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## The sustainability performance of local and global wheat-to-bread chains across Italy and UK

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There are a growing number of consumers concerned with the impacts of their consumption choices including how choice affects their health, people and environment. Local food supply chains are considered by policy and decision makers in government, industry and civil society organizations for their potential to overcome the drawbacks of global and more industrialized chains. Opposition between local and global food systems is being questioned and distinctions are not always unambiguous. How does sustainability performance vary in relation to local and global food supply chains? What characterizes difference? Within the EU 7FP Glamur project, distinctions between local and global supply chains are articulated based on: Geographical distance; governance and organization; resources, knowledge and technologies and territorial identity. From this assessment, global, regional and local wheat-to-bread supply chains were selected for case study research in Italy and the UK. Key attributes were identified and indicators were selected in order to measure the performance of the supply chains along the global-local continuum within five sustainability dimensions (economic, social, environmental, health and ethical). This paper develops a comparative assessment of the wheat-to-bread supply chains. Using a participatory approach, the research process entails three methodological steps: first, we explore stakeholders' perspectives on sustainability of local and global bread supply chains and assess the contribution of supply chains of different lengths towards sustainability. Then we identify the most relevant dimensions and the correlations, trade-offs, dilemmas between them. Finally we highlight cross-cutting issues between the sub-sets across Italy and the UK and emerging thematic questions and priorities for further in-depth investigation.

### Biography

Julie Smith is a Research Fellow at the Centre for Food Policy, City University London. She has a PhD in Human Geography and MSc in Food Policy. She works on EU (Framework 7) projects that focus on sustainable food production and consumption and has been conducting research on the UK wheat-to-bread supply chain for comparative analysis with Italy as part of the EU funded GLAMUR project.

### Notes: