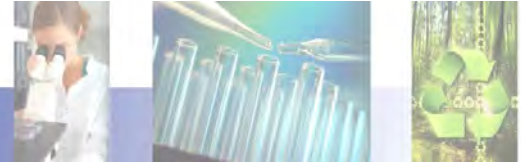




FP7-ENV-2007-CSA-1.2.3-01 Grant Agreement 219 337

ERA-ENVHEALTH MONTHLY NEWSFLASH



ERA-ENVHEALTH EXCEPTIONAL GA MEETING AND EC REVIEW – 28-29 MARCH 2011

THIS MONTH'S NEWS:

MARCH 2011

ERA-ENVHEALTH
EXCEPTIONAL GA MEETING
AND EC REVIEW MEETING
– 28-29/03/2011

WORK SESSION AND
PRIORITISATION EXERCISE
– 30/03/2011

UPCOMING MEETINGS

INTER-NETWORK
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In order to discuss the second EC periodic review, ERA-ENVHEALTH held an **exceptional GA meeting** on the 28th of March at ANSES in Maisons-Alfort in France. Also, the **EC review meeting** was held the next day to discuss **ERA-ENVHEALTH's second periodic report covering the M13-M30 period** (September 2009 – February 2011). ANSES was very pleased to welcome the project officer, the reviewers, the members of the External Advisory Committee and the partners for this important meeting concerning the progress review of ERA-ENVHEALTH. It was particularly gratifying to see that so many representatives of the partners and members of the EAC attended, underlining the importance of the ERA-ENVHEALTH network in particular in promoting joint activities in E&H research. ERA-ENVHEALTH mobilises programme owners and managers to 'think European' when programming E&H research. It proves a valuable mutual learning process and generator of information, in particular for the ERA-ENVHEALTH E&H Research Database which is an important tool for scientists and policy-makers involved in environment and health research. The partners have shared valuable experience in the coordination of national programmes, and have discussed the definition and implementation of joint calls and joint funding and have many challenges ahead to continue in this vein and design a second call. It is important to regularly monitor and assess the progress in order to promote mutual learning and fully benefit from the experiences gained. The review also brings up possible improvements to enhance the impacts of the activities. Trans-national cooperation and in particular funding brings a number of challenges and obstacles that are often difficult to overcome. Also, it is now time

to start thinking about the future and start developing ideas and strategies for continued trans-national cooperation and collaboration. The review meeting and the work sessions planned on the 30th of March provide the ideal forum to take stock of the progress and in particular the ambitions for ERA-ENVHEALTH.



Dinner in Maisons-Alfort on 29/03/2011

The discussions during the review show that the project has succeeded in creating a network with the common goal of coordinating and combining national E&H research programmes in order to fund transnational research projects that may not otherwise be possible for each member of the network individually. Overall, the project is making good progress, has achieved most of its objectives for the period, and is very well managed. Many very interesting suggestions to improve the impacts of the project were discussed and the partners will look into implementing these. The participants are a cohesive group and as such, have been encouraged to perform at least one further road test of transnational funding in order to gain even more experience.

REMINDER:

NEXT DEADLINES

- **11 April 2011: deadline for sending the original signed Forms C for the M13-M30 period to the coordinator**
- **14 April 2011: deadline for final comments from the partners on the draft EC periodic review report**
- **28 April 2011: deadline for submission to the EC by the coordinator of the 2nd periodic review report and original signed Forms C**

The research leading to these results has received funding from the European Community's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013) under grant agreement n° 219 337.

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ERA-ENVHEALTH PRIORITISATION EXERCISE AND WORKSESSION – 30/03/2011

To maximize the potential for joint funding of activities in common strategic Environment and Health issues across member states, types of research areas, prioritization criteria, research themes and topics within themes have been identified (see ERA-ENVHEALTH Deliverable 2.2.1). **In a Multi-Criteria-Analysis-like approach these criteria have been applied to the various research themes.** This was done to structure and facilitate the decision process on selected research themes and sensible partnerships.

Based on Deliverable 2.2.1 an internet-based questionnaire for partners was designed. The questionnaire contained questions on affiliation, importance (ranking) of types of research areas (3) and research criteria (5, see above), evaluating research themes on the criteria (7-point scale) and 'willingness to invest' (research area(s) and type of 'investment'). ERA ENVHEALTH partners were invited to fill in the questionnaire early in March 2011. 12 people from 10 partner institutes had responded.

3 types of research areas were investigated: Common areas according to the E&H research funded (data in the research database and WP2 report; Emerging areas according to the foresight activity carried out under WP2 (data in the WP2 report; and Expert opinion areas (areas found to be lacking in the WP2 report and areas that came up during the 2nd call discussion).

The five prioritization criteria defined in the prioritisation report were used: Links with policy needs; Multi/interdisciplinary issue; Severity and size of the problem – burden of disease; Benefit of international collaboration; and Public concern.

Fourteen research themes were identified in the WP2 report but partners could also add themes that they are interested in but are not represented in the 14 stated. Finally, three "investment" types a partner could be interested to make for one or more research themes were suggested: Knowledge exchange, workshop i.e. low or no cost activities; Contribution in kind i.e. evaluating proposals, sitting on steering committee, supplying data or information; and Funding a call (call for proposals or tender).

The utilities section enables us to discuss a list of prioritised E&H areas according to the interest of the partners : To assess the research areas' "value" (= utility), the scores of the research areas on each criteria are first multiplied with their respective "importance score" of the criteria to yield the single criterion value. These 5 single values are then added to yield to overall utility for a research area. This is done for all the criteria. Added, this leads to the overall utility for each research area. It appears that the research theme "climate change" has the highest

utility, followed by "chemical agents" and "food safety" completing the top three themes. The **Utility matrix** presents the overall utility for a research theme per institute. Columns show common interest in a particular theme, rows indicate themes a particular institute is interested in. This utility matrix can be a basis for the action plan for joint activities to be defined by WP3.

Many institutes are **willing to make some kind of investment in future collaboration.** For nearly all themes there is a willingness to exchange knowledge. In somewhat lesser instances institutes are willing to make an even larger contribution (that is: food safety, water quality and supply, climate change, local/living environment, nanomaterials, indoor air quality and social inequalities). Intentions to contribute to funding a call are among the possibilities, especially with respect to: nanomaterials, social inequalities, indoor air quality and climate change. These areas are those that are to be further investigated by the partners for concrete joint actions.

In summary, the following "conclusions" rise to the surface and are used as a basis for the discussions within the consortium on what areas we want to work on together to benefit most from transnational collaboration, as this work is still in progress:

- "Emerging type of research areas" are most important.
- "Severity and size of the problem – burden of disease" and "policy needs" are the most important criteria.
- The top three research themes in terms of utility are: "climate change", "chemical agents" and "food safety".
- Research themes with a high common interest are: chemical agents, food safety, particles and pesticides-biocides.
- Most institutes are willing to invest, though type of investment and research theme may vary.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

7 APRIL 2011: WORLD HEALTH DAY: SEMINAR ON ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE IN A FOOD SAFETY PERSPECTIVE (ROME, ITALY)

19-20 APRIL 2011: INTER-NETWORK COOPERATION WORKSHOP (LONDON, UK)

4-5 OCTOBER 2011: ERA-ENVHEALTH ANNUAL GA MEETING AND WORKSESSIONS (BRUSSELS, BELGIUM)

PLEASE INFORM US OF IMPORTANT E&H MEETINGS OR REPORTS



INTER-NETWORK COOPERATION WORKSHOP - 19-20 APRIL 2011

ERA-ENVHEALTH was invited to participate in an **inter-network cooperation workshop**, to take place in the EC Office in London on the 19-20th of March 2011. The objectives of this workshop are to explore the synergies between different self-sustaining networks in the Environment theme (SKEP, SNOWMAN, IWRM CRUE and ERA-ENVHEALTH networks), and how they might work together to achieve more than by working alone. This comes from the realisation that there are many network activities which are carried out in parallel. The meeting agenda is:

Day 1 – The Scope and Form of Inter-Network Cooperation

“Getting to Know One Another” with a series of presentations from the network coordinators or representatives covering a description of their networks, the purpose of their network, their activities, current/future funding approaches and tools available.

“Purpose of Cooperation”, “level of Ambition”, and “model of cooperation” discussing what the participants think might be achieved through cooperation, what will be the role of cooperation between the networks, and what niche it will occupy relative to other initiatives. Discussing the different scenarios for cooperation and their benefits and deciding which activities we could be carried out in coordination to achieve a **“Vision**

statement for the metanetwork” and some unique selling points.

Day 2 - Action Plans

The objective of the second day will be to decide what needs to be done to move from vision to reality.

I. Network development looking at network membership, how much resource are available and mapping the dimensions of the new initiative (how many Member States, how balanced is the membership, what are the scope of existing activities...)

II. Network communications looking at the creation of a network brand (name and logo) and the creation of a common web portal.

III. Sharing our evidence:

a. Knowledge exchange by sharing of our existing tools, creating a knowledge exchange platform, mobilising knowledge, exchanging staff...

b. Joint call planning by developing common research call framework and using online resources

For each activity there will be discussions on who can contribute, what schedule to implement, how these activities will be funded and how to manage the cooperation going forwards.

KICK-OFF MEETING VISION RD4SD



The Belgian Federal Science Policy Office, participated as full partner in the kick-off meeting of the European project "Research and Development for Sustainable Development- VISION RD4SD" held on 14-16 March 2011, in Stockholm, Sweden. VISION RD4SD (VISION Research and Development for Sustainable Development) is a Coordinated Action (2011-2013) financially supported by FP7. The main objective of VISION RD4SD is to ensure that Europe is able to contribute to a sustainable development of the world, by formulating policies and decisions based on robust, up-to-date knowledge. This will be done by developing a **shared vision** between science funding bodies and national science policy institutions in the European member states on how best to harness research and development for sustainable development (RD4SD). To fulfil this objective a number of activities are planned including running a dialogue between the European science policy institutions to make exchange of ideas and experiences efficient and productive; developing concrete strategic goals and road maps that can be used by the science funding bodies and science policy institutions in the preparation of national strategies and action plans; elaborating an overview of past and ongoing RD4SD in the European Union; and drawing conclusions and developing recommendations for the design of FP 8 and the realisation of the 2020 ERA Vision.

Platform for dialogue

The central tool selected to achieve this objective is to establish a **Platform for dialogue** and exchange of experiences among science funding bodies, science policy administrations, and science ministries in Europe. The Platform will offer the opportunity to develop concrete strategies towards harnessing RD4SD on national and European levels.

Workshops and conferences

Consequently, the main activities within VISION RD4SD will be workshops & conferences where European science policy-makers, science policy administrators and research funding organisations meet for a structured dialogue on the future of RD4SD.

Funding agencies and science policy organisations

VISION RD4SD is built on a group of participants representing the funding agencies and science policy organisations. The consortium has today 25 partners from 18 different European countries, 2 sub-contractors and 4 participants with observer status. It is still possible to join the project as an observer and be invited to attend activities during the coming three years.

For more information about the project and how to join, visit the website: <http://www.visionrd4sd.eu> or contact the coordinator of the project: Prof. PhD. Anna Ledin (anna.ledin@formas.se)

OTHER NEWS



Permanent Secretariaat van de Nationale Cel Leefmilieu-Gezondheid
Secrétariat Permanent de la Cellule Nationale Santé-Environnement
Ständiges Sekretariat der nationalen Zelle Umwelt-Gesundheit
Standing Secretariat of the National Cell Environment-Health

Annual Report on the Activities of the Belgian National Cell Environment-Health and its Partners in 2010

During the WHO-Europe ministerial conference on the environment and health, organised in 1994 in Helsinki, the Member States of WHO-Europe undertook to draw up **National Environment and Health Action Plans (NEHAPs)**. Following the Helsinki conference, Belgium has undertaken its share of the work. Thus the Joint-Interministerial Conference of Environment and Health (JICEH) approved the foundations of the Belgian NEHAP in 2002 and 2003.

The Belgian NEHAP provides a global, coherent framework for action in the field of environment and health and is embodied by the National Cell Environment-Health (in which all institutional levels in Belgium are represented): <http://www.nehap.be>

In 2010 the National Cell Environment-Health spent a lot of time and energy preparing its participation to the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health of the WHO-Europe held in March in Parma. It also supported the development of a second European Environment-Health Action Plan (EHAP) during the Belgian Presidency (from June to December 2010), by means of 18 environment and health events, some of them high level events. During the same period high priority was given to preparing a green paper/white paper on indoor air quality (IAQ) and to preparing and launching DEMOCOPHES, the European project on human biomonitoring. Read up on all the **2010 activities of the Belgian National Cell Environment-Health**:

<http://www.health.belgium.be/eportal/>



7 April 2011
World Health Day

**Antibiotic resistance:
no action today, no cure tomorrow**

Seminar on tackling antibiotic resistance in a food safety perspective
and launch of WHO publication
7 April 2011, 09:00-13:00
Rome, FAO, Iran Room



Antibiotics have revolutionized the treatment of infectious diseases. However their use and misuse have resulted in development and spread of antibiotic resistance. This is now a significant health problem: each year in the European Union alone, over 25 000 people die from infections caused by antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

Antibiotic resistance is also a food safety problem: due to antibiotic use in food animals - for treatment, disease prevention or growth promotion - resistant bacteria and resistance genes can spread from food animals to humans through the food chain.

On the occasion of WHD 2011, the WHO Regional Office for Europe is launching a new publication to explore options for preventing and containing antibiotic resistance in the food chain. Animal producers, veterinarians and veterinary and food safety authorities have an important role in this, as they can help to preserve the power of antibiotics at the origin of the food chain.

A WHO event in Rome on 7 April will present the new publication and invited speakers will illustrate the various aspects of antibiotic resistance in a food safety perspective, including evidence and effective solutions.

You are hereby cordially invited to attend the WHO seminar on Thursday, 7 April 2011 from 10:00 to 13:00 at Iran Room, FAO, Rome, Italy. The registration will start at 09:00 with a welcome coffee. Due to security procedures, participants are required to show their valid ID to receive a security badge upon entrance.

Media are invited to attend.

The seminar will be held in English and Italian with simultaneous interpretation.

To ensure seats availability and security procedures, please confirm your participation by 31 March 2011 to Ms Helena Shkoruba, foodsafety@ecr.euro.who.int, tel. +39 06 4877 537.

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