



C'est ensemble que se construit l'avenir des territoires

# 17th NRN meeting

## Presentation on the findings of the survey on Short food supply chains

by the French NSU



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## 1. Towards a common definition?

- Notion of short supply chain to that of a local circuit including the geographical dimension (“local food”)
- This spatial proximity seems however to be insufficient in the definition given to article 2 of the draft regulation for rural development
- Countries/regions like Finland, Flanders or Spain doesn't have a “national” definition but rather guidelines or principles framing the notion
- The notion of industry is also more and more prevalent

## 2. Why to develop SFSC?

The main priorities are :

- Assist to the organization and the development of food industries (production-processing-sale) and enable diversification
- Improve skills of economic actors, through training, and encourage greater competitiveness
- Provide a better visibility to local production
- Create added value and jobs in order to reinforce the attractiveness of territories
- Promote a qualitative production by labeling and ensure food production's transparency in order to ensure traceability
- Reinforce the social link between producers and consumers

## Examples of action plan implemented to reach the SFSC development

- Latvia has a national scheme for qualitative food that allowed the creation of a logo and a label, and a scheme for organic agriculture
- Slovakia adopted a national program “Farm sale” followed by a law
- The Scottish rural network supports local chains by different means
- In France for example, the PACA region has a lot of instruments in order to support SFSCs

### 3. Main lessons

- Leader approach is privileged for the development of SFSCs as LAG territories are places of experimentation
- An insufficient visibility of the fund amongst beneficiaries
- SFSCs are not specifically targeted in EAFRD so we cannot properly perceive them as a “lever effect”
- While the relationship with other funds is mostly unknown, some networks gave interesting information and effective or possible relations. In Finland for example, the ESF intervened through educational programs.



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## Contribution of the rural network

It is mainly considered a **strong one** because the Rural Network helps in different ways.

Only Spain mentionned that it could be stronger.



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## 4. Recommendations

- Measures to keep would be 351 (especially for Leader), 311 (diversification) and 121C (transformation).
- Measure 341B (local development strategy), although interesting, should be improved, to build a readable policy, combining several EAFRD measures
- Fishery sector should also be integrated to SFSCs development public policy, as it is a partitioned area that should be connected to other funds.



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## Importance of a multi-fund approach

Indeed, the need of an integrated approach to SFSC, and of providing access to a set of joint instruments that will support structured projects. In consequence, multi-fund seems to be essential to structuring and integrated projects.



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## Evolution for criterias and communication needed

- It should also ensure the availability of funds to SMEs and to collective structures (cooperatives, associations, groups, etc.)
- Improve communication on aid measures so that project leaders and beneficiaries have easy access to information.

## To conclude

- SFSCs appear as an important lever for maintaining economy and services within rural areas, for promoting local agriculture and promoting the strengthening of social ties.
- The next programming period must be used to support the growth of SFSCs through structuring them and providing them an integrated and partnership dimension, by adjusting the definition of the sub-program for short-circuits and the eligibility rules.



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# Thanks for your attention!



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