

Scientific Board of Santé Publique France, the National Public Health Agency Complementary Call for Applications

Santé publique France is launching a call for applications for its Scientific Board in the domain of environmental health and health impacts of climate change
(2021-2024)

Santé publique France, the national public health agency seeks an additional member for its scientific board in the area of environmental health, an expertise related to the impact of climate change on population's health would be an asset. .

Application procedure

The application (in French or English) must include:

- A cover letter which should state the applicant's work and home address, e-mail address and mobile phone number¹.
- A curriculum vitae.
- A list of work/publications connected with the missions/activities of a public health agency.
- A public declaration of interests (PDI) to be completed on the DPI SANTE government gateway accessible at:
<https://dpi-declaration.sante.gouv.fr/dpi-webapp/app/candidature/index>

Non-French-speaking applicants will be contacted by the Agency to help them complete their PDI.

The application must be submitted before 16 February 2021 to the following address:
candidaturescs@santepubliquefrance.fr

Application selection procedure

Only complete applications will be examined.

Since the Agency is dedicated to the health of the whole nation, at all stages of life, it strives to ensure that its governance bodies, through their composition and their members' experience, are able to fully apprehend all of these situations.

Applicants will be selected by a panel appointed by the Agency, following an assessment of the information provided in the cover letter, the applicants' suitability in line with the skills sought, and the declaration of interests. The panel will ensure that the essential skills required in order for the Scientific Board to fully exercise its missions are brought to the Board, and that parity and diversity are considered during the applicant selection process.

The declarations of interests will be examined by Santé publique France's Internal Ethics Committee.

Applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application's examination by an e-mail from the Scientific Board's secretariat once the Scientific Board's composition has been approved by the Board of Directors (in the last quarter of 2020).

Members will be appointed for four years.

¹ Compulsory for authentication on the DPI SANTE public declaration of interests government gateway.

Missions of Santé publique France

To learn more about the missions of Santé publique France, visit: <https://www.santepubliquefrance.fr/Sante-publique-France/Qui-sommes-nous/Missions-et-actions>.

Missions and activities of the Scientific Board

The Scientific Board's missions are to²:

1. Provide an opinion on the Agency's research, assessment and study approaches and its programming and scientific partnership policy.
2. Support the Agency's management with drafting call for proposals procedures.
3. Validate and supervise the evaluation process for the Agency's scientific activity and, on the basis of the results obtained, issue recommendations to the management.
4. Provide an opinion on the need to create expert committees.

It supports the Agency in its mission of contributing to the drafting and implementation of national and European public health policies. It may, on its own initiative, formulate observations and recommendations on any scientific or technical matter that falls within the establishment's remit. These are then transmitted to the director general and the chair of the Board of Directors.

It drafts an annual report on the scientific and technical aspects of the Agency's activity. This report is transmitted to the Board of Directors and the Directorate of Health (French Ministry of Solidarities and Health).

The Scientific Board is required to formulate opinions and recommendations on (non-exhaustive list):

- The performance contract and its implementation.
- The annual work programme and strategic guidelines.
- The various programmes implemented in the areas of alerts, health emergency response and preparedness, and the surveillance, prevention and promotion of health, including communications.
- The Agency's methods of interaction with the research partners.
- The assessment process implemented by the Agency.
- The lessons learned by the Agency from evaluations and external audits when quality and scientific priorities are concerned.
- The various strategies of the Agency when a scientific component must be considered.
- Any subject it considers relevant, particularly with regard to emerging subjects (scientific, health, societal).

At the request of the Directorate of Health or the Board of Directors, the Scientific Board may also conduct appraisals of the Agency's divisions or programmes.

Composition of the Scientific Board³

The Scientific Board has twenty-seven members, including its chair, at least four of which are working or have worked abroad or in European or international organisations. The Agency intends to open up its Scientific Board internationally.

The members are appointed at the proposal of the director general for a term of four years, which may be renewed by decision of the chair of the Board of Directors, following the latter's approval of the list of members. They are selected among scientists qualified in the Agency's fields of expertise and are recruited following a call for applications, once an assessment of their professional career and declarations of interests has been carried out, pursuant to the provisions set out in article L. 1451-1.

² Decree no. 2016-523 of 27 April 2016 on the creation of the National Public Health Agency: <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/eli/decret/2016/4/27/2016-523/jo/texte>

³ The current composition of the Scientific Board (2016-2020) can be accessed at: <https://www.santepubliquefrance.fr/Sante-publique-France/Deontologie-et-ethique/DPI/Instances-de-gouvernance/Conseil-scientifique>

The Scientific Board members' functions are incompatible with membership to one of the Agency's other bodies or with any contractual relationship with it.

The chair of the Scientific Board is appointed from among its members by order of the minister of health, after consultation with the Scientific Board.

Should a seat become vacant, irrespective of the reason, a new member shall be appointed under the same conditions for the remainder of that person's term of office.

The Scientific Board may seek the assistance of any qualified person.

Multidisciplinary skills and professional experience sought

The objective is to recruit people whose skills and experience enable the Scientific Board to perform a collective and comprehensive analysis of the Agency's scientific policy, to examine how it implements all of its missions based on the best scientific information available, and to perform a more specific analysis of its various programmes.

The Agency's multi-year programme (2018-2022) currently comprises 28 programmes covering five areas: Health determinants, Populations, Pathologies, Interventions and regional action, and Infrastructures⁴. The work programme will evolve considerably in 2021 to incorporate the Agency's priorities, which are climate change, social and regional inequalities, digital development, the economic and social evaluation of interventions to improve the populations' health, and health threat response preparedness.

In light of the Agency's missions, the Scientific Board members are expected to possess:

- Established and recognised scientific skills.
- The ability to adopt the scientific strategy of a public health agency dedicated to the population-based approach and the scientific and operational challenges of the programmes it develops in the areas of surveillance, health alerts, prevention, health promotion, and health crisis response and preparedness.
- Excellent knowledge and understanding of the national, regional and international challenges and stakeholders concerning the protection of the populations' health status, improvement of the populations' health status, and strengthening of public health systems and services.

By this call for application, Santé publique France, the national public health agency seeks an additional member for its scientific board in the area of environmental health, an expertise related to the impact of climate change on population's health would be an asset.

It is expected that applicants will have experience (work and publications) in one or more of the following areas :

- Experience producing knowledge, evidence, indicators for the design, implementation and evaluation of interventions and public policies aiming at population health improvement.
- Experience designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating surveillance and alert systems.
- Experience providing scientific support to decision makers regarding response planning and response evaluation
- Experience in the translation and transfer of knowledge and evidence to support decision making

Operations and workload

Operations

The Scientific Board is convened by its chair, or at the request of the director general, or on the justified

⁴ <https://www.santepubliquefrance.fr/docs/strategy-2022>

initiative of at least one third of its members, or at the request of the Board of Directors. It meets at plenary sessions at least three times a year either in person or via web conferences.

The agendas are prepared jointly by the chair of the Scientific Board, the Scientific Director assistant to the director general and the Scientific Board's secretariat.

The reports of the Scientific Board's meetings and the annual activity report are prepared by the Scientific Board's secretariat and subsequently approved by the Scientific Board.

The Scientific Board writes up its opinions and recommendations without the involvement of the Scientific Board's secretariat. This is also the case with programme and division appraisal reports, and any evaluation reports requested by the Agency.

Working language

The Scientific Board's working language will be adapted to the Scientific Board's composition (French and/or English).

Workload for the members

To ensure optimum work, the Scientific Board generally meets in person three times a year (two 2-day meetings, one 1-day meeting). Ad-hoc meetings via web conferences are organised when necessary.

The Scientific Board sets up working groups to carry out specific activities (evaluation of programmes, examination of the work programme, etc.).

Roles and additional workload of the chair of the Scientific Board

The chair of the Scientific Board is a member of the Agency's Management Board with no voting rights . The Management Board meets usually three times a year.

The chair presents the annual activity report to the Management Board. The chair may be invited to meetings of the Ethics and Professional Conduct Committee or the Orientation and Dialogue Committee to maintain links with these bodies.

The chair is an ex officio member of the Anses⁵ Scientific Board for which he/she may appoint a representative.

His/her workload is estimated at 10 to 12 days a year.

Payment and expenses

Travel and accommodation expenses are reimbursed according to the conditions provided for State civilian personnel.

Compensation for loss of earnings for independent professions and compensation for time spent at meetings and for work carried out shall be paid according to the grid established by Santé publique France's Management Board.

⁵ Anses : French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety