



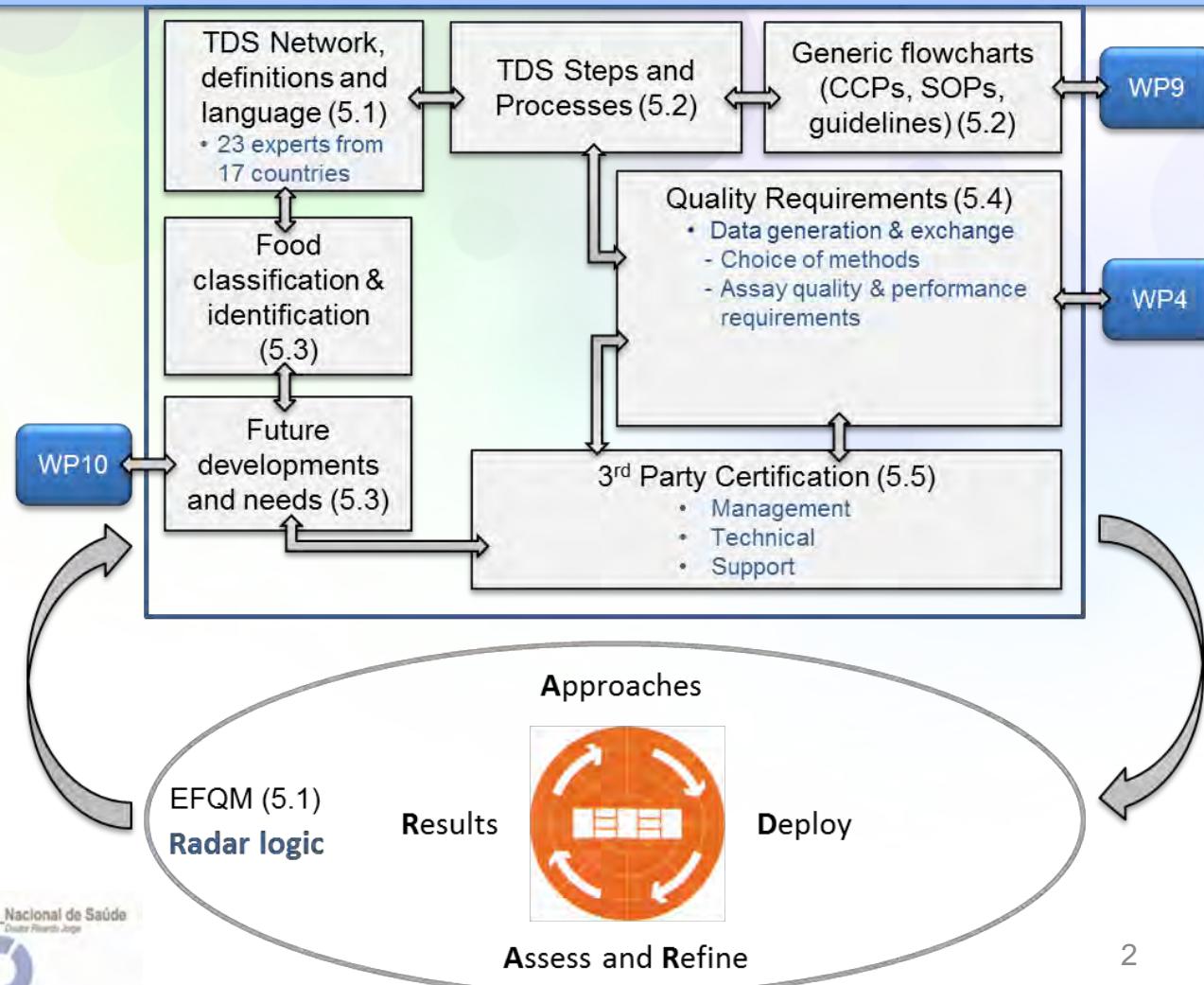
## Quality Standards

**Paul Finglas (IFR), Luisa Oliveira (INSA) and  
Hannah Pinchen (IFR)**

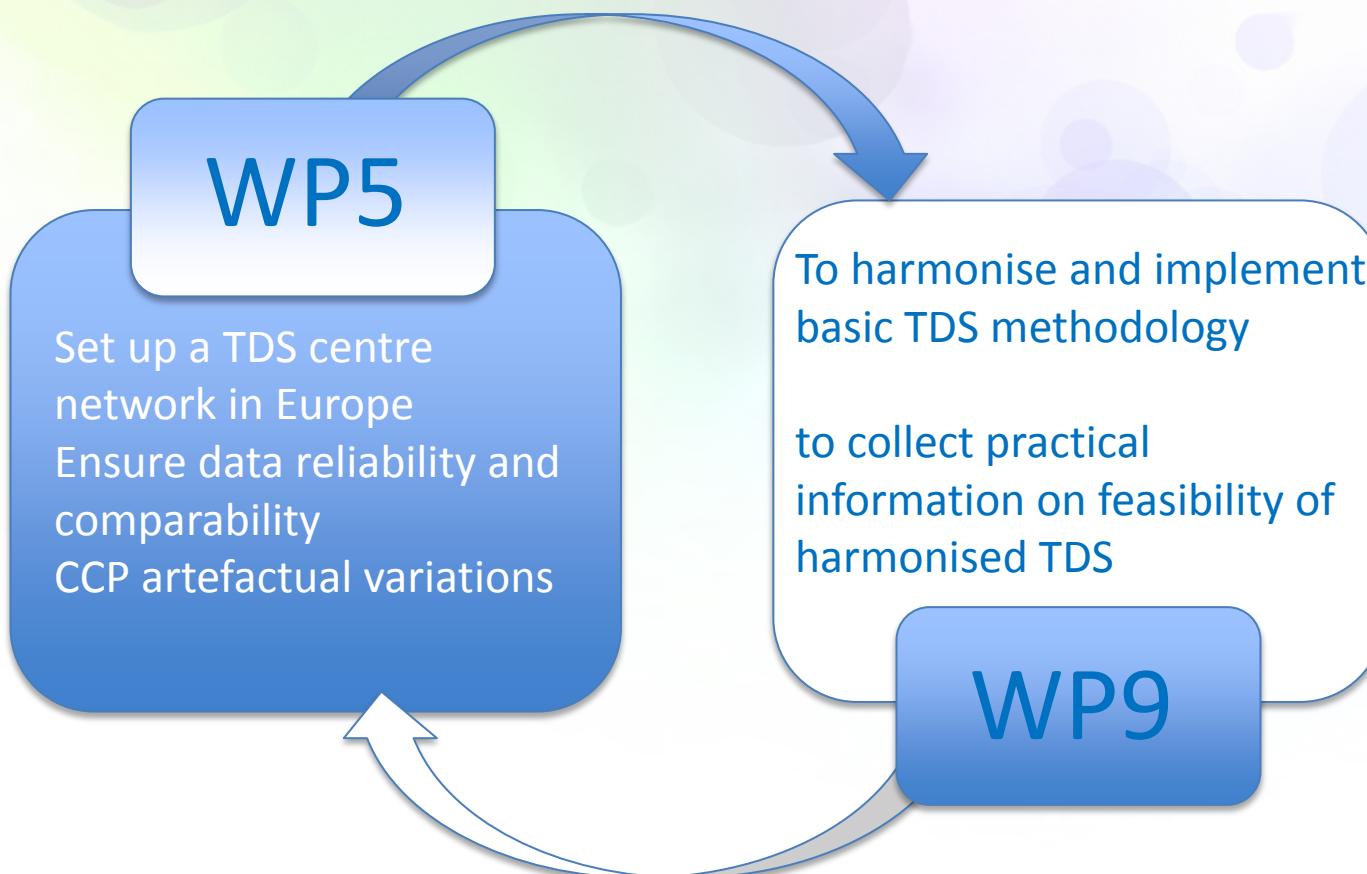
**Total Diet Studies: Better Data – Better Decisions  
5 February 2014, Brussels**

**To develop, test and implement a Total Quality Management System for TDS in Europe:**

→ Improve the quality of the data and comparability between countries for use by risk assessors and managers



# Total Quality Management in TDS



## Total Quality Management System

### Certification framework

TDS Network and Vocabulary

Key Processes & Standard Operating Procedures

Food Description/Classification Systems

Quality requirements for data generation, collation and interchange

TDS

# TDS Network and Vocabulary

# TDS Network



**23 experts from 11 countries outside of Europe**

# Uniform Vocabulary

## TDS Vocabulary

- **209 terms**

### *Examples*

#### **Exposure**

The concentration or amount of a particular agent that reaches a target organism, system or (sub) population in a specific frequency for a defined duration, via a specific or several routes (adapted from FAO/WHO, 2009)

#### **Food basket**

An assortment of foods representative for relevant aspects of a population diet

## EFQM Vocabulary

- **29 terms**

### *Examples*

#### **Process**

A set of activities that interact with one another because the output from one activity becomes the input for another activity. Processes add value by transforming inputs into outputs, using resources

#### **Radar logic**

A dynamic assessment framework and powerful management tool that provides a structured approach to questioning the performance of an organisation

# Total Quality Management System

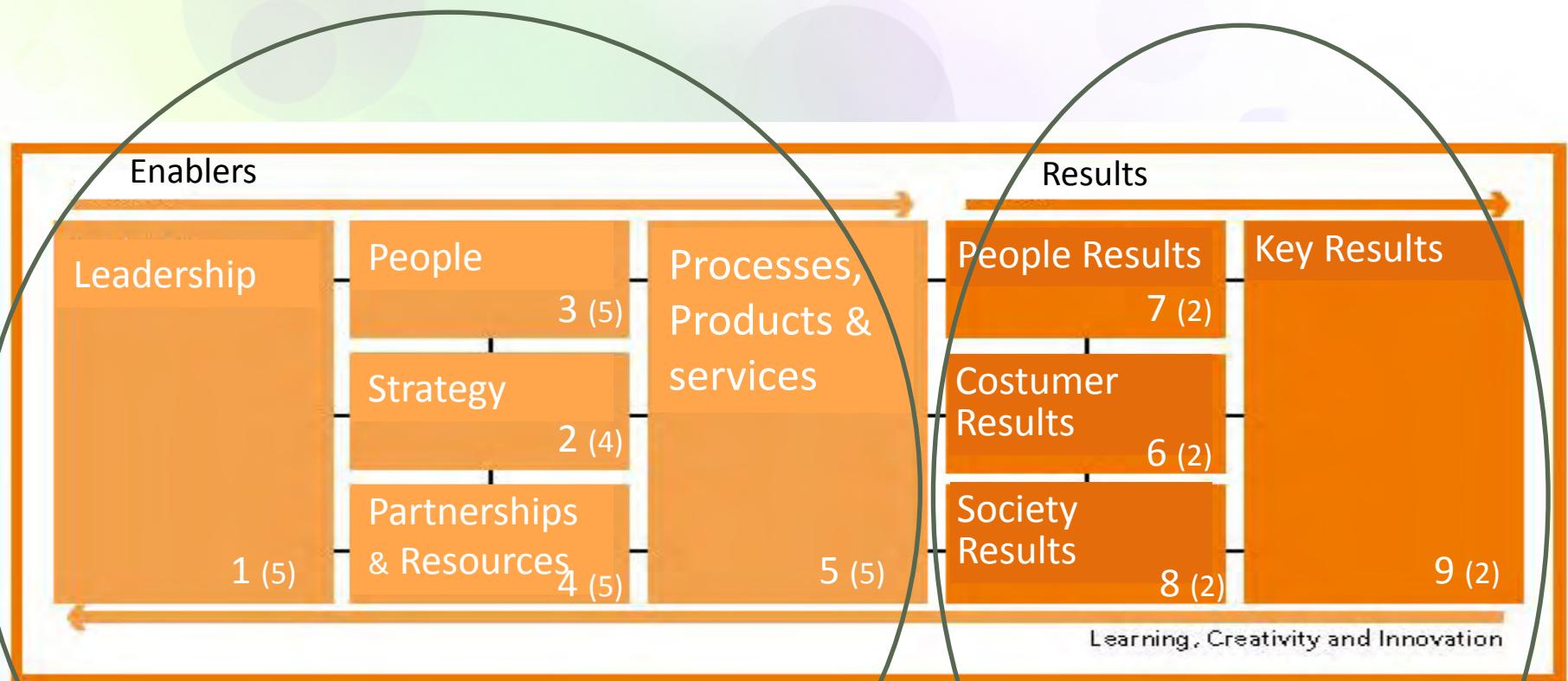
- European Foundation of Quality Management (EFQM) System

# EFQM Excellence Model

To support organisations performing Total Diet Studies (TDS Centers) in their journey towards Excellence, through a Total Quality Management (TQM) approach

- ▶ Comparison of different organisations with a common assessment language
- ▶ Not used to score organisations – provides a Benchmark for organisations to improve

# EFQM Excellence Model (itself)

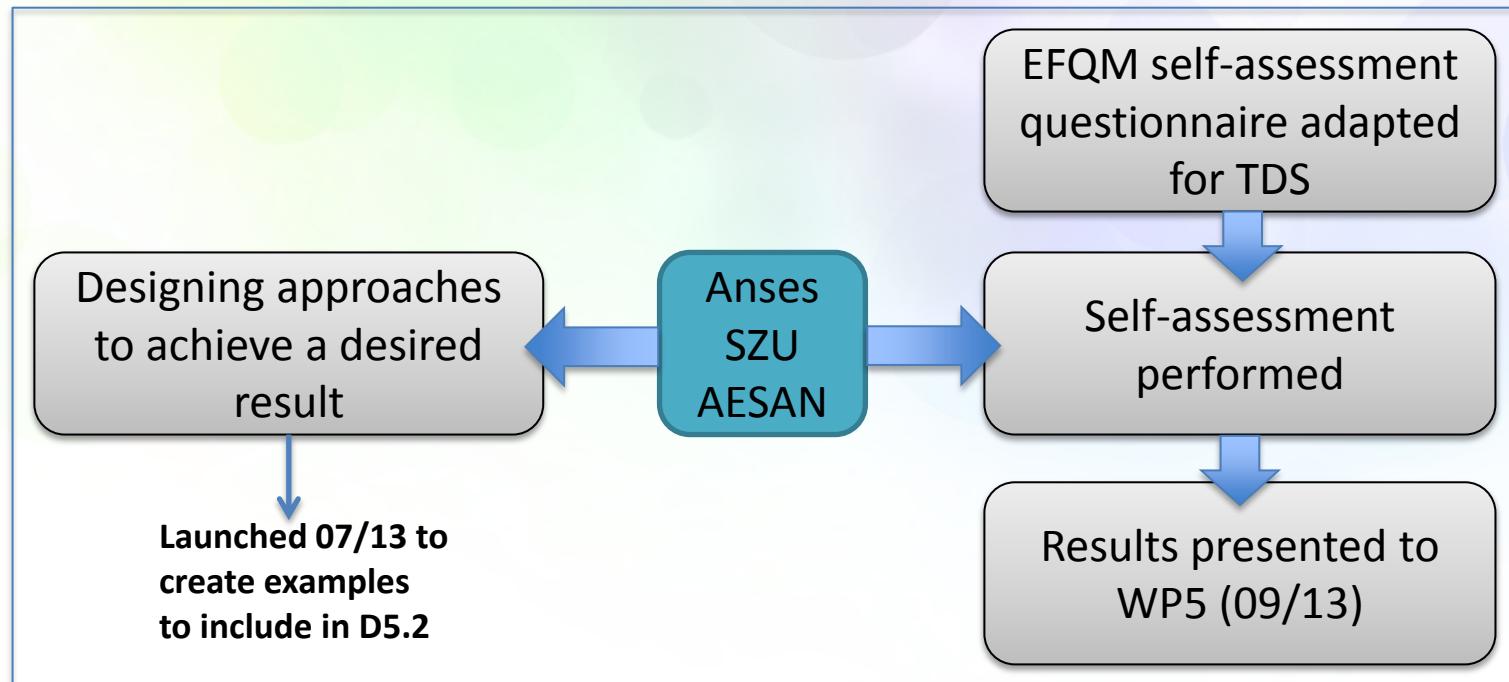


What the organisation does and how it does it

What the organisation achieves  
“footprint”

# Identification of required TDS results and development of approaches

Brainstorming of Excellence Model (EFQM) took place in Rome (09/12). The results from this brainstorming session are being integrated to develop the TQM system

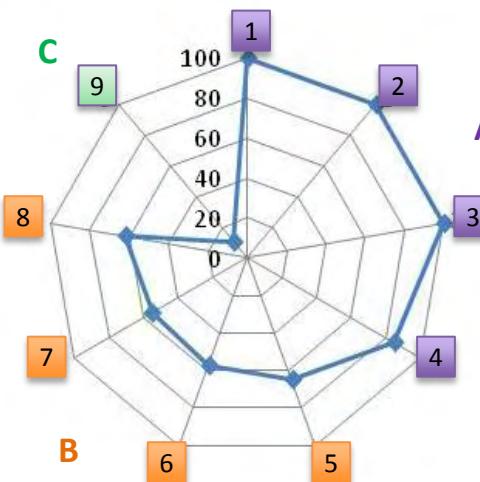
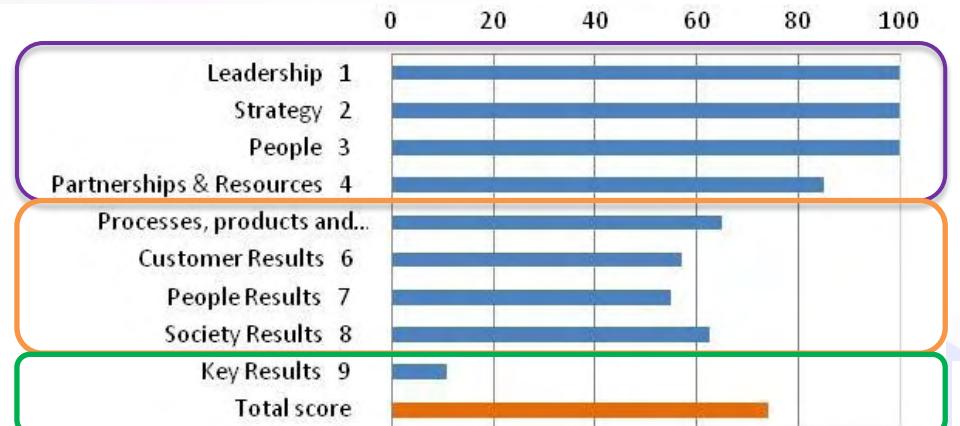


- Once the complete Guidance document is drafted, WP5 partners will provide feedback and suggestions on the proposed strategy and its implementation.

	E	D	C	B	A	% Achievement (from previous sheets)
1 Leadership 1	0	0	0	0	5	100
2 Strategy 2	0	0	0	0	5	100
3 People 3	0	0	0	0	5	100
4 Partnerships & Resources 4	0	1	0	0	4	85
5 Processes, products and services 5	1	0	1	1	2	65
6 Customer Results 6	0	1	4	1	1	57
7 People Results 7	0	1	2	2	0	55
8 Society Results 8	0	1	0	3	0	63
9 Key Results 9	0	3	0	0	0	11
Total score						74
Total number of ticks (a)	1	7	7	7	22	
Factor (b)	0	25	50	75	100	
Value (a x b)	0	175	350	525	2200	
Total / 49 (44)=	74	% Achievement of the Organisation				

## Learnings and Future Tasks

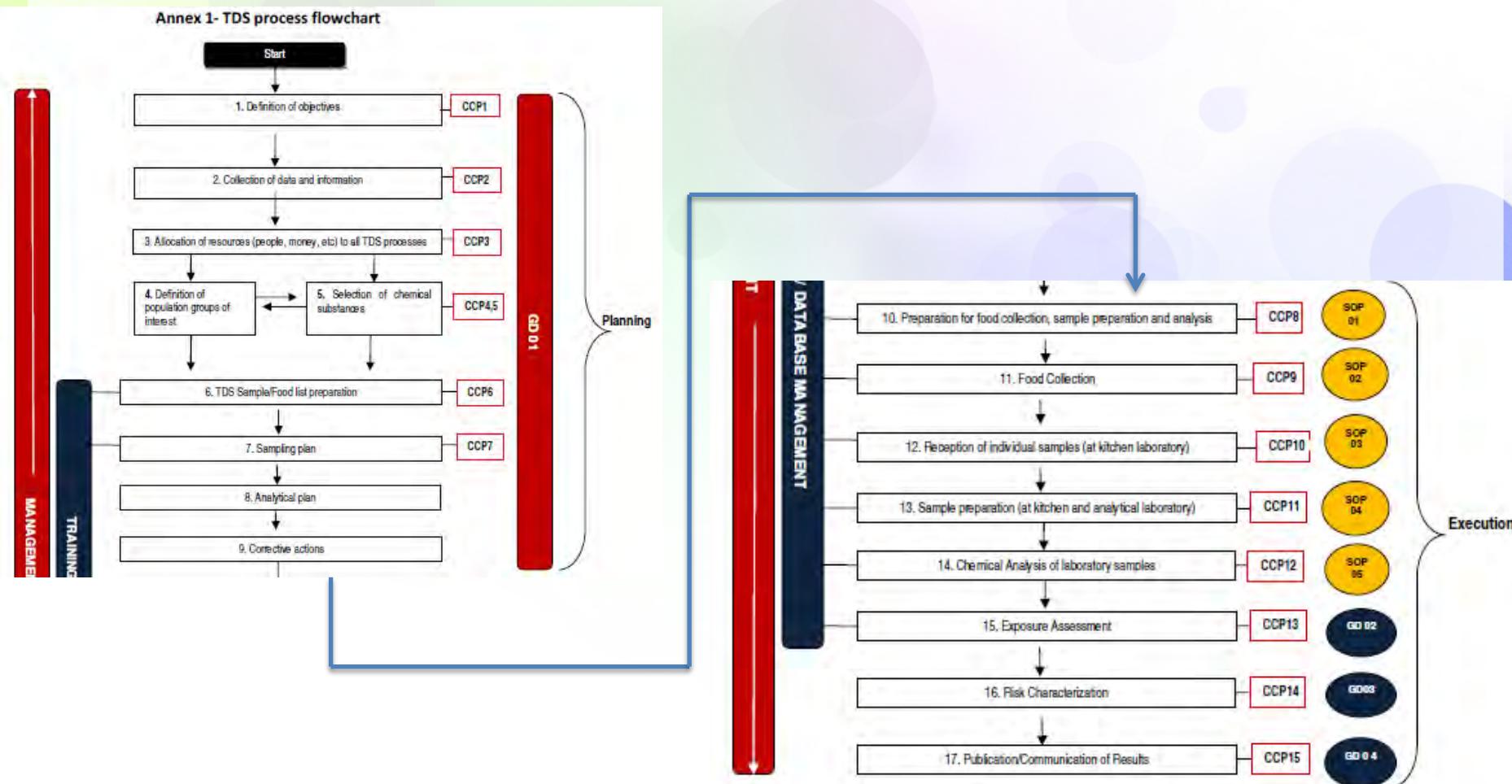
- ✓ It was possible to apply the self assessment
- ✓ Different organisations had different questions – potential to learn together
- How to apply EFQM Model language specifically to a TDS Centre is difficult to understand
- Clarification/harmonisation of the interpretation of the scoring system



Overall achievement of organisation **74 %**

# Key Processes and SOPs

# TDS Flowchart – developed by WP9



**Guidance  
DOCs**

Description of General Principles, Rules & Requirements for:

- Planning a TDS Study
- Exposure Assessment
- Risk Characterisation
- Publication & Communications

Three types of activity:

- Management
- Technical
- Support

**Generic  
SOPs**

Preparation for food collection, sample preparation and analysis

Food Collection

Reception of individual samples (at kitchen laboratory)

Sample preparation (at kitchen laboratory)

Sample chemical analysis (at analytical laboratory)

**Specific  
SOPs**

Country Specific

Method Specific



# SOP1 Preparation for food collection, sample preparation and analysis



## ► Scope

- This procedure is a generic SOP applicable for the preparation for collection, kitchen processing and analysis of food samples for TDS (step 8 of flowchart). It should be applied before starting the collection of food samples. It is intended to be used by TDS Centres as basis for preparing their country specific documents.

## ► Objective

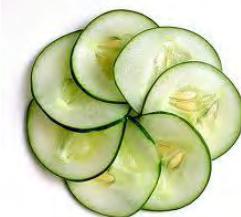
- To describe a generic procedure for the preparation of materials, kitchen and laboratory environment, within the 2014 pilot TDS.

## ► Definitions

- This document follows the terminology adopted in TDS Vocabulary

## ► Responsibilities

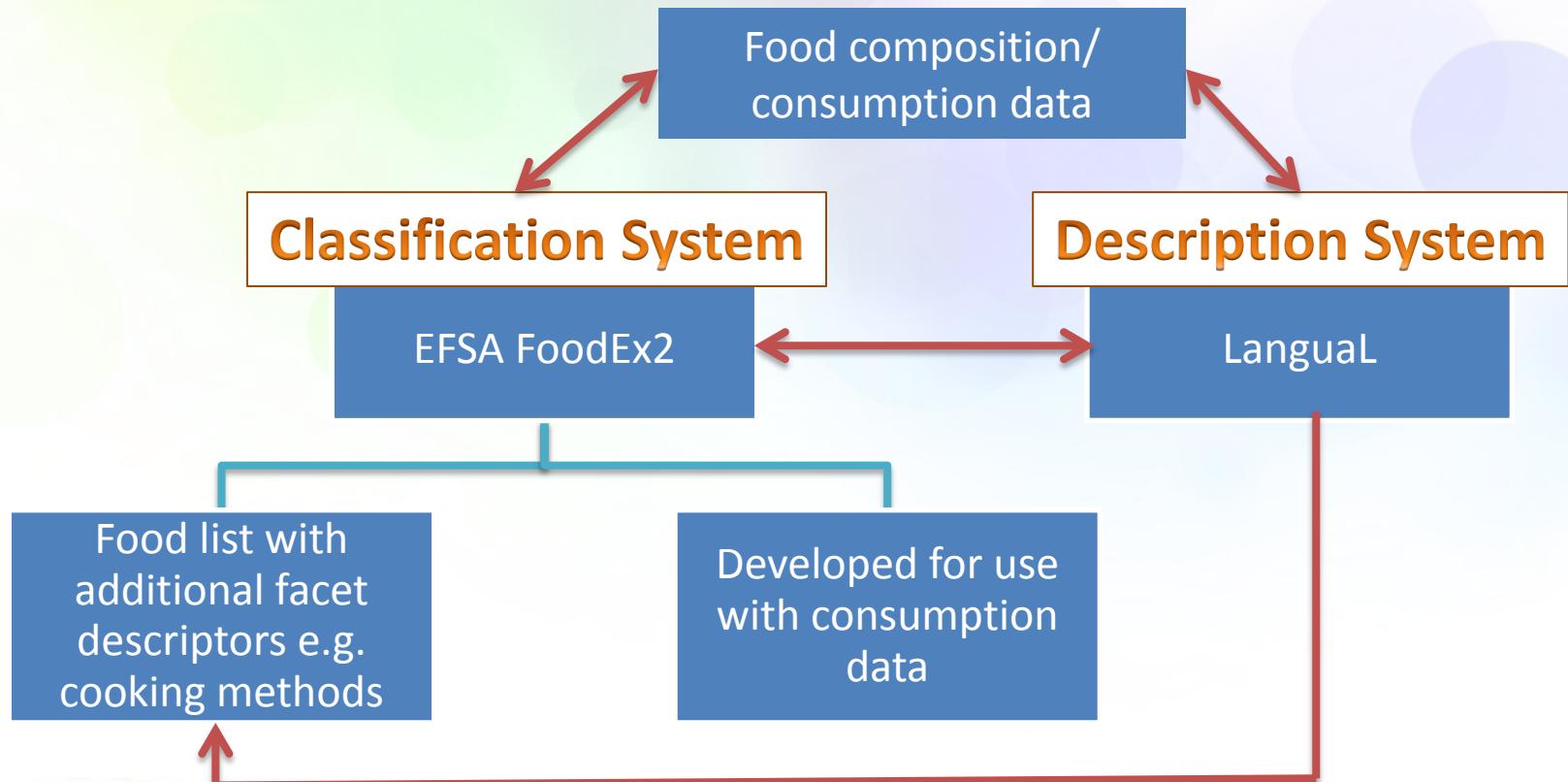
- According to job descriptions and /or competence matrices



# Food Description/Classification Systems

# Why do we need them in TDS?

- ▶ Foods are grouped or described in a common way
- ▶ Prevents misinterpretation
- ▶ Allows data to be used between countries



# Example of FoodEx2 codes – parent/child relationship

H	A04KY	<b>Single grain bread and rolls</b>	S
C	A004Y	Wheat bread and rolls, white (refined flour)	S
E	A004Z	Wheat bread and rolls, white with maize	S
E	A005A	Wheat bread and rolls, white with potato	S
E	A005B	Wheat bread and rolls, white with rice	S
E	A005C	Wheat bread and rolls, white with soya	S
C	A005E	Wheat bread and rolls, brown or wholemeal	S
C	A005G	Rye bread, refined flour	S
C	A005H	Rye bread, wholemeal	S
E	A005J	Pumpernickel	S
C	A005K	Bread and rolls with special ingredients added	S

[\(Back to the core and extended list index\)](#)

Type	Code	Food Group	flag
H	A005L	<b>Multigrain bread and rolls</b>	S
C	A005N	Rye-wheat bread, refined flour	S
C	A005P	Rye-wheat bread, wholemeal	S
C	A005Q	Multigrain (not only rye-wheat) bread and rolls	S

[\(Back to the core and extended list index\)](#)

Type	Code	Food Group	flag
H	A04KZ	<b>Unleavened bread and similar</b>	S
C	A006T	Matzo	S
C	A006S	Pita bread	S

EFSA; The food classification and description system FoodEx 2 (draft-revision 1). Supporting Publications 2011:215 [438 pp.]

Available online: [www.efsa.europa.eu](http://www.efsa.europa.eu)

[www.tds-exposure.eu](http://www.tds-exposure.eu)

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# FoodEx2 – Advantages and Problems

- Results from the pilot studies and food composition work (EFSA project)

## Advantages

- ▶ FoodEx2 has been designed for exposure studies in Europe
- ▶ Allows a basic classification of foods, linking different food group levels were required
- ▶ It is still under development which allows input from the TDS-Exposure project
- ▶ Contains different facets
- ▶ Easy to use – scope notes available

## Problems

- ▶ Some country specific foods cannot be mapped
- ▶ Contains some 'unspecified' food codes
- ▶ Some language may be confusing e.g. laminated doughs
- ▶ Level of detail inconsistent e.g. no distinction between peeled/unpeeled potatoes, mashed potatoes and the prepared product 'mashed potato'

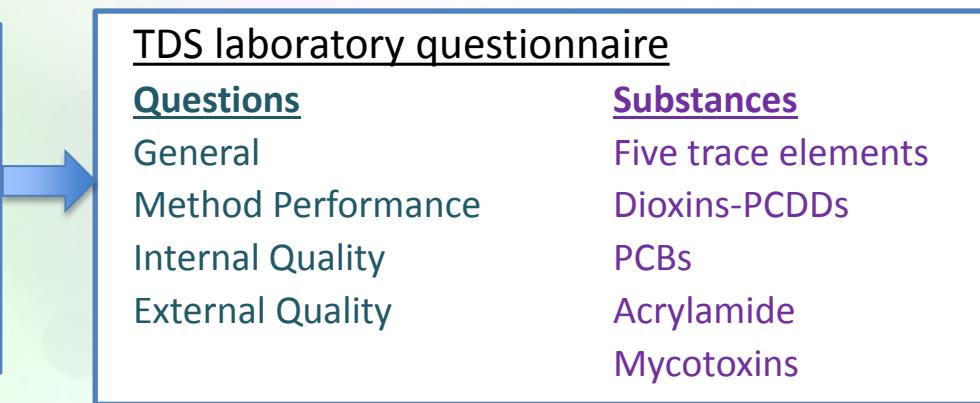
Roe, M. et al. (2013) Updated food composition database for nutrient intake. EFSA supporting publication 2013:EN-355, 21 pp  
Available online: [www.efsa.europa.eu/publications](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/publications)

# Quality requirements for data generation, collation and interchange

# Definition of quality profiles for TDS laboratories

## Identify:

- Accreditation
- Method validation
- Participation in proficiency schemes (PTs)



## Example of method performance results

# TDS Wiki

## Information of target compounds

- Details of the appropriate analytical methods for each contaminant:
  - Reference methods
  - Other available validated methods
- Key steps in each method
- Available Certified Reference Materials (CRMs)
- Appropriate Proficiency Testing Schemes
- Legislative requirements (both national and EC Directives)

Search

- ☒ Nutrients
- ☒ Contaminants (TDS-EXPOSURE)
  - ☒ Inorganic contaminants
    - ☐ Aluminium (Al)
    - ☒ Arsenic (As)
      - ☐ Summary - As
      - ☐ Analytical methods - As
      - ☐ Reference materials - As
      - ☐ Proficiency testing - As
      - ☐ References - As
    - ☒ Cadmium (Cd)
    - ☒ Copper (Cu)
    - ☒ Lead (Pb)
    - ☒ Manganese (Mn)
    - ☒ Mercury (Hg)
    - ☐ Nitrites (E249-250)
    - ☒ Radionuclides
    - ☒ Selenium (Se)
    - ☐ Sulfites (E220-228)
  - ☒ Organic contaminants
  - ☒ Contaminants - additional information
  - ☐ Meeting minutes
  - ☐ Contact information
  - ☒ FAQs



Added by [Stefan Voorspoels](#), last edited by [Stefan Voorspoels](#) on 2013-07-18

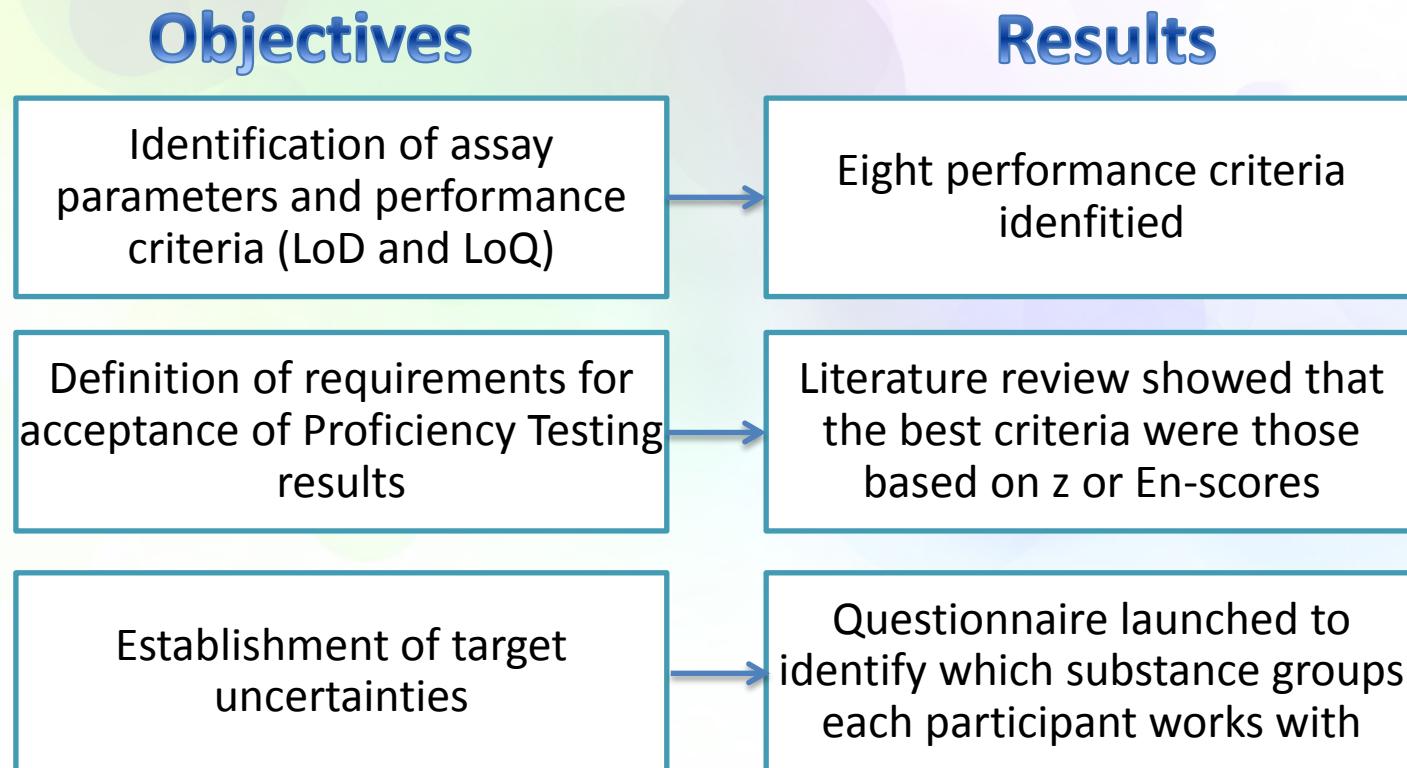
Arsenic is described as a metalloid because it displays properties intermediate of those typical for metals and non-metals [1-[Link](#)]. The chemistry of arsenic is similar in many respects to that of nitrogen and phosphorus, two essential elements. These chemical similarities may be the reason that arsenic occurs at high levels in many marine organisms, and hence in many seafoods ([Francesconi and Edmonds, 1997](#))[2-[Link](#)]. For example, the inorganic ion arsenate occurs in seawater together with the structurally similar phosphate. Marine algae appear unable to distinguish between these two oxoanions; in their efforts to take up essential phosphate they inadvertently take up the potentially toxic arsenate. The process of detoxification begins by methylation leading to methylated organoarsenic compounds. Arsenobetaine is structurally similar to glycine betaine, which is used by aquatic organisms to maintain osmotic balance under conditions of changing salinity, *i.e.* when ambient salinity is high, an organism's glycine betaine level is high. The coincidental structural similarity between arsenobetaine and glycine betaine might explain why arsenobetaine levels are much higher in marine animals than they are in freshwater animals.

Although arsenic forms species under reducing conditions with the arsenic atom in oxidation state -3 and +3, the most stable arsenic species found under normal environmental conditions contain the arsenic atom in oxidation state +5. Consequently, the vast majority of arsenic species found in organisms and in foods also contain arsenic in oxidation state +5 (e.g. arsenate, dimethylarsinate, arsenobetaine, arsinosugars). The table below summarises some arsenic species found in foods, and some relevant human metabolites.

Names, abbreviations, and chemical structures for some relevant arsenic species in food.

Name	Abbreviation	Chemical structure <sup>(a)</sup>	Relevance/comment
Inorganic arsenic	iAs		Sum of As(III) and As(V).
Arsenite	As(III)	As(O <sup>3-</sup> ) <sub>3</sub>	Trace to low levels in most foods; highly toxic.
Arsenate	As(V)	O=As(O <sup>3-</sup> ) <sub>3</sub>	Trace to low levels in most foods; a major form in water; highly toxic.

# Definition of assay quality and performance requirements



## Links to WP4

# Certification framework

# Importance of a certification framework

- ▶ Monitors and harmonises how organisations operate – enables an opportunity to improve processes by identifying strengths and weaknesses
- ▶ Helps to produce good quality and traceable data
- ▶ Allows full implementation of standards and best quality practices by TDS Centres
  - Ensuring quality and validity of data



EuroFIR Nexus FP7-KBBE-2010-4, D1.5 Report on framework for certification scheme

# Where to begin?

Previous work in the EuroFIR Nexus project e.g. "Report on framework for certification scheme"

TDS SOP list from 5.2.2 used to identify current areas of importance

Identify features of EuroFIR Nexus framework that apply to TDS

Modify EuroFIR NEXUS framework to fit current TDS practices - identify the standards TDS Centres are working towards

Three or four TDS Centres will be involved in an audit visit to test the framework

# Framework Review

## 1. Management Requirements

- Organisation structure and management policy
- Description of work
- Contracts and sub-contracts
- Document control
- Review of the Quality Management System

## 2. Technical Requirements

- Personnel
- Equipment
- Sampling
- Analysis
- Publication process
- Compilation process

- Outcomes will be based on three/four pilot reviews
- Review Quality Management Systems
- Highlight strengths and weaknesses with a view to continuing improvement
- Consider possibility of Certification Standards

# Any questions?

