

GA²LEN

Global Allergy and Asthma European Network

- EU funded FP6 network of excellence -

Consortium of 27 partners + EAACI + EFA, with the objective to :

- enhance the quality and relevance of research in allergic diseases
- coordinate and integrate the existing, fragmented European data
- incorporate patients views in research policies
- spread knowledge to all interested parties and develop new diagnostic & prevention strategies.

Why should allergic diseases be addressed in the Environment & Health research area ?

- Allergy and asthma are constantly and rapidly increasing in Europe.
 - It poses an important economic and social burden for the society.
- The reasons for this rise remain partly unclear but epidemiological evidence indicates that it has been driven by changes in the environment.

Environmental factors related to the rise of allergic diseases

- Allergy and asthma are complex diseases resulting from exposure of genetically susceptible individuals to environmental triggers.
 - Interactions between genes and environment should be further studied.
- Children are very vulnerable: 1 child in 3 is allergic today in Europe.

Environmental factors related to the rise of allergic diseases

- Indoor and outdoor pollution play an important role and aggravate the allergy symptoms.
- There are emerging risks like climate changes. The variability of environmental exposure across Europe requires more research studies to be carried out.