

Consultation on Nutri-Score algorithm

Nestlé inputs

Nestlé supports Nutri-Score as the mandatory EU harmonized nutrition labelling.

- **Positive impact on consumers.** The simple and colourful format have proven that it works with consumers in Europe. People use Nutri-Score to make informed choices at first glance when shopping. This is backed up by more than 15 studies* run in several countries. A harmonized EU nutrition labelling would benefit consumers and business alike and would also strengthen the single market for food and drink products.
- **A driver for healthier products.** Nutri-Score is an incentive to make food products healthier. Nestlé started its reformulation journey more than 20 years ago – decreasing sugars, sodium and saturated fat in food. Nutri-Score now offers a clear standard to move even faster. *Recently, Nestlé has renovated 25% of its veggie segment within the plant-based portfolio in Europe based on Nutri-Score. The portfolio now scores A or B within Nutri-Score.*

Nestlé's suggestions for evolution of the Nutri-Score algorithm

- In general, it's important to **continue to have the same algorithm and usage regulation and a consistent application** across all countries recommending the usage of Nutri-Score. This ultimately benefits consumers use and understanding of Nutri-Score to achieve healthier diets.
- **Plant-based beverages:** As the category of plant-based beverages evolves and grows beyond the traditional milk alternative, clear rules and definitions for plant-based beverages (alternatives to milk) are needed to provide assessment consistency to manufacturers and improved understanding for consumers.
- When a plant-based beverage is positioned as a milk alternative, it should also be possible to assess it with the Nutri-Score Food criteria provided that the plant-based beverage offers a comparable nutritional composition to dairy milk. For instance, Plant-based alternatives to milk could or should be assessed with the food criteria provided they meet the below nutritional composition:
 - o Protein content: meets 'source of protein' claim ("at least 12 % of the energy value of the food is provided by protein" according to the Annex of EU regulation 1924/2006).
 - o Calcium content: minimum 15% according to the FIC regulation 1169/2011, annex XIII on reference intakes, part. A, number 2 in combination with the Claims regulation 1924/2006 annex.
- **Whole grain:** Consider whole grain as positive nutrient in the algorithm of Nutri-Score to take into account the minerals and vitamins content in addition to the fibers content. This is already a similar approach in the Nutri-score algorithm for fruits and vegetables. Indeed, higher intakes

of whole grain have been associated with several positive health impact (e.g. lowering risks of cardiovascular diseases and of type 2 diabetes). Such modification would ensure consistence with existing dietary guidelines, guide consumers towards foods with higher whole grain and give an additional incentive to food business operators to reformulate their products. Other nutrition labelling schemes such as the Keyhole logo and the Heart logo already consider whole grain in the relevant food categories.