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WP5: COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION

Dissemination and Communication Strategy

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PREFACE

The ERA-ENVHEALTH project started on the 1st of September 2008 and is currently in progress. The project brings together 16 partners from 10 countries focusing on Environment and Health (E&H) research. The ERA-ENVHEALTH project is co-funded by the European Commission under the 7th Framework Programme (FP7) and the funding scheme “Coordination Actions”: FP7-ENV-2007-1.2.3-01.

The ERA-ENVHEALTH project is seen as a network to build a European Research Area on Environment and Health and its work programme is divided into 6 work packages (WP) taking into account the lack of formal collaboration in this area.

WP1	Information exchange
WP2	Definition and preparation of joint activities
WP3	Implementation of joint activities
WP4	Funding of joint trans-national research
WP5	Dissemination and communication
WP6	Management, coordination and support

As part of the WP5 deliverables, this “Dissemination and Communication Strategy, DCS” report describes the ERA-ENVHEALTH dissemination strategy, with a clear definition of project objectives and messages that need to be communicated according to the different target groups.

Considering the fact that the “DCS” report to the EU is due 12 months after the start of the project and because the “DCS” is a “living process”, it must be kept in mind that the instruments, channels, mechanisms reported hereby will be continuously reviewed during the project to ensure effective delivery and to take into account any changes. Information that might become more important during the lifetime of ERA-ENVHEALTH or that is identified as an inefficient way of communication might be changed or updated.

Furthermore, and as an additional step, a detailed report on the communication of research results will be elaborated. This report will present the finding of a study (based on a questionnaire to be addressed to the ERA-ENVHEALTH partners) that will be carried out to describe the approaches and tools used by ERA-ENVHEALTH members to disseminate and communicate the results of the research projects funded by their organisation. This study will allow us to establish and define guidelines for the communication plan that will be adopted for the Programming, Execution, Implementation and Evaluation of ERA-ENVHEALTH research calls.





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I. INTRODUCTION

The objectives of the ERA-ENVHEALTH project are to bring together the financiers and programmers of research in environment and health to establish a sustainable collaboration between the various organisations by studying the results and methods in these various organisations, by defining priority sets of themes and try to answer them through the implementation of joint activities and transnational calls for projects of research. ERA-ENVHEALTH will bring dynamism to Environment and Health research in Europe by promoting collaboration between research programmes and fostering innovative ideas.

The strategic objectives of ERA-ENVHEALTH are (for more details, see annex 2):

- Establish a network of programme managers to share information on research and expertise,
- Define opportunities for cooperation and coordination of research activities and identify priority areas for multinational research,
- Develop coherent joint activities at the EU level on specific E&H topics,
- Implement joint multi-national calls for research proposals on identified E&H issues,
- Thereby, provide policy support for the implementation of the Environment and Health Action Plan (2004-2010) and other EU policies concerned with E&H.

To ensure that research results are used to better support environment and health decision-making and enhance research and collaboration between European research institutions, strategies of dissemination and communication of results must be incorporated into the earliest planning stages of a research project; the most successful dissemination processes are typically designed prior to the start of a project. The dissemination strategies, with a clear definition of project objectives and messages that need to be communicated, have to be developed according to the different target groups.

This report “Dissemination and Communication Strategy” is a deliverable of the ERA-ENVHEALTH’s WP5 to be submitted to the European Commission. It describes the methods, instruments and channels used by the ERA-ENVHEALTH project to achieve, facilitate and stimulate effective information and research results exchange between the project partners, stakeholders and the wider community (including other relevant ERA-NETs).

In order to develop a dissemination and communication plan for a project the following questions should be addressed:

- What does the project mean by dissemination and communication?
- What does the project want to disseminate/communicate?
- Who are the stakeholders/audiences and what is project offering them?

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- What are the most effective ways of disseminating and communicating?
- Who might help the project disseminate/communicate?
- When should the project disseminate/communicate?
- How does the project evaluate if the communication and dissemination plan has been successful?

Figure 1 helps visualise the ERA-ENVHEALTH Dissemination and Communication plan based on the questions mentioned above:

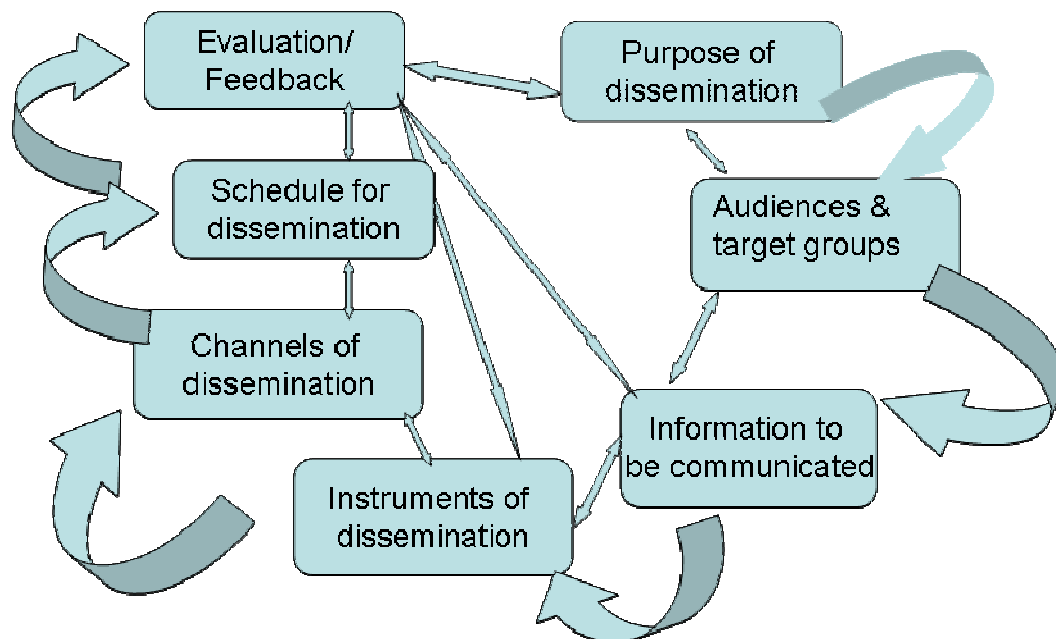


Figure1. ERA-ENVHEALTH's dissemination and communication strategy

II. THE ERA-ENVHEALTH STRATEGY AND TOOLS FOR DISSEMINATION

1. Purpose of dissemination

The ERA-ENVHEALTH partners are keen to make the findings of its research programmes available to all those with an interest in Environment and Health research.

The objectives of the strategy are to:

- Ensure a continued and formalised flow of information to stakeholders in order to increase and maintain stakeholder's interest and awareness of the project.
- Investigate, contact and encourage recruitment of new funding organisations.
- Ensure good communication and dissemination of results from the first call and ensure a large response to ERA-ENVHEALTH's second call to ensure high quality of projects.

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- Establish links with other networks to increase the exploitation of results making the network a major player in the field.
- Ensure formalised information is provided to policy-makers to help decision-making and policy actions.

Raising awareness

It can be assumed that, at the very least, the ERA-ENVHEALTH partners wish people to be aware of the work of the project. This may be useful for those target audiences that do not require detailed knowledge of the project but enables them to be aware of the activities and outcomes. Creating such awareness of the ERA-ENVHEALTH project's work will help the "word of mouth" type dissemination and help build an identity and profile within the Environment and Health community.

Extra funds for research

Currently 16 countries are active partners within the project and 4 are observers (collaborative partners). Ongoing efforts intend to increase the number of research funding organisations contributing to ERA-ENVHEALTH. ERA-ENVHEALTH aims at an open network, offering the possibility to influence the research agendas of funding organisations and their ability to take part in funding transnational environment and health research calls.

Disseminating results

There will be a number of groups/audiences that the project needs to target directly through dissemination. It will be important, therefore, that different group/audiences have a deeper understanding of the ERA-ENVHEALTH project's work.

Increasing exploitation

In 2003, the European Commission concluded, after examination the exploitation and dissemination of research results from 34 Framework Programme FP4 and FP5 projects, which increased exploitation, would result from dissemination being organised as part of the research projects themselves.

DTI 2004 reviews the impact of the EU FP in the UK and concludes that the European Commission should give greater weight to exploitation of research results and to the synthesis of programme results to assist policy makers.

Supporting decision-making and policy actions

Systems of governance with regards to environment and health policy and environment and health research in the different Member States are a result of political, legal and institutional traditions. Therefore, communication and coordination processes relevant to





the design of coherent policy, regarding environment and health research between the different participants, need to be established.

The ERA-ENVHEALTH project is a contribution to the European E&H Action Plan 2004-2010, promoting the better use of E&H research results to support policy development, and to better anticipate issues affecting the public.

2. Audiences and target groups

The groups/audiences will be those people that are in a position to influence the outcomes and success of the project and increase chance of dissemination of the project's results within their organisations. The stakeholders can be, for example consumers, patients, a defined or undefined research community, health professionals, policy and decision-makers, media professionals, communicators, NGOs, environment and health safety authorities or intergovernmental organisations.

Stakeholders are viewed as an integral part of the project and will be kept informed of project progress and results throughout the lifespan of the project. The figure below provides an example of stakeholders' involvement in the project.

The main stakeholders of ERA-ENVHEALTH are external knowledge users, internal knowledge users and potential funding organisations. Please note that due to the fact that the project is dynamic, this list is not fixed and it can be updated and extended.

ERA-ENVHEALTH will ensure participation of the various stakeholders in the implementation of the project and ensure they have access to the results.

The different stakeholder groups will be targeted according to their level of involvement. Figure 2 gives an overview of the different target groups that ERA-ENVHEALTH is targeting

2.1 Internal knowledge users

Programme managers - ERA-ENVHEALTH Consortium

The partners of the project are the first users of the knowledge shared provided by ERA-ENVHEALTH. This communication will offer:

- Mutual learning, benchmarking of practices in terms programme planning, and management.
- Mutual adjustment of the research agendas of the participation research programmes.
- Assistance from other programme managers at the different steps of programme management.
- Easier access to up-to-date information on research issues.



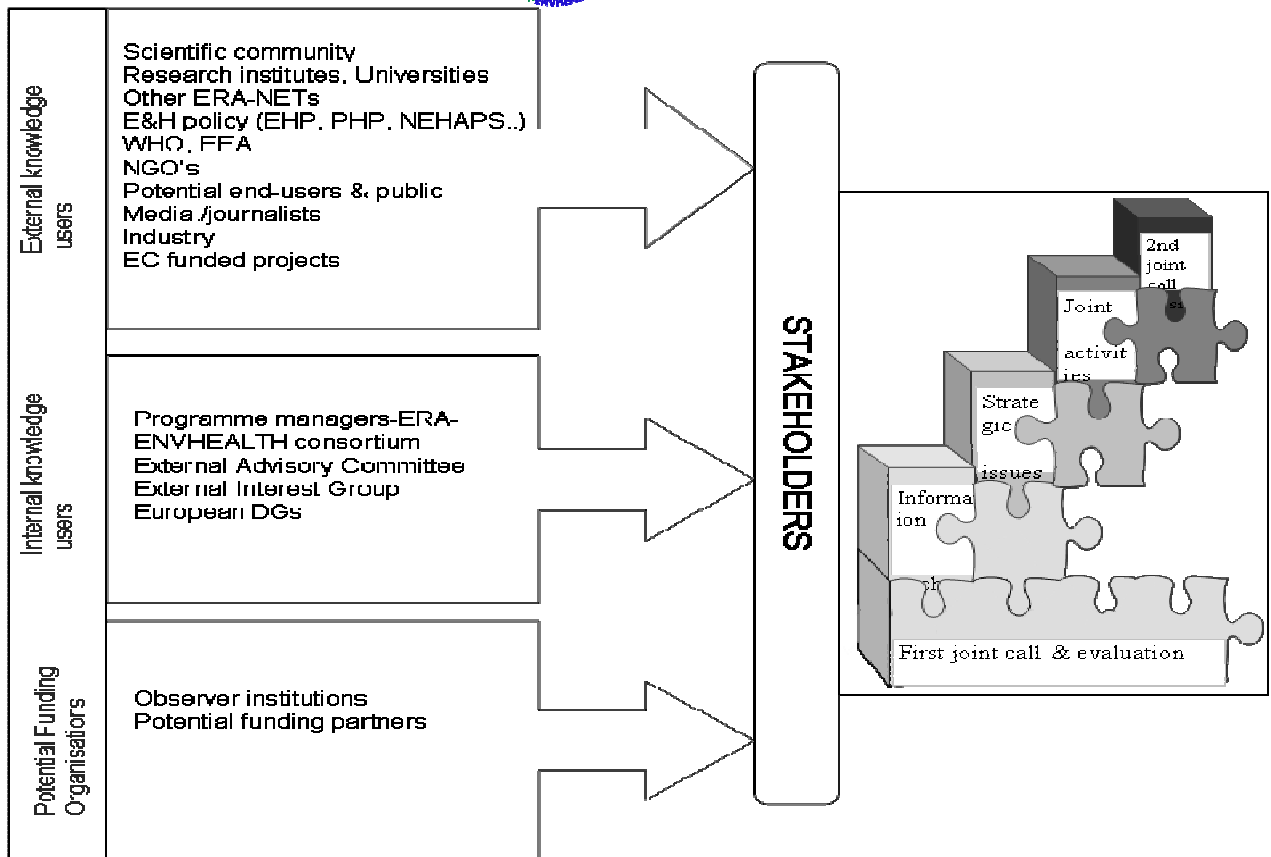


Figure 2. ERA-ENVHEALTH stakeholders

External Advisory Committee & External Interest Group

The External Advisory Committee (EAC) and External Interest Group (EIG) of ERA-ENVHEALTH are good examples of these target groups/audiences. A list of potential stakeholders for the External Advisory Committee was selected in close collaboration with all partners, taking into consideration a balanced composition between scientists, academics, NGOs and policy makers. The EAC members will provide critical and useful feedback on existing activities organised by the stakeholders and on the ERA-ENVHEALTH project itself. A balance between policy-makers and scientists (and other interest groups) is important in order to provide more specific critical feedback on either policy measures or scientific activities. They are the stakeholders with the right skills, knowledge and understanding of ERA-ENVHEALTH’s work allowing them to influence real change.

From the discussions on the composition of the EAC, the problem was raised about what to do with other candidates proposed by the partners and potential interested individuals in the future? In order to address this issue, an "External Interest Group" was also created.





The EIG members may be invited according to their interests and availability to different meetings and will be kept updated regularly on the progress of the project.

European DGs – E&H Strategy and Action Plan, Public Health Policy

Communication between policy makers and the environment & health research community is necessary to ensure research is better targeted to policy needs. ERA-ENVHEALTH will help better appraisal of the critical mass of environment and health research in the different MS, including new MS, and highlight complementarities between national programmes and European Research Programmes (FP7).

2.2 External knowledge users

Scientific community, research institutions and universities

An important target group for ERA-ENVHEALTH is the researchers delivering research results to be disseminated to the user group. ERA-ENVHEALTH will allow easier access to research findings. The specific objectives of this dissemination and communication are:

- Knowledge of work programmes and calls of the different programmes, a one-stop-shop (ERA-ENVHEALTH website), knowledge of programmes open to foreign participants.
- More funding opportunities (i.e. the different national programmes), possibilities for multinational partnerships with funding available for all partners for more focused projects with smaller consortia than in EC-funded projects.
- Facilitated access/use to infrastructures relevant to E&H (e.g. for indoor environment studies...).

EC-funded projects and other ERA-NETs

ERA-ENVHEALTH has already started to share experiences with others having the same objectives, especially other ERA-NET projects. This collaboration, cooperation, and information exchange will continue and will lead to an improvement of the different “methods” used by the running ERA-NETs. Liaison with for e.g.:

- SKEP (MEEDDAT and EA).
- NEW OSH ERA
- CIRCLE, relative to the first call.
- SNOWMAN (Sustainable management of soil and groundwater under the pressure of soil pollution and soil contamination).
- The Pronet coordination action project, to get real results from practical realisations on E&H initiatives.

These exchanges highlight the importance of the ERA-ENVHEALTH objective to bridge the relation between policy-making and research.

Environment & Health policy - WHO, EEA...

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ERA-ENVHEALTH also targets a specific kind of stakeholder: the European Commission, the policy-makers and decision-makers in the ERA-ENVHEALTH partner countries, policy-makers and decision-makers in countries that are potential new funding partners and organisations with influence and/or funds for research in the different countries that are willing to get involved.

ERA-ENVHEALTH will provide easier access to research findings for this target group. In some countries, research projects are closely related to national policy issues. The final reports are often delivered to the policy decision-makers in the national language and those reports are often considered as grey literature with limited access. ERA-ENVHEALTH will increase the dissemination of scientific knowledge to other agencies and policy-makers in Europe and will organise exchanges and sharing of knowledge between the different Member States.

The EEA and WHO Europe are engaged with the project by the participation of their members in the ERA-ENVHEALTH External Advisory Committee. They will have easily accessible up-to date knowledge responding to the demands of WHO and EEA (given its commitment in the Budapest follow-up and CEHAPE process).

Potential end-users, NGOs, Environment and Health Industry and the general public

This group involves all the knowledge users that are looking for research results and general information providing answers to their questions related to Environment and Health.

NGOs at the European or national level such as the EcoForum, European Public Health Alliance (who participate in the consultative forum and to EEHC), BEUC and relevant national NGO's will have access to information on ERA-ENVHEALTH's objectives and scientific content of programmes.

Easier access will be provided to research results in relation to their main concerns (industrial sites and health status of the nearby population, transport/fines particles and health impacts, women and children health, better knowledge of susceptible groups, health impact of chemicals used in the household).

The dissemination of information to a wider public through their mailing lists, web site, newsletters and network will be facilitated.

Potential research funding organisations

Research funders can be separated into three distinct target groups – current funders, current observing funders and potential new funders. ERA-ENVHEALTH needs to engage with all of them in order to close the gap between supply of and demand for scientific research.

The project aims to bring in new partners through effective promotion of the project objectives, progress and results, with a focus on new Member States and Southern European countries. Common actions will be undertaken to disseminate research results.

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3. Defining the information

ERA-ENVHEALTH will focus on the dissemination of two types of knowledge:

- Knowledge on existing programmes and projects (WP1) and updated information on national and regional programmes.
- New knowledge generated within ERA-ENVHEALTH (WP2, WP3 & WP4 outcomes).

The main outputs that will be communicated are:

- Information system - providing details on participants' research programmes and structural relationships with other relevant national actors.
- Reports and Guidelines.
- Details - on joint call for proposals and joint cross-cutting activity.
- Identification of future research issues to be investigated.
- Recommendations - for future research.

The message to be disseminated will be adapted to the objectives of the dissemination, the target group and the tools to be used.

4. Tools of dissemination

Effective communication of these outputs and general details of the work, participants and meetings can be achieved by:

- Establishing a web site for the project – with basic information on the participants, the aims and results...
- Making the information system on the research programmes available.
- Publishing reports on the web site.
- Communicating the work and results nationally and internationally.
- Establishing good links with high-level policy-makers and other international groups through the External Advisory Committee.

Figure 3 shows a summary of different communication and dissemination tools that ERA-ENVHEALTH is using.



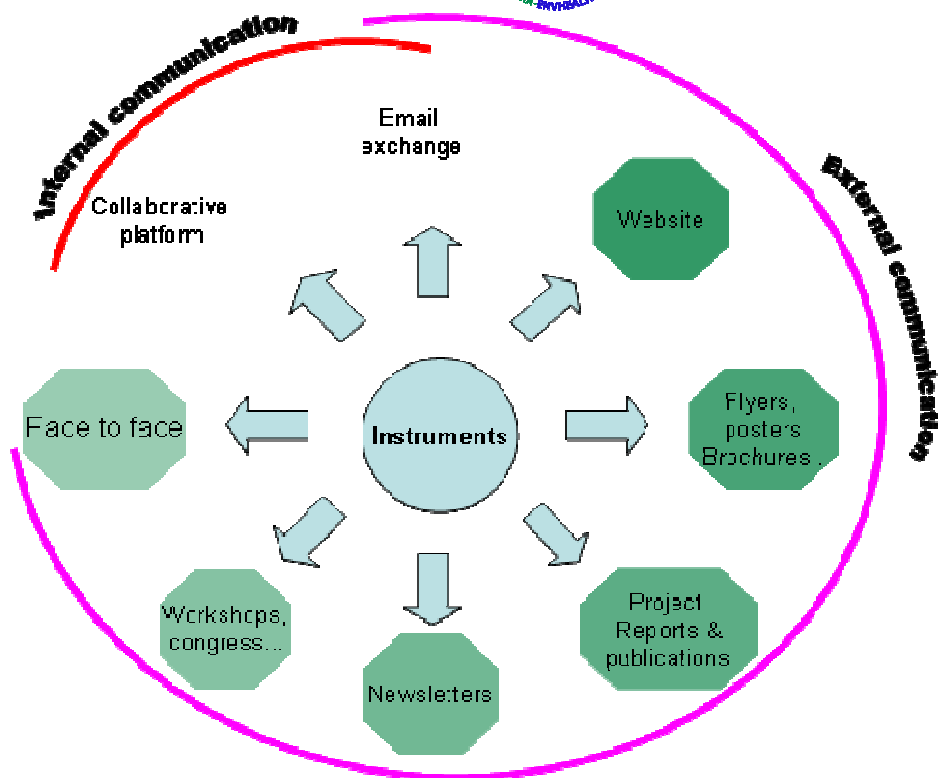


Figure 3. Diagram presenting the instruments used by the ERA-ENVHEALTH project to disseminate and communicate its outputs.

4.1. Instruments for internal dissemination

Collaborative platform

Efficient and secured exchange of information and communication of the work documents among ERA-ENVHEALTH partners is planned within WP5: “opening of a collaborative platform to exchange information”. Final deliverables and reports have to be archived on a secured platform with daily backup.

General press releases have to be prepared by the WP5 leader in charge of the dissemination together with the Coordinator.

Before diffusion outside, press releases should be approved by the General Assembly for general dissemination and the specific content approved by the WP leader responsible for the expertise on the subject the press release deals with.

As stated in the quality plan of the project, the level of dissemination (public, restricted to other programme participants, confidential, only for members of the consortium...) should be mentioned in all official documents.





Mails & emails

Most of the communication and dissemination between ERA-ENVHEALTH partners occurs via emails exchange. These tools are also used for the external communication.

4.2. Instruments for external dissemination

Website

The ERA-ENVHEALTH coordinator (AFSSET) and WP5 leader for communication and dissemination (FPS) oversees the ERA-ENVHEALTH's website and publishes the newsletter, reports and ERA-ENVHEALTH activities and various other publications that are potential outlets for dissemination of research findings. When a partner or WP leader has results that should be published, they should contact the coordinator and WP5 leader.

Databases

One of the tools of the dissemination strategy of research programmes and projects is the ERA-ENVHEALTH Research Database. The ERA-ENVHEALTH Research Database contains details of current and past funding programmes in Europe. The database provides a unique source of material for environment and health scientists and policy-makers to access data on current E&H research projects identify potential research partners and modes of specialist expertise. The research database provides:

- Key information on the funding institutions.
- Information on the funding Programmes and Projects funded.
- Scientific output of the research activities: approximately 2-3 bullet points on key findings for the topic with the link to the relevant project's research websites.

Consulting this data is free of charge and open to the public at:

<http://www.era-envhealth.eu>

Flyers, Posters, Brochures...

Creating flyers, posters or brochures about research projects and findings offers a concise and visually-appealing way to disseminate information to broad audiences. While these formats require extensive simplification of information due to limited space, much of the information created through the research process includes visuals like graphs and tables, which are particularly adaptable for this format. For an example of a brochure used to disseminate information about the ERA-ENVHEALTH project, please refer to the Sample Brochure available through the ERA-ENVHEALTH website at:

<http://www.era-envhealth.eu>

Project reports (e.g. Research Programmes and Projects Summary Document)





The projects reports should first be sent to the ERA-ENVHEALTH partners involved in the preparation of these reports. After the approval, the coordinator of the project and the WP5 leader are responsible for its dissemination and communication to the EC via mail and email and to the general public via CIRCA, the website and email.

Newsletters and progress reports

Distributing/publishing a regular newsletter summarising research actions and scientific findings is the ideal way to update study participants and participating agencies. While such newsletters can involve a fair amount of work, the dissemination benefits are well worth the effort. For sample newsletters, which may serve as examples, please refer to the ERA-ENVHEALTH newsletter available through the website:

<http://www.era-envhealth.eu>

Presentations at local and international events, workshops, meetings, conferences, seminars, community meetings ...

Hosting or attending seminars, conferences, community forums and/or environment and health fairs are common methods for informing others about research findings. Interesting seminars and events related to Environment and Health are listed in the ERA-ENVHEALTH website:

<http://www.era-envhealth.eu>

Participation to conferences and meeting will be encouraged as part of the ERA-ENVHEALTH communication strategy. The Project Symposium organised at the end of the project will be an opportunity to communicate upon the achievements of ERA-ENVHEALTH.

Publications – articles, scientific journals...

Communication and dissemination of publications (paper and electronic) with content translated (in case of general public use) from technical terms into common understandable language, is also encouraged. These products may be derived from ERA-ENVHEALTH research projects' results or from other relevant projects.

5. Channels of dissemination

Dissemination via the External Advisory Committee members

Intermediary organisations, networks and workshops can play a useful role in facilitating interaction between experts, policy makers and the public.

Knowledge management involves sources of information and targeted users, content and processes and tools used for the dissemination of knowledge. Most often targeted users are also sources of information (e.g. members of the External Advisory Committee, who will play an important role in this matter).

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The External Advisory Committee is of key importance for ensuring dissemination outside the consortium as it will bring together organisations which foster the development and implementation of Environment and Health action plans, promote exchange of information and capacity building in Environment and Health, who are dependant upon an efficient utilisation of research results. The External Advisory Committee members will inform their own networks about the progress of ERA-ENVHEALTH and advise the General Assembly of opportunities to make ERA-ENVHEALTH's progress and achievements known (large institutional conferences).

Dissemination via the External Interest Group

This targeted user group is also a source of information and dissemination. As with the members of the External Advisory Committee, the members of the EIG may play an important role in disseminating the ERA-ENVHEALTH outcomes in their own networks. The EIG members will inform their own networks about the progress of ERA-ENVHEALTH.

Dissemination via the ERA-ENVHEALTH partner's networks and websites

Dissemination at the national level will be facilitated by each Member State represented in the consortium, since most of the Member States are represented by programme managers who have a mandate to deliver information on Environment and Health risks. Dissemination at the national level could include translation in the national language of key findings and abstract of reports. Links to the ERA-ENVHEALTH website should be visible on each partner's website.

Dissemination in events organised by ERA-ENVHEALTH and/or its partners

Relevant information for expert bodies could be disseminated by ERA-ENVHEALTH partners during national events organised by them or their partners. A final Project Dissemination Conference will present the common research agenda, common instruments and other project outputs to research funders, research providers and environment and Health policy and decision-makers from all European states and other interested stakeholders.

Dissemination by external networks and in external events

Participation to conferences and meeting is encouraged as part of the ERA-ENVHEALTH communication strategy. The Project Symposium organised at the end of the project will be an opportunity to communicate on the achievements of ERA-ENVHEALTH. Relevant information for expert bodies could be disseminated thanks to the SINAPSE e-Network established by DG Research, which is the communication tool used by the "European expertise network for science advice on public health" set up by the Dutch Health Council. A list of relevant events and meeting will be also posted on the ERA-ENVHEALTH website.





Table 1 summarises the target audiences, the different tools and channels that ERA-ENVHEALTH will use to ensure widespread support from interactions with stakeholders and to facilitate successful and efficient dissemination of the project's progress and results as well as promoting knowledge.

Target audience	Communication goals	Tools	Channels/Networks	Timeline
Internal Users	Coordination Reporting State of the art Close chain for information flow	CIRCA Meetings Teleconferences Emails Reports Website Databases	ERA-ENVHEALTH's meetings/workshop EU-DG	Regular & throughout the project
External users				
Scientific community Universities, Research institutions	Provide info about ERA-ENVHEALTH calls	Website Emails Database Poster/leaflet	Networking ERA-ENVHEALTH website EAC & EIG	Regular and throughout the project Periodic events
ERA-NETs, EC-funded projects, E&H policy	Provide E&H scientific information	Website Summaries, Newsletters Poster/leaflets	Meetings/workshops Networking	Regular throughout the project Periodic events
Potential end-users, NGOs, Environment and Health Industry, and public	Awareness-promote collaboration, links and synergies Create interest and awareness	Website, Newsletters Media	ERA-ENVHEALTH network and website Internet Media	Regular throughout the project
Potential funding organisations	Recruitment of funding organisations	Email, Face to face, International events, workshops	ERA-ENVHEALTH network EAC EIG	Throughout the project

Table 1. ERA-ENVHEALTH target audiences and different tools in relation to the Communication and Dissemination Strategy.

The coordinator and WP5 leader will make sure that all information and knowledge generated in the project are widely circulated internally among the participants.





6. Schedule of dissemination

Table 2 provides an overview of the schedule for project workshops/conferences, deliverables and results.

Presentations and posters are and will be disseminated at relevant meetings and conferences on an ad hoc basis. The coordinator and WP5 leader will keep a list of publications and a library of published documents in relation to the project and ensure publications are available on the ERA-ENVHEALTH website and on CIRCA.

The Coordinator and WP5 leader have the overall responsibility for ensuring adequate, efficient and timely communication and dissemination.

7. Evaluation and Feedback of the dissemination

The communication management indicator looks at the communication and dissemination tools implemented and their efficiency (visibility of the project etc.). Indeed, these indicators help quantify the project's dissemination using several statistics and data about the internal and external communication processes.

Table 3 shows the indicators that are constantly monitored (already monitored for the first year of the project M12) by the project coordinator and WP5 leader and gathered into an Excel document to ensure that the dissemination and communication strategy is running in an efficient way.





Table 2. Scheduled information to be communicated

Information/deliverable	Nature of info	Goals of dissemination	Tools	Channels	Diss level	Diss Date
Consortium agreement	O	Coordination and management of the project	Platform-CIRCA Email	ERA-ENVHEALTH partners	CO	1
Kick off meeting report	R	Provide information about the results of the first meeting	Platform Email	ERA-ENVHEALTH partners	RE	2
Quality manual	R	Ensure a good quality of results	Platform Email	ERA-ENVHEALTH partners	RE	3
Specification of the Research database	R	Agreement on the structure of the Research DB, feedback for all partners	Email Teleconferences Workshop	ERA-ENVHEALTH partners	RE	6
Database of scientific experts	O	Increase the numbers of Experts for the evaluation of research projects	Emails Websites/Leaflets	ERA-ENVHEALTH partners	PU	6
Directory of the EAC members	O	Stakeholder involvement Provided the project with adequate and continuous feedback.	Emails, Project General Assembly meeting Website	ERA-ENVHEALTH partners (Coordinator & WP5 leader)	RE	6
Draft overview of programmes	R	Provide information about the results of the first meeting	Email Teleconferences	EAC, EIG, EC-DG Research	PU	8
Periodic project report to the Commission	R	Report on the progress of the project	Mail Email	EC-DG Research	RE	12
Database of E&H research programmes	O	Increase exploitation of results	DB-Website	All channels	PU	18
Guidelines for users of the database	R	Increase exploitation of results	DB-Website	All channels	PU	18
Final overview of programmes and projects including synthesis and recommendations	R	Provide information about the results of the first meeting	Email Teleconferences Website	EAC, EIG, EC-DG Research	PU	8
Report on potential new	R	Recruitment of new funding organisation	Email	ERA-ENVHEALTH partners	RE	20





partners: programmes and organisations			Website Workshop	EAC, EIG, EC-DG Research		
Report on the management and scientific evaluation issues encountered during the first call	R	Provide guidelines of best practices for the second call	Mail Email	ERA-ENVHEALTH partners EAC, EIG, EC-DG Research	PU	22
Report on programme strategic issues, complementarities and clustering arrangements	R	Increase the synergy between programme managers	Email Teleconferences Website	ERA-ENVHEALTH partners EAC, EIG, EC-DG Research	PU	24
Periodic project report to the Commission	R	Report on the progress of the project	Mail Email	EC-DG Research	RE	30
Report summarising the development and application of prioritisation criteria and list of prioritised work areas	R	Increase the synergy between programme managers	Email Teleconferences Website	ERA-ENVHEALTH partners EAC, EIG, EC-DG Research	PU	30
Report on the implementation of joint activities	R	Increase cooperation between programme managers	Email Teleconferences Website	ERA-ENVHEALTH partners EAC, EIG, EC-DG Research	PU	46
Report on the mechanisms for enrolment and involvement of new partners	R	Recruitment of new funding organisation	Email Website Workshop	ERA-ENVHEALTH partners EAC, EIG, EC-DG Research	RE	46
Report reviewing the call for proposals with recommendations for later calls	R	Provide guidelines of best practices for the second call	Mail Email	ERA-ENVHEALTH partners EAC, EIG, EC-DG Research	PU	48
Draft announcement of opportunity for the second call	O	Promote research activities	Email Website	All channels	RE	48
Final project report to the Commission	R	Report on the progress of the project	Mail Email	EC-DG Research	PU	48





Table 3. Indicators monitored by the project coordinator and WP5 leader to ensure that the dissemination and communication strategy is running in an efficient way.

	Indicator	Results				
			M12	M24	M36	M48
Internal communication management	CIRCA	Indicator value – nb of documents available and frequency of updates	120 documents available on CIRCA updated every 3 months			
		Comments				
	information / request emails from coordinator	Indicator value – nb / month	80 emails			
		Comments	not counting individual requests for administrative issues			
	Helpdesk to Partners	Indicator value – nb of requests by partners	46 + 70 = 116 emails in 1 year			
		Comments	for administrative queries only			
	Communication with EC officer	Indicator value – nb every 6 months	80			
		Comments	But many (about 70 were due to the GA signature after the start of the project)			
	Availability of communication / dissemination material	Indicator value – Y/N on CIRCA and website	Y			
		Comments				
External communication management	Website	Indicator value – visit statistics				
		Comments				
	Contacts	Indicator value – nb of contacts	8 contacts towards the coordinator from website and leaflet			
		Comments				





	Leaflet	Indicator value – distribution statistics	150 distributed at the research Connections event, 50 to French research organisations and 85 at the ISEE 2009 conference			
		Comments				
	Meeting/workshops	Indicator value – nb of presentations	2 presentations at NEW OSH ERA training seminars, 1 presentation at EC environment event			
		Comments				
	publications	Indicator value – nb of publications	1 article in ERS in France, 1 poster for ISEE 2009, 1 poster at the UK science event, 1 poster at the Belgium environment event			
		Comments				





8. ANNEXES

ANNEX 1. Website & logo Identity

The first 6 months of the project were dedicated to creating the project's identity and external visibility tools such as the logo, website and a leaflet. The website statistics are as follows for M6 and M12 (see table below). It can be seen that the number of visits increases regularly but that the average time of a visit was longer at the launch of the website.

Report: www.era-envhealth.eu	
Period: 01/03/2009 - 07/07/2009	
Total of visits	2 249,00
Total access pages	16 620,00
Daily Average Number of Visits	17,43
Daily Access Pages	128,84
Average access pages per user	7,39
Average time of visits	00:03:54

Navigation

1. Home
2. About ERA-ENVHEALTH
 - 2.1. Aims & Objectives
 - 2.2. Overall Strategy
 - 2.3. Partners
 - 2.4. Work Packages
3. Results
 - 3.1. Progress of ERA-ENVHEALTH
 - 3.2. ERA-ENVHEALTH Final Reports
4. Joint Activities & Research Calls





5. Events

6. Cooperation & Links

7. Recent News from Partner Countries

7.1. Belgium

7.2. France

7.3. Germany

7.4. Ireland

7.5. Israel

7.6. Italy

7.7. The Netherlands

7.8. Slovak Republic

7.9. Sweden

7.10. United Kingdom

8. ERA-ENVHEALTH Newsletter and Project Dissemination Materials

8.1. Presentations of ERA-ENVHEALTH in International & National events

8.2. Newsletter

8.3. Brochures

8.4. Photos

9. CIRCA (link to circa, where you can find the Final DOW and Grant Agreement, the Consortium Agreement, the Quality Plan, the General Assembly Meeting minutes).

9.1 Partners of the Consortium

9.2 External Advisory Committee

9.2.1. Project design & management





- 9.2.2 Composition of the External Advisory Committee
- 9.2.3. Reports from the EAC
- 9.3 Information for Potential New Partners
 - 9.3.1. Why you should join the ERA-ENVHEALTH project
 - 9.3.2. Report on potential new partners
 - 9.3.3. Potential new partner's workshop
 - 9.3.4. Report on mechanisms for involvement of new partners
- 10. Databases (link to the research database description and registration page and link to the expert database)
 - 10.1. Expert Database
 - 10.2. Research Database
- 11. Contact List





ANNEX 2. Potential strategic impact of ERA-ENVHEALTH

ERA-ENVHEALTH will contribute to the ERA-NET objectives as follows:

- Reduce the fragmentation of the European Research Area by improving the coherence and coordination of research programmes in the E&H domain across EU Member and Associated States

ERA-ENVHEALTH will foster exchange, within the ERA, at the national and regional level with regards to E&H programme planning and funding by bringing together 16 organisations from 10 countries to build mutual understanding and long-term benefits through established networking arrangements.

- Avoid overlap and develop expertise from mutual learning and access to research results

ERA-ENVHEALTH will encourage initiatives undertaken by several countries in areas of common strategic interest and develop synergies between existing programmes. ERA-ENVHEALTH will analyse the options to cluster parts of national programmes. Research teams will have mutual and timely access to research results, which will stimulate project clustering allowing better integration and validation of results. E&H research and activities have an interdisciplinary character, integrated expertise and multidisciplinary teams are of utmost importance, therefore other ERA-NETs (SKEP, CIRCLE, new OSH-ERA...) will be contacted to avoid overlap.

- Concrete co-operation between research programmes, networking, mutual opening, development and implementation of joint programmes and activities in a long-term perspective

A practical example of the willingness to implement joint activities is the early launch of the first call to explore the process and develop actions to overcome obstacles (from priority setting to co-funding), proving that the partners are committed to working together. Certain Member States run trans-national programmes (e.g. France, Belgium, Germany, Ireland), ERA-ENVHEALTH will be an opportunity to exchange information on their implementation and encourage others to open their programmes. The outcomes of ERA-ENVHEALTH are: a shared vision on best ways to build critical mass in specific areas, a long-term action plan for joint activities and multinational calls for research projects. The joint activities will last beyond the period of ERA-ENVHEALTH.

- Enable national and regional systems to take on tasks collectively

It would be impossible for one country to gather and analyse all the information needed to define common strategic activities in an area such as E&H where sources of information are many. Interfacing research programmes and outcomes with policy-





making will benefit from all partner inputs (institutional, political contexts, perception...) providing important information for developing multinational research call guidelines.

- Provide a framework for public research programmes to coordinate activities, which have a lasting impact

ERA-ENVHEALTH will provide a platform for programme managers to share information on E&H research. It follows a progressive approach to networking and mutual opening. The partners are committed to the concept of co-operative working in the E&H area within and beyond the lifetime of the project. ERA-ENVHEALTH is seen as a basis for cooperation and an efficient step towards long-lasting cooperation.

- Dissemination of lessons learnt and knowledge gathered within the European Research Area

A specific work package has been created to address the dissemination and communication issues. It will ensure participation of the various stakeholders in the implementation of the project and ensure they have access to the results. The project aims to bring in new partners through effective promotion of the project objectives, progress and results, with a focus on new Member States and Southern European countries. Common actions will be undertaken to disseminate research results.

ERA-ENVHEALTH will have an impact on each research programme involved, as well as on the management of Environment and health issues at the European scale, by replying to current needs:

- The necessity of setting up identification or characterization tools for the different research programmes, the visualisation of programme priorities in the light of development axes, as well as the necessity of a good knowledge of means and actors.
- The necessity of responding to the recognized need for enhancing coordination through cooperation in environment and health research.
- The necessity of organising a forum on prospective research needs, their coordination and possible synergies on targeted issues in different countries and the necessity of exchanging research programme management good practices.
- The necessity of facilitating communication between researchers and policy makers, decision makers and managers in order to bridge the gaps resulting from the lack of outcome dissemination (or lack of knowledge on research programmes).

The project will impact not only the programmes represented in the project consortium, but it is anticipated to have an impact also on other programmes, either because they will request to be involved in the mid-term, or because their own decision-makers will use the recommendations issued by the project in their own procedures.

Joint activities will be streamlined not only around short and mid terms objectives but also around long-term objectives and stakeholders will be associated all along the process in order to launch debates and develop joint tools.





Although the ERA-NET application covers a 4-year period, the participants are committed to working together and intend to build a lasting and effective network. The development of ERA-ENVHEALTH will ensure that the participants do not work on the same issues in isolation but share their expertise and work together where they can.

- The coordination action will provide a significant contribution to the establishment of the European Research Area and will build lasting cooperation with a detailed work programme for environment and health research and potential E&H research project funding of around 40M€/year.
- When programmes in the partner institutions are operating through calls, the funds available for E&H research are in the range of 1 to 3 M€/year per institution.

A mutual learning platform

So far the only environment and health programme, which was evaluated using specific E&H criteria, is the Finish environment and health Programme (1998-2001), owned by the Academy of Finland.

ERA-ENVHEALTH will develop collective learning with regards to information gathering in view of comparing programme contents and achievements (WP1 and WP2) and to monitor and evaluate progress of the national and regional programmes. Such a mutual learning platform and coordinated efforts will lead to the evaluation of a wide portfolio of environment and health programmes which will also benefit at the national and regional level (evaluation of a portfolio of national &/or regional programmes such as the national endocrine disrupters programme, air quality research programme and environment and health programme owned by different organisations. It will give the participants a clear overview of the wide-range of programmes in their area.

- ERA-ENVHEALTH will be a mutual learning platform with regards to programme management and evaluation of environment and health.

Evaluation of a portfolio of environment and health programmes and development of coherent environment and health research policy

ERA-ENVHEALTH will have an impact at the national level as it will improve information exchange between policy-making organisations and therefore will support the improvement of mechanisms to bring together scientific research efforts and the development of a common understanding of how science is translated into policy (WP2). This will bring added value to the development of the dissemination plan of ERA-ENVHEALTH so as to reach the relevant policy-makers at the local, regional and European scale.

Systems of governance in regard to environment and health policy and environment and health research in the different Member States are a result of political, legal and





institutional traditions. Therefore, communication and coordination processes relevant to the design of a coherent policy, regarding environment and health research between the different participants, need to be established.

→ ERA-ENVHEALTH will aim at developing coherent environment and health research policy with the implementation of its long-term action plan for joint activities (WP3).

Improved understanding of the complexity of a wide range of environment and health issues – Development of efficient mechanisms to interface science to policy

The communication strategy of ERA-ENVHEALTH will improve the understanding of the complexity of the E&H issues by the policy-makers and the wider community. Additionally, it will underpin the need to support and build a critical mass of scientists and policy makers to contribute to Environment and Health expertise (at the EU and national level).

ERA-ENVHEALTH will allow easier access to research findings. In some countries, research projects are closely related to national policy issues. The final reports are often delivered to the policy decision-makers in the national language. These reports are often considered as grey literature with limited access. ERA-ENVHEALTH will increase the dissemination of scientific knowledge to other agencies and policy-makers in Europe, and will organise exchanges and sharing of knowledge between the different Member States.

While preparing the ERA-ENVHEALTH project, potential users or beneficiaries of its outcomes have been identified. These potential users / beneficiaries are identified in table 3.1a below. All these users are also input providers for ERA-ENVHEALTH. All organisations were contacted previously to capture their expectations concerning the initial ERA-ENVHEALTH project submitted under FP6. The identification of these potential users will be useful for the communication strategy and the preparation of specific communication tools.

Table 3.1 a: Detailed impact, effects and benefits of ERA-ENVHEALTH

Beneficiary / user	Impact, effect, benefit	Procedure provided by ERA-ENVHEALTH
WHO Children E&H Action Plan for Europe (CEHAPE)		
EEA	Access to updated scientific data in view of preparing EEA environment and health reports. Stimulate networking of EEA staff with the scientific community in environment and health.	EEA Participation to the External Advisory Committee.
WHO Europe	Easily accessible up-to date knowledge fulfilling demand of WHO and EEA (given its commitment in the Budapest	WHO Participation to the External Advisory Committee.





	follow ups and CEHAPE process).	
European DGs – E&H Strategy and Action Plan, Public Health Policy		
	Contribution to the implementation of the European action plan for environment and health (see action 5 of the action plan) – Contribution to a better coordination of EC research actions and MS.	ERA-ENVHEALTH as a whole.
	Easy access to well identified research and environment and health policy-makers in environment and health.	Identification of key policy-makers and key researchers.
	Better appraisal of the critical mass of environment and health research in the different MS including new MS, planned complementarities between national programmes and European Research Programmes (FP7).	Overview of programmes and projects (ERA- ENVHEALTH consortium and potential partners).
	Easy access to a wider network of risk assessment expert bodies on E&H topics on the agenda, and easy access to potential evaluators for projects.	Network of programme managers and programme owners are very knowledgeable of the research and expert opinions in preparation in their country.
	Communication between, policy makers and environment & health research community to ensure research is better targeted to policy needs.	External Advisory Committee.
	Quick and reliable advice on research priorities for particular issues.	Information available on the web site.
Programme managers - ERA-ENVHEALTH Consortium		
	Mutual learning, benchmarking of practices in terms programme planning, management, evaluation, including project evaluation (ex post and ex ante). Mutual adjustment of the research agendas of the participation research programmes. Finding assistance from other programme managers at the different steps of programme management.	Exchange and support within the consortium.
	Shared understanding of priority issues in the different MS (political, societal, scientific context might differ).	Common priorities allowing joint activities (Work programme for long-lasting cooperation).
	Easier access (with tailored-made	Programme manager network.





	assistance of the Programme owner and programme manager) to up-to-date information on research issues.	Integration of research results.
	Increase the audience of national programme on the field to the various stakeholders, including the public.	Web site but also targeted dissemination at the national level and regional level.
Scientific community		
	Knowledge of work programme and calls of the different programmes, a one-stop-shop (Web ERA-ENVHEALTH), knowledge of programmes open to foreign participants.	Web site, targeted dissemination. Clearer and more transparent participating rules with regards to opening of programmes.
	Facilitated access/use to infrastructures relevant to E&H (e.g. for indoor environment studies...).	Inventory of infrastructure and conditions to grant access. Knowledge of available infrastructure to multinational projects (funded by ERA-ENVHEALTH for instance).
	More funding opportunities (i.e. the different national programmes), possibilities for multinational partnerships with funding available for all partners for more focused projects with smaller consortium than in EC funded projects.	Calls for multinational projects.
Research policy		
	Increase the diversity of disciplines involved in E&H research on specific themes (capacity building by integration in multidisciplinary projects sufficiently funded thanks to multinational activities) (e.g. environment and health and social inequities for example is not a very developed area in some MS while it is much developed in other, by setting up multinational projects).	Clustering of programmes and clustering of projects, provision of funds and resources to allow a true integration of results (experienced scientist needed for integration).
	Holistic view of currently funded topics – Identification of new topics: amendment of existing programmes or development of new programmes. Facilitated access/use to infrastructures relevant to environment and health for	Overview of programmes, Gap analysis and expressions of research needs and concerns by policy-makers and the society.





	foreign investigators (e.g. for indoor environment studies...).	
	In MS participating to the present consortium, while ERA-ENVHEALTH is running, new organisations funding research in environment and health, or new programmes might be identified, ERA-ENVHEALTH should be attractive for these new organisations or programmes.	Continued update for potential new partners. Targeted dissemination to potential new partners in each MS.
	Higher quality of research (validation of results) and opportunity of improved cost/benefit ratio.	Clustering of programmes and clustering of projects, provision of funds and resources to allow a true integration of results (experienced scientist needed for integration), multinational calls.
Environment and Health Policy / Public Health Policy / National Environment and Health Programmes (NEHAPS)		
	Provision of the appropriate scientific evidence to complex issues in support to environment and health policy. Higher research output thanks to better integration of results from projects (increased possibility for validation of results, exploitation of data, and transparency of methods used in the projects).	Clustering of programmes and clustering of projects, provision of funds and resources to allow a true integration of results (experienced scientist needed for integration). Targeted dissemination of main outcome to policy-makers
Potential Partners		
	Opportunity given to increase their knowledge about environment and health research programmes in Europe, to join ERA-ENVHEALTH for joint activities.	Opportunity given to potential partners to be consulted on the long-term action plan for activities. Opportunity given to change from potential partner to partner. This would benefit also to ERA-ENVHEALTH by enlarging the network in particular for the implementation of the long-term action plan.
Industry		





<p>Long Range Initiative (CEFIC)</p>	<p>LRI share common issues with many of the national programmes. LRI funds projects funded either by the EC or by national programmes on a project basis. There would be possibility organise complementarities between multinational programmes and LRI for instance.</p>	<p>Contacts will be taken by the coordinator with LRI manager (only the most direct user is mentioned as far as industry is concerned i.e. research).</p>
<p>Environment and Consumer NGO's, Public</p>		
	<p>Easier access to research results in relation to their main concerns (industrial sites and health status of the nearby population, transport/fines particles and health impacts, women and children health, better knowledge of susceptible groups, health impact of chemicals used in the household). Facilitation of the dissemination of information to a wider public through their mailing lists, web site, newsletters and network.</p>	<p>Information to NGOs at the European or national level such as EcoForum, European Public Health Alliance (participate in the consultative forum and to EEHC), BEUC and relevant national NGO's on ERA-ENVHEALTH objectives and scientific content of programmes.</p>
<p>Other ERA-NETs (SKEP, Biodiversa ...) and EU-funded projects</p>		
	<p>Complement SKEP with an environment and health dimension.</p>	<p>Liaison with for e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SKEP (MEEDDAT and EA). - CIRCLE, relative to the first call. - SNOWMAN (Sustainable management of soil and groundwater under the pressure of soil pollution and soil contamination) ... - The Pronet coordination action project, to have real results from practical realisations on E&H initiatives <p>These exchanges will put the focus on the importance of the ERA-ENVHEALTH objective to bridge the relation between policy-making and research.</p>

