

PUBLICATIONS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ON PUBLIC HEALTH

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EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY (EFSA)

Science Strategy 2012-2016. Parma: European Food Safety Authority. 2012, 20 p. ISBN 978 92 9199 417 5 Catalogue number: TM-32-12-087-EN-C Since its inception in 2002, EFSA's scientific advice has been central to European decision making on the protection of the consumer against threats in the food chain. In the intervening years, the Authority's operating context has evolved considerably driven by, for example, scientific and technological advancement and the changing legislative framework and, as the organisation has matured, its scientific capacity has developed considerably. These evolutions are reflected in EFSA's scientific work programme where in recent years the emphasis has increased towards the evaluation of regulated products and where the assessment of environmental risk and risk-benefit and the post-market monitoring of authorised products are more prominent.

EFSA Panel on Dietetic Products, Nutrition and Allergies (NDA) Panel Members. **Scientific Opinion on nutrient requirements and dietary intakes of infants and young children in the European Union.** *EFSA Journal* 2013;11(10):3408 (103 p.) doi:10.2903/j.efsa.2013.3408 Following a request from the European Commission, the EFSA Panel on Dietetic Products, Nutrition and Allergies (NDA) was asked to deliver a Scientific Opinion on the nutrient requirements and dietary intakes of infants and young children in the European Union. This Opinion describes the dietary requirements of infants and young children, compares dietary intakes and requirements in infants and young children in Europe and, based on these findings, concludes on the potential role of young-child formulae in the diets of infants and young children, including whether they have any nutritional benefits when compared with other foods that may be included in the normal diet of infants and young children. The Panel concluded on the levels of nutrient and energy intakes that are considered adequate for the majority of infants and young children, and evaluated the risk of inadequate nutrient intakes in infants and young children in living Europe. Dietary intakes of alpha-linolenic acid (ALA), docosahexaenoic acid (DHA), iron, vitamin D and iodine (in some European countries) are low in infants and young children living in Europe, and particular attention should be paid to ensuring an appropriate supply of ALA, DHA, iron, vitamin D and iodine in infants and young children with inadequate or at risk of inadequate status of these nutrients. No unique role of young-child formulae with respect to the provision of critical nutrients in the diet of infants and young children living in Europe can be identified, so that

they cannot be considered as a necessity to satisfy the nutritional requirements of young children when compared with other foods that may be included in the normal diet of young children (such as breast milk, infant formulae, follow-on formulae and cow's milk).

Annual report of the EFSA Scientific Network for Risk Assessment of GMOs for 2013. Parma: European Food Safety Authority. 2014, 14 p. (*EFSA supporting publication* 2014:EN-548). In accordance with EFSA's strategy for cooperation and networking with Member States, the EFSA Scientific Network for Risk Assessment of GMOs (GMO Network) was launched in 2010. The overall goals of the GMO Network are to: improve dialogue among participants; build mutual understanding of risk assessment principles; enhance knowledge on and confidence in the scientific assessments carried out in the EU; and increase the transparency of the process among Member States and EFSA. The Annual reports of the GMO Network inform the public and the EFSA Advisory Forum about its specific activities and achievements. During its meeting in 2013, the GMO Network discussed the principles of statistical relevance and biological significance, the use of animal feeding trials in the risk assessment of GMOs, the development of environmental protection goals and the EFSA Guidance on the environmental risk assessment of GM animals. Following requests from EFSA, the GMO Network provided input to EFSA's scientific report "Considerations on the applicability of OECD TG 453 to whole food/feed testing" and to the project "Review of statistical methods and data requirements to support post market environmental monitoring of agroecosystems".

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)

The state of food insecurity in the world 2013. The multiple dimensions of food security. Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. 2013, 52 p. ISBN 978 92 510 7916 4 The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2013 presents updated estimates of undernourishment and progress towards the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) and World Food Summit (WFS) hunger targets. The latest assessment shows that further progress has been made towards the 2015 MDG target, which remains within reach for the developing regions as a whole, although marked differences across regions persist and considerable and immediate additional efforts will be needed. The 2013 report goes beyond measuring food deprivation.

It presents a broader suite of indicators that aim to capture the multidimensional nature of food insecurity, its determinants and outcomes. This suite, compiled for every country, allows a more nuanced picture of their food security status, guiding policy-makers in the design and implementation of targeted and effective policy measures that can contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. Drawing on the suite of indicators, the report also examines the diverse experiences of six countries in more detail, finding a mixed picture of progress and setbacks. Together, these country experiences show the importance of social protection and nutrition-enhancing interventions, policies to increase agricultural productivity and rural development, diverse sources of income and long-term commitment to mainstreaming food security and nutrition in public policies and programmes.

State of the art on the initiatives and activities relevant to risk assessment and risk management of nanotechnologies in the food and agriculture sectors.

Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. 2013, 56 p. (*FAO/WHO Technical paper*) ISBN 978 92 4 156464 9 FAO number: I3281/E US \$ 27.00 Following up on one of the recommendations of the 2009 FAO/WHO expert meeting, the present report reviews national and international activities on the risk analysis of nanomaterials in the food and agriculture sectors that have been carried out since the meeting. It presents national and international risk assessment and risk management approaches that identify and implement strategies to address potential hazards associated with the use of nanotechnology-related products or techniques.

FAO Policy on Gender Equality. Attaining food security goals in agriculture and rural development.

Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. 2013, 36 p. ISBN 978 92 510 7490 9 FAO number: 111955 US \$ 15.00 FAO's new corporate Policy on Gender Equality was officially adopted on International Women's Day, 8 March 2012, to promote gender equality and women's empowerment as a key to eradicate hunger and poverty worldwide. Formulated after an extensive consultation process, the policy provides a framework to guide and assess FAO's work in this area. It specifies roles and responsibilities for the implementation of policy directives, and delineates a number of objectives and minimum standards for the achievement of an overall goal. The purpose of this policy document is to provide FAO with a framework for guiding its efforts to achieve gender equality in all its technical work, and for assessing results; it calls on the whole Organization to contribute to these efforts. The policy specifies FAO's goal and objectives related to gender equality and delineates an accountability structure for ensuring policy oversight and achievement of results.

ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT
(OECD)

Health at a Glance 2013: OECD Indicators. Paris: OECD. 2013, 210 p. doi: 10.1787/health_glance-2013-

en ISBN 978 92 6420 071 5 This seventh edition of *Health at a Glance* provides the latest comparable data on different aspects of the performance of health systems in OECD countries. It provides striking evidence of large variations across countries in the costs, activities and results of health systems. Key indicators provide information on health status, the determinants of health, health care activities and health expenditure and financing in OECD countries. Each indicator in the book is presented in a user-friendly format, consisting of charts illustrating variations across countries and over time, brief descriptive analyses highlighting the major findings conveyed by the data, and a methodological box on the definition of the indicator and any limitations in data comparability.

Cancer care. Assuring quality to improve survival.

Paris: OECD. 2013, 156 p. doi: 10.1787/9789264181052-en ISBN 978 92 6418 096 3 More than five million new cases of cancer are diagnosed every year in OECD countries. Mortality rates are declining, but not as fast as for other big killers such as heart disease, and cancer survival rates show almost a four-fold difference across countries. In short, many countries are not doing as well as they could in the fight against cancer. The volume surveys the policy trends in cancer care over recent years and looks at survival rates to identify the why some countries are doing better than others. It sets out what governments should do to reduce the burden of cancer in their countries. As well as an adequate level of resourcing, a comprehensive national cancer control plan appears critical, emphasising initiatives such as early detection and fast-track treatment pathways. Countries also need better data, particularly for patients' experiences of care, in order to provide high quality, continuously improving cancer care.

Strengthening health information infrastructure for health care quality governance. Good practices, new opportunities and data privacy protection challenges.

Paris: OECD. 2013, 180 p. doi: 10.1787/9789264193505-en ISBN 978 92 6419 348 2 Health data constitutes a significant resource in most OECD countries that could be used to improve population health, the quality of health care and the performance of health systems. Rising levels of chronic diseases; concerns about the quality and safety of patient care; the need to assure value for investments in health care; and the need to allocate health resources wisely; are all too important to be left without good evidence for decision making. This book, based on studies of 19 countries on the development and use of personal health data and of 25 countries on development and use of electronic health record systems, includes results showing good practices, new opportunities and data privacy protection challenges. It finds that well-intended policies to allay concerns about breaches of confidentiality and potential misuse of personal health data may be limiting data use, but that the next five years appear promising, in terms of both the number of countries that plan to implement national electronic health record systems and the number that consider it

likely that data from these systems will be used for some aspects of health care quality monitoring. They also appear promising for the further use of existing personal health databases and for the linkage of multiple data sources to generate new evidence.

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)

Global chemicals outlook. Towards sound management of chemicals. Geneva: United Nations Environment Programme. 2013, 246 p. ISBN 978 92 807 3320 4 Job Number: DTI/1639/GE There is increasing recognition among governments, NGOs and the public that human health and the environment are being compromised by the current arrangements for managing chemicals and hazardous wastes. These concerns take on a new level of urgency as the quantity and range of new and existing chemicals grow rapidly in developing countries and economies in transition. At the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, governments agreed on “using and producing of chemicals in ways that do not lead to significant adverse effects on human health and the environment” and set a deadline of 2020 to achieve this goal. This report, compiled by UNEP in cooperation with international experts, is designed to inform governments and industry on trends in chemicals production, use and disposal, while offering policy advice aimed at meeting the 2020 goal. It focuses particularly on the challenges and opportunities facing developing nations. An important aspect of this new report is the economic analysis that compares the benefits of action to the costs of inaction in terms of improved management.

Community protocols for environmental sustainability: A guide for policymakers. Nairobi: United Nations Environment Programme and Sydney: EDO NSW. 2013, 82 p. This guide, produced jointly by EDO NSW, and the Division of Environmental Law and Conventions of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-DELC), has been written to help policymakers and other stakeholders understand what community protocols are, why they are important, and how they can support their development and recognition within formal environmental legal and policy frameworks. It is also written for all interested in learning about community protocols, including: indigenous peoples and their communities and other local communities (ILCs), non-governmental organisations (NGOs), researchers, industry, and those working in government at the local, national and international levels. Community protocols are an emerging concept in international environmental law and policy. The term encompasses a broad range of practices and procedures, both written and unwritten, developed by ILCs in relation to their traditional knowledge (TK), territories, and natural and other resources. These practices and procedures cover a range of matters, including how ILCs expect external actors to engage with them.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

Policies and incentives for promoting innovation in antibiotic research. Geneva: World Health Organization. 2013, 220 p. ISBN 978 92 890 4214 7 – Sw.fr.50.00/ US \$ 69.00 Order no. 18000258

High levels of pathogen resistance are rendering current antibiotics obsolete. Coupled with insufficient investment in discovering new treatments, multidrug-resistant infections are an increasingly urgent public health concern. To curb the growth of antibiotic resistance and prevent major morbidity and mortality from multidrug-resistant bacterial infections, the overuse of antibiotics must be addressed and research and development for antibiotics with novel mechanisms of action actively promoted. This requires appropriately designed incentives for health and regulatory systems, in addition to economic incentives to attract academic interest and industry investment. This book, commissioned by the Swedish Government from the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, analyses many proposed policies and incentive mechanisms and sheds light on the key issues that will help policy-makers reach informed, concrete decisions on how to avert this potential public health crisis.

Measles elimination field guide. Geneva: World Health Organization. 2013, 76 p. (*WPRO Nonserial Publication*) ISBN 978 92 906 1605 4 – Sw.fr.20.00/ US \$ 24.00 Order no. 15200168 Measles is a vaccine-preventable disease that remains a leading cause of death among children in the Western Pacific Region. Therefore, the Western Pacific Region is now moving towards measles elimination. These guidelines provide guidance for countries to implement the Western Pacific Regional Plan of Action for Measles Elimination as urged by the 2003 Regional Committee Meeting. It describes in detail the current challenges and activities needed to interrupt measles transmission, to prevent and respond rapidly to emerging measles outbreaks, and to ensure sensitive surveillance is in place. It is presented in a form that can be readily adapted by national immunization managers to suit country situations.

Immunization safety surveillance. Second edition. Guidelines for immunization programme managers on surveillance of adverse events following immunization. Geneva: World Health Organization. 2013, 108 p. (*WPRO Nonserial Publication*) ISBN 978 92 906 1629 0 – Sw.fr.20.00/ US \$ 24.00 Order no. 15200170 This second edition, which includes revised guidelines for managers of immunization programmes, aims to assist managers in immunization programmes and national regulatory authorities to establish/strengthen immunization safety surveillance system. It provides guidelines for managers of immunization programmes and others responsible for vaccine safety and quality on the following: - strategies and systems for ensuring quality and safety of vaccines; - new classification of AEFIs and the objectives of immunization safety/AEFIs surveillance; - understanding vaccine reactions for better decision-making; - AEFI surveillance system: reporting, investigating, causality assessment and responding processes; - best use of surveillance data, and - communication strategy on immunization safety for the public and the media.