

EURRECA: EUROpean micronutrient RECommendations Aligned. Preparing the way

A European Commission Network of Excellence

I am more than pleased to present, as Guest Editor, the first publications of EURRECA, which is short for EUROpean micronutrient RECommendations Aligned. EURRECA is a Network of Excellence funded by the European Commission and co-ordinated by ILSI Europe.

In the 1980s of last century, I was the project leader of EURONUT, a Concerted Action on Nutrition and Health, again supported by the European Commission. We also considered the topics studied and discussed in the two papers presented in this supplement. At that time we published a letter in *The Lancet* (18 November 1989, p. 1220) entitled *Recommended dietary allowances for Europe*. I want to cite a few sentences: "It would be

idle to pretend that national differences can be rationalised. Whatever the final decision (for a single value or for a range) there are virtually no scientific reasons why the requirements of a German, Italian, or British, or other child or adult should be significantly different". Nearly 20 years later the EURRECA initiative is determined to provide the answers that were amongst others raised in the above-mentioned letter.

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