

Opening up expertise to civil society: Case-study of ANSES

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Access to stakeholders as a core value

Independence, impartiality

A code of conduct and independent committees which stakeholders can solicit, collegial and multidisciplinary scientific panels, prevention of conflicts of interests, public funding, etc.

Transparency

Assessment process, minority opinions, publication of opinions, public declarations of interest, public calls for experts and research projects, etc.



Involving stakeholders governance bodies, dialogue committees, charter, etc.

Excellence/scientific expertise Selection of experts through open calls for applications



A charter to open up expertise to society

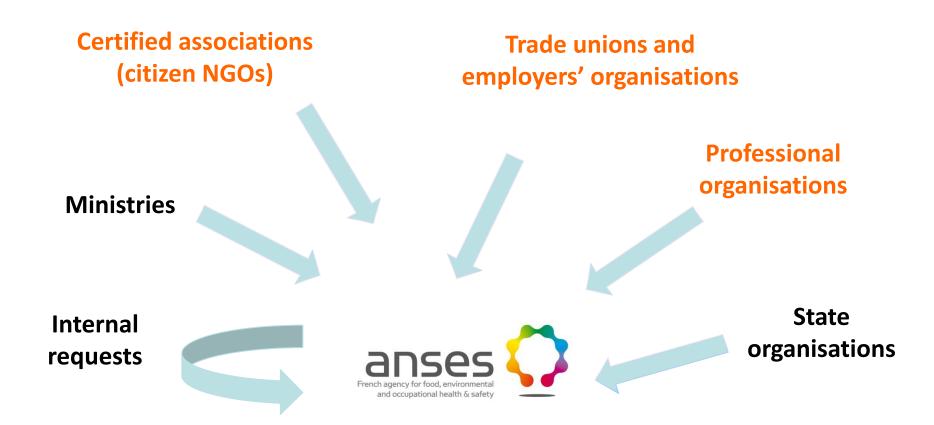
Signed by 7 public organisations (ANSES in 2011) involved in research and environment/h ealth risk assessment

- Improving transparency on the results of expertise and methods used to evaluate risks
- Sharing scientific knowledge and uncertainties (discrepancies, minority positions and controversies)
- Capacity-building among stakeholders
 for a better understanding and possible contribution
 to the assessment procedure
 (information, training, public debate, etc.)





Stakeholders can make requests to ANSES





Focus on some priority stakeholders

- "Citizen" NGOs : environment, patients, consumers, sustainable development, science and society, technologies, etc.
- Professional organisations (classified as industrial federations despite their legal status of not-for-profit NGO registered under the French 1901 law)
- Trade and agricultural unions

- To favor the equity of access to information and reduce the gap of knowledge between stakeholders
- Other interested parties such as Ministries, elected officials or experts are considered as institutional and techno-scientific expertise: difference with the EU approach



Identifying emerging stakeholders through societal watch

- Societal watch of networks and internet sites national, European and international level (mainly Canada and USA)
- Identification of emerging stakeholders and their positions (campaigns, critics, position papers, open letters, petitions....)



A wide range of stakeholders

- ANSES deals with citizen NGOs, trade/agricultural unions and companies (professional organisations) involved in many sectors :
- human health and safety in the fields of environment, work and food
- animal health and welfare and plant protection









Around 74 organizations regularly involved (184 representatives) and plenty of others depending on the subjects



Involvement of stakeholders at various levels

1. Governance bodies:

- Board of Directors
- Thematic steering committees
- 2. Dialogue committees on controversial issues:
- Radiofrequencies
- Nanomaterials
- Pesticides
- 3. Along the risk assessment process:
- Hearings by expert groups
- Feedback events to explain opinions
- Training sessions
- Public consultations



Upstream engagement: hearings before and during the RA process

Expert groups interview stakeholders:

- lay-knowledge, field expertise
- grey literature
- additional papers/studies
- positions and expectations
- societal context
- Framing scope of expertise

Internet Public consultations



Perturbateurs endocriniens

Synthèse et étude des auditions Rapport d'appui scientifique et technique





Exposition aux radiofréquences et santé des enfants

Avis de l'Anses port d'expertise collective



Beyond transparency and risk communication conveying opinions to stakeholders



Risques et bénéfices relatifs des alternatives aux produits phytopharmaceutiques comportant des néonicotinoïdes

Tome 1 – Rapport du groupe de travail Identification des alternatives aux usages autorisés des néonicotinoïdes

Avis de l'Anses Rapport d'expertise collective



Invitation to **feedback meetings**: explaining RA methodology, uncertainties, gaps of knowledge, results and recommendations

Training sessions, etc.

Trustworthiness and capacity-building



Difficulties in keeping up dialogue (for discussion)

- Financial cost : time consuming, dedicated person in charge
- **Burden** on the **expertise process**: ex. dealing with public consultations
- Enquiries and expectancies go further than RA issues
- Challenge in maintaining a serene dialogue between actors with divergent views, no possible consensus



Positive impacts of openness (for discussion)

- Sharing of information and improving equity among stakeholders
- Capacity-building and empowerment: Better understanding of Anses opinions and more accurate conveying of information to the public
- Role in preventing crises and diminishing the degree of controversy
- Increase reach of scientific outputs into the public and trust in opinions produced





Thank you for your attention

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