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

After two years of intensive work on activities to facilitate sustainable cooperation between national and international research funding bodies in the area of food authenticity, Authent-Net came to its end.

Project enabled establishing funders' 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:**  
Paul Brereton  
Fera Science Ltd.  
York, UK

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

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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 needed to be addressed was bringing together of national research funding bodies to facilitate the development of transnational research programmes. Authent-Net aimed to 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 would allow Members States (MS) to jointly fund anti-fraud research.

The project aimed to 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 objectives were to:

- 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 RESULTS:

### Gap Analysis and Prioritisation

The **current situation in food authenticity research in the various member states was inventoried and gaps in member states research needs identified** in order to consolidate resources, maximise impact and avoid duplication.

The first step comprised the collection of information on recent and current projects from 12 member states. This included information on research domains (e.g. analytical methods) and commodities (e.g. meat). Simultaneously, information on future needs were collected. The data were collated and the current and future common interests and regional diversities of the member states were mapped and analysed. Regarding the future interests **three research domains were identified**.

The generated future research domains and commodities of interest (see above) were subsequently assigned a higher or lower priority ranking by the individual funding bodies early 2018, and results were further discussed.

The **cumulative ranking of the research domains** showed the following order: **Fraud prevention/critical points → analytical methods → criminology and consumer behaviour (tie) → economic aspects**.

Nearly all member states indicated **interest in development of analytical methods**, whereas one group of member states indicated **interest in research on critical points/fraud prevention/criminology** and another group appeared **interested in consumer behaviour/confidence studies and economic aspects**.

With regard to **commodities animal products ranked high**: e.g. meat, dairy, fish/seafood, and honey. **Organic foods** were also ranked high.

During the discussion with the funding bodies the research domains of common interest were collated. The final **key research domains were identified** as **(A) fraud prevention (including critical points, criminology and economic drivers)**, **(B) (analytical) methodology** and **(C) consumer aspects**.

**These research domains will provide direction to the high level EU transnational research strategy.**

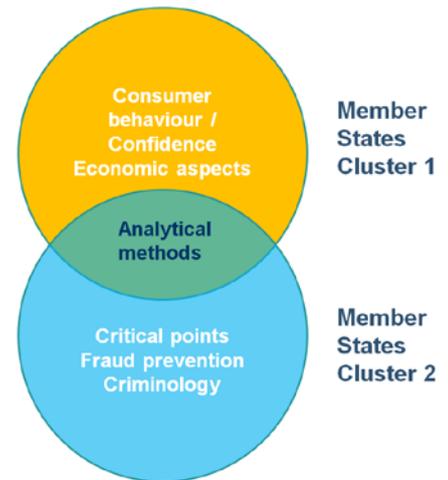
### Funders, Policy Makers and Stakeholders Network

A number of workshops have been hosted by Authent-Net to bring the funding bodies from across Europe together and to establish a **European funding body network for food authenticity**. These workshops focused on identifying research needs and priorities, and to determine the best way forward for funding of food authenticity research in Europe. For **more information about these workshops**, please visit our website at [www.authent-net.eu](http://www.authent-net.eu).

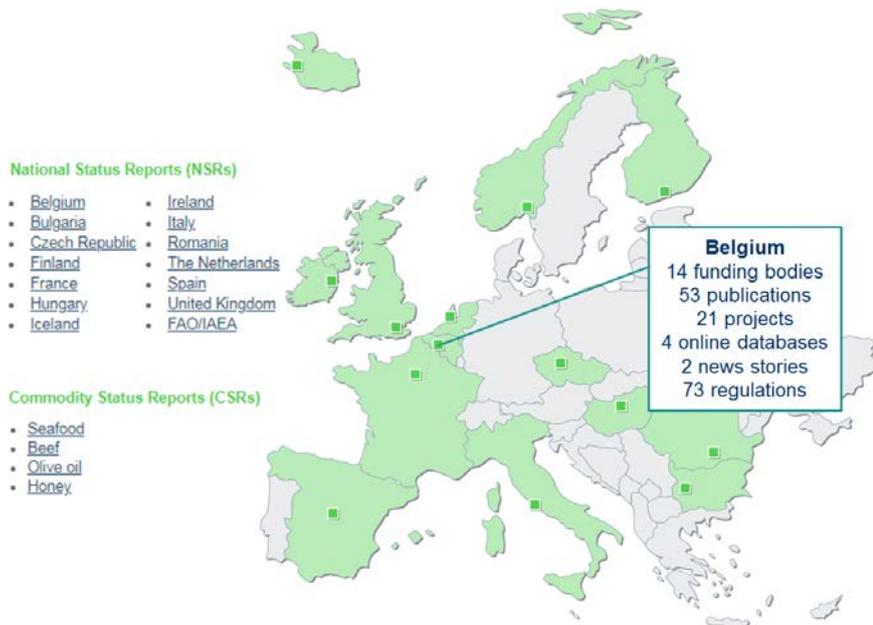
The Funder Network has grown to 12 active members, all in agreement of a desire to collaborate and exchange information. Major request was for a forum that could allow the funders to hold discussions. The **Funders Networking forum** (<http://forum.authent.cra.wallonie.be>) is the result of this, and is a secure forum that can only be accessed by representatives of national organisations that fund research into food authenticity. All requests for access have to be authorised by the current members of the forum to ensure they fit the criteria of the network.

The forum provides a secure platform that funders can use to discuss current and future needs, and to identify gaps within national research programs, and areas of overlap.

**Are you interested in joining the Funders Network? Please contact us at [authent-net@fera.co.uk](mailto:authent-net@fera.co.uk)**



## From 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, Spain,

Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Romania, the Netherlands, United Kingdom and UN-FAO-IAEA) and Commodity Status Reports (CSR) on olive oil, beef, fish and honey have been prepared.

## ... to the Food Authenticity Research Network Hub (FARNHub)

The FARNHub platform provides comprehensive food authenticity information and a range of tools to help combat food fraud, making it a vital resource for everyone involved in food authentication – researchers, analysts, inspectors, legal experts, project managers and news publishers alike. This platform is an open access web-based portal where users can get an overview of the latest country- and sector-specific food authenticity resources as well as information on analytical methods, new stories, reports and publications.

164 funding bodies have been identified as well as 534 publications, 216 projects, 43 online databases, 430 news stories and 204 regulations have been collected and recorded so far. Information on analytical methods has been collated by the FoodIntegrity project and is available via a link to the FoodIntegrity Knowledge Base.

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

An interactive map [here](#) provides statistics about the number of publications, projects and news items, with links to national or sector-specific expert panel reports stored in the FARNHub database.

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 Authent-Net project has been created to approve new entries and update the database.

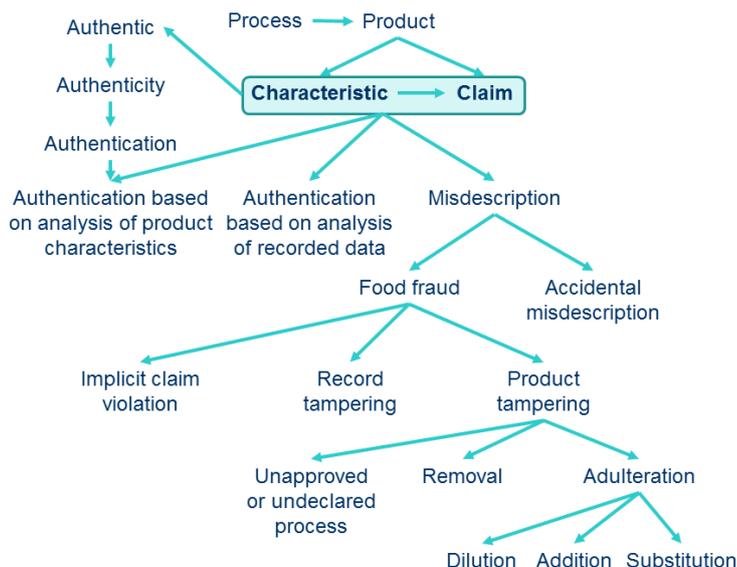


### What funding bodies said on the FARNHub?

"... 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."

## A Low-level European voluntary standard (CWA) “Authenticity and fraud in the feed and food chain – Concepts, terms, and definitions”



Authent-Net has produced a **low-level, voluntary, European standard** where **terms and concepts related to food fraud are defined**.

The standard is a [CEN Workshop Agreement \(CWA\)](#) called “Authenticity and fraud in the feed and food chain – Concepts, terms, and definitions”.

Food product misdescription and fraud is defined in the CWA as a mismatch between the actual product characteristic and the claim made about it, and this distinction also underlies the definition of many other related terms and concepts.

### Future transnational funding

Member States developed a **Joint Strategic Research Agenda** that provides a **strategic view of research areas that might be a source of collaboration in the future**. It describes their strategic research priorities and the way National Funding Bodies intend to work together in the future.

A key outcome from this work will be **recommendations to the Commission either through H2020 or Framework 9 for suitable funding vehicles to support and encourage any such transnational co-funding initiatives**.

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

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

### Dates for diary:



**Authent-Net will be represented at events:**

**[Assuring the integrity of the food chain: Delivering real world solutions \(FoodIntegrity 2018\)](#)**

14-15 November 2018, Nantes, France

**[9<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Recent Advances in Food Analysis \(RAFA 2019\)](#)**

5-9 November 2019, Prague, Czech Republic

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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