




EUROPEAN HUMAN BIOMONITORING INITIATIVE (HBM4EU) INDICATOR LEAFLETS

ENGAGEMENT OF NATIONAL HUBS

Indicator 1.1 Number of countries with an active national hub

 **SPECIFIC GOAL 1:** Laying the foundations for a pan-European HBM platform that includes National Hubs and builds on existing expertise

 **RESPONSIBLE:** Department of Health (DH), UK  **WORK PACKAGE:** 6 (DH)

KEY MESSAGES

- National Hubs (NHs) are the key to the sustainability of human biomonitoring (HBM) in Europe
- Each country has a different National Hub (NH) structure and a varied level of participation in the project
- Many National Hub Contact Points (NHCPs) say that due to HBM4EU they were able to form better links to policy makers and stakeholders and have been able to establish national structures

WHY



National hubs play an important role in the HBM4EU project to act as intermediaries between HBM4EU and national partners/stakeholders to:



Create a long-term network bringing together HBM activities at national level



Feed national needs into the European process

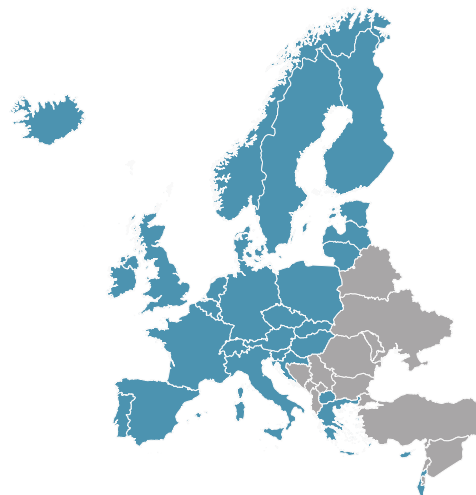


Contribute to the objectives and learn from the work done in HBM4EU

RESULTS

1. HBM4EU participating countries with a National Hub

- HBM4EU is a joint effort of 30 countries, the European Environment Agency and the European Commission, co-funded under Horizon 2020
- All participating countries have a national Hub



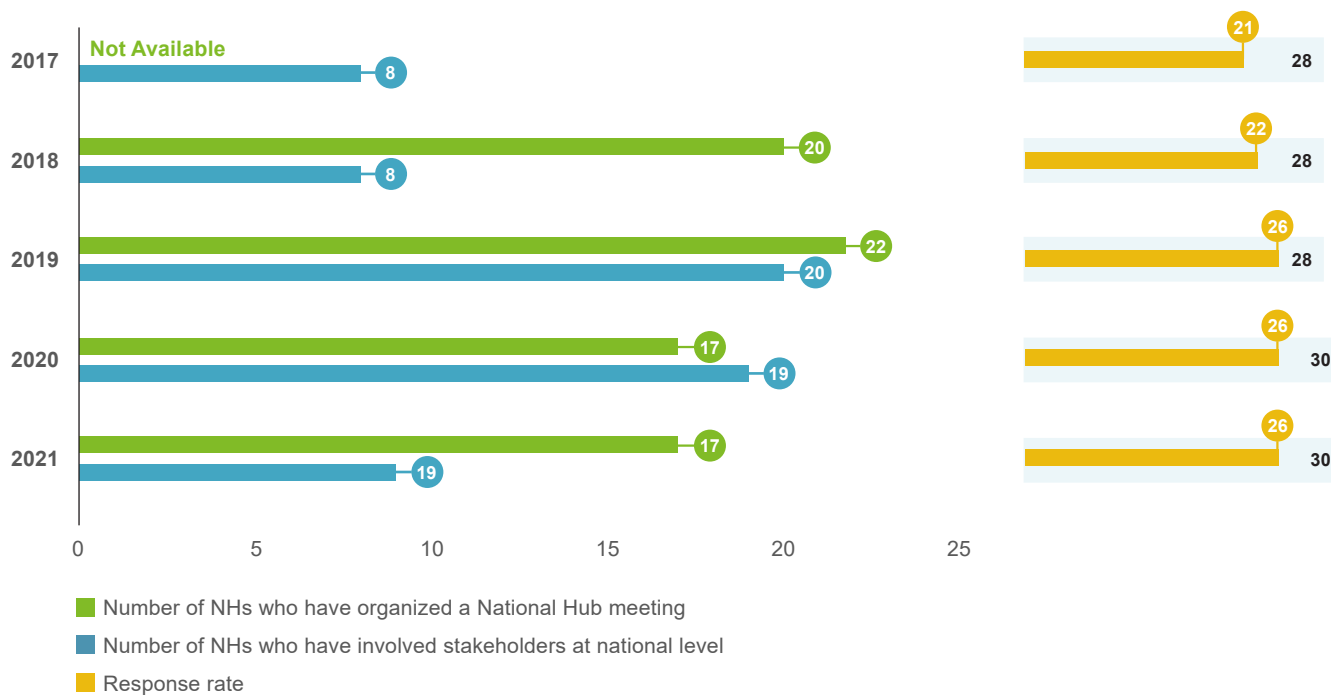


2. Engagement of National Hubs

2.1. National Hub Consultation, HBM4EU End of Year Review



Each country has a different NH structure and a varied level of participation and engagement in the project.

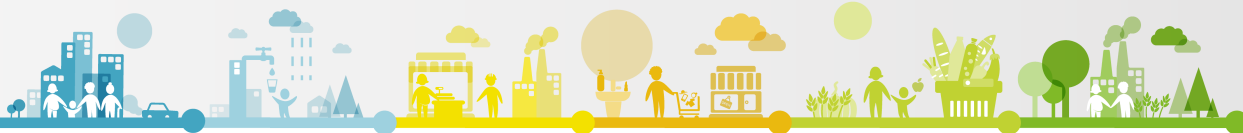


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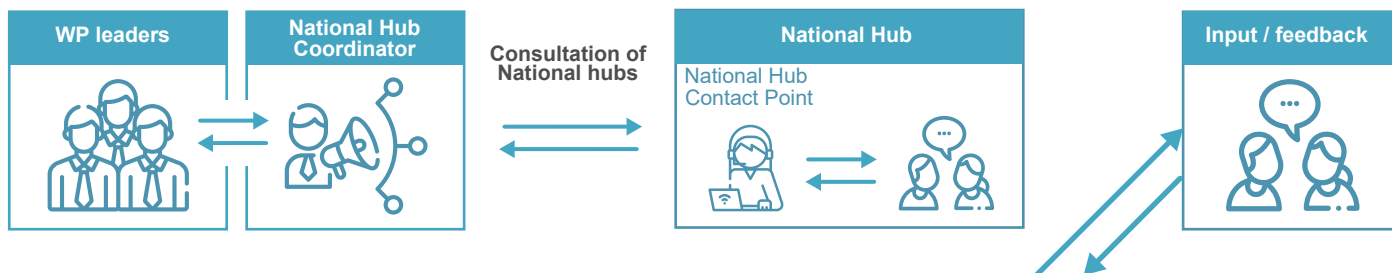
- HBM4EU has enabled hubs to be formed in the 1st year
- Many of the NHCP stakeholders stated that due to HBM4EU they were able to form better links to policy makers and stakeholder and make better networks with academic researchers with the view to enable them to tap into national infrastructure and perhaps funding

FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

- Major obstacles identified:
 - lack of legal requirement for HBM in risk assessment or regulations
 - lack of stable funding source
- Future priorities for NHs:
 - ensure laboratory networks are established and updated to include key players
 - increase research partnerships to ensure sustainability
 - access European HBM data and be able to compare to National data
- During the last year discussions of how the NH would continue beyond 2022 - showed that many were expecting NH structures to continue



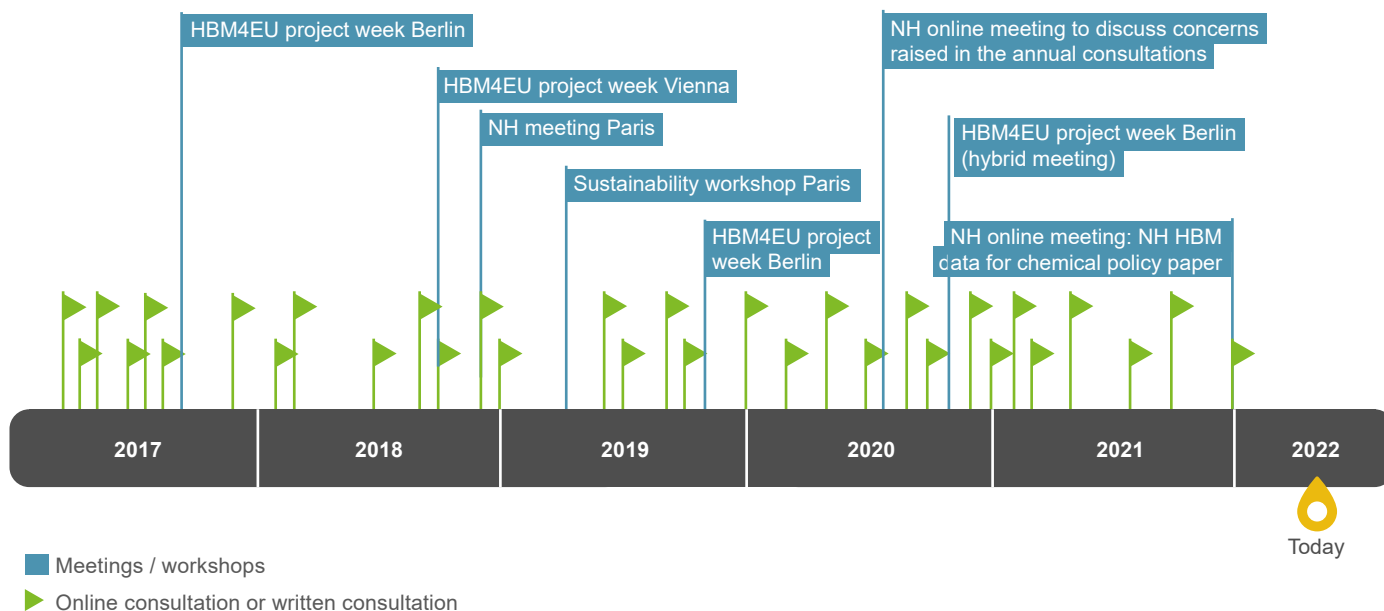
2.2. National Hub consultations



What are the interaction topics?

- ✓ Training skills and training needs
- ✓ Prioritization strategy
- ✓ Nomination of 2nd round priority substances
- ✓ Knowledge needs on priority substances
- ✓ Request for a rapid response mechanism
- ✓ National experts to evaluate HBM-guidance values
- ✓ Input to the database of current HBM studies or cohorts - which contributed to the aligned studies as well as many of the activities in Pillar 3
- ✓ Nomination of 3rd round of priority substances for PARC
- ✓ Citizen's factsheets and other communication material
- ✓ Deliverable 6.2 Revised set of key indicators
- ✓ Additional deliverable 6.1 Preliminary
- ✓ Feedback on human biomonitoring guidance values developed in HBM4EU
- ✓ Ongoing and planned studies in HBM4EU participating countries
- ✓ Identification of national laboratories
- ✓ Input for linking HBM to health studies
- ✓ Consultation on sustainability of HBM in Europe
- ✓ Deliverable 6.4 Revised report on national needs, objectives of a long-term HBM4EU inventory of funding mechanisms and recommendations for a sustainable HBM initiative in Europe and its organisation
- ✓ Deliverable 6.3 Consultation on a sustainable HBM initiative in Europe
- ✓ Report on different options for a sustainable EU HBM and feedback from different institutions

Frequency of National Hub consultations:





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Varying level of response from NHs, depending on the question for input, some examples:

- 28/30 HBM4EU participating countries have candidate laboratories for analysis of one or more of the 1st set priority substance(s)
- 24/28 HBM4EU participating countries have provided input on the nomination of 2nd round priority substances
- Institutes from all HBM4EU participating countries have reported ongoing activities and existing data and data gaps for 1st or 2nd round priority substances
- 21/30 countries have aligned their HBM studies to achieve European geographical coverage. Only six countries have a nationally representative sampling frame for HBM
- 18/28 countries have given input on the rapid request on copper compounds



FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

- Publication of a paper on the uses of HBM data for policy development/awareness
- Collect national policy needs or proposals for HBM data which could feed into the European level policy requirements



National Hubs

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