Insights from French cities: how to implement a local food strategy and what are the benefits of city-to-city cooperation mechanisms

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TEL AVIV 2018

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Vice-President with special responsibility for agroecology and sustainable food
MONTPELLIER, A MEDITERRANEAN METROPOLE

- 465,000 residents in an urban area of 1 million
- # 1st metropole in France for population growth
- # 1st metropole in France for job creation rate
Two-thirds natural spaces and farmland

Mediterranean crops, important share taken up by viticulture

A scientific community at the global level:

- 2,800 researchers
- 15 international research bodies
- Headquarters of CGIAR (Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research), the world’s largest agricultural research partnership: 10,000 scientists worldwide
AGROECOLOGY AND FOOD

A FOUNDING PILLAR OF THE METROPOLE

One ambition
Make food healthy, local and accessible for all

Strategic aims

- Co-establish a shared regional agroecological and food governance structure
- Reclaim land to support local food production of good quality
- Organise the supply and distribution of sustainable food in the city
- Place education at the centre of the food policy
- Share knowledge and innovation
CO-ESTABLISH A SHARED TERRITORIAL AGRO-ECOLOGICAL AND FOOD GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

- Establish **territorial cooperation** between urban and rural areas
- A partnership between **31 Mayors** for a shared policy
- Put the **civil society and farmers** at the centre of projects
A scientific community that is a stakeholder in the Metropole’s projects and a driver for innovation through research

Recognition from the French government: a ‘Regional Food Project’ labelling system
RECLAIM LAND TO SUPPORT LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION OF GOOD QUALITY

A territorial project to preserve a sustainable balance in land use:

- Two-thirds natural spaces and farmland
- One-third urban space/to urbanise

An archipelago of agroecological “resource” farms.
ORGANISE THE SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION OF SUSTAINABLE FOOD IN THE CITY

The central role of the National Interest Market Mercadis

An urban distribution center for local food products

A local public service, moving towards a sustainable Mediterranean food hub

Development of a regional goods logistics and transport system
PLACE
EDUCATION
AT THE CENTRE OF
THE FOOD POLICY

Local school food initiatives to explain the health and education objectives and ensure social equity in terms of access to good food.

Quality objective: 50% of organic and local supply in collective catering in 2020.

Since 2016, a 24% drop in waste.
SHARE KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION

- A local innovation ecosystem for agroecology and food: from research to technological innovation

- A cluster of Foodtech and Agritech start-ups with the Business Innovation Center, ranked n°2 worldwide (ubiglobal)

- Produce and enrich knowledge and local, Mediterranean and international practices
ENGAGEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

- **International cooperative agreements** in every continent: Rio de Janeiro, Chengdu, Barcelona, Palermo, Fès and more

- Montpellier Méditerranée Métropole, partner to the **Let’s Food Cities project** with the **city of Fès** in the Mediterranean area

- **Common objectives around environmental protection** and food systems
Facing the same challenges than Fès: a mediterranean area, climate change, food supply and land use

A partnership with universities and research: SupAgro, the University of Montpellier and the UNESCO Chair
SAVE THE DATE

Territorial Summit on Agroecology & Sustainable Alimentation

Montpellier, France
February 5-6 2019

THANK YOU