

ICLEI Europe works to make food systems sustainable

Food is linked to every facet of sustainable urban development. More than 70% of food is currently consumed by urban residents, and this share will only increase as urban populations continue to grow. The food systems that these urban dwellers rely on can also have detrimental impacts on nature and climate – food systems account for up to 37% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Changes in urban communities’ diets have also resulted in negative health impacts.

Food systems link multiple sectors from energy, to water, infrastructure, the economy, climate change, and to health and well-being – these sectors span the public, private and civil society spheres. This is why coordinated action and shared responsibility between local, regional and national levels is key to transforming food production and consumption in a systemic way.

ICLEI Europe is a strong advocate for food systems transformation from local to global levels, and firmly believes in the demonstrated power of the (public) plate to address and help meet the global Sustainable Development Goals.



Our experts in sustainable and just food systems offer training and technical assistance to local and regional governments and represent them in European and global policy processes in order to:

- ✦ Support cities in improving local food environments through concrete measures including sustainable public food procurement, consumer behaviour change, food waste reduction, multi-stakeholder collaboration.
- ✦ Strengthen multi-level governance for food system change by fostering strategic collaborations between local and regional governments, businesses, civil society and academia, and by advocating for the crucial role of local authorities at international levels.
- ✦ Help cities use food as an entry point for systemic change and urban sustainability decisions, developing strong food policies and embedding food into their planning processes, to benefit people, nature and climate.

“ Food cuts across all parts of sustainable urban life – it relates to urban planning, mobility, health, pollution, green space, and so much more. That is precisely why sustainable food systems change has such huge potential! ”

**Jakub Mazur,
Deputy Mayor,
Wrocław
(Poland)**



ICLEI'S STRATEGIC INVOLVEMENT

ICLEI Europe leads:

- ✦ **ICLEI's Global CityFood Programme** in cooperation with ICLEI's World Secretariat and other Regional Offices, ensuring effective coordination of our food-related projects throughout the world, and supporting cities with training, policy guidance and technical expertise.
- ✦ The Public Food Procurement Taskforce as part of the **EU Food Policy Coalition**, a coalition of 60+ civil society organisations advocating for an effective transition to sustainable food systems through policy integration and alignment; ICLEI also co-leads the **One Planet Network Interest Group on Sustainable Food Procurement** with the FAO.
- ✦ The EU-wide **Buy Better Food campaign** (BBF), which calls on EU, national and local policy makers to leverage the potential of public food procurement for positive change.

ICLEI Europe also works in close cooperation:

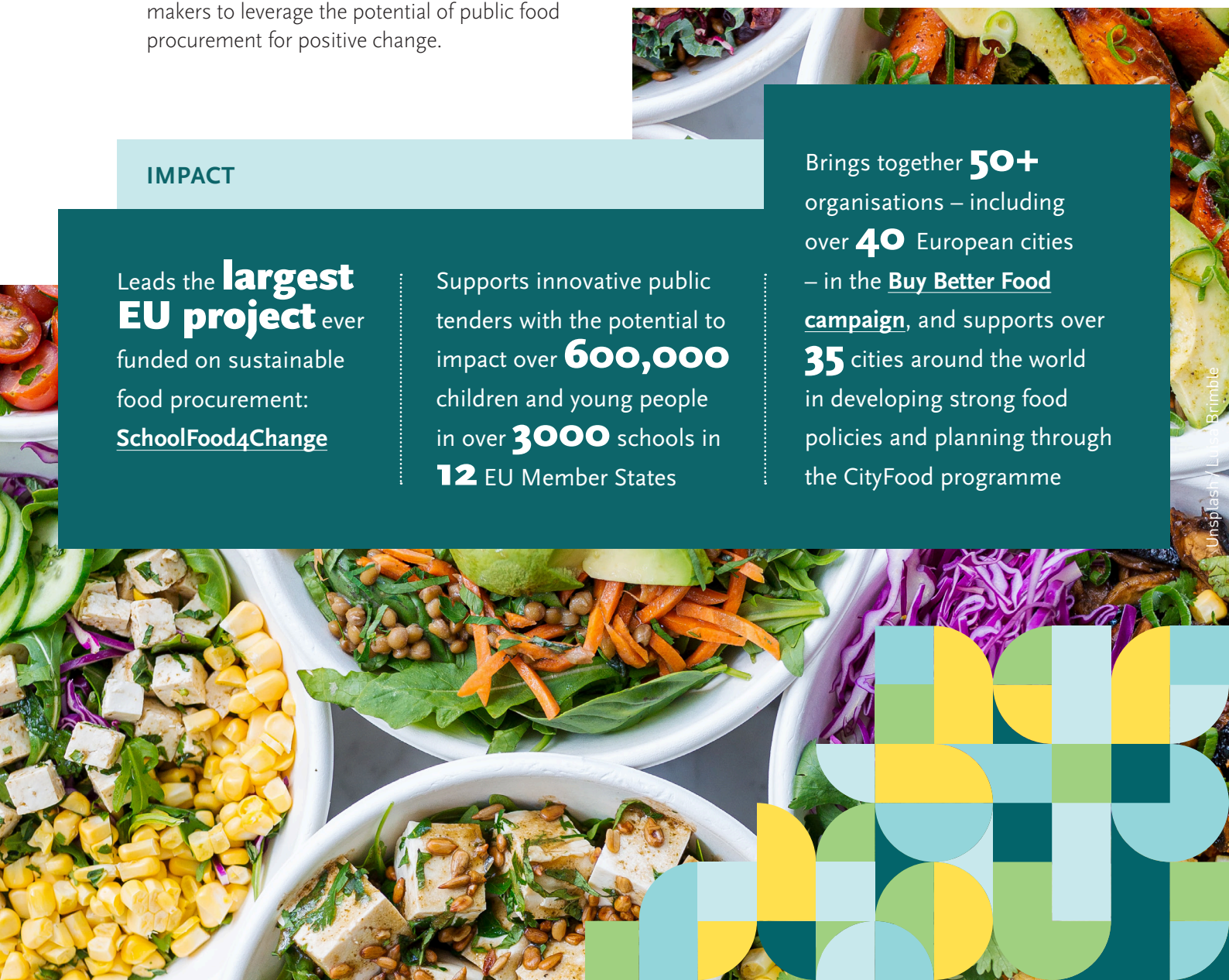
- ✦ With the European Commission and other stakeholders on the **EU Farm to Fork Strategy**, including developing a **Farm to Fork Procurement Manifesto** on minimum standards for public canteens.
- ✦ As part of the Secretariat of the **Urban Food Systems Coalition** that facilitates multi-level food governance, engagement and action between national and local governments.
- ✦ On the **Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration**, and:
- ✦ As part of the stakeholder group developing the future EU Sustainable Food System Partnership.

IMPACT

Leads the **largest EU project** ever funded on sustainable food procurement:
SchoolFood4Change

Supports innovative public tenders with the potential to impact over **600,000** children and young people in over **3000** schools in **12** EU Member States

Brings together **50+** organisations – including over **40** European cities – in the **Buy Better Food campaign**, and supports over **35** cities around the world in developing strong food policies and planning through the CityFood programme



OPPORTUNITIES

- ✦ Join the European [Buy Better Food campaign](#) to push forward real EU policy change, and to exchange with peers on the latest developments around sustainable food procurement.
- ✦ Become a partner of the [CityFood Programme](#) and exchange with cities and strategic partners around the world on urban food policy implementation.
- ✦ Receive funding for concrete activities in your city by collaborating with us in project proposals! ICLEI Europe offers you its long-standing experience and success in acquiring projects and its network of 200+ partners.

RESOURCES

- ✦ [Manifesto for establishing EU Minimum Standards for Public Canteens across the EU](#)
- ✦ [Sixteen Urban Food Systems Dialogues for the UN Food Systems Summit](#)
- ✦ Farm to Fork procurement toolkit in development (will be available at <https://coachproject.eu>)
- ✦ Report on Innovative Criteria and Approaches for Procurement of Sustainable and Healthy School Meals (will soon be available at www.iclei-europe.org/resources)
- ✦ [A Whole School Food Approach: Guidelines for Schools, Cities and Regions](#)

Connect with us:

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ICLEI Europe

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is a global network working with more than 2500 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development. Active in 125+ countries, we influence sustainability policy and drive local action for low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development.