CITIES’ ACTIONS TO PREVENT FOOD WASTE AND PROMOTE FOOD DONATION: EXAMPLE OF MILAN AND COOPERATION WITH OTHER EUROPEAN CITIES

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Vilnius, 24 May 2018, EU Platform Food Losses and Waste
The City of Milan developed in 2015 the Milan Food Policy that acts on the urban food system with a multidimensional approach around 5 key priorities, 16 guidelines, 18 actionos: food losses and waste reduction being one of the most important, engaging several local actors such as research centers, food businesses, food banks, non profit organizations, foundations.

4 GUIDELINES FOR FOOD LOSSES AND WASTE

The Municipality in cooperation with local actors

1. Promote actions of information and education addressed to citizens and local actors in order to reduce losses and waste.

2. Promote recovery and redistribution of food losses creating relations among the local players (charities and food banks).

3. Promote more rational use of packaging.

4. Promote circular economy in the field of food system.
In 2018 Milan adopted a reduction on the waste tax for food losses donation. This new regulation aims to **reduce 20% of the tax** for the first year in favour of **food businesses** (supermarkets, restaurants, canteens, producers etc.) that donate their food losses to charities.

**Multi-departments action:**
- Fiscal dpt.
- Environmental dpt.
- Food Policy Office
- Environmental Municipal Agency

**Indirect effect:** the measure will also support the mapping, strengthening and spreading of food donation ongoing initiatives led by non profit organizations in the city.

**Technical consultation**
Food system and charities actors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CITY COUNCIL VOTE</th>
<th>Food businesses need to send at Municipality an INITIAL COMMUNICATION</th>
<th>At the end of the year the food businesses must send a FINAL REPORT TO THE MUNICIPALITY containing the amount of food donation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OCT 2017</td>
<td>30 APRIL 2018</td>
<td>30 APRIL 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>FEB 2018</td>
<td>30 APRIL 2018</td>
<td>30 APRIL 2019</td>
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<td>30 APRIL 2018</td>
<td>30 APRIL 2019</td>
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<td></td>
<td>FIRST pilot year: 20% reduction</td>
<td>from SECOND year: max 50% reduction</td>
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**Technical consultation with food system and charities actors**
106 school canteens on a total of 418 connected by charities food donation system

150 Tons
- 91 Tons of fruit
- 50 Tons of bread
- 9 Tons of complete meals from cooking centers

31,000 reusable doggy bags to bring home non perishable leftovers.
Waste Management Municipal Agency is supporting a non-profit association active in the open street markets for food recovery and donation by engaging people in need.

11 pilot market on total of 86

150kg / market / week

90 Tons per year
PILOT PROJECT: LOCAL FOOD WASTE HUB (2017)

To support the recovery from small local actors, the municipality facilitated an agreement among a university lab (model management and data analysis) and a private sector union (that gathers supermarkets and companies with canteens) to develop a pilot project in three neighborhoods for food losses redistribution at local level.

Food Losses: **70 Tons** per year for each hub (250kg per day)

The first “Local Food Waste Hub” will be **hosted in a space** offered by the Municipality of Milan.

**Actors in the first pilot area**
- 5 private canteens
- 3 supermarket
- 1 street market
- 5 non-profit organization

In the course of the pilot year the **input and output flows of donation in the hub will be monitored** and this knowledge will be spread to **another 35 local organizations** mapped by the Food Policy.
Building **common initiative** through workshops involving **35 local actions**. Presence of **funding opportunities** build by Municipality (1 mln euro), and Cariplo Foundation (5 mln euro).
FOCUS ON MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE (2018)

EACH CIRCLE IS A DIFFERENT INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL

POLICY INSTRUMENTS

- European Platform for Food Losses and Waste DG SANTE
- EU Guidelines for Food Donation
- Spreading the knowledge
- Refresh Community of Expert
- 61 European Cities
- Eurocities WQ Food
- 19 Italian Cities
- MUFFP

URBAN PRACTICES

- Lombardy Region
- DG Environment
- Lombardy Region
- DG Environment
- - Agreement with Distributors
- - Food Donation Fund
- - INTERREG CIRCE
- Food Waste National Law 144/2014
- Introduction of the possibility of Tax Reduction at Municipal level
- Lombardy Region DG Environment
- - Agreement with Distributors
- - Food Donation Fund
- - INTERREG CIRCE
- Waste Tax reduction
- 20% for food businesses
- Agreement with University and Private Sector association
- Prevention and Education
- Morning break with fruit
- 31,000 doggy bag
- Circular Economy
- Brown for Compost and Biogas

Lombardy Region, Stakeholder Group CircE project, November 2017.

The city is part of the Interreg CircE stakeholder group, led by Regional Authority, on circular economy focused on food waste.

Milan is supporting the Regional Authority for spreading the Tax Reduction in other Lombardy municipalities.
ENGAGING OTHER ITALIAN MUFPP SIGNATORY CITIES (2018)

Political talk with other Italian cities for sharing knowledge:
- **Rome** – Local network of food donation
- **Milan** – Tax reduction for food donation
- **Turin** – Redistribution from local markets
- **Genoa** – ICT platform and local network
- **Modena** – Food bag in canteens and restaurants
- **Cremona** – Actions in school canteens
From 2016 Milan chairs the Eurocities Working Group Food with 51 member cities.

4 April 2018: Working Group Food meeting in Amsterdam on Food Losses and Waste to collect urban practices engaging city officers and municipal agencies.
The aim of this document is to share an overview on the ongoing actions about **Food Losses and Waste in European Cities** for a better understanding of the practices and the role that local authorities can play to support them.

From each practices we clusterized:

- the kind of **actors involved**
- the kind of **actions developed**
- the kind of **final goal**
ACTORS INVOLVED AND ACTIONS DEVELOPED (2018)

ACTORS
- Public
- Private
- Social

ACTIONS
- Puntual drivers
- Institutional drivers

ACTORS:
- Schools
- Supermarkets
- Food banks
- Public agencies
- Waste plants
- Hospitals

ACTIONS:
- Competition
- Reduced portions
- Ugly fruit
- Community fridges
- Agreement
- Campaigns

Locations:
- Brussels
- Gothenburg
- Helsinki
- Sandvall
- Milan
- Utrecht
- 's-Hertogenbosch
- Antwerp
- Ghent
- Amsterdam
- Tilburg
- Paris
- Bruges
- Riga
- London
- Birmingham
- Edinburgh
- Bologna
- Venice
- Milan
- The Hague
- Helsinki
- Bar
- London
- Porto
- Dublin
- Barcelona
- Lisbon
LESSON LEARNED AND KEY FACTORS

1. Cities need to **analyze their food system** and public drivers to **discover food losses** (municipal agencies, public markets, school canteens, etc.).

2. Cities need to **understand and reinforce the local actors** active in networks of FLW for food donation.

3. Cities need to **create umbrella initiatives** (like platforms, networks, incentives, campaigns etc.) in order to offer concrete actions to their stakeholders and reach common goal.

4. **Urban networks** (Eurocities, FoodWIN, C40, etc.) play a fundamental role for exchanging experiences, inspire and train city officers.

5. Cities need **municipal officers dedicated to food policy** that will work with multidimensional approach engaging and facilitating common initiatives to different city departments, municipal agencies, research centers, food banks, main stakeholders and local actors, major food businesses.