

**Stakeholder Workshop, UKRO Brussels, Belgium**
**21<sup>st</sup> February 2018**

## Meeting Notes/Minutes

Date: 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2018		
	Activity:	Location:
<b>09:30</b>	<b>Arrival and coffee</b>	<b>UK Research Office (UKRO)</b>  <b>Brussels, Belgium</b>
	<b>Introduction</b>	
10:00	Authent-Net Introduction	
10:30	Member State thoughts	
11:00	Current State of the Art	
11:30	Presentation of the GAP Analysis	
<b>12:30 – 13:00</b>	<b>Lunch &amp; Networking</b>	
13:00	Gap Analysis Presentation and discussion	
14:00	Joint Strategic Research Programme for Member States & discussion	
15:00	Food Authenticity Research Network Hub	
15:30	CEN/CWA Presentation	
<b>16:00</b>	<b>Finish and Depart</b>	

List of Attendees:

Paul Brereton - QUB	Philippe Vermeulen -CRA-W
Claire Sykes - Fera	Vincent Baeten - CRA-W
James Donarski - Fera	Eric Marin - DG SANTE
Saskia vanRuth - WUR	Ghislain MARECHAL - DG SANTE
Peter Rinke - SGF	Jeff Moore - USP
Christophe Cavin - Nestle	Hendrik DeRuyck - SUSFOOD
Caroline Jeandin - DG AGRI	Toon Brijs - SSAFE
Ninca Wentzel - MINEZ	Ángeles Alonso - INIA
Eva GomarTomas - GENCAT	Elena Bozzetta - IZSTO
Victor Aguilera - DEFRA	Gloria Cugat - GENCAT
Alberto Morreale - MIPAAF	Bhavna Parmar - FSA
Carlos ArauzoBurillo - REA	

## Authent-Net Project Update

(Full presentation can be found in Annex 1)

### Authent-Net Strategic Objective:

To facilitate sustainable cooperation between national and international research funding bodies in the area of food authenticity, to improve competitiveness of the food supply chain and the consumer confidence in it, by means of better coordinated, cost effective R&D.

### *What is the project trying to achieve?*

- Bringing funding organisations together (Solving the lack of cohesion and lack of knowledge among various Member State activities)
- Getting an inventory of the current state of the art in terms on Member State funded R&D in food authenticity
- Maximising budgets by leveraging → more strategic approach to programmes
- Expanding the network to achieve best results

### *Overview of Work Completed to Date:*

- ✓ The project network has grown from 5 to 12 active network members
- ✓ National and Commodity (Beef, Olive Oil, Seafood) Status Reports completed by the 12 Network members – (Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Romania, Spain, UK)
- ✓ Preliminary GAP Analysis completed to evaluate the gaps and complementarities in European funding of food authenticity.

### *Current and Future Work:*

- Develop a rationale and a recommendation for a high level strategic research agenda for transnational research programmes in Europe
- Establish a dynamic and sustainable European information platform, the Food Authenticity Research Network Hub (FARNH) – <http://farnhub.authent.cra.wallonie.be>
- Actively disseminate the action aims and outcomes to other relevant research providers, and related stakeholders – Continuously done via [www.Authent-net.eu](http://www.Authent-net.eu)

### *Other Work:*

### **CEN Workshop Agreement: “Authenticity in the feed and the food chain – General principles and basic requirements”**

#### COMMENTING ON THE PROPOSED STANDARD:

- The Wiki can be found at: <http://foodauthenticity.pbworks.com>. (You can request access by clicking the button on the right-hand side of the page)

The Wiki contains contact information for the workshop participants, a document repository and a discussion on terms and definitions used in the CWA.

- Participants wishing to contribute to the development of the draft CWA can register to the workshop by signing a registration form (I can provide to you). The filled in registration form shall be submitted to the secretariat (Rolf Duus).
- Final workshop to be held by 22nd March 2018 – CEN CWA to be completed by end of project.

### Stakeholder comments

- 1) *Methods –*
  - a. *need collaboration between funders both member states and Worldwide*
  - b. *screening and more facts on confirmation*
- 2) *Push priorities for the future*
- 3) *Knowledge platform, possibly JRC role to create*
  - a. *Centre for Authenticity to*
    - i. *Be Strategic*
    - ii. *Coordinate Funders*
    - iii. *Identify Gaps*

### Funder's perspective – Ninca Wentzel

Full presentation can be found in Annex 2.

#### Policy Drivers

- We have complex, changing **global food chains**
- **consumers preferences and demands** are **changing**
- driving **new types** of **food fraud**.
- We need to stay ahead of the curve and work together.
- Need to **maximise use /impact of budgets**  
.....against a backdrop of decreasing resources  
and increased globalisation

#### Funder's challenges

- The landscape for food fraud research across the EU is currently complex to understand, fragmented and inaccessible
- As funder's we didn't know:
  - which countries have a research programme/funding on food authenticity,
  - how that funding works on a national level
  - what areas they are funding
  - what their future strategic priorities are
  - what their lab capabilities/areas of expertise are
  - if they would be interested in working collaboratively on issues.
- As funder's we want to collaborate on funding research and on sharing knowledge, exchange expertise, knowledge and information on food fraud by building an EU network to support future collaboration.

What are the benefits from being involved in Authent-net ?

- Know who our counterparts are
- link to the right people with the right knowledge
- A 'safe space' to share information, partner
- Be part of a network to collaborate on research
- co-ordinate with other funders with similar priorities
- maximise investment and impact
- Avoiding duplication

### Stakeholder Comments

- 1) *Assist Food industry to better quality – assist with competency to prevent*
  - a. *New project for funders*
- 2) *Public control bodies cannot manage all controls*
  - a. *Tools to industry to protect themselves*
    - i. *Control body*
    - ii. *Positive results how to deal with issues*
    - iii. *Repetition of results*

### Current state of the Art – Vincent Baeten

(Full presentation can be found in Annex 3)

#### State-of-the-art

- knowledge base, existing initiatives and capabilities

Identify a range of existing resources

- publications, projects, databases, regulations,..

Develop a number of status reports

- commodity and country profiles

#### Realisation

- ✓ Compilation of projects and research outputs
    - List of recent and ongoing national and transnational R&D projects and initiatives
    - List of relevant reports, papers, publications and openly available databases
    - Identity card (keywords, relevant information) for each project and item → feed the searchable database
    - Outline the food authenticity legal framework
    - List of international standards and regulations
    - Extraction or identification of keywords for each item
  - ✓ → Total = 152 EC and 174 national documents
  - ✓ Development of MS national status reports
  - ✓ Develop commodity status reports
- 
- 14 funding bodies
  - 53 publications
  - 20 projects
  - 4 online databases
  - 2 news stories
  - 70 regulations

### Stakeholder Comments

- 1) *Who can we share data to compile information*
  - a. *JRC – Board of experts (laboratory expert to validate and test products)*
- 2) *Develop a quick procedure*
  - a. *When no official validation control in place*
  - b. *Network centre for food authenticity*

### Joint Strategic Research Agenda – Ninca Wentzel

(Full presentation can be found in Annex 4)

- To facilitate future collaboration of the network we have developed Terms of Reference for the network:
  - To outline the networks aims and objectives
  - To agree on how we should continue the networking activities after authent-net ends
  - To outline expected input, planned activities and network outputs
- And we committed to develop a Strategic Research Agenda for the network:
  - To set out ways we can collaborate on future activities
  - To highlight areas where we would like to work together

#### Funders Network Planned activities and outputs

- One of the first activities for the funders network is to develop an agreed Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) which builds on Authent-net outputs
- A first draft SRA has been drafted based on the funders discussions, sharing of priorities and the authent-net gap analysis
- This SRA is a **first draft** that will be further developed following stakeholder and funder feedback and finalisation of the gap analysis

### Challenges in the prediction, prevention & detection of Food Fraud

Food fraud is a constantly changing dynamic with a range of influencing drivers and factors such as:

- volatility in food prices,
- the availability of raw materials and ingredients,
- the economic climate,
- regulatory developments,
- changing consumer preferences and habits

We need to stay ahead of the curve to be able to predict, prevent and have the tools available to detect new and emerging food fraud incidents

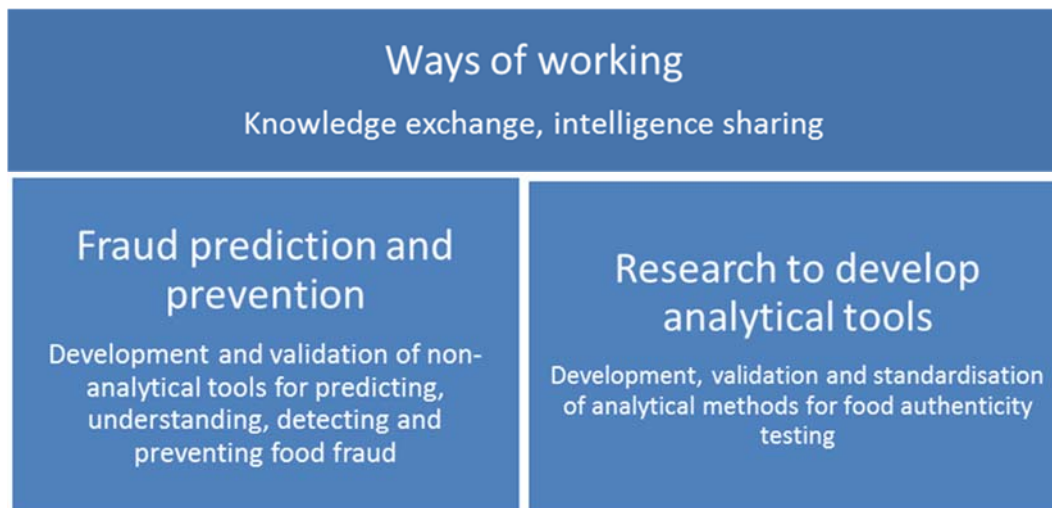
Complex, global, and rapidly changing food supply chains make this challenging but working together to pool resources and share expertise and intelligence is vital.

### Analytical challenges

In addition to challenges in predicting food fraud there are a number of analytical challenges associated with detecting existing fraudulent and mislabelling practices:

- Availability of authentic reference materials for method development, accreditation, and proficiency testing.
- Methods need to be practical, transferable and fit for purpose for use in court cases.
- Fit for purpose methods need to be well validated and given the global nature of supply chains method standardisation and harmonisation across countries is also important.
- Development and application of portable, rapid point of use tools and non-targeted multi-analyte methods
- Harnessing emerging technologies and novel methods for food authenticity analysis to stay ahead of fraudsters and improve on currently available approaches.

Funders have identified three key areas where they would benefit from collaboration



### Research to develop analytical tools

Areas for collaboration:

- Development of improved methods to detect food mislabelling issues with a particular focus on origin (geographic and production origin, including verification of PDO and PGI products)
- Trans-national validation of existing and new methods to detect food mislabelling;
- Harmonisation/standardisation of methods employed by different countries;
- Simplification of existing methods to allow for accessible, transferable, rapid, point of use, low cost screening tools;
- Application of innovative, cutting edge methods and emerging technologies to detect food fraud issues;
- Better use of existing methods and resource such as reference materials and databases;
- The main commodities of interest varies with different countries but meat, fish/seafood, honey, dairy, wine, cereals, vegetables and fats and oils are of interest to a significant number of the funders.

### Fraud Prediction and Prevention

Areas for collaboration:

- Development of non-analytical tools such as mass balance and paper-based checks to detect food fraud and harmonised guidance on their use;
- Improved food chain vulnerability assessments with identification and harmonisation of tools to identify Critical Control Points (CCPs);
- Development and dissemination of information/guides & food fraud prevention tools for industry;
- Surveillance/pilot studies to scope out scale of fraud issues;
- Horizon scanning and emerging risk surveillance;
- Feasibility studies on network analysis/social media analysis to identify fraudulent activity;
- Understanding causes of fraud - trends and drivers e.g. raw material availability, trade, crop failures, political trends etc.
- Social science research to understand consumer consumption trends e.g for organic, free range etc
- Big data analysis

### Stakeholder Comments

*No comments were made*

### The Food Authenticity Research Network Hub - The FARNHub – Phillippe Vermeulen

(Full presentation can be found in Annex 5)

#### FARNHub: What is it?

- 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, news stories, regulations and analytical methods.
- This tool is dedicated to funding bodies, industry, regulatory authorities, research organisations and other stakeholders.

<http://www.farnhub.authent.cra.wallonie.be>

Linked to the FoodIntegrity Knowledge Base 9WP2) by Jean-Francois Morin

#### Content: Number of records by country

**Total = 1557 records**

- 164 funding bodies
- 513 publications
- 215 projects
- 43 online databases
- 421 news stories
- 201 regulations

➔ Invitation to increase your contribution

➔ Invitation to contact other research institutes to cover the entire country

➔ Invitation to contact other research institutes to cover all the commodities

#### Network of national representatives: role

Your role as representative of your country is:

- To centralize the new data from institutions of your country
- To translate in English possible title or summary written in other language
- To check the possible duplicates and validate the new data
- To record these new data using the FARNHub administration tool or using the excel sheets
- To update the not complete or wrong information using the FARNHub administration tool
- To maintain the up to date information after the project (after April 2018)

#### Next steps

- Additional search facilities: tests ongoing
  - Specific search for each topic, based on text field
  - General search on full FARNHub, based on google search tool
- Continue to populate the database
  - By using the country representative network

By consolidating the interactions with FoodIntegrity project  
FoodIntegrity WP2: analytical methods  
FoodIntegrity WP6: Wiki news stories

- Maintenance of the application  
Hosting at CRA-W during 3 years after the end of the project

#### *Stakeholder Comments*

- 1) *Global - Can it be expanded to include 'world' data?*
- 2) *Is it duplicating existing system? No*
  - a. *Links to FoodIntegrity WP2 and WP Wiki data*
  - b. *Can it be linked to JRC Monthly report?*
- 3) *Share the FARNHub with all member states and make clear the advantages*

#### **WP2 – Gap analysis and prioritization – Saskia van Ruth**

(Full presentation can be found in Annex 6)

To 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.

##### National status Reports

- 12 member states: Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Iceland, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, UK (originally present) + Bulgaria, Ireland, Romania, Hungary (added MSs)
- Current state:
  - On-going projects (after 2010) including national-international/public-private funded projects)
- Needs:
  1. Research domains
  2. Commodities/products of interest

From NSR reports – future needs

##### Key research domains

- Common interest: analytical methods
- Sub-groups for:
  - (a) Consumer behavior and economic aspects
  - (b) Critical points/prevention/criminology

##### Key commodities

- Sub-groups for:
  - (a) Meat, dairy, fish/seafood
  - (b) Wine, honey, cereals

#### *Stakeholder Comments*

- 1) *Why the selected commodities – what's the reason behind these*
  - a. *Issues create interest*
- 2) *What the next steps*
  - a. *Prioritise the results*
    - i. *How do you prioritise?*  
Issues in the past might not be relevant going forward



- b. Map the interest
- 3) Prevention is key to industry
  - a. Tools around trackability
- 4) Gap analysis is 'large'
  - a. What is missing?
  - b. Is it a question of trust?
  - c. Strategic agenda will be clear/ specific for funders.
    - i. Common interest first then funders working together.

**CEN/CWA – Paul Brereton**

(Full presentation can be found in Annex 7)

Why a standard in this area?

Why standardize terms and definitions?

- Food authenticity area is growing in importance
- The number of projects and initiatives is growing
- Food authenticity is multi-disciplinary in nature, and words have different meanings in different contexts
- To facilitate communication between different disciplines, we have to agree on what words mean
- Before we can agree on -, or standardize anything else, we must agree on what different words mean
- Before we can make prescriptive standards that allow for certification, we must agree on what different words mean
- In new and developing multi-disciplinary fields, this has been recognized as a useful first step

**Some key terms under discussion****(food product) characteristic**

A distinguishing feature of the (food) product

**(food product) claim**

A statement where a (food) product is said to have a certain characteristic

**(food product) authenticity**

A match between the actual food product characteristic and the corresponding food product claim; when the food product actually is what the claim says that it is

**(food product) authentication**

The process of verifying the accuracy and correctness of the match between the food product characteristic and the corresponding claim

**(food product) misdescription**

A mismatch between the actual food product characteristic and the corresponding food product claim

*Stakeholder Comments*

- 1) *Is it linked to other standardisation institutes – BSI / DIN – AF*
- 2) *CWA had meeting in July 2107, but no further communication disseminated.*

Annexes

**Authent-Net Project Update**

(Full presentation can be found in Annex 1)

**Funder's perspective – Ninca Wentzel**

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**Current state of the Art – Vincent Baeten**

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**Joint Strategic Research Agenda – Ninca Wentzel**

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