

Partners

Funded by the European Commission, the Network is made up of 35 partners based in 18 countries, drawn not only from nutrition science but also from industry, consumer groups, and the health professions.



Belgium

- * International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI) Europe (Coordinator)
- * Catholic University of Leuven
- * Euro Consultants
- * European Food Information Council (EUFIC)

Cyprus

- * Foodlab

Czech Republic

- * National Institute of Public Health

Denmark

- * Aarhus School of Business
- * World Health Organization - Regional Office for Europe

France

- * Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA)

Germany

- * University of München

Greece

- * Consumers' Association "The Quality of Life"(E.K.PI.ZO)
- * National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

Ireland

- * University College Cork

Italy

- * Hylobates Consulting
- * University of Milano

Hungary

- * National Association for Consumer Protection
- * University of Pécs

Norway

- * University of Oslo

Poland

- * Warsaw University of Life Sciences

Portugal

- * Biotempo

Serbia

- * Institute of Medical Research

Spain

- * Community Nutrition Unit of Bilbao
- * Nutrition Research Foundation
- * University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
- * University of Zaragoza

The Netherlands

- * Plant Research International
- * TNO Quality of Life
- * Topshare International
- * Wageningen University

United Kingdom

- * Minerva Public Relations & Communications
- * Oxford Brookes University
- * University of Central Lancashire
- * University of East Anglia
- * University of Surrey
- * University of Ulster

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EURopean micronutrient RECommendations Aligned

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EURRECA Network of Excellence

EURopean micronutrient RECommendations Aligned

Harmonising nutrient recommendations across Europe with special focus on vulnerable groups and consumer understanding



EURopean micronutrient RECommendations Aligned



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

The EURRECA Network of Excellence is funded by the European Commission (Contract Number: FP6 036196-2 (FOOD)) and is coordinated by ILSI Europe.

Objectives

EURRECA has three key strategic objectives:

- Deliver an aligned set of standards providing a robust scientific basis for establishing micronutrient requirements and for devising micronutrient recommendations.
- Focus on the needs of specific vulnerable groups: infants, children and adolescents; adults; pregnant and lactating women; elderly; people with low income and immigrants.
- Evaluate the impact of socio-economic status, ethnic origin, inter-individual variability and vulnerability due to genetics, environmental factors and epigenetic phenomena.



About EURRECA

The EURRECA (EUROpean micronutrient RECommendations Aligned) Network of Excellence addresses variations in European micronutrient recommendations. The EURRECA Network aims to provide an evidence based toolkit to help policy-makers develop quality assured and aligned nutrient recommendations across Europe.

Individual countries in Europe review their national guidance on micronutrient recommendation at different times, which means they are not working with the same or most up-to-date scientific information. Relatively small and select groups of experts are usually involved in this process.

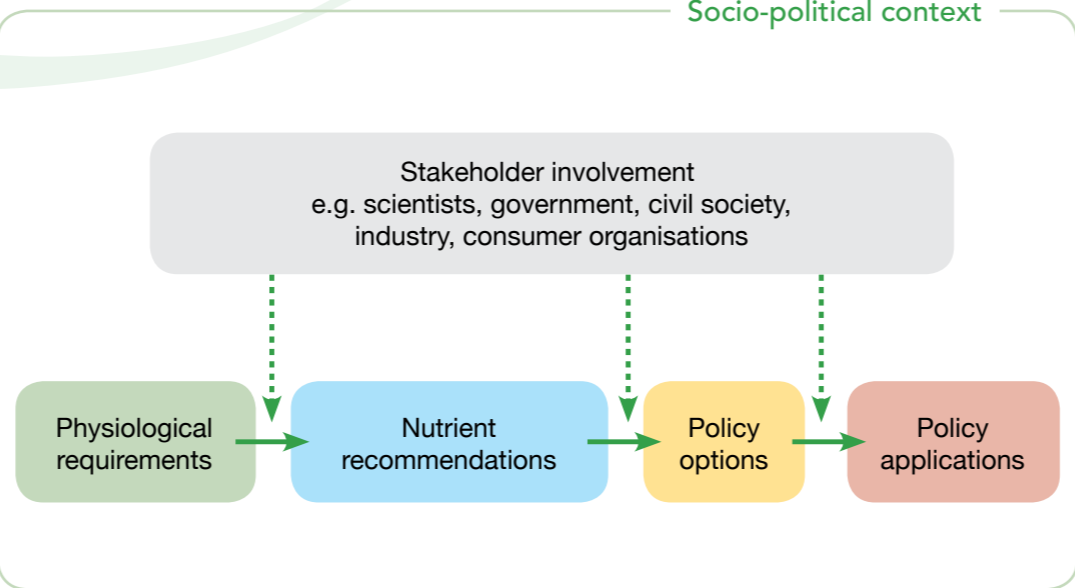
Additionally, different countries use different methods to determine their national requirements and different concepts to express the recommendations. For example, some nations provide a single recommendation for healthy adults; others provide separate recommendations for men and women.

Age groupings for babies and children also vary.

The result? Differing national recommendations, confusion for policy-makers, health professionals and consumers and a lack of comparison opportunities between countries.

EURRECA's members are scientists, representatives of nutrient requirement setting bodies, consumer organisations, small & medium-sized enterprises and wider stakeholders working together to harmonise European micronutrient recommendations.

The EURRECA framework from setting to applying recommendations



This framework describes the process from assessing nutritional requirements to policy applications, based on evidence from science, stakeholder interests and the socio-political context.

Translating theory into practice

Currently in its fourth year, the network has collected large amounts of data. To make the most of the data, EURRECA is developing several practical tools for policy-makers, academics, health professionals and food industry.

- A Best Practice Guideline for biomarkers of status.
- Scoring systems to rate the quality in nutritional surveys and to assess the quality of validation studies.
- Micronutrient wiki pages providing information on the relationships between micronutrient status or intake and a range of biomarkers.
- A scientific triage process to prioritize nutrients for systematic review.

- An interactive database, Nutri-RecQuest, enabling comparisons of micronutrient reference values across Europe.
- A dietary software, NutPlan, allowing recipe calculation, diet planning, creating food labels and nutrient intake assessment.

- A framework for Evidence-Based Policy Decision-Making to guide the choice of the most effective and most appropriate policy tool/option.

- Factsheets to help identify potential problems with vitamin and mineral testing.
- Interactive digital learning materials tackling different aspects of setting micronutrient recommendations.