

Proposed new descriptors in the LanguaL thesaurus

TRADITIONAL FOOD CLAIM OR USE

BT : RELIGION- OR CUSTOMS-RELATED CLAIM OR USE [P0126]

AI: A traditional food product is a product frequently consumed or associated to specific celebrations and/or seasons, normally transmitted from one generation to another, made with care in a specific way according to the gastronomic heritage, with little or no processing/manipulation, that is distinguished and known because of its sensory properties and associated to a certain local area, region or country.

[<http://www.truefood.eu/>]

Traditional means conforming to established practice or specifications prior to the Second World War. Traditional food is a food of a specific feature or features, which distinguish it clearly from other similar products of the same category in terms of the use of *traditional ingredients* (raw materials or primary products), *traditional composition* or *traditional type of production and/or processing method*. [Traditional Foods in Europe, EuroFIR Synthesis report No 6, 2009]

And possibly also the narrower descriptors:

TRADITIONAL INGREDIENT CLAIM OR USE

BT : TRADITIONAL FOOD CLAIM OR USE

AI: Raw material (species and/or varieties) or primary product either alone or as an ingredient that has been used in identifiable geographical areas and remains in use today (taking into account cases where use was abandoned for a time and then reinstated) and its characteristics are in accordance with current specifications of national and EU legislation. [Traditional Foods in Europe, EuroFIR Synthesis report No 6, 2009]

SN: Use when “Traditional ingredients” is claimed.

TRADITIONAL COMPOSITION CLAIM OR USE

BT : TRADITIONAL FOOD CLAIM OR USE

AI: The uniquely identifiable composition (in terms of ingredients) that was first established prior to the Second World War and passed down through generations by oral or other means (taking into account cases where composition was abandoned for a time and then reinstated) and when necessary is differentiated from the composition defined by the generally recognized characteristics of the wider food group to which the product belongs. [Traditional Foods in Europe, EuroFIR Synthesis report No 6, 2009]

SN: Use when “Traditional composition” is claimed.

TRADITIONAL TYPE OF PRODUCTION AND/OR PROCESSING CLAIM OR USE

BT : TRADITIONAL FOOD CLAIM OR USE

AI: The production and/or processing of a food that has been transmitted from generation to generation through oral tradition or other means and has been applied prior to the Second World War and remains in use (taking into account cases where composition was abandoned for a time and then reinstated) despite its adjustment to binding rules from national or EU food hygiene regulations or the incorporation of technological progress, under the condition that production and/or processing remains in line with methods used originally and that the food’s intrinsic features such as its physical, chemical, microbiological or organoleptic features are maintained. [Traditional Foods in Europe, EuroFIR Synthesis report No 6, 2009]

SN: Use when “Traditional type of production and/or processing” is claimed.

ETHNIC FOOD CLAIM OR USE

BT : RELIGION- OR CUSTOMS-RELATED CLAIM OR USE [P0126]

AI: Ethnic food is food from countries other than the home market contributing to a different food culture than the traditional cuisine of the host country. [Ethnic Groups and Foods in Europe, EuroFIR Synthesis report No 3, 2005]

"Ethnic food" has been used colloquially for a wide variety of foodstuffs, virtually any that can be identified in the public mind with a foreign source or an ethnic minority group. In the narrower ethnographic meaning, it pertains only to food prepared or consumed by members of an ethnic group as a manifestation of its ethnicity. In the end ethnic food is food that members of an ethnic group consider their own and that others attribute to them. [<http://www.answers.com/topic/ethnic-cuisines>]

The following two narrower descriptors are perhaps not warranted, as the EuroFIR project only took into consideration foreign foods and not the broader scope of ethnic minority groups present in a country:

AUTHENTIC ETHNIC FOOD CLAIM OR USE

BT :ETHNIC FOOD CLAIM OR USE

AI: Authentic ethnic food is food from countries other than the home market contributing to a different food culture than the traditional cuisine of the host country. Food may be adapted by combining local and imported ingredients. [Ethnic Groups and Foods in Europe, EuroFIR Synthesis report No 3, 2005]

MODIFIED ETHNIC FOOD CLAIM OR USE

BT :ETHNIC FOOD CLAIM OR USE

AI: Modified ethnic food: a commercially-available version of a food that has been modified to suit the taste and preference of the host country. [Ethnic Groups and Foods in Europe, EuroFIR Synthesis report No 3, 2005]