

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

In-person training programme – Parma, 13-14 November 2025

Venue: Laboratorio Aperto – Complesso Monumentale di San Paolo

Vicolo delle Asse, 5 – 43123 Parma, Italy

Time	Session Title	Description / Objective
Day 1 – Thursday, 13 November		
09:15–09:30	Registration and welcome	Informal arrival and networking
09:30–10:00	Opening and introduction	<p>Welcome by hosts and presentation of objectives, agenda and participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carlotta Beghi, Food Policy and UNESCO Creative City Office, City of Parma • Guillem Ramírez Chico, Coordinator – Eurocities Academy, Eurocities
10:00–11:15	Understanding food systems: governance, local policy and strategic framing	<p>An introduction to the key facts, figures and governance frameworks shaping urban food systems — exploring their impact on health, climate and social equity. The session will discuss how cities can drive the transition towards sustainable food systems, the risks of a narrow “food security” narrative, and the role of city networks such as the MUFPP and Eurocities in supporting local food governance through initiatives like Food Trails.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Madeleine Coste, Head of Food, Eurocities
11:15–11:45	Coffee break	
11:45–13:00	Food justice and food insecurity	<p>Identify approaches to reduce food insecurity and promote more equitable access to food, particularly for vulnerable communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rosalia Filippini and Filippo Arfini, University of Parma
13:00–14:00	Lunch	Hosted by the City of Parma
14:00–15:30	Sustainability and resilience in urban food systems	<p>Explore how cities can reduce environmental impacts and increase resilience in their food systems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rosalia Filippini and Filippo Arfini, University of Parma
15:30–15:45	Coffee break	

15:45–17:00	Case study & city challenges: learning from Bergamo	The City of Bergamo presents its integrated food policy approach, leveraging the power of local gastronomy, tracing the implementation of the policy from conception to impact. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nadia Tonoli, Food Policy officer, City of Bergamo
17:00–17:30	Wrap-up day 1	Participants come together to discuss their key learning takeaways from day 1 of the training.

Time	Session Title	Description / Objective
Day 2 – Friday, 14 November		
09:00–09:15	Welcome back	Overview of the day's agenda
09:15–10:30	Funding and implementing urban food policies	Gain practical knowledge on how to mobilise resources and implement effective food policies, from a real-life case. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cristina Sossan, Food Policy area, City of Milan
10:30–11:00	Coffee break	
11:00–12:15	Food as driver of local economic development	Understand how cities can leverage food policy to promote economic development, cultural identity and tourism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mario Marini, Head of the Territorial Marketing and City Branding Office, City of Parma
12:15–13:15	Lunch	Hosted by the City of Parma
13:15–15:30	Peer feedback on action plans	Participants will first take time to assess what they have learned in the previous sessions and apply it to their city's challenge. They will then form small groups and present their action plans, strategies and solutions to groupmates. Within groups, participants will give feedback and share best practices in order to refine responses to local challenges. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitated by Eurocities
15:30–16:00	Final wrap-up and evaluation	Final reflections, feedback collection, and closing remarks

List of participants

1. **Adelaide Machado Mala**, Psychologist – Department of Green Areas, Health and Climate, Laboratório Paisagem, City of Guimarães
2. **Adolfo Colagiovanni**, Director of Local Action Group, City of Campobasso
3. **Andreea Voineag**, Department of Urban Planning and Mobility, City of Bucharest
4. **Anna-Mari Sopenlehto-Jokinen**, Senior Advisor, Food Aid Development, City of Turku
5. **Davide Zarri**, International relations specialist, City of Bologna
6. **Dorothee Gangus**, Project Lead, Food System Change, City of Dortmund
7. **Edoardo Carminucci**, Councillor, City of Rimini
8. **Giulia Pelassa**, Project Manager, UNESCO Landscape Langhe-Roero and Monferrato, UNESCO-City of Alba
9. **Kjell G. Pettersen**, Adviser, City of Stavanger
10. **Kristina Duratna**, Metropolitan projects manager, City of Brno
11. **Marco Tonti**, Councillor, City of Rimini
12. **Nicoletta Radatta**, Food Policy Officer, City of Campobasso
13. **Noora Orvasto**, Senior Advisor, Strategic Coordination, City of Turku
14. **Roxana Triboi**, Coordinator Living Lab Food Policy, District 6, Bucharest