



science and policy
for a healthy future

Consultation Group 2

Involving stakeholders in HBM4EU: expectations, needs and requirements

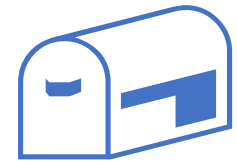
Moderators: Maria Uhl, Catherine Ganzleben and Ilse Loots
– Brussels, December 9 –

1. HBM 'results': **a start** instead of the end
2. HBM 'results': on science, **evidence** and **trust**
3. **=> Who** to invite for joint reflection?
 - a) What stakes do you consider relevant for HBM ?
 - b) What are hidden stakes in the field of HBM ?
 - c) How to give voice to hidden stakes ?
4. **=> How** to structure a joint reflection on HBM results?

Beyond informing, communicating and sensitizing...

 - a) Criteria for reflection on policy options ?
 - b) Guiding principles and procedures ?
 - for access and disclosure, communication and procedural fairness ?
5. **=> Where** to host the joint reflection?

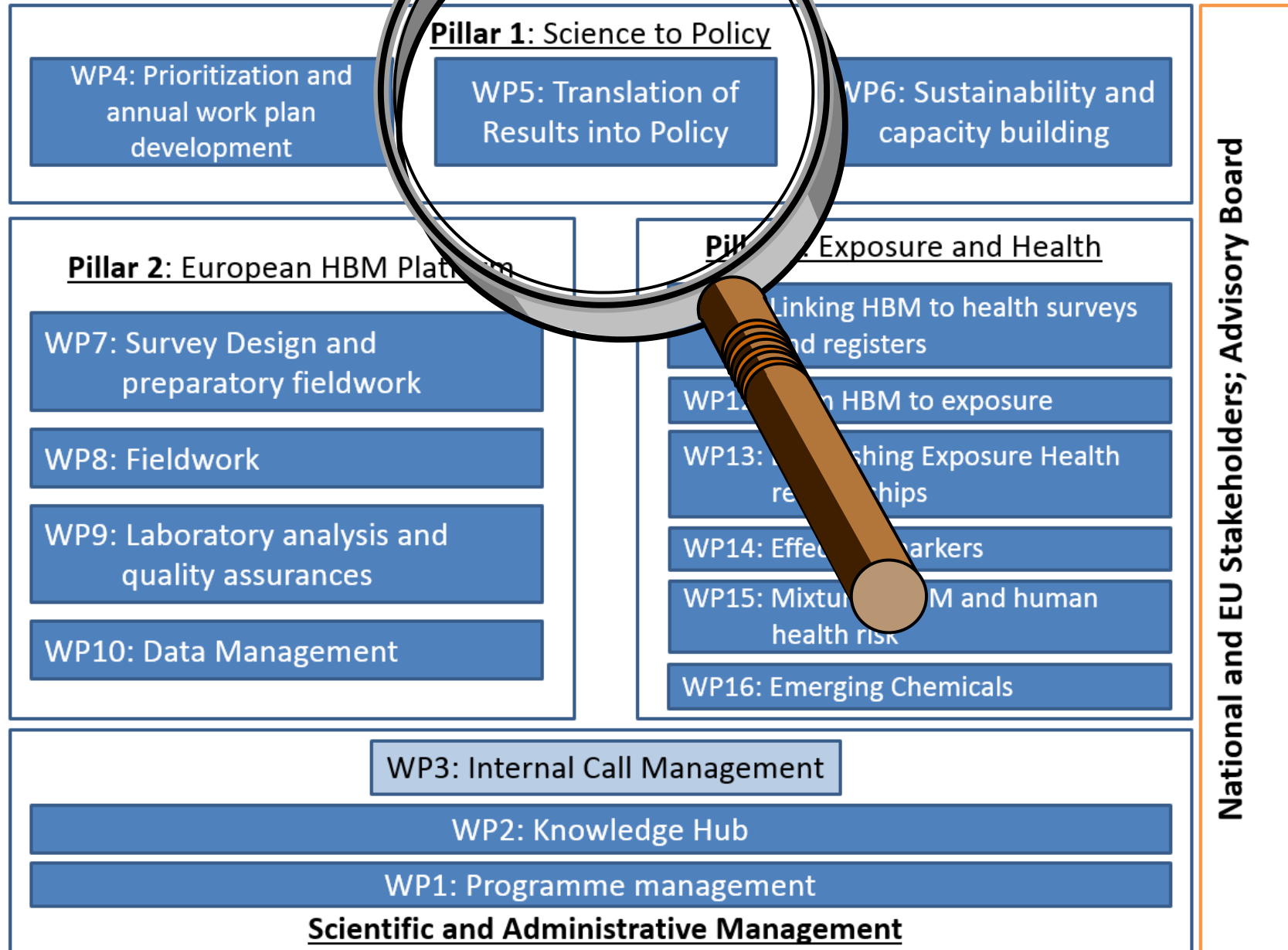
Existing platforms and channels for an informed dialogue ?
6. **What** (additional) questions do you want to address ?



Booklet
(and box)
available

for your
additional
ideas

HBM4EU pillars and WPs



1. HBM 'results': a start instead of the end

The focus of this session is on (stakeholder involvement in) the **Science-Policy** nexus

- = Translating HBM4EU results into policy,
informing policymaking
- = Also on how to proceed: process requirements for
HBM4EU

1a) Outlook on a diversity of measures

- HBM- and reference values, indicators and inclusion in risk assessment procedure
- Measures for environmental health improvement

Metaphor
on
'external'
policy
instru-
ments



- Regulation ?

Command and control instruments



- Financial incentives ?

Taxes and subsidies, f.i. for healthy isolation



- Persuasion ? Informing, awareness raising, best practices

- **Internal measures:** guidelines for monitoring & research; strategic planning

1b) *HBM-experts are not policy makers but ...*

Opportunities!

- Experts involved in HBM can
 - not only assess but also judge the health risk
 - may have good risk management and policy suggestions in mind
 - mobilize additional insight for setting priorities, ranking, what if's
- Policymakers and stakeholders can
 - interpret results from other contexts and perspectives
 - imagine futures and set priorities to frame results
 - judge political feasibility and envision measures

→ ***Why not jointly reflect and discuss HBM results ?***

1c) *HBM-experts (and all of us) face complex questions ...*

How can we communicate complexity the public?

Challenges?

And many similar questions:

- What message to distill ? Who's interpretation ?
- What to give priority for policy translation ?
- Which results should (not) be communicated?
- Can 'high concern' but 'low risk' also be a criterion for priority setting ?
- How to avoid inaction in case of remaining uncertainty?
- How to anticipate domestic and local acceptability and take up of results ?
- How to deal with a strategic use of results ?
- How to avoid fear mongering ?
- ...



2. HBM 'results':

On science, **evidence** and **trust**



"If you don't have BPA in your body,
you're not living in the modern world"

Time magazine, 2010

2a. Evidence ?

What is the quality of our knowledge base ?

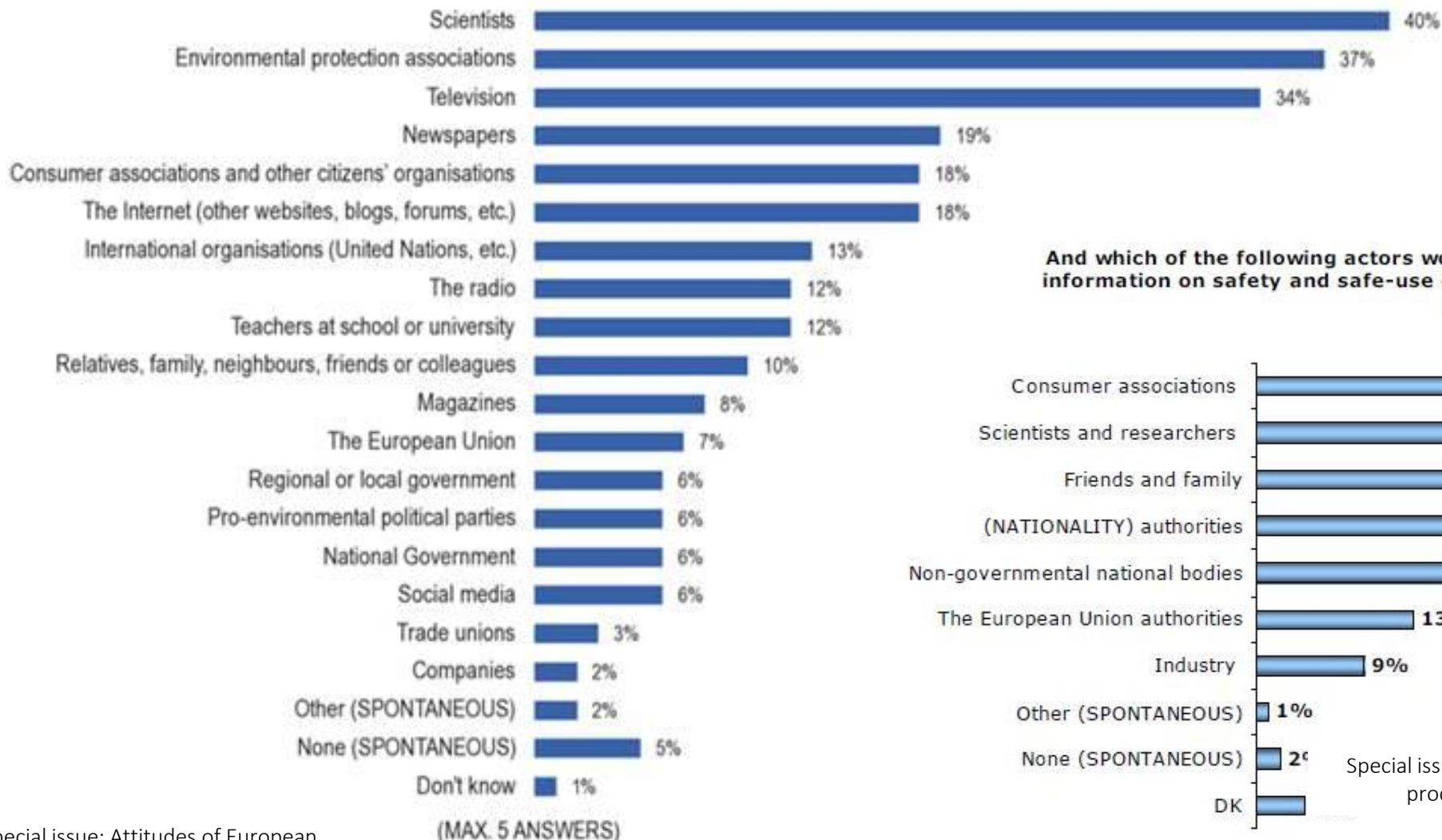
- Weight of evidence ?
- Balanced synthesis ?
- Remaining questions ?
 - We roughly know
 - We could have known
 - We know what we do not know
 - » We do not know what we know
 - » We do not know what we do not know
 - » We will never know
 - » We cannot know

Types of uncertainty
(Van Asselt, 2000)

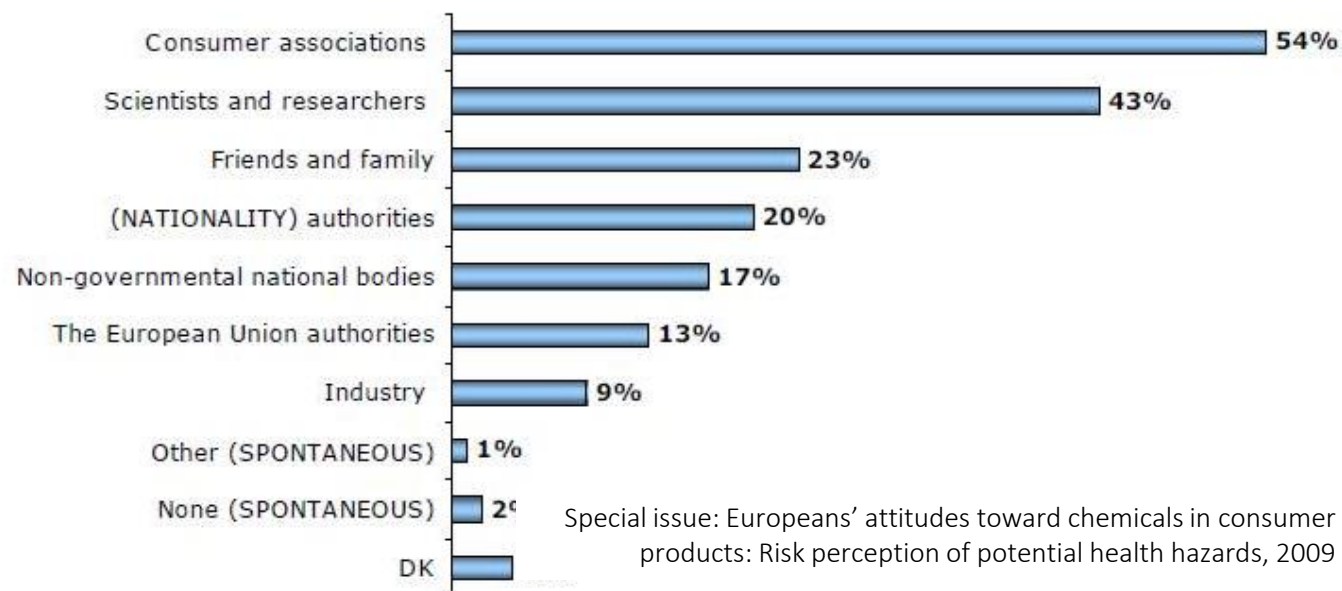
2b. Trust ?



QA6. From the following list, who do you trust most when it comes to providing reliable information about environmental issues?































And which of the following actors would you trust the most for giving you reliable information on safety and safe-use concerning chemicals in consumer products?
% EU27

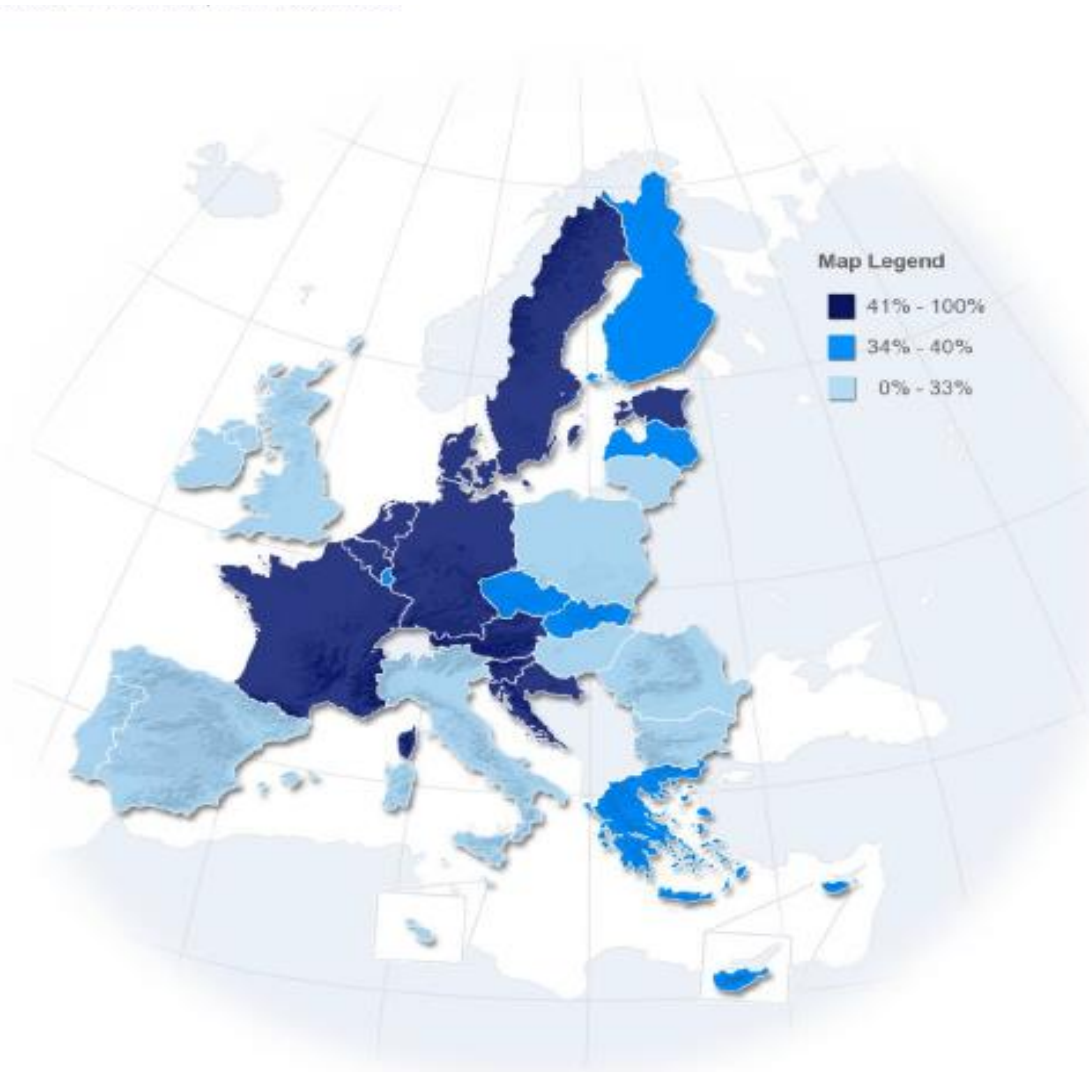


Special issue: Europeans' attitudes toward chemicals in consumer products: Risk perception of potential health hazards, 2009

Question: QA6. From the following list, who do you trust most when it comes to providing reliable information about environmental issues?

Answers: Environmental protection associations

	AT	56%
	DE	55%
	DK	48%
	FR	47%
	SI	44%
	NL	44%
	EE	44%
	HR	43%
	BE	41%
	LU	40%
	FI	40%
	EL	39%
	CY	39%
	CZ	38%
	EU28	37%
	LV	35%
	SK	34%
	PT	33%
	ES	32%
	IT	30%
	MT	29%
	IE	28%
	LT	27%
	BG	23%
	UK	23%
	HU	23%
	PL	23%
	RO	22%
































Environmental protection associations

Environmental information =

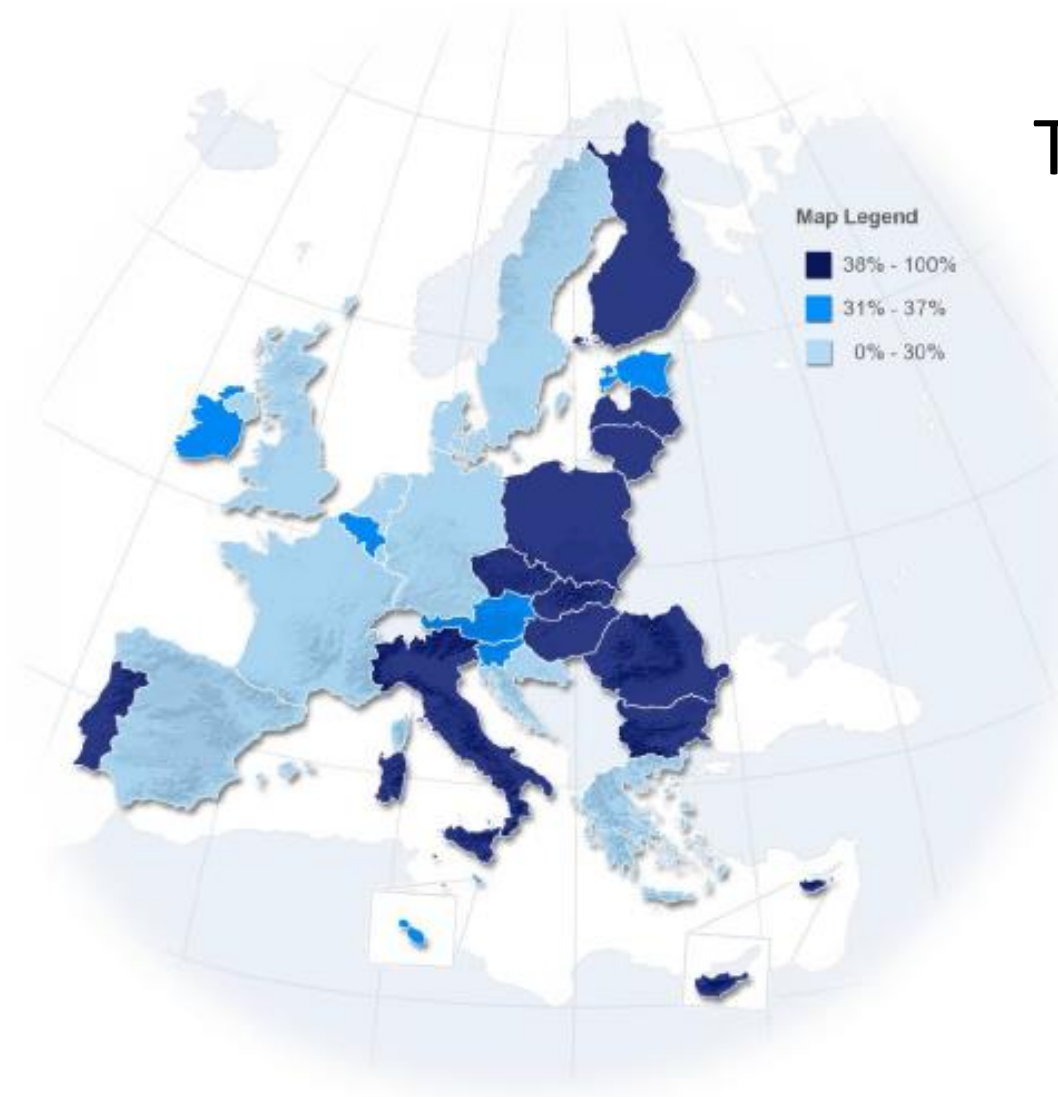
“Information in any form on the state of the environment or on the state of human health and safety”

(EU [Directive 2003/4/EC](#))

 RO	61%
 PT	60%
 BG	56%
 HU	49%
 FI	44%
 IT	42%
 CZ	41%
 SK	40%
 PL	40%
 LT	40%
 CY	39%
 LV	38%
 SI	36%
 EE	35%
 BE	34%
 IE	34%
 EU28	34%
 MT	33%
 AT	31%
 SE	30%
 DE	29%
 UK	29%
 NL	28%
 EL	27%
 FR	27%
 HR	25%
 DK	25%
 ES	25%
 LU	25%

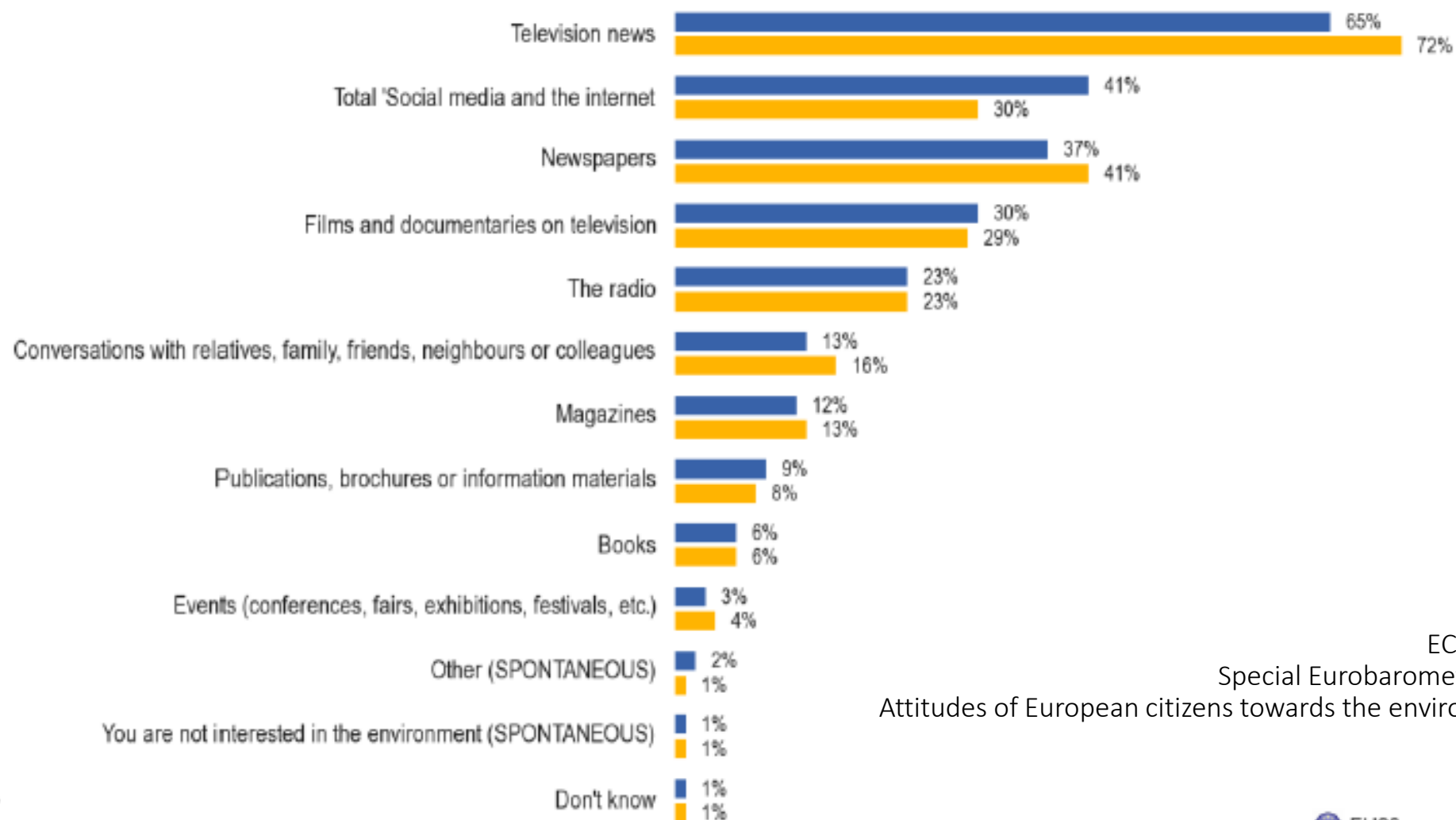
Question: QA6. From the following list, who do you trust most when it comes to providing reliable information about environmental issues?

Answers: Television



Television

QA5. From the following list, which are your three main sources of information about the environment?



■ EB81.3 Apr/May 2014
 ■ EB75.2 Apr/May 2011

(MAX. 3 ANSWERS)

EC (2014)
 Special Eurobarometer 416
 Attitudes of European citizens towards the environment
 p. 42

3. **Who** to invite for a joint reflection?

a) What stakes do you consider relevant for HBM?



Types of stakes / stakeholders :

Producers ?

Consumers ?

Environmental health associations ?

Health care services ?

Health insurance companies ?

Patient groups ?

Lay people ?

...

Not in general, depends on the topic ?



3. *Who* to invite for a joint reflection?

b) Who is missing today ? What are the hidden stakes in HBM ?



*Next generations ?
The unborn child ?*




3. *Who* to invite for a joint reflection?

c) How to give voice to hidden stakes ?

4. *How* to structure a joint reflection?

a) Criteria for reflection on policy options? Tailored ?
In terms of ...

- Health risk seriousness
- Political feasibility
- Social preferences and concerns
- Comparison of costs and benefits of measures
- Costs and benefits of the source
- Other ... ? 

4. *How* to structure a joint reflection on HBM results?

b) Guiding principles for access and disclosure, communication and procedural fairness ?

- For transparency of the scientific process
- For transparency of **policy-oriented** interpretation

Screenshot (1) out of Preliminary Implementation Plan 2015 to an Open EFSA

SCIENTIFIC DECISION MAKING WORKFLOW		MEASURES	SCOPE	CORE OUTCOMES
1	Define the mandate	1.1 Public consultation of framing of mandates and related questions	1.1 Scientific outputs, except application assessments	1.1 Potentially adjusted risk assessment question(s)
		1.2 Simplification of requirements to take active role in public consultations	1.2 All public consultations by EFSA	1.2 Increased engagement rate
		1.3 Pre-notify interested parties of forthcoming public consultation	1.3 All public consultations by EFSA	1.3 Increased planning capacity of the public
		1.4 Pre-submission meetings with applicants in the area of regulated products	1.4 Draft applications in the area of regulated products	1.4 Clarification of data requirements
		1.5 Meetings with stakeholders	1.5 Scientific outputs, except application assessments	1.5 Mutual understanding of question to be addressed
2	Define expertise	2.1 Publish full biographies	2.1 Experts working with EFSA	2.1 Ability of public to scrutinise experts backgrounds
		2.2 Documentation of the criteria of selection of Working Group members	2.2 Experts working with EFSA	2.2 Auditability of expert selection process
		2.3 Documentation of the criteria of the selection of Hearing experts	2.3 Expertise not available in Working Groups	2.3 Enlarged pool of expertise available; auditability of expert selection process
3	Define risk assessment methodology and evidence	3.1 Consultation on the risk assessment methodologies	3.1 Scientific outputs except application assessments	3.1 Improve scientific quality and ownership
		3.2 Open and/or targeted call for data/information	3.2 Scientific outputs	3.2 Widen EFSA's evidence base

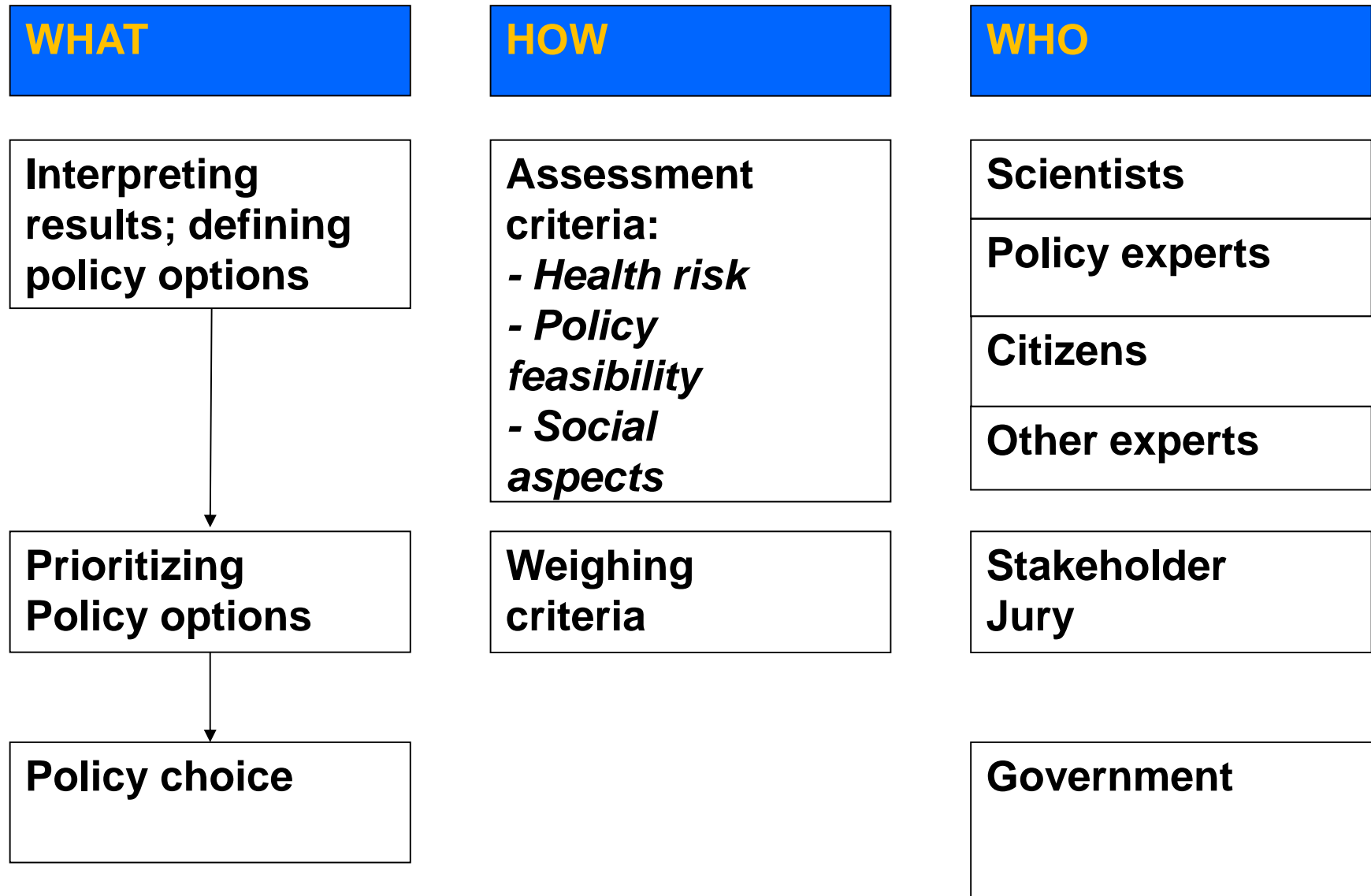
Extracts (2) from Guiding Principles in Flemish HBM (FLEHS, 2001 ... 2020)

- Be open and transparant on the entire research cycle, including study design, on inputs and report back
- Reveal assumptions behind 1st interpretation of results
- Be clear and open on remaining scientific discussion and points of disagreement
- Encourage experts to remain available for explanation of HBM-results

...



Example (3) out of Flemish procedure 'Planning for Action'



5. *Where* to host a joint reflection? (Existing) platforms and channels for an informed dialogue

See platforms HBM4EU + What else to prospect?

- a) At EU and international level
- b) At domestic level

Do you know of best practices ? Key actors ? - Please inform us

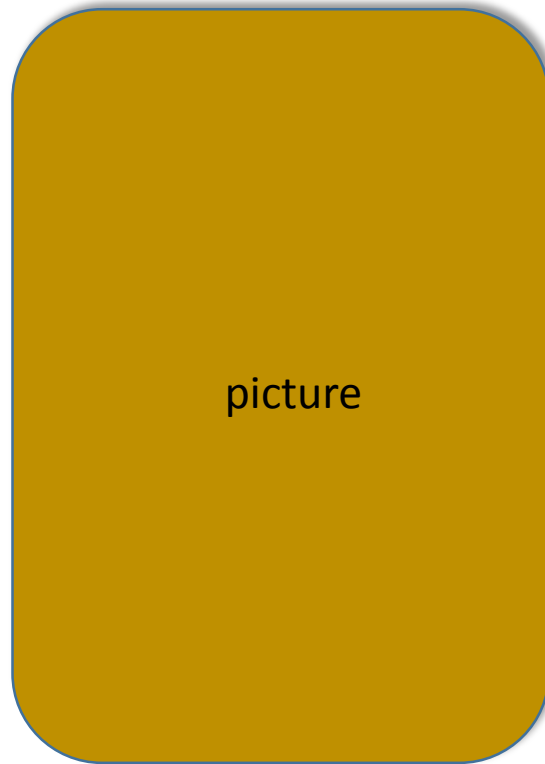


6. *What* should be addressed in addition ?

a) What are the (additional) questions stakeholders want to address?

b) What is first feedback to the presented HBM4EU programme?

> 100 partners and the EU: institutional and cultural differences to keep in mind ...



Avoid complicated steps on a small dance floor ...