



#### **ICLEI EUROPE POSITION PAPER**

# Urban Food Security and Resilience in Europe

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#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND MAIN MESSAGES**

ICLEI Europe has long been a strong proponent of sustainable, resilient, and fair food systems, as demonstrated by the launch of the ICLEI Global CityFood Programme in 2013. Recent events – from the COVID-19 pandemic and the conflict in Ukraine to the 2023 farmers' protests, rising trade tariffs, and Europe's military buildup – have reignited concerns about food security. These concerns are increasingly being used to justify and oppose sustainability policies in the food sector. This position articulates ICLEI Europe's perspectives on urban food security and resilience. It argues that food insecurity is not a supply issue, but rather a political one, rooted in the unequal distribution and affordability of food. It asserts that the future of EU competitiveness depends on developing sustainable and resilient food systems.

Taking a comprehensive food systems approach, the position paper identifies four key pathways to strengthen urban food security and resilience: a) relocalising food systems; b) promoting fair and sustainable production methods; c) investing in healthy food environments and food education; d) advancing food democracy and multilevel governance. Based upon these four pathways towards fair and sustainable food systems, the paper concludes with a list of actionable recommendations for local governments seeking to build more secure and resilient urban food systems.

# COMPETITIVENESS AND THE LINKS WITH URBAN FOOD SECURITY AND RESILIENCY

Following the **Draghi Report**, competitiveness has emerged as the new guiding principle for the European Union (EU). It is integral to Ursula von der Leyen's **Political Guidelines** and has been established as a priority in the **Competitiveness Compass** and a key objective of the **Vision for Agriculture and Food**. **However, a genuinely competitive EU requires sustainable, resilient, and food-secure systems. In the same way that food-secure and resilient food systems can contribute to and enhance EU competitivenes.** 

Inefficiencies of the current food system – According to the United Nations Development Programme, food systems represent a huge business and investment opportunity<sup>1</sup>. Yet, the current structure and organisation of our food systems generate substantial social, economic, and environmental costs. Estimates amount to \$19.8 trillion worldwide each year, which includes \$7 trillion for environmental impacts and \$12 trillion for health-related issues<sup>2</sup>. In Europe, productivity losses and healthcare costs tied to food systems reach €115 billion annually<sup>3</sup>, while food waste – 88 million tonnes per year – results in further losses of €143 billion<sup>4</sup>.

Sustainable and resilient food systems for **competitiveness** – To secure long-term competitiveness for the EU, it is crucial to invest in sustainable agricultural practices, such as organic farming, which promotes job creation, enhances resilience, supports biodiversity, and fosters profitable markets for farmers<sup>5</sup>. Agroecology, acknowledged in the EU's Vision for Agriculture and **Food** as an appealing model for young farmers, also helps tackle the EU's challenge of generational renewal in agriculture<sup>6</sup>. Advocating for more plant-rich, healthconscious diets is also essential for preserving the environment and is economically beneficial. Projections estimate that this could save \$1.3 trillion in health, climate and environmental damage while creating jobs and revitalising rural economies7.

#### Food waste, sustainable food procurement and healthy

**school meals** – Local governments can play an important role in a competitive EU, especially by investing in sustainable and resilient food systems. Cities can realise important return on investments (ROIs) by tackling food waste. Six boroughs in West London, for instance, have successfully reduced food waste by 15 % in households, showing that for every  $f_1$  invested in the effort,  $f_8$  was saved<sup>8</sup>. Investing in sustainable food procurement, especially through universal school meals, represents another huge opportunity in the same direction. Research indicates that for every €1 invested in sustainable school meals, up to €6 can be generated in returns to local communities through job creation, environmental gains, and health improvements<sup>9</sup>. The World Food Programme has calculated that for every 100,000 school meals served, 1,377 jobs are created<sup>10</sup>. Additionally, sustainable and healthy school meal initiatives frequently incorporate in-house kitchens and offer training for cooks, resulting in higher job satisfaction and reduced absenteeism<sup>11</sup>. Evidence from Sweden shows that investing in the provision of school meals for all children and young people effectively tackles child food insecurity, promoting educational achievements, social inclusion and higher income in the future<sup>12</sup>

**Agroecology** is an integrated approach that simultaneously applies ecological and social concepts and principles to the design and management of food and agricultural systems. It seeks to optimize the interactions between plants, animals, humans and the environment while taking into consideration the social aspects that need to be addressed for a sustainable and fair food system. Agroecology is concurrently a science, a set of practices and a social movement and has evolved as a concept over recent decades to expand in scope from a focus on fields and farms to encompass the entirety of agriculture and food systems.

(The 10 Elements of Agroecology, FAO, 2018)

## CHALLENGES OF FOOD SECURITY AND THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Evolution and meaning of food security - 'Food security' first appeared in 1974 during the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) World Congress. It was defined as "the availability at all times of adequate world supplies of basic foodstuffs to sustain a steady expansion of food consumption to offset fluctuations in production and prices" (FAO, 1974). In 2001, the FAO redefined the concept of food security, moving away from a production and market-oriented approach to focus on the individual/community access to healthy and nutritious food, stating that "food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life" (FAO, 2001). This definition established four dimensions of food security: availability, accessibility, utilisation and stability. The current and most widely agreed on definition, developed by the High-Level Panel of Experts has added two more

dimensions, *agency* and *sustainability*, thus stressing that food security is achieved when in addition food is produced sustainably and when individuals have a voice in shaping the food system that they live in<sup>13</sup>.

Food security and the sustainability debate -Opposition between food security and sustainability is a misleading one that runs the risk of falling into a productivist, market and technology-driven approach to food systems. While some have called for increased productivity and technological 'moonshots' to ensure enough food supply for all<sup>14</sup>, food experts across different disciplines have clearly reiterated that food insecurity is not a supply problem but a distribution and affordability issue<sup>15</sup>. The global food system already produces more food than what is necessary to feed the entire planet<sup>16</sup>. At the same time, one-fifth of food goes to waste, the equivalent of one billion meals a day<sup>17</sup>, going up to one third if accounting for food loss too. Yet, 786 million people suffer from hunger, and a total of one billion suffer from malnutrition<sup>18</sup>. This shows that the real issue is not whether there is enough food for everyone but rather how food is distributed and who can afford it.

Local government perspective - Worldwide, over 60% of the world's population lives in urban areas. In Europe, the share goes up to 75%<sup>19</sup>. The vast majority of the food procured is thus channeled and consumed in urban areas. There are 2.2 billion people who are food insecure worldwide, 1.7 billion of which live in urban and peri-urban areas<sup>20</sup>. These figures show cities and local governments are on the frontline in addressing food insecurity. From land planning, waste management, procurement (food for schools, hospitals, etc.), urban planning (zoning regulations, shaping food environments), farmers' markets, urban agriculture, and community-led initiatives, cities and towns across Europe have the competencies and responsibilities to foster resilient food systems and ensure food security. They can support food systems' relocalisation – bridging the urban-rural divide -, sustainable food production and improve access to healthy and more nutritious food.

#### THE SIX PILLARS OF FOOD SECURITY:

**Availability:** Having a quantity and quality of food sufficient to satisfy the dietary needs of individuals, free from adverse substances and acceptable within a given culture, supplied through domestic production or imports.

**Affordability:** Having personal or household financial means to acquire food for an adequate diet at a level to ensure that satisfaction of other basic needs are not threatened or compromised; and that adequate food is accessible to everyone, including vulnerable individuals and groups.

**Utilisation:** Having an adequate diet, clean water, sanitation and health care to reach a state of nutritional well-being where all physiological needs are met.

**Stability:** Having the ability to ensure food security in the event of sudden shocks (e.g. an economic, health, conflict or climatic crisis) or cyclical events (e.g. seasonal food insecurity).

**Agency:** Individuals or groups having the capacity to act independently to make choices about what they eat, the foods they produce, how that food is produced, processed, and distributed, and to engage in policy processes that shape food systems. The protection of agency requires socio-political systems that uphold governance structures that enable the achievement of food security and nutrition for all.

**Sustainability:** Food system practices that contribute to long-term regeneration of natural, social and economic systems, ensuring the food needs of the present generations are met without compromising the food needs of future generations.

(Food Security and Nutrition. A global Narrative Towards 2030, High Level Panel of Experts, Report 15, 2020)

#### PATHWAYS TOWARDS FOOD SECURE AND RESILIENT CITIES

# Relocalise food systems and promote short food supply chains

- **O** Vulnerability of the global food system The recent health, climatic, and geopolitical crises have revealed the inherent vulnerabilities of the global food value chain. Extreme weather events, including floods and droughts, logistical disruptions<sup>21</sup> and pests are devastating for agricultural systems that rely on monocultures and negatively affect biodiversity. Compounding this issue, the growing **financialisation** of international food commodity markets has intensified price volatility, as financial actors increasingly speculate on food, directly affecting the affordability of food for urban populations<sup>22</sup>. Lastly, beyond economic and logistical challenges, the expansion of global food trade has also influenced urban diets, driving the widespread consumption of ultra-processed foods high in sugar and fat with severe public health implications.
- Short supply chains and territorial food systems -To build resilient and food-secure urban areas, Europe needs to diversify and reduce its reliance on food imports, decrease its reliance on exportoriented agriculture, and promote the development of more local food systems and sustainable food production. This involves shifting the public's money from the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) away from export-oriented agribusiness towards more local food production and consumption **systems<sup>23</sup>**. In particular, this means further investing in key local transportation infrastructure, food safe processing and distribution facilities (food hubs), and workers' skills. Additionally, it is important to shift towards more environmentally friendly and labour-intensive food production practices.

○ The role local governments can play – Although local governments cannot directly influence international trade policies, they still play a significant role in this transition. Cities can utilise public land and land-use planning to secure access to farmland for small-scale producers, while supporting them with targeted policies and infrastructural investments. By prioritising short supply chains through public food procurement, they can boost local economies and responsibly sourced food products. To enhance the urbanrural connection, support for farmers' markets, Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) initiatives, and other direct-to-consumer programmes can help establish more resilient and transparent food networks.

**Financialisation of food** refers to the growing influence and importance of financial markets, actors, and motives within the agrifood sector. This process involves transforming food and agricultural commodities into financial assets, the entry of institutional investors (such as pension funds, hedge funds, and private equity firms) into agricultural markets, and the increasing use of complex financial instruments like derivatives. As a result, decisions about food production and distribution are driven more by financial returns and shareholder interests than by the needs of producers, consumers, or ecological sustainability.

(Speculative Harvests, Clapp & Isakson, 2018)

#### Promote fair and sustainable food production

Oldstain and unsustainable food system – A food system that depletes natural resources, undermines animal welfare and exploits the people producing our food cannot be considered secure nor resilient. The current global industrial food system is contributing significantly to environmental destruction and social injustices. It is responsible for nearly one-third of global greenhouse gas emissions<sup>24</sup>, it depletes soil fertility<sup>25</sup>, pollutes water sources<sup>26</sup>, and accelerates biodiversity destruction<sup>27</sup> while inflicting extreme violence on animals<sup>28</sup>. Beyond its environmental impact, this system also exploits those who produce our food. Farmers are underpaid, forced to sell their produce below production costs. They are more victims of stress and mental health problems<sup>29</sup>, and are constantly exposed to harmful chemicals<sup>30</sup>. Seasonal workers are also exploited, if not victims of gangmaster practices<sup>31</sup>. Meanwhile, large industrial agribusinesses, which are increasingly dominating food production, frequently subject workers to exploitative labour conditions.

Sustainable and fair food production methods -A transition toward sustainable and fair food production is essential. The EU should therefore promote ecological farming and fishing practices that work with, rather than extract from, nature. Organic agriculture has proven effective in reducing environmental harm<sup>32</sup>, while agroecology has demonstrated greater efficiency in sustaining food production<sup>33</sup>. Sustainable fishing practices must be prioritised to prevent the destruction of marine habitats essential for replenishing fish stocks, and aquaculture must reduce its reliance on chemicals and hormones. In any case, shifting to sustainable agriculture requires direct support for farmers and fishers. To get there, we need to adopt a right-tofood approach<sup>34</sup> that ensures food producers have access to land, seeds, financing, and fair markets, providing them with dignified livelihoods; which aligns with the 'right to stay' stated in the **EU Vision** for Agriculture and Food.

• The role local governments can play – Local governments can play a crucial role in this transition. They can facilitate access to land for

farmers, through land planning and leveraging on public land35. They can open up remunerative markets to support local farmers<sup>36</sup>. And they can leverage sustainable food procurement policies to support small-scale producers<sup>37</sup>. By requiring public canteens to source food from environmentally sustainable and socially responsible supply chains, cities can provide responsible farmers with steady incomes while promoting ethical food production and combating exploitation in food value chains<sup>38</sup>. Similarly, they can tighten environmental requirements in terms of peri-urban agriculture to protect groundwater by phasing out the use of harmful chemicals. Ultimately, the resilience and security of urban food systems depend on both the responsible management of soils and nature and the fair treatment of those who produce our food.

# Invest in healthy food environments and food education

Second environments and food literacy – Urban food security goes beyond guaranteeing access to food as it also requires ensuring access to healthy, nutritious diets. A key factor influencing food insecurity in cities is the food environment, "the physical, economic, political, and socio-cultural context in which consumers interact with the food system to make decisions about acquiring, preparing, and consuming food"**39**. Low-income neighbourhoods with limited public transit and scarce quality food outlets present a high risk of food insecurity. Another major contributor is the lack of food literacy, which includes the knowledge and skills needed to plan, select, prepare and consume food<sup>40</sup>. Ultraprocessed products high in salt and sugar require far less food literacy than fresh, raw, and seasonal ingredients. Lastly, the pervasive marketing of unhealthy foods has significantly shaped urban **dietary patterns**, often encouraging consumers to make choices that compromise their health and contribute to unsustainable food systems.

C Healthy food environments and urban-rural **linkage** – Transforming the food environment is therefore paramount in tackling urban food insecurity, enhancing food system resilience, and promoting alternative models that benefit both people and the planet. Cities should aim to address the issues known as food deserts (areas lacking food outlets) and food swamps (areas dominated by unhealthy food options) to improve access to healthier food choices<sup>41</sup>. This should align with policies aimed at addressing affordability concerns, ensuring healthy food is not only present but also affordable. Additionally, there is an urgent need to raise awareness about healthy and sustainable diets and to empower citizens with the knowledge and skills to choose, prepare, and consume nutritious food. Something that goes hand-in-hand with their protection from aggressive marketing of unhealthy food, especially targeting children, to prevent the development of poor eating habits.

**C** The role local governments can play – Local governments are often best placed to address access to healthy, nutritious diets and food literacy. Food truck programs, for instance, can deliver fresh fruits and vegetables to underserved areas<sup>42</sup>. By leveraging fiscal and tax incentives, cities can reshape neighbourhoods, facilitating the opening of fruit and vegetable shops, increasing their offer and making them more affordable. This strategy should go hand-in-hand with strategies aimed at bridging the urban-rural divide, thus ensuring locally grown meat and dairies and seasonal products can easily reach urban areas. This involves supporting farmers' and municipal markets, improving logistical infrastructure, and promoting community-led initiatives such as urban agriculture, community-supported agriculture programs, and cooperative supermarkets. These initiatives also naturally increase food literacy in urban dwellers by strengthening the connection between consumers and producers. Cities can also develop awarenessraising campaigns and support local projects

delivering training and cooking classes. Lastly, by reworking their zoning regulations, they can directly tackle aggressive junk food marketing, thereby preventing unhealthy food behaviours.

# Promote Food Democracy and Multi-Sectoral and Multilevel Governance

- **Concentration and exclusion in food systems** The global, industrial food system is marked by a high concentration of resources and power43. Only a handful of corporations control entire agricultural markets and food value chains44. Globally, five companies control 60% of the seeds, pesticides and fertilisers. Four are in control of approximately 90% of global grain trading, and the same logic applies to processing and retail45. In Europe, figures are similar. Only 3% of the biggest farms own up to 51% of the land while, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the food processing and manufacturing industry scores a highly concentrated and potentially monopolistic level47. Such levels of power and resource concentration are directly hindering the transition towards more sustainable, fair and resilient food systems models.
- Food democracy and participation The transition to equitable, sustainable, and resilient food systems cannot happen while a few entities dominate the processes of food production, distribution, and consumption. Central to this transition is food democracy<sup>48</sup>, which entails the active involvement of all individuals in collective and democratic food decision-making. It is essential that everyone, particularly the most vulnerable, is provided with the opportunity to voice their needs, concerns, and opinions regarding how food should be produced, distributed, and consumed. This enhanced participation must be supported by a broader cultural shift towards greater food citizenship<sup>49</sup>, characterised by a heightened awareness of the

health, social, and environmental impacts of food, along with active engagement (beyond just responsible purchasing) in creating an equitable food system for all.

C The role local governments can play – Promoting food citizenship begins with supporting communityled initiatives and awareness raising campaigns about the social and environmental impacts of food<sup>50</sup>. Food democracy can be enabled by establishing, recognising and supporting urban **food policy councils** – democratic spaces for the collaborative designing of inclusive and ambitious food strategies. Moreover, because food security is deeply interconnected with other urban systems such as water, transport, energy, and housing, cities should work to align and integrate sectoral **policies**. This need for coordination also applies vertically, where misalignment between local, regional, and national levels of governance can significantly hinder the effective implementation of food policy objectives<sup>51</sup>. To address this, local governments must actively advocate for better multi-level governance and ensure their voices are heard in national and EU-level policy processes.

# RECOMMENDED ACTIONS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

#### **Support Community-Led Food Initiatives**

Civil society plays a crucial role in shaping sustainable food systems. **Community-led initiatives – such as CSA5<sup>2</sup>, cooperative supermarkets<sup>53</sup>, and community kitchens<sup>54</sup> – empower local actors to enhance food access, strengthen social ties, and promote democratic food governance.** Apart from providing financial and logistical support, cities facilitate partnerships, and allocate public spaces to such initiatives. By fostering grassroots solutions, municipalities can improve food security, encourage healthier diets, and build stronger, more inclusive communities that actively participate in shaping their local food environments.

#### **Expand Urban Agriculture**

Urban agriculture is a powerful tool for greening cities, improving food environments, strengthening community engagement, and fostering food sharing. **By providing access to land, promoting rooftop and vertical farming, and integrating urban food production into city planning, municipalities can add fresh, healthy and nutritious products to urban residents' diets.** Although with clear limitations when it comes to food security and resilience, **urban agriculture has been proven to be beneficial in terms of promoting food education, solidarity and community engagement**<sup>55</sup>. The City of Cork, for instance, effectively aids urban agriculture with an innovative City Food Hub featuring a test site incubator for budding growers and collaborations to ensure land access in the future<sup>56</sup>.

#### **Establish Food Policy Councils**

Food Policy Councils (FPCs) are participatory platforms where diverse food system actors – farmers, policymakers, businesses, and residents – collaborate to develop solutions for local food challenges. These councils foster democratic decision-making, increase public awareness of food issues, and help integrate food policies across sectors by bringing knowledge and different perspectives together57. By institutionalising FPCs, cities can create a structured space for dialogue and action, ensuring that food remains a political priority5<sup>8</sup>. Their role in coordinating inclusive food strategies and advocating for policy change makes them a key mechanism for strengthening urban food resilience and sustainability.

#### **Develop Integrated Food Strategies**

Ensuring food security requires breaking silos and embedding food considerations across various policy areas, including health, water management, urban planning, education and transport. Cities can develop integrated food strategies that prioritise access to **healthy and nutritious food** in all relevant sectors**59**. This involves aligning food-related policies with sustainability goals, coordinating interdepartmental efforts, and engaging stakeholders across the food system. A holistic food strategy not only supports public health and local economies but also enhances environmental sustainability and resilience in the face of climate change and economic disruptions.

#### Harness the Power of Public Food Procurement

Sustainable public food procurement is a powerful policy tool to drive food systems' transformation. Cities can use their purchasing power to support organic, local, and fair-trade food while reducing food system inequalities. Schools, hospitals, nursing homes, and public institutions can prioritise procurement from small-scale farmers and sustainable producers, ensuring that public meals promote both health and environmental sustainability60. By setting ambitious procurement criteria and offering incentives for sustainable practices, cities can strengthen local food economies and accelerate the shift toward resilient food systems<sup>61</sup>. The **Buy Better Food Campaign** is an EUwide awareness-raising and advocacy campaign local governments can join to learn about sustainable food procurement and call for more supportive regulations.

#### Promote Food Education and Healthy Food Habits

**Empowering people with knowledge about nutrition, sustainable food choices, and the impact of diets** is essential for long-term food security. This can be achieved by integrating food education into school curricula, promoting hands-on learning experiences through school gardens and cooking classes<sup>62</sup>. Public awareness campaigns encouraging plant-based diets, reducing food waste, and supporting local food systems further reinforce sustainable food habits<sup>63</sup>. By investing in education and outreach, municipalities can shape future generations' food choices, **creating a culture of responsible consumption and healthier communities**. In the EU-funded project <u>FoodCLIC</u> the city of Brasov uses markets to raise awareness among youth and adults to the benefits of eating fresh, local and seasonal products<sup>64</sup>.

#### **Strengthen Rural-Urban Linkages**

A thriving food system depends on strong connections between urban consumers and rural producers. **Cities can invest in online platforms, food hubs, and logistics systems** that facilitate direct trade between local farmers and urban consumers, creating economic opportunities while ensuring fresh, seasonal food reaches the city<sup>65</sup>. **Land-use planning can ensure access to land for farmers**. Strengthening rural-urban linkages reduces dependence on long supply chains, enhances food literacy, and fosters economic resilience. Municipalities can also strengthen the connection by further including small-scale farmers in their food tender to ensure them a stable and remunerative market.

#### **Invest in Local Food Markets**

Local food markets offer direct access to fresh, seasonal, and sustainably produced food, providing small-scale farmers with viable market opportunities. Cities can support local markets by designating public spaces and leveraging urban planning, designing adequate market policies and facilitating farmer access through simplified licensing processes, securing funds for food market development, equipping venues with essential infrastructure, training market vendors, for instance, on sustainable food practices, and promoting nutrition awareness and sustainable consumption. Well-managed markets contribute to a vibrant urban life and social fabric, strengthening rural-urban connection and improving food security by making nutritious food more accessible<sup>66</sup>. Encouraging direct sales between producers and consumers also enhances transparency in the food system, farmers' pride, and fair pricing, benefiting both farmers and urban residents.

#### **Reduce Food Waste and Enhance Food Recovery**

Food waste has significant negative impacts environmentally, socially and economically. Cities are uniquely positioned in the food system to stimulate their direct environment (e.g. through public procurement, municipal markets, etc.) and indirect environment (e.g. awareness raising targeted at restaurants, hotels, or households) for food waste prevention and reduction. Cities can also introduce regulations requiring supermarkets and restaurants to donate excess food. By integrating food waste prevention and redistribution into urban policies and infrastructure, municipalities can significantly cut food waste, reduce environmental impacts, and improve social equity<sup>67</sup>. Building on these various levers, ICLEI's **CityFood programme** launched a peer-to-peer learning programme for cities to share experiences and replicable strategies for food waste prevention<sup>68</sup>, and developed dedicated guidance for the design and implementation of food waste reduction interventions<sup>69</sup>.

#### **Regulate the Food Environment for Healthier Cities**

Cities have the power to reshape food environments, thus promoting access to healthy and nutritious food. They can restrict unhealthy food advertisements – especially around schools – which can help combat diet-related diseases<sup>70</sup>. **Zoning laws can be leveraged to promote urban agriculture** and food retail diversity. Through tax incentives, they can make healthy, nutritious food more accessible and affordable<sup>71</sup> while investing in food initiatives, such as food trucks selling fresh produce, to enhance access in underserved areas<sup>72</sup>. By proactively designing food environments that support sustainable diets, cities can create healthier, more equitable, and resilient food systems.

#### Join City Networks and Food Programs

Supporting urban agriculture, unlocking public land for farmers, developing infrastructure to bridge the urban-rural gap, leveraging the power of the public plate or even developing ambitious food policies can be a daunting challenge for local governments. Nonetheless, **by engaging in well-organised city-food networks, cities can draw on extensive knowledge, skills, and resources**<sup>73</sup>. Dedicated networks, like the CityFood Programme, offer cities best practices, technical assistance, and collaboration opportunities that empower local governments to cultivate ambitious food policies with greater confidence and support.

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- 55. Urban and peri-urban agriculture case studies. Overview, conclusions and recommendations, FAO & Rikolto, 2022
- 56. See FEAST Project (https://feast2030.eu/livinglabs/cork)

- 57. The food policy council coordinator plays a crucial role in fostering participation, facilitating ongoing dialogue, and maintaining strong connections with public authorities. It helps when the coordinator is directly affiliated to the Municipaliy (this is the case in Wrocław)
- 58. Cork Food Policy council is a particularly successful example of how urban food council have can foster participation and promote sustainable food systems (see <u>https://corkhealthycities.com/cork-food-policy-council/</u>)
- 59. Leuven food strategy "<u>Food Connects</u>" is particularly comprehensive and links to other sectoral policies.
- 60. See <u>Sustainable food procurement: a goal within reach</u>, EU Food Policy Coalition, 2021
- 61. For practical examples of see <u>Manifesto for the Establishement of</u> <u>Minimum Mandatory Criteria in Public Canteens across EU</u>, EU Food Policy Coalition, 2022
- 62. See SchoolFood4Change Project
- 63. The City of Ghent (Belgium) has launched a awareness raising campaign promoting vegetarian meals to reduce their GHG emissions (see <u>Veggie Thursday Campaign</u>)
- 64. The <u>CityFood Market Handbook for Healthy and Resilient Cities</u>, ICLEI City Food, 2025
- 65. Ghent en Garde 2023
- 66. <u>The CityFood Market Handbook for Healthy and Resilient Cities</u>, ICLEI City Food, 2025
- 67. <u>Reducing food waste at the local level</u>, Rero Food Waste & Slow Food, 2021
- ICLEI's City Interest Group on Food Waste Prevention was launched as part of the EU-funded <u>CHORIZO</u> project.
- 69. Feeding People, Not Landfills: Using social norms to tackle food waste in cities, ICLEI Europe, 2025.
- 70. Scienciano, <u>How healthy are food environments in Flanders?</u> Report 2021-2023
- 71. In the United States, Baltimora developed the Grocery Store Incentive Area Personal Property Tax Credit systems while New York, through the FRESH programme, offered an 80 percent credit against personal property tax for the development of grocery operators (HLPE-CFS Report 2024: 114)
- 72. In New York, the Foodlink Curbside Market program is a mobile market initiative that ensures access to fresh produce in underserved areas, generating \$ 300,000 annually in sales and improving food security in underprivileged neighborhoods. (see <u>The Urban Phoenix Project</u>)
- 73. Strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems to achieve food security and nutrition. CFS HLPE, 2024, p.104

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#### **ICLEI Europe**

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is a global network working with more than 2500+ local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development. Active in 125+ countries, we influence sustainability policy and drive local action for low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development.

This paper reflects the position of the ICLEI Europe network of Local and Regional governments as a whole, and may not reflect the position of every Member individually.

