

Delegate Feedback 14th Network Meeting Tackling poverty among children with FEAD 20 February 2019, Brussels

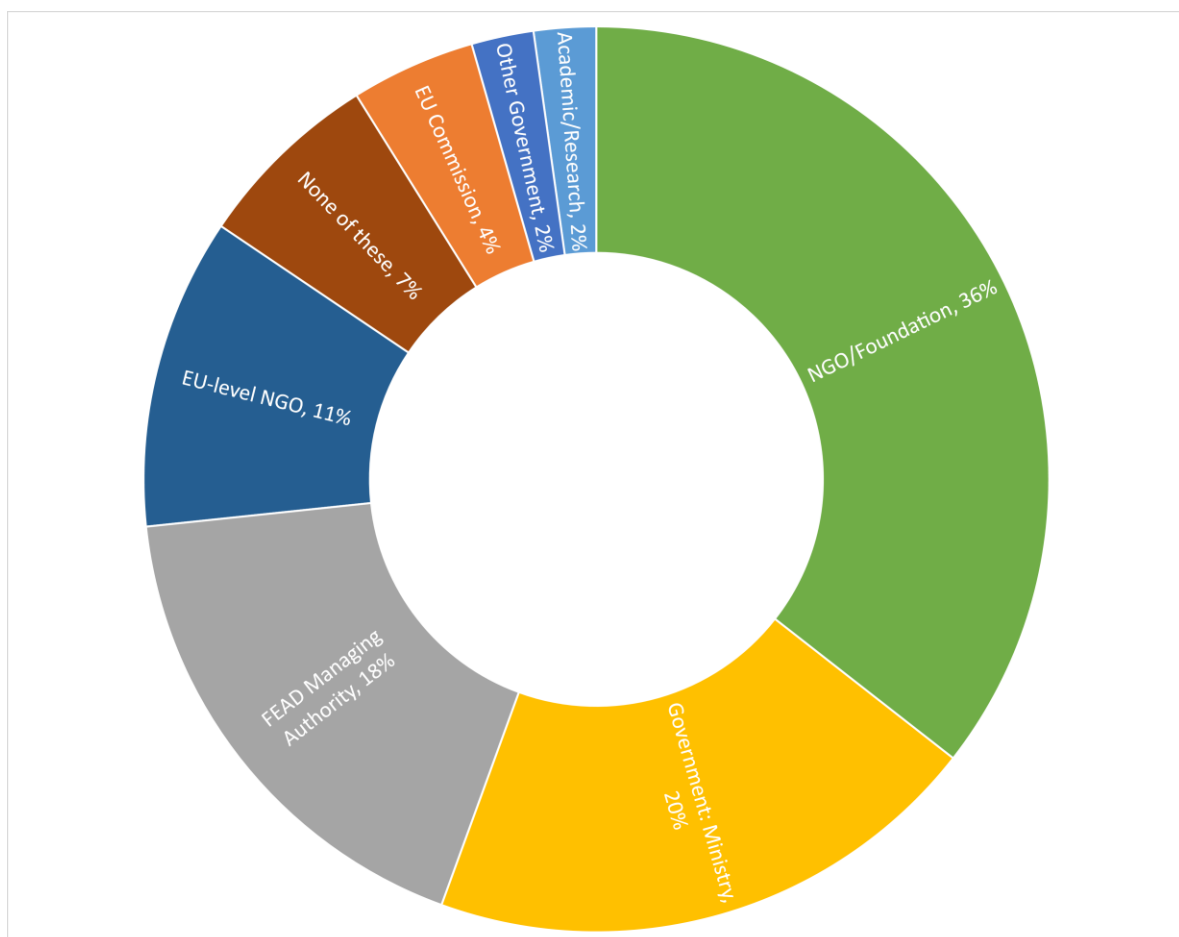
This report outlines the feedback received from participants who attended the 14th FEAD Network Meeting on 20 February 2019. It is based on the analysis of participants' responses to a short satisfaction survey consisting of seven questions. 46 out of 87 participants completed the survey, which corresponds to 53.5% of the participants.

Some participants provided feedback on the day during the closing session using Mentimeter. This method of providing feedback "live" was particularly well received by participants. The survey remained open after the event allowing participants to complete it by Wednesday 6 March.

1. Organisations represented at the meeting

Respondents represented a wide range of stakeholders, reflecting the variety of the FEAD network, as illustrated by the graph below.

Figure 1: Type of organisations represented at the meeting



Source: Ecorys, n= 45¹

¹ Where responses do not add up to 46, this indicates instances where the respondents did not respond to a particular question or questions.

2. Countries of origin

The meeting gathered 87 participants from 22 countries as well as from European level organisations. Representatives primarily came from Belgium, Germany, Lithuania, and Malta, followed by France, Latvia and Portugal.

Figure 2: Word cloud of respondents' country of origin



Source: Ecorys, n=42

3. Satisfaction with different sessions at the meeting

In addition to the introduction and welcome words from the European Commission, participants reported they were most satisfied with the second panel, "Taking action to alleviate child poverty and the link to FEAD" and Workshop A, "Discussing FEAD's role in tackling child poverty through direct food and or material assistance".

Figure 3: Participant satisfaction by session

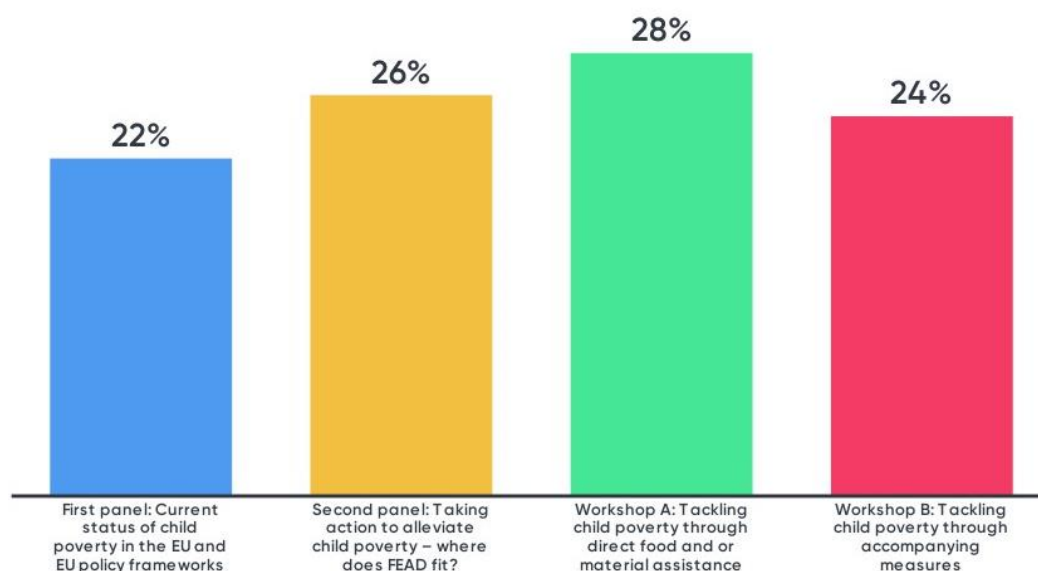


Source: Ecorys, n=41

4. Most relevant session(s) for FEAD-related work

More than half of the respondents found Workshop A to be the most relevant session for their work (54%). The workshop focused on FEAD measures to tackle child poverty through direct food or material assistance.

Figure 4: Relevance of sessions for FEAD work



Source: Ecorys, n=39

5. Key learning

The key points that participants took away from the event include:

Child poverty in EU policymaking:

- Child poverty is gaining status in EU policymaking.
- FEAD is a stepping-stone, not an end in itself.
- FEAD is the first step towards social inclusion and it can be key to facilitate access to social rights for children.

The role of FEAD in tackling child poverty:

- Material assistance is essential to attract the most vulnerable individuals and needs to be followed by tailored guidance to ensure the intervention has a long term effect.
- Ways to overcome the limited funding for accompanying measures include setting up partnerships with other entities, or seeking additional funding from national sources.
- Integrated services are key to tackle poverty.
- It is important to stimulate collaboration to empower vulnerable families and help them achieve their full potential. Children's voices and opinions should be valued and taken into account when developing and implementing solutions.
- FEAD can provide pathways to support children to get involved in society and educational establishments. Case studies presented at the Network Meeting were a good way to learn

about this and how children can be actively involved in different activities (i.e. Secours Populaire’s intervention in France).

6. Most liked aspect of the meeting

Participants reported that “networking” was the aspect they liked the most in the meeting. Participants also liked the fact that they could share experiences, exchange best practices, collaborate, and grow a sense of belonging to a community as shown in the following word map.

Figure 5: Word map of most liked aspects of the meeting



Source: Ecorys, n=37

7. Possible improvements for future meetings

Finally, respondents had the chance to submit additional comments. Through these, relevant feedback was gathered for consideration in the organisation of future Network Meetings in relation to content, impact and organisational matters of the meetings:

Content:

Delegates suggested topics they would like to discuss in future Network Meetings, including:

- voucher systems – pros and cons
- funding of OPII programmes
- the future of FEAD measures under ESF+²

Impact:

Delegates pointed out some aspects that could be improved for FEAD Network meetings to achieve more impact, such as:

² In this regard, a participant asked if there would be a meeting for Managing Authorities to compare preliminary ideas for future Operational Programmes under ESF+.

- featuring end recipient representatives in meetings
- be clear about how the outcomes of the meeting and group activities are used
- focus on projects that are funded by/eligible for FEAD

Organisation:

Several participants directly thanked Ecorys and the European Commission for the good organisation of the event. Participants also reported that they particularly appreciated the use of the Mentimeter survey tool. Regarding organisational aspects of the event, participants suggested:

- to consider transport schedules that enables attendees to participate for the whole duration of the meeting
- to consider splitting delegates into smaller groups during workshop sessions to make the most of the limited time in group discussions