

Food reformulation: reducing salt, sugars and trans-fats

Workshop - Greece 15 January 2021

Greek Action Plan on Food Reformulation

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More than two in five deaths can be attributed to behavioural risk factors

Figure 6. Tobacco consumption and dietary risks are major contributors to mortality



Note: The overall number of deaths related to these risk factors (50 000) is lower than the sum of each one taken individually (58 000) because the same death can be attributed to more than one risk factor. Dietary risks include 14 components such as low fruit and vegetable consumption and high sugar-sweetened beverage consumption.

Source: IHME (2018), Global Health Data Exchange (estimates refer to 2017).





Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases in the WHO European Region

Priority interventions (population-level) to avoid premature death and significantly reduce the disease burden from NCDs

Promoting healthy consumption via fiscal and marketing policies (tobacco, alcohol and foods and drinks high in saturated fats, trans fats, salt and sugar)

Reformulate food products so that trans fats and saturated fats are replaced with unsaturated fats, and salt and sugar are reduced, without adding harmful alternatives

Promoting active living and mobility

Promoting clean air



Make the healthy choice easy

2007

• Commission White Paper on a strategy for Europe on nutrition, overweight and obesity related issues

2010

• Council Conclusions on Action to reduce population salt intake for better health

2011

• EU Framework on National Initiatives on Selected Nutrients

2012

Annex I to the EU Framework on saturated fat

2015

Annex II to the EU Framework on added sugars

2016

• EU Council conclusions on food product improvement

EU Council Conclusions 10277/16 (17 June 2016)

CALLS UPON THE MEMBER STATES TO

Have a national plan for food product improvement in place by the end of 2017, either as a new plan or integrated into an existing plan, in cooperation with the relevant stakeholders, to make the healthy choice easier for consumers by 2020 through an increased availability of food with lower levels of salt, saturated fats, added sugars, energy value and, where appropriate, through reduced portion sizes and to provide information on the nutritional composition of processed foods. Local and traditional foods, including geographical indications ¹⁹, intrinsically tied to a country's culture and heritage could be subject to special consideration, taking into account the national situation, for example their contribution to the overall dietary intake.

European Council

Council of the European Union



Greece's

National Action Plan on Food Reformulation

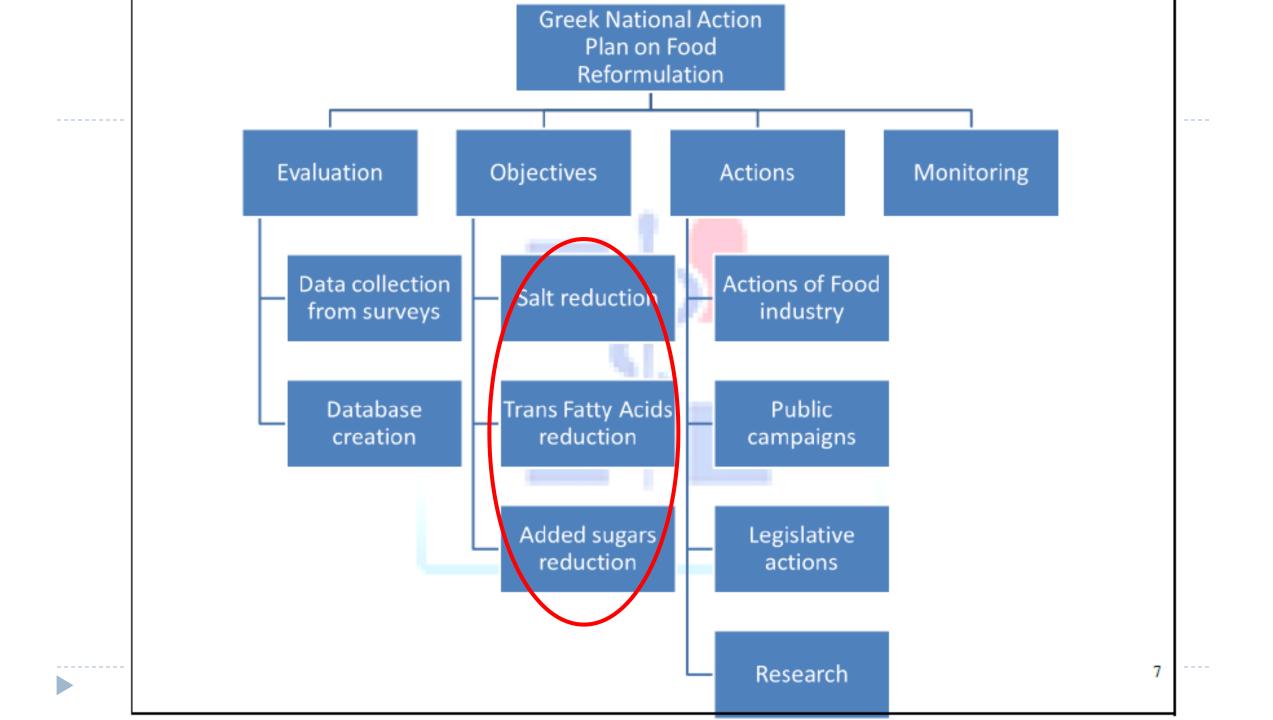


Department on NCDs and Nutrition

National Nutrition Policy Committee 2017



- General Secretary of Public Health
 Circular n.Δ1β/Γποικ.49975 /28-6-2018
- Working Group:
 - Ministry of Health Directorate of PH
 - Hellenic Food Authority
 - General Chemical State Laboratory
 - General Secretariat for Research and Technology
 - Federation of Hellenic Food Industries
 - Harokopio University of Athens
 - National School of Public Health
 - National Center for Research and Technological Development



Food producers / food industry are asked to:

- Produce products with less salt, less added sugars, less industrially produced trans fatty acids, and/or
- ▶ Limit the availability of products containing salt and additional sugars.
- Actions may include:
 - voluntary commitments,
 - reduction of promotional activities in products containing salt, added sugars and industrially produced trans fatty acids,
 - smaller packages portions of these products.
- Reformulation of food products should not deviate from the requirements for food safety



Actions that are in place

- Strategy for Salt Reduction Hellenic Food Authority (EFET)
- Decisions of Supreme Chemical
 Council of the State
 - minimum content of artificial sweeteners of non-alcoholic beverages have been recalled
 - maximum content of trans fatty acids





Actions that are in place (Ministry of Health)

- National Legislation on Nutritional Standards
 - ▶ foods sold by School canteens
 - ▶ foods offered in nurseries / preschool premises
 - ▶ foods distributed in schools by Food Aid Programs

Wholegrain foods

Fresh

fruits/vegetables

Traditional foods

Smaller portions

Foods with added sugars

Foods high in salt

Foods high in saturated fat

Trans fats

Public awareness











ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΥΓΕΙΑΣ

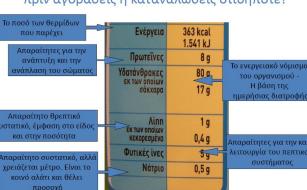
Τρώω έξυπνα! Νιώθω καλά!

ΥΛΙΚΑ ΓΙΑ ΤΟΥΣ ΜΑΘΗΤΕΣ ΓΥΜΝΑΣΙΟΥ

ΑΓΩΓΗ ΥΓΕΙΑΣ - ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΥΓΕΙΑΣ - Αθήνα 2019







Η βάση της

συστήματος

[→] {Το υγιεινο μου ΚΟΛΑΤΣΙΟ} Φρέσκα φρούτα όπως μήλο, αχλάδι, πορτοκάλι, Φυσικό χυμό φρούτων χωρίς μανταρίνια, μπανάνα, βερίκοκα, ροδάκινο. Δοκίμασε και προσθήκη ζάχαρης τη φρουτοδαλάτα! Μπορείς να δοκιμάδεις και αποξηραμένα φρούτα, όπως σύκα ή σταφίδες σε ατομικές μερίδες! Προτιμήστε τον φρέσκο! Γάλα πλήρες ή Γιαούρτι σκέτο Smoothies με χαμηλά λιπαρά ή με μέλι από φρέσκο γάλα και φρέσκα φρούτα Προτίμησε λευκό! Σαλάτα λαχανικών Κουλούρι Κριτσίνια ή κράκερς, με ελαιόλαδο, τυρί Θε66αλονίκης κατά προτίμηση ολικής άλεσης. και κριτσίνια Συνδύασέ τα με τυρί! Τοστ ή σάντουιτς με τυρί και λαχανικά Τοστ ή σάντουιτς Προτίμησε ψωμί ολικής άλεσης. Για εναλλαγή δοκίμασε με μέλι ή και ελληνική ή αραβική πίτα ή τορτίγια μέλι με ταχίνι Τυρόπιτα ή Πίτσα με τυρί και λαχανικά, Μουστοκούλουρο πίτα λαχανικών αλλά χωρίς αλλαντικά ή σταφιδόψωμο Κρέμα ή ρυζόγαλο, παστέλι ή χαλβά Μπάρα δημητριακών Μπισκότα απλά ολικής άλεσης χωρίς γέμιση, κατά προτίμηση σε ατομικές μερίδες ολικής άλεσης Τι να φάω στο σχολείο για να έχω ενέργεια και υγεία; Και όταν διψάω; ..πίνω πάντα νερό! ΑΓΩΓΗ ΥΓΕΙΑΣ Το ενεργειακό νόμισμα Β) και Υ.Ν./Γ.Γ.96605 (ΦΕΚ 2800/Β΄/4-ΤΙ-2013) Υγειονομικές Διατάξει

Questionnaire for Hellenic Food Industries for the EUREMO project

- ▶ Epsa S.A.
- Hellenic Dairies SA
- Nestle Hellas S.A.
- G. Kourtidis bros S.A.
- P.G. Nikas SA
- ▶ Take Eleni Nikolopoulou LTD
- Coca-Cola Hellas
- ▶ Epirotic Bottling Industry S.A.(Vikos S.A.)
- ► Elais-Unilever Hellas
- ▶ Elbisco SA
- Delta Food S.A.
- Peponopoulos S.A.
- ► E.J.Papadopoulos S.A.



What kind of food reformulation actions has your company been engaged in so far?



Salt reduction actions

•eg cheeses, cured meat, bread



Sugar reduction actions

- Sugar reduction (eg fruit yogurts, dairy drinks, packaged bread, biscuits, soft drinks, juices, RTDs beverages,)
- Sugar elimination (eg soft drinks, packaged bread)



Fat reduction actions

- Total fat and SFA reduction (eg cured meat)
- Trans fats elimination

Other actions

Protein	4.9g	6.1g	13.6%
Carbohydrate	6.9g	- 8.6g	3.7%
of which sugars	6.9g	8.6g	9.6%
of which starch	nil	nil	
Fat	1.5g	1.90	2.7%
of which saturates	0.9g		5.5%
mono-unsaturates	0.4g	0.5g	
polyunsaturates	nil	nil	
Fibre	nii	nii .	lin

- Increase wholegrains
- Portions decrease
- Kcal /portion Reduction
- Pack nutrient information
- Vegan meat-alternatives

Barriers / difficulties

- ▶ Consumer tasting preferences (especially for sugar)*
- Maintaining sensory characteristics organoleptical acceptance by consumers especially in case of existed brands without losing market shares
- ▶ Technological issues (eg bread)*
- Increased cost of recipe
- The competition in the same food category does not follow in parallel, so the consumer training is very difficult
- There is no demand from customers
- There is resistance from sales and marketing that the consumers' priority in sweet snacks is taste and not health.



How did you overcome difficulties? What worked well?

- Experienced Research & Development department
- ▶ The company-university cooperation
- ▶ Gradual reduction of sugar & salt to maintain consumer acceptance
- Monitoring the national and European nutritional trends
- Matching reformulation with other modifications of the same food
- Evolving recipes of reformulated products to be as close as possible to the taste consumers are looking for.
- ▶ Educate the consumers to new organoleptic experiences
- Promotion of healthier offers in the company's product portfolio
- \blacktriangleright Consumer's awareness of the healthy benefits of the products \rightarrow

Consumers are interested in products with reduced or no sugar



Areas of interest (as reported by the industry)

- Salt reduction in bread & bread substitutes.
- Sugar reduction / replacers in biscuits & cereal bars
- Healthy alternative additives when reducing sugar, so that the product's taste remains pleasant
- Fat reduction in biscuits
- Share best practices from different product categories (Case studies of food companies of other countries)
- Ways of informing and convincing consumers to replace traditional foods with reformulated
- The role of marketing as education tool
- Labelling



Main issues to be discussed in Greece

Tools to collect food data information REMO Public bodies (Ministries of Health/ Agriculture / Finance Which foods / nutrients need to Hellenic Food be reformulated (further)? Authority) Set targets Intersectoral Voluntary or Mandatory? Actions Food Industry Universities Retailers Support small-medium Professional Research enterprises **Associations** Monitoring system



Thank you!



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