

## Case study region



**Ljubljana is one of the six regions among selected case studies counted in FOODMETRES, a European research project (7th Framework Programme of the European Commission). The project addresses the issue of short food supply chains in urban and peri-urban areas with special emphasis on innovative solutions.**

Although Slovenia and Ljubljana as its metropolitan area are faced with low self-supply of locally produced food this can in fact be a huge boost in the search for possible short food supply chains. Real innovative solutions that might be soon put in practice are expected to occur from the exchange of knowledge and experiences among researchers and stakeholders in Ljubljana region. The innovative solutions obtained can serve as good practice examples for other Slovenian cities and through the FOODMETRES project along with results of its other case studies as good examples to other European cities.

In modern societies the importance of food supply chains is growing, as their meaning is significantly related to the challenges of sustainable production and acquisition of goods (e.g. higher or lower carbon footprint from transportation of goods over long distances compared to locally produced food). The attitude of people to the length of the supply chain is often associated with attitude towards the way of food production (i.e. organic or conventional).

Environmental (e.g. presence or absence of agricultural land and water resources) and socio-economic conditions (e.g. the state of agriculture) are essential for the effective operation of short food supply chains. At the same time short food supply chains affect the use of land and natural resources for food production, therefore, the planning and management of space and natural resources are also important for effective short food supply chains' functioning.

The project aims to connect theoretical foundations with practical experiences of local stakeholders, which may act as inhabitants, food producers, wholesalers and retailers of food, non-governmental organizations and local and state authorities. In this way, with their different experiences they contribute constructively to the issue of short food supply chains.

In evaluating the sustainable development of short supply chains the FOODMETRES project pays particular attention to the challenges of effective regional food production, landscape design, local markets, water supply, nutrient cycling and biodiversity.

Good practices from other case studies that are included in the project are also interesting for Ljubljana. Transfer of innovative ideas is one of the important tasks of the researchers in the project.

FOODMETRES is organising several regional workshops. Their plan is published on the project website.

In FOODMETRES residents and farmers as well as those professionally involved in the food production are invited to participate including (non-) governmental organizations.



The project includes six case studies (in addition to Ljubljana Berlin, London, Milan, Nairobi and Rotterdam are also involved), aimed to find innovative solutions for realistic short food supply chains in each of the cities through the participation of local stakeholders. During the course of the project the ideas acquired in each case study will be exchanged through annually organized events in each of the case studies' area.

In the case study of Ljubljana the length of supply routes and innovative solutions for their potential reduction will be examined through the cases of supply of cabbage, tomatoes, lettuce, milk, green beans, strawberries, apples, lamb and fish which are typical or promising goods for our metropolis. Acquired ideas and any existing good practices will be shared with other case studies.

A traditional form of food production in Slovenia is also plot gardening, which is a very interesting activity due to its multiple functions and one of the shortest food supply chain in the country. Slovenian researchers will also dedicate their activities in the project to this phenomenon.

The project includes seven research organizations, and eleven small and medium-sized companies from six countries. Slovenian project partners are: the University of Ljubljana (Biotechnical Faculty) Geaprodukt Ltd. and Pro Contus d.o.o.

In addition to reports in English, the news of FOODMETRES project will be also published in Slovenian language, including a summary of the final report for Ljubljana.

Project running time:  
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