

## Network on Food Consumption Data Minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting

**Held on 30-31 March 2017, Parma  
(Agreed on 12 May 2017)**

### Participants

- **Network Representatives of Member States (including EFTA and pre-accession Countries):**

Country	Name
Belgium	Karin De Ridder
Bulgaria	Aksinia Antonova
Cyprus	Stelios Yiannopoulos
Croatia	Darja Sokolic
Czech Republic	Marcela Dofkova
Denmark	Ellen Trolle
Estonia	Keiu Nelis
Finland	Liisa Valsta
France	Carine Dubuisson
Germany	Carolin Krems
Greece	Georgios Marakis
Hungary	Anna Kiss
Ireland	Breige McNulty
Italy	Aida Turrini
Latvia	Inese Sikсна
Lithuania	Albertas Barzda
Netherlands	Marga Ocke
Poland	Katarzyna Stos
Portugal	Maria Antonia Calhau
Romania	Monica Mariana Neagu
Slovakia	Katarina Kromerova
Slovenia	Matej Gregoric
Spain	Josefa Rubio
Sweden	Veronica Ohrvik, Eva Warensjo Lemming
United Kingdom	Mark Bush
Norway	Inger Therese Lillegaard
Switzerland	Esther Camezind-Frey
Albania	Lindita Molla
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Katica Arar
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Suzana Popovska

Montenegro	Zorica Dordevic
Serbia	Mirjana Gurinovic
Turkey	Nevra Özcan

- **Hearing Experts**

Carla Lopes (University of Porto-Faculty of Medicine (FMUP)), Catherine Leclercq (FAO).

- **EFSA:**

Evidence Management (DATA) Unit: Mary Gilsean (Head of Unit)<sup>1</sup>, Davide Arcella (Chair), Sofia Ioannidou, Rita Sousa (Minutes), Altieri Andrea<sup>1</sup>, Bruno Dujardin<sup>1</sup>, Petra Gergelova<sup>1</sup>, Zsuzsanna Horváth, Francesco Vernazza<sup>1</sup>, Valentino Avon<sup>1</sup>, Jane Richardson<sup>1</sup>

FIP Unit: Alexandra Tard<sup>1</sup>

NUTRI Unit: Silvia Valtueña Martinez<sup>1</sup>

RISCOM Unit: Sharon Monti<sup>1</sup>

## 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Thorsten Bohn (Luxembourg), Jürgen König (Austria), Holmfridur Thorgeirsdottir (Iceland) and Ingrid Busuttil (Malta).

## 2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

## 3. Agreement of the minutes of the 10th meeting of the Network on Food consumption Data held on 24-25 November 2015, Parma

The minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting were agreed by written procedure on 11 January 2016 and were published on the EFSA website.

## 4. Roundtable presentation

The Network participants briefly introduced themselves.

## Topics for discussion

## 5. EU Menu procurement projects

### 5.1. Current status - Lessons learned from the deliverables of the EU Menu projects / Common issues and suggestions

Sofia Ioannidou presented the current status of the EU-Menu project and the main challenges reported by the Member States (MS) that have been funded to run a national dietary survey following the EU Menu methodology. These are the codification of food according to the FoodEx2 classification system of EFSA, the disaggregation of composite dishes, the codification and quantification of food supplements and the data transmission to EFSA. Sofia communicated that a

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<sup>1</sup> attended part of the meeting

database with information on food supplements weight is being finalised by EFSA and will be shared with interested MS.

## **5.2. EU Menu on-going projects**

Carla Lopes presented the Portuguese national dietary survey. She described the sampling protocol of the survey, the dietary tool used, the participation rate and a summary of the results. She also described the main challenges and provided information on how these were dealt with. Davide Arcella encouraged the MSs to read the reports of the finalised EU Menu surveys to learn from the experience of other MSs on how to deal with issues related to the national dietary surveys, such as how to increase and describe the participation rate.

Aida Turrini presented progress on the Italian dietary survey, particularly on the recruitment and training methodology of the interviewers as well as main challenges. Additionally, she highlighted the importance of having a sustainable survey system. Davide Arcella highlighted the innovative approach of the Italian dietary survey with the creation of the community of interviewers.

Liisa Valsta presented progress on the Finnish dietary survey, comprising the target population, sampling strategy and general design protocol. She informed about the validation of the picture book and portion sizes and the means used to keep the response rate high. Davide Arcella highlighted the importance of the validation of the picture book.

## **6. News from Network participants**

### **6.1. Sweden - validation study of the new web-based Riksmaten method**

Eva Warensjö Lemming presented the methodological design and preliminary results on the new web-based validation study. It included the adolescent population and collected information on dietary intake using a web-based 24-hour recall questionnaire.

### **6.2. Denmark - validation study on the dietary survey method used in Denmark**

Ellen Trolle gave a presentation on the general structure of a study aimed at validating different methodologies in preparation of the next Danish dietary survey. She also provided an overview of the data collection protocol and the tool for the dietary 24-hour recall collection methodology and portion size quantification.

### **6.3. Germany – Current nationwide food consumption surveys in Germany**

Carolin Krems provided an overview of the three food consumption surveys that are currently running or planned in Germany, their different objectives and population groups and the similarities among the protocol designs and methodologies.

### **6.4. Czech Republic - School meals in the Czech Republic – nutrient and contaminant intakes of primary school children**

Marcela Dofkova described the main aspects on the study protocol and sampling methodology of a study evaluating the school meals in the Czech Republic. The main objective was to check the quality of the school meals, their nutritional adequacy and to estimate dietary exposure to some contaminants. She described the main results and conclusions obtained.

### **6.5. News from other countries**

An additional six country representatives described projects relating to food consumption being developed at national level.

Marga Ocke briefly presented the report "What is on our plate? Safe, healthy and sustainable diets in the Netherlands". She discussed facts and figures about the Dutch dietary pattern. She referred to the MetroFood project that supports the standardisation and harmonisation of data collection in food and nutrition in Europe.

Therese Lillegaard presented the different dietary data collection methodologies used through the last years in Norway and briefly discussed their impact for exposure assessment. In addition, she described the main challenges of food consumption surveys in Norway and how they were addressed.

Josefa Rubio Mañas presented the "ENALIA" food consumption surveys that were run under the EU-Menu project. She highlighted the impact of these surveys for the development of national health strategies and policies.

Mirjana Gurinovic provided an update on the development of tools for dietary assessment (DAP platform for food consumption collection, comprehensive dietary intake assessment and nutrition planning) and on the development the 1<sup>st</sup> online Serbian food composition database (LanguaL coding and EFSA FoodEx 2) which is included in the EuroFIR Platform. She introduced the two new EFSA EU Menu projects which are ongoing in Serbia (for children and adults population).

Suzana Popovska introduced the food consumption survey currently under development in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). This survey will focus on toddlers and other children population and will follow the EU-Menu methodology.

Nevra Özcan presented the institutions involved in the development of the Turkish National Food consumption survey. She also provided a quick overview on the sampling design, age groups, methodological protocol and software tool. Turkey requested information and training from EFSA regarding the EU Menu methodology and FoodEx2.

### **7. Updated report on FoodEx2 – Updated browser tool**

Francesco Vernazza presented the main advances of the FoodEx2 classification system following the suggestions received from different users. Valentino Avon gave a demonstration of improvements in the new release of the [FoodEx2 browser tool interface](#).

### **8. Welcome and apologies for absence**

No further apologies were received during the second day of the meeting.

## Topics for discussion

### 9. News from EFSA

#### 9.1. Dietary exposure and intake assessment of additives

Alexandra Tard gave an overview of the work programme of the EFSA FIP unit in the area of food additives and described the methodology used for the assessment of exposure to these chemicals.

#### 9.2. Sharing and publishing scientific data

Jane Richardson presented the EFSA open data scheme under the EFSA strategy 2020. She gave an insight on the importance of the open data and its main principles. She informed the Network Members about the future creation of a working group focused on these topics. Additionally, she presented the EFSA Knowledge Junction, a curated, open repository for the exchange of evidence and supporting materials used in food and feed safety risk assessments, which runs on EU-funded [Zenodo](#) research-sharing platform.

#### 9.3. Update of FAIM template

Davide Arcella presented a new release of the Food Additives Intake Model (FAIM) template, a screening tool for the assessment of chronic exposure to food additives. Whereas the first release was based on summary statistics, FAIM 2.0 will use the individual food consumption data. Davide Arcella described the different information (e.g., mean chronic exposure, 95<sup>th</sup> percentile chronic exposure, main food contributors, etc.) that can be obtained using the tool. The new release is expected to be ready by summer 2017.

#### 9.4. RAC Project: Foods of Animal Origin

Bruno Dujardin presented the Raw Agricultural Commodities (RAC) Project, which is aimed at developing a food consumption database at the level of RACs. He presented the model used for the step-by-step disaggregation of composite foods, and showed examples regarding the use of recipes, probability tables and conversion factors. Finally, he presented a case study developed for the EFSA FEED Panel comprising the methodology and its main results on exposure estimates from the consumption of foods of animal origin. Davide Arcella stressed the importance of the first disaggregation of composite foods into their ingredients at Member State level.

#### 9.5. News from the NDA Panel - Food allergies

Silvia Valtueña presented EFSA's risk assessment work on allergens. She provided details on the determination of population thresholds using different approaches and the use of probabilistic models in the estimation of the proportion of an allergic population that may suffer from a reaction. She also highlighted the role of Member States in this task as providers of food consumption data. Finally, she described the main challenges related to the collection of data in allergic population proposed some questions ("Do you

*systematically avoid all foods to which you are allergic to? ”) to be added in the questionnaires administered within the EU-Menu dietary surveys.*

The Netherlands, France and Finland representatives communicated that they are already collecting this data in their surveys as this subject was already discussed in the EU-Menu Progress Meeting in November of 2016. While The Netherlands representative discussed the possible linkage between their own data and EFSA’s objectives, Finland informed that they are collecting it under the EU-Menu project. Also France included some of the questions proposed in their survey.

Carla Lopes emphasized the need to collect food consumption data on the specific group of allergic people. Mark Bush highlighted the importance of distinguishing consumption patterns of allergic people from those who believe that they have an allergy.

## **10. FAO activities in the area of food consumption data**

Catherine Leclercq gave an update on the FAO/WHO Global Individual Food Consumption Data Tool (FAO/WHO GIFT) project that aims at disseminating individual food consumption data on an international level by establishing an on-going inventory of the existing individual food consumption studies worldwide. She demonstrated the flow of information concerning the platform and highlighted the collaboration between EFSA and FAO on the use of the FoodEx2 classification system to support to the collection of food consumption data at international level.

## **11. EU Menu 2017 – final call**

Sofia Ioannidou reminded the Network that the final call under the EU Menu project will be launched in May 2017. She enquired if there are still Member States that are planning to apply for this year’s call. The representatives from Croatia, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Albania and FYROM expressed their interest. Other countries proposed to send their latest food consumption data to EFSA even without participating to the EU Menu project.

## **12. Brainstorming on future steps in collecting food consumption data**

The mind mapping method was followed to discuss “the future of food consumption data collection in Europe”. Four main topics for the brainstorming were proposed: “targeted population groups”, “use of innovative tools for collection of data”, “dietary method” and “funding”.

The Network agreed that before discussing the future steps, it is important to understand and evaluate the main achievements of the EU Menu Project. Although a full harmonisation on data collection was not achieved, the availability and quality of the data significantly improved. The EU Menu guidance is an importance tool for promoting harmonisation. The launching of the EU-Menu Project will therefore have a positive effect not only in risk assessment activities but also for the nutritional epidemiology field.

Network participants highlighted the importance of the work that has been done until now and encouraged EFSA to continue guiding the process in the food consumption data collection in the EU. The importance of having a stable



framework that facilitates the activities of food consumption data collection was stressed by different participants.

Regarding possible population groups to target, Finland referred to the discussion already held on this topic during the 10<sup>th</sup> Network meeting. The Network participants expressed interest in collaborating in EFSA in the case of new requests for data on these special population groups

Network participants agreed that is important to reflect on the use of innovative tools, particularly on the use of internet and software applications for the younger population groups (e.g. adolescents). However, there are several challenges to consider, e.g. the cost effectiveness of the tools, the quality of the data obtained and their validity across Europe. Mirjana Gurinovic informed the Network that the use of new technologies for dietary assessment is being evaluated by a European working group. This evaluation will be available by the end of 2017.

With respect to a possible update of the Guidance on the EU Menu methodology, it was suggested that EFSA should consider the challenges experienced within the EU Menu projects and, based on this experience, reflect/discuss a way forward. The adequacy of the dietary method currently in place should be analysed after receiving all the EU Menu data. The Network also recognised the funding/financial support given by EFSA still being an important motivation for having this survey funded in some of the MSs.

The development of online surveys to collect the opinion of the Network members on more specific topics or promoting online videoconference meetings could be useful in the remit of any future discussion on this topic.

### **13. Communication activities, a way forward**

Sharon Monti, from the RISKCOM Unit of EFSA discussed new possibilities of improving communication with the Member States representatives. She proposed the creation of virtual spaces to share ideas and tasks with the moderation of EFSA. She also presented the next steps in order to develop something concrete. An online questionnaire will be sent to the Member States representatives in order to collect more specific information and ideas.

### **14. Network terms of reference**

In line with EFSA's policy of renewing the Terms of Reference (ToR) of all EFSA networks every three years, the ToR of the food consumption Network were discussed. Davide Arcella presented the current ToR of the food consumption Network and proposed slight changes to address the objectives that are already met. Mary Gilsean also provided some background information on the role of networks highlighting that they are not intended to continue indefinitely once their objectives are met. Many Network members expressed interest in continuing the Network. Denmark and Finland pointed as a possible new task the analysis and revising of the quality of the data obtained within the EU Menu framework projects. It was agreed that EFSA will amend the ToR document and circulate it to the Network for comments.

### **15. Date for next meeting**

EFSA asked feedback on the frequency of Network meetings. Several participants considered yearly meetings useful whereas others indicated that

meetings should take place when there is a need to discuss a particular activity of the Network. EFSA proposed that the revised ToR that will be circulated to the Network will also include a proposal concerning the frequency of Network meetings.

#### **16. Any Other Business**

Stelios Yiannopoulos presented the progress of the Cyprus EU Menu survey at the beginning of the second day of the Network.

#### **17. Conclusions (s)**

The Chair briefly summarised the main decisions and outcomes of the meeting.

#### **18. Closure of the meeting**

The chair thanked all participants for their valuable contribution and closed the meeting.