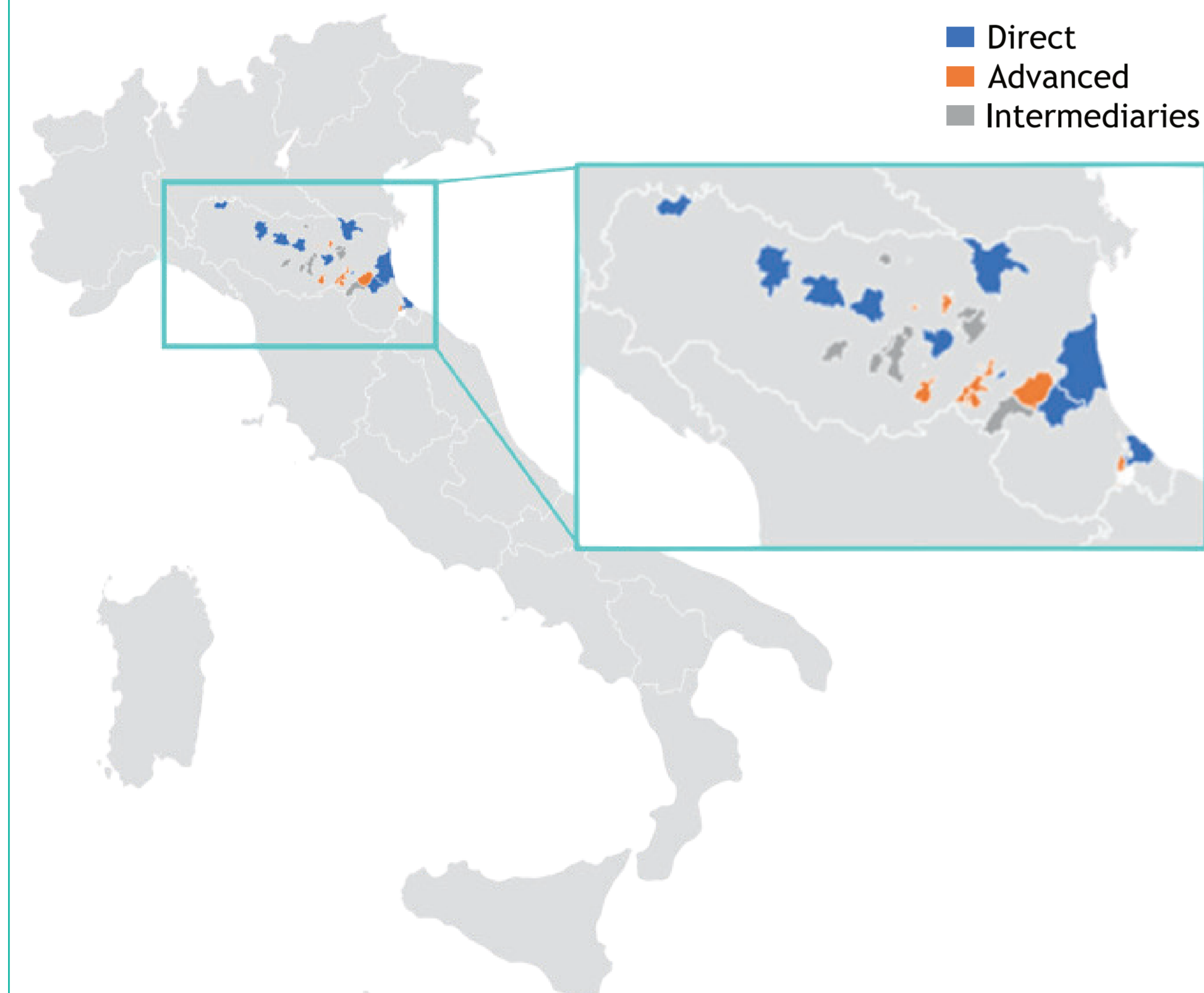


Regional partner involvement



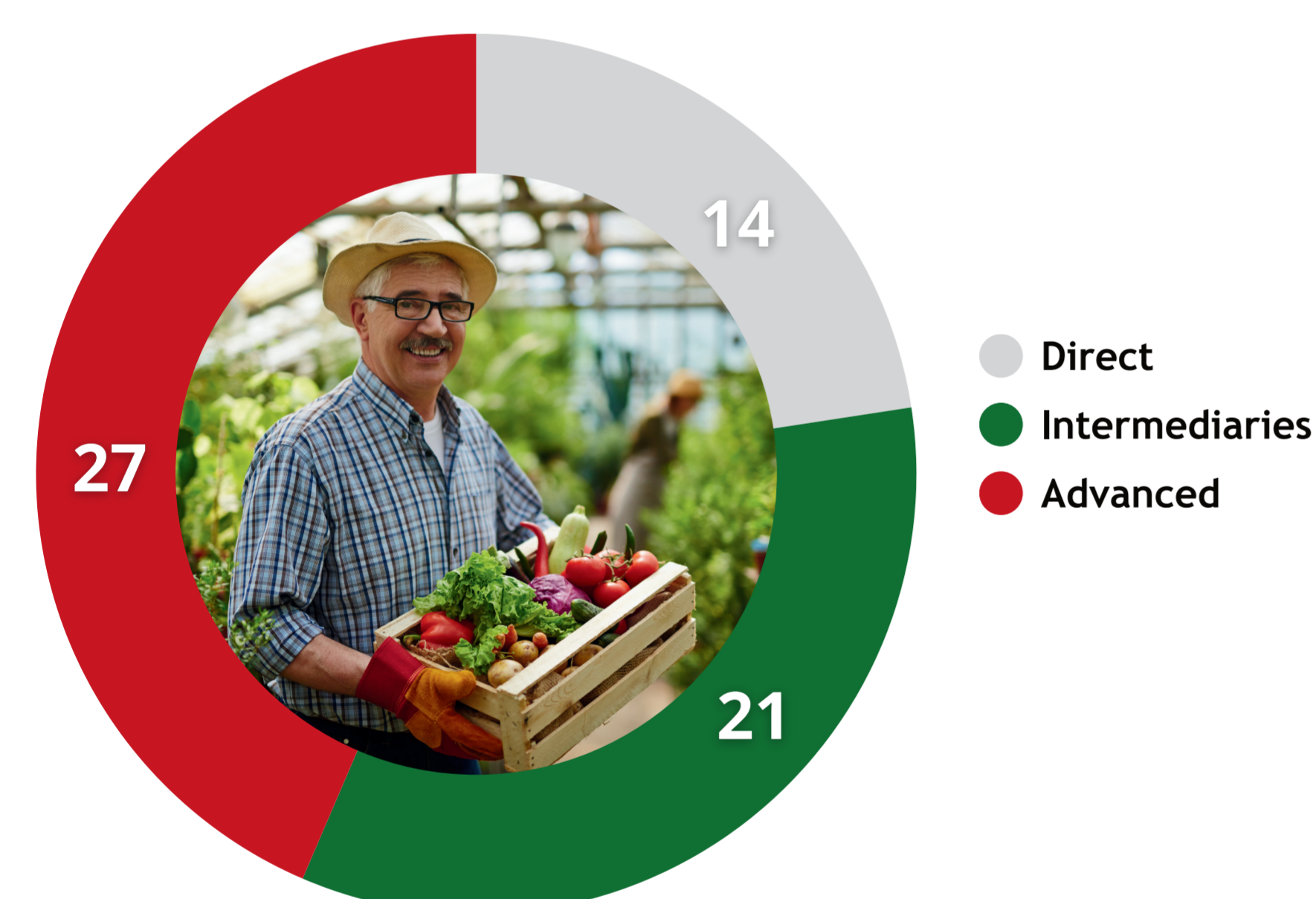
Geographical location



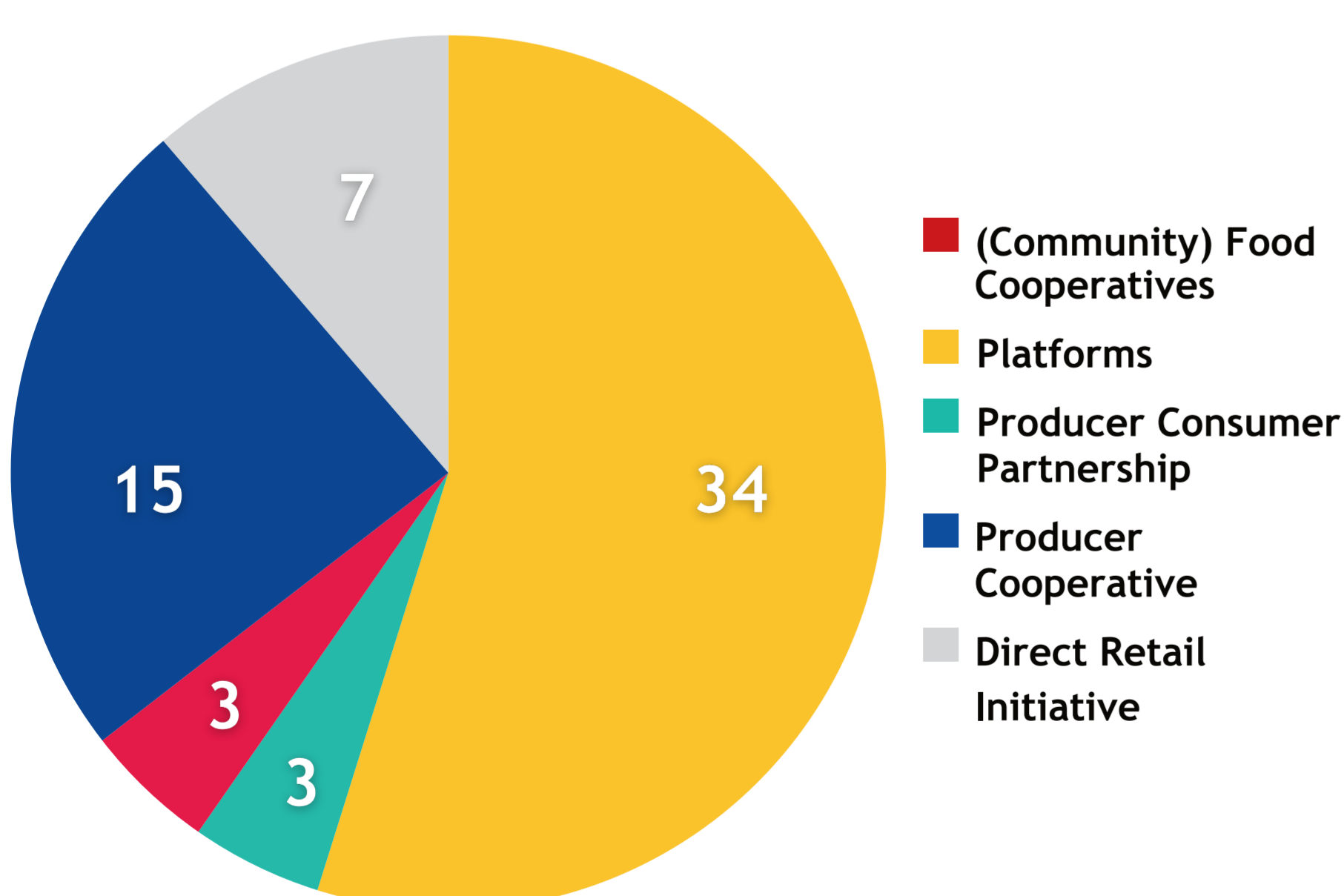
The great majority of identified AFNs is located in the metropolitan city of Bologna. This provincial area, together with the provincial area of Modena, is where almost 75% of the identified AFNs are located.

AFNs' level of complexity

The research has identified 62 potential AFNs across the Italian region Emilia-Romagna.



Forms of identified AFNs



What Italian AFNs stand for:

- ✓ Good product quality
- ✓ Affordable local products
- ✓ Reducing carbon footprint
- ✓ Organic production
- ✓ Personalized service
- ✓ Ethical practices
- ✓ Good delivery service
- ✓ Support of local economy

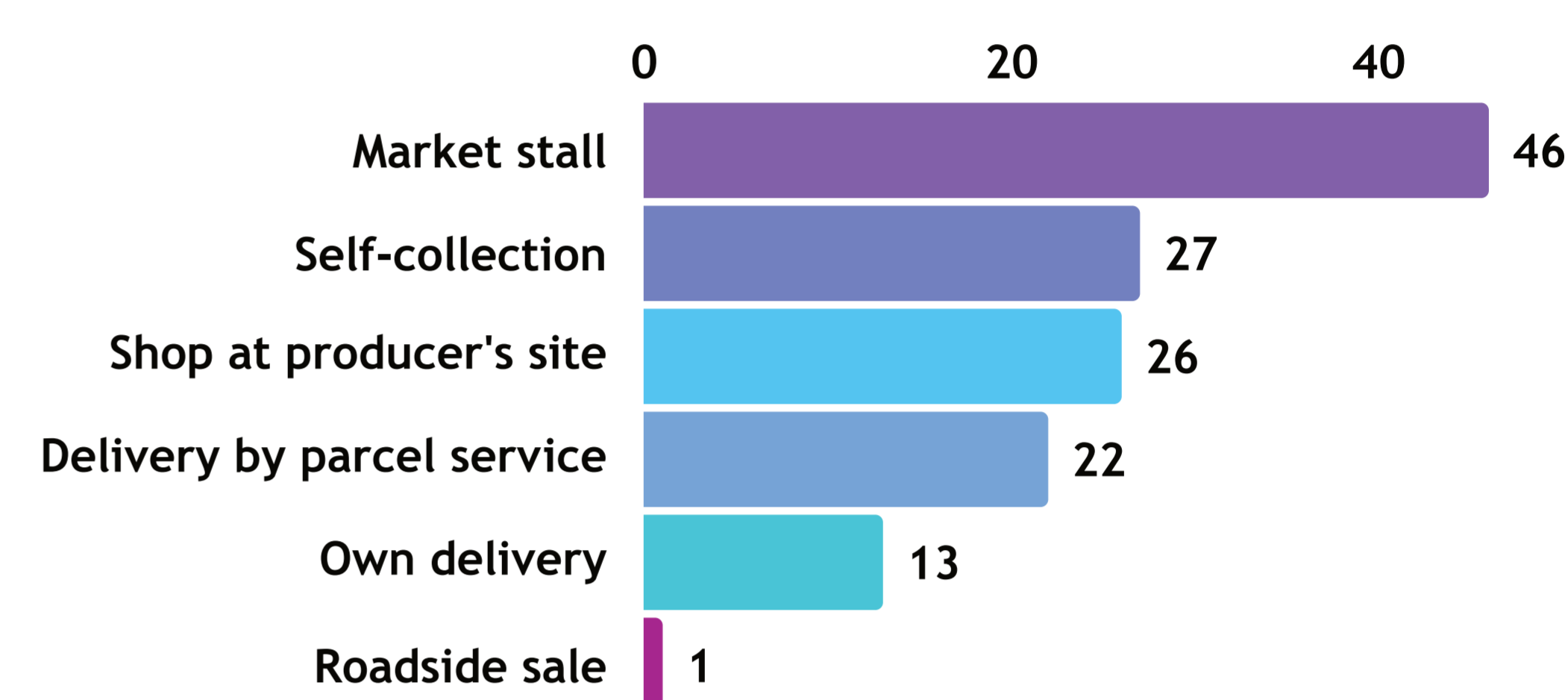
Overview

Emilia-Romagna presents a favourable market for AFNs thanks to the region's rich gastronomic traditions and the deep-rooted rural culture of the population. These networks, characterised by varied and flexible organisational models, respond to different local needs and consumer preferences, demonstrating a remarkable degree of adaptability to the local market. The rise of AFNs has been accompanied by institutional initiatives and quality food labels that help recognise and certify the quality, geographical indications and authenticity of food products. These initiatives support the growth of AFNs and the development of supply chains and marketing schemes that differ from traditional food systems. Moreover, recent social and political changes have accentuated the demand for local and healthy food products, leading to a transformation of the agri-food sector. However, logistics remains an underdeveloped aspect for many AFNs.

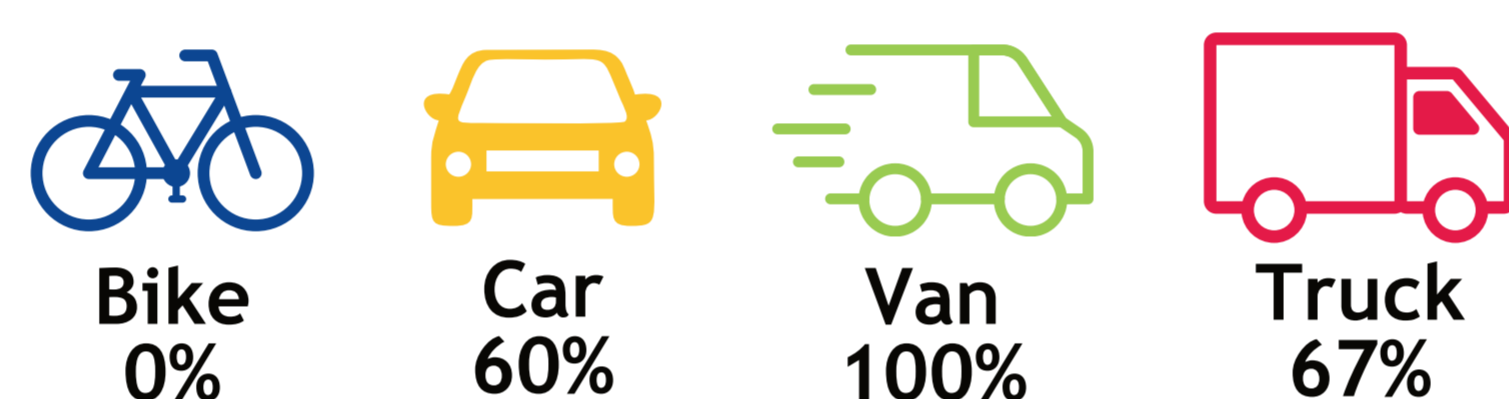
Transport & Logistics

The prevalent distribution channel used by the identified AFNs is **market stall**, utilized by 46 AFNs, followed by **self-collection** (27). **Shops at producer's site** are available in 26 cases, while 22 AFNs utilize **parcel service for distribution**. Around 13 AFNs have their own delivery services, while only one AFN appears to engage in **roadside sales**. Some AFNs also use two or more distribution channels.

Distribution channels

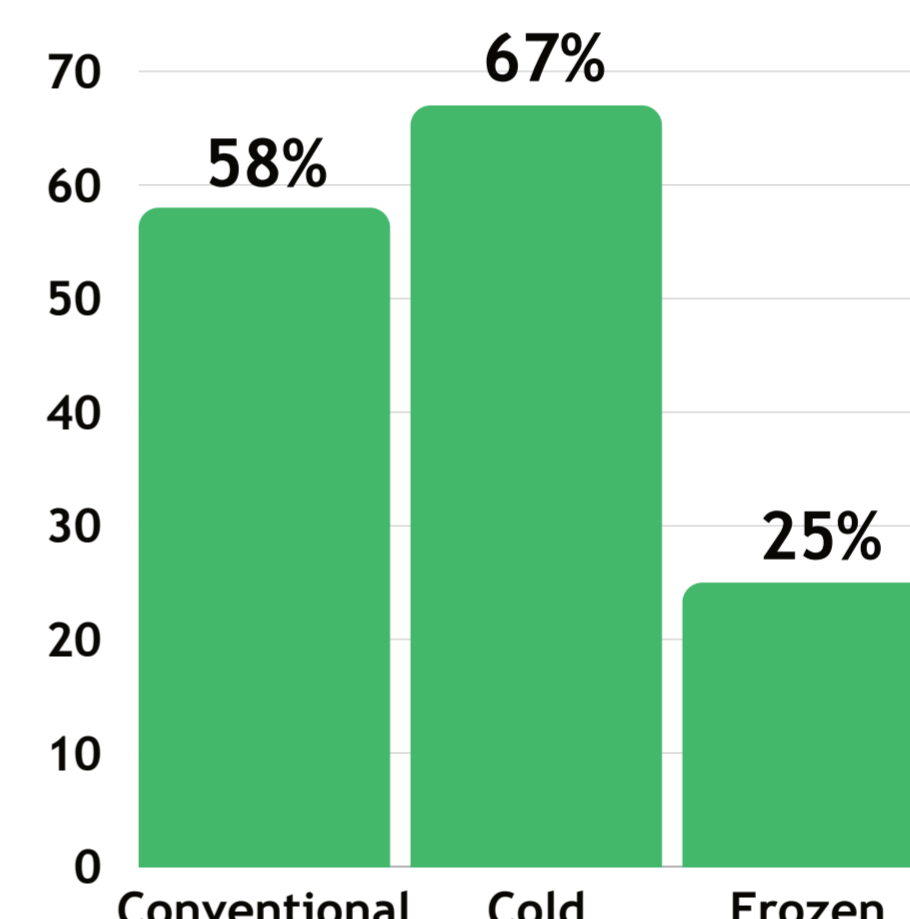


Transportation methods

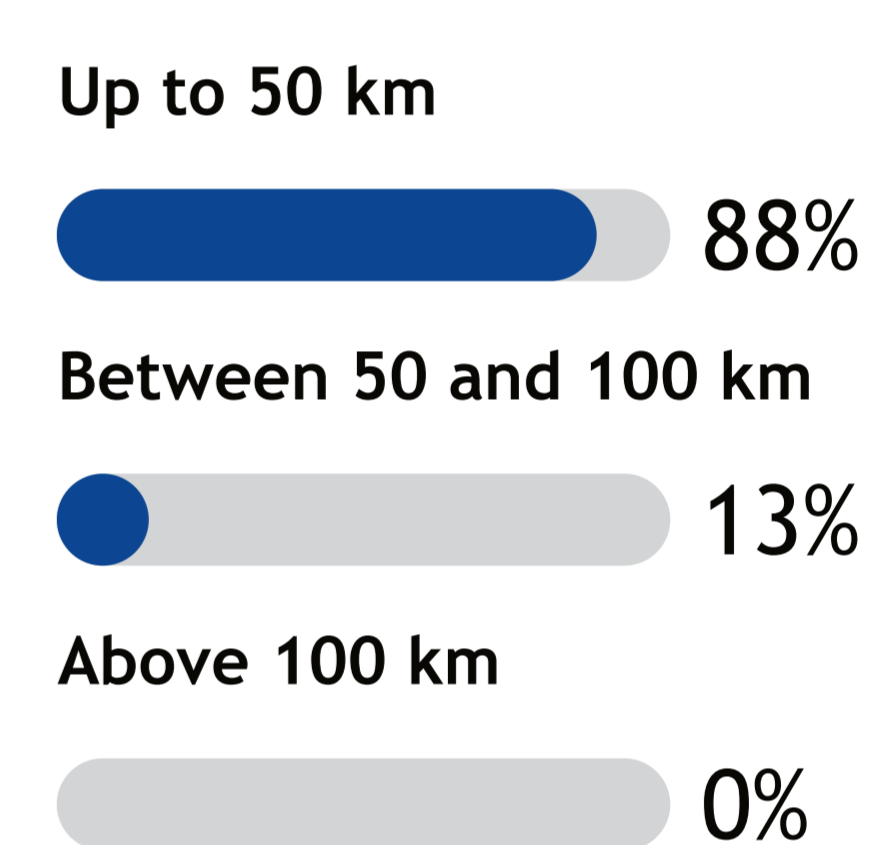


Among AFNs, vans are the primary mode of transportation for deliveries, utilized by all AFNs, followed by trucks (67%) and cars (60%). Bikes are not utilized at all.

Storage facilities



Catchment area



Challenges



Need for cooperation between different producers to overcome difficulties in coordinating and consolidating supply chains



Promoting supportive policies at regional and national levels to create an enabling environment for the growth of AFNs



Exploring new markets and broadening the customer base



Logistical difficulties in organising and carrying out the distribution of locally sourced food



Greater technology integration and implementation of digital platforms and communication tools can improve coordination within the supply chain



Maintaining a constant supply of specific quantities of food at different times of the year

Logistics solutions



Mix of channels to manage order processes: AFNs utilize a mix of traditional and digital channels for order placement. Daily orders represent the standard practice for the majority. The quantity of orders is modest, and order picking is influenced by seasonal fluctuations, predominantly using single order picking methods.



Different storage solutions to manage warehouse processes: AFNs employ diverse storage solutions, including pallet storage, shelf storage, and floor storage, often without specialized equipment. Cold storage facilities are prevalent, catering to varying product requirements.



Use of own resources for transport and delivery management: While outsourcing transportation is common, many AFNs manage deliveries internally, utilizing vans, trucks, and cars. The majority operate within a 50-km radius, emphasizing the use of own resources for transportation.



Attention to sustainability in the management of packaging and loading units: AFNs prioritize sustainability in packaging and load units, with a focus on recyclable and reusable materials. While there is some adoption of IT tools for ordering processes, there's room for improvement in warehouse management systems.



Transparency and trust with consumers: AFNs rely on trust-based relationships with consumers, favouring direct procurement and local sourcing to reduce distance between producers and consumers. Certification and open communication channels bolster trust and transparency within the supply chain.

