

From Vision to Leadership: Céline Boudet Takes Charge of PEPPER



We are very pleased to welcome and introduce Céline Boudet, Pepper's new CEO !

Following the celebration of PEPPER's fifth anniversary, the organisation enters a new chapter, as Philippe Hubert transitions into retirement. A smooth and seamless handover is ensured by three months of close collaboration.

On April 1st, 2025, Céline Boudet officially took up her position. Her appointment marks a significant new step for the platform, which she helped shape from its early conceptual stages — including its successful proposal submission to Bpifrance.

A Career Dedicated to Environmental Health

Céline Boudet holds a PhD in Science from the Joseph Fourier University in Grenoble, completed within the framework of the European EXPOLIS project (1996–1998). Her research focused on adult exposure to fine particles in urban environments and associated health effects. Part of her doctoral work was conducted at the Harvard School of Public Health (USA), demonstrating an international outlook from the outset of her career.

She joined INERIS (the French National Institute for Industrial Environment and Risks) in 1999, where her career spanned a broad spectrum of responsibilities: research engineer in health risk assessment, program lead for chemical hazard evaluation — particularly *in silico* methods — and head of units specializing in toxicological expertise and environmental exposure. She later led the 'Openness and Dialogue with Society' unit, underscoring her commitment to transparency and societal engagement in science.

From 2021 to 2025, she served as Deputy Director of the Environment and Human Health Department at INERIS, where she played a driving role in promoting innovative methodological approaches in toxicology and ecotoxicology. She also contributed to national and European expert groups, including FRANCOPA and the prefiguration group for the future NAMWISE network.

Recognized Scientific Expertise

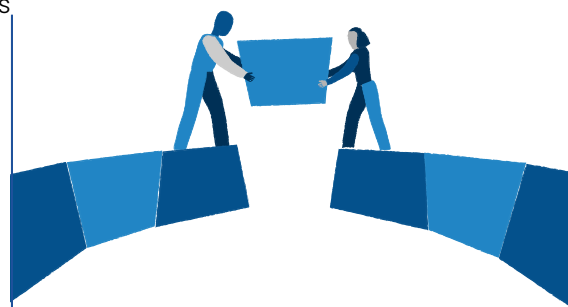
Céline Boudet brings extensive expertise in toxicology, environmental exposure, risk assessment, and the health impact of chemical substances. She has coordinated and contributed to national and international research projects, contributed to France's National Environmental Health Plans (PNSE), and participated in various scientific and advisory committees.

Her track record demonstrates not only scientific excellence but also a deep understanding of how research, regulation, and public health interconnect — an essential strength in her new role at PEPPER.

A Vision Anchored in Responsible Innovation

Driven by a strong belief in the role of science in tackling emerging risks — including endocrine disruptors, nanomaterials, and electromagnetic fields — Céline Boudet brings to PEPPER a vision that is rigorous, forward-looking, and firmly grounded in the interest of all stakeholders.

As Director, she aims to strengthen the scientific and regulatory foundations of New Approach Methodologies (NAMs), while supporting their validation and widespread adoption across Europe and beyond. Under her leadership, PEPPER will continue to position itself as a pivotal platform in the operational validation of robust, ethical, and innovative methods for the assessment of chemical risks to human health and the environment.



A Leadership Vision for PEPPER's Growth and Influence

The European strategies currently being developed around New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) and their validation will not be implemented overnight. Their success depends on the support of proof-of-concept(s), and in this regard, PEPPER today serves as a unique and valuable instrument—one that aligns with key ethical and societal expectations. The current European timeline provides an opportunity for PEPPER to reassess its strategic focus and to strengthen its partnerships and adapt its commitment accordingly.

"After five years of existence, PEPPER is reaching a turning point in its initial business model as proposed to BPIFrance, a model I helped design and shape. Indeed, after having demonstrated its operability with 13 methods focusing on endocrine disruption in the validation circuit, the platform must now ensure its sustainability (or even its reproducibility) at the European level. This turning point is taking place at a time when Europe is developing its strategies on phasing out animal testing for chemical safety assessment and on test method and validation. This is the challenge that I want to take up with my team. Of course, I also want to take the opportunity to thank Philippe Hubert for all that has been accomplished."

Under Céline Boudet's leadership, PEPPER is poised to advance its mission with renewed momentum and vision. We invite you to follow our journey as we continue shaping the future of chemical risk assessment through innovation, collaboration, and scientific excellence. Stay connected for updates on our latest projects, insights into the evolving regulatory landscape, and behind-the-scenes glimpses into the work driving change at PEPPER.



Celine is an avid enthusiast of nature-based travel, tranquility, and literature – a true contemplative at heart. That said, she humorously acknowledges her "black cat" side, cautioning that traveling with her may come with unexpected twists.

In both her personal and professional life, Celine demonstrates a strong sense of self-awareness, clearly recognizing her strengths,

limitations, and core values. She consistently makes decisions guided by her ethical convictions, even under pressure.

Unwaveringly authentic in all circumstances, she is known for her transparency, tenacity, honesty, and directness. Yet, these qualities are complemented by a deep sense of empathy and an attentive, thoughtful approach to listening.

Ressources and referencial work:

[Ineris positioning note](#)

Francopa : [Newsletter](#)

QUAE : rédaction du chapitre dédié à la validation dans l'ouvrage :

[-Quelles alternatives en expérimentation](#)

[animale ?](#) – Pratiques et éthique – (EAN13 : 9782759231881) | Librairie Quae : des livres au coeur des sciences

Ineris [report on Alternative Methods](#)



[Linkedin Profile](#)