



# EuroFIR

European Food Information Resource



EuroFIR Association Internationale  
sans but-lucratif (EuroFIR AISBL)

Annual Report 2014

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## President's Welcome

EuroFIR Association Internationale sans but-lucratif (AISBL) was founded in 2009 by the EuroFIR Network of Excellence (NoE, FP6) and, following EuroFIR NEXUS, has evolved into a financially independent Association, based in Brussels (BE). Many of the original 47 EuroFIR partners are members of the EuroFIR AISBL, but we have also broadened our membership to include Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs), and other academic and research organisations as well as individuals including students from the food and health sector.

Establishing EuroFIR AISBL has not been easy and it remains a challenge to maintain and extend our membership, deliver benefits and added value, and secure EU- and other income streams in a highly competitive and demanding environment. Membership has increased and we will focus on increasing numbers of Ordinary Members, especially food and health researchers and other professionals, in 2015.

We also need to hear more from members about their needs. We take on board suggestions we receive (e.g. improving the website) and implement changes where possible, despite only having a small team with limited time and resources. We also seek opportunities to include developments for the Association in funding proposals wherever possible.

Finally, I wish to thank our hard-working and dedicated Office Team as well as the Executive Board, and our members for your continued support; together we can deliver better awareness and sustainable use of food composition activities in Europe.

**Paul M Finglas**  
President & Managing Director



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# Overview of the Year

I hope you will enjoy reading our Annual Report for 2014, where we have summarised our efforts and achievements for the year. None of this would have been possible without the support of our members and your collaboration for which we are most grateful.

In 2014, one of our main achievements was the creation and launch of the Technical Working Groups (WGs), especially the FoodComp WG, which operates through LinkedIn, and the FoodCASE User Group. We have worked hard to improve and realign our website, making it easier to find information and present clear membership benefits, which has started to impact on the number of enquiries we receive from potential new members or bespoke commercial users. There are also exciting and significant developments in the aim to create a Food and Health Research Infrastructure in Europe with food composition information firmly embedded in this framework, which can only benefit the food database compiler organisations as well as users of these data and tools.

We are pleased to announce that two new EU-funded projects have started or are under contract negotiations (PD-Manager in HEALTH and REFRESH in Food Security-WASTE), which involve members as well as the Association; several proposals for EU-funding are under evaluation. We try to get involved in projects directly through invitations, or via members, to promote the use of food composition data and tools, and enhance what has already been developed since 2005 and the start of EuroFIR NoE.

Overall performance and achievements in 2014 are:

- Increased membership (+ 240 % cf. 2013; 75 to 180 resulting 20 new members) and commercial enquiries (+1000 % cf. 2013; 44 in 2014 resulting in eight projects and €6325 income); overall, membership levels remain steady at 166 (158 in 2013);

- Launch of new contacts relations manager (CRM), which will enhance membership recruitment and make automatic payments and renewals more efficient;
- Launch of the FoodComp (67) and Technical (24) Working- and FoodCASE User (10) Groups with LinkedIn (closed) accounts (53 current discussion lines)
- Three successful training workshops (two with TDS-Exposure), TDS-Exposure Summer School, and publication of the new Dutch ebook (total of five in series);
- Two EU-funded projects successfully completed (PlantLIBRA and PLEASURE) and delivery of the new ePlantLIBRA microsite ([www.eurofir.org/PLANTLIBRA](http://www.eurofir.org/PLANTLIBRA))
- Six EU proposals and one tender submitted with three funded (PD Manager, REFRESH and the EU Parliament tender)
- Two internships from Spain, each hosted for six months

Dissemination, communications and media:

- Approved to join the EU Transparency Register allowing access to notifications about public consultations and meetings in the European Parliament
- Reorganisation of website improving navigation and access using a single login as well as a new EU Section and live-chat tool, resulting in over 3000 hits per month or 15,000 pages visited every month (data not available for 2013);
- Three newsletters published;
- Two international symposia organised and six events attended in Brussels focussing on the food and health sector;
- 102 Facebook Likes, 79 LinkedIn followers, 60 Twitter followers and 90 tweets





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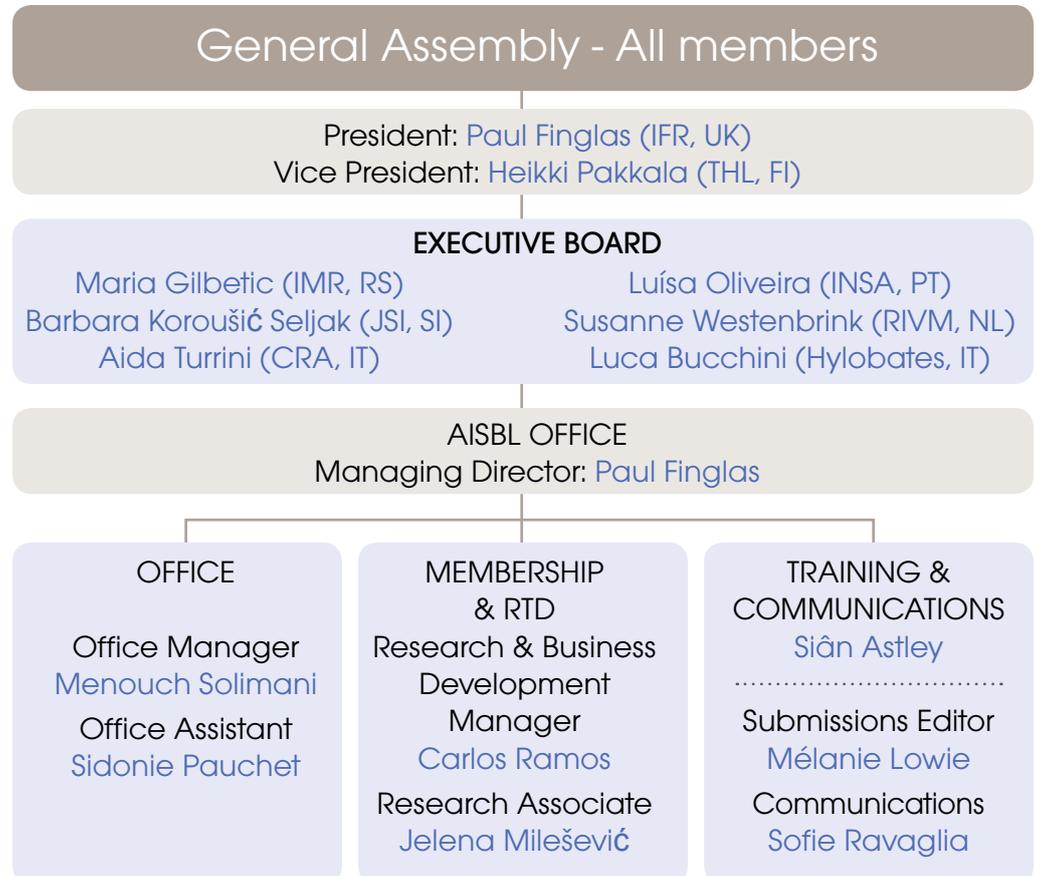
## Vision and Mission

EuroFIR AISBL, an international, member-based, non-profit Association under Belgian law ([www.eurofir.org](http://www.eurofir.org)), was set up in 2009 to ensure sustained advocacy for food information in Europe.

The vision of EuroFIR AISBL is delivery of high quality, validated national food composition data and supporting information in a number of different formats, which are essential for research and policy in the areas of food quality, nutrition and public health challenges in Europe. We aim to enhance the awareness and understanding of the value of food composition data, and its importance for consumers in making healthier dietary choices.

Our mission is to be the best and only independent broker of validated food composition data and supporting information in Europe and beyond, facilitate improved data quality, storage and access, and encourage wider applications and exploitation of food composition data for both research and commercial purposes.

## Structure





## Executive Board

The General Assembly elects the Executive Board for a three-year term with the possibility of a further three-year extension. Their role is to oversee strategic development of EuroFIR AISBL, and provide technical and scientific support as necessary.

Currently, the Executive Board is comprised of:

- Paul Finglas (IFR, UK; President)
- Heikki Pakkala (THL, FI; Vice President)
- Maria Glibetic (IMR, RS)
- Barbara Koroušić Seljak (JSI, SI)
- Aida Turrini (CRA-Nut, IT)
- Luísa Oliveira (INSA, PT)
- Susanna Westenbrink (RIVM, NL)
- Luca Bucchini (Hylobates, IT)

The Executive Board had three teleconferences during the year (January, June and September 2014). The agendas and minutes for these meetings are available online. In addition, the President met with each of the directors for face-to-face discussions.

Menouch Solimani (EuroFIR AISBL Office Manager) is rapporteur for the Executive Board and Hedwig Beernaert is Secretary General and advisor.

Topics discussed included:

- Financial figures for the current year
- Funding from EC and others
- General Assembly
- Membership and commercial clients
- Office (team, Articles of Association, etc.)
- Technical Working group
- Training
- Website and newsletter



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## General Assembly

The fifth General Assembly took place on the 27th March 2014 at Maison des Associations Internationales (Brussels, BE). The agenda included:

- Review and discussion of the Articles of the Association and revised voting
- Activities and achievements in 2013
- Planned activities for 2014
- Membership status and admission of any new members
- Proposed new SME Director
- Examination and approval of the annual accounts (closed 31st December 2013)
- Approval of activities and budget as set out in the Business Plan for 2014
- Discharge to the executive directors and to the managing director

A total of 21 Full Members (out of a total of 32, 65%) and seven Directors were present; a further five Full Members voted *in absentia*. The General Assembly was declared quorate; Siân Astley and Menouch Solimani were appointed Secretary and vote-teller.

The major resolutions accepted the General Assembly were:

- Revision of Article of Associations for EuroFIR AISBL taking into account proposed changes in the composition of the EB and voting rights including voting for Ordinary Members
- Adoption of one new national food composition database compiler organisation (National Institute for Health Development/ NIHD – Estonia) as an Associate Member with effect from 1st January 2014, as described in Articles 7.1 and 7.2 of the statutes
- Approval of the annual accounts (31.12.2013) with a profit before tax (20,456.06 EUR)
- Ian Unwin (IDUFIC, UK) and Dawn Wright (IFR, UK) were elected honorary members



Ian Unwin (IDUFIC, UK)



Dawn Wright (IFR, UK)



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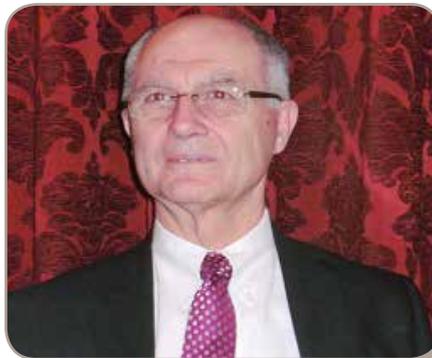
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## EuroFIR AISBL Office

Day-to-day operations are carried out in the EuroFIR AISBL Office under the Managing Director, **Paul Finglas** (IFR, UK) who has led a number of EU-funded research projects including EuroFIR NoE and NEXUS. His role is to provide leadership and advocacy for the Association, and secure income streams as well as managing staff in the Office.



Paul Finglas



Hedwig Beernaert

**Hedwig Beernaert**, Secretary General and advisor of EuroFIR AISBL since 2009, is an experienced analytical scientist with over 100 peer-review publications and has been involved in the development and application of quality systems. He was vice-president of the Belgian Accreditation Board BELAC as well as the Belgian representative at the EU and OECD GLP (Good Laboratory Practice) Working Group until 2009.



Menouch Solimani

**Menouch Solimani**, EuroFIR Office Manager, provides administrative support for the Association. With Hedwig Beernaert, she is responsible for ensuring EuroFIR AISBL complies with legal, financial and employment requirements.

**Jelena Milešević** joined EuroFIR AISBL in January 2014 from the Institute for Medical Research (IMR, RS), and is creating a specialised vitamin D dataset, which will be used to better estimate dietary intakes amongst ethnic groups and identify traditional foods that could be biofortified, underpinning ODIN and Qualify. She is currently a PhD candidate at University of Novi Sad (RS) in the area of vitamin D composition and dietary intakes.



Jelena Milešević



Carlos Ramos

**Carlos Ramos** became Research and Business Development Manager during 2014. This new role combines research in the on-going EU-funded projects and new proposals for funding with coordination of membership (e.g. current benefits, products and services, identification of improved benefits/tools, recruitment, and marketing).



Siân Astley

**Siân Astley** (Training and Communications Manager) is, primarily, responsible for training and communications activities for EU-funded RTD projects (currently TDS-Exposure, BACCHUS and QualiFY, and other projects as required), but also contributes to new research proposals and, recently, participated on two EC Expert Review Panels.



Sofie Ravaglia



Sidonie Pauchet

**Sidonie Pauchet** joined EuroFIR AISBL in February 2014, taking responsibility for project reporting, Horizon 2020 proposals submissions, and assisting with communications. Previously, Sidonie was a Parliamentary Assistant (supporting legislative work and drafting policy notes) and worked as a Communications and Advocacy Assistant for a European Platform of Organizations in migration and social affairs.



Mélanie Lowie

**Mélanie Lowie**, Managing Editor for Food Chemistry ([www.journals.elsevier.com/food-chemistry](http://www.journals.elsevier.com/food-chemistry)), Elsevier's flagship research journal in food science and nutrition, is responsible for distributing submissions to the editors according to their expertise and workflow, and resolving issues related to manuscripts, deadlines and review processes as well as checking the ethical integrity of submissions and contributing to development of the journal.

**Sofie Ravaglia**, Communications Officer for Food Chemistry, joined EuroFIR AISBL in August 2014. She is the primary point of contact for authors, reviewers and editors.





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## 2014 EuroFIR Internships



**Beatriz Jaraiz Salomon**

**Beatriz Jaraiz Salomon** (Universidad de Sevilla, ES) joined EuroFIR AISBL in November 2013 for six months, through the Leonardo Da Vinci Internship Programme. She provided support for EU-funded projects and helped with events and communications activities as well as learning more about the management of an International Association. These activities not only enhanced her skills in managing large amounts of information in several languages, but also encouraged familiarity with European Institutions. Beatriz learnt two languages whilst with EuroFIR AISBL achieving professional proficiency in English and a satisfactory knowledge of French.



**Lourdes Samaniego**

**Lourdes Samaniego** (CEU San Pablo University, Madrid, ES) joined EuroFIR AISBL in March 2014 as part of a post-doctoral exchange fellowship. Primarily interested in folic acid, as a strategic nutrient for public health promotion, Lourdes has a particular interest in folate and folic acid content of foods, food data quality and food fortification policies as well as risk assessment of folic acid food fortification in vulnerable groups. She supported research activities in ODIN, which is collecting, standardising and evaluating dietary intake and composition data for vitamin D in Europe, and identifying foods that could be used to increase vitamin D intakes to combat deficiency. Lourdes also worked to provide data on portion sizes and nutrient recommendations, which are important for personalised nutrition tools in QuaLiFY.

# Membership: Update

At the General Assembly 2014, we presented results from Kellen Europe describing strategies and the direction EuroFIR AISBL should adopt for future success. This marked a turning point in how we work with members: our goal is to provide members with the most appropriate benefits through a combination of tools, data and events. The number of enquiries for membership increased dramatically (ca. 180) and we have started to see an improved conversion to new members.

During 2014, 20 new organisations (13) and individual (7) members joined:

Research including academia and others

- CAPNUTRA - Capacity Development Network in Nutrition (RS)
- European Commission, DG JRC (Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements) (BE)
- EVIRA - Finnish Food Safety Authority (FI)
- Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (CH)
- Institute for Food Technology, Novi Sad (RS)
- Universidad CEU San Pablo (ES)

- University of Aberdeen (UK)
- University of Ljubljana - Biotechnical Faculty (SI)

Industry including SMEs

- Analyze & Realize GmbH (DE)
- Axya Systems (USA)
- Eaternity (CH)
- Food Angels Ltd. (UK)
- Nestec SA (CH)

Again, we have re-structured membership benefits during 2014 to better meet the needs of members, not just those that have been with us since the start but also new members. We need to double or even triple the number of new members in 2015 and 2016.

We are dedicated to understanding the needs of our members, whether individuals or organisations, and welcome your comments. Over the coming months, we will continue to expand the benefits available, fully conscious that 'one sizes does not fit all'. Thus, just as there are differences amongst our members, there are and will continue to be a range of options to choose from.



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Table 1: Summary of Membership Status

Membership Category	2012	2013	2014	2015
Full Members	26	33	32	30
Compiler	15	22	20	20
Non-compiler	11	11	12	10
Associate Members*	12	1	4	4
Compiler	11	1	4	4
Non-compiler	1	N/A	0	
Ordinary Members	37	39	43	53
Organisations	19	14	24	34
Individuals (including students)	18	25	19	19
Honorary Members	3	65**	79**	79**
<b>Total Members</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>138***</b>	<b>158***</b>	<b>166***</b>

\* Only for new national FCDB compiler organisations and discontinued for non-compilers from 2013.

\*\* including PLEASURE (15), BACCHUS (16), PRECIOUS (6), ODIN (25) and QualiFY (12)

\*\*\* including Honorary Members



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## Membership Benefits

It is important that any organisation review the benefits offered against those sought by their members. In order to retain and increase membership revenue, EuroFIR AISBL is considering the value offered by the current membership model. Advocacy, education, and networking are just a few of the benefits EuroFIR AISBL offers, and the vast majority of our members are satisfied or very satisfied with the service we provide and value for money.

EuroFIR AISBL is the only independent food composition resource in Europe bringing together food composition datasets from over 20 EU Member States, and the US – at a single point of entry – as well as working with INFOODS outside Europe.

We are recognised as an independent resource, promoting trust throughout a proven network of contacts, facilitating access and cooperation amongst national compiler organisations and other key users, including the food industry, research, education and policy-makers.

In addition, members enjoy:

- Access to harmonised and documented food information (energy and nutrient values), references and standardised vocabularies for the handling and exchange of food information as well as best practice and technical support
- Opportunities to take part in pre-competitive research and development projects in food and health areas as well as potential commercial projects
- Use of standardised food composition data in software tools, innovative software tools and databases (e.g. eBASIS & ePlantLIBRA), and FoodCASE (exclusive members' rate for annual and maintenance fees)
- Training and continual professional development for students and researchers including free access to elearning modules and specialised training courses
- Networking among members and key stakeholders, and access to expertise and a presence at lobbying events and relevant meetings at the European Parliament

Table 2. Revised membership packages

Benefits	Full Members	Ordinary Organisation	Ordinary Individuals & students
Voting rights (As per AoA)	Yes	Yes (see Note a)	
Technical Working Groups	Yes	Yes	By invitation only
FoodCASE & OPEN User Groups	Yes	Yes*	
Newsletter, eBooks <sup>b</sup> , other publications & access to members' pages	Yes	Yes	Yes
Training, bespoke or other	Yes	Yes/Discounted	Discounted
Consultancy & facilitation (bespoke)	Yes	Yes	
Opportunity to participate in EU-funded projects	Yes	Yes	
Two complimentary training per year and/or reduced fees	Yes	Yes (Reduced Fees)	
Access to (i) eBASIS and (ii) ePlantLIBRA	Yes	(i) By request (ii) Via membership/pay-for-view	
Data use rights	Yes	For SMEs	-
eLearning	Yes	Yes	Yes

<sup>a</sup> Approved by GA 2013 but excluding voting on financial and resolution items

<sup>b</sup> Each existing/new member can choose one e-book for free

\* basic programme plus priority for developing new modules (free is shared, cost if exclusive)

# Research and Technology

EuroFIR AISBL was engaged in nine EU-funded projects during 2014. These projects underpin the European Research Area, and strengthen competitiveness and growth of industry. Our role has, and continues to be, important in promoting international cooperation and harmonisation of standards to improve data quality, storage and access. Some of our contributions to these projects are described below.



In ODIN (Food-based solutions for optimal vitamin D nutrition and health through the life cycle), EuroFIR AISBL is participating in work packages (WPs) responsible for determining dietary exposure to vitamin D in European populations, and developing a specialised food composition database for vitamin D in foods across Europe, which is being used for dietary assessment of vitamin D intake.

For more information visit [www.odin-vitd.eu](http://www.odin-vitd.eu)



## **Quantify Life – Feed Yourself (QualiFY)**

Within QualiFY, EuroFIR AISBL is developing a portion-size database, which allows conversion of food weight/ volume using different measures including standard household utensils. In addition, the EURRECA database of Dietary Nutrient Recommendations has been updated for access via the QualiFY Server Platform, allowing access to data knowledge rules for personalised nutrition advice.

For more information visit [www.qualify-fp7.eu](http://www.qualify-fp7.eu)



Integrated Approaches to Food Allergen and Allergy Risk Management (iFAAM) will produce a standardised management process for food manufacturing companies. EuroFIR AISBL is contributing to food coding of EuroPrevall datasets to determine the influence of maternal diet and infant feeding practices on patterns and prevalence of allergies across Europe.

For more information visit [www.inflammation-repair.manchester.ac.uk/iFAAM](http://www.inflammation-repair.manchester.ac.uk/iFAAM)



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### **PREventive Care Infrastructure based On Ubiquitous Sensing (PRECIOUS)**

In PRECIOUS, EuroFIR AISBL is supporting development of user requirements and scenarios. To achieve this, 'situational interviews' gathered qualitative information regarding motivations for behavioural change. The interviews also explored perceived barriers to change and what tools/ systems/ approaches might help achieve desirable changes. PRECIOUS will also use electronic recording methods to collect food intake data; EuroFIR AISBL is providing relevant food composition data as well as food descriptions via EuroFIR web-services

For more information visit [www.thepreciousproject.eu](http://www.thepreciousproject.eu)



### **Total Diet Study Exposure (TDS-Exposure)**

EuroFIR AISBL leading training and supporting dissemination activities, including the development and the management of the project website, and participating in the evaluation of existing food identification and classification systems and future needs for food identification, description and classification.

For more information visit [www.tds-exposure.eu](http://www.tds-exposure.eu)



### **Beneficial effects of dietary bioactive peptides and polyphenols on cardiovascular health in humans (BACCHUS)**

Together with IFR UK), UCC (IE) and CSIC-CEBAS (ES), EuroFIR AISBL is extending eBASIS to include additional bioactive compounds, such as peptides and individual polyphenols. We are also involved in dissemination and stakeholder engagement.

For more information visit [www.bacchus-fp7.eu](http://www.bacchus-fp7.eu)

### **Study on the need for food and health research infrastructures in Europe (EuroDISH)**

EuroFIR is working with IFR (UK), JSI (SI), CRA-Nut (IT), MRI (DE) and WHO-IARC (FR) to develop and test a new matching tool for foods reported in consumption surveys, which need to be matched against those in composition databases and/or a food classification systems. Importantly, this tool provides an interface between existing infrastructures:

GlobalDiet (formerly e-SMP) and the EuroFIR Platform. We aim to provide the food composition-intake element of the wider Food and Health Research Infrastructure proposed for Europe.

For more information visit [www.eurodish.eu](http://www.eurodish.eu)



### **Plant food supplements: Levels of intake, benefit and risk assessment (PlantLIBRA)**

EuroFIR AISBL and IFR (UK), together with four EuroFIR AISBL Members (DTU, Polytec and DFI (DK) and UCC (IE)) contributed to the development of ePlantLIBRA, a database of composition, biologically active compounds, safety information, residues and contaminants, based on the EuroFIR eBASIS and MoniQA databases. ePlantLIBRA database includes quality assessed data on composition, beneficial and adverse effects of components of plant food supplements, and information on plants and botanical preparations used for food supplements.

For more information about the project and other on-going activities, visit PlantLIBRA website [www.plantlibra.eu/web](http://www.plantlibra.eu/web)



To ensure continued access to ePlantLIBRA, EuroFIR AISBL is hosting the database, which can be accessed via the microsite, [www.eurofir.org/PlantLIBRA](http://www.eurofir.org/PlantLIBRA).



### **Novel Processing approaches for the development of food products Low in fAt, Salt and (PLEASURE)**

EuroFIR AISBL provided access to food composition data for reference foods and products developed in the project, and calculation of nutritional impact as well as participating in demonstration activities.

For more information visit [www.pleasure-fp7.com](http://www.pleasure-fp7.com)

### **Salon International de l'Alimentation (SIAL, 16-20th October 2014, Paris, FR)**

EuroFIR AISBL and other partners from PLEASURE (TTC, BZN, VMI, ONIRIS, PROMA) hosted a booth at SIAL to promote PLEASURE and encourage delegates to try samples of reduced-in pizza. SIAL is the world's largest food innovation marketplace drawing together 6,500 exhibitors from 104 countries and more than 155,000 visitors.





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## Commercial Projects

For developers providing software and tools to work with information about food, high quality food composition data are essential. Many recipe-, diet- or menu-planning tools are country-specific and use national food composition data. However, some products are missing or information is out of date. With an increasingly global food supply, those using this type of software may be looking for information on products outside their country. The benefit of using the EuroFIR AISBL standardised food composition data is obvious; it includes the most up to date information across Europe and beyond.

AISBL EuroFIR facilitates and has improved the use of food composition data from national food composition databases (FCDBs) amongst members for commercial use. Examples include:

- Development of software for implementation on mobile devices or smart phones, video games (e.g. nutrition education) or for health advisors (e.g. type 2 diabetic) as well as implementation of software in kitchen and sport appliances (e.g. kitchen scales)
- Implementation in systems that can be accessed by a large number of users from a wide range of sectors, e.g. web-portals, -intranets and large-scale catering establishments

During 2014, more than 40 companies interested in food information contacted us. The vast majority were software developers in the area of mobile applications. We signed seven commercial license agreements using information and food composition datasets from our members. Our priority is that end-users have access to reliable nutritional information. We are working with companies to develop products tailored for use in Europe. This type of data is not readily available or in a suitable format. Working with these companies allows us to improve the quality of data through feedback from commercial users, which is important for correcting minor – if annoying – errors. These customers have reinforced these needs with FCDB compiler organisations, helping them demonstrate why continued funding is essential.



# Training

In October 2012, EuroFIR NEXUS circulated a questionnaire asking members about their training needs and capacity. Responses reflected the core competencies of the NEXUS Beneficiaries and EuroFIR AISBL members; access to methods, equipment and facilities for production and use of food composition data, and analysis of macro-/ proximates and micronutrients, were comprehensive but needs far exceeded opportunities.

In the absence of funding, EuroFIR AISBL has sought to develop a training portfolio composed of events supported by EU-funded projects, which are also relevant to members. Members have enjoyed free or reduced rates as well as access to teaching material via the EuroFIR or project websites. We also welcome members sharing information about their training activities, and these events are promoted via the website and newsletters.



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## APRIL 2014

TDS-Exposure (Workshop 1): Food collection, preparation and analysis in total diet studies

Monday 28th April-Tuesday 29th April 2014, FERA (York, UK)

## JUNE 2014

TDS-Exposure Summer School 2014: Introduction to total diet studies for assessing exposure

Monday 23rd – Friday 27th June 2014, Aden Hotel (Kadıköy, Istanbul, TR)

## NOVEMBER 2014

EuroFIR AISBL (Workshop 4): EU-funded Projects and Science Communication

Monday 17th – Thursday 20th November 2014, Thon Hotel Bristol

Stephanie (Brussels, BE)

## FEBRUARY 2015

TDS-Exposure (Workshop 5): High-end FoodCase-Risk users  
Friday 13th February 2015, ETHZ (Zurich, CH)

## MARCH 2015

TDS-Exposure and Wageningen University (Workshop 6): Food Composition and Exposure Assessment Workshop

Monday 23rd – Wednesday 25th March 2015, Science 14 Atrium (Brussels, BE)

EuroFIR AISBL and Premotec (Workshop 7): High-end FoodCase users

Friday 27th March 2015, Science 14 Atrium (Brussels, BE)

## JULY 2015

TDS-Exposure Summer School 2015: Introduction to total diet studies for assessing exposure

Monday 6th – Friday 10th July 2015, EVIRA (Helsinki, FI)

Content and access to the EuroFIR eLearning modules have been updated and, in the future, EuroFIR will host modules created by EU-funded projects (e.g. TDS-Exposure) once funding ceases, unless there are alternative plans to ensure sustainability.



Finally, EuroFIR has also posted videos explaining how to use ePlantLIBRA on YouTube, which can be accessed via <http://bit.ly/1wibhJX> (introduction) or <http://bit.ly/17ALxSQ> (searching ePlantLIBRA) and supported IFR in posting information about eBASIS <http://bit.ly/1BfXo55>





Jenny Plumb (IFR) demonstrating how to use ePlantLIBRA

## Dissemination

### *Introduction to the ePlantLIBRA database (26th March 2014, Brussels, BE)*

EuroFIR AISBL co-organised, with the Institute of Food Research (IFR, UK), and hosted a workshop introducing ePlantLIBRA, which contains plant food supplement data describing bioactive compounds from botanicals and herbal extracts with putative health benefits and adverse effects available in Europe.

**For more information, visit [www.eurofir.org/?p=2087](http://www.eurofir.org/?p=2087)**

### *EuroFIR Symposium (27th March 2014, Brussels, BE)*

Ahead of the fifth General Assembly, EuroFIR AISBL organised a Scientific Symposium, 'Better food data and tools to support food and health research, labelling and health claims in Europe' (Thursday, 27th March 2014). This symposium brought together more than 50 members and stakeholders, representing food compilers, diet and health researchers, SMEs and SME umbrella organisations, NGOs, policy-makers and the food industry. The aim was to discuss issues arising from changes in European labelling regulations with an emphasis on provision of data and knowledge. Presentations included topics such as the science underpinning labelling

and health claims (ILSI and CLYMBOL), commutability and metrology traceability (JRC, BE), vitamin D deficiency and dietary solutions (ODiN), and personalised dietary advice (QuaLiFY).

**For more information visit [www.eurofir.org/?p=4230](http://www.eurofir.org/?p=4230) (Members only)**

### *Pleasure Final Conference (5th December 2014, Brussels, BE)*

EuroFIR AISBL was pleased to host the final PLEASURE Conference bringing together 35 participants from the project, research and the food industry. This conference provided an overview of the deliverables, with a particular emphasis on technological advances achieved in producing foods with reduced salt, sugar and fat. There were three sessions focusing on: (1) drivers leading to PLEASURE and issues underpinning its success; (2) reduction of salt, sugar and fat in food products; (3) consumer aspects. Carlos Ramos presented 'Nutritional impact and consumer acceptance'

**For more information visit [www.eurofir.org/?page\\_id=4011](http://www.eurofir.org/?page_id=4011)**

For access to the presentations visit [www.pleasure-fp7.com/fcp.html](http://www.pleasure-fp7.com/fcp.html)



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## **PLEASURE International Conference (18-19th June 2014, La Rochelle France)**

Focusing on the reduction on salt, sugar and lipids, PLEASURE held its first international conference in parallel with 'Health & Food Days' organised by CRITT Agro-Alimentaire in La Rochelle (FR). Paul Finglas gave a presentation 'EU Nutritional Composition Tables: A guide', and the conference attracted more than 800 delegates from the French as well as the wider European food industry.

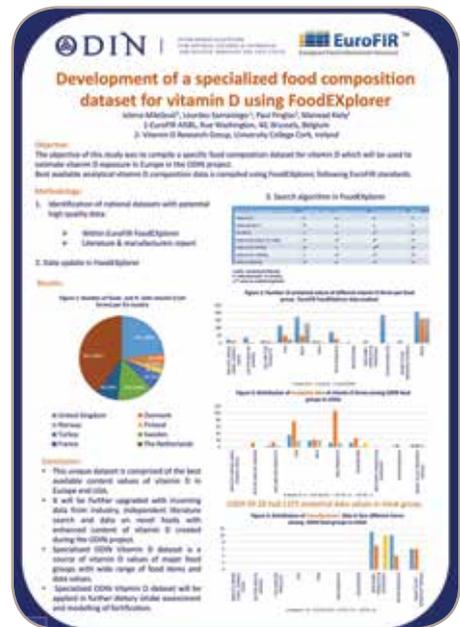
## **Best practice guidelines for EFSA health claims dossiers (27th June 2014, Brussels, BE)**

This seminar was an opportunity for SMEs considering an EFSA Health Claim dossier or wanting to know more about health claims to:

- Discover more about BACCHUS and the implications for health claim-related activities
- Understand better EFSA's decision-making process for health claims dossiers
- Exchange views with other actors on how to achieve a successful health claim

Paul Finglas (IFR and EuroFIR AISBL) gave a presentation on 'Health claims context and BACCHUS', and several breakout sessions were organised during the afternoon to encourage SMEs to share their experience of health claims. Siân Astley also represented EuroFIR AISBL at this event as part of the team organising the event with Benjamin Paternostre (WagrAlim, BE - [www.wagr.alim.be](http://www.wagr.alim.be)).

**For more information visit <http://bit.ly/1MU9C7Z>**



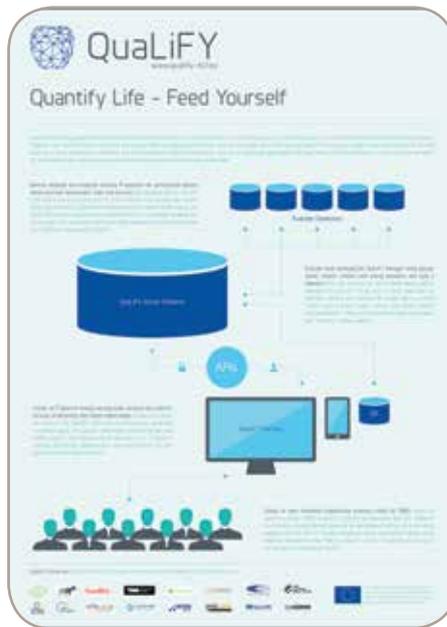
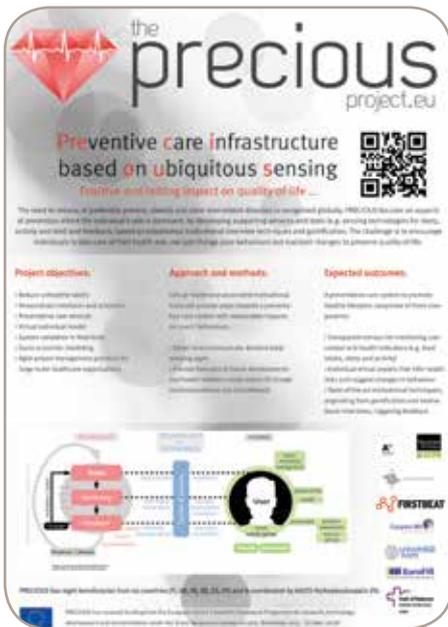
## **ODIN (28-30th October 2014, Novi Sad, RS)**

Jelena Milešević presented a poster describing ODIN, 'Development of a specialized food composition dataset for vitamin D using FoodExplorer' at FoodTech2014. This event brought together food scientists, researchers, technologists, producers and nutritionists from the Balkan Region as well as worldwide, giving them an opportunity to share their results and exchange information and ideas. In parallel, the International Congress 'Food Technology, Quality and Safety' gathered together experts on novel foods and innovative technologies, and one of the topics was vitamin D. 'Development of specialized dataset for vitamin D using FoodExplorer within ODIN' gave an overview of vitamin D content in various food groups at the European level, as well as how modern software tools can be used to handle food information.

**For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/1JPMubw> or [www.odin-vitd.eu](http://www.odin-vitd.eu)**



PLEASURE Consortium



### ***EuroDISH Stakeholders' Meeting (20th May 2014, Brussels, BE)***

The meeting focused on future needs for innovative Research Infrastructures (RIs) within the field of food and health. Representatives from leading project beneficiaries, the European Commission (DG Research, DG SANCO, EFSA and EFSRI), industry, centres of excellence and institutes currently engaged in research relevant to EuroDISH (Determinants - Intake - Status - Health), national funding bodies (UK, NL & DE) and the Joint Programme Initiative (JPI) were present including Siân Astley (EuroFIR AISBL). The programme included presentations from the project and smaller parallel group discussion sessions on topics significant to the development of future RIs. One of the two project case-studies was presented by Paul Finglas (IFR and EuroFIR) and WHO-IARC to highlight some of the potential benefits and limitations in developing RIs, using examples of previously successful food composition and intake platforms (EuroFIR and the e-Standardized Methodologies Platform, e-SMP GloboDiet®). The case study featuring these two RIs also looked at the potential for linking or interfacing the structures and the methodologies they support. The outcomes of a testing phase for a food-matching algorithm were presented, discussing the possibility of a semi-automated methodology for more efficient and

accurate matching food values in consumption data with composition data. Stakeholder feedback was encouraged to inform the next steps in the process of developing the algorithm and interfaced RIs. Throughout the event, participants were asked to focus on key aspects of RI development, such as innovation, functionality, usability, finance and governance.

In addition, Siân Astley and Paul Finglas presented posters describing PRECIOUS - Preventive Care Infrastructure based on ubiquitous sensing and QualiFY - Quantify Life - Feed Yourself.

**Listen to EuroDISH at [www.eurodish.eu/news/24-podcast](http://www.eurodish.eu/news/24-podcast)**

# eBook Collection



In collaboration with RIVM, EuroFIR AISBL published the first Dutch Food Composition Dataset (NEVO) ebook in early 2014. Data are taken from NEVO and the ebook replaces previous printed versions of the NEVO tables (last edition 2011). Like NEVO online 2013, the ebook contains data for 2,194 food items. Since the previous version of NEVO online (2011), information in the database has been completed and/or revised for a large number of foods. Data published in this NEVO EuroFIR AISBL ebook are available for users engaged in scientific research (food research in particular), the food industry, dietetics and nutrition counselling and/or public health education. The EuroFIR AISBL NEVO ebook is published in Dutch and English as a fully searchable PDF. The ebook is available online through FastSpring <http://bit.ly/1qrC2MO> for immediate download (€30.25).

**A DEMO version can be accessed via the EuroFIR website <http://bit.ly/1IClOMx>**

The Dutch Food Composition Database (NEVO) contains composition data for foods and dishes eaten frequently by the Dutch population, which contribute significantly to their intake of energy and nutrients. Foods of importance for scientific research, and food and nutrition counselling and education are also included. NEVO is owned by the Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports, and is maintained at the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), and food composition data are collected in collaboration with the Netherlands Nutrition Centre.

Other books in the series include: The Greek Food Composition Dataset by the Hellenic Health Foundation (€25, Greek and English); The Irish Food Composition Dataset by University College Cork (€25, English only); The Slovak Food Composition Dataset by Food Research Institute (€25, Slovak and English); and The Swedish Food Composition Dataset by Swedish National Food Agency (€25, Swedish and English).



# Website

We are aware that our website is in the spotlight for food information and, during 2014, we have focused our efforts on the external pages so visitors can access all relevant information using more streamlined navigation. On average, we receive each month 2,000-3,500 hits, the majority of which are new to the site.

We have also started work on the Members' Area. Members have access to all online tools using a single login. We are also working to eliminate dead links and remove out-of-date information whilst ensuring partners have access to project information.

Direct contact with visitors and members is very important. One of the latest additions to the website is the opportunity to speak with office staff through live chat. This was introduced in October 2014, and was used by 110 people between October and December 2014 (average rating 91%). With this tool, we can engage in a direct, more personalised and immediate exchange with users, and we can answer questions or provide further information in real time.



A new area we have added is the 'EU Section', which introduces the work of different European Institutions, as related to public health, nutrition, food safety and food composition. Exclusive to EuroFIR AISBL members, notifications on public consultations, launched by the European Commission, are published on these pages as well as latest legislative developments and events attended by EuroFIR AISBL.

The sub-menu 'Projects' (under About) has been updated so visitors and members can learn more about the aims, duration and roles of EuroFIR AISBL ([www.eurofir.org/?page\\_id=184](http://www.eurofir.org/?page_id=184)). In addition, the members' page has been updated linking EuroFIR AISBL to members' websites ([www.eurofir.org/?page\\_id=52](http://www.eurofir.org/?page_id=52)). There are some without logos and we would be grateful if members could share their logo with us to ensure this page is as complete as possible.

During 2014, EuroFIR AISBL published three newsletters (Issues 9-11) with issues nine and 10 focussing on people and projects, respectively. The newsletters can be found under News, [www.eurofir.org/?page\\_id=308](http://www.eurofir.org/?page_id=308), which has been redesigned to include News, Events, Newsletters and Vacancies. We hope to publish four newsletters in 2015.



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## Stakeholder Engagement and Lobbying

EuroFIR AISBL was granted access to the European Parliament in August 2014, which means we are now able to share notifications about public consultations launched by the European Commission with members, and attend meetings in the European Parliament.

EuroFIR AISBL met with DG SANTE (previously DG SANCO) to discuss possible collaboration on EU food labelling database, and we are following the work of the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI), the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI) and the Committee on Research, Industry and Energy (ITRE). We have also been following the debates on the new regulations for novel foods as well as the legislative report on the potential for Member States to restrict or prohibit the cultivation of GMOs in their territory.

### *Improving Food Safety and Labelling in the EU: Smarter Rules for a Sustainable Agri-Food Chain (Public Policy Exchange, 10th September 2014, Brussels, BE)*

This conference gave the opportunity to experts, policy makers, NGOs and other stakeholders to discuss the latest European regulatory action on food safety and food labelling, aimed at ensuring a sustainable agri-food chain.

### *Eating Safely: Roundtable on European best practices on allergens labelling (24th September 2014, Brussels, BE)*

The aim of this conference was to discuss legislative novelties and best practices on allergens labelling across Europe. The event was hosted by the Member of the European Parliament, Renate Sommer, who is the Rapporteur for the regulation in the European Parliament.

Conference reports are available at [www.eurofir.org/?page\\_id=3764](http://www.eurofir.org/?page_id=3764) (after log in, Members only). More information about the Parliamentary Committees can be found at [www.eurofir.org/?page\\_id=3443](http://www.eurofir.org/?page_id=3443)

### *European Association Summit (14-15th May 2014, Brussels, BE)*

EuroFIR AISBL participated to the second European Association Summit, which is a peer-to-peer education and networking platform for international associations. Workshops encouraged participants to exchange views on the association environment of today, hear the opinions of leading EU politicians, representatives of industry and academics on topics such as membership, how associations are shaping the future, association management, etc.

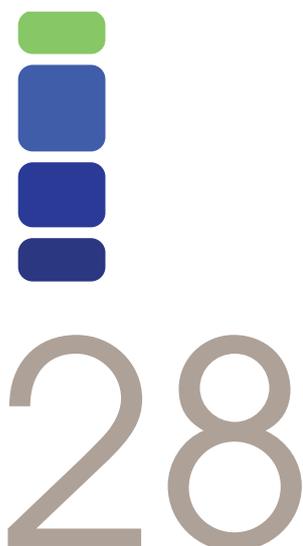
***Union of International Associations Roundtable Europe  
(13-14th November 2014, Dublin, Ireland)***

Carlos Ramos attended the 2014 UIA Associations Roundtable, which was an opportunity to networking and practice with decision-makers from others international associations. The UIA is an independent research organisation, and serves as a repository for current and historical information about the work of international associations, including International Nongovernmental Organizations (INGOs) and Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs). Today, the UIA also focuses on promoting public awareness of these organisations and representing the collective views of international bodies.

***CommNet meetings & policy roundtables***

EuroFIR AISBL attended several meetings organised by Building the Bioeconomy: Creating impact through Communication. CommNet is a support network for EU-funded projects in communicating EU bioeconomy research to the general public and other target groups, including media, young people, industry and policy makers. EuroFIR attended Business Dialogues & Policy Roundtable (12th June 2014, Brussels, Belgium) to discuss trends in food and nutrition policy, and the third and final bioeconomy forum (3rd December 2014, Brussels, Belgium) to learn more about trends in the bioeconomy and science communication in H2020.





# Working and FoodCase User Groups

EuroFIR AISBL is committed to continuing the excellent work under taken during EuroFIR NoE (FP6) and NEXUS (FP7). Created at the end of 2013, the EuroFIR Working and User Groups are three distinct clusters with different tasks encouraging continued discussion and exchange among members. Each group has a LinkedIn (closed) account where active discussion can take place in private and, once a year, members meet to discuss progress.

The **EuroFIR FoodComp Working Group** is continuing work of the EuroFIR compiler network, coordinated by Susanne Westenbrink (RIVM, NL) and Mark Roe (IFR, UK). The main aims of the WG are to address topics that are relevant for compilers and users of food composition databases, both at the national and international level, and to continue standardising data. An important task is to be aware of developments and issues related to the production or use of food composition data. The FoodComp WG works closely with the EuroFIR AISBL Executive Board and staff, and with the EuroFIR Technical WG as well as the FoodCASE user group.

The aim of the **EuroFIR Technical Working Group** is to coordinate development and management of all EuroFIR ICT systems and advise on future approaches, especially in the medium- and long-term, to ensure continuity and sustainability; it is led by Barbara Koroušić Seljak (JSI, SI). The Technical WG should be consulted when new projects are planned to ensure ICT activities are compatible, especially if planned projects include the use of new or emerging technologies. The focus of Technical WG is systems that are part of the EuroFIR web-service including the EuroFIR website. Moreover, the Technical WG also assists with issues relating to technologies used by the EuroFIR Office (CMS, project tools etc.). The most important aspect of the Technical WG activities is remaining vigilant for existing issues or those that may arise. The Technical WG works closely with the EB, CEO and, in particular, those maintaining the EuroFIR server (SERSO).

Finally, **EuroFIR FoodCASE User Group**, chaired by Luísa Oliveira (INSA, PT), brings together users (and potential new users) with ETH Zurich (CH) and Premotec GmbH (CH). This group discusses FoodCASE-related issues and influence strongly the future development of FoodCASE for users.



## Future Plans

The major objectives for the operations plan in 2015 are:

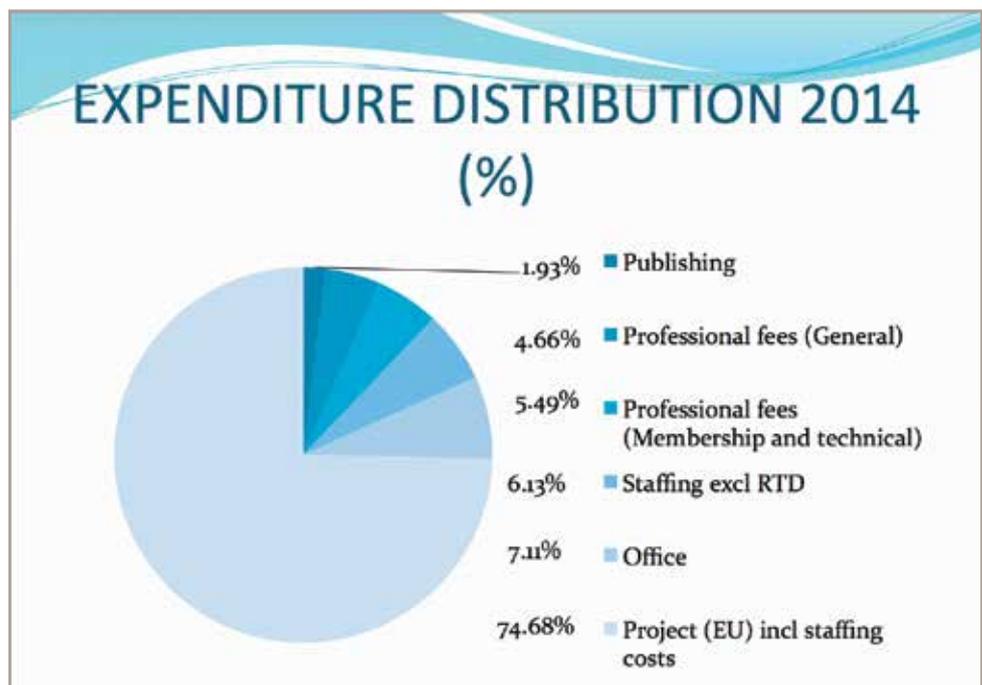
- Continued assessment, development and dissemination of benefits for members
- Enhanced demonstrable added value with a business mindset
- Improved leadership and provision of high performing secretariat
- Increased visibility through delivery of an integrated communications strategy
- Proactive insight and compliance with legal and regulatory requirements

# Annual Accounts: Summaries

The 2014 income was 665739.71 EUR whilst expenses were 698763.67 EUR (subject to approval by the General Assembly, 26th March 2015). When the annual accounts closed on the 31st December 2014, there was a loss before tax of -33023.96 EUR. This loss does not reflect the current balance of the Association, but arises from an accounting error in 2010 following input of the PlantLIBRA budget, which has been resolved with an adjustment.



Summary of income for 2014  
(subject to approval by the General Assembly, 26th March 2015)



Summary of expenses for 2014  
(subject to approval by the General Assembly, 26th March 2015)



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HEALTHY  
CALORIES  
LIFESTYLE  
FITNESS  
FRUIT  
DIET  
FIBRE  
CEREAL  
ENERGY  
WHEAT  
SUGAR  
VEGETABLES  
NUTRITION  
VITAMINS  
PROTEIN  
METABOLISM



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