

Network on Food Consumption Data Minutes of the 10th meeting

Held on 24-25 November 2015, Parma

(Agreed on 11 January 2016)

Participants

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

Country	Name
Austria	Jürgen König ¹
Belgium	Charlotte Stievenart
Bulgaria	Stefka Petrova
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	Zsuzsanna Horváth
Ireland	Breige McNulty
Italy	Aida Turrini
Latvia	Inese Siksna
Lithuania	Indre Stoskuvienė
Netherlands	Marga Ocke
Poland	Iwona Traczyk
Portugal	Maria Antonia Calhau
Romania	Felix Nicolescu
Slovenia	Matej Gregoric
Spain	Josefa Rubio
Sweden	Cecilia Nalsen
United Kingdom	Mark Bush
Iceland	Holmfridur Thorgeirsdottir
Norway	Inge Therese Lillegaard

¹ Attended the second day of the meeting

- **Hearing Experts**

Catherine Leclercq (FAO); Victoria Burley (University of Leeds, UK); Giulia Facchin (Mintel); Jacob Van Klaveren (RIVM); Jean-Luc Volatier (ANSES).

- **Observers**

Maro Christodoulidou (Cyprus); Merike Lauri (Estonia); Carla Lopes, Duarte Torres (Portugal); Ulla-Kaisa Koivisto Hurti (Sweden).

- **EFSA**

Evidence Management (DATA) Unit: Mary Gilsean (Head of Unit)*, Davide Arcella (Chair), Sofia Ioannidou, Evangelia Mavromichali (Minutes), Altieri Andrea, Francesca Romana Mancini, Stefano Cappe*, Jose Angel Gomez Ruiz*, Francesco Vernazza*

FIP Unit: Alexandra Tard*

Legal and Regulatory Affairs Unit (LRA): Citlali Pintado*

AFSCO Unit: Stylianos Koulouris*

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Ingrid Busuttil (Malta), Camille Strottner (Luxembourg), Katarina Kromerova (Slovakia).

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Agreement of the minutes of the 9th meeting of the Network on Food Consumption Data held on 4-6 November 2014, Parma

The minutes were agreed by written procedure on 05 December 2014 and published on the EFSA website 06 December 2015.

4. Topics for discussion

4.1. EU Menu procurement projects completed

4.1.1. EU Menu Spanish national dietary survey on children and adolescents

Josefa Rubio Manas presented the Spanish dietary survey "ENALIA" on children and adolescents. She described the sampling protocol of the survey, the dietary tool used for the collection of the data, the participation rate and the quality assurance plan. She also discussed the challenges faced during the project.

* attended part of the meeting

Food consumption data from this project were submitted to EFSA in August 2015 and the project was finalised in November 2015.

4.1.2. EU Menu Estonian dietary survey on children and breastfeeding mothers

Keiu Nelis presented the Estonian dietary survey on children and breastfeeding women. She also described the sampling protocol of the survey, the dietary tool used, the participation rate and the quality assurance plan. She highlighted the challenges faced during the project and how these were dealt with. The first version of the food consumption and related data collected through this project were submitted to EFSA in October 2015. The final version of the data will be submitted by the end of 2015.

4.2. EU Menu procurement projects initiated in 2014

4.2.1. EU Menu Hungarian dietary survey on children and adults

Zsuzsanna Horvath gave a presentation on the dietary survey in Hungary on the total population (children and adults). She gave an overview of the planning phase of the survey, focusing on the sampling design and the administration of the interview, as well as the quality assurance plan. She concluded describing the survey calendar and the future plans.

4.2.2. EU Menu Slovenian dietary survey on children and adults

Matej Gregoric presented the Slovenian national dietary survey on the total population. He described the sampling strategy, the methodology they plan to use, the administration of the interview, and the main expected challenges. He reported the recruitment and anticipated participation rate, the quality assurance plan and structure of the project.

4.2.3. EU Menu Italian dietary survey on children and adults

Aida Turrini gave a presentation on the Italian dietary survey on children and adults. She gave an overview of the sampling procedure, the dietary tool to be used, the recruitment procedure and the quality assurance plan. She also presented the project calendar.

4.2.4. Discussion

The network members welcomed the experience shared from the concluded and on-going projects. The discussion highlighted the importance of spending enough time and resources in the planning phase of a national dietary survey.

4.3. Data sharing

4.3.1. FAO/WHO GIFT and CIFOCOss Initiatives

Catherine Leclercq gave an update on the FAO/WHO projects aimed at harmonising and disseminating individual food consumption data. The CIFOCOss (Chronic Individual Food Consumption Summary Statistics) is a chronic individual food consumption database in the form of summary statistics covering 26 countries (including 17 EU countries). The FAO/WHO Global

Individual Food Consumption Data Tool (FAO/WHO GIFT) is intended to be used as a dissemination platform for individual food consumption data. She described its main uses, its potential end-users and possible outputs. She gave an overview of the GIFT dissemination platform and the timeline for its development.

4.3.2. Data warehouse, from DCF to reports on the web

Stefano Cappe gave a presentation on the EFSA Scientific Data Warehouse. He described its objectives together with the data components and data integration. The areas currently covered by the Data Warehouse are: food consumption, chemical contaminants, zoonoses and chemical hazards. He also gave examples on how the Data Warehouse can be used to present the data and referred to the Data Warehouse access rules², which describe different levels of data access to different stakeholders. He concluded giving the current status of the project and the future steps.

4.3.3. Public access to EFSA documents and data

Citlali Pintado referred to the Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 on public access to documents, applicable to documents in EFSA's possession that may apply to databases under the conditions laid down in Union Courts case law. She gave an overview of the number and type of requests EFSA receives, the standard timeline for handling these requests, the critical factors, and the key improving factors to face the workload.

4.4. Future methods in dietary surveys

4.4.1. Making the best use of new technologies in the National Diet and Nutrition Survey: a review

Victoria Burley gave a presentation on a systematic review carried out on new technologies in the UK National Diet and Nutrition Survey, currently available and in development, that have the potential to improve, complement or replace methods of dietary assessment in national dietary surveys. She described the exemplar tools: web diaries, web recalls, dietary records as applications, camera methods to complement the paper-based method or replace them completely. She gave a summary of the review findings, the research conclusions and recommendations.

4.5. Mintel Food Labels Database

Giulia Facchin presented Mintel's Global New Products Database (GNPD) which stores information from product labels (e.g. list of ingredients, packaging information) from new product launches globally. EFSA currently uses this database for its work on dietary exposure assessments. Giulia Facchin described how the database was developed and is maintained as well as its analytical functionalities. This was followed by an online demonstration on how to use the database.

² Report available at: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/768e>

25 November 2015

5. Welcome and apologies for absence

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

6. Topics for discussion

6.1. Dietary exposure and intake assessments, case studies

6.1.1. Dietary exposure to food additives

Alexandra Tard presented how dietary exposure to food additives is performed at EFSA. She described the three exposure assessment scenarios generally used in the case of food additives. For each of them she outlined the main assumptions and uncertainties.

6.1.2. Dietary assessment to minerals/ vitamins

Sofia Ioannidou gave a presentation on how the nutrient intake calculation of minerals and vitamins is performed at EFSA. The objectives of this work were to support the Nutrition Unit in setting up dietary Reference Values (DRV) and to assess nutrient intake in Europe. Sofia Ioannidou described the methodology, the main assumptions made and uncertainties generated. She also presented the results of the intake estimates for vitamin B6 and iron as examples of the methodology used.

6.1.3. Dietary exposure to contaminants

Jose Angel Gomez Ruiz presented the dietary exposure to inorganic arsenic in the European population. A scientific report was published in 2014 based on up to date occurrence and food consumption data available in EFSA. He presented the main contributors to dietary exposure to inorganic arsenic and underlined that more detailed consumption data are needed to reduce uncertainty associated to dietary exposure estimates.

6.2. Brainstorming on dietary surveys on special population groups (and 6.3)

The age groups currently covered under the EU Menu project are infants, toddlers, other children, adolescents, adults and elderly. During a round-table discussion, EFSA has requested each Member State (MS) representative to report if a dietary survey on any special population group has taken place in their country, how the selection of subjects was performed in this case, which dietary method was used and if any special practises were followed. Pregnant women were the special population group for which a dietary survey has been carried out or is currently on-going in most of the MSs (15). Food consumption data have also been collected, mainly within cohort studies, for breastfeeding mothers (8 MSs). Other special populations groups reported were: children living in institutions, fishermen, high consumers of highly contaminated fish, hospitalized patients, immigrants, institutionalized elderly people, low income households, menopausal women, minority groups including different ethnic groups, obese adults, obese school children with low income, people allergic to nuts and vegetarians. All special population groups

mentioned within the round table were listed and network participants were asked to select and vote which special population group should be prioritised in the case ad hoc dietary surveys would be supported by EFSA in the future. The population groups that should be prioritised according to the majority of the network participants was the very elderly followed by low income populations and pregnant women. Results of the round table are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Results of the voting on which special population group should be prioritised in case ad hoc dietary surveys would be supported by EFSA in the future

Special population groups	Number of votes
Very elderly >75yr old	16
Low income populations	14
Pregnant women	10
Ethnic groups	9
Obese children	7
Vegetarians	7
Food supplement users	6
People with allergies	6
Breastfeeding women	5
Institutionalised elderly	5
High fish consumers	3
Diabetics	3
People consuming food from charities	2
Celiacs	2
Menopausal women	1
Obese adults?	1
Hospitalised patients	1
Special diet due to religion	0

6.4. Updated report on FoodEx2

Francesco Vernazza gave an overview and update of the FoodEx2 classification system. He highlighted the increasing need for a more detailed description of foods consumed and described the recommended way of codifying food items using the facet descriptors. He presented the interpreting and checking tool of the FoodEx2 and explained how this is used.

6.5. International projects

6.5.1. EuroMix project

Jacob Van Klaveren gave a presentation on the European Commission funded EuroMix project, a tiered test strategy for risk assessment of mixtures of multiple chemicals. He also gave an overview of the European Commission funded ACROPOLIS project. He referred to the research activities, the use of predictive modelling for toxic chemicals and the use of MCRA (Monte Carlo Risk Assessment) to identify relevant cumulative chemicals. He concluded with recommendations for the assessment of aggregated exposure.

6.5.2. Total Diet Study (TDS) Exposure

Jean-Luc Volatier gave a presentation on the Total Diet Study (TDS) Exposure project funded by the European Commission. The objectives of the project were to identify information on exposure to chemicals that could complement the estimates based on food consumption and occurrence data, to develop and harmonise TDS methods in Europe. He described the deliverables of the project, outlined the links with the EU Menu initiative and the follow up of the project.

7. Communication with Network Members

7.1. DATA newsletter

Simona Fusar Poli presented the EFSA DATA unit newsletter distributed to the network participants in a quarterly basis. The newsletter initiative started in 2015 to inform food consumption and contaminant occurrence data providers about the use of their data in EFSA outputs. She described the newsletter layout and welcomed suggestions for improvement. The network appreciated this initiative and agreed to receive the newsletter with updates two or three times per year.

7.2. EFSA PhD programme

Stylianos Koulouris gave a presentation on the PhD and Guest Scientist schemes at EFSA as well as the EFSA Scientific Cooperation roadmap. He identified the target audiences for both schemes as well as the proposed PhD governance. MSs were invited to apply for these schemes.

8. Any other business

8.1. Contact details of Network representatives

The chair asked the participants if they have any objection to EFSA publishing on the EFSA website the names and e-mail addresses of Member State representatives participating in the scientific network on food consumption data. All participants agreed.

8.2. Date for next meeting

The next network meeting will take place in March 2017.

9. Conclusion

The chair informed the network members that they will be sent a link where they will be invited to fill in an evaluation questionnaire of the meeting and to make proposals for the next meeting.

10. Closure of the meeting

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

Evidence Management Unit (DATA UNIT)

**Network on Food Consumption Data
Minutes of the 9th meeting
Held on 04-06 November 2014, Parma**

(Agreed on 05 December 2014)

Participants

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

Country	Name
Belgium	Koenraad Cuypers
Croatia	Irena Colic-Baric
Cyprus	Stelios Yiannopoulos
Czech Republic	Marcela Dofkova
Denmark	Ellen Trolle
Estonia	Liis Kambek
Finland	Susanna Raulio
France	Carine Dubuisson
Germany	Carolin Krems
Greece	George Marakis
Hungary	Zsuzsanna Horvath
Ireland	Breige McNulty
Italy	Aida Turrini
Latvia	Inese Siksna
Lithuania	Indre Stoskuvienė
Luxembourg	Elisa Barilozzi
Malta	Ingrid Busuttil
The Netherlands	Jacqueline Castenmiller
Poland	Iwona Traczyk
Portugal	Maria Antonia Calhau
Slovenia	Marjan Simic
Spain	Josefa M. Rubio
Sweden	Cecilia Naelsén
United Kingdom	Mark Bush
Norway	Therese Lillegaard Inger
Switzerland	Esther Camenzig-Frey

- **Hearing Experts**

Dario Berardi (for item 6.3, Italy)

Ruth Charrondiere (for item 9.4, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), Italy)

Tue Christensen (for item 6.3, Denmark)

Mirjana Gurinovic (for item 6.3, Serbia)
Inge Huybrechts (for item 6.3, International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), France)
Nelis Keiu (for item 6.3, Estonia)
Catherine Leclercq (for item 9.3, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), Italy, Italy)
Androniki Naska (for item 4.4, via the telephone, Greece)
Francisca Vennemann (for item 9.7, The Netherlands)
Eva Warensjö Lemming (for item 6.3, Sweden)

- **Observers**

Eleni Ioannou –Kakouri, State General Laboratory - Cyprus
Eleni Klinaki, Hellenic Health Foundation (HHF), Greece
Carla Lopes, Instituto Nacional de Saúde Dr. Ricardo Jorge, Portugal
Stalo Papoutsou, State General Laboratory - Cyprus
Georgios Stavroulakis, State General Laboratory - Cyprus

- **EFSA**

DATA Unit: Davide Arcella, Stefano Cappe (point 8.2), Annette Cecilia Forss, Fanny Heraud (point 6.4), Mary Gilsean (Head of Unit), Chiara Guescini (point 4.1), Sofia Ioannidou (Minutes), Liisa Valsta (Chair), Francesco Vernazza (points 6.2, 6.3)

Risk Assessment & Scientific Assistance (RASA) Department: Marta Hugas (Head of Department, point 4.2)

Executive Office (EXO) Quality Management Team: Roy Kirby (point 4.3)

- **Others (EU Menu Working Group (WG) members)**

Paul Finglas (4-5 Nov)
Kari Kuulasmaa (4-5 Nov)
Marga Ocke (4-6 Nov)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants and presented the updated terms of references of the Network.

Apologies were received from Juergen Koenig (Austria), Stefka Petrova (Bulgaria), Holmfridur Thorgeisdottir (Iceland), Cristian Lis Velentin (Romania), Katarina Kromerova (Slovakia).

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Agreement of the minutes of the 8th meeting of the Network on Food Consumption Data held on 13-14 November 2013, Parma.

The minutes were agreed by written procedure on 28 November 2013 and published on the EFSA website 05 December 2014.

4. Topics for discussion

4.1 Administrative issues

The administrative aspects of the meeting were presented by Chiara Guescini.

4.2 Welcome address by EFSA

Marta Hugas, head of the RASA Department welcomed the meeting participants and informed the network representatives of recent developments in EFSA. She described the vision of “Open EFSA”¹ which sets out EFSA’s vision to improve the overall breadth of sourced information and data used for its outputs taking into account societal expectations. She underlined the importance of data collection and encouraged data sharing, highlighting the role of EFSA as a connection platform promoting cooperation with Member States (MSs).

4.3 EFSA document management system

Roy Kirby presented the new document management system of EFSA, OpenText. He gave some background information, explaining that this will help EFSA to improve the management of all documents in one single system. He also gave an example of the file plan.

4.4 Final results of the Dietary Tools project

Androniki Naska described the steps followed in the Dietary tools project, a collaborative project between EFSA and Member States within the framework of the EU Menu project, and presented its results². She pointed that the objective of this project was to evaluate and compare the software tools and their characteristics that are currently available in Europe and not to propose the best tool in Europe.

Davide Arcella added that a very well trained interviewer can complement the limitations of a software tool.

4.5 Progress on the EU Menu project

Liisa Valsta gave an overview of the EU Menu project, its timeline, its progress until now and the future plans. The first food consumption data collected through the EU Menu project are scheduled to arrive to EFSA in August 2015. The 2014 call is currently under evaluation and its results will be known soon. She also informed the network about publicity initiatives of EFSA on the EU Menu project. The EU Menu call of 2014 was published with a news story on the EFSA website (May³) and supported by a newsletter including FAQ on details of the tender (June⁴).

4.6 Updated Guidance on the EU Menu Methodology, (session 1)

Davide Arcella introduced the history of the current version of the guidance.

Paul Finglas explained the work of the EU Menu WG in the generation of the new guidance document; incorporating all information available through the EU Menu pilot projects (PANCAKE and PILOT PANEU) and experiences at national level.

Liisa Valsta reported that during the network consultation period, EFSA received altogether around 400, partially overlapping, comments from 16 countries on the draft document.

¹ Available at: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/corporate/pub/openefsadiscussionpaper14.htm>

² Available at: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/607e.htm>

³ Available at: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/press/news/140523a.htm>

⁴ Available at: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/eumenu/docs/EUMenuUpdate140617.pdf>

Comments were classified as methodological comments, clarification requests and editorials. Only the methodological comments were discussed during the meeting. EFSA agreed to incorporate all comments in as far as possible.

The guidance document was reviewed section by section and changes to be applied were identified as actions (see Annex).

05 November 2014

5. Welcome and apologies for absence

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

6. Topics for discussion

6.1 Updated Guidance on the EU Menu Methodology, (session 2)

The discussion on the changes to be applied to the guidance document continued from section 3.2 of the draft guidance document that was discussed the day before (see Annex).

6.2 Improving food classification and description – FoodEx2 update

Francesco Vernazza gave a presentation on the structure and use of the FoodEx2 classification system. Revision activities currently on-going on FoodEx2 were discussed. Examples brought up were the revision of the list of commodities, according to the new pesticides regulation and the one of certain facet descriptors. He explained that the aim of those revisions is to simplify the use of the system and favour the choice of the correct terms. He highlighted the flexibility of FoodEx2 and the possibility of personalising it with national foods.

6.3 Methodological Expo – improvements in practice

Dietary Software providers were invited to give a short presentation on the tools to participate in the methodological expo. Six tools were presented:

- Mirjana Gurinovic gave an overview of the Serbian DIET ASSES & PLAN software tool,
- Liis Kambek gave a presentation on the Estonian Nutridata pro software tool,
- Eva Warensjö-Lemming gave a presentation on the Swedish Food Agency (Livsmedelsverket's) software tool,
- Dario Berardi gave a presentation on the Italian SCAI 1.0 software tool,
- Tue Christensen gave a presentation on the Danish Dansda Dietary record book software tool and finally
- Inge Huybrechts gave a presentation on the GloboDiet software (the former Epic-Soft) tool.

All tools were available for technical demonstration. Network participants were invited to ask questions and further information was provided.

In a parallel session, called “FoodEx clinic”, Francesco Vernazza gave five brief presentations on the FoodEx2 coding, the browser content, the codification of food supplements, ways to personalise the FoodEx2 browser at national level and how to describe foods present in the classification list. The network members were free to ask questions and clarifications during the presentations.

6.4 Recent use of European dietary data

Case study choline

Francisca Vennemann gave a presentation on the nutrient intake calculation of choline using food consumption data from the EFSA European Comprehensive Food Consumption database. The objective of this study was to assess the choline intake of different age groups in European population in order to support the EFSA Panel on Dietetic Products, Nutrition and Allergies Panel in setting a Dietary Reference Value (DRV) for choline. Food composition data from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) database were used in this assessment. The results of the study were also presented.

Case study acrylamide

Fanny Heraud gave a presentation describing how the food consumption data of the Comprehensive database were used to estimate dietary exposure to acrylamide. The results will be included in a risk assessment opinion on acrylamide by the EFSA CONTAM Panel, due to be published next year. The results of the exposure and the main food contributors were presented. The uncertainties introduced in the calculations were also discussed.

A question was raised from the audience on the use of a probabilistic approach and whether the 95th percentile of the data collected with the 24 hour recall method overestimates the exposure to acrylamide since for example fried potatoes are in general not consumed daily and if a food propensity questionnaire (FPQ) would help towards more realistic results. Fanny Heraud answered that the probabilistic approach has not been privileged because acrylamide is posing chronic and not acute risk. A probabilistic approach could have been used to model specific behaviours/loyalty towards specific products; however, it would have required having information on the occurrence of such behaviours in the European population. Not having this information available, it was decided to assess the impact of such behaviours through exposure scenarios implemented in a deterministic manner. Fanny also indicated that due to the heterogeneity of the surveys available in the current Comprehensive DB (24/48 hours recalls, food records) it was difficult to correct the exposure estimates for usual intake. Marga Ocke added that the EFSA funded ETUI project (Statistical Modelling of Usual Intake)⁵ has proven that FPQ information is not providing an added value to the data collection.

06 November 2014

7. Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Breige McNulty (Ireland) and Marjan Simic (Slovenia).

8. Topics for discussion

8.1 Round-table on dietary data collection activities in Europe

A round table summarising the dietary data collection activities among the network participants was conducted. Ten countries (Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, France, Greece, Latvia, The Netherlands, Portugal, Romania and Spain,) are already part of the EU Menu process. In three countries (Malta, Lithuania, Switzerland) a dietary survey is on-going. Nine countries (Czech Republic, Croatia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Poland, Sweden) are planning a dietary survey in the next years. In two countries (Denmark, United Kingdom) a dietary survey has just been finalised. One country (Luxembourg) has no plans for a national dietary survey in the near future.

⁵ Available at: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/search.htm?text=ETUI>

8.2 Draft data roadmap and the EFSA data warehouse

Stefano Cappé gave an overview of the EFSA draft “Data roadmap” and its objectives. In particular, the roadmap outlines three strategic objectives regarding data which EFSA plans to focus on in the coming year: Open data, data quality and data interoperability. Within this context, he also presented the EFSA scientific data warehouse (currently being developed), a database designed to support data visualization and data analysis, the data flow to the data warehouse as well as draft access rules. He prompted MSs to see the data warehouse as an investment, since not all countries have in place a similar database at national level. MSs will also be able to do a comparison of their data with summary data from other European countries and access the data EFSA used for EFSA’s risk assessment purposes. He finally talked about the next steps towards the incorporation of data collected in the data warehouse.

Discussion followed concerning the different levels of access given to the data to different stakeholders (e.g. data providers, the Commission, general public). It was asked whether it is considered adding an intermediate phase of access, e.g. for organisations like FAO, universities etc., apart from access to data providers and the general public. Stefano acknowledged that the draft access rules will likely evolve and that this could be considered in a future update on the rules, in consultation with data networks and data providers.

During the discussion Stefano Cappé noted that the tool allows access to the raw data as well as summary data. However, only summary statistics will currently be available to the public. Mary Gilsean informed the network that in the draft access rules currently under discussion with the Commission and, hopefully agreed by the end of 2014, it is indicated that raw food consumption data will be available to data providers only, but food consumption summary statistics will be available to everybody.

At the end of the presentation, network members were informed that the draft Data roadmap is scheduled to be completed before the end of this year and that it would be circulated with the meeting minutes to the members of this group. Network members were invited to provide any comments and/or feedback on the document by the 5th of December 2014.

Discussion on barriers to data sharing

Within the framework of the EFSA draft data roadmap and EFSA’s vision for a more ‘Open EFSA’, EFSA would like to provide more accessibility to risk assessment data to allow better re-use of the hub of European risk assessment data that only EFSA currently has direct access to. In line with the general ‘open data’ movement, EFSA believes that better access to data would foster more research and innovation for the ultimate benefit of consumers. To this end, network participants exchanged views on perceived barriers, if any, at national level to providing greater access to food consumption data, as well as plausible solutions to overcoming any barriers. It was noted that in the UK and the Netherlands, raw food consumption data are already accessible for re-use to third parties, and that provision of more open data can improve data quality. Davide Arcella informed the Network members that according to Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 regarding public access to Parliament, Council and Commission Documents, which also applies to EFSA, any citizen has the right to ask EFSA for access to documents that are in EFSA’s possession. This includes raw data provided by any national organisation to EFSA, such as the food consumption data. In this context, EFSA will consult the data owners with a view to clarify the confidentiality of the data concerned and verify whether an exception to disclosure (such as the commercial interest of the data owner) can apply. EFSA already followed this procedure following a request of public access to the EFSA European Comprehensive food consumption database.

8.3 Sharing individual food consumption data for nutrition and food safety: an FAO/WHO perspective

Catherine Leclercq (FAO) gave a presentation on sharing food consumption data for nutrition and food safety from a FAO/WHO perspective. She talked about the need to construct global databases of individual food consumption data in order to inform agricultural and food policies and programmes and for risk assessment purposes. FAO in cooperation with WHO have built, in 2013, the CIFOcOss database where chronic individual food consumption data are present in the form of summary statistics. Its publication is expected in the next few months on the WHO GEMS/Food (Global Environmental Monitoring System) website. Catherine Leclercq also presented a FAO/WHO project aimed at collecting individual food consumption data at international level and developing a dissemination platform called GIFT (Global Individual Food Consumption Data Tool). Through that, users will be able to view and compare the data between countries, and retrieve information on the characteristics of the surveys. It is also intended to be used to assess usual intake for nutrients and high level of exposure from one day. She underlined that any requests for European food consumption data will not be directly asked to MSs. EFSA, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) work in collaboration in the area of data collection and standardisation, within the general framework of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the three organisations. Within this context, EFSA would be consulted as the first point of contact regarding any requests for European food consumption data to avoid double reporting by Member States.

8.4 International data collection and sharing: Case food supplements

Ruth Charrondiere (FAO) presented the initiative of a global supplement database. The aim of the database is to provide compositional data of supplements free of charge through a unique platform to end users in need of such data for nutrient intake calculations. She demonstrated how data are collected and invited MSs to participate in the project.

8.5 Summary of the meeting's achievements and decisions

A summary of action for changes to the draft EU Guidance on the EU Menu Methodology document was presented, some last minor comments were taken on board and the guidance document was endorsed by the Network members.

EFSA also agreed to two additional actions requested by meeting participants:

- EFSA will inform the network by email each time data from the comprehensive database are used in an EFSA opinion or report. This will help to increase awareness at Member State level on where national food consumption data are being used and will help justify funding for such surveys at national level. In addition, a summary list will be provided before the annual network meeting. Information on future uses of the data, based on known mandates, will also be provided.
- EFSA will acknowledge the contribution of data providers in EFSA opinions and reports.

8.6 Improving data quality– From data collection to data transfer

Davide Arcella underlined the importance of the good quality of the data provided to EFSA. He brought up some examples of disaggregation of recipes and correct coding according to FoodEx2. He also pointed out that several quality checks should be built already in the data collection phase, even in the data collection software, and not only taken into account during the data cleaning phase.

8.7 Evaluation of the meeting and the EU menu process – suggestions for the next meetings

The 2014 EU-menu progress report was endorsed. The final version of the progress report will be made available through the EFSA's management document system to the network members as soon as the evaluation procedure is finalised. The network members were asked for suggestions on improving the network meetings. EFSA agreed to take the suggestions proposed on board for the preparation of the meeting of 2015. Participants were also asked to complete a meeting evaluation questionnaire. An evaluation form concerning the EU Menu project will be sent to the network by the end of 2014.

8.8 Any Other Business

Marga Ocke gave a presentation on the food matching tool prototype from the EuroDISH project. It includes a case study on the linkage of two existing research infrastructures, i.e. e-Standardised Methodologies Platform food consumption data with EuroFIR interchange platform composition data, giving an example of the matching results. The tool was tested in a pilot phase in four countries. She requested the EFSA and MSs feedback on whether it can be considered as useful tool. Switzerland informed that they are also working on a food matching tool.

8.9 Date for next meeting

The next physical meeting is proposed to take place in the first week of November 2015.

8.10 Closure of the meeting

Before closing the meeting, Liisa Valsta informed the network that this meeting was the last one for her as chair and thanked the network for their contribution and the fruitful collaboration during the past six annual meetings, during which she has served as the chair of the meeting. Mary Gilsean thanked Liisa Valsta for chairing the network since October 2009. The chair closed the meeting at 15:30.

Summary of Actions

Agenda item	Action
4.6 Updated Guidance on the EU Menu Methodology	EFSA will revise the guidance document based on the decisions taken during the network meeting
6.1 Updated Guidance on the EU Menu methodology (see also in Annex)	DATA Unit to finalise and make available to the network members the supporting material to the draft guidance document by 5 th of December 2014, through the EFSA's management document system
8.2 Draft data roadmap and the EFSA data warehouse	DATA Unit to circulate with the meeting minutes the draft DATA roadmap
	MSs to provide feedback and comments to the draft DATA roadmap by 5 th of December 2014
8.5 Summary of the meeting's achievements and decision	DATA Unit to inform the network by email each time data from the EFSA European comprehensive database are used in an EFSA opinion or report and a summary list of these opinions or reports before each annual network meeting
	DATA Unit to provide a draft list of the opinions or reports where the food consumption data will be used in 2015
	EFSA to acknowledge the contribution of data providers in EFSA opinions and reports
8.7 Evaluation of the meeting and the EU menu process – suggestions for the next meetings	EFSA to make available the EU-Menu progress report to the network members, through the EFSA's management document system, as soon as the evaluation procedure is finalised

Annex

Changes to be applied to the guidance document identified as actions

- Summary (p 2)

Action 1: (p 3, lines 1-2) To rephrase the sentence as "...country and to make every possible effort to keep the participation rate as high as possible".

- Introduction (p 8)

Action 1: To add in this section that other methods than 24 hour recall could provide data of good quality, but the comparability between them would be a challenge.

- Section 2 (p 13)

Action 1: To make clear that interviewers other than nutritionists and dieticians can also be used within dietary surveys. Professional interviewers could have the advantage of being experienced in dealing with people. However they will require more training in the area of nutrition. On the other hand, it would be useful to train nutritionists and dieticians in communication.

- Section 3.1 (p 15)

Action1: To add a reference in the highlighted box to section 3.5.

Action 2: to add in the text that EFSA encourages countries to include sub-population groups among the age groups requested in the EU-Menu call for tender.

Action 3: To rephrase (line 27) in order to cover all different variations (e.g. socio-economic, ethnic, etc.) and not only the regional ones. In addition in the section of sampling, to underline the importance of taking into consideration the factors that can have an influence on representativeness.

Action 4: To emphasize that 260 subjects is the minimum number required. The inclusion of more subjects is strongly recommended.

Action 5: To encourage defining the sampling size based on diet variability. Member States can use data from previous surveys or official statistics to accomplish that.

- Section 3.2 (p 19)

Action 1: To order alphabetically the sampling frames in the highlighted box.

- Section 3.3 (p 22)

Action 1: To rephrase the 1st bullet point in the highlighted box as: "The sample, where possible, should at least be stratified by age and gender classes".

Action 2: To rephrase the 4th bullet point in the highlighted box as: "Probability random sampling at the individual level is preferable. If a sampling frame at the household level (e.g. the census data, postal lists and the sampling design of the household budget survey) is used, not more than one individual per household should be sampled".

Action 3: Last bullet point (5th) to be deleted.

- Section 3.4 (p 23)

Action 1: To correct to ".....Christmas holidays" in the last (6th) bullet point in the highlighted box.

- Section 3.5 (p 24)

Action 1: To rephrase the 3rd bullet point (line 15) in the highlighted box as "For each country, when planning sampling size, the expected realistic participation rate should be taken into account in order to assure the sampling size required is achieved."

Action 2: To reorder the bullet points so that the 5th bullet point is moved to the 2nd and modified as: “The inclusion of more than the minimum number of subjects in the study is strongly recommended, especially in countries where the regional diet is more heterogeneous.”

Action 3: To add in the highlighted box the following sentence “The participation rate at country level should be considered before deciding the sampling size”.

- Section 4 (p 27)

Action 1: To rephrase the 3rd bullet point in the highlighted box as “The subject burden should be kept as low as possible in the survey to keep the participation rates as high as possible. The average time spent with a participant should be kept as short as possible during a face to face visit interview and even shorter during a telephone interview.

Action 2: Concerning the identification of the non-responders, it should be made clear in the guidance that in the case of a multi-stage sampling, response rate should be calculated on at each level (i.e. at household/ school level and then at individual level).

Action 3: (p 28, lines 35-41) To drop references that are old and replace them with more recent when available.

Action 4: (p 29, lines 17-18) To rephrase sentence as “recruit the relevant leaders of the authorities of the community to promote the survey (e.g. teachers, employers, GPs, religious authorities)”.

- Section 5 (p 30)

Action 1: A hybrid method between 24h recall and dietary record was proposed for adolescents aged 10-15 years old. As in the case of children, it was decided to allow the possibility of giving a diary beforehand; to adopt this proposal in the text of this section.

Action 2: (p 31, lines 4-5) To delete the sentence “The second interview day should be a different day from the first interview day and the days should be distributed equally throughout the week”. To delete the sentence also from all other places where it is located in the guidance document.

Action 3: (p 34, lines 14-15) To rephrase the sentence in order to be more universal, not referring only to Epic-soft.

- Section 5.2 (p 35)

Action 1: To rephrase the 4th bullet point as “The level of description of foods needs to be based or be at least compatible with the FoodEx2 facet descriptor system and needs to include the following minimum features”

Action 2: To check and replace ‘Epic-soft’ with ‘GloboDiet’ throughout the whole guidance document, when applicable.

Action 3: (p 40-42) To modify the tables 3 and 4 of the dietary tools project for a clearer view and add a conclusion at the end of this section summarizing the main results.

- Section 6.2 (p 49)

Action 1: To consider rephrasing the parts where the disaggregation of recipes is described. Where available, the disaggregation should be done by ad-hoc information provided by the subject. Otherwise standard recipes should be used.

Action 2: (p 51, line 6-7) To rephrase the sentence: “Water added to reconstitute is for this purpose not considered an ingredient as long as it is the only additional ingredient” and clarifying that the sentence does not refer to composite foods.

- Section 6.3 (p 52)

Action 1: DATA Unit to inform the network as soon as the supporting material on this area is finalised.

- Section 6.4 (p 55)

Action 1: To delete “and toddlers” from both 2nd and 3rd bullet points. The text will show as “For all age groups, except infants, information on the frequency of consumption.....” for the 2nd and “In the case of infants, the reference period to be used is recommended to be one month...” for the 3rd. In addition, in the 3rd bullet point, it should also be made clear that the food supplements listed are only examples.

- Section 7.2. (p 58)

Action 1: To delete the two parentheses from the 1st bullet point: the text in line 33-36 will show as “Height should be reported in centimetres and the reading taken to the last completed 1 millimetre. The body weight should preferably be measured in kilograms and recorded to the nearest 100 gram unit”.

- Section 7.3 (p 60)

Action 1: The network decided not to have the IPAQ as a mandatory feature. The text will be modified towards using standard (moderate) physical activity level for estimating under and over reporting.

Action 2: To merge sections 7.3 and 8.2.

- Section 8.2 (p 63)

Action 1: To reflect in the supporting documentation of this section the changes proposed in section 7.3.

Overall Action: To reflect all proposed changes applied in the main document to the abstract, summary and conclusion sections.

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 Gilsean. 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.

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
Strodtner 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 EGFCF. 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

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

Open “question – response” session

The EGCD 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 Gilsean (MG), as the new Head of the DCM Unit, welcomed all participants of the EGFC 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.

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.

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?

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,

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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-sof 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

6th Meeting of Expert Group on Food Consumption Data

14 and 15 November 2011

Grand Hôtel de la Ville, Parma

Meeting Report

Attendees

Member States' representatives

Nowak Verena	Austria
Vandervijvere Stefanie	Belgium
Petrova Stefka	Bulgaria
Dofkova Marcela	Czech Republic
Trolle Ellen	Denmark
Kambek Liis	Estonia
Männistö Satu	Finland
Dubuisson Carine	France
Krems Carolin	Germany
Marakis George	Greece
Ambrus Arpad	Hungary
Thorgeirsdottir Holmfridur	Iceland
Evans Rhodri	Ireland
Sette Stefania	Italy
Vilcane Santare Dace	Latvia
Strothner Camille	Luxembourg
Busuttil Ingrid	Malta
Lillegaard Inger Therese	Norway
Calhau Maria Antonia	Portugal
Kromerová Katarína	Slovakia
Marcos Suárez Victoria	Spain
Nälsén Cecilia	Sweden

Renggli Andrea	Switzerland
Ocké Marga C.	The Netherlands
Bush Mark	United Kingdom

Hearing Experts

Nurk Eha	Estonia
Freisling Heinz	France
Naska Androniki (Ada)	Greece
Guiomar Sofia	Portugal
De Boer Evelien	The Netherlands
Foster Emma	UK

EFSA staff

Valsta Liisa	DCM-Chair
Fabiansson Stefan	DCM-HoU
Vernazza Francesco	DCM-Deputy HoU
Heppner Claudia	RASA Acting Director
Arcella Davide	DCM
Gergelova Petra	DCM-Rapporteur
Heraud Fanny	DCM
Ioannidou Sofia	DCM-Rapporteur
Merten Caroline	DCM
Roldan Ruth	DCM
Scaravelli Elena	DCM
Varga Eniko	DCM
Guescini Chiara	DCM- Secretariat
Dellapina Silvia	DCM- Secretariat

Apologies

Colic-Baric Irena	Croatia
Markidou Eliza	Cyprus
Kendrovski Vladimir	F.Y.R.O.M.
Satkute Rima	Lithuania
Sekula Włodzimierz	Poland
Lis Valentin Cristian	Romania
Gregorič Matej	Slovenia
Pekcan Gulden	Turkey

Acronyms

DATEX	Data Collection and Exposure
DCM	Dietary and Chemical Monitoring
DG	Directorate-General
EGFCD	Expert Group on Food Consumption Data
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FCDS	Food Classification and Description System
FFQ	Food Frequency Questionnaire
FPQ	Food Propensity Questionnaire
HHM	Household Measurements
IARC	International Agency for Research on Cancer
MS	Member States
NDA	Nutrition, Dietetic Products and Allergies
PAL	Physical Activity Level
RAC	Raw Agricultural commodity
RIVM	National Institute for Public Health and Environment
SSD	Standard Sample Description
TDS	Total Dietary Studies
WG	Working Group
WHO	World Health Organisation

Agenda

Draft Agenda for the 14th of November 2011

Starting time: 13.00

Finishing time: 18.15

#	Items	Reference/ Comments
1.	Opening, welcome and apologies for absence Adoption of the agenda Declarations of interest Administrative information	Liisa Valsta Chiara Guescini
2.	Welcome address	Claudia Heppner
3.	DCM – evolution of the unit	Stefan Fabiansson
4.	Highlights of DCM activities	Francesco Vernazza Fanny Heraud Caroline Merten Elena Scaravelli
5.	PANCAKE Protocols and the pilot study for the assessment of nutrient intake and food consumption among kids in Europe Discussion	Marga Ocke, Evelien de Boer Stefanie Vandevijvere All
6.	EPIC-Soft in the EU Menu pilots Discussion	Heinz Freisling All

Draft Agenda for the 15th of November 2011

Starting time: 09.00

Finishing time: 16.00

#	Items	Reference/ Comments
7.	Day 2 Opening of Day 2 Highlights of Day 1	Liisa Valsta

8.	PILOT-PANEU Protocols in the view of a pan-European dietary survey for adolescents, adults and elderly Discussion	Arpad Ambrus Ada Naska Stefka Petrova All
9.	Towards the EU Menu era Member States' updates France Estonia Round table on dietary survey plans (1-2 min/MS)	Davide Arcella Carine Dubuisson Liis Kambek All
10.	Challenge of the year – Portion size estimation with picture books Discussion	Emma Foster Ellen Trolle Heinz Freisling Sofia Guiomar All
11.	Solid foundation for future action – next moves? Final discussion, conclusions, closing of the meeting	All

- **Opening session**

Liisa Valsta opened the meeting and welcomed all participants. The apologies for absence of some members of the group were listed. The chair shortly presented the DCM members present and asked from MSs participants to introduce themselves. The group adopted the agenda.

Chiara Guescini summarized the administrative procedures.

- **EFSA Welcome address**

Claudia Heppner (CH) gave an update on EFSA's activities. She referred to the reorganisation of EFSA started in 2011 and presented the new organigram by giving further details on the Directorates formed, their mission and units. CH talked about the EFSA's key strategic objectives for 2011-2016 and mentioned that the science strategy is under public consultation until the 21st of November 2011. She went through the data collection mandate, scope and activities and underlined the importance of collaboration between EFSA and the MSs.

- **DCM-Evolution of the Unit**

Stefan Fabiansson (SF) informed the EGFCd about the evolution of the Unit since the previous meeting of the EGFCd in means of the change of the name to Dietary and Chemical Monitoring Unit (DCM), staff increase, harmonisation and standardisation, food terminology, occurrence data, management of left-censored data, availability of consumption data, calculating exposure and reporting of results. Data submissions have gradually passed from unstructured manual submission to partially structured and are expected to be fully structured and automated using standard nomenclature in 2012. The food classification used in the Comprehensive Database has progressed into FoodEx 1, and now it is further developing into the FoodEx 2 which is a more harmonised hierarchical system and it is expected to be available at the beginning of 2012. Chemical data collection passed from ad hoc requests with different coding and irregular submissions to currently used systematic method characterised by standardised coding. SF presented the plan to use the TDS as an important tool for harmonised chemical data collection from 2014. Concerning left-censored data, it is still not decided how to implement the recommendations of the EFSA guidelines on the management of left-censored data. SF underlined the importance of developing a harmonised database on food consumption data. Calculating exposure has gradually moved from assumptions to currently used deterministic approach. The probabilistic approach is under evaluation as transparency problems may limit the move in this area. Related contaminants would probably be grouped in a common report and published in a bi-annual basis. SF underlined the importance of cooperation of all MSs in the regard of harmonised approach development.

- **Highlights of DCM activities**

FoodEx 2

Francesco Vernazza (FV) presented the new classification and description system for exposure assessment FoodEx 2 developed by the Food Classification WG. The new FoodEx 2 will include multiple hierarchies, allow a detailed description, include scientific names and be expandable when needed. He presented a summary of the development of the project highlighting the circulation of a Green Paper for the last comments before finalising the guidance and the system proposal. The scientific report with guidance elements and the technical report will be published on EFSA's website by beginning of January 2012. FV described the pillars and the details of the system; it is mainly intended to be used when transmitting data to EFSA, but might be attractive to MSs for data production as well. Coding should aim at the lowest possible level and composite foods should be disaggregated to single food ingredients. Translation tables will be set up in order to help MSs when reporting data. The overall process of implementing the new FCDS will follow a tiered approach; a draft proposal followed by consultation, pilot projects, implementation, refinement and adoption. FV demonstrated the system using the web browser. He underlined that is not currently a coding tool, but serves for navigation and familiarising purposes. It will be available at EFSA's website and will be open to comments and suggestions. The final status will be reached with the contribution of MSs.

Discussion:

MSs raised their concern whether it will be necessary to reclassify data already submitted for the Comprehensive database and how this will be accomplished. In response, EFSA pointed out that in February 2012 a kick off meeting will be organised in order to discuss what can be achieved regarding this field. Before the meeting, the MSs could have a first look and provide their views. It was underlined that FoodEx 1 codes are already included in the new system and a complete translation of FoodEx 1 to FoodEx 2 will be provided shortly.

RAC and recipes

Fanny Heraud (FH) gave a presentation on the European food conversion model, from food as consumed to raw agricultural commodities. She outlined the background, the principles, the steps followed, and the future perspectives. Regulation and monitoring for environmental contaminants and pesticides residues cover mostly raw agricultural commodities, though individual food consumption data target food as consumed. Therefore, there is necessity to apply a food conversion model. In this frame, food as consumed is disaggregated into individual ingredients, which are related to RAC by applying a food conversion factor. In 2011, RIVM institute carried out a project under Article 36 in order to draft the European food conversion model. This work was based on the Dutch food conversion model and focused on food and ingredients of plant origin. Missing food and ingredients are now being completed by EFSA. A public consultation on the first draft of the European food conversion model is planned in order to improve the representativeness of the model. It will be followed by a consolidation phase and publication of the model in 2012. Regular updates with new data input could be foreseen.

Discussion:

The chair asked the MSs dealing with RAC for their feedback.

Hungary uses national traditional recipes, some available conversion factors and limited data from the literature. In their food composition tables, is often applied a factor of 1.

Latvia uses an integrated model based on the EuroFIR project.

Denmark is currently following a conversion model moving from recipes to food ingredients and then to RAC.

In Germany the calculation of RAC is based on information out of the German Nutrient Database and amended by information from manufacturers and references.

Italy uses a recipe database only to transform the weight of prepared mixed (cooked or not) into the weight of raw single ingredients. A recipe database to transform food as consumed to raw agricultural is in progress.

Spain uses a picture book with different portion sizes in which conversion factors have been applied from dishes to raw commodities. Food consumption data have been obtained as RAC.

The Netherlands uses the conversion model with recipes and conversion factors that was applied in the EFSA article 36 project presented.

The United Kingdom has developed a recipe database over a number of years, and has recently begun evaluation work to ensure it is up to date and continues to provide a sound base for risk assessment.

Exposure Assessment in EFSA

Caroline Merten (CM) gave an overview of the evaluation on procedures for the assessment of dietary exposure to chemical substances currently used by EFSA, of which a report is planned to be published in December 2011. EFSA's activities are covering food additives and nutrient sources added to food, food contact materials, enzymes, flavourings and processing aids, pesticides and their residues, additives used in animal feeding, natural toxins and contaminants, nutrients and novel foods, and chemicals present in genetically modified organisms. CM summarised the exposure method, the food consumption and chemical source for each of the above mentioned areas.

EFSA does not have a harmonised approach to assess dietary exposure and currently uses three different methods: a Tiered approach, a conservative screening method or a refined model based on individual food consumption input data. Data are still scarce on special target population groups. Cumulative exposure assessments and probabilistic distribution analysis is not performed yet on a routine basis.

In the field of food consumption, EFSA recommends to: (i) use data from the Comprehensive food consumption database to validate/crosscheck model diets, (ii) use sample designs with regards to chemical occurrence data, (iii) promote the SSD and TDS, (iv) always consider children populations regarding dietary exposure estimates, (v) harmonise modelling of high consumers, (vi) expand probabilistic assessment in case of acute scenarios, (vii) test statistical methodologies for the estimation of usual intake and (viii) explore cumulative assessment for all related chemical substances.

Discussion:

It was asked whether nutrient intake was of any interest. In response, Davide Arcella mentioned that the interest is limited to risk assessment, and nutrient intake as such is not covered. The chair added that when procedures and tools to cover nutrient intake information will be improved, the interest might expand to nutrient intake as well.

Total diet studies for harmonised data collection and exposure assessment

Elena Scaravelli (ES) gave an update on EFSA's activities regarding the TDS for harmonised data collection and exposure assessment. At the beginning of 2010, a Working Group of experts on TDS was formed with participants from European Member States, FAO and WHO. The WG first ascertained the feasibility of a potential harmonisation of the TDS approach (feasibility statement published on line), then the activities of the WG focused on preparing a review of the state of the art on TDSs worldwide with a particular emphasis on activities in Europe and on developing a guidance document for a harmonised TDS approach. The documents were finalised and sent for external peer review in March 2011. By end of November 2011, the guidance document "Towards a harmonised Total Diet Study approach: a guidance document" and the supporting document 'State of the art on Total Diet Studies based on the replies to the EFSA/FAO/WHO questionnaire on national total diet study approaches' is planned to be published on the EFSA website as a joint publication between EFSA, FAO and WHO. A definition of TDSs as described in the guidance document was given. Moreover, it was highlighted how MSs can use the results and it was underlined the added value of the TDS methodology for obtaining comparable exposure values at international level. TDS is not meant to substitute the existing food monitoring and surveillance activities, but serve as a complement to them, or it can also be a stand-alone screening tool as a starting point for further analyses.

In the coming years, the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Development will fund a Pan-European pilot project to harmonise data collection, identify typical foods in the overall diet and assess the dietary intake of chemical contaminants from these foods. EFSA is seeking for a possible collaboration.

Discussion:

Ten MSs are already active in the field of TDS.

MSs asked how it is possible to have a more refined exposure assessment by including extreme consumers. ES responded that depending on the degree of pooling, more samples can be analysed and this will allow the identification of specific sources of exposure and a better investigation on those food products more highly contaminated or more highly consumed. Different degree of pooling can be applied depending on the food consumption data available and the budget. In addition, it was also mentioned that if low degree of pooling is applied, information on the different processing of the food preparation need to be present.

- **PANCAKE**

Protocols and the pilot study for the assessment of nutrient intake and food consumption among kids in Europe

Evelien De Boer (EB) presented the progress of the PANCAKE project. She shortly described the aims and specific objectives, and introduced the coordinator and partners of the project. EB gave an update on the development of protocols/ procedures and tools, talked about the sampling protocol of the pilot studies in Belgium and Czech Republic, the quality control protocol and its steps, the data entry of questionnaire, the FPQ, height and weight measurement and the non-response questionnaire underlying that they are still under evaluation. EB went into more details on the pilot studies in Belgium and Czech Republic and their current status.

Marga Ocké (MO) presented the preliminary evaluation results. In order to estimate usual intake, two non-consecutive one-day diary are preferred over a three consecutive days' diary. If the quality of the first is higher or equal to the second, then the two non-consecutive one-day diary with EPIC-Soft will be recommended. An additional advantage is that the design for children would be almost similar to adults (two non-consecutive 24-h diet recalls). Additional positive comments related to the interview protocol were given.

Concerning the general questionnaire, the paper version can be used for EU Menu and no additional changes will be needed. An on-line version questionnaire is a possible option.

Survey participants commented that in the FPQ answer category "never consumed" was not present, there were some remarks about the definition of certain food groups and found it difficult in general. Interviewers thought that (i) it should include only items needed e.g. for infants' case, where certain foods are not applicable, and (ii) that is necessary to check for completeness of answers before the end of the interview period.

Stefanie Vandevijvere (SV) gave an overview of the general sampling guidelines. She presented the target population as defined by the NDA panel and the exclusion criteria. As it refers to the sampling frame, she recommended the use of the National population Register as a preferred option. Alternatively, list of schools and kindergartens, market research panel, list of general practitioners and telephone list can be used despite their disadvantages. Several methods of sampling can be combined within the sampling design. As a minimum, it was recommended to perform stratification by age group and sex. Inter-seasonal variation should be taken into account and include as many as possible holiday periods. It was recommended to include at least 260 subjects per age group in the sample size and allowed to use different ways to obtain the required number. It was advised to take measures to increase the response rate.

Discussion:

The presenters gave more information answering on the questions asked from the EGFCF:

- Almost no problems were noticed during the completion of the questionnaire by participants in terms of language.
- FPQ was the same in both countries.
- No particular approach was used to motivate mothers participate in the interview

- because the pilot studies was aimed at feasibility.
- The limit of 14 days between the 1st and 2nd diary record was chosen for practical reasons in the pilot study. For EU Menu it is recommended to have a longer period in between the record days.
 - In order to avoid home visits becoming annoying, the 2nd visit can be shorter and combined with a telephone interview. This option was available in the Czech pilot studies but few participants preferred this.
 - Having only one home visit followed by two telephone interview could be an option to shorten the budget, but this method was not tested for its results. As DA pointed out, what EFSA is proposing is less expensive than other methods followed already in Europe and the quality of the data obtained should never be ignored.
 - The age of 1-3 years old is very important as it is linked with setting the relevant nutrient recommendations. In addition, food consumption versus body weight at these ages is very high, so it makes them important for risk assessment. Because the NDA panel will set nutrient recommendations for 5 age groups of infants and children, the PANCAKE project recommended to recruit 260 subjects for each of those 5 age groups. DA indicated that the EFSA guideline indicated 3 age groups to reduce the study costs.
 - In both countries participated in the PANCAKE project, no particular problems were faced targeting infant population over the age of three months from the National Register. In some countries though this might not be feasible, so other alternatives are proposed.

In their last survey, Bulgaria has used data from the National GP; the data obtained were reliable, they had a high response rate and the survey was successful.

Estonia suggested drawing the sample repeatedly, as infants were not registered from the 1st to the 2nd pilot in their case.

Action point 1: Feedback on the sampling guideline was asked to be sent to the PANCAKE coordinator by the beginning of December 2011 by e-mail.

- **Round table**

The EGFCF was invited to a round-table discussion to give comments, proposals or to raise questions on dietary surveys in children and the sampling guidelines.

Switzerland: The effort should be focused on increasing the participation rate; suggestion should be heard on how to achieve that.

Hungary: The sampling guideline protocol gives the possibility to every country to choose which the most appropriate method is. Hungary had a better experience in drawing samples from the National Statistical Office than from the National Register.

France: Their comment concerned whether to include or not pregnant women in the survey.

Germany: They drew their sample from the National Register for both last surveys on adults and children participants. The nutrition survey with children was conducted with a random sub sample (6 to 17 years) stratified by age and sample points. For the survey with adults Christmas and summer holiday's period were considered challenging.

Sweden: How were the 22 food groups chosen? MO answered that most were the food groups of the EPIC-Soft classification; some were modified based on public health relevance.

Latvia: Which part of the questionnaire should be filled in by the parents and how to check if the information reported is correct? Children attending a kindergarten should be indicated. Is physical activity level included in the questionnaire? MO answered, that physical activity is not yet included in the protocol, but could be an important issue for the future.

Greece: The increasing number of immigrants demands the investment of more effort into approaching them as they are not registered. Advice was asked on how to better approach them, select a suitable language and do the sampling.

Iceland: The household sampling is not recommended. Focusing in all ages of children should be considered.

Norway: They had a four day precoded food diary and express their wish to include aspects regarding all weekdays in the guideline. The number of participants (260) in each age group as proposed does not seem to be sufficient to perform risk assessment in all foods interested to EFSA.

Malta: The main problem was related to contact details, which were often outdated or inaccurate.

Slovakia: Are fortified food and dietary supplements included in the FPQ and to what extent? Both groups are collected through the food diary. Food supplements in the FFQ include only general type, i.e. Vit A, vit B, multivitamins, multiminerals, etc.

Estonia: There was no clear suggestion on how to target children of lower social economic groups, orphanages, who may not be included in the National Register. National Birth Register can also be an option in drawing the sample.

Czech Republic: As member of the pilot study, the sampling took six months approximately. The drawing of the sample was done by the staff of National Evidence in accordance to its protocol.

Portugal: The representative expressed her warm compliment for the very comprehensive work done in this field.

United Kingdom: The Register of Births may not include all children if used to draw a sample of the youngest children, potentially introducing bias. A recent survey of 4-18 month old children in the UK used child benefit records instead. Access to this data is strictly controlled, but it has good (95%+) coverage of the target population and was a very successful sample frame. Participants completing the survey received a small financial reward, which could help to maintain response rates.

Ireland: It is difficult to include in the sampling frame infants younger than six months.

Finland: How important is to include holiday period in the survey for risk assessment? Which is the lowest acceptable level of partial answering of the questionnaire? How to increase the participation rate?

Italy: In the last dietary food consumption survey, participation rate was 33 %. Protocols and sampling guidelines should include some suggestions on how to improve.

Bulgaria: Practical issues need to be discussed; time necessary to explain the procedure to participants, demonstration of the picture books and how it works etc. Regarding the holiday period, Bulgaria proposed to exclude it, as the study is focused on usual intake.

Austria: It is important to have updated National Registers. Alternative methods could be the mother-child booklets starting from the pregnancy period until the 5th year of life of the child, as well as paediatrician visits books.

Spain: The National Register is not recommended. Low participation was seen during holiday periods. In order to increase the participation rate, a financial support was proposed as a motivation.

- **EPIC-Soft in the EU Menu pilots**

Heinz Freisling (HF) updated the EGFCF on the EPIC-soft software, its customisation in view of the EU-Menu through the PANCAKE and PILOT-PANEU projects, and described the experience obtained from the training course held in Lyon in November 2011. HF presented the 'classic' interview steps of the application. As one of the main tasks of IARC in the PANCAKE project, an EPIC-Soft data entry version for dietary data entry as derived from food records was developed. Preliminary evaluation results related to the data entry version were presented. Training on the software came out to be really important in the use of the EPIC-Soft data entry version as tested in PANCAKE project. Within the PILOT-PANEU project, EPIC-Soft has been customised according to requirements of the project mainly through the common files. It has been pointed out that its food classification cannot be changed because it is "methodology driven", but other classification systems can be used after the exporting of the data for analyses purposes. Foods, recipes and dietary supplements are described using a series of facets and descriptors defined according to the level of precision requested. HF presented the list of facets for all the above mentioned food groups in both PANCAKE and PILOT-PANEU projects. Finally, he referred to the latest 'train the trainers' course on the software held in Lyon and the experience obtained from it.

Discussion:

HF mentioned that the number of facets and descriptors to be used have been raised in the PILOT-PANEU in comparison to the PANCAKE project and asked MSs for their opinion on that.

MSs expressed their question on why not putting facets of flavouring and sweetening agent under one called as food additive. In response, HF said that facet of flavouring refers specifically to the flavouring agent and other additives will be captured by the brand name, though sweetening agent refers to added sugar or artificial sweetener. There was another question noted as to why to ask those facets separately and do not capture everything by the brand name information. HF responded that the information given might be contradictory to that provided by the brand name. LV underlined that it was according to EFSA's request, but everything will be tested in the PILOT project.

MSs wondered if all facets and descriptors are asked for all food groups and how easy it is to handle the long lists of descriptors. In response, HF noted that the facets and descriptors are customised to every food group and down to the level of single food (recipe) items. It is important for the interviewers to know the list of descriptors before going through with the interview in order to know the easiest way to search for the descriptor reported. Depending on the need of every MS descriptors most frequently reported could be on the top of the list.

Worries were expressed to what it is reported when subjects do not know or cannot recognise whether it was characteristic ingredient or flavouring and if this could burden the interview length. HF replied that the difference, as defined by EFSA, is when solid particles are visible to be considered as characteristic ingredient though when not as

flavouring agent. It was recommended to find a balance as interview's length is important to be kept to +/-30 minutes.

It was generally accepted the necessity to have very well trained interviewers so to be able to translate well the responses of the subjects and help them answering with the limitation of keeping a balance between helping and not being directive.

Opening of day 2

LV opened the second day and asked the MS representatives to discuss with the person next to them and report back the highlights of the first day.

Discussion:

PANCAKE project was an interesting subject and its close relationship with the PILOT-PANEU was discussed. The MSs stated that the use of the FPQ will complement the PILOT-PANEU and the EU Menu. They expressed their hope that the PANCAKE project will be feasible to be applied to other countries as well.

The on-going activities of EFSA draw the interest of the MSs. They also find very useful the round table conversation on the sampling guidelines. Finally, they appreciated the update given on the EPIC-Soft software which they characterized as a good harmonization tool for food consumption surveys.

- **PILOT – PANEU**

Protocols in the view of pan-European dietary survey for adolescents, adults and elderly

PANEU consortium

Arpad Ambrus (AA) presented the EFSA Pilot study in the view of a Pan-European dietary survey, started in December 2010 and estimated to end in December 2012. The goal of the project is to work out a standardised methodology for the EU Menu food consumption survey. The consortium consists of a team with expertise in risk assessment and nutrition at national and international level, is supported by an Advisory Board, and is in close cooperation with EFSA, IARC and related project teams. The Pilot survey will be performed in five European countries spread across Europe, out of the seven that are participating in the project. The mission of the consortium is to (i) develop appropriate tools and procedures for the collection of individual food consumption data through a two 24 hour recalls on non-consecutive days in randomly selected populations of adolescents, adults and elderly belonging to the age groups of 10-17, 18-64, 65-74 respectively, (ii) perform the pilot dietary survey and (iii) evaluate the results. Updating and adapting the EPIC-Soft software is done in collaboration with IARC. Additional information will be collected through additional questionnaires (FPQ, eating out, physical activity level, socio-demographic characteristics and evaluation of experience questionnaire). Anthropometric measurements will also be taken. AA referred to the roles of each partner and the activities done so far. An interim report concerning the general administration procedures, the protocols and questionnaires will be submitted by the first of December 2011. The challenges that need to be faced include the copyright issues of the data collected, the time management in terms of converting files from .end

into .xls and back, the preparation of country specific files, the respect of the deadlines, the heavy workload and the response rate. Additionally, food groups and food items and facets need to be linked to the FoodEx 2 classification system and the linkage with the food composition tables need to be considered.

Discussion:

A question on how the under and over-reporting will be dealt was raised. In response, AA said that the AM and the picture book will assist in this field. In addition, the data will be linked with a physical activity level questionnaire and the energy intake.

Another question referred to whether a prior training took place before the beginning of the preparation of the country specific files. AA replied that one day training was given and the English version of the EPIC-Soft software was made available. In addition, the third coordination meeting in Lyon in November 2011 was combined with a three days training on the software and an e-learning access was also given. Another e-training could be organised during the data cleaning phase.

WP3: Questionnaires to collect additional dietary and non-dietary information

Ada Naska (AN) presented the different questionnaires developed for the PILOT-PANEU project.

The questionnaire on the socio-demographic characteristics the health status and the lifestyle choices has two versions, one for adolescents and one for adults and elderly people. It is a short, self-administered questionnaire and includes a general, a health, and a smoking status module. In order not to burden the interview length, these would be included in the invitation letter to the subject and collected before the interview start.

The questionnaire on the usual physical activity aims to help identify mis-reporters of energy intake. It is a short version of the International Physical Activity Questionnaire, validated and available in twelve languages. Both a self-administered and an interview-administered version are available. It also allows the classification of individuals in three PAL categories; low, moderate and high.

The questionnaire on eating out aims to collect information on the place of consumption together with the place of food preparation. It uses as starting point the HECTOR questionnaire. Based on that, it was decided to adapt the information collected with EPIC-Soft accordingly using information on the 'place of consumption' together with the facet on 'preparation/production/purchase'. The related lists of descriptors were shown in detail.

The FPQ used as a starting point the PANCAKE FPQ for breast-feeding mothers, which was revised to refer to the previous twelve months and include the answer 'never' among the options. It includes three parts; Part A is common for all countries, includes all groups of food, and aims on capturing background diet. Part B includes a country-specific section as well, focuses on foods relevant to risk assessment and nutritional interests in the country. Part C is common for all countries and includes dietary and nutritional supplements. Its final version was agreed during the last PILOT-PANEU coordination meeting in November 2011. It is expected to take about five minutes to fill it in as it does not require food quantification.

The questionnaire addressing non-responders is available in two versions, a telephone interview and a self-administered version. It includes three modules: in the first personal characteristics are asked, in the second the reason for refusal and in the last the evaluation of the survey procedures. A shorter version for adolescents is available.

Discussion:

The EGFCD asked for feedback on whether it was easy to get an answer from the non-responders. AN replied that experience showed that people answer easily to simple questions via the telephone.

It was asked on how it is planned to use the information obtained from the questionnaires. In response, it was said that the call did not specify the method of analysis, so MSs are free to decide what method they will use. The Multiple Score Method (MSM) that was published recently deals with more extensive questionnaires but it can also be applied to shorter versions.

It was asked if testing of the questionnaires should be done before the interview. With the FPQ is supposed to be essential. It is advised to have it tested among colleagues on its feasibility.

Another question concerning the country-specific section of the FPQ was expressed and how different questions are selected for inclusion. In response, AN said that sections will include items reported by at least three countries and that will be of particular interest to EFSA for risk assessment.

PILOT PANEU final draft protocols

Stefka Petrova (SP) gave a presentation on the developed protocols of the PILOT-PANEU project going into details for the sampling protocol and the identification of under- and over-reporting.

The Sampling Protocol aims to provide guidance and methodology for planning and implementing the selection of individuals representing the target population. SP presented the target population and the exclusion criteria and referred to the advantages and disadvantages of different sampling frames; population register, census data and others. SP underlined that the possibilities for defining the sampling frame for taking representative sample may vary among MSs. In addition, there is no method applicable to all MSs. Therefore, a multi-stages stratified random sampling method is recommended with the following variables: age class, gender, residence in regions, and residence in urban or rural areas. In case the census data are the only available, it is suggested to sample individuals in households.

A fully representative sampling cannot be aimed during the PILOT survey. The PILOT-PANEU requires a selection of minimum 200 responders from each participating country, equally distributed by age groups and gender, in total being 1000 individuals. The recommended minimum level of stratification includes three age groups, both genders and urban/rural residence. A random stratified sampling in the research regions by age groups and by residence type should be applied.

The protocol for the identification of under and over-reporting aims to identify those groups in a harmonized way and use unified criteria for assessment in order to obtain comparable and reliable data. Assessment will be performed using the method developed by Goldberg, Black et al. of comparison of the individual reported Energy Intake to the estimated Basal Metabolic Rate, and cut-off values should be applied.

As it refers to the management of the data, people with extreme and unusual food consumption should not be excluded as well as identified under- and over-reporters. A post hoc analysis of the data should be performed to assess the impact of inadequate reporting on overall food consumption data. The analysis of the data obtained from both 24-h recalls, background questionnaire, FPQ, anthropometric measurements and calculated PAL would give a basis to estimate inaccurate dietary reporters from under and over eating individuals. The prevalence should be calculated in every age/gender

group. An analysis of contribution of food groups and foods to energy intake should give a basis to identify foods that are more susceptible to under-reporting.

Discussion:

HF added that the EPIC-Soft software has a final quality check incorporated, where intake of energy and macronutrients is compared with standard requirements (based on subjects age, sex, weight and height). If energy or one of the macronutrients is out of expected calculated margins, a warning “too low” or “too high” is displayed and the interviewer has the possibility to correct possible errors while the participant is still present. For post-hoc analyses, reported “special diet” should be considered to identify possible under-reporting on 24-hour recalls.

Towards the EU Menu era

Davide Arcella (DA) gave a presentation on the EFSA activities related to the EU Menu project. He mentioned the two pilots, PANCAKE and the PILOT-PANEU and the EPIC-Soft dietary software, used in both projects. The EU Menu plan was discussed during the 5th EGFCF meeting last year. As funding from the European Commission seems challenging, EFSA has developed a new strategy in order to put this project forward using internal resources. In line with the new strategy, in 2011 EFSA issued a call for tenders titled as ‘Support to national dietary surveys in compliance with the EFSA guidance on general principles for the collection of national food consumption data in the view of a pan-European dietary survey’ having a budget of 400.000 euro. Within this framework Estonia and France were granted a contract and will organise a national dietary survey on children and whole population, respectively. A similar call for tenders will be issued in the following years, starting from 2012, with a higher budget so as to be able to fund more dietary surveys per year. EPIC-Soft will be the recommended software but other software giving comparable results will also be accepted. In accordance to this, EFSA has also issued an open call for tenders titled as ‘dietary monitoring tools for risk assessment’ with a deadline for application the 21st of November 2011. DA underlined that EFSA coordinates the EU Menu process, though the responsibility of the dietary surveys is at National level. An Advisory Board or similar will be nominated in late 2011 to provide strategic and scientific guidance and review the progress of the project. The board is planned to start their work in early 2012 and meet twice a year.

Member States’ updates

France-The Third French Individual and National Study on Food Consumption: The INCA3 survey

Carine Dubuisson (CD) gave a presentation on the next planned dietary survey (INCA3) in France. The aims of the survey are (i) to collect national data on individual food consumption and eating behaviours, (ii) to be used as a sampling frame for the French TDS and (iii) to compare the French food exposure within the European countries and identify possible over-exposure of the French population. The survey will use the methodology indicated in the EFSA guideline so to be integrated in the EFSA EU Menu project. The study population will include 5000 subjects divided in two population groups: from birth to 17 years old (n=2200) and from 18 to 79 years old (n=2800) living in

mainland France. A multi-stage stratified random sampling method will be followed; at a first stage, a random selection with stratification on regions and size of urban areas, at a second stage, a random selection of households using a telephone sampling procedure, and at a last stage, a random selection of individuals with an over-sampling of pregnant women. Data will be collected for three non-consecutive days, including two weekdays and one weekend day randomly selected upon a three-week period. For subjects aged 11-79 years old, dietary information will be collected using 24H recall via the telephone, using the EPIC-Soft software and a new developed picture book. For subjects aged 0-10 years old, a open-ended food record will be used, followed by a telephone interview using the data entry version of EPIC-Soft. Focus need to be given on the updating of the French version of EPIC-Soft. In addition, anthropometric measures will be taken during the home visit and a self-administered FPQ will be collected, adapted to the four age classes. The survey tool preparation started in March 2011 and will last in June 2012. The study is going to take place on the period of September 2012 to December 2013 and the data preparation and analyses from January 2014 to March 2015.

Estonia-National dietary survey among children in Estonia

Liis Kambek (LK) gave a presentation on the next planned dietary survey among children in Estonia. The aim of the survey is to update the food consumption database since the last conducted survey was in 1997. A dietary record method will be used, including two non-consecutive days and a FPQ filled in by the child's caretaker. In-house software Nutridata will be used as a data entry tool during the interviews. The target population will be registered individuals living in Estonia during the time period of July 2013 to July 2014, covering four seasons and weekdays. Infants will be drawn from the Birth Registry, though toddlers and children from the fresh census data from 2011. A random stratified selection method will be followed. The survey will be supported by an EFSA's procurement call. A pilot study will take place before the survey by March 2013 and the conversion of data to the format required by EFSA will be done by October 2014. Possible challenges that can be faced are the harmonisation of the food descriptors and when the new FoodEx 2 will be available, the Nutridata portion size picture book, and possible adjustments that could need to be made after the completion of analyses of the results of the PANCAKE project. Finally, she gave some information on the Nutridata software.

Round table on dietary survey plans

Spain: A new dietary survey on children and adolescents is planned for 2012. 3000 subjects will be enrolled and two 24 hours recalls by phone will be used as a tool. At regional level, a survey in Catalonia is planned for 2012. In both cases final approval are depending on the budget.

Bulgaria: Bulgaria has prepared a draft for a new action plan 2011-2015 and submitted to the Ministry, but it has not yet been adopted.

Italy: Italy plans to start their next survey in 2015 using the EU Menu protocol. In this regard, currently they are looking for a financial support from the Ministry.

Finland: Risk factor survey and dietary survey are done as a part of a routine health monitoring system within the National FINRISK Study. Their next survey will start in January 2012, focus in five study areas and draw the sample from the National Register; 2000 participants of 25-74 years will be included. The tools include two 24 hours recall,

dietary supplements consumption, FFQ, anthropometric measurements, blood, urine and DNA analyses.

Portugal: Portugal has planned a new National food consumption survey, submitted a financial request to the government but no answer has been received yet. The country is participating in the PILOT-PANEU project.

Netherlands: A new survey is planned to start in 2012. It will cover the majority of the population (1-79 years). A survey using FFQ is planned to be done in five ethnic groups; a food consumption survey among elderly non-institutionalized persons is on-going using a combination of record and recall approach.

Slovakia: Slovakia will initiate a new National dietary survey in 2012, which will use 24 hours recall, a FFQ, anthropometric measurements and physical activity questionnaire.

Iceland: A survey in 6 year old children is ongoing.

Greece: A new dietary survey including 4000 adults will be launched in 2012. The survey is co-ordinated by the Hellenic Health Foundation and supported by the Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity, through the European Social Fund, National Strategic Reference Network (NSRF) 2007-2013.

Sweden: A new survey is planned to start in 2014, but the age groups still need to be defined.

United Kingdom: The current National Diet and Nutrition Survey continue fieldwork until March 2013. There are plans to continue fieldwork from April 2013, but a contract for this work has not yet been set.

Austria, Iceland, Ireland, Portugal, The Netherlands, Norway, Denmark, Latvia and Hungary are in an ongoing phase of a dietary survey.

Belgium, Czech Republic, Malta, Norway, Germany, Luxembourg and Switzerland do not have any concrete plans for performing a dietary survey in the near future.

- **Challenge of the year- Portion size estimation with picture books**

Development and validation of portion size assessment tools for use with children

Emma Foster (EF) gave an overview on the development and validation of the portion size assessment tool for the use with children. The Pilot work included food photographs of 22 commonly consumed foods based on the National Diet and Nutrition Survey (NDNS) through and Interactive Portion Size Assessment System (IPSAS). For the majority of the foods seven different portions were available starting from the 5th to the 95th centile of weight served, in combination with the estimation of the leftovers. The Portion sizes are presented on a log scale this is because of evidence from visual perception research. The just noticeable difference (JND) is defined as the minimum difference between two stimuli that leads to a change in experience. As the magnitude of a stimulus increases, the JND increases, so for example the difference between 5g and 10g of baked beans is much more noticeable than the difference between 105g and 110g. Foods in predetermined amount were also included. EF continued with demonstrating a demo of the assessment system.

The absolute validation was done through a Pilot, which was tested to 596 children aged from four to sixteen years old. They were provided with known quantities of foods, through 5554 meals photos, and had to estimate the portion size and leftover 24 hours after the consuming of the food. 1806 portion size interviews were completed. The IPSAS method was comparable, in terms of accuracy, to the weighed method. Further

development will be done in the production of validated comprehensive tools for use in the assessment of portion size in total dietary assessment of children from one and a half to sixteen years old. Additionally, it will be extended to include 100 foods per age group, and foods for estimation of portion size consumed by children of pre-school age. Three sets of food photographs were developed for use with children of pre-school, primary and secondary school age. This decision was based on the practical application of the tool. Foods were identified based on the NDNS data and in order to cover approximately 85% of the weight consumed by children. The photos were developed by taking 2030 images of 104 different foods organized by type.

The relative validation was done on 360 children by a two four-day weighed food diary. Food photographs and IPSAS were used to estimate the portion size and interviews with both parent and child were performed. During school observations, children were observed at school, their intakes were recorded and foods were weighted.

In conclusion, it was seen that this method could be used as an alternative to weighed intakes in the case of children as the mean daily estimate for nutrients consumed were very close to those reported in the weighted food diaries and could increase participation rates as it was less onerous for participants.

Discussion:

EF indicated that no salt information was collected during the study.

In the question on how the food was weighted, EF replied that parents did it in case of small children, though those of 15-16 years old they did it with the help of the parents. Research teams were recording the information during school hours. In case of foods consumed from a package, certain types of packaging were included in the pictures without any brand information.

Feedback on the reaction of the participants on the length of the interview was asked. EF said that no particular problems were faced. Parents and children found it easy to participate.

PANCAKE picture booklet development and validation

Ellen Trolle (ET) presented the work behind the preparation of the picture book used in the PANCAKE project. The picture book was developed with the cooperation of four countries, The Netherlands, Czech Republic, Belgium and Denmark. 36 common series of foods were included in addition to six specific cutlery series. Six portion sizes were chosen with a visible progression from one portion to the next. An in-house photo-trial was done prior to the photo sessions in order to avoid errors. An evaluation study was performed in order to examine how well the photo series and the single pictures can be used by the parents to estimate the portion size served. The participants were parents of children of zero to ten years old and they were given seven to nine plates that contained 15 different food items in 15 portions, the picture book a photo of a natural size plates. They were asked to estimate the portion size by pointing out the picture with the portion size nearest to the portion on the plate and fill in a qualitative evaluation questionnaire. Analyses of the results have followed and have driven to the conclusion that all series can be included in the picture book but with some reservations/specifications: (i) the series of baby food-fruit puree, vegetable and porridge are suitable only for soft and smooth variants, (ii) the series of salad and cakes are suitable only for food items similar to the depicted foods, (iii) it is suggested only to use the series of chicken if the portion sizes reflect the most common size of chicken eaten by the target group. The procedure

of the PANCAKE picture book is recommended for the development of new picture series. It is also recommended to validate new picture series. The PANCAKE pictures are available through a web library.

EPIC-Soft picture book and guidelines

HF gave a presentation on the development of the EPIC-Soft picture book. It was developed within the EPIC-Soft study and the foods and portions selected are representative for the ten countries that participate in EPIC. It was not validated separately, but was part of the validation studies of EPIC-Soft. He also gave more details on the content of the book and the technical characteristics of the photos. Reference guidelines are available and include the preparation of the photos for food portion quantification in EPIC-Soft.

PILOT-PANEU picture book development and validation

Sofia Guimar (SG) gave a presentation on the development and validation of the picture books planned to be used in the PILOT-PANEU project. The EPIC-Soft picture book was used as a starting point and it was updated with identified common and country specific food items, HHM, shapes and thickness. Different characteristics and photos of picture books already used across Europe were taken into account as well as the reference guidelines on the preparation of photos for food portion quantification of EPIC-Soft. The steps need to be done are the following: (i) additional pictures of foods and recipes will be captured by Bulgaria and Portugal, (ii) partners will clarify how many HHM they need, (iii) picture books need to be edited in a harmonized way and printed by each country.

A validation protocol was also presented. It aims to evaluate the ability of subjects to estimate presented portion size by comparing with a photo series of food and recipe items. They are planning to carry out 66 validations per picture in each population. Each country will validate nine picture series. The agreement between the picture chosen and the actual weight of the presented food will be calculated in two ways; (i) by the percentage of participants choosing the correct picture, the picture adjacent to the correct and the most distant picture and (ii) by the mean difference between the portion size chosen and the actual weight of the food.

- **Solid foundation for future action – next moves?**

Final discussion, conclusions, closing of the meeting

LV invited the meeting participants, to provide their opinions on how well EFSA is on track in the efforts to harmonise food consumption data collection in the view of the EU Menu project using a scale from 1 (very far from optimal) to 10 (progressing just fine). In addition, the participants were asked to write down one suggestion for a “next move” (change, action, activity, issue) that would increase their rating considerably and why this change would make a difference. In a second phase, the participants were asked to form groups of three, share their individual findings with the group and provide: i) suggestion for a “next move” for EFSA, and ii) suggestion for a “next move” for the MSs and other European countries to reach the aims of the EU Menu project.

Discussion:

Concerning the progress of EFSA in harmonising food consumption data collection, the EGFCF awarded an average rating of 6,3 (median 6.0, range 3-9).

The suggestions addressed to EFSA were the following:

- To support the validation of different methods and improve the harmonisation and collaboration between different projects.
- To organise more meetings and workshops.
- To test the tools used to collect data to do calculations and evaluate their role in real risk assessment.
- To develop an on-line platform, where the results from pilot projects and EU Menu project would be available in order to share existing materials and experiences.
- To make accessible the deliverables of the projects (protocols, updated version of EPIC-Soft, food pictures used for the development of the picture books) to all MSs.
- To provide detailed recommendations on the development of the picture books (minimum number of photographs, plates size etc.) so to give the opportunity to MSs to prepare their own picture books according to EFSA standards.
- To launch more call of tenders in order to financially support the National Dietary Surveys.
- To organise training courses on methodologies, protocols, software in order to increase the MSs compliance.

The suggestions to MSs included:

- To enhance the networking between MSs, sharing of methods and experiences, participate in meetings and workshops.
- To increase awareness of the harmonisation approach within the countries, e.g. by preparation of national strategies to be in line with EFSA guidelines and results of the pilot projects.
- To provide their feedback on the project deliverables.

The chair informed about EFSA's preliminary plan to organise possibly next year a methodological workshop, in order to accomplish better interaction and exchange of experience between MSs. She ensured the EGFCF that EFSA plans to continue supporting survey harmonisation and informed about a new call for tender planned to be launched in early 2012. The chair closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their contributions and active participation.

NEXT MEETING: in 2012, to be determined

SUMMARY of ACTIONS

WHO	WHAT	BY
MSs	Action 1: Feedback on the sampling guideline to be sent to the PANCAKE coordinator by e-mail.	beginning of December 2011

5th Meeting of Expert Group on Food Consumption Data

11th and 12th of November 2010– Grand Hotel de la Ville, Barilla Centre, Parma - 09h00 on the 11th of November 13:00 on the 12th of November

Meeting Minutes

Attendees

Member States' representatives

Verena Nowak	Austria
Stefanie Vandervijvere	Belgium
Stefka Petrova	Bulgaria
Irena Colić-Barić	Croatia
Eliza Markidou	Cyprus
Ellen Trolle	Denmark
Liis Kambek	Estonia
Merja Paturi	Finland
Vladimir Kendrovski	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Lionel Lafay	France
Carolin Krems	Germany
Marakis George	Greece
Szeitzné-Szabó Mária	Hungary
Stefania Sette	Italy
Dace Santare	Latvia
Camille Strottner	Luxembourg
Ingrid Busutti	Malta
Loken Elin Bjorge	Norway
Włodzimierz Sekuła	Poland
Calhau Maria Antonia	Portugal
Lubica Horska	Slovakia
Gregorič Matej	Slovenia
Victoria Marcos Suárez	Spain
Ann Karin Lindroos	Sweden
Andrea Renggli	Switzerland

5th Meeting of Expert Group on Food Consumption Data

Marga C. Ocké	The Netherlands
Gülden Pekcan	Turkey
Mark Bush	United Kingdom

AD hoc experts

Jean-Luc Volatier	France
Kari Kuulasma	Finland
Tommi Korhonen	Finland
Jacob Van Klaveren	The Netherlands
Evelien De Boer	The Netherlands

EFSA staff

Liisa Valsta	DATEX-Chair
Stefan Fabiansson	DATEX
Davide Arcella	DATEX
Caroline Merten	DATEX-Rapporteur
Ruth Roldán	DATEX
Muriel Pesci	DATEX- Secretariat
Chiara Guescini	DATEX- Secretariat

Apologies

Jiri Ruprich	Czech Republic
Holmfridur Thorgeirsdottir	Iceland
Evans Rhodri	Ireland
Satkute Rima	Lithuania
Lis Valentin Cristian	Romania

Acronyms

DATEX	Data Collection and Exposure
IARC	International Agency for Research on Cancer
EGFCD	Expert Group on Food Consumption Data
MS	Member States
WG	Working Group

Agenda 11th November

Starting time: 09.00

Finishing time: 18.00

#	Items	Reference/ Comments
1.	Opening, welcome and apologies for absence Adoption of the agenda Declarations of interest Administrative information	Liisa Valsta Muriel Pesci
2.	Introduction	Stefan Fabiansson
3.	EFSA's activities in harmonising European food consumption data collection What's on the Menu in Europe (EU Menu) proposal Discussion	Liisa Valsta All
	Coffee break	
4.	Update on the pilot study for the assessment of nutrient intake and food consumption among kids in Europe (PANCAKE) Discussion	Marga Ocke, Evelien De Boer, Stefanie Vandevijvere All
	Lunch	
5.	Pilot study in the view of a Pan-European dietary survey - Adolescents, adults and elderly	Davide Arcella
6.	Challenges and experiences in standardising data collections in Europe Final results and suggestions of the EFCOVAL project Experiences in standardising anthropometric measurements, biomarker sampling and data collection field work in Europe	Evelien De Boer Kari Kuulasmaa
	Coffee break	

5th Meeting of Expert Group on Food Consumption Data

7.	Visions for future Dietary data collection software –visions for development Discussion	Tommi Korhonen All
8.	Group work on harmonisation	All
9.	News by country representatives	Liis Kambek, Estonia Merja Paturi, Finland Maria Szeitzne Szabo, Hungary Elin Løcke, Norway Andrea Renggli, Switzerland Gülden Pekcan, Turkey Eliza Markidou, Cyprus All
10.	Summary of the Day 1	Liisa Valsta

Agenda 12th November

Starting time: 09.00

Finishing time: 13.00

	Day 2	
11	Opening of Day 2 Administrative information Highlights of Day 1	Liisa Valsta
12	Recent developments on available food consumption data and their use for exposure assessment The EFSA Comprehensive European food consumption database The use of the Comprehensive database for risk assessment - Update on the FCEWG work Discussion	Davide Arcella Jean-Luc Volatier All
	Coffee break	

13	Estimating usual food intake for exposure assessment Challenges in estimating usual intake? Member States' experiences: Usual intake of vitamin D, Netherlands Round-table	Jakob van Klaveren Marga Ocke All
14	Final discussion, conclusions, closing of the meeting	All Liisa Valsta

Report

After the opening and welcome of all participants by Liisa Valsta the apologies for absence of some members of the group were listed, the agenda was adopted and the participants briefly introduced themselves.

Muriel Pesci summarized the administrative procedures.

Introduction

Stefan Fabiansson gave a presentation on the importance to control the data inputs for accurate calculation of exposure focusing on the harmonisation and standardisation needs of all input data (dietary and occurrence data) and the need of a harmonised data collection system. He presented the guidance document on the standard sample description to transmit the occurrence data in the future to EFSA and updated on EFSA's working group activities on food classification and total diet studies (TDS). He finished his presentation by giving an overview of the different exposure assessment methods.

Discussion:

The EGFCF discussed with DATEX on the food classification system to be used in the future. The first draft of the finalised hierarchical system and core food list is planned to be ready by the end of 2011 and will be integrated in the standard sample description system. This system is based on a preliminary version called FOODEX. Meanwhile the Member States (MS) are invited to use the preliminary FOODEX system or the concise classification system.

What is the added value of TDS studies along with the promotion of the EU menu study? The information on the occurrence data will be complemented by the data from the TDS, as they ensure randomness contrary to targeted sampling.

EFSA's activities in harmonising European food consumption data collection

- **What's on the Menu in Europe (EU Menu) proposal**

Liisa Valsta gave an update on EFSA's proposal for the planning and implementation of the EU Menu food consumption project outlining the background, the needs and future actions for this project. The planned EU Menu project would include about 80,000 subjects across the 27 Member States. For adults dietary data will be collected on two independent days by the means of 24h dietary recalls complemented by a food propensity questionnaire (FPQ). The dietary interviews are planned to be administered using the EPIC-Soft dietary software. EU Menu should start as soon as the two pilot studies (children Pancake study and adult pilot study) will be finished and will have produced harmonised protocols and tools. The start of the first wave of the collection phase of the EU menu project is programmed to start in 2012 but most probably will be delayed until 2013. The Member States participating in this first round of the EU Menu should cover different geographical areas in Europe.

Discussion:

The EGFCF discussed whether simultaneous data collection surveys for adults and children will be mandatory; however, this depends on the country's situation and will be decided probably case by case.

France asked whether the recommendations in the guideline document could be prioritised classifying them into mandatory and optional recommendations. Will the recommendations be updated once the pilot study results will be published? In response EFSA pointed out that all recommendations will be evaluated after the outcome of the pilots which are testing these recommendations. Some flexibility is already given. e.g. with regard to the interview place or sampling frame for example.

It was commented that the timeframe for the EU Menu seems quite unrealistic to be respected by most of the participants in the EGFCF.

Estonia is very eager to participate in the first round of the EU Menu. What would be the necessary measures to be taken at MS level in order to participate in the preparation phase? DATEX informed the EGFCF that a call could be published in late 2011 to support the first countries in the preparation phase. One criterion among others set for the eventual participating countries will certainly be the firm commitment to implement a national survey in near future.

The EGFCF discussed about the countries having a rolling system, how willing they would be to change the methodology and therefore not being able anymore to analyse trends. It is possible that they will change their methodology, but an alternative would be that the two methods will be run simultaneously at national level. At EU level no efforts are undertaken to make one method mandatory and as no allowances can be allocated to make them compulsory it is highly improbable that this is going to happen in the future.

The participation for the co-funding process was discussed. The pre-notice of 2 months to submit an offer to a published call is not sufficient in order to discuss and get a commitment from the respective government. DATEX explained that the commitment to implement a national survey should already be given and the co-funding initiative from EFSA would be to support an ongoing initiative. A solution could be to publish the call earlier in the year and give more time to prepare the offers to the calls.

The EGFCFCD advised to carefully analyse the pilot results before launching the EU Menu. Concern was raised about the time schedule to cover all countries in the EU Menu which is five years. A possible alternative would be to cover European regional diets and not national diets, but MS 's aim are not shared in a regional European diet.

The EGFCFCD stressed that training on EPIC-Soft dietary software should be carefully planned for the partners not having experience with this program.

The EGFCFCD discussed the participation possibilities for non MS countries to the EU Menu and related projects. Unfortunately it seems that only Norway and Iceland can participate but DATEX will pursue options available for the candidate countries.

- **Update on the pilot study for the assessment of nutrient intake and food consumption among kids in Europe (PANCAKE)**

Marga Ockè gave an update of the pilot study to collect food consumption data for infants, toddlers and small children (Pancake study) in Belgium and the Czech Republic which started in December 2010. In the first phase of the pilot, the development phase, the following tools were developed and will be tested in the implementation phase during the first half of the year 2011: Food diary (two versions will be tested for their feasibility: a 3 day consecutive record against a 2 day non consecutive record), food pictures, dietary software, general questionnaire, food propensity questionnaire, weight and height measures, data entry tools.

She presented in more details the procedures on the sampling protocol, the interview administration protocol (two versions: one for each diary protocol) and the procedures for quality control. Marga inquired about feedback on the feasibility from the Member States. She presented as well the different tools: the 1- day and 3-day diaries, the picture books containing 36 series of country common foods managed in a picture book library, the picture book validation study recently implemented (results will be available next year), EPIC-SOFT program modified into a data entry tool, the general questionnaire containing information on the subject's education status, the FPQ divided into three different parts (nutrient, exposure needs and supplements), height and weight measurement's protocols (one for infants below 24 months and one for infants above 24 months and the remaining participants and related measurement instruments), the data entry tool to enter information from the FPQ, general questionnaire, anthropometric measurements.

Comments from the MS to the proposed procedures, protocols and tools would be welcomed even after the EGFCFCD meeting.

Discussion:

The EGFCD discussed about the MS not having the children integrated in the proposed sampling frame - population register - and about MS in which the updated population register is not made available at all. Alternative sampling frames will be discussed in the general sampling protocol, one deliverable of the PANCAKE project. These alternative sampling frames need to be further elaborated in the adult pilot project in collaboration with the PANCAKE consortium.

The EGFCD discussed the limitations of the “laboratory” setting for the validation study of the picture book and that more time would be needed in the future for this kind of studies. The proposed tool to measure the height in the pilot study seemed expensive to some MS.

Marga Ockè made clear that the two versions of diaries will be tested on different subjects for their feasibility and that weekday coverage will be tested at group level. Whether the modification of the EPIC-Soft program to be used as a data entry tool lowers the level of detail you might collect, this is a hypothesis that needs to be tested in the pilot study in which the 3-day record will be compared against a 1-day record. Immigrants will not be covered in the pilot if they do not speak the national language. However, for the EU Menu the integration of large minority groups need to be discussed. The EGFCD discussed a possible longer timeframe than one month for the FPQ, but for infants and toddlers this did not seem interesting.

It was discussed to eventually apply stricter exclusion criteria like diet intolerance in order to avoid under-eating. Those criteria are not planned to be applied in the PANCAKE project, but information will be collected on special diets like health related diets in order to cover special food consumption patterns.

The EGFCD suggested site visits during the pilot and seminars after the pilot on quality control.

The picture book will be provided in the first interview in paper version. An on-line version is available in the web-site hosted by DTU Food. Access to the picture library will be granted by the Pancake consortium upon request from the MS.

The questionnaire on the non-respondents will be used to cross check the information with the socioeconomic status.

The Pancake consortium did not consider the mother's breast milk quantification feasible.

- **Pilot study in the view of a Pan-European dietary survey- Adolescents, adults and elderly**

Davide Arcella informed the EGFCD that the recently published call for a pilot study collecting food consumption data from adolescents, adults and elderly was awarded to a consortium coordinated by the Hungarian Food Safety Office. The consortium includes seven partners from: Bulgaria, Poland, Portugal, Finland, Greece, Germany and

Hungary. The project will start at the end of 2010 and will develop tools and procedures to collect data for adolescents, adults and elderly. After a collection phase, the tools and procedures will be revised and finalised for the actual EU Menu. The project is planned to finish in December 2012.

Challenges and experiences in standardising data collections in Europe

- **Experiences in standardising anthropometric measurements, biomarker sampling and data collection field in Europe**

Kari Kuulasmaa gave a short overview of a past harmonisation project, the WHO MONICA project, with the objective of measuring over 10 years, and in many different populations, the trends and determinants of cardiovascular disease. The project focused on standardisation of measurements of cardiovascular disease risk factors like the body mass index (weight and height), blood pressure and blood sampling for cholesterol measurements. The standardised measurements were further developed in the more recent Feasibility of a European Health Examination Survey (FEHES) Project. The standardised protocols developed through the FEHES project are further the basis for the ongoing European Health Examination Survey (EHES). The core measurements in this survey are height, weight, waist circumference, blood pressure, and blood samples like total cholesterol, HDL cholesterol and fasting glucose. Flexibility is provided with regard to the examination site within the EHES survey. The EHES is divided into 2 phases, the first including the pilot surveys going until 2011 and the second comprising the full size survey in the pilot countries from 2012 onwards. Target population covers 25-64 years old (can be extended to above 18 years old). Kari summarized the weight and height measurement procedures and focused on the quality control checks. In addition, he mentioned the ethical issues as well as all effort to ensure high response rate as very important issues to plan well ahead. New groups are recommended to concentrate on the core measurements and take care of the main processes instead of trying too much at once.

Discussion:

DATEX informed the EGFCF that the EU menu project has also considered the possibility to include biomarker sampling, but there are no concrete plans yet at this point. The large sample size of EHES, 4000 subjects per country, reflects the aim to recognise small population level changes that could be very important from the population health point of view in the risk factor trends. Collection of the 24 h urine samples is also under discussions to be part of the EHES survey.

- **Final results and suggestions of the EFCOVAL project**

Evelien de Boer presented the main outcomes from the European food consumption validation (EFCOVAL) project, which was a follow-up project of the EFCOSUM project. The main aim of EFCOVAL was to further develop and validate the food consumption instrument (EPIC-SOFT) to assess dietary intake necessary for studying associations with public health and food safety issues in future pan-European monitoring surveys. The main conclusions from the EFCOVAL project are that the repeated 24 h dietary recall using the EPIC-SOFT for standardisation in combination with a FPQ is suitable as an instrument for a pan-European surveillance of nutritional adequacy and food safety in

adults. EFCOVAL is going to produce an upgraded EPIC-SOFT IARC program available for use in pan European food consumption surveys ready next year.

Discussion:

The EGFCFCD discussed about the necessary average time to prepare country specific EPIC-SOFT versions, which would take about 15 person-months. Stefka Petrova, from Bulgaria, who is involved in the art. 36 project for the adult pilot, expressed concerns about the time needed to adapt a national database for the EPIC-SOFT program. The Pancake consortium assured full cooperation with EFSA to share experiences.

Visions for future

- **Dietary data collection software-visions for development**

Tommi Korhonen presented the key elements of the “ideal software” built on today’s IT architecture in relation to choices and tools and covered the experiences with the Finnish recall interview, data entry and calculation software Finessi developed 10 years ago within the Finnish food consumption survey. The key elements for future software would be: a 3-Tier architecture, an open application programmes interface, a modular design, a plug-in mechanism and avoiding a vendor lock-in.

Discussion:

In comparison to this “ideal software” the EPIC-SOFT program appears to have a 3-Tier approach, no plug in mechanism and is heavily vendor locked in. Currently no information about an open application interface or modular design is available for the EPIC-SOFT program. These key elements would also apply to any newly developed software in a different context than the food consumption one. At least 2 years would be needed in person time to develop at least the application program interface of this new software. The EGFCFCD discussed about the possibility to evaluate the optimal set of criteria for a food consumption software package for EFSA. This would allow the evaluation of other existing software in use in the Member States. However, sometimes it might take more time to build software from an existing platform rather than starting from scratch. The EGFCFCD was not in favour of developing a new food consumption data collection tool, but suggested that considerations should be given to the needs for appropriate software to be used, when the food consumption data has been collected and during transformation to the final format.

News by country representatives

- **Estonia**

Liis Kambek presented the Estonian preparation plans for food consumption data collection. The national survey was planned to start in 2012 using a web based 4 x 24 h recall but no funding could be assured at national level. She expressed a strong interest in being part of the first rung of MS in the EU Menu project.

- **Finland**

The next national survey is planned for 2012 covering as well biomarker sampling. They are interested to combine efforts and experience and possibly be part of the EU Menu.

- **Hungary**

Maria Szeitne-Szabo presented the latest national survey completed in 2009 covering 4992 persons from 0-101 years old by means of a 3-day food record complemented by a FFQ.

- **Norway**

Elin Bjorge Loken presented the third national food consumption survey design and status called Norkost, which is planned for 2011. The new method will be 2 x 24h dietary recall by phone one month apart complemented with a FFQ on paper or web. Norway is considering how to collaborate in the future with EU menu plans.

- **Switzerland**

Andrea Renggli told the EGFCF that a national survey is planned to start end of 2011, but due to funding shortage this seems jeopardized. Switzerland tried to follow the EFSA guideline recommendations by using the 2 X 24 h recall dietary recall. EPIC SOFT program will be used to collect the dietary information. So far no FFQ was planned, but they could consider using one.

- **Turkey**

Gulden Pekcan explained the challenges on implementing a national survey due to the size of the country and the need for political support. The last national survey was implemented in 2010. Infants and adults were part of the study population. A 1 day 24h dietary recall was the method used to collect the food consumption data. Blood samples were taken from the same subjects.

- **Cyprus**

Eliza Markkidou presented the Hazard Analysis Nutritional Control Points (HANCP) tool. The tool was developed within the FOOD PRO-FIT project in order to help identifying more balanced recipes. The aim of this tool is to evaluate the nutritional risk in food with reference to the quantity of saturated fatty acids (SFA), free sugars and sodium (salt). This tool has been developed to help small and medium size food companies and HORECA sector to reformulate processed foods and meals by improving the nutritional quality of their food, reducing certain nutrients, in order to make the healthier choice for the consumers.

Group work on harmonisation

Liisa Valsta gave a short presentation on how the group work will be organised using the OPERA method. Participants were previously asked to think about the major challenges, without considering financial issues, in their respective country in order to harmonise their survey method and design according to the EU Menu. After writing down the maximum five major challenges, ideas were exchanged with their pair neighbour. The idea is to share the concerns and combine those challenges which are similar into the most important one. Concerns identified by one pair were shared with another two pairs. The group combined those that were similar and choose four of the most important ones in the group. They wrote one issue on one landscape A4 paper and placed four papers on the big board. Every group explained briefly its four major challenges and concerns. Every group had to distribute four pluses to the challenge list giving maximum one plus

to its own group. The biggest challenges identified through this work group method were the following as combined by the participants into four main themes:

- National versus European methodology: methods that accommodate national and European needs comparable across Europe like for example the software for the dietary collection, food composition databases, recipe standardisation and validation, quality control criteria.
- Representativeness: recruitment, response rate, level of details collected,
- Capacity building: lack of experts at national level, lack of coordination
- Timing: timeframe for the preparation, connection with national needs, timeline with ongoing studies.

Opening of day 2 with a summary of the day 1

Liisa Valsta opened the second day with a summary of the topics discussed on the first day.

Recent developments on available food consumption data and their use for exposure assessment

- **The EFSA Comprehensive European food consumption database**

Davide Arcella gave an overview of the comprehensive European food consumption database which assembles food consumption data from the most recent national surveys from 20 different MS and contains food information on nearly 60,000 subjects. He focused on the use of the FOODEX, the food classification system applied in the development of the EFSA Comprehensive European Food Consumption database, in order to harmonise the food description across all surveys when assembling the data into the Comprehensive database and make the data more comparable among different European countries. The FOODEX system is a hierarchal system built on 4 levels of classification ending up in 1,400 endpoints. The MS were asked to recode their national databases according to this system. Nearly all MS could recode all their food codes at least down to level 2 of the FoodEx system. The 3rd and 4th level can also be used but their completeness varies according to the country and food group.

Discussion:

MS expressed their need for clarifications on the level of detail for the food description needed at EFSA and how many end-points were needed. The current WG on food classification is currently working on this issue and will propose a unique food classification system which covers hopefully all needs at EFSA.

DATEX informed the EGFCF that they are approached regularly to share the data with other research projects and inquired how DATEX should handle this in the future. Davide Arcella explained that the raw data will not be made available for public use, but DATEX will publish summary statistics at the second level of the FOODEX system by end of December. Mark Bush from the UK mentioned that their raw data are publicly available anyway. A few countries, like Italy and Germany, mentioned that sharing the data to other researchers is not possible without the national institution's specific consensus.

- **The use of the Comprehensive database for risk assessment - Update on the FCEWG work**

Jean-Luc Volatier updated the EGFCF on the most recent activities from the working group on food consumption and exposure. Currently DATEX and the WG are working on two methodological reports:

- A technical report on existing exposure assessments in EFSA
- A practical guideline document with basic instruction of how to use the comprehensive database for exposure assessment: JL presented the different methodological differences which shall be considered for exposure assessment.

He differentiated between the essential needs for both acute and chronic exposure assessment. The Comprehensive database is a unique tool worldwide for exposure assessors.

Discussion:

For acute exposure assessment the day of consumption is considered and not the average of replicates. The food information will be published in grams consumed per day. The EGFCF discussed that sometimes it might be important to have the information on the meal occasion, but unfortunately most of the data in the Comprehensive Database, in particular all data from EXPOCHI, do not present information on meal occasion, but only on consumption per day.

The EGFCF discussed about the methodology to be used to calculate usual intake when publishing the data. Currently, no model is used yet in order to calculate usual intake and the average at individual level is going to be reported. The modelling of the usual intake is part of a research project called European Tool Usual Intake (ETUI).

Estimating usual food intake for exposure assessment

- **Challenges in estimating usual intake?**

Jacob van Klaveren gave an update from the European Tool Usual Intake (ETUI) project. Within the project a workshop was organised in May 2010 where the different available models to calculate usual intake were discussed. The outcome of the project will be a computational tool, an exposure model platform, the MCRA tool, that should work at the international level and be useful for EFSA. The model development will continue and new models will be built into the MCRA platform.

Discussion:

Some MS were concerned about the lack of experience with the usual intake modelling and wondered whether EFSA would consider training for MS to use this tool. Unfortunately, in the framework of ETUI, project training is not included, but training sessions could eventually be organised in case of broader demand.

The EGFCF discussed about how to handle small sample sizes. This issue depends on the variation of the concerned contaminant in the food. If the variation is low you do not

need a big sample size compared to a contaminant showing a high variability in a specific food.

- **Member States' experiences: Usual intake of vitamin D in the Netherlands**

Marga Ocké explained how in the Netherlands usual intake of vitamin D is calculated using models integrating food and supplement consumption. They used the Nusser method and an in-house method (SPADE). Applying the model makes the distribution smaller. The problem was that there was nearly no variation in the intake of vitamin D. An adjusted approach taking into account differences in variation is currently under development in collaboration with Kevin Dodd from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) from the US.

Discussion:

The EGFCF discussed on the possible influence of a larger reference period on the variation. However, in the particular case of vitamin D this influence is not expected.

- **Round-table**

The EGFCF was invited to a round-table discussion to share participants' experience at national level on using usual intake modelling. In the following seven countries usual intake modelling was experienced:

- The Netherlands: the National Cancer Institute (NCI) method platform has been used for risk assessment since a long time and for nutrient purposes since 2003.
- Hungary: Modelling used in projects on aflatoxins in paprika and opiate alkaloids in poppy seeds
- Germany: Multiple source method (MSM) model
- France: MSN model and the MCRA-ISUF model for food supplements
- Finland: Nusser method at the National Institute for Health and Welfare and most probably also other methods by the Risk Assessment Unit of the Food Agency (Evira)
- Denmark: MSN model used for pesticides
- Belgium: Nusser method for food and nutrient intake, MCRA platform for bio toxin risk assessment
- Austria: Nusser method used in research projects

In addition, Jakob van Klaveren pointed out that according to his experience, there are several groups in the countries active in this area which may not be covered by this round-table. DATEX will investigate after the outcome of the ETUI project how to integrate usual intake modelling in future exposure assessment.

Final discussion, conclusions, closing of the meeting

The meeting was closed with a final round table inviting the EGFCF to express themselves on the most important issues in relation to the planned EU Menu and the following issues were discussed and proposed:

- Active collaboration between the pilots, EFSA and IARC was considered as highly important. It was suggested to improve the knowledge of MS not having had experience yet with the EPIC-SOFT dietary software in order to understand the architecture and structure of the program and how the different files are linked. The EGFCF strongly recommended to wait and carefully analyse the results from the two pilot studies before starting the EU Menu.
- It was suggested to EFSA to organise training at national level, specifically how the country-specific versions function and how they have to be built up.
- Concerning the form of training it was recommended to start the training as soon as possible and to introduce in the different waves of EU Menu MS with different experience level. A web based tutorial training was suggested. The EGFCF considered the development of new software too time consuming in order to use it in the planned EU Menu, but considered that any input for developing tools for the processes following the collection of food consumption data would be useful.
- Timing was considered crucial to all EGFCF members and in particular for those countries willing to participate in the first wave of the EU Menu. Time will be needed to coordinate the survey at national level and to start preparatory tasks, like collecting information on portion size variability. The planned start of the EU Menu for 2012 was considered too ambitious.
- Food composition databases for pan-European activities seem not to be of the same importance to EFSA as to the MS as the main remit of EFSA is exposure assessment. The EGFCF advised collaboration with EuroFIR for further harmonisation or to launch a call on yield factors. Every country should keep its national database but e.g. yield factors should be harmonised.
- Actions concerning the usual intake modelling on the comprehensive database and training in future workshops are welcomed by the EGFCF.

At the end of the discussions the chair thanked everyone for the fruitful meeting and active contributions of the country representatives, hearing experts and the EFSA staff and closed the meeting.

4th Meeting of Expert Group on Food Consumption Data

14th and 15th of October 2009– Grand Hôtel de la Ville, Barilla Centre, Parma

Meeting Report

Attendees

Member States' representatives

Verena Nowak	Austria
Stefanie Vandervijvere	Belgium
Stefka Petrova	Bulgaria
Jiri Ruprich	Czech Republic
Liis Kambek	Estonia
Merja Paturi	Finland
Jean-Luc Volatier	France
Carolin Krems	Germany
Stamatina Louka	Greece
Biró Lajos	Hungary
Christina Tlustos	Ireland
Stefania Sette	Italy
Dace Santare	Latvia
Camille Strottner	Luxembourg
Sofia Guiomar	Portugal
Anna Turzova	Slovakia
Gregorič Matej	Slovenia
Victoria Marcos Suárez	Spain
Helene Enghardt-Barbieri	Sweden
Josef Rudolf Schlatter	Switzerland
Marga C. Ocké	The Netherlands
Alexander Boss	United Kingdom

Observers

Irena Colić-Barić	Croatia
Vladimir Kendrovski	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Gülden Pekcan	Turkey

AD hoc experts

Nadia Slimani	IARC
Oliver Lindtner	BfR
Aine Hearty	UCD
Catherine Leclercq	INRAN
Dhonna Rhodes	USDA
Inge Huybrechts	Ghent University

Efsa staff

Liisa Valsta	DATEX-Chair
Stefan Fabiansson	DATEX
Davide Arcella	DATEX
Caroline Merten	DATEX
Sofia Ioannidou	DATEX
Francesco Vernazza	DATEX
Elena Scaravelli	DATEX
Valeriu Curtui	DATEX
Pietro Ferrari	DATEX
Muriel Pesci	DATEX- Secretariat
Chiara Guescini	DATEX- Secretariat

Apologies

Eliza Markidou	Cyprus
Inge Tetens	Denmark
Philippe Verger	France
Holmfridur Thorgeirsdottir	Iceland
Rima Satkute	Lithuania
Johansson Lars	Norway
Włodzimierz Sekuła	Poland
Lis Valentin Cristian	Romania

Acronyms

DATEX	Data Collection and Exposure
MS	Member States
UCD	University College Dublin
WG	Working Group
Afssa	French Food Safety Authority
BfR	Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung
FSA	Food Standards Agency
INRAN	National Research Institute for Food and Nutrition
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
IARC	International Agency for Research on Cancer

Agenda

Draft Agenda for the 14th of October 2009

Starting Hour: 14h00
Finishing Hour: 18h30

#	Items. Chair: Liisa Valsta	Document Reference / Comments
1.	Welcome and apologies for absence	Stefan Fabiansson (20 min.)
2.	Adoption of the agenda	
3.	Roundtable: <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Introduction of the participants	All (20 min.)
4.	Update on the ongoing EFSA activities in the field of food consumption data: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaboration Agreement for the provision and processing of food consumption data (DPPA/EFSA/DATEX/2008,• Call for proposal of Pilot dietary survey on children and breastfeeding mothers	Davide Arcella (15min. + 5 min. discussion)
5.	Update on the art. 36 project “Individual food consumption data and exposure assessment studies for children” (CFP/EFSA/DATEX/2008/01)	Inge Huybrechts (10 min. + 5 min. discussion)
6.	Presentation of the NHANES in the US	Donna Rhodes (20 min.+ 10 min. discussion)
7.	Coffee break	(15min.)
8.	EFSA’s food classification activities	Francesco Vernazza (15 min +5 min. discussion)
9.	EFSA Guidelines on methods and protocols for the collection of national food consumption data in the view of a Pan-European dietary survey (Working Group on Food Consumption and Exposure)	
10.	Part 1: Dietary information needed at EFSA	Caroline Merten (30 min + 30 min discussion)
11.	Part 2: Study populations and sampling design	Jean-Luc Volatier (30 min + 30 min discussion)

4th Meeting of Expert Group on Food Consumption Data

Draft Agenda for the 15th of October

Starting Hour: 9h00

Finishing Hour: 16h00

#	Items. Chair: Liisa Valsta	Document Reference / Comments
12.	Part 3: Dietary assessment methodologies	Marga C Ocké (30 min + 30 min discussion)
13.	Part 4: Quality control and other non dietary information	Catherine Leclercq (30 min +15 min discussion)
14.	Coffee break	15 min
15.	Part 5: Administration of the interview and tools	Áine Hearty (20 min + 20 min discussion)
16.	Presentation of the new EPIC SOFT program and EMP Discussion on dietary assessment methodologies continues	Nadia Slimani (20 min +10 min discussion) All (30 min)
17.	Lunch break	(60 min)
18.	Open discussion on the guideline document	All 45 min
19.	Coffee break	15 min
20.	Closing session and presentation of the conclusions	Liisa Valsta (30 min)

Report

Stefan Fabiansson welcomed the participants and introduced the Chair of the meeting, Liisa Valsta. Apologies for absence of some members of the group were listed, the agenda was adopted and the participants briefly introduced themselves.

Update on ongoing EFSA activities in the field of food consumption data

Davide Arcella gave an update on the current and planned activities in EFSA on food consumption activities. Concerning the current projects he briefly presented the EXPOCHI project and in more details the comprehensive database project. Responses to the Article 36 call for proposal on a pilot study in the view of a pan-European dietary survey for infants and children are currently under evaluation. Furthermore, a preliminary action plan aimed at implementing a pan-European dietary survey was presented.

Update on the Article 36 project “Individual food consumption data and exposure assessment studies for children” (CFP/EFSA/DATEX/2008/01, EXPOCHI project)

Inge Huybrechts presented the progress made in the EXPOCHI project. The final template for food consumption data transmission is ready and the partners will put their database information into these templates by the end of October. All partners assessed the exposure to lead and are now working on chromium and selenium. Exposure for the six Southampton food colours had already been assessed and the remaining ones will be analysed by the end of October.

Presentation of the NHANES study in the USA

Donna Rhodes gave a presentation on the dietary data collection component of the NHANES study, the rolling health survey in the USA. She presented how the data were collected, processed and released. The data are collected by two 24 h dietary recalls, the first administered face to face, the second, by phone. The method to input the data is the automated multiple passes method.

EFSA’s food classification activities

Francesco Vernazza presented the action plan for EFSA’s activities to develop a harmonised food classification system. The first initiative was the creation of a working group whose mandate is to review and analyse existing food classification and description systems and to generate an interim report. The working group will meet for the first time at the end of 2009. Furthermore, an EFSA Scientific Colloquium is planned to be held in March 2010 in order to raise and discuss issues regarding food classification when generating and reporting data.

EFSA Guidelines on methods and protocols for the collection of national food consumption data in the view of a Pan-European dietary survey (Working Group on Food Consumption and Exposure)

Davide Arcella thanked the members of the Working Group for their efforts in preparing the guideline document on methods and protocols for a pan-European dietary survey and specified that the main objective of the current meeting was to review and endorse the document chapter by chapter. Written comments had already been received from a number of members and they were considered for each discussed point. In particular, Liisa Valsta informed the participants that EFSA will take into account additional information received from Expert Group members who could not attend the meeting.

Part 1: Dietary information needed at EFSA

Caroline Merten gave an overview of the specific needs on food consumption data of EFSA's scientific panels with regard to the target population, the food descriptors and the exposure estimation. The overview was mainly based on the outcome of interviews performed by the DATEX Unit with scientific officers from the EFSA Units dealing with risk assessment.

Discussion:

The Expert Group agreed to:

- Change the title of the document to “General principles for the collection of national food consumption data in the view of a pan-European dietary survey”
- Specify that the document could be used to collect data also for nutritional purposes and not only for risk assessment purposes. In order to do that protocols tailored for the two purposes need to be elaborated at a later stage.
- Add the information on the eating place with regard to the required details on the food descriptors.
- Elaborate protocols for the data collection in a second phase. One of the protocols should contain specific requirements on how to collect data at food descriptors level. It was specified that EFSA Units and Panels will be again consulted when the detailed protocols will be developed.

Part 1 was endorsed after incorporation of the above comments.

Part 2: Study populations and sampling design

Jean-Luc Volatier presented the main points of the guideline document concerning the study population and exclusion criteria, the sampling frame, the sampling method and design, the sampling size and response rate.

Discussion:

The Expert Group agreed to:

- Specify on lines 408-411 that a different sampling design is necessary for pregnant women.
- Revise the section in lines 393-396 discussing the possibility to implement a regional rather than national survey in case of limited resources.
- Add the possibility to use as a recruitment option medical centres and practitioners not only for pregnant women and infants, but for adults as well.

- Specify that a sample size of 1000 subjects for adults is the absolute minimum required, a higher sample number of subjects is strongly recommendable in order to achieve the desired details.
- Specify on lines 527-528 that the inclusion of more subjects in the most populated EU Member States should be based on the variability in consumption patterns.
- Verify the definition of “toddler” in order to be consistent with EU legislation.
- Add a sentence clarifying that the definition of the age group for adults might change based on the work EFSA is doing on the dietary reference values.
- Add a sentence that collaboration with EUROSTAT is advisable in order to define the sampling frame.

Part 2 was endorsed after incorporation of the above comments.

Part 3: Dietary assessment methodologies

Marga Ocké gave an overview of the different dietary assessment methodologies available and compared the food record to the dietary recall by presenting the respective pros and cons of each method in the framework of a pan-European dietary survey for children and for adults.

Discussion:

The presentation was followed by a round table in which every participant expressed their opinion on the methodology for adults on one hand and for children on the other hand. Concerning the methodology for children it was unanimously agreed that the best method for children is the food record. Concerning the methodology for adults, the majority of the countries' representatives were in favour of a 24 h dietary recall in the framework of a pan-European survey. Three countries in particular, namely Portugal, Bulgaria and Finland, were critical regarding the possibility of implementing the food record method for the adult population in their respective country. The main problem, especially in Bulgaria and Portugal, is the presence of ethnic minorities with a significant percentage of illiterate people. Nobody expressed a negative opinion regarding the possibility of using the 24-hour recall method for the adult population.

The Expert Group agreed to:

- Add the following paragraph on line 813: "The EGFCF therefore recommends that the 24-hour recall method including two non consecutive days is used for the adult population. The main argument for this choice is that the 24-hour recall can be better implemented, within a pan-European dietary survey, in order to increase the number of subjects and the participation rate, as more extensively discussed in the other chapters of this document".
- Include in the document the issue related to literacy and ethnic minorities.
- State in the guidelines that the decision for the adult methodology is not scientifically based but driven by cost-efficiency reasons.
- Structure the conclusion paragraph for children similar to the one for the adult population part.
- Check in the whole document that two non-consecutive days are suggested for children.
- Specify that in a food propensity questionnaire only the frequency of consumption is considered and not the portion sizes.

- Specify in the conclusion that the EGFCF recommends the use of a food propensity questionnaire.
- Clarify that detailed protocols for the administration of the 24-hour recall will be defined at a later stage.
- To change “those foods” in line 773 by clearly defining that the meaning is a list of rarely consumed foods which will be defined by EFSA Units and Panels.

Part 3 was endorsed after incorporation of the above comments.

Part 4: Quality control and other non dietary information

Catherine Leclercq presented the recommendations on how to collect non dietary information such as body weight and height, physical activity level, intake of nutritional supplements and how to identify and manage under reporters.

Discussion:

The Expert Group agreed to:

- Complete the collection of non dietary information with the information on the household income level.
- Add to part 7.3 a recommendation to collect information on the long term use of food supplements and add on paragraph 6.2.1 that every country has to develop its own food supplement database.
- Add in section 7.3 that information on the consumption of medicines containing nutrients must be collected as well.
- Revise lines 1256-1260.
- Revise lines 1401-1406.
- Change in line 1459 “children <10 years” to “children up to 10 years”.
- Mention that outputs of the IDEFIX DG Research project could be used with respect to the measurement of energy expenditure and of physical activity in children. Results of this project are expected by 2010.
- Reword the different physical activity “levels” to physical activity “classes”.

Part 4 was endorsed after incorporation of the above comments.

Part 5: Administration of the interview and tools

Aine Hearty presented the recommendations with regard to the administration of the interview including the interview method, the place of interview and the interviewer and as well as recommendations in relation to the portion size estimations. Davide Arcella presented the discussion of software choices for the surveys.

Discussion:

The Expert Group agreed to:

- Add to the requirements of adapting country specific picture books not only with country specific food lists but also with country specific portion size estimations.
- Add a sentence specifying that a harmonised training protocol for the interviewers is required throughout the Member States.

- Add a sentence specifying that further research on web based interview methods should be supported.
- Add to section 6.2.1 that every country will need further developments in order to adapt the country specific databases.

Part 5 and thus the final chapter of the guideline was also endorsed after incorporation of the above comments. The amended guideline thus approved will be made available to the Expert Group.

Presentation of the new EPIC SOFT program and EMP

Nadia Slimani presented the new version of the EPIC SOFT software program and the related web-based methodological platform.

Discussion:

The EGCD agreed that the EPIC-SOFT software program would be the best solution to collect dietary data within a pan-European dietary survey. The EG discussed whether the food composition databases should be linked automatically to the food consumption databases and it was concluded that for the sake of control and standardisation the linkage should not be done automatically. EPIC SOFT should be flexible enough in order to adapt to the new classification system which is planned to be ready the year before the beginning of the pan-European dietary survey. It was strongly recommended to EFSA not to change the classification system every year but to agree on one system and to keep it.

Closing session and presentation of the conclusions

The Guideline was endorsed by the EGCD pending the above mentioned modifications that should also be reported in the summary and general conclusion chapters.

The possibility of carrying out a pan-European dietary survey was discussed and all participants fully supported EFSA to take initiatives in this direction. Member States asked EFSA to be involved as much as possible in the preparation of a project proposal for a future pan-European dietary survey.

Liisa Valsta closed the meeting by thanking all participants.

Action summary

Ref	WHO	WHAT	BY
	DATEX	Adapt the guidance document in accordance with the Expert Group suggestions.	30/11/09
	EFSA	Prepare a project proposal for a future pan-European dietary survey.	30/05/10

3rd Meeting of Expert Group on Food Consumption Data

30 October 2008 – PDUC Umberto Primo in Palazzo Ducale -
9:00-17:00

Meeting Report

Attendees

Member States' representatives

Heinz Freisling	Austria
Stefanie Vandervijvere	Belgium
Stefka Petrova	Bulgaria
Irena Colić-Barić	Croatia
Jiri Ruprich	Czech Republic
Liisa Valsta	Finland
Jean-Luc Volatier	France
Carolin Krems	Germany
George Marakis	Greece
Christina Tlustos	Ireland
Dace Santare	Latvia
Lars Johansson	Norway
Włodzimierz Sekuła	Poland
Marga C. Ocké (MO)	Netherlands
Catherine Leclercq (CL)	Italy
Alexander Boss (AB)	United Kingdom
Lis Valentin Cristian	Romania
Emilia Leskova	Slovakia
Gregorič Matej	Slovenia
Victoria Marcos Suárez	Spain
Inge Huybrechts	Belgium
Camille Strottner	Luxembourg
Lajos Biro	Hungary
Helene Enghardt-Barbieri	Sweden
Maria Antonia Calhau	Portugal

AD hoc experts

Philippe Verger (PV)	France (INRA)
Katrin Buesch	Germany (BfR)
Oliver Lindtner	Germany (BfR)
Áine Hearty	Ireland (UCD Dublin)

Efsa staff

Stefan Fabiansson	DATEX-Chairman
Davide Arcella	DATEX
Elena Scaravelli	DATEX
Caroline Merten	DATEX
Valeriu Curtui	DATEX
Pietro Ferrari	DATEX
Alessandro Carletti	DATEX
Muriel Pesci	DATEX- Secretariat
Krisztina Nagy	DATEX- Secretariat

Apologies

Eliza Markidou	Cyprus
Inge Tetens	Denmark
Jaana Oona	Estonia
Llaufey Steingrimsdóttir	Iceland
Stefania Sette	Italy
Rima Satkute	Lithuania
Josef Rudolf Schlatter	Switzerland
Vladimir Kendrovski	Macedonia

Acronyms

DATEX	Data Collection and Exposure
DoI	Declaration of Interests
MS	Member States
UCD	University College Dublin
WG	Working Group
Afssa	French Food Safety Authority
BfR	Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung
FSA	Food Standards Agency
INRAN	National Research Institute for Food and Nutrition

Agenda

#	Items	Document Reference / Comments
1.	Welcome and apologies for absence	(30 min.)
2.	Adoption of the agenda	
3.	Declarations of interest	
4.	Roundtable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> introduction of the participants 	All (30 min.)
5.	Protocols and results of recently completed dietary surveys <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belgium Germany Ireland Italy Latvia Sweden Bulgaria Finland The Netherlands 	135 min. (10 min. + 5 min. discussion for each speaker) Stefanie Vandevijvere Carolin Krems Áine Hearty Catherine Leclercq Dace Santare Helene Enghardt Barbieri Stefka Petrova Liisa Valsta Marga C Ocké
6.	Collaboration Agreement for the provision and processing of food consumption data (DPPA/EFSA/DATEX/2008)	Davide Arcella (20 min.) Discussion 40 min.
7.	Report from the Food Consumption and Exposure Working Group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pilot studies to test the logistics of a pan-European food consumption survey; Guidance document covering the use of existing consumption data collected at a detailed food level Recommended methods for food consumption surveys to achieve better harmonisation across Europe 	Stefan Fabiansson (10 min.) Jean-Luc Volatier (10 min.) Marga C Ocké (10 min.) Discussion (30 min.)
8.	Presentation of the art. 36 project “Individual food consumption data and exposure assessment studies for children” (CFP/EFSA/DATEX/2008/01)	Inge Huybrechts (20 min. + 5 min. discussion)
9.	Report from the art. 36 project “Support to complete EFSA's Concise Food Consumption Database” (SuConDa)	Oliver Lindtner (20 min. + 5 min. discussion)
10.	Any Other Business	All (30 min.)

Report

After the formalities with the DOI's, the welcome, the apologies for absence of some members of the group, the agenda was adopted and the participants briefly introduced themselves.

Protocol and results of recently completed dietary surveys

Germany:

Carolin Krems (Max Rubner Institut) presented the first results of the second German national dietary survey (NVSII) finished in 2007. 19,329 subjects (42 % response rate) were interviewed using different methodologies: dietary history interview, dietary weighing records and 2 non consecutive 24 h dietary recall.

The cost of the survey was estimated to 7-8,000,000 Euros.

Belgium:

Stefanie Vandevijvere (WIF) made a presentation on the recent Belgian food consumption survey of adults in 2004-2005 and the planned children food consumption survey in October 2009. Within the first survey, 3,200 adults were interviewed on two non-consecutive days using the 24 h dietary recall method.

The sampling for the children survey will depend on the budget. It has been decided that for preschool and primary children two non-consecutive days using estimated dietary records and for secondary school children two non-consecutive days using 24 h dietary recall will be organised. A possibility exists to involve Luxemburg in this study.

Ireland:

Aine Hearty (UCD) presented the planned 2nd Irish national nutrition survey for 2008-2011 starting in October this year. 1,500 participants will be interviewed on their consumption patterns using a 4 day non consecutive dietary record.

Additional examinations (blood and urine samples, physical activity through an accelerometer, etc.) are included in this study but participants are not excluded in case they refuse them.

Latvia:

A presentation of the ongoing Latvian national survey by Dace Santare indicated that 2,000 participants had been interviewed on two non-consecutive days using the 24 h dietary recall method.

Sweden

Heléne Enghardt Barbieri (Livsmedelsverket) presented a new approach for the planned future national survey. A pilot study tested the web based 4 day non-consecutive dietary record on 300 participants. Despite the fact that in Sweden 80-90 % of the households

have access to internet the participation rate was only 30 %. Sweden is currently exploring ways to improve the participation rate. A second pilot could be necessary.

Bulgaria

The recent national survey in 2007 on nutrition of infants and children under 5 years and family childrearing practices in Bulgaria was presented by Stefka Petrova (National Center of Public Health Protection). The food consumption of 1,723 children divided in 4 subgroups was recorded by interviewing the parents using the 24 h dietary recall method. EFSA expressed interest in receiving this data within the collaboration agreement for the transmission of the adults' food consumption data currently awaiting signature.

Finland

Liisa Valsta (KTL) presented the results of the recent national survey organised in 2007. In the survey, 6,259 subjects (63% participation rate) were interviewed about their consumption patterns. Two methodologies were used: one 48 h dietary recall method (100 % of the participants) and a three day food record (50 % of the participants). It appeared that when comparing energy intake between the two methods women underestimated energy intake during face to face 24 h recall compared to the dietary record.

Netherlands

Marga Ocké (RIVM) gave an overview of the recent and planned food consumption surveys in the Netherlands. The core survey started in June 2007 and covered participants within the age range of 7-69 years old using two non-consecutive 24 hour dietary recalls. The next survey is planned for 2009 and will focus mainly on elderly people. Subjects who did not speak Dutch were excluded from the survey. A special approach has been developed for ethnic people.

Italy

Catherine Leclercq gave a presentation of the recent national dietary survey of 2005-2006. Food consumption of 3,323 participants was assessed on the basis of dietary records on three consecutive days.

Art. 36 project “Individual food consumption data and four exposure assessment studies for children” (CFP/EFSA/DATEX/2008/01)

Inge Huybrechts (Universiteit Ghent) presented an update on this ongoing project. The University of Ghent is working together in a consortium of 14 partners from 13 different countries. The main objectives of this project are: 1) to carry out an independent exposure assessment study in children (in particular young children, 1-3 years old) for food colours, selenium, chromium and lead; and 2) to provide individual food consumption data for children for different Member States to EFSA.

The main drawback of the collection of children food consumption data is that no harmonised approach had been applied and that different age ranges were identified in the different children surveys.

The starting date for the project is scheduled for December 2008 and it is planned to have finalised the four exposure assessments before December 2009.

Comments:

The issue was discussed whether the occurrence data will be merged or if they will be analysed country by country.

Bulgaria regretted that it was too late to join the call and it was proposed that they can transmit the children data together with the adult data in the new ongoing collaboration agreement for the provision and processing of food consumption data.

Art. 36 project” Support to complete EFSA’s Concise Food Consumption Database” (SuConDa) (EFSA/DATEX/2007/01)

Katrin Büsch (BfR) presented the final outcomes and results of the SuConDa project. Five countries (Estonia, Lithuania, Austria, Cyprus and Spain) benefited from the support of this project. An analysis of the SuConDa questionnaire was given with emphasis on the study design, the duration of the survey, evaluation of food lists and uncertainty analyses.

Comments

The questionnaire will be made publicly available (either in a scientific publication in a peer reviewed journal or on the EFSA website) only after all experts of the Member States have revised it and the data has been checked

Collaboration agreement for the provision and processing of food consumption data (DPPA/EFSA/DATEX/2008)

Davide Arcella (DATEX) gave a summary of the ongoing collaboration agreements. Eight agreements (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Ireland, and Italy) have already been sent for signature to the different countries. Four countries reported to not have data. Almost half of the budget is committed.

Comments

The contracts should be signed this year even if the data will only be available next year. The schema to transfer the data is not fixed yet and can be changed by the Member States according to their needs. Only a few features will be mandatory.

Concern has been expressed that the Member States should be informed in advance when their national data are used by EFSA for risk assessment. Therefore a list with the responsible contact person in each Member State should be produced.

Unfortunately EFSA can only sign an agreement with institutions officially nominated by the national permanent representation in Brussels.

Concerning the food list, as soon as the first data are transmitted to EFSA a list of food items and categories will be drafted and forwarded to the different data managers.

Suggestion was made to collaborate with ongoing projects dealing with similar issues, e.g. EuroFIR, EUREKA, etc.

The idea of a possible redistribution of the allocated money (more money for countries with better data) was considered not feasible by EFSA.

Report from the Food Consumption and Exposure Working Group.

Pilot studies to test the logistics of a pan-European food consumption survey;
Stefan Fabiansson (DATEX) gave an overview of the tasks of the working group. One of its main tasks is to assist the Expert Group and to elaborate guidelines on how to harmonise the nutrient surveys with the main objective to plan a pan-European food consumption survey. A preliminary estimate of the budget for this survey is €30 million for 50,000 participants. EFSA will therefore need the collaboration of the European Commission and Member States.

DATEX will launch a pilot project in 2009 (€0.5 million) either to test and validate new methodology or to test existing methodology that could be recommended by the Food Consumption and Exposure Working Group. The idea is to have at least three different countries involved in this project.

Comments

The importance of involving Member States in these kinds of activities was emphasised by several Member State representatives. EFSA fully agrees and will try to further improve the collaboration.

Guidance document covering the use of existing consumption data collected at a detailed food level

Jean-Luc Volatier (Afssa) presented the draft of a guidance document covering the use of existing consumption data collected at a detailed food level with respect to exposure assessment.

Comments

The Member State representatives were welcoming this initiative expressing their wish to be more involved and the urgent need for such a document.

Recommended methods for food consumption surveys to achieve better harmonisation across Europe

Marga Ocké presented the review of the dietary surveys performed in Europe following completion of the EFCOSUM project. A questionnaire was submitted to EFSA Expert Group members of countries with recent national food consumption surveys (BE, DE, FR, IE, IT, NL and UK) in order to check if they complied with 10 recommendations suggested at the end of the EFCOSUM project. The overall conclusion was that

3rd Meeting of Expert Group on Food Consumption Data

EFCOSUM recommendations were not yet widely implemented. In particular, record method rather than recall was often used and national food classification systems were in most cases preferred to the Euro Food Group classification.

Comments

The need for an uncertainty analysis regarding the available food consumption data from different EU countries was underlined.

Action summary

Ref	WHO	WHAT	BY
	DATEX and WG	Provide guidance document covering the use of existing consumption data collected at a detailed food level with respect to exposure assessment.	01/06/09
DPPA/EFSA/DATEX/2008	Member State representatives	Provide EFSA with all requested documents in case they want to participate in the project concerning the provision and processing of food consumption data.	20/11/08

2nd Meeting of Expert Group on Food Consumption Data

24 October 2007 - PDUC Umberto I - 9:00-16:00

Meeting Report

Attendees

Member States' representatives

Vandevijvere Stefanie	(Belgium)
Petrova Stefka	(Bulgaria)
Ruprich Jiri	(Czech Republic)
Tetens Inge	(Denmark)
Rajasalu Piret	(Estonia)
Valsta Liisa	(Finland)
Volatier Jean-Luc	(France)
Lindtner Oliver	(Germany)
Hearty Áine	(Ireland)
Sette Stefania	(Italy)
Satkute Rima	(Lithuania)
Johansson Lars	(Norway)
Sekula Włodzimierz	(Poland)
Cozachievi Alecsandra Dida	(Romania)
Leskova Emilia	(Slovakia)
Suarez Lourdes	(Spain)
Enghardt-Barbieri Helene	(Sweden)
Ocké Marga C.	(The Netherlands)
Boss Alexander	(United Kingdom)

Ad hoc experts

Brion Stephane	DG SANCO
Leclercq Catherine	INRAN
Verger Philippe	Mét@Risk
Slimani Nadia	IARC

EFSA staff

Arcella Davide	DATEX
Behring Carsten	IT
Bianchi Chiara	IT
Bottex Bernard	SC and AF Panel

Fabiansson Stefan	DATEX – Chairman
Ramberti Luca	EFSA consultant
Spyropoulos Dimitrios	AFC Panel
Vernazza Francesco	DATEX
Pesci Muriel	DATEX – Secretariat
Bernazzali Valeria	CONTAM – Secretariat

Apologies

Koenig Juergen S.	(Austria)
Colić-Barić Irena	(Croatia)
Markidou Eliza	(Cyprus)
Krestos Vassilios	(Greece)
Birò Lajos	(Hungary)
Steingrímisdóttir Llaufey	(Iceland)
Santare Dace	(Latvia)
Calhau Maria Antonia	(Portugal)
Gabrijelcic-Belnkus Mojca	(Slovenia)
Schlatter Josef Rudolf	(Switzerland)

Acronyms

BfR	Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung
DATEX	Data Collection and Exposure
DoI	Declaration of Interests
IARC	International Agency for Research on Cancer
MS	Member States
UCD	University College Dublin
WG	Working Group

Agenda

#	Items	Who
1	Welcome and apologies for absence	Stefan Fabiansson (EFSA)
2	Adoption of the agenda and confirmation of new name for the Committee	Stefan Fabiansson (EFSA)
3	Declarations of interests and administrative matters	Muriel Pesci
4	Roundtable: Introduction of the participants	All
5	DATEX Unit presentation	Stefan Fabiansson (EFSA)
6	Update on EFSA's European Food Consumption Concise Database: Presentation of the received data Example of opinions using preliminary data from the concise database (CONTAM) Ad hoc requests from EFSA (example of human intake data of Vitamin A)	Davide Arcella (EFSA)
7	New support service for the arrangement and transmission of the food consumption data	Oliver Lindtner (BfR)
8	Discussion on EFSA's European Food Consumption Concise Database: Grouping food descriptors Data transfer Data accessibility and copyright Guidance Document for the use of the European Concise Food Consumption Database in Exposure Assessment	All
9	Lunch	
10	European research project and initiatives related to food consumption surveys and exposure assessment: EFCOVAL project / EPIC-SOFT FACET project DG SANCO activities	Nadia Slimani (IARC) Aine Hearty (UCD) Stéphane Brion (DG SANCO)
11	Future steps – Roundtable: Refinement of EFSA's European Food Consumption Concise Database (e.g. more specific food groups, other age classes) Harmonization of methodologies for collection and collation of food consumption data European food consumption survey Creation of Working groups	All
12	Any Other Business	All

Report

After the welcome and apologies for absence for some members of the group, the agenda was adopted and the Chairman proposed a change of name and status for the group, from "Network of Food Consumption Database Managers" to "Expert Group on Food Consumption Data". The proposal was accepted without objections.

The DoI's were compiled and signed by the participants and the administrative details were presented and managed by the Secretariat. The participants briefly introduced themselves.

Data Collection and Exposure Unit (DATEX) presentation

The DATEX Unit was recently formed under the EFSA's Science Directorate, in the Department of Scientific Cooperation and Assistance, with the main purposes of managing the collection of data related to risk assessment activities and performing exposure assessments. DATEX is therefore EFSA's preferential interface with the Institutions of the MS for data exchange (collection and classification) and networking activities in the field of chemical food safety. Structure, staffing, present activities and perspectives were presented by Stefan Fabiansson, the Head of Unit.

Update on EFSA's European Food Consumption Concise Database

Davide Arcella presented the background to the EFSA's food consumption concise database, followed by comments on structure, constraints and future perspectives for the database.

At the present time, the concise database is planned to contain consumption data for a limited number of broad food categories and subcategories and only for the adult population (16 to 64 years old). It is intended to be used as a screening tool for preliminary exposure assessments by the EFSA Scientific Panels and Member States.

Problems were highlighted in relation to:

- Completeness
 - 16 countries provided EFSA with the relevant data,
 - data from another 6 countries could still be provided to EFSA
 - relevant data are not available in 10 countries
- Age range (the 16 countries providing data presented different age classes)
- Survey methodology (Individual dietary record, 24-hour recall, Dietary-history and Food Frequency Questionnaire)
- Transfer format (XML, Excel EFSA template, Excel)
- Unfilled main food categories and sub-categories for countries providing data

Summary statistics were shown, derived from the available data, with the intention of checking the data for possible misclassifications of important food items according to the main food categories and sub-categories.

Examples of adopted and ongoing opinions using preliminary data from the concise database were presented. Finally the ad hoc EFSA request related to the human intake of Vitamin A was presented and discussed.

Comments

Ad hoc requests regarding food consumption data to MS should be detailed and clear, in terms of scope, methodology and requirements for data and surveys

Before sharing data with the EFSA Panels or make them public, a feedback is requested from MS to allow consistency check of the processed data at their origin.

New support service for the arrangement and transmission of the food consumption data

Oliver Lindtner (BfR) presented a project aimed at providing support and assistance in codifying, refining, transferring and documenting food consumption data to be provided by MS to EFSA.

The project is structured as a 1 year project and should provide assistance to about 10 MS. Three Workshops in Berlin are planned (~ Jan/Apr/Sep 2008) to cover all the objectives of the support action.

Comments

The project should be fine-tuned based on the latest results of the project concerning the development of the concise database and the decisions of the present meeting.

Discussion on EFSA's European Food Consumption Concise Database

It was highlighted that food consumption data collected using different methods should not be compared. EFSA will avoid pooling data from different countries and the existence of different methodologies will clearly be presented and discussed in the Guidance document accompanying the concise DB.

The amount of work required at country level is steadily growing, some MS pointed out the problem of not having resources to carry out this work.

The publication of data from the concise database was discussed. All the participants agreed to the following:

- data at individual level will not be published, they will be stored by EFSA and MS will be informed in case of their use
- summary statistics from the concise database (similar to the tables currently presented in the guidance document) will be published on the EFSA web site per each country
 - a preliminary check of the data will be requested before the publication
 - each country table will be complemented by explanatory notes (e.g. method used to collect the food consumption data, year, reference scientific paper or project report, etc.)
 - low percentiles will be included in order to allow use of the data on the "benefit" side.

The suggestion to check the summary statistics from the concise database against those from DAFNE and/or EPIC prior to publication was accepted by EFSA.

The Guidance document will be revised by EFSA and peer reviewed by a restricted sub-group, C. Leclercq, P. Verger, J.L. Volatier, S. Sette and O. Lindtner voluntarily accepted to join this sub-group.

EFCOVAL project / EPIC-SOFT

Dr. Nadia Slimani presented the EFCOSUM project. Starting from the results of previous EC founded projects such as EFCOSUM and EPIC, the EFCOVAL project intends to further adapt the pre-existing software EPIC-SOFT and validate this instrument for the

assessment of dietary intake of the specific needs and context of a trans-European monitoring setting.

The project involves groups from 11 countries and the IARC of WHO. The main branches of the project are the following:

- perform a validation study in 5 selected countries
- identify the most appropriate method(s) for dietary assessment in children (< 15 yrs)
- adapt the EPIC-SOFT for use in the assessment of dietary exposure
- pan-European implementation, dissemination and upgrading of the EPIC-SOFT

The EPIC-SOFT software was also presented, together with notes on the facets (e.g. for food descriptors) and on the adopted validation method. Further improvements, a maintenance system and tailoring for the different countries are foreseen.

Comments

It would be advisable to have the EPIC-SOFT software available to institutions and MS. The condition of distribution have not yet been decided, a decision will be taken at the end of the EFCOVAL project (2009).

The food consumption data sets collected within the EPIC study could be utilised for a range of broader use than just the relationship between diet and cancer.

FACET project

Aine Hearty (University College of Dublin) presented the project "Flavourings, Additives, Contact materials Exposure Task" (FACET) that is expected to start in January 2008. The main objective of this project is the estimation of exposure to additives, flavourings and contact materials in the EU.

This project is based on previous experiences with a focus on probabilistic modelling. The project involves 21 participants from 14 countries with 9 work packages, largely regarding food intake, chemical occurrence and regional modelling. Industry is involved in the project and is in charge of collecting occurrence data in the case of food additives and contact materials.

The main expected outputs of the FACET project are the following:

- food consumption database to represent regional diet variety from existing databases in 8 EU member states
- food grouping systems for modelling food chemicals
- database on occurrence of targeted food additives, flavouring substances and food contact materials in EU regions
- validated probabilistic methods and associated software program for estimation of target food chemicals

Comments

The project is totally congruent with activities involving EFSA and the MS network as well. Therefore many participants expressed a strong wish of effective coordination, availability of data and maximised efforts to get quality results useful at institutional level.

DG SANCO activities

The ongoing legislative work on food additives that unifies the former 3 regulations on Colours, flavours and miscellaneous additives was presented by Stéphane Brion (DG Sanco). One of the interesting aspects of the new perspective is the foreseen unified food categorisation that will be annexed to the regulation; it will be the reference for limited usage of one additive in particular food categories or limited number of permitted additives in one category. As explained, the categories are going to be very detailed, for the purposes of the legislation.

The categorisation system will be adapted after consultation with MS and industry (through the associations)

Comments

Many different categorization systems are currently used, and new ones have been developed also inside the EU institutions. A harmonisation effort is urgently required. As far as possible a reduction in the number of food categorisation systems was claimed to be highly desirable. It was recognised as difficult to convince database managers to change the food categorisation system, however instruments describing in detail the food characteristics (such as LanguaL) could be used in order to make the existing systems compatible and easily pass from one system to another.

Future steps – Roundtable

Details were requested with respect to work currently carried out by DATEX regarding the collection of food composition data. Support has been given to the collaboration between EFSA, CIAA and the EuroFir project.

From the point of view of MS a mid-to-long term plan for activities related to food consumption data is advisable, it is fundamental in order to allocate resources for the future needs. A strategy paper regarding the collection of food safety data is currently under development by EFSA. This paper will clarify the EFSA priorities in the medium- to long-term, however unexpected urgent needs are always possible that cannot be anticipated.

In the short-term the development of a concise DB for children, using the same food groups as for the adults, is considered a priority. The age range for being considered as a child was discussed: infants (from 0 to 1 year old) must be considered as a separate population and the children category should be broader than only small children (from 1 to 4 years old). The needs for EFSA as well as for the European Member States in terms of children age range will be explored before the network agrees on final categorisation.

At the same time it was suggested to further develop the concise database for adults by including information concerning the portion sizes and the frequency of consumptions. These data would be extremely useful when assessing the exposure to micro-organisms and pesticides (acute exposure in general)

In the long term it would be important to develop a homogeneous food consumption database at European level.

MS pointed out the problem of being contacted independently by two or more EFSA groups. Different and heterogeneous questions from EFSA were recently received and this was rather confusing for them. MS would prefer to have a unique interface with EFSA,

DATEX should maintain the contacts with MS in the EFSA requests for food consumption data.

A question emerged whether to use international data for national risk assessment; the answer was that use of data from a neighbouring country with similar eating patterns would be possible, but it would require careful considerations.

Scientific papers or reports describing, in as much detail as possible, the protocol and the results of the latest national food consumption survey were provided by Belgium, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Slovakia and the United Kingdom. Other MS were invited to send their scientific papers or reports by email or post. These documents should preferably be in English but also the ones in other languages are welcomed.

It was finally proposed to create two Working Groups, a first WG should discuss methods for food consumption surveys with the view of better harmonisation across Europe and, at the same time, study the feasibility of a Pan-European food consumption survey. A second WG should lead the evolution of the concise database. The WGs should report to the whole "Expert Group on Food Consumption Data" that will meet once a year. EFSA will circulate the terms of reference of the above mentioned WGs and ask for volunteer participants.

Exposure experts currently involved in the EFSA Panels should be involved in the definition of the mandate for the WGs under development.

DATEX will maintain contacts with all the members of the "Expert Group on Food Consumption Data" by emails or possibly through a customised newsletter.

Any Other Business

The next meeting of the "Expert Group on Food Consumption Data" was briefly discussed, it will probably take place in Parma in July or September 2008.

Action Summary

Ref	WHO	WHAT	BY
	DATEX	Inclusion of low percentiles in the summary tables of the concise database	
	DATEX	Request feedback from MS on the processed data of the concise database before publication on the EFSA web site	30/11/07
	DATEX and B. Bottex	Prepare a new draft of the Guidance Document for the concise database	30/11/07
	DATEX	Publication of summary tables of the concise database on the EFSA website	15/03/08
	C. Leclercq P. Verger J.L. Volatier S. Sette O. Lindtner J. Ruprich	Peer review of the new draft of the Guidance Document for the concise database.	15/03/08
	All MS	Supply of children's data for the concise database	
	All MS	Supply data on portion size and frequency of consumption	
	DATEX	Circulate the terms of reference of the new WGs	
	DATEX and BfR	Redefine the BfR project concerning the development of the concise DB	
	DATEX	Proposal for a suitable instrument to circulate information inside the Expert Group	