

Second interim Evaluation Report

2nd internal evaluation report
+
1st external evaluation report

WP3 Milestone 4





RARHA

REDUCING ALCOHOL RELATED HARM

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Executive summary

As defined in the Technical Annex to the RARHA Grant Agreement this Second interim Evaluation Report is composed of two parts: the 2nd Internal Evaluation Report and the 1st External Evaluation Report.

The introduction of the interim report presents a general description of the Joint Action on Reducing Alcohol Related Harm (RARHA) and of the evaluation strategy adopted.

The 2nd Internal Evaluation Report is based on results obtained through the second wave of the online survey designed to monitor the progress of RARHA JA in its second year of activity. The aim of the survey is to assess the JA process by looking at timing, networking, organization, communication and value of the project, as seen by partners, providing an answer to the following evaluation questions:

- 1) Is the Joint Action meeting its goals and progressing according to the Grant Agreement?*
- 2) Are there any particular aspects of the RARHA implementation process (e.g. timing, networking, organization, communication, etc.) that needs to be improved or encouraged to increase the overall quality of the action?*

The report focuses its attention on how the survey has been designed and carried out, providing results of the assessment of each WP and of the JA as a whole, and illustrating both the strength points of the implementation process and the aspects that need to be adjusted to maximize the successful achievements of RARHA objectives.

In conclusion, the implementation process of the second year of RARHA activities obtains a positive judgement by all people involved at various levels. The JA is meeting its goals and progressing according to the Grant Agreement. Apart from very few delays, project deliverables were met and all foreseen commitments were respected. No particular difficulties or impediments seem to have influenced the correct course of the actions. In comparison with the first wave of the survey, the influence of potential obstacles to the evolution of the JA results diminished, and a general improvement in the appraisal of RARHA, and of core WPs in particular, is evident. This suggests that adequate measures to enhance the management, the involvement and the interaction within WPs were properly adopted, as recommended in the first internal evaluation report.

In this overall positive picture, the only shortcomings regard the circulation of information about RARHA, and the quality and volume of internal and external dissemination. A special attention should be paid to increase the official website potentialities as communication instrument among partners and dissemination mean towards the external community.

The 1st External Evaluation Report summarises methods and results of the evaluation carried

out by the independent external evaluators since the start of the Joint Action, thus covering about two years of RARHA activities. The external evaluation is based on both quantitative and qualitative instruments, aimed at establishing the quality and level of achievement of deliverables, milestones and specific objectives of each work package. More specifically, the report presents an overview of the evolution of WPs. It also highlights the main challenges and limitations of the WPs (if any) so that the leaders can take the necessary measures in order to overcome the shortcomings and improve the functioning of the WPs and of RARHA as a whole.

The conclusions of the external evaluation report are split into three interdependent sections:

- *Challenges for RARHA Joint Action* The main challenges to be tackled by RARHA JA and that might hamper the quality and success of its outputs and outcomes are: (1) Limited budget; (2) Communication gaps; (3) Administrative and financial complications; (4) Compliance with the pre-established schedule; (5) Transferring findings to key stakeholders.
- *Compliance with RARHA general goals* RARHA is seen by partners as a tool to improve public health in Europe. However, to do so it is necessary to produce sustainable outputs and outcomes. In this vein, RARHA JA is a first step that, if properly taken into account and implemented, will lead to public value by increasing the level of health. In short, the final public value of RARHA can be summarized as follows: better alcohol policies, better use of public resources, and better public health.
- *Recommended steps for the final phase of the JA* In summary, the external evaluation shows that the different WPs of RARHA are advancing as planned. Apart from some minor delays in producing certain products and other limitations related to the management and dissemination of RARHA, the external evaluation has not identified significant obstacles to successfully complete the JA. A close analysis of the *core WPs* leads to the conclusions that they are meeting all the deadlines and producing the expected outputs. Unless unexpected situations arise, everything seems to indicate that they will be able to properly meet their objectives. In 2016, *WP1* has to keep working for an efficient communication with the different WPs and among them, this is critical for the sustainability of the results and is expected to facilitate the dissemination of the results. *WP2* requires special attention since it is in charge of the key points for the success of the JA. It seems necessary to better organize the website and its restricted area. An updated and organized website is a must to properly disseminate the JA and reach as many, and qualified, stakeholders as possible.

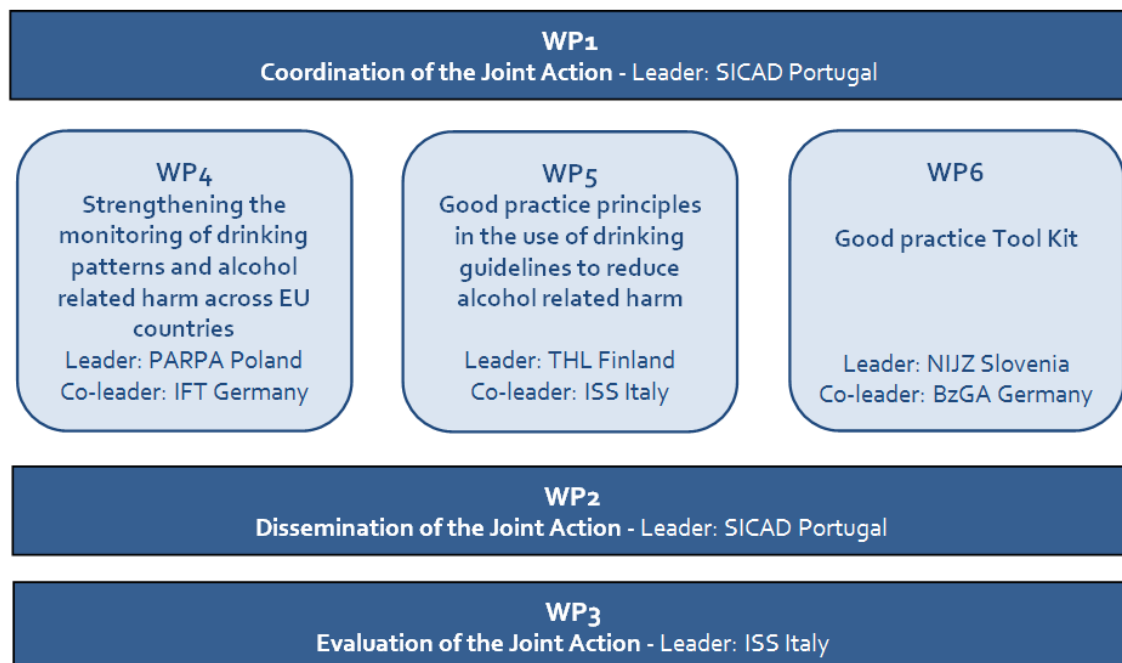
Introduction

RARHA Joint Action

The Joint Action on Reducing Alcohol Related Harm (RARHA) has received funding from the European Union in the framework of the Second Program of Community Action in the field of Health (2008-2013). It responds to the program's call 4.2.3.4 by mobilizing Member States (MS) to cooperate towards uptake, exchange and development of common approaches relating to the underpinning priorities of the EU alcohol strategy and strengthen MS capacity to address and reduce alcohol related harm.

RARHA is a 3-year joint action (2014-2016). It is coordinated by Portugal and involves 30 countries (27 MS plus Iceland, Norway and Switzerland), represented by public institutions and networks, NGO's, universities, as well as international organizations - such as the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Pompidou Group and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) - for a total of 32 Associated Partners and 28 Collaborating Partners.

The project is structured around 6 Work Packages (WPs):



In brief, the JA contributes to capacity building among partners and in the wider public health community by: strengthening competence in alcohol survey methodology and monitoring progress in reducing alcohol related harm (WP4), clarifying the scientific basis and practical

implications of drinking guidelines as a public health measure (WP5), enhancing access to well described, likely transferable interventions on which some evidence of effectiveness in influencing attitudes or behaviour and cost estimates are available (WP6).

The specific activities foreseen for the 6 WPs can be summarized as follows:

WP1 - Coordination

Management of the project and monitoring of activities, including organization of management meetings and final conference, reporting and communication to the Consortium and the Commission, etc.

WP2 - Dissemination

Dissemination and diffusion of results and deliverables of the JA to the different target groups, by means of dedicated website, electronic newsletter, final conference and publication of scientific reports, dissemination of results and final version of the Tool Kit, etc.

WP3 - Evaluation of the Joint Action

To follow the progress of the JA in order to verify if activities performed and results obtained are implemented as planned and reach the objectives foreseen in the Grant Agreement, using predefined process, output and outcome indicators.

WP4 - Monitoring

Development of a standardized monitoring approach in order to provide the basis for comparative assessment of progress in reducing alcohol related harm at national and EU level and for benchmarking national developments against wider trends, through: 1) implementation of a common methodology and execution of a survey across MS; 2) recoding and pooling already existing data for comparative analysis.

WP5 - Guidelines

To combine the scientific knowledge on risks and the experiences on the use of drinking guidelines to clarify their scientific basis and practical implications and to work towards consensus on good practice principles for the use of drinking guidelines as a public health measure. The ultimate objective is to contribute towards more aligned messages to the population and health professionals.

WP6 - Tool kit

Collection and dissemination of a Tool Kit with good practice examples - implemented in MS by public bodies, and of proven effectiveness in influencing alcohol attitudes or behaviours, to be used as guidance for health policy planners. The Tool Kit will also provide a structured description of the effectiveness, potential for replication/adaptation, scalability, costs and critical success factors of collected examples.

Evaluation of RARHA JA

The aim of the WP3-Evaluation is to verify if the RARHA Joint Action is being implemented as planned and reaches the objectives:

- a. following the progress of the JA, including the assessment of the adequacy and appropriateness of dissemination activities, taking into account pre-defined milestones and process indicators in order to provide feedback on aspects that hinder or advance implementation, identifying also unexpected developments;
- b. assessing the achievements and their quality against appropriate process, output and outcome indicators, taking into account the general and specific objectives and the expected deliverables.

The WP involves all the 32 Associated Partners and follows an integrated approach in which internal (point **a.**) and external (point **b.**) evaluation of the JA implementation and achievements are carried out separately. Both internal and external evaluation activities are led and overseen by ISS (Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome, Italy) and supported by an Evaluation Steering Group (ESG), composed of 5 members of the Committee on National Alcohol Policy and Action (CNAPA) as representatives of 5 participating countries. The ESG is informed on the progress of the JA and is consulted on the main topics of the evaluation process.

In order to achieve the highest possible degree of quality, objectivity and impartiality, the evaluation process is subcontracted to an independent experienced organization (ESADE, Business School, Barcelona, Spain) that is also responsible for the elaboration of the detailed plan for internal and external evaluation, the development of the necessary data collection instruments, the suggestion of the analytic methodologies to be adopted and the analysis of stakeholders to be addressed, providing support to ISS in performing monitoring activities and reporting of results.

As defined in the detailed RARHA Evaluation Plan (Deliverable no. 5), which is available at the RARHA websites¹, the methods used to conduct the internal and external evaluation of the JA throughout its implementation are mixed, including both quantitative and qualitative instruments, online surveys, in-depth face-to-face interviews, participant observation and document analysis. The overall evaluation and data collections are aimed at verifying the level of accomplishment of the predefined process, outputs and outcomes indicators (see Annex 1), and take into account the timing and characteristics of milestones, deliverables and other actions (see Annex 2) foreseen in the Grant Agreement and scheduled in the Evaluation Plan.

¹<http://www.rarha.eu/Resources/Deliverables/Lists/Deliverables/Attachments/3/RARHA%20Deliverable5%20EvaluationPlan+StakeholdersAnalysis.pdf>

2nd Internal Evaluation Report

This part of the present report is based on the results of the second wave of the online survey designed to monitor the progress of the Joint Action on Reducing Alcohol Related Harm (RARHA) and assess the process, the outputs and the outcomes of RARHA in its second year of life.

The two-wave RARHA evaluation survey has been devised as instrument to gather information on the progress of the JA, using a quantitative longitudinal approach aimed at establishing whether and in which measure the JA objectives and indicators are achieved throughout the implementation process. The results of the two surveys are used to provide feedback to partners on aspects that hinder or advance activities, with the overall aim of improving the work in progress and increase the likelihood that the JA is successful.

The results and suggestions derived from the first survey - carried out at about one year from the beginning of RARHA (November 2014) - were collected in the 1st interim Internal Evaluation Report (Milestone 3, available at RARHA website)² and presented to RARHA partners at the Management Group meeting held in Brussels on 27-28 April 2015.

The second wave of the online survey for RARHA internal evaluation has been performed after twelve months from the first, in order to follow-up and assess the level of accomplishment of the JA in its second period of activities, since November 2014.

2nd internal evaluation survey: design and methods

The data collection instrument consists in an online questionnaire (Annex 3), developed in Google Forms, which has been implemented by ESADE in strict collaboration with ISS. The questionnaire is addressed to all associated partners, including both scientific and administrative staff so as to reach all WPs teams and ensure that all people directly involved in RARHA activities is properly represented.

The evaluation questions addressed by the online survey are essentially:

- 1) *Is the Joint Action meeting its goals and progressing according to the Grant Agreement?*
- 2) *Are there any particular aspects of the RARHA implementation process (e.g. timing, networking, organization, communication, etc.) that needs to be improved or encouraged to increase the overall quality of the action?*

²http://www.rarha.eu/Resources/Deliverables/Lists/Work%20Package%203/Attachments/4/RARHA_1st_Internal_Evaluation_Report_final.pdf

The structure of the questionnaire reproduces the one used for the first wave of the survey. The first section gathers some general information about respondents and is mainly aimed at defining their role and the specific WPs in which they are personally involved. The following five sections are dedicated to each WP with the aim of providing a broad assessment of both core and horizontal aspects of the JA – with the obvious exception of WP3-Evaluation so as to avoid a self-evaluation exercise.

The first and last sections of the questionnaire are addressed to all respondents, regardless of their role (administrative or scientific) and type of involvement in specific WPs. On the contrary, individual restrictions have been devised for the sections 2-6, in order to prevent conflicting interests and to improve the reliability of results. In particular, the SICAD team is asked to skip the section 2 on WP1-Coordination so as to avoid a self-assessment bias. Administrative and financial staff is invited to skip sections on core WPs (sections 4-6), whose evaluation implies a scientific approach to the specific tasks. The sections on WP4-Monitoring, WP5-Guidelines and WP6-Tool Kit are reserved to respondents who, at the beginning of the questionnaire, have stated to be personally involved in research activities related respectively to these WPs. The seventh and final section, addressed to all respondents, looks at how the involvement of participants has evolved in the second year of RARHA activity and assesses the main obstacles and challenges that the JA has to face in order to fulfil its objectives. Most of the questions already posed in the first online survey are repeated in the new questionnaire so as to detect possible improvements in critical aspects found by the previous survey, and to identify any other longitudinal change in the implementation process.

A preliminary reorganization and update of the mailing list of the 32 associated partners was conducted in collaboration with SICAD. The first online evaluation questionnaire was forwarded by e-mail to 113 contacts, on 2 November 2015. After three reminders to increase the response rate, the data collection was finally closed on 7 December 2015.

Before the actual analysis – performed with SPSS Statistics version 22 – the data set underwent a quality control with a view to eliminate contradictory or problematic responses and items. All data collected through the evaluation survey have been kept strictly confidential and results are presented only in aggregated form, so that individual responses to questionnaires are not recognizable.

Results of the internal evaluation

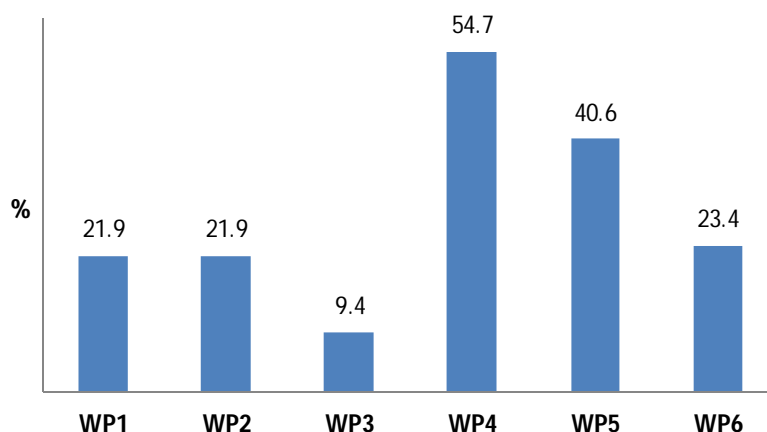
One of the contacts included in the mailing list was unreachable and could not be replaced by any other address. Thus the maximum number of responses obtainable was 112.

At the end of data collection, a total of 64 completed surveys were received, amounting to a response rate of 57.1%, slightly lower than that obtained in the first wave of the online survey (64.6%). No responses were sent back by 2 associated partners (France-OFDT and Denmark-SIF/NIPH), while the survey was completed by at least one member of the remaining 30

organizations (response rate per partners 93.8%). The great majority of respondents are female (71.4%), have an education level between master's degree and PhD (82.3%) and are involved in RARHA at scientific/research level (82.8%).

As regards the involvement in single WPs (Figure 1), more than half of the respondents state to be involved in WP4-Monitoring, 40.6% in WP5, and about 20% in WP1, 2 and 6. This gives a sufficient level of responses to assess each of the work packages. The only WP with a response rate beneath 10% is WP3-Evaluation, which is not directly investigated in this survey.

Figure 1. Personal involvement in single WPs



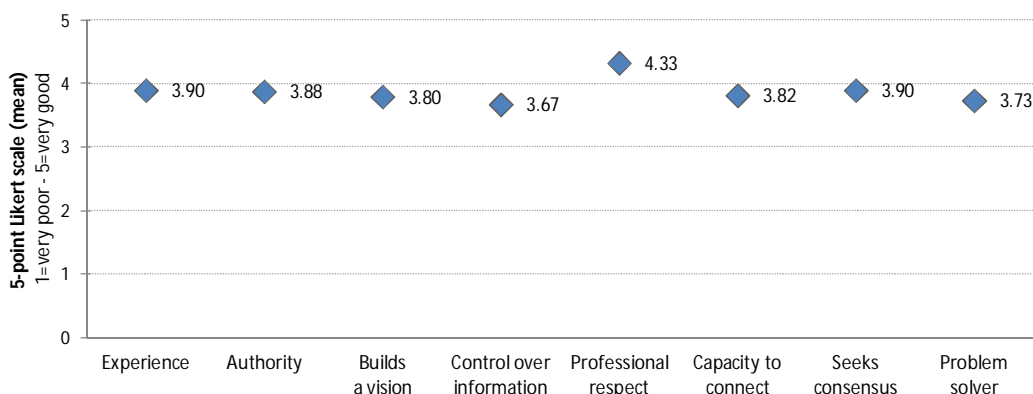
NOTE: One respondent might be involved in more than one WP, therefore the sum is higher than 100%

It's interesting to notice that percentages are almost the same as in the first wave, except for WP2-Dissemination and WP6-Tool Kit where a decrease of 9.1 and 6.2 percentage points can be observed, respectively.

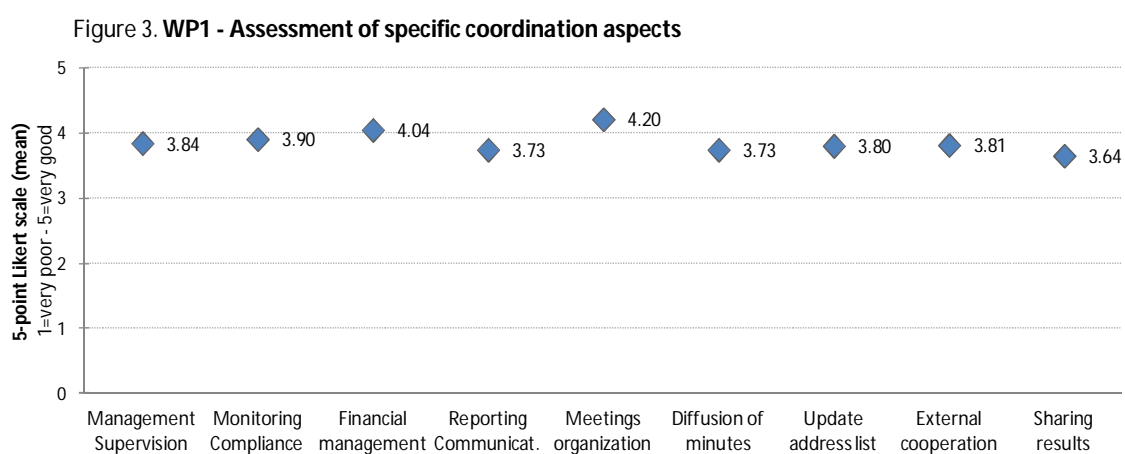
WP1 - Coordination

The members of SICAD coordination team were asked to skip the questions of this section in order to assure unbiased information and avoid that the respondent might be at the same time subject and object of the evaluation.

Figure 2. WP1 - Assessment of the skills of the Coordination Team



As shown in Figure 2, the overall assessment of the skills of the RARHA coordination team is quite positive and very similar to that registered the year before. The graph shows high average results in all the skills listed in the questionnaire, with very little differences among investigated aspects. The highest evaluation is assigned by RARHA participants to the professional esteem for the coordination team, with a mean score slightly above 4=“good”. As in the first data collection, respondents value quite positively the way in which the different coordination tasks foreseen in the RARHA Grant Agreement have been managed in the second period of activity. Results shown in Figure 3 suggest a general satisfaction, with a very slight increase in almost all the average evaluations, although values remain between 3=“fair” and 4=“good”. Again, the highest evaluation (4.20) is for the coordination team capacity to organize meetings.



The last questions of the section on WP1 enquired about the RARHA Interim Report produced in June 2015 (WP1 milestone 3). The circulation of the document at the time of the survey appears rather limited and only 32.6% of respondents declare to have received it, nevertheless the report is assessed quite positively (mean value 3.93 on a 5-point Likert scale from 1=“very poor” to 5=“very good”).

WP2 - Dissemination

The questions on RARHA dissemination were reserved to all respondents concerned in scientific and management tasks. Administrative and financial staff was excluded because it is only indirectly involved in the spreading of information concerning the JA.

The first of the questions on WP2 was already posed in the previous wave of the online survey, and is relative to the circulation of the overall dissemination plan among JA participants. The diffusion of the comprehensive collection of the single plans prepared by partners is still limited and even lower than in the first wave (document not received by 67.4% of respondents vs. 57.7% in the 1st wave). Nevertheless, there is a modest increase in the level of satisfaction expressed by respondents who say to have received the overall dissemination plan, which

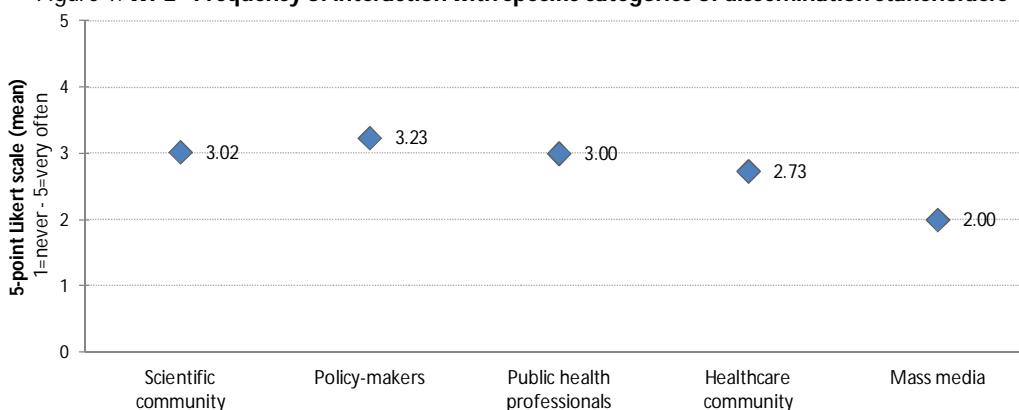
passes from a mean evaluation of 3.85 in the first online survey to 3.93 in the present data collection (5-point Likert scale from 1="very poor" to 5="very good").

A positive improvement is shown by the percentage of partners that state to have uploaded common content about RARHA JA in their organization website, which now reaches 87.2% – summing up those who have completed (55.3%) or partially done (31.9%) the task – whereas at the time of the first data collection, 61.5% of respondents stated that the work of providing information on the JA in their national website was not yet started.

The rating of the RARHA official website by partners participating in the 2nd survey reveals that their appraisal has slightly decreased, with a mean score 3.75 out of 5 (3.96 in the 1st wave), assessment that, although very close, again do not reach the level 4="good".

Answers to the question number 13 ("How often do you interact with and disseminate RARHA activities and results to the following organizations?") show a minimal increase in the frequency of relationships with all listed categories of stakeholders, except for public health professionals (Figure 4). But the mean values shown in the graph remain very close to 3="sometimes", suggesting that the dissemination process is still episodic and has not reached its peak of achievement, otherwise expected for the final phase of the JA, when all outputs will be ready to be shared with the external community. As seen also in the previous survey, the lowest frequency of contacts for dissemination purpose is registered for the mass media category (mean 2.00, 2="rarely").

Figure 4. WP2 - Frequency of interaction with specific categories of dissemination stakeholders



The survey results show a rather positive evaluation of the contents of the second RARHA newsletter (mean 4.14 on a 5-point scale). On the contrary, the judgement expressed by partners on the overall dissemination activities since the JA launch is hardly above the satisfactory level, with a mean evaluation of 3.60.

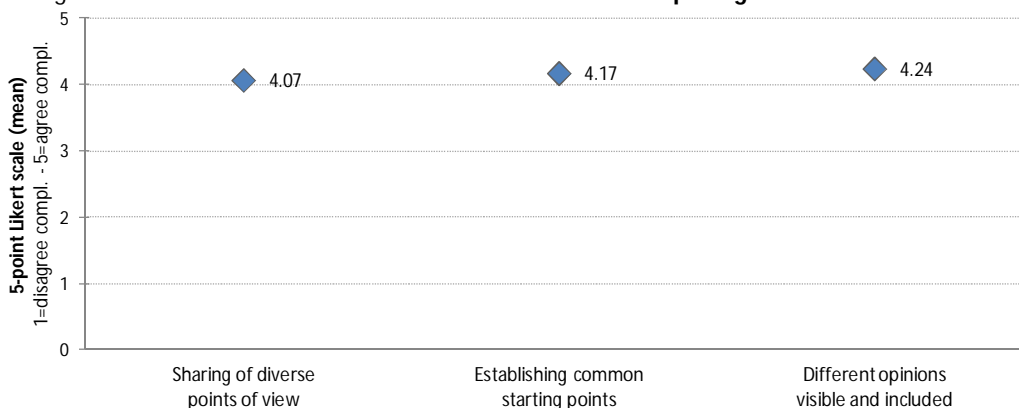
Finally, a particular remark is needed for the items number 14a and 14b that were aimed at gathering information on the policy dialogue mentioned in the Technical Annex to the Grant Agreement among WP2 dissemination activities. Unfortunately, only after the launch of the online survey, the evaluators were informed that this task could not be assessed because the policy dialogue deadline – originally scheduled for October 2015 in the WP2 work plan – had

been postponed, and the event will be held in Brussels in September 2016, before the RARHA final conference.

WP4 - Monitoring

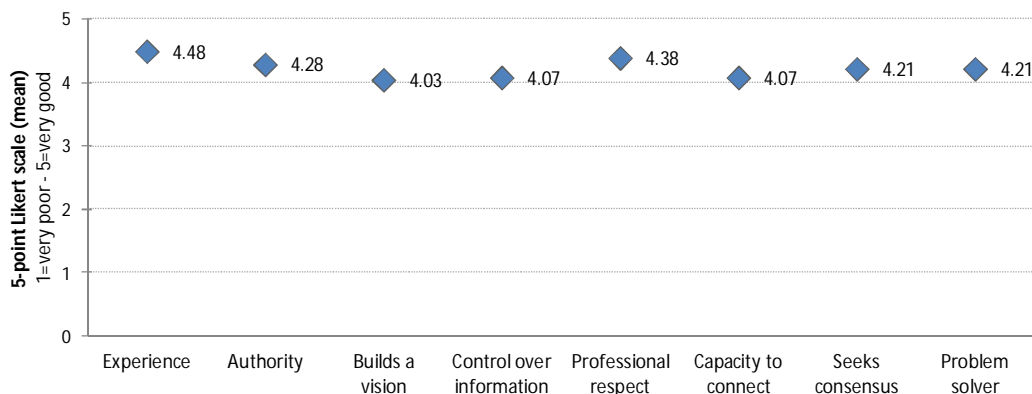
The section about WP4 was addressed only to those partners who, at the beginning of the survey, stated to be personally involved in this work package at scientific/research level. The first question enquires about the way in which the involvement in the WP has been obtained and encouraged, asking the partners to rate their agreement/disagreement with three aspects able to facilitate it (Figure 5). On average, all respondents agree that, in the development of the work package, attention has been paid to the sharing of diverse points of view, on establishing common starting points, and on making visible and include the different opinions of partners. Results are very similar to those of the first survey, with very little increments in the mean rating of all items except for the first, which remains almost the same.

Figure 5. WP4 - Characteristics of the involvement in the work package



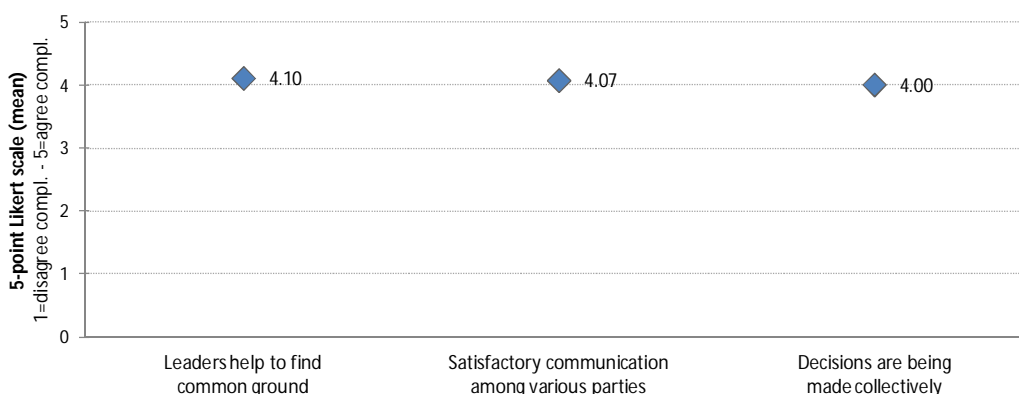
The skills of the leader and co-leader are highly rated by the researchers involved in WP4 (Figure 6). All investigated categories reach average evaluations between 4="good" and 5="very good". Ratings are about the same as in the previous data collection, and the most valued leaders' skills are their experience and recognized competence in the specific field.

Figure 6. WP4 - Assessment of leader and co-leader skills



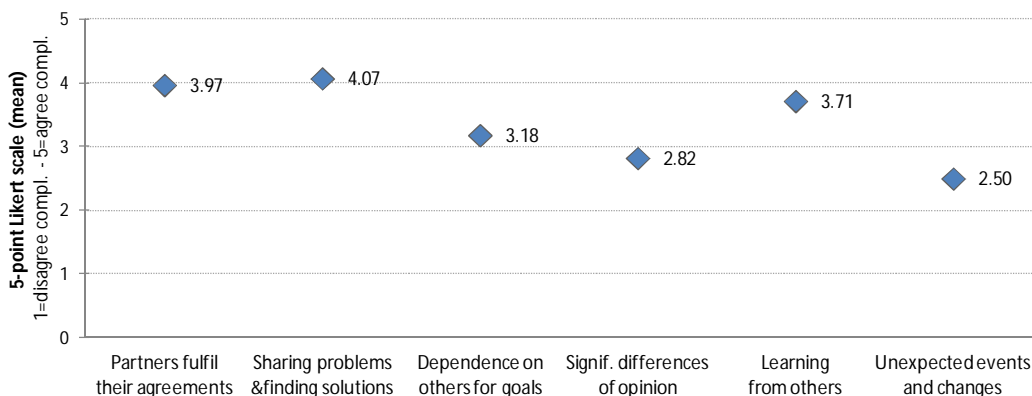
Regarding the management (Figure 7), the partners acknowledge that, when deadlock is reached or problems arise, WP4 leaders help to find common ground between conflicting positions, that a suitable amount of time has been spent on communication among the various parties involved, and that decisions are taken collectively. All mean scores are around 4="I agree" and show a modest increase in the level of satisfaction expressed by respondents.

Figure 7. **WP4 - Characteristics of the management of the work package**



Concerning the level of interaction and the network relationship among partners involved in WP4 (Figure 8), results are almost unchanged from those registered the year before and reveal a good perception of the way in which problems are shared and solved among partners (4.07). Consistent with the 1st wave of the survey, also "fulfilment of agreements by partners" and "emphasis on learning from the experiences and insight of others" receive an average score very close to 4="I agree". The "dependence upon others to achieve the goals" is judged not particularly relevant to characterize the network relationship of WP4 and according to respondents no unexpected events and changes have taken place during the second year of WP4 activity. The only remarkable difference is represented by the rating of "significant differences of opinions about the direction to be taken", which is lower than in the previous survey (-0.36) suggesting an improvement in establishing common grounds.

Figure 8. **WP4 - Level of interaction and network relationship among partners**



As regards the second milestone of WP4, settled for the end of the period investigated in the previous survey (December 2014), the procedure for subcontracting the survey fieldwork has been accomplished by 100% of respondents involved in Task 1.

The common methodology developed for Task 1 surveys is assessed very positively by almost 80% of partners (45.8% rate it as good and 33.3% as very good), 16.7% judge it as fair and no negative judgement is given. Very positive is also the assessment of the methods developed for Task 2 comparative analysis of existing data, which are judged as good or very good by 80% of respondents (60.0% and 20.0% respectively) and acknowledged as fair by the remaining 20.0% of them.

Some of the final questions of the section were conceived for a preliminary verification of the process indicators of RARHA Specific Objectives (see Annex 1). Obviously the exact measure of the predefined indicators will need to be further checked against the final JA outputs and the results of the second round of evaluation interviews to WP leaders and co-leaders.

All respondents involved in Task 1 declare to have participated in the implementation of the survey at national level, amounting to a total of 14 Member States involved in the RARHA surveys (1st process indicator of Specific Objective 1). Concerning the second process indicator, the total number of common items included in the data collection instrument used at national level is higher than 100 for the majority of partners who implemented the survey (101-150 items for 28.6 %; >150 for 25%), between 51 and 100 for 7.1% of respondents and ≤ 50 for 10.7%. As regards the third process indicator, the number of already existing variables provided by the single organizations/MS involved in Task 2, in order to be pooled and re-coded for comparative analysis, is comprised between 16 and 30 for the highest proportion of respondents (35.3%); 31-45, or more than 45, for 23.5% of respondents; less or equal to 15 for the remaining 17.6%.

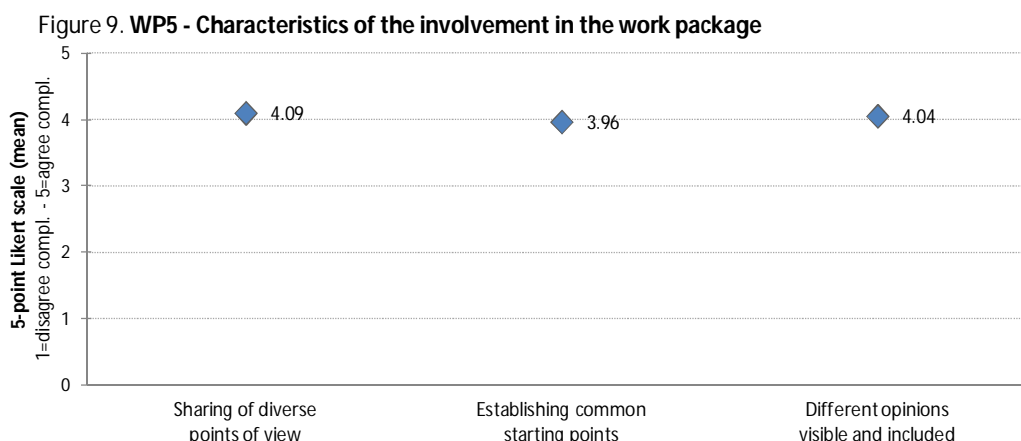
The general acknowledgement of WP4 ability to accomplish RARHA Specific Objective 1 (i.e. providing a baseline for comparative assessment and monitoring of alcohol epidemiology, including drinking levels and patterns, and alcohol related harms across EU) and 2 (i.e. strengthening capacity in comparative alcohol survey methodology and increasing interest in using common methodology in the future) shows that partners are very confident in the effectiveness of the activities carried out so far. The evaluation of the ability is good or very good in 89.3% of responses on Specific Objective 1 and in 79.2% of those on Specific Objective 2; the ability is rated as fair in 7.1% of answers on the first objective and in 16.7% on the second; while it is judged as "poor" only in the remaining 3.6% and 4.2% respectively.

All respondents state that WP4 has contributed to enhance networking in its specific field (2nd output indicator of Specific Objective 2), in the large majority of cases (92.8%) the mean rating is between 4 and 5, on a 5-point Likert scale from 1="not at all" and 5="to a great extent". Finally, results related to the sustainability of WP4 activities show that the totality of partners are willing to continue to take advantage of the methods and network solutions developed through the JA (2nd outcome indicator of Specific Objective 2).

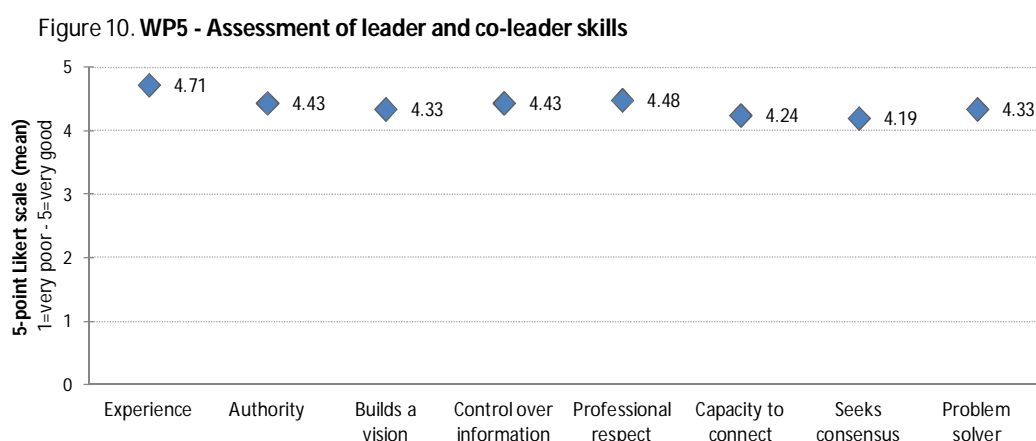
WP5 - Guidelines

As for the other core WPs, the specific section on WP5 was addressed only to researchers who have declared to be personally involved in one of its tasks.

Results in Figure 9 illustrate a satisfactory level of involvement in WP5 activities. It's interesting to notice that the minor difficulties detected in the previous online survey have been overcome, as confirmed by an increase (about +0.3) in the rating of all three investigated aspects.



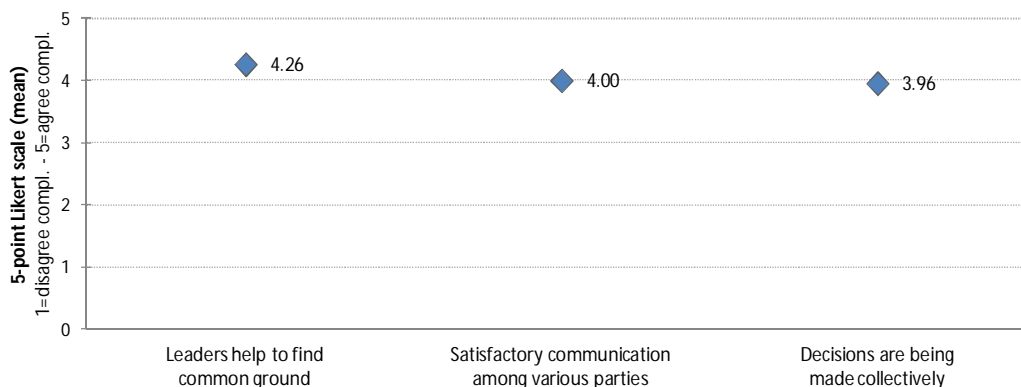
The evaluation of the skills of the leader and co-leader is very positive, as shown by results in Figure 10, all very close to the highest attributable score. In comparison with the ratings of the first period of RARHA activities, an overall increase (ranging from +0.2 to +0.4) in the acknowledgement of all investigated skills has been registered for this second year of action.



A similar longitudinal progress is observed in the level of satisfaction expressed by partners on the management of WP5 (Figure 11), which in the first wave of the survey was rather neutral and slightly above the value 3="neither agree nor disagree". According to present results, the recommended measures to find common grounds between conflicting positions, to increase the time spent on communication and, above all, to encourage a collective decision making

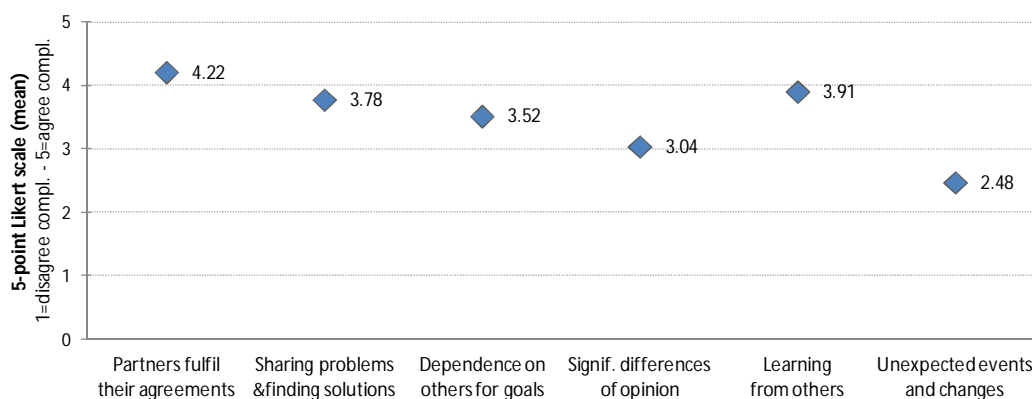
process, has been adequately adopted and, as shown by an increase in the mean evaluation that ranges from +0.3 to +0.4, they have been successful.

Figure 11. **WP5 - Characteristics of the management of the work package**



An improvement, although rather modest and not homogeneous, is shown also by the level of interaction among WP5 partners (Figure 12). As in the first online survey, the only item that reaches a definite level of agreement is the partners' compliance with arrangements (mean 4.22). The highest increases are found for the dependence on others to achieve goals (+0.38) and for the emphasis given to learning from others (+0.29). Similarly to WP4, respondents think that the presence of differences of opinions among partners is irrelevant to define WP5 network and do not find that unexpected events and changes have taken place during the second year of WP5 activity.

Figure 12. **WP5 - Level of interaction and network relationship among partners**



The last questions of the section are intended to verify the level of accomplishment of the milestones scheduled for the investigated period and of the RARHA specific objectives related to WP5 action.

As regards the process indicator of Specific Objective 3, 91.3% of respondents state that their organization/MS is involved in the development of at least one of the overviews/reports to be delivered as part of most of WP5 tasks (completed for 73.9%, in progress for 17.4%).

The European consumer survey on alcohol communication (WP5 Milestone 2), launched by EURO CARE in May 2015, seems to have been scarcely promoted among WP5 partners, since 39.1% of respondents state that they were not invited to participate in the data collection. On the contrary, all of them are aware of the launch of WP5 Delphi surveys, occurred with a little delay according to 38.1% of respondents (WP5 Milestone 3).

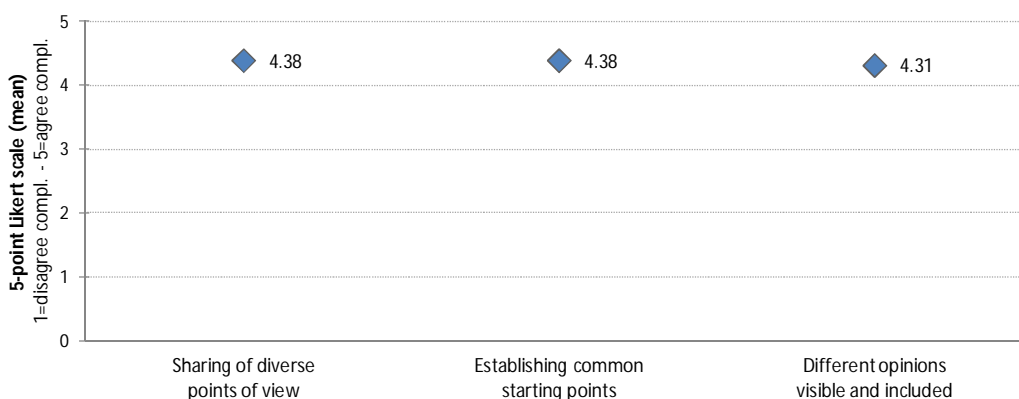
The overall assessment of WP5 ability to accomplish RARHA Specific Objective 3 (i.e. clarifying the science underpinnings and public health policy implications of the use of drinking guidelines to reduce alcohol related harm) and 4 (i.e. building consensus on the use of drinking guidelines to reduce alcohol related harm) shows a very positive acknowledgement of the first aspect (90.9% good-very good, 9.1% fair), whereas some doubts seems to exist about the potentialities of WP5 in relation to Specific Objective 4 (good or very good for 66.7%, fair for 33.3%), probably because the real impact of WP5 on building consensus can be fully perceived and measured only at the end of the JA.

WP6 - Tool kit

The specific section on WP6 was reserved only to participants involved in its activity.

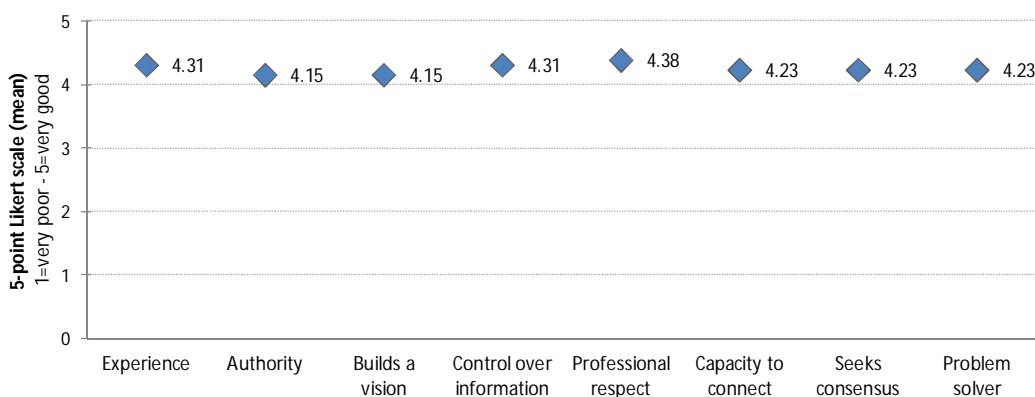
In general, partners seem to be satisfied with the level of involvement in the work package (Figure 13). On average, they agree that special attention has been paid to share points of view, to establish common starting points and also to make different opinions visible and included within the decision making process. In comparison with the first period of JA activities, there is an increase around 0.3 in the mean score of the three investigated aspects.

Figure 13. **WP6 - Characteristics of the involvement in the work package**



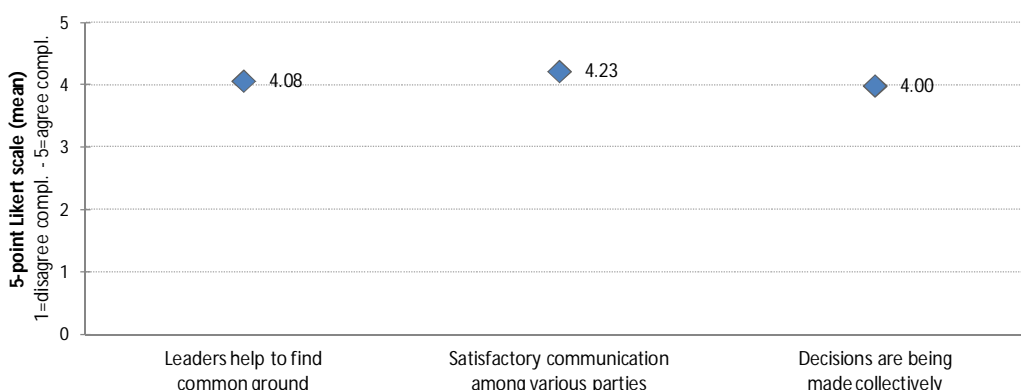
There is an also in the assessment of the skills of the leader and co-leader of WP6 (Figure 14). The acknowledgment of leaders as problem solver (+0.4) and their control over information (+0.3) show the highest increase, indicating that the previous doubts about the leaders' ability to solve problems and to build a common vision are no longer present. All the skills listed in the questionnaire receive now high average results, all above 4 out of 5, with very little differences among each other.

Figure 14. **WP6 - Assessment of leader and co-leader skills**



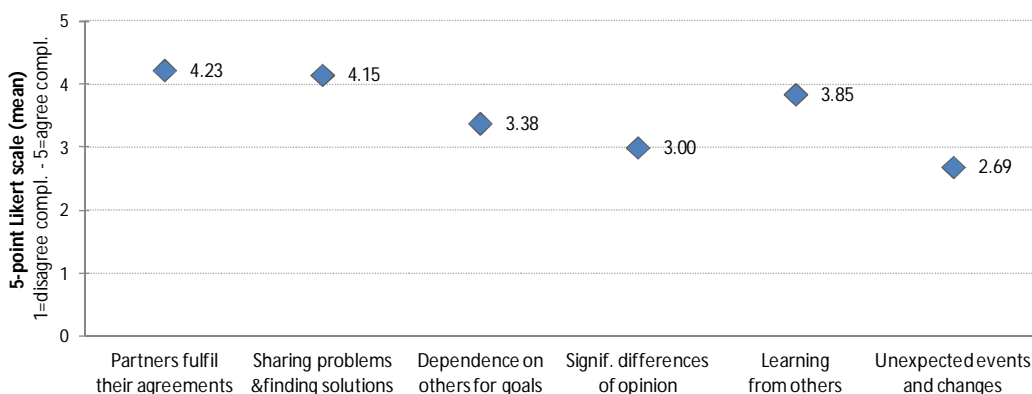
Partners involved in WP6 seem to be satisfied with WP6 management (Figure 15). Although results obtained in the first wave of the online survey had shown some little doubts, especially in regard to the plurality of the decision-making process, the present ratings are all higher than the first ones, suggesting an overall positive improvement.

Figure 15. **WP6 - Characteristics of the management of the work package**



In contrast with results of the previous internal evaluation survey, which suggested a level of synergy that might be improved, the network cohesion among WP6 partners during the second year of JA activity appears quite improved. There is an overall increase in the rating of the items assumed as indicators of a good network structure (Figure 16). It's interesting to notice that the only decrease, which is quite remarkable (-0.5), is registered for the presence of differences of opinion among partners, confirming that efforts to solve the conceptual divergences should have been made, and with success. Aspects such as the dependence upon others to achieve goals and the differences of opinions among partners seem to be considered scarcely relevant to characterize the current network relationships of WP6. As seen for the other WPs, even in this case, no unexpected event has taken place during the second year of activity of WP6.

Figure 16. **WP6 - Level of interaction and network relationship among partners**



Regarding the second of the milestones foreseen for WP6, with deadline in April 2015, the large majority of respondents declare to have contributed to the development of the guidance on definition, criteria and indicators of good practice examples, whereas only 15.4% belong to organizations not involved in the task.

Almost all respondents (84.6%), from a total of 9 MS, participated in the development of the Tool Kit through the suggestion of good example to include. The number of well described and transferable examples they provided is comprised between 1 and 4 for most of the respondents (1-2 for 58.3%, 3-4 for 33.3%) and goes from 5 to 6 for the remaining 8.3%. These data are essential for a preliminary verification of the process and output indicators of the Specific Objective 5 (i.e. facilitating exchange, between MS public health bodies, of good practice in the use of information approaches to reduce alcohol related harm), which, as all similar information obtained by means of the online survey, will be cross-checked against the final RARHA outputs and the second round of interviews with WP leaders.

The general assessment of WP6 effectiveness in reaching Specific Objective 5 and Specific Objective 6 (i.e. providing guidance and tools for public health policy planners for the use of information approaches to reduce alcohol related harm in the framework of wider public health policies) shows a high level of confidence in WP6 potentials. Results are slightly in favour of the objective 6, with a mean rating of WP6 ability between 4="good" and 5="very good" by 91.7% of respondents vs. 83.3% for Specific Objective 5. In any case, high appraisal values are given and no score below 3="fair" is expressed (by 16.7% of respondents for Specific Objective 5 and by 8.3% for the 6th).

Overall evaluation

The final section of the online questionnaire was again addressed to all respondents – administrative and research staff independently of the work package of involvement – and is aimed at providing an appraisal of RARHA joint action as a whole.

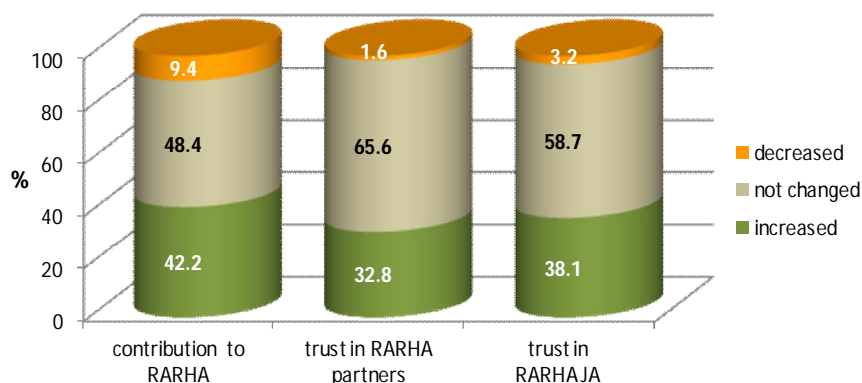
The first aspect under evaluation is the progression of the JA in its second year, investigated through the longitudinal changes in three main indicators: individual contribution to RARHA, trust in RARHA partners, trust in RARHA as a whole (Figure 17).

During the second year of activity, as expected, the contribution to RARHA has remained substantially unchanged for most of the respondents (48.4%), while the engagement has increased only for the remaining 42.2% (vs. the 75% registered in the first period of the JA). A quite large proportion of partners (9.4%) states to have reduced their contribution after the beginning of activities, probably for a physiological reduction of involvement after the conclusion of the initial arrangements.

Results regarding the trust in RARHA partners are almost the same as in the past evaluation: more than half of the respondents (65.6%) state that it has not changed, whereas it has increased according to 32.8% of responses. The proportion with a decrease of trust in RARHA partners is quite modest (1.6%) and almost identical to that of the 1st wave.

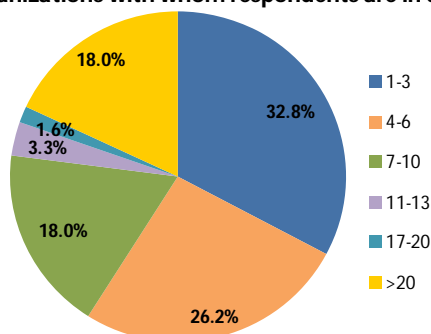
A positive improvement is registered in the degree of trust in the JA in general, with a reduction in the proportion of subjects that declare a decrease (3.2% vs. 8.2% in the first online survey).

Figure 17. Regarding the process over time, during the last year of RARHA activities, your ...



The following two questions are about the amount and quality of relationships established in order to carry out the JA during the last year of activity (Figure 18).

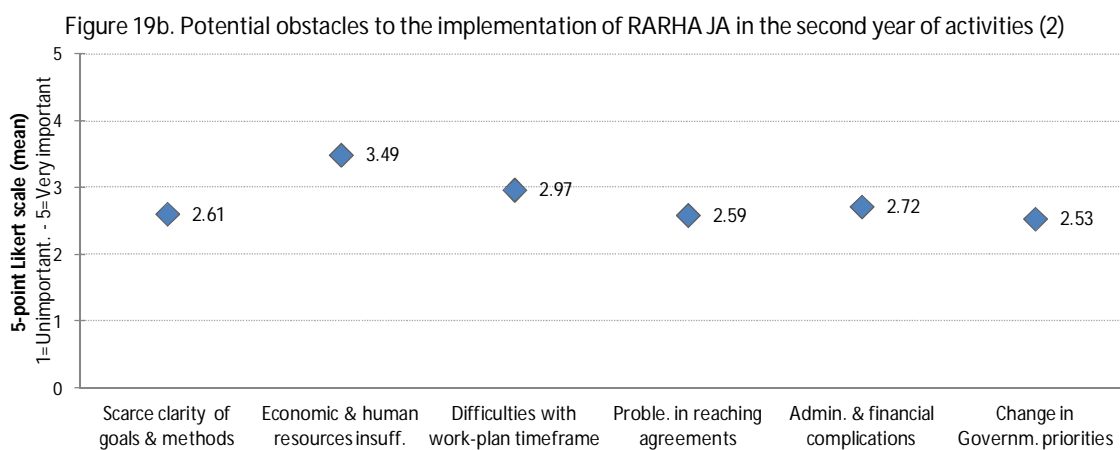
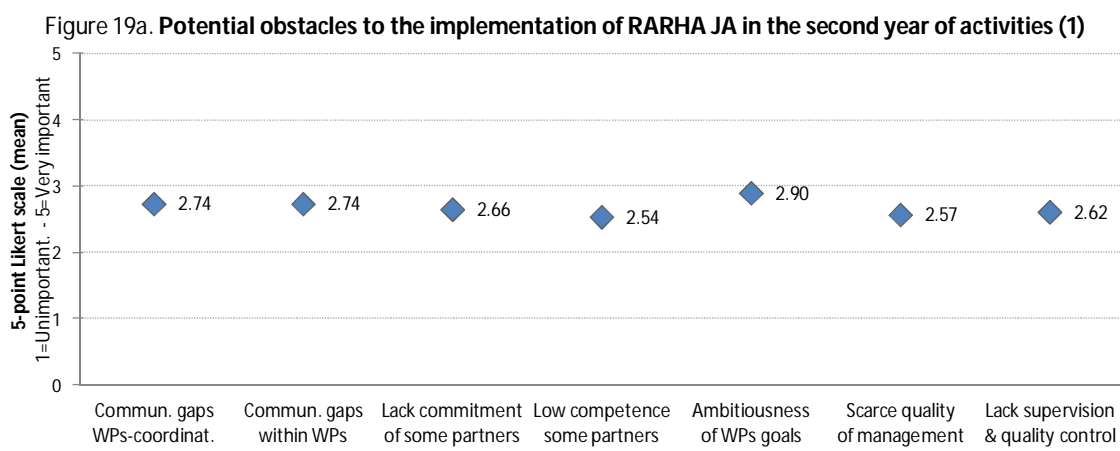
Figure 18. Number of organizations with whom respondents are in contact for RARHA JA



In contrast with the previous survey, where the dimension of the interaction was more fluid and the picture was more heterogeneous and multifaceted, the volume of contacts indicated by partners in the last wave of the survey appears more defined. The largest proportion of

respondents (32.8%) states to have contacts with up to 3 organizations. The number of organizations is 4-6 in 26.2% of response, 7-13 in 21.3% and more than 17 in 19.7% of cases (no answers for the class 14-16). However, the quality of the relation receives an average evaluation 4.08 out of 5, unchanged with respect to the 1st survey.

With the last question all partners were invited to rate a series of potential obstacles to the progress of RARHA, according to the influence exerted during the second year of activity. This was aimed at identifying those elements that had negatively affected the implementation process, and could be removed to facilitate the success of the JA. The picture that emerges from results in Figure 19 (first and second part) reveals a substantial absence of important problems or complications that might have hindered the good development of the JA.



As in the 1st wave, the problem that obtains the highest mean evaluation remains the scarcity of economic and human resources at disposal, but it must be noticed that although rather close to 4="quite important" it does not reach this value. All the other items obtain an evaluation just in the middle of the scale, indicating that they are neither important nor unimportant; therefore all of them can be considered not determinant for the RARHA implementation process. Moreover, in comparison with the previous online survey there is a general decrease in the evaluation of all aspects, which suggests an overall reduction in the critical aspects experienced during the progress of the JA.

Comparison among Work Packages

The following graphs present findings already discussed above, placing side by side those results derived from questions shared in more than one section of the survey, and aimed at enquiring about the same aspects of different WPs. Being absolutely conscious that the objectives, organization and timeframe of the various WPs are very different, the aim of the following figures is not that of ranking the way in which WPs has been implemented. The purpose of this section is instead that of providing an additional instrument of insight into the RARHA implementation process during its second year of activity.

Figure 20. Characteristics of the involvement in WP4, WP5 and WP6

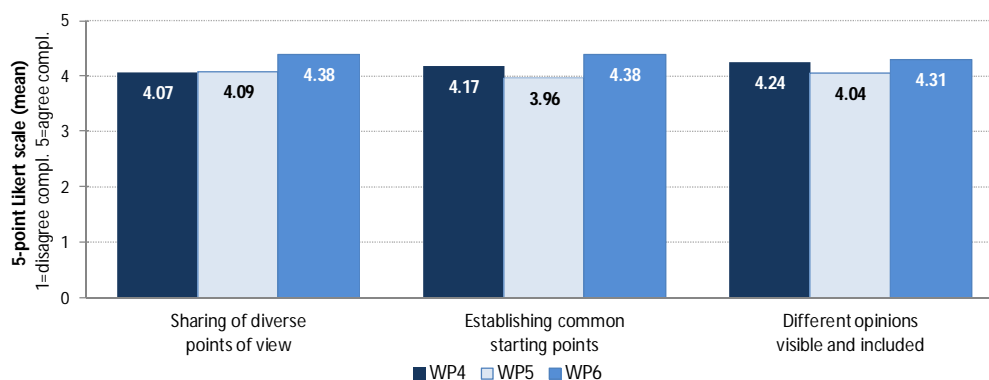


Figure 21. Assessment of the skills of the leaders and co-leaders of WP1, WP4, WP5 and WP6

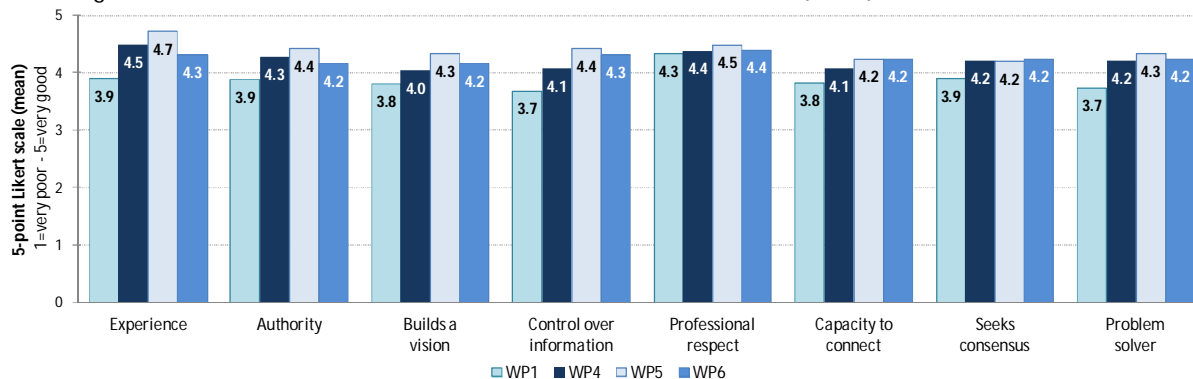


Figure 22. Characteristics of the management of WP4, WP5 and WP6

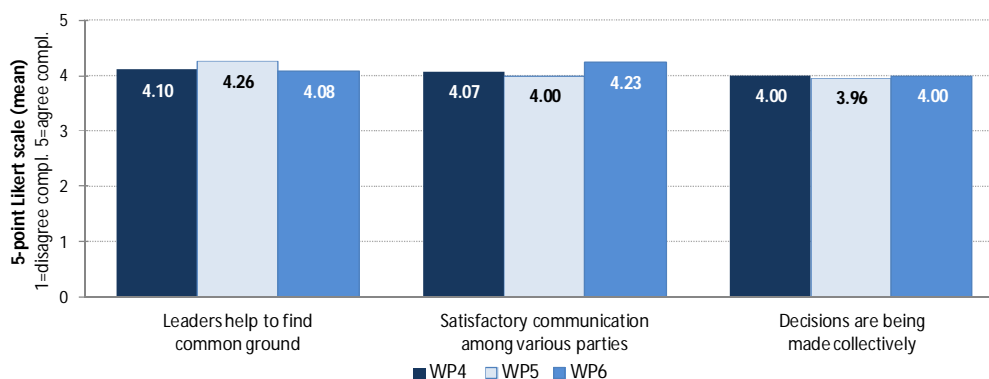
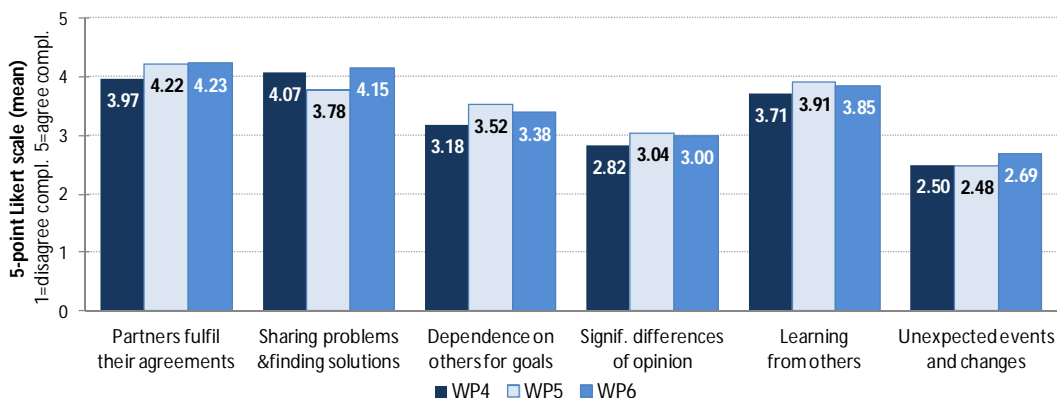


Figure 23. Level of interaction and network relationship among partners of WP4, WP5 and WP6



Conclusions of the Internal Evaluation

The results of the last internal evaluation survey show that, in general, the implementation process of the second year of RARHA activities obtains a positive judgement by all people involved at various levels. The JA appears well implemented, with a clear management structure. In particular, as regards the evaluation questions addressed by this longitudinal evaluation exercise:

1) *Is the Joint Action meeting its goals and progressing according to the Grant Agreement?*

Yes, the JA is meeting its goals and progressing according to the Grant Agreement. Apart from very few delays in the achievement of some of the predefined milestones and deliverables, at the time of the survey all outputs expected for the period under investigation were already accomplished or in progress, and all commitments were respected.

2) *Are there any particular aspects of the RARHA implementation process (e.g. timing, networking, organization, communication, etc.) that needs to be improved or encouraged to increase the overall quality of the action?*

As in the first year of activities, also in this second period, no particular obstacles have been reported by partners, and no relevant difficulties or impediments seem to have influenced the correct course of the JA. On the contrary, the influence of potential obstacles to the evolution of the JA results further diminished.

The majority of respondents report a level of internal interaction quite elevated and are satisfied with the quality of the relationships. They are increasingly confident in other partners and in RARHA as a whole, and there is also a longitudinal decrease in the small portion of respondents that in the previous survey manifested some doubts about the JA potentialities.

In comparison with the first wave of the survey, a general improvement in the appraisal of RARHA, and of core WPs in particular, is evident. This suggests that adequate measures to enhance the management, the involvement and the interaction within WPs were properly adopted and were successful in promoting a better network cohesion and a working ethos more collegiate and productive, as recommended in the first internal evaluation report.

In this overall positive picture, the only shortcomings regard the circulation of information about RARHA, and the quality and volume of internal and external dissemination. A special attention should be paid to increase the official website potentialities as communication instrument among partners and dissemination mean towards the external community. This is fundamental especially in view of the final phase of the JA, in which the dissemination process, now episodic, will be more intense and involve all categories of stakeholders.

A continuous close watch by the project management team is again recommended to ascertain the timely delivery of the outputs and their high quality. It is also suggested that any little change or potential delay is reported by core work packages to WP1, and that corrective actions are taken as early as possible.

As set out in the RARHA Grant Agreement the findings presented in this report and in general all those obtained from the ongoing monitoring of the implementation process has been used to provide feedback and suggestions to partners, in order to improve the work in progress and increase the likelihood that the project is successful.

The main observations get from results of the second evaluation survey, comprising both strength points and aspects to be improved, has been presented to the RARHA coordinator, the WPs leaders and co-leaders in the course of the Management Group Meeting held in Helsinki on 15 February 2016. The present evaluation report will also be circulated by means of its uploading at the RARHA official website.

1st External Evaluation Report

This second part of the present Interim evaluation report summarises instruments and results of the evaluation carried out by the independent external evaluators (ESADE Business School, Ramon Llull University, Barcelona, Spain) since the start of the Joint Action until December 2015, thus covering about two years of RARHA activities.

As already mentioned in the Introduction, the purpose of the external evaluation is mainly focused on effect evaluation, aimed at verifying if the objectives set in the Grant Agreement have been achieved and if outcomes meet the needs of the target group of addressed stakeholders.

External evaluation methodology

The methods used are mixed, including online surveys, face-to-face interviews, document analysis and participant observation (see the comprehensive calendar of evaluation activities in Annex 2).

As presented below, two broad categories of methods can be distinguished: quantitative and qualitative.

Quantitative methods

Quantitative methods are necessary so as to rate the extent to which deliverables, milestones and specific objectives have been achieved. More importantly, these methods inform us about the perceived level of quality of the different tasks completed by the JA.

The external evaluation is expected to rely on three surveys so as to conduct a quantitative analysis of RARHA JA. These surveys are:

- 1st wave online survey among associated partners (S1), conducted in November 2014;
- 2nd wave online survey among associated partners (S2), conducted in November 2015;
- short online survey among target groups of stakeholders (S3), to be conducted in October-November 2016.

Two online surveys among associated partners (S1, S2)

The two online surveys are addressed to all associated partners and aimed at gaining information about the extent to which the JA is meeting its goals and progressing according to the Grant Agreement. Moreover, the surveys provide us with information about particular aspects of RARHA implementation process that needs to be improved so as to ensure the

quality of the JA³.

Both surveys obtained response rates around 60%, allowing us to extract valid and reliable conclusions about the evolution of RARHA.

Short online survey among target group of stakeholders (S3)

The short online survey is expected to give information about the real impact of RARHA JA among key stakeholders. In this vein, the short survey aims at gaining knowledge on the extent to which the results obtained by RARHA are properly disseminated and distributed across the main stakeholders in the field of interest.

The short survey will be adapted depending on the stakeholder targeted, that is, different set of questions will be prepared depending on the audience receiving the questionnaire. This technique is expected to give us a comprehensive view of the outcomes of RARHA, covering the different WPs.

Qualitative methods

Qualitative instruments are used so as to follow the evolution of the JA. In addition, these are tools to gain information about the quality of the implementation process and of the different outputs completed in the JA. Three types of qualitative methods are taken into account:

- documents analysis (DA), examination of deliverables, milestones, reports, minutes and other documents produced throughout the all period of RARHA activity;
- semi-structured face-to-face interviews with WP leaders and co-leaders, in two rounds (SI1, SI2), the first one carried out in April 2015, the second one to be conducted in October 2016;
- participants observation in two RARHA meetings (PA), the first one in April 2015 and the second one planned for October 2016.

Document analysis (DA)

The document analysis enables the evaluators to objectively examine the products of RARHA JA. Apart from the main deliverables and milestones of the JA, the document analysis also takes into account the meetings held by partners and the documents related to them (i.e. agendas, minutes, presentations, etc.).

The aim of reviewing documents produced by RARHA is to cross-check the deliverables and milestones against the specific objectives of each work package in the JA. The goal of this method is twofold. On the one hand it is meant to check whether the different tasks have been met, producing and publishing the different deliverables and milestones on time. On the

³ For further information about the two online surveys, please see the section on the 2nd Internal Evaluation Report in the first part of this document, and also the 1st Interim Internal Evaluation Report available at http://www.rarha.eu/Resources/Deliverables/Lists/Work%20Package%203/Attachments/4/RARHA_1st_Internal_Evaluation_Report_final.pdf

other hand, the document analysis evaluates the quality of the products of the JA.

In order to conduct the document analysis it is critical to have an updated and complete website, which is the platform used by the external evaluators to access the documents produced by RARHA. So far, the evaluators have taken into account all documents available in the official website and its restricted area. Other working papers, such as the periodical update of WPs work plans and the 6-month progress reports developed by each associated partners should have been of help for a better understanding of RARHA progress, but unfortunately they are not on the website and were provided only sporadically during the first month of the JA.

Semi-structured face-to-face interviews (SI1, SI2)

The semi-structured face-to-face interviews facilitate access to the main representatives of the JA. More specifically, the interviews are conducted among WP leaders and co-leaders involved in the JA. The two rounds of interviews are expected to inform us about the evolution of the JA and the level of satisfaction with the completed tasks. They are also aimed at obtaining first-hand information about the management of the JA and inform us about the main challenges and opportunities of RARHA.

Whereas the first round of semi-structured face-to-face interviews was mainly focused on process evaluation – even though it also included questions about the effects of RARHA work – the second round of semi-structured interviews will focus also on the impact of the JA achievements on relevant stakeholders, as perceived by partners.

Regarding the first round, 9 interviews were conducted with leaders and/or co-leaders of RARHA WPs. The interviews were conducted during the RARHA Management Group Meeting held in Brussels on the 27th and 28th of April 2015; except from one of them that was carried out by phone on the 6th of May 2015 because the representative of that particular WP could not be present in the meeting.

The initial section of the semi-structured interviews aims at gaining information about how the interviewees understand RARHA, which is the main public value of the JA, how do they see the management activities, and which are the main obstacles to achieve the pre-established outputs and outcomes. The second section of the interview focuses on dissemination activities and the work of WP2. Finally, in the third section, the interview poses questions about the evolution of the core WPs that the interviewee is representing. The interviews lasted between 15 and 30 minutes. For more information about the questions posed in the first round of interviews, please see Appendix 4.

Participants observation (PA)

In order to gain information about the working method of the JA, the members of the external evaluation team participate in two RARHA meetings. The evaluators attend these meetings as external observers, so as to assess the quality of the meeting in general, identifying the main limitations as well as the advantages of the format. Until January 2016, the external

evaluators have only participated in one RARHA meeting: the Management Group Meeting held in Brussels on 27-28 April 2015. The next observation will probably take place at the final meeting in October 2016.

Results of the external evaluation

This section presents the level of achievement of the deliverables, milestones and specific objectives of each work package, obviously except for WP3. More specifically, we present an overview of the evolution of each WP based on the data gathered through the different methods presented. The sections also highlight the main challenges and limitations of the WPs (if any) so that the leaders can take the necessary measures in order to overcome the limitations and improve the functioning of the WPs and of RARHA as a whole.

WP1 - Coordination

WP1 manages the project and monitors activities, including organization of management meetings and final conference, reporting and communication to the Consortium and the Commission. SICAD is responsible for overall coordination of the JA RARHA and contacts with CHAFAEA and SANCO-UNIT C4, the Project Coordinator is in charge of supervision and day-to-day management and proposing corrective action as appropriate to make sure the operational and financial plan is followed according to the JA Agreement and Consortium Agreement including procedures and rules for decision making, which has been signed between partners.

On a general level, and based on the first semi-structured interviews, it seems important to highlight that the coordination and leadership of RARHA is perceived in a positive way. Members of the management group positively assess the vision and commitment of the JA leader. According to two interviewees, the enthusiasm of the JA leader is contagious and shared with the rest of the member of the management group. However, five out of the six respondents who are not members of SICAD, noted that there is room for improvement in the management, especially when it comes to communication and coordination, which are not efficient enough to ensure a proper administration of the JA.

As noted by three respondents, RARHA is made of many different partners with different cultures and diverging capacities. Because of that, the coordination has to promote a sense of belonging across partners. This can be done through communication. In a similar vein, one interviewee underlines that email communication should be improved in order to ensure that people understand messages in the same way, avoiding miscommunication and misunderstandings.

Communication should also ensure that the schedule and all the JA deadlines are properly met. One interviewee mentions that the coordinators react too slowly to requests, petitions and questions from partners. Therefore, four out of the six interviewees (excluding SICAD

members) ask for a more efficient and responsive coordination team. The communication could also be improved in order to properly comply with the schedule and deadlines. Respondents ask for longer periods of time when the coordination requests documents or information from partners. In this vein, it is mentioned that the coordination should remind about the deadlines at least 30 days in advance, and attach all the necessary documents and templates required for bureaucratic reasons.

Apart from the communication aspect, some respondents note that the coordination group could be more flexible. Even though RARHA JA has not suffered any notable deviation from the Grant Agreement, some partners have to adapt to a changing environment and unexpected events. In this vein, one respondent notes that the coordinators should be more open and flexible to changes and adaptation within WPs (even though the easiest way is to be rigid and stick with the contract).

Beyond these shortcomings, respondents acknowledge the good work of the coordination team despite being a small organization with little experience. In addition, respondents are aware that during the first months of the JA the coordination team has spent a lot of time in arranging financial aspect, which might have hindered their capacity to properly deal with other aspects such as communication.

Related to the management of RARHA JA, the external evaluation has had the opportunity to attend one Management Group Meeting (27-28 April 2015). Based on the observations of the external evaluators, it can be stated that there is a good, positive, constructive and respectful relationship between the coordinators and the WP leaders of the JA. Regarding the meeting, despite the pre-established agenda there was enough space and time to solve inquiries raised by the partners. In this vein, the meeting provided time to discuss one of the main obstacle shared among the partners, which was related to the financial issues and its complexities.

The two online questionnaires conducted among associated partners also give us important information about the functioning of the coordination team. As presented in the 1st Internal Evaluation Report, respondents value positively the skills of the coordination team and the way in which the different coordination tasks have been performed throughout 2014. According to results of the second wave of the survey – reported in the first part of this document – the skills and accomplishments of the coordination team in the second period of activity are judged quite positively, with a very slight increase in some of the average evaluations.

The only deliverable of WP1 is Technical reports, JA meetings and final conference. The deadline for this deliverable is December 2016. In this vein, it is still too early to conduct an effect evaluation of this deliverable. However, as developed below, partners assess positively the quality of the reports and meetings lead by WP1 until December 2015.

Three out of the five milestones determined for WP1 have reached their deadlines. These are: (1) Kick-off meeting; (2) Management meeting, steering committee meetings, advisory committee meetings; (3) Interim meeting and interim report.

1. The Kick-off meeting was completely achieved on January 31, 2014. The online survey among associated partners and the first round of the semi-structured interviews present a positive evaluation of the meeting in terms of organization and content.
2. According to the Consortium Agreement, the meetings to convene during the course of the action are 6 for the Management Group, 2 for the Steering Group and 3 for the Advisory Group (these 3 back to back with CNAPA meetings). To our knowledge, SICAD had organized all meetings planned for the period evaluated in this report. The average evaluation of RARHA meetings by participants in the 1st online survey is 4.09 out of 5, assessment that reaches a mean value of 4.20 in the 2nd wave. The positive assessment of meetings organization is also found in the semi-structured interviews, in which the only regret expressed by the participants is not having more meetings, since these reinforce the project and builds stronger bounds among participants.
3. The Interim Report⁴ was circulated among partners and uploaded in the RARHA website only in December 2015, with about 5 months delay. This has hampered the evaluation of this milestone. However, those participants in the 2nd wave survey who were already aware of the Interim Report give an evaluation 3.93 out of 5 of the document. A thorough read of the document also leads to a positive assessment because it properly and clearly presents the main advancement of the JA since its beginning. However, there is an unequal description of the activities performed in each WP. For some, such as WP5, the activities are properly and thoroughly explained, but for some others, for example WP4, only general information is provided. Finally, the formatting and the font are not consistent throughout the document, which might confuse the reader. This is a minor issue, but since the document is publicly available in the open area of RARHA's website, it would be better to take care of these visual aspects.

WP2 - Dissemination

WP2 is responsible for improving the JA visibility through the diffusion of results and deliverables of the JA to the different target groups, by means of: dedicated website, electronic newsletter, final conference, publication of scientific reports and of final version of the Tool Kit, etc.

The first deliverable of WP2 consists in a promotional package, including the image, logos, design, etc. This was delivered on time and is now available in the restricted area of RARHA's website. Respondents to the 1st online survey (S1) assessed the promotional package 4.23 out of 5. This positive assessment is also seen in the semi-structured interviews. Interviewees highlight that the promotional package was produced very rapidly and that the quality meets the standards. As posed by one of the respondents, "the promotional package is very nice and

⁴<http://www.rarha.eu/Resources/Deliverables/Lists/Work%20Package%201/Attachments/6/Interim%20Report%20RARHA.pdf>

useful; it is good that participants can make RARHA outputs identifiable through this promotional package, it also has symbolic value”.

Regarding RARHA’s website (Deliverable 3, WP2 Milestone 1), based on results of the online surveys, we can state that the assessment by RARHA partners is quite positive, but a slight decrease in its appraisal has been registered from the 1st online survey (3.96 out of 5) to the 2nd wave (3.75). Also the first round of the semi-structured interviews indicates that the website has room for improvement, especially when it comes to updating new materials and organizing the restricted area. As noted by various interviewees, the website should be more up-to-date and more informative. Respondents note that the website should present the findings and outputs of RARHA in a timely manner. It is worth highlighting that these opinions were gathered before the last update of the website in November 2015.

Although the new platform facilitates the updating of the website and uploading new outputs of RARHA partners, the restricted area still has significant room for improvement. This area includes many valuable documents such as presentations, meetings’ minutes, agendas, etc. However, it could be better organized by systematically including the date of publication, its name, and the author(s) if any. Additionally, the restricted area could be improved by having sub-sections within each WP differentiating, for instance, between presentations, working documents, meetings’ agendas, meetings’ minutes, deliverables, milestones, and so on. Moreover, some documents are found under different WPs, this might be because these are general documents relevant for every WP, in this vein, it could be interesting to have another section devoted to these horizontal documents. The same holds true for the open area of the website, where the main deliverables and milestones can be found but without any clear order or pattern, which hinders an effective and efficient search of specific documents. Furthermore, a worrisome fact related to the open area of the website is that it does not include any document related to WP4.

In addition, as part of Deliverable 3, in order to facilitate dissemination activities and reach as many stakeholders as possible, associated partners had the responsibility to upload common contents about RARHA in their organizations’ websites, in their own language. In this respect, the 1st online survey conducted in November-December 2014 reports that only 21.2% of the respondents completed this task. In the 2nd online survey, one year later, the task is completed or ongoing for almost 90% of respondents. This result is consistent with WP2 presentation “Dissemination numbers”, which states that 82% of RARHA partners have linked their national websites to the JA.

Another important activity of WP2 is the production of bi-annual newsletters (Deliverable 4, WP2 Milestone 2). The two online surveys report high levels of satisfaction with the first and second newsletters. More specifically, the first newsletter is assessed with a 4.06 out of 5 whereas the second newsletter got a 4.14 out of 5. This slight improvement from the first to the second newsletter is also reported by the interviewees, who highlight the improvement from the first to the second newsletter. As noted by one interviewee, whereas the first newsletter was a mere milestone, the second one is a valuable tool to disseminate the work of

the JA. Importantly, there was a delay in the publication of the first newsletter due to technical problems and the introduction of a new software. This affected the publication schedule of the newsletters, with only one issue in 2014. Moreover, the publication of the third newsletter has been further delayed until December 2015. This might affect the whole schedule of publication one more time. Apart from this delay, the quality of the third newsletter can be considered as high, since it reports and disseminates the advancements of the JA in a clear and concise manner.

The third milestone of WP2 consists in a satellite event for public launch of the JA. As noted in the RARHA Interim Report, this event has been completed, though with some delay (instead of June 2014 it was done in November 2014). As reported in the first internal evaluation report, 70.6% of the respondents received communication about the satellite event. No specific observation was made by the interviewees about this event.

Importantly, at the beginning of the JA, the partners were invited to submit a document so as to prepare the stakeholders map and the dissemination plan (Guidance Document on Stakeholder Mapping and Dissemination circulated in April 2014). Even though the RARHA Interim Report classifies these activities as achieved, according to documents received by the evaluators so far, the number of partners that submitted a stakeholder's map and a dissemination plan was quite limited. On the one hand, we were able to examine 18 out of the 32 stakeholders map to be submitted by partners to identify the main stakeholders that should be targeted when disseminating the activities and findings of RARHA. On the other hand, as far as we were able to see, only 10 associated partners have submitted the dissemination plan. Some respondents to the semi-structured interview note that the dissemination plan has been requested too early in time. When the dissemination plan was done partners were not completely aware of what they wanted to disseminate, thus it might be interesting to review these plans, with the necessary help from the management group, in order to properly target the key stakeholders and increase the probability to have an impact on society. Regardless the initial constraints, those organizations that have not completed these documents need to do so as soon as possible in order to develop a proper dissemination of the JA.

Finally, according to one of the first versions of WP2 work plan, a Policy Dialogue was foreseen in October 2015 and then postponed until September 2016. The main point we want to highlight here is the lack of communication between the different WPs and the external evaluators – which in conjunction with the difficulties encountered by the external evaluators to access some of the documents of the meetings held by partners – has not allowed the evaluators to be aware of this rescheduling. Because of that, two questions aimed at evaluating the Policy Dialogue were included in the 2nd evaluation survey, confusing those organizing the event and hampering the quality of the survey. All in all, this is a sign of the scarce circulation of information among JA partners, an obstacle that is negatively influencing evaluation activities in general and that should be addressed in the coming months.

WP4 - Monitoring

WP4 aims to develop a common methodology to obtain comparable data for monitoring progress in reducing alcohol related harm at national and EU level and for benchmarking national developments against wider trends. Thus, WP4 is structured in two different tasks: 1) implementation of a common methodology and execution of a survey across member states; 2) recoding and pooling already existing data for comparative analysis.

Task 1 of WP4 consists of a survey to collect comparable data on alcohol consumption, drinking patterns and alcohol related harm across EU Member States by using instruments based on that developed as part of the EU project Standardized Measurement of Alcohol-Related Troubles (SMART). Briefly, according to the RARHA Interim Report, a standardized pilot questionnaire was developed and translated into 20 languages. Guidelines for implementing the pilot study as well as interviewer's training manual, show cards, codebook and data base template were also produced. Then, on the basis of the experience of the pilot study, a revised version of the questionnaire was elaborated. Finally, the survey was been carried out in 20 European countries on random samples of population aged 18-64.

Task 2 aims to pool existing data on alcohol consumption, drinking patterns and related harms from surveys carried out in Member States between 2008 and 2012 and record the data into variables comparable to those measured in the SMART questionnaire developed in Task 1. The main phases of Task 2, as reported in the RARHA Interim Report, were: mapping of existing national alcohol surveys and development of a codebook and template for the final database of variables from national surveys; solving questions of comparability of alcohol measures; selection of 38 available alcohol-related measures from different countries; formal collaboration agreement and contract signed by 16 countries; data transfer, database development and analysis.

Two of the five milestones predefined for WP4 reached their deadline during the reported period:

1. The first is the organization of work meetings to refine SMART methodology, agree on common protocol for surveys and on re-coding of existing data, scheduled for April 2014. Both meetings were regularly held. According to PARPA and IFT progress report Task 1 1st working meeting took place in Krakow on 16-17 May 2014 and that of Task 2 in Lisbon from March 20-21, back-to-back with the WP4 kick-off meeting. As reported in the first Internal Evaluation Report, the two work meetings receive a more than positive evaluation by WP4 partners, with a mean score of 4.06 on a 5-point Likert scale. The totality of Task1 partners state that a common protocol for the surveys has been completely or partially agreed upon. Similarly, all respondents involved in Task 2 declare that participants in the meeting have completely or partially agreed on the development of a common database and codebook for comparative analysis.
2. The second milestone consists in the opening of calls for tender to subcontract the Task 1 survey fieldworks. Although this milestone had to be completed by December 2014, the

1st online survey shows that only 59.3% of the respondents involved in Task 1 state to have started the procedures for subcontracting the survey fieldwork. The subcontracting procedure results regularly completed by all respondents participating in S2.

The only deliverable of WP4 (D7) is scheduled for August 2016. It consists in a synthesis report presenting cross-country comparison of drinking levels, patterns and alcohol-related harm, describing the common methodology and providing policy pointers for continuing EU monitoring of alcohol consumption. Although it is clearly too early to evaluate WP4 deliverable, it's interesting to notice that - according to results of the 2nd online survey (S2) - there is a very positive assessment of the common methodologies developed for Task 1 and Task 2, judged as good/very good by about 80% of respondents involved in the corresponding tasks, without any negative assessment. WP4 partners are also very confident in the WP ability to accomplish Specific Objective 1 (i.e. providing a baseline for comparative assessment and monitoring of alcohol epidemiology...) and Specific Objective 2 (i.e. strengthening capacity in comparative alcohol survey methodology...), respectively rated as good/very good by 89% and 79% of respondents. Furthermore, all respondents involved in WP4 state that it has contributed to enhance networking in its specific field (Specific Objective 2, 2nd output indicator) and are willing to continue to apply methods and network solutions developed through the JA (Specific Objective 2, 2nd outcome indicator).

S2 results regarding a preliminary exam of WP4 indicators, which will have to be further checked against the final synthesis report and the 2nd round of interviews with WP leaders, shows that: Task 1 surveys have been implemented in at least 14 EU Member States (Specific Objective 1, 1st process indicator); the average number of common items included in the data collection instruments (Specific Objective 1, 2nd process indicator) should be >100; the average number of existing variables provided by each organization/MS to be pooled and recoded for comparative analysis should be between 16-30 (Specific Objective 1, 3rd process indicator).

According to results of the first round of the semi-structured interview, although the instruments and the other activities related to Specific Objective 1 were still underway, WP4 compliance with the predefined goal is positively assessed. As noted by one interviewee, if the instruments developed are good and useful, they will be well disseminated and implemented across Committee on National Alcohol Policy and Action (CNAPA) members. As another interviewee of WP4 indicates when referring to Specific Objective 1, the most important outcome is not how many countries will implement the survey or provide data, what really matters is to change patterns and create a common base for alcohol epidemiology " ...when a critical mass uses this methodology, then the rest of the countries will follow".

Finally, despite the amount of work conducted by partners in this WP4, this is the only WP that does not have any document in the public area of RARHA's website, so far. This not only might hamper the evaluation of the WP, it can also hinder the dissemination of methodologies and activities developed by partners working in WP4.

WP5 - Guidelines

WP5 aims at providing guidance to policy makers on the scientific basis and practical implications of the use of drinking guidelines as a public health measure, thereby widening consensus in developing more aligned messages on alcohol related harm to the population and health professionals.

As described in RARHA Interim Report, the main activities carried out in the first two years of the JA were aimed at collecting new data and summarizing existing information on the following topics: science underpinnings and public health policy implications for alcohol related harm reduction; definitions of low risk drinking and of standard drink across EU; specific guidelines related to young people and also to brief interventions practices; and finally the consumers' views relating to alcohol risk communication. The nine working papers derived from these background activities – carried out separately by each of the teams in charge of the Tasks – were used as preparatory work for the Delphi studies (one on low risk drinking and the other on alcohol related harm for young people) carried out with public health experts from partner countries. Apart from one paper, which has been already published, the rest will continue to be updated and modified during the JA so as to feed the final synthesis report of WP5.

Three of the five milestones predefined in the Technical Annex to the Grant Agreement were accomplished, while no deliverable for WP5 was expected for the reported period:

1. The first milestone consists in the organization of an expert meeting to discuss the preliminary results of the background work on low risk drinking guidelines and standard drink definitions, and also on the science underpinnings and public health policy implications of alcohol related harm reduction. The expert meeting was held in Rome on 4 November 2014, with a negligible delay in the prefixed timeframe (October 2014). More than half of the respondents involved in WP5 that completed the 1st online survey state to have participated in the meeting, assessing very positively (4.50 out of 5) its quality and usefulness. Similarly, the interviewees involved in SI1 evaluate the expert meeting held in Rome as very useful and an important starting point to create a new consensus and to provide valuable recommendations to the Commission.
2. Although the online consumer survey on alcohol communication was scheduled for January 2015, when the semi-structured interviews were conducted (27-28 April 2015) it was not launched yet. It was finally launched in May 2015, with four months delay. According to the 2nd online survey, only 61% of the respondents involved in WP5 were invited to participate in the European consumer survey developed by EURO CARE suggesting some deficiency in the internal promotion of this activity.
3. As for the third of WP5 milestones, the Delphi survey foreseen in the project was split into two parts: the Delphi study on low risk drinking was launched according to plan in April 2015, whereas the other Delphi on alcohol related harm for young people started in

June 2015. This is reflected in the results of the 2nd online survey (S2), in which the large majority of respondents involved in WP5 state that the Delphi rounds started as planned and only for 38% of them it has been delayed.

Regarding the Specific Objective 3 (i.e. clarifying the science underpinnings and public health policy implications of the use of drinking guidelines to reduce alcohol related harm), as noted by the two interviewees involved in WP5 and participating in SI1, it is almost reached. Thus, the following step is to inform policy-makers through policy briefs and conferences. This is confirmed by WP5 partners participating in S2 that seems very confident in the WP ability to fulfill Specific Objective 3, which is assessed as good/very good by 91% of them. The same proportion of respondents state to have been contributing to the development of at least one of the overviews/reports on drinking guidelines, brief interventions, drinking by young people, science basis and standard drink definition to be delivered as part of most WP5 Tasks.

On the contrary, probably the full appraisal of WP5 potentialities in relation to Specific Objective 4 (i.e. building consensus on the use of drinking guidelines to reduce alcohol related harm) will be fully perceived only in the final phase of the JA. According to S2 results, the perception of WP5 compliance with Specific Objective 4 can be improved, being evaluated as good/very good by 66.7% of respondents, and fair by the remaining 33.3%.

Thus, the WP is meeting the deadlines and complying with the schedule, but it is still too early to evaluate the work related to Specific Objective 4.

WP6 - Tool kit

WP6 is focused on selecting interventions implemented in Member States by public bodies, adaptable to other contexts and with reasonable evidence of efficacy and effectiveness in influencing alcohol consumption attitudes and patterns. The good practice examples are collected into a Tool Kit, which includes also guidance on criteria of good practice for alcohol information approaches to reduce alcohol related harm, addressed to public health policy planners. The areas of interest for the good practice Tool Kit were determined and confirmed by the RARHA Advisory Group in 2014, selecting the following three groups of interventions: early intervention (including brief advice); school-based programs (information and education); public awareness programs (including new media, social networks and online tools for behavior change).

Regarding the specific activities planned in the Technical Annex to the Grant Agreement for WP6 and scheduled for the period covered in the present report:

1. After the development of background papers on the three groups of interventions, the questionnaire/template for collecting good practices from Member States (WP6 Milestone 1) was developed, piloted and sent to contacts. As reported in the RARHA Interim Report the questionnaire was completed in November 2014, with a 5-month delay. This is the reason why only 42% of WP6 partners participating in the 1st online evaluation survey (S1) declare that the development of the template is completed, while

is on progress for 53% of them. Nonetheless, those who answer that the template has been developed have a positive opinion of its ability to describe good practice examples in the three areas (early intervention 4.29/5; school-based programs 4.1/5; public awareness programs 4.00/5).

2. As regards the guide/recommendations for good practice approaches to reduce alcohol related harm (WP6 Milestone 2), its development has suffered the consequences of the delayed accomplishment of the questionnaire/template and of the prolonged data collection. Although scheduled for April 2015, in the RARHA Interim Report it is stated as expected for August 2015. Finally, according to the second online survey (S2), almost all respondents involved in WP6 state that their organization has contributed to the development of the guidance on definition, criteria and indicators of good practice examples.

According to the RARHA Interim Report, a total of 48 good practices were submitted from 19 of the 32 European countries contacted. As mentioned above, it is worth noting that WP6 has expanded the time frame to collect good practices. Thus, even though the intention was to gather all the good practices by the end of January 2015, when the semi-structured interviews (SI1) were conducted (i.e. April 2015), WP6 was still collecting good practices (survey closed in May 2015). In this vein, interviewees note that timing might be a problem since they were already extending deadlines. However, they also underline that many efforts were being made to amend this situation and meet the deadlines of the JA. Interviewees also highlight that the idea was not just to collect good practices, but also to develop criteria to assess these practices and present them both in the printed and online version of the Tool Kit. Therefore, Tool Kit users will have a short description of the good practices, providing also information on the level of effectiveness as well as on possible ways to export and adapt it to other countries and situations.

On a general level, it can be said that, in spite of some initial delays, WP6 is progressing as expected and, as shown by S2, associated partners assess very positively the development of Specific Objectives within WP6. More specifically, the WP ability to accomplish Specific Objective 5 (i.e. facilitating exchange, between MS public health bodies, of good practices in the use of information approaches to reduce alcohol related harm), and Specific Objective 6 (i.e. providing guidance and tools for public health policy planners for the use of information approaches to reduce alcohol related harm in the framework of wider public health policies) is judged as good/very good by about 90% of respondents.

Overview of the accomplishment of predetermined deliverables and milestones

As already seen in the previous sections about single WPs, all expected RARHA outputs were regularly delivered, although with some relatively small and properly motivated delays.

The following tables summarize the evaluation results related to the single deliverables (Table 1) and milestones (Table 2) that reached their deadline during the reported period.

Table 1. **Accomplishment of RARHA deliverables scheduled for the first two years of activity**

Deliverable	Instruments * for evaluation	Evaluation result
<i>Work Package 1</i>		
D1 Technical reports, JA meetings and final conference (December 2016)	DA	To be completed, but all technical reports and meetings foreseen for the reported period were accomplished (60%).
	PO	Based on the observations held by the external evaluators at the Management Group Meeting (Brussels, 27-28 April 2015), there is a good, positive, constructive and respectful relationship between JA coordinators and WP leaders during meetings. Enough space and time to solve inquiries raised by partners.
<i>Work Package 2</i>		
D2 Promotional package and communication about the launch of RARHA (March 2014)	DA	Timely delivered: the promotional package is available in the restricted area of RARHA website.
	S1	S1: respondents assess with a 4.23/5 the promotional package.
	Si1	Very good assessment of the promotional package by respondents to the first round of interviews.
D3 Main web site and common content for national web pages (March 2014)	S1 –S2	Website timely delivered: evaluated 3.96/5 (S1) and 3.75/5 (S2). S1: the upload of common content about RARHA JA in national organization websites is not yet done for 61.5% of partners. S2: 87.2% have completed or at least started the upload of common contents about RARHA.
	Si1	Website could be more up-to-date and more informative. The private area for RARHA partners could be better organized.
D4 Bi-annual electronic newsletter (June 2014)	S1 –S2	Delay in the delivery of the first newsletter and consequent shift in the launch of the others. S1: first newsletter assessed 4.06/5 S2: second newsletters assessed 4.14/5
	Si1	The newsletters produced are positively assessed, especially the improvement from the 1 st to the 2 nd newsletter.

* Legend of acronyms:

DA = Document analysis

PA = Participants' Observation in Management Group Meetings

S1, S2 = 1st, 2nd online evaluation survey

Si1, Si2 = 1st, 2nd semi-structured interview

Table 2. **Accomplishment of RARHA milestones scheduled for the first two years of activity**

Milestone	Instruments * for evaluation	Evaluation result
<i>Work Package 1</i>		
a. Kickoff meeting (January 2014)	DA	Achievement: 100%.
	S1	Partners assess with a 4.09/5 the organization of RARHA meetings (including the Kick-off meeting).
	SI1	Positive evaluation.
b. Management meetings, steering committee meetings, advisory committee meetings (December 2014)	DA	RARHA Interim report: all meetings foreseen for the reported period were accomplished (60%). No problems encountered
	S1 –S2	Meeting organization assessed 4.09/5 (S1) and 4.20/5 (S2)
	SI1	Positive assessment of meetings. The only regret is not having more meetings where participants can meet personally.
c. Interim meeting and interim report (June 2015)	DA	Interim report achieved
	S2	Scarce circulation of the final document: only 33% of respondents received the report, assessed 3.93/5
<i>Work Package 2</i>		
f. Launch of promotional package and main website (March 2014)	DA	Timely accomplished
	S1 –S2	Partners assess positively the promotional package (4.23/5) (S1) and quite positively the RARHA website: 3.96/5 (S1) & 3.75/5 (S2).
	SI1	Promotional package (including image, logos, design, etc.) assessed very positively. Regarding the website, respondents note that RARHA website could be more up-to-date and more informative; private area could be better organized.
g. Launch newsletter (June 2014)	DA	Delay in the delivery of the first newsletter and consequent delay in the launch of the followings. The three newsletters are publicly available online and have been distributed among RARHA partners and subscribers.
	S1 – S2	First newsletter: 4.06/5 (S1). Second newsletter: 4.14/5 (S2)
h. Satellite event for public launch of the JA (June 2014)	S1	Launched in November 2014. 70.6% of respondents received communication about it.
	SI1	[No specific observations]
<i>Work Package 4</i>		
k. Work meeting to refine SMART methodology, agree on common protocol for surveys and on re-coding of existing data (April 2014)	DA	Both meetings regularly held: Task 1 Krakow 16-17 May 2014, Task 2 Lisbon March 20-21 2014.
	S1	Positive assessment of the work meeting contribution to define Task 1 and Task 2 methodology (4.06/5)
	SI1	[No specific observations]

Contd. Table 2. **Accomplishment of RARHA milestones scheduled for the first two years of activity**

Milestone	Instruments * for evaluation	Evaluation result
I. Calls for tender in Task 1 for subcontract the survey fieldwork (December 2014)	S1 – S2	S1 ongoing; S2 completed
	SI1	[No specific observations]
<i>Work Package 5</i>		
p. Expert work meeting to discuss reviews of: science, guidelines and standard drink definitions, uses of guidelines, drinking by young people (October 2014)	S1	Work meeting held in Rome on 4 November 2014. S1: 60.9% of respondents involved in WP5 participated in this work meeting, assessed 4.5/5.
	SI1	Expert meeting evaluated as very useful and considered as a starting point to create a new consensus.
q. Launch of consumer survey (January 2015)	S2	Launched in May 20015. Scarcely promoted among RARHA partners (only 61% of respondents involved in WP5 state to have been invited to participate).
	SI1	Expected to be carried out in May 2015, this means that there was a 5 months delay in producing this milestone.
r. Launch of Delphi survey (April 2015)	DA	RARHA Interim Report: Delphi survey on low risk drinking launched in April 2015, the other on alcohol related harm for young people in June 2015.
	S2	The majority of respondents involved in WP5 consider that the Delphi survey has been launched according to plans, the remaining 38.1% with some delay.
	SI1	1 st Delphi survey launched on 27 April 2015.
<i>Work Package 6</i>		
u. Template for describing good practice examples (June 2014)	DA	RARHA Interim Report: developed in November 2014
	S1	When the survey was conducted only 42.1% of respondents had completed the questionnaire. They evaluated very positively its ability to describe good practice examples.
v. Guidance on criteria of good practice in the use of information approaches to reduce alcohol related harm (April 2015)	DA	RARHA Interim Report: delay, expected to be completed on August 2015.
	S2	All respondents involved in this Task of WP6 state to have contributed to the development of the guidance on definition, criteria and indicators of good practice examples.
	SI1	[No specific observations]

* Legend of acronyms:

DA = Document analysis

PA = Participant Observation in Management Group Meetings

S1, S2 = 1st, 2nd online evaluation survey

SI1, SI2 = 1st, 2nd semi-structured interview

Conclusions of the external evaluation

The conclusions of this external evaluation report are split into three interdependent sections: challenges for RARHA Joint Action, compliance with RARHA general goals, and recommended steps for the final phase of the JA.

Challenges for RARHA JA

This section presents the main challenges of RARHA JA identified by the external evaluation team. It is worth to start noting that this evaluation is in itself limited because the evaluators have encountered problems when accessing the necessary documents to perform the document analysis. More specifically, as already mentioned in the section about WP2, the website and its restricted area for partners could be better organized so as to facilitate the retrieval of documents, and also the conduction of a comprehensive evaluation. The documents that are currently available in the open area of the website are not organized in a coherent or intuitive manner, which hampers an effective and efficient search and review of RARHA's outputs. A better organization and classification of materials – for example, grouped by work package that has produced the document, in order of date of publication and listed by a short and intuitive title – would facilitate the work of the website visitor and would definitely simplify the dissemination of RARHA and of its work packages products.

Despite this limitation, the website was significantly updated in November 2015. More specifically, different RARHA's milestones, deliverables and some presentations were uploaded in the open area. In the restricted area were also uploaded several working documents (presentations, meetings' agendas and minutes, etc.) as well as deliverables and milestones. However, we believe that it could be better organized and structured so as to achieve its full potential and facilitate the exchange of documents within RARHA participants and also among external stakeholders.

Apart from that, a series of challenges or obstacles that might hamper the development and the final outputs and outcomes of the JA were identified according to results of the first round of the semi-structured face-to-face interviews, the analysis of available documents, and also on the basis of partners' rating of the probable obstacles to the implementation process investigated in the two online surveys. In this respect, respondents were asked to evaluate a series of possible obstacles according to the influence exerted over the implementation of the JA in the previous year of activity (detailed results presented in the first and second evaluation reports and summarized in Figure 24, at page 45).

First of all, according to associated partners the main obstacle is the insufficient economic and human resources to perform all the activities planned for the JA. Although there is a reduction in the average rating of the importance of this obstacle, it still receives the highest score in both surveys. It's important to take into consideration that the limited budget might hinder

the capacity of the Consortium to get things done. Moreover, as noted by one interviewee, RARHA JA has quite limited amount of money and ambitious goals.

The second obstacle is related to communication gaps between WPs and coordination team and within WPs. Importantly, this obstacle is not as relevant in the 2nd online survey as it was in the 1st online survey. This change of trend might be an indication that the coordination and communication within RARHA has improved between 2014 and 2015. However, communication problems were also mentioned by leaders and co-leaders interviewed in April 2015.

As noted in the first round of the semi-structured face-to-face interviews, it is not easy to successfully collaborate with colleagues from so many countries, with different cultures and ways of working. This means that significant amount of time and effort has to be invested in aligning concepts and ensuring that there is a common understanding about the work and the direction of the JA. Although most respondents mention the diversity aspect as a challenge, they also consider this as a normal aspect of such a collaborative endeavor. Thus, this does not necessarily have to hamper the final outputs and outcomes of the JA; on the contrary, it should make them stronger. However, as mentioned before, the communication of the coordination team has to be improved in order to ensure the work of the JA. Related with the first obstacle mentioned (budget limitations), some interviewees regret that changes in the budget structure has hindered the capacity to hold more meetings where participants in the project can meet face-to-face and socialize.

Thirdly, as mentioned by almost every interviewee, the complexities related to the financial dimension of the JA takes a lot of time to associated partners, especially if they are not familiar with these issues. As clearly posed by one of the interviewees “the financial and budgetary issues of the JA are a nightmare”. As noted by different interviewees, in order to properly comply with the requirements of the Commission it would be necessary to facilitate contacts between each partner financial offices and CHAFEA officer. Related to the financial dimension, some respondents consider the bureaucratic frame in which RARHA has to operate as a challenge for a proper functioning. The main problem when referring to this is that the bureaucratic frame does not allow for flexibility in any of its dimensions (funding, reporting, deliverables, etc.). In a similar vein, administrative and financial complications are one of the main obstacles according to the 1st online survey, but in 2015 evaluation it is not considered so relevant as it was in 2014, passing from fourth to sixth in order of influence, probably reflecting a better knowledge and easier management of requested procedures.

The last obstacle that requires attention is related to the calendar of RARHA. More specifically, respondents to the two online surveys consider that meeting the deadlines and complying with the pre-established schedule may be a challenge for RARHA JA. The impact of this negative aspect has gradually increased over time and in 2015 it has become the second most important challenge.

In addition to those present in Figure 24, it is important to mention a last potential challenge derived from the interviews: turning the outputs and outcomes of the JA into valuable and

relevant policy briefs. This means that the JA has to work to successfully transfer the findings to policy-makers and produce clear recommendations. To do so, it is essential to clearly identify the target stakeholders who can effectively translate the findings of the JA into policies.

In a nutshell, the main challenges to be tackled by RARHA JA and that might hamper the quality and success of its outputs and outcomes are:

- Limited budget
- Communication gaps
- Administrative and financial complications
- Compliance with the pre-established schedule
- Transferring findings to key stakeholders

Compliance with RARHA general goals

According to the interviews conducted in April 2015, RARHA is a necessary mechanism or tool to improve alcohol policies in Europe. Beyond that general goal, some distinction can be made on how the interviewees see the JA. Firstly, RARHA is seen as a collaborative endeavor. The inclusion of partners from 30 European countries to agree on and develop tools to improve alcohol policies has value in itself. Thus, the networking that has resulted from the JA is already a non-material outcome. Secondly, at a macro level, RARHA is understood as a mean to put alcohol research in the EU agenda and redefine alcohol policies. This has a symbolic mission: show that European countries are joining forces to reduce alcohol related harms. Finally, again at a micro level, RARHA is focused on producing comparable data regarding alcohol consumption and providing guidelines and good practices to improve alcohol policies around Europe.

Aligned with these understandings of the JA, interviewees highlight that the main public value of RARHA is to improve alcohol policies, and consequently health conditions and wellbeing in Europe. Therefore, RARHA is seen as a tool to improve public health in Europe. However, respondents to the face-to-face interviews note that in order to achieve this public value it is necessary to produce sustainable outputs and outcomes. Sustainability means that the work of the RARHA will be continued after finishing the JA. In this vein, RARHA JA is a first step that, if properly taken into account and implemented, will lead to public value by increasing the level of health. In short, the final public value of RARHA can be summarized as follows: better alcohol policies, better use of public resources, and better public health.

Recommendations for 2016

The different instruments used to evaluate RARHA present a positive evolution of the JA. That is, no clear problems or obstacles have been identified, and partners are producing the

outputs and outcomes in a timely manner. No important challenges or problems are detected with any of the results in the core WPs. All expected deliverables have already been met and each WP has successfully completed the milestones planned for the reported period.

A close analysis of the core WPs leads to the conclusions that the three WPs 4, 5 and 6 are meeting all the deadlines and producing the expected outputs. However, it is necessary to wait until the end of the JA to properly assess the impact of the products of each WP. Based on the pre-established indicators for each of the core WPs it can be affirmed that there is a significant and consistent advancement of the tasks foreseen. However, it is too early to evaluate outcome and output indicators. In any case, unless unexpected situations arise, everything seems to indicate that WP4, WP5, and WP6 will be able to properly meet their objectives. Apart from meeting the objectives, though, it is important to improve the identification of key stakeholders so as to ensure that the outputs are effectively translated into outcomes.

Regarding the horizontal WPs (excluding WP3), the first round of the semi-structured face-to-face interviews signal that the coordination of RARHA (i.e. WP1), could have done a better job fostering an efficient communication among WPs. Nonetheless, the 2nd online survey seems to indicate that communication problems are not as relevant as in 2014. In 2016, WP1 has to keep working for an efficient communication with the different WPs and among them, this is critical for the sustainability of the results and is expected to facilitate the dissemination of the results.

Finally, WP2 requires special attention since it is in charge of the website, the newsletters and the dissemination instruments, which are a key point for the success of the JA.

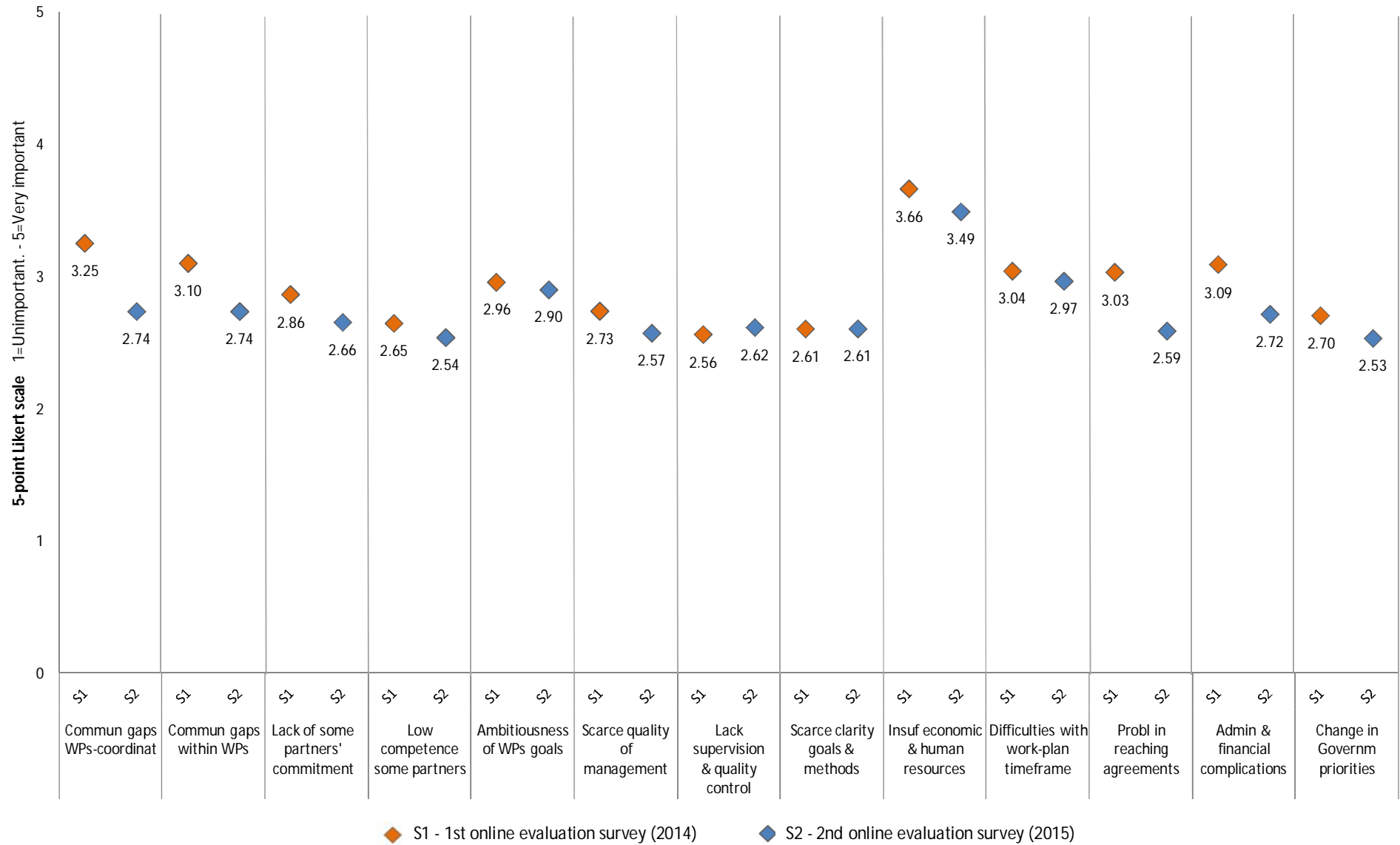
First of all, although the quality of the three newsletters published so far is highly valued, it is important to avoid the delays in their publication because these are an important instrument to disseminate RARHA results.

Secondly, it seems necessary to better organize the website and its restricted area. An updated and organized website is a must to properly disseminate the JA and reach as many, and qualified, stakeholders as possible. Documents need to be classified, at least by work package and chronological order, instead of having a single section for all the documents, mixing core and horizontal work packages. Regarding the restricted area of the website, it should be better organized and used as a platform to share working documents among partners.

Lastly, based on the two online surveys, it seems that partners could do a better job uploading common content in national websites. This is also critical to disseminate RARHA's outputs and facilitate sustainability of outcomes.

In summary, this document shows how the different WPs of RARHA are advancing as planned. Apart from some minor delays in producing certain products and other limitations related to the management and dissemination of RARHA, this external evaluation has not identified significant obstacles to successfully complete the JA.

Figure 24. Average ratings of potential obstacles according to the influence exerted over the implementation process of RARHA JA in 2014 and 2015



ANNEXES

Indicators predefined in the RARHA Grant Agreement for specific objectives (WPs)

- **Specific objective 1** *Providing a baseline for comparative assessment and monitoring of alcohol epidemiology, including drinking levels and patterns, and alcohol related harms across the EU (WP4)*

Process Indicators	Output Indicators	Outcome Indicators
Number of MS that successfully carry out the common survey during the period of operation of the JA	Number of national reports published and/or delivered for integration in synthesis report	Number of MS planning to use the common methodology in alcohol surveys in the future (repeat a SMART survey or carry out a 1 st SMART survey)
Number of common items used in national SMART surveys	Number of variables for which comparison across EU MS is possible	Extent to which CNAPA members consider access to comparative data improved
Number of variables re-coded for comparative assessment	Number of variables for which comparison across EU MS is possible	Extent to which CNAPA members consider access to comparative data useful

- **Specific objective 2** *Strengthening capacity in comparative alcohol survey methodology and increasing interest in using common methodology in the future (WP4)*

Process Indicators	Output Indicators	Outcome Indicators
Number of participants with little/no previous experience of comparative alcohol research	Number of MS with less experience in comparative alcohol research among those who successfully carry out a national SMART survey	Number of MS with less previous experience planning to use the common methodology in the future
Number of participants in work meeting to agree on common survey protocol	Number of participants who find the JA has enhanced networking	Number of participants planning to continue contacts/joint work

- **Specific objective 3** *Clarifying the science underpinnings and public health policy implications of the use of drinking guidelines to reduce alcohol related harm (WP5)*

Process Indicators	Output Indicators	Outcome Indicators
Delivering overviews of: drinking guidelines given in MS; uses of drinking guidelines; guidelines on drinking by young people; science underpinnings; definitions of "standard drink"	Assessment of the quality and usefulness of overviews as assessed by associated and collaborating partners	CNAPA members and other key stakeholders assessment of the extent to which the science underpinnings and policy implications have been clarified due to the JA

- **Specific objective 4** *Building consensus on the use of drinking guidelines to reduce alcohol related harm (WP5)*

Process Indicators	Output Indicators	Outcome Indicators
Identification of divergences between MS that help develop questions for the Policy Delphi survey	Measurable increase in areas of consensus between first and last Policy Delphi round	Degree of agreement among JA particip. on good practice principles in the use of drinking guidelines as a public health measure and on key messages to the population and health professionals

- **Specific objective 5** *Facilitating exchange between MS public health bodies of good practice in the use of information approaches to reduce alcohol related harm (WP6)*

Process Indicators	Output Indicators	Outcome Indicators
Number of Member States and partners from which good examples for the Tool Kit are sourced	Number of well described and transferable interventions to prevent alcohol related harm among children, young people or adults on which some evidence of effectiveness in influencing attitudes or behaviours is available	CNAPA and other target group members' positive assessment of the quality and adequacy of the presentation of good practice examples

- **Specific objective 6** *Providing guidance and tools for public health policy planners for the use of information approaches to reduce alcohol related harm in the framework of wider public health policies (WP6)*

Process Indicators	Output Indicators	Outcome Indicators
Number of good practice examples included in the Tool Kit	Positive assessment by intended users among JA participants and beyond of the quality and usefulness of the good practice description	Number of MS having adapted or planning to adapt one or more of the good practice examples
Well structured and informative presentation of good practice criteria	Positive assessment by intended users among JA participants and beyond of the usefulness of good practice criteria	Number of MS having made use of or planning to make use of the good practice criteria

GANTT CHART – Calendar of activities for internal and external evaluation

Calendar of activities for internal and external evaluation	2014												2015												2016												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	
Milestones & Deliverables per WP																																					
WP 1	Ma										Mb							Mc																	Md	Me D1	
WP 2			Mf D2 D3			Mg Mh D4																													Mi Mj		
WP 4				Mk							MI													Mm								Mn D7			Mo		
WP 5										Mp		Mq				Mr								Ms											Mt D8		
WP 6						Mu										Mv													Mx D10	My						Mw D9	
Provisional project meetings																																					
Evaluation Task / Subtask																																					
1. QUANTATIVE METHODS																																					
1.1 1st wave survey preparation (S1)																																					
1.2 S1 survey conduction																																					
1.3 S1 survey analysis & reporting initial results																																					
1.4 2nd wave survey preparation (S2)																																					
1.5 S2 survey conduction																																					
1.6 S2 survey analysis & reporting initial results																																					
1.7 Short survey preparation (S3)																																					
1.8 S3 survey conduction																																					
1.9 S3 survey analysis & reporting initial results																																					
2. QUALITATIVE METHODS																																					
2.1 Semi-structured interviews preparation (SI)																																					
2.2 SI interview conduction																																					
2.3 SI interview analysis																																					
2.4 Document analysis (DA)																																					
2.5 Participant observation (PA)																																					
2.6 Participant observation analysis																																					
3. 1st INTERIM INTERNAL EVALUATION REPORT																																					
4. 2nd INTERIM INTERNAL EVALUATION REPORT																																					
5. INTERIM EXTERNAL REPORT																																					
6. FINAL EVALUATION REPORT																																					

Milestones and Deliverables predefined in the RARHA Grant Agreement:	
Ma Kickoff meeting	Mr Launch of Delphi survey
Mb Management meeting, steering committee meetings, advisory committee meetings	Ms Expert/policymaker meeting
Mc Interim meeting and interim report	Mt Publication of synthesis report
Md Closing conference	Mu Template for describing good practice examples
Me Final report	Mv Guidance on criteria of good practice in the use of information approaches to reduce alcohol related harm
Mf Launch of promotional package and main web site	Mw Online version of Tool Kit
Mg Launch newsletter	Mx Master for printed Tool Kit
Mh Satellite event for public launch of the JA	My Launch of Tool Kit within wider European conference
Mi Publication of short version of final report	
Mj Final conference	D1 Technical reports, JA meetings and final conference
Mk Work meeting to refine SMART methodology, agree on common protocol for surveys and on re-coding of existing data	D2 Promotional package and communication about the launch of RARHA
Ml Calls for tender in Task 1 for subcontracting the (face-to-face) survey fieldwork	D3 Main web site and common content for national web pages
Mm Establishment of international comparative data bases for Task 1 and Task 2	D4 Bi-annual electronic newsletter
Mn Work meeting to consolidate findings and discuss conclusions	D7 Synthesis report: baseline assessment and suggestions for comparative monitoring of alcohol epidemiology across EU
Mo Synthesis report	D8 Synthesis report: good practice principles in the use of drinking guidelines as a public health measure
Mp Expert work meeting to discuss reviews of: science, SD definitions, use of guidelines, drinking by young people	D9 Online version of the Tool Kit
Mq Launch of consumer survey	D10 Master for printed Tool Kit

Questionnaire for the 2nd RARHA evaluation survey

RARHA 2nd online survey

RARHA online survey is designed to follow the progress of the Joint Action (JA) and assess the process, the outputs and the outcomes of RARHA JA.

The survey is confidential and only the aggregate data will be made available in reports.

Completing the survey takes around 15 minutes.

If you have any questions or queries, please contact Adrià Albareda (adria.albareda@esade.edu) or Tamyko Ysa (tamyko.ysa@esade.edu).

* Required

NOTE: Be aware that, at the beginning of each section, we indicate who is supposed to answer to the questions posed.

1. Country and organisation *

Choose 

2. Gender

- Male
- Female

3. What is your highest level of education?

- High school degree
- Undergraduate degree
- Masters' degree
- Ph.D
- Other :

4. During the last year of RARHA activities, in which Work Package(s) have you been personally involved? *

- WP1: Coordination of the Joint Action
- WP2: Dissemination of the Joint Action
- WP3: Evaluation of the Joint Action
- WP4: Strengthening the monitoring of drinking patterns and alcohol related harm across EU countries
- WP5: Good practice principles i.. the use of drinking guidelines to reduce alcohol related harms
- WP6: Good practice Tool Kit

5. In RARHA Joint Action, I mostly undertake: *

- Research/Management tasks
- Administrative/Financial tasks

NEXT

 11% complete

NOTE: If you are a member of SICAD COORDINATION TEAM, PLEASE SKIP THESE QUESTIONS and go to next section.

----- WP1 COORDINATION -----

6. How would you assess the following skills of the RARHA coordination team?

	1 Very poor	2 Poor	3 Fair	4 Good	5 Very good
Experience	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Authority over the participants in the JA	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Knows how to build a vision	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Has control over information resources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Has the professional respect of RARHA participants	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Has capacity to connect different participants	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seeks consensus among participants	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Is a problem solver	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

7. How would you assess the following aspects of RARHA coordination?

	1. Very poor	2. Poor	3. Fair	4. Good	5. Very good
Day-to-day management and supervision of JA activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Monitoring progress and compliance with obligations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Financial management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reporting, communication and documents transmissions to all parties concerned	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Organising RARHA meetings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Collecting meetings minutes and sending approved versions to all RARHA partners	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Keeping the address list of parties and other contact persons updated and available	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Contacts and cooperation with external actors and EU projects	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Contacts with organizations and countries beyond the Consortium to share results	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8a. Have you received a copy of the Interim report produced in June 2015?

- Yes
 No

8b. If YES, please rate it.

	1	2	3	4	5	
1. Very poor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	5. Very good

NOTE: Administrative/financial staff should skip to the final Section: CONCLUSIONS

BACK

NEXT

 25% complete

NOTE: Administrative/financial staff should skip to the final Section: CONCLUSIONS

----- WP2 DISSEMINATION -----

9a. Have you received a copy of the overall dissemination plan developed by WP2?

- Yes
- No

9b. If YES, please rate your level of satisfaction with the overall dissemination plan.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Very poor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Very good

10. Has your organization uploaded common content in its website about RARHA JA?

- Yes
- To some extent
- Not yet
- No, my organisation will not do that

11. How would you rate RARHA's website?

	1	2	3	4	5	
Very poor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Very good

12. How do you assess the content of the newsletters produced by RARHA from November 2014 to November 2015 (Issue 2 and Issue 3)?

	1	2	3	4	5	
Very poor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Very good

13. How often do you interact with and disseminate RARHA activities and results with the following organisations?

	1 Never	2 Rarely	3 Sometimes	4 Often	5 Very often
Scientific community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public health policy-makers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Professionals implementing public health policies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Health/Medical communities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mass media	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

14a. Have you been informed about the policy dialogue organized by EuroHealthNet (scheduled for October 2015)?

- Yes
- No

14b. If YES, how would you rate the utility of this initiative?

	1	2	3	4	5	
Very poor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Very good

15. How do you assess the overall dissemination activities of RARHA JA since its launch?

	1	2	3	4	5	
Very poor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Very good

37% complete

NOTE: This Section is addressed only to those partners that in Question 4 have stated to be personally involved in WP4; all other respondents should skip to the following Section

Administrative/financial staff should skip to the final Section: CONCLUSIONS

----- WP4 MONITORING -----

16. Regarding the involvement in the WP.

	1. Disagree completely	2. Disagree	3. Neither agree or disagree	4. Agree	5. Agree completely
Special attention is been paid to the sharing of diverse points of view	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
During the development of the tasks, emphasis was placed on establishing common starting points	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It has been attempted as much as possible to make different opinions visible and included within the decision making	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

17. How would you rate the following skills of the WP leader/co-leader?

	1 Very poor	2 Poor	3 Fair	4 Good	5 Very good
Experience	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Authority over the participants in the WP	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Knows how to build a vision	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Has control over information resources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Has the professional respect of WP team	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Has capacity to connect different participants	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seeks consensus among participants	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Is a problem solver	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

18. Regarding the management of the WP.

	1. Disagree completely	2. Disagree	3. I neither agree or disagree	4. Agree	5. I agree completely
When deadlock is reached or problems arise, WP leaders help to find common ground between conflicting positions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A satisfactory amount of time is being spent on communication among the various parties	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Decisions are being made collectively	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

19. Below you will find questions on the level of interaction and the network relationship among partners involved in this WP.

	1. Disagree completely	2. Disagree	3. I neither agree or disagree	4. Agree	5. I agree completely
Generally speaking, the partners of the WP fulfil their agreements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The WP partners share problems and contribute to their solution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I depend greatly on other parties to achieve my goals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parties have significant differences of opinion about the direction to be taken	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There is strong emphasis on learning from the experiences and insights of others	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Many unexpected events and changes have taken place	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

20. Has your organisation completed procedures for subcontracting the survey fieldwork (i.e. Task 1)?

- Yes
- No
- I am not involved in Task 1

21. How do you assess the development of the RARHA common methodology for surveys across Member States (Task 1)?

- Very poor
- Poor
- Fair
- Good
- Very good
- I am not involved in Task 1

22a. Has your organization participated in the implementation of the survey at national level (pilot study, sampling, data collection and data entry)?

- Yes
- No
- I am not involved in Task 1

22b. If YES, please indicate below how many common items have been included in the adapted version of the RARHA survey that your organization has carried out at national level (total number of common variables in your database)?

- ≤50
- 51-100
- 101-150
- >150

23. How do you assess the RARHA process of recoding and pooling already existing data for comparative analysis (Task 2)?

- Very poor
- Poor
- Fair
- Good
- Very good
- I am not involved in Task 2

24. If you are involved in TASK 2, please indicate below how many already existing variables have been provided by your organization in order to be pooled and re-coded for comparative assessment (total number of single information provided for Men, Women and M+W)?

- ≤15
- 16-30
- 31-45
- >45

25. So far, how do you assess WP4 ability to accomplish RARHA specific objective 1 (i.e. providing a baseline for comparative assessment and monitoring of alcohol epidemiology, including drinking levels and patterns, and alcohol related harms across the EU)?

	1	2	3	4	5	
Very poor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Very good

26. So far, how do you assess WP4 ability to accomplish RARHA specific objective 2 (i.e. strengthening capacity in comparative alcohol survey methodology and increasing interest in using common methodology in the future).

	1	2	3	4	5	
Very poor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Very good

27. To what extent do you think that RARHA WP4 has enhanced networking in its specific field?


	1	2	3	4	5	
Not at all	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	To a great extent

28. Are you planning to continue contacts and the joint work of RARHA WP4?

- Yes
- No

BACK

NEXT

 50% complete

NOTE: This Section is addressed only to those partners that in Question 4 have stated to be personally involved in WP5; all other respondents should skip to the following Section

Administrative/financial staff should skip to the final Section: CONCLUSIONS

----- WP5 GUIDELINES -----

29. Regarding the involvement in the WP.

	1. Disagree completely	2. Disagree	3. I neither agree or disagree	4. Agree	5. I agree completely
Special attention is been paid to the sharing of diverse points of view	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
During the development of the tasks, emphasis was placed on establishing common starting points	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It has been attempted as much as possible to make different opinions visible and included within the decision making	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

30. How would you rate the following skills of the WP leader/co-leader?

	1 Very poor	2 Poor	3 Fair	4 Good	5 Very good
Experience	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Authority over the participants in the WP	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Knows how to build a vision	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Has control over information resources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Has the professional respect of WP team	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Has capacity to connect different participants	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seeks consensus among participants	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Is a problem solver	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

31. Regarding the management of the WP.

	1. Disagree completely	2. Disagree	3. I neither agree or disagree	4. Agree	5. I agree completely
When deadlock is reached or problems arise, WP leaders help to find common ground between conflicting positions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A satisfactory amount of time is being spent on communication among the various parties	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Decisions are being made collectively	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

32. Below you will find questions on the level of interaction and the network relationship among partners involved in the WP.

	1. Disagree completely	2. Disagree	3. I neither agree or disagree	4. Agree	5. I agree completely
Generally speaking, the partners of the WP fulfil their agreements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The WP partners share problems and contribute to their solution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I depend greatly on other parties to achieve my goals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parties have significant differences of opinion about the direction to be taken	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There is strong emphasis on learning from the experiences and insights of others	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Many unexpected events and changes have taken place	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

33. Has your organization been contributing to the development and delivery of at least one of the WP5 overviews/reports on drinking guidelines, brief interventions, drinking by young people, science basis and standard drink definition?

- Yes
- No
- Still ongoing

34. Have you been invited to participate in the European consumer survey on alcohol communication launched by EURO CARE in 2015?

- Yes
- No

35. Has the Delphy survey been launched according to plans (April 2015)?

- Yes
- No
- With some delay

36. So far, how do you assess WP5 ability to accomplish RARHA specific objective 3 (i.e. clarifying the science underpinnings and public health policy implications of the use of drinking guidelines to reduce alcohol related harm).

	1	2	3	4	5	
Very poor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Very good

37. So far, how do you assess WP5 ability to accomplish RARHA specific objective 4 (i.e. building consensus on the use of drinking guidelines to reduce alcohol related harm).

	1	2	3	4	5	
Very poor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Very good

BACK

NEXT

 62% complete

NOTE: This Section is addressed only to those partners that in Question 4 have stated to be personally involved in WP6; all other respondents should skip to the following Section

Administrative/financial staff should skip to the final Section: CONCLUSIONS

----- WP6 TOOL KIT -----

38. Regarding the involvement in the WP.

	1. Disagree completely	2. Disagree	3. I neither agree or disagree	4. Agree	5. I agree completely
Special attention is been paid to the sharing of diverse points of view	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
During the development of the tasks, emphasis was placed on establishing common starting points	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It has been attempted as much as possible to make different opinions visible and included within the decision making	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

39. How would you rate the following skills of the WP leader/co-leader?

	1 Very poor	2 Poor	3 Fair	4 Good	5 Very good
Experience	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Authority over the participants in the WP	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Knows how to build a vision	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Has control over information resources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Has the professional respect of WP team	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Has capacity to connect different participants	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seeks consensus among participants	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Is a problem solver	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

40. Regarding the management of the WP.

	1. Disagree completely	2. Disagree	3. I neither agree or disagree	4. Agree	5. I agree completely
When deadlock is reached or problems arise, WP leaders help to find common ground between conflicting positions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A satisfactory amount of time is being spent on communication among the various parties	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Decisions are being made collectively	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

41. Below you will find questions on the level of interaction and the network relationship among partners involved in the WP.

	1. Disagree completely	2. Disagree	3. I neither agree or disagree	4. Agree	5. I agree completely
Generally speaking, the partners of the WP fulfil their agreements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The WP partners share problems and contribute to their solution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I depend greatly on other parties to achieve my goals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parties have significant differences of opinion about the direction to be taken	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There is strong emphasis on learning from the experiences and insights of others	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Many unexpected events and changes have taken place	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

42. Have you or your organization contributed to the development of the guidance on definition, criteria and indicators of good practice examples?

- Yes
- No

43a. Has your Member State participated in the development of the Tool Kit by suggesting any good example for the inclusion?

- Yes
- No

43b. If YES, How many well described and transferable examples have you provided?

- 1-2
- 3-4
- 5-6
- ≥7

44. So far, how do you assess WP6 ability to accomplish RARHA specific objective 5 (i.e. facilitating exchange between MS public health bodies of good practice in the use of information approaches to reduce alcohol related harm).

	1	2	3	4	5	
Very poor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Very good

45. So far, how do you assess WP6 ability to accomplish RARHA specific objective 6 (i.e. providing guidance and tools for public health policy planners for the use of information approaches to reduce alcohol related harm in the framework of wider public health policies).

	1	2	3	4	5	
Very poor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Very good

BACK

NEXT

 75% complete

NOTE: All participants are entitled to respond to the following questions

----- **CONCLUSIONS** -----

46. Regarding processes over time: During the last year of RAHRA activities, your contribution to RARHA.

- Has increased
- Has not changed
- Has decreased

47. Regarding processes over time: During the last year of RAHRA activities, your trust in RARHA partners.

- Has increased
- Has not changed
- Has decreased

48. Regarding processes over time: During the last year of RAHRA activities, your trust in RARHA Joint Action as a whole.

- Has increased
- Has not changed
- Has decreased

49. During the last year of RAHRA activities, with how many organisations have you related with when performing RARHA tasks?

Choose ▼

50. How would you rate the quality of the relation with the organizations with whom you have undertaken RARHA tasks in the last year of activities?

- | | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| Very poor | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Very good |

51. The following table presents a list of possible obstacles to the implementation of RARHA JA. Could you please rate them according to the influence they had during the last year of RAHRA activities?"

	1 Unimportant	2	3	4	5 Very important
Communication gaps between WPs and coordination team	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Communication gaps within WPs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of commitment of some partners	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Scarce competence of some partners	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ambitiousness of WPs goals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Scarce quality of management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of supervision and quality control	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Scarce clarity of goals and methodologies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Insufficient economic and human resources at disposal	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Difficulties in complying with the work-plan time frame	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Problems in reaching consensus/agreement about operational decisions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Complications in the administrative/financial management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Change in Government priorities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Others (please specify)

Your answer

BACK

NEXT

87% complete

Thank you!

Thank you very much for your collaboration. Individual replies will be kept completely confidential and only the overall results will be transferred so that individual responses to questionnaires will not be recognisable. If you have any questions or queries, please contact: adria.albareda@esade.edu or tamyko.ysa@esade.edu

BACK

SUBMIT

100%: You made it.

RARHA semi-structured face-to-face interview (SI1) and Interviewers Guide

General questions:

1. Please state your name, surname and your responsibility in RARHA Joint Action.
2. Can you briefly describe your tasks in RARHA Joint Action?
3. How would **you** describe RARHA Joint Action? Which is its main goal? And the main goal of your particular area of involvement?
4. Please explain, according to you, how do you assess the outputs and outcomes produced by RARHA Joint Action thus far? (*Interviewer: If necessary, explain the difference between outputs and outcomes*).
5. Do you think that the Joint Action is meeting its goals and progressing according to the Grant Agreement?
6. According to your opinion, which are the main deviations from the Gran Agreement?
 - a. If there have been deviations:
 - i. Are these solvable?
 - ii. Have these improved the final results?
7. Are there any particular aspects of the RARHA implementation process (e.g. timing, networking, organization, communication, etc.) that needs to be improved or encouraged to increase the overall quality of the action?
8. Which have been, and will be, the main obstacles to the implementation of RARHA Joint Action?
9. Which is, according to your opinion, the main public value of this Joint Action?

Questions regarding management activities (WP1):

1. How do you assess the management group and the direction of RARHA Joint Action?
2. Which do you think are the main strengths and weaknesses of the management group?
3. To what extent the decisions taken in the management group are properly implemented? How are difficulties and obstacles identified? How the quality of the project implementation will be assured?
4. Would you change anything related to the management? If so, what would you change?

Milestones and specific objectives to bear in mind by the interviewer:

Milestones WP1:

- Kickoff meeting (January 2014).
- Management meeting, steering committee meetings, advisory committee meetings (December 2014).
- Interim meeting and interim report (June 2015).

Questions regarding dissemination activities (WP2):

1. Are you aware of the promotional package and the communication strategy of RARHA Joint Action? If so, how do you assess it?

Description to bear in mind by the interviewer:

Common promotional package (visual image, overview brochure, folder, USB). Press release relating to kickoff to communicate aims, objectives and activities to target groups, stakeholders and media. Satellite event (M6) for public launch of RARHA.

2. Have you visited RARHA website? If so, how do you assess it? What would you change?

Description to bear in mind by the interviewer:

Main RARHA web site launched and maintained by SICAD, with common content produced in English to be used – translated or otherwise and combined with national material – in partners' dedicated web sites.

3. Have you received the first bi-annual electronic newsletter of RARHA? If so, how do you assess it?

Description to bear in mind by the interviewer:

Publishing six-monthly a newsletter, distributed by email and accessible online to inform stakeholders and other on the activities carried out and on the intermediate and final outcomes.

Milestones to bear in mind by the interviewer:

Milestones WP2:

- Launch of promotional package and main web site (March 2014).
- Launch newsletter (June 2014).
- Satellite event for public launch of the JA (June 2014).

Specific question for leaders and/ or co-leaders of WP4:

1. As a leader, co-leader or task leader of **WP4**, could you please assess the functioning as well as the output of this WP?
2. How many member states are planning to use the common methodology in alcohol survey in the future? (SO1)
3. Do you know if CNAPA members consider access to comparative data improved and useful? (SO1)

To bear in mind by the interviewer: Specific objective 1 – outcome indicators:

- Number of MS planning to use the common methodology in alcohol surveys in the future (repeat a SMART survey or carry out a 1st SMART survey).
- Extent to which CNAPA members consider access to comparative data improved.
- Extent to which CNAPA members consider access to comparative data useful.

Milestones and specific objectives to bear in mind by the interviewer:

Milestones WP4:

- Work meeting to refine SMART methodology, agree on common protocol for surveys and on re-coding of existing data (Task 1 and Task 2) (April 2014).
- Calls for tender in Task 1 for subcontracting the (face-to-face) survey fieldwork (December 2014).

Specific objective 1: Providing a baseline for comparative assessment and monitoring of alcohol epidemiology, including drinking levels and patterns, and alcohol related harms across the EU (WP4).

Specific objective 2: Strengthening capacity in comparative alcohol survey methodology and increasing interest in using common methodology in the future (WP4).

Specific question for leaders and/ or co-leaders of WP5:

1. As a leader, co-leader or task leader of **WP5**, could you please assess the functioning as well as the output of this WP?
2. Has WP5 been delivering overviews of drinking guidelines given in MS; uses of drinking guidelines; guidelines on drinking by young people; science underpinnings; definitions of "standard drink"? (SO3)
3. Could you explain the process as well as the outputs and outcomes achieved so far, to meet specific objective 4? (SO4)

To bear in mind by the interviewer: Specific objective 3 – process indicator:

Delivering overviews of: drinking guidelines given in MS; uses of drinking guidelines; guidelines on drinking by young people; science underpinnings; definitions of "standard drink".

To bear in mind by the interviewer: Specific objective 4 – output indicator:

Measurable increase in areas of consensus between first and last Policy Delphi round.

To bear in mind by the interviewer: Specific objective 4 – outcome indicator:

Degree of agreement among JA participation good practice principles in the use of drinking guidelines as a public health measure and on key messages to the population and health professionals

Milestones and specific objectives to bear in mind by the interviewer:

Milestones WP5:

- Expert work meeting to discuss reviews of: science, guidelines and standard drink definitions, uses of guidelines, drinking by young people (October 2014).
- Launch of consumer survey (January 2015).
- Launch of Delphi survey (April 2015).

Specific objective 3: Clarifying the science underpinnings and public health policy implications of the use of drinking guidelines to reduce alcohol related harm (WP5)

Specific objective 4: Building consensus on the use of drinking guidelines to reduce alcohol related harm (WP5)

Specific question for leaders and/ or co-leaders of WP6:

1. As a leader, co-leader or task leader of WP6, could you please assess the functioning as well as the output of this WP?

Milestones and specific objectives to bear in mind by the interviewer:

Milestones WP6:

- Template for describing good practice examples (June 2014).
- Guidance on criteria of good practice in the use of information approaches to reduce alcohol related harm (April 2015).

Specific objective 5: Facilitating exchange between MS public health bodies of good practice in the use of information approaches to reduce alcohol related harm (WP6).

Specific objective 6: Providing guidance and tools for public health policy planners for the use of information approaches to reduce alcohol related harm in the framework of wider public health policies (WP6).

