# ALTERNATIVE FOOD NETWORKS





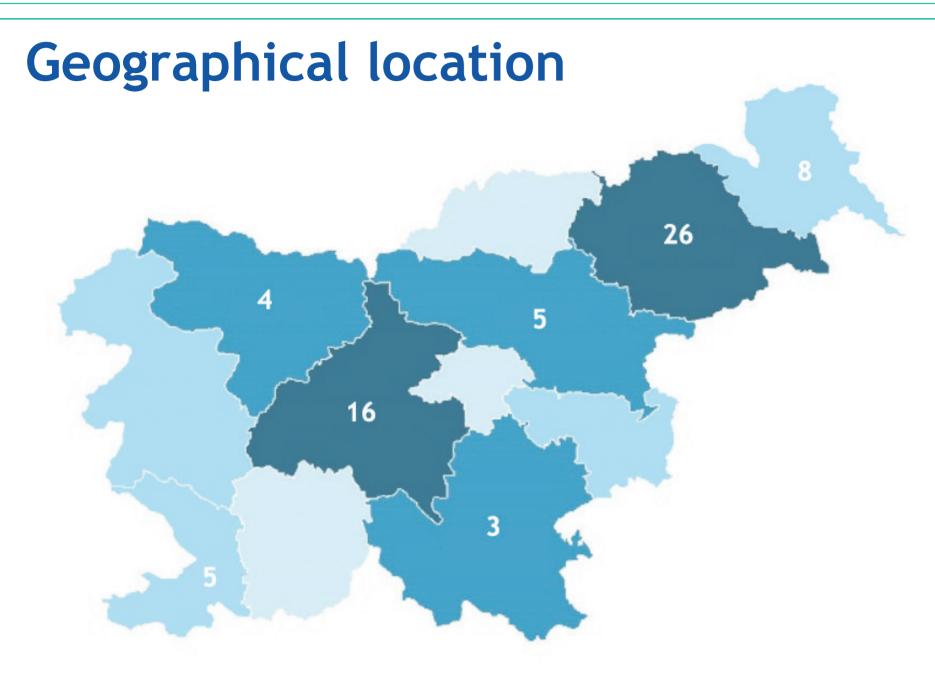




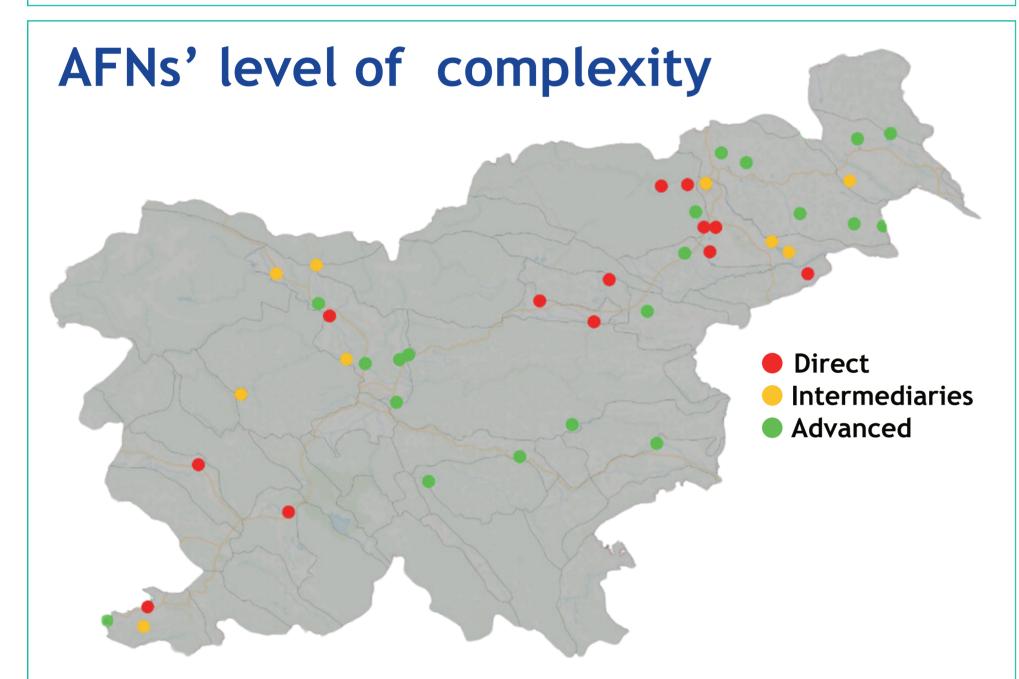
# Regional partner involvement



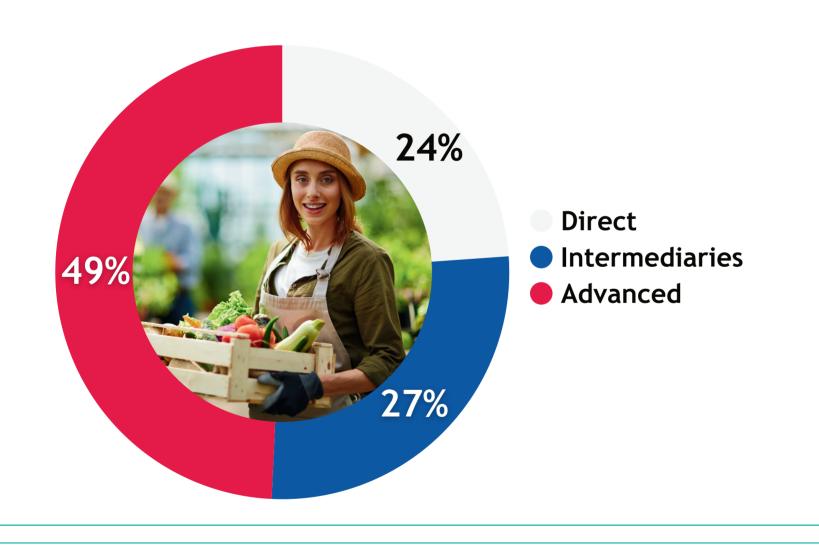


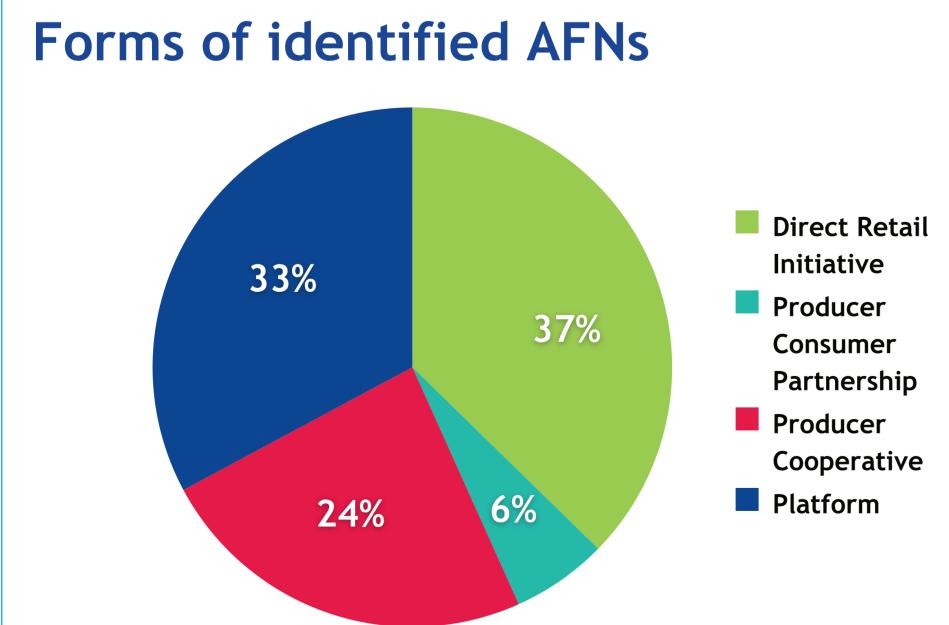


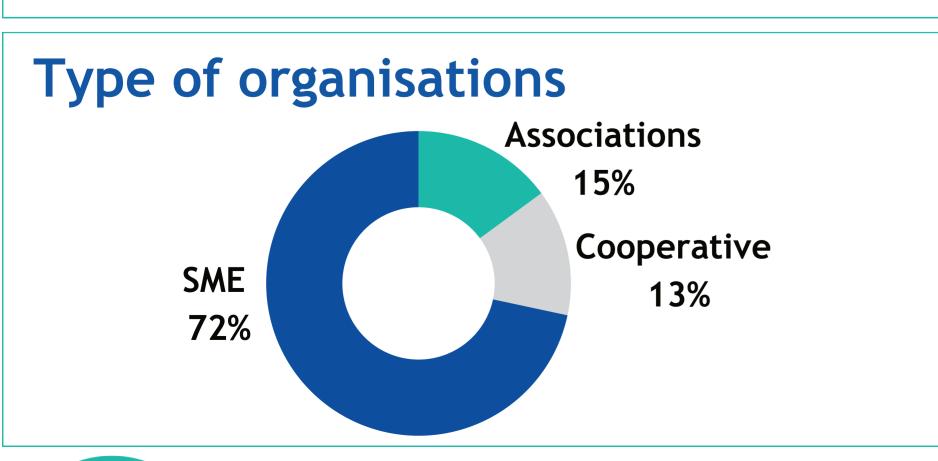
The most AFNs identified in the scope of the project can be found in the Podravska region, followed by the Osrednjeslovenska region, and Pomurska.



The research has identified over 67 potential AFNs across Slovenia. Among these, 30 were identified potential best practices, as constituting 45% of the total identified AFNs.







#### Overview

In recent years, Alternative Food Networks (AFNs) in Slovenia have seen significant growth, with a shift towards sustainability and local sourcing in response to consumer demand for transparency and quality, and the desire to support local producers. These networks have proven vital for promoting sustainable, locally driven short food supply systems, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, which saw an increase in AFN creation due to delivery disruptions and a surge in consumer interest in local food systems. Despite challenges, such as labor shortages and supply chain disruptions, AFNs adapted by diversifying product offerings, enhancing online presence, and fostering community support, demonstrating resilience and innovation.

# Transport & Logistics

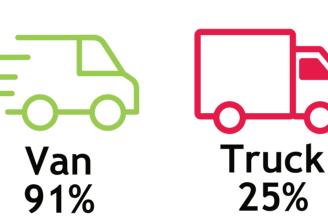
The most prevalent distribution channel among identified AFNs is **self-collection**, followed by own delivery. Shops at producer's site are utilized by a third of AFNs, and a similar share of AFNs use parcel service for distribution. Roadside sales and market stalls are the least utilized distribution of modes of product assortment.

#### Distribution channels Self-collection 51% Own delivery 37% Shop at producer's site 37% Delivery by parcel service 34% **27**% Market stall Roadside sale

### Transportation methods







Vans are the predominant mode of transportation for deliveries among AFNs, with 10 out of 11 utilizing them, followed by cars, used by 6 out of 8 AFNs. Trucks and bikes are employed less frequently; only 2 out of 8 AFNs are using trucks and 1 is opting for bikes.

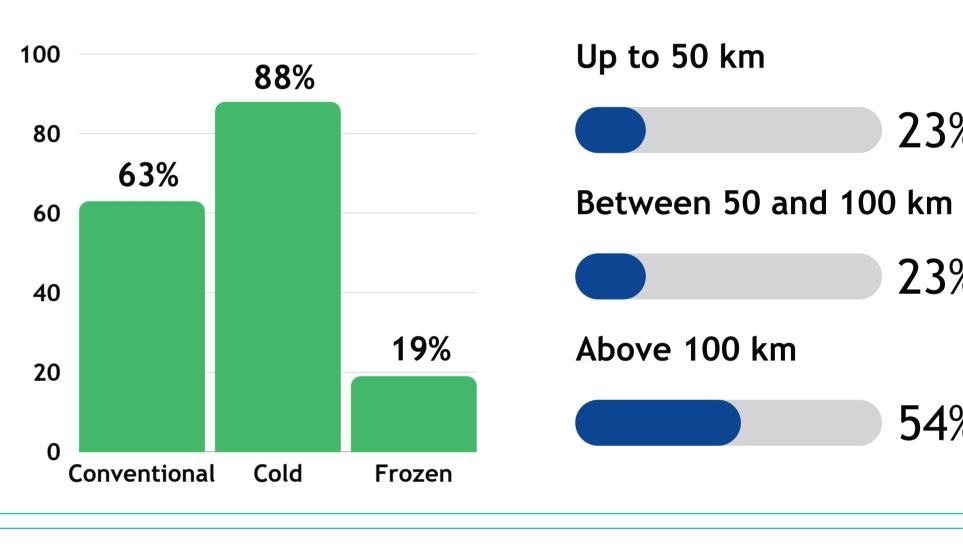
Storage facilities

Delivery area

23%

23%

**54**%



## Challenges



Fragmented production and temporal disparities in production across various agricultural sectors



Complex logistics organization and from large execution due to agribusinesses diverse endbuyers with distinct requirements



Stiff competition with broader markets and longer operational histories



Limited consumer awareness on AFNs and their benefits



Lack of improvement on logistics capacity and infrastructure



Highlight the importance of technology integration, sustainability, and collaboration for SFSC's efficiency and long-term viability

## Logistics solutions



Optimization of order processing and digital platforms: Streamlining order processing through the integration of advanced digital platforms with features like real-time inventory management, automated order processing, and customer relationship management (CRM) to improve efficiency and customer satisfaction.



Advanced warehousing solutions: Implementing flexible warehousing strategies that can accommodate fluctuating inventory levels, including the use of modular cold storage units, can help manage seasonal peaks more efficiently.



Enhanced transportation and delivery networks: Covering delivery distances up to and beyond 100 km requires development of optimized delivery routes. Use of GIS (Geographic Information Systems) and advanced route planning software could reduce transportation costs and improve delivery times. Collaboration among AFNs for shared transportation resources could also be beneficial.



Collaborative logistics platforms: Creating a cooperative logistics platform where local producers, intermediaries, and logistics providers can collaborate could help optimize transportation resources, share storage facilities, and reduce overall logistics costs. It could further reduce the environmental impact and improve operational efficiency.



Sustainability initiatives: Emphasizing eco-friendly packaging, sustainable farming practices, and waste reduction could not only improve the environmental footprint of AFNs but also meet consumer demand for sustainable products. Implementing returnable packaging systems or packaging recycling programs could also contribute to these goals.



Quality assurance and traceability: Leveraging technology for better traceability and quality assurance, such as blockchain for supply chain transparency or IoT (Internet of Things) devices for real-time monitoring of food safety conditions during transportation, could enhance consumer trust and product integrity.



**Technology integration:** Adopting IT solutions for better warehouse management, supply chain visibility, and reverse logistics could help address operational challenges, such as use of software for inventory management, digital tools for customer engagement, and platforms for collaborative logistics planning.



