



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

ERA-ENVHEALTH

MONTHLY NEWSFLASH



PROJECT PROGRESS

Based on the recommendations made during the GA meeting in The Hague September 13-15, the following progress has been achieved:

WP1 – Information collection

With regards to consultations of ERA-ENVHEALTH database and as not just the scientific community that is interested in the results of the database but also other stakeholders, WP1 in collaboration with WP5 are working to **adapt our communication strategies to include them**. A broad contact-lists with potential stakeholders, end users, NGO's, and policy makers has been established based on the existing partner's networks, internet search, and participants in the Belgian Presidency events related to environment and Health.

At the European Congress on "Environmental health and social vulnerabilities," which took place on the 21-22 October, 2010 in Namur, Belgium, WP1-tasks leaders (UBA and BelSPO) pointed out the importance of the information exchange and the database must **keep expanding** in particular with new projects, new programmes & new countries.

WP2– Definition and preparation of joint activities

The WP 2 report on **"programme strategic and emerging E&H issues, complementarities and clustering arrangements"** was discussed at the GA meeting in The Hague and comments were further accepted until the 13th of October 2010. The report is currently being updated with the final comments and will be submitted to the EC beginning of November 2010. It will then be published on the project website.

WP3 – Action plan for joint activities

This WP is actually looking at preparing an

ERA-ENVHEALTH action plan for joint activities and research in E&H. It could be offered as a proposal to Hungary during their presidency to help steer the discussions at the European level. Further discussions are to take place on this action plan proposal in light of the new task proposal to bridge science and policy in E&H., to be discussed by the ERA-ENVHEALTH task force in London on the 4th of November 2010.



The Hague: Het Binnenhof, the center of Dutch political life

WP4 – Funding joint research

The 2 projects funded under the first call presented their work at this year's GA meeting in The Hague and actively responded to the consortium's queries.

WP5 – Dissemination and communication

The tools available for the dissemination and communication of the project results are continuously improved, in particular the [project monthly newsflash](#), posters and presentations.

As mentioned before, there is a need to have concrete products for policy, to show our policy-makers now and give them something they can use. This issues will be discussed at the meeting for Bridging Science-Policy to be held in November in London, UK .

THIS MONTH'S NEWS:
OCTOBER 2010
PROJECT PROGRESS
STUDY BY HEAL ON THE EU ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH ACTION PLAN
UPCOMING MEETINGS
NEW TASK: BRIDGING SCIENCE AND POLICY IN SELECTED E&H TOPICS
CONGRESS REPORT : ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SOCIAL VULNERABILITIES
CONGRESS REPORT: JOINT PROGRAMMING
CONTACTS

REMINDER:
NEXT DEADLINES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28 October 2010: deadline for objections regarding the next EC review M30. • End of October: deadline for the proposals for the new activity to expand the work and the E&H action plan • 4 November 2010: meeting for the new task bridging science-policy, London, UK.

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THE EU ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH ACTION PLAN (EHAP): ASSESSMENT AND OUTLOOK FOR FUTURE ACTION

In June 2010, the Belgian Federal Minister for Environment published "The EU Environment and Health Action Plan (EHAP) – Assessment and Outlook for Future Action" in preparation for the development of [a second EHAP](#). It was written by the Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL).

This document sets out the policy and research background and reviews the achievements of the EU Environment and Health Action Plan (EHAP), which comes to an end in 2010. The study also identifies issues and opportunities for future steps.

The first part of the report assesses the current Action Plan in terms of consistency on priority themes, institutional support, perceived "added value", and limitations. The assessment demonstrates consistent support and a general consensus on the key themes which form the backbone of the current EHAP. These key themes include better protection of vulnerable groups, indoor air quality (IAQ), improving policy tools, such as human biomonitoring (HBM), environment and health information systems, and the transfer of EU funded environment and health research into policy-making. The assessment also shows institutional support for recently emerging challenges, such as climate change and the combination effects of chemicals.

The second part of the report looks at the current political context and the opportunities over the next five years to better integrate environment and health in policy-making. Since the EU launched its SCALE strategy in 2003, significant progress in policy, research and information related to reducing ill health linked to the environment has been achieved. The EHAP has served as a vehicle to increase coordination among the Commission Directorates-General and among Member States. It has also provided a framework for greater participation of wider civil society actors through the Consultative Forum. One of the major obstacles in implementing the EHAP however has been a lack of dedicated resources. In the second prospective part of the study, the motivation of the key players for a 2nd EHAP has been investigated with positive signals from the new Health Commissioner and some key MEPs. The EU Member States pledged their support to environment and health action in the signing of the WHO Parma Ministerial commitments in March 2010. The study addresses existing environment, public health and research programme structures as sources of funding for EHAP actions and also the opportunities within scheduled revisions of other EU funding policies.

The third part of the report outlines options for a second EHAP, including the format, mechanisms and themes as well as the action that needs to be taken. The study proposes how different EU institutions could help take the second EHAP forward, such as convening the member state and stakeholder Consultative Forum on Environment and Health, and working towards Council conclusions during the EU Presidency of Belgium and Hungary.

The study is available at:

<http://www.health.belgium.be/eportal/Aboutus/relatedinstituti ons/NEHAP/BelgianPresidency/index.htm>

Study carried out by HEAL: <http://www.env-health.org>



UPCOMING MEETINGS
4 NOVEMBER 2010: TASK FORCE MEETING FOR THE NEW ACTIVITY AND ACTION PLAN IN LONDON
9 NOVEMBER 2010: ERA-NET FUTURE WORKSHOP IN BRUSSELS
23 NOVEMBER 2010: WP LEADER CONFERENCE CALL
25-26 NOVEMBER 2010: « TOWARDS A 7TH ENVIRONMENT ACTION PROGRAMME » IN BRUSSELS UNDER THE BELGIAN EU PRESIDENCY
END OF MARCH 2011: EXCEPTIONAL GA MEETING IN BERLIN, GERMANY

INFORM US OF ANY IMPORTANT
UPCOMING MEETINGS IN E&H



NEW TASK: BRIDGING SCIENCE AND POLICY IN E&H

The complexities and uncertainties involved in organising Environment and Health (E&H) policy result from the need to consider the implications of E&H policy across different organisational levels, spatial and temporal scales, and sectors.

Based on the ERA-ENVHEALTH comments received from the External Advisory Committee, there is a forceful message for the need for understanding the relationships between research and policy in the E&H domain. ERA-ENVHEALTH provides the forum to explore this issue as it brings together 16 partners financing EH research, a number of whom are also policy-makers.

Therefore a new task is suggested to take into account these comments and ideas to improve the results of ERA-ENVHEALTH and in particular improve the uptake of scientific results in policy-making and the use of the work already carried out in the project by selecting a certain number of important topics and studying the results more thoroughly for policy-making. The main objectives of this task are:

- To expand on the work already accomplished and the information available in the research database by focusing on a few important E&H topics (selected under WP2) and examining those in more detail taking into account an analysis of drivers, policy-relevance, risk management and cost of inaction.

- To analyse the science to policy communication in the field of environment and health and point out strategies on how the science to policy gap can be bridged and how scientific results can be better used by policy.

- Prepare summary sheets for communication, in particular to policy-makers and other stakeholders.

- To contribute to a future EU EHAP by promoting more fitted research governance in the field.

These objectives shall be achieved through a number of different sub-tasks and case studies and multiple methods (database research, interviews with policy-makers, assessment and expansion of 2nd questionnaire...). The task should expand on the work already carried out within WP1, WP2, and WP5 by focusing on specific topics and providing more details with regard to the links between research and policy action (including policy relevance and cost of inaction).

A task force was implemented at this years GA meeting to discuss and finalise the task proposal. The first draft of this task will be discussed by the task force in London on the 4 November 2010. Based on this discussion, an adapted draft will be send to the partners and the EAC for further feedback.

CONFERENCE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL VULNERABILITIES" ON THE 21-22 OCTOBER, 2010 IN NAMUR, BELGIUM (BY UBA AND FPS)

The ERA-ENVHEALTH project was invited to speak about the importance of networking in environment and health research at the European Congress on "Environmental health and social vulnerabilities," which took place on the 21-22 October, 2010 in Namur, Belgium.

The objectives of the conference were to produce concrete recommendations for Europe and for the Member States in three domains:

- for mainstreaming links between social vulnerabilities and environmental health in the EU, national and regional information systems,
- on the importance of the community and participation of target populations in taking on the challenge of environmental health in an equitable manner,
- for establishing connections between researchers, policy makers, and national associations active in this domain.

Katja Kailer (UBA) and Mohssine El Kahloun (FPS/BeISPO) presented the ERA-ENVHEALTH project (Coordination of National Environment and Health Research Programmes -

Environment and Health) as a good example to enhance the coordination of European environment and health research.

Mohssine El Kahloun presented the general information on the project and network (framework, objectives, partners, some of the project's outcomes with a focus on the research database as an important sources of information). Katja Kailer presented the aims and some of the results of the "Final overview of programmes and projects including synthesis and recommendations" (WP1). Based on the information in the research database, she focused on programmes and projects dealing with the social aspects of environment and health in general and with socioeconomic disparities and health in particular. A copy of the presentation is available on the website: [ElKahloun-Kailer.ppt](#).



If you need more information about the contribution of ERA-ENVHEALTH to this conference please contact: Katja Kailer (Katja.Kailer@uba.de) from UBA and/or Mohssine El Kahloun (mohssine.elkahloun@belspo.be) from FPS/BeISPO.



BELGIAN PRESIDENCY CONFERENCE ON JOINT PROGRAMMING IN RESEARCH: A COMMON APPROACH TOWARD INNOVATION

As the person responsible for the communication and dissemination strategy of the project, Mohssine El Kahloun was asked to attend the Belgian Presidency Conference on Joint Programming and explore the possibilities for future continuation of the ERA-ENVHEALTH project.

The overall aim of Joint Programming is to tackle common European major societal challenges ("grand challenges") in a number of key areas by combining national research efforts and so to make better use of Europe's precious public R&D resources. The Belgian Presidency Conference aimed to take stock of the achievements and the lessons learnt to date in view of further developing the Joint Programming process.

The European Council of March 2008 called on the Commission and Member States to explore the potential of Joint Programming, asking for joint activities to be launched by 2010. The Commission made proposals to launch such a process in July 2008 in a Communication entitled 'Towards Joint Programming in Research: Working together to tackle common challenges more effectively'. These proposals were based notably on the results of the public consultation following the Commission Green Paper of April 2007 and on the work of a dedicated expert group mandated by the Commission. The Council of Ministers endorsed these proposals in December 2008 and agreed to launch the process.

The conference was a good opportunity to take stock of the achievements and the lessons learnt to date in view of further developing the Joint Programming process.

Day 1: Monday 18th of October 2010

The first day of the Conference focused on the concept of Joint Programming during the morning session. In the afternoon, a broad range of parallel sessions focussing firstly on the strategic aspects and, secondly, on the implementation aspects of Joint Programming took place.

Despite a long habit of European collaboration, JPI is a totally new concept that entails putting resources together in a context

of shrinking research budgets to tackle societal challenges together. However, to go forward the countries need to build trust and rely on a transparent management process.



Day 2: Tuesday 19th of October 2010

If Joint Programming is to be a success, it will be necessary to create the appropriate enabling environment. The work on the 'Framework Conditions for the implementation of Joint Programming' was, therefore, discussed during the second day of the Conference with the aim of producing practical guidelines before the end of 2010. The issues surrounding optimising the management of Joint Programming Initiatives were also discussed.

There are good possibilities for close cooperation between ESFRI (the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures, which is strategic instrument to develop the scientific integration of Europe and to strengthen its international outreach) and JPI. Not only since both processes are led by the Member States but also since they are dealing with Grand challenges.

Outcome of the Conference

The Conference outcomes will feed into a report to the Council on Joint Programming by the end of 2010 with a view to refining the approach to Joint Programming in the context of the implementation of the "Innovation Union" and other flagship initiatives under the Europe 2020 Strategy.

For more information see: http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/areas/programming/joint_programming_en.htm or the conference website: <http://www.jointprogramming2010.eu/index.php>

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