

SKIN, a Thematic Network example



EUROPEAN SEMINAR: FOSTERING INNOVATION

Meet the challenges of rurality (17/05/2018– Tourinnes-La-Grosse, Belgium) Evelien Lambrecht, Ghent University



Introduction: overall goal and vision

SKIN is an ambitious initiative in the domain of Short Food Supply Chain (SFSC)

SFCS CAN PLAY ROLE IN

- Sustainable agricultural production in economic, environmental and social terms
- Enhanced competitiveness of European farmers



Introduction: overall goal and vision

- Many diverse types of SFSC in Europe
- Typically rooted in limited territories
- Exchange of efficient approaches, innovation and management practices is poor/fragemented



OBJECTIVE

- Enhance innovation capabilities and pathways that support the development of efficient SFSC
- Promote research supporting strategic innovation needs



Approach

 Closing the research and innovation divide by connecting multiactors

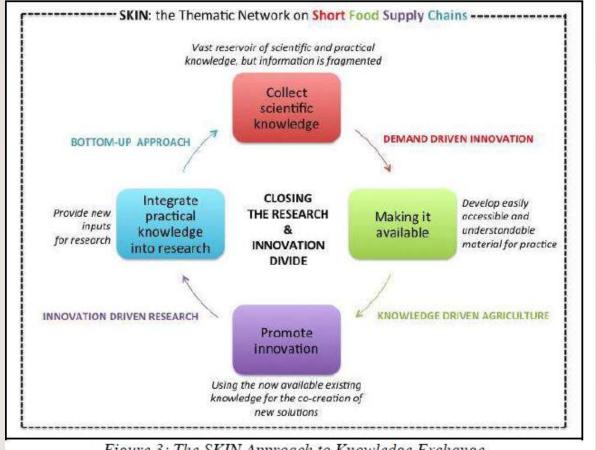




Figure 3: The SKIN Approach to Knowledge Exchange

PROJECT PARTNERS

- 21 PARTNERS FROM 14 EU COUNTRIES
- Research, agricultural organisations, innovation support services















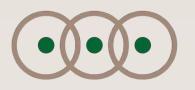


Key concepts

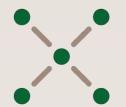


Key concepts

CHAIN NETWORK LAND USE













EXCHANGE

PROXIMITY

NATURE



Chain

SFSCs main forms:

- Direct selling via farmers' shops
- Farmers' markets
- Public procurement
- Contract production for processors, retailers, restaurants and food service providers

SKIN aims to **bring society closer to European farmers** and to build a community of **relations** for the economy of the future





Exchange

Learning, Sharing, Innovating

The SKIN Community is based on an **economy of sharing** among european farmers and cooperatives, fostering the **aggregation** of european good practices and initiatives in the Short Food Supply (SFC) sector





Network

Creating a **European network of best practices** to overcome knowledge fragmentation and support bottom-up innovation initiatives

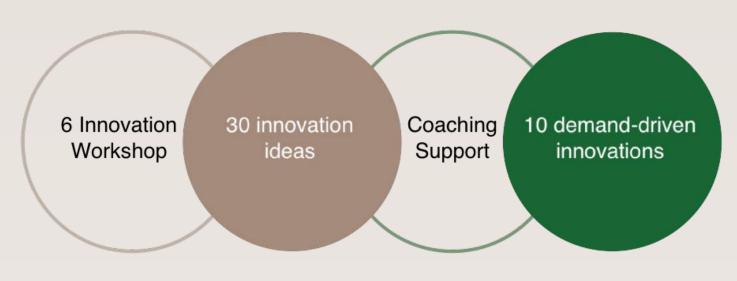
- 25 regional nodes: composed by stakeholder communities active at the different regional levels involved within the SKIN consortium through coaching activities.
- 6 sub-thematic working groups: composed of 3 to 4 partners and, when relevant, external experts.



Network

From theory to practice

SKIN will aim at generating concrete actions in innovating SFSCs







Proximity

SFSCs are about the rebuilding of **trustful** relationships and common **values** between society and producers.





Land Use and Nature

Short Food Supply Chain: making a better use of our land

SFSCs have a positive impact on the environment and on many other related aspects including human health and wellbeing, economic and food supply resilience.



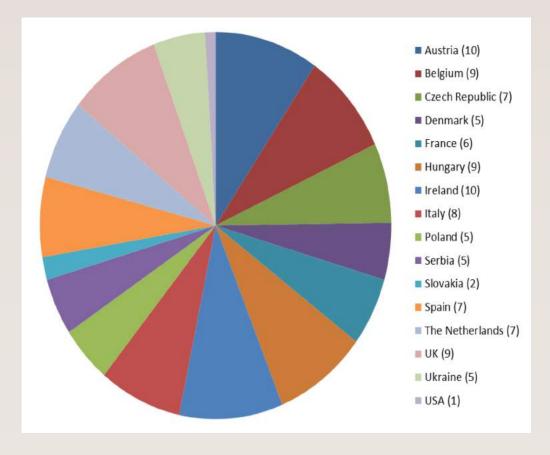




Good practices

Collection of 100 good practices in different countries

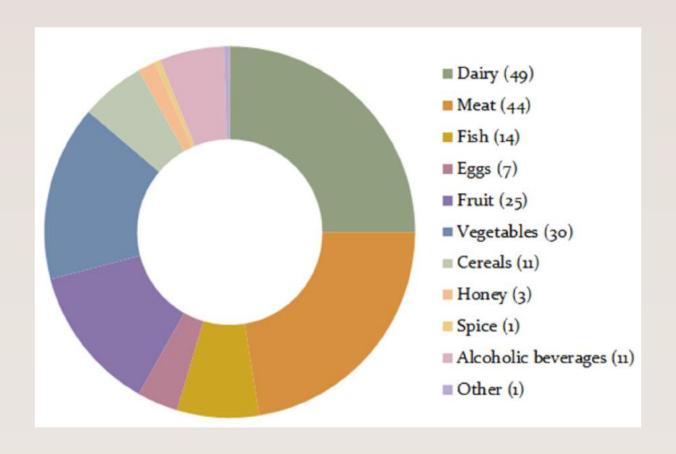
- Austria, 10
- Belgium, 9
- Czech Republic, 7
- Denmark, 5
- France, 6
- Hungary, 9
- Ireland, 10
- Italy, 8
- Poland, 5
- Serbia, 5
- Slovakia, 2
- Spain, 7
- The Netherlands, 7
- The UK, 9
- Ukraine, 5
- USA, 1

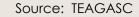


(with the contribution of all SKIN partners; GPs analysis by TEAGASC)



...and different domains

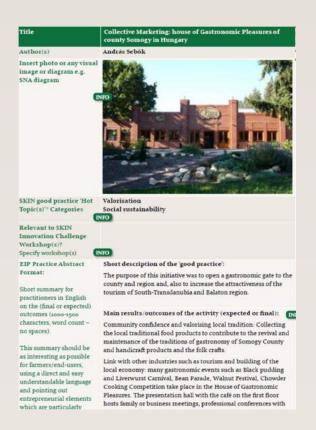






Hot Topic Categories

 Partners to specify the 'Hot Topic(s)' to which the Good Practice relates







Source: SKIN, 2017a

Trends from the Good Practice case studies

- Collective action: There are many examples of collective action and collaborative initiatives between producers.
- Environmental concerns: While economic & social sustainability is implicit for SFSCs; environmental good practices were also well represented.
- Regional development: Community values are also mentioned in some cases, where a regional brand is developed.

Source: TEAGASC



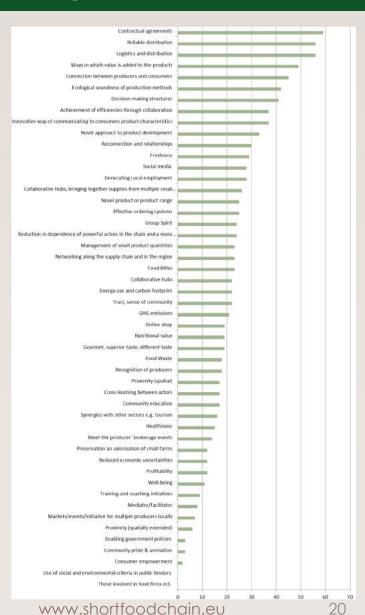
Analysis of Good Practices According

The most represented Hot Topic elicited:

- 'contractual agreements between producers/between chain partners' with 59 instances documented.
- 'Ways in which value is added to the products', 'logistics and distribution' and 'reliable distribution' were all also highly represented throughout.

Source: TEAGASC







Innovation Challenge Workshops

First Innovation Challenge Workshop (April 2018)

Organized in Belgium-Netherlands by Innovatiesteunpunt (BB) and ZLTO

- Current consumer is looking for a product with a face, a product straight from the farmer, fresher and more taste!
- Inspire farmers/stakeholders on how to respond to these trends
- Inspiration tour with 5 farms, each unique in their way of bringing products to the market
- Trendwatcher
- Networking possibilities



Field trip

Fruit producer Roes

65ha of fruit (apple/cherries), own production of different apple juices/mixes, 2 farm stores, developing 'on line' sales, part of a joined B2B sales network

Agrofranken

400ha of potatoes and some vegetables, producing fresh French fries and vegetables mixes for B2B market, farm shop, distributor and member of Distrikempen, developed 'fresh from the farm' as a label. Also produces 400ha of grass

Walhoeve

Producer of beaf meat, farm shop with full range of products from several producers

De Laarhoeve

Social farming, production facilities to be used by other farmers/producers, doing product tests and development.

't Schop

Small organic farm producing meat and vegetables, farm shop, organizing 'cooking' workshops

• Trend watcher (45'-60') around fresh and local products









Stay Tuned!

Follow our Twitter account: @shortfoodchain

Use #agrifoodcommunity







Thank you