

EU Research on Endocrine Disruptors

Endocrine disrupting chemicals, or shortly, endocrine disruptors or EDCs, are exogenous chemicals that interfere with the endocrine (hormone) system and may produce adverse health effects in both humans and wildlife.

Different substances found in everyday products are proven or suspected to cause endocrine disruption. To support EU chemical policies and to address increasing public concern, the **European Union's Research and Innovation Framework Programmes** have dedicated in the past three decades significant funding to research on understanding the potential environmental and health risks of EDCs.

Up to present, over **€150 million** has been invested in research projects on EDCs. The projects have aimed at better understanding the mechanisms of action of these chemicals and their adverse effects on human health and wildlife, at developing tools to identify chemicals as EDCs or at monitoring people's exposures. Beyond these EDC related projects, many more research initiatives have been funded to increase the knowledge on the safety of chemicals to which humans and the environment are exposed. For example, the research carried out under the **PROTECTED** Innovative Training Network is improving our capacities to detect EDCs, while **EDC-MIXRISK** has advanced our knowledge on how EDCs can interact to exert their effects on humans, thus paving way for protective health measures.

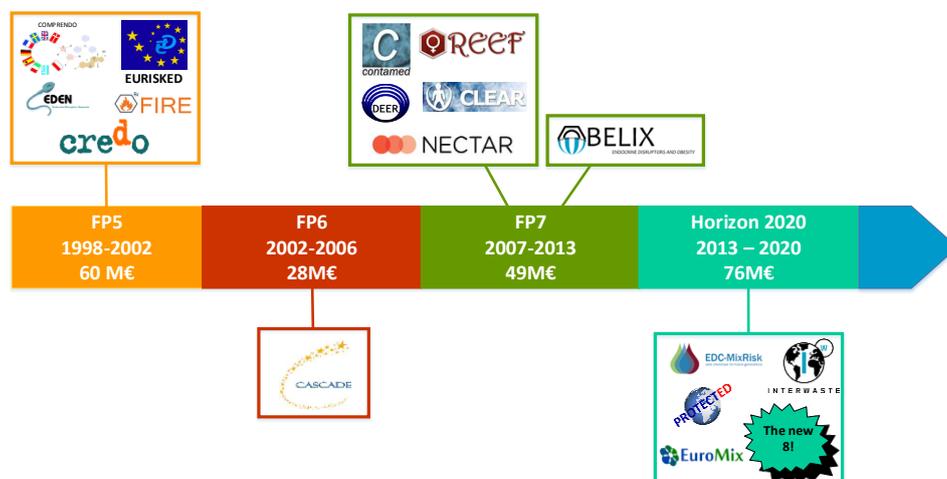


Figure 1. Schematic representation of the EU contribution and projects (acronyms) involved in the research on endocrine disruptors (more info at [CORDIS](#))

EU pillars for research on chemical safety

Three pillar initiatives currently support the larger framework of EU research on chemical safety. They generate and share pertinent knowledge for policy makers and risk assessors, to better understand the exposure and health implication of chemicals.



IPCHEM: The European Commission's reference access point for searching, accessing and retrieving chemical occurrence data collected and managed in Europe.
<https://ipchem.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>



HBM4EU: implementing a European approach to human biomonitoring and joint research for understanding the health impact of chemical exposures on in support of chemical policies (Horizon 2020, 50M€). www.hbm4eu.eu



EUTOXRISK: research on toxicological testing methods for chemicals with the aim to reduce animal testing (Horizon 2020, 28M€).
www.eu-toxrisk.eu

Future research on EDCs

Recently a Horizon 2020 call for proposals for new testing and screening methods for endocrine disruptors was launched, with a budget of 52M€ from the EU. The 8 new projects will start in early 2019. They will form a cluster to synchronise efforts and will also closely cooperate with the Commission's Joint Research Centre, especially as regards validation and regulatory uptake, and contribute to ongoing international EDC related activities.

In the next framework programme for research and innovation, Horizon Europe (2021-2027), the Commission intends to continue supporting research on protecting citizens and environment from exposure to harmful chemicals, including endocrine disruptors.

More information

<https://ec.europa.eu/research/health>