



# FOOD TRAILS

## Deliverable 8.3 – Reports on Annual Partner Meetings

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# Executive Summary

This document presents the objectives and results of the meetings among the partners of Food Trails project. The Annual Partner Meetings (APMs) are a core mechanism for coordination and knowledge sharing among project partners, Think Tank members, and local stakeholders. These meetings took place annually, starting with an online **Kick-off meeting** organised by the City of Milan. Over the course of the project, subsequent APMs were hosted by partner cities and aligned with other project-related activities, such as workshops, to encourage collaboration and knowledge exchange.

The **Mid-term APMs** were held in **Warsaw, Thessaloniki, and Funchal**, providing opportunities to assess project progress, address challenges, and refine strategies. To maintain momentum and ensure continuous exchange of knowledge, additional in-person meetings were organised between APMs, coinciding with international meetings such as the **Milan Urban Food Policy Pact regional forums** and **Eurocities Working Group Food meetings**. The **Final APM** took place in Brussels, leading into the project's final conference, where partners reflected on the project's implementation and explored future collaborations.

The **City of Milan** played a key role in leading these meetings, working **with** Work Package (WP) leaders to propose session content that was designed in advance. The local partners organizing the events collaborated closely with Milan on logistical aspects, ensuring that session leaders were able to conduct their sessions effectively.

The methodology adopted for the meetings was initially influenced by the **COVID-19 pandemic**, resulting in the first two APMs being conducted online. However, following feedback from partners expressing the need for in-person meetings, the coordination team organised in-person meetings every six months, allowing partners to gather in alignment with international events and offering valuable opportunities for engagement outside the partnership.

The primary purpose of the meetings was to update partners on the progress of various WPs, monitor task advancement, and provide a platform for generating new knowledge and exchanging insights among partners. These meetings were designed to foster collaboration and active dialogue, going beyond mere reporting to create opportunities for cities and partners to learn from one another's experiences and challenges. Several **knowledge-sharing workshops** were also held during the APMs, providing dedicated spaces for cities to exchange experiences and receive feedback on their implementation activities from researchers and other cities.

Participants included **city officers, researchers, task leaders, and external stakeholders**, with sessions designed to encourage active participation and mutual learning. Think Tank members and local stakeholders were invited to specific sessions to enhance the discussions, and their input was particularly valuable during study visits and local workshops.

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Overall, the APMs not only facilitated the coordination and execution of the project but also contributed to the **co-creation of knowledge**, refinement of strategies, and innovation in addressing the challenges of systemic food innovations across European cities. These meetings became key moments for developing and advancing the project's deliverables and ensuring the success of the Food Trails initiative.

The document provides detailed information on the objectives, content, and outcomes of each APM, along with lessons learned from organizing both online and in-person meetings. Detailed agendas of the meetings are also presented as annexes.

## About Food Trails

[Food Trails](#) is a four-year (Oct 2020 / Oct 2024) with around €12.000 million project, funded by the EU Horizon 2020 Programme, addressing the call “Food 2030 – Empowering Cities as agent of food system transformation”.

It aims to translate the worldwide [Milan Urban Food Policy Pact](#)'s shared vision and collective commitment to integrated urban food policies into measurable and long-term progress towards sustainable food systems in Europe.

At the heart of the project lies the co-designing and co-implementation of Pilot Actions, through participatory Living Labs, as a leverage point for the development of Urban Food Policies in 11 European city-regions: Bergamo (IT), Birmingham (UK), Bordeaux (FR), Copenhagen (DK), Funchal (PR), Grenoble (FR), Groningen (NL), Milan (IT), Thessaloniki (GR), Tirana (AL) and Warsaw (PL).

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# Introduction

During the Food Trails project, the **Annual Partner Meetings (APMs)** were held once a year, bringing together all partners, Think Tank members, and local stakeholders. The first APM, which served as the **Kick-off meeting**, was organised online by the City of Milan. This meeting started reviewing the overall work plan, budget, timeline, and assigning tasks to the partners.

Following this, the subsequent APMs were hosted by partner cities to coincide with other project activities such as workshops, with the aim of fostering closer collaboration and knowledge exchange. The **Mid-term APMs** took place in Thessaloniki, **Funchal and Warsaw** offering opportunities to assess project progress, refine strategies, and address any challenges.

Additional in-person meetings were organised in between the Annual Partner meetings to foster knowledge exchange between cities and provide further opportunities for all the project partners to participate in international events attended by stakeholders outside the partnership.

The **Final APM** was held in **Brussels** before the final conference (M48), where the partners reflected on the overall implementation of the project and discussed about future collaborations.

Throughout the project, coordination and internal communication were supported by additional periodic or monthly meetings and workshops organised within other WPs, particularly WP3, WP4, WP5, WP6 and WP7.

The City of Milan took the lead in all meetings, proposing the content for the sessions outlined in the agenda. These contents were discussed in advance with the WP leaders during the monthly WP leaders' meetings. The local partner responsible for organizing the event worked closely with the City of Milan on logistics and to ensure that each session leader had optimal conditions to effectively deliver their session as planned in the agenda.

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# Methodology

The Covid-19 pandemic influenced the first year and part of the second year of the project. Due to the restrictions, the **first two meetings** of the project were organised and held **online**:

- Kick-off meeting (October 2020)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Partner Meeting (January 2022)

After this first stage, based on the necessity expressed by partners of having **in-person meetings** during the remaining parts of the projects, the Coordination team proposed to organize an in-person meeting every 6 months, alongside other international events or gathering of cities as MUFPP regional forum and Eurocities WG food meetings.

- Mid-year 2 partner meeting in Almere (June 2022)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Partner meeting in Thessaloniki (November 2022)
- Mid-year 3 partner meeting in Milan (May 2023)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Partner meeting in Funchal (November 2023)
- Mid-year 4 partner meeting in Warsaw (May 2024)
- Final partner meeting in Brussels (October 2024)

The purpose of each meeting has not only been to provide an update on the progress of the various Work Packages and to monitor the advancement of individual tasks but also to serve as a real opportunity to generate new knowledge for the task leaders and to facilitate the exchange of insights among the partners. These meetings have been designed to go beyond simple reporting, creating a collaborative environment where cities and partners can learn from one another's experiences and challenges. By encouraging active participation and dialogue, they have become valuable moments for co-creating knowledge, refining strategies, and fostering innovation across the entire project. Annual Partner Meetings were opportunities to produce new contents for key deliverables or advancement of the tasks' contents.

Several workshops have been also organised during the Annual Partner Meetings to foster collaboration and knowledge sharing among partner cities. These **knowledge-sharing workshops** provide a dedicated space for cities to exchange experiences, ensuring that progress, challenges, and lessons learned were systematically shared across all partners. The workshops also offered tailored feedback on project activities, both from cities and researchers. The workshops varied in length from one/two-hour sessions to full-day events, depending on the needs expressed by partners and the time available in the agenda. These interactive, participatory workshops were moderated by Eurocities, with input from other partners and with the participation of some Think Tank members, creating a dynamic environment for mutual learning and support.

Participants of the Annual Partner Meetings were:

- Project partners: City officers, researchers, Food2030 Cross-Cutting Managers and



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experts from various partner organizations participated in the sessions, each with distinct roles. In most cases, city representatives were asked to provide specific input based on the needs of the task leaders. Researchers often designed the sessions, serving as moderators and presenting the key objectives. Other partners contributed by organizing dedicated workshop sessions or presenting the priority activities of the different Work Packages.

- Think tank members: the experts were specifically invited based on the topics of discussion planned in the various meetings.
- Stakeholders: Local stakeholders helped in organizing local workshops, study visits and discussion on specific actions of partner cities that organised the in-person meeting. Often stakeholders presented their activity in local language and an English translation by project partners was necessary.
- Cascade cities: In the last year of the project, the cascade cities that participated in the knowledge exchanges with the Food Trails cities also had the opportunity to attend international events organised following the APMs.

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# Contents of Annual Partner Meetings

In the following section, are summarized the main contents of the Kick off, Mid-term Annual Partner meetings and final meeting. For each event we provided the following information:

- Dates and venue
- Objectives of the meeting
- Content of the main sessions
- Results and takeaways

## 1. Kick-off meeting online

### Dates and venue:

28-30 October 2020 - 10.00 / 13.00 CET, Online

### Objective of the meeting:

- To introduce all partners, highlighting their competencies, roles, and key team members.
- To provide an overview of Food Trails activities, organised by Work Package.
- To present project management activities, including external contributions from DG RTD and REA.

### Content of the main sessions:

#### Day 1

The first morning has been dedicated to the general **presentation of Food Trails project** and partners, providing the vision of the four years of activities and presenting the common effort of the Consortium in the implementation of significant actions and their exploitation.

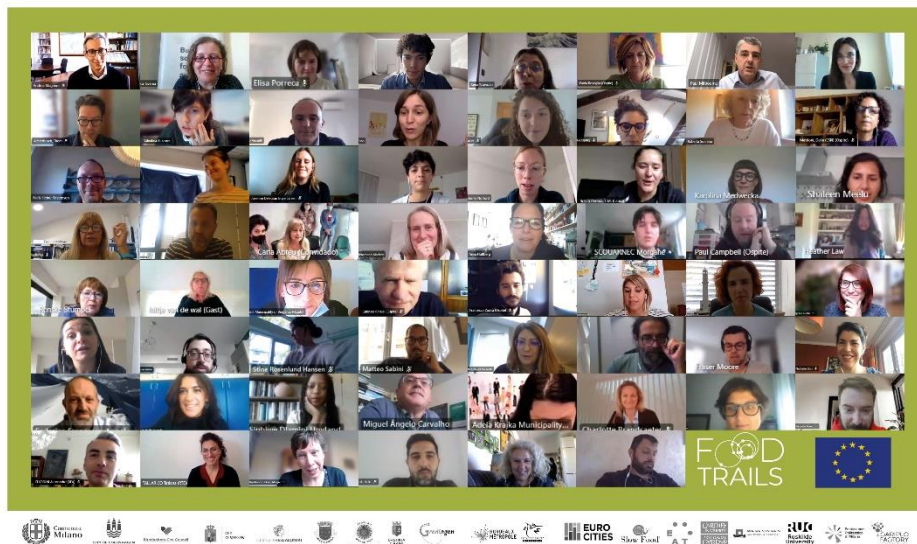
#### Day 2

The second morning has been dedicated to on **overview on the structure of the project**, the presentation of Work Packages and a deep dive into the activities to be implemented in the first year, with a focus on the effort required and relevant milestones.

An Afternoon side event was organised under the activities WP4. Wageningen Research organised an in-depth session for interested partners, specifically focusing on **impact investing** in systemic food innovations.

## Day 3

The third morning has been fully dedicated to the explanation of the **management structure** as well as financial and technical reporting information. European Commission officers made a presentation to the Consortium.



Participants of Kick-Off meeting

### Results and takeaways:

Although the meeting took place online and knowledge exchange was limited to a virtual format, it successfully inspired the partners to begin their activities. It emphasized that the expected results could only be achieved through the joint efforts of cities, researchers, and experts working together.

The presentations and video recordings of the online sessions have been made available to the consortium through a dedicated page on the project's intranet.

## 2. 1st Annual Partner Meeting online

### Dates and venue

25-26 January 2022, Online

### Objectives of the meeting

- To reflect on the implementation of the project
- To strengthen the activities carried out in the WPs
- To create a synergy and make the most efficient use of resources

### Content of the main sessions

Due to the pandemic situation, the first annual meeting was held via online videoconference and lasted two days. The focus of the meeting was the overall work plan, the budget, the time schedule and the respective tasks of all partners.

## Day 1

After a brief welcome by the project coordinator, the first part of the morning focused on the **presentation by each WP leader of their current activities**, for the WPs already operating, and the activities to be implemented throughout the project.

The second part of the morning was dedicated to the **presentation of Food Trails cities**. They presented their ideas to be implemented in the Living Labs and the start of the art for their local launches and the updates on the relative pilots.

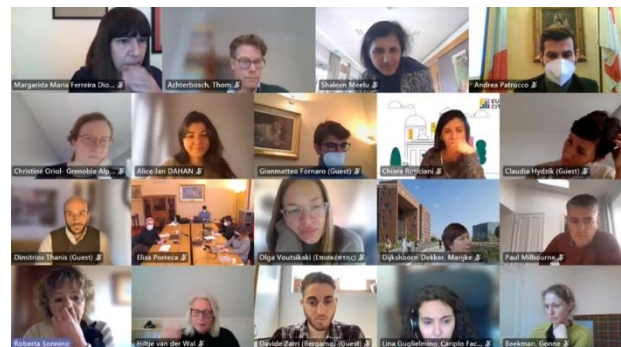
The afternoon was dedicated to **administrative and financial issues**: after a short presentation of upcoming administrative deadlines, the project coordinator explained the H2020 rules and it was also an open chat session, therefore very dynamic with good participation of project partners and a series of Q&A.

## Day 2

The second day started with the presentation of the 2022 events and the explanation of the **project's communication strategy** and future activities. The rest of the day was dedicated to the other cities presenting the Living Labs processes and the pilot actions.



1<sup>st</sup> Annual Partner Meeting – Day 1



1<sup>st</sup> Annual Partner Meeting – Day 2

## Results and takeaways

Although the meeting took place online and knowledge exchange was limited to a virtual format, it was an opportunity to get to know all the partners better and to share the activities to be carried out during the project.

The presentations and video recordings of the online sessions have been made available to the consortium through a dedicated page on the project's intranet.

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### 3. Mid-year 2 partner meeting in Almere

#### Dates and venue

21 June 2022 - Almere

9:00 – 17:00

#### Objectives of the meeting

- To provide an overview of the project management activities.
- to proceed on the definition of the process indicators set for pilots' implementation in the living labs (Task 3.2/3.4) and to share methods and practices for the data collection to evaluate impact guided by the Theory of Change (Task 3.4/4.1).
- To understand the state of the food policy development in each city, and processes to arrive to a Food Policy.

#### Content of the main sessions

The Mid-year 2 meeting was organised the day before the **MUFPP Regional Forum and Eurocities Working Group Food meeting held in Floriade exposition in Almere**. In fact, Food Trails partners then participated in the “The Table is Set” event organised by Eurocities Working Group Food and Milan Urban Food Policy Pact 22-24 June, as part of Floriade expo 2022. The event explored how to bring together citizens, industry, civil society, governments at all levels and institutions to turn today's food challenges into opportunities by making our food systems more sustainable and resilient.

The Mid-year 2 meeting was titled “*Food policy workshop: How to launch an effective urban food policy?*” and “*How to track progress towards sustainable food systems?*”.

The first part of the morning was dedicated to the workshop, organised by Wageningen Economic Research (WR) and Fondazione Politecnico di Milano (FPM), to review the **progress in defining process indicators** for the implementation of Living Labs (Task 3.2/3.4) and to share methods and practices for data collection to assess the impact, driven by the Theory of Change (Task 3.4/4.1). All partners, coordinated by WR and FPM, participated in a two-hour workshop to define common indicators across cities, such as: knowledge, governance (including stakeholder engagement), with the intention of identifying common indicators to monitor the progress of living labs.

In the second part of the morning, the participants were divided into two groups, the WP7 teams focused on brainstorming on the **organization of the Terra Madre events** planned for September 2022 in Turin. Meanwhile, the rest of the consortium was involved in explaining and **updating the financial and technical information**.

Finally, in the afternoon, a session called “*Workshop on Food Policy Developments (WP3)*” was organised, an interactive workshop coordinated by EAT and supported by the Cross-



Cutting Managers, with the aim of **understanding the state of food policy development** in each city and the administrative processes to reach the publication of a food policy. The methodology used was the CO-CREATE Dialogue Forum canvas which allowed to identify priorities and actions to launch or implement the food policies in the partner cities

After this two-hour workshop, the WP Leaders attended the monthly **WP Leaders' meeting** to follow the progress of the work of each WP and, based on the work done during the day's meeting, to discuss how to support all cities to participate as actively as possible in the different WPs.



Participants in Mid-year 2 Partners meeting in Almere



Workshop on Food Policy developments

## Results and takeaways

The meeting was organised to lay the foundations for the implementation of Living Labs and the processes to launch urban Food Policies; in fact, the workshop sessions focused on providing cities with the main support tools for the implementation of Living Labs and Food Policies, trying to identify beforehand any bottlenecks in the different stages of the different processes and how to solve them efficiently.

The workshops were very satisfying, as the cities participated very proactively in the various activities, perfectly supported by the various coordinators; in particular, they allowed the cities to exchange points of view and to analyse situations that were in some cases similar, allowing everyone to speed up the definition of the various processes.

About the event **“The Table is Set!” - Eurocities WG Food and MUFPP Regional Forum** in Europe **a report of the conference** and side activities is available at the following link:

<https://www.milanurbanfoodpolicypact.org/resources/the-table-is-set-new-governance-for-food-in-europe/>

## 4. 2nd Annual Partner meeting in Thessaloniki

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## Dates and venue

9-11 November 2022, Thessaloniki

## Objectives of the meeting

- To gather information on how to support the Living Lab development.
- To analyse the project's progress and reflect on the next steps.

## Content of the main sessions

The Food Trails consortium met in the city of Thessaloniki for the Annual Partner Meeting – Year 2, to review the project's progress and discuss and reflect on the next steps, partners presented advancements and concrete actions that they are building to advance urban food policies through pilot actions. During the three days partners benefited from workshops with cities, researchers and think tank members to support the Living Labs' development, guide future work and accelerate and foster the transition towards more sustainable, fair and healthy food systems.

### Day 1

The first day started with a short welcome by Michael Koupkas, Deputy Mayor for Finance of the City of Thessaloniki, who gave a speech about the expectations of the city in this project and how it could be integrated with other activities of the municipality. The whole morning was then dedicated to a **dynamic update of WP2, WP3, WP4 and WP5**, where all partners were invited to express their opinions and suggestions on the work done within each work packages and any suggestions for future activities.

For the WP2 and WP3 the main subject was the **support of researchers and partners** to cities on:

- how to adopt a systemic approach;
- how to build long-term sustainable food policy actions;
- how local political connections (between local cities) can favour the implementation of local food policy actions.

All cities discussed and analysed together the status of each political commitment, policy documents, acts and decisions, involvement of external stakeholders, monitoring framework to understand the status of their respective activities on implementation of Living Labs and food policy approval.

After this, Wageningen Research organised a session of WP4 focused on the **presentation of the Food Trails Investors Lab** and a series of informed discussions on impact investing, with the goal of developing a roadmap for impact investing in sustainable urban food systems. The key messages presented and discussed were:

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- Impact: measurable goals. Entrepreneur involvement.
  - Ambition: investors and cities or urban entrepreneurs coming together around a shared vision of monetary and social or environmental return on investment (ROI) and forming networks driven by a passion for impact.
  - Data: the importance of data as part of understanding investment needs and supporting the business case.
  - Policy: Theory of Change (TOC) is a common language and framework for communicating policy goals and outcomes to impact investors.
  - Products: specific products/tools ready for impact investment can improve service delivery by municipalities, reach consumers with new products or practices, etc.

In addition, a call for solutions startups/SMEs has been launched in WP4 to collect solutions from micro and small and medium enterprises that address the needs of cities. The call is preparatory for the Matchmaking Day with the SMEs/startups planned for June 2023 in Milan.

The afternoon of the first day was dedicated exclusively to the **Workshop on monitoring the implementation of pilots and collecting data** to evaluate impact (WP3 & WP4).

The Workshop on Indicator Frameworks promoted exchange between cities on data collection. This session was a follow-up to the Almere workshop and was organised by Wageningen and Polimi researchers to advance the definition of indicators for the implementation of Living Labs (Task 3.2/3.4), and to share methods and practices for data collection to assess impact driven by the Theory of Change (Task 3.4/4.1). The workshop consisted of 2 parts:

- Part 1: *Thinking about the why of city Living Labs using the outcome & impact level of your Living Labs.*
- Part 2: *Going into details on the how city approached the why based on the activity & output level.*

### **Workshop on Indicator Frameworks - Part 1**

This session focused on the **expected outcomes of the cities' Living Labs and their contributions to the Transition Goals 2030**. Participants discussed the impacts they envision for their cities, the key questions they aim to address through their pilots, and how they plan to answer these questions. The discussion also covered ways to demonstrate the contributions of the Living Labs to achieving these goals, highlighting that the envisioned outcomes serve as stepping stones to greater impact.

Cities were grouped according to the expected outcomes of their pilots, clustered by cross-cutting themes and, in some cases, by types of interventions. The grouping aimed to encourage a participatory approach where cities could present their main interests and strategies for addressing the outlined questions. Researchers then reflected on the cities' approaches, focusing on linking the envisioned impacts to measurable results (success indicators) of the project. Cities positioned themselves in quadrants to map the impact of



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their Living Labs. The session then moved through two rounds: the first on co-benefits linked to 2030 goals, and the second on specific interventions, exploring themes like nutrition, climate, circularity, innovation, and governance.

Participants were asked to discuss how their pilots align with the co-benefits or governance mechanisms they find most interesting, using success indicators to demonstrate progress toward their goals. A data collection exercise followed, where participants filled out a survey to reflect on their challenges, assess the usefulness of the exercise, and identify gaps in their data collection processes.

### **Workshop on Indicator Frameworks – Part 2**

This session focused on **evaluating how cities collect data for their Living Labs to support impact assessment**. Participants were guided through their Data Collection Plans, emphasizing the importance of gathering high-quality data to conduct meaningful evaluations. Key questions addressed included methods of data collection, roles of researchers and team members, timelines, budget considerations, and defining key indicators.

The approach involved one-on-one sessions with researchers, where each city went through the Data Collection Framework to refine their indicators and data collection strategies. This framework guided cities in distinguishing between activity-level data (quantitative measures) and output-level data (measurable results). Cities were paired with specific research institutes and experts for personalized support in data collection, with teams organised to ensure focused guidance and practical feedback.

In the final plenary session, participants shared their remaining questions and suggestions for future workshops on data, monitoring, and evaluation. The goal was to gather input on how useful the Data Collection Framework is and to develop strategies for high-quality data collection, analysis, and pilot impact assessment. This session laid the groundwork for building the dataset for monitoring and evaluation across the project's cities.

This very proactive workshop ended the first day and it aimed to understand how cities want to collect data, and how Living Labs can be used to improve impact and results.

### **Day 2**

The morning of the second day started with an update of the activities done under WP7 focused on **communication** during the last period of the project.

Then a parallel section the WP7 teams focused on Interactive session to exchange about different cities' approaches to **disseminate the project activities at local level** and include citizens. Meanwhile, the rest of the consortium was involved in explaining and updating the financial and technical information.

The conversation on WP7 focused on how each city manages communication activities, the use of dedicated websites or social media accounts, and the level of internal and

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external engagement. Many cities highlighted difficulties in maintaining dedicated websites for Food Trails due to limited resources, internal communication barriers, and coordination challenges with municipal departments. Some cities, like Bordeaux Metropole and Birmingham, emphasized the need for better visibility of their work on official channels, while others, like Funchal and Copenhagen, discussed the slow process of integrating communication across different teams. Participants also shared the importance of storytelling in communicating project impacts, both to raise awareness locally and to secure future funding. Internal communication was seen as a crucial element, particularly for gaining political support and aligning different city departments with the project goals. The discussion concluded with a focus on planning future activities to engage politicians and stakeholders effectively, including a high-level political meeting scheduled for March in Brussels.

The rest of the day was dedicated to WP6 - Replication. In the morning, the focus was on the programme of **replication visits**, where Eurocities briefly explained the methodology and the replication exchanges that have taken place so far (focus on Thessaloniki-Bergamo, Groningen-Birmingham, Milan-Copenhagen, and a slide show in the background with the 4 phases of the replication exchanges), while Wageningen Research was in charge of explaining the methodology of implementing the replication handbook and possible examples of how a handbook could be constructed.

The afternoon session was based on the "**Knowledge Sharing Workshop**". The workshop focused on **food policy development and stakeholder engagement**, with a special focus on the engagement of vulnerable actors. The workshop was attended by think tank members and aimed at gathering recommendations on the following topics:

- discussing successful ways to engage different food stakeholders in cities
- extrapolating successful tools to engage different types of stakeholders
- linking to the session on local communication
- linking to the work on food policy development.

Finally, the last part of the afternoon meeting was dedicated to the presentation of the first draft of deliverable D3.2 - **11 interim reports on pilots' implementation**, to gather comments and suggestions from all partners for the implementation of the deliverable.

The day it was concluded with a dinner, offering participants the chance to continue conversations in an informal setting and strengthen connections within the consortium.

### **Day 3**

The third day was dedicated to excursions to Thessaloniki. Two visits were organised, the first was a visit to the winery and museum - the **Gerovasileiou Winery** is one of the main stakeholders of the Municipality of Thessaloniki, the most important wine producer in Greece and is responsible for the production of 'Gorgona' wine, from the municipal vineyard of Thessaloniki. The second was a meeting with the **Chilli Factor Organic Farm**, which is a stakeholder of the city and participates in the newly launched Local Food

Council, under the lens of the Organic Producers Association and the Food Production and Distribution subgroup.

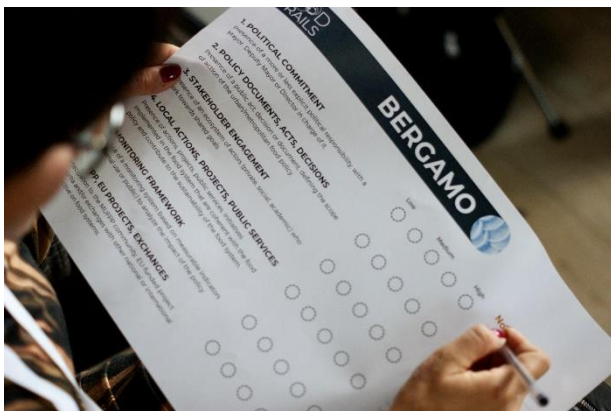
These two events were an opportunity for all partners to see how the Municipality of Thessaloniki is working on the most interesting issues for the project, and the specificities that distinguish it in the development of its food policies.



Participants in 2nd Annual Partner meeting in Thessaloniki



Study visits and knowledge sharing session in the urban vineyard



Session on self-assessment of food policy implementation



Study visits to Chilli Factor Organic Farm in the metropolitan area of Thessaloniki

## Results and takeaways

The three days of the meeting were packed with activities that allowed the core activities of the project to progress. The very proactive approach, based on a continuous exchange of opinions and experiences developed by the different WP leaders, allowed all the cities to reach the same level of knowledge on the different topics covered, which will allow the different activities to be carried out together, avoiding the creation of bottlenecks. In particular, the meeting was instrumental in accelerating the core activities of WP2, WP3 and WP4 which are tending to be the activities in which the cities are most involved.

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## 5. Mid-year 3 partner meeting in Milan

### Dates and venue

May 4<sup>th</sup> online, and in-person 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023, Milan

### Objectives of the meeting

- To analyse the project's progress and reflect on the next steps.
- The Matchmaking Day
- To understand the framework and solutions for investing in urban food policies

### Content of the main sessions

The Food Trails consortium met in Milan with the aim to explore the topic of “*How to finance the long-term solutions of urban food policies?*”.

The three-day program included on the first day, sessions on project work packages, Knowledge Sharing Workshop on how cities could better collaborate with the private sector and a field visit to the local farm Cascina Campazzo. The second day, Cariplo Factory hosted the Matchmaking Day, involving the most innovative EU food-tech start-ups and SMEs, selected through the Food Trails “Call for Solutions – Sustainable Food Systems”, with the aim of creating strategic alliances with Food Trails partner cities to address the sustainable food systems transformation. The third day featured the last work package sessions and a field visit to the Food Waste Hub in Milan.

### Pre-meeting online

The week before the in-person meeting, on May 4<sup>th</sup>, a preparatory online meeting was held with the aim of providing **WP leaders' updates** without taking time away from the interactive sessions planned in person. The agenda included presentations on WP3, WP6, WP5, and WP7, followed by dedicated Q&A sessions. Information for cities about matchmaking days and the agenda for the in-person meeting in Milan were also discussed. The update for WP4 was made available on the project SharePoint for those unable to attend.

### Day 1

The morning of the first day started with a follow-up on WP8 - Management, where the Project Management Unit explained the **status of the project regarding the administrative and financial part**, and an update on WP6 regarding the replication visit and the replication manual. The rest of the morning was dedicated to the WP3 and WP4 **workshop with a focus on data collection** for tasks 3.1, 3.4 and 4.1. The idea of this workshop was to get an overview of the situation by trying to understand how the data collection process works for each city.



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This would help them to find the right way to collect the relevant data for monitoring the living laboratory. The structure of the workshop was very dynamic; in fact, the participants were divided into 4 groups according to how each city acquired more information. The main outcome of the workshop was to gather information from the cities. This was mainly based on these two questions:

- *How important is impact assessment for you?*
- *What can you gain from collecting data?*

The results were quite satisfactory. They have been incorporated into the work of the individual tasks.

After lunch, the consortium attended the **Knowledge Sharing Workshop on Collaboration with the Private Sector**. This workshop was organised as part of Task 6.2 of WP6 and it was thematically preparatory to the second day of meeting. Exploring how cities find different ways to work with the private sector was the idea of this workshop. The task co-ordinator's definition of the private sector was mainly focused on 3 main categories: Start-ups/SMEs; Restaurants/HORECAs and Retailers (large companies: wholesalers, supermarkets...).

The idea was to understand and map how many cities have interactions and cooperation with these three categories of the private sector, if there are good experiences to share and if they have a typical process or procedure to initiate interaction with these three categories. This workshop was very useful as the project cities have different experiences and orientations. Therefore, the exchange of good practices gave some insights and optimised the processes of the different cities.

In conclusion of the day, the consortium went on a field visit to the **Cascina Campazzo farm** to understand the interaction between the City of Milan and one of the main representatives of the local farming activities. The farmers' family has lived here since 1952 and manages the farm which grows fodder to feed the 130 dairy cattle. The farmstead and the near agricultural lands are a utopia realized through territorial integration between agriculture and the city, between the needs of those who work and preserve the land and those who live in a metropolis.

## **Day 2**

The second day was fully dedicated to the **Matchmaking Day**, which took place at the Cariplo Factory headquarter, which was the main organiser of the event. The full-day event was divided into 3 main sections.

The first moment, which took up the first part of the morning, was dedicated to the **presentation of the SMEs and start-ups** selected by the cities from among all those who responded to the call. This session allowed all the SMEs and start-ups to present in detail who they are, what they do and what their ideas are to support the cities.

The second part of the morning was dedicated to **impact financing**: frameworks and

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solutions for investment in urban food policies. In this public conference, the engagement of cities in transforming urban food systems through the lens of investors was presented by some Food Trails partners and impact finance organisations. Several topics were discussed that are relevant to understanding how sustainable finance can work. The Municipality of Milan presented its Milan Food Waste Sustainability Link Bond initiative as a potential tool to apply sustainable finance to cities. The event was also an opportunity to launch the policy brief on “Budgeting Food Policy”. The discussion highlighted challenges in impact financing, such as a lack of clear tools for investors and difficulties in collecting quality data to evaluate outcomes. The need for more effective impact assessment methods and innovative financial instruments to attract investors in urban food systems was also emphasized. The morning concluded with a wrap-up of activities and a discussion on next steps to scale impact investments in cities.

The full video of the morning presentation is available on Food Trails YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/EK5H476kqOQ?si=Im6GZcwP7jipICl2>

After the pitches of the startups in the morning and the focus on impact investment, the third section was organised in the afternoon fully dedicated to the **one-to-one meetings with the interested cities**. The 23 Start-ups / SMEs had the opportunity to engage in multiple dialogues with the Cities that launched the challenges they applied for, to illustrate the Living Lab activities, the potential for effective collaboration, and the benefits of the business proposal.

The day it was concluded with a dinner, offering participants the chance to continue conversations in an informal setting and strengthen connections within the consortium.

### Day 3

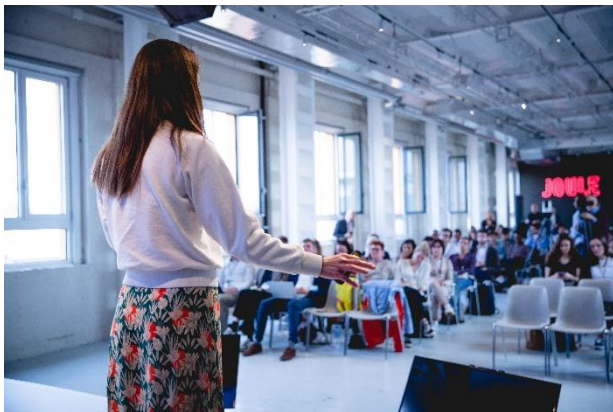
The last day of the three-day meeting started with the presentation of WP7 - Communication. In particular, the WP leader gave an update on the communication and dissemination activities carried out within WP7.

Several upcoming initiatives were highlighted to support communication and dissemination. These include a **podcast series focused on integrated urban food policies**, a set of **videos showcasing the results in the 11 participating cities**, and infographics illustrating the food journeys of these cities. The team also discussed the strategy for promoting milestones on social media and a series of webinars in 2024 to showcase the Living Labs' outcomes. A detailed timeline for key events and activities throughout 2023 and 2024 was also outlined.

The second part of the morning was dedicated to WP4 – Impact investing. In particular, it was an opportunity for the coordinator of Task 4.1 to present the **results of the Theory of Change** report and to discuss session T.4.4 on the Investor Service Model, which deals with the creation of a reliable service model for investors that can be applied to cities that want

to implement a food policy. The testing/validation activities of the Investor Service Model developed by FPM were the focus of the session.

Finally, the last day ended with a **visit to one of the food waste hubs**. The partners were shown how these hubs are physically structured, how they work and what procedures they have to follow.



Pitch presentation by a selected startup to Food Trails cities



Match-making day presentation by Cariplo Factory in Milan



Session on local dissemination strategies



Visit to Cascina Campazzo farm in the south Milan

## Results and takeaways

The three days of the meeting were full of activities that made it possible to continue the main activities of the project. The main theme of the meetings were the topics of WP4, particularly highlighted in this mid-term meeting, the aim being to try to reduce the distances between the cities as public administrations and the private world in its most specific facets, such as the start-up SME and the financial world, let's say worlds that are

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usually quite distant from each other, as core activities, processes and visions. The result was very satisfying, as the consortium brought home several interesting insights. The very proactive and dynamic approach of the meetings made the exchange between the partners very productive in terms of sharing opinions and experiences.

## 6. 3rd Annual Partner meeting in Funchal

### Dates and venue

From 15 to 17 November 2023, Funchal

### Objectives of the meeting

- To analyse the project's progress and reflect on the next steps.
- To analyse the work done and next future of the Living Lab

### Content of the main sessions

The Food Trails consortium met in Funchal with the main goal to participate in the "Knowledge sharing workshop on Food Trails Living Labs". The three-day program included: on the first day, sessions on "Knowledge sharing workshop on Food Trails Living Labs" and field visit FUNLAB – Food Sustainability Science Center, ISOplexis and the Madeira University (Gene bank); the second day on project work packages; the third day featured the last work package sessions and a field visit to the Social neighbourhood of Santo Amaro-Music@arte.

### Day 1

The morning of the first day started with a special welcome from Dr Helena Leal, Councillor of Education – Municipality of Funchal, that explained the strategies and work done by the Municipality of Funchal for the sustainability food system. As inspiration for the other cities involved, the **political commitment** of Funchal was presented during the speech also considering the progresses for the food policy strategy approval in Funchal. After this welcome, the project meeting started with a follow-up on **WP8 - Management**, where the Project Management Unit showed the overview of the project period.

The rest of the day was dedicated to the "**Knowledge sharing workshop on Food Trails Living Labs**". The aim of the workshop was to gather and share the experiences of each city in developing the Living Labs. The workshop also aimed to explain the choice of the main topic of the Living Labs, the implementation phase, the communication and dissemination



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to the different stakeholders, the results obtained, and the lessons learned from their experiences. The workshop was divided in four parts:

### ***Part 1 - Workshop on Living Labs - Lesson learned by cities***

The workshop began with a plenary session with a series of presentations where the partners cities presented their **insights and lessons learned** in relation to each individual living lab conducted in the city.

The lessons learned from the Food Trails cities highlight the importance of cross-disciplinary collaboration, community engagement, and co-creation in developing effective food policies. Key topics include the value of building trust with local partners, integrating education into initiatives, and leveraging local resources for broader impact. Cities also emphasized the need for strategic partnerships, continuous stakeholder involvement, and adapting policies to align with local and national regulations. Overcoming challenges often requires innovative approaches to governance, clear guidelines on food systems, and committed support from both municipal leaders and the wider community.

### ***Part 2 - Workshop on Living Labs - Card game on scaling elements***

The card game aimed to guide participants in **exploring urban food policy development** through a structured process. Over four rounds, city representatives and researchers reflected on their experiences, identified key elements for scaling, and engaged in collaborative problem-solving. Participants followed specific rules involving dice rolls, card placements, and structured discussions. The game evolved from individual reflections to group discussions, focusing on identifying solutions to barriers and enhancing strategies for scaling urban food initiatives.

The card game discussions highlighted the importance of diversifying funding sources, engaging stakeholders, and the role of food councils in advancing urban food systems. Emphasis was placed on the need for financial support from various sectors, fostering collaborative partnerships, and integrating cultural elements to enhance stakeholder engagement. The perspectives on food councils were mixed, indicating the need for careful consideration in their implementation. Discussions also underscored the importance of securing long-term funding and adopting effective communication strategies to increase the visibility and impact of food system initiatives.

### ***Part 3 - Workshop on Living Labs - Critical review of the monitoring framework and specific indicators***

Cities discussed their **use of indicators from the project's framework**, highlighting three they engaged with, sharing lessons learned, and explaining their application in local initiatives.

The cities shared valuable lessons from their experiences, emphasizing the importance of cross-departmental collaboration, stakeholder engagement, and co-creation in developing effective urban food policies. Key strategies included formalizing food policies,

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building trust with local partners, and integrating educational initiatives into food systems. While some cities highlighted challenges related to governance and data collection, others focused on leveraging Living Labs for innovation and community involvement. Indicators played a crucial role in guiding the cities' approaches, helping them measure progress in areas such as food waste reduction, sustainable procurement, and citizen participation.

#### **Part 4 - Workshop on Living Labs - Living labs beyond Food Trails**

Cities reflected on **strategies for financially and strategically supporting their Living Labs** post-Food Trails, followed by a discussion with researchers to explore collaborative approaches for sustaining these initiatives.

Cities strategized in groups to explore various key areas such as innovation, food security, climate resilience, community empowerment, and the circular economy. Innovation emerged as essential, requiring creative solutions across all domains, while food security was redefined to emphasize broader access to food and sustainable dietary patterns. Financial sustainability strategies varied; some cities relied on EU funding or municipal support, while others explored diverse funding sources. A proposed solution was to integrate Living Labs into municipal agencies with dedicated innovation budgets, promoting long-term sustainability. The importance of educational interventions, collaboration, and food policy councils was emphasized as critical to advancing food system transformation. Overall, the session highlighted the necessity for flexible strategies and partnerships to ensure the ongoing success of Living Labs.

At the end of the day, the consortium participated on **two field visits**, the first one was the **FUNLAB – Food Sustainability Science Center**. It is a space open to the public, dedicated to food issues and food sustainability, where a range of diverse activities are being developed. Nearby, there is an educational urban allotment garden, where sustainable methods of production are being used such as Organic farming, Composting, Crop intercropping, Soil cover, Insect hotel, Shelter for birds and a Live hedge of aromatic plants. This is the result of the “Living Lab” of the Food Trails project that is an Experimental Science Center/FunLab, equipped with the assistance of the University of Madeira.

The second one was to **ISOplexis and the Madeira University (Gene bank)**, the Centre for Sustainable Agriculture and Agri-Food Technology. It is a unit that develops fundamental and/or applied research Agriculture, Food and Bioeconomy, and is involved in the Regional Smart Specialization Strategy (EREI-Madeira). ISOplexis activity focus on the research of agro-diversity including agro-systems and advanced technologies.

#### **Day 2**

The first part of the morning of the second day was dedicated to the adoption and implementation of food policies and the **elaboration of a multi-level governance mapping grid** to understand the whole process for each city and the functioning of each multi-level

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governance. These are activities planned in WP3.

The rest of the morning was dedicated to the **knowledge sharing activities** (WP6). In particular, the upcoming activities were explained, and inputs were collected, such as the Cascade cities call, the Food Trails replication visits, the webinars, the replication workshops, the handbook for the replication of innovative food-related systemic approaches.

The afternoon of the second day was dedicated to the **administrative and financial update** (WP8). After a presentation by the CDM on the upcoming deadlines for the second reporting period, scheduled for 15 December, an overview was given on the progress of expenditure on the administrative procedures to be followed for the next deadline. Following the presentation, a session was organised for each Partner to understand if there were any concerns in reporting the expenditure or specific requests to amend the budget.

The day it was concluded with a dinner, offering participants the chance to continue conversations in an informal setting and strengthen connections within the consortium.

### **Day 3**

The last day of the three-day meeting started with the presentation of WP7 - Communication. In particular, the WP leader and Communication officer gave an update on **cities' videos, Food Trails podcast series, publications and final event/side event**. A dedicated presentation was organised on the update of the **exploitation plan**.

The second part of the morning was dedicated to WP5. - EU bridges. The focus was on the Food 2030 Family and Horizon Results Boosters activities, highlighting the **FOOD 2030 Project Collaboration Network** and the elaboration of **policy briefs**. There was also a quick update on EU policy, along with guidance on engaging with regional and national policymakers and a report on multilevel governance.

The last day ended with a visit to the **Social neighbourhood of Santo Amaro- Music@arte**, one of the community centres of Sociohabita Funchal - the municipal social housing company, which develops food literacy projects and works closely in partnership with the Food Bank of Madeira, where surplus is distributed amongst residents, promoting circularity. Composting units were implemented in this neighbourhood, and training was given to all the residents to compost. This has resulted in compost material, which is then distributed amongst the residents, where they can apply on their social allotment gardens.



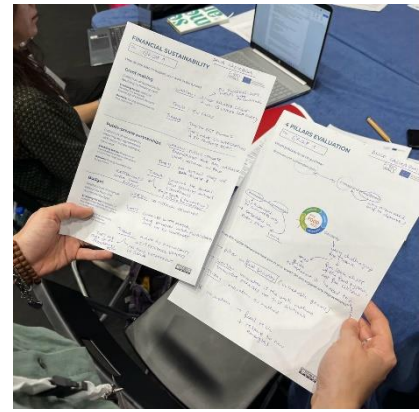
Presentation of "Semear", Funchal's food strategy



Co-design of the Multilevel Governance Grid of Warsaw during the session on Food Policy advancement



Card game on scaling elements



Notes from researchers on canvas prepared for workshop on Living Labs

## Results and takeaways

The three days of the meeting were full of activities that made it possible to continue the main activities of the project. The main theme of the meetings were the topics of WP3 – Food Policies, and the lesson learned during the implementation phase of the Living Labs and the relative future of it. The result was very satisfying, as the consortium brought home several interesting insights. The very proactive and dynamic approach of the meetings made the exchange between the partners very productive in terms of sharing opinions and experiences.

## 7. Mid-year 4 partner meeting in Warsaw

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## Dates and venue

21 May 2024, Warsaw

## Objectives of the meeting

- To analyse the project's progress and reflect on the next steps.
- To analyse the work done could be useful for the future of the food system.

## Content of the main sessions

The Mid-year 4 meeting was organised on 21 May, the day before the MUFPP Regional Forum and Eurocities Working Group Food meeting organised by the Municipality of Warsaw. It was a full-day meeting.

On 22 and 23 May, cities and the other partners participated actively in the 12<sup>TH</sup> regional Forum – Eurocities WG Food meeting discussing the crucial topic of innovation of food systems in terms of sustainability and resilience.

The Mid-year 4 partner meeting on 21 May, started with a follow-up on WP8, where the Project Management Unit showed the **overview of the project** period, highlighting the efforts to finalize 15 deliverables in the last 6 months.

The second session of the day was dedicated to an update of the **Multilevel governance analysis** from the Food Trails Coordinator, showing the Multilevel governance grids of each city updated. The WP3 session proceeded with an interaction with all cities focused to understand “how food trails pilots and actions influenced the local food policies”. This session was an open discussion between three different groups of cities.

The rest of the morning focused on communication and knowledge sharing related to Food Trails, combining updates from WP6 and WP7. The goal was to **foster synergies in communication strategies regarding the main deliverables expected** from these work packages, including the Handbook for Replication and the final publication.

The afternoon was very dynamic and interactive.

After a short presentation of the advancement on the final report of the cross-cutting managers, the Food Trails participants were engaged in **two different workshops based on the 'World Café' method**.

The first workshop focused on “*Making an impact: contributions of pilot actions to the co-benefits of Food 2030*”. To facilitate the discussion, the cities were divided into break-out groups reflecting common challenges:

1. Circularity and circular use of waste,
2. Climate and food procurement,
3. Nutrition and sustainable and healthy diets



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The workshop was structured in three sessions, with each mentioned group of cities participating in rotation. The aim of the three different parallel session was to discuss with the cities:

- Session 1: the involvement of local actors in evaluating and closing the project,
- Session 2: the mainstreaming of a food system transformation policy following the Food Trails.
- Session 3: the impact on food system transformation beyond the project,

In the first session focused on the **involvement of local actors in evaluating and closing the Food Trails** project, participants discussed mainly on effective communication strategies for sharing project outcomes. Many cities emphasized the importance of translating complex information into relatable content for local stakeholders, utilizing both face-to-face interactions and various communication tools such as reports, leaflets, and social media. The session highlighted that informal gatherings and practical activities can facilitate engagement, while ongoing partnerships with local actors are crucial for maintaining momentum. Participants also explored assessment methods, noting the challenges of data evaluation and the need for resource allocation for this specific activity.

During the session 2 on **mainstreaming food systems transformation** after Food Trails, cities discussed their strategies for sustaining initiatives post-project. Facilitated discussions highlighted the importance of food policies and their formal approvals, as well as the challenges of securing long-term funding and maintaining a systemic approach. Cities emphasized the need for collaboration among stakeholders, the establishment of food councils, and the integration of impact assessments in policy design. Tools from the Food Trails project, such as the Dialogue App and quantitative data collection, were noted as valuable for ongoing efforts. Overall, participants recognized the significance of flexible strategies and knowledge transfer in ensuring the continuity and effectiveness of their food systems initiatives.

In the third session on the **impact of food system transformation beyond the Food Trails** project, cities discussed their most successful pilots and strategies for creating lasting change. Participants identified co-benefits linked to initiatives, such as improvements in nutrition, community engagement, and climate resilience. The conversation highlighted the importance of establishing Food Policy Councils and enhancing sustainable procurement practices. Additionally, the need to integrate project outcomes into municipal frameworks was emphasized to ensure long-term sustainability. Overall, the session focused on fostering partnerships and developing structured methodologies to enhance the impact of food initiatives beyond the project's duration.

The end of the meeting was dedicated to one of the main deliverables that in Food Trails collects inter-WPs results and reflections: the **Handbook for the replication and scaling up**. The Wageningen Research team structured a workshop based on World café format to analyse together the main results of the project in terms of tools, recommendations that

could be used after the project. The workshop was organised in 4 parallel sessions with each group of cities participating in rotation:

- **Session 1:** Participants explored the QuickScan Lens for Replication (QSLR) building blocks and identified key elements for each block.
- **Session 2:** The discussion centred on the six MUFPP categories and the main challenges associated with each category.
- **Session 3:** Cities examined the tools developed during the Food Trails project that can be utilized beyond its duration.
- **Session 4:** Recommendations for cities to consider in their food policy actions were shared and discussed.

Among the sessions mentioned, the one that required significant creative effort was the session focused on **recommendations**, which were subsequently incorporated at the end of the handbook. Participants discussed the importance of a shared vision developed collaboratively with stakeholders. Key themes included the need for political commitment and a legal framework to support initiatives like food waste management. City officers emphasized that food policies should not only target specific targets such as school canteens but also consider broader community interests. The session highlighted the necessity of internal governance, cross-departmental collaboration, and the involvement of researchers to create effective food policies. Overall, the focus was on establishing concrete objectives and fostering a values-driven strategy to remove barriers to implementation and duplication.



Workshop Break-out group on Handbook for replication - recommendations



Update presentation on the Cross-cutting managers final report



Food Trails Staff from the City of Warsaw involved in organizing the Mid-year partner meeting and MUFPP regional forum/Eurocities WG food meeting



Workshop Break-out group on mainstreaming of a food system transformation policy

## Results and takeaways

The meeting was highly structured and activity-driven, serving as the final opportunity to provide updates on the work completed and the ongoing activities within the project. It also facilitated a discussion on which project outputs could be especially valuable for the future of the food system, not only for the involved cities.

The meeting was particularly full of activities, it was the last time to do an update on the work done and the last activities on-going during the project and understand which output of the project could be very useful for the future of the food system.

The Mid-year meeting was followed by the wider gathering of **MUFPP Regional Forum and Eurocities Working Group Food**, in which Food Trails played a central role in different sessions. The report on meeting is available at the following link:

<https://www.milanurbanfoodpolicypact.org/regional-forum/warsaw-2024/>

## 8. Final partner meeting in Brussels

### Dates and venue

2 October 2024, Brussels

### Objectives of the meeting

- To review the progress of key deliverables and confirm the deadlines for their completion.
- To gather feedback from project partners on the implementation of the project and



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- identify areas for improvement.
  - To explore ideas for future collaboration and outline potential initiatives beyond the project's conclusion.

### **Content of the main sessions**

The final partners in-person meeting was held on the afternoon before the project's Final Conference in Brussels. Given the extensive commitment from all partners in the final months to finalize various deliverables, work sessions on closing tasks have been minimized to primarily give space to discuss how to sustain activities following the conclusion of Food Trails.

**Welcome and important project information.** During this introductory session, key updates on the final stage of the Food Trails project were provided, including the deliverables that have already been submitted and those that still need to be finalized. Three main deliverables were presented: the Handbook for Replication, the Final Publication, and the Cross-Cutting Managers Report. Deadlines for the completion of financial and technical reports were also discussed.

**Information about the Food Trails Final conference.** A quick overview of the conference agenda was given, highlighting the main points and policy messages to be addressed. The key political messages were identified as:

- Call on new EU decision makers to be bold and deliver on the promises of the Farm to Fork Strategy and propose a Sustainable food systems law that paves the way through a systemic approach
- Call for cities to have a seat at the decision-making table and become part of the European Board for Agri-Food (proposed by Strategic Dialogue for agriculture)
- More funding more cities to implement sustainable urban food systems, and for local experimentation

The Conference was also the occasion for sharing Food Trails results on:

- the approved urban food policies and reflections on their role at EU level
- the methodologies to develop pilots, monitor the evolution and the implementation, monitor the results/impacts and reflections on the role of researchers/experts
- knowledge sharing and replication activities
- the different tools developed by Food Trails and how they can support city officers and stakeholders to solve urban challenges

**Feedback about the project.** This interactive session allowed participants to share their thoughts and feedback on the project using post-its on posters. It was an opportunity to gather insights on:

1. Something you think worked well in the implementation of the project
2. What could have worked better in the implementation of the project

3. What is a particular impact you think the project had
4. What are some results from the project you believe should be further explored and used
5. A memory you will remember from the project

**Gathering ideas for future collaboration.** The focus of this session was to explore potential future collaborations among project partners. Split in sub-groups, participants discussed possible initiatives and new areas of cooperation with the aim of continuing activities beyond the project's conclusion. The topics discussed in the groups of partners were rural-urban linkages, education/food literacy, advocating for change in national & EU policies, school meals, supply chains, food environments and working with SMEs.

**Conclusion.** The closing session summarized the key points discussed and highlighted the next steps, including timelines for the submission of final deliverables and financial reporting commitments.

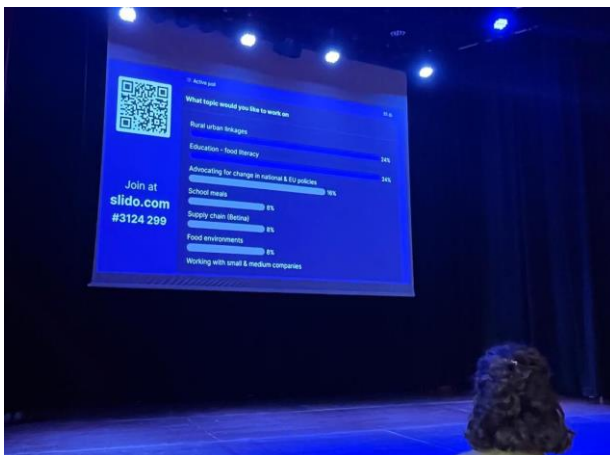
The day was concluded with a dinner with the political representatives invited the day after to the Conference as speakers, offering participants the chance to continue conversations in an informal setting and strengthen connections within the consortium.



Municipality of Milan presenting the Final Consortium meeting



Eurocities presenting the next funding opportunities



## Results and takeaways

From the project leader's perspective, the partners expressed their motivations for providing overall feedback on the project. This exercise was particularly beneficial for the Municipality of Milan, which faced the challenge of managing an innovation action research project across 11 partner cities. The meeting was especially inspiring for the partners, encouraging them to look beyond the project's conclusion, with the understanding that the results achieved could serve as a springboard for new project ideas. The themes that emerged from the various discussion groups were selected by the partners themselves.

## Lesson learned

In this last section we summarize the key findings from the experience of organizing online and in-person meetings for Food Trails project partners. The Annual Partner Meetings (APMs) provided experiences that contributed to the overall advancement of the project and the effectiveness of collaboration.

- **Importance of in-person engagement:** The transition from online to in-person meetings was essential for enhancing partner engagement and collaboration. While the initial meetings were conducted online due to COVID-19 restrictions, the shift to face-to-face interactions allowed for deeper discussions, immediate feedback, and the cultivation of a collaborative spirit.
- **Integration with international events:** Aligning APMs and Mid-year meetings with international events, such as the MUFPP regional forums and Eurocities WG Food meetings, created broader networking opportunities. This strategy not only allowed partners to engage with external stakeholders but also enriched the discussions during APMs by incorporating diverse perspectives on urban food policies. The integration helped to enhance the relevance of the APMs and positioned Food Trails within a larger context of ongoing food system transformations.
- **Active participation and knowledge sharing:** Designing the APMs to encourage active participation led to richer discussions and collaborative learning. By incorporating interactive sessions and knowledge-sharing workshops, partners had the opportunity to share their experiences and challenges. This approach fostered a methodology of mutual learning, enabling partners to refine their strategies and enhance the implementation of their urban food policies.
- **Feedback mechanisms:** Establishing structured feedback mechanisms during the APMs proved beneficial in gathering insights from partners. Activities like using post-it notes on posters allowed for immediate reflections.
- **Co-creation of knowledge:** The APMs served as platforms for co-creating knowledge, enabling partners to collectively address challenges and brainstorm innovative solutions. By inviting local stakeholders and Think Tank members to

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specific sessions, the project leveraged a wide range of expertise and perspectives, which enriched the discussions and outcomes.

- **Reflection on future collaboration:** The discussions during the final APM emphasized the importance of looking beyond the project's conclusion. Partners recognized that the results achieved could be used for a basis for new collaborations.

Each partner meeting had an average attendance of about 55-60 people, including project partners, stakeholders, and members of the Think Tank. It was also an opportunity for the organizing partners to gain empowerment in organizing complex events. In conclusion the APMs were more than just partner events; they were crucial opportunities for building relationships, sharing knowledge, and fostering collaboration across the Food Trails project.

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# Annex 1- Agenda of the APMs