



# Food4CE

## About the project

### The Food4CE Project in a nutshell

Food4CE is a European project funded by the INTERREG Central Europe Programme, aimed at supporting Alternative Food Networks (AFNs) in their efforts to create sustainable and resilient food supply systems. AFNs are essential for promoting short food supply chains and reducing the carbon footprint of food distribution. However, they face challenges such as lack of knowledge on logistics collaboration, digitalisation and distribution/delivery systems, which are exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Food4CE seeks to address these challenges by establishing 5 local and 1 Transnational Innovation Hub (IH), bringing together actors from different sectors including researchers, business experts, food producers, logistic and transport operators, and policy makers. These hubs will focus on advancing AFNs logistics efficiency through the development of innovative tools and solutions.

Two innovative tools are being jointly developed within the project: the Knowledge Transfer Platform and the Matchmaking Platform. The former is intended for sharing logistics best practices and solutions, while the latter is intended for creating new B2B and B2C logistics solutions and services. The aim is to facilitate knowledge transfer and exchange between different regions and actors, and to create a unique mutual support network for AFNs in Central Europe.

Food4CE will also provide jointly developed regional action plans for each participating region and transnational (CE) policy guidelines for AFN support. The project aims to establish a sustainable and lasting AFN support mechanism, which will continue working even after the project end. This will be achieved through the integration of the Transnational Innovation Hub into the existing European Network of Logistics competence centres.

Food4CE is a vital initiative that seeks to support AFNs in their efforts to create sustainable and resilient food supply systems. By establishing local and transnational Innovation Hubs and developing innovative tools and solutions, the project aims to facilitate knowledge exchange and cooperation between different actors and regions, leading to a sustainable and lasting AFN support mechanism.

### Food4CE Project: Revolutionizing Food Supply Chains

In a world where food production, logistics, and distribution are of paramount importance, the need for efficient, sustainable, and cost-effective supply chains has never been greater. The Food4CE project, an ambitious initiative funded by the European Union through the INTERREG Central Europe Programme, aims to do just that.



The project brings together nine carefully selected project partners, each with their own expertise, competencies, and geographical relevance, all committed to the approach and the project. In addition, the project has the involvement of eight associated partners from five participating regions that will be actively involved in project activities. With such a diverse and interdisciplinary team, the Food4CE partnership can ensure the successful completion of the project.

The partners are divided into three groups based on their role in the project: Knowledge providers (KP), regional facilitators (RF), and the network of logistics competence centers (NL). The knowledge partners are primarily experts in the field of logistics, which is the focus of this project. The Hungarian partner, for example, is an agricultural university with in-depth knowledge of local food production, food logistics requirements, and customer needs. By collaborating and supporting each other, the partners can address the short food supply chain thoroughly.

The regional facilitators are responsible for engaging small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in their regions, such as farmers and transport companies, and creating conditions for open innovation. The participating RFs are of different types, but they are all related to innovation and business support for a large pool of SMEs in the region.

The network of logistics competence centers (OPEN ENLoCC) plays a very special and much-appreciated role in the project. Its main mission is the international exchange of regional experience and logistics knowledge between its participants, as well as the promotion of a higher level of cooperation with European institutions. The network is based in Brussels and consists of 15 partners from different European countries. It is self-sustained and therefore offers a great opportunity to run a transnational innovation hub that ensures the continuation and use of the project results even after the end of the project.

Food4CE aims to revolutionize food supply chains by optimizing logistics processes, improving packaging, and using IT logistics systems. This will enable the participating SMEs to increase their competitiveness in the global market, as well as provide consumers with high-quality, locally sourced food.

The project also has a strong focus on sustainability, aiming to reduce the carbon footprint of the food supply chain by promoting environmentally friendly transport and logistics methods. By using sustainable practices, the project aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support biodiversity, and promote the circular economy.

The University of Maribor, acts as the lead partner and knowledge provider. It has extensive experience in EU-funded transport and logistics projects, both as a partner and lead partner, with a team of dedicated experts for technical and managerial issues. The University has closely collaborated with the majority of project partners and created trust among them, which is crucial for the successful implementation of the project.

The Food4CE project is a unique opportunity for SMEs in the participating regions to collaborate and benefit from each other's expertise, as well as the expertise of the project partners. The project will enable them to improve their logistics processes, reduce costs, and increase competitiveness in the global market, while also promoting sustainability and reducing the carbon footprint of the food supply chain.



Food4CE is a valuable initiative that brings together experts in logistics, agriculture, and business support to address the challenges facing the food supply chain in Central Europe. With the support of its partners and the involvement of stakeholders, the project aims to improve the efficiency, sustainability, and resilience of the food supply chain and create a more prosperous and sustainable future for all.

#### Partnership:

1. University of Maribor LP Slovenija (SI)
2. Regional Development Agency for Podravje - Maribor PP Slovenija (SI)
3. Institute for Transport and Logistics Foundation PP Italia (IT)
4. Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences PP Magyarország
5. Łukasiewicz Research Network - Poznań Institute of PP Polska (PL)
6. Poznań University of Life Sciences PP Polska (PL)
7. ECONSULT Betriebsberatung PP Österreich (AT)
8. UAS BFI Vienna PP Österreich (AT)
9. European Network of Logistics Competence Centres PP Belgique/België

For more information go to:

<https://www.interreg-central.eu/food4ce/>



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