

Food4CE

Strengthening Innovation Capacities Among Central European Alternative Food Networks

PROJECT INFORMATION

Duration: 01.03.2023 - 28.02.2026

Programme priority: Cooperating for a smarter Central Europe

Food4CE aims to:

- establish of **5 local and 1 transnational innovation hubs** to strengthen exchange of logistics knowledge and best practices, leading to innovative short food supply chain solutions
- establish of **5 regional action plans and transnational policy guidelines** for AFN support
- develop of two innovative tools:



- **Knowledge Transfer Platform** sharing logistics best practices and solutions
- **Matchmaking Platform** creating new B2B and B2C logistics services

Food4CE is a vital initiative that seeks to **support AFNs** in their efforts to create **sustainable** and **resilient food supply systems**. By establishing local and transnational Innovation Hubs and developing innovative tools and solutions, the project aims to facilitate **knowledge exchange** and **cooperation between different actors and regions**, leading to a sustainable and lasting AFN support mechanism.

Project partners	Associated partners
University of Maribor (LP)	Ministry of Economic Development and Technology
Regional Development Agency of Podravje region	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food
ITL	APOFRUIT Italia Soc. coop. Agricola
Institute of Food Science and Technology of MATE	Agrárminisztérium
UAS BFI Vienna	Wirtschaftskammer Wien
OPEN ENLoCC	Regione Emilia Romagna - Direzione Generale Cura del Territorio e dell’Ambiente
Poznań University of Life Sciences	Wielkopolski Ośrodek Doradztwa Rolniczego
ECONSULT	Bundesministerium für Klimaschutz, Umwelt, Energie, Mobilität, Innovation and Technologie
LUKASIEWICZ Research Network - Poznan Institute of Technology	

The need for alternative food networks

Alternative food networks (AFNs) are food distribution systems that are alternative to the traditional food chain. AFNs are often characterized by greater involvement of producers, consumers, and communities, which focus on healthy, sustainable, and local foods.

There are many different types of AFNs, including farmers markets, food cooperatives, buying clubs, restaurants that purchase local food. AFNs are becoming increasingly popular, as they offer a number of advantages over the traditional food chain. For example, AFNs can help to reduce the environmental impact of food, support the local economy, and improve consumer health.

Being composed of small farmers and small cooperatives at the local level, AFNs face a number of challenges, such as financial ones (AFNs can be

difficult to make economically viable, especially for small-scale farmers, who may not be able to compete with the economies of scale of large-scale producers) and transportation (AFNs may not be accessible to everyone, especially people who live in rural areas or who do not have access to transportation).

Despite these challenges, AFNs are becoming increasingly popular. As more people become aware of the benefits of AFNs, these challenges are likely to be addressed.

In Food4CE, several partners will try to support the development of these AFNs, especially for the challenges listed above, in particular for the logistics supply chain, which must be economically sustainable, smart, and green.

Latest news



Food4CE project kicks off with a bang!

The Food4CE project kick off meeting was held at the University of Maribor in Slovenia. The University is the lead partner in this exciting project, which will see 9 partners working together to explore Alternative Food Networks in Central Europe.

The kick off meeting was a great success, with all partners coming together to discuss their roles and responsibilities in the project. The meeting was marked by a high level of enthusiasm and commitment, with everyone eager to get started on this important work.



Food4CE at the Logistik Dialog in Vienna

Project partners from Food4CE met at the 38. Logistik Dialog 2023 of the BVL Bundesvereinigung Logistik Österreich to experience and discuss innovative logistics solutions!

Alternative food networks (AFN) and short food supply chains (SFSC) will be key enablers for the sustainable implementation of farm-to-fork concepts and sustainable food logistics within European regions - the FOOD4CE project establishes local and transnational hubs for the food and logistics sectors, in which they can exchange good practices and take up innovative technologies!

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