MOMENTUM Stakeholders Meeting

July 1st 2025
Location: *Zalen van Zeven*, Boothstraat 7, 3512 BT Utrecht, The Netherlands

Time:	Programme July 1st 2025:
9.00 – 9.30	Walk in and registration
9.30 – 9.45	**Welcome and Introduction** *Juliette Legler, Utrecht University*
9.50 – 10.35	**Parallel sessions, round 1:**
1.	Microplastics reduction: How can the MicroPlastics Index contribute? *Arjen Boersma & Sieger Henke, TNO*
2.	Risk mitigation and policy measures in the face of uncertain risks *Monique Groenewold & Maaike Visser, Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM)*
3.	From awareness to action: public perception and inspiring action on microplastics *Josefine Geiger & Irene Maltagliati, University of Groningen*
10.35 – 10.55	**Coffee break**
10.55 – 11.40	**Parallel sessions, round 2:**
4.	Towards a strategy for setting Environmental Quality Standards for MNP *Stefan Kools, KWR & Bas Coolsma, Valorisphere*
5.	European CUSP roadmap to risk assessment and mitigation *Raymond Pieters, Utrecht University*
6.	Plastic baby bottles and parental decision-making: perceived risks, drivers and barriers to using alternatives *Virissa Lenters, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam*
11.45 – 11.55	**ZonMw Knowledge Agenda** *Frank Pierik, ZonMw*
11.55 – 12.25	**Panel discussion** *Chair: Juliette Legler, Utrecht University*
12.25 – 12.30	**Closing** *Juliette Legler, Utrecht University*
12.30 – 13.15	**Lunch**

Parallel sessions, round 1 (09:50 – 10:35)

1. Microplastics reduction: How can the MicroPlastics Index contribute?
Sieger Henke & Arjen Boersma, TNO

The health implications of microplastics largely depend on shape, size and particle chemistry. These parameters are controlled in the formation process of microplastics. A better understanding of this process may result in the reduction of the formation and release of microplastics into food and pharma products and into the environment. The size and volume (amount) of microplastics formed can be calculated from the physical and mechanical properties of the plastics, and converted into a measurable parameter: the MicroPlastic Index. In this session we will discuss the background of this parameter and its potential for use in product development, legislation and recycling.

2. Risk mitigation and policy measures in the face of uncertain risks
Monique Groenewold & Maaike Visser, Dutch National Institute of Public Health and the Environment (RIVM)

In this interactive session, we encourage you to reflect on possibilities for risk mitigation and policy measures for MNP in the situation where risks cannot be quantified. The session will address questions like: can we identify minimum information requirements to estimate risks of MNP to human health? Could we already take pragmatic measures to mitigate risks from a precautionary point of view? And what can we learn from other dossiers that are dealing with uncertain risks, like nanomaterials? In other words: can we take a shortcut?

3. From awareness to action: public perception and inspiring action on microplastics
Josefine Geiger & Irene Maltagliati, University of Groningen

In this interactive session, we will present the latest 2025 data on how people in the Netherlands perceive microplastics. We will discuss how these public perceptions compare to current scientific knowledge and expert advice on effective measures to reduce microplastics exposure and pollution. Together, we will identify practical strategies and tools to encourage behaviour change and motivate people in the Netherlands to take action on the issue of microplastics.

Parallel sessions, round 2 (10:55 – 11:40)

4. Towards a strategy for setting environmental quality standards for micro- and nanoplastics
Stefan Kools, KWR & Bas Coolsma, Valorisphere

This MOMENTUM 2.0 workshop focuses on developing Environmental Quality Standards (EQS) for micro- and nanoplastics (MNPs). Together, we'll explore how EQS can support risk management and inform binding policies to reduce emissions across sectors. Given the current lack of standardized monitoring and EQS for MNPs, your input is key in shaping exposure limits that protect both environmental and human health. Join us in advancing practical solutions and guiding future monitoring strategies across environmental compartments.

5. European CUSP roadmap to risk assessment and mitigation
Raymond Pieters, Utrecht University

In this stakeholder session the CUSP Research Roadmap 2026-2030 will be presented and discussed.
This CUSP Research Roadmap provides a structured overview of current knowledge, research gaps, and targeted recommendations for a comprehensive regulatory risk assessment of micro and nanoplastics (MNPs). By identifying priority areas and addressing key uncertainties, it aims to advance risk assessment and support evidence-based decision-making to safeguard human health. Based on the roadmap current knowledge gaps, recommendations for risk assessment, priority and key uncertainties will be addressed. Mitigation strategies identified by CUSP partners and their stakeholders are included in the roadmap and will be shared.
CUSP projects are AURORA, Imptox, PlasticFate, PlasticHeal, and POLYRISK

6. Plastic baby bottles and parental decision-making: perceived risks, drivers and barriers to using alternatives
Virissa Lenters, VU Amsterdam

This presentation explores how parents of young children perceive the risks of micro- and nanoplastics from plastic baby bottles, and their willingness to switch to alternatives such as glass bottles. Based on the Health Belief Model, we assessed perspectives of two parent samples in the Netherlands: a motivated sample with strong environmental values and a general population sample. We identified drivers—particularly perceived susceptibility, practical barriers, and specific cues to action—that influence parental intentions for bottle choice. These behavioral insights can inform precautionary guidance to reduce early-life microplastic exposure and support parental decision-making, within broader considerations of equity and limitations of the risk assessment evidence base.