

Abstract

Territorially Embedded Food Systems as a Response to the Challenges of Globalization—Students Understanding, Current Status, Needs, and Expectations of University Education in This Subject Area: A Case from Poland [†]

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[†] Presented at the 14th European Nutrition Conference FENS 2023, Belgrade, Serbia, 14–17 November 2023.

Abstract: A concept of resilient, embedded food systems (EFS), environmentally, economically, culturally, socially, and historically linked to certain territories, has been recently gaining attention as a vital response to the globalization of food systems and all its associated challenges. Support for territories on their way to sustain or restore such community-centric, embedded food systems requires transdisciplinary knowledge and skills, and thus effective food system education, including higher education, has an important role to play. The GOODFOOD study looked into the students' interest in the topic of regional and territorial food systems and their opinion on the importance of certain elements of a food system that is embedded in a region or territory. Students were also asked about the presence of courses or topics related to territorially or regionally embedded food systems in their study programs, their opinion on the usefulness of such courses for their future employment, and the most demanded teaching methods that should be applied to study EFS topics. An online survey carried out among students of the Warsaw University of Life Sciences in Poland of selected study programs related to food science revealed that 70% of respondents are interested in the topic of regional food systems. At the same time, 50% of students have not had any courses related to territorial food systems in their study programs so far, even though over 70% think that such a course would be useful for their future employment. Interactive field trips and excursions, international courses (in a multicultural, international environment), interactive workshops, and cooperation with food system stakeholders (i.e., an internship in a food company) were among the most highly demanded teaching methods to study EFS.

Keywords: embedded food systems (EFS); GOODFOOD project; Erasmus+; regional and territorial food; teaching methods; education



Citation: Kopczyńska, K.; Górska-Walczak, R.; Kazimierczak, R.; Strassner, C.; Wezel, A.; Migliorini, P.; Średnicka-Tober, D. Territorially Embedded Food Systems as a Response to the Challenges of Globalization—Students Understanding, Current Status, Needs, and Expectations of University Education in This Subject Area: A Case from Poland. *Proceedings* **2023**, *91*, 304. <https://doi.org/10.3390/proceedings2023091304>

Academic Editors: Sladjana Sobajic and Philip Calder

Published: 8 February 2024



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Author Contributions: Conceptualization, C.S., A.W., P.M. and D.Ś.-T.; Methodology, K.K., R.K., C.S., A.W., P.M. and D.Ś.-T.; Validation, K.K.; Formal analysis, K.K., R.G.-W. and D.Ś.-T.; Investigation, K.K., R.G.-W., R.K., C.S., A.W., P.M. and D.Ś.-T.; Data curation, K.K., R.G.-W., D.Ś.-T.; Writing—original draft preparation, K.K., D.Ś.-T.; Writing—review and editing, K.K., R.G.-W., R.K., C.S., A.W., P.M. and D.Ś.-T.; supervision, D.Ś.-T.; project administration, D.Ś.-T.; funding acquisition, D.Ś.-T. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

Funding: This study was carried out within the GOODFOOD project “Good teaching practices in experiential learning for effective education in embedded food systems”, project no. 2020-1-PL01-KA203-082209 (<http://goodfood-project.eu/>) funded by the Erasmus+ Program of the European Union. The European Commission’s support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents, which reflect the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

Institutional Review Board Statement: Ethical review was waived for this study since the research was regarded as possessing no more than minimal risks to participants.

Informed Consent Statement: Not applicable.

Data Availability Statement: Data will be made available upon reasonable request by the corresponding author.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest. The funders had no role in the design of the study, in the collection, analyses, or interpretation of data, in the writing of the manuscript, or in the decision to publish the results.

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