



TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE FOOD CONSUMPTION DATA NETWORK

May 2024

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the FCD network are:

- To support EFSA in carrying out its mission in accordance with the established standards of scientific excellence, transparency and responsiveness foreseen in Regulation (EC) No 178/2002.
- To coordinate and facilitate the collection of high quality, up-to-date and detailed national food consumption data, as well as the collation of this information into a pan-European food consumption database hosted by EFSA.
- To participate and contribute with their expertise to the meetings of the FCD network but also in ad-hoc sub-groups (i.e. taskforce for reviewing the of Guidance).
- To provide a forum for exchange of views between experts on methodologies for the collection and collation of food consumption data; in particular:
 - to review methods and propose improvements on all issues related to food consumption data collection;
 - to advise and reinforce the reporting and data submission formats proposed by EFSA for the collection of harmonised food consumption data to maintain their suitability for purpose.
 - to advise on the integration and use of food composition data with dietary information for the assessment of nutrient intake.
- To act as a contact point between EFSA and the Member States, in order to coordinate the collection of and accessibility to high quality, up-to-date and harmonised food consumption information, as well as ensuring the exchange of scientific information in the remit of the network, between national organisations and EFSA.
- To assist the harmonisation of methodologies for collection of food consumption data to make national information compatible in European perspective.
- To assist the preparation of the next EU Menu Guidance.

MEMBERS

The Members of the Food Consumption Network are organisations appointed for three-year terms through the EFSA Advisory Forum Members, in accordance with Articles 2 and 3 of the



Decision of the Management Board of EFSA¹ on the establishment and operations of networks. The network shall be composed of experts with the following profile:

- Expertise on food consumption and food composition data collection.

ACCESS TO MEETINGS

Other organisations (such as FAO and WHO) may be invited, including those from outside the EU, with specific expertise to participate in a network meeting, where deemed appropriate or necessary. These organisations may be invited either to participate in full or as observers only.

In addition, representatives of the European Commission may participate in the work of the networks. Representatives of other EU agencies may participate in the work of the networks as appropriate.

WORKING METHODS

The network shall meet at least once per year. The working language for the network activities will be English.

In addition, the network will use other means of collaboration:

- web-based electronic interfaces for sharing information and data, such as the EFSA's Document Management System (DMS), Microsoft Teams FCD Network channels, online social platforms, and taskforce discussion groups;
- e-mails for specific questions or issues, as well as for information sharing, as needed.

MS' representatives in the network shall commit to liaise as appropriate at national level before and after each network meeting in order to make sure all the necessary information is shared without prejudice to Article 10 of the Decision of the Management Board concerning the establishment and operation of European Networks of scientific organization operating in the fields within the Authority's mission.

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

- Minutes of the meeting(s)
- Updated Guidance on harmonized food consumption data collection across Europe.

TIMELINE

The terms of reference for the network will be due for revision in 2027.

¹ [Decision of the Management Board concerning the establishment and operation of European Networks of scientific organisations operating in the fields within the Authority's mission](#)