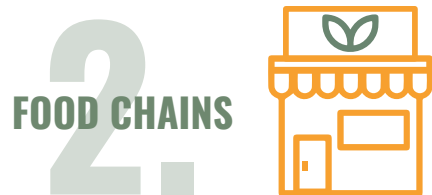


Strategic Area 4: Promoting sustainable food consumption and the shift to healthy, sustainable diets (CONSUMERS)

- Conducting further representative studies on what consumers' perceptions regarding local, organic foods and alternative food chains;
- Promoting social innovative initiatives and programs (such as EIP AGRI) by flexible eligibility and control criteria;
- Taking advantage of social media analysis as data source and platforms.



1.
PRODUCTION



2.
FOOD CHAINS



3.
RESEARCH



4.
CONSUMERS

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The study will contribute to the **BIOEAST** Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) being developed in 2022.

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Read the full study on the **BIOEAST** website



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BIOEAST #3 THEMATIC STUDIES

OUTLOOK OF SMALL FARMING PRODUCTION IN BIOEAST COUNTRIES AND LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS OF ALTERNATIVE FUTURES



What is the study about?

The study focuses on how the local food system can contribute to and be an integrated part of a sustainable food system in the BIOEAST counties.

Specific tasks of the study are:

- examining **barriers and drivers** for developing the local food system in the BIOEAST region;
- **overview of international projects** and studies specially focusing on short food supply chains;
- assessing the applicability of some specific **indicators** of local food system development within the framework of BIOEAST agri-food scenarios;
- examining the **existing local food systems and their indicators in cases of Romania, Hungary and Czech Republic** using statistical data and social-economic analysis from previous projects and researches;
- examining consumer behaviour trends towards short food supply chains / local foods based on international projects;
- assessing the **BIOEAST Foresight Report**;
- defining **research fields and missing data bases**, information;
- providing **region specific outcomes and policy recommendations** based on researches.

Assessment of the BIOEAST Foresight Report

Based on the BIOEAST Foresight Scenarios and the expert panel exercise of the study the **paradigm shift has been started** in the BIOEAST countries. Almost all the scenarios of the report count with the local food system as the embedded part of the holistic food system. It also means **that governance should accept its presence** and focus on the channel approach to strengthen the position of small and family farms in Central and Eastern European countries. The improvements of SME's capacities rely not only on on-farm capabilities, but also on the general **enabling economic and**

institutional environment, both on a regional, national and international level. The indicator assessment highlighted that the number of organic farmers, the use of alternative channels and the relocalisation of conventional channels such as public catering have a significant effect on the alternative scenarios. It was also concluded that the key drivers of the re-localised, circular economy based scenarios are the number of farmers, number and quality of consumer-producer cooperative initiatives, number of alternative channels, and the consumers' perception of local foods. Furthermore, the results of the social media analysis pointed out that besides the initiatives of the local communities, agrotourism is a very important factor in the development of the local food systems.

To stimulate the local food systems (LFS) in the BIOEAST countries and to small-scale agriculture and food recommendations are proposed for the BIOEAST Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda.

Strategic Area 1: Sustainable Food Production (PRODUCTION)

- Analysing and mapping on the knowledge of digitization and technology to improve the preparedness of farmers and other stakeholders of LFS;
- Analysing how the national AKIS may reinforce the knowledge flow of innovative environmentally friendly farming systems, organic production and agroecology;
- Aligning and analysing the applicability of cost effective, small farmer friendly tools, technologies, innovations in the field of bioeconomy to improve the compliance.

Strategic Area 2: Power and information in the food system: strengthen the food environments and vulnerable actors in the food chains (FOOD CHAINS)

- Proposing tailor-made, adaptable regulatory or control solutions, easy-to-use guidelines for decision maker based on the results and policy recommendations of R&D&I projects;
- Promoting special focus and tools on collaborative actions in the CEE countries where there is a strong deficit in trust, joint action both in horizontal and vertical collective actions by future Horizon Europe calls;
- Observing how to enhance LFS focused advisory service, innovative brokerage for smaller actors implemented to AKIS plan.

Strategic Area 3: Research, innovation, technology and investments for future sustainable food systems (RESEARCH)

- Mapping the available database which can supply reliable data and evidence based results for further decision making processes;
- Exploring the possibilities of the creation of a deeper dialogue with intermediaries who could be relevant stakeholders in data acquisition;
- Observing the possibility of data gathering by agricultural census (the value of the production (in € and UAA) which is sold via Short Food Supply Chain; number and size of farmers who buy via Short Food Supply Chain);
- Examining the opportunities in community based initiatives such as participatory guarantee systems.
- Involving players from the food chain to the researches related to the Farm to Fork Strategy.