



ERA-ENVHEALTH

MONTHLY NEWSFLASH



PROJECT CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

THIS MONTH'S NEWS:
APRIL 2011
PUBLISHABLE SUMMARY AT MONTH 30:
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13-16 SEPT. 2011 IN BARCELONA, SPAIN
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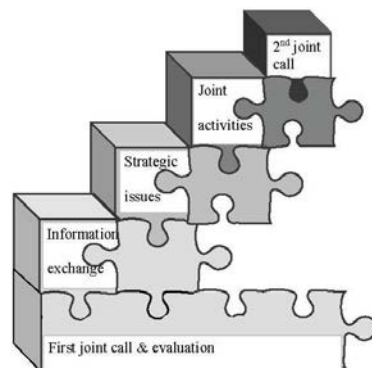
It is estimated that around 20% of the burden of disease in industrialised countries can be attributed to environmental factors (EU Environment and Health Strategy 2004). Europe's citizens are concerned about the potential impact of the environment on their health and expect policy makers to act. Reducing uncertainties about the links between environment and health (E&H) and taking action through protection and prevention measures is therefore necessary. However, for these to be effective in the long-term, cooperation must be improved and research driven by a common set of priorities. ERA-ENVHEALTH, co-funded by the European Commission under FP7 "Coordination Actions", enhances European coordination of environment and health research programming to support effective policy-making.



ERA-ENVHEALTH CONSORTIUM PARTNERS

lasting collaboration between the various organisations by sharing information on research activities and expertise, studying their results and methods, defining priorities for research themes and opportunities for cooperation and organising joint activities and transnational calls for research projects.

- An effective coordination mechanism



The ERA-ENVHEALTH project allows the implementation of a network between managers of research programmes. In order to establish sustainable collaboration, an integrated step-by-step approach has been implemented. The objectives are to bring together the environment and health research financiers and programmers to establish a

- Evidence-based policy making

In addition to the need for better coordination across Europe, the World Health Organisation (European region) and the European Commission have expressed the need for better use of Environment and Health research results to support policy development and to better anticipate issues affecting the public. ERA-ENVHEALTH is a contribution to the European Environment and Health Action Plan 2004-2010, promoting the better use of research results to support policy development. Furthermore, the information generated by the project is a valuable resource for stakeholders who would like to improve public participation in environment and health policy.

The ERA-ENVHEALTH project started in September 2008 with 16 environment and health research programme managers from 10 countries.

REMINDER:
NEXT DEADLINES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 May 2011: deadline for reception of bids for the 2nd part of the evaluation of the 1st ERA-ENVHEALTH call • 11 May 2011: deadline for comments to the proposed case study outline • August 2011: definition of the action plan for common activities • August 2011: deadline for task and WP progress reports

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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WORK PERFORMED AND RESULTS ACHIEVED AT M30

Collaboration between ERA-ENVHEALTH partners has enabled the development of a shared vision and improved exchange of knowledge and expertise through access to information at the European level via its website and databases for experts and research programmes.

A common framework for describing and assessing the Environment and Health research programmes and projects was developed on the basis of a questionnaire. This questionnaire was then adapted to an online “**Environment and Health Research Database**”: an information management tool to structure and facilitate access, analysis and exchange of information on Environment and Health research programmes and projects in Europe.



It has been completed by all ERA-ENVHEALTH partners as well as other relevant programme managers in EU Member States to provide a widespread overview of the activities in this field. The aim is to make available information about the current and past funding programmes, thus providing good visibility of Environment and Health research in Member States. In March 2011, the Research Database contains information from 11 countries on 41 organisations, 50 programmes and 498 projects. The information contained in the Research Database prior to September 2009 (38 organisations from 11 countries had gathered and entered data on 49 E&H funding programmes and 461 associated projects) was analysed for deliverable D1.2.2: the “**Final overview of research programmes and projects including synthesis and recommendations**”. It was preceded by the “Draft overview of E&H programmes” within the ERA-ENVHEALTH partner organisations. A wider scope was achieved for the final report by enlarging the information requests to non ERA-ENVHEALTH partners to provide an overview and description of the Environment and Health research landscape in the EU. This information is a strong basis for analysing the research in the field of E&H in the participating countries. It reflects the diversity of the participating countries and organisations, their different cultures and structures for research and administration as well as their similarities. The large amount of information gathered stresses the high interest in further cooperation and also the need for future collaboration in this

area. The information gathered has been used to **identify key strategic issues in Environment and Health**. Horizon scanning (which can be described as the systematic search for potential threats and opportunities) of emerging issues was undertaken over 12 months and combined with the analysis of current projects to identify emerging issues where there are gaps in Environment and Health research in Europe. This provides an up-to-date, comprehensive analysis of Environment and Health research in Europe and areas where transnational research can bring added value. In addition, in order to appreciate the range of projects in the database and rather than just list project titles, a visual representation was produced. The aim of this visualisation is to depict the distribution of projects by identifying clusters of similar or related project activity. It is generated from the textual descriptions of ongoing research projects in the ERA-ENVHEALTH database collected by the partners. This interactive visualisation is available through the ERA-ENVHEALTH website.

In order to maximise the potential for joint funding of common strategic issues across member states in Europe, **prioritisation criteria and a multi-criteria analysis tool** have been developed. The following set of prioritisation criteria has been identified:

- Links with policy needs
- Multi/interdisciplinary issue
- Severity and size of the problem – burden of disease
- Benefit of international collaboration
- Public concern

The Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA) tool allows standardisation of the thematic selection process, among topics but also among the various partners in ERA-ENVHEALTH. The criteria and MCA tool enable structured discussions on the selection of E&H topics and enhance transparency in the selection process. These are to be applied to E&H issues across the partners in order to produce a panel on which to base the discussions to develop a **prioritised set of work areas for joint activities and funding in ERA-ENVHEALTH**. In this way, the partners will be able to define the topics for which joint activities can be set up (for example workshops and knowledge exchange activities), as well as those for which an ERA-ENVHEALTH research programme may be launched. A work session for this prioritisation exercise took place on the 30th of March 2011.

An **Expert Database** was also developed online. Its purpose is to identify and provide information on relevant scientific experts in Environment and Health. In March 2011, it contains information on 53 registered experts from 11 countries and will continuously be expanded in particular as the ERA-ENVHEALTH second call is being prepared.



The Expert Database is mainly used by the project partners to identify experts for their organisations' activities, such as for expertise queries, call evaluations, workshops ... These experts can also be references for the peer review and evaluation of the projects to be received in the framework of the future ERA-ENVHEALTH calls.

A specific work package addresses the **dissemination and communication** strategy of the project. It ensures participation of the various stakeholders in the implementation of the project and ensures they have access to the results, in particular through the monthly newsflash and the through the actions of the External Advisory Committee (EAC). The EAC was set up with 8 members selected to take into consideration a balanced composition between scientists, stakeholders and policy-makers. The project aims to bring in new contributors through effective promotion of the project objectives, progress and results. The project logo was designed by high school students in Sweden adding an educational dimension to the project's identity.

The website: www.era-envhealth.eu and project information exchange platform are continually updated and provide the tools to disseminate the project results. Also, through the link to the databases, the website is fostering exchange, within the Environment and Health community, at the national, regional and international levels, with regards to E&H programme planning and funding.

A number of external visibility tools have been created:

- Project leaflet: over 1200 leaflets have so far been

distributed,

- Posters have been presented at national and international conferences and meetings,

- Publications in journals by the project partners,

- Monthly **newsflash** implemented since December 2009 which increases the impact of the project's dissemination strategy and introduces regular informal communication with the partners and stakeholders. It is currently being sent to over 1700 contacts.

Links and collaboration between the project and other international networks have been implemented (e.g. cooperation between HENVINET and ERA-ENVHEALTH and the SKEP and "Knowledge for healthy soils" networks...). The first ERA-ENVHEALTH workshop for potential new partners was held on September 15, 2010 in The Hague, in the framework of the GA meeting. The aim of the workshop was to finalise the mechanisms for participation of interested potential new partners. Possible collaboration was investigated with a number of other EC projects and potential partners working in the same area. Three projects presented their work: ENRIECO (Environmental Health Risks in European Birth Cohorts), HEIMTSA/INTARESE (HEIMTSA: Health and Environment Integrated Methodology and Toolbox for Scenario Assessment and INTARESE: Integrated Assessment of Health Risks of Environmental Stressors in Europe), HENVINET (Health and Environment Network) and discussions around how we could collaborate together took place. Organisations working in the same area were also present and in particular the Health Protection Agency (UK) whose work in E&H was presented.

EXPECTED FINAL RESULTS AND THEIR POTENTIAL IMPACT AND USE

ERA-ENVHEALTH brings dynamism to E&H research in the EU by promoting collaboration and fostering innovative ideas, and by increasing its visibility as a key area for research. With the development of new programmes and changes to existing ones, an increase is expected in the diversity of disciplines involved in research and in multinational projects on E&H issues. ERA-ENVHEALTH responds to the recognised need for enhancing coordination through cooperation in E&H research and 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. Further to the success of the 1st EHAP and the March 2010 Parma Declaration from the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, there is an added value to having coherent collaborative framework to define coordinated and combined actions for research on some

of the Environment and Health priorities. ERA-ENVHEALTH supports a 2nd EHAP to ensure continued coordination in environment and health research by the Member States. In this respect, ERA-ENVHEALTH is introducing a new task to investigate the link between policy and research in E&H. This new task will also suggest recommendations to improve the uptake of scientific results in policy-making and provide a policy framework linked to E&H research by formulating EU-wide environment and health priorities from a policy point of view in order to guide collaborative research. Also, further to the prioritisation exercise, the consortium is defining an action plan for joint activities which should provide concrete ideas on possible interesting activities and how to implement them together. A second call is expected to be designed.

Project public website: www.era-envhealth.eu

DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT US FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO JOIN THE NETWORK AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE WORK TO ENHANCE COORDINATION OF EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH RESEARCH.



23RD INTERNATIONAL ISEE CONFERENCE: 13-16 SEPT. 2011



The **23rd International ISEE conference** will be held in **Barcelona, Spain from 13th-16th September 2011**. The International Society for Environmental Epidemiology (ISEE) provides a forum for the discussion of problems unique to the study of human health and the environment. The 2011 conference is being organised by faculty from the Centre of Research in Environmental Epidemiology (CREAL) (<http://www.creal.cat/>). The conference Chair and co-chair of the local organising committee are Professors Mark J Nieuwenhuijsen and Manolis Kogevinas. The overall conference theme will be “The **encompassing face of environmental epidemiology**”, including specific themes such as: (i) Sustainable transport and health: Impact of transport on health and approaches to

reduce health impacts; (ii) Impact of climate change: from water scarcity to Saharan dust episodes; (iii) Early exposure - later life: in utero and early life exposures and effects in later life; and (iv) New methods and technologies. The conference also encourages symposia and abstracts on topics that have been of long standing interest to ISEE members and that are typically represented in the annual conferences. Studies of air pollution, pesticides, water quality, children’s environmental health, and epidemiological methods are likely topics. Over 1500 abstract have been submitted (including an abstract for ERA-ENVHEALTH), and around 20 symposia are organised on important topics in environment and health.

For more information visit the ISEE website: www.iseeepi.org or the 2011 conference website: www.isee2011.org



21ST ISES CONFERENCE: 23-27 OCT. 2011

BALTIMORE MARRIOTT WATERFRONT HOTEL

The **2011 meeting of the International Society of Exposure Science** will gather scientists from all over the globe to share current research activities and explore emerging trends in exposure science and environmental health. This is the premier international exposure science event bringing together scientists, engineers, and policy makers from a variety of disciplines to highlight significant scientific achievements and awareness of the role of exposure science in environmental health. The conference will take place from **Sunday, October 23 through Thursday, October 27** in **Baltimore , Maryland (USA)**.



International Society of Exposure Science
Science for Better Environmental Health

This year’s theme is

“**Advancing Exposure Science for Environmental Health**”, which reflects the importance and expanding role of exposure science for a healthy environment. This can be described not only in terms of human health, our traditional focus, but also in terms of the impact we have on the environment. **Deadline for abstract submission is May 20.**

For more information visit the ISES website www.isesweb.org/ or the 2011 conference website: <http://ises2011.memberclicks.net/>

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

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

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

PLEASE INFORM US OF IMPORTANT E&H MEETINGS OR REPORTS

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