

Group 1 National Hub Template (HBM data for Awareness)

Group Leader: Lisbeth Knudsen (liek@sund.ku.dk)

Name and email of National Hub Author: Rosita Marija Balčienė, rosita.balciene@nvspl.lt

Introduction:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Background information on the evolution and status of HBM in your country. 	<p>In 2017 Lithuania joined HBM4EU with participating institutions from different fields – Lithuanian University of Health (LSMU), National Public Health Surveillance Laboratory (NPHSL), Centre for Innovative Medicine (IMC) and Agency for Science, Innovation and Technology (MITA). Since then the biomonitoring scope was introduced to the governmental planning as a preventative measure. Since 2020 Lithuania did not yet had a national biomonitoring program. NPHSL has recently started a new biomonitoring program “Assessment of effects of dangerous chemicals on human health among people with different exposures in Lithuania” alongside LSMU. The program started in 2020 and will continue until the end of 2021 and is financed by the Ministry of Health. A collaboration between NPHSL and LSMU will continue in PARC.</p>
Main text - Results and Discussion	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Description of issue(s) which have resulted in the raising of awareness. Include brief description of sample population, substances of concern and whether local/regional/national. 	<p>An industrial fire resulted in risen awareness of exposure to the Lithuanian population. Targeted groups are firemen, population residing close to the occurred fire and other main cities population for comparison. The compounds of interest in this study are dioxins, PAHs, heavy metals.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Description of HBM programme if it exists e.g. implementation of a HBM module into HES 	<p>“Assessment of effects of dangerous chemicals on human health among people with different exposures in Lithuania” program was introduced and sponsored by the Ministry of Health. The program aims to investigate the implications an industrial fire had to the Lithuanian population.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe which ministries (Environment, Health etc.)/policy makers and stakeholders involved/steering/financing the HBM programme. Give examples - specific chemicals or outcomes. 	<p>The Ministry of Health of the republic of Lithuania is sponsoring the program, Lithuanian University of Health (LSMU) and National Public Health Surveillance Laboratory (NPHSL) are implementing the activities.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steps/processes needed or used to get the attention of policy makers. 	<p>NPHSL’s and LSMU’s interest and involvement in the HBM4EU program had a solid impact on the national authority’s approval of the national program. Raising awareness to the existing and ongoing biomonitoring</p>

	<p>programs throughout Europe with results indicating the importance of monitoring for preventative ground and Lithuania not having one was interpreted as a drawback in the national health system.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe barriers e.g. funding; challenges e.g. participant recruitment; opportunities e.g. enhancing cross government working and linking of env data with exposure measurements currently at play in your country with regards to HBM. • Have any of these barriers been addressed by HBM4EU? If yes - describe. 	<p>Funding resources and funding allocation is still a challenge. Implementing institutions of biomonitoring are owned by different authorities (eg. Ministry of Health/ Ministry of Education, Science and Sport) resulting in the difficulty of allocating funds and responsibilities. Shortage of available personnel in the national authorities results in insufficient representation of different fields in the programs.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other players who would be beneficial in raising awareness and working together to promote HBM 	<p>Other Ministries' involvement (eg. Ministry of Environment) would be beneficial with regards to subject matter experts and linking different exposure data/ experimental results to exposure sources, etc.</p>
<p>Future plans -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there plans to use HBM data in the future for policy or awareness - give clear examples. Will the data from HBM4EU be used? 	<p>Since biomonitoring is included in the governmental plans and goals as a preventative manner it is expected that biomonitoring will be used as a tool for further investigation and health surveillance.</p>