

# maison

## *france*

PUBLIC HEALTH IN FRANCE



Find out about

# 8

major French  
public health  
institutions

NOVEMBER 2019



## PUBLISHING DETAILS

### Media owner and publisher:

EPH Conference Foundation,  
Otterstraat 118, 3513 CR  
Utrecht, The Netherlands

### Concept:

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### Translation/Proofreading:

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### Graphic design:

Gottfried Halmschlager

### Photo editors:

Susanne Karlsruher,  
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### Photos:

Fotolia, private, SFSP, HAS,  
EHESP, IRD, Santé publique  
France, Inserm, L'Assurance  
Maladie, HCSP, ASN

### Cover photo:

Fotolia.com – François Roux

### Printing:

Ferdinand Berger & Söhne  
Ges.m.b.H.

### Publication frequency:

'Maison France',  
November 2019,  
is a one-off supplement  
to the edition of  
'Healthy Europe'  
published for the  
12th European Public Health  
Conference.

### Publisher's post office:

3513 CR Utrecht,  
The Netherlands

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# EDITORIAL

*Dear Readers,*

The 12th European Public Health (EPH) Conference in Marseille is organised by the European Public Health Association (EUPHA) together with the EPH Conference Foundation and the French Society for Public Health (Société Française de Santé Publique – SFSP). As the local organising partner, the role of the SFSP is also to promote the participation of French organisations in the conference, both scientifically and in terms of the actions carried out by these organisations. The SFSP thus contacted various large French public institutions to propose a joint 'Maison France' exhibition at the conference, as a common space that allows institutions to make their work known to participants. Eight large, prominent organisations took advantage of this opportunity, and each of them has their own stand. In addition, they are offering a dynamic programme with networking meetings, presentation of scientific work, and other activities. We are very pleased to be able to also present these institutions and their most important tasks in this supplement to 'Healthy Europe'.



Dineke  
Zeegers Paget



Floris  
Barnhoorn



François  
Berdougou

We hope that you will find 'Maison France' an interesting read,

*Dineke Zeegers Paget,*  
Executive Director of EUPHA,

*Floris Barnhoorn,*  
Deputy Director of EUPHA,

*François Berdougou,*  
Executive Director of SFSP

# A modern society with a long tradition

*The French Society for Public Health has a long, multi-disciplinary tradition and focusses on current issues such as health inequalities among the population.*

**T**he French Society for Public Health (Société Française de Santé Publique – SFSP) looks back on a tradition spanning 120 years: the members of what was then the ‘Société de médecine publique et d’hygiène professionnelle’ met in Paris for the first time in 1877. Founding President was the pharmacist and medical expert *Apollinaire Bouchardat*, the founder of diabetology. Known as the ‘Société Française de Santé Publique’ since 1992, the society is scientific, professional, multidisciplinary and sociopolitically active, with past and present members including hygienists and clinicians, pharmacists and biochemists, veterinarians and agricultural engineers, sanitary engineers and lawyers, architects, city planners, politicians and many more.

## Analysis and discussions

This diversity is a key characteristic of SFSP, and the society allows sufficient room among its broad spectrum of members for shared, inter-professional reflection of all public health concerns, and specifically the critical analysis and discussion of scientific facts and methods. SFSP provides decision makers with recommendations for the challenges encountered in public health, and also comments on these topics publicly in the media.

## Contemporary issues

The current SFSP president is *Emmanuel Rusch*, an MD with a doctoral degree in life sciences, who holds the position of hospital practitioner and Professor of Health Economics and Prevention at the Tours University Hospital Centre. The renewed SFSP associative project, adopted in 2017, focusses on the right of all people to the best possible health, the fact that every single person should be able to make their own decisions about their health, and the com-



mitment of experts to act according to scientific principles and for the benefit of the population. Beyond its commitment to a broad spectrum of public health issues, the French society focusses on reducing social inequalities in health. The main issues on which the French Society for Public Health has worked during recent years include the development of support tools for parent-

hood, nutrition (with the Nutriscore label), knowledge capitalisation of public health interventions and the development of a tool for analysing local policies to promote physical activity related to health. Every two years, SFSP organises a francophone public health congress. In 2018, SFSP had 551 members, of which 494 are individuals and 57 are organisations (legal entities).

## COORDINATING THE FIGHT AGAINST ADDICTIONS

Addictive behaviour is a major public health challenge for all societies. In France, tobacco kills 75,000 people a year, alcohol 41,000 and illegal drugs more than 2,000. The French Interministerial Mission for Combating Drugs and Addictive Behaviours (Mission Interministérielle de Lutte contre les Drogues et les Conduites Addictives – MILDECA) was founded in 1982 and is placed directly under the authority of the prime minister. MILDECA organises and coordinates government action for combating drugs and addictive behaviours, and in this respect sets out its strategy in the following areas: research and observation, prevention, care, treatment and risk reduction, law application, fight against trafficking and international cooperation. MILDECA, whose president is the public health physician *Nicolas Prisse*, also represents France on the specialised bodies reporting to the United Nations, the European Union and the Council of Europe, and is a member of the Executive Board of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction.



**Chantal Bélorgey:** 'HAS is committed to ensuring the scientific rigour, impartiality and transparency of its work.'

# An independent scientific body

*The French National Authority for Health is an independent public scientific advisory body and is tasked with further developing the quality of the country's health and social care services.*

**T**he French National Authority for Health is a completely independent public scientific advisory body. It is tasked with advancing quality in health and social care,' explains *Chantal Bélorgey*, Director of Medical, Economic and Public Health Assessment at the French National Authority for Health (Haute Autorité de Santé – HAS). In order to achieve this, HAS works alongside public authorities to provide information on policy decisions as well as together with healthcare professionals to optimise practices, organisations and services. It also ensures a patient-focussed approach.

## Three missions

HAS has three missions. The first is the **evaluation of health products and technologies** from a medical and economic perspective. HAS evaluates the clinical benefit of drugs, medical devices, procedures and other health technologies, assessing added benefits compared to existing therapeutic strategies, and issuing appraisal recommendations that aid public authorities in reimbursement and pricing decisions relating to the national health fund. For example, in



2018 alone, 650 drugs were assessed or reassessed by HAS and 760 appraisal recommendations were made.

## Recommending best practices

Developing **best practice recommendations** is another important area of work for HAS. It elaborates tools for professionals that promote and encourage relevant care, and when a population-based approach to health questions is necessary, HAS is tasked with producing public health guidelines. The institution also contributes to the framing

of vaccine policy in France by elaborating vaccine recommendations. In 2018 HAS developed 13 best practice and 8 vaccine guidelines, and also one public health guideline, among others.

## Measuring and improving quality care

In addition, HAS is responsible for **measuring and improving** quality care and patient safety in healthcare facilities and clinics. Since April 2018 this task has been extended to include quality support in social care services and facilities. 819 health facilities were newly accredited by HAS in 2018, and 33 national campaigns for quality and safety care indicators were realised, for example. 'Overall, HAS is committed to ensuring the scientific rigour, impartiality and transparency of its work and upholds the merits of solidarity and equity in access to care, both of which are integral to the French health and social system,' summarises Chantal Bélorgey.

## FRENCH NATIONAL AUTHORITY FOR HEALTH

**Headquarters:** Saint-Denis near Paris  
**No. of employees:** 425  
**Main task:** Advancing quality in health and social care  
**Annual budget:** €62.9 million  
**Website:** has-sante.fr



# An outstanding school of public health



**Laurent Chambaud**  
Dean of the EHESP French  
School of Public Health.

*EHESP is France's internationally renowned school of public health, with a dual mission of training and research in public health and welfare services.*

**T**he EHESP School of Public Health (École des hautes études en santé publique) is the leading school of its kind in France. EHESP trains senior public sector, health and social services managers, inspectors and controllers; it provides international postgraduate and doctoral education and conducts research in all major disciplines linked to public health. Thus, EHESP offers a unique combination of professional and research-based training courses in French and English, and runs a multidisciplinary network of graduate schools.

## A school with research facilities and international repute

The relevance and quality of teaching are an integral part of applied research, which is carried out by joint labs and research teams, an environmental health research laboratory, research chairs in partnership, and a doctoral network. EHESP has established a wide range of collaboration all over the world with public health training and research institutions in high-, middle- and low-income countries. It provides scientific communications, strategic consultancy, expertise and the development of training programmes. The EHESP has also developed links with organisations such as the European Union, WHO, IOM, OCDE and the World Bank.

## Key figures:

- 10,000 students and trainees from roughly 50 countries



- 1,300 lecturers
- 20 partner universities around the world
- International mobility periods every year in around 30 countries

## The school for future public health managers

Public health training programmes in:

- Management
- Human and social sciences
- Quantitative methods
- Environmental and occupational health
- Specialised master's degrees and diplomas, doctoral courses
- Intense training throughout career:

EHESP offers certificates and more than 400 short training programmes in various public health fields, as well as training courses tailored to the needs of each facility. These are available in class settings and through distance learning and are updated each year. Besides this, EHESP offers preparatory courses for civil service examinations.

EHESP also has a publishing house that specialises in current topics from the fields of public health and social affairs.

Further details can be found at [www.press.eshp.fr](http://www.press.eshp.fr)

## EHESP SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**Headquarters:** Rennes

**No. of employees:** 450

**Main task:** Education and research in public health and social welfare

**Annual budget:** €58 million

**Website:** [www.ehosp.fr](http://www.ehosp.fr)

# Fair scientific partnerships

*The French Research Institute for Sustainable Development IRD practises science that is focussed on the intertropical and Mediterranean area.*

**D**riven by the conviction that scientific advancements are crucial to achieving sustainable and human development, the primary mission of the French Research Institute for Sustainable Development (L'Institut de recherche pour le développement – IRD) is to practise science that is focussed on the intertropical and Mediterranean area. Collaboration involves a fair scientific partnership with the higher education and research communities in partner countries. This mission has a dual purpose: to contribute to the advancement of scientific knowledge on sustainable development and also help to better connect development policies with science.

## A major player in research for development

The IRD is a French public establishment operating under the joint authority of the French Ministry for Higher Education, Research and Innovation and the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. Via its network and presence in around 50 countries, it takes an original approach to research, expertise, training, and knowledge sharing for the benefit of countries and regions that make science and innovation the key drivers in their development.

## A powerful synergy

The research carried out in the health and



societies department aims to improve the health of populations and benefits from a powerful synergy between the immense international expertise of its teams and partners, and also high-level technical platforms, in France and in partner countries. Research activity is closely linked to the priority issues of global health and the impact of global changes (climatic, demographic, environmental and societal). It also takes into account the necessary overhaul

of health systems and their financing, as well as the challenges posed by new health threats or phenomena such as resistance to anti-infectives and insecticides. This is fully in line with France's global health strategy and pursues a single-health approach that involves robust multidisciplinary interaction.

## A rich community

IRD employs 851 researchers and 1,199 engineers and technicians, with over 7,000 in the IRD community overall. The scientific institution has 72 research units, and 29 per cent of IRD agents work outside of mainland France. In 2017 IRD researchers published 1,429 articles in the Web of Science and 62 per cent of co-publications were published together with a partner in the south.

## RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**Headquarters:** Marseille  
**No. of employees:** 2,050  
**Main task:** Research in scientific partnership with countries in the

Mediterranean and intertropical area  
**Annual budget:** €250 million  
**Website:** [www.ird.fr](http://www.ird.fr)

# Anticipate, understand and act



**Jean-Claude Desenclos**  
Scientific Director at  
Santé publique France.

*The French Public Health Agency supports the government and society in improving the health and well-being of the population.*

**T**he French Public Health Agency (Santé publique France) is a public administrative body placed under the French Ministry of Health. It was established in April 2016 on the basis of the health system modernisation law, resulting from the merger of four organisations. These were:

- French Institute for Public Health Surveillance (InVS)
- French Institute for Health Promotion and Health Education (Inpes)
- Establishment for Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (Eprus)
- Adalis, an information service for addiction prevention, drugs and alcohol.

'Santé publique France is a science-based institution and a national centre for public health with two main orientations: health protection (health security) and health improvement at population level,' explains *Jean-Claude Desenclos*, Scientific Director at Santé publique France. The French Public Health Agency has the following responsibilities:

- Monitoring the health status of people in France
- Analysing up-to-date knowledge and data on the determinants of health and risk factors
- Providing decision makers at all levels with independent evidence-based guidance and recommendations, with support from expert committees
- Proposing measures to health authorities to protect the population from health hazards and risks



- Developing and disseminating evidence-based interventions for prevention and health promotion
- Contributing to preparedness and management of health crises, and providing support for the implementation of response plans.

The agency operates regional units throughout the national territory, including overseas territories, and works to inform and advise Regional Health Agencies (RHAs) for the management of risks to public health decisions and for implementation of regional prevention plans. Jean-Claude Desenclos describes the important basic principles of

the work at Santé publique France: 'We are committed to using the best evidence to support health policies and therefore work closely with decision makers. In doing this we pay particular attention to the reduction of social and regional health inequalities and to the concept of Health in All Policies.' The agency aims to respond promptly to health threats and also to document the health status of the population over the long term and on a continual basis. Jean-Claude Desenclos: 'In a nutshell, our work for better health of the population can be summarised as follows: anticipate, understand and act in the interests of public health.'

## FRENCH PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY

**Headquarters:** Saint Maurice

**No. of employees:** 625

**Main task:** Protecting and improving the health of the population

**Annual budget:** almost €200 million

**Website:** [www.santepubliquefrance.fr](http://www.santepubliquefrance.fr)

# Research for better health

*Inserm is an organisation dedicated to biological and medical research as well as human health. Its public health institute IReSP is a unique organisation that aims to develop French public health research.*

**F**ounded in 1964, the Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale (Inserm) is dedicated to biomedical research and human health, and is involved in the entire range of activities from laboratory work to population health. This public scientific and technological institute operates under the joint authority of the French Ministries of Health and Research. It has also established partnerships with the most prestigious research institutions in the world that are committed to scientific challenges and progress in these fields.



Inserm plays a major role in coordinating health research. With 13 regional offices and 9 thematic institutes, Inserm brings together 8,000 collaborators, researchers, engineers, technicians and administrative staff, plus 5,000 MDs affiliated in laboratories, universities and hospitals. Inserm has always worked closely with other health institutions for a common objective: to improve the health of all by advancing knowledge of life and disease, innovation in treatment, and public health research.

## Two Nobel prizes

Inserm researchers have been awarded the

Nobel Prize on two occasions (1908 *Jean Dausset* and 2008 *Françoise Barré-Sinoussi*), and employees have received the Lasker Award three times: 1989 *Etienne-Emile Baulieu*, 2004 *Pierre Chambon* and 2014 *Alim-Louis Benabid*. With nearly 12,000 publications a year, Inserm is the leading European academic biomedical research institution, and the second in the world after the National Institutes of Health.

Inserm's public health institute seeks to facilitate and coordinate the work of research teams that are focussed on public health

and clinical research: sponsoring activities for clinical trials, providing scientific expertise for decision makers, and supporting research tools in public health (cohorts and registers), all of which facilitate the use of data in medical research.

## A unique structure

The Institut de Recherche en Santé Publique (IReSP) is a unique organisation that aims to develop and promote French public health research. This group brings together 22 partners (research organisations such as Inserm, among others, as well as public health agencies, ministries and health insurance funds) in collaboration that respects the autonomy of institutions involved, to pool decision-making expertise and support public health research. To support these objectives, IReSP manages calls for proposals in public health research, organises working groups to structure and develop fields of research, builds resources and tools for public health research, and organises events that promote public health research.

## INSERM AND IRESP

**Headquarters:** Paris  
**Inserm CEO:** Gilles Bloch  
**Public Health institute and IReSP director:** Corinne Alberti  
**No. of employees:** 15,000  
**Main task:** Biological and medical research  
**Annual budget:** €912.56 million  
**Websites:** [www.inserm.fr](http://www.inserm.fr) and [www.iresp.net](http://www.iresp.net)





# In the service of national public health and solidarity

*French national health insurance provides long-term health protection for more than 60 million persons.*

**T**he French health system is regarded as one of the best and most inclusive in the world. French national health insurance (L'Assurance Maladie) has played a central role since 1945. This institution has the responsibility of preserving, restoring and improving the health of insured persons in the areas of sickness, maternity and occupational injuries.

## Long-term health protection

French national health insurance provides protection over the long term. Specifically, this means that more than 60 million insured persons are given advice and support throughout their lives, regardless of their personal resources, situation, or health condition. Universal access to health and care services is enabled and guaranteed, with the excess paid by patients remaining stable at one of the lowest levels worldwide.

The French health system is now facing new developments. There are numerous challenges, including the growing proportion of older people in the total population, the increase in chronic diseases, and financing new therapies. All these changes must be anticipated and supervised in order to be able to continue offering a high level of care and social security. L'Assurance Maladie makes a key contribution towards mastering these new challenges and continuing to enable good access to comprehensive healthcare for all insured persons – specifically those who need it the most.



## Focus on prevention

French national health insurance is also actively involved in prevention, for example with regard to vaccinations, the early detection of cancer, healthy lifestyles and addiction prevention. Case management and supervision is offered for people who are chronically ill, new mothers, and hospital patients, for example. Finally, L'Assurance Maladie also contributes towards supporting the development of best practice models for health professionals, and it works together with these professionals to maintain and improve the quality of treatment.

## Analysis and evaluation

All these activities are based on analysis and evaluation that is prepared by statistical and medical experts and the entire French national health insurance network using the national health data system, one of the biggest such information systems in Europe which is managed by L'Assurance Maladie. It also supplies the data for a report published each year by the French national health insurance with recommendations for the government and parliament outlining how the quality and efficiency of healthcare can be improved and how costs can be optimised.

## FRENCH NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE

**Headquarters:** Paris

**No. of employees:** More than 80,000

**Main task:** Health protection for all insured persons

**Annual budget:** €161.6 billion for reimbursed services in 2018

**Website:** assurance-maladie.ameli.fr





**Franck Chauvin**  
President of the High Council for Public Health.

# Quick, independent and multidisciplinary

*The High Council for Public Health in France consists of renowned experts from a wide variety of disciplines and assists France's leading decision makers in the field of public health.*

The French High Council for Public Health (Haut Conseil de la Santé publique – HCSP) comprises renowned, independent experts from highly diverse disciplines, ranging from doctors and economists to chemists, engineers and sociologists. Its main task is to assist with decision-making in the field of public health. It prepares reports and especially submits recommendations to decision-makers at the Ministry of Health. However, the High Council for Public Health can also be consulted by interested ministers in other departments and by the chairpersons of relevant parliament committees on any matter relating to prevention, health security and the performance of the health system. It is actually involved in all areas of public health, from emerging infectious diseases, to the environmental impact on health, chronic diseases and the organisation of the health system.

## A long tradition

Although a law from 2004 forms the basis of the HCSP in its current form, it looks back on a long tradition: it succeeded the 'Conseil supérieur d'hygiène publique de France', which had existed since 1848, and the 'Haut Comité de la santé publique', which had been created in 1991. The law dated 26 January 2016 on the modernisation of the French health system sets out

'The HCSP provides public authorities with forward-looking thinking.'

FRANCK CHAUVIN,  
PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH HIGH COUNCIL FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

its current missions. These particularly include contributions:

- to the development, annual monitoring and multiannual evaluation of the French National Health Strategy (which can be accessed at [solidarites-sante.gouv.fr](http://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr))
- and to the development of a comprehensive and concerted child health policy.

## Forward-looking thinking

'The HCSP provides public authorities with forward-looking thinking and, owing to its multidisciplinary expertise, it has a broad approach to the problems that need to be treated,' emphasises *Franck Chauvin*, who is a cancer prevention specialist and has been President of the High Council for Public Health since April 2017. HCSP is composed of 79 qualified persons and 21 representatives of administrations and health agencies. It is organised in 4 specialised committees that focus on the topics of infectious diseases, chronic diseases, the environmental impact on health, and also the health system and patient safety. 'Our biggest strengths include our structure and our established working process, but also the fact that we are able to respond so quickly to the need for clarification on urgent issues – for example, in the case of issues related to emerging infectious diseases,' summarises Franck Chauvin.

## HIGH COUNCIL FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

**Headquarters:** Paris  
**No. of employees:** 12  
**Main task:** Assistance with decision-making in the field of public health  
**Annual budget:** €350,000 (without staff salaries)  
**Website:** [www.hcsp.fr](http://www.hcsp.fr)

# Protecting the population

*The French Nuclear Safety Authority is responsible for regulating civil nuclear activities.*



**Isabelle Nicoulet:** 'In public health, ASN works on three main topics: regulations, medical inspections and information.'

**T**he French Nuclear Safety Authority (Autorité de sûreté nucléaire – ASN) is an independent administrative authority responsible for regulating civil nuclear activities. ASN was created by the Nuclear Security and Transparency Act of 13 June 2006. On behalf of the state, ASN ensures the oversight of nuclear safety and radiation protection in order to protect workers, patients, the public and the environment. It also contributes to informing citizens.

## Three main topics

Monitoring 58 nuclear reactors is one of ASN's responsibilities, as is contributing to the greatest possible safety in radioactive waste management and nuclear fuel shipments. But what about public health? 'In public health, ASN works on three main topics,' explains *Isabelle Nicoulet*, who is Head of the Office for Ionising Radiation and Health at ASN.

First, medical applications (medical imaging, radiotherapy, etc.) are a safety issue, as they are the main source of exposure of the French population (35 per cent) to ionising radiation. ASN contributes to the drafting of **regulations**, by giving the government its opinion on draft decrees and ministerial orders, or by issuing technical regulatory decisions on radiation protection in this field. Almost 1,000 inspection days were devoted to **medical inspection** in 2018 to ensure that regulations are properly applied. **Information** is another central field of work to promote a culture of radiation protection, encourage experience feedback and the sharing of good practices,



through its website [www.asn.fr](http://www.asn.fr) and publications for medical professionals, such as the newsletter 'Patient safety – Paving the way for progress'.

## A major public health issue

Radon, the second largest source of exposure to ionising radiation for the French population after medical exposures, is a major public health issue given its carcinogenic nature and its strong potentiation with tobacco. This natural radioactive gas is responsible for an estimated 3,000 deaths from lung cancer per year. ASN takes action in collaboration with the

French Ministry of Health to raise public and stakeholder awareness in order to decrease the population's exposure to radon. Last but not least, ASN also plans the responses in the event of nuclear accidents, both preventive – for example, with regard to the distribution of iodine tablets to the people living near nuclear plants – and also for acute cases in times of crisis and post-accident situations. 'ASN anticipates and rises to this challenge with the help of its experts, who transform highly scientific information into very practical and basic responses,' summarises Isabelle Nicoulet.

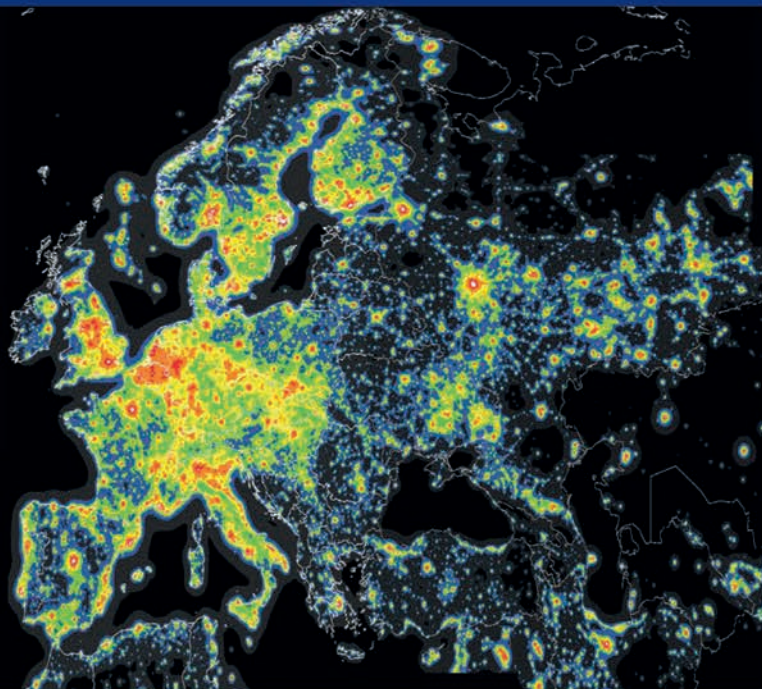
## FRENCH NUCLEAR SAFETY AUTHORITY

**Headquarters:** Montrouge, near Paris  
**Main task:** Regulating nuclear safety and radiation protection  
**No. of employees:** 516 staff members including 318 inspectors, with nearly half

of the staff working in the 11 regional divisions  
**Annual budget:** €84,450,000  
**Website:** [www.asn.fr](http://www.asn.fr)

# THREE MONTHS ACCESS TO THE EJPH

Oxford University Press and the European Public Health Association (EUPHA) are delighted to offer delegates of the EPH Conference – Marseille 2019 – free online access to the European Journal of Public Health until 28 February 2020.



The **European Journal of Public Health** is a bimonthly multidisciplinary journal in the field of public health and provides a forum for discussion and debate of current international public health issues with a focus on the European region. In 2019, the impact factor of the journal is at 2.234. The 5-year impact factor is 3.069.

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