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ERA-ENVHEALTH

MONTHLY NEWSFLASH



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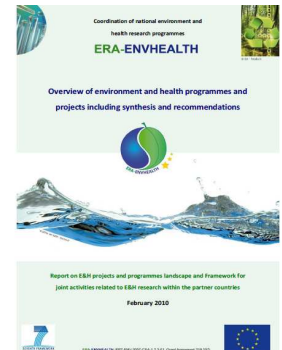
CONTACTS

REQUEST FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MONTHLY NEWSFLASH – DO NOT HESITATE TO PREPARE AND SEND US ANY ARTICLES OF INTEREST YOU WOULD LIKE US TO PUBLISH

WP1 – RESEARCH DATABASE AND FINAL REPORT ON THE EUROPEAN E&H PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

In March 2010 the [Final Report “Overview of environment and health programmes and projects including synthesis and recommendations”](#) was published on the ERA-ENVHEALTH website. This report gives an overview of the European environment and health (E&H) landscape based on the description of programmes and their related projects entered into the [ERA-ENVHEALTH research database](#). Currently the database contains information on 41 organisations from 11 countries, 49 E&H funding programmes and 464 associated projects.

WP1 final report



See <http://www.era-envhealth.eu>

The database is not closed. Please continue to publicise it and collect and update as much data as possible as it provides a unique source of material for environment and health scientists and policy-makers to access data on current E&H research projects, to identify potential research partners.

WP4 – 2ND EVALUATION STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

The [second ESC meeting](#) took place on the 22nd of April 2010 at AFSSET. The aims of this second meeting were to present and discuss the progress of the evaluation and in particular provide feedback on the interviews conducted and the responses to the online questionnaire and to discuss the preliminary answers to the evaluation questions which will form the basis of the report.

Again, the meeting was very successful despite the majority of the ESC members having to participate by telephone conference due to the air traffic perturbations.

22 interviews were carried out and 2 researchers responded to the online questionnaire. The results show that parts of the process which should be improved include the signature of an MoU and the setting of the legal framework early on in the process. On the other hand, the drafting of the call and 2-step submission procedure was very efficient

REMINDER: NEXT DEADLINES

- **End of April 2010: deadline for the report on new potential partners**
- **15 May 2010: deadline for response to the WP5 questionnaire on the dissemination of calls**
- **June 2010: deadline for the 1st evaluation report on the management and scientific evaluation issues during the 1st call**

and appreciated. Good lessons have been learnt through the experience of this first call.

The final ESC meeting will take place at AFSSET on May 27, 2010.

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WP5 – COMMUNICATION & DISSEMINATION STRATEGY

Report from the presentation at the HENVINET final event

An oral intervention was given and a poster presented at the HENVINET final event. Leaflets were also distributed during this event which took place on the 14th and 15th of April in Brussels. The conference was entitled: "Approaching complexities in Environment and Health". The aim was, on the backdrop of the Health and Environment Network, to provide a platform for sharing methods and experiences and for discussing expectations the different communities have towards each other.

The results from the work of HENVINET during the last years was presented, in particular interactive causal-diagrams, the interactive networking web portal and the web-based searchable database containing a collection of relevant Decision Support Tools. The event provided an overview of the challenges people face when dealing with environment and health issues and offer different possible approaches.

The meeting focused on the following aspects:

1. Complexity in environment and health
2. Tools for practice
3. Communication strategies
4. Exchange of knowledge and results with related projects and research initiatives

The meeting also discussed how to make research activities and results of environment and health research projects available to decision-makers. An important issue was how to bridge gaps between data and information in the fields of environment and of health.

The ERA-ENVHEALTH project was presented at the HENVINET final event and greeted with enthusiasm. Future collaboration through the portal and opportunities for potential new partners to join ERA-ENVHEALTH may be introduced through this event.

The HENVINET networking portal

The main objective of HENVINET is to establish a long-term co-operation between researchers, policy-makers and other stakeholders in the area of E&H research and assessment. To do so HENVINET has created a networking portal designed specifically for the global E&H community:



So far more than 300 participants have registered. With a range of innovative tools for accessing expertise, sharing knowledge, views and networking with peers, HENVINET empowers a multi-stakeholder approach to addressing the most pressing Environment and Health issues at hand. The portal provides E&H stakeholders with the ability to:

- Network with peers: Engage with a community of scientists, policymakers and stakeholders to share expertise, views and information.
- Access the experts: Search for and pinpoint specific expertise, and efficiently communicate and discuss concerns and specific topics with renowned experts.
- Tackle global challenges: Collaborate within self-forming communities and forums that bring together a relevant portfolio of experts & stakeholders to address current issues.
- Set the agenda: Shape the agenda of the E&H community by participating in communities and forums discussing hot-topics of today and tomorrow.
- Share opportunities: Advertise conferences, symposia, research calls, job opportunities and the like to a broad range of professionals.

WP5 – QUESTIONNAIRE ON DISSEMINATION APPROACHES FOR RESEARCH

As mentioned in the ERA-ENVHEALTH communication and dissemination strategy, a [study describing the approaches and tools used by ERAENVHEALTH partners to communicate and disseminate their research calls](#), is to be carried out. This study will allow us to establish and define guidelines for the communication plan that will be adopted for Programming, Executing, Implementing and Evaluating our second research call. This study will be based on the responses to the **specific questionnaire**, entitled "Questionnaire on the dissemination and communication of research calls related to E&H within the partner countries", addressed to the ERA-ENVHEALTH partners on April 2, 2010.

This information will be used to analyse and synthesise the different approaches in order to:

- Identify the stakeholders and how to involve them in the project
- Agree on the tools and procedures to be implemented, concerning information exchange and communication of ERA-ENVHEALTH calls for research projects.
- Maximise potential use of research results into policy making processes.

Input from the consortium partners to this questionnaire is highly requested. The deadline is May 15, 2010.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

12 MAY 2010: 7TH WP LEADER CONFERENCE CALL

27 MAY 2010: FINAL EVALUATION STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

13-15 SEPTEMBER 2010: GA MEETING IN THE NETHERLANDS INCLUDING WORK SESSIONS

OTHER NEWS

Publication of a recommendation paper on Health and Outdoor Air Quality

The Belgian Federal Science Policy "Science for Sustainable Development" – SSD Research Programme published a recommendation paper on "Health and Outdoor Air Quality" further to their second meeting in Brussels in June 2009.

This document addresses anyone or any organisation involved in the decision-making processes relating to the impacts of outdoor air quality on health. The recommendations have been formulated on the basis of the speeches given at the 2nd 'SSD Meeting' on "Health and Outdoor Air Quality", and on the basis of the stances adopted by a group of key players in the domain, in relation to horizontal questions concerning the decision-making process and the implementation of the related measures. It is the reflection of a dialogue that has been initiated between (certain) interested parties. Scientific research was strictly considered as a fundamental element in shedding light on and providing support for a scientifically-based political decision.

There are two sides to the main objective of the SSD meetings:



SSD Meeting – www.eraenvhealth.eu

Belgian Federal Science Policy recommendation paper

1. to reinforce integration, interactions and the comparison between research on the same theme,
2. to improve the dialogue between science and the decision-makers in order to encourage the permanent implementation of a scientifically-based sustainable development policy.

Some seventy workshop participants contributed to the reflection process. Nearly half of them contributed to the debate concerning the (strategic and political) needs to promote the preservation of the statutory efforts agreed to at national and supranational level and of the sustainability of the scientific approach in the domain of outdoor air quality and its impacts on health.

On this basis and after compiling/integrating ideas, four **major recommendations** have been formulated:

- Scientific research is essential to better understanding the interactive, emerging or latent mechanisms in play, understanding the impacts and identifying the target populations concerned. It is essential to the correct implementation of the networks of measures and decision-making in a domain where many uncertainties still reign and where many strategic and political stakes come into contact with each other.
- The development of integrated, standardised monitoring, at different territorial levels, the development of an ethical communication policy concerning the risk of exposure, as well as the contribution of scientifically substantiated views for the implementation of governance in an uncertain situation are priorities.
- To support all the processes aimed at a "clean air" policy, it is important to have objective information on the pollutants and their interactions, the sources of emissions and their physicochemical development because they constitute the best path for prevention actions and remediation. To achieve this, the public health sector must be able to come to terms with the other sectorial authorities concerned who, in fact, were proactive well before the public health sector in these matters (agriculture, industries, energy, mobility, etc.). Indeed, the European "Air" directives and other statutory reference requirements in this domain were initially formulated on the basis of environmental concerns (acidification and eutrophication of the ground and impact on the ecosystems in particular) and not public health.
- The media has an essential role to play in the prevention and protection of the populations concerned, through proper, objective and real-time awareness-raising/training. A communication policy that knows how to come to terms with the different "media" channels will be useful in the fight against the impact of air pollution on health.

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OTHER NEWS

Launch of AFSSET's call for research projects

On March 26, 2010, AFSSET (French Agency for Environmental and Occupational Health Safety) published a call for research projects in environmental and occupational health with a budget of 5 Million Euros. **The call is open until noon on May 28, 2010.**

In 2010, following the French National Cancer Plan 2009-2013, the National Environmental and Occupational Health Research Programme, steered by AFSSET, is strengthened by funding from the National Cancer Institute (INCA) which joins the French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME), associated to the Programme since 2009. AFSSET, ADEME and INCA want to implement their research priorities through a joint framework, contributing accordingly to improving the clarity and visibility of this programme in relation to the scientific communities concerned. The scientific assessment of the projects remains the responsibility of the programme's Scientific Committee, and the projects are then submitted to the programme's Steering Committee to give their opinion. The final choice of the best projects rests with the funding bodies.

The Research Programme covers the assessment and analysis of environmental risks to human health, whether in the general population or in work settings. It aims to involve various disciplines in this axis of research, and its permanent nature contributes to a lasting structuring of the scientific community in this domain. The 2010 call is divided into four headings:

- Hazard characterisation and exposure estimation
- The relationship between exposure and the effects on health
- Health risk modelling and quantitative assessment
- Health risks, society, occupation

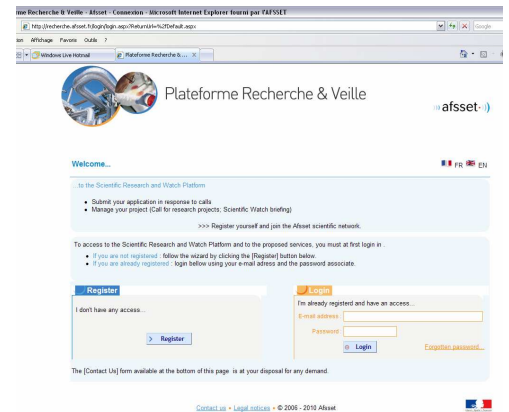
Each heading is subdivided into research themes. In addition, the call includes an annex with a "list of research questions", which reflects today's preoccupations for the ministries, and issues identified during AFSSET's expertise work. In cases of

equal scientific quality, priority will be given to projects that respond directly to these questions.

The call is open to all research teams, from France and abroad. The scientific project must, however, be submitted in French. To encourage foreign collaboration, the call document is available in English on the AFSSET website:

<http://www.afsset.fr/index.php?pageid=452&newsid=547&MDLCODE=news>

The application file and application procedure are also available in English on the Scientific Research & Watch electronic platform:



<http://recherche.afsset.fr/login/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fDefault.aspx>

Any project submitted by a French team can include collaboration with one or more foreign teams. Furthermore, it is obligatory for all foreign teams submitting a project to include research collaboration with at least one French team. These collaborations can be in the form of leading part of the research, recruiting a post-doctorate position or on the basis of a researcher(s) exchange programme.

PROJECTS MUST BE SUBMITTED USING THE ELECTRONIC APPLICATION FORM, which can be accessed on the Scientific Research & Watch platform. The link to this platform is found on the AFSSET, ADEME and INCA websites.

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