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# NEWSFLASH

Sharing initiatives to help tackle Environment and Health challenges in Europe

*December 2024*

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## EDITORIAL

The ERA-ENVHEALTH network is pleased to share its new Newsflash. We are looking forward to sharing information on our activities, events, research projects and opportunities in the environment and health area. We hope in this way to contribute to their visibility and to stimulate exchange and collaboration among different actors involved in environment and health and enhance networking opportunities.

Visit the network's webpage



Rijksinstituut voor Volksgezondheid  
en Milieu  
Ministerie van Volksgezondheid,  
Welzijn en Sport

## Get to know us

RIVM - Rijksinstituut voor Volksgezondheid en Milieu - the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment

RIVM works towards a healthy population living in a sustainable, safe and healthy environment. RIVM pursues those goals based on independent scientific research. Working with our commissioning clients, we identify the research that is needed and conduct studies accordingly. We provide advice to the government, to professionals and to members of the public, and share our knowledge. RIVM advises the government on how we can keep our living environment safe, clean and healthy. We also share knowledge about smart solutions for a safe and sustainable environment. RIVM collects, analyses and interprets data on infectious diseases by conducting field and laboratory research. In doing so, we prevent and control infectious diseases. To that end, we work with organisations in the Netherlands and abroad. RIVM investigates what is needed for good healthcare and a healthy lifestyle. We also assess which national and local health programmes are most effective.

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**Ric van Poll** - PhD, is a senior Researcher Environment & Health (E&H) at the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM). E&H research, project management and policy advice is his core business. Noise and Health (e.g.:project leader of the Point of Excellence on Wind Energy and Health, Exposure – Response relationship Wind turbine noise and annoyance), Odour and Health, network on Environment and Health in national research institutes in Europe are the main topics at the moment. Ric is a Health Scientist by training (University of Maastricht, Netherlands), majoring Biological Health Sciences. He received my PhD (Mathematics and Science) at the University of Groningen.

[Go to RIVM website](#)



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## Highlight of the month

ERA-ENVHEALTH 2024 Open Conference -

Research infrastructures in support of

Environment and Health policies

Organised by RECETOX (Czech Republic) online

[Watch the replay here](#)

This year's ERA-ENVHEALTH network annual conference was organised online on 20 November by RECETOX (Czech Republic) on Research Infrastructures in Support of E&H Policies. It brought together 58 participants from 13 countries.

Research infrastructures provide resources and services to research communities and foster innovation. By presenting and explaining current long-term European actions such as EIRENE and its services, this conference illustrated the role that these infrastructures play in supporting environment and health policies in Europe. After a brief presentation of the history of research infrastructures and their conception, their achievements and needs in order to consolidate efforts and improve efficiency in the field of environment and health were outlined, based on the infrastructure developed in the Czech Republic bringing together analytical, metabolomic and proteomic laboratories and data analysis, as well as cohorts and databases and information systems. Two other examples from Belgium and Flanders were also presented. In this way, participants were able to gain a better understanding of research infrastructures and identify how these can strengthen innovation in the field of environmental health and contribute to future activities in support of policy.

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<b>14:00 – 14:10</b>	Shachar D'Vir – Introduction to ESFRI
<b>14:10 – 14:30</b>	Jana Klánová – EIRENE Research Infrastructure and RIs in EHEN/IHEN and PARC
<b>14:30 – 14:40</b>	Jana Klánová – EIRENE CZ: RECETOX RI
<b>14:40 – 14:50</b>	Petra Přebýlová – Trace analytical laboratories
<b>14:50 – 15:05</b>	Elliot Price/Helge Hecht – Target and Non-Target Metabolomics/Proteomics and Data analysis
<b>15:05 – 15:15</b>	Lenka Andrášková – Cohorts and Biobanks
<b>15:15 – 15:25</b>	Richard Hůlek – RECETOX RI Information Systems – links to EIRENE and PARC
<b>15:25 – 15:35</b>	Petra Růžičková – RECETOX RI users overview
<b>15:35 – 15:45</b>	Jos Bessems – EIRENE Flanders
<b>15:45 – 15:55</b>	Eva Govarts – VITO HBM Data Services
<b>15:55 – 16:00</b>	Final remarks

**EIRENE RI**

Do not hesitate to watch the replay!

## Current initiatives

Erasmus+ ToxLearn4EU Final Conference - January 16-17, 2025

**TOXLEARN4EU CONFERENCE**  
**Next-Generation Toxicologists**  
 Join us 16 & 17 January 2025

Co-funded by the European Union

Project Reference: 2021-1-FR01-KA220-HED-000030081

**REGISTER NOW**

The ToxLearn4EU Project will hold its final conference online on January 16 and 17, 2025, marking the culmination of an ambitious European collaboration co-funded by the ERASMUS+ programme (ref: 2021-1-FR01-KA220-HED-000030081).

The ToxLearn4EU Project brings together seven universities and three research institutes from nine European countries—France, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain, and The Netherlands, under the coordination of the University of Toulouse, France. ToxLearn4EU is an educational project designed to transform the landscape of Toxicology and Environmental Toxicology education through cutting-edge online approaches. Recognising the critical importance of these disciplines in understanding and mitigating the impact of chemicals on human health and the environment, the project aims to make learning engaging, accessible, and impactful.

The event will bring together experts, researchers, educators, and students across Europe for a dynamic discussion on cutting-edge methodologies and emerging trends in Toxicology & Education.

On the 16th, three expert-led sessions will explore forward-thinking approaches to education including:

- “Shaping tomorrow’s scientists through real-world problem solving, which will highlight the importance of experiential learning in preparing students for complex challenges;
- “The impact of artificial intelligence on higher education”, which will examine how AI is revolutionizing teaching, learning, and research, offering new opportunities and raising critical questions for academic institutions; and
- “Toxicology in the 22nd century”.

The day will conclude with a dynamic roundtable discussion focused on the critical issue of skill mismatches in higher education, exploring how academic programmes/training can better align with the changing needs of the job market and society. The main outcomes of the project will be showcased on the 17th.

For more information on the conference

[See the programme](#)

Participation is free, but registration is required

[Register here](#)

[Learn more about the project](#)

[Contact the project team](#)

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## Save the date



WHO Second Global  
Conference on Air Pollution  
and Health  
Cartagena, Columbia  
March 24-28, 2025

[More information](#)



64th Annual Meeting and  
ToxExpo of the Society of  
Toxicology  
Orlando, USA  
March 16-20 2025

**Early-Bird registration  
ends January 24**

[More information](#)



35th Annual Meeting of the  
Society of Environmental  
Toxicology and Chemistry  
"Innovation for Tomorrow:  
Progress in Safe and  
Sustainable Concepts"  
Vienna, Austria  
May 11-15, 2025

[More information](#)

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## New opportunities



To raise awareness of the impacts of PFAS on human health, HEAL organises a webinar series on the topic, with leading experts in the field exploring the various health effects of PFAS exposure.

**Register now for the webinar on PFAS and cancer on 23 January, 15.00 CET.**

[Register here](#)

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Watch the first two webinars on the impacts of PFAS on the immune system (October 2024), and on PFAS exposure in early life and pregnancy (November 2024)

[Watch the webinars](#)

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## Join us

### 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

## CONTACTS

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

as the annual open conference on specific topics of interest and newsflash).

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

ANSES  
European & International  
Affairs Department

[Contact Adrienne](#)

	Acronym	Name	Country
	<b>ANSES</b>	French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety	France
	<b>CNR</b>	Italian National Research Council	Italy
	<b>EPA</b>	Environmental Protection Agency	Ireland
	<b>FPS HFCSE</b>	Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment	Belgium
	<b>INSA</b>	National Institute of Health Dr Ricardo Jorge	Portugal
	<b>PHAS</b>	Public Health Agency of Sweden	Sweden
	<b>RIVM</b>	National Institute for Public Health and the Environment	Netherlands
	<b>Swedish EPA</b>	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency	Sweden
	<b>RECETOX</b>	National Centre for Toxic Compounds in the Environment, Faculty of Science, Masaryk University	Czech Republic
	<b>UA</b>	University of Aveiro	Portugal
	<b>UBA</b>	German Environment Agency	Germany
	<b>UoWM</b>	University of Western Macedonia	Greece



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