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PRESS RELEASE

Training workshop on the dietary risk assessment model "IMPRORISK", Larnaca, 17-18/05/2016

On May, 17-18, the State General Laboratory (SGL) of Cyprus is co-organizing with the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) a training workshop on dietary risk assessment, in Larnaca. The purpose of the workshop is dual: first to acquire/increase knowledge of the scientific principles and methodology of the assessment of dietary exposure to chemicals, and second, to provide training on the deterministic exposure assessment model developed by the SGL, the "IMPRORISK" model, with regards to its applicability risk assessment.

"Dietary Risk assessment" means a scientifically based process consisting of four steps: the hazard identification, the hazard characterization, the dietary exposure assessment and the risk characterization.

To assess the risk exposure of the dietary intake of chemicals and other substances, a combination of two different Databases is required: a) One of the levels of the controlled substances in the foods consumed (concentration range, averages, etc.) (Chemical Occurrence), and (b) one for the consumption data of food in a country (Food Consumption Data).

In view of the above, the SGL, in cooperation with the Research and Education Institute of Child Health (REICH), carries out the project "Cyprus National Dietary Survey". The survey is in the context of the EFSA's "EU MENU" project that aims to collect food consumption data from Cyprus citizens according to EFSA's requirements, in order to support exposure assessment to chemicals and other risks of the Cypriot population through food.

The "IMPRORISK" model, developed by the SGL, has the capacity to carry out refined dietary exposure assessment based on the analytical results that the SGL collects for many years now, taking the initiative since 1990 to create its own electronic system of Data recording. The said workshop will focus on the EFSA's Food Consumption & Chemical Occurrence Databases and the harmonization approach, the existing tools for exposure assessment, the deterministic vs probabilistic model in dietary exposure assessment of chemicals, and the Presentation & Hands-on training of the IMPRORISK model and respective instructions manual.

More than 30 experts from the EU Member States Food Safety Competent Authorities/Institutes and from the EU pre-accession countries will participate in the above workshop. The participation of the EU pre-accession countries is supported through "EFSA's Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance, 2014-2020 (IPA II)", financed by DG NEAR of the European Commission (EC). In the future there will be similar trainings on the "IMPRORISK" model of other officers from the SGL and other Competent Authorities of Cyprus.

Dr Popi Kanari

**Director
Cyprus State General Laboratory
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