



Berlin, 22 December 2021

Minutes (11/2021)

34th HBM4EU Management Board Meeting

Thursday, 18 November 2021 from 10:00 to 16:40

Friday, 19 November 2021 from 10:00 to 15:15

via WebEx due to COVID-19

Thursday, 18 November 2021

Time	Item No.	Topic
10:00 – 10:15	1	<p>Organisational Issues (Marike Kolossa-Gehring)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organisational issues of the meeting• Adoption of the agenda• Date and location of the next meeting: MB meeting 27-28 January 2022 via WebEx• Organisation/topic of the content meeting in January? <p>Decision proposal: The Management Board (MB) is asked to adopt the proposed agenda and to decide if the MB meeting in January shall be held virtually or in person.</p> <p>Decision: The MB adopted the proposed agenda unanimously with one more item under AOB “Discussion on the PFAS paper proposed by WP13”.</p> <p>Proposals for the content meeting in January: discuss the final conference (presentations should be ready at that date). WP15 discussion of recommendations from Mixture Workshop in October 2021 (originally planned for November 2021 but postponed).</p> <p>The coordinator informed the MB about the approval of the amendment and the AWP2021-22 and thanked all MB members for their efforts and support.</p>

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10:15 – 10:20	2	<p>HBM4EU final assessment (Marike Kolossa-Gehring)</p> <p>Information: UBA will give a short update on the feedback from the European Commission on the question if there will be a final assessment of HBM4EU.</p> <p>The coordinator informed the MB about the feedback from the EC that there will be no final assessment apart from the final periodic reporting. MB was also informed that there will be no periodic reporting in January/February 2022 but in July/August 2022 covering a reporting period of 18 months. As usual there will be a financial and a technical report – and a so-called final report on the scientific findings of the project. The last one is maybe generated automatically by the Portal, but this will only be known once the EC has opened the periodic reporting (most likely in early July 2022).</p> <p>The coordinator proposed to ask the Advisory Board for final remarks on the project.</p>
10:20 – 11:50	3	<p>Final Conference</p> <p>Progress on agenda and communication products (Laura Popin)</p> <p>Information on the current state of the organisation of the final conference.</p> <p>Laura presented the lessons learnt from the last meeting week based on feedback from participants as well as EU key players and the planned focus for the final conference: focus on HBM4EU not PARC, results and the translation of conclusions into impacts. A preliminary proposal for the agenda was presented as well.</p> <p>The MB discussed how to get a good balance between scientific discussion/results and transfer into policy impacts and how to get the policymakers better involved. Aim of the conference will be to offer an attractive programme for both. Scientists and policymakers which keeps them involved for the whole time of the conference.</p> <p>The proposals for potential speakers was presented to and discussed by the MB. The MB agreed to the proposed speakers but would like to see additional speakers considered.</p> <p>Action Point WP1: Send around the presentation on the final conference. Adjust timeline to add first discussion of planned presentations on the content meeting in January. Contact the proposed speakers as agreed by the MB.</p> <p>Action Point all WPL: Please send all proposals for the final conference agenda, proposals for high-level national speakers</p>

Time	Item No.	Topic
		<p>and proposals for speakers on the panel discussion including their envisioned contribution to UBA by 26 November 2021.</p> <p>HBM4EU Special Issue (Alexandra Polcher)</p> <p>Information on the current state of the preparation of the special issue on HBM4EU.</p> <p>Alexandra presented the current state of the special issue and informed the MB that there was not as much input received as expected (10 ideas so far) and reminded to send proposals as soon as possible.</p> <p>Action Point all WPL: Please send proposals until 26 November 2021 to Alexandra and please add the estimated delivery date.</p> <p>Structure of newspaper for final conference (Roser Gasol)</p> <p>Roser informed the Management Board on the planned structure of the newspaper and the responsibilities for the different sections. The MB discussed how the priority substances should be clustered.</p> <p>Action Point PL: Send suggestions on how to cluster the substances to Roser by e-mail.</p> <p>Please note: WP2 relies on all authors to keep the deadlines, and to follow the specific guidelines, number of words, etc. Details will be shared by e-mail.</p>
12:30 – 12:40	4	<p>Financial Issues (Alexandra Polcher, Birgit Puppe)</p> <p>Information: The financial team will provide an update on the current status of the budget.</p> <p>Alexandra gave a brief overview on the current budget after the amendment and the AWP2021-22 have been accepted. The budget sheets for all partners are currently being sent out. All costs for 2021 and 2022 need to be reported in July/August 2022 – budget shifts from 2021 to 2022 do not need to be reported. There will be no reporting in the beginning of 2022, maybe the coordinator will request some feedback on resources spent in 2021 to get an overview on the current situation of the common pot.</p>
12:40 – 13:30		<i>Lunch Break</i>

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13:30 – 13:55	5	<p>Update on timeline of policy questions (Joana Lobo)</p> <p>Information: Joana will give a short status update on the timeline of the policy questions to be fed into the substance reports and policy briefs - currently in the phase 2, in which WPLs can provide input to CGLs.</p> <p>Joana updated the MB on the current state of the policy questions table, which will feed into the substance reports and policy briefs, and pointed out that 15 January 2021 is the final deadline for input for CGLs and WPLs. Policy briefs will be ready for the final conference, the substances reports will be ready in May 2022.</p> <p>The MB is asked to work on the online document and to not create any separate documents, this would generate too much work at EEA.</p> <p>Please note: Final approval of the policy briefs by the MB is foreseen for the MB meeting on 24/25 March 2022 (or in a written decision if earlier). Substance reports to be approved during the MB meeting on 19/20 May 2022.</p> <p>Action Points all WPLs: Substance results should be filled in the tables provided by EEA.</p>
13:45 – 14:25	6	<p>Organisation of publications (Marike Kolossa-Gehring)</p> <p>Discussion on the organisation of publications (and their titles) and prioritisation of the results for the communication of HBM4EU results.</p> <p>During a written decision procedure, a need for further discussion on the overall organisation of publications occurred. There are four different conditions under which (qualitatively different) results can be produced:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) From comparing non-harmonised, potentially not (really) comparable data, (2) From the aligned studies results, (3) From modelled data results, which have not been validated by real HBM measurements. (4) Comparisons on up to or less than 2-time points vs complex time trend analyses with at least 3 measured points on the decreasing or increasing part of a time trend curve. <p>Concerning case 4) a manuscript “Time trend analysis of phthalates and substitutes DINCH and DEHTP in Danish and German young adults between 2000 and 2017” is currently under preparation. It is based on an intensive search for data with (at</p>

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		<p>least 3) repeated measurements what is a prerequisite to analyse time trends and not just compare different time points. So far, only a Danish and a German study fulfil these requirements and are in the position to provide resources (a further Swedish study could not contribute).</p> <p>The MB discussed the organisation and criteria for publications. It was also discussed to clearly indicate where data comes from. The MB needs to assure that the conclusions are agreed upon. But different angles and perspectives should be allowed. The global HBM4EU coherence and consistence is certainly to be considered, but should not impair the different possible (if scientifically valid) individual pieces of work or analyses and angles of view.</p> <p>Please note: The MB agreed to keep this in mind for upcoming approvals of proposed publications, to interlink early and to have a closer look at upcoming decision memos on publications including the proposed titles.</p>
14:25 – 14:30	7	<p>Decision on a publication on time-trends (Denis Sarigiannis)</p> <p>After the discussion under item 6, the Management Board is asked to discuss and approve the planned publication on</p> <p><i>“Time-trends in human urinary concentrations of phthalates in Asian and North American countries, in 2009–2019, based on stratified literature data (“PhthaLit” database)”</i> based on work done in WP12.</p> <p>Decision Proposal: The Management Board is asked to approve publication of the proposed paper.</p> <p>Decision: The Management Board approved the proposed publication unanimously. But based on the discussion under item 6 the title shall be changed for clarification.</p>
14:30 – 15:05	8	<p>Communication of aligned studies results (Liese Gilles)</p> <p>Information/discussion on the process on communication of aligned studies results and the adjustment of procedure, based on trial with PFOS presentation.</p> <p>Liese updated the MB on the communication of the results from the aligned studies using a PFOS example.</p> <p>The MB discussed the presented communication process and who needs to be informed/involved before publishing the data.</p>

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		<p>Action Point NHC: It was agreed that the NHC will contact the partners concerned and ask them to safeguard that the information is passed to their GB members.</p> <p>Please note: Unpublished data should not be used for any purposes out of HBM4EU.</p>
15:05 – 15:15	9	<p>Deliverables due in 2021 (Nicole Kobosil)</p> <p>Information: Overview on all (additional) deliverables that need to be submitted until the end of 2021. Deadline for (additional) deliverables due in December is 10 December 2021 at the latest.</p> <p>Please note: The EC project officer stressed out several times that there should be no further delays in (additional) deliverables and the MB also confirmed the final delivery dates during the meeting in June 2021.</p> <p>The MB took note of the list of deliverables due until the end of 2021 and the December deadline (including the Pillar Leader approval).</p>
15:15 – 15:35	10	<p>HBM4EU Website (Roser Gasol, Marike Kolossa-Gehring)</p> <p>Information: follow-up of the discussion on the HBM4EU website during the MB meeting in September and information on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Existence of an appropriate disclaimer for the use of HBM4EU materials (WP2) -> postponed to next meeting b) Limitations, feasibility and have costs estimates for interactive indicators for (WP2): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addition of interactive indicators on the current HBM4EU website. -> Roser informed that interactive content cannot be displayed on the HBM4EU website. • Possibility to include a link (bridge) to a secondary website hosted on the VITO server (discuss with WPL5) for the interactive indicators. -> WPL5 informed that it would be possible at low costs but with regard to the limited time until the end of the project, resources could better be used for other purposes. It also depends on decisions concerning the further hosting of the website after the official end of HBM4EU. c) Can the HBM4EU website be maintained after the end of the project. And if so, for how long? (WP1/WP2) -> Roser informed the MB that a full website backup is possible, Server

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		<p>and Domain will cost around 330 Euro per year and can be managed by Formato Verde as long as we want but it has to be hosted by another entity.</p> <p>Decision: The MB agreed to host the website for 10 more years and asked WP2 to provide a decision memo on the management of the website by FV after the end of the project (costs to be added to the ODCs of WP2 in 2022 if necessary).</p> <p>UPDATE 22.12.2021: The EEA has checked, and for legal reasons, it cannot coordinate the website management through Formato Verde after the project has finished. A decision needs to be taken regarding who will host the website after the end of the project and, who will liaise with Formato Verde after HBM4EU's conclusion.</p> <p>a) and b) will be discussed during the MB meeting in January when more information on the transfer of content to PARC might be available.</p>
15:35 – 15:50	11	<p>Establishment of a network of experts on PFAS Hot spots (Greet Schoeters)</p> <p>Preliminary information: As more and more cases of PFAS contaminations in Europe are gradually becoming known there is an urgent need for a guidance on Human Biomonitoring in hot spot regions targeting PFAS contamination, as there are special needs to be considered.</p> <p>HBM4EU has the unique possibility to set up a network for Human Biomonitoring in (PFAS) hot spot areas and to address the specific needs. The respective and affected regions and experts within HBM4EU form the core of these activities. At least 7 countries will be involved, but via approaching the National Hub others can cooperate and contribute. Ultimately, all countries will benefit. Within this HBM4EU activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> d) Several (online) meetings will be held in order to exchange and discuss. e) A guidance how to deal with these specific situations will be established. f) Communication materials will be developed. g) Potential interventions will be explored. h) A workshop will be held involving experts from science and policy. <p>A timeline is provided in the decision memo.</p>

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		<p>Financial implications:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Partner</th> <th>Year</th> <th>PMs</th> <th>Costs</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>VITO (BE)</td> <td>2022</td> <td>3.5</td> <td>43.582 €</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PIH (linked 3rd party VITO) (BE)</td> <td>2022</td> <td>1</td> <td>8.035 €</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EAA (Austria)</td> <td>2022</td> <td>1</td> <td>9.205 €</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UCPH (DK)</td> <td>2022</td> <td>1</td> <td>9.343 €</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td></td> <td>6.5</td> <td>70.165 €</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Additionally, several institutes expressed their interest in joining this activity under their role via National Hub or as linked third party without need for additional budget. Institutes involved in other PFAS hotspots (e.g. Italy, Netherlands, Hungary) will be contacted to collaborate and share their experience. No budget request expected.</p> <p>Decision proposal: The MB is asked to decide if the above-mentioned activities shall be performed within HBM4EU and if the respective person months/resources shall be made available.</p> <p>Please note: the EC has agreed to the proposal on 10 November 2021 with a request for some small adjustments (updated decision memo was provided on 18 November 2021).</p> <p>Decision: The MB agreed to the proposed activities and budget unanimously.</p>	Partner	Year	PMs	Costs	VITO (BE)	2022	3.5	43.582 €	PIH (linked 3 rd party VITO) (BE)	2022	1	8.035 €	EAA (Austria)	2022	1	9.205 €	UCPH (DK)	2022	1	9.343 €	Total		6.5	70.165 €
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15:50 – 16:40	12	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conferences and events (Roser Gasol) Roser gave an update on the conferences and events Second animated video (Roser Gasol): Presentation script for the policy uptake 2nd animated video with UMIT (if available at that date) -> Script was not available for the MB meeting – a short discussion on the content of the video and the challenge to present it in an interesting way took place. Discussion on the written procedure on a proposed publication on “Characterisation of potential modes of action of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) related to metabolic outcomes using artificial intelligence?” (Mirjam Luijten) -> Mirjam mentioned some points of concern on the proposed publication. WPL13 was not aware of the issues 																								

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		<p>raised by Mirjam and proposed to withdraw the proposal. It was decided to cancel the current written decision approval. It was also discussed how to identify if a paper is funded or co-funded by HBM4EU or if HBM4EU is just acknowledged.</p> <p>Action Point WP1: check if funding type is mentioned in decision memos before sending them out.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with DG RTD on 17 November 2021 on an EU research and innovation strategic plan for the chemical sector in the Green Deal era: WPL5 informed the MB on the meeting with DG RTD that was led by Sofie Nørager. HBM4EU was asked to provide input on the presented plan. An e-mail with a presentation and questionnaire was received and will be shared with the MB to be discussed tomorrow morning.

Friday, 19 November 2021

Time	Item No.	Topic
10:00 – 10:10	--	Welcome
10:10 – 11:10	13	Meeting with the new PO from the European Commission Rita Araújo – Project Officer from the European Commission - introduced herself and the MB members gave a brief overview on their Work Packages and introduced themselves.
11:10 – 11:35	12	AOB (continued) Meeting with DG RTD on 17 November 2021: Rita Araujo informed the MB about the broader context of the initiative on the “EU research and innovation strategic plan for the chemical sector in the Green Deal era” and emphasised that feedback from HBM4EU is very important. Rita will check some more details and will come back to the MB with explanations. Action Point PL/WPL: Please read the documents sent on 18 November by WPL5. Consolidated answer needs to be sent to the EC until 22 December 2021. Distribution of tasks was agreed upon as follows: Risk Assessment = Pillar 1, Exposure = Pillar 2, Hazard = Pillar 3, Safe by design = WP12, Fair data = WP10, Exposure models = WP12. Pillar leaders to initiate the process and involve the respective Work Packages. First draft per Pillar to be ready by 07 December 2021. Consolidation/finalisation to be done until 20 December 2021 by WPL5 and WPL1.
11:35 – 12:30	--	Content Meeting WP5 overview of aligned studies in combination with indicators (Greet Schoeters)
12:30 – 13:30		<i>Lunch Break</i>
13:30 – 15:15	--	Content Meeting (continued) Follow-up on the Pillar Leader reports Follow-up and discussion on the pillar leader reports to evaluate (additional) opportunities for dissemination in a broader sense.