



HBM4EU for a non-toxic environment

how to strengthen HBM4EU input to policy-making processes?

Yannick VICAIRE, HBM4EU 3rd Forum Stakeholder Meeting, Berlin, 10th October 2019

About HEAL

>80 organisations in 28 countries

- Doctors associations
- Patient groups
- Nurses associations
- Public health institutes
- Research institutes
- Not-for-profit health insurers
- Women's groups
- Youth groups
- Environmental groups



Working for better health through a healthier environment

HBM4EU and the EU non-toxic environment strategy

- Commissioner Sinkevičius confirmed one of three pillars of President Von der Leyen's Zero Pollution strategy for EU;
- EU Council: "present without any further delay a Union strategy for a non-toxic environment that will fully address endocrine disruptors, combination effects of chemicals and nanomaterial issues"
- Time to get support for funding, expanding and accelerating with mandatory targets
- In return, HBM4EU findings to feedback chemical risk evaluation and management







A stronger feedback loop to chemical management

- Every synthetic substance detected in the human body should be considered as a possible failure of chemical management, that should trigger regulatory action and question potential loopholes of evaluation processes.
- Monitor entire **groups of substances** (and metabolites) from the same family to use as a basis for group restrictions.
- Systematic search and **trend analysis for known substitutes** of SVHCs to identify more promptly situations of regrettable substitution.
- Screening analysis to **identify non-targeted substances**, initiate research on their sources/uses and engage regulatory steps.
- Make **HBM compulsory with every SVHC application**, paid by the applicant(s) and monitored by independent authorities.



Chlorpyrifos & lessons learnt: how can HBM4EU contribute?



- August 2019: EFSA and EC positioned for a non-renewal of chlorpyrifos-ethyl and -methyl
- neurotoxicity and developmental effects in children finally recognized while disruption of thyroid hormone demonstrated
- Epidemiological studies were decisive
- Listed under HBM4EU 2nd list of priority:
 - not only help us monitor if levels decreasing following this decision
 - also allow to calculate the actual health damage in European children and the overall cost to society
 - And make the case to support precautionary and preventive action on chemicals and pesticides, in particular for other organophosphorus chemicals on the market and other pesticides active on acetylcholine (neonicotinoids) and/or on the thyroid hormone



Other chemicals on priority lists

- EDCs: high priority as shown by recent results from ESTEBAN cohort in France
 → mechanisms, health effects and help accounting mixture effects while reducing exposure
 - Flame retardants: many more still require regulation



 Pyrethroids: growingly replacing organophosphates and neonicotinoids, HBM4EU results to monitor a potential shift of exposure in humans and to be considered in the approval process of pyrethroid pesticides → an upward trend should be a red flag.





Recommendations for next priority *substances*



 Microplastics: studies show they enter the human body. Recent <u>findings</u> from the German environment agency, monitoring plastic-related contaminants in children.



• **PMs**: Air pollution particles have been <u>found</u> on the fetal side of placentas. Monitoring under HBM4EU in coordination with air monitoring programs.





Thank you for your attention



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