



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

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### SEVENTH WORKING MEETING OF ESBIO

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*Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2007 from 10:00-17:00*

*Ministry of Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship, Ulica grada Vukovara 78*

*Zagreb, Croatia*

## MINUTES

### 1. Participants

1. Ludwine Casteleyn
2. Reinhard Joas and Alexandra Polcher
3. Aleksandra Fucic and Jelena Katic
4. Andromachi Katsonouri
5. Carlo Sala
6. Marek Jakubowski
7. Marike Kolossa and Nils Kirsch
8. Nadine Frery
9. Roel Smolders
10. Susana Segurado
11. Pierre Biot (guest from Belgium)

Apologized: Birgit Van Tongelen, Greet Schoeters Louis Bloemen Ovnair Sepai Toomas Veidebaum, Elena De Felip, Stella Michaelidou, Philipp Hohenblum, Peter Boogaard, Eleonora Fabianova, Marika Berglund, Maryse Lehnerners, Milena Cerna, Fatima Reis, Lisbeth E. Knudsen, Gavin Ten Tusscher

## ESBIO

Chaired by Reinhard Joas and Alexandra Polcher

### 1. Welcome and adoption of minutes

Reinhard Joas welcomed the group and thanked Aleksandra Fucic for hosting the meeting in Zagreb. Aleksandra Fucic also welcomed the group. The minutes were adopted without changes.

### 2. Administrative Issues

Reinhard Joas informed the group on the preparation of the final meeting (Annex 1). For the planning of the meeting several decisions have to be taken in advance like who will be invited as well as the agenda. He suggested to have the first day of the meeting an internal meeting and to enlarge the group on the second day by inviting MS representatives and scientists/actors that showed further interest in HBM (e.g. applicants for the DG Research call). Marike Kolossa mentioned the need of a press release. The group agreed that the meeting should be open to all consortia having applied for the EU network on HBM. For this reason the EC project officer Tuomo Karjalainen should be asked for advice. Nevertheless only invited participants should attend. Furthermore the alignment with an Implementation Group meeting will be discussed with Birgit Van Tongelen as soon as possible.

Reinhard Joas informed the group on the current financial status within ESBIO. As the percentage of already spent budgets significantly varies among the partners a procedure for reallocation of budgets is necessary and has been discussed. The steps as mentioned in annex 1 have been agreed.

Related to further administrative issues the group was informed on the reporting obligations of the last project period.

Members of the group highlighted the following upcoming workshops/conferences/meetings:

- 24-25 September 2007 – Public Health Applications of Human Biomonitoring - US EPA
- 9-11 April 2008 – next meeting of the FEHES project
- September 10-12, 2007 Beijing, China. 7th International Symposium on Biological Monitoring in Occupational and Environmental Health.

Marike Kolossa mentioned her support for South Korea related to experiences in HBM and the ESBIO approach. In this regard she mentioned the importance and the power of exchange of experts from different MS.

Roel Smolders informed about a meeting in Porto in week 27.

All presentations of ESBIO members at meetings will be published on the website.

It was discussed that a lot of publication activities are ongoing or planned. The need of a final common publication was highlighted. There will be an e-mail from Reinhard Joas to ensure proper coordination.

### **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. Currently the team of WP 2 works on the last deliverable 2.3.1. He reminded the group on the report used by the Implementation Group to recommend on study population, project approach and biological sampling. Concerning the selection of the study population the group discussed on the NUTS classification and problems with it. It was mentioned that the NUTS classification is in some countries difficult and even impossible to use for the pilot project following the suggested 2x120 participants per country. Nevertheless the NUTS classification might be taken into consideration for the future as it offers the possibility to compare and link environmental, health and HBM data obtained on the same geographical classification. Problems to define the trifocal approach have been discussed.

The group exchanged on the consequences for some smaller countries in which the recommended number of samples (2x120) seems not feasible. To overcome the thereof resulting statistical problems the idea to combine the smaller countries with neighbour countries has been suggested. In this regard it might be also possible to analysis data and to test hypothesis from different regions stretch over different MS.

It was mentioned that hypothesis and plans for statistical evaluation should be addressed *before* the start of the pilot project. As international discussions are currently ongoing on urine sampling, the possibilities for common recommendations were discussed. The team of WP 2 will add some recommendations to their deliverables according to their experiences.

Ludwine Casteleyn highlighted the need for inclusion in all reports of ES BIO of discussions on pro's en con's of different options as these will be very helpful for future work.

See Annex 2 for further information.

#### **WP 3**

Roel Smolders gave a presentation on the status of WP 3. He informed the group on the deliverables the team of WP 3 is currently working on. It was highlighted again that different options for several aspects should be included.

For the Deliverable 3.3 – integration scenarios and implementation strategies – it was asked not to limit the deliverable to the four recommended Scenario I substances, but to also include some guidelines for Scenario II chemicals. Also in respect of the policy implications which shall be addressed within WP 3, Scenario II should be addressed as the substances essentially differ from Scenario I substances which are already better regulated.

Roel Smolders mentioned the essential need to consider that a large majority of MS has expressed the need to be informed on the 'basic' chemicals. The group discussed intensively on this topic, including the position of the WHO in this respect..

It was agreed that elaborating a concept for use of biomonitoring data for policy making as well as implementation strategies and integration scenarios for Scenario II would have important added value for the work of ESBIO, but is not easy to achieve. Roel Smolders will send around first ideas by approximately 20 July. Feedback and useful input from the group should be sent within 3 weeks from then.

See Annex 3 for further information.

## **WP 5**

Reinhard Joas gave a presentation on WP 5. He presented a concept for socio economic optimization. He mentioned several variables which should be maximized with a pilot project like participating MS, biomarkers and pollutants, number of samples, etc. and on the contrary the variable "cost" which should be minimised. For each variable he presented strategies, consequences and results achieved so far.

The further topics – concept of communication to stakeholders and follow up of the pilot project – are included in the presentation but have been skipped due to time restrictions.

The group discussed intensively on further prospects for a pilot study. It was mentioned that it would be helpful to have also cost considerations for future – follow up – activities.

See Annex 4 for further information.

## **WP 1**

Susana Segurado presented the current status of WP 1. She mentioned as newest available function an overview on existing analytical capacities.

She raised the question how the inventory should be maintained after ESBIO. Suggestions therefore are included in Deliverable 1.6. Also some issues are still open like the definition of user access as well as. Nadine Frery asked for the possibility to gain access without registration. The group discussed on this, also considering the point of an agreement of the user for having his results public.

See Annex 5 for further information.

## **WP 4**

As Lisbeth Knudsen was not able to attend because of health reasons, Aleksandra Fucic presented the current status of WP 4 focusing on the publication activities concerning the Copenhagen workshop. The team of WP 4 negotiated successfully the possibility for publications. Further information, including price, has to be checked with Lisbeth Knudsen directly.

See Annex 6 for further information.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Implementation Group</b> <b>Chaired by Ludwine Casteleyn</b></p>
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The minutes of the last meeting were adopted without changes.

Ludwine Casteleyn informed the group on the communication campaign planned by DG ENV to accompany the start of the pilot project. All documents are ready and the restricted call for proposals will be launched soon.

Furthermore she mentioned an initiative of the Portuguese presidency with respect to Council Conclusions on the EU Environment & Health Action Plan. It was highlighted that support therefore is essentially needed. More information will be provided as soon as available.

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Attachments:

- Annex 1: Administrative Issues
- Annex 2: WP 2
- Annex 3: WP 3
- Annex 4: WP 5
- Annex 5: WP 1
- Annex 6: WP 4