

City Montpellier	
Country	France
Population	Municipality 285,000 – Metropolis 500,000
Title of policy or practice	Coconstruire une gouvernance partagée territoriale (Co-constructing shared territorial governance)
Subtitle (optional)	A partnership among 31 Mayors, strengthened territorial cooperation between urban and rural areas, civil society and farmers
URL video	https://www.chaireunesco-adm.com/Reportage-sur-la-P2A-de-la-Metropole-de-Montpellier
Category	Governance
SDGs	SDGs: 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 11, 12,13, 14, 15, 17
Brief description	<p>From the beginning of the term of office of the President and Mayor Philippe Saurel in 2014, the aim was to co-construct the agro-ecological and food policy with the 31 municipalities and their elected representatives, within the <i>Pacte de confiance 2014-2020</i> ("Confidence Pact 2014-2020"). This pact was developed and implemented to ensure the sovereignty of Mayors and thus confirm a strong involvement of all municipalities in the decisions taken in the Metropolis.</p> <p>Montpellier has come closer to the surrounding municipalities in order to set up collaborations on common issues. The theme "Agroecology and Food" is a major component of inter-territorial cooperation.</p> <p>Since 2014, the network of agricultural partners has grown, leading to the signing of fifteen partnership agreements, including that with the Hérault Chamber of Agriculture (three-year agreement). Partnerships have also been formed with the regional inter-professional association OcéBio (<i>Occitanie Entreprises BIO</i>) and INPACT [Initiative for a Sustainable and Territorial Agriculture].</p> <p>Moreover, the Metropolis can count on 2,800 researchers gathered into Agropolis International. The partnership has three major goals: local supply of the urban area, agricultural and agri-food innovation and collaborative governance.</p> <p>In Montpellier, there are many local initiatives with regard to food and agro-ecology, supported by associations, experts, researchers/teachers or local authorities. The collaborative working groups converged on setting up a "BoCal" collaborative platform ("<i>bon et local</i>" – "healthy and local"): it includes a shared agenda, a geolocalized mapping of points of sale and markets, news, resource locations...</p> <p>The Chart for the Agro-ecological Transition and Sustainable Food (<i>Charte pour la Transition Agroécologique et l'Alimentation Durable</i>), co-written by the partners, confirms a common focus and the willingness of everyone to include these themes in their actions.</p>
Date of start and state (ongoing/completed)	06/2015 Ongoing
Actors and stakeholders involvement	<i>Communauté de communes du Grand Pic Saint Loup, Pays de l'Or, Hérault Chamber of Agriculture, OCEBIO, INPACT, CIVAM Bio 34, Boutiques Paysannes, Marché d'Intérêt National, Terre et Humanisme, Agropolis International, Montpellier SupAgro, INRA (National Institute for Agricultural Research), CIRAD (International Cooperation Centre on Agrarian Research for Development), Unesco Chair Alimentations du Monde, ADEME (French Environment and Energy</i>

	Management Agency), supermarkets (<i>Métropole Durable</i> Pact of May 2016)...
Approach	<p>April 2015: Preview report co-written by a multidisciplinary group of researchers as a consequence of workshops with elected representatives.</p> <p>June 2015: Unanimous vote of the Metropolitan Council on the reference framework for Agro-ecological and Food Policy.</p> <p>2019: Progressive transition from an institutional policy to a territorial policy.</p>
Innovation	<p>From the outset, this public policy is intended to be open and inclusive in partnership with the agricultural profession, civil society and research. It is based on a territorial diagnosis commissioned by the community with INRA, which has led a partnership approach (elected representatives, agents and multidisciplinary researchers) to help the community build an agricultural and food policy (2015 vote on the reference framework in the Metropolitan Council). Unlike other municipalities, the Metropolis has made the deliberate choice not to submit itself to a thorough and exhaustive diagnosis but to experiment, to learn from its actions as it moves forward. Built through concrete actions, this public policy leads the community all together without prioritizing anyone, thus giving them a systemic dimension.</p> <p>In 2019, a large number of partners (external, Metropolitan and City departments) joined the initiative of the Metropolitan Area to build the “project tree” for the agro-ecological transition and sustainable nutrition. The branches represent the axes of politics; the soil is its base. This project review is currently being developed in digital and paper format (booklet).</p> <p>This transversal policy is based on other public policy areas in which the Metropolis is involved: development, urban planning, biodiversity, raw and drinking water, risk management, citizen participation, education, public health, etc.</p>
Impact	<p>Environmental, social and economic impacts.</p> <p>The working groups together with the actors of the agricultural and food ecosystem and with the surrounding areas converged on implementing the "BoCal" collaborative platform (“bon et local” – “healthy and local”): it includes a shared agenda, a geolocalized mapping of points of sale and markets, news, resource locations. A part of the community is already involved in the subject, but this project also raises awareness among the less convinced inhabitants of the area, getting them to know the food and event offer of agro-ecological initiatives and to engage in a transition process.</p> <p>In order to understand the commitment of the points of sale toward a transition approach, the metropolitan area is working with its partners to develop a self-diagnosis tool for the platform. The progress made every year will be significant and a range of actions will be implemented to facilitate its engagement. The BoCal platform and the self-diagnosis are based on the Chart for Transition and Sustainable Food (<i>Charte pour la Transition et l'Alimentation Durable</i>).</p> <p>Co-written by the partners, this chart confirms a shared goal based on common definitions and everyone's desire to include nutrition. The commitments concern: the transition process, circular economy, responsible production, sustainable sourcing, responsible consumption and the transmission of knowledge. It will be signed by all partners in 2019.</p>
Inclusion	<p>Thematic inclusion: this transversal policy is based on other fields of public policy in which the Metropolis is involved: development, urban planning and public spaces, biodiversity conservation, raw and drinking water, risk management, waste prevention and management, city logistics, economic development, integration through the economy, social cohesion, citizen participation, solidarity & education, public health, tourism...</p> <p>Territorial inclusion: The metropolis plays its role as a public institution for intercommunal cooperation (<i>établissement public de coopération intercommunale – EPCI</i>). The aim was to co-construct public agro-ecological and food policy with the municipalities and their elected representatives, within the Confidence Pact 2014-2020.</p>

Montpellier has come closer to the surrounding municipalities in order to set up collaborations on common issues: they result from matters that need to be understood and dealt with relevance and are based on a continuity of living spaces, among housing, work, leisure and collective action of the inhabitants.

Social inclusion: Citizens, associations, experts, researchers/teachers, communities and economic partners are stakeholders in food and agro-ecology work. The transition is represented by the collaborative platform BoCal, under license from CC by SA: it allows locals to learn about the food and event offers of agro-ecological initiatives.

Adversity coefficient

In terms of economic development and employment, the Metropolitan area has been characterized by a particularly contrasting situation for many years. Economic maturity and dynamism are reflected in high and constant rates of business and job creation compared to those of other metropolitan areas. Nevertheless, unemployment and precarious employment rates are among the highest in France's metropolitan areas.

The City's policy concentrates 12 priority districts where difficulties are accumulated (low level of qualifications, activity rate lower than average and higher unemployment rates than the rest of the area) (INSEE 2015 data). Observers explain that this situation was caused by the extraordinary demographic development that the area has experienced over the past several decades.

Food insecurity is one of the consequences of this poverty. To guarantee a good quality meal for children during lunch, the City of Montpellier has adapted its school canteens pricing system by adjusting it according to household income (CAF). As a consequence, 70% of households pay less than €2 per meal for lunch in school canteens (see MONTPELLIER_MPA2019_Food Supply and Distribution).