

From Policy to Table: building local capacity for sustainable food systems

Onboarding session

Concept note and agenda

When and where?

- Thursday, 9 October 2025, 11:00-12:30h (CET)
- The meeting will take place online, through Teams (link [here](#))

Background and objectives

Cities are increasingly recognised as key actors in building sustainable, inclusive and resilient food systems. They face complex challenges such as tackling food waste, ensuring equitable access to healthy diets, integrating food into climate and social policies, and strengthening local food economies.

The *From Policy to Table* training programme, organised by **Eurocities Academy** in partnership with the **City of Parma (UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy)**, supports city officials in addressing these challenges through applied learning, peer exchange, and hands-on tools.

The onboarding session is the starting point of this learning journey. It is designed to create a shared space where participants meet each other, understand the programme's structure, and begin to reflect on their own city's food policy challenges through the Action Plan exercise.

Specifically, session participants will:

- Get to know the organisers (Eurocities Academy & City of Parma) and each other.
- Understand the programme structure, learning approach, and expected outcomes.
- Be introduced to the Action Plan template as a central tool of the training.
- Share their city's main food policy challenges to shape the learning process.
- Clarify practical information and address any questions.

Draft agenda

11:00 – 11:10 | Welcome and introduction

- Opening remarks by Eurocities Academy and the City of Parma, presentation of session objectives and flow.

11:10 – 11:25 | Getting to know each other

- Short round of introductions (name, city, role, and one expectation from the programme).

11:25 – 11:40 | Introducing the programme

- Overview of the training structure, learning approach, and expect outcomes.

11:40 – 12:05 | City challenges in food policy

- Each city presents its main challenge (2 minutes per city), followed by a short reflection on common themes.

12:05 – 12:20 | The Action Plan as a learning tool

- Presentation of the Action Plan template, its purpose, and how it will be used throughout the programme.

12:20 – 12:30 | Q&A and next steps

- Clarifications on practical information, upcoming sessions, and open space for participants' questions.

How to prepare?

To make the most of this onboarding session, we invite you to:

- **Read** the Welcome Package and the *Action Plan Template* in advance, and identify anything that needs to be clarified.
- **Prepare a short 2-minute presentation** of your city's main food-related challenge you would like to work on during the programme. This will be shared in the session. **No slides or materials are needed.** The goal is to begin building a shared understanding of our diverse perspectives and goals.

List of participants

- **Adelaide Machado Mala**, Psychologist – Department of Green Areas, Health and Climate, Laboratorio Paisagem, City of Guimaraes
- **Adolfo Colagiovanni**, Director of Local Action Group, City of Campobasso
- **Anna-Mari Sopenlehto-Jokinen**, Senior Advisor, Food Aid Development, City of Turku
- **Annalisa Ricciardi**, Focal Point of Alba UNESCO City of Gastronomy, City of Alba
- **Daniel Machado Ferreira**, Research and Development Technician – Biodiversity, Water Resources, Soil and Circular Economy, Laboratorio Paisagem, City of Guimaraes
- **Davide Zarri**, International relations specialist, City of Bologna
- **Dorothee Gangus**, Project Lead, Food System Change, City of Dortmund
- **Edoardo Carminucci**, Councillor, City of Rimini
- **Frida Helene Brett-Smith**, Local Green Derl Manager, Farm to Fork, City of Mannheim
- **Giulia Pelassa**, Project Manager, UNESCO Landscape Langhe-Roero and Monferrato, UNESCO-City of Alba
- **Kjell G. Pettersen**, Adviser, City of Stavanger
- **Kristina Duratna**, Metropolitan projects manager, City of Brno
- **Marco Tonti**, Councillor, City of Rimini
- **Nicoletta Radatta**, Food Policy Officer, City of Campobasso
- **Noora Orvasto**, Senior Advisor, Strategic Coordination, City of Turku
- **Roxana Triboi**, Coordinator Living Lab Food Policy, District 6, Bucharest