







Sustainable Local Food Systems in Europe: Comparing Business Models of Alternative Food Networks Across Five Countries





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Outline

- The Interreg Project: Food for Central Europe
- Why Short Food Supply Chains?
- What are Alternative Food Networks?
- Results
 - Material and Methods
 - Desk Research
 - Similarities and Differences
- Innovation Hub "Austrian Future Food Connective"





The Interreg Project: Food for Central Europe

Programme: Interreg Central Europe

Duration: 1.3.2023 – 28.2.2026 (36 months)

Project objective:

To strengthen exchange of logistic knowledge, needs, best practices between AFNs and logistics experts to co-create innovative short supply chain solutions for AFNS.





Knowledge Transfer Platform

sharing logistics best practices and solutions

Matchmaking Platform

creating new B2B and B2C logistics services



Food4CE partnership

9 partners



8 associated partners

| Name of associated partner | Associated to project partner |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Bundesministerium für Klimaschutz, Umwelt, Energie, Mobilität, Innovation and Technologie | ECON |
| Wirtschaftskammer Wien | ECON |
| Wielkopolski Ośrodek Doradztwa Rolniczego | PULS |
| Ministrstvo za kmetijstvo, gozdarstvo in prehrano | RRAPM |
| Regione Emilia Romagna – Direzione Generale Cura del Territorio e dell'Ambiente | ITL |
| APOFRUIT Italia Soc. coop. Agricola | ITL |
| Ministrstvo za gospodarski razvoj in tehnologijo | RRAPM |
| Agrárminisztérium | MATE |
| | |

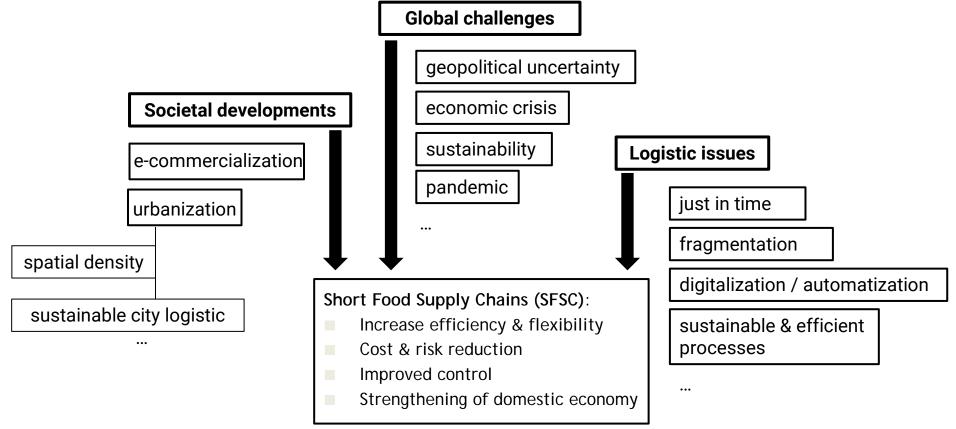








Why Short Food Supply Chains?



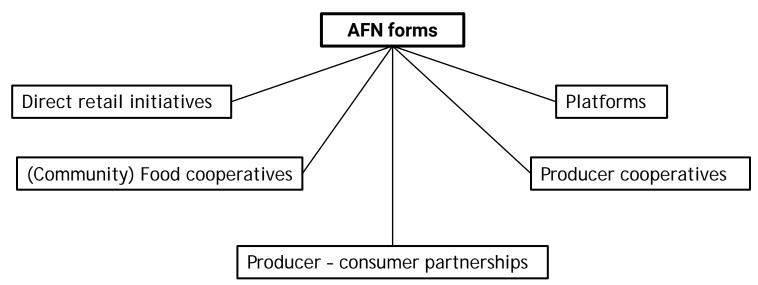




What are Alternative Food Networks?

Definition "alternative food networks" (AFNs):

Network that brings producers and consumers closer together in a spatial-social context.









Results – Material and Methods

- Regional focus: Italy, Slovenia, Hungary, Poland, and Austria.
- Theoretical Framwork: Business Model Canvas.

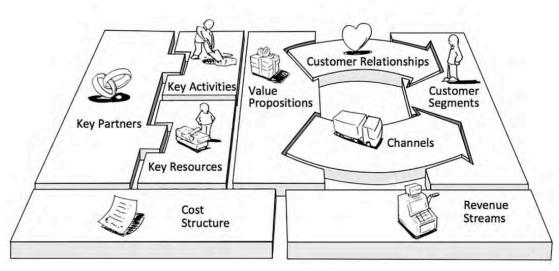
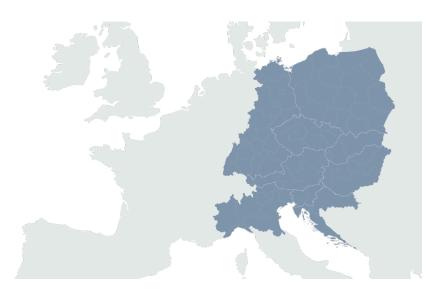


Figure 1: The Business Model Canvas Source: Monaco, 2019.



• Research method:

- 1. Desk research (n=391) and three-level AFN categorization.
- 2. Dual surveys on business models (n=75) and logistics competencies.





Results - Desk Research

Level of Complexity

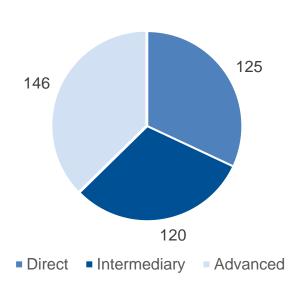


Figure 2: Level of Complexity (n=391)

| Country | Advanced | Intermediary | Direct |
|----------|----------|--------------|--------|
| Austria | 23 | 28 | 24 |
| Hungary | 26 | 34 | 34 |
| Italy | 27 | 21 | 14 |
| Poland | 37 | 19 | 37 |
| Slovenia | 33 | 18 | 16 |

Table 1: Level of Complexity per Country (n=391)





Results - Similarities and Differences

- Similarities in the categories: customer segment, value proposition and revenue streams
 - a) integral to the formation of AFNs
 - b) present themselves as common challenges
- Differences in the categories: channels, key resources, cost structure, key activities, key partners and customer relationship
 - a) specific organization of AFNs varies
 - b) strongly influenced by regional frameworks and regulations
- c) fragmentation levels and local stakeholder dynamics 14.05.2025

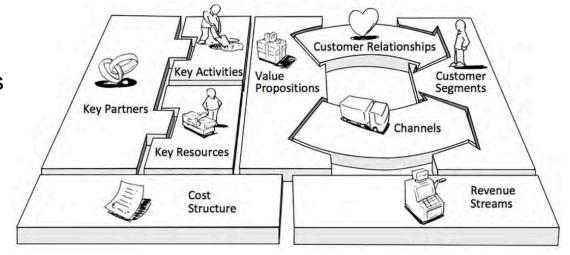


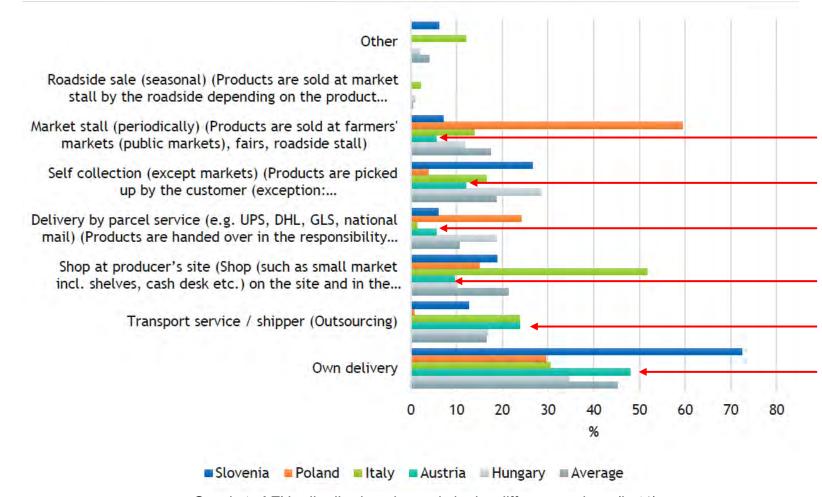
Figure 1: The Business Model Canvas Source: Monaco, 2019.

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Differences Differences in the category "channels"



Graph 1: AFNs distribution channels in the different regions (in %)



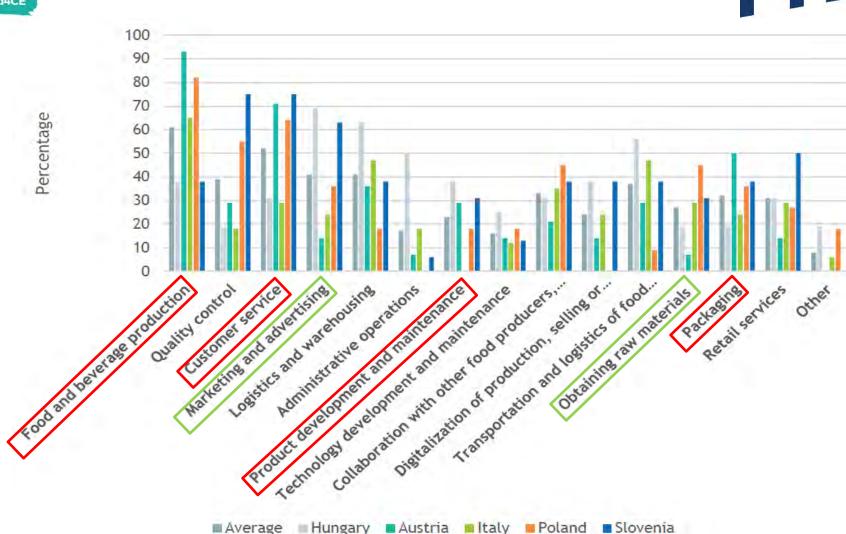
Differences

Results

Differences in the category "key activities"



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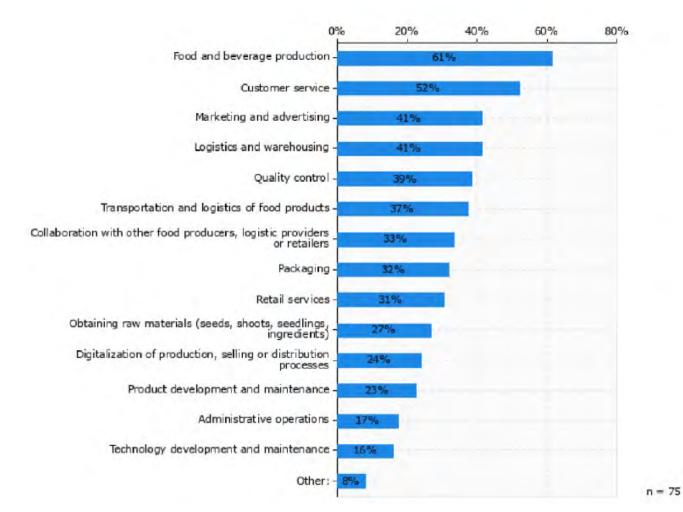
Graph 2: AFNs' key activities in the different regions (in %)





Differences in the category "key activities"

Differences

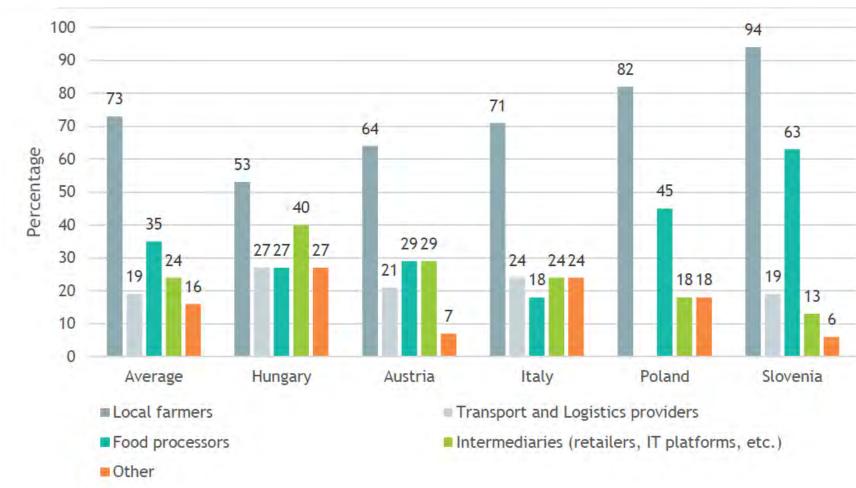


Graph 3: Identified key activities all five regions (in %)





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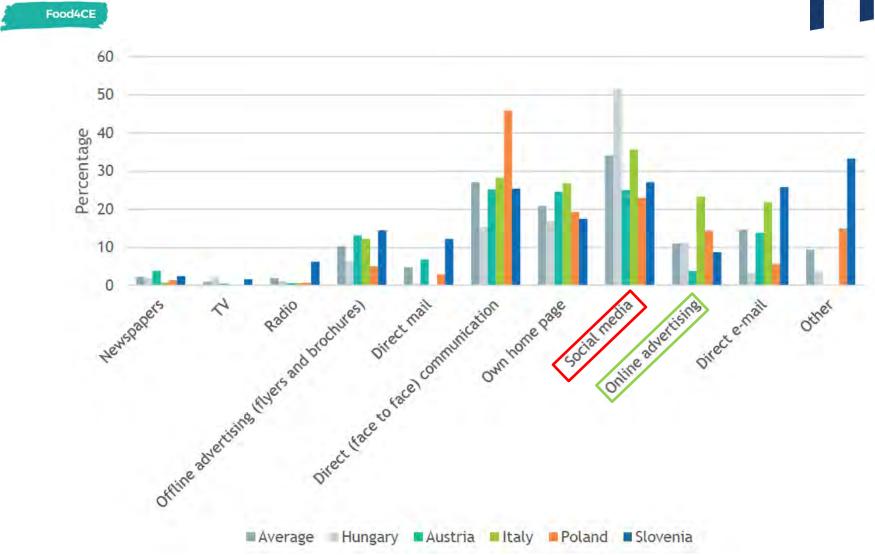
Differences Differences in the category "key partners" Results

Graph 2: AFNs' key strategic partners in the different regions (in %)





Differences in the category "customer relationship Differences Results







Results - Similarities and Differences

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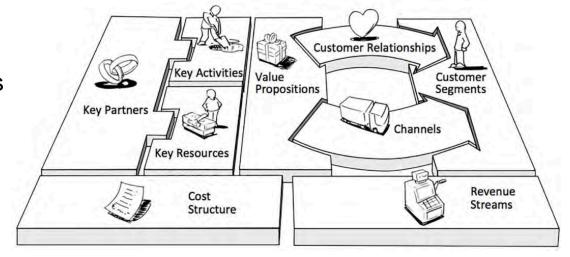


Figure 1: The Business Model Canvas Source: Monaco, 2019.

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Innovation Hub "Austrian Future Food Connective"

 Objective: to connect various stakeholders in a collaborative environment in order to promote innovation in the field of AFNs and SFSC.

• Through providing:

- a. networking opportunities
- b. exchange of knowledge and the support
- c. offering resources, expertise and a supportive ecosystem



Figure 3: Knowledge Transfer Platform https://www.openenlocc.net/food4ce/





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Economics Management