Interim Quality Report

THE
MISSING
ENTREPRENEURS

Index

Introduction

This interim report comprises the period from November 2020 to October 2021, the first year of the project implementation period. The report is part of the evaluation of the project, and it is made with the information and comments provided by the partnership. The information has been collected through an online survey, which has been answered by six representatives (one from each project's partner).

The document is structured in six sections.

The first section provides a general overview of the progress of the project. It also gives information on what partners think works well in the project and what needs to be improved. It is covered by a multiple-choice chart with 4 levels of agreement: "Totally disagree; somewhat disagree; somewhat agree; totally agree". These levels are used to demonstrate how much the respondent agrees with the statement.

The second section analyses the progress of Management and Coordination, and intends to acknowledge what is the opinion of the partnership in regard to management and coordination's actions, timeliness, instruments, measures in order to implement the project successfully. It is comprised by a multiple-choice chart with 4 levels of agreement: "Totally disagree; somewhat disagree; somewhat agree; totally agree".

The third section evaluates the project's content and results and is more related to the work developed by the partnership as a whole: goals and deliverables, work plan, tasks, results, progress, quality of the outputs, etc. It is encompassed by a multiple-choice chart with 4 levels of agreement: "Totally disagree; somewhat disagree; somewhat agree; totally agree".

The fourth section is dedicated to assess Dissemination and Sustainability, by evaluating the work developed by the partnership in spreading and publicising the project's products and ensure they will last for years to come and become useful for a wide-ranging audience. It is covered by a multiple-choice chart with 4 levels of agreement: "Totally disagree; somewhat disagree; somewhat agree; totally agree".

The fifth section is connected to the qualitative evaluation of the project. In the Google Form delivered, partners were asked to write about their thoughts on general impression, challenges faced, aspects with room for improvement, and aspects they consider to be great in the project.

Finally, the last section comprises the conclusion of the report and some recommendations. Both are intended to help to keep the project on track and improve any aspect that can help to make this project successful.

Section I – General overview of the project

Regarding the overall progress of the project, partners are of the opinion the project is progressing well, which is revealed by the number of "somewhat agree" (3/6) and "totally agree" answers (3/6). The amount of "somewhat agree" opinions may mean that some partners recognise there is some room for improvement.
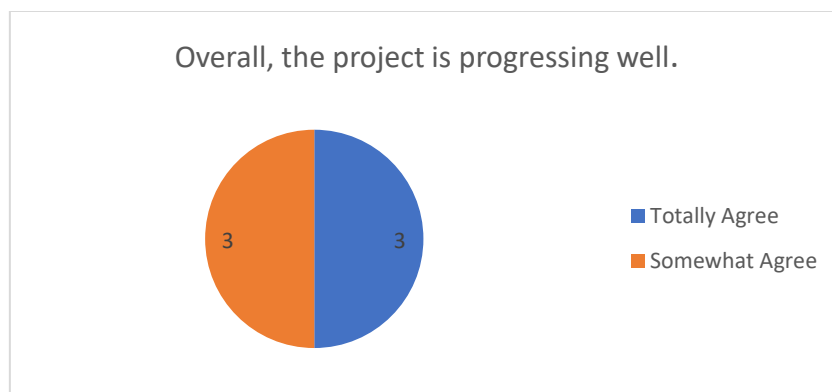

Figure 1 – "Overall, the project is progressing well."

When asked about how much partners agree with the statement "The general organisation of the project pleases me", 3/6 somewhat agree and 3/6 totally agree. Even though these are good indicators, it might be some minor adjustments to be made in regard to the organisation of the project.
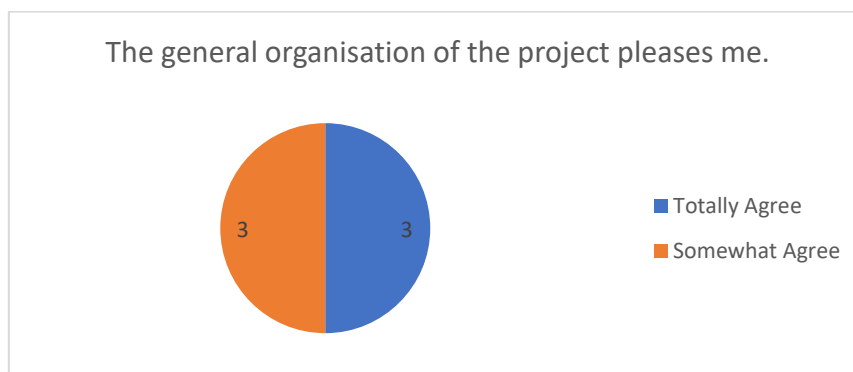

Figure 2 – "The general organisation of the project pleases me."

Concerning the partners' involvement in the project activities, the respondents totally agree that partners are committed to it, which is shown by the number of "Totally agree" answers (5/6). One partner answered "somewhat agree".
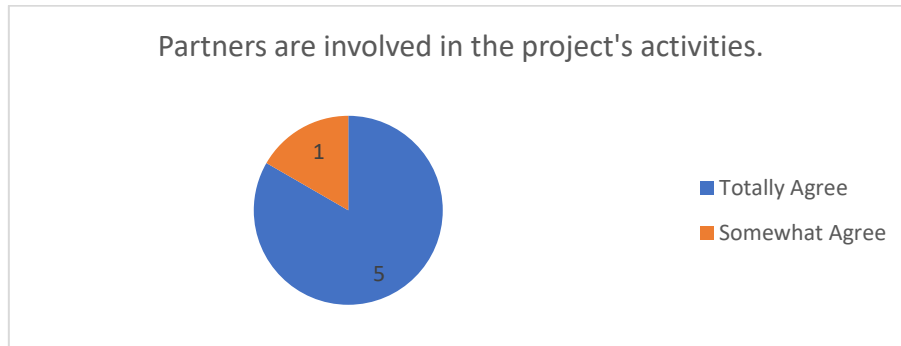
Figure 3 – *"Partners are involved in the project's activities."*

"Communication between partners is effective and frequent" was the fourth statement to be assessed by the partnership. 4/6 partners somewhat agree and only 2/6 totally agree. Although there are no negative answers on this topic, the number of "somewhat agree" answers should be stressed out.
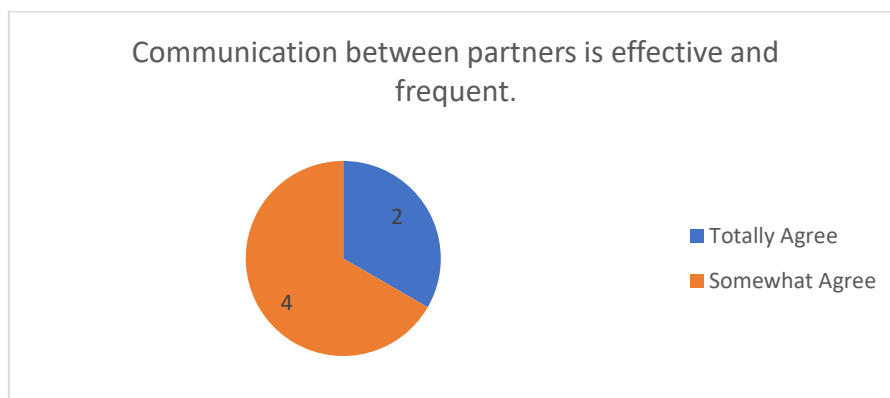

Figure 4 – *"Communication between partners is effective and frequent."*

2/6 partners somewhat agree and 4/6 totally agree with the statement "So far, project goals have been achieved". Again, no negative opinions were given.

Figure 5 – *"So far, project goals have been achieved."*

Finally, when asked how much they agree with the statement "There is compliance with deadlines and tasks assigned to each partner do not compromise other tasks", partners' level of agreement varied noticeably. 1/6 partner somewhat disagrees, 3/6 somewhat agree and 2/6 totally agree.
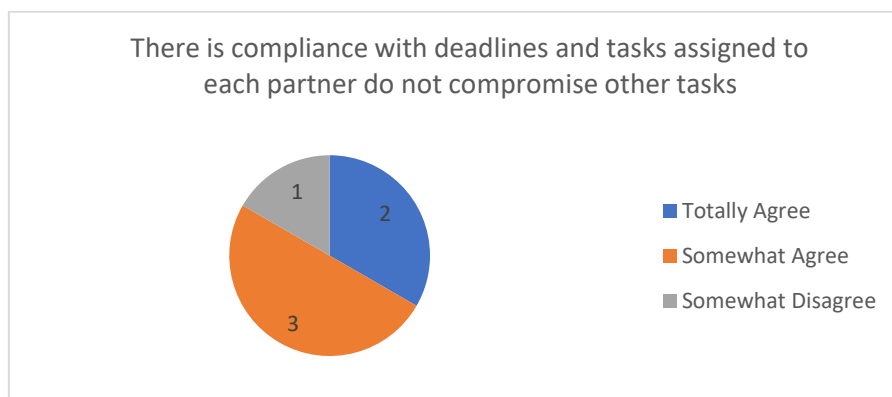

Figure 6 – *"There is compliance with deadlines and tasks assigned to each partner do not compromise other tasks."*

After the multiple-choice grid, there was room for registering suggestions for improvement and other feedback. Therefore, partners in general referred the slight delays and the impacts brought by the COVID-19 pandemic situation as the biggest challenges throughout the first year of implementation. However, it is unanimous that the Consortium is committed to overcome these challenges by working together and smooth communication.

Section II – Management and Coordination

As in the previous section, Section II had a set of statements and partners were invited to indicate how much they agreed with each of them.

Regarding the first statement "All relevant tasks/activities have been implemented", the majority of the respondents (4/6) stated they totally agree with it. The remaining partners (2/6) somewhat agree with the statement, meaning that, in general, there is common agreement that all tasks/activities have been put in practice.

Figure 7 – "All relevant tasks/activities have been implemented."

Regarding the online storage mechanism, the majority of partners (5/6) totally agree with Google Drive being a great tool to promote a good organisation of the project.

Figure 8 – "Google Drive promotes a good organisation of the project."

In the next sentence "Online meetings and/or exchange of emails have been frequent and effective", partners in general agree with this: 3/6 somewhat agree and 3/6 totally agree.
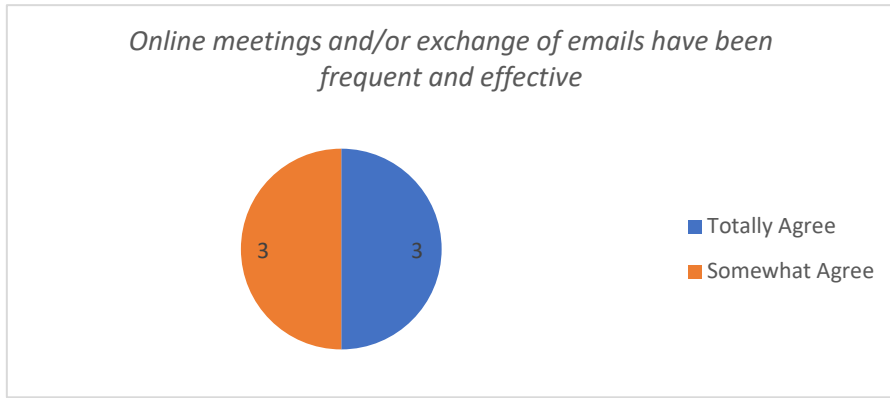
Figure 9 – "Online meetings and/or exchange of emails have been frequent and effective"

About the communication among partners, generally the respondents somewhat agree (5/6) there is good communication in the partnership that allows for an efficient workflow. 1/6 respondents totally agree with the sentence.
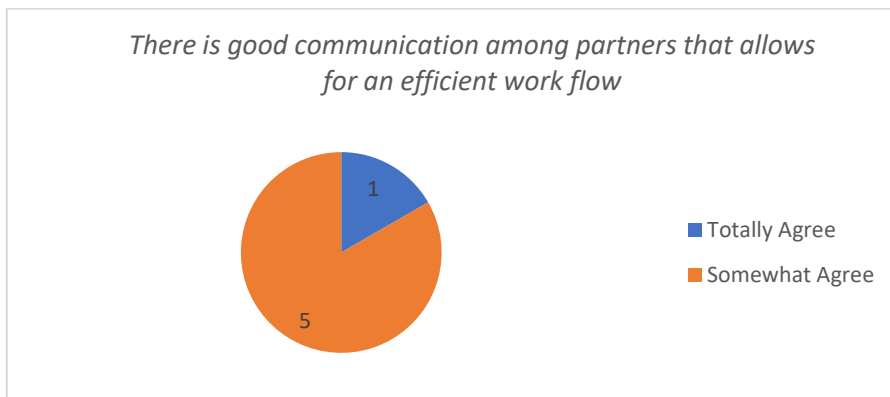

Figure 10 – "There is good communication among partners that allows for an efficient work flow"

Next statement intended to acknowledge if partners were happy with the current management procedures. 2/6 somewhat agree with the statement and 4/6 totally agree.
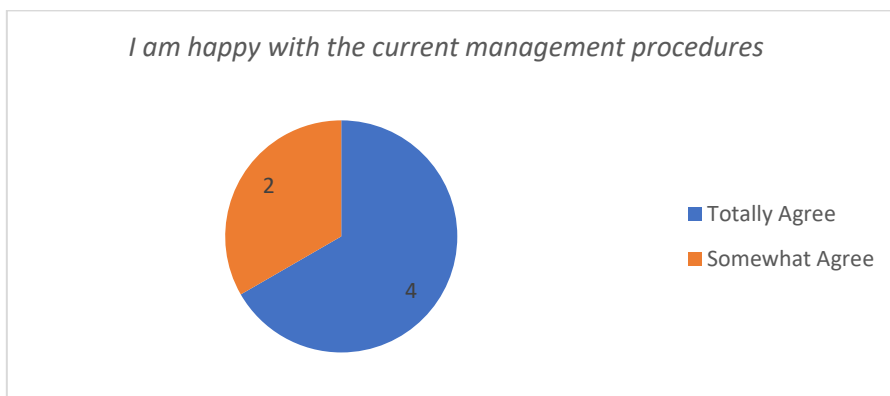

Figure 11 – "I am happy with the current management procedures"

The majority of the partners (3/6) partners somewhat agree with the sentence "the project's internal communication tools ensure a nice workflow and common understanding". 3/6 totally agree with it.
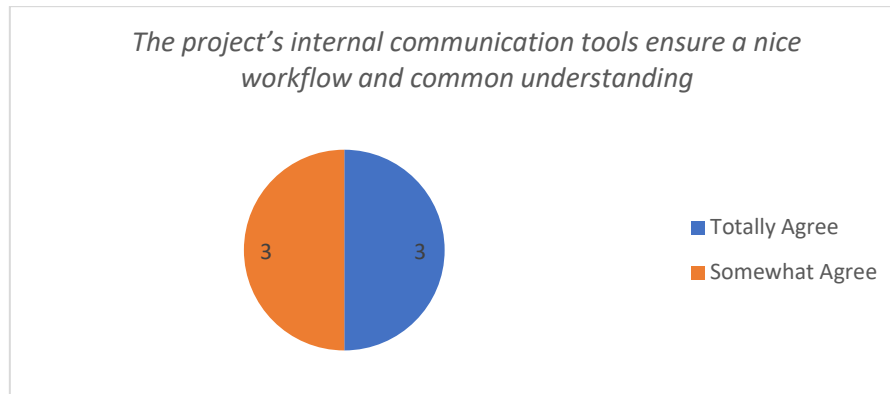

The project's internal communication tools ensure a nice workflow and common understanding

3   3

■ Totally Agree
■ Somewhat Agree

Figure 12 – "The project's internal communication tools ensure a nice workflow and common understanding"

Regarding the objectives' monitoring, the majority of partners (4/6) totally agree this procedure is effective. 2/6 somewhat agree with this.
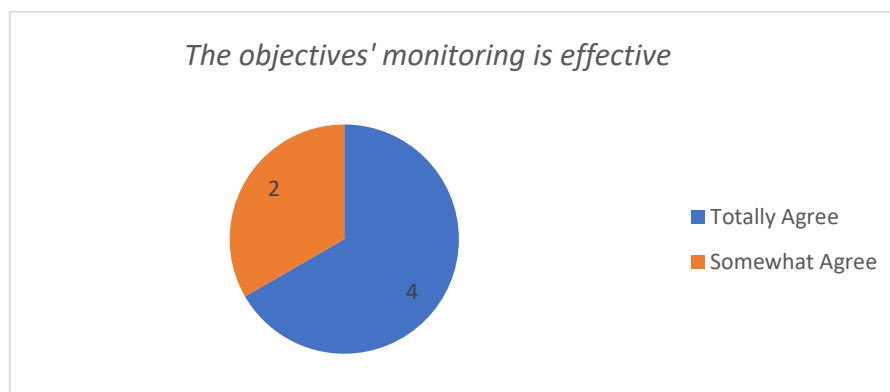

The objectives' monitoring is effective

2

4

■ Totally Agree
■ Somewhat Agree

Figure 13 – "The objectives' monitoring is effective."

Concerning the last statement "I feel the partnership has a good working environment", most of the partners (3/6) totally agree with it. The remaining responses were "somewhat agree" ones (3/6).
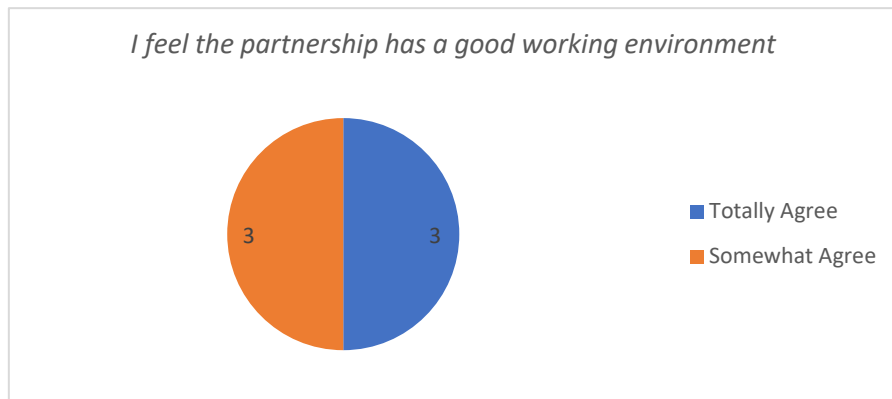
Figure 14 – "I feel the partnership has a good working environment."

As in the first section, after the multiple-choice grid, there was room for registering suggestions for improvement and other feedback. In this regard, the majority of partners had no further comments. Two of them stated that COVID-19 brought some constraints in order to implement a smooth guidance of the project activities (lack of f2f meetings, a lot of emails being exchanged, etc.). One of the partners stated that an even more intensive exchange of communication will help the Consortium.

Section III – Content and Results

Section III followed the same structure as the previous sections.

"The goals and deliverables expected at this stage of the project have been achieved" was not a unanimous statement between the respondents: 1/6 somewhat disagreed, 2/6 somewhat agreed and 3/6 totally agreed.
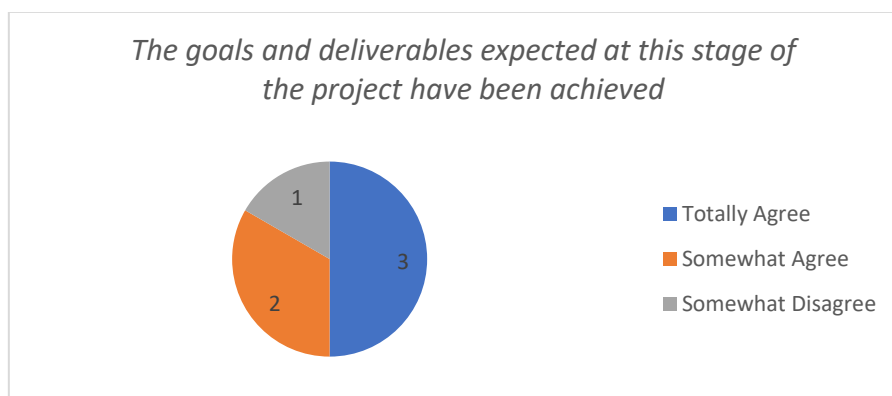

Figure 15 – "The goals and deliverables expected at this stage of the project have been achieved."

All partners totally agree that the adjustments to the work plan have been reasonable and necessary to achieve the expected outcomes.
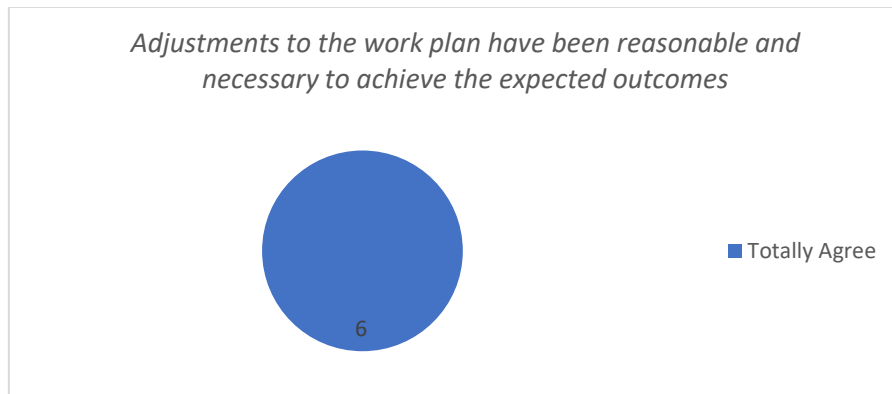
Figure 16 – "Adjustments to the work plan have been reasonable and necessary to achieve the expected outcomes."

The majority of the respondents (5/6) totally agree with the statement "The tasks and deliverables accomplished thus far contribute to accomplish the results of the project". 1/6 somewhat agrees with it.
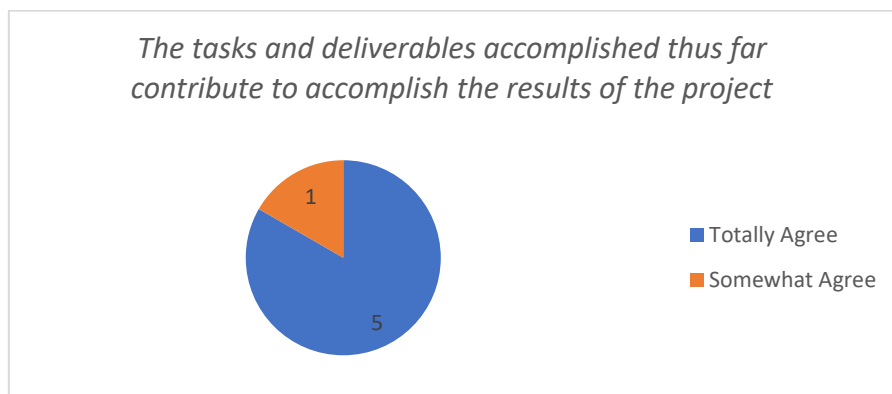

Figure 17 – "The tasks and deliverables accomplished thus far contribute to accomplish the results of the project."

Generally, partners tend to agree with the statement "The results correspond to the expected quality standard". 3/6 somewhat agree and 3/6 totally agree.
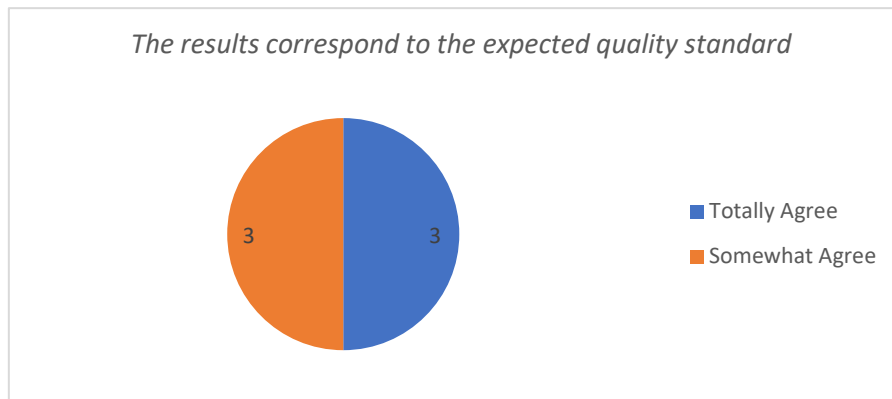
Figure 18 – "The results correspond to the expected quality standard."

The respondents in general agree that there has been a significant progress of the project overall, which is shown by the number of "somewhat agree" (3/6) and "totally agree" (3/6) opinions.
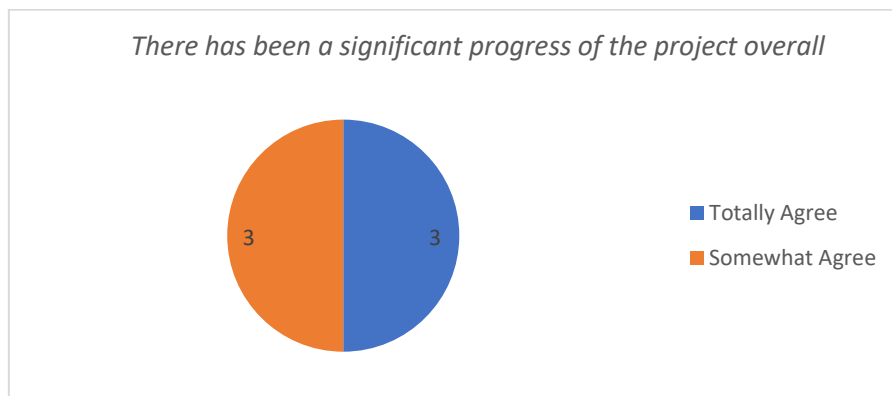

Figure 19 – "There has been a significant progress of the project overall."

The majority of the partners is happy with the progress made so far regarding the building of the online platform, which is shown by the number of "somewhat agree" (1/6) and "totally agree" (5/6) opinions. Only one partner somewhat disagrees with the statement.
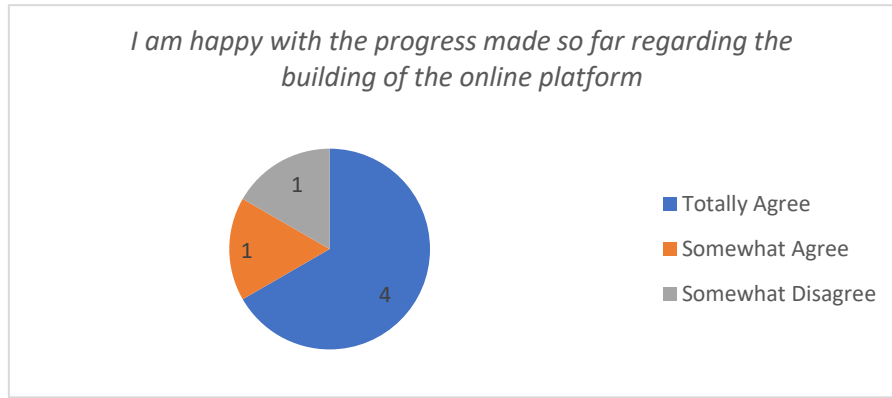
Figure 20 – "I am happy with the progress made so far regarding the building of the online platform."

There were no negative opinions regarding the quality of the outputs in accordance with partners' expectations. (3/6) partners somewhat agree and (3/6) totally agree.
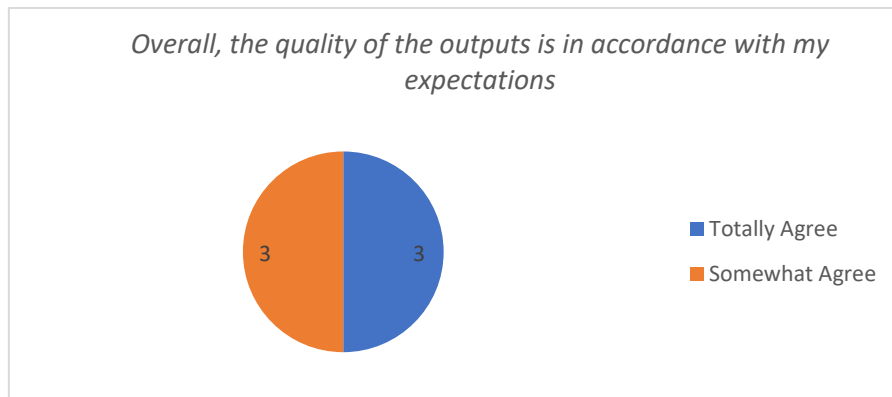

Figure 21 – "Overall, the quality of the outputs is in accordance with my expectations."

Regarding suggestions for improvement and other feedback, one of the partners stated that she/he is not 100% happy with the way the research activities were set up and she/he doubts that the information gathered is enough and ideal for the project team use as basis for the upcoming products.

Other partner added that the project's work could be better if there was not a delay and a rush to delivery IO1.

However, the overall opinion of partners is that, even though there is room for improvement, they are happy with the project's contents and results so far.

Section IV – Dissemination and Sustainability

Section IV followed the same structure as the previous sections.

Partners generally agreed with the first statement "The quality of the project website and its effectiveness in complying with communication goals is in accordance with my expectations". (2/6) somewhat agree and (4/6) totally agree.
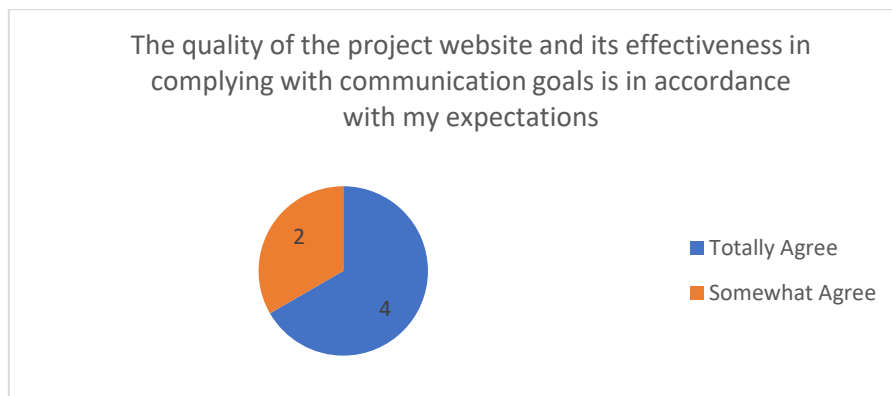

The quality of the project website and its effectiveness in complying with communication goals is in accordance with my expectations

- Totally Agree
- Somewhat Agree

Figure 22 – "The quality of the project website and its effectiveness in complying with communication goals is in accordance with my expectations."

Regarding the second statement "The project results and impact are likely to continue after the project", one partner somewhat disagrees with it. (2/6) somewhat agree and (3/6) totally agree.

The project results and impact are likely to continue after the project
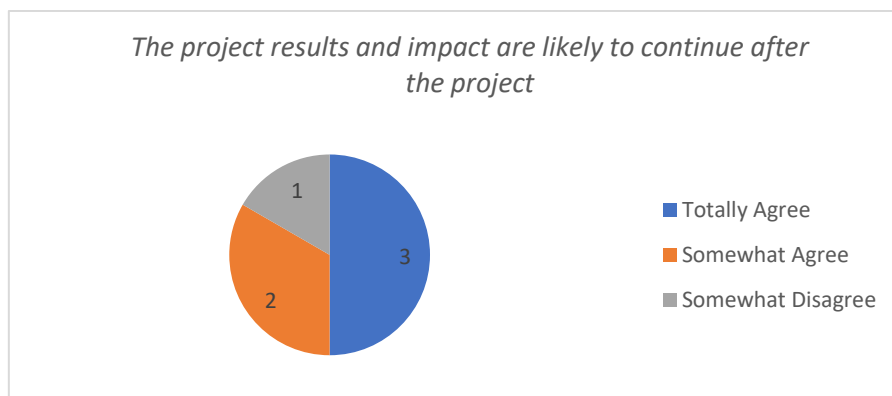
- Totally Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Somewhat Disagree

Figure 23 – "The project results and impact are likely to continue after the project."

In regard to the third sentence "The number of EU languages used for the display of the website and learning materials ensures a good dissemination of the project's products", there were more

partners in disagreement comparing to the previous sentences (3/6). Moreover, (2/6) somewhat agree and (1/6) totally agrees.
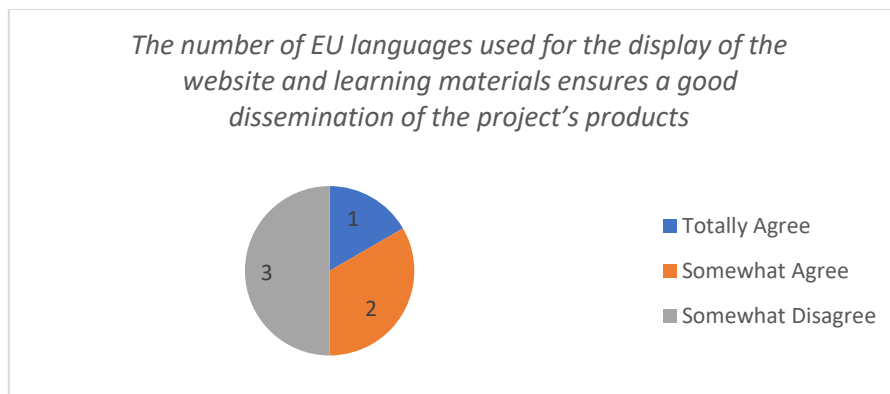

Figure 24 – "The number of EU languages used for the display of the website and learning materials ensures a good dissemination of the project's products."

Partners in general trust that "the results of the project are likely to be replicated in the future in each of the countries involved". (1/6) somewhat disagree, (3/6) somewhat agree and (2/6) totally agree.
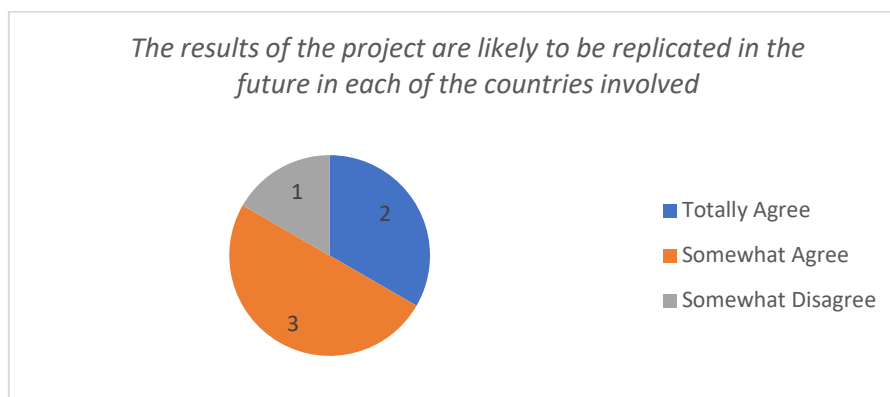

Figure 25 – "The results of the project are likely to be replicated in the future in each of the countries involved."

Partners shown they are generally happy with the scheduling and execution of the dissemination activities (2/6 somewhat agree and 4/6 totally agree).
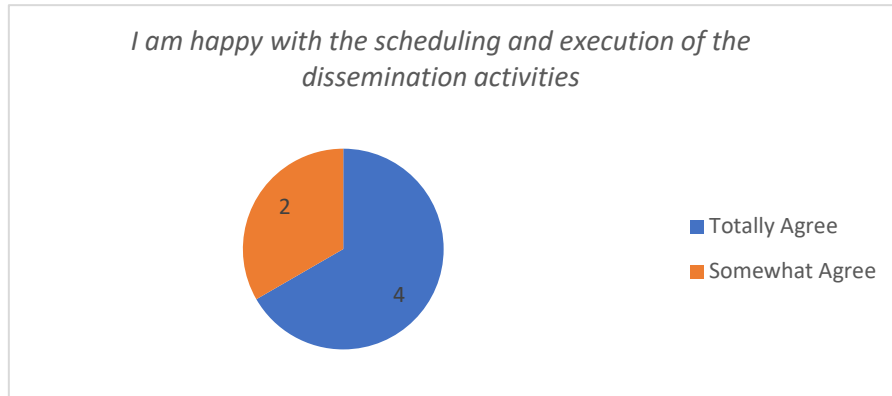
Figure 26 – "I am happy with the scheduling and execution of the dissemination activities."

In regard to the statement "The frequency of posts in social media channels ensures the accomplishment of the communication goals", almost all partners totally agree with it (5/6). Only 1/6 somewhat agrees.

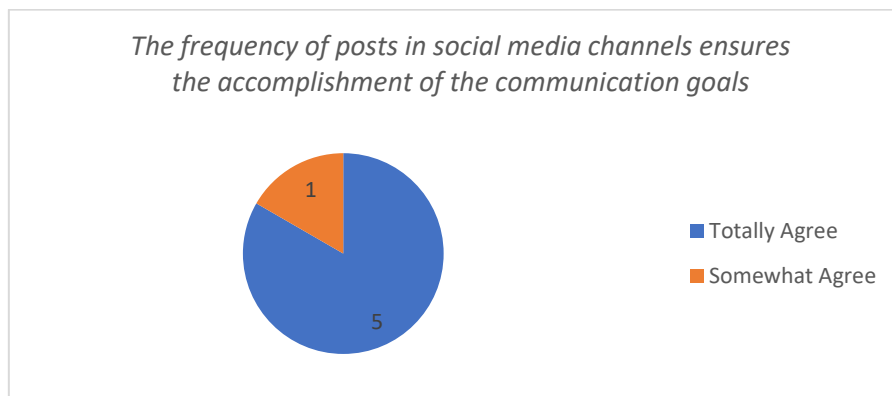*Figure 27 – "The frequency of posts in social media channels ensures the accomplishment of the communication goals."*

Concerning the next statement "The frequency of press-releases, posts published and articles/news in other blogs/newspapers is in accordance with my expectations", it shows that there is agreement in this subject. 3/6 partners somewhat agree with it and 3/6 partners totally agree.

Figure 28 – "The frequency of press-releases, posts published and articles/news in other blogs/newspapers is in accordance with my expectations."

Even though no negative feedback was given in regard to the usefulness of the project deliverables and results for other stakeholders that might want to replicate the action, 5/6 somewhat agree with this thought and only 1/6 totally agree.
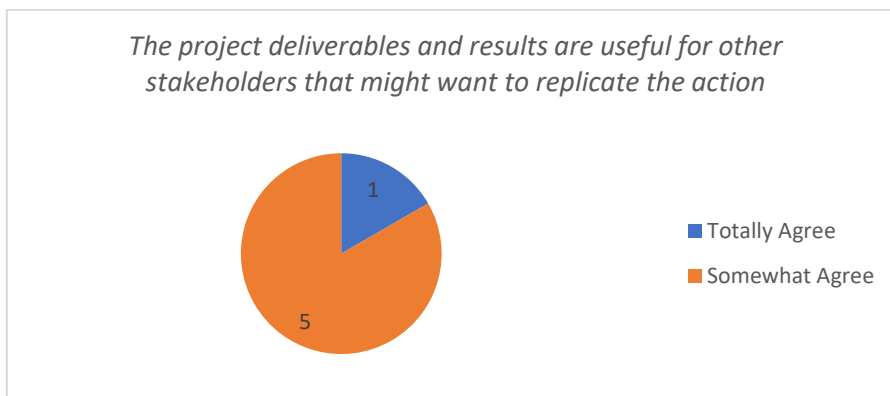

Figure 29 – "The project deliverables and results are useful for other stakeholders that might want to replicate the action"

Finally, about the last statement "Dissemination and Sustainability goals are well-defined and partners are making efforts to reach the pre-determined goals", 3/6 partners somewhat agree and 3/6 totally agree.

Figure 30 – "Dissemination and Sustainability goals are well-defined and partners are making efforts to reach the pre-determined goals"

Apropos of suggestions for improvements and other feedback, partners referred that the project's website should be translated in all partner languages in order to reach a broader audience in each country. Besides this, partners agree that the dissemination activities are well implemented.

Developmental Questions

Besides the multiple-choice grid sections, also a section with developmental questions was inserted in the survey.

The first one intended to ask partners what was their general impression about the development of the project during its first year. Overall, partners think that the partnership has been doing a good job, despite of slight delays registered throughout IO1. The respondents stressed the importance of all partners fulfilling their tasks, the presence of all members at online meetings, and the constant exchange of feedback.

The second question asked what challenges have partners faced during the first year of the project implementation. Issues as online work (and consequently lack of f2f meetings), and the delays registered during IO1 were mentioned as the most difficult challenges faced by partners.

Then, respondents were asked about what aspects could be improved from now on. Once again, the face-to-face meetings were referred as key tools for improving the workflow and the collaboration of the Consortium. They also stated that the communication and work-tracking needed to overpass the difficulties felt during IO1 are already being put in practice.

Last but not least, partners were asked about what aspects they would refer as being great in the project. The willingness of the team to achieve the target of the project, to leave an impact

in the society and help as many people as we can were stressed out. Also, the dissemination work was congratulated.

Conclusion

From the results of this survey, it is factual that the partners are generally happy or partially happy with the overall progress of the project, its organization, the involvement of the whole team, the communication between everyone, and the commitment to deadlines. The difficulties brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic (which revolutionized the way work is done on a daily basis) affected the meeting of some deadlines and made the ergonomics of the tasks more difficult. Even so, the partnership managed to complete the tasks planned for this phase successfully.

Regarding Management and Coordination, the partners are aware that all tasks and activities relevant to this phase have been accomplished; they are satisfied with the online storage mechanism (Google Drive), which enables good organization of the project; they agree or tend to agree that there are frequent and effective online meetings and email exchanges, enabling good communication within the team; they are satisfied with the coordination and its efforts to maintain good cohesion and workflow; and, finally, they emphasize the good atmosphere within the partnership.

Regarding content and results, the partners agree that the goals and deliverables expected at this stage of the project have been achieved, and that the adjustments made to the work plan were reasonable and necessary in order to match the expected results. Furthermore, the partners tend to agree that the results obtained are meeting most of the partners' expectations, as a result of the significant progress that the project has been making.

As far as dissemination and sustainability is concerned, the partners are generally satisfied with the efforts made in this regard and with the devices used for dissemination purposes (website, social networks, etc.), with only one caveat that the website could be translated into all the languages of the partnership in order to increase its potential in each of the partner countries. Overall, the team believes that the project has the potential to be explored and replicated after its implementation time.

The balance of the first year of work of The Missing Entrepreneurs partnership is, according to the results of this survey, positive. It is true that some points for improvement were pointed out, such as the slight delays during IO1 and the communication difficulties felt at some moments,

but, in the end, the partners are happy with the development of the project, its coordination, its results, its dissemination efforts, and with the team as a whole.