

# Overview of the 5-year journey and activities of the Policy Officers Group (POG)

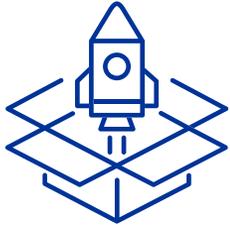
Healthcare Professionals' Working Party (HCPWP)

3 February 2026

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# POG -a progressive journey...



**Jan 2021**

**Jan 2022**

**2023**

**2025**

**2026**

## **Start of initiative**

22 HCPWP out of 33 eligible HCPOs

6 conference calls of 1.5-hours

38 POG members out of 26 eligible HCPOs

- Innovation in clinical trials
- RWD and registries
- Special populations: geriatrics, rare diseases, pregnancy and lactation
- Shortages

## **1-year review**

EMA/eligible healthcare professional organisations policy officers' group (HCP POG) pilot: one-year review [report](#)

## **3-year survey**

Publication drafting group on frailty and older people

## **Implementation**

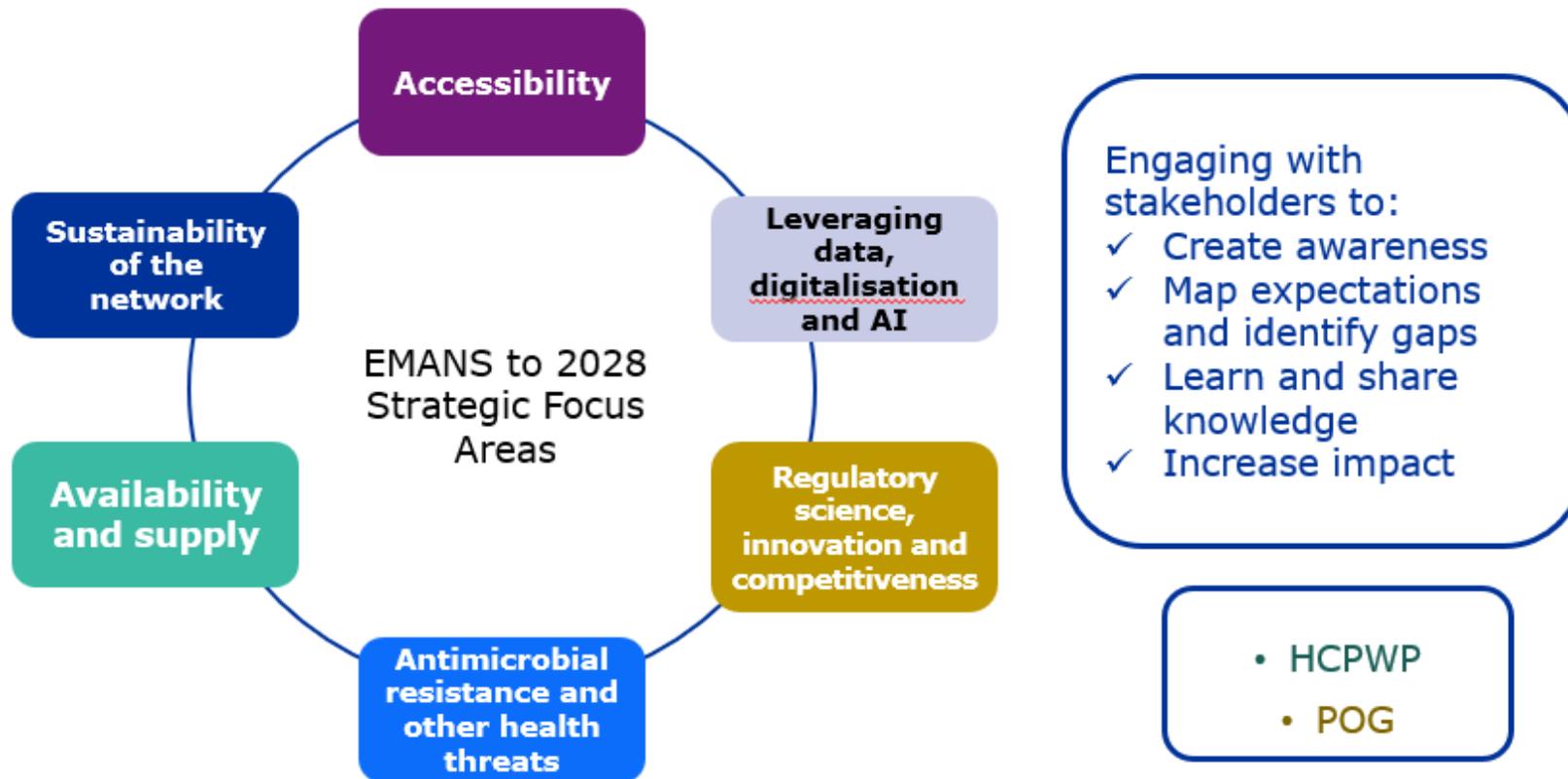
25 HCPWP out of 44 eligible HCPOs

5-6 conference calls of 1.5-hours

62 POG members 37 eligible HCPOs

## **5-year**

# Stepping up engagement with 'eligible' organisations



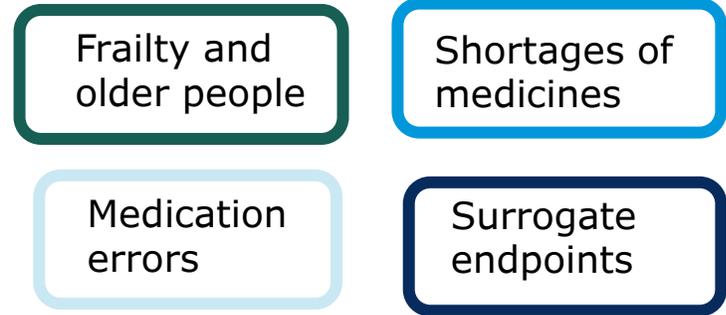
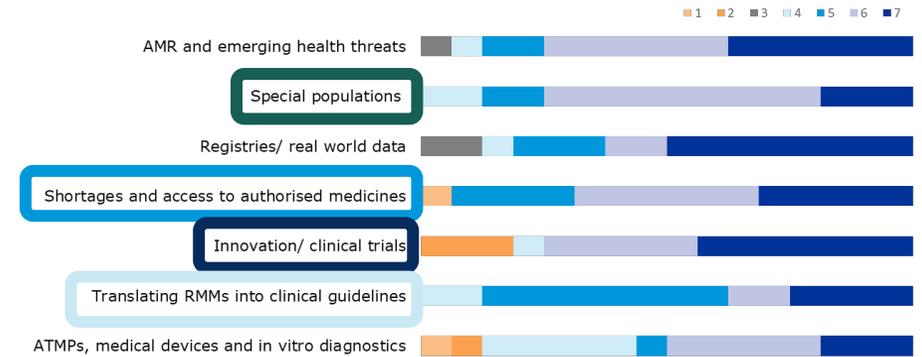
Stepping up engagement with 'HCP eligible' organisations

# Scope and objectives of the POG



# Drafting group- Prioritising areas of work

- Survey to all eligible HCP organisations in 2021
- HCP POG meetings were not enough to collect input from organisations
- Establishment of 4 HCP POG 'drafting groups'
  - Deliver concrete outputs on selected topic
  - For some topics, work required clinical experts in addition to policy officers



Health Policy |

## Inclusion of functional measures and frailty in the development and evaluation of medicines for older adults

Michael Denkinger, Wilma Kruš, Antonio Chembiri, Anita Simons, Christel Janik, Deniz Acembe, Elena Pétalos, Mary McCarthy, Patrick O'carraig, Philip Vani Kemerack, Piotr Szymanski, Amelia Cupeti, Andrea Lestop, Armin Koch, Bruno Sepodas, Carla Tarré, Elina Rönemaa, Ewa Bakiewicz-Piara, Maria Teresa Herdeiro, Mario Miguel Rosa, Marlene Trautler, Nikica Mrstevic-Sivce, Sabine Maythof, Michael Bontgen, Ivana Silva, Francesca Ceretti

The International Council for Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH) E7, the guidance for the conduct of clinical trials in people older than age 65 years, dates from 1994. Since then, the inclusion of older people in clinical trials has hardly improved, particularly for the oldest age group (individuals older than age 75 years), which is the fastest growing demographic bracket in the EU. Even though most medications are taken by this group, evidence on their safety, effectiveness and quality remains scarce. This evidence gap needs to be addressed and resolved.

Lancet Healthy Longev. 2023; 4:e724-729  
 Published Online November 14, 2023  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lanhl.2023.100116>

Lancet Healthy Longev. 2023 Dec;4(12):e724-e729.  
[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanhl/article/PIIS2666-7568\(23\)00208-8/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanhl/article/PIIS2666-7568(23)00208-8/fulltext)

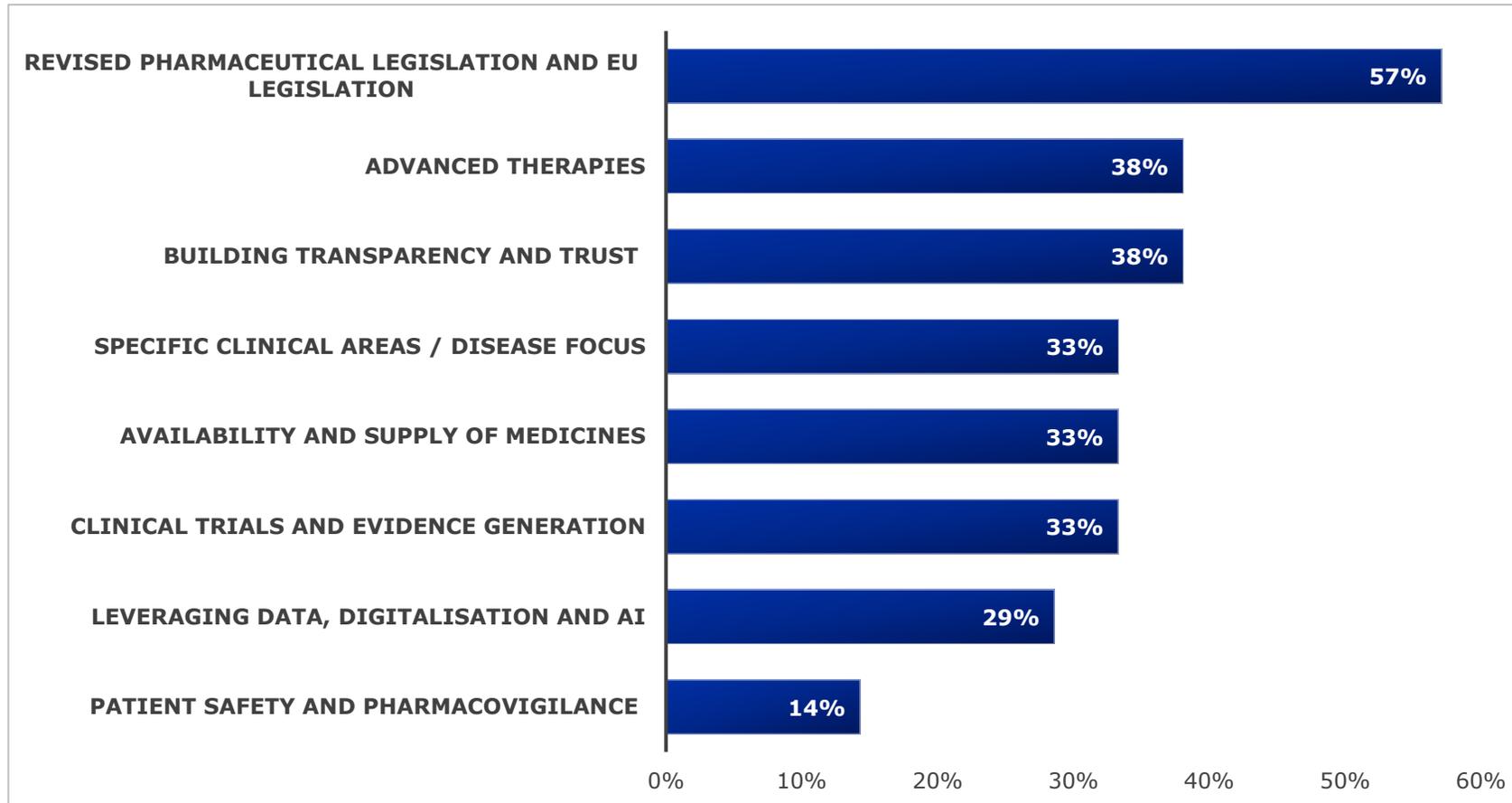
# POG topics 2024- 2025

New process for SAGs/AHEGs	Early dialogue with healthcare professional organisations : 1-year <a href="#">report</a>	Short lives in SmPC for parental medicinal products	Artificial intelligence and multistakeholder workshop on AI	New process for SAGs/AHEGs	Engagement with HCPs: reflections and planning
ACT EU/ Multistakeholder platform update	Shortages updates (good practice guidances, shortages reports, public webinar on shortages)	(EHA) <a href="#">Recommendations</a> of the Coalition for Reducing Bureaucracy in Clinical Trials	PGEU-Position Paper on Artificial Intelligence ( <a href="#">link</a> )	EMA's strategy for scientific publications	Clinical trial map (CTIS <a href="#">website</a> ) DHPC <a href="#">website</a>
Update from drafting groups on shortages and surrogate endpoints	Novel complex and innovative trials implementation with a special focus on registration and costs	ESC EU Cardiovascular Health plan ESC <a href="#">policy statement</a> on MDR	EMA's activities targeting Engagement with Academia	EHP Antimicrobial Resistance Working Group report 2025 <a href="#">AMR report</a>	EMA news, events, consultations publications
Communication activities: shortages, misinformation project	CT updates: CTIS, ACT EU priority actions on clinical trials in public health emergencies	EPA updates workforce shortages	(EU-EYE) "A patient's quest: finding clinical trials to participate".	Communication activities-' <a href="#">Podcast: Inside EMA-</a>	Mapping of topics of common interest.....

# Looking ahead to 2026: preliminary survey results on key areas of interest POG

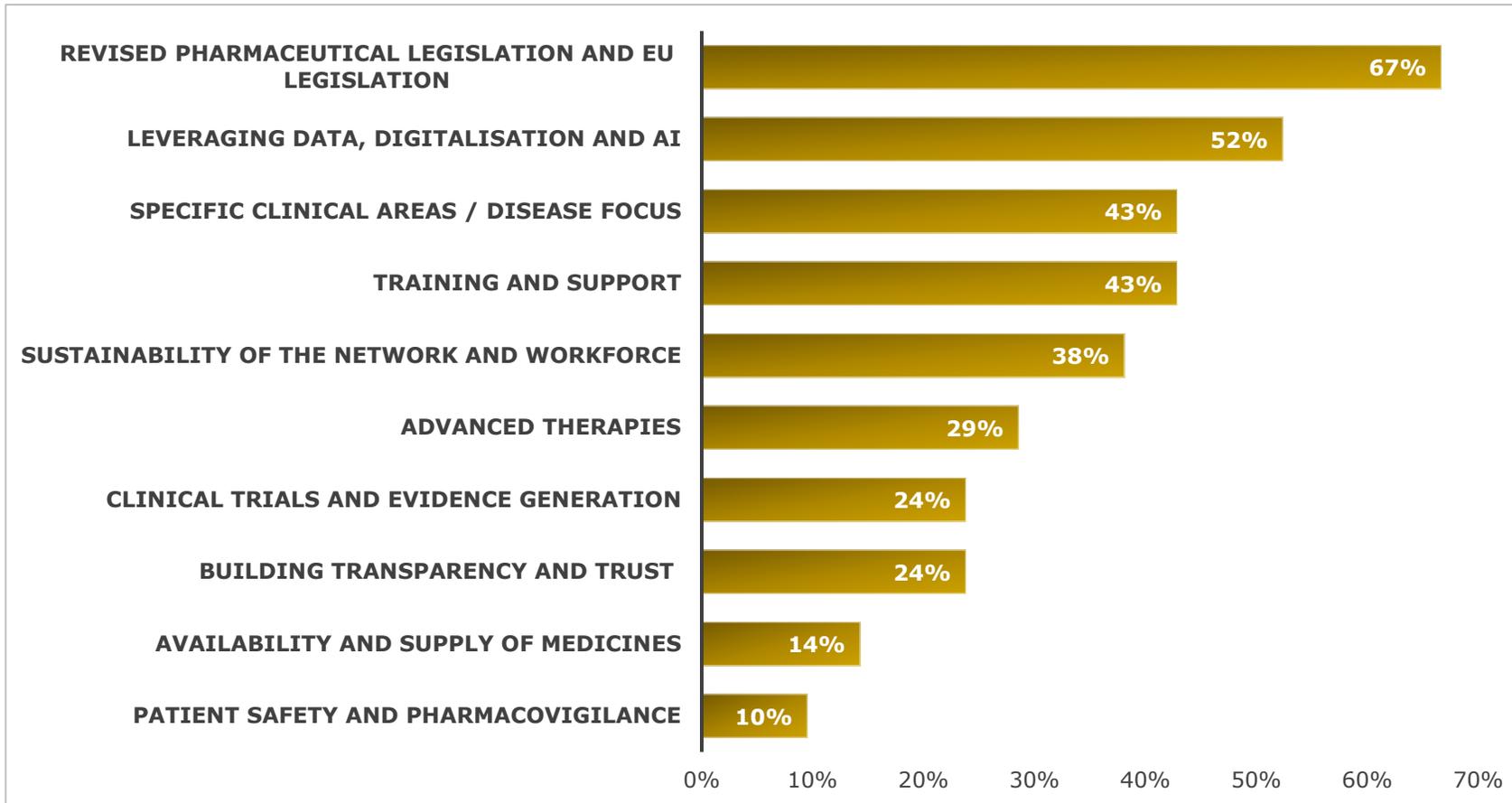


# What priorities would you like EMA to focus on during the POG group meetings in 2026?



What priorities would you like EMA to focus on during the POG group meetings in 2026?

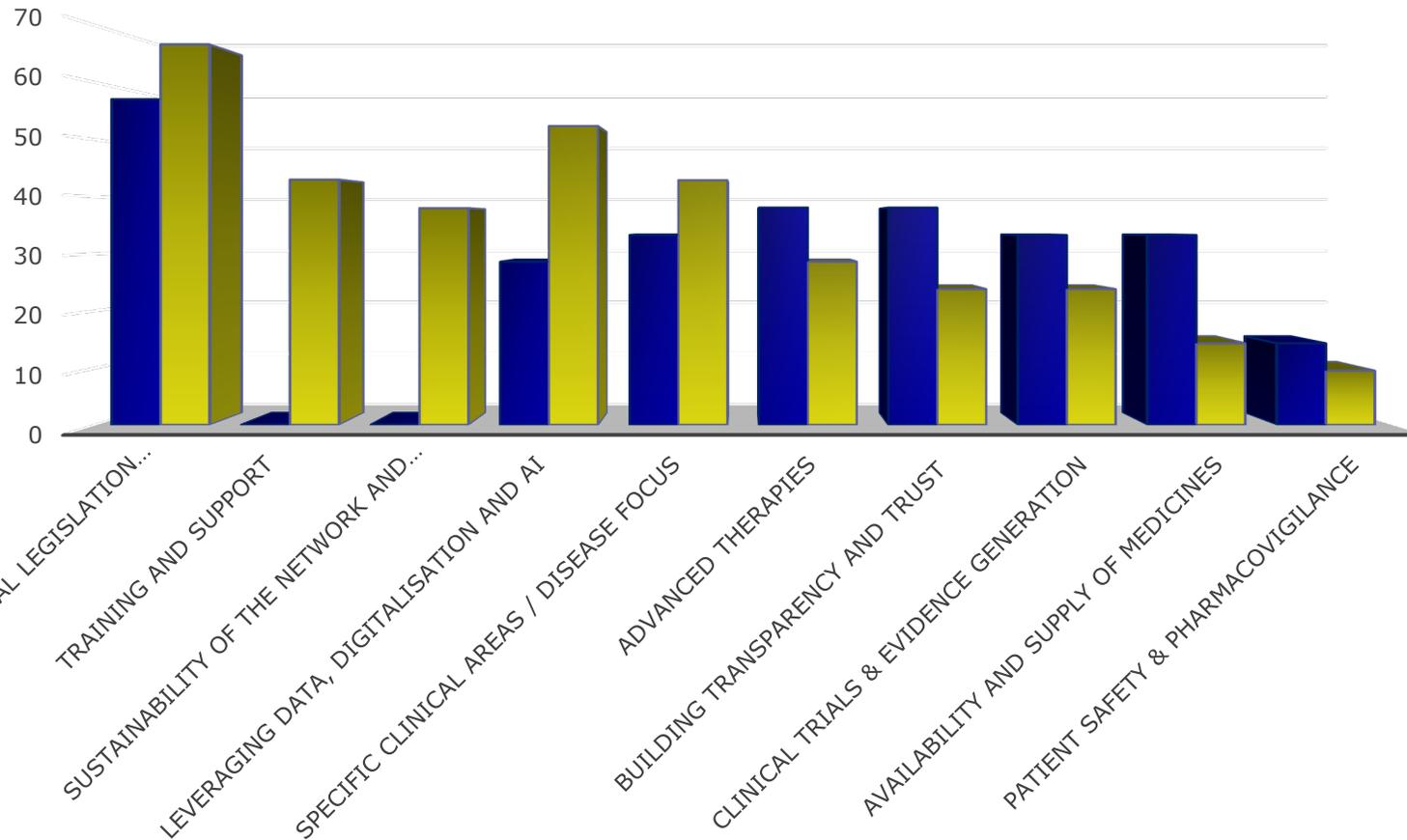
# What are the key priorities of your healthcare professional organisation for 2026?



Key priorities of your healthcare professional organisation for 2026

# What priorities would you like the EMA to focus on in comparison to the key priorities of HCPOs for 2026?

Priorities would you like EMA to focus on versus key priorities of HCPOs (2026)





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SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

# Thank you

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