



## ERA-ENVHEALTH MONTHLY NEWSFLASH



### PRIORITISATION OF E&H ISSUES FOR JOINT ACTIVITIES

<b>THIS MONTH'S NEWS: FEBRUARY 2011</b>
<b>PRIORITISATION OF E&amp;H ISSUES FOR JOINT ACTIVITIES</b>
<b>FORMULATING E&amp;H PRIORITIES FOR COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH</b>
<b>UPCOMING MEETINGS</b>
<b>ERA-ENVHEALTH EXCEPTIONAL GA MEETING, EC REVIEW AND WORK SESSION AGENDAS AND OBJECTIVES (28-30/03/11)</b>
<b>OTHER NEWS</b>
<b>CONTACTS</b>

<b>REMINDER: NEXT DEADLINES</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>28 February 2011: submission of the report on prioritisation criteria</b></li> <li>• <b>End of February 2011: financial &amp; scientific reporting for the M12 to M30 period for the EC report</b></li> <li>• <b>16 March 2011: deadline for responses to the prioritisation questionnaire</b></li> <li>• <b>30 March 2011: EC review meeting</b></li> </ul>

In the ERA-ENVHEALTH exceptional General Assembly meeting on 28-30 March 2011 in Paris, work sessions have been planned with the goal to define Environment & Health areas for collaborative work and make a prioritisation of the themes in each area. In order to assist this process RIVM suggested using a Multi-Criteria Analysis approach. In this approach the top level criteria are:

- Severity & size of the problem in terms of (future) burden of disease
- Public concern (worry)
- Links with policy needs (regulation, responsibilities, possibilities, evidence)
- Benefit of multidisciplinary approach
- Benefit of international collaboration

The prioritisation criteria defined and the MCA tool and approach to be followed by the ERA-ENVHEALTH partners is described in the report entitled: *"Prioritisation criteria to select environment and health issues for joint activities and funding: report summarising the development and application of prioritisation criteria and list of prioritised work areas"*.



WP2—Task 2.2  
report on  
prioritisation -  
February 2011

A questionnaire has been prepared by RIVM. It aims to gather the data that are needed for

this exercise. As for several of the criteria in the RIVM-tool the data are missing or will require disproportionate efforts to obtain, it was decided to rely on expert elicitation to solve this issue. This means that ERA-ENVHEALTH partners are asked to provide their idea about the importance of the five criteria for environmental health risks in the ERA-ENVHEALTH context. Secondly, they will be asked to provide the scores of environmental health areas on the criteria. The combinations of the fixed weights for criteria in this context and the scores that are different for different areas will result (weighted summation) in a single figure for a risk. These figures can be sorted and as a consequence a prioritisation of topics results.

When the partners have completed the questionnaire the data will be sent to RIVM, who will calculate the prioritisation for the partners and send them an excel-file with results. This may also help the partners reflect on their own priorities. Moreover, the data will be used to calculate an aggregated prioritisation and will be used to examine whether there are partners with similar interests. The aggregated results and the contributions of the partners will be presented at the meeting in March 2011.

**The success of this MCA experiment is highly dependent upon the partners' cooperation. Therefore, all ERA-ENVHEALTH partners are required to fill out this survey. In order to perform the calculations RIVM needs the data before March 16<sup>th</sup> 2011.**

**The questionnaire will be available online starting March 3 and will be closed March 16, 2011.**



## FORMULATING EU-WIDE PRIORITIES FOR COLLABORATIVE E&H RESEARCH

The European 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 for example to strengthening and coordination of EH research, EH Information Systems, indoor air (especially environmental tobacco smoke) and human bio-monitoring. In order to further develop these initiatives and anticipate new challenges, a new framework for EH policy and research is needed. The new Health Commissioner, key Members of the European Parliament and a number of EU Member States have indicated their support for the implementation of a second EHAP. The Environment Council of the European Union has, in its conclusions of the 3061st Environment Council meeting – Improving environmental policy instruments – on the 20th of December, 2010, invited the Commission to further promote health through environment policy by preparing as soon as possible a second Environment and Health Action Plan (EHAP).

In order to contribute to the development of a second EHAP, the ERA-ENVHEALTH project aims to deliver “building blocks” which

outline potential priority issues for the new plan. We intend to obtain broad common views among Member States about these building blocks, so as to increase political support and increase the chances for development and implementation of a second European EHAP. Interviews are planned with a number of key actors in E&H. The interviews aim to identify the national policy priorities of the different countries to help formulate EU-wide priorities for collaborative E&H research. The project is looking at interviewing **one or two people per country**, that preferably:

- know the national priorities for E&H policy and research;
- are in some way involved in the formation of (national) E&H policies and/or the distribution of E&H research funds;
- are authorities in the field and therefore able to represent the country views.

**We would like all ERA-ENVHEALTH partner countries’ views to be represented** in order to enable us to prepare a useful document for the European discussions on a potential second EU EHAP.

## ERA-ENVHEALTH EXCEPTIONAL GA MEETING AGENDA AND OBJECTIVES - 28 MARCH 2011

ERA-ENVHEALTH has an **exceptional GA meeting** planned on the 28th of March at ANSES in Maisons-Alfort in France. The meeting is to take place in room GARANCE. **All partners are to be present for this exceptional GA as the objective is to validate the EC periodic review report covering the M13-M30 period** (September 2009–February 2011). The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

13.00 - 13.30: Welcome of the participants

**13.30 - 15.20: Discussion and validation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> EC periodic report, in particular:**

- Scientific issues: Work & deliverables per WP for M12-M30
- Financial issues: Validation of the M12-M30 project budget
- EC periodic report : Adoption of the EC periodic report for M12-M30

**15.20 - 15.50: Validation of the presentations for the EC periodic review meeting**

Each WP leader will present and discuss the slides they have prepared for the review meeting, which will take place on the 29th of March, to present the work carried out by their WP over the period.

**16.15 - 17.00: Project management & financial issues for the next period (after M30)**

Presentation of the amendment requested for the new task

including the budget amendment.

**17.00 - 18.00: Discussion on the future of ERA-ENVHEALTH after the end of the project**

The project will end in August 2012 and it would be interesting to launch the discussions on the possible future of the network and the activities.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

**15 MARCH 2011: ERA-ENVHEALTH WP LEADER CONFERENCE CALL**

**28 MARCH 2011: EXCEPTIONAL GA MEETING (ANSES, FRANCE)**

**29 MARCH 2011: EC PERIODIC REVIEW MEETING (ANSES, FRANCE)**

**30 MARCH 2011: WORK SESSIONS ON BRIDGING SCIENCE & POLICY AND TO PRIORITISE & DEFINE E&H AREAS (ANSES, FRANCE)**

**12-13 APRIL 2011: WORKSHOP ON SELF-SUSTAINING NETWORKS (LONDON, UK)**

**PLEASE INFORM US OF IMPORTANT E&H MEETINGS OR REPORTS**



## ERA-ENVHEALTH EC REVIEW MEETING AGENDA AND OBJECTIVES - 29 MARCH 2011

Day 2 of the ERA-ENVHEALTH March meeting is dedicated to the **EC periodic review meeting**. It was chosen to focus the review meeting with presentations per WP rather than per partner, but **all partners must be present and must come prepared to discuss their involvement and contribution to the project**.

On 28-Feb-2011 (Month 30) the reporting period number 2 of the 219337 ERA-ENVHEALTH project ends. In accordance with the requirements of the grant agreement, ERA-ENVHEALTH is subject to a periodic review at Month 30. Accordingly, a technical review of the project will be carried out between March 1 and April 30, 2011. Also, a face-to-face meeting with the consortium, has been organised by the coordinator in collaboration of the EC project officer on the 29th of March 2011. The review concerns the satisfactory completion of the project items from the beginning until Month 30. The objectives of the review are, in particular, to establish:

- 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 & 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;
- the expected potential impact in economic, competition and social terms, and the beneficiaries' plan for the use and dissemination of foreground.

For the review, the Commission will be assisted by two independent external experts (reviewers).

The agenda of the meeting is as follows:

09.00 - 09.30: Welcome of the participants

09.30 - 10.30: Introduction, presentation of the participants and presentation of the review modalities and reviewers

### 10.30- 16.00: Presentations of the project progress & results

Each WP will present their progress and deliverables and respond to the reviewer's questions

### 17.00 - 18.00: Presentation of the main conclusions of the review and next steps

A **social event** is planned to close the day around a convivial dinner together.

## ERA-ENVHEALTH MARCH WORK SESSION AGENDA AND OBJECTIVES - 30 MARCH 2011

Day 3 of the ERA-ENVHEALTH March meeting is dedicated to two **work sessions** in order to make the most of our time together and reduce the travelling requirements. These work sessions are very important as they really give an impulse to the work done by the project. Also, as all partners are present, they are an opportunity for all views to be represented providing important input to our European outlook.

The agenda for the session is as follows:

9.00 - 9.30: welcome of the participants

### 9.30 - 11.15: Bridging science and policy in E&H and formulating EU-wide priorities for collaborative research

The first results of the work carried out with regards to obtaining broad common views among Member States about priority issues will be presented through a review of the interviews carried out so far with key actors in E&H in order to try to identify the national policy priorities.

Then the work to be carried out by the partners for the next steps in this new task will be discussed.

### 11.30 - 15.30: Prioritisation of E&H areas for joint activities

The prioritisation exercise and results of the questionnaire on areas completed by the partners prior to the work session will be presented and discussed in order to define E&H areas for collaborative work. Then, the different themes for the joint activities and who is interested in funding what will be approached and sub-groups created. A prioritisation of the themes in each area will be done. The prioritisation exercise will be carried out by each sub-group on the themes defined under their area and discuss the type of joint activity they wish to take forward.

The success of this work session depends on the partners' cooperation. All ERA-ENVHEALTH partners are required to discuss this in their organisation prior to the work session and fill out the survey prepared by RIVM for **March 16<sup>th</sup> 2011**.

### 16.00 - 17.00: ERA-ENVHEALTH Second Call specificities

The framework of the MoU will be discussed to validate the common sections and sub-group specific sections. Other common and sub-group specific issues will be discussed including the secretariat and the calendar.



## OTHER NEWS

### CHICOS project: developing a child cohort research strategy for Europe:

<http://www.chicosproject.eu/>



Birth cohorts have been established in many European countries over the past decade. These cohorts follow mothers during pregnancy and their children during childhood, adolescence and into adulthood. They are important for the study of long-term health effects of intrauterine and early life. There is a need for improved coordination to facilitate exchange of knowledge and collaboration between cohorts, researchers, and policymakers. CHICOS aims to develop an integrated strategy for birth cohort research and coordination in Europe for the next 15 years. CHICOS is a coordination action, funded by the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). The project was launched in January 2010 and the kick-off meeting was held at the Centre for Research in Environmental Epidemiology (CREAL) in Barcelona, Spain.

The 1st issue of the **CHICOS newsletter** is now available at: [http://www.chicosproject.eu/assets/84/CHICOS\\_newsletter\\_201102.pdf](http://www.chicosproject.eu/assets/84/CHICOS_newsletter_201102.pdf)



### EPH programme/Platform on Environment and Public Health

The EPH Programme/Platform is currently being defined as an exchange platform for knowledge based experiences & information through combined efforts of *EPH Annual Meetings* and through the development of a web-based interface and specific platforms such as European Professionals on Health and Environment (ephe). At the EPH Annual Meetings on Environment and Public Health scientists from various countries and from various disciplines meet to exchange information, experience and best practices and also in order to exploit results from EU funded projects & networks. **The 2011 EPHmodern Annual Meeting will take place on 7-9 November 2011 in Berlin, Germany.** The EPH Brussels Statement, which calls for a 2nd cycle of the European Environment & Health

Action Plan (EHAP) as a matter of sound management, was made public on the occasion of the 2nd European High Level Expert Meeting on Environmental and Health in Brussels on the 8-10 November 2010. Please find more information on EPH and ephe on the dedicated website: (EPH Portal) [www.eph-info.net](http://www.eph-info.net).

### ANSES launches a call for research proposals on Environmental and Occupational Health on 22 February 2011



The French National Research Programme for Environmental and Occupational Health, which is managed by ANSES, is an incentive programme that aims to promote outstanding long-term research in the areas of environmental and occupational health. The call for research proposals is launched yearly to motivate scientific communities in the fields of environmental and occupational health to develop new methods & tools at all stages of health risk assessments, particularly in order to document research issues raised by the relevant ministries & government agencies. It is funded by ANSES with budgets delegated by the Ministries of the Environment and Labour and by several co-sponsors: ADEME (French Environment and Energy Management Agency), INCa (National Cancer Institute) and ONEMA (French National Agency for Water and Aquatic Environments) under the Ecophyto 2018 Plan. This call also finances proposals related to the health effects of radio frequency emissions. This year, a two-stage submission process is implemented. **The deadline for online submission of the letters of intent is noon on March 22, 2011.** The call is open to all research teams, from France and abroad. All proposals must include a research partnership with at least one French team and be submitted in French. The call document is available in English on the ANSES website:

<http://www.afsset.fr/index.php?pageid=2868&parentid=824>.

The application file and application procedure are also available in English on the Research & Intelligence platform: <http://recherche.anses.fr>

## CONTACTS

DON'T HESITATE TO CONTACT US

### 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)