

Criteria and practical experience of Sustainable Public Procurement of food for educational institutions

10:35-10:50

Sustainable public procurement of food: good practices, key challenges and recommendations

Mr. Peter Defranceschi, Head ICLEI Brussels Office & Global CityFood Programme Coordinator

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___ ABOUT ICLEI

ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability is a global network of more than **1,750 local and regional governments** committed to **sustainable urban development**.

Active in 100+ countries, we influence sustainability policy and drive local action for low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development.

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25% OF THE
GLOBAL URBAN POPULATION

AND MORE THAN
20% OF THE
GLOBAL URBAN POPULATION

5 INTERCONNECTED
DEVELOPMENT
PATHWAYS



**SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC
PROCUREMENT OF FOOD:
A GOAL WITHIN REACH**

How public institutions can help the planet while
cutting costs and increasing the quality of their food

Summary
Public institutions can help the planet while cutting costs and increasing the quality of their food by purchasing sustainably sourced products. This report provides a framework for public institutions to evaluate and select products that are sustainably sourced. It also provides a list of resources for public institutions to learn more about sustainable procurement.

Introduction
Public institutions are increasingly being asked to purchase sustainably sourced products. This report provides a framework for public institutions to evaluate and select products that are sustainably sourced. It also provides a list of resources for public institutions to learn more about sustainable procurement.

IMPACT SCHOOLFOOD4CHANGE.EU (SF4C)

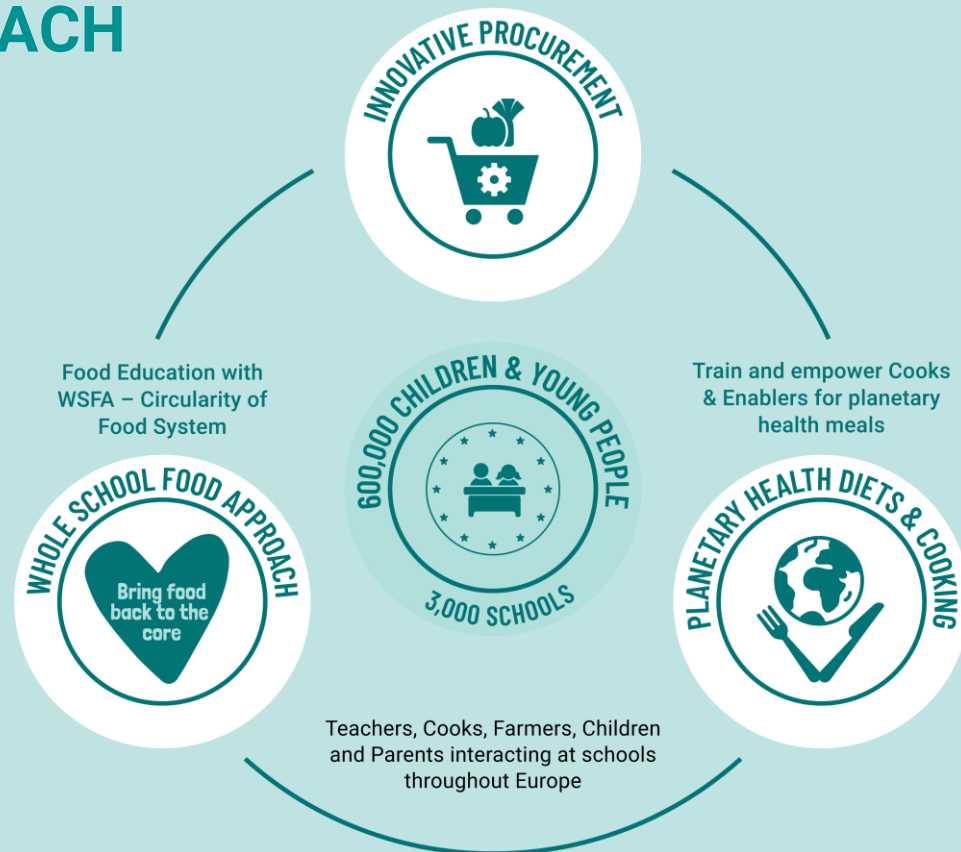


— THE SF4C TRIPLE APPROACH

Innovative Procurement

- Shift the focus from solely monetary aspects towards sustainable and healthy criteria when choosing a school caterer and food providers
- Developing a set of criteria for public procurement for more sustainability
- Two levels of criteria are being developed:
 1. Core criteria for a minimum level of healthy and sustainable food
 2. Advanced criteria to go beyond basic health and sustainability standard

Innovative Public Procurement providing criteria in the line with Farm2Fork Strategy and SDGs



May 2021

SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT OF FOOD: A GOAL WITHIN REACH

*Paper written in the framework of the EU Food Policy
Coalition (EU FPC) Public Procurement Task Force**

PURPOSE

The aim of this paper is to provide five key arguments in favour of sustainable healthy food procurement to address the challenges of the EU food system.

The paper seeks to provide strong evidence and thereby overcome any misconceptions about the gains of implementing sustainable food procurement in a comprehensive form.

The information presented in this paper thereby also seeks to contribute to the strategic implementation of the Farm to Fork (F2F) Strategy, particularly with regards to determining 'the best modalities for setting minimum mandatory criteria for sustainable food procurement to promote healthy and sustainable diets, including organic products, in schools and public institutions'.

Whereas the first four points of this paper focus on sustainable public food procurement for all public institutions (schools, hospitals, elderly care homes, etc.), the fifth point emphasises sustainable school food procurement as a 'low hanging fruit' for the implementation of the F2F Strategy, in light of the planned review of the EU school scheme legal framework, with a view to refocus the scheme on healthy and sustainable food in 2023.

*

Coordination: ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, IFOAM Organics Europe.

Contributors: Compassion in World Farming, Ecologic Institute, Eurocities, Eurogroup for Animals, European Environmental Bureau (EEB), European Heart Network (EHN), European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), Fair Trade Advocacy Office (FTA/O), Four Paws, Friends of the Earth Europe (FoEE), Greenpeace, Healthcare Without Harm, ICLEI, IFOAM Organics Europe, IPES-Food, Slow Food Europe, UNESCO Chair on World Food Systems.

* See [European Commission](#)

October 2022

MANIFESTO FOR ESTABLISHING MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC CANTEENS ACROSS THE EU

Lead author: ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability.

Contributors: Produced in the framework of the EU Food Policy Coalition, in particular: Buy Better Food (BBF), Compassion in World Farming (CIWF), Eurogroup for Animals, European Environmental Bureau (EEB), European Coordination Via Campesina (EVCV), European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions (EFFAT), European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), Fair Trade Advocacy Office (FTA/O), Four Paws, IFOAM Organics Europe, Public Procurement Analysis, Slow Food Europe.

Additional endorsements: Safe Food Advocacy Europe (SAFE), Agroecology Europe, Health Care Without Harm (HCWH), Feedback EU, Arche Noah, Urgenci, Birdlife Europe, and WWF European Policy Office

Following a policy paper on '[Sustainable Public Procurement of Food: A Goal Within Reach](#)', which presented the 'business case' for sustainable healthy food procurement, and key [policy recommendations for using procurement for a systemic food transformation](#), this [Farm to Fork Procurement Manifesto](#) (hereafter 'F2F Procurement Manifesto') aims to inspire the European Commission and the EU Member States as well as regional and local public authorities with **seven actionable propositions** for establishing **minimum standards for public canteens in Europe**.

European public canteens, and in particular school meals, are **low-hanging fruit for the implementation of the EU Farm to Fork strategy**. They can be catalysts for food system transformation if their public spending actions include ambitious requirements that go beyond environmental or 'green' requests.

What if all public and school canteens across Europe had to abide by minimum mandatory criteria that **support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals**? Some may oppose higher costs, but as we all know by now, the costs of unsustainable practices related to any of these aspects are far higher for society and taxpayers ([see the previous EU FPC paper](#) for evidence on cost-effective food procurement).

So why buy cheap and unhealthy food when public food procurement provides such a good opportunity for tackling so **many sustainability policy goals on one plate**? Buying better to achieve more is the intention of this Manifesto.

This **F2F Procurement Manifesto**, produced in the framework of the EU Food Policy Coalition, presents seven mandatory (minimum) and optional criteria for public canteens.

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food for resilient futures

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A close-up photograph of fresh green spinach leaves. The leaves are vibrant green and have several small, clear water droplets on their surfaces, suggesting they are freshly washed. The background is a soft-focus field of more spinach leaves, creating a sense of depth and freshness. The overall lighting is bright and natural, highlighting the texture and color of the leaves.

The power of
defining



**LINKING SMALL-SCALE
FARMERS WITH THE
PUBLIC PLATE**

#EURegions

Laura RODRIGUES

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STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC
CANTEENS ACROSS THE EU

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Fordern Sie gesundes Schulessen und
Ernährungsbildung für alle Schulkinder!

**BUY
BETTER
FOOD**

Preventing child obesity (costs) through sustainable school meals

Where childhood obesity is most prevalent in Europe

Share of 6 to 9 year olds considered obese in European countries (2015-2017)*



* Based on the 2007 WHO recommended growth reference.
Age of children varies between countries, within the span of 6 to 9 years.
Not all European countries included in the research, e.g. the UK and Germany.



The power of
coaching & networking

THE URBAN FOOD SYSTEMS COALITION

Supporting local and national governments for sustainable and inclusive urban food policies, planning, and action.

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<https://ufs-coalition.org/>

