Rijksinstituut voor Volksgezondheid
en Milieu
*Ministerie van Volksgezondheid,
Welzijn en Sport*

PFAS research program The Netherlands

EFSA Advisory Forum
15 March 2023

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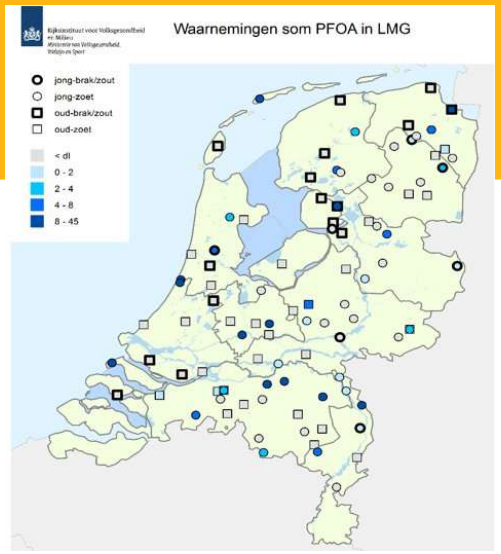
https://supplychaindigital.com/sustainability/pfas-the-forever-chemicals-polluting-our-supply-chains

NL PFAS history



2009

Total diet study PFAS in food, as emerging compounds

2014

UNEP breast milk study, no risks identified

2015

Chemours factory Dordrecht, discovery contamination surroundings including allotments

2018

PFAS in soil and sediment, questions on re-use, development RPF factors.

Focus from hotspots to diffuse contamination.

2019

PFAS in Food contact materials

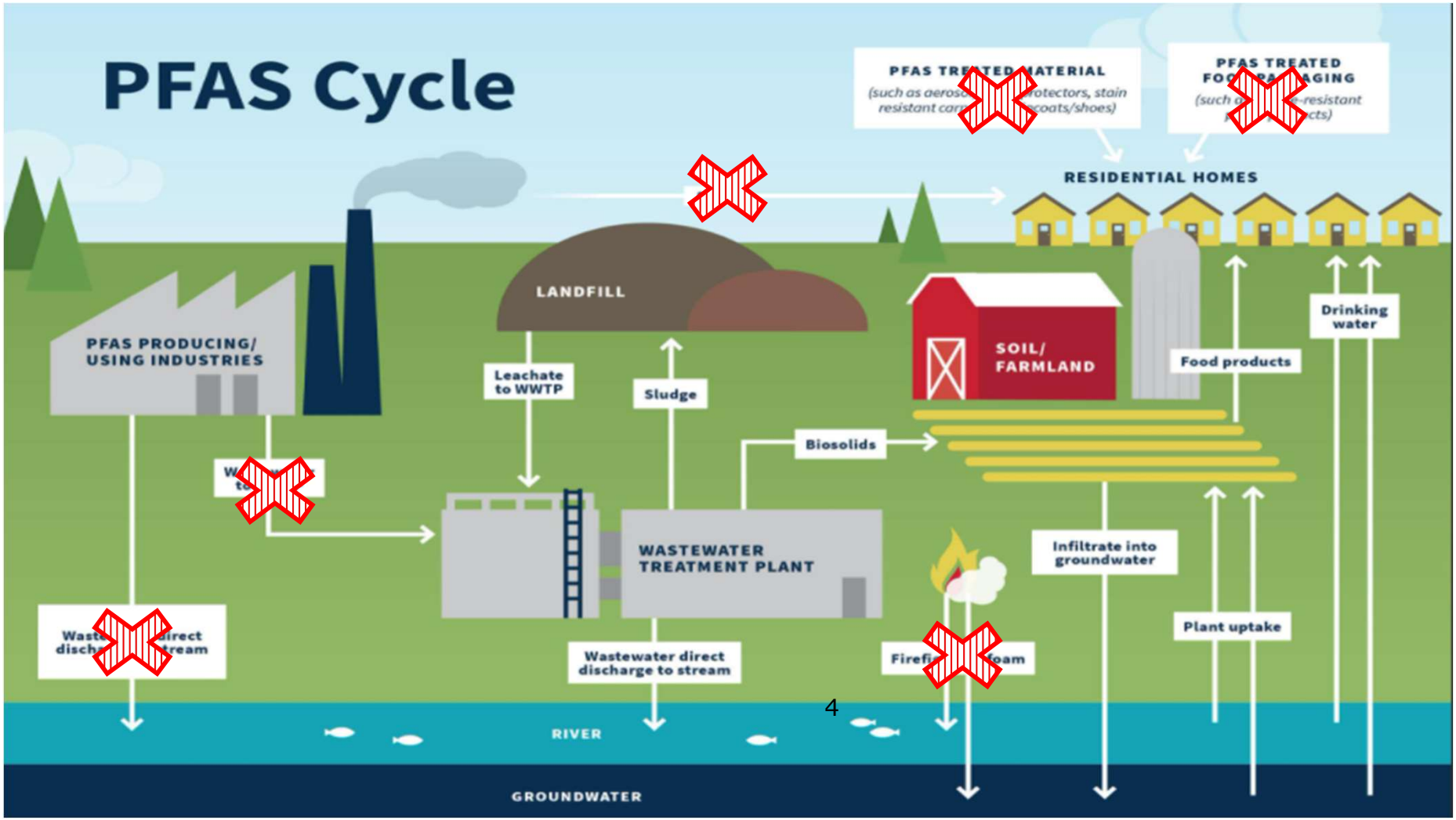
2021

Exposure assessment EFSA-4 in food and drinking water

RIVM risk assessments

Policy framework	Conclusions
Drinking water and food	Combined PFAS exposure from food and drinking water exceeds TWI
Surface water/ biota environmental quality standard	• Water Framework Directive biota (fish) standard based on TWI • Surface water does not comply with proposed standard • NL surface waters not fit for daily consumption of fish
Allotments Dordrecht / Helmond	Risks from high PFAS exposure from consumption allotment vegetables
Recreational pond Berkendonk	PFAS exposure from only swimming in the water does not pose a risk
Swimming in the Westerschelde	PFAS exposure from only swimming in the water does not pose a risk
Products from Westerschelde	Low PFAS levels in common sea-lavender. Limit consumption of self-caught flounder, sea bass, whiting, shrimp, mussels and oysters.

In the meantime…



https://www.enviroforensics.com/blog/what-are-pfas-compounds-and-how-can-we-test-for-them/pfas-cycle/

Need for coordinated approach

- Coherent research establishing current situation PFAS in NL
  - basis for evaluation effective management options

- Joint ownership responsible ministries
  - Infrastructure and Water Management
  - Health, Welfare and Sports
  - Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality

Program starting points

Central question:

How can PFAS exposure in the Netherlands through food, drinking water and living environment be reduced, *in addition to measures already taken*?

- Focus on Dutch population, consider specific areas/specific advice subpopulations
- Collecting knowledge about presence of PFAS in the environment for the sake of protecting people and the environment, distinguishing focus areas
- Wide selection of PFAS, determined by characteristics and presence of individual PFAS, use of Relative Potency Factors.

Program starting points

Starting point: November 3, 2022 Letter of Assignment

Iterative process in phases, subsequent steps determined by the results of the previous steps.

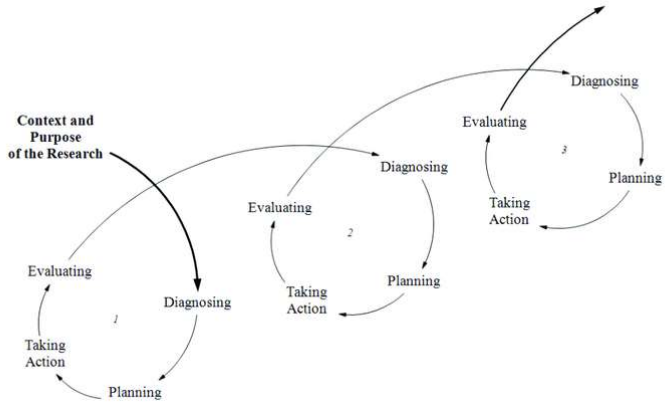
Phase 0: 'Scoping', research design and specification phase 1 (expected to last until mid-2023)

Phase 1: First research phase, determination of phase 2

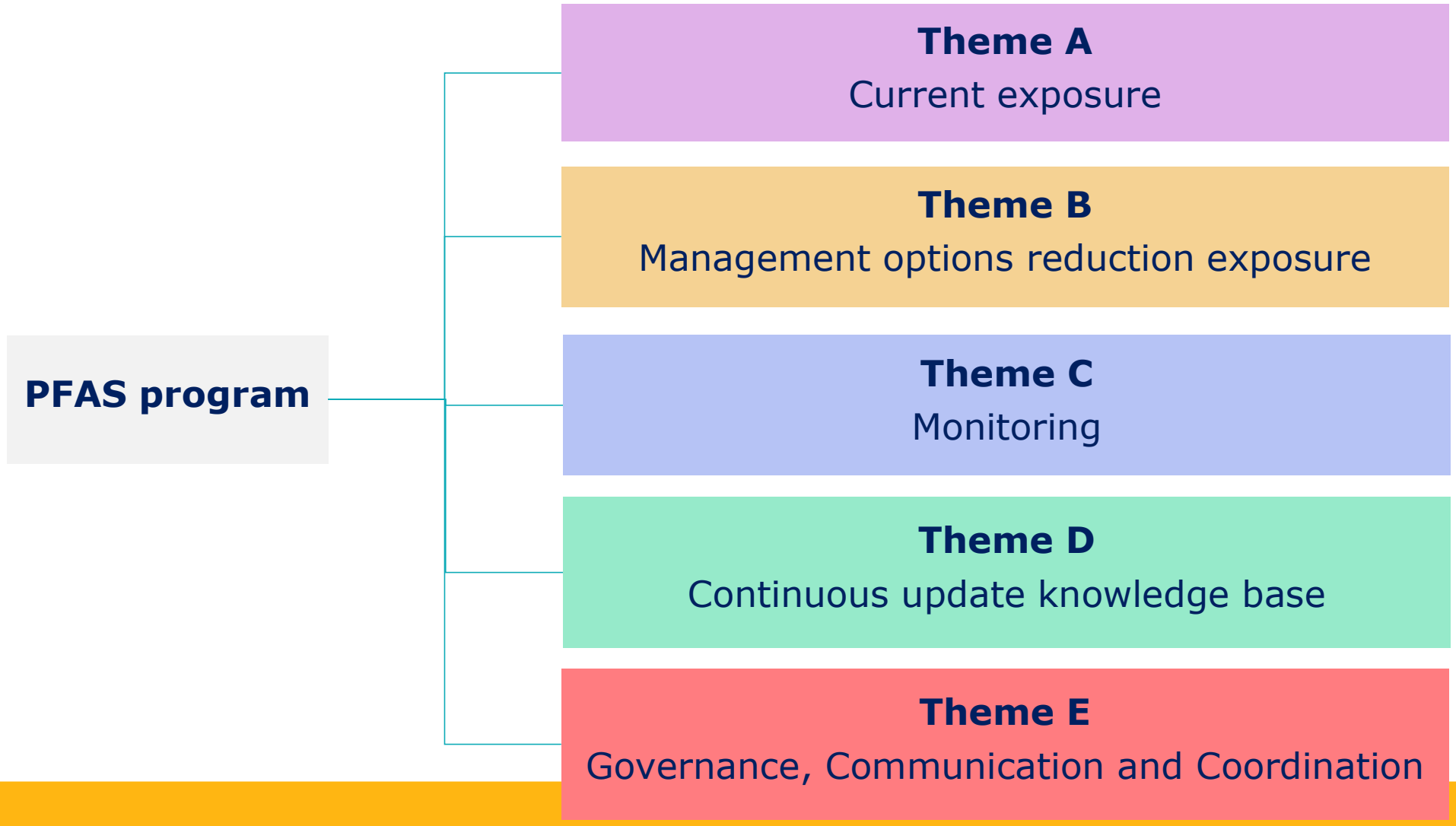
Phase 2: Final research phase,

presentation of research results,

by 31 December 2025



Structure of PFAS program



Content of themes

1. Current exposure information

   Current exposure of the Dutch population via food, drinking water, the environment and other sources. Serves as a starting point for evaluation of the targeted exposure reduction (theme B).

2. Management options exposure reduction

   Insight into additional exposure reduction measures and their cost-effectiveness.

3. Monitoring

   Knowledge about concentrations in environmental compartments and humans provides more insight into the initial situation (theme A) and the effect of implemented measures (long term, theme B).

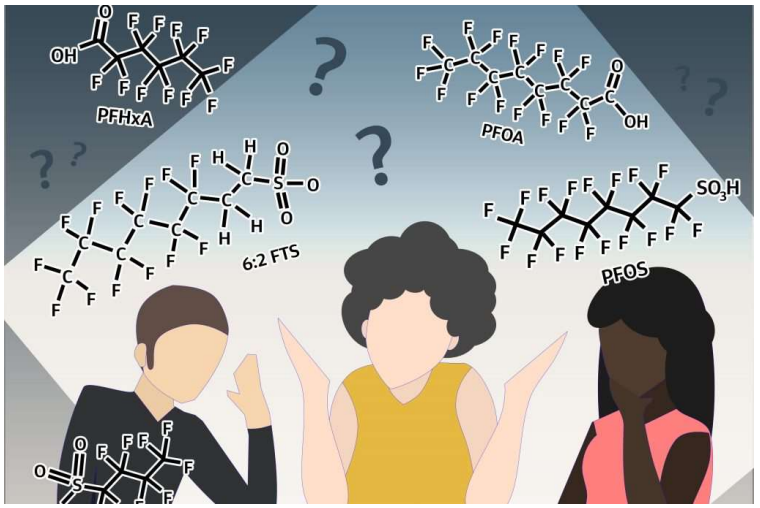
Tasks

D. <u>Continuous update knowledge base</u>

Development of the knowledge base on PFAS to interpret new findings and to conduct the research in this program in line with the applicable scientific standards and insights.

E. <u>Governance, communication and coordination</u>

Coordination of PFAS studies and initiatives. Communication about the design and results of PFAS research. Coordination with relevant partners and stakeholders.



https://www.geplus.co.uk/opinion/persistent-pollutants-25-07-2022/

Theme A
Current exposure

Theme B
Management options reduction exposure

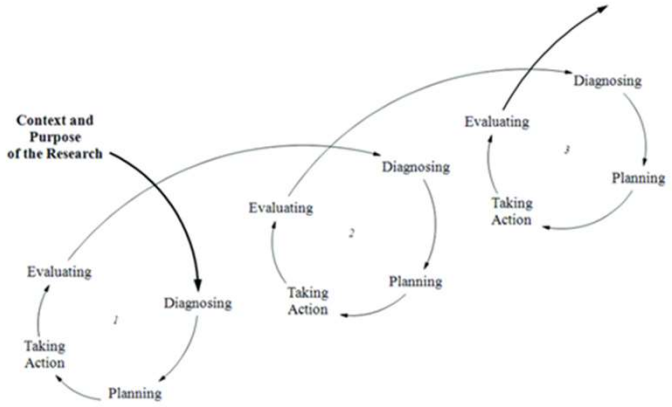
Theme C
Monitoring

Theme D
Continuous update knowledge base

Theme E
Governance, Communication and Coordination

Current steps

- Set up program management
- Recruitment of new colleagues
- Organization stakeholder meeting
- Set up a scientific advisory committee
- Program start-up, start Phase 0



Thank you for your attention!