



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL ENVIRONMENT
Directorate B – Protecting the Natural Environment
ENV.B.3 Biotechnology, Pesticides, Health

MEETING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION GROUP ON HUMAN BIOMONITORING

SIXTH WORKING MEETING OF ESBIO

Tuesday 13th March 2007 from 14:00-17:00

EEA, European Environment Agency, Kongens Nytorv 6, Copenhagen, Denmark

Wednesday 14th March 2007 from 9:00-17:00

*University of Copenhagen, Institute of Public Health Oester Farimagsgade 5, room 5.2.46,
Denmark*

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Participants

1. Birgit Van Tongelen
2. Ludwine Casteleyn
3. Reinhard Joas and Alexandra Polcher
4. Maria Botsivali
5. Nadine Frery and Ann Catherine Viso
6. Louis Bloemen
7. Carlo Sala
8. Ovnair Sepai
9. Toomas Veidebaum
10. Elena De Felip
11. Stella Michaelidou and Andromachi Katsonouri
12. Philipp Hohenblum
13. Peter Boogaard
14. Eleonora Fabianova
15. Marike Kolossa and Nils Kirsch
16. Marika Berglund
17. Greet Schoeters and Roel Smolders
18. Marek Jakubowski and Danuta Ligocka
19. Maryse Lehnars
20. Milena Cerna
21. Marianne Thomson
22. Peter Pärt
23. Juergen Angerer
24. Milena Horvat (guest from Slovenia)
25. Argelia Castaño (guest from Spain)
26. Ioana-Rudica Lupsa and Reluca Stepa (guests from Romania)
27. Fatima Reis and Susana Segurado
28. Lisbeth E. Knudsen, Marie Frederiksen and Marianne Thomsen
29. Aleksandra Fucic

Apologized: Gavin Ten Tusscher

IG

Chaired by Birgit Van Tongelen and Ludwine Casteleyn

1. Welcome and adoption of minutes

Reinhard Joas introduced changes in the foreseen agenda –in order to have the Implementation Group meeting before the ES BIO meeting. Following Birgit Van Tongelen welcomed the group. The minutes were adopted without changes.

2. Update on developments in the preparation of the pilot project

Birgit Van Tongelen gave a presentation (Annex1) updating the group on several different developments.

First of all she presented the final EC HBM information leaflet to the group. In addition she informed the group on a communication campaign foreseen as a DG Environment contract to accompany the EU pilot project. In this regard she mentioned objectives and principles of such a campaign as well as the time frame. She highlighted that the campaign should not only focus on activities to be carried out during the project running time but also already on the building up of the EU pilot project. The group discussed consecutively several aspects. It was agreed that Birgit Van Tongelen will receive input from the group until 24th April.

As a second topic she informed the group on a DG SANCO funded project titled Feasibility on a European Health Examination Survey (FEHES). The project aims at contributing to the development of the EU Health Survey System by examining and analysing the feasibility of carrying out an EU Health Examination Survey (HES) or repeated HESs in EU MS. One of the next steps in the project will be to elaborate suggestions about possible HBM tests to be incorporated in the developed questionnaire. The next project meeting will be mid of June. It was agreed that a draft of the questionnaire will be sent to the IG in order to provide suggestions how to include HBM. It was stated that it would be helpful if at least one representative of the IG can join the FEHES meeting in June to cooperate with the project in an appropriate and efficient way.

Furthermore Birgit Van Tongelen informed the group on the mid term review of the EU E&H action plan which is currently under preparation within the Commission. The adoption of the review document is expected for June in order to present it at the WHO Intergovernmental Midterm Review meeting on Environment and Health in Vienna.

In addition Birgit Van Tongelen informed the group on the Green Week which will take place in Brussels in June and highlighted the health as well as the human biomonitoring session. The programme will be provided.

Marika Kolossa informed the group on the 4th international conference on children's health and the environment which will be held in Vienna, 10th-12th June. The conference is organised by the INCHES network.

Birgit Van Tongelen highlighted again the need for input and feedback from the IG concerning the communication campaign as well as the FEHES project.

1. Welcome and adoption of minutes

Lisbeth Knudsen welcomed the group in Copenhagen. Reinhard Joas thanked Lisbeth Knudsen for hosting the meeting in Copenhagen. The minutes were adopted without changes.

2. Administrative Issues

Reinhard Joas informed the group about the financial developments within ESBIO. A second prefinancing for the ESBIO project has been received beginning of 2007. He explained in detail (Annex 2) the methodology of the European Commission for calculating the 2nd prefinancing as the resulting calculations for each participant.

Furthermore he informed the group on communication activities within ESBIO. The special issue of the International Journal of Hygiene and Environmental Health which has been prepared based on the Conference "State of the art of HBM in Europe" March 2006, in Lisbon now comprised more than 300 pages and the preparation is nearly finalised. The volume will be available soon.

A second communication activity foreseen for May will be a press seminar in Germany, organised by the GSF. Reinhard Joas as well as Marike Kolossa as representatives of ESBIO are invited as key speakers for Human Biomonitoring in Germany as well as on a European scale.

In addition members of the group highlighted the following upcoming workshops/conferences/meetings:

- 13th EC GI&GIS Workshop in Porto, Portugal, 4-6 July 2007
- 2nd Workshop on Low Dose Effects of Chemicals with Special Consideration of Phthalates April 26-28, 2007 - Berlin, Germany
- Epidemiology of toxic metals – problems and solutions, April 25, 2007 - Portorož, Slovenia
- 7th international Symposium on Biological Monitoring in Occupational & Environmental Health, September 10-12, 2007 - Beijing, China

Lisbeth Knudsen informed the group that all speakers of the ESBIO workshop on ethics and communication which took place the day before the ESBIO meeting have agreed to provide articles to be published in a special issue. Possibilities for publication are currently being identified.

3. Discussion of WP results and continuation of work

WP 2

Nils Kirsch gave a presentation on the current status of the deliverables for WP 2. Concerning deliverable 2.2 "Proposal for pollutants and biomarkers" he presented the overall content of the document as well as the layout of the chapters on pollutants. Also comments which he received so far were presented. Concerning deliverable 2.4 "Proposal for a harmonised way of collection, analysis and data management" he highlighted some general remarks as well as some critical issues.

Consecutively he presented several issues to be decided on comprising participation enhancement, extend of "field work" and reporting of individual results.

See Annex 3 for further information.

WP 5

Reinhard Joas gave a presentation on WP 5. He highlighted the concept for coordination and the needs for communication activities within the pilot project. Based on the data available now from the call he presented further cost consideration for Deliverable D 5.1.

See Annex 4 for further information.

WP 1

Fatima Reis mentioned that she will present the outcome of WP 1 during the next meeting on 29th June in Croatia.

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Attachments:

- Annex 1: Update EC
- Annex 2: Financial Issues
- Annex 3: WP 2
- Annex 4: WP 5