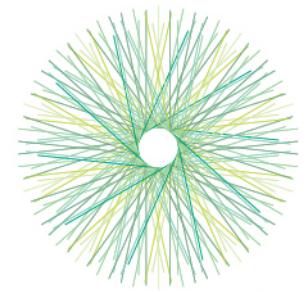


Press article Cities and food

DECEMBER 2017



eip-agri
AGRICULTURE & INNOVATION

Press article 500words

Local farmers producing food for nurseries and primary schools in Ljubljana

Municipalities supporting local farmers

When public institutions like primary schools and nurseries purchase food, they can shorten the distance between farmers and urban consumers. One way of doing so is by including selection criteria in their public tenders for food, like the 'capacity to deliver fresh products within a certain number of days after harvest'. "Some schools in the city of Ljubljana have direct contact with local farmers, others work with a cooperative that is distributing the food", says Vesna Erhart, external expert for the Sector for Rural Development at the Department of Environmental Protection of the Municipality of Ljubljana, Slovenia.

The Municipality of Ljubljana wants to promote buying food from local farmers. The municipal government is responsible for nurseries and primary schools, and brings them into contact with the farmers. But that offers quite some challenges. Erhart: "The circa 800 farms around Ljubljana are small to medium-sized. This implies that, to meet its food needs, a school has to buy produce from a range of small farmers, which in turn brings along a logistical challenge. In this case, one of the solutions is to work with distributors that collect produce from the farmers and deliver it to the school. Another challenge is that schools do not have that much personnel to cook, so they are in need of food that is already half or fully prepared. Bigger farms can provide what schools need, like peeled potatoes, and cleaned and cut salad greens. Therefore, they are the frontrunners in working with the procurement tenders."

Erhart's main task is to connect small and medium-sized farms with the persons in charge of buying food at nurseries and primary schools. This year, she and colleagues at the Sector for Rural Development started organising workshops for farmers and school employees, like catering personnel and headmasters. Celebrity television cook Primož Dolničar, and Danijel Habjan, a cook at the local primary school in Stranje, prepared dishes made from local and seasonal food. The buckwheat pie with caramelised shallot and pumpkin turned out to be a big success. Erhart: "When seeing the ingredients, the participating school employees were sceptical at first. However, after tasting it and seeing that it could be prepared so easily, they said 'OK, this could work for our kids.'"

The tasting was followed by a food market. Farmers, including those from smaller farms, shared what they can produce in different seasons, and school employees placed orders. Erhart: "I really like to follow a step-by-step approach. Once the small-scale farms have made their first arrangements with the schools, these smaller farms may produce more and eventually apply for the larger and more complex procurement tenders."

To prepare the tenders, schools can get the help of the procurement department of the Municipality of Ljubljana. And with result: having assisted in the preparation of 60 public tenders for food procurements over the last three years, the average share of locally produced food that has been bought has doubled, from 6 to 12 percent. Erhart is happy with these achievements: "We are proud that we can enable primary schools and nurseries to buy food from even the smallest farmers, and that quality meals are served."

Press article 250words

Local farmers producing food for nurseries and primary schools in Ljubljana

Municipalities supporting local farmers

When public institutions like primary schools and nurseries purchase food, they can shorten the distance between farmers and urban consumers. The Municipality of Ljubljana, Slovenia, wants to promote buying food from local farmers. Vesna Erhart, external expert for the Sector for Rural Development at the Department of Environmental Protection of the municipality, says: "The circa 800 farms around Ljubljana are small to medium-sized. This implies that, to meet its food needs, a school has to buy produce from a range of small farmers, which in turn brings along a logistical challenge. Bigger farms can provide what schools need, like peeled potatoes and cleaned and cut salad greens. Therefore, they are the frontrunners in working with the procurement tenders."

Erhart's main task is to connect small and medium-sized farms with the persons in charge of buying food at nurseries and primary schools. Celebrity television cook Primož Dolničar, and Danijel Habjan, a cook from the local primary school in Stranje, prepared dishes made from local and seasonal food. Erhart: "When seeing the ingredients, the participating school employees were sceptical at first." The tasting was followed by a food market. Farmers, including those from smaller farms, shared what they can produce in different seasons, and school employees placed orders. "Once the small-scale farms have made their first arrangements with the schools, these smaller farms may produce more and eventually apply for the larger and more complex procurement tenders", says Erhart.

To prepare the tenders, schools can get the help of the procurement department of the Municipality of Ljubljana. Erhart is happy with the achievements: "We are proud that we can enable primary schools and nurseries to buy food from even the smallest farmers, and that quality meals are served."

Background information

In October 2017, Ljubljana has been awarded a special mention at the [Milan Pact Awards 2017](#) for their short food supply chain work in the category Food supply and distribution.

The MPA awards the best urban practices in sustainable food management of the [160 Milan Urban Food Policy Pact \(MUFPP\) cities](#). It comprises two monetary prizes and six special mentions.

The 160 cities, include a lot of European cities, such as: Almere, Amsterdam, Athens, Barcelona, Berlin, Birmingham, Bordeaux, Bruges, Bucharest, Copenhagen, Florence, Frankfurt, Genoa, Ghent, Grenoble, Liège, Ljubljana, London, Lyon, Madrid, Malaga, Marseille, Milan, Montpellier, Moscow, Nantes, Palermo, Paris, Rennes, Riga, Rome, Rotterdam, s-Hertogenbosch, Thessaloniki, Utrecht, Valencia, Venice, Vienna, Warsaw.

Pictures



In one of the on-farm workshops, celebrity television cook Primož Dolničar is preparing vegetarian autumn-inspired meals. Copyright: Markovčič, Municipality of Ljubljana

[Download the high resolution pictures](#)

More information on cities and food

- [EIP-AGRI Workshop Cities & Food](#)
- [EIP-AGRI Factsheet Cities & Food](#)
- [EIP-AGRI Focus Group Short Food Supply Chain](#)
- [EIP-AGRI Factsheet Short Food Supply Chain](#)
- [Agrinnovation magazine n°4 – with many Short Food Supply Chain examples](#)

EIP-AGRI Inspiration from your country on cities & food

Here below you find a list of topics that have been covered in one of the EIP-AGRI events and / or EIP-AGRI publications.

EU	Moya Kneafsey: 'Reconnecting Cities, Farmers and Food: Why and how?' (TED talk)	Presentation workshop Cities & Food
Austria	Bernhard Kromp: 'Criteria for Green Public Food Procurement in Vienna: Status Quo and perspectives'	Presentation workshop Cities & Food
Austria	Bauernkiste	Final report Focus Group SFC p. 74
Belgium	Smart logistics to connect producers and consumers	Inspirational idea
Belgium	Patrick Pasgang: 'Distribution of added value in the chain: cases from Belgium'	Presentation workshop Cities & Food
Belgium	Distrikempen - A B2B logistics platform between farmers and clients	Final report Focus Group SFC p. 69
Czech Republic	Selling dairy products from a milk van	Inspirational idea
Denmark	Betina Bergmann Madsen: 'Inspiration for the future - Green public procurement in the municipality of Copenhagen'	Presentation workshop Cities & Food
Estonia	The Farm Market Co-operative	Final report Focus Group SFC p. 47
France	Bastien Farges: 'Connecting Consumers and Producers - Funding innovative projects'	Presentation workshop Cities & Food

France	Gilles Marechal: 'Land for young farmers and SFCs in Brittany'	Presentation workshop Cities & Food
France	Ici.C.Local participatory labelling system	Final report Focus Group SFC p. 50
France	Facilitating Access to Land for Agri-Rural Innovations	Final report Focus Group SFC p. 62
Greece	Fresh farm milk for city dwellers	Agrinnovation n°4 – p. 7
Hungary	"HÁZIKÓ's fresh treats connect the city and countryside"	Final report Focus Group SFC p. 67
Italy	Maria Bottiglieri: 'Good practices to fulfill the Right to Food of Turin citizens'	Presentation workshop Cities & Food
Montenegro	Food traceability from honey to hive	Agrinnovation n°4 – p. 16
Netherlands	Jan Willem Van Der Schans: 'Distribution of added value in the chain'	Presentation workshop Cities & Food
Netherlands	Mark Frederiks: 'Local2Local, a business model to access new markets in Utrecht region'	Presentation workshop Cities & Food
Netherlands	Landwinkel - A Farmer-Led Co-operative of 'Country Shops'	Final report Focus Group SFC p. 44
Netherlands	Producer and Consumer Collaboration	Final report Focus Group SFC p. 64
Poland	Marta Jeruszka Bielak: 'I know what I eat: Education and awareness raising about the importance of good food systems in schools and kindergartens in Warsaw'	Presentation workshop Cities & Food
Poland	Mark Füssel: 'Public campaigning for organic local food'	Presentation workshop Cities & Food
Poland	Local products from Malopolska	Final report Focus Group SFC p. 37
Slovenia	Delivering local food to consumers in Ljubljana	Inspirational idea
Spain	Nerea Mórán: 'Madrid: Urban gardens as part of the City Food System'	Presentation workshop Cities & Food
UK	"We don't just sell products, we sell the experience!"	Inspirational idea
UK	Rob Alderson: 'Short supply chains in Manchester'	Presentation workshop Cities & Food
UK	Scotland: building up a multi service organic farm shop, restaurant and education centre	Final report Focus Group SFC p. 53
UK	England: Suffolk Food Hall – Scaling up without Reducing Profit Margins	Final report Focus Group SFC p. 59
UK	Duncan Catchpole: 'How to run a successful short food supply chain enterprise in Cambridge, Box Schemes and Food Hubs'	Presentation workshop Cities & Food

EIP-AGRI

The European Innovation Partnership 'Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability' (EIP-AGRI) is one of five EIPs which have been launched by the European Commission in a bid to promote rapid modernisation of the sectors concerned, by stepping up innovation efforts.

The EIP-AGRI aims to foster innovation in the agricultural and forestry sectors by bringing research and practice closer together – in research and innovation projects as well as via the EIP-AGRI network.

EIPs aim to streamline, simplify and better coordinate existing instruments and initiatives, and complement them with actions where necessary. Two specific funding sources are particularly important for the EIP-AGRI: the EU Research and Innovation framework, Horizon 2020, as well as the EU Rural Development Policy.

- [EIP-AGRI Brochure on the EIP-AGRI Network \(2015\)](#) (EN – FR – GR – HU – IT – PT – RO - SP)

- [EIP-AGRI Brochure on Funding opportunities under Horizon 2020 - 2018 Calls](#) (EN)

EIP-AGRI Operational Groups

EIP-AGRI Operational Groups are groups of people who work together in an innovation project funded by Rural Development Programmes (RDPs). Operational Groups are the EIP-AGRI's main tool for turning innovative ideas into real solutions for the field.

An Operational Group consists of several partners with a common interest in a specific, practical innovation project. The people involved in the Operational Group should bring in different types of practical and, where necessary, scientific expertise. They may include farmers, scientists, agri-business representatives and many others. Every country or region has the possibility to define specific national demands or restrictions on how to put together an Operational Group.

- Visit the [Operational Groups page](#) on the [EIP-AGRI website](#)
- [EIP-AGRI Brochure on Operational Groups: Turning your idea into innovation \(update 2016\)](#) (EN – CZ – FR - HU – PT - RO- SP)

More information on Operational Groups in your country

If you would like to cover a story on an Operational Group in your own country,

you can find following information on the EIP-AGRI website:

- [Check if your country will/ has set up Operational Groups](#)
- [Check if your country has set up a website where you can find information on the OGs which have been selected for funding](#)
- [Contact the Managing Authority in your country to find out more](#)
- [Check the EIP-AGRI meeting point for Operational Groups in your country](#)
- [Contact the EIP-AGRI press officer to help you further: ina.vanhoye@eip-agri.eu](#)

Contact information

Communication officer
EIP-AGRI Service Point
ina.vanhoye@eip-agri.eu
+32 486 90 77 43