

# Collaboration Agreement

between

**Masaryk University (MU)**

**University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague (VSCHT)**

**University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice (JU)**

**National Institute of Public Health (SZU-CZ)**

**Institute of Health Information and Statistics of the Czech Republic (UZIS)**

**University of Ostrava (OU)**

## **Whereas,**

there are numerous initiatives at the national as well European/international levels (HBM4EU, Green Deal's zero-pollution ambition for a toxic free environment, EU Chemicals Strategy for sustainability, Strategic Approach to the International Chemicals Management and Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and Minamata Convention on Mercury, multilateral environmental agreements on chemicals protecting the environment and human health) that aim at improved environmental monitoring, human biomonitoring and better assessment of environmental/health risks and impacts of chemicals. To support the implementation of ambitious goals in relation to chemical management, pollution-free environment and also capitalizing on the achievements of previous efforts and projects (such as HBM4EU), EU and national chemical risk assessment and risk management bodies require new/additional data, knowledge, methods, networks and skills to address current, emerging and novel chemical safety challenges.

## **Whereas,**

Masaryk University (MU), University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague (VSCHT), University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice (JU), National Institute of Public Health (SZU-CZ), Institute of Health Information and Statistics (UZIS), University of Ostrava (OU) recognize that the successful achievement of these goals requires establishing of a national hub to coordinate the research activities related to environmental monitoring, human biomonitoring, exposure and hazard assessment, and innovative risk assessment methods and approaches at the national level.

## **Therefore,**

the parties, with a view of developing closer ties and synergies and capitalizing the achievements and collaboration established by the National Panel for Human Biomonitoring, enter this Collaboration Agreement (hereinafter "CA") to confirm the establishment of the Czech national hub on risk assessment of chemicals and agree on the following:

1. The parties establish this national hub to coordinate the national research activities related to the assessment of risks from chemicals to both environmental compartments and humans in the Czech Republic.
2. The Parties will establish a national steering committee.
3. The Parties will establish a framework in support for research and innovation by
  - a. Improving underlying methods and procedures for sampling, sample analysis, data analysis/re(use), and data FAIRification and management

- b. Improving the understanding of (multisource) exposure and its impact on human and environmental health by developing new sampling methods, defining/validating new endpoints and developing integrative assessment and testing approaches
  - c. Improving the use of exposure and other data types from different domains related to the risk assessment in support for informed-decision and policy making towards the next-generation assessment of risks from chemicals
- 4. Joint activities to be carried out are aiming
  - a. at advancing, harmonizing, increasing QA/QC in the current laboratory and field work practices and sample analysis,
  - b. at developing innovative methods of analysis, sampling (e.g, no-invasive methods), and of new endpoints (new biomarkers), new reference materials, etc.
  - c. at increasing the integration of data form different domains and sources (HBM and environmental data, environmental, occupational, health examination and epidemiological surveys, research on exposure mechanisms, modes of actions, and innovative approaches in risk assessment)
  - d. at establishing new or stabilizing the existing infrastructural and human capacities by inventorying and cataloguing laboratory networks (including networks of reference laboratories), developing information catalogues in various risk assessment domains allowing for improved data quality, data/sample accessibility and availability of capacities
  - e. at addressing national needs and priorities in the field of chemical risk assessment and knowledge management on chemical risks, their uptake to policy and communication with national stakeholders
- 5. The science-policy interface of the present national hub is performed by the National centre for Toxic Compounds in the Environment hosted at Masaryk University will be in charge to convert the former National Panel for Human Biomonitoring into the National Panel for Risk Assessment informing existing policy making bodies at the EU and national levels about the outcome of national risk assessment activities, and also will explore the possibilities and requirements for an increased use of data generated for risk assessment nationally/internationally in the evidence-based policy processes and the opportunities for mobilizing the existing committees and expert/advisory groups to contribute to setting priorities and their implementation. Participants in the Panel are Parties to the present agreement, members of the National Panel for Human Biomonitoring, relevant ministries (health, environment, agriculture, education) and national/sectorial risk management bodies and authorities.
- 6. The CA shall come into force upon signature by each Party and remain in force until further notice. Each Party shall be entitled to terminate the CA upon three months written notice. Termination will incur no liability on either Party, and will not affect any agreements or legally-binding arrangements in place among the Parties.
- 7. No Party shall have an obligation to enter further arrangements concerning or under this CA. Each Party shall bear its costs and expenses arising from this CA.

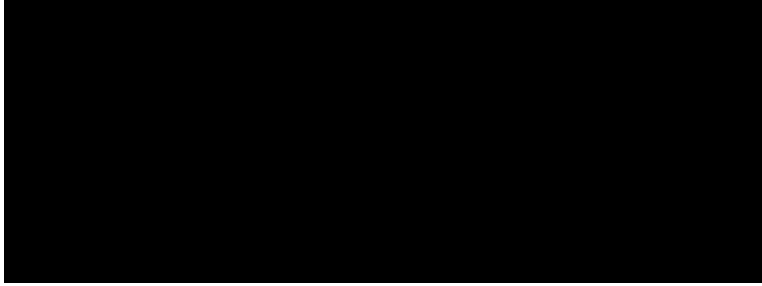
For: **Masaryk University**



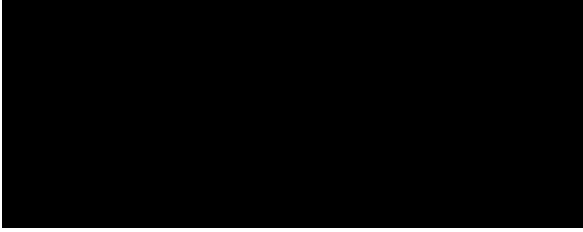
For: **University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague**



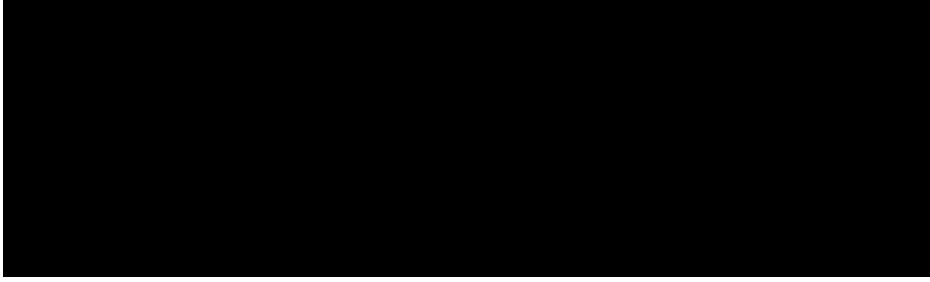
For: **University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice**



For: **National Institute of Public Health**



**For: Institute of Health Information and Statistics of the Czech Republic**



For: **University of Ostrava**

