



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

# RIVM and Participation

The case of the Knowledge  
Platforms

Ric van Poll

PRG - Berlin June 3rd

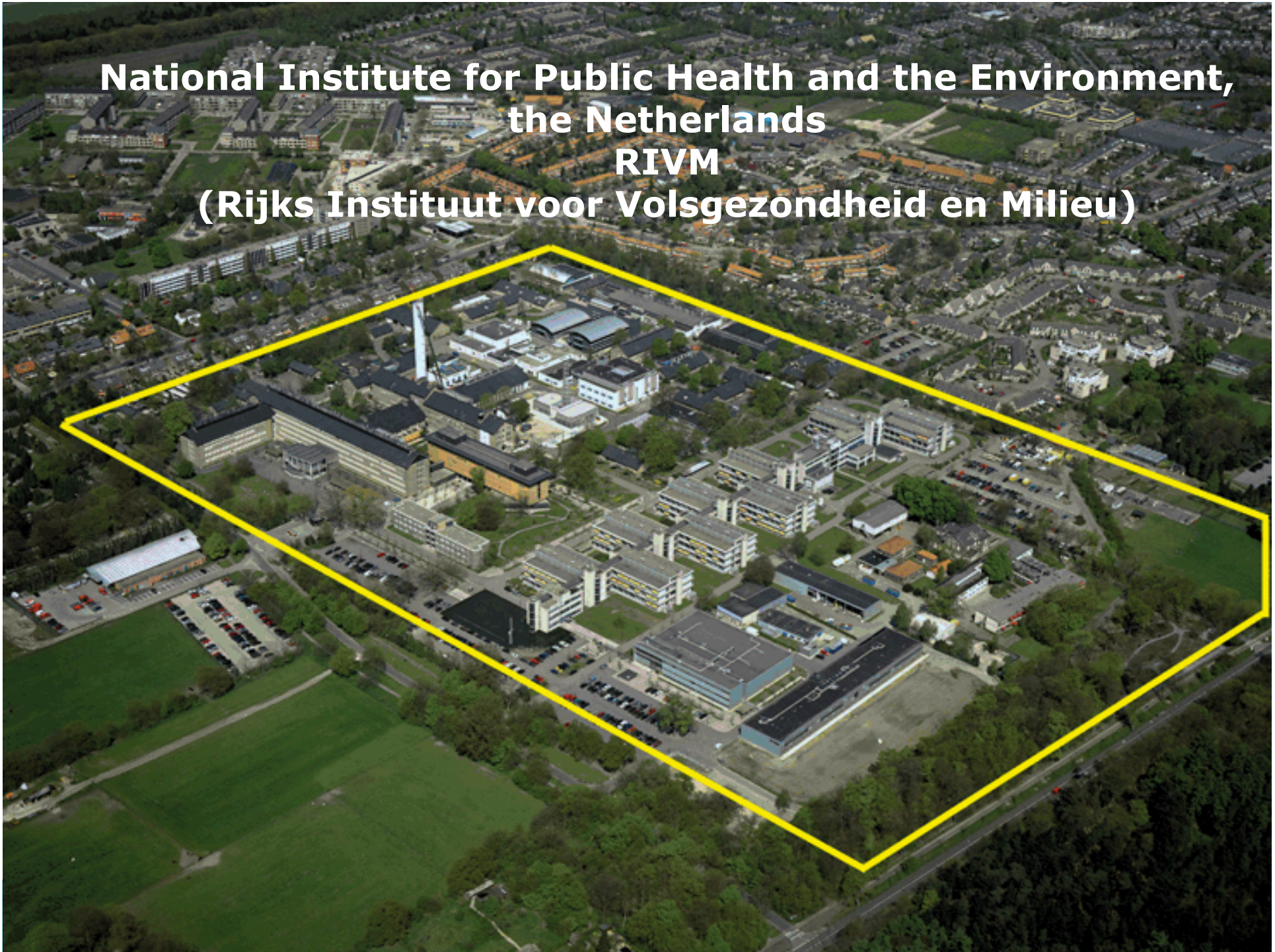


National Institute for Public Health  
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Electromagnetic Fields

**National Institute for Public Health and the Environment,  
the Netherlands  
RIVM  
(Rijks Instituut voor Volksgezondheid en Milieu)**





## RIVM's position

- RIVM is an agency of Ministry of Public Health (= owner)
- Biggest commissioners are Public Health, Environment, Econ. Aff.



Political responsibility



Research responsibility (independence)



## Core data

- established in 1909
- 1500 employees
- budget: € 380 mln.
- 3 domains, 12 centres
  - Infectious Disease Control
  - **Environment & Safety**
  - Public Health and Health Services
- Independent position (RIVM act)
- 300 projects per year



2018: Uithof



## Tasks

- Policy advice
- National coordination
- Prevention- and intervention programs
- **Information for professionals and citizens**
- **Research and knowledge development**
- Advice to inspectorates
- Emergency response
- Strategic research SPR





## Road Map 2020:

- Strategy for impact in and on society
  - NGO's, education, businesses, citizens, media
- Enlarge impact
  - Societal topic's
  - Stakeholders and relations
  - Dissemination of knowledge (how)
- Dialogue
- Knowledge Platforms
  - KP





## Knowledge Platform (KP)

- KP as a means for SE

- Consultation
  - > Focus Groups
  - > Workshop
  - > Interviews
  - > Survey
  - > Citizens Science
  - > Advisory Committee
- Participation
  - > Knowledge Platforms
  - > Citizens Science
  - > Action Planning
  - > Joint Committee



- The knowledge platform is collaboration between knowledge organizations and stakeholders with the purpose of providing reliable unbiased information about a certain topic by gathering, analysing and communicating knowledge. Secondly, such a collaboration assists in an interaction between citizens, the industry and governments





## Over het platform

Het Platform Houtrook en Gezondheid werkt aan oplossingen van het stoken van hout en andere vaste brandstoffen door pa verminderen. Hiervoor komen partijen en maatschappelijke or samen die inhoud geven aan oplossingen.

### Deelnemende partijen

Het platform kent een brede vertegenwoordiging van partijen:

## KP Wood Smoke and Health

- Wood smoke can cause severe health damage for residents. A focus group with different interest groups was organized to find solutions to this problem. Stakeholders that were included in the focus group were:
  - environmental experts,
  - RIVM,
  - Lung Foundation Netherlands,
  - foundation 'Hearth and Chimney' rookkanaal' and
  - 'Partners for Healthy Living Environment' (PGL).

[http://www.platformhoutrook.nl/Over\\_het\\_platform](http://www.platformhoutrook.nl/Over_het_platform)





## KP Lifestock Farming and Human Health

- Knowledge Platform Lifestock Farming and Human health is a platform where knowledge is gathered about livestock farming and human health. The platform contributes in providing applicable knowledge for example in policy development. Workshops were held by engaging with various stakeholders such as knowledge institutes and health institutions.

Workshops <http://www.kennisplatformveehouderij.nl/>



Kennisplatform Veehouderij en humane gezondheid

Het Kennisplatform Veehouderij en humane gezondheid is een samenwerking van zeven kennis- en praktijkorganisaties; **RIVM**,



## Pilot KP Wind Energy: sound (ended April 2016)

- The knowledge platform wind energy was a collaboration between knowledge organizations and stakeholders with the purpose to provide reliable unbiased information about possible (health-) effects of sound produced by wind turbines.
- Included were:
  - people who lived nearby wind turbines,
  - the industry,
  - governmental organizations and
  - knowledge institutes.
- Focus groups were held to get insight into the question surrounding the topic of wind turbines and sound.
- Focus groups, advisory committee, knowledge platform





## KP Electro Magnetic Fields (EMF)

- Established 2007
- Budget 1 million Euro's



# The Knowledge Platform EMF in the Netherlands

**Mathieu Pruppers**  
Deputy general secretary



**Kennisplatform**

ElektroMagnetische Velden

RIVM | TNO | DNV GL  
GGD GHOR NEDERLAND  
AGENTSCHAP TELECOM  
ZONMW | MILIEU CENTRAAL



# Participants

- **RIVM**  
National Institute for Public Health and the Environment
- **TNO**  
NL Organisation for Applied Scientific Research
- **DNV KEMA**  
Energy & Sustainability
- **Radiocommunications Agency NL**  
Antenna Bureau
- **Community Health Services**  
(GGD's)
- **ZonMw**  
NL Organisation for Health Research and Development
- **Milieu Centraal**  
NL organisation for customer information on environment and energy



# Organisation

- **Board**
  - Directors and CEO's
  - Independent chair (Mayor of Den Bosch)
- **Platform bureau**
  - Secretary/Deputy
- **Communication Forum**
- **Science Forum**

**in close cooperation with the  
Health Council of the Netherlands**



# Main activities (1)

## Demand-driven

### 1. knowledge notes

- Children and mobile communication (2014), Electrosensitivity (2012), EMF in the working environment (2012), Overhead power lines and childhood leukemia (2009)

### 2. 'first impressions'

- KP screens new study on brain tumors in rats due to cell phones (in prep., 2016), Children and cell phones (2012)

### 3. ad hoc questions

## • information on possible precautionary measures

- 'how to use your mobile phone differently' (tips to reduce exposure)





## Main activities (2) Sounding Board



- **societal debate**
- **participants**
  - about 30 organisations that stand up for specific interests:
    - pressure groups (STOP-UMTS, Int. EMF Alliance)
    - other associations (foundation EHS, trade unions, Association of Netherlands Municipalities, etc)
    - industry (telecom providers, grid operators, employer organisations)
- **discussion group 'electrosensitivity'**
  - two-track approach:
    - facilitating discussions on (medical) help
    - exploring possibilities for exposure reduction



# Knowledge Platform EMF

- **combines knowledge**
- **responds to questions from society**
- **speaks with one voice**
- **provides clear information on research into possible health effects**
- **separates knowledge and policy development**
- **provides information on possible precautionary measures**



January 2016

## Previously

**Strictly Government**

## Nowadays

**Public-Private Financing**

Government, Electricity  
companies, Providers

## Foundation

**Independent intermediate**

PPF-KP finances

## Shift in focus

**From risk assessment to risk  
government**



# Knowledge Platform ElectroMagnetic Fields

- **Central theme**

- “Provide society with information how to deal with technological and societal developments by interpreting available knowledge and paying attention to choice options available for:
  - Government,
  - Citizens,
  - Entrepreneurs,
  - Research and Education”

- **activities**

- On demand
- Knowledge notes, first impressions, *ad hoc* questions
- Sounding Board Group

# Knowledge Platform EMF, being clear about electromagnetic fields

[www.kennisplatform.nl](http://www.kennisplatform.nl)

[info-emv@kennisplatform.nl](mailto:info-emv@kennisplatform.nl)



The screenshot shows the website's header with the logo 'Kennisplatform' and 'Elektromagnetische Velden'. The navigation menu includes 'Home', 'Actueel', 'Onderwerpen', 'Organisatie', 'Publicaties', 'Vragen', 'Videoberichten', and 'English'. Below the menu, there is a search bar with the text 'Zoeken' and 'Zoekterm...' and a 'Zoek' button. The main content area features a section titled 'The Knowledge Platform' with a brief description of the platform's mission and a search bar.

**Kennisplatform**  
Elektromagnetische Velden  
RIVM | IND | NTA  
AGENTSCHAP TELECOM  
ZONNEN

Home Actueel Onderwerpen Organisatie Publicaties Vragen Videoberichten English

English > The Knowledge Platform

**English**  
**The Knowledge Platform**  
**Knowledge Notes**

**The Knowledge Platform**

The Knowledge Platform on Electromagnetic Fields and Health provides clarity on public questions and concerns about possible health effects related to electromagnetic fields. Because of the social organisations involved, the Knowledge Platform is well-informed of these concerns, enabling it to comprehensibly present scientific knowledge, while taking the various sensitivities into account. In doing so, the Knowledge Platform EMF contributes to social debate by providing clarity. In the years to come, technical and social developments will lead to increased use of electricity and new wireless communication methods. Keeping citizens informed about any resulting effects, in an accessible and correct manner, remains very important.

The Knowledge Platform on Electromagnetic Fields and Health helps citizens and workers to understand and assess the relative merits of scientific research into the relationship between electromagnetic fields

Zoeken  
Zoekterm...  
Zoek

# Thank you for your attention!

[ric.van.poll@rivm.nl](mailto:ric.van.poll@rivm.nl)



**Kennisplatform**

ElektroMagnetische Velden

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