

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
Birò 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: · 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)

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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.

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- Specify in the conclusion that the EGFC D 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.

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- 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 EGFCD 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 EGFCD 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

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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)
Sekuła Włodzimierz	(Poland)
Cozachievici Aleksandra 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	