Report

MILAN URBAN FOOD POLICY PACT

MUFPP Regional forum Europe & Eurocities Working Group Food Meeting Warsaw - 22, 23 May 2024

INNOVATION AND RESILIENCE FOR URBAN FOOD SYSTEMS

Cities sharing knowledge to drive a sustainable transition

EUROCITIES · MILAN URBAN FOOD POLICY PACT · Warszawa · FOOD TRAILS

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement n. 101000812

Index

Introduction

01 — State of the Pact

02 — Sharing updates on the new European policy context and understanding cities' demands for the European Union

03 — Warsaw's Innovative Food System Solutions

04 — How a food systemic approach can support prompt reaction to emerging crisis?

05 — Resilience and responses to food crises: four best practices from EU cities

06 — The Food Trails Replication workshop

Final Takeaways

City of Milan
Food Policy Department
MUFPP Secretariat & knowledge sharing programmes
European Project Food Trails

www.milanurbanfoodpolicypact.org
MUFPP.Secretariat@comune.milano.it
September 2024

Introduction

Innovating food systems to make them more sustainable and resilient, while building future-proof responses to local food crises, was at the centre of the "**Eurocities Working Group Food Meeting"** and the 12th edition of the "**MUFPP Regional Forum Europe**" which took place in Warsaw from May 22 to 23, 2024.

The event aimed to **facilitate the exchange of experiences and innovative solutions** to pressing EU food system challenges among policymakers, city officers, prominent stakeholders, and researchers.

Through workshops, presentations, and site visits, participants were inspired to co-create solutions to accelerate and deepen agrifood transformation towards more inclusive and resilient systems.

With 30 participating cities from 15 different European countries, the event has been the most attended since 2016.

It was thanks to the EU Horizon 2020 **Food Trails** project that it was possible to bring 26 European cities (Food Trails Cascading Cities) to Warsaw as part of its replication programme.

Day 1 featured a presentation from Warsaw, the hosting city, and the Milan Pact. Afterwards, the event included a workshop on innovation and stakeholder engagement, as well as a world cafe on resilience and responses to food crises.

Day 2 featured the "Food Trails Replication Workshop" with breakout discussions around knowledge exchange and replication methodologies connected to the project and how to shape fruitful exchanges and scale up food initiatives.

Each of the two days concluded with **site visits** to Warsaw food system initiatives.

30 cities from 15 EU countries sharing knowledge to drive a sustainable transition

Almere, Barcelona, Bergamo, Birmingham, Bologna, Bordeaux Metropole, Budapest, Bristol, Copenhagen, Funchal, Grenoble Alpes Metropole, Helsinki, Krakow, Livorno, London Lambeth Council, Matosinho, Milan, Muratpaşa, Nantes Metropole, Nice Metropole, Ostend, Padua, Roeselare, Sarajevo, Taranto, Thessaloniki, Tirana, Warsaw, Wroclaw.

Introduction of the meeting by Chair and Vice-chair of the Eurocities Working Group Food

EVENT ORGANIZERS

MUFPP
The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact

The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact is the first and foremost international agreement among cities from all over the world, committed to developing sustainable, inclusive, and resilient urban food systems. Since its launch in 2015, during EXPO Milan "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life", it has been supporting cities by stimulating the exchange of practices and learning between them and by organizing capacity building activities. To ensure a holistic and systemic approach towards food system transformation within cities, the Milan Pact promotes a "Framework for Action" which features 6 categories (Governance, Sustainable Diets & Nutrition, Social & Economic Equity, Food Production, Food Supply & Distribution, Food Waste) and a Monitoring Framework, developed together with RUAF and FAO, to support cities in better structuring and assessing the impact of their food policies.
milanurbanfoodpolicypact.org

Eurocities

The Eurocities network's Working Group Food is a creative hub of food policy knowledge where information, ideas and good practices can be shared and investigating innovative solutions for urban food challenges.
The Working Group serves as the European regional fora of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact. The network organises European advocacy actions, common EU projects and training meetings for food policy officers on specific topics for food policy implementation.
eurocities.eu/focusarea/food-systems

The Food Trails Project

Food Trails is a four-year project bringing together a consortium of 19 partners—11 EU cities, 3 universities, and 5 organizations—to enable cities to imagine, develop, and implement urban food policies. Each city ran a Living Lab to co-design and implement food actions integrated with other sectoral work and aligned with the EU-FOOD2030 Policy Framework. Food Trails facilitated collaboration among cities and researchers to support the monitoring of impacts and encourage knowledge sharing and the replication of best practices.
foodtrails.milanurbanfoodpolicypact.org

Warsaw Municipality

The Polish capital, Warsaw, is home to 1.8 million people within a greater metropolitan area of 3.1 million residents. The city has been a major hub for transport, tourism and industry in Poland and the European Union since the country's ascension to the bloc in 2004. After having signed the Milan Pact (MUFPP) in 2015, the city decided to broaden its activities related to food issues. Since 2019 Warsaw has been the Vice Chair of the Eurocities Working Group Food.
linkedin.com/company/warszawski-food-lab/

Welcome remarks by the Deputy Mayor of Warsaw

01 — State of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact

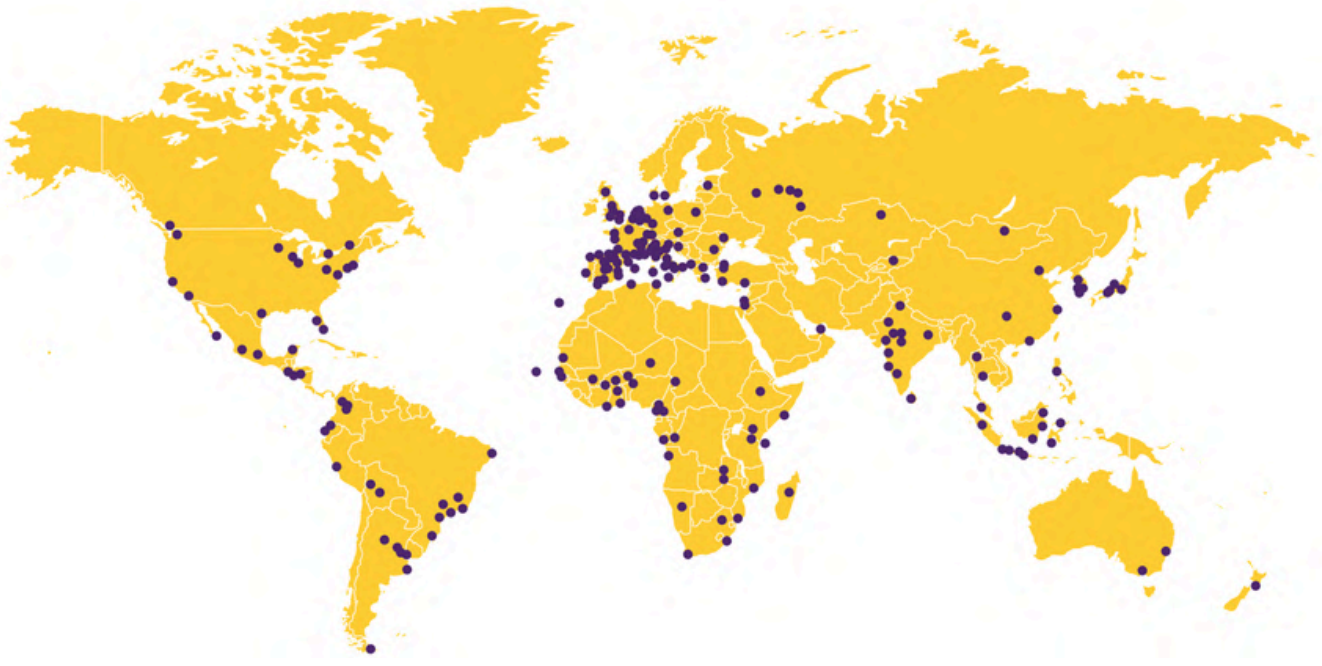
The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP) has been active for **9 years** and now has **281 signatory cities**, representing a total of **490 million inhabitants** across its 6 regions: Africa, Europe, Eurasia & South West Asia, North & Central America, South America, and Asia Pacific. It has hosted **8 global fora** and **21 regional fora**.

13 cities serve on the **Steering Committee**, with Birmingham and Barcelona representing Europe. The Steering Committee representatives develop a leadership plan, which defines objectives and goals for their respective region.

In 2024, 10 new cities signed the Pact

Chefchaouen, Morocco - Columbus, United States - Ebolowa, Cameroon
Iași, Romania - Muratpaşa, Türkiye - Naju, South Korea - Phnom Penh, Cambodia - Taranto, Italy - Vantaa, Finland - Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

The 281 signatory cities of the Milan Pact worldwide:

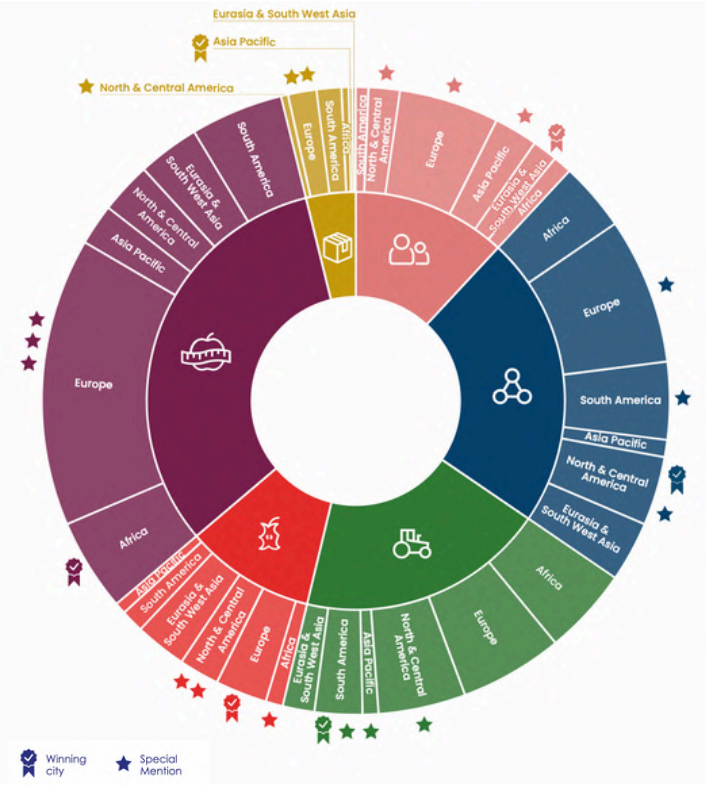


Milan Pact Awards: 621 practices shared

The MUFPP aims to stimulate the exchange of practices and learning between signatory cities. Since 2016, 621 practices have been collected, creating a unique library of food policies. These include 66 practices on **food waste**, 86 on **food supply**, 135 on **nutrition**, 95 on **production**, 104 on **equity,** and 135 on **governance**.

Fellowship programme

The MUFPP Fellowship Programme is a comprehensive **learning and capacity building programme** that runs throughout 2023 and 2024, and engages MUFPP cities to develop and strengthen their capacities, acquire tools and knowledge to achieve their food policy objectives.
Until now, more than **100 cities and 30 partners** have been involved in **over 20 initiatives** developed within the Fellowship Programme.



The sunburst diagram shows the practices submitted for each category. In addition, it is possible to observe also their geographical distribution.

More in the Milan Pact Award Report 2022

THE MILAN PACT IN EUROPE

The regionalization of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP) in Europe relies on a strong alliance with **Eurocities**, which established the **Eurocities Working Group Food** in 2016. This group, chaired by Milan and Warsaw, includes **51 cities** and has met **11 times** to share knowledge and design innovative urban food policies.

3 are the main goals of this network:

1. **Meetings and Webinars:** knowledge sharing
2. **European joint projects**: cooperation, exchanges, research
3. **European advocacy** towards EU bodies and stakeholders

More on: *www.eurocities.eu/goals/food-systems*

European joint projects

Milan leads the EU Horizon 2020 **Food Trails** project to implement the Pact's vision and commitment in 11 municipalities and partners with other EU projects like *SchoolFood4Change*, *Cultivate*, and *CLEVERFOOD*.

European advocacy: The UAEU Food Partnership

Milan and the Lisbon Metropolitan Authority co-coordinate the Urban Agenda for Europe (UAEU) Thematic Food Partnership.
The UAEU Food Partnership is a European partnership on food policies that brings together stakeholders interested in food systems with the goal to secure better funding, improve regulation, and enhance knowledge.
The partnership will develop thematic working groups focused on innovative funding, skill development, the city-regions framework (school canteens), and European food policy.
Additionally, it will collaborate with partnerships on public procurement and other European partners.

European advocacy: Cities Feeding the Future Initiative

The MUFPP Secretariat launched the "Cities Feeding the Future Initiative" as part of the School Meals Coalition at the Paris Ministerial Meeting during the session "Localizing school meals: a new initiative led by local governments".

On this topic, please find the related policy brief "*School meals. The transformative potential of urban food policies*".

Meeting and webinars: "The power of public food procurement" event in Copenhagen

A two-day conference on the opportunities for using public food procurement as a lever for more sustainable and healthy school meals programs. It took place in Copenhagen on 17-18 June 2024. The event report will soon be available on the MUFPP website.

The Signing Ceremony of the MUFPP for New EU Member Cities

Filippo Gavazzeni, Head of the MUFPP Secretariat

The signing ceremony of the City of Muratpaşa

The signing ceremony of the City of Sarajevo

The signing ceremony of the City of Taranto

02 — Sharing updates on the new European policy context and understanding cities' demands for the European Union

Second day of the meeting of the Eurocities Working Group on Food and the MUFPP Regional Forum in Warsaw, at the Centrum Kreatywności Targowa

European food systems are greatly defined by European policies on food and agriculture. Although the European Commission committed to a mid-term vision through its flagship EU Farm to Fork Strategy published 2020, the year of 2023 saw a number of disappointing developments regarding key policy files. EU decision makers walked back their commitment to halving the use and risk of pesticides by 2030, made a proposal for a very narrow reform of animal welfare conditions. Although expected to be published by the end of 2023, a proposal for a Sustainable Food Systems legislative framework has still to be made. Such a framework is urgently needed to ensure policy coherence across levels of governance. In early 2024, in response to farmers protests mainly focused on demanding fairer prices and conditions, the EU swiftly weakened environmental requirements under the Common Agricultural Policy.

Together, these developments demonstrate an important slowing down in the ambition to moving towards sustainable food systems at European level. On the other hand, the role cities must take to ensure healthy and sustainable food for their citizens becomes more evident than ever.

Ahead of the European Elections held on 6-9 June, Eurocities launched the “A Better Europe Starts in Cities” manifesto, highlighting how cities are crucial to delivering a more united EU, closer to the people, and are key allies of the EU in building a better future for all.

In its Manifesto, Eurocities calls on the EU to focus on:

- A Europe that delivers for people
- A results-oriented European Green & Social Deal
- An inclusive digital agenda that protects people’s rights and the climate
- A local Europe with the capacity to act
- A coherent European strategy for urban policies

Over the next EU mandate, Eurocities and its Working Group Food members will seize opportunities to advocate for more support to cities to promote sustainable food systems.
The Eurocities Working Group Food, and MUFPP Regional Forum meeting was an opportunity to ask cities in which ways they believe the EU should support urban sustainable food system.

- In terms of **policy**, cities considered school meals, sustainable food production and a need for a food systems approach to be high priorities.
- Regarding **funding**, cities’ top demands revolved around asking for funding towards sustainable food production, direct funding to cities, funding awareness raising, and highlighted the importance of true cost accounting.
- To improve **knowledge,** cities highly valued peer-learning programs and city networks such as Eurocities, and highlighted the need for existing knowledge, best practices and materials to be more widely disseminated.

Interactive session run by Eurocities WG Food

Cities participated in the live exercise via slido.com

03 — Innovative Food System Solutions in Warsaw

Warsaw, the host of the event, showcased its proactive approach to addressing urban challenges related to resilience and local food system's innovation.

Warsaw's engagement with food systems is not new. Over the years, the city has tackled topics such as healthy diets and access to quality food. Then, incorporating a more holistic approach, it has started focusing on food-related innovations.
The city leveraged European projects, such as Food Trails, to create and test innovative solutions. Moreover, Warsaw has been actively involved in European networks like the Eurocities Working Group Food, where it serves as vice-chair.

Recently, Warsaw faced two significant crises: the COVID-19 pandemic and the refugee emergency following the outbreak of the war in Ukraine.

These extreme situations exacerbated existing local system issues, bringing them into sharper focus and highlighting the urgency to address them to improve resilience of the city's food systems.

Through its participation in Food Trails, Warsaw established a Living Lab - ***the Warszawski Food Lab*** - involving different stakeholders in co-creating innovative public solutions.

Within the Lab, collaborating with the SWPS University, Warsaw developed a working methodology - the **REACT Method -** characterized by an evidence-based, human-centered design and systemic thinking approach.

One of the main aims of the Lab is **to break down silos** by creating solutions involving different municipal departments.

The Warszawski Food Lab's Team

Preventing and reducing food waste emerged as a key topic for the city. As part of the Food Trails journey, Warsaw decided to target two groups: restaurants and associations receiving food from the local food bank.

First Target Group: Restaurants

To create the pilot action targeting restaurants, Warsaw began by interviewing restaurant owners and staff and conducting co-creation workshops with them. This resulted in a food journey mapping and identifying factors that could help reduce food waste. The workshop revealed that restaurateurs were hesitant to donate food due to the risk of fines and taxes. To address this, Warsaw created a compendium guiding restaurateurs in food donations, accompanied by the "*no waste.food*" communication co-opt campaign encouraging food donations to public benefit organizations. Additionally, the guide "*We cooperate, we don't waste!*" illustrates how straightforward this process can be (more information available here). The platform facilitates connections among restaurants willing to donate surplus food with local NGOs interested in receiving food.

Second Target Group: Associations

The second pilot project addressed the needs of associations distributing food to vulnerable citizens, in collaboration with the local food bank. Key issues included the type of food donated and its management by these associations, which often face a high turnover of volunteers. The solution created for these associations involved mapping food flows and providing smart, intuitive food storage systems for facilities. This included a smart labeling system for different rooms, shelves, and refrigerators, fostering good practices and new habits.

Lessons from Warsaw

Warsaw's efforts demonstrate the power of innovation, collaboration, and resilience in tackling urban food system challenges.

Here are the key ingredients from the city's experience:

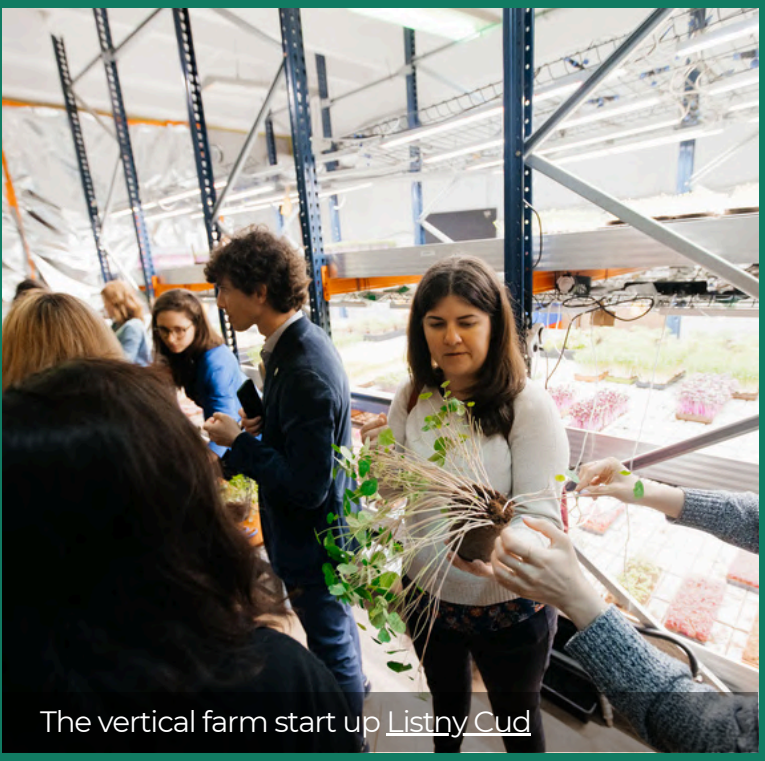
1. Long-term Commitment: Cities with a sustained focus can make a significant difference.
2. Human-centered Design: Engaging stakeholders is crucial.
3. Evidence-based Approach: Collaborating with researchers ensures solutions are grounded in data.
4. City Cooperation: Working together with other cities amplifies impact.

Natalia Boitot of the city of Warsaw, presenting "The Warsaw Food Lab"

Site visits

Guided Tour in the Praga District

Guided Tour in the Praga District


The vertical farm start up Listny Cud

The bus to the farm cooperative MOST

04 — How a food system approach can support prompt reaction to emerging crises?

Speakers:

- **Christopher Hegadorn,** Sciences Po, *Food Crisis Expert*
- **Pietro Pipi,** Director of Ukraine Office of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)
- **Andrea Magarini**, Director of Food Policy Department, City of Milan

Christopher Hegadorn started by presenting the results of the EU Food Crisis Simulation that took place in Brussels last February. He detailed the outcomes and insights gained from the exercise, which aimed to prepare cities for potential food crises and improve their response strategies.

Following Christopher's presentation, Director Pipi, from the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, spoke about the current commitment of AICS in addressing the impacts of the ongoing war on the local food systems in Ukrainian cities. He highlighted the agency's efforts to provide support and resources to mitigate the food crisis resulting from the conflict.

Christopher Hegadorn discussed how agencies working at the national level, like AICS, are dealing with newly emerged crises and how cities can learn from these experiences, especially under extreme conditions. He emphasized the importance of supporting cities as they face increasing challenges every day, pointing out that local implications are crucial for the daily work of city officials.

Pietro Pipi was also asked to elaborate on the collaboration between AICS and the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact in supporting cities to build resilient food systems. Mr. Pipi explained how this partnership is vital for providing the necessary backing and resources to urban areas, striving to enhance their food security and resilience.

The discussions underscored the significance of collaboration and knowledge-sharing among city officials and agencies to navigate uncertain times and improve local food systems.

Christopher Hegadorn presenting the outputs from the EU Food Crisis Simulation Workshop

Pietro Pipi illustrating the importance of connecting national government with local authorities in crisis

05 — Resilience and responses to food crises: four practices from EU cities

Warsaw

The Warsaw Food Lab on the refugee crisis and the role of the city– based on the report on grass-roots initiatives providing food for the refugees during the first months of the war.

Natalia Boitot, International Cooperation Department, City of Warsaw

In March 2022, nearly a month after the Ukraine war began, 2.1 million people crossed the Polish border, with 515,000 reaching Warsaw. At least 280,000 decided to stay, increasing the city's population by almost 16%. Warsaw implemented various concrete solutions to support its neighbors, including food and beverage distribution, establishing a vast volunteer network, opening city-led shelters, and organizing supply collections sent directly to Ukrainian cities. This crisis highlighted the difficulty in organizing such a rapid and huge mobilization of resources. An important aspect to address this kind of crisis is collaborating with the local food bank, civil society organizations, and volunteers, and optimizing the food/donor mechanism for improved efficiency, reduction of food waste, and increase of the quality of the distributed food. The city has decided to experiment public solutions to this issues within its Food Trails' living lab activities.

Milan

The Milan municipal operation centre: the experience on the pandemic, drought, extreme climatic events affecting the local food system and the municipal response.

Elisa Porreca, Food Policy Department, City of Milan

The city's experience during the COVID-19 pandemic transformed how it handles emergencies. Previously, the civic department was solely responsible for managing and coordinating emergency responses. However, the limited resources and widespread impact of the COVID-19 crisis necessitated the involvement of all local departments in devising solutions.
Since COVID-19, Milan has implemented a protocol for emergencies that includes a one-hour call involving all departments.
During this call, each department assesses its situation, discusses challenges and needs specific to the emergency, and collaborates with colleagues to find solutions.
This new approach has significantly enhanced Milan's ability to respond effectively to crises, ensuring a more resilient and coordinated city.

Parallel session on resilience and responses to food crises / WARSAW

Parallel session on resilience and responses to food crises / MILAN

Barcelona

Pilot test under the framework of the Barcelona Challenge to incorporate the axis (recommendations and indicators) of the climate emergency in the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact.

Maria Solé Congost, Food Policy and Responsible consumption, City of Barcelona

Political support and commitment are crucial for cities to start and sustain food system transformations. In Barcelona, tools like the Barcelona Challenge have been instrumental. This challenge roughly calculates the co-benefits of food solutions in terms of environmental impacts, such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions. By providing measurable outcomes, it helps illustrate the positive effects of sustainable food policies.
By joining the challenge, cities commit to transforming their food systems to combat climate change.

The Barcelona Challenge is an accessible tool that gives visibility to cities' actions and can motivate politicians to follow through on promised actions. This was highlighted by Maria Solé Congost, who described it as a motivational tool for political engagement and accountability. The visibility and structured approach encourage continuous efforts towards sustainable practices, ensuring long-term commitment and progress.

Birmingham

The city case study on coordinating a city-wide response to address the cost of living crisis.

Sarah Pullen, Public Health Division, Birmingham City Council

The pandemic and the war have significantly contributed to the cost-of-living crisis, leading to rising costs of food, fuel, and overall inflation. In Birmingham, a fourth of the population is currently food insecure, with around 52% of the city's children living in poverty. Households facing food insecurity increasingly rely on food banks, which are struggling to meet demand.
Since 2022, Birmingham has focused on both short and long-term solutions to address this emergency. The city proposed Emergency Food Aid Grants and organized activities and school meals for children during holidays, based on evidence from the Food Council and the Food Justice Network. Birmingham also developed the Global Food Justice Toolkit to help other cities tackle food security crises.
For the long-term, the city plans to invest in new kitchen equipment and improve surplus food distribution. Emphasizing diverse voices, the Food Justice Network was developed independently from local political changes. The Birmingham Council supports civil society organizations, allowing them to excel in their areas of expertise.
Birmingham's proactive measures and collaborative approach offer valuable lessons for other cities striving to enhance food security and support vulnerable populations.

Parallel session on resilience and responses to food crises / BARCELONA

Parallel session on resilience and responses to food crises / BIRMINGHAM

06 — Food Trails Replication Workshop

Under the framework of Food Trails, in the past months, the 11 city partners in the project hosted 25 Cascade Cities that applied to the exchange process launched by Eurocities last autumn.

The cities participated actively not just in the visits but also in previous on-line exchanges, starting from the definition of the learning needs and matching them with the city to be hosted.

At the end of the process, 25 Food Policy Action Canvas (FPAC) were developed by the cascade cities to proceed in the design of policy actions focusing on:

- Developing a Food Policy Council
- Engaging further with stakeholders on drafting a Common Food Policy
- Dedicating more space for urban agriculture
- Reconnecting farmers with consumers.

The meeting in Warsaw, which brought together many of the cities participating in these exchanges, served as a moment of further reflection on their action plans, building on new insights from the in-person exchanges. This included discussions not only on the primary needs identified, but also on other areas that could inspire new initiatives.

The replication workshop organized in Warsaw had the following objectives:

- Identify common challenges and best practices
- Replication of good practices
- Brainstorming of solutions to common issues

Based on the topics discussed during the cascade visits, 5 parallel groups were created on these topics:

1. Localized food systems
2. Food waste
3. Canteens and public procurement
4. Stakeholder engagement and governance
5. Food education

Group	Topic	Food Trails Cities	Cascade Cities
1	Localized food system	Thessaloniki, Groningen	Almere, Taranto
2	Food waste	Milan, Warsaw	Livorno, Cagliari
3	Canteens and public procurement	Copenhagen, Bordeaux Métropole	Sarajevo, Helsinki, Bologna
4	Stakeholder engagement and governance	Grenoble, Tirana, Birmingham	Nantes, Lambeth, Antalya – Muratpasa, Roeselare, Padua, Budapest
5	Food education	Funchal, Bergamo	Matosinhos, Nice, Ostend

The workshop began with a round of introductions from the Food Trails cities. Each city presented their pilot actions related to the breakout topics and shared their experiences in developing these initiatives.

Following this, Cascade Cities presented their experiences and ambitions based on the developed Food Policy Action Canvases (FPACs). This led to a lively discussion and brainstorming session where participants explored similarities, differences, and common solutions.

In the final round, cities were invited to update, modify, and improve their food policy action canvases based on the discussions. Food Trails cities provided support to other cities in this process.

RESULTS OF THE WORKSHOP

"FOOD EDUCATION" GROUP
Participating cities: Funchal, Bergamo, Matosinhos, Ostend, Nice Metropole

- **School canteen initiatives:** Cities shared efforts in enhancing school meals with sustainable, nutritious options and engaging students through educational activities.
- **Community engagement:** Hands-on activities like vegetable gardening and cooking classes were highlighted to involve local communities and promote healthy eating.
- **Challenges in stakeholder engagement:** Common issues included achieving consensus, involving local actors, and navigating governance, with strategies shared for overcoming these hurdles.
- **Collaboration:** Opportunities for collaboration were explored, emphasizing the sharing of best practices and resources between cities with similar challenges.
- **Recommendations:** Improving communication strategies, involving experts, and adopting a nudging approach to change dietary behaviors were recommended.
- **Future Goals**: Ambitions included enhancing food education programs, reducing plastic use, developing community gardens, and creating digital tools for food literacy.

"STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE" GROUP
Participating cities: Grenoble Alpes Metropole, Tirana, Birmingham, Lambeth, Muratpaşa - Antalya, Roeselare, Padua, Budapest

- **Pilot Actions:** Cities shared various pilot actions, such as food transition events, school canteen governance, and food strategy development involving diverse stakeholders.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Effective engagement strategies included creating living labs, holding forums, and developing action groups to gather feedback and ensure broad participation.
- **Challenges:** Common challenges identified were achieving coherence among diverse stakeholders, fostering citizen engagement, and navigating complex governance structures.
- **Barriers and Drivers:** Barriers included lack of political commitment and legislative cohesion, while strong networks and partnerships were seen as critical drivers.
- **Best Practices:** Recommendations highlighted the importance of building on existing networks, recognizing personal values of stakeholders, and maintaining momentum through clear communication and strategic planning.
- **Future Goals:** Goals included clarifying actions for effectiveness, enhancing citizen involvement, and integrating food strategies into broader municipal plans.

Food Trails Replication Workshop

Food Trails Replication Workshop

“CANTEENS AND PUBLIC PROCUREMENT GROUP” GROUP
Participating cities: Copenhagen, Bordeaux Metropole, Bristol, Sarajevo, Bologna, Helsinki

- **Pilot actions:** Cities shared innovative procurement strategies, such as Copenhagen's organic food goals without extra budget and Bordeaux's governance in school canteens.
- **Stakeholder engagement:** Emphasis was placed on involving stakeholders through market dialogues, living labs, and food policy councils to ensure collaborative and effective procurement processes.
- **Challenges:** Common challenges included navigating inflexible regulations, ensuring compliance with contract specifications, and managing diverse procurement systems across municipalities.
- **Tools and innovations:** Examples included Copenhagen's app for kitchen staff feedback, Bordeaux's training for canteen staff, and Helsinki's underutilized procurement tool.
- **Collaboration and Best Practices**: Cities highlighted the importance of building strong relationships with suppliers, using detailed tender specifications, and incorporating feedback mechanisms to improve procurement practices.
- **Future goals:** Goals included enhancing stakeholder engagement, improving contract management, and leveraging collaborations to drive procurement innovations and sustainability initiatives.

“FOOD WASTE” GROUP 1
Participating cities: Milan, Warsaw, Livorno, Cagliari

- **Approach and pilot actions:** Efforts are focused on collaborating with school canteens to reduce food waste by integrating circular economy principles and implementing behavioral nudging interventions. Local food plans and strategic actions emphasize sustainability, education, urban transformation, and social utility. Initiatives for food donation involve restaurants and local food banks, supported by digital platforms that map and facilitate practical actions for food redistribution and waste reduction.
- **Challenges:** Key challenges include overcoming regulatory and cultural barriers to raise awareness and engagement in food waste reduction, ensuring safety and compliance in food donation processes, and addressing the lack of awareness about formal requirements and personal commitment to reducing food waste.
- **Safety and compliance:** Addressing safety issues in food donation is critical to ensure compliance with new regulatory frameworks. Businesses and social entities are encouraged to develop comprehensive food waste plans, focusing on thorough diagnostics and actionable steps to mitigate food waste.

Food Trails Replication Workshop

Food Trails Replication Workshop

“FOOD WASTE” GROUP 2
Participating cities: Milan, Warsaw, Livorno, Cagliari

- **Innovative actions:** Awareness campaigns targeting kids and parents foster food education and emphasize the importance of short supply chains. Food charity hubs have been created for redistributing agri-food losses, supported by both digital and physical platforms. School programs involve children in measuring and understanding food waste. New laws mandate businesses to develop food waste prevention plans, incorporating diagnostics and actionable strategies.
- **Key focus areas:** Efforts are directed towards enhancing local supply chain procurement and increasing food donations through established food banks. Markets are being renovated to serve as food labs, with investments in long-term community initiatives. Coordination among stakeholders is crucial to implementing effective food waste reduction strategies. The importance of awareness and engagement is emphasized to foster a culture of food waste reduction.

“LOCALIZED FOOD SYSTEM” GROUP
Participating cities: Almere, Taranto, Groningen, Thessaloniki.

- **Pilot actions:** Efforts are ongoing to enhance existing activities related to food and protein transition, promoting healthy, sustainable, and more plant-based food for everyone, alongside creating healthy environments.
- **Key success factors:** Political ambition from elected representatives is crucial, providing support and validation for food policy activities. Establishing a working task force across various departments helps coordinate the crosscutting competencies necessary for effective food policy implementation.
- **Challenges:** Maintaining the focus on food policy activities during transitions in elected representatives, especially when no one is specifically in charge of the food policy.
- **Approaches and strategies:** Develop strategies to keep food policy activities on the agenda despite changes in elected officials. Addressing the issue of not having a dedicated individual or team in charge of food policy. Focusing on food and protein transition to promote healthy, sustainable, and more plant-based food for all. Ensuring political support and creating cross-departmental task forces to coordinate food policy efforts. Promoting the use of local gardens and urban agricultural spaces to grow food. Addressing the convenience mindset that favors supermarkets over local food initiatives. Tackling challenges posed by conservative local governments and intensive agriculture that limit space for local food initiatives. Drawing inspiration from successful models to establish municipal taskforces and improve collaboration with regional governments.

Food Trails Replication Workshop

Food Trails Replication Workshop

Final Takeaways

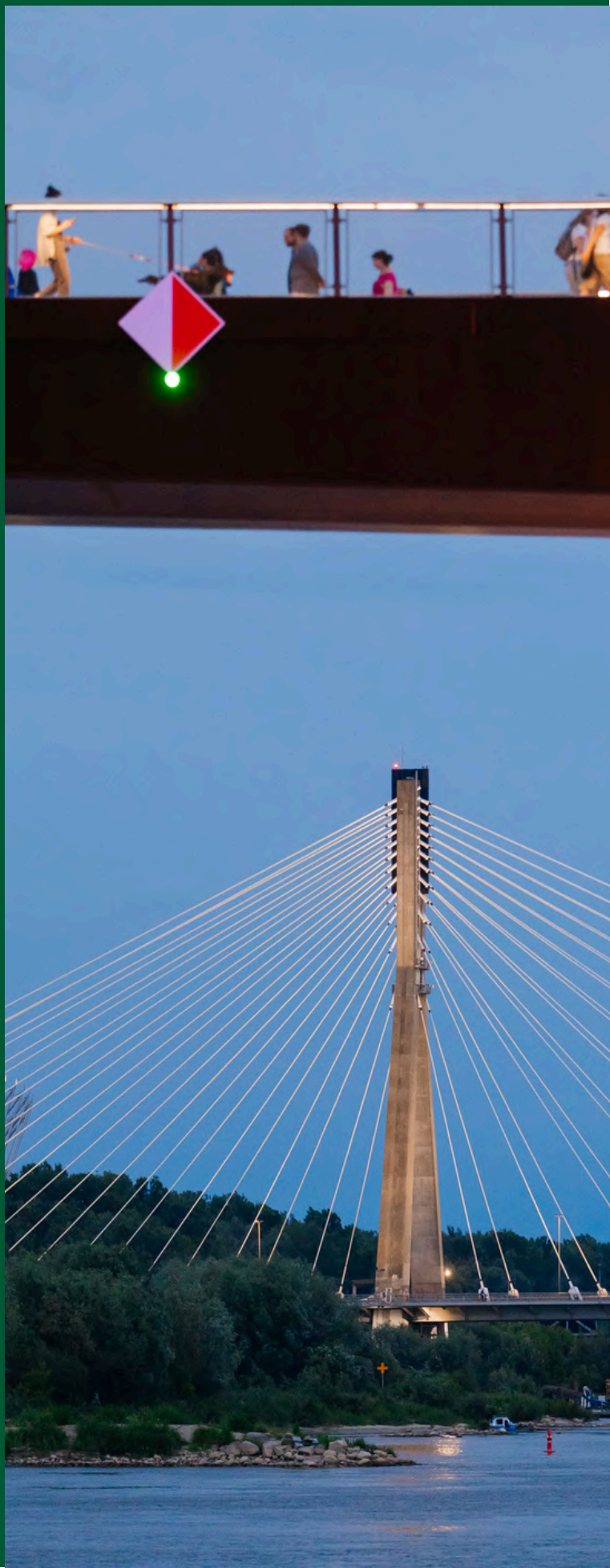
- Key to enhancing city resilience in the face of crises is engaging relevant departments and other levels of government in stress test simulations and discussions with stakeholders in the food ecosystem.

- The 'Warsaw case' shows how funded projects are key to finding and testing innovative solutions to public challenges and initiating working groups involving different types of food system stakeholders.

- Many European cities have experienced different types of crises in recent years and have developed ideas and approaches that have remained active in city food governance. There is much to learn from their experiences and solutions and the MUFPP and the WG Food are ideal platforms for the exchange of these experiences.

- This collaboration helps establish a comprehensive understanding of the complexities and impacts of food systems, as emphasized by experts in the field. Peer-learning programs are invaluable for sharing best practices and fostering collaboration among cities.

- Given the EU's pressing food policy challenges, cities must take proactive measures. Local governments play a crucial role in implementing effective and sustainable food systems, driving innovation, and addressing unique community needs.



City of Milan
Food Policy Department
MUFPP Secretariat & knowledge sharing programmes
www.milanurbanfoodpolicypact.org
MUFPP.Secretariat@comune.milano.it

Eurocities
Working Group Food
eurocities.eu/focusarea/food-systems/

European Project Food Trails
foodtrails.milanurbanfoodpolicypact.org/