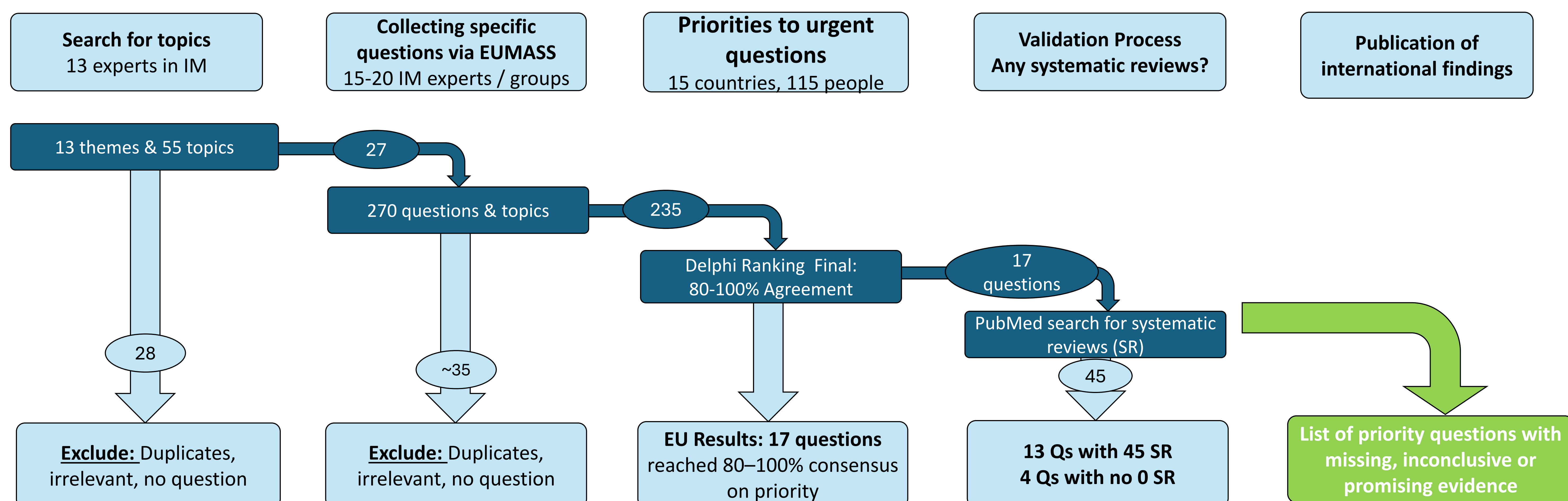


Where are the evidence gaps in insurance medicine?

R.Kunz, S.McCrosky, J.Hoving, A.Mohamedsharif, K.Walseth

Insurance and social medicine (IM) plays an important role in the equitable allocation of insurance benefits and the development of rules. Relevant research is often lacking, and knowledge gaps are rarely systematically identified. To better guide research and education and to strengthen the basis for evidence-based decisions, these gaps need to be known. Objective of this research was to identify and prioritize common and urgent evidence gap in insurance and social medicine across European countries. With the survey “Evidence Gaps in IM across Europe”, we invited IM professionals from practice, education, and research to rank topics and questions from the IM community in terms of the importance and urgency of establishing an evidence base. Questions receiving 80–100% agreement from participants were considered high priority. We report European and national findings.

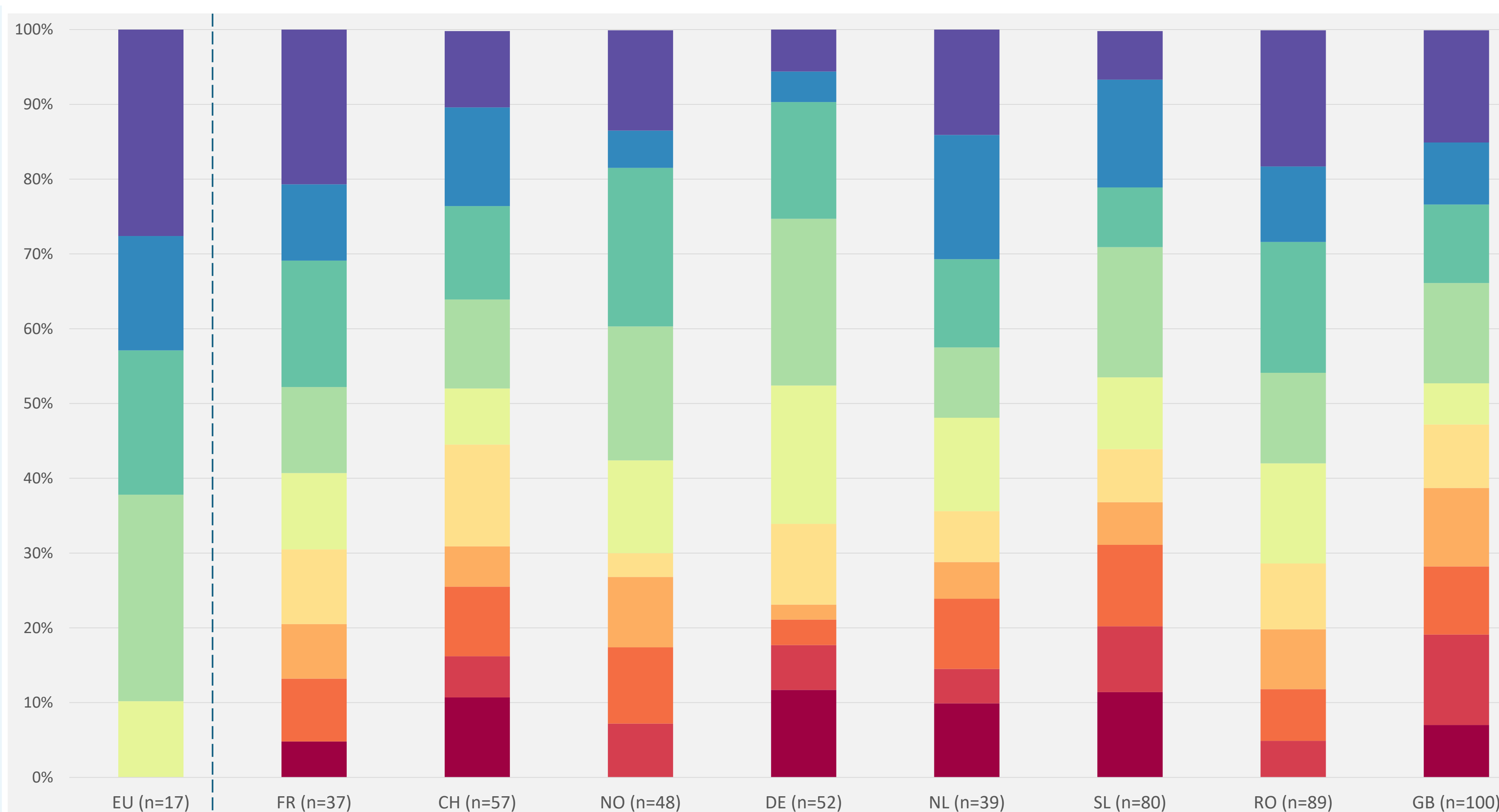
European Survey Evidence Gaps in Insurance Medicine (IM)



European and National Results

15 countries
115 participants

- Insurance and treating physicians
- Return-to-work (RtW) experts
- Educators
- Decision makers
- Administrators
- Lawyers
- Researchers



The 10 Themes

- G1 Expert agreement
- G2 Communication
- G3 Functional capacity instrument
- G4 RtW-interventions
- G5 Preventing work disability
- G6 Predictors / risk factors
- G7 Tools and guidance
- G8 Research
- G9 Policies
- G10 Miscellaneous

Distribution of priority themes across Europe and participating countries. Bars show the normalized percentage distribution of questions selected for Europe (far left) and individual countries across 10 themes. Larger colored sections indicate a greater relative focus on specific themes. No separate analyses for countries <6 participants.
n = number of questions selected in each country

A total of 181 questions were analyzed. At the European level (15 countries, 115 multi-professional stakeholders, far left), participants prioritized 17 high-urgency questions across five core IM tasks (see QR code on the left): expert agreement and RtW interventions (28% each), functional capacity assessment tools (19%), communication (15%), and work disability prevention (10%).

Nationally, countries reached consensus on more evidence needs, ranging from 37 to 100 questions, including themes like predictors/risk factors, guidance, policies, or research. While relative theme distribution highlights country-specific fields of action (e.g., **NO, DE**: RtW interventions and functional assessment; **DE** also prioritizes disability prevention), the perceived need for research evidence is more evenly distributed in others (**CH, NL, UK**).

Conclusion: Multi-professional stakeholders from 15 European countries identified 17 urgent evidence gaps in insurance and social medicine.



17 European Priority Questions



The Poster Evidence Gaps