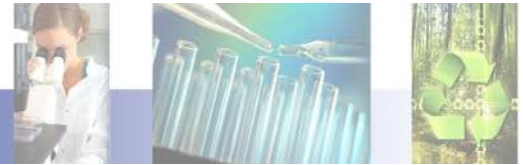




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ERA-ENVHEALTH MONTHLY NEWSFLASH



VISUALISATION OF ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH DATA ON RESEARCH PROJECTS' ACTIVITIES

THIS MONTH'S NEWS: MAY 2011

**VISUALISATION OF E&H
DATA ON RESEARCH
PROJECT'S ACTIVITIES**

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The partners of ERA-ENVHEALTH have entered details of the research projects they are undertaking on environment and health issues into a database. In order to appreciate the range of projects, being undertaken and rather than just listing project titles, objectives etc., there are ways of seeing them as pictures in a so called visualisation. The aim of this visualisation is to depict the distribution of projects by identifying clusters of similar or related project activity.

Statistical text analysis methods have been applied to the set of project information to identify semantically related research (through the occurrence of shared terminology and vocabulary). Further statistical processes have been applied to enable this information to be displayed online.

In the visualisation, dots represent different projects, with different colours representing different partner countries in ERA-ENVHEALTH. The radius of the dots is proportional to the budget of the project (this feature can be switched off). The closer the dots are together, the closer they are semantically i.e. the more terminology (keywords) they share. Consequently the further apart projects are in the visualisation, the less they have in common. There are no labelled axes in the 2D visualisation as it uses a force-directed algorithm to obtain the best layout in terms of equilibrium between attraction of similar projects and repulsion of dissimilar ones.

Gaps between projects can be clicked and keywords are displayed which are extrapolated from the keywords associated with the nearest neighbouring projects and give an indication of what the gap refers to.

As part of the work to identify emerging issues within environment and health, horizon scanning was carried out. Horizon scanning can be described as the systematic search for potential threats and opportunities that are currently poorly recognized. It is a futures technique and can be used in a number of different ways as well as combined with other futures techniques. To

identify these threats and opportunities a large variety of on-line sources (including newspapers, journals, science, health and environment news sites) were scanned on a monthly basis for articles relating to environment and health. These articles specifically about the area of environment and health have been collected and amalgamated with this visualisation to illustrate the potential gaps in the current research programmes (with click-through evidence about these threats or opportunities).

Two visualisations were produced. The first shows all the projects and an option to also view the horizon scanning articles as well. The second visualisation shows only those projects (and horizon scanning articles) where there are more than 200 characters of available text which equates to 300 of the 464 projects that are in the project database. By limiting the projects displayed to those with more associated details it is assumed that the visualisation will be more accurate.



It is recommended for first time users that the **help button** (?) is clicked as soon as the visualisation is viewed. Three separate pages of help are provided. The first is an introduction, the second a "how to" page and third is a page covering the features of the visualisation.

For access to the visualisation based on all the projects please click the link below:

<http://87.84.223.226:8080/EnvHealth.v3/result.jsp>

For access to the visualisation based on only those projects with more than 200 characters of text please click the link below:

<http://87.84.223.226:8080/EnvHealth.v3/limitedresult.jsp>

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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INTER-NETWORK COOPERATION WORKSHOP (19-20 APRIL, 2011, UK)

The EU Framework Programmes 6 & 7 have supported a wide range of ERANET actions, including a number in the environment sector. The networks funded have largely been successful and in many cases there is a desire to continue beyond the end of European funding support. Whilst the topics and themes vary between the networks, the activities they carry out – such as knowledge exchange, and sharing of research effort – are common between them. There is hence potentially much to be achieved by sharing methods of work, problems and solutions between the networks, so that best practice can be identified. Furthermore, there are advantages in bringing together the different thematic networks, in order that cross-thematic issues can be addressed. This holistic approach is essential from an environmental management or regulatory perspective.

With these issues in mind, on 19/20th April, the SKEP Network hosted a workshop involving representatives from the following networks: SKEP (Scientific Knowledge for Environmental Protection), SNOWMAN (Knowledge for Healthy Soils), ERA-ENVHEALTH (Environment and Health research coordination), CRUE (European Flood Research) and URBAN (Urban Sustainability in Europe), to explore how such cooperation might be taken forward.

The workshop took place at the European Commission office in London, UK.

The first session on the workshop was designed to get to know each other better. Each network presented its partners, purpose, activities, funding approaches and tools available. A representative from Netwatch (an ERA-NET information system – platform) was also present.

The participants then discussed the purpose of cooperation, looking at what could be achieved through cooperation and what role the cooperation should have. This discussion helped define the drivers for cooperation and produced a set of descriptors or the role of cooperation between the networks. The network outcomes defined were: leverage potential, learning, swapping expertise, better environment, minimizing duplication, personal relationships.

Three potential cooperation scenarios were then discussed, going from the minimum baseline with just a virtual platform to a single initiative through full integration of the networks. This was followed by a discussion of the types of activities which would be considered 'in scope' and 'out of scope'. These discussions led to the consideration of unique selling

points and a mission statement.

Day two then focused on the action plan and the development of a 12 month timeline for "quick win" activities.

The first result from this workshop is a concept note that is being circulated among the participants and their different networks defining:

- The mission and the objectives of the cooperation between the networks.
- Activities identified as benefiting from cooperation including knowledge exchange, joint research and communication.
- The possible cooperation model including the identity of the cooperation, the management and funding.
- The key benefits from this cooperation.

Cooperation between the networks should be carried out as a 'light



Participants from right to left: sitting, June Graham (SNIFFER), Adrienne Pittman (ANSES), Mohssine El Kahloun (BELSPO/FPS), standing behind, Jon Greaves (EA), Frank Agterberg (SKB), Simon Gardner (EA), Stefan Vetter, Maria Zacharias, Wouter Vanneuville; missing: Nadine Dueso, Sofie van den Bulck, Antero Honkasalo, Nick Harrap, Shane Colgan

touch' activity, focused on maximising benefits for the participants for minimum investment.

Comments on the concept note are expected for the end of June 2011.



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

The workshop is arranged by the Climate-TRAP project, the Swedish National Institute of Public Health (SNIPH) and Umeå University. The results of existing surveillance and early warning system for EU and associated countries will be discussed during the workshop.

The objective of the workshop is to present and discuss assessments of climate change related health impacts and preparedness in the public health sector. This workshop will partly focus on North and NW Europe. Similar regional workshops will be arranged in Italy and Slovenia.

Climate-TRAP aims to develop guidelines and training modules, which will be sharpened by gaining input from national and regional representatives working in this field. The workshop will include presentations from experts within the Climate-TRAP consortia, but also good examples of national or regional adaptation and plans for the future.

ERA-ENVHEALTH's results will be presented at this workshop by our Swedish partner, Swedish EPA.

ERA-ENVHEALTH PRESENTATION AT ISEE 2011

The ERA-ENVHEALTH abstract submitted for the 2011 International Society for Environmental Epidemiology (ISEE) conference in Barcelona on 13-16 September 2011 has been accepted.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND CONFERENCE CALLS

22 JUNE 2011: ERA-ENVHEALTH WP LEADER CONFERENCE CALL

28 JUNE 2011 : NEWTASK (BRIDGING SCIENCE-POLICY) MEETING (BRUSSELS, BELGIUM)

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

5-7 OCTOBER 2011: WORKSHOP ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH EFFECTS. IMPACTS, PREPAREDNESS, GUIDELINES AND 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)

PLEASE INFORM US OF IMPORTANT E&H MEETINGS OR REPORTS

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