



This research project has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research (FP7/ 2007-2013) under the grant agreement n°613688 (FoodIntegrity).



## **COMPETITIVE CALL FOR CONSORTIUM EXTENSION**

### **CALL CONTENT**

**Additional beneficiaries in the Ensuring the Integrity  
of the European food chain Project 631688**

**FOODINTEGRITY**

[http://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/110951\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/110951_en.html)

<http://www.fooditegrity.eu/>



11 November 2014



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**Ensuring the Integrity of the European food chain**

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**VERSION**

<b>Version</b>	<b>Changes from last version</b>
1) Jan 15	Original



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## Ensuring the Integrity of the European food chain

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## Ensuring the Integrity of the European food chain

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### Background

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The FoodIntegrity consortium will be extended with other beneficiaries through a competitive call issued in June 2015. **This competitive call is intended to further strengthen the engineering aspects of the flagship.**

The FoodIntegrity consists of **11 scientific and technological (S&T) Work**

Work package 1: Food Integrity Network

Work Package 2: Knowledge Base

Work Package 3: Prioritisation

Work Package 4: Core Projects-Olive Oil

Work Package 5: Core Projects-Spirit Drinks

Work Package 6: Reduce product misdescription in the seafood sector

Work Package 7: Consumer awareness

Work Package 8: Food fraud eaRly wArning systEM (FRAME-Fraud)

Work Package 9: Procurement

Work Package 10: Industrial Integration

Work Package 11: Dissemination & Knowledge Transfer

Work Package 12: Management

The present competitive call addresses 1 research topics and one support topic (see page 6), **these call topics do not present a one to one correspondence with the FoodIntegrity work programme** but should be considered as elements cutting across some of the Work Packages interest.

More information about the FoodIntegrity project: <http://foodintegrity.eu/>

### Funding

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**The expected average EC contribution is 500,000 € for each of the topics FI01& FI02 the maximum funding for topic FI03 will be 250,000€ and the maximum funding for FI04 will be 750,000€.**

For topics FI01-FI02: The upper funding limit per proposal is 500.000 €. For topic FI01, only one proposal will be funded. For topic FI02, more than one proposal may be funded.

For Topic FI03: The upper funding limit per proposal is 250.000 €. More than one proposal may be funded.

For Topic FI04: The upper funding limit per proposal is 750.000 €. More than one proposal may be funded.

The total EC funding available through this call is 3,000,000 € from the FP7 budget. EC Contribution will have to be spent before the end of the FoodIntegrity' FP7 project, i.e. before Dec 31, 2018.

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### Project Duration

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The actual date of accession of selected partners to the Grant Agreement will depend on the length of the negotiation process with the FoodIntegrity Consortium and the European Commission services; this may vary, in particular for the organisations not already registered to FP7. However, contribution will have to be spent by the end of the FoodIntegrity Ramp up period: 31 December 2018.

It can be estimated that selected candidates will access the Grant Agreement around December 2015, therefore an indicative 24 months project duration seems appropriate.

### Evaluation

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The FoodIntegrity consortium will organise the evaluation of proposals received in the light of the standard FP7 evaluation criteria for Collaborative Projects with the assistance of at least two independent experts. These experts will be individuals from the relevant fields of science, industry and/or with experience in the field of innovation. They will hold the highest level of knowledge, and be internationally recognised authorities in their area.

Experts involved in the evaluation will sit in the Review Panels.

Each independent expert will record his/her individual opinion on each proposal he/she is asked to evaluate and give a score to each criterion. All experts evaluating a given proposal will then meet to agree on a consensus assessment for this proposal. A panel of experts will make a ranking based on this input. Using this ranking, the consortium will then select, in each of the 4 call topics, the proposal(s) with the highest overall score. Details on the evaluation process can be found the proposals handling and evaluation process document (<https://www.foodintegrity.eu/procurement>)

However, the FoodIntegrity consortium is not obliged to select the highest scoring proposal when:

- A proposal raises objective concerns about commercial competition
- Significant erroneous claims impacting feasibility are made

Should this happen, approval from the European Commission services in charge of the FoodIntegrity will be required to validate non-selection. In this case the choice may pass to the next-ranked proposal(s). It may happen that no other proposal score passes the minimum threshold in which case no selection will be made.

Also the FoodIntegrity may conclude that even the highest scoring proposal is failing the minimum threshold, in which case it will make no selection.

In the event of no selection being made, the budget foreseen for the call-topic in question may be redistributed to other topics of the competitive call, subject to approval from the European Commission services in charge of the FoodIntegrity.

All proposers will receive from FoodIntegrity project the report of the consensus view of the experts who examined their proposal. The selected proposer(s) will be invited to accede to the project's grant agreement with the Commission.

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*(For more details about proposals handling and evaluation, see the document proposals handling and evaluation process – (<https://www.foodintegrity.eu/procurement>)*

### **Access to the Grant Agreement**

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Unless reasonable justifiable reasons are put forward, if access negotiation with the FoodIntegrity Consortium is not finalised before 31 March 2016, new partner(s) and their project(s) will not be funded.

### **Rules of participation and eligibility**

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- Legal entities from EU Member States, FP7 Associated Country or created under EU law, International European Interest Organisations and Legal entities established in FP7 international cooperation partner countries (ICPC) are eligible to the call. International organisations and legal entities from third countries may receive funding only in very restrictive cases.
- **According to EC rules, groups from existing FoodIntegrity beneficiaries (identified by their Participant Identification Code – PIC) are not eligible to apply through the competitive call.**
- *Proposals will be evaluated in the light of standard FP7 evaluation criteria for Collaborative Projects (see annex 2 of the 'Guide for Applicants') and with the assistance of at least two independent experts per proposal appointed by the consortium.*
- After approval from the European Commission services, new beneficiaries selected in the frame of the competitive call will:
  - o enter the FoodIntegrity consortium through an amendment to the Grant Agreement between the EU (represented by the European Commission) and the consortium.<sup>1</sup>
  - o have to sign the FoodIntegrity Consortium Agreement (<https://www.foodintegrity.eu/procurement>).
- FP7 Rules for participation will apply, in particular for the Maximum Reimbursement rates of eligible costs:
  - o Non profit public bodies; higher education establishments; research organisations - 75%
  - o SME - 75%
  - o Large companies and other organisations - 50%

*Fuller details of the Commission's funding arrangements can be found at: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/fp7/89556/financial\\_guidelines\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/fp7/89556/financial_guidelines_en.pdf) under "Guidance Documents for FP7" - "Financial Issues" in the document "Guide to Financial Issues relating to FP7 Indirect Actions".*

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<sup>1</sup> Participation and funding of new beneficiaries is subject to normal FP7 rules concerning, amongst others, eligibility for funding and IPR sharing.

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**A proposal will only be considered eligible if it meets all of the following conditions:**

- it is submitted through the on-line submission system before the deadline, 14<sup>th</sup> August 2015, 16h00 (British Summer Time);
- it is written in English
- it is submitted by an eligible participant (or a consortium of eligible participants); eligible participants are listed above.
- it is complete i.e. all elements forming the application (on-line and in the template to be used) have been provided (see also annex 1 of the 'Guide for Applicants')
- the content of the proposal relates to the call topic it addresses (see this Call Document and annex 5 of the 'Guide for Applicants')
- (if relevant) Consortium composition respects the requirement expressed in the call topics
- Requested EC contribution is within the funding limits specified in the call document

### **Timeline**

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- Call opens: 24<sup>th</sup> June 2015
- Call deadline: 14<sup>th</sup> August 2015 16:00 (BST)
- Recommendations on new beneficiaries from the Scientific Panel to the European Commission: 21<sup>st</sup> September 2015
- Accession of new beneficiaries: 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016



**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INDIVIDUAL TOPICS****FI01 - Topic 1 Standardisation and harmonisation of untargeted food integrity methods**

A growing number of untargeted (fingerprinting) analytical methods have been developed. However, very few have been implemented by commercial or regulatory laboratories. To be 'fit for purpose' results of methods must be accepted by standardisation bodies (e.g. ISO) and in legal cases. This is due to the fact that for these untargeted methods, there are no formally defined performance characteristics available nor procedures for standardised validation. Furthermore, for the combination of analytical chemistry and statistics there are also no formal standardised validation protocols available.

A working group of international experts on untargeted analysis and methods should be formed to develop a framework for a criteria based approach for the validation and performance of untargeted feed/food/beverage methods. The framework must be tested and proven to work on a range of food authenticity applications in the food/feed sector. The proposal should aim to get an international consensus, if not agreement, by the end of the project and publish both the framework and tested models in high quality peer review scientific journals.

Industry and regulator input into the project is a requirement.

Maximum project duration of 24 months.

The requested European contribution should not exceed EUR 500,000

Only one project may be funded.

**Expected Impact**

The results of this project are expected to help deliver a harmonised approach to the validation and implementation of untargeted methods to both commercial and regulatory laboratories. This will be achieved by the presentation of a substantive 'white paper' to a range of accreditation and regulatory bodies.

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**FI02 - Topic 2 Innovative approaches to assure the integrity of complex foods**

In general food traceability and authenticity projects have concentrated on commodity products or 'single products' such as meat, dairy or olive oil. However multi-ingredient foods such as ready-to-eat meals, pizzas, etc. are products of many separate supply chain. The further processing of these ingredients further complicates traceability and authenticity issues.

Food integrity has two major components

- explicit claims made about the food product
- methods of verification must exist to support these claims. For complex food products there is a significant challenge to prove their integrity.

For a number of complex food products widely available to the consumer and where some ingredients have been shown to be subject to fraud, the development and validation of innovative systems of product documentation and verification must be established. This will entail improving the current state of the art in terms of verification of all the implicit and explicit claims made about the product. The level of transparency and information available to the consumer in a simple to understand manner must be shown to be substantially enhanced.

A multidisciplinary approach to developing a model system which can be applied to a wide range of complex foods is sought. A range of good practice recommendations should be provided for a systematic approach on how to improve food integrity for complex food products. These recommendations should be of relevance for the food industry and regulators.

Meaningful industry participation in the project is a requirement

Maximum project duration of 24 Months

The requested European contribution should not exceed EUR 500,000

More than one project may be funded.

**Expected Impact**

The results of this project are expected to help food producers to deliver improved systems to verify the integrity of complex food products they manufacture. The ability to better communicate the qualities, characteristics and attributes of their produce to the consumer will be key.

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**FI03 - Topic 3: A feasibility study of how information can be shared along the supply chain to identify risks to the integrity of food**

Information on potential threats to the integrity of supply chains is often available to industry experts operating in a specific part of the chain.

Business operators and regulators require as much information as possible to minimise vulnerabilities along the supply chain and they need tools that allow information management and sharing. In addition (Product) information about authenticity provided to the consumer should match their needs (understandable, comparable). Together the goal of any new measures must be to prevent food fraud and to increase trust by enabling consumers to make informed choices on authentic products.

The goal of this project is to carry out a feasibility study for a system and tools that can collate and link information from different parts of the supply chain to allow an overall picture of the risks companies need to consider to protect themselves from food fraud. The virtual platform must allow access to all stakeholders. Detailing the advantage of such a system for the food production value chain will be critical as will an analysis of the impediments to such information sharing. Analysing the cost benefit of the resource input and confidentiality issues of actors in the food chain and optimal efficiency of the information presented will be a critical component of a successful proposal. The feasibility study will need to demonstrate the potential for the tools/platform to have a significant take-up to ensure a critical mass to engage all/most of the food chain operators.

Meaningful stakeholder participation in the project is an essential requirement.

Maximum project duration of 24 months.

The requested European contribution should not exceed EUR 250,000.

More than one project may be funded.

**Expected Impact**

The results of this project are expected to deliver an implementable vision of how information can be shared along the food chain and the quantifiable benefits of so doing.

## **FI04 - Topic 4: Rapid, on-site, cost-effective methods for feed/food fraud detection**

Analysis of large sample numbers for authenticity verification can result in high analysis costs making the methods unfit for purpose in deterring food fraud. Improved cost effective, rapid, on-site methods for assuring the integrity of feeds/foods/food ingredients are required. While there are numerous examples of such methodologies in the scientific literature few have made it into routine use. A wider look at technologies already employed in other industry sectors to detect fraud (e.g. pharmaceutical, alcohol and environmental) is required to determine their appropriateness to work in the feed/food industries in a manner that will deliver substantially improved quality assurance.

One (or more) technology platform(s) already shown to be fit for purpose in an industrial setting to detect product fraud should be selected. The development and validation of the platform to detect adulteration/mislabelling in one or more food commodities prone to fraud (*excluding* olive oil and spirit drinks) should be undertaken. The ability of the methodology to be used by non-scientific personal (e.g. auditors, quality control staff) in an on-site environment as part of a rigorous trial to detect one of more recognised forms of product adulteration/mislabelling is crucial.

Meaningful industry participation in the project is a requirement.

Maximum project duration of 24 months.

The requested European contribution should not exceed EUR 750,000.

More than one project may be funded.

### **Expected Impact**

A tool that will deliver to a range of feed/food industries or auditing bodies a means of reducing fraud opportunities and will be ready for commercialisation within 6 – 12 months of the end of the project.