

Preface

The European Commission, in its communication of 24 November 1993 on the framework for action in the field of public health, considered increased cooperation on standardization and collection of comparable data on health and the promotion of systems of health monitoring and surveillance, as a prerequisite for the establishment of a framework for monitoring public health trends and defining public health priorities and objectives. Under the Health Monitoring Programme, nutrition was then identified as a priority area.

In accordance with the above objectives, the Directorate General 'Health and Consumer Protection' of the European Commission, through the Health Monitoring Programme, has been supporting the DAFNE initiative since December 1999. The project, which is entitled 'European food availability databank based on household budget surveys – the DAFNE III project', aims at expanding the DAFNE databank in order to include data

from 47 Household Budget Surveys from nine EU Member States.

In the present Special Issue, preliminary results of the currently running DAFNE III project are included. On completion, the developed databank will be integrated into the European Union Public Health Information Network (EUPHIN) of the European Commission and potentially into other information systems, thus providing a nutrition monitoring tool, an essential component of an integrated monitoring system.

For more information about the European Commission's activities in the field of Public Health, please see the Commission's website at the following address: http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/index_en.html

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