

PUBLICATIONS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ON PUBLIC HEALTH

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EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY (EFSA)

EFSA Panel on Nutrition, Novel Foods and Food Allergens (NDA), Turck D, Castenmiller J, *et al.* **Dietary reference values for sodium.** *EFSA Journal* 2019;17(9):e05800 doi: 10.2903/j.efsa.2019.5778 Following a request from the European Commission, the EFSA Panel on Nutrition, Novel Foods and Food Allergens (NDA) derived dietary reference values (DRVs) for sodium. Evidence from balance studies on sodium and on the relationship between sodium intake and health outcomes, in particular cardiovascular disease (CVD)-related endpoints and bone health, was reviewed. The data were not sufficient to enable an average requirement (AR) or population reference intake (PRI) to be derived. However, by integrating the available evidence and associated uncertainties, the Panel considers that a sodium intake of 2.0 g/day represents a level of sodium for which there is sufficient confidence in a reduced risk of CVD in the general adult population. In addition, a sodium intake of 2.0 g/day is likely to allow most of the general adult population to maintain sodium balance. Therefore, the Panel considers that 2.0 g sodium/day is a safe and adequate intake for the general EU population of adults. The same value applies to pregnant and lactating women. Sodium intakes that are considered safe and adequate for children are extrapolated from the value for adults.

Crivellente F, Hart A, Hernandez-Jerez AF, *et al.* **Establishment of cumulative assessment groups of pesticides for their effects on the nervous system.** *EFSA Journal* 2019;17(9):e05800 doi: 10.2903/j.efsa.2019.5800 Cumulative assessment groups of pesticides have been established for five effects on the nervous system: brain and/or erythrocyte acetylcholinesterase inhibition, functional alterations of the motor, sensory and autonomic divisions, and histological neuropathological changes in neural tissue. Sources of uncertainties resulting from the methodological approach and from the limitations in available data and scientific knowledge have been identified and considered. This report supports the publication of a scientific report on cumulative risk assessment to pesticides affecting the nervous system, in which all uncertainties identified for either the exposure assessment or the establishment of the cumulative assessment groups are incorporated into a consolidated risk characterization.

Devos Y, Elliott KC, Macdonald P, *et al.* **Conducting fit-for-purpose food safety risk assessments.** *EFSA Journal* 2019;17(S1):e170707 doi:10.2903/j.efsa.2019.

e170707 The interplay between science, risk assessment and risk management has always been complex, and even more so in a world increasingly characterized by rapid technical innovation, new modes of communication, suspicion about authorities and experts, and demands for people to have a say in decisions that are made on their behalf. In this challenging era where scientific advice on food safety has never been in greater demand, risk managers should effectively navigate the interplay between facts and values and be able to rely on robust and fit-for-purpose risk assessments to aid them. EFSA's third Scientific Conference *Science, Food and Society Guest Editors* explored how risk assessments could be constructed to most usefully meet society's needs and thus connect science with society, while remaining scientifically robust. Contributors to the conference highlighted the need to: 1) frame risk assessments by clear policy goals and decision-making criteria; 2) begin risk assessments with an explicit problem formulation to identify relevant information; 3) make use of reliable risk assessment studies; 4) be explicit about value judgements; 5) address and communicate scientific uncertainty; 6) follow trustworthy processes; 7) publish the evidence and data, and report the way in which they are used in a transparent manner; 8) ensure effective communication throughout the risk analysis process; 9) involve society, as appropriate; and 10) weigh risks and benefits on request.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)

The State of Food and Agriculture 2019. Moving forward on food loss and waste reduction. Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations 2019; 180 p. ISBN 978 92 513 1789 1 This new edition of the report focuses on food losses and waste, providing new estimates of the world's food post-harvest up to, but excluding, the retail level. The report also finds a vast diversity in existing estimates of losses, even for the same commodities and for the same stages in the supply chain. Clearly identifying and understanding critical loss points in specific supply chains – where considerable potential exists for reducing food losses – is crucial to deciding on appropriate measures. The report provides some guiding principles for interventions based on the objectives being pursued through food loss and waste reductions, be they in improved economic efficiency, food security and nutrition, or environmental sustainability.

Strengthening nutrition action: a resource guide for countries based on the policy recommendations of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2). Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations/World Health Organization 2018; 95 p. ISBN 978 92 513 0956 8 The Strengthening Nutrition Action resource guide is part of the follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) that was held in November 2014 in Rome, Italy. It aims at guiding countries to translate the 60 recommended policies and actions of the voluntary ICN2 Framework for Action into more binding concrete country-specific commitments for action on nutrition. This process should be done according to the national needs and conditions, and be built on existing policies, strategies, programmes, plans and investments in order to achieve the 10 commitments of the Rome Declaration on Nutrition. This resource guide is structured around 24 themes that are unpacking the ICN2 Framework for Action policy recommendations and is intended primarily for policy advisors supporting decision-makers and development partners involved in multisectoral food and nutrition-related policy-making processes.

Building stronger partnerships for resilience. Opportunities for greater FAO engagement in realizing the goals of the DFID Humanitarian Policy. Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations 2018; 41 p. Job number: CA1001EN After decades of progress, hunger – both acute and chronic – is on the rise again. In 2017, a massive humanitarian effort helped to contain famine in South Sudan and avert famine in northeastern Nigeria, Somalia and Yemen. Despite this, the number of people on the brink of severe hunger continues to rise. Recognizing that humanitarian assistance alone cannot sufficiently address the growing number of people on the verge of catastrophe, FAO's humanitarian interventions are embedded in resilience building efforts that seek to tackle the root causes of vulnerabilities while meeting the immediate needs of affected communities. In 2017, DFID released a new Humanitarian Reform Policy, outlining how DFID plans to "build a more secure and prosperous world" through its humanitarian work. This FAO-DFID partnership document has been developed in response to this in order to guide and strengthen the partnership between FAO and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development to address acute hunger and build the resilience of agriculture-based livelihoods in the face of crisis. It is envisaged that this document will be updated regularly based on the outcomes of the annual FAO-DFID strategic dialogue.

INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE COUNCIL (ISC)

Science as a global public good: ISC Action Plan, 2019-2021. Paris: International Science Council (ISC). 2019; 31 p. doi: 10.24948/2019.09 The Action

Plan sets out the ICSU's activities over the next two and a half years. Its most important purpose is to form a practical framework for the ISC's work until the end of 2021, and to work towards a vision of science as a global public good. It serves also as a basis for active engagement with ISC members, and as a point of departure for dialogue and cooperation with partners and funders who share our objectives. The Action Plan is intended to be a living document, allowing the ISC the flexibility to respond to new and emerging opportunities, and to adapt to ongoing strategic reflection and development. It provides a basis for continual monitoring and progress reporting to members and other stakeholders. At the heart of the Action Plan is a selection of projects and programmes that are relevant to all scientific fields and all parts of the world. Some of these are already in progress; others are ready for development. Many encompass and build on ongoing ISC activities, including the Council's portfolio of international research programmes, scientific committees, networks, data bodies and observing systems.

Handmer J, Stevance A, Rickards L, *et al.* **Achieving risk reduction across Sendai, Paris and the SDGs.** Paris: International Science Council (ISC). 2019; 8 p. The ISC's newly published policy brief provides a crucial set of key messages for policy-makers based on the synergies and coherence between the major global agreements of the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda with specific reference to systemic and cascading risks. This focus is because of the extreme widespread and long-lasting potential impacts of such events, which could have long-lasting negative effects on the livelihoods and well-being of people, economies and countries, undermining development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This brief should be read as complementary to material dealing with frequent, smaller events and the day-to-day emergencies that affect hundreds of millions regularly.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

Better health for Europe: more equitable and sustainable transformational reflections 2010-2020. Geneva: World Health Organization. 2019; 380 p. Order no. 13400209 Sw.fr:70.00/ US \$ 70.00 ISBN 978 92 890 5422 5 This book tells the story of how people working for WHO in the European Region have sought to make a reality of this goal over the last ten years. Zsuzsanna Jakab, WHO Regional Director for Europe from 2010 until 2020, narrates the story on behalf of all staff and describes the vision, strategic thinking and processes followed, as well as the impact achieved. Political leaders, public health managers and health practitioners and advocates from across the WHO European Region and beyond were invited to reflect upon the relevance and utility of the work of the Regional Office. Extracts from interviews with these witnesses are presented throughout the book to enrich the narrative. It is



divided into three parts. Part I. *Better Health for Europe: the seven strategic action priorities* presents the systematic process the Regional Office has followed in developing the policy frameworks, evidence base, capacities, relationships, partnerships, networks and skills needed to transform and enhance action for better, more equitable and sustainable health and well-being in Europe and beyond. Part II. *Better Health for Europe: achievements* describes outcomes and the impacts of Regional Office work on the two objectives and four priority actions of the Health 2020 European policy framework. Part III. *Better Health for Europe: conclusions and messages* summarizes reflections and looks at challenges beyond 2020.

Busse R, Klazinga N, Panteli D, *et al.* **Improving healthcare quality in Europe. Characteristics, effectiveness and implementation of different strategies.** Geneva: World Health Organization. 2019; 445 p. (*Health Policy Series*; 53) Order no. 13400206 Sw.fr.70.00/ US \$ 70.00 ISBN 978 92 890 5175 0 Quality improvement initiatives take many forms, from the creation of standards for health professionals, health technologies and health facilities, to audit and feedback, and from fostering a patient safety culture to public reporting and paying for quality. For policy-makers who struggle to decide which initiatives to prioritise for investment, understanding the potential of different quality strategies in their unique settings is key. This volume, developed by the Observatory together

with OECD, provides an overall conceptual framework for understanding and applying strategies aimed at improving quality of care. Crucially, it summarizes available evidence on different quality strategies and provides recommendations for their implementation. This book acknowledges that “quality of care” is a broadly defined concept, and that it is often unclear how quality improvement strategies fit within a health system, and what their particular contribution can be. This volume elucidates the concepts behind multiple elements of quality in healthcare policy (including definitions of quality, its dimensions, related activities, and targets), quality measurement and governance and situates it all in the wider context of health systems research.

INSPIRE Handbook: action for implementing the seven strategies for ending violence against children. Geneva: World Health Organization. 2018; 297 p. ISBN 978 92 415 1409 5 The handbook explains in detail how to choose and implement interventions that will fit needs and context. The seven strategy-specific chapters address: implementation and enforcement of laws; norms and values; safe environments; parent and caregiver support; income and economic strengthening; response and support services; and education and life skills. It concludes with a summary of INSPIRE's implementation and impact indicators, drawn from the companion INSPIRE indicator guidance and results framework.