



Activity report of the transnational governance of Nutri-Score 2023



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Participants of the Steering Committee Nutri-Score

- The Steering Committee (StC) is composed of maximum two representatives from national authorities in charge of Nutri-Score in each country: France, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, Luxembourg, Spain and the Netherlands. The position of the chair of the StC rotates. Germany was the chair from May 2022 up to February 2024, followed now by Belgium.
- In 2023, Finland and Austria participated as observers in (one or more) meetings.
- In 2023, the StC met 5 times in online meetings in: January, February, March, July and November.

Main activities and decisions in 2023

2023 was a very important and impactful year for the evolution of Nutri-Score. After the adoption of the evolutions of the algorithm for solid foods in July 2022, the Scientific Committee (ScC) recommended modifications to the algorithm for beverages based on scientific evidence and stakeholder requests. These changes achieve better consistency with the FBDGs and have been adopted by the StC.

- **Adoption and publication of the report of the second update of the ScC** for the category “beverages”. This update has strengthened further the effectiveness of the Nutri-Score system to classify beverages consistently with food based dietary guidelines (FBDGs) and guide consumers towards healthier food choices.
- **Agreement about the transition period** from 1st January 2024 for the implementation of the updated algorithm for solid food and beverages. Modalities have been published in the updated FAQ’s and Conditions of Use.
- The **revision of the Fruit-Vegetable-and-Legumes-component by the ScC** was originally planned to be finished in 2023. However, more time is needed to define what components, processes and preparation methods should be included. Based on the advice of the ScC, the StC decided to postpone the inclusion of these additional revisions of the "Fruit-Vegetable-and-Legumes-component" in the updated algorithm.
- Adoption of the ScC’s proposal for a **threshold of 50% to define nuts** for the “Fats, oils, nuts and seeds” category in the updated algorithm.
- Adoption of the ScC’s proposal to **refer to the official EU list of authorised non-nutritive sweeteners** (NNS) intended to be used in beverages (Annex II of Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008) instead of the static list of NNS used in the current FAQs.
- Decision to **renew the mandate of experts in the ScC** from 2024 to continue their independent work and assessments for another three years.
- Agreement on the **priority worklist for 2024 of the ScC** (see annex 1).
- Start of the discussion about the **inclusion of stakeholders participation** in the transnational governance of Nutri-Score.

Developments and focus in the COEN countries in 2023

Belgium

Belgium has followed to promote the Nutri-Score logo on its territory and also at EU level. The Federal Government of Belgium decided also to prepare and to held a Scientific Symposium on the different FOPNL in Europe during the Belgian Presidency of the EU Council in 2024 in order to stimulate the interest amongst the Member States for a EU-wide FOPNL.

France

Since August 2023, the French authorities have revised the legal text to officially adopt the updated algorithm. After notification to the European Commission, the text is now pending for signature by the ministers. A communication campaign has been also elaborated in 2023 by Santé publique France with French stakeholders consultation to accompany the introduction of the updated algorithm.

Germany

Following an EU-wide invitation to tender, Germany commissioned RAL gGmbH as the Regulator responsible for auditing the food business operators to respect the trademark rights of the Nutri-Score (in particular correct registration, calculation and use) on German territory, which began its work in 2023. In addition, the Regulator is in charge of advising companies interested or participating in the Nutri-Score.

Luxembourg

The political decision has been made to implement Nutri-Score in Luxembourg

from May 2021. FBO's in Luxembourg are bound to use the updated algorithm from March 2024. In Luxembourg, the date of entry into force of the new algorithm is the date on which the Grand-Ducal Regulation of 30 January 2024 amending the Grand-Ducal Regulation of 7 May 2021 on the use of the Nutri-Score logo has entered into force, that is 5 March 2024.

Netherlands

The political decision has been made in 2023 to implement Nutri-Score in the Netherlands from January 2024. Dutch FBO's are bound to use directly the updated algorithm from January 2024. This decision has been integrated in the national legislation.

- Presentation in the StC of the report of the Dutch Health Council about the assessment of the alignment of the update algorithm to the Dutch dietary guidelines and recommendations for further improvement.

Spain

On the website of the Spanish Agency for Food Safety and Nutrition (AESAN) there is a section with information on the Nutri-Score model. In 2023 the report of the Scientific Committee of Nutri-Score on the update of the algorithm for beverages has been added. The information on the calculation with the new algorithm and the transition period has also been updated

 **Switzerland**

In order to increase public understanding of Nutri-Score and explain its use, a toolbox has been developed with the aim of using common messages and visuals.

The toolbox can be used since August 2023 by all interested stakeholders who support or use Nutri-Score in Switzerland.

Next steps

- The StC will continue its work on the coordinated management of the Nutri-Score and its efforts to ensure a science-based, effective, simple and transparent front-of-pack nutrition label, in accordance with other nutritional policies.
- The StC will continue to support a discussion on EU level for a harmonized and evidence-based FOPNL in Europe.
- The StC will better involve the stakeholders in the transnational governance through a formal User Forum, involving representatives of consumer organizations and food industry.
- The ScC will continue its independent work on some areas of improvement of the Nutri-Score algorithm.

Annex 1

Scientific committee of the Nutri-Score
Priority work list for 2024
European governance of Nutri-Score

Revision work planification of the Scientific Committee Nutri-Score for 2024**1. Red meat specific calculation rule threshold**

Testing of 20% red meat threshold on food composition data provided by FBOs

2. Legumes in the F&V component:

- Potential impact of omitting legumes from the fruit-vegetables-legumes
- Analysis with data from from national and/or Euromonitor database
- Comparison of variety of products
- Including products with soy isolates

3. FVL processes to be included:

- Need to decide if evaluating F&V processing methods as a proxy of minerals and vitamins // as a main component of the FBDG, in order to focus on potential consultation to experts
- Identify documents and valid sources of information for this point.
- Of note, no testing can be performed on the question of processing methods
- Concentrated/ Dehydrated ingredients:
 - i. Maintain the computation system for 'rehydration' ⇒ rather NO
 - ii. Include alternate proportions ⇒ Rather NO

4. Euromonitor database study

Assessment of the effectiveness of the updated Nutri-Score algorithm in EU countries.
(study funded by the COEN countries)

5. Other topics to address

- NNS in solid foods
- Improve discrimination according to fat content of solid cheeses
- Whole grains discrimination, difficult to achieve further discrimination with Nutri-Score algorithm, keep attention for methods to discriminate more.. e.g. based on experiences in other countries (e.g. Scandinavian)

Timeline proposal:

Topics 1 to 4: First half 2024

Topics 5: From second half 2024, if topics 1-3 have sufficiently progressed