



BORDEAUX FRANCE

Title of Practice

BORDEAUX: A FOOD COUNCIL REVITALIZING LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION

Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Category
FOOD PRODUCTION

Main impacts on other
MUFPP categories



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Context

The metropolitan area of Bordeaux, comprising 28 municipalities and 787 107 inhabitants, has seen the **loss of an agricultural green belt** that nourished the city in the past, resulting in a reduced supply of locally-produced food. To reverse this trend, the food system of the Bordeaux metropolitan area needed to be redesigned, taking into account territorial agroecosystems and the connections between needs and expectations of the local population and the specific potential of food production areas. This redesign effort had to consider the impact of different options on issues within its jurisdiction such as employment, health, environment, energy transition, urban densification and solidarity with food producing communities.

This has led to the formation of a **comprehensive food policy** taking into consideration product quality, appropriate business and partnership models including fair prices for producers, distribution logistics, consumer education and reduction of food waste among other priorities. Given the importance of Bordeaux Métropole in the region, changes in food consumption within the city can represent a leverage for change in the regional food system. The need for an institutional approach resulted in the creation of a **Food Policy Council**, established in May 2017 through a vote of the Metropolitan Council and officially launched on 19 October 2017 with more than **130 territorial stakeholders**.

Overview of the food practice

The Food Policy Council promotes a comprehensive approach to food systems governance by involving a diversity of stakeholders and focusing on many different issues linked to food. Its main purposes are:

- guaranteeing a place for sustainable food systems in the metropolitan strategy;
- enhancing the complementarity of competences between different administrative levels and stakeholders in the local food system; and
- offering avenues for public authorities to promote and support local initiatives for a sustainable food system.

The final aim of the Food Policy Council is to revitalize the food system by creating sustainable links between **rural and urban territories** and to allow everybody to have access to healthy and sustainable food.

The Energy, Ecology and Sustainable Development Department of Bordeaux Métropole transversally engages with municipal and external stakeholders. Numerous internal and external collaborations have helped mobilize a large network of stakeholders from civil society and the private sector. These partnerships are based on **trust and reciprocity** which enhances the impact and support for

the project. Professional associations, humanitarian and charity organizations, private sector stakeholders, professional trainers, consumer groups, and metropolitan council members are involved in the process that is both territorial and participatory.

The **Food Policy Council** is managed by four elected representatives, with members organized in five groups of stakeholders according to areas of competence. Interaction between members of these five groups is organized through four working groups, focusing on:

1. Access for all citizens to a sustainable and quality food supply
2. Reducing food waste
3. Reinforcing the agricultural and food capacity of our territory
4. Relocating food chains and encouraging short food supply chains

The Food Policy Council engages different departments in Bordeaux Métropole including the High Quality of Life General department, the Sustainable Development, Nature, Economic Development, Waste Management and Green Spaces services. A "metropolitan health contract" also includes food as a critical determinant of healthy lifestyles.

Results and lessons learned

Bordeaux Métropole is currently creating **benchmark indicators** to evaluate the governance impacts of the Food Policy Council. These include indicators to assess the role of partnerships on the governance of the territorial food system using participatory data collection. Indicators are being defined for each thematic priority and shared with citizens to help monitor and assess the impact of the Food Policy Council on the local food system. The Food Policy Council was created on a trial basis for three years and the evaluation of indicators will help its members to better define modalities of territorial food system governance.

The first output of the initiative is to guarantee social and economic **equity** among different food actors and stakeholders from producers to consumers, through evaluating economic capacities of different actors. The second output concerns the **health** of people, including those in need, and how they benefit from an improved diet. Shorter food chains can enhance product traceability and reduce transport emissions and costs, contributing to Bordeaux Métropole's strategy for a High Quality of Life. Support is also given to **small-scale producers** creating local employment. Food waste reduction is also integrated in the metropolitan area. Revitalizing the food system will generate health, equity and wellness impacts, contributing to the strengthening of **local democracy**. Bordeaux Métropole is committed to evaluating the consequences of its strategy in the metropolitan area. In addition, Bordeaux is exploring interventions that extend beyond territorial borders in order to institute an innovative approach in governing **rural-urban linkages**.



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