

Workshop on “**Methodological and practical issues related to compiling and comparing data on maternal dietary intake in European birth cohorts for Joint Analysis of Diet in Pregnancy**”



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Target group: Researchers with an interest in analysis of epidemiological data on maternal dietary intakes, particularly in using existing data from multiple centres.

Learning targets: (i) To review methods for collecting and compiling dietary intake estimates from different study populations.

(ii) To identify utility and limitations of studies compiling dietary data post hoc from existing studies.

Program (preliminary):

9:00-10:30 Review of basic methods for collecting dietary data, including tradeoffs/ considerations in selecting and adapting methods

- *Advantages/limitations of food frequency questionnaires, 24h recalls, food records/diaries and diet histories (e.g. for ranking vs. quantifying intakes)*
- *Validation of FFQs (relative validation, biomarker validation; innovations)*

10:30-11:00 Coffee break

11:00-13:00 Review and discussion of methods, pitfalls and limitations in comparing dietary intakes across studies: preliminary findings from the EARNEST diet in pregnancy study

- *Standardization of food groupings and sub-groupings. Review of methods required to incorporate analysis of nutrient (e.g. detailed harmonization of nutrient tables).*
- *Review of design issues that may influence disparities in intake estimates (number and dis-aggregation of food items in questionnaires, timing administered in pregnancy, portion size assumptions, validity).*
- *Emphasis on subgroup comparisons/associations vs. comparisons of absolute intakes.*

13:00 Brief wrap-up and closing before lunch