ILSI EUROPE

# SCIENTIFIC PORTFOLIO 2026

# WELCOME NOTE

Europe stands at a pivotal moment. Demographic shifts, economic pressures, and societal change are reshaping our future. An ageing population and the growing burden of healthcare costs demand smarter, more sustainable approaches to preventing, diagnosing, and treating disease. Nutrition stands as a cornerstone of disease prevention, while consumers increasingly seek healthier, safer, and more sustainable foods. At the same time, influential reports by Mario Draghi and Manuel Heitor remind us of Europe's pressing need to reinforce its single market, strengthen competitiveness, and build resilience against future crises.

For four decades, ILSI Europe's unique model of precompetitive science—built on tripartite collaboration among academia, industry, and public authorities—has delivered trusted, relevant solutions. Today, this model of transparent collaboration, integrity, and shared resources is not only resilient, but more essential than ever.

Celebrating our 40th anniversary in 2026, we look with pride at what the ILSI Europe community has accomplished and turn our gaze towards the future. We will continue scanning the horizon together with our expert community, identifying the precompetitive challenges where ILSI Europe can bring scientific leadership and evidence-based guidance. Our focus on fit-for-purpose deliverables ensures that what we produce is not only rigorous but also practical, impactful, and directed toward safeguarding both public and planetary health.

Our 2026 programme embodies this ambition. A vibrant portfolio of activities across fifteen Task Forces will be complemented by the launch of new Expert Groups exploring future-oriented topics such as postbiotics in early life nutrition, prebiotics in women's health, or recalibrating risk level of PFAS in food and drinking water. Stronger collaborations with other ILSI entities will further extend our reach, with exciting joint initiatives on artificial intelligence in systematic reviews, postbiotics, and additional new projects already on the horizon.

We also look forward to a rich calendar of events, from the ILSI Europe 2026 Symposium to the final conference of the EU-funded TITAN project, along with timely workshops on topics such as GLP-1 and weight management. These gatherings will serve as catalysts for exchange, innovation, and collective progress.

As ILSI Europe enters its fifth decade, our purpose remains clear: to advance science that empowers healthier people and a healthier planet. By building on forty years of experience while embracing new opportunities, we reaffirm our commitment to delivering solutions that matter—for industry, for regulators, and for society at large. Together, we can shape a future where science drives health, sustainability, and resilience.

**ISABELLE GUELINCKX**

ILSI Europe Executive
and Scientific Director

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# HOW TO READ THIS DOCUMENT

The Scientific Portfolio 2026 gives an overview of the scientific activities ILSI Europe will carry out throughout 2026, including Task Forces and their commissionned Expert Groups –ongoing or upcoming, activity proposals, events, and international projects we collaborate on.

**TODAY** = September 2025

**ACRONYMS**

**BoD** Board of Directors
**EG** Expert Group
**EU** European Union
**FS** Food Safety
**GA** General Assembly
**ILSI** International Life Sciences Institute
**NAP** New Activity Proposal
**OCR** Official Company Representative
**SAC** Scientific Advisory Committee
**TF** Task Force
**WP** Work Package

**ILSI EUROPE TASK FORCES ACRONYMS**

**DC** Dietary Carbohydrate
**ENLH** Early Nutrition Long-term Health
**FA** Food Allergy
**FAA** Food Allergen Analytics
**FC** Food Contaminants
**HA** Healthy Ageing
**MFS** Microbiological Food Safety
**MIP** Microplastics Initiative
**NAMs** New Approach Methodologies
**PM** Packaging Materials
**PRE** Prebiotics
**PRO** Probiotics
**RAFS** Risk Analysis for Food Safety
**TTC** Threshold of Toxicological Concern
**VITK2** Vitamin K2

# I.

# ILSI EUROPE COMMUNITY

# OUR MISSION AND VISION

ILSI Europe's vision is one of science securing a safe, nutritious and sustainable food supply for all. We foster a safe, nutritious and sustainable food supply for all with trusted and impactful science. Our Mission is to provide guidance to the food sector through collaborative science. ILSI Europe develops, communicates & disseminates science based guidance to tackle food, public health and sustainability challenges by facilitating collaboration and consensus building between academic, industry and public service experts.

# ILSI EUROPE COMMUNITY

Collaboration is at the heart of ILSI Europe. By bringing together experts from industry, academia, and the public sector, we ensure that our research delivers balanced, transparent, and actionable results with broad consensus across sectors.

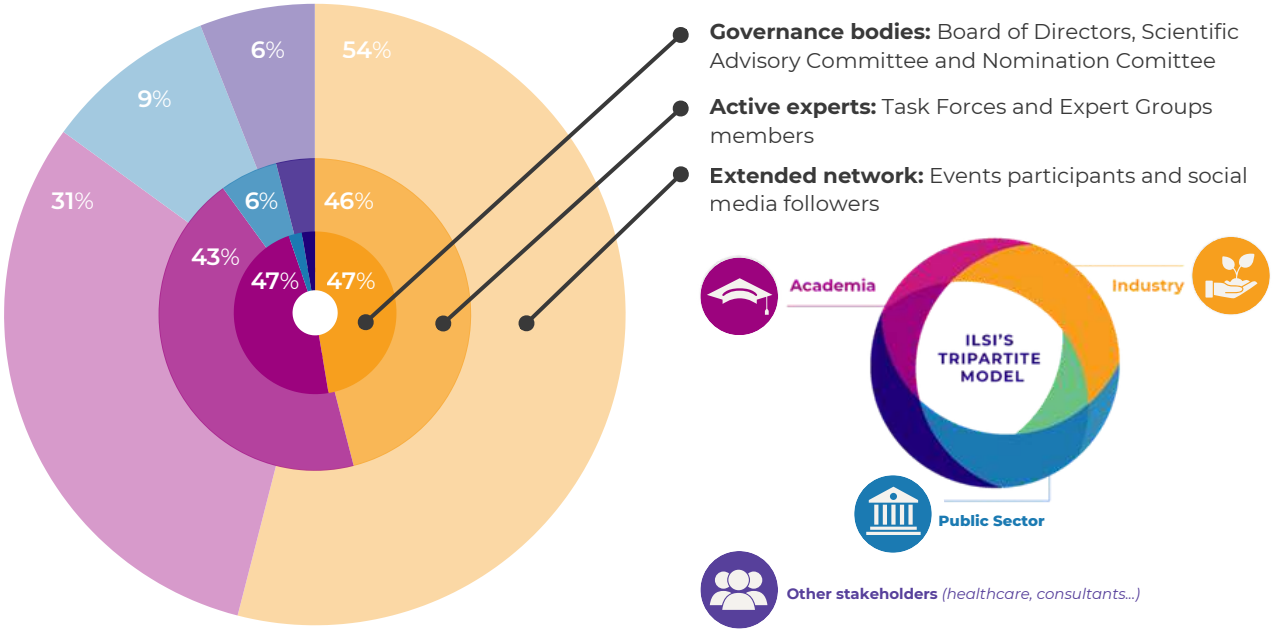
Our community includes leading academic researchers, top industry scientists, emerging talents, and dedicated public sector experts. We offer a neutral platform where these stakeholders can connect, share ideas, and exchange viewpoints in an open, transparent, and constructive environment.

**187**
**active experts (in 2025)**

**47**
**member companies**
see full list on p. 79

**57**
**universities and research organisations**

**14**
**partner institutions**




*Disclaimer: This chart is for illustrative purposes only and represents a rough estimate of our community composition. It is based on the makeup of our governance bodies, Task Forces and Expert Groups, LinkedIn analytics, and voluntary information provided by event participants across 2024 and 2025. The data should not be interpreted as statistically precise or used for analytical or reporting purposes.*

# HOW ILSI RESEARCH BENEFITS THE FOOD SECTOR

**ILSI Europe's research in food safety, nutrition, and sustainability provides critical advantages for food companies. As a membership-based organisation, we foster collaboration across stakeholders from industry, academic and public sector, enabling the development of science-based solutions to address pre-competitive challenges.**

### Key benefits of ILSI research

**Nutrition research** helps companies meet rising consumer demand for health-conscious products, driving innovation and market competitiveness. Nutrition research also supports consumer education, building trust by highlighting the health benefits of products.

**Food safety research** strengthens consumer trust by helping companies implement rigorous safety protocols and proactively mitigate risks. This reduces contamination, prevents costly recalls, and protects both consumers and brand reputation.

**Sustainability research** helps companies minimize their environmental footprint by improving resource efficiency and supply chain resilience. This positions companies as leaders in sustainability, attracting eco-conscious consumers.

### What we do for our members

ILSI Europe facilitates collaboration across industry actors to share insights and build consensus. Our science-based guidance helps companies meet regulatory requirements, deliver innovative and safe ingredients and products, and advance sustainable practices.

By partnering with ILSI Europe, food companies access and contribute to cutting-edge research, practical solutions, and a strong network of experts committed to advancing public health, food safety, and sustainability.

# REASONS TO JOIN ILSI EUROPE

## Industry members

- Access a multidisciplinary network
- Collaborate on research projects in a cost-effective way
- Gain visibility and credibility
- Contribute to trusted and impactful science
- Connect with high-level international organisations

## Early Career Scientists

- Expand your network
- Contribute to publications
- Develop key skills
- Boost your visibility
- Strengthen your career profile

## Academic experts

- Amplify your research impact
- Expand your knowledge with cutting-edge research
- Access a multidisciplinary network
- Advance your skills and career
- Enhance your visibility
- Unlock funding opportunities

## Public sector

- Expand your perspective and impact
- Align research and build consensus
- Contribute expertise
- Synthesize evidence transparently
- Collaborate with ILSI's global scientific networks

# BECOME A MEMBER TODAY

ILSI Europe offers companies an efficient and cost-effective way to pool resources and address key issues in food safety, nutrition, and sustainability. Membership is open to all companies in the food and food-related sectors, including manufacturers of food products, ingredients, and medicinal products.

**SEPTEMBER 2025**

**Explore the activities in ILSI Europe's Scientific Portfolio 2026**

**Contact ILSI Europe** to manifest your company's interest and learn more about opportunities

**Select the Task Forces** your company wants to join in 2026.

**BEFORE 15 DEC 2025**

**Appoint an official company representative** to fill in and send back the membership commitment form.

ILSI Europe sends your membership invoice for 2026.
*If needed, ILSI Europe can provide a quote to enable you to create a purchase order number.*

**Pay** your the membership and Task Force(s) fees.

**Nominate representative(s)** to join the Task Force(s).

**JANUARY 2026**

**Our productive collaboration starts!**

# II.

# SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

# HOW WE WORK

ILSI Europe is primarily funded by its industry members who collaborate in Task Forces and Expert Groups. We also enjoy the support of public funding, e.g. when participating as a partner in EU-funded projects. Academic and public sector experts involved in our activities contribute through voluntary work.

## Task Forces

Task Forces **initiate, develop and manage** all ILSI Europe's activities. They reach their goals through expert groups, partnerships in European Union-funded projects, workshops, webinars and conferences.

Task forces are composed of representatives from member companies (min. 5) and non-industry experts as scientific advisors (min. 1). Each task force appoints a Chair, a Vice-Chair and an academic Co-Chair. A new Task Force is created after being reviewed by the Scientific Advisory Committee and external academic reviewers, provided it does not fall within the remit of an existing task force.


A Task force is funded by its member companies and disbanded either when its programme is completed or in case company support falls below the required minimum of 5 supporting member companies.


DIETARY CARBOHYDRATES
TASK FORCE

Task Force Objectives

Ongoing Activities

Task Force Members

In the Pipeline

Example:
The Dietary Carbohydrates Task Force currently supports two ongoing Expert Groups.

## Expert Groups

When a Task Force develops a new activity proposal, it is first submitted to the Scientific Advisory Committee and to independent external academic reviewers. When a new activity is approved the Task Force members nominate the experts identified in the activity proposal to form an Expert Group.

Expert Groups **carry out the work** outlined by the Task Forces. They collect and analyse data and information, and write scientific papers. Their fit-for-purpose outputs are peer-reviewed scientific publications, guiding documents, and more.


Expert Groups comprise at least 50% scientists from academia and public sector, and up to 50% industry scientists. Each group appoints a Chair from academia and a Vice-Chair from industry. An Expert Group is completed once their paper is published.


DIETARY CARBOHYDRATES
EXPERT GROUP

Background and Objectives

Expert Group Members

Output

# SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES OVERVIEW

## **FOOD ALLERGY** TASK FORCE

- Define barriers & levers for the effective regulation of **precautionary allergen labelling.**
- **Allergen Quantitative Risk Assessment (QRA)**: Developing and Integrating a Methodology to Link Emerging Tools with Risk Management Actions across the Supply Chain, including Precautionary Labelling.

## **FOOD ALLERGEN ANALYTICS** TASK FORCE

- [NEW] **Harmonisation of analytical methods** for Food Allergen Detection, Reference Materials and Quality Control Materials.

## **FOOD CONTAMINANTS** TASK FORCE

- **Update on risk-benefit assessment** of foods: approaches to facilitate application.
- **Prioritization of natural toxins** for risk management action.
- [NEW] **Unintentional substances in food**: rapid risk assessment to inform risk management.

## **MICROBIOLOGICAL FOOD SAFETY** TASK FORCE

- **Microbiological risk-based decision tool** for use of dried spices and herbs, dried vegetables, and dried fruits in foods.
- **The impact of sampling procedures** on the performance of microbiological methods.

## **NEW APPROACH METHODOLOGIES** TASK FORCE

- What are the challenges to use **vital human material** as an innovative approach to move towards human-based science and avoid animal research & testing?

## **MICROPLASTICS** INITIATIVE

- **Community of Practice** on Microplastics and Nanoplastics.
- Workshop on **analytical methods** for Microplastics in Food.

## **PACKAGING MATERIAL** TASK FORCE

- Workshop to reflect on the safety assessment of **recycling processes** for polyolefins (PO) and polystyrene (PS).

## **RISK ANALYSIS FOR FOOD SAFETY** TASK FORCE

- [NEW] The use of case studies of **food safety incidents** to explore how risk analysis is applied within the EU.

## **THRESHOLD OF TOXICOLOGICAL CONCERN** TASK FORCE

- Building cumulative assessment groups for **combined exposure risk assessment** based on TTC thresholds or read-across.
- **Uncertainty in hazard assessment**: a comparison of TTC versus chemical-specific approaches.

## DIETARY CARBOHYDRATES TASK FORCE

- **Carbohydrate and protein intake** interaction during ageing.
- **Precision nutrition** to prevent chronic metabolic diseases.

## EARLY NUTRITION AND LONG-TERM HEALTH TASK FORCE

- **Early biomarkers** for prediction of metabolic health.
- **Lipid quality** in early life nutrition.
- Nutritional quality of **plant protein-based infant formula.**
- [NEW] **Postbiotics** in early life nutrition [with Probiotics Task Force].

## HEALTHY AGEING TASK FORCE

- Workshop on **nutritional interventions** for healthy ageing.
- **Biomarkers** and hallmarks of ageing.

## PREBIOTICS TASK FORCE

- **Markers** of the gut microbiota [with Probiotics Task Force].
- [NEW] Prebiotics in **women's health.**
- [NEW] **Metabolic health workshop**: GLP-1, Prebiotics & Gut–Brain.

## PROBIOTICS TASK FORCE

- Probiotic **clinical study design.**

## VITAMIN K2 TASK FORCE

- **Expert opinion on vitamin k2 research**: retrospective insights and prospective pathways.
- [NEW] **Narrative review on biomarkers** for assessing vitamin K2 status.

## CROSS ILSI ENTITIES ACTIVITIES

- **Postbiotics**: consumer knowledge, understanding, and gap analysis to guide future scientific research

## FOOD SAFETY EU PROJECTS

- **ACRYRED**: reducing acrylamide exposure by a cereals supply-chain approach.
- **CATALYSE**: catalysing scientific innovation into food safety action.
- **TITAN:** providing digital technologies that increase transparency throughout the food value chain.

## NUTRITION EU PROJECTS

- **GLUCOTYPES**: glucose variability patterns for precision nutrition in diabetes.
- **FOOD4HEALTH**: aligning common R&I priorities to face the intertwined challenges of food and diet-related Non Communicable Diseases and Climate Change.

## SUSTAINABILITY EU PROJECTS

- **BIOFIN**: Unlocking finance to protect and restore biodiversity.
- [NEW] **E-OILÉ:** sustainable End-Of-Life routes for single-use monodose packaging for oily products.

# FOOD SAFETY
## TASK FORCES
## & EXPERT GROUPS

# FOOD ALLERGY TASK FORCE

IMPROVING THE ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF FOOD ALLERGEN RISKS TO PROTECT PEOPLE WITH FOOD ALLERGIES

## Task Force Objectives

The Task Force aims to foster an international, evidence-based consensus on how to assess the risk posed by allergenic foods. Once a method is agreed upon, the Task Force plans to develop tools to support risk management and protect all consumers.

## Task Force Members

**Non Industry**

- **René Crevel**, *René Crevel Consulting, UK*

**Industry**

- **Marta Biolatti**, *Soremartec, IT*
- **Neil Buck**, *General Mills, CH*
- **Melanie Chucholowius**, *AB-InBev, BE*
- **Simon Flanagan**, *Chair, Mondelēz International, UK*
- **Fleur de Mooij**, *Vice-chair, Danone Nutricia Research, NL*
- **Myrthe van den Dungen**, *dsm-firmenich, NL*
- **Si Wang**, *PepsiCo International, UK*

**Public Institutions**

- **Minna Anthoni**, *Finnish Food Authority, FI*

**ILSI Europe contact**

- **Geraldine Borja**, *BE*
  *gborja@ilsieurope.be*

**Task Force Fee:** 9.500 €

## Ongoing Activities

- Activity on identifying the barriers and levers for the effective harmonisation of **Precautionary Allergen Labelling** (PAL). The primary objective is to pinpoint the gaps that hinder effective PAL and determine the actions needed to address them. The ultimate goal is to establish a more consistent and evidence-based approach to PAL-related decisions.
  Start: Oct 2024 - End: Dec 2026

- An Expert Group on **Allergen Quantitative Risk Assessment** (QRA) for allergens identified key methodological aspects for applying allergen risk assessment within complex supply chains in real-world food production. The group's current focus is maintaining a Community of Practice (CoP) and keeping the 2022 publication up to date, ensuring it remains a living document.

## In the Pipeline

- The Task Force is currently brainstorming future activities. A potential activity on **"free-from" claims** (e.g., gluten-free, peanut-free) will explore how such claims are used, verified, and interpreted across jurisdictions, and how they relate to risk management practices and consumer trust.

**The Task Force welcomes you and your ideas** to help shape this and other future activities further!

**Learn more about the Task Force on our website**

# FOOD ALLERGY EXPERT GROUP

## DEFINE BARRIERS & LEVERS FOR THE EFFECTIVE REGULATION OF PRECAUTIONARY ALLERGEN LABELLING

## Background and Objectives

In most jurisdictions, allergenic ingredient labelling is regulated, but precautionary allergen labelling (PAL) remains voluntary. This lack of standardisation leads to inconsistent PAL application. This Expert Group aims to identify barriers and opportunities for effective PAL harmonisation, benefiting both Food Business Operators, Regulatory Agencies and allergic consumers.

They will:

- Conduct a literature review to Identify the current global regulatory framework for PAL statements (including FARRP databases).
- Conduct interviews with a range of stakeholders to ascertain current risk management strategies.

## Expert Group Members

### Non Industry

- **Joseph Baumert**, *University of Nebraska, US*
- **Alie de Boer**, *Maastricht University, NL*
- **René Crevel**, *René Crevel Consulting, UK*
- **Alessandro Fiocchi**, *Pediatric Hospital Bambino Gesù, IT*
- **Geert Houben**, *TNO, NL*
- **André Knulst**, *University Medical Center Utrecht, NL*
- **Jasmine Lacis-Lee**, *Allergen Bureau, AU*
- **Linda Monaci**, *Vice-chair, Institute of Sciences of Food Production - National Research Council of Italy, IT*
- **Sabine Schnadt**, *Deutschen Allergie- und Asthmabund (DAAB)*
- **Marjan van Ravenhorst**, *Allergenen Consultancy, NL*
- **Michael Walker**, *Chair, Queen's University Belfast, UK*
- **Audrey Dunn Galvin**, *University College Cork, IE*

### Industry

- **Marta Biolatti**, *Soremartec, IT*
- **Neil Buck**, *General Mills, CH*
- **Melanie Chucholowius**, *AB-InBev, BE*
- **Fleur de Mooij**, *Danone Nutricia Research, NL*
- **Simon Flanagan**, *Mondelēz International, UK*
- **Myrthe van den Dungen**, *dsm-firmenich, NL*
- **Si Wang**, *PepsiCo International, UK*

### Public Institutions

- **Minna Anthoni**, *Finnish Food Authority*
- **William Birkin**, *UK FSA*
- **Sadia Khan**, *UK FSA*

## Output

This activity will result in a Black & White report (guidance document) and an Open Access peer-reviewed publication.

| OCT 2024 | TODAY | Q3 2025 | Q4 2025 - Q2 2026 | Q3 2026 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kick-off | Survey and workshop development | Workshop and speaker at FAF event, Survey | Expert Group development | Manuscript publication |

# FOOD ALLERGY EXPERT GROUP

## ALLERGEN QUANTITATIVE RISK ASSESSMENT (QRA): DEVELOPING AND INTEGRATING A METHODOLOGY TO LINK EMERGING TOOLS WITH RISK MANAGEMENT ACTIONS ACROSS THE SUPPLY CHAIN, INCLUDING PRECAUTIONARY LABELLING

## Background and Objectives

There is growing global interest in integrating risk assessment into allergen management, particularly for decisions related to Precautionary Allergen Labelling (PAL). This project developed guidance on the methodologies required for quantitative risk assessment and now aims to keep it as a living document by maintaining an active Community of Practice and updating the guidance as needed.

## Expert Group Members

### Academia

- **Marty Blom**, *TNO, NL*
- **René Crevel**, *René Crevel Consulting, UK*
- **Marjan van Ravenhorst**, *Allergenen Consultancy, NL*
- **Michael Walker**, *Queen's University Belfast, UK*

### Industry

- **Neil Buck**, *General Mills, CH*
- **Simon Flanagan**, *Mondelēz International, UK*

## Outputs

After the publication of the Practical Guidance on the Application of Food Allergen Quantitative Risk Assessment (QRA) in 2022, the Expert Group has been actively disseminating this document at various events and offering specialised training.

In 2023, the group launched a Community of Practice (CoP) offering a unique opportunity to connect with a global network. Currently counting 183 members, the CoP brings together diverse stakeholders from across the globe, facilitating rich exchanges on overcoming barriers and sharing best practices through discussions and multi-stakeholder workshops.

The group is now working to keep both the QRA guidance document and the COP alive, with plans to update the calculator and organise a new webinar.

**JUNE 2022**
Publication of the QRA guidance

**2023**
QRA trainings & launch of CoP

**TODAY**
Looking to update the QRA guidance

**2025-26**
Continued dissemination

# FOOD ALLERGEN ANALYTICS TASK FORCE

ENSURING FOOD SAFETY
WITH RELIABLE ALLERGEN TESTING

## Task Force Objectives

The Food Allergen Analytics Task Force aims to harmonise food allergen analysis by identifying, consolidating, and developing best practices. Its goals are also to effectively communicate and educate interested stakeholders about these derived best practices.

## Task Force Members

**Industry**

- **Miguel Arévalo**, *Hygiena, ES*
- **Federica Cattapan**, *Mérieux NutriSciences, IT*
- **Masayoshi Tomiki**, *Morinaga, JP*
- **Max Wolf**, *Neogen, US*
- **Ross Yarham**, *Chair, InBio, UK*

**Scientific advisor**

**Bert Popping**, *FOCOS, DE*

**ILSI Europe contact**

**Geraldine Borja,** *BE*
*gborja@ilsieurope.be*

**Task Force Fee:** 9.500 €

## Ongoing Activities

An expert group on the **harmonisation of analytical methods** for detecting food allergens and gluten, including those derived from alternative proteins, was recently launched. The group will develop a best practice document, organize a workshop and webinars to gather information, provide recommendations on method performance criteria, and support the development of reference and quality control materials. A literature review will assess current knowledge related to extraction procedures, antibody performance characteristics, reference and QC material development, and sources of inter- and intra-assay variability.
**Start: Q2 2025 - End: Q4 2026**

## In the Pipeline

The Task Force is also planning to expand its scope with the following activities:

- Developing **innovative solutions** for food allergen analysis by conducting gap analysis through engagement with stakeholders.
- Implement **allergen control** and incident-related testing to ensure safety and compliance.
- Monitor and address **emerging food allergens** through research and updated testing methods.

**The Task Force welcomes you and your ideas** to help shape this and other future activities further!

## Foreseen Participations to Events

**Rapid Methods Europe** - 8 to 10 June 2026 - Amsterdam, NL.

**Learn more about the Task Force on our website**

NEW

# FOOD ALLERGEN ANALYTICS EXPERT GROUP

## HARMONISATION OF ANALYTICAL METHODS FOR FOOD ALLERGEN DETECTION, REFERENCE MATERIALS AND QUALITY CONTROL MATERIALS

## Background and Objectives

The Expert Group aims to develop standardised analytical methods for detecting food allergens and gluten, including those derived from alternative proteins. It seeks to address the need for consistent and reliable testing methods, helping stakeholders in the food industry make informed decisions about allergen and gluten detection.

- Develop a best practice document for analytical methods.
- Establish a method performance criteria to ensure reliable and consistent testing.
- Enhance stakeholder communication to improve collaboration and information-sharing among stakeholders in the field.

## Expert Group Members

### Non Industry

- **Hiroshi Akiyama**, *Hoshi University, JP*
- **Daniela Bartsch**, *Chemisches und Veterinäruntersuchungsamt Münsterland-Emscher-Lippe, DE*
- **Clare Mills**, *Chair, University of Surrey, UK*
- **Bert Popping**, *FOCOS, DE*
- **Michael Walker**, *Queen's University Belfast, UK*

### Public Institutions

- **Patrick O'Mahony**, *Food Safety Authority of Ireland, IE*
- **Piotr Robouch**, *European Commission, BE*

### Industry

- **Miguel Arévalo**, *Hygiena, ES*
- **Max Bermingham**, *InBio, UK*
- **Federica Cattapan**, *Mérieux NutriSciences, IT*
- **Jasmine Lacis-Lee**, Vice-Chair, *Mérieux NutriSciences, AU*
- **Maria Oliver**, *InBio, UK*
- **Masayoshi Tomiki**, *Morinaga, JP*
- **Max Wolf**, *Neogen, US*

## Output

This activity will result in an Open Access peer-reviewed publication and a Black & White report (guidance document).

**APRIL 2025** Kick-off

**TODAY** Literature review

**Q1 2026** Workshop development

**Q2 2026** Workshop

**Q3 2026** Manuscripts development

**Q3-Q4 2026** Manuscripts submission & publication

# FOOD CONTAMINANTS TASK FORCE

IMPROVING SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE ON FOOD CONTAMINANTS TO ENSURE SAFER PRODUCTS

## Task Force Objectives

Food contaminants present a serious risk to consumer health. Enhancing our understanding of them is essential. The Task Force focuses on (1) advancing scientific knowledge on various contaminants, particularly assessing their impact on human health; (2) addressing research gaps in toxicity, exposure, and analytical aspects; and (3) reviewing mitigation measures and supporting risk management strategies.

## Task Force Members

### Academia

- **Deepti Salvi**, North Carolina State University, *US*
- **Annette Sansom**, Campden BRI, UK

### Industry

- **Neil Buck**, *Chair, General Mills, CH*
- **Michele Suman**, *Vice-chair, Barilla G&R Fratelli, IT*
- **Natalie Thatcher**, *Mondelēz International, UK*
- **Marta Baffigo,** *Cargill, BE*
- **Alan Wood**, *Premier Foods, UK*
- **Karsten Harms**, *Südzucker Group, DE*
- **Gloria Pellegrino**, *Luigi Lavazza, IT*
- **Si Wang**, *PepsiCo International, UK*
- **Lucia Donnini**, *Importaco, ES*
- **Mathilde Bergal**, *Danone, NL*
- **Ixchel Gilbert Sandoval**, *Arla Foods, DK*
- **Anja Andersen**, *Arla Foods, DK*
- **Agata Walczak**, *Soremartec, IT*

### Public Institutions

- **Raquel B. Gómez-Coca**, *National Research Council of Spain, ES*

**Task Force Fee:** 7.400 €

## Ongoing Activities

- An expert group on **risk-benefit assessment** explores the reasons for limited application of this methodology in food safety practices and seeks practical solutions to increase its utility for foods.
  Start: Sep 2021 - End: Nov 2025

- An expert group on the **prioritisation of natural toxins for risk management** action establishes a framework to prioritise natural toxins in foods following a risk-based approach. Based on the evidence and scale of risk to consumers, the framework will enable the differentiation between mycotoxins or phytotoxins where risk management action is both warranted and likely to be effective based on available evidence.
  Start: Nov 2022 - End: Apr 2025 (paper accepted)

- An expert group on **incident management** focuses on the development of a practical toolkit for the rapid risk assessment and communication of food safety incidents involving unexpected substances such as contaminants, residues, or ingredients. It covers the systematic evaluation of exposure, risk characterization, and uncertainty, using existing scientific guidance and stakeholder experience. The scope includes both the technical assessment and communication aspects, but excludes regulatory decision-making or enforcement processes.
  Start: Feb 2025 - End: Feb 2027

## In the Pipeline

The Task Force is currently developing two new activities:

- **Guidance on contaminant management** for Food Business Operators.
- Recalibrating risk level of **PFAS in food and drinking water** for proportionate & phased risk management.

Learn more about the Task Force on our website or contact **Konrad Korzeniowski** at kkorzeniowski@ilsieurope.be

# FOOD CONTAMINANTS EXPERT GROUP

## UPDATE ON RISK-BENEFIT ASSESSMENT OF FOODS: APPROACHES TO FACILITATE APPLICATION

### Background and Objectives

All foods contain chemical and biological impurities some of which may be viewed as contaminants depending on the definition used. Classical risk assessment does not reconcile the benefit to health of the food against the potential effects of the contaminants. A contaminant-centric view of a food can result in an incomplete understanding of the net health benefits of food by groups such as policy-makers. As such, methods for the **comparison between benefits and risks** have been developed, including the publication of guidance materials. Despite the availability of guidance, there have been a imited number of examples of **risk-benefit analysis** being used as an input for the **risk management of foods** by food safety agencies.

### Expert Group Members

#### Non Industry

- **Géraldine Boué**, *ONIRIS, FR*
- **Alan Boobis**, *Imperial College London, UK*
- **Riccardo Assunçao**, *University of Porto, PT*
- **Ana Catarina Carvalho**, *University of Porto, PT*
- **Lea Sletting Jakobsen**, *Technical University of Denmark, DK*
- **Hans Verhagen**, *Chair, Food Safety and Nutrition Consultancy, NL*
- **Taya Huang**, *Nanyang Technical University, SG*

#### Industry

- **Neil Buck**, *Vice-Chair, General Mills, CH*
- **Gloria Pellegrino**, *Luigi Lavazza, IT*
- **Michele Suman**, *Barilla G&R Fratelli, IT*
- **Natalie Thatcher**, *Mondelēz International, UK*
- **Sue O'Hagan**, *PepsiCo, UK*
- **Jossie Garthoff**, *Danone, NL*

### Output

This activity reviews the evolution and application of risk-benefit assessment since its infancy, and thereby understand:

- Why risk-benefit assessment has not been more widely **applied by food safety agencies** in Europe?
- What are the available **applications of RBA** since the publication of guidance and what are the lessons learned?
- Whether **existing guidance** can be amended to improve applicability?

The above learnings will be tested via a limited number of **worked examples** and summarized in a peer-reviewed publication.

**SEPT 2021**
Kick-off

**MAY 2024**
Manuscript development

**TODAY**
Manuscript review and submission

**DEC 2025**
Dissemination

# FOOD CONTAMINANTS EXPERT GROUP

## PRIORITIZATION OF NATURAL TOXINS FOR RISK MANAGEMENT ACTION

### Background and Objectives

In its simplest form, risk is the product of hazard and exposure (or dose). "Hazard-based" decision-making is based solely on hazard without any consideration of exposure. The development of mitigation strategies should prioritize mycotoxins that regularly occur at undesirable levels in commonly consumed commodities, where in both the toxicological profiles and effectiveness of mitigation are understood with a reasonable degree of certainty. The ultimate goal of **mycotoxin mitigation** is to prevent adverse health effects caused by foodborne exposure to mycotoxins while reserving nutritional and organoleptic quality of food. Based on the evidence and scale of risk to consumers, and the potential for risk mitigation. Through case-studies, this framework will also highlight potential knowledge gaps.

### Expert Group Members

#### Non Industry

- **Armando Venâncio**, *Center of biological engineering, University of Minho, PT*
- **Angela Mally**, *University of Wuerzburg, DE*
- **Angel Medina Vaya**, *Cranfield University, UK*
- **Elisabeth Varga**, *University of Vienna, AT*
- **Mohamed Fathi Abdallah**, *Ugent, BE*

#### Industry

- **Michele Suman**, Chair, *Barilla G&R Fratelli, IT*
- **Neil Buck**, Vice-Chair, *General Mills, CH*
- **Monica Molero**, *Importaco, ES*
- **Clare Hazel**, *Premier Foods, UK*
- **Maxence Oboeuf**, *Danone, FR*

### Output

This activity will establish a **framework for the prioritization of natural toxins** found in food following a **risk-based approach** (Decision Tree). Based on the evidence and scale of risk to consumers, and the potential for risk mitigation, the framework will enable the differentiation between mycotoxins or phytotoxins where risk management action is both warranted and likely to be effective based on available evidence.
Through case-studies, this framework will also highlight **potential knowledge gaps**.

**NOV 2022** Kick-off

**JULY 2025** Manuscript submission

**TODAY** Manuscript accepted, pending publication

**Q4 2025** Dissemination

# FOOD CONTAMINANTS EXPERT GROUP

NEW

## UNINTENTIONAL SUBSTANCES IN FOOD: RAPID RISK ASSESSMENT TO INFORM RISK MANAGEMENT

## Background and Objectives

Food 'incidents' occur when there is an unexpected presence of a substance within food that has been produced leading to potential safety concern, either because of regulatory non-compliance or the hazard associated with the substance. The toolkit will provide a systematic approach to hazard characterization, exposure assessment and risk characterization, discussing the degree of uncertainties and will be informed by existing scientific guidance and practical experience of the participants. Risk communication will also be addressed. The toolkit will provide a systematic approach to for risk analysis of incidents, and will be informed by existing scientific guidance and practical experience of the participants.

## Expert Group Members

### Academia

- **Alan Boobis**, *Chair*, *Imperial College London, UK*
- **Ivonne Rietjens**, *Wageningen University, NL*
- **Frances Widjaja**, *Wageningen University, NL*

### Public Sector

- **Eleonora Dupuoy**, *FAO, IT*

### Industry

- **Ixchel Gilbert Sandoval**, *Arla Foods, DK*
- **Neil Buck,** *General Mills, CH*
- **Mathilde Bergal**, *Danone, FR*
- **Natalie Thatcher**, *Mondelez, UK*

## Output

The output of this activity will be a **decision support toolkit** that will provide a staged approach to incident risk assessment.
The toolkit will include:

- Flowchart (map) to understand the stage of the incident, and provide tracking as the incident evolves.
- Format to capture the scenario that led to the incident.
- Format to capture the available data including the uncertainty associated with the data.
- Decision support to determine the appropriate assessment method(s) and guidelines for refining risk assessment with a focus on less than lifetime exposure (exposure being higher in a particular life-stage or due to a short-lived contamination incident)
- Format to report the outcome of the assessment, including uncertainty, and recommendations.

| JAN 2025 | Q3 2025 | TODAY | JANUARY 2027 | Q1 2027 - Q2 2027 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kick-off | Manuscript development | Manuscript development | Manuscript publication | Dissemination |

# MICROBIOLOGICAL FOOD SAFETY TASK FORCE

PROVIDING SCIENCE-BASED GUIDANCE ON MICROBIAL ISSUES FOR MORE EFFICIENT FOOD SAFETY SYSTEMS

## Task Force Objectives

The Task Force aims to facilitate the development of harmonised, science-based approaches to predict and prevent microbial risks. Those approaches may serve as decision-making support for regulators and the food industry. The Task Force will also try to investigate the reason why pathogens persist by detecting and typing methods, as well as reviewing control options available.

## Task Force Members

**Academia**

- **Marcel Zwietering**, *Vice-Chair, Wageningen University, NL*
- **Rob Limburn**, *Campden BRI, UK*

**Industry**

- **Anett Winkler**, *Chair, Cargill, DE*
- **Catherine Pelletier,** *Institut Mérieux (BioMérieux Industry), FR*
- **Polly Courtney**, *General Mills, US*
- **Elissavet Gkogka**, *Arla Foods, DK*
- **Ellen Wemmenhove**, *Arla Foods, DK*
- **Mariem Ellouze**, *Soremartec, IT*

**Public Institutions**

- **Ghazal Nemati**, *Agroscope, CH*

**ILSI Europe contact**

- **Konrad Korzeniowski**, *BE*
  *kkorzeniowski@ilsieurope.be*

**Task Force Fee:** 9.950 €

## Ongoing Activities

- An Expert group on microbiological risk-based decision tool for the use of **dried spices, herbs,vegetables or fruits in foods** identifies the microbiological hazards associated with this group of dried ingredients. The group is providing a review of the current state of knowledge regarding the incidence and prevalence of foodborne pathogens in dried spices, herbs vegetables and fruits, and how they get contaminated.
  Start: May 2022 - End: Oct 2025

- An Expert group on the **impact of sampling procedures on the performances of microbiological methods** was recently kicked-off. Taking high numbers of samples results in high workload for laboratories. Therefore, compositing (or pooling) samples is often used. Yet the implications of different pooling methods are often poorly understood. Can pooling improve sampling calculations and risk management? This initiative will detail the advantages and disadvantages – as well as consequences in terms of results– of different pooling approaches.
  Start: November 2024 - End: November 2026

## In the Pipeline

- **When are *bacilli* and *clostridia* a microbial food safety issue?** The aim of this activity is to prepare a guidance document on which foods are of concern for spore forming microrogansims, and why.
  Expected kick-off: Q4 2025

**Learn more about the Task Force on our website**

# MICROBIOLOGICAL FOOD SAFETY EXPERT GROUP

## MICROBIOLOGICAL RISK-BASED DECISION TOOL FOR USE OF **DRIED SPICES AND HERBS, DRIED VEGETABLES, AND DRIED FRUITS** IN FOODS

## Background and Objectives

The objective of this Expert Group is to **identify the microbiological hazards** associated with dried spices, herbs, vegetables, and fruits. Experts are providing a review of the current state of knowledge regarding the incidence and prevalence of foodborne pathogens in dried spices, vegetables, and fruits and how they get contaminated.

## Expert Group Members

### Academia

- **Heidy Den Besten**, *Chair, Wageningen University and Research*
- **Linda Harris**, *Co-chair, University of California – Davis, US*
- **Francois Bourdichon**, *Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, IT; SODIAAL, FR*
- **Rob Limburn**, *Campden BRI, UK*
- **Andreja Rajkovic**, *University of Ghent, BE*
- **Jennifer Acuff**, *University of Arkansas, US*

### Industry

- **Polly Courtney**, *Vice-chair, General Mills, US*
- **Anett Winkler**, *Cargill, DE*

## Output

This activity will result in a **practical risk-based decision tool** for the use of dried spices, herbs, vegetables, and fruits for food safety and research & development professionals, including food industry examples.

**MAY 2022**
Kick-off

**TODAY**
Manuscript review and submission

**DEC 2025**
Dissemination

# MICROBIOLOGICAL FOOD SAFETY EXPERT GROUP

## THE IMPACT OF SAMPLING PROCEDURES ON THE PERFORMANCE OF MICROBIOLOGICAL METHODS

## Background and Objectives

This activity will critically examine the **impact of sample compositing (pooling) on microbiological risk management** in the food industry. Exploring various sampling plans and statistical considerations, it will address the challenges laboratories face in analysing multiple food samples. The study aims to elucidate the advantages, disadvantages, and consequences of different compositing techniques on the detection of pathogens, emphasizing the need for rigorous validations.

## Expert Group Members

### Academia

- **Marcel Zwietering**, *Chair*, *Wageningen University, NL*
- **Alvin Lee**, *Illinois Institute of Technology, US*
- **Antonio Valero**, *Universidad de Cordoba, ES*
- **Han Joosten**, *Wageningen University (retired), NL*
- **Francis Butler**, *UCD Ireland, IR*

### Industry

- **Polly Courtney**, *General Mills, US*
- **Anett Winkler**, Vice-Chair, *Cargill, DE*
- **Ellen Wemmenhove**, *Arla Foods, DK*
- **Chris Baylis**, *Mondelez International, UK*

## Output

The activity is meant to **clarify the effect pooling will have on results** and thereby showing capabilities, restrictions and limitations of pooling approaches in conjunction with risk management.

**NOV 2024**
Kick-off

**TODAY**
Manuscript development

**DEC 2025**
Manuscript draft

**MAY 2026**
Manuscript submission

**AUG 2026**
Manuscript publication and dissemination

# MICROPLASTICS INITIATIVE

STIMULATING TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH AND IMPROVING THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE IMPACT OF MICROPLASTICS ON HUMAN HEALTH

## Task Force Objectives

The Microplastics Initiative aims to be a leading multidisciplinary community, advancing scientific knowledge in micro- and nanoplastics. Our expert panel focuses on consolidating current methods in dietary microplastics analysis, offering suggestions to harmonize approaches and address health concerns related to their impact on consumer health.

## Task Force Members

**Non-industry**

- **Todd Guin**, *TG Environmental Research*
- **Alan Boobis**, *Imperial College London, UK*
- **Barbara Zottl**, *OFI, AT*

**Industry**

- **Davide Marchesi**, *TetraPak*
- **Robert Ellis-Hutchings**, *Dow*
- **Biljana Dimcic**, *AB-InBev*
- **Michele Suman**, *Barilla*
- **Marinella Vitulli,** *Food Contact Centre*

**ILSI Europe contact**

- **Ruchi Shah**, *BE*
  *rshah@ilsieurope.be*

**Task Force Fee:** 9.100 €

## Ongoing Activities

- The Microplastics Initiative has established a **Community of Practice** (CoP) where experts from diverse disciplines come together to tackle the challenges and drive cutting-edge research on microplastics and nanoplastics.

  A webinar series and discussions in the CoP are structured around four areas of focus: (1) Analytics, (2) Exposure, (3) Biomonitoring, and (4) Health impacts.

  Request to join at: https://bit.ly/ilsiMiPCoP

## Upcoming Activities

- A workshop on **Analytical methods for microplastics (MiP) in food** will gather experts to discuss the current state of the art in MiP analytics and brainstorm on the research needs and priorities in the field. The workshop will lead to a New Activity Proposal (NAP) and a scientific output. *This networking opportunity is an exclusivity for members of the CoP.*
  Workshop date: 21st January 2026

## Privileges of Task Force members

- Get a say on the next CoP activities and webinars topics.
- Join the organising committees of the Initative workshops and events.
- Co-author the scientific publications resulting from the Initiative activities with other experts in the field.

**Learn more about the MiP Initiative on our website**

# MICROPLASTICS WORKSHOP

NEW

## ANALYTICAL METHODS FOR MICROPLASTICS IN FOOD

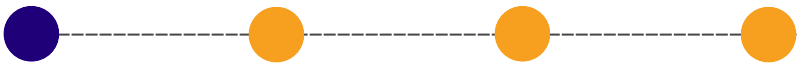
### Background and Objectives

A workshop on **Analytical Methods for Microplastics (MiP) in Food** will gather experts to discuss the current state of the art in MiP analytics and brainstorm on the research needs and priorities in the field of analytical methodologies.

- In a panel session, experts will exchange insights on the latest scientific and methodological developments.
- In breakout sessions, participants will then engage in deeper discussions and collaboration on key analytical challenges.
- The day will conclude with a summary session, bringing together the main takeaways and setting the tone for continued dialogue.

### Output

The workshop will lead to a New Activity Proposal (NAP) and a scientific output.



**TODAY**
Workshop under development

**Q1 2026**
Workshop

**Q2 2026**
New Activity Proposal development

**Q4 2026**
Expected kick-off of new activity

# NEW APPROACH METHODOLOGIES TASK FORCE

JOINING FORCES FOR THE APPLICATION OF NEW APPROACH METHODOLOGIES (NAM) IN FOOD SCIENCE

## Task Force Objectives

This unique and cross-cutting Task Force aims to:

- Review recently developed methods and build consensus on what is needed to reduce animal testing in food and beverage development;
- Provide evidence-based insights and evaluate potential strategies and approaches that could ultimately replace animal testing in food science;
- Communicate and disseminate opportunities for alternatives with the food and drink sector.

## Task Force Members

**Academia**

- **Cyrille Krul**, *University of Applied Sciences of Utrecht, NL*

**Industry**

- **Johanneke van der Harst,** *Danone Nutricia Research, NL*
- **Lonneke Wilms**, *dsm-firmenich, CH*

**ILSI Europe contact**

- **Geraldine Borja**, *BE*
  *gborja@ilsieurope.be*

**Task Force Fee:** 9.600 €

**Learn more about the Task Force on our website**

## Background

There is growing scientific, political and societal pressure to move away from animal testing. The **EFSA Roadmap for Action on NAMs** and the **UK FSA's NAMs Roadmap** provide regulatory frameworks encouraging this shift.
For the food sector, NAMs provide faster, cost-effective, and human-relevant data. These methods can be better suited for modern risk assessment than animal-based approaches, supporting both innovation and ethical standards.

## Ongoing Activities

- An expert group is finalising an overview of the practical and regulatory challenges in applying more human-relevant systems. The report will showcase the **potential of vital human tissues in food and health science**, highlight current gaps, and propose actionable solutions to advance human-based research in the sector.
  **Start: Q3 2021 - End: Q1 2026**

## In the Pipeline

**The NAMs Task Force welcomes you and your ideas** to shape its future activities, including:

- **Mapping the stakeholders' landscape** relevant to NAMs in the Food and Beverage sector.
- **Facilitating multistakeholder consensus** on international principles and criteria to adopt NAMs. The principles would outline the importance of e.g. technical performance criteria and human biological relevance criteria.
- **Developing a code of conduct and best practice** for facilitating data sharing between stakeholder groups.
- **Developing case studies** to demonstrate how NAMs can be applied in food safety assessment. The case studies would rely on real-world data to evaluate the scientific robustness, regulatory applicability, human relevance and cost-effectiveness of NAMs. They will also compare NAMs with existing approaches to identify differences in outcomes and highlight any gaps that need to be addressed to support wider implementation in the food sector.

# NEW APPROACH METHODOLOGIES EXPERT GROUP

## WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES TO USE **VITAL HUMAN MATERIAL** AS AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO MOVE TOWARDS HUMAN-BASED SCIENCE AND AVOID ANIMAL RESEARCH & TESTING?

## Background and Objectives

The translational value from animal to human physiology is questioned. The use of human material (e.g. tissues) offers a sensible opportunity for better extrapolation of safety and efficacy outcomes to humans. But several barriers and constraints exist to their feasibility and acceptance. This activity aims to lead the discussion by proposing concrete actions to overcome these challenges and promote the use of human vital tissues to improve translational research. Overall, this project will contribute to the **transition from animal-based to human-based safety evaluation** in the food, nutrition, and beverage sector.

## Expert Group Members

### Academia

- **Emma Arnesdotter**, *Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology, LU*
- **Maame Ekua Manful**, *Technological University Dublin, IE*
- **Cyrille Krul**, *Chair, University of Utrecht, NL*
- **Gerry Wagenaar**, *ETB-BISLIFE, NL*

### Industry

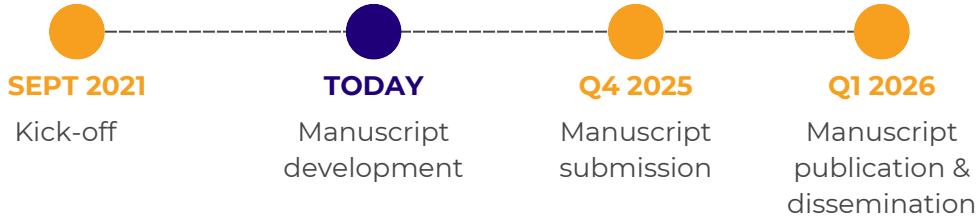
- **Johanneke van der Harst**, *Danone Nutricia Research, NL*

### Public Sector

- **Katherina Sewald**, *Fraunhofer ITEM, DE*

## Output

This activity will set-up of a roadmap for a network/infrastructure in Europe to make **human vital tissue** available for **biomedical research** (academia, public sector, and industry), serving as an example to follow. An important output of this activity will be a peer-reviewed publication setting out the barriers and constraints while highlighting gaps and needs to encourage/promote the use of human tissues as an alternative to animal testing.



# PACKAGING MATERIALS TASK FORCE

ADDRESSING THE MAIN CHALLENGES IN THE SAFETY AND QUALITY OF FOOD CONTACT MATERIALS

## Task Force Objectives

For more than 30 years, the Packaging Material Task Force has strived to understand the challenges to ensure safe food contact materials for food consumption by: (1) Scientifically evaluating food contact materials safety and their interactions with food to ensure consumers' safety at minimal environmental impact; (2) Addressing recent improvements in food production and distribution, leading to an increased sophistication of food packaging.

## Task Force Members

**Non-industry**

- **Cristina Nerin**, *Co-Chair, Universidad de Zaragoza, ES*
- **Thomas Gude**, *ETH Zurich, CH; Thomas Gude GmbH, CH*
- **Christian Kirchnawy**, *OFI, AT*

**Industry**

- **Charlene Lacourt**, *Chair, Danone Nutricia Research, FR*
- **Sami Hamdi**, *Mondelēz International, UK*
- **Peter Oldring**, *Sherwin Williams, UK*
- **Bastian Knaup**, *Tetra Pak, DE*
- **Susanne Kunda**, *Südzucker Group, DE*
- **Sigrid Gerold**, *Mayr-Melnhoff Karton, AT*
- **Laurence Gijs**, *Dow Europe, BE*
- **Si Wang**, *PepsiCo, UK*
- **Tina Richter**, *Swiss Quality Testing Services, CH*
- **Marinella Vittuli**, *Food Contact Center SRL, IT*
- **Biljana Dimcic**, *AB InBev, BE*
- **Luca La Gamba**, *Soremartec, IT*

**Task Force Fee:** 8.000 €

## Ongoing Activities

- The Task Force is organising a workshop to reflect on the **safety assessment of recycling processes for polyolefins (PO) and polystyrene (PS)**. The aim is to determine the most appropriate evaluation criteria for the safety of these materials. These requirements would help ensure all the potential safety risks are taken into account and controlled with a holistic approach from feedstock to final articles reaching the consumer in compliance with the high standards of safety expected by EFSA.
  **Workshop date: 21-22 Oct 2025**

## In the Pipeline

The **International Symposium on Food Packaging** is the flagship event of the Packaging Materials Task Force. The next edition is planned for Spring 2028.

Currently, the Task Force is also considering:

- an activity focused on the **recyclability of plastic packaging** developed based on the outcomes of the workshop of Oct 2025.
- an activity on **functional barriers** safety, risk assessment and management

The Task Force welcomes you and your ideas to shape its future activities!

## Foreseen participation to Events

- **FoodFakty** Summit Food of Tomorrow, 5-6 Nov 2025, Łódź, Poland
- **9th International Symposium on Food Packaging**, Spring 2028, location TBC.

Learn more about the Task Force on our website or contact **Konrad Korzeniowski** at kkorzeniowski@ilsieurope.be

# RISK ANALYSIS FOR FOOD SAFETY TASK FORCE

FACILITATING FOOD SAFETY DECISION MAKING

## Task Force Objectives

Food chains are evolving under the pressure of climate change and other global transformations. Decision-making in such a context cannot be based on excessive precautionary measures, currently hard-wired in risk assessment methods.

This Task Force will challenge established norms in risk analysis by uniting risk assessment and risk communication disciplines. Expert Groups will focus on designing effective risk assessment methods, and deepening the understanding of how food safety professionals perceive, understand and accept risk assessments.

## Task Force Members

**Non-industry**

- TBD

**Industry**

- **Neil Buck**, *General Mills, CH*
- **Keng Ngee Teoh**, *Ajinomoto, FR*
- **Evangelia Mavromichali**, *Abott Nutrition, BE*

**ILSI Europe contact**

- **Ruchi Shah**, *BE*
  *rshah@ilsieurope.be*

**Task Force Fee:** 9.500 €

## Background

Substances of potential safety concern are managed via the disciplines of Risk Assessment, Risk Communication and Risk Management which are traditionally distinct. As substances are reviewed within each of these disciplines they may be managed in isolation with limited consideration of the diet. Overarching paradigms such as the 'precautionary principle' have been developed to manage scientific uncertainty but do not appear to be applied with consistent logic. Risk Analysis encompasses all of these elements, it describes their interrelationship. In the modern era the pressing need to encompass sustainability and security concerns within decisions on how food chains are managed, has made stark the need for tools that enable decision-making that maximizes societal benefit via a multi-dimensional approach. This Task Force will explore the science of Risk Analysis including such tools and their application.

## Ongoing Activity

- **Case Studies of Food Safety Incidents:** the practice of food safety risk analysis has evolved over time, it is helpful to review its application to identify successes, challenges and opportunities for improvement. Food safety incidents are when there is a safety-related concern with a food that is at the consumer market. The evolution and management of such incidents may be a useful lens through which to examine contemporary practices in Risk Analysis.
  **Start: June 2025 - End: Sept 2026**

## The Task Force is listening to your ideas!

Join to drive the Task Force research agenda and shape its future activities.

**Learn more about the Task Force on our website**

# RISK ANALYSIS FOR FOOD SAFETY EXPERT GROUP

NEW

## THE USE OF CASE STUDIES OF **FOOD SAFETY INCIDENTS** TO EXPLORE HOW RISK ANALYSIS IS APPLIED WITHIN THE EU

## Background and Objectives

The RAFS Task Force has commissionned a group of experts to **review recent cases of food safety incidents** and thereby publish a narrative review on 'The use of Case Studies of Food Safety Incidents to Explore how Risk Analysis is Applied within the EU'. We anticipate it will include, if applicable, an evaluation of how the 'Precautionary Principle' is interpreted in practice over the timeline of an incident as it evolves and as subsequent regulation develops.

Case studies will be selected to be representative of different situations, for example when there was non-compliance with existing regulatory provisions such as with **ethylene oxide residues** in various ingredients, **fipronil residues in eggs**, or where there have been emerging food safety concerns such as **microplastics** in foods, or other case studies such as **titanium oxide**, **bisphenol A** in food contact materials, **folic acid fortification**, and **food dyes.**

To get a wider stakeholder perspective on these cases and incidents, the expert group will host case focused virtual roundtable discussions that will focus on Why - What - How of risk assessment, risk management and risk communication.

## Expert Group Members

### Non Industry

- **Hans Verhagen**, *Food Safety and Nutrition Consultancy, NL*
- **Alan Boobis**, *Imperial College London, UK*
- **Alie De Boer**, *Chair, Maastricht University, NL*
- **Lynn Frewer**, *Newcastle University, UK*
- **Andy Jin**, *University of Portsmouth, UK*

### Industry

- **Neil Buck**, *General Mills, CH*
- **Teoh KengNgee**, *Ajinomoto, FR*
- **Evangelia Mavromichali**, *Abott Nutrition, BE*

## Output

The activity will result in the publication of a narrative review evaluating the implementation of risk analysis during past food safety incidents in Europe, including subsequent regulatory developments. The review will focus on the logic of risk-based decision-making, how benefit to consumers and wider society was achieved, and where there may be opportunities for further developing the approach to risk analysis.

| JUNE 2025 | TODAY | DEC 2025 | JAN 2026 | APRIL 2026 | SEPT 2026 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kick-off | Organisation of multistakeholder roundtables | Review of different approaches | Manuscript outline | Manuscript submission | Publication & dissemination |

# THRESHOLD OF TOXICOLOGICAL CONCERN TASK FORCE

EXPANDING THE USE OF A SCIENCE-BASED TOOL FOR TOXICOLOGICAL HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT

## Task Force Objectives

- Drive acceptance of the Threshold of Toxicological Concern (TTC) concept by increasing confidence in its scientific basis.
- Describe the sources of uncertainty within the TTC concept in comparison to animal-data based hazard characterization.
- Develop more specific approaches for assessment of data-poor mixtures with the TTC concept but also beyond.
- Foster discussion of differences in regulatory implementations of TTC across regions to increase understanding and reduce divergence.

## Task Force Members

**Academia**

- **Alan Boobis**, *Co-Chair*
  *Imperial College London, UK*

**Industry**

- **Pierre-Jacques Ferret**, *Pierre Fabre Dermo-Cosmétique, FR*
- **Heli Miriam Hollnagel**, Chair
  *Dow Europe, CH*
- **Stefan Kaiser**, dsm-*firmenich, CH*
- **Severin Mueller**, *Givaudan International, CH*

**ILSI Europe contact**

- **Geraldine Borja**, *BE*
  *gborja@ilsieurope.be*

**Task Force Fee:** 6.000 €

## Ongoing Activities

- An Expert Group aims to strengthen the scientific foundation for **combined toxicity screening assessment using TTC thresholds**. There is a growing need for screening and prioritisation of risk assessment on combinations of compounds in regulatory contexts involving poorly characterised compounds at low exposure levels. These compounds might be metabolites/impurities of pesticides, chemicals, or biocides, as well as food contact material migrants, packaging materials, or process-related contaminants.
  **Start: Jul 2021 - End: Dec 2025**

- Another Expert Group examines how much **uncertainty** may be associated with the application of the TTC approach compared to a substance-specific **risk assessment**. The review will aid in the development of knowledge and understanding for different stakeholders about the sources of uncertainty. Such understanding will enable the appropriate communication of uncertainty and also allow the design of future activities to minimize potential additional uncertainties.
  **Start: Jan 2017 - End: Jul 2025**

## In the Pipeline

- The Task Force is currently developing a new activity to map the different **regulatory approaches of the TTC concept.** This activity will include a workshop (tentative for 2027) aiming at gathering regulatory perspectives about how TTC is seen and applied across Europe, and will result in a peer-reviewed publication, to be submitted after the workshop.
  Expected kick-off: Q4 2025

## Foreseen Participations to Events

- **EUROTOX 2026**

**Learn more about the Task Force on our website**

# THRESHOLD OF TOXICOLOGICAL CONCERN EXPERT GROUP

## BUILDING CUMULATIVE ASSESSMENT GROUPS FOR **COMBINED EXPOSURE RISK ASSESSMENT** BASED ON TTC THRESHOLDS OR READ-ACROSS

## Background and Objectives

In 2024, the expert group published an initial manuscript investigating discrepancies in how the Cramer classification scheme is applied, examining the underlying causes and raising awareness among users implementing or adapting the rule set. Building on that work, the group is now developing a second manuscript focused on identifying the most suitable tools for grouping mixtures based on structural and toxicological similarity. Using case studies of well-characterized mixtures, they are evaluating tools such as TIMES, Leadscope, the OECD QSAR Toolbox, and others to determine which are best suited for this purpose.

## Expert Group Members

### Academia

- **Alan Boobis**, *Imperial College London, UK*
- **James Firman**, *Liverpool John Moores University, UK*
- **David Lovell**, *St. George's University of London, UK*
- **Angelo Moretto**, *Universita degli Studi di Padova, IT*

### Public Institutions

- **Szabina Stice**, *Chair, Food and Drug Administration, US*

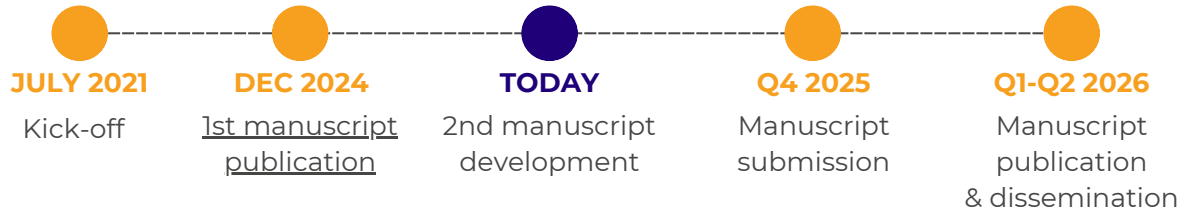
### Industry

- **Heli Miriam Hollnagel**, *Dow Europe, CH*
- **Stefan Kaiser**, dsm-*firmenich, CH*
- **Sanjeeva Wijeyesakere**, *Dow Chemical Company, US*
- **Florian Schmidt**, *Givaudan International, CH*

## Output

- A first manuscript (Firman et al., *Evaluating the consistency of judgments derived through both in silico and expert application of the Cramer classification scheme)* was published in Food and Chemical Toxicology in 2024.

- The activity will result in a second Open Access peer-reviewed publication to assess the most suitable tools for grouping mixtures based on their structural and toxicological similarity.



# THRESHOLD OF TOXICOLOGICAL CONCERN EXPERT GROUP

## UNCERTAINTY IN HAZARD ASSESSMENT:
## A COMPARISON OF TTC VERSUS CHEMICAL-SPECIFIC APPROACHES

## Background and Objectives

The probabilistic approach using the **genotoxicity** and **non-cancer** (Cramer class) Thresholds of Toxicological Concern (TTC) is often perceived as accepting a higher risk than traditional risk assessments. However, robust scientific activities to describe the sources of uncertainty within the TTC approach have not yet been conducted or published.

## Expert Group Members

### Academia

- **Alan Boobis**, *Imperial College London, UK*
- **Harrie Buist**, *Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO), NL*
- **Sanket Gadhia**, *Safebridge Consultants, US*
- **David Lovell**, *St George's University of London, UK*

### Industry

- **Heli Miriam Hollnagel**, *Chair, Dow Europe, CH*
- **Phillip Bellion**, *Boehringer-Ingelheim, DE*

### Public Institutions

- **Andrew Worth**, *European Commission - Joint Research Centre, IT*

## Output

The Expert Group examines how much uncertainty may be associated with the application of the TTC approach, compared to a substance-specific risk assessment. The group expects to produce two reviews: an initial focus on a **qualitative description and ranking** of the identified sources of uncertainty, followed by a subsequent **quantitative assessment** of the remaining quantifiable uncertainties.

**MAY 2017** Kick-off

**TODAY** Manuscript revision

**Q4 2025** Manuscript submission

**Q1 2026** Dissemination

# NUTRITION
## TASK FORCES
## & EXPERT GROUPS


# DIETARY CARBOHYDRATES TASK FORCE

UNDERSTANDING THE LINKS BETWEEN CARBOHYDRATES AND HEALTH

## Task Force Objectives

The Task Force focuses on understanding the link between carbohydrates and public health, particularly regarding glycaemic control and the role of dietary fibres. To do so, identifying the types and quantities of carbohydrates that should be consumed to optimise health is key.

## Task Force Members

**Academia**

- **Ellen Blaak**, *University of Maastricht, NL*
- **Julie-Anne Nazare**, *University of Lyon, FR*

**Industry**

- **Suzane Leser**, *Chair, Cargill, BE*
- **Stephan Theis**, *Vice-Chair, Südzucker Group, DE*
- **Sophie Vinoy**, *Mondelēz International, FR*
- **Jose Maria Lopez-Pedrosa**, *Abbott Nutrition, ES*
- **Veerle Dam**, *Sensus, NL*
- **Valeria Deon**, *Barilla, IT*
- **Johanna Maukonen**, *IFF, FI*
- **Janet Menzio**, *Lavazza, IT*

**ILSI Europe contact**

- **Ching-Yu Chang**, *BE*
  *cchang@ilsieurope.be*

**Task Force Fee:** 8.900 €

## Ongoing Activities

- The Expert Group on **Carbohydrate and Protein intake interaction during aging** aims to review and publish evidence on possible influences of the type of carbohydrates (digestible and non-digestible) and protein ingestion on post-prandial metabolism at acute and medium to long term effect.
  **Start: Q2 2023 - End: Q4 2025**

- The Expert Group on **Precision nutrition** aims to address precision nutrition in a narrative review exploring its definition, approach, translation into practice, and future perspectives. Increasing evidence suggests that a one-size-fits-all approach is ineffective, and that personalised nutrition could help reverse the rising prevalence of chronic metabolic diseases. The expert group will have a physical workshop in Q4 2025 to discuss the translation of precision nutrition into primary prevention and relevant considerations.
  **Start: Q2 2024 - End: Q2 2026**

## In the Pipeline

The Task Force is considering developing the following new activities:

- Evidence review on the health impact of carbohydrates from **plant-based diets**.
- Evidence review on **carbohydrates & mental health**.

The Task Force will hold a series of working sessions to identify emerging trends in the field, define its scope, and develop a **strategic roadmap** to be completed by Q2 2026.

**Learn more about the Task Force on our website**


# DIETARY CARBOHYDRATES EXPERT GROUP

## CARBOHYDRATE AND PROTEIN INTAKE INTERACTION DURING AGEING

## Background and Objectives

This activity aims to review and publish evidence on possible **influences of the type of carbohydrates** (digestible and non digestible) **co-ingested with proteins** on post-prandial metabolism at acute (within a day) and medium to long term effect (several days to months) :

- The effect of proteins on carbohydrate metabolism and blood glucose homeostasis
- The effect of carbohydrates on muscle protein synthesis and breakdown and muscle mass

## Expert Group Members

### Academia

- **Luc van Loon**, *University of Maastricht, NL*
- **Lex Verdijk**, *University of Maastricht, NL*
- **Julie-Anne Nazare**, *Claude Bernard University Lyon 1, FR*
- **Lisette de Groot,** *Wageningen University, NL*

Interns:

- **Nuria Alegre Hospitaler**, *Wageningen University, NL*
- **Silvia Casagranda** , *Wageningen University, NL*
- **Megumi Sakanishi**, *Wageningen University, NL*

### Industry

- **Jose Maria Lopez-Pedrosa**, *Abbott Nutrition, ES*
- **Sophie Vinoy**, *Mondelēz International, FR*
- **Suzane Leser**, *Cargill, BE*

## Output

The resulting **scientific publication** may be applied in selecting carbohydrates and proteins to better adapt the protein & carbohydrates quality to target a healthier profile of foods. It may help to:

- **Optimize the mix of carbohydrates and proteins** to minimize the potential deleterious effects of some carbohydrate on health (i.e. potentially limiting exacerbation of glycemic excursions)
- **Compensate for poorer quality or intakes/utilisation of proteins** (e.g. plant-based diets, ageing populations), and also highlighting research gaps.

**Q1 2023**
Kick-off

**Q2 2025**
Final research focus definition

**TODAY**
Manuscript first draft

**Q4 2025**
Manuscript submission


# DIETARY CARBOHYDRATES EXPERT GROUP

## PRECISION NUTRITION TO PREVENT CHRONIC METABOLIC DISEASES

## Background and Objectives

There is increasing evidence that one size does not fit all and that **personalised nutrition** and lifestyle approaches may help in **reversing the increasing prevalence of chronic metabolic diseases**.
The activity will address the following aspects of personalised nutrition: definition, approach, translation into prevention practice and perspectives.

## Expert Group Members

### Academia

- **Ellen Blaak**, *Maastricht University, NL*
- **Helen Roche**, *University College Dublin, IR*
- **Sinéad Mullin**, *University College Dublin, IR*
- **Emanuel Canfora**, *Maastricht University, NL*
- **Art Muijsenberg**, *Maastricht University, NL*
- **Nathalie Delzenne**, *UCLouvain, BE*
- **Laetitia Lengele**, *UCLouvain, BE*

### Industry

- **Yoghatama Cindya Zanzer**, *Südzucker Group, DE*
- **Suzane Leser**, *Cargill, BE*
- **Jose Maria Lopez**, Abott, ES
- **Menzio Janet**, *Lavazza, IT*
- **Milena Rundle**, *Mondelēz International, FR*
- **Johanna Maukonen**, *IFF, FI*

## Output

The expert group will address objectives using a systematic approach and finalize the **scientific review** by organizing **a physical workshop** to discuss perspectives and include insights from the workshop in the review.

It aims to provide guidance for healthcare professionals, health authorities, and the food industry on how to effectively implement and utilize precision nutrition in the context of various factors such as sleep, physical activity, socioeconomic status, and psychosocial factors.

**Q2 2024**
Kick-off

**Q3 2024**
Scope definition

**TODAY**
Final research scope definition & workshop preparation

**Q4 2025**
Workshop & manuscript first draft

**Q2 2026**
Manuscript submission

# EARLY NUTRITION AND LONG-TERM HEALTH TASK FORCE

## Task Force Objectives

The Task Force aims at providing scientific evidence to support guidelines for maternal and infant nutrition to ensure life-time optimal health. It also identifies risk factors for obesity and other health consequences at the earliest stages of life.

## Task Force Members

**Academia**

- **Susan Ozanne**, *University of Cambridge, UK*

**Industry**

- **Janna van Diepen**, *Chair, RB Mead Johnson, NL*
- **Marieke Abrahamse-Berkeveld**, vice-chair, *Danone Nutricia Research, NL*
- **Euridice Castaneda Gutierrez,** *H&H, CH*
- **Nils Billecke**, *Cargill, BE*
- **Karen Knipping**, *Ausnutria, NL*
- **Elena Oliveros**, *Abbott Nutrition, ES*
- **Carolien van Loo-Bouwman**, *Yili Innovation Centre Europe, NL*
- **Marco Turini**, dsm-*firmenich , CH*

**Public Institutions**

- **Patricia Iozzo**, *Italian National Research Council, IT*

**ILSI Europe contact**

- **Ching-Yu Chang**, *BE*
  *cchang@ilsieurope.be*

**Task Force Fee:** 9.900 €

**Learn more about the Task Force on our website**

WHY NUTRITION IN EARLY LIFE MATTERS?

## Ongoing Activities

- The Expert Group on **Early biomarkers** for prediction of metabolic health aims to review biomarkers in early life that could be used to predict development of childhood obesity and metabolic health. This prediction may drive knowledge of personalised nutrition.
  **Start: Q2 2021 | End: Q4 2025** *(accepted)*

- The Expert Group on **Lipid quality in early life nutrition** aims to generate an overview of the dietary lipid quality in the first year of life and its relations with health benefits for consumers.
  **Start: Q3 2022 | End: Q4 2025** *(submitted)*

- The Expert Group on **Plant-based proteins for infants** aims to evaluate the nutritional quality of plant protein-based infant formula for term-born infants (< 1 years old). The group is organising a physical workshop with three sessions: Source, Processing, and Safety; Nutrition Quality and Health Impact; and Sustainability. A proceeding will be published.
  **Start: Q4 2023 | End: Q4 2025** *(submitted)*

## Upcoming Activities

- An Expert group on **postbiotics for early life nutrition** aims to explore the emerging role of postbiotics in infant nutrition through a focused, workshop-style debate involving experts in microbiota, pediatrics, and nutritional science. This initiative will identify key challenges, assess knowledge gaps, and develop recommendations to guide future research and applications. The outcomes will be published to support evidence-based guidance in infant and early childhood health. *This is a joint activity with the Probiotics Task Force.* **Start: Q4 2025 | End: Q2 2027**

## In the Pipeline

The Task Force considers developing new activities on:

- **Gut-brain-axis,** early microbiome development and mental health later in life.
- **Vegan diets for children**.
- **Countries nutritional requirements for weaning food** (1-3 years) and young child formula.

# EARLY NUTRITION AND LONG-TERM HEALTH EXPERT GROUP

## EARLY BIOMARKERS FOR PREDICTION OF METABOLIC HEALTH

## Background and Objectives

The aim of the activity is to review **biomarkers in early life** that could be used to predict **development of childhood obesity and metabolic health**. The activity will focus on both invasive and non-invasive perinatal and postnatal biomarkers.

## Expert Group Members

### Academia

- **Romy Gaillard**, *Chair, Erasmus University Rotterdam, NL*
- **Angel Gil**, *University of Granada, ES*
- **Arwen Kamphuis**, *Erasmus University Rotterdam, NL*
- **Marco Brandimonte-Hernández**, *University of Granada, ES*
- **Francisco Javier Ruiz Ojeda**, *University of Granada, ES*

### Industry

- **Janna Van Diepen**, *Vice chair, RB Mead Johnson, NL*
- **Marieke Abrahamse**, *Danone Nutricia Research, NL*
- **Karen Knipping**, *Ausnutria, NL*
- **Carolien van Loo-Bouwman**, *Chair, Yili Innovation Centre Europe, NL*

### Public Institutions

- **Patricia Iozzo**, Italian National Research Council, IT
- **Maria Carmen Collado**, Spanish National Research Council, ES
- **Eduard Flores**, *Institute of Agrochemistry and Food Technology, ES*

## Output

Recent findings in the development of biomarkers for early life prediction of metabolic health could be used to guide **risk prediction and stratification**. This prediction may drive development and knowledge of **personalised (infant) nutrition** to reduce the risk of childhood obesity.

Researchers should become aware of the urgency to develop and validate new predictive biomarkers that are both easily detectable and responsive to nutritional interventions.

**MAY 2021**
Kick-off

**Q2 2024**
Manuscript submission

**TODAY**
Manuscript accepted, publication pending

**Q4 2025**
Publication and dissemination

# EARLY NUTRITION AND LONG-TERM HEALTH EXPERT GROUP

## LIPID QUALITY IN EARLY LIFE NUTRITION

### Background and Objectives

The activity aims to generate an overview of the fatty acid (FA) quality composition consumption (by means of from all dietary sources; human milk, infant milk formula and complementary feeding) in the first year of life and to what extent this brings or relates to its relation to health benefits for infants consumers. A particular focus is given on exploring appropriate intake levels of Saturated Fatty Acids (SFA) and Monounsaturated Fatty Acids (MUFA).

### Expert Group Members

#### Academia

- **Francesco Visioli**, *Chair, University of Padua, IT*
- **Carlo Agostoni**, *University of Milan, IT*
- **Sebastiano Banni**, *University of Citadel, IT*
- **Giulia Carla Immacolata Spolidoro**, *University of Milan, IT*
- **Martha Ann Belury**, *The Ohio State University, US*
- **Alessandra Mazzocchi**, *University of Milan, IT*
- **Valentina Decosmi**, *University of Milan, IT*
- **Veronica Doria**, *University of Milan, IT*
- **Austin Angelotti**, *The Pennsylvania State University, US*

#### Industry

- **Nils Billecke**, *Vice-Chair, Cargill, BE*
- **Euridice Castaneda Gutierrez**, *H&H, CH*
- **Vera Bunt**, *Ausnutria, NL*
- **Marieke Abrahamse**, *Danone, NL*
- **Carolien van Loo-Bouwman**, *Yili Innovation Center Europe, NL*

### Output

The results will be compiled in a review and published in a peer-reviewed journal. The publication will summarise expert insights and hopefully propose a **consensus on the FA profile** of the first year of life diet. It will highlight knowledge gaps and outline plans for future research and possibly a **basis for new EFSA recommendations**.

| Q3 2022 | Q2 2024 | Q4 2024 | TODAY | 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kick-off | Manuscript first draft | Manuscript development | Manuscript under-review | Publication and dissemination |

# EARLY NUTRITION AND LONG-TERM HEALTH EXPERT GROUP

## NUTRITIONAL QUALITY OF **PLANT PROTEIN-BASED INFANT FORMULA**

## Background and Objectives

The adoption of vegan diets and the consequent demand for plant-based food and plant-based beverages has increased globally, including those suitable for infants. Proteins from plant-based sources usually have lower protein quality and poor technological characteristics (low solubility and poor heat stability) compared to animal-based proteins. Together with the specific infant nutritional requirements, multiple challenges for the application of plant-based proteins are foreseen.

This activity will identify challenges and considerations about the nutritional quality of plant protein-based infant formula for infants below one year.

## Expert Group Members

### Academia

- **Kasper Hettinga**, *Wageningen University, NL*
- **Didier Dupont**, *INRAE, FR*
- **Susan Ozanne**, *University of Cambridge, UK*
- **Sascha Verbruggen**, *Erasmus MC-Sophia Children's Hospital, NL*

### Industry

- **Elena Oliveiros**, *Abbott Nutrition, ES*
- **Kelly Mulder**, *Danone Nutricia Research, NL*
- **Carolien van Loo**, *Yili Innovation Center Europe, NL*
- **Nils Billecke**, *Cargill, BE*

## Output

The group will organize a **physical workshop** with three sessions:

1. Source, Processing, and Safety;
2. Nutrition Quality and Health Impact;
3. Sustainability.

Each session will start with short presentations followed by roundtable discussions.

**Proceedings** will be published in a peer-reviewed journal.

**Q1 2024** Kick-off

**Q3 2024** Workshop preparation

**NOV 2024** Worshop

**TODAY** Manuscript under-review

**2025** Publication and dissemination

NEW

# PROBIOTICS + EARLY NUTRITION AND LONG-TERM HEALTH JOINT EXPERT GROUP

## POSTBIOTICS IN EARLY LIFE NUTRITION

## Background and Objectives

The amount of scientific literature on postbiotics, as well as the term 'postbiotics' on commercial products is rapidly rising. The purpose of this activity is to bring together diverse expertise to address the multifaceted challenges and considerations associated with adding postbiotics to infant and toddler nutrition. This will include experts in microbiology, nutrition, paediatrics, immunology, food science, regulation and clinical research. Key objectives would be to list and discuss considerations around safety and efficacy, regulatory, characterization and formulation challenges, clinical trial design and reporting, consumer education. Additionally, to discuss the existence of 'natural' postbiotics in human milk as well as toddler fermented food.

## Expert Group Members

### Academia

- **Hania Szajewska**, *Medical University of Warsaw, PL*
- **Simone Guglielmetti**, *Universita degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca, IT*
- **Clara Belzer**, *Wageningen University, NL*
- **Seppo Salminen**, *University of Turku, FI*
- **Benjamin A. H. Jensen**, *University of Copenhagen, DK*
- **and more to be confirmed**

### Industry

- **Jana van Diepen**, *RB Mead Johnson, NL*
- **Elena Oliveiros**, *Abbott Nutrition, ES*
- **Raish Oozeer**, *Danone Nutricia Research, NL*
- **Renaud Mestdagh**, dsm-*firmenich, CH*
- **Karen Knipping**, *Ausnutria, NL*
- **Carolien van Loo**, *Yili Innovation Center Europe, NL*
- **Mehreen Anjum**, *IFF, FI*
- **Anja Wellejus**, *Novonesis, DK*

## Output

The expert group will **review current literature** on postbiotics in early life nutrition, identify research gaps, and propose directions for scientific and regulatory work.

They will hold a **physical workshop** assessing postbiotic use in infants, review health benefits, develop safety guidelines, identify research gaps, and explore regulatory pathways toward EU health claims. **Proceedings** will be published in a peer-reviewed journal.

| TODAY | Q4 2025 | Q1 2026 | Q2 2026 | Q2 2027 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Inviting experts | Kick-off | Workshop preparation | Worshop | Proceedings publication & dissemination |

# HEALTHY AGEING TASK FORCE

INVESTIGATING HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE DIETS FOR AN AGEING POPULATION

## Task Force Objectives

The primary objectives of this task force are to provide an updated understanding of the mechanisms underpinning the ageing process and to explore environmentally sustainable and nutritional strategies to counter age-related diseases.

## Task Force Members

**Academia**

- **Miguel Gueimonde,** *Instituto de Productos Lácteos de Asturias, ES*
- **Pol Grootswagers**, *Wageningen University & Research, NL*

**Industry**

- **Andrea Bertocco**, *Herbalife, UK*
- **Bruno Pot**, *Yakult Europe, NL*
- **Caroline Perreau**, *Roquette, FR*
- **Deisy Hervert**, *Sigma NHU, ES*
- **Gabriele Civiletto**, *DSM-Firmenich, CH*
- **Maria Camprubi Robles**, *Abbott Nutrition, ES*
- **Nils Billecke**, *Cargill, BE*
- **Rachael Patusco**, *Haleon, US*
- **Oliver Hasselwander**, *IFF, UK*
- **Sophie Putnam**, *Holland and Barrett, UK*

**ILSI Europe contact**

- **Maria Tonti**, *BE*
mtonti@ilsieurope.be

**Task Force Fee:** 7.000 €

## Background

Ageing is a complex and multifaceted process that impacts individuals' health outcomes and quality of life. Despite significant advances in our understanding of the biological underpinnings of ageing, many research gaps persist, particularly in the identification and validation of biomarkers and metrics that can accurately reflect the ageing process.

## Upcoming Activities

- The Task Force is organising a **workshop on nutritional interventions** with the aim to identify research gaps in nutritional strategies for healthy ageing and future research directions.
  **Workshop date: 24 & 25 November 2025** (Brussels)

## In the pipeline

- The Task Force is currently developing a new activity on assessing available **(bio)markers and hallmarks of ageing**, and identifying tools to screen biological age versus chronological age across the lifespan.
  **Expected kick-off: Q4 2025**

- The workshop of November 2025 will help Task Force members to mature ideas for new activities on **nutritional interventions**, with focus on gut microbiome, cognition, muscle health, mitochondrial fitness, sustainable diets, and more.

- The Task Force is also considering developping another activity to explore **technological advancements** in prevention and treatment, including apps, wearables, and sensors, with a potential webinar in Q2 2026.

**Learn more about the Task Force on our website**

# HEALTHY AGEING WORKSHOP

NEW

## NUTRITIONAL INTERVENTIONS FOR HEALTHY AGEING WORKSHOP: RESEARCH GAPS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

## Background and Objectives

The workshop "Nutritional Interventions for Healthy Ageing: Research Gaps and Future Directions" will take place on 24–25 November at the ILSI Headquarters in Brussels. It will explore the current state of science in **nutritional approaches to support healthy ageing,** with the goal of identifying key research and translation gaps. The agenda will focus on critical themes including the gut **microbiome**, **cognition**, **muscle** health, **mitochondrial** fitness, and **sustainable** diets, all within the context of age-specific diet efficacy and nutritional strategies across the lifespan. In addition to mapping existing evidence, the workshop will address challenges in defining appropriate clinical endpoints and designing effective interventions tailored to different stages of ageing.

Featuring three keynote presentations and a series of interactive sessions, including panel discussions, the workshop will encourage interdisciplinary dialogue to shape future research priorities, support the development of **targeted nutritional interventions,** and lay the groundwork for collaborative clinical research in the field of healthy ageing.

## Organizing Committee

### Academia

- **Miguel Gueimonde**, *Instituto de Productos Lácteos de Asturias, ES*
- **Pol Grootswagers**, *Wageningen University & Research, NL*
- **Piril Hepsomall**, *University or Reading, UK*

### Industry

- **Bruno Pot**, *Yakult Europe, NL*
- **Rachael Patusco**, *Haleon, US*

## Output

This activity will result in **peer-reviewed proceedings** and actionable insights to guide future research in nutritional interventions in healthy ageing.

**TODAY**
Workshop under development

**Q4 2025**
Workshop

**Q1 2026**
Proceedings and New Activity Proposal development

**Q3 2026**
Publication and dissemination

# HEALTHY AGEING EXPERT GROUP

NEW

## NUTRITION-MODIFIABLE BIOMARKERS FOR HEALTHY AGEING

## Background and Objectives

Recent reviews catalogue biomarkers of healthy ageing, but few examine **how nutrition influences these markers** across life stages or hallmarks of ageing. If nutrition is indeed a modifiable factor capable of modulating this difference, what are the perceived underlying mechanisms (improved vitamin content, reduced fat and salt, improved microbiota diversity, ...) and can they be quantified through measurable biomarkers?

The Task Force is currently developing a new activity on linking nutrition to biomarkers of ageing taking both life-course and hallmark perspectives into account. The aim of this activity is to explore the impact of nutrition on predictive biomarkers of ageing, with a particular focus on (i) how these biomarkers are influenced across different life stages (mid-life and older adults) (ii) the hallmarks of ageing, and (iii) the concept of biological ageing including organ-specific ageing clocks.

## Expert Group Members

### Academia

- **Pol Grootswagers**, *Wageningen University, NL*
- ***and more to be confirmed***

### Industry

- **Rachael Patusco**, *Haleon, US*
- ***and more to be confirmed***

## Output

This activity will result in a **Narrative Review.**

**TODAY**
Activity proposal under revision (by the SAC)

**Q4 2025**
Expected kick-off

**Q2-Q3 2026**
Manuscript development and submission

**Q4 2026**
Publication and dissemination

# PREBIOTICS TASK FORCE

INVESTIGATING THE POTENTIAL OF PREBIOTICS TO REBALANCE AND MAINTAIN HEALTH

## Task Force Objectives

A prebiotic is a food ingredient that selectively stimulates growth and/or the activity of microbial species inhabiting the host, which may bring about health benefits. A better understanding of the mechanisms of prebiotics is still needed. The task force aims at providing mechanistic insights linking prebiotics to individual health benefits.

## Task Force Members

**Academia**

- **Kristin Verbeke**, *Co-Chair, KU Leuven, BE*
- **Paul de Vos**, *Maastricht University, NL*

**Industry**

- **Aurelie Goux**, *Cargill, BE*
- **Jessica Van Harsselaar**, *Südzucker Group, DE*
- **Georgina Dodd**, *Clasado, UK*
- **Sofia Forssten**, *IFF, FI*
- **Damien Guillemet**, *Nexira, FR*
- **Alexandra Meynier**, *Mondelez International, FR*
- **Bernd Stahl**, *Danone Nutricia, NL*
- **Clémentine Thabuis**, *Chair, Roquette, FR*
- **Elaine Vaughan**, *Vice-chair Sensus, NL*
- **Robert Steinert**, *DSM-Firmenich, DK*
- **Lars Christense**, *Arla Foods, DK*

**ILSI Europe contact**

- **Maria Tonti**, *BE*
mtonti@ilsieurope.be

**Task Force Fee:** 8.600 €

## Ongoing Activities

- An Expert group on **markers of the gut microbiota** wased kicked-off in March 2025. The group aims to identify key markers for assessing microbiota improvement, focusing on measurable indicators of microbiota composition and activity that are relevant to human health. This activity will address the need for standardized markers to evaluate dietary interventions, combining various indicators for comprehensive evaluation. *This is a joint activity with the Probiotics Task Force.*
  **Start: Q1 2025 - End: Q2 2026**

## In the Pipeline

- The Task Force is developing an activity on the role of **prebiotics in better managing women's health.** The Expert Group will aim to understand the extent and mechanisms by which prebiotics impact the women's health in different stages of life.
  **Expected kick-off: Q4 2025 - End: Q1 2027**

- The Task Force is developing an activity on **prebiotics and weight management**, exploring their role in weight control both alone and alongside **GLP-1** receptor agonists. This initiative will begin with a **metabolic health workshop** focusing on the gut–brain axis and how these interventions affect appetite, glucose regulation, and metabolism. The workshop will foster discussion on integrating clinical and lifestyle strategies, with outcomes leading to a peer-reviewed publication and guidance for the development of the activity and future initiatives.
  **Workshop date: Q1 2026** (TBC)

**Learn more about the Task Force on our website**

# PREBIOTICS + PROBIOTICS JOINT EXPERT GROUP

## MARKERS OF THE GUT MICROBIOTA

## Background and Objectives

The aim of this activity is to establish **standardized markers for assessing improvements in gut microbiota composition** and activity resulting from dietary interventions. This involves identifying and evaluating relevant markers, such as **microbial metabolites**, for their predictive value regarding health outcomes and pinpointing overlooked indicators that may be crucial for assessing human health status. The activity aims to integrate various targets, including microbiota composition, enzymatic systems, microbial metabolites, mucosal integrity, and immune response, to enhance the accuracy and predictive power of these evaluations. This approach will help link changes in gut microbiota to health benefits from prebiotics and support the development of consistent and informative parameters for human studies.

## Expert Group Members

### Academia

- **Paul de Vos**, *Maastricht University, NL*
- **Renate Akkerman**, *Maastricht University, NL*
- **Kristin Verbeke,** *KU Leuven, BE*
- **Anisha Wijeyesekera,** *University of Reading, UK*
- **Jonathan Swann**, *University of Southampton, UK*
- **Sahar El Aidy**, Chair, *University of Amsterdam, NL*
- **Holly Sedgwick**, *University of Reading, UK*

### Industry

- **Sofia Forssten**, *Vice-chair, IFF, FI*
- **Damien Guillemet**, *Nexira, FR*
- **Alexandra Meynier**, *Mondelez International, FR*
- **Clémentine Thabuis**, *Roquette, FR*
- **Delphine Saulnier**, *Novonesis, DK*

## Output

This activity will result in a **Perspective Paper**.

**MAR 2025** Kick-off

**TODAY** Manuscript first draft

**Q1 2026** Manuscript submission

**Q2 2026** Dissemination

# **PREBIOTICS** EXPERT GROUP

NEW

## PREBIOTICS IN **WOMEN'S HEALTH**

## Background and Objectives

**Women's health** is strongly shaped by **hormonal fluctuations across critical life stages** such as pregnancy and menopause, which influence the composition and function of **gut and vaginal microbiota**, with significant implications for **immunity, metabolism, and overall well-being**. Despite growing evidence of the microbiota's role in modulating hormone-related health outcomes, the specific interactions between hormonal changes, microbiota, and prebiotic interventions remain underexplored. Furthermore, transgender individuals undergoing gender-affirming hormonal therapies experience unique microbiota dynamics that also require targeted study. This activity aims to review and synthesize current knowledge on how hormonal shifts affect microbiota and to identify opportunities for developing life-stage- and gender-sensitive prebiotic interventions. By addressing these gaps, the objective is to guide the design of prebiotics that improve metabolic, immune, cardiovascular, and cognitive health in women and transgender individuals, ultimately supporting more inclusive and personalized approaches to healthcare.

## Expert Group Members

### Academia

- **Paul de Vos**, *Maastricht University, NL*
- **Luis Silva Lagos**, *University of Groningen, NL*
- ***and more to be confirmed***

### Industry

- **Georgina Dodd**, *Clasado, UK*
- **Elaine Vaughan**, *Sensus, NL*
- ***and more to be confirmed***

## Output

This activity will result in a **Narrative Review**.

**TODAY**
Activity proposal under revision (by the SAC)

**Q4 2025**
Expected kick-off

**2026**
Manuscript development and submission

**Q1 2027**
Publication and dissemination

# **PREBIOTICS** WORKSHOP

NEW

## METABOLIC HEALTH WORKSHOP: **GLP-1, PREBIOTICS & GUT–BRAIN**

## Background and Objectives

The Prebiotics Task Force is developing an activity on Prebiotics and Weight Management to explore how prebiotics support weight control, both independently and alongside GLP-1 receptor agonists.

The initiative will begin with a **workshop on metabolic health**, organized in collaboration with members of the 5th ILSI Europe Symposium on Nutrition for the Ageing Brain organising committee, to examine the transformative potential of **GLP-1 receptor agonists**, **prebiotics**, and the **gut–brain axis** in shaping metabolism. Participants will gain insights into how these interventions influence appetite, glucose regulation, and overall metabolic function through gut–brain signaling pathways.

The workshop aims to provide a forward-looking perspective on integrating these strategies into clinical and lifestyle approaches, fostering discussion, and inspiring innovative solutions for optimizing metabolic health. Proceedings from the workshop will culminate in a peer-reviewed publication and provide guidance for future activity proposals in the field.

## Organizing Committee

### Academia

- **Louise Dye**, *University of Sheffield, UK*
- **Wim Vanden Berghe**, *University of Antwerp, BE*
- **Sandrine Thuret**, *King's College London, UK*
- **David Vauzour**, *University of East Anglia, UK*
- ***and more to be confirmed***

### Industry

- **Jessica Van Harsselaar**, *Südzucker Group, DE*
- **Clementine Thabuis**, *Roquette, FR*
- **Lars Christensen**, *Arla Foods, DK*
- **Elaine Vaughan**, *Sensus, NL*
- **Robert Steinert**, *DSM-Firmenich, DK*
- ***and more to be confirmed***

## Output

This activity will result in **peer-reviewed proceedings** and actionable insights to guide future research in metabolic health and prebiotics.

**TODAY**
Workshop under development

**Q1 2026**
Workshop

**Q2 2026**
Proceedings and New Activity Proposal development

**Q4 2026**
Publication and dissemination

# PROBIOTICS TASK FORCE

IN-DEPTH ANALYSES OF PROBIOTIC BENEFITS, PROPERTIES AND CHALLENGES AIMING TO ADVANCE PROBIOTIC KNOWLEDGE FOR THE BENEFIT OF CONSUMER HEALTH

## Task Force Objectives

Consumers, the scientific community, regulators and the food and dietary supplement industry show increasing interest in probiotics and their health benefits. The attention of the task force is thus focused on the understanding of the role of probiotics in health and disease, their mechanisms of action while increasing awareness of their direct/indirect benefits on health.

## Task Force Members

### Academia

- **Marc Heyndrickx**, *Co-Chair, Institute for Agriculture and Fisheries Research (ILVO), BE*
- **Benjamin Anderschou Holberg Jensen**, *University of Copenhagen (NEW Scientific Advisor since 2023)*

### Industry

- **Arthur Ouwehand**, *Chair, IFF, FI*
- **Jonathan Lane**, *H&H Group, IE*
- **Nikoletta Vidra**, *Yakult Europe, NL*
- **Delphine Saulnier**, *Novonesis, DE*
- **Carolien van Loo-Bouwman**, *Yili Research Center Europe, NL*
- **Soheil Varasteh**, *DSM-Firmenich, NL*
- **Vicenta Garcia Campayo**, *Cargill, USA*
- **Daniella Lucena**, *Alra Foods, DK*
- **David Perez-Pascual**, *Danone, FR*

### ILSI Europe contact

- **Maria Tonti**, *BE*
mtonti@ilsieurope.be

**Task Force Fee:** 9.600 €

## Ongoing Activities

- An Expert group on **markers of the gut microbiota** wased kicked-off in March 2025. The group aims to identify key markers for assessing microbiota improvement, focusing on measurable indicators of microbiota composition and activity that are relevant to human health. This activity will address the need for standardized markers to evaluate dietary interventions, combining various indicators for comprehensive evaluation. *This is a joint activity with the Prebiotics Task Force.*
  **Start: Q1 2025 - End: Q2 2026**

- An Expert Group was kicked-off in Q4 2024 to work on recommendations and a decision tree for designing effective **probiotic clinical studies**. This initiative brings together experts from academia, industry, and regulatory bodies to enhance research quality by establishing reporting guidelines, streamlining study design, and developing reliable protocols tailored to the unique nature of live microbes.
  **Start: Q4 2024 - End: Q2 2025**

## Upcoming Activities

- An Expert group on **postbiotics for early life nutrition** aims to explore the emerging role of postbiotics in infant nutrition through a focused, workshop-style debate involving experts in microbiota, pediatrics, and nutritional science. This initiative will identify key challenges, assess knowledge gaps, and develop recommendations to guide future research and applications. The outcomes will be published to support evidence-based guidance in infant and early childhood health. *This is a joint activity with the Early Nutrition and Long-Term Health Task Force.*
  **Start: Q4 2025 | End: Q2 2027**

**Learn more about the Task Force on our website**

# **PROBIOTICS** EXPERT GROUP

## PROBIOTIC **CLINICAL STUDY** DESIGN

### Background and Objectives

The aim of this activity is to develop recommendations and a decision tree for designing **effective probiotic clinical studies**, taking into account the unique characteristics of live microbes. This initiative will gather input from experts in academia, CROs, industry, and regulatory bodies to enhance the quality and outcomes of probiotic research.

The objectives include:
(1) organising a **consensus workshop** to establish proper reporting guidelines,
(2) generating a **decision tree** to streamline study design,
and (3) recommending **study protocols** that ensure control and reliability.

The activity will also focus on identifying appropriate study designs for various research purposes and highlighting critical considerations specific to probiotics, including the importance of accurate study reporting.

### Expert Group Members

#### Academia

- **Hania Szajewska**, Chair, *University of Warsaw, PL*
- **Adele Costabile**, *University of Roehampton, UK*
- **Marc Benninga**, *Emma Children's Hospital AMC, NL*
- **Gemma Walton**, *University of Reading, UK*
- **Patricia Sanz Morales**, *University of Reading, UK*
- **Georgia Chatonidi**, *Örebro University, SE*

#### Industry

- **Arthur Ouwehand**, Vice-chair, *IFF, FI*
- **Jonathan Lane**, *H&H Group, IE*
- **Nikoletta Vidra**, *Yakult Europe, NL*
- **Carolien van Loo-Bouwman**, *Yili, NL*

### Output

This activity will result in **recommendations** and a **decision tree** to optimize study design, taking into account the unique, live nature of probiotics.

**NOV 2024**
Kick-off

**TODAY**
Manuscript first draft

**Q4 2025**
Manuscript submission

**Q1 2026**
Manuscript publication

# VITAMIN K2 TASK FORCE

GATHERING AND CRITICALLY ASSESSING
THE SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE TO SUBSTANTIATE
HEALTH BENEFITS OF VITAMIN K2

## Task Force Objectives

Vitamin K2, a lesser-known but crucial nutrient, plays a vital role in bone and cardiovascular health, among other functions. Despite its significance, awareness and understanding of Vitamin K2 remain relatively low.

The Task Force's primary objective is to critically review the scientific evidence supporting the various health benefits attributed to vitamin K2. Additionally, it aims to identify and evaluate potential biomarkers for monitoring vitamin K2 status, and conduct a comprehensive nutrition economic study to determine the potential healthcare cost savings for Europe associated with vitamin K2 supplementation.

## Task Force Members

**Academia**

- **Leon Schurgers**, *Maastricht University, NL*

**Industry**

- **Delphine Saulnier**, *Novonesis, DE*
- **Lacey Hall**, *Gnosis by Lesaffre, US*
- **Lena Leder**, *Kappa Bioscience, a Balchem Company, NO*

**ILSI Europe contact**

- ***Ruchi Shah**, BE*
  *rshah@ilsieurope.be*

**Task Force Fee:** 10.000 €

## Ongoing Activities

- An Expert Group is working on an **opinion paper** about the available evidence and recent science conducted on Vitamin K2. Their objective is to provide a perspective for future research in the field.

  **Start: Jun 2024 - End: Q4 2025**

## Upcoming or In the Pipeline

- In 2026, the Task Force is hoping to start a **narrative review on biomarkers**. The review will provide guidance on markers for assessing Vitamin K2 status. The New Activity Proposal (NAP) is being developped in 2025-2026.

  **Expected kick-off: Q1 2026**

- In 2027, another Expert Group will start working on a **systematic review of the health benefits** associated with Vitamin K2. The review will concentrate on health outcomes where most research is available: cardiovascular diseases and bone health in connection with the benefits of Vitamin K2.

  **Start: Q1 2027 - End: Q2 2028**

- In 2028, the Task Force is planning to lauch a **nutrition economic study**. Task Force members will develop the NAP in the course of 2026-2027, based on the insights from the previous and ongoing activities. The study will evaluate the potential economic benefits of incorporating Vitamin K2 into diets or supplementation regimens.

  **Expected kick-off: Q1 2028**

## Foreseen Participations to Events

- European Nutrition Conference **FENS 2027**, Rotterdam, NL.

**Learn more about the Task Force on our website**

# VITAMIN K2 EXPERT GROUP

## EXPERT OPINION ON VITAMIN K2 RESEARCH:
RETROSPECTIVE INSIGHTS AND PROSPECTIVE PATHWAYS

## Background and Objectives

An Expert Group is currently developing an opinion paper that examines the existing evidence and recent scientific findings related to vitamin K2. Despite the recognized importance of Vitamin K2, there has been a noticeable decline in postnatal Vitamin K2 supplementation, which may be influenced by various factors, including public perception, dietary habits, and emerging clinical guidelines. Additionally, the differences between vitamins K1 and K2, particularly regarding their absorption, tissue distribution, and mechanisms of action, remain a subject of ongoing research.

## Expert Group Members

### Academia

- **Dr. Katarzyna Maresz** , *Krakow, PL*
- **Prof. Sarah Booth**, *Tufts University, US*
- **Prof. Allan Linneberg**, *Bispebjerg and Frederiksberg Hospital, DN*
- **Prof. Leon Schurgers**, Maastricht university, NL
- **Prof. Hitoshi Shirakawa**, *Tohoku University, JP*
- **Martin J. Shearer**, *Kings College London, UK*

### Industry

- **Delphine Saulnier**, *Novonesis, DE*
- **Lacey Hall**, *Gnosis by Lesaffre, US*
- **Lena Leder**, *Kappa Bioscience, Balchem, NO*

## Output

The paper aims to review observed trends in the reduction of postnatal vitamin K2 supplementation, with a focus on evaluating feedback regarding intake levels. Additionally, it seeks to compare the differences between vitamin K1 and vitamin K2, including their distinct mechanisms of action. The paper intends to provide a comprehensive overview of the implications of these findings for clinical practice and public health recommendations. The resulting publication will provide a perspective for future research in the field, and recommendations on guidelines to design future trials.

**JUNE 2024**
Kick-off

**TODAY**
Manuscript outline

**Q4 2025**
Manuscript submission

**Q1 2026**
Manuscript publication & dissemination

# VITAMIN K2 EXPERT GROUP

## THE ROLE OF MENAQUINONE IN HUMAN HEALTH:

AN UPDATED SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENT IN LIGHT OF NEW REPORTED BENEFITS

## Background and Objectives

Vitamin K, a fat-soluble vitamin, has gathered significant attention, particularly its isoform also known as menaquinone (vitamin K2). While its initial recognition was for its role in blood clotting, recent research has unveiled numerous other functions, such as enhancing bone health, cardiovascular health, brain health, and exhibiting anti-inflammatory properties. This Expert Group will perform a fair and unbaised scientific review of the potential health benefits associated with Vitamin K2, apart from its role in blood clotting. The activity will focus specifically on bone and cardiovascular health, for people of all ages.

## Expert Group Members

### Academia

- **Dr. Katarzyna Maresz** , *Krakow, PL*
- **Prof. Sarah Booth**, *Tufts University, US*
- **Prof. Allan Linneberg**, *Bispebjerg and Frederiksberg Hospital, DN*
- **Prof. Leon Schurgers**, *Maastricht university, NL*
- **Prof. Hitoshi Shirakawa**, *Tohoku University, JP*
- **Dr. Essa Hariri**, *John Hopkins Medicine, Baltimore, US*
- **Martin J. Shearer**, *Retired Expert, UK*
- One early career scientist to be confirmed

### Industry

- **Delphine Saulnier,** *Novonesis, DE*
- **Jean-Francois Jeanne**, *Gnosis by Lesaffre, FR*
- **Anne Birkett**, *DSM-Firmenich, SW*
- **Lena Leder**, *Kappa Bioscience, a Balchem Company, NO*

## Output

This activity will result in a **systematic review**, which will provide an updated assessment of the health benefits of vitamin K2 for the scientific and industrial communities and the public at large.

This activity will kick-off in 2027.

**Q1 2027**
Kick-off

**Q4 2027**
Manuscript outline

**Q2 2028**
Manuscript submission

# INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS & COLLABORATIONS

# INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

**The Joint Programming Initiative a Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life (JPI HDHL) brings together 17 countries that align research programming and fund new research to prevent or minimise diet-related chronic diseases.**

Improving dietary quality in an environmentally sustainable way is a shared goal of JPI HDHL and ILSI Europe.

As a member of the JPI HDHL Stakeholder Advisory Board, ILSI Europe strives to:

- Connect stakeholders across the Quadruple Helix of Innovation;
- Align research priorities with stakeholder needs and ensure their inclusion.

**Save the Date** for the 2026 JPI conference

21st of April 2026

Herman Teirlinck Building, Havenlaan 88, Brussels (BE)

# ILSI COLLABORATING AS A FEDERATION

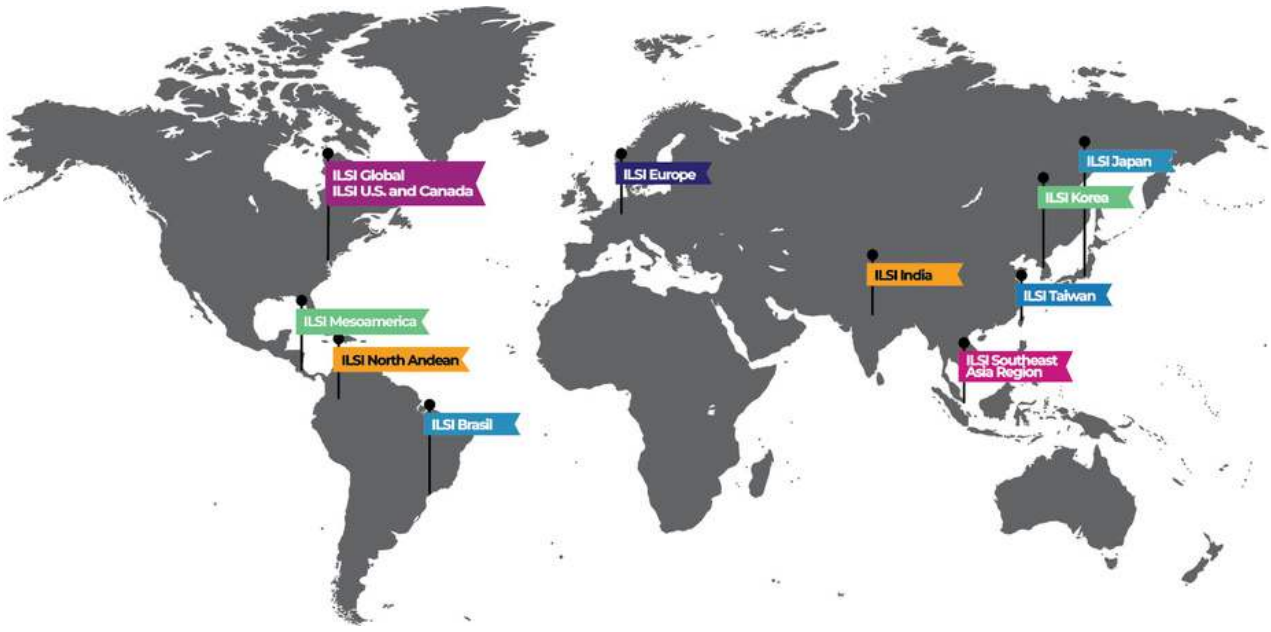
**The ILSI federation values the effective use of resources, networks, and knowledge. To this end, ILSI Global and 10 entities around the world collaborate as frequently as possible in the interest of scientific research and activities.**

**Artificial Intelligence** (AI) has the potential to streamline all steps of the process of evidence gathering and developping a systematic review, while reducing the burden on researchers. Yet, AI use also presents challenges. Principles for responsible use of AI are needed. Under the lead of ILSI Europe, ILSI has gathered an multidisciplinary committee to develop guidelines to safeguard the quality and ethical principles when developing systematics reviews in the field of nutrition and food safety, and facilitate the adoption of AI-supported reviews.

Meanwhile, ILSI Global, ILSI U.S. & Canada, ILSI Europe, ILSI Brasil, ILSI Mesoamerica, and ILSI Southeast Asia Region are conducting a cross-sectional **survey on postbiotics** among adults in 20 countries. The expert group seeks to identify the current consumer understanding of postbiotics and major areas of interest or concerns (see p.64).

The Nutrition and Wellness Committee managed by ILSI Mesoamerica leads the Healthy Aging Research Project since 2016. This project analyses the microbiota and nutritional status of centenarians in **Blue Zones**. Extending the research to Europe, Japan and USA is under discussion with the ILSI Europe Healthy Ageing Task Force.

Several national and international health organisations have recently published statements or roadmaps supporting the use of **NAMs** for risk assessment. This domain would benefit from international principles and criteria for adoption. The ILSI entities from U.S. & Canada, Europe and Southeast Asia will join forces to support the development of a proposal for such principles.



ILSI GLOBAL RESEARCH PROGRAM

# **POSTBIOTICS:** CONSUMER KNOWLEDGE, UNDERSTANDING, AND GAP ANALYSIS TO GUIDE FUTURE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

## Background and Objectives

Pro- and prebiotics are relatively well known to consumers and are broadly used in various applications and for a broad range of benefits. For postbiotics, only recently a scientific definition has been established (Salminen et al., 2021), described as a "preparation of inanimate microorganisms and/or their components that confers a health benefit on the host". Although research on postbiotics has been emerging, the concept is still not as broadly accepted as viable probiotics. The Postbiotics Global Task Force aims to identify research areas and health benefits that resonate with consumers and to address their concerns and gaps in knowledge regarding postbiotics. A stronger understanding of the consumer perspective will enable the scientific community to address topics that are of interest to the consumer and highlight where additional efforts are needed most.

## Supporting companies

- Cargill
- Reckitt
- Novonesis
- Yakult
- Yili
- H&H Group
- IFF
- Caelus Health
- DSM
- Abbott
- Morinaga Milk
- Kyowa Hakko
- Haleon
- Junleboa
- Griffith Food
- Kerry
- Dos Pinos

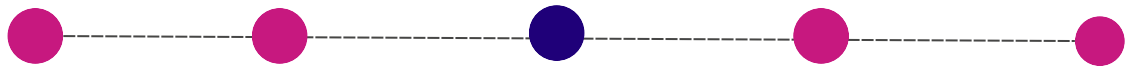
## Academic Expert Group Members

- **Lynn Frewer**, Newcastle University, UK
- **Gabriel Vinderola**, Universidad Nacional del Litoral, AR
- **Adrian Pinto**, University of Costa Rica, CR
- **João Paulo Fabi**, University of Sao Paulo, BR
- **Jun Ogawa**, Kyoto University, JP
- **Jun Kunizawa**, National Institutes of Biomedical Innovation, Health and Nutrition, JP
- **Patricia Conway**, Nanyang Technological University, SG

## Outputs

The Postbiotic Task Force is conducting a **cross-sectional survey** among adults in 20 countries across 4 continents. The aim is to identify current consumer understanding of postbiotics and major areas of interest or concerns, with a comparison between different countries.

Deliverables: Analysis by IPSOS, Dataset, Peer reviewed publication identifying research & knowledge gaps.



| Q1 2025 | Q2 2025 | TODAY | Q4 2025 | Q4 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kick-off | Questionnaire development & translation | Data collection | Data analysis and manuscript preparation | Manuscript submission |

# EU-FUNDED PROJECTS

**ILSI Europe proactively joins multi-stakeholder consortia to respond to EU research and innovation calls. Over the past 40 years, we have participated in dozens of EU-funded projects as coordinator, work package leader, partner, or by contributing to advisory and scientific boards.**

Through these projects, we advance scientific research while expanding our network of excellence. By collaborating with universities, research institutes, organisations, and companies across Europe, we build strong consortia that drive innovation. Project events and workshops also provide unique opportunities to engage with national and international public authorities, such as FAO, the Joint Research Centre, and the European Commission.

**Key areas of contribution**

We are currently active in Horizon Europe, EIC projects, and COST Actions, where our contributions include:

- Consortium building and proposal preparation
- Project management support
- Stakeholder engagement strategies and activities
- Communication and dissemination (visual identity, website, social media, newsletters, press releases, articles, blog posts, reporting, etc.)
- Education and training materials
- Event organisation and promotion
- Synergies with other EU-funded projects
- ...and more

**Strategic call scanning and selection**

Our project portfolio spans topics such as food safety, nutrition, food system sustainability, transparency, and data-driven innovation.

Monitoring calls and identifying those relevant to our network is part of our daily work. We encourage members who come across promising calls to share them with us. With the support of our SAC subcommittee, we assess whether to join an existing consortium or build a new one, ensuring we continue bringing innovation and networking opportunities to our members.

**Our 2026 outlook**

ILSI Europe currently has seven ongoing EU-funded projects that will continue into 2026. In addition, we have submitted proposals for four new projects and are hopeful to launch some of them next year. At the same time, we remain alert to new calls to ensure that we continue expanding our impact and creating fresh opportunities for our network.

**Explore the following pages for more details on how you can benefit from or contribute to our EU-funded projects.**

For inquiries on EU-funded projects, contact: Andrea Colafranceschi at acolafranceschi@ilsieurope.be.

## Addressing safe and sustainable biodegradable packaging solutions for oily products

### Objectives and expected impact

E-OilÉ's ambition is to create safe and sustainable biodegradable packaging solutions for monodose packaging of oily products. To achieve this the consortium will:

a) Demonstrate a cost effective production of biodegradable materials based on novel biopolyesters and polysaccharides, engineered to enhance barrier and mechanical performance and following the Safe and Sustainable by Design (SSbD) framework.

b) Implement a circular business model for two types of bioplastics for packaging of food and cosmetic products.
This will be achieved through 4 Uses Cases (UC): Olive oil (UC1); Oily sauces (UC2); Body oil (UC3) and Oil serum (UC4).

c) Validate the packaging performance, safety, sustainability and acceptance along the whole packaging supply chain (from material producers to consumers).

d) Demonstrate more than 90 % biodegradation in acceptable frame time, following reference standards and in environmentally relevant conditions and, therefore, multiple sustainable End-of-Life (EoL) pathways for the new packaging solutions.
A creation of a digital twin, with Artificial Intelligence (AI) and advanced modelling mechanisms will digitally assist the accurate prediction of degradation processes.

Overall the ambition of E-OilÉ is to replace non-biodegradable plastics like PP, PE, and PET, significantly reducing GHG emissions and microplastic pollution.
The new biodegradable innovative monodose packaging solutions want to assure a cost-competitiveness with fossil-based plastics while maintaining high functional performance, making it attractive for wide market adoption.

### Role of ILSI Europe

ILSI Europe is leading the Work Package focused on the Social Impact Enhancement, Communication and Dissemination, aiming at maximizing public awareness and preparing the market for the uptake of E-OilÉ's biodegradable packaging solutions.

ILSI Europe will ensure that the project's outcomes are widely communicated, socially impactful, and aligned with the needs of consumers, industry stakeholders, and policymakers.

For more information, contact:
Inês Reis dos Santos at ireisdossantos@ilsieurope.be

## AT A GLANCE

**Funding programme**:
Horizon Europe

**Total budget**: € 7 849 255

**Consortium**: 15 partners

Fundacion Gaiker - Novamont SPA - OIMO Bioplastics SL - UgrinPack - CTLPack - Propagroup - Myrolion - Ahava dead Sea Laboratories - Instituto Tecnológico del Embalaje, Transporte y Logística (ITENE) - Danish Technological Institute (DTI) - Norwegian Research Centre (NORCE) - International Life Sciences Institute, European Branch aisbl (ILSI Europe) - Holistic and Ontological Solutions for Sustainability LDA (HOLOSS) - PNO Innovation - Centro Nacional de Tecnología y Seguridad Alimentaria (CNTA)

**Countries**: 10

Spain - Italy - Hungary - Greece - Israel - Denmark - Norway - France - Belgium - Portugal

**Start**: 1 June 2025
**End**: 29 May 2029

**Grant agreement ID**: 101177771

**Website**:
https://eoileproject.eu/

Funded by the European Union

# CATALYSE

Catalysing scientific innovation into food safety action

## Objectives and expected impact

The ambition of CATALYSE is to accelerate and make more efficient the uptake, by food system actors, of knowledge and innovative solutions that promote food safety. To achieve this, CATALYSE is determined to:

1. Increase awareness and understanding of the innovations produced from "farm2fork" by establishing a database that collects, translates and disseminates knowledge and practices to the relevant food system actors;
2. Establish the CATALYSE Commynity of Practice to foster collaboration and knowledge sharing between food system actors, and to accelerate the adoption and scaling-up of innovative practices and technologies;
3. Produce and provide educational materials and training to practitioners and end-users on the latest best practices in food safety, including reaching out to traditional food sectors;
4. Support start-ups and SMEs with promising innovations in food safety (testing methods, testing technologies, solutions to improve food safety), including traditional and local producers who often are the most in need of support;
5. Encourage end-users, such as consumers and policymakers, to prioritise and support innovation in the food system through education and outreach;
6. Evaluate the impact of innovation on the food system and identify areas for further development.

Overall, the ambition of CATALYSE is to promote the creation of a more resilient, sustainable, and equitable community, both online and in practice, to meet the needs of all stakeholders, from "farm2fork", with the common goal to ensure food safety.

## Role of ILSI Europe

ILSI Europe is leading the Work Package focused on stakeholder management. Its main objective is to engage and interact with stakeholders/end-users and practitioners to understand their needs, priorities and barriers & levers in terms of food safety innovative applications.

For more information, contact Ruchi Shah at: rshah@ilsieurope.be

## AT A GLANCE

**Funding programme**: Horizon Europe

**Total budget**: € 1 886 656

**Consortium**: 17 partners

Universita Cattolica Del Sacro Cuore - Universidade Catolica Portuguesa - International Life Sciences Institute European Branch - Wageningen University - Nofima - Effost - Federacion Espanola de Industrias de la Alimentacion y Bebidas - Syreon Kutato Intezet Korlatolt Felelossegu Tarsasag – Ruokavirasto - Slovenska Polnohospodarska Univerzita V Nitre - Association Nationale Des Industries Alimentaires - Fooddrinkeurope - Flanders' Food - Agence Nationale de la Securite Sanitaire de l'Alimentation de l'Environnement et du Travail - Public Organization Association of Cheesemongers and Cheese Sommeliers - Eidgenoessisches Departement Fuer Wirtschaft, Bildung und Forschung - Quadram Institute Bioscience

**Countries**: 13

Italy - Portugal - Norway - Netherlands - Spain - Hungary - Finland - Slovakia - Belgium - France - Ukraine – Switzerland - United Kingdom

**Start**: 1 January 2024
**End**: 31 December 2026

**Grant agreement ID**: 101136754

**Website**: thecatalyseproject.eu

Co-funded by the European Union

**Get involved!**

Join the **CATALYSE Community of Practice** connecting stakeholders from the complete value chain to promote cross-fertilization of ideas for a more resilient, sustainable, and equitable community. More at: thecatalyseproject.eu/join-our-community

# TITAN

Providing digital technologies that increase transparency throughout the food value chain to save money, resources, people and the planet.

## Background

The drive for greater transparency raises many questions. How can transparency be best used to allow the consumer to make more informed food choices? How can the challenges to increase uptake of transparency solutions among food system actors as connectivity, interoperability, privacy, cost-efficiency, and low consumer confidence in the technologies be overcome? How can the latest technology developments be used to enhance transparency? How can such technology be made available and affordable to small businesses? There is a need to address these questions, to showcase best practice, latest business innovation and technologies, and inform policy within a demand driven business environment.

## Objectives and expected impact

The overall aim of TITAN is to enhance food transparency in order to transform the food system into a demand-driven economy that provides consumers with healthy and sustainable food.

The 15 TITAN innovations will address:

- transparency of information to consumers, for better food choices;
- transparency for enhanced food safety and authenticity of products;
- better information on health and sustainability of food products.

The project has included the provision of an extensive tender for an open call (€1.25M). Eight new partners joined TITAN to supply more innovations on transparency related solutions.

## Role of ILSI Europe

As project Coordinator, ILSI Europe is responsible for the general coordination and management of the project and its bodies to monitor compliance with the obligations stated in the Grant Agreement. ILSI Europe is also involved as partner in Work Package 9 (Dissemination, Communication and Network of Expertise) for the Stakeholders-Engagement activities.

For more information, contact
Andrea Colafranceschi at:
acolafranceschi@ilsieurope.be

## AT A GLANCE

**Funding programme**:
Horizon Europe

**Total budget**: € 11 053 903

**Consortium**: 28 partners

International Life Sciences Institute Europe · European Federation of Food Science & Technology · Università Cattolica Del Sacro Cuore, Piacenza · FOCOS · Foodscale Hub · Agricolus · AgriMarketplace · AI Talentum · OpenFoodChain · Microbion · Technical University Delft · Agroknow · Consentio · Fundación AZTI · TotalCTRL · Wageningen University · INRAE · Symbeeosis · University of Helsinki · University of Warsaw · Sakana Consultants · Laboratorio Iberico Internacional De Nanotecnologia · QualityChain · Cardiff University · Queen's University Belfast · University of Surrey · Universidade de Santiago de Compostela

**Countries**: 14

Belgium · Finland · France · Germany · Greece · Italy · the Netherlands · Norway · Poland · Portugal · Republic of Serbia · Spain · Switzerland · United Kingdom

**Start**: 1 September 2022
**End**: 31 August 2026

**Grant agreement ID**:
101060739

**Website**: titanproject.eu

Funded by the European Union

**Get involved!**

Join the **TITAN Network of Expertise** and drive the transformation of the food system (titanproject.eu/network-of-expertise).
Join the **TITAN Final Event** on 17-18 June 2026 in Brussels (see p. 76).

# BIOFIN-EU

## Flip the script: Unlock finance to protect and restore biodiversity

### Background and objectives

BIOFIN-EU aims to establish a comprehensive framework and technology that fosters the necessary conditions for nature-positive investments. BIOFIN-EU is actively innovating and experimenting with novel approaches for capturing, aggregating, and analysing biodiversity and ecosystem services (ES) data. The goal is to minimise transaction and reporting costs associated with finance that supports the protection and restoration of biodiversity, like Nature-Based Solutions (NBS).

If biodiversity is to be placed back on a path to recovery, new tools and knowledge are required to redirect financial resources from destructive economic activity towards nature-positive investment. The financial system consists of interacting and dynamic actors who value certainty (rules and governance structures) and efficiency (outcome transparency and low monitoring costs).

### Expected results

- **BIOFIN-EU Data Analytics & Underwriting Engine** to allow discovery, purchase, use and contribution of ES/NBS raw data and provide various analytics services.
- **BIOFIN-EU Database** to bring together high-quality biodiversity and Ecosystem Services data from various NBS sources.
- **Policy Recommendations** to develop accounting standards, financial services regulation and related policy guidance.
- **BIOFIN-EU Nature Positive Business Model Builder** to support the decision-making towards NBS lending/investments.
- **Skills and Knowledge Accelerators** to transfer new knowledge through training, business simulation, case studies and mentoring courses of the BIOFIN-EU activities.

### Role of ILSI Europe

ILSI Europe is involved in coordinating collaborative activity with agri-food sector industries and contribute to the multi-actor approach being used in WP4 (Biodiversity-Linked Decision Support: From Data to Financing) and WP5 (Financial Instrument Design & Business Model Innovation). BIOFIN-EU activities and outcomes will be communicated and disseminated through ILSI Europe's network (WP7: impact maximisation).

For more information, contact Emilie Weynants at:
eweynants@ilsieurope.be

## AT A GLANCE

**Funding programme**:
Horizon Europe

**Total budget**: € 4 382 053

**Consortium**: 14 partners

University of Limerick - Naturalis biodiversity center - Goeteborgs universitet - Universiteit Maastricht - Rainno – SERDA (Sarajevska regionalna razvojna agencija serda doo Sarajevo) - Universita degli studi di Padova - Etifor srl - IST-ID - The Institute of Bankers in Ireland - Sulitest - ILSI Europe – COFAC (Cooperativa de formacao e animacao cultural crl)

**Countries**: 11

Ireland - Netherlands - Sweden - Greece - Portugal - Bosnia and Herzegovina – Italy – France - Belgium

**Start**: 1 January 2024
**End**: 31 December 2026

**Grant agreement ID**:
101135476

**Website**: biofin-project.eu

Funded by the European Union

### Get involved!

The project team is seeking food companies to help understand the benefits of implementing Nature-Based Solutions in the food system, identify decision-making barriers, and co-design financing instruments and business models.
Contact the project coordinator at:
biofin-project.eu/contact

# GLUCOTYPES

Glucose variability patterns
for precision nutrition in diabetes

## Background

Type 2 diabetes (T2D) has emerged as a global epidemic, impacting 1 in 10 people worldwide and causing over 114,000 deaths annually in Europe. Despite extensive research, understanding the pathogenic mechanisms driving distinct disease subtypes and how diet influences glucose homeostasis has remained elusive. This knowledge gap leaves individuals with or at high risk of T2D without effective prevention or control strategies, urging a paradigm shift in our approach.

## Objectives and expected impact

The GLUCOTYPES project brings together leading experts in nutrition, metabolic diseases, glycobiology, gut microbiome, epidemiology, and machine learning from five European countries to tackle this challenge.

The project capitalises on advancements in wearable technologies, molecular biology, and bioinformatics. It proposes to leverage high-temporal continuous glucose monitoring data to identify patterns of early glycaemic alterations, our "glucotypes", a concept which forms the core hypothesis of this research program.

The objective is to advance the understanding of the divergent mechanisms that influence early glycaemic alterations and how specific diets could ameliorate these alterations. The project will establish a foundational yet comprehensive scientific groundwork to inform future precision diabetes nutrition strategies to prevent and improve the lives of all people affected by the disease.

## Role of ILSI Europe

ILSI Europe is leading the preparation, implementation and oversight of the Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation strategy and activities. We will also facilitate and enable access to industry partners to support future valorisation of the project outcomes.

For more information, contact Ching-Yu Chang at:
cchang@ilsieurope.be or Emilie Weynants at eweynants@ilsieurope.be.

## AT A GLANCE

**Funding programme**:
EIC Pathfinder Challenge

**Total budget**: € 3 988 206

**Consortium**: 6 partners

Kobenhavns Universitet - Weizmann Institute Of Science - Universiteit Maastricht - Universidad De Santiago De Compostela - Academisch Ziekenhuis Leiden - International Life Sciences Institute Europe

**Countries**: 5

Denmark, Israel, Netherlands, Spain, Belgium.

**Start**: 1 October 2024
**End**: 30 September 2028

**Grant agreement ID**: 101161509

**Website**: glucotypes.eu

Funded by the European Union

**Get involved!**

Express your interest in the project by contacting Emilie Weynants at eweynants@ilsieurope.be to be informed of upcoming collaboration opportunities.

# ACRYRED

## Reducing acrylamide exposure of consumers by a cereals supply-chain approach targeting asparagine

### Background

Acrylamide in food is considered a potential health hazard as it may lead to increased risk of cancer. Acrylamide forms during industrial food processing and home cooking. For years, the cereals processing industry has been engaged in reducing
acrylamide formation through production process optimisations and establishment of guidelines.

The 2017 EC Regulation on acrylamide sets benchmarks on acrylamide levels in food, which are considered to be either challenging or insufficient, depending on who is asked. However, if no drastic action is taken, future regulations may threaten the availability of cereals brands.

### Objectives and expected impact

ACRYRED's challenge is to establish a multi-disciplinary research and communication network on reducing acrylamide formation, involving the entire value chain from grains to consumer products. If asparagine levels can be reduced through better breeds and farming practices, downstream acrylamide formation in cereals-based products can be reduced significantly. The urgency to resolve the problem is compounded by the fact that there is no grain of guaranteed low asparagine concentration commercially available to meet requirements for different food categories. Further, the processing industry does not have a reliable tool to measure the level of free asparagine contained in raw material.

ACRYRED brings together plant breeders, the agricultural grain farming community, grain traders, European food processors, toxicologists, public regulators and consumer interest groups to establish non-GMO research requirements on asparagine formation in plants, as well as investigate new economic models that encompass the full supply chain. The Action will also elaborate new approaches to inform catering/hospitality and consumers about responsible cooking of cereal-based foods.

### Role of ILSI Europe

ILSI Europe supports ACRYRED as Grant Holder, overseeing the administrative and financial management of the COST Action and supporting the Management Committee of the Action in monitoring the overall progress.

For more information, contact Andrea Colafranceschi at:
acolafranceschi@ilsieurope.be

## AT A GLANCE

**Funding programme:** COST Action

**Budget**: € 175 000 (third year)

**Working Groups**:

- Interdisciplinary Exchange and Integration of Knowledge on Asparagine and Acrylamide
- Agronomy and Plant Breeding
- Chemistry & Processing
- Cereal Supply Chain Economy
- Risk-benefit of MR Products and its Mitigation

**Start**: 1 November 2022
**End**: 31 October 2026

**COST Action**: CA21149

**Website**: acryred.eu

Funded by the European Union

### Get involved!

Did you know that you could drive the agenda of this COST action, for free?

Apply to join your working group of interest at:
www.cost.eu/actions/CA21149/

# HDHL Food4Health

healthy diet healthy life

Aligning common R&I priorities to face the intertwined challenges of food and diet-related Non Communicable Diseases and Climate Change.

## Background

In society today, two pressing issues demand immediate attention, namely the increasing burden of diet-related Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs), and the escalating threat of Climate Change. Recent data underscores the severity of these problems, with a significant rise in NCDs linked to poor dietary habits and affecting the accessibility to affordable and nutritious food for all people. Simultaneously, Climate Change is accelerating, breaching planetary boundaries and posing existential risks to ecosystems and human civilisation. The food system has a crucial role in contributing significantly to both NCDs and environmental degradation.

## Objectives and expected impact

HDHL Food4Health addresses the intertwined challenges of food and diet-related Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and Climate Change by fostering collaboration and aligning research efforts across food, health, and environment areas. Through a participatory approach, HDHL Food4Health widens the HDHL network and organises co-creation workshops to identify common Research & Innovation (R&I) priorities.

It aims to overcome siloed approaches by coordinating activities among government, academia, industry, and citizens, enhancing societal impact at national and regional levels. Leveraging its connections with researchers, policymakers, and other relevant stakeholders, HDHL supports its members in contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by aligning food and health systems. The initiative facilitates joint funding calls and implements transdisciplinary research actions to maximise impact and address urgent societal challenges.

By promoting collaboration and knowledge exchange, HDHL Food4Health aims to catalyse a shift towards healthier and more sustainable food systems, ultimately contributing to improved public health and environmental sustainability. The main objective of HDHL Food4Health is to align common R&I priorities among funding programmes by identifying research and policy needs, whilst continuing to align both with the Horizon Europe (HE) Partnerships and the needs identified by the European Commission.

## Role of ILSI Europe

ILSI Europe is leading the work on “Coordination of Joint Research Calls and Activities”. For more information, contact Isabelle Guelinckx at iguelinckx@ilsieurope.be.

## AT A GLANCE

**Funding programme**: Horizon Europe

**Total budget**: € 2 414 977,50

**Consortium**: 11 partners

Zorgonderzoek Nederland | Eigen vermogen van het Instituut voor Landbouw- en Visserijonderzoek | Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique et de l’Environment | Institutul Naţional de Cercetare-dezvoltare pentru Bioresurse Alimentare | Kauno Technologijos Universitetas | Izglitibas un Zinatnes Ministrija | Ministero dell’Agricoltura, della Sovranita Alimentare e delle Foreste | European Public Health Alliance | ILSI International Life Sciences Institute | The European Federation of the Associations of Dietitians | Institut Za Razvoj I Inovacije

**Countries**: 5

Belgium – France - Italy – Latvia – Lithuania - Netherlands - Romania - Serbia

**Grant agreement ID**: 101188351

**Start**: 1 January 2025
**End**: 30 December 2026

Funded by the European Union

# EVENTS

# UPCOMING EVENTS OVERVIEW

Communicating about new and ongoing activities and disseminating their results is key to maximise impact. Each Task Force develops a strategic communication plan that comprises multiple channels, including confererences, symposia, webinars and trainings. Mark your calendar with the events listed below! More are to be confirmed, so subscribe to our newsletter and follow us on LinkedIn to keep your agenda up to date.

| | COMMUNICATION & DISSEMINATION OF ILSI EUROPE SCIENCE | BRAND AWARENESS | EU-PROJECTS |
|---|---|---|---|
| JANUARY | ILSI EUROPE Workshop on Microplastics Analytics [see page 31] | | TITAN Workshop |
| FEBRUARY | ILSI EUROPE Workshop on GLP-1 [see page 55] | | BIOFACH into organic |
| APRIL | 13th International Conference on Nutrition & Growth April 9-11, 2026 \| Prague, Czech Republic [to be confirmed] | | |
| MAY | | Vitafoods Europe | |
| JUNE | ILSI Europe Symposium 2026 BRUSSELS 15-16 JUNE; ESPGHAN; RME2026 Rapid Analysis & Diagnostics | 16th Annual FOOD SURE SUMMIT Part of FOOD WORLD | TITAN Data4Food Final Event 17-18 June 2026 \| Brussels SAVE THE DATE! |
| JULY | ESTIV MAASTRICHT 2026 | | |
| AUGUST | ivc | | |
| SEPTEMBER | 47th ESPEN Congress on Clinical Nutrition & Metabolism [to be confirmed] | | |
| NOVEMBER | | Proactive 13.11.25 EUROPE FOOD SAFETY COUNTER RISKS, PROTECT CONSUMERS | |
| DECEMBER | | Fi Europe | |


The **ILSI Europe Symposium** is a gathering of experts from around the world who meet to shed light on the current and future challenges in food safety, nutrition, and sustainability. It is a unique opportunity for scientists from academia, industry and public sector to take part in the debate around those topics and create connections.

This year's event will showcase the latest research from ILSI Europe's Task Forces, covering areas from healthy nutrition across the lifespan, to gut microbiome health, food allergens and food contaminants management, the next generation of risk assessment methods, and much more. In celebration of **ILSI Europe's 40th anniversary**, we'll cap off the event with a gala dinner and party, making it a truly memorable occasion for networking and collaboration.

**Visit now our official event website at [ilsieuropesymposium.eu](ilsieuropesymposium.eu)**

**WHERE**
Sparks
Rue Ravenstein, 60
Brussels, Belgium

**WHEN**
15 & 16 June 2026
Monday - Tuesday

**WHO**
For professionals advancing food and nutrition science – open to all interested.

visit the website


SAVE THE DATE!

The **TITAN** and **DATA4FOOD2030** consortia are pleased to announce the projects final conference taking place on **17–18 June 2026** in Brussels (Sparks meetings). This event will not only present the outcomes of two major projects but also serve as a catalyst for collaboration among researchers, industry leaders, startups, policymakers, and investors.

The conference will highlight the role of innovative technologies in advancing resilient supply chains, strengthening the fair data economy, and fostering a sustainable food system. Beyond showcasing results, it is designed to create opportunities for dialogue and partnership, bridging science, industry, investment, and policy to accelerate impact.

Participants will have the opportunity to engage with four thematic tracks:

- Enhancing food safety
- Driving informed decisions for consumers
- Building sustainable supply chains and traceability
- Developing the data economy through data spaces

**Call for Abstracts**

We invite researchers, practitioners, and stakeholders to submit abstracts addressing the conference themes. Selected contributions will be featured in oral and poster sessions, providing a platform to share insights and stimulate discussion across disciplines and sectors.

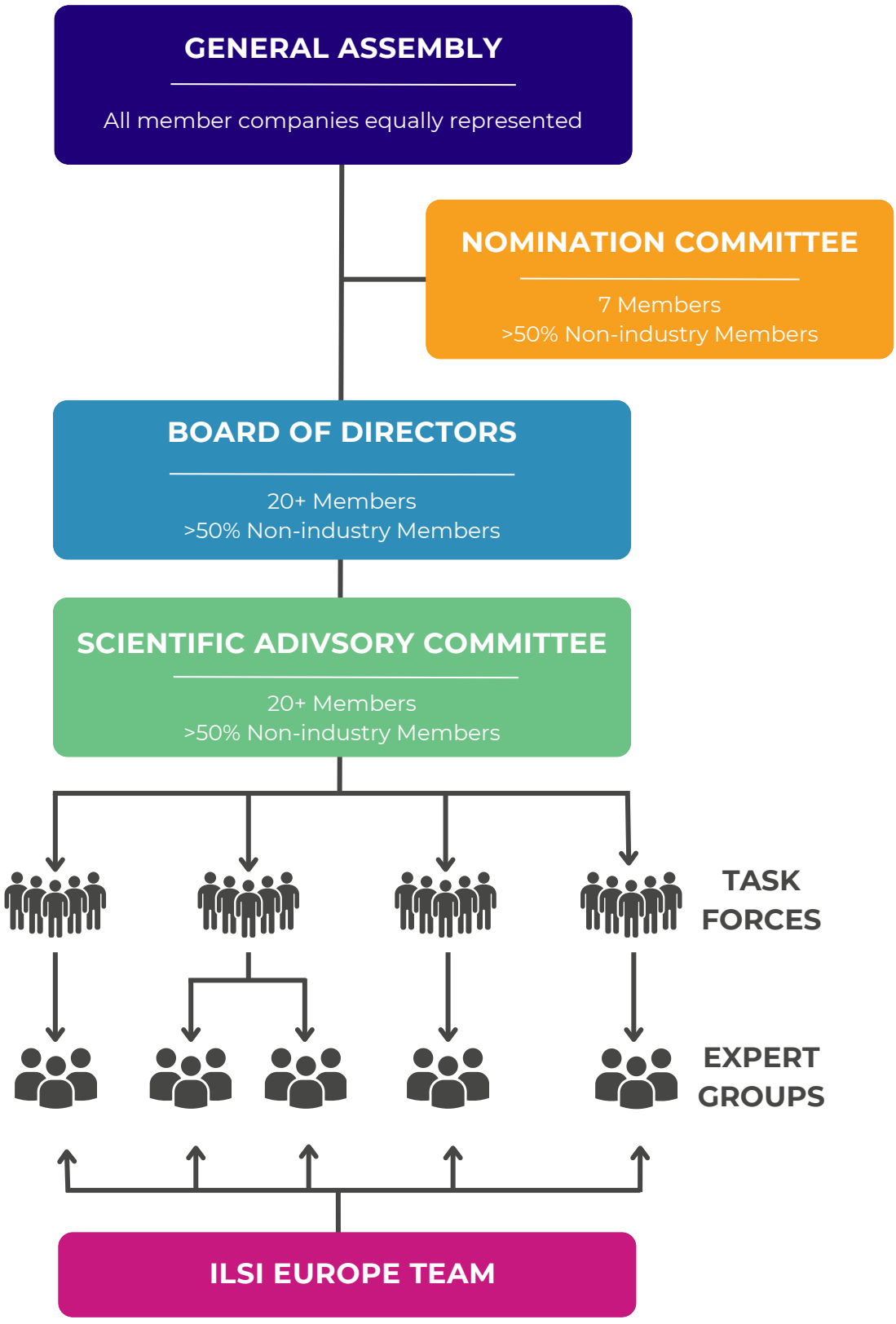
Visit the **website** for further information.

Co-funded by the European Union
UK Research and Innovation
Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra
Swiss Confederation
Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research EAER
State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation SERI

# III.

# STRUCTURE OF ILSI EUROPE

# ORGANISATION STRUCTURE



# GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly (GA) of Members is the ultimate **decision making body** where each member company is legally represented by one Official Representative appointed by the member company. The GA convenes once a year in Q2. It approves the annual accounts, takes all decisions relating to budget and programme of activities and elects the members of the Board of Directors.

## MEMBERS IN 2025

- **Abbott Nutrition**
- **ABInBev**
- **Ajinomoto Europe**
- **Arla**
- **Ausnutria**
- **Balchem**
- **Barilla**
- **Cargill**
- **Clasado Biosciences**
- **CP Kelco**
- **Danone Nutricia Research**
- **Dow Europe**
- **DSM - Firmenich**
- **Food Contact Center**
- **General Mills**
- **Givaudan International**
- **Gnosis by Lesaffre**
- **Haleon**
- **Herbalife Nutrition**
- **Holland & Barrett**
- **Hygiena**
- **H&H Group**
- **IFF**
- **Importaco**
- **InBio**
- **Institut Mérieux**
- **Luigi Lavazza**
- **Mayr-Melnhof Karton**
- **Mondelēz International**
- **Morinaga**
- **Neogen**
- **Nexira**
- **Novonesis**
- **PepsiCo International**
- **Pierre Fabre Dermo-Cosmétique**
- **Premier Foods**
- **Reckitt Benckiser/Mead Johnson Nutrition**
- **Roquette**
- **Sensus**
- **Sigma**
- **Sherwin Williams**
- **Soremartec**
- **Südzucker Group**
- **Swiss Quality Testing Services**
- **Tetra Holdings**
- **Yakult Europe**
- **Yili Innovation Center Europe**

# NOMINATION COMMITTEE

The Nomination Committee **recommends BoD nominees for election by the GA**. It composed of the President, the Chairman, the Past President, two non-director industry members and two scientists of international renown nominated by the GA and representing different geographical regions of Europe. The Committee is chaired by the President.

## NON INDUSTRY

- **Prof. Bas Blaauboer**, *President, University of Utrecht, NL*
- **Prof. Louise Dye**, *Past President, University of Leeds, UK*
- **Prof. Ivonne Rietjens**, *University of Wageningen, NL*
- **Prof. John Ingram**, *University of Oxford (UK)*

## INDUSTRY

- **Dr. Bruno Pot**, *Yakult Europe, NL*
- **Dr. Carolien Van Loo-Bouwman**, *Yili Innovation Center Europe, NL*

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors (BoD) is the **managing body of ILSI Europe**. They define the mission and vision of the Institute, they prepare the annual accounts and budget for the forthcoming year and decide on the strategies for the development of the Institute, the scientific priorities following advice of the Scientific Advisory Committee. Their decisions and suggestions are submitted for approval to the GA. The BoD is composed of a maximum of 10 member company representatives and at least an equal or greater number of scientists from academic and public institutions. Each year 1/3 of the members retires but is eligible for re-election. Board nominees are selected and recommend by the Nomination Committee for election by the GA.

## NON INDUSTRY

- **Prof. Brian Hanley,** *President, ACTA, NL*
- **Prof. Bas Blaauboer**, *Past President, University of Utrecht, NL*
- **Prof. Liisa Lähteenmäki**, *Aarhus University (DK)*
- **Prof. Stephan Bischoff**, *University of Hohenheim, DE*
- **Prof. Jelena Cvejic**, *University Novi Sad (RS)*
- **Prof. Angela Mally**, *University of Würzburg (DE)*
- **Prof. Ingela Marklinder**, *Uppsala University (SE)*
- **Prof. Hans Verhagen**, *Food Safety & Nutrition Consultancy*
- **Prof. Robert Jan Brummer**, *Örebro University, SE*
- **Prof. Celia Manaia**, *Catholic University Portugal, PT*
- **Prof. Catherine Stanton,** *Teagasc & University College Cork (IE)*

## INDUSTRY

- **Dr. Elaine Vaughan**, *Chair, Sensus, NL*
- **Dr. Bruno Pot**, *Treasurer, Yakult Europe, NL*
- **Dr. Carolien Van Loo**, *Yili Innovation Center Europe (NL)*
- **Dr. Jolene McGroarty**, *Mondelez International, CH*
- **Dr. Mariusz Michalik**, *PepsiCo, PL*
- **Dr. Szabi Peter**, *DSM-Firmenich, CH*
- **Dr. Davide Marchesi**, *Tetra Pak, DE*
- **Dr. Lucien Hartoorn**, *Clasado, UK*
- **Dr. Nils Billecke**, *Cargill, BE*

# SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) is the **guarantor of the scientific integrity and excellence** of the Institute's scientific programme. It is composed of a maximum of 20 experts with more than 50% coming from the non-industry sector. It is chaired by the President of ILSI Europe and vice-chaired by the Vice-President. The members of the SAC review and endorse the overall scientific programme of ILSI Europe, including the new activities, with respect to their scientific validity, coherence within ILSI Europe's programme, feasibility and urgency of the issues.

## NON INDUSTRY

- **Prof. Brian Hanley**, *Chair, ACTA, NL*
- **Prof. Michelle Williams**, *Aarhus University, DK*
- **Prof. Bas Blaauboer**, *Past-President, University of Utrecht, NL*
- **Prof. Marco Arlorio**, *University of Eastern Piedmont, IT*
- **Dr. Laura Righetti**, *University of Parma, IT*
- **Dr. David Vauzour**, *University of East Anglia, UK*
- **Prof. Mathieu Vinken**, *Free University of Brussels (VUB), BE*
- **Dr. Thomas Simat**, *Dresden University of Technology, DE*
- **Dr. Marta Bianchi**, *Research Insititute of Sweden, SW*

## INDUSTRY

- **Dr Johanna Maukonen**, *IFF, FI*
- **Dr. Gloria Pellegrino**, *Luigi Lavazza, IT*
- **Dr. Ricardo Rueda**, *Abbott Nutrition, ES*
- **Dr. Cécilia Socolsky**, *Mérieux Nutrisciences (FR)*
- **Mr. Gavin Stainton**, *Herbalife, UK*
- **Dr. Michele Suman**, *Barilla, IT*
- **Dr. Keng Ngee Teoh**, *Ajinomoto, FR*
- **Dr. Damien Guillemet**, *Nexira (FR)*

# TEAM

ILSI Europe's international team is the **coordinating body**, responsible for the overall organisation, coordination and accomplishment of the activities entrusted to the committees, task forces and expert groups.

**Sébastien Alexandre**
Membership Manager

**Geraldine Borja**
Scientific Project Manager

**Ching-Yu Chang**
Scientific Project Manager

**Andrea Colafranceschi**
EU Projects Manager

**Hugo Costa**
Event Manager

**Luigi De Rosa**
Communication Assistant

**Isabelle Guelinckx**
Executive Director

**Konrad Korzeniowski**
Scientific Project Manager

**Inês Santos**
EU Communication Officer

**Ruchi Shah**
Scientific Project Manager

**Sherry Semakadde**
Accounting and Office Assistant

**Maria Tonti**
Scientific Project Manager

**Emilie Weynants**
Communication Manager

# COMPANIES COMMITTMENTS IN 2025

| | Food Safety Task Forces | | | | | | | | | Nutrition Task Forces | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | FA | FAA | FC | MFS | MiP | NAM | PM | RAFS | TTC | DC | ENLH | HA | PRE | PRO | VK2 |
| Abbott Nutrition | | | | | | | | X | | X | X | X | | | |
| AbInBev | X | | | X | | | X | | | | | | | | |
| Ajinomoto | | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | |
| Arla | | | X | X | | | | | | | | | X | X | |
| Ausnutria | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | |
| Balchem | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X |
| Barilla | | | X | | X | | | | | X | | | | | |
| Cargill | | | X | X | | | | | | X | X | X | X | X | |
| Clasado Biosciences | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | |
| CP Kelco | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | |
| Danone Nutritia Research | X | | | | | X | X | | | | X | | X | X | |
| Dow Europe | | | | | X | | X | | X | | | | | | |
| DSM - Firmenich | X | | | | | X | | | X | | X | X | X | X | |
| General Mills | X | | X | X | | | | X | | | | | X | | |
| Givaudan International | | | X | X | | | | X | X | | | | | | |
| Gnosis by Lesaffre | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X |
| Haleon | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | |
| Herbalife Nutrition | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | |
| H&H Group | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | X | |
| Holland & Barrett | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | |
| Hygiena | | X | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| IFF | | | | | | | | | | | | X | X | X | |
| Importaco | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| InBio | | X | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Institut Mérieux | | X | | X | | | | | | | | | X | | |
| Luigi Lavazza | | | X | | | | | | | X | | | | | |
| Mayr-Melnhof Karton | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | |
| Mondelēz International | X | | X | | | | X | | | X | | | X | | |
| Morinaga | | X | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Nexira | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | |
| Novonesis | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | X |
| Neogen | | X | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| PepsiCo International | X | | X | | | | X | | | | | | | | |
| Pierre Fabre | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | | |
| Premier Foods | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Reckitt Benckiser | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | |
| Roquette | | | | | | | | | | | | X | X | | |
| Sensus | | | | | | | | | | X | | | X | | |
| Sherwin Williams | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | |
| Soremartec | X | | X | X | | | X | | | | | | | | |
| Südzucker Group | | | X | | | | X | | | X | | | X | | |
| Swiss Quality Testing Services | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | |
| Tetra Holdings | | | | | X | | X | | | | | | | | |
| Yakult Europe | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | X | |
| Yili Innovation Center Europe | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | X | |


Av. E. Mounier 83, B6
1200 Brussels
Belgium
T +32 (0)2 771.00.14