#### LAG "Aizkraukle District Partnership"

**Cooperation Project** 



## ECO FOOD AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SUPPLY CHAINS









EIROPAS SAVIENĪBA EIROPA INVESTĒ LAUKU APVIDOS Eiropas Lauksaimniecības fonds Iauku attīstībai



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Atbalsta Zemkopības ministrija un Lauku atbalsta dienests

## Basic information about LAG

33 LAGs in Latvia in period 2023 - 2027 Established on 2005 67 members Council 21 Area 2566,8 km<sup>2</sup> Population 2015 - 35 936 2023 - 30 392





# Short supply chain support in Strategy

- Not direct support for agriculture and farmers, but for processing of agricultural products (specific measure for home-producers);
- Cooperation projects about short food supply chains;
- In the new programming period (2023-2027) LAGs will have the opportunity to apply for additional funding that is focused on development of short supply chains.



### National food strategy is still on the way for Latvia $\odot$

There are no national food strategy, but there are some initiatives and programs, for example:

- quality schemes (prescribed by European guidelines) EU (organic farming, integrates producing method, geographical identity) and national quality schemes ("Zaļā karotīte" and "Bordo karotīte" (*Green spoon, Bordo spoon*, <u>http://www.karotite.lv/sakums</u>)).
- measures for ordering locally produced and organic food in public educational institutions (green public procurement),
- the School Fruit, Vegetable and Milk Scheme (<u>https://piensaugliskolai.lv/en/</u>),
- initiative "Novada Garša" (*Taste of district*) where you can find your local grower (<u>https://tirgus.novadagarsa.lv/</u>) and others.

#### Food in public sector (1) Green Public Procurement (GPP) in Latvia

The purpose of promoting green procurement is to reduce the impact of goods, services and construction works purchased in public procurement on the environment throughout their life cycle, while promoting the development of the market for environmentally friendly goods and services and increasing the competitiveness of the local economy.

Mandatory in Latvia since July 1, 2017.

GPP requirements and criteria are laid down for food products supply and for catering services.

GPP criteria shall be applied on a voluntary basis to fruit, berries, and vegetables which are not included in <u>the calendars for availability of local fruit</u>, <u>berries</u>, and <u>vegetables</u> drawn up by the Ministry of Agriculture (available on the website of the Procurement Monitoring Bureau) and also to food products, including frozen produce, which are not grown or produced in Latvia.

Source: Republic of Latvia, Cabinet Regulation No. 353, Adopted 20 June 2017 «Requirements for Green Public Procurement and Procedures for the Application Thereof»



### Food in public sector (2) Green Public Procurement (GPP) requirements

- At least 50% of milk and kefir (total weight or value) shall be produced according to organic farming methods,
- at least 20 % of processed cereal products (for example, oatmeal, wheat flour, buckwheat, rye flour, buckwheat flour, raw buckwheat, various raw buckwheat groats, steamed buckwheat, etc.) shall be organic,
  - AND [X] % of the total weight or value of the products, or a specific group of products, or a list of specific products shall be produced according to the integrated production criteria;
  - OR at least 45 % by weight or value of a particular group of products (for example, dairy products, meat products, vegetables), or a list of specific products (for example, potatoes, beef, eggs, intended for use in catering services) shall meet the requirements of the Latvian national food quality scheme attested by a certificate issued by the Food and Veterinary Service.
- <u>If</u> the contracting authority <u>chooses to acquire 100 % organic products</u> produced according to organic farming methods, <u>it is not necessary to include additional criteria</u>.

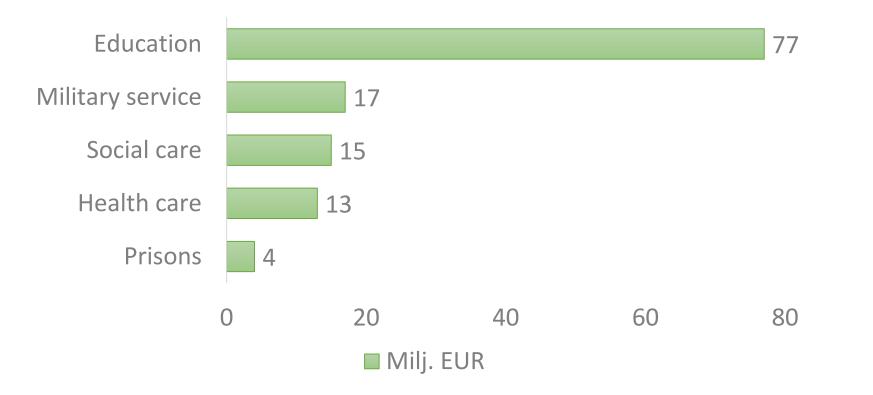
Source: Republic of Latvia, Cabinet Regulation No. 353, Adopted 20 June 2017 «Requirements for Green Public Procurement and Procedures for the Application Thereof»

#### Food in public sector (3)

Indicative distribution of green procurement value

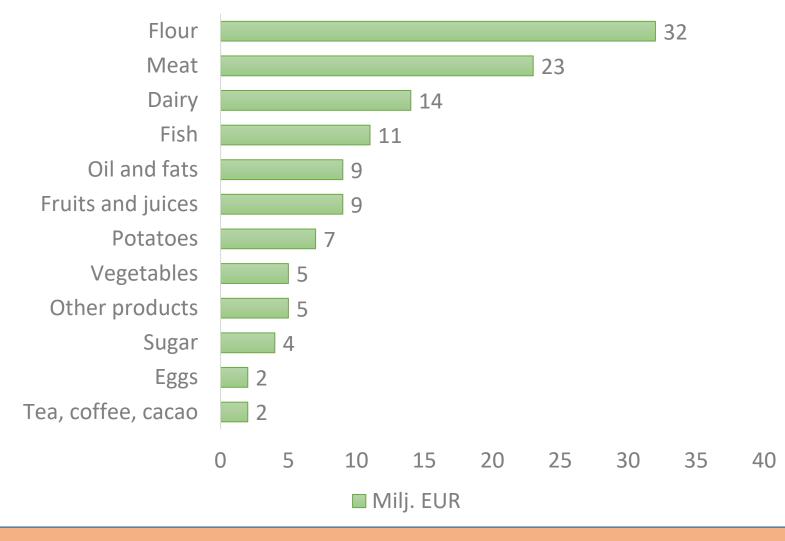
by procurement participants and product groups (million EUR per year in 2021 prices)

#### **Procurement participants**





#### Estimates of product consumption in monetary terms



The assessment of the total GPP in retail prices without VAT – EUR 122 million

# Good practise to share

- Our LAG's cooperation project about self-sufficiency in our territory research about balance in food production and consumption;
- Laurenču primary school in Sigulda district 100% organic food + cooperation with local producers;
- Direct buying groups (citizens initiative, mostly located in Riga and around it);
- Local farmers' markets (once or twice per week at evenings).

## Challenges in short supply chains

<ul> <li>Product market constraints</li> <li>product volumes</li> <li>product quality</li> <li>product price</li> <li>product availability throughout the year</li> <li>logistics</li> <li>territorial dispersion of companies</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Restrictions impeding cooperation</li> <li>mutual distrust of producers</li> <li>don't know local/surrounding producers for cooperation and better tender</li> <li>stakeholder attitude and willingness to cooperate (e.g. in green procurement)</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Legal and political constraints</li> <li>bureaucratic burden</li> <li>variable requirements</li> <li>political support for strengthening short food chains</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Limitations of information and knowledge</li> <li>lack of information and knowledge about green shopping procedures</li> <li>lack of information and knowledge about locally produced food</li> </ul>



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