Towards a pan-European Food Nutrition and Health Research Infrastructure

ESFRI

FNH-RI

About FNH-RI

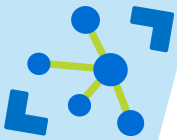
FNH-RI: a Pan-European Community

- 28 European countries + 2 global partners
- >100 institutes
- 11 Expressions of Political Support (Dec 2019)
- 7 Expressions of Financial Support (Dec 2019)
- Nearly 13,000 Scientific Users and 1000 Institutes in mature phase

Timeline

2012-2015 Needs assessment EuroDISH
2015-2018 Design phase RICHFIELDS
2018-2021 ESFRI preparation phase
2022-2024 Preparatory phase
2025-2029 Implementation phase
2030-2039 Maturity
2040-2045 Next generation RI

Vision & Mission



Vision: By 2050, EU citizens eat food that benefits personal, public and planetary health, coming from a sustainable food environment that supports responsible choices. A 50% reduction in food-sector environmental impacts and diet-related disease is realised.

Mission: FNH-RI drives transdisciplinary research by connecting research-, industry- and citizen-generated data and facilities on nutrition and food environment, initiating the required food system transformation in Europe.

Impacts

- Advanced data science, modelling, and predictions as applied to the fields of food, nutrition and health
- Pan-European partnerships to perform cutting edge, transdisciplinary science
- Training networks for a thriving new generation of scientific researchers, trained and equipped to operate at the intersection of food, health and environmental sustainability
- Engaged consumers stimulating the redesign of sustainable food supply and preventative health and well-being for all
- A healthy and sustainable food system to feed a growing population of Europeans for the 21st century

Governance

Preparatory phase: Partners within the FNH-RI foundation with financial and political support govern the project

Implementation and beyond:

- FNH-RI Hub with interlinked national Nodes, with Heads of Nodes determining stragetic scientific agenda
- Assembly of Member States is supervisory body
- Three advisory bodies: Scientific, ELSI (Ethical, Legal, Societal and Innovation) and Industry
- Preferred Legal framework of FNH-RI: ERIC (European Research Infrastructure Consortium)

ESFRI

FNH-RI

What does it mean for members?

Unique Selling Points

- Uniting of fragmented domains across the biological and social sciences to facilitate breakthrough research on healthy and sustainable diets for 21st century citizens
- Open access to data and cutting-edge methodologies to pursue advanced research questions, shaping the pace and direction of healthy and sustainable food innovation
- Sharing of advanced facilities to measure nutrient intake, food reformulation and the behaviour of consumers in their food environments
- Guides public and private sector to innovate policies and practices on healthy and sustainable food

Offers

- Supports institutional adoption of standards and procedures for data sharing; allowing collaborative access to unique data on food environments, diet and health, sustainability and consumer behaviour
- Access to advanced data science capacities, data platforms, facilities, training and education
- Development of a pan-European Citizen's Data Platform for cutting-edge research on consumer behaviour and food environments
- Engagement of policy and industry via knowledge and expertise for foresight, modelling, monitoring and evaluation

Societal Breakthroughs

Reduction of non-communicable disease: healthy diets and food environments reduce diet-induced diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, cancer and obesity

Improved sustainability of diets: new plant protein sources and revitalised food environments reduce the ecological footprint of the food system

Engaged consumers and citizens to help motivate the food systems transformation and the above two goals

Membership & Investments

Total operational costs: €26 million/yr

Member state investments to develop National Node services: €22.5 million/yr

Membership fees to support the Hub totals €3.5 million/yr

The above costs are shared by member states based on a GDP formula

Return on Investment for Nodes

Impact on research and development:

- Nodes exploit, develop, align and share their unique expertise and services via smart specialization and business models
- Improved efficiency of research by standardized access to pan-EU data, facilities and training

Socio-economic impacts:

- Results from pan-EU research are fluidly implemented into national strategies for healthy and sustainable diets
- National and pan-EU socio-economic benefits from reduced ecological footprints (~€20 billion/yr) and reduced diet-related disease (~€160 billion/yr)