



anses

French agency for food, environmental
and occupational health & safety

Investigate, evaluate, protect



PNR EST

National Research Programme on Environmental and Occupational Health

Since 2006, the PNR EST has provided regular support for research in the areas of environmental and occupational health. It covers a broad field of investigation, on topics of major concern to civil society.

Bringing research and risk assessment closer together

The PNR EST supports research projects lasting three years on average. They focus on risks to which humans are exposed in their different living environments (domestic, leisure, professional) and which are related to a variety of different types of exposure (chemical, biological, physical, etc.).

The programme establishes the priorities for the national plans on environmental health, occupational health and cancer, and the ÉCOPHYTO plan (reduction of plant protection products in France). It promotes multi-disciplinary projects which integrate the human & social sciences and has three main objectives:

- To help maintain a community of researchers involved in risk assessment.
- To produce knowledge upstream of risk assessment.
- To contribute to the structuring and strengthening of research.

Each year, 5 to 6 million euros are allocated to an average of 35 projects.



Selection: an ISO 9001 certified process

Every year, around 300 letters of intent for research projects are sent to ANSES in response to a call for research projects with a two-phase selection process.

Two bodies are responsible for selecting the work to receive funding: a committee consisting of around 25 scientists to assess the quality of the submissions, and then a committee of representatives of the public authorities and co-funders that decides on the final list.



REVIEW OF THE LAST TEN YEARS OF THE PNR EST

1,675

dossiers submitted

975

research teams involved

356

projects funded, of which 23% had an “occupational exposure” component

€47.8

million of research funding

8%

of foreign teams (from Belgium, Canada, Switzerland, etc.)

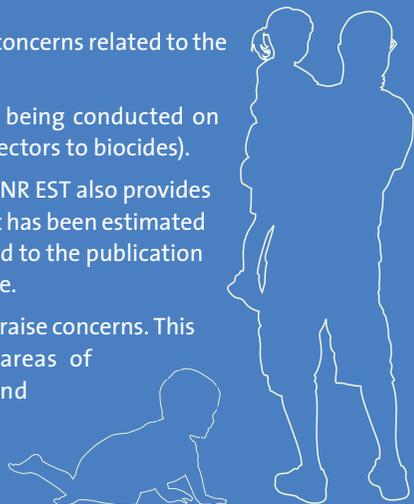
Generating knowledge

The projects can deal with the characterisation of exposure and the analysis of the effects of different agents and substances, or they can develop means of diagnosis or prevention, etc. They cover a broad field, and in particular:

- **The substances of concern** include carcinogenic-mutagenic-reprotoxic substances, pesticides and endocrine disruptors.
- Among **the groups that are exposed**, children are regarded as a particularly vulnerable population.
- **Occupational health** is a very active field of research, especially with regard to determining the occupational origins of various diseases.
- Apart from cancer, **various diseases** are of concern to the researchers, such as those related to the respiratory system (e.g. asthma, allergy and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease - COPD).
- New teams have been set up to respond to concerns related to the development of **new technologies**.
- With regard to **biological agents**, work is being conducted on resistance (of bacteria to antibiotics and of vectors to biocides).

Of course, the knowledge generated by the PNR EST also provides insight to other scientists and risk assessors. It has been estimated that in ten years, the programme will have led to the publication of around 700 articles in specialised literature.

Sometimes the results from the PNR EST may raise concerns. This has been the case, for example, in the areas of radiofrequencies, endocrine disrupters and nanoparticles.



Publicising the results of research



The Scientific Conferences are held every two years and attract an audience of 200 to 300 people: public authorities, health professionals, researchers, representatives from the associative sector and from industry, students, etc.

The *Cahiers de la recherche* is a thematic series that provides an overview of the research projects funded in the framework of the PNR EST.

The PNR EST owes its existence to the constant support of the two ministries in charge of the environment and labour, which began combining their efforts in 2006. It also benefits from funding from ADEME, the national Cancer Plan (ITMO Cancer), the tax on radiofrequency transmitters and the ÉCOPHYTO Plan (French Agency for Biodiversity and Ministry of Agriculture).



ANSES
Research Funding & Science Watch Department
14 rue Pierre et Marie Curie
94701 Maisons-Alfort
France
recherche@anses.fr
Information: www.anses.fr

