



science and policy
for a healthy future

HBM4EU project

HBM in a societal context and
policy interactions

Paul T.J. Scheepers PhD

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Presence of persistent chemicals in the human body results of Commissioner Wallstrom's blood test

The presence of **persistent chemicals in the human body** and their potential harmful effects is amongst the problems addressed by the European Commission's recent proposal for a new regulatory framework for chemicals (REACH - see IP/03/1477).

To illustrate this problem, Margot Wallström, European Commissioner for Environment, submitted a **sample of her blood for testing**. The results of these tests, which give a record of the chemicals to which Mrs Wallström has been exposed and which have **accumulated in her body**, have been published by the European Commission today

Out of the **77 chemicals analysed**, the laboratory in UK found **28 chemicals** in Mrs Wallström's blood

Source: [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release MEMO-03-219 en.htm?locale=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-03-219_en.htm?locale=en)

Policy makers need ...

to know **human exposure to chemicals** in the EU, as well as variation over space, time and within population sub-groups;

tools to interpret HBM data and to assess the actual **impact of chemical exposure on health**;

information on **exposure patterns and trends** in exposure across Europe.

Source: HBM4EU project proposal



Objectives

[...] demonstrate how the use of HBM data can improve chemical risk assessment, through a methodology based on robust and realistic human internal exposure data

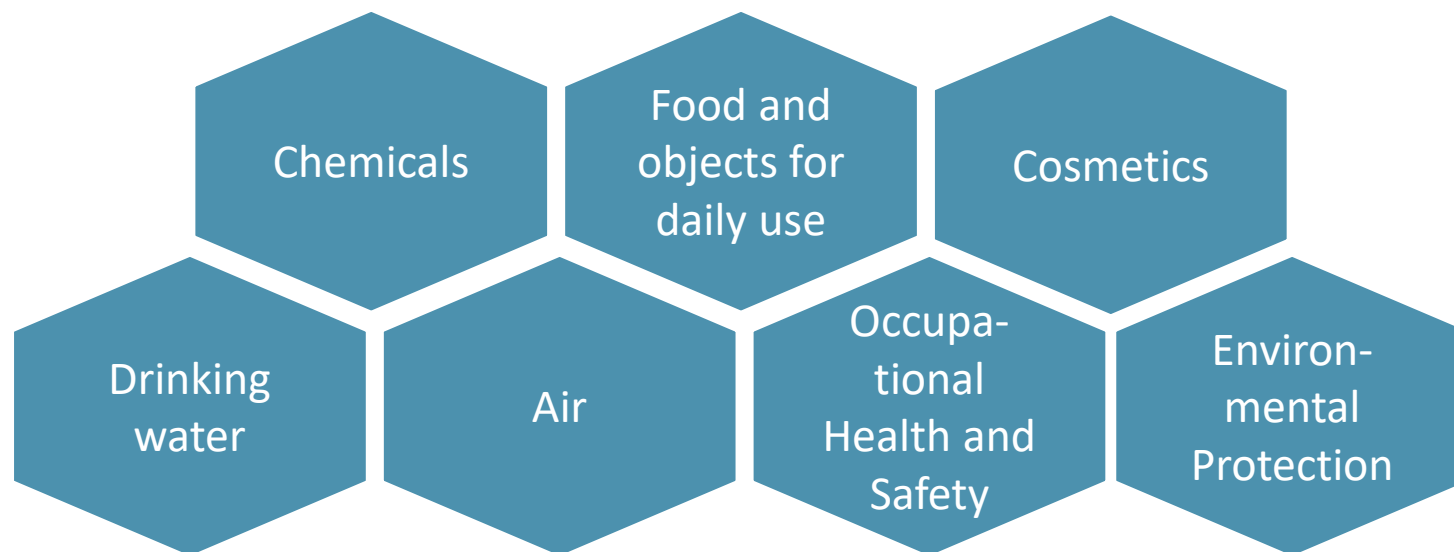
[...] strengthen the links between HBM and environment and health research in order to provide policy makers with the knowledge to inform the regulation of chemical exposure

Objectives

[...] sustained dialogue with EU policy makers responsible for **assessing and managing the risks to human health** from chemical exposure via the environment, diet, consumer products and occupational exposure.

[...] we will actively promote the **exploitation of our results** by policy makers in such a way as to impact positively on human health.

Policy domains with EU legislation related to chemicals



Key concept

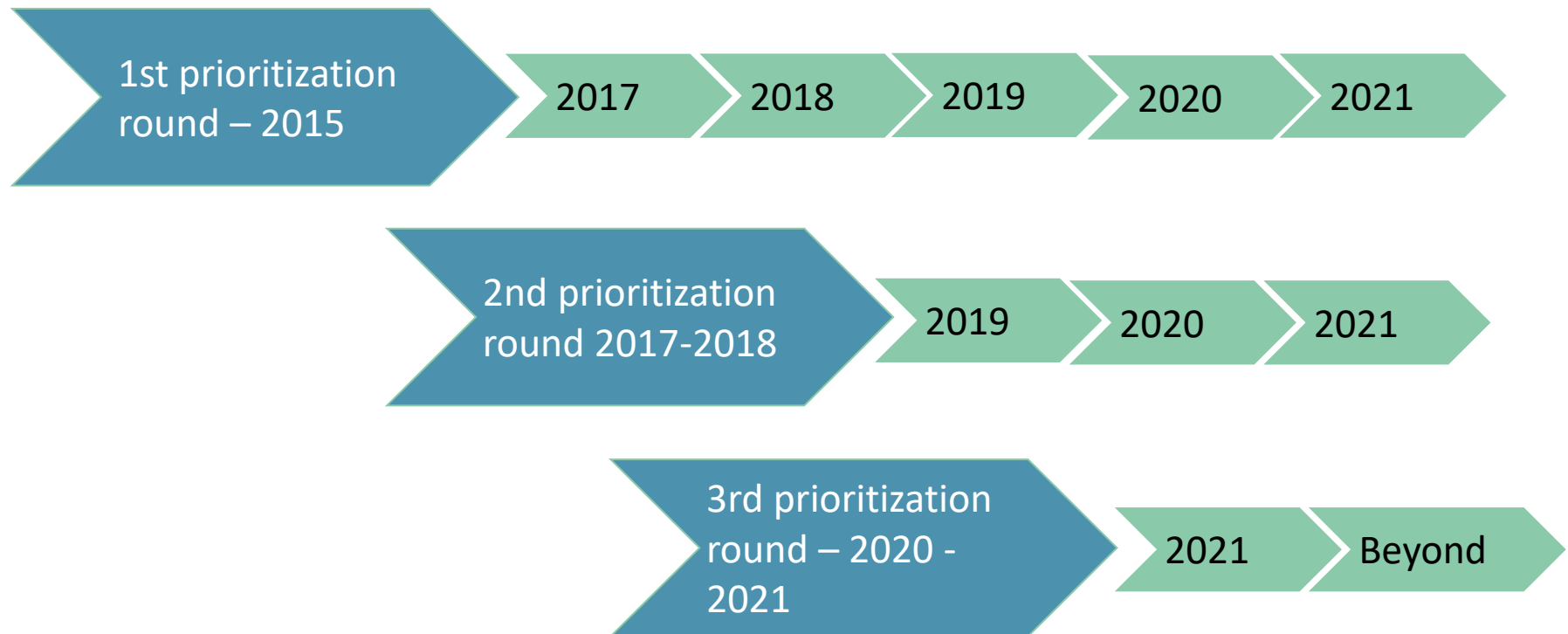
- Identifying policy relevant substances for research activities
- Developing annual work plans

Translating results into policy

- Establishing health-based HBM values
- Use of HBM data in chemical risk assessment
- Translating results into policy recommendations

Sustainability and capacity building

- Lay the groundwork for a sustainable European HBM initiative post 2021
- Establish share HBM programmes across partner countries

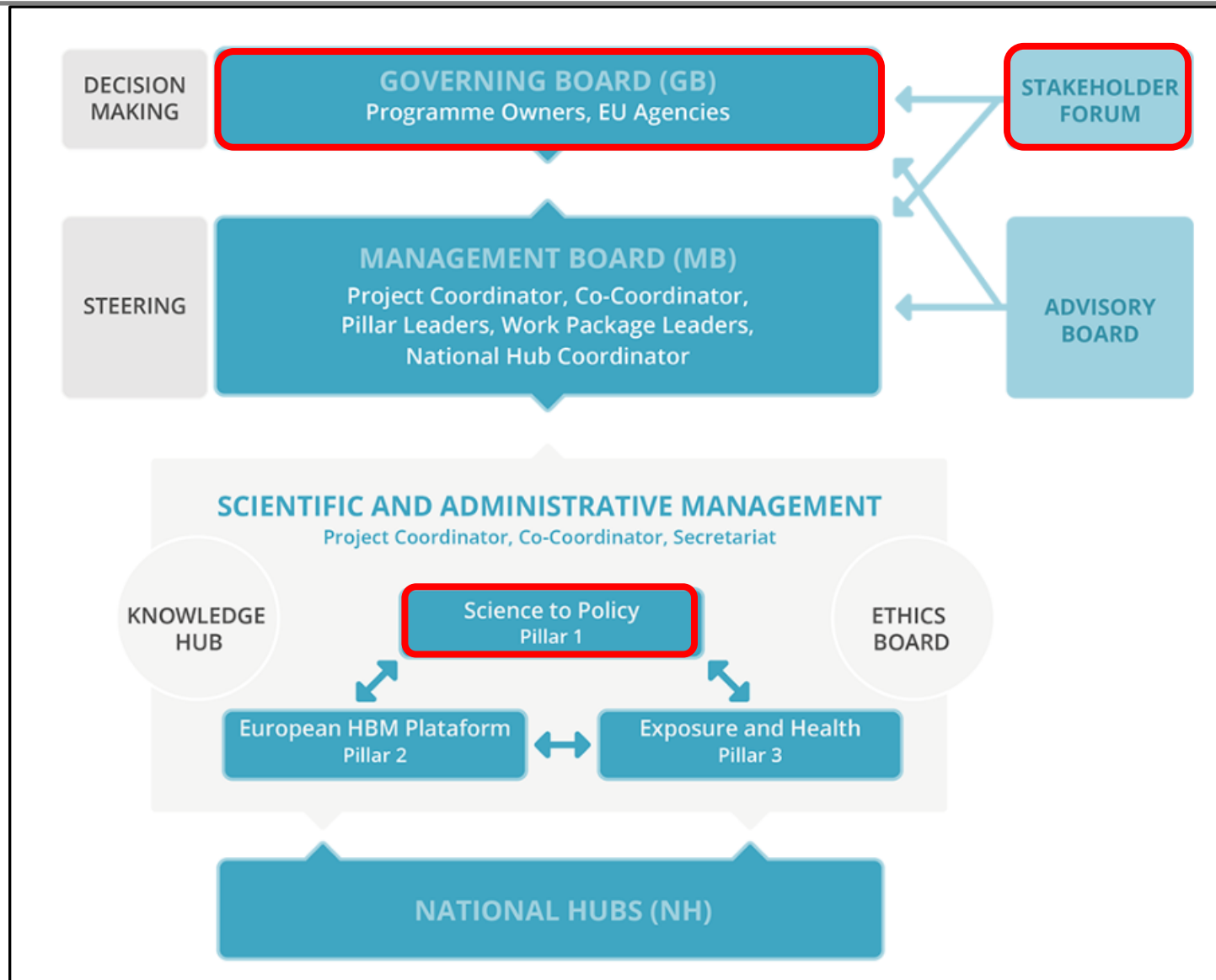


How are policy makers involved?

- Policy makers will be systematically involved in all stages of the project through an **iterative consultation process**, organised in collaboration with an EU Policy Board
- Involvement of the **EEA [...] as project partner** ensures that the policy perspective will guide project activities
- A **governance structure** will promote dialogue between policy makers and scientists, while respecting their different roles.

Infrastructure to support involvement of policy makers:

- **National Hub Contact Points** will consult with national policy makers, the scientific community and other stakeholders on domestic policy requirements
- Input from the national level was fed in through a **Steering Committee** composed of **national representatives**
- **IPChem** [...] is to provide policy makers with access to chemical monitoring data covering a range of matrices and media



Take home

HBM can improve chemical risk assessment and provide policy makers with the means to take decisions on risk management of chemical exposures

Contacts

paul.scheepers@radboudumc.nl

HBM4EUtraining.hev@radboudumc.nl

Speaker's information

Paul T.J. Scheepers PhD works as associate professor at the Radboudumc, Nijmegen, The Netherlands. He received training in toxicology and occupational hygiene. In HBM4EU he is responsible for training activities as task leader in WP2. He is a member of the ethics board in WP1.



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