Milan Food Policy framework

The City of Milan and Cariplo Foundation, during Expo Milano 2015 “Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life”, promoted a comprehensive strategy on food by creating one of the most innovative urban food policies in Europe.

On July 2014 Milan began a research action to explore the local food system that ended up with the definition of 10 main issues. After the analysis, the city launched a public consultation engaging different departments, universities, civil society organizations, startups, the private sector and citizens. The result of this process culminated in a vote, made by the City Council to define the guidelines (16), a series of actions (48) and the 5 priorities of Milan Food Policy. These include:

1) ensure healthy food and water for all citizens;
2) promote the sustainability of the food system;
3) promote food education;
4) fight against food waste;
5) support scientific research in agrofood sector.

As a clear signal of the Municipality attention towards food policy issues the food policy was included amongst the direct responsibilities of the Vice Mayor.

Since 2015 Milan Food Policy has also implemented a series of actions aimed to improve the sustainability of local food system: test and scale-up of local public procurement, action on healthy diets in school canteens, tax reduction for food losses donation against food waste, periurban startups incubators, etc...

The policy defined a set of structural tools for its implementation that act on governance, technical support, European projection and this proposal will be one of these.

The alliance among Municipality, Cariplo Foundation and a research center

Milan Food Policy, as we know it, would not exist without the fertile collaboration among the Milan Municipality (that allows the institutional support of the policy definition and implementation), Cariplo Foundation (the most important grantmaking organization in Italy with 25 years of experience on the issues of responsible research, sustainable development, social welfare, cultural promotion) and EStà an independent Research Center (that ensures the technical and scientific support of the policy definition).

Within this context Milan nourished a sensitive and constructive environment to debate food issues and co-create actions, opening the way toward the Food Policy Incubator. The incubator is a space to engage private sector, municipal agencies, startuppers, innovators, social actors. The programme will be launched before the end of 2018. It aims to become a tool, under the umbrella of Food Policy framework, to facilitate hybridisation between policy priorities and innovators, differently interested to food.

The Food Policy Incubator is a catalyst of all different forms of social, economic, technological and organizational innovation compliant to the Food Policy.

The Food Policy Incubator aims to empower local actors in a broad innovation ecosystem leading to new business models and value-added products, goods and services, meeting the needs, values and expectations of actors in a responsible and ethical way.
Approach and main elements of Food Policy Incubator

The Food Policy Incubator is a space to reconcile supply and demand. More specifically, here, business needs can be unravel generating the perfect humus for the rise of original proposals from society, small business companies, startups, schools and associations’ offers can here match business companies’ demands. Furthermore, in this realm the participation of Milan Municipality guarantees that the actions activated will reflect the principles of Milan Food Policy.

Phase 1 - NEEDS - Businesses engagement
Target: Municipal agencies, private sector;
Drivers of engagement: innovation access, corporate social responsibility actions, branding position, fiscal incentives, networking;
Opportunities to get involved: network of clients and partners, economic resources, know-how and competences agencies.

In this stage a call, dedicated to business companies, will be launched to learn and gather their needs in relation to the main drivers of the local food system and food policy issues.

Phase 2 - SOLUTIONS - Innovators engagement
Target: pre-seed startups, startups, social actors, innovators;
Drivers of engagement: access businesses network (gathered during phase 1), areas for testing, reinforce of mission, mentoring and advising, scale-up;
Opportunities to get involved: innovative ideas and case studies, business model, best practices, post-seed support.

In this stage a call will be launched for innovators engagement around the set of needs collected during phase 1. It will create a link between innovators and businesses. This fil rouge aims to generate food policy solutions shaped for the Milan Food System.
Do you know any similar initiatives?
The Food Policy Team is designing the future of Food Policy Incubator, if you want to share any similar experiences please contact us:

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The contribute of the Factory for external actors

Until now Food Policy actions have often focused on other policy areas (local public procurement, short food chains, incentives against food waste, educational programs, multilevel governance approach). The Food Policy Incubator will be the first action dedicated specifically to the involvement of private and public companies differently engaged in the local food system. The Factory will act inside and outside and will share experiences with other similar experiences in Italy and in Europe.

OUTSIDE  

INSIDE

see/understand/learn  
design/test/pilot/demo

FOOD POLICY INCUBATOR

Milan Food Policy has develop this actions thanks to the participation in FOOD2030 policy framework. The City of Milan is part of the Horizon project FIT4FOOD2030 and Cariplo Foundation is inside the Advisory Board of FOOD2030. Food Policy Incubator will be fully compliant to FOOD2030 priority of “Innovation”. In addition, it will foster the development of new initiatives related to the other priorities including nutrition, climate and circularity of FOOD2030.

FOOD2030 innovation priority

Boosting innovation and investment, while empowering communities. A broad innovation ecosystem leading to new business models and value-added products, goods and services, meeting the needs, values and expectations of society in a responsible and ethical way. Through closer partnerships with industry and food producers, markets that function in a responsible manner thereby fostering fair trade and pricing, inclusiveness and sustainability. Scientific evidence and knowledge from a wide diversity of actors underpinning the development and implementation of food and nutrition security relevant policies, at all geographical scales (Local to Global).

Nutrition  
Climate  
Circularity  
Innovation
**Cariplo Factory’s approach to innovation**

Cariplo Factory is an open and dynamic environment in which, through the contamination of different know-how, experiences and culture, can flourish original ideas and projects. Cariplo Factory, on its space of 3,000mq in a former steel factory, aims to generate social welfare through the creation of job opportunities for young people. With a technology transfer approach it answers emerging needs from the job realm and creates the right ecosystem for innovative startups to grow. Cariplo Factory’s approach supports ideas development, with several programmes at all stages of development.

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**A former steel plant which becomes a factory for ideas**

A former factory of 3,000mq, from an industrial steel plant to the heart of technology, innovation, culture and creativity at urban level. The space was regenerated by the Municipality to become a space for incubators that is hosting several integrated initiatives, among which Cariplo Factory.