

5th meeting of the EFSA's Stakeholder Bureau
Brussels, 24th September 2019

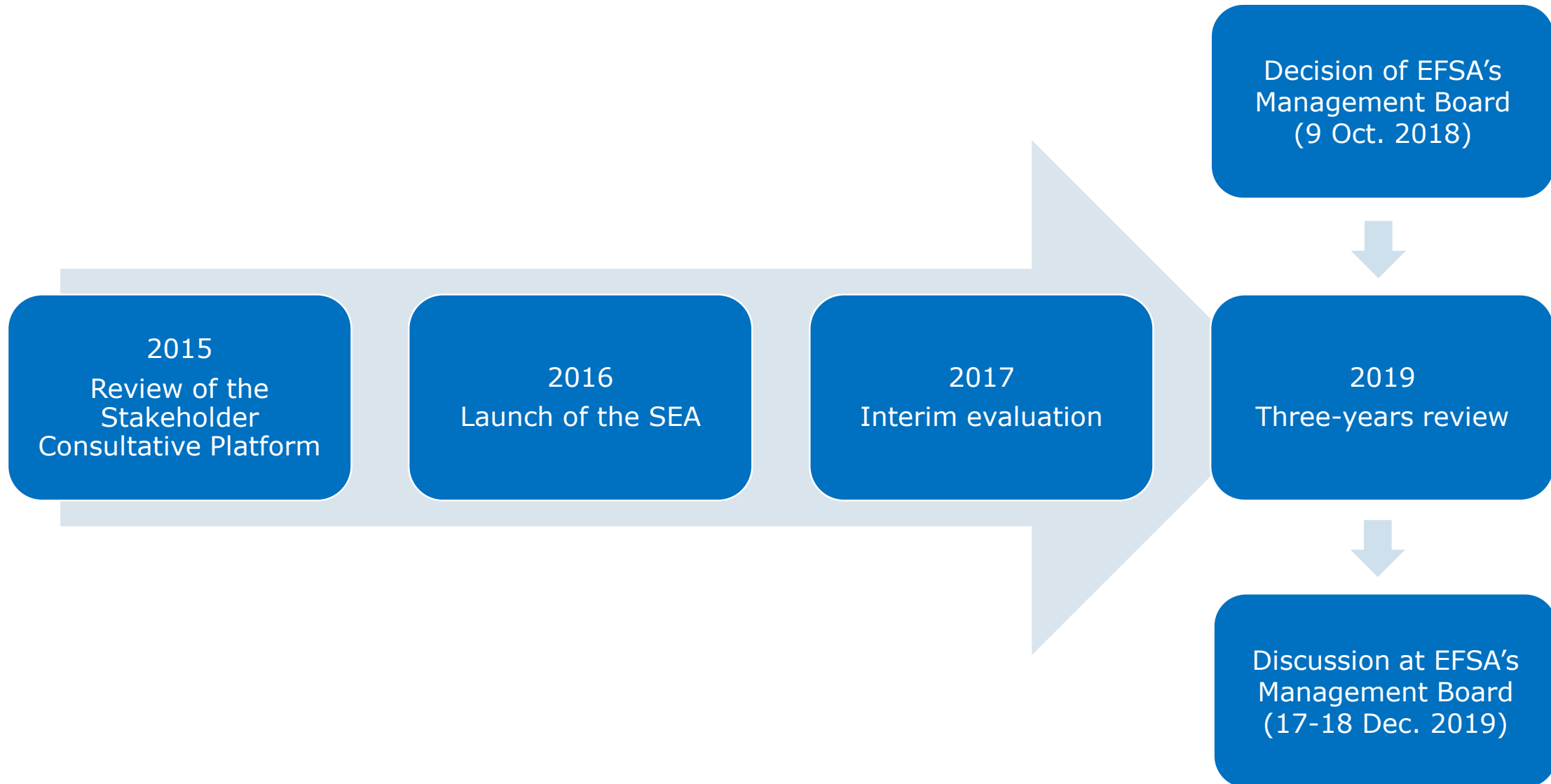
Review of the Stakeholder Engagement Approach

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Trusted science for safe food

- Background
- Methodology
- Outcome of the external evaluation
- Outcome of the internal evaluation
- Next step



Main objective:
Getting insights for possibly refining the SEA



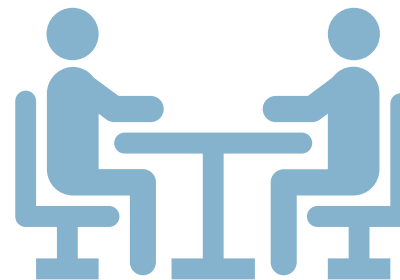
Recommendations on four clusters



Categories of
Stakeholders



Registration process

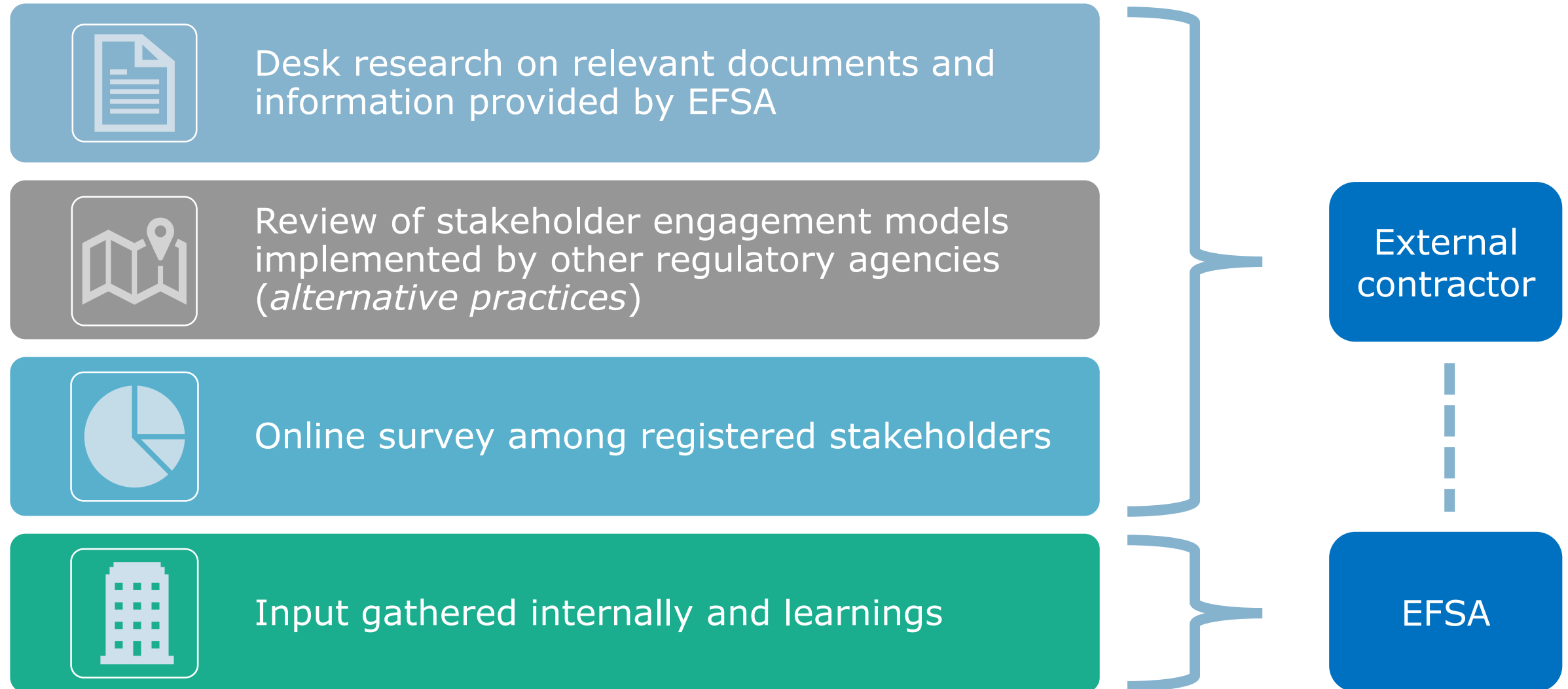


Functioning of
engagement
mechanisms



Transparency and
information provided

Methodology for the review



External review of EFSA's Stakeholder Engagement Approach



Key findings



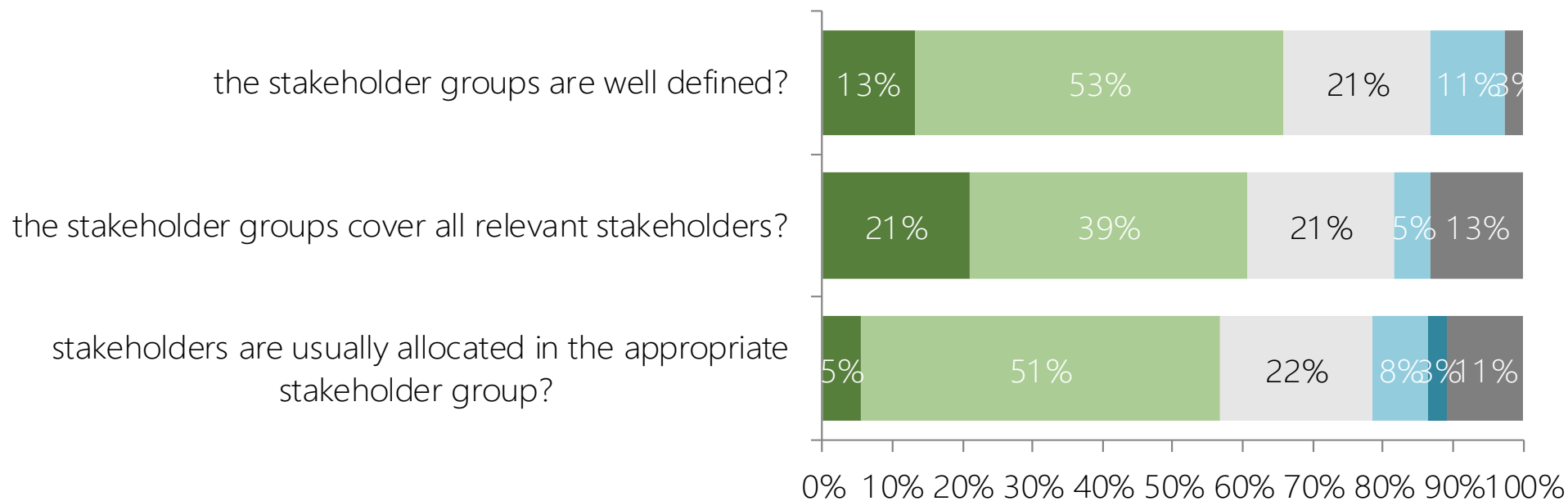
Key findings

Categorisation of stakeholders – Overview

- Clear majority of respondents agreed stakeholder groups are **well defined**, cover all relevant stakeholders and that stakeholders are usually allocated to appropriate groups
- Application of the principles of **equal opportunity** and **balanced representation** was rated **higher** compared to 2017 (3.6 out of 5 in 2019, vs. 3.3 out of 5 in 2017)
- Respondents expressed **some concerns** relating to the representation of stakeholders in the SEA:
 - Evidence suggests this is possibly related to the large size and heterogeneity of the food industry and business stakeholder group

Key findings

Opinion on stakeholder categories

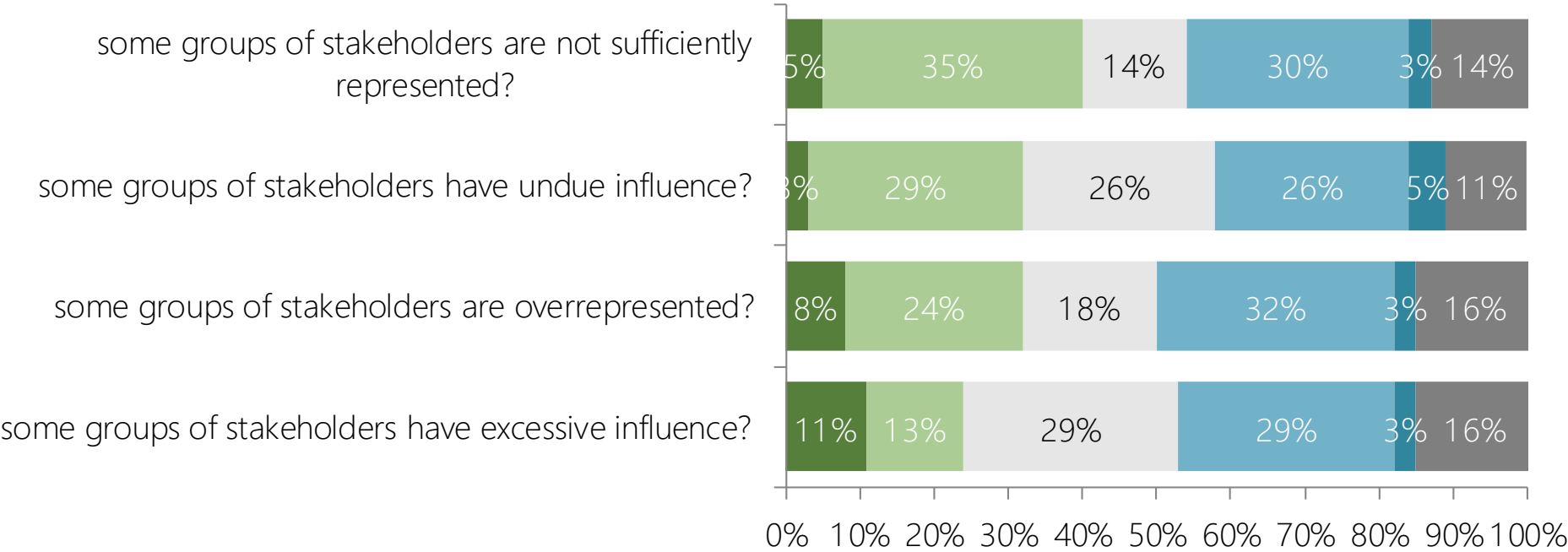


Key findings

Representation of stakeholders

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Don't know

When thinking about the representation of stakeholders in EFSA's Stakeholder Engagement Approach, do you agree or disagree that...



 Q2.4. When thinking about the representation of stakeholders in EFSA's Stakeholder Engagement Approach, do you agree or disagree that...
%; All respondents who answered question item (n=37-38)
Source: Online survey

Key findings

Stakeholder registration – Overview

- Nine in ten respondents (86%) rated the **ease of use / intuitiveness** of the registration process with a 5 or a 4 out of 5, although more feedback still welcomed
- Great majority (92%-95%) of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that:
 - they could indicate their organisation's **specific needs**, interests and expertise
 - the **eligibility criteria** were clearly defined
 - it was clear **why** they needed to provide information
- The selection of the **right stakeholder category** was considered **easy** (88% agreed or strongly agreed) – an improvement compared to the 2017 interim evaluation

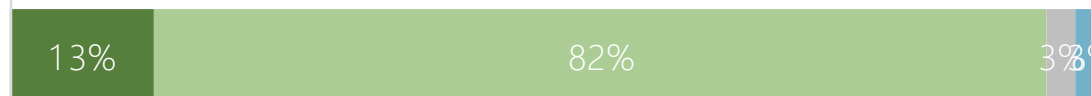
Key findings

Experiences with stakeholder registration process

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Don't know

When thinking about your organisation's experience with the registration process on EFSA's website, do you agree or disagree that...

you could indicate the specific needs, interests and expertise of your organisation?



the eligibility criteria for stakeholders were clearly defined?



it was clear why you needed to provide certain information?



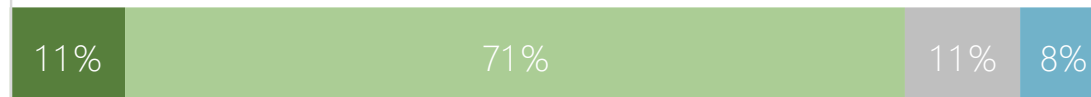
the outcome of the registration process was communicated in a timely and appropriate manner?



it was easy to select the right stakeholder category?



the benefits of registering for stakeholders were clearly communicated?



Q3.2. When thinking about your organisation's experience with the registration process for stakeholders on EFSA's website, do you agree or disagree that...

%; All respondents who answered question item (n=36-38)

Source: Online survey

Key findings

Permanent and targeted engagement mechanisms – overview

- Respondents were generally **positive** about the **Stakeholder Bureau**
- **Participation** was high in the **Stakeholder Forum** and **roundtables** (86% and 67% participated at least once); participation in other engagement mechanisms was lower
- Opinions on **fitness for purpose generally positive** but varied by mechanism:
 - 82% of respondents agreed that the *Stakeholder Forum* is fit for purpose
 - 31% of respondents believed that the *Communicators labs* is fit for purpose
- **Non-participation** related to a lack of awareness, resources and (perceived) relevance

Key findings

Opinions on EFSA's Stakeholder Bureau

Thinking about EFSA's Stakeholder Bureau, how do you rate...
... (Score out of 5)

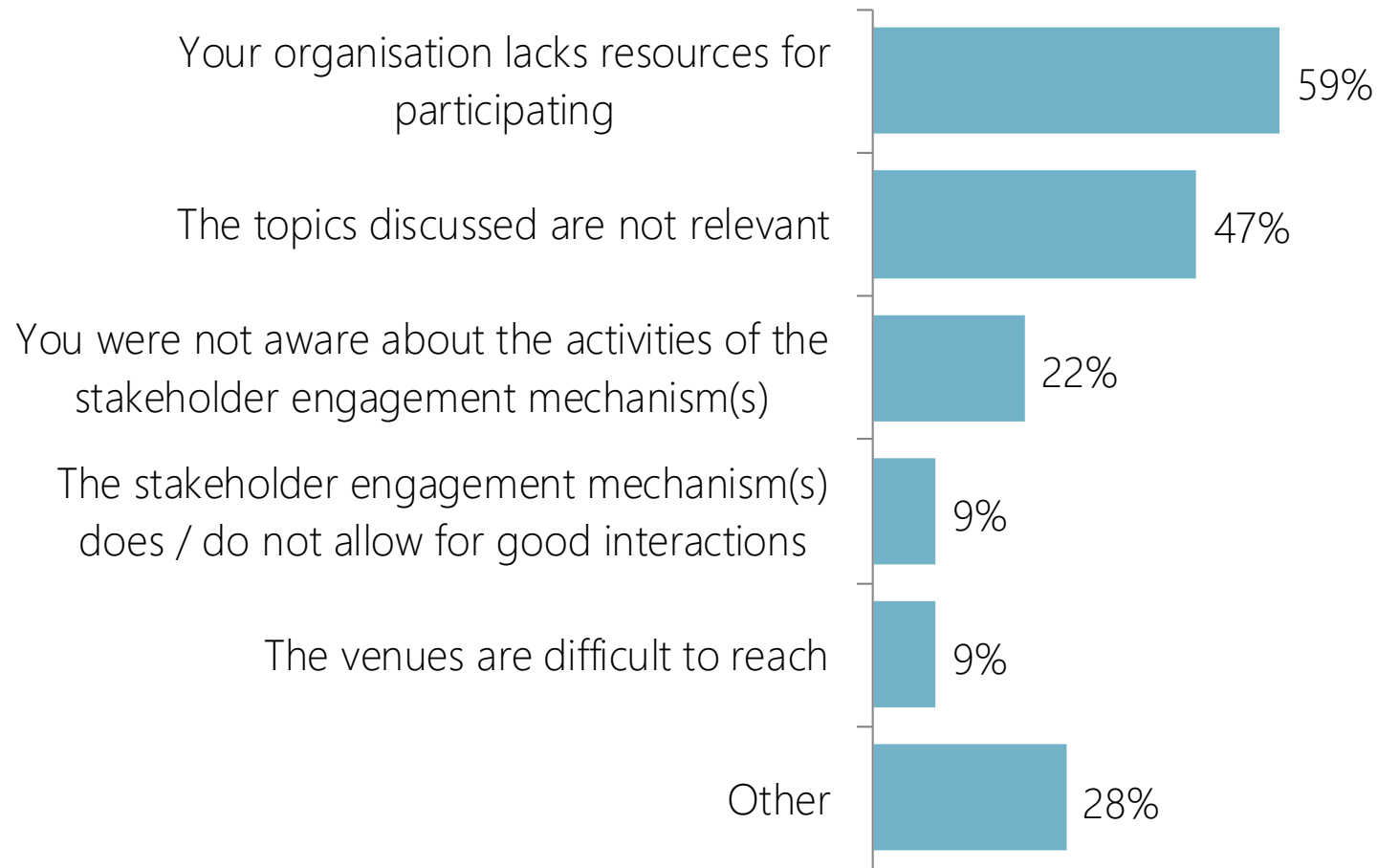


Q4.2. Thinking about EFSA's Stakeholder Bureau, how do you rate...Please answer using the scale in which 5 is "exceptional" and 1 is "unsatisfactory".
Score out of 5; All respondents who are aware of the bureau, excluding "don't knows" (n=22-30)

Source: Online survey

Key findings

Reasons why never or only once participated in stakeholder engagement mechanisms



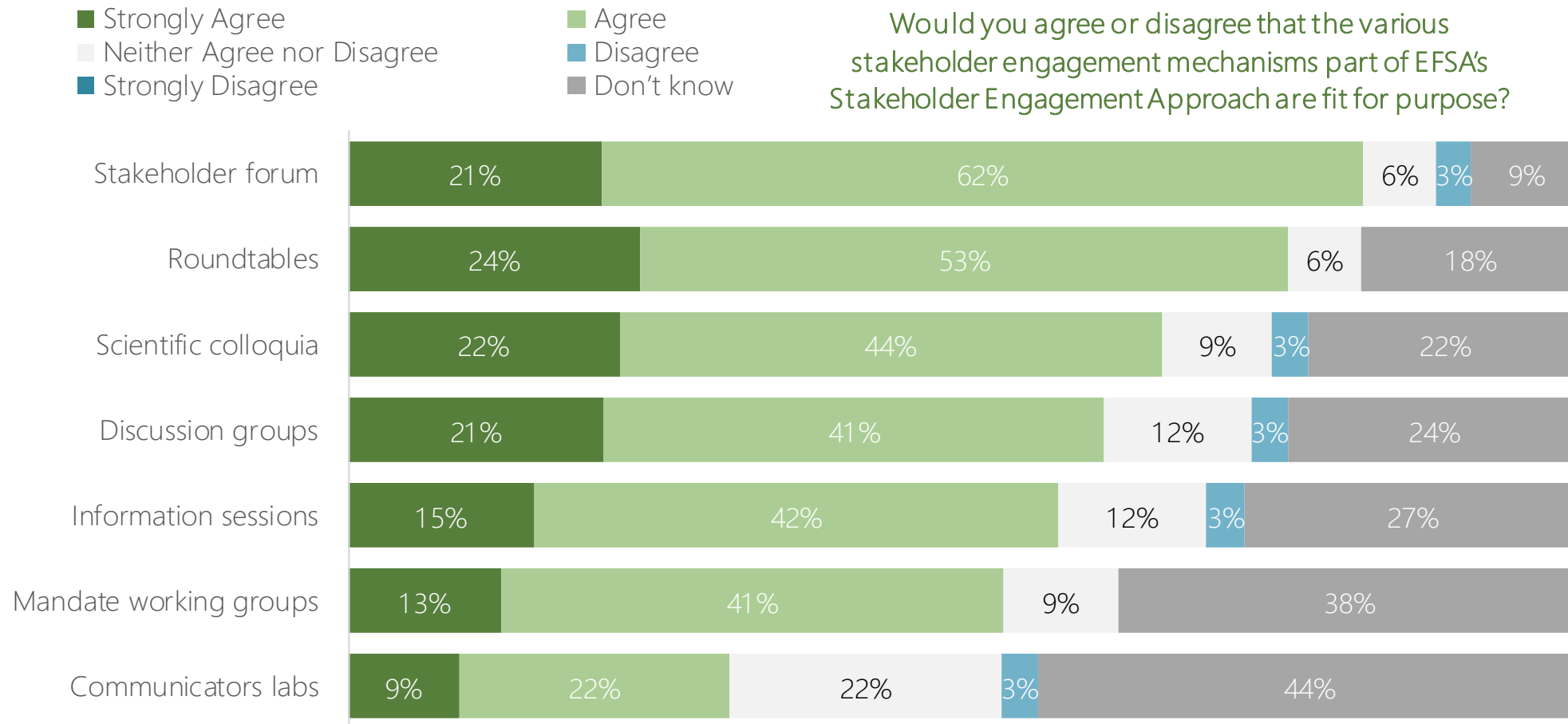
Q4.5a. Why did you never or only once participate in the applicable stakeholder engagement mechanism(s) mentioned above? Please select all that apply.

% (multiple answer); Respondents who answered never or once to any of the items in Q4.4 (n=32)

Source: Online consultation

Key findings

Fitness for purpose of various stakeholder engagement mechanisms



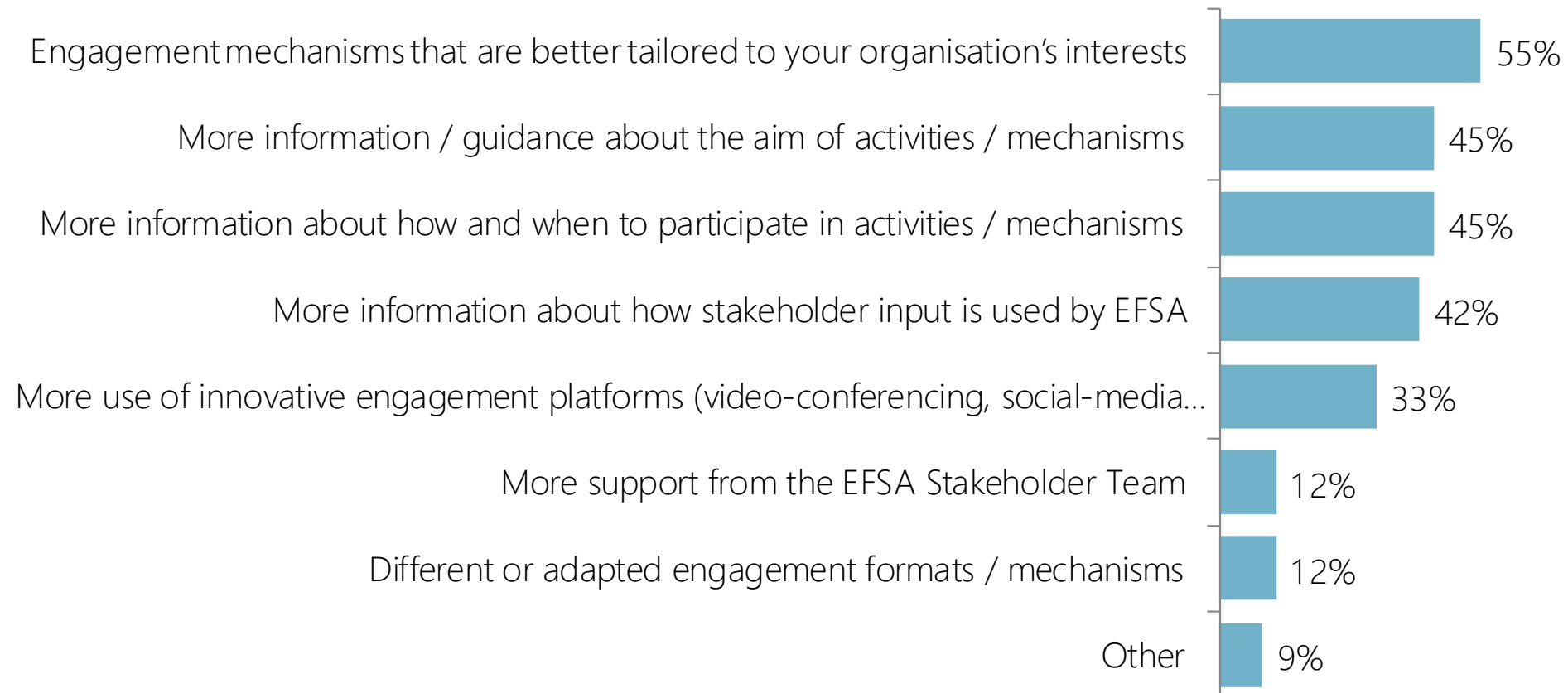
Q4.6. Would you agree or disagree that the various stakeholder engagement mechanisms part of EFSA's Stakeholder Engagement Approach (see question above) are fit for purpose?

All respondents (n=32-34)

Source: Online consultation

Key findings

What would increase participation in targeted engagement mechanisms



Q4.7a. Which of the below, if any, would make you participate more often in EFSA's Stakeholder Engagement mechanisms?
Please select maximum three answers
% (multiple answer); All respondents who answered question (n=33)
Source: Online survey

Key findings

Review of alternative practices (I)

Categorisation of stakeholders

- **None** of the five organisations applies substantially **more specific** stakeholder categories than EFSA
- **Representativeness** is an issue in other organisations as well, such as UNFCCC
- The **UNEP Major Group Facilitating Committee** might serve as inspiration to improve representativeness

Stakeholder registration

- Limited room for improvement, but could look at ways to provide more **information** on the registration process and benefits of registering
- UNFCCC, EUIPO and UNEP provide **extensive guidance** on the registration process
- UNEP maintains an easily searchable online **stakeholder list**

Key findings

Review of alternative practices (II)

Permanent and targeted engagement mechanisms

- Organisations recognise importance of **tailored engagement** and **direct contact**
- Use of **online platforms** (UNFCCC 'Adaptation Knowledge Portal') and **webinars** (FDA 'Guidance Webinar series') to increase engagement
- Several organisations recognise **funding** can stimulate stakeholder participation

Transparency/information provided

- FSANZ and UNEP have processes in place to ensure openness about **impact** of stakeholder input
- Stakeholders have **direct access to information** through social media, webcasting and platforms (EUIPO 'Transparency Portal')
- Increased **social media activity** in several organisations

Conclusions



Conclusions

- Evidence shows SEA is delivering on **aims and objectives**: Surveyed stakeholders rated the SEA and its mechanisms with a **3.8 out of 5** (3.5 out of 5 in 2017)
- Stakeholders mostly positive about the SEA's **permanent and targeted engagement mechanisms**, although varies depending on the mechanism
 - Non-participation related to lack of 1) resources, 2) perceived relevance of topics, and 3) awareness about the mechanism
- Feedback on the **transparency** of the SEA was positive, notably regarding information about activities, reports and EFSA's website. Would like more feedback on impact of input
- Stakeholder **categorisation** perceived positively, although possible room for improvement in the representation of certain stakeholder groups in the SEA
- Stakeholder **registration process** judged very positively, but more feedback welcome

Internal review – Key findings



Internal review – Key findings



Timeline and milestones

