

Berlin, 27 February 2020

## Minutes (01/2020)

### 23<sup>rd</sup> HBM4EU Management Board Meeting

*Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020, from 13:00 to 18:00,  
until  
Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020, from 09:00 to 17:00,  
UBA, Corrensplatz 1, 14195 Berlin, Room 5*

#### Thursday, 30 January 2020

Time	Item No.	Topic
13:00 – 13:20	1	<p><b>Organisational Issues (Marike Kolossa-Gehring)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organisational issues of the meeting</li> <li>- Adoption of the agenda</li> <li>- Date and location of the next meeting: <b>MB meeting 12 March 2020 in Prague</b> starting at 09:00 on Thursday</li> <li>- Organisation/topic of the content meeting in March?</li> </ul> <p><b>Decision proposal:</b> The MB is asked to adopt the proposed agenda</p> <p>The coordinator informed the MB about the webinar given by Antonia Calafat at 20.00 pm today.</p> <p><b>Decision:</b> The MB adopted the proposed agenda with two additions under AOB (INRA PM and EFSA meeting &amp; mycotoxins) unanimously<sup>1</sup>.</p> <p>The coordinator informed the MB that a meeting about the subsequent partnership (PARC) on 13 March 2020 in Prague.</p> <p>The MB agreed to have a content meeting in March on HBM4EU contributing to risk assessment (organised by WPL5 &amp; WPL12).</p>
13:20 – 13:40	2	<p><b>HBM4EU - open regulatory processes (Joana Lobo Vicente)</b></p> <p><b>Information/discussion:</b> MB discussion of an opportunity to feed into regulatory processes, this time at ECHA.</p>

<sup>1</sup> Unanimously: All Work Package Leaders (or a fully mandated representative) who are entitled to vote were present and voted „yes“, no objection, no abstention.

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		<p>Joana Lobo Vicente presented input into regulatory processes already given, currently ongoing and expected in the future (presentation can be found on the HBM4EU <a href="#">SharePoint</a>).</p> <p>MB agreed unanimously that WPL4 will contact the respective CGLs (cc MB) and inform them on the two open calls for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- DMAC and NEP (aprotic solvents)</li> <li>- PAHs</li> </ul> <p>CGLs will be asked to prepare a response to ECHA's call for evidence on behalf of HBM4EU. The draft will be circulated to the MB for input.</p> <p>Action Point: WPL4 to contact the respective CGLs.</p>
13:40 – 14:30	3	<p><b>Dissemination of results of WP8-WP10 (Greet Schoeters, Liese Gilles)</b></p> <p><b>Information:</b> WPL10 contacted the study PI's to review the guidance on how and when to disseminate results of WP8-WP10. MB will be informed about new developments and the guidance should be discussed again.</p> <p>Liese Gilles presented the draft for the procedure for dissemination and communication of the results from the aligned studies (WP8/WP10).</p> <p>The MB discussed the questions posed by Liese Gilles during her presentation (mainly on responsibilities for certain activities during the dissemination process) and agreed that WPL10 will circulate the draft document for the aligned studies to the MB for input in the next two weeks. The final draft will then be discussed/approved during the MB meeting in March 2020.</p> <p><b>Action Point:</b> WPL10 to circulate the draft document to the MB with request for input and provide a consolidated draft for the MB meeting in March 2020.</p>
14:30 – 15:20	4	<p><b>EU representativeness in HBM4EU outputs (MARIKE Kolossa-Gehring)</b></p> <p><b>Information/discussion:</b> How do we safeguard that work products are produced in a pan-European cooperation and how do we give visibility to the added value of working in the European network? How can we guarantee that reports and publications are representing EU wide cooperation and will therefore be taken up by EU policy makers? And what should we do if drafts reveal that</p>

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		<p>results are based too much on national (e.g. missing feedback or contributions)?</p> <p>The coordinator explained the background of this topic and that it was brought up to the MB to increase pan-European cooperation and its visibility.</p> <p>The MB discussed how to improve the inclusion of all partners involved in the visible results and products.</p> <p>It was acknowledged that “CGLs work on the roots and trunk, and it is not possible afterwards to distinguish the fruit on who did what, it is only one orange”</p> <p>The coordinator summarised that all MB members are aware of the problem and will take measures to solve it as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Be aware of joint cooperation and interactions between different partners and express these in abstract and introduction.</li> <li>2) Express the added value that the respective study has been conducted in the European HBM4EU network and in abstract and introduction.</li> <li>3) Carefully consider who could be invited to contribute and included in scientific publications and authorships and keep the added value of cooperation in mind.</li> </ol>
15:20 – 15:50	--	<i>Coffee Break</i>
15:50 – 16:20	5	<p><b>Adding Israel to the aligned studies (Ovnair Sepai)</b></p> <p>Israel has expressed interest in using stored urine samples (from adults and children) for analysis of pesticides (pyrethroids and chlorpyrifos) as part of the aligned studies. Currently, there is no HBM study from Israel included in the alignment of studies. Within the RAV MABAT BIOMONITORING study, biobanked samples from children (ages 4-11, N=103) and adults (ages 18-64, N=187) are available for analysis.</p> <p><b>Budget implications:</b> 1PM for MOH-IL for post-harmonisation of questionnaire data related to exposure, second set priority chemicals (WP8)</p> <p>Chemical analysis of pesticides Pyrethroids/ Chlorpyrifos - €68/samples x 180 samples = €12,420 in WP9.</p>

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		<p>1PM for MOH-IL for the integration of metadata and co-funded exposure data from 2nd set substances and accompanying variables (harmonised individual data) into IPCHEM (WP10).</p> <p><b>The Israel Ministry of Health will co-fund 50% of the cost of the chemical analysis and 30% of the tasks under WP8 and WP10.</b></p> <p><b>Decision proposal:</b> The Management Board is asked to decide whether to allocate funding for adding Israel to countries conducting aligned studies for second set priority chemicals (pesticides).</p> <p><b>Decision proposal:</b> The Management approved the proposal to include Israel in the aligned study (under the reserve that budget is available) unanimously. If no other parts of the budget are available the coordinator will take the funding from the steering reserve if possible.</p> <p><b>Action Point:</b> The coordinator to check if there is money left in the steering reserve. If so, the money will be shifted from there. The coordinator will inform WPL8. WPL10 and WPL12 will discuss bilaterally if UoC can provide something similar with no additional costs.</p>
16:20 – 17:05	6	<p><b>Assessment of mercury in pregnant women (Ovnair Sepai)</b></p> <p>Assessment of exposure to mercury using biomonitoring methods in the frame of HBM4EU will support European and global actions to control mercury exposure and to protect human health. “Mercury &amp; methylmercury” were prioritised during the 2<sup>nd</sup> prioritisation round, but are not included in aligned studies under WP8. The proposed study addresses this gap and supports answers to the following policy questions raised in the scoping document on mercury and the AWP 2020-21: How can the public be informed / awareness raised? What advice should be given regarding the effects of mercury on health and the environment and about management options. How can HBM4EU results support policy decisions at EFSA and ECHA?</p> <p><b>Budget implications:</b> The proposed study requires allocation of resources of approximately 275,850 Euros in 2020-21. The distribution across the different WPs is described in the decision memo.</p> <p><b>Decision proposal:</b> The Management Board is asked to approve a study in five high fish-consuming countries, aiming to assess and lower methylmercury exposure in pregnant women while ensuring the nutritional benefits of fish, through suitable dietary advice.</p>

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		<p>WPL8 and WPL9 gave some background information on the decision memo and currently ongoing processes in the EU with regard to mercury.</p> <p><b>Decision:</b> The Management Board decided to report back to the author of the DM the following issues: the design needs to be explained better, what research questions shall be addressed?, involved partners need to be identified and listed, the time schedule might be problematic and should be reviewed esp. with regard to the time needed for recruitment and study conduct, missing budget details need to be added, what about the ethical protocol?, check if WP7 needs to be involved, implementation of control? They should also be informed that a final decision can only be taken once the MB has a sound overview on the remaining budget for 2020/2021. The MB expressed its concern that the time schedule might be overoptimistic and a finalisation of the study until June 2021 not feasible.</p> <p><b>Action Point:</b> WPL8 to report back to MOH-CY the outcome of the MB discussion and about the financial restrictions. The decision memo needs to be updated with regard to the questions addressed by the MB.</p>
17:05 – 17:50	7	<p><b>European Green Deal - opportunities for HBM4EU input (Joana Lobo Vicente)</b></p> <p><b>Information:</b> With regard to the launch of the new European Green Deal, WPL2 would like to highlight the focus on chemicals in the European Green Deal. This focus provides a real opportunity for HBM4EU to provide targeted input to Commission work on foreseen actions over the next two years. The MB is asked to discuss this opportunity.</p> <p>Joana Lobo Vicente presented an overview on six points of the European Green Deal to which HBM4EU might be able to provide input.</p> <p>(1) “Chemicals strategy for sustainability”: the MB agreed to produce a short, targeted statement on human exposure to chemicals in Europe by May 2020 to be sent to the EC by letter and be published on website and social media.</p> <p><b>Action Point:</b> WPL2 will prepare a template with frame information (some guidelines), this will be sent to VITO to be put on their SharePoint. WPL1 and WPL5 will prepare a first proposal based on the template and share it with the MB for discussion in the MB Meeting in March 2020.</p>

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		<p>(2) “Circular Economy Action Plan” 2020-2021: the MB was reminded that WP2 will produce a report on the priority chemicals in the Circular Economy in 2020-21 under HBM4EU. WP8 is also working on occupational exposure to chemicals in the recycling industry.</p> <p><b>Action Point:</b> WPL8 to send relevant information to WPL2 as the project plan will be out in March, and WPL2 to produce the report.</p> <p>(3) “Farm to Fork” strategy: the MB agreed to produce a policy brief on human exposure to pesticides, PAHs and mercury. Work under the occupational studies is also relevant, as well as work done with organophosphates: farm to fork to human; and the HBM-GV: Use the HBM data to assess the levels in food that are "safe" to develop TDI.</p> <p>(4) “Legislation on batteries”: the MB agreed to produce a short brief on human exposure to heavy metals resulting from their use in batteries.</p> <p><b>Action Point:</b> WPL12 to draft a short brief and share with the MB.</p> <p>(5) “Green agenda for the Western Balkans”: the MB agreed to ask North Macedonia if they would like to be included in the mercury study (if it gets approved). Also check for PCBs exposure due to the war; and metals, pesticides.</p> <p><b>Action point:</b> WPL12 to contact North Macedonia and Croatia.</p> <p>(6) “Zero pollution action plan for water, air and soil”: the MB agreed to produce a statement from HBM4EU on this action plan with regard to key elements to minimise human exposure and the role of HBM in chemical safety.</p> <p><b>Action Point:</b> Of relevance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PAHs in air (data from DE, CZ)</li> <li>- Cd in soil</li> <li>- Combine additional methods. Not just role of HBM in chemical safety, but we need to emphasise the combination of additional methods</li> </ul> <p>WPLs to keep that in mind when results are generated. WPL2 to remind the MB once a statement should be produced.</p>
18:15	--	<p><b>Self-paid Dinner (optional)</b></p> <p>At Restaurant „Trattoria Romana“, Unter den Eichen 84a, 14195 Berlin (<a href="http://www.trattoriaromana-berlin.de/">http://www.trattoriaromana-berlin.de/</a>)</p>

## Friday, 31 January 2020

Time	Item No.	Topic
09:00 – 09:05	--	<b>Welcome (Marike Kolossa-Gehring)</b>
09:05 – 09:35	8	<p><b>Annual Work Plan 2021 (Rosa Lange, Kim Pack)</b></p> <p>Kim Pack gave an overview on important requests from the EC (e.g. all work in 2020 defining activities for 2021 must be done by June 2020; no deliverables in M60; etc.)</p> <p>The presentation can be found on the HBM4EU <a href="#">SharePoint</a> under Management Board.</p> <p>The MB discussed how to link the AWP2021 preparation, the HBM4EU legacy and the recommendations for a future project.</p> <p><b>Action Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning for each WP and including the involved partners starts now,</li> <li>• AWP2020 and draft AWP2021 need to be checked for “open ends”,</li> <li>• Work, associated resources and participating partners need to be fully defined by June 2020 (no DMs or AD to introduce new activities, minimise ‘buffers’),</li> <li>• Existing draft AWP2021 (esp. after the reporting for 2019 has been finalised) needs to be refined.</li> </ul>
09:35 – 10:40	9	<p><b>Second occupational study (Tiina Santonen)</b></p> <p><b>Information:</b> Detailed information on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Occupational study and required budget.</p> <p>Tiina Santonen presented the background and actual state of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Occupational study, including the full research plan and budget per partner (can be found in draft <a href="#">AD8.4 “Detailed research plan for the occupational diisocyanate and E-waste study”</a>).</p> <p>Currently, additional PMs and ODCs are needed to conduct the study properly. But there might be some unspent budget from involved partners that could be used.</p> <p>It was suggested to explore if lead could be measured in the adults of the aligned studies to have data from non-occupationally exposed that can serve as additional controls for the lead measurements in the E-waste occupational study.</p>

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		<p>Action Point: WPL8 to check if the additional PMs and ODCs can be taken from unspent or not yet specifically allocated budget.</p>
<p>10:40 – 11:45 12:10 – 12:40</p>	<p>10</p>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conferences and events (Joana Lobo Vicente)</li> </ul> <p>Joana Lobo Vicente gave an overview on conference and events attended by HBM4EU in 2019 and an outlook on those planned for 2020.</p> <p>NHCPs have been contacted with regard to interest in organising focus groups in 2020.</p> <p>Action Point: WPLs are asked to always inform WP2 about their attendance to conferences and events</p> <p>The MB agreed that WPL16 will be asked to send a request for volunteers to present HBM4EU during a ~2 hour special session on the DIOXIN 2020 in Nantes (30.08.-04.09.2020)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update on regulatory processes (Joana Lobo Vicente): Answer to ECHA call on PFAS was not submitted by HBM4EU due to an unforeseen absence. Joana Lobo to follow-up with Maria Uhl and suggest to contact the Greet Schoeters (CGL coordinator) in case this type of situation happens again.</li> <li>Advisory Board recommendations: follow-up by the MB (Philipp Weise)</li> </ul> <p>Action Point: All WPLs to answer until <b>15<sup>th</sup> March 2020</b> to the Pillar Leaders and to the Coordinator how to implement the recommendations under their responsibility. Afterwards the Pillar Leaders will be asked to compile a written response, at the level of a succinct executive summary, to the Advisory Board (e.g. as a chapter of the Pillar Leader Report) in May 2020. <li>PM allocation INRA in WP16 for 2019 (Elena Tarroja, Martin Krauss)</li> <p>Elena Tarroja presented the background and reasoning for the decision memo provided by WPL16. Martin Krauss explained that the main increase was caused by the suspect screening for the specimen study which was not originally planned in the DoA but briefly mentioned in the AWP2019 already.</p> </p>



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		<p><b>Decision proposal:</b> The Management Board is asked to consider and agree the updated increased PM allocation (which will not exceed the estimated budget for INRA).</p> <p><b>Decision:</b> The MB agreed under the condition that the financial frame is not exceeded to the updated PM allocation unanimously.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Letter to EFSA on mycotoxins (Ludek Blaha)</li> </ul> <p>WPL13 will send a letter that should be send to EFSA on information on Mycotoxins to the MB for information only. It was proposed to evaluate after the HBM4EU-EFSA meeting if the letter should be sent to EFSA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HBM4EU visit to EFSA on 12-13 February 2020 in Parma, Italy (Greet Schoeters and other MB members)</li> </ul> <p>WPL5 presented the proposed agenda and participating partners for the EFSA visit in February 2020.</p> <p><b>Action Point:</b> WPL16 to check if someone from WP16 can attend in person or by Skype.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The coordinator informed the MB that the German Ministry for the Environment will support a project called “Humanbiomonitoring - neue Erkenntnisse zum besseren Schutz von Mensch und Umwelt vor Chemikalien nutzen (Kurztitel: HBM_2020) from ChemTrust Europe e.V. that supports the HBM4EU work.</li> </ul>
11:45 – 12:10		<i>Coffee Break</i>
12:30 – 12:45	--	<p><b>Content Meeting on publications (Dimosthenis Sarigiannis)</b></p> <p>Proposal on how to invite CGLs and partners from activities supplying services necessary as a prerequisite for later studies to contribute to papers at an early stage.</p> <p>The solution proposed is that as soon as the research program is put together (it is already spelled out quite in detail in the AWP2020-21) CGLs and all relevant members of the chemical group teams go through the document and make proposals on how to best integrate the work they have developed with the already planned work. Then, once or while the formal project deliverable is prepared, and if a relevant contribution is foreseen, all members of the respective research team and the corresponding CGL are to be invited to contribute to the preparation of the scientific publications that will be prepared on the specific topic. Ensuring that the procedure is</p>

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		<p>followed should be the responsibility of the related Task Leader under the supervision of the WPL.</p> <p>WPL12 is explaining the background and reasoning of the decision memo provided for this meeting.</p> <p><b>Decision proposal:</b> The MB is asked to agree to the proposal on how to invite CGLs and partners from activities by supplying services necessary a prerequisite for later studies to contribute to papers at an early stage. The responsibility on the involvement of CGLs and relevant partners should be with the Task Leaders (and/or Work Package Leaders).</p> <p>The MB discussed the following points: this inclusion (of checking with the CGLs on relevant contributions to scientific publications related to their substances/group) shall be mandatory, abstracts should be written and shared to all concerned before the paper is fully developed, otherwise it will be difficult to contribute. Generation of a guidance section, which will be included in the publication policy document after agreement of the MB.</p> <p><b>Decision:</b> The MB agreed unanimously to the proposal.</p> <p><b>Action Point:</b> WPL12 will draft a guidance section to be discussed with the MB and shared with the Task Leaders and to be included in the publication policy document after being accepted by the MB.</p>
12:45 – 13:30		<i>Lunch Break</i>
13:30 – 15:00	--	<p><b>Content Meeting on work of WP13 (Jana Klanova/Ludek Blaha)</b></p> <p>The following questions should be discussed: What is currently going on in all WP 13 tasks, how does the work of WP13 answer policy questions, how interacts WP13 with and contributes to other Work Packages, what are the expected outcomes and results and, what are the benefits from the work of WP13?</p> <p>Proposed agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WP13 overview, summary of results achieved so far, plans for 2020-21 (Ludek Blaha and Jana Klanova), discussion of the questions above</li> <li>• Exposure-health causality through advanced (q)AOPs/networks within the HBM context (Denis Sarigiannis et al.)</li> </ul>
15:00 – 15:30		<i>Coffee Break</i>

Time	Item No.	Topic
15:30 – 17:00		<p><b>Content Meeting on work of WP13 (continued)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Associations between the HBM4EU priority compounds and health outcomes: progress from cohort studies (Thorhallur Halldorsson)</li> <li>• Case study (IC project): Development of qAOPs to investigate PFAS effects on cholesterol metabolism (Rob Stierum, Joost Westerhout)</li> <li>• Case study (IC project): Mapping Adverse outcome Pathways of neurodevelopmental and neurodegenerative disorderS (MAPS) (Beatrice Bocca)</li> </ul>

## Deliverables due until March 2020

WP	No.	Title	Due	Security	State
13	D13.4	Report on AOPs of priority substances	12/18	Public	Revision (AUTH)
<b>2019</b>					
5	D5.6	Derivation of EU-wide human biomonitoring health-based guidance values (EU HBM-HBGV) for selected phthalates	09/19	Public	Revision (UBA)
6	AD6.2	Results of the interaction and surveys with the institutional partners, the EPA Network and the National Reference Centre on Environment and Health	11/19	Public	Revision (EEA)
10	D10.6	2nd annual list of EU-wide reference values	11/19	Public	Ready, but some issues with DEMOCOPHES data to be solved
13	AD13.3	Summary reports from chemical focus groups/workshops	11/19	Public	Delayed
8	D8.8	Progress report on Report on strategies adopted to align studies across Europe and preliminary results	12/19	Public	QC (PL1)
12	AD12.9	Report on biochemical/metabolic interactions among mixture components based on computational modelling	12/19	Public	Revision needed
12	AD12.10	Report on the parameterization of the 2nd set of priority compounds	12/19	Public	QC (UBA)
12	AD12.11	Biokinetic modelling of Copper compounds	12/19	Public	QC (UBA)
<b>2020</b>					
12	D12.5	Report on risk characterisation ratios and evaluation of new regulatory thresholds for 1st set of priority substances (ANSES)	01/20	Public	Revision needed
15	MS23	Launch of topical cases studies on mixture health effects as proof of concept	01/20	--	Delayed?
8	D8.9	Report on progress targeted occupational studies	12/19	Public	Postponed to March2020
1	PR	<b>Periodic Report (PFR &amp; PTR)</b>	03/20	Confidential	Due 02/03/20
8	AD8.5	Summary Report of T8.2 Activities	03/20	Public	

14	D14.7	Guidelines for the validation of biomarkers of effect and quality assurance, implementing quality assurance, trueness, precision, and accuracy as well as the availability of quality control measures by qualified laboratories (UGR)	01/20	Public	Postponed to April 2020
14	AD14.6	Report on the state of development of Task 14.3	12/19	Public	<b>QC (UBA)</b>
8	AD8.3	Studies implementing second set priority chemicals and/or biomarkers of effect	05/20	Public	
9	AD9.5	QA/QC programme for the 2nd list of prioritised substances: Details and contributing partners	02/20	Public	Postponed to May2020
12	D12.6	Integrated exposure modelling platform	12/19	Public	Postponed to June2020