

## 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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

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

## 5th Meeting of Expert Group on Food Consumption Data

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

### Agenda 12th November

Starting time: 09.00

Finishing time: 13.00

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

13	<b>Estimating usual food intake for exposure assessment</b> <b>Challenges in estimating usual intake?</b> <b>Member States' experiences:</b> <b>Usual intake of vitamin D, Netherlands</b> <b>Round-table</b>	Jakob van Klaveren  Marga Ocke  All
14	<b>Final discussion, conclusions, closing of the meeting</b>	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 EGFCFCD 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 EGFCD 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 EGFCD stressed that training on EPIC-Soft dietary software should be carefully planned for the partners not having experience with this program.

The EGFCD 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 EGFCD 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 EGFCDD 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 EGFCD 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 EGFCD 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 EGFCD 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 hierarchical 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 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 EGFC 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 EGFCD 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 EGFCD 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 EGFCD 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 EGFCFCD 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 EGFCFCD 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 EGFCFCD 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 EGFCFCD 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 EGFCFCD.

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.