





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





# ERA-ENVHEALTH

**MONTHLY NEWSFLASH** 

## THIS MONTH'S NEWS:

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#### **NEXT DEADLINES**

- June 2011: deadline for comments on the concept note for cooperation between European Environment Evidence Networks
- August 2011: definition of the action plan for common activities
- August 2011: deadline for task and WP progress reports

### ERA-ENVHEALTH - QUESTIONNAIRE FOR POTENTIAL NEW PARTNERS

#### What is ERA-ENVHEALTH?

ERA-ENVHEALTH is a European network aimed at enhancing the cooperation of Environment & Health research programmes. ERA-ENVHEALTH also aims to expand Consortium knowledge through different kinds of collaboration. The recruitment of new partners and participants is paramount to achieve the objectives of ERA-ENVHEALTH and to build cooperation in E&H, stimulate E&H research and contribute to the development of coherent E&H policies.

#### How can you contribute?

If your organisation funds and/or manages a research programme on Environment and Health you have the opportunity to join the project. Why?

- To extend your network.
- To benefit from sharing information and exchanging expertise with the partners of the ERA-ENVHEALTH consortium.
- To contribute to improving collaboration in E&H research and participating in joint activities, an aim of ERA-ENVHEALTH.

If your organisation doesn't fund an Environment and Health research programme but is involved in this field of research (such as a research institute for example) you may become part of the network as active or potential contributor in different ways, for instance by:

- Participating in the project's joint activities and transnational work plan.
- Completing information in the ERA-ENVHEALTH E&H programme and project database.

- Providing feedback and comments on the projects activities and results.
- Actively disseminating the project's results.
- Providing information on other potential contributors from contacts, networks, etc.

It's well known that actors in the field of environment and health research are dispersed across several (often segregated) organisational structures, including governmental guidance bodies, funding and programming bodies, and public or industrial research operators. Stakeholders in the field also include many non-governmental organisations and the general public.

The first part of the questionnaire requests general information on the organisation, role and the type of research funded, if any, and themes of interest. The second part of the questionnaire covers profile information concerning implication in network activities. This questionnaire will therefore help us to have a better understanding of potential new partners' activities in order to optimise benefits both for the potential new partners and ERA-ENVHEALTH goals.



Please complete this short survey; it will only take 10 min of your time!

Questionnaire for potential new partners: http://www.questionari.sinanet.apat.it/ index.php?sid=95762&lang=en

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.

This publication reflects only the author's views and the Community is not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.



#### IMPROVEMENT OF THE ERA-ENVHEALTH RESEARCH DATABASE

The <u>ERA-ENVHEALTH Research Database</u> is a tool created by the ERA-ENVHEALTH project. ERA-ENVHEALTH is a European Research Area Network (ERA-NET) co-funded by the European Commission under the 7th Framework Programme (FP7). It involves 16 partners and 4 consultative organisations from 11 countries.

The ERA-ENVHEALTH Research Database contains details of current and past funding programmes for environment and health in Europe, entered by the ERA-ENVHEALTH project participants and collaborating partners. Albeit not an exhaustive review of E&H research in Europe, the database still provides a unique source of material for environment and health scientists and policy-makers to access data on current E&H research projects, identify potential research partners and modes of specialist expertise. The ERA-ENVHEALTH Research Database, has been improved to provide:

- Links to projects funded under the Framework Programmes 5, 6 and 7 and other relevant databases,
- Statistics and charts of available data. A flexible software solution that processes data to perform statistical analysis has been added to the database. This tool generates statistics from the database and allows the users to get statistics and charts of most available data (*Nb of Projects VS Topics; Nb of Programmes VS Topics; Nb of Topics VS Countries; Nb of Projects VS Countries; Type of research VS Topics; Type of research VS Nb of Projects;*



Type of research VS Nb of Programmes; Budget VS Programmes; Budget VS Countries; Budget VS Topics.).

- A clickable icon to allow other programme managers and project coordinators to post information on their projects/programmes without requiring a username and password. The posted information on projects/programmes will be validated by the database manager before it is added to the database.

To consult the new version of the ERA-ENVHEALTH Research Database you may click on the link below:

Access the Research Database now

For more information, please contact: Mohssine El Kahloun: mohssine.elkahloun@belspo.be

#### LAUNCH OF ANSES'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER IN ENGLISH



The French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES) was

founded on 1 July 2010 following the merger of two health agencies, AFSSA and AFSSET. This new public health organisation has adopted the missions, resources and personnel of the two Agencies on which it was founded. It has also inherited their achievements and values - scientific skills, independence and transparent assessment - in order to provide a global and cross-cutting perspective on health issues. ANSES's principal mission is to conduct risk assessments in order to contribute to the protection of human health with respect to the environment, the workplace and food. It also contributes to the protection of animal health and well-being, and plant health. Thanks to its wide range of expertise, ANSES can identify, overall, the risks to which people are exposed,

both voluntarily and involuntarily, at work, in the home, during travel and during recreational activities. <a href="www.anses.fr">www.anses.fr</a>

In 2011, ANSES began the publication of its new monthly enewsletter. Since June 2011, the newsletter is also available in English. The ANSES newsletter contains all the Agency's **latest information updates, upcoming events and recent publications**, so that readers can stay up-to-date on all the current news.

The English version is specifically adapted to provide information on ANSES's opinions and reports available in English.

Subscription is **free of charge** and **may be cancelled at any time**. Subscribers will receive the newsletter each month by e-mail.

To subscribe to ANSES's newsletter in English, please complete your contact information using the following link:

http://www.anses.fr/PNP801.htm



# ELABORATION OF AN ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH RESEARCH PROGRAMME: THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMPONENT OF THE SSD PROGRAMME - BELSPO, BELGIUM

The Belgian research programme "Science for a Sustainable Development" was launched in 2005 with a total research budget of 65,4 MEUR for the period 2005 – 2009. This research programme is the continuation of the first and second Scientific Support Plan for a Sustainable Development Policy (SPSD I (1996-2001) and SPSD II (2000-2005)). On 9 July 2010, the Council of Ministers approved the continuation of the programme for 2010. A new SSD seventh call is already in preparation and will be launched soon.

#### The **objectives** of the SSD programme are:

- to preserve and develop scientific potential in various strategically important areas, to reduce scientific uncertainties and anticipate future needs for knowledge;
- to offer the scientific support required for the preparation, implementation, and follow-up of a supranational, federal, regional, or local policy in and between these areas;
- to offer the scientific support required for the vertical (across policy levels) and horizontal policy integration (across policy domains) oriented towards sustainable development;
- to enhance the integration of Belgian research into the various research initiatives at the European and international levels, in particular within the European Research Area;
- to contribute to developing scientific knowledge and instruments (models, concepts, indicators, etc.) aiming at the analysis of processes, the study of impacts; the development, follow-up, and evaluation of (existing and/or future) policy measures.
- to encourage interdisciplinary research so as to offer support to decision-making on the basis of an integration of different dimensions, perspectives, etc. of the issues concerned;
- to promote dialogue and information exchange between scientists, decision-makers, and other involved actors at all levels as well as in a European and international context.

The SSD programme is composed of 8 priority research areas: Energy, Transport and mobility, Agrofood, **Health and environment**, Climate (including Antarctica), Biodiversity (including Antarctica and the North Sea), Atmosphere and terrestrial and marine ecosystems (including Antarctica and the North Sea) and Transversal Research.

Currently, 115 research networks are financed including 10 clusters for a total amount of  $70 \text{ M} \odot$ .

#### The "health and environment" component

Compared to SPSD I and II, the SSD Programme integrates new priority areas, including "Health and Environment". Six specific features are important when funding health and environment research within the SSD programme:

- Sustainable development context: the three pillars must be considered: economic growth, social development and protection of the environment.
- A defined environment: either the indoor environment or the outdoor environment.
- A global approach to the problem: the numerous sources of exposure in the environment must be considered.
- The duration of the effects are to be taken into account: the research methodology developed should be part of a long-term approach.
- Focus on vulnerable populations.
- Standardisation as a risk management support tool: research into standardisation as scientific support for the development of new standards is encouraged.

#### Projects funded under the Health and Environment theme:

Five research projects were financed within the framework of this programme under the "Health and Environment" theme. They were 4-year projects in multidisciplinary networks with maximum budgets of € 800 000 per project. The list of funded projects under the Health and Environment theme can be found at: <a href="http://www.belspo.be/belspo/ssd/science/pr">http://www.belspo.be/belspo/ssd/science/pr</a> health envir en.stm

#### Post-assessment of the SSD programme

A post-assessment will be carried out to highlight the lessons learned. The objective of this post-evaluation are to contribute to the **evaluation of the whole programme** by assessing:

- the research conducted within each area emphasising the effectiveness of the programme, the quality of the research, policy relevance, international aspects and recommendations for potential new research programmes;
- the programme characteristics and management tools (duration of the projects, network, clusters of research networks, follow-up committee, co-financing... the evaluation process).

For more information, please contact Emmanuèle Bourgeois at BeISPO: <a href="mailto:Emmanuele.BOURGEOIS@beIspo.be">Emmanuele.BOURGEOIS@beIspo.be</a>



#### CONFERENCES



#### **Health Protection 2011**

Health Protection 2011, which is taking place at Warwick University, UK, on 13-14 September 2011, will focus on the latest scientific research and its practical application in: Preventing and reducing infectious diseases; Minimising the impact of radiation, chemical & environmental hazards; and Preparing for potential or emerging threats to health. The wide ranging programme covers innovations and new developments in key areas of health protection.

This conference is hosted by the HPA, and organised in partnership with other organisations, including Health Protection Scotland, Public Health Wales, CIEH, TB Alert,

British Thoracic Society. British Paediatric Surveillance Unit and the British Association for Sexual Health and HIV - BASHH.

The ERA-ENVHEALTH abstract entitled: Coordination of national environment and health research programmes, has been accepted for poster presentation at this event.

For more information visit the conference website: http://www.healthprotectionconference.org.uk



Dioxin 2011: http://www.dioxin2011.org/

The 31st International Symposium on Halogenated Persistent Organic Pollutants — POPs' Science in the Heart of Europe, will be held in Brussels, Belgium from 21-25 August 2011.

#### **ERA-LEARN NEWSLETTER**

Further to a positive survey on the interest of such a newsletter last summer, **ERA-LEARN** has now launched its biannual **newsletter**. The first issue is available for download:

http://netwatch.jrc.ec.europa.eu/static/download/
pub\_eralearn\_newsletter\_vol1.pdf

It contains information about ERA-NETs, Joint Programming Initiatives, related events and news from ERA-LEARN. The ERA-NET newsletter will be published two to three times per year, and is targeted at research funders in Europe.

Registration is open at: <a href="http://www.era-learn.eu/newsletter">http://www.era-learn.eu/newsletter</a>

In addition, please note two recent **publications** available on the Netwatch website: <a href="http://netwatch.jrc.ec.europa.eu/nw/index.cfm/static/events.html">http://netwatch.jrc.ec.europa.eu/nw/index.cfm/static/events.html</a>

PLEASE INFORM US OF IMPORTANT E&H MEETINGS OR REPORTS

- Report on the "Strategy Workshop Innovation Union: Joint Programming and its instruments", which took place in Brussels on 7 April, 2011.
- Communication paper on "Key Learnings associated with the ERA-NET Scheme and the Way Forward", June 2011.

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS

28 JUNE 2011: NEW TASK (BRIDGING SCIENCE AND POLICY) MEETING (BRUSSELS, BELGIUM)

13-14 SEPTEMBER 2011: HEALTH PROTECTION 2011 (WARWICK, UK)

13-16 SEPTEMBER 2011: 23RD ISEE CONFERENCE (BARCELONA, SPAIN)

5-7 OCTOBER 2011: WORKSHOP ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH EFFECTS. IMPACTS, PREPAREDNESS, GUIDELINES & GOOD EXAMPLES (OSTERSUND, SWEDEN)

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

23-27 OCTOBER 2011: 21ST ISES CONFERENCE (BALTIMORE, USA)

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