



FOOD QUALITY
FOR SUSTAINABILITY
AND HEALTH

LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS

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Hybrid Forum – an Open Public Dialogue "Creating Sustainable and Healthy Food Procurement: What is the Role of Local Foods?"

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LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS: CONCEPTS & DEFINITIONS

- No single, internationally accepted definition of 'local' food system
- Ambivalent definitions and conceptual approaches:

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# local and regional food systems (LRFS)
# localised agro-food systems (LAFS)
# alternative food networks (AFN)
# short food supply chains (SFSC)
# direct-to-consumer (D2C)
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- Local food system, here defined, as:
 - Production and services linked, by their characteristics and operations, to a specific territory
 - Geographical, and social, proximity between primary producers and end-consumers





POTENTIAL WELFARE BENEFITS OF LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS

ECONOMY

- Job-creation, higher incomes, entrepreneurship opportunities
- Value-added & local multiplier effects in the territory
- Regeneration of local areas

SOCIETY

- Social cohesion, social inclusion, social capital
- Good governance & power relations
- Cultural heritage & regional identity

SMART

RESILIENT

- SUSTAINABLE

ENVIRONMENT

- Green food system/ blue economy
- Natural capital & good resource management
- Circular economy

NUTRITION & HEALTH

- Food safety
- Food security
- Health & nutritional quality





EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE AND CAVEATS

Fragmented empirical evidence, lack of systematic and comparative analysis, at different scales and contexts

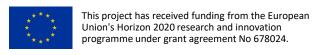
STRENGTH2FOOD project:

- Trade-offs across dimensions and indicators
- Direct and indirect effects for different agri-food supply chain actors
- Heterogeneity across localities and contexts e.g. sociocultural, political and regulatory framework
- ☐ Organisational governance, 'hybridity' and engagement in multiple markets (local/global, short/long)

STRENGTH2FOOD

www.strength2food.eu

- Impact evaluation of (local) short food systems and their sustainability
- Qualitative and quantitative empirical evidence
- 6 European countries: France, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Poland and the UK
- 12 case studies: Farmers' markets, box schemes, farm/ specialty shops, producer/ consumer cooperatives, food hubs, etc.
- Key published results:
 - Measuring the Economic, Environmental and Social Sustainability of Short Food Supply Chains (Malak-Rawlikowska et al., 2019)
 - Short Food Supply Chains and their Contributions to Sustainability: Participants' Views and Perceptions from 12 European Cases (Vittersø et al., 2019)





FARMERS' MARKET, HEXHAM

https://www.hexhamfarmersmarket.co.uk/











FISH BOX SCHEME, AMBLE

https://northumberlandseafood.co.uk/creel-fish-club/















STRENGTH 2FOOD

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FOOD PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

SMALL-SCALE LOCAL FOOD Farmers' markets, box schemes, etc.	 Operational efficiency and economies of scale Niche customer base
PUBLIC PROCUREMENT – hospitality, catering, hospitals, schools, etc. How to open up opportunities?	 Realistic delivery of benefits: Access to fresh, seasonal, local and 'quality' food Value added and multiplier effect in local economy Social capital and better governance
SUPERMARKETS AND RETAILERS	 Volume, price, convenience Commercial logistics and competitiveness



FROM LOCAL TO MORE SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

- Local food systems as mixed bag and no 'one-size-fits-all'
- Local does not imply sustainable!
- Carbon footprint considerations (≠ food miles)
- Better access to healthy and nutritious food ?!
- Affordability and efficiency issues (vs global food chains)
- How to capitalize on opportunities?
- Ensure economic, socio-ethical and environmental benefits can be delivered







Thanks for your attention!

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- Measuring the Economic, Environmental and Social Sustainability of Short Food Supply Chains (<u>Malak-Rawlikowska et al., 2019</u>)
- Short Food Supply Chains and their Contributions to Sustainability: Participants' Views and Perceptions from 12 European Cases (<u>Vittersø et al., 2019</u>)



