



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

# ERA-ENVHEALTH

## MONTHLY NEWSFLASH



HAPPY NEW YEAR

### THIS MONTH'S NEWS:

JANUARY 2010

WP1 PROGRESS AND FINAL REPORT

WP2 PROGRESS

WP4 PROGRESS AND TASK 4.3 EVALUATION STEERING COMMITTEE

UPCOMING MEETINGS

BEST WISHES FOR 2010

### WP6 – COORDINATION: VALIDATION OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> EC PERIODIC REPORT

ERA-ENVHEALTH's 1<sup>st</sup> EC periodic report was submitted in October 2009 and the technical from the reviewers and the project officer comments were received in December 2009. The review covered the 1st period: M1-M12 and took the form of a desk review carried out by the EC assisted by 2 independent external reviewers. They assessed the degree of fulfilment of the project work plan for the relevant period and of the related deliverables; the continued relevance of the objectives and breakthrough potential with respect to the scientific and industrial state of the art; the resources planned and utilised in relation to the achieved progress, in a manner consistent with the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness; the management procedures and methods of the project; the beneficiaries' contributions and integration within the project; and the expected potential impact in economic, competition and social terms, and the beneficiaries' plan for the use and dissemination of foreground.

During this first year ERA-ENVHEALTH has achieved the development of a shared vision and improved exchange of knowledge and expertise between countries through access to data at the European level ([website](#), [expert](#) and [research databases](#)). A first call was also launched and effective communication and dissemination tools created. Based on the analysis of the project progress indicators implemented, the consortium can be satisfied with the work achieved and the communication between the partners is efficient and motivating.

A response to the comments raised in the technical review was sent to the Commission beginning of January and the EC still has to provide comments on the declared financial reports before official validation of the 1st periodic report .

Overall, the Commission is satisfied with the progress made and with the quality of the reporting and deliverables submitted. The project has made good progress in line with the DoW.



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### REMINDER:

#### NEXT DEADLINES

- **Mid-January 2010: Final comments on WP1 report: emphasis on discussion and conclusions**
- **Mid-February 2010: 1st meeting of the evaluation steering committee**
- **February 2010: Deadline for submission to EC of WP1 report**
- **February 2010: Deadline for submission to the EC of research database and guidelines for users**

### WP5 – COMMUNICATION: MONTHLY NEWSFLASH

WP5 has implemented a new monthly newsflash to improve the dissemination and communication strategy of the project and introduce regular informal communication with the partners and stakeholders. **Please do not hesitate to contribute to this monthly newsflash** by providing short articles on any interesting meetings or discussions you have participated in and do not hesitate to send in any photos or ideas for content to make sure it responds to your communication needs. And don't forget to visit the project website:

[www.era-envhealth.eu](http://www.era-envhealth.eu)



1st newsflash – December 2009



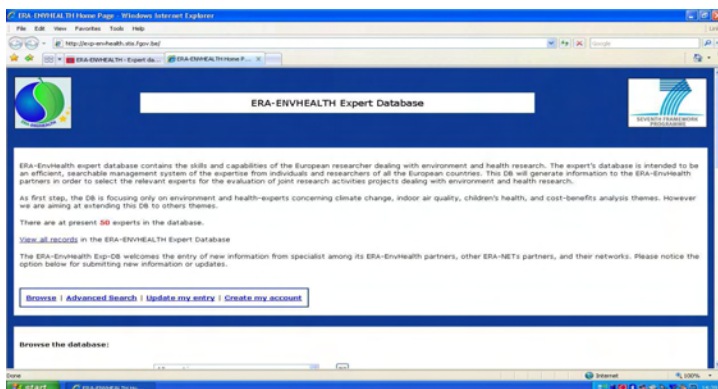
**WP1 – PROGRESS**

The most important objective of WP1 was to create, develop and start completing the project databases ([Experts database](#) and [E&H Research database](#)). The work involved developing the questionnaires which were used as a basis for the collection of all relevant information and as a basis for the development of the databases. The second step was to identify and collect information on national Environment & Health programmes to complete the E&H research database. A First draft overview of programmes within the ERA-ENVHEALTH consortium was written in April 2009 but more detailed information with a wider scope was sought to complete the research database, as the information requests to complete the online research database were enlarged to non ERA-ENVHEALTH partners. This opening is still a major objective of WP1 and the database, as it is a living database that should be updated and should be completed by more countries, if possible, throughout the lifetime of ERA-ENVHEALTH and beyond.

The data thus collected over the summer 2009 has been extracted and analysed to prepare the evaluation and publication of the Final overview of programmes and projects including synthesis and recommendations due in February

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The [ERA-ENVHEALTH Expert Database](#) aims to help identify scientists or experts of the highest standards in the Environment and Health domain. The main users of ERA-ENVHEALTH's expert database are the ERA-ENVHEALTH partners to allow them to approach selected experts for joint activities and also for their own national research-funding programmes. However, non ERA-ENVHEALTH users who want to consult the data are invited to contact the [administrator of the database](#) to get a login and password. Experts included in the database may also be invited to provide scientific advice or participate in scientific debates within the ERA-ENVHEALTH project and potential working groups or panels created as the work progresses. All ERA-ENVHEALTH members are asked to contact and invite relevant experts from their countries. However, the database is of course open to experts outside Europe. Experts who wish to be part of the database should contact Mohssine El Kalhoun, the [administrator of the database](#).



Consulting data is free of charge, but users cannot claim property rights on the data in any shape or form.

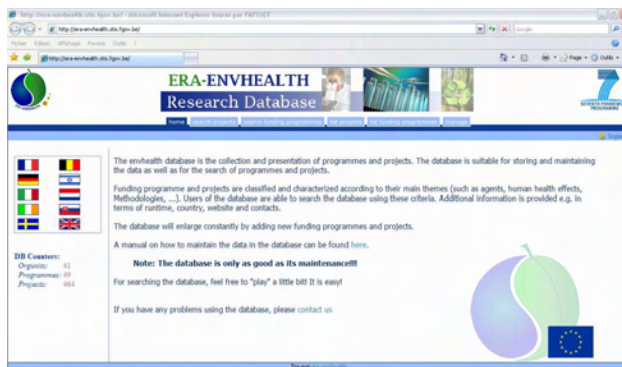
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2010.

Information sharing is an overarching objective for the creation of the research database. It provides a useful platform to share information between programme managers and provides good visibility of Environment and Health programmes and projects in Europe. It currently contains details of more than 51 current and past E&H funding programmes and more than 464 projects in Europe.

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The [ERA-ENVHEALTH E&H research database](#) provides a unique source of material for environment and health scientists and policy-makers to access data on current E&H research projects, to identify potential research partners in Europe.



Consulting data is free of charge, but users cannot claim property rights on the data in any shape or form.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**FEBRUARY 2010: 1ST EVALUATION STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING (PARIS)**

**23 FEBRUARY 2010: 6TH WP LEADER CONFERENCE CALL**

**25-26 FEBRUARY 2010: NEW OSH ERA FINAL CONFERENCE (BERLIN)**

**23-24 MARCH 2010: ANNUAL ERA-NET EVENT 2010 (BRUSSELS)**

**SEPTEMBER 2010: GA MEETING IN THE NETHERLANDS**



## WP1 – FINAL REPORT TO BE SUBMITTED IN FEBRUARY 2010

The information from 13 countries on 41 organisations, 49 programmes and 464 projects entered into the E&H research database last summer has been analysed by UVZ and UBA for the final report on research programmes and projects.

A wider scope has been achieved in the final report when compared to the draft overview (published in April 2009) as the second phase of the information requests was extended to non ERA-ENVHEALTH partners, thus aiming to provide an overview and description of the Environment and Health research landscape in the EU.

The information gathered in this way will then be used by WP2 to identify and prioritise key strategic issues in E&H for joint activities and transnational research funding.

We would like to thank all partners and the other non-ERA-ENVHEALTH organisations for their collaboration in collecting information on the E&H programmes and projects in Europe and would like to remind partners that **the database is not closed and that we should continue our endeavour to collect as much data as possible.**

## WP2 – PROGRESS

WP2 started with an initial trial of the knowledge management software on a selection of the E&H projects in the database which has shown the usefulness of the knowledge management approach to analyse the information in the database. This software will be used to examine the full database for complementarities and clusters. Horizon scanning has also been undertaken of emerging issues in the E&H area and it is then intended that the analysis of current projects will be combined with the horizon scanning to identify emerging issues where there are gaps in E&H research in Europe. The horizon-scanning will provide an up-to-date, comprehensive analysis of E&H research in Europe and areas where transnational research can bring added value. Furthermore, it was important to get an overview of the prioritisation criteria for the E&H issues across the ERA-ENVHEALTH partners and this has been achieved through a teleconference in June 2009 and further developed in a workshop in September 2009 after the General Assembly meeting. Seven criteria were discussed. These criteria, once developed and applied within the project will maximise the potential for joint funding of common strategic E&H issues across member states in Europe.

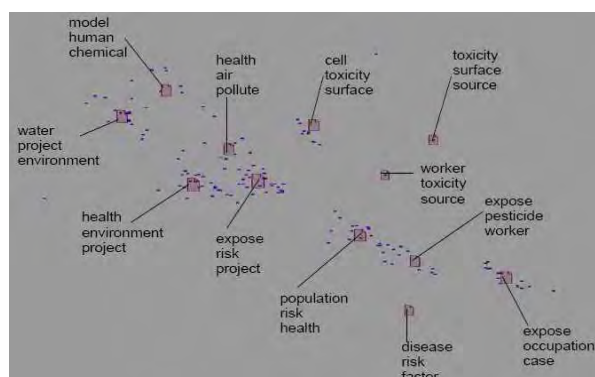
The Final Overview aims to describe the E&H landscape, describe the structures available for funding of transnational E&H research, identify the main authorities in the field of E&H, obtain information on programme managing practices in particular countries and provide recommendations for effective funding of E&H research and effective arrangements for cooperation.

The partners were solicited for a first round of comments on the analysis end of November 2009.

Partners will be requested to provide their **comments mi-January on the final draft**, with a particular emphasis this time on the recommendations and conclusions.

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Therefore, the information provided by WP1 is being used to define E&H issues in different existing programmes, assessing how common these issues are across programmes. The task will also identify emerging E&H issues. These issues will then be prioritised for joint activities and funding using the criteria also developed.



Identifying complementarities and clusters



## WP4 – PROGRESS

The most important objective was to prepare and launch the first transnational call for research projects funded by 3 partners: NERC (UK), AFSSET (France) and VROM (the Netherlands). It was successfully launched in 2008 and resulted in the selection of 2 projects, providing a practical experience and good case study for transnational collaborative working in funding research. It highlighted issues that can

arise when jointly funding research. The evaluation and selection process implemented was successful, robust and transparent and will be useful for future calls. Both scientific excellence and added-value for the financiers were discussed during the selection process, making it much more efficient and relevant.

## WP4 – TASK 4.3 PROGRESS AND CREATION OF THE EVALUATION STEERING COMMITTEE

The implementation of multidisciplinary research at the European level needs to have a rigorous common framework in terms of management strategy, calls for research proposals or dissemination of results. Within the framework of ERA-ENVHEALTH, the implementation of calls for research proposals is conducted in two steps: A first call for research proposals has been launched by 3 countries and has led to the funding of 2 projects; A second call for research proposals will be prepared for the end of the project (2012) using the joint work of the consortium members and the experience gained during the first call. The first call is to be used as a case study and will therefore be evaluated in order to identify the strengths and weaknesses of its process, measure performance and efficiency and help suggest solutions that would improve the management of the calls. This evaluation is a keystone to appreciate the adequacy between policy-making needs and research results and outcomes. In addition, it is, to our knowledge, a novelty in ERA-NETs.

It was decided to select an external independent expert to evaluate the research carried out within the framework of the first call. This will be a 2-stage evaluation: in 2010 looking at the process and in 2012 looking at the follow-up and

impacts. The evaluation will be based on standard criteria used conventionally in similar research programmes evaluations.

A call for tenders was issued by Afsset and a subcontractor selected to carry out the first part of the evaluation, looking into the various stages from the preparation of the call to the contracting with the research teams involved in the selected projects. It will provide feedback from the first call experience and give recommendations for the preparation of the second call.

The Evaluation Steering Committee has been set up to pilot and supervise this evaluation. It will meet 3 times in 2010, with the first meeting in February and is composed of 11 members. This committee aims to represent the diversity of possible perceptions about the process of the first call. Its function is to guide the evaluator, to assist him in understanding the stakes, constraints and functioning rules, and finally to provide feedback on the relevance and feasibility of the recommendations.

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