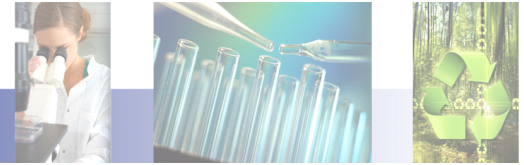




FP7-ENV-2007-CSA-1.2.3-01 Grant Agreement 219 337

ERA-ENVHEALTH

MONTHLY NEWSFLASH



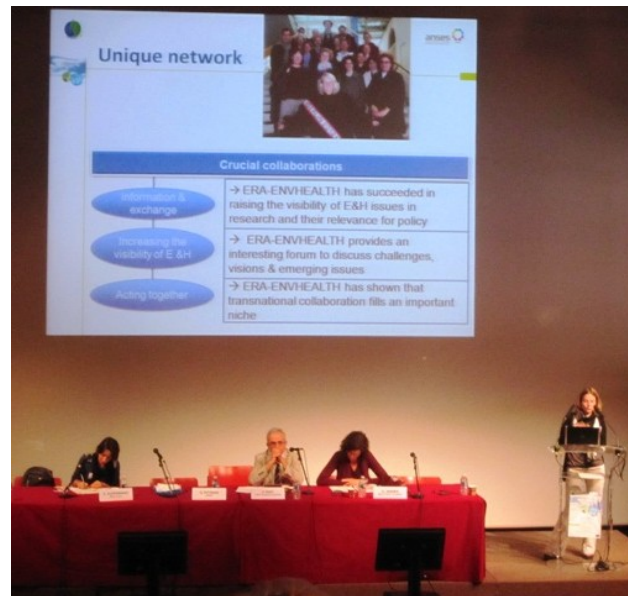
THIS MONTH'S NEWS: AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2012

ERA-ENVHEALTH FINAL CONFERENCE – 13-14 JUNE 2012—PARIS (FRANCE) REPORT

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UPCOMING MEETINGS



Adrienne Pittman from ANSES in France, coordinator of ERA-ENVHEALTH, presents the network

EDITORIAL

The European Environment and Health Action Plan (EHAP) for 2004-10 pointed to a need to strengthen networks between researchers, policy-makers and stakeholders. The goal of ERA-NETs is to foster exchange and sharing of expertise and resources across discipline, sector and country boundaries, complementing the national and European research environment. Hence, the ERA-ENVHEALTH project was set up to bring together European organisations planning research in the E&H arena with the objective of providing policy support.

The environment and health research field is broad and complex. Actors are dispersed across several – often segregated – organisational structures, in numerous disciplines. It is also a transversal issue, impacting and being impacted on by many different sectors. Multidisciplinary research and cross-sectoral collaboration are therefore particularly important. Thus, ERA-ENVHEALTH's task was to mobilise scientific

research in support of European and national policies on E&H issues.

The network was delighted to welcome representatives of E&H stakeholders from 16 countries, during its final conference in Paris in June this year, a sign of the success of this project.

The ERA-ENVHEALTH consortium is a unique network for Environment and Health research in Europe. Unique through the variety of actors participating: NGOs, ministries, agencies, international organisations.... Unique through the diversity of countries represented and unique in its innovative and multi-sectoral approach.

ERA-ENVHEALTH has contributed to increasing the visibility of European research in the field of environment and health and is looking forward to continuing its collaboration, which in this time of financial crisis is crucial so as to maximise the use of research funding and help ensure coherent policies beyond national boundaries.

WWW.ERA-ENVHEALTH.EU

REMINDER: NEXT DEADLINES

- **August 2012: deadline for final deliverable reports**
- **28 September: second call evaluation meeting in Brussels**
- **End of September: deadline for scientific and financial reporting**
- **December 2012: deadline for signature of the MoU—Vision document**

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'S FINAL CONFERENCE:
sharing a vision for environment
and health research in Europe*

13 & 14 juin 2012

Conférence finale ERA-ENVHEALTH :
une vision commune sur la recherche
en santé environnement en Europe

The two-day meeting aimed to provide a better understanding of future challenges in environmental health and how research can contribute to meeting them.

The ERA-ENVHEALTH network was set up in 2008 thanks to co-funding from the European Commission. Its goal is to improve coordination of European research in environment and health.

The final conference brought together over 200 representatives from research organisations, research funding entities, stakeholders, scientists and national and European authorities from 16 countries. It provided the opportunity to take stock of four years of successful collaboration and open a high-level prospective debate on environment and health priorities and concerns. It was also the first step for the future of the network for participants wishing to continue collaboration.

Based on four major themes - "**Environment and Health research in Europe**", "**Priorities for Environment and Health**", "**Linking science and policy**" and "**Perspectives for the future**" - the two-day meeting provided insights into the future challenges in environment and health and the ways in which research can contribute to meeting them.

The discussions during this final meeting contributed to identifying relevant and effective policies for environment and health research in Europe.

In his opening remarks at the final conference, Marc Mortureux, Director General of ANSES, recalled how during its four years of existence, the network helped identify key topics for the future of environmental health research, as well as improvements to be made to research funding programmes.

"The network created by ERA-ENVHEALTH is unique in the European environment and health sphere. This forum has brought together many players in the



domain, and has generated many fruitful exchanges on the challenges to come and on emerging topics. Thanks to these four years of enriching collaboration, the network's partners have joined forces and worked together with a common goal: to improve the effectiveness and coherence of public policy for the funding of European environment and health research."

A strong call for the inclusion of environment and health issues in the future 7th European Environment Action Plan and the enhancement of health policy initiatives taking into account environmental factors was made by Mrs Michèle Rivasi, European Deputy for France's "Europe Ecologie - Les Verts" and Vice chair of the Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance, specialist in environment and health issues.

Génon Jensen, Executive Director of the Health and Environmental Alliance (HEAL), gave very interesting insights on the unique and crucial role of not-for-profit public interest groups as knowledge brokers. This was illustrated by a number of examples showing how their activities have helped shape key decisions in environment and health such as: translating research findings into policy change to protect children's health in Europe; or ensuring that health benefits are accounted for in vulnerable groups in the EU pesticides reform process...

The slide show of each presentation and other conference documents are available on the conference website: <http://www.ansespro.fr/era-envhealth/>



ERA-ENVHEALTH FINAL CONFERENCE

Focus on session 3: Linking science and policy

Different skills and experiences, roles in society and cultural practices interact in real life, contributing to shape decisions that should be evidence-based. In order to understand the impact of research and its effectiveness as a basis for public policies, approaches, instruments and experiences were discussed.

Marco Martuzzi (WHO) presented the approach and definition of the WHO Environment and Health office for Europe, based on stakeholder inclusion. He underlined challenging aspects such as the need to enhance health-friendly policies based on scientific evidence, uncertainty and complexity around scientific and socio-economic issues, balancing need and values of different actors... The approach of the Health Council of the Netherlands (Gezondheidsraad) to support public decisions was presented by Harrie Van Dijk, as well as specific instruments and practical experiences to try filling the gap between science and politics. Nathalie Delrue (OECD, France) described the OECD reports to support policy decisions, describing for example the health consequences due to the lack of actions devoted to reduce environmental pressures. Stylianos Kephelopoulos (EU JRC, Ispra, Italy) spoke about the decision support instruments implemented to help evaluation. The "ATLAS of our living environment", presented by Julie Ng-a-Tham, is an instrument implemented by the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment, based on a web site and alert information system. Louis Laurent (ANSES, France) described the ANSES research experience, placed in between knowledge production and informing policy-makers, specifically for risk evaluation. He introduced the figure of knowledge broker, further analysed and detailed by Génon Jensen (Health and Environment Alliance, Belgium) and Marta Bonifert (REC, Hungary).



Liliana Cori from CNR Italy presents the case studies analysed for the task "Bridging the Gap Research to Policy"

study of WHO and EC initiatives and a survey which evaluated specific scientific information needs for policy-makers and common communication forms used by three crucial stakeholder groups: policy-makers, knowledge brokers and scientists.

Liliana Cori (CNR, Italy) illustrated the analysis of three case studies, to help identify best practice examples, back up some of the previous findings and give further insight into (in)efficient knowledge transfer mechanisms. The cases covered a broad range of experiences of scientific knowledge use and production. Drivers and key factors that facilitate or delay the comprehension/use of scientific knowledge were identified in order to draw tailored recommendations.

Katja Kailer (UBA, Germany), presented the final product: a checklist designed to support researchers who wish to enhance the uptake of their scientific findings into policy. It is a tool to prepare research and present results in a way that is particularly suitable for policy-makers: the purpose is to give practical suggestions for establishing a positive dialogue and enhance the impact of research results.



In this context, the ERA-ENVHEALTH activity to bridge the gap between science and policy was presented by three partners of the consortium:

Julie Harlet (BeISPO, Belgium) presented a review of the scientific literature on the knowledge transfer process, carried out together with a

In the second part of this session activities, instruments and methodologies to present, tailor and simplify research results were shown and finally, three priorities issue were presented, underlying crucial aspects and current challenges in the interfaces between policy and science: indoor air (Luciana Sinisi, ISPRA, Italy), nanotechnologies (Marco Martuzzi on behalf of Vyvyan Howard, University of Ulster, UK), and endocrine disruptors (Peter Korytar, EC DG Environment).



ERA-ENVHEALTH OUTPUTS

INFORMATION & EXCHANGE

During four years, the ERA-ENVHEALTH partners have joined forces and resources to increase the relevance and efficiency of E&H research in Europe. The ERA-ENVHEALTH network promotes collaboration and fosters innovative ideas and the tools it developed provide valuable support in tackling these challenges.

• UNRIVALLED ACCESS TO INFORMATION

- Active **network** and efficient information exchange with partners and stakeholders to develop expertise from mutual learning & access to research results

- **Tools** to help increase the relevance and efficiency of E&H research funding in Europe including:

- Report describing the E&H **research landscape** in Europe
- Identification of **key strategic issues & priority areas** for research: climate change, nanomaterials and indoor air
- **Research database** containing information on 50 programmes in Member States and over 500 E&H projects

• INCREASING THE VISIBILITY OF E&H

- Facilitate **communication** and access to a **forum** to discuss policies, priorities, strategic visions and actions

- Definition of **priorities for E&H policy**, to support continuous actions in the field, help prioritise research and continue cross-sector collaboration and networks
- Analysis of the link between research and policy, formulation of **recommendations** and **guidelines** to improve the uptake of scientific results into policy-making
- Dissemination of leaflets, posters and news briefings also available on the ERA-ENVHEALTH

All results are available on: www.era-envhealth.eu

FOCUS on the Research database

The ERA-ENVHEALTH Research Database contains details on 41 organisations funding E&H research, 50 research programmes and more than 500 research projects funded in 13 countries in Europe.

Albeit not an exhaustive review of E&H research in Europe, the database still provides a unique source of material for scientists and policy-makers to access data on current E&H research projects, identify potential research partners and modes of specialist expertise. Funding programmes and funded projects are classified and characterised according to their main themes (such as agents, human health effects, methodologies, etc.). Users of the database are able to search the database using these criteria. Additional information is provided e.g. in terms of runtime, country, website and contacts.

To consult the ERA-ENVHEALTH research database: <http://era-envhealth.stis.belspo.be/>

More information on the [research](#) and [expert](#) databases are available on the ERA-ENVHEALTH website.





ERA-ENVHEALTH OUTPUTS

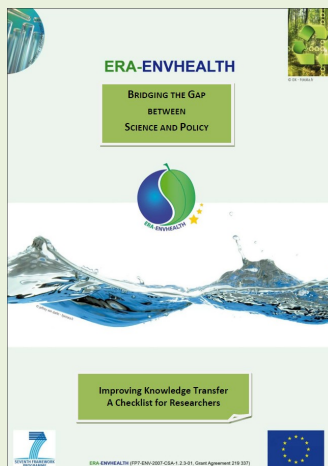
ACTING TOGETHER

ERA-NETs increase the relevance and efficiency of research in Europe. They also bring new funding opportunities for researchers. In the current climate, innovation is important when implementing methods for exchanging information and creating knowledge.

- Framework to coordinate **activities**

- **Two calls for transnational research projects** issued with 4.35M€ of available funds:
 - “Health vulnerability resulting from future climate change impacts on soil-water ecosystems, land use and water resources on a regional scale” launched in March 2008. Two projects funded: “Risk assessment of the impact of climate change on infectious diseases” (<http://www.liv.ac.uk/enhance/>) and “Environmental change and rising dissolved organic carbon trends: implications for Public Health”.
 - “Air pollution in urban areas – health impacts on vulnerable groups under changing conditions” launched in January 2012.
- Publication of a **brochure “Bridging the Gap Between Science and Policy Improving Knowledge Transfer - A Checklist For Researchers”** to help enhance the uptake of scientific findings into policy.

FOCUS on the brochure “Bridging the Gap between Science and Policy Improving Knowledge Transfer– A Checklist for Researchers



"A Checklist for Researchers – Improving Knowledge Transfer" is designed to support researchers who wish to reinforce the consideration of their work and enhance the uptake of their scientific findings into policy.

It is built as a checklist which provides ideas and recommendations. These may differ according to the research carried out and the policy context. Researchers who would like also to function as knowledge brokers can find it very useful. It is thus a tool to prepare research and present results in a way that is particularly suitable for policy-makers.

The brochure is divided in four parts: preparatory phase of research, final phase of research, communication strategy, and costs: cost-benefit analysis.

The checklist is downloadable from the [ERA-ENVHEALTH website](http://www.era-envhealth.eu)

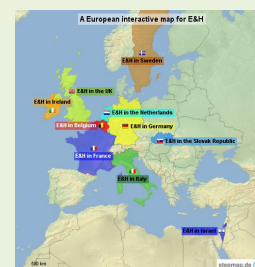
- Online publication of a **map for Environment and Health in Europe**

A European Interactive Map for Environment and Health

The Interactive Map for Environment and Health in Europe is another dissemination tool for researchers.

It presents national public bodies involved in E&H for each partner country as well as relevant publications and stakeholders.

The map is accessible via the project homepage: www.era-envhealth.eu



ERA-ENVHEALTH NEXT STEPS

FUTURE COLLABORATION AND ACTIVITIES



The partners gathered for the General Assembly meeting in Paris on 15 June 2012

ERA-ENVHEALTH has shown that transnational collaboration in E&H fills an important niche. It provides an interesting forum to discuss challenges, visions and emerging issues. The project has met its primary objectives and is now entering a new incarnation. While project funding from the European Commission ends in late 2012, the network will continue to collaborate, using its own resources, striving towards better integrating E&H research into policy. Work will continue with a new phase characterised by continued collaboration and expansion to other organisations interested in participating. Network partners have agreed to maintain collaboration and activities on a voluntary basis.

The **platform for cooperation and continued information exchange and communication** will be maintained, the tools updated and **joint activities** implemented.

To facilitate and stimulate communication and dissemination of information to help support the needs in terms of research programming and policy relevance in E&H, the interactive map and the network website will be maintained. Bi-annual newsletters on network activities and partner news will be disseminated.

To facilitate the integration of knowledge and good practices in the E&H research field, and to help identify gaps and needs for both policy and research, annual network meetings with a focus on an Environment E&H topic will be organised. Hosts and topics for 2013-2015 were defined at the last General Assembly .

To stimulate the implementation of joint activities where transnational collaboration can bring added-value, members of the network will promote joint calls or agreements between funding organisations to allow for transnational consortia, co-organise joint conferences or workshops on specific topics, ...

Join the ERA-ENVHEALTH network now

If you want to participate in ERA-ENVHEALTH, contact the coordinator or the leader of the task “extending the network” and ask for more information on how to join:

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RECENT ADVANCES ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH EFFECTS OF ENDOCRINE DISRUPTORS – 10-11 DEC. 2012 IN PARIS, FRANCE

The PNRPE* 2012 International Conference is a two-day international scientific meeting in which recent key results on the health and environmental impact of **endocrine disruptors** and their mechanisms of action will be presented.

The conference will address the following topics: **Health effects and mechanisms of action of EDs, Tools and approaches and Exposure.**

Seven international leading scientists have confirmed their participation in plenary conferences. Furthermore, recent results on environmental and health effects of endocrine disruptors, particularly those of the French national research programmes PNRPE* & PNREST**, will be presented as oral communications or posters. The PNRPE 2012 conference will bring together

international scientists, clinicians, regulatory bodies, and stakeholders (industry, NGOs, etc.). Talks can be in French or in English and will be simultaneously **translated** during the conference.

Online registration at: <http://www.ansespro.fr/pnrpe/>

More info: <http://www.anses.fr/PMKC00VBIO.htm>

**The aim of the National Endocrine Disruptor Research Programme (PNRPE) is to support fundamental and applied research for those involved in public action on endocrine disruption issues.*

***The National research programme on Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety (PNREST) aims to contribute to new knowledge and to support expertise and risk assessment in the fields of environmental and occupational health and safety.*

PLEASE INFORM US OF IMPORTANT E&H MEETINGS, PROJECTS OR REPORTS

UPCOMING MEETINGS
11-13 SEPTEMBER 2012: INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP LOW DOSE EFFECTS AND NON-MONOTONIC DOSE RESPONSES FOR ENDOCRINE ACTIVE CHEMICALS: SCIENCE TO PRACTICE (BERLIN, GERMANY) HTTP://TOOLS.NIEHS.NIH.GOV/CONFERENCE/DERT_ENDOCRINE_2012/
25 SEPTEMBER 2012: ANSES SCIENTIFIC MEETING - FEEDBACK ON THE RADIOFREQUENCIES & HEALTH RESEARCH PROGRAMME (PARIS, FRANCE) HTTP://WWW.ANSES.FR/PMKC007C10.HTM
23-27 SEPTEMBER 2012: 16TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HEAVY METALS IN THE ENVIRONMENT (ROME, ITALY) HTTP://ICHMET16.IJA.CNR.IT/
10-11 DECEMBER 2012: PNRPE 2012—RECENT ADVANCES ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH EFFECTS OF ENDOCRINE DISRUPTORS (PARIS, FRANCE) HTTP://WWW.ANSES.FR/PMKC00VBIO.HTM

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