



Case Study – SUPERCOOP Bremen (Germany)

Local Markets through Participation:
 The SUPERCOOP Bremen Approach





Who We Are



- Participatory supermarket cooperative founded in 2023 officially registered as a cooperative since May 2025 (eG, a German legal form for democratic enterprises)
- Inspired by Food Coop (New York), La Louve (Paris),
 SuperCoop Berlin, FoodHub Munich & Kollektiv (Cologne)
- Located in Bremen | Germany | currently 280 members
- Operated and owned by its members: everyone contributes



Our Mission

- Build community-based food supply systems
- Strengthen regional food chains
- Combine voluntary work (3 hours/monthly), cooperative governance (1 member=1 Vote) and professionalism
- Ensure fair access to organic, affordable and local food



How We Source Locally (examples)

- Regionalwert AG Bremen/Weser-Ems: links to organic producers
- Small producers like Hof Kämena (milk, yogurt, ice cream)
- Owner-run bakeries and food manufacturers
- NKK Bremen: regional organic wholesaler at Bremen wholesale market



Role of NaturKost Kontor Bremen

- Cooperative organic wholesaler
- Bundles products from small farms and deliver to us
- Reduces transport and strengthens logistics
- Enables efficient, fair regional distribution



Local Markets – Our Perspective

- Community infrastructure
- Practicing food democracy
- Anchoring solidarity-based economies
- Strengthening regional resilience



Next Steps (2025)

- Store opening in late Summer 2025
- 'Dry run' in July with member teams
- Set up shift planning & coordination tools
- Grow regional producer partnerships
- Exchange with other national & European coops



Challenges & Lessons

Challenge: Fragmented logistics → Bundling via NKK Bremen

Challenge: Low awareness → Community education, tastings

Challenge: Bureaucracy → Legal support from networks

Challenge: Need for participation → Coordinator system



Our added value for GRAINS

Urban cooperative food system in practice

- Member-run supermarket in Bremen
- Bridging ethical values and operations

Real-life test case for local markets

- Direct sourcing + regional wholesale (e.g. NKK)
- Transparent producer relationships

Part of national innovation networks

- Practice partner in WERTSCHÄTZEN (BMBF project)
- Connected to national food transformation strategy

Platform for exchange

• Sharing tools and insights with the GRAINS network





Thank you for your attention!

Feel free to reach out if you want to learn more, collaborate — or visit us in Bremen!





Contact

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