

City	
Country	Berlin Germany
Population	3,634,069
Title of policy or practice	Berlin isst so - Unsere Ernährungsstrategie (That's How Berlin Eats – Our Food Strategy)
Subtitle (optional)	A food strategy for Berlin
URL video	<a href="https://www.berlin.de/sen/verbraucherschutz/ernaehrungsstrategie/artikel.790325.php">https://www.berlin.de/sen/verbraucherschutz/ernaehrungsstrategie/artikel.790325.php</a>
Category	Governance
SDGs	SDGs: 3,4,9,11,12,13,15,17.  The Berlin Food Strategy is a wide-ranging action plan with action fields concerning communal catering, urban-rural linkages, promotion of sustainable innovations, lively and productive districts, food education, reduction of food waste, the role model function of public administration and transparency for consumers. Thus, it addresses several SDGs with "Responsible Consumption" and "Sustainable Cities and Communities" being the most directly involved.
Brief description	Following the signing of the MUFPP, the Berlin Senate Administration for Justice, Consumer Protection and Antidiscrimination with its Food Unit has set out to transform Berlin food policy together with the Food Policy Council <i>Ernährungsrat Berlin</i> . The Berlin Food Strategy is intended to help develop Berlin's food policy toward more regionality, sustainability, fairness and healthy food for all, regardless of the budget. This is important in light of Berlin's citizens increasing demand for organic and regional food. In a participatory process, a first draft of an action plan was developed in two separate meeting groups: the plenum, with actors from civil society, academia, research and the food industry and the council board, with actors from Berlin Senate administrations, district administrations and selected Brandenburg ministries. Based on this action plan the Food Unit has drawn up a senate proposal which is currently being revised in consultation with other administrations. The action plan identifies fields of action, goals and measures with which the transformation process will be initiated. The fields of action are concerned with public procurement, rural-urban linkages, regional value promotion, promotion of a sustainable food systems, productive neighborhoods, food education, food waste reduction, the role model function of administrations and transparency for consumers. They show that food is a cross-cutting issue covering numerous policy areas, from environmental protection, social policy, health, economic development, food education in schools to agriculture and urban planning. Therefore, a cross-departmental development and implementation of the food strategy is necessary. The implementation of the strategy is a constantly evolving process in which administrations, science, civil society initiatives and associations and local food industry actors contribute their ideas, visions and needs for creating a sustainable urban food system in Berlin.
Date of start and state (ongoing/completed)	04/2018 Ongoing
Actors and stakeholders involvement	Lead department: Consumer Protection. Other departments involved are Economy, Urban Planning, Environment, Education and Health. District administrations and relevant Brandenburg ministries are also participating. The participatory process engaged local stakeholders from civil society, food industry, science and academia. The main civil society collaborator is the civil-society led Food Policy Council <i>Ernährungsrat Berlin</i> . Process facilitators were two service providers, <i>Nahhaft e.V.</i> and <i>Netzwerk X</i> .
Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2016/2017: Mentioning of Berlin Food Strategy in guidelines of the government policy;</li> <li>2017/2018: Allocation of a budget for the strategy development;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2018: Commission of a consultant team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- consultation with <i>Ernährungsrat Berlin</i></li> <li>- 6-month participatory development process with 3 plenum and 2 council board meetings leading to first strategy draft with recommendations;</li> </ul> </li> <li>● 2019: public mixed-actor update and feedback meeting;</li> <li>● 2019: Revision of strategy draft in consultation with other administrations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Innovation</b></p>	<p>Berlin is the first German city to develop an urban food strategy, thus taking on a pioneering role. Other German cities have already started a similar process following Berlin's example. This strategy is not implemented with a top-down approach but with a bottom-up, participatory, multistakeholder process including actors from private and public institutions, from across the food supply chain and from different levels of government. Never before has there been a municipally endorsed program in Berlin which made food a priority like the Berlin Food Strategy does now. It highlights not only what is already done by the city administrations but shows what the city plans for the future. With food being such a cross-cutting topic, a variety of administrations need to be and are involved. Hence, the Administration for Consumer Protection committed itself to fostering inter- and cross-departmental collaboration in an administrative environment where such cooperation is rather uncommon. The administration also engages in a collaborative governance arrangement with civil society actors in order to pursue its goal to set in motion the sustainable transformation of the Berlin food system. In other cities, usually the Mayor's office or the departments for Health, Urban Planning or Environment have taken on the task of developing an urban food strategy. In Berlin it is the department for Economic Consumer Protection, together with the <i>Ernährungsrat Berlin</i>, which in itself is a novelty.</p>
<p><b>Impact</b></p>	<p>The food strategy has eight pillars, many of which are concerned with generating social and economic equity for vulnerable citizen groups. One of the main pillars of the Berlin Food Strategy is public procurement and communal catering, which are big levers of the state sector to cater for people who eat in public institutions including schools, hospitals and prisons. A good catering offer with fresh, organic, regionally sourced products for all Berliners represents an important cornerstone for more social justice, as especially children across the whole city can be reached with this program. Other pillars that are expected to have a social impact are lively and productive neighbourhoods and food education. The support of neighbourhood food hubs and urban gardens, which are places for meeting, sharing, growing, cooking together and experimenting, will contribute to the liveliness and social integration in the neighbourhoods and can support a healthy diet. An explicit goal is to introduce these hubs in areas which are socially disadvantaged. Furthermore, food and consumer education, another pillar, will benefit those, who do not have the chance to receive this kind of education at home. Pillars concerned with the promotion of organic and regional agriculture and procurement are expected to have an impact on the environment and the regional economy. Since the projects of the strategy are still in process no impact measurement and no quantitative data can be presented at this point.</p>
<p><b>Inclusion</b></p>	<p>The Berlin Food Strategy fields of action and measures address a wide range of topics, including thematic, territorial and social inclusion. All categories of the MUFPP (Governance, Sustainable Diets and Nutrition, Social and Economic Equity, Food Production, Food Supply and Distribution, Food Waste) are integrated in the strategy action plan. In its development and implementation, while the Administration for Justice, Consumer Protection and Antidiscrimination has the lead, with its unit dealing with food topics, other departments are involved, namely the department for Economy, the department for Environment, the department for Urban development/planning, the department for Education, the department for Health and the one for Finances. Furthermore, the relevant ministries of the surrounding rural region Brandenburg (Ministry for Economy; Consumer Protection; rural Development, Environment and Agriculture) have been involved in the process, as food production creates links between the two states and is a topic that strongly affects the whole metropolitan region. Moreover, 31 civil society and private sector actors have been involved in the development process of the food strategy, creating the draft version with recommendations for the further development for the Berlin Senate Administration. Far and foremost, the citizen-led</p>

food policy council *Ernährungsrat Berlin*, a platform for various local food system actors, has been a collaboration partner in the strategy development.

**Adversity coefficient**

- Team size: The "food unit" inside the administration for Consumer Protection is very small. There are only two staff members exclusively working with food themes. One of the two positions was created during the strategy development process, as it became clear that additional manpower was needed to cover the growing amount of work in relation with the strategy. The small team receives selective support by other colleagues as needed. Additional administrative staff working exclusively on food topics could further benefit the unit;
- Time: The participation process in the strategy development led by the external service providers was set on six months in the tender. During the process, this turned out to be an ambitious schedule. Both, organizers and participants expressed that more time could have positively contributed to the process outcomes and action plan inputs. Nevertheless, the strategy is in a continuous development process and it can potentially be adapted and updated;
- Service Providers: The service providers who provided scientific and strategic guidance during the participation process facilitated the development and the communication between civil society, academic and food industry actors and administrative staff. In hindsight, the process could have benefited from a greater understanding of administrative procedures and processes from the side of the service providers;
- Administrative structures: As a city state, Berlin's administrative structure is even more complex than in "normal" local authorities: the administration is more split up than in other cities. This structure brings particular challenges. Furthermore, being the pioneer in this field in Germany also meant that there was no comparison to learn from. During the process, the aim was to always have actors from all administrative levels involved, meaning the districts, the city administrations as well as actors from Brandenburg ministries;
- Cross departmental collaboration: Another challenge was spreading the motivation to develop a food strategy across other departments, to raise awareness of its necessity and of its cross-cutting nature across the administrative boundaries of the Food Unit. However, thanks to the permanent exchange of the food unit staff and the continuous communication process there is good progress in this area. As such, there is a growing realization that the food strategy requires inter-/cross-departmental collaboration and there is an increasing commitment to do so.