



Notes of the 1st Meeting of the HELCOM Correspondence Group on Pharmaceuticals (CG PHARMA 1-2017).

The First Online meeting of the CG Pharma took place 27 June 2017 **from 10.00 to 12.00 CET**.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Meeting took note and agreed on the agenda.

2. Welcome and introduction of participants

Representatives of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia and Sweden attended the meeting as well as PA Hazards of EU SBSR and CCB.

3. Organization of work and Group's working methods (Terms of Reference and the Work Plan)

The Meeting took note of the information on working methods and the mandate of the group according to ToR agreed on by HELCOM 38-2017 and the work plan agreed on by PRESSURE group.

The Meeting also discussed the need for a person to Chair the CG Pharma group and took time to consider the need for a candidate before next meeting.

4. State of the art review in the Baltic Sea region

a. Publication of the status, its major findings and data availability

- The draft report provided with meeting documents is expected to be printed and published next week as a joint publication between HELCOM and UNESCO. Major details in the draft report are not expected to change.
- HELCOM stated it has a large data set relating to CG PHARMA and aims to meet HELCOM policy by making all data publically available.
- Some data (georeferenced measurements in the marine environment) has been prepared via the map service and as shape files.
- There still remains a large data volume (circa 50,000 data points) not currently available.
- Agreement was sought on if and how to make the data available (as maps, as files, as spreadsheets).
- Some data was defined as problematic as not all is geo-referenced and in some cases names are absent. Other data is denoted by a river name or by a wastewater treatment plant.
- Participants agreed that all data should be made available where possible including those which are below detection limits. Useful resource for public, management and researchers.
- Finland suggested that river data should be geo-referenced and published via map service after sea data has been completed. Observations close to river mouths are of the most interest for the assessment of potential impact on marine environment.

- PA Hazards informed of a new seed-money project (MicroWaste) that has an interest in gathering and compiling data on releases of pharmaceuticals from WWTP. **PA Hazards coordinator will discuss possible collaborative effort with project lead from Stockholm University and inform the Secretariat (dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi) of possibilities to cooperate in elaboration of a dataset for publication of these data.**
- The Meeting agreed that the new BONUS call expected in 2018 should be considered by HELCOM as a resource to facilitate the work of CG Pharma and invited participants to consider a scope of the application. Bringing together interested parties from the Baltic states with a PHARMA focus would be timely and a valid way to consolidate data.
- PA Hazards suggested that data updating (i.e. the maps and such resources) would be a useful resource and a way to collate new data. Suggested trying to standardize all data submitted to HELCOM for such processes.
- HELCOM Secretariat indicated that possibilities to do so will be explored prior to the next CG PHARMA meeting, though no dedicated staff are currently available for this activity.

b. Pharmaceuticals in the environment (PIE) – A Baltic Sea Region cooperation platform and other projects in the BS region of interest for the group.

- PA Hazards informed of the Baltic Sea Pharma Platform initiative, PIE (2017-2020). Potential for cooperation including joint/back-to-back meetings with CG PHARMA (and/or PRESSURE group) to enhance cooperative work, were discussed, potentially starting with the launch meeting expected to take place in late 2017.
- PA Hazards informed of four projects of interest: MORPHEUS, CWPharma, GrePPP and MicroWasteBaltic. These projects have been initiated in 2017 and aim to offer management, solutions and status report outcomes.

c. CW-Pharma project

- Finland defined the of CWPharma project led by SYKE. Potential for collaborative work, especially in WP2 (Status of Pharmaceuticals in the Baltic Sea) and WP5 (Scenarios, Conclusions and Action Plan) were discussed.
- The Meeting noted that in the recent PRESSURE group meeting pharmaceuticals were highlighted as requiring further action by all attending parties.

5. Planning further steps according to the Work Plan

- The status of two pre-core indicators –diclofenac and estrogen - was discussed. A September 2017 deadline was clarified relating to the inclusion of indicators to the final HOLAS II report.
- The HELCOM Secretariat suggested to focus initially on the pre-core indicator for Diclofenac, which is more elaborated and better supported by data collected for the Status report than Estrogen. The Meeting requested the Secretariat to gather available data and contact authors involved in earlier versions of these pre-core indicators. An assessment will be made on the potential to include pharmaceutical indicators into HOLAS II.
- Germany also informed of ongoing research work related to emerging of diclofenac in the Baltic Sea environment. Depending on the data availability a contribution to the data for relevant HELCOM indicator could be considered.
- **A second meeting of the CG PHARMA group has provisionally been set for September 14th 2017.**