

# Ethics and Communication in Human Biomonitoring

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# Application to the Regional Committee for Medical and Research Ethics

Approval from REK is required as the project involves research on humans

- Application form for approval
- Research protocol
- Invitation letter (Informed consent)
- Questionnaires

## Application form

” Exposure to environmental toxicants in the indoor environment” combining a project on exposure to phthalates and bisphenol A and flame retardants.

**Outline:** recruit 40 households through elementary schools, sample indoor air and dust, collect blood, urine, hair, saliva from mother and child (7-11 y), questionnaires: 24h recall, long term food frequency, lifestyle,

# Important issues

- Participants (involves children; no blood sampling)
- Size (statistical power?)
- Biobank (separate, indoor cohort)
- Assurance of informed and independent consent
- Benefits (individual, group, society, science)
- Risks
- Justification (Risk-benefit analysis)
- Privacy (coding samples, access to link)
- Communication of results
- Time frame

# Conclusion

- Disadvantages
  - Much paper work (help from Dept. of Project Support)
- Advantages
  - Scientifically developed project plan
  - Sound handling of human samples
  - Risk-benefit balancing
  - Funding, conflict of interest, dependencies
  - Communication and publication