CONFERENCES
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
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 conduction research on public food systems and has been giving science based advise 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.
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.
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00AM</td>
<td>Registration &amp; Light breakfast</td>
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| 9:30AM | **Introduction to Day 1**<br>
|        | Caterina Ruggeri Laderchi, Director of the Food System Economics Commission, EAT Foundation |
| 9:45AM | **Urban Food Policies: the great food transition**<br>
|        | Tim Lang, Emeritus Professor of Food Policy, City University of London |
| 10.10AM| **European policies on school meals: the EU Child Guarantee**<br>
|        | Andrea Magarini, Chair of Eurocities Working Group Food, City of Milan |
| 10:30AM| **Shift towards more plant-based diets,**<br>
|        | **food system transition action plans**                                |
|        | Ida Auken, Member of the Danish Parliament, The Social Democratic Party |
| 10:50AM| **Panel discussion**                                                  |
| 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**<br>
|        | Mette Svendgaard Høgholm, Municipality of Copenhagen<br>
|        | Elisa Porreca, Municipality of Milan<br>
|        | Nadia Tonoli, Municipality of Bergamo<br>
|        | Hiltje van der Wal, Municipality of Groningen<br>
|        | Natalia Boitot, Municipality of Warsaw<br>
<p>|        | Moderated by: Chiara Roticiani, Project Officer, Eurocities |
| 13:00PM| <strong>Lunch from Grønt marked x Krogerup Højskole</strong>                        |</p>
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<tr>
<td>14:00PM</td>
<td><strong>Parallel breakout sessions</strong></td>
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<td><em>Facilitated by EAT Foundation and Roskilde University</em></td>
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<td>- Political commitment - how to reach decision makers agenda</td>
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<td>- Sustainable food procurement - reversed food chain practices</td>
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<td>- Citizen engagement - how to organize participatory processes</td>
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<td>- Competence building - which skills and competences are in demand</td>
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<td>- Circular economy - how to reduce food waste in public food procurement</td>
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<td>15:20PM</td>
<td><strong>Coffee break</strong></td>
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<td>15:40PM</td>
<td><strong>Key findings and outcomes of Day 1</strong></td>
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<td><em>Caterina Ruggeri Laderchi</em>, Director of the Food System Economics Commission, EAT Foundation</td>
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<td>16:30PM</td>
<td><strong>Field visit to Copenhagen’s Food schools &amp; Dinner</strong></td>
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**PROGRAMME**  
**DAY 2: 18 JUNE, COPENHAGEN CITY HALL**

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| 9:30AM | **Introduction to Day 2**  
Filippo Gavazzeni, Head of MUFPP Secretariat, Municipality of Milan                                    |
| 9:35 AM| **Opening remarks from hosting mayors**  
Jakob Næsager, Mayor of Children and Youth of Copenhagen  
Anna Scavuzzo, Vice Mayor of Milan in charge of Food Policy                                              |
| 9:45AM | **Political round table - How do cities deal with public food procurement for children’s meals?**  
Audrey Pulvar, Deputy Mayor of Paris in charge of sustainable food, agriculture and short supply chains  
Andrea Nunne, Spokesperson for Agricultural Policy, Food Reform, and Water Management for the Green Party in the Hamburg State Parliament  
Anna Scavuzzo, Vice Mayor of Milan in charge of Food Policy  
Jakob Næsager, Mayor of Children and Youth of Copenhagen                                                |
| 10:45AM| Coffee break                                                                                               |
| 11:00AM| **Multilevel governance for food systems: the role of procurement practices for accelerating progress on sustainability goals**  
Carmen Burbano, Director of School Meals and Social Protection Service, World Food Programme  
Florence Tartanac, Senior Officer in the Food and Nutrition Division, FAO  
Wim Debeuckelaere, Policy Officer in the Farm to Fork Strategy Unit, Directorate General for Health and Food Safety, European Commission  
Simon Rask, Section Leader at Sustainable Diet and Health Division, The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration  
Betina Bergmann Madsen, Senior Consultant Children and Youth Administration, Municipality of Copenhagen |
| 11:45 AM| **How are cities implementing food procurement strategies in different European countries?**  
Maria Tarafa Orpinell, City of Barcelona  
Auli Väännänen, City of Helsinki  
Elisa Porreca, City of Milan  
Paula Rodrigues, City of Torres Vedras |
12:30PM  **Lunch from EAT school food**

**Interactive workshops**

- **Procurement criteria** - Levers of change for improving procurement criteria at policy level  
  *Betina Bergmann Madsen*, Senior Consultant Children and Youth Administration, Municipality of Copenhagen  
  *Mette Svendgaard Høgholm*, Food Trails Officer and Project Manager in the Food category, Municipality of Copenhagen

- **Behavioral science** - Nudging towards more sustainable food choices and children’s well-being  
  *Shaleen Meelu*, Public Health Nutrition Specialist  
  *Astrid Dahl*, Chief consultant, Municipality of Copenhagen

- **Innovation** - Accelerating innovations for monitoring the impact of sustainable procurement practices  
  *Jenny Arthur*, Head of Cool Food Membership Development, World Resource Institute (WRI)  
  *Francisca Feiteira*, Urban Food Policies, Slow Food

- **Food education** - Strengthening linkages between school meals and children’s food education  
  *Annelies Smets*, Project coordinator School Food 4 Change, Rikolto  
  *Leen Tyrions*, Healthy Wave project (Erasmus+), Rikolto

13:30

**15:30PM  Coffee break**

**16:00PM  Key findings and outcomes of Day 2**

Facilitators from the workshops  
*Betina Bergmann Madsen*, Senior Consultant Children and Youth Administration, Municipality of Copenhagen  
*Andrea Magarini*, Director of the Food Policy Department, Municipality of Milan

**16:30PM  Closing remarks**

*Jakob Næsager*, Mayor of Children and Youth of Copenhagen

**16:45PM  Reception & networking**
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 “Indstiller” (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 Magnuossons 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