

Milan Urban Food Policy Pact

The first and foremost international agreement among cities from all over the world, committed to developing sustainable, inclusive and resilient urban food systems

The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact 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**.



2015, Milan. Signing ceremony of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact.

The MUFPP framework for action

The Milan Pact is the result of a participatory process among 46 cities that worked together in 2014, under the guidance of a technical team of international experts, on the definition of **37 recommended actions structured into 6 integrated categories**:

- Governance
- Sustainable Diets & Nutrition
- Social & Economic Equity
- Food Production
- Food Supply & Distribution
- Food Waste

The Milan Pact’s framework presents a holistic approach towards the food system. A dedicated **Monitoring Framework**, developed with FAO and RUAFA, supports cities in better structuring and assessing the impact of their food policies.

Governance and membership

Today, the Milan Pact gathers more than **340 cities**, representing a total of **half billion inhabitants** over the **6 MUFPP regions**. The governance of the Milan Pact is ensured by a **Steering Committee**, which is elected every two years and has the responsibility of representing signatory cities at global level and the regionalization of the activities on urban food system. It is composed of **13 members**, 2 per each MUFPP region together with the Mayor of Milan as the permanent Chair.

Since the launch of the Pact, the **MUFPP Secretariat**, hosted by the Municipality of Milan, has the main goal of spreading the systemic and urban approach to food policies around the world. It is in charge of facilitating the knowledge sharing and organizing capacity building activities; engaging in international and regional food-related policy and advocacy processes to spur fund allocation and develop new partnerships; organising practical and successful knowledge exchanges such as the Global and Regional Fora or ad-hoc conferences for the ever-growing network of signatory cities.

MUFPP Global Fora

Global Fora are a fundamental moment for the network, an opportunity for our signatory cities to meet, exchange knowledge and practices, participate in technical workshops, share progress and build partnerships. Over the years, the MUFPP Global Fora has become a regular occurrence for cities and key actors in the global urban food agenda. Past Global Fora have been hosted in **Milan** (2015), **Rome** (2016), **Valencia** (2017), **Tel Aviv** (2018), **Montpellier** (2019), online (2020), **Barcelona** (2021) and **Rio de Janeiro** (2022).

The Global Forum 2025, hosted in Milan, celebrated the **10th anniversary since the launch of the Milan Pact** in the place where it was first launched. Titled “Building on a decade of joint success, envisioning the future of urban food systems”, the Forum gathered over 500 participants from over 130 cities along with representatives from international and civil society organizations, partner agencies and academia.



Global Forum 2025 Milan



The MUFPP text

Regionalization process

Cities face similar challenges and seek appropriate solutions for their specific geographical and socio-economic contexts. Therefore, the Milan Pact promotes a **regionalization process**, allowing signatory cities and regional stakeholders to meet and exchange knowledge regularly within their respective regions, in strong coordination with the Steering Committee. During each mandate, the Steering Committee representatives develop a **leadership plan**, which defines objectives and goals for their respective region.



Africa

In 2016, the 1st MUFPP Regional Forum was held in **Dakar**, followed by **Brazzaville** (2018), **Niamey** (2019), **Ouagadougou** (2021), **Dakar** (2023) and **Addis Ababa** (2024). The MUFPP is also partner of the Horizon project **AfriFOODlinks**, aimed at improving food and nutrition security and transforming the food environment by involving 5 hub cities (**Cape Town, Kisumu Mbale, Ouagadougou** and **Tunis**) along with other 10 sharing cities in Africa and 5 sharing cities in Europe.

It was a great achievement the organisation of the 6th **MUFFP African Regional Forum**, held in **Addis Ababa** in October 2024. The event, which **focused on city-led school meal programmes**, was an occasion to advocate for urban food policies towards the **African Union**.

Europe

Within **Eurocities**, the EU association of cities, the debate around food and cities is very dynamic. In 2016, thanks to the inputs of the MUFPP, a **Working Group Food** was established. It is chaired by **Milan and Vantaa** and it encounters 51 cities that gathered 12 times in **Brussels, Birmingham, Valencia, Amsterdam, Lyon, Ghent, Montpellier, Almere, Barcelona, Almere, Bordeaux, Warsaw and Florence**. The Working Group focuses on sharing knowledge, promoting joint projects and advocating towards the European bodies. The Municipality of Milan, to promote the commitment of the MUFPP, led **Food Trails**, an Horizon2020 EU project working in **11 European cities** with **universities** and **European stakeholders** to develop tools and methodologies for the establishment of urban food policies.

Eurasia & South West Asia

Amongst the other regional activities developed, an highlight it has been the FAO's programme that facilitated an intense cooperation between **Amman, Milan and other cities of the region**: the focus has been urban food systems transformation by tackling **food waste** and the effective management of **wholesale markets**.

South America

South America has always been an active region in the MUFPP: it counts **2 Regional Fora** and **1 Global Forum**. Thanks to the Letter of Intent with **Mercociudades**, the role of the MUFPP and of urban food policies has been further strengthened. The first concrete action is the development of a **webinar series "El potencial de las políticas alimentarias urbanas en Latinoamérica"**. Furthermore, the MUFPP took part in Mercociudades' 2024 and 2025 annual event, organising thematic sessions and supporting the thematic unit on urban food policies.

Asia Pacific

Since 2020 the MUFPP has been actively working to disseminate knowledge and to foster cooperation among cities in the region, primarily through European funded programmes. In August 2022, the 1st **MUFPP Asia Pacific Regional Forum** was held in **Bandung** within the G20 framework. In 2023, the MUFPP has also started a fruitful collaboration with **ASEAN**, developing a webinar series on **Food and Nutrition in ASEAN cities**. In 2024, the MUFPP started in partnership with ASEAN the project **Spreading Experiences and Knowledge on School Meals Programmes in ASEAN Cities** funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, with the aim of increasing the capacity of city officers from ASEAN countries to improve or develop school meals programmes in their cities. In October 2025 a follow-up project **Boosting school meals in ASEAN cities: from knowledge to action** was launched with the aim of enabling cities to develop policies and infrastructures related to their school meals programmes. In December 2024, Bangkok Metropolitan Administration convened the 2nd **MUFPP Asia Pacific Regional Forum**.

North & Central America

With the 1st **Regional Forum** held in **March 2026** in **Austin**, over 30 cities in the region are actively committed to collaborate. The Forum resulted in the development of a **2-year roadmap centred around equity, sustainability and systemic integration**.

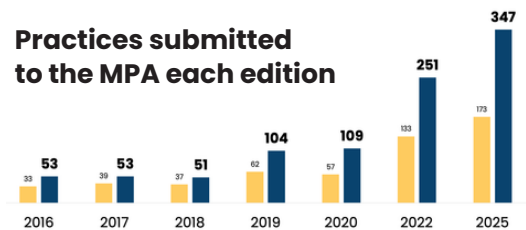
Sharing knowledge among signatory cities

Milan Pact Awards

The MUFPP constantly promotes **knowledge sharing** among signatory cities, and to support this goal, the Municipality of Milan and Cariplo Foundation launched the **Milan Pact Awards (MPA)** in 2016. The MPA aims at recognizing innovative food policy efforts and tracking cities' progress. Each year, an **international Evaluation Committee** selects the most creative initiatives, fostering leadership in shaping sustainable food systems. Over time, **the Pact has collected 968 approved food policies**, reflecting growing global commitment.

In **2025**, the 7th edition of the MPA received **347 submissions from 173 cities across six MUFPP categories**. The awards ceremony took place on 15 October in **Milan** during the last MUFPP Global Forum, where six cities — **Austin, Seoul, Medellin, Jericho, Ouagadougou, and Vantaa** — were recognized as winners, while 24 cities received Special Mentions.

Practices submitted to the MPA each edition



968

MPA Practices collected in total



2025 Milan Pact Awards ceremony in Milan

Fellowship Programme

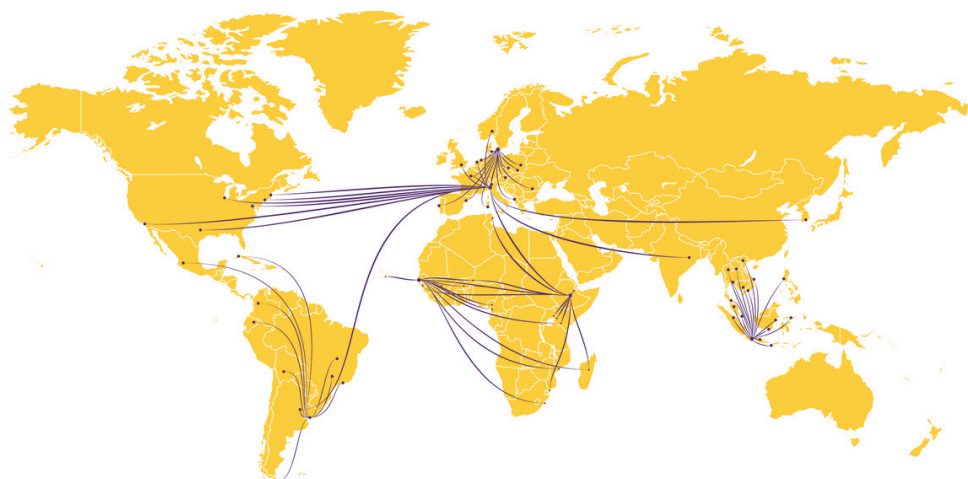
The **MUFPP Fellowship Programme** is a comprehensive learning and capacity building programme that run throughout 2023 until the beginning of 2025, thanks to the knowledge and learning needs collected with the Milan Pact Awards. It **engaged MUFPP cities in capacity building activities**, in order to develop and strengthen their skills, acquire new tools and knowledge to achieve their food policy objectives.

The Fellowship Programme includes various activities: field visits, webinars, workshops, trainings, peer-to-peer exchanges, participation in research and mapping activities, networking opportunities, organization of events. All those activities are facilitated by the MUFPP Secretariat together with the important **contribution of MUFPP key partners**. Indeed, MUFPP partners - based on their field of work and areas of interest - had the possibility to work together with MUFPP cities, streamlining efforts and finding new synergies.

The MUFPP Fellowship Programme has significantly strengthened city officers' skills in food policy through over **50 activities** since 2022, engaging more than **2,600 city officers worldwide**. Activities covered various MUFPP categories, with 27% focused on Governance, 21% on Sustainable Diets & Nutrition.

In regards to the **regional coverage**, there was a significant concentration of activities in Europe (40%), followed by Asia Pacific, Africa, and the Americas. Reflecting the MUFPP's ambition, the programme also facilitated global participation.

The Fellowship Programme has strengthened city networks, fostered collaborations, and reinforced the role of local governments in transforming urban food systems. Its legacy paves the way for **continued innovation in sustainable and inclusive food policies** in the MUFPP network and beyond.



A representation of the main exchanges favoured by the MUFPP



Download the Fellowship Programme report [here](#)

Shaping the global food agenda

The Milan Pact is fully involved in the **definition of the global food agenda**. Over the last years, the MUFPP Secretariat has been working to raise the attention on urban food policies and **catalyze synergies** of international stakeholders **towards the Milan Pact's objective**.



[Read more about the Cities Feeding the Future initiative](#)

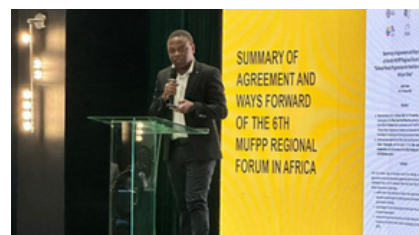
International processes and advocacy actions

The Milan Pact is constantly striving to highlight the **major role of mayors in the transformation of the food system**, thus contributing to the **achievement of the SDGs**. At the same time, it is committed to **mobilizing resources and attention** within the international community to support the work that cities are undertaking.

A valuable partnership has been established with the **School Meals Coalition** led by the **World Food Programme** that involves an alliance of governments and a wide range of partners engaged to drive actions that can urgently **improve and scale up school meal programmes all over the world**. The MUFPP is proud to lead one of the initiatives of the SMC: **Cities Feeding the Future**, fostering the key role of cities in improving school meal programmes in their communities.

The MUFPP is also carrying out a number of **advocacy activities at regional level**:

- the MUFPP is actively engaged in a dialogue with the **African Union** to advocate for the recognition of the urban dimension of food systems in a rapidly urbanising continent.
- In Asia Pacific, the MUFPP is actively working with the **ASEAN** Health Cluster I, highlighting the key role of cities in a multi-level governance approach, while advocating for the importance of including local governments' perspectives in relevant policy documents.
- The Municipality of Milan together with Lisbon Metropolitan Authority co-coordinates the **Urban Agenda for Europe - Thematic Food Partnership**, facilitated by the European Urban Initiative Secretariat, advocating for better regulation, knowledge and funding in Europe, in particular defining paneuropean actions with the 20+ partners.
- The MUFPP and **Mercociudades** renovated their relationship through a renewed Letter of Intent to strengthen the role of the MUFPP in the South American region. Thanks to the action undertaken, the MUFPP participated in the 2024 and 2025 Mercociudades' annual events organizing thematic sessions as well as supporting Rosario, Belo Horizonte and Porto Alegre's proposal to create the "Urban Food Policies" thematic unit formally approved by the Assembly in 2024.



International partnerships and projects

Over the years, the Milan Pact has consolidated an **increasing number of partners**, ranging from international organizations to universities, research centers and NGOs, gathering opportunities and linking them to its signatory cities. Significant, in this regard, is the agreement signed in 2022 with the **Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)**. This strong alliance is further supporting the MUFPP in its mission to foster cities' actions all over the world, focusing on developing more sustainable and inclusive food systems. The outstanding results of this collaboration have led in 2026 to the renewal of the Agreement for additional three years.



Key figures about MUFPP activities

10 Years of activity

340 Signatory cities

6 MUFPP Regions

9 Global Fora

25 Regional Fora

13 Steering Committee cities