






EUROPEAN HUMAN BIOMONITORING INITIATIVE (HBM4EU) INDICATOR LEAFLETS

SCIENCE - POLICY INTERACTIONS

Indicator 11.2 Number of science-policy interactions

-  **SPECIFIC GOAL 11:** Engaging with stakeholders, including the general public, throughout the programme to ensure the credibility, accountability and legitimacy of activities and results
-  **RESPONSIBLE:** Flemish Institute for Technological Research (VITO), Belgium
-  **WORK PACKAGE:** 5 (VITO)

KEY MESSAGES

- European and national policy actors are systematically involved in all stages of the HBM4EU project through consultations of the EU Policy Board, National Hubs and the Governing Board.
- High % of attendance of programme owners and EU agencies at Governing Board (GB) meetings enables widespread support for GB decisions.
- The HBM4EU ambassador promotes the impact of the HBM4EU initiative from 2019 onwards.
- 3 participatory case studies on HBM4EU results and their policy relevance were organised (on bisphenols and phthalates) on PFAS and on HBM4EU Aligned Studies, involving a wide variety of perspectives, including experts, risk assessors, policy makers and stakeholders (NGO's and industry).
- HBM4EU provided input in 17 policy and regulatory processes (e.g. consultations of EFSA, ECHA, SCHEER, strategic documents in the frame of the European Green Deal).

WHY



INFORM

Communicate project information to policy actors through newsletters, events, presentations, website, policy briefs, etc.



CONSULT

Policy actors provide strategic input on policy demands
E.g. Relevant timelines for legislation review



INVOLVE

Policy actors are invited to participate in (multi-actor) dialogue on how science can better inform policy



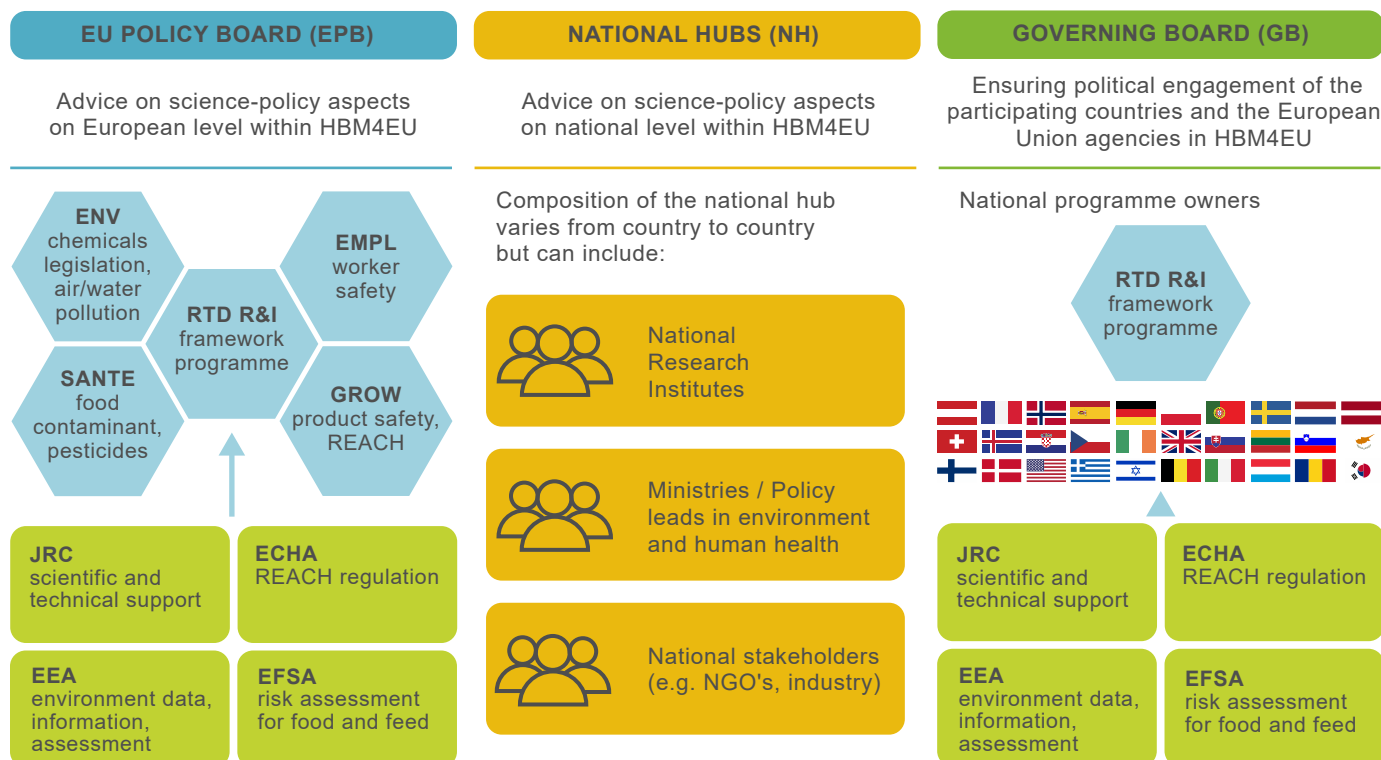
COLLABORATE ON A SUSTAINABLE HBM INITIATIVE

Policy actors and HBM4EU consortium collaborate to discuss future options for sustainable HBM initiatives in Europe to serve policy

Ensure that
HBM4EU outputs
and results serve
policy demands



STRUCTURAL SCIENCE-POLICY INTERACTIONS

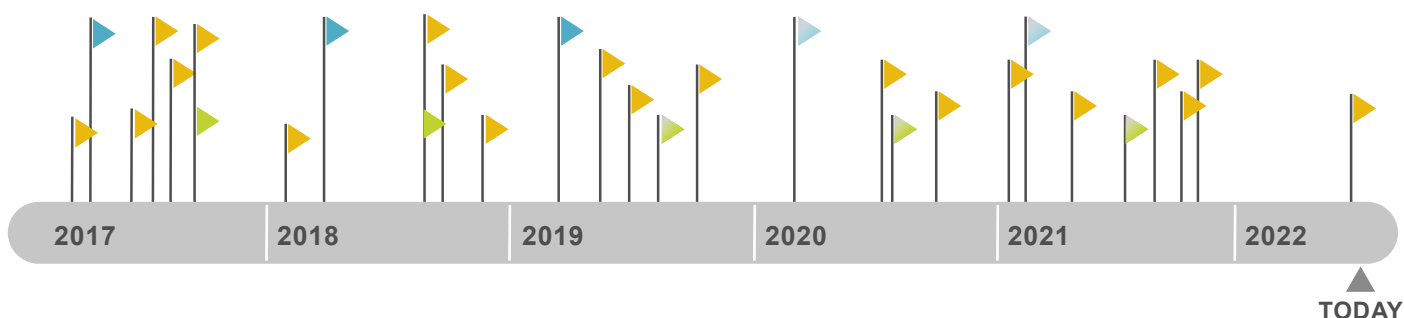


WHAT ARE THE INTERACTION TOPICS?

EU policy Board, National Hubs and Governing board are involved in different stages of the project:

- Prioritization of chemical substance (groups) & mapping of knowledge needs (WP4)
- Uptake of HBM results for policy making (WP5)
- Options for a sustainable HBM initiative in Europe (WP6)

To ensure science-policy interaction, structural science-policy consultations are embedded within the project on a regular basis:



- ▶ National Hub consultation in relation to science-policy interface
- ▶ EU Policy Board meeting
- ▶ Governing Board meeting



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1. EU POLICY BOARD MEETINGS



Strategic input to ensure that HBM4EU produces results that address their needs, e.g. on:

- Prioritization strategy
- Nomination of 1st and 2nd round priority substances
- Knowledge needs on priority substances
- Request for a rapid response mechanism
- Feedback on indicators of success
- ...

2. NATIONAL HUB CONSULTATIONS



WP leaders



National Hub
coordinator



National Hubs

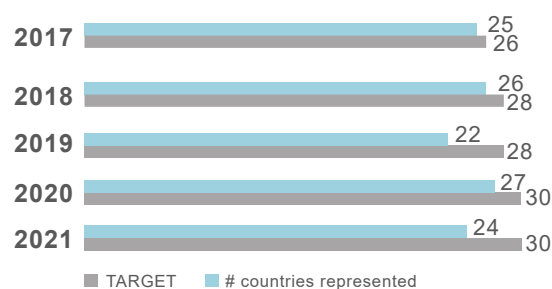


National Hub
Contact Point

- Consultation on prioritization strategy and surveys to nominate substances under HBM4EU
- Surveys
- Integration of HBM into regulatory risk assessment
- Feedback by national experts on HBM4EU documents for HBM-GVs
- Consultation on foundations for a permanent Pan-European HBM Platform
- Consultation on public-private partnerships on HBM/other areas
- Joint effort of national hubs on a manuscript: "Application of human biomonitoring data to support policy development, raise awareness and environmental public health protection among countries within the HBM4EU project"

3. GOVERNING BOARD (GB) MEETING

Number of countries represented at the yearly Governing Board meeting

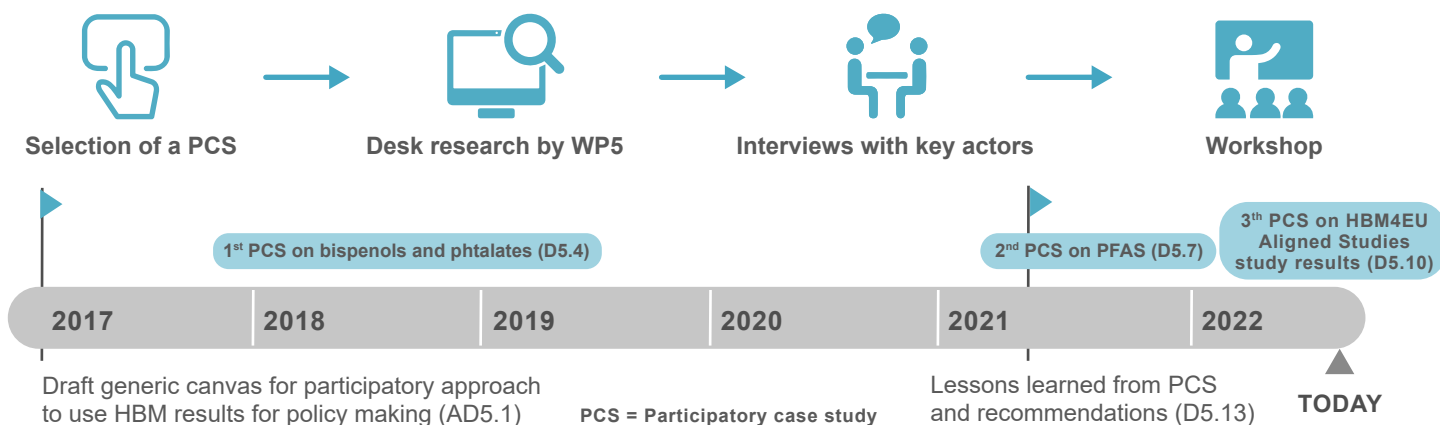


- Yearly Governing Board meetings are a success with a high attendance % from participating countries and from EU agencies (EEA, EFSA, ECHA and JRC)
- Approval of new countries joining HBM4EU (Luxemburg, Hungary, Estonia, North Macedonia)
- Approval of key aspects of HBM4EU (e.g. HBM4EU ambassador, prioritization strategy, 2nd list priority substances & chemical group leaders, annual work plans and annual summary reports)



MULTI-ACTOR DIALOGUE ON POLICY UPTAKE OF HBM4EU RESULTS

Participatory case studies (PCS) to discuss HBM4EU results and opportunities for policy uptake



KEY MESSAGES FROM THE 1ST CASE STUDY, ON PHTHALATES AND BISPHENOLS (SEE D5.4 FOR MORE DETAILS):

- i) good practices on concrete policy translation of HBM data should be actively promoted to demonstrate the added value of HBM;
- ii) HBM4EU should ensure that outputs are aligned with regulatory needs in terms of who needs (scientists, policy makers, risk assessors, stakeholders) what knowledge when;
- iii) joint reflection on research results is needed to reach robust conclusions for communication and policy making.
- A clear role should be assigned to human biomonitoring in the regulatory process, as a tool for understanding human exposure to chemicals in Europe.

VARIETY OF PERSPECTIVES INVOLVED



KEY MESSAGES FROM 2ND CASE STUDY ON PFAS (SEE D5.7 FOR MORE DETAILS):



first HBM4EU results on PFAS as well as policy opportunities where discussed in a confidential setting.

- Presentations from HBM4EU experts indicated up to date information on HBM4EU results and activities.
- Presentations from the Commission and EU member states demonstrated the relevance and use of HBM data at different policy levels and for multiple uses (e.g. European PFAS strategy, restriction intention for the PFAS group as a whole, national/regional policy action plans, PFAS hotspots,...)
- The workshop clearly demonstrated the importance of an open and in-depth science-to-policy dialogue between HBM4EU experts, risk managers and risk assessors, across various policy domains and policy levels. Several opportunities for the use of HBM4EU results were identified.

3RD CASE STUDY ON HBM4EU ALIGNED STUDIES RESULTS (D5.10).

An online HBM4EU workshop on 30-31 March 2022 aimed to appraise the presented results of the HBM4EU aligned study on their relevance for policy and society. This workshop discussed the Aligned Study results for Cadmium, Bisphenols, Phthalates and DINCH, and PFAS.

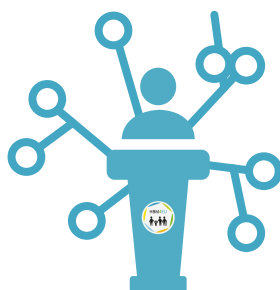
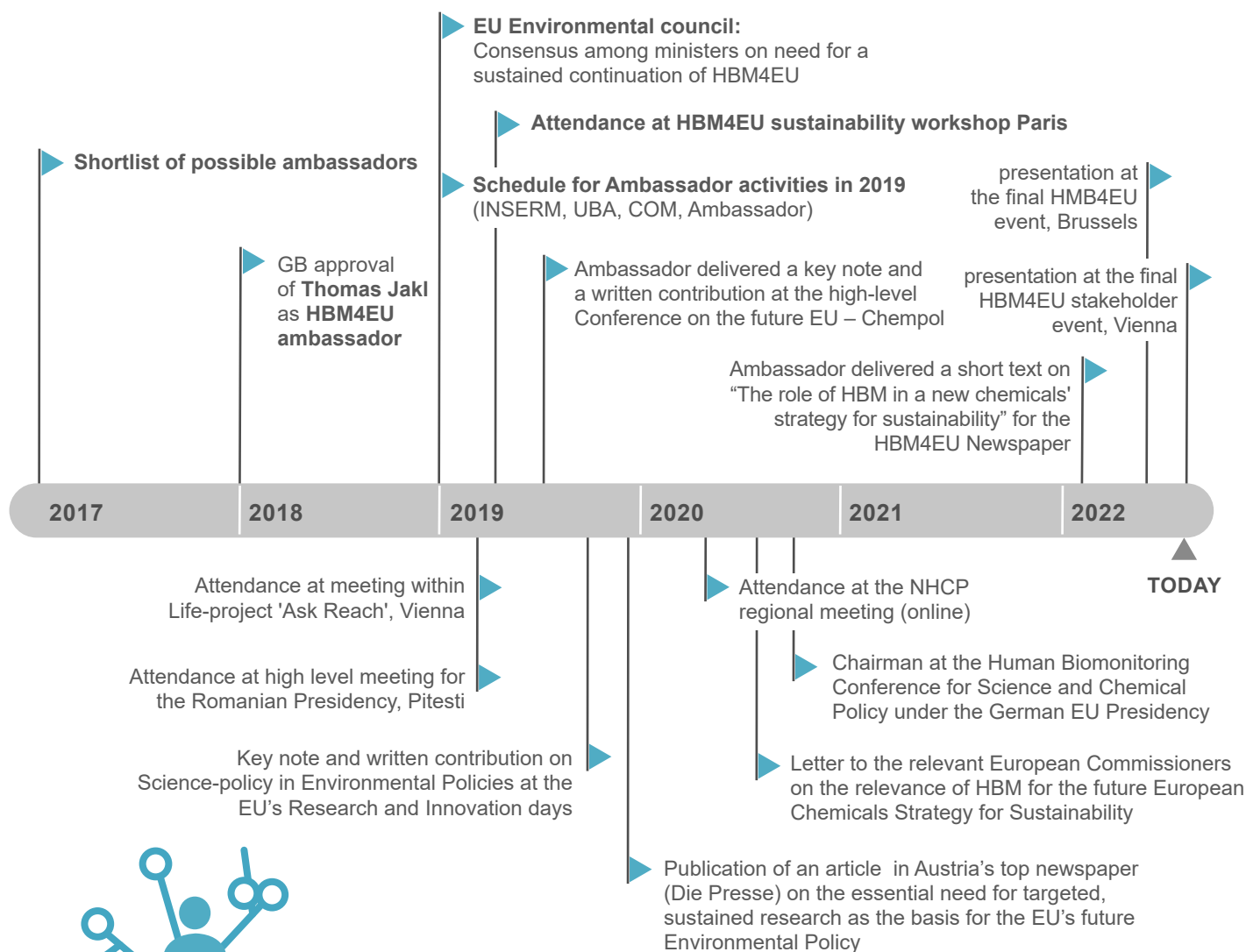


COLLABORATE ON OPTIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE HBM INITIATIVE IN EUROPE



HBM4EU Ambassador

Promotion of the **impacts** of the **HBM4EU initiative**. Having an open **dialogue** on **future options** for sustainable HBM initiatives in Europe.



NETWORKING



[https://www.hbm4eu.eu/deliverables/ D1.2 D5.4](https://www.hbm4eu.eu/deliverables/D1.2%20D5.4)



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INPUT INTO REGULATORY AND POLICY PROCESSES

| Date | Policy process | HBM4EU input |
|---------------|---|---|
| February 2022 | European Food Safety Authority Contribution to the Public Consultation on the draft scientific opinion of the EFSA CEP Panel on the Re-evaluation of the risks to the public health related to the presence of bisphenol A (BPA) in foodstuffs. | HBM4EU input to EFSA on bisphenol A (BPA) in foodstuffs |
| November 2021 | European Food Safety Authority Input to EFSA's consultation on Glyphosate renewal assessment report | 2.06 Reproductive toxicity References, calculations and assumptions 2.12 Product exposure and risk assessment Details and references |
| December 2020 | Secretariat of the UN Minamata Convention on Mercury Information on Gender and Mercury | Gender and Mercury |
| October 2020 | European Chemicals Agency Input to ECHA's consultation on the OEL report of cadmium European Commission Public Consultation on the roadmap for the EU Action Plan Towards a Zero Pollution Ambition for air, water and soil | HBM4EU input on cadmium HBM4EU input on Zero-Pollution Action Plan roadmap |
| August 2020 | European Commission Answer from the European Commission (Dec.2020) Open letter to the European Commission: 'Human Biomonitoring as a tool to support Europe's Chemical Strategy for Sustainability' European Commission Public consultation on the roadmap on the sustainable use of pesticides | HBM4EU input on pesticides |
| June 2020 | European Commission Public consultation on the European Commission's roadmap for the chemicals strategy for sustainability | HBM4EU input on chemicals strategy for sustainability roadmap |
| May 2020 | European Chemicals Agency Call for evidence on broad PFAS restriction | HBM4EU_input on PFAS |
| April 2020 | European Food Safety Authority Contribution to the Public Consultation on the draft scientific opinion of the EFSA CONTAM Panel on the Risk to human health related to the presence of PFASs in food | HBM4EU input to EFSA on PFASs in food |
| March 2020 | European Commission Public consultation on the European Commission's roadmap for the farm to fork strategy | HBM4EU input on farm to fork strategy roadmap |
| February 2020 | European Food Safety Authority HBM4EU and EFSA on risk assessment, knowledge exchange and further collaboration | HBM4EU and EFSA meeting minutes |
| December 2019 | European Chemicals Agency Public consultation on setting of occupational limit values for diisocyanates | HBM4EU input on diisocyanates |
| November 2019 | European Food Safety Authority Public consultation on aflatoxins in food | HBM4EU input on mycotoxins |
| April 2019 | Scientific Committee on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks Guidelines on the benefit-risk assessment of the presence of phthalates in medical devices | HBM4EU input on phthalates in medical device |
| August 2018 | European Chemicals Agency Public consultation on update to Annex XIV entries on four phthalates | HBM4EU input on four phthalates |
| February 2018 | European Chemicals Agency Call for evidence on flame retardants to support a proposed restriction | HBM4EU input on flame retardants |