



STRASBOURG EUROMETROPOLIS



FRANCE
URBAINE
MÉTROPOLES, AGGLOS ET GRANDES VILLES

FOOD DEMOCRACY: A SUSTAINABLE FOOD SUPPLY IS AN ELEMENT OF CITIZENSHIP

Our territory is affected by financial insecurity and income inequalities. 19.5% of the Eurometropolis' population was below the poverty threshold in 2016, with this proportion rising to 25% in Strasbourg. Between 2006 and 2016, the taxable income of the Eurometropolis' wealthiest 10% rose by 16%, while that of the poorest 20% declined by 9%. Nearly 24% of households of Strasbourg received social benefits in 2017. These marked social inequalities are embedded in the urban environment and have an impact on health, living conditions and consumption, particularly of food.

In 2008, an awareness of climate issues oriented the territorial project towards the creation of a sustainable metropolis, in which agriculture as an economic activity contributes to the development of the natural heritage and meets the territory's food requirements. Support for various forms of agriculture (professional/amateur, traditional/innovative) and the optimisation of their complementarity enables progress towards a resilient food system that takes into account concerns relating to the balance and the quality of the supply. In this context, the City and Eurometropolis of Strasbourg in partnership with a range of organizations has implemented actions based on a goal of food democracy.

KEY FIGURES FOR THE TERRITORY

- Number of inhabitants:
 - City of Strasbourg: 279,284 (2016, INSEE)
 - Metropolis: 491,409 inhabitants (2016)
 - Grand Est region: 5,555,186 (2016)
- 33 municipalities
- Area:
 - City of Strasbourg: 78.27 km²
 - Metropolis area: 339.85 km²
- 57% of the Eurometropolis's population is concentrated in Strasbourg. The Eurometropolis is home to 44% of the population of the Bas-Rhin and more than a quarter of the population of Alsace (26%).

RETURNING THE LOCAL SUPPLY TO HEART OF THE RESPONSE TO DAILY FOOD REQUIREMENTS



The heritage and public domain enable the setting up and promotion of production activities and direct sale initiated by private actors: 30 weekly food markets are supplied by 80 producers and "gleaned" by an association that collects and distributes

any unsold food that is not saleable, two produce stores are hosted by the City, 4,800 family gardens cover 162 ha, 18 shared gardens promote social cohesion, and 5 collective urban kitchen gardens have been established in social housing districts.

CONSIDERING ALL THE LINKS IN THE CHAIN, FROM PRODUCTION TO CONSUMPTION, WHEN DESIGNING THE "FOOD SYSTEM"

Taking into account the agglomeration's development objectives (+50,000 inhabitants and +27,000 jobs by 2030), the agricultural dimension is integrated into urban planning documents and urban projects to preserve the land, and maintain and install agricultural businesses. Regarding labour requirements, links can be developed with employment agencies to organize work for young people in unstable situations during the harvests.

Taking into account the objectives for agricultural diversification, intermediaries (supermarkets, collective catering operations, etc.) are mobilised to provide local outlets. In this way, public purchasing contracts for school canteens give preference to local products; 200 tons per year of organic products, 60% of which are grown locally, are included in the composition of the 11,500 daily meals, priced on a scale based on family resources.

FOCUSING ON ACCESS CONDITIONS FOR LOCAL PRODUCTS

- Giving economic and physical access to food suited to the nutritional and cultural requirements of the population concerned:
 - Fifteen associations that carry out food distribution receive

€250 k in subsidies. These organizations have developed a qualitative approach to food aid through the choice of products distributed, education on nutritional balance for families, and by increasing the local supply as a complement to European and national food aid plans. Producers in the territory have the possibility of directly delivering any surplus produce.

- A team of social workers has developed an educational initiative on the distribution of baskets of vegetables. A variant was tested in the framework of the PRECCOSS initiative (PRise En Charge Coordonnée des enfants Obèses et en Surpoids à Strasbourg - Coordinated Care for Obese and Overweight Children in Strasbourg); combining local agriculture, diet and health, it is extended through the involvement of families in a shared garden.
- There are 176 direct sale points in the territory; and partners have continued to strengthen the network.

- Striving for sustainable production conditions by educating farmers in practices that preserve resources: between 2009 and 2018, the number of organic farmers increased from 7 to 19 and the area converted to organic farming from 53 to 264 ha (out of 12,500 ha of UAA): an encouraging trend whose continuation is supported by our partners. In this way, the prospects identified by the feasibility study for a local organic grain supply suitable for breadmaking, will enable grain farmers that often have two activities to be approached.

- Providing information in order to democratize food choices: events and communication are the driving forces here, with the visual identity of the Mangeons local ("Eat Local") slogan.

In 2017, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food recognized that this range of partnership initiatives constituted a **Projet Alimentaire Territorial (Territorial Food Project)**.

The food distribution charter in the public domain

Numerous initiatives, proposed by proactive citizens, are organized in the public arena including distributions of food, hygiene products and clothing. These are occasions for sharing and conviviality which are in accord with the solidarity policies of the City and the Centre Communal d'Action Sociale (Municipal Social Action Centre), whose missions and values are based on Rhenish humanism.

To guide these new actors in the provision of food aid and define a common set of values and a framework for solidarity actions in the public arena for vulnerable and disadvantaged populations, a charter for solidarity-based actions, accompanied by practical information sheets, has been drawn up. It results from the consultations carried out by the City in 2017 and 2018 and the establishment of a coordinated partnership dynamic aimed at reinforcing the actions carried out by all those involved for the benefit of people in difficulty.

