

TOWARDS
A COHERENT APPROACH TO
HUMAN BIOMONITORING IN
EUROPE

*PINCHE meeting
Friday 25 November 2005
Brussels*

Background

- The EU Environment & Health **Strategy**
– SCALE initiative (COM(2003)338)

- The EU Environment & Health **Action Plan 2004-2010** (COM(2004)416)
→ **Action 3 on Human Biomonitoring**

ACTION 3

The Commission in close cooperation with the Member States will develop a coherent approach to HBM in Europe – starting from experiences in Member States, occupational health, similar activities in USA and WHO.

To test the approach developed, the Commission will launch a EU Pilot Project in close cooperation with MS .

Why a coordinated approach ?

- To provide data on **distribution of exposure and related health impact** across Europe for the definition of **reference values**, detection of **spatial differences** in exposure (populations/regions at risk), detection of **temporal differences** in exposure
- To provide policy makers better information on **control measures** to be taken for the identification of **priorities** in exposure reduction strategies, for **evaluating the efficiency** of reduction strategies, for allowing a **geographically differentiated E&H policy**
- To enable a **more effective use of resources** by shared development of tools and strategies
- To contribute to detect areas or population groups subject to elevated exposure and - by envisaging appropriate control measures - to better **environmental equity**.

ACTION 3: Develop a coherent approach to HBM in Europe

STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH

- I Develop comparable protocols addressing initiation, performance and follow-up of biomonitoring activities (2004-2006)
- II Develop tools to translate results into a response system : integration scenarios & communication strategies (2004-2006)
- III Start an EU Pilot Project by the end of 2006

Action 3 → Strong support from EU Parliament, EU Economic & Social Committee and the Dutch Presidency Conference

→ **Implementation Group**
→ **EU Pilot Project end of 2006**

The EU Pilot Project on HBM

... is a « **learning by doing** » tool to (1) test methodological issues in the development of a coordinated EU approach to HBM, (2) to facilitate the establishment of collaboration networks and sharing of methodologies, (3) to give a first indication of comparability of HBM data in EU for specific pollutants.

The IG stressed that a **close link with research is needed** to allow:

(i) defining harmonised procedures; (ii) defining best ways of providing information to and obtaining consent from study persons; (iii) the interpretation of measurements with biomarkers; (iv) the integration with other data (environmental and health); (v) the translation into policy.

ROADMAP

EU PILOT PROJECT – end of 2006:

1. *Technical preparation*
2. *Financial preparation*
3. *Political preparation*
4. *Communication campaign*

ROADMAP: *technical preparation*

■ Implementation Group

- To prepare *Opinions* for Member States/Consultative Group
- To ensure feedback to national governments

■ Two contracts

- BiPRO
- ESBIO

(Scientific Support to Policy)
www.eu-humanbiomonitoring.org



Objectives of ESBIO

1. Development of a **coordinated approach** for HBM based on existing expertise and experiences available in MS surveillance programmes and results from research
2. Elaboration of **scenarios to integrate** HBM results with environmental monitoring and registered health data
3. Development of **strategies to communicate** HBM results to stakeholders including the establishment of websites with links to national and international activities
4. Elaboration of scenarios for the **use of HBM results for policy making**

ROADMAP: *political preparation*

Transparency and MS involvement via:

1. **Political back-ups**
2. **Informal Member States meetings**
3. **Environment Policy Review Group (EPRG) & High Level Committee on Health (HLCH)**
4. **Consultative Forum**

ROADMAP: *financial preparation*

HBM is included in the Specific Programme on "Cooperation" implementing FP 7 (2007-2013) of the EU Community for research
Thematic area « Environment - Climate Change, pollution and risks

..... *Research will also aim at integrating research activities on human biomonitoring regarding scientific aspects, methodologies and tools to develop a coordinated and coherent approach.*

ROADMAP: *financial preparation*

Next step: meeting with 'national funders'

Aim: discuss participation of MS in EU pilot project and correlated financial possibilities/drawbacks

Participants: MS decisionmakers - funders of HBM programmes

Organisation: Belgium (Flemisch Minister of Environment)

Date: 29 November 2005

ROADMAP: *communication campaign*

Launch of EU Pilot Project (end of 2006)

+ **large communication campaign.**

→ *organised by Commission, Member States*

→ *start preparation in early 2006*