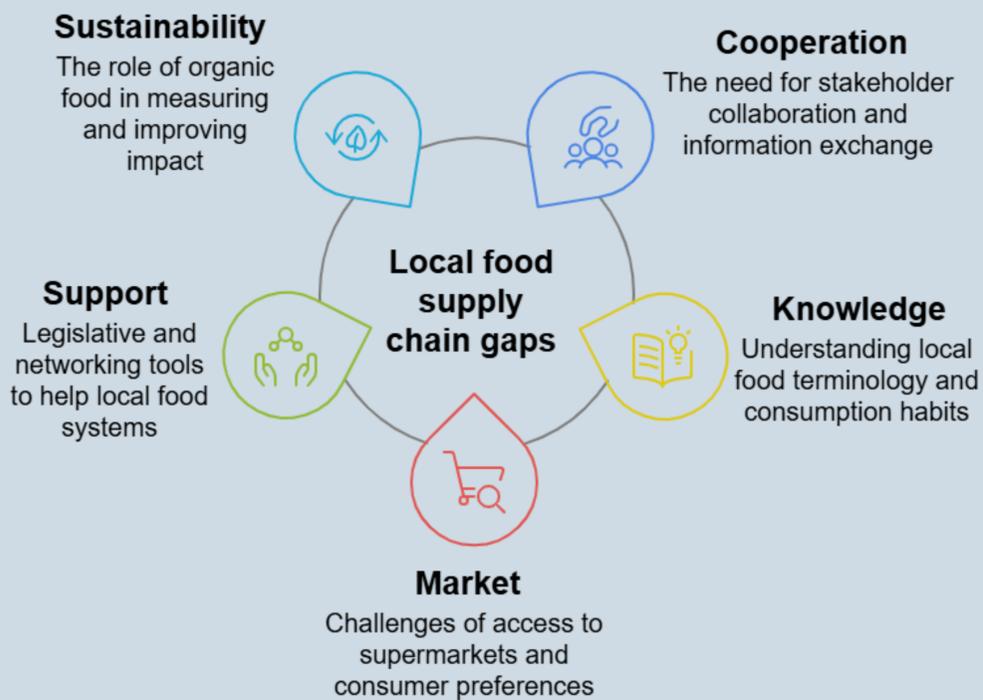
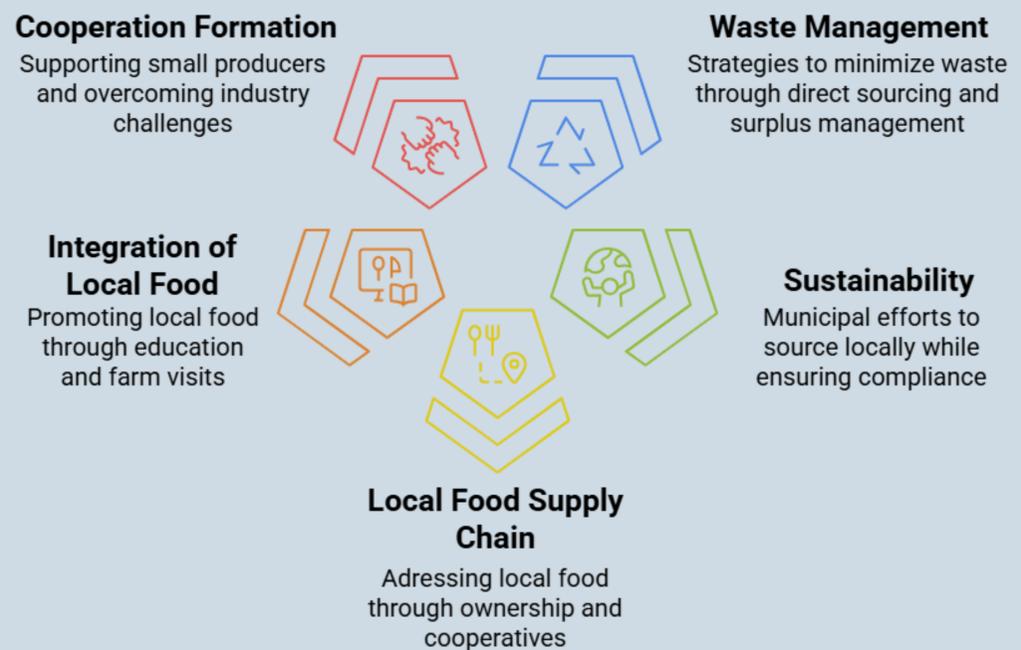


Cluster of gaps in the local food supply chain from a stakeholder perspective



Cluster of additional views from stakeholders in the local food supply chain



Introduction

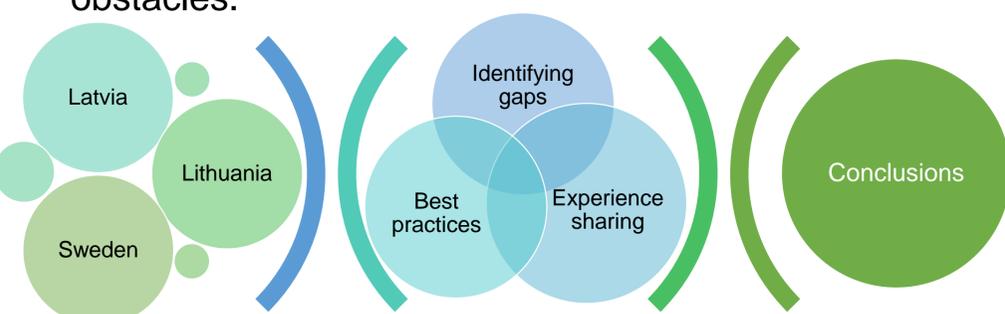
Food supply chains are affected by environmental and socio-economic factors such as climate change, biodiversity loss, hunger, inequality and food waste. These chains are highly dynamic, influenced by geography, urbanization, consumer behavior and culture.

A sustainable food system provides numerous benefits, aligning with the European Green Deal's Farm to Fork Strategy, which aims to promote sustainable production, ensure food safety, reduce waste, and combat climate change. Additionally, it supports regional economies, preserves cultural identity, enhances food tourism, and helps prevent food fraud.

Aim of the research is to analyse challenges, best practices and solutions for sustainable local food supply chains based on stakeholder's face to face onsite workshops organized in Latvia, Lithuania and Sweden.

Methodology

73 stakeholders were interviewed, including farmers, local food producers and distributors, municipal representatives, as well as researchers in the fields of food, regional development and environmental engineering, who shared their experiences and useful information about their experiences in overcoming obstacles.



Results

- There is **no clear definition** of the local food supply chain, creating uncertainty and inconsistencies in its interpretation.
- Local food supply chain stakeholders are eager to collaborate to sell their products **wholesale**, ensuring the necessary production volumes. While meeting these demands can be challenging for individual producers, cooperation would make it achievable, enabling a more efficient and sustainable supply chain.
- Local food supply chain stakeholders **lack support** from local governments, because currently the minimum requirements required by local governments are met, but this affects the ability of local producers to grow.
- Lack of **effective public education** on the benefits of local food and its integration into daily life.

Conclusions

Food security requires not only improving food availability, but also addressing environmental, economic and social aspects. Choosing a local food supply chain, rather than a global one, can improve sustainability, community well-being, support regional economies, and reduce environmental impact.

The development of sustainable local food supply chains requires a clear definition of the term "local food", stronger collaboration models between producers, greater support from local governments beyond minimum requirements, and improved public education to increase consumer awareness and demand.

Strengthening local food supply chains requires clear policies, stakeholder collaboration, public education and a shared understanding of key concepts.