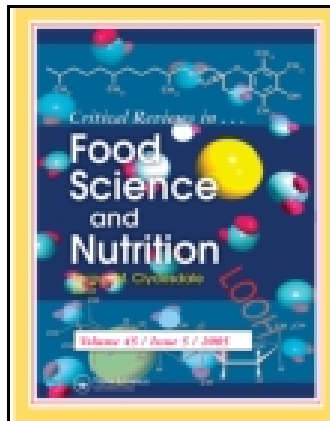


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Foreword

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Foreword

Together with Prof. Christophe Matthys, we took over the tasks from Dr. Loek Pijls in 2009. The EURRECA Network of Excellence was a high speed train and it was a challenge to jump in it and ensure that the train was going in the right direction. Thanks to my experience in the EC Concerted Actions FUFOSE and PASSCLAIM, I had some idea on how to successfully motivate partners towards excellence. We are proud to see the final outcome of the Network now available in this issue. The contributions of all partners, totaling more than 200 publications, have been collected and integrated together in this issue to reflect 5.5 years of common efforts, deep interactions and continuous commitment.

It all started with a workshop organised in 2003 by the ILSI Europe Nutritional Needs of Children Task Force which reviewed the scientific knowledge related to nutrition in healthy children and adolescents in Europe. The workshop pointed out the large disparities in nutrient dietary reference values and dietary intakes in children and adolescents across Europe. Prof. Berthold Koletzko clearly identified the need for a European network aiming at harmonizing (i) concepts for establishing reference values and (ii) methodologies for measuring food intake. To fill this gap, the European Commission decided to fund a Network of Excellence. The first Pilot Steering Committee on 8 March 2003 was followed by a 20 page successful submission in October 2005. On 1 January 2007, the Network of Excellence was initiated.

The resulting EURRECA framework for deriving and using DRVs was first called the blue ribbon in memory of the flowers (EURRECA Leaders and their team) joining their stems to form a bouquet (EURRECA Network) and held together with a blue ribbon. This framework is unique in: 1) the number of tools/instruments/methodologies developed to support the nutrient requirement setting bodies; 2) its integrated science-based approach; 3) its policy aspects; and 4) its personalised nutrition aspects and multivariate micronutrient model. Moreover, EURRECA addressed a number of micronutrients, covered all vulnerable population groups and included many health outcomes of concern for the European citizens.

I will be the voice of the Network by saying that we wrote this publication to be useful and informative for all nutrient requirement setting bodies and policy makers facing the challenge of setting the most suitable recommendations for their population. We all worked with the improvement of public health in mind, and we hope our contribution will be seen as a useful step heading in the right direction.

Dr. Laura Contor
EURRECA Network Director
ILSI Europe Deputy Director