



Fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (IP4)

Bucharest, Romania, 29 August – 2 September 2022

Nairobi, Kenya, 27 February – 3 March 2023*

Survey on Emerging Policy Issues and Other Issues of Concern

Note by the secretariat

1. The annex to the present note contains the document entitled “*Survey on Emerging Policy Issues and Other Issues of Concern - Summary*”. The document presented in the annex has been submitted by the SAICM Secretariat. It provides a summary of responses to the 2022 survey on the ongoing work on emerging policy issues and other issues of concern, received from over 60 SAICM stakeholders. The annex has not been formally edited.

* The fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (IP4) was held from 29 August to 2 September 2022 in Bucharest, Romania. The meeting was adjourned on 2 September 2022 and will be resumed from 27 February to 3 March 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Annex*:

Survey on Emerging Policy Issues and Other Issues of Concern

Summary

* The annex has not been formally edited.

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Executive Summary

The present report provides a summary of responses received from over 60 SAICM stakeholders on the ongoing work on emerging policy issues and other issues of concern.

The findings indicate that SAICM stakeholders have undertaken several activities in relation to all eight Emerging Policy Issues (EPIs) and other Issues of Concern (IoC), with a particular focus on awareness raising and information dissemination activities. The responses also suggest that there is a willingness to continue the work on all the EPIs and IoC. Almost 75% of respondents would like to continue work on chemicals in products, 65% on highly hazardous pesticides, and over half on hazardous substance within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products, lead in paint, perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives, endocrine-disrupting chemicals, and environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants. While only about 40% of respondents expressed interest in the further work on nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials, this actually shows a significant new interest, as less than 20% of respondents indicated that they have been working in this area. In addition, the responses highlight a number of possible further multistakeholder activities with a proposed focus on information, awareness raising and scientific and technical capacity building activities, as well as with a particular reference to the work on lead in paint.

In relation to the SAICM Communities of Practice (CoPs), the findings show that a significant part of survey respondents have been involved in the work of various CoPs and there is interest in an increased involvement in these activities, including the suggestion on establishing new CoPs (e.g. on environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants). Over 80% of respondents would like to take part in the future in the work of the CoP on chemicals in products and almost 70% in CoP on chemicals and SDGs. About a half of respondents would like to participate in CoPs on highly hazardous pesticides and lead in paint.

The findings of the survey may be used to inform the discussions on EPIs and IoC under the Intersessional Process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 and the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5). The findings will also inform the discussions on the future of SAICM CoPs.

The SAICM Secretariat wishes to thank all SAICM stakeholders who contributed to the survey, sharing information on their activities, and making valuable suggestions on the possible future work on EPIs, IoC and CoPs.

1. Introduction

One of the functions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) as identified in the [SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy \(paragraph 24.j\)](#) is to call for appropriate action on emerging policy issues as they arise and to forge consensus on priorities for cooperative action.

So far resolutions have been adopted on the following eight emerging policy issues and other issues of concern at ICCM2, ICCM3 and ICCM4:

- [Lead in paint](#)
- [Chemicals in products](#)
- [Hazardous substance within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products](#)
- [Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials](#)
- [Endocrine-disrupting chemicals](#)
- [Environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants](#)
- [Perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives](#)
- [Highly hazardous pesticides](#)

The resolutions adopted recognize the policy imperatives to address identified concerns, agree on the actions needed and request specific stakeholders to consider undertaking certain actions.

More information on emerging policy issues and issues of concern can be found at the SAICM website: [Emerging Policy Issues \(saicm.org\)](#).

The purpose of the Survey on Emerging Policy Issues (EPIs) and Other Issues of Concern (IoC) was:

- To gather information about the ongoing work of stakeholders of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) on emerging policy issues and other issues of concern at local, national, sub-regional, regional or global level, and
- To better understand the needs in relation to information exchange on emerging policy issues and issues of concern.

This survey addresses output (f) of the proposed activities for the period 2021 to 2023 under the Programme of Work and Budget for the period 2021-2023 for the Secretariat of the Strategic Approach, [SAICM/ICCM.5/Bureau.TC.11/4](#).

In addition, the survey also addresses SAICM's four Communities of Practice established under the SAICM Global Environmental Facility (GEF) project 9771 on Global Best Practices on Emerging Policy Issues of Concern. CoPs are voluntary networks composed of members with expertise and interest in specific thematic areas that regularly exchange and discuss their knowledge and experiences.

The four Communities of Practices established in 2020 include:

- Highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs)
- Chemicals in products (CiP)
- Lead in paint (LiP)
- Chemicals and the sustainable development goals (CSDG)

The CoPs aim to provide a space for interactive discussions and exchange of best practices on the sound management of chemicals and waste among SAICM stakeholders, which includes governments, industry, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, academia, consumers and citizens.

More information on the CoPs can be found at the SAICM website: [Communities of practice | SAICM Knowledge](#).

This summary presents key highlights of the responses received but does not intend to provide a comprehensive and detailed analysis of all the information received.

The survey should not be considered as reporting to the International Conference on Chemicals Management on implementation of SAICM under the Overarching Policy Strategy.

In line with paragraph 5 of Section I (Introduction) of the International Conference on Chemicals Management Resolution IV/2: Emerging policy issues, the lead agencies of the [Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals](#), Governments, and other relevant stakeholders have been requested to report through the secretariat on progress in the implementation of Conference resolutions on emerging policy issues to the Open-ended Working Group, and the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session.

2. Methodology

The survey was composed of 31 questions; 8 of which were tick boxes multiple answer questions¹ and 23 of which were open-ended questions. *Q2, Q5 and Q7 to Q12* of the survey provided information on the respondent's professional background. **Annex 1** to this summary contains the full text of the survey.

The survey was sent via e-mail to all SAICM Focal Points and other stakeholders on 14 July 2022 with a deadline for completion of 12 August 2022 and extended to 2 September 2022. The survey was completed electronically, via the online form (MS Forms) that can be found at [dedicated SAICM webpage on Emerging Policy Issues \(saicm.org\)](#). The SAICM Secretariat also distributed the survey during the [Fourth meeting of the international process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 \(IP4\)](#) and referred to it during the [Chemicals and Waste Briefing](#) organized by the United Nations Environment Programme on 13 September 2022. One additional submission, received on 2 November 2022, is also included in this summary.

In total, 61 submissions were submitted from governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, private sector, academia and other stakeholders.

The following **governments** submitted responses to the survey: Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Colombia (2 submissions), Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Germany, Guyana, Iraq, Hungary, Kuwait, Lesotho (2 submissions), Maldives, Mexico (2 submissions), Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Poland, Spain, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Yemen.

The following **intergovernmental organizations (IGOs)** submitted responses to the survey: Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

The following **non-governmental organizations (NGOs)** submitted responses to the survey: Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment (AWHHE), Center for Public Health and Environmental Development (CEPHED), Centre de Recherche et d'Education pour le Developpement (CREPD) (2 submissions), Ecological Restorations, EcoLur Informational NGO, Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development, German NGO Forum on Environment and Development, Global Alliance on Health and Pollution (GAHP), Health and Environment Justice Support (HEJSupport), Health Care Without Harm, Institute of Sustainable Development (ISD), IndyACT – Lebanon (League of Independent Activists), International Society of Doctors for the Environment (ISDE), Nexus3 Foundation, NGO Angel, NGO "FAaN", ONG La Grande Puissance de Dieu, Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Africa, Ruzgar ecological society, Shenzhen Zero Waste, Toxic Action network Central Asia TAN CA and Toxics Link.

¹ If a question allowed to select multiple answers, the number of responses may be bigger than the number of submissions.

The following **private sector/industry** respondents submitted responses to the survey: Hyundai/European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA)² and the International Chemical Trade Association (ICTA)³.

The following **academia** respondents submitted responses to the survey: Academy of Science Institute of Radiation Problems and University of Cape Town.

One response came from Joint Action from Water organisation, that has not identified itself as belonging to any categories above but as a campaigner and has been classified under “**Other**” category.

3. Summary of findings

3.1 Participation in the survey

The respondents to the survey came from all five United Nations regional groups (*Q1*)⁴ i.e., Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC) and Western Europe and others. **Figure 1** presents the geographical distribution of the respondents. To note that 5 respondents i.e., 8% of the total number of responses selected “Global” category in their feedback.

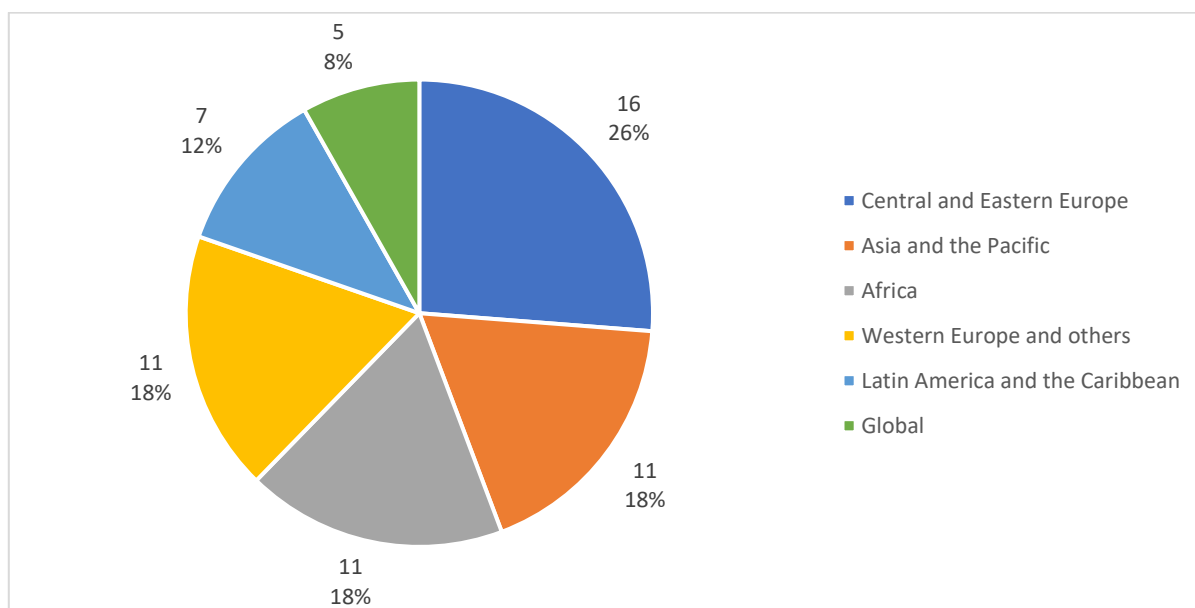


Figure 1. Geographical distribution of the respondents. Total of submissions and respective percentage share (Ref. *Q1*).

An overwhelming majority of survey responses came from two types of respondents i.e., governments and NGOs (*Q3*), as seen in **Figure 2**. To note that one respondent chose “Other” category and described himself as a campaigner.

Almost half of the respondents i.e., 43% of the total number of responses identified themselves as representatives of a stakeholder group (*Q4*). Others selected “individual” as their representation type.

² The European Automobile Manufacturers' Association, or ACEA, unites Europe's 16 major car, truck, van and bus makers ([ACEA members - ACEA - European Automobile Manufacturers' Association](#)).

³ ICTA was established in 2016 to represent the interests of over 1300 chemical distributors world-wide.

⁴ The letter “Q” refers to “question” in the survey; the number refers to the respective question number in the survey.

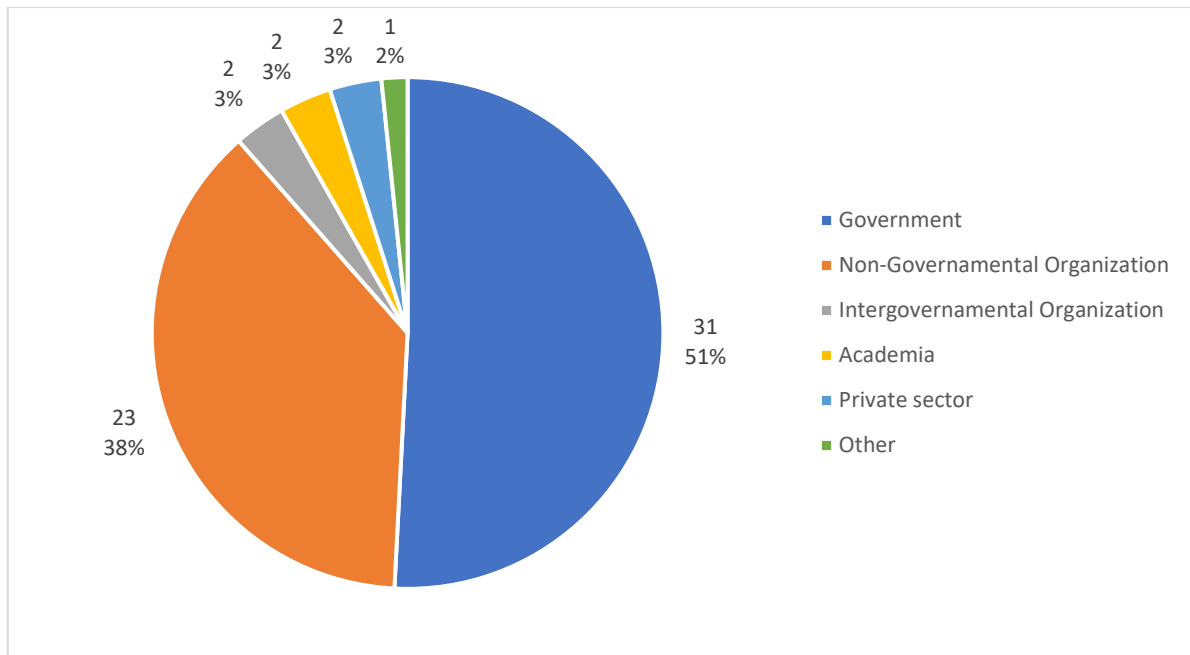


Figure 2. Stakeholder distribution based on the submissions of responses to the survey: Total of submissions and percentage share (Ref. Q3)

In response to the question on the main sectors of involvement of the respondent's organisation (Q6) as seen in **Figure 3** the overwhelming majority selected the environment, followed by health and agriculture. This was followed by gender and industry/private sector, and research/academia and youth, as the main sectors of involvement.

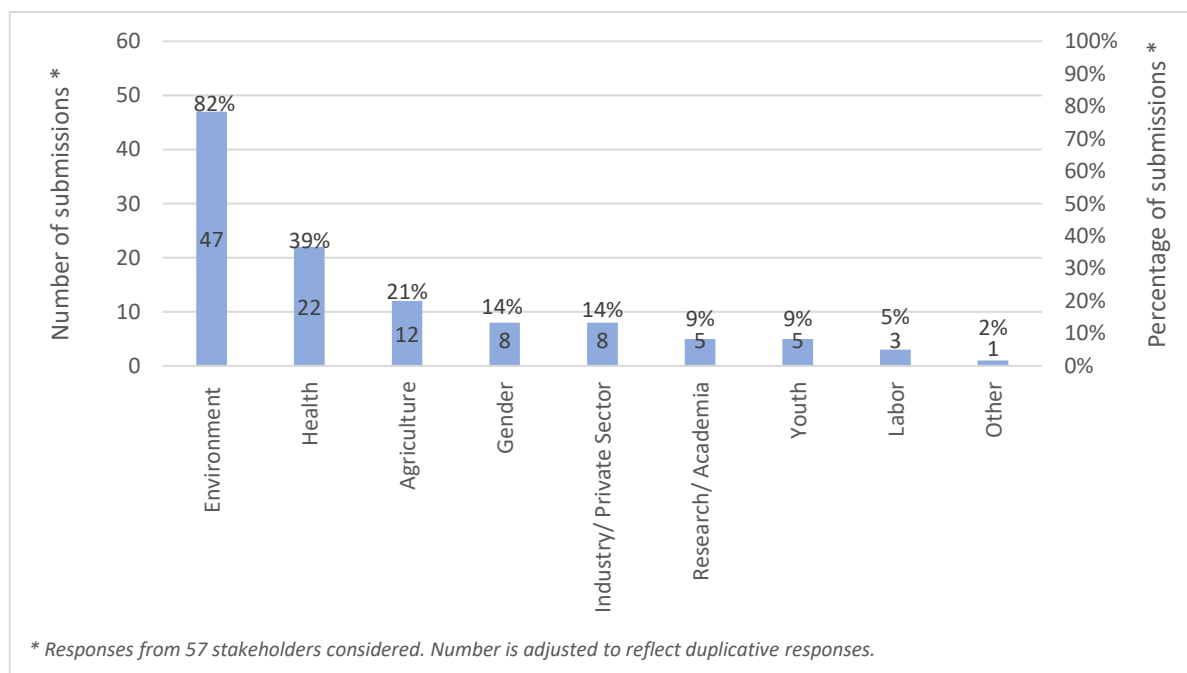


Figure 3. Sectoral distribution of respondents to the survey (Ref. Q6).

3.2 Work on emerging policy issues and other issues of concern

3.2.1 Past, ongoing, and possible future interest(s) in the work on emerging policy issues and issues of concern

The survey included a number of questions on past, ongoing and possible future interest in the work on the emerging policy issues and issues of concern. **Figure 4** shows that the respondents are mainly involved in chemicals in products followed by highly hazardous pesticides, hazardous substances with the life cycle of electrical and electronic products, lead in paint and perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives (*Q13*). Less than a half of the respondents have worked on endocrine-disrupting chemicals and environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants. Less than one fifth of the respondents have worked on nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials.

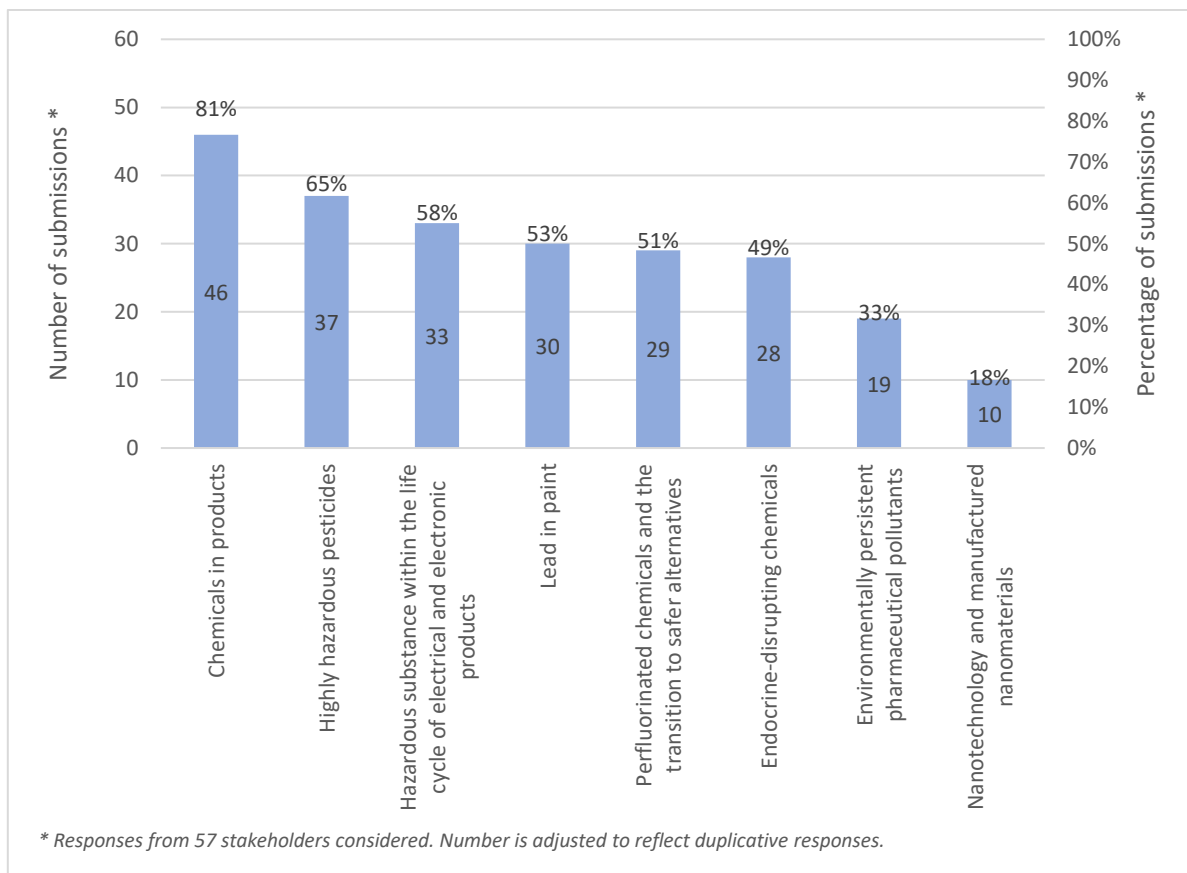


Figure 4. Involvement of respondents to the survey in the work on various emerging policy issues and other issues of concern (Ref. *Q13*).

Figure 5 presents the further interest in working on or further involvement in emerging policy issues and other issues of concern (*Q21*) both in quantitative submissions and its percentage. This could, in general, be interpreted that there is a continued interest(s) in working on emerging policy issues and other issues of concern.

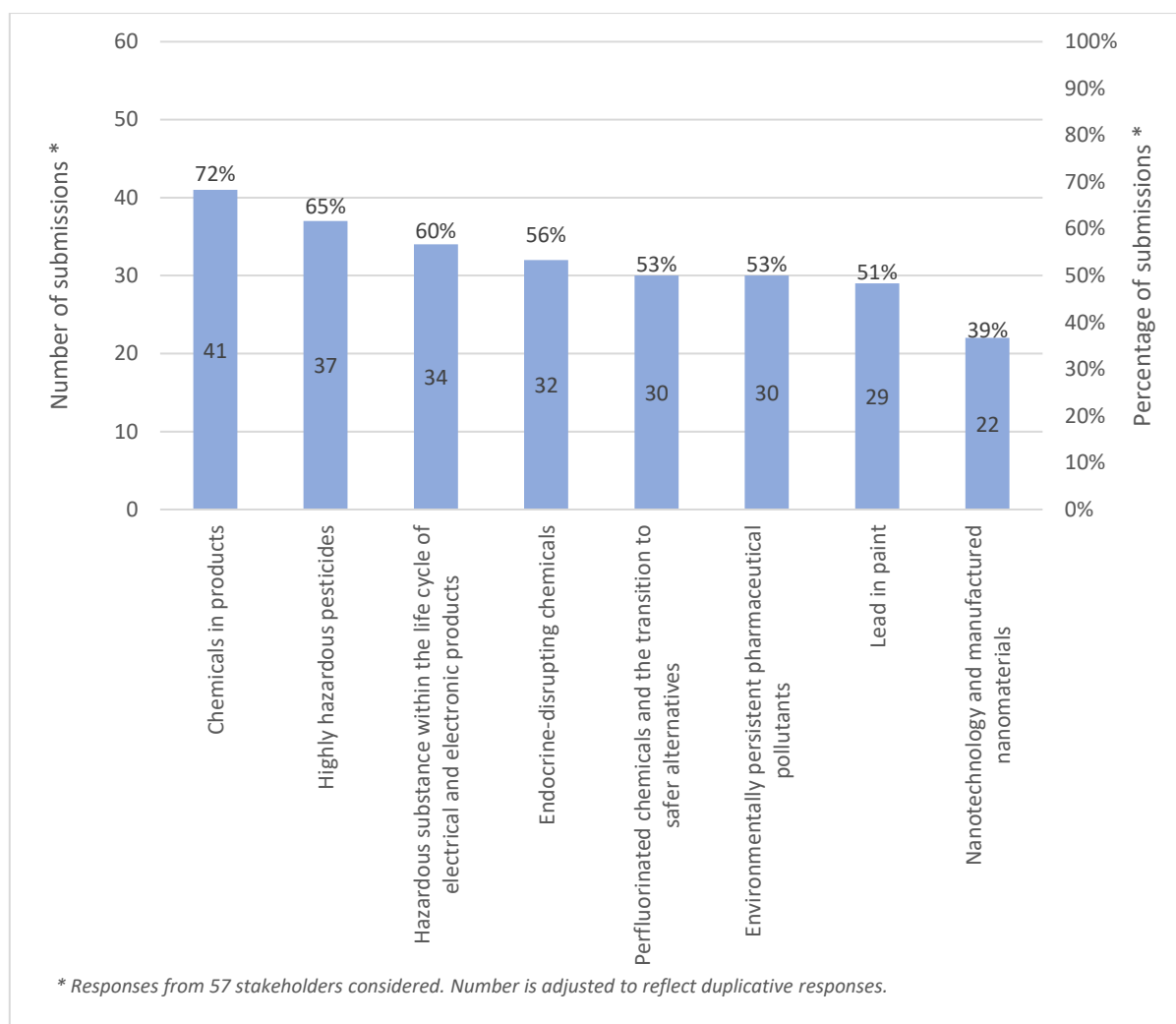


Figure 5. Further interest in working on or further involvement in emerging policy issues and other issues of concern (Ref. *Q21*)

It could be also observed that there might be a growing interest in undertaking further work on environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants (53% would be interested in further work or further involvement, while 33% of respondents reported already working on this issue) or nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials (39% vs. 18%).

Highly hazardous pesticides and hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products maintain the same level of interest for both current and future work. Minor modifications are seen between current and further interest(s) in the rest of emerging policy issues and other issues of concern.

Figure 6 presents the comparison of feedback provided to the two questions on the past, ongoing and possible further interest(s) in the emerging policy issues and other issues of concern and shows the evolution of interest in respect to different emerging policy issues and issues of concern (*Q13* and *Q21*).

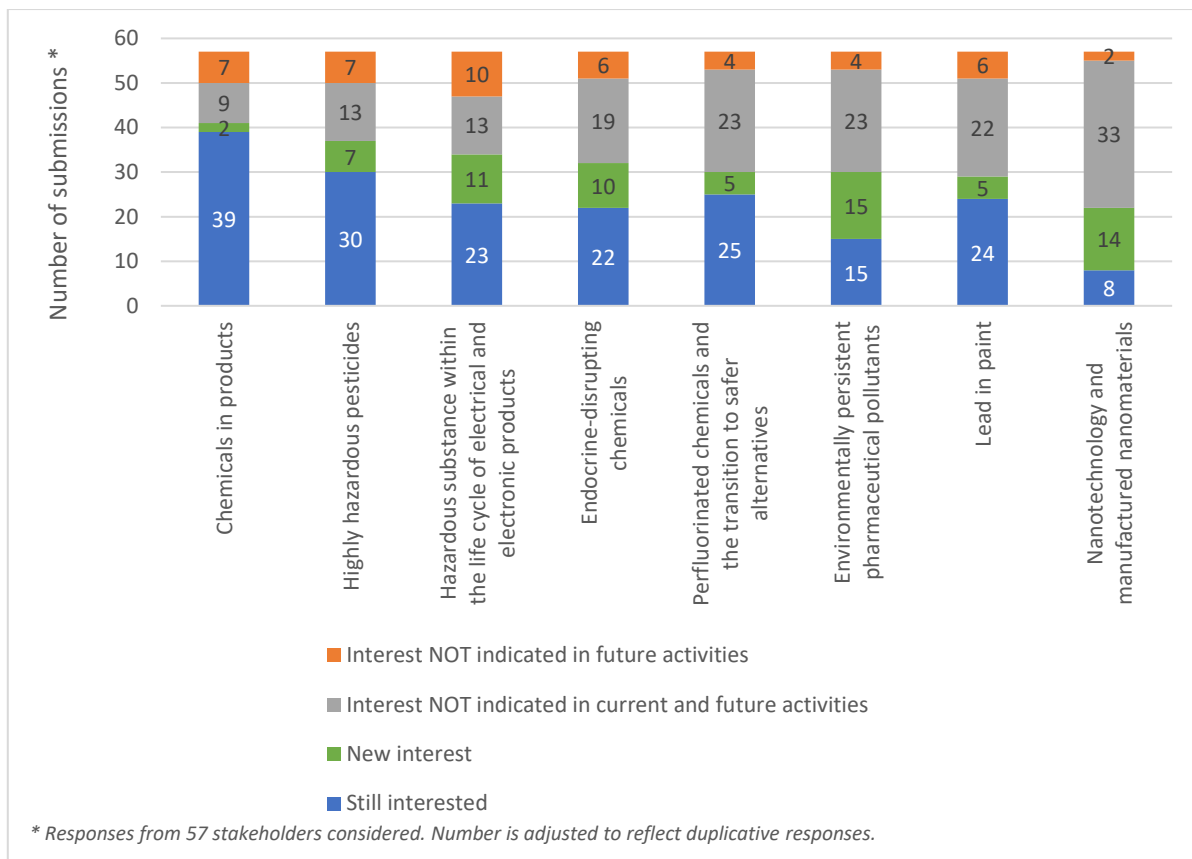


Figure 6. Evolution of interest in emerging policy issues and other issues of concern (Ref. *Q13* and *Q21*).

A majority of respondents continue to have interest or expressed new interest in the work on chemicals in products, highly hazardous pesticides, hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products and endocrine disrupting chemicals. Almost half of the respondents are interested in the continuation of work or showed new interests in the work on perfluorinated chemicals and environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants and lead in paint. There is a significant new interest in nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials (indicated by 14 stakeholders, i.e., almost 25% of respondents).

Figures 7 to 14 provide further information on the evolution of interest in respect to each of the emerging policy issue and other issue of concern, starting from chemicals in products and followed by endocrine-disrupting chemicals, environmental persistent pharmaceutical pollutants, hazardous substance within the life-cycle of electrical and electronic products, highly hazardous pesticides, lead in paint, perfluorinated chemicals and nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials.

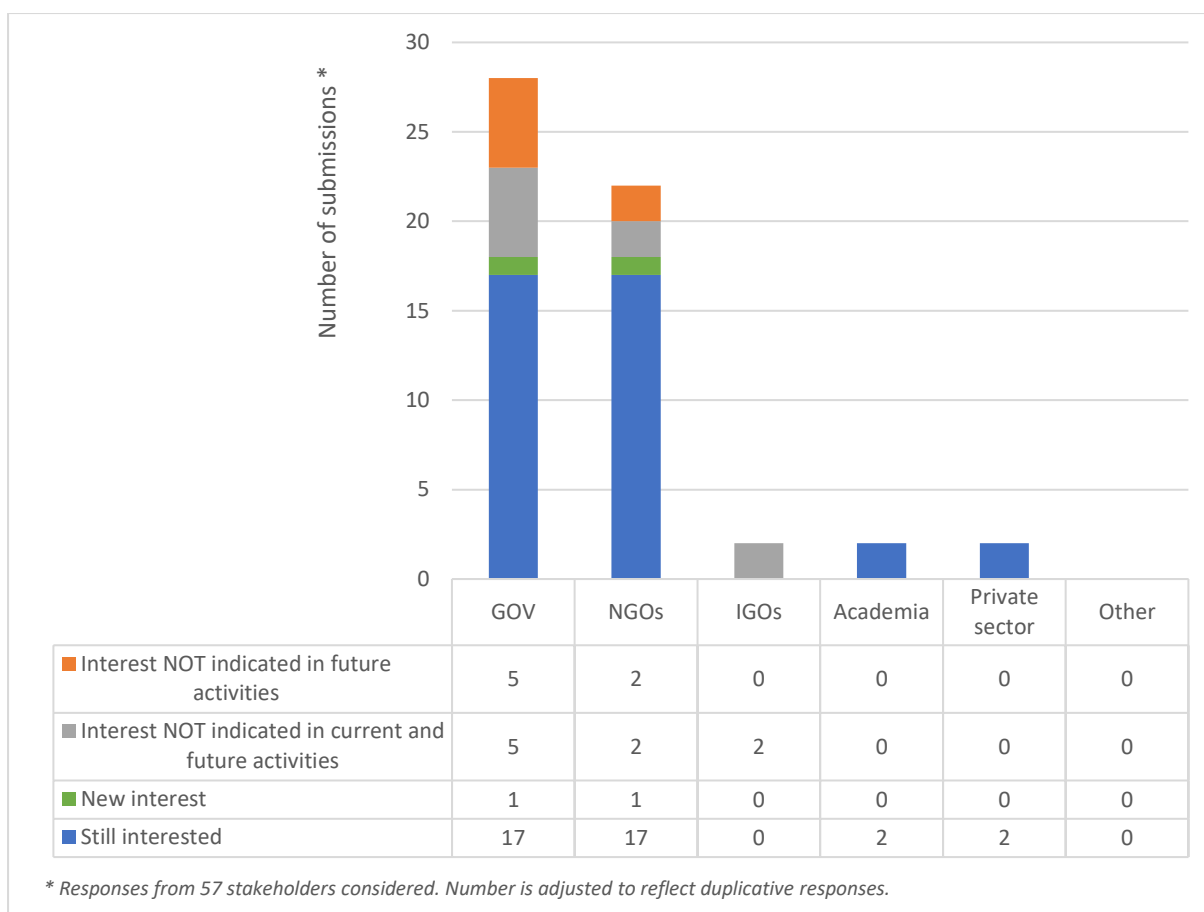


Figure 7. Evolution of interest in the work on chemicals in products by representation type (Ref. *Q13* and *Q21*).

Figure 7 shows that respondents from governments, NGOs, academia and the private sector continue to have interest in the current work on chemicals in products while a relatively small number of new interest from governments and NGOs was reported (*Q13* and *Q21*).

Submissions from the private sectors show an interest in continuing working on chemicals in products as well as other emerging policy issues presented below i.e., endocrine-disrupting chemicals and perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives. This could indicate an interest in moving away from a chemical-by-chemical approach to a more holistic integrated approach to chemicals and waste management. While respondents to the survey from the private sector have a high number of members within their associations, this assumption is not conclusive as a limited number of submissions was received from this sector.

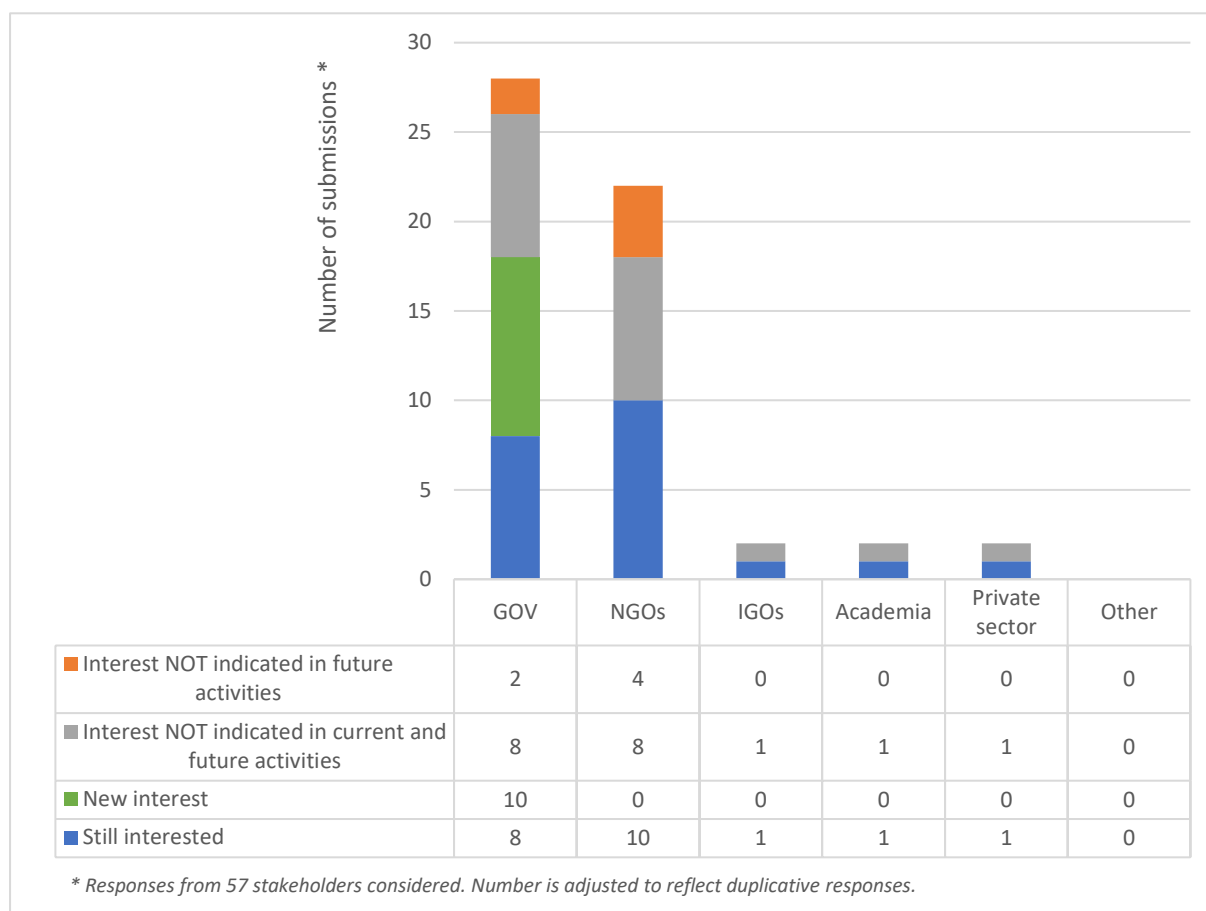


Figure 8. Evolution of interest in the work on endocrine-disrupting chemicals by representation type (Ref. *Q13* and *Q21*).

Figure 8 shows that several respondents from governments expressed new interest(s) in the work on endocrine-disrupting chemicals *vis-à-vis* the current work on this emerging policy issue (*Q13* and *Q21*). The majority of NGOs are still interested in continuing the work currently done on this emerging policy issue. Submissions from IGOs, academia and the private sectors also showed interest in continuing the work currently done in relation to endocrine-disrupting chemicals.

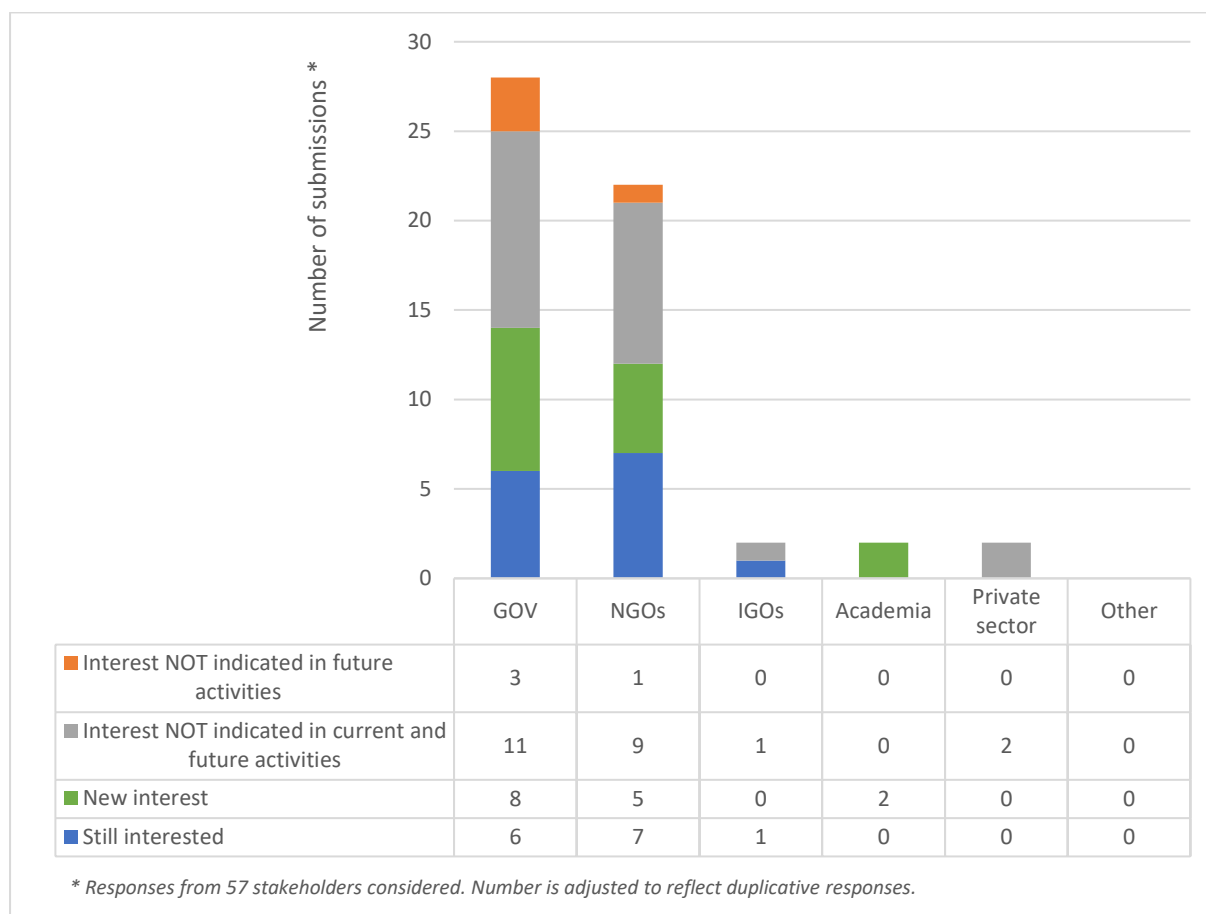


Figure 9. Evolution of interest in the work on environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants by representation type (Ref. *Q13* and *Q21*).

Figure 9 shows that respondents from governments, NGOs and academia expressed new interest in the work on environmentally persistent pharmaceuticals while at the same time willing to continue working on this emerging policy issue. The private sector did not indicated interest in current and future activities in this emerging policy issue (*Q13* and *Q21*).

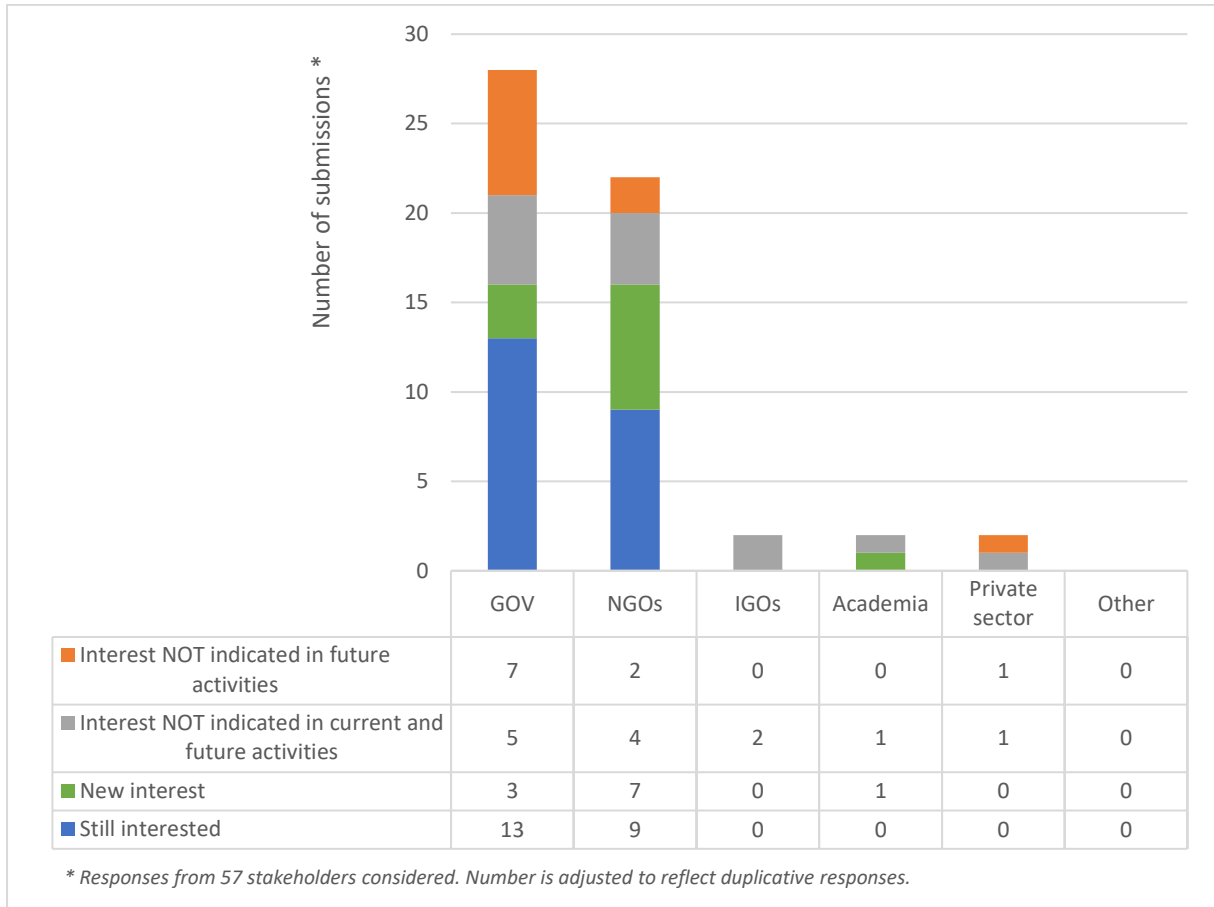


Figure 10. Evolution of interest in the work on hazardous substance within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products by representation type (Ref. *Q13* and *Q21*).

Figure 10 shows that respondents from governments, NGOs and academia expressed new interest(s) in the work on hazardous substances within the life of electrical and electronic products while willing to continue working on this emerging policy issue. There was particularly visible new interest(s) from NGOs to address the work done in relation to this emerging policy issue. In relation to IGOs, interest was not indicated on current and future activities in relation to the work on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products. However, a limited number of submissions was received from this sector (*Q13* and *Q21*).

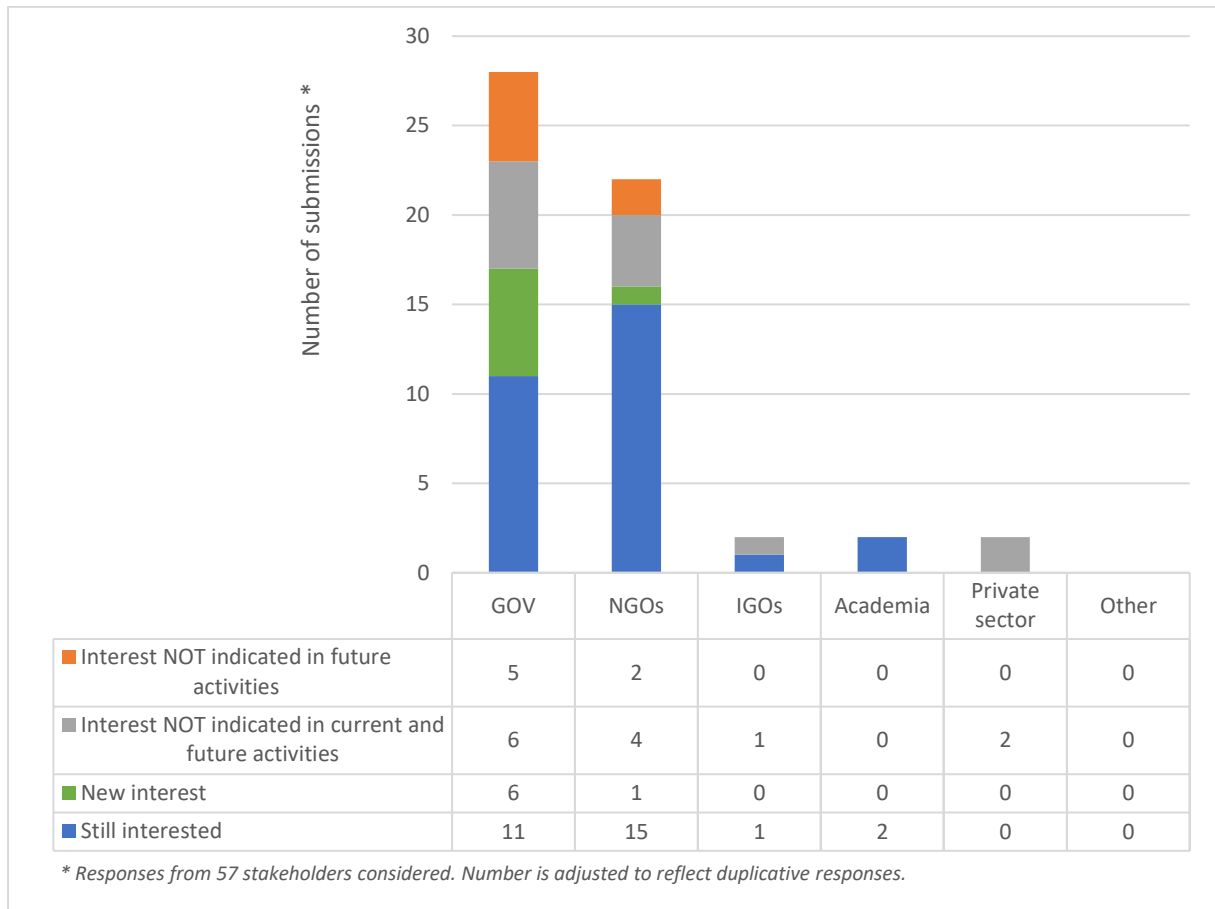


Figure 11. Evolution of interest in the work on highly hazardous pesticides by representation type (Ref. *Q13* and *Q21*).

Figure 11 shows that respondents from governments and NGOs expressed new interest in the work on highly hazardous pesticides, and that they would prefer to continue the current work on this emerging policy issue. No new interest was reported from other stakeholder groups (*Q13* and *Q21*).

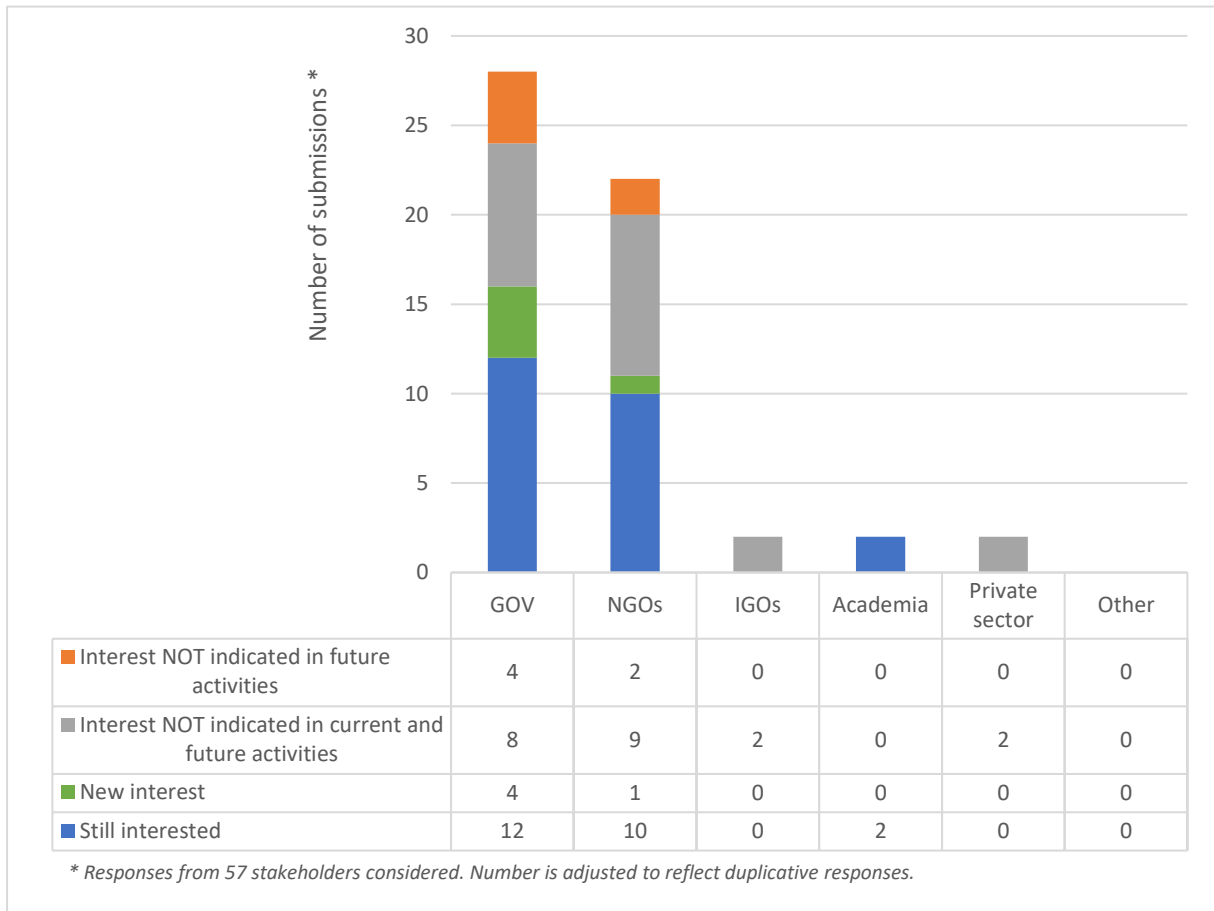


Figure 12. Evolution of interest in the work on lead in paint by representation type (Ref. *Q13* and *Q21*).

Figure 12 shows that respondents from governments, NGOs and academia are still interested in continuing the work on lead in paint. No interest in current and future activities was indicated by IGOs and the private sector. However, a limited number of submissions was received from these sectors (*Q13* and *Q21*).

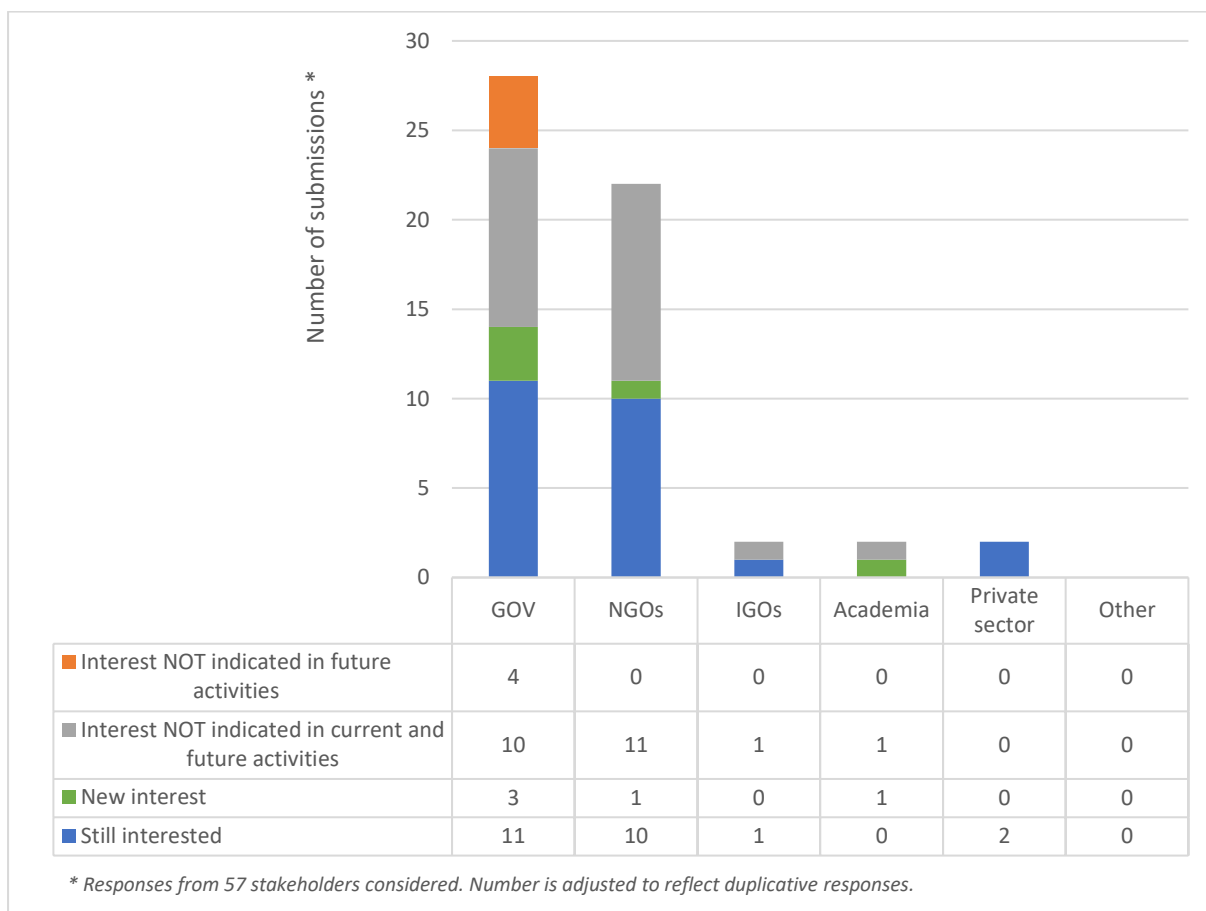


Figure 13. Evolution of interest in the work on perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives by representation type (Ref. *Q13* and *Q21*).

Figure 13 shows that respondents from governments, NGOs, IGOs and the private sector are still interested in continuing the work on perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives (*Q13* and *Q21*).

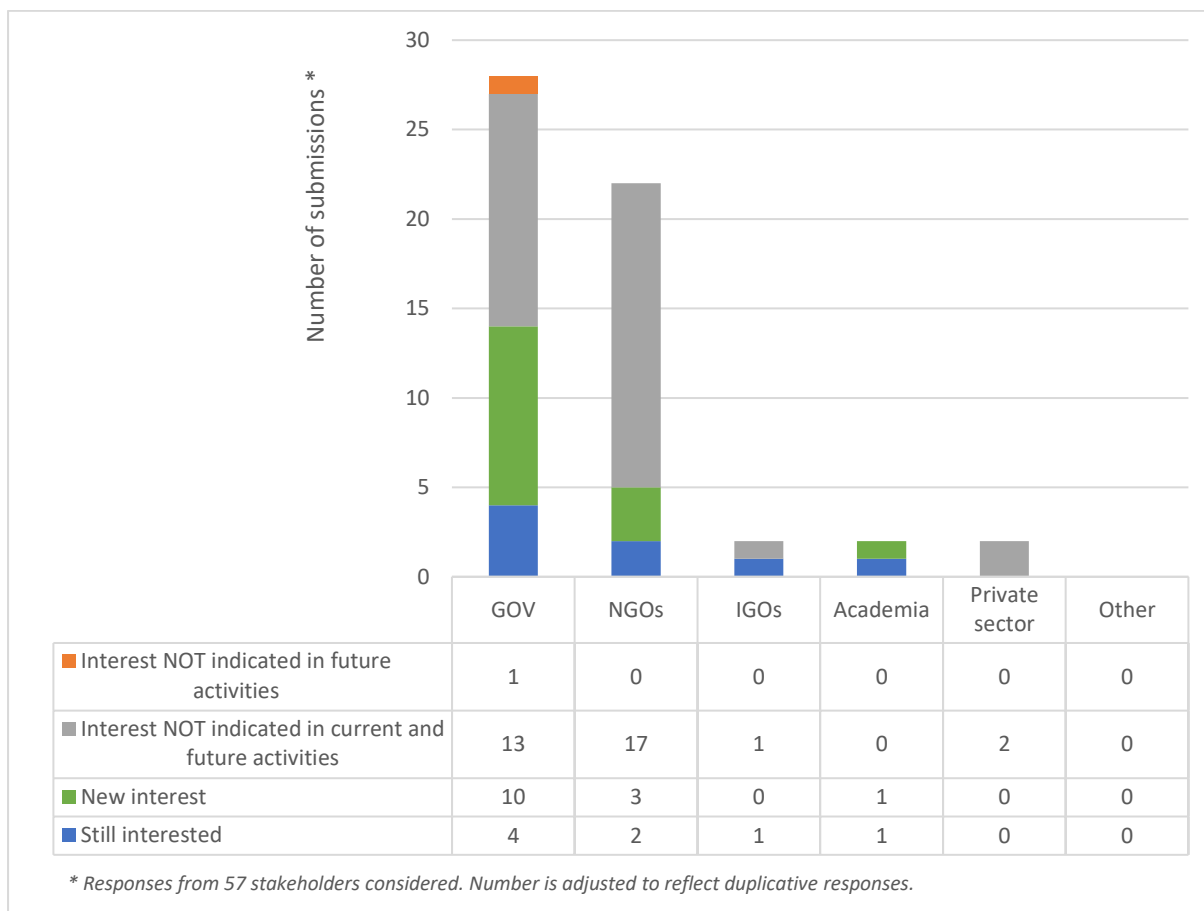


Figure 14. Evolution of interest in the work on nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials by representation type (Ref. *Q13* and *Q21*).

Figure 14 shows that respondents from governments, NGOs and academia indicated a remarkable level of new interest in the work on nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials (*Q13* and *Q21*).

The analysis of the feedback shows that some EPIs and other IoC could be considered as gaining more importance across stakeholders e.g., environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants or nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials, and, specifically for governments, endocrine-disrupting chemicals. The survey is complemented with some additional insights on the interest both in the current and future work on emerging policy issues and other issues of concern. Particularly when referring to the activities undertaken in relation to the current work on emerging policy issues and the kind of action stakeholders would envisage for further work. These additional insights coming from stakeholders' submission are presented in the next section.

3.2.2 Collaboration on emerging policy issues and other issues of concern

Responses to the survey show an existing collaboration on the emerging policy issues and other issues of concern between many stakeholders from the government, IGOs and non-governmental sector, as well from industry/private sector and academia.

Respondents to the survey specified different partners and/or stakeholders that they have been working with on the emerging policy issues and other issues of concern (*Q14* to *Q20*).

Some respondents pointed out that further efforts might be needed to ensure appropriate coordination of the work and exchange of information at various levels. The very few responses on the on-going cooperation with media and social networks should be noted in this regard.

In relation to governmental stakeholders, most responses indicated throughout the submissions to the survey included, in descending order, the ministries responsible for health (more than a half of the total number of respondents), environment (27), agriculture (19), industry/trade (18) and labour (11). Cooperation with the environmental and other agencies, including enforcement bodies, was also cited often (17 responses). It should be noted that the majority of the responses to the survey came from representatives from the ministries of environment.

Some government responses indicated limited cooperation with IGOs on emerging policy issues and other issues of concern. There is no conclusive explanation on this issue to be possibly extracted from the responses to the survey. This could be linked to internal coordination mechanisms in place, misinterpretation of the term “IGO” under the survey responses but could also suggest that more active information sharing from IGOs on their work on emerging policy issues and on the issues of concern might be needed.

With regard to IGOs, the respondents have indicated cooperation with all nine participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) on the emerging policy issues and other issues of concern. Co-operation with UNEP was quoted by 16 stakeholders, WHO by 13, UNDP by 10, OECD by 6 and UNITAR by 5. A broader exchange of information and collaboration with additional IGOs stakeholders, such as UNICEF, could be considered.

In case of non-governmental respondents, they usually indicated cooperation on emerging policy issues and other issues of concern with ministries responsible for environment and health.

Several non-governmental respondents mentioned collaboration with UNICEF, while this organisation has not been indicated in any governmental feedback. Some other stakeholders indicated Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), such as the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, or regional cooperation mechanisms, such as the European Union or Mercosur frameworks.

Stakeholders pointed out that they cooperate on the emerging policy issues and other issues of concern with NGOs at both national (29 responses) and international levels (23 responses, e.g., cooperation with organisations like IPEN or PAN).

Respondents from private/industry sector underlined cooperation with industrial/agrochemical associations (21 responses), individual companies (19 responses), chambers of commerce (9 responses) and to a lesser extent with other stakeholder groups like recyclers/waste collectors (7 responses), trade unions (5 responses) or farmers (4 responses).

A significant number of stakeholders provided information on cooperation with universities (34 responses) and other research centres or public institutes, including poison centres (20 responses). However, there were only few responses on cooperation with media and social networks (2).

Q20 and Q22, requested to identify specific activities undertaken in relation to emerging policy issues and other issues of concern and the type of action that different types of stakeholders would envisage to take based on their interest(s), respectively.

Stakeholders have identified a broad range of activities undertaken in relation to the emerging policy issues and other issues of concern and that have focused on research, information exchange and dissemination, best practices identification, financing, awareness raising, capacity building and implementation activities.

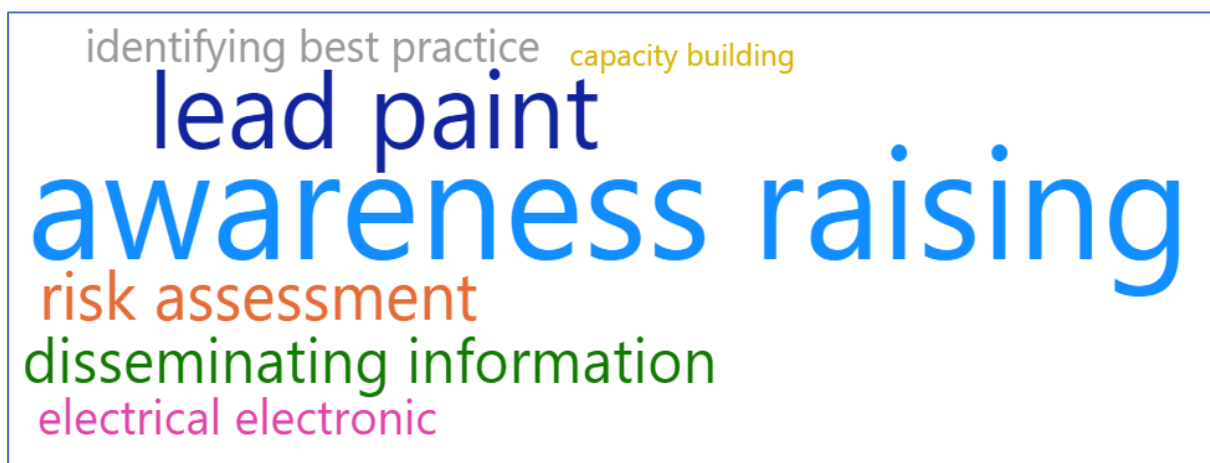
The following examples of activities undertaken in relation to the emerging policy issues and other issues of concern (**Q20**) were identified and grouped by the SAICM secretariat:

- **Activities in relation to information gathering, dissemination and exchange, awareness raising, education and capacity building:**
 - **new legislation, regulations, national programmes and policies**, as well as **public consultations** of new legislation and regulations, as well as those subject to revision, e.g., “national consultations on mandatory labelling for chemicals in consumer products”,
 - **advocacy** (including policy advocacy) and **lobbying** activities,
 - **identification, development and provision of guidance** on best practices, alternatives, products, safety data sheets, safety assessment, risk assessment or risk management,
 - **collecting information on chemicals**, e.g., on PFAS,
 - **sharing and disseminating information on chemicals** and their **impact** on human health (including vulnerable groups) and the environment, using various publication types (e.g., peer reviewed articles, policy briefs, newsletters), clearing house mechanisms, social media, websites, communities of practice, promotional material and presentations at events (workshops/seminars/conferences), databases and other available tools,
 - **multisectoral dialogues and consultations** with governmental and non-governmental experts to gather information and **support informed policy making**, e.g., “a policy lab to collaborate with various stakeholders to discuss challenges and develop solutions to issues surrounding topics such as information sharing, intellectual property, and digital transformation in relation to chemicals in consumer products”,
 - **public-private initiatives to collaborate and exchange information**, e.g. “the Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) Working Group”,
 - **outreach** to the industry sector, e.g., via surveys on the composition of their products, like paints,
 - **innovative solutions**, e.g., “using blockchain technology to support supply chain communication”,
 - **awareness raising events** on chemicals, e.g., “national campaigns on toys and cosmetic standards”,
 - **training and assistance**, e.g., on “identification of HHPs and developing risk reduction plans”.
- **Activities in relation to research:**
 - **undertaking and participation in international scientific research programmes**, e.g., on the assessment of endocrine disrupting chemicals, developing related toxicity test methods or dietary exposure to EDC or research on PFAS,
 - **developing** safer alternatives by industry.
- **Implementation-related activities:**
 - **developing and revising** policy, regulatory and legal **frameworks, developing priorities** for implementation and enforcement, as well as **developing measures** to reduce the impact of pollution by chemicals, e.g., in relation to lead in paints, toys and other products, assessment of persistent, bio-accumulative and toxic (PBT) and very persistent and very bioaccumulative (vPvB) substances in veterinary medicinal products, adoption of GHS, policy options to reduce pharmaceutical pollution, a comprehensive management of electrical and electronic equipment waste, addressing PFAS, transition to safer alternatives or addressing EDCs,
 - **implementation of the applicable legislative and regulatory frameworks** on chemicals, e.g., in the European Union context (“implementation and further development and unification under the EU Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability”⁵),
 - **developing, screening and verification** of available information on chemicals and companies involved in production, import or commercialization, for instance obtained through registration of chemicals,
 - **use of** licensing systems,

⁵ Including but not limited to chemicals in products, hazardous substances in e-products and the implementation of RoSH directive, lead in paint, endocrine disrupting chemicals, perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives.

- **reviewing and updating** guidance and standards, website and inventories,
- **compliance and enforcement** activities,
- seeking for “**solutions regarding e-waste plastic challenge** to enable recycling of e-waste plastics and metals while respecting domestic and international requirements and obligations”,
- **development** of regional strategies on HHPs,
- **building and strengthening capacities** of national institutions and decision-makers responsible or involved in the process of integrated approach for sound management of chemicals in their whole life cycle and implementation of relevant conventions, MEAs and SAICM,
- **identifying priority chemicals** for risk assessment through ongoing prioritization efforts,
- **monitoring** of chemicals,
- **cleaning-up** the contaminated sites,
- **providing guidance and technical assistance to companies**, e.g., to “paint manufacturers to reformulate their paints with non-lead-based pigments”.

Graphic 1 shows the main focused areas and/or ideas that stakeholders included in their responses⁶ (*Q20*).



Graphic 1: Key activities on EPIs and other IoC undertaken by respondents (Ref. *Q20*)

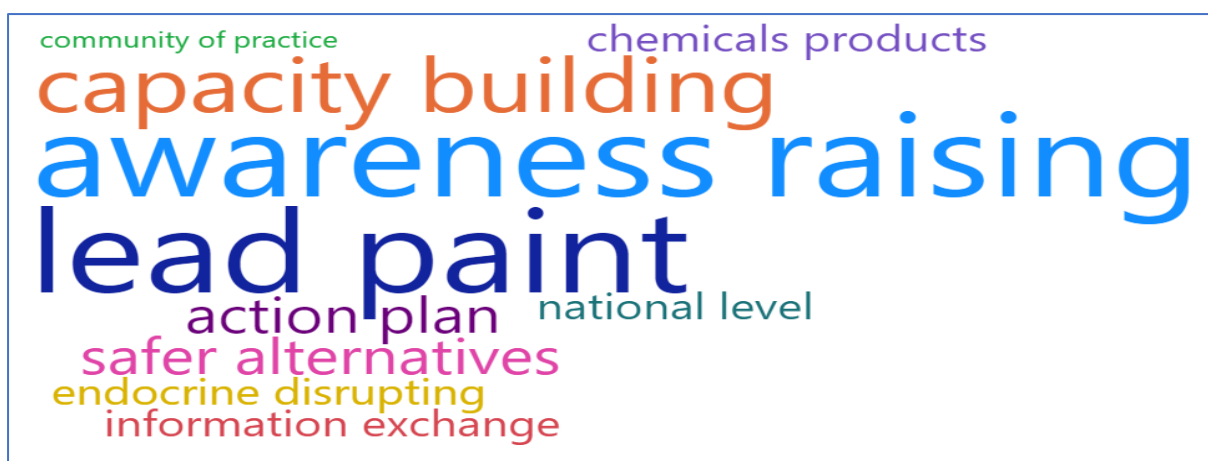
Q22 asked to identify possible actions to be undertaken under the future work on/involvement in the emerging policy issues and other issues of concern. Awareness raising and action taking, or implementation come up in all or most of the responses, followed by knowledge exchange, information dissemination, financing and communication. These actions seem consistent with those already being undertaken.

Other proposals included: new or further research on plastic pollution, intersectionality with gender issues, pollutant content determination, health impacts, alternatives to chemicals, regulation practices, pharmaceutical pollution, procurement of safer chemicals and biomonitoring.

Graphic 2 shows the main kind of actions and/or ideas that stakeholders included in their responses⁷ (*Q22*).

⁶ The size of font corresponds to the frequency of responses.

⁷ The size of font corresponds to the frequency of responses.



Graphic 2: Key activities on EPIs and other IoC envisioned by respondents (Ref. Q22)

SAICM stakeholders, who responded the survey, especially from governments and NGOs, are interested in continuing the work on the emerging policy issues or other issues of concern, with a specific focus on the implementation activities. Financing featured prominently in the answers from the African region stakeholders, while further research, regulatory bans and need for further guidance and information exchange was highlighted in the CEE region responses, especially within the European Union. Feedback from the GRULAC and Asia Pacific regions shared similar views to the issues mentioned above, with further emphasis on the research work needed on the effects of the activities on emerging policy issues and other issues of concern, including the development of a knowledge bank, as well as continued support to awareness-raising.

The following examples, (Q22), are the types of action envisaged for further work in relation to the emerging policy issues and other issues of concern. They have been grouped by the SAICM secretariat:

- **Activities in relation to information gathering, dissemination and exchange, awareness raising, education and capacity building:**
 - continuing the **identification, development and provision of guidance and best practices**,
 - continuing **collecting, sharing and disseminating information on chemicals** and their **impact** on human health and the environment, using various publication types, television, social media, websites, communities of practice, promotional material and presentations at events (workshops/seminars/conferences), databases and other available tools,
 - continuing **advocacy** (incl. policy advocacy) activities,
 - improving **access to information** and increasing **the level of awareness** of consumers and the general public about the risks of chemicals and the need for adequate management of chemicals, e.g., via a continuation of targeted information and education campaigns as well as other awareness-raising activities, while reflecting varying economical, industrial, and agricultural development circumstances,
 - reflecting **chemicals management issues in higher education curriculum**,
 - continuing **multisectoral dialogues and consultations** with governmental and non-governmental experts to gather information and **support informed policy making**, e.g., by establishing partnership of competent authorities with NGOs and consumer associations, as well as ensuring the involvement of relevant governmental stakeholders, academia, industry and the private sector,
 - building **capacity** and promoting further **multisectoral/multistakeholder collaboration, greater transparency and environmental sustainability** in relation to hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products (HSLEEP) and improvements for products management particularly during the end-of-life stages,
 - continuation of **public-private initiatives to collaborate and exchange information**,
 - coordinating the work on **nanomaterials** at international level to minimize **duplication of efforts**,

- facilitating **exchange of testing information** to support model development and identification of risk assessment priorities,
 - facilitating the **exchange of data on toxicity and risk management/regulatory efforts** on lead and moving beyond lead in paint,
 - **on chemicals and products**, using the **SAICM Community of Practice** and the work of relevant international organizations (OECD, WHO), as well as focusing on **consumer awareness** and **producer responsibility**,
 - improve **information sharing at a global level** on perfluorinated chemicals and safe alternatives (i.e., through SAICM, in coordination with other international actors),
 - **awareness raising on hazards and alternatives** in relation to HHPs,
 - considering the establishment of **the SAICM Community of Practice on environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants**,
 - participation in relevant **in-person and virtual meetings**,
 - building **human and technical capacity** of stakeholders,
 - **training and assistance**, e.g., on “the *Sustainable Procurement Index for Health* to incorporate and integrate multiple sustainability topics into procurement practices”.
- **Implementation-related activities:**
 - developing, reviewing, and updating **policy** (e.g., strategies) **legal and regulatory frameworks** on chemical and waste management (e.g., in relation to GHS, pesticides or lead in paint, safer alternatives, creating lists of restricted/permitted chemicals or products, reflecting EPIs and IoC in the revision of regulatory frameworks, reviewing disposal policies) and relevant **standards** (e.g., on Best Available Techniques, BAT, and Best Environmental Practices, BEP),
 - supporting compliance with legal and regulatory frameworks by **providing technical guidance and assistance**,
 - ensuring **enforcement of legal and regulatory frameworks**, assessing the **adequacy of enforcement efforts**, and **adapting** if needed to aim at environmentally sound management,
 - **harmonisation of safety measures** at the global level, including a global harmonization of regulations and policies (e.g. through GHS implementation),
 - undertaking **environmental monitoring** (e.g., in relation to the use of pesticides) and **health surveillance** (e.g., monitoring hazardous chemicals in consumer and food products, adoption of indicators to better reflect health impact),
 - continuing the **strengthening of capacities** of national institutions and decision-makers responsible or involved in the process of integrated approach for sound management of chemicals in their whole life cycle (including from the health sector) and in relation to emerging policy issues and other issues of concern,
 - establishing **multi-sectoral technical committees** at the national level for the sound management of chemicals and hazardous waste,
 - creating **new networks and platforms** of cooperation,
 - IGOs responding to the survey indicated a **continuation of their work** in relation to emerging policy issues and other issues of concern (e.g., preparing and implementing Action Plan on HHPs by FAO, WHO and UNEP),
 - monitoring **activities undertaken in relation to EPIs and other IoC**,
 - preparation of **technical assessments and reports** and **developing inventories** of chemicals,
 - advocating and partnering with industry to **phase out chemicals of concern** and **identify safer alternatives**,
 - undertake actions to prevent **exposure to** and **reduce the burden of disease** of chemicals,
 - **Activities in relation to research:**
 - identification and analysis of **hazardous substances in products**, their supply chains and uses, as well as development substitution or elimination plans,
 - identification and analysis of **contaminated sites**,
 - continuing and catalysing new **international scientific research programmes** on EPIs and other IoC, e.g., on developing toxicity testing methods for EDCs,
 - developing **guidelines and new approach methodologies** (NAMs) to address the thousands

- of chemicals currently on the market, incl. “computational models to predict a chemicals ability to interact with endocrine pathways”
- collaboration in **developing safer alternatives by industry**

Some stakeholders have provided an extensive list of regulatory frameworks that should be in place and that should be linked to emerging policy issues and other issues of concern. While this information may not be presented comprehensively in this summary, it may be useful for the purposes of reporting on SAICM implementation for ICCM5.

3.2.3 Exchange of information regarding emerging policy issues and other issues of concern

The responses to the survey in relation to the exchange of information regarding emerging policy issues and other issues of concern show a multiple and diversified plethora of actions at local, national, sub-regional, regional and/or global levels.

The examples of different types of information exchange undertaken by respondents in relation to emerging policy issues and issues of concern (*Q23 to Q27*) are provided below. They have been grouped by the SAICM secretariat:

Information exchange at local level⁸:

- **disseminating information, information exchange and interactions** with local communities, local authorities and their associations (e.g., on electronic waste management), local NGOs, local media (e.g., via press releases or interviews) or other stakeholders (women, health professionals, consumers, youth, farmers, waste recyclers or teachers),
- **interacting with** private sector/industry, e.g., through meetings or field visits,
- using **awareness-raising** and **capacity-building events** like workshops, trainings, webinars or conferences on chemical and waste management, health and environment in general, e.g., International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action, training on sustainable agriculture practices,
- **disseminating reports and publications**,
- **disseminating information** through websites.

Information exchange at national level:

- **disseminating information, information exchange and interactions** with national authorities and other governmental stakeholders (e.g., inter-ministerial committees/boards, working groups, Customs),
- information exchange during participation in the development/revision of policy documents and legislative/regulatory framework (e.g., SAICM National Action Plan or Stockholm Convention National Implementation Plans) or in the process of implementation of SAICM or/and MEAs,
- **coordinating of national positions and priorities** on chemical and waste management, information exchange based on memoranda of cooperation in place,
- **disseminating information, information exchange and interactions** with representatives of IGOs at national level, e.g., support in drafting national strategies on HHPs in some African countries⁹ as well as national trainings on HHPs for regulators,
- using **multi-stakeholder committees/forums** with a wide range of stakeholders discussing chemical/waste policy issues between government officials and non-governmental stakeholders,
- **interacting with** private sector/industry, e.g. via pesticide industry stakeholders,
- **disseminating information, information exchange and interactions** with academia, civil

⁸ Most of the responses in relation to the exchange of information regarding emerging policy issues and other issues of concern came from governments, NGOs and academia. No input from IGOs nor from private sectors was given.

⁹ Mozambique, Botswana, Malawi, Rwanda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

- society organisations and media at national level,
- **disseminating information** via higher education curricula, e.g., a medical curriculum,
 - using **awareness-raising events** and **capacity-building events** like workshops, trainings, webinars or conferences on chemical and waste management, health and environment in general, e.g., International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action, a kick-off workshop on perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives; mini-symposia on topics related to chemicals like PFAS restriction,
 - disseminating **reports and publications** on chemical and waste management incl. EPIs and IoC,
 - disseminating information through **websites**,
 - disseminating information via **poison centres**.

Information exchange at sub-regional level¹⁰:

- **using of bilateral and subregional cooperation mechanisms** for information exchange and activities such as trainings, webinars or conferences, e.g. within the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), the Arab States cooperation, the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation or the Central Asia Nature Safety network,
- disseminating **reports and publications**, as well as **organising awareness-raising events** on chemical and waste management (incl. on EPIs and IoC), through subregional cooperation mechanisms, e.g., discussions organised in South Asia on EDCs, PFAS or pesticides.

Information exchange at regional level¹¹:

- **using of regional cooperation mechanisms** for information exchange and activities such as trainings, webinars or conferences, e.g., via the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), the African Coalition on Corporate Accountability, ACCA or the NORMAN network of reference laboratories, research centres and related organisations for monitoring of emerging environmental substances,
- **extensive regional cooperation and coordination** within the European Union framework, e.g. via the European Commission, the European Chemicals Agency, the Rapid Alert System for Dangerous Goods on the Market, RAPEX or the public activities coordination tool, PACT,
- **information exchange and cooperation** via IGOs, e.g., FAO, OECD, UNEP, WHO or SAICM/MEAs regional meetings,
- **cooperating** in drafting regional strategies on HHPs in Southern Africa, Eastern Africa, Pacific Islands and Caribbean islands,
- disseminating **reports and publications**, as well as **organising awareness-raising events** on chemical and waste management (incl. on EPIs and IoC), e.g., regional workshops in GRULAC on promoting regulatory and voluntary actions to eliminate lead paint, notification of health incidents by severely hazardous pesticides formulations or nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials, regional workshops in the Asia and the Pacific region on HHPs for regulators or on advocating for import bans of certain hazardous chemicals substances in the Southeast Asia region.

Information exchange at global level:

- **disseminating information and information exchange** through international networks,
- **exchanging information** via the SAICM community, MEAs, IGOs (e.g., FAO, OECD, UNEP, WHO), development banks, the Group of Seven (G7) and the Group of Twenty (G20),
- **disseminating information** via the NGOs, e.g. IPEN, Women Engage for a Common Future (WEFCF), the Center for Business and Human Rights, PAN International, HEJSupport, and the European Environmental Bureau (EEB),

¹⁰ Around one third of the respondents did consider that this at this level the exchange of information regarding emergency policy issues and other issues of concern were not applicable or was inexistent

¹¹ Some government respondents replied by mentioning that such type of activities was not applicable to them or that no information exchange is taken place at this level.

- **disseminating information and information exchange** through trainings, standardization, data transfer and usage, webinars and in-person workshops on topics related to chemical safety and sustainability,
- disseminating information through traditional and social **media, websites, reports, and publications**, such as articles, information bulletins or policy reviews,
- **disseminating information** through global initiatives, e.g., the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paint and its International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action, global ecolabels such as the Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool,
- **sharing local experience** on chemicals safety campaigns, including their success, lessons learnt and challenges, at a global level.

3.2.4 Additional comments/suggestions on the emerging policy issues and other issues of concern

Q31 requested **additional comments/suggestions on the emerging policy issues and other issues of concern**. Respondents mentioned the following examples of issues that might not be covered in the feedback to other questions:

- **financing and financial aspects**, incl. financing means required to support efforts of developing countries and NGOs (e.g., via funded projects or “sub-regional/regional support centres to monitor progress”),
- **linkages with the new Beyond 2020 instrument/framework**, including retaining the QSP Trust Fund to support addressing EPIs and IoC, retaining all EPIs and IoC under the new instrument/framework to keep attention to them, addressing identified shortcomings of the current SAICM in developing solutions for EPIs and IoC,
- ensuring that the **scope of any new international activities is well understood** by stakeholders from their development and that following their adoption, their implementation at national and regional level **is supported**,
- importance of **linking different regulatory areas with risk management**, e.g., “substance data and results of the environmental risk assessment obtained in the authorisation procedure of pharmaceuticals could also be used for deriving environmental quality standards and identification of priority substances, (...) setting of emission limits for production sites and decision making in sustainable procurement”,
- need to create new **networks and platforms for cooperation and promotion of joint activities**,
- importance of addressing **occupational health and safety**, e.g. awareness raising and protective measures to minimize exposure at workplace,
- importance of **making publicly available information on EPIs and IoC**, including any safety information,
- recognition of **waste and chemical nexus**,
- attention is made to addressing **supply chains** of chemicals and **their disposal**,
- ensuring that reports and publications on EPIs and IoC **reflect views of various stakeholders**,
- importance of the implementation **of the Polluter Pays Principle**,
- relevance of **trade monitoring** of chemicals,
- addressing **biomonitoring**,
- special attention to be paid **to antimicrobial resistance (AMR)**,
- need to strengthen **communication and coordination at regional level** on the existing CoPs.

3.3 Past, on-going, and considered future involvement in the Communities of Practice (CoPs)

The survey included a number of questions to assess the respondents’ involvement in SAICM’s four Communities of Practice (CoPs) established in 2020 under the SAICM GEF project on EPIs. The four CoPs include: Highly Hazardous Pesticides, Lead in Paint, Chemicals in Products, and Chemicals and SDGs.

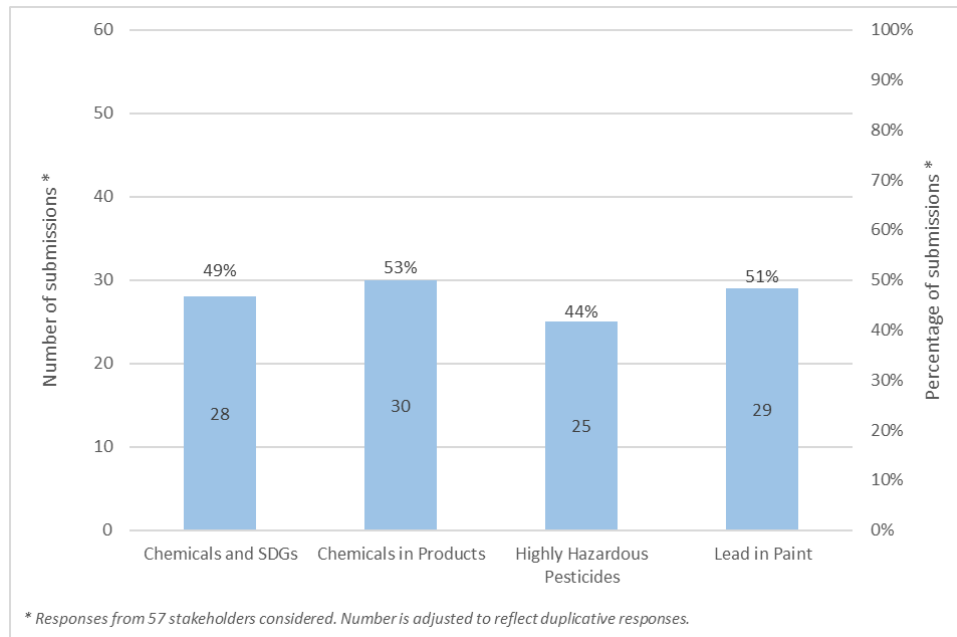


Figure 15. Participation in the Communities of Practice (Ref. *Q28*).

Figure 15, shows that a significant part of respondents had participated in various CoPs. 53% respondents indicated their participation in the CoP on Chemicals in Products, 51% of respondents indicated their participation in the CoP on Lead in Paint, 49% respondents in the CoP on Chemicals and SDGs, and 44% in the CoP on Highly Hazardous Pesticides (*Q28*).

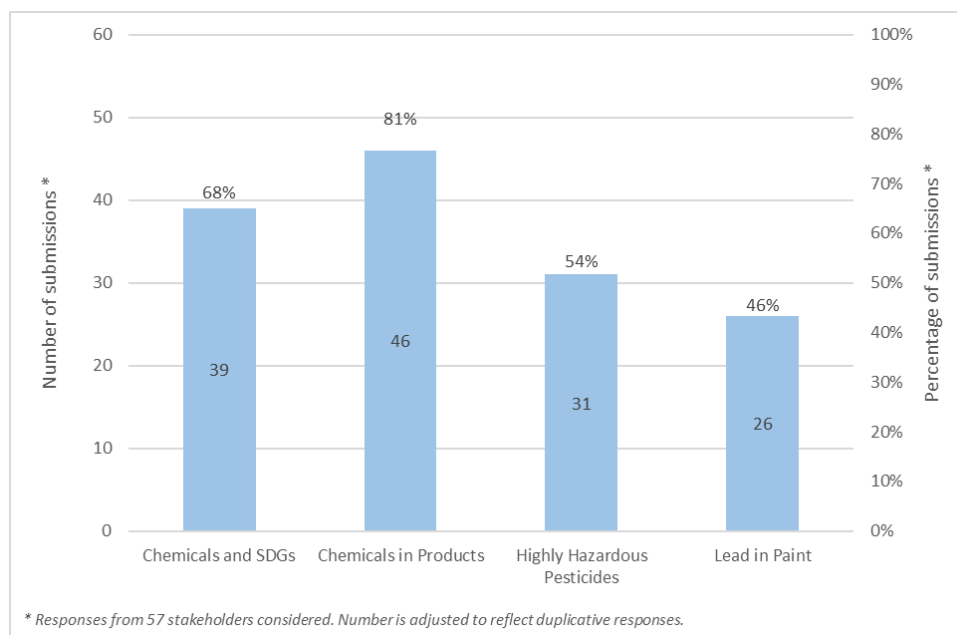


Figure 16. Interest in participation in the Communities of Practice (Ref. *Q29*)

Figure 16 shows that there is in general a visible interest in, and room for, an increased involvement of stakeholders the current CoPs (*Q29*).

When comparing the number of respondents interested in participating in CoPs versus the number of respondents that have already participated in the CoPs, survey responses show that although there was a slight decrease in interest in the CoP on Lead in Paint (46% of respondents interested in participation versus 51% that have already participated), the remaining three CoPs show an increase in this regard. The biggest increase is visible for the CoP on Chemicals in Products (81% of respondents interested in

participation versus 53% that have already participated), followed by the CoP on Chemicals and SDGs (68% of respondents interested in participation versus 49% that have already participated) and the CoP on Highly Hazardous Pesticides (54% of respondents interested in participation versus 44% that have already participated).

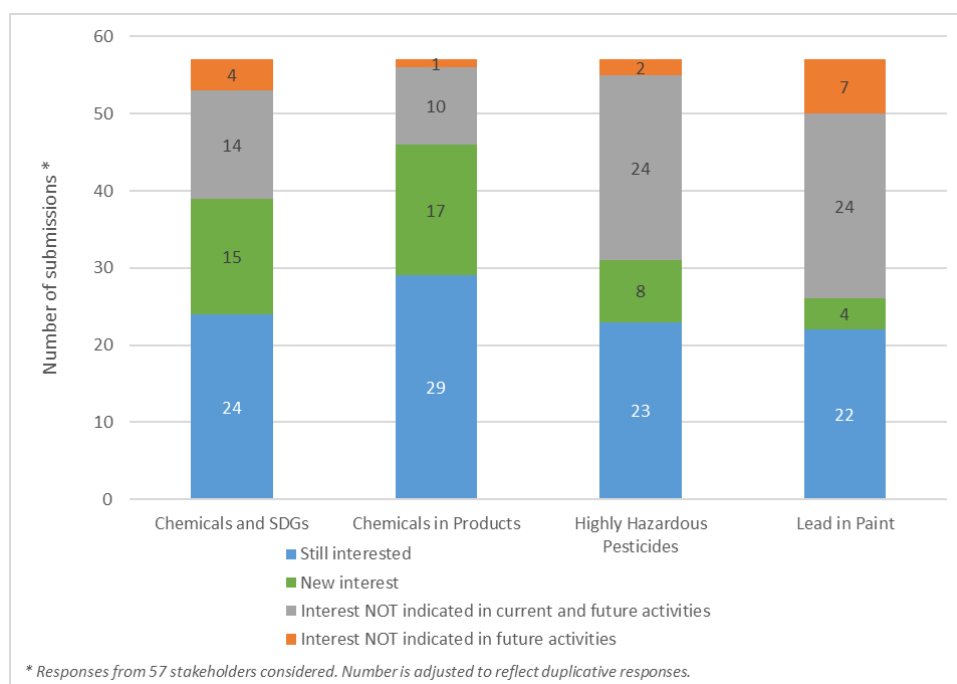


Figure 17. Evolution of interest in the current CoPs (Ref. Q28 and Q29)

Figure 17 shows a visible interest in continuing with CoPs that relate to topics discussing EPIs (Q28 and Q29), On establishing further Communities of Practice (CoP) and what kind of information sharing would be useful, a majority of responses suggested the establishment of CoPs on Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants and Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals. A smaller number of responses also suggested further discussions on nanotechnology and nanomaterials. Other responses included the establishment of a CoP devoted to issues of concern and gender with the main purpose to respond to the need of developing gender aggregated data in chemicals and waste management to implement gender-responsive policies. A CoP on implementation and governance issues related to EPIs, issues of concern and the Beyond 2020 instrument/framework was also suggested.

Responses also suggested possible roles of future CoPs that seem consistent with those already being undertaken. These roles include raising awareness; collecting, exchanging and/or disseminating information; and providing guidance and/or identifying best practice amongst community members. Further responses suggested that the CoPs should further development space where community members could share practical day-to-day implementation of existing frameworks and programs related to chemicals and waste management.

Some further observations could also be drawn from analysing the responses at the level of various types of stakeholders. For instance, the new interest from governments in the CoP on chemicals in products is largely driven by the Central and Eastern Europe Region (with 5 new government respondents interested). On the other hand, all three government respondents that lost interest in CoP on lead in paint come from Latin America and the Caribbean region. The increase of interest from the CEE region could respond to a recent regional workshop within the framework of the SAICM GEF 9771 project, which took place in Tbilisi, Georgia in June 2022. In this workshop, representatives from over 10 CEE countries were presented with the CoPs work and the topics discussed and were encouraged to join. In addition, the loss of interest in the Lead in Paint CoP might be due to the fact that as an outcome of the SAICM GEF project, these countries have already developed lead paint laws,

or are in the midst of finalizing the draft, meaning that the discussions on the CoP are no longer relevant to their current agenda.

Annex 1. Survey on emerging policy issues and other issues of concern

Electronic link: <https://forms.office.com/r/A2kPKdSTty>

Purpose

The purpose of this survey is to gather information about the ongoing work of stakeholders of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) on emerging policy issues and other issues of concern.

In addition, the SAICM Secretariat is seeking to further understand the needs in relation to information exchange and other relevant issues associated to the work on emerging policy issues and issues of concern in advance of the Fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (IP4) taking place from 29 August to 2 September 2022 in Bucharest, Romania.

The SAICM secretariat will disseminate the survey and analyze the results. The survey will be circulated to SAICM focal points and stakeholders. Personal information shared will not be distributed or disclosed to third parties.

*: required

I. Respondent information

1. Please indicate your region*

- Africa
- Asia and the Pacific
- Central and Eastern Europe
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Western Europe and others
- Global

2. Please indicate your country*

Country: _____

3. Please specify which stakeholder group you belong to*

- Government
- Intergovernmental Organization
- Non-Governmental Organization
- Private sector

-
- Academia
- Other (please specify): _____

4. You are responding to this survey as*

- A representative of a stakeholder group
- A representative of a network
- A representative of a coalition
- An individual
- Other (please specify): _____

5. Which organization do you belong to? *

6. Please select the main sector(s) that your organization is related to*

- Agriculture
- Environment
- Gender
- Health
- Industry/ Private Sector
- Labor
- Research/ Academia
- Youth
- Other (please specify): _____

7. Title* (Mr., Ms., Mrs.) _____

8. Name(s)* _____

9. Surname(s)* _____

10. Position* _____

11. Email* _____

12. Website (if relevant) _____

II. Ongoing work on emerging policy issues and other issues of concern

One of the functions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) as identified in the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy, paragraph 24(j) is to call for appropriate action on emerging policy issues as they arise and to forge consensus on priorities for cooperative action.

Resolutions have been adopted on the following eight emerging policy issues and other issues of concern at ICCM2, ICCM3 and / or ICCM4:

- [Lead in paint](#)
- [Chemicals in products](#)
- [Hazardous substance within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products](#)
- [Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials](#)
- [Endocrine-disrupting chemicals](#)
- [Environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants](#)
- [Perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives](#)
- [Highly hazardous pesticides](#)

These resolutions recognize the policy imperatives to address identified concerns, agree on the actions needed and request specific stakeholders to consider undertaking certain actions.

13. Please select the main emerging policy issues and other issues of concern that your organization is working on*

- Lead in paint
- Chemicals in products
- Hazardous substance within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products
- Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials
- Endocrine-disrupting chemicals
- Environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants
- Perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives
- Highly hazardous pesticides

III. Collaboration on emerging policy issues and other issues of concern

Please specify partner(s) and/or stakeholder(s) you have been working with on the above-selected emerging policy issues and other issues of concern, both representation type and name.

- 14. Government(s) (E.g.: Ministry of Health, etc.) * _____
- 15. Intergovernmental Organization(s)* _____
- 16. Non-governmental Organization(s)* _____
- 17. Private Sector/ Industry* _____
- 18. Academia* _____
- 19. Other (Please specify) * _____

20. Please specify activities undertaken in relation to the above-selected emerging policy issues and other issues of concern (e.g., raising awareness; collecting, exchanging and/or disseminating information; providing guidance and/or identifying best practice) *

IV. Further interest(s) in emerging policy issues and other issues of concern

21. Please select the emerging policy issues and other issues of concern that your organization might be further interested in working on or might want to be further involved with*

- Lead in paint
- Chemicals in products
- Hazardous substance within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products
- Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials
- Endocrine-disrupting chemicals
- Environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants
- Perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives
- Highly hazardous pesticides

22. Based on selection above, please indicate what kind of action do you envisage*

V. Exchange of information regarding emerging policy issues and other issues of concern

Please specify the type of information exchange (e.g. webinars, reports, data transfer) you have had in relation to emerging policy issues and issues of concern. Please indicate with which stakeholders' groups the exchange has been taking place, at what level and with what type of organization.

23. Local*

24. National*

25. Sub-regional*

26. Regional*

27. Global*

VI. Communities of practice

Communities of Practice (CoPs) are voluntary networks consisting of individuals with expertise and interest in a thematic area who may learn how to do better in that area by interacting regularly and exchanging their knowledge and experiences.

The four SAICM Communities of Practice were established on emerging policy issues to provide a space for interactive discussions and exchanges of best practices on the sound management of chemicals and waste among SAICM stakeholders.

The purpose of the SAICM Communities of Practice is to establish an effective global network of experts on emerging policy issues with a space for information sharing and long-term engagement. Members include representatives from academia, governments, industry, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, consumers, and citizens.

28. Please specify if you have participated in any of the below mentioned Communities of Practice (CoPs)*

- Highly Hazardous Pesticides
- Lead in Paint
- Chemicals in Products
- Chemicals and SDGs.

29. Please indicate if you would be interested in taking part in any of the following Communities of Practice (CoPs)*

- Highly Hazardous Pesticides
- Lead in Paint
- Chemicals in Products
- Chemicals and SDGs.

30. Please specify if you would like to suggest any further Communities of Practice (CoPs) to be established and what kind of information sharing would be useful for the suggested CoPs*

VII. Additional Comments

31. Please share additional comments/suggestions on the emerging policy issues and other issues of concern*
