



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

# ERA-ENVHEALTH

## MONTHLY NEWSFLASH



### THIS MONTH'S NEWS:

MAY 2010

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### WP5 – POTENTIAL NEW PARTNERS REPORT

In April 2010 a **Report on potential new partners: programmes and organisations** was prepared by ISPRA, the leader of task 5.2 – extending the network. This report describes the added-value and long-term objectives of becoming partners, the different levels of participation and the criteria for identifying and integrating new partners.

ERA-ENVHEALTH is a European project aimed at enhancing the coordination of E&H research programmes. The objective of the project is to **bring together European organisations that finance and plan research programmes in the field of E&H and to establish a lasting cooperation.** With time and the implementation of both the EU strategy and action plan for environment and health, and the Budapest declaration and the CEHAPE, several countries may want to strengthen or launch research programmes in the field of E&H. These countries and organisations might consider helpful to benefit from the knowledge and experience gathered within ERA-ENVHEALTH. Therefore, the recruitment of new partners and participants is paramount to achieving the objectives of ERA-ENVHEALTH.

The work of task 5.2 provided a recruitment strategy structure and tools supporting the involvement of organisations in future activities and aimed to answer two questions: *Who to involve and How to do it?* The main outputs of the work discussed in this Report and supporting the proposed communication and recruitment strategy include:

- developing several activity scenarios according to different targets and cooperation with different Consortium bodies (see Fig. 1);
- establishing transparent criteria with regards



WP5 Report on potential new partners

to requirements and mutual benefits from joining the network for different categories (see Annex 1);

- selecting a list of potential new partners based on certain criteria such as: 1) National authority in the field of E&H research, 2) Attitude towards European research and network task achievements, 3) Geographical location according to the DOW mandate (see annex 4).

**Consortium partners and EAC members are invited to help in contacting potential new partners or contributors in their countries (see annex 2). Suggestions are welcome before end of May, 2010.**

A workshop has been scheduled at the next GA meeting in September 2010 in The Netherlands where certain potential new partners will be invited to participate.

### REMINDER:

#### NEXT DEADLINES

- **15 May 2010: deadline for response to the WP5 questionnaire on the dissemination of calls**
- **End of May 2010: deadline for suggestions for the potential new partners workshop**
- **June 2010: deadline for the 1st evaluation report on the management and scientific evaluation issues during the 1st 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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## WP5 – WORKSHOP FOR POTENTIAL NEW PARTNERS AT GA MEETING IN THE NETHERLANDS – 15 SEPT. 2010

As mentioned in the ERA-ENVHEALTH DOW for task 5.2, the first work to be undertaken is to define and explain the added value and long-term objectives of ERA-ENVHEALTH to potential new partners, in particular from Southern European Countries and new Member States. To initiate this communication programme, the project website provides information for interested potential new partners and a report describing the added-value and long-term objectives of becoming partners, the different levels of participation and the criteria for identifying and integrating new partners is available.

Active identification of potential new partners will take place throughout the lifetime of the project in particular to identify E&H research programmes not represented in the ERA-ENVHEALTH consortium and certain organisations that may be interested in becoming new partners or the ERA-ENVHEALTH project. A number of criteria are to be used for identifying and involving potential new partners, the main ones being: owner / manager of E&H research programmes, willingness to participate in joint activities and similar strategic priorities as the ERA-ENVHEALTH consortium partners.

The mechanisms for the involvement of interested organisations and the activities in which they may become involved will be discussed during a [workshop for potential new partners, organised in combination with the General Assembly meeting on 13-15 September 2010 in The Netherlands](#).

The potential new partners currently identified will be invited to take part in this workshop on **September 15, 2010**, in order to **discuss and finalise the mechanisms for participation in the project and the possible activities which are of interest for collaboration**.

**Consortium partners and EAC members are invited to help in contacting potential new partners and suggestions are welcome before end of May 2010** in order to enable their participation in the “Potential New Partners’ Workshop”.

**Interested organisations** are also invited to contact Task 5.2 leader: Luciana SINISI: [luciana.sinisi@isprambiente.it](mailto:luciana.sinisi@isprambiente.it) or the project coordinator Adrienne PITTMAN: [adrienne.pittman@afsset.fr](mailto:adrienne.pittman@afsset.fr)

**DON'T HESITATE TO CONTACT US**

## WP5 – NEW TASK TO TARGET POLICY RELEVANCE

The complexities and uncertainties involved in organising E&H policy result from the need to consider the implications of E&H policy across different organisational levels, spatial and temporal scales, and sectors. In addition to the need for better coordination of research across Europe, the WHO-EU and the EC have expressed the need for better use of E&H research results to support policy and governance and to better anticipate issues affecting public health. ERA-ENVHEALTH contributes to the European Environment and Health Action Plan 2004-2010 by promoting better coordination and better use of research results to support policy development. Furthermore, the information generated by the project is a valuable resource for those who would like to improve the participation of society in E&H policy. E&H governance should include both top-down E&H steering conducted by the governments and the bottom-up processes taking place in complex societal and certainly scientific networks.

Out of the discussions during the ERA-ENVHEALTH meetings (General Assembly meeting, 1<sup>st</sup> External Advisory Committee meeting) and from the evaluation of the first annual report, several remarks with regards with regard to **how ERA-ENVHEALTH will contribute to provide policy support for the implementation of E&H policies and governance** came forward. Presently no specific task is dedicated to the

fulfilment of a major strategic objective for policy relevance and support. A **new task** is therefore envisaged, to help understand the relationship between research and policy in the E&H domain. ERA-ENVHEALTH provides the forum to explore this issue as it brings together 16 partners financing E&H and certain policy-makers.

To achieve this understanding, a study of approaches to, and experiences of, research implementation by governmental ministries and agencies within the ERA-ENVHEALTH partner organisations will be carried out.

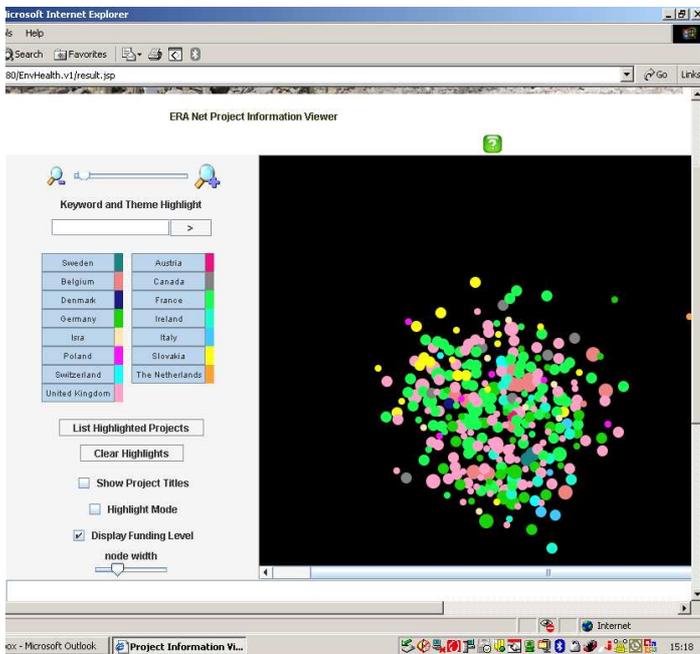
The general objectives of this study are to:

- compare and contrast approaches to implementation of research results in policy-making in ERA-ENVHEALTH partners.
- evaluate the impact of research for policy-making in partner organisations and countries:
  - identify what works, what doesn't and why
  - in what areas and domains are research results evidently used in policy-making and in what areas/domains are they clearly not used (at short and medium term)?
  - what criteria are required for research to be used and what type of research is required for it to be used in policy-making?
  - what obstacles are there for the use of the research results in policy-making and how could these obstacles be removed and the process improved?...
- report and develop guidelines for “good practice”.

## WP2 IDENTIFICATION OF STRATEGIC AND EMERGING ISSUES AND WORK SESSION AT THE GA MEETING – 14 SEPT. 2010

Following the completion of the information collection exercise on projects and programmes by UVZ and UBA under Task 1.2, the Environment Agency has been working on Task 2.1 to identify strategic and emerging issues in Environment and Health.

One of the approaches taken is a visualisation of the data which was outlined at the 2009 meeting in Rome. Since then further work has been undertaken to identify strategic issues and clustering by using topic maps and emerging issues by horizon scanning.



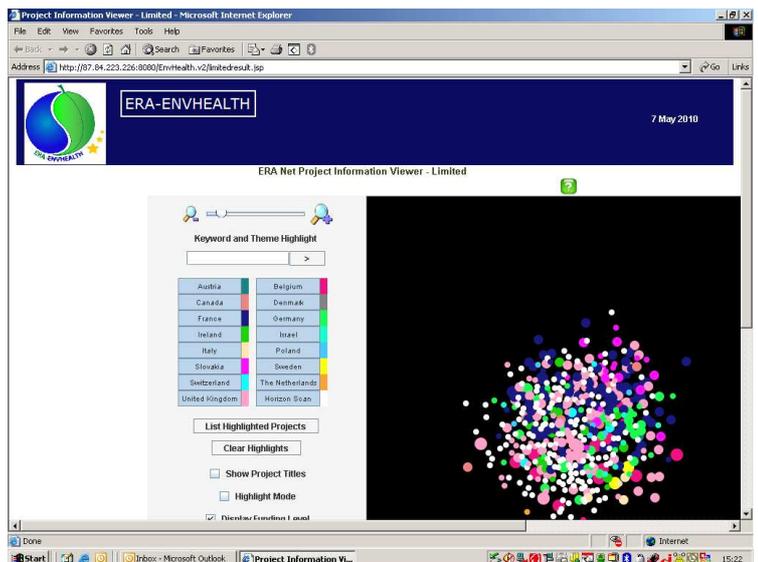
This visualisation aims to depict the distribution of projects by identifying clusters of similar or related project activity. It is generated from the textual descriptions of ongoing research projects in the area of environment and health collected by the ERA-ENVHEALTH partners.

Statistical text analysis methods have been applied to the set of project information to identify semantically related research (through the occurrence of shared terminology and vocabularies). Further statistical processes have been applied to enable this information to be displayed in an interactive 2D applet window. A screen shot showing this visualisation can be seen below.

In the visualisation, the individual coloured dots represent different projects. The closer the dots are together, the closer they are semantically (i.e. the more terminology they share). Consequently the further apart projects are in the visualisation, the less they have in common. There are no labelled axes in the 2D visualisation as it uses a force-directed algorithm to obtain the best layout in terms of equilibrium between attraction of similar projects and repulsion of dissimilar ones.

In addition horizon scanning information has been incorporated into the visualisation. The Environment Agency Horizon Scanning team identify upcoming threats and opportunities from a variety of sources (from news articles to scientific journals). Articles specifically about the area of environment and health have been collected and amalgamated with this visualisation to illustrate the potential gaps in the current research programme.

The draft report will be circulated ahead of the Annual Assembly Meeting in September. At the meeting there will be an opportunity to take part in a workshop on emerging issues. The report will then be finalised following this workshop and any further comments that are received.



Those interested are also invited to contact Task 1.2 leader: Mike Briers: [mike.briers@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:mike.briers@environment-agency.gov.uk)

## OTHER NEWS

UPCOMING MEETINGS
<b>27 MAY 2010: FINAL EVALUATION STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING</b>
<b>13-15 SEPTEMBER 2010: GA MEETING IN THE NETHERLANDS INCLUDING WORK SESSIONS</b>
<b>15 SEPTEMBER 2010: WORKSHOP FOR POTENTIAL NEW PARTNERS, THE NETHERLANDS</b>

### [Draft agenda for the GA meeting – 13-15 September 2010, in The Netherlands](#)

On 13 to 15 of September, ERA-ENVHEALTH will hold its annual **General Assembly meeting**. This year numerous work sessions are planned during this meeting, which will also be closed by a workshop for Potential New Partners. The draft agenda for this meeting is as follows:

#### **13 September 2010**

- 10.00 to 12.00: dedicated to the financial issues. *Restricted attendance to the GA representatives.*

- **13.30 to 18.00:** discussion on the strategic issues and **session dedicated to the scientific progress of the project. Attendance is open to all invited participants.**

#### **14 September 2010**

- 9.00 to 12.30: Work session 1 (task 2.1) on the identification of strategic and emerging issues in E&H research.

- 14.00 to 17.30: Work session 2 (task 4.2) on the design of the second call.

#### **15 September 2010**

- 9.00 to 12.30: Work session 3 (new task in WP5) on the introduction of policy-relevance into the project.

- 14.00 to 17.15: Workshop for potential new partners.

- 17.15 to 17.30: Closure of the meeting.

### [Publication: Health impact of climate change – What are the challenges for the French Institute for Public Health Surveillance \(InVS\)?](#)

Recognizing that climate change will impact human health, an interdisciplinary climate change working group within InVS has identified the main needs for adaptation of the Public Health sector, focusing on surveillance and alert. Assessment of the health impact of climate change is mostly

qualitative. Risks commonly identified for European countries were considered (incl. extreme weather events, infectious diseases, long-term environmental changes). The flexibility and adaptability of existing surveillance and alert programmes covering these risks were assessed based on a literature review, expert consultations and analysis of past events. Both environmental monitoring systems and health end points surveillance systems were included. Data gaps were identified, as well as possible options for future developments.

For all considered risks, surveillance of the environment and of the presumed health effects is already available, either through continuous monitoring systems or ad hoc studies. Strengthening these systems would allow the development of databases for studying the health effect of climate change. Data quality, data availability and linkage of environmental and health databases are key steps in this process. A better understanding of the determinants of exposure will be essential to understand potential climate risks. Syndromic surveillance could be fruitfully used to complement classical systems, as it provides decision-makers with timely data useful for prevention and crisis management and allows the identification of unexpected events. A strong interaction with research is also required through the development of interdisciplinary partnerships relying on existing networks. Finally, mitigation strategies have the potential to generate major health co-benefits. Decision-makers should have access to health impact assessments of the different available options. Surveillance should be used to monitor and evaluate the efficiency of these strategies.



## CONTACTS

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