

Conclusions from workshop on biomonitoring and cohort studies

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A workshop with stakeholders hosted by DG Research

Cohort studies

- Many studies are ongoing and several planned
- Some kind of harmonization of study protocols is requested for comparison
- Surveys of available cohorts is part of a number of EU integrated actions with different targets
- Need of financing of maintenance of cohorts

Surveillance/research

- The interaction and mutual benefits of surveillance as well as research activities in biomonitoring should be appreciated, developed and supported.
- The 3 step approach in the biomonitoring program is an example of this
- The first step being simple with few biomarkers the 3rd step also including advanced research

Ethical issues

- Ethical issues deserve special attention in relation to children and adults in environmental health studies.
- The information/communication process prior to studies is very important and should involve all stakeholders and contain all elements of the studies

Data protection, legal rights

- The study person must be secured against misuse of data
- Also the right to know and the right not to know must be assured
- Communication of results should involve all stakeholders however ensuring the individual

ESBIO Expert team to support biomonitoring in Europe

- Updated inventory of biomonitoring research and non-research actions and databases
- Guidelines for best practice on coordinated approach for biomonitoring in EU to be tested out in a EU Pilot Project
- Guidelines for integration scenarios and to integrate biomonitoring with environmental and health monitoring: use of biomonitoring results for policy making
- Ethical issues and concept for communicating biomonitoring information for participants in the Pilot Project
- Socio-economic consequences, communication for stakeholders and follow up of the EU pilot project
- Utility and sensitivity of biomarkers