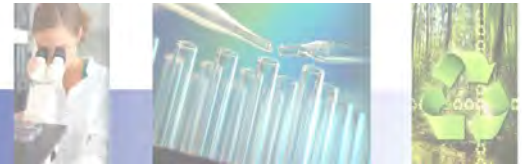




FP7-ENV-2007-CSA-1.2.3-01 Grant Agreement 219 337

## ERA-ENVHEALTH

### MONTHLY NEWSFLASH



## ERA-ENVHEALTH QUESTIONNAIRE FOR BRIDGING SCIENCE AND POLICY

### THIS MONTH'S NEWS:

AUGUST 2011

**QUESTIONNAIRE FOR BRIDGING SCIENCE AND POLICY**

**PAVING THE WAY TOWARDS A NEW ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH POLICY FRAMEWORK**

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

**CONFERENCES AND UPCOMING MEETINGS**

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The new task "Bridging Science and Policy" is designed to analyse and make recommendations to improve the uptake of scientific results in policy-making (including the use of the work already carried out in the project) by selecting a number of important topics and studying more thoroughly the results for policy-making. The knowledge transfer process is to be analysed and recommendations on how it can be optimised should be provided. Different partners are involved, each developing a specific topic.

BELSPO/FPS (Belgium) is responsible for describing and developing strategies that can help researchers, programme managers, intermediates, and policy-makers create more interdependence. To complete its task, BELSPO/FPS HFCSE is conducting a three-step analysis. The review of the scientific literature was the first stage. In order to provide a more practical perspective, the second step was related to the analysis of other ERA-NET experiences with knowledge transfer. During the third phase - the current one - interviews with key target groups are to take place.

A specific questionnaire has been elaborated for each type of E&H actors to be interviewed. Three main groups of actors have been defined: **Policy-makers** (decision-makers and their collaborators); **Knowledge brokers** (administrative authorities, interface units of recognised research institutes and universities, interest groups, project coordinators/funders, professional bodies/practitioners and the media); and **Researchers**. The questionnaires are available in a PDF format on the home page of the ERA-ENVHEALTH website: [www.era-envhealth.eu](http://www.era-envhealth.eu) or in the section on how to join



the project.

The interviews will result in a summary of the needs with regards to scientific information for policy and on the possibilities for transferring results by researchers and knowledge brokers. Thanks to its particular structure, the analysis of the questionnaires will enable BELSPO/FPS HFCSE to outline convergences and divergences between the three main types of actors involved in the knowledge transfer process.

The interviews will help provide recommendations and good practices for improving communication between researchers and policy-makers in the field of E&H. They will also enable us to identify a comprehensive communication strategy and new concrete communication tools.

A final result of the new task may lead to the development of a specific tool to enable projects to increase the impact of the communication of their results for policy-makers. Taking into account all subtask inputs, it will help analyse four crucial dimensions of the communication process for E&H: the specificities of policy needs, the limitations of research results, communication tools and channels, and final outcome.

If you identify yourself as one of the key actors aforementioned (more precise definitions are provided in the questionnaires), please contact Marie-Charlotte Delvaux and Mohssine El Kahloun at BELSPO:

[Marie-Charlotte.DELVAUX@belspo.be](mailto:Marie-Charlotte.DELVAUX@belspo.be)

[Mohssine.ELKAHLOUN@belspo.be](mailto:Mohssine.ELKAHLOUN@belspo.be)

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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.



## PAVING THE WAY TOWARDS A NEW ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH POLICY FRAMEWORK

The EU Environment and Health Action Plan (EHAP) 2004-2010 has recently ended. Within the framework of the EHAP, many important initiatives have been developed in relation to e.g. strengthening and coordination of E&H research, E&H Information Systems, indoor air (especially environmental tobacco smoke) and human bio-monitoring. However, as yet there are no concrete plans for a follow-up of this first EHAP.

In order to further develop these initiatives and anticipate new challenges, a new framework for E&H policy and research is needed. To facilitate the development of such a framework, the ERA-ENVHEALTH project has set out to deliver "building blocks" which outline potential components for a new E&H policy and research strategy.

In recent months, we have interviewed and sent surveys to a number of European experts regarding priorities for and trends in environment and health policy and research. Even though the political momentum might currently not be very favourable

for new policy in the field of environment and health, most experts do see possibilities for action.

The best chances may lie in identifying so-called "win-win" situations (co-benefits) for both health and other sectors, such as transport or economy. The benefits of investing in health must become more visible in order to put environment and health back on the political agenda. The experts have identified many topics for which collaborative research and policy may be useful and which could be taken up in a new policy framework.

We are drafting the building blocks document; it will be finalised by the end of this year. If you would like to become involved in this task and share your ideas about the future of environment and health research and policy, please contact Anne Knol at the RIVM:

[anne.knol@rivm.nl](mailto:anne.knol@rivm.nl)



Rijksinstituut voor Volksgezondheid  
en Milieu  
Ministerie van Volksgezondheid,  
Welzijn en Sport

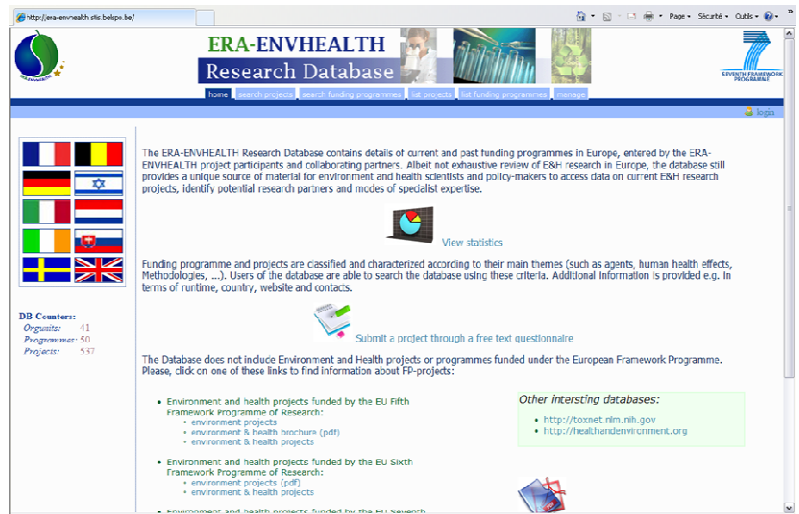
## IMPROVEMENT OF THE ERA-ENVHEALTH RESEARCH DATABASE

The [ERA-ENVHEALTH Research Database](#) is a tool created by the ERA-ENVHEALTH project.

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.

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 on E&H projects,
- 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,
- 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 is then 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](#)

**We would also like to remind partners to continue updating this database with newly funded research projects.**

For more information, please contact Mohssine El Kahloun: [mohssine.elkahloun@belspo.be](mailto:mohssine.elkahloun@belspo.be)



## QUESTIONNAIRE FOR POTENTIAL NEW PARTNERS

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?

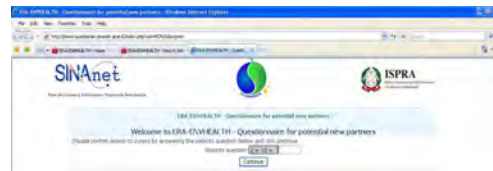
If your organisation funds and/or manages a research programme on Environment and Health you have the opportunity to join the project. Why?

- 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.

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.

A questionnaire for potential new partners has been devised and is available online. Responses will 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.

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.

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

**Access the questionnaire for potential new partners:**  
[www.questionari.sinanet.apat.it/index.php?sid=95762&lang=en](http://www.questionari.sinanet.apat.it/index.php?sid=95762&lang=en)

**We would also like to remind partners to send out the link to their contacts.**

For more information, please contact Luciana Sinisi:  
[luciana.sinisi@isprambiente.it](mailto:luciana.sinisi@isprambiente.it)

## ERA-ENVHEALTH GA MEETING AND WORK SESSIONS 3-5 OCTOBER 2011, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

This year's General Assembly meeting and work sessions are to take place in Belgium, in **Brussels from the 3rd to the 5th of October, 2011**, hosted by BELSPO.

The General Assembly meetings comprise a representative of each partner involved in the project and the members of the External Advisory Committee. This year, as the project has entered its final year, the focus is on joint activities.

The draft agenda is as follows:

### Monday 3 October 2011

**14.00 to 18.00: evaluation steering committee meeting :** discussion on the evaluation criteria for the second part of the evaluation of the 1st call.

*Restricted attendance to the evaluation steering committee members.*

### Tuesday 4 October 2011

**9.30 to 12.30: welcome and introduction and session dedicated to the management, financial and communication issues.** The recruitment of new partners will also be discussed.

*Restricted attendance for the management and financial issues to the GA representatives.*

**14.00 to 18.30: session dedicated to the scientific progress of the project**, including a presentation by the 2 projects funded under the 1st call.

*Attendance is open to all participants.*

**- 19.00 - till late: dinner and social event**

### Wednesday 5 October 2011

**9.00 to 12.30: Work session on the implementation of joint activities and in particular the second call.**

*Attendance is open to all participants.*

**14.00 to 17.00: Continuation of the work session and discussion on the final conference and future of the network.**

*Attendance is open to all participants.*

**17.00: Closure of the meeting**

Modifications to this draft agenda are liable to occur, a final agenda will be sent out in September.



## CONFERENCES

### **ANSES Scientific Conference - Reporting the results of the environmental, occupational and health research programme, 30 November 2011, Paris, France**

Twice a year, the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety organises seminars at which it presents the results of the research it finances as part of the National Environmental, Occupational and Health Research Programme. The theme of the next seminar will be: "Biological agents - from emergence to resurgence. Characterising the principal risk factors for humans."

This event will focus on current scientific knowledge of environmental dynamics favouring the emergence or resurgence of infectious microorganisms and pathologies. The programme for the event is currently being drawn up and will be published in September. Online reservation will be possible from October.

The ANSES Scientific Conference will be held on 30 November 2011 in the Adenauer Room of the Maison Internationale at the Cité Internationale Universitaire, 17, Bd Jourdan - Paris 14e, France.

### **International symposium "Cancers and environmental exposures", 12 December 2011, Paris, France**

This international symposium is organised in the framework of the French National Cancer Plan 2009-2013 and the French National Environment and Health Plan 2009-2013 by ANSES (French agency for food, environmental and occupational health & safety), INCa (French national cancer institute), INSERM (French National Institute of Health and Medical Research) and AVIESAN (French National Alliance for Life Sciences and Health). This event will feature presentations of cutting-edge research in the field of environmental exposure and cancer incidence. The symposium is divided into 3 sessions, including:

- Debating on new scientific discoveries in environmental exposures and cancers
- Characterising exposures and measuring uncertainty
- Assessing the importance of epidemiology in studies of the links between environment and cancer.

A round table session will be dedicated to discussing the challenges and strategic orientations of cancer research and environmental exposures.

Researchers and scientific programme managers from France and abroad will give presentations at this symposium. Among them, we are pleased to welcome 5 representatives from international research institutions: Christopher Wild (Director of IARC), Bette Meek (Ottawa University and Health Canada), David Christiani and Francine Laden (Harvard School of Public Health), Maria Neira (WHO) and Denis Hémon (Inserm).

This International symposium will be held at the «Maison internationale», Cité internationale universitaire de Paris, 17 boulevard Jourdan Paris 14e.

The presentations during the symposium will be translated simultaneously. The pre-programme is available online at: <http://www.anses.fr/Documents/ANSES-PreprogCol20111212EN.pdf>

Online registration will open in October 2011.

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS

**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)**

**3,4,5 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**

## CONTACTS

### Coordinator of the project

**Adrienne Pittman**

ERA-ENVHEALTH project coordination  
European and International Affairs Unit  
ANSES Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation de l'environnement et du travail  
27-31 avenue du Général Leclerc  
94701 Maisons-Alfort Cedex  
FRANCE

[adrienne.pittman@anses.fr](mailto:adrienne.pittman@anses.fr)

### Communication and dissemination

**Mohssine El Kahloun**

ERA-ENVHEALTH project communication  
Federal Coordination Environment & Health  
Services of the President  
FPS Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment  
Victor Horta Square 40, box 10  
B-1060 Brussels  
BELGIUM

[mohssine.elkahloun@belspo.be](mailto:mohssine.elkahloun@belspo.be)