

DCM UNIT

**Minutes of the 8th meeting of the
Network on Food Consumption Data
13-14 November 2013, Parma Italy
(Agreed on 28 November 2013)¹**

Participants

• **Network Representatives of Member States:**

Country	Name ²	Country	Name
Austria	Verena Hasenegger	Malta	Ingrid Busuttil
Belgium	Koen Cuypers	Netherlands	Marga C. Ocke
Bulgaria	Stefka Petrova	Norway	Inger Therese L. Lillegaard
Croatia	Darja Sokolic-Mihalak	Poland	Iwona Traczyk
Cyprus	Stelios Yiannopoulos	Portugal	Maria Antonia Calhau
Czech Republic	Marcela Dofkova	Romania	Cristian Valentin Lis
Denmark	Ellen Trolle	Slovakia	Katarina Kromerova
Estonia	Keiu Norkroos	Slovenia	Matei Gregoric
Finland	Susanna Raulio	Spain	Victoria Marcos Suarez
France	Carine Dubuisson	Sweden	Cecilia Naelsen
Germany	Carolin Krems	United Kingdom	Mark Bush
Greece	Georgios Marakis		
Hungary	Suzsanna Horvath		
Ireland	Breige McNulty		
Italy	Aida Turrini		
Latvia	Inese Siksna		

¹ The publication of the minutes shall be made without delay in compliance with the Founding Regulation and no later than 15 working days following the day of their agreement.

² Indicate first full name and then surname (John Smith) all throughout the document

- **Pre-accession country representatives**

Country	Name
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Gordana Ristovska
Turkey	Nurseren Muzaffer Budak
Montenegro	Maja Blagojevic
Serbia	Jelena Rakic Gudelj

- **Hearing Experts**

Item	Name
5.2 “Progress of the EU Menu process and related issues”	Arpad Ambrus
5.2 “Progress of the EU Menu process and related issues”	Antonia Trichopoulou
5.5 “Usual intake modelling in practice”	Paul Goedhart
5.7 “Perspectives to the data collection process from the EU Menu WG”	Paul Finglas

- **Observers:**

Country	Name
Switzerland	Esther Camenzind

- **Other participants:**

Sofia Guiomar	EU Menu survey
Eleni Kakouri	EU Menu survey

- **EFSA:**

Name	Unit
Liisa Valsta	DCM (Chair)
Mary Gilsean	DCM*
Francesco Vernazza	DCM*
Davide Arcella	DCM*
Liis Kambek	DCM* (Minutes)

Chiara Guescini	DCM*
Sofia Ioannidou	DCM*
Petra Gergelova	DCM*
Francisca Vennemann	DCM

* = partial attendance at specific points of the agenda

- Abbreviations and acronyms**

ADoI	Annual Declaration of interest
DCM	Dietary and Chemical Monitoring Unit
DG	Directorate-General
Dols	Declaration of Interests
EFSA	European Food Safety Authority
ETUI	European Tool Usual Intake
FoodEx	Food Classification and Description System for Exposure Assessment
FPQ	Food Propensity Questionnaire
HoU	Head of Unit
MSs	Member States
NWFCD	Network on Food Consumption Data
ODoI	Oral Declaration of interest
PANCAKE	Pilot study for the Assessment of Nutrient Intake and Food Consumption Among Kids in Europe
PANEU	Pilot study in the view of a Pan-European dietary survey - adolescents, adults and elderly
WG	Working Group

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants and declared the meeting opened. Apologies were received from Iceland, Lithuania, Luxemburg and Romania.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes regarding Declarations of Interests (DoIs)³ and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy⁴, members of networks, peer review meetings, networking meetings and their alternates shall be invited to complete and submit an Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI).

EFSA screened the ADoI filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of interest (ODOI) at the beginning of this meeting.

The Chair thanked the representative(s) that has/have submitted an ADoI and/or has/have declared some interest at the beginning of this meeting in the ODOI.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 7th meeting of the Network on Food Consumption Data held on 21-23 November, 2012, Parma.

The minutes were agreed by written procedure on 21 12 2012 and published on the EFSA website 31 01 2013⁵.

5. Topics for discussion

5.1 Introduction

The administrative aspects of the meeting were presented and discussed by Chiara Guescini. An overview of the changes in the name and terms of reference for the Network on Food Consumption Data were presented by Mary Gilson. The representatives of the Member States (MS) adopted the changes in name and terms of reference of the Network on Food Consumption Data.

• Objectives of the meeting

The main objectives of the 8th meeting of the Network on Food Consumption data were presented as follows:

1. Providing an overview of the status of the EU Menu process to the representatives of the MS Network;
2. Discussing the outcomes of the EU Menu pilot projects with regards to the methodological aspects of the current EFSA Guidance on food consumption data collection "General

³ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules.pdf>

⁵ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/datex/datexegs.htm>

principles for the collection of national food consumption data in the view of a pan-European dietary survey”⁶ (hereon after referred to as the EFSA Guidance on food consumption data collection);

3. Presenting the plan for updating the EFSA Guidance on food consumption data collection to the MS Network;

4. Getting suggestions from the MS Network on:

- a. The EU Menu process
- b. The process of updating the EFSA Guidance on food consumption data collection, and to get approval to the EU Menu progress report.

5.2 Progress of the EU Menu process and related issues

Liisa Valsta gave a presentation on the new developments regarding the EU Menu process (“Update on the EU Menu process”). The aims of the collection of food consumption data at EU level were summarised. The tasks of the EU Menu working group (WG) were presented and the general EU Menu plan was revised. An overview of the deliverables from the EU Menu pilot projects and the main outcomes from the EMP-PANEU pilot was presented. The plan for the activities and funding of the EU Menu process following the EU Menu pilots was summarised. Critical issues in the EU Menu coordination with regards to finalisation and dissemination of the protocols and tools and progress monitoring were introduced. The general roadmap and timeline for the EU Menu process was presented. The progress report was approved by the Network.

Following the general update of the EU Menu process, Marga Ocke gave a presentation on the tools and procedures developed, tested and evaluated within the PANCAKE project in the view of a pan-European food consumption survey among infants, toddlers, children and breastfeeding women (“PANCAKE pilot studies”). Recommendations from the PANCAKE pilot study were presented for the EU Menu survey with special emphasis on following the general sampling guidelines and providing sufficient training for the survey teams.

Following the overview of the PANCAKE pilot study, Arpad Ambrus gave a presentation on the tools and procedures developed and tested in the PANEU pilot study in the view of a pan-European dietary survey among adolescents, adults and elderly (“Pilot study in the view of a Pan-European dietary survey - adolescents, adults and elderly”). Recommendations from the PANEU pilot study were presented with emphasis on the training requirements, the sampling frame definition and the time requirements for data cleaning and verification. In addition, the need to apply country specific household measures was emphasised. The proposal to use electronic picture books for portion size estimation for a simpler application of a telephone interview was introduced.

Following the overview of the results of the PANEU pilot study, Antonia Trichopoulou continued with a presentation on the project to identify, describe and assess the available dietary monitoring tools for risk assessment in the EU (“Dietary monitoring tools for risk assessment”). An overview of the objectives, methodology and preliminary results of the project were presented. The presentations were followed by an active discussion by the meeting participants. The necessity to distinguish the tool and tool features from the country-specific databases used in the data collection was emphasised. In addition, it was pointed out that country specific databases (e.g. concerning yield factors) and differences in the picture books might influence the results gathered in different countries. It was agreed that the results of the dietary tools project will be used to develop the minimum requirements for a harmonised data collection tool to be used within the EU Menu survey.

⁶ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/it/efsajournal/pub/1435.htm>

Within the ring trial of the dietary tools, interviews were conducted according to country-specific interview protocols. The importance of the interview protocol and of the interviewer training was therefore highlighted since this might have also influenced the differences in the results. Finally, Antonia Trichopoulou emphasised the need to harmonise the data collection methodology and how the comparability may be ensured by means of data collection tools.

A round-table of comments and questions was conducted among the Network of MS representatives and the pre-accession countries representatives. The following issues were identified as important for the progress of the EU Menu process:

- a. Update of the EFSA Guidance on food consumption data collection by adding details based on the results of the two pilot studies;
- b. Development of minimum requirements for the data collection tool to be used in the EU Menu survey to ensure harmonisation of the data collection;
- c. Preparation of country specific databases to be included in the data collection tool in the EU Menu survey;
- d. Implementation of a harmonised quality control protocol in the EU Menu survey;
- e. Organization of training courses on the EU Menu survey methodology;
- f. Collection of consumption data on rarely eaten foods and emerging risks within the EU Menu survey.

5.3 Update of the EFSA guidance on food consumption data collection

Liis Kambek gave a presentation on EFSA's plan to update the current EFSA Guidance on food consumption data collection ("Overview of the guidance on food consumption data collection"). A summary on the key aspects of the current EFSA Guidance on food consumption data collection was presented. An introduction of the main projects and inputs for the update process was presented. The critical issues to be handled in the update of the EFSA Guidance on food consumption data collection were summarised.

Davide Arcella gave a presentation about sampling issues within the EU Menu survey ("Sampling issues and calculation of the response rate"). An overview was given on the sampling recommendations in the current EFSA Guidance on food consumption data collection. The critical issues discussed in the EU Menu WG with regards to sampling were introduced. Key questions regarding the critical sampling issues were presented for further discussion among the Network members.

Liis Kambek continued with a presentation on the harmonisation of the food list and food description in the EU Menu survey ("Harmonising food lists and describing the foods"). A summary was given on the recommendations regarding the food list and food description from the EFSA Guidance on food consumption data collection. Proposed solutions from the EU Menu WG were introduced and critical questions with regards the harmonised food list and food description were presented for further discussion among the Network members.

Liis Kambek also gave a presentation about the minimum requirements for a data collection tool in the EU Menu survey ("Minimum requirements for the data collection tool"). An overview on the current EFSA recommendations on the data collection tool was presented alongside with the proposed actions from the EU Menu WG. Key issues were presented regarding the minimum requirements for the data collection tool for further discussion among the Network members.

Liis Kambek continued with a presentation on the quality control requirements for data collection in the EU Menu survey "Quality control of the data collection". The current

recommendations for quality control in the data collection were summarised. Critical questions for quality control requirements were presented for further discussion among the Network members.

Liisa Valsta finished the session with a presentation on the participation rates in the EU Menu survey (“How to increase participation rate in the surveys?”). The importance to minimise the non-response bias in dietary surveys was highlighted. An overview of the reduction in participation rates in health and dietary surveys in EU was given alongside with the overview of the current EFSA Guidance on food consumption data collection regarding participation rates. A brief overview on the typical non-respondents and possible related issues with the representativeness of the sample in health and diet surveys was introduced. Possible solutions for raising participation rates in the EU Menu survey and activities proposed by the EU Menu WG were introduced. Critical questions were presented for further discussion among the Network members.

5.4 Discussion groups, reporting back and general discussion on the updating process

The Network members gathered into discussion groups according to their previously selected priority topics to find solutions to the presented critical methodological challenges.

Discussion group 1 was facilitated by Davide Arcella and handled the issue of sampling and calculation of response rates.

Discussion group 2 was facilitated by Sofia Ioannidou and Francesco Vernazza and handled the issue of harmonising food lists and food description.

Discussion group 3 was facilitated by Liis Kambek and handled the issue of minimum criteria for a data collection tool.

Discussion group 4 was facilitated by Mark Bush and handled the issue of quality control in the data collection.

Discussion group 5 was facilitated by Liisa Valsta and handled the issue of raising response rates in the survey.

Davide Arcella presented the results from discussion group 1 on the harmonisation of the calculation of response rates in the EU Menu survey, the sampling of pregnant women and the definition and inclusion of institutionalised subjects in the survey.

Marcela Dofkova presented the results from the discussion group 2 on benefits of a harmonised food list, inclusion of country specific foods and recipes, the harmonised application of the FoodEx2, and the use of country specific expertise in the description of reported foods.

Liis Kambek presented the results from the discussion group 3 on the critical type of information that should be captured with the data collection tool, the description of country specific databases to be included in the tool, automated quality control checks to be incorporated into the tool and necessary training and technical support to be organised for the users with different background or knowledge of the data collection tool.

Mark Bush presented the results from the discussion group 4 on how to include quality control issues in the update of the EFSA Guidance on food consumption data collection, the key quality control procedures to be implemented during the fieldwork of the EU Menu survey and the assurance of similar quality of interviews in the survey alongside with how the quality could be assessed in a harmonised way.

Liisa Valsta presented the results from the discussion group 5 on the typical response rates in the EU countries, the actions to be taken to increase response rate for the EU Menu

survey, the types of incentives to be used and the inclusion of response rate issues in the updated EFSA Guidance on food consumption data collection.

5.5 Tutorial on the FoodEx2 food browser

The second meeting day started with a presentation from Francesco Vernazza with a tutorial on how to use the FoodEx2 browser. Some examples of how national food items may be included in the FoodEx2 were presented, either as aliases of existing terms or as additional extended terms added in the national lists as levels below the existing ones (e.g. for composite food categories).

5.6 Usual intake modelling in practice

Paul Goedhart gave a presentation on usual intake modelling in practice. An update on the status of usual intake modelling in Europe was given. The statistical methodology for estimation of usual intake was introduced. A summary of benefits of including information from the Food Propensity Questionnaire in usual intake modelling was presented. An overview of existing tutorials and software for usual intake modelling was presented.

5.7 EU Menu plans in the Member States

A round table summarising the plans of dietary surveys among the MS and pre-accession countries was conducted. Twenty seven countries reported to be in the middle of or planning a national dietary survey in their country. Out of these countries, ten were already part of the EU Menu process. Two countries have no plans for a national dietary survey.

5.8 Perspectives on the data collection process from the EU Menu WG

Paul Finglas gave a presentation on the perspectives on the data collection process from the EU Menu WG. EFSA's priorities in the update of the EFSA Guidance on food consumption data collection were summarised. Possible projects and initiatives that could contribute to the challenges posed by the critical issues were introduced.

5.9 Final discussion on the EU Menu process

Liisa Valsta introduced two questions for the final discussion concerning final suggestions for the update process of the EFSA Guidance on the collection of food consumption data and how could the digestion and use of EFSA outputs (EU Menu pilot reports, protocols, questionnaires, EFSA project reports, FoodEx2 browsing tool) be facilitated?

The following issues were emphasised during the final discussions by the Network of the MS representatives:

- a. Ensure the comparability between the EFSA Guidance on food consumption data collection from 2009 and the 2014 update;
- b. Organise courses/training on the EU Menu survey methodology, tools and protocols;
- c. Distribute the information among the Network of MS representatives on new EFSA publications and calls regarding the EU Menu survey.

The list of available publications related to the EU Menu survey was presented:

- PANCAKE: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/339e.htm>
- PILOT-PANEU: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/508e.htm>
- EMP-PANEU: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/485e.htm>

- ETUI: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/search.htm?text=ETUI>
- ETUI2: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/300e.htm>
- FoodEx2: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/2489.htm>
- FoodEx2_2: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/215e.htm>
- FoodEx2_Browsing tool: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/datex/datexfoodclass.htm>

6. Conclusions

As conclusion of the meeting, the chair underlined that the EU Menu process will continue focusing on the update process of the EFSA Guidance on food consumption data collection by taking into account the inputs from the Network meeting. The next steps for the Network members will be to comment on the draft of the updated guidance document anticipated to be circulated to them in early spring 2014. The aim is to get the updated document to be endorsed by the Network in spring 2014. In addition, the chair reminded the Member States about EFSA's plan to launch a new call for tenders concerning the EU Menu data collections in spring 2014. No additional points were raised.

7. Next meeting

A preliminary date for the next meeting was fixed for the beginning of November 2014.