

PRESS RELEASE

Maisons-Alfort, 9 December 2022

**National Research Programme for Environmental and Occupational
Health:
results of the 2022 calls for research proposals**

Forty-two research projects have been selected by ANSES under the 2022 PNR EST call for proposals. They will receive a total of €7.5 million in funding. This research will provide new knowledge on environmental risks to human health, in the general population or at work, as well as on risks to ecosystems.

In early 2022, 241 projects were submitted in response to the two calls for proposals: the first for projects on a general theme, and the second on the theme of "radiofrequencies and health". After a rigorous selection process involving assessment by scientific committees, **42 projects** were chosen.

As part of the **National Research Programme for Environmental and Occupational Health (PNR EST)** run by ANSES, these projects are financed from budgets delegated by the Ministries of the Environment, Labour, Health and Agriculture, as well as funds from partner institutions. For the fifth year running, a specific budget from the Ministry of Ecological and Inclusive Transition provides support for projects on endocrine disruptors. This year, with additional funding made available, ANSES has financed five projects on the risks associated with air pollution. This funding resulted from a decision by the Council of State following non-compliance with regulatory air quality levels in various regions.

Contributing knowledge to ANSES's areas of expertise

These projects will provide new knowledge in ANSES's different areas of expertise, and in particular on health risks to the general population and in the workplace, as well as on risks to ecosystems and the quality of different environments. They involve multidisciplinary teams, including from the human and social sciences.

More specifically, the projects selected for 2022 relate to **one or more types of environmental and occupational exposure**:

- Twenty projects concern **chemical agents**, including nine projects on endocrine disruptors;
- Six projects will address **emerging, unexplored or new issues**, including one on nitrous oxide and two on micro- and nanoplastics;
- Six projects concern **radiofrequencies**, four of which deal specifically with electromagnetic fields related to the deployment of 5G;
- Seven relate to occupational exposure and **occupational health**, three of which focus on new ways of working or new forms of work organisation, such as teleworking and prolonged screen use;
- Lastly, ten projects deal with **bacterial and viral pathogens**, five of which concern environmental quality and two of which concern vector control.

Some of these projects will lead to a better understanding of the links between environmental exposure and diseases such as cancer, respiratory disorders or scleroderma, an autoimmune disease.

In addition, 12 projects will contribute to further knowledge of the **exposome**.

Thirty-eight projects will be funded by ANSES (€6.8M), three will be supported by the AVIESAN multi-agency thematic institute for cancer, as part of the French Cancer Plan (€0.56M), and one project by the French Agency for Ecological Transition (ADEME) (€0.21M).

The **National Research Programme for Environmental and Occupational Health** (PNR EST), coordinated by ANSES, funds research on environmental health risks, including occupational risks and risks to ecosystems.

Its objectives are to:

- Produce the scientific knowledge on health risks associated with the environment and work that ANSES needs to conduct its expert appraisals: either because the studies produce data that will be used for future expert appraisals, or because they fill gaps in knowledge identified in previous reports.
- Develop new methods and tools for health risk analysis.
- Organise research and scientific teams to tackle issues related to the environmental-occupational health theme.

Find out more:

- See the page on the PNR EST
- See the list of selected projects
- See the summaries of the selected projects
- See the list of members of the research programme's scientific committee

Press liaison

ANSES

+33 (0)1 49 77 13 77 / (0)1 49 77 22 26 / (0)1 49 77 28 20
presse@anses.fr

The French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES) provides public decision-makers with the scientific benchmarks needed to protect humans and the environment against health risks. It studies, assesses and monitors all the chemical, microbiological and physical risks to which humans, animals and plants are exposed, thereby helping the public authorities take the necessary measures, including in the event of a health crisis. A national agency working in the public interest, ANSES comes under the responsibility of the French Ministries of Health, the Environment, Agriculture, Labour and Consumer Affairs.