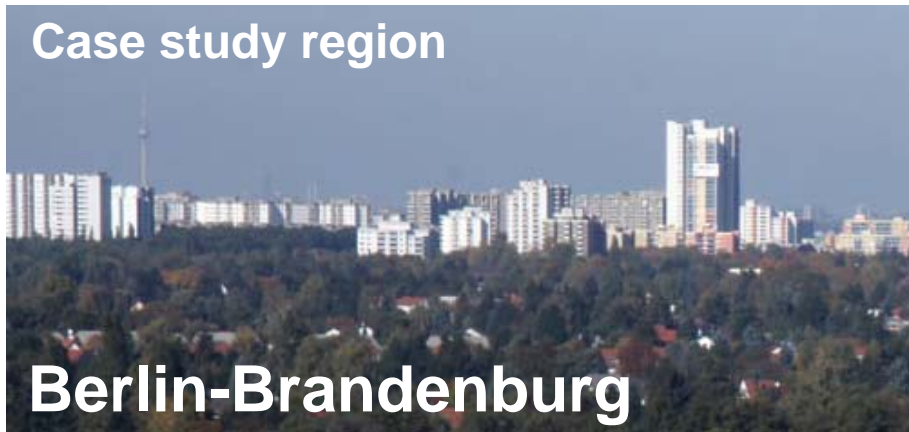


Case study region



Berlin-Brandenburg



Berlin-Brandenburg is one of the six case study regions of the EU funded research project **FOODMETRES**. Its aim is to find innovative solutions for the shortening of food chains. It especially strives to more sustainable modes of regional food provision, which enhance urban-rural relationship and transparency.

Berlin-Brandenburg is a metropolitan region with rural agricultural areas in the direct vicinity of the metropolitan centre. The regions green and creative image can be seen in a large number of innovative urban agriculture and regional food initiatives. The city of Berlin is estimated to be one of the largest markets for organic food in Europe, with national and global suppliers, whereas the surrounding Brandenburg region has the highest share of agricultural land under organic farming nationally. Therefore our research focusses on organic food production and distribution and estimates the potential for regional organic food provision. In particular we will assess the environmental, social and economic impacts of short food chains.

FOODMETRES aims to study food chains and chain innovations in terms of the technical, logistical, organisational and governance aspects. The project also aims to assess the influence on land use in the Metropolitan areas of London, Berlin, Rotterdam, Milan, Ljubljana and Nairobi. In addition, the policy and planning requirements for resilient urban food systems are explored.

Research in the Berlin-Brandenburg Region will be undertaken to answer the following questions

- Analysis of the Metropolitan Agrofood System: what is the amount of production and consumption and the required land needed for production? Where are the potentials for regional food provision and for shortening chains?
- Identification of good practise for short food chains and food chain innovations: what good practice and innovations are typical for the Berlin-Brandenburg region and whcih of these are transferable to other regions?
- Food chain analysis: how do food chains function? What are the possibilities for bringing organic production closer to the city, with fewer steps in the chain and less use of resources? What policy and market changes and constraints exists?

Other case studies are Rotterdam, London, Milan, Ljubljana and Nairobi. Best practices from other regions are also interesting for Berlin.

In Berlin we will study mainly organic products from horticulture, plant production and livestock farming considering different processing steps.

Short chains mean fewer steps in the food chain but also shorter distances between places of production and consumption.

In assessing the sustainability of shorter food chains, FOODMETRES pays special attention to land use, rural development, transparency, biodiversity, resource efficiency (transport ways, waste reduction etc.).

- Analysis of food planning and food policy: how are food chains enhanced or hindered by policies and programs on local, regional, national and European level?
- Scenario development: how do the selected food chain innovations perform in terms different sustainability indicators, land use and ecosystem services?

Workshops will provide opportunities for knowledge exchange and sharing best practises from other case study regions.

The FOODMETRES project team is working with different stakeholders in the region including farmers, citizens/consumers, politicians, associations and non-governmental organisations.

In addition to several research reports in English, FOODMETRES will also produce a number of newsletters and brochures in German.

Knowledge exchange and dissemination of the results within each region, and between the project case studies will take place in the form of workshops, scientific and popular publications, short films, posters and conferences.

Running time: October 2012 - September 2015.

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Seven research institutions and eleven Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) from six countries are working together in the FOODMETRES project. In Berlin-Brandenburg the project partners are Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF), Fördergemeinschaft Ökologischer Landbau Berlin-Brandenburg (FÖL), Malzfabrik mbh and Dorén + Köster GbR.

