

# CITY FOOD POLICIES



## Securing our daily bread.

This dossier proposes a reflection about the relevance of city food policies promoting social and ecological resilience, using the results of the social dialogue for a more sustainable food supply chain, taking place within the 2010-2014 Eating City platform. Indeed, cities concentrate people, goods, capital investments, infrastructure, knowledge and gradually expand worldwide, whereas rural exodus accelerates the decline of many territories. Despite the evidence that a city eats - it eats food and in some way the land needed to produce it -, food is not usually considered among the competences of a city. Moreover, food issues are too often diluted between different aspects related to health, nutrition, environment, production, public food services or local economy, all being treated separately in a counterproductive systematic approach.

### PART 1- ANALYSIS OF THE THEMATIC

Today, more and more cities re-evaluate food as means to improve urban planning and management, thus opening simultaneously several avenues for reflection, research and action. In a stimulating space of innovation, they are looking at new roles for institutions in food innovation dynamics and at tailor-made interfaces of cooperation between urban centers and adjacent territories. Innovative

propositions are experimented, to combine food democratic imperatives, open participatory processes and food issues institutionalization, whereas a long-awaited common metric system is still needed to assess the consequences of food systems on environmental, social, economic assets.

### 1-Moving towards a possible synergy between urban and rural territories.

- Urban versus rural...
- To reduce the gap...
- City food policies could make a difference...

This dossier has been prepared for the portal CITEGO: cités territoires gouvernance: [www.citego.info](http://www.citego.info) in the frame of Eating City platform : [www.eatingcity.org](http://www.eatingcity.org) .

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cités  
territoires  
gouvernance

**EATING CITY**  
INTERNATIONAL PLATFORM  
2010 - 2020



Fondation Charles Léopold Mayer  
pour le Progrès de l'Homme

## 2- Mainstreaming sustainable urban food systems.

- To be or not to be ... a commodity?
- The metaphor of Urban metabolism to rebuild urban food supply chains...

## 3- Food policies must be based on a systemic vision.

- Interview with the Mayor of Milan, Giuliano Pisapia

## PART 2 - 12 CASE STUDIES

Twelve case studies have been selected among a wide range of relevant experiences and classified in five categories that highlight different typologies of projects. The examination of all case studies shows that progresses are faster and easier where cities already having a deep concern for environmental issues and already have developed agenda 21 or environmental planning.

### 1. The Toronto experience: when food is about relationships and no more about commodities.

- A modern metropolis located in an agricultural province
- Toronto Food Policy Council: the backbone of the project
- The levers of action

### 2. Bristol Food Policy Council: Catalyst and enabler of the Bristol Food System.

- Bristol a former port city located in a rural area, open to trade, to innovation, environmentally friendly.
- Starting point and milestones of the project:
- When communities and small businesses are the heart of the work in progress food system.

### 3. FoodWorks: Innovative urban food programs in New York City

- New York City and New York State: when urban and rural territories develop long term visions that include food production.

- From the fight against hunger and obesity to a long term vision to improve NYC's Food System.
- The role of public plate.

### 4. Towards a sustainable Public Food Service in Copenhagen, using the lever of education and training.

- A rural-based gastronomy and a strong commitment to develop organic farming in Denmark
- The Copenhagen strategy for urban resilience and sustainable development
- Educating and empowering future generations

### 5. Paris: Improving food system sustainability through the supply chain challenge.

- A densely populated city merged in a grain-growing region
- The Agency of Urban Ecology: a tool to implement sustainability
- The lever of Public Food Service in Île de France

### 6. Rome: When school canteens become the biggest organic restaurant of the whole country.

- A vivid Roman Agriculture ecosystem.
- Across the spectrum of Roman sustainable food projects
- The School Food Revolution

### 7. Rennes' food policy: A local partnership focusing on local farming to reconcile the city with rural areas

- Setting the scene for the municipal project
- Starting point and milestones
- Towards a sustainable Food System

### 8. "Organic Metropolis Nuremberg": Increasing organic and local food production

- Nuremberg: a city located in a region with a strong tradition of agriculture and food production
- A city with a longstanding and deep concern for environmental issues
- Using the lever of Public Food Service

## 9. Saragossa : a city developing a sustainable vision between tradition and innovation

- A forward-looking city with a rich historical and cultural heritage
- A local Agenda 21 embedding an efficient policy for water management and biodiversity
- The lever of education to stimulate awareness and new behaviors 10.

## 10. Brussels, a city-region which bets on urban agriculture to stimulate sustainable food-based local economy

- A multi-faceted city-region
- Starting point and milestones
- Turning the city into a Living Lab dedicated to food sustainability.

## 11. Geneva: using territorial marketing to increase food self sufficiency and local food consumption.

- Food self-sufficiency in the Canton of Geneva: an important politic issue
- All started with a law to promote agriculture
- To use public procurement to increase local food production

## 12. Turin, the Italian Detroit for a new culture of food

- An industrial city undergoing transition to a new personality
- Starting point and milestones
- Possible leverages for a future Sustainable Food Policy.

## PART 3- SOME PROPOSALS TO GO BEYOND

These propositions are largely inspired from a preceding work: "La ville qui mange" (1) and result from the the thinking about the relevance of city food policies promoting social and ecological resilience.

The 15 original propositions have been reorganised in 9 final propositions based on the 12 case studies insights of this dossier.

### 1. Territorial and Institutional Tools.

- To integrate food strategy into the Agenda 21.
- To create territorial Agencies using plural-disciplinary approach based on subsidiarity and participation.
- To connect the different territorial levels of the Agencies for Food Policies.

### 2. Urban Planning: to create a continuum between urban farmers and rural city-dwellers.

- To integrate the management of edible landscapes, in and out the city, into urban planning
- To integrate food diversity and quality in all food distribution channels.
- To make solidarity and food waste management an issue for more food value within the urban food strategy.

### 3. The leverage effect of Public Food service for successful city Food Policies

- To implement tools for building capacity and monitoring the leverage effect for sustainable food supply chains
- To introduce more flexible rules for public procurement that allows territories adopting agriculture planning tools to increase local food production, to use public food services as a leverage to structure and support local food supply chain systems.
- To modernize Public Food Service with new production systems and skilled staff.

#### Bibliography:

(1) Nicolas Krausz, Isabelle Lacourt, Maurizio Mariani, (2013), La ville qui mange. Ed ECLM, Paris, p. 285, [www.eclm.fr](http://www.eclm.fr)

# The authors

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Agronomist, PhD in soil microbiology, with a master degree in environmental communication, she has been working in Risteco since 2004, taking part to the publication of Risteco handbooks, with a specific focus on Public Food Service environmental impacts; she has also participated to several european projects on vocational training. Co-author of the essay “la ville qui mange” (The eating city), published in 2013, she has worked actively since 2010 to the implementation of the Eating City platform 2010-2014.

## Elena Messina,



Elena Messina, MA degree in Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology is working as researcher at the University in Lausanne. She is member of the Scientific Committee of the Foundation Benvenuti in Italia and of IRInews review. Her current research regards religious dietary law in public institution focusing on the school canteen service. The research is lead in collaboration with various academic institution all over Europe. She also works as a project writer for National and International Grants within different research institution.

## Luca Bossi



Luca Bossi is MA level in Sociology at the University of Turin, Department of Cultural, Political and Social Studies. Since 2012 he works as researcher and member of the Scientific Board of the Fondazione Benvenuti in Italia. His current research analyses religious diversity in public schools, with a focus on family's eating habits and the effects on school canteen service. His main academic interests include the effects of migrations and super-diversity on the public sphere, with a focus on public education and integration programmes. He works as European and National Grants Consultants for public institutions and non-profit organizations. He is founder of Se.Ri.So (Servizi di Ricerca Sociale), a network of young professionals for the social research. He is member of the editorial staff of “IRInews” magazine. He collaborates with public institutions and non-profit organizations as a Cultural Events Planner and Organizer.

## Lenny Martinez



Lenny joined the Eating City Team in 2013, just before graduating from the Master European Politics at Science Po Strasbourg. With Eating City, Lenny carried out a study on best practices in food policies and focused on case studies in four European cities (Copenhagen, Geneva, Geneva, Paris and Nuremberg).

Since February 2014, he has been working as Product Manager in Berlin in the French-German company ForestFinance. The ForestFinance Group is a forest investment provider with almost 20 years of experience and 16.000 clients in Europe, specialized in developing sustainably-managed forestry and agroforestry projects in countries all over the world.

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