

<b>City Bergamo</b>	
<b>Country</b>	Italy
<b>Population</b>	120,923
<b>Title of policy or practice</b>	Bergamo Food Policy Council
<b>Subtitle (optional)</b>	
<b>URL video</b>	
<b>Category</b>	Governance
<b>SDGs</b>	<p>SDGs: 2,10,12,17.</p> <p>Bergamo Food Policy Council practice addresses the following SDGs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. 17 Partnership for the Goals, promoting a network and trying to solve common challenges.</li> <li>• No. 12 Responsible Consumption, raising awareness on this topic.</li> <li>• No. 2 No Hunger and No. 10 Reduced Inequalities, identifying solutions in order to set a fairer and more sustainable urban food system.</li> </ul>
<b>Brief description</b>	<p>Food is becoming an increasingly disputed issue in both the Global North and the Global South. Food security is a central factor influencing the everyday life of people living in urban areas.</p> <p>Indeed, cities, often pressured by citizens' demands to improve access to safer and healthier food, have started experimenting new approaches aimed at limiting the environmental and social impact of the dominant agro-food system. This latter has been identified as the main responsible to some paradoxes which have affected the contemporary society, especially with regard to the increasing number of people undernourished or affected by obesity or overweight, the loss of agrobiodiversity, and the increase of food waste. In an attempt to rethink and try to solve these issues, at least at local level, some Municipalities began to adopt participatory approaches starting with the establishment of a Food Policy Council (FPC). Such strategy is based on the involvement of all food actors to experiment innovative solutions to solve the problems arising from the conventional agro-food system.</p> <p>Bergamo Food Policy grew out of this debate with the goal of identifying ideas and practical solutions to improve the urban food quality. Its mission is to provide healthier and more sustainable food that adequately remunerates all actors engaged in the food supply chain. At the same time, the idea is to set up initiatives in the fields of education, urban agriculture, local revitalization and local agribusiness within the local territory.</p> <p>The Municipality of Bergamo is leading the process and coordinating the different actors of the FPC.</p> <p>Bringing all the food actors together has been the first step in order to share knowledge, establishing a public forum of discussion and to identify food policy strategies for the local territory. Networking collaboration is the key factor that allow to strengthen the results of already existing practices and to improve their effectiveness.</p>
<b>Date of start and state (ongoing/completed)</b>	01/2015 Ongoing
<b>Actors and stakeholders involvement</b>	Bergamo FPC is chaired by the Mayor of the Municipality and involves different actors: Slow Food Bergamo, researchers of the University of Bergamo, the two main agricultural entrepreneurs representatives (Coldiretti, Confagricoltura), local farming producers delegates (BioDistretto, Mercato&Cittadinanza), professionals (Bergamo Botanical Garden), citizen associations and other relevant stakeholders (Bergamo Chamber of Commerce, Aspan, Parco dei Colli, InfoSOSterribile

	and Oikos cooperative).
<b>Approach</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2007 “Sustainable Citizenship” forum involves fair-trade producer and consumer associations, Slow Food, environmental organizations;</li> <li>• 2007-2014 the University starts to gather the grassroots consumer organizations, local producers, entrepreneur’s representatives and the Municipality, building the creation of a council;</li> <li>• 2015 involved actors periodically meet and work on the local food system under the leadership of the Municipality;</li> <li>• 2017 formal creation of FPC and MUFPP subscription.</li> </ul>
<b>Innovation</b>	<p>The FPC participatory approach contributes to create effective and innovative solutions facing global food challenges, improving the access to safer and healthier food, ensuring sustainable food production systems and agricultural practices.</p> <p>Bergamo FPC represents a meeting place and a forum of discussion bringing together different requests, on one hand the increased citizens' attention to food related issues, on the other, the role of the public administrations trying to ensure a sustainable strategy to meet those needs.</p> <p>The strength of this practice is the mutual exchange based on a face-to-face discussion among actors already working in the food sector but that have never cooperated together.</p> <p>Mutual exchange of perspectives and face-to-face encounters among all the actors working on the local territory is the innovative solution that Bergamo put in practice, fostering thus their cooperation and increasing the effectiveness of their collective action.</p> <p>The coordinating role of the Municipality of Bergamo ensures that the FPC's proposals will be part of a strategic framework of action providing their sustainability over the years.</p>
<b>Impact</b>	<p>The FPC's social impact is not directly evident, but it can be measured by its capacity to develop new urban initiatives and to support them in the start-up phase by taking on a role as an incubator of innovative practices.</p> <p>The possibility to develop concrete networking actions allowed to bring together knowledge and resources giving relevance to the daily action of each actor.</p> <p>Thanks to the heterogeneous FPC composition, the discussed issues are enriched by all different perspective coming from the transversal partnership. This makes FPC a crucial place where the representatives of local businesses and producers can make their voices heard and take the cue to replicate practices allowing greater economic savings and ensuring environmental benefits.</p> <p>Bringing together the various stakeholders and developing shared food policies have a general impact on the urban area and its citizens. Indeed, a strategic vision on food policy, aimed at preventing food waste and enhancing local production, enables citizens to ensure fairer access to food focusing also on the most vulnerable groups.</p> <p>Moreover, in recent years, the involved actors have assumed the role of citizenship education by organizing initiatives aimed at raising awareness on food issues.</p> <p>Bergamo Green platform has provided citizens with a useful tool in order to be informed on short chain food supply and production points supporting local economy and producing environmental benefits (transport, food waste, etc.).</p>
<b>Inclusion</b>	<p>The main aspect of social inclusion of FPC is built by rethinking the relationship between food and its territory and moving from a vertical to a horizontal relational approach and thus creating a</p>

network.

From Solidarity Buying Groups, to zero kilometre supply circuits going through the enhancement of local and fair production, the process involves all urban area leading to the study of new forms of governance and participation of organizations, public authority and citizens including the enhancement of territorial excellence in the network.

Bergamo FPC is based on a multilevel governance approach, involving not only the private sector - local food producers - but also the civil society organizations, already rooted in the territory. Each stakeholder brings their specific expertise creating a forum of discussion and decision where all the food chain players are represented: producers, sellers, researchers, consumers and local administration.

Also within the territorial government, different departments give their contributions with their specific expertise: under the leadership of the Mayor, who is entitled to define the guidelines of FPC, the support of relevant departments is extremely important in order to take into account all the aspects of the solutions developed. In particular, the Botanical Garden Lorenzo Rota, the municipality's Departments of Environment and European Planning are involved.

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**Adversity coefficient**

Food is becoming a world increasingly disputed issue. Food security and food sovereignty are still influencing the everyday life of almost 1 billion people in the world. Indeed, the agro-industrial food system presents several emergencies and negative externalities which have been affecting people, the environment, and both global and local economy.

To face this scenario, the cities, often pressured by citizens' demands to improve access to safer and healthier food, have started to experiment new approaches to limit the environmental and social impact of the dominant agro-food system. This latter has been identified as the main responsible to some paradoxes which have affected the contemporary society, especially with regard to the increasing number of people undernourished or affected by obesity or overweight, the loss of agrobiodiversity and the increase of food waste.

In November 2017 it was calculated that just in Bergamo a considerable amount of food is thrown away each year (about 17,400 tons). A solution to those challenges has been identified in the participatory approach developed at local level through the FPC guided by the Municipality of Bergamo.

Such strategy is aimed at implementing innovative solutions enhancing the involvement of all the food chain actors. This is an attempt to: ensure access to healthy food for all the citizens, promote a sustainable food system, spread a culture of conscious consumption, reduce food waste and support agri-food research.