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SAVE THE DATE

2022 ERA-ENVHEALTH Open Conference on **Indoor Environment: making the invisible visible**

6 October 2022, Brussels, Belgium

International Conference on **Research Infrastructures 2022 (ICRI 2022)**

19-21 October 2022, Brno, Czech Republic

More details on page 9

EDITORIAL

We are happy to present this new issue of our newsflash: the first after the recent renewal of our network agreement and the inclusion of two new member organisations. Sharing and collaborating is crucial, specifically in environment and health, which transcends borders and politics.

The ERA-ENVHEALTH network expresses its concern about the ongoing war in the territory of Ukraine, attacked by Russia in February 2022, and for which diplomacy has not been able to support a fair and swift solution to the conflict. We would like to emphasise that this conflict, and the many others ongoing around the world, have harmful and irreversible consequences on the communities in the affected areas and on the ecosystem as a whole. Among the main consequences, on top of the direct effect on populations, are the pollution of air, soil and groundwater, the direct destruction of habitats and vegetation. Pollution has short and long-term negative effects on the health of people, animals, and living organisms, and is transported and dispersed over a potentially infinite area. The destruction and devastating impact on the psychology of individuals and communities should not be forgotten.

The international community has made commitments and is building actions to contain the climate crisis, protect people, animals and ecosystems, referring to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the World Health Organisation's One Health policy. To put them into effect, it is urgently necessary that war actions cease and work towards limiting damage is implemented. Future generations should not have to devote most of their resources to limit the damage caused in this historical period when part of humanity has chosen to adopt instruments of direct aggression rather than diplomacy to resolve disputes.

Notes from new ERA-ENVHEALTH members

João Paulo Teixeira, National Institute of Health, Portugal

The Environmental Health Department (DSA) of the National Institute of Health in Porto, Portugal, investigates the interplay between environmental exposures and lifestyle factors, human biology, genetics and common health problems to help protect the environment, prevent disease and improve human health, all through transdisciplinary research and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

In that respect, it has a rich history of expanding and accelerating the understanding of environmental and occupational exposures and human health through national and international leadership / participation in Research and Development projects and education / training programmes by conducting laboratory and fieldwork, and large epidemiological studies in a wide range of micro-environments such as workplaces, homes, schools, and older adult care centres.

So, through the last two decades, the DSA developed research in several Environmental and Public Health fields, namely occupational health, hazard assessment, indoor and outdoor air quality, non-communicable diseases, and healthy ageing.

The research activities are set in alignment with national and international research priorities and societal challenges, allowing a successful build-up of innovation and development capacity and a significant reputation for research excellence. Further, the research achievements depend on a highly qualified and multidisciplinary team that includes postdoctoral fellows, postgraduate and undergraduate students. Training has also been a priority within the group not only by receiving students (PhD and Masters and undergraduate students) but also by organising advanced courses and conferences in our research area. The Research & Innovation is strengthened by collaborations through partnership with other top business and research institutions within the scope of national and international networks. The group is deeply committed to promoting scientific culture in society by expanding and diversifying its offer of outreach activities, ensuring that our research studies constitute evidence-based sources of information to policy-makers, media and academic content contributing to a more informed, proactive society and healthier environments.

In summary, at the DSA, we focus in generating policy-oriented science to improve health and the quality of life of populations, by either producing data or guidelines or by serving as support in decision-making processes. We value collaborations, “contributing and sharing”, since they allow us to expand our activities and strengthen our field of research.

Thus, we share the ERA-ENVHEALTH Network vision, to advance research and collaboration in the field of Environmental Health and contribute to shaping science-based European policy to better protect the environment and health. Our aims aligns with the Network vision for a Healthier, Informed and Sustainable Europe.

Notes from new ERA-ENVHEALTH members

Lukáš Pokorný, RECETOX, Faculty of Science, Masaryk University, Czech Republic

RECETOX is engaged in research and education in the area of managing the environmental and health risks associated with the chemicals around us. It is one of the research flagship institutes of Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic. RECETOX was established in 2010 with the support of European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) with the goal of developing new capacities for environmental research.

Through its research, RECETOX has helped to amass knowledge on and establish a new paradigm as to the combined effect of all environmental exposures in the Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) region, the exposome.

Through its multi-faceted expert activities, it has demonstrated that the populations are exposed not only to a wide range of chemicals through their food, water, consumer products and occupations but also to air pollution, polluted indoor environment, noise, heat, radiation and stress situations. Effects of these stressors are further modified and amplified by socio-economic conditions, life style habits and the dietary patterns of each individual.

Thus, an understanding of the combined effect of all such environmental exposures is needed and the RECETOX is the leading research institutions in this regard not only in the Czech Republic but also the CEE region.

In the area of availability, interoperability and accessibility of chemical data and harmonisation of methodologies, the RECETOX has achieved significant milestones on the national, regional and global level. RECETOX is the key partner of Group on Earth Observation (GEO), together with the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), in the priority area of "health". As part of this cooperation, RECETOX has developed tools for worldwide collection, data analysis and visualisation of POP levels and trends. It performs regular collection, subsequent analysis, interpretation and visualisation of this data. They serve as a basis for consolidated reports on the trends of POPs globally and are available in the Global Monitoring Plan Data Warehouse (GMP DWH) repository for free use by scientists, policy makers and the general public.

Through RECETOX's work, educational activities and participation in projects such as the [HERA project: Integrating Environment and Health Research: a Vision for the EU](#) and the European [Partnership for the Assessment of Risks from Chemicals \(PARC\)](#), the knowledge in the area of environment and health nexus contributed towards creating a more holistic view, benefiting both environment and health. In this sense, RECETOX can fully subscribe to ERA-ENVHEALTH Network's mission.

HBM4EU Final Conference

27-28 April 2022, Brussels, Belgium



science and policy
for a healthy future

Anja Kiesow, German Environment Agency (UBA), Germany

The final conference of the European Human Biomonitoring Initiative, [HBM4EU](#), was held under the overarching theme 'Science and policy for a healthy future'. The programme was designed for political decision-makers in terms of usability and transfer of results.

For the first time, data on exposure of the European population to hazardous chemicals prioritised under HBM4EU were presented in a bundled form. The presented results were alarming: they showcased clearly that many of the substances examined over the last years, such as phthalates, polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS), cadmium, bisphenols (BPA), acrylamide, mycotoxins or chemical mixtures, were found for significant parts of the population all over Europe up to levels of exposure that are so high that health risks can no longer be excluded. The investigated substances with carcinogenic properties are particularly concerning with an additional lifetime risk of cancer.

During the two days of the conference, the important role of HBM4EU in linking science, health, and chemical policy to protect human health in Europe was highlighted and emphasised once more. The results presented over the two days called for a Europe-wide sustainable surveillance system, which should be integrated in legislation and can be used to measure chemical burden in European citizens through long-term human biomonitoring.

Representatives from the [EEA](#), [ECHA](#) and [EFSA](#) rated the results as very helpful for their further work on European Chemicals Policy such as in the [EU Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability](#) in the framework of the European Green Deal.



Overall, the conference and the project itself was a success. More than 220 participants attended the conference on site, and further 350 participants attended online.

The presentations of the meeting can be found on the conference website:

<https://www.hbm4eu.eu/result/hbm4eu-final-conference/presentations/>



The HBM4EU project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 733032.

PARC kick-off events

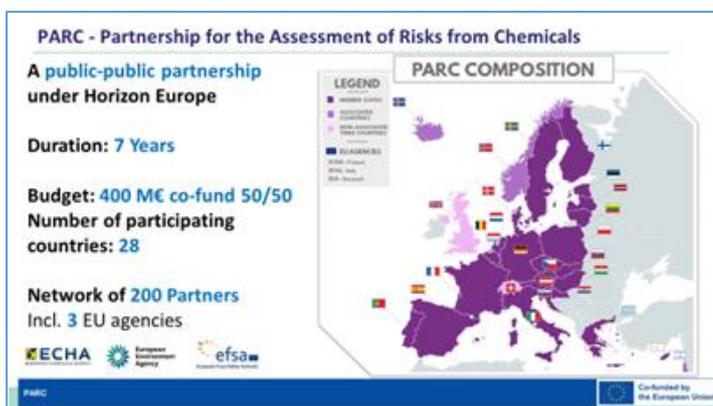
11-13 May 2022, Paris, France

Adrienne Pittman, French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES), France

Launched under the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union, The European [Partnership for the Assessment of Risks from Chemicals \(PARC\)](#) aims to bring together a broad community of research establishments and health agencies to advance research, share knowledge and improve skills in chemical risk assessment. Its results will be used to support new European and national strategies to reduce exposure to hazardous chemicals and their impact on health and the environment.

Bringing together nearly 200 partners from 28 countries as well as 3 EU agencies, PARC is coordinated by ANSES.

It will run for seven years and has an estimated budget of €400 million, half of which is being funded by the European Commission and the rest by the partner countries.



PARC started on the 1st of May 2022. Three days of kick-off events took place in Paris on 11-13 May 2022:

- The first meetings of the PARC Management Board and PARC Governing Board took place at ANSES headquarters in Maisons-Alfort in France on the 11th of May 2022.





- That evening, 180 guests, including official delegations from Member States, were invited by the ANSES Director-General, Roger Genet, at the *Maison de l'Amérique Latine* in Paris for the institutional launch.

- A sequence on PARC was scheduled during the Ministerial Conference “Chemicals: Better Protecting Health and the Environment”, organised by the French Ministry of Ecological Transition on the morning of the 12th of May.
- The PARC kick-off meeting, organised on 12-13 May 2022, brought together 222 participants onsite at the *Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie* in Paris and 341 participants online.



PARC is building on previous work, in particular the actions undertaken as part of the European Joint Programme HBM4EU ([Human Biomonitoring for Europe](#) - see previous article), and work from different European projects and programmes, such as: [EURION](#) and [ASPIS](#) clusters, [EU-ToxRisk](#), [EuroMix](#).

PARC's goal is to generate new, easily accessible and usable data, along with new assessment methods and tools and will provide a unique opportunity for the different risk assessment players to work together above and beyond the schemes and timetables associated with the different sector-specific regulations. PARC is seeking to develop next-generation chemical risk assessment, incorporating both human health and the environment in a "One Health" approach and will help support [the European Union's Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability](#) and the [European Green Deal's](#) "zero pollution" ambition.

For more information:

- [ANSES webpage on PARC](#)
- [ANSES press release for the launch of PARC](#)
- [European partnerships in Horizon Europe](#)

EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP



Co-funded by
the European Union

PARC has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 101057014.

HERA final conference

18 March 2022, Paris, France

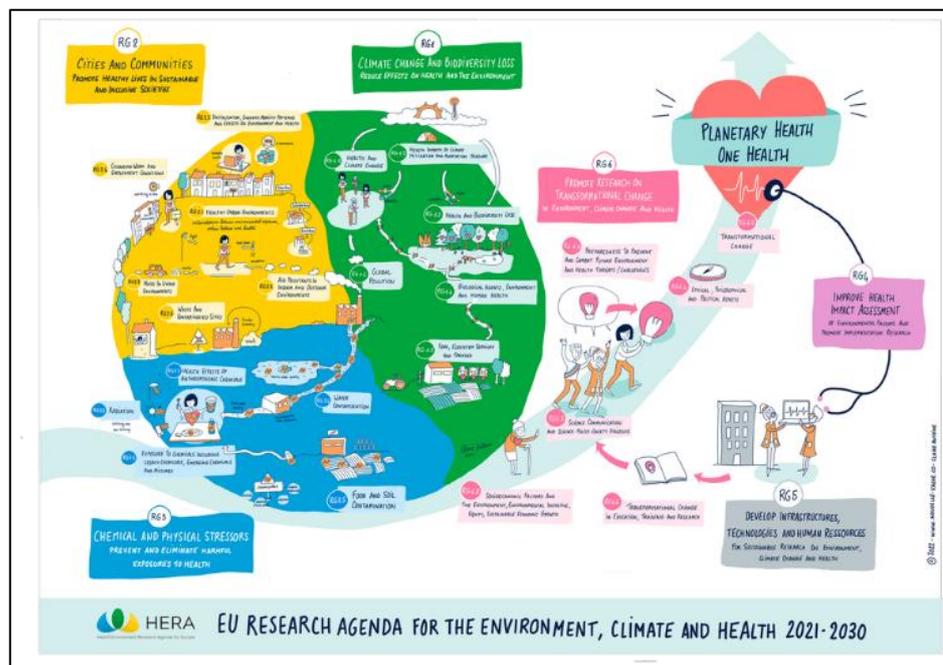


Adrienne Pittman, French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES), France

The final conference of the [HERA project](#), funded by the European Union through the H2020 programme, was held in Paris on 18 March 2022 under the patronage of the Council of the European Union!

This event was an opportunity to present [the Environment, Climate and Health Research Agenda](#) for the next 10 to 15 years, its use by the European Commission and its articulation with the actions under the "[Green Deal](#)".

Around 130 people participated online and in person, mainly scientists, but also policy-makers and actors from national health organisations. Several project leaders and partners presented the research objectives and results achieved. Video clips of the conference and the presentations are available on the project's [YouTube channel!](#)



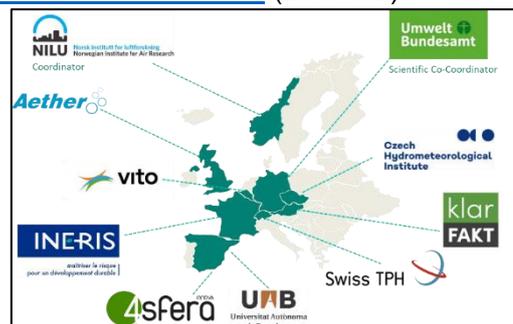
The HERA project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N° 825417.

ETC Human Health and the Environment

Pia Splanemann and Judith Meierrose, German Environment Agency (UBA), Germany.

The European Environment Agency (EEA) has established six new European Topic Centres (ETCs) for the period 2022-2026. ETCs are consortia of institutions in EEA member countries with expertise in specific environmental areas, mandated by the EEA to support the implementation of the EEA Strategy and Work Programmes. One of the newly established ETCs is the [ETC Human Health and the Environment](#) (ETC HE).

The ETC HE is a European consortium of 10 organisations working in partnership with the EEA under a framework partnership agreement for the period 2022-2026. Work started in the beginning of 2022. The consortium is led by the [Norwegian Institute for Air Research \(NILU\)](#) in close co-operation with the Scientific Co-Coordinator the [German Environment Agency \(UBA\)](#).



ETC HE Consortium, Source: UBA

The ETC HE supports the EEA through the production of evidence-based knowledge in the following thematic areas:

- Better understanding of health impacts from environmental and climate pressures
- Benefits to well-being delivered by healthy environments
- Policy implementation in the fields of air quality, air pollutant emissions, chemicals, environmental noise, industrial releases (e.g. European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR), Urban Waste Water Treatment) water quality, soil contamination

Therefore, the ETC HE supports several European Green Deal related actions as the EU's Zero Pollution Ambition, the EU Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability as well as Just Transition.

The concrete tasks of ETC HE include supporting the EEA in (data) reporting and reviews as well as in monitoring and evaluating policy effectiveness. This includes, for example, providing support to the upcoming Zero Pollution Monitoring Assessment Report or air pollution data reporting and assessment. In addition, the ETC HE also takes into account results from relevant EU projects like [HBM4EU](#) or [PARC](#), for example, estimating the burden of disease for selected chemicals in Europe based on HBM4EU data.

The overall structure of the new ETCs is closely aligned with the [EEA-Eionet Strategy 2021-2030](#) and the EU's environmental and climate policies. The new ETCs are designed to ensure continuity of reporting obligations while adopting new integrated and systemic approaches based on enhanced multidisciplinary expertise, foresight methodologies as well as an emphasis on collaboration between the different topic centres.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE



2022 ERA-ENVHEALTH Open Conference on Indoor Environment: making the invisible visible

6 October 2021, 9:00-15:00

Hybrid event

In Brussels, Belgium and online

Watch this space on the [ERA-ENVHEALTH network webpage](#)

Programme and Registration will be available in September

International Conference on Research Infrastructures 2022 (ICRI 2022)

19-21 October 2022, Brno, Czech Republic



A major worldwide event providing an opportunity for strategic discussions about international cooperation in research infrastructure. A variety of experts and stakeholders discuss challenges and emerging trends, highlighting the essential role of research infrastructures.

Every two years since 2012, ICRI has hosted about 500 delegates, who discuss topics concerning research infrastructures on the international level. The venue alternates between the EU and third countries, and the event is organised jointly by the European Commission and the host country. The upcoming ICRI in 2022 will take place in Brno, Czech Republic.

More information and programme: [Programme \(icri2022.cz\)](https://www.icri2022.cz) and registration is available on this link: <https://www.icri2022.cz/register>

The ERA-ENVHEALTH Network

What?

ERA-ENVHEALTH is an active transnational network which includes stakeholders in the Environment and Health field, stemming from a previous European-funded project which ended in 2012. It is a forum to discuss challenges, visions and emerging issues.

Why?

The main purposes for the network are to share and exchange information and promote networking and joint activities (such as the annual open conference on specific topics of interest).

Join us!

The structure of the network is based on "contributing and sharing"; each organisation participates on a voluntary basis.

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:

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NETWORK MEMBERS

	Acronym	Name	Country
	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
	INSA	National Institute of Health Dr Ricardo Jorge	Portugal
	PHAS	Public Health Agency of Sweden	Sweden
	RIVM	National Institute for Public Health and the Environment	Netherlands
	Swedish EPA	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency	Sweden
	RECETOX	National Centre for Toxic Compounds in the Environment, Faculty of Science, Masaryk University	Czech Republic
	UA	University of Aveiro	Portugal
	UBA	German Environment Agency	Germany



UoWM

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Greece