

# European Environmental Specimen Banks

Journeys through time for Chemical Safety

Berlin, 5.11.2012 Monitoring Biocides Workshop

Jan Koschorreck, German Environment Agency

Umwelt  
Bundes  
Amt  
for our Environment

European  
Environmental Specimen Banks  
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## What are ESBs?



environmental &  
human samples

Focus on environmental specimens



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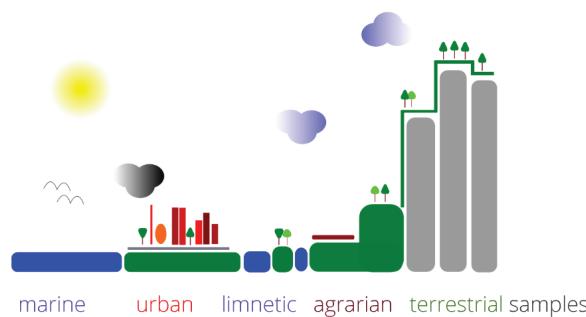


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## ecosystem types



food web analysis  
integrative exposure assessment  
comparison between industrialised areas, semi-pristine  
and pristine areas



## low T°C archive



samples stored at -20°, -80°, < -150°C



## cold chain



SOPs available for sampling, processing,  
analysing and archiving samples



## data management

The screenshot shows the homepage of the "UMWELT PROBENBANK DES BUNDES" website. The top navigation bar includes links for Home, Basics, Profiles, Data search, Results, Service, Glossary, Sitemap, and Deutsch. The main content area features a large image of a hand holding a small plant, with text about mercury contamination in herring gull eggs. On the right, there's a sidebar for "Selected results" and a news section.

open data often missing but websites describe activities



# chemical analysis



real time chemical monitoring analysis  
retrospective chemical analysis

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## What are ESBs?



## policy advice

ECHA



European Chemicals Agency



European Environment Agency

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## What are ESBs good for?

### Chemical issues

- identifying consequences of emerging issues
- providing evidence for risk management decisions
- evaluating success of regulatory measures



### Non chemical issues

- climate change
- biodiversity
- human health



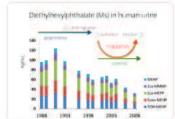
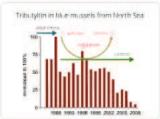
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# Chemical issues

:: identifying contaminants of emerging concern

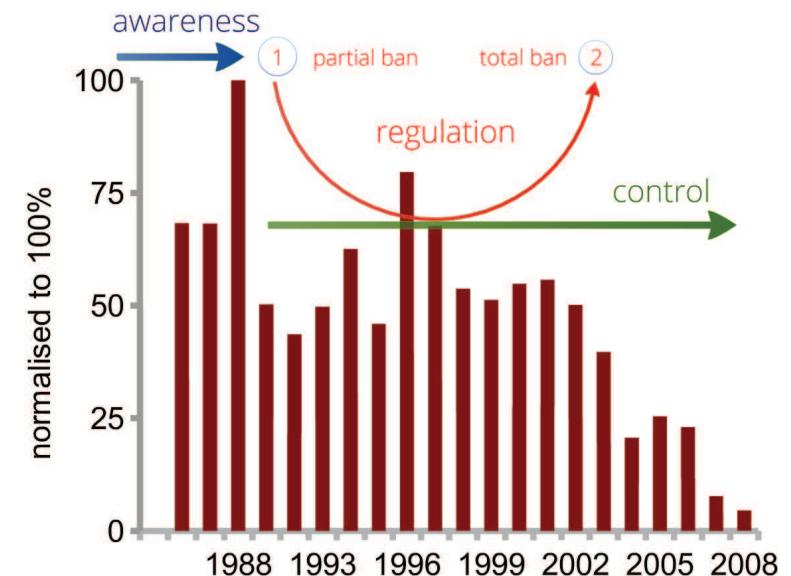
::: providing evidence for risk management decisions

:::: controlling success of regulatory measures



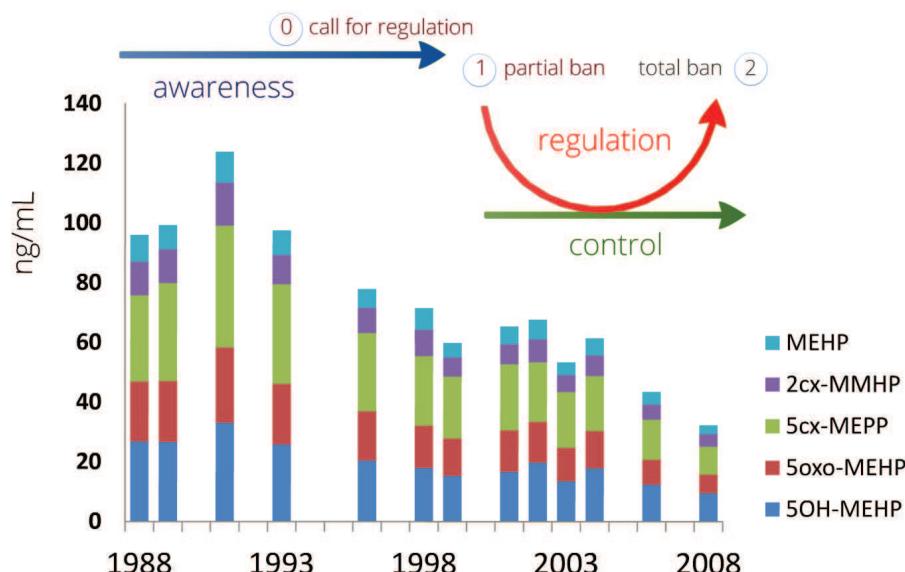
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## Tributyltin in blue mussels from North Sea



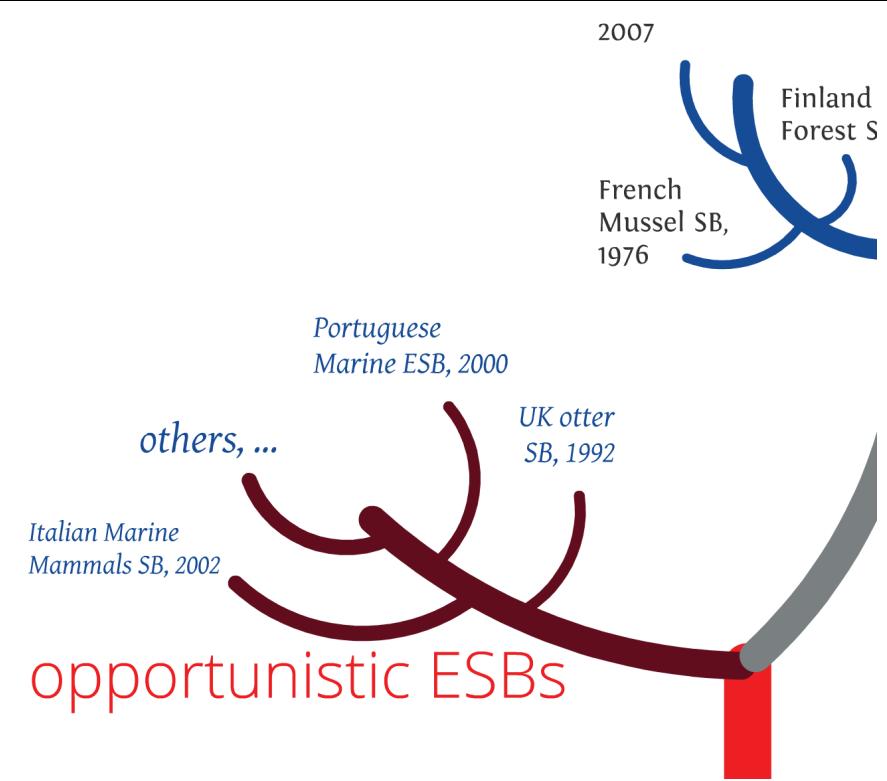
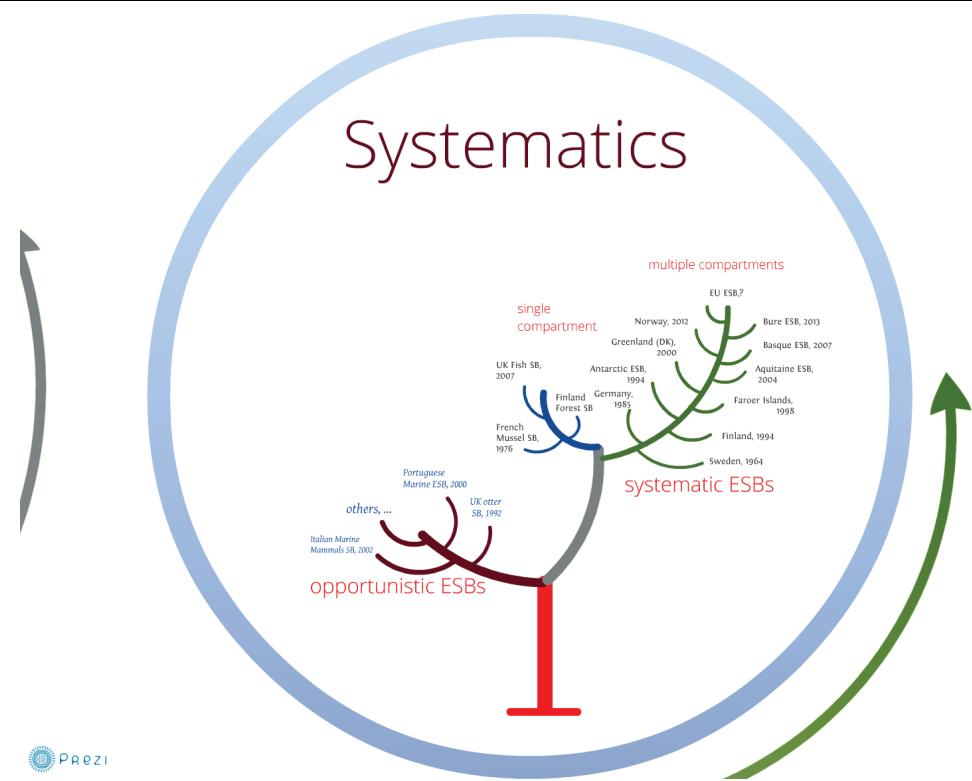
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## Diethylhexylphthalate (Ms) in human urine

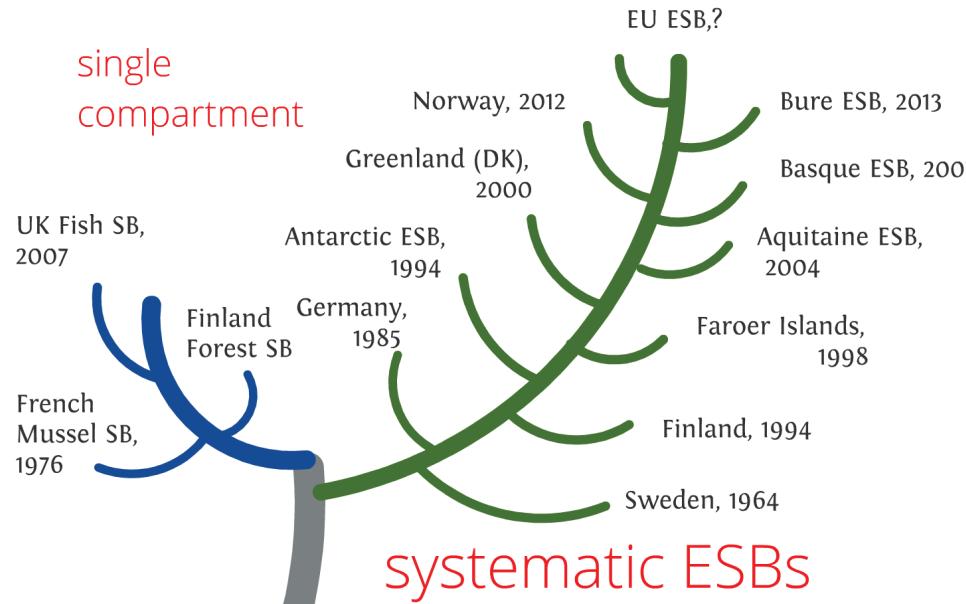


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single compartment



# Systematics

multiple compartments

single compartment

EU ESB?

Norway, 2012

Greenland (DK), 2000

Bure ESB, 2013

Basque ESB, 2007

Aquitaine ESB, 2004

Faroer Islands, 1998

Finland, 1994

Sweden, 1964

UK Fish SB, 2007

Finland Forest SB

Germany, 1985

Antarctic ESB, 1994

French Mussel SB, 1976

Portuguese Marine ESB, 2000

UK eel SB, 1992

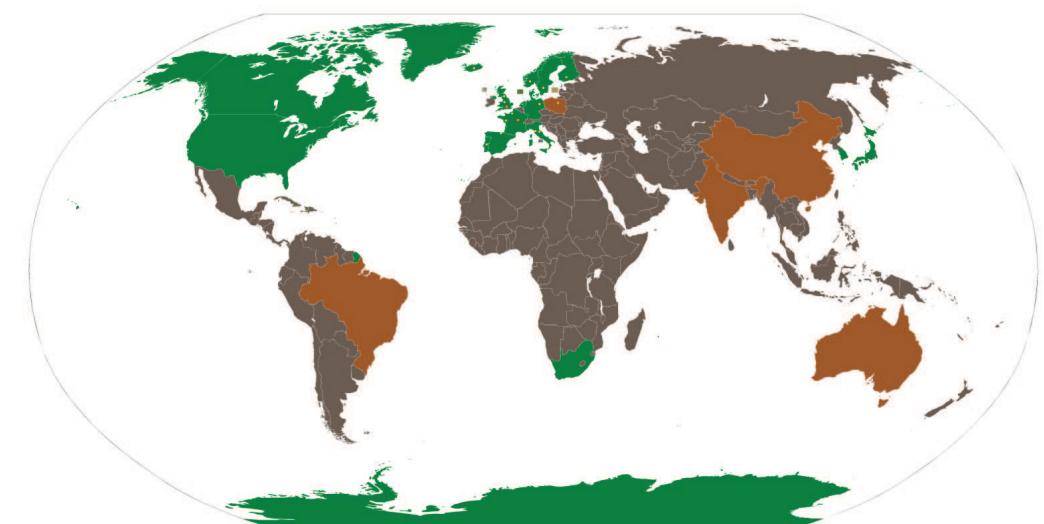
others, ...

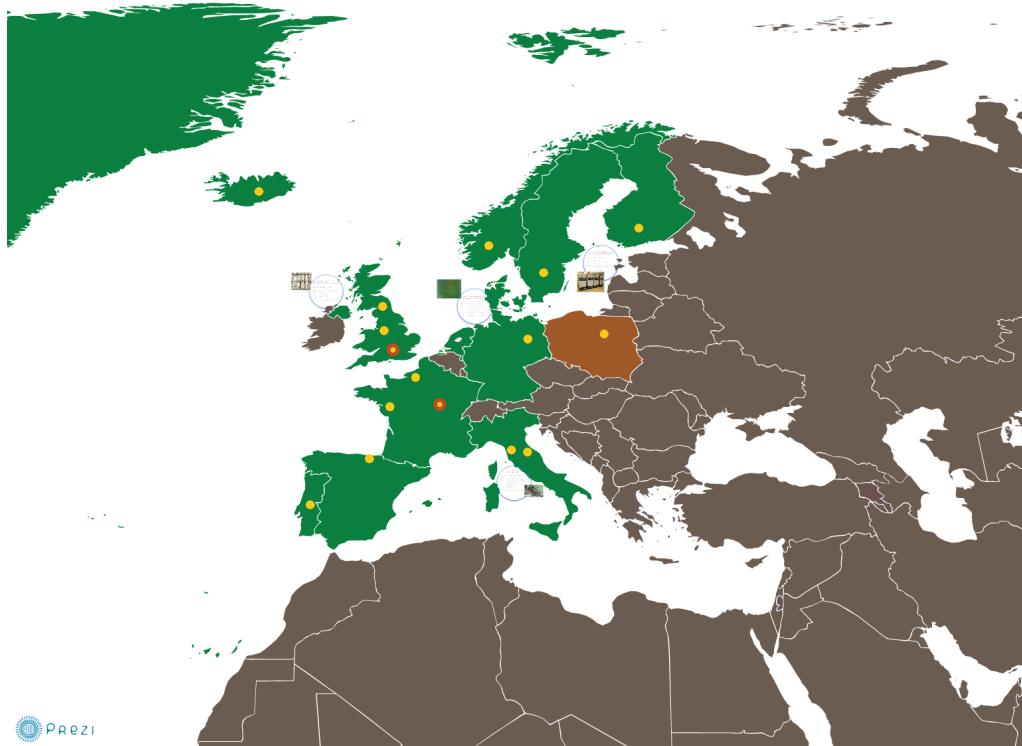
Italian Marine Mammals SB, 2002

systematic ESBs

opportunistic ESBs

What ESBs  
are there?





## Opportunistic Sampling Strategy

Mediterranean Marine Mammal Tissue Bank (\* 2002)

Organisation: University of Padua

Area: Mediterranean coast, including polluted areas  
Species: protected marine mammals, MMTB team is called to stranding sites

Samples: including blubber, intestines and muscular tissues and many others

Chemicals: legacy POPs, metals

Similar: Portuguese marine species biobank  
UK otter biobank



## Systematic sampling of selected environmental compartments

UK fish tissue bank, \* 2007

Organisation: UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology

Area: UK rivers

Species: eel, roach, bleak

Samples: whole fish samples

Chemicals: legacy POPs, metals

Similar: Finnish Forest Bank, French Mussel Bank, Netherlandish Fish Bank



## Systematic sampling and archiving of human and environmental samples

German Environmental Specimen Bank, \* 1985

Organisation: German Environment Agency

Area: German ecosystems and urban environments

Species: marine, limnetic, terrestrial specimens, human populations

Samples: pooled and homogenated environmental samples, individual human blood and urine samples

Chemicals: legacy POPs, metals, emerging contaminants

Similar: Norwegian ESB, novel French ESB

Systematic sampling and archiving  
of environmental and human samples

Organisation: Swedish Natural History Museum, \*1964

Area: Swedish ecosystems

Species: marine, limnetic, terrestrial species,  
top predators

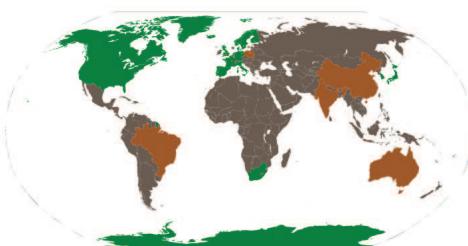
Samples: environmental samples, individually stored

Chemicals: legacy POPs, metals, emerging contaminants

Similar: Greenland ESB, Faroe Islands



## What ESBs are there?



## Outlook

### New cryoarchive

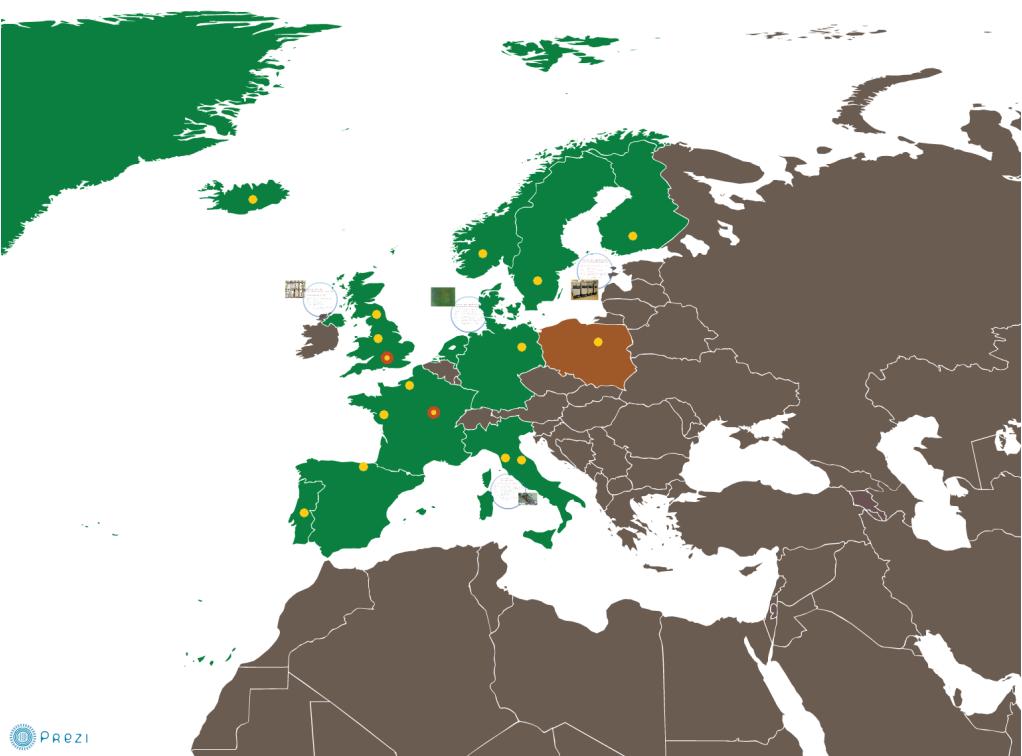
- opening Nov 2012
- completely LN<sub>2</sub> driven
- starting with 210 000 samples in 29 LN<sub>2</sub> tanks
- capacities for next 40 years



### Networking

- Two UBA conferences 2011:
  - EU ESBs
  - International ESBs
- SETAC Session 2012
- Bilbao EU ESB Conf 2013
- Shanghai Int ESB Conf 213

coming up: public report  
on the German ESB



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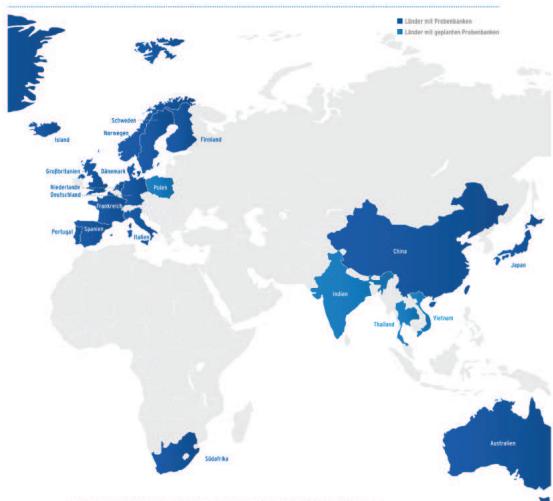
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## coming up: public report on the German ESB



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### DIE ÄLteste UMWELTPROBENBANK STEHT IN EUROPA

Es gibt über zweihundert Umweltprobenbanken auf der Welt. Die ältesten Archive stammen aus den 1800er und 1970er Jahren. Erst rechtlicherweise ging in diesen Jahren gleich eine ganze Reihe von neuen Umweltprobenbanken an den Start. Die erste Umweltprobenbank wurde 1970 in den USA gegründet. Manche Tiere und Pflanzen in Stücken als geprägte Präparate sind von den 1960er Jahren. Einige Seelurven decken über 50 Jahre ab. Jährliche Proben von Tieren, die auf dem Land, in Binnengewässern und in Meeren leben, werden als Ein-

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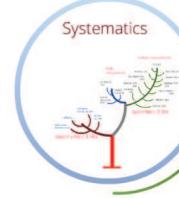
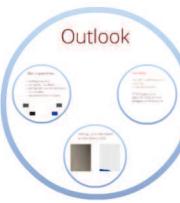


Umwelt  
Bundes  
Amt  
Für Mensch und Umwelt

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prezi.com/carmenlechnerberg



The German ESB Team at UBA

André Conrad, Andrea Körner, Jan Koschorreck, Marike Kolossa-Gehring, Maria Rüther, Christa Schröter-Kermani, Volker Mohaupt

#### Partners

Biota Monitoring: University of Trier  
Environmental Sample Archive, Inorganic Analysis and Monitoring of Soil Samples: Fraunhofer Institute IME  
Monitoring of Suspended Particulate Matter: Free University Berlin  
Routine Analysis of Organic Compounds in Environmental Samples: Eurofins

Monitoring of Human Populations, Human Sample Archive: Fraunhofer Institut IBMT  
Inorganic/Organic Analysis of Human Samples: IPASUM, University Nürnberg/Erlangen



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