

EuroFIR: European Food Information Resource Network

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FOOD FOR THE 21ST CENTURY
THE IMPACT OF EU RESEARCH UPON
EUROPEAN FOOD QUALITY AND SAFETY

Brussels, 8 July 2010

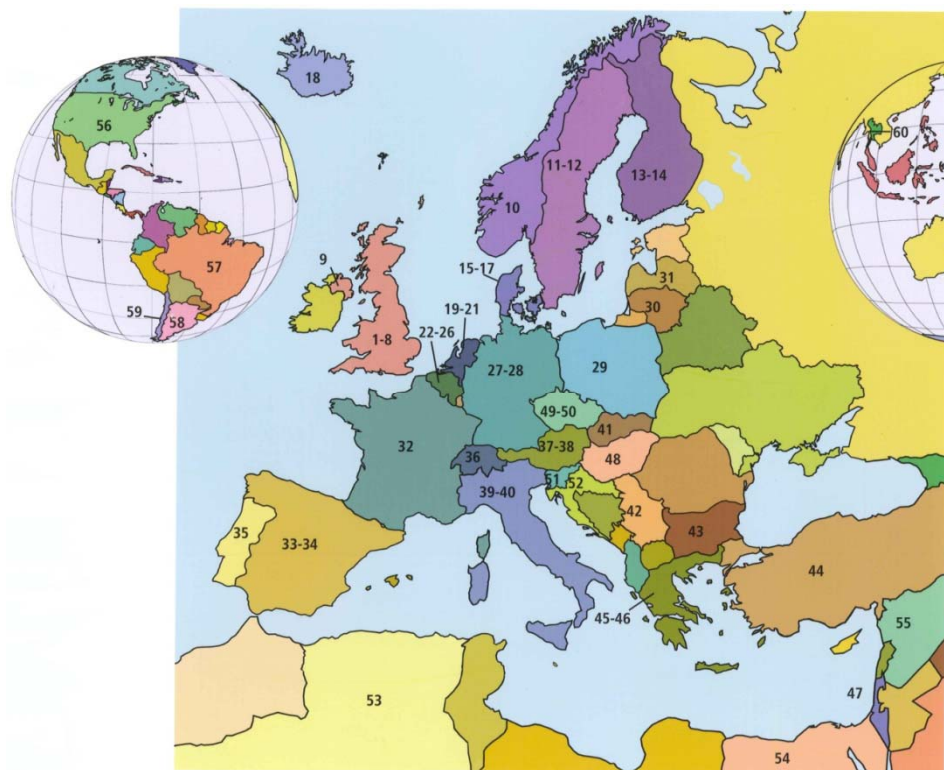


**FOOD QUALITY
AND SAFETY**



**SEVENTH FRAMEWORK
PROGRAMME**

EuroFIR Network of Excellence







- 1st January 2005, €12M for 5 years
- 48 centres from 27 countries
 - 25 National Database Compilers
 - Memorandum of Understanding with CZ, SI, EE, NZ, HR, HU & Latinfoods
- More than 500 users and stakeholders
 - FAO (INFOODS), EFSA , food industry including SMEs, food and nutrition users etc.

EuroFIR Objectives

- Strengthen **scientific and technological excellence** in food composition databank by integrating resources and expertise needed to provide European leadership
- **Identify and provide information** for nutrients and biologically active compounds with putative health effects, covering all food groups
- **Spread excellence and enhance impact** in food composition databanks and public health nutrition through training, and the sharing of methods and facilities
- **Communicate** with all user and stakeholder groups, to establish and deliver user and stakeholder requirements for sustainable and durable food databank systems
- **Disseminate** and exploit new scientific and technological knowledge to strengthen competitiveness of European food industry (SMEs) and grow as a knowledge-based industry, producing evidence-based healthier food

Food Composition 2005







-  Online Databases
-  Static information (data in table format)
-  Offline Information (publications)
-  Information pending



Other online databases

July 2005

Food Composition 2010

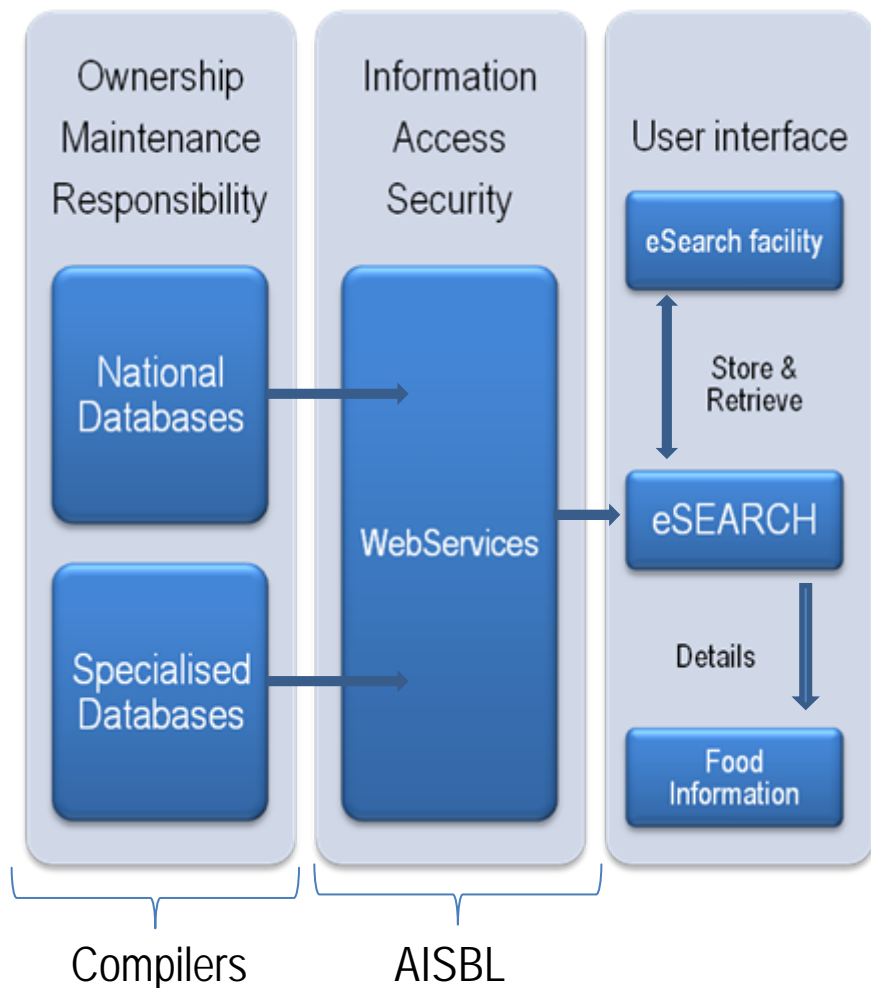
-  Online Databases
-  Databases under Implementation
-  Static information (data in table format)
-  Offline Information (publications)
-  Information Pending
-  Specialized Datasets



State-of-the-Art 2010

- 26 authoritative European websites describing foods composition
 - 51 000 foods, 33 000 generic types, 14 000 recipes, 4 000 branded items, nutrients and bioactive food compounds
- Harmonised and validated food descriptions and data management
 - LanguaL Food Product Indexer, ChEBI, INFOODS, legal definitions
- Developed and implemented eSearch for food composition data
 - Search, delivering and exchanging data
- Links to global resources through a sustainable entity EuroFIR AISBL
 - National food composition data compilers, analysis laboratories, stakeholders

RTD Sector Benefits



- Distributed secure configuration
 - Simultaneous online search in National and Specialised data sets
 - Standardised definitions, SOPs, vocabulary, and cross-referencing
 - Quality Control Management System
 - XML format data interchange
 - Training and elearning programmes
- ↳ Draft European food data standard
– CEN/TC 387

RTD Sector Benefits: eBASIS

Online value-added database for composition and biological activity...

eBASIS BioActive Substances in Food Information System

Plant Details

Identification

Scientific name:
Family name:
Family name synonym:
Priority:
LinguaL code and term:

Plant Description

Edible parts:
Colour:
Size:
Shape:
Taste:
Use:
Remarks:

Plant Parts Used

C0167	<input type="text" value="Fruit or berry"/>
C0294	<input type="text" value="Fruit or berry, peel only"/>
C0137	<input type="text" value="Fruit or berry, peel present"/>
C0229	<input type="text" value="Fruit or berry, peel removed, core, pit or seed"/>
C0300	<input type="text" value="Juice"/>

National Names

Bulgaria	<input type="text" value="Domat"/>
Denmark	<input type="text" value="Tomat"/>
Finland	<input type="text" value="Tomaatti"/>
France	<input type="text" value="Tomate"/>
Germany	<input type="text" value="Tomate"/>
Greece	<input type="text" value="Tomata"/>
Iceland	<input type="text" value="Tómatur"/>
Italy	<input type="text" value="Pomodoro"/>
Netherlands	<input type="text" value="Tomaat"/>
Norway	<input type="text" value="Tomat"/>
Poland	<input type="text" value="Pomidor"/>

General information
If the plant has a GRIN code you can click information on the plant.

[Plant information report](#)
[References](#)
[GRIN information](#)



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- Derived from NOTIS (IFR), TOXIP (DTU), EU-NETTOX BASIS (CD)
- Adopted LinguaL for descriptions of ca. 700 European plant foods including scientific and 'common English names' in 15 EU languages
- 19,500 entries covering 256 compounds in 199 plants from 450 peer-reviewed publications
- 770 weighted records on the biological effects of 140 beneficial compounds in 69 food plants
- 2000 composition data from 98 plants with 263 records on the biological effects of 32 toxicant compounds in 21 plant foods

Social Benefits

Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité...

- Resource for all food scientists, regulatory and legislative authorities and food industry and health professionals and consumers:
 - Researchers (exposure levels, epidemiology, research and training)
 - Regulators (labelling, risk: benefit, evaluating novel foods/ processing, toxicants)
 - Food industry (quality and safety, move towards KBBE)
 - SMEs (traditional and ethnic foods)
 - Government (policy and healthcare)
 - Public health (intake and advice)
 - Consumers (information and empowerment)

Economic Benefits

- Harmonised standards for food data – shared EU investment
- European diet and health research infrastructure
- Continued professional development and training
- Commercial exploitation of food data – books, software and web

- With exploitation by users and stakeholders:
 - Improved global GS1 standards and global distribution systems
 - Validated nutrition and health claims and niche marketing
 - More accurate and informative food labelling for public health and consumers
 - New food classification system in collaboration with EFSA



Environmental Benefits

Enhance public awareness of the importance of conserving biodiversity and of the underlying threats to biodiversity...

- Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
 - Reduce by half the proportion of people who are hungry
 - Ensure environmental sustainability

- Food security including nutrition and sustainable development conserve biodiversity and benefit consumer health and well being

Environmental Benefits

- Education for consumers and the food industry
 - Choosing healthy sustainable diets
 - Buying local foods, supporting the local economy (globally)
 - Meeting the increase preference for 'natural foods' and traditional methods
 - Preserving knowledge and expertise on traditional and ethnic foods in Europe
 - Reducing pollution, waste, food-miles etc.
- Knowledge and understanding of food composition, improves food safety, and help avoid food scandals, large and small
- *Raising awareness that sustainable biodiversity → food security → nutrition → health → economic stability and human rights*

European Policy: ERA

- Diet and health research and consumer health and wellbeing
 - Comparable data for pan-EU studies, ethnic and traditional foods
 - Nutrition and health claims – EFSA and the food industry
 - Nutrients, bioactive compounds, toxicants, novel products/ processing
- Harmonised European standards for food data (CEN)
 - Accurate and informative food labelling
- Continued professional development
 - National food data compilers, researchers, PhD and Masters Students
- Competitiveness of European food and biotech industries
 - Global GS1 Standards bar codes, RFID and Global Distribution Systems
 - Food data software and web applications

EuroFIR: Summary of achievements

- Created a virtual food data platform of inter-connected national and specialised databases containing more than 51 000 foods
- Facilitated the new European (CEN) food data standards
- Harmonised procedures for identification, prioritisation, collection and analysis of traditional and ethnic foods in Europe
- Provided an active training and exchange programme for students and young researchers including new elearning modules
- Launched EuroFIR AISBL for sustained global food composition action