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Universidad de Valladolid

Project "Enhancing capacity of universities to initiate and to participate in clusters development on innovation and sustainability principles" (UniClaD)

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Food Policy and Governance for a Urban Food System Transformation

27 October 2021

Food Policy and Governance for a Urban Food System

Transformation

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1- INTRODUCTION

1. General introduction

The world demand for food is expected to double by 2050 (FAO, 2003);

➔ Food security has become an urgent concern.

➔ Urban agriculture should be developed (Rathmell, 2013).

Fighting food waste and ensuring food security means working with all key players in the public and private sectors to better identify, measure, understand and find solutions to combat this waste; which will:

➔ Save food for human consumption;

➔ Save money; and

➔ Reduce the environmental impact of food production and consumption.

2- CONCEPTS AND DEFINITION

2. Concepts and definitions

Food Policy

"*any decision made by a government institution that determines what kind of food is used or available". (*Hamilton; 2002)

"*any decision made by a government agency, business or organization that affects the way food is produced, processed, distributed, purchased and protected."*
(*National and Local Food Policy Project; 2020)

Thus, the mission of food policy:

"*goes from the way food is produced and grown, to the way it is processed, distributed and consumed*" (Coff & Kemp, 2014).

Food Policies cover issues such as:

Agricultural policy;   *Food safety; and*   *Environmental standards.*

2. Concepts and definitions

Food Governance

There is a lack of a method of integration and issues related to the governance of the food system to be addressed.

Objectives:

- Provide knowledge, structure and conditions to achieve an effective transformation of the food system ➔ involves the human and environmental dimension.

Food system governance focus on *how to effectively address these changes*, overcoming existing obstacles for a coherent design adapted to local political conditions and associated actions ensuring a viable path for transformation.

2. Concepts and definitions

Current situation in Europe

Food system in European countries has developed its capacity to guarantee a high degree of food security and self-sufficiency.

The concept of insecurity is related to:

- *Food leading to health problems rather than to a lack of access to food;*
- *Production and transportation costs rather than to a lack of resources.*

Food policy in European countries represents a crossroads of issues related to:

- *The quantitative and qualitative adoption of agricultural*
- *Food regulation to provide healthy food at cost-effective prices;*
- *Food distribution, nationally and internationally; and*
- *Research planning in agriculture and agribusiness.*

Living Labs

Objective: implement different innovative actions at all stages of the food chain: production, consumption, food loss and waste, and governance.

➔ *Develop urban food plans to achieve healthy, sustainable, safe, and profitable food systems.*

The four priorities of the EU's FOOD2030 policy are:

- *Nutrition for sustainable and healthy food;*
- *Climate smart and environmentally sustainable food systems;*
- *Circularity and resource efficient food systems; and*
- *Innovation and community empowerment.*

Note: Living labs engage all actors in its research and policy efforts

3- METHODOLOGY

3. Methodology

The methodology plan that should be adopted to ensure a right food governance over the world is the Following:

- *Phase 1:* *Set up a Food Living lab;*
- *Phase 2:* *Knowledge Community methodology for creation and managing;*
- *Phase 3:* *Implementation and evaluation of policies and actions;*
- *Phase 4:* *Scaling and replicability strategy.*

3. Methodology

Phase 1: Set up a Food Living lab:

The creation of living labs will be operationalized in two stages:

- *The identification of good practices;* and

- *The implementation of innovative food policies and actions*

➔ Creation of a roadmap made up of 3 essential steps:

- Knowing the *"current state "* of food systems and designing possible *"future states";*

- Testing the food systems planned for the future;

- *Evaluate the impact* of the experience compared to the "current state" in order to iterate the "future state" and the associated chronology for each of them.

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3. Methodology

Phase 2: Knowledge Community methodology for creation and managing

Objective: ensure the sharing of knowledge and promote the harmonization of impact assessment procedures ➜ allow cities to design comparable strategies.

Knowledge management involves a continuous cycle of processes, namely:

- Skills creation: analysis and organization of knowledge;

- Knowledge distribution: via portals and web tools (forums, meetings, social networks…)

- Knowledge use: implementing knowledge in specific policies and actions.

3. Methodology

Phase 3: Implementation and evaluation of policies and actions

Which means, to adopt short-term urban food planning policies and actions and decide which are the most appropriate to deploy.

Phase 4: Scaling and replicability strategy:

This methodology will pave the way for market-ready opportunities, and will be implemented through the formulation of business plans allowing the food transition of cities, and support for local start-ups.

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4- SHOWCASES' PROJECTS AROUND THE WORLD

- *Lufa Farms in Montreal (Quebec, Canada)*

- *GETLINI EKO in Riga*

- *Alimenta ConCiencia in Segovia*

4. Showcases' projects around the world

Lufa Farms in Montreal (Quebec, Canada)

Founded in 2009.

Objective: Installation of commercial greenhouses on the roofs of industrial buildings, growing food there, while using less space and resources to minimize environmental impacts and remaining completely transparent

➔ Produce fresh and healthy food all year round, even in the dead of winter.

Figure 1: *The Rooftop Production greenhouse of Lufa Farms*

4. Showcases' projects around the world

Lufa Farms uses "hydroponics systems": use of water and nutrients to ensure product development.

➔ Grow five varieties of tomatoes, two types of cucumbers, three different varieties of peppers, eggplants, various herbs and lettuce, bok choy, cabbage- rave and chard

Figure 2: Hydroponic systems

NOTE: *"Not everything can be grown on rooftops"*

Lufa Farms delivers fresh food from its rooftops feeding about 2% of the population of Greater Montreal, Trois-Rivières and Quebec City (Lufa farms, 2018).

4. Showcases' projects around the world

GETLINI EKO (Waste disposal site)

Objective:

- *Creates and develops modern and safe waste as a recycling center,*

- *Reuse of this waste* (Markgraf, 2016).

- Ensure improvement of the quality of the services provided; and

- Reduction of the impact on the environment

Figure 3: Getliņi Landfill (Source: Getlini's Website)

GETLIŅI

4. Showcases' projects around the world

GETLINI EKO

The elimination of food waste leads to the release of a certain enema gas

➔ *collected and transformed into usable energy (electricity and heat):*

The heat produced is used in the economic operations of the company and also used to grow vegetables in **Geltini greenhouses.**

Water is collected and cleaned and reused again ➔ minimise the waste environmental impact.

Vegetables grown in the Getlini Greenhouses:

- Off-season tomatoes;
- Cucumbers (*LED lighting)* ; and
- Hanging flowers.

Figure 4: Getliņi Landfill

Alimenta ConCiencia

Alimenta ConCiencia is a *Sustainable Agri-Food Strategy* in the Province of Segovia.

Objective: starting the *transition towards a sustainable Agri-Food System*

➔ *By reconsideration of our knowledge, attitude and practices of how to produce, distribute and consume food.*

This objective will be achieved by doing these three tasks:

- *Create a collaborative platform;*

- *Transform the proximity context facilitating sustainable feeding;*

- *Promote a creative entrepreneurial culture amongst the citizens;*

5- CONCLUSION

5. Conclusion

Food policy touches on a wide range of interrelated policies, making it an extremely complex and diverse field.

The creation of living labs will help identify good food practices and sustainable food policies and actions ➔ *achieve a healthy, sustainable, safe, equitable, and profitable food system.*

The transformation of the food system requires a solid plan and methodology, composed of policies and actions, *and based on participatory processes:*

➔ *Create an arena to allow participants to express their opinions and critique decisions.*

➔ *Conduct forums, webinars, and participatory interventions to raise awareness of the importance of food policy and present ways to preserve it.*

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Thank you for your attention

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