Background
The use of plants and plant derivatives to maintain health has been the popular choice throughout Europe for many centuries. The consumption of teas, digestive drinks, juices, elixirs and extracts prepared from botanicals and used for health maintenance purposes has become part of European cultural heritage. Plant food supplements (PFS) are a modern-day extension of this process.

PlantLIBRA (Plant food supplements: Levels of Intake, Benefit and Risk Assessment) is a project co-financed in the 7th EU Framework Program and one of its major outputs is the development of a comprehensive and searchable database (ePlantLIBRA) containing up-to-date coherent and validated scientific information on PFS bioactive compounds, with putative health benefits and toxic effects, and contaminants and residues.

Bioactive compounds in food plants are defined as "inherent non-nutrient constituents of food plants with anticipated health promoting/beneficial and/or toxic effects when ingested".

Objectives and Approach
• To produce a comprehensive and searchable online database with quality evaluated scientific information on the composition of bioactive compounds in PFS and their beneficial and adverse effects
• Based on EuroFIR/Nortox eBASIS database, with contaminant and residue information from the MoniQA database
• Defined quality assurance systems
• Sustainable, usability tested database
• Critical information on variability and methodology

The research leading to these results has received funding from the European Community's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013) under grant agreement n° 245199. It has been carried out within the PlantLIBRA project (website: www.plantlibra.eu). This report does not necessarily reflect the Commission views or its future policy on these areas.