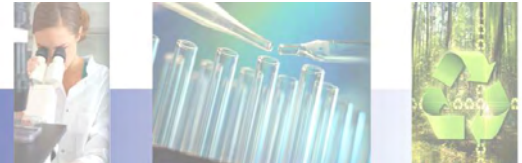




FP7-ENV-2007-CSA-1.2.3-01 Grant Agreement 219 337

# ERA-ENVHEALTH

## MONTHLY NEWSFLASH



### PROJECT PROGRESS

<b>THIS MONTH'S NEWS:</b>
<b>NOVEMBER 2010</b>
<b>PROJECT PROGRESS</b>
<b>UPCOMING MEETINGS</b>
<b>NEW TASK: BRIDGING SCIENCE &amp; POLICY IN E&amp;H &amp; DEVELOPING AN ERA-ENVHEALTH E&amp;H ACTION PLAN TO FOCUS RESEARCH</b>
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Based on the recommendations made during the GA meeting in The Hague September 13-15, a new task will be suggested to the Commission to integrate policy relevance and draft building blocks for an E&H action plan for research; more information is provided in the following pages.

#### WP2- Definition and preparation of joint activities

The WP 2 report on "programme strategic and emerging E&H issues, complementarity and clustering arrangements" has been submitted and is available on the project website.

A draft report on "Prioritization criteria to select environmental health issues for joint activities and funding" is being finalised.

#### WP3 - Action plan for joint activities

Further to the annual GA meeting, this WP investigated the possibility of an ERA-ENVHEALTH European action plan for E&H. It could be offered as a proposal to Hungary during their presidency to help steer the discussions at the European level.

This action plan proposal was further discussed in light of the new task proposal to bridge science and policy in E&H (see the following pages) and will probably be integrated into the new task.

WP3, whose role is to build an action plan for joint activities to be carried out by the ERA-ENVHEALTH partners will respond to the suggested E&H action plan and link it to research by focusing its joint activities on the E&H action plan priorities.

#### WP4 - Funding joint research

The 2 projects funded under the first call presented their work at this year's GA meeting



The Hague social event – 13 September 2010

in The Hague and actively responded to the consortium's queries.

A workshop to start preparing the second call took place at the GA meeting in the Hague in September 2010 and another one is planned to take place in March 2011 at the exceptional GA meeting.

#### WP5 - Dissemination and communication

The tools available for the dissemination and communication of the project results are continuously improved, in particular the [project monthly newsflash](#).

A workshop for potential new partners took place in The Hague during the September 2010 annual GA meeting.

### REMINDER:

#### NEXT DEADLINES

- **End of February 2011: report on prioritization criteria and list of prioritised areas**
- **End of February 2011: financial and scientific reporting for the M12 to M30 period to prepare the EC report**
- **30 March 2011: EC review meeting**

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS

**19 JANUARY 2011: 10TH WP LEADER CONFERENCE CALL**

**28 MARCH 2011: EXCEPTIONAL GA MEETING IN PARIS, FRANCE**

**29 MARCH 2011: ERA-ENVHEALTH EC REVIEW MEETING IN PARIS, FRANCE**

**30 MARCH 2011: WORKSHOPS ON THE SECOND CALL AND THE NEW TASK**

**PLEASE INFORM US OF ANY IMPORTANT E&H MEETINGS OR REPORTS**

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## NEW TASK: BRIDGING SCIENCE & POLICY IN E&H AND DEVELOPING AN ERA-ENVHEALTH E&H ACTION PLAN TO FOCUS RESEARCH

The first EHAP has proven to be an important instrument to ensure dedicated research and policy interest in Environment and Health (E&H) issues. Recently, the Parma Declaration endorsed during the WHO's Europe 5th Ministerial Conference on E&H again reconfirmed the importance of these issues. There is a need for the development of a strong research community in E&H and the provision of more evidence-based policy-making to contribute to the improvement of Europe's citizens' health. ERA-ENVHEALTH contributes to the European Environment and Health Action Plan (EHAP) 2004-2010 by promoting better coordination for research implementation and better use of research results to support policy development and provides a forum to explore these issues, as it brings together 16 partners financing E&H research, a number of which are also policy-makers.

During the ERA-ENVHEALTH GA meeting in The Hague in September 2010, the question of new tasks to investigate the link between research and policy-making in E&H and the drafting of an E&H action plan to provide a policy framework for enhanced research collaboration in research in E&H were raised. A new task entitled: **Bridging science and policy in environment and health and developing an ERA-ENVHEALTH E&H Action Plan to focus research** was suggested. The overall objective of this new task would be to investigate the link between policy and research in E&H and suggest

recommendations to improve the uptake of scientific results in policy-making and provide a policy framework linked to E&H research and in particular to the ERA-ENVHEALTH joint activities to be carried out in WP3. The specific objectives would be as follows:

- To expand on the work already accomplished and the information available in the research database by focusing on a few important E&H topics (selected under WP2) and examining those in more detail taking into account an analysis of drivers, policy-relevance, and risk management.
- To prepare recommendations, particularly for funders, (but also for researchers and policy-makers) on how best to design research and research results to help policy-making.
- To analyse the science to policy communication process and highlight recommendations to make it more efficient and how scientific results can be better transferred to policy.
- To develop building blocks to provide an ERA-ENVHEALTH policy framework for E&H research in Europe.
- To contribute to a future EU EHAP by promoting more fitted research governance in the field.

Two subtasks are planned: a first one looking at the process of linking science to policy and a second one developing an ERA-ENVHEALTH E&H action plan to focus research. This proposal is currently being discussed within the consortium.

## CONCLUSIONS ISSUED FROM ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH KEY EVENTS DURING THE BELGIAN PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL



The Belgian Presidency issued a study and organised 6 key events to foster the discussions on a 2<sup>nd</sup> Environment and Health Action Plan (EHAP) by demonstrating the need, opportunities and added-value of this collaborative framework for environment and health topics. Each of the events has provided conclusions and recommendations on their specific topic but some points are coming back in each set:

- Questions on the EU capacity to pursue the implementation of the SCALE strategy by supporting the existing collaborative framework and developing further the EHAP.
- Need for a horizontal approach combining environment and health not only for each topic but also for their interrelations.
- Links between various topics and instruments and the added-value of addressing them within a global framework using an intersectoral and multidisciplinary approach.
- Possibility of savings and synergism by mutualisation of efforts across research and policy domains.
- Necessity to harmonise methodologies and instruments for a

better governance.

- Interest to tackle these issues by sharing the responsibilities among Commission's services, Member States (MS) and stakeholders.

The 1<sup>st</sup> EHAP served as a "vehicle" to increase coordination among the Commission Services and among MS. It provided a framework for collaboration but also for greater participation of wider civil society actors through the Consultative Forum. Significant progress in policy, research & information related to reducing ill health linked to the environment has been achieved but emerging issues need still research programmes & science-to-policy approach to be tackled. There is an added value to have a larger and coherent collaborative framework to define coordinated and combined actions on some of the Parma Declaration priorities such as indoor environment, nanotechnologies, inequalities, integrated information systems, disease predictive models & human biomonitoring.

## CONCLUSIONS ISSUED FROM ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH KEY EVENTS DURING THE BELGIAN PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL – CONTINUED

### **Nanomaterials: High level event: “Towards a regulatory framework for nanomaterials traceability”**

To protect the workers, consumers health & the environment, & guarantee the development of a secure & sound economy based notably on innovation & societal acceptable industrial applications that create quality jobs, it is recommended to:

- Draw up coordinated & integrated concrete measures in favour of risk management, information & monitoring. This includes harmonized compulsory databases of nanomaterials for traceability, market surveillance, gaining knowledge for better risk prevention & improvement of the legislative framework.
- Clarify the various issues to adapt REACH to the nanomaterials & to include effective modifications to REACH into its 2012 review;
- Increase public & private resources, especially the financial inputs to the OECD Working Party on MNs;
- Better regulate labelling of products containing nanomaterials;
- Establish a systematic, balanced & appropriate link between investments & the assessment of E&H risks, early warnings & uncertainties, to avoid putting at risk innovation & RTD investments due to safety concerns.

### **Indoor air quality: High-level Event: “Product policy & indoor air quality.”**

Source control is not the only solution but is absolutely necessary. Product Policies coordinated into a EU framework are more cost effective & efficient & it is recommended to:

- Set up a horizontal framework addressing & supporting the coordination of relevant policies & agree on the coordinator’s role.
- Develop an EU strategy on IAQ by 2015 with as first step a green or white paper to support policy decisions based on a realistic view & public health targets, the definition of policy objectives on IAQ standards linked with regulatory instruments.
- Consider indoor air as a specific part of the environment affecting health by its multiple determinants such as physical parameters, biological contaminations & chemical emissions.
- Develop harmonised guidelines, limit values & evaluation methodologies for marketing of products & undertake actions (voluntary &/or mandatory) leading to a emission reduction.

### **Indoor air quality in different living settings: how can the global approach of environmental diagnoses be integrated in debates at a European level?**

The approaches developed by the “green ambulances”, in specific studies or by observatories of IAQ, showed the need to still increase recognition of the problem & develop tools. To improve the situation, prevent further health problems related to indoor exposures & remediate to the existing ones, it is recommended to:

- Define a global approach integrating health objectives in order to improve existing tools reducing the transfer of responsibilities to citizens (Product policy, Energy performance of buildings...).

- Establish a dynamic cooperative framework at the different levels of action in order to ensure the implementation of coordinated approaches for policy making & actions.
- Develop guidelines (reference values / integrated index) to support intervention, develop guidance for prevention and raise awareness of professionals and general population.
- Support further research & actions taking into account multiple exposure, cocktail effect, critical windows of exposure/sensibility, vulnerable populations.
- Improve training, education & long life learning of professionals (medical doctors, architects, teachers, health care professionals, occupational health professionals, health & safety advisors, ...).

### **Social vulnerability: Environmental Health and Social Vulnerability.**

Professionals coming from the fields of health, social action and/ or environment, exchanged on the links between environmental health and social vulnerabilities such as poverty, precariousness, or social exclusion which are recognized to be common but are rarely considered in policies, action or even research. The assembly validated the following general recommendations:

- Support the preparation and implementation of a second EHAP integrating social vulnerabilities as a stand alone dimension.
- Include the dimension of social health inequalities and their multiple determinants within the preparation, the implementation and the evaluation of research, observation and intervention programmes financed by EU, MS or local authorities.
- Develop a centralised surveillance/vigilance in order to verify the integration of social vulnerabilities within all policies.

### **Human biomonitoring: “From human biomonitoring to policy: a sustainable ‘marriage’ between health and environment”.**

The conference asks the Commission to support the on-going developments by facilitating coordination & providing the necessary human & financial resources to:

- Interact with the feasibility pilot studies on HBM and on EHES;
- Define a process to establish HBM reference values & health-based guidance values taking into account the experience of existing programmes & occupational health processes;
- Evaluate the opportunities of including HBM as a complementary section of the Health Examination/Interview Surveys & the ENHIS;
- Transfer data between projects, relevant agencies (ECHA, EEA, EFSA) and framework Directives (INSPIRE);
- Start negotiations with on-going developments worldwide;
- Help the development of joint projects and programmes throughout the MS of the WHO Europe.

More information is available at: [NEHAP\\_BELGIUM](http://NEHAP_BELGIUM) or please, contact Catherine BOULAND ( [cbo@ibgebim.be](mailto:cbo@ibgebim.be) )



## WORKSHOPS ON ERA-NET CONTINUATION – BRUSSELS, NOV 8-9, 2010

A series of workshops on the continuation of ERA-NET networks: "Moving ERA-NET networks and their activities into a sustainable status - How to optimise an ERA-NET network and how to make it sustainable?" are being organised by DG research. The purpose of these workshops is to gain a deeper insight into the different models of continuation of the FP6 ERA-NETs after their contracts came to an end -with or without further support of the European Commission for networking and looking at how the ERA-NET networks can be optimised and maintained in the future.

Two workshops were organised: "FP6 ERA-NET coordinators without further EC funding for coordination" and "FP7 ERA-NET coordinators with further EC funding for coordination". Coordinators of newly established ERA-NETs, such as ERA-ENVHEALTH, were also invited to participate in the 2nd workshop to share their views about the future of their networks beyond the ERA-NET contract. ANSES participated in this second workshop on the 9th of November 2010, chaired by Prof. Jakob Edler, *Professor of Innovation Policy and Strategy, Manchester Institute of Innovation Research* and Ms. Karen Hostens, *Senior Adviser External Resources and Policy, Norwegian Red Cross* as rapporteur. The agenda was as follows:

10.30: Welcome and recent policy developments by Mr. Hervé Pero, Acting Director, DG Research.

10.40: Overview of coordination of national research programmes by Mr. Seán O'Reagain, Acting Head of Unit, DG Research.

11.00: Short presentations on: Why an FP6 ERA-Net needed a second EC contract? By Ms. Zsuzsa König, Research Programme Officer, DG Research; Self-sustainability: is it a reality? by Dr. Simon Gardner, Evidence Manager, Environment Agency, UK (SKEP) & Ms. Ingrid van Reijssen, Programme Manager, SKB, NL (SNOWMAN). Followed by two breakout sessions entitled "Towards self-sustainability" and "Why a second contract was needed".

13.45: reminder on NETWATCH - an information platform on transnational R&D programme collaboration by Mr.

Ken Guy, Scientific Officer, Joint Research Centre.  
14.00: Feedback from the morning breakout sessions.

14.30: Recent evolution of national RTD programme coordination including Joint Programming- JPI FACCE by Ms. Isabelle Albouy, National Institute for Agricultural Research, FR; Joint Programming & national RTD programme coordination from an Austrian point of view by Mr. Martin Schmid, Counsellor for Science and Research, Permanent Representation of Austria; Article 185 - EMRP by Ms. Fiona Redgrave, EURAMET EMRP - Management Support Unit, NPL, UK and European Technology Platform and ERA-Net by Mr. Luc Bourdeau, European Affairs Manager, Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Housing, FR (ERACOBUILD).

16.00: Current planning for the networks beyond FP7 contract with short presentations by Dr. Alan Inman, Scientific Adviser, Plant and Bee Health Policy Programme, Food and Environment Research Agency (EUPHRESCO) and Prof. Joan Albaiges, Ministry of Science and Innovation, Spain (SEAS-ERA). Followed by a plenary discussion.

The message of the workshop is that ERA-NETs are important instruments to stimulate Member States to face future challenges together. New European initiatives are introduced, such as JPIs, European Innovation Partnerships etc., when we are still trying to develop the old ones, which can lead to confusion. ERA-NETs are seen as instruments towards the goal of developing an innovation union in which coordination between MS is crucial. The breakout sessions were very interesting. A number of common elements were highlighted: all networks want to continue but the motivations are not the same for all and the method has to be carefully discussed to focus on the added-value. For the network to be self-sustainable it should focus on filling the gaps and addressing policy-needs. Commitment is the major requirement; the consortium may change. Both in-kind and cash contributions should be possible. The visibility must be kept. The activities that are often dropped without EC contribution are foresight and outreach, however these are important as they enable the network to share with the wider research community.

## CONTACTS

DON'T HESITATE TO CONTACT US

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