



EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY  
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

# Survey on the use of medicines' information

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Preliminary review from the HCPWP topic group on information on medicines

EMA PCWP and HCPWP joint meeting  
Session on communication and information on medicines

Presented by Laurent Brassart (EMA) and Joan Peppard (EAHP) on 8 March 2016  
HCPWP Topic Group on information on medicines





# Introduction

- Since the establishment of the EMA, the European Regulatory network strives to provide users with transparent information on medicines
- In parallel, the framework of information on medicines continuously evolves e.g. with IT progress, internet, globalisation, or clinical practice guidelines
- Demand for more information and individualised care, scientific progress with new therapies, and, growing amount and channels of information, question how HCPs use all this information in practice

## Current interactions between Regulators and HCPs organisations favour the following assumptions:

- SmPC itself (or through compendia or formulary) is the document of reference for use of a medicine
- Clinical practice guidelines are more and more used for therapeutic choice
- Educational material and DHPC are punctual or targeted information corresponding to specific situations
- Public assessment report are used to prepare guideline or independent information on medicines, in addition to other sources such as medical journal
- Use depends on HCPs' roles and may regionally differ (e.g. depending on organisation of health system)
- Package leaflet and summary of public assessment report are rather used by patients and consumers



## Survey objective

To get a better grasp of what is in use and why of the information available considering the extent and variety of audiences, needs and documents, as well as the diversity of medical practice and access to information between countries in Europe



## Survey methodology

- Survey among members of HCP organisation eligible for interaction with EMA, or, in contact with EMA and confirming their interest in participating (11 January 2016 - 1 February 2016)
  - All “EMA eligible organisations” + 15 others having volunteered
- Basic online survey listing different types of medicines information and asking participants to inform whether they use them and for which purpose
- Analysis plan:
  - Responses from EU/EEA participants having answered at least one question beyond profiling
  - % users of each documents, the purposes of their use - Analyses to focus on regulatory information
  - Sub analyses: per region or profession depending on number of participants profiling
  - Descriptive analyses

# EU/EEA participants profiling

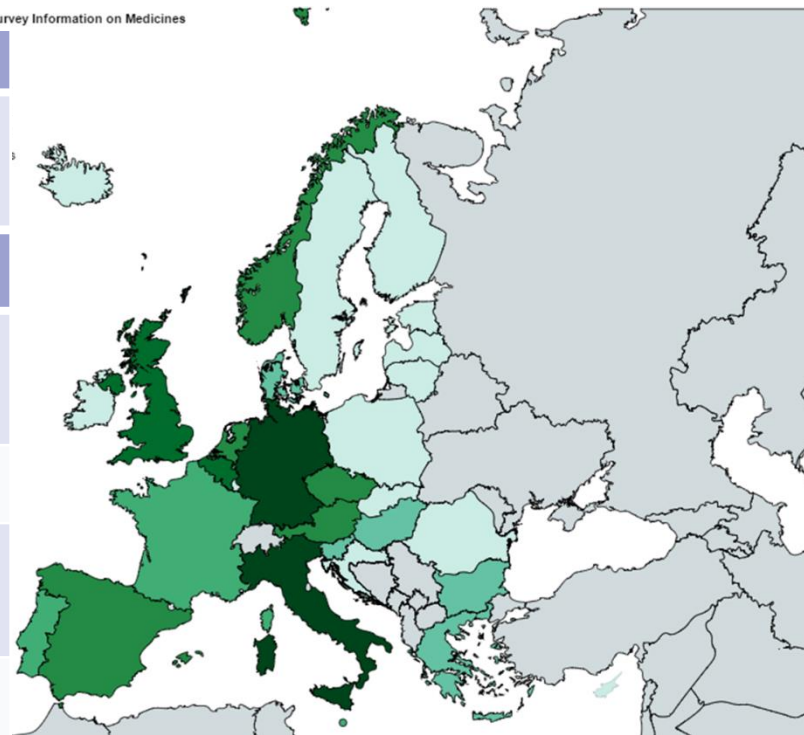
Response EMA survey Information on Medicines

## Number of participants

92% from EU/EEA  
 >75% providing answers beyond profiling  
 >500 answering all questions

## Overall profiling

Region	4 most represented countries: Italy, Germany, UK and Belgium
Age	Balanced from 26 to 65 year old
Profession	22% GP, 23% Specialist, 47% Pharmacist, 4% Nurse, 4% others
	About 75 % informed on participation in information or guideline activities





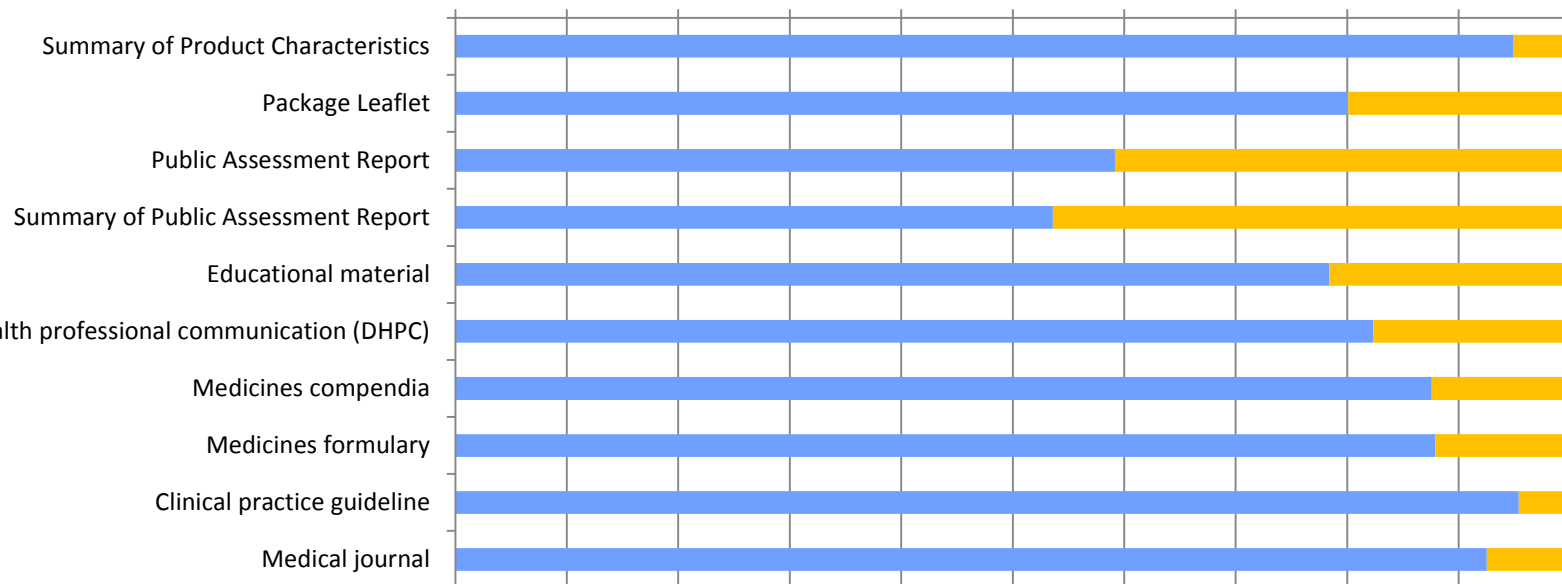
## Limitations of the survey

- Organisations in contact with EMA, which cascaded survey to participants
- Documents questioned in the survey distributed through different channels
- Self-selecting audience (probably high interest in information on medicines)
- Not equally spread throughout Europe or between professions
  - Geographical analyses; United Nations Sub European regions: EU/EEA population and Pharmacists
  - Comparisons between GPs, Specialists, Pharmacists, Nurses



# Extent of use of the different types of documents – all EU/EEA participants

0.00% 10.00% 20.00% 30.00% 40.00% 50.00% 60.00% 70.00% 80.00% 90.00% 100.00%



used  
not used



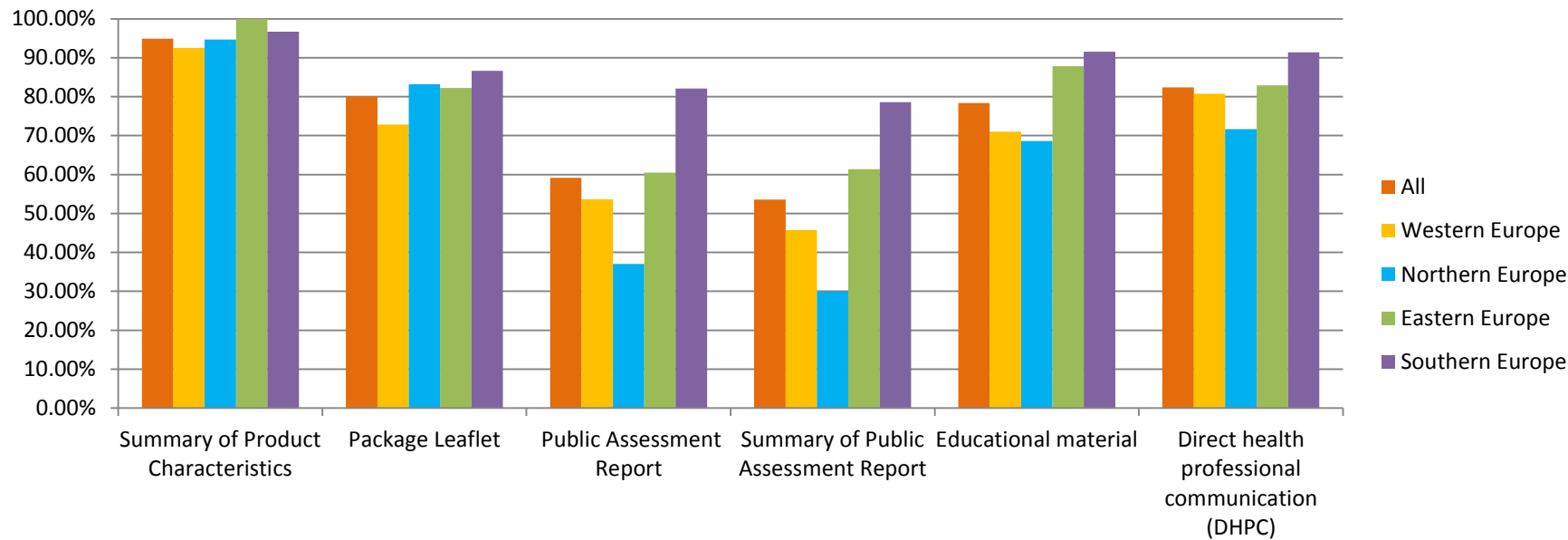


## Purposes of uses of documents - all EU/EEA participants

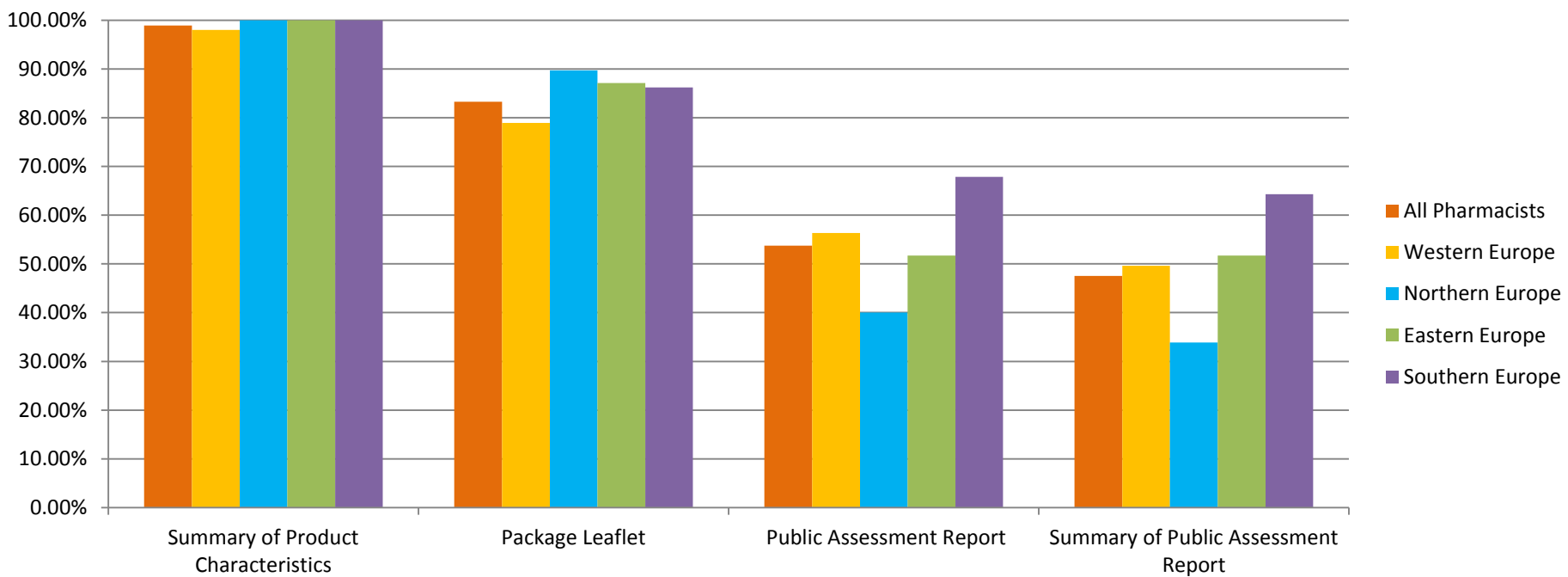
All participants	Therapeutic decision	Dosing information	Safety management	Storage, preparation or administration	Preparation of clinical practice guidelines	Informing patients
SmPC	56 %	78%	68%	60%	40%	45%
Package Leaflet	11%	34%	24%	37%	10%	51%
Public Assessment Report	30%	19%	34%	11%	25%	14%
Summary of Public Assessment Report	25%	15%	25%	9%	19%	16%
Educational material	32%	33%	59%	21%	27%	34%
DHPC	45%	41%	59%	26%	30%	26%
Medicines compendia	52%	66%	52%	45%	32%	32%
Medicines formulary	46%	64%	46%	35%	29%	25%
Clinical practice guideline	74%	57%	48%	26%	48%	31%
Medical journal	69%	48%	52%	26%	52%	26%



# Comparison of use between European regions (all EU/EEA participants)

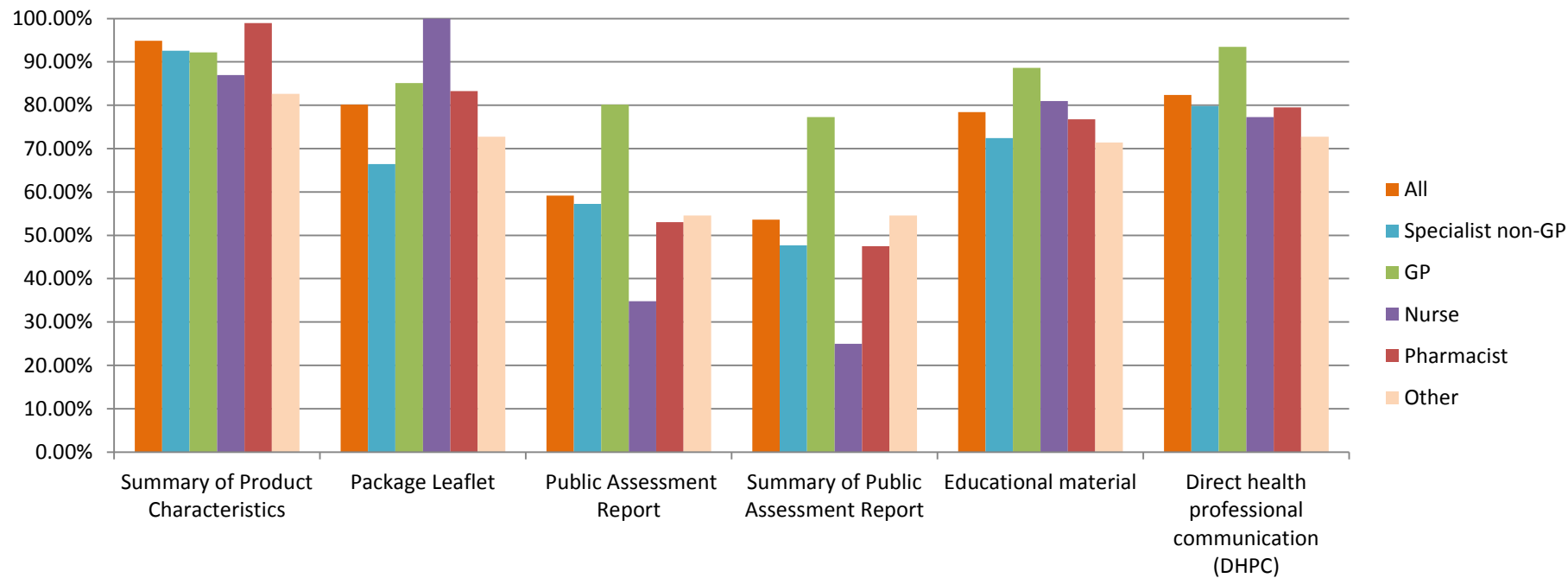


# Comparison of use between European regions - Pharmacists



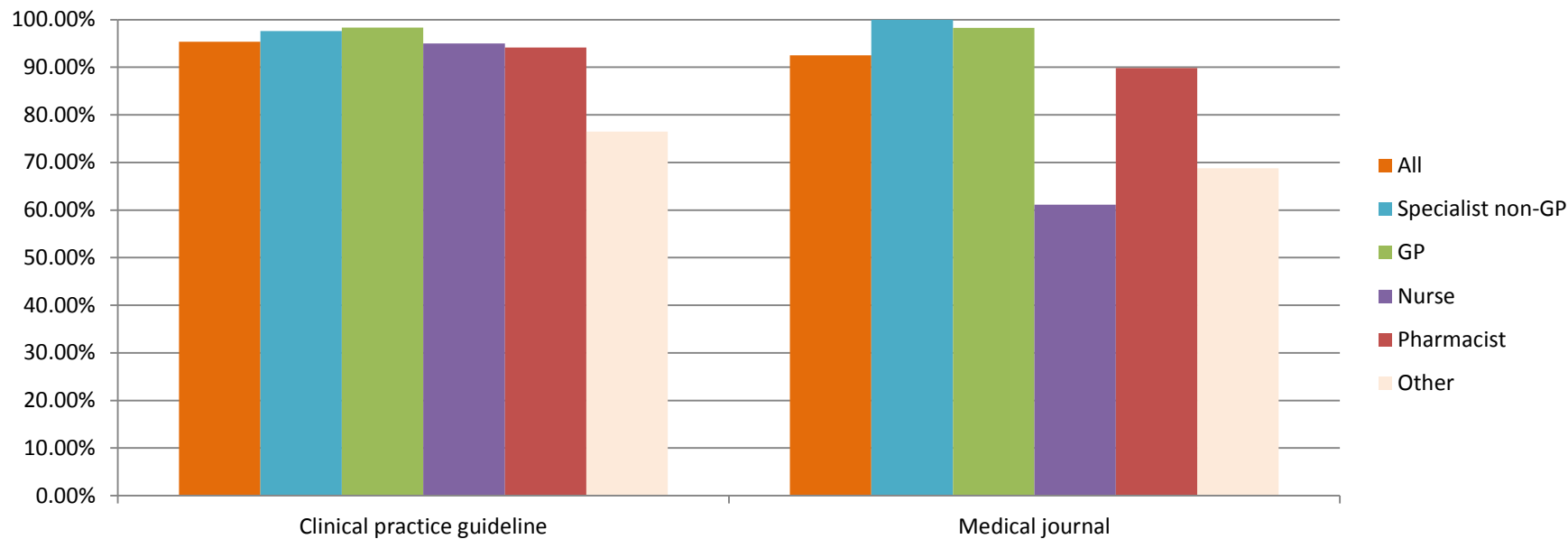


# Comparison of use between professions (All EU/EEA participants)





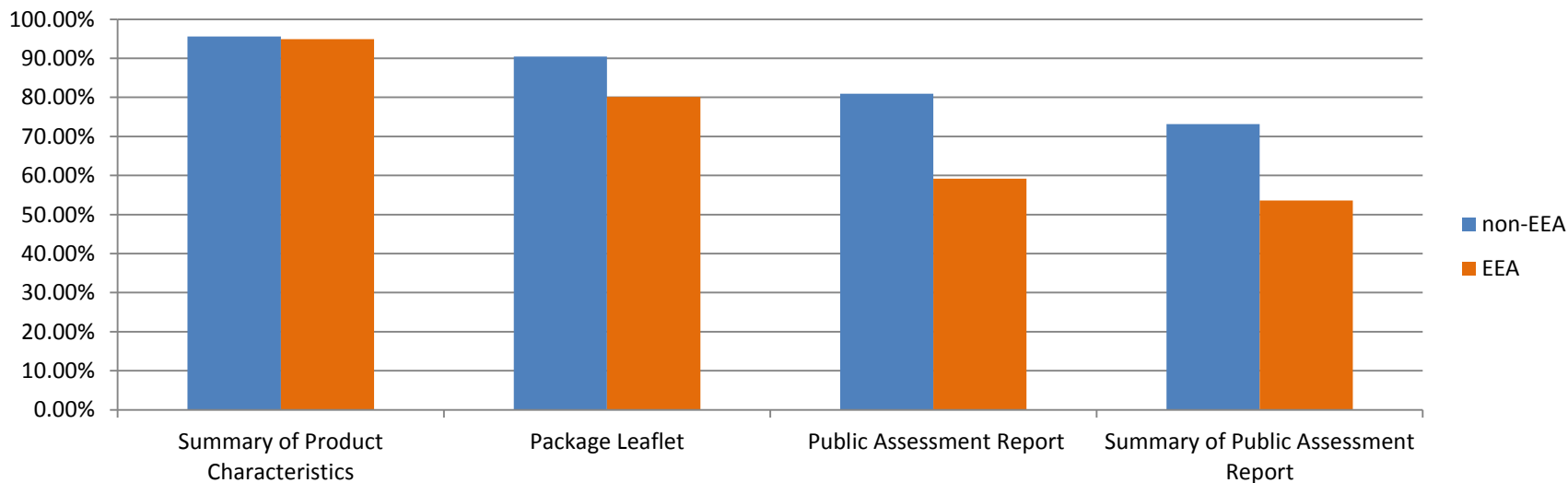
# Use of clinical practice guidelines and medical journals per profession (All EU/EEA participants)



## Non-EU/EEA responses

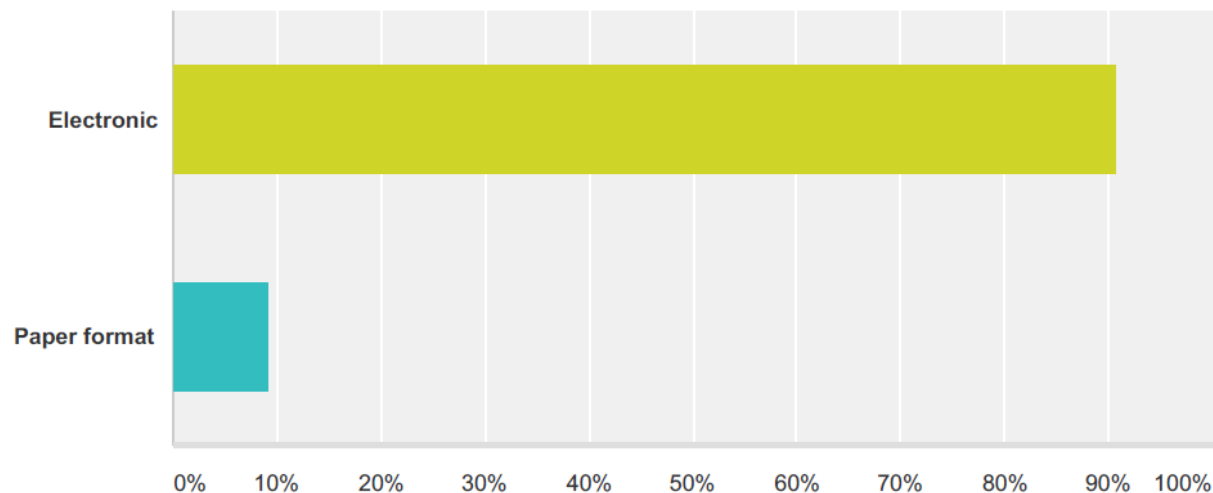
- 25 countries outside EU/EEA

Africa, Northern or South America, Asia, Non-EU/EEA European countries





# Do you prefer access to information through electronic media or on paper format?



## Main survey outcomes and discussion

- Baseline on use of medicines information by Healthcare Professionals
- Healthcare Professionals use many sources of information
- Regulatory information:
  - All HCPs use SmPC, for many purposes from dosing information to preparation of therapeutic guidelines.
  - Package leaflet used to inform patients, with higher use by nurses
  - High use of Educational material and DHPC, in particular for safety management
  - >50% use Public assessment report but it is less known or accessible. Regional difference?
  - EU information also used outside EU/EEA
- Need for further research?





# Acknowledgements

All participating organisations and respondents

Topic group members

HCPWP Co-Chairs

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