

Country	Belgium						
Population	197,000						
Title of practice	Short-chain Hub						
Subtitle	Short-Chain Agri-Food Hub starting from Liège's Marché Matinal						
MUFPP Recommended Action	28. Support improved food storage, processing, transport and distribution technologies and infrastructure linking peri-urban and near rural areas to ensure seasonal food consumption and reduce food insecurity as well as food and nutrient loss and waste with an emphasis on diversified small and medium scale food businesses along the value chain that may provide decent and stable employment. – FOOD SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION						
Starting year	2022	Ending year (if any)				<input type="checkbox"/> already submitted in the past	
Actors and stakeholders' involvement	Municipal departments	Other public institutions	NGOs CSOs	Research centres	Private sectors	International organizations	Other
	3	2	1		5		
Budget	The project was funded for € 2,028,820.97, with 13.14% coming from a regional subsidy and 86.86% from the City. The future legume processing facility building (€ 7.2 million), is entirely financed by the Walloon Region through the PNRR. The City is providing the land free of charge for 20 years.						
Brief description	In the Liège region, local and sustainable food supply chains are growing, driven especially by increasing demand from public institutions (schools, nurseries, etc.). To support this momentum, the City of Liège has partnered with the Ceinture Aliment-Terre Liégeoise (CATL) to establish a short-chain agri-food hub at the Marché Matinal site. In 2022, the City acquired an initial building to develop a shared logistics zone. This facility hosts several CATL network cooperatives (Les Petits Producteurs, Circuits Paysans, The Food Hub), offering storage, order preparation areas, offices, and meeting rooms. This concentration of actors fosters synergies: shared logistics, digital tools, and a strengthened supply for professionals and public institutions. By 2025, a second building will house a vegetable processing unit (légumerie) and a cannery, aiming to supply collective kitchens with local, nutritious, and seasonal plant-based products. The City plays a driving role by facilitating land access, coordination, and the implementation of a sustainable food policy. This initiative highlights the importance of shared infrastructure in structuring a local supply chain that creates jobs and fosters resilience.						
Innovation	Faced with the social, environmental, and health challenges of urban food systems, the City of Liège is developing an innovative short-chain agri-food hub in partnership with the Ceinture Aliment-Terre Liégeoise. By bringing together local cooperatives in a shared infrastructure, this project strengthens access to nutritious, affordable, local food while supporting a solidarity-based food economy. It enhances the region's resilience to crises (climatic, geopolitical) by relocating supply chains and creating logistical synergies. A future building will house a vegetable processing unit (légumerie) and a cannery to expand this offering. This is a first in Wallonia on this scale, built on public land ownership and a strong local presence. These infrastructures directly support Liège's sustainable canteen policy: they will supply the communal kitchen that provides nutritious, local, and seasonal meals to schools and nurseries. This structural approach thus helps reduce food inequalities, create local jobs, limit the ecological footprint, and build a sustainable and equitable urban food system.						
Impact	The Liège Short-Chain Agri-Food Hub is generating measurable impacts across social, environmental, and economic fronts. Socially, the hub daily supplies the City's communal kitchen, which provides approximately 4,000 meals per day to schools and nurseries, primarily consisting of local, seasonal, and high-quality products. This action ensures that children (a vulnerable population) have access to nutritious food. The project also supports socio-professional integration through the involvement of local cooperatives and social-purpose organizations. Environmentally, the logistical						

	<p>unification allows for shared transport (reducing kilometers traveled), optimized storage, and a decrease in food waste. The future processing facility (vegetable preparation and cannery) will further enhance the valorization of agricultural surpluses. An initial evaluation of the hub aims for a 20% reduction in transport-related emissions within three years. Economically, the project represents an investment of € 2 million for the first phase (with 86.86% from the City's own funds) and € 7.2 million for the future building, financed by the PNRR. It supports over 25 direct jobs within the hosted structures and contributes to consolidating a resilient and local food ecosystem.</p>
Inclusion	<p>The Liège Short-Chain Agri-Food Hub embodies a holistic and inclusive approach to food policy. It acts on several levers of the food system: production, processing, distribution, consumption, and waste management, aligning with multiple categories of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP) (governance, sustainable procurement, social equity, and waste reduction). The project is driven by shared governance between the City of Liège and the Ceinture Aliment-Terre Liégeoise (CATL), which brings together producers, cooperatives, citizens, associations, social integration structures, researchers, and public actors. Municipal services (food, education, markets, economy, urban planning) are mobilized, as are private and associative partners. The infrastructure directly benefits a variety of publics (residents, children, professionals), specifically targeting schools and nurseries located in various city neighbourhoods. Its establishment in the priority district of Bressoux-Droixhe strengthens the project's territorial impact. Through the vegetable processing unit/cannery project, multi-level cooperation is engaged with the Walloon Region and the federal level via the PNRR. This model is part of a metropolitan logic, with an influence that extends beyond municipal borders and strengthens regional food sovereignty.</p>