

DEVELOPMENT OF THE GUIDELINES FOR ASSESSMENT OF METHODS OF ANALYSIS (GAMA) – AN ONLINE WIKI RESOURCE FOR FOOD COMPILERS AND TOTAL DIET STUDIES

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Analytical methodology has an important influence on data quality, but food composition data compilers are often not experienced analysts, therefore detailed assessment criteria and guidance are required for the evaluation of analytical data from multiple sources. The 'Guidelines for Assessment of Methods of Analysis (GAMA)' were compiled and presented as an online WIKI resource, covering comprehensive details on analytical methods for macronutrients, minerals, vitamins and trace elements, and made available to users to support the EuroFIR data quality evaluation system and other food composition data compilation requirements. Information on analytical methodologies for each nutrient was collated and edited from scientific literature, international standards, and quality control procedures, and also included hyperlinks to additional, more detailed resources that can be accessed using full text searches.

The GAMA Wiki was further enhanced for selected prioritized contaminants in the Total Diet Study project (TDS; EUFP7) to include all relevant information regarding analytical measurement of analytes that are targeted within total diet studies, such as official methods of analysis, selected scientific literature, reference material producers, available reference materials. Twenty-two new analytes were prioritised and added during the TDS project, including Mn, Se, Cu, Hg, Pb, As, Cd, radionuclides, dioxins, PCBs, acrylamide, PBDEs and PAHs.

The GAMA Wiki is a valuable tool for compilers and users to access information on analytical methodology in relation to quality of analytical data. The user-friendly and accessible WIKI format is a useful tool for preparing and disseminating information to a variety of users. We are currently planning to interface the Wiki to the new METROFOOD-RI, and extend its coverage, functionality and use to additional researchers.

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