

ANNOUNCEMENT

SAVE THE DATE

2019 ERA-ENVHEALTH* Open Conference on Circular economy

5 November 2019



Hosted by ANSES

14 rue Pierre et Marie Curie
94700 Maisons-Alfort, France

9:00-17:00

“Copernic” building, room “Cuvier-Ramazzini”

Pre-programme

We can no longer afford to ignore the numerous and tremendous challenges faced by the planet and by mankind which include unsustainable consumption, climate transformations, demographic growth and its territorial distribution (urbanisation and ageing of the population), environmental degradation, scarcity of natural resources, etc. To address these challenges, one of the approaches – promoted for instance by administrations, NGO’s or firms, is the development of a **circular economy**. This is on the verge of becoming “the perfect solution”. Even if the concept exists since the 1970’s, the current context encourages the growth of circular economy in new public policies, at regional, national and local levels, and new commitments by citizens and various private actors.

Concept, model or pattern: clearly the definition of circular economy varies according to the countries, actors and institutions, as well as the shape, scope and ranking of social and economic changes which can be associated with it. Nevertheless, some general features of a circular economy are shared. It represents a canvas of interactions and retroactions between a large range of socioeconomic entities, activities and flows, towards smarter production, property and consumption habits. In short, the well-known principle of “nothing is lost, everything is transformed” is doubled by the “do better with less” one. In the same time, mainstream approaches to circular economy are still often reduced to, and regulated for, waste and recycling, and energy management, in view of green growth. There is still a **lack of consideration of public, environmental and occupational health dimensions** when compared with economic and environmental aspects, and more broadly, for the potential **adverse impacts** of circular economy¹.

¹ WHO/EURO (2018). Circular Economy and Health. Risks and Opportunities. Bonn



This raises the question of how scientific and risk assessment bodies can integrate circular economy in their work and in their relevant risk assessment.

To ensure the integration of health and safety aspects in the global understanding and implementation of circular economy, to comprehend or even anticipate the wide range of its impacts as much as possible, discussion is necessary on:

- ✓ the origins and mechanics of the weak position of health in circular economy policies and initiatives, and possible levers to change this and promote health in the this context;
- ✓ the assessment of existing and potential environmental and health risks associated to circular economy (such as risks due to chemical mixtures in waste and reuse relocation of externalised activities; transport; logistics; automation, etc.); including discussion on the methods, results and limits of the assessments as well as their political and economic impacts;
- ✓ the intersections (synergy or antagonism) of the various aspects including health, safety and life cycle analysis and sustainability in risk assessments and the balancing of health, social, environmental and economic costs and benefits of circular economy.

The ERA-ENVHEALTH conference on circular economy aims to examine these questions and to exchange on the work carried out on these issues in the different participating institutions.

So far sessions will include presentations by ERA-ENVHEALTH members and other organisations (including ANSES, France; RIVM; the Netherlands; ILVO, Belgium; University of Aveiro, Portugal; ...) and the following topics have been suggested:

- **Materials recycling and occupational health**
 - A blueprint for safe and sustainable material loops in a circular economy.
 - Health risks for workers in the waste management sector in France
 - A Prospective study on Circular economy and occupational health and safety
- **Antibiotic resistance and One health**
 - Antibiotic residues and resistance genes in the agricultural environment: One Health in practice
- **Air pollution**
 - Circular Economy and Air Pollution: time for change

If you are interested in [submitting an abstract](#) please contact Adrienne Pittman at ANSES².

Registration will open over the summer on the link:
<https://www.anses.fr/en/content/era-envhealth-network>.

Please note, the number of participants will be limited and will be on a first come, first served basis.

² adrienne.pittman@anses.fr

Please note that the ERA-ENVHEALTH network is a self-sustaining network with no funding to cover travel expenses. For more information, please contact your national ERA-ENVHEALTH contact point.



The ERA-ENVHEALTH network

Collaboration in research to help tackle the challenges in environment and health and their policy implications in Europe

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.

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: signature of the MoU, contribution on a voluntary basis
- Register for the ERA-ENVHEALTH newflash: with regular up-to-date information on E&H activities
- Participate in our 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.

Members and contacts

Do not hesitate to get in touch with us, 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)

* European Research Area Environment and Health (former FP7 project)

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	
Folkhälsomyndigheten	Public Health Agency of Sweden	Sweden	
RIVM	National Institute for Public Health and the Environment	Netherlands	
Swedish EPA	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency	Sweden	
UA	University of Aveiro	Portugal	
UBA	German Environment Agency	Germany	
UoWM	University of Western Macedonia	Greece	

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