



GRANULAR

PRACTICE ABSTRACT

Koszalin University of Technology (Research organisation)



Author: Kurdyś-Kujawska, Agnieszka (Koszalin University of Technology)

Editor: Iglesias, Maite (AEIDL); Ntabuhashe, Merveille (AEIDL)



Funded by
the European Union



UK Research
and Innovation

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Research Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them. UK participants in the GRANULAR project are supported by UKRI- Grant numbers 10039965 (James Hutton Institute) and 10041831 (University of Southampton).

The West Pomeranian Voivodeship, where **the Polish Living Lab** resides, is the **fifth-largest region** in Poland by size and the eleventh by population, with rural areas making up 94% of its land. The region leads the country in ecological agricultural land, but rural areas face **deagrarianisation due to declining agricultural employment, pushing labour towards non-agricultural sectors**. While agricultural productivity is high, the region struggles with **small local markets and limited access to essential services**, such as financial services. Rural areas also face challenges in adapting to **climate change, natural threats, and financial crises**, making it important to build resilient, connected communities for overall wellbeing.

The Living Lab in Poland is conducting research to understand the challenges faced by food producers and the interventions they use. This research involves a mixed-methods approach, including semi-structured questionnaires, in-depth interviews, and participatory observations. The goal is to collect both qualitative and quantitative **data on the socio-economic conditions of food producers, land use, agricultural productivity, and adaptation strategies**. Focus groups and interviews with key stakeholders will help identify the needs of food producers and potential solutions to their problems. The findings aim to inform policy, improve professional practices, and enhance the resilience of food producers, with recommendations for regional, national, and EU institutions focused on improving the economic situation of food producers.

WEST POMERANIA | Poland

Contact person:

Agnieszka Kurdyś-Kujawska

**agnieszka.kurdys-
kujawska@tu.koszalin.pl**

Thematic Priority:

- Food systemic features
- Land use system

More info:

https://www.ruralgranular.eu/living_lab/living-lab-poland-west-pomerania/v



The Polish Living Lab team during a workshop.

ABOUT THE LIVING LAB

The Living Lab West Pomerania operates in the West Pomeranian Voivodeship, located in northwestern Poland along the Baltic Sea and bordering Germany. It was established through the [Multi-Actor Platform Zachodniopomorskie](#), part of the SHERPA project. A key role in the Living Lab is held by researchers from Koszalin University of Technology, who collect and organize data and feedback from other participants.

OBJECTIVES

The Lab aims to identify challenges and opportunities for enhancing and solidifying short food supply chains in the region, as well as adapting food production and distribution methods to meet consumer expectations. The goal is to influence national and EU legislation to better support the strengthening of short supply chains. Key actors involved include researchers, policymakers, farmers, non-agricultural businesses, NGOs, and civil society.

Future activities will engage the rural community in developing effective solutions related to short supply chains and land use changes. The Lab will work to identify strategies for boosting the competitiveness of agricultural farms and food producers, while also creating evidence-based recommendations for regional and national decision-makers.

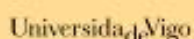
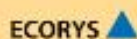
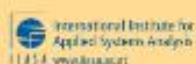
DATA TO BE COLLECTED

The Lab requires data on the factors influencing the functioning and development of short food supply chains. This will involve collecting statistics on farms and food producers in the region, reviewing national and EU policies related to short supply chains, and gathering examples of best practices. Additionally, the Lab will collect data on the structure of local marketplaces, trends, and innovations within short supply chains, as well as the level of smart services implemented on farms in the region.

Data sources will include the Central Statistical Office of Poland (particularly the Local Data Bank), the General Veterinary Inspectorate, the Farm Accountancy Data Network, and survey results. The tools and methods used will include desk research and survey-based research. Potential data gaps include the analysis of food producers' activities and market trends, such as the number of sales days, sales value, and overall sales efficiency.



GRANULAR



www.ruralgranular.eu