

2019



**WHO CHEMICAL RISK  
ASSESSMENT NETWORK  
WORKSHOP** on Identification of Emerging Risks  
to Human Health from Chemicals

**SAVE THE DATE**

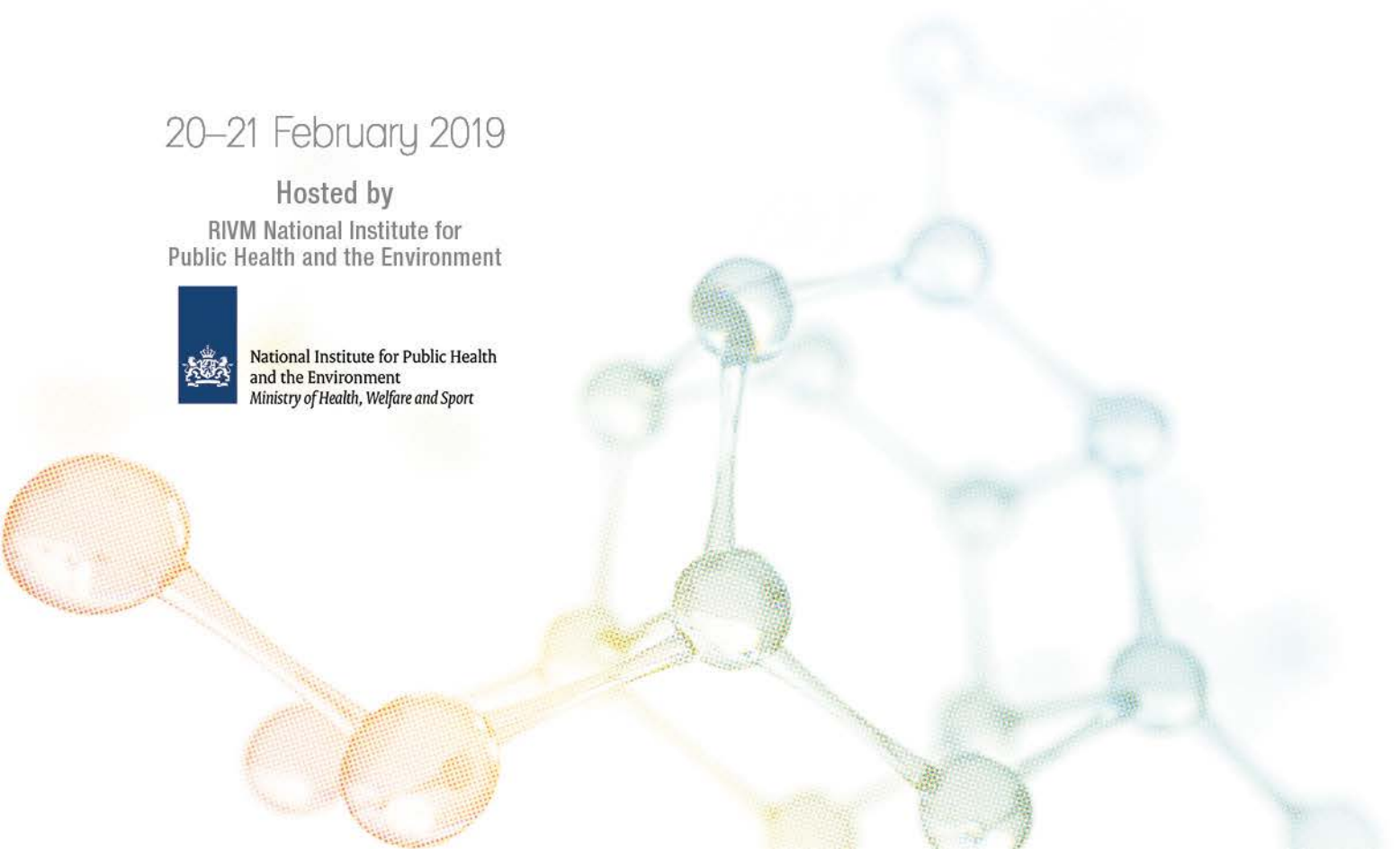
20–21 February 2019

Hosted by

RIVM National Institute for  
Public Health and the Environment



National Institute for Public Health  
and the Environment  
*Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport*



# MEETING BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW

## Background

The overall objective of the WHO Chemical Risk Assessment Network is to improve chemical risk assessment globally through fostering and facilitating interaction between institutions on chemical risk assessment issues and activities. One specific objective of the Network in the field of chemical risk assessment is to assist in the identification (signaling) of emerging risks to human health from chemicals.

There are two parallel and complementary approaches that may be used to identify emerging issues:

- A proactive approach: this requires 'brain storming' sessions to identify the emerging issues of principal concern followed by the introduction of procedures to detect and characterize their development.
- A more reactive approach based on the identification of indicators of change and the monitoring of these to detect emerging issues.

Both approaches require the participation of both scientists and stakeholders across the globe.

## Scope

In the context of this workshop, the identification of emerging risks is limited to chemicals, chemical technology and risks to human health. The emerging risk should obey the criteria of the definition below: new hazard, new or increased exposure, new or increased susceptibility. For example, pharmacovigilance is out of scope for this workshop, but novel psychoactive substances are in scope.

## Proposed definitions

### *Emerging issue:*

An issue that has very recently been identified and for which the available data base to conduct a risk assessment is very limited.

### *Emerging risk:*


An emerging risk refers to an effect resulting from a newly identified hazard to which an exposure may occur or from new or increased exposure and/or susceptibility to a known hazard.

### *Signals/signaling:*

Tools, methods, or processes used for the identification of emerging issues and risks pertaining to actual or potential chemical hazards.

## Next steps

An international workshop on this topic is planned for 20–21 February 2019 to bring together institutions with expertise in and expert knowledge of methodologies and systems for the identification of emerging risks to human health from chemicals. A mapping of existing methodologies and systems is to be conducted prior to the workshop in order to inform workshop discussions on possible Network activities in this field. A number of methodologies and systems exist, for example in the Americas, and in the European Union, but they require identification and sharing through a mapping exercise. This mapping exercise will include, developing country information if possible and will cover sectors to be identified by the Organizing Committee of the Network workshop. The mapping report will provide the basis for discussions at the workshop.



## Objectives of the workshop

The objectives of the workshop are to:

1. Consider the WHO report on methodologies and systems for the identification of emerging risks to human health from chemicals as well as share experiences in implementing systems.
2. Assess whether the identified systems are adequate for the purpose of identification of emerging risks to human health from chemicals
3. Propose an operational definition of emerging risks for future work of the Network
4. Identify possible collaboration activities for Network participants to take forward in the future.
5. Discuss ways to make the identification of emerging risks of chemicals and the process of knowledge and expertise exchange more efficient

## Details of the workshop

The workshop will be hosted 20-21 February 2019 by RIVM and will be held in Bilthoven, Netherlands.

## WHO Chemical Risk Assessment Network Workshop on Identifying Emerging Risks From Chemicals

Tuesday, 19 Feb 2019

Evening Welcome Event in Utrecht sponsored by RIVM

Day 1, Wednesday, 20 Feb 2019

*Wednesday Overall Topic: "Understanding the scope and ongoing work"*

- Clarification of meeting goals and scope
- Keynote, Lya Hernandez "Methodologies for the identification of new or emerging risks, definitions and scoping"
- Presentation of the results of the mapping exercise and survey
- Examples and scoping of the afternoon discussion
- Working Groups on signalling methodology

Day 2, Thursday, 21 Feb 2019

*Thursday Overall topic: "How can the Network add value to identifying emerging risks from chemicals?"*

Keynote: Theo Vermeire "The role of the Network in identifying emerging risks"

Example of a successful Network for the identification of emerging risks

Working Groups on the Future work and role of network.

- Discuss what is or is not feasible
- Suggest possible future activities:
  - Issues around data protection
  - Risk communication
  - Issues around publishing in the scientific literature