



Regional partner involvement



Best practice criteria

ADVANCED LOGISTICS

Logistics of the AFN is well advanced and organized.



SUSTAINABILITY

Environmental, economical and social aspects are key.



TRANSPARENCY

Openness in action builds trust.



LOCAL FOCUS

Local roots and regional commitment are part of the identity.

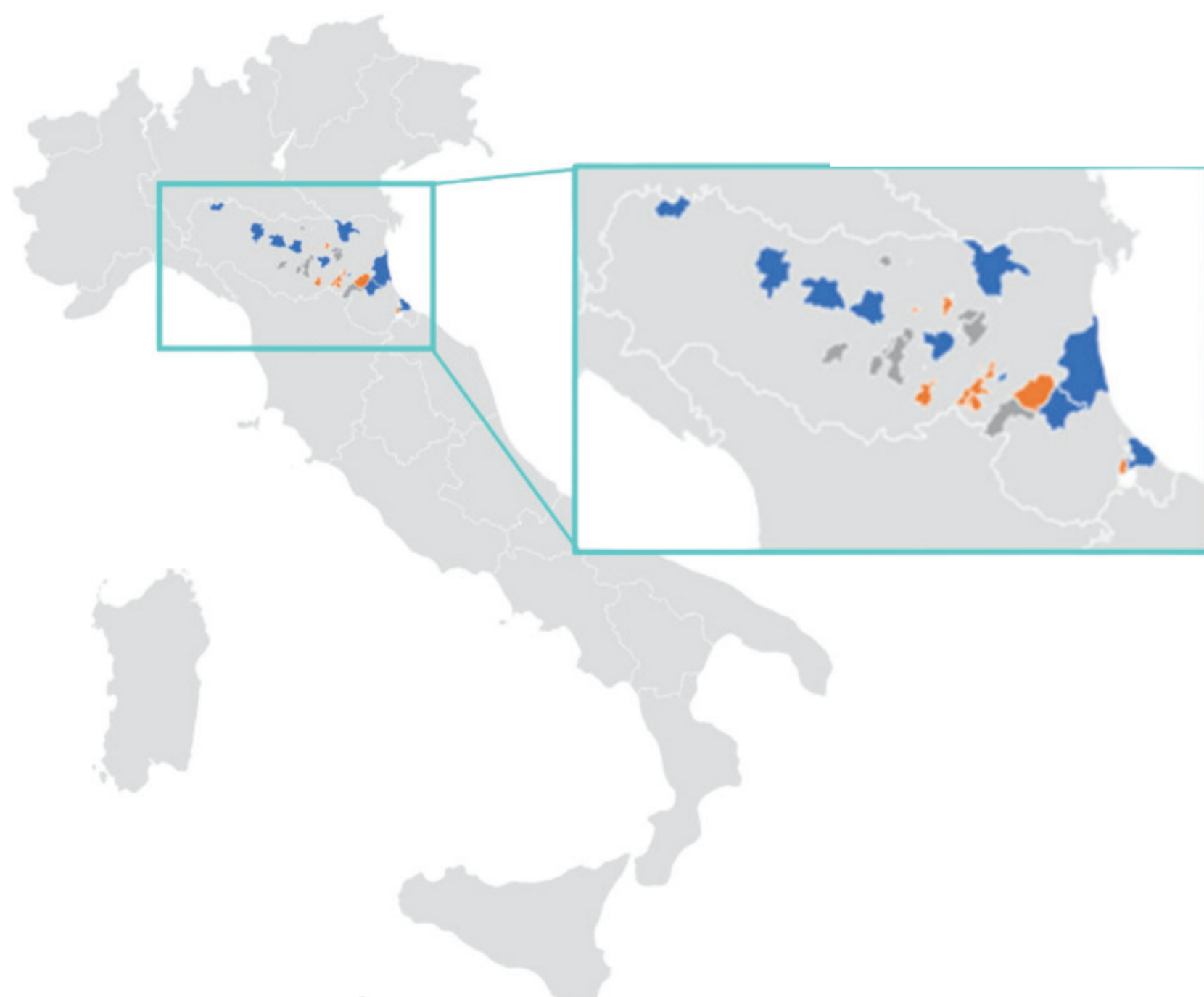


DIGITALIZATION

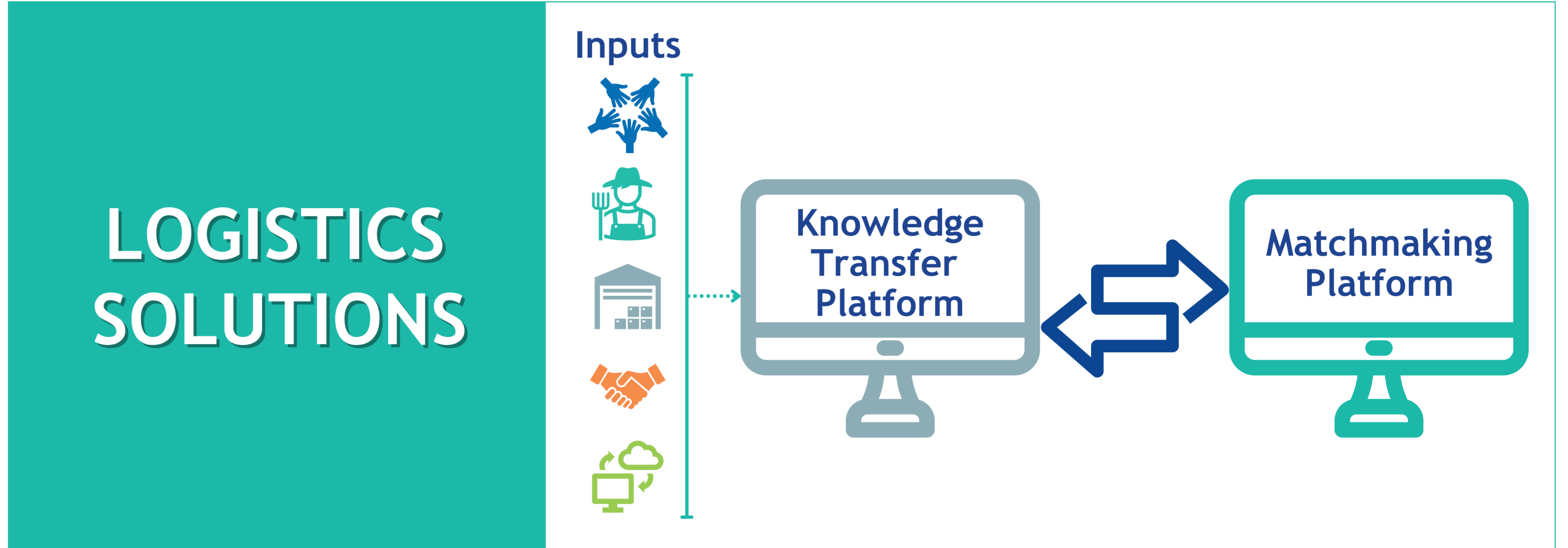
Comprehensive information along the supply chain is essential.



Geographical location



The great majority of identified AFNs is located in the **metropolitan city of Bologna**. This provincial area, together with the **provincial area of Modena**, is where almost 75% of the identified AFNs are located.



LOCAL FOCUS AND COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVES

Significant transformations towards the sustainability of the regional food supply chain are greatly enhanced by a collaborative approach among local producers, association of producers, logistics operators and public authorities.

Collaborative and participatory initiatives provide an opportunity to design and implement more locally-oriented food supply chains, including optimized logistics solutions (from storage to delivery of food products).

This focus on collaborative initiatives has also the advantage of fostering social and community engagement at local level, thus reinforcing the social acceptability of the proposed solutions.



FLEXIBLE DELIVERY METHODS

Key to the success of many food producers and AFNs is the ability to provide for easy-to-use and flexible delivery methods that respond to the needs of different types of costumers.

Providing the optimal mix of options (from pick-up, to home delivery, to digital lockers, etc.) requires them to acquire specialized knowledge and skills on the available logistics solutions and the know-how to implement them.

Moreover, the sustainability of these delivery operations is bolstered by the integration of zero-emission alternatives, such as electric vehicles and cargo bikes. Embracing these eco-friendly options not only aligns with environmental goals but also enhances the long-term viability of the delivery processes, contributing to a greener, more sustainable food supply chain.



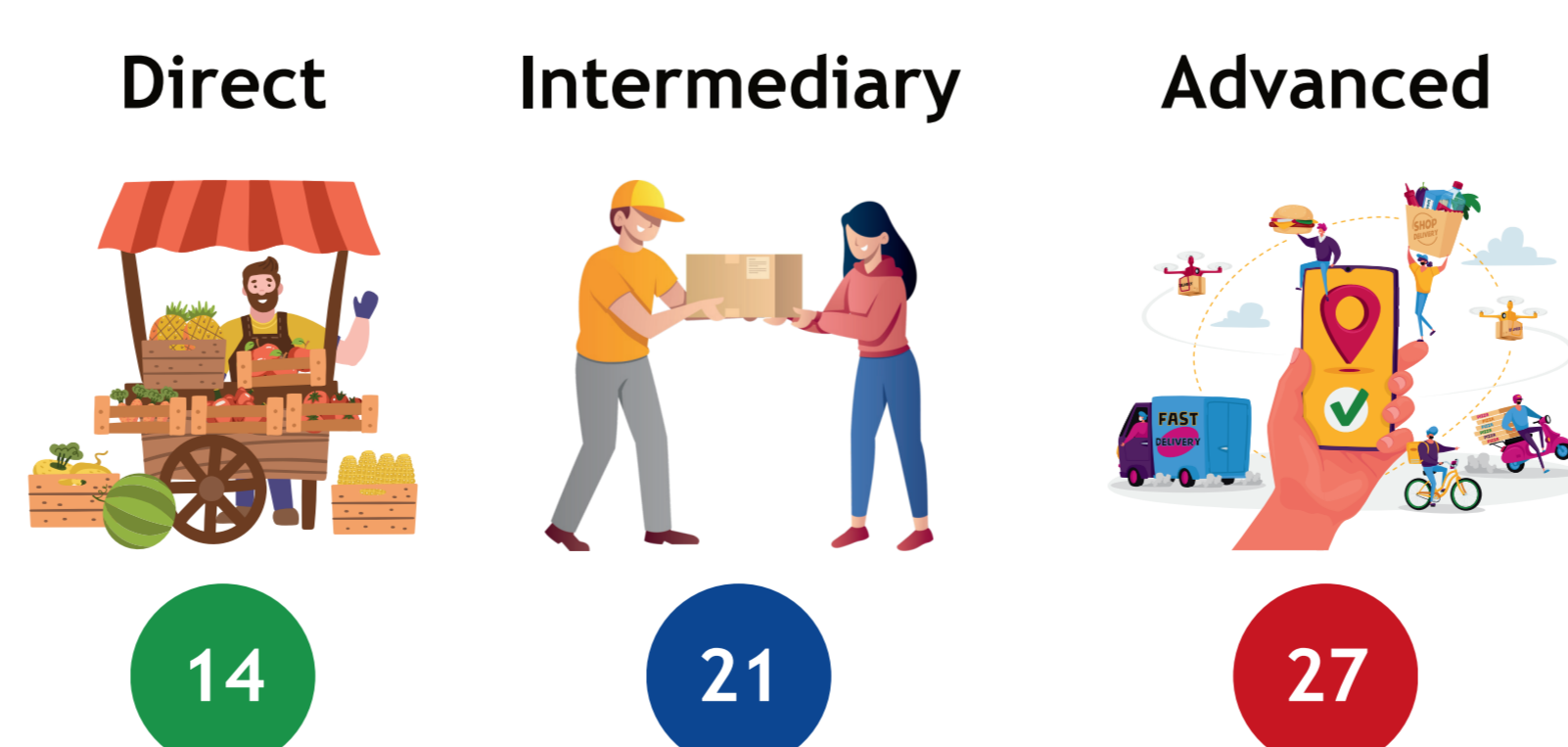
RE-USE AND RECYCLING OF PACKAGING

The reuse and recycling of packaging stands as paramount best practices among producers and AFNs. These practices significantly reduce environmental impact by reducing the demand for new materials and mitigating waste generation, thus fostering sustainability and circular economy in the food industry.

Moreover, embracing such logistics solutions can streamline regional food supply chains by optimizing resources and reducing costs associated with packaging procurement and disposal. This efficiency not only enhances profitability but also promotes resilience within the supply chain, enabling better adaptation to fluctuating demands and market conditions.

AFNs' level of complexity

The research has identified over 62 AFNs across Italy.



Forms of identified AFNs

