

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

European and International Affairs Department



ANSES strengthens its European and international cooperation initiatives ↙

In a context where people and goods (foods, animals, plants, consumer goods, etc.) are able to circulate widely, favouring human exposure to health hazards, the protection of public health cannot be addressed solely at a national level. ANSES's presence in the European and international arenas contributes above all to improving the prevention and control of health risks. The challenge is also scientific: ANSES strives to maintain active involvement in the European and international scientific community, both to keep abreast as far as possible of all available data and knowledge, and to be proactive with respect to shared international scientific trends and approaches.

The European and International Affairs Department (DAEI) coordinates the Agency's strategy at European and international level. Its activities are geared to meeting four main objectives:

be a major player, especially in the area of risk assessment;

make an active contribution to reference (development and validation of official analytical methods) and research activities on the priority scientific topics identified;

promote exchanges with peer organisations of excellence throughout the world;

engage in targeted participation in cooperation and capacity- and competence-building initiatives.

Included as one of the five major themes in its 2018-2022 goals and performance contract, the Agency's European and international action is intended to *"consolidate ANSES's role in the construction of the European and global health and safety system", in order to "strengthen the Agency's scientific excellence, and the quality and independence of its expert appraisals" and "anticipate emerging threats and risks"*.

To achieve these objectives, the DAEI works to strengthen ANSES's European and international cooperation, and to promote the Agency's work by supporting the scientific entities in their efforts to:

- take part in relevant, active information networks enabling them to increase their knowledge, pick up emerging risk signals, and anticipate developments;
- develop their partnerships with organisations of excellence in order to pool skills and expert appraisal, reference and knowledge production work;

- be leading players in risk (and benefit) assessment: at European level by actively collaborating with EU agencies, and at international level by actively participating in the work of supranational bodies;
- be recognised research players, mainly through participation in European collaborative projects of all kinds (research, education, training, cooperation, etc.);
- be acknowledged as a reference, through their mandates as reference laboratories or collaborating centres;
- make a major contribution to French and European standardisation work;
- provide scientific and technical support to coordinators as part of efforts to strengthen skills and enhance cooperation.

KEY FIGURES

AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2019

European projects under way:

17 research projects¹ (four of which were launched in 2019), including two that are coordinated by ANSES

2 joint activities²

7 COST Actions (programme for European cooperation in science and technology)

Projects funded by other programmes or initiatives³, including 25 funded by the “One Health” European Joint Programme (EJP)⁴, consisting of:

22 collaborative projects

3 thesis projects

7 projects funded by EFSA

32 partnership agreements under way with peer institutions in Europe and around the world

34 countries in which ANSES has signed a partnership agreement with a national agency

40 European (12) and international (28) reference mandates

¹Funded by Horizon 2020: PoNTE, EUROMIX, SUSFANS, COMPARE, ZIK Alliance, PALE-Blu, Vet-Bio-Net, HBM4EU, EuroBioTox, VIVALDI, POSHBEE; launched in 2019: GOLIATH, RiskGONE, HERA, OBERON; two coordinated projects: One Health EJP, Valitest

²Funded by the EU Health Programme: Joint Action on Tobacco Control (JATC), Joint Action on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare-Associated Infections (EU-JAMRAI)

³ERA-NET, JPI, EJP, ERDF, INTERREG, PRIMA, Hubert Curien Partnerships, Association MED-VET-NET, etc.

⁴The One Health EJP is being funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation

Work undertaken and key events ↙

ANSES's European and international actions are underpinned by an integrative approach to its various activities and areas of competence. Various actions at European and international level benefit the Agency's work and improve its responsiveness through:

- > the pooling and exchange of scientific knowledge and materials;
- > the visibility and recognition of its scientific expertise;
- > is involvement in defining research priorities and producing harmonised methodological guides at European level;
- > influence with regard to various European and international institutions.

MEETINGS AND EXCHANGES

To promote these activities and encourage partnership projects, numerous meetings are organised annually, mainly with European and international institutions and organisations such as the European Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE), the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC); with ANSES's counterpart agencies such as the Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) in the Netherlands, the Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) and the Friedrich Loeffler Federal Institute for Animal Health Research (FLI) in Germany, the National Food Institute

at the Technical University of Denmark (DTU-Food), the National Institute of Food and Drug Safety Evaluation (NIFDS) in South Korea, and the China Institute of Veterinary Drug Control (IVDC); and with scientific networks in our areas of expertise such as the Med-Vet-Net association (network of excellence on food zoonoses), EPIZONE (research network on epizootic animal diseases), IC4HEALTH (health cooperation network) and ERA-ENVHEALTH (environmental health network) (see box). In this regard, the framework agreement formalising the long-standing relations and exchanges between ANSES and the National Institute of Public Health of Quebec (INSPQ) was renewed once again for a four-year period. The rewarding relationship between

the two organisations is reflected in various forms according to the opportunities, including the participation of scientists from Quebec in ANSES expert groups. Besides annual meetings and exchanges between agencies on specific topics, joint scientific events are organised with counterpart institutions, such as the scientific conference organised with the BfR, DTU-Food and the NIFDS on the theme "Foodborne Pathogens & Whole Genome Sequencing: Impact on Public Health Protection" held in Paris in March, or the international one-day scientific meeting on bee health and the contribution of research to risk assessment, organised jointly with EFSA in Paris in December (see boxes).

REFERENCE MANDATES

“Creation of three new EU reference laboratory mandates in plant health”

The scientific positioning and European and international visibility of ANSES's laboratories are reinforced by reference mandates awarded by the European Union or by international organisations such as the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and World Health Organization (WHO). These mandates also constitute a mark of recognition of the quality of ANSES's scientific work. In 2019, the European and International Affairs Department and the Strategy and Programmes Department supported the ANSES teams in the launch of the European reference mandate for foot-and-mouth disease, awarded in partnership with Sciensano (the Belgian Scientific Institute of Public Health). They were also involved in the creation of three new EU

reference laboratory mandates in plant health for “insects and mites”, “nematodes”, and “fungi and oomycetes” (the very first mandates established at European level for these plant pests, including two in coordination with European teams from Belgium and Austria), as well as in preparing the 2020 launch of the EU reference centre mandate for the “welfare of poultry and other small farmed animals”, in collaboration with Spain and Denmark (second reference centre on animal welfare in Europe). ANSES's Laboratory for Animal Health was also granted a new international mandate by the OIE as the reference laboratory for glanders (a fatal infectious disease caused by the bacterium *Burkholderia mallei*, which mainly affects horses, donkeys or mules and is transmissible to humans).

ANNUAL ERA-ENVHEALTH CONFERENCE

→ In November 2019, the European Network on environment and health “ERA-ENVHEALTH” met at ANSES for its annual open conference on the theme of circular economy and health, attracting some 30 participants from six European countries. Attendees discussed how scientific and risk assessment bodies are integrating circular economy into their work and risk assessments, in order to ensure that health and safety aspects are better taken into account in the overall understanding and implementation of circular economy, and to understand and even anticipate as far as possible the broad range of its impacts.

THE NETWORK

→ ERA-ENVHEALTH is a network of European organisations active in environment and health, which started as a project coordinated by ANSES and co-funded by the European Community from 2008 to 2012. Although it is no longer funded, it has kept going as an exchange network.

COORDINATION OF THE ONE HEALTH EUROPEAN JOINT PROGRAMME

Launched in January 2018, the One Health European Joint Programme (EJP) on foodborne zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance and emerging zoonotic threats, which is being coordinated by ANSES, got fully up to speed in 2019, both in terms of its scientific activities and its successfully implemented collaborative governance (illustrated at the first meeting of its Management Board at ANSES in May 2019). Two calls for proposals led to the selection of 29 collaborative research and integration projects, 16 of which will start in 2020. These are in addition to the 13 projects selected from the first internal call, which began in 2018. Furthermore, four short-term missions, as well as the first One Health EJP summer school, took place in 2019. Besides the coordinating role

played by the European and International Affairs Department, ANSES actively contributes to the strategy and scientific governance of this European programme through its Strategy and Programmes Department and its Managing Director General for Research and Reference. Teams from several ANSES laboratories (Food Safety, Animal Health, Ploufragan, Lyon, Fougères) are heavily involved in the scientific work of the One Health EJP.

These scientific activities were highlighted at the first annual scientific meeting of the One Health EJP, held from 22 to 24 May 2019 in Dublin, Ireland, which hosted more than 300 participants and consolidated the foundations of the project's scientific community. Several institutional meetings were also organised

in this context, in particular with representatives of the supervisory ministries and the directors of the One Health EJP partner institutes: they all praised the quality of the scientific projects, as well as the unique nature of a partnership that they intend to perpetuate between public, human and veterinary health research organisations on the theme of foodborne zoonoses and the antimicrobial resistance phenomena they induce, as well as on emerging zoonoses. The meeting with the supervisory ministries co-funding the One Health EJP served as a stimulus for joint discussions on the long-term future of the One Health EJP beyond the period of European Union funding, which is due to end in December 2022.

“Teams from several ANSES laboratories [Food Safety, Animal Health, Ploufragan, Lyon, Fougères] are heavily involved in the scientific work of the One Health EJP.”

ANSES AT THE G7 ENVIRONMENT MEETING

RESEARCH ROUNDTABLE ON “MICROPLASTICS IN THE ENVIRONMENT”

→ Following the 13 February 2019 workshop organised in Washington by Canada and the European Union, and in line with the recommendation of the G7 Environment meeting held in Metz under the French Presidency in May 2019, the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation organised a workshop and roundtable on 14 and 15 October entitled: “Microplastics in the environment: biomonitoring issues and socio-ecological challenges

EFSA FOCAL POINT

The year 2019 saw numerous exchanges and collaborations with EFSA on the subjects of food safety, nutrition, animal health and welfare, plant health and protection, emerging risks, and many other topics falling within EFSA's remit.

The European and International Affairs Department acts as an alternate in the EFSA Advisory Forum. It is also the French focal point for EFSA. A major focus of 2019 was the revision of the list of competent organisations in France to assist EFSA, under Article 36 of EFSA's founding Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, which describes the networking of scientific organisations in the Member States. The 14 French dossiers submitted were all approved by EFSA's Management Board in December. The institutions concerned (veterinary and agricultural schools, research institutes, etc.) therefore continue to assist EFSA in its

mission by carrying out various tasks, in particular certain preparatory work for scientific opinions, scientific and technical assistance, and data collection (some of these tasks may receive financial support via EFSA grants). The publication of Regulation (EU) 2019/1381 on the transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain, amending the EU's General Food Law Regulation, has also had a major impact on the activities and responsibilities of the ANSES focal point, especially with regard to preparing for the implementation of new activities from 2020 (see below).

for public decision", on the environmental impact of microplastics, their consequences on human societies and the measures to be taken to support the reduction in plastic waste production. The scientific community, which got together at two preliminary scientific workshops, reviewed current knowledge and proposed some priority lines of research to characterise the environmental contamination and its ecological and health impacts, and to study individual and collective behaviours regarding these materials and define virtuous practices for sustainable management of the plastics cycle. The roundtable was co-chaired by Roger Genet, Director General of ANSES and Pascal Lamy, President Emeritus of the Jacques Delors Institute and Chair of the "Healthy Oceans, Seas, Coastal and Inland Waters" mission of the future Horizon Europe framework programme, and organised under the patronage of the French Minister for Higher Education, Research and Innovation. Participants invited their governments to support research in these areas and to mobilise the scientific communities to provide data on sustainable practices for managing the plastics cycle. The data produced by scientists will help define more clearly the individual and collective responsibilities in terms of environmental pollution and be used to propose measures for preventing health risks for populations and ecosystems.

Outlook and projects initiated ↙

Two major projects are shaping ANSES's future activities in Europe.

REGULATION (EU) 2019/1381 ON THE TRANSPARENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF EU RISK ASSESSMENT IN THE FOOD CHAIN, AMENDING THE GENERAL FOOD LAW REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Published in the Official Journal of the European Union in September, this regulation essentially amends Regulation (EC) 178/2002 (the General Food Law Regulation, GFLR), which led to the creation of EFSA, as well as eight legislative acts relating to specific sectors of the food production chain: GMOs, feed additives, smoke flavourings, food contact materials, food additives, food enzymes and flavourings, plant protection products and novel foods.

The amendments introduced by this Regulation are mainly designed to ensure greater transparency, increase the independence of studies, strengthen EFSA's governance and develop comprehensive communication on risks. Among other things, they enable EU Member States to draft preparatory opinions for EFSA opinions, appoint national representatives to its Management Board, take part in its expert groups, launch public consultations on studies submitted by applicants, apply standard data formats, participate

in drawing up a general risk communication plan, and give new tasks to the national focal points. These various changes will affect ANSES, as well as other French organisations. In particular, they offer new opportunities to work with EFSA. The European and International Affairs Department has therefore begun to raise awareness among the various ANSES entities and the French institutions mentioned in "Article 36", and is preparing to take maximum advantage of this new regulation's requirements over the coming years.

11 FEBRUARY

→ Meeting between ANSES's General Directorate and the Director General of DG SANTE in Brussels (Belgium)

1 MARCH

→ Meeting between ANSES's General Directorate and the European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety at the Paris International Agricultural Show (France)

21 MAY

→ Annual meeting of the Directors General of ANSES, BfR and DTU-Food in Copenhagen (Denmark)

TRANSITION TO THE NEXT EU FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION: HORIZON EUROPE

Horizon Europe is the European Union's framework programme for research and innovation for the period from 2021 to 2027, which will follow on from the Horizon 2020 programme (2014-2020). This framework programme should be better adapted to contemporary issues, and has been designed to increase the impact and competitiveness of research in Europe.

The research conducted at the Agency is inseparable from its reference and risk assessment missions, and helps provide them with more effective support. ANSES is therefore involved in many research networks and projects with European partners and/or funding, either as coordinator or partner. ANSES, especially the DAEI, is closely following the preparations for the Horizon Europe programme, in particular the

renewed approach for the "European Partnerships" instruments. These new instruments are intended to be mechanisms to link research and innovation closely to policy requirements and societal expectations, develop close synergies with national and regional programmes, and bring together a critical mass of stakeholders to work towards common objectives, thereby translating key priorities into roadmaps

and concrete actions. These European partnerships, which have yet to be established, should be a real opportunity for ANSES in view of the scientific topics that could be explored, which are likely to include animal health (infectious diseases), antimicrobial resistance addressed via the "One Health" concept, the promotion of safe and sustainable food systems, and chemical risk assessment.

17-21 JUNE

→ Training of risk assessors from Arab countries in the framework of the "SAFE" project in Maisons-Alfort (France)

18 JULY

→ Annual meeting between ANSES's General Directorate and the top management of EFSA in Parma (Italy)

24 JULY

→ Meeting between ANSES's General Directorate and the new Director of the IARC in Lyon (France)

7-8 OCTOBER

→ Bilateral meeting between the Directors General of the FLI and ANSES in Riems (Germany)

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BEE HEALTH

→ On 9 December, ANSES and EFSA organised an international scientific conference dedicated to bee health and how research can contribute to risk assessment. The objective was to review both agencies' proposals on the assessment of plant protection products and their impact on the health of bees and other pollinating insects. This day also provided an opportunity for ANSES's Sophia Antipolis Laboratory – the European Union Reference Laboratory for bee health – to present its research results. Aimed at a broad audience including beekeepers, researchers, public decision-makers, companies, representatives from professional bodies and the media, the conference provided a forum for debate and constructive exchanges with scientists and stakeholders in France and Europe.

JOINT SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE (ANSES/BFR/DTU-FOOD/NIFDS) ON THE THEME "FOODBORNE PATHOGENS & WHOLE GENOME SEQUENCING: IMPACT ON PUBLIC HEALTH PROTECTION"

→ Four national institutes working on food safety and risk assessment (ANSES, the German BfR, the Danish DTU-Food and the Republic of Korea's NIFDS) organised an international conference from 26-28 March 2019 to take stock of the short- and medium-term impacts of whole genome sequencing approaches in the area of food safety. For three days, researchers and experts in risk assessment and management, as well as those working in the area of the food production chain, took turns to discuss the impact of whole sequencing of the genomes of foodborne pathogens. This international event, which brought together more than 300 people from 30 different countries, with 50 institutions and authorities represented, was a resounding success.

GLOSSARY

- BfR:** Federal Institute for Risk Assessment, Germany
- COST:** Programme for European cooperation in science and technology
- DG SANTE:** Directorate General for Health and Food Safety, European Commission
- DTU-Food:** Technical University of Denmark – National Food Institute, Denmark
- ECHA:** European Chemicals Agency
- EFSA:** European Food Safety Authority
- EJP:** European Joint Programme
- FAO:** Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- FLI:** Friedrich Loeffler Institute (Federal Institute for Animal Health Research), Germany
- IARC:** International Agency for Research on Cancer, World Health Organization
- INSPQ:** National Institute of Public Health of Quebec, Canada
- IVDC:** Institute of Veterinary Drug Control, China
- NIFDS:** National Institute of Food and Drug Safety Evaluation, South Korea
- OIE:** World Organisation for Animal Health
- RIVM:** National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, Netherlands
- WHO:** World Health Organization



French agency for food, environmental
and occupational health & safety

Investigate, evaluate, protect

**French Agency for Food,
Environmental and Occupational
Health & Safety**

14, rue Pierre et Marie Curie
F94701 Maisons-Alfort cedex

www.anses.fr

[@Anses_fr](https://twitter.com/Anses_fr)