



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

ERA-ENVHEALTH MONTHLY NEWSFLASH



GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING IN THE HAGUE SEPTEMBER 13-15, 2010

THIS MONTH'S NEWS:

SEPTEMBER 2010

ANNUAL ERA-ENVHEALTH
GA MEETING

PROJECT PROGRESS PER
WORK PACKAGE

UPCOMING MEETINGS

ARTICLES BY SWEDISH EPA
ON PROMOTING HEALTH
AND MAPPING EATING
HABITS

WP 2 WORK SESSION
RESULTS

WORKSHOP FOR
POTENTIAL NEW PARTNERS

CONTACTS

REMINDER:

NEXT DEADLINES

- **1 October 2010: deadline for the comments and extra information for Mike Briers on the WP2 "Strategic Themes" report.**
- **1 October 2010: deadline for the comments for Hanneke Kruize on the WP2 "Prioritisation criteria" report.**
- **End of October: deadline for the proposals for the new activity to expand the work and the E&H action plan**

This year's General Assembly meeting took place in The Netherlands, in [The Hague from the 13th to the 15th of September, 2010](#). The primary objective of the meeting was to present progress of the project and its different workpackages and to discuss further ideas on how to improve the results and in particular for the definition and prioritisation of strategic Environment and health themes and the design of a second call. This year also, as it was the mid-term meeting for the project and the focus was on the recruitment of new partners and participants, external experts and potential new partners were invited to participate in the different sessions.

The meeting was attended by around 40 participants from 13 countries.

The presentations and discussions of the first day, the 13th of September, evolved around the progress of the project after 2 years, both regarding the financial and scientific progress, the results of the different workpackages and the initiation of the discussions on ideas for the future of the project and in particular the future of the network and its activities after the end of the project. One of the highlights of this meeting was the participation of the 2 projects funded under the 1st ERA-ENVHEALTH call who presented the work carried out so far.

The second day, the 14th of September, was dedicated to two work sessions to deepen the partners contribution on the work of WP2 concerning identified themes and prioritisation criteria and within WP4 for task 4.2 on the design of a second call.

The annual meeting is also a forum to provide

ideas on how to improve the project and discuss strategic scientific issues such as the introduction of new activities to extend on the work already achieved.



Visit to the Ridderzaal in The Hague.

This year the annual meeting ended with a special workshop for potential new partners to discuss possible collaborations and discuss ideas for activities to help us translate science into research and policy tools useful for the future of Environment and Health research funding.

MANY THANKS TO VROM

Again, we would like to thank [VROM](#) who kindly hosted this meeting, and in particular [Tom van Teunenbroek](#) and [Corinne van Woerden](#) whose invaluable help in the organisation and kindness ensured the success of this event.



Ministerie van Volkshuisvesting,
Ruimtelijke Ordening en
Milieubeheer

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PROJECT PROGRESS PER WORK PACKAGE

Thus, the second ERA-ENVHEALTH General Assembly focused on the following key points:

- Present the project progress per WP
- Provide ideas on how to improve the project and discuss strategic scientific issues such as the introduction of new activities to extend on the work already achieved
- Discuss the project budget and strategic budgetary issues
- Discuss, within 2 work sessions, the work of WP2 concerning identified themes and prioritisation criteria and within WP4 for task 4.2 on the design of a second call
- Organise a workshop for potential new partners to discuss possible collaborations.

WP1 – Information collection

The work of the WP1 ended in February 2010 with the publication of the final report. It is quite astonishing to see that most consultations of the [Research database](#) come from north America!. With regards to consultations, it was clear that not just the scientific community that is interested in the results of the database but also **other stakeholders so we need to adapt our communication strategies to include them**. Cooperation with other ERA-NETs in terms of information sharing is interesting in particular SKEP maybe. Information exchange and the database must **keep expanding** in particular with new projects, new programmes & new countries.

Strategic decisions:

A **new task is under construction to expand on the work already carried out**, in particular, on the information available in the research database, by focusing on specific themes and providing more details with regards to research and policy actions (including policy relevance, risk management and cost of inaction). Summary sheets should be prepared on the chosen topics. A **task force** has been created to prepare this proposal. Also an **exceptional GA meeting** was voted for March 2011, probably to take place in Berlin.

WP3 – Action plan for joint activities

The criteria – how to select what – is very important, but we also have to take into account the budget and financial constraints. An EU action plan for E&H is lacking. The project is looking at preparing an ERA-ENVHEALTH action plan for joint activities in E&H. It could be offered as a proposal to Hungary during their presidency to help steer the discussions at the European level.

WP4 – Funding joint research

The **2 selected projects under the 1st call** attended the GA meeting and presented their work after 1 year (see the [era-](#)

[envhealth website](#) for more details about the projects).

A workshop to launch the discussions on the design of the **second call** was been organised on 14th September 2010. The important points discussed were the framework for the preparation and the calendar. A draft MoU is to be circulated by the end of the year and a workshop organised in March 2011 to finalise it.

The **1st evaluation report** was published in June 2010. The results provide recommendations for the design of the second call. The evaluation was carried out by an independent evaluation expert – Planète Publique with the active participation of the evaluation steering committee composed of: the task leader (Céline Lacour from MEEDDM), the coordinator (Adrienne Pittman from ANSES), the 3 funders (Dominique Balharry from NERC, Sandrine Baron & Jean Lesne from ANSES, Tom van Teunenbroek from VROM), 3 other ERA-ENVHEALTH partners (Marianne Rappolder from UBA, Mohssine El Kahloun from BelSPO, Mike Briers from EA) and 2 members of the External Advisory Committee (Richard Owen & Marco Martuzzi).

WP5 – Dissemination and communication

The tools available for the dissemination and communication of the project results are continuously improved, in particular with the addition of a [project monthly newsflash](#), posters and presentations. The website statistics (updated every 2 weeks) show that there are about 100 visits/week.

There is a need to have concrete products for policy, to show our policy-makers now and give them something they can use (see strategic decisions) but we have 2 timescales:

- Information now available in our database – summary of important information, and
- Other research in the future to convince that it is useful (maybe a wish book for research).

UPCOMING MEETINGS

4 NOVEMBER: TASK FORCE MEETING FOR THE NEW ACTIVITY AND ACTION PLAN IN LONDON

21-22 OCTOBRE 2010: "ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL VULNERABILITIES" CONGRESS IN NAMUR, BELGIUM

9 NOVEMBER 2010: ERA-NET FUTURE WORKSHOP IN BRUSSELS

7-10 NOVEMBER 2010: "ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT" CONFERENCE IN FES, MAROCCO

END OF MARCH 2011: EXCEPTIONAL GA MEETING IN BERLIN, GERMANY

PROMOTING HEALTH – A KEY TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

(BY OUR PARTNER SWEDISH EPA)

The progress in the global work for sustainable development not only relies on actions and engagement by government, authorities, companies, and NGOs; it depends on behaviours and attitudes of individuals. A general participation is needed. To enable active contribution to changes in the society, the issues of sustainable development have to be regarded as comprehensible, manageable and meaningful for all.

In a recent Swedish report¹ the physician Johan Hallberg describes the correlations and synergies between self-perceived health, health promotion, and sustainable development. Measures taken in the society to promote health and well-being will also promote sustainable development. “Despite the complexity of the sustainability issues there are just a few basic areas of behaviors that underpin the development: The way we transport ourselves, What we eat, Our material consumption, The relations between generations, Our relations and interactions with others, Our ability to manage and set a limit to stress and strain, Our relations to nature, and finally Our relations to culture. It is reasonable to assume that the ways we behave within these areas are partly rooted in our subjective well-being as individuals”, Dr. Hallberg claims.

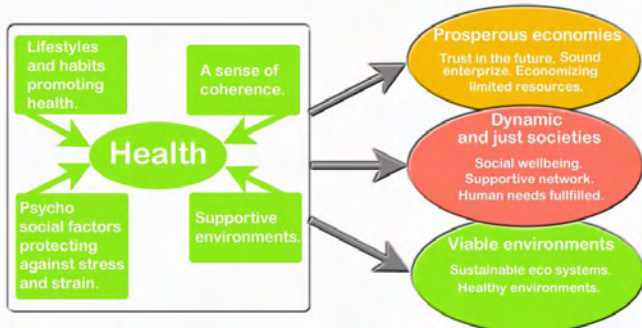


Figure 1. Health promotion as a strategy for sustainable development

The basic human needs are strongly correlated to our well-being

and health and to the fundamentals of a sustainable society. Dr. Hallberg highlights health promotion as a strategy for sustainable development based on the relationships illustrated in Figure 1. The self-perceived health offers an entrance to the issues of sustainable development and makes them accessible and manageable for people in their everyday life. In the report, Dr. Hallberg also presents a model for communication and action: *Seven landmarks for health and sustainable development*. The model brings a holistic approach to the issues of public health and sustainability. It is aiming to involve people and to strengthen the sense of coherence.

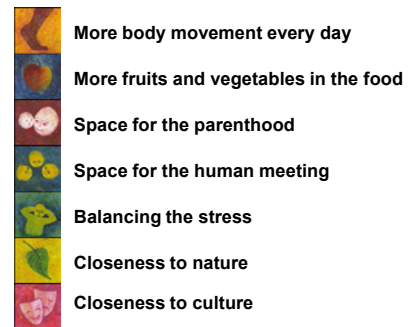


Figure 2. Seven landmarks for health and sustainable development. Copyright: johan.hallberg@tdalarna.se.

This autumn The National Board of Health and Welfare in Sweden will bring this concept further by arranging workshops based on this model for employees at Swedish municipalities, county councils and regions. The aim of the workshops is to discuss the report from a practical point of view and to put forward good examples of how health promotion for sustainability can be utilised in practice. The objective is to generate tools and models which can be used by organisations and individuals. The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency is involved in the project and further arrangement including scientists is currently discussed.

More information: Tove Hammarberg tove.hammarberg@naturvardsverket.se

¹ Främja hälsa – en nyckel till hållbar utveckling, med Sju landmärken för hälsa och hållbar utveckling (2010). Johan Hallberg, Landstinget Dalarna.

NATIONWIDE SAMPLING CONNECTED TO A GENERAL MAPPING OF SWEDES EATING HABITS (BY OUR PARTNER SWEDISH EPA)

A general mapping of the Swedes eating habits will be performed during 2010 and 2011. The mapping will be coordinated by the Swedish National Food Administration and altogether 5000 people will be asked to register what they eat and drink during a time period. This will constitute an important knowledge base when future dietary advice are to be written.

In connection to this mapping, the Swedish national monitoring programme finances a sampling of blood and urine from 300-

500 people, which represent the general Swedish population. These samples will be analysed for a number of heavy metals and organic pollutants as well as nutritional parameters. This will give us information about e.g. the exposure of the general population to a number of pollutants and it is necessary information when evaluating benefits and risks.

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WP2 WORK SESSION – DEFINITION AND PREPARATION OF JOINT ACTIVITIES

Task 2.1, is concerned with taking forward the work carried out in WP1 which identified the projects and programmes in E&H that are being undertaken by the partners, in order to identify key strategic issues. The approach taken was outlined at the GA meeting in 2009. Further work has since been undertaken to identify strategic issues and clustering by using topic maps and emerging issues by horizon scanning. A draft copy of the report was sent ahead of the workshop for comment. **The broad common areas (50% partners working in these areas and 20+ projects) identified are the following:**

- Outdoor air quality
- Local/Living Environment
- Water quality and supply
- Indoor air quality
- Soil contamination
- Climate change

And emerging issues identified through horizon scanning are the following:

- Chemicals
- Outdoor air quality

- Nanomaterial
- Climate change
- Food safety
- Particulates
- Water quality and supply

In relative terms there were more articles than in the database for climate change, nanomaterials and food safety.

It was decided that other “**expert judgment**” issues which we seem to have not been picked up using these 2 techniques should be added to the report.

Furthermore the prioritisation criteria and framework was presented. RIVM is working on a computer programme to facilitate the analysis. Partners must determine whether the criteria are adapted or whether any are missing. The prioritisation will then have to be carried out by each organisation with a framework to explain the weightings and an extra comments box that can be used to elaborate and then partners with similar results can get together to work together.

WORK SESSION 3 ON PLANNING TRANSNATIONAL E&H RESEARCH ACTIVITIES WITH POTENTIAL NEW PARTNERS (TASK 5.2)

Extending the network to potential new partners is crucial to achieve ERA-ENVHEALTH's objectives and strategies, among them the improvement of coordination of European environment and health research by establishing lasting collaboration through several activities including knowledge exchange and joint activities. This Project task follows consortium discussions on the definition of criteria to prioritize E&H issues for joint activities and the identification of strategy for bridging science and policy in the field. The aim was to discuss the launch of pilot activities to be developed with collaborating potential new partners on the topics of climate change, endocrine disruptors and housing and health and, as well, to finalize the mechanisms for participation of interested potential new partners and for network support of ERA-

ENVHEALTH experts and dissemination tools. The idea of the activities is to translate science into policy tools and provide evidence-based recommendations useful for future research planning and policy-making. ERA-ENVHEALTH has over 600 contacts in the External Interest Group and 1200 in the General public which is very good for dissemination.

Certain projects and organisations also presented their work:

- the ENRIECO project – CREAL, Spain
- the HEIMSTA/INTARESE projects and tools
- the HENVINET network and portal
- the HPA (UK) work on the E&H themes

Interesting ideas for activities and for the use of the tools developed were discussed with each & will be taken forward.

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