



## Good Practice Summary

### Food for cities: a strategic key driver for fostering Urban renovation and growth

#### **The framework of Milan food policy**

Nowadays cities are facing common challenges due to the increase the number of inhabitants and their concentration in urban and suburban areas. Therefore, a primary issue for cities is to provide healthy food for citizens in a sustainable way to ensure the right to food for everyone. Urban food policy becomes therefore a key driver for the development of other sectors of cities, as happened in Milan, where food policy were fundamental for the renovation of suburban areas: in *Lorenteggio*, where the traditional local market was valorized as a commercial space becoming also a social hub and in *Porto di Mare* area, where the ancient farmhouse will be restored to become a living lab for promoting open innovation and fostering entrepreneurship.

Food for Milan is strategic also for entrepreneurship, as for the implementation of a civic crowdfunding platform in the framework of urban food policy, to finance social projects for the development of an accessible city, the creation of new services for workers, increasing living quality and the promotion of social enterprise projects based on “food”.

#### **Important milestones**

The Food Policy of Milan is included in *the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP)*, the first international pact on urban food policies, implemented through the following steps.

On February 2014, during the C40 Summit in Johannesburg, the former Mayor of Milan, Mr Giuliano Pisapia, proposed a Pact on urban food policies to be signed during Expo 2015 and cities started discussing to define the contents of the Pact. The Pact was signed on 15th October 2015 by 100 cities, with an official ceremony. On 16th October 2015, the MUFPP was officially presented to Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations on the occasion of the World Food Day celebrations in Expo Milano 2015.

The renovated historical market of *Lorenteggio* was opened on the 8<sup>th</sup> October 2016 thanks to the contribution of *Dynamoscopio* association, while intervention on the *Cascina Nosedo* farmhouse in the *Porto di Mare* area will be implemented through the *Open-Agri project*, whose activities started in November 2016 and, so far, the feasibility study for the restructuring of the Cascina Nosedo farmhouse has been approved. From April 2017 on, activities for the development of for the Open Innovation Hub, social lab activities will start, as well as the implementation of system of Aquaponics for the production of healthy food and creation of an OffiCucina for food innovators.

The creation of the civic crowdfunding platform was approved on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2014 by the Council of the City of Milan, encouraging private actions in the social filed strengthening the connection between public, social private and enterprises for financing social initiatives and 400.000,00 € were allocated for an experimentation of 18 months and some projects related to the theme of food were approved (e.g. *So Lunch project*).

#### **Paths towards the implementation of the Food Policy of Milan**

The actions of the good practice are linked to the importance of Food policy to solve problems of the municipality, fostering growth in a sustainable and integrated way. The Milan food policy started in 2014 with the signature of a MoU with the *Cariplo Foundation* for the promotion of a comprehensive strategy on food for the city. Then, an analysis of the urban food system was carried out, whose results are documented in the documents: "*10 issues of the Food Policy*". Consultations with the city council, third sector associations, citizens and start-ups followed, whose outcomes were summarized in the "*100 ideas of the Milanese on food policy*". Finally, the city council approved the guidelines of the International Food Policy Milan October 5, 2015 through the resolution CC. no. 25 -Food Policy Milan).



### **Impact of the best practice and main achievements**

The main outputs of the best practice are: the signature and implementation of the *Milan Urban Food Policy Pact* as a concrete result of the discussion on food policy in the city and also a transnational level, the restructuring of the historical *Lorenteggio Market* with the regeneration of the whole area, the restoration of the *Cascina Nosedo* farmhouse, the implementation of a civic crowdfunding platform for innovative project of social impact. The MUFPP is the first international pact on urban food policies discussing the themes of food wasting and promoting sustainable ways to provide food respecting fundamental rights of workers and of human rights.

The practice has also an integrated urban dimension because it affects and improves different problems the city has to deal with: food can be considered as changing key in the social, economic, building and entrepreneurial field.

### **Monitoring process**

The food policy in Milan has been monitored by the private foundation “Fondazione Cariplo” together with the teamwork of Mayor’s Office through a Monitoring table, while FAO is providing technical assistance to the Municipality of Milan for formulating monitoring indicators to monitor the progress and results achieved by the signatory cities of MUFPP. The Milan City Council could adopt the MUFPP indicators as indicators for its Food Policy.

### **Potentiality and improvement of the best practice**

“Though food” is an innovated way to approach urban issues, so that this best practice can be potentially adapted to solve other urban problems providing suitable answers. Food is the base of civil society development impacting on urban policies: the right of food is a citizen’s issue, while urban food policy is the response of cities and local authorities to those request. In this framework, the knowledge of urban food policies could be spread in other cities to raise awareness on the importance of these resolutions.