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[www.authent-net.eu](http://www.authent-net.eu)

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Welcome to the second edition of the Authent-Net Newsletter.

With only 3 months left in this 2-year project, there have been many activities to facilitate sustainable cooperation between national and international research funding bodies in the area of food authenticity.

The project has expanded its funder network, it has mapped the current state of the art of existing initiatives and capabilities and developed a useful “one stop shop” for all Food Authenticity Research related information, called the FARNHub.

The aim of this newsletter is to provide you with a brief summary of these activities and to invite you to share the information you learn with others. We hope you find the newsletter useful.

Please contact us at [Authent-Net@fera.co.uk](mailto:Authent-Net@fera.co.uk) with any suggestions for improvement.

*Authent-Net coordination team,  
Fera Science Ltd, York.*

## Authent-Net IN A NUTSHELL:

### Key facts:

Horizon 2020 Project  
Type of action: CSA

**Acronym:**  
Authent-Net

**Duration:**  
24 months  
April 2015 – March 2018

**Co-ordinator:**  
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It is acknowledged that historically anti-food fraud capability within Europe has not been consolidated and lacks the coordination and support structures available to those working in food safety. There are various initiatives underway to redress this balance e.g. [DG Sante's Food Fraud network](#), DG Research's [FoodIntegrity](#) project, as well as numerous national programmes and industry initiatives. One pivotal area that still needs to be addressed is bringing together national research funding bodies to facilitate the development of transnational research programmes. Authent-Net will address this need by mobilising and coordinating relevant research budget holders in order to facilitate the eventual development of a transnational European funding vehicle that will allow Members States (MS) to jointly fund anti-fraud research.

The project will have the following **expected impacts**:

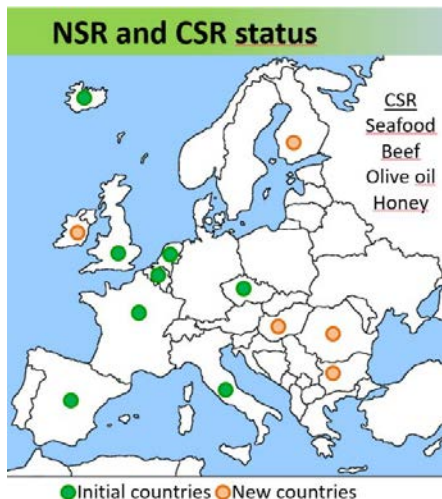
- Improved coordination and communication between relevant MS research budget holders;
- Enhanced cognisance of existing national research;
- Joint strategy for food fraud R&D;
- Agreed priorities and capability to deliver transnational European research on food fraud.

## Authent-Net will:

- 1) Bring together relevant MS R&D budget holders to coordinate inter-disciplinary research effort and build a cohesive and sustainable network;
- 2) Undertake stocktaking of existing national research and assess against the international landscape;
- 3) Establish transnational mechanisms and instruments for collating and exchanging information on food authenticity research;
- 4) Develop a high level research and innovation strategy for transnational research and a rationale for a potential ERA-NET on food authenticity.

## PROJECT ACTIVITIES:

### National and Commodity Status Reports:



Authent-Net Partners have collated, analysed and summarised the state-of-the-art in relation to knowledge base, existing initiatives and capabilities on food authenticity which are aimed to tackle food fraud in Europe. The group of experts have identified a range of existing resources, including national and international projects, reports, papers, publications, databases, standards, regulations; and from it they have developed 14 National status reports which detail commodity and country profiles in respect to food authenticity, integrity and traceability.

**National Status Reports (NSR) from 14 countries (Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Romania, Spain, the Netherlands, United Kingdom and UN-FAO-IAEA) and Commodity Status Reports (CSR) on olive oil, beef, fish and honey have been prepared.**

**164 funding bodies have been identified and 513 publications, 215 projects, 43 online databases, 421 news stories and 201 regulations have been collected and recorded so far.** From these data, 2 reports have been provided: one document summarizing the legal framework on food authenticity in the EU and members states, which is further elaborated in the National Status Reports (NSR), and one document summarizing concepts, terms, definitions, good practices related to food authenticity that are considered relevant for the standardization process.

### The Food Authenticity Research Network Hub (FARNHub)

Authent-Net will bring together various project outputs and other available information in the area of food authenticity and develop and maintain a dynamic and sustainable European information platform, named the "Food Authenticity Research Network Hub (FARNHub)", and facilitate future open access to this information for funding bodies, industry, regulatory authorities, research organisations and other stakeholders.

**FARNHub**  
Food Authenticity Research Network Hub

Home Projects

Beurre d'Ardennes  
0003 Research activities 2013 / 2014

Farmhouse cheese authentication  
0002 Research activities 2016 / 2018

For a sustainable sector from milk to cheese  
0006 Research activities 2011 / 2015

Milk authenticity and fraud mitigation  
Research activities 2016 / 2019

Organic milk: understanding intrinsic characteristics and their origin and develop novel analytical techniques  
Research activities 2014 / 2018

Review of the Irish dairy sector to identify potential vulnerabilities for fraudulent activity  
FSAI Research activities 2016 / 2017

6 row(s)

Search filters

Countries: Belgique Ireland Netherlands

Commodity: AP-Milk and milk products

Year from: 2010

Year to: 2020

Type: Any Type

Start search and display results

This platform is a web-based portal where users can get an overview of currently available resources related to food authenticity.

This includes papers and documents (scientific or other), ongoing projects, online databases, an overview of funding bodies with contact points, news stories, and regulations. Analytical methods are addressed by the Food Integrity project (WP2) through the Food Integrity Knowledge Base.

**This application is now available online on <http://farnhub.authent.cra.wallonie.be/> for search and view content.**

Any update, adding can be suggested and provided to email [farnhub@cra.wallonie.be](mailto:farnhub@cra.wallonie.be). A network of national representatives involved in the AuthentNet project has been created to approve new entries and update the database.

## What funding bodies said on the FARNHub?

... The FARNHub is an extremely valuable information resource for research funders and policy makers. For the first time it brings together information about national research activities taking place in the EU into one place. Access to this information will help support the development of authenticity policy and research and also help build an EU wide network for this area.

... I think the FARNHUB is a comprehensive, valuable and very informative website providing a unique mixture of information on issues of food fraud, authenticity and integrity; it provides access to current and published research, information and contact details of agencies funding research and work on the prevention of food fraud in all Member States, news stories, links to other relevant sites and more. Well done to all involve a truly excellent 'one stop shop' site.

## Expanding the Authent-Net Network

Engagement with a wide range of stakeholders is being done by hosting a series of dedicated workshops. In this way, the project has been able to scope and review project outputs; extend the initial funder network and stimulate exchange of information. The aim of the workshops is to create a network of funders and build a common approach to addressing prioritized challenges on food authenticity at an EU level and worldwide.

The Funder Network has more than tripled in number of funders, all in agreement of a desire to collaborate and exchange information. A draft Terms of Reference has now been developed by the group, defining their aims and objectives and possibilities for collaborative work.

A final Workshop that will give stakeholders an opportunity to have insight into MS thinking, state of the art and future needs in terms of food authenticity and have an early view and contribution to a Joint Strategic Research Programme for Member States, will be held on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2018 in Brussels.

For more information about this workshop, please visit our website at [www.authent-net.eu](http://www.authent-net.eu) or e-mail us at [Authent-net@fera.co.uk](mailto:Authent-net@fera.co.uk).

## FUTURE WORK:

### Future transnational funding

A key outcome of the Authent-Net project is that there is **increased cohesion between Member State funding bodies so that bilateral and multilateral funding of joint initiatives can take place**. Member States will be developing a high level strategic research agenda that will outline how and in what areas they may want to co-fund anti-food fraud activities in the future. A key outcome from this work will be **recommendations to the Commission either through H2020 or Framework 9 to be suitable funding vehicles to support and encourage any such transnational co-funding initiatives**. Such a report will be produced and submitted to the Commission in the spring of 2018.

### A Low-level European voluntary standard (CWA) outlining terms and definitions in relation to food authenticity

A Low-level European voluntary standard (CWA) will be created. The document will act as a **guideline for concepts, terms, definitions and overall good practice for food authenticity**. It will be a consensus-based document built on existing terms and definitions as well as the views and inputs of both project partners, stakeholders and others through an open hearing process. The guideline will facilitate a common language and practices and help to build consumer confidence by supporting and strengthening the authenticity aspect of European food products.

*"The kick-off meeting for the standardization process "Authenticity in the feed and the food chain - General principles and basic requirements" was held in May 2017 in Parma, Italy, in the context of the annual [FoodIntegrity conference](#). The meeting marked the start of the process and was attended by both participants involved in [Authent-Net](#) and [FoodIntegrity](#), as well as other interested parties.*

*A 60-day public hearing phase will be held, in which the public can comment on the proposed draft of the standard. The draft will be made available on both the [Authent-Net](#) and [CEN-website](#) with guidelines on how to comment."*

*The consensus meeting for the standardization process will be in connection with the final meeting for the [Authent-Net](#) project, which is in Brussels on March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2018. The consensus meeting will be on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, also in Brussels.*

**Do you want to receive information about Authent-Net (activities, newsletters, organised events...)?**

Please register for the Project Communication [here](#).



**Give your opinion on how information sharing can help assuring food integrity in the European supply chain!**

We are looking for various perspectives on food integrity issues in **companies or organizations supplying the European food market**. By consulting stakeholders we aim to discover the **feasibility of a system for information sharing** to prevent and detect food fraud.

**[COMPLETE THE SURVEY \(only 15 min\) HERE](#)**



## Dates for diary:



### Authent-Net events:

**Final Authent-Net Stakeholder Workshop**  
21 February 2018, Brussels, Belgium

Followed by **Closed Funder Meeting**  
22 February 2018, Brussels, Belgium

**Final meeting for the standardization process "Authenticity in the feed and the food chain - General principles and basic requirements"**  
22 March 2018, Brussels, Belgium

**Final Authent-Net Conference**  
23 March 2018, Brussels, Belgium

### External events:

**FoodFraud**  
1 March 2018, London, UK

**2018 International Forum on Food Safety**  
19 – 20 April 2018, Beijing, China

**14<sup>th</sup> Annual North American Summit on Food Safety**  
17 – 18 April 2018, Toronto, Canada

**ASSET 2018, Belfast Summit on Global Food Integrity**  
28 – 31 May, Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK

**China International Food Safety & Quality Conference**  
7– 8 November 2018, Shanghai, China

We hope you have found this e-Newsletter interesting and informative. We would welcome your views on any of the issues covered. Please email [Authent-Net@fera.co.uk](mailto:Authent-Net@fera.co.uk).

Please feel free to distribute this Authent-Net e-Newsletter to other interested parties.

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