

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT



ANSES's presence in the European and international arenas responds to a dual challenge. Firstly scientific, to play an active role in the international scientific community in order to keep abreast as far as possible of all available data and knowledge and be an influential force with respect to European and international scientific trends and approaches. And secondly to safeguard health, by contributing to better control of health risks and facilitating alerts on emerging issues.

The European and International Affairs Department coordinates the activities undertaken by the Agency's various entities at European and international level. In particular, it promotes the Agency's work in the concerned forums, identifies and implements strategic actions and partnerships, and supports the scientific teams in their responses to European calls for projects and the implementation of their expert appraisal work.

PRESENTATION OF MAJOR INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

COORDINATION OF THE “ONE HEALTH” EJP, A EUROPEAN RESEARCH PROGRAMME ON FOODBORNE ZOOSES

The European Joint Programme (EJP) on “One Health”, coordinated by ANSES with the participation of more than 40 partners from 19 Member States, was approved by the European Commission and begins on 1 January 2018. Through its role in the design and implementation of this programme, ANSES is contributing to the European establishment of expertise as part of the “One Health” concept, and to the acquisition of new knowledge on foodborne zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance and emerging risks.

The aim is to set up a permanent network of research institutes bringing together reference and research laboratories on zoonoses in the veterinary, medical and

environmental fields, covering planning and research activities, and integrative actions such as information dissemination and training, and access to infrastructures, databases, bio-banks, etc. ANSES’s scientific teams are also coordinating two of the 13 collaborative projects selected through the first internal call for projects issued by the EJP for the teams of the project partners.

While ensuring effective interaction with the other major projects funded by the European Commission, the “One Health” EJP will generate scientific data to be used as input for the analysis and assessment of health risks by national and European agencies.

This programme is a particularly good illustration of the Agency’s involvement in advancing synergies between research organisations and health agencies in the European Union.

SUMMARY OF ONGOING EUROPEAN-FUNDED PROJECTS (HORIZON 2020, COST, HEALTH PROGRAMME AND EFSA) IN 2017

25 projects:

- > **12** collaborative research projects¹
- > **3** joint activities²
- > **10** COST actions

15 EFSA contracts in force in 2017, including:

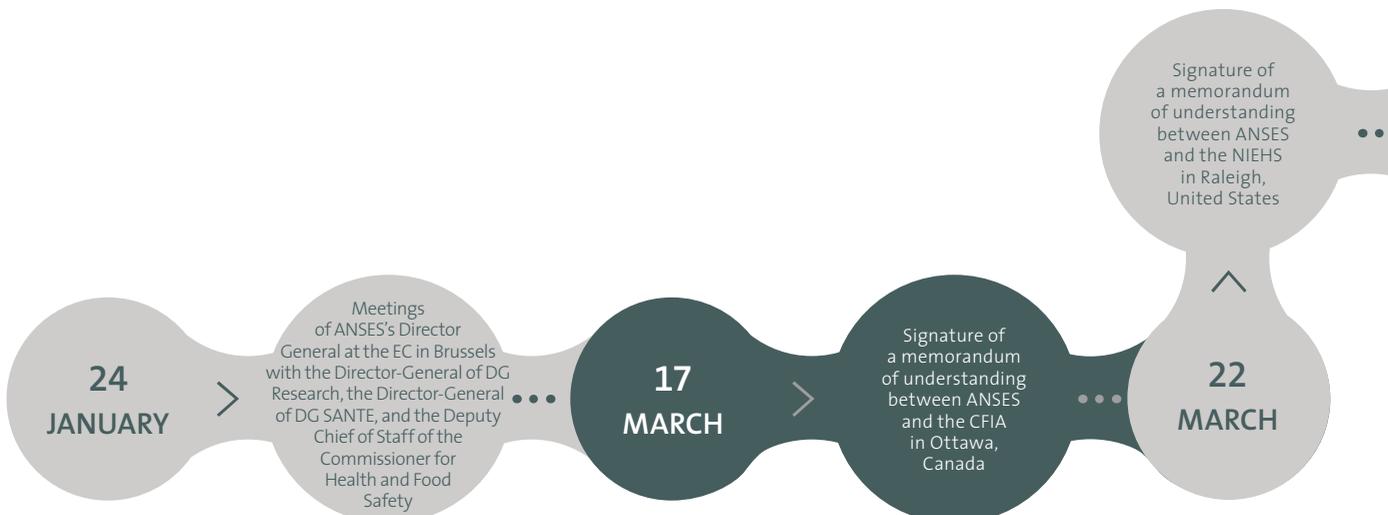
- > **8** contracts as a result of calls for tender (of which 7 are framework contracts)
- > **7** grants further to calls for proposals (including **2** framework partnerships)

(1) Funded by Horizon 2020: PARASITE, IFAAM, EUROMIX, SUSFANS, NANOREG, EFFORT, COMPARE, CAMPYBRO, PREMEDICS, VMERGE, PLANTFOODSEC, HBM4EU EJP

(2) Funded by the European Union Health Programme: JANPA, JATC, EU-JAMRAI

More than 30 partnership agreements under way (of which **2** were signed in 2017 - partners from Canada and the United States)

KEY DATES



WORK UNDERTAKEN

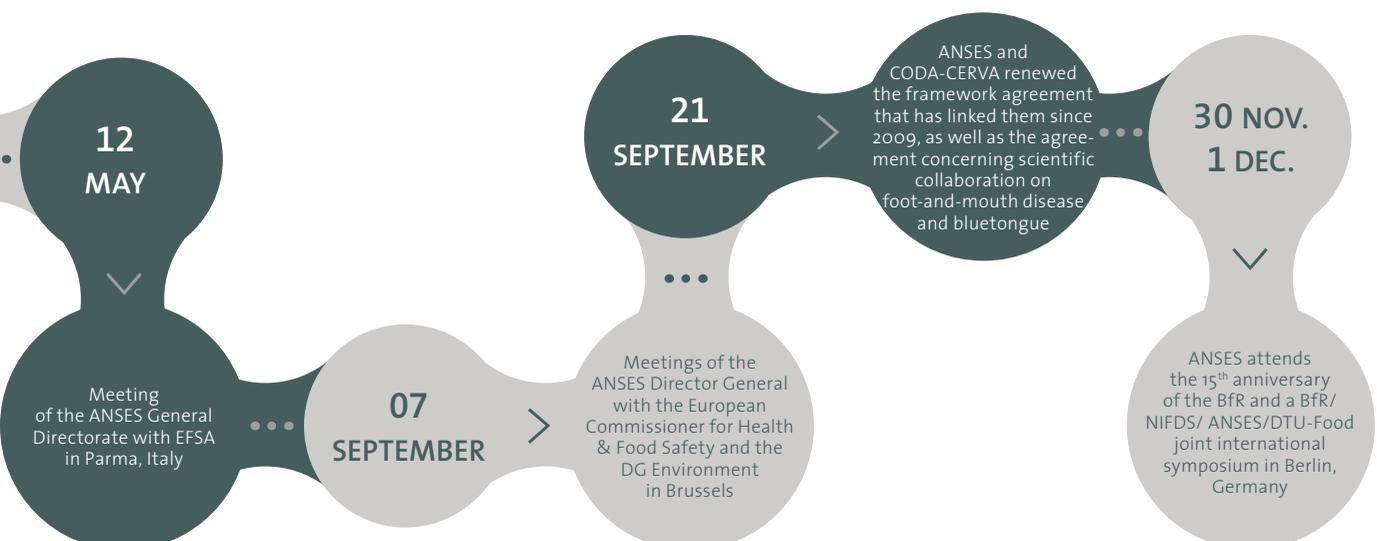
ANSES takes the European and international dimensions into account in all its activities, and many projects are carried out in partnership with other organisations. To promote these partnerships, collaboration agreements may be signed, and meetings and exchanges organised. In 2017, relations continued to develop, particularly in Asia (Japan, China and South Korea). Representatives of the General Directorate visited Japan in April to take part in the conference “What Does the Future Hold for International Scientific Cooperation for Food Safety?”. This was in response to an invitation from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the Food Safety Commission of Japan (FSCJ). The FSCJ also invited ANSES to speak at a conference in December on risk assessment and monitoring of foodborne antimicrobial resistance.

ANSES regularly meets with the Chinese institutions involved in food safety and animal health. In May, the General Directorate welcomed a delegation of representatives from various bodies, including the China National Centre for Food Safety Risk Assessment (CFSA). The Maisons-Alfort Laboratory for Animal Health also hosted a delegation from the China Animal Disease Control Center (CADC) in September. In addition, as part of the cooperation agreement between the French Agency for Veterinary Medicinal Products (ANMV) and the China Institute of Veterinary Drug Control (IVDC), two training sessions took place in November at the ANMV and the Fougères Laboratory. During the same period, the annual meeting of the management of the ANMV and the IVDC provided an opportunity to look back over the past year and make plans for the next three years. The General Directorate was also able to participate in the

11th China International Food Safety and Quality Conference (CIFSQ) in Beijing, where ANSES co-organised a session with EFSA, the CFSA and the BfR (German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment) on the harmonisation of principles and methods for assessing chemical risks in food. At the same time, a delegation led by the Director of the Maisons-Alfort Laboratory for Animal Health visited Qingdao and Beijing to meet with the China Animal Health and Epidemiology Center (CAHEC), IVDC and CADC.

As part of the agreement with the Korean National Institute of Food and Drug Safety Evaluation (NIFDS), three NIFDS scientists came to ANSES in June to discuss various topics, including the total diet studies conducted by ANSES. The Agency also co-organised a symposium, in Berlin in late November with the NIFDS, the BfR and the National Food Institute of the Technical University of Denmark (DTU-Food), on past, current and future challenges in risk assessment (see text box).

North American institutions are also key partners of the Agency. The Director General visited the continent from 16 to 22 March 2017, to meet the academic and governmental institutions with which ANSES already has or wishes to develop scientific partnerships. These include, in Canada, the National Institute of Public Health of Quebec (INSPQ), the University of Montreal, the University of Quebec at Montreal (UQAM) and Health Canada (the Food Directorate and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency [PMRA] in particular) and in the United States, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the National Academies and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). On this occasion, two new memoranda of understanding were signed with:



WORK UNDERTAKEN (CONT.)

- the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to strengthen existing cooperation on food safety risk assessment, and research and reference activities in animal health, food safety and plant health; and
- the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) in the United States, to reinforce cooperation with the common goal of better understanding and preventing environmental impacts.

PROJECTS COMPLETED

CLOSURE OF THE JOINT ACTION ON NUTRITION AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY (JANPA)

The aim of JANPA, whose final conference took place in Paris on 24 November 2017, was to contribute to halting the rise of overweight and obesity in children and adolescents, within the overall framework of the EU Action Plan on Childhood Obesity 2014-2020. JANPA, coordinated by France (Directorate General for Health and ANSES - European and International Affairs Department) and co-funded by the European Union health programme, has enabled 39 partners from 26 European countries to work together for two years to discuss the practices employed in the fight against obesity and overweight, in order to identify the most effective levers of action.

JANPA (whose work is presented on a dedicated website, www.janpa.eu), helped in particular to:

- estimate, for a few countries, the economic consequences of overweight and obesity occurring during

childhood, through a model taking into account the health and societal costs related to premature mortality and loss of productivity,

- identify integrated actions to promote healthy eating and physical activity for pregnant women and families with young children, and promote healthier school environments, by defining criteria for selecting the best practices,
- demonstrate the possible implementation, for a limited duration and budget, of a surveillance tool, based on the example of the French "Oqali" for determining the nutritional quality of the food supply, in order to set ambitious and realistic goals to improve nutrition and enable the impact of the strategies seeking to achieve this to be monitored and assessed.

EUROREFERENCE

The online magazine *Euroreference* (whose new English formula was initiated by ANSES in 2015) is now published jointly by 17 institutions from 11 EU Member States, along with the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO). Evira, the Finnish food safety agency, joined the initiative following a visit to Helsinki by a delegation from ANSES in May 2017. The journal covers reference activities in the fields of animal and plant health and food safety (development and validation of analytical methods, interlaboratory testing, etc.).

ANSES AT THE BfR/NIFDS/ANSES/DTU-FOOD JOINT INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON "PAST, CURRENT AND FUTURE CHALLENGES IN RISK ASSESSMENT - STRENGTHENING CONSUMER HEALTH PROTECTION"

This symposium was held in Berlin from 30 November to 1 December. Organised jointly by BfR (Germany) as part of its 15th anniversary celebration, ANSES, the NIFDS (South Korea) and DTU-Food (Denmark), this event invited participants to reflect on the past fifteen years of risk assessment and discuss current activities and future challenges in consumer health protection at national and international levels. ANSES gave presentations and took part in discussions in plenary sessions and during parallel sessions on the topics of "microbiological safety", "chemical safety" and "methodologies and harmonisation".

GLOSSARY

ANMV: *Agence nationale du médicament vétérinaire* (French Agency for Veterinary Medicinal Products, ANSES), France

BfR: *Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung* (Federal Institute for Risk Assessment), Germany

CADC: China Animal Disease Control Center

CAHEC: China Animal Health and Epidemiology Center

CFIA: Canadian Food Inspection Agency

CFSA: China National Center for Food Safety Risk Assessment

CODA-CERVA: Veterinary and Agrochemical Research Centre, Belgium

COST: European Cooperation in Science and Technology

DTU Food: Technical University of Denmark – National Food Institute

EFSA: European Food Safety Authority

EJP: European Joint Programme

EPA: Environmental Protection Agency, United States

EPPO/OEPP: European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization

EURL: European Union Reference Laboratory

FDA: Food and Drug Administration, United States

FSCJ: Food Safety Commission of Japan

Horizon 2020: EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation

INSPQ: *Institut national de santé publique du Québec*, Canada

IVDC: China Institute of Veterinary Drug Control

NIEHS: National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, United States

NIFDS: National Institute of Food and Drug Safety Evaluation, South Korea

OIE: World Organisation for Animal Health

PMRA: Pest Management Regulatory Agency, Canada

UQAM: *Université du Québec à Montréal*, Canada



French Agency for Food,
Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety

14 rue Pierre et Marie Curie
F94701 Maisons-Alfort cedex

www.anses.fr

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