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Short Food Supply Chains Advisor Network

Building an EU learning ecosystem
through multi-level collaborations
for sustainable, robust and
regenerative food systems



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Short Food Supply Chains

Strategies and actions taken to accelerate Short Food Supply Chains on a regional, interregional, and European level, focusing on the importance of qualified advice as a catalyser.

From SMARCHAIN + SKIN sister projects to EU4Advice + COREnet twin projects



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Why support SFSC?

Choices
Empowerment
Trust
Resilience



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EU4Advice + COREnet: background



H2020 SMARTCHAIN + SKIN projects and other relevant projects (COFRESH, FOODRUS) focusing on value chains and advisory systems:

need for SFSC-specific advice and capacity building to enhance practitioners' empowerment and viability and SFSC sustainability.

EU4Advice + COREnet

The network of SFSC advisors across Europe

Advisory networks
are a **new tool**
introduced under
Horizon Europe.



First advisory networks funded under Horizon Europe that will provide innovative solutions for farmers to improve sustainability of the short food supply chains.

Topic: Developing EU advisory networks on consumer-producer chains (HORIZON-CL6-2021-GOVERNANCE-01-27)

Coordinators: Innogestiona Ambientale (EU4Advice), University of Foggia (COREnet)

General objective: settle the foundations and structures required to ensure effective capacity building of SFSC actors through fluent knowledge transfer

EU4Advice + COREnet

Network of SFSC advisors across Europe



EU4Advice

Objectives



- ✓ **Identify and characterize SFSC advisors across Europe**
- Connect SFSC advisors from the 27 MS in a European network
- Improve the understanding of the main issues and challenges of European AKIS
- Integrate SFSC advisors and contents into national AKIS
- Interact with relevant national/regional/local policy-makers
- Replicate and disseminate innovations on SFSC

Mapping methodology

Common framework

- Shared concepts and definitions:
- Short food supply chains
- AKIS
- Innovation and support services

Formal + informal advisors

Top-down + bottom-up approach

Country context Analysis

Submitted in June 2023:

- ✓ **Growing database of private and public SFSC (over 700 SFSC advisors)**



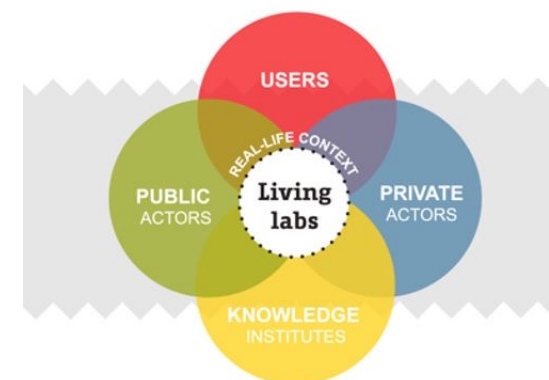
Next steps

- Participant information and consent form
- Onboarding and activation of the network
 - LinkedIn Community
 - SFS Innovation Platform
 - i2connect
 - ModernAKIS + Attractiss
 - EU Farm Book
 - Other EU-funded projects
- Interoperability
 - SFS Innovation Platform
 - I2connect, modernAKIS, AttractiS
 - EU Farm Book

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Methodological pillars

- Comprehensive analysis of the national AKIS, SFSC ecosystems and regulatory frameworks
- **Living labs** in Spain, Hungary, the Netherlands and Ireland
- Networking: cross visits, thematic workshops, peer2peer learning, twinning activities, etc.
- Guidelines and advisory contents



THEORETICAL METHODOLOGY



Challenges

- **Lack of data**
- **Little availability of knowledge and formal structures**
- **Current configuration of AKIS**
- **Accreditation of advisors**
- **Policy barriers (public procurement, health and safety issues)**
- **Specific contents needed**
- **Professionalization of the sector**

Opportunities

- **PAC**
- **AKIS**
- **Increasing demand from consumers**
- **New rural trends**
- **Digital tools and solutions**

What is still needed

- Clear support to formal/informal impartial advisors
- In depth knowledge of
 - psychological and sociological aspects of SFSC as an option
 - SFSC and transition (digi and green)
 - SFSC keys to mainstreaming and upscaling



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