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Researcher understanding of food innovations in Nordic and Southern European countries: A systematic literature review.

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2 **systematic literature review**

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16
17 **Abstract**

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19 Background:

20 The capability of agro-food firms to innovate positively influences their profits and growth.
21 Accordingly, the literature has tried to comprehend innovation phenomena occurring within the
22 agri-food industry which generates high levels of economic output and employment in the European
23 Union. Nonetheless, innovation in the food industry is deeply affected by cultural heritage, habits,
24 and institutional contexts. Europe's considerable cultural variation causes different innovations in
25 different regions. The most evident disparities in food cultures and gastronomic approaches have
26 been observed between Nordic and Southern European countries. Despite ample interest in
27 comparing these two European areas, few studies in the food innovation literature have adopted a
28 comparative approach.

29 Scope and Approach:

30 The authors aim to identify the main research streams that study food innovations in Nordic and
31 Southern European countries, as well as the results provided by researchers. To achieve these
32 objectives, we conducted a systematic literature review of 67 articles in the food innovation field.

33 Key Findings and Conclusions:

34 The review recognises six main research streams along which the academic literature has organised
35 its debate: innovation acceptance, innovation policy initiatives, innovation networks, innovation in
36 traditional food products, alternative food systems, and convention theory. The authors discuss the
37 results emerging from each research stream and also the different patterns that emerge in the
38 literature between Nordic and Southern countries of Europe.

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40 **Keywords**

41 Food, innovation, Nordic European countries, Southern European countries, literature review.

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44 **commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.**

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