

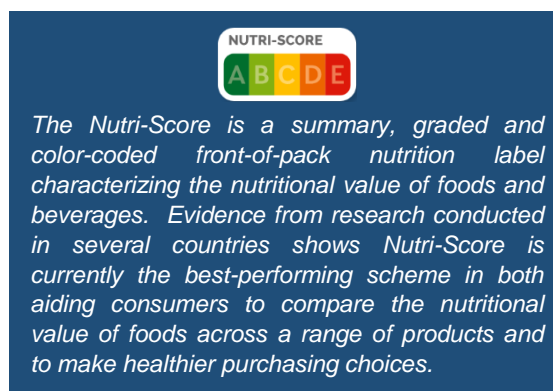
Activity report of the transnational governance of Nutri-Score

7 March 2022



Establishment of the transnational governance of Nutri-Score

After its adoption in France in 2017, the front-of-pack nutrition label Nutri-Score has been chosen by Belgium in 2018, Switzerland in 2019, Germany in 2020 and Luxembourg in 2021, while Spain and the Netherlands announced their intention to adopt it. On the 12th of February 2021, these 7 countries have officially announced the establishment of a transnational coordination mechanism to facilitate the use of the front-of-pack nutrition label Nutri-Score, through a Steering committee and a Scientific committee.



The Steering committee, composed by two representatives from national authorities in charge of the Nutri-Score implementation in each country, held its first meeting on the 25th of January 2021 and meets on a regular basis (i.e. 5 meetings in 2021 after its launching). The Steering committee aims to coordinate the implementation and the rollout of the Nutri-Score system through harmonized procedures, in order to ensure a simple and effective tool for food business operators and consumers.

The Scientific committee, including one or two independent experts nominated by each country involved, had its first meeting on the 12th of February 2021. The Scientific committee aims to assess the possible evolutions of the Nutri-Score algorithm, for better health of the consumers, including the synergy with dietary guidelines. Based on scientific literature review and stakeholders' requests on the Nutri-Score, the Scientific committee will propose to the Steering committee potential recommendations on the Nutri-Score algorithm in line with overall dietary recommendations.

Main outcomes of the Steering committee in 2021

Standardized procedures between engaged countries

In 2021, the engaged countries published the mandate of both Steering¹ and Scientific² committees, providing a global framework and the stakes of this transnational governance of Nutri-Score. In order to coordinate the Nutri-Score management between countries, the Steering committee has launched some standardized and simple procedures, including:



Focus for Belgium

Since 2019, the Nutri-Score has continuously growing both in terms of knowledge of the consumers and in terms of adhesion by food operators. Almost all of the main retail groups have adopted it on their own brand such as several big companies. The implementation of Nutri-Score is growing in the good direction. Belgium looks also to Europe within the Farm-to-Fork debate for its possible EU-wide adoption.



Focus for France

France has published in February 2021 the assessment report after 3-year of implementation, showing the dynamic and growing commitment of food operators and consumers to the Nutri-Score. In July 2020, 415 were committed to the Nutri-Score, representing ~50% of the market shares in sales volumes. In June 2021, more than 700 food operators committed to the label in France (~57% of market shares).

¹ https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/nutri_score_general_agreement.pdf

² https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/mandate_of_the_scientific_committee.pdf

- ✓ A common version of the Nutri-Score Conditions of use³, with shared provisions and annexes for national specificities;
- ✓ A common platform so that food business operators can make a unique registration to use the Nutri-Score label in several engaged countries;
- ✓ An online SharePoint to discuss technical questions sent by food business operators and define common responses, in order to provide harmonized technical support to stakeholders in the various engaged countries.

Launch of a call for requests on the Nutri-Score

The transnational governance of the Nutri-Score also aims to assess the underlying algorithm and potentially propose recommendations. In this context, the Steering committee has invited all stakeholders (i.e. food industry, consumer organizations, etc.) to share their questions on the Nutri-Score and send their requests for revision. A first call for requests was launched by the Steering committee during summer 2021 and stakeholders could reply until the 15th of September 2021. Most of the requests have been validated by the Steering committee and finally nearly 100 requests were transmitted to the Scientific committee. A first report on the possible algorithm revisions from the Scientific committee, based on recent scientific literature review and stakeholders' requests, is expected before summer 2022.

The functioning, the methodology and main areas of investigation of the Scientific committee for the revision of the Nutri-Score algorithm are detailed in their intermediary report.

Coordination of engaged countries in the current European context

The transnational governance of the Nutri-Score is also a way for the 7 engaged countries to coordinate and collectively communicate on Nutri-Score and the governance work in the current European context, where front-of-pack nutrition labelling is topically discussed. Therefore, over the past year, the governance has allowed the Steering committee to learn from one another regarding communication or challenges, share



Focus for Germany

On basis of a common stakeholder process, a scientific evaluation and an extensive consumer research, the Nutri-Score was introduced in November 2020 in Germany. Until February 2022, more than 270 German food business operators registered more than 500 brands for the Nutri-Score. Technical support and information material are key instruments to increase the Nutri-Scores familiarity in Germany and its use by food business operators.



Focus for Luxembourg

In May 2021, Luxembourg adopted a regulation allowing the country's food operators to distribute their products with the Nutri-Score label on the national market. Although only a small number of national companies have so far committed to the use of the label, many food products from Belgium, France and Germany bearing the Nutri-Score logo are already available for sale on the market.



Focus for Spain

Spain has participated in the Steering Committee of Nutri-Score since its creation. On November 17, 2021 Spain launched a campaign on digital media to help the Spanish population better understand the Nutri-Score labelling model. Moreover, it was created a section within the website of the Spanish Food Safety and Nutrition Agency with information on Nutri-Score:

https://www.aesan.gob.es/AECOSAN/web/operadores_economicos/seccion/Nutri_Score.htm



Focus for Switzerland

In 2021, Switzerland revised its Nutri-Score website and put a focus on the improvement of the technical support for the food business operators. By the end of 2021, 46 food business operators registered more than 118 brands to be sold with Nutri-Score in Switzerland.

³ <https://www.santepubliquefrance.fr/determinants-de-sante/nutrition-et-activite-physique/articles/nutri-score>

elements and communicate about the Nutri-Score with other countries and stakeholders. The engaged countries are willing to be as inclusive as possible on the topic by discussing with interested parties (e.g. member states, consumer associations). In addition, countries having a comprehensible and supportive interest for Nutri-Score have the opportunity to participate in the Steering committee as observers.



Focus for the Netherlands

The Netherlands has used 2021 to prepare for the implementation of Nutri-Score and to coordinate with the stakeholders involved. Furthermore, the legislation has been prepared. Decision-making on the definitive implementation of Nutri-Score is expected in the first half of 2022.

Next steps

While the Steering committee will continue its work on the coordinated management of the Nutri-Score, the committee is expecting the overall proposal of the Scientific committee on revision of the label algorithm before summer 2022. Then, the Steering committee will decide on possible recommendations proposed by the Scientific committee on the Nutri-Score algorithm within the framework of this governance. The Steering committee will continue its efforts to ensure a science-based, effective, simple and transparent front-of-pack nutrition label, in complementarity and synergy with other nutritional policies. In case that the Nutri-Score algorithm will be changed, the Steering committee will elaborate a support document to facilitate the appropriation of algorithm changes by food business operators.