
EuroFIR
European Food Information Resource

# EuroFIR – Results, Achievements and Future Plans

3rd International EuroFIR Congress

**Paul Finglas**
EuroFIR Director

8IFDC, 1-3 October 2009, Bangkok

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## Outline

- Objectives
- General and what does EuroFIR provide
- Key achievements with examples
- Future direction



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October 1-3, 2009

Bangkok, Thailand


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## BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

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### EuroFIR Consortium

- Started 1/1/05 with €12M for 5yrs (+2yrs?)
- Partnership between 48 centres from 27 countries including:
  - 25 national database compilers (Universities, Institutes, Government Bodies and Others) – different organisations
  - MoUs with CZ, SL, EE, NZ, HR, HU & AR (Latinfoods) supporting food composition work outside Europe
- Key users & stakeholders (ca 500) – listening & responding to their needs



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## What does EuroFIR provide?

Pan-European validated and documented food information in order to support:

- Consumers – labelling/information
- Food industry – improve food quality
- Health surveys, health policy – nutrient intake
- Public health government bodies



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## Objectives

1) **Strengthen scientific and technological excellence in food composition databank systems** by integrating at the European level the **critical mass of resources and expertise……**

2) **Identify and provide new information for missing data for nutrients and biologically active compounds** with putative health effects, and covering all food groups…..

3) **Spread excellence and enhance the impact of the network** in food composition databanks and public health nutrition beyond the boundaries of the partnership through training, and sharing of methods and facilities…….

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## Objectives (cont/…)

4) **Communicate with, and enter into dialogue with all user and stakeholder groups**, in order to establish and deliver user and stakeholder requirements for sustainable and durable food databank systems.

5) **Disseminate and exploit new scientific and technological knowledge** in order to strengthen the competitiveness of the food industry……targeted at **evidence based healthier food production**.

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## FOOD DATA PLATFORM
## Anders Møller et al.

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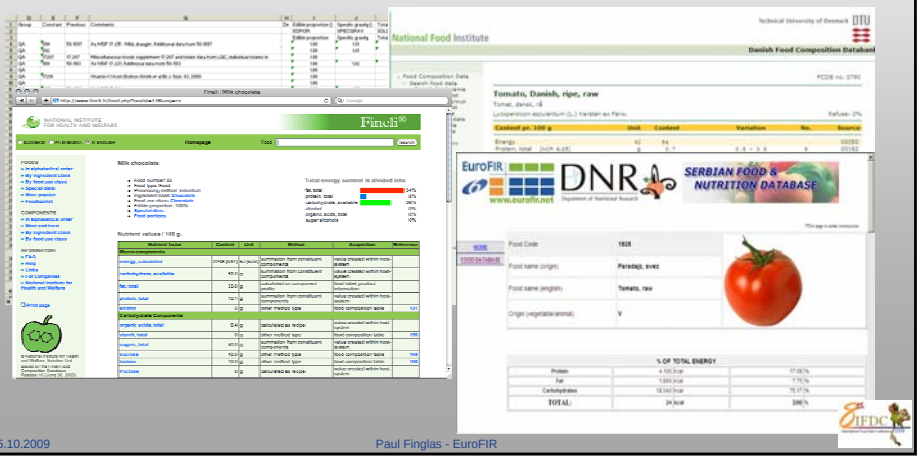
## Online access to FCDBs

**Forecast for 2009: 20-25 authoritative European web sites with food data and references/documentation**

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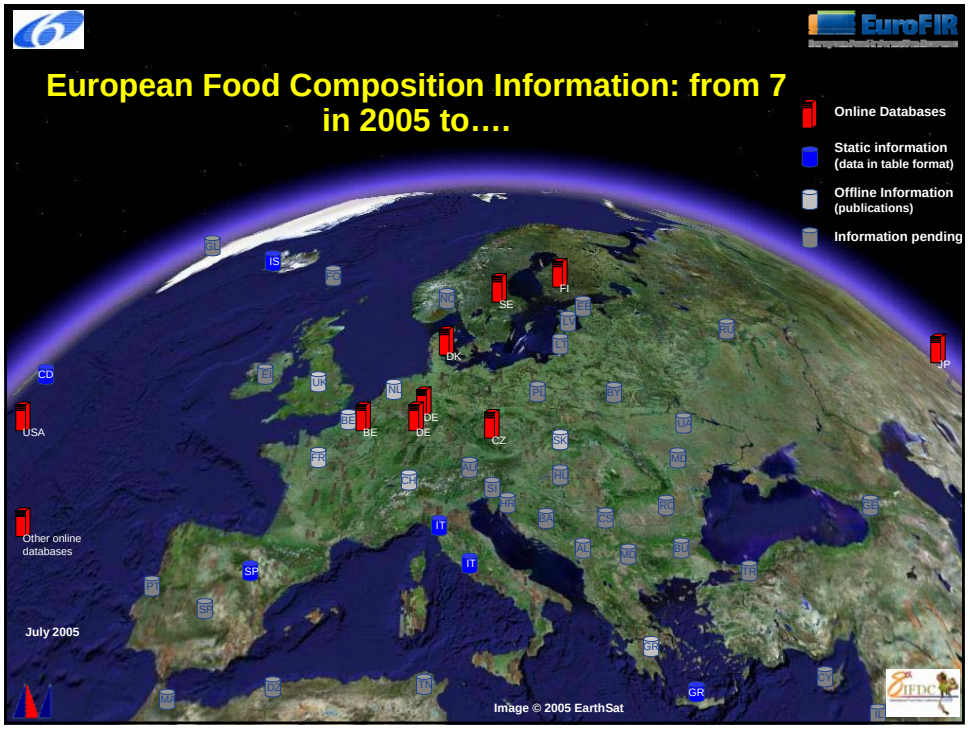


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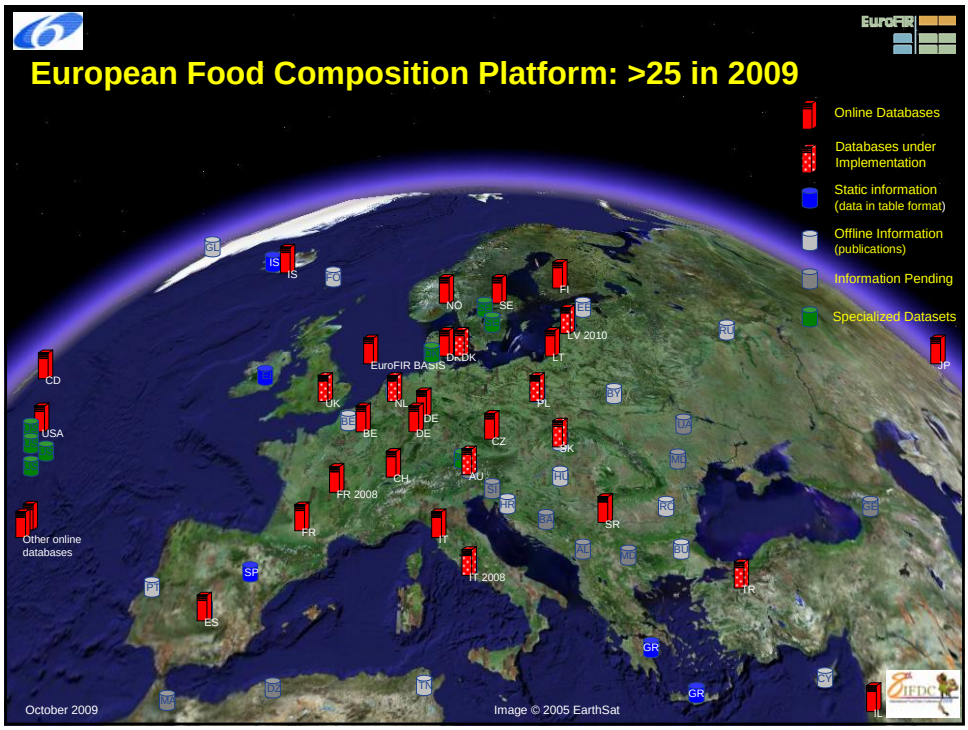


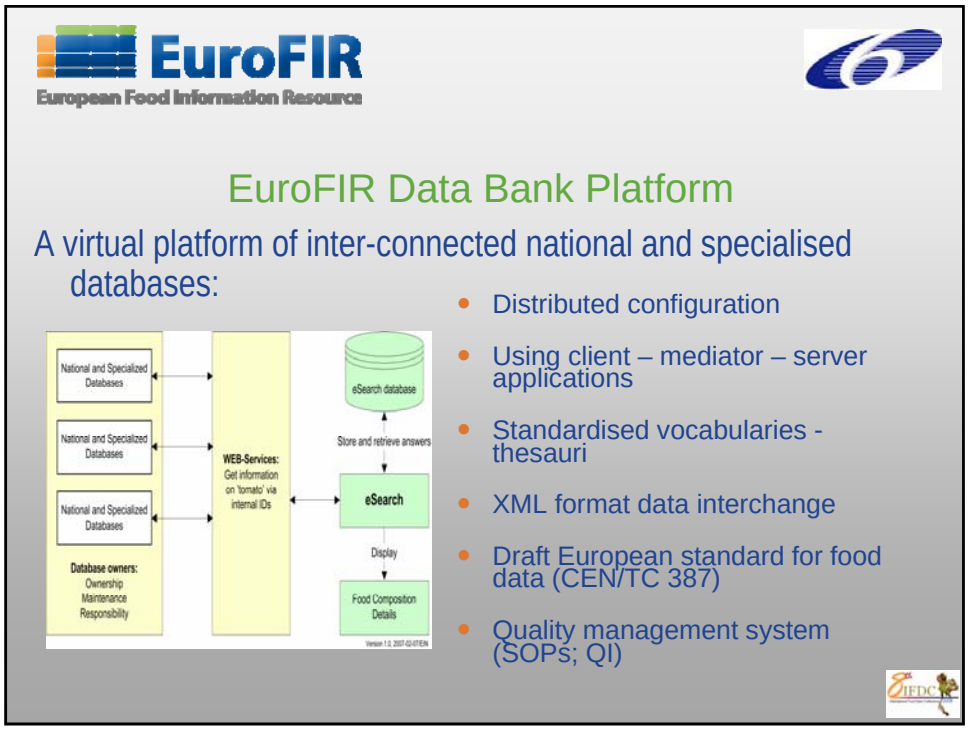


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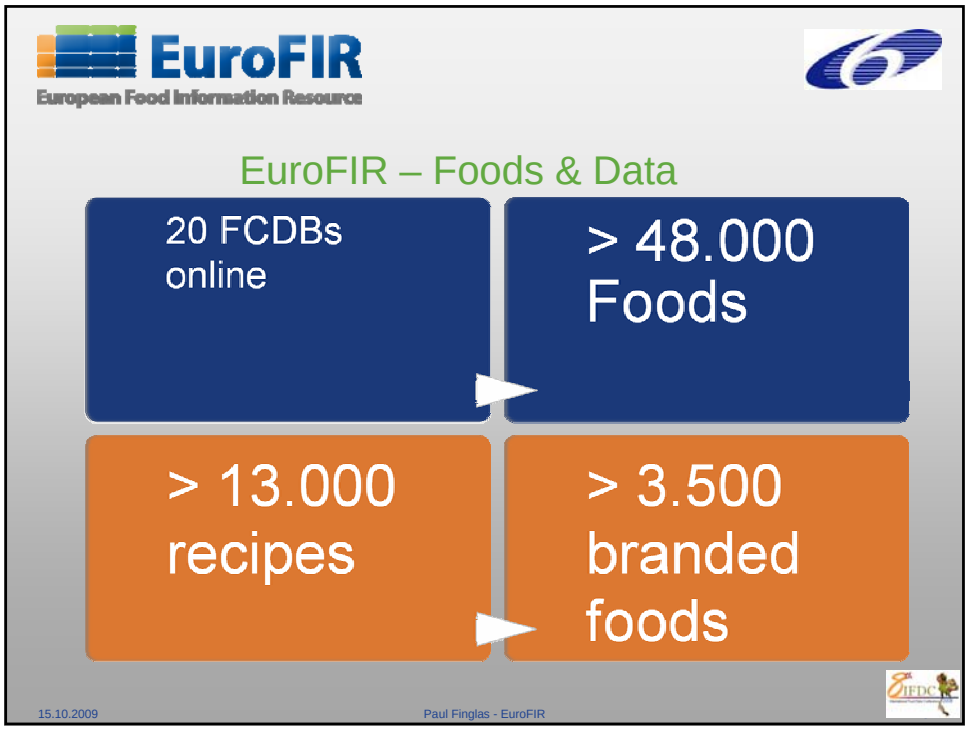
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EuroFIR – Foods & Data
20 FCDBs online
> 48.000 Foods
> 13.000 recipes
> 3.500 branded foods
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The EuroFIR Data: Our Goals for FCDBs
Common description of foods and values in European FCDBs
Food Description - indexing of foods (LanguaL)
Value Documentation (EuroFIR thesauri)
Common component definitions (with cross-reference to ChEBI, INFOODS, legal definitions)
Common analytical method description
Common bibliographic database (CitExplore)
Recipe calculation – common procedure and factors
Harmonised quality evaluation systems
Common XML template for data transfer
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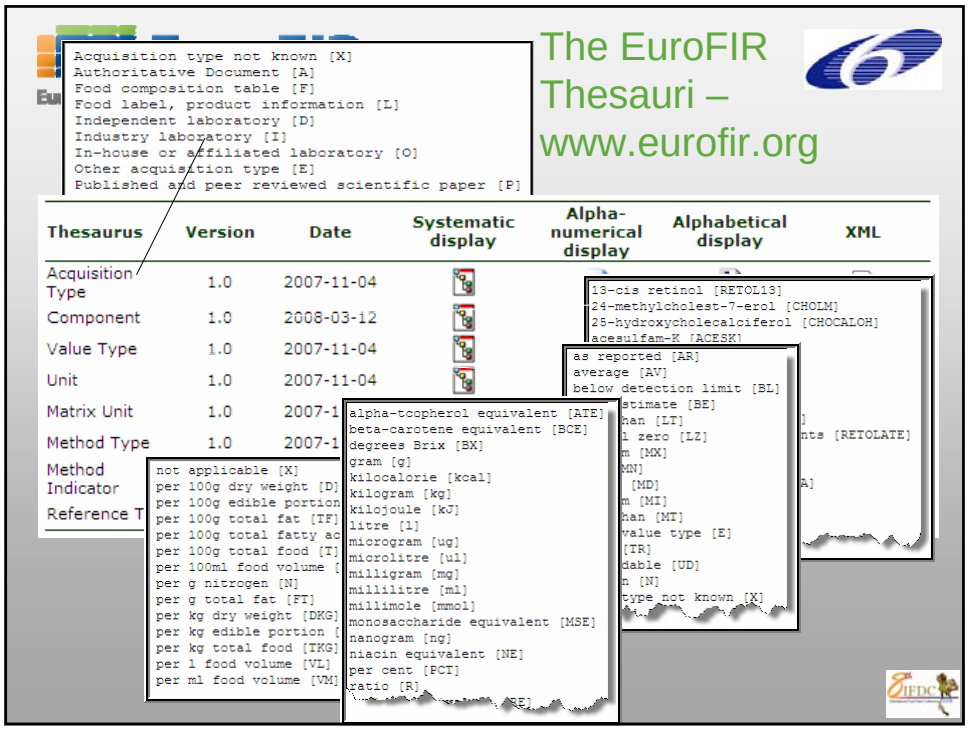


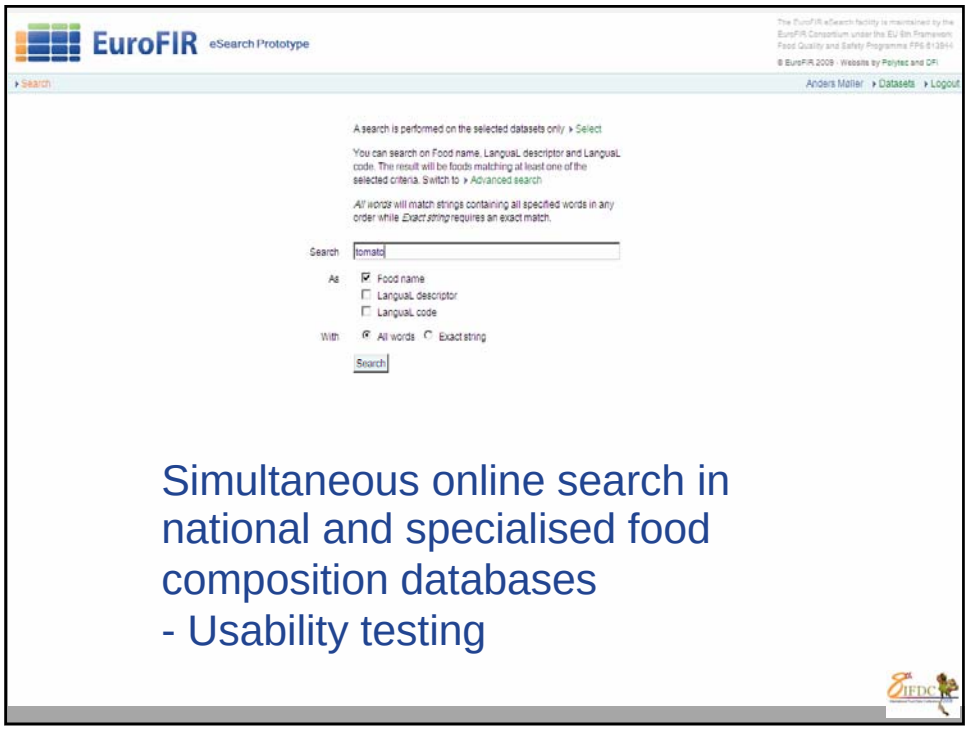


Simultaneous online search in national and specialised food composition databases
- Usability testing

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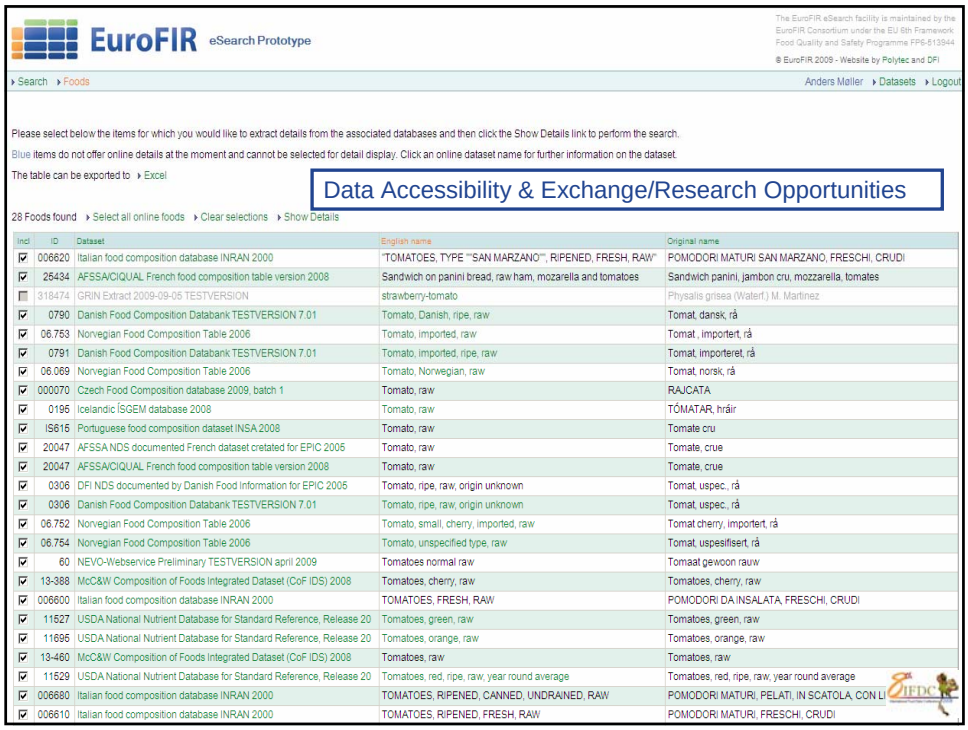


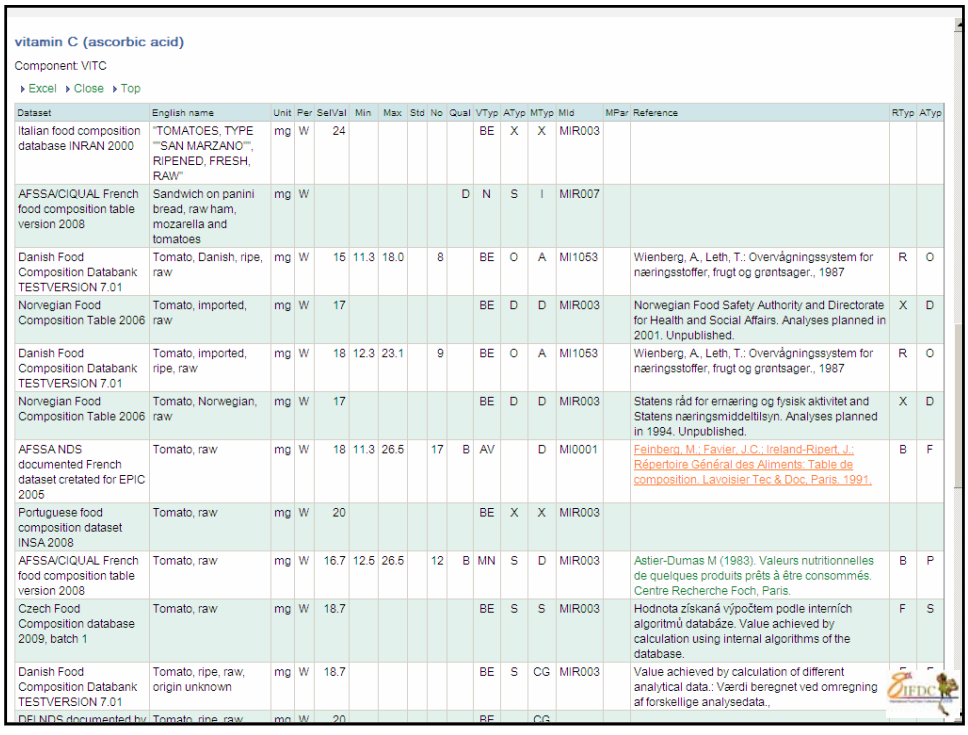


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# QUALITY STANDARDS

Maria Antonia Calhau/Isabel Castanheira
et al.

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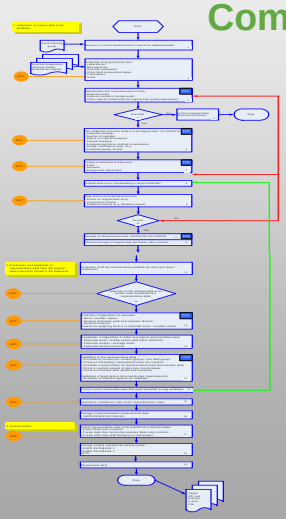
## Compilation Flow Chart – CCPs & SOPs



- A EuroFIR quality management standard for compilers is being set up
- Transparency of the compilation process – flow chart
- Eleven critical control points (CCPs) along the flow chart identified
- Establish standard operating procedures (SOPs) for CCPs in the compilation process
- National FCDBs to match their SOPs to generic SOPs

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GS1 The global language of business

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## CEN-Project – TC 387 Project Committee – "Food composition data" led by SIS & NFA (2008)

- Requirements on data structure of food composition databases and on interchange of food composition data:
  - Identification, description, classification and labelling of foods and ingredients
  - Values for the amounts of measurable, estimated or calculated nutrients and other components
  - Specifications of methods used for obtaining these values
  - References to sources for the information reported
  - Liasion with GS1 initiative will enhance coverage and uptake of future standard with industry

cen

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## ADVANTAGES OF A CEN STANDARD – encompasses principles of Greenfield & Southagte

- Raises overall quality & transparency of food data in Europe
- Helps to support EC Directives on labelling and nutrition & health claims, nutrient profiling – good for users and consumers
- Encourages national funding for FCDBs – crucial for long-term sustainability
- Enhances dialogue/data exchange with industry
- CEN & ISO Standards are inter-changeable – important for promoting good quality data globally

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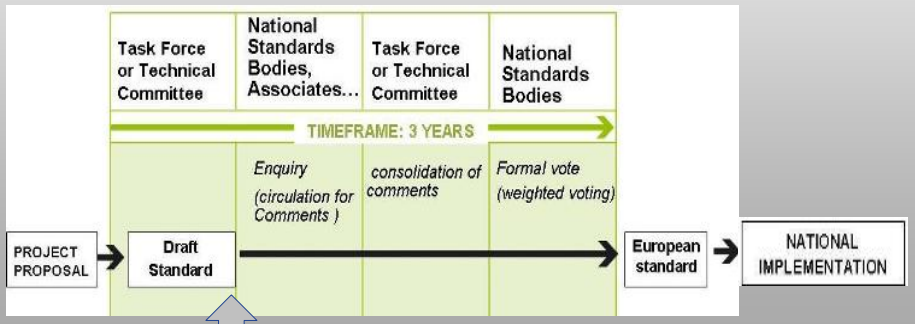
## Timeframes - need for wider consultations

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## TRADITIONAL FOODS
## Antonia Trichopoulou & Helena Costa

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# OBJECTIVES OF WP 2.3.1

- To define the term "traditional"
- To establish a common methodology for the systematic investigation of traditional foods across Europe
- To provide new data on the nutritional composition of traditional foods for inclusion in national food composition tables with representative raw ingredients and recipes
- To develop dissemination material on traditional foods for each country

Helena S. Costa - INSA, Portugal

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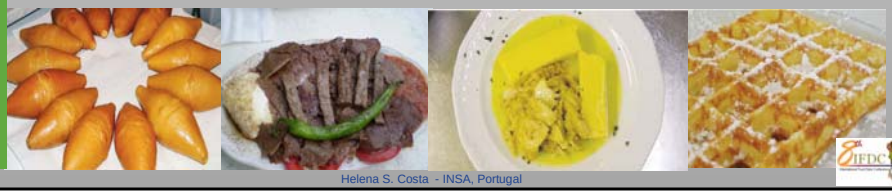
# SYSTEMATIC STUDY OF TRADITIONAL FOODS

- Definition of the term "Traditional"
- Selection procedure of the Traditional Foods and recipes
- Recording and sampling of Traditional foods
- Laboratory selection
- Nutritional Composition of Traditional Foods



Helena S. Costa - INSA, Portugal



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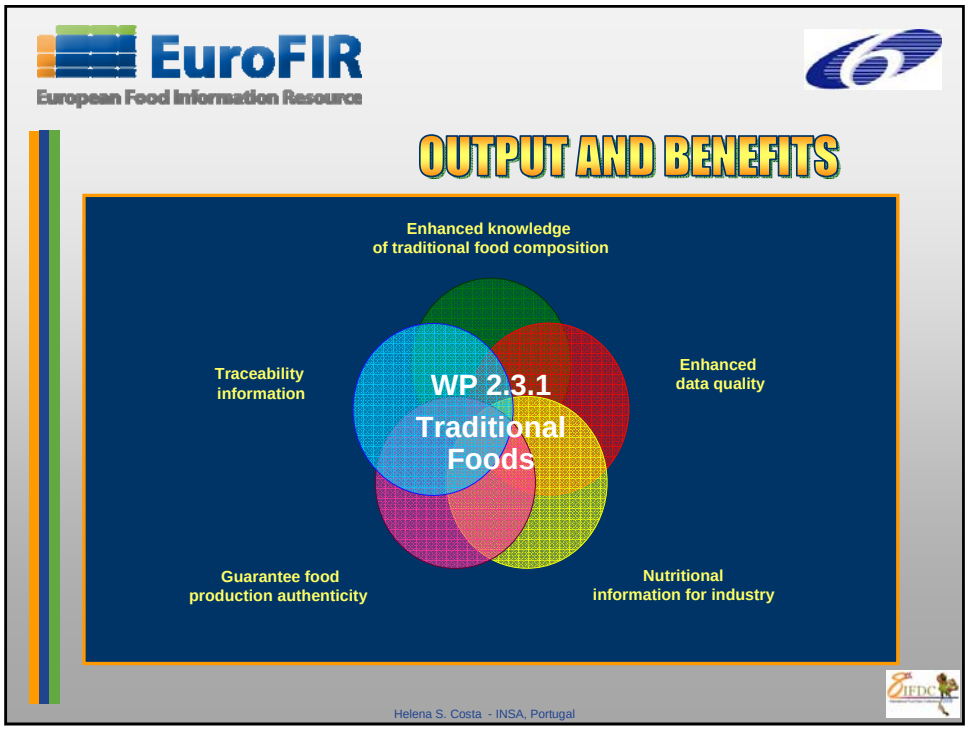


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# SUSTAINABILITY & FUTURE PLANS
## Whole Consortium
## IFR, INSA, UCC, DTU, WU, BNF, DFI & Foodcon

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## From EuroFIR to **EuroFIR AISBL**

- **A**ssociation **I**nternationale **S**ans **B**ut **L**ucratif
- Member-based, non-profit Association based in Belgium
- Of food composition data compilers, experts and stakeholders




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## EuroFIR AISBL – Mission

Scientifically based

- Development, publication, exploitation

*… of food composition data and accompanying information*

In order to support and underpin research into food quality and safety, and diet and health

- Seek to promote and develop quality assurance and traceability principles considering the implementation of the relevant international standards



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## Membership Categories

### Full & Associate Member

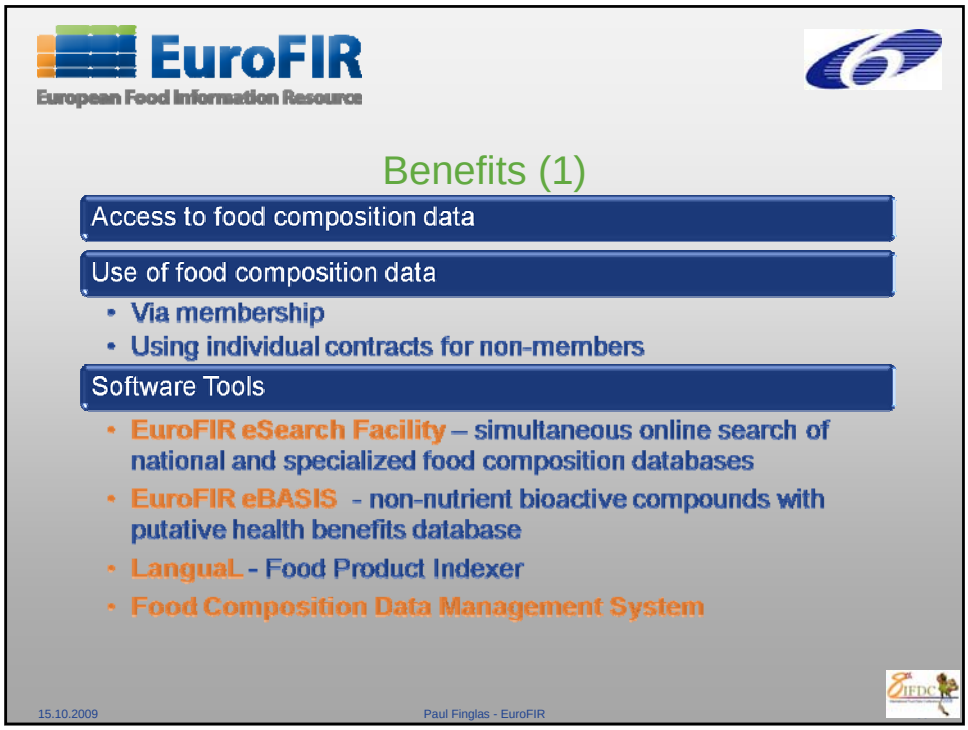
Existing EuroFIR national database compiler organisations, other supporting EuroFIR partners and new national food database compiler organisations

### Ordinary Member (Users)

**Organisation**: academia, industry, non-profit, governmental and policy bodies

**Individual**: researchers, lecturers, dieticians and others

**Students:** undergraduate, masters, PhD students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Benefits (1)
Access to food composition data
Use of food composition data
• Via membership
• Using individual contracts for non-members
Software Tools
• EuroFIR eSearch Facility – simultaneous online search of national and specialized food composition databases
• EuroFIR eBASIS - non-nutrient bioactive compounds with putative health benefits database
• LanguaL - Food Product Indexer
• Food Composition Data Management System
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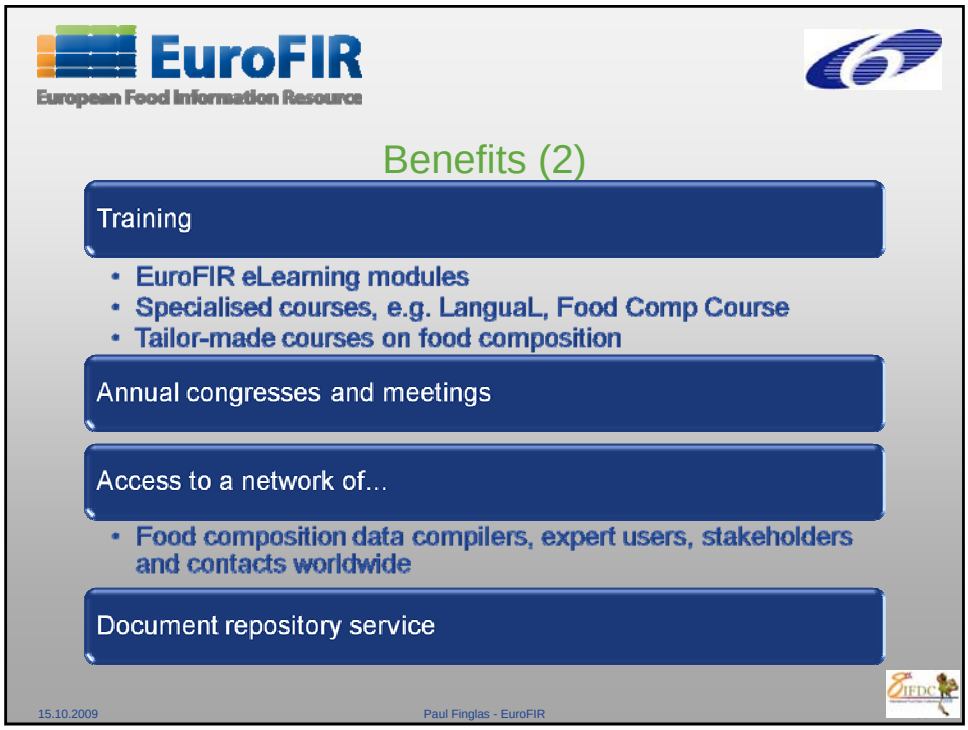
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Benefits (2)
Training
• EuroFIR eLearning modules
• Specialised courses, e.g. LanguaL, Food Comp Course
• Tailor-made courses on food composition
Annual congresses and meetings
Access to a network of…
• Food composition data compilers, expert users, stakeholders and contacts worldwide
Document repository service
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## Benefits (3)

**Identification and supporting…**

- research and development priorities
- technology needs

… as identified via meetings of the General Assembly of all EuroFIR AISBL Members

**Research & development opportunities…**

- To respond to Calls for Proposals such as FP7 and other funding bodies

… using the combined and integrated input of the EuroFIR AISBL Membership



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## Uses of EuroFIR Food Composition Data

**Examples of commercial use of food composition data from national food composition databases linked with EuroFIR:**

- Development of software for the implementation in mobile devices or Smart phones & video games
- Implementation in systems, which can be accessed by a very large number of users from wide range sectors, e.g.
  - web portals
  - companies' intranet
  - large-scale catering establishments
- Income shared between AISBL & FCDBs

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## Better eating: making life easier

**Nutrition consultation software for Nintendo DS & Apple iPhone**

- Aim: Better eating and feel better!
- 35 lessons for a better nutrition are playful learnt
- 100 recipes for breakfast, lunch and dinner
- Daily Planner enables individual dietary goals and objective scrutiny




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## Further applications…


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## Consultancy and Training

**With focus on food composition data application**

- Food analysis and PT schemes
- Technical and scientific consultancy
  - On the use of food composition data and the implementation of projects
- Continuing professional development: bespoke/tailored training, courses and workshops
  - Food composition data, food analysis,
  - Quality assessment uses and quality evaluation of food composition data
  - Tailored individual trainings and other individual solutions



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## The EuroFIR Project – Conclusions (1)

- *>20 authoritative European FCDBs* containing more than 48.000 foods are available on the Internet
  - More than 27.000 foods from 25 EuroFIR countries (and USA) have been LanguaL indexed
  - Development of the *EuroFIR eSearch Facility*, which allows the simultaneous online search in FCDBs worldwide
- A *quality framework* for both laboratories producing data and compilers has been developed to ensure adherence to quality standards, and to demonstrate transparency and traceability of validated data in European FCDBs
  - Recommendations form basis of a European standard for food composition data, adopted within the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN TC 387) framework
  - Data quality assessment systems for published nutrient and non-nutrient values

## The EuroFIR Project – Conclusions (2)

- *EuroFIR eBASIS*, a unique database that collates international research on the composition, biological/toxic effects of plant-based bioactive compounds into a single, comprehensive reference databank, has been established
- Design and implementation of a process for the identification, prioritisation, collection and analysis of traditional and ethnic foods in Europe
- An active training and exchange programme for students and young researchers including new eLearning modules
- The creation of EuroFIR AISBL for long-durability and support for food composition activities worldwide

## Future Membership Opportunities

- New Ordinary Membership from 1/7/10
- Free trial membership possible from Jan 2010 (on Registration)
- Further news on **www.eurofir.net**


Or contact Paul Finglas (paul.finglas@eurofir.org)
or Simone Bell (simone.bell@eurofir.org)


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