

FACTS & FIGURES

"850"

QUOTES
IN THE MEDIA
—
annually

135

SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS
—
financed by Belgian
and international partners

10

PATENTS
—
in the field
of health



260

PEER-REVIEWED
ARTICLES
—
published annually

80+

REFERENCE
CENTRES
AND LABS AT
NATIONAL
AND INTER-
NATIONAL
LEVEL

5

CORE
VALUES

1. Innovation
2. Impartiality
3. Proactivity
4. Respect
5. Scientific approach

110

PARLIAMENTARY
QUESTIONS
—
processed annually



130 000

SAMPLE ANALYSES
—
conducted annually

CONTACT US!

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HEALTHY ALL LIFE LONG



WHO WE ARE

SCIENSANO can count on more than 700 staff members who commit themselves, day after day, to achieve our motto: “Healthy all life long”. As our name suggests, science and health are central to our mission. Sciensano’s strength and uniqueness lie within the holistic and multidisciplinary approach to health. More particularly we focus on the close and indissoluble interconnection between human and animal health and their environment (the “One health” concept). By combining different research perspectives within this framework, Sciensano contributes in a unique way to everybody’s health. For this, Sciensano builds on the more than 100 years of scientific expertise of the former Veterinary and Agrochemical Research Centre (CODA-CERVA) and the ex-Scientific Institute of Public Health (WIV-ISP).

WHAT WE DO

Health and environment

Sciensano devotes a substantial part of its research and monitoring activities to the study of environmental risks to health.

In the field of biosafety, Sciensano assesses whether the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) or the presence of pathogens, such as bacteria and viruses, implies a danger to human health and the environment.

Sciensano has also developed sustainability indicators to measure the progress made in the use of environmental friendlier pesticides, which are therefore better for the consumers’ health.

Sciensano also studies the impact of air pollution on health. The results of our studies provide the basis for the development of preventive health policies.

Food consumption and food safety

Food and food safety are at the heart of Sciensano’s concerns.

Thanks to its food consumption surveys, Sciensano performs an in-depth exploration of the citizens’ habits in order to determine whether they match official food recommendations.

Sciensano's priority is to ensure that the population remains healthy as long as possible.

HEALTHY ALL LIFE LONG

To ensure the quality of food, Sciensano identifies the possible presence of pathogens in food, monitors GMO’s, food contaminants and residues (pesticides, heavy metals...), food contact materials (aluminium, plastics...), food additives (flavours, colours...) and nanomaterials.

Sciensano also monitors animal health as certain animal diseases can pose a risk to citizens, via the food chain among others.

Health and disease monitoring

“Healthy all life long”: Sciensano's priority is to ensure that the population remains healthy as long as possible.

Through various monitoring methods (nationwide surveys, the so-called ‘sentinel’ surveillance network, registries, etc.), we collect information on the population’s health: its disabilities, medicines consumption, eating habits, well-being... Thanks to this information, the authorities can evaluate and adapt their policies to meet the health needs of the population.

Sciensano monitors infectious diseases (AIDS, influenza, salmonella, bronchitis, etc.), including zoonoses (infectious diseases in animals that can be transmitted to humans, such as brucellosis or rabies) in farm

animals and wildlife. This surveillance enables the detection of threats and allows us to evaluate them. We also support the authorities in the fight against these diseases.

We monitor chronic diseases (cardiovascular, metabolic and rheumatic diseases, cancer), which have become the first cause of death worldwide.

Quality of healthcare

In Belgium, the healthcare system is accessible to the majority of the population. Sciensano performs a check-up of this system in conjunction with the National Institute for Health and Disability Insurance and the Belgian Health Care Knowledge Centre.

The evaluation is performed using indicators such as the health status of the population or the access to qualitative care. Sciensano coordinates national databases, measures care pathways applied by doctors for specific diseases, monitors healthcare-associated infections, is a national point of reference for certain types of diagnostics, assesses cancer policy in Belgium...

All these initiatives are designed to measure the quality of patient care in a constant quest to improve their health.

Effectiveness and safety of vaccines, medicines and health products - Quality of medical laboratories

Diseases can only be prevented and treated if the appropriate means are available: human or veterinary vaccines, medicines and medical devices, etc.

Sciensano helps the Federal Agency for Medicines and Health Products to assess these means, in order to ensure their quality, safety and effectiveness.

We operate in areas such as the quality control of medicines and illegal and counterfeit medical products, antibiotic resistance, the quality control of vaccines prior to marketing, the assessment of

the effects of vaccination against certain diseases, the control of medical laboratories for the analysis of human samples and the biosafety assessment for queries involving GMOs, among others.

Animal health

Sciensano provides scientific and technical support, not only to the authorities (the Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain and the Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment), but also to professional organisations and front-line laboratories.

The scope of our activities is wide and includes epizootic diseases (epidemic diseases affecting animals) and emerging diseases that pose a major socio-economic risk.

This relates to zoonoses (i.e. diseases or infections that can be transmitted, directly or indirectly, from animals to humans or the other way round), but also to diseases whose impact is solely economic. It is worth pointing out that these diseases all have a direct or indirect effect on public health, if only, for example, with regard to the use of antibiotics they necessitate.

Sciensano combines different scientific disciplines in order to prevent, evaluate and mitigate health problems.

