



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL RESEARCH
Directorate I – Environment
RTD.I.5: Climate Change and environmental risks

EIGHTH WORKING AND FINAL MEETING OF ESBIO

Thursday 6th September 2007 from 11:00 – 18:00

Friday 7th September 2007 from 10:00-17:00

Health Ministry of French Community,
Boulevard Léopold, 44 – B-1080 Brussels (Molenbeek-Saint-Jean)

MINUTES

6th September

1. Participants

1. Ludwine Casteleyn
2. Reinhard Joas and Alexandra Polcher
3. Aleksandra Fucic
4. Andromachi Katsonouri
5. Carlo Sala
6. Marek Jakubowski and Danuta Ligocka
7. Marike Kolossa, Nils Kirsch and Kerstin Becker
8. Greet Schoeters and Roel Smolders
9. Susana Segurado
10. Louis Bloemen
11. Ovnair Sepai
12. Philipp Hohenblum
13. Peter Boogaard
14. Eleonora Fabianova
15. Maryse Lehnors
16. Maria Botsivali
17. Lisbeth E. Knudsen and Marianne Thomsen

Apologized: Nadine Frery, Toomas Veidebaum, Elena De Felip, Stella Michaelidou, Marika Berglund, Milena Cerna, Fatima Reis

1. Welcome

Reinhard Joas welcomed the group. He informed the group that it was foreseen to invite also MS representatives for the second day of the meeting. As the evaluation phase for the FP 7 proposal for an EU network on HBM is still ongoing this approach could not be followed.

2. Administrative Issues

WP 7	Alexandra Polcher	Annex 1
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The following topics have been addressed:

- Financial issues
 - Next prefinancing
 - Special requirements in the last reporting period
 - Final accounting
- Reporting requirements
 - obligations for the 4th reporting period
 - obligations for the final reporting
 - Audit certificates
- Time schedule until the end of the project

All ES BIO partners will receive detailed information on their reporting and accounting requirements in due time.

3. Discussion of WP results

WP 1	Susana Segurado	Annex 2
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An overview on the achievements of WP 1 has been presented.

Susana Segurado explained how the objectives of WP 1 have been met, the approach which has been followed and all functionalities of the online tool.

Some partners mentioned some problems with entering the online system. The group tested the tool online and could not identify any problems.

The group discussed intensively on the issue of validation of the inserted data and the added value in comparison to other tools. Concerning the validation a major advantage is that the data can be traced back to the person who inserted it. This allows each user to get in contact with the responsible person. Another key added value of the system is its specialisation on the topic Human Biomonitoring, even data of projects which have not been published yet can be found.

WP 2	Nils Kirsch	Annex 3
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The remaining deliverable 2.3.1 “Guidelines for population sampling, recruitment and biological sampling (“Design”)” has been discussed. Nils Kirsch showed the effects of the study design in form of two examples on cotinine and phthalates as regards the significance of the obtainable statistical data. The group discussed on the current recommendation concerning the sample size (120 mothers + 120 related children) and agreed that this should not be a fixed number but should be a minimum guideline for Member States.

WP 3	Roel Smolders	Annex 4
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The final results of workpackage 3 have been presented.

Following the specific objectives of WP 3 the project team developed a exposure-dose-respond trial for integration Biomonitoring data with health and environmental data. A detailed explanation of the approach has been elaborated and has been published during the project running time.

Furthermore several aspects of a GIS based EDR platform have been presented which are summarised in the paper “Human biomonitoring and the INSPIRE Directive: Spatial data as link for environment and health research”.

Concerning the third task within WP 3 – the possible use of biomonitoring results for risk managements and policy making he outlined the approach followed and the corresponding elaborated documents.

WP 4	Lisbeth Knudsen	Annex 5
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The final results and the work performed within WP 4 have been presented.

An overview on available practices regarding data protection and ethics committees has been developed in form of information sheets on regulation regarding data protection and on regional ethics committees for most EU countries. Within the frame of WP 3 a workshop on ethics and communication has been organised. The contributions for this workshop will be summarised in a supplement to the journal “environmental health”. In addition she summarised recommendations from WP 4.

WP 5	Alexandra Polcher	Annex 6
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The work on the remaining tasks of WP 5 has been presented. Alexandra Polcher introduced a concept for a communication strategy to the group. The concept is based on 5 modules: target group, aims, content, actors to realise, tools to be used which have to be linked appropriately. The group highlighted that also a time line has to be added for an effective communication strategy. In addition some considerations for a follow up of a pilot project have been presented.

WP 6	Marek Jakubowski	Annex 9
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Marek Jakubowski presented in detail the final results and work performed in WP 6. For each substance recommended by the Implementation Group on HBM in Europe for the pilot project he summarised the current standard of knowledge focusing on their health impacts. It was agreed that the presentation for WP 6 should be held after WP 2 on the following day.

7th September

4. Participants

1. Ludwine Casteleyn
2. Reinhard Joas and Alexandra Polcher
3. Aleksandra Fucic
4. Stella Michaelidou and Andromachi Katsonouri
5. Carlo Sala
6. Danuta Ligocka
7. Marika Kolossa, Nils Kirsch and Kerstin Becker
8. Roel Smolders
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16. Maria Botsivali
17. Lisbeth E. Knudsen and Marianne Thomsen

Apologized: Marek Jakubowski, Nadine Frery, Toomas Veidebaum, Elena De Felip, Stella Michaelidou, Marika Berglund, Milena Cerna, Fatima Reis, Greet Schoeters

Additional invited persons covering the sectors scientific community, NGOs and industry i.a.

18. Tuomo Karjalainen	19. Iulia Neamtiu
20. Birgit Van Tongelen	21. Ingeborg Kooter
22. Fabiano Reniero	23. Regina Grazuleviciene
24. Milena Horvat	25. Albrecht Seidel

26. Darja Mazej	27. Christian Farrar-Hockley
28. Argelia Castano	29. Marie Christine de Wolf
30. Ioana Lupsa	31. Gernot Klotz
32. Ann Versporten	33. Yseult Navez

5. Welcome

Reinhard Joas welcomed all participants and explained briefly the objectives for the meeting.

6. Presentations

E&H Research activities	Tuomo Karjalainen	Annex 10
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Tuomo Karjalainen informed the audience on finalised as well as on still running project in the 5th and 6th framework programme related to Environment & Health activities. Furthermore he highlighted the E&H research activities within the FP 7 and explained some general aspects of FP 7. He informed the group briefly on the evaluation process which is currently ongoing. In particular he mentioned the forthcoming inter service consultation and the upcoming consultation of the programme committee.

ESBIO objectives	Reinhard Joas	Annex 8
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In order to inform the audience on the background, aims and objectives as well as on the visions of ESBIO Reinhard Joas, the coordinator of the project explained briefly the output received for each individual work package.

7. ESBIO results

In the following Susanna Segurado, Marike Kolossa Gehring, Danuta Ligocka, Roel Smolders, Lisbeth Knudsen and Alexandra Polcher presented the work performed, results and output achieved for the individual work packages of ESBIO.

WP 1	Susanna Segurado	Annex 11
WP 2	Marike Kolossa Gehring	Annex 12
WP 6	Danuta Ligocka	Annex 14
WP 3	Roel Smolders	Annex 4
WP 4	Lisbeth Knudsen	Annex 5
WP 5	Alexandra Polcher	Annex 13

8. Next steps

	Reinhard Joas	Annex 7
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Reinhard Joas finalised the presentations of ESBIO results with highlighting that ESBIO has contributed to the first step towards a harmonised Human Biomonitoring in Europe. All involved actors are now expecting the next step an EU wide HBM pilot project.

	Birgit Van Tongelen	Annex 15
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Birgit Van Tongelen informed the audience on the recent developments in the implementation of the E&H Action Plan and the mid term review which was adopted by the Commission in June 2007. She mentioned the new focus topics:

- Climate Change & Health
- Nanotechnologies & Health
- Antimicrobial resistance

In addition she outlined the work done in the field of indoor air as well as Human Biomonitoring. In this regard she highlighted the possibility and advantages of linking the future EU HBM activities with the DG SANCO funded project “FEHES” (Feasibility of a European Health Examination Survey).

She concluded by mentioning the current interest from Council and EU Parliament on E&H issues which is reflected in the planned Council Conclusions of the Portuguese presidency and the Own Initiative Report to be delivered by the European Parliament in early 2008.

9. Discussion

In the following a discussion on expectations and possibilities related to the HBM pilot project took place. As the evaluation process is still ongoing it is not yet decided if a pilot project will take place. As most of the participants are members of a consortium that applied for the call for a HBM pilot project, possibilities in case the proposal will not be accepted have been discussed. There was a consensus that the process resulting in the proposal cannot be repeated again in the next 2 or 3 years. 24 MS have agreed to participate and they have reserved a total of more than 8 million € budget in their annual planning. The proposal offers a well elaborated compromise between the viewpoints of EU MS has the visibility and the enthusiasm is currently higher than ever before. It is not conceivable that this will happen again in the near future in particular against the uncertain background.
