

Petra HENCELOVÁ <sup>\*</sup>, František KRIŽAN <sup>\*</sup>, Kristína BILKOVÁ <sup>\*\*</sup>

## FARMERS' MARKETS AND COMMUNITY GARDENS IN SLOVAKIA: HOW DO TOWN AUTHORITIES APPROACH THESE PHENOMENA?

**Abstract.** The aim of the paper is to evaluate alternative food networks (farmers' markets and community gardens) in Slovak towns in order to determine the views of town self-governing authorities. Data was collected through a questionnaire sent to representatives of towns. The results have shown that only 39% of towns regularly organise farmers' markets but, overall, 52% of towns support or plan to support their organisation. There are a total of 40 community gardens in 17 towns, mainly in the west of Slovakia. The paper discusses the ways in which Slovak towns support alternative food networks.

**Key words:** farmers' markets, community gardens, Slovakia, town authorities.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Alternative models of consumption have been developed against the conventional model in which there is a longer supply chain between producers and consumers (producer → wholesale → retail → consumer). The aim of alternative consump-

---

\* Petra HENCELOVÁ, František KRIŽAN, Comenius University in Bratislava, Department of Regional Geography and Regional Development, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Ilkovičova 6, 842 15 Bratislava, Slovakia; e-mails: [hencelova10@uniba.sk](mailto:hencelova10@uniba.sk), [frantisek.krizan@uniba.sk](mailto:frantisek.krizan@uniba.sk) ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2336-059X>, <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4969-4587>

\*\* Kristína BILKOVÁ, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Institute of Geography, Štefánikova 49, 814 73 Bratislava, Slovakia; e-mail: [kristina.bilkova@savba.sk](mailto:kristina.bilkova@savba.sk), ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8912-4450>