



2025 ERA-ENVHEALTH Open Conference:

Environment and Health Controversies

Hybrid conference organised by RIVM (Netherlands)

Wednesday 15 October 2025 9:15-14:00

Environment and Health Controversies: Science, Society, and Policy in Dialogue

Controversies and debates over environment and health issues have always existed at all times and everywhere. Think, for example, of glyphosate, Bisphenol-A, rubber granules, wind turbines, electromagnetic fields or Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances - PFAS. Society, science and policy then seem to confront each other based on different angles and claims about possible impacts on health and the environment of the investigated issue, technologies or substances (be they newly detected or emerging).

Our 'open conference' seeks to analyse these controversies and address the practical ways through which risk assessors and managers, and especially the research institutes, handle these differing angles and claims about adverse effects of technologies/substances.

Through a series of examples of environment and health issues from various European countries that have generated controversy, we want to explore this question. The environment and health aspects of each case will be discussed, while paying particular attention to the social-scientific interpretation of the debate: examining their origin/drivers (how did it come about), the management strategy (how was it handled), communication approaches (what communication strategies were applied), successes (what worked), challenges (what did not work), and lessons learnt (what did we learn, what is the feedback and is there any good practice advice)?

During this open conference contributions from institutes in different countries offering insight into how environmental health controversies are handled in European research institutes will be presented. Talks include among others:

- **Environmental health controversy**
Tom Jansen, National Institute for Public Health and the environment (RIVM)
- **Chlordecone: building an integrated expertise between science, society and history**
Fanny Debil, Yann Le Bodo, French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES)
- **Di-n-Hexylphthalate – how human biomonitoring helps to uncover gaps in regulation and improve products**
Aline Murawski, Florian Kuhlmeier, German Environment Agency (UBA)
- **Wind energy and health in the Netherlands**
Oscar Breugelmans, Jeroen de Hartog, Municipal Health Service (GGD)

Please register by 23 September 2025 for onsite or online participation

[Registration](#)