



# Authent-Net: Food Authenticity Research Network

Issue no. 1 – May 2017



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

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

Authent-Net is a European two-year project that has been built to facilitate sustainable cooperation between national and international research funding bodies in the area of food authenticity, to improve the competitiveness of the food supply chain and the consumer confidence in it, by means of better-coordinated, cost-effective R&D.

The Authent-Net consortium consists of 19 partners from 12 countries and has considerable expertise in various aspects of food authenticity.

The aim of this newsletter is to provide you with a brief summary of the project and update you on some of the progress and project activities. 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 and dissemination teams,  
Fera Science Ltd, York and VSCHT, Prague.*

## 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  
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York, UK

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



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**:

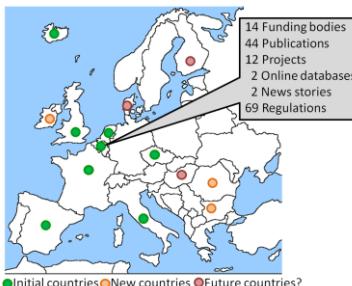
- Improved coordination and communication between relevant MS research budget holders;
- Enhanced cognisance of existing national research;
- Joint strategy for food fraud R&D;
- Agreed priorities and capability to deliver transnational European research on food fraud.

## 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 11 National status reports which detail commodity and country profiles in respect to food authenticity, integrity and traceability.

*National Status Reports (NSR) from 11 countries (Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Romania, Spain, the Netherlands and United Kingdom) and Commodity Status Reports (CSR) on olive oil, beef and fish have been prepared. 157 funding bodies have been identified and 450 publications, 211 projects, 40 online Databases, 28 News stories and 172 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.*

### Expanding the Authent-Net Network

In order for the project to achieve its' objectives, it has to **engage with a wide range of national funding bodies** and other stakeholders. This is being done by hosting a series of dedicated workshops to scope and review project outputs and aligns outcomes; extend the initial funder network; stimulate exchange of information; enable communication and develop a common platform to facilitate knowledge exchange and build a common approach to addressing prioritized challenges on food authenticity at an EU level and worldwide.

**1<sup>st</sup> Authent-Net Funders Workshop** organised on **6-7 October 2016**, at Food Safety Authority (FSAI), Dublin, Ireland.

Presentations from the workshop can be found [here](#).

**2<sup>nd</sup> Authent-Net Funders Workshop** organised on **15-16 March 2017**, at Joint Research Centre (JRC), Geel, Belgium.

Presentations from the workshop can be found [here](#).



FSAI - Dublin, Ireland (6-7 October 2016)



JRC - Geel, Belgium (15-16 March 2017)

## FUTURE WORK:

### 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.

The screenshot shows the FARNHub interface. At the top, there are navigation links: Home, Publications, Projects, Online databases, Funding bodies, News stories, Analytical methods, and Regulations. Logos for CRA-W and Wallonie are also present. Below the header, there is a search bar and a large image of various food items. On the left, there is a sidebar with search filters: Country(ies) (Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, South America, Afghanistan), Commodity(ies) (All Animal Feed and Food, All Food, All Alcoholic Beverages-All, All-beers, All-Older, Perry, All-other alcoholic beverages), Year from (Any year), Year to (Any year), and Peer-reviewed (Yes, No). A list of publications is displayed on the right, including titles like "1H-NMR and Isotopic fingerprinting of oil...", "A novel approach to authenticity control...", "A reliable assay for the detection of so...", "Application of hyperspectral imaging and...", "Assessment of the discrimination of anim...", "Attempted authentication of cut pieces o...", "Authentication and traceability of agric...", "Authentication and traceability of agric...", "Authentication and traceability of agric...", "Authentication of durum wheat-based food...", and "Pasquale A. Current topics on food authentication".

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, analytical methods and regulations on food authenticity.

This application is ongoing development and will be open access at the end of the project (early 2018) for search and view content.

A *FARNHub prototype has been developed and is undergoing testing by the end-users involved in the project.*

### GAP Analysis and Prioritisation

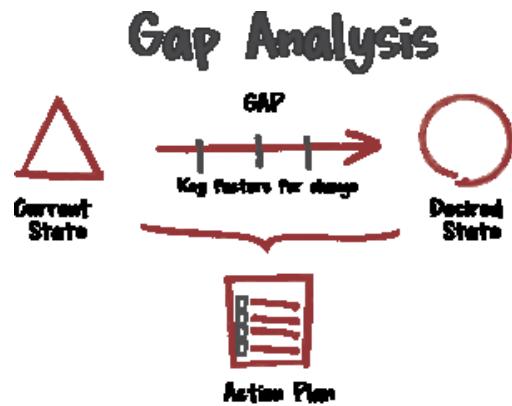
Authent-Net partners will identify transnational gaps between MS research needs and the current situation in food authenticity research in order to bundle forces, maximise impact and avoid duplication. It will (i) map current common interests and regional diversity in food authenticity research in the MSs from data from the National and Commodity Status Reports; (ii) identify and prioritise transnational food authenticity research needs from MS perspectives (GAP analyses) with regard to legal issues, food fraud risk assessments, analytical methodology (in terms of technology readiness, detection methods, policy support tools, etc.), and databases; and (iii) provide a direction for MS funding bodies with regard to the transnational high level research strategy based on the current situation and needs, and identify potential coordination actions.

*Questions related to the gap inventory were included in the questionnaire of the national status reports in WP1 and the answers collected for the member states that were initially involved in the project. The type of project topics of the past years and the wish list topics for authenticity research were examined for their similarities and diversity in the various member states.*

### Network Outcomes

Led by Professor Chris Elliott of Queens University Belfast, the partners will establish a knowledge exchange platform with relevant organisations outside the Consortium (funding bodies worldwide, industry, charities, etc.) which are involved in the area of food authenticity.

These organizations will not be involved in all other aspects of the project and their main role will be to challenge and enhance the outputs of the project. Feedback from these organizations will be used for the white paper development.



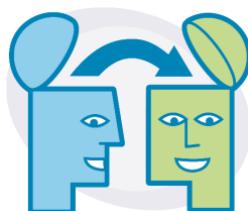
A Low-level European voluntary standard (CWA) will be created. The document will act as a guideline for concepts, terms, definitions and overall good practice for food authenticity. It will be a consensus-based document built on existing terms and definitions as well as the views and inputs of both project 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.

**Kick-off meeting for the standardization process "Authenticity in the feed and the food chain - General principles and basic requirements"** will be organised on 11 May 2017, Parma, Italy.

The purpose of this workshop is to start the process of creating consensus-based recommendations for definitions of key terms and concepts related to food authenticity, and to provide recommendations for "best practice" underlying future communication and work related to food authenticity.

## Dissemination and Communication

Promotion of **project outcomes**, by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public) in a strategic and effective manner will be done by all partners of the project. All dissemination activities aim to contribute to the overarching project objective of **increasing involvement and facilitating cooperation** between European research funding bodies in the area of authentication, to enable knowledge exchange between the experts and to engage stakeholders and the wider society.



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

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



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## Dates for diary:



### Authent-Net events:

#### [Authent-Net Mid-Term Conference](#)

11-12 May 2017, Parma, Italy

#### [Kick-off meeting for the standardization process "Authenticity in the feed and the food chain - General principles and basic requirements"](#)

11 May 2017, Parma, Italy

#### [Authent-Net Stakeholders Workshop](#)

TBC – visit our website for further details.

### External events:

#### [EUROFOODCHEM XIX](#)

4-6 October 2017, Budapest, Hungary

#### [8<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Recent Advances in Food Analysis \(RAFA 2017\)](#)

7-10 November 2017, 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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