

# IHMCSA

## International Human Microbiome Coordination and Support Action

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## Executive summary

As part of the Human Microbiome Action project, EUFIC has developed an infographic to enhance public communication and outreach. Infographics serve as a visually captivating medium, capable of presenting complex data in an entertaining and informative manner. They effectively combine concise text, engaging imagery, and thoughtful design to convey a compelling story. In the case of scientific concepts, infographics encourage engagement from both experts and lay audiences.

Within the Human Microbiome Action project, informational materials such as this infographic play a crucial role in summarising the project's objectives and outcomes and providing information on the broader topic of human microbiome research and public health.

The infographic (MS29), designed by EUFIC in collaboration with project partners, draws information from the various project activities including scientific publications, partner workshops with international experts, Delphi Surveys and other activities. The infographic focuses on the role of microbiome research in the context of public health, explaining the current understanding of a healthy microbiome, current shortcomings and pitfalls in translating microbiome research into clinical practice and outlining research focuses on making microbiome research more inclusive and accessible in the future. The infographic is linked to the factsheets derived from the various work packages of the Human Microbiome Action project, which provide more detailed information on each aspect, creating a valuable cross-communication link.

# Infographic: Human Microbiome Action – Navigating Policies, Safeguarding Public Health, and Charting Future Frontiers

This infographic titled “Human Microbiome Action – Navigating Policies, Safeguarding Public Health and Charting Future Frontiers” is split into four sections:

1. Delphi Survey Process – Overview
2. Delphi Surveys – Results
3. Workshops – Results
4. European Microbiome Centres Consortium – Overview

The infographic ends with links to the project website, social media channels, the Sustainable Food Systems Network and its Zenodo Community. A call to action to join the open Stakeholder Advisory Board as well as a QR code & link to the project’s factsheets complement the infographic. A full version (see Annex) can be found on the project website ([humanmicrobiomeaction.eu/infographic](http://humanmicrobiomeaction.eu/infographic)) as well as the project’s Zenodo community ([www.zenodo.org/communities/humanmicrobiomeaction](http://www.zenodo.org/communities/humanmicrobiomeaction)).

## Section 1: Delphi Survey Process – Overview

The Delphi Surveys were a widely used tool within Human Microbiome Action. They enabled progress in reaching a consensus on crucial aspects of microbiome research. This part of the infographic provides a general overview of the Delphi Surveys as a tool to achieve harmonisation and standardisation in the field of microbiome research and application. In particular, the visual recalls how the Delphi Surveys work and describes the activities carried out in each step.



## Section 2: Delphi Surveys – Results

Within this section, each one of the five surveys conducted by the project has a dedicated space with more information about the activity done and the main outcomes. The Delphi Surveys displayed are as follows:

1. Consensus on Microbiome-Based Biomarkers Validation Process
2. Microbiome for Medical Doctors and Clinicians
3. Preclinical Models in Microbiome Research: How to Prove Causality & Therapeutic Inference
4. Faecal Microbiota Transplantation (FMT) Trials: What Is the Minimum Set of Outcomes to Measure When Assessing the Effect on the Microbiome
5. Minimal Requirement for Clinical Metadata and Sample Processing in Microbiome Clinical Studies



## Section 3: Workshops – Results

This section of the infographic provides an overview of key workshops carried out within the project and highlights their main outcomes. Workshops include topics like the definition of a healthy microbiome, research frameworks, standards for microbiome data analysis, interactions between the microbiome and its host as well as ethical and philosophical considerations.

### WORKSHOPS

#### Facilitating Collaborative Progress and Insight Sharing

##### Modelling a Healthy Microbiome

- A need for modelling a healthy microbiome based on large cohort studies including progress on the standardisation of what a “healthy” microbiome requires.

##### Framework for Research

- A framework for choosing model organisms and communities is essential for navigating the microbial landscape.

##### Data & Analysis Standards

- The need for minimal considerations for multi-omics integration.
- The establishment of a consensus on standardised methods for microbiome analysis aimed at enhancing data quality, reproducibility, and research comparability.

##### Philosophical & Ethical Considerations

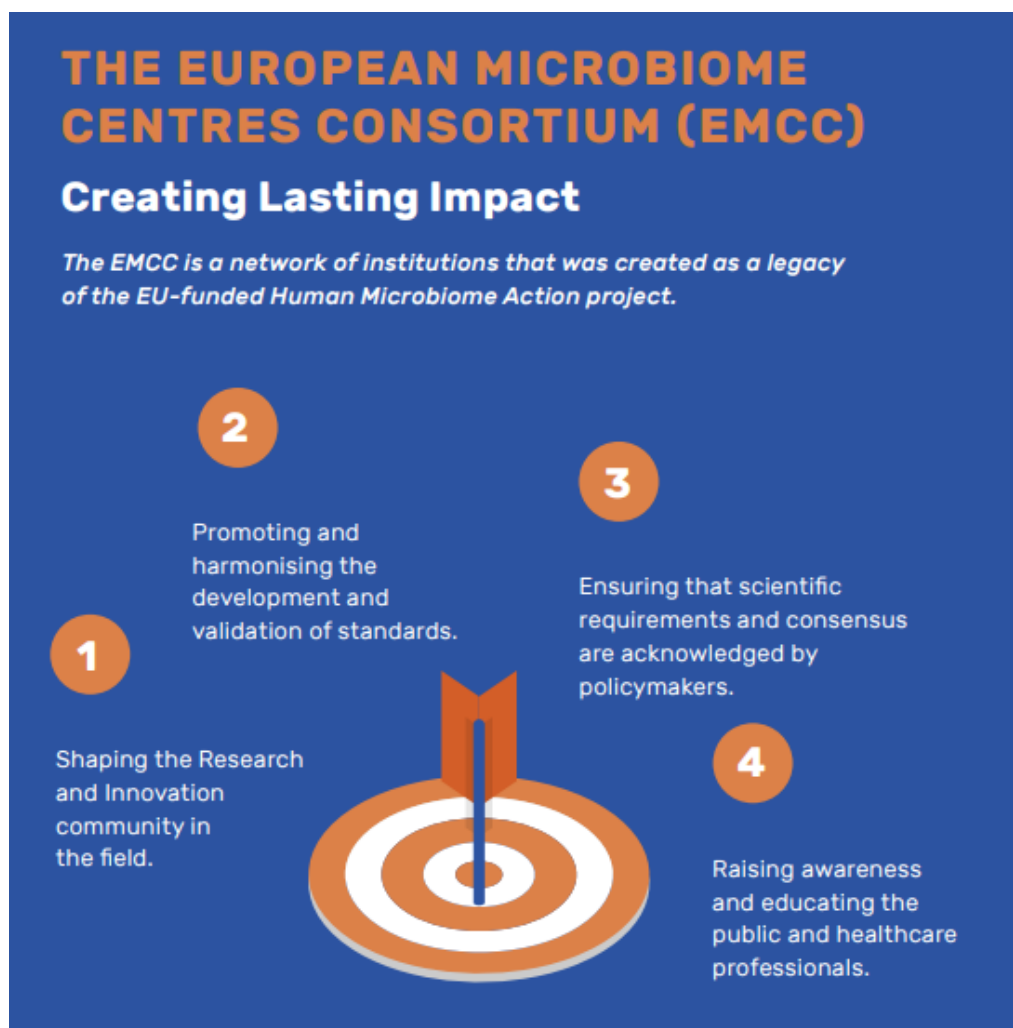
- Microbiome research intertwines ethics and philosophy, stressing responsible conduct and inclusive participation. Integrating diverse perspectives fosters collaboration, promoting societal well-being and scientific excellence.
- A set of recommendations to ensure the ethical use of microbiome analysis tools, enhancing regulatory conformity and consumer protection in the field of microbiome self-man-agement.

##### Understanding Human-Microbiome Interactions

- A deeper understanding of the interplay between humans and their microbiomes, exploring how this relationship influences personal health perceptions and practices.

## Section 4: European Microbiome Centres Consortium – Overview

The last section of the infographic is dedicated to the European Microbiome Centres Consortium (EMCC), a key outcome, acting as a legacy of the project. With a combination of visuals and text, this part highlights in a succinct and easy-to-understand way what the EMCC is, and its main objectives.



# Annex

## Annex I – Infographic

