



1st meeting of the HBM4EU Stakeholder-Forum – 5 September 2017

Location: Seminaris Campus Hotel, Takustraße 39, Berlin

Minutes

Participants:

Stakeholder: Erwin Annys (CEFIC : European Chemical Industry Council), Natacha Cingotti (HEAL: Health and Environment Alliance), Janice Robinson (DUCC: Downstream Users of Chemicals Co-ordination Group), Marko Susnik (UAPME: European Association of Craft, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises), Violaine Verougstraete (EUROMETAUX)

Apologies: Ninja Reineke (Chemtrust), Dolores Romano (EEB: European Environmental Bureau), Sascha Gabizon (WECF: Women in Europe for a Common Future), Pelle Moos (BEUC: The European Consumer Organisation), Tony Musu (ETUC: European Trade Union Confederation), Roberta Savli (EFA - European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients' Associations)

European Commission: Arnd Hoeveler, Sofie Norager

Project Consortium: Marike Kolossa-Gehring: Coordinator (UBA: Umweltbundesamt), Ulrike Doyle: (UBA: Umweltbundesamt), Greet Schoeters: Co-coordinator, Pillar 2 Lead (VITO: Flemish Institute for Technological Research, Argelia Castaño: Pillar 2 Lead (CNSA; ISCIII: Institute of Health Carlos III), Robert Barouki: Pillar 3 Lead (INSERM: Université Paris Descartes), Pierre LECOQ (ANSES French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health Safety), Hans Reynders (LNE: Flemish Government), Catherine Ganzleben: EEA: European Environment Agency

Organiser/Chair: Maria Uhl, Peter Tramberend: EAA: Environment Agency Austria

Rationale of the first Stakeholder Forum

The objectives of the kick-off-meeting of the Stakeholder Forum (SF) were

- to establish the forum officially
- to get to know each other
- to familiarize the stakeholders with the project's objectives
- to specify the role of each stakeholder in the project
- to clarify the process for nomination and selection of a chair and vice-chair of the SF
- to capture the expectations and future needs of the members of the SF

Welcome and Presentations

After the welcome from EAA, UBA and the European Commission, in which the importance of the role and input from the Stakeholder Forum for the European Human Biomonitoring Initiative HBM4EU was



emphasised, the HBM4EU coordinator introduced the main goals and principles of the initiative. Then, the pillar leaders presented the scope and activities foreseen in the respective pillars. In the afternoon presentations were given on the prioritisation process, the indicators and the stakeholder engagement. Pdf-documents of all presentations were sent out to all stakeholders on 12 September 2017.

Presentations: key messages

The project

Within HBM4EU, Human biomonitoring will be further established as a tool to protect human health and the environment. In short:

- A 5 year European Joint Programme under Horizon 2020 (2017-2021)
- It is designed to answer policy relevant questions for priority substances
- Total budget (EC+MS): € 74 million
- National Hubs and partners in 26 countries and the European Environment Agency
- 22 EU Member States, 3 associated countries + Switzerland

Pillar I: Science Policy: Work packages WP 4-6

- Prioritisation and development of scoping papers for priority substances (WP4-EEA)
- Translation of results into policy (WP5-VITO)
- Sustainability and Capacity Building (WP6-INSERM)

Pillar I aims at answering open policy relevant questions as defined by EU, giving policy makers a fast and easy access to results and data and bridging the gap between science and policy.

Pillar II: European HBM Platform Work packages WP 7-10

- Survey design (WP7- UBA)
- Targeted fieldwork surveys (WP8-PHE)
- Lab analysis and quality assurance (WP9- ISCIII)
- Data management and analysis (WP 10 VITO)

Pillar II aims to provide a solid basis for Pillar I and Pillar II: reliable, comparable and credible data and results by further working on / improving harmonization, quality assurance and data sharing. The identification of data gaps as well as designing and carrying out new studies are priorities within Pillar II.

Pillar III: Exposure and Health: Work packages WP 11-16

WP11: Linking HBM, Health studies and registers



From HBM to Exposure (WP12-AUTH)
Establishing exposure health relationships (WP13-MU)
Effect Biomarkers (WP14-UGR)
Mixtures (WP15-RIVM)
Emerging Chemicals (WP16: INRA)

Pillar III aims to increase the cost-effectiveness of HBM/health studies, to support regulations with knowhow on exposure pathways, PBTK and risk assessment, to strengthen evidence-based risk assessment, to support guidance values and new regulations on mixtures, to capture real exposure of emerging chemicals and to identify previously unknown hazards.

Prioritisation strategy: from mapping of needs to prioritization

In total, three rounds of prioritisation are foreseen. The procedure will be transparent and science based. The first step comprises mapping knowledge needs & a first ranking of substances. The criteria for prioritisation are hazard potential, exposure characteristics, regulatory status, public concern and technical feasibility. Stakeholders, National Hubs and the EU policy board can propose substances for the long list, substances on the long list will be prioritized to produce a short list. The categorisation of substances and development of scoping documents are among the next steps. Final goal is the inclusion of highly relevant research objectives in the Annual Work Plan.

Sustainability indicators:

Indicators are being developed to assess the impacts of HBM4EU and ultimately provide a sound justification for a long-term HBM4EU. These indicators should describe: performance of the research activities, impact on policy, increased national coordination of HBM related activities, increased engagement of less active countries, progress towards an EU-wide HBM platform.

The indicators will facilitate the evaluation of the added value for policy, society and sustainability and capacity building by HBM4EU.

Stakeholder Involvement:

Opportunities for Stakeholder engagement will include prioritisation of substances, interpreting results, multiplying impact, measuring success and planning the future.

Timetable 2017-2018:

1. Mapping of needs – nomination of substances July to Sept 2017
2. Sustainability indicators: Sept-October 2017
3. Stakeholder workshop on prioritisation 20 November 2017
4. Consultation on background documents and scoring Feb-March 2018
5. Survey on future expectations: March 2018
6. Workshop on future expectations: April 2018



Rules of procedure of the Stakeholder Forum

The SF is appointed by the Governing Board upon proposal by the Management Board. It shall give advice to the Governing Board & the Management Board on the conduct of the HBM4EU Programme. The SF consists of 11 representatives of bodies operating at EU level¹. The annual meeting will be held back to back with the Governing Board meeting, which is foreseen annually in September. The dates of these annual meetings shall be announced 30 calendar days in advance, the agenda will be sent out 21 calendar days before the meeting with the possibility to add agenda items up to 7 calendar days before the meeting.

Stakeholders are encouraged to engage themselves actively through forum meetings, workshops and written requests for input.

The minutes of the stakeholder forum shall be drafted within 10 calendar days, feedback from stakeholders shall be provided within 15 days after sending. The minutes are considered as accepted after 15 calendar days following receipt of the final version.

Decisions are binding once the relevant parts of the minutes have been accepted. After acceptance, the minutes will be sent out to all members of the Stakeholder Forum, Consortium Body and to the Coordinator. It has been agreed that the minutes will be published at the HBM4EU website as well.

Nomination and selection of a chair and vice-chair of the Stakeholder Forum

The grant agreement and the consortium agreement of HBM4EU foresee the selection of a Chair for the Stakeholder Forum. The chair will represent the members of the Stakeholder Forum and will chair the joint meetings. The chair should be supported by a Vice chair. The SF consists of 11 institutions with different interests from sectors such as "industry", "non-industry", and "NGOs". It is desirable that the Chair and the Vice-Chair represent the different interests in a balanced manner.

As a result of the nomination process the Stakeholder Forum selected 3 candidates for the post of Chair and Vice Chairs. The nomination reflects in an ideal way a balance between the above mentioned sectors of interests. In response to this balanced nomination the Stakeholder Forum proposed to set up a trio of Chair and 2 Vice-chairs. This proposal has been supported by many members via e-mail, the European Commission and the Project Coordinator.

¹ Chemtrust, Downstream Users of Chemical Co-ordination Group (DUCC), Eurometaux, European Association of Craft, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (UAPME), European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC), European Consumer Organisation (BEUC), European Environmental Bureau (EEB), European Federation of Allergy and Airways Disease Patients' Associations (EFA) or another European Patients interest group involved in Chemicals Legislation, European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL), Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF)



In an extra round for voting all 11 institutions of the Stakeholder Forum supported the trio of Chair and Vice Chair via email. The elected Chair and Vice-Chairs are:

Chair: **Natacha Cingotti (Heal)**

Vice-Chair 1: **Tony Musu (ETUC)**

Vice-Chair 2 (Suppléant): **Erwin Annys (CEFIC)**

Expectation of future needs

In the afternoon participants of the first SF meeting were invited to answer three questions against the background that the project has been finalized successfully in year 2022: 1) What did we achieve? 2) How did we get there? 3) What will be done with the results? Answers and thoughts were written to cards and presented thereafter.

The results of this exercise are given in the appendix; “expectations of future needs”. Interestingly, the results were quite similar between Stakeholders, Project consortium and European Commission:

Meaningful, reliable, high quality and comparable data to selected chemicals over Europe was among the key expectations. The data management shall be FAIR: data to be findable, accessible, interoperable and re-usable. The science-policy process shall be well coordinated and transparent. Improved interaction with stakeholders shall be achieved through involvement into methodological aspects, regular communication and dialogue and early communication of results. Good interaction with existing bodies is requested. Communication campaigns should mentioning risk, non-risk or less risk respectively. Results shall be also used for global action; restrictions shall be proposed for inclusion in international conventions and treaties.

Highlights and Expectations of Stakeholders from the discussion

The prioritization process shall be transparently presented.

Via HBM4EU website: <https://www.hbm4eu.eu/> all deliverables will be accessible. Also the selection of substances and progress of prioritisation will be published. Stakeholders want to be actively informed about key achievements and possibilities to interact and engage. However, the efforts have to be kept manageable in order to avoid deterring from participation.



Follow-up actions and next steps

- Election of chair and vice chair of the Stakeholder Forum. Candidates are: Natacha Cingotti: Chair; Tony Musu: Vice-Chair
- The date for the Stakeholder Workshop in Brussels will be the 20th of November (as favoured by the SF members via doodle)
- For attendance of the mixture workshop in May 2018 members of the Stakeholder Forum are asked to name interested and well qualified participants for this workshop

Annex

Results of “Expectation of future needs”