



# Human Biomonitoring for Europe

## What is HBM4EU?

HBM4EU is a joint effort of 28 countries, the European Environment Agency and the European Commission, co-funded under Horizon 2020.

HBM4EU represents a novel collaboration between scientists and chemical risk assessors and risk managers, including several Commission services, EU agencies and national representatives. Running from 2017 to 2021, the project will build bridges between the research and policy worlds to deliver enhanced chemical safety.

Our research explores current questions in chemical risk assessment and management and will deliver answers that help policy makers to protect human health. Policy makers, stakeholders and scientists together shape the strategic direction of HBM4EU activities. This collaborative approach ensures that our research will generate new knowledge that addresses genuine societal concerns.

## Why HBM4EU?

There is a lack of comparable data at European level on aggregate exposure to single substances and to combinations of chemical substances. HBM4EU is working to harmonize procedures for human biomonitoring across the 28 participating countries, building scientific excellence in Europe, and producing comparable data on human internal exposure to chemicals.

We will explore the link between external exposure via different routes and aggregate internal exposure, with the aim of identifying upstream sources and informing policy efforts to mitigate exposure.

HBM4EU research will generate evidence on the causal links between human exposure to chemicals and health outcomes. We are investigating how exposure to chemicals affects the health of different vulnerable groups, such as children, pregnant women and workers.

Our work with chemical risk assessors aims to adapt chemical risk assessment methodologies to use human biomonitoring data and to account for the contribution of multiple external exposure pathways to the total chemical body burden.

To ensure our results inform the design of new policies and the evaluation of existing measures, we are in dialogue with the EU Policy Board. Our results will meet the needs of risk assessors and risk managers working to enhance chemical safety.

## HBM4EU Priority Substances?

Substances to be the subject of surveys and research under the project are known as HBM4EU priority substances.

The first exercise to prioritise substances was performed in 2015, and took into account policy needs for knowledge on chemical exposure and health outcomes at national and EU level.

Two additional rounds of prioritisation will be conducted during the five years of the project.

## HBM4EU Governance Structure?

**Governing Board:** Programme owners in the participating countries, ECHA, EEA and EFSA.

**Scientific & Administrative Management:** The Project Coordinator is supported by the Secretariat, the Co-coordinator, and the **Management Board**.

**National Hubs:** A network bringing together national HBM activities.

**Stakeholder Forum:** The formal channel for stakeholder input to the HBM4EU

**Advisory Board:** including international HBM experts with knowledge and experience to contribute to the project.

**Ethics Board:** composed of specialists in ethics and in legal matters

## Project contact & coordination

HBM4EU is coordinated by the German Environment Agency, Section II 1.2 Toxicology, Health Related Environmental Monitoring.

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VITO is the co-coordinator of HBM4EU.

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The Austrian Environment Agency is responsible for maintaining the dialogue with stakeholders under HBM4EU.

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The European Environment Agency is managing the Knowledge Hub. Email: [HBM4EU@eea.europa.eu](mailto:HBM4EU@eea.europa.eu)

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## Current HBM4EU priority substance groups

- Phthalates and Hexamoll® DINCH
- Bisphenols
- Per-/polyfluorinated compounds
- Flame retardants
- Cadmium and chromium VI
- Poly aromatic hydrocarbons
- Aniline family
- Chemical mixtures
- Emerging substances