Outcomes of the European Network on Noise and Health (ENNAH)

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The European Network on Noise and Health has involved 33 partners from 16 countries across Europe. The aim of the network was to decide on new priorities for research on environmental noise and health. The network has involved workpackages reviewing the existing literature to identify gaps where further research is needed; reviewing methods of assessing noise exposure, including noise mapping; and identifying potential confounding and moderating factors in the association of noise and health especially the association of environmental noise, air pollution and health. Additional workpackages have addressed standardised methods for assessing health outcomes, techniques for health impact assessment, and prioritising new research strategies. The network has included partners from Central and East Europe. There has also been an exchange programme of 10 junior researchers between countries. Preliminary research recommendations are that there should be: further large cohort studies on road traffic noise and cardiovascular disease to confirm exposure response relationships; longitudinal studies of environmental noise in school pupils and effects on reading and memory; cohort studies of environmental noise and standardised measures of mental health; community studies of annoyance taking into account exposure modifying factors, and studies of newly emergent noise sources. The network has produced a series of workshop reports assembled into a final report and peer-reviewed papers. The research recommendations provide an intellectual and theoretical platform to guide the further development of calls for noise and health research in Europe and further afield.

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