

Authent-Net Member State (MS) National Status Report

Country: IRELAND

Please note that the information provided here below will be put on the Food Authenticity Research Network Hub (FARNH) which will be publically accessible. So please do not include any confidential information.

List of organisations that fund food anti- fraud/food authenticity research and the type of research they fund

Please provide a list of organisations (Government + NGO whatever the nationality) that are funding projects on food authenticity in your MS

1. Name: **FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY OF IRELAND**

Government – public body

Development research

Address: Abbey Court, Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1, Ireland

Web site link: www.fsai.ie

Short description of the funder:

Government Agency coordinating the implementation and enforcement of food law in Ireland.

2. Name: **SAFEFOOD**

Government - public body

Basic research

Address: 7 Eastgate Avenue, Eastgate, Little Island, Co Cork T45 RX01

Web site link: www.safefood.eu/

Safefood is an all-island implementation body set up under the British-Irish Agreement Act with a general remit to promote awareness and knowledge of food safety and nutrition issues on the island of Ireland. Activities include: Promotion of food safety Research, Communication of nutritional advice, Promotion of scientific co-operation and laboratory linkages, Provide independent scientific advice, Deliver consumer focused review - See more at: <http://www.safefood.eu/Utility/About-Us.aspx#sthash.3H0NBego.dpuf>

[Safefood Food Fraud](#)

3. Name: **TEAGASC**

Government – public body

Basic/Applied/development research

Address: Ashtown, Dublin 15 D15 KN3K

Web site link: <https://www.teagasc.ie/>

Teagasc is the Irish Agriculture and Food Development Authority. It is a national body providing integrated research, advisory and training services to the agriculture and food industry and rural communities

4. Name: DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND THE MARINE (DAFM)

Government – public body

Basic/Applied/Development research

Address: Agriculture House, Kildare St, Dublin 2 D02 WK12

Web site link: <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/>

Food Information Research Measure (FIRM)

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/research/>

The Food Institutional Research Measure (FIRM) is funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and is the primary national funding mechanism for food research in higher education institutions and other public research institutes. FIRM is a public good competitive programme, whereby multi-disciplinary teams from two or more institutions usually carry out the research projects. As this is a public good research measure, beneficiaries are required to widely disseminate the results of their research.

FIRM aims to develop public good technologies that will underpin a competitive, innovative and sustainable food manufacturing and marketing sector. The programme is creating a base of knowledge and expertise in generic technologies that will support a modern, consumer-focused industry and build Ireland's capacity for R&D. A key output of the FIRM is highly trained early stage researchers at PhD and postdoctoral level, with specialist skills particularly relevant to the Irish food sector.

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/research/foodinstitutionalresearchmeasurefirm/allfirmfundedprojects/>

5. Name: Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA)

Government – public body

Applied research

Address: Park Road, Clogheen, Clonakilty, Co. Cork.

Web site links: <http://www.sfpa.ie/>

The SFPA was established under the provisions of the Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 and is Ireland's competent authority for Seafood Safety and Sea-Fisheries Protection.

Each year the FSAI coordinates the sampling and analysis of fish and fish products on sale through various outlets in Ireland. This work is carried out to ensure that consumers can have confidence that the fish which is declared on the label or in associated advertisement material is actually contained in the product they purchase. DNA technology can identify the particular species of fish present in various fish products on the market in Ireland and is used by FSAI to ensure that it matches that on the label or in advertisements.

See section on recent key cases/reports

6. Name: Health Service Executive (HSE)

Government – public body

N/A - research

Web link: www.hse.ie

The HSE is a large organisation whose job is to run all of the public health services in Ireland. The HSE manages services through a structure designed to put patients and clients at the center of the organisation.

The Food Control work undertaken by the Environmental Health is done under a Service Contract between the HSE and the FSAI. Each year the FSAI coordinates a Microbiological and chemical sampling programme which may include checks for food authenticity

See section on ongoing projects

Plan/Strategy in terms of Authenticity Research Funding

Please provide a web link to a plan/strategy on food authenticity for each specific funding organisation (see 1st box), provided there is one, or anything the funding organisations are able to provide (general plan/strategy on food). That should include policy documents, research/surveillance documents where possible.

1. Funding organisation name + web link to plan + Key decision making committees

Food Safety Authority of Ireland

The mission statement of the FSAI is 'We protect consumers by leading a collaborative food safety community to continuously raise food standards and create a culture of excellence'

FSAI's strategy 2016-2018 outlines the goals to provide safe and trustworthy food for everyone

FSAI chairs and coordinates the Food Fraud Task Force (FFTF) whose members include An Garda Síochána, Revenue/Customs, DAFM, HSE, SFPA, Local Authorities, Laboratories, Dept of Social Protection, Competition and Consumer Protection Commission, Health Products Regulatory Authority and Food Standards Agency in Northern Ireland. The FFTF meets three times per year and information on fraud and criminality in the food sector is shared among members.

FSAI represents Ireland on the EU Food Fraud Working Group and is the designated contact point for the Administrative Assistance and Cooperation (AAC) system which facilitates the exchange of information where suspected cross border non-compliances are perpetrated through fraudulent deceptive practices.

FSAI carries out its enforcement function through "**service contracts**" with official agencies. Section 48 of the FSAI Act, 1998 gives the legislative basis for this. These contracts outline an agreed level and standard of food safety activity that the agencies perform as agents of the Authority. All contracts include a proactive programme on food fraud.

[FSAI Act](#)

[FSAI Service Contracts](#)

Capabilities/Infrastructure of Authenticity research providers/relevant NRLs

Please provide details of national capabilities (public and private) in terms of food authenticity analysis (relevant National Reference Laboratories, certified laboratories etc.) and in terms of Food Authenticity Research.

1. Name (Categorise into academic/research, general proficiency, expertise in a specific technique and/or commodity)

Address

Web site:

Contact available through: *(Any web sites where contact details of key personnel are available)*

Telephone:

Research or development laboratories for the detection and of food fraud are sourced by tender on a case by case basis depending on the immediate analytical requirements.

FSAI have used the following private and public laboratories for various authenticity tests

1. Dublin Public Analyst's laboratory (General proficiency/Alcohol)

Sir Patrick Duns,

Lower Grand Canal Street, Dublin 2

Web: <http://www.publicanalystdublin.ie/>

[Contact us](#)

Tel: + 353 (0)1 6612022

2. Identigen (General proficiency)

Unit 2, Trinity Enterprise Centre, Pearse St, Dublin 2

<http://www.identigen.com/>

Contact available through: N/A

Tel: 353 1 6770221

3. Cork University Laboratory (Salmon DNA)

Western Road

Co. Cork

[Contact us](#)

Tel: 353 (021) 490 3000

4. The State laboratory (Vodka analysis)

Backweston Laboratory Campus

Celbridge

Co. Kildare

Ireland

<http://www.statelab.ie/>

Info@statelab.ie

Tel: 353 (0)1 505 7000

Recent key Cases/Reports/Reviews (after 2010)

Please provide a list of web links to public outputs, documents, papers, reports, databases on incidents, detection methods, in relation to food authenticity your MS is involved (see T1.1)

1. Title + web link

Recent key cases:

Addition of Undeclared Horse Meat to Products

https://www.fsai.ie/news_centre/press_releases/horsedna15012013.html

https://www.fsai.ie/enforcement_audit/food_fraud/horse_meat.html

https://www.fsai.ie/faqs/horse_pork_dna_meat_products.html

FSAI press releases:

Falsely declaring Irish origin for beef imported from other Member States

[Keelaghan wholesale meats](#)

[Misleading honey claims](#)

[Counterfeit Smirnoff vodka](#)

Reports:

[PAL Annual report 2014 - the detection of markers present in brands of **authentic** vodka](#)

[Fish Authenticity](#)

[Poultry labelling](#)

Ongoing Projects (after 2010) including national-international/public-private funded projects)

Please provide a list of ongoing projects on food authenticity your MS is involved in (see T1.1)

1. Determining the production area of mussels using stable isotope analysis in conjunction with trace element analysis and FTIR analysis
2. PCR analysis to genetically identify the plant species in supplements and herbal products
3. FCVA project will review the Irish dairy sector to identify potential vulnerabilities which could provide opportunities for fraudulent activity that will impact consumers' health and/or interests. The project will produce a documented analysis of the dairy sector, its vulnerabilities and a range of control strategies that could be applied to prevent or mitigate the impact of fraudulent activities that could potentially threaten the safety, quality and integrity of food derived from the dairy industry. The project will be led by FSAI and may involve project partners. A report will be produced. The project will begin in Q1 2016 and finish in Q2 2017.

The FSAI service contracts with official agencies include a proactive programme on food fraud.

The HSE 2016 chemical sampling programme (part of the HSE Service Contract) includes a check on Counterfeit alcohol (specifically vodka)

The 2017 sampling programme is yet to be finalised but the following list of products have had below par compliance history under authenticity/adulteration and are being considered for inclusion

- Herbs and Spices (tests for bulking agents in products such as oregano, sage and thyme)
- Olive Oil (tests to ensure no dilution/adulteration of olive oil)
- Low value meat products (test for speciation of meat in low value meat products)
- Rice (Test to ensure Basmati rice not being bulked up by cheaper alternatives or the inclusion of plastics as a bulking agent)
- Fruit Juice (tests to ensure no dilution/adulteration of juices and they are authentic as per labels (not made from concentrate))

Legal framework for food authenticity (in application at a national level)

Please provide a list of standards/regulations on food authenticity applied in your MS (see T1.2)

1. [Regulation \(EU\) No 1169/2011](#)
2. [Regulation \(EC\) No 258/97](#)
3. [FSAI Service Contracts](#)

Existing indicators used: intelligence sources

Please provide a list of intelligence tools used to detect/counter food fraud issues in your member state (e.g. Horizon Scanning, Interpol, Europol, National Crime agencies)

1. FSAI conducts in-house risk assessments and uses external sources including media, other food law enforcement agencies, whistle-blowers, laboratory results, the EU Administrative Assistance and Cooperation system, Industry sources, intelligence directly received from other Member States, Rapid Alerts, Commission notifications, networks including the EU Food Fraud Working Group and the Food Integrity Research Programme, big data analysis and consumers.

Europol and Interpol – Operation Opson (Counterfeit food and beverages) – Ireland participates in the annual operational programme

[Europol press release 2016](#)

[Operation Opson V](#)

[Protected disclosure: The Protected Disclosure Act 2014 \(commonly referred to as whistle blower protection legislation\) offers protection to employees who report wrongdoing and came into effect on July 2014. The Minister has prescribed a list of 72 public bodies to whom protected disclosures can be made relating to specific issues. The Chief Executive of the Food Safety Authority of Ireland is listed.](#)

[Protected Disclosures Act](#)

[Surveillance: FSAI has successfully used 'open source surveillance' to gather information on particular targets or group of targets and connected businesses. FSAI can also use more sophisticated surveillance techniques already in use by other state agencies \(for example Revenue and Customs\) investigating fraud. These are also used in other member states to investigate food fraud. To date FSAI has had limited use of these techniques.](#)

FSAI Food Fraud Task Force

FSAI chairs and coordinates the Food Fraud Task Force (FFTF) whose members include An Garda Síochána, Revenue/Customs, DAFM, HSE, SFPA, Local Authorities, Laboratories, Dept of Social Protection, Competition and Consumer Protection Commission, Health Products Regulatory Authority and Food Standards Agency in Northern Ireland. The FFTF meets three times per year and information on fraud and criminality in the food sector is shared among members.

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Commodities/products of interest and type of research of interest

1. Commodities/products of interest

Please provide a list of the commodities/food products in priority order most important for each MS in terms of value to that country.

- 1) Dairy
- 2) Beef
- 3) Prepared foods
- 4) Beverages

2. Type of research of interest

Please provide a list of type of research (e.g. criminology, critical points, historical points, analytical methods, consumer behaviour, economic aspects) in priority order most important for each MS in terms of value to that country).

- 1) Food Chain mapping and food fraud vulnerability analysis
- 2) Analytical analysis
- 3) Drivers of food fraud
- 4) Criminology