

**tds** ▶ **exposure**

**WP7**

**Variation and Trends: Understanding  
Data for Better Assessment  
Dr Oliver Lindtner (BfR)**

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## EFSA/ FAO/ WHO, 2009 - Variation

*“There are, however, some cases where the TDS approach is unsuitable:*

- *to calculate exposure for populations with dietary habits not differentiated by the TDS food list;*
- *to calculate **high dietary exposure levels specifically arising from high contamination** or to*
- ***estimate acute dietary exposure**, given that pooled samples provide only mean concentration*
- *...”*

## EFSA/ FAO/ WHO, 2009 – Matching occurrence and consumption

*“If food consumption data are available for different regions and/or seasons, it has **to be decided if the consumption and occurrence data should be averaged to a year-round national mean value** before calculating the dietary exposure, **or matched at seasonal and/or regional level before being averaged**. All the choices made for calculations should be clearly explained.”*

## EFSA/ FAO/ WHO, 2009 - Trends

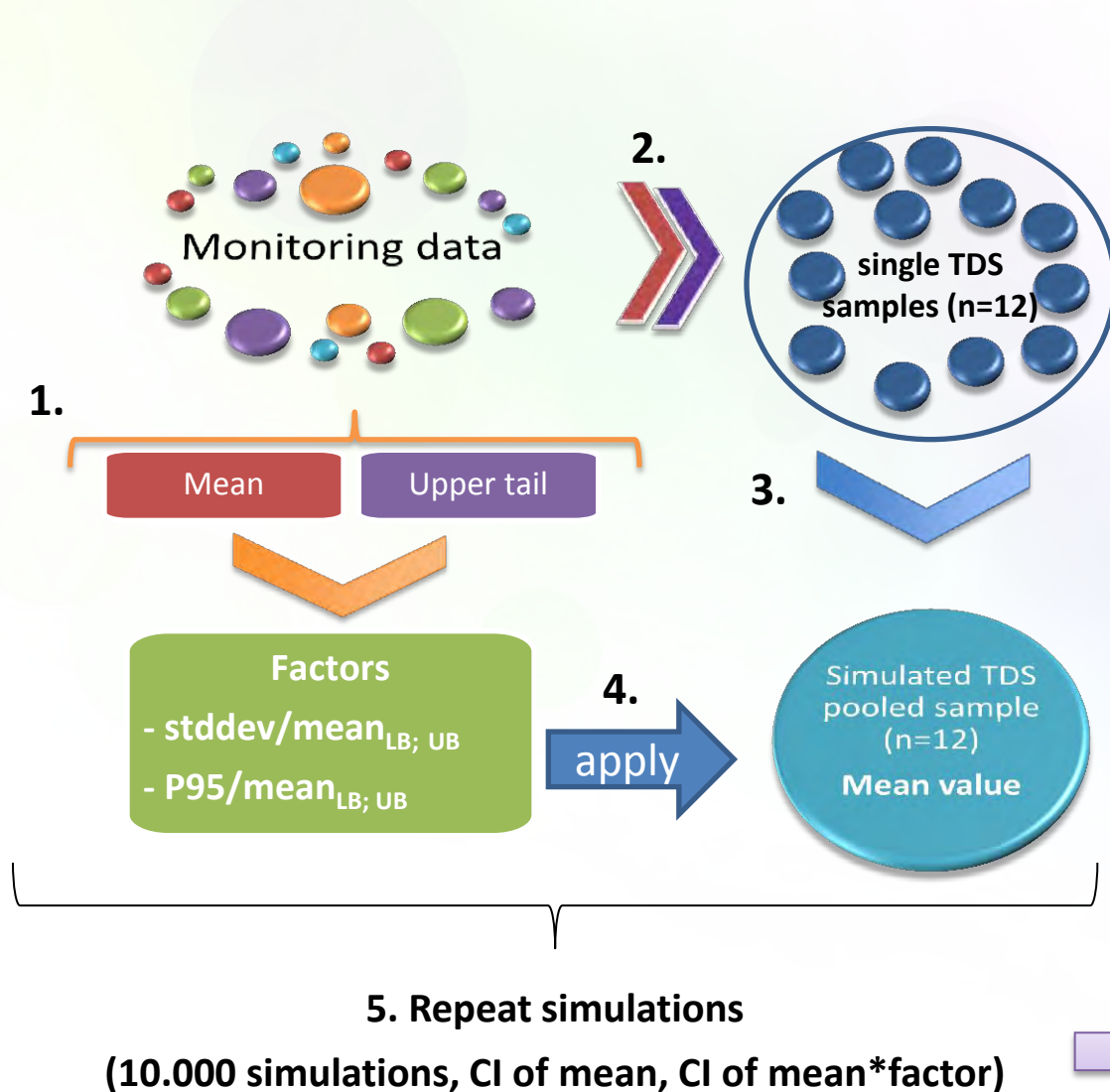
*“Using pooled samples of individual food items means that the analytical data generated represent averages of concentration data. **Therefore, TDS results** are best suited for calculating chronic exposure to food chemical substances and **may allow the analysis of trends** where the sample size is sufficiently representative.”*

# Variation in concentration data

# Idea

- Extrapolation from mean to high percentiles using secondary data
- Factors tested
  - stddev/mean
  - P95/mean
  - P95/median
- First conclusions:
  - P95/median does not work well → excluded from simulations
  - **Lower Bound (LB)** approach to deal with non-detects is more conservative than **Upper Bound (UB)** approach
  - **Outliers** can cause problems but should not be excluded only due to statistical criteria and without further evidence
  - Procedures will hardly work in case of **multi-modal distributions**, so it has to be checked in advance whether distribution is uni-modal

# Simulations based on monitoring data (DE)



1. Analysis of food monitoring data (stddev, mean, percentiles etc.) and calculation of factors (stddev/mean; P95/mean)
2. Simulation of a TDS-sample from monitoring data of selected food groups
3. Calculate mean of simulated TDS-sample
4. Apply factors for respective food group
5. Repeat simulations
6. Compare to simulated CIs of mean, P90, P95, P99, max of respective food group from analysed food monitoring data

## Aims Task 7.2.4

- **Extrapolation to high percentiles**
  - Impact of **non-detects (NDs)** when deriving EFs
  - Impact of **sample size** when deriving EFs
  - Impact of **distributions**  
(unimodal, bimodal, extreme values)
- **Extrapolation between similar foods**
- **Extrapolation between different years**

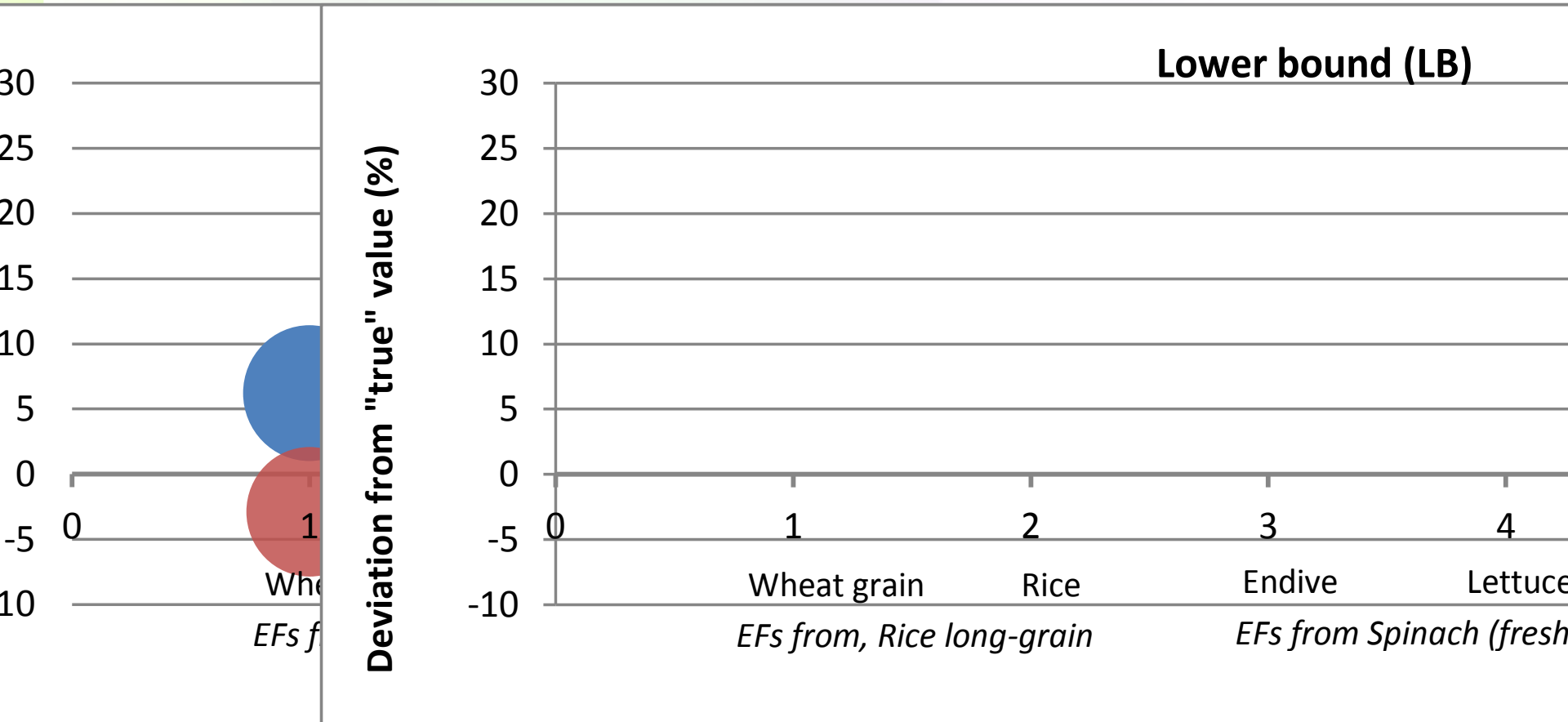


## Preliminary findings

Scenario/ Factor	Av. Deviation (%)	Av. 95% CI range	Av. Deviation (%)	Av. 95% CI range
	LB		UB	
<b>Unimodal distributions</b>				
SD/mean	8	0,17	9	0,15
P95/mean	3	0,15	3	0,14
<b>Bimodal distributions</b>				
SD/mean	38	0,56	27	0,51
P95/mean	10	0,52	7	0,46
<b>Extreme values</b>				
SD/mean	11	0,2	10	0,18
P95/mean	5	0,14	5	0,13
<b>between foods</b>				
SD/mean	13	1,19	14	1,28
P95/mean	2	1,31	6	1,96
<b>between years</b>				
SD/mean	20	3,16	25	1,77
P95/mean	10	1,52	8	1,41

**Table: Average deviation (%) from “true” P95 and average 95% CI range over all considered foods for each scenario for the element copper (German food monitoring).**

# Example for extrapolation between similar food groups



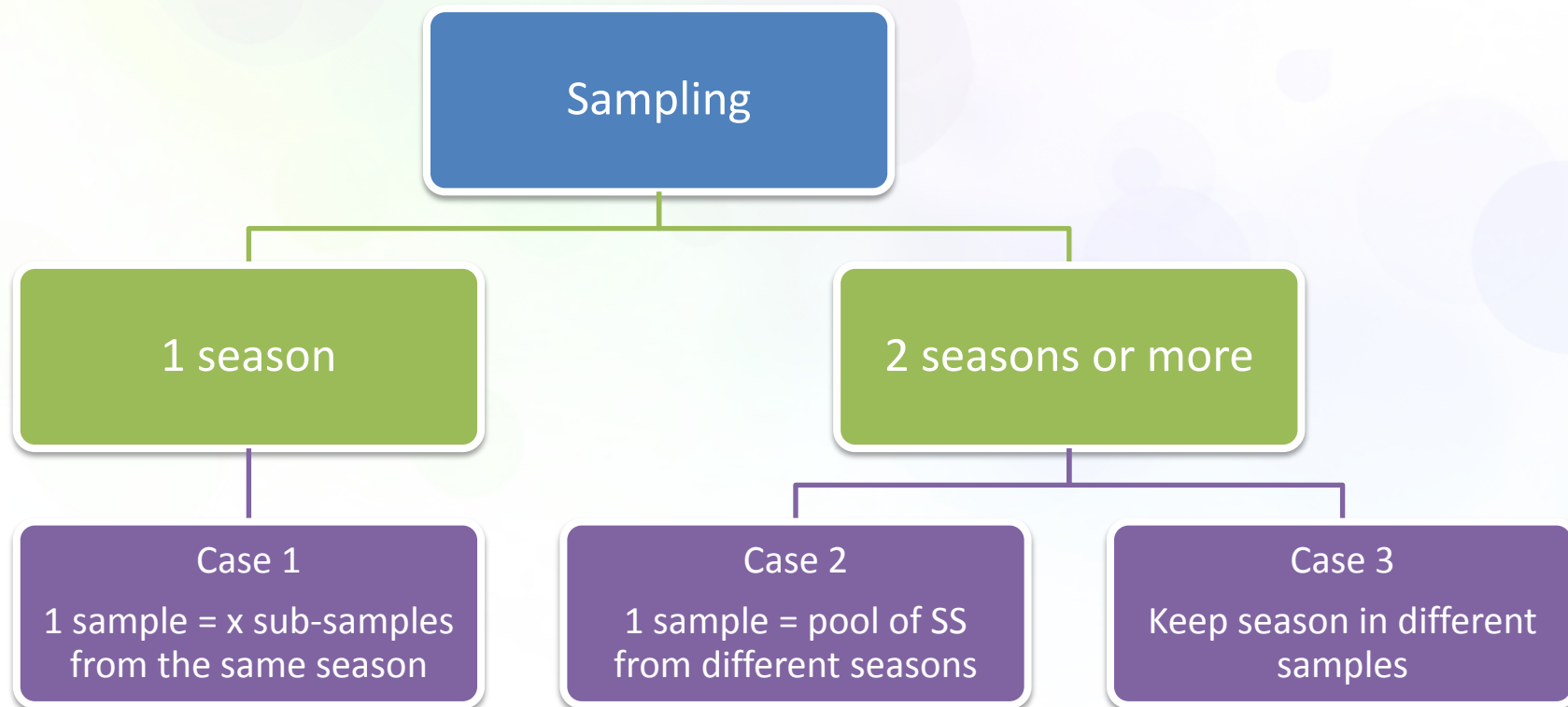
Performance of extrapolation between similar foods. Estimates based on lower bound (LB)

## Some conclusions

- LN approximations look OK in most cases
- For low ND%, all factors similar
- Increasing ND% leads to differences
- F\_P95MeanUB factor performs reasonably well throughout
- Between food & year, simple extrapolations work fine in the examples

# Matching occurrence and consumption data

# Influence of seasonality in TDS sampling



## Data and approach

- **Use the French TDS data:** Consumption and contamination data; “Cold season” (Oct to March) vs. “warm season” (April to Sept). Check that populations are comparable between seasons
- **Chemicals selected:** Cu and Mn (pilot studies), As , PCDD/Fs, DL-PCB, PCDD/Fs+DL-PCBs, sum 6 iPCBs, DON and OTA
- **Different scenarios:** Calculate exposure with and without taking into account season and compare to assess the impact of seasonality

# Results: Adults in **Scenario 1** with UB hypothesis

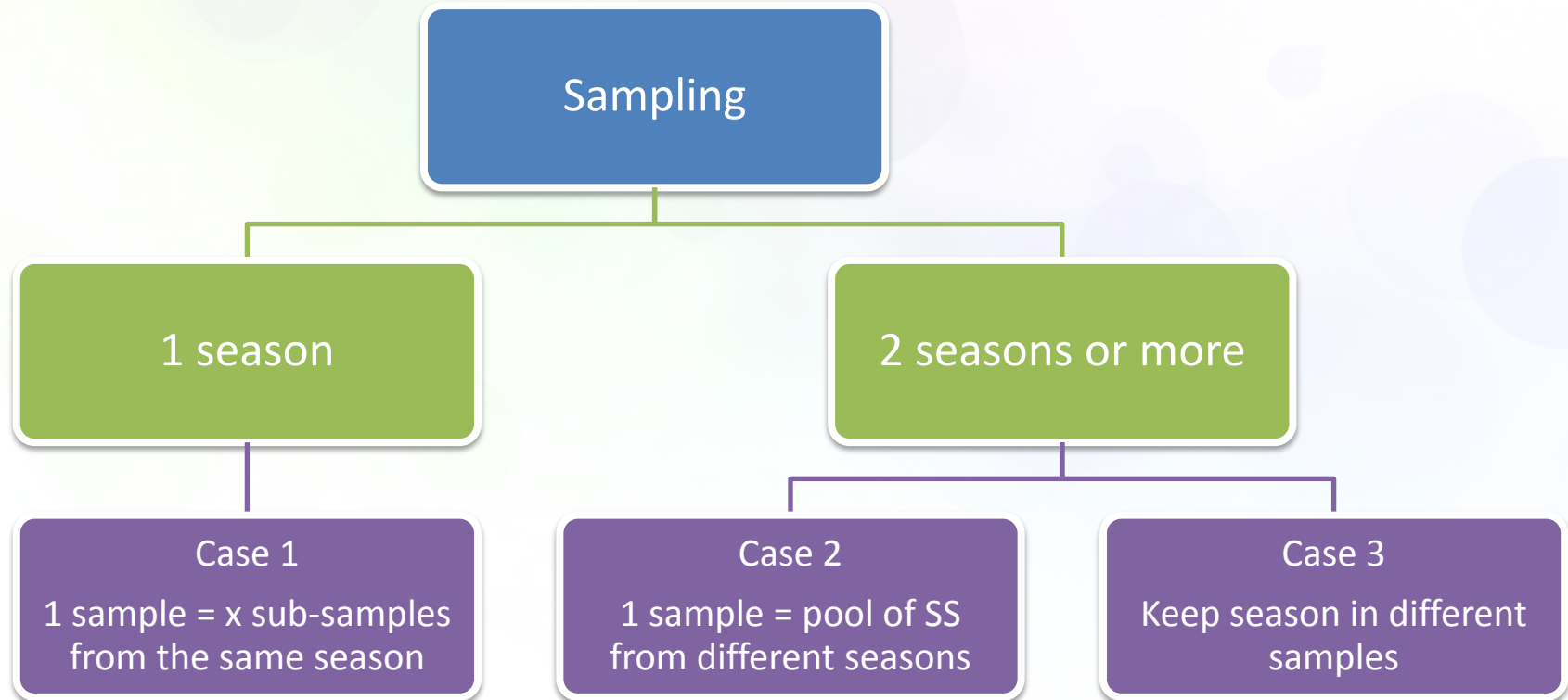
Substances	Cold season		Warm season		Anova
	Mean	p95	Mean	p95	p
Cu (µg/kg bw/day)	30.5	68.3	26.1	51.6	<0.0001
Mn (µg/kg bw/day)	32.0	53.8	31.3	49.8	0.25
OTA (ng/kg bw/day)	1.63	2.67	2.14	3.62	<0.0001

In blue: highest exposure; P = p-value for the test of mean comparison between cold (C) and warm (W) seasons

**Scenario 1** (closest to reality):

significant differences in exposures and not always the same season → seasonality has to be taken into account

# Influence of seasonality in TDS sampling



**Less precise**  
**Cheaper**

**More precise**  
**More expensive**



# Trends

# Methods

## 1. Normality of data tested:

- graphically using normal P-plot
- Kolmogorov-Smirnov test
  - Normality of the data confirmed for all studied compounds (Pb, Al, Se)

## 2. Replacement of outliers

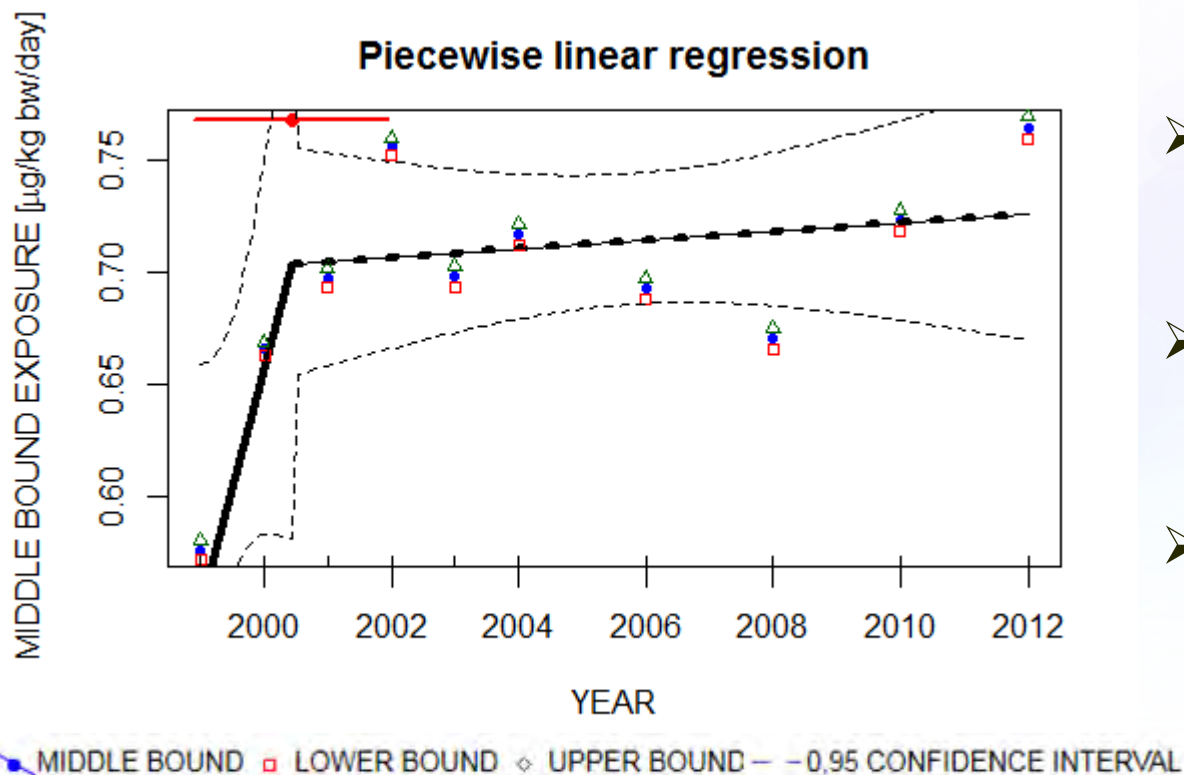
- For lead, an outlier (resulting value from the year 2000) **replaced by the average value of the other years**

## 3. Linear regression → calculation of model

## 4. Residual analysis to detect whether estimated model fits well on the analyzed data

- For Pb and Al, residuals fulfilled all assumptions
  - **Multiple regression analysis**
- For Se, residuals did not fulfill assumptions for multiple regression analysis
  - **Piecewise linear regression with break-point**

# Temporal trend in Se dietary exposure for average person (4-90 years) in the CZ



- The model shows increasing trend with break-point
- Estimated model explains **72 % of the variability** in the data
- model estimated by multiple linear regression **only 30 %**

# Remaining uncertainties

## Task 7.5.1: Qualitative uncertainty description: Proceeding



- i. **Description** of food collection, packaging and transport to cooking facility
- ii. **Uncertainty analysis** food collection

STEP	ASSOCIATED UNCERTAINTY	TYPE OF UNCERTAINTY
4	• Incorrect labeling and documentation	<i>Scenario uncertainty</i>
	• Strategy of random sampling and alternative purchase	<i>Sample Uncertainty</i>
	• Wrong storage/transport conditions ...	<i>Scenario uncertainty</i>

- iii. **Example from German TDS pilot (WP9)** how foods were collected and which uncertainties have been encountered.

## Summary

- Extrapolation from secondary data like food monitoring is possible
- In those specific cases also high dietary exposure levels arising from high contamination and acute dietary exposure can be assessed by TDS
- When seasonal samples are available it should be matched to seasonal consumption instead averaging over whole year
- Statistical methods for trend analyses proposed for TDS

# Many thanks!

## To the team of WP7

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# And to you, for your attention!