

Nearly 1 in 4 children in Europe are overweight or obese. One of the reasons behind it is an unhealthy diet. Obesity in children is becoming even more important in the context of Covid-19 syndemic. In the first years of life, when learning is constantly taking place, food preferences are also forming.

Most are learned, but some are intuitive. A child's food preferences directly affect eating behaviour, which then has a direct effect on overall health, wellness and the risk of obesity.

As children get older, they are exposed to unhealthy foods, which is mainly caused by inappropriate advertising and the easy availability of processed and ultra-processed foods high in salt, sugar and fat either at home or in public institutions where they spend a considerable amount of time.

OUR APPROACH

- Share and promote best practices on how to implement a standardized European monitoring system for processed food reformulation.
- Identify best policy practices to reduce exposure of children to the marketing of unhealthy foods, and develop harmonized protocols to monitor marketing exposure of children.
- Contribute to the higher quality of menus, by assuring transparent quality of the procured foods in the selected public institutions.

WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

Best-ReMaP aims to achieve several significant results, giving EU Member States an opportunity to set policies on childhood nutrition based on solid evidence and research:

- Changing the food environment for children in Europe.
- Reducing the impact of harmful marketing of foods to children.
- Improving the quality of menus in public institutions.
- Create Food Information Database with working title "JRC food database".
- Building stakeholder networks in the field of nutrition at national and EU levels.

TARGETED PROBLEMS

- Only a few countries in Europe are able to monitor processed food supply at the brand level.
- Food advertising and marketing to children is currently unregulated in Europe.
- The lack of high quality food in public institutions like kindergartens, schools and hospitals.



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OUR PROJECT TEAMS & LEADING ORGANIZATIONS

BEST-REMAP IN NUMBERS

7.5 million Furn

6 million

Euro funded by EC (80%)

years duration (Oct 2020-Sept 2023)

Coordination (National Institute of Public Health Slovenia – NIJZ, Slovenia)

Dissemination (Semmelweis University, Hungary)

Evaluation (The Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, Finland)

Sustainability and Integration in National Policies (Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Italy)

EU Harmonised Reformulation and processed food monitoring (French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety - ANSES, France)

Best practices in reducing marketing of unhealthy food products to children and adolescents (Directorate-General of Health of Portugal and Irish Department of Health, Portugal, Ireland)

Public procurement of food in public institutions – a pilot EU approach (National Institute of Public Health Slovenia - NIJZ, Slovenia)

CONSORTIUM

Competent authorities

The Federal Ministry, Republic of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection – Austria SCIENSANO - Belgium

The Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina – Bosnia and Herzegovina

The National Centre of Public Health and Analyses - Bulgaria

Croatian Institute of Public Health - Croatia

Ministry of Health of the Republic of Cyprus - Cyprus

The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration – Denmark

Ministry of Social Affairs of Estonia – Estonia

The Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare – Finland French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health Safety – France

Max Rubner-Institut, Federal Research Institute of Nutrition and Food – Germany

Institute of Child Health - Greece

Semmelweis University - Hungary

Department of Health - Ireland

Istituto Superiore di Sanita' - Italy

The Centre for Disease Prevention and Control - Latvia

Ministry of Health of Lithuania - Lithuania

Public Health Regulation Department, Ministry for Health - Malta

The National Institute for Public Health and the Environment – Netherlands

The Medical University of Silesia - Poland

Directorate-General of Health - Portugal

The National Institute of Public Health - Romania

National Institute of Public Health Slovenia - Slovenia (Coordinator)

Institute of Public Health of Serbia "dr Milan Jovanović Batut" - Serbia

Affiliated entities

The Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety - Austria

The Austrian National Public Health Institute - Austria

Institute of Public Health of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina - Bosnia and Herzegovina

Public Health Institute of Republic of Srpska - Bosnia and Herzegovina

Copenhagen Municipality - Denmark

The National Institute for Health Development - Estonia

Santé publique France - France

Ministry of Health of France - France

The National Institute of Pharmacy and Nutrition – Hungary

The Food Safety Authority - Ireland

The Centre for Health & Diet Research - Ireland

The Faculty of Nutrition and Food Sciences - Portugal



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