

Consultation on a sustainable HBM initiative in Europe

Deliverable Report

D6.3

WP6 - Sustainability and Capacity building

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D6.3 – Stakeholder’s needs and expectations for a long-term HBM initiative	Security: Public
WP6 – Sustainability and capacity building	Version: 1.1
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1 Authors and acknowledgements

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2 Glossary

AUTH	Aristotelio Panepistimio Thessalonikis
BTSF	Best Training for Safer Food Initiative
C2S	Connect to Success
CHAFEA	Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency
DFI	Département Fédéral de l'Intérieur
DG RTD	Directorate General for Research and Innovation
DG SANTE	Directorate General for Health and Food Safety
DOMG	Department Omgeving
DUCC	Downstream Users of Chemicals Coordination Group
EAA	Umweltbundesamt Gmbh
EAHC	Executive Agency for Health and Consumers
ECCA	European Crop Care Association
EEA	European Environment Agency
EEA Grants	European Economic Area Grants
EFSA	European Food Safety Agency
EU	European Union
EU	European Union
FCT	Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia / Foundation for Science and Technology
FECC	European Association of Chemical Distributors
FLAD	Luso-American Development Foundation
FMUL	Faculty of Medicine, University of Lisbon
GEF	Global Environment Facility
HBM	Human biomonitoring
HBM	Human Biomonitoring
HBM4EU	European Human Biomonitoring in Europe
HEAL	Health and Environment Alliance
IC	Internal Calls
INSA	Instituto Nacional de Saúde Dr. Ricardo Jorge (Portuguese National Institute of Health Ricardo Jorge)
INSERM	Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale
ISCI	Instituto De Salud Carlos III

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JSI	Institut Jozef Stefan
MdS	Maratona da Saúde
MOH-CY	Ministry of Health - Cyprus
MS	Member States
MSC	Merck sharp & dohme
MU	Masarykova Univerzita
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NH	National Hub
NHANES	National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey
NHC	National Hub Coordinator
NHCP	National Hub Contact Point
NIPH	Norwegian Institute of Public Health
NRL	National Research Laboratory
PAN – Europe	Pesticide Action Network Europe
PHEA	Public Health Executive Agency
PPP	Public Private Partnerships
R&D	Research & Development
REACH	Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals
RIVM	Rijksinstituut Voor Volksgezondheiden Milieu – National Institute For Public Health And The Environment
SCML	Sociedade das Ciências Médicas de Lisboa / Society of Medical Sciences of Lisbon
SiPN	Study in Portugal Network
Swiss TPH	Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute
UBA	Umweltbundesamt
UBA	German Environment Agency (Umweltbundesamt)
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
VCI	German Chemical Industry Association
VITO	Vlaamse Instelling Voor Technologisch Onderzoek N.V.
WP	Work package

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3 Abstract

This deliverable was produced under Task 6.3 of Work Package 6 on “Longer-term needs and expectations of stakeholders (2021-2030)”.

The aim of this task was to gather information on the needs and expectations of both the National Hubs (NH) and a broad range of stakeholders regarding a long-term Human Biomonitoring (HBM) programme for Europe, to be established in follow up to the current project, HBM4EU.

Firstly and with a focus on options for financing a future initiative, information was collected on a range of available funding mechanisms at national, regional and international level.

In terms of national funding, the results presented rely on responses to a survey with the NH. Unfortunately, the response from NHs was very limited, and as such the report only captures funding mechanisms from a limited number of countries, including Portugal, Spain, France, Germany and Cyprus.

In order to gain insight into the status of the National Hubs and their capacities for HBM, a survey was conducted. The results provide an overview of the current situation across the NHs with regards to a range of aspects, including the level of activity of the NH, status of political support, availability of funding, ongoing HBM studies and willingness to align studies with HBM4EU. The results suggest that HBM4EU has raised the political profile of HBM in partner countries.

Regarding ongoing HBM studies, only six countries have national HBM programmes, with most countries having only hot spot studies. Despite this, there was support for the alignment of studies to achieve European geographical coverage. Regarding funding, access to European funding is seen as important to leverage funds at national level.

A second survey was targeted at a wide range of stakeholders, aiming to better understand their expectations for a long-term sustainable HBM initiative. The survey was followed by a workshop, where a more limited number of stakeholders had the opportunity to discuss the survey results and address such aspects as the scope of a future initiative, how to achieve financial sustainability, how to involve and how a future initiative might contribute to chemical policies.

Concerning the needs and expectations of stakeholders, there is a strong interest in and support for a future HBM initiative at European level. The involvement of a European Union (EU) institution as part of a future steering committee was seen as crucial.

According to this stakeholders’ consultation, the initiative should focus on protecting human health and the environment in Europe from hazardous chemical exposures by producing harmonised, high quality, transparent and inclusive data for effective risk assessment and management.

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4 Funding mechanisms and resources for national capacity building

4.1 Introduction

The demand for research funding is increasing at a local, regional, national and global scale. Adequate and sustained financial support is critical to the development of a sustainable research programme¹.

The **main aim** of this chapter is to present options for accessing funding mechanisms and resources for national capacity building. These include such examples as the Regional centres of the Stockholm Convention for Capacity Building and Technology Transfer, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) funding, or the European Commission's Life+ programme.

Although securing support has always been a constant concern in the scientific realm as long-term research progress is heavily dependent upon grant mechanisms to assure projects’ sustainability over time, the resources, whether public or private, are almost always limited. Furthermore, different countries have distinct funding cultures that can suit specific project goals. In this context, is important to consider funding options while preparing the proposal for the future initiative, since the decision will affect the type of writing given the distinct nature and scope of each funding source².

There are targeted strategies that can be used for identifying funding mechanisms and resources for national capacity building in the area of HBM, with the aim of assuring further support for HBM in Europe post 2021.

The work described was developed by FMUL in collaboration with the partners AUTH and DFI, and with the consultation of the National Hub Contact Points (NHCP) through the National Hub Coordinator (NHC).

4.2 European and global funding mechanisms and sources

The funding mechanisms and resources identified are described in detail. For each funding scheme, a brief description and relevant information regarding HBM and the HBM4EU objectives are provided, considering the main aim of this task of assuring further support for the Initiative.

The funding schemes are:

- ▶ The EEA grants and Norway grants
- ▶ Horizon 2020
- ▶ Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency (CHAFEA)
- ▶ LIFE Programme
- ▶ Global Environment Facility
- ▶ Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
- ▶ European Research Council
- ▶ EIT Health
- ▶ Cefic-LRI funding programme

¹ Reid CP. Handbook for preparing and writing research proposals. IUFRO-SPDC; 2000

² 2. Chapin PG. Research projects and research proposals. Cambridge; 2004.

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The EEA grants and Norway grants
Information available on their website .
General description
<p>The EEA Grants and Norway grants are the contribution of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway to reducing economic and social disparities and to strengthening bilateral relations with 16 EU countries in Central and Southern Europe and the Baltics.</p> <p>The EEA Grants and Norway Grants are set up for five-year periods (having started in 1994 with the establishment of the European Economic Area (EEA) Agreement). For the period 2009-2014, € 1.798 billion has been set aside under the Grants.</p>
Key areas of support
<p>Funding is channelled through 150 programmes in the 16 beneficiary countries. Each beneficiary country agrees on a set of programmes with the donor countries, based on national needs and priorities and the scope for cooperation with other countries and specifically with the donor countries.</p> <p>In the current period, <u>environment and sustainable development</u> is the largest sector, also targeting climate change and green industry innovation. Other key areas of support are health, education, civil society, research and scholarships, justice and social dialogue.</p> <p>These grants are available for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National and local authorities NGOs and civil society organisations Private and public enterprises, and public-private partnerships Educational and research institutions Students and educational staff
Priority sectors/areas relevant for HBM4EU
Environmental protection and management
Relevant programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity-building and institutional cooperation with Norwegian public institutions, local and regional authorities Environment and climate-change related research and technology Environmental monitoring and integrated planning and control Public health initiatives
More information
The funding is allocated through calls for proposals and is organised by country. Co-funding might be required. Open calls can be found on their website .

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Horizon 2020
Information available on their H2020 information
General description
<p>Horizon 2020 is the biggest European Union (EU) Research and Innovation programme with an amount of 80 billion of funding for the period of seven years (2014-2020). This period is divided in two-year work programmes which announce the areas which will be funded by the program.</p> <p>The application process is divided in four main phases: submission of proposals, finding the partners, evaluating the experts and grant agreements.</p>
Key areas of support
<p>The participant portal announces the areas funded by the program but also the calendar for the calls for proposals. Calls can also be found on the EU’s Official Journal.</p> <p>Participant portal EU’s Official Journal</p>
Priority sectors/areas relevant for HBM4EU
<p>Out of all the Horizon 2020 projects, projects related to environment can be found under <i>Societal Challenges</i>: Climate Action, Environment, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials.</p>

Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency (CHAFEA)
Information available on their website .
General description
<p>This agency was created in 2005 and was formerly known as Public Health Executive Agency (PHEA) between 2005 and 2008 and Executive Agency for Health and Consumers (EAHC) between 2008 and 2014. The agency’s mandate is currently prolonged until 2024 and was expanded to include actions in the field of health, consumer protection and food safety.</p>
Relevant programs
<p>CHAFEA implements the following programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ EU Health Programme ▶ Consumer Programme ▶ Best Training for Safer Food Initiative (BTSF) ▶ Promotion of Agriculture Products Programme <p>The third health programme, which is the most relevant for environment and health issues, was published in 2014 on the Official Journal of the European Union and has three main objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ To promote health, prevent diseases and foster supportive environments for healthy lifestyles taking into account the “health in all policies” principle ▶ To protect union citizens from serious cross-border health threats ▶ To contribute to innovative, efficient and sustainable health systems <p>All EU Member States plus Iceland, Norway and Serbia can participate in the Health Programme. The total budget of the third EU health programme is 449.4 million euros and supports three different actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Projects ▶ Joint actions (joint actions are co-financed by the competent authorities responsible for health in the Member States or in the third countries participating in the Programme or by public sector bodies and non-governmental bodies, mandated by those competent authorities) ▶ Operation grants (the purpose is to provide financial support towards the functioning of a body in its core activities over a period of one accounting year to carry out a set of activities) <p>The call for projects (grants for action) is annual and can be found on the following website.</p>

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The call for joint actions is also annual and can be found on the following [website](#).
The call for operating grants can be found on the following [website](#).
The call for tender actions can be found on the following [website](#).

Third EU Health Programme

The Third EU Health Programme is the main instrument used by the EC to implement the EU Health Strategy. The budget for the programme is 449.4 million euros.
This program has four main objectives:

- I. To promote health, prevent diseases and foster supportive environments for healthy lifestyles taking into account the ‘health in all policies’ principle
- II. To protect union citizens from serious cross-border health threats
- III. To contribute to innovative, efficient and sustainable health systems
- IV. To facilitate access to better and safer healthcare for Union citizens

The call for proposals can be found on the following [link](#).

Consumer Programme

The Consumer Programme 2014-2020 is a funding programme of the European Commission created to support growth and competitiveness within the Union.
The general objective of the programme is to ensure a high level of consumer protection through the empowerment of European consumers. Consumers are placed at the heart of the internal market, in the frame of the EU strategy for a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.
More specifically, the regulation on the current programme sets four principal objectives:

- I. Safety: to consolidate and enhance product safety
- II. Consumer information and education and support to consumer organisations
- III. Rights and redress: to develop and reinforce consumer rights
- IV. Enforcement: to support enforcement of consumer rights

The call for proposals can be found on the following [link](#).

Best Training for Safer Food Initiative (BTSF)

'Better Training for Safer Food' (BTSF) is an European Commission initiative designed to develop an EU training strategy in the areas of food law, feed law, animal health, animal welfare rules and plant health rules.
The initiative is intended for all officials of Member State competent authorities who are involved in official control activities, so as they keep abreast with all aspects of Community law in the areas mentioned above and ensure that controls are carried out in a uniform, objective and adequate manner in all Member States.
The call for proposals can be found on the following [link](#).

Promotion of Agricultural Products Programme

The annual work programme sets out strategic priorities for information and promotion measures in terms of:

- products
- schemes and markets to be targeted
- corresponding allocated budgets

The call for proposals can be found on the following [link](#).

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LIFE Programme
For more information please consult their website . And here for funding.
General description
<p>LIFE is the EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action. LIFE work aims to preserve the natural capital, fostering green growth and the circular economy in Europe and supporting breakthrough actions in climate change adaptation and mitigation.</p> <p>The LIFE (the Financial Instrument for the Environment) Regulation, published on 20 December 2013, set a budget of € 3.4 billion for the next funding period, 2014–2020.</p>
Key areas of support
<p>Legal persons (entities) registered in the European Union (EU) can present proposals for the 2017 Call for proposals for LIFE Action Grants.</p> <p>The call for the sub-programme for Environment covers action grants for "Traditional" projects, Preparatory projects, Integrated projects, Technical Assistance projects.</p> <p>For the sub-programme for Climate Action, the call covers action grants for "Traditional projects", Integrated projects and Technical Assistance projects.</p>
Priority sectors/areas relevant for HBM4EU
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Traditional projects</u> entail several priority areas. Under the sub-programme for Environment: i) LIFE Nature & Biodiversity, ii) LIFE Environment & Resource Efficiency, iii) LIFE Environmental Governance & Information. Under the sub-programme for Climate Action: i) LIFE Climate Change Mitigation, ii) LIFE Climate Change Adaptation, iii) LIFE Climate Governance and Information. <u>Preparatory projects</u> (sub-programme for Environment) address specific needs for the development and implementation of Union environmental or climate policy and legislation. The specific topics are indicated in the application guide. <u>Integrated projects</u> under the sub-programme for Environment are projects implementing on a large territorial scale (regional, multi-regional, national or trans-national scale) environmental plans or strategies required by specific Union environmental legislation, developed pursuant to other Union acts or developed by Member States' authorities, primarily in the areas of nature (including Natura 2000 network management), water, waste and air, while ensuring involvement of stakeholders and promoting the coordination with and mobilisation of at least one other relevant Union, national or private funding source. Integrated projects under the sub-programme for Climate Action are projects implementing on a large territorial scale (regional, multi-regional, national or trans-national scale) climate action plans, strategies or roadmaps required by specific Union climate legislation, developed pursuant to other Union acts or developed by Member States' authorities, primarily in the areas of climate change mitigation and adaptation, while ensuring involvement of stakeholders and promoting the coordination with and mobilisation of at least one other relevant Union, national or private funding source. <u>Technical Assistance projects</u> (sub-programme for Environment and sub-programme for Climate Action) provide, by way of action grants, financial support to help applicants prepare integrated projects.

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Global Environment Facility
Please consult their website for more information, and for funding here .
General description
The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is an international partnership of 183 countries, international institutions, civil society organisations and the private sector that addresses global environmental issues. GEF constitutes a financial mechanism for 5 major international environmental conventions, including the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. Since its establishment in 1992, the GEF has provided over \$17 billion in grants and mobilised an additional \$88 billion in financing for more than 4000 projects in 170 countries.
Key areas of support
GEF provides funding to government agencies, civil society organisations, private sector companies, research institutions, among the broad diversity of potential partners, supporting projects in developing countries and countries with economies in transition to meet the objectives of the international environmental conventions and agreements. To be eligible for GEF funding, projects must be consistent with national priorities that support sustainable development and involve the public in project design and implementation. Projects also have to address one or more of the GEF focal area strategies (Biodiversity, International Waters, Land Degradation, Chemicals and Waste, and Climate Change Mitigation, as well as cross-cutting issues like sustainable forest management), and need to be driven by the country (rather than by an external partner).

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
Information available on their website .
General description
The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POP’s) was adopted on 22 May 2001 by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries and entered into force on 17 May 2004. It aims to protect human health and the environment from the exposure to POP’s, which pose major and increasing threats to health. In order to provide technical assistance and to promote the transfer of technology to developing country parties and parties with economies in transition, the Stockholm Convention established a network of 16 regional and sub-regional centres (SCRCs).
Key areas of support
The implementation of the Convention through the regional and sub centres is made possible by the Regional Centre Small Grant Programme (RC-SGP), designed to channel bilateral donor funds. This Programme has as motto the identification and implementation of projects from the work plan of the regional centres. To achieve high impact projects with relatively low resources, Centres are given the opportunity to implement discrete project activities assisting eligible Parties to meet their obligations under the Convention.
More information
More information on the project here website . For information on Partners and Regional Centres please see here .

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European Research Council
Information available on their website .
General description
<p>European Research Council (ERC), established by the European Commission, supports high-quality research in Europe in new and emerging fields through competitive funding schemes, without consortia, networks or co-financing.</p> <p>Applications for grants can be made in any field of research, including social sciences and humanities by independent researchers, regardless of age, geographical location or career stage. Research work must be carried out in one of the 28 EU member states or associated countries.</p> <p>A total budget of about 13 million euro is available for the implementation of the ERC funding schemes under Horizon 2020.</p>
Type of grants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ ERC Starting Grants: for young researchers; up to 1.5 million euro / 5 years ▶ ERC Consolidator Grants: for independent researchers; up to 2 million euro / 5 years ▶ ERC Advanced Grants: for senior researchers leaders; up to 2.5 million euro / 5 years ▶ ERC Proof of Concept: for ERC grant holders; up to 150 million euro / 12 months ▶ Sinergy grants: for groups of Principal Investigators; up to 10€ million / 6 years ▶ Additional opportunities
More information
Please find information on funding schemes here . For information on Horizon 2020 European Research Council programmes please see here .

EIT Health
Information available on their website .
General description
<p>Taking part of the European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) Community, EIT Health is a consortium of partners from leading businesses, research centers and universities from across 14 EU countries. It has 6 Co-location Centres across Europe, with Headquarters based in Munich. It also includes 92 associate partners and “InnoStars” regions in Wales, Portugal, Poland, Hungary, Italy and Croatia.</p> <p>EIT Health aims to increase the competitiveness of European industry, as well as improve the quality of life of Europe’s citizens and the sustainability of healthcare systems.</p>
EIT Health’s Programmes
<p>EIT Health activities are geared toward promoting healthcare innovation, by means of three programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Campus: for education ▶ Accelerator: for business development ▶ Innovation Projects: to support new ideas <p>Taken together EIT Health's programmes provide a broad range of activities that support healthcare innovation from a simple idea to its commercialisation, making these innovations available to European citizens.</p>
More information
More information on their programmes may be found on their website . For information on the EIT community please see here .

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EIT Food
Information available on their website .
General description
EIT Food is a European Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC), part of the EIT, which was set up to transform our food ecosystem. By connecting consumers with businesses, start-ups, researchers and students from around Europe, EIT Food supports innovative and economically sustainable initiatives which improve our health, our access to quality food, and our environment. EIT food is a pan-European partnership which aims is to develop a highly skilled food sector, which collaborates with consumers to provide products, services and new technologies, which deliver a healthier lifestyle for all European citizens.
More information
More information on their activities may be found on their website .

Cefic-LRI funding programme
Information available on their website .
General description
LRI programme funds research projects that address the priority issues of the chemical industry regarding the health and environmental impact of chemicals, priority issues to the chemical industry. Proposals may be submitted by any European or non-European public or private entities, such as universities or research organisations. Calls for proposals are open every year between June and August.
Key areas of support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Innovating Chemical Testing ▶ Understanding Everyday Exposures to Chemicals ▶ Translating Research Outcomes for Product Safety
Priority sectors/areas relevant for HBM4EU
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Understanding Everyday Exposures to Chemicals – for example estimating consumer exposure ▶ Translating Research Outcomes for Product Safety – for example assessing chemical safety
More information
The calls can be consulted on their website .

4.3 National and regional funding opportunities

The NHCPs were consulted in October 2017 for the identification of national and regional funding opportunities relevant for HBM4EU. Responses were only received from 2 countries (Cyprus and Sweden). Funding opportunities for the other countries (Portugal, Spain, France and Germany), were identified after a thorough online research by FMUL. The results are presented below, by country.

The answers received were complemented by a search developed by FMUL, in order to gather a wider perspective of the available and ongoing calls that could serve the needs of a European initiative.

This work will be further developed in the upcoming years, with more consultations foreseen with the NHCPs for an update of the funding schemes. Efforts will be made to encourage input from a wider range of countries in order to have a more comprehensive picture.

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Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) funding schemes
For more information please consult the website . And here for funding.
Country
Portugal
General description
<p>The Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) is the national funding agency supporting science, technology and innovation, in all scientific domains, under the Ministry for Science, Technology and Higher Education. For 2015, the total budget for science was 460 million euros.</p> <p>FCT supports the scientific community in Portugal through a range of funding schemes, tailored for individual scientists, research teams or R&D centres. Through its funding schemes, FCT supports graduate education, research and development, establishment and access to research infrastructures, networking and international collaborations, conferences and meetings, science communication and interactions with industry.</p>
Relevant programs
<p>There are different funding schemes under FCT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Studentships and fellowships (awards for PhD students and post-doctoral researchers. Includes PhD studentships in industry and other types of fellowships for graduates) ▶ PhD programmes (research-based PhD programmes, set up by higher education institutions, R&D centres and/or industry) ▶ Career development (support for recruitment of top researchers into R&D centres in Portugal) ▶ Project grants (different types of grants to develop cutting-edge research projects, in all areas) ▶ R&D institutions (core and strategic funding schemes for R&D centres evaluated by FCT) ▶ Research infrastructures ▶ International opportunities (access to international funding and network schemes, including Horizon 2020) ▶ Scientific community support fund (for meetings, publications, scientific societies) ▶ Protocols (for specific topics with national and international organisations) ▶ Prizes (in any research area).

Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation
For more information please consult the website . And here for funding.
Country
Portugal
General description
<p>Set in 1956, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation aims to improve knowledge and quality of life through arts, science and education. This foundation promotes and supports programmes and projects, as well as awards subsidies and study grants for training and education both in Portugal and internationally.</p> <p>In the field of science, some of the core objectives of its main actions are to raise professional qualifications and to promote biomedical research and training new scientific leaders.</p>
Relevant programs
<p>There are different funding and support schemes under Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation umbrella:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Individual scholarships (including applied scientific and technological research) ▶ Grant-making (in several research areas) ▶ Pilot projects implementation ▶ Projects support (innovative projects that generate progress and adaptability to change) ▶ Networks and partnerships

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Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Prizes (in the Foundation’s main areas of intervention, given annually to individuals or institutions)

Luso-American Development Foundation
For more information please consult the website . And here for funding.
Country
Portugal
General description
Luso-American Development Foundation (FLAD) is a private and financially self-sufficient institution, founded in 1985 by the Portuguese government which contributes to the development of Portugal by providing financial and strategic support to innovative projects and encouraging cooperation between Portuguese and American society.
Relevant programs
<p>FLAD implements the following programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Study in Portugal Network (SiPN) ▶ FLAD Life Science 2020 ▶ Energy Security Program ▶ Connect to Success (C2S) <p>Funding schemes under FLAD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Participation of speakers from the US at conferences and seminars in Portugal ▶ Scholarships for PhD students in Portuguese institutions to complete a few months internship (equal or greater than four months) at a USA research institution ▶ Scholarships for Portuguese researchers to present their papers in conferences happening in the USA

At national/regional level, there are also several prizes, though specific in nature that could be considered:

SCML/MSD in Clinical Epidemiology Prize
For more information please consult the website . And here for the rules for application (2017).
Country
Portugal
Responsible entities
Society of Medical Sciences of Lisbon (SCML) Merck Sharp & Dohme Portugal (MSD)
General description
This prize distinguishes annually the best research project in Clinical Epidemiology conducted in Portuguese research institutions, by national or foreign researchers, thus contributing to the promotion of research in Health Sciences in Portugal, particularly in the area of clinical epidemiology. The monetary prize is of € 20.000 (twenty thousand euros).

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Pfizer Awards for Clinical Research and Basic Research
For more information please consult the website . And here for the rules for application (2018).
Country
Portugal
Responsible entities
Society of Medical Sciences of Lisbon Pfizer Labs
General description
<p>The Society of Medical Sciences of Lisbon and the Pfizer Laboratories assign annually two prizes, one in Basic Research and other in Clinical Research. These awards aim to promote research in Health Sciences in Portugal.</p> <p>The Pfizer Prize for Basic Research, in the amount of € 20.000 (twenty thousand euros), distinguishes the best basic research work in Health Sciences, wholly or partially carried out in Portuguese institutions.</p> <p>The Pfizer Prize for Clinical Research, also in the amount of € 20.000 (twenty thousand euros), award the best research work, performed, wholly or in part, in Portuguese institutions.</p>

Sustainable Health Prize
For more information please consult the website . And here for the rules for application (2018).
Country
Portugal
Responsible entities
Jornal de Negócios Sanofi
General description
<p>This initiative aims to distinguish and reward entities, individual or collective, from the public, private or social sectors, health care providers, which have stood out by promoting and implementing sustainability principles and actions with tangible impact on health.</p> <p>The Sustainable Health Awards are assigned annually to institutions and personalities. In the first case, three prizes are awarded, one for each type of health care provided: Primary healthcare; Hospital healthcare, Long term healthcare.</p>

Maratona da Saúde Awards
For more information please consult the website . And here for the rules for application (2018).
Country
Portugal
Responsible entities
Associação Maratona da Saúde FCT
General description
<p>This initiative aims to fund scientific research and thereby to accelerate the discovery of innovative treatments and the cure of various diseases.</p> <p>Each year are distinguished the two best scientific research projects to be developed in Portugal in a given area. The assigned funding comes from donations raised during a television show of MdS, transmitted by the public national Portuguese television channel, and through other funding obtained throughout the year in initiatives developed from north to south of the country.</p>

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Pulido Valente Prize
For more information please consult the website . And here for the rules for application (2018).
Country
Portugal
Responsible entities
Fundação Professor Francisco Pulido Valente FCT
General description
<p>The Pulido Valente Prize aims to stimulate research in the field of Biomedical Sciences by recognising the merit of R&D activities carried out in this field.</p> <p>This award, in the amount of € 10.000 (ten thousand euros), is assigned annually to an original scientific article published in the area of Biomedical Sciences (without restriction of the year of publication) that describes the results of research carried out by a researcher under 35 years of age in a national R&D institution.</p>

L’Oréal Portugal Medals of Honour for Women in Science
For more information please consult the website . And here for the rules for application (2018).
Country
Portugal
Responsible entities
FCT L’Oréal Portugal Portuguese National Commission for UNESCO
General description
<p>This initiative aims to promote the participation of women in science by encouraging the youngest and most promising early-stage scientists to undertake advanced studies in the area of Health and Environmental Sciences.</p> <p>These awards are intended to carry out advanced studies of scientific research, at the post-doctoral level, in universities or other Portuguese institutions of recognised merit.</p> <p>Every year, four L’Oréal Portugal Medals of Honour for Women in Science are assigned, each one in the amount of € 15.000 (fifteen thousand euros).</p>

Mantero Belard Prize
For more information please consult the website . And here for the rules for application (2018).
Country
Portugal
Responsible entities
Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Lisboa
General description
<p>The Mantero Belard Prize aims to promote scientific or clinical research in the field of neurodegenerative diseases associated with aging, such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases, enabling new strategies in the treatment and rehabilitation of neurological functions.</p> <p>This award, in the total amount of € 200.000 (two hundred thousand euros), aims to stimulate new studies, within the multidisciplinary range of Biosciences (Neurology, Neuropathology, Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Molecular Genetics, Chemistry, Pharmacology, Immunology, Physiology, Cell Biology,</p>

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Mantero Belard Prize
among others) contributing to a better understanding of the causes, prevention and treatment of neurodegenerative diseases.

RESTART 2016-2020 RTDI Programmes
For more information please consult the website .
Country
Cyprus
Responsible entities
Research Promotion Foundation (RPF)
General description
RESTART 2016-2020 Programmes are a multi-annual development framework of Programmes for the support of Research, Technological Development and Innovation in Cyprus, which is co-funded by national and European resources and is implemented in conjunction with other national initiatives and Programmes.
Priority sectors/areas relevant for HBM4EU
Digital Mapping of Health: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ “Integrated Projects” Programme ▶ “New Strategic Infrastructure Units- Young Scientists” Programme ▶ “Research in Enterprises” Programme ▶ “Research in Start-Ups” Programme ▶ “Proof of Concept for Technology/Knowhow Applications” Programme ▶ “Bilateral Collaborations” Programme ▶ “International Collaboration- Dual Targeting” Programme ▶ “Eureka Cyprus» Programme ▶ “European Initiatives - National Development” Programme.

Projets de Recherche et d’Intervention pour Réduire et Lutter Contre le Tabagisme
For more information please consult the website . And here for the rules for application (2018).
Country
France
General description
This call for proposals covers all dimensions of research as well as a wide range of disciplines, from clinical research to public health, information and communication technologies, economics and politics, sociology, law, biology or even epidemiology. It covers all topics, diseases related to tobacco (cancer, cardiovascular disease, addiction, etc.) as well as the composition of products, smoke and emissions from their use.
Key areas of support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Determinants, trajectories, levers of action on tobacco-related behaviors in the general population ▶ Cancer: screening dynamics, early diagnosis, tertiary prevention and biology ▶ Smoking cessation in non-cancer patients and research in health services.

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Recherche Interventionnelle en Santé des Populations: Agir à Tous les Temps du Cancer
For more information please consult the website . And here for the rules for application (2018).
Country
France
General description
In this call it is expected that teams involve at least one academic partner (research) and one partner in the field (health, social, associative, professional, territorial community ...). The teams must belong to public research organisations, non-profit organisations, health facilities, local and territorial authorities. The participation of non-French teams is possible to the extent that they provide their own funding in the project.
Key areas of support
<p>This call for projects contains a general axis and three transversal dimensions to integrate into the research plans.</p> <p>The main focus will be on interventional research projects related to the different "times" of the fight against cancer: prevention (primary and secondary), the path of care and tertiary prevention, post-cancer, as well as methodology research.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The first cross-cutting dimension of this call is based on the integration of the issue of reducing health inequalities into research plans on population health interventions ▶ The second transversal dimension concerns the justification and evaluation of the efficiency of the interventions proposed in the research projects ▶ The third transversal dimension focuses on the exploitation and valorisation of project results, through the concept of knowledge mobilisation.

PNREST (National Research Programme on Environmental and Occupational Health): "Environmental and Occupational Health"
For more information please consult the website or go here .
Country
France
General description
Each year, as part of the National Research Programme on Environmental and Occupational Health (PNREST), ANSES disseminates its calls for research projects on environmental and occupational health themes. The aim of this specific call for research proposals is to support public policy-making. It takes into account the research priorities of the national plans for Environmental Health, Occupational Health, Cancer and Ecophyto. The 2018 call for projects focuses on the assessment and analysis of environmental risks to human health, in the general and worker populations. It will also support projects on risks for ecosystems and quality of environmental media.

DFG - Research Units
For more information please consult the website or go here .
Country
Germany
General description
This programme provides funding to researchers based in Germany or at a German research institution abroad working together on a research project. The total funding duration is generally six years, or eight years in exceptional cases. There is no submission deadline and proposals may be submitted at any time. Proposals must be submitted no later than 15 October every year.

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“Ia Caixa” Foundation - Health Research
For more information please consult the website . And here for the rules for application (2018).
Country
Spain Portugal
General description
The core activity of “Ia Caixa” Foundation call for proposals is to support research in groundbreaking, original, and highly relevant (up to three years) projects that will lead to advance in knowledge and solutions related to some of the most important health problems of our century. Research projects should entail scientific excellence in their field, with potential value and high social impact. 2017 call previewed 12 000 000€ to support selected projects amongst different thematic areas. The Host Institution had to be a non-profit Research Performing Institution based in Spain or Portugal.
Key areas of support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Cardiovascular disease ▶ Neuroscience ▶ Infectious disease ▶ Oncology ▶ Other biomedical areas: other biomedical projects not specifically focused on the previous thematic areas. They will be projects of high biomedical and health interest in transversal areas such as genetics, pharmacology or chemical biology or facilitating technologies such as bioinformatics, nanotechnology, big data, among others.
Priority sectors/areas relevant for HBM4EU
Oncology or other biomedical areas

4.4 Helpdesk

A helpdesk was specifically created to provide support to the partners of the HBM4EU consortium regarding funding opportunities. This is available on the internal webpages of the HBM4EU website and those interested in having more information regarding funding schemes can contact FMUL for support.

In parallel, the identified funding opportunities of international and national nature within the scope of task 6.2 were included in the HBM4EU website. For each funding call, basic information is provided, namely a general description, key areas of interest for HBM4EU and the link for more information.

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5 National needs and expectations

5.1 Introduction

Why did we create the NHs as part of the structure within HBM4EU?

During the inception of the project it was determined that NH were a means to build a European wide HBM community and use this network as a means to disseminate good practice, learn from each other and lead to a stable footing for the initiative. The NHs include their policy makers and other national stakeholders.

There is also a legal basis for the concept of the NH, the Programme Managers and/or Grant Signatories are required to engage and draw on the HBM initiatives in their countries. This is reflected in the DOA.

As the first year progressed, it was evident that each country has a different NH structure and a very varied level of participation within the project. It should be noted that their role in all aspects of the project and their ability to engage with national stakeholders is not only a way to promote capacity building but to set the way for a sustainable pan-European HBM platform to support initiatives which bridge the divide between science to policy. The assumption is therefore, that the NHs are key to the sustainability of an HBM initiative for Europe; to the future of HBM4EU after 2021.

The NHCPs were sent a written survey to complete at the end of the 2017. Supplementary to this; from December 2018 till the end of February 2019 NHCPs were interviewed via telephone to review and clarify their written responses.

The purpose of the survey was to determine the current situation, state gaps in their national frameworks, describe obstacles they face and express their needs or vision for the longevity of their NH. They were also asked to describe how HBM4EU has impacted on their NHs.

The survey was sent to all NHCPs. A sample of the survey is in Annex 1. Some NHCP consulted widely before responding others were individuals or intuitional representatives. The survey was not trialled or evaluated in a systematic way therefore the results are to be treated with a certain amount of latitude.

5.2 Survey results

This very simple questionnaire has highlighted some fundamental issues with regard to the future sustainability of HBM at a European level after 2021.

Table 1 provides an overview of the current situation across the NHs with regards to a range of aspects, including the level of activity of the NH, status of political support, availability of funding, ongoing HBM studies and willingness to align studies with HBM4EU.

Many of the NHCP stated that due to HBM4EU they were able to form better links to policy makers and stakeholder with the view to enable them to tap into National infrastructure and perhaps funding.

Regarding ongoing HBM studies at national level, only six countries have a nationally representative sampling frame for HBM. Most have regional or *hot-spot* type of sampling frame. However, there was a positive response to trying to align studies to achieve European geographical coverage.

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Table 1: Current Situation

Status in each partner country	Number of Responses (February 2018)	Yes	%	Comments Received from Respondents
Countries with active Hubs	21	20	85	HBM4EU has enabled Hubs to be formed in the 1st year
Ministerial support for HBM at a National Level	20	7	35	Many stated that HBM4EU could be the way to secure funding
Government funding for National Studies	21	1	5	Most get ad hoc funding for research projects.
Countries with a Nationally Representative Studies	Not taken from the survey	6		This we know from Task 7.1 and task 8.1
Ongoing or planned studies		Most Countries		As found in Task 8.1
Countries who wish to align their studies within HBM4EU		21		This information is again available Task 8.1

The results in table 2 indicate that national HBM laboratories are not available in all counties, since only 6 of the 21 respondent stated that they have such facilities. It was noted that the definition of a ‘national’ facility was not the same across the respondents. This was also found when evaluating the level of public engagement: the way public engagement is used is (if it is used) is very varied. This is an aspect which may be taken up in WP5.

The possibility of securing long-term funding from national sources alone was not seen as possible but many NHCPs stated that having European or international funding was how they could try to leverage more national funding. This is reflected in that only 1 of the 21 respondents stated that they have national funding for studies most secure *ad hoc* funding for standalone projects.

Table 2: Gaps and Obstacles

	Number of Responses (February 2018)	Yes	%	Comments
National Laboratories	21	6	28	May be the question was miss-leading
Public Engagement (in HBM Studies)	21	3	14	Understanding of Public Engagement is varied
Major Obstacles	Lack of legal requirement for HBM in risk assessment or regulations Lack of stable funding source			

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As shown in table 3, the future priorities for the NHs were to establish laboratory networks, increase research priorities and they wished to have access to European data.

Of the 21 NHs, eight have undertaken stakeholder engagement activities, with results suggesting a very varied level of stakeholder engagement across the partner countries.

Table 3: Vision

	No of Consultation (February 19th 2018)	Yes	%	Comments
Stakeholder Engagement	21	8	38	Very varied level of engagement
Future priorities for NH: asked for two main areas	Laboratory networks, Research Partnerships, use of European data			

The general feedback question at the end of the survey allowed the NHCP to express their view more openly: there is a very high level of engagement in the project but a sense of dissatisfaction with the involvement or integration of NHCPs.

During the third and fourth year efforts will be made to strengthen the input and integration of the NHs. In December 2018, a workshop for the NH with the French NH will continue the discussions started in the Vienna 2018 week of meetings. The NHs were asked to consider the following questions:

Will your Hub be active after 2021?; Have you organized a National Stakeholder meeting?; What are your wishes from HBM4EU from 2020 to 21?; If your hub will remain active – how will it be funded?

The meeting in Paris as well as the second survey will build on these questions and develop a plan of action which will be developed in collaboration with the NHCPs. This will of course include evaluating where and how additional funds could be gathered.

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6 Stakeholder survey and workshop on long-term needs

6.1 Introduction

To better understand the stakeholder’s needs and expectations for a long-term HBM initiative, an online survey was implemented with a broad range of stakeholders invited to contribute with their responses and views. The results were then discussed at a workshop shortly after, where a more limited number of stakeholders had an opportunity to reflect on the results and provide input. The overall aim was to first undertake a broad brush survey and analyse the results through a quantitative approach. We then drew on these results to produce input to the workshop, which involved a more limited number of stakeholders allowing for in depth discussion. As such we complemented the quantitative survey approach with a qualitative workshop discussion. This chapter reports the survey results and the discussions that were held during the workshop.

The objective of the stakeholder online survey was to understand the stakeholder needs and expectations for a long-term HBM initiative. The EEA secured agreement on a list of stakeholders to involve in the consultation, including policy makers at EU and global levels, industry and a broad range of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and quasi-NGOs.

The online stakeholder survey was launched on the HBM4EU website in April 2018 and completed by May 2018.

The workshop that followed took place in June 2018, in Brussels at the DOMG’s facilities.

6.2 Online survey on stakeholders’ future expectations

The survey was composed of 5 questions regarding their needs and expectations for a long-term European HBM initiative, including 4 multiple-choice questions and one free-text question. The questions are shown below.

1. **What might the overarching objectives of a long-term European Human Biomonitoring programme be**
(Please rank the three objectives that you have selected with "1" being the most preferred and "3" being the least)
 - a. Routinely produce harmonised Human Biomonitoring exposure data to support chemical risk assessment and management in the European Union
 - b. Produce Human Biomonitoring data to allow scientist to study the health impact of chemical exposure
 - c. Use Human Biomonitoring to identify emerging chemical risks and unexpected substances and draw the attention of citizens and authorities to these
 - d. Support the occupational health policies and the safe use of chemicals in work places through regular Human Biomonitoring
 - e. Build scientific excellence in Human Biomonitoring and its potential for risk assessment for Europe to become an international reference
 - f. Advance the science and risk assessment of exposures to mixtures
 - g. Survey Human Biomonitoring activities and research on health impacts and facilitate the uptake of evidence in risk assessment/management
 - h. Raise public awareness and understanding of the exposure to chemicals and trust in the European risk assessment and management procedures
 - i. Raise awareness and understanding of the impact of chemicals exposures amongst health professionals
 - j. Other (Please specify)

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2. What areas of chemical exposure should a future initiative on Human Biomonitoring focus on? (Please select up to 3 options)

- a. Exposure via the environment
- b. Exposure via consumer goods
- c. Occupational exposure
- d. Dietary exposure
- e. Exposure via illicit drugs
- f. Accidental exposure
- g. Exposure hotspots (local exposure)
- h. Other (Please specify)

3. Based on you experience who are the key players involved in Human Biomonitoring in your country/in your network*? (Please select up to 3 options):

*For NGOs or people working beyond national level

- a. Scientists
- b. Industry
- c. Risk assessors
- d. Risk managers – policy makers
- e. Consumers and citizen associations
- f. Doctors and practitioners in the health service
- g. Health insurance industry
- h. NGOs in health, environment, patients
- i. Trade unions
- j. Employers
- k. National health institutions
- l. Environment agencies
- m. Other (Please specify)

4. Please identify the potential funding sources that could support this initiative (Please rank up to 3 options. If you have selected more than one option, please rank them from 1-3 with "1" being the most preferred and "3" being the least):

- a. Public funds at European level
- b. Public funds at national level
- c. Grants at national, European and international level
- d. Private investment through partnership with industry
- e. Public funds with private partnership
- f. Specific funding sources (Please specify below).
- g. Other (Please specify below)

5. If you wish, please briefly describe your vision for a future Human Biomonitoring initiative in Europe. (max. 250 words)

The survey was sent out to the 837 stakeholders in our HBM4EU list. 175 responses were received, representing a response rate of ~20 %.

The low response rate may be due to the fact that most institutions had provided us with more than one e-mail address, while their answers were provided collectively as an institution. Another reason could be due to the time-window given, which was considered short as some NGOs have to contact their stakeholders, who in turn take their own time to answer. This can be taken as a lesson learnt for future surveys.

6.3 Survey results

The overall aim of the online survey was to understand the stakeholder needs and expectations for a long-term HBM initiative.

Regarding the type of participants that answered it, the three stakeholder communities with the highest response rates were governmental organisations (28 %), scientists (22 %) and NGOs (14 %) (see Figure 1). The category “other stakeholders” included the education sector (31 %), trade/industry (17 %), and foundations focussed on health and research (13 %) (see Figure 2).

In terms of representation, we had responses from 31 countries, with the highest number of responses from Belgium, Germany, Italy, and Portugal (Figure 3).

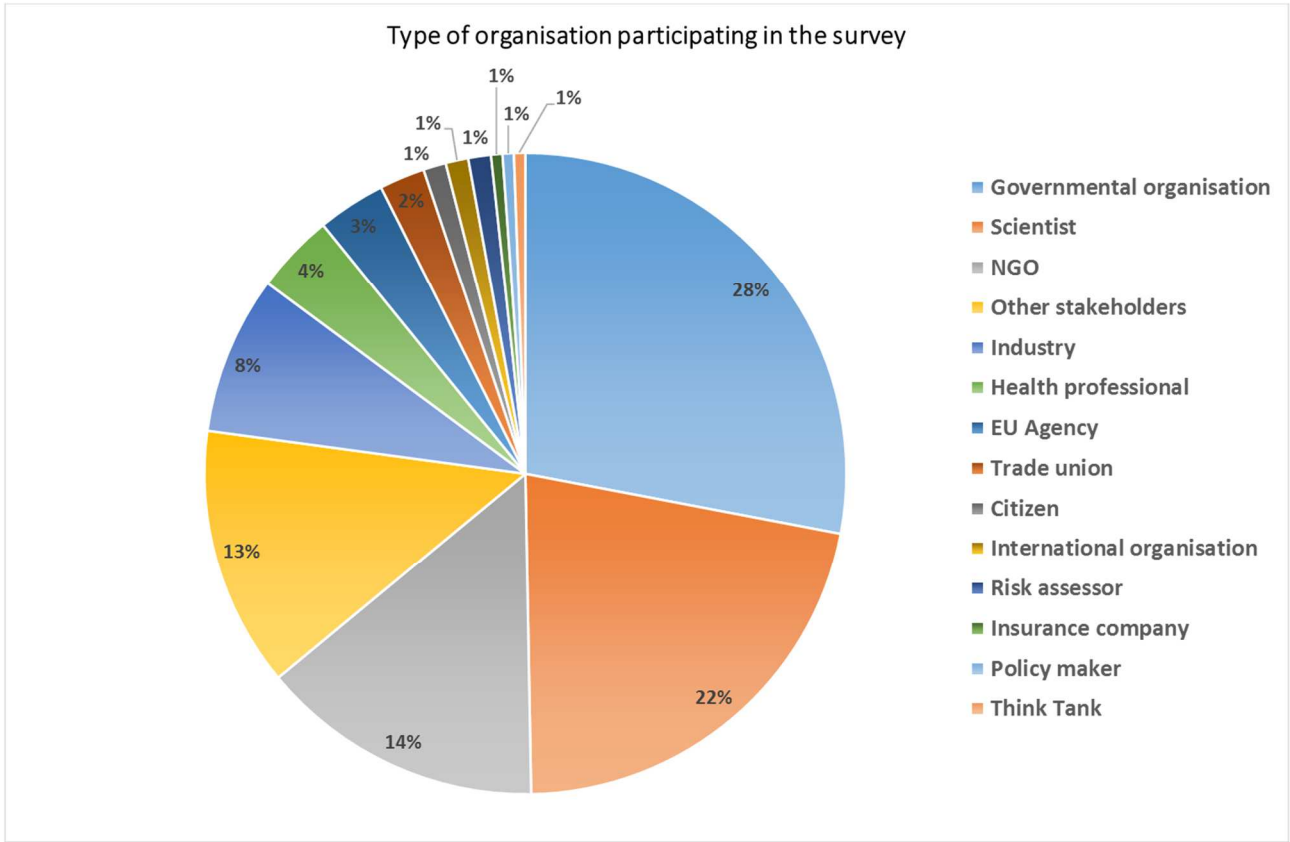


Figure 1: Type of stakeholders to answer the survey

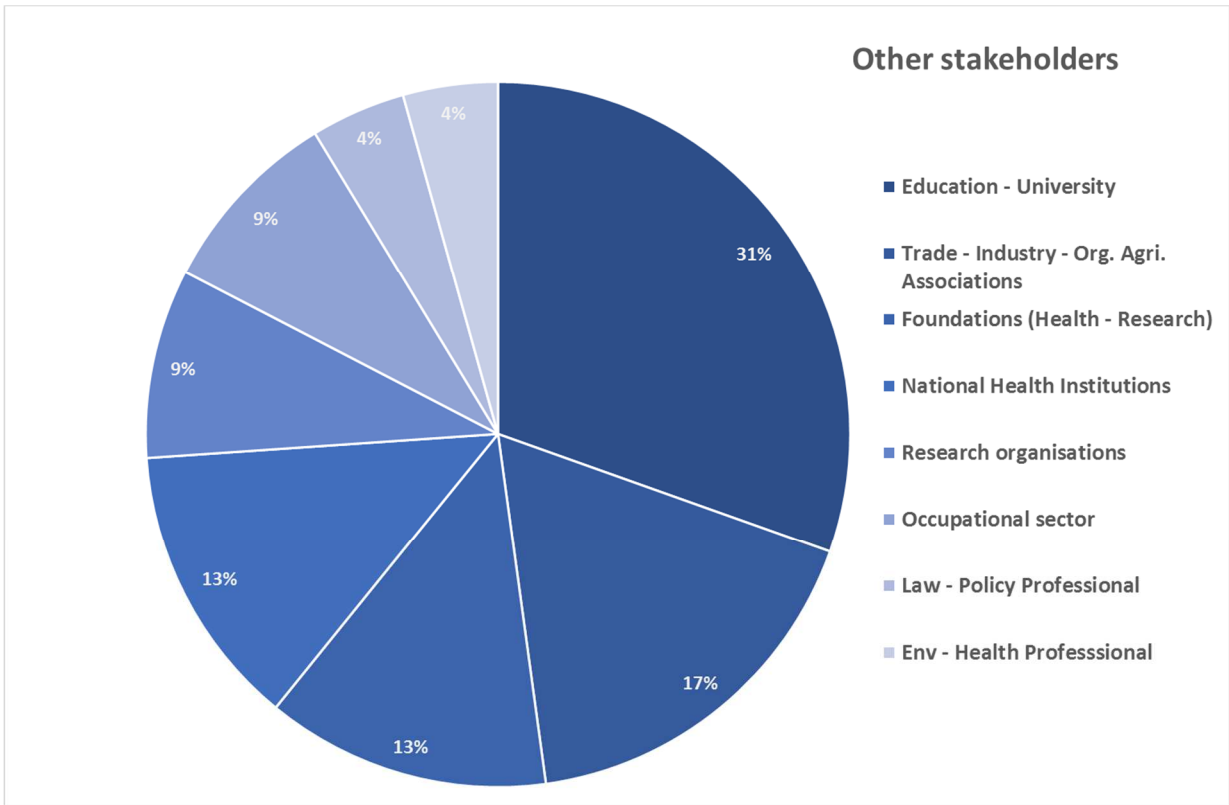


Figure 2: Type of stakeholders that specified “Other stakeholders” under “type of organisation”

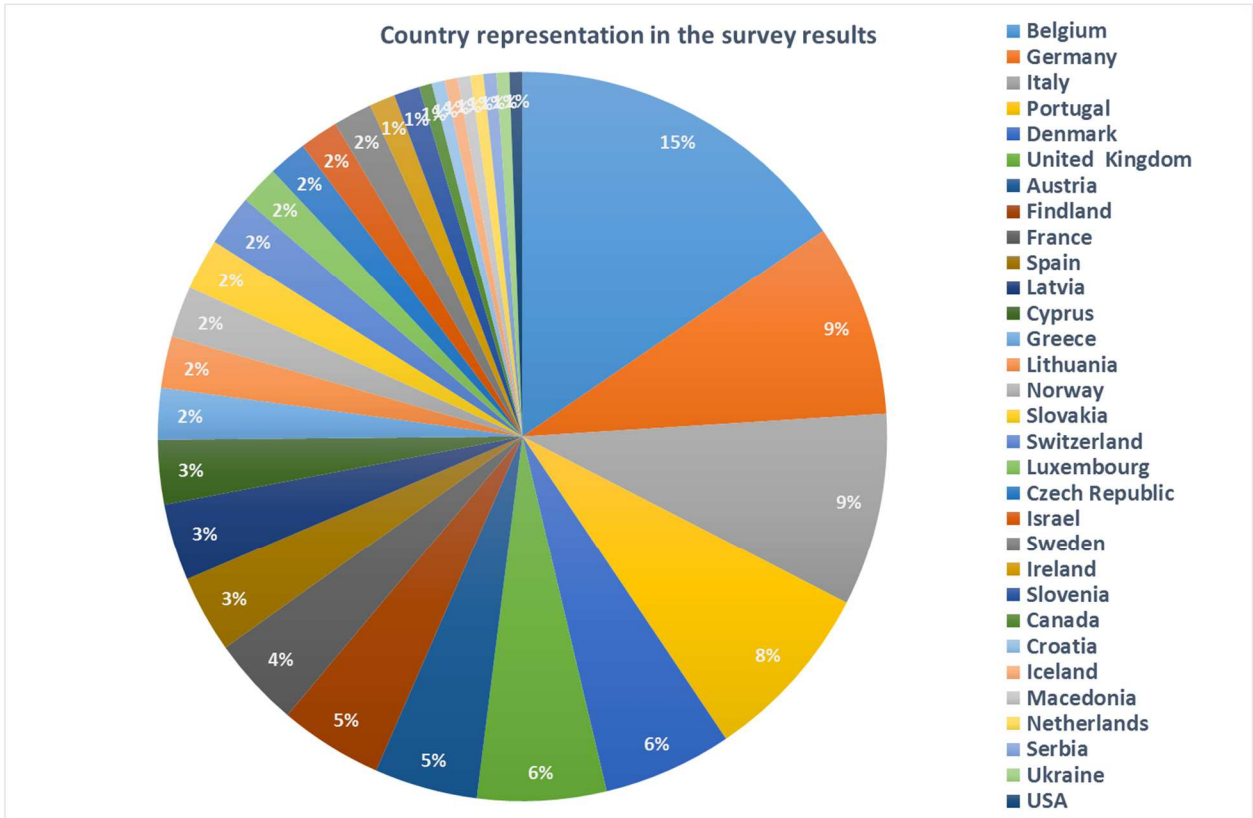


Figure 3: Percentage of survey participants originating from different countries

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6.3.1 Question 1: What might the overarching objectives of a long-term European Human Biomonitoring programme be?

The first question asked respondents to rank their top three objectives for a long-term European HBM programme from a range of options. Survey respondents were also able to identify additional objectives. Overall, stakeholders prioritised a range of different objectives.

The objective prioritised by the largest proportion (25%) of survey participants as one of their top three objectives was to “routinely produce harmonised Human Biomonitoring exposure data to support chemical risk assessment and management in the European Union”.

Eighteen percent of survey participants prioritised the objective to “produce Human Biomonitoring data to allow scientist to study the health impact of chemical exposure”.

While 15% prioritised the objective to “use Human Biomonitoring to identify emerging chemical risks and unexpected substances and draw the attention of citizens and authorities to these”.

All the remaining objectives were prioritised by less than 10% of stakeholders. The objective to “survey Human Biomonitoring activities and research on health impacts and facilitate the uptake of evidence in risk assessment/management” and “raise public awareness and understanding of the exposure to chemicals and trust in the European risk assessment and management procedures” were prioritised by 8 % of the survey participants.

Seven percent of survey participants prioritised each of the objectives below, including:

- To “build scientific excellence in Human Biomonitoring and its potential for risk assessment for Europe to become an international reference”;
- To “support the occupational health policies and the safe use of chemicals in work places through regular Human Biomonitoring”; and
- To “advance the science and risk assessment of exposures to mixtures”.

The objective to “raise awareness and understanding of the impact of chemicals exposures amongst health professionals” was prioritised by less than 3% of stakeholders.

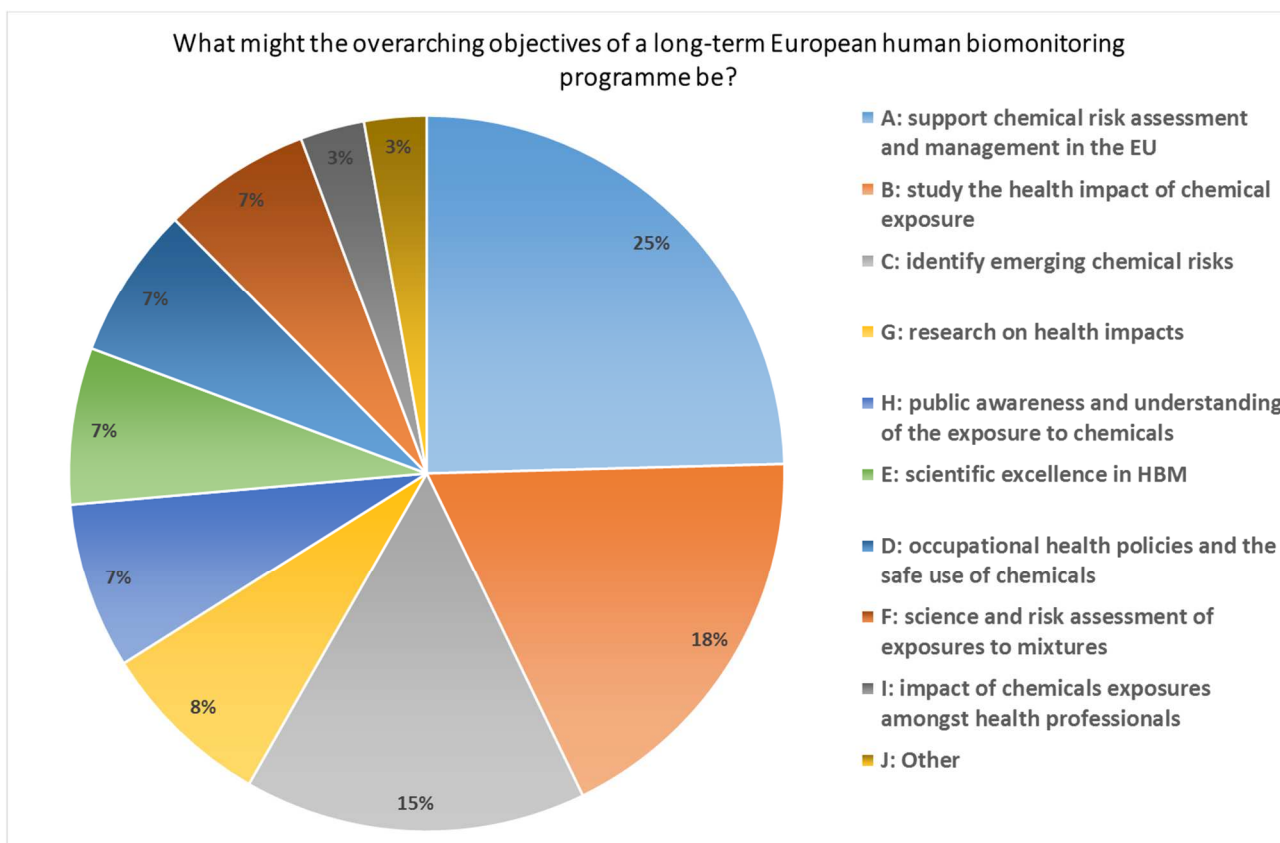


Figure 4: Percentage of stakeholders that selected each objective as one of their top three priorities for a long-term European Human Biomonitoring programme

The responses of participants who answered “Other” and then provided free input are presented in Table 4.

In summary, stakeholders prioritised the use of HBM data to verify the effectiveness of European policies to protect human health, and to enable policy evaluation and to identify gaps in chemical legislation. Stakeholder identified a role for industry in ensuring safe levels of hazardous chemical in consumer products.

Stakeholder supported the implementation of long-term surveillance HBM studies to better identify the lifelong impacts of chemical exposure. The results of HBM activities should be effectively communicated in order to raise public awareness and encourage behavioural change, where appropriate. Well-defined communication can foster a better understanding of the exposure of the European population to chemicals, as well as policy efforts to minimise exposures. This can serve to build trust in European chemical risk assessment and management procedures.

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Table 4: Additional objectives prioritised by stakeholders under Q.1 “Overarching objectives for long-term HBM initiative”

(J) Other objectives
It should understand better the effects and impacts of chemicals mixtures, in order to adopt appropriate risk assessment measures and management procedures accordingly with daily life exposures of humans and the environment.
Identify implementation gaps in the different chemicals regulations, that lead to increased chemical exposure
Should be used to enhance chemicals controls to protect EU citizens; ensure that companies are made more accountable for producing and using harmful chemicals that end up in people without their consent
Advance the science and risk assessment of exposures to mixtures
To promote complementarity of OE assessment to chemical agents (carried out according to well defined and standardized strategies) with reliable HB based upon valid biological exposure indices
Implementation of safety measures
Educate the public and raise understanding of the exposure to chemicals, and build trust in the European risk assessment and management procedures. This should be done via a well-defined communication project plan to ensure that experts and the public at large appropriately interpret HBM4EU results.
Biomonitoring data should be used to better protect humans (esp. vulnerable groups) from daily exposure to a realm of hazardous substances and identify gaps and failures of chemicals policy
Educate the public and raise understanding of the exposure to chemicals, and build trust in the European risk assessment and management procedures. This should be done via a well-defined communication project plan to ensure that experts and the public at large appropriately interpret HBM4EU results.
Raise public awareness and understanding of the exposure to chemicals
Use Human Biomonitoring data to illustrate to chemical manufacturers where their efforts of risk management are insufficient and make them more accountable for producing and using harmful chemicals that end up in people without their consent.
Policy evaluation + public debate + broaden the scope to a diversity of policy options (in support of regulation), such as information campaigns, targeted research, precautionary initiatives, labelling, guidance, best practices, etc.
Restrict harmful chemicals
Use Human Biomonitoring to verify the effectiveness of European policies to protect human health.
Use Human Biomonitoring data for soft policy measures and policy evaluation
Include long term surveillance to better understand lifelong impact of exposure + raise public awareness for behavioural change
Develop and harmonize Human Biomonitoring methodologies
Integration of biomonitoring data on chemical and radiation exposure.
Better inform risk assessment for human health

Table 5 presents the top three priority objectives of the different categories of stakeholders. The objective to “routinely produce harmonised HBM exposure data to support chemical risk assessment and management in the EU” (A) was the number one priority for government organisations, scientists, industries, EU agencies, international organisations, citizens, insurance companies, and other institutions. It was the second priority for the trade unions, and the third priority for NGOs, health professionals, risk assessors and think tanks.

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Table 5: The three priority objectives according to type of stakeholders

	Gov. Org.	Scientist	NGO	Other	Industry	Health pro.	EU Agency	Trade union	Risk assessor	Inter. Org.	Citizen	Think Tank	Policy maker	Insurance company
1st	A	A	C	A	A	B	A	D	B	A	A	B	G	A
2nd	B	C	B	B	D	G	C	A	I	C	C	F	B	E
3rd	C	B	A	C	H	A	B	F	A	B	B	A	C	G

- A Routinely produce harmonised HBM exposure data to support chemical risk assessment and management in the EU
- B Produce HBM data to allow scientist to study the health impact of chemical exposure
- C Use HBM to identify emerging chemical risks and unexpected substances and draw the attention of citizens and authorities to these
- D Support the occupational health policies and the safe use of chemicals in work places through regular HBM
- E Build scientific excellence in HBM and its potential for risk assessment for Europe to become an international reference
- F Advance the science and risk assessment of exposures to mixtures
- G Survey HBM activities and research on health impacts and facilitate the uptake of evidence in risk assessment/management
- H Raise public awareness and understanding of the exposure to chemicals and trust in the European risk assessment and management procedures
- I Raise awareness and understanding of the impact of chemicals exposures amongst health professionals

Other objectives (J) according to type of stakeholders in Table 5.

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The second most popular objective overall, the objective to “Produce HBM data to allow scientist to study the health impact of chemical exposure” was the top priority for health professionals, risk assessors and think tanks and the second priority for governmental organisations, NGOs, other institutions and policy makers

The objective “Use HBM to identify emerging chemical risks and unexpected substances and draw the attention of citizens and authorities to these” (C) was the third most popular objective overall. It was the top priority for NGOs, the second priority of scientists, EU agencies, international organisations and the citizens, and the third priority of governmental organisations, other institutions and policy makers.

Table 6 presents the additional overarching objectives submitted by stakeholders, organised according to the relevant organisation.

Table 6: Additional objective prioritised by categories of stakeholders

Governmental organisation	Use HBM data for soft policy measures and policy evaluation
Scientist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy evaluation + public debate + broaden the scope to a diversity of policy options (in support of regulation), such as information campaigns, targeted research, precautionary initiatives, labelling, guidance, best practices... • Develop and harmonise HBM methodologies (HBM4EU objective) • Integration of biomonitoring data on chemical and radiation exposure.
NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify implementation gaps in the different chemicals regulations that lead to increased chemical exposure. • Enhance chemical controls across companies to protect EU citizens. • Use HBM to illustrate to chemical manufacturers where their efforts of risk management are insufficient and make them more accountable for producing and using harmful chemicals. • Use HBM to verify the effectiveness of European policies to protect human health. • Include long term surveillance to better understand lifelong impact of exposure + raise public awareness for behavioural change.
Other	Promote complementarity of OE assessment to chemical agents with reliable HB based upon valid biological exposure indices
Other (Trade Ass.)/ Industry	Objective H should be reached via a well-defined communication project plan to ensure that experts and the public at large appropriately interpret HBM4EU results.
EU Agency	Better inform risk assessment for human health
Trade Union	Implementation of safety measures

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6.3.2 Question 2: What areas of chemical exposure should a future initiative on Human Biomonitoring focus on?

On the question of which chemical exposure routes a future initiative should focus on, the majority of participants voted that that a future HBM initiative should focus on chemical exposure via the environment (28%), consumer goods (24%) and dietary exposure (21%). These were followed by occupational exposure (13%) and exposure hotspots (10%).

There was less support for accidental exposures (3%) and only 0.4% for including illicit drugs in the scope.

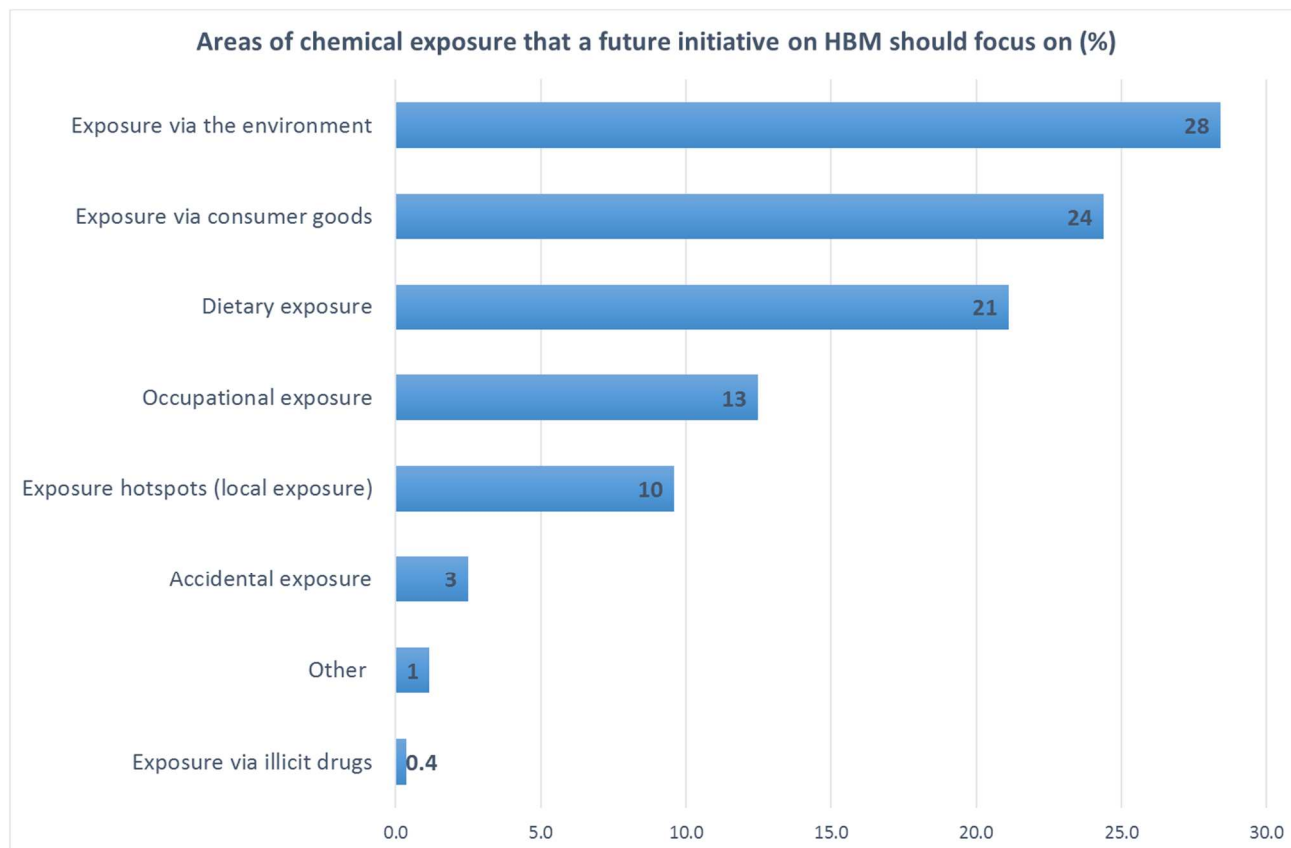


Figure 5: Chemical exposure routes and the percentage of respondents that indicated that a future HBM initiative should focus on each route

In Figure 6 below, the responses regarding the future scope of an initiative are provided by stakeholder to show how preferences differed across stakeholders.

Governmental organisations, NGOs, health professionals, scientists and EU agencies prioritised exposure via the environment, consumer goods and diet, with occupational exposure coming fourth. Risk assessors and other institutions placed a bigger emphasis on occupational exposure, but it still came fourth in terms of rank.

In contrast, trade unions attributed equal importance to occupational exposure, environmental exposure and exposure via consumer goods.

Citizens prioritised the environmental exposure as the main area a future initiative should focus on, followed by exposure via consumer goods and hotspots.

Policy makers assigned equal importance to exposure via the environment, consumer goods and hotspots.

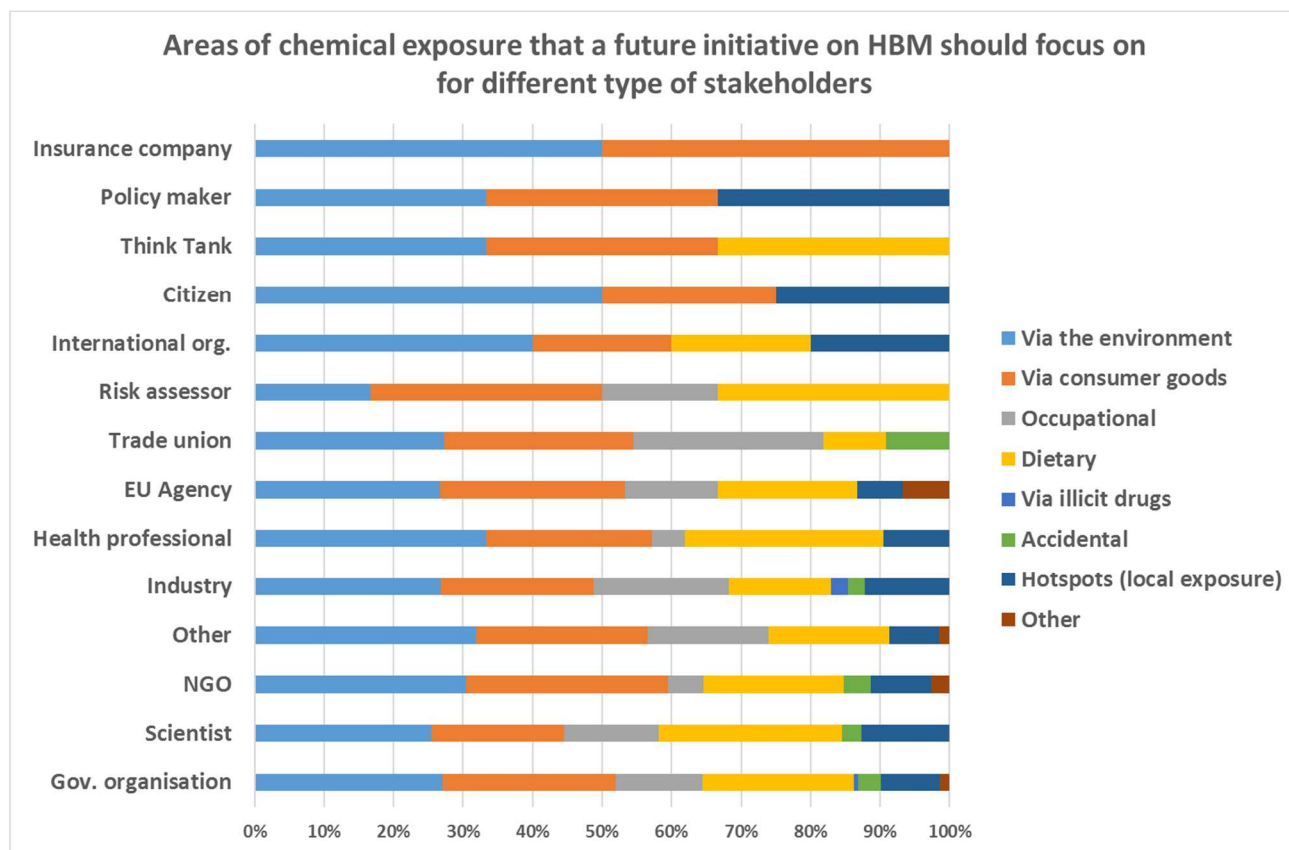


Figure 6: Stakeholder priorities regarding the chemical exposure routes that a future HBM initiative should focus

6.3.3 Question 3: Based on your experience who are the key players involved in Human Biomonitoring in your country or network?

The third question sought to identify the main players currently involved in HBM activities across countries and networks represented by the survey participants.

The main players identified as being involved in HBM were scientists (28%), national health institutions (18%), and environment agencies (13%). Doctors and practitioners in the health service (8%), risk managers and policy makers (8%), and risk assessors (7%) were also identified but with lower response rates. Survey participants also identified NGOs in representing health, environment and patients (6%) and industry (6%). The results suggest that the involvement of consumers and citizens associations (3%), employers (2%), trade unions (1%) and health insurance companies (0.8%) in HBM activities is currently very low.

The percentage of survey participants that identified different actors as currently involved in HBM activities is presented in Figure 7, while Table 7 presents the results by the category of stakeholder.

Governmental organisations, scientists, NGOs, other institutions, industry, health professionals, EU agencies, trade unions, citizens, think tanks, policy makers and insurance companies all identified scientist as the principle actors involved.

National health institutions were risk assessors first choice, and the second choice for governmental organisations, scientists, other institutions, industry, health professionals, trade unions and think tanks.

Environment agencies were the second choice of NGOs, and the third choice of governmental organisations, scientists, other institutions, trade unions and think tanks.

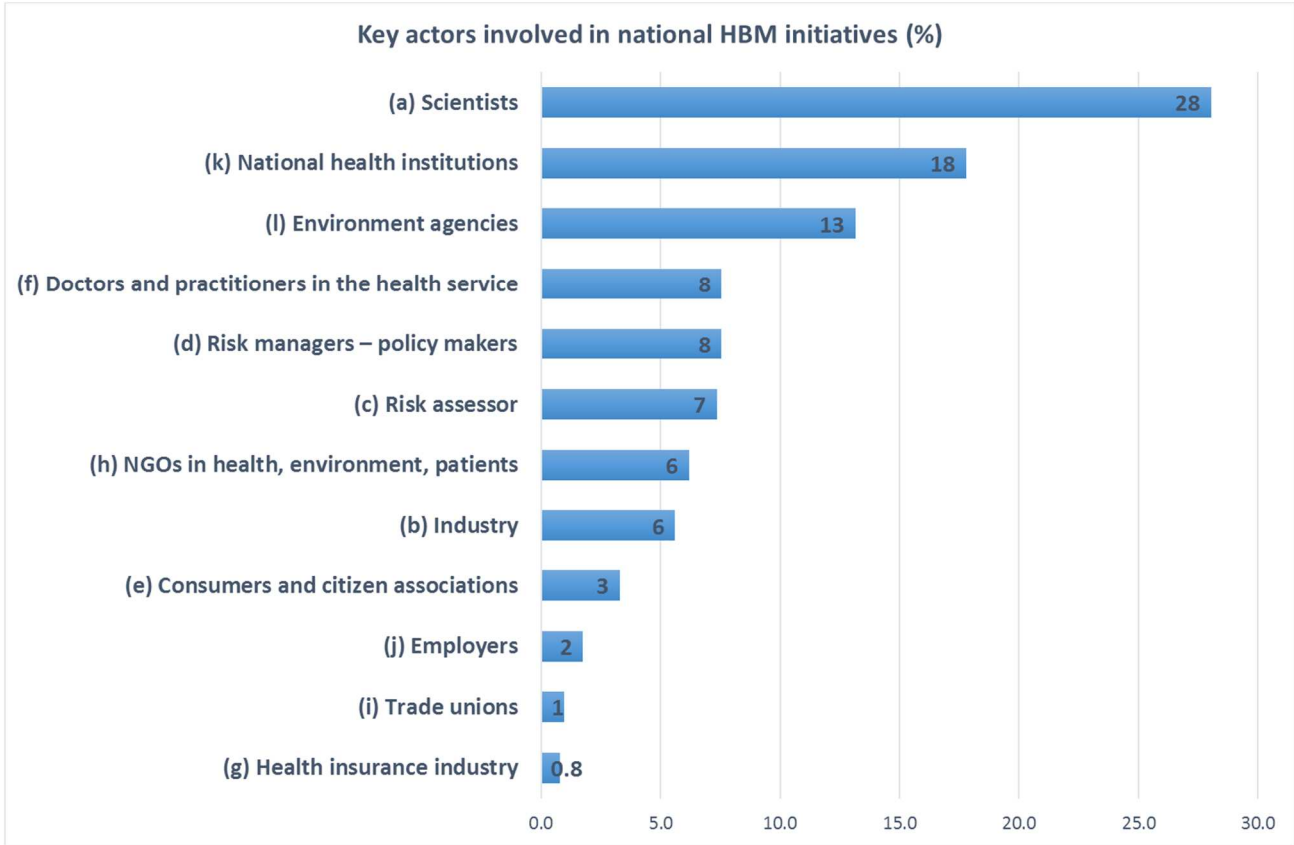


Figure 7: Percentage of survey participants that identified different actions as being currently involved in HBM

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Table 7: Key actors currently involved in national HBM per type of stakeholder

	Gov. Org.	Scientist	NGO	Other	Industry	Health pro.	EU Agency	Trade union	Risk assessor	Inter. Org.	Citizen	Think Tank	Policy maker	Insurance company
1st	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	K	D	A	A	A	A
2nd	K	K	L	K	K	K	C	K	A	A	C	K	D	B
3rd	L	L	K	L	B	E	B	L	B	B	K	L	K	C

- A Scientists
- B Industry
- C Risk assessor
- D Risk managers – policy makers
- E Consumers and citizen associations
- F Doctors and practitioners in the health service
- G Health insurance industry
- H NGOs in health, environment, patients
- I Trade unions
- J Employers
- K National health institutions
- L Environment agencies

6.3.4 Question 4: Please identify the potential funding sources that could support this initiative.

The ranking of the potential funding opportunities chosen are presented in Figure 8. The main choice fell on public funds at European level (42 %), followed by public funds at national level (27 %) and grants at national, European and international level (20 %).

Answers on specific funding and other funding options may be found in Figure 8. Suggestions came for taxes on chemicals, chemical producers funding HMB, industry funding, and other international organisations such as UNEP and WHO.

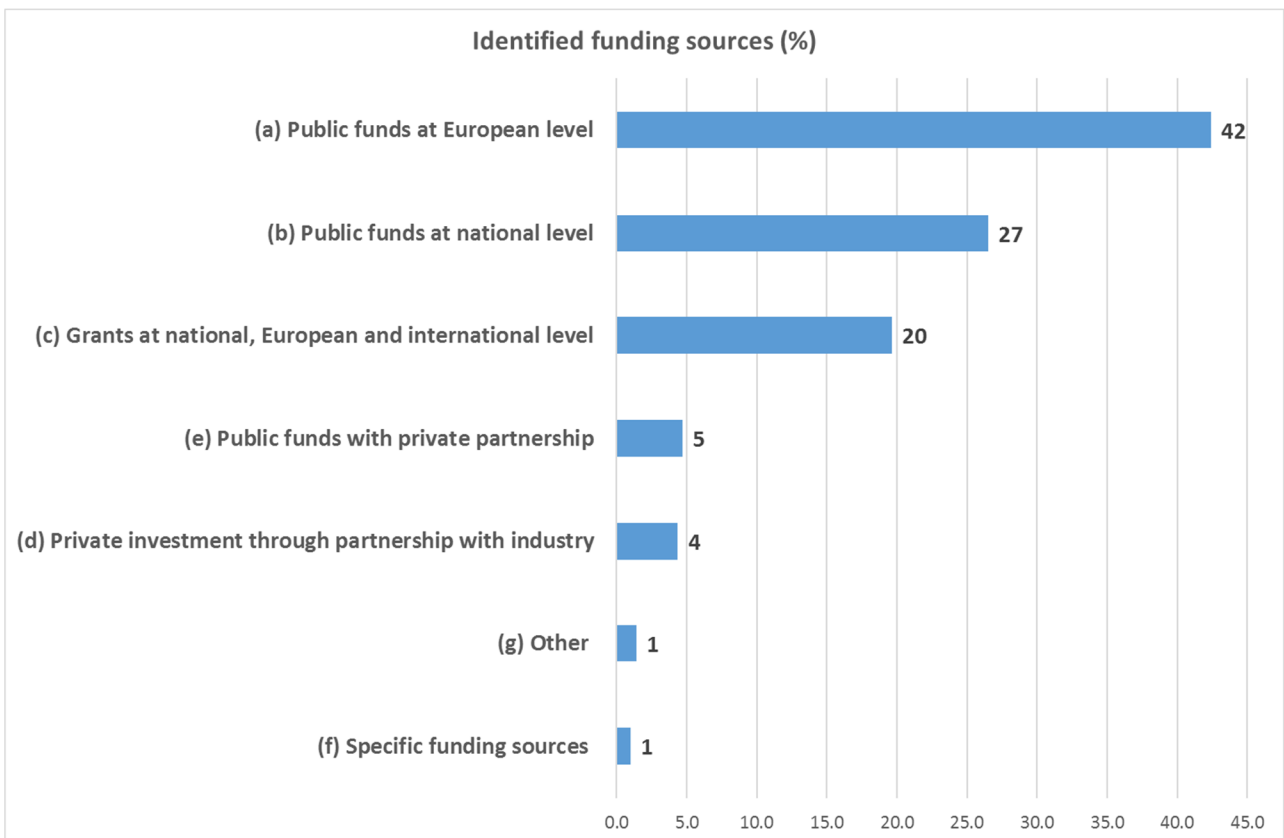


Figure 8: Identified funding sources (%)

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Table 8: Specific funding sources (f) & other (i) according to type of stakeholders

Governmental organisation	Taxes on chemicals	
NGO	Private funds / Producers fund for BM of their products	<u>Polluter pay Principle</u> : 1. Producers should support BM 2. Public controlled fund feed by industry 3. Pay share in public research
Other	Bill and Melissa Gates Foundation (Research Organisation)	
Industry	with Industry	
Citizen	Chemical manufacturers (substances of concern)	
Think Tank	Charity foundations	
Policy maker	International organisations: UNEP, WHO ...	

6.3.5 Question 5: If you wish, please briefly describe your vision for a future Human Biomonitoring initiative in Europe. (max. 250 words)

Question 5 invited survey participants to describe their vision for a future HBM initiative. This was the only open question in the survey, allowing participants to define their own response and provide more nuanced feedback.

From the 175 survey participants, 74 (42 %) answered the open question. In terms of geographical representation, most contributions came from Italy (16%), Belgium (15%), the UK (11%) and Germany (9%). For the remaining distribution across countries please see Figure 9.

Many major categories of stakeholders are represented in the responses (Figure 10). These have a good geographic spread, coming from different countries.

- 24% of the responders came from government organisations, based in Belgium, Latvia, Italy, Cyprus and eight other countries.
- 22% were scientists from Italy, the UK, Finland, Slovakia and six other countries.
- 16% were NGOs from Belgium, Italy, Germany and four other countries.
- 9% from industry with the highest representation from Germany, followed by Belgium, Italy and France.
- 4% from EU agencies, based in Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg and Finland.

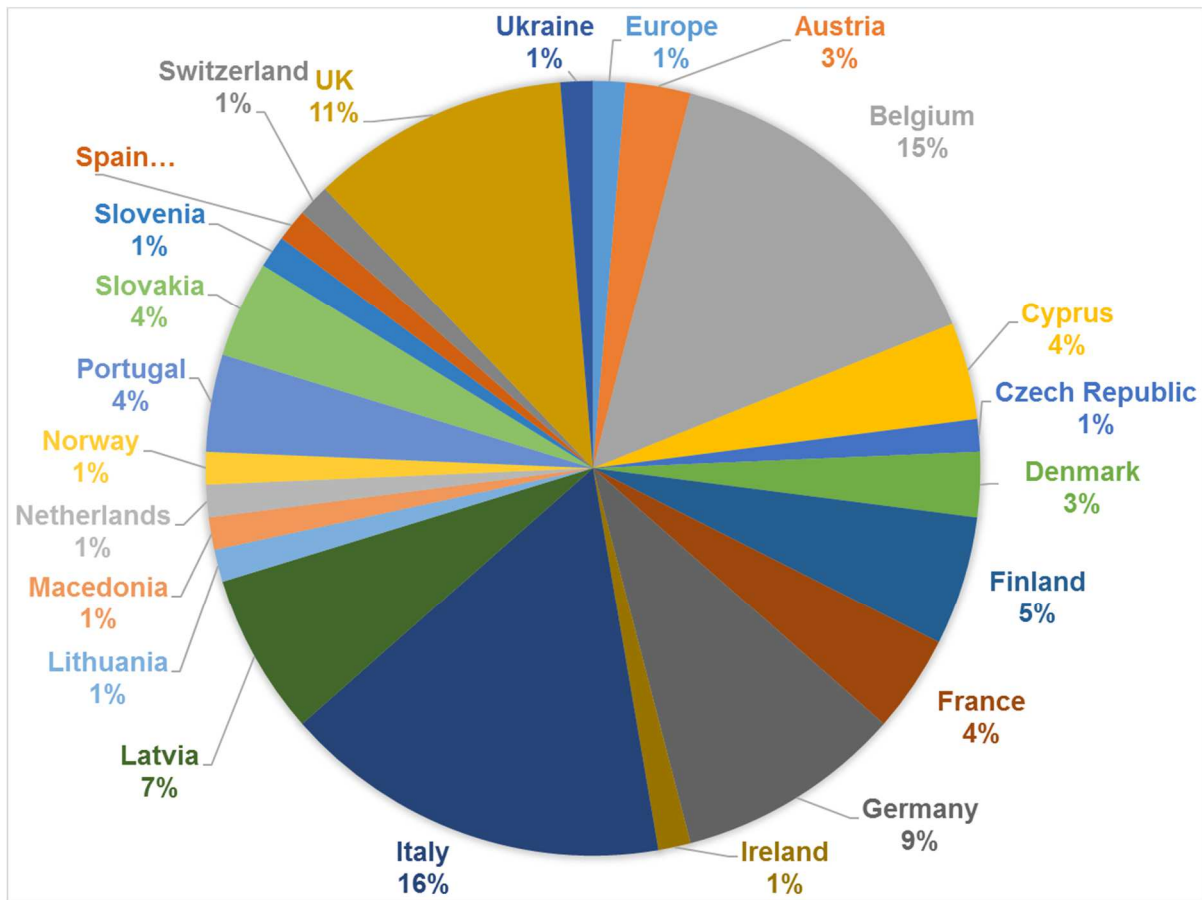


Figure 9: Percentage of participants that answered the open question 5 that come from each of the different nationalities represented by survey participants

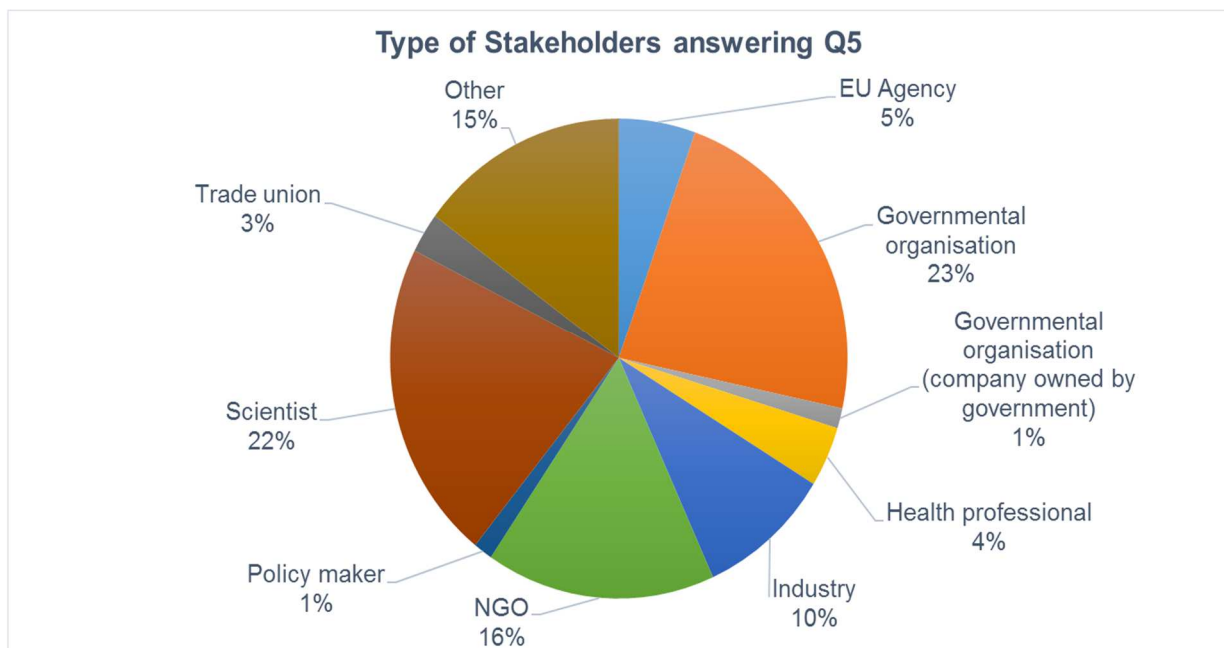


Figure 10: Categories of Stakeholders that answered question 5

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Table 10: Categories and Sub-categories addressed by the responses of survey participants

Category	Sub-category
1. Scope	Health /Environment protection Health protection Environment protection
2. Scale	EU level Global Level National level
3. Risk Assessment (RA)	Identify & Assess risk Emerging trends Mixtures Inequalities in exposure /vulnerable groups New risks Widely discussed substances Other
4. Chemical policies	Risk management Support policy making Support policy evaluation Build capacity Engage with stakeholders
5. Risk Communication (RC)	Communicate risk
6. Required	First must see HBM4EU results Requirements Funding Guidance needed
7.	Other

The percentages of the respondents to this question that referred to each category are shown in Figure 12, while the percentages of total number of respondents to the open question on a future vision that mentioned each subcategory are shown in figure 13.

The main subcategories identified in the stakeholder’s vision for a future HBM initiative in terms of scope were:

- health protection was mentioned by 49% of respondents;
- health/environment protection by 49%; and
- environmental protection by 18%.

Regarding the scale of the project, 28% referred to the EU level, 16% to the national level and 7% to the global level.

For risk assessment issues, more than half of responses referred to identifying and assessing chemical risks. Fifteen percent referred to inequalities in exposure and/or vulnerable groups, with special attention to occupational exposure and the exposure of women and children.

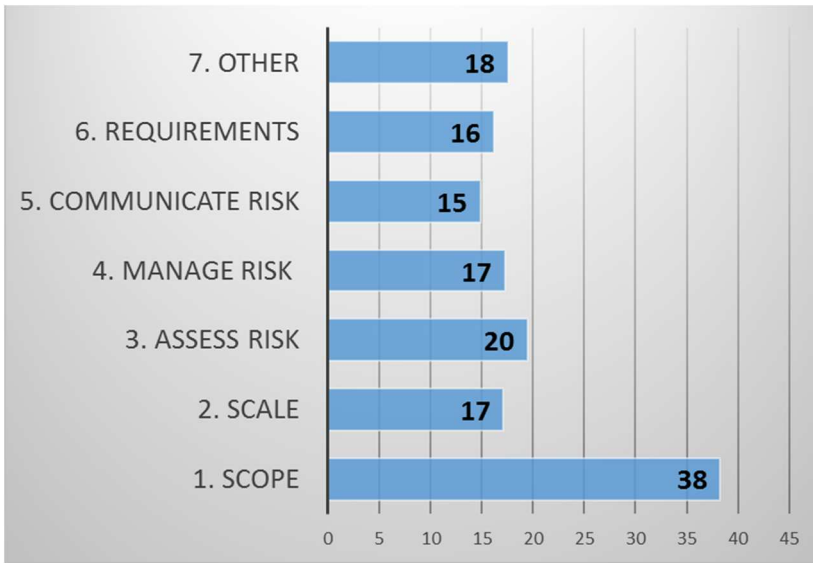


Figure 12: Percentage of the respondents to this question that referred to each category. Some mentioned more than one category.

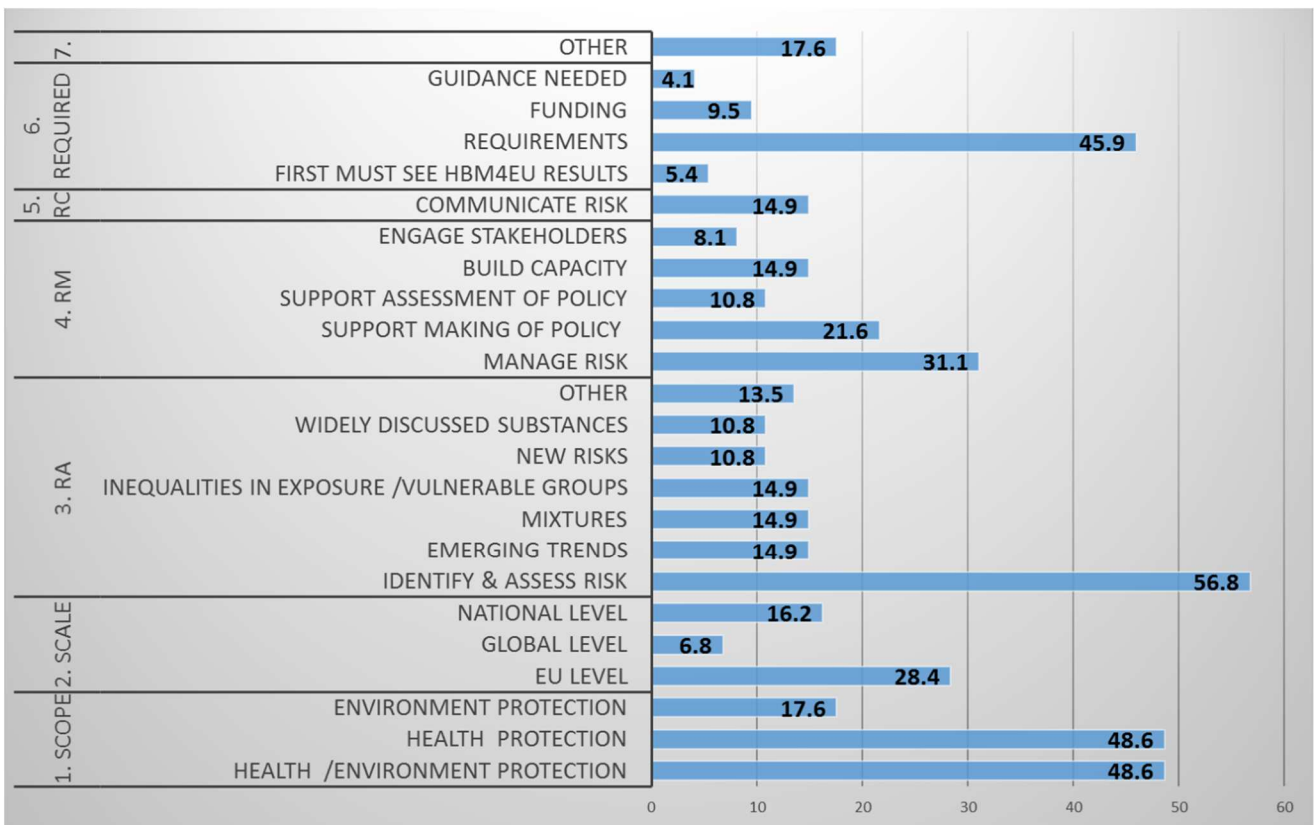


Figure 13: Percentage of total number of respondents to the open question on a future vision that mentioned each subcategory.

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Fifteen percent of respondents mentioned mixtures and emerging trends, the later mentioning substitutes (e.g. of bisphenols, phthalates) and antibiotic resistant strains.

Others (14%) referred to health impact assessment, including reference to new approaches such as combining HBM results with health data.

Eleven percent referred to widely discussed substances, such as glyphosate, endocrine disruptors, and pesticides.

Regarding chemical policies, survey participants mentioned:

- managing risk was mentioned by 41% of respondents,
- supporting policy making by 22%,
- capacity building by 15%,
- supporting policy evaluation by 11%; and
- engaging with stakeholders by 8%.

Fifteen percent of respondents referred to risk communication.

In terms of requirements for a future initiative, 46% identified the need for “requirements”, followed by funding (9.5%), the need to first see HBM4EU results (5%) and the need for guidance (4%).

Areas referred to under “requirements” are presented in the box below.

Box 1: Areas referred to as requirements for a future initiative in responses to the open question on a future vision

<p>FUNDING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Regular, secure funding ➤ Potential sources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EU (as for chemical Risk Assessment (ECHA, EFSA, SCCS)) ○ “Polluter pays” / Industry fees (registration of chemicals, methods development) <p>CAPACITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Harmonisation / Reliability of results ➤ Methods innovation - quality assurance - comparability of results - establishment of Reference values and Health limit values ➤ Fast response - proactive ➤ Stable governance structure EU/MS for setting priorities - management - assessment ➤ Creation of Advisory boards (National - European – Global) <p>TRANSPARENCY / EQUALITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Must see HBM4EU results first / assess its impact ➤ Need of building databases, curate them, and making them publicly available ➤ Ensure equality in access to HBM for all European countries ➤ Share of knowledge – expertise exchange <p>INNOVATION – R & D</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Connect to other disciplines / Bring in new technologies as they become available ➤ Assess exposure AND early effects (biomarkers of effect) ➤ Interactions of exposures (genomic / occupational) throughout life to establish priorities ➤ Combination with health data / genome analysis

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Under category 7) “Other”, respondents made a number of other points, including that:

- Only a long-term programme can deliver information that is currently lacking;
- Continuity with HBM4EU should be assured;
- We should aim for an NHANES-like EU HBM platform;
- We should aim to set minimum HBM requirements in EU legislation;
- We should expand the use of HBM in workplaces;
- It would be useful to have sub-groups of Member States within the overall programme to reflect the specific needs of certain regions or clusters.

6.4 Workshop on stakeholder’s needs and expectations

The workshop on long term needs and expectations of stakeholders took place on the 20th June 2018 at the DOMG facilities in Brussels, and included 15 participants representing NGOs, industry and biobanks. The European Commission was also present, namely DG RTD and DG SANTE, as well as EFSA. Please refer to Annex I for the agenda and Annex II for the list of participants.

The aim of the workshop was to discuss the survey results and the long-term objectives, needs and sustainability for a post HBM initiative. EEA compiled the survey results, which were then analysed by INSERM, INSA and MOH-CY. The partners then worked collaboratively to identify the results to feed into the workshop as a basis for the discussion.

The workshop opened with an introduction to HBM4EU, followed by a presentation on exploring the different options for a long term sustainable HBM initiative in Europe.

The presentation of the survey results followed, together with an open discussion on the different possibilities of a long-term HBM initiative in terms of sustainability and the need for a steering committee. There was some emphasis on the potential for public-private-partnerships (PPP) to support a future initiative, representing the experience of the stakeholders from industry.

In the afternoon, three groups were created to discuss in more detail the vision for a HBM initiative. This was built on the previous session but also focussed on the long-term objectives, policy areas and key players.

According to this stakeholders’ consultation, the initiative should focus on protecting human health and the environment in Europe from hazardous chemical exposures by producing harmonised, high quality, transparent and inclusive data for effective risk assessment and management.

6.4.1 Session 2: Interactive discussion with participants

After the presentation on the survey results and sustainable options for a long-term HBM4EU, an interactive discussion with all the participants followed guided by the following questions:

- Who are the key players to involve?
- What funding sources could support such an initiative
- Could public-private partnerships be developed to support the initiative
- How to reach more people? Engage more stakeholders, wider distribution in the networks
- What other questions would you like to see reflected in a next survey?

In terms of **who should take the lead** on this type of programme, it was suggested that Ministries at National level together with EU entities, such as agencies or reference laboratories, could provide leadership structures.

Horizon Europe also presents different partnerships that could be explored. However, requesting research grants every few years is not sustainable, and hence another solution is required.

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A sustainable situation involving the Member States and EU institutions should be sought. There should be added value for a HBM programme at both regional and national levels, in order to foster the engagement of Member States and combine funds from different administrative levels.

Regarding a possible role for **PPPs**, two examples were provided in more detail by participants:

The first example was from the German Chemical Industry Association, which established a 10-year long PPP with the German Ministry of Environment. This PPP will look at 50 substances by 2020, decided by an expert panel, where the Ministry of Environment pays for the development of the HBM and the surveys, and the industry finances method development in an independent research institute. All the substances are linked to risk assessment. The second example came from the Flemish government, which has a PPP with an industry in Flanders focused on occupational exposure and population hotspots.

In both cases, industry is not directly involved with HBM monitoring/surveys, but rather provides financial support for the development of analytical methods, or HBM testing. The added value for industry is that the population knows they are investing in keeping them safe, which generates mutual trust.

If there was to be a PPP under a future initiative, the consortium should be composed of scientists from the research field, while industry could partly fund it and have access to the results. If this option were to be pursued, it could be of value to investigate if there other PPPs in other Member States.

At the same time, the NGO “HEAL”, a member of the HBM4EU Stakeholder Forum, recommended caution with the possibly conflict of interest when working with industry.

As a viable alternative, HEAL suggested that REACH’s registration should have a component on HBM, thus enabling industry to build public trust via the formal legislative channels.

6.4.2 Session 3: Brainstorming on a vision for a HBM initiative

For the afternoon session, the participants were divided into three groups, as shown in table 11 below.

Table 11: Distribution of stakeholders across groups

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
Bayer SAS	Umweltbundesamt German Environment Agency UBA	Umweltbundesamt German Environment Agency UBA
DUCC - Downstream Users of Chemicals Coordination Group	European Food Safety Authority - EFSA	European Commission DG RTD
European Commission, DG Santé	Copa-Cogeca	Pesticide Action Network Europe - PAN-Europe
European Crop Care Association - ECCA	European Association of Chemical Distributors	German Chemical Industry Association – VCI
	Health and Environment Alliance - HEAL	

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Each group addressed the following three questions.

- How can a future initiative contribute to chemical risk management and risk assessment?
- Should a future initiative focus on building capacities for scientific excellence in Human Biomonitoring across Europe? How should we do that?
- What policy areas and exposure routes should a future programme focus on? Dietary, environmental, consumer, occupational? What key players should be involved?

A summary of the stakeholder responses emerging from this session may be found in Table 12 for question 1, Table 13 for question 2 and table 14 for question 3.

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Table 12: Answers to Question 1: How can a future initiative contribute to chemical risk management and risk assessment?

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is not financially practical to have extra fees under REACH for HBM. • Contribution from industry with Reference Standards and analytical methods to support HBM programme. • Contribute to developing health based guidance values (HBGV) at EU level. • HBM data combined with Health Surveys. • Show that HBM works: deal with hanging fruit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analytical methods, harmonised data to inform policy and interventions • Considering issues such as alternative metabolites, trend analysis, mixtures, groups of substances • HBM can identify emerging issues and monitor exposure and risk groups, e.g., occupational exposure • A large scale initiative across the EU is needed to produce robust data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exposure part of RA/Realistic exposure assessment • Mixtures • Time trends to follow up RM decisions • Validated harmonised methods • Metabolism/ toxicokinetics assessment • Support for risk communication

Table 13: Answers to Question 2: Should a future initiative focus on building capacities for scientific excellence in Human Biomonitoring across Europe? How should we do that?

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry contributions could include reference standards and analytical expertise • Build on the network developed under HBM4EU and take this forward post- 2021 • Ensuring continuity – do not re-invent the wheel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing capacities and focus on sharing • Build capacity to address emerging issues • Need of network infrastructures for training, scientific exchange harmonisation and new method development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, to increase capacity and improve scientific excellence • Capacity building: be inclusive! Deliver quality at EU, regional and national scales • Build expertise to cope with emerging substances (Rapid Response Mechanism) • EU could lead a future HBM programme

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Table 14: Answers to Question 3: What policy areas and exposure routes should a future programme focus on? Dietary, environmental, consumer, occupational? What key players should be involved?

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different exposure routes assessed first, then do the bridge between those and the different transversal policy areas • Have targeted policy questions, in a post-HBM programme. Involve EU institutions to ensure this, and also to strengthen the MS involvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy areas: health, cosmetics, food, consumer protection and transversal policy action • Exposure routes: dietary, indoor, environmental, which is less regulated; how to differentiate routes from cocktail effect? • Key players: food and feed industry; Packaging; Furniture industry, car, chemical industries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A cross-sectional/ crossectorial study to policy in the field of E&H • The mentioned routes are all relevant • Scientists, health professionals, industry, industry, unions, NGO, policy makers, local authorities

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7 Conclusions

Regarding the **funding**, national and regional funding schemes are important to support country-specific initiatives on HBM. However, access to funds at international nature that could put together the joint effort of the different institutions working on this area at multiple levels is needed.

A regular consultation of the countries involved in the HBM4EU project should take place in order to gather a structured and consistent map of the existing funding opportunities at a national and regional level.

Distinct sources of funding (both public and private) should be sought in order to secure the sustainability of the HBM4EU initiative and reduce the dependency on multi-annual research funding.

Regarding **national needs and expectations**, the information from the national needs and expectation’s survey can be used to form a baseline of understanding of the status of HBM in activities in the partner countries and what more is needed to build an HBM platform in Europe.

In terms of the survey methodology used, the interpretation of the questions was varied and future questionnaires need to have more explanation.

The use of one-to-one teleconferences in follow up to the survey proved useful to evaluate the level of understanding. Having stated the short falls in the survey – it can be concluded that there is a general feeling that HBM4EU adds value to national studies.

The ability to link with projects across Europe and collate European level comparable data is a welcomed. Some NHCP felt they are far removed from the moving edge of the project. Thus, a set of recommendations are proposed in table 15.

Table 15: Recommendations regarding how to further engage NHCP in HBM4EU

What?	How?
Provide more support to the smaller NHCP in order to increase capability	Meeting to share problems and learn from well established National Hubs
Ensure more engagement of NHCP	Periodic reports
Increase awareness of the whole project direction	Periodic reports
Develop ways for peer to peer learning i.e. NHCP to NHCP.	Use the internal website as a means to share information.
Discuss future funding	Draw NHCP into the discussions with regard to future initiatives

The stakeholder survey consultation for a long-term HBM initiative produced an overview of stakeholders’ priorities for a future initiative as a basis for further discussion at the workshop.

The main survey conclusions, together with the workshop’s most relevant points may be found below.

The long-term objectives of a sustainable EU HBM should focus on:

- Supporting chemical assessment & management in the EU;
- Studying the health impact of chemical exposure; and
- Identifying emerging chemical risks.

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Chemical exposure routes prioritised by stakeholders as the focus of a future HBM initiative include:

- Via the environment;
- Via consumer goods;
- dietary exposure; and
- Occupational exposure.

Key actors currently involved in national HBM include:

- Scientists;
- National Health Institutions; and
- National environment agencies.

Possible funding sources identified by stakeholders include:

- EU public funds;
- National level funds;
- Research grants at EU, national and global levels; and
- Public private partnerships.

Vision for a future HBM initiative:

Overall, stakeholders’ visions for a future HBM initiative prioritised health protection and environmental protection.

Regarding policies, the priorities were to manage chemical risks, support policy making, build capacity, support in policy evaluation and engage with stakeholders. A few of the items mentioned in “other issues” were related to assuring the continuity of the project, only a long-term program can deliver information that is lacking now, expand use of HBM in workplaces.

Regarding the scale of the project, the vision of stakeholders was to have an HBM initiative active at EU level, at national level and at global level.

Overall, there was strong stakeholder support for a long term HBM initiative, with stakeholder willing to work together to find a sustainable solution. It was seen as important that Member States see clear benefits from their involvement in a HBM programme.

In terms of funding, PPPs were discussed given that industry was well represented at the workshop and that the individuals present had experience with this type of financing partnership. This type of partnership foresees a contribution from the industry, and from the government (ministry or regional government, for example). However, PPPs were met reluctance from some stakeholders, due to a lack of trust and concern regarding conflicts of interest.

Stakeholders agreed that an EU institution should be involved in the leadership of a future initiative, if it is to be a truly European initiative.

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Annex I: Agenda of the stakeholder workshop on expectations for a future HBM initiative

June 20 th 2018	
09:00 – 09:30	Arrival and Registration at the Ellips Building
09:30 – 10:30	Session 1: Introduction
	<p>Welcome and an introduction to HBM4EU - Joana Lobo Vicente, European Environment Agency (EEA)</p> <p>Laying the foundations for a future European Human Biomonitoring initiative and understanding stakeholder perspectives, Robert Barouki, Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM)</p> <p>Workshop objectives</p>
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee & cakes
11:00 – 12:30	Session 2: Results of a survey on possible objectives of a future initiative
	<p>Presentation of survey results and possible objectives of a future initiative</p> <p>Interactive discussions with the participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Who are the key players to involve? ▶ What funding sources could support such an initiative? ▶ Could public-private partnerships be developed to support the initiative? ▶ How to reach more people? Engage more stakeholders, wider distribution in the networks? ▶ What other questions would you like to see reflected in a next survey?
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:00	Session 3: Group discussions
	<p>Group discussions on objectives of a future European Human Biomonitoring programme. Key questions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ How can a future initiative contribute to chemical risk management and risk assessment? ▶ Should a future initiative focus on building capacities for scientific excellence in Human Biomonitoring across Europe? How should this be done? ▶ What policy areas and exposure routes should a future programme focus on? Dietary, environmental, consumer, occupational? What key players should be involved?
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee
15:30 – 16:30	Session 4: Feedback from groups and wrap up
	<p>Feedback from groups sessions and discussion</p> <p>Conclusions and overview of next steps</p>

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Annex II: List of participants

Institution	
EEA - European Environment Agency (Organiser & task leader)	Joana Lobo Vicente
INSA – National Institute of Health Doutor Ricardo Jorge (Organising)	Henriqueta Louro
INSA – National Institute of Health Doutor Ricardo Jorge (Organising)	Maria João Silva
MOH-CY - Cyprus State General Laboratory Ministry of Health (Organising)	Andromachi Katsonouri-Sazeides
DOMG (Previously LNE)- Departement Omgeving (Organising)	Hans Reynders
DOMG (Previously LNE)- Departement Omgeving (Organising)	Karen Van Campenhout
INSERM - The French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (Organising)	Robert Barouki
INSERM - The French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (Organising)	Elena Tarroja Aulina
DUCC - Downstream Users of Chemicals Coordination Group	Laura Portugal
HEAL – Health and Environment Alliance	Natacha Cingotti
UBA – German Environment Agency	Birgit Puppe
UBA – German Environment Agency	Ulrike Doyle
European Commission DG SANTE	Frans Verstraete
European Commission DG RTD	Mariann Karcza
EFSA – European Food Safety Authority	Stef Bronzwaer
VCI – German Chemical Industry Association	Ulrike Zimmer
ECCA – European Crop Care Association	Hans Mattaar
Copa-Cogeca – Farmers and their cooperatives in the European Union	Cesar Gonzalez
Bayer SAS	Philip Fisher
University Hospital Ghent	Veronique T'Joel
FECC – European Association of Chemical Distributors	Irantzu Garmendia
UZ Gent Biobank	Elke Berneel
PAN-Europe – Pesticide Action Network Europe	Constantin Muraru

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Annex III: National Hub Consultation HBM4EU End of Year 1 Review

National Hub Consultation HBM4EU End of Year 1 Review

Foundations for a Permanent Pan-European HBM Platform

Dear NHCP,

Many of you were involved in the preparatory stage of HBM4EU, you will remember we were asked to provide an overview of what ‘we’ wanted in 2014. Now we are at the end of the first year and are planning for the second year. It is a good time to carry out a consultation at national level about country needs and requirements for HBM4EU and into the future. Your information will be stored on PHE secure files.

This is a brief survey to form the basis of discussion between you and the National Hub Coordinator. Please consult your National partners and stakeholders if necessary.

The National Hub Coordinator Ovnair Sepai (Ovnair.sepai@phe.gov.uk; HBM4EU-UK@phe.gov.uk) will start discussion at the September Consortium meeting with those who are there and make individual appointments to discuss issues with each of the NHCP.

PLEASE COMPLETE AS FAR AS POSSIBLE

Country Name:

Contact Name and Address:

E-mail:

HBM4EU Acronym:

Section A: Current Situation [you will have answered some of these questions already]

A1 Is there a national or regional HBM initiative in your country? No/Yes

A2 Does it have ministerial support? No/ Yes

A3 Is your national study funded by Government No/ Yes

A4 If A3 is yes at what percentage

If the answer to A1 is yes please complete the options below. Does your National Initiative include (Select those that are appropriate):-

- Routine collection of nationally representative samples
- National Laboratories
- Biobank for human samples
- Communication of National results to the general Public
- Incorporate public engagement
- Incorporate consultation with National stakeholders
- Incorporate consultation with National Policy makers

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A5 Do participants get personal or group results? Yes/ No

If the answer to A5 is yes, could you specify (free text)

One of the aspects we want to know about is how you use HBM data in Policy.

A6 Have you used HBM data (from HBM4EU?) for policy goals? Please select all that are true.

- Reference to HBM data/health based guidance values in hazard or in risk assessments?
- Use of HBM data in evaluating existing policies?
- Use of (multicountry) data in IPCHeM to support policy?

Please give an example for A6 (free text)

A7 Are there National funding mechanisms which are relevant to Human Biomonitoring? If yes please state the names below.

Section B: Gaps in National Structure

One of the aims of HBM4EU is to support the development of national capabilities

Where are the gaps in your National Hub Capabilities? (Free text boxes for description)

B1.1 National Infrastructure: for example field study centers

B1.2 Analytical Capability

B1.3 Political Support

B1.4 Funding Opportunities

B1.5 Other - please state briefly

Section C: What obstacles are there to your National Hub capabilities?

C1 Describe briefly what you consider to be the major obstacles if you feel there are any.

C2 How can these obstacles be addressed? (Free text boxes for description)

C2.1 Strategic - please describe

C2.2 Organisational - please describe

C2.3 Financial - Please describe

C2.2 Other - please describe

Section D Vision for the Future and Interaction with HBM4EU

Please consult your National Partners and Stakeholders

One of the success criteria for HBM4EU is enhancement of HBM capabilities across Europe and the establishment of a permanent platform to support Policy and advance research

D1 What are your plans for your National Hub

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If your answer to A1 was No, what in your opinion are the 2 priority areas where HBM4EU could support the development of your National capabilities?

- Survey design: national sample collection
- Laboratory Network / analytical capability
- European data as a proxy for national data
- Development of a participatory approach
- Communication material, (general public, participants, policy, media etc.)
- Access to research initiatives
- Network of expertise
- Training opportunities

Please add a brief explanation for your choices in D1. (Free text boxes for description)

D2 What are your plans for stakeholder engagement in relation to HBM4EU: Have you or will you in the future organise a stakeholder consultation (Free text boxes for description)

D3 Have you had any of the following interaction with any of the consortium partners prior 2017?

- Research Projects (not only in HBM)
- Use of facilities for examples laboratory capability
- Exchange of staff - studentships, fellowships etc.
- Other

D4 Have you developed any of the following through HBM4EU during 2017

- Research Projects but specifically in relation to HBM
- Use of facilities for examples laboratory capability
- Exchange of staff - studentships, fellowships etc.
- Other

D5 Please briefly state what you feel are the main advantages of HBM4EU and the critical achievements required to establish a permanent HBM initiative for Europe. (Free text boxes for description)

D6 Within the course of HBM4EU will you use the protocols developed to instigate a national study. (Free text boxes for description)

D6.1 Which age groups are of most interest? And which chemicals would you want to study? (Free text boxes for description)

Completed responses were sent to HBM4EU-UK@phe.gov.uk.

Interviews were arranged over a 3 month period.