



FOOD TRAILS

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Final report on potential
connections with other
funded EU and not-EU
projects

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1. Introduction

Strategic EU connections

Food Trails aims to contribute to the transformation of local food systems with a systemic approach. At the heart of the project lie the co-design and co-implementation of pilot actions as leverage points for the development of urban food policies across Europe. These results are relevant and urgent in themselves, however their potential would be reduced, if not connected within the multiplicity of actions, projects and actors that populate urban food systems in Europe. WP5 – EU BRIDGES: Strategic EU Connections was designed in order to close this gap and more specifically support food system transformation within and outside the Food Trails perimeter.

Cities face numerous and diverse challenges in relation to food system. Problems are often complex and answers require the combination of different skills, knowledge and practices. Facilitating the opportunity of engagement and exchange of practices with actors from across the quadruple helix (public, research, private and civil society), including vulnerable communities, increases the opportunities to develop successful solutions.

Food Trails declared from the beginning the intention to establish critical connection with other projects active on urban food systems, keeping FOOD 2030 framework and RRI principles as main references. Projects represent the entry point to get in touch with all relevant actors, stakeholders, programs and practices within the EU landscape that have to do with food system transformation. For this reason, Food Trails planned specific tasks under WP5, to facilitate the collaboration and exchange with relevant projects and initiatives, and facilitate the diffusion of Food Trails' results, supporting their uptake within the new dynamic of European local food systems in the coming years.

In addition, the project builds upon a very specific goal: promoting and disseminating Food Policies in European cities. Food Policies acquired an increasingly important role in cities' approach to sustainability. They are now acknowledged as crucial actors to reach the FOOD 2030' objectives and the targets of the Farm to Fork Strategy, as policy making in the field of urban food system represents holds huge potential in terms of impact. The extent of the international network of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact shows the increased relevance of Urban Food Policies at global level and Food Trails contributes to build momentum at the European level. The connection with other strategic projects and with the European Commission is therefore a key step to better position the relevance of urban food policies and the key role that Food Trails can play.

The logic behind the connections

Food Trails has the chance to engage with 11 socially, economically and geographically diverse cities. Throughout the project each city will make a step towards food system transformation by developing a pilot project and advancing on a process of food policy development. During the four years of the project, Food Trails cities will interact with each

other, exchange their experiences, knowledge and obstacles. WP5 has been developed in order to extend this learning process outside and beyond the Consortium. Ultimately, this will prove key to reduce duplication of efforts and foster and accelerate food system transformation across similar projects.

Overall, Food Trails will create an open space of dialogue for a wide range of organizations and stakeholders that integrate different expertise, backgrounds, and solutions. This will be instrumental for the development of positive synergies on similar activities and avoid repetition of efforts, while enhancing the impact of research and innovation on food system transformation.

The methodology

This report is primarily intended to present the interest for strategic connections in a concise and accessible way. In addition, it will serve to present the main characteristics and results of existing connections.

European food systems are populated by numerous actors, initiatives, and projects which are frequently linked to each other by formal and informal meetings, workshops and projects under the framework of urban food systems. Actors engaged in urban food system transformation are often a part of structured projects and initiatives related to this field of action. In this respect financed projects can be considered a valuable channel to strategically connect with stakeholders and interested actors. EU projects funded under the European Commission granting schemes are originated within a similar work framework. Traditionally, they share a common language, similar duration, budget, and common formal requirements. They have been selected for their uniqueness to facilitate food system transformation.

EU projects funded outside the European Commission granting schemes typically share similar budget ranges, close connection with the local community and a focused geographical area of interventions. Frequently they are funded by public institutions or philanthropic organizations.

The present document presents an overview on the possible connections with active projects in the EU, highlighting the ones most relevant to Food Trails goals and identifying the possible connections to different WPs.

Obstacles and opportunities

Cooperation among different projects and consortia, while highly desirable and part of the key goals of Food Trails project, can face several obstacles. One of the primary challenges is the diversity of interests and stakeholders involved in each project consortium. These entities often have their own priorities, resources, and timelines, which can lead to misaligned objectives. Overcoming these disparities requires a shared vision and clear communication to ensure that the various parties are working towards common goals.

Another significant obstacle is the issue of resource's allocation and timeframe's discrepancies. Consortia may vary in the availability of resources to allocate to exchanges and specific needs and capabilities on this matter are to be considered. At the same time, collaboration over key issues such as living labs setting up or monitoring framework development may be affected by the overall schedule of projects.

Indeed, often when exchanges mechanisms are in place, they tend to be results oriented and driven by communications needs, but the benefits coming from e.g. a better alignment on research methodologies and protocols, should be pursued from the very beginning of projects instead that at a later stage. Lastly, competition among different projects can pose significant obstacles in the cooperation activities.

Every obstacle mentioned pose at the same time significant opportunities for those involved in these exchanges. Sharing the wide range of objectives set by the different projects can enrich the understanding of different approaches and positively influence each consortium. Effective communication strategies, such as regular meetings, shared collaboration platforms, and common events, are crucial for bridging these gaps, while also emphasizing the collective benefit, shared achievements, and recognition of each entity's contributions can foster a spirit of cooperation. The improvement available for the food systems where EU funded projects are affecting stakeholders involved must remain the common aim of the collaboration.

In summary, while cooperation among different projects is essential for tackling complex challenges, it requires overcoming numerous obstacles. Addressing these challenges through clear communication, transparent resource allocation, and shared values on the need for food system transformation is essential for successful collaboration and achieving common objectives.

2. Catalogue of key projects

Approach to develop strategic connections with key European projects

Food Trails intends to exploit the opportunity of a 4-year project period as an occasion to strategically connect to other European projects, active in the transformation of urban food systems and funded by the European Commission (EC) and other actors. The project has allocated resources dedicated to enhancing the activity of knowledge exchange between projects and to identify new ways of integrating approaches and developing effective strategies towards common goals.

The development of this activity requires to build an open and constructive dialogue with coordination teams from other projects and to share ideas that inspire stakeholders around Europe and complement each other. The Consortium has taken note of the interest and support of the DG RTD to follow this trajectory and advance under the FOOD 2030 framework.

The first step was to agree on a preliminary mapping of relevant projects led by Milan Municipality, referring to food experiences coming from Horizon 2020, URBACT and UIA. These financing programmes proved to be the most accessible for local authorities and to foster cross-sectoral innovation (H2020), knowledge exchange among cities (URBACT) and testing of local solutions (UIA).

In fact, **Horizon 2020** was the biggest EU Research and Innovation programme designed to develop breakthroughs that support and foster research in Europe on a wide range of impact areas. **URBACT**'s mission is to enable cities to work together and develop integrated solutions to common urban challenges, identifying good practices to improve urban policies. While Urban Innovative Actions (**UIA**) is an Initiative to test new and unproven solutions to address urban challenges in the complexity of real life.

The Food Trails coordinator was in charge of contacting either other fellow coordinating partners or EC secretariats for the specific funding programmes, presenting the ambition of Food Trails and asking for further collaboration. Once a first connection was established, Food Trails partners were updated during internal meetings on the evolving relations and gave inputs on more possible linkages and next steps.

Horizon 2020 projects related to FOOD 2030

The European Commission developed an interest on how to better use financing tools to push cities to work actively on their local food systems, eventually developing dedicated Horizon 2020 (H2020) calls from 2018. This also reflects the decision to support, under the

H2020 programme, several projects specifically addressing the transformation of sustainable food systems that are now running. A cluster of five H2020 projects (FoodE, FOOD SHIFT 2030, Food Trails, FUSILLI and Cities2030) started knowing each other in a joint meeting of coordinating partners launched by the DG Research & Innovation of the EC in December 2020. The five “family” projects together account for 41 local authorities from 21 countries in geographic Europe and are also active in other cities through local organizations.

Food Trails offered to exploit its resources to lead the organization of future meetings and organized a second cluster meeting in April 2021. The latter was meant to facilitate an in-depth presentation of the project's goals, Gantt and deliverables.

The first tangible result of the connection among the H2020 “family” projects, besides regular coordinators' meetings, will be the organization of thematic gatherings among specific partners to work on food actions assessment tools, coordinated communication and advocacy towards EU institutions.

The logic guiding this approach is to maximize time and common interests involving directly partners from each consortium. Ultimately, Food Trails aims to use this information to reach a clear understanding of how to develop joint initiatives, materials and events addressed to influence the European debate on the role of cities in food system transformation and their potential for impact when joined by quadruple helix actors.

The first results of the collaboration between the FOOD 2030 Family projects in the context of coordinated communication are three public events organized in 2021:

- The Farm to Fork 2021 Conference side event "**City-led citizen engagement for food policies in Europe**", broadcasted online on 14 October 2021, with the participation of cities part of FoodShift2030, FoodE, FUSILLI, Cities2030 and Food Trails. Outcome: The five consortia were all involved in a key conference for the Farm to Fork framework definition and presented the most urgent challenges for cities connected with the engagement of citizens in policy making.
- The side event "**EU Food Policy strikes again**" took place on 19 October 2021, during the MUFPP Global Forum 2021 hosted by the City of Barcelona. The event saw the participation of 5 cities as speakers from FoodShift2030, FoodE, FUSILLI, Cities2030 and Food Trails. Outcome: Cities discussed about the wide range of co-creation methodologies to develop effective food policies, stimulating a debate among the audience on how this effort can positively influence the approach of other programmes like URBACT and IURC.
- The "**E-Dialogue: Urban Agriculture for Circular Cities**" organized by the University of Bologna on 17 December 2021, as part of the ongoing FAO-EBRD technical package to support the agribusiness sector, with the participation of cities as speaker and audience from FoodShift2030, FoodE, FUSILLI, Cities2030 and Food Trails. Outcome: Participants will discuss significant experiences of urban agriculture

The following map is the first result of Food Trails interconnection strategy. The map uses different colors to mark cities membership in the different projects, showing the geographical distribution of projects that are addressing the transformation of urban food system, funded by the EU Commission under Horizon 2020 between 2019-2020, which we have been referring to as “family projects”.



FoodTrails

- Bergamo Italy
- Birmingham United Kingdom
- Bordeaux France
- Copenhagen Denmark
- Funchal Portugal
- Grenoble France
- Groningen The Netherlands
- Milan Italy
- Thessaloniki Greece
- Tirana Albania
- Warsaw Poland
- City of Milan Italy

FoodShift2030

- Avignon France
- Barcelona Spain
- Bari Italy
- Berlin Germany
- Brasov Romania
- Copenhagen Denmark
- Lejre Denmark
- Ostend Belgium
- Wroclaw Greece
- Copenhagen University Poland
- Denmark

FUSILLI

- Athens Greece
- Castelo Branco Portugal
- Differdange Luxembourg
- Kharkiv Ukraine
- Kolding Denmark
- Niifer Turkey
- Oslo Norway
- Rijeka Croatia
- Rome Italy
- San Sebastian Spain
- Tampere Finland
- Turin Italy
- Fundacion Cartif Spain

Cities2030

- Bremerhaven Germany
- Bruges Belgium
- Haarlem The Netherlands
- Iasi Romania
- Murska Sobota Slovenia
- Quart de Pöbllet Spain
- Vejle Denmark
- Vicenza Italy
- Vidzeme Latvia
- Venice University Italy

FoodE

- Bologna Italy
- Lansingerland The Netherlands
- Napoli Italy
- Romainville France
- Sabadell Spain
- Bologna University Italy

In the following section, a brief description of the family projects is available.

Name	Summary	Coordinator
FoodE	<p>The diversity of European cities and regions creates barriers to the demonstration of systemic food-related innovative approaches valuable in such different contexts. The main objective of FoodE is to accelerate the growth of citizen-led City/Region food systems (CRFS) by bringing local initiatives across Europe together, as well as co-developing and disseminating a range of tools - co-designed with academia, citizens, and food system start-ups - to ensure that the most up-to-date cross-sectorial knowledge is applied. Start-ups also provide an in-depth understanding of the needs of the key stakeholders, making resilient citizen-driven food systems happen.</p> <p>The key challenge is then to aggregate the most sustainable models of CRFS and enable co-creation of innovative pilot experiences, fostering the health and wellbeing of European citizens. This challenge will be tackled by setting a co-created mechanism, based on Citizen Science and Responsible Research and Innovation principles, where public authorities, citizens, business actors and non-profit organisations share ideas, tools, best practices and new models, supporting cities in becoming innovative food hubs. The outputs of FoodE will impact job creation, promotion of local economy, strengthen the role of local communities in complying with Sustainable Development Goals, as well as identifying and strengthening relations between the different actors of the food supply chain. FoodE is using the following steps to achieve these goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Define an operational methodology for the assessment of CRFS. - Promote cross-pollination between European CRFS. - Contribute to increase access to affordable, safe and nutritious food. - Create a tool mobilising CRFS stakeholders in sustainability assessment. - Upscale the output to other EU cities. 	University of Bologna, Italy
FOOD SHIFT 2030	<p>The FoodSHIFT2030 project started under the EU FOOD 2030 Research and Innovation Policy Framework, the EU's commitment under the Paris Agreement and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to launch an ambitious citizen-driven transition of the European food system towards a low carbon circular future, including a shift to less meat and more plant based diets. By utilizing and supporting the transformative power of citizens already engaged in developing sustainable innovative food system solutions in European city-regions, FoodSHIFT2030 will deliver an increase of jobs in food sector and SMEs, an increase in citizen empowerment</p>	University of Copenhagen, Denmark

	<p>and urban-rural cohesion, and a lasting positive impact on food system sustainability that will continue beyond the project lifetime.</p> <p>A fast citizen-driven food system transition will be achieved by creating a framework and efficient mechanisms for maturing, combining, upscaling and multiplying existing food system innovations through the operationalization of nine citizen-driven FoodSHIFT Accelerator Labs and twenty-seven FoodSHIFT Enabler Labs established in existing and emerging city-region food system hubs distributed across Europe. The benefits of existing and accelerated food system innovations will be benchmarked against state-of-the-art food system innovations by assessing their effects on a set of FoodSHIFT Indicators. Strategies and advisory plans for citizen-driven food system governance will be co-created in the FoodSHIFT Accelerator Labs to support food system transition and foster market uptake of new food system innovations in the participating city-regions.</p> <p>A further transition of the food system beyond the FoodSHIFT2030 project will be obtained by creating a snowball effect starting with targeted knowledge transfer via a number of city and region networks working on facilitating the food system transition and continuing the establishment of FoodSHIFT Enabler Labs in other European and global city-regions.</p>	
<p>FUSILLI</p>	<p>The general objective of FUSILLI is to support the participant pan-European cities (and their peri-urban areas) in their aim to address the challenges of the food system transformation, through strong cooperation for knowledge sharing and mutual learning. The main purpose is to build several urban food plans to reach integrated and safe holistic transition towards healthy, sustainable secure, inclusive, equitable and cost-efficient food systems, through feasible and replicable innovative urban policies leading to deploy improving actions in all stages of the food value chain in line with the four FOOD 2030 policy priorities (Nutrition for sustainable and healthy diets; Climate-smart and environmentally sustainable food systems; Circularity and resource efficient food systems; and Innovation and empowerment of communities).</p> <p>Each city will create or improve a living lab, which is an open innovation ecosystem where concrete actions will be deployed to develop and implement urban food systems policies delivering on the four FOOD 2030 priorities. These living labs aim to improve all stages of the food chain: production and processing, distribution and logistics, consumption, food loss and waste, and governance. Living labs will involve all relevant stakeholders of the local food system: it will have at least a public authority, industry partner (SME or cooperative), consumer association and education institution. A</p>	<p>Fundacion Cartif, Spain</p>

	<p>Knowledge Community will compile the current local initiatives to develop a catalogue of best practices to implement and exchange within the network of the participant living labs as well as other global initiatives.</p>	
FOOD TRAILS	<p>Eleven European cities, three universities and five food system stakeholders have a lot on their plate; they are all part of the EU-funded Food Trails project. Led by the city of Milan, the 19 partners are committed to transforming integrated urban food policies into measurable and long-term progress towards sustainable food systems. Their goal is to help ensure that all EU citizens have access to affordable, appropriate and healthy food. The idea is to create City Region Food Systems – an approach that aims to foster the development of resilient and sustainable food systems within urban centres. The four priority areas of the FOOD 2030 European research framework (nutrition and healthy diets, climate and the environment, circularity and resource efficiency and innovation and empowerment of communities) will be addressed.</p>	Milan Municipality, Italy
Cities2030	<p>Urban food systems and ecosystems (UFSE) demand immediate action. CITIES2030 innovative approach has a great opportunity to attract the best researchers, entrepreneurs, civil society leaders, cities and all agents of the UFSE. The main goal of CITIES2030 is to create a future proof and effective UFSE via a connected structure centered around the citizen, built on trust, with partners encompassing the entire UFSE. CITIES2030 commit to work towards the transformation and restructuring of the way systems produce, transport and supply, recycle and reuse food in the 21st century. CITIES2030 vision is to connect short food supply chains, gathering cities and regions, consumers, strategic industry partners, civil society, promising start-ups and enterprises, innovators and visionary thinkers, leading universities and research across the vast diversity of disciplines addressing UFSE, including food science, social science and big data.</p> <p>CITIES2030 actively encourages the participation of citizens by delivering a trusted UFSE, encouraging consumers to move from being passive recipients to active and motivated change agents. This objective is achieved via multiple tools delivered by CITIES2030 such as the CRFS Alliance, a community of practice supported by a digital platform, reaching all over Europe and beyond. This approach will enable policy developments, innovation actions within result-driven Labs, and enhancements on a pan-European scope with a global reach. Cities and regions will improve resilience and sustainability, and their leadership will create short food supply chains and ecosystems enabling local investments, trans-borders and transnational deployment. A blockchain-based data-driven</p>	University of Venice, Italy

UFSE management platform will secure intelligence and coordination actions by delivering an accurate, almost real-time digital twin of the whole supply chain.
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URBACT

As mentioned above, Food Trails aims to draw significant experiences coming from URBACT projects that implemented actions in urban food systems. The aim is to exploit all the knowledge delivered by URBACT on the innovative policymaking processes, there are few projects funded under the food system domain, a first set of projects is listed below in order to activate with the URBACT Secretariat as well as with URBACT experts' positive exchange. Dedicated moments in the life of Food Trails, as well during European and MUFPP food systems events, will serve as exchange and networking occasions for the project partners.

Under the lens of Food Trails, the main added value of the URBACT programme is:

- Direct engagement of local authorities with dedicated officers
- Established small city networks on specific issues of food system at pan-European level
- Validated food system good practices
- Diversity of cities engaged in terms of territorial development and size
- Consolidated methodology and tools for policymaking development
- Interest on food system transformation with dedicated experts
- Engagement of EU Commission DG REGIO
- Possibility to connect the knowledge and findings of URBACT networks on food system issues (canteens, procurement, food waste, agriculture) with other URBACT networks dealing with different field of actions (logistics, culture, sport, economy, social inclusion)

In the following section, a brief description of the relevant URBACT projects and their consortia is available.

Name	Summary	Cities
Food Corridors	Recent experience suggests that it is necessary to promote a transition towards regional food systems. FOOD CORRIDORS encourages the creation of a network of cities committed to the design of food plans that extend from the urban and peri-urban areas through a corridor that facilitates an urban-rural connection. This approach enhances the generation of production and consumption environments founded on a base of economic, social and environmental sustainability.	Region of Coimbra, Portugal Larissa, Greece Córdoba, Spain Szecseny, Hungary Union of Bassa Romagna Municipalities, Italy Alba Iulia, Romania, BSC Kranj and Gorenjska, Slovenia Tartu, Estonia

<p>BioCanteens</p>	<p>BioCanteens Transfer Network is about ensuring the distribution of sustainable school meals in participating cities as a key lever towards the development of an integrated local agri-food approach, protecting both citizens' health and the environment. The project aims to transfer Mouans-Sartoux's Good Practice in the field of collective school catering, to other highly committed cities across Europe. Mouans-Sartoux's Good Practice is based on the daily distribution of meals that are 100% organic and mostly composed of local products, the drastic reduction of food waste thereby fully compensating the higher cost of switching to organic products, and the organisation of dedicated educational activities to raise children's awareness about sustainable food.</p>	<p>Mouans-Sartoux, France LAG Pays des Condruces, Belgium Vaslui, Romania Trikala, Greece Rosignano Marittimo, Italy Torres Vedras, Portugal Troyan, Bulgaria</p>
<p>RurBan</p>	<p>This Transfer network builds upon the "Management model of Urban gardens in Rome" Good Practice, in order to transfer to geographically distant EU cities to ensure sharing of experiences to enhance the capacities of local governance. Transfer efforts will be given to 3 distinct, interlinked, thematic elements that the Good Practice is divided into: Capacity building to set up urban gardens, Inspiring and training people to manage urban gardens (Gardeners) and urban gardens governance & regulations.</p>	<p>Rome, Italy Vilnius, Lithuania Caen, France Krakow, Poland Thessaloniki, Greece Loures, Portugal Coruna, Spain</p>
<p>BeePathNet</p>	<p>BEE PATH Good Practice logic is very simple - bees are the best indicator of a healthy environment! BeePathNet Transfer network aims to upgrade and transfer BEE PATH concept, solutions and results from Ljubljana to 5 other EU Cities. It will address urban environmental, biodiversity and food self-sufficiency challenges linked to urban beekeeping through integrated and participative approaches, build key stakeholders' capacity to influence relevant policies and develop and implement efficient solutions.</p>	<p>Ljubljana, Slovenia Cesena, Italy Amarante, Portugal Bydgoszcz, Poland Nea Propontida, Greece 12th District of Budapest (Hegyvidék), Hungary</p>
<p>Sustainable Food in Urban Communities</p>	<p>Developing low-carbon and resource-efficient urban food systems, by focusing on three areas: GROWING fruit and vegetables in the city, in gardens, in parks, on rooftops, on balconies, on derelict lands etc., safeguarding & improving fertility of lands; DELIVERING food stuffs in a more sustainable and less carbon intensive way; ENJOYING more sustainable food (local products, without pesticides, seasonal and fresh products, etc.) while improving diets (reducing the share of animal protein and processed foods), using products that meet</p>	<p>Brussels, Belgium Bristol, United Kingdom Ourense, Spain Lyon, France Messina, Italy Athens, Greece Vaslui, Romania Gothenburg, Sweden Oslo, Norway Amersfoort, Netherlands</p>

	environmental and sustainability criteria (certification), and preventing waste (food and its packaging).	
Agri-Urban	Rethinking Agri-food production in small and medium-sized European cities is the aim of this Action Planning network. Agri-food production is a mature industry that continues to play an important role in terms of GDP, employment and environmental sustainability. That is why new growth potentials must be activated by means of innovation, new business models and strategies. Agri-Urban's vision is to place cities at the core of a growing global movement that recognizes the current complexity of food systems and the links between rural cities and nearby cities as a way to ensure regional development.	Baena, Spain Fundão, Portugal Monmouthshire County Council, United Kingdom LAG Pays des Condruces, Belgium Södertälje, Sweden Jelgava Local Municipality, Latvia Petrinja, Croatia Pyli, Greece Cesena, Italy Mouans-Sartoux, France Mollet Del Vallès, Spain
Diet for a Green Planet	<p>The Diet Unit of Södertälje municipality has had a key role in the development of this practice by successfully implementing the ideas broadly in the public kitchens under strict budget conditions.</p> <p>A key part of the practice is that it has challenged attitudes around food and shown a potential to be a powerful tool for combating climate change and other global ecological challenges – and at the same time raise the general quality of the food served, promote health and empower personnel – within the same strict food budget. This makes public meals a driver for sustainable development.</p> <p>Through its projects the Diet Unit has been involved in and through the continuous close cooperation with the BERAS Secretariat and the development of the practice has had a continuous connection to research and global network resources and especially Baltic Sea Region. Thanks to this the Diet for a Green Planet concept stands on a solid ground.</p>	Södertälje Mollet del Vallès Molétai Lomza

Urban Innovative Actions - UIA

With the same approach applied to URBACT, Food Trails is exploring the opportunity to create connections with UIA projects. The latter are meant to stimulate experiences of cities concentrating years of activities to boost holistic projects. Up to now Food Trails has identified five UIAs on food. The results and monitoring tools developed by these cities will prove to be extremely valuable for Food Trails and a discussion with the UIA Secretariat and funded cities will be carried out in the coming months.

Under the lens of Food Trails, the main added value of the UIA programme is:

- Direct engagement of local authorities with dedicated officers
- Focus on the urban level, engaging local consortium with the aim to deliver innovative actions
- Solution oriented approach with a huge economic investment on a specific topic
- Already established informal network among the food system UIA projects/cities
- Priority to municipalities with more than 50.000 inhabitants
- Engagement of EU Commission DG REGIO

In the following section you can find a brief description of the relevant UIA projects on food that were funded over the past years.

Name	Summary	City
OpenAgri - New Skills for new Jobs in Peri-urban Agriculture	Food is increasingly considered as an emerging multidimensional policy challenges. In fact, it touches upon ecological concerns, social issues, public health problems, economic perspectives, spatial patterns and city planning. In 2015 the Municipality of Milan adopted its own Food Policy with the aim to develop sustainable food systems to deliver healthy and accessible food to all, protect biodiversity and fight against food waste. At the same time, it promoted the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact through which 132 (and growing) cities from all over the world committed to make urban food systems more inclusive, resilient, safe and diverse. OpenAgri is a first answer of this type to the challenge. The project will create an "Open Innovation Hub on Peri-Urban Agriculture" in Cascina Nosedo, an ancient farmhouse located in Porto di Mare, an area defined as "urban fringe", representing the transition zone between the consolidated part of the city and agricultural areas. This is where the city ends. "Cascina Nosedo" will be re-structured and will serve as a living lab for social inclusion, jobs and skills creation, open innovation along with the food supply chain while increasing the level of resilience and sustainability of the city.	Milan, Italy

<p>MAC - Monteruscello Agro City</p>	<p>The MAC project seeks to reduce urban poverty in the neighborhood of Monteruscello, where poverty is understood in the social and economic sense and within the physical environment. The proposal is designed to trigger a process of economic, entrepreneurial, and social development, together with the improving of the urban environment.</p> <p>Monteruscello is a new large public housing district with 20,000 residents with low-income, a high level of unemployment, and characterised by large unused spaces. Problematic social conditions are combined with a difficult urban environment, in particular for the character of emptiness, anonymity, and decay of the common spaces.</p> <p>30 hectares of Municipal open areas will be transformed into farmland, developed with the innovative techniques of permaculture in order to spearhead an economic process and urban growth as a means to combat poverty. The project will have three pillars: implementation of agriculture through innovative permaculture; improvement of the urban environment; and encouragement of entrepreneurship and employment.</p> <p>The goal of the proposal is to focus on the following issues: a) residents' poor economic conditions - low income and unemployment; b) poor economy - lack of business activities; c) large abandoned green areas (a series of areas within the district for a total of 50 hectares) and unused public buildings; d) lack of activities, exchange and relationship; e) lack of quality relationships and trust between the citizens and the administration. From here the need to create work opportunities, enhance the economy and improve the environment.</p>	<p>Pozzuoli, Italy</p>
<p>A2UFood - Avoidable and Unavoidable Food Wastes: A Holistic Managing Approach for Urban Environments</p>	<p>The sheer amount of food waste, both avoidable and unavoidable, especially within the urban environment, presents multiple challenges to the modern society. From the additional pressure imposed on food production and associated processes, to the disposal management of the generated food waste, our natural resources are depleted in an unorthodox way. Eventually, this pressure strains our environment and the global economy.</p> <p>One also needs to consider social and legal barriers and opportunities that may hinder or enable reducing food waste and reintroducing it as part of the circular economy. In this context, the city of Heraklion faces multiple challenges as, on the one hand modern habits and tourism generate significant quantities of food waste while the financial crisis renders others incapable of covering their nutritional requirements, and on the other local waste infrastructure and management require support in order to modernise and to become efficient.</p>	<p>Heraklion, Greece</p>

<p>TAST'in FIVES - Transforming Areas with Social Talents: Feed, Include, Value, Educate, Share</p>	<p>How can an urban renovation program in a deprived neighborhood tackle poverty? At Fives, the closure of the metallurgic "Fives Cail Babcock" company in 2001 has been a tremendous shock for the population. Once carried up by the industrial fleuron, the neighborhood has dramatically declined. With more than 20% unemployment rate (mostly long term); half of the population lives under the poverty level. Young people (half of population is under 30) can meet little job opportunity in the surroundings. An ambitious urban renovation project has started in 2015 in order to transform the 20 hectares of industrial brownfield into an original pattern of housing and activities. Though urban projects can offer new services, new public spaces, and social mixity, rarely or never the gentrification process is addressed from the start. Rarely the existing population can benefit directly from the new activities brought by. In Fives, following difficulties were pointed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seclusion, lack of social interactivity; - Health problem; - Lack of training and job opportunities; - Loss of pride. 	<p>Lille, France</p>
<p>URBAN SOIL 4 FOOD - Establishment of Innovative Urban Soil Based Economy Circles to Increase Local Food Self- sufficiency and Minimize Environmental Footprint</p>	<p>Maribor is the second largest city in Slovenia with 111.500 inhabitants and spreads across 147,5 km². It is also the capital of Podravje region. Cities such as Maribor are at the heart of Europe`s economy but are heavily dependable on outside resources to meet their demand for energy, water, food and to accommodate waste and emissions. Self-sufficiency in Slovenia is low, soil is disappearing, quality of nutrients in the food is lowering and young population has lost knowledge and motivation for healthy eating. Also, in the world economy, where multinational companies are taking control of seed production, leading to local seed to die out, it is extremely important to use traditional and local seeds. Therefore, the main goal of the project is to use the city's waste to produce and valorise new products and food using an innovative process to produce urban soil, with the aim to increase local food self-sufficiency and minimise the environmental footprint of the city of Maribor.</p>	<p>Maribor, Slovenia</p>

Other urban food system related projects

Food Trails is also interested to reach European projects active on urban food systems, funded by the European Commission granting schemes and other granting organizations.

As a first step, Food Trails activated the Consortium and identified relevant projects related to food system transformation. The Consortium covers nine countries and allows to have a good coverage of the European Research Area. It should be noted that WP1 Task 1.5 – Mapping of learning needs and successful practice in partner cities - was meant to map existing food-related innovative approaches, best practices and initiatives in the 11 partner cities and therefore represents a valuable resource for this task. In addition, partners were asked to point out relevant ongoing projects within the European Research Area.

Secondly, Food Trails reached out to the European Foundation Centre and within this network, focused on two relevant thematic groups namely Research Forum and European Foundations for Sustainable Agriculture and Food.

Name	Summary	City
URBAL - Urban-Driven Innovations for Sustainable Food Systems	Urban-Driven Innovations for Sustainable Food Systems is an international project that uses participatory research in eight cities to develop and test a holistic methodology to map the impact pathways that go from urban innovations to all dimension of sustainability of food systems.	Baltimore, USA Berlin, Germany Bobigny, France Brasilia, Brasil Cape Town, South Africa Hanoi, Vietnam Mexico City, Mexico Milan, Italy Montpellier, France Paris, France Rabat, Marocco
Just Transitions	Just transition is a concept which is increasingly deployed in policy documents in the EU (and the Netherlands), and generally refers to incorporating elements of social justice into transformations to sustainability (including but not limited to climate change adaptation and sustainable food systems). The project Just Transitions aims to develop a framework and approach to operationalise this concept, and – jointly with to be identified co-creators – test this framework in practice. The project design is deliberately based on the principles of co-creation and dialogue. Co-creation at this stage means including vulnerable groups, policymakers, researchers and practitioners. The project will make use of dialogue-based	TBC

	methods in all steps: for the identification and sharpening the research question(s), implementation of the research, sense-making of the findings, and interaction with policymakers and practitioners.	
Sirius Project	The key objective of Project SIRIUS is to develop cross-disciplinary methods, innovative understandings, and practical managerial insights for a sustainable and resilient urban food system in both China and Europe. We aim to generate both data and methods needed to observe, measure and evaluate the environmental sustainability, socioeconomic resilience, and business innovation patterns of urban food systems.	European Universities
UK food system resilience	IFSTAL is a learning community and interactive resource designed to improve postgraduate* level knowledge and understanding of the food system. IFSTAL addresses the urgent need for a workforce skilled in food systems thinking. Those engaging with IFSTAL will be better equipped to address the systemic failings in food systems which have resulted in about one billion people being hungry, two billion lacking sufficient nutrients, and over two billion overweight or obese; and significant environmental degradation.	UK municipalities
Transition to a sustainable food system	The project of researchers will last three years, involving companies and practitioners to explore transition pathways towards a sustainable food system and test solutions.	Netherlands municipalities
HealthyFoodAfrica	HealthyFoodAfrica is an EU-funded research & innovation action aiming at sustainable, equitable and resilient food systems in African cities. The project is a collaborative effort by 17 partners in both Europe and Africa.	Kisumu and Nairobi, Kenya Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement and Fort Portal, Uganda Bahir Dar, Ethiopia Cotonou, Benin Tamale and Accra, Ghana Chongwe District and Lusaka, Zambia
Shifting Urban Diets	The 3-year project, launched in April 2019, and funded by Climate-KIC, is working with the City of Copenhagen and partners to translate the findings of the EAT-Lancet Commission on Food, Planet, Health into local action and interventions. The objective of 'Operationalizing Food System Targets for	Denmark municipalities

	Health and Sustainability' is to enable cities to set smarter and more ambitious food system targets with greater accountability and measurable benefits to climate, environment, public health, and societal well-being. The project is the first to operationalize the science, paving the way for a planetary diet. With Copenhagen as a prototype and other cities consulted throughout, the project aims to demonstrate how scientific targets for food systems can be operationalized in the city context.	
TETRAA	TETRAA program "Territories in Agroecological and Food Transition" was launched by Carasso Foundation in 9 territories committed to strengthening the social, environmental and economic sustainability of their agricultural and food systems. This program, carried out in partnership with AgroParisTech and the participating territories, aims to analyze, consolidate and amplify the transition by relying on cooperation between local actors.	France
INSUAH – Integrated Study on Urban Agriculture as Heritage	Urban agriculture initiatives focus around creating new systems; the qualities of inherited and vernacular systems of urban agricultural production and its associated benefits – for food supply, income generation, social and biodiversity, and the urban metabolism – have not been subject to research activities yet, despite the fact that considering urban development and heritage together is strongly suggested in the UN agenda for sustainable development. To address this gap, the team will share case study findings based on experiences from different urban regions.	Sao Paulo, Brazil Havana, Cuba Bandung, Indonesia Tokyo, Japan Nuremberg, Germany
Network of Cities for Agroecology	The Network of Cities for Agroecology is an association formed by local Spanish entities. Its objective is to generate a dynamic between local entities in order to build local food systems, respectful with the environment, sustainable, inclusive, resilient, safe and diversified.	Spain
Network of Cities Let's Food Cities	Network of French cities connected with extra-EU cities to promote the food system transition. The network support communities in the construction of international, cross-border or territorial cooperation projects in order to preserve living together, develop policies together.	France

Network of Cities Sustainable Food Places	<p>Sustainable Food Places (previously Sustainable Food Cities) is a movement of UK cities active on food system. The network brings together pioneering food partnerships from towns, cities, boroughs, districts and counties across the UK that are driving innovation and best practice on all aspects of healthy and sustainable food.</p>	UK
Network of Cities Dutch City Deal	<p>12 Dutch cities, the Province of Gelderland and 3 national Ministries jointly signed the Urban Agenda on Food, with the objective to strengthen the Dutch food system together with the private sector, knowledge institutes and societal organisations. The partners will specifically work on four themes: 1) Governance innovation; 2) Ecological and economic sustainability innovation; 3) Regional food systems and strengthening of fair and short supply chains around cities; 4) Food education, health and social inclusion.</p>	Netherlands

3. Different pathways to connect projects

During the work carried out by Food Trails partners, particular attention was paid to identifying effective methodologies for knowledge exchange aimed at stimulating concrete actions in cities. In particular, the research and activities developed under WP1 - Mapping, WP2 - Living Labs, and WP6 – Sharing, were key to understanding how to proceed in coordination with other existing projects active on urban food systems.

Tools for exchanges among projects with Living labs as key aggregator of innovative stakeholders in European cities

Tools for cooperation

A participatory approach to exchanging among projects was needed and establishing quarterly meetings among various consortia proved to be a strategic framework that prioritizes inclusivity, collaboration, and joint decision-making. In this method, all coordination teams actively engaged in the planning and execution of regular gatherings taking place every three months. By giving each coordinator a voice in shaping the meeting's agenda, structure, and objectives, a participatory model ensures that the collective expertise and perspectives are taken into account.

This approach helped developing a strong platform with a fixed schedule for in-depth discussions, knowledge exchange, and agenda setting. It not only improves the overall quality of these meetings but also strengthens the sense of shared ownership and commitment within the consortia, ultimately contributing to their ability to achieve their common goals.

In the framework of this collaborative space, the opportunity brought from the Horizon Results Booster was discussed and a common policy brief was developed by the five projects. The resulting document concentrated on a key issue for Living Labs established by H2020 projects: the long term sustainability of this informal gatherings of actors in urban spaces, with high motivation and capability to impact the food system transformation.

The document will be launched in fall 2023 by the five engaged projects, in occasion of the final event of the project FoodSHIFT 2030.

The document will be launched in the fall of 2023 by the five projects within the Food2030 project family, during the final event of the FoodSHIFT 2030 project

The other main opportunity for collaboration came from the effective interaction among the communications teams of each consortium and it translated into a series of common webinars and online workshops organized each time by a different project among its own agenda of communication activities.

The development of public webinars on food policy and food system transformation among different projects provided a platform for cross-project collaboration and knowledge sharing, allowing stakeholders from various initiatives to pool their expertise, insights, and experiences. By combining resources and perspectives, these webinars provided a holistic view of the complex challenges cities and stakeholders are facing. They not only facilitate the dissemination of critical information but also engage a broader audience, including policymakers, researchers, and the public, in meaningful discussions that can drive positive change in our food systems.

Living Labs

Living Labs are a tool identified by the European Commission for the co-creation of innovative and inclusive solutions at the urban level and beyond. Structuring efficient living labs that involve municipalities, the relevant stakeholders and, in different ways, citizens, was a key request in the call for proposals financing the H2020 FOOD 2030 Project's Family.

The group of FOOD 2030 projects FoodShift2030, FoodE, FUSILLI, Cities2030 and Food Trails, has therefore created Living Labs in all partner cities, ensuring the participation of stakeholders equipped to help in the food policy definition process. The group of the 5 FOOD 2030 Horizon's projects is activity generated an environment of 52 Living Labs active in Europe for the mobilization of knowledge, good practices and pilots.

The best way to exploit this environment is to structure an interaction among the different Living Labs, connecting the partners responsible for the knowledge sharing in the different consortia and organizing cross-national meetings.

FOOD 2030 Project's Family at international events

Along with direct interaction among cities and Living Labs' members, FOOD 2030 Project's Family partners will present the common effort and results at relevant international fora, conferences and events to raise awareness on the role of cities and lead the way to replication.

The project will also organize its own events at local level – in cooperation with existing events when relevant - to raise awareness and disseminate the outcomes of pilot actions

to local stakeholders and the wider public. Those events will, for example, take the form of citizens' meetings, food fairs and events, communication campaigns, etc.

Several events are becoming a must-go for the community of people active on food policy and the most relevant meetings for FOOD 2030 Project's Family are:

MUFPP Global Forum

The MUFPP Global Fora are international events, organized primarily by cities for cities, offering a unique opportunity to exchange knowledge, build partnerships and celebrate their progress in the implementation of their food policies through the Milan Pact Awards. Dialogue and technical exchange among signatories are enriched by the participation of relevant international organizations and institutions. Over the years, the MUFPP Global Fora have become a regular occurrence for cities and key actors in the global urban food agenda. During the 8th Global Forum of the MUFPP held in Rio de Janeiro, a parallel session on the collaboration among cities coming from the Food 2030 family projects was the occasion to showcase innovations and achievements from municipalities, while also strengthening the link among projects with a common goal.

Eurocities Working Group Food meetings

EUROCITIES is the main association of European cities and facilitates exchanges on policies, projects and advocacy towards EU institutions. The Working Group Food is one of the thematic Working Groups participated and animated by member cities. The Working Group Food is chaired by the City of Milan, with the City of Warsaw as Vicechair, and gathers 51 cities around Europe, meeting twice per year. The WG Food aims at becoming a creative hub of food policy knowledge where information, ideas and good practices can be shared and investigating innovative solutions for urban food challenges.

Floriade 2022

During 2022 the City of Almere will host Floriade. Floriade is a world horticultural exhibition that takes place in the Netherlands once a decade (it will be the 7th edition). Floriade will promote the theme 'Growing Green Cities', in collaboration with national and international participants at the Expo. The event will be a fruitful occasion for European cities active on food to showcase the innovative approach and impact they are generating and representative from cities and their Living Labs will join the Expo.

EAT Forum

For almost a decade the EAT Foundation annually brought together to the EAT Forum scientists, prominent stakeholders and other relevant actors who care about the future of our planet , in order to fix our broken food system. While the Forum consolidated a wealth of knowledge and ideas, it is now working to open up the debate and grow the movement.

Terra Madre

Terra Madre is the biggest Slow Food international event dedicated to sustainable food and small scale agroecological farming, taking place every two years in Turin and across the globe. Communities celebrate a common effort to guarantee good, clean and fair food for all. In September 2022, Food Trails exploited the international environment and the attractiveness of the Terra Madre event to set up a schedule of events focusing not only on the commitment to build fairer and more sustainable food systems in Europe, but also and above all on the collaboration with the other four Food 2030 family projects.

Presidency of the European Council food system conferences

The presidency of the Council rotates among the EU member states every 6 months. During this 6-month period, the presidency chairs meetings at every level in the Council, helping to ensure the continuity of the EU's work in the Council and organizing thematic conferences and events. In the past years, some member states organized conferences related to FOOD 2030 and Farm to Fork.

European Week of Cities and Regions

The European Week of Regions and Cities is an annual four-day event during which cities and regions showcase their capacity to create growth and jobs, implement European Union cohesion policy, and prove the importance of the local and regional level for good European governance.

World Food Day

Collective action across 150 countries is what makes World Food Day one of the most celebrated days of the UN calendar. Hundreds of events and outreach activities bring together governments, businesses, NGOs, the media, and general public. They promote worldwide awareness and action for those who suffer from hunger and for the need to ensure healthy diets for all.

Exchange among coordinators and creation of new project proposals

Food Trails also to maintain an open communication channel with the coordination teams of the H2020 FoodShift2030, FoodE, FUSILLI and Cities2030 projects. The development of solid and both formal and informal relationships allows an immediate exchange and favors reciprocal updating. This helps to meet the objective proposed by the European Commission of collaboration and transparency between the five projects. An interesting scenario would be to then explore the possibility to form new consortia to participate in Horizon Europe call for proposals, with the participation of several partners from the existing ecosystems of partners active on FOOD 2030.

In the meantime, Food Trails is developing a proposal for a Letter of Intent (LoI) to declare publicly declare the shared interest and commitment of active projects to collaborate under the framework of FOOD 2030. The level of competitiveness between research projects is a great stimulus but, in some cases, can also hinder the real-time sharing of recent results. In this sense, a LoI is a way of maintaining and make explicit the common commitment of projects to work together to maximize impact.

The LoI may define a series of shared streams of work among the signatory projects: the identification of common tools for the impact evaluation of food actions in cities, the development of sound evidence on the role of cities in food system transformation to be discussed with the EC, knowledge exchange among cities active on food policies, effective and coordinated communication with other active projects on specific topics of interest. Partners leading those actions in the different consortia may coordinate the collaboration in that specific field.

Food Trails also identified four thematic priorities that should be kept as cross-cutting issues relevant for any project working on the urban food system and supporting the role of cities as agents of change:

- co-creation methodologies, as frameworks to develop common actions with broad public, social, private and academic partnerships;
- Food Policies, as systemic actions of local authorities for the improvement of their food systems;
- monitoring and indicators, as tools to assess the co-benefits and the impact generated by the actions on the local food system;
- impact investing, as solutions for the economic sustainability of the actions developed by cities based on the enhancement of the impacts generated.

A further opportunity is the engagement of cities part of the FOOD 2030 Project's Family in the wider community of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact as neutral space of cooperation

among cities in Europe and other global regions. Some cities already started to be involved, signed the MUFPP or participated in the Eurocities Working Group meetings: Oostende (Belgium) and Wroclaw (Poland) established a connection with the MUFPP Secretariat to know how to sign the Pact, while Kolding (Denmark) signed the Pact in 2021.

During 2022 an opportunity emerged due to the publication of the HORIZON-CL6-2022-GOVERNANCE-01 call for proposal (CSA). The collaboration among the Food 2030 Family was the key factor to establish a consortium that, even without gathering the whole complex galaxy of partners of the five projects, developed a proposal that held together the spirit of collaboration and clearly saw the need to enhance the creative efforts of the Food 2030 Family. The results developed by the partners and the cities involved were recognised as the major legacy to be connected and transferred into the new project [CleverFood](#), led by the University of Copenhagen and in which the City of Milan is a partner along with many others, and this joint effort was only possible thanks to the cooperation developed by the Food 2030 Family.

4. Conclusions

Over the first year of the project, Food Trails managed to lay out the strategy and first steps for the development of valuable connections between food systems related projects within and outside the EC granting scheme. Importantly, Food Trails connection strategy has always been open. Over the past months the Consortium carefully recorded all the feedbacks received from other Consortia and institutions looking at this opportunity as a valuable chance for dialogue, to improve and catalyze efforts and ultimately contribute to meliorate and foster food system transformation.

In the next months, Food Trails intends to foster the collaboration already activated and in doing so we will focus on the most relevant themes identified as crucial during our previous exchanges with these projects that include: food actions assessment tools, coordinated communication, advocacy actions dedicated to reach EU institutions.

In line with the European Commission FOOD 2030 policy framework, we aim to develop a new narrative that succeed to communicate the important role of cities in transforming urban food systems. In particular, the continued references to the concept of Food Policy in Horizon's call for proposals could positively impact and amplify the momentum on the work made by cities and could guarantee the most interesting advancements thanks to the efficiency of European fundings frameworks.

The development of new connections with relevant institutions and projects related to food systems transformation and not funded under the EU granting schemes will even broaden the potential of impact of Food Trails advocacy actions. Interactions with these projects will contribute to foster and facilitate knowledge exchange across all relevant stakeholders engaged in, and by, food system transformation. This, ultimately, will contribute to facilitate and fasten our transition towards more sustainable cities. Finally, interactions with other projects and institutions, engaged with food system in different ways, will pave the way towards the development of sound evidence that support and foster cities transformative potential for impact on food system.

Our approach will remain open throughout this entire process, as we understand Food Trails role within this framework and EU transition towards sustainability is to foster the development of new and valuable partnerships and collaborations all across the EU.