

4-6 November 2026 |
Rotterdam, The Netherlands



TRAINING FOR CITIES

School meals as a catalyst for behavioural change and climate action

The training for cities on school meals as a catalyst for behavioral change and climate action will take place on **4-6 November 2026**, hosted by the **City of Rotterdam**.

The event is organized within the framework of the **Cities Feeding the Future Initiative** of the School Meals Coalition (SMC), **led by the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPF)**, and it is promoted with the **Urban Agenda for the EU Partnership on Food and Eurocities**, in collaboration with the city of **Vantaa**, in synergy with the **CLEVERFOOD and Healthy Wave projects**, and supported by the **Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation** and **AICS**.

The Training aims at supporting cities in adopting **behavioural strategies to promote plant-rich diets in school canteens**, exploring how nudges, menu design and food presentation can shift children's food choices towards healthier and more sustainable diets. It brings together **city officials, practitioners and technical experts**, with the contribution of prominent partners **World Resources Institute (WRI)** and **Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC)**. Participating cities will then work in **hands-on sessions** to apply these insights to their own school meals programmes, discuss common challenges and exchange practical, replicable solutions, reinforcing the **network of European cities** committed to healthy and sustainable school meals.



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Agenda

DAY 1 – Wednesday 4 November	
1:30-2:00 PM	Registration
2:00 – 2:15 PM	Introduction, contents and objectives of the training <i>Ottavia Pietetto & Chiara Mandelli, Municipality of Milan – MUFPP Secretariat</i> <i>Chiara Roticiani, Eurocities</i> <i>Isa Stucki, Municipality of Vantaa</i>
2:15 – 3:00 PM	Participating Cities presentation Challenges & Best practices on school meals programmes
3:00 – 4:00 PM	WRI technical presentation Moderator: <i>Edwina Hughes, World Resources Institute (WRI)</i> • Welcome and Context • What We Know About Driving Dietary Behaviour Change • Behaviour Change in School Food Environments • Introducing the WRI Food Policy Toolkit
4:00- 4:15 PM	Coffee & Tea Break
4:15 – 6:00 PM	Workshop with cities “Which Policy Actions Could Drive Behaviour Change?” Moderator: <i>Edwina Hughes, World Resources Institute (WRI)</i>
7:00 PM	Dinner covered by the organisers

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DAY 2– Thursday 5 November	
8:30 – 9:30 AM	Registration
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Opening Plenary Session
	Official Opening of Healthy Wave Final Conference Welcome words <i>René Segers-Hoogendoorn</i> , Vice-Mayor Care, Welfare and Social & Community Infrastructure Keynote: <i>Jiří Švarc</i> , European Commission
	Inspirational Insights – The results from SchoolFoof4Change Project <i>Annelies Smet</i> , Rikolto
1:00 – 2:00 PM	Panel debate: Re-thinking Healthy School Meals Moderator: <i>Josje van Nes</i> <i>Panelist:</i> <i>Jiří Švarc</i> , European Commission <i>Ana Paula Reis</i> , Agrupamento de Escolas Anselmo de Andrade <i>Andrea Magarini</i> , Municipality of Milan <i>Vera van Stokkum</i> , InHolland
	Network lunch break

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DAY 2 – Thursday 5 November			
2:00 – 3:30 PM	Parallel Sessions		
	Parallel A – Early Childhood Education & Care Moderator: <i>Franca Locati</i> , Municipality of Milan	Parallel B Local School Food Policy Moderator: <i>Chiara Mandelli</i> , Municipality of Milan	Parallel C Breaking the Cycle of Child Poverty Moderator: <i>Eerika Kantonen</i> , Municipality of Helsinki
3:30 – 6:00 PM	Voice of the Children Outcomes of the Healthy Wave Project by <i>Leen Tyrions</i> (Rikolto) and <i>Marit Struiksma</i> (Erasmus MC) Conclusions and Recommendations from the parallel sessions and panel debate by The Youth Closing statement		

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DAY 3 – Friday 6 November	
8:30–9:00 AM	Registration
9:00–9:05 AM	Introduction of the day <i>Ottavia Pieretto & Chiara Mandelli, Municipality of Milan – MUFPP Secretariat</i>
9:05–9:30 AM	WG Food Meeting & CLEVERFOOD Updates <i>Chiara Roticiiani, Eurocities</i> <i>Chiara Mandelli, MUFPP Secretariat</i> <i>Isa Stucki, City of Vantaa</i>
9:30 – 10:00 AM	Urban Agenda for the EU – Position Paper of the Food Partnership & EU Policy Updates <i>Chiara Roticiiani, Eurocities</i> <i>Chiara Mandelli, Municipality of Milan – MUFPP Secretariat</i> <i>Jean-Marc Louvain, ICLEI</i>
10:00 – 10:30 AM	Joint Research Center Presentation <i>Aurora Perez Cornago, Joint Research Center, European Commission</i>
10:30 – 10:45 AM	Coffee & Tea Break
11:45 AM – 1:00 PM	Workshop with cities Moderators: <i>Chiara Mandelli & Ottavia Pieretto, Municipality of Milan – MUFPP Secretariat</i> Building on the thread of work of the Wednesday afternoon
1:00 – 2:00 PM	Lunch break
2:00 – 5:00 PM	Field Visit TBC and departures of participants