

LIFE GIOCONDA networking meeting

Knowledge transfer and exchange in EnvHealth risk governance

KTE LIFE EnvHealth Network, with external experts

Monday 14th November 2016, 11:00-16:00

Rome, National Research Council, P. le Aldo Moro 7, Sala Silvestri

Members of the network

LIFE MED HISS. Mediterranean Health Interview Surveys Studies: long term exposure to air pollution and health surveillance. Coord. ARPA Piedmont

LIFE PERSUADED. Phthalates and bisphenol A biomonitoring in Italian mother-child pairs: link between exposure and juvenile diseases. Coord. Nat. Health Inst.

LIFE AIS. Aerobiological Information Systems and allergic respiratory disease management. Coord. Florence Univ

LIFE MAPEC. Air pollution and health effects. Coord. Brescia University

LIFE Hia-21. Participatory assessment of health, environmental and socioeconomic impacts resulting from the treatment of municipal waste. Coord. IFC-CNR

LIFE CROME. Cross-Mediterranean Environment and Health Network. Coord. Aristotle Univ. of Thessaloniki

LIFE GHOST. Techniques to reduce the impact of ghost fishing gears and to improve biodiversity in North Adriatic coastal areas

LIFE MERMAIDS. mitigation of microplastics impact caused by textile washing processes

Invited experts

Agnes Allansdottir, Fondazione Toscana Life Sciences

Antonella Bena, Public Health Agency - ASL Turin

Stefania Betti, National Contact Point LIFE, Ministry of Environment

Antonio Florida, Office for participation policies of the Tuscany Region

Pietro Greco, Fondazione IDIS-Città della Scienza

Eric Jensen, Warwick University (UK)

Giuseppe Pellegrini, *Observe Science in Society*

Luigi Pellizzoni, University of Trieste

Carlo Zaghi, Ministry of Environment

Meeting objectives

- To present and discuss some of the KTE tools used during the LIFE projects' implementation
- To share critical points and facilitate the identification of possible solutions
- To identify future collaborative activities.

Networking meeting programme

h. 11:00	1. Introduction and presentations
h. 11:30	2. The perception of risks air and noise-related. Gioconda's findings
h. 12:30	3. Tools to promote participation in Env&Health
h. 13:30	Lunch
h. 14:15	4. Tools to improve communication activities and media work
h. 15:00	5. Proposal for scientific publications on KTE in LIFE EnvHealth projects
h. 15:30	6. Further perspectives for joint activities and projects
h. 16:00	7. Conclusions

Registration required - Please email Liliانا Cori: liliana.cori@ifc.cnr.it



Networking meeting presentation

1. Introduction

The LIFE projects are designed to contribute to the EU environmental governance. They have:

1. The **common objective** to support the implementation of environmental policies
2. Different **references**, from policymakers to agency, at the proper level of competence
3. Different **stakeholders**.

The LIFE+ “KTE EnvHealth Network” projects share the **theme of environment and health**, in particular the health of communities affected by various environmental pressures and where networks of players need organized spaces for dialogue.

This theme is characterized by:

1. A complex **governance**: legislation for the *environment* refers to European legislation; legislation for *health*, refers to decisions made by states, regions and local administrations
2. A high level of uncertainty, ambiguity and complexity arises when discussing the notion of **risk exposure**
3. A **scientific research** that is in constant evolution, often circumscribed by results that are very difficult to generalize (and explain), and imply multi-discipline challenges
4. A highly variable **public perception**, linked to different cultural, socio-economic and political contexts, and highly influential in the political process.

Each of these characteristics involve a challenge for the LIFE projects in the EnvHealth Network and require an effective *knowledge transfer and exchange* (KTE) among researchers, administrators, citizens.

The aim of the networking seminar is to discuss about some of the tools used, their effectiveness and their development in future research, their integration with EU policies and tools, their ethical implications.

The LIFE EnvHealth Network activities in the KTE domain can be summarized in:

information activities	↔	awareness raising – education – media work
communication activities	↔	questionnaires – training modules
participation activities	↔	consultation – engagement – recommendations – dialogue

- researchers and research community	- community and persons involved
- public health operators, including GPs	- stakeholders
- technical bodies	



- policy makers/- administrators
- regulating agencies

Every project used specific tools to interact with the actors involved, according to those priorities.



The promoter of this Networking event, LIFE GIOCONDA, proposed the use of **questionnaires** to explore the risk perception of youngsters, as part of its evidence-based education trail and its engagement activities.

The scientific results of GIOCONDA provide insights for future environmental monitoring plans in schools, exposure assessment, risk perception detection. Aim of the project is to make them acquired and used by different stakeholders at different levels of responsibility in the **risk governance** chain. The uptake of scientific results is crucial for researchers, in terms of contribution to the governance in environment and health. The participation of students was also a problematic issue, as the researcher accepted the responsibility to commit for positive results of the process.

LIFE GIOCONDA proposes to go further in discussing the following points.

2. Questionnaires

GIOCONDA included in its methodological plan a questionnaire on EnvHealth-related Risk Perception (RP) and Willingness To Pay (WTP), administered to about 600 school goers along the project. A descriptive overview of the results has been integrated in the educational trail as evidence on which the school goers discussed, reflected and produced recommendations for their local policy makers.

They allowed also to understand:

- the variability in risk perception
- the information sources on the topic of environment and health
- the awareness and commitment of children in environmental protection

Questions to the LIFE EnvHealth Network participants:

- other questionnaire used by LIFE projects, results and possible integration/developments
- the meaning of questionnaire in the governance process – who is interested? Why?
- how the perception of risk can be treated in the evaluation of exposure to risk
- what is the role played by the RP in the evaluation of risk exposure?

3. Tools to promote participation

GIOCONDA proposed the use of environmental monitoring data (air quality and noise) to:

- understand the exposure of pupils at school – in particular their daily exposure
- check the relationship between the data monitored by GIOCONDA and the ones from the permanent Air quality monitoring system by the Italian Public Authorities
- include innovative scientific contents in the school curriculum
- trigger an evidence-informed engagement activity.

A **discussion based on scientific data** related to the surrounding environment and to their perceived risk was the main instrument to promote the pupils' engagement.

On the side of the local administrations, the **engagement of policy makers** was highly dependent by the context and the project background: when the GIOCONDA partners were Public Administration, they were highly proactive in consulting young citizens and proposing themes to discuss; when technical



bodies were involved, the attention was directly linked to specific issues at the stake and less to the link to the actual measures and their improvement.

Questions to the LIFE EnvHealth Network participants:

- other tools for engagement used by LIFE projects and possible developments
- meaning of those tools in the whole governance process
- how did the scientific community react to your findings and the need of a public participation?
- how did the decision-makers react to your findings and the need of a public participation?

4. Tools to improve information activities and media work

All the LIFE projects involved in the seminar developed different tools according to the specific targets, with the same objectives of **awareness raising** and **education**.

The **media work** was developed according to the different programs.

Training modules can be further used and shared.

Questions to the LIFE EnvHealth Network participants:

- what are the critical point of those activities?
- what are the main lessons learned?
- are there tools to share or to complement, to promote effectiveness in the dissemination of project results?
- what suggestions to train journalists and communicators working in different media?
- what is an “appealing news” when communicating about environment and health?

5. Proposal for scientific articles about KTE in LIFE EnvHealth projects

Tentative proposal for publishing scientific articles including KTE activities of the projects and the network proposal

→ which journals, timeline and responsibilities

6. Further perspectives for joint activities and projects

WHO Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, 2017 Ostrava (Czech Republic)

Aim of the Network is to produce a **Report** summarizing the KTE activities realized in our LIFE projects and our proposal of continuation.

Collaborations with networks active at European level in environment and health setting.

Fact-sheet to spread → **KTE GOAL ACHIEVED**

7. Conclusions

All the LIFE KTE Network partners agree around a common agenda.

