

METROFOOD-RI physical facilities active in the food authenticity/traceability sector by the end of the preparatory phase of the infrastructure and upgrading priorities

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In the course of METROFOOD-PP project, the physical facilities of METROFOOD-RI (www.metrofood.eu) were inventoried and plans for their integration and operation were defined. Data interpretation was accomplished using different indicators for both the 'METRO' and 'FOOD' side physical facilities.

Considering that food authenticity is one of the prioritized thematic areas of the scientific plan of the infrastructure [1], the presentation focuses on those facilities of the 'METRO' side that are mapped under the respective indicator.

Among the registered so far analytical facilities (AnL) the 43% of them are engaged in the food authenticity/traceability sector, including detection of adulteration. This sector presents also the highest percentage in potential and planned upgrading activities. The capacity for all types of chromatographic, elemental, spectroscopic and other analyses for various types of matrices is evidenced.

The provision of high quality analytical and metrological services for food authenticity testing requires joint actions with other relevant networks in an open science environment. At a European level it is of utmost importance to connect METROFOOD-RI with the Knowledge Centre for Food Fraud and Quality (KCFFQ) that has been created by the EU Food Fraud Network and is operating by the European Commission's Joint Research Center (JRC).

Keywords: METROFOOD-RI; analytical laboratories, food authenticity, food fraud

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References

[1] Tsimidou et al. (2022), Strategic Priorities of the Scientific Plan of the European Research Infrastructure METROFOOD-RI for Promoting Metrology in Food and Nutrition, *Foods*, 11, 599, <https://doi.org/10.3390/foods11040599>

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