



EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH PROCESS



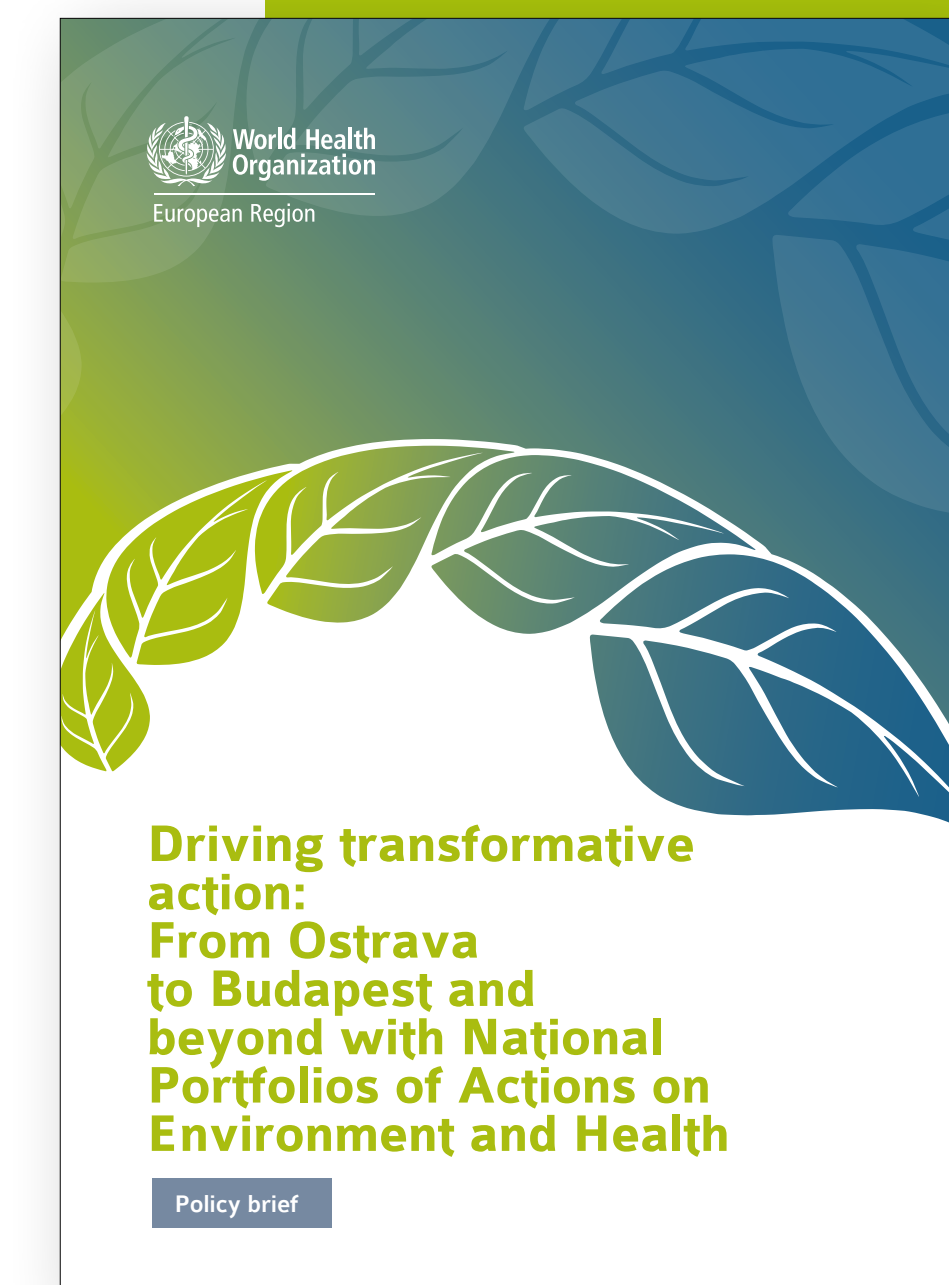
Driving transformative action: From Ostrava to Budapest and beyond with National Portfolios of Actions on Environment and Health

The Ostrava Declaration, adopted at the Sixth Ministerial Conference, highlighted the development of National Portfolios as a key objective. While over half of the Member States that signed the Declaration have embraced this commitment, there is a need for a deeper understanding of the factors impeding higher compliance, including the significant disruptions caused by COVID-19.

This poster presents the assessment of the implementation of this Ostrava commitment, utilizing data from a desk review, survey and interviews with members of the European Environment and Health Task Force (EHTF). The findings of this assessment inform policy- and decision-makers in the WHO European Region, providing recommended actions to enhance and strengthen National Portfolios, and aim to guide future actions and decisions in this important area.

CONTACTS

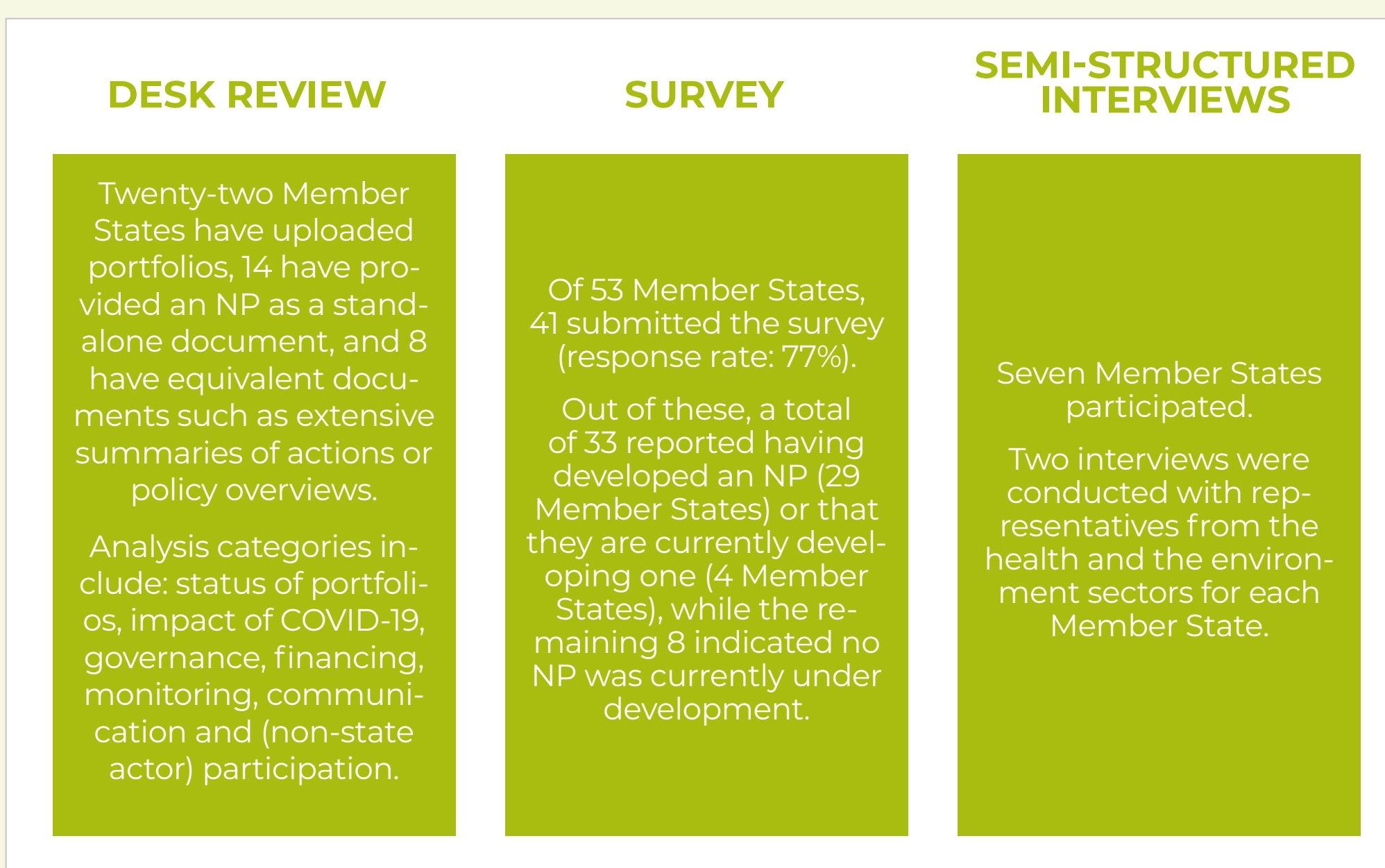
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Materials and methods

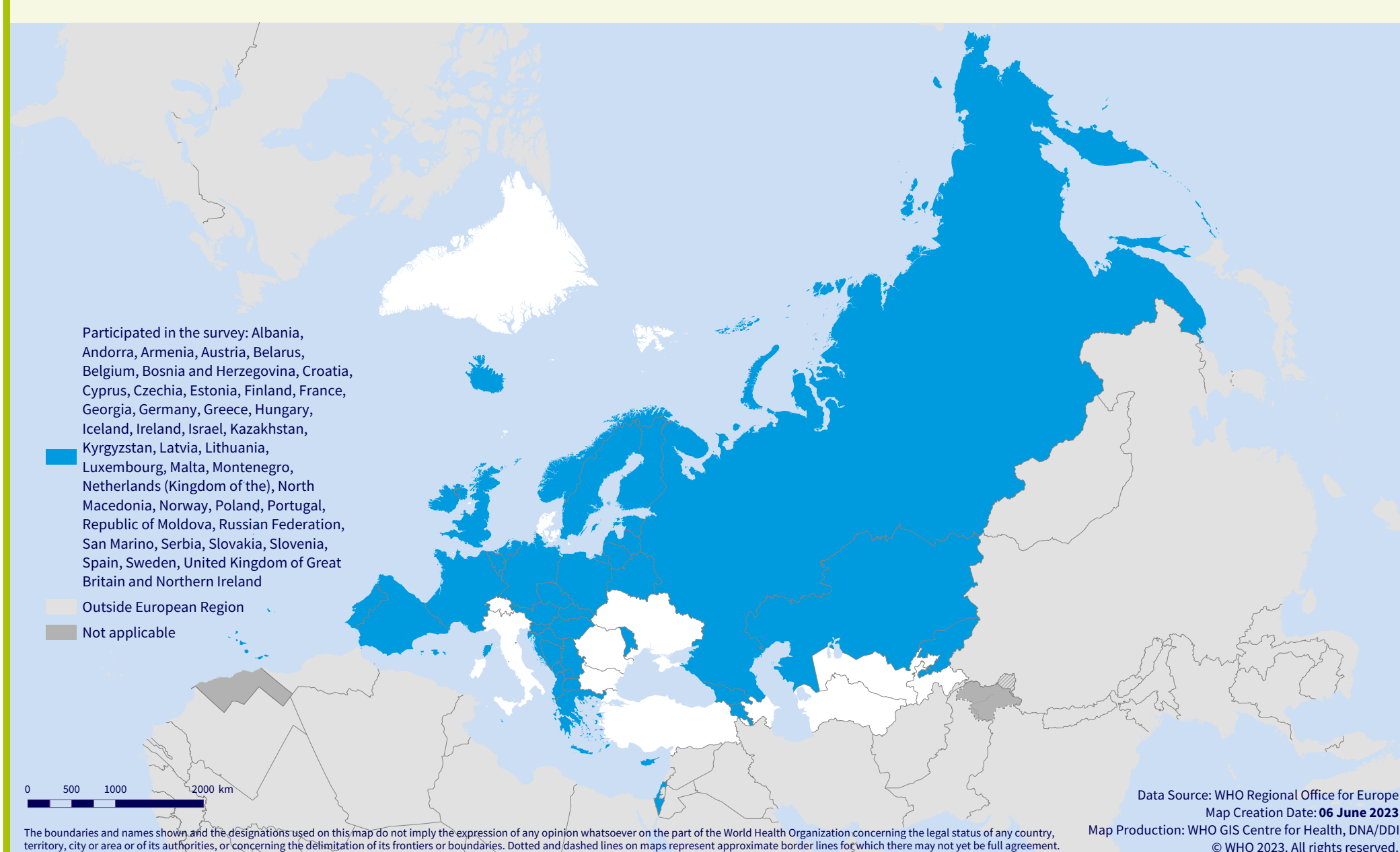
The assessment built on a data from three sources (Fig. 1): i) a desk study of existing Portfolios, ii) a survey (Fig. 2), and iii) semi-structured interviews with Member States representatives.

Fig. 1. Member States' participation in the assessment



POLICY ANALYSIS: RESULTS AND RECOMMENDED ACTIONS FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE EHTF

Fig. 2. Geographical distribution of participating Member States of the WHO European Region

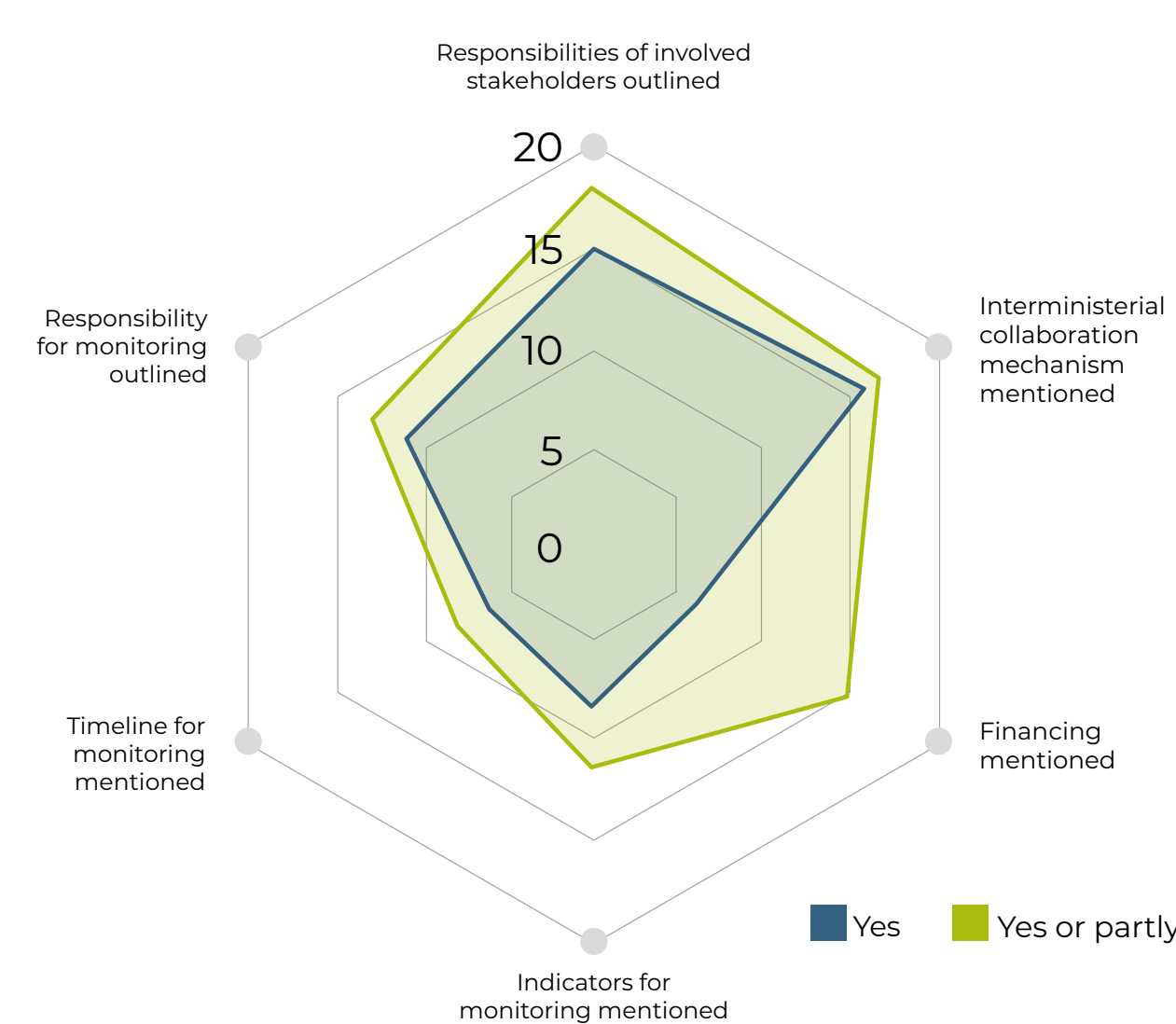


Main results

Developing Portfolios for effective implementation of environment and health (E&H) action

- Developing Portfolios helps identify gaps, duplication, and synergies within sectors, promoting policy coherence and intersectoral coordination.
- Most Portfolios outline implementation responsibilities and involve multiple ministries, but reporting on financing and monitoring mechanisms is rather inconsistent (Fig. 3).

Fig. 3. Overview of structural aspects of Portfolios



- More than half of the Member States reported that they had considered and implemented all or most aspects of the Ostrava commitments in their developed Portfolios (Fig. 4).

Benefits of and opportunities for developing and implementing Portfolios

- Survey respondents confirmed that the Ostrava Declaration and its compendium of possible actions reinforce the implementation of the E&H targets and indicators of the SDGs at the national level (Fig.5). The

actions outlined in the compendium also support countries in selecting evidence-based priority actions and in articulating them in a professional and clear way.

COVID-19 and the environment and health agenda

- Interlinkages between E&H impacts that have arisen from COVID-19, have also led to interdisciplinary research projects, especially in the fields of virology, public health, environmental sciences and urban planning.

Fig. 4. Extent to which Member States have implemented Ostrava commitments in their respective Portfolios

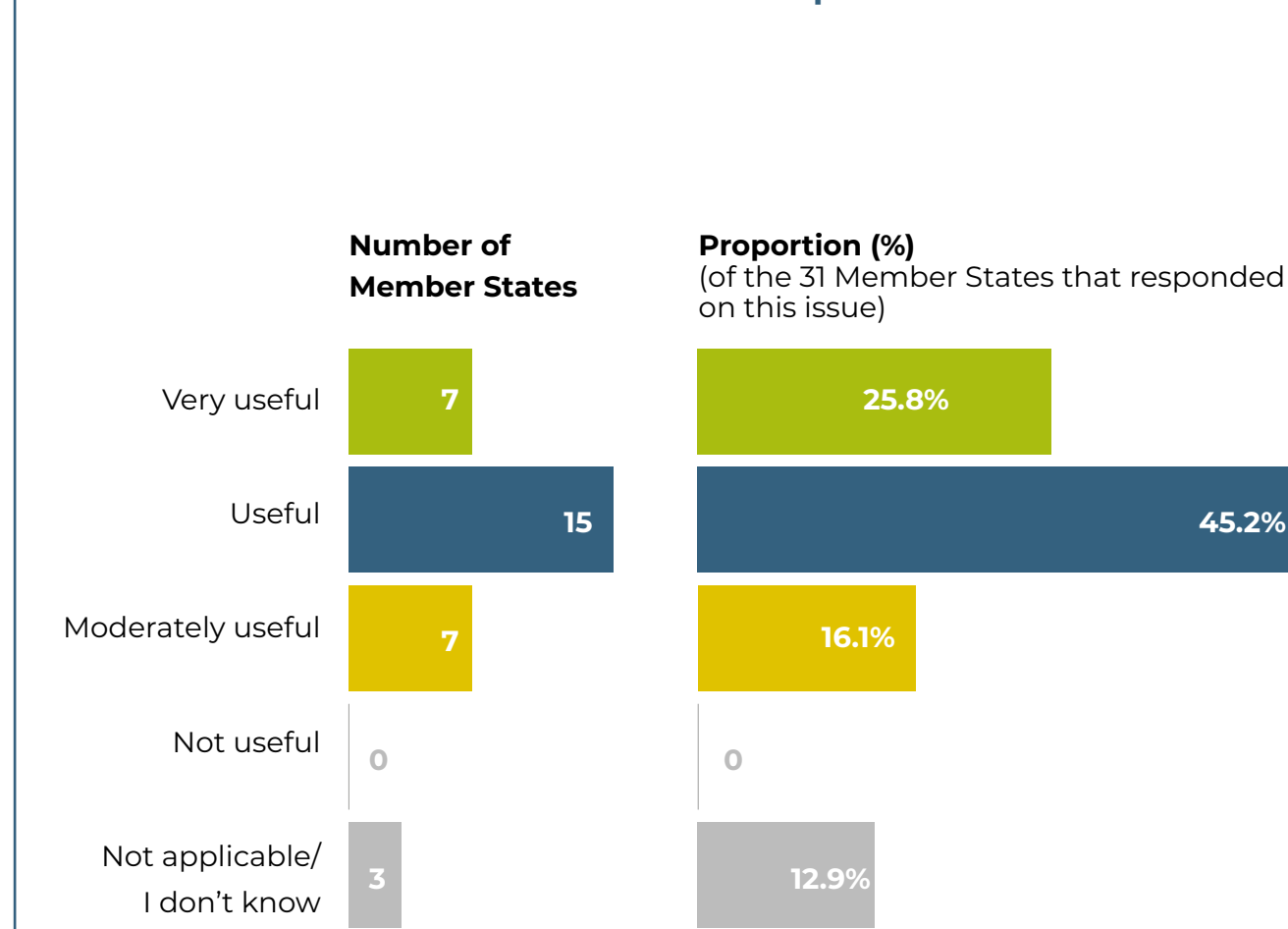
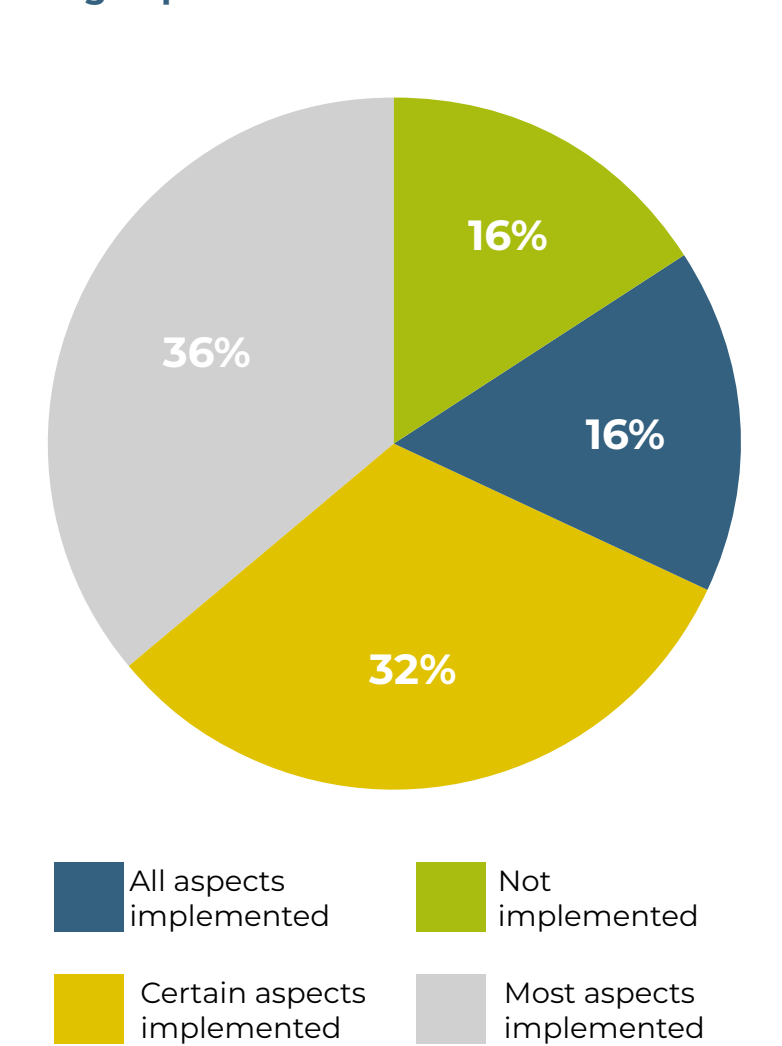


Fig. 5. Usefulness of the compendium of possible actions in advancing implementation of the Ostrava Declaration



Recommended actions

- Use the political momentum of the Budapest Ministerial Conference to review and set priorities at national level on E&H.
- Use the Portfolios as a "health and environment in all policies" tool to coordinate with other sectors at all levels.
- Strengthen cross-sectoral coordination through applying the One Health approach.
- Promote cross-sectoral training and opportunities for exchange for national focal points, the E&H workforce at ministries and youth representatives – to build their capacity as agents for transformative action.
- Initiate national policy dialogues to foster conversations on E&H with non-state actors and subnational authorities.
- Develop monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for Portfolios, including clarification of responsibilities, the definition of indicators and a timeline.
- Develop communication materials linked to the Portfolios for subnational authorities and the public.

Acknowledgments

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