

Health4EUKids – Role Wheel on JA future perspectives and key messages

On August 28, 2025, a Role Wheel session was held in Patras (Greece) to discuss the future perspectives of the JA H4EUK and to identify key messages for the European Commission. In total, 33 people participated, representing 12 European countries: Italy, Slovenia, Finland, Croatia, Basque Country (Spain), Malta, Lithuania, Greece, Poland, Spain, Portugal, Hungary.

Key Question	Main Findings	
<i>What are the key messages for the European Commission?</i>	- The project has initiated meaningful change, but continued and flexible support from the European Commission is needed to ensure continuity and scaling-up. - Short implementation periods limit consolidation; future Joint Actions should allow longer timelines for adaptation, evaluation and dissemination. - Local adaptations and contextual diversity are recognised as assets that enrich European-level policy learning. - Project outcomes should be framed as policy recommendations, not merely technical outputs, and discussed through early and direct engagement with the Commission to enhance visibility and dialogue. - The Commission plays a pivotal role in connecting local experiences to EU policy frameworks, fostering European cohesion and collaboration.	
<i>What have we learned?</i>	- Multi-country and cross-sector implementation requires time, flexibility and contextual sensitivity; longer project durations are essential to embed practices sustainably. - Knowledge exchange, peer learning and continuous mentoring strengthen long-term change beyond initial training. - Active engagement of EU officers during implementation enhances guidance, feedback and coherence. - Simplified and flexible financial management improves efficiency and adaptability to emerging needs. - Empowerment, participation and community ownership remain central pillars of sustainability.	
<i>How does integration result in other or new Joint Actions?</i>	- Integration across sectors (health, education, urban planning, agriculture) is essential and strategic. - Cross-sector collaboration generates innovation and practical solutions to complex challenges such as childhood obesity. - Alignment with other EU programmes (EU4Health, Horizon Europe) amplifies impact and creates synergies. - The Joint Action serves as a policy coherence laboratory, moving from isolated actions to integrated frameworks. - Shared repositories of tools, indicators and communication materials support replication and scaling-up.	
<i>How can we integrate the two best practices?</i>	- Flexibility and contextual adaptation are prerequisites for success. - Both practices fit within a common European “family empowerment” framework linking schools, health professionals and communities. - A joint implementation toolkit with harmonised indicators facilitates alignment and dissemination. - National coordinators play a key role in connecting local actions with national policies.	
<i>What works (and what doesn't) to guide our next steps?</i>	What works - Participatory, community-based approaches enhance engagement and sustainability. - Cross-sector collaboration fosters innovation and shared ownership. - Clear EU-level communication supports legitimacy and policy uptake. - Local adaptation strengthens relevance and replicability.	What doesn't work - Short project duration limits consolidation of results. - Fragmented funding and administrative rigidity reduce efficiency. - Insufficient attention to dissemination from the start reduces long-term impact.
<i>Cross-cutting messages</i>	- Sustainability depends on time, flexibility and multi-level coordination. - Stronger EU engagement during implementation reinforces trust and policy integration. - The Joint Action model contributes to building a European community of practice committed to health equity and intersectoral collaboration.	