Draft Report Recommendations
TWG on priority diseases
subgroup Neurodevelopmental Disorders

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Recommendations (in preparation) are based on:

- Baseline report on Neurodevelopmental disorders

- Meeting TWGs on 12/13 January Brussels

- Proposed recommendations in Brussels described by members TWG

- Input Consultative Forum 3/4 March

- Final Report Recommendations
1. Options to generate synergies and facilitate data sharing and methodologies
2. Options to improve data availability
3. Options to improve data accessibility
4. Options to improve data comparability (needs for harmonisation)
5. Options to enhance exchange of information, communication, cooperation better use and linkage of existing data
6. Options with respect to risk communication, training and education, information and awareness raising.
7. Options to develop preventive policy
8. Options to improve public health
9. Options with respect to research
Options to generate synergies and facilitate data sharing and methodologies (1)

- Identify and collect sharing data on NDD biomonitoring (Use this to establish a Europe-wide database (see recommendation Biomonitoring group)

- Establish series of biomonitoring surveys (on example provided by the Umweltsurvey (Germany) and EPA biom. progr) using only validated methods for (bio)monitoring of NDD

- Identify/define/produce agreed diagnostic criteria for datacollection on NDD

- Use available registries and ad-hoc representative cohorts to measure incidence and prevalence of NDD (e.g. Faroes, Seychelles, Seveso, Rotterdam, Groningen, Amsterdam) and encourage new cohorts
- Use the International Classification of Functioning Disability and Health to define the functioning and disability of children with NDD (taking into consideration family, nature, education, legislation, playing, etc.)

- Monitor time trends and geographical variation and identify main determinants for these variations.

- Methods for defining diseases, testing, monitoring and biomonitoring have to be harmonized.

- Use only valid methods. If these are lacking, they have to be developed with priority.
Options to improve data comparability (needs for harmonisation)

- Different results obtained in different studies on the same issue should be clarified.

Differences in outcomes of studies in animals and humans or between different studies on humans, or in different populations, should be clarified, either by further studies or by workshops.
Options with respect to risk communication training and education, information and awareness raising.

- Prevention of too high levels of marine biotoxins in shellfish.

- Promote breastfeeding and breast milk as a prevention, protection and cure of damage by pollution.

- Reduce/eliminate smoking and alcohol consumption during pregnancy through education programmes and support to the mothers, with a special focus on child/teensmokers.
Options to develop preventive policy

- Enforcement of existing regulations and development of new regulations if needed for substances and influences that have been assigned as ‘level 1’ (which cause according to the state of scientific knowledge NDD in humans: alcohol, smoking, infections during pregnancy, stress, noise, certain medications, ionizing radiation, PCB, dioxin, DDT, lead, mercury, iodine deficiency).
- Increase knowledge on the risk for child neurodevelopment represented by several chemical compounds released or present in the environment for which human evidence is presently lacking.

- Prospective studies to pregnancy

- Where new chemicals are expected to present exposure to children a weight of evidence approach should be used to establish when developmental neurotoxicity testing is required.

- Research on effects on puberty in cohorts from prospective pregnancy studies.
- Increase knowledge on the risk for child neurodevelopment represented by exposure either to mixtures of compounds or to multiple risk factors.

- Research with focus on gene-environment interplay

- Research into mechanisms and time-windows of neurodevelopmental toxicity.
New entered recommendations

- Reassessment of risk for organophosphorous pesticides and limitation of their use with respect to children’s health.
- Development of action/approaches to reduce/eliminate the release of POPs with the aim to reduce the body burden of POPs chemicals in EU population with particular reference to women at child-bearing age, pregnant women and children.
- Link to the geographic Information system 'Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe’ http://inspire.jrc.it
- Involvement of the Citizen: informed citizens
Discussions/Follow up

- Describing ‘what, why, when, how, costs’ for each recommendation.

- Classify the recommendations under the (9) different options for action.

- Refine recommendations with comments from the TWG members and Consultative Forum.

- Crosslinking with other TWG’s.