



The roots of the city



Creative food systems in
European small towns



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better cities



THE ROOTS OF THE CITY. Creative food systems in European small towns

Publisher

City of Baena
Plaza de la Constitución 1
14850 Baena (Córdoba)
SPAIN
Further information: <http://urbact.eu/AGRI-URBAN>
Contact: agriurban@ayto-baena.es

Editorial board

Antonio Zafra
Miguel Sousa
Raquel Moreno

Written by

Antonio Zafra. *Lead Partner Coordinator*
Miguel Sousa. *AGRI-URBAN Lead Expert*
Eddy Adams. *URBACT Programme Expert*
Pamela Mason. *Researcher, Health Nutritionist, member of the Abergavenny AGRI-URBAN Local Group*
Albert García & Lilisha Burris. *Municipality of Mollet del Vallés*
Efthymia Fotaki. *Municipality of Pyli*
Miguel Vasco. *INature Executive Director*
Christine Strandberg. *Municipality of Södertälje*
Jean François Pecheur. *LAG Pays de Condruces*
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Laureen Traclet & Gilles Perole. *Municipality of Mouans-Sartoux*
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Kata Rupčić & Dino Zilic. *Municipality of Petrinja*
Valentina Sallustio. *Technical Agrarian Institute Garibaldi/Da Vinci*
Albert Delière. *Director of the Asbl Devenirs*
Clayton Debiasi. *Researcher Centro de Biotecnologia de Plantas da Beira Interior*
Jordan Lane (drawings). *Municipality of Södertälje*

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*Creative food systems in
European small towns*



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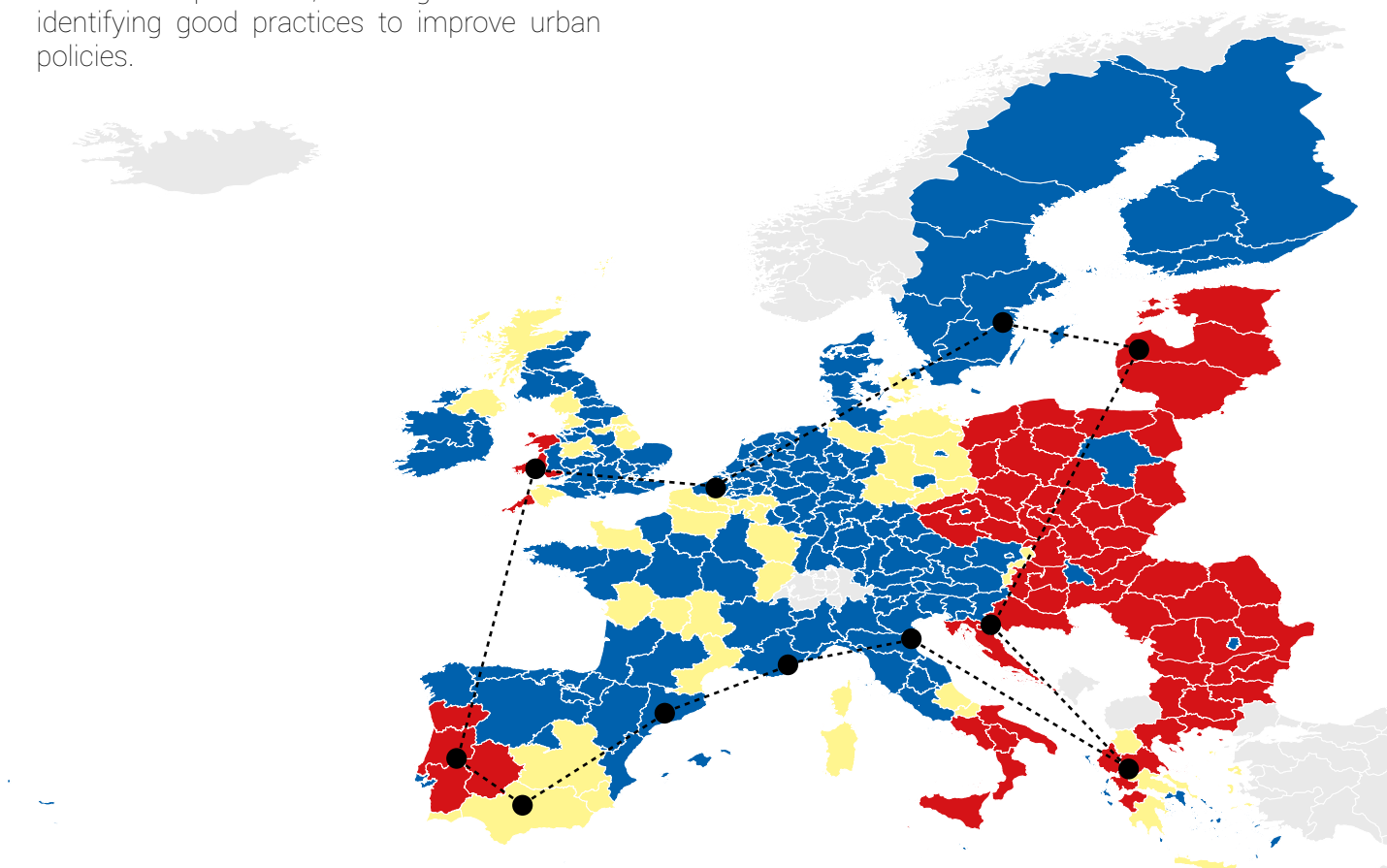
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About URBACT & AGRI-URBAN

URBACT is the European Territorial Cooperation programme that aims to foster sustainable integrated urban development in cities across Europe. URBACT's mission is to enable cities to work together and develop integrated solutions to common urban challenges, by networking, learning from one another's experiences, drawing lessons and identifying good practices to improve urban policies.

AGRI-URBAN is one of the 21 URBACT III Action Planning Networks within the URBACT programme. During the 30 months of project duration, 11 European cities had the opportunity to work towards sustainable food systems, with the aim to stimulate employment and job creation.



The AGRI-URBAN cities are:

- SPAIN: City of Baena (Lead Partner)
- LATVIA: Jelgava LM
- PORTUGAL: City of Fundão
- CROATIA: City of Petrinja
- WALES: Monmouthshire county Council
- SPAIN: City of Mollet del Vallès
- FRANCE: City of Mouans- Sartoux
- BELGIUM: LAG Pays De Condruses
- ITALY: City of Cesena
- SWEDEN: City of Södertälje
- GREECE: City of Pyli

AGRI-URBAN followed a process based on the URBACT Action-Planning Cycle to stimulate sharing and learning within the network. Also, every city partner was required to set up an URBACT Local Support Group (ULG), with the main objective of gathering relevant stakeholders and bringing together different perspectives to frame problems and design concrete actions related to the focus themes.

The outcomes of this work are presented with more detail in this report.





THE ROOTS OF THE CITY - Creative food systems in European small towns - report cover a wide range of findings in which the reader is faced with different answers about what is the current situation of local and territorial food systems, their challenges and the initiatives in progress. This is a dynamic process, evolving every day, so this publication is an invitation to participate in the debate and, even more, to be involved in the implementation of sustainable proposals aimed at reinforcing the resilience of our local and territorial food systems.

This publication collects the specific visions of a group of eleven European small and medium sized cities as a concrete contribution to nourish the conversation through a double path. On the one hand each partner city proposes a specific Integrated Action Plan to be implemented in a short time period. On the other, the network and the expert team which have supported the cities during the development of the project, offer an overview of the theme and sub-themes that focus AGRI-URBAN activity. An ensemble of experts, representatives of institutions and other kinds of stakeholders have joined their voices to create a choral performance that we hope will serve to stimulate good solutions regarding this challenge that European cities are nowadays facing.

Section I, Sustainable Diets, addresses the food systems associated with a number of

environmental, health and socioeconomic challenges. It highlights the impacts of current diets on the health and welfare of people and on the planet are huge. It stresses the need to implement sustainable diets from sustainable food systems.

Section II, European cities and food policy, sketches the role of cities and policymakers as drivers of a change that is already in movement worldwide. In this section, AGRI-URBAN puts available useful lessons to the cities of the world when defining and implementing their policies.

Sections III, AGRI-URBAN on the road, outlines the role of the food sector to generate jobs in small and medium size cities and the main findings on the cross-cutting topics of AGRI-URBAN: "Ensuring Short circuits"; "Smart Land use"; "Business development of SMEs" and "Local public procurement".

Section IV, AGRI-URBAN Short readings, offers a compilation of personal stories, ideas, and opinions, showing this complex and diverse set of perspectives that concretize alternative food models in Europe.

Section V, Conclusions, and Section IV, Where to find more, is an invitation to the reader to go deeper on this complex subject, which demands a multiple, innovative, creative bunch of initiatives, fed by a big and diverse number of stakeholders.



Aberdare - Bala - Casnewydd - Ffordd - Jolga - Marchion - Mottel del Valle - Porth - Stryd

agri-urban

THE ROOTS OF THE CITY

Words by the Lead Partner



For the City Council of Baena, a typical agro-city within Andalusia, leading a network of cities in the framework of the URBACT III Programme was at the same time an honour, a responsibility and an opportunity.

At the close of the project we can declare ourselves very satisfied both with the shared process and with the results that the AGRI-URBAN project has achieved. The achievement is the result of collective work and therefore as Lead Partner of the network we want to thank all parties involved in making this experience of exchange between eleven cities, belonging to ten countries of the European Union, viable and successful. In the first place, recognizing the role of the URBACT Secretariat, that has provided the network with the necessary methodology, tools and support. Then, applauding the work of the experts who, thanks to their ability, have accompanied and guided the successive stages of this knowledge building process. Moreover, highlighting the role of cities with their political leaders, technical teams and the enthusiastic involvement of the multiple local stakeholders involved. All of them have been an active part of the twelve transnational meetings held and of the bilateral meetings organized by the cities themselves and of their respective local groups. In this way, we can say that in AGRI-URBAN the exchanges have given way to a multilevel transferability.

The participatory dimension has been essential in the performance of the AGRI-

URBAN network. The eleven local groups have followed an effective common work plan that has resulted in the production of Local Action Plans that have finally been approved and presented in society. The next step, truly important, is that of implementation, a stage which the AGRI-URBAN partners have already started putting into practice concrete actions.

From a political point of view, the shared vision and commitment made by all Mayors of the AGRI-URBAN network of cities through the Manifesto of Mollet del Vallés (June 2016) has proved its success by highlighting the role that small and medium-sized cities play in the political and social articulation of the European Union. It has been equally timely in having put food at the centre of the debate on sustainable development. Finally, it has reinforced the need to open new ways of relating to the European territorial development, promoting a proximity connection between rural and urban areas, as well as between food producers and consumers.

Thanks to the URBACT III Programme for having given us this opportunity and to the cities of the AGRI-URBAN network for their common effort to make the most of it. We invite cities and European citizens to share this festival of experiences and knowledge through the different publications, videos, articles and other communication tools generated by this network of small and medium-sized cities.



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MAYORS' STATEMENT



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“ Food connects us all to our cities, our land and our future ”



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1. **Peter Fox**
Leader of Monmouthshire County Council
2. **David Simcock**
Mayor of Abergavenny (United Kingdom)
3. **Jesús Rojano**
Mayor of Baena (Spain)
4. **Paolo Lucchi**
Mayor of Cesena (Italy)
5. **Paulo Fernandes**
Mayor of Fundao (Portugal)
6. **Ziedonis Caune**
Mayor of Jelgava Local Municipality (Latvia)

7. **Josep Monràs I Galindo**
Mayor of Mollet del Vallés (Spain)
8. **Pierre Aschieri**
Mayor of Mouans-Sartoux (France)
9. **Eric Lomba**
President of LAG Pays de Condruses (Belgium)
10. **Darinko Dumbovic**
Mayor of Petrinja (Croatian)
11. **Konstantinos Maravas**
Mayor of Pyli (Greece)
12. **Boel Godner**
Mayor of Södertälje (Swedem)

AGRI-URBAN cities are proud of their heritage and consider food and farming to be of huge importance now and in the future. Given the global challenges we will all face, our participation in the AGRI-URBAN Project and preparation of the Integrated Action Plans has been most welcome.

Abergavenny hosts an annual international Food Festival and is also fortunate to have many active community-based organisations promoting locally grown, locally sourced and ethically produced food...By building on this strong base we can all support and contribute to the sustained growth of our food and farming sectors into the future.

In **Baena**, culture and agriculture have historically shared the same roots. Currently, a high specialization in the olive oil sector predominates. Our Action Plan aims to strengthen this territorial brand while at the same time diversifying and making local production and consumption more sustainable. We aspire to be an active part of a food corridor that connects products of differentiated quality.

Cesena has an intense agri-food commitment that has been the base for its social and economic development and for local traditions. Key pillars for project implementation have been the increase of youth employment as well as the need to create new networks and exchange opportunities among small producers and consumers by strengthening a short food supply chain and the high-quality of local products.

Agri-food is the main economic sector of the county of **Fundao**. Characterized by products and producers of excellence, our territory begins to assert itself in several other fields related to industry and innovation. Our strategy aims to be as integrated and coherent as possible, and at the same time we want to project our products to the world, but also to strengthen its connection with the local community.

There are three foundation stones at the core of the business activity development plan for the **Jelgava Local Municipality**: the smart

management of local resources, an increase in the role of knowledge in business activity, as well as support for the sale of local products and services. The local municipality's business potential is hidden in its traditional areas. However, it is opening the door to new forms of business activity.

The City Strategig Plan, Mollet 2025, identifies Gallecs, our food production are, as a flagship project of our city. The citizens of **Mollet del Vallés** have two souls, one rural and the other urban, and this fact gives us a unique identity in relation to surrounding cities. We see a Mollet where citizens can choose nutritious food and sustainable production as part of a healthier lifestyle.

For more than 30 years, the municipal team has been pursuing the goal of making **Mouans-Sartoux** a piece of true humanity... Deciding what we want to eat and where we want our food to come from is a way to feed ourselves while respecting both our health and the environment... Two axes for the future are to succeed in installing farmers in the municipal land area and to continue to conduct our sustainable food education activities...

For 8 years now, we have been developing a strategy focused on short supply chain. With the **Pays des Condruces LAG**, we have initiated a holistic territorial approach. The URBACT project made it possible for us to compare our strategy with similar experiences from all over Europe. It offered the opportunity to improve some of our actions, to be inspired by successful European projects and to involve the actors of the territory.

The first Croatian salami factory was created in our city in the 17th century, and since then a large number of our inhabitants worked in the agri-food sector. Unfortunately, in the 1990s, **Petrinja** was devastated during the Croatian war... I believe that our participation in AGRI-URBAN is an excellent opportunity for the development of the sector and creates preconditions for further development...

The AGRI-URBAN Network has offered the Municipality of **Pyli** a great opportunity to gain the "Know How" on different sectors and

facilitated the start-up of a Social Enterprise Forestry Association, the development of skills on food processing, the organization of wide range fairs or the use of administrative tools to build communication bridges between producers and stakeholders.

In **Södertälje** municipality we have worked with public food as a tool for sustainable development for nearly two decades. We have achieved many milestones, but know we have a lot of work to do. Our vision is that Södertälje will become a regional node for sustainable food production, consumption, research, planning and innovation.

The process has brought together many different stakeholders to consider solutions to the challenges and to set out detailed actions which will be of particular benefit to our cities and the surrounding areas.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the individuals, groups and organisations who have contributed thoughts, ideas and time to the implementation of the Project and the preparation of our Plans and we look forward to seeing the ideas evolve into actions.

We are pleased to have been a part in the URBACT Programme and we will continue to be involved in future partnerships between European cities.

Food connects us all to our cities, our land and our future.

It is time to get to work.



***It is time to
get to work.***





Words by Miguel Sousa

AGRI-URBAN Lead Expert

AGRI-URBAN was an individual and collective learning journey. As Lead Expert I felt myself growing with the cities, by building together with them the learning process, identifying the gaps and finding solutions to overcome them, listening to all the cities concerns and expectations and building bridges between cities. AGRI-URBAN went far beyond the planned outputs and that can be measured by the number of bilateral meetings organized between the cities during project life time and that will continue after the project ends.

AGRI-URBAN is not reaching an end! The high quality IAPs developed by the partnership will go to implementation phase and the change foreseen in each city vision will be fulfilled. Later we will recognise that AGRI-URBAN was an important milestone to place small and medium-sized European cities at the core of a growing global movement that will change the way we see food in our plates.





Some thoughts on AGRI-URBAN

by Eddy Adams
(URBACT Programme Expert)

How will we feed ourselves in the future? A growing number of cities are asking this question. Our attitude to food has become a proxy for how we see the world. Will we continue exploiting and destroying, or are we committed to nurturing and sustaining?

Cities grappling with these questions have much to learn from URBACT's Agri-Urban network. Over 30 months this group of cities has been learning and sharing approaches to food which promote local, affordable and organic production and consumption. Network members range from some of Europe's leading exponents in this area – such as Mouans-Sartoux, a long-standing pioneer and Sodertalje with its innovations in public procurement – to others addressing a systemic food policy for the first time.

We see small cities showing bigger cities the way forward. We also see approaches which take the urban and rural perspectives together – rather than seeing them as adversaries. And we also see a perspective which rises above the narrowly sectoral. If you map Agri-Urban's work against the Urban Agenda for the EU

themes you'll see that it cuts across:

- Jobs and Skills
- Sustainable Use of Land
- Circular Economy
- Urban Poverty
- Air Quality

Personally, I have enjoyed the energy, enthusiasm and joie de vivre that's been evident in the network. I will always remember discussing Fundao's impressive cherry-centred economy outdoors on a warm summer's evening with the partners. Only a few months later, much of the area was devastated by forest fires – a reminder of the growing climatic threats our cities face – and Fundao's resilience is an inspiration for all.

Agri-Urban has created a durable and important legacy. I have no doubt that the connections and relationships built over these months will continue – and will lead to many other great things. Well-done! Take a step back, admire your work and let's share the Agri-Urban story far and wide.

Food, lands and people in European small and medium sized cities





slow food
slow life

SLOW

I.

SUSTAINABLE DIETS



by Pamela Mason
(Member of the AGRI-URBAN
group, Abergavenny)

How can huge populations be fed healthily, equitably and affordably while maintaining the ecosystems on which life depends? The evidence of the impact of diet on the health of people and the planet has grown enormously during recent decades, yet changing consumer eating habits, even for public health alone, not to mention planetary health, is proving difficult.

So, what is a sustainable diet? This term is not new. Two nutritionists – Gussow and Clancy – proposed in 1986 that human diets should be based on environmental as well as nutritional criteria for which they coined the term “sustainable diet”. They argued that food choices should take into account not only nutritional impact but also the long term stability of the global food system encompassing global justice, biological diversity, efficient use of resources, avoiding fossil fuels and using local seasonal produce. They advocated eating a variety of foods, avoiding too much fat, saturated fat, salt and sugar and eating foods with adequate fibre, advice which largely remains today. More recently the FAO and Bioversity (2010)¹ defined sustainable diets more broadly than

nutrition + environment as “Sustainable Diets are those diets with low environmental impacts which contribute to food and nutrition security and to healthy life for present and future generations. Sustainable diets are protective and respectful of biodiversity and ecosystems, culturally acceptable, accessible, economically fair and affordable; nutritionally adequate, safe and healthy; while optimizing natural and human resources”.

This definition attracts criticism for being too vague, too many factors involved, impossible to achieve and drives discussion around trade-offs (e.g., between nutrition and the environment; environmental factors and cultural acceptability and so on). Whilst environmental sustainability within planetary boundaries can be argued to be the most important dimension of sustainable diets, cultural acceptability, accessibility, safe and affordable food and the health and welfare of all who work in the food system are also important.

Why are diets unsustainable?

Why does the issue of sustainable diets matter? The short answer is that modern diets are unsustainable at a mass scale. Food systems, and hence diets, are linked with health, environmental and socio-economic challenges. Food systems account for 24% of total greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs)² arising from: conversion of land to agriculture; fertilized soils leading to release of nitrous oxide; enteric fermentation in ruminant animals that produce methane, rice cultivation that releases methane, and burning biomass. Livestock production is under particular



scrutiny for its impact on the environment. Animal production is responsible for a third of all of agriculture's GHGEs almost half of which are caused by feed production and processing³.

Dietary impact on the environment is not limited to GHGEs. Biodiversity is being lost at an unprecedented rate driven by overexploitation, changes in land use, patterns of consumption, pollution and climate change. This destruction of the natural world threatens the food and water security of billions of people. According to a 2018 UN backed report, conversion of forests to croplands and wetlands to shrimp farms has fed a human population that has more than doubled since the 1960s, but at a devastating cost to other species – such as pollinating insects and oxygen-producing plants – on which our climate, economy and well-being depend. In the Americas, more than 95% of high-grass prairies have been transformed into farms, along with 72% of dry forests and 88% of the Atlantic forests. The Amazon rainforest is still mostly intact, but it is rapidly diminishing and degrading along with an even faster disappearing *cerrado* (tropical savannah). Between 2003 to 2013, the area under cultivation in Brazil's northeast agricultural frontier more than doubled to 2.5m hectares, according to the report⁴.

Humans have used an estimated 7000 different plant species since they started agriculture approximately 10,000 years ago, but the agricultural landscape is dominated by

less than 100 species. More than three crops – maize, rice and wheat provide more than 50% of plant derived calories consumed by humans. Some 40 livestock species are raised for food but five species alone account for 95% of the total. Thirty-one species of fish and shellfish provide 95% of the total consumed; and an estimated 85% of global fish stocks are either fully fished or overfished and more than a fifth of wild caught fish is fed to animals⁵.

We live on a planet that has a fixed amount of land. The increasing speed with which land is being cleared for agriculture is destroying forests and wetlands and contributing to loss of biodiversity, climate change, soil degradation, soil erosion and the leaching of nutrients. The growing consumption of meat and dairy produce is a key driver accelerating this process. Raising livestock for human consumption accounts for some 70% of all agricultural land use. Nearly half of global agricultural land is used for livestock feed production⁶. Some 36% of the calories produced by the world's crops are used for animal feed. Only 12% of those feed calories ultimately contribute to the human diet as meat and other animal products. Eating more plants instead of feeding them to animals, humans could significantly reduce the escalating demand for land and the environmental problems associated with land use.

Other dietary challenges for planetary health include the vast amounts of water used by agriculture, with agriculture also responsible

for water pollution. Animal products generally have higher water footprints than plants with an average US diet consuming 5400 litres of water a day and a vegetarian diet consuming 2600 litres a day. Significant amounts of water are traded around the world as a result of the export of water thirsty foods often from parts of the world suffering water scarcity.

Soil erosion too is a critical problem. In 2014, a Sheffield University study found that over-intensive farming meant that the UK had 100 harvests left while the FAO has suggested that if soil degradation continues at the current rate, the world's top soil could have gone in 30-40 years⁷. Given that 90% of our food comes from the soil this is a serious situation. Livestock production is responsible for 35% of soil erosion globally. Other environmental challenges include the use of pesticides and excessive run-off of nitrogen and phosphorus used in fertilizers causing eutrophication.

In terms of dietary challenges to human health, we have a double burden of malnutrition. About 850 million people do not have enough to eat, 2 billion people have nutritional deficiencies, whilst 1.9 billion adults (>18 years) are overweight; of these, 650 million are obese. In addition, 41 million children (<5 years) and 340 million children and teenagers (5-19 years) are obese. Diet related disease, in particular type 2 diabetes is increasing globally. Unhealthy patterns of eating – consuming sugar sweetened beverages, processed and unprocessed meats and processed foods high in saturated fats, trans fats, salt and sugar are outpacing increases in healthy dietary patterns throughout the world.

Other significant challenges of the food system for human health include food-borne microbial illnesses such as campylobacter in chicken. Microbial contamination of salad vegetables has been growing worldwide. The use, misuse and overuse of antibiotics in animal farming has increased antimicrobial resistance posing a threat to human health. Antibiotics are used in many countries as growth promoters and as non-specific agents for preventing and treating infections. Excessive use of pesticides can be damaging for the health of people who work with them in agriculture with small studies showing effects on respiratory health and possible links with some cancers.

Current diets are also associated with significant socio-economic challenges, such as food insecurity and inequalities in access to a healthy diet. More than enough food is produced worldwide to feed everyone yet 850 million people go hungry. Despite food having become cheaper in richer countries during the last 60 years with people in the UK, for example, spending less than 10% of their income on food, use of emergency food is on the rise with food banks rapidly becoming 'institutionalized' and an 'accepted' part of the social fabric. Unhealthy foods are marketed at the expense of healthy foods and are often cheaper. Significant amounts of food are wasted and in some production systems, animal welfare is poor.

For those working in the food system, poor wages and working conditions and poor economic returns are significant challenges. Power in the food system is becoming increasingly concentrated with mega-mergers



in the seed, agri-chemical, fertilizer, animal genetics and farm machinery industries; this reinforces the industrial farming model, exacerbating its social and environmental costs. Globally, farmers are increasingly reliant on a handful of suppliers and buyers, squeezing their incomes.

The true costs of food to the health of people and the planet are not accounted for at the supermarket checkout. The UK Sustainable Food Trust (2017) report evaluated the true cost of food, estimating that for every £1 UK consumers spend on food, another £1 is spent by UK taxpayers on additional costs incurred by society through the production and consumption of that food: impacts on the natural environment (50p), effects on public

health (37p)⁸. In cash terms this means the UK spends £44 billion a year dealing with food-related health costs and £60 billion on environmental impacts, but the true costs to society in terms of days of work lost, increased care costs and mental effects are unknown.

What is a sustainable diet?

The food system is associated with a number of environmental, health and socioeconomic challenges. To be sustainable, diets need to be healthy for people, the planet and be accessible and affordable for all, providing fair returns, decent jobs and good working conditions with fully internalized costs (see Figure 1). Sustainable diets must be culturally acceptable and of appropriate quality.



Figure 1. The key features and determinants of a sustainable diet
Source: Mason & Lang, 2017

So what does a sustainable diet look like? In 2014, the UK Food and Climate Research Network (FCRN) came up with some practical guidelines for low environmental impact diets consistent with good health⁹:

- Diversity - a wide range of foods eaten
- Balance achieved between energy intake and energy needs
- Based around minimally processed tubers, wholegrains, legumes, fruits and vegetables – particularly those that are field grown – “robust”, less prone to spoilage, and less requiring of rapid and more intensive transport modes
- Meat if eaten, in moderate quantities, and all parts eaten, and should be of high welfare
- Dairy products or alternatives (e.g., fortified milk substitutes and other foods rich in calcium and micronutrients) in moderate amounts
- Unsalted seeds and nuts
- Small amounts of fish and aquatic products sourced from certified fisheries
- Very limited consumption of foods high in fat, sugar or salt and low in micronutrients (e.g., crisps, confectionery, sugary drinks)
- Oils and fats with a beneficial omega 3:6 ratio such as rapeseed and olive oil
- Tap water in preference to other beverages, especially soft drinks.

A few other countries, including Sweden, Finland, the Netherlands, Germany and Qatar, have developed similar national guidance, whilst others such as the US and Australia have faced obstacles in the form of vested interests. Of particular note are the Brazilian guidelines which highlight the importance of culture in terms of where to shop, eating together and so on. They can be summarized as follows:

1. Prepare meals using fresh and staple foods
2. Use oils, fats, sugar and salt in moderation
3. Limit consumption of ready to eat food and drink products
4. Eat at regular meal times and pay attention to your food instead of multitasking. Find a comfortable place to eat. Avoid all you can eat buffets and noisy uncomfortable environments.
5. Eat with others whenever possible
6. Buy food in shops and markets that offer a variety of fresh foods. Avoid those that sell mainly ready to eat products
7. Develop, practice, share and enjoy your skills in food preparation and cooking
8. Decide as a family to share cooking responsibilities and dedicate enough time for healthy meals
9. When you eat out, choose restaurants that serve freshly prepared dishes. Avoid fast food chains.
10. Be critical of food industry advertising

What needs to be done?

For diets to become more sustainable, action will be needed at a number of different levels.

First there is a need to develop national official food based sustainable dietary guidelines (SDGs). Overall commitment from government is crucial (usually beginning with Ministry of Health). Sustainable Dietary Guidelines can be linked with the recent UN Sustainable Development Goals. Several of the 17 goals, and the targets within them, are related to food (e.g. Goal 2 targets hunger, nutrition, food security). In my own country of Wales, the Well-Being and Future Generations Act (WBFGA) provides an opportunity to make diets more sustainable. In this Act, food is





crucial (although not stated) to all seven of the Act's targets. Sustainable Dietary Guidelines could be linked with the Welsh Act.

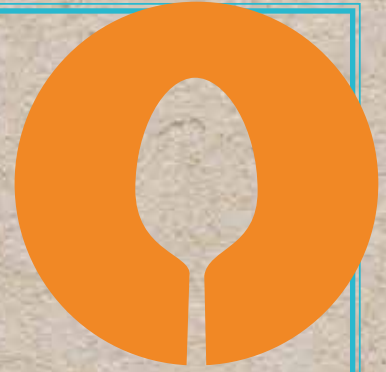
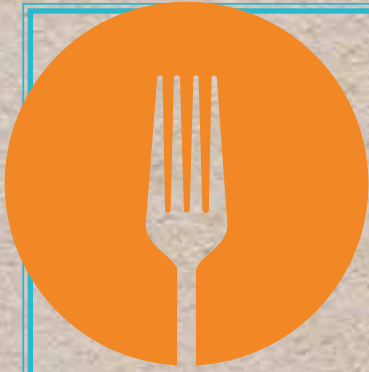
Second, consumers will need to change their diets and it does need to be recognized how difficult this is. Education is important, but time and effort are required to shift social norms and make new dietary patterns the norm. There is certainly a role for the food industry in reformulating products and developing new ones. But there is a key role for dietitians and other healthcare professionals in explaining to clients what is meant by a sustainable diet and providing practical information on food choices. Dietetic Associations in the UK, Italy, Canada and the US have developed or are developing position statements or toolkits on sustainable diets.

Third, and of particular interest in the agri-urban context is the things that towns, cities and communities can do, for example, developing local food strategies, public procurement for schools and hospitals sourcing healthy, sustainable food using short supply chains wherever possible, and making the best use of land to produce a diversity of healthy, low environmental impact food. Key city approaches include the Milan Food Policy Pact <https://www.milanurbanfoodpolicypact.org/> (an international pact signed by 163 cities worldwide, promising to deliver sustainable food systems) and the UK's Sustainable Food Cities <http://sustainablefoodcities.org/> initiative.

In conclusion, the impacts of current diets on the health and welfare of people and the planet are huge. Whilst food production and the types of food produced will need to change, consumption (i.e. diets) will also have to change. In short, we need sustainable diets from sustainable food systems. And we all have a part to play.

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AGRI-URBAN

Menú



Humble soup made in the Welsh style of Abergavenny, with old legumes of biodynamic cultivation, harvested in the district of Jarna in Södertälje.

Salad of tender leaves of mixed lettuce grown organically in Mouans-Sartoux and dressed with a virgin olive oil as biological as complex, produced in Baena.

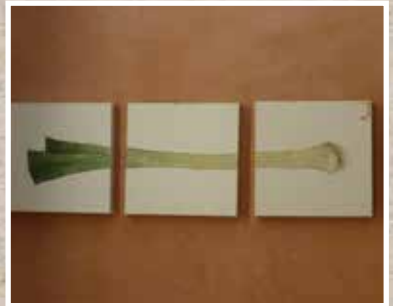
Divine trout from Greek mountains.

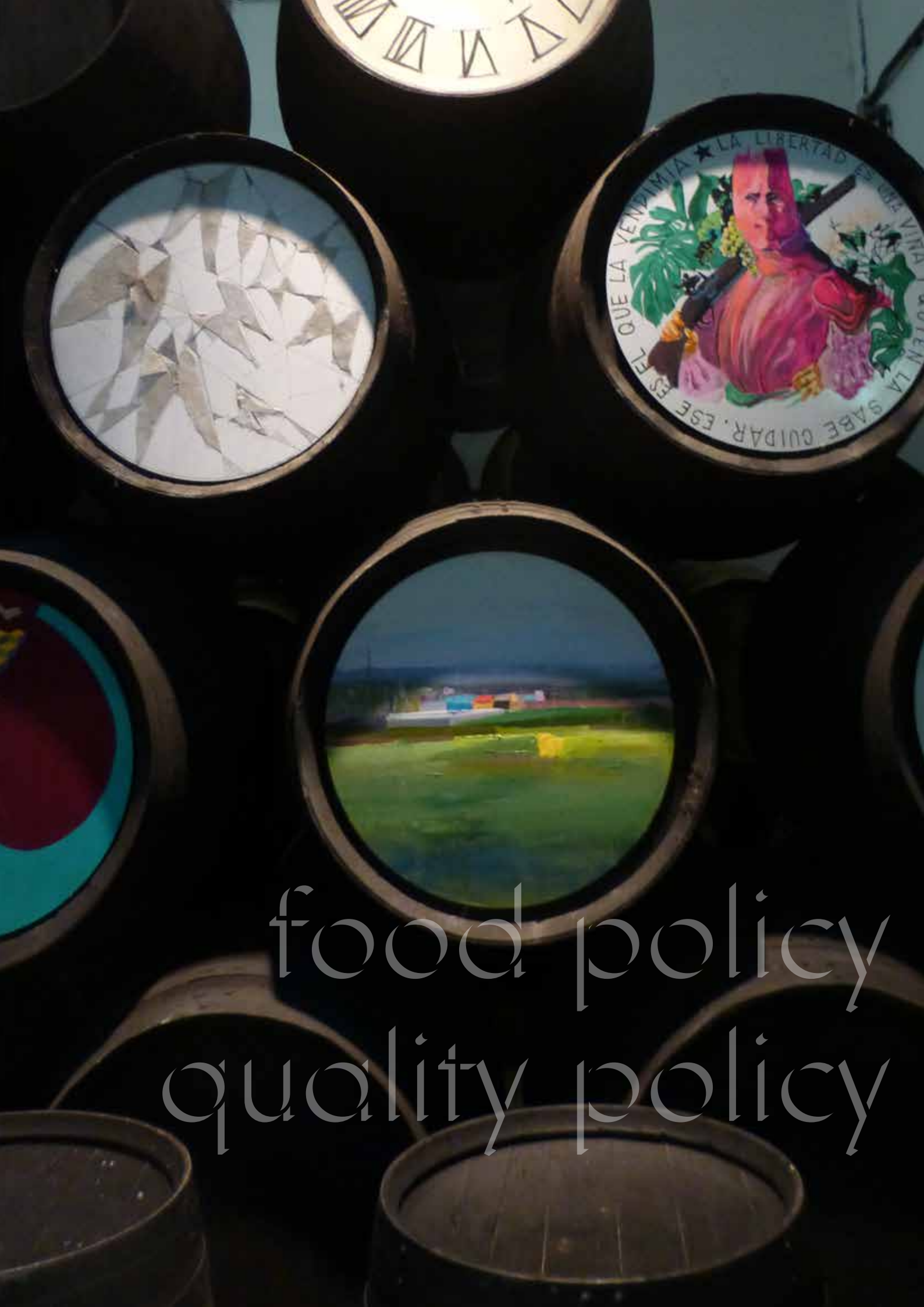
Small handmade bread rolls from the black fields of peat and the magical hands of a woman baker in Jēlgava LM.

Dessert collection: sensual heart-shaped cherries from Fundão with ice cream of seasonal fruit from Cesena and Petrinja honey.

Drinks: Spelt beer brewed in Mollet del Vallés, reinvented wine from the lands of Condruces and Tsipouro patiently distilled in Pyli.

AGRI-URBAN Toast: water, rainwater, spring water, natural water that feeds the soil, cleans the streets and flows through the half urban, half rural veins of the AGRI-URBAN network





food policy
quality policy

II.

EUROPEAN CITIES AND FOOD POLICY

Cities and food caring

In medieval times European cities were relevant power centres, and food was one of their major worries, always subject to control by the policy action. Many reasons explain this starting relation between cities and food that ended up with a noticeable impact even in shaping cities physically. Famine prevention, disruption of monopolies, distribution management by organizing public distribution systems parallel to the private ones, and the attempt to manage the unbalanced power relationship between rural areas, were some of the key points around which those local food policy models were built.

However, since the sixteenth century, cities lost their power over food production and supply in favour of states and the private market.



That is, in summary, how a recently published book on urban food policies – *Construire des politiques alimentaires urbaines* – tells the story and enables contextualization for the current interest of cities in recovering their previous competences.

As a consequence of that change, cities also lost the close connection they previously had with the nearby rural belts.

For Benoit Daviron (2017) and the other authors of the aforementioned book, several causes would explain the renewed interest of cities in food policy.

1. The new role of urban consumers who want to have a voice about the food model within the city and its environmental and social impacts. Phil Lambert, in "Supermarket Guru" (2013), pointed out that people are choosing their foods more holistically based on multiple "food factors" such as taste, ingredients, source, nutritional composition, asking who is making their foods, understanding impact on environment and animal welfare. All of the above factors – quality, promotion of personal health, transparency, trust, and social/environmental values – contribute to steady growth in local food demand.
2. The progressive interventionist withdrawal in the agrarian sector of national states in the last decades leaving the decisions to the globalized free market, causing environmental, price or supply crisis.

However, for the authors of this interesting historical review of the political power of cities

around food, cities have to face deep challenges if they want to achieve a successful re-empowerment. On the one hand they defend that the reappearance of an unbalanced relationship between rural and urban areas should be prevented. On the other, they raise doubts about the real capacity of cities to successfully tackle a challenge of such magnitude.

An analysis of urban food policies in Europe

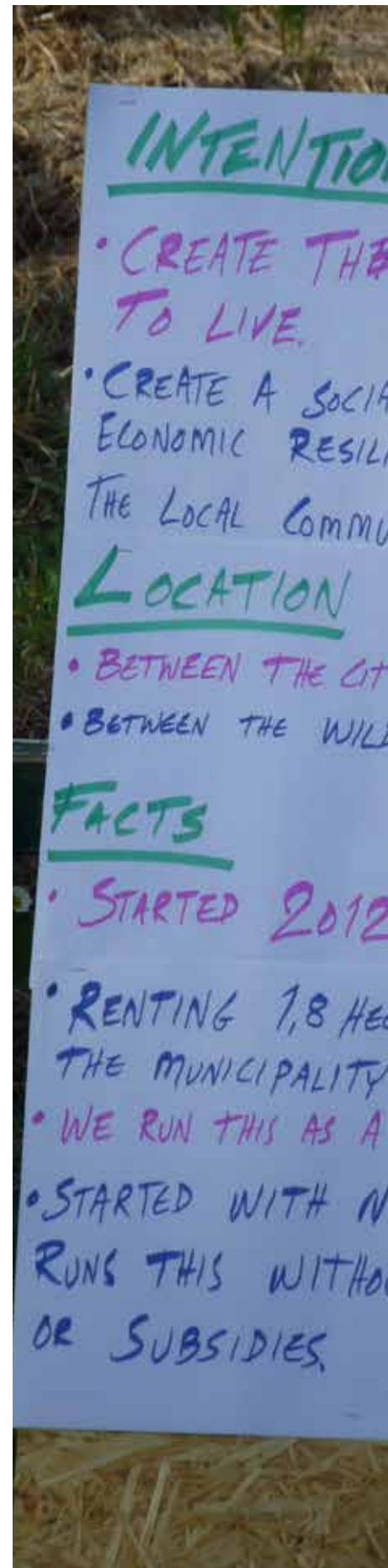
A recent study by the European Commission (Food in Cities 2017), aimed at promoting, from an innovative focus, the sustainability of food production and consumption in cities, has found a series of gaps in food plans taking place in European cities. Among these failures, it points out the lack of internal integration, the diffuse division of jurisdictional competences, the lack of a multi-level governance, the absence of contact between research, policy and practical implementation or the difficulties of attracting critical actors within the food sector policy. In general, a direct relationship has been confirmed between these deficits and the multiple restrictions derived from the different areas of competence between levels of administration, as well as between sectors or actors involved. Given this situation, cities have responded with innovative alternatives based on approaches such as:

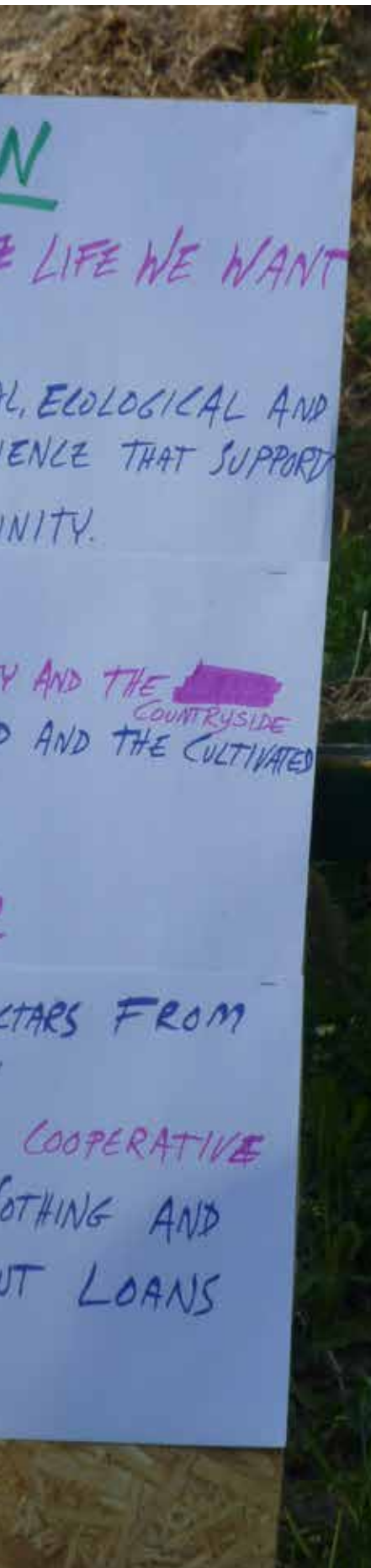
1. Strengthening the decision-making capacity that consumers and the local public administrations can exercise.
2. Encouraging participatory governance systems.
3. Claiming the role of local politics.
4. Supporting the strengthening of short marketing channels.
5. Promoting the systemic approach. By making the food chain more visible, local governments find it easier to develop an approach that overcomes the classic division between production and consumption that characterizes food policies.
6. Trans-localism as a tool for cooperation between cities and territories, creating networks that allow the transfer of knowledge and that can also stimulate territorial approaches.

In any case, what we are finding is that the commitment of the cities to lead a territorial food policy clashes with the normative and political reality promoted by those higher political instances, as well as by the economic laws imposed by the markets. Even so, it is certain that as much at European level as at national and regional, the present political direction allows to glimpse certain changes of tendency that could facilitate at least partially the fulfilment of these aspirations of the cities.

The pace of implementation: breakthrough innovation or step by step consensus

It is easy to confirm the renewed interest of cities to create local political instruments around food, but it does not seem that the pace





of implementation is always being the desired one, nor necessarily successful. Not even visions and definitions about what local policies in this matter are, reach agreement between the parties involved. For some actors, local is just a geographical concept, close to the well-known 0km, pointing out here the opportunity represented by the exchange of goods of proximity and the beneficial negotiation of prices and payments, but without necessarily questioning other aspects of the chain of production and consumption. Other actors, however, emphasize in this new local policy aspects such as environmental quality, the reduction of intermediaries or the control over the negative impacts of a global food system qualified as unsustainable.

In analysing the policy implementation, and as it has happened with other sectors of activity such as heritage management or cultural tourism, local authorities have promoted initiatives for revitalizing economic activity that have sometimes failed because they do not find sufficient economic viability, or simply have shown to be strategies inspired by external environments that when executed locally have not found sufficiently mature conditions. In other cases, the intervention of local authorities has taken precedence over a slower step-by-step process that, based on the mobilization and cooperation between stakeholders, has made it possible to minimize the risks and mature the decisions regarding the type of proposed actions.

A study case (Gatien-Tournat et al., 2016) in this issue, focused on the food policy of the French department of La Sarthe, has underlined these differences of approach, and without drawing conclusions, it highlights the importance that should be given to the adaptation of any food policy to the degree of maturity of the territory where it is going to be implemented. The good news, according to the referred article, is that local authorities can have a very positive impact on the necessary maturation of the change process. With this intention, they can use time and resources to promote small-scale actions aimed to mobilize the stakeholders, that is, the scale of the challenges and the ability of the agents of the local change would be accelerated through territorial coordination initiatives.

Successful factors

It is evident that food is being included in the urban agenda, showing the difficulty of ensuring access to a healthy diet for all residents as well as highlighting critical aspects of unsustainability. At the same time that the urban population is growing steadily in the world, so does external dependence to ensure food supply, while it is difficult to maintain a local agriculture due to competition in land uses, as well as to ensure a supply of fresh and safe food. Access to healthy and sufficient food for the urban population has become a first order socio-economic and spatial problem, inviting cities to develop urban food policies for the benefit of the population itself, local producers and the community. It is a global imperative, reflected in the 'New Urban Agenda' (UN Habitat III, 2016), as well as in the Sustainable Development Goals (United Nations, 2015). At the local level this recommendation has materialized in numerous local plans, giving rise to specific 'urban food policy',

understood as "concerted action on the part of city government to address food related challenges" (IPES, 2017). These policies are being shaped both into integrated strategies that address multiple challenges and propose a vertical and comprehensive articulation, as well as into policies focused on specific problems. In any case, urban food policy is only a partial contribution to a global change in the food systems that must be considered in a multi-level governance model.

As a recent study by the International Panel of Experts of IPES FOOD (2017) underlines, the desire and commitment of cities to solve the above mentioned challenges is not new, what has changed is the scale and complexity of the problems. Global urban policies are affected positively when a city implements a particular food policy plan.

The aforementioned report has pointed out some of the factors that contribute to a positive development and to overcoming existing barriers by local food policies. It is worth mentioning some of these enablers:

- In the field of data management, monitoring and learning, the existence of baseline research, monitoring and continuous review of policies.
- Within the framework of a vertical multi-level governance model, the studied cases outlined the positive impact created when urban local food policy is being supported

by policies at the national level.

- Regarding the system of horizontal multi-level governance, a clear commitment of the city government, together with the interaction between departments and the establishment of a management body, are shown as vectors of the success of an urban food policy.
- A participatory strategy - regardless of the original top-down or bottom-up foundation -, involving all kinds of actors, handling differences with criteria, is another key to recognized success.
- The availability of financing for the actions, the concrete commitment of the municipality and the lack of constraints, are critical elements of a well-oriented policy.
- Finally, a political commitment at a high level and unrelated to the electoral cycles contributes to the effective implementation of these local food policies analyzed.

In conclusion, the IPES report points out, even though an urban food policy cannot be universally described, being necessary a detailed analysis of the factors in play to measure the impact, the mentioned factors demonstrate its consistency and offer useful lessons to the cities of the world when defining and implementing their policies.

"We are all environmental activists three times a day: every mouthful we take shapes the world. We either eat for a future, or we eat the future." – Ed Gillespie





Plastični lonček
400 g
110,00 kn

Med grad
naravnost
95,00 kn

Plastični lonček
400 g
110,00 kn

MED
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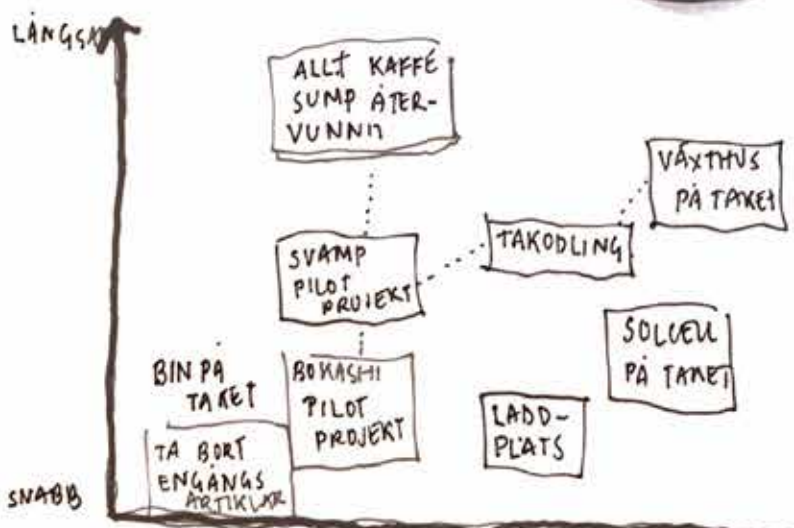
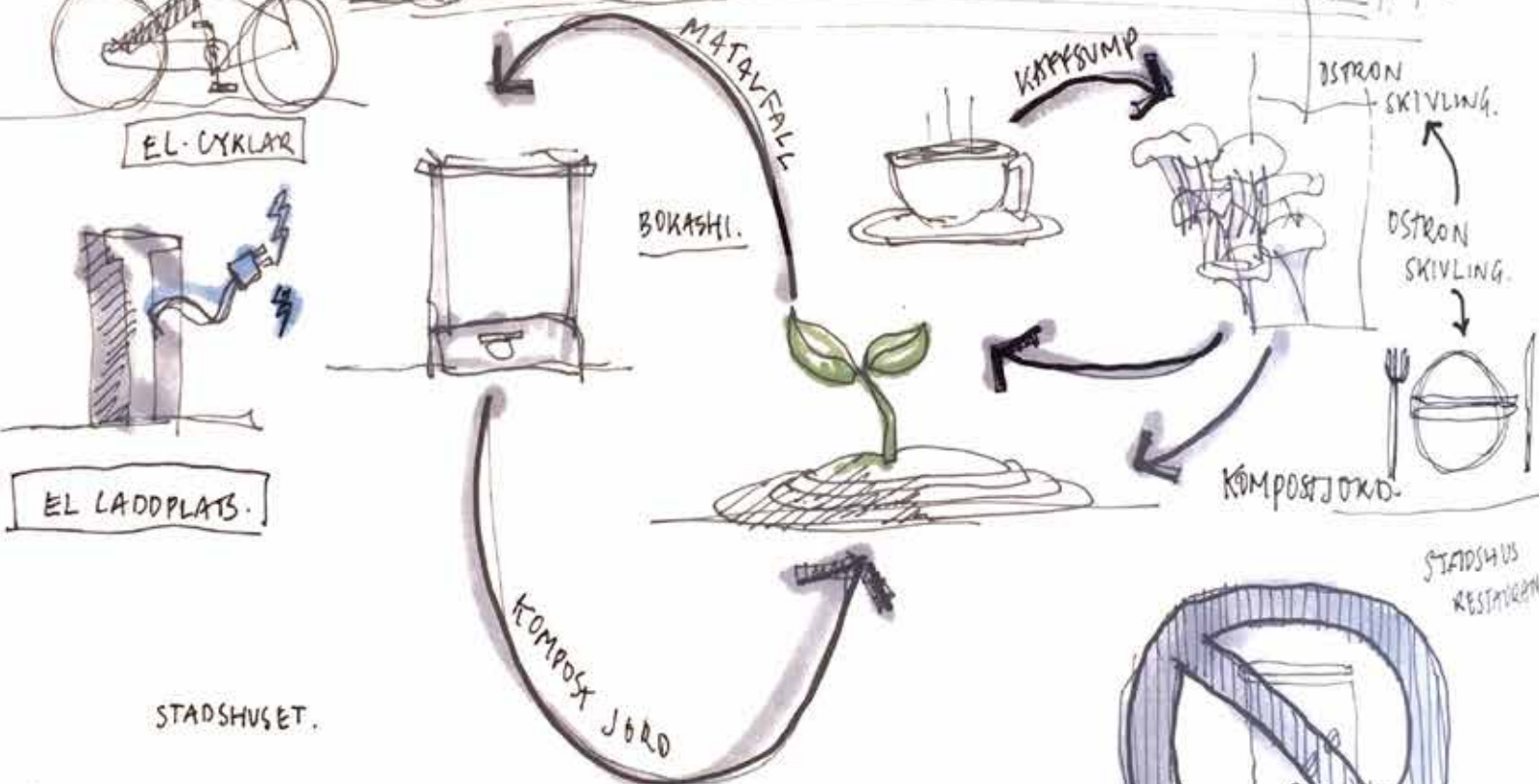
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delirium solaris
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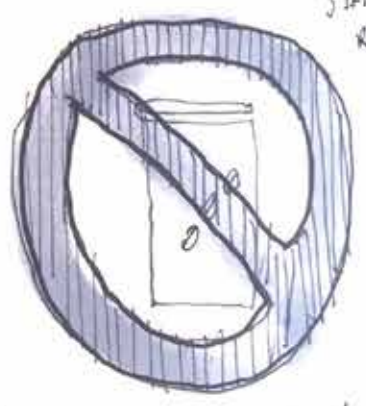
Lavanule
15 ml
2000 Škofljica
23,00 kn

Škofljica
180 ml
55,00 kn





HUR MÅNGA
ENGÅNGSMUGGAR
VÄRDE ÄR? DAG?
VECKA?
VAD KOSTAR DET??



INGEN ENGÅNG!
~~ENGÅNGFORMYCKET!!!~~

III.

AGRI-URBAN ON THE ROAD

From the rethinking to the reinvention
of local food systems

What has the AGRI-URBAN network been up to? What happened in the transnational learning and cooperation exchange project held for two years with the support of the European URBACT III Programme? This publication, which can be read together with the Final Project Report, gathers a set of texts in which the reader can find different answers about what is the current situation of local and territorial food systems, their challenges and the initiatives in progress. This is a dynamic process, evolving every day, so this publication is an invitation to participate in the debate and, even more, to be involved in the implementation of sustainable proposals aimed at reinforcing the resilience of our local and territorial food systems.

A complex subject like this, demands a multiple, innovative, creative bunch of initiatives, fed by a big and diverse number of stakeholders. This publication collects the specific visions of a group of eleven European small and medium sized cities as a concrete contribution to nourish the conversation through a double path. On the one hand each

partner city proposes a specific Integrated Action Plan to be implemented in a short time period. On the other, the network and the expert team which have supported the cities during the development of the project, offer an over view of the theme and sub-themes that focus AGRI-URBAN activity. An ensemble of experts, representatives of institutions and other kinds of stakeholders have joined their voices to create a choral performance that we hope will serve to stimulate good solutions regarding this challenge that European cities are nowadays facing.

A global overview of the starting point for the AGRI-URBAN partners regarding their respective local food systems can be found in the Baseline Study produced by the Lead Expert, Miguel Sousa, at the beginning of the project implementation. It is also recommended to review the initial diagnosis and expectations declared by each city and compare them with the current analysis offered by the AGRI-URBAN cities in the following pages, as well as with the content of their approved Integrated Action Plans.

III.1

ONE CENTRAL TOPIC – EMPLOYMENT IN THE FOOD SECTOR- IN A PARTICULAR SCENERY – SMALL & MEDIUM SIZED EUROPEAN CITIES

The European Committee of the Regions has expressed a Policy Recommendation through the document "Towards a sustainable EU food policy that creates jobs and growth in Europe's Regions and Cities" (February 2017), where it demands a long-term vision, based on a model of multi-level governance, which promotes more sustainable systems and connects different policy areas. The point of view expressed in this document calls, in line with the proposals that support the approach of the AGRI-URBAN project, for greater vertical and territorial integration in the EU, as well as a more global and strategic vision of the whole supply food chain. At the same time, it draws attention to the need to integrate environmental externalities into the real cost of food, in order to promote healthier food systems based on a model of resilient agriculture, while inviting the development of public procurement policies, aligned with this strategy and ensuring access to healthy diets by people with lower incomes.

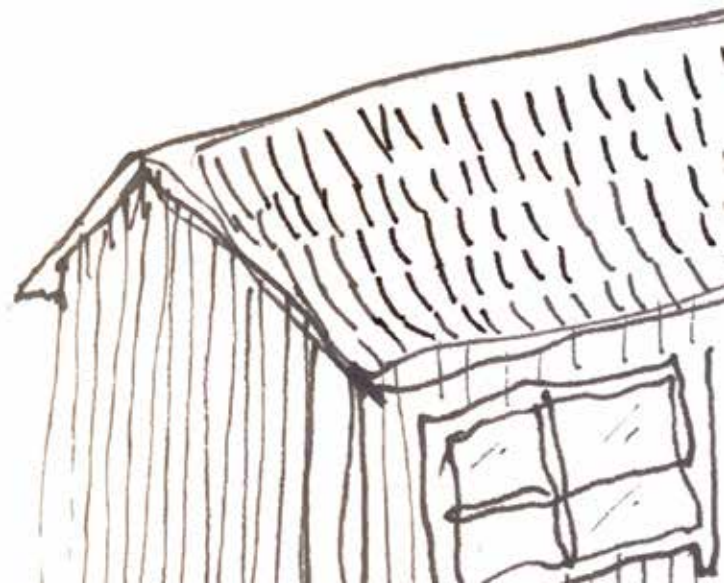
As it is shown by some of the cases studied within the AGRI-URBAN project, it is being noted how innovation linked to the development of network associative models by organic producers, contributes to creating a new dimension of quality food, as well as an important social and economic value from a renewed territorial and productive approach (Hochedez, 2013). The incubation of small business and self-employment initiatives is being successfully tested by some of the AGRI-URBAN partners, in particular in Condruces and Södertälje, while other cities are starting to do so and is part of the priority actions included in their Action Plans designed as the main result of the project itself.

There are many ways in which numerous entities try to ensure greater social justice in access to healthy food. Many underpin new food sharing networks in European cities, sharing spaces, equipment, knowledge and skills among people and groups. The multiple

community forms that occur in the city of Abergavenny are a good example of this. Other initiatives, such as the mobile canning workshop set up by the province of Liege, are a clear example of how to guarantee access to food while taking advantage of existing waste in department stores and supermarkets. New technologies facilitate this process of efficiency at the service of associations and social collectives that can find here ways of income generation - something substantial to ensure their own existence - as well as of social value generation, according to their own reason for being.

The commitment to a circular economy model, focused on an efficient and sustainable production while reducing waste around the food chain, offers an optimal space for the creation of new jobs along the entire food chain.

It is just that integrated vision from the territorial perspective, so claimed for, which is still pending to be reflected in pilot experiences evidencing how this new rural-urban reconnection can be articulated in a sustainable way, for the benefit of all the food system. This is an open challenge for the cities participating in the AGRI-URBAN project, in which they hope to deepen and invite other cities concerned to advance in the search for innovative solutions.



III.2

SOME CROSS-CUTTING TOPICS AND A SET OF FOUR SUB-THEMES

III.2.1. Ensuring short circuits

A sustainable food system needs to cushion the consequences brought by globalization that has caused a clear disconnection between producers and consumers. This reparation goes beyond the interests of the industry in order to have a territorial framework of resilient and autonomous supply.

Recovering the proximity between the two central parts of the food chain is a proposal that is being lavishly tested in recent years. In addition to direct benefits, short channels of production and consumption foster employment and attract new entrepreneurs, promote rural and urban connections, new spaces for social mediation and guarantee access to fresh and healthy food.

There are many ways in which this contact is made possible: platforms and online stores, community supported agriculture groups, on-farm shops, food hubs, farmer's markets, food festivals, 0km restaurants ...

AGRI-URBAN has been a permanent laboratory for the discovery and analysis of experiences linked to short agri-food channels. Among others, we can mention the following:

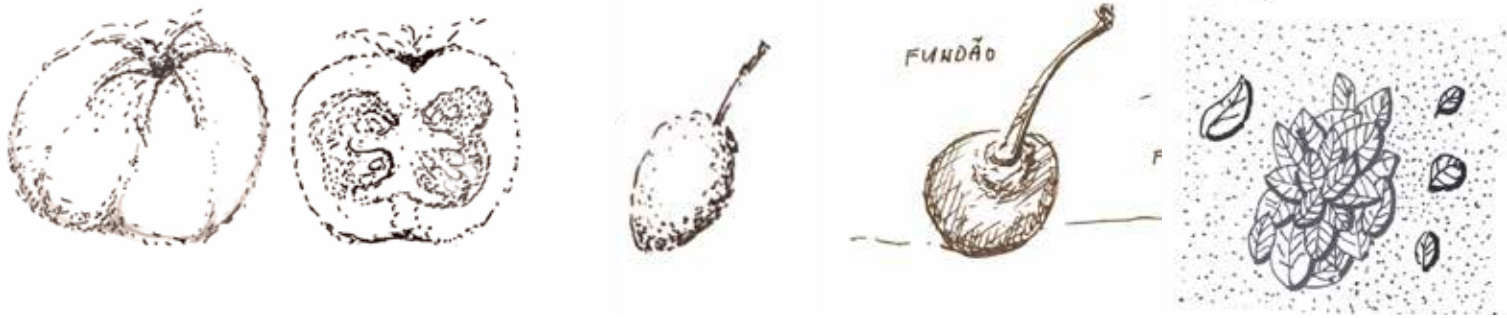
Local shops: Vidal family, Boomerang, Maison du Commerce Equitable in Mouans-Sartoux; Greenhouse in Petrinja; Abergavenny Food Festival; Social Gardens in Baena; Food Hub in Condruces; Community Supported Agriculture in Sodertalje; etc.

What other lessons can we draw from what is currently happening in order to facilitate this framework of close relationships?

In the global framework of changes in the food channel system, a significant area is being occupied by the changes in the short channels, reorganizing the system through the re-connection between producers and consumers.

Countries such as France or Italy are supporting and regulating this new framework at the national level, while at the level of the European Union, within the proposals of the Community Agricultural Policy (CAP), financed by the Rural Development funds, different measures are being implemented within the different national rural development programmes. In the same way, the European Parliament and the Council have requested the European Commission through Regulation (EU) No1151 / 92 "Agricultural Product Quality





Schemes Regulation" to create a possible label that supports agricultural producers in selling their products within a direct and local sales system. The definition of short channels revolves around the concepts of distance and number of intermediaries involved in the process. It is generally accepted as local sale that which relates to products obtained, processed, marketed and consumed in a radio located between 20 and 100 km. On the other hand it is also related to the sale where the intermediaries disappear or their participation is reduced to a minimum. In any case, the preponderant role of producers is indicated when fixing any type of label or recognition related to short food channels.

There are many ways in which these short channels are being shaped, from the ubiquitous initiatives of "Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)", to sales on the farm, sales outside the farm space through markets, festivals, stores ..., as well as through collectivities such as schools or hospitals.

In this way, a distinction can be made between traditional short channels, those based on the productive space itself, and "neo-traditional" channels in relation to those based on more complex collaborative structures, generally located outside the production space (Kneafsey et al., 2013). In a study focused on the status of short channels and local food systems (Kneafsey et al., 2013), some of the positive impacts associated with these are noted. On the one hand, the reconnection between producers and consumers promotes social capital, in the same way that it represents a revitalization of rural areas, and can also be a factor in the integration of excluded groups or people. From an economic point of view, the reactivation of proximity channels can also represent a certain regeneration of

the rural and peri-urban economy, while at the same time foster synergies with other sectors of activity such as tourism. On the other hand, the limitations associated with the reduced scale of direct sales, invite to create collaborations between producers and other longer channels through innovative ways that increase the ability of small producers to access more complex markets. It is a path that attracts growing interest and generates creative solutions ranging from food hubs, social cooperatives or districts and corridors of food production and consumption. The criticism of food consumption monopolized by the big food chains has been recently described in a report published by FRIEND OF THE EARTH EUROPE (2017) where it concludes that almost 50% of the food sold in the European Union comes from 10 chains of supermarkets. Large and small supermarket chains try to join this trend of nearby products, as well as initiatives directly carried out by supermarkets of short circuits such as O'Tera stores (<http://www.o-tera.com>). Scale in the general market of food consumption is the challenge addressed by the defenders of short channels and one of the proposals is that of cooperative markets (Fernández Casadevante, 2017) based on the logic of self-organized dynamics, mentioning examples as FOOD COOP (<https://www.foodcoop.com>) in the USA with its 16,000 members, La Louve (<https://cooplalouve.fr/>) in Paris with more than 5,000, or Landare (www.landare.org) in Iruñea with more than 3,600 families. David against Goliath, the great platforms of online commerce versus organized social cooperatives.

The discussion about the beneficial environmental impacts derived from the short production and consumption channels does not offer definitive conclusions. While it is

true that intuitively a significant reduction in polluting emissions can be assumed, some studies argue that the local character of the exchange cannot automatically be associated with this type of benefit. For Brunori (2016), more than a dichotomy between the local and the global, the spatial configuration of the food chain revolves around a very dynamic local-global continuum, where intermediary chains emerge in response to new market opportunities.

However, there is acceptance of the ethical value that is socially related to this type of proximity consumption, some consumers even willing to pay higher prices for these local and ecological productions.

Although fresh vegetables have traditionally occupied the highest percentage of this type of trade, as the channels become more complex and collaborative, other types of food are added to the list of goods in transaction, including meats, processed foods, preserves. Likewise, although the local nature of the exchanges associated with these channels continues to be predominant, a percentage that is associated with regional, national and international transactions within the scope of the European Union begins to be highlighted, where although the proximity character

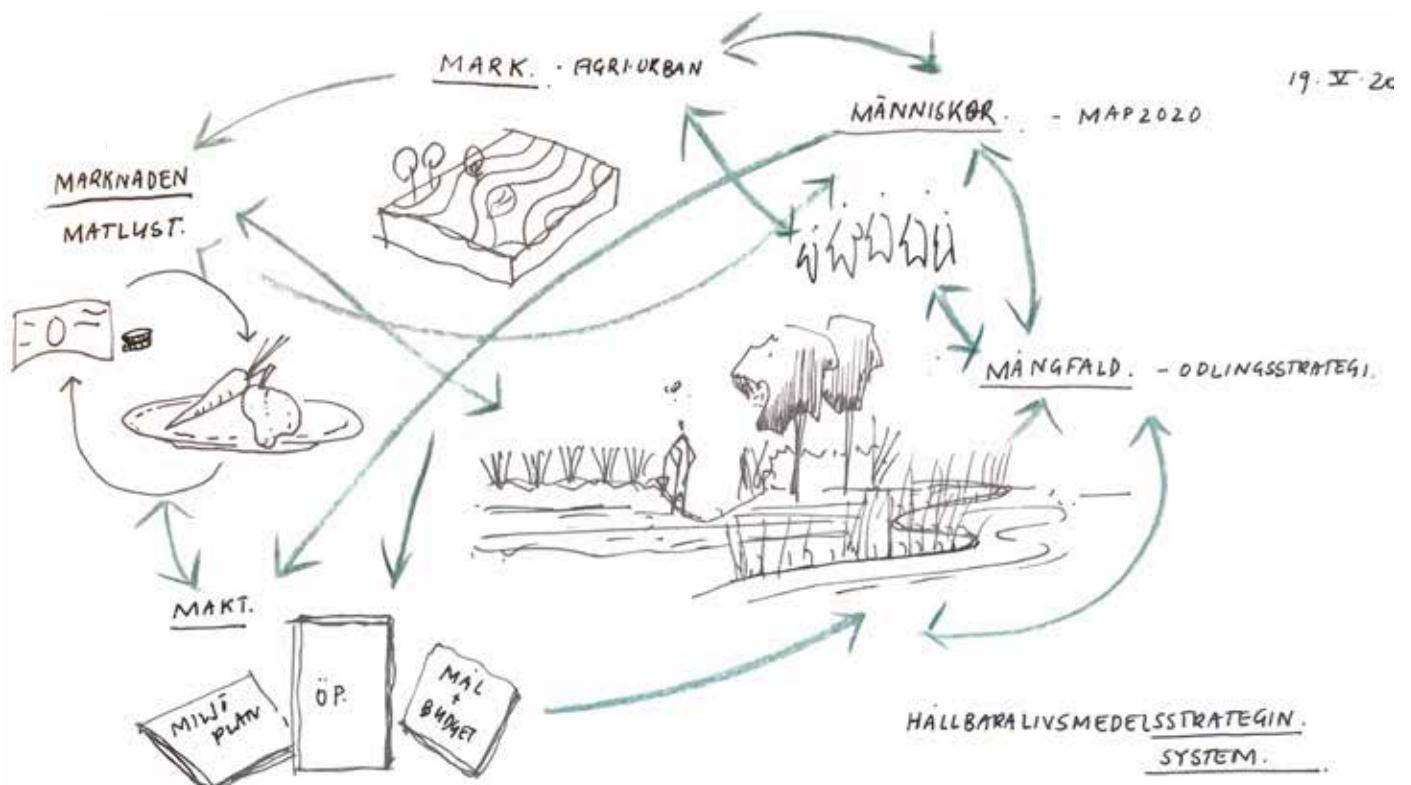
disappears, the nature of the exchange is maintained associated with a small number of intermediaries present in the process. This is a path that some AGRI-URBAN project partners are already experimenting and which opens up interesting opportunities for innovation and growth for the immediate future, connected with the use of technological tools that facilitate these changes.

III.2.2. Smart Land use and access

Within the framework of agro-food production and consumption, the rural and urban environments mutually interact, in an increasingly complex way. As principle, the rural area tries to attract urban inhabitants towards production, while the urban space needs to bring agrarian production closer to the inhabitants of the city. In both cases, the use of land also involves a set of interests and sometimes conflicts.

The problem of access to land for agricultural uses has increased in Europe in recent years, sometimes because of the voracity of urban development, while cities are given to technological solutions aimed at cultivating on rooftops, vertical walls or on water beds.

Urban agriculture is being confirmed as a



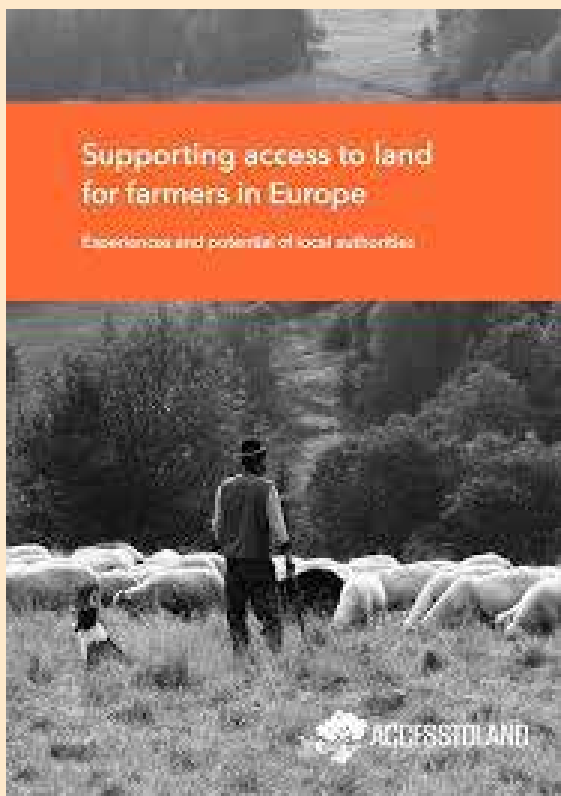
certain trend that goes beyond the anecdote, although only a territorial approach seems adequate to respond to the existing supply needs.

Within the framework of AGRI-URBAN, different initiatives have been shown to be effective in offering a solution to this problem. This is the case of Es Gallecs, in Mollet del Vallés (Spain), where an original Agrarian Park extends over several hundred hectares, in the vicinity of the city and close to Barcelona. In different places of Catalonia and other Spanish Autonomous Communities, these spaces are being promoted, committed to the agrarian production as well as to the conservation of the landscape. It is a policy that can be very suitable for experimentation in those countries where public ownership of the land continues to be a potential factor of development, such

as in Latvia, Croatia or Greece. Also in Spain, the TERRAE Network reflects a singular case of the creation of municipal land banks, aimed at facilitating access to new agrarian entrepreneurs. The municipality of Baena, in the framework of its actions within the AGRI-URBAN Project, has promoted the preparation of a report defining a method of analysis and mediation that facilitates the relationship between owners and potential tenants looking for agricultural plots. In another geographical context, the United Kingdom, Land Partnership brings together owners and new entrepreneurs in a win-win relationship through a flexible instrument that combines efforts by both parties under multiple forms and results.

But what is Europe's situation regarding access to agrarian land?

Supporting access to land for farmers. A European vision



Agricultural land is a complex, finite, highly vulnerable and limited renewable resource which becomes scarcer every day, according to Raimon Roda i Noya statement in a recommendable compilation "Supporting access to land for farmers in Europe", published in 2017 by the European Access to Land Network. The book wants to reinforce the key role to be played by local authorities in guaranteeing access to land by farmers. The main challenges for preserving land faced by municipalities and local communities are listed: the loss of farmland, increasing environmental pressure, land concentration, the financing of the land market and the rise of land speculation and the need for generational renewal.

Some ways are highlighted to defend, promote and manage the municipal agricultural land in a more sustainable model:

- Preserving farmland
- Organising general land accessibility
- Directing land towards specific uses and users
- Providing a favourable environment for agro-ecological farmers and minimising the withdrawal from farming



It's clear that local authorities can act as catalyst for change, creating conditions to mobilise local communities around the satisfaction of needs and the provision of basic services such as employment, water, shelter..., but also food? That's the question again.

Several reasons justify the political intervention of the municipalities on farmland. In general, for their responsibility in the protection of the environment, but also for giving a sustainable use to public lands or providing ecologically committed solutions. Political actions of this kind can bring benefits in the protection of natural resources, the mitigation of climate change and its impacts or the promotion of employment and health at the local level.

Regardless of the differences in the jurisdictional frame and national regulations, local authorities have prioritised for decades the allocation of land for uses such as infrastructure, housing and industry at the expense of other uses as farmland. There is also a direct connection between these main priorities and how the local authorities draw their income. Only in recent years, in the context of an increasing environmental awareness a high number of municipalities have been

interested in promoting a new policy in this matter, attracted by the transversal sense that food gives connecting many topics in an integrated strategy for cities.

Local authorities have different courses of action regarding the challenges previously mentioned in order to create effective instruments:

- Planning levers, to set out alternatives and changes in land use
- Regulatory levers, developing rules to regulate the land conservation, land market, agricultural activities and so on.
- Tax levers, preventing through fiscal measures land speculation or facilitating the incorporation for new entrants
- Use of public assets, creating the needed conditions (buying abandoned or not used lands, renting ...)
- Distributive and redistributive instruments, boosting up equality conditions for all social groups
- Local dialogue and education, fostering connections and positive culture between local stakeholders and citizens, engaging all of them in a renewed local and territorial food system.

III.2.3. Business development of SMEs

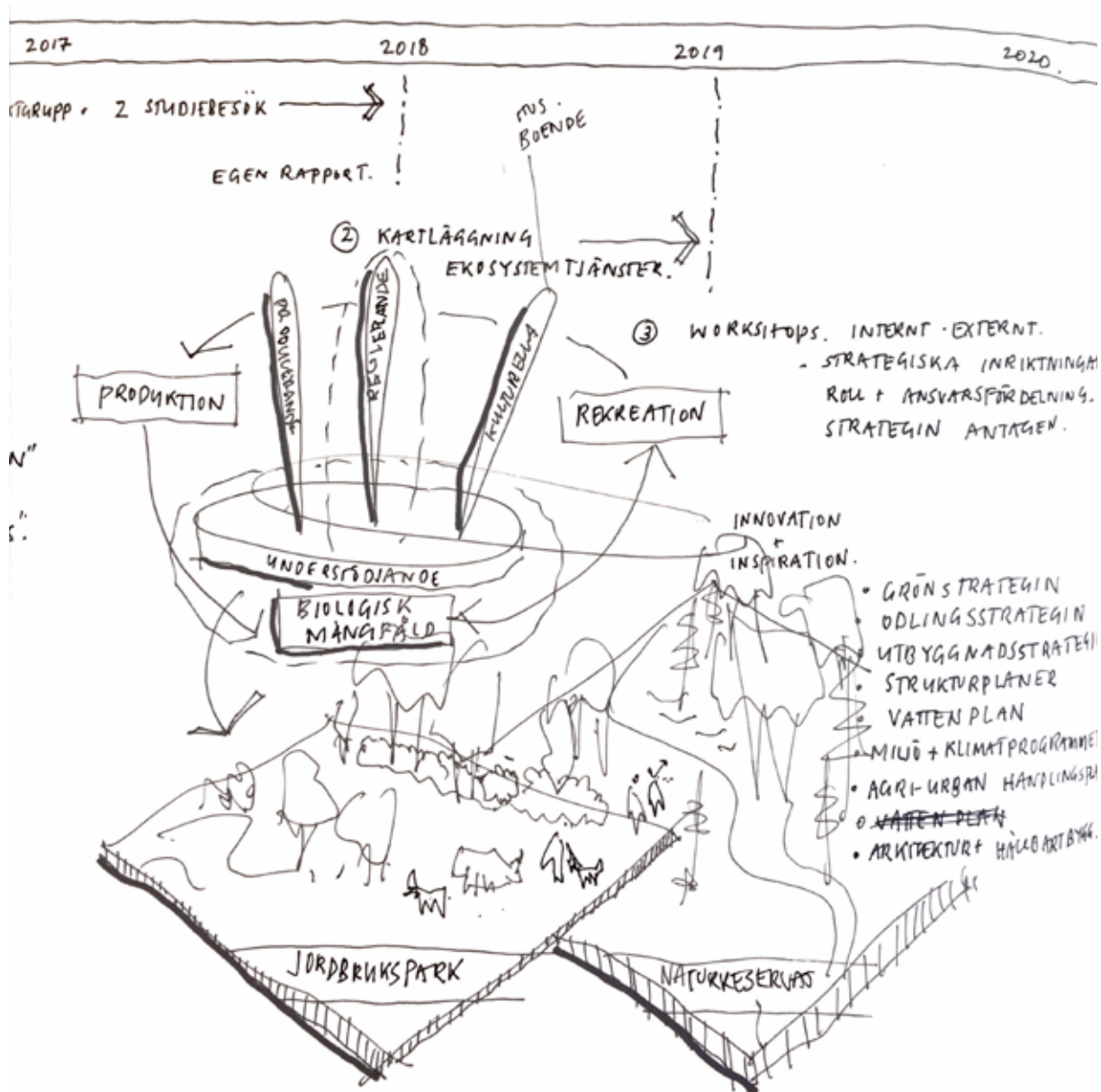
AGRI-URBAN has identified from its initial postulates the strength of SMEs as the engine and support of the agro-food system in Europe, recognizing that its productive aspect has often been overestimated to the detriment of other factors linked to economic, technical value and innovation.

Most farms in the EU are family-run, in the same way that family farming contributes 70% of the world's food production.

However, the human and professional crisis of small farms in Europe jeopardizes the future viability of the model. The Baseline Study produced at the beginning of the AGRI-URBAN

Project identified some improvements to make when addressing this challenge. On the one hand, improving the business qualification, and on the other hand providing effective access to economic and financial resources, while promoting technological progress and ultimately a structural change in the role of farmers and business management. The competitiveness of agricultural SMEs can be increased by multiple actions such as support for entrepreneurship, business training, digital transformation, productive diversification or animated through awareness campaigns.

The experience acquired throughout the Project implementation process has allowed us to contrast these previous ideas with existing initiatives on the ground. The



incubation of agro-food entrepreneurship initiatives is showing itself as a successful and effervescent experience. Several cases have been recognized and valued, such as the initiative of incubation promoted by the city of Milano in the framework of the OPEN AGRI project (Urban Innovative Action Programme) or those aimed at articulating the local productive sector such as the proposal of Point Vert in Condruces (Belgium) or the Producers Club of Fundão in Portugal. The good evaluation of these incubators is producing a contagious effect and several member cities of the AGRI-URBAN network, such as Baena or Petrinja, have included in their Action Plans the implementation of similar actions.

The training and promotion of entrepreneurship in the sector is being shown as a strategy experienced by the cities of the AGRI-URBAN network, through different instruments that combine training with innovation or direct support to entrepreneurial initiatives. Such is the case of the MATLUST (<http://matlust.eu>) project promoted by the municipality of Södertälje aimed at promoting a sustainable food industry in the territory. In the same way, other cities in the network act as support for entrepreneurship such as Jelgava Local Municipality, Fundão through the Living Lab Cova da Beira or Cesena and Petrinja collaborating with vocational training centres.

The digital revolution has reached agriculture, not only in the field of production with the emergence of the so-called precision agriculture, but offering solutions in all areas of the chain, being the stimulus of entrepreneurship via platforms that encourage, facilitate the logistics or distribution of products or help reduce losses and waste that occur along the channels of production and consumption.

Online platforms such as ALFREA (<https://alfrea.com>), try to unify different market elements, acting as connection nodes between producers, potential entrepreneurs, product and consumers. Participatory financing at the service of agriculture and food also occupies its digital site with initiatives such as MIMOSA (www.mimosa.com). Likewise, institutions and promotional entities such as Taste of

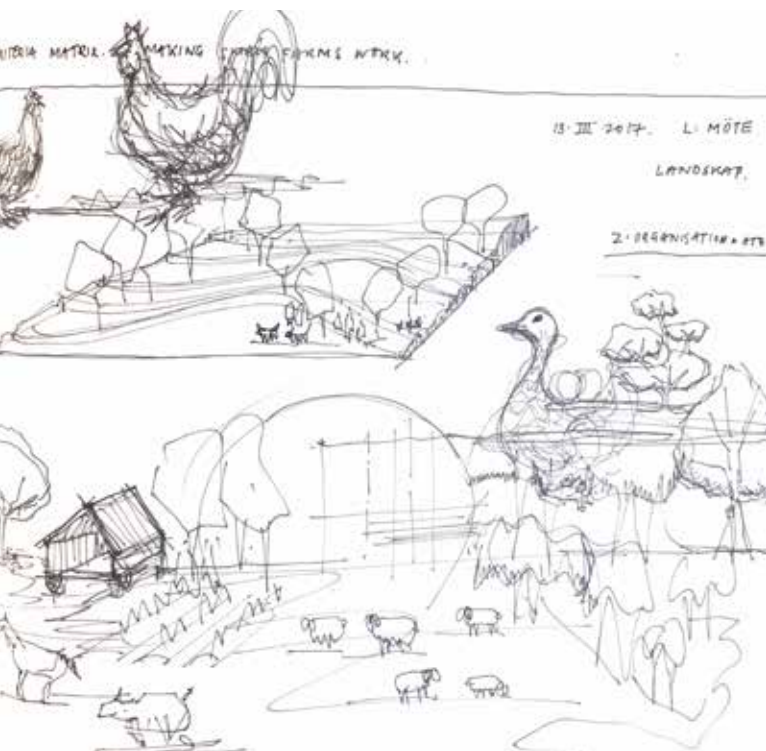
Denmark, are developing innovative solutions like SMAG DANMARK (<https://smagdanmark.com>), that offer both online trade spaces together with logistics solutions, promoting a network of producers and agro-food service companies to share knowledge and find solutions to common challenges such as local identity, collective impact, marketing, sales or distribution.

The educational and awareness campaigns are demonstrating, along with territorial food marketing campaigns, increasingly effective to raise awareness among the actors involved in any part of the food chain, as well as to attract their attention. Cities, social actors or groups of activists are promoting communication channels in favour of local, healthy and sustainable food. This is the case of local initiatives such as the one carried out by the Portuguese municipality of Fundão around an identity mark centred on the cherry produced in the territory, the campaigns in favour of the cultivated biodiversity and the communities of producers by the international eco-gastronomic movement SLOW FOOD (www.slowfood.com), or those others committed to the conservation of natural resources or the agro-ecological production that worldwide lead entities such as Friends of the Earth (<https://friendsoftheearth.uk/food>) or URGENCI (<https://urgenci.net/>).

Gastronomic tourism represents another step forward in the promotion of local, organic or other foods related to quality. Even recognizing some problems that limit the success of the activity (difficulty of implementation in rural areas, economic viability of business, seasonality, disconnection with other complementary activities, shortage of raw material, etc.), gastronomic tourism is shown as an attractive strategy to favour the diversification and development of the productive economy linked to the agri-food sector. In the network of AGRI-URBAN cities we find interesting experiences that range from the olive tourism in Baena, the open-air markets in Marchin or Mouans-Sartoux or the gastronomic festivals that cause more and more positive impacts as it happens with the Cherry Festival in Fundão or the Food Festival of Abergavenny.

III.2.4. Local public procurement

The public purchase represents 16% of the EU GDP. Acting on it with social and sustainability criteria is presented as a clear opportunity to influence development policies under this approach. The responsibility of the public administrations in the food supply through the canteens offers a critical occasion to promote the local and ecological purchase while improving the health of the citizens, and thus be able to have a general impact on the sustainability of the food system. A set of experiences runs across Europe from end to end, in all kinds of scenarios (hospitals, residences, schools, prisons ...), but it is undoubtedly in educational centres where initiatives are being experimented with greater intensity.



Within the AGRI-URBAN network of cities this policy is having an important echo. Cities such as Södertälje or Mouans-Sartoux have led two initiatives recognized for their interest and trajectory by the URBACT Programme itself.

The Swedish city, committed to a global improvement of the environment, focused its interest on the promotion of changes in the diet of its citizens, understanding that this would have a general impact on the improvement

of the natural resources of the territory, on the health of the inhabitants and ultimately in greater sustainability of the ecosystem. Years later, after the implementation of a vast set of measures, a decentralized group of municipal kitchens prepare around 25,000 menus daily, with a notable increase in the percentage of local (20%) and organic (50%) foods, at the same time than research programmes that make that diet more and more sustainable are carried out.

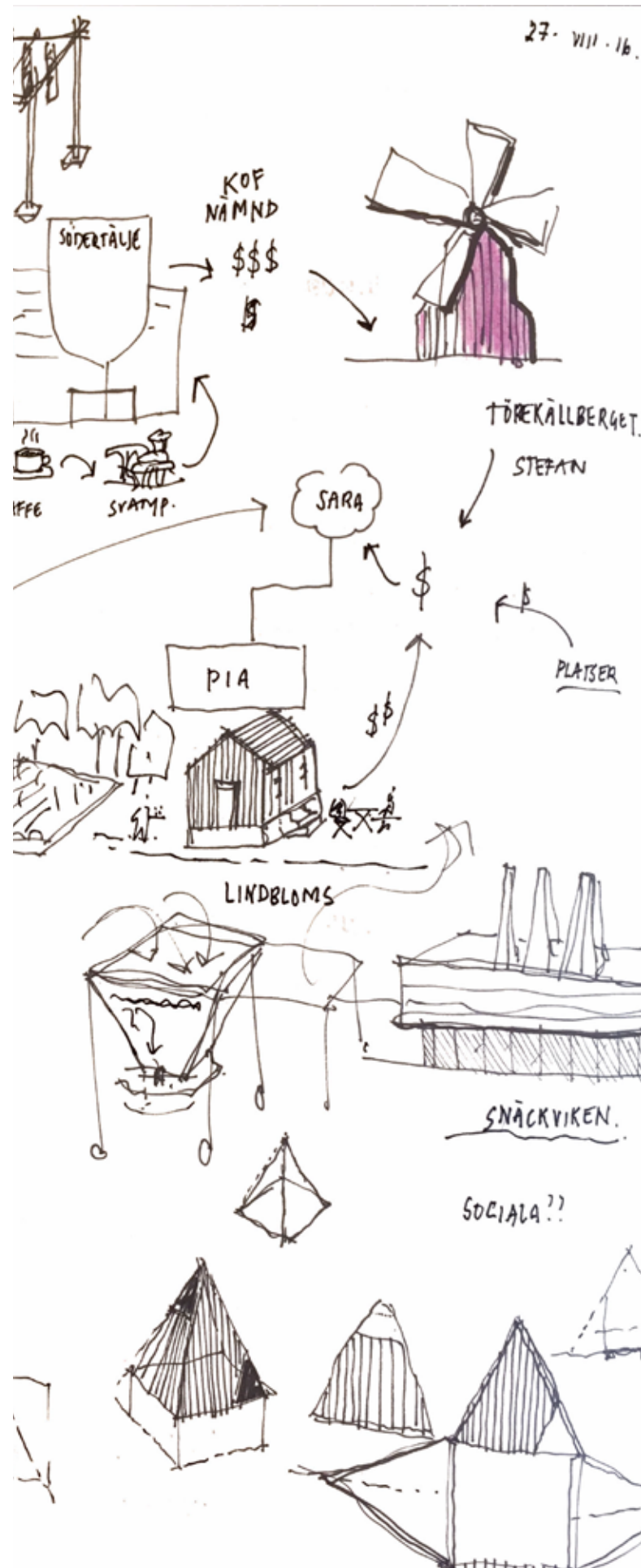
With a smaller population, but with an immense commitment, Mouans-Sartoux, on the French Riviera, has been leading a municipal project for decades to produce the organic food that daily supplies the thousand menus that are prepared in the three public canteens of the schools in the city. This municipal food production reaches 21 tons per year and supplies 80% of the consumption of the three schools involved. Another interesting case is that of Mollet del Vallés, who after participating in the "Diet for a green planet" Project (URBACT II), led by Södertälje, has launched a public purchase procedure in three kindergarten and the Municipal Institute of Services for the disabled, focused on the promotion of local and ecological food in the menus. After a first stage in which they had to overcome problems related to the description of the specific characteristics of the products, they are involved in a new phase of definition of tools for the follow-up and control of the implementation of the supplies, in particular regarding its impact and evaluation, and specifically in the analysis of the impact on the health of citizens.

Other cities in the AGRI-URBAN network such as Cesena, Fundão or the territory of Condruces are following a similar policy in public and private school canteens.

The pioneering work of experts such as Professor Kevin Morgan (University of Cardiff) on the "public plate" stressed the multifunctional nature of the concept of "food", defending instead of partial initiatives such as "school food provisioning", to give way to other more integrated approaches such as the "urban food planning". After describing the social and economic aspects of the food

environment, the barriers and opportunities facing the public purchase in this area, as well as the role that the school and social communities can play, concludes mentioning the two challenges that have moved the strategy of cities like Malmö or Rome, pioneers in this policy: the right to healthy food and the necessary creativity of the public sector. Some indicators reveal the creativity expressed from these alternatives in the public dining rooms: decrease of meat in the diet, increase of ecological food, reduction of junk food, increase of vegetable consumption, reduction of waste, efficient transport.

In practice, the innovative public procurement policies that are being carried out by cities in terms of sustainable food supply have evolved towards the resolution of operational problems of great importance to ensure the effectiveness of the measures. Thus a lively debate is taking place about the option between kitchens located in the schools and the services of catering companies. At stake is not only the discussion between the nutritional quality or the freshness of the food used and the dishes served, but also the social value physically represented by the kitchen and the professionals, as well as the role they both play as educational agents associated with the school. Another issue under discussion concerns the process of monitoring and the certification of the products, either through direct control or through the intervention of certification companies. And in this case, certifying the ingredients of the menus or the elaborated dishes, or both. Finally, and to mention some other of the aspects in question, no less important is the choice between direct or indirect service management, pricing policy or the selection of suppliers. A path as attractive as it is vibrant to be travelled in the next few years across European cities ... and which is undoubtedly having a very positive impact on family patterns of food consumption, as some of the previously mentioned experiences demonstrate.





IV.

AGRI-URBAN SHORT READINGS

Cities involved in AGRI-URBAN reflect realities truly diverse, according with their local food emergent initiatives, but as a whole all of them express a similar situation, governed by the dominant position of the globalised food system. Anyway, a deep look into their particular situation show an open library of many of the tendencies that are growing nowadays as mushrooms all over the world when we analyse the relation between food and cities. If quoting Kevin Morgan we could agree that planners had forgotten the role of food as essential component for life in the development of cities, we have to recognise that the current situation is changing. We just need to open our eyes, sitting in the AGRI-URBAN library, to read good examples about

how this evolution can be observed inside small and medium sized European cities.

At this point, AGRI-URBAN cities are presented as good examples of real trends such as public plate, sustainable diets or food waste reduction, sometimes running an individual race, others sharing a similar challenge or creating a cluster around a common interest.

Here we offer a compilation of personal stories, ideas, opinions ..., showing this complex and diverse set of perspectives that concretize alternative food models in Europe. Please take a seat and enjoy the reading.

MOLLET DEL VALLÉS (SPAIN)

Mollet del Vallès: A healthy city promoting sustainable diets

PYLI (GREECE)

Roussa's fish farm

FUNDÃO (PORTUGAL)

iNature: tourism in the local food system equation

SÖDERTÄLJE (SWEDEN)

Passionate gardener committed to improving conditions for our planet

LAG PAYS DE CONDRUSES (BELGIUM)

Food Hubs in Wallonia

BAENA (SPAIN)

Olive biodiversity

CESENA (ITALY)

Alimos, Feed health

MOUANS – SARTOUX (FRANCE)

A university degree to share our vision of sustainable food in the territories

JELGAVA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY (LATVIA).

Bio-economic development in Jelgava Local Municipality

PETRINJA (CROATIA)

Local Food Market

FUNDÃO (PORTUGAL)

A local food brand as a territorial strategy:

Fundão Producers Club

BAENA (SPAIN)

Social gardens

CESENA (ITALY)

Cesena Technical Agrarian Institute Garibaldi/Da Vinci

LAG PAYS DE CONDRUSES (BELGIUM)

A social economy initiative for a healthy and quality diet in the primary and nursery schools of Condroz

MOUANS – SARTOUX (FRANCE)

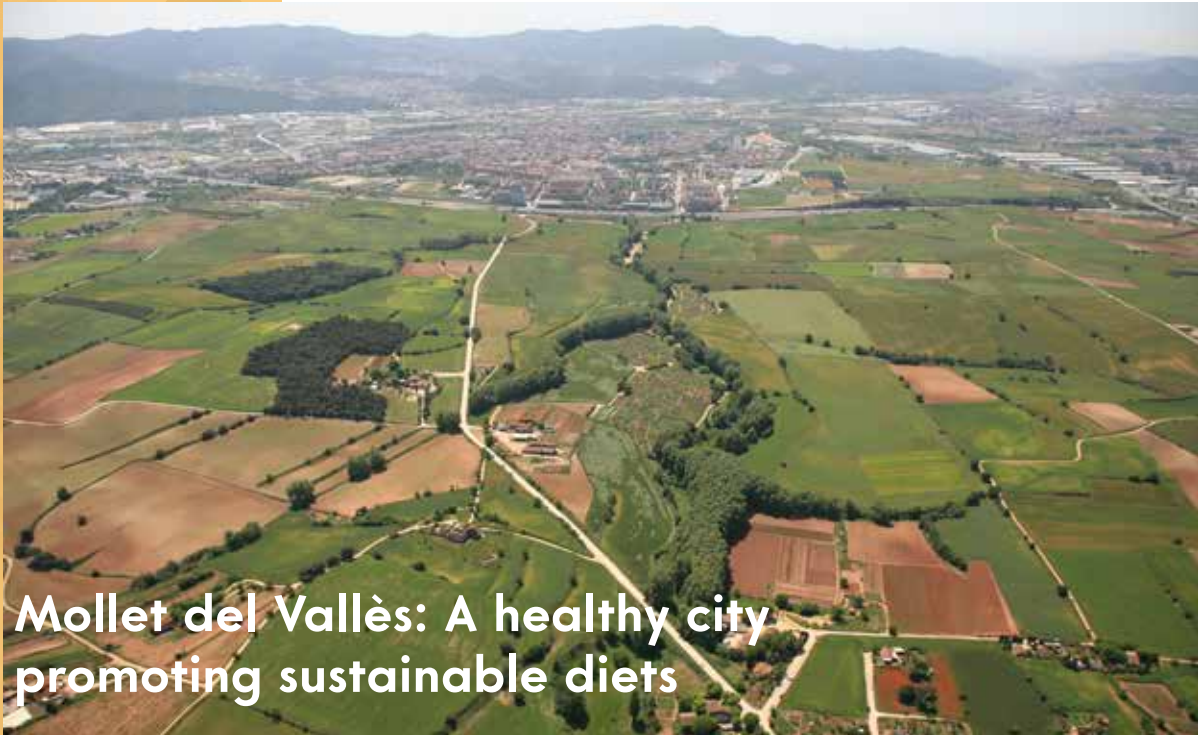
The territories must seize the priority issue of building their food sovereignty

PYLI (GREECE)

A Sawmill in the mountains

FUNDÃO (PORTUGAL)

Growing biodiversity. Local fruits, wild plants, bushes in Portuguese fields and innovative context



Mollet del Vallès: A healthy city promoting sustainable diets

Thanks to the important roles played both by municipal public health promotion and the agricultural activity in the public rural area of Gallecs, Mollet has been increasing its focus on healthy dietary habits and local, sustainable organic agriculture. Participating in the AGRI-URBAN Integrated Action Plan network stimulated a new series of actions in these areas, influenced by international peers and a diverse local support group.

Mollet del Vallès is a city located 15 km from Barcelona in the Vallès Oriental, Catalonia, Spain. Mollet is made up of 50% agricultural lands and 50% urban land; allowing for a natural focus on both agricultural practices and the promotion of healthy lifestyles for an urban population. We envision Mollet del Vallès as a city with a robust and animated organic, local agri-food economy that cultivates connections between growers, experts and community members while empowering citizens to choose nutritious and sustainable food as part of a healthy lifestyle. The development of the IAP has been an invaluable experience that has propelled the city further along in its journey toward being a healthy, food sustainable city.

There are a series of policies and a noteworthy history related to healthy, sustainable diets in

Mollet; at a city-wide level, within the Agrarian Park of Gallecs and through health promotion channels. The City Strategic Plan, *Mollet 2025*, envisions the city as healthy, educative and attractive. This focus made the city a natural fit as a participant in the European knowledge transfer network *Diet for a Green Planet* (URBACT II, 2013-2015), following which, the city pioneered a local food policy. The Consortium of Gallecs, a group made up of surrounding municipalities and the regional government of Catalonia which manages Gallecs, led the development of the *Sustainable Agricultural Management Plan of Gallecs 2001-2005* and, along with several local farmers, launched the *Reconversion Plan for organic farming of Gallecs 2006-2016*, to transform conventional agriculture to organic. City-level policies and agricultural plans in Gallecs have coincided with Mollet's public promotion of healthy diets; since 2003 the Municipal Health Department has offered public healthy eating workshops, interactive nutrition education for families, obesity prevention programmes and high school nutrition talks. These policies and activities set the stage for the development of an IAP focused on both agriculture and health.



Roussa's fish farm



Dimitris and Giorgos Roussas are brothers living in the village of Vathyrevma, who in 2003 decided to build a small fish farm for trout placed on the Vathyrmiotis River at 945m altitude. The then Municipality of Pindeon (in 2011 it became the Municipality of Pyli) gave them permission to use the place and the river, in order to help local production. In 2016 the Municipality of Pyli gave continuity to the mentioned permission. The farm produces 5 tonnes of fresh trout per year and they try to sell it by themselves through a customer list, since they do not have any freezing

equipment. That works as an advantage for them, because customers know the fish is fresh! Furthermore they provide an excellent quality, since the water from the river is proven crystal clear by the chemical analysis needed for the authorization.

On the other hand, the distance from the main markets and the inability of the brothers to sell in the city, the lack of managing skills, the proper logistics, advertisement etc., are hindering the selling procedure and they struggle to keep on working.



iNature: tourism in the local food system equation

Miguel Vasco, Executive Director

The iNature network aims to promote the development of nature tourism in 12 areas of great environmental importance in the mainland area of the Centre of Portugal where discovering mountains, rivers and villages renders amazing experiences.

This is a region that encloses the largest density of natural heritage in Portugal, in a distinct landscape between North and South, Portugal and Spain, where the Atlantic and

Mediterranean natural sceneries converge.

This is a network that takes you exploring the Great Routes, walking paths and BTT bike routes. Places where you can birdwatch and explore a unique geological heritage and get involved with the authentic and genuine people in an all year round events calendar.

Along a wide mountainous territory, the iNature areas form an open realm where the shepherd

Pyli (Greece)

Fundão (Portugal)

and herd's transhumance comes across Art in the natural landscape. After all, this is a vast territory that resists and subsists in the defense of a sustainable equilibrium between Man and Nature as of the biodiversity and ancient practices of preserving the landscape and its multiple uses.

While it aims for the development of a sector of activity that is strongly affirmed in our contemporary global economic model, the pertinence of tourism for this kind of regional setting is closely linked with the most authentic, and sometimes simplest, aspects of rural identity and subsistence.

With the possibility of integrating the works of the Local Action Group of the AGRI-URBAN URBACT network, in what relates to the specific reality of the Serra da Gardunha as one of the main factors of structure for the territorial identity and agro-economy organization of the municipality of Fundão, we settled communicating links through which the iNature strategy could be enriched from this experience.

Being a network whose main resources are a diversity of natural environments that are connected with the purest air, the freshest mineral waters, the timeless traditional recipes and the experiences enabled in the balance between Man and Nature that the rural activity synthesizes, the linkage between the urban and rural dimensions of these network of cities was of great importance.

Considering the scenery left by the great forest fires that burnt with unprecedented dimension and gravity through all the region in 2017, a project of collective efficiency as iNature, based on the value of the natural landscape itself, had to work on the reposition of its main values, prioritizing the human and cultural dimensions of its villages. All along, a clear and urgent dimension of sustainability became even clearer.

As a work in progress, the network reinforces its anchor project of communication and marketing based on national and international initiatives for the affirmation of the iNature label, giving particular importance to the digital

and mobile components, in the convergence of an online platform and mobile app for the valorization of the classified natural areas as well as creating contents and advertising campaigns. The purpose is to widely enable the user access to information about the supply networks, through roadbooks and programmes that represent experiences of leisure, adventure and wellness activities along this network of territories.

Another factor of strategic importance is the work developed in the animation field, based on the valorization of Nature Tourism, through the activation of the endogenous specificities of each one of the natural classified areas in 3 axes of action:

- **iNature events** – set of events that is thematically structured around the principles of sustainability and preservation of biodiversity, ecology and natural cycles, that define the animation calendar itself, contributing for the alignment of the supply with the thematic focus of Nature Tourism. One particular example is the event of the Great Route of Transhumance that celebrates the traditions of shepherd practices, in a cycle of activities that are identity-linked with the natural areas, reinforcing the experiences in a natural setting, and acting directly on the valorization of the agro-food products that are featured on the territorial economic structure.
- **Soft Nature** – calendar of activities consistently organized around the direct contact with nature and the sportive activities, aligned with the set of motivations that determine 80% of the nature motivated trips, that are based upon experiences of great symbolic value of interaction and fruition of natural spaces, widely available to a great diversity of public, in which the greater set of users feature interest in leisure and relaxing activities that allow them to escape and abstract from the daily routine.
- **Hard Nature** – line of action that meets the positioning of a defying destiny that corresponds to the motivations of

a fundamental segment of public that aims for the overcoming of its limits, the challenge and adventure, that contributes for the promotion of the territory through sports as MTB, Downhill or Trail Running.

The contacts with different realities enabled by the working sessions of the AGRI-URBAN Network allowed to identify common grounds and problems, related to how one can turn the opportunity of the rural surroundings.

In a particular way, there were points of contact regarding a broader approach on sustainability and the importance of the rural context for innovative projects in the scope of the green and circular economy, that can broaden the economic base of new and existing businesses, thus enhancing its potential for development and for creation of value on demographic low-density territories beyond the tourist activities.

With the promotion of R+D processes, supported by the local and regional scientific and technological ecosystem, there is a strong potential for the creation of new products that can arise from the herbal and botanical species from the natural areas, in the medicinal and cosmetic industries, as well as in gastronomy – aromatic herbs.

But the close contact with such diverse experiences and cases, definitely enriched our approach to the excellence of the endogenous products that one can only taste due to a unique set of conditions and resources allowed by nature, as is the case of mineral waters. Being such a strong part of the full touristic experience that a visitor has on a destination, we reinforced our vision on the valorization of the agri-food as a factor of differentiation of a destination. A vision where the visitors are able to taste organic products, sustainably grown in nearby lands, in a commitment with the

preservation of the environment, by reducing the footprint.

A vision where the tourism activity is in close link with local and regional producers, and enables them to thrive on the market, through the valorization of their products in the restaurants, hotels and other accommodation establishments.

A vision that pursues value for the local producers by setting and selling experiences among the farms, allowing visitors to learn and participate in the productive process, as in the manufacturing cheese or baking bread, for example.

But mainly a vision that sets a sustainable rural dimension as an important factor for the quality of life of the regional population through its food system, for the regional economy, by creating jobs and attracting and maintaining residents, and particularly for the tourism sector by enriching the experience of the visitors and the engagement in an authentic way of life in a close relationship with the local communities.

As the AGRI-URBAN network, we work on being a cooperation platform between public and private stakeholders united by a common purpose and willing to contribute towards a management model for Nature classified areas. It is by building bridges, linking past and present, that we can hope to achieve a sustainable and participated strategy that values the territory socially, economically and environmentally.

A destiNation where iNnovation and sustaiNability follow the same path.

#inaturept



Passionate gardener committed to improving conditions for our planet

“It is possible to live extremely well without over-consuming,” explains Åsa Waldenström, who practises what she preaches.

Åsa, who studied sustainable social development, gardening and design, as well as small-scale regenerative agriculture, has stopped travelling by air; she buys her clothes second-hand, eats locally grown, climate-friendly food and lives in Järna – a town close to the countryside, where the organic lifestyle is widespread. She also takes public transport or drives an electric car, and since September 2017 she has been working with cultivation and gardening at Vackstanäs College, which is set in delightful surroundings by Vällingen Lake, just 8 km from the centre of Södertälje.

Here, Åsa is tasked with putting into practice the college's vision of growing and preparing its own food – organically and in a financially sustainable manner. The college has nine hectares of pasture and 1,200 sq m of arable land that is soon to be the site of a 230 sq m greenhouse as well.

During the 2018 farming season, they will be working to establish intensive vegetable production as well as small-scale livestock farming (12 sheep and two pigs) in connection with the college. Vegetables and meat will be delivered directly to the college canteen that will serve and refine the produce to raise the level of self-sufficiency and improve the

quality of the ingredients. Both students on the cooking programme and the college gardener will be involved in preparing the food, refining it and laying in stocks for the coming winter. The land is currently used to grow courgettes, carrots, broccoli, cabbage, Bok Choy, lettuce, pumpkins and more besides. Everything grown on site is also served at the lunches at Vackstanäs.

“Most people at the college love the food served here,” relates Åsa. “And those who may not be overly keen on it to start with gradually learn to love it. We need more locally grown produce in Sweden as it's simply not sustainable to import everything we eat. At Vackstanäs, we're looking into whether a small-scale food producer can be profitable, and refining the model to care for the soil in a way that boosts soil quality and benefits the micro-life that contributes to healthy vegetables.”

Vackstanäs works on the “no-dig” principle, in line with the market gardening method. “It's an ultra-intensive way to grow vegetables, were we work with the macro- and microorganisms in the soil at the same time as increasing the earth content and reaping an unusually large harvest. This is the most inspiring cultivation method I've ever come across, and I'm convinced that by taking this approach here in Vackstanäs, we're actually making a difference in the world – even though it's on such a small scale. We're also working with a grazing method from the Savory Institute

known as 'holistic grazing'. This method gives us the opportunity to improve our pasture so that it can support more animals at the same time as binding carbon in the land – which means that we're actively combating climate change."

Åsa relates that she's devoted to cultivation and gardens, and wants to create good conditions for changing the world, i.e. to do

things that have a positive influence on the planet. She also hopes that more young people will develop an interest in working to grow sustainable produce. Because it is both important and a lot of fun.

Follow Vackstanäs and Åsa on Facebook: www.facebook.com/vackstaodling
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/vacksta_odling/



Food Hubs in Wallonia

In Wallonia, the Regional Government has decided to support the creation of Food Hubs through an economic revitalization programme called the Marshall Plan. Two calls were launched in 2011 and 2015. Nine projects were selected in 2011 and in 2015 18 new projects received funding. The budget for this second call was €8,169,000.

Due to this support, a lot of initiatives based on producers gathering through an association or a cooperative have obtained resources to grow and become significant actors in the short supply chain. Some examples : www.pyssans-artisans.be, www.agricouvert.be, www.pointferme.be.



LAG Pays de Condruces (Belgium)

The food HUB offers different possibilities from aggregation to processing. It helps to work with a large scale of actors, not only producers, but also with caterers, people involved in projects for bottling/canning local products, butchers, cheese makers, juice producers, etc..

The LAG PAYS DE CONDRUSES is involved in a project of revitalization of a former industrial hall owned by a municipality into a Food HUB. This one will be finished in June 2018 and will be rented to a cooperative of producers called Point FERME. Point FERME works with more than 45 producers, its income increases each year. The FOOD HUB will offer the cooperative a performant tool to improve its business.

Olive biodiversity

“Agricultural biodiversity is important in four dimensions: in consumption for nutritious diets and human health; in production for long-term productivity, resilience and multiple ecosystem services; in seed systems for access to options that serve diverse needs and help adaptation to changing conditions; and in integrated conservation methods for enabling future uses and insurance against shocks” (Renans, R. et al, 2017)

Since the origin of agriculture, between twelve thousand and fifteen thousand years ago, in the so-called Fertile Crescent, human beings have been concerned about selecting those plants that for one reason or another seemed better. The size of the seed, the form, the colour, the resistance to plagues or diseases have been the desirable characteristics that have justified the selection of plants for the crops.

While in the past the common practice was to go to a large number of cultivated varieties, since the last century the cultivated species have seen their diversity dramatically eroded, for reasons of simple and immediate profitability of the productions, forgetting about other conditions linked to sustainability and the loss of biological wealth that is occurring. In Baena and its olive-growing region there is an extraordinary diversity of cultivated olive varieties, which explains the unique originality of the olive oil produced here. The presence of a score of olive varieties, some of which illustrate this text, constitutes the main distinguishing feature of the quality label certified as *Baena Olive Oil Denomination of Origin*. Many of these multi-varietal olive groves are also located in mountain areas and are managed by small owners, so that preserving and promoting this cultivated wealth entails an added social and environmental value.

The conservation and enhancement of cultivated biodiversity is a challenge for sustainable food systems as demanded by institutions such as FAO or eco-gastronomic associations such as SLOW FOOD.



Picudo



Marteño



Lucentino



Torció





From the beginning of AGRI-URBAN it was clear that the project would be a great opportunity of growth for Alimos. Cesena has always been characterized by a strong agri-food vocation, for that reason tools that boost innovation and development in this sector are crucial elements both for enterprises and for young farmers that want to invest their future in agriculture and sustainability.

When we talk about tools we are looking at long term strategies, best practices exchanges, vocational training and strengthening of local actors networks.

This integrated approach towards agri-food innovation is a core element of Alimos mission and has also characterized the AGRI-URBAN project from the beginning: this strong convergence of ideas and objectives was a crucial element for our participation in the project!

Thanks to periodical meetings in the ULG we have reinforced our relations with other key local actors in agri-food development, such as the Agrarian Technical Institute and the

ALIMOS, Feed health

Annalisa Brighi

University and built up new collaborations, for example with the local committee Ri-Fiorita.

Thanks to AGRI-URBAN the exchange of local best practices was interlinked with a comparison at European level. The project has constituted an important opportunity for discussion about innovation in agri-food business with other European cities.

Thanks to the project participation, Alimos was able to design and implement concrete actions such as a mapping of firms and enterprises that sell directly to consumers. This map is free of charge and easily available to the public from the Cesena municipality web-page. It represents a tool extremely useful to bridge consumers to producers and increase the added value of short food value chains and high-quality local products. With this tool rural family enterprises will have higher visibility and a new channel to reach potential consumers. With this web page we achieve a twofold objective, we promote sustainable life-styles on one side and we support firms to invest in this direction.

From a long term point of view, with AGRI-URBAN we have created a new place for active and participatory exchange with public administration about innovation in agri-food industry. In the same way we hope that the IAP will be a valuable and useful instrument for farms, citizens and professional bodies to give continuity to this kind of actions.

We wish to follow this direction: AGRI-URBAN represents a strong and important opportunity to rebuild and discover the roots of our city, as the logo says!

<https://www.alimos.it/>



A university degree to share our vision of sustainable food in the territories

The 100% organic canteen of Mouans-Sartoux, the fight against food waste, the municipal farm, a weekly meal based on vegetable proteins, are so many levers to develop a territorial agri-food project; this project generated a deep interest at national and even international levels related to our actions aiming at offering children and the population a diet that respects their health and the environment. This visibility in the media and in many conferences led many people to come visit our project... But what did they do afterwards? We asked ourselves this question for a long time and it quickly appeared to us that a simple visit did not seem good enough to make a good transfer to other territories. Starting from this reflection, and meeting with the Côte d'Azur University and the Un Plus Bio organization (1st national network of organic

canteens), the idea of making a training course was born. Then, this took shape under the name of the University Degree "Sustainable food project manager for local authorities". During 6 months, students take 100 hours of classes to build a vision and nurture the founding elements of a territorial project. The courses take place in Mouans-Sartoux, at the heart of the municipal farm, for a real 'in situ' immersion in the project. In collaboration with a municipality, they have 3 months to establish a diagnosis of the territory and another 3 months to develop this sustainable food project in their municipality, out of which they will be examined. So after this very practical and operational training, the municipality can launch the project and start developing it. An international version of the training, in English, is planned.

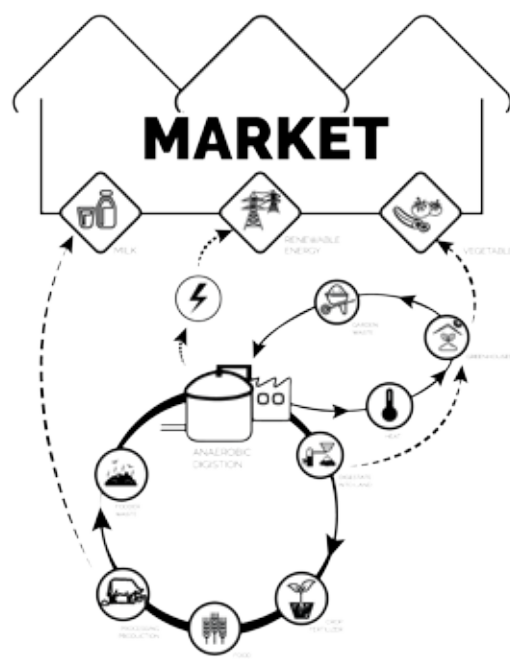


Bio-economic development in Jelgava Local Municipality

Diversification of business activity is required in rural territories to reduce the emigration of rural residents. One possibility is the establishment of new businesses with varying profiles, another the creation of added value to products from existing businesses. By introducing environmentally friendly thinking to farming, there are gains for the economy, the environment and society. One could speak here about bio-economic development in Jelgava Local Municipality as an opportunity to broaden business activities, create additional employment and reduce negative effects on the environment.

Mežacīruļi Farm is a successful example in Jelgava Local Municipality. It supplements its traditional farming of crops and livestock-breeding with new types of business activities, creating additional employment and reducing the negative effect on the environment.

Mežacīruļi Farm employs 30 people and farms 700 hectares of agricultural land where high quality stock feed is grown for the 300 dairy cows which provide milk for Latvijas Piens Processing Factory in the City of Jelgava. The farm also breeds the next generation of cattle for milk production and bulls for meat purposes. All waste products generated by animals end up in the bio-gas plant, where the manure is converted into energy. The energy obtained is utilized to heat the farm's greenhouses, whereas the by-product from the bio-gas – dung water – is used in the greenhouses and for fertilizing the fields. The food grown in the greenhouses ends up on the shelves at local shopping centres, or directly with the consumer in the City of Jelgava. In addition to this process, environmentally friendly drainage and rain water processing systems are being built. Jelgava-based scientists from the Latvia University of Agriculture are involved throughout the management process.



Local Food Market

Local market is situated in the city center.



It is open every day, on Tuesdays and Saturdays local producers and sellers offer their products, and on these days the market becomes the center of all action.



Then residents of surrounding villages come to the market that becomes the place where they meet, talk, buy, exchange recipes etc.



Local agri-food producers sell their products on the market together with other sellers.



They are distinctive and visible because their certificates are standing right next to their products.



Certificates prove that these products are locally grown and produced.





A local food brand as a territorial strategy: Fundão Producers Club

In Portugal, between the “Serra da Estrela” (the highest mountain range in Continental Portugal) and “Serra da Gardunha” mountains lie the uniquely coloured fertile lands of Fundão. The diverse features of its soils make it possible to produce and profit from native products of unrivalled quality. Fundão’s area currently has the largest cluster of cherry orchards in Portugal. The climatic conditions provided by the altitude and exposure to the sun make cherries from Fundão unique.

Fundão Producers’ Club is a project developed by the Municipality of Fundão, in broad partnership with a group of local entrepreneurs from the agri-food sector and related services, which represents the entire range of food and beverage products from all the region. The Producers’ Club was created to affirm the excellence of Fundão’s products and brands, aiming mainly to international markets.

The strategy was anchored in a Producers’ Club, which represents about 25 members, covering the entire range of food and beverage products such as cheese, olive oil, fruits

(cherry, peach, plum and red fruits), juices, jams, water, wine, wild mushrooms, cured meat, canned meat, vacuum packed sausage, canned sausage, etc.

This project, in partnership with other public institutions, supports the participant companies in the development of new products, in the knowledge of new markets, packaging and promotion actions in fairs and points of sale both in national and international markets. The development of new products related to a more important product and brand for our region - Fundão Cherry, an important source of cherry runoff, with the objective of extending cherry consumption throughout the year was another strategy followed by the Fundão Producers’ Club with the support of renowned chefs, excellent quality products and companies from the region.

In Fundão, regional products reflect its history and tradition. The know-how, transmitted over several generations, has led to the development of authentic gourmet products in a range of unique tastes.



Baena (Spain)

The practice of the cultivation of the domestic garden has attracted the human being through the centuries. The relationship with the earth, physical work, the wellbeing and the reward in the form of food continue to excite, even in this technological era, people from all corners of the planet.

Baena is another example of this global trend. Various circumstances such as the economic crisis and its negative consequences on families, early retirement or proposals for a healthy life, are some of the reasons that explain this profusion of urban gardens.

In Baena, an agro-city with 20,000 inhabitants located in the heart of Andalusia, around seventy parcels of family gardens have been launched in recent years, with the support of the City Council. More than two hundred people thus enjoy food produced with ecological criteria, while benefitting from other positive effects associated with the practice of horticulture, not only related to an improvement in physical health but also in the mind and in society.

The leisure gardens can also be seen as a lever with which to activate a modest business activity, based on local commerce and thanks to legal regulations that seek to reactivate direct sales in small productive plots. In Baena, a new experience is under way to promote social initiatives of self-consumption in favour of social, cultural and educational groups of the city (immigrants, people at risk of social exclusion, disabled ...), contemplating in the near future the possibility to give way to local initiatives to commercialize productions. The Social Harvest project of Baena, led by the City Council and four local associations (Red Cross, Aprosub, Baena Solidaria and Ecologists in Action), has the support of the Daniel and Nina Carasso Foundation, and is a proposal in favour of the Citizen self-organization for the production and consumption of food within the framework of the municipality. A way to create social capital, with high potential for generating economic capital.



Cesena Technical Agrarian Institute Garibaldi/Da Vinci

Prof. Valentina Sallustio

The AGRI-URBAN project has represented, for students and professors of the Agrarian Institute, an important opportunity for professional growth giving us the possibility to create new collaborations with other local actors. In particular it was especially important the collaboration built up with CesenaLab, Cesena Municipality incubator, during ULG meetings.

Thanks to AGRI-URBAN we have experienced the importance of creating a network that connects institutions, universities, firms and schools in order to realize projects characterized by innovations and creativity that aim at increasing the cross-cutting competences of our students, improving their vocational training.

We are particularly proud of "Agraria Startup" the new project born from the collaboration with CesenaLab, a 5 month vocational training about agro-food entrepreneurship and innovation. During the training our students were divided into small groups and have attended workshops to learn tools and methods to transform an innovative idea into a new product using innovative marketing and communication strategies.

For our students this has been a crucial opportunity to deal in a creative and innovative

way with agro-food topics and for the professors it has been an important occasion to build different relations with our students and discover in them new abilities and interests.

Indeed this project has shown us how students that were low-rent from an academic point of view, were instead extremely brilliant and engaged in designing and developing innovative ideas. With "Agraria Startup" many students have found a new and more personal way to express themselves. This result has disclosed the need of following this direction and give to our students the opportunity to express themselves in an environment different from the academic one. For that reason a new project was implemented "Agraria Fiori e Frutti" (Agraria Flowers and Fruits).

This new project has reinforced the collaboration with CesenaLab and has introduced a new goal: implementing a vocational training to develop a new line of products produced in our school starting from fruit and medicinal plants.

This innovative project aims at developing our students' entrepreneurial skills in the agri-food sector.



A social economy initiative for a healthy and quality diet in the primary and nursery schools of Condroz

Albert Deliège, Director of the Asbl Devenirs (Center for Socio-professional Integration) and administrator of the Pays des Condruces LAG (Belgium)

The AGRI-URBAN approach has allowed us to discover more experienced and more important initiatives than ours in the community kitchen sector. This reassured us about the goals we set ourselves. We find that there are several solutions to improve our realities and change representations. We have seen that we are moving in the right direction. At the launch of our project (October 2016), we were able to benefit from the tools of the city of Mouans-Sartoux for better management of waste in canteens and awareness work to reduce waste.

In addition, AGRI-URBAN allowed us to coordinate certain actions on the territory with the Local Action Group "Pays des Condruces". We have been able to take the time with some partners of our territory to reflect on the development of our actions in the long term and to develop a more inclusive and complementary approach.

Travelling with our team dedicated to the production of meals and animation in schools (Travel to Mouans-Sartoux and nomination

to the "Victoires de Cantines rebelles" in Paris) also allowed us to discuss more in depth our methodologies. There are always improvements and adjustments to make. These trips facilitate exchanges in a different context from that of the urgency of daily work. The enthusiasm of the people we meet strengthens ours.

Humbly, I also think that our experience may inspire some partners via the presentation of our market gardening test space, the quality of our recipes and the action we will launch during the presentation of the AGRI-URBAN Action Plan: the snack soup.

We also bring an extra dimension with the training of our trainees committed kitchen and room, both in terms of socio-professional integration (social economy and solidarity) but also in terms of awareness of vulnerable people to quality food.

For the future, we hope to continue this European adventure with the creation of a European network of organic kitchens.



The territories must seize the priority issue of building their food sovereignty

Gilles Perole (Vice-Mayor)

To tell you the story of the 100% organic canteen of Mouans-Sartoux is a bit like telling you the story of a commitment. I have been leading this project since 1999, under the leadership of the Mayor of the time, André Aschieri, who gave me his social, ecological and humanist vision of political projects. The mad cow disease in 1999 was the triggering event that made me realize the absolute necessity of offering the children of Mouans-Sartoux a diet that respected health and environment. From this observation was born a clear objective, a vision that would make us change our daily practices to answer this issue. Thus, over the years, together with the technical team of the childhood and education Department, we have changed the food balance of meals according to the recommendations of the national nutrition health programme, and this, starting from 2005: less salt, sugar and fat, more fruit and vegetables, more whole grains... while noting that these choices did not guarantee healthy products, at the same time as the French "Grenelle de l'environnement", developed in 2008 by the government, intended to provide 20% of organic products in collective catering for the year 2012; we thought that if this criterion was important, we had to reach 100% as fast as possible, without increasing costs. This ambitious double goal has been our motive for a successful change: in 4 years, we won this challenge by reworking our public

procurement, reducing food waste by 80% and saving 20 cents per meal to compensate the cost raise of organic food. In order to improve our local sourcing and overcome the lack of local production, we had the idea to create a municipal farm which today, with 3 municipal farmers, produces 85% of the vegetables eaten by the children every day. Since April 2017, a vegetable protein-based meal is served once a week, and to achieve vegetables self-sufficiency, we started a project for freezing our own production. This whole project was quickly identified for its global coherence, its systemic approach and its ambition, and is often presented as exceptional, even though I consider it rather simple and very economical to set up, being easily transferable. Positive about its development in other territories, I suggested to the Un plus Bio NGO to create a national association of local communities to share these good practices between each other. Since January 2018, an international extension has been created with the "European Club Organic Food Territories", launched by 17 municipalities of 7 different countries. Sharing our good practices so that other communities get inspired and build their own organic territorial canteen project has become a regular activity of my commitment, in order to allow each territory to decide how they would like to produce and feed the population by building their food sovereignty.



A Sawmill in the mountains



The Geladari's family sawmill was founded in 1965 as a small individual woodworking company in the village of Vathyrevma. At that time, logging and building activity flourished in the area and the company, though far from the main city centers of the Prefecture of Trikala went forward. In 1968 there was an expansion to a family business as well as in size to its present form (from father to son).

The products that they produce are mainly structural and technical fir wood, which is the main raw material as it thrives in the area (945m altitude) and gives products of very good quality and logical prices. Agricultural and livestock equipment such as small and large livestock feeders, hives, etc., are also

produced. The company has customers all over the Region of Thessaly, which is a big outcome for such a small business so far away up in the mountains.

The size of production is about 2,200 m³ per year, while the products are sold both in retail and wholesale.

In recent years, due to the economic crisis, the steep decline in building activity and exhaustive taxation, the company has been under considerable pressure and has been forced to reduce its production cycle. However, the family is trying to cope with that and maintain its position in the region as the only one of its kind.



Growing biodiversity. Local fruits, wild plants, bushes in Portuguese fields and innovative context

Clayton Debiasi, researcher of the Centro de Biotecnologia de Plantas da Beira Interior (CBP-BI)

The Iberian Peninsula is among the areas with the highest biodiversity in Europe, being included in the Hotspot of the Mediterranean region. It is estimated that about one million species will be extinguished in the short term, due to climate change. This region is included in the global list of eco-regions that deserve special conservation attention and in the list of the 25 world hotspots with the highest biological diversity and endemics at risk of extinction.

Due to climate change numerous essential activities in this region are being increasingly affected and the concept of neglected and underutilized crop species (NUS) is of extremely importance.

This concept operates on the premise that the deployment of plant genetic diversity in agriculture will lead to more balanced and sustainable patterns of development by exploring plant species that have been used by local populations in traditional ways for centuries. There are three main areas of interest justifying NUS research and exploitation: "New markets and uses" (e.g. food additives, polymers, cosmetic, pharmaceutical compounds), "Environment" (enrichment of agro-ecosystems by exploring plant species adapted to stresses and difficult environments)

and "Food sustainability" (exploring neglected nutritionally rich plant species adapted to hard and difficult environments).

The Flora of Portugal Checklist (Continental, Azores and Madeira) has been formally adopted by the Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e das Florestas and will be an integral part of the biodiversity inventory, with a view to its integration into the future Natural Heritage Information System.

The Sociedade Portuguesa de Botânica and the Associação Portuguesa de Ciência da Vegetação in partnership with the Instituto de Conservação da Natureza e das Florestas (ICNF), started on October 7, 2016 the project 'Red List of the Vascular Flora of Continental Portugal', with a duration of two years.

The protected areas are: Açude da Agolada, Açude do Monte da Barca, Albufeira do Azibo, Alvão, Arrábida, Arriba Fóssil da Costa da Caparica, Berlengas, Cabo Mondego, Campo de Lapiás da Granja dos Serres, Campo de Lapiás de Negrais, Carenque, Corno do Bico, Douro Internacional, Dunas de São Jacinto, Estuário do Douro, Estuário do Sado, Estuário do Tejo, Faia Brava, Fonte Benémola, Lagoas de Bertandos e São Pedro de Arcos, Lagoas de Santo André e Sancha, Litoral de Vila do Conde

e Reserva Ornitológica do Mindelo, Litoral Norte-Ap, Monte de São Bartolomeu, Montes de Santa Olaia e Ferrestelo, Montesinho, Paul da Tornada, Paul de Arzila, Paul do Boquilobo, Pedreira do Avelino, Peneda-Gerês, Portas de Ródão, Ria Formosa, Rocha da Pena, Sapal de Castro Marim e Vila Real de Santo António, Serra da Estrela, Serra da Malcata, Serra de Montejunto, Serra de São Mamede, Serra do Açor, Serras de Aire e Candeeiros, Sintra-cascais, Sudoeste Alentejano e Costa Vicentina, Tejo Internacional and Vale do Guadiana.

The Portuguese autochthonous species are extremely underutilized, being useful in the repopulation of poor soils or as an alternative and/or complement in the agricultural sector, being able to be cultivated for the production of biomass for industries. The increasing interest and characterization of phytochemical and even genetic of these species has allowed to explore new prospects of application. Biomass can be directly used for ornamental purposes in some cases, or processed and applied in industries such as biofuels, food, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics.



V.

CONCLUSIONS.**AN INTEGRATED CONNECTION: FOOD AND URBAN PLANS****The challenges**

The challenge of providing food to the estimated 9 billion inhabitants of the planet in 2050 is not easy and poses a great challenge to cities, where most of that population will reside. Food systems approach this problem from different perspectives, polarized in two conflicting proposals. The first is focused on guaranteeing an increase in production, promoting greater efficiency. The second, considers the problem as a consumer issue, hence proposing changes in demand, healthier diets and less pressure on resources.

Some analysts (Griffiths, 2017) propose a more holistic approach based on the principles of nature and the interconnection between all parts of the system. A holistic approach integrates the two perspectives, prioritizing a strategy for greater sustainability in both production and consumption.

The first above mentioned perspective is based on the concept of "sustainable intensification" but it is not defined in the practice at the time, it is justifying the production increase, according to the interest of agri-business companies. In summary, it defends the maximization of production based on greater efficiency and technological development as promoted by precision agriculture.

The second perspective is focused on changing the situation that affects a large part of the population and that is characterized by a low nutritional quality of the diet as well as unequal access to a healthy food. Hence, this strategy prioritizes the implementation of new patterns of healthy consumption and sustainable diets

through simple public policy measures in these areas. However, the concept of sustainable diets, given its complexity, local character and ambiguity, is being further clarified to facilitate implementation strategies, according to Griffiths in the aforementioned publication.

In summary, the most recent reports seem to show the coexistence of a wide set of interconnected scenarios without missing visions that represent the different interests at stake and where, along with the previously mentioned holistic approach, there have also been initiatives that reward citizen participation as it is fostered from Peoples Food Policy.

In another sense, the multiple initiatives that are being staged by cities in order to re-territorialize food policies are showing some deficiencies that invite to take corrective measures in practice. On the one hand, guaranteeing from the cities the expert knowledge, the existence of adequate diagnoses, the quality of the resources that will be available, and in general facilitating the relationship between producers and consumers as well as the adequate territorial frame. A great paradox with which those cities that want to promote these policies are meeting is the lack or poor quality of the available lands, which is why the preservation of agricultural lands by the municipalities takes special relevance, along with the facilitation of access to high quality productive land. Otherwise, as recent analysis have shown (Baysse-Lainé & Perrin, 2017), it will be very difficult to reach significant increases in the percentage of local food compared to the total demand for urban supply.

Recent studies such as those carried out



within the framework of the FOODMETRES project reveal the inability of large cities such as London, Milan or Rotterdam to guarantee a model of food self-sufficiency based on their territorial environment, relating existing and foreseeable demand with the available agrarian land capacity and other consumption trends such as organic production or factors such as reducing the volume of waste that surround the entire food chain. These analysis understand that they invite to reinforce the necessary conservation of agricultural use in quality soils suitable for this function, as well as to reconnect rural and urban areas within the same foodsheds.

The integrated vision

To effectively address these challenges, overcoming the aforementioned shortcomings, it is necessary to do so from a global and integrated vision of the concept of "sustainable food systems". This global vision, as proposed by Blay-Parker (2015), should take into account an integrated approach of the following elements: policy context (participatory democracy / multifunctionality, subsidiarity), environment (biodiversity and agro-biodiversity, soil and water, conservation, energy, food waste reduction ...), economy (land tenure, fair trade, market supply, food loss and waste, access to land, public procurement, migration and labour ...) and society (justice & equity, food access, food skills & literacy, traditional food knowledge, sustainable diets).

Other transversal elements considered key for the design of these territorial food systems are:

- » A reinterpretation of the concept of Food Hub, understood as a useful organisational & socio-economic instrument interconnecting actors and technical / logistical solutions, designed from a scaling up perspective
- » Sustainable diets, the social and healthy dimension for a holistical alternative
- » Breaking the borders. Looking beyond urban boundaries. Regional food systems
- » Smart use of technology & social innovation to promote food systems able to connect actors (governance) and to overcome barriers (market, natural boundaries, and jurisdictional boundaries, social & cultural exchange ...)

The experience of AGRI-URBAN

The AGRI-URBAN Project established at the beginning as conditions of success in its performance, the satisfactory cooperation between the actors and the capitalization of knowledge as a competitive advantage. The vitality of the network of cities and the contact with other initiatives have allowed to reach a high degree of knowledge and a good application of it that has been expressed in the concrete content of the Action Plans that each city has created.

The implementation of the dozens of actions included in these plans should make it possible to achieve positive impacts on local food systems, from the three levels of analysis described in the Baseline Study delivered at the beginning of the Project.

This is how we understand it from the analysis of the sociocultural impact, after confirming the positive effect of the survival of traditional trades, often based on the concept of common goods, as evidenced by forestry work, fishing, honey extraction, processing of bread, the conservation and recovery of cultivated biodiversity. All these practices reveal a treasure of knowledge and a unique hallmark in Europe.

From the point of view of economic sustainability, the actions resulting from the project and embodied in the corresponding Action Plans, highlight the integration between actors that articulate hubs holding cooperatives, promoting brands linked to local production or creating cooperation strategies between sectors complementary to food, such as crafts or tourism.

Finally, relevant proposals included in the Action Plans created by the eleven cities associated with AGRI-URBAN, are connected with the conservation of agricultural soils, the promotion of ecological production or the mixed nature of agricultural or forest spaces, elements that help determine the overall quality of the environment.

The AGRI-URBAN Project has shown its strength from several axes that support its differentiated approach:

1. The rural-urban connection. The character of small and medium cities of the network, many of them immersed in policies of double rural-urban scope, presents an enriching dimension to approach the territorial food systems from this duality. The formal connection between the two policies at European level would undoubtedly facilitate this relationship. A regional framework must undoubtedly be promoted to ensure a sufficient space for action. A decision-making about facilitating mechanisms in conjunction with other sectoral bodies (health, employment, education ...) can be equally positive.
2. The potentially activating factors that AGRI-URBAN highlighted in its initial analysis are being critical in the evolution of food systems. Access to land, short circuits, local entrepreneurship and public procurement are instruments among others, which are confirming their importance to bring about change. Undoubtedly, new factors (e-commerce, shared food, food justice, sustainable diets, waste reduction...) are also positioning themselves as relevant to achieve the implementation of more sustainable systems and must be taken into account.
3. The fall in agricultural employment and the aging of farmers draw a pessimistic scenario, with a negative trend that does not show any course variations. In short, the creation of employment in the agro-food sector remains an outstanding opportunity rather than an obvious reality, even though some initiatives show green shoots in this worrying global panorama.

Expectations remain high when discovering how the needs of ensuring healthy and sufficient food for the population are confirmed as a challenge of the first order, while a sustainable use of resources is marked as an unavoidable challenge to ensure the future of the planet.

Action Plans, like the ones deployed by the cities of the AGRI-URBAN network, represent a precious instrument at the service of European cities, which, however, cannot assume alone a challenge of such magnitude. Therefore, we can affirm that AGRI-URBAN has successfully completed its task of rethinking food systems from the perspective of small and medium-sized European cities, to conclude that a re-invention of the complex food system is necessary from a multi-level approach, involving all the structures concerned. A new balance between the solutions dominated by the focus of production or consumption, quantity or quality, should be able to replace the current unsustainable vision with another of a holistic nature. This is the last recommendation that the AGRI-URBAN network aspires to put on the table of political debate concerning the European urban and rural development.

VI.

WHERE TO FIND OUT MORE

AGRI-URBAN RESOURCES (publications, articles, videos, study cases...)

<http://urbact.eu/agri-urban>

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ENTITIES, INSTITUTIONS & PROJECTS

- BARN RAISER www.barnraiser.us
- EATING CITY <https://www.eatingcity.org>
- FONDATION DANIEL & NINA CARASSO <https://fondationcarasso.org/es>
- FUTURE FOOD <http://www.futurefood.org>
- IUFN International Urban Food Network <http://www.iufn.org>
- NEW FOOD ECONOMY <https://newfoodeconomy.org>
- REFRAME. Towards a regional food frame <http://www.northsearegion.eu/reframe/news/reframe-progress-towards-a-regional-food-frame>
- RUAF FOUNDATION <http://www.ruaf.org>
- SUSTAINABLE FOOD NETWORK <http://sustainablefoodcities.org>



LOCAL FOOD POLICY AND EMPLOYMENT IN SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED EUROPEAN CITIES

MANIFESTO of Mollet del Vallés (BARCELONA)

WE, the Mayors and Representatives of the small and medium-sized European cities gathered in the AGRI-URBAN Network, under the URBACT III Program,

Inspired by:

- » The important role that the European Union attaches to food policy, given its complex economic, social, cultural and, especially, food security dimensions
- » The different experiences and projects connected with the production and consumption of healthy, local spreading across the European Union, in response to a growing concern and commitment of citizens
- » The agreements and positions expressed at political level by numerous institutions and private sector representatives as well as civil society, noting in particular the importance of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact

Recognising that:

- » Local and organic production is a very appropriate response to the present needs in order to ensure a sustainable future for our cities
- » Consumers and society as a whole demand healthy and sustainable food
- » The small and medium sized cities, with a significant functionality still linked to the agri-food production, organise the territory and link rural and urban areas
- » The agro-towns or cities with this special productive functionality have a high potential for job creation in this sector
- » The local identity and brand of these cities is positively reinforced thanks to this specialisation that can connect tradition with innovation and technological advances

Manifesting:

Our decision to undertake, within the network of cities gathered in the AGRI-URBAN project, a process of critical reflection on foodstuff production in our typology of small and medium-sized European cities, in order to incorporate this specialisation in the sustainable and integrated development models of our municipalities

Defining some of the key issues in order to seize the opportunity that local food systems represent, among others:

- » Short circuits of production and consumption
- » Access to land
- » Promoting employment and entrepreneurship in the sector
- » Public procurement committed to local production models and quality, preferably organic

We commit to:

- » Developing Integrated Local Action Plans aimed at promoting local food production and consumption in line with the ideas previously exposed
- » Streamlining all actors of civil society, businesses and institutions to promote their commitment to these policies and ensure their active participation in defining and monitoring them
- » Disseminating in our cities, countries and the whole European Union the results of our common work and the lessons learned, contributing in particular to strengthening the transnational work of agri-food small and medium sized cities

In Mollet del Vallès (Barcelona), June 9, 2016

