



MILAN  
URBAN  
FOOD  
POLICY  
PACT

CONFERENCE

# THE POWER OF PUBLIC FOOD PROCUREMENT

THE TRANSFORMATIVE POTENTIAL OF  
SCHOOL MEALS FOR CHILDREN AGED 1-16

17 - 18 JUNE 2024 | COPENHAGEN

CONCEPT NOTE & PROGRAMME



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# OVERVIEW

The **Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP)**, **Municipality of Copenhagen** and **Roskilde University (RUC)** cordially invite you to the conference “**The power of public food procurement for school meals**” in Copenhagen. This conference is targeted towards food policy officers and stakeholders responsible for **shaping the future meals of our schoolchildren**.

In an increasingly complex world where global challenges such as sustainability and nutrition are in focus, it is crucial to understand how various **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs) and governmental regulations are handled by the municipalities and have an impact on food systems.

**Cities play a pivotal role** in implementing these regulations and actively contribute to achieving the set objectives. The overarching frameworks and regulations have direct consequences for the lives of each citizen, particularly concerning nutrition and sustainable meals. **Cities are key players** in this process, translating these goals and regulations into tangible initiatives and implementing them in daily practices. The conference not only aims to explore how cities address these complex challenges but also emphasizes the collective responsibility cities share in transforming food systems.

**One of the main levers for food system transformation is school meals programmes**, which can achieve multiple objectives: guarantee access to nutritious meals for children and fight against food poverty; educate youth on sustainable food choices, including food waste prevention; shortening supply chains and reduce the environmental impact of public food purchasing; strengthen social communities and spur food culture. Moreover, cooking meals holds a significant potential for building and reinforcing relationships, promoting well-being, combating loneliness, thus ultimately enhancing mental health.

**The conference will take place within the Cities Feeding the Future Initiative led by the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact**, the first and foremost commitment among more than 280 mayors worldwide joining forces to transform urban food systems. Within the initiative, **Copenhagen Municipality** is a leading city on the issue of public procurement for school meals. The Municipality of Copenhagen is also a key partner in the H2020 **Food Trails project**, along with **Roskilde University**, that will support the conference organisation.

**The conference contributes to the overall goal of the Food Trails project:** to provide the EU, municipal governments and other agents of change with evidence-based narratives, co-designed and verified through multi-objective and multi-actor FOOD 2030 Living Labs, to support the development, consolidation and replication of innovative food policies for sustainable city-region food systems member-states and all municipal governments and agents of change interested in accelerating food system transformation. Therefore, the event seeks to **inspire and encourage a broad dialogue** on how cities, together, can contribute to meeting these objectives, fostering healthier communities and improving the well-being of our society.

**The conference aims to:**

- Inspire politicians to maximise opportunities for using public food procurement as a lever in the pursuit of more sustainable food systems and healthy meals for children.
- Provide city officers with tangible skills and useful tools to simultaneously achieve multiple objectives.
- Develop synergies among MUFPP cities in the region, national governments and international organizations active on the topic of school meals.
- Advocate for cities at the National and EU level to play a crucial role in reshaping local food systems toward sustainable models through innovating public procurement processes and strengthening local supply chains.

# BACKGROUND

## **Milan Urban Food Policy Pact**

The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP) is the main legacy of the Universal Exhibition “Expo Milan 2015” Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life. The Milan Pact is a global commitment of mayors from around the world that considers food as an entry point for the sustainable development of growing cities. It represents the main framework for cities and international stakeholders active in the definition of innovative urban food policies. With its Framework of Actions that consists of 37 recommended actions clustered in 6 categories, the Milan Pact provides a holistic approach to urban food systems. Today, the Milan Pact gathers more than 280 cities (100 in Europe), representing a total of 490 million inhabitants over the 6 MUFPP regions.

## **Cities Feeding the Future Initiative**

Cities Feeding the Future is one of the initiatives of the School Meals Coalition (SMC), launched in 2021 with the aim of driving actions to urgently improve and scale up school meal programs to ensure that every child has the opportunity to receive a healthy, nutritious meal in school by 2030. The Coalition gathers today around 100 governments keen to move forward on improving school meals programs around the world.

The initiative Cities Feeding the Future, led by the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, aims at highlighting the key role of mayors and supporting them in providing healthier and more sustainable school meals within their communities.



## Food Trails

Food Trails project is a four-year EU-funded Horizon 2020 project within the Municipality of Milan, which brings together a consortium of 19 European partners, including 11 cities, 3 universities and 5 organisations. The project is rooted in the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact and it translates the Pact's commitments into concrete progress toward more resilient, safe, fair and diverse urban food systems in Europe.

Food Trails aims to enable cities to reimagine, develop and implement sustainable, healthy and inclusive **food policies**. Each partner city runs a pilot project, a **Living Lab**, a space for work, dialogue and collaboration to foster innovation, connect local key stakeholders, and collect evidence to support urban policy change in food. Living Labs seek to co-design and co-implement food actions integrated with other local sectoral work and aligned with the Farm to Fork EU Strategy and the priorities of the EU-FOOD2030 Policy: nutrition, climate, circularity and innovation.

Food Trails facilitates collaboration among cities and researchers to encourage knowledge sharing, replication and scaling up of best practices.

## Roskilde University and Urban food systems

The Sustainable Food Systems group at Roskilde University (RUC) have for years been conducting research on public food systems and has been giving science based advice to i.e. the development of the Danish Organic Cuisine Label used in public and private food procurement. RUC experts organized in 2016 the Food & the City conference in Copenhagen. This major international conference gathered 150 policy officers and key actors interested in urban food systems. This international conference ignited a national and Nordic discussion on the new roles of food in cities and municipalities. A section of experts of sustainable food system transitions was established as an outcome. This initiative has been facilitating innovative programs and national support instruments on organic and plant-based foods in public procurement.

RUC is today partner in a number of EU-FOOD2030 projects (Food Trails, FEAST and FoSSNet) and conducting participatory research together with municipalities, regions and private organisations.

# THE TWO-DAY EVENT WILL CONSIST OF:

**On the 17th and 18th of June 2024** a major event on the important role of the cities in food system transformation takes place in Copenhagen. The conference will revolve around the power of public food procurement for school meals within an effective food governance of cities.

## **Day 1 - 17 June 2024 - The power of food policy governance of cities & excursion to one of Copenhagen's Food Schools:**

On day 1 research-based findings for public food policy will be presented. The green transition of urban food systems requires the right tools, networks and capacities at all levels to succeed. The 17th of June 2024 program presents the planned and expected initiatives for the urgent food system transitions. These will be presented by experts with key roles in international bodies in food policy science. New insights from recent research deriving from extensive studies of [Food Living Labs](#) in a number of European cities will be presented. To explore common potentials and barriers with implementing the transition processes, the conference will introduce participatory panel debates format led by international experts in each of the relevant topics.

In the end of the day, you have the opportunity to gain insights into results and experiences with sustainable meals from various EU perspectives and get a **tour around one of [Copenhagen's Food Schools](#)**. Participants will enjoy a tour and gain insights into Copenhagen's experiences with school meals, children's involvement and how every meal served has the power to impact the well-being, education, and future of our children.

We aim to create an inspiring framework for dialogue and reflection leading up to the conference on Day 2.

## **Day 2 - 18 June 2024 - The power of public food procurement:**

On the second day you can experience in-depth discussions, inspiring speeches, and interactive workshops centred around public food procurement for school meals and practical experiences.

The morning sessions will delve into high-level policy discussions, setting the stage for the significant role cities play in shaping sustainable food systems. Explore how urban environments are pivotal in driving positive change and how each meal served has the power to impact the well-being, education, and future of our children.

In the afternoon, engage in lively debates and hands-on workshops aimed at fostering collaboration and innovation in the realm of public food procurement. Discover practical solutions and best practices that can be implemented at various levels of governance, ultimately contributing to healthier and more sustainable food environments for our communities.

# PROGRAMME

## DAY 1: 17 JUNE, IDA CONFERENCE HALL

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9:00AM	Registration - Light breakfast, water, tea & coffee.
9:30AM	Welcome and opening remarks - Niels Heine Kristensen (RUC), Betina Bergmann Madsen (CPH Municipality), Filippo Gavazzeni (MUFPP)
9:45AM	Shift towards more plant-based diets, food system transition action plans
10:00AM	Urban Food Policies
10:15AM	The greatest European study on school meals policies, economic and social impacts in European countries
10:30AM	Gaps in the EU governance of sustainable food systems
10:45AM	How to expand the power of school meals inside and outside schools with Food Environment approaches
11:00AM	Panel discussion, Q&A
11:20AM	Coffee break
11:35AM	Talk - Food Trails pilot actions towards changing child's food habits in a broader implementation of local food policies
12:40PM	Q&A
13:00PM	Lunch with taste boots & networking

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Parallel breakout sessions with short case presentations from research and practice followed by facilitated knowledge sharing. Participants (researchers and practitioners) will share concrete contexts, challenges and potentials for mutual inspiration. Facilitated by EAT and RUC through policy dialogue methods:

- 14:00PM
- Political commitment - how to reach decision makers agenda
  - Sustainable food procurement - reversed food chain practices
  - Citizen engagement - how to organize participatory processes
  - Competence building - which skills and competences is in demand
  - Circular economy - how to reduce food waste in public food procurement

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15:20PM      Coffee break

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15:40PM      Plenum: Wrapping up from breakout sessions and intro to day 2

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16:30PM      Field visit to one of Copenhagen's Food schools with dinner - Tour and insights into Copenhagen's experiences with school meals

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# PROGRAMME

## DAY 2: 18 JUNE, COPENHAGEN CITY HALL

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9:00AM	Registration - Light breakfast, water, tea & coffee.
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9:30AM	Welcome and opening remarks from hosting mayors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Jakob Næsager, Mayor of Children and Youth, CPH</li><li>◦ Anna Scavuzzo, Vice Mayor of Milan in charge of Food Policy</li></ul>
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9:45AM	Political round table - How do cities deal with public food procurement for children's meals?
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10:45AM	Coffee break
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11:00AM	Session - Multilevel governance for food systems: the role of procurement practices for accelerating progress on sustainability goals
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12:00PM	Session - How are cities implementing food procurement strategies in different European countries?
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12:30PM	Lunch from EAT school food
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13:45	Workshops: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Procurement criteria - Levers of change for improving procurement criteria at policy level</li><li>◦ Behavioral science - Nudging towards more sustainable food choices and children's well-being</li><li>◦ Innovation - Accelerating innovations for monitoring the impact of sustainable procurement practices</li><li>◦ Food education - Strengthening linkages between school meals and children's food education</li></ul>
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15:30PM	Coffee break & network
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16:00PM	Summary of key findings and future priorities
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16:45PM	Closing session with Jakob Næsager, Mayor of Children and Youth, CPH
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17:00PM	Reception & network
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# LOGISTICS

## Where is the conference taking place?

### Day 1:

The first day takes place at The Danish Society of Engineers, IDA, near the water and within walking distance from the city centre.

**Address:** IDA Conference, Kalvebod Brygge 31-33, 1780 Copenhagen V.

### Day 2:

In the heart of Copenhagen, you will find Copenhagen City Hall where the second day takes place. Copenhagen City Hall was built in 1892-1905 and was designed by architect Martin Nyrop. Martin Nyrop was inspired by the town halls of Italy, and the building is today considered as a classic of the National Romantic style.

**Address:** Copenhagen City Hall, Rådhuspladsen 1, 1599 Copenhagen V.

## General travel information

Check out the [Visit Copenhagen webpage](#) for activities, attractions, tours, shopping, events, restaurants, nature, and neighbourhood guides.

### How to get from Copenhagen airport to the city centre:

With only 8 km to the city centre, it's easy to get to and from the airport. Depending on which form of transportation you prefer, it will take between 13 and 35 minutes to travel the distance.

At the airport, you'll have easy access to both trains, metro and busses.

### Train

The trains depart every 10 minutes from the airport to [Copenhagen Central Station](#) during the day. In the evening hours, it will be every 20 minutes, and during the night just once an hour. The train ride is only 15 minutes. At Copenhagen Central Station you will find connections to the rest of the country by train, S-train or bus.

### Metro

If you want to travel by the Metro, it's an easy ride of only 13 minutes to "Kongens Nytorv". Here you can change to metro line M3 and get off at "Rådhuspladsen", which is closest to the recommended hotels below. It's a line with 17 stops around the city, all connected by the metro, forming a circle. One trip around the circle takes 28 minutes, and even if you are "going in the wrong direction" you'll end up at your destination in a short time.

## **How to get around in Copenhagen?**

Bicycles and public transportation are by far the easiest and faster ways to get around Copenhagen. Also, the best way to experience the city while on the go. You can use Copenhagen's 4 metro lines 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. When using public transportation in Copenhagen, all members of the family must have a valid ticket.

## **Where to buy your ticket?**

Always buy a ticket before boarding the train or metro. You can buy your ticket in ticket machines, which accept Danish cash and the most common credit cards, or 7 Eleven kiosks at the train and metro stations. In [Copenhagen Airport](#) arrival hall and at [Copenhagen Central Station](#) there is a DSB ticket office as well as ticket machines. Please note that not all ticket types/travel cards are for sale via machines.

## **Pay with your smartphone or online**

Download the app "DOT Billetter" in App Store and Google Play and pay for your tickets on the go. Click "Indstillinger" (settings) followed by "Sprog" (language) to select English version. From there you can select the fare you need and enter your credit card details. You can also [buy your bus, train and metro tickets online](#).

## **Where to stay?**

If you need accommodation, we can recommend the following hotels below, all within walking distance of the 2-day events:

- Tivoli Hotel, Arni Magnussons Gade 2, 1577 Copenhagen, Denmark.
- Copenhagen Island, Kalvebod Brygge 53, 1560 Copenhagen, Denmark.
- The Square, Rådhuspladsen 14, 1550 Copenhagen, Denmark.

For the three hotels listed above, we have arranged a 15% discount for your stay. All the hotels can be booked through the links below:

- [Booking in English](#)
- [Booking in Danish](#)

## **Contact**

For logistics and general questions, please contact:

**Camille Maja Christensen**, Event Coordinator, Municipality of Copenhagen, +4524643490, [bd2q@kk.dk](mailto:bd2q@kk.dk)