



TOULOUSE METROPOLIS



FRANCE
URBAINE
MÉTROPOLES, AGGLOS ET GRANDES VILLES

BUILDING ON A TRANSVERSAL APPROACH AND THE COMMITMENT
AND COMPLEMENTARITY OF THOSE INVOLVED

TO ENABLE ACCESS FOR ALL TO A HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE FOOD SUPPLY

KEY FIGURES FOR THE TERRITORY

- Number of inhabitants:
 - City of Toulouse: 471,941 (INSEE 2015)
 - Metropolis: 755,882 (INSEE 2015)
- 37 municipalities
- Area:
 - City of Toulouse: 118.30 km²
 - Metropolis: 465.96 km²
- 346 farms representing 11,018 hectares of UAA in the Metropolis (general agricultural census 2010)
 - 85% arable crops, 300 ha market gardening
 - 400 farming units and 4,000 jobs in the food-processing industry
 - 6,200/year per household spent on food
- An agricultural and metropolitan food project based on a partnership charter, a roadmap and territorial projects, PNA (National Food programme) winner in 2018
- 220 ha of land farmed organically
- Toulouse Metropolis signed the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact in 2019

The Toulouse metropolis is a very attractive region, in the heart of a highly agricultural area (164,000 jobs, France's largest region for organic production, 20% of farms selling via short supply chains). Consequently, the Metropolis' 760,000 inhabitants should have easy access to good quality local produce.

However, while the level of median income per consumer unit (€22,354/year) is higher than the French average in the metropolis, and approximately equal in the City of Toulouse (€20,400/year), there are significant income inequalities in the territory, with 15.2% of the population living below the poverty threshold.

For these people, access to a healthy, sustainable food supply with a restricted budget is a challenge. Managing a transverse approach to agriculture and the food supply and implementing social and environmental public policies, the public authorities can play a facilitating role in the fight against food insecurity.

In the framework of its *Projet Agricole et Alimentaire Métropolitain* (Agricultural and Metropolitan Food Project), Toulouse Metropolis proposes to coordinate and strengthen actions to develop organic agricultural production, a sustainable food supply in canteens and the structuring of local supply channels to enable access for all to a healthy, sustainable food supply. In this way, awareness-raising actions and convenient access to a local, sustainable food supply, are accompanied by

initiatives to combat food insecurity, such as the deployment of shared gardens, the linking of the producer's MIN (wholesale market of national interest) and food aid associations, and

the organization of the *Familles à alimentation positive* (Positive Food Family) challenge in partnership with the social centres, involving families in social priority districts.

Shared gardens in social priority districts: a healthy way of supplementing families' food supply

The City of Toulouse currently has 17 shared gardens, 6 of which (42% of the total area) are located in the social priority districts. These public green spaces are made available to residents, and promote social cohesion at a neighbourhood level.

A shared garden is designed, built and managed with the residents in an environmentally friendly manner. Residents grow vegetables, fruit, and herbs respecting the environment (no chemical products, composting, optimization of water use, diverse varieties, etc.) and are able to enjoy a link with nature in the city, appreciate the pleasures of a healthy diet, and participate in a neighbourhood dynamic centred around the garden project.

Out of the 17 shared gardens, 8 are managed by social centres and 9 by associations. A shared garden charter was voted by the Municipal Council in 2009. This provides a framework for their creation and operation, and proposes an innovative compromise, between openness to the public and a need to take responsibility for the gardens.

In this way, in gardens located in high food insecurity districts, the consultation process provides for the possibility that 30 m² plots are made available to families who can then grow their own vegetables and derive a food benefit. The criteria for the allocation of these small non-enclosed plots are determined collectively by the residents during the creation of the garden. The plots are integrated into a space that operates on a collective basis, with a composting facility, seating areas, and a plot for collective gardening.

This solution enables a response to residents' food-producing needs while at the same time using the social cohesion potential of such gardens in these districts.

In 2019, 700 persons were actively gardening, 300 of which in the city's social priority districts.



The Toulouse Occitanie MIN links producers and food aid associations



A tool for the Toulouse metropolis, the Grand Marché MIN Toulouse Occitanie (Toulouse Occitanie wholesale market) is a central purchasing organization for local restaurants and shops, which brings together actors in the supply and distribution chains for food products. Every year, 227,000 tons of produce is sold, 75% of which is fruit and vegetables, through trade between 147 businesses, 302 producers and 3,600 buyers. There are also four restaurants open to the general public within the MIN.

To combat food wastage and actively participate in providing a food supply for people in difficulty, particularly in terms of fresh produce, the MIN donates food to 11 charitable food aid associations.

The MIN also carries out actions with schools and vulnerable populations to raise awareness of healthy food habits, through educational events (MIN presentations with a dietitian and the preparation of fruit salads, the Fruit & Vegetable Festival, Taste Week, etc.) intended for schools, and also for professionals in large-scale and commercial catering.

Finally, the MIN and the Food Bank have undertaken a joint project constructing a building and a logistics platform for Occitanie. In this way, the MIN can provide volunteers and produce, resulting from donations or unsold food, enabling a more effective fight against food insecurity. Better equipped, the Food Banks will also be able to reduce their own waste (currently about 20%).