

Group 2 National Hub Template (HBM data for policy development)

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<b>Introduction:</b>	
Background information on the evolution and status of HBM in your country.	<p>HBM activities in Spain have traditionally been mostly carried out as research activities funded by research projects and focused on specific interests (study groups) at local/regional level. The administrative and political division in autonomous communities has hampered the development of a national HBM programme. Few of these regions have been active in trying to incorporate HBM without a clear national directive. The National Centre on Environmental Health of the Instituto de Salud Carlos III (CNSA-ISCIII), is the technical scientific body at national level entrusted with the evaluation and control of the presence and effects of pollutants on the population. Therefore, it has been very active in trying to implement a HBM programme at national level. As a result of its activities, in 2007 the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment established a contract with the CNSA to start the first National Human Biomonitoring program with BIOAMBIENT.ES, a national-level HBM study on environmental pollutants carried out in Spain to estimate levels of heavy metals, POPS, and other substances on the Spanish active workforce. This study was followed by BEA (Biomonitoring in Adolescents), also at national level and which was aligned with the studies in HBM4EU. The participation in EU projects or initiatives such as COPHES-DEMOCOPHES and recently HBM4EU, have been detonators to the evolution of HBM in Spain. We are building up strong collaborations with all actors involved such as competent authorities and administrations, universities, research institutions and other stakeholders. Currently, HBM is included in the Strategic Action Plan for Health and Environment, which is currently under public consultation. In addition, a Royal Decree for the creation of an Inter-Ministerial Commission as basis for the National HBM Hub has been drafted. These activities will hopefully lead to a sustainable HBM programme.</p>
<p><b>Main text - Results and Discussion</b>  <b>ENSURE YOUR NARRATIVES ARE REFERENCED AS FAR AS POSSIBLE</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Description of HBM programme if it exists e.g. implementation of a HBM module into HES or development of a standalone HBM programme.</li> </ul>	<p>We are developing a standalone HBM programme. The ideal situation would be to link HBM studies to the HES carried out periodically in Spain. The first National Human Biomonitoring program started in 2007 promoted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment with BIOAMBIENT.ES a national-level HBM study on environmental pollutants carried out in Spain to estimate levels of heavy metals, POPS, and other substances on the Spanish active workforce. This study was followed by BEA (Biomonitoring in Adolescents), also at national level and which was aligned with the studies in</p>

	HBM4EU. Currently HBM is being taken up by the Ministry of Health, under the Subdirectorate of Environmental Health and Occupational Health.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examples of HBM data for policy development. Please specify chemicals or chemical groups.</li> </ul>	The data on levels of mercury in the populations extracted from these studies led to the contribution to the development by the Spanish Agency for Food Safety and Nutrition of dietary advice related to the fish consumption in vulnerable populations ( <a href="#">AESAN, 2019</a> ).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe which ministries (Environment, Health etc.)/policy makers and stakeholders involved in /steering/financing the HBM programme.</li> <li>• Describe steps/processes used in involving policy makers.</li> <li>• Is HBM included in their business/strategic/action plan.</li> <li>• State which ministry is HBM data reported to or its being utilized.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main actors involved in steering and financing the HBM activities are the Ministry of Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (former Ministry of Environment) and the Ministry of Health together with the Ministry of Science and Innovation. The Ministry of Consumer Affairs (through the Spanish Agency for Food Safety and Nutrition) also contributes.</li> <li>• Presentation of projects/results to the relevant departments and sub-directorates and elevated from there.</li> <li>• Currently HBM is included in the action plan of the Ministry of Health. For the first time in Spain, HBM is included in the <a href="#">Strategic Action Plan for Health and Environment</a>, which is currently under public consultation.</li> <li>• The data generated have been of use to both the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Health.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Have any of these barriers been addressed by HBM4EU? If yes - describe.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competences on HBM at Ministerial level (Environment-Health) have not been clear until recently. This has led to a lack of general directive and funding. We hope that the sustainability of the HBM NH and programme will be solved with the implementation of the above mentioned Strategic Plan and the Royal Decree for the creation of the National HBM Hub.</li> <li>• These barriers have been discussed in HBM4EU, as they are common to many of the countries participating in the initiative, but are been addressed at national level in Spain.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elaborate on issues which propelled the HBM data of choice e.g. disaster, pollution, incidence/prevalence of a health-related issue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the case of Spain, the high concentrations of some chemical substances found in the population have been the main drivers. For example the high levels of mercury found in humans associated with food consumption and their potential health risks to vulnerable populations, in particular children, have been major propellers.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<p>Future plans -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are there plans to increase the use of HBM data in the future for</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are currently working on the implementation of the strategic plan and the implementation of HBM at national level in the next years with campaigns designed to address exposure to chemical substances of interest in Spain.</li> </ul>

<p>policy give clear examples.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will the data from HBM4EU be used?</li> <li>• Has HBM4EU re-enforced the need for a National programme?</li> <li>• What are your future plans?</li> <li>• Do you think PARC will be crucial to the development of your HBM programme?</li> </ul>	<p>Among these PFAS, given the current interest at EU level and the proposal on banning their use, which is also translated to national level, and mercury due to the high levels found in the Spanish population related to seafood consumption.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data on PFAS and mercury will be used at national level, as mentioned above.</li> <li>• The participation in the initiatives HBM4EU, has been crucial to show the need to develop a HBM National Programme in Spain. It has led to the inclusion of a chapter on HBM and the creation of the national HBM and national program in the Strategic Action Plan for Health and Environment, which is currently under public consultation, as well as the drafting of a Royal Decree for the creation of an Inter-Ministerial Commission as basis for the National HBM Hub.</li> <li>• PARC will contribute to the development of the HBM programme in Spain as the Ministry of Health, primary driver of the activity together with the Instituto de Salud Carlos III, is member of the Governing Board. PARC will not be crucial as the most important steps towards the establishment of the programme have already been taken thanks to the participation in HBM4EU, but will surely help to advance on its implementation.</li> </ul>
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