

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 23 May 2024 10:00 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Building Sustainable Cities: 'Food is Not Waste' Initiative & Voluntary Agreements with Cities and Counties
CONVENED BY	Razvojna agencija Grada Velika Gorica - VE-GO-RA Development Agency of the City of Velika Gorica
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/52399/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Croatia

The outcomes from a Food Systems Summit Dialogue will be of use in developing the pathway to sustainable food systems within the locality in which they take place. They will be a valuable contribution to the national pathways and also of interest to the different workstreams preparing for the Summit: the Action Tracks, Scientific Groups and Champions as well as for other Dialogues.

1. PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

30

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

1

19-30

22

31-50

7

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

16 Male

14 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

5 Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

Agro-forestry

8 Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

Education

Communication

Food processing

Food retail, markets

Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

2 Nutrition

15 National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

2 Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

10 Local Non-Governmental Organization

International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

3 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

14 Local authority

Government and national institution

Regional economic community

United Nations

International financial institution

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

1 Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

HOW DID YOU ORGANIZE THE DIALOGUE SO THAT THE PRINCIPLES WERE INCORPORATED, REINFORCED AND ENHANCED?

The Dialogue was organised by the Development Agency of the City of Velika Gorica - VE-GO-RA and Inventive Solutions Ltd. from Velika Gorica, supported by Cities2030 project and funded by EU Horizon2020. Cities2030 project continuously promotes participation in the FSDs. Independent FSDs were conducted in Velika Gorica, Croatia on May 23rd 2024. It was locally based and led by Croatian partners, the Development Agency VE-GO-RA and Inventive Solutions Ltd. Dialogue focus was aimed at "Food is not waste" initiative that created an opportunity to gather cities in the Zagreb county so we can revolutionize our approach to food consumption, emphasizing sustainability, efficiency, and responsible management. The Dialogue was properly prepared, planned and promoted, invitations went to all the cities in Zagreb county as well as nearby municipalities. VE-GO-RA was the official Convenor of the Dialogue and Inventive Solutions was the Curator of the Dialogue. The Facilitators were chosen and prepared for the Dialogue. The conference was divided into three sessions, the presentation of the "Food is not waste" initiative and the Voluntary Agreement. Presentation of the signatories of the Voluntary Agreement, and their current and future activities. The Cities2030 project was presented and its connection with the UN Agenda Food2030, the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, and the initiative of inviting all the surrounding cities to sign agreements and collaborate on topics was explained. The conference was attended by representatives of City Offices from Zagreb county related to the topic, representatives of city institutions, private initiatives related to environmental protection and nutrition, and Agriculture experts.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The principles of stakeholder engagement were meticulously upheld, ensuring inclusivity by representing diverse stakeholder groups among the participants. All stakeholders demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the dialogues, recognizing the intricate nature and paramount importance of the topic: 'Food is Not Waste' Initiative: Voluntary Agreements with Cities and Counties. They exhibited mutual respect for differing perspectives and synergistically complemented each other's efforts, ultimately fostering collaboration and inspiring networking opportunities.

DO YOU HAVE ADVICE FOR OTHER DIALOGUE CONVENORS ABOUT APPRECIATING THE PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT?

The primary recommendation is to adhere to the guidelines for effective Dialogue preparation. Engage with a wide range of stakeholders to determine the Dialogue's focal points, and extend invitations to key participants from various stakeholder categories.

3. METHOD

The outcomes of a Dialogue are influenced by the method that is used.

DID YOU USE THE SAME METHOD AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CONVENORS REFERENCE MANUAL?

Yes

No

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

The main initiative of the Dialogue "Food is Not Waste Initiative: Voluntary Agreements with Cities and Counties" was the Cities2030 role in enhancing Food System solutions. VE-GO-RA and Inventive Solutions have been actively working on establishing a food system in the city of Velika Gorica for the past three years as part of the Horizon2020 research project Cities2030. Recognizing the importance of waste prevention and reduction, we have embraced the Ministry of Agriculture's initiative "Food Is Not Waste." As one of the project's activities, we invited collaborative action through a Voluntary Agreement, which has already been positively received by our City. The signing of this agreement is scheduled for the final conference of the Cities2030 project in September.

The Voluntary Agreement on waste prevention and reduction, titled "Together Against Food Waste," is signed by the Ministry of Agriculture and representatives from food producers, processors, retailers, hospitality, scientific and academic communities, local and regional government units, nonprofit organizations, initiatives, and associations. Signatories voluntarily commit to efforts to reduce food waste by 30% until 2028 within their business processes, food donation, and active communication with consumers. The agreement encompasses the entire chain of action, from food production and processing to households. Mr. Emil Tuk from the Department of Urban Nutrition of the City of Zagreb and Ms. Gordana Matasin from the Administrative Department for Agriculture, Rural Development, and Forestry of Zagreb County presented to us the current and future activities and the issues faced by existing signatories.

At the conference, Velika Gorica LAB also presented the Milan Urban Policy Pact and its methodology, as well as its connection to the Cities2030 project and the Voluntary Agreement initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture, along with the "Food Is Not Waste" project.

We are pleased that participants expressed interest in this event, which aims to increase awareness of signing this agreement, whose primary goal is to prevent and reduce food waste. No plan can succeed without the involvement, connection, and participation of all necessary stakeholders. Therefore, we invited representatives from food producers, processors, retailers, hospitality, scientific and academic communities, local and regional government units, nonprofit organizations, initiatives, associations, and companies to participate in this essential initiative.

The purpose of such agreements, including the conference's goal, was to present and encourage collaboration and dialogue among various stakeholders focused on preventive activities, surplus food redistribution, and all other efforts contributing to the effectiveness of waste prevention in the food system. The agreement also represents a contribution to socially responsible and socially sensitive business practices by stakeholders, particularly the local government.

ACTION TRACKS

- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- ✓ Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
- Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
- Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
- Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

- ✓ Finance
- ✓ Innovation
- Human rights
- Women & Youth Empowerment
- ✓ Policy
- ✓ Data & Evidence
- ✓ Governance
- Trade-offs
- ✓ Environment and Climate

MAIN FINDINGS

The Dialogue titled "Food is Not Waste Initiative: Voluntary Agreements with Cities and Counties" yielded several significant conclusions and initiatives aimed at enhancing food system solutions within the City of Velika Gorica. Below are the key findings and agreements that emerged from this Dialogue:

Key Findings and Conclusions:

Establishment of New Connections:

The Dialogue emphasized the importance of establishing new connections between various stakeholders within the food system. This includes food producers, processors, retailers, the hospitality sector, scientific and academic communities, local and regional government units, nonprofit organizations, initiatives, and associations. The collaborative approach is seen as vital for the success of the waste prevention and reduction initiatives.

Agreement on Actions and Commitments:

A significant outcome of the Dialogue was the Voluntary Agreement titled "Together Against Food Waste," which has garnered a positive reception and commitment from the City of Velika Gorica. This agreement is scheduled to be signed at the final conference of the Cities2030 project in September.

The signatories of this agreement voluntarily commit to reducing food waste in their business processes, donating food, and actively communicating with consumers. The comprehensive nature of this agreement covers the entire food chain, from production and processing to household consumption.

Exploration of Food Systems:

The Dialogue highlighted the need to explore specific aspects of food systems in greater depth, particularly focusing on waste prevention and reduction. The presentation of the Milan Pact on Urban Food Policy and its methodology, as well as its connection to the Cities2030 project, provided valuable insights into effective strategies and policies for urban food systems.

Main Initiatives:

City's Role in Food System Solutions:

The City of Velika Gorica's active role in enhancing food system solutions was a central theme, not only for our city but for all local counties and municipalities. The main initiative was to gather surrounding policymakers and encourage them to embrace this initiative and present all available resources and tools to achieve that goal. The city's involvement in the Horizon2020 research project Cities2030 and its commitment to the Ministry of Agriculture's "Food Is Not Waste" initiative underline its dedication to sustainable food practices.

Voluntary Agreement on Waste Prevention and Reduction:

The "Together Against Food Waste" agreement involves a broad coalition of stakeholders committing to concerted efforts to reduce food waste. This voluntary agreement stands as a testament to the collective responsibility and shared commitment of diverse actors within the food system.

Raising Awareness and Encouraging Collaboration:

The Dialogue successfully increased awareness about the importance of signing the Voluntary Agreement and fostered a collaborative spirit among participants. The event served as a platform to encourage dialogue and collaboration among various stakeholders, aiming to enhance the effectiveness of preventive activities and surplus food redistribution.

Socially Responsible Practices:

The agreement and the Dialogue highlight the importance of socially responsible and socially sensitive business practices. By committing to these practices, stakeholders contribute to the broader goal of sustainable and ethical food systems. Overall, the Dialogue underscored the necessity of involving all relevant stakeholders in the fight against food waste and the importance of collaborative efforts to achieve a significant and lasting impact.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

ACTION TRACKS

- Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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KEYWORDS

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Policy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Innovation | <input type="checkbox"/> Data & Evidence |
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| | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment and Climate |

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

From the main Policymaker perspectives, it was realized that the main focus point of the Dialogue, and that is preventing and fighting food waste, requires collaboration that should be initiated from the top (local authority) and connect all main stakeholders within the City limits that are working in the area regarding environmental protection and waste management, as well as channelling educative materials and tools towards the public, educations systems and spreading and sharing the acquired knowledge towards other cities and regions. Within the cities, we can see separate departments that are already fighting food waste on some level within their work frame, but incorporating all those departments, institutions and other important stakeholders regarding the topic, in one "Working group" that works together on the same goal, is much more efficient path in achieving the goal that we all strive towards, and that is preventing and fighting food waste.

Regarding the whole City Food Systems, that project Cities2030 is working on through their Living and Policy Labs, are also facing the same challenges as the initiative mentioned above. They require collaboration and unity of many stakeholders within the City government and municipalities, city institutions and other relevant stakeholders.

The weakness in implementing activities important for the entire food system comes from the disconnection of city offices, institutions and all relevant stakeholders important for the food system to function well and to have all its activities under one common item, which is the Food System. The creation of such a prerequisite is crucial for the further development and increase of the efficiency of the production system, short supply chains - distribution chains of delivery and recycling of food, with cities as the bearers of the activity.

What was found through this research project, and what showed as correct through the Dialogue discussion between the participants, was the big spectrum of various initiatives, projects and examples of good practices that can thrive if Cities, as holders of Food Systems (when established), are better connected and collaborate in their activities.

Being a part of Cities 2030 projects, collaborating with many European countries, on different levels of Food System development, and also connecting with other projects related to food, was the first step in acquiring the necessary knowledge to move forward and start the process of establishing a Food System. Knowledge and key findings in the project gave us the main inputs for the proposal towards our City for the establishment of such systems locally and hopefully to be transferred as a good practice towards the rest of the region and country. Regarding this, we have presented the possibilities, difficulties and possibilities to the rest of the surrounding cities and offered our assistance to start their activities in the right direction. To simplify, we all need access and collaboration between cities, municipalities and Counties so we can be better connected in various initiatives aimed at similar topics in order to work together more efficiently for the same common goals we have at a Country level.

As we can see from the dialogue participants, who were mostly policymakers and city representatives, is that we share a common issue with disconnected activities, and signing a Voluntary agreement as one part of the Food System is the right step in a city organization and collaboration between key stakeholders and then also a collaboration between cities, counties and regions.

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

RELEVANT LINKS

- **[KONFERENCIJA] Uloga gradova u smanjenju i sprječavanju nastanka otpada od hrane**
<https://vegora.hr/konferencija-uloga-gradova-u-smanjenju-i-sprjecavanju-nastanka-otpada-od-hrane/>
- **Uloga i povezivanje gradova u smanjenju te sprječavanju nastanka otpada od hrane**
<https://vegora.hr/uloga-gradova-u-smanjenju-i-sprjecavanju-nastanka-otpada-od-hrane-osvrt-na-konferenciju/>