



European Food Safety Authority

SCIENCE

NOTE FOR THE ADVISORY FORUM

UPDATE ON THE EFSA FOOD CONSUMPTION CONCISE DATABASE AND A FUTURE EFSA NETWORK OF FOOD CONSUMPTION DATABASE MANAGERS

1. Food consumption data are available in a majority of European countries but data obtained at national level can often not be compared directly because of various survey methodologies, various clustering of age groups and various food categorisation systems.
2. To overcome this lack of comparability and improve reliability and consistency across Panels, EFSA has developed a European concise food consumption database with a limited (aggregated) number of food groups (and some subcategories) including data on mean/low/high intakes, average portion size per eating occasions for the total population and consumers only. The aim of this database is to perform preliminary exposure assessments (first screening).
3. EFSA organised a Colloquium on “European Food Consumption Database – Current and medium to long-term strategies” on 28-29 April 2005 in Brussels to discuss the development of a comprehensive database on food consumption at European and international level in general and the structure of the EFSA concise database in particular. EFSA initiative was well received and encouraged.
4. The database is currently being validated with data compiled from five countries France, Italy, Sweden, The Netherlands and UK. The validation comprises different aspects such as: a) testing of assumptions e.g. if <20 food categories it is unlikely that there are high consumers of more than 2 categories (SCOOP task 4.2 project); b) possible correlations between food groups; c) preliminary comparison with GEMS Food regional diets; d) test applicability with different types of compounds. If the validation is successful, EFSA would like to involve all Members States to complete the database with information from their countries. It would be the starting point for the establishment of a network of national food consumption database managers at European level.

Update on the EFSA food consumption concise database and a future EFSA network of food consumption database managers

5. When validated and completed the database will be published on the EFSA website and accessible to experts including Members States.
6. It is intended to further develop the database in the long term with consumption data for a larger number of food categories, additional parameters (e.g. packaging) and to address specific subpopulations.
7. This European network of food consumption database managers will also provide an extraordinary platform for exchange of views between the best experts from the European countries and for discussing harmonisation of methodologies for both the collection and collation of food consumption data in Europe.
8. EFSA would like the Advisory Forum to help in establishing this network by providing us with the names of the food consumption database manager(s) in their countries. For convenience a reply form is attached (Annex 1). EFSA has prepared a draft list (Annex 2) based mainly on the advice of the Scientific Committee Working Group on Exposure Assessment and WHO-Europe, which can be used as a basis. Responses should be returned by **31th of July 2006** to the secretariat of the SC:

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REPLY FORM for the ADVISORY FORUM NETWORK OF FOOD CONSUMPTION DATABASE MANAGERS

Please complete this form and return it before July 31th, 2006, to **Valérie Rolland** by post at **European Food Safety Authority, Largo N. Palli 5/A, I-43100 Parma**; or by email at valerie.rolland@efsa.eu.int, or by fax at + 39 0521 036 518. THANK YOU !

1- Response from (please indicate your country):.....

2 - We confirm the names suggested by EFSA as indicated in the document AF 19.05.2006–7 Annex2

YES

NO

3 - We would like to suggest different or additional names, or complete/correct contact details (please indicate a priority order in your suggestions for experts):

Priority order (1, 2 or 3):.....

Title:

Name:

Forename:

Affiliation:

.....

Address:

.....

City: ZIP Code: Country:

Telephone: Fax:

E-mail:

Comments:

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EFSA DRAFT LIST OF FOOD CONSUMPTION DATABASE MANAGERS

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EFSA draft list of food consumption database managers

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