This information on national public-health research structures has been gained from country key informants and internet searches for STEPS (Strengthening Engagement in Public Health Research www.steps-ph.eu), a project funded by the European Commission Seventh Framework Research Programme. It builds on the country profiles and reports from Ministries of Health and Ministries of Science that were created previously for SPHERE (http://www.ucl.ac.uk/public-health/sphere/sphereprofiles.htm).

The organogram shows the structure for managing and providing public-health research from the perspective of financial flows. The main organisations are also briefly described, with their URLs, and other relevant national documents and information on public-health research.

Note: ‘Public-health research’ includes all health research at population, organisation and system level broadly relevant to health and health-care policy and practice. It excludes clinical and laboratory (biomedical) research.

1. Organogram
2. Research Commissioners

- MiRe-DREES, Research mission - Research, studies, evaluation and statistics directorate (Mission de la Recherche, Direction de la recherche, des études, de l'évaluation et des statistiques [http://www.sante-sports.gouv.fr/mission-de-la-recherche-mire.html](http://www.sante-sports.gouv.fr/mission-de-la-recherche-mire.html));
- Afsset (French Agency for Environment and occupational health safety) (at present merged with Afssa in ANSES, the National agency for health, food, environmental and work safety); AFM Association Française contre les Myopathies (French Muscular Dystrophy Association, [http://www.afm-france.org](http://www.afm-france.org));
- Inserm, National institute of health and health research, (Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale, [http://www.inserm.fr/](http://www.inserm.fr/));
- Ministry of Labour; CNSA, National Solidarity Fund for Autonomy (Caisse Nationale de Solidarité pour l'Autonomie, [http://www.cnsa.fr](http://www.cnsa.fr));
- HAS, French National Authority for Health (Haute Autorité de Santé, [http://www.has-sante.fr/](http://www.has-sante.fr/));
- IReSP, French Institute for Public Health Research (Institut de Recherche en Santé Publique, [http://www.iresp.net/](http://www.iresp.net/));
- Paris city council (Mairie de Paris);
- Regional or general councils (Conseils généraux/régionaux);
- French Institute for rare diseases (GIS-Institut des maladies rares, [http://www.institutmaladiesrares.net/](http://www.institutmaladiesrares.net/));
- Private association Sidaction; Wyeth Foundation; CNRS, National centre for scientific research (Centre national de la recherche scientifique, [http://www.cnrs.fr/](http://www.cnrs.fr/));
- MILDT, the Interdepartmental Mission for the fight against drugs and drug addiction (Mission Interministérielle de lutte contre la drogue et la toxicomanie, [http://www.drogues.gouv.fr/](http://www.drogues.gouv.fr/)).

Some additional information is provided in the following paragraphs.

2.1 Ministry of Health

2.1.1. The GIS-IReSP, French Institute for Public Health Research (Groupement d’Intérêt Scientifique, Institut de Recherche en Santé Publique, [http://www.iresp.net/](http://www.iresp.net/)), results form the junction of the IReSP with the Institute of Public Health Research from the INSERM. It funds thematic calls and supports the emergence of public health research groups. The GIS-IReSP has created and maintains a data base ([http://www.iresp.net/index.php?goto=actions&rub=el](http://www.iresp.net/index.php?goto=actions&rub=el)) of all the calls on projects in the domain of public health. It was created in 2003 and is maintained, at present, by the French Society of Public Health (Société Française de Santé Publique).
G-RESP has also created a database on research teams working in the field of public health ([http://www.iresp.net/index.php?goto=actions&rub=el&prjld=1](http://www.iresp.net/index.php?goto=actions&rub=el&prjld=1)). The objectives are to contribute to the construction of a Public health research community and to give visibility

of those teams towards decision makers and funders contributing to the elaboration of a Public Health research policy. 313 teams on 238 laboratories have been identified.

2.1.2. The MiRe-DREES, Research mission - Research, studies, evaluation and statistics directorate (Mission de la Recherche, Direction de la recherche, des études, de l’évaluation et des statistiques http://www.sante-sports.gouv.fr/mission-de-la-recherche-mire.html), under the Ministry of health and sports (http://www.sante-sports.gouv.fr/), alone or in association with other agencies: funds calls, thematic or open (based on the quality of the project) for research teams or individual researchers; commissions research in thematic areas; grants other institutions based on pluriannual objectives’ agreements.

2.1.3. The INC, National Cancer Institute (Institut National du Cancer, http://www.e-cancer.fr/), under the Ministry of Health and Sports, is the national reference in terms of cancer diseases. It produces or promotes production of normative documents and funds research (approximately half of the INC annual budget, 50 millions euro). INC has calls each year: one thematic (some kinds of cancer or certain domains as genetics, quality of life) and one open.

2.2. Ministry of Science
Ministry of High Education and Research, http://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/

2.2.1. The ANR, the French National Research Agency (L’Agence nationale de la recherche, http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/) is a funding agency for research projects. Through the call for proposals, projects are selected based on their scientific quality, as well as on their economic relevance for industries, when applicable. For the year 2007, the ANR had a total available budget of 825 million €for research projects having a maximum duration of four years.

2.3. Other ministries


2.4. Regions

2.5. Foundations

3. Research Performers

3.1. State Institutes

3.1.1. ANSES, the National agency for health, food, environmental and work safety (Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l’alimentation, de l’environnement et du travail http://www.afsset.fr/index.php?pageid=769) was created in July 2010 from the merger of
the Afsset (French Agency for Environment and occupational health safety) and Afssa (French Food Safety Agency). It’s an agency under the ministry of health. This new agency recovers the mission of the two and includes health risk evaluation and research. (Source: http://www.sante.fr/, http://www.afsset.fr/index.php?pageid=1945, assessed in August 2010)

3.1.2. The AFSSAPS, the French agency for health products safety (Agence Française de sécurité sanitaire des produits de santé, http://www.afssaps.fr), under the ministry of health and sports develops surveillance activity on medicines, medical devices, biologic products and also cosmetics.

3.1.3. InVS, The French Institute for Public Health Surveillance (Institut de veille sanitaire, http://www.invs.sante.fr/), a governmental institution reporting to the Ministry of Health, is responsible for surveillance and alert in all domains of public health. InVS responsibilities include continuous monitoring of the population’s health status and health surveillance. The IVS is composed of five scientific departments: infectious diseases, environmental health, occupational health, chronic diseases and injuries, international and tropical diseases. In 2008, InVS has a budget of 58.2 million Euros and a staff of 384, mainly epidemiologists from various health disciplines and information sciences.

3.1.4. The IRSN, Institute of radioprotection and nuclear safety (Institut de radioprotection et de sûreté nucléaire, http://www.irsn.fr/) is placed under the the joint authority of the Ministry for Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Town and Country Planning, the Ministry for the Economy, Industry and Employment, the Ministry for Higher Education and Research, the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry for Health and Sports. IRSN is the nation’s public service expert in nuclear and radiation risks, providing assessments and conducting research to meet the needs of public authorities. The missions of the IRSN include: defining and implementing national and international research programs, contribution to training and teaching in radiation protection, continuous monitoring in the field of radiation protection (contribution on health surveillance in radiation protection) and contributing to public information. (Source: http://www.irsn.fr/EN/Presentation/about_us/Pages/who_are_we.aspx, assessed in September 2010)

3.2. Mixed organizations

3.2.1. Inserm, National institute of health and health research, (Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale, http://www.inserm.fr/) is a public organisation under the dual auspices of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Research. It coordinates all health research thought 10 institutes. One of those Institutes is the Institute of Public Health Research. It funds research on thematic calls and supports research infrastructure. In 2009, Inserm has received, in addition to state subsidies (522.5 M€), contract resources (192.5 M€) allocated by public and private institutions. (Source: http://infop1a2.inserm.fr/qu-est-ce-que-l-inserm/missions-de-l-institut/budget-2009/origine-des-ressources, assessed in March 2010)

3.2.2. The CNRS National centre for scientific research, (Centre national de la recherche scientifique, http://www.cnrs.fr/) is a government-funded research organization, under the administrative authority of France's Ministry of Research. CNRS carries out research in all fields of knowledge, through eight institutes. The Institute of Ecology and Environment works on the scientific field of health and environment. (Source: http://www.cnrs.fr/en/aboutCNRS/overview.htm, assessed in March 2010)
3.3. Universities
The most important research performers in terms of funds are higher education institutions (162), of which 86 universities (as counted by the Mission of Research and Higher Education) and “grandes écoles”.

3.3.1. The EHESP, School of Public Health (École des Hautes Études en Santé Publique, http://www.ehesp.fr/?lang_pref=en) is a public establishment with a dual role of education and research into public health and social welfare. It encourages synergy between the disparate cultures of public health and management. The main fields of research are: environmental risk management; social and welfare policy analysis; health service organization. Although it is not integrated in a University (legally it is designed as a public establishment of cultural, scientific and professional nature) it gives degrees (master and doctorate diplomas) and performs research. The school main source of funding is the ministry of health (although there are contributions from the ministries of education and of research).

3.4. Health Services

3.5. Independent organizations

3.5.1. IRDES’s, Institute for research and documentation in health economics (Institut de Recherche et Documentation en Économie de la Santé, http://www.irdes.fr/EspaceAnglais/home.html) primary mission is to provide high quality research and information for those interested in the future of health care systems. IRDES is a partnership between institutions, for example health funds and state institutes.

4. Research Strategies

4.1. Inserm strategic plan

Notre Stratégie pour les Sciences de la vie et de la santé. Décembre 2009.
This strategic plan is based on an internal and external assessment carried out during 2008. The new challenges identified in health that are addressed in the Inserm strategy are: the aging population with an increase in degenerative diseases and many other diseases related to age (some cancers, cardiovascular, etc.); the transition to chronicity of acute diseases, the increasing incidence of noncommunicable diseases and the negative impact on health of environmental factors; the emergence or re-emergence of infectious diseases; the management of rare diseases and developing treatments; the question of efficiency and fairness of the health system in a context where acceleration of medical innovation increases the need for regulation
(Source: http://www.inserm.fr/qu-est-ce-que-l-inserm/missions-de-l-institut/documents-strategiques, assessed in March 2010)

4.3. CNRS strategic plan

"Horizon 2020": Plan Stratégique du CNRS
(Source: http://www.cnrs.fr/fr/organisme/docs/Plan_Strategique_CNRS_CA_080701.pdf, assessed in March 2010)
In this strategy health is specifically mentioned on Objective 12 “face the challenges of the planet”. It includes infectious diseases control (ecological and population aspects), increased knowledge of diseases associated to societies evolution.

5. Programmes and calls

5.1. The thematic areas that have been supported in 2007-2010, by the GIS-IReSP, French Institute for Public Health Research (Institut de Recherche en Santé Publique) are: health services research, health public policies, health determinants. (Source: http://www.iresp.net/index.php?gote=appel&rub=faq, assessed in March 2010)

5.2. The MiRe-DREES, associated with different institutions opened calls in 2008 on the following themes: health services organization and the relationships between regions and health; health and professional itinerary; mental handicap, autonomy and social life. (Source: http://www.sante-sports.gouv.fr/moyens-d-intervention-de-la-mission-de-la-recherche.html, assessed in March 2010)

5.4. The annual calls for proposals of the ANR, National research agency, are related to themes organised in the following departments: Sustainable Energy and Environment; Sciences and Technologies for Information and Communication; Engineering, Processes and Security; Health – Biology; Ecosystems and sustainable development; Humanities and Social Sciences; Non thematic Programmes. (Source: http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/Intl, assessed in March 2010)

5.5. IRDES research programme 2010-2012 includes the following areas: contributions of primary health care to the health system performance; Performance of hospital’s long term care; pharmaceutical’s regulation; regions and health; health inequalities. (Source: IRDES. Programme de recherche 2010-2012 [IRDES research programme 2010-2012] Fevrier 2010, http://www.idres.fr/EspaceRecherche/ProgRecherche/ProgrammeDeRecherche.pdf, assessed in March 2010)

6. European contacts

6.1 National FP7 Contact point (Health area)¹


¹ Source: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ncp_en.html, assessed in February 2010

6.2. National DGSANCO Contact point

6.2.1. Alexandre de la Volpiliere, Department of European and International Affairs, Ministry of Health, alexandre.de-la-volpiliere@sante.gouv.fr

Source: http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/policy/index_en.htm assessed in February 2010