

Presentation of research findings

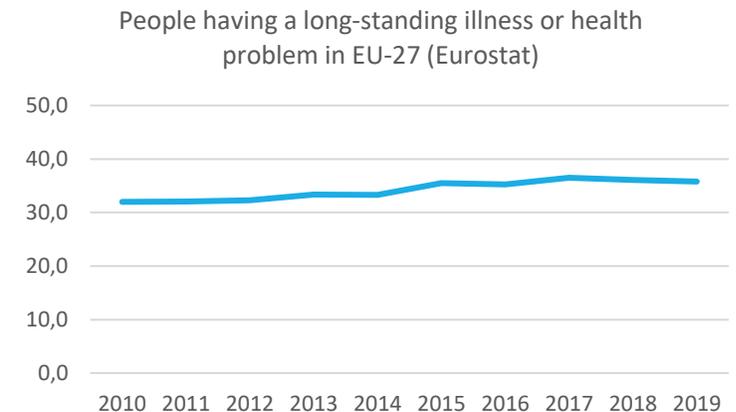
Shaping return to work policy:
Current involvement and future potential
of EU social dialogue

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Why do return to work policies matter in Europe?

- $\frac{1}{4}$ of the working population in the EU reports living with a chronic disease.
- The prevalence of chronic diseases is a significant challenge to labour market integration, with negative consequences for both individuals and society.



Policy context at EU level

- *“Workers have the right to a working environment adapted to their professional needs and which enables them to prolong their participation in the labour market.”*
European Pillar of Social Rights, Principle 10c.
- The EU does not directly intervene in return to work policy. However, it is relevant to two EU policy areas:



Occupational
safety and
health policy

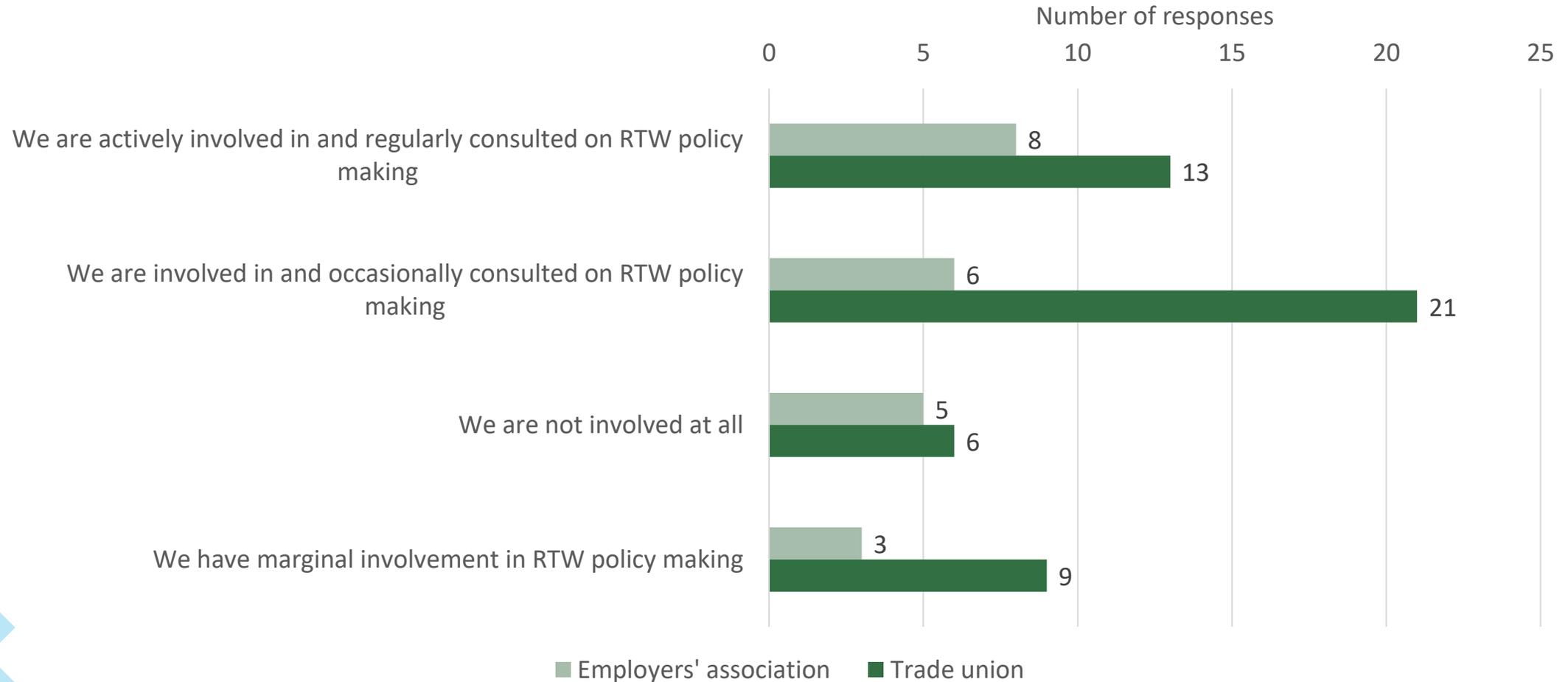
Social inclusion
and equal
treatment



Stakeholder Involvement in EU Return to Work Policy

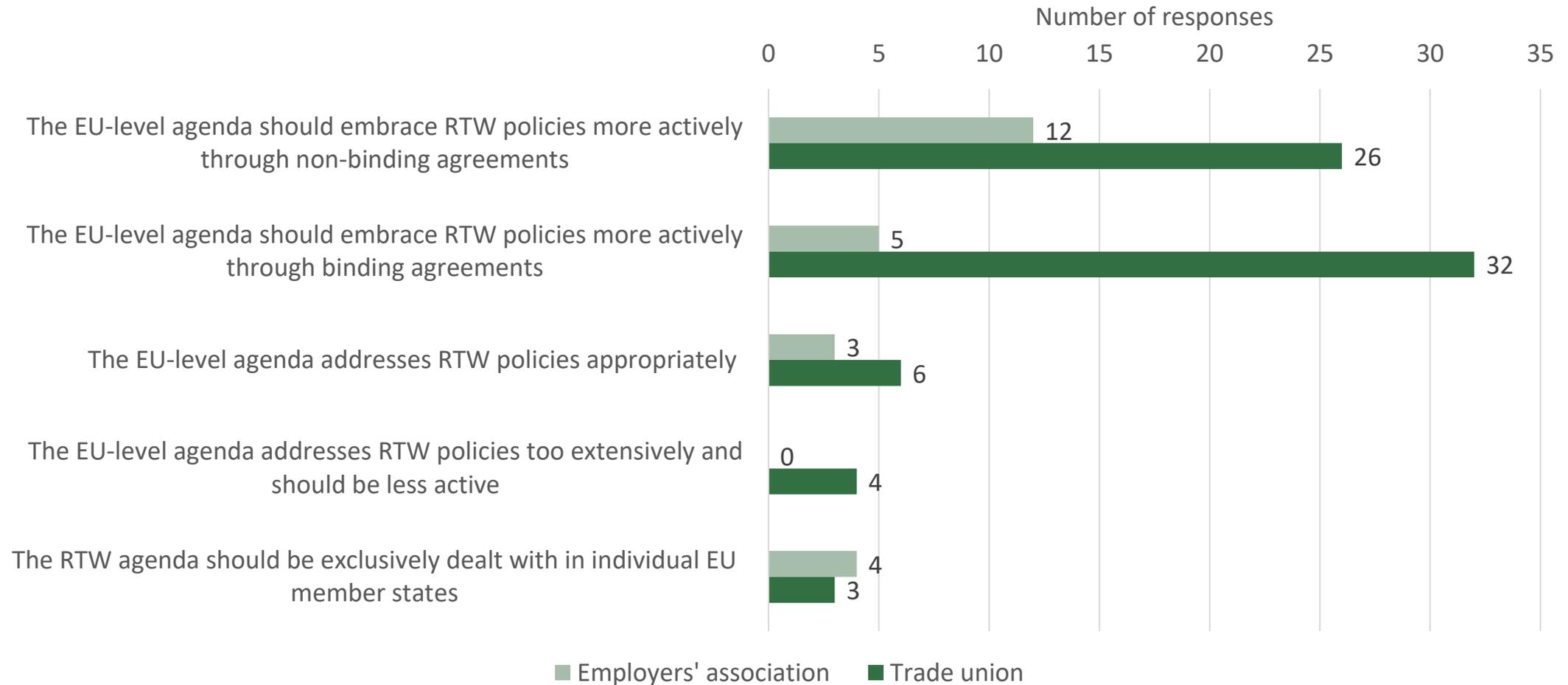
- All stakeholders agree that return to work is a relevant issue within the EU context
- However, engagement with the issue on the side of European institutions and social partners has been limited
- Patient organisations and non-governmental organizations are key stakeholders
- Interaction between stakeholders on return to work is rare

National Social Partner Involvement in Return to Work



Source: REWIR Social partner survey (N=63). RTW = Return to Work. Don't know/cannot evaluate excluded from graph. Answers shortened to ease reading.

National social partners' views on the EU return to work agenda



Source: REWIR Social partner survey (N=69). RTW = Return to Work. Don't know/cannot evaluate excluded from graph. Answers shortened to ease reading.

EU return to work policy: Future perspectives



EXCHANGE OF BEST
PRACTICES



AWARENESS-RAISING



DATA COLLECTION



POLICY
RECOMMENDATIONS

Concrete legislation and other policy measures
more appropriate at national and sectoral level

Social partner involvement in return to work at different levels

EU

Awareness-raising, exchange of best practices and lobbying

Member state

Influencing legislation and negotiating binding agreement

Sectoral

Considering sector-specific issues

Company

Assisting with practical implementation



Conclusions

The labour market integration of individuals suffering from chronic diseases is a social and economic challenge

The EU can play an important role in shaping return to work policy but targeted actions in this field have remained underdeveloped

Social partners can play an important role in advancing EU action on this issue



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Thank you for your attention!