

PRESS RELEASE

Paris, 16 May 2024

Air quality, dust, noise, light, electromagnetic fields...

ANSES and CSTB launch the Indoor Environment Quality Observatory (OQEI), a new scientific resource centre unique in Europe



The French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES) and the French Scientific and Technical Centre for Building (CSTB) today presented the new Indoor Environment Quality Observatory (OQEI).

The result of cooperation between two major and complementary bodies in the fields of construction and public health, the OQEI aims to promote the health and well-being of building occupants in France.

Initiated under the terms of an agreement co-signed by ANSES and the CSTB, with the ministries in charge of ecology, health and labour, as well as ADEME, the OQEI's objective is to **assess and monitor the quality of air and indoor spaces** — whether public or private — in order to **identify health risks** and **propose effective solutions** to mitigate them.

“Whether at home, in the office or at school..., individuals spend on average 85% of their time in enclosed environments impacted by many biological, physical and chemical factors. It is essential to assess all these parameters in order to control any pollution that may be harmful to health or a source of discomfort. Against a backdrop of climate change, energy efficiency and changes in society, the OQEI aims to play a leading role as a decision-making aid and support tool for public policies” declares CSTB CEO Etienne Crépon.

Successor to the Indoor Air Quality Observatory (OQAI), the scope of the OQEI has been extended to cover all issues affecting the comfort and health of occupants in enclosed environments: **air quality, dust, noise, natural and artificial light, electromagnetic fields, thermal comfort, etc.**

“Previously, the Observatory’s scope was limited to air quality; by extending it to include other essential health risk factors, we are giving ourselves the means to better understand their real overall impact on health, and to expand our knowledge of the exposome, i.e. the combination of all an individual’s exposures throughout his or her life, in order to better protect the health of our fellow citizens”, adds ANSES Director General Benoît Vallet.

The OQEI's scope, missions and cross-disciplinary approach, as well as its commitment to making the results of its work fully available, make it **a scientific resource centre that is a unique benchmark in Europe.**

Drawing on a network of scientific and operational partners, the Observatory aims to collect, collate and produce reliable and consistent data and knowledge based on existing databases and studies, or by setting up specific national measurement campaigns.

Its work will be made available to the **scientific community, public and local authorities, professionals and the general public** via a website, public digital platforms and thematic newsletters.

The OQEI's initial structural projects will focus on:

- setting up a scientific resource centre to make available the data and lessons learned from national housing campaigns;
- identifying priority campaigns on the quality of indoor environments and, more specifically, their annual roll-out;
- using data from previous campaigns, such as the second national "Housing" campaign;
- carrying out an indoor air quality measurement campaign dedicated to a specific theme.

By documenting people's exposure to risk factors in conjunction with health risk assessments, the OQEI will be able to highlight new issues and therefore anticipate the resulting health risks.

About ANSES:





The French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES) provides public decision-makers with the scientific benchmarks needed to protect humans and the environment from health risks. It studies, assesses and monitors all the chemical, microbiological and physical risks to which humans, animals and plants are exposed, thereby helping the public authorities take the necessary measures, including in the event of a health crisis. A national agency working in the public interest, ANSES comes under the responsibility of the French Ministries of Health, the Environment, Agriculture, Labour and Consumer Affairs.

ANSES press liaison: +33 (1) 49 77 13 77 – +33 (1) 49 77 22 26 – +33 (1) 49 77 28 20 – presse@anses.fr

About the CSTB:

As a public industrial and commercial entity (EPIC), the CSTB's goal is to imagine and shed light on the different possibilities for tomorrow's buildings and towns, while creating the confidence needed to succeed in renovation and construction projects. Its overarching aim is to improve the quality of life for future users. To this end, it has three main missions that support public policies and assist players in the building and urban environment sectors:

- Creating and structuring scientific and technical knowledge to support the construction and urban sector in its transitions;
- Supporting innovation and the transformation of the building and urban ecosystem;
- Capitalising on the performance of construction products and systems so that the market can integrate environmental, social and digital transitions.

www.cstb.fr    

Press liaison: Le Bonheur est dans la Com' - Ingrid Launay-Cotrebil - +33 (1) 60 36 22 12 - launay@bcomrp.com