

# Webinar PLUTUS

**6 November 2025**

**13:00**

# The webinar

## Welcoming words:

- Anne Baetens, Advisor, Directorate-General for Civil Protection
- Gaetano Vivo, Deputy Head of the Prevention and Preparedness Capacity Building Unit, DG ECHO B3
- Zuzana Stanton-Geddes, Senior Disaster Risk Specialist, World Bank

# The Webinar

1. Three rounds of discussion on each of the following phase:

**Phase 1 - Strategic planning and needs analysis**

**Phase 2 - Drafting applications**

**Phase 3 - Implementing and sustaining projects**

Structure of each round:

- Introduction by the PLUTUS Team
- Group discussions
- Report in plenary

2. Final choice on priority recommendations

3. Conclusions and next steps



# Previous steps

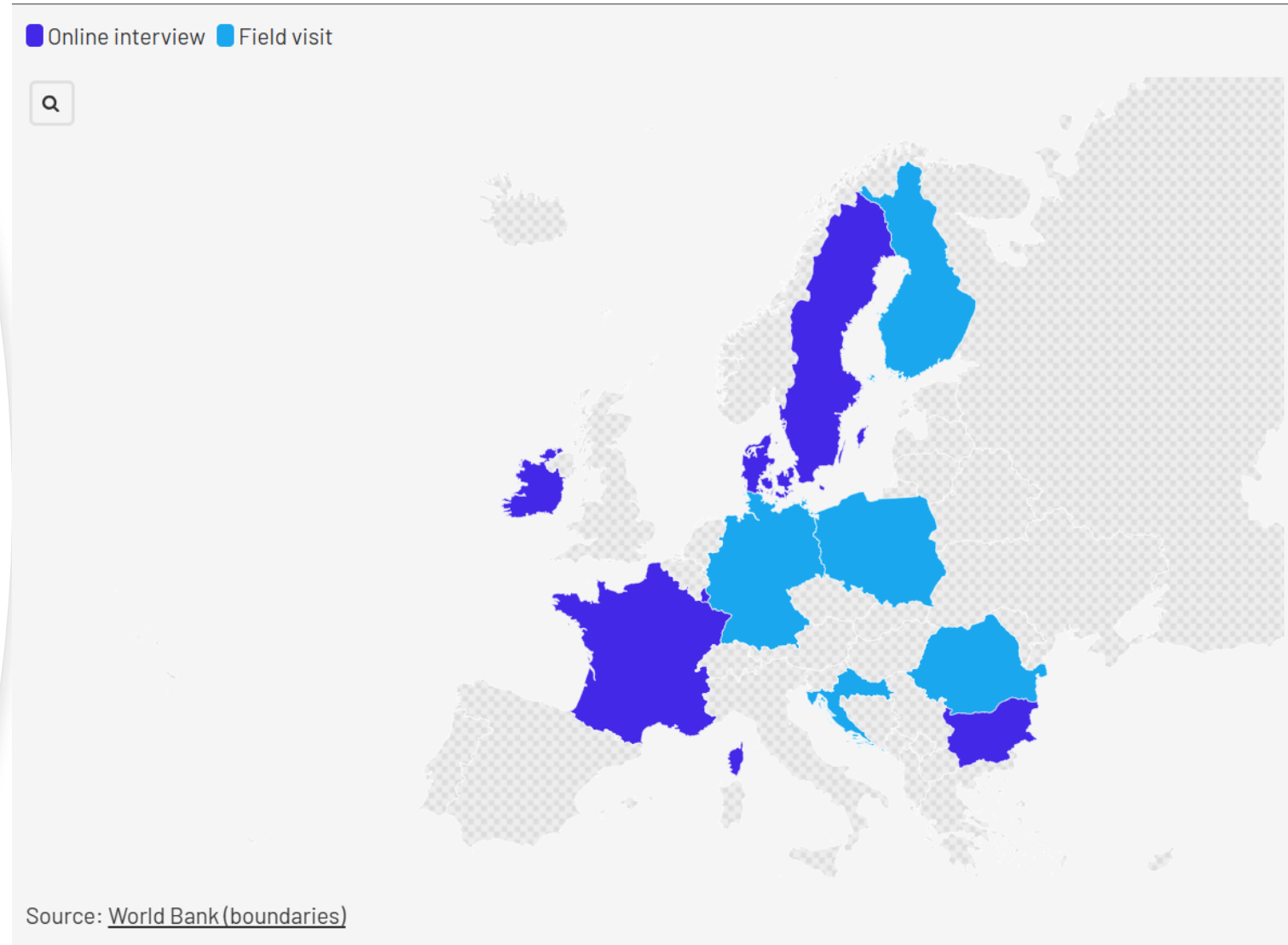
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1. Questionnaire



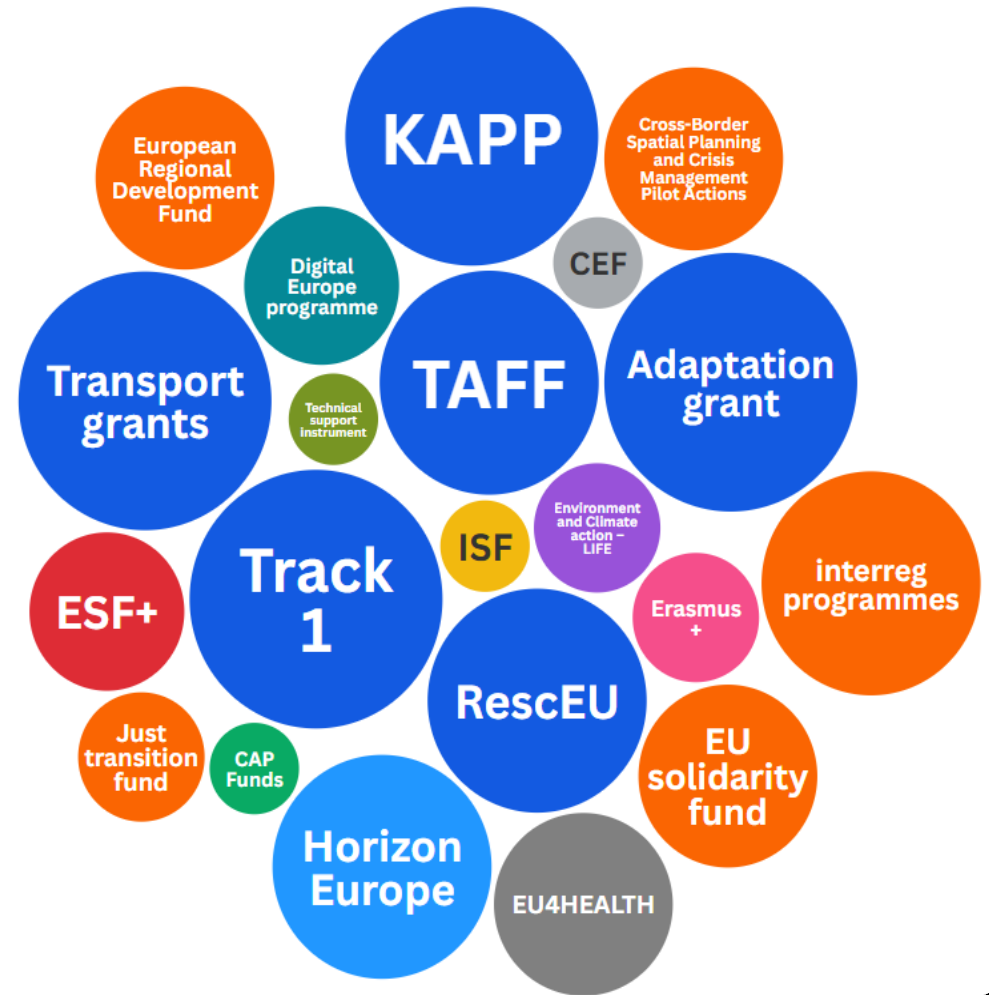
# Previous steps

2. Interviews with Belgian stakeholders
3. Interviews with other UCPM Member and Participating States



# Mapping of funding opportunities

■ UCPM ■ DG RTD ■ DG-ENV/DG CLIMA ■ DG EAC ■ DG REGIO ■ DG HOME ■ DG CONNECT ■ DG AGRI  
■ DG EMPL ■ DG MOVE/DG ENER/DG CONNECT ■ DG SANTE ■ SG REFORM

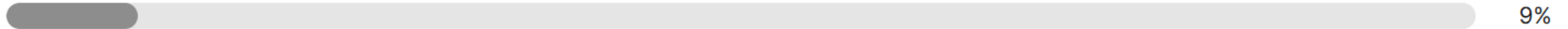


# Ice breaker

How experienced are you with EU funding?



Completely new to it



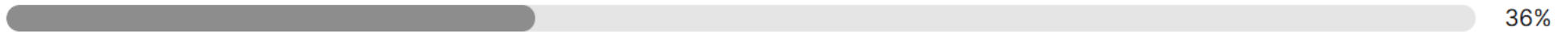
9%

I have been involved in some projects (1-2)



45%

I regularly work on EU funded projects



36%

I'm an expert!



9%

# Ice breaker

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- Insights on funding possibilities
- Better understanding of the bottlenecks at country level
- Interesting insights to simplify future submissions
- Knowledge resources, inspirations
- Exchange of views, Insight on good practices



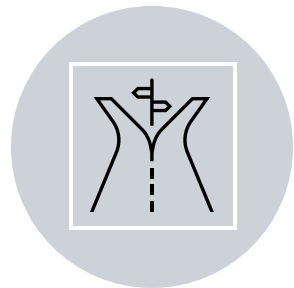


# Phase 1: Strategic planning and needs analysis

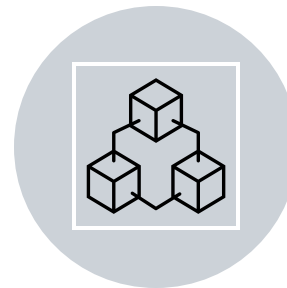
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# Preliminary observations



50% of National Civil Protection Authorities operate reactively when there is a call for proposals, 50% work with long term strategies



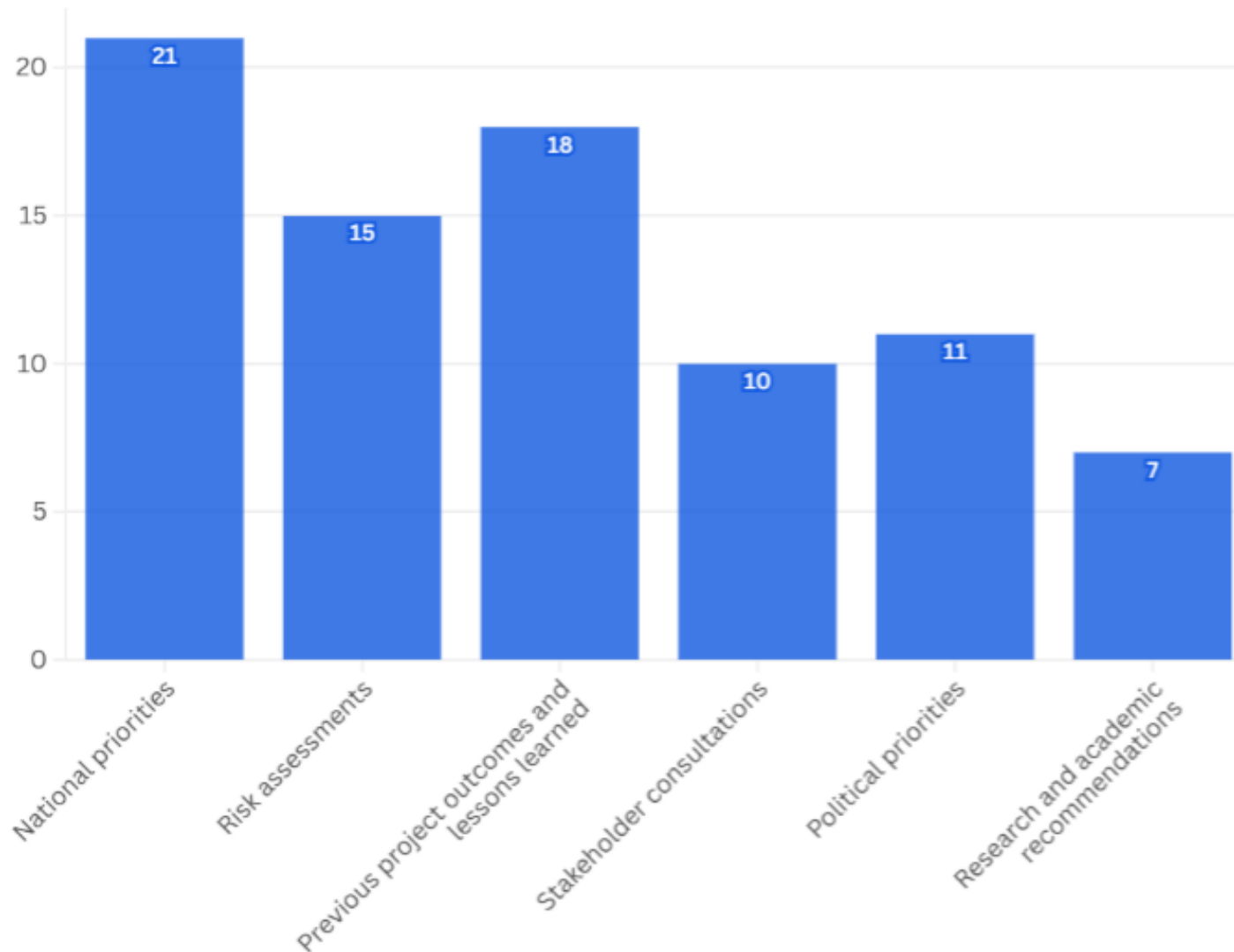
Identifying the right funding opportunities remains challenging due to complexity and fragmentation of the different funding instruments, particularly for smaller services lacking dedicated staff



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# Preliminary observations



Motivation to partake in an EU funded project can differ

# Preliminary findings – Structural Challenges

- Fragmented coordination:
  - Limited cooperation across ministries and sectors (civil protection, health, environment)
  - Weak link between strategic and operational levels in identifying funding needs
- Misalignment of priorities:
  - Difficulty aligning local need and initiatives with EU and national priorities
  - Challenge in connecting Commission objectives with operational realities
- Regulations and annual work programmes can lack clarity or specificity
- Needs identified too late or informally, reducing alignment with funding priorities

# Preliminary findings – Technical Challenges

- Limited awareness, low visibility of available EU funding opportunities and ongoing projects among national and local actors
- Staff shortages and limited expertise complicate funding identification and proposal preparation
- Information gaps: it can be difficult to find the right information as some funds are managed by the European Commission, while others are handled at national or regional levels

# Preliminary findings – Good practices

- Call for proposal at the same time each year
- Have a specialised cell for identifying calls for proposals
- Strong network for identifying funding opportunities
- Regular info-sharing between departments and partners
- Internal mappings
- Monitor annual work programmes to predict priorities

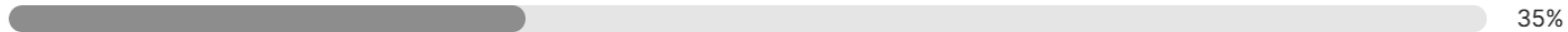
# Vote the best recommendation

Strategic planning & needs analysis: Which suggestions for improvement do you find most relevant? 

Organise regular internal briefings or newsletters to ensure all relevant stakeholders are aware of upcoming EU opportunities.



Introduce regular cross-sectoral reviews to identify funding needs early and align them with national/EU priorities.



Connect strategic planners (ministries) with operational services and local actors to ensure coherent priorities.



Map existing and future funding opportunities proactively.

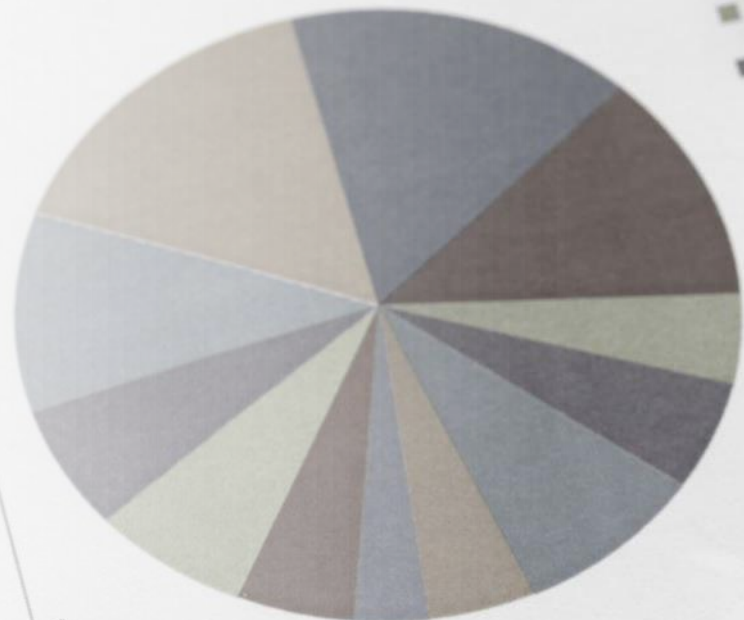
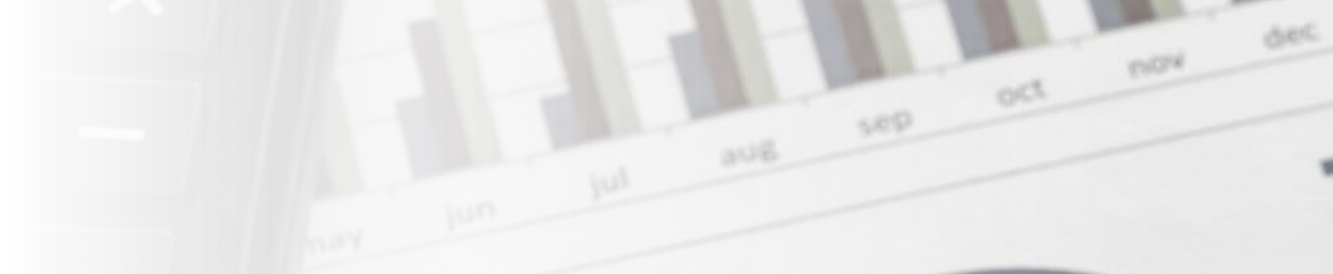


Create permanent EU project coordination units.





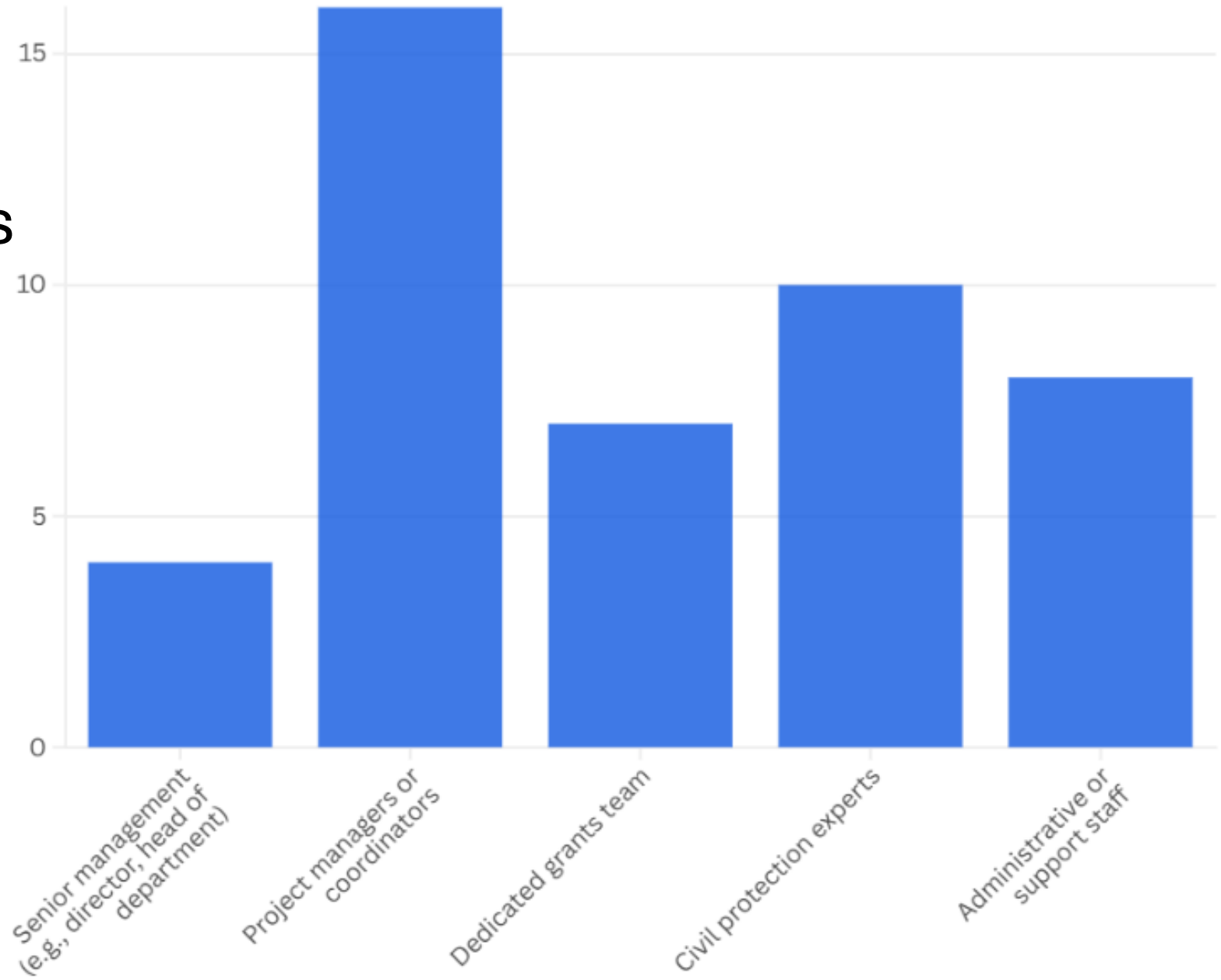
# Phase 2: Drafting applications



125,058	154,568	95,054	124,000
125,487	56,845	97,511	125,000
124,000	110,000	99,011	150,000
	150,000	99,216	
		101,090	
		101,684	

# Preliminary observations

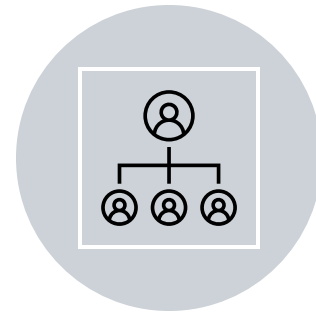
- Limited internal expertise or resources for proposal writing
- Outsourcing of drafting applications



# Preliminary observations

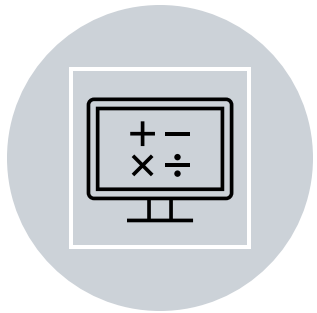


Drafting applications requires pre-existing knowledge on templates, processes and budget requirements

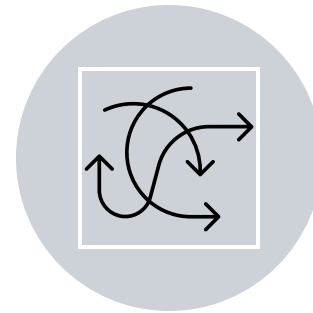


Internal validation processes can be very long adding time pressure which reduces proposal quality

# Preliminary observations



The Funding & Tenders portal is not considered user friendly



For some the benefits of an EU project are outweighed by the effort it takes to fulfil all the requirements of an application

# Preliminary findings – Good practices

- Always involve several (at least two) people in the drafting process for a project to exchange ideas and share the responsibility
- Mix the drafting teams, combining staff with specific knowledge of EU wording and budget guidelines with those who bring innovative ideas
- Internal learning network with FAQ and experiences with applications, to support other colleagues for the application

# Preliminary findings – Good practices

- One-pager outlining the proposal
- Proactive writing of the proposals before the call
- Include concrete numbers and figures in the application so that results can be clearly demonstrated

# Vote the best recommendation

Drafting applications: Which suggestions for improvement do you find most relevant?



Draft short concept notes as soon as funding priorities are published, to assess feasibility and gather partners.



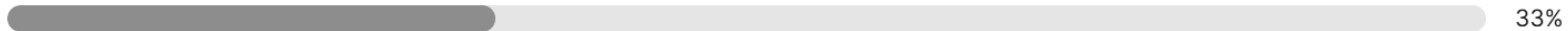
Offer internal workshops on EU financial rules, proposal writing, and partner management



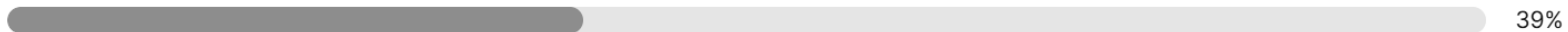
Streamline administrative workflows to be able to manage short deadlines for applications



Actively involve all relevant stakeholders from the earliest stages of the drafting to foster ownership and shared responsibility.



Technical session to help newcomers to CP authorities navigate and work on the platform





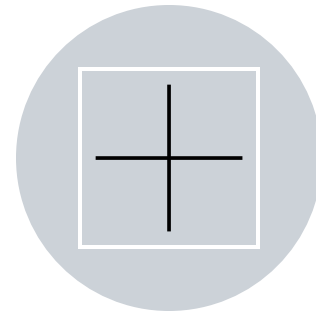
# Phase 3: Implementation and sustainability



# Preliminary observations



Administrative burdens during reporting and audits can take focus away from substance.



Financial management of the project



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# Preliminary Findings - Challenges

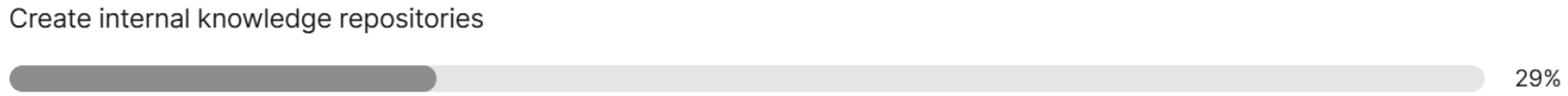
- Staff turnover leads to loss of institutional memory and project continuity
- Difficulties embedding results into long-term structures or national strategies
- Duplication of efforts: similar projects restart without building on past work
- Insufficient dissemination and knowledge-sharing mechanisms

# Preliminary Findings – Good practices

- Same team is drafting and implementing the project
- Working on EU projects in tandem with national projects
- Publication of the outcomes on a platform (e.g. Knowledge Network)
- Internal web page with project initiatives

# Vote the best recommendation

Implementation & sustainability: Which suggestions for improvement do you find most relevant? 



# Next steps

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Dissemination of the project analyses through:

- Final detailed report
- Mapping of funding opportunities for Civil Protection Authorities
- List of good practices and suggestions for improvement
- Ministerial report: list of recommendations that could be implemented in Belgium

# Thank you for your participation !

The Plutus Team