# Instructions for Rating Food-EPI 2020

You are invited to participate in the 2020 Food-EPI expert panel. This involves rating the **current** level of implementation of each of the 47 good practice indicators by the New Zealand Government, **against international best practice,** on a Likert scale from 1 to 5 using an online questionnaire.

The meaning of the Likert scale is:

**1:** *<20% implemented compared to international best practice*

**2:** *20-40% implemented compared to international best practice*

**3:** *40-60% implemented* *compared to international best practice*

**4:** *60-80% implemented compared to international best practice*

**5:** *80-100% implemented compared to international best practice*

There is a ‘cannot rate’ option, if you do not feel informed to rate an indicator.

The **ratings** require expert judgement, taking **multiple considerations** into account:

1. **Quality** of government policies/actions compared to international best practice.
2. **Extent of implementation** of government policies/actions considering all aspects of the ‘policy cycle’:
* Agenda setting and initiation
* Policy development
* Implementation
* Evaluation

The ratings need to consider the intentions and plans of the Government, Government funding for implementation of actions undertaken by NGOs and establishment of working or advisory groups, etc., in addition to the policies and actions that have been implemented.

The **evidence booklet** gives you full details of the current evidence of implementation by the New Zealand Government for each good practice indicator and includes international best practice examples (benchmarks) for each indicator to **support you** in the rating process and give you confidence to make those judgements. Summaries of the evidence and the benchmarks are within the online questionnaire used for the rating process. **It is important to read the evidence of implementation and international benchmarks before putting in your rating for each good practice indicator.**

We anticipate the rating process will take **more than an hour of your time** to complete and you can save your ratings online and come back to where you left off at a later stage.

Some important **points of attention** to keep in mind during the rating process are the following:

* Please note that the Government’s level of implementation is **evaluated against international best practice** and not against any theoretical or ideal standards. In some cases, the benchmarks only cover certain aspects of the good practice indicator since no country globally is currently covering all aspects. For a few indicators (e.g. Funding) the actual benchmarks are unknown so the benchmarks are examples only (mentioned in the online summaries). There are a few good practice indicators for which New Zealand is listed as a benchmark.
* In the online rating tool, we provide a summary of the evidence of implementation and benchmarks for each indicator. We highlight if there is new evidence of implementation since 2017 and if the benchmark has substantially improved since 2017. The median rating as per the results of the Food-EPI 2017 is also included. **This information is given to support you to rate but does not suggest which rating you need to choose**. It is important to keep in mind that the categories for rating are fairly broad (0-20%, 20-40%, 40-60%, 60-80% and 80-100%). Therefore, it is not necessarily the case that a higher rating should be given if there is new evidence of implementation in New Zealand, while the benchmark has not improved compared to 2017. Nor should a lower rating necessarily be given if there is no new evidence of implementation, but the benchmark has substantially improved compared to 2017. This is left up to your judgement, taking all elements into account.
* Any **comments** you have (including on the evidence of implementation presented in this document) are very important for us, so feel free to use the online comment boxes extensively in the rating process.

An example with explanations for the first good practice indicator (COMP1) from the online rating questionnaire is below.

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| **COMP1** *Food composition targets/standards have been established by the government for the content of the nutrients of concern in certain foods or food groups if they are major contributors to population intakes of these nutrients of concern (trans fats and added sugars in processed foods, salt in bread, saturated fat in commercial frying fats).* | ***This is the definition of the good practice indicator for which you will rate the extent of implementation by the NZ Government against international best practice*** |
| **EVIDENCE OF IMPLEMENTATION BY THE NZ GOVERNMENT 2019:*** No food composition targets have been specified by the Ministry of Health (MoH) or the Ministry for Primary Industries for the nutrients of concern (sodium, saturated fat, *trans* fat, added sugar).
* As part of the Healthy Kids Industry Pledge, stimulated by MOH, several companies, including the retailer’s FoodStuffs and Countdown, set reformulation targets.
* The National Heart Foundation since 2007, has implemented food reformulation programme with a focus on sodium reduction in packaged foods. Targets were set for 44 nutrient targets across 35 food categories/sub-categories.
* The Government response to the Food Industry Taskforce on addressing factors contributing to obesity, prioritised the food industry to set and review nutrient reformulation targets.
* FSANZ leads work on the status of *trans* fats in NZ and decided previously based on 2015 meeting that regulatory intervention is not required and the non-regulatory approach is sufficient to further reduce levels.
 | ***This is a summary of the current evidence of implementation by the NZ Government for the COMP1 good practice indicator. New evidence of implementation compared to 2017 is highlighted.*** ***The detailed version of the evidence can be found in this printed booklet.*** |
| **INTERNATIONAL BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLES (BENCHMARKS) 2019:*** *UK: Reduction programme to remove sugars by at least 20% by 2020.*
* *Argentina/South Africa*: Laws on max levels of sodium in a broad range of food categories
* *France*: Under a Charter of Engagement with the food industry (2008), companies can make voluntary commitments to reduce salt, sugar, total and saturated fats and increase fibre.
 | ***These are the international best practice examples or benchmarks (e.g. countries doing particularly well) for the COMP1 good practice indicator against which you will rate the extent of implementation by the New Zealand Government for COMP1. The detailed version of the benchmarks can be found in this printed booklet.*** |
| **SUMMARY****The median rating** by experts for COMP1 was **3** in 2017.There is **new evidence of implementation** by the New Zealand Government since 2017. The benchmark has not substantially improved since 2017. | ***This is a summary including the median rating as per the Food-EPI 2017. It also mentions whether there is new evidence of implementation and whether the international benchmarks have improved since the Food-EPI 2017.***  |
| **Please enter your rating on the degree of policy implementation towards international best practice:**1. < 20% implemented2. 20-40% implemented3. 40-60% implemented4. 60-80% implemented5. 80-100% implemented6. Cannot rate |
| **COMMENTS**  |