



European Food Safety Authority

Dietary and Chemical Monitoring Unit

7th Meeting of Expert Group on Food Consumption Data

21-23 November 2012

EFSA premises, Parma

Meeting Report

Attendees

Member States' representatives

Van Lippevelde Wendy	Belgium
Petrova Stefka	Bulgaria
Yiannopoulos Stelios	Cyprus
Dofkova Marcela	Czech Republic
Trolle Ellen	Denmark
Kambek Liis	Estonia
Paturi Merja	Finland
Dubuisson Carine	France
Krems Carolin	Germany
Marakis George	Greece
Ambrus Arpad	Hungary
Turrini Aida	Italy
Vilcane Dace	Latvia
Venckevic Evelina	Lithuania
Strottner Camille	Luxemburg
Busuttil Ingrid	Malta
Lillegaard Inger Therese	Norway
Calhau Maria Antonia	Portugal
Kromerová Katarína	Slovakia
Korousic Seljak Barbara	Slovenia
Marcos Suárez Victoria	Spain
Nälsén Cecilia	Sweden

7th Meeting of Expert Group on Food Consumption Data

Ocké Marga C.	The Netherlands
Bush Mark	United Kingdom

Pre-accession country representative

Sokolic Mihalak Darja	Croatia
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Observer

Camenzind-Frey Esther	Switzerland
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Hearing Experts

Busk Leif	Sweden
Finglas Paul	UK
Guiomar Sofia	Portugal
van 't Veer Pieter	The Netherlands

Other participants

Freisling Heinz	IARC
Huybrechts Inge	IARC
Simoneau Catherine	JRC
Slimani Nadia	IARC

EFSA staff

Valsta Liisa	DCM-Chair
Gilsenan Mary	DCM-HoU
Vernazza Francesco	DCM-Deputy HoU
Arcella Davide	DCM
Cappe Stefano	DCM
Durand Louise	DCM
Eskola Mari	CONTAM
Gergelova Petra	DCM-Rapporteur
Heraud Fanny	DCM
Ioannidou Sofia	DCM-Rapporteur
Guescini Chiara	DCM- Secretariat
Sand Salomon	DCM
Tard Alexandra	FIP

Apologies

Austria
F.Y.R.O.M.
Iceland
Ireland
Montenegro
Poland
Romania
Serbia
Turkey

Abbreviations & Acronyms

DCM	Dietary and Chemical Monitoring
DG	Directorate-General
Dols	Declaration of Interests
DOS	Disk operating System
EC	European Commission
EFSA	European Food Safety Authority
EGFCD	Expert Group on Food Consumption Data
EU	European Union
e-SMP	e-Standardised Methodologies Platform
EURO-DISH	European Determinants Intake Status Health
EuroFIR	European Food Information Resource
EU-NGOs	European Non Governmental Organisations
FACET	Flavourings Additives and Food Contact materials Exposure Task
FAIM	Food Additives Intake Model
FFQ	Food Frequency Questionnaire
FIP	Food Ingredients and Packaging
FoodCASE	Food Composition And System Environment
FPQ	Food Propensity Questionnaire
HHM	Household Measurements
HoU	Head of Unit
IARC	International Agency for Research on Cancer
INCA3	Enquête Individuelle et Nationale de Consommation Alimentaire 3
JRC	Joint Research Centre
MSs	Member States
PAQ	Physical Activity Questionnaire
PANCAKE	Pilot study for the Assessment of Nutrient Intake and Food Consumption Among Kids in Europe
PCBs	Polychlorinated biphenyls
RIVM	National Institute for Public Health and Environment
SSD	Standard Sample Description

7th Meeting of Expert Group on Food Consumption Data

TBD	To be decided
WG	Working Group

Agenda

Agenda for the 21st of November 2012

Starting time: 13.00

Finishing time: 18.30

#	Items	
1.	Opening of the methodological workshop (Day 1) Welcome and apologies for absence Declarations of interest Introductions (roundtable) Aims of the workshop	13:00 Liisa Valsta
2.	Toward an International Research Infrastructure to support EU-Menu and other projects Introduction A web-research infrastructure to support EU-Menu: General concepts and progress report Customization of the EPIC-Soft databases for EU-Menu: lessons learned from pilot studies and pending issues (e) Training for EU-Menu, as an integrated component of the overall standardisation process and progress report Open "question – response" session	Nadia Slimani Heinz Freisling Inge Huybrechts All
	Coffee break	15:30-16:00
3.	Methodological aspects in dietary data collection The PANCAKE study: evaluation of the most appropriate dietary assessment method among children 0-10 years Results of the PILOT-PANEU picture book validation The FoodEx2 – friend or enemy? Harmonisation of food composition databases in Europe	Marcela Dofkova Sofia Guiomar Francesco Vernazza Paul Finglas
4.	Discussion and end of the day	18:15-18:30

7th Meeting of Expert Group on Food Consumption Data

Agenda for the 22nd of November 2012

Starting time: 09.00

Finishing time: 18.30

5.	Thursday 22 Nov, Opening of the Day 2 Welcoming address Administrative issues Summary of Day 1	9:00- Mary Gilsenan Chiara Guescini Liisa Valsta
6.	New developments Comprehensive database and data access issues EFSA Data Warehouse From the EU Menu project to the EU Menu process Progress report of the EU Menu project	Davide Arcella Stefano Cappe Liisa Valsta
	Coffee break	11:30-12:00
	Lunch	13:15-14:00
7.	Panel discussion on the EU Menu future General discussion	Arpad Ambrus Mark Bush Leif Busk Paul Finglas Liis Kambek Marga Ocke Nadia Slimani Mary Gilsenan All
8.	Updates on EFSA projects Final progress report on PANCAKE Update on the status of the PILOT-PANEU Nutrient database Evaluation of dietary tools	Ellen Trolle Arpad Ambrus Sofia Ioannidou Paul Finglas
	Coffee	15:30-16:00
9.	How do other European projects relate to the EU Menu process? EU/FACET project EU/EURO-DISH	Catherine Simoneau Pieter van't Veer
10.	Update of the ongoing and starting EU Menu projects France Estonia Spain Latvia The Netherlands Portugal	Carine Dubuisson Liis Kambek Victoria Marcos Dace Vilcane Marga Ocké Maria Antónia Calhau
	End of Day 2	18:30

7th Meeting of Expert Group on Food Consumption Data

Agenda for the 23rd of November 2012

Starting time: 09.00

Finishing time: 15.00

11.	Friday 23 Nov, Opening of Day 3 Key findings from Day 2	9:00-9:15
12.	Member States' Roundtable Member States' plans and view on national dietary surveys and other selected topics (more information at the end of the agenda)	Fanny Heraud Country representatives
	Coffee break	11:00-11:30
13.	Heading towards 2013 Final discussion Summary and conclusions	EFSA staff All
	Lunch	12:30-13:30
14.	How are the Member States' food consumption data used in EFSA? An overview of the different uses food consumption data made by the EFSA CONTAM Panel The FAIM template Dioxins and PCBs Refinement of dietary exposure estimates: the cadmium case	Mari Eskola Alexandra Tard Fanny Héraud Davide Arcella
	End of the meeting	15:00

- **Opening session**

Liisa Valsta (LV) opened the meeting and welcomed all participants to the 7th Annual Meeting of the EGFC. Apologies for absence of some members of the group were listed. The chair briefly presented the DCM members present and asked MS participants to introduce themselves.

The group adopted the agenda without changes. No additional interests were declared with respect to the approved Dols.

The aims of the methodological workshop were shortly presented by LV and Nadia Slimani (NS).

- **Toward an International Research Infrastructure to support EU-Menu and other projects**

A web-research infrastructure to support EU-Menu: General concepts and progress report

NS gave a presentation on the e-Standardised Methodologies Platform (e-SMP). She explained its global architecture and how the dataflow is organised and gave examples on its different functions. She also referred to the data storage and security of the data. There is an ongoing EU funded project with EuroFIR on merging the e-SMP with nutrient databases. NS gave an overview of the current state of the platform and referred to the future needs. She stressed the importance of funding for the finalisation and the dissemination of the e-SMP.

Customization of the EPIC-Soft databases for EU-Menu: lessons learned from pilot studies and pending issues

Heinz Freisling (HF) gave an overview on past, current and future applications of the EPIC-Soft data collection methodology. There are 12 country versions available in Europe since 1995 and another six have recently been developed. HF summarised the main steps to customize EPIC-Soft. He referred to the lessons learned pointing out that the “old” customisation procedures and the re-discussion of experience from previous studies were time consuming. Communication and training are important. Food facets and descriptors, food lists, assessing eating out of home and pictures for portion size estimation are still pending issues.

(e) Training for EU-Menu, as an integrated component of the overall standardization process and progress report

Inge Huybrechts (IH) presented the EPIC-Soft “train the trainer” course in the frame the PILOT study of the EU-Menu process. It is a three day training, which was pilot tested and evaluated in November 2011 & August 2012. She explained how they conducted the e-training and summarised the strengths and limitations that resulted from the evaluation. The training courses are vital integrated components of the overall

7th Meeting of Expert Group on Food Consumption Data

standardisation process and need to evolve together with the further development of e-SMP.

Open “question – response” session

The EGFC had been asked to send questions prior to the meeting to IARC to be answered in this session. In addition, the chair asked MS experts to address any additional questions and comments to IARC representatives on a round table basis. Several of the questions raised were answered. Due to limited time, the rest of the answers will be provided to MS representatives after the meeting.

- **Methodological aspects in dietary data collection**

The PANCAKE study: evaluation of the most appropriate dietary assessment method among children 0-10 years

Marcela Dofkova (MD) gave a presentation on the evaluation of the dietary assessment methods used within the PANCAKE project. She compared the two methods used; two non consecutive one day diaries versus a three-day diary with consecutive days. MD concluded that both methods were proved to be feasible. Overall the two non consecutive one day diaries in combination with EPIC-Soft completion interview gave somewhat more detailed information than the three day diary with EPIC-Soft data entry afterwards.

Discussion:

Davide Arcella (DA) asked about MD's experience with the anthropometric measurements. MD mentioned complaints by the interviewers about carrying the heavy portable stadiometer. There were cases when children were sleeping and they had to postpone the measurement. Therefore the PANCAKE project suggests including these measurement during the first home visit. Another visit could be arranged if problems occur during the first visit.

Results of the PILOT-PANEU picture book validation

Sofia Guiomar (SG) presented the results of the Pilot-PANEU picture book validation study. The aims were to validate EPIC-Soft picture book by visual perception and by conceptualization and memory. The perception method was carried out in all participating countries and the memory method was used only in Hungary, Germany and Portugal. She described the two different workflows and the differences between the validation processes among countries. Based on the experience gained, SG summarized the challenges to be faced in the future.

Discussion:

SG mentioned that the uncertainty related to the use of picture book for portion size estimation needs to be taken into consideration.

The FoodEx2 – friend or enemy?

Francesco Vernazza (FV) presented the new classification and description system for exposure assessment FoodEx2 developed by EFSA's Food Classification WG. FV described the pillars and the details of the system. He explained the advantage of increased detail in the hierarchy for exposure giving concrete examples. Training initiatives are planned for the next year also in connection with SSD2 release.

Discussion:

MSs expressed their interest to have training on the basis of FoodEx2. They have also asked the support of EFSA on mapping other classification systems (e.g. EPIC-Soft, Languag and FoodEx1) to FoodEx2. FV proposed to open an electronic tool to allow discussion and solve questions, until an official training is in place.

Harmonisation of food composition databases in Europe

Paul Finglas (PF) gave an update on the harmonisation process of food composition databases across Europe done by the EuroFIR association. This is accomplished by indexing of foods using Languag, documenting of values using thesauri, using common procedures for recipe calculation and applying quality management. Languag facets are analogous with those of FoodEx2. EuroFIR currently holds food composition datasets of more than 25 countries. He presented FoodCASE, the data management system maintained by EuroFIR and its benefits for the future use of data.

Discussion:

PF talked about the EuroFIR Nexus project. The objective is to further integrate the EuroFIR Food Platform to improve the ways research is undertaken into relationships between food, diet and health in Europe.

Opening of Day 2

Mary Gilsonan (MG), as the new Head of the DCM Unit, welcomed all participants of the EGFCD meeting. She underlined the key function of the group in the harmonization of food consumption data collection at European level. She mentioned the new data access policy within EFSA to be discussed further during the meeting. MG wished a fruitful meeting.

Chiara Guescini summarized the administrative procedures.

The chair summarized the key points of discussion of Day 1. She highlighted the interactive discussion session with IARC. A summary of all questions raised by MS representatives will be sent to IARC by December 2012. DCM Unit will then disseminate the answers to the country representatives. LV listed the most important outcomes of the pilot projects underlying the need for harmonization of the methodologies in the field of food consumption data collections.

- **New developments**

Comprehensive Database and data access issues

DA gave an overview of the EFSA Comprehensive Database. He presented the new data access policy of EFSA. Openness and transparency are fundamental aspects of EFSA's founding regulation. According to regulation on public access to documents, any EU citizen shall have the right of access to documents of the EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies. In the long term EFSA is aimed at giving public access to the EFSA Comprehensive Database.

DA asked experts on a roundtable basis to describe the situation on data accessibility in their country.

Luxembourg does not have any data available.

Malta provides a summary of data from one food consumption survey. The raw data are not available but can be asked and used under agreement.

Norway does not have data accessible outside the Oslo University. Data are available for the Norwegian Risk Assessment Agency. For other users, a cooperation agreement is required with the University of Oslo. There are no plans to change this policy.

Portugal does not have any recent data available.

Slovakia does not give access to any raw data, but provides only a summary.

Slovenia can make raw data accessible under certain conditions.

Spain does not have raw data accessible. An agreement is needed and certain conditions need to be respected.

Sweden provides access to raw data to anybody on request. More details are provided with a small fee.

Switzerland does not have any data available.

The Netherlands has raw data freely available. Users need to be registered and use the data under conditions.

In the United Kingdom raw data of dietary surveys accessible to the public. There is a small administrative charge for commercial users. Before publication, data are checked, cleaned and anonymised so that individuals cannot be identified. The raw data is usually available a few months after publication of the survey report.

In Belgium raw data on children are freely available for all institutions related to the government or education. Concerning the data for adults, as they belong to another institute, the representative couldn't say what the status of data was.

Bulgaria has data accessible under certain conditions.

Croatia has a new survey ongoing. Raw data are not yet accessible. They will be provided for use under conditions.

Cyprus does not give access to raw data. There is a need to ask for permission.

The Czech Republic does not have data freely available; it provides only an overview and statistics.

Denmark gives free access to data, but a fee is required.

Estonia provides free access to overviews of data and raw data are available under conditions based on a data request application.

Finland publishes summary reports on the results on web (no raw data), more details are provided in terms of cooperative projects with risk assessors.

France does not have data accessible. Raw data are provided on request and under conditions. A fee is requested.

7th Meeting of Expert Group on Food Consumption Data

Germany provides reports. A Scientific-Use-File with aggregated data is available. A fee is requested for this. Raw data are only provided on request and under conditions based on collaboration agreements.

Greece currently does not have any data.

Hungary gives access to data on request under conditions.

In Italy data are accessible under conditions.

In Latvia reports and aggregated data are available to the public. Raw data are not accessible. A request is needed for research purposes.

In Lithuania only general information and conclusions are available. They provide more details on request.

EFSA Data Warehouse

Stefano Cappe (SC) introduced the data warehouse in view of the new data access policy. A data warehouse is a database designed for data analysis. He demonstrated the workflow and listed its available tools for data analysis giving examples on the screen. SC presented three proposals on EFSA's data warehouse access policy. The first gives access to full datasets to EFSA staff, panel and WG members; the second gives access to their national data to organisation providing them; and the third to others, but only in the form of reports and opinions.

Discussion:

MSs asked if there is a plan to create the data warehouse in different languages. SC replied that the set-up is scheduled to be ready by autumn 2013. Creating a multilingual version will be taken into consideration for the future.

Experts were interested to know if they will be able to access data for risk assessment. DA replied that for the time being this is not possible as one country can have access to its own data and not to another's. It may be the case in the future.

Leif Busk (LB) wondered whether there is a difference between consumption and occurrence data in terms of accessibility. In addition, he asked if there are constraints in presenting the exposure assessment results. DA answered that there is a difference; food consumption data are collected by institution/organisation and the ownership is diverse from the country. Occurrence data are owned by countries and they are required by law to provide them to EFSA. In view of openness and transparency EFSA regularly presents exposure results at country level. Currently it is not common practice to merge European food consumption data due to different methodologies used across Europe.

PF commented that as data access is an important issue, it should be included in the EU Menu strategy.

From the EU Menu project to the EU Menu process- Progress report of the EU Menu project

LV gave a presentation on the EU Menu process, outlined the cornerstones, the new developments, the roadmap and the progress report. She introduced the EU Menu WG set in 2012, its members and terms of reference. LV showed the building blocks of the EU Menu strategy from 2009 to 2011 and from 2012 onwards in different aspects of the process. She gave details on the actions to be taken up to 2018 within the roadmap of the EU Menu.

7th Meeting of Expert Group on Food Consumption Data

The progress report of the EU Menu was approved by the EGFCED. However, it was agreed that in case anybody would find any need for corrections in the report, they should be sent to LV by the end of the following week, i.e. by the end of November 2012, to be included in the final version.

Discussion:

MSs asked how the new guidance document of 2014 will be developed. LV explained that this will be the task of the EFSA/DCM Unit in collaboration with the EU Menu WG and possible additional ad-hoc expert groups will be considered if needed. The guidance is planned to be discussed in a scientific colloquium in spring 2014 and will be endorsed by the EGFCED before publishing.

Experts proposed to include members of the first EU Menu countries collecting data to the EU Menu WG. LV said that expanding the EU Menu WG has been discussed, but decisions are pending at this moment.

MSs pointed out that the different protocol for children and adults should be included in the guideline and proposed to include also the outcomes of the pilot studies. DA assured that protocols for these two groups will be kept separately.

Group members asked whether countries that already received funding should adapt their methodology to the revised guidance or continue according to the existing guidance and try to harmonise their results at a later stage. LV replied that the revised guidance is assumed not to deviate much from the existing guidance. It will mainly include experience gained from the pilot studies. After the compilation of the revised guidance, the new funding calls will be based on that. New funding calls in the near future will be based on existing guidance as the revised guidance is not scheduled until 2014.

In the current guidance it is stated that the sample should include three age groups of children and three of adults. Countries may decide to focus only on children or adults. In this case they may be funded with half of the amount of money allocated per country.

- **Panel discussion on the EU Menu future**

The aim of the panel discussion was to get insight and increase understanding of the concerns of the MSs in relation to the EU Menu process today and obtain suggestions how to facilitate the EU Menu process in collaboration with the MSs.

The following four questions were made available to the panel members before the meeting:

- What would be the added value and the drawbacks of a harmonised collection of food consumption data in Europe?
- From your country/organisation point of view, how do you see the EU Menu process in harmonising European food consumption data?
- Related to the food consumption data harmonisation process, where would you put resources and why? (e.g. data collection activities, research on dietary assessment methods, validation studies, capacity building, something other than food consumption data, etc.)
- The importance of reliable and harmonised food consumption data is recognised by national governments and EU institutions. How can this be further enhanced and by whom? How do you see the role of the EFSA/Expert Group on Food Consumption Data in this process?

7th Meeting of Expert Group on Food Consumption Data

The panel members were asked to concentrate on one topic or give a broader view. A discussion between panel members and between the audience and panel members followed. The most important points are summarised below:

LB proposed that EFSA should encourage modelling of different factors in risk assessment in order to identify where to put resources to reduce the uncertainties. MSs need to understand the commitment at national level to enter in the EU Menu process. He suggested that EFSA should facilitate the participation of MSs in the EU Menu process and seek for financial support from the EU, taking into consideration the expectations of the target person to whom the lobbying will be addressed, and that the EU Menu WG should prepare the roadmap for lobbying.

PF underlined the importance of the EU Menu WG. They should coordinate the process, clarify the aims and expectations, and look for additional resources. There is a need for better harmonisation in food composition area and compatibility between different classification systems. He also stressed the importance of cooperation. In terms of lobbying, he suggested to do it towards DG SANCO and the EC.

NS stressed the absolute need to proceed with the EU Menu process. There is a good infrastructure available. She recommended that the EU-Menu process needs to have a clear roadmap and agenda. She suggested that EFSA should take the initiative to do more effective lobbying. IARC is open to discuss the integration of FoodEx2 into EPIC-Soft.

AA referred to the importance of harmonising European food consumption data. He stressed the necessity to have free and user friendly software available and to solve the problem with the ownership and availability of the data. The linkage of the data with FoodEx2 is also crucial. Countries should validate their data and clearly identify the uncertainties in order to have high quality data for exposure assessment.

Mark Bush (MB) pointed out that the roadmap of EU Menu process should be clearly defined. The impact of the circumstances under which surveys are carried out could be as significant a source of variation between datasets as differences between methods. There was value in having more data available to give a more representative picture of Europe, but data quality remained a vital consideration. Identifying and investigating sources of variation and uncertainty so that a wide ranging, high quality dataset could be built up would be useful.

Liis Kambek (LK) referred to the experience of Estonia as part of the EU Menu process. EFSA supported Estonia on both methodological and economical aspects and the process was very smooth. She encouraged other MSs to apply for funding through the EU Menu as this is a good opportunity to work together in order to achieve the desired common goal. LK also underlined the need to follow a guideline on harmonising recipe calculation methods across Europe. She proposed to include the experience from the first EU Menu surveys in the revised EFSA guidance.

Marga Ocke (MO) agreed that reliable and harmonised food consumption data are very important. More efforts should be done to search for funding resources in collaboration with other organisations and international agencies, as well as stakeholders with similar interests. Another important point is the availability of a good infrastructure. This includes a strong coordination centre responsible for training and guidelines, a help desk function,

7th Meeting of Expert Group on Food Consumption Data

and quality assurance and controls. She recommended taking into consideration the experience gained from the pilots in view of the long term run of the EU Menu process.

MG stressed that for an efficient exposure assessment at European level EFSA needs to have harmonised food consumption data and clearly identified uncertainties. The EU Menu WG should facilitate the smoothness of the process by promoting strong collaboration and sharing ideas and experiences. As data quality is very important MG asked MSs to spend sufficient time to clean their data before submitting them to EFSA. Concerning lobbying, she reflected the current financial constraints present. Attempts were made to get funding for the EU menu project in the past, but that this did not materialise as foreseen. Nevertheless, she encouraged MSs to continue deliver data of best quality.

- **Updates on EFSA projects**

Final progress report on PANCAKE

Ellen Trolle (ET) presented the pilot study of the PANCAKE project. She gave an overview of the aims and methodology followed, the tools and protocols developed and tested, the results of the pilot study and provided overall conclusions and recommendations.

Discussion:

One delegate asked how the anthropometric measurement data were used. MO replied that the aim of collecting anthropometric measurements was to test the feasibility of performing the measurement.

Update on the status of the PILOT-PANEU

AA shortly described the project, its work plan and what has been done to date. He gave an overview of the current status of interviews in Bulgaria, Finland, Greece, Hungary and Portugal. AA also presented some preliminary results related to the comparison of the direct estimation and memory method during the validation of the picture books. He finally referred to the future activities of the project.

Discussion:

The DOS type procedures were used to prepare the EPIC-Soft versions apart from the interview screens which were in Windows.

Experts were interested in the method used for the anthropometric measurements. AA replied that they measured the height with a simple measure tape on one occasion. This was easy to carry with a satisfactory accuracy of ± 1 cm. They used calibrated balances for the weight measurement.

There was a question on the variation of recipe portion sizes. AA explained they looked for variation of recipes in the most popular recipe books.

Nutrient database

Sofia Ioannidou (SI) gave an overview on the project “Updated food composition database for nutrient intake”. She summarized the outcomes concerning components coverage, composite dishes and supplements included in the database. SI also mentioned the limitation of the data identified and the recommendations of the contractor.

Discussion:

More details can be found in the final external scientific report going to be published in the EFSA Journal by early 2013.

MSs asked what the future use of this database would be. This database will allow EFSA to estimate nutrient intakes and to respond to possible information requests e.g. from the EC.

It was asked whether fortified foods are included. SI replied that fortification was covered by a facet descriptor and referred to a certain number of foods in the food list.

Evaluation of dietary tools

PF presented the new project “Dietary monitoring tools for risk assessment” coordinated by a consortium of three partners. The overall aim is to identify the available data collection protocols and tools across Europe. He introduced the specific objectives of the project. PF gave more details on the ring-trial planned to take place in January 2013.

Discussion:

MSs asked details about the organisation of the ring-trial. PF replied that the consortium will evaluate different tools according to the protocol. He recognised that this will be very challenging since it has never been done before. SI described the preparation phase and execution of the ring-trial. EFSA will build food lists and translate them in the original languages. The software providers will be invited in Parma for 10-12 interviews during a period of two days.

LV underlined that the purpose of this project is to check the variability of the outcomes in case of using different (non-harmonised) methodologies (i.e. tools, databases and related procedures).

- **How do other European projects relate to the EU Menu process?**

EU/FACET project

Catherine Simoneau (CS) from the JRC (Ispra) gave a presentation on the FACET project, a tool for chemical surveillance and exposure assessment. The aim of the project was to estimate EU consumer exposure to food additives, food flavourings and food contact materials. The consortium developed a harmonised database using eight nationally available food intake datasets and on occurrence of target food chemicals.

7th Meeting of Expert Group on Food Consumption Data

They had one database for all three chemicals with different tiers of aggregation. Additionally, chemical concentration data were gathered from industry, linked to the food intake data and integrated to the software. She also referred to the future use of this database.

Discussion:

Experts wondered why plastic was a primary focus of attention. CS answered that plastic is already regulated at EU level and is the most harmonised packaging material across Europe.

It was asked whether there are differences in terms of precision comparing with other methods. CS explained that the system calculates exposure on the basis of the worst scenario which assures the high protection of the consumer. This approach gives more precise outcomes for the risk managers.

MG asked whether the software is freely available and under which conditions. CS replied that there might be some restriction on some encrypted data on chemical composition of some packaging materials. As during the timeframe of the collection of the data there was a change in legislation on food flavouring, MG wondered if this was taken into consideration. CS will check and provide an answer in due course.

EU/EURO DISH

Pieter van't Veer (PV) from the Wageningen University presented the EuroDISH project funded under the EU 7th Framework Programme. It focuses on the integration of existing Food and Health Research Infrastructures, as well as the development of new ones. The logic framework for EuroDISH is based on the model: 'Determinants, Intake, Status and Health'.

The EuroDISH project will take place in three phases: (i) mapping existing Research Infrastructures and identify gaps, (ii) integrating findings within and between DISH pillars, and (iii) developing a conceptual design with a roadmap for implementation.

Discussion:

There was a discussion on the engagement of stakeholders along the DISH-model, as well as what affects the food choices and habits.

MSs asked whether there is a competence layer between the hard and soft Research Infrastructures. PV explained that training and education are important, but the main emphasis should be given on the infrastructure as such.

- **Update of the ongoing and starting EU Menu projects**

France

Carine Dubuisson (CD) talked about the French national INCA3 survey during the period of 2012-2015. She gave an overview of the survey design, the sampling strategy and information on the collection tools used. CD referred to the next steps to be taken for the finalisation of the project.

7th Meeting of Expert Group on Food Consumption Data

Discussion:

There was a question concerning the final sample size. CD clarified that this includes 4000 subjects in total.

Experts were interested to know who will do the field work and what their required background would be. CD replied that interviewers should not necessarily be dietitians since a prior training will be organised.

Estonia

LK described the dietary survey among children and adults in Estonia. She referred to the project team and the resources obtained. She informed about the progress in three steps: (i) harmonisation with EU-Menu, already done (ii) pilot study, currently in progress and (iii) the actual survey that will start in June 2013.

Discussion:

LK gave more details on how Estonia redefines the age groups in order to harmonise their methodology to the EU-Menu process. She also mentioned the dietary methods used for each population group; two-day diary and FPQ for children and two-24 hour recall and FPQ for adults. As for the sample size, the minimum requirement was 260 subjects per age group.

Spain

Victoria Marcos (VM) gave information on the Spanish dietary survey on children and adolescents during the period of 2012-2014. She talked about target population groups, sampling, survey methodology and materials used. She introduced the team and their tasks and gave an update on the current status.

Latvia

Dace Vilcane (DV) presented the national food consumption survey in Latvia. It will cover all population groups, 0–74 years and was scheduled to start in December 2012. Since the survey is funded by EFSA's tender, certain key aspects of the EFSA guidelines need to be respected. She gave more details on the number of subjects for every population group and the methodology that will be used. In addition, DV presented the composition of the project team and the timeframe of the field work. She expressed Latvia's interest in using the EPIC-Soft software.

The Netherlands

MO introduced the Dutch food consumption survey that started in November 2012. She referred to the study population and the dietary assessment tool used for the data collection. MO informed about the dietary method used for each population group and the sampling strategy. Data will be transferred to EFSA in two phases; in November 2015 and May 2018.

7th Meeting of Expert Group on Food Consumption Data

Discussion:

MO clarified that both deliverables to EFSA will include data from all age groups. Concerning the selection of the interviewers, these are dieticians, hired by the subcontractor. RIVM is responsible for their training and the quality control. One delegate asked why it was decided to have self-reported anthropometric measurements for adults. MO explained that this choice was made due to financial constraints. For children and older adults, home visits are arranged and anthropometric measurement will be taken.

Related to the telephone interviews, they will send the picture book by post prior to the interview and the subject will be asked to have it easily accessible when they will receive the phone call.

Portugal

Maria Antonia Calhau (MAC) gave a presentation on the Portuguese dietary survey in the framework of EU Menu process, which started in October 2012. She introduced the research team and specific objectives and gave a summary of the sampling size, target population groups and methodology to be used. MAC described the current status and future plans and gave an estimation of the work plan.

Opening of day 3

The chair summarized the key points of discussion of Day 2 and gave the floor to the next presenter.

- **Member States' plans and view on national dietary surveys and other selected topics**

Fanny Heraud (FH) introduced the new calls for tenders planned for launch in 2013. She specified the objectives and the criteria for funding both the "Update of the comprehensive database" and the "Support to national surveys". She invited MS representatives to answer to the following questions:

1. Is any new individual food consumption data available in your country?
2. Is a national consumption survey planned in your country in the coming years? If so:
 - a. What is the estimated starting date?
 - b. What is the estimated duration of the survey?
 - c. What is the target population?
3. What could be improved in the call to facilitate your participation?
 - a. Timing of launching and deadline of the call
 - b. Duration of the contract
 - c. Level of the financial support
 - d. Conditions to be eligible
 - e. Other?
4. For the countries already involved in the EU Menu process: Any remark or suggestions to improve the follow up of the project by EFSA?

Member States' Roundtable

United Kingdom: The United Kingdom has just finished the fieldwork on infants from 4-18 months and the report is scheduled to be published in March 2013. A new contract to continue the national rolling programme of dietary survey work for a further four years of fieldwork will start in April 2013 covering all population age groups. A four day diary will be used. This will cover 1000 subjects per year equally divided between children and adults, including blood and urine analyses for sodium intake information. Opening calls to include a wider range of survey methods and related work would be useful.

The Netherlands: Data on 700 very elderly people (70+ years) will be available in June 2013. The Netherlands is currently involved in the EU Menu process. They referred to the difficulty faced with mapping towards FoodEx2 classification in terms of the time required to complete the task. They are in favour of the idea of searching for more efficient procedures if possible linked to data collection.

Switzerland: The pilot study for a new dietary survey will start in April 2013, with duration of three months performed in three languages. The study will include 2000 subjects of the age between 18-70 years. The interviews will be carried using a two 24 hour recall, one face-to-face and one telephone interview in combination with a FPQ, PAQ, socio-economical information and anthropometric measurements. The main study will start at the end of 2013.

Sweden: Sweden will have a new survey on children starting in 2016. They will use a four day food record. The age groups are not yet defined. Prior to the main survey, they will organise a pilot study. They suggested having clearer instruction for the deliverables of the calls.

Spain: Spain plans to have a dietary survey on elderly people in 2014. They are satisfied with the conditions of the participation in the call. A higher funding would be appreciated. Training in FoodEx2 classification would also be helpful.

Slovenia: Slovenia will have data available from their survey on children (10-14 years) obtained by a two 24 hour recall in summer 2013. They are also planning another survey on elderly people with no precise information yet.

Slovakia: They will have data on 3000 adults aged between 19-64 years, obtained by a two 24 hour recall and a FFQ, in June 2013.

Portugal: Portugal has already been funded through the EU Menu process and data will be provided to EFSA in 2015.

Norway: Norway is planning a new dietary survey to start in September 2014. They will use their own software applying a four day diary for children and adolescents and 24 hour recall for adults in combination with a FFQ. A pilot study will start in 2013. They expressed their hesitation to apply for a call since they are not in favour of publishing data for other reasons apart from risk assessment.

7th Meeting of Expert Group on Food Consumption Data

Malta: Malta has available food consumption data on adults since two years ago and are considering to apply for the "Update of the Comprehensive database". They also plan to carry out a survey on children.

Luxembourg: Luxembourg currently does not have any concrete plans to conduct a dietary survey.

Lithuania: Lithuania is following a rolling programme on five years basis. They can provide data to EFSA from their last survey of 2007, done by means of 24 hour recall on adults between 19-65 years.

Latvia: Latvia has already been funded through the EU Menu process. They proposed to share the experience gained from the pilot studies.

Italy: Due to changes in their organisation, there are not any plans to undertake a dietary survey at the moment. They consider starting a new study on general population in 2016-2017.

Hungary: They can provide food consumption data from their last survey conducted in 2009 through the "Update of the Comprehensive Database". The data were obtained with a three day food record and are already codified towards FoodEx2. They plan to have a new dietary survey in 2013-2014 after the update of the EPIC-Soft tool.

Greece: There are currently two dietary surveys in Greece. The first survey, which commenced in February 2012, aims to collect data from at least 4000 subjects aged from 18 years onwards, using two 24 hour recall in combination with a FFQ. It will be nationally and geographically representative and include also immigrants. The second dietary survey which commenced in July 2012 will cover 10000 subjects of broader population group from birth onwards and will use two 24 hour recall and a semi-quantitative FFQ. It will also be nationally and geographically representative without including immigrants. Both surveys will use a validated picture book.

Germany: Germany currently does not have any concrete plans to conduct a dietary survey.

France: France have already been funded through the EU Menu process for the INCA3 survey. Another survey including biomonitoring is currently underway with a similar methodology and sampling strategy as the INCA3, focusing on subjects of 6-74 years. They commented that training in FoodEx2 classification would be helpful.

Finland: Their next survey on adults will probably start in 2017. Decisions on a possible children's survey are pending at the moment.

Estonia: The survey in the framework of the EU Menu process is ongoing and the data will be available in 2015.

Denmark: A national survey is ongoing and data on 3700 subjects aged from 14-75 years obtained with a seven day food record will be available in 2014. They plan to start another survey on infants and young children. They commented that the financial support from EFSA could be higher.

7th Meeting of Expert Group on Food Consumption Data

Czech Republic: They are not planning to have a new dietary survey before 2015. They would like to cover the whole population. If this is not feasible they will concentrate on children only.

They have commented that the duration proposed in the call is acceptable.

Cyprus: Food consumption data on adolescents are available but were not collected according to EFSA's requirements. They plan to do a survey in 2013 covering the whole population. They still need to define the sample size. They are willing to follow EFSA's guidelines.

They asked what would be a reason for DCM to decline a proposal for funding. It would be useful to communicate the reasons of failing to an unsuccessful applicant.

Croatia: Croatia already has available data since autumn 2011 and summer 2012 on a total of 2000 adults obtained by two non consecutive 24 hour recall, face to face interview including one weekend day. They conducted the interviews according to EFSA's guidelines. Data are coded according to FoodEx1. They are planning to have a new survey on children in 2014.

Bulgaria: They are planning a new dietary survey in 2014 on 3000 subjects covering all population groups. They will use the EPIC-soft software to collect two non consecutive 24 hour recalls. They plan to follow the guidelines of EFSA.

Belgium: They plan to conduct their next survey in 2013-2014 according to EFSA's guidelines. They will include population groups from 3-65 years and a sample size of 3200 subjects. The final decision will depend on the availability of resources.

- **Heading towards 2013**

Expert group's comments and ideas on the update of the EGFCF's terms of reference are summarised below:

- ✓ To guide the process of establishing a pan-EU food consumption system tailored for risk assessment evaluations and the organization of the data in a pan-EU database system for nutritional and nutrition-related data
- ✓ To establish a framework to facilitate dialogue between MSs, governmental bodies, EU-Commission, DG-SANCO, EUROSTAT and EU-NGOs operating in the field of generating and managing nutritional data
- ✓ To incorporate representatives that share their country's national views
- ✓ To include how the EU Menu WG with advisory function is related to the EGFCF

- **How are the Member States' food consumption data used in EFSA?**

An overview of the different uses of food consumption data made by the EFSA CONTAM Unit

Mari Eskola (ME) introduced the EFSA CONTAM Panel and informed how it carries out risk assessment on contaminants using food consumption and occurrence data. She explained the whole procedure from the receipt of a request until the adoption of an opinion. CONTAM Panel's scientific opinions will advise risk managers on the need for possible revision of the current legislation and/or any other risk management actions. ME concluded her presentation by giving examples on the use of food consumption data in the CONTAM Panel's scientific opinions.

The FAIM template

Alexandra Tard (AT) gave a presentation on the FAIM tool. This is a screening tool to estimate chronic exposure to food additives. It is based on data included in the EFSA Comprehensive Database. The food groups included in the tool resulted from the linkage between the new food classification system of the EU food additives legislation and FoodEx1. There are uncertainties, since those food groups are not as detailed as those described in the EU food additives legislation. The new guidance to re-evaluate food additives is already published on EFSA website. The FAIM tool was published in 2012 with instructions for use.

Dioxins and PCBs

FH presented how the DCM Unit recently performed the dietary exposure to dioxins and PCBs in the European population. She gave some background information and referred to the materials and methods used. FH talked in more detail about the outcomes showing results related to exposure levels and their time trends.

Discussion:

LB wondered whether the decreasing trend in exposure levels was influenced by left-censored data. FH confirmed that the decreasing trend in exposure levels may be explained by both the improvement of the analytical methods and risk management measures. Unfortunately, the data are not sufficiently documented in order to quantify the impact of analytical improvements on that decreasing trend.

Refinement of dietary exposure estimates: the cadmium case

DA gave a presentation comparing two approaches to exposure assessments using the example of cadmium: a deterministic approach and a more refined probabilistic approach. DA presented the results for the mean and the 95th percentile exposure levels.

Final discussion

During the final discussion, it was stated that the revised guidelines on will be developed by the EU Menu WG. An ad-hoc WG will be considered if needed. The new guidance will incorporate the results from the pilot studies, experience gained from the

7th Meeting of Expert Group on Food Consumption Data

EU Menu process and the outcomes of the ring trial during the dietary monitoring tool project. It is then planned to be discussed during the Scientific Colloquium in 2014 (TBD). In order to facilitate the coding towards FoodEx2, DCM Unit plans to have all data included in the Comprehensive Database mapped towards FoodEx2 and additionally develop a food dictionary in all European languages.

End of the meeting

The chair closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their contributions and active participation.

NEXT MEETING: in 2013, to be determined

SUMMARY of ACTIONS

WHO	WHAT	BY
MSs	Action 1: MSs representatives to endorse the EU Menu progress report and provide their feedback by the end of the following week	30 November 2012
DCM Unit	Action 2: To circulate the link to FoodEx2 classification browser	ASAP
DCM Unit	Action 3: A summary of all questions raised by MSs representatives to be sent to IARC	ASAP
DCM Unit	Action 4: DCM Unit to disseminate the answers of IARC to the group members	As soon as answers are received from IARC