

SMARTCHAIN: Smart Solutions in Short Food Supply Chains



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INTRODUCTION

The main objective of the SMARTCHAIN project is to foster and accelerate the shift towards **collaborative short food supply chains (SFSCs)** in Europe. Through specific actions and recommendations, SMARTCHAIN introduces new business models and innovative solutions, enhancing the competitiveness and sustainability of the EU agri-food system.

MAIN RESULTS



Pilot Fresco Diner



- identified **SFSC problems & barriers** (e.g. limited access to technological knowledge, perishability of some products). To overcome them, 150+ solutions were collected and analysed.
- developed an inclusive definition of **Social Innovation (SI)** in SFSCs, collecting also key drivers and best practices.
- identified **consumers' main reasons** for buying (e.g. support rural communities, fair prices for farmers) and not buying (higher prices & lower availability) from SFSCs.
- developed recommendations to increase consumer uptake of SFSC products (e.g. marketing activities, making SFSCs more accessible, raising awareness).
- compared environmental (LCA) and socio-economic (SLCA) assessment of 6 SFSCs with long food supply chains. **Socio-economic impacts** were better for SFSCs (e.g. less gender discrimination, fair competition, direct, convivial & supportive relationship with consumers). For **environmental impacts**, the evidence is not conclusive.
- Developed recommendations to implement innovation and improve business performance based on **5 identified exploitation models**.

METHODOLOGY

43 partners from 11 countries including key stakeholders from the domain of SFSCs, and **18 representative case studies** of SFSCs in Europe.

An operational framework for the **comparative analysis** of 18 case studies from different perspectives: (1) **technological and non-technological innovations**, (2) **social innovations**, (3) **food-related consumer behaviour**, (4) **environmental & socio-economic impact**, (5) **business** and (6) **European policy framework**.

SMARTCHAIN INNOVATION PLATFORM

All results and findings of the project can be found on the SMARTCHAIN Innovation Platform (www.smartchain-platform.eu):

- **Innovation Inventory:** searchable database with 150+ innovative applicable solutions for SFSCs.
- **Publications:** articles, reports and other publications related to SFSCs, including all public deliverables of SMARTCHAIN.
- **Presentations of the multi-actor workshops:** summaries of the most relevant findings and recommendations for SFSCs from the project. These presentations are available in 9 languages.
- **e-learning course on "Best Practices in SFSC Innovations":** 5-week course on selected innovations at the local, the regional and the national/international levels. A SMARTCHAIN certificate is issued after successfully completing the course.
- **Gain Model:** explains how networking through 4 levels of engagement and collaboration can increase the competitiveness and sustainability of SFSCs.

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