

# ALTERNATIVE FOOD NETWORKS IN SLOVENIA



## Regional partner involvement



## Best practice criteria

### ADVANCED LOGISTICS

Logistics of the AFN is well advanced and organized.



### SUSTAINABILITY

Environmental, economical and social aspects are key.



### TRANSPARENCY

Openness in action builds trust.



### LOCAL FOCUS

Local roots and regional commitment are part of the identity.

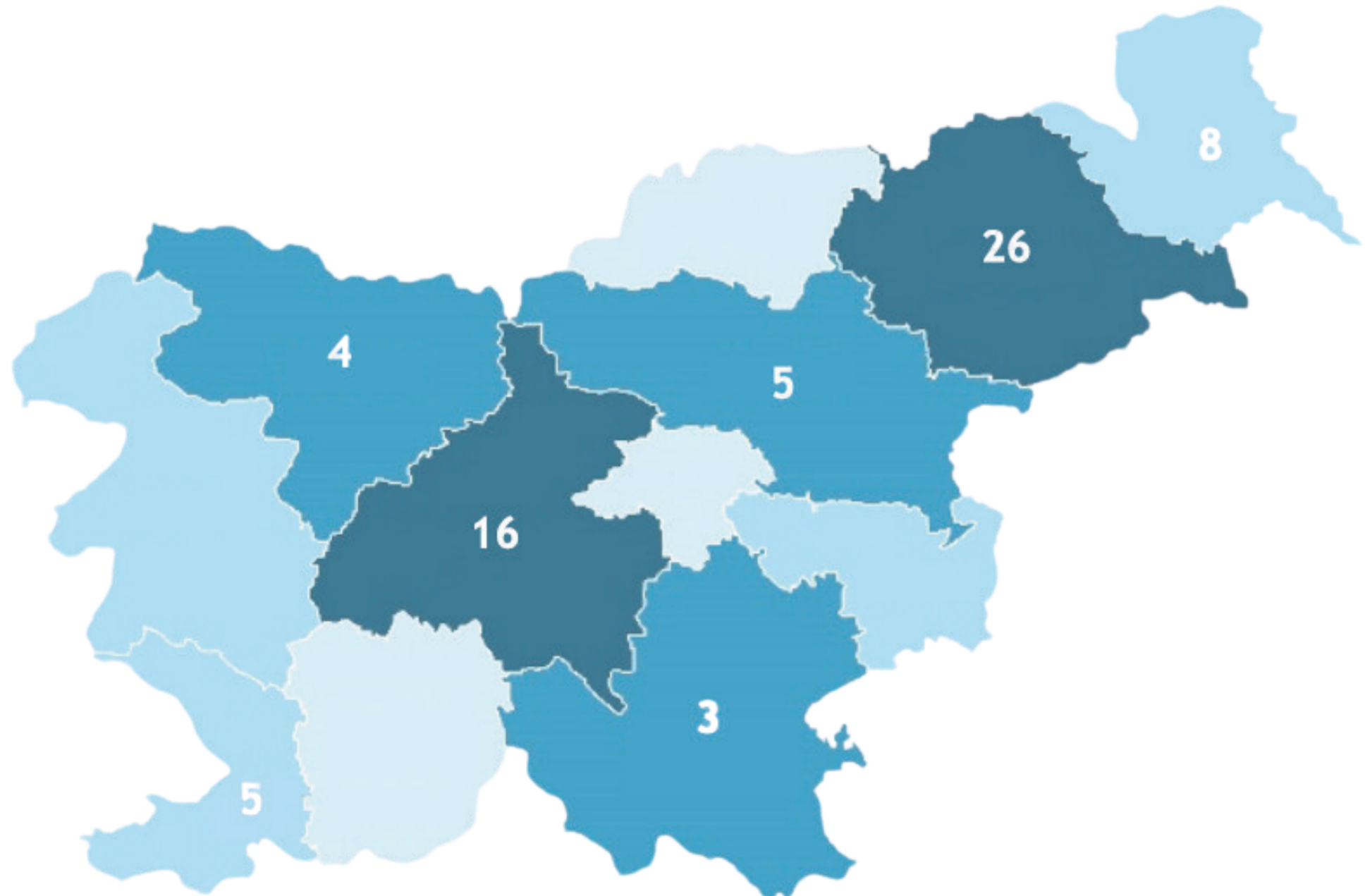


### DIGITALIZATION

Comprehensive information along the supply chain is essential.



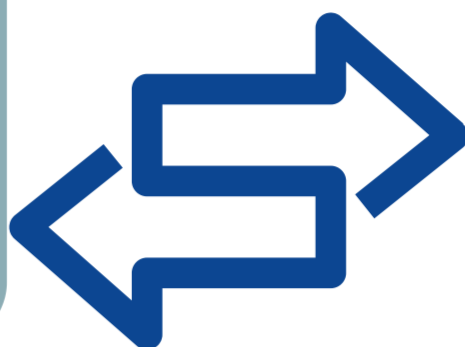
## Geographical location



The most AFNs identified in the scope of the project can be found in the Podravska region, followed by the Osrednjeslovenska region, and Pomurska.

## LOGISTICS SOLUTIONS

### Inputs



## PROCESS OPTIMIZATION VIA DIGITALISATION

In addition to attracting new customers, who often become regular patrons, digital advertising offers the cooperative enhanced visibility and brand recognition. Furthermore, improved digitalization expedites order processing, particularly beneficial for B2B transactions, and provides comprehensive insights into order history and value. These efficiencies not only streamline operations but also contribute to the company's environmental friendliness by reducing paper waste and energy consumption associated with traditional processes.



## MUNICIPALITY SUPPORT FOR COOPERATIVES

Possible support can include:

- Financial support: grants, low-interest loans, or subsidies to help cover startup costs, operational expenses, or expansion initiatives.
- Marketing and promotion: cooperative products at municipal events, including them in tourism campaigns, or providing advertising space in municipal publications or on digital platforms.
- Access to resources and networks: networking opportunities with other local businesses, access to shared equipment or facilities, or connections to relevant industry associations or support organizations.
- Infrastructure development: developing food hubs or distribution centres for agricultural cooperatives or improving transportation and logistics infrastructure.
- Collaborative projects: initiatives related to affordable housing, renewable energy, community gardens or social services.



## SUSTAINABLE IMPACT OF LOCAL TRADE

Smaller-scale operations characteristic of local trade often undergo fewer processing stages, reducing the likelihood of hidden additives or alterations to products. Overall, the proximity and simplicity of local food logistics facilitate greater transparency, empowering consumers to make informed choices about the food they eat. Shorter distances from farm to table reduce the complexity of transportation and storage. This simplicity enhances traceability, allowing consumers to easily track the origins of their food. Moreover, local producers often prioritize direct relationships with consumers and retailers, fostering open communication and trust. These direct connections enable clearer information about farming practices, handling procedures, and product quality.

## AFNs' level of complexity

The research has identified over 67 AFNs across Slovenia.

### Direct



16

### Intermediary



18

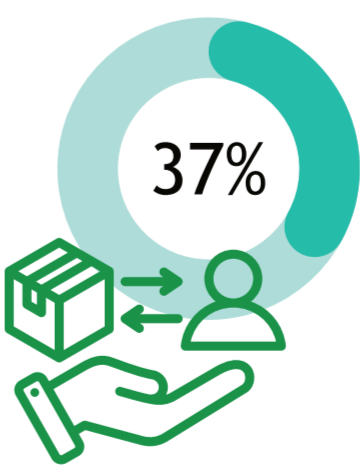
### Advanced



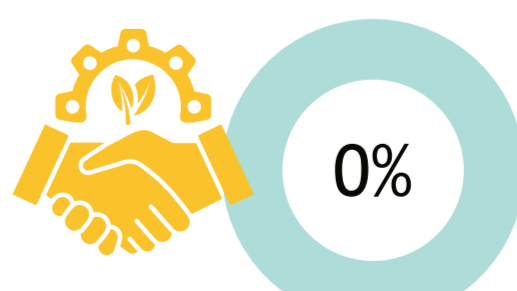
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## Forms of identified AFNs

### Direct retail initiative



### Food cooperative



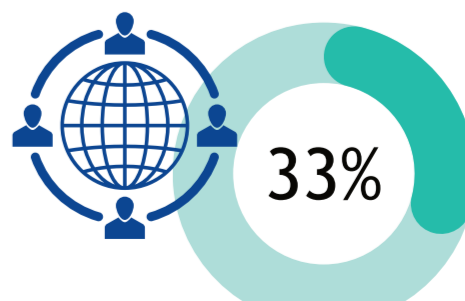
### Producer consumer partnership



### Producer cooperative



### Platform



Food4CE