TRANSNATIONAL COMPARISON OF SHORT FOOD SUPPLY CHAINS' CHARACTERISTICS AND NEEDS







Project consortium

















Regions involved

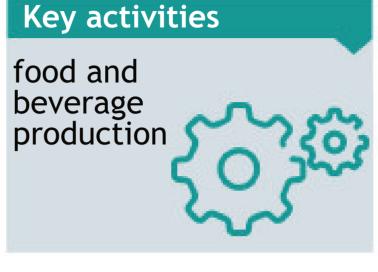


Overview

The transnational review provides a comprehensive overview of the characteristics of short food supply chains (SFSCs) across five regions: Slovenia, Austria, Italy, Hungary, and Poland. Despite their different socio-economic contexts, SFSCs within these countries face a set of shared challenges and opportunities, closely connected with their business characteristics, that underscore the importance of targeted interventions and collaborative efforts. Addressing them requires a multifaceted approach that includes raising consumer awareness, improving logistics and supply chain management, fostering cooperation among stakeholders, and promoting supportive policies and regulations. By exploiting these opportunities and overcoming the challenges, SFSCs can significantly contribute to the development of more resilient, sustainable and equitable food systems in Central Europe.

Business characteristics of AFNs





know-how

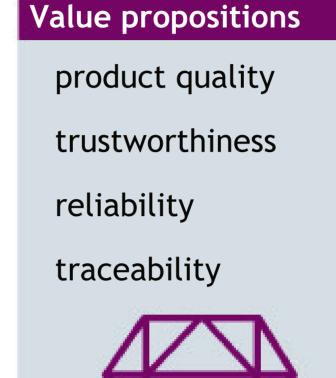
on delivery

of high-

quality

products

Key resources





Customer relationships





IT platforms

retailers

cost of goods sold delivery costs facilities and equipment

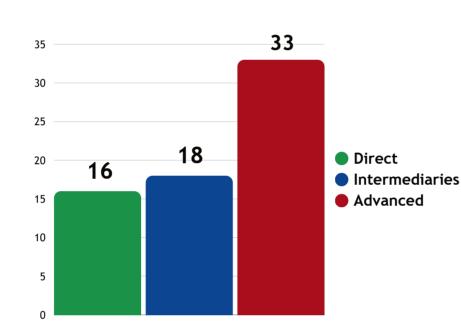


Revenue streams product sales delivery services know-how

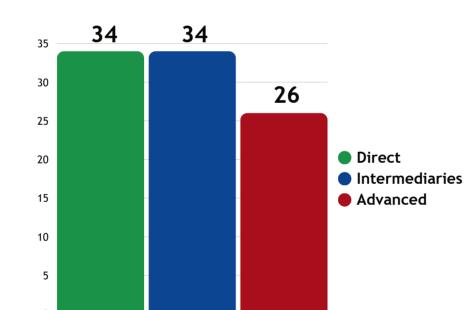


Identified AFNs per country

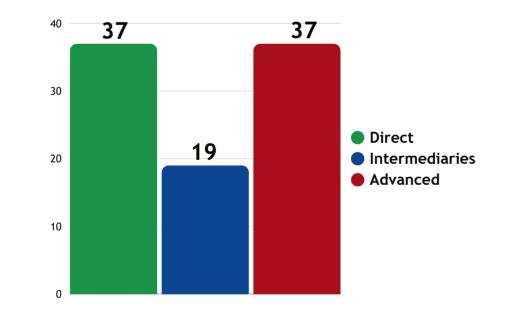




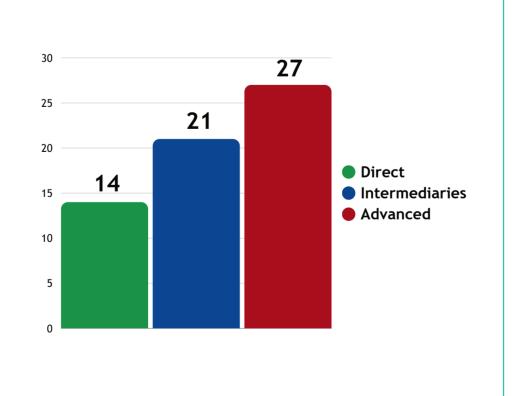


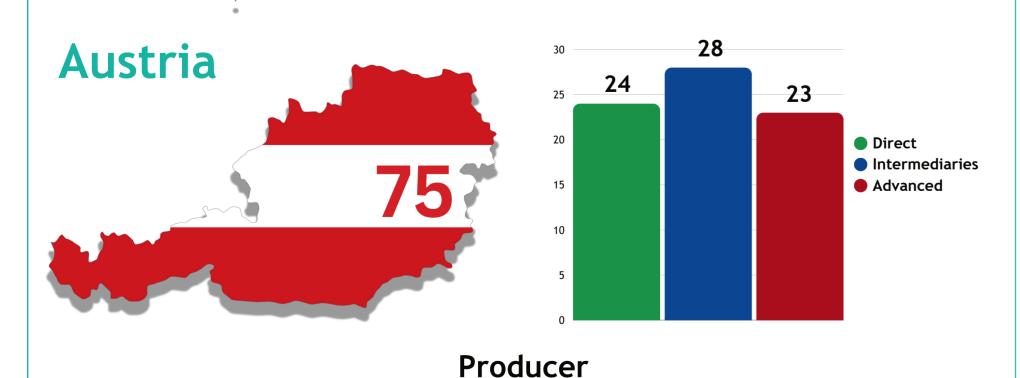












Food Direct retail initiative







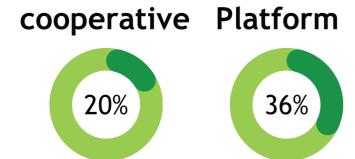
consumer





Producer





Common SFSC characteristics across regions

Transportation methods

Use of in-house and outsourced transportation.













Warehousing

Cold storage is crucial, but challenging across all countries.













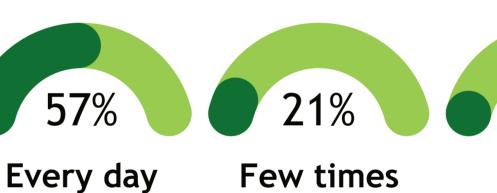


IT utilization

Limited advanced tools for of logistics use management.

Order management

Predominantly managed via digital channels (email, online platforms, websites).







times a

month

Reverse logistics and packaging

a week

Limited implementation of reverse logistics practices, with recyclable and sustainable packaging being most commonly used.

Transparency and trust

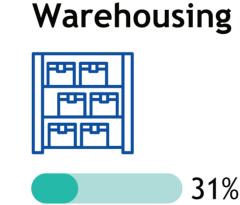
Common challenges

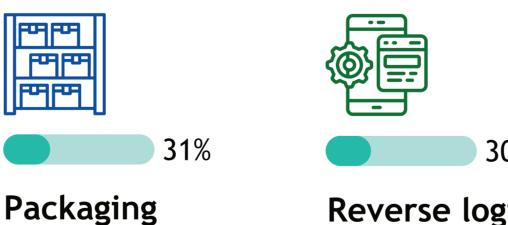
High emphasis on working with trusted partners and open communication.

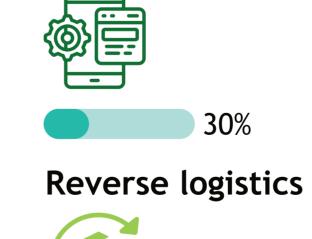
Most problematic areas for business



Ordering







19%

IT tools



Managing the

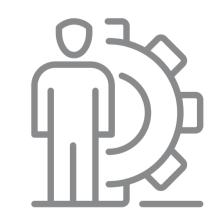
cold chain



Limited adoption of technology







Financial and regulatory support is deemed essential.

Opportunities for SFSC

28%



Efficient supply

of order process

optimizing order

completion using

picking by scan or

voice/light/vision

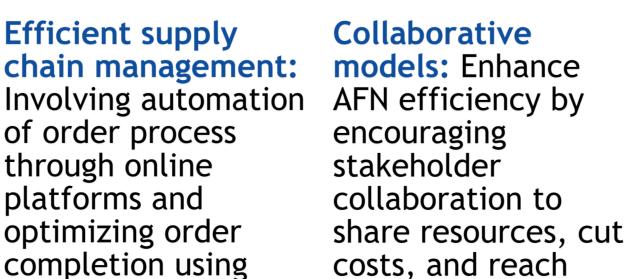
through online

platforms and

technology.

chain management:





customers more

effectively.

22%



Regulatory and policy support: **Implementing** supportive government policies, including grants, incentives and regulations that promote local food production and distribution.



Innovation and technology:

Investing in IT and innovative technologies, advisors and training to improve logistic efficiency of AFNs. This includes improving marketing methods, production techniques and transparency in supply chain.



awareness: Increase

Promotion and

consumer awareness of the benefits of supporting AFNs and locally produced food, especially to encourage practices like route optimization and the use of electric vehicles to reduce carbon footprints.



Transparency and traceability: Using supplier documentation,

audits and technologies, such as QR codes and GPS tracking, to provide transparency and traceability of origin of products.

