



ERA-ENVHEALTH

NEWSFLASH



NEWS:

2ND SEMESTER 2016

ERA-ENVHEALTH OPEN 2016 CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH

GIOCONDA ENGAGES STUDENTS WITH SCIENCE AND GOVERNANCE (ITALY)

THE EUROPEAN HUMAN BIOMONITORING INITIATIVE HBM4EU – LAUNCH EVENT IN BRUSSELS

INHERIT: INTER-SECTORAL HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH FOR INNOVATION

IMPLEMENTATION OF AN INTEGRATED STRATEGY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE – PILOT PROJECT IN GERMAN MUNICIPALITIES

EUROLINKCAT – A HORIZON 2020 STUDY 2017-2021

THE 2ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HUMAN BIOMONITORING, 2016

INAUGURAL EPA-HSE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH CONFERENCE HELD IN DUBLIN

SIXTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH IN JUNE 2017

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS/PUBLICATIONS

THE ERA-ENVHEALTH NETWORK

EDITORIAL

The New Year has just begun. We are looking back on a very fruitful 2016 for the ERA-ENVHEALTH* network.

As reported in the previous Newsflash issue, the ERA-ENVHEALTH colloquium on “foresight and future environmental risks” took place in February 2016 at the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES), Paris.

In September, our ERA-ENVHEALTH annual meeting took place at the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) in Bilthoven, the Netherlands. This year, the focus of our annual open conference was on climate change and health. The inspiring presentations gave an overview of the various health effects related to a changing climate and approaches to climate change resilience.

Three promising Horizon 2020 Projects on Environment and Health have recently started or are due to commence shortly:

The main aim of the European Human Biomonitoring Initiative HBM4EU is to use Human Biomonitoring research to answer policy questions, to coordinate and advance Human Biomonitoring in Europe. INHERIT aims to stimulate

policies, practices and innovations that address key environmental stressors and promote health equity and wellbeing. The EUROlinkCAT project will support registries to link their data on children with birth defects to mortality, hospital discharge, prescription and educational databases.

In this Newsflash issue, you will also find information on the results of the LIFE+ GIOCONDA project – “Young people count in environment and health decisions”, the goals of the research and development project “Implementation of an integrated strategy for environmental justice – Pilot project in German municipalities”, the findings of the 2nd International Conference on Human Biomonitoring (Berlin, Germany) and a summary of the Environment & Health Conference “Our Environment, Our Health, Our Well-being” held in Dublin, Ireland.

We’re looking forward to our further cooperation within the ERA-ENVHEALTH network in 2017 – a year of great importance for Environment and Health across Europe with the upcoming 6th WHO-EUROPE Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health due to take place in Ostrava, Czech Republic in June 2017.

SAVE THE DATE

November 2017:

ERA-ENVHEALTH annual meeting and open conference; Palermo, Italy



Wishing you a very healthy and successful 2017!

* ERA-ENVHEALTH: European Research Area network in the Environment & Health field.

This publication reflects only the author's views and the member organisations are not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

ERA-ENVHEALTH 2016 OPEN CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH

In September 2016 the annual General Assembly meeting and Open Conference of the **ERA-ENVHEALTH** network was held at RIVM, Bilthoven, the Netherlands. Participants from 9 of the 12 member institutes were present.

The theme of this year's Open Conference was Climate Change (CC) and Health. With various inspiring presentations, the Open Conference offered a platform to learn about and discuss relevant topics with respect to CC and Health.

Joost Knoop from the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL) presented the Dutch government's new Delta Programme, the new approach to climate resilience. He argued that the programme focuses mainly on flood protection, freshwater supply and spatial adaptation to urban flooding and urban heat stress. However climate change adaptation also affects power supply, infrastructure and even societal changes have to be taken into account. Policymakers should be more aware of agenda setting for CC because it also may have benefits to incorporate CC adaptation early in the decision-making processes.

Suzanne Wuijts from the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) presented a 'system approach' that was used to evaluate the health risks with experts and stakeholders. The so-called 'Delta-scenarios', adopted from the Delta programme were used, that combine climate change scenarios with scenarios for socio-economic developments including urbanisation, migration and population ageing. For example introducing more greenery to the urban environment will not only offset the effects of climate change but will also create a more pleasant living environment. Citizens can take measures themselves to adapt to climate change but it falls to the government to inform the public about those measures; an example is the Dutch 'Heat Plan'.

Irene van Kamp from the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) talked about CC in relation to noise. She showed that three potential noise issues may arise as a result of CC:

- 1) Increased number of air conditioners
- 2) Increased energy saving ventilation systems
- 3) Enlargement of wind turbine parks

Studies have shown that people tend to turn down ventilation systems to reduce the noise level at the expense of efficiency. An increase in the prevalence of headaches was reported in relation with mechanical ventilation.

Conny Höflich, German Environment Agency (UBA), argued that global CC may influence the geographical spread of allergenic plants thus causing new allergen challenges. Allergic people may become exposed to more and more allergic species. Spread of specific species (e.g. ragweed and particularly olive) may result in prompt occurrence of allergic symptoms. Early identification of invasive allergens due to climate change requires time and spatial close meshed field mapping of indicator plants and monitoring of exposure and sensitisation to indicator allergens.

Adrienne Pittman, French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES) talked about the ongoing activities at ANSES with respect to assessment of risks directly or indirectly attributable to climate change. Among these activities are: monitoring (e.g.: ticks), risk assessments (insects, moulds, intestinal and pulmonary microbiota), adaptation to the reduction of water resources. Special emphasis was on the evaluation and quantifying the risks linked to climate change on the health of workers.

Finally, Joanna Ferreira from the University of Aveiro, Portugal, presented her research on the CLICURB -Urban Atmospheric Quality, Climate Change and Resilience project. The project aims to examine solutions to CC challenges in cities, focused on the urban area of Porto. Six scenarios were studied:

- 0) baseline (no intervention)
- 1) Increase of green urban areas
- 2) Introduction of green roofs at 75% of the buildings
- 3) Introduction of white roofs
- 4) Combination of scenarios 1 and 2
- 5) Combination of scenarios 1 and 3

All tested scenarios lead to an increased resilience of the city to CC, with benefits in terms of meteorology and air quality, green roofs being the most successful scenario.

Contact:
Ric van Poll, RIVM
ric.van.poll [at] rivm.nl



ERA-ENVHEALTH members in Bilthoven

Photo: RIVM/ Ric van Poll

GIOCONDA ENGAGES STUDENTS WITH SCIENCE AND GOVERNANCE (ITALY)

The LIFE + GIOCONDA project – i GIOvani CONTano nelle Decisioni su salute e Ambiente – ‘Young people count in environment and health decisions’ completed its activities in November 2016, presenting the results in a seminar in Rome. It was organised by the CNR Institute of Clinical Physiology, the project coordinator.

In GIOCONDA students are the main protagonists of an action of learning, discussion and production of recommendations based on scientific data. The main novelty carried by GIOCONDA is the involvement of the youth as a protagonist of a real and continuative action of participative democracy.

The GIOCONDA project had the ambition of comparing the data on risk perception from children with the data from indoor and outdoor environmental monitoring of air pollution and noise in schools. The project begun in 4 cities, with 8 schools, and was applied in other 4 cities to test the web platform that is now in place.

The students have been engaged in a discussion about the data produced, about the environmental health problems in their areas, and in producing recommendations. The key goal was: to learn to produce scientific results (questionnaires), to identify problems and to try to identify solutions to be presented to local administrators.

Involving young people in decisions regarding environment and health is relevant for several reasons:

- young people are the most vulnerable subjects of environmental pressures;
- a lot of scientific research and prevention measures are dedicated to young citizens, but they are not directly involved;
- they are key-actors for future actions to improve the quality of environment and health;
- their perception of environmental risk is an important indicator of perception, attitudes, worries, and wishes of the entire community.

Through the questionnaire analysis, a risk perception index (RPI) was calculated for air and noise pollution. The RPI provides a summary of the responses to the questionnaire regarding the perception of risk. The questions included: "Are you worried about the noise in the area where your school is?"; "Is there any annoying noise in the neighbourhood of your school that is causing you problems?"; "How worried are you about the damage to your health from noise?". The RPI was calculated for the total sample, and by geographical area, gender, type of school (middle school and high school) and different combinations of these variables.



Gioconda

i GIOVANI CONTANO NELLE DECISIONI
su AMBIENTE e SALUTE

Later, using statistical tests, the differences between area, type of school and gender were evaluated. The average perception derived from student responses, for each class and each city, was presented on a scale ranging from 0 to 100, grouped into 5 classes.

The risk perception values were compared with the noise and air quality monitored in each of the classrooms. A good correlation emerged between the perceived noise and the noise measured in the classes. On the other hand, the RPI described above did not correlate with the environmental data of the PM₁₀ measured.

At its completion, the GIOCONDA platform offers (in Italian and in English):

- a video tutorial
- a guide for teachers
- a guide for administrators
- a protocol to carry out environmental monitoring
- an interactive map that makes it possible to immediately identify: all the schools in Italy; the control units of the ARPA (Regional Environmental Protection Agency) monitoring network, the monitoring of two major pollutants (PM₁₀ and NO₂); the presence of industries and infrastructure, together with social and health data.

This GIOCONDA activity was reinforced by the networking with other LIFE+ projects that have the topic “environment and health” in common with GIOCONDA, in particular the health of communities affected by various environmental pressures and where networks of players need organised spaces for dialogue.

This theme is characterised by:

- Complex governance: legislation for the environment refers to European legislation; legislation for health refers to decisions made by states, regions and local administrations.
- A high level of uncertainty, ambiguity and complexity arises when discussing the notion of risk exposure.

- Scientific research that is in constant evolution, often circumscribed by results that are very difficult to generalise (and explain), and imply multi-discipline challenges.
- A highly variable public perception, linked to different cultural, socio-economic and political contexts.

Each of these characteristics involves critical elements related to the knowledge transfer and exchange (KTE) between researchers, administrators and citizens.

The promoters of the LIFE KTE EnvHealth Network affirmed the need to work together on those issues during the LIFE National Thematic Meeting, held in Florence in April 2016.

Contact:

Liliana Cori, CNR
liliana.cori [at] ifc.cnr.it

Further information: www.gioconda.ifc.cnr.it

THE EUROPEAN HUMAN BIOMONITORING INITIATIVE HBM4EU – LAUNCH EVENT IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM



science and policy
for a healthy future

The European Joint Programme HBM4EU is a joint European Human Biomonitoring Initiative of 26 countries and the European Commission, co-funded by Horizon 2020. The main aim of the initiative is to use Human Biomonitoring research to answer policy questions identified by the inter-service working group of the EU Commission and the partner countries, to coordinate and advance Human Biomonitoring in Europe. HBM4EU will thereby provide better evidence of the actual exposure of citizens to chemicals and their impact on health to support a healthy life in Europe. HBM4EU will bring together existing knowledge in Europe and build further research and interpretation activities upon what already exists.

The launch event on the 8th of December 2016 was organised under the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the EU and introduced by high-level representatives of the European Commission, demonstrating the high-level interest in Human Biomonitoring across the EU.

The HBM4EU programme represents a novel way of collaborating between several Commission services, EU agencies and national representatives, highlighting how research funding can build bridges between the research and policy arenas. At the launch event, the initiative was presented publicly for the first time and information provided on key features of the initiative, envisaged activities, expected impact as well as information on how stakeholder can stay informed about the initiative and the subject in general. The German Environment Agency (UBA), Unit II 1.2 “Toxicology, health related environmental monitoring” coordinates HBM4EU.

Contact:

Marike Kolossa, UBA, Coordinator of HBM4EU
marike.kolossa [at] uba.de

Further information:

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/human/human-biomonitoring>

<https://ec.europa.eu/research/conferences/2016/hbm4eu/index.cfm>

INHERIT: INTER-SECTORAL HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH FOR INNOVATION

INHERIT is about stimulating effective policies, practices and innovations that address key environmental stressors and promote health equity and wellbeing. This Horizon 2020 research project aims to encourage us to modify our current lifestyles, characterised by a ‘take, make, consume, dispose’ model of growth, to formulate scenarios for a more sustainable future, and to design, implement and test inter-sectoral initiatives to achieve the desired change. Identifying ways of living, moving and consuming that protect the environment and promote health and health equity.

LIVING

Over 50% of humans live in urban areas and by 2020, an estimated 80% of Europeans will live in cities.

Analysing environmental stressors and the social gradient in health, the INHERIT Consortium is investigating policies, interventions and innovations that promote the sustainable use of urban spaces or encourage us to adopt behaviours that can lead to cleaner air, reduce noise and improve physical and mental health.



MOVING

Carbon emissions from motorised transport could increase by 50% in 2050.

Building on a multi-sectoral approach, the INHERIT consortium is researching the health equity implications of environmental stressors in public transport trends and infrastructure, urban design and logistics planning, as well as cultural norms and economic aspects of different modes of mobility.

CONSUMING

Meat production accounts for 80% of agricultural CO₂ emissions (causing 1/3 of global emissions).

Aspiring to present more sustainable scenarios to modify some alarming trends in food production and consumption, the INHERIT consortium is looking at what factors motivate consumers to buy the food they do and what tipping points could lead to changing societal behaviours.

The INHERIT project is driven by the quest to find the policies, practices and innovations that are helping to foster healthier and more sustainable lifestyles and behaviours. The first part of the project is a literature review, which is being led by RIVM, and aims to bring together existing knowledge of the main environmental stressors and their impact on health across the social gradient in the field of living, moving and consuming. The INHERIT partners fine-tuned a series of questions and established templates to help us extract the most relevant information from the respective sources.

Contact:

Brigit Staatsen, RIVM
brigit.staatsen [at] rivm.nl

Further information:

<http://www.inherit.eu/>



IMPLEMENTATION OF AN INTEGRATED STRATEGY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE – PILOT PROJECT IN GERMAN MUNICIPALITIES

The health burden caused by environmental problems is often especially high in socially disadvantaged urban neighbourhoods. These areas are exposed to multiple burdens including noise, air pollution and social problems. They also often have fewer green areas. Under the heading of “environmental justice”, the German Environment Agency (UBA) works on the subject of the (uneven) distribution of exposure to environmental pressures and environmental resources and its health implications, with the aim of helping to create healthy environmental and living conditions.

Environmental justice is receiving increased attention in Germany. Although this issue has not in any practical sense “caught on” at the local (planning) level. Therefore, the “Environmental justice in urban areas” research project (2012-2014) carried out on behalf of the German Environment Agency by the German Institute of Urban Affairs (Difu) provided recommendations for anchoring a strategy to create environmental justice in municipalities (see also ERA-ENVHEALTH Newsflash 1/2015). For example, interdepartmental cooperation and integrated monitoring systems (social situation, environment and health) should be established.

The research and development project “Implementation of an integrated strategy for environmental justice – Pilot project in German municipalities” (11/2015–10/2017) is testing the key strategic recommendations for environmental justice of the above-mentioned previous project in actual planning and implementation

projects in the three pilot municipalities of Kassel, Marburg and Munich. Difu is providing scientific support to the pilot project.

The experience gained in the three pilot municipalities will be used to derive transferrable findings with regard to a systematic approach to implementing environmental justice in municipal policies and administration.

This will result in the creation of a toolbox “Environmental justice at local level” containing tips, good practice examples, information and tools, which local governments can use in their day-to-day work. At a stocktaking event in summer 2017, the preliminary project outcomes will be presented to interested municipalities and professionals.

Contact:

Christiane Bunge, UBA
christiane.bunge [at] uba.de

Further information:

<https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/topics/health/environmental-impact-on-people/environmental-justice-environment-health-social>

https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/sites/default/files/medien/360/dokumente/projektflyer_difu_umweltgerecht_igkei_engl.pdf

https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/sites/default/files/medien/360/dokumente/16-11-07_telegram_pilot-env-health.pdf

EUROLINKCAT – A HORIZON 2020 STUDY 2017-2021



Congenital anomalies (CA or birth defects) whilst often rare diseases, are a major cause of infant mortality, childhood morbidity and long-term disability. Over 130,000 children born in Europe every year will have a congenital anomaly; a third will have a congenital heart defect (CHD) and a fourth of these children will have an isolated CHD.

EUROCAT is an established European network of population-based registries for the epidemiologic surveillance of CAs. The Horizon 2020 funded EUROLINKCAT project will use the EUROCAT infrastructure to support 21 EUROCAT registries in 13 European countries to link their data on children with CA to mortality, hospital discharge, prescription and educational databases. Each registry will send standard aggregate tables and analysis results to a Central Results Repository (CRR) thus respecting data security issues surrounding sensitive data.

The CRR will contain standardised summary data and analyses on an estimated 200,000 children with a CA born from 1995 to 2014 up to age 10, enabling a large scale investigation of factors such as treatment, health and education to be performed at an EU level. Information on prognosis and outcome for these children at the European level will be published and geographical differences in morbidity and mortality will be investigated. This enhanced information will also allow optimisation of personalised care and treatment decisions for children with rare CAs, including all types of CHD.

Registries will be supported in using social media platforms to connect with families who live with CAs in their regions including parents of children with severe CHDs. A novel sustainable e-forum, “ConnectEpeople”, will link these families with local, national and international registries and information resources. “ConnectEpeople” will engage these families in setting research priorities and ensuring meaningful dissemination of results.

Findings will provide evidence to inform national treatment guidelines, such as screening programmes, to optimise diagnosis, prevention and treatment for these children and reduce health inequalities in Europe. An economic evaluation of the hospitalisation costs associated with CA will also be provided.

The CRR and associated documentation, including linkage and standardisation procedures and the “ConnectEpeople” forum will be still available after the final conclusions of the EUROLINKCAT project thus facilitating future local and EU level analyses to improve healthcare for children with CA and CHD.

Participant organisations:

- Queen Mary University of London, UK
- Ulster University, UK
- Region Syddanmark, Hospital Lillebaelt, Denmark
- Newcastle University, UK
- University of Ferrara, Italy
- Klinika za dječje bolesti Zagreb, Croatia
- CNR-Institute of Clinical Physiology, Italy
- Academisch Ziekenhuis Groningen, The Netherlands
- Public Health Wales, UK
- Paris Registry of Congenital Malformations (INSERM U953), France
- Centre Superior de Investigacion en Salud Publica, Spain
- Poznan University of Medical Sciences, Poland
- National Institute for Welfare and Health, Finland
- OMNI-Net Ukraine Birth Defects Program, Ukraine
- Otto-von-Guericke Universität Magdeburg, Germany
- Instituto Nacional de Saude, Portugal
- Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Sud Réunion, France
- Provinciaal Instituut voor Hygiene, Belgium
- Subdirección de Salud Pública, Spain
- BioMedical Computing Limited, UK
- Redburn Solutions Limited, UK

Contact:

Anna Pierini, CNR
Apier[at]jfc.cnr.it

HIGH ATTENDANCE AT THE 2ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HUMAN BIOMONITORING IN APRIL 2016, BERLIN, GERMANY

Which pollutants are people exposed to nowadays and which have diminished as a result of environmental legislation? This was one of the topics more than 300 experts from 33 countries discussed on the 2nd International Conference on Human Biomonitoring in April 2016 in Berlin, Germany.

For two days, international experts discussed different aspects of human biomonitoring (HBM) on the conference, entitled “Science and policy for a healthy future”. HBM is the measurement of chemicals in human body fluids and tissues and is a key information and monitoring instrument for health-related environmental protection. HBM studies deliver the scientific data necessary for making environmental policy decisions, for example on chemicals in the human organism, on population groups with particularly high levels of exposure and on the effects of the regulation of chemicals.

Following on from the success of the conference in Berlin 2010, the German Environment Agency (UBA) and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety jointly organised this next international forum to facilitate an exchange on all HBM-related matters. With more than 300 participants and 81 accepted poster presentations there was clear demonstration that both international and domestic experts were greatly interested in gaining a greater understanding of the subject and discussing new research results, as well as the role of HBM in European and international chemicals policy.

The conference opened with the scientific presentation “The impact of the environment on health”, given by Per Magnus from the Norwegian Institute of Public Health.

In their opening speeches the German State Secretary for Environment, Jochen Flasbarth and the Head of Division “Environmental Health and Protection of Ecosystems” of the German Environment Agency, Lilian Busse emphasised that “HBM is an outstanding early warning system to signal problematic human exposure to pollutants. It helps us to confirm the success of our chemicals policy and to identify areas for priority action.”

The scientific programme of the two day- conference focused on new results from worldwide important HBM programmes and cohorts, on HBM methods, which constantly have to be advanced in order to be able to analyse substances of emerging health relevance and on HBM in health risk assessment.



Photo: UBA/ Enrico Rucic

Given that chemical use is widespread across the globe, the programme focused also on cooperating measures and programmes at European and international levels. The scientific programme was nestled in two panel discussions. Experts from the scientific sector, politics, authorities, industry and associations examined policy strategy aspects of HBM. They discussed HBM’s place and potential to evaluate the population’s level of protection and to identify further need for action to shape a healthy future.

The scientific presentations (including the session presentations), the conference proceeding including abstracts of the oral and poster presentations as well as some impressions from the conference are found on the conference website.

The results shown in a great number of the presentations will be published in a special issue of the International Journal of Hygiene and Environmental Health in the beginning of 2017. Most of them are already online available on the website of the journal.

Contact:
Gerda Schwedler, UBA
Gerda.Schwedler [at] uba.de

Further information:
<https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/2nd-international-conference-on-human-biomonitoring>

INAUGURAL EPA-HSE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH CONFERENCE HELD IN DUBLIN, IRELAND

Photo: EPA IRE/ Linda Coyne



Laura Burke, EPA Director General

On 30th November 2016, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Ireland and Ireland's Health Service Executive (HSE) jointly hosted an inaugural Environment & Health Conference in Dublin, Ireland. Entitled "Our Environment, Our Health, Our Wellbeing", the conference aimed to promote a greater awareness of the impact of environmental quality on human health, and foster collaboration with health agencies and other bodies to realise the benefits of a good environment for health and wellbeing.

The conference kicked off with presentations from EPA Director General Laura Burke and HSE National Director of Health & Wellbeing Dr Stephanie O'Keefe who set the scene for the day ahead.

Thomas Connell from Galway County Council emphasised that local authorities have a key role to play in promoting the wellbeing and quality of life of the public and communities, and creating places that citizens want to live in, work in and visit is crucial.

Jock Martin from the European Environment Agency gave a presentation on late lessons from early warnings. He outlined how half of all environment and health journal articles from 2000-2010 focused on established, known risks and hazards and emphasised the need to invest more in what we don't know. He also highlighted a need for more cross-disciplinary systematic approaches that balance precision and relevance, embrace multi-causality, longer time scales and multiple endpoints.

Prof Michael Depledge from the European Centre for Environment & Human Health, University of Exeter, described the many benefits of clean environment for human health and highlighted that the environments in which we live influence our health, wellbeing and longevity more so than our genes. He also highlighted the urgent need to account for extreme inequalities in access to clean environments.

Dr Jonathan Derham, Head of Programme in the EPA's Office of Evidence & Assessment, provided an overview of Environment, Health and Wellbeing as one of the seven key environmental actions emerging from the EPA's recently published "State of Our Environment" report.

A model identifying the core environmental determinants of health and wellbeing in Ireland and the modes of exposure was presented, as well as some of the key challenges ahead for enabling delivery of improved environment and health outcomes.

Dr David Pencheon from NHS England and Public Health England spoke about delivering wellbeing with the UK NHS. He highlighted that many people unfortunately do not see the environment and human and health as being synonymous and noted that climate change is a slow burn emergency which needs urgent attention. He highlighted that we perpetuate systems that we are rewarded for activity, and treatment, not prevention or outcome and addressing this profound challenge will require a profound interdisciplinary research aligned to intersectoral measurement, accountability and action.

Prof Martin Cormican from National University of Ireland, Galway, spoke about water pollution and health and asked what do people value in water. He noted that there is a need for new perspectives by public health agencies.

Dr David Hevey summarised some work emanating from his recently published EPA-funded research project which reviewed public information programmes to enhance home radon screening uptake and home remediation. Given the psychological barriers identified, he noted that placing the responsibility solely on the individual householder is not supported. Increased governmental regulation is required, as well as high quality information programmes that target householders at different stages of radon testing motivation.

Finally, Teresa Keating from the Institute of Public Health in Ireland presented evidence on how well health is assessed in current EIA and SEA processes and highlighted the training and resource needs of both environmental assessors and public health practitioners in improving attention to health in such processes.



Dr Stephanie O'Keefe, HSE National Director of Health & Wellbeing

Photo: EPA IRE/ Linda Coyne

Contact:
Aisling O'Connor, EPA Ireland
A.O'Connor [at] epa.ie



SIXTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH IN JUNE 2017

From 13 to 15 June 2017 the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health will be held in Ostrava, Czech Republic. Health and environment ministers of the WHO European Region as well as high-level representatives of the Member States, partner organisations, academia and civil society will attend the conference. The WHO European region expects the adoption of different key papers and declarations.

The European Environment and Health Process started at the end of the 1980s to eliminate the most significant environmental threats to human health.

The last Ministerial Conference was held in Parma, Italy in 2010 and focused on children's health in a changing environment.

Further Information:

<http://www.euro.who.int/en/media-centre/events/events/2017/06/sixth-ministerial-conference-on-environment-and-health>

PUBLICATIONS

European Environment Agency (2016): Environmental indicator report 2016 – In support to the monitoring of the 7th Environment Action Programme: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/environmental-indicator-report-2016-2014>

European Environment Agency (2017): Climate change, impacts and vulnerability in Europe 2016: http://www.eea.europa.eu/acl_users/credentials_cookie_auth/login_form?came_from=http%3A//www.eea.europa.eu/publications/climate-change-impacts-and-vulnerability-2016 (The EEA Report will be published on 01/25/2017 and will be available online.)

German Advisory Council on Global Change (2016): Humanity on the move: Unlocking the transformative power of cities: <http://www.wbgu.de/en/flagship-reports/fr-2016-urbanization/> (The publication includes a chapter on urban health.)

World Health Organisation (2016): Infographic. Environmental Impacts on health – what is the big picture?: http://www.who.int/quantifying_ehimpacts/publications/PHE-prevention-diseases-infographic-EN.pdf?ua=1 (The infographics are also available in French, Spanish and Russian.)

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

24-26 January 2017: ECsafeSEAFOOD Final Event - Seafood Safety: New Findings & Innovation Challenges (Open Science Conference) will take place in Brussels, Belgium: <http://www.ecsafeseafood.eu/ecsafeseafood-events/ecsafeseafood-final-event-seafood-safety-new-findings-innovation-challenges>

4-7 April 2017: IAIA17: Impact Assessment's Contribution to the Global Efforts in Addressing Climate Change will take place in Montréal, Canada: <http://conferences.iaia.org/2017>

13-15 June 2017: The WHO EUROPE Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health will take place in Ostrava, Czech Republic: <http://www.euro.who.int/en/media-centre/events/events/2017/06/sixth-ministerial-conference-on-environment-and-health>

27-29 June 2017: Biodiversity and Health in the Face of Climate Change Challenges, opportunities and evidence gaps, the conference will take place in Bonn, Germany: <https://www.ecbcc2017.com/>

24-28 September 2017: The 29th Annual Scientific Conference of the International Society of Environmental Epidemiology will be held in Sydney, Australia: <http://www.isee2017.com/>

1-4 November 2017: 10th European Public Health Conference 2017 on Sustaining Resilient and Healthy Communities will be held in Stockholm, Sweden: <https://ephconference.eu/future-conferences-33>



THE ERA –ENVHEALTH NETWORK

COLLABORATION IN RESEARCH TO HELP TACKLE THE CHALLENGES IN E&H AND THEIR POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The European Environment and Health Action Plan for 2004-10 pointed a need to strengthen networks between researchers, policy-makers and stakeholders. The FP7 **ERA-ENVHEALTH*** project was set up to bring together European organisations planning research in the Environment and Health (E&H) arena with the objectives of providing policy support. **ERA-ENVHEALTH's** task was to mobilise scientific research in support of European and national policies on E&H issues.

Goals and activities

ERA-ENVHEALTH facilitates better communication and deeper understanding of the drivers and priorities in E&H for both scientists and policy-makers. **ERA-ENVHEALTH is a unique active transnational network in the E&H field.** **ERA-ENVHEALTH** has shown that transnational collaboration in E&H fills an important niche and the network is an innovative forum to discuss challenges, visions and emerging issues. In this respect

- access to, sharing and communicating information is a crucial success factor, and
- joint activities are essential to promote exchange and collaboration and foster new ideas to enhance the uptake of environment and health issues and co-benefits in different sectors and provide valuable support in tackling the future challenges for better health and well-being.

Join us!

- **Become a member:** sign the Network agreement and contribute on a voluntary basis
- **Register for the ERA-ENVHEALTH newflash:** with regular up-to-date information on E&H activities
- **Participate in its annual conferences** and help build up this innovative discussion forum

The structure of the network is based on “contributing and sharing” and involves no centralised budget; each organisation participates on a voluntary basis.

* ERA-ENVHEALTH: European Research Area network in the Environment & Health field.

Acronym	Name	Country	Logo
ANSES	French agency for food, environmental and occupational health & safety	France	
Centre Léon Bérard	University Lyon 1	France	
CNR	Italian National Research Council	Italy	
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	Ireland	
FPS HFCSE	Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment	Belgium	
MEDDE	Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy	France	
Folkhälsomyndigheten	Public Health Agency of Sweden	Sweden	
RIVM	National Institute for Public Health and the Environment	Netherlands	
SPW	Wallonie public service	Belgium	
Swedish EPA	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency	Sweden	
UA	University of Aveiro	Portugal	
UBA	German Environment Agency	Germany	
UoWM	University of Western Macedonia	Greece	

CONTACTS

<https://www.anses.fr/en/content/era-envhealth-network>

Do not hesitate to get in touch with the network either through your national contact point and member of the network or by contacting:

Adrienne Pittman
 European and International Affairs Department
 ANSES – Agence Nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement, et du travail
 14 rue Pierre et Marie Curie
 94701 Maisons-Alfort
 FRANCE

[adrienne.pittman\[at\]anses.fr](mailto:adrienne.pittman[at]anses.fr)