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Providing personalised nutrition: Consumers' trust and preferences regarding sources of information, service providers and regulators, and communication channels

Rui Póinhos (1*), Bruno MPM Oliveira (1), Ivo A van der Lans (2), Arnout RH Fischer (2), Aleksandra Berezowska (2), Audrey Rankin (3), Sharron Kuznesof (4), Barbara Stewart-Knox (5), Lynn J Frewer (4), Maria DV de Almeida (1)

(1) Faculty of Nutrition and Food Sciences, University of Porto, Porto, Portugal; (2) Marketing and Consumer Behaviour Group, Wageningen University, Wageningen, The Netherlands; (3) School of Pharmacy, Queens University Belfast, UK; (4) Food and Society Group, Newcastle University, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK; (5) Psychology, University of Bradford, UK

* Corresponding author: Rui Póinhos; Faculty of Nutrition and Food Sciences, University of Porto, Rua Dr. Roberto Frias – 4200-465 Porto PORTUGAL; phone number: 00351 967999221; e-mail address: ruipinhos@fcna.up.pt

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Abstract

Background/Aims: Personalised nutrition has potential to revolutionise dietary health promotion if accepted by the general public. We studied trust and preferences regarding personalised nutrition services, how they influence intention to adopt these services, and cultural and social differences therein.

Methods: A total of 9381 participants were quota sampled to be representative for each of nine EU countries (Germany, Greece, Ireland, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Netherlands, UK, Norway) and surveyed by questionnaire assessing their intention to adopt personalised nutrition, trust in service regulators and information sources, and preferences for service providers and information channels.

Results: Trust and preferences significantly predicted intention to adopt personalised nutrition. Higher trust in the local department of healthcare was associated with lower intention to adopt personalised nutrition. General practitioners were the most trusted of service regulators, except for in Portugal, where consumer organisations and universities were most trusted. In all countries, family doctors were the most trusted information providers. Trust in the National Health Service as service regulator and information source showed high variability across countries. Despite its highest variability across countries, personal meeting was the preferred communication channel except in Spain (where an automated internet service was preferred). General practitioners were the preferred service providers, except in Poland, where dietitians and nutritionists were preferred. The preference for dietitians and nutritionists as service providers highly varied across countries.

Conclusion: These results may assist in informing local initiatives to encourage acceptance and adoption of country specific tailored personalised nutrition services therefore benefiting individual and public health.

Keywords: Personalised nutrition; Genomics; Communication; Regulators; Service providers; Consumers; Trust; Preferences; Food4me

Introduction

Personalised nutrition may be defined as nutritional advice based on individual information regarding diet and lifestyle, phenotypic characteristics and/or genetic characteristics [1,2]. Nutritionists and dieticians have typically used (combinations of) information about sex, age, body mass index (BMI), nutritional intake, physical activity and phenotypical characteristics to personalize nutritional advice [3]. Genetic differences, however, also have potential to define to what constitutes an optimal, personalised diet for different individuals (see, *inter alia*, [4-7]). A greater degree of personalisation can be achieved with analysis of an individual's genotype and phenotype with which diets may interact and co-determine the risk of diet-related diseases [8,9]. Nutrition delivery services and practitioners are beginning to access and use this type of information [10].

There is an emerging body of literature indicating that the level of consumer adoption of gene-based personalised nutrition services will vary between individuals [11-15]. Various socio-demographic, contextual, clinical, personality and/or psychological end-user characteristics (*e.g.* health commitment, health locus of control, nutrition self-efficacy) have been shown to predict the extent to which individuals are likely to adopt personalised nutrition [14,16-18].

A potentially influential determinant of acceptance is trust in personalised nutrition service providers and in information sources. This has been established in relation to acceptance of different novel food technologies (see, *inter alia*, [19,20]). The extent to which trust influences the acceptance of personalised nutrition based on genomics, however, is less well understood, and may be related to the referred end-user characteristics. The acceptance of personalised nutrition depends on the degree of trust information about data protection and/or health benefits and in those providing this information. Trust in information has been shown to be a determinant of food technology acceptance in previous research [21-23].

Trust in control and regulation will determine the extent to which potential end-users trust those who are delivering the service. Transferring personal data, ensuring data are not misused, interpreting data and generating relevant personalised nutrition advice based on such data is a complex process that cannot be fully controlled by

the end-user and which may influence whether or not they adopt the service. These issues may become especially important where potential end-users have little experience with an innovation, in which case they tend to rely more on other influential individuals (*e.g.* regulators and service providers) to protect their interests [22]. This implies that for the acceptance and adoption of personalised nutrition, trust in regulatory institutions and service providers is required [23-27].

Consumers' trust towards food information is higher when it is disseminated by public or social institutions than when by private bodies [28]. Trust in regulators and providers to deliver a safe and effective service has emerged as a central issue for the acceptance and adoption of personalised nutrition [14,16,21]. In the case of personalised nutrition services, trust in providers to protect data was considered important in choosing a service provider and that not all personalised nutrition service providers are equally trusted [14]. Participants were more confident in services provided by health professionals [16,29]. The presence of a "named individual", preferably a fully qualified health professional, served as a cue that the provider was trustworthy [14].

In order to adopt personalised nutrition, there is evidence that end-users have to be confident about the security-related efficacy of the communication channels [14]. Some end-users may, for instance, be concerned about the extent to which online communication lacks security for transmitting and storing phenotypic or genetic data. Some end-users remain cautious about the extent to which they may trust on the accuracy and credibility of online health information [30,31]. Hence, there may be individual differences in preference for communication channels used to convey information about personalised nutrition and these preferences may be driven by the perception of trust.

End-users from different socio-demographic groups may differ in the extent to which they trust service providers, regulators and online delivery of information. Therefore, preferences for how, and by whom, personalised nutrition services should be provided may differ between countries and cultural contexts, even when regulations in these countries are very similar, or regulation is centralised across a region. The European Union (EU) provides an excellent opportunity to explore this further, as member countries share a common regulatory regime regarding food safety

standards and implementation (“The European Food Law”; http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/foodlaw/index_en.htm), while differences in public trust in the regulatory systems differs across countries, including at the regional level [32]. For instance, research on trust in information sources about fish [33] has revealed sociodemographic differences.

The current paper aims to study trust and preferences regarding personalised nutrition service providers, regulators, information sources, and information channels, and to understand how they influence the intention to adopt personalised nutrition services. It also studies how cultural and social differences between individuals in different EU countries may influence intention through differences in trust. This knowledge may assist in informing local initiatives to encourage acceptance and adoption of country specific tailored personalised nutrition services and, therefore, benefit individual and public health.

Therefore, and in order to explore how service characteristics may influence the intention to adopt personalised nutrition, the objectives of this paper are: (a) to assess socio-demographic differences (country, sex, age, and education) in trust in personalised nutrition service regulators, trust in personalised nutrition information providers, preferences for personalised nutrition communication channels and preferences for personalised nutrition service providers; and, (b) to study the influence of trust in personalised nutrition service regulators, trust in personalised nutrition information providers, preferences for personalised nutrition communication channels and preferences for personalised nutrition service providers on their intention to adopt personalised nutrition services.

Methods

Participants and procedure

Ethical approval was granted by the lead academic institution. A survey was conducted across nine EU countries: Germany, Greece, Ireland, Poland, Portugal, Spain, the Netherlands, the UK, and Norway. A total of 9381 participants were quota sampled to be nationally representative for each country in terms of sex, age group (18 to 29, 30 to 39, 40 to 54, and 55 to 65 years) and education level (highest level of

education completed based on International Standard Classification of Education levels: ISCED 0 to 2, ISCED 3 or 4, and ISCED 5 or 6). Table 1 summarises the sample characteristics by country (see also [17], in which the same sample was used). Participants were drawn from an existing panel of a social research agency (GfK), and additional research agencies were subcontracted by the primary agency to supplement panels where needed. A total of 29,450 individuals were contacted, being the overall response rate 31.9%. Data were collected in February and March 2013, using an on-line survey. After reading an introductory text, participants provided informed consent prior to completing the questionnaire.

* * * Insert Table 1 here * * *

Questionnaire development

The details of questionnaire development and piloting are provided by [17]. At the beginning of the questionnaire a definition of personalised nutrition was provided, as follows: “We would like to draw your attention to the definition of personalised nutrition which is ‘healthy eating advice that is tailored to suit an individual based on their own personal health status, diet, physical activity and/or genetics’”. The questionnaire was pretested using face-to-face interviews in the UK (n=16) to determine question comprehension and the amount of time needed to complete the questionnaire. After pretesting, the questionnaire was refined and piloted online in the UK (n=50), and Portugal (n=50), using Survey Monkey (<http://www.surveymonkey.com>). After the pilots, minor changes to question order were made to mitigate framing effects, and some items specifically developed for this survey were reworded where needed. The questionnaire was then translated into the native languages of each of the countries involved in the study. Translations were checked by back-translation to ensure equivalence across countries.

The variables, items and response scales included in the current study are presented in Table 2. Most items were informed by the results of prior focus group studies [14]. The intention to adopt personalised nutrition services was a future behaviour adapted version [34,35] of the items used by [36].

* * * Insert Table 2 here * * *

Data analysis

All statistical analyses were performed in IBM SPSS 21.0 for Windows; p -values below 0.05 were interpreted as statistically significant. To have at least some practical purpose, the relevance of explained variances below 1% was considered to be negligible (cf. [37,38]), and therefore the interpretation of results will not focus on those values. Intention to adopt personalised nutrition showed high reliability (Cronbach's alpha = 0.922), allowing to use the sum of the items as single indicator for intention. A linear regression model was estimated to predict intention to take up personalised nutrition based on trust in personalised nutrition service regulators and personalised nutrition information providers, and preferences for personalised nutrition communication channels and personalised nutrition service providers. This analysis was performed using all 32 items included as independent variables, and with intention to take up personalised nutrition (sum of the 3 items) as the dependent variable. Multicollinearity was checked using variance inflation factor, which showed acceptable values (below 5) for all independent variables.

Repeated-measures ANOVA were used to study socio-demographic (*i.e.* country, sex, age group, and education level) differences in each of four groups of variables: (1) trust in regulators, (2) trust in information sources, (3) preferences for communication channel, and (4) preferences for service providers. Significant and non-negligible differences were further investigated using simple effects analysis.

Results

The 32 trust and preference items significantly predicted intention to adopt personalised nutrition ($F(32,9348) = 72.401$, $p < 0.001$, adjusted $R^2 = 0.196$). Based on the standardized regression coefficients the strongest predictors of intention to adopt personalised nutrition were greater trust in dietitians/ nutritionists as service providers, the European Commission as service regulator, online personalised nutrition companies as information source on personalised nutrition and email contacts from named people as communication channel. Higher trust in the local

department of healthcare was associated with significantly lower intention to adopt personalised nutrition (see Table 3 for a full overview of coefficients).

* * * Insert Table 3 here * * *

Repeated-measures ANOVA showed several significant effects of socio-demographics, service providers, and information sources (Table 4 and 5), but most effect sizes were negligible (partial $\eta^2 < 0.01$). Between-subjects country effects were higher for communication channels (partial $\eta^2 = 0.052$) and service providers (partial $\eta^2 = 0.042$) than for service regulators (partial $\eta^2 = 0.013$); or information providers (partial $\eta^2 = 0.018$); the effect of age for communication channels was also non-negligible (partial $\eta^2 = 0.015$). Relevant source within-subjects effects were found for all four groups of variables (partial η^2 between 0.118 and 0.297), as well as source*country interactions (partial η^2 between 0.015 and 0.036).

* * * Insert Tables 4 and 5 here * * *

Given the overall aim and objectives of our study, driven by the fact that the items on preference in communication channels and service providers are in part mutually exclusive and do not constitute constructs, there is only minimal value in interpreting the overall effects of country, sex or age group on these preferences. Country, sex and age main effects, therefore, were analyzed only for trust in service regulators and information providers.

Spanish and German participants showed the highest mean level of trust across personalised nutrition service regulators, followed by Dutch, Norwegian, Irish, Portuguese, UK, Polish and Greek participants (Table 6). For overall trust in information provision, negligible effect sizes indicated that Spain showed the highest mean trust, followed by Portugal, Ireland, Germany, Netherlands, UK, Poland, Norway and Greece.

* * * Insert Table 6 here * * *

Regarding sex and age group, although there were significant main effects on the overall trust measures, such that females (*vs.* males) had higher overall level of trust

in information providers, and younger (*vs.* older) participants had higher overall trust in regulators and information providers. The effect sizes, however, were negligible (partial $\eta^2 < 0.01$).

Country x Source

Table 7 presents the observed means for preferences towards each actor, or communication channel per country, as well as homogeneous subsets of actors or communication channels (per country; Tukey HSD) and countries (per item; Sidak).

Trust in regulation

General practitioners (GPs) were the most trusted potential regulators in most countries, except for Portugal, where consumer organisations and universities were most trusted. Among Greek and Norwegian participants, the preference for universities (Greece) and consumer organisations (Norway) was not significantly lower than for GPs'. Trust in the Department of Health/ National Health Service and health insurance companies varied most across countries. The Department of Health was most trusted in Norway and in the UK, and least trusted in Greece. Germans trusted health insurance companies most as consumer protection sources, whereas Greek, Polish and Portuguese participants indicated the lowest level of trust in this source.

Trust in information provider

In all countries, family doctors were the most trusted information providers. In some countries, some other information providers did not significantly differ from family doctors: the National Health Service (Germany and Poland), dietitians/ nutritionists (Norway and Poland), and friends and family (Poland). Similarly to what was found for consumer protection, trust in national health services as an information source showed high variability, being the highest rated in Germany and the lowest in the Netherlands.

Preference for communication channel

Personal meeting was the most preferred communication channel in most countries. Among German participants, the preference for this communication channel was not significantly different from an email contact from a named person. Spain was the only country in which the preferred communication channel was an automated internet service. Despite the overall preference towards personal meetings, this communication channel showed the highest variability across countries.

Preference for service provider

As for service providers, dietitians and nutritionists were the source for which preference varied most across countries. Germans preferred these professionals least, while Greek participants showed the highest level of preference for them. Moreover, dietitians and nutritionists were the preferred service providers in Poland, whereas in all other countries participants preferred family doctors/ GP.

* * * Insert Table 7 here * * *

Discussion

This study implies that consumer trust in, and preference for, personalised nutrition services represent a significant and relevant predictor of their intention to adopt these services. The regression model indicated that sources of information, service providers and regulators, and communication channels together predicted about one fifth of the variance of the behavioral intention. This is in line with prior research showing that trust in different services and their features predicts intention to adopt various technologies [16,22-27], and highlights the relevance of this study.

Sociodemographic differences have been found for trust in information sources about food-related issues [33]. In our study, trust in national health service as a service regulator and information provider, and in dietitians and nutritionists, as service providers were those which most varied between countries. This might be explained by health inequalities between countries in both health epidemiology and health service characteristics [39,40]. The importance of trust as a predictor for the intention to adopt personalised nutrition services and the relevant country differences suggest that tailoring regulation, information provision, service provider, and communication channel to fit local preference may be a worthwhile effort. For example, while in many

countries a personal meeting appears the only viable option, in Spain e-mail contact may be sufficient. Also, research has suggested that trust in both information and service providers is shaped by historical and cultural experiences, in particular in the agrifood sector where there has been a long history of food scares (*e.g.* [32,41]). Nevertheless, our overall results are in line with those indicating higher consumers' trust on public than private institutions [28].

Despite greater preference for personal meetings in order to receive personalised nutrition advice, this communication channel was the one with the highest inter-country variability. However, among communication channels, the strongest predictor of intention to adopt personalised nutrition was email contacts from named people, such as the family doctor. Prior findings suggest that online personalised nutrition companies, based on email contacts instead of personal meetings, are preferred by some groups owing to the anonymity and convenience associated with these features [14,16,29,42].

That high trust in national healthcare was associated with low intention to adopt personalised nutrition was unexpected. An explanation may be that some of the benefits from potential personalised nutrition users are not "classical" health issues (such as disease prevention or treatment), but also focus on prevention, fitness and quality of life [14,42]. High trust in the department of health may therefore be related to an individual's health motivation to follow the classical health perspective, which would be based in trust in healthcare departments but go against the adoption of non-traditional personalised nutrition services. On the other hand, individuals who focused on issues traditionally not covered by national health services may be more likely to adopt personalised nutrition. Some people may assume that their health services currently do not support personalised nutrition, and/or that the currently advocated approaches are sufficient.

Country differences in trust and preferences were larger than those of other sociodemographic factors (sex, age, and education), suggesting that country-specific cultural factors could be more relevant than sociodemographics. This again may depend on how regulators have been perceived to handle food scares in a particular country or region in the past (*e.g.* see *inter alia*, [43]). Spanish and German participants showed the highest mean trust across personalised nutrition service

regulators, followed by Dutch, Norwegian, Irish, Portuguese, UK, Polish and Greek participants. For overall trust in information provision negligible effects sizes indicated that Spain showed the highest mean trust, followed by Portugal, Ireland, Germany, Netherlands, UK, Poland, Norway and Greece. These between-country differences may contribute to the possible explanations presented for the relation between high trust in national health services and low intention to adopt personalised nutrition.

There may be a disconnection between self-reported behavioural measures and adoption of specific consumer behaviors. At a very general level, this has been exemplified by the differences in self-reported consumer behaviours expressed by citizens, and associated consumer behaviours, across a wide range of agrifood issues (*e.g.* [44]). It is therefore possible that trust in information and trust in societal entities are not good indicators of consumer behavior. Other constructs and variables, such as willingness-to-pay (WTP) for a personalised nutrition services, appear to offer different interpretations of behavioral intention to adopt (*e.g.* [45]). The most reliable indicator will be the actual adoption of personalised nutrition services, and in the future research might validate proxy measures such as social trust, trust in information sources, or WTP, against actual behavior.

Some limitations must be considered, namely the compliance rate (31.9%), which may somewhat constrain the generalization of results. Besides the large sample size, quota sampling used to achieve national representativeness decreases any potential bias because of this limitation. Nevertheless, potential sampling bias should be taken into account, as for example regarding country variations in the participants' level of education.

Another possible limitation is that, because personalised nutrition will have been a relatively unfamiliar service with which the general public will have had little or no direct experience, some of the trust and preferences' results may not have been specific to personalised nutrition. This lack of direct experience may contribute to the apparent similarity of these results with those found for other services. For instance, our results on socio-demographic differences in preferences and trust in service characteristics are in line with several studies, indicating a consumer preference for the provision of such services to be based on the existing health systems. The different levels of preference and trust for different services is possibly due to the

trust consumers' have on well-known institutions and professional groups [46-48], especially regarding innovative services, such as personalised nutrition [22]. Overall, participants from the countries included in the research preferred family doctors/ GPs as information and service providers, as well as regulators, and personal meetings was the preferred communication channel.

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Table 1. Sample profile

		Germany (n=1020)	Greece (n=1020)	Ireland (n=1020)	Netherlands (n=1020)	Norway (n=1022)	Poland (n=1045)	Portugal (n=1148)	Spain (n=1025)	UK (n=1061)	TOTAL (n=9381)
SEX	male %	49.9	49.4	49.8	50.3	52.6	52.1	49.5	51.3	51.0	50.6
AGE	18-29 y %	18.6	24.7	23.5	20.0	20.5	24.4	23.8	19.0	23.0	22.0
	30-39 y %	16.4	32.1	26.4	18.3	21.6	23.9	25.7	26.6	19.4	23.4
	40-54 y %	40.5	37.6	32.1	38.2	30.7	28.0	34.8	35.4	36.0	34.8
	55-65 y %	24.5	5.6	18.0	23.4	27.1	23.6	15.7	18.9	21.6	19.8
EDUCATION	Low %	29.6	31.5	12.2	28.8	38.8	11.2	24.9	32.3	49.0	28.7
	Middle %	52.9	35.2	37.5	35.6	31.2	61.3	37.9	43.2	15.4	38.9
	High %	17.5	33.3	50.4	35.6	29.9	27.5	37.2	24.5	35.6	32.4

Table 2. Variables, questions, items and response modes

Variables	Question asked	Items	Response
Intention to adopt personalised nutrition	Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements:	<p><u>3 items:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I intend to adopt personalised nutrition. - I would consider adopting personalised nutrition. - I am definitely going to adopt personalised nutrition 	<p>1 = Completely disagree</p> <p>2 = Disagree</p> <p>3 = Neither agree nor disagree</p> <p>4 = Agree</p> <p>5 = Completely agree</p>
Trust in different personalised nutrition service regulators	Please indicate the extent to which you trust each of the following organisations to protect consumers in relation to personalised nutrition services:	<p><u>8 items:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Department of Health/ National Health Service (NHS) - The European Commission - General practitioners (GPs) - Food manufacturers - Food retailers - Consumer organisations - Universities - Health insurance companies 	
Trust in different actors to provide accurate information about personalised nutrition	Please indicate the extent to which you trust each of the following information sources to provide accurate information about personalised nutrition:	<p><u>14 items:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Your family doctor - Department of Health - The European Commission - National Health Service (NHS) - Food retailers - Food manufacturers - Online personalised nutrition companies - Universities - Consumer organisations - Dieticians/ nutritionists - Personal trainers - Friends and family - News media - Social media 	<p>1 = Distrust extremely</p> <p>2 = Distrust</p> <p>3 = Neither trust nor distrust</p> <p>4 = Trust</p> <p>5 = Trust extremely</p>
Preferences regarding personalised nutrition communication channels	Please indicate the extent to which you would prefer personalised nutrition to be provided through the following communication channels:	<p><u>6 items:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Email contact from a named person - Automated internet service - Telephone call - Video call (e.g. Skype) - Personal meeting - Apps 	<p>1 = Not at all</p> <p>2 = Slightly</p> <p>3 = Moderately</p> <p>4 = Very</p> <p>5 = Extremely</p>
Preferences regarding personalised nutrition service providers	Please indicate the extent to which you would prefer the following people or organisations to provide a personalised nutrition service:	<p><u>4 items:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Family doctor/ GP - Private health organisations - Dietician/ Nutritionist - Supermarket 	

Table 3. Standardized regression coefficients for items predicting intention to adopt personalised nutrition

	Standardized regression coefficients	<i>p</i>
Trust in different personalised nutrition service regulators (consumer protection)		
The Department of Health/ National Health Service (NHS)	-0.045	0.007
The European Commission	0.103	< 0.001
General practitioners (GPs)	0.005	0.685
Food manufacturers	0.009	0.615
Food retailers	-0.023	0.195
Consumer organisations	-0.030	0.038
Universities	0.025	0.113
Health insurance companies	-0.006	0.614
Trust in different actors to provide accurate information about personalised nutrition		
Your family doctor	0.017	0.197
Department of Health	-0.062	< 0.001
The European Commission	0.016	0.374
National Health Service (NHS)	0.033	0.009
Food retailers	-0.031	0.103
Food manufacturers	0.011	0.572
Online personalised nutrition companies	0.095	< 0.001
Universities	-0.032	0.053
Consumer organisations	-0.004	0.806
Dieticians/ nutritionists	0.017	0.212
Personal trainers	0.064	< 0.001
Friends and family	0.025	0.022
News media	0.002	0.872
Social media	0.045	0.001
Preferences regarding personalised nutrition communication channels		
Email contact from a named person	0.095	< 0.001
Automated internet service	0.039	0.004
Telephone call	-0.012	0.389
Video call (<i>e.g.</i> Skype)	0.024	0.079

Personal meeting	0.079	< 0.001
Apps	0.011	0.379
Preferences regarding personalised nutrition service providers		
Family doctor/ GP	0.028	0.025
Private health organisations	0.017	0.180
Dietician/ nutritionist	0.128	< 0.001
Supermarket	0.084	< 0.001

Table 4. Between-subjects effects on trust in and preferences for personalised nutrition sources

Tests of Between-Subjects Effects	Service regulators			Information providers			Communication channels			Service providers		
	<i>F</i> ^a	<i>p</i>	η^2	<i>F</i> ^a	<i>p</i>	η^2	<i>F</i> ^a	<i>p</i>	η^2	<i>F</i> ^a	<i>p</i>	η^2
Country	15.293 (8)	<0.001	0.013	9.444 (8)	<0.001	0.008	62.497 (8)	<0.001	0.052	50.557 (8)	<0.001	0.042
Sex	0.255 (1)	0.613	0.000	22.254 (1)	<0.001	0.002	8.730 (1)	0.003	0.001	48.536 (1)	<0.001	0.005
Age	11.967 (3)	<0.001	0.004	17.776 (3)	<0.001	0.006	45.937 (3)	<0.001	0.015	19.833 (3)	<0.001	0.006
Education	1.504 (2)	0.222	0.000	1.440 (2)	0.237	0.000	0.987 (2)	0.373	0.000	0.771 (2)	0.463	0.000
Country*Sex	0.915 (8)	0.503	0.001	1.147 (8)	0.328	0.001	1.424 (8)	0.181	0.001	3.289 (8)	0.001	0.003
Country*Age	1.943 (24)	0.004	0.005	1.565 (24)	0.039	0.004	2.574 (24)	<0.001	0.007	2.610 (24)	<0.001	0.007
Country*Education	1.138 (16)	0.312	0.002	1.093 (16)	0.354	0.002	1.657 (16)	0.047	0.003	1.249 (16)	0.221	0.002
Sex*Age	0.264 (3)	0.851	0.000	0.127 (3)	0.944	0.000	1.228 (3)	0.298	0.000	3.201 (3)	0.022	0.001
Sex*Education	0.237 (2)	0.789	0.000	0.084 (2)	0.919	0.000	0.043 (2)	0.957	0.000	1.439 (2)	0.237	0.000
Age*Education	1.951 (6)	0.069	0.001	1.583 (6)	0.147	0.001	0.956 (6)	0.454	0.001	0.905 (6)	0.490	0.001
Country*Sex*Age	1.145 (24)	0.283	0.003	1.313 (24)	0.140	0.003	1.370 (24)	0.107	0.004	1.069 (24)	0.371	0.003
Country*Sex*Education	0.833 (16)	0.648	0.001	0.981 (16)	0.474	0.002	1.010 (16)	0.442	0.002	0.991 (16)	0.464	0.002
Country*Age*Education	1.286 (48)	0.089	0.007	1.136 (48)	0.241	0.006	0.986 (48)	0.499	0.005	1.038 (48)	0.401	0.005
Sex*Age*Education	1.068 (6)	0.379	0.001	1.450 (6)	0.191	0.001	0.423 (6)	0.864	0.000	1.524 (6)	0.166	0.001
Country*Sex*Age*Education	0.834 (48)	0.786	0.004	0.829 (48)	0.794	0.004	1.086 (48)	0.318	0.006	1.532 (48)	0.011	0.008

^a Degrees of freedom (df) for numerator in between parentheses; df for denominator = 9165.

Table 5. Within-subjects effects on trust in and preferences for personalised nutrition sources

Tests of Within-Subjects Effects (Greenhouse-Geisser)	Service regulators			Information providers			Communication channels			Service providers		
	<i>F</i> ^b	<i>p</i>	η_p^2	<i>F</i> ^c	<i>p</i>	η_p^2	<i>F</i> ^d	<i>p</i>	η_p^2	<i>F</i> ^e	<i>p</i>	η_p^2
Source *	2031.684 (5.8)	<0.001	0.181	2381.658 (9.2)	<0.001	0.206	1225.816 (3.8)	<0.001	0.118	3870.573 (2.8)	<0.001	0.297
Source*Country	43.022 (46.2)	<0.001	0.036	35.666 (73.3)	<0.001	0.030	24.210 (30.5)	<0.001	0.021	17.191 (22.2)	<0.001	0.015
Source*Sex	17.483 (5.8)	<0.001	0.002	16.437 (9.2)	<0.001	0.002	17.065 (3.8)	<0.001	0.002	18.518 (2.8)	<0.001	0.002
Source*Age	12.475 (17.3)	<0.001	0.004	11.594 (27.5)	<0.001	0.004	3.162 (11.4)	<0.001	0.001	24.235 (8.3)	<0.001	0.008
Source*Education	31.587 (11.5)	<0.001	0.007	27.021 (18.3)	<0.001	0.006	4.000 (7.6)	<0.001	0.001	16.587 (5.5)	<0.001	0.004
Source*Country*Sex	1.865 (46.2)	<0.001	0.002	1.749 (73.3)	<0.001	0.002	1.670 (30.5)	0.012	0.001	1.141 (22.2)	0.292	0.001
Source*Country*Age	1.831 (138.5)	<0.001	0.005	1.632 (219.8)	<0.001	0.004	1.620 (91.6)	<0.001	0.004	1.477 (66.5)	0.007	0.004
Source*Country*Education	1.709 (92.3)	<0.001	0.003	1.600 (146.6)	<0.001	0.003	1.317 (61.0)	0.049	0.002	0.993 (44.3)	0.485	0.002
Source*Sex*Age	1.358 (17.3)	0.145	0.000	1.535 (27.5)	0.036	0.001	1.153 (11.4)	0.313	0.000	2.396 (8.3)	0.013	0.001
Source*Sex*Education	1.337 (11.5)	0.193	0.000	1.092 (18.3)	0.352	0.000	0.730 (7.6)	0.658	0.000	1.486 (5.5)	0.184	0.000
Source*Age*Education	1.552 (34.6)	0.020	0.001	1.126 (55.0)	0.243	0.001	0.866 (22.9)	0.646	0.001	0.505 (16.6)	0.950	0.000
Source*Country*Sex*Age	1.047 (138.5)	0.334	0.003	0.843 (219.8)	0.957	0.002	0.988 (91.6)	0.512	0.003	1.308 (66.5)	0.047	0.003
Source*Country*Sex*Education	1.126 (92.3)	0.192	0.002	1.067 (146.6)	0.275	0.002	1.302 (61.0)	0.057	0.002	0.945 (44.3)	0.576	0.002
Source*Country*Age*Education	1.258 (276.9)	0.002	0.007	1.252 (439.7)	<0.001	0.007	0.925 (183.1)	0.758	0.005	1.239 (133.0)	0.032	0.006
Source*Sex*Age*Education	1.076 (34.6)	0.349	0.001	0.911 (55.0)	0.662	0.001	1.292 (22.9)	0.158	0.001	1.078 (16.6)	0.369	0.001
Source*Country*Sex*Age*Education	1.017 (276.9)	0.412	0.005	1.021 (439.7)	0.369	0.005	1.084 (183.1)	0.208	0.006	1.090 (133.0)	0.225	0.006

* Refers to the different service regulators, information providers, communication channels, or service providers sources. ^b Degrees of freedom (*df*) for numerator in between parentheses; *df* for denominator = 52874.3. ^c *df* for numerator in between parentheses; *df* for denominator = 83949.0. ^d *df* for numerator in between parentheses; *df* for denominator = 34962.0. ^e *df* for numerator in between parentheses; *df* for denominator = 25392.3.

Table 6. Country effects: observed means and homogeneous subsets

COUNTRY	Service regulators	Information providers
Germany	3.07 [d,e]	3.05 [c,d,e]
Greece	2.87 [a]	2.94 [a]
Ireland	2.98 [b,c]	3.09 [d,e]
Netherlands	3.04 [c,d]	3.03 [b,c,d]
Norway	3.01 [b,c,d]	2.97 [a,b]
Poland	2.87 [a]	3.00 [a,b,c]
Portugal	2.96 [b,c]	3.10 [d,e]
Spain	3.13 [e]	3.12 [e]
UK	2.94 [a,b]	3.02 [b,c,d]

For each item, means that share the same letter are not significantly different from one another. Homogeneous subsets of countries (per construct;; Tukey HSD) are presented with lowercase letters within square brackets, e.g. "[a,b]". Homogeneous subsets are indicated alphabetically starting at the ones with lowest means.

Table 7. Actor/Channel-country effects: observed means and homogeneous subsets

Trust in different personalised nutrition service regulators (consumer protection)									
Service Regulator	COUNTRY								
	Germany	Greece	Ireland	Netherlands	Norway	Poland	Portugal	Spain	UK
General practitioners (GPs)	3.87 [f] (F)	3.54 [b,c] (E)	3.64 [c,d,e] (G)	3.66 [d,e] (F)	3.50 [b] (E)	3.58 [b,c,d,e] (E)	3.20 [a] (E)	3.69 [e] (F)	3.57 [b,c,d] (G)
Consumer organisations	3.45 [e] (E)	3.32 [b,c,d] (D)	3.22 [a,b] (E)	3.36 [c,d,e] (E)	3.41 [d,e] (D,E)	3.25 [a,b] (D)	3.27 [a,b,c] (E,F)	3.43 [d,e] (E)	3.17 [a] (E)
Universities	3.24 [a,b,c] (D)	3.50 [d] (E)	3.35 [c] (F)	3.31 [a,b,c] (E)	3.32 [b,c] (C)	3.20 [a] (D)	3.32 [b,c] (F)	3.35 [c] (D)	3.22 [a,b] (E)
The Department of Health/ National Health Service (NHS)	3.07 [c] (C)	2.55 [a] (B)	3.13 [c] (E)	3.13 [c] (D)	3.40 [d] (C,D)	2.73 [b] (B)	3.05 [c] (D)	3.08 [c] (B)	3.30 [d] (F)
The European Commission	2.68 [a] (B)	3.10 [c,d] (C)	3.02 [c] (D)	2.79 [a,b] (C)	2.67 [a] (B)	2.88 [b] (C)	3.03 [c] (D)	3.16 [d] (C)	2.72 [a] (D)
Health insurance companies	3.22 [e] (D)	2.36 [a] (A)	2.70 [b,c] (C)	2.84 [d] (C)	2.70 [b,c] (B)	2.45 [a] (A)	2.41 [a] (A)	2.77 [c,d] (A)	2.60 [b] (C)
Food retailers	2.62 [d] (B)	2.29 [a] (A)	2.48 [b,c] (B)	2.56 [c,d] (A)	2.55 [c,d] (A)	2.42 [b] (A)	2.61 [d] (B)	2.75 [e] (A)	2.52 [b,c,d] (B)
Food manufacturers	2.45 [c] (A)	2.30 [a,b] (A)	2.28 [a] (A)	2.65 [d] (B)	2.50 [c] (A)	2.46 [c] (A)	2.77 [e] (C)	2.80 [e] (A)	2.42 [b,c] (A)
Trust in different actors to provide accurate information about personalised nutrition									
Information Source	COUNTRY								
	Germany	Greece	Ireland	Netherlands	Norway	Poland	Portugal	Spain	UK
Your family doctor	3.91 [f] (H)	3.83 [d,e,f] (K)	3.87 [e,f] (I)	3.67 [b,c] (I)	3.59 [a,b] (H)	3.55 [a] (H)	3.75 [c,d] (I)	3.82 [d,e,f] (J)	3.77 [c,d,e] (I)
Dieticians/ nutritionists	3.37 [a] (G)	3.55 [c,d,e] (J)	3.63 [d,e] (H)	3.50 [b,c] (H)	3.65 [e] (H)	3.51 [c] (G,H)	3.63 [d,e] (H)	3.51 [c,d] (H)	3.39 [a,b] (G,H)
National Health Service (NHS)	3.88 [h] (H)	3.05 [b] (F)	3.19 [c] (E)	2.88 [a] (D)	3.34 [d,e] (G)	3.48 [f] (G,H)	3.29 [c,d] (F,G)	3.73 [g] (I)	3.43 [e,f] (H)
Consumer organisations	3.41 [c] (G)	3.36 [c] (I)	3.30 [b,c] (E,F)	3.40 [c] (G)	3.31 [b,c] (F,G)	3.23 [a,b] (F)	3.32 [b,c] (F,G)	3.39 [c] (G)	3.18 [a] (E)
Friends and family	3.47 [c] (G)	3.25 [b] (H,I)	3.45 [c] (G)	3.28 [b] (F)	3.08 [a] (D)	3.50 [c] (G,H)	3.24 [b] (E,F)	3.19 [b] (D,E)	3.40 [c] (G,H)
Universities	3.18 [a] (F)	3.48 [d] (J)	3.37 [c] (F,G)	3.30 [b,c] (F)	3.24 [a,b] (E,F)	3.15 [a] (E)	3.35 [c] (G)	3.32 [b,c] (F,G)	3.24 [a,b] (E,F)
Personal trainers	3.13 [a] (E,F)	3.17 [a] (G,H)	3.38 [b] (F,G)	3.22 [a] (E,F)	3.17 [a] (D,E)	3.44 [b] (G)	3.17 [a] (D,E)	3.24 [a] (E,F)	3.14 [a] (E)
Department of Health	3.04 [b] (E)	2.66 [a] (E)	3.27 [c,d] (E,F)	3.16 [b,c] (E)	3.35 [d] (G)	2.76 [a] (C)	3.13 [b] (D)	3.12 [b] (D)	3.32 [d] (F,G)
The European Commission	2.67 [a,b] (C)	3.10 [d] (F,G)	3.10 [d] (D)	2.85 [c] (C,D)	2.62 [a] (C)	2.86 [c] (D)	3.05 [d] (C)	3.16 [d] (D,E)	2.78 [b,c] (D)
News media	2.82 [e] (D)	2.14 [a] (A)	2.69 [c,d] (C)	2.77 [d,e] (C)	2.49 [b] (B)	2.48 [b] (A)	2.75 [d,e] (B)	2.63 [c] (B)	2.63 [c] (C)
Online personalised nutrition companies	2.50 [a] (B)	2.52 [a,b] (D)	2.59 [a,b,c] (B,C)	2.65 [c] (B)	2.49 [a] (B)	2.58 [a,b,c] (B)	2.65 [c] (A)	2.66 [c] (B,C)	2.64 [b,c] (C)
Food retailers	2.56 [b,c,d] (B,C)	2.33 [a] (B,C)	2.53 [b,c] (B)	2.57 [c,d] (A)	2.46 [b,c] (B)	2.45 [b] (A)	2.65 [d,e] (A)	2.74 [e] (C)	2.52 [b,c] (B)
Social media	2.41 [a,b] (A)	2.41 [a,b] (C)	2.54 [c,d] (B)	2.62 [d] (A,B)	2.35 [a] (A)	2.60 [d] (B)	2.61 [d] (A)	2.54 [c,d] (A)	2.48 [b,c] (A,B)
Food manufacturers	2.39 [b] (A)	2.27 [a] (B)	2.34 [a,b] (A)	2.55 [c] (A)	2.37 [a,b] (A)	2.45 [b,c] (A)	2.75 [d] (B)	2.71 [d] (C)	2.42 [b] (A)

Preferences regarding personalised nutrition communication channels									
Communication Channel	COUNTRY								
	Germany	Greece	Ireland	Netherlands	Norway	Poland	Portugal	Spain	UK
Personal meeting	2.52 [b] (D)	3.70 [f] (C)	3.34 [e] (E)	2.85 [c] (D)	3.15 [d] (E)	3.26 [d,e] (E)	3.18 [d,e] (D)	2.32 [a] (D)	2.78 [c] (F)
Email contact from a named person	2.41 [a] (D)	2.84 [c,d] (B)	2.74 [b,c] (D)	2.37 [a] (C)	2.45 [a] (D)	3.11 [e] (D)	2.68 [b,c] (C)	2.93 [d] (C)	2.62 [b] (E)
Telephone call	1.80 [a] (B)	2.50 [e,f] (A)	2.37 [d,e] (C)	2.06 [b] (B)	2.18 [b,c] (C)	2.59 [f] (B)	2.32 [c,d] (B)	2.03 [b] (B)	2.13 [b] (D)
Automated internet service	1.95 [a] (C)	2.46 [c] (A)	2.04 [a] (A)	2.00 [a] (B)	1.98 [a] (B)	2.71 [d] (C)	2.33 [b,c] (B)	2.23 [b] (C)	2.01 [a] (C)
Apps	1.74 [a] (B)	2.41 [c] (A)	2.15 [b] (B)	1.84 [a] (A)	1.86 [a] (A)	2.72 [d] (C)	2.13 [b] (A)	2.04 [b] (B)	1.87 [a] (B)
Video call (e.g. Skype)	1.61 [a] (A)	2.48 [e] (A)	2.01 [c] (A)	1.80 [b] (A)	1.86 [b] (A)	2.46 [e] (A)	2.18 [d] (A)	1.73 [a,b] (A)	1.75 [a,b] (A)
Preferences regarding personalised nutrition service providers									
Service Provider	COUNTRY								
	Germany	Greece	Ireland	Netherlands	Norway	Poland	Portugal	Spain	UK
Family doctor/ GP	3.36 [b] (D)	3.78 [c] (D)	3.71 [c] (D)	3.20 [a] (D)	3.36 [b] (D)	3.38 [b] (C)	3.72 [c] (D)	3.46 [b] (D)	3.42 [b] (D)
Dietician/ Nutritionist	2.72 [a] (C)	3.60 [e] (C)	3.43 [d] (C)	2.94 [b] (C)	3.20 [c] (C)	3.51 [d,e] (D)	3.49 [d,e] (C)	3.04 [b] (C)	2.92 [b] (C)
Private health organisations	2.41 [a] (B)	2.88 [c] (B)	2.88 [c] (B)	2.38 [a] (B)	2.58 [b] (B)	3.06 [d] (B)	3.00 [c,d] (B)	2.61 [b] (B)	2.49 [a,b] (B)
Supermarket	1.89 [b,c] (A)	1.94 [b,c,d] (A)	2.04 [d] (A)	1.90 [b,c,d] (A)	1.71 [a] (A)	1.99 [c,d] (A)	2.37 [e] (A)	1.84 [a,b] (A)	1.87 [b,c] (A)

For each item, means that share the same letter are not significantly different from one another. Homogeneous subsets of countries (per item) are presented with lowercase letters within square brackets, e.g. “[a,b]”, whereas homogeneous subsets of items (per country) are presented with uppercase letters within curved brackets, e.g. “(A,B)”. Homogeneous subsets are indicated alphabetically starting at the ones with lowest means.