

# Check X: How should we share data across the supply chain? An invitation to participate!

As reported in The Organic Standard, Issue 163/2016 ('Food Integrity: What is the EU doing to protect our food supply and industry?'), Organic Services GmbH (Germany) has been selected to be part of the 'Ensuring the Integrity of the European Food Chain' Project ('FoodIntegrity'), funded as part of the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement No. 613688 and implemented by Fera Science Ltd, UK.

As part of FoodIntegrity, Organic Services is investigating what types of tools are needed to build and maintain supply chain integrity. The idea behind the feasibility study is to understand how a solution developed for the organic industry can be applied to other schemes. With a wide variety of certification schemes, maintaining all of the necessary documentation can prove to be a monumental task. A study of the certification schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs marketed in the EU Member States found that there is a total of 441 schemes.

Within the Member States, Germany stands out with 107 certification schemes. As explained by the European Commission, these certification schemes vary widely "from compliance with compulsory production standards to additional requirements relating

to environmental protection, animal welfare, organoleptic qualities, 'Fair Trade'...".

Organic Services is taking its supply chain integrity solution, Check Organic, and asking: How can we apply what we already know from the organic industry to best help some of the most significant product supply chains in Europe to ensure that they are in compliance with these different schemes? Check X will be designed to be a generic supply chain integrity solution, so that it can be used for a variety of different criteria-based certification schemes. Of course, the certification data is only one side of the coin. You also need to account for the actual goods moving along your supply chain. It is at the confluence of these two data streams that Check X comes into play.

Consider as well the European designations of origin (PDO) and geographical indications (PGI) for foodstuffs and beverages, which when counterfeited, are a violation of intellectual property rights. The premium that one can get for these goods within an estimated worldwide market of €54.3 billion (2010) shows the vested interest these specialty supply chains have in ensuring that their goods are traceable back to the



Source: <http://ec.europa.eu>

source. With well over 1,000 different product names currently registered in the DOOR (Database Of Origin & Registration), this can be a lot to keep track of if you are adding these ingredients to your products. Within this context, Check X was presented as a possible solution for Bolivian Royal Quinoa in Issue 166/2016.

We want to investigate how to share this data in the most effective way while still maintaining proprietary information. That's where we need your help.

If you are interested in participating in our study and are part of a fish/aquaculture, grain (please see our article in Issue 164/2016 on the FederBio Integrity Platform), honey, juice, meat, olive oil, produce or spirits supply chain, please contact our FoodIntegrity project manager, Nina Kuljian, at [n.kuljian@organic-services.com](mailto:n.kuljian@organic-services.com).

By participating, you have the chance to help your company understand that there must be an easier way to keep its head above water with all of these different certification schemes. Your opinion

Check X will be designed to be a generic supply chain integrity solution. ■

## news shorts...

### PRIVATE ECO-LABELS WILL GROW MORE THAN REGULATIONS

A Danish study carried out by the firm PR Partner, estimate that eco-labels will grow by 66% in the next 15 years.

The evolution of regulations is slow, and it is difficult for them to cover all the aspects that consumers expect, such as climate change etc.

Therefore, new private labels are simpler and more focused on a few specific aspects, which is important to differentiate them from other competitors in the food market.

According to the study, some of the claims that consumers demand are those related to climate change, food waste, taxation and animal welfare. At the same time, the study forecasts that organic certified food will become mainstream by 2030, with a 25% share of the market in Denmark (currently, it is 9.9%). ■

Source: Food Navigator, 30 September 2016

will help to shape the outcome of a tool designed to make information sharing across the industry easier and more effective, plus you will receive a lot of information as a study 'side effect' through participating. Confidentiality is a major focus of the study, and of course, we will ensure that yours will be deeply guarded. ■

#### Sources:

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Source: <http://ec.europa.eu>

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