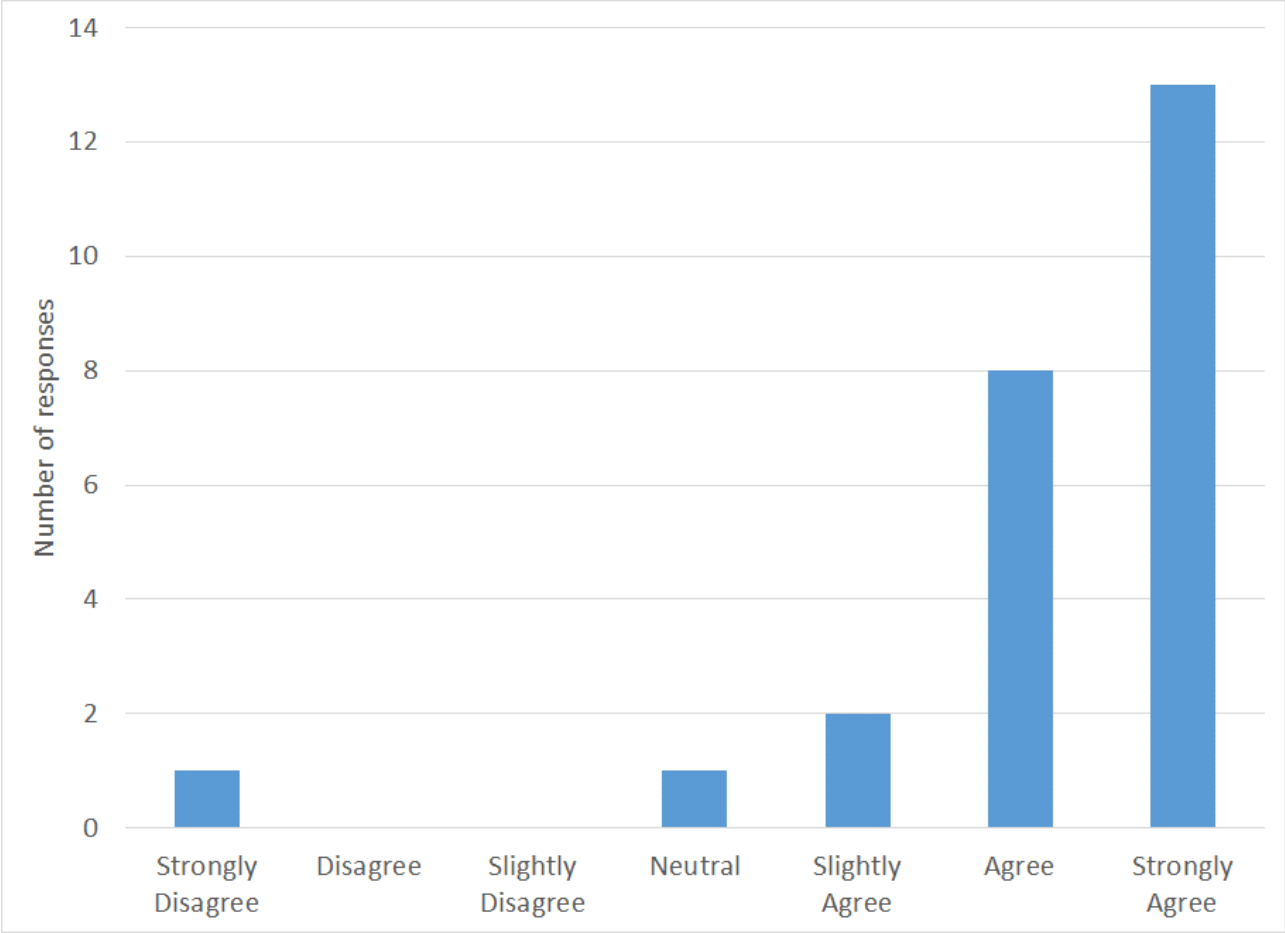

Figure 20: Structure of response of how much do respondents agree with the statement The need is to have key and important final project results shorter and in a language understandable to policymakers, n=25

The average of Likert scale was very high 6.2, which meant that most of the respondents strongly agree with this interim finding. This is also our most important conclusion within WP 7.2, and it points out the absolute need to have **key and important final project results shorter and in a language understandable to policymakers.**

4.2.3.3 Interim finding WP7_c

The lead partner of WP 7, UNI LJ came out with its idea of how to communicate better with the European Commission. The interim finding of WP 7.1 shows that:

> *Some research projects focus on findings and fulfilling the Grant Agreement obligations, disregard whether the topic is on the political agenda.*

To make the research projects more connected to the political agenda, the European Commission could establish **Task forces with the aim of designing project clusters**. The proposal of a lead partner in WP 7 was a unique type of long-term relationship/communication flows in issues concerning quality of drinking water that is presented in the scheme below and was presented in questionnaires to all respondents (Figure 21).

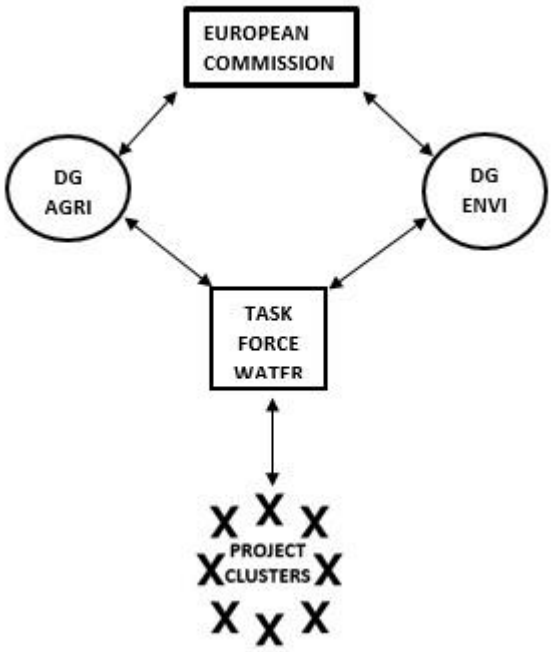

Figure 21: Scheme of possible long-term relationship/communication flows between research projects and political agenda

We asked respondents if they think this could be a good suggestion for solving the "gap" between science and policy. Only close-ended question with answering yes or no was possible. The analyse show that 86 % of respondents find this solution as good. Next, we also asked which solution would be better for solving the "gap" between science and policy, and here multiple choice questions were proposed, also with the section *Other*, but none has used it. The results are shown in the paragraph below.

The solutions: **Through various events** and **Open communication flow between DG AGRI and DG ENVI** were most cited (8 times) and are thus the preferred solutions. The other two (cited 6 and 5 times), can be considered as supplementary solutions (Figure 22).

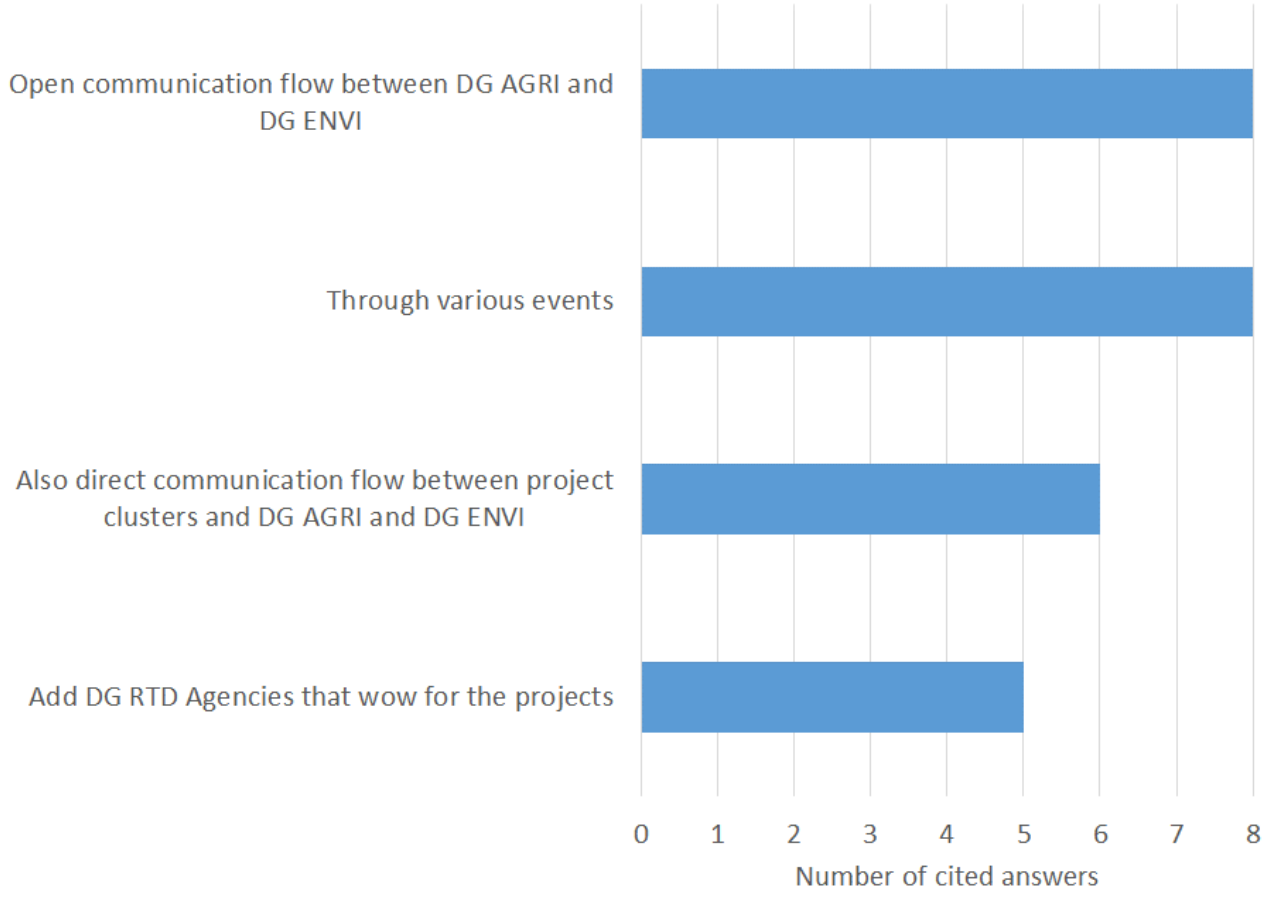

Figure 22: Number of cited answers on Other solutions for filling the "gap" between science and policy, n=27

4.2.4 Interim findings of WP 8

Work package 8 has its mandatory deliverable to ensure that the interim and final research findings are distributed among interested public site in the most efficient way. For this purpose, they wanted to know from the respondents which way of distributing the project results are the best for respondents. The results are presented in this paragraph.

The respondents agree that it is the best way to receive the interim findings of the project **via conference/workshops or executive summaries of deliverables**. The second best way is via short media news like YouTube channel, short policy briefs and subscription to the Newsletter. **Field visits** were an additional suggestion from one respondent answering the web questionnaire. This suggestion was not presented to all respondents to choose, and therefore, it cannot be concluded as the most unattractive way for respondents to receive interim results of the project, as suggested in Figure 23.

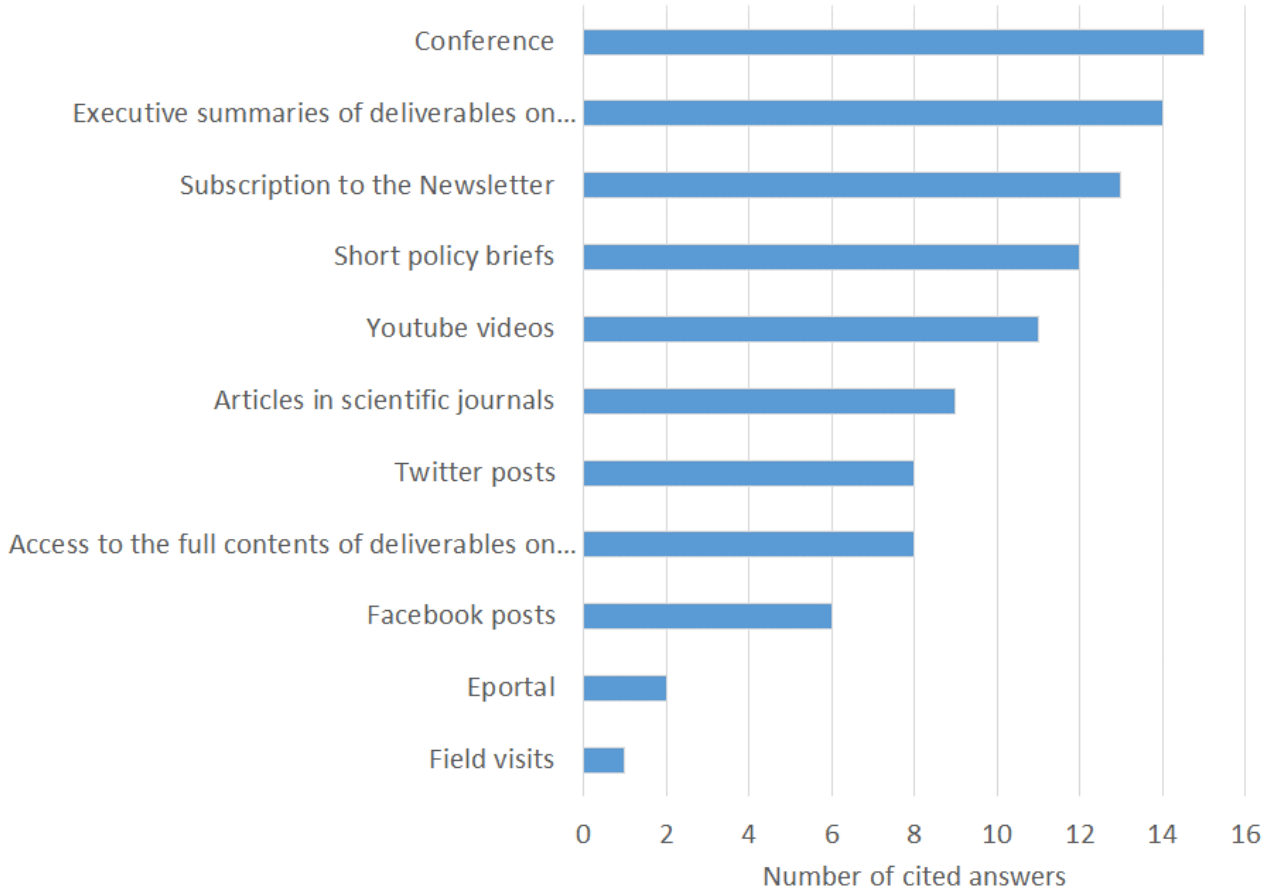

Figure 23: Number of cited answers for the best type of form to receive interim results of the project

The best ways of communication and dissemination of the final results of the project are **executive summaries of deliverables, followed by conference/workshops, articles in scientific journals and YouTube videos** (Figure 24). These findings can serve for further development of the WP 8 deliverables in order to help distribute the findings of the project to the respondents within the most effective communication channel. For field visits, the same comments hold as for Figure 23.

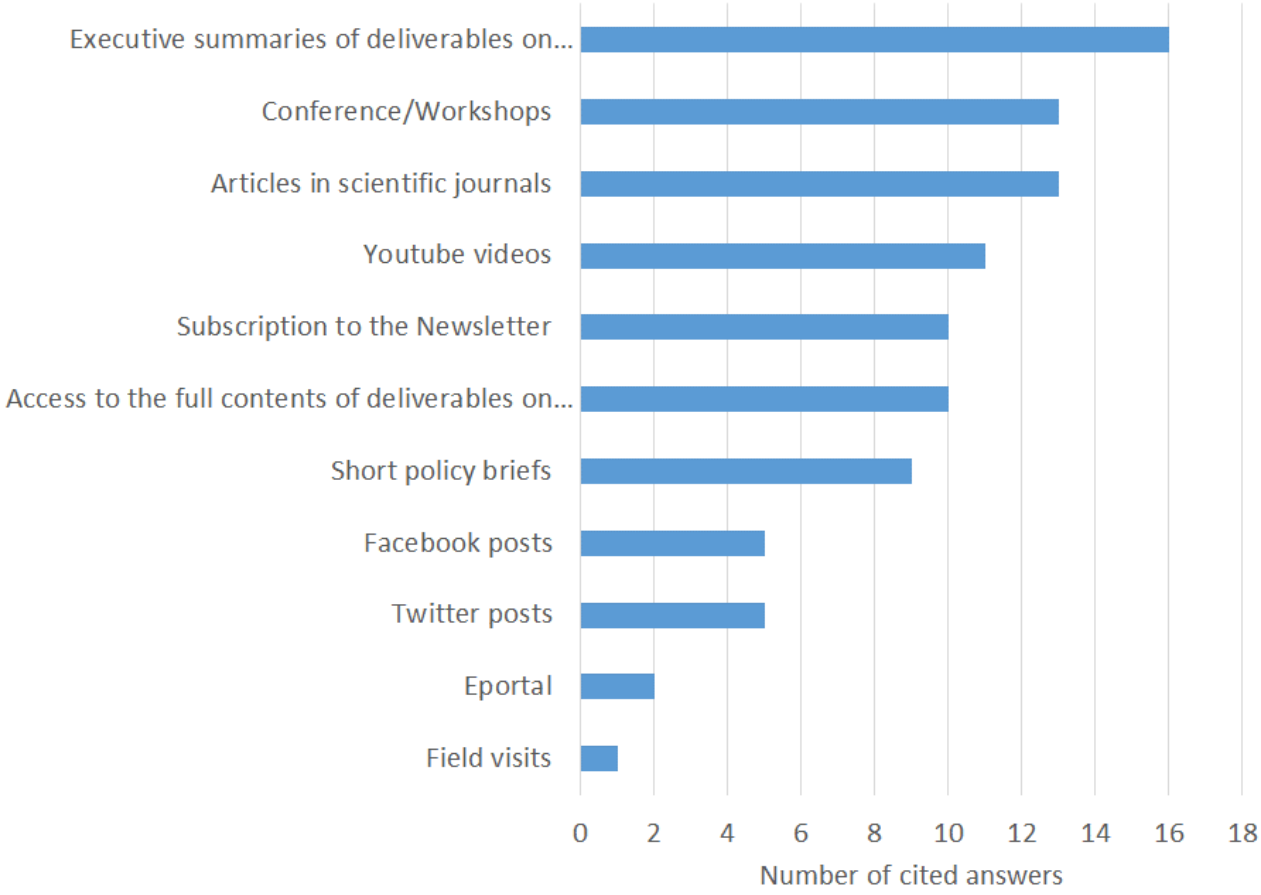

Figure 24: Number of cited answers for the best type of form to receive the final results of the project

4.3 CONCLUSION ON FAIRWAY INTERIM FINDINGS

Our primary goal of the survey was to gain suggestions for direction and improvement and obtain a measure of the quality of interim findings of the Fairway project. The stakeholders were selected by their field of expertise in water policy regulations/protection and the Pesticides and Nitrate Directives of EU or field of involvement in protection/pollution of EU water resources or integrated life within water protection areas.

Results show that the most useful interim findings of WP 3 to WP 6 were:

- Only a few of the DSTs evaluated in the FairWay project are primarily aimed at improving water quality. Rather they are a farm (nutrient/pesticide) management tools based on the assumption that the efficient use of nitrogen and pesticides indirectly improves water quality. Only a few DSTs consider the impact of mitigation methods on water quality.

- The regulatory structures in all countries are very comprehensive and fragmented, to the extent that stakeholders are not able to fully understand them.

The majority of responses on the Likert scale ranged between slightly useful to useful. This shows that the interim findings of the FairWay project's WP 3 to 6 are useful to the respondents. However, the average of the Likert scale is higher when the findings are more precise, not so general, and therefore ready for further consideration.

The respondents recognised the following issues as most problematic for inefficient projects dissemination followed through to EU:

- Complex governance system where key measures are easily lost,
- Often too academic terminology,
- Not well communicated and
- Not sufficiently bottom-up approach.

Almost all of the answers offered for solving the problem of inefficient projects dissemination are equally selected among respondents, which suggests that the respondents recognise solving these issues in multiple ways and on multiple scales.

One of our most essential conclusions within work package 7.2 is that there is an **absolute need to have a short key summary and important final project results and in a language understandable to policymakers.** Most respondents decided that they strongly agree with this statement. The average of Likert scale was very high, 6.16 out of 7. The number of responses for this statement was 25.

We presented a scheme of possible long-term relationship/communication flows between research projects and political agenda to respondents (a proposal of a lead partner in WP 7). The analysis showed that 86 % of respondents agreed with this solution.

Finally, the respondents were also asked how they like to receive interim and final project's findings. The respondents agreed that the most effective way to receive the interim findings of the project is presentations at a conference/workshops or via executive summaries of deliverables. The final results of the project can be best communicated via executive summaries of deliverables, and secondly conference/workshops, articles in scientific journals and YouTube videos.

In the end, it should be explained that this gathered data is highly appreciated for the project findings and will help in many ways with further research. The studied samples in both questionnaires were small (30 and 29 respondents). Therefore, larger samples of respondents at EU level or inclusion of local level stakeholder groups not included in the project (MAPs) could impact on the result.

5. REFERENCES

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6. APPENDIX

Questionnaire for MAP

Dear Sir / Madam, thank you for your collaboration. Please, fill this questionnaire with your opinion on a specific topic of knowledge transfer to policy/legislation related to maintenance of quality drinking water at your local and national level. Your opinion is highly valuable and of high importance for the FairWay project. This survey will take less than 10 minutes of your time.

1.) Please write to your country of origin.

2.) Please choose (with X) the stakeholder's group you represent:

◯ Farmers
◯ Advisory
◯ Policymaker
◯ Water policy implementation
◯ Retail
◯ Non-governmental organization
◯ Research and Science
◯ Other:

In task 7.1. We asked EU representatives to define some major issues and **barriers** for solving issues related to drinking water resource protection against diffuse pollution of nitrates and pesticides from agriculture in the EU. Below you will find their opinion. We are interested in how much could you relate to these issues and barriers concerning your national and local level.

3.1) How much could you relate to these issues within your national and local level? Please, rate the findings from 1 = do not agree to 7 = very much agree.

Findings from WP 7.1	1 - 7
No coherent Policy implementation of EU policies transition to local level.	
Synergies between goals/pathways of water quality lack of trade-offs and choices.	
There is a low balance between targets and objectives.	
More harmonisation of legislation at EU level.	
Patience is needed to see results (change policy takes time). Development is already positive.	
Fragmented data of water quality and not easily available.	
Financial questions: who is paying, where the money goes?	

3.2) Can you think of some other issues that you consider important for your environment related to drinking water resource protection against diffuse pollution of nitrates and pesticides from agriculture?

3.3) How much could you relate to these barriers in solving the issues within your national and local regulations? Please, rate the findings from 1 = do not agree to 7 = very much agree.

Findings from WP 7.1	1 – 7
Financial means to apply certain measures are needed.	
There is a time lag between action (measures) and results (water quality).	
Awareness of links between policy objectives and required actions (by farmers) are needed.	
Farmers are not enough involved; raising awareness and communication is needed.	
Limited financial means to apply measures by farmers, water sector, consumers.	
Site-specific aspect: best-management practices are often too general.	
Site-specific aspect: target concentration for pesticides and nitrates are not achievable in some regions.	

3.4) Can you think of some other barriers in solving the issues that you consider important for your environment related to drinking water resource protection against diffuse pollution of nitrates and pesticides from agriculture?

The EU representatives were also asked **to define how the relationship between experts and policy in the EU regulations is reflected in EU legislation and how the system at EU level can be improved;** what are the possible solutions for integrated scientific support for EU policy, with special attention to drinking water resource protection against diffuse pollution of nitrates and pesticides from agriculture. Below you will find their opinion.

4.1) How much could you relate to their opinions within your national and local regulations reflected in your legislation? Please, rate the findings from 1 = do not agree to 7 = very much agree.

Findings from WP 7.1	1 – 7
In legislation, it is seen that in certain policy members lack knowledge; more education and communication is needed.	
Science - policy relationship could be improved; we can see both populistic and economically driven decisions.	
There is not enough emphasis on real practical work and experiences; the agriculture sector represents a small share of GDP.	
Links between science and policy are a week.	
More education of the general public is needed.	
It is good that member states have a voice in solving problems on a local level; Multi-Actor Platforms (MAP) are a good way to engage stakeholders closely.	
Not enough experts that can tackle the complexity of the problem; in comparison to other sectors agriculture sector has week financial support.	

4.2) Do you have some other opinion of how the relationship between experts and policy at your national/local regulations is reflected in legislation?

4.3) How much do you agree with these solutions of integrated scientific support within your national/local policy? Please, rate the findings from 1 = do not agree to 7 = very much agree.

Findings from WP 7.1	1 – 7
Professionalise the communication from RIA - Research and Innovation Action projects.	
Independent research + Silo-breaking; Multi-Actor Platform Involvement.	
Separate Pesticides and Nitrates in projects and policy communications.	
Stronger involvement of actors in the science-policy interface.	

Findings from WP 7.1	1 – 7
Strengthen trust among concerned actors, inter-alliance, thought non-concerned databases on various level (easily accessible).	
Better time alignment between research and innovation projects and policy development (more interactions and complementary).	

Q12 - 4.4) Do you have some other solution to integrate scientific support to your policy?

Q13 - 4.5) Do you think that the solution you proposed could be transferred to EU policy also?

◯ Yes.
◯ No.
◯ I do not know.

Thank you very much; your information will be analysed anonymous and will not be particularly exposed.

Questionnaire for the workshop participants

We kindly ask you to express your opinion on the interim results of the FairWay project that are presented in this survey. Your opinion is highly valuable and of high importance for FairWay project further research and will be used for further improvement. The survey takes approx. 8 minutes of your time.

Q1 - 1.) Please choose the type of institution you represent:

- ○ Research institution -international
- ○ Research institution - national
- ○ Research institution - regional
- ○ Small or Medium size enterprise (SME)
- ○ Non-governmental organization (NGO)
- ○ EU commission
- ○ Industry
- ○ Farmer
- ○ Other:

Q2 - 2.1) Findings from WP3: How useful are below listed information for your professional work? Please, rate the findings from 1 = not useful to 7 = very useful.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
The most important pressure indicators for the quality of drinking water on farms depend on the type of catchment.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Some link between pressure indicators and states indicators can statistically be performed.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

Q3 - 2.2) Findings from WP4: How useful are below listed information for your professional work? Please, rate the findings from 1 = not useful to 7 = very useful.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
There are many possible measures to decrease the pesticides pollution of drinking water supplies. Most effective measures are (i) spray drift reduction through technical	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
modifications of the spraying technique, (ii) pesticides input reduction through integrated pest management measures, (iii) no spraying zones and vegetated buffer zones, and (iv) erosion reduction measures. Tillage measures appear to have little effect.							
There are many possible measures to decrease the nitrate pollution of drinking water supplies. Most effective measures are (i) nitrogen input control, (ii) adjustment of crop type and/or crop rotation, (iii) growth of cover crops, (iv) minimum tillage and surface mulching, and (v) nitrification inhibitors. Fertiliser type appears to have little influence, while the effectiveness of buffer strips greatly depends on soil and hydrological conditions.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
The estimated costs greatly vary between measures and also between countries. Some measures are cost-effective. There is scarcity of accurate cost information.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

Q4 - 2.3) Findings from WP5: How useful are below listed information for your professional work? Please, rate the findings from 1 = not useful to 7 = very useful.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
All participating	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
countries have their decision support tools (DSTs) developed to support water quality/agri/environment policy makers operating at a regional or national level, and those intended to support sustainable nutrient management at the farm level.							
Only a few of the evaluated DSTs, evaluated at FairWay project, are primarily aimed at improving water quality. Rather they are a farm (nutrient/pesticide) management tools based on the assumption that the efficient use of nitrogen and pesticides indirectly improves water quality. Only a few DSTs consider the impact of mitigation methods on water quality.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Decision support tools are not easily transferred from one country to another because they are all operated within the context of the wider advisory frameworks in place in their respective countries, in addition to issues around language and requirements for country/specific data, calibration, etc.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

Q5 - 2.4) Findings from WP6: How useful are below listed information for your professional

work? Please, rate the findings from 1 = not useful to 7 = very useful.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
The regulatory structures in all countries are very comprehensive and fragmented, to the extent that stakeholders are not able to fully understand them.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
The governance structures between countries have extensive differences. This can at least partly be explained by historical, cultural and political differences between countries.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Between countries it is a high degree of divergence in scales of governance.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

Q6 - 3.) Results show that EU research project dissemination is not followed through to the European Commission.

Q7 - 3.1) Why do you think this is happening?
Multiple answers are possible

- ☐ Complex governance system where key measures are easily lost.
- ☐ Often to academic terminology.
- ☐ Findings are not interesting or new.
- ☐ Not well communicated.
- ☐ Wrong initial diagnosis.
- ☐ Not sufficiently bottom-up approach.
- ☐ Lobbying.
- ☐ Lack of time from DGs.
- ☐ Lack of efforts from project partners.
- ☐ Differences in focus.
- ☐ Not effective advisory services.
- ☐ There is not a clear way where these results can be consulted. Are members of EC added on these sources?
- ☐ I disagree. I think it is in a diffuse way.
- ☐ Other:

Q8 - 3.2) Do you have any suggestions for improvement?

Multiple answers are possible

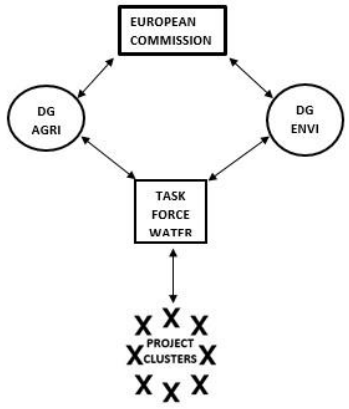
- [ ] Work at management scale.
- [ ] Bottom-up to top-down approach connection.
- [ ] Some publication can be written, “for a leak”.
- [ ] Bring stakeholders close by meetings and workshops.
- [ ] Multi stakeholders approach should also focus on implementation by farmers.
- [ ] Let stakeholders also “tell the story”.
- [ ] Field visits successful projects.
- [ ] Video presentation of successful projects.
- [ ] Joined outputs from projects as messages to Policy.
- [ ] Make contact with different policy levels/sectors from the beginning of the project.
- [ ] Lobbying at EU and NAT levels (agricultural, environmental authorities, water agencies).
- [ ] Media attention.
- [ ] Joint Policy conferences are useful, especially when held in Brussels.
- [ ] Other:

Q9 - 4.) How much do you agree with the following statement? Please rate the findings from 1 = not agree to 7 = very much agree.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
The need is to have key and important final project results shorter and in a language understandable to policy makers.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

Q10 - 5.) Some research projects just focus on findings and fulfilling the Grant Agreement obligations, disregard whether the topic is on the political agenda. To make the research projects more connected to the political agenda, the European Commission could establish Task forces to design project clusters. Our proposal of long-term relationship/communication flows in issues concerning the quality of drinking water is presented in the scheme below.

Q11 -



Q12 - 5.1) Do you think this is a good suggestion for solving the "gap" between science and policy?

◯ Yes
◯ No

Q13 - 5.2) Which solution would be better for solving the "gap" between science and policy?

Multiple answers are possible

- [ ] Through various events
- [ ] Add DG RTD Agencies that wow for the projects
- [ ] Also direct communication flow between project clusters and DG AGRI and DG ENVI
- [ ] Open communication flow between DG AGRI and DG ENVI
- [ ] Other:

Q14 - 6.) In what form would it be most useful for you to receive the project <u>INTERIM</u> research findings?

Multiple answers are possible

- [ ] Articles in scientific journals
- [ ] Access to the full contents of deliverables on the FAIRWAYiS website
- [ ] Executive summaries of deliverables on FAIRWAYiS
- [ ] Short policy briefs
- [ ] Subscription to the Newsletter
- [ ] Twitter posts
- [ ] Facebook posts
- [ ] Youtube videos
- [ ] Conference
- [ ] Other:

Q15 - 7.) In what form would it be most useful for you to receive the project <u>FINAL</u> research findings?

Multiple answers are possible

- [ ] Articles in scientific journals
- [ ] Access to the full contents of deliverables on the FAIRWAYiS website
- [ ] Executive summaries of deliverables on FAIRWAYiS
- [ ] Short policy briefs
- [ ] Subscription to the Newsletter
- [ ] Twitter posts
- [ ] Facebook posts
- [ ] Youtube videos
- [ ] Conference
- [ ] Other: