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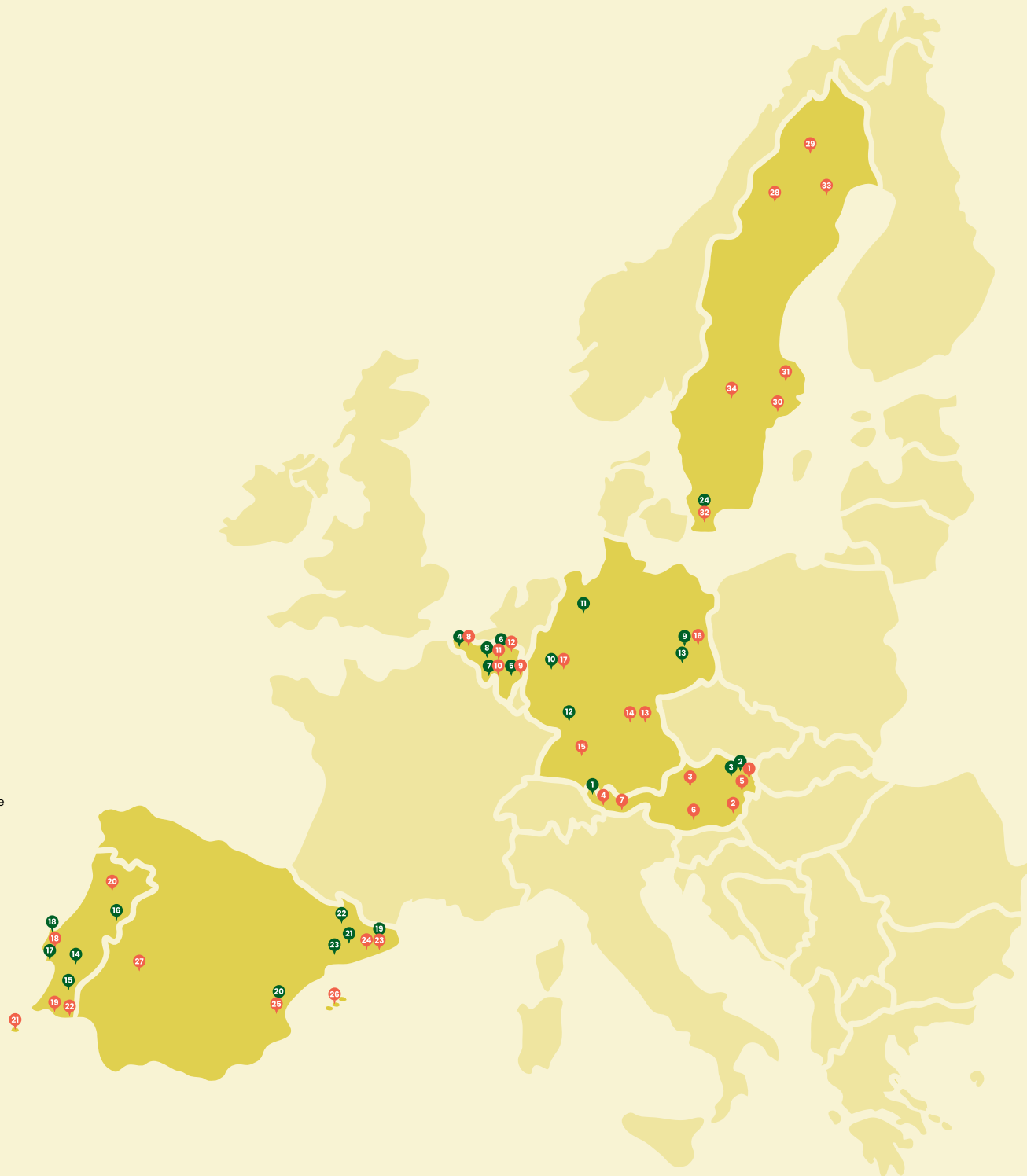
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POLICY SPACES

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Vienna Food Strategy

START/END DATE	2018 – ongoing (adoption pending)
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Vienna
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	Vienna Food Policy Council (FPC) & Municipal Department for Environmental Protection (MA22)
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>The process to develop the Vienna Food Strategy started in 2018, aiming to envision how the Viennese food system should look in 10 to 20 years. The strategy specifies that provision and consumption of food should be organized regionally to protect the environment. It should be guided by four fundamental principles: sustainability, resilience, solidarity, and cooperation.</p> <p>Led by the Vienna FPC, working groups with community members were established that, supported by expert consultations, provided four thematic position papers which served as the basis for drafting the strategy. The strategy draft itself was developed over the course of ten workshops. It is organised around four main fields of action: (1) agricultural production & food networks; (2) communal and out-of-house catering; (3) nutritional skills & participation; and (4) ethical use of food & equity. Each of these includes 4 to 6 objectives, complemented by specific measures that should be achieved in the medium and long term.</p> <p>Measures are to be implemented by governmental entities in a participatory manner. Depending on the scope and character of each specific measure, their implementation foresees legal interventions or binding regulations, e.g., for a minimum share of organic foods in communal catering. While some have already been implemented, others are yet to be initiated.</p> <p>Strategy formulation took place in an interactive feedback process started in 2021. Via an online tool, a wide range of actors situated within the urban food system (economic and health sectors, academia, civil society) was asked to provide feedback on specific objectives and measures that interest or affect them. The feedback of approximately 50 people was consolidated, looped back to the same group of actors for validation, and fed back into the strategy draft.</p> <p>Strategy implementation regarding the main fields of action was planned to be taken further by four working groups composed of civil society (FPC members), employees of MA22, and a scientific advisory board. Following a change in leading positions at MA22 in the summer of 2022, the interest of the municipal department in engaging in the process has largely stopped. This is also because there is no paid position directed to the strategy's development or implementation, and previous engagement within the department depended rather on the personal interest of the previous employees. Thus, specific measures foreseen in the strategy have not been implemented, yet some of them have progressed anyway. The initiative "RegioLog" for instance, even though not directly linked, can be seen as an implicit outcome of the strategy.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	https://ernaehrungsrat-wien.at/2019/10/13/entwicklung-der-ernaehrungsstrategie-fuer-die-stadt-wien/



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Future of Agriculture Burgenland (*Zukunft.Landwirtschaft Burgenland*)

START/END DATE	2017 - 2025
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Federal state of Burgenland
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	Federal state government of Burgenland
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>The initiative <i>Zukunft.Landwirtschaft</i> (Future.Agriculture) was launched in 2017 in and for the Austrian federal state of Burgenland. The goals stated in the initiative are to be implemented by 2025. The initiative aims to find alternative strategies for agriculture beyond a growth paradigm. The process was commissioned by the state councillor for agriculture and the strategies were developed in cooperation with the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna (BOKU), the Research Institute for Organic Agriculture (FiBL), and with the participation of farmers.</p> <p>The policy is embedded in the regional development program, which foresees that agriculture and forestry must be maintained and developed in a regionally typical, multifunctional, and sustainable manner. In total, six strategic development fields are included: (1) organic farming, landscape and nature conservation; (2) cooperation, communication, and education; (3) the farm as a living and working space; (4) agricultural policy and support structures; (5) innovative products and services; (6) innovative processing and marketing. The main objectives of the policy are to promote the competitiveness of agriculture, to ensure sustainable management of natural resources and climate protection, and to achieve a balanced spatial development of the rural economy and rural municipalities.</p> <p>Within the framework of the workshop series "Agriculture has a Future", perspectives for agriculture and projects were developed with more than 170 invited participants from the involved research institutions, the federal government, the agricultural chamber, as well as conventional and organic farmers. The kick-off workshop opened a discourse on possible sustainable strategies for small and medium-sized farms. Moreover, four regional workshops and one women's workshop took place. They collected best practice examples of successful projects from the regions as well as sought and discussed innovative ideas, plans, and concrete projects for implementation. So far, the relaunch of the "Umbrella Brand Burgenland", which is a label for products of regional origin, was initiated.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	https://www.burgenland.at/fileadmin/user_upload/Downloads/Umwelt_und_Agrar/Agrar/Publikationen/Zukunft_Landwirtschaft_Strategiekonzept_Seiten.pdf



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POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

Appetite for Future/Good (*Appetit auf Zukunft/Gutes*)

START/END DATE	2014/2021 - ongoing
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Federal state of Upper Austria
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	Federal state government of Upper Austria & Bio Austria OÖ
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>The project <i>Appetit auf Zukunft</i> (Appetite for Future) was launched in September 2014. Originally, it was initiated by the association of organic farmers in Upper Austria (<i>Bio Austria OÖ</i>) and the state councillor of the Environmental Department of Upper Austria, which has financed the project since then. In 2021, the project was relaunched as <i>Appetit auf Gutes</i> (Appetite for Good) and is now run as a cooperation between the two initiators and the <i>Klimabündnis OÖ</i>. The project promotes innovative ideas on how consumers and producers as well as municipalities can establish local initiatives that guarantee an organic, regional, and seasonal provision of food.</p> <p>The core of Appetite for Good is a fund that helps to kick-start local food-related initiatives in Upper Austria. Initially, it started with the financial support for the establishment of six food co-ops and the financial support of one already existing food co-op. Since then, the project has supported 32 different initiatives financially, most of them being food co-ops and Community Supported Agriculture initiatives, but also a cooperative, a village shop with a pre-order system, and other initiatives have profited. Furthermore, they conduct workshops, co-organise networking meetings, and provide individual advice and specialist information on how to establish and run certain initiatives. They also published a handbook on food co-ops.</p> <p>Generally, the project works closely together with the initiatives on an equal footing. The seven initial food co-ops took part in an evaluation that resulted defining the focus of the project. Decisions on thematic focuses of the project are supported by surveys and opinions that are gathered via an internal messenger group. Overall, the project understands itself as a network between people who are engaged in small-scale food production, provision, and consumption.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	https://www.bio-austria.at/a/konsument/appetitaufgutes/



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Close+supplied Vorarlberg (*nah+versorgt*)

START/END DATE	2022 - ongoing
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Klostertal-Arlberg region (Vorarlberg)
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	REGIO Klostertal-Arlberg (regional planning association)
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>Close+supplied is a project of the REGIO Klostertal-Arlberg that unites five municipalities. It focuses on three topics: (1) food and local supply; (2) creating community within the municipalities; and (3) environment, climate, and social environment. Its goal is to develop a “regional sectoral development concept”, which serves as a guideline on transforming the region in order to improve the quality of life, both for inhabitants as well as for tourism. The process is meant to be completed by 2024.</p> <p>In terms of local food supply, the idea is to analyse the current state of provision and supply in the region, whilst involving citizens of the various communities in this process. Accordingly, the aim is to provide an overview of regional food suppliers and to find out people’s needs and wishes. In a first survey, which was conducted online and via a local journal, it turned out that there is a perceived lack of local food suppliers and direct marketers to provide for daily needs. Thus, the strengthening and expansion of regional provisioning possibilities has already been included as a goal.</p> <p>Close+supplied was developed with the support of the so-called Zukunftswerkstatt (Workshop for the Future). This is a closed group consisting of five civil society representatives from the respective municipalities who meet regularly with the REGIO’s board. The <i>Zukunftswerkstatt</i> itself is intended to be independent from political committees and is coordinated by the REGIO. For the future, it is planned to integrate people from the municipalities who are more familiar with the current topic.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	https://klostertal-arlberg.at/themen/nah-versorgt



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Urban Development Area Rothneusiedl

START/END DATE	2019 - 2030 (planned construction start)
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Rothneusiedl (10th city district of Vienna)
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	Municipal Department for Urban District Planning and Land Use (MA21)
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>The area of Rothneusiedl, comprising an area of 124 hectares, is going to be a newly developed neighbourhood in the South of Vienna. The project is framed as a "pioneer project" for urban development in terms of climate protection and mitigation, as well as citizen participation. In 2019, the so-called structural concept for Rothneusiedl started to evolve. Overall, the initiative aims to deploy a holistic approach to urban development and is conceptualized as a participatory long-term process until 2030, when construction is planned to start.</p> <p>The structural concept was finished in 2021 and includes a 9-point charter, serving as a process guideline, tackling a broad range of topics such as green and open space design, energy supply, and rainwater management. It is part of a broader development plan for the 10th city district of Vienna. Due to the farming history of Rothneusiedl, agriculture is understood as the heritage and local imprint of the area. Thus, the support of urban agriculture as well as local and innovative food systems play a key role in both development concepts. Set goals are supposed to be incorporated in an integrational way, such that synergy effects happen (e.g., the production of food takes place in and on top of buildings and free spaces).</p> <p>Approximately 300 people, participating in the opening event at the <i>Zukunftshof</i> (future-farm) in March 2023, the official starting point for community participation after the structural concept had been elaborated, were consulted on their preferences and opinions regarding design and implementation. They stated that Rothneusiedl should be an edible city and markets for local producers and citizens should be part of it. The <i>Zukunftshof</i>, a former biological farm which was converted into a cooperative and now functions as a neighbourhood centre hosting several local initiatives, is the central hub, where social interactions take place to promote knowledge exchange and a communal way of living. Citizen involvement is partly institutionalized via the <i>Zukunftsteam</i> (future-team). It is made up of 14 randomly selected citizens (considering age and gender) and seven representatives of science, agriculture, civil society and community initiatives. The team will work in-depth on the urban development of Rothneusiedl together with the selected winners of an open competition for developing the local development model in order to provide local expertise and knowledge of local needs.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	https://rothneusiedl.wienwirdwow.at/



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Future Food (*Zukunft Essen*)

START/END DATE	2023 – ongoing
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	5 municipalities in the federal state of Upper Austria, 1 municipality in the federal state of Carinthia
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	Climate and energy model region Mühlviertler Kernland (Upper Austria) and district Spittal in Carinthia, in cooperation with <i>Zukunft Essen</i> (based in Carinthia)
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>This initiative was started as part of the project “I like the taste (in Mühlviertel)”. The participating municipalities commissioned <i>Zukunft Essen</i> (Future Food) to coordinate and accompany a participatory process on public procurement in schools (similar to <i>kinder.kulinarik.weg.tirol</i>). In a first step, the organization visited schools in the different municipalities to provide inputs on this thematic so that participants could identify what the main needs and interests are to pursue as measures. Some potential goals were already mapped by the schools at this meeting and some recommendations according to their specific situation were provided by the organization. Formulated goals can vary, depending on the specific school’s context: they can include creating the possibility for lunch at school in the first place, or establishing more specific ideas such as a certain share of organic or regional food.</p> <p>In a second step, the schools invited all the parents, children, and teachers to fill out a survey. Some of the main topics revolved around infrastructure or the prices of the meals and how to finance them, as in some municipalities they cost 7 Euros per day.</p> <p>Finally, schools could take part in an organized roundtable held in summer 2023. School directors, educators, children, chefs, parents, food suppliers, and the mayor of the municipality met to discuss the thematic focus that was of interest to them and concretely decide on three main goals that the mayor and municipal administration shall implement together. Roundtables were organized in all six communities over the course of the summer. There was also the possibility for inter-school exchange, where participants from all schools could discuss together on specific topics.</p> <p>The consultation procedure will provide insights into three chosen topics per group, which will be discussed between the organization and the municipalities to work on their implementation. The timeline foreseen for the first phase of identifying the needs is tentatively around 1 to 1 1/2 years.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	Gutes Schulessen für alle! (zukunft-essen.at)



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[Kids.culinary.way.tyrol \(kinder.kulinarik.weg.tirol\)](https://www.kinder.kulinarik.weg.tirol/)

START/END DATE	2018 – 2023
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Federal State of Tyrol
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	The initiative was started and is being jointly carried out by <i>Agrarmarketing Tirol</i> (Agricultural Marketing Tyrol), <i>Pädagogische Hochschule Tirol</i> (School of Education Tyrol), the <i>Bildungsdirektion Tirol</i> (Educational Administration Tyrol), and the federal state government of Tyrol.
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>The <i>kinder.kulinarik.weg.tirol</i> (kids.culinary.way.tyrol) is a holistic guideline to support educational facilities in Tyrol in the provision of healthy, fresh, regional, and sustainable food as part of a broader strategy to implement a sustainable food culture as a holistic theme in educational institutions in Tyrol. The guideline is structured into five fields of action (fundamentals, participation & communication, organization & implementation, eating atmosphere, and nutritional education), with a checklist for each of them, to know what the facility's current situation is and where potentials for a transformation lie. The guideline was first published in 2022.</p> <p>The initiative is a result of a process that involved two other initiatives that have already worked on catering in educational facilities. The initiative Eating Together in Tyrol's Educational Facilities (2018–2021) was initiated by the School of Education Tyrol, the Food Policy Council Innsbruck, and Tyrol's medical insurance company. They worked together with many different people from the whole food system in order to elaborate a strategy on how to transform the nutrition culture in the educational sector. A central part of this has been the status-quo analysis within facilities, which was carried out in ten municipalities (peripheral to central) and involved interviews with the pedagogical directors and so-called "maintainers" from the municipal administration for the facilities.</p> <p>The initiative evolved into the project "KIDchen" (2020–2023) out of which the first guidelines came into being based on the status-quo analysis. During two pilot phases, several facilities in different municipalities were accompanied in the process, and participatory workshops were conducted with all relevant groups of actors (kitchen staff, school owners, pedagogues, etc.). Until June, 2023 roughly 20 educational facilities were involved and influenced a revised version of the <i>kinder.kulinarik.weg.tirol</i>, which was published in 2023.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	https://www.qualitaet.tirol/projekte/kinder-kulinarik-weg



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POLICY SPACES

Citizen Council Vorarlberg: Future of Agriculture

START/END DATE	2019
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Federal state of Vorarlberg
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	Civil society (by petition)
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>The <i>Bürgerrat</i> (Citizen Council) is a constitutional form of political participation in the federal state of Vorarlberg that takes place on a yearly basis. There are several ways in which citizen councils can be initiated. The one in focus here started via the collection of 1.000 signatures (Vorarlberg has ~401.000 inhabitants) for a petition, which obliges the federal government to create a citizen council. The council on the “Future of Agriculture: Challenges and Solutions” was strategically held in 2019 by the Office for Volunteering and Participation, which is part of the federal government.</p> <p>The process started with the creation of an advisory group (<i>Resonanzgruppe</i>) made up of members of the public administration with expertise in agriculture. The group accompanied discussions and decisions put forward by the meetings of the citizen council and citizens’ cafés to find synergies with existing projects and to provide additional expertise. Three workshops in three different regions were held with 32 farmers representing different production backgrounds (big-small, organic-conventional, etc.) to feed farmers’ perspectives back into the meetings of the citizen council. Taking both the farmers’ perspectives on perceived challenges and futures for agriculture and the analyses of the advisory group into account, the citizen council itself was held over the course of one and a half days with 17 randomly selected citizens. The council developed recommendations and formulated a statement by consensus. For further feedback on the results produced, three open citizens’ cafés took place, where 270 people participated and added their perspectives. Finally, the advisory group met again with two representatives from the citizen council to discuss the synergies of the result with existing projects and the possibilities for implementation.</p> <p>Out of this process, ten focal areas, including proposals for specific measures and goals, were identified. Focal areas ranged from strengthening regionality in the food system to the promotion of cooperation between farmers and consumers. The regional government is obliged to respond to the proposals, by stating which measures might already be in place and which they want to pursue in future.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	https://vorarlberg.at/-/buergerrat-zukunft-landwirtschaft



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POLICY SPACES

Vienna Food Policy Council

START/END DATE	2018 - ongoing
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	City and metropolitan area of Vienna
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	Civil society
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>The Vienna Food Policy Council (<i>Ernährungsrat Wien</i>) is a civil-society association formed by about 50 people from diverse backgrounds. It works for the development of an ecologically and socially sustainable food system for the Viennese city-region. Its vision is “Good food for all!” comprising the understanding of food and diets based on ecological sustainability, social justice, community, and diversity. The Vienna FPC is structured around a coordination circle and four working groups, a plenum, and occasionally invites people to thematic round tables. The plenary is open to everyone. It is here where content discussions take place, fundamental decisions are made, and the spokespersons of the FPC are elected.</p> <p>The coordination circle consists of the spokespersons elected by the plenum and the delegates of the working groups. It coordinates the activities of the FPC. The working groups deal with concrete topics, projects, and tasks. They are formed for the duration of a project and are entrusted with new tasks, and dissolved or continued in the long term, as required. Current working groups include “Urban Agriculture and Spatial Planning”, “Public Food Procurement”, “Food Literacy and Awareness Raising”, and “Upscaling and Coordination of Sustainable Food Networks”. The round table brings together actors of the Viennese food system. Events or meetings of the round table take place on an ad hoc basis. One of the last round tables focused on sustainable community catering, and was organised jointly with <i>Die BioWirtInnen</i>, an association of Austrian practitioners working in organic gastronomy, and with persons from the catering world. Participation in the Vienna FPC is open to everyone. It connects people, initiatives, organisations, and actors across the Viennese food system, from primary food production to disposal of waste, while also working with the municipal administration and political actors.</p> <p>Collaboration takes various forms, depending on the projects. For example, for the Vienna Food Strategy, the Vienna FPC together with the City of Vienna invited up to 100 persons from different sectors of the food system to provide feedback on the strategy draft. Other collaborations, such as the WeltTellerFeld with Small City Farm and Bread for the World Austria, have a clear partnership structure where each partner is responsible for a certain component of the project. Many other collaborations happen on an ad hoc basis for events or short-term campaigns.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	https://ernaehrungsrat-wien.at/



AUSTRIA

POLICY SPACES

RegioLog

START/END DATE	2023 - 2024 (pilot)
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Metropolitan area of Vienna
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	Vienna Food Policy Council (<i>Ernährungsrat Wien, ERW</i>) & Municipal Department for Environmental Protection (MA22)
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>The initiative "RegioLog", which stands for regional logistics, started its pilot phase in January 2023 and will endure till mid-2024. Its goal is to develop a new logistics network that can facilitate the transport of small quantities of products from small-scale food producers located in the metropolitan area of Vienna into the city. A variety of farmer's shops, food co-ops, as well as supermarket alternatives are to receive the products. The pilot phase is financed by the City of Vienna and managed by the Vienna Food Policy Council together with the 22nd Municipal Department for Environmental Protection.</p> <p>Today, smaller suppliers transport their goods by themselves and thus often have empty space that could potentially be filled with goods from other producers. The project and its pilot framework intend to implement innovative logistics methods that have the potential to increase the supply from small-scale farmers, whilst reducing the number of vehicles transporting goods. A coordination platform will be established where producers, supply and transport units, and points of sale are connected to share information. This is to facilitate and consolidate the information flow on amounts and location of available products as well as their point of destination. This way, coordination amongst actors can be improved and lead to a reduction in workload for all those involved.</p> <p>The initiative is currently looking for five to ten already existing points of sale, two to four food co-ops, and roughly 40 to 80 of their suppliers willing to participate in the pilot. The University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna (BOKU Wien) will accompany the process through scientific analyses and optimisation approaches. Results and conclusions are expected for 2024.</p>



BELGIUM

POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

Gent en Garde Food Strategy

START/END DATE	2009
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Ghent, Flanders
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	<p>In January 2009, Ghent was the first city in Flanders to sign the Covenant of Mayors, an initiative to encourage local authorities to take a stand against climate change. The city hall committed to make the food system more sustainable and to turn Ghent into a climate-neutral city by 2050. At the Milan Expo in 2015, Ghent joined over a hundred cities from across the globe in signing the Urban Food Policy Pact. As part of this initiative, the city committed to develop sustainable local food policies within its urban context.</p>
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p><i>The Gent en Garde</i> strategy targets the production side by promoting a shorter, more visible food chain. The policy aims to eliminate the intermediaries between producers and consumers as much as possible, so as to create fair and efficient food chains, allowing consumers to get an idea of the real value of their food. It also tries to gain more space for agriculture in and around the city. Nevertheless, there seems to be a big urban-rural gap because the focus is to deliver food to urban consumers with low emissions.</p> <p>The strategy has five objectives that have been translated into 21 concrete operational goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Short supply chains: Promotion of local markets; encouraging restaurants and catering companies to include local products; logistics and coordination of market players; enhancing synergies between the supply of and the demand for farmland.2. (More sustainable food production and consumption (organic farming as an inspiration, no explicit reference to agroecology)); plant-based diets, public procurement as lever.3. The creation of more social value added for food initiatives.4. Food waste reduction: Box for leftovers; food aid; education.5. Reuse of food waste as raw materials, creating new business opportunities. <p>The strategy aims at creating space for professional farming, as well as areas for individual food production for private use. It facilitates the creation of neighbourhood vegetable gardens, and communal and shared private gardens. Urban gardens are seen as recreational but also as opportunities to create hubs as a new business model.</p> <p><i>Gent en Garde</i> has an online forum (part of Ghent Climate City) where citizens can share their ideas, needs, and concerns regarding food in the city, join different groups, ask for gardening advice, etc.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	https://stad.gent/en/city-governance-organisation/city-policy/ghents-climate-actions/sustainable-food



BELGIUM

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Wallonia Eat Tomorrow Food Strategy (*Manger Demain*)

START/END DATE	2018
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Walloon Region
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	The regional government of Wallonia, between 2017 and 2018, brought together more than 1,200 food systems actors in Sustainable Food Conferences throughout Wallonia to develop a regional food strategy. The Eat Tomorrow strategy was adopted by the Walloon Government in 2018 and by the Walloon Parliament in 2019.
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>The Eat Tomorrow strategy presents a global vision, a working methodology, governance actions, a common identity, and a priority thematic axis to guarantee of coherence and efficiency in the Walloon political work to transition towards a sustainable food system. This framework is a guiding document, to establish a common language across the region for transitioning towards sustainable food systems. It integrates right to food principles.</p> <p>The aim of the strategy is to create a horizontal framework within which local and regional initiatives can be placed, coordinated, and developed. To this end, a space for exchange between the various actors, including political actors, is promoted under the Wallonia College for Sustainable Food, which in turn embraces a network of FPCs across the territory.</p> <p>The Eat Tomorrow strategy adopts a systemic approach recognising that food systems competences are dispersed among various ministries and levels of administrations. While led by the Minister of Environment and Ecological Transition, it envisions to be integrated into all other concerned ministries, including agriculture, health, social action, employment, economy, and education.</p> <p>The strategy entails five different strategic objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ensure the availability of and access to food for all within a sustainable food system2. Contribute to the good health and well-being of citizens3. Generate socio-economic prosperity4. Preserve the environment5. Provide knowledge and skills on sustainable food systems <p>The strategy is set out in a decree, but the measures supported by the strategy are voluntary.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	https://www.mangerdemain.be/



BELGIUM

POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

Namur Transversal Strategic Programme

START/END DATE	2019 - 2024
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Namur (city in Walloon region)
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	The Strategic Programme was adopted by the Municipal Council.
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>The Namur Transversal Strategic Programme establishes the political, strategic priorities of the municipality and sets the direction for food systems transformation under the ecological transition objective.</p> <p>Five general objectives have been defined:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Support food systems transition from the consumption side;2. Preserving agricultural land and the diversification of agricultural production in the territory;3. Support transition from the supply side;4. Support the development of the sustainable food retail sector; and5. Support the local/organic food processing sector. <p>Different food systems actors are called upon to implement the programme and to engage in participatory spaces with the Namur Agri-Food Council. Based on a previous territorial diagnosis, the strategy attempts to establish links and reinforce existing efforts initiated by the Municipality (i.e., transition to healthy and sustainable meals in the municipal schools; making land available for sustainable projects). The strategy is action-oriented and based on local policy competences.</p> <p>The strategy aims to develop local, organic, and environmentally friendly production for local food procurement. Concretely this means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Making agricultural land available to organic producers or those in process of conversion;• Acquiring a large storage space to centralise, store, and process (cleaning and packaging, etc.) crops. Facilitate distribution logistics; and• Developing a platform, both physical and virtual, to enable local authorities to place their orders and producers to sell their stocks.
MORE INFORMATION	https://www.namur.be/fr/ma-ville/administration/programme-strategique-transversal



BELGIUM

POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

Brussels Good Food Strategy 2

START/END DATE	2022-2030
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Brussels capital region
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	The co-construction process for the strategy was led by Brussels Environment in collaboration with Brussels Economy Employment (agriculture department). It was developed in synergy with the Regional Strategy for Economic Transition (SRTE) as well as with the Regional Social-Health Plan (PSSI - Brussels Takes Care). The co-construction process was based mainly on the work of the Good Food Policy Council and numerous working groups and expert groups.
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>As a first step, a diagnosis of the socio-ecological context in the Brussels capital region was elaborated to come up with a common vision for a sustainable food system by 2035. The 2016–2020 Good Food Strategy (predecessor) was developed in cooperation with about one hundred key actors of the Brussels food systems (associations, local authorities, food processors, distributors, etc.). This strategy was later reviewed and strengthened (Good Food Strategy 2), following a one-year participatory process involving around 300 food systems actors.</p> <p>The strategy adopts a systemic lens to transformation, integrating a rights-based approach and the PANTHER principles to ensure that all Brussels citizens have access to adequate food while ensuring a fair income for producers. By dealing with food as a matter of public interest, the strategy sets up 5 pillars of action that target both production and consumption sides of the food system to meet ecological, social, and health goals, and reduce the dependency on fossil fuels and agrochemicals. It promotes a transition to plant-based diets and local short food circuits that promote agroecology. For that purpose, it envisions the development of logistical hubs and promotes social and technological innovation.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	https://goodfood.brussels/fr



BELGIUM

POLICY SPACES

Ghent en Garde Food Policy Council

START/END DATE	2013
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Ghent, Flanders
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	The local government made up of a red-green coalition decided to form a food policy council associated with the <i>Gent en Garde</i> Food Strategy, in which local officials, academics, farmers, and civil society organisations would meet to address some of the most pressing issues facing the local food system.
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>The <i>Gent en Garde</i> Food Council consists of about 25 members and acts as a platform for discussing and issuing recommendations in relation to food-related projects and sustainable food production and consumption.</p> <p>As part of the Food Smart Cities for Development network, the government of Ghent received European funds to establish the Council. The City Hall organised targeted consultations and an international seminar to prepare the ground for setting up the consultative body.</p> <p>While the <i>Gent en Garde</i> strategy explicitly recognises the right to food and food sovereignty, the Food Policy Council lacks the means or mandate to develop binding policy objectives. It is rather a project-oriented space that serves to connect actors and share knowledge in advancing sustainability goals in urban food systems following a business-as-usual approach.</p> <p>Initially, a core team was created within the food policy council to operationalise the strategic goals into concrete actions, leading to promoting local markets and targeting restaurants and catering companies to include local products in their menus. It also envisioned the creation of a platform to encourage and coordinate the various actors.</p> <p>Being action-oriented, the Ghent policy council has gained recognition and legitimacy for discussing the city's strategic vision on sustainable food systems.</p> <p>The policy council adopts a "multi-stakeholder" approach to participation, in which it does not distinguish between different types of actors ("All relevant stakeholders need to be involved, from the inhabitants of the city as citizens and consumers to associations, traders and companies, municipal services, producers, etc."). Participation is per invitation of chosen organisations, which restrains the broader involvement of civil society. There is also a disparity in terms of capacities of engagement between organisations with paid staff and those run by volunteers. Nevertheless, the FPC has become an important space for building trust to act and interact with the government to achieve sustainability objectives.</p>



BELGIUM

POLICY SPACES

Walloon College for Sustainable Food (*Collège Wallon de l'Alimentation durable*)

START/END DATE	2020
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Walloon region
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	As part of the Regional Policy Declaration 2019–2024 (DPR), and the Eat Tomorrow strategy, the Walloon Government committed to accelerate the transition to a sustainable food system, including the establishment of the Walloon College for Sustainable Food (CwAD).
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>The regional food policy council Walloon College was set up to consider and discuss issues affecting different food systems actors, and to stimulate the partnership to speed up the transition. Following a call for applications to join the regional FPC, on October 15, 2020, the Government, under the supervision of the Minister for Sustainable Development, in collaboration with the Vice-President and Minister for Agriculture, and the Vice-President and Minister for Employment, appointed the 40 members of the Walloon College of Sustainable Food (CWAD).</p> <p>The CwAD's mission is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluate the implementation of the Eat Tomorrow Strategy, make proposals for improvement and amendment if necessary;• Enable knowledge and experience exchange among food systems actors and issue opinions; and• Serve as a coordination structure to implement the regional food strategy across the territory. <p>The FPC is made up of food systems actors (production, processing, distribution, catering, consumption) as well as organisations from the health, environment and waste sectors, education, research, and social action.</p> <p>Inspired by food democracy principles, this FPC aims at developing spaces for the co-construction of food policy, at the different territorial levels, and by involving representation of all the actors of the food system by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establishing links with the creation of a Food Committee in the Walloon Parliament;• Encouraging and equipping citizens to participate at different territorial levels;• Promoting collaborative and cooperative models within and between the different sectors;• Identifying, coordinating, and strengthening the networking initiatives of the different actors of the Walloon food system; and• Encouraging concrete economic projects and partnerships between actors in the Walloon food system.
MORE INFORMATION	https://developpementdurable.wallonie.be/thematiques/alimentation-durable/participons--transition/college-wallon-alimentation-durable



BELGIUM

POLICY SPACES

Antwerp Food Policy Council (*Antwerpse Voedselraad*)

START/END DATE	2019
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Antwerp (Flanders region)
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	Civil society (mainly CSOs and activist researchers)
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>Antwerp is a harbour city with a predominantly centre-right city council which does not give much consideration towards urban food policy in its political agenda. Motivated by the idea of food as commons, the Antwerp Food Policy Council is mainly aimed at influencing urban food policy development, while also strengthening urban-rural linkages by connecting producers to urban consumers.</p> <p>The FPC does not have a formal structure; it is open to everyone interested in participating. The aim of the council is to have a balanced representation among civil society, public, and private actors, but de facto most actors are linked to non-profit, non-governmental, or social organizations. Decisions are based on consent.</p> <p>The Food Policy Council in the Flemish city of Antwerp is the sole citizens-led initiative identified in Belgium. This council embraces a bottom-up approach that proposes a radical paradigm shift from food as a commodity, as it is understood in other Flemish agrifood political spaces, to food as a common. Therefore, connected to the food commons model, new organisational and governance structures will be needed to align with a more cooperative food system that ensures greater accountability and public utility together with equity and fairness for all participants.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	https://www.facebook.com/groups/2046834312288694



BELGIUM

POLICY SPACES

Namur Sustainable Agri-food Council
(*Conseil agroalimentaire durable namurois - CADNamurois*)

START/END DATE	2020
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Namur (city in Walloon region)
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	The Namur Agri-Food Council was set up by a government-led process, promoting the participation of residents and food systems actors.
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>The Namur Agri-Food Council (<i>CADNamurois</i>) was created as a space for participatory policy development. It is mainly formed by private sector food systems actors, including producers, retailer, distributors, and restaurants. Other actors who participate are consumers, public authorities, NGOs, teachers, and researchers.</p> <p>The FPC members decide in plenary the topics, according to priorities set at the regional level, and create different working groups to delve into those themes. Decisions taken in the working groups are brought to the plenary and, if approved, sent to the public administration as recommendations.</p> <p>After 2 years of functioning, there has been increasing interest from different key actors (public procurers from collective kitchens, adult educators interested in sustainable food, etc.) to join the council.</p> <p>The CADNamurois is part of the regional FPC network for the implementation of the Walloon Eat Tomorrow food strategy, which serves as an umbrella for setting policy objectives.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	https://www.namur.be/fr/ma-ville/changements-climatiques/climat-energie-et-alimentation-durable/alimentation-durable/cadnamurois



BELGIUM

POLICY SPACES

Good Food Policy Council

START/END DATE	2020
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Brussels capital región
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	The Brussels government in the context of the Good Food 2 Strategy.
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>The Good Food Policy Council is a multi-actor platform that has been established to ensure the implementation of the Good Food Strategy 2 as well as its revision and monitoring. It guarantees articulation among strategic actions and coherence across sectoral policies. It is composed of (a) regional governmental authorities from different competent cabinets and administrations, (b) new emergent actors, and (c) traditional food system actors. A total of 24 members are equally distributed among these three clusters.</p> <p>The Council serves as advisory body issuing consent-based opinions on agri-food-related policies for the Brussels region in alignment with the strategic objectives of the Good Food Strategy 2. It works hand-in-hand with the Coordination Committee of the strategy and in liaison with the thematic hubs for the implementation of the 5 different strategic pillars of the strategy.</p> <p>There exists a two-way flow of information between the FPC and the Coordination Committee with regular meetings. To exchange good practices and knowledge, the council meets other local councils in the Brussels capital region but also in Wallonia and Flanders, while also inviting external experts upon request. The council benefits from an external non-partisan facilitator who can manage interests, as well as a dynamic and well-equipped secretariat.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	



GERMANY

POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

Organic City Nuremberg

START/END DATE	2003
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Nuremberg city
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	Municipal Council together with the city's organic sector.
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>Nuremberg became one of the first organic cities in 2003 by a municipal council resolution. The aim is to increase the proportion of organic food and promote organic production in the city and region. Schools, day-care centres, and other public institutions have now achieved a high proportion of organic food: in 2022 it was 50% for schools and 75% for daycare centres. The number of organic farms has increased by 25% every five years; by the end of 2020, 12% of land was farmed organically.</p> <p>The city, which understands itself as bio-metropolis and eco-model, aims to further increase organic food in day-care centres to 90%, in schools to 75%, and in municipal facilities and events to 50% by 2026. Moreover, the proportion of organic farming within the urban area is to increase to 25%. The fact that Nuremberg is home to the BIOFACH, the world's leading trade fair for organic products, increases the sense of obligation in the municipal government to act locally. The city is managing director of the German Organic City Network and a point of reference for other municipalities; it is also a founding member of the Organic Cities Network Europe and, together with Nuremberg County and Roth, one of the eco-model regions of Bavaria.</p> <p>There is close cooperation between the public administration, which oversees the bio-metropolis project, and local organic businesses and associations. Organic food producers have been involved from the start, most of them small-scale and almost exclusively family businesses. Bakeries and other processing and marketing companies, as well as craft businesses and restaurants have also been involved.</p> <p>Numerous projects run under the umbrella of the Bio-metropolis Nuremberg, including School-Food4Change and training projects, solidarity agriculture, or to strengthen regional value creation. Many events are organized every year, particularly in the field of education through the „Education. Organic farming. Nutrition.“ network.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	https://www.die-biometropole.de/



GERMANY

POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

Regional product-specific land management in urban-rural partnerships based on the example of the Nuremberg metropolitan region - ReProLa

START/END DATE	2018-2023
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Nuremberg metropolitan region
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	<p>The ReProLa project has its origins in a long-running urban-rural project <i>Original-Regional</i> to improve the marketing of regional products. With the establishment of the metropolitan region, the project was expanded as an example for the promotion of regional economic cycles. It is a collaboration between the Nuremberg metropolitan region (which consists of several independent cities and districts) and scientific institutions (Fraunhofer Institute, University of Nuremberg-Erlangen, Triesdorf Research Group).</p>
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>ReProLa is a federally funded project of the Nuremberg metropolitan region. It focuses on two key pillars of the urban-rural partnership: the promotion of regional economic cycles and sustainable regional land management.</p> <p>The program aims to help strengthen the added value and appreciation of regional products, preserve the diversity of the cultural landscape, ensure the preservation of agricultural land, and increase the proportion of ecological land.</p> <p>Besides projects to promote regional products, the program examines the question of how the loss of agricultural land is progressing and can be halted. In the Nuremberg metropolitan region alone, 1400 hectares of agricultural land are converted to other uses every year, most of it for the expansion of housing and transport projects. The project therefore poses the question of how biodiversity and sustainable agriculture can be preserved under these worsening conditions. The project also explicitly aims to enable „food sovereignty for citizens“ so that those living in the metropolitan region have easy access to food that is fresh, regional, and organic.</p> <p>The project engages actors from agricultural and consumers associations, food crafts, producer-consumer cooperatives, solidarity agriculture, climate protection, education and gastronomy at county level and as part of an ongoing consultation for a regional organic action plan.</p> <p>Current projects relate to the promotion of the joint marketing of orchard juices; the development of a guide for local authorities on land use development; the promotion of transport cooperation between small and medium-sized enterprises for regional marketing; the development of a regional organic action plan; and an educational trail on the regional sweet cherry product.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	https://reprola.de/



GERMANY

POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

Food and Nutrition Strategy Baden-Württemberg

START/END DATE	2018, revised 2022
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	State of Baden-Wuerttemberg
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	Ministry of Food, Rural Affairs and Consumer Protection
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>Food and nutrition have been on the agenda of the state government for a while, however, the importance dedicated to it has grown significantly in recent years. Whereas in the 1980s two people worked on the topic, there is now a department in its own standing on market and food/nutrition with approximately 25 staff members within the Ministry of Food, Rural Affairs, and Consumer Protection. One of the six units is dedicated to the implementation of the Food and Nutrition Strategy. Also, while the early focus was primarily on nutrition, especially child nutrition, and health, largely to be addressed through educational means, this vision has expanded to take in broader questions of social access and availability, as well as, more recently to connect these with questions of the environment and biodiversity. Questions of how food is being produced have come more strongly into focus.</p> <p>Baden-Württemberg was the first state, in 2018, to adopt a food and nutrition strategy. Other states have since followed suit (e.g., Hessen, Lower Saxony). The strategy has been revisited in 2022 with the aim of setting stronger emphases, connecting better with local initiatives such as food policy councils (and thereby enhancing reach), and translating individual measures into structural changes. The strategy evolves around nine guiding principles that set priority areas in which action is to be taken. It has been developed jointly with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Affairs, and Ministry of Environment (at state level).</p> <p>The central areas of action are food and nutrition education, public canteens/communal catering (including in day care and schools), food waste, fostering of organic production (organic action plan and eco-model-regions), and the building of regional value creation structures. The emphasis is placed on educational and supportive/promotive measures (e.g., marketing of regional products, certification schemes, public procurement) and less on regulatory measures. The revised strategy places particular importance on the support to local government structures (municipalities/counties) and initiatives, especially food policy councils. Nearly one million Euro are dedicated to this purpose.</p> <p>The strategy sets concrete targets for organic production and public procurement. Organic production is to be increased to 30-40%, the number of certified daycare centres (child nutrition) is to be doubled (from 500 to 1000). State canteens are to increase the percentage of regional organic food to 40% and regional food to 75%. With the latter, the state wants to set a role model that other canteens can follow. One important success has been to insert a chapter on food that incorporates quality criteria into the public procurement regulations.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	https://landeszentrum-bw.de/site/pbs-bw-mlr-root/get/documents_E-1233390385/MLR.Ernaehrung/I-Landeszentrum/1.wir/2022-ernaehrungsstrategie-weiterentwicklung.pdf



GERMANY

POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

Food and Nutrition Strategy Berlin

START/END DATE	2020
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Berlin (city-state)
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	The food strategy has been part of the coalition government agreement (2017), pushed for and developed with broad participation of local civil society initiatives including the FPC Berlin.
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>Berlin has been one of the cities which, for the German context, put the topic of food on the agenda early on. The development of a sustainable and regionally oriented food strategy has been part of the (previous) coalition government's agreement (2017) and has since enjoyed political backing, even if not a top priority. In 2018 the first position was created on food and nutrition (currently there are three). Based on a consultative process led by the Berlin Senate Department for Justice, Consumer Protection, and Anti-Discrimination and involving civil society, private sector, academia, and local administration, the Berlin Senate in 2020 adopted the first Food and Nutrition Strategy for the city-state of Berlin.</p> <p>The strategy is considered an evolving document¹ and is built around eight areas of action that transcend the food system. It establishes several broad thematic goals, which are not time-bound, nor accompanied by indicators or a monitoring system. The goals are translated into selected actions that are largely implemented through a series of projects. There is a strong emphasis on nutrition education and less on the production side. Central projects are the Canteen Future in which canteen staff are trained to prepare more nutritious (fresh, organic, regional) food. Participation is voluntary as is the objective of increasing the percentage of organic food to 60%. Organic is sought to be a trigger to also reduce convenience food within canteens (to be able to maintain costs).</p> <p>Other projects are the Food Hubs and the Food Campus – both of which are carried out in co-operation with the Food Policy Council Berlin. Overall, the strategy is largely a funding instrument. While it has enabled many interesting initiatives and pilot projects to take off, it has led to few concrete measures anchored in the public administration or legislation that would be capable of provoking more profound systemic changes.</p> <p>An area where positive advancements have been made is the development of three city-district strategies, in which different actors from the public (district) administrations have been engaged. There is also a cross-departmental initiative (health, construction and housing, integration, work and social affairs) called Food Coaches (Ernährungslotsen) that seeks to bring the food strategy into different neighbourhoods. The hope is that such pilot initiatives could evolve into more permanent structures.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	https://www.berlin.de/ernaehrungsstrategie/

¹ The strategy document (or resolution which adopts the strategy) is not accessible online, only a website which presents the strategy.



GERMANY

POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

Food and Nutrition Strategy Cologne and Surroundings

START/END DATE	2019
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Colon and surrounding area
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	FPC Cologne in collaboration with the municipality
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>The Food and Nutrition Strategy for Cologne has been developed through an open participatory process led by the FPC Cologne. The city has from the beginning shown political commitment, and supported and accompanied the process through its environmental department (where positions on the topic have been created). The final strategy was then handed over to and adopted – without any changes – by the municipal assembly in 2019. It now serves as guidance/a political blue print for all food and nutrition related questions.</p> <p>The strategy aims at a fundamental transformation of the current food system and the establishment of a fair, resilient, and ecological food system in the city and surrounding areas. All inhabitants of the city should be able to enjoy a healthy and regional diet that preserves peasant agriculture in the surrounding areas. It establishes objectives and guidelines across the food system: from protection of agricultural lands and preservation of peasant farming, and of biodiversity, to supporting artisanal production, local markets, and alternative forms of exchange, to ensuring access to local healthy food for disadvantaged groups, and in public canteens, avoiding food waste, etc. Implementation of the strategy is considered a collective and collaborative effort between the policy makers/public administration, consumers, civil society, and private sector.</p> <p>The implementation of the strategy is housed in the Department of Environmental Education and Biodiversity (under the Environment and Consumer Protection Office). Up until now there has been no overall action plan for implementation of the strategy, even though this has been a political request. However, two more specific action plans with concrete measures are currently being developed in relation to two sub-themes: sustainable criteria for lease of agricultural land and the building of regional value creation structures. The purpose of both is to protect local production and move such more towards products that can be consumed within the region, while at the same time, making sure there are opportunities for producers to further process/market these.</p> <p>Further key areas of action are the development of public procurement criteria (towards more organic and regional food), environmental education around food and nutrition, urban gardening and school gardens, and collaboration with the Food Policy Council. While there are no binding goals in the strategy itself, the city council has decided to increase the percentage of organic food in public daycare to 20% (for meat and eggs 100%). Also, there are discussions with the Public Procurement Department on how to incorporate regionality criteria in public procurement contracts (to move beyond simple price criteria).</p>
MORE INFORMATION	https://www.ernaehrungsrat-koeln.de/ernaehrungsstrategie/



GERMANY

POLICY SPACES

Food Policy Council Berlin (*Ernährungsrat Berlin*)

START/END DATE	2016
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Berlin (capital city)
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	The Food Policy Council (FPC) Berlin was founded in 2016 as one of the pioneers in Germany. Back then mainly an initiative of environmental and other civil society associations, the council evolved to become a platform for community members.
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>The main objective of the FPC Berlin is to provoke a transformation of the food system in the region towards more environmentally and socially just production and distribution, in line with the principle of food sovereignty.</p> <p>In October 2017, the FPC Berlin published a booklet Food Democracy for Berlin! with a series of demands directed at the Berlin Senate for implementing a food strategy for Berlin. The booklet outlines nine concrete policy fields in which action needs to be taken – each with a set of specific measures. The Food Policy Council has played a critical role in placing the topic on the agenda of the City Government and many of the proposed areas and actions have been taken up in the Berlin Food Strategy adopted by the Berlin Senate in 2020. The Food Policy Council is an important implementing partner of the strategy.</p> <p>Besides providing a platform for exchange and advocacy around food, the FPC implements several concrete projects towards a more democratic food system. These include the development of a network of Food Hubs (<i>Lebensmittelpunkte</i>) in different neighbourhoods that serve as spaces for communal gardening, distribution/sharing of food, preparation of food, and as spaces for social encounter and learning around food. Another initiative is the Food Campus which seeks to be a low-threshold space for dialogue with different communities/social groups around food and food systems transformation.</p> <p>The FPC is organised through an elaborate circular structure. Decision making is based on consensus in an inclusive, grassroots democratic fashion based on sociocracy.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	https://ernaehrungsrat-berlin.de/



GERMANY

POLICY SPACES

Food Policy Council Cologne and Surroundings (*Ernährungsrat Köln und Umgebung*)

START/END DATE	2016
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Cologne and surrounding area
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	Local civil society organisation
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>The Food Policy Council Cologne and Surrounding Area was the first Food Policy Council to be founded in Germany. Its overarching aim is to bring food policy back to the local, municipal level, and to strengthen regional supply structures. To achieve this, it fosters active dialogue between the public administration, food producers and distributors, and consumers. Moreover, it acts as platform for citizens to exchange and act in support of a regional food system.</p> <p>The Food Policy Council works closely with the public administration of Cologne. Between 2017 and 2019, the FPC, in coordination with the municipality, carried out a comprehensive participatory process, open to all interested community members and initiatives, to develop the first food and nutrition strategy for Cologne and surrounding area. The strategy was handed over to and adopted by the municipal council in 2019 and has since served as blueprint for the city's public policy in the area of food and nutrition. The Food Policy Council continues to accompany (and push for) implementation of the strategy.</p> <p>Inspired by the example of North American FPCs, the FPC Cologne was initially set up as a fixed membership structure (30 members) representing different segments of society: civil society, private sector, and municipal government/public administration. This structure was eventually changed for more fluid and open structures that would allow for more active participation by committed community members. While a fixed structure with similar representation continues to exist as consultative body (Beirat), the core work is done through four open working committees (Ausschüsse). Content-related decisions are taken by an extended board in which representatives of the working committees participate.</p> <p>Working Committees are open to all interested community members and meet approx. every 6-8 weeks. Currently there are four active Committees:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Regional Marketing2. Nutrition Education and Communal Catering Committee3. Urban Agriculture and Edible City4. Gastronomy and Food Craft (Lebensmittelhandwerk)
MORE INFORMATION	https://www.ernaehrungsrat-koeln.de/



GERMANY

POLICY SPACES

Food Policy Council Oldenburg

START/END DATE	2017
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Oldenburg
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	The Food Policy Council Oldenburg was founded in 2017 as civil society initiative with strong engagement of university students. The Council early on managed to secure funding from the agricultural ministry of the State of Lower-Saxony.
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>Objective of the FPC Oldenburg is the construction of sustainable structures for a regional, ecological, and a just food supply within Oldenburg and surrounding areas. To this end, the council initiates urban gardening projects, promotes relationships between city dwellers and producers, campaigns for nutritional education and the improvement of school meals, tries to reduce food waste, and offers a platform for the exchange and networking of various players in the regional food system.</p> <p>The Food Policy Council consists of around 70–80 residents of Oldenburg acting in volunteer capacity. It is organized in a 15-member elected Steering Committee (<i>Leitungsgremium</i>) featuring representatives from civil society, the agricultural sector, business, academia, local politics and public administration. The meetings of the Steering Committee are open to the public. Its members implement specific projects together with other volunteers from the FPC and with the support of a full-time coordinator.</p> <p>A position paper adopted in February 2020 formulates the political cornerstones for the municipal food transition. A framework concept for municipal out-of-home catering specifies these positions for the areas of communal catering in schools and daycare. Publications that aim to provide guidance, such as Everyone is talking about the future. Oldenburg is ready for food sovereignty are also developed jointly. These positions are incorporated into the city's political processes via the food policy council's deepened engagement with these over the years. For example, the full-time coordinator of the FPC, who is now financed from the city budget, is consulted in the municipal council's environment committee. At the initiative of the FPC and Fridays for Future, the council has decided to draw up a food strategy in 2023. The FPC continues to be a civil society initiative whose proposals are received with openness by the public administration.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	https://ernaehrungsrat-oldenburg.de/



GERMANY

POLICY SPACES

Food Policy Council Heidelberg (*Ernährungsrat Heidelberg*)

START/END DATE	2023
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Heidelberg
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	Civil society organisations and interested citizens
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>The FPC Heidelberg has around 10 active members (all volunteers) from civil society organisations and interested citizens. Participation is individual and there are no restrictions. During the mapping, the FPC secured funding from the state of Baden-Württemberg and has created its first position for a coordinator.</p> <p>The FPC seeks to transform the food system with an emphasis on the following key measures/ areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create opportunities for direct political participation in the development of a food systems strategy for the municipality;• Transformation of communal catering and public procurement.• Educational work on food policy issues;• Promotion of local organic farming/agroecology and a healthy and bio-diverse environment;• Build a regional food system that is diverse and sustainable (production, processing, distribution). <p>The FPC has been organizing workshops and events (communal cooking) to bring together different groups and get people interested in the FPC. Moreover, a central task has been to map the food system landscape (actors) and to understand administrative structures. Since there is no space where the topic is specifically anchored, a key task is figuring out where relevant public decision making around food systems takes place and how this can be influenced. Another one is building relations with relevant local government actors (e.g., members of the local assembly and public administration).</p>
MORE INFORMATION	https://ernaehrungsrat-heidelberg.de/



GERMANY

POLICY SPACES

Food Policy Council Brandenburg (*Ernährungsrat Brandenburg*)

START/END DATE	2020
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Brandenburg state
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	Food policy councils in Brandenburg seeking a common voice at state level.
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>The FPC Brandenburg is an association of the currently five (sub)regional food policy councils (“a council of councils”) in the state of Brandenburg: Prignitz-Ruppin, East Brandenburg, Havelland, Spreewald, and Potsdam. The council, which was the first FPC set up at state level, serves as a space of coordination, exchange, and support for the regional councils, while taking care of networking, advocacy work, and fundraising at the state level. A central aspect of the regional advocacy work has been pushing for a regional food and nutrition strategy for Brandenburg. Due to the FPC’s efforts, the topic has been included in the coalition agreement and a participatory drafting process has been carried out together with the FPC and involving different experts.</p> <p>At the heart of the FPC’s efforts is the creation (or rather re-construction) of regional value creation structures and sustainable production and consumption practices in Brandenburg. Communal catering and related public procurement are considered an important lever in the transition towards a regional sustainable food system (market for regional produce). A central effort here is finding ways around the EU-regulatory barriers restricting positive discrimination of regional products.</p> <p>People working in the coordination team of the FPC Brandenburg are all active in one of the five member councils and in that way connected to the local work. Every three months there is steering group meeting, composed of representation from the member councils to determine together with the coordination team important decisions/directions.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	https://www.ernaehrungsrat-brandenburg.de/



PORTUGAL

POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

Torres Vedras School Food Sustainability Programme (*Programa de Sustentabilidade na Alimentação Escolar -PSAE*)

START/END DATE	2014 – ongoing
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Municipality of Torres Vedras
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	City Council of Torres Vedras
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>PSAE is dedicated to promoting social, economic, environmental, and nutritional sustainability within educational institutions. Integrated into the municipal Education Unit Action Plan, the School Meal Programme aims to develop nutritionally balanced meals, consider environmental criteria in procurement, minimize food waste, and support the local economy. Initially targeting kindergartens and primary schools, PSAE has now expanded to also include high schools. It currently serves approximately 6,000 meals daily, with plans for further expansion. The program is part of a wider integrated territorial strategy to promote the local economy.</p> <p>The program has four axes of action. The first axis promotes environmental awareness through the engagement in horticultural cultivation using organic farming techniques. It involves establishing vegetable gardens at schools and the Environmental Education Centre, along with implementing the School Bio-garden program. Visits to local organic farms also help students understand concepts of organic production.</p> <p>The second axis focuses on purchasing food products from regional producers and suppliers, including organic options. This approach boosts local and circular economies, supports local producers and suppliers, and contributes to job creation. PSAE has become a national reference for innovative ways to elaborate public procurement criteria that favour local or regional producers, within the complicated and very bureaucratic legal procedures.</p> <p>The third axis is focused on the school meal preparation process, integrating seasonal food, traditional local dishes, and the principles of Mediterranean diet into the menu preparation, and implementing procedures to prevent food waste.</p> <p>The fourth axis concentrates on promoting healthy eating habits among children. Programs like "Active School/Positive Food" encourage balanced eating and increased physical activity. The municipality has also signed up to a national initiative to distribute fruits, vegetables and milk to primary and pre-schools for free.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	https://www.cm-tvedras.pt/educacao/saude-e-alimentacao/programa-de-sustentabilidade-na-alimentacao-escolar



PORTUGAL

POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

Sustainable Food Systems in the Intermunicipal Community of Algarve (*Sistemas Alimentares Sustentáveis da AMAL - SAS*)

START/END DATE	2021 – 2023 (evolved into other projects)
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Region of Algarve
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	The Intermunicipal Community of Algarve (AMAL)
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>SAS started as a project lead by AMAL, an entity that gathers all the 16 municipalities of the region of Algarve. The main goal of SAS was to consolidate a more sustainable food supply system in public school canteens of the region through a public procurement process that integrates ecological criteria, giving priority to local production and sustainable practices based on seasonality and the Mediterranean diet.</p> <p>A Public Procurement Programme involving 11 interested municipalities was established. This program piloted school meals based on local ingredients such as sweet potatoes, fresh fish, citrus fruits, and a plant-based bio-Mediterranean diet. Moreover, an Integrated Programme for Healthy and Sustainable School Meals was developed in 3 municipalities, focused on public procurement, awareness campaigns, food literacy initiatives, and a governance model to articulate all the activities with the participation of representatives of the whole school community.</p> <p>The governance structure consists of working groups (WGs) formed in each school, which include Municipal Education Council members, teachers, parents, student representatives, kitchen staff, and family farmers, whenever possible. The WGs were created within the existing educational legislative framework (2019) for implementing the transfer of competencies from the national government to municipalities. This provides for the creation of Municipal Education Councils that can deliberate on matters of health, social protection, and food. The aim is to strengthen the institutional dimension of the WGs within the existing formal governance structure.</p> <p>The project also intended to establish a governance system for the entire region through the creation of a Regional Food Policy Council. Due to project constraints, this goal was not fully accomplished. However, it has been decided that the FPC will be jointly coordinated between AMAL and the Regional Development Commission. There will be a local level (including municipalities, the Municipal Education Councils, the WGs, and local food producers) and an intermunicipal working group (Regional Forum of Food, Nutrition, and School Food). Currently a new project (REVITAL-GARVE) aims to implement this next step of creating a food governance model for the region.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	https://amal.pt/atividades/recursos-endogenos/sistemas-alimentares-sustentaveis



PORTUGAL

POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

Rural Development Support Cabinet of the Municipality of São Pedro do Sul
(*Gabinete de Apoio ao Desenvolvimento Rural – GADR*)

START/END DATE	2021 – ongoing
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Municipality of São Pedro do Sul
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	The City Council of São Pedro do Sul
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>GADR is part of long-term efforts to support local farmers and promote sustainable production, within the framework of the Eco-region Strategy in which sustainable agriculture is considered a driver for local development, economic growth, territorial identity, and landscape preservation. The primary focus lies in promoting sustainable production systems, including agroecology, that prioritize natural resources and contribute to the production of healthy and high-quality food. A further emphasis is on the promotion of short food supply circuits through the recently expanded municipal market and local fairs in the council parishes, as well as collaborations with local health institutions to promote awareness of health benefits of local food.</p> <p>GADR provides a specialized support service, staffed by two agronomists, facilitating various activities such as providing an information system for farmers and other food producers, agricultural advisory services to promote sustainable practices, supporting the implementation of organic certification, and vocational training in the agricultural sector. Besides this more technical role related to local farmers, GADR also aims to help consolidate and articulate all the municipal efforts related to the food system. Therefore, the Cabinet also conducts awareness-raising actions in the council parishes, organizes activities in schools, and participates in local projects, among others.</p> <p>A specific measure taken worth of notice is also the introduction of a monetary prize for each bovine born in the municipality, with larger amounts for autochthonous and lesser for cross-bred animals. The goal is to increase the number of cattle units, an important measure due to the importance of cattle in the maintenance of the traditional agroecological food system and landscape.</p> <p>In April of 2021, as part of the dynamic of a national project in partnership with other municipalities and civil society organizations, the Municipal Assembly established a Food Working Group which had the mission to create the foundations of a Municipal Food Council, with the participation of local actors (local associations, farmers, schools, etc.). However, due to changes on the municipal leadership, the implementation of this initiative is yet to be accomplished.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	<p>https://www.cm-spsul.pt/conteudo.asp?idcat=446 http://bioregiaodespedrodosul.pt/gabinete-apoio-desenvolvimento-rural.html</p>



PORTUGAL

POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

SOWING – Food Strategy of Funchal (*SEMEAR – Estratégia Alimentar do Funchal*)

START/END DATE	2020 – ongoing
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Municipality of Funchal (Madeira Island)
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	The City Council of Funchal (CMF)
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>The Food Strategy of Funchal emerged from the FOOD TRAILS project, a European project involving 11 European partner cities, including Funchal, which aims to transform food systems and develop local food strategies.</p> <p>Although the Food Strategy of Funchal was formally launched in October of 2023, its creation was the result of a previous work of co-design, since 2020, through different types of activities to promote the engagement of local actors and community members.</p> <p>The strategy is housed in the Education and Social Development Department of the municipality and is part of the commitment of the executive to promote “more health and well-being”, through “acting with the community so that in their daily lives they adopt sustainable, healthy, and nutritionally balanced diets that are economically accessible and fair, and have a limited impact on the environment, both through the protection of biodiversity and ecosystems, as well as contributing to food and nutritional security and a healthy life for present and future generations”.</p> <p>The strategy is led and implemented by the municipality, in partnership with local actors. By 2027, CMF wants to implement challenging, innovative, and life-changing measures, based on five guidelines: education, sustainability, inclusion, local trade, and networking. After the formal launch of the strategy, CMF foresees the realization of new focus groups to evaluate the status of the strategy implementation.</p> <p>It is worth noting that the implementation of the strategy is supported by other initiatives that resulted from the FOODTRAILS project.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	https://semear.funchal.pt/estrategia/



PORTUGAL

POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

Tavira Promotion of the Mediterranean Diet (*Promoção da Dieta Mediterrânica*)

START/END DATE	2013 – ongoing
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Municipality of Tavira (Algarve region, nationally, across Mediterranean countries)
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	The City Council of Tavira
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>Tavira Municipality is one of the emblematic communities where the Mediterranean Diet (MD) is still alive, transmitted, protected, and celebrated by the communities that recognize it as part of their common intangible cultural heritage. Tavira is also the Portuguese representative and the lead entity who applied in 2011 for the Mediterranean Diet to be recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.</p> <p>When the UNESCO recognition was granted, the Commission for Regional Coordination and Development (CCDR Algarve) created the Regional Commission for the Mediterranean Diet, in which the Tavira Municipality actively participates, along with educational institutions and the University of Algarve; public institutions dedicated to culture, tourism, agriculture and fisheries; civil society organizations (local development, health, gastronomy, etc.), hotel sector representatives, etc. By contributing to the implementation of a comprehensive strategy, all these actors aim to safeguard, promote, and enhance the MD, preserving it as part of Portuguese cultural heritage – a representation of healthy living, a standard of culinary excellence, and a driving force for territorial development.</p> <p>The Regional Commission has already developed two Action Plans for Safeguarding the Mediterranean Diet in the Algarve Region (2018-2021 and 2023-2027). These propose actions and indicators in relation to food production, processing, and marketing; biodiversity and natural heritage; cultural heritage; and lifestyle and food, among others.</p> <p>Tavira Municipality actively engages in collaborative efforts involving private entities, community associations, and supportive networks, among others, that recognize the importance of promoting the unique lifestyles shaped by the Mediterranean climate.</p> <p>The municipality is responsible for the official Mediterranean Diet website, which gathers information about the MD and 22 projects developed in the region that contribute to the strategic goals of the Action Plans. Many of these projects are directly promoted by Tavira Municipality. The projects include action-research; specific projects with schools and public procurement of food; projects to understand and tackle food insecurity and promote the human right to food; activities to promote awareness; a MD fair, including cultural activities, gastronomy, arts, and local markets; and the promotion of short food circuits. Some of these projects are local, others are regional, national, and even transnational, proving the commitment of the municipality to preserve and promote the MD as a symbolic and ethical connection to nature, landscape and sustainable development.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	<p>Mediterranean Diet UNESCO proposal: https://ich.unesco.org/en/8-representative-list-00665</p> <p>Publication of the Centre for Competencies on Mediterranean Diet: https://www.drapc.gov.pt/servicos/agricultura/files/DM_revista_2.pdf</p> <p>Municipality of Tavira: Diagnosis of Food Dynamics: https://www.animar-dl.pt/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/relatorio_tavira.pdf</p>



PORTUGAL

POLICY SPACES

Sow in Montemor Food Strategy (*Semear em Montemor - Estratégia Alimentar / SMEA*)

START/END DATE	2018 – ongoing
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Municipality of Montemor-o-Novo, Central Alentejo region (network is open to any interested entity within Portugal that subscribes to its principles).
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	The SMEA strategy and the network attached to it emerged from a working group of the Local Agenda 21 as part of the City Council's participative revision of its local Strategic Plan 2025.
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>This SMEA strategy aims to tackle local challenges such as a decline in food quality, reliance on imported food, limited agricultural diversity, and insufficient water for food production and consumption. It has three strategic objectives: food security, healthy eating habits, and the preservation of agri-food heritage. The overall aim is the transition towards a territorially based agroecological food system organized around four key axes: 1) Health and Food Safety; 2) Consumption, Production, and Marketing Circuits; 3) Sustainability and Resource Management; and 4) Strategic Governance.</p> <p>The strategy foresees a governance model based on a “multilevel and integrated management” (Axis 4) with the goal “to contribute to the integration and coherence of the measures and instruments necessary for the affirmation of the agroecological model in the territory as a shared frame of reference, as well as for the mobilization and involvement of the various actors in governance models and decision-making processes committed to this macro-structural aspiration of sustaining a healthy food culture.” With time, the strategy has garnered support from civil society organizations and groups, forming a local network committed to its implementation.</p> <p>This network involves local food producers, civil society organisations, local associations of different thematic areas, academia, and other relevant actors. Members participate with their own resources, such as spaces, equipment, knowledge, and human resources to accomplish the activities they are committed to. The implementation of the strategic axes is distributed between municipality units and other members of the network.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	https://smea.cm-montemornovo.pt/



PORTUGAL

POLICY SPACES

Mértola Food Network (*Rede Alimentar de Mértola - RAM*)

START/END DATE	2017 – ongoing
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Municipality of Mértola (South Alentejo). Some projects may extend to other municipalities of the region. For example, during the Covid-19 lockdown, the network delivered food baskets to other municipalities, and some projects involve local producers who belong to nearby municipalities.
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	Between 2017 and 2018, several events in the territory involving local actors (farmers, local government, associations, schools, social organizations, local entrepreneurs) led to the emergence of a community of practices that evolved into the Mértola Food Network.
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>The main goals of the Mértola Food Network (RAM) are to strengthen food sovereignty, promote agroecological practices, short food distribution circuits, and consumption of local foods that are healthy, seasonal, and organic. The network is based on principles of co-creation and collective decision making, regenerative use of resources and agroecology, traditional processes, and loyalty to the territory. Projects include forest gardens, community conversations around food, local producers' markets, and fresh food deliveries. One of its main achievements is the gradual interest of the local population in agroecological transition.</p> <p>RAM is an informal network led by its own process of development, according to what each member can do and give. There is not a single organization leading the process. The vision, goals, and strategic axes were created collectively through participative meetings. The assemblies are organized according to the dynamics of the activities and to constraints felt at every moment; there is no rigid schedule of meetings. They are implemented using methodologies such as dragon dreaming, sociocracy, open space technology, which are based on creating conditions for everyone to participate. Decision by vote is rare.</p> <p>Until January 2023, the facilitation was carried out by a local member association, with the support of external consultants connected to different projects. However, as this association is more and more involved in several local projects, there is less neutrality to keep facilitating the RAM. Therefore, currently there is the need to find another model to facilitate the network.</p> <p>The municipality has been contributing with its own funds to the implementation of different projects, for example, to buy a van to support the logistics of the community supported agriculture project; to implement an intergenerational project to promote traditional food and gastronomy based on a local and Mediterranean-based diet; to restore a local building to create a centre for research and knowledge transfer to support agroecological transition. The department of local development and economy of the municipality participates as a network member since the beginning. Through the years, gradually, technical staff of other departments are participating. Disadvantaged groups participate through their representative organizations.</p> <p>The process of RAM's functioning is evaluated as positive, but some challenges persist. For example, the municipality could have a stronger role in terms of decisions considering urban planning and soil management, and a lack of space for storage.</p> <p>The municipality has signed the Milan Pact, the Glasgow Declaration, and more recently the Torres Vedras declaration. Despite the dedicated interest and efforts, there is the risk of a throwback if there is a change in the political party.</p> <p>The network is part of the larger "Mértola Future Lab" initiative, which addresses local challenges such as a semi-arid climate, low population density, desertification risks, lack of jobs and infrastructure, and emigration. It is also part of a regional project "TerraAlimenta" which aims to build a transition to a territorialized food system in the South Alentejo region.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	<p>https://www.mertolafuturelab.com/blog/portfolio/rede-alimentar-mertola/ https://www.interregeurope.eu/good-practices/mertola-food-network</p>



PORTUGAL

POLICY SPACES

Idanha-a-Nova Ecoregion (*Bio-região de Idanha-a-Nova*)

START/END DATE	2018 – ongoing
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	The City Council of Idanha-a-Nova and the Municipal Centre for Culture and Development (CMCD)
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>The Idanha-a-Nova Eco-region is part of the broader International Network of Eco-Regions (INNER). It is a local partnership of farmers, consumers, private companies, public bodies, associations, tour operators, and the community, among others, with the objective of promoting sustainable management of local resources based on organic and agroecological methods of food production and consumption. This approach converges with the region's wider goal of developing its economy and preserving and promoting its social and cultural heritage in a conscious manner.</p> <p>The governance model is participatory, involving a multi-actor pact that encompasses all sectors. The monitoring commission (not yet constituted) is responsible for the implementation of the action plan and overseeing its activities within the Eco-region through regular meetings. The development of projects and sectoral programs in areas such as education, culture, tourism, communication, health, and well-being of the population is based upon the five strategic axes of its action plan: (1) Water Management; (2) Ecosystem Health; (3) Soil Regeneration; (4) Renewable Energy; and (5) Agrobiodiversity.</p> <p>Farmers assume a central role in the initiative. In return for their commitment to the production of organic foods/goods, they receive access to short-circuit local markets, extended visibility and appreciation, integration in ecotourism routes, as well as technical support. The private sector companies complement the network with multi-product offers, thereby strengthening the local economy. The associations make a significant contribution by actively participating in various initiatives within the territory. Academic and training institutions support with research. Citizens are pivotal in raising awareness and valuing the produce, acting as a focal point for dialogue between all members. The City Council and the CMCD take care of the administration involved in the Eco-region's development.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	<p>http://www.cmcd.pt/bio-regi%C3%A3o/ https://www.ecoregion.info/bio-regiao-idanha-a-nova-portugal/</p>



PORTUGAL

POLICY SPACES

FoodLink – Network for a Food Transition in the Lisbon Metropolitan Area (Rede para a Transição Alimentar na Área Metropolitana de Lisboa – AML)

START/END DATE	2022 – ongoing
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	AML – Lisbon’s Metropolitan Area (18 Municipalities of the Lisbon and Setubal districts)
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	<i>FoodLink</i> evolved from the Network of Agri-food Parks of AML (2019) and a Living Lab implemented in the framework of a Horizon 2020 project (ROBUST – Rural-Urban Outlooks: Unlocking Synergies), which had the Superior Technic Institute (University of Lisbon) as lead entity.
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>FoodLink is an intersectoral network that supports the operationalization of sustainable, competitive, and resilient territorial agri-food systems in Lisbon’s Metropolitan Area (AML). With a focus on local spatial planning and alignment with international, national, and regional strategies, it aims to transform the food system through three strategic axes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Territorial planning for food transition, promoting food security, environmental preservation, and urban-rural dynamics.2. Fostering socio-territorial cohesion through short circuits, reducing food waste, supporting local markets, and promoting sustainable production practices.3. Promoting responsible eating and food literacy education. <p>The Network envisions that, by 2030, 15% of the metropolitan area’s food supply comes from sustainable production, innovative solutions, and low-carbon distribution networks, enabling access to responsible food consumption options for the metropolitan population. It expects to contribute to the socio-ecological and economic valorisation of AML while strengthening urban-rural synergies. There is also a big emphasis on training, capacity building, and awareness-raising in the food system, supporting digitalization, and increasing food literacy.</p> <p>To achieve its objectives, the network is organized in three working groups: (1) strategy, planning, and governance; (2) production, distribution, and consumption; and (3) education, capacity building, and communication. Currently it integrates 29 members, from local, regional, and national levels, including the AML itself, academic representatives (agronomic, medical and social sciences), the Lisbon and Tagus Valley Regional Coordination and Development Commission (CCDR-LVT), the Directorate-General for Territory (DGT), Agriculture and Fisheries public institutions, as well as municipalities, local, and national associations and companies linked to the food sector, including producers and caterings. The network meets once a month.</p> <p>Participation of municipalities is diverse, depending on their capacity and/or interest. Initially largely territorial planning representatives participated, but today the environment, education, and local development departments also participate. Most of the municipal representatives that participate are technical staff, but there are also city councillors in some cases. All the members of the network have signed a Commitment Letter on the goals to be achieved.</p> <p>The Food Transition Strategy will be launched in 2024, including the establishment of an observatory to monitor its implementation. The strategy also foresees the creation of Local Food Policy Councils linked to a Metropolitan Council.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	https://www.aml.pt/iniciativas/aml-alimenta/ https://www.aml.pt/iniciativas/foodlink/ https://documentacao.aml.pt/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/relatorio-foodlink-eng-aml.pdf



PORTUGAL

POLICY SPACES

Co-management Committee for the Harvesting of Barnacle (*Pollicipes pollicipes*) (*Comité de Gestão para a Apanha do Percebe e do Polvo Algarve*)

START/END DATE	The Committee was launched at the end of 2021 and started working fully in March 2022.
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Natural Reserve of Berlengas Islands (Peniche) – RNB
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	The Co-management Committee is a byproduct of the Co-Pesca 2 project (2017–2020) led by the civil society organization ANP-WWF (Nature Association Portugal).
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>The Committee was established to oversee the sustainable harvesting of gooseneck barnacles (<i>Pollicipes pollicipes</i>), a highly valued biological resource that has large socio-economic influence in a biodiversity hotspot classified both as a Natural Reserve and UNESCO Biosphere Reserve: the Archipelago of Berlengas. The Committee's functioning is shaped by Law 73/2020.</p> <p>The Committee seeks to achieve environmental, economic, and social sustainability in striking a balance between environmental preservation and commercial exploitation interests, based on a cooperative, responsible, and respectful attitude between the various actors who participate in the Committee, namely, shellfish gatherers, academics, civil society organizations, and official entities.</p> <p>To achieve its objectives, the Committee has set forth comprehensive management measures aimed at ensuring sustainable resource exploitation in which economic benefits are maximized while the negative impact of exploitation is minimized through effective and conscious use of the barnacles. Shellfish gatherers are actively involved in monitoring efforts.</p> <p>Currently, the Committee is formed by the Municipality of Peniche, 40 licensed shellfish gatherers represented by the Berlenga Shellfish Gatherers Association,² the Local Coastal Control Unit (Police), several central government agencies, universities, and the NGOs Arméria and PONG-Pesca. The Municipality of Peniche assumes the role of making spaces and other resources available, as well as ensuring implementation of the law.</p> <p>The Committee has an executive commission, in which 6 of the 40 shellfish gatherers and 1 representative of each of the other sectors participate. ANP-WWF carries out coordination and secretariat functions, as well as the facilitation of the meetings, and assumes the costs of this work. The Committee holds one general assembly per year.</p> <p>Recently the Committee was able to secure resources for its functioning in the state budget; however, the public institution to provide this support (Sea and Atmosphere Institute) only has access to European funds that support monitoring work.</p> <p>Following the experience of the Committee, another Committee was created in the region of the Algarve that is dedicated to octopus fishing and involves 13 municipalities.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	https://copesca.pt/

² These are the only persons allowed to develop this activity within a very restricted legal framework of the nature conservation reserve.



SPAIN

POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

Barcelona Sustainable and Healthy Food Strategy 2030

START/END DATE	2013 – ongoing November 2022 – December 2030
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Barcelona City (Catalonia, Spain)
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	The Commission for Social Economy, Local Development, and Food Policy of the Barcelona City Council, in collaboration with the Metropolitan Strategic Plan of Barcelona.
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>The BSHFS2030 aims to become a transformative city strategy that sets a vision and major city objectives shared with the most representative actors in the so-called quintuple food helix (public administrations, private sector, academia and research, citizens and their organizations, and the media), as well as the various sectors (health, environment, social justice, culture, economy) and stages of the food chain (from farm to plate), thus generating a commitment among all of them.</p> <p>The urban food strategy calls for the need for collective action, for synergies to be woven, for new and different transformation capacities to be involved, for the diversity of voices and knowledge to be included, for challenges to be overcome and for ambition to be increased in the face of the ecological and social emergencies.</p> <p>The main axes of the BSHFS2030 are: (1) preparing a favorable context for effective action (governance); (2) promoting sustainable diets and nutrition; (3) ensuring social and economic equity; (4) promoting food production; (5) improving food supply and distribution, and (6) reducing food waste.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	https://www.alimentaciosostenible.barcelona/en/barcelona-healthy-and-sustainable-food-strategy-2030



SPAIN

POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

Barcelona Urban Agriculture Strategy 2030

START/END DATE	April 2019 - December 2030
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	The territorial scope of the strategy is the city of Barcelona. This includes the roofs of public and private buildings in the city, and considers the school gardens, although not as a main objective.
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	Promoted by the Urban Ecology Area of the Barcelona City Council with the political support of the Commissioner for Social Economy, Local Development and Food Policy of the Barcelona City Council. It should, however, be noted that urban orchards have a long history in Barcelona.
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>The BUAS2030 is a project created to improve and increase the agricultural surface area in the city, promote agroecology, maximize environmental and social services, and grow nature in the city for the benefit of people and the conservation of biodiversity.</p> <p>The strategy is organized around four strategic axes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Territorial Axis: Promote the increase of the cultivated area in the city.2. Agroecology: Promote organic agriculture and consolidate and expand initiatives to improve the biodiversity of urban agricultural areas. Promote the agroecological model in the city and agroecological networks on a metropolitan scale.3. Social and Community: Promote activities that increase social, therapeutic, emotional, and community benefits.4. Governance and coordination: Promote a model of shared governance that is based on participatory democracy and fosters the empowerment of the community network. Establish the necessary municipal instruments to become a city committed to urban agriculture.
MORE INFORMATION	https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/ecologiaurbana/en/what-we-do-and-why/green-city-and-biodiversity/urban-agriculture-strategy



SPAIN

POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

Agrifood Strategy Valencia 2025

START/END DATE	October 2018 – December 2025
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Valencia city and metropolitan area
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	The Valencia City Council in the framework of the project “Local Alliances for the construction of a Food Strategy in Valencia”, led by the Department of Agriculture, Orchards and Villages of Valencia, and the Valencia Municipal Food Council. The process also responds to demands made by the civil society organisations.
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>The Valencia 2025 Agrifood Strategy was created with the aim of offering the city a framework for action that proposes solutions to the food challenges faced by residents of a unique and complex metropolitan environment.</p> <p>The Municipal Food Council of Valencia guides its actions according to the commitments and contents included in the Valencia Agri-Food Strategy. This strategic reference framework was approved by the Plenary of the Food Council with the favorable vote of all member entities of the Council and one abstention. It was subsequently ratified by the Municipal Plenary of the City Council of Valencia by all municipal political groups.</p> <p>The strategic lines of the strategy, which emerged out of a participatory process, are: (1) Responsible agri-food culture; (2) Agroecological transition; (3) Proximity food economy; (4) Local food governance; (5) Right to food; and (6) Territorial food planning.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	https://consellalimentari.org/es/la-estrategia-agroalimentaria-valencia-2025/



SPAIN

POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

Popular Legislative Initiative for the Welfare of Present and Future Generations (Balearic Islands)

START/END DATE	2023 – no end date
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	The autonomous community of Balearic Islands (Mallorca, Menorca, Ibiza, and Formentera)
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	<p>In Spain, the popular legislative initiative is a mechanism of direct democracy. It is the possibility, protected by the Spanish Constitution, by which people can present law initiatives without being popular representatives in their respective congresses. Such law initiatives must be endorsed by a certain number of signatures to be taken into account by their respective legislative chamber and may deal with public matters such as a reform of a statute, a law, or even a constitutional amendment.</p> <p>In this case, the Balearic Group for Ornithology and the Defense of Nature (GOB) presented a popular legislative initiative in the local parliament in 2021 with the aim of ensuring the welfare of present and future generations. The GOB presents this popular initiative, a pioneer in Spain, under the slogan Today for Tomorrow, focused on collective proposals for an eco-social transition. More than 12,000 citizens supported the initiative, more than the minimum required by the law for Parliament to take it into consideration.</p>
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>The purpose of the law is to ensure that the actions of the Balearic Islands' public institutions guarantee the ecological, economic, and social well-being of the present and future generations of the Balearic Islands. This means that every policy, especially the territorial planning of each island, will have to justify what impact it will have on future generations. The law establishes agroecology as a priority and strategic sector, and the decrease and reconversion of the economic system based on tourism.</p> <p>Based on the popular legislative initiative, the Balearic Parliament has to set up the Commission for the well-being of present and future generations of the Balearic Islands, which will have experts from various fields: education, research, and innovation; agroecology and food sovereignty; environment and biodiversity; mitigation of and adaptation to the climate crisis; social justice; economic models; urbanism, territory and landscape; water and energy resources, equality and gender policy; immigration and culture; childhood and youth; and public health.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	https://intranet.caib.es/eboibfront/es/2023/11722/672155/ley-10-2023-de-5-de-abril-de-bienestar-para-las-ge



SPAIN

POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

Green And Circular Economy Strategy Extremadura 2030

START/END DATE	January 2018 – December 2030
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	The autonomous community of Extremadura (Badajoz and Cáceres)
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	The Government of Extremadura, through a process of elaboration in which 14,679 people participated (representatives of associations and social groups, businesses, cooperatives, politicians, etc.), through roundtables, workshops, personal interviews, validation forums, assemblies, online surveys, etc.
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>The Green and Circular Economy Strategy aims to unite and align most of the existing material and human resources in Extremadura in the search for a green and circular economy and society, where natural resources are a permanent source of opportunities for the people of Extremadura. A social and sustainable economy, in which the people who live in each of the towns and cities of Extremadura are the protagonists of innovation, creativity, respectful production of goods and services, the creation of green business initiatives, and the preservation of natural resources.</p> <p>The thematic axes of the strategy are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Green and circular economy, climate change, and sustainability;2. Energy, water and waste policies;3. Productive resources and economic sectors, including agriculture and livestock farming;4. Science, technology, and innovation;5. Sustainable municipalities and territories;6. Employment, entrepreneurship, and investment; and7. Citizenship (including healthy eating, green and responsible consumption; education, green culture, and environmental awareness; and citizen participation).
MORE INFORMATION	https://extremadura2030.com/



SPAIN

POLICY SPACES

Agròpolis (Barcelona)

START/END DATE	2019 – no end date
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Barcelona City
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	Barcelona City Council
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>Agròpolis is a public–community space for dialogue, work, and action between civil society, economic networks, universities, and the municipal public administration, that have in common the objective of collaborating to transform the food system of Barcelona with the values of food sovereignty and agroecology.</p> <p>They join forces to respond to the challenges of the city’s food system, and do it from these three spaces:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A political space, from which to propose, contrast, and influence public policies on sustainable food.2. A space for co-creation of projects and actions related to the development of an agri-food system that advances towards food sovereignty.3. A meeting space to establish connections and improve coordination between different actors and areas of work related to food. <p>The Agròpolis plenary decided to link the work axes of the spaces with the challenges described in the Sustainable Food Strategy Barcelona 2030:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Increase the production and sale of agroecological and proximity food and its distribution in short circuits.2. To protect and recover urban and peri-urban productive spaces.3. Promote and defend universal access to healthy and sustainable diets for all people.4. Promote a change in food culture.5. Balance power within the food chain and foster fair relationships.
MORE INFORMATION	https://www.alimentaciosostenible.barcelona/en/what-we-do/agropolis



SPAIN

POLICY SPACES

Valencia Municipal Food Council

START/END DATE	2018 – no end date
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	The territorial scope of action of the Valencia Municipal Food Council is the one corresponding to the municipal area of the City Council of Valencia, although to give coherence to a territorialized food policy, the actors and participants within the Municipal Food Council may be operating outside the municipal area. This is particularly relevant given the same relationship between the city of Valencia and its most immediate productive area, the market garden, the towns of Valencia, and the <i>Albufera</i> which covers the entire metropolitan area.
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	Funded by the Valencia City Council, the space was born from a process of participation and consultation “Walking towards a Municipal Food Council”, developed throughout 2016 and 2017, where the social and economic actors of the territory linked to the local agri-food area jointly defined the model, the criteria, and areas of action for the local food governance space.
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>The Municipal Food Council of Valencia is a consultative and sectorial participation organ of the City Council of Valencia, the objective of which is to promote a more sustainable, healthy, and fair local food system, in line with the commitments adopted by the City Council of Valencia with the signing of the Milan Pact.</p> <p>The functions of the Municipal Food Council are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Encourage participation, exchange of information, and the generation of proposals by social and economic agents of the municipality of Valencia working for a sustainable and healthy food.2. Facilitate coordination between the different areas of the City Council involved in the development of municipal policies in which sustainable and healthy food has an important role.3. Promote, support, and ensure the progressive development of the commitments made in the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact through the implementation of the Valencia Agrifood Strategy 2025.
MORE INFORMATION	https://consellalimentari.org/



SPAIN

POLICY SPACES

Water Observatory of Terrassa

START/END DATE	July 2018 – no end date
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Terrassa city (Catalonia)
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	The Terrassa Water Observatory is a project promoted by the Citizen Parliament of Terrassa and the city's social movement.
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>The Water Observatory of Terrassa is a municipal, participatory body that operates autonomously. In the preamble of its regulations, it states that it was set up with the political will to improve the governance of the city by deepening participation, collaboration, and consultation with citizens and social agents.</p> <p>It is a new space for participation, created with the aim of defining a new culture of citizen participation in the management of the city's common goods. This Observatory promotes the values of water as a public responsibility, as an essential and indispensable natural good for life and its ecosystems, and as a human right that must be guaranteed to all people.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	https://www.oat.cat/es/index/



SPAIN

POLICY SPACES

Municipal Food Council of Zaragoza

START/END DATE	November 2021 – no end date
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Zaragoza City (Aragon)
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	It was promoted by the Zaragoza City Council to create a participative body made up of institutions, and social and economic agents that will work with the city council in the development of the Zaragoza Sustainable and Healthy Food Strategy, through the definition, promotion, coordination, monitoring, and evaluation of the action plans.
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>The Zaragoza Municipal Food Council is made up of more than 110 social and economic entities of the city related to this area. To define, promote, coordinate, monitor, and evaluate the action plans, the Food Council is organized into thematic working groups that are responsible for advising the City Council, helping to establish priorities, and proposing criteria for action. The 2022 working groups coincide with the action plans that were developed in that year on the following topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Healthy and sustainable canteens2. Food waste3. Training and advice on agroecological production4. Governance and strategic planning5. Strengthening agroecological markets6. Awareness raising, education, and training in sustainable and healthy food.
MORE INFORMATION	https://www.zaragoza.es/sede/portal/participacion/consejos/consejos-sectoriales/alimentario



SPAIN

POLICY SPACES

Participatory Process for School Canteens Catalonia

START/END DATE	May – June 2019
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Catalunya (Catalonia)
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	The Department of Education of the Government of Catalunya
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>The Department of Education of the Government of Catalunya promoted a participatory space consisting of a debate among all the agents involved in school canteens.</p> <p>The objective was to generate a framework of collective interest to build democratically and jointly the educational project of the school canteens that consider educational, food, and service aspects.</p>



SWEDEN

POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

Västerbotten Food Strategy

START/END DATE	2021 – ongoing
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Region of Västerbotten
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	The region of Västerbotten together with the county board of Västerbotten and the federation of Swedish farmers Västerbotten.
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>The Västerbotten Food Strategy is a public policy drafted by the regional government. The overall aim of the strategy is to increase production of food in the region. A strong focus is thereby placed on supporting small-scale producers and territorial food systems.</p> <p>The strategy is formulated around four strategic areas: (1) increased demand for locally produced food, (2) more locally produced food in public procurement, (3) the promotion of regional foodstuff in restaurant kitchens and food tourism, and (4) the reduction of food waste. Notably, the strategy also devotes space to secure food supply in everyday life, in the event of a crisis, and, ultimately, war.</p> <p>As in the national food strategy, the region of Västerbotten sets the goal of 30% of arable land to be farmed organically, and 60% of public procurement to be of organic foods by 2030. The strategy is aimed at everyone who works with or has an interest in the region's food production. For the aims of the strategy to be realized, the extensive participation of a large number of actors is envisaged. The food industry is considered the main implementer of the policy in primary production and processing, in trade and with distributors, and in the region's hospitality industry.</p> <p>The county's 15 municipalities, through their business offices, their responsibility for land and water planning, and the large number of meals served in the public kitchens, have a great opportunity to influence the development of the strategy.</p> <p>The strategy underwent two separate consultation rounds, and several workshops were held in relation to specific parts of the strategy, in which interest organizations, civil society organizations, companies, individuals, and authorities have participated. The Sámi population within the region of Västerbotten was invited by a dedicated all-day workshop on Sámi food. The strategy directly engages with the right to indigenous culture and the right to engage in reindeer herding.</p> <p>With one of the focuses being crises and preparedness, the strategy discusses food as an inherent right for the inhabitants of the region. A challenge that the region faces is to secure long-term resources that can work on implementation of the strategy and to follow up on the goals.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	https://vasterbottensmat.se



SWEDEN

POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

Norrbotten Food Strategy

START/END DATE	2022 – 2023
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	County of Norrbotten
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	The region of Norrbotten together with the county board of Norrbotten and the Federation of Swedish Farmers Norrbotten.
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>Norrbotten is the northernmost county of Sweden. It is also the largest county by land area, almost a quarter of Sweden's total area. The food strategy of this vast region was drafted in 2022 with goals for 2030 by the Norrbotten county board, Norrbotten region, the 14 municipalities of Norrbotten, and the Federation of Swedish Farmers Norrbotten.</p> <p>The process of drafting was centered around four workshops with different themes. Those themes have then resulted in the strategic goals. According to the county board, everyone involved in primary production, food processing, distribution, public procurement, and in general acting in the food system were invited to the seminars, with special attention to the Sámi actors in the county.</p> <p>Norrbotten's food strategy presents a joint vision and target image for the county's actors to work together to achieve set goals. The strategy has six main objectives: (1) Increased production of regional food, (2) increased value from the production of regional food, (3) increased food security in the region, (4) more regional food in the grocery trade, (5) food as a visible and key question for society, and (6) food as a key to a circular economy. The strategy also has a long-term sustainability (economic, social, ecological) focus which means that the aim is to create long term sustainable values for each part in the food system.</p> <p>The coordination task for Norrbotten's food strategy is taken by the County Administrative Board in Norrbotten. The work takes place in collaboration with the Region Norrbotten, Norrbotten's municipalities, and the Federation of Swedish Farmers Norrbotten. Norrbotten's food strategy is primarily aimed at actors in the food system, the food trade, advisory organizations, research and educational institutions, the public sector, financiers, rural organizations, and, not least, local and regional politicians.</p> <p>There are three levels of the strategy: Strategy, action plan, and indicators. The strategy states the strategic goals. The action plan states the effects to be achieved, which measures are required to achieve the desired effects, and which target groups need to be involved. It also connects each desired effect to Agenda 2030. The strategy and the action plan were adopted in March 2022. Part of the coordinators' work now is to produce relevant indicators to follow up and evaluate the implementation of the strategy. The approach of the strategy and the action plan is to involve and create incentives for the different target groups to implement the strategy - separately and together.</p> <p>One of the outcomes is the regional dietary advice that combines public health and sustainability objectives.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	https://www.naramat.nu/



SWEDEN

POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

Södertälje Land Use Strategy

START/END DATE	2018– 2030
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Södertälje Municipality
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	Södertälje Municipality
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>Södertälje is a city in Stockholm County. As of 2017, it has 72,704 inhabitants. Södertälje municipality has since 2018 adopted a land use strategy for 2030. The strategy is meant to take advantage of all the possibilities of cultivation for more locally grown food and to create a more resilient and robust food production. The strategy covers cultivation both in the countryside of the municipality and in the city, as well as in the marginal zone in between.</p> <p>The policy specifies land cultivation as: Professional farming (grain, milk, and meat), professional horticulture (vegetables, berries, and fruit), complementary cultivation for educational, cultural, or therapeutic purposes (school and care activities, associations, social enterprises that use cultivation as a concept), and leisure cultivation (cultivation on plots, urban cultivation in public places or neighborhood land). The purpose of the strategy is to show how the municipality, based on its various roles and functions, can promote local cultivation and protect the arable land. The strategy also shows what other actors can do to promote cultivation.</p> <p>The goals and targets of the strategy aim at organic cultivation in the municipality. The strategy is also meant to make land in the municipality accessible to marginalized groups. The policy is structured around the four categories of cultivation, and, in order to achieve the goals within each category, the municipality commits to the following areas of action: Guide and support to promote more horticulture, ensure long-term availability of agricultural land for food production, create new opportunities for cultivation and increase the degree of local self-sufficiency, and to ensure the provision of skills in cultivation.</p> <p>The process of drafting the policy was done together with local farmers' association and private and public housing companies within the municipality, as they own land. One of the themes in the drafting process has been how to make arable land available for those that do not own land today, such as agricultural workers and/or private households.</p> <p>One of the barriers to the policy has been how to financially support small scale farming apart from access to land. The policy makers ask who should invest in equipment? Is it the municipality or the landowner, who through this policy is leasing out land?</p> <p>From 2016 until now, the proportion of arable land cultivated organically has increased in the municipality from 14% to 25%. The increase means that Södertälje is now well on its way to reaching the goal in Sweden's food strategy that 30% of agricultural land should be organically farmed by 2030. Citizens of Södertälje municipality with small financial resources, who want to grow food for self-sustenance on the municipality's land, have accessed land through the policy.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	https://www.sodertalje.se/bo-och-bygga/tomt-och-mark/odling/odlingsstrategi/



SWEDEN

POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

Stockholm county food strategy

START/END DATE	2019 - 2023
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	County of Stockholm
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	Stockholm County Rural Development (Municipality of Stockholm)
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>In May 2019, the City Council of Stockholm approved the first countywide food strategy: tasty, healthy, and climate friendly food. This food strategy aims to increase and equal the quality of the meals served in all the city-owned kitchens, improve public health issues related to food consumption, and decrease the environmental and climate impact of foods purchased by the city-owned kitchens in the public preschools, schools, and retirement homes/elderly care services.</p> <p>The city's committees and companies are responsible for ensuring that the food strategy, guidelines, and policy documents are implemented, complied with, and followed up in their own organization. The reach is public preschools, schools, and retirement homes/elderly care services. It is the city of Stockholm that allocates the budget for the strategy.</p> <p>The strategy is oriented toward 2030 and is presented in action plans of three years at a time. The current action plan is for the year 2021 - 2023. The measures in the action plans are voluntary and presented as workarounds instead of actions. The policy targets every citizen in the county of Stockholm. The drafting process of the policy consisted of open workshops where everyone was welcome to participate.</p> <p>Food is an intersection point in social planning, and the challenge for Stockholm County has been to translate the national food strategy to a regional reality. Stockholm is a small county, but it is inhabited by 23% of the Swedish population, and the capital city. The policy does not have any organic targets.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	https://www.lansstyrelsen.se/stockholm/natur-och-landsbygd/livsmedel-och-foder/livsmedelsstrategi/livsmedelsstrategi-stockholms-lan.html



SWEDEN

POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

Malmö Food Policy

START/END DATE	2010 - ongoing
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	The city of Malmö
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	The city council of Malmö
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>Malmö is the third biggest city of Sweden. Malmö's Policy for Sustainable Development and Food was approved by the city council in 2010. The main aims of the policy include serving healthy, high-quality food in public canteens that is prepared by knowledgeable and competent staff, and procuring food in a sustainable and climate friendly way.</p> <p>The policy had two ambitious environmental goals: First, all food served in Malmö should be organic by 2020; second, greenhouse gas emissions relating to food procurement should be reduced by 40 % by 2020 (from the 2002 level). The City of Malmö recognizes the ambitiousness of these goals but is committed to setting a high bar for other cities to follow on from. The policy applies to those operations within the City of Malmö that procure, order, prepare, and serve food and beverages. The policy is also relevant for those who procure for catering services.</p> <p>The City of Malmö's public administration has a common responsibility to ensure that the policy for sustainable development and food becomes a reality. The technical and district committees are to break down the overarching goals to sub-goals and actions that are suitable to their respective areas of responsibility and adapt them so that they fit into their operations. The environment committee is responsible for cross-committee questions concerning the implementation of the policy.</p> <p>Malmö's policy focus is on public sector catering (food served in pre-schools, schools, elderly care homes, and other municipal facilities). The city has worked closely with suppliers and with the procurement department to ensure that the foodstuffs available help catering staff to reach the goals.</p> <p>Malmö City signs tailor-made agreements with its suppliers and its catering staff must procure foodstuffs from them. The city of Malmö has worked with education and training courses primarily for catering staff (both theoretical and practical cooking courses), but also for preschool teachers, managers and carers, so they can learn about why Malmö wants to change the food being served in the city.</p> <p>While the city did not reach its ambitious 2020 goals - today 70% of meals served by the city are organic and greenhouse gas emissions have been reduced by 30% - it has nevertheless made important progress.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	https://motenmedborgarportal.malmo.se/welcome-sv/namnder-styrelser/miljonamnden/mote-2019-06-11/agenda/bilaga-1-policy-for-hallbar-utveckling-och-matpdf?download=Mode=open



SWEDEN

POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

Sapmi Food Vision

START/END DATE	2011 – ongoing
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	The traditional region of Sápmi
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	The Sápmi parliament
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>The Sámi are the traditionally Sámi-speaking people inhabiting the region of Sápmi, which today encompasses large northern parts of Norway, Sweden, Finland, and of the Kola Peninsula in Russia. The political representation by the Sámi community in Sweden takes place through the Sámi Parliament, which is both a publicly elected parliament and a state agency of Sweden. The tasks of the parliament are regulated by the Swedish Sámi Parliament Act. It is at the main office in Kiruna that officials carry out the daily tasks of the agency and the political administration with publicly-elected politicians.</p> <p>In 2011, the Sámi Parliament drafted a food policy for the traditional region of Sápmi. Hence, this is a public policy but not by a Swedish authority: the Sápmi food vision is a Sámi policy. The policy does not have any binding targets and rather presents a narrative about the future food system of Sápmi. It is structured around the notion of food sovereignty and knowledge sovereignty, and further divided into the areas of sustainable development and Sámi food culture.</p> <p>The food vision shows the orientation and constitutes a framework for the Sámi Parliament's future investments. The policy has been drafted by the Sámi Parliament in collaboration with the Swedish Sámi National Confederation (SSR), Slow Food Sápmi, and the Sámi Education Center (SUC).</p> <p>When the national food strategy was drafted in 2018, the Sápmi perspective was excluded, hence the Sámi Parliament decided to draft its own strategy based on the Sápmi Food Vision. This process is currently underway.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	https://www.sametinget.se/66819



SWEDEN

POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

Örebro Climate Strategy

START/END DATE	2020 – 2030
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	The Swedish municipality of Örebro
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	Örebro Municipality
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>Örebro, located in the central part of Sweden, is the seventh-largest city in the country. The municipality's long-term goal is to be climate-neutral by 2045 and climate-positive by 2050. The municipality's climate strategy specifies what needs to be done in the climate area for the goals to be reached.</p> <p>Örebro municipality has worked intensively to increase the organic shares of food in public food procurement. In 2021, 71% of total food purchases by the municipality were organic. This made Örebro Municipality the winner of Ekomatsligan 2022. Ekomatsligan is a ranking of the country's municipalities and regions regarding their organic purchases.</p> <p>The climate strategy is divided into the following goals and targets:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Reduce the climate impact of food purchased by 20% by 2020 and 46% by 20302. Reduce food waste from meals within the municipality's organization to less than 10% in 2020 and 8% in 2030.3. Increase within food purchases the percentage of organic food to 80% and of locally produced food to at least 20% by 2020.4. All purchases of coffee, tea, bananas, cocoa, and drinking chocolate, as well as 50% of chocolate confectionery must be ethically labeled by 2020.
MORE INFORMATION	https://www.orebro.se/download/18.1d8f9a39155628f73841694a/1485339455931/Klimatstrategi+Örebro+kommun.pdf



SWEDEN

POLICY SPACES

Malmö Food Council

START/END DATE	2021 – ongoing
LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	The city of Malmö
WHO INITIATED THE POLICY	<p>The environmental administration of the city of Malmö received funding from the European agricultural fund for rural development (EAFRD) for a project named Food Malmö 2019-2020. Food Malmö's goal was to increase knowledge about and access to good, healthy, locally produced, and sustainable food and drinks for all Malmö residents. This was done by bringing together local producers, food entrepreneurs, businesses, the public sector, non-profit actors, and educational institutions to create a common platform for dialogue. When the project was completed, key actors formed Malmö Food Council to continue the formation of a multi-actor platform.</p>
BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY	<p>Malmö Food Council is a multi-actor initiative in the form of a community-based coalition. The Council aims to strengthen and promote an inclusive and sustainable local food system.</p> <p>The council recently received funding and will now employ a coordinator. Malmö Food Council is a non-profit association funded by the EU through Sweden's Innovation Agency with a two-year grant. The main objectives of the Food Council are to gather actors of the Malmö food system into one platform, to bring community members together with local government to promote the social, economic, and environmental health of local and regional food systems of Malmö.</p> <p>Anyone participating in the food system of Malmö is welcome to apply for membership. There are no quotas or reserved seats for specific groups. To become a member of the council, you must apply as belonging to one of the six areas of competence of the council relevant to your knowledge and experience related to food. The areas of competence are Production, Education, Communication, Market, Gastronomy, Food Waste.</p>
MORE INFORMATION	https://www.malmofoodcouncil.org