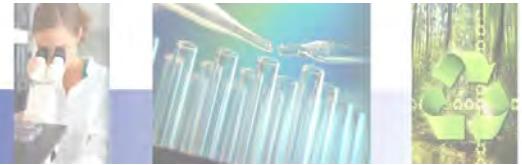




FP7-ENV-2007-CSA-1.2.3-01 Grant Agreement 219 337

ERA-ENVHEALTH

MONTHLY NEWSFLASH



SAVE THE DATE

THIS MONTH'S NEWS:

OCTOBER 2011

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE ERA-ENVHEALTH CONFERENCE – 13-14 JUNE 2012 (PARIS, FRANCE)

REPORT FROM THE ERA-ENVHEALTH ANNUAL GA MEETING AND WORK SESSIONS

ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS OF THE MANAGEMENT, THE RESULTS AND THE IMPACTS OF ERA-ENVHEALTH'S FIRST TRANSNATIONAL CALL FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS

CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

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ERA-ENVHEALTH conference

Coordination of national research programmes to help tackle the challenges in environment and health and their policy implications

13-14 June 2012

Maison Internationale, Paris, France

Context

The ERA-ENVHEALTH project brought together 16 partners from 10 countries and an external advisory committee composed of representatives of various stakeholders in environment and health, creating an active network for environment and health research in Europe.

Over the four years of collaboration and cooperation, carried out with the support of European funding, the network partners defined a unique and common vision of the environment and health research landscape in Europe. This enabled the formulation of EU-wide priorities for research to contribute to improving the health of European citizens through a better environment.

In order to achieve its aim of contributing to the creation of sustainable collaboration among the different funding organisations, the network also produced tools, such as the E&H research database, to help increase the relevance and efficiency of environment and health research funding in Europe.

Vision

Common and shared research efforts to tackle the challenges in environment and health, in particular under the current crisis situation,

have never been as important to maximise the impact and ensure coherent international policies. The ERA-ENVHEALTH network and its tools provide valuable support for policy-makers and other stakeholders involved in tackling these challenges.

Objectives

The objectives of this conference are to promote exchange and collaboration among the different actors involved in environment and health, and also to help bring science closer to policy in this sector by enhancing the use of scientific outputs.

Strategic visions of challenges in environment and health policy and research and major trends will be discussed and illustrated with specific examples and case studies.

These discussions will not only bring dynamism to environment and health research by promoting collaboration and fostering innovative ideas but will also be the foundation of the network's future activities.

So save the date to make sure you will take part in this event and watch this space for more exciting information on the conference programme and speakers.

www.era-envhealth.eu

REMINDER:

NEXT DEADLINES

- **October 2011: draft action plan for common activities**
- **November 2011: draft report on EU-wide priorities for collaborative research on E&H**
- **December 2011: design of the second call**

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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REPORT FROM THE ANNUAL ERA-ENVHEALTH GA MEETING – 4-5 OCTOBER 2011 (BRUSSELS, BELGIUM)



This year's annual GA meeting took place on 4-5 October 2011 in Brussels, Belgium. It was kindly hosted by the Belgian Federal Science Policy Office (BelSPO) and Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment (FPS) and Frank Monteny, Director of Research Programmes at BelSPO, gave a very welcoming speech at the start of the meeting.

The objectives of this GA meeting were to focus on the progress and discuss collectively the main tasks left in the project, in particular to advance the work on bridging the gap between science and policy and preparing building blocks for priorities in Environment and Health research. Preparation of the final conference and discussion on the future of the network were also major themes of this meeting.

The meeting was attended by around 35 participants from 23 institutions.

One of the highlights of this meeting was the participation of Biljana Filipovic, Senior Advisor for International Cooperation, Ministry of Environment, Mining and Spatial Planning, who presented Serbia's Environment and Health activities and showed great interest in taking part in the activities of the project. The COPHES (Consortium to Perform Human Biomonitoring on a European Scale) and DEMOCOPHES (feasibility study of a coherent approach to Human Biomonitoring in Europe) projects were also presented and possible cooperation discussed. www.eu-hbm.info/cophes and www.eu-hbm.info/democophes

The two projects funded under the 1st ERA-ENVHEALTH call presented the work carried out so far and the interesting results. Furthermore, both projects presented the activities they are conducting with stakeholders.

The project presentations and discussions of the first day evolved around communication with the agreement to try to launch an activity on indoor air, led by ISPRA, to try to involve potential new partners. Furthermore, the final conference was discussed at length and interesting suggestions were made. All partners and EAC member must now provide more precise suggestions for the programme and keynote speakers. The afternoon of the first day then focused on the new task, "linking science to policy", which is progressing nicely and the questionnaires sent to stakeholders for their opinions have received a good number of responses.

The second day, after an initial session on the financial and administrative issues for the final year of the project, was dedicated to two work sessions.

These work sessions aimed to: 1) deepen the partners' contributions on the work of WP3 concerning the action plan for common activities; and 2) within WP4 for task 4.2 to move forward on the design of a second call. This work session proved very fruitful and actions have been taken with the aim of launching a second call before the end of the year.

The annual meeting is also a forum for discussions on how to improve the project and on strategic issues. This year, in particular, the future of the network after the end of the European funding is a priority. It is clear that after these four years of close collaboration and cooperation, the network has become very valuable for the partners and there is an overwhelming agreement on continuing the network using a "light touch" mechanism. High priority activities that can be launched together by partners in the network using the "à la carte" method are going to be defined in order to make sure that the network stays alive.

Again, we would like to thank BelSPO and FPS who kindly hosted this meeting, and in particular Mohssine El Kahloun and Marie-Charlotte Delvaux whose invaluable help in the organisation and kindness ensured the success of this event.



MANY THANKS TO BELSPO AND FPS





ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS OF THE MANAGEMENT, THE RESULTS AND THE IMPACTS OF ERA-ENVHEALTH'S FIRST TRANSNATIONAL CALL FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS

ERA-ENVHEALTH is a European project aimed at enhancing the coordination of national environment and health research programmes. The main objective of this project is to bring together European organisations that finance and plan research programmes in the field of E&H. Today, it is a network of 16 public research funding organisations from 10 European countries.

ERA-ENVHEALTH has set the ambitious goal of establishing a transnational funding programme in environment and Health.

A first call was launched outside of the ERA-ENVHEALTH project framework during the negotiations with the European Commission in 2008 by three funding partners: NERC (UK), IenM (NL) and ANSES (FR). The theme of the first call, as jointly decided by three financing partners, was "Health vulnerability resulting from future climate change impacts on soil-water ecosystems, land use and water resources at regional scale".

Evaluation of the first call



The **first stage of the two-part evaluation** focused on the first call process in order to make recommendations for the design of a second call as defined in the work package number 4 of the ERA-ENVHEALTH project plan. The report for the first part of the evaluation was published in June 2010 and is available on the ERA-ENVHEALTH website.

www.era-envhealth.eu

The **second part of the evaluation** must now focus on the results and impacts of the first call on the one hand, and check if the recommendations of the 1st stage of the evaluation have been taken into account by the ERA-ENVHEALTH partners in the design of the second call process on the other hand.

The objectives of this evaluation are therefore to:

- Analyse the follow-up of the research projects funded under the first call, the results produced by the research teams and their impact on public policies and the structure of European research in environment and health.
- Provide a critical point of view on the use and / or the application by the consortium of the recommendations brought forward by the first evaluation.

This second part was launched in summer 2011 and the first evaluation steering committee meeting took place on the 3rd of October in Brussels, Belgium. The objectives of this first meeting were to discuss and rank the evaluation questions and sub-questions and determine the judgment criteria. This sets the terms of reference of the second part of the evaluation and provides the frame for the data collection and analysis stages.

The evaluation tools used for this work include a large number of interviews with policy-makers, ERA-ENVHEALTH partners, selected and non-selected research teams.

An innovative tool will also be used: participatory observations. This is a qualitative method whose objective is to help understand the interplay among a group of a given community. The evaluator accomplishes this through observation alone or by both observing and participating. The method is distinctive because the evaluator approaches participants in their own environment rather than having the participants come to him. Data obtained through participatory observation serve as a check against participants' subjective reporting of what they believe and do.



The results of the second part of the evaluation will be presented at the final conference in June 2012.

This evaluation is carried out by an independent subcontractor: Planète Publique.





CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

European Task Force on Environment and Health starts its activities in Bled, Slovenia, on 26–28 October 2011

The Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, held in 2010 in Parma, Italy, established the European Environment and Health Task Force (EEHTF) as the leading international body for implementation and monitoring of the European Environment and Health Process (EEHP). The institutional framework also includes the European Environment and Health Ministerial board (EHMB) which is the political driving force and which held its first meeting in Paris in April 2011.

The first meeting of the Task Force will elect two Co-chairs, discuss the relevant aspects of the European environment and health governance and discuss and endorse specific actions as a follow-up to the Parma Conference commitments. The Task Force comprises EEHP national focal points from Member States in the WHO European Region and representatives of international organizations participating in the Process. Focal points are leading officials from the national implementation mechanisms and structures.

Specifically, the meeting will:

- agree on the scope and operationalization of the work;
- review the developments since the Parma Conference;
- share experiences on intersectoral coordination and collaboration at the national level;
- review and make recommendations on linkages and synergies between the EEHP and other relevant international processes, such as Environment for Europe and other multilateral environmental agreements relevant to health; and
- discuss the involvement of stakeholders, such as NGOs, youth, private sector and academia, who are important partners for the Process.

As a follow-up to Parma, the Task Force will discuss:

- priorities, framework and tools for monitoring the progress in the implementation of Parma commitments;

- emerging and new issues relevant and amenable to support through the EEHP (e.g. energy and health, environment and noncommunicable diseases);
- ways to amplify the impact of decisions made in Parma by linking visibly to other regional (e.g. Environment for Europe Conference in Astana, Health2020) and global processes (e.g. Rio+20, Millennium Development Goals);
- “wicked problems” in environment and health in Europe (e.g. elimination of asbestos-related diseases). “Wicked problems” are usually beyond the capacity of any single organization to understand or respond. There is often disagreement about the causes of these problems, and a lack of certainty about the best way to tackle them. They are also often characterized by chronic policy failure.

<http://www.euro.who.int/en/home>

UPCOMING EVENTS

23-27 OCTOBER 2011: 21ST ISES CONFERENCE (BALTIMORE, USA). [LINK](#)

7-9 NOVEMBER 2011: EPHMODERN CONSULTATIVE MEETING 2011 (BERLIN-POTSDAM, GERMANY). [LINK](#)

14-16 NOVEMBER 2011: 6TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHILDREN'S HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY (LODZ, POLAND). WWW.INCHESNETWORK.NET/

30 NOVEMBER 2011: ANSES SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE – REPORTING THE RESULTS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH RESEARCH PROGRAMME (PARIS, FRANCE). [LINK](#)

12 DECEMBER 2011: INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON CANCERS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURES (PARIS, FRANCE), CO-ORGANISED BY ANSES. **REGISTRATION OPEN. [LINK](#)**

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PLEASE INFORM US OF IMPORTANT
E&H MEETINGS OR REPORTS

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