

# JOINT WORKSHOP ON FOOD COOPERATION

MECOG-CE Final Conference  
Brno | 19th March 2026

Anna Turrini  
Metropolitan City of Turin

# Food Districts in the Metropolitan City of Turin

---

## INTRODUCTION

# Food Districts

---

Legal framework, building  
blocks and the governance  
system



# The legal framework

## NATIONAL LEVEL

Law no. 205/2017

## REGIONAL LEVEL

- Piedmont Regional Law no. 1/2019
- Regional Regulation „Identification and discipline of Food Districts“ (Deliberation no. 23-2277/2020)

## METROPOLITAN LEVEL

The law does not provide for any specific role of the metropolitan level.

# The legal framework

## NATIONAL LEVEL

National Law no. 205/2017 identifies the types of FDs and of their overall goals.

- Promote territorial development
- Foster cohesion and social inclusion
- Encourage the integration of activities characterized by territorial proximity
- Ensure food security
- Reduce the environmental impact of agricultural production
- Decrease food waste
- Safeguard the territory and preserve the rural landscape through agricultural and agri-food activities

## REGIONAL LEVEL

The Regional Regulation outlines the procedure for the establishment and recognition of FDs in the region.

### Recognition criteria

- The product: the applicant must represent one or more agricultural and/or food products.
- The area: the applicant must operate in an area consisting of at least 5 contiguous municipalities.
- Representativeness: the applicant must be representative of the relevant agri-food production in the area where the FD operates.
- Governance: binding rules must be in place for those participating in the FD (District Agreement).

# How to set-up a Food District

- 1) Engage both public and private stakeholders of the area, in order to establish a **promoter committee**.
- 2) Have the public and private stakeholders of the promoter committee sign a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** aimed at drafting the District's three-year plan, allowing for stakeholder co-design.
- 3) Develop the three-year **District plan** and submit an application for regional recognition.
- 4) Upon receiving regional recognition, **get formalized** (as an association or company) and prepare a funding proposal to be submitted to the Ministry.

Within 30 days from the recognition of the FD by the Region, the Ministry of Agricultural, Food, and Forestry Policies is informed, in order for the FD to be registered into the **National Register of Food Districts**.

To set-up a FD around 20.000 €/year are needed. Once the FD is recognized, it is possible to apply for funding under specific calls aimed at funding activities/projects carried out by FDs.

# Eligible members

A Food District can be joined by **public and private organizations that represent the local identity, productive fabric and interests related to the District's strategy.** This ensures a **broad and inclusive participation** from different stakeholders aligned with the District's goals.

Eligible participants include the following.

- Agricultural and agro-industrial companies
- Professional agricultural organizations
- Cooperatives
- Private entities from various sectors
- Local public authorities
- Research institutions and universities
- Wine-related entities
- Biodiversity communities
- Food solidarity groups
- Consumer associations.



# The building blocks of a Food District

## DISTRICT AGREEMENT

- a) Territorial scope
- b) Legal form of the FD
- c) Governance of the FD (rules concerning participation and decision-making)
- d) Composition of the FD Assembly
- e) Aims of the District plan

## DISTRICT PLAN

- Based on an analysis of the territory and its needs, also in the form of a SWOT analysis.
- Three-year time horizon.
- It should define the roles of members, the goals to be pursued, the actions to be implemented and the implementation timeline.

## DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

- Composed of representatives of the members.
- Main responsibilities: approval of the budget and definition of membership fees; definition of the strategic guidelines of the District; approval and update of the District Plan; monitoring of actions and their implementation; approval of an annual report (...).

# Food Districts in the Metropolitan City of Turin

---

The role of the  
Metropolitan City





## FDs and the Metropolitan City of Turin

The Metropolitan City of Turin has acted as a promoting institution and fundraiser for the establishment of two FDs:

- “Terre da tastè” Food District
- “Canavese” Food District

# Establishing the Canavese Food District: main concerns

Economic sustainability  
of corn and wheat  
production for local  
producers

By identifying **standout crops** in the international cereal market, like wheat varieties for prized breads or **ancient varieties** to be recovered, allowing producers to sell their product at **higher prices** and to earn **better remuneration**

Environmental  
sustainability of corn  
and wheat production

By addressing **low rainfall and drought challenges** through **water saving measures** and the adoption of **sustainable practices**



# Goals of the Canavese Food District

- Combining **Economic and Environmental Sustainability**
- Promoting adaptation to climate change through **water-saving irrigation** techniques
- Fostering community and institutional **collaboration**

**Communication gaps and misunderstandings** between producers, public bodies and citizens on food and food production are frequent



Importance of **close relationships** and continuous collaboration between **producers and institutions** and of an **open dialogue** with **local communities**

- Formally **recognised** by the Region and established in **October 2024**

# Food Districts and metropolitan governance

---

- FDs act as a tool for the establishment of cooperative networks among stakeholders operating in selected agri-food production chains having a local, metropolitan, regional or interregional extension.
- Participation in the food district allows for the **establishment of cooperative relationships among agri-food stakeholders (and the metropolitan authority), possibly resulting in a more participated and effective governance of agri-food policies at the metropolitan level.**



**Interreg**  
CENTRAL EUROPE



Co-funded by  
the European Union

MECOG-CE



Metropolitan City of Turin



<https://www.interreg-central.eu/projects/mecog-ce/>  
<http://www.cittametropolitana.torino.it/cms/>



[progetti.eu@cittametropolitana.torino.it](mailto:progetti.eu@cittametropolitana.torino.it)



[Linkedin.com/company/mecog-ce/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/mecog-ce/)



# Food cooperation for metropolitan areas

Brno | 19 March



# Premises

- The conditions set by Torino for food district cannot be met in many metropolitan areas.
- **Why?** - incentives from government, based on national law, different agricultural conditions, formalized form of cooperation.
- **Adaptation** - new tool (informal cooperation).

# Food cooperation for metropolitan areas

---

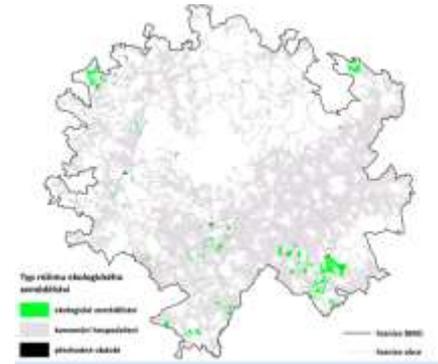
# The concept of new solution

- Establishing **voluntary cooperation in metropolitan territory** focusing on local food production.
- **Goals of cooperation:** support for local economy, reduction of environmental burdens, positive influence on health and well-being of citizens, food security.
- Suitable for metropolitan areas lacking formal cooperation structures in the topic (given by national legislation).

# Main elements: 7 steps of establishment of cooperation

## 1. Analysis of the Territory:

- Natural characteristics, local production, stakeholder identification.
- Current strategic documents, benefits, impacts, and initiatives.
- SWOT analysis for data-driven decisions.



## 2. Initial Event:

- Workshop or conference with active stakeholders.
- Discuss analysis results, outline steps, and prioritize topics.
- Stakeholder involvement in informal cooperation structure (solution include proposal of stakeholders group - balancing different interests).



# Main elements: 7 steps of establishment of cooperation

## 3. Listening and Animation:

- Continuous monitoring of stakeholder views and activities.
- Culminates in **voluntary cooperation establishment**.

## 4. Informal Structure Proposal:

- Information and coordination working group (WG).
- Separate WGs for selected topics.
- Goals and action plans for each WG.
- Inclusion of diverse stakeholders (authorities, NGOs, private sector, etc.).

# Main elements: Topics and strengthening of cooperation

## 5. Topics of Cooperation:

- Support for the promotion of local production in public catering,
- Protection, development and promotion of the production and local supply chains,
- Adaptation to climate change and sustainable agriculture,
- Promotion of innovations and technological infrastructure,
- The social dimension of the agri-food sector (inclusion of disadvantaged groups in food cooperation, development of social enterprises in agriculture, or support for beginning farmers),
- Food security, Reduction of food waste,
- Territory and landscape preservation through agriculture, agribusiness and food,
- Marketing and promotion of local production and farmers,
- Focus on specific food category which would be the centre of food cooperation (e.g. meat, cereals, vegetables, wine).

# Main elements: Topics and strengthening of cooperation

## 6. Focus on strengthening cooperation

- Establish governing bodies and structure.
- Creation and approval of strategic plan, guidelines, and rules.
- Implementation activities from the strategic plan.

## 7. Finances

- Introduction of financial mechanisms (membership fees, resources).
- Regular budget setting and annual activity reports.

# What we did: inspiration so far

## Informational activities

- September - month of local production (series of lectures, workshops for general public)
- Interactive map: Farmers in the region



## Support of local production in school catering

- Questionnaire among heads of school catering
- Demonstrational cooking, seminars, workshops, List of local suppliers.

# Discussion

---

**1. What aspects of the presentation best reflect the current situation in your metropolitan area/organization?**

---

**2. Which cooperation topics from the presentation are most urgent? Could you prioritise them? Any missing?**

---

Flipchart

**3. Where do you personally see an opportunity for improvement in the new solution?**

---

**4. What concrete action can be  
executed by your region?**

---

1. What aspects of the presentation best reflect the current situation in your metropolitan area?

2. Which cooperation topics from the presentation are most urgent? Any missing?

3. Where do you personally see an opportunity for improvement in the new solution?

4. What concrete action can be executed by your region?



# Joint cooperation

- EUI - Fourth Innovative Actions Calls
  - Food security, food supply (Topic 3. - security, safety and preparedness)
  - Max budget 2 million ERDF
  - Launch of the call 25 February, end June 2026
- URBACT - new call for Action Planning Networks (March-June)
- Cooperation outside EU funding - Eurocities working group on Food, bilateral cooperation etc.