

Introduction:

This two year European project aims to facilitate sustainable cooperation between national and international research funding bodies in the area of food authenticity in order to improve the competitiveness of the food supply chain and increase the consumer confidence in it, by means of better-coordinated and cost-effective R&D.

Authent-Net comprises a core group of 19 participants from 10 member states, 1 NGO and the US, who are either National research funding bodies; experts in food authenticity, and/or experts in transnational funding mechanisms.



Within its first year, the **Authent-Net Funder Network** has expanded and now includes representatives from:

- Bulgaria
- Denmark
- Finland
- The Netherlands
- Hungary
- Italy
- Romania
- Spain
- Ireland
- France
- United Kingdom

Reasons given by funders for joining the Authent-Net Network :

- Smaller research budgets, need to maximise use / impact of budgets
- Food Fraud is no longer a small scale operation. The food chains are too long making it difficult for one country to handle alone
- Consumer preferences are changing leading to new emerging fraud - put together all our knowledge and expert knowledge
- The need to build a strong network of knowledge, diminish the fragmentation of research and knowledge
- Simply: "because fraud doesn't respect borders"

1st Year Activities - Authent-Net has:

- Brought together a number of representatives from relevant Member State R&D budget holders to coordinate an inter-disciplinary research effort
- Started building a cohesive and sustainable funder network
- Undertaken a stocktaking of existing funding in 11 EU countries via the National and Commodity Status Reports
- Established FARNHub, the transnational tool for collating and exchanging information on food authenticity research
- Developed a high level research and innovation strategy/roadmap for transnational research and a rationale for a potential ERA-NET on food authenticity which was proposed to SCAR in November 2016.

Funder and Policy Maker workshops were held to increase their knowledge of each other as well as gain feedback on project outputs.

- **Workshop 1:** Dublin, Ireland – 06/07 October 2016
- **Workshop 2:** Geel, Belgium – 15/16 March 2017



The Activities proposed in the final year of Authent-Net will:

- Expand the Network to include more Member State Funding organisations
- Host a Stakeholders Workshop further develop the network and receive feedback on project outputs
- Provide a networking and communications platform designed securely for funders
- Further develop the FARNHub Tool (the instrument for collating and exchanging information on food authenticity research)
- Identify the gaps and agree priorities to deliver transnational European research on food fraud
- Write a strategic research agenda and a rationale for a potential ERA-NET on food authenticity

Expected impacts of the Authent-Net Project:

- Improved coordination and communication between relevant member states research budget holders
- Enhanced cognisance of existing national research
- Joint strategy for food fraud R&D
- Agreed priorities and capability to deliver transnational European research on food fraud

If you wish to receive **information and news about project activities and events related to the project**, please register for project communication at www.authent-net.eu

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