



THANKS FOR THE FOOD!



It's time for a new menu

Do you want to shift school meals into a new paradigm? Become a SchoolFood4Change Replication City!

Our cities face various challenges: health, climate change, and social inequality. Schools can be a key intervention point to address all three. SchoolFood4Change is developing innovative, locally relevant solutions to make healthy and sustainable food accessible for all children. By becoming a Replication City, you can benefit from peer-to-peer exchanges with pioneering cities, site visits offering first-hand learning experiences, and personalised trainings.

Background

Recent events have underlined the vulnerability of our food systems to shocks and only confirmed the need to make them more resilient, healthy, and sustainable. Schools can have a strategic role in transforming our food systems. By improving school food, the carbon footprint of schools can be drastically reduced and the health and well-being of our children improved, both with a large cascade of co-benefits. Good food at school is especially important for schools located in economically deprived areas, where vegetable and fruit intake can be low.

This is the rationale for SchoolFood4Change: to shift school meals and schools into a new paradigm, one that centres on public health as well as territorial, social, and environmental resilience.



About SchoolFood4Change

SchoolFood4Change is an EU-funded project running from January 2022 to December 2025. It gathers 43 partners (including affiliates) from 12 different countries throughout Europe, including 16 local governments.

SchoolFood4Change has one key objective: to develop innovative, locally relevant solutions for schools, school meal providers, responsible public bodies, and policymakers, in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the EU's Farm to Fork Strategy.

Replication actions

SchoolFood4Change is built on three pillars of action, all of which are inter-connected.

- 1. Revolutionising the buying (procurement)** practices of schools by developing and implementing new and innovative requirements to put healthier meals on children's plates and lunchboxes;
- 2. Creating an enabling environment for the adoption of healthy and sustainable menus by training and empowering school chefs/cooks** and other key stakeholders in the school through a tailored train-the-trainer programme, in order to foster the spread of healthy food habits and make them accessible to all;
- 3. Developing and implementing the "Whole School Food Approach"**, a defined framework for municipalities and schools targeting the achievement of a holistic food culture and involving all related actors linked to the school environment.

Key Figures

3,000 schools
600,000 school children
2 million EU citizens
12 EU countries

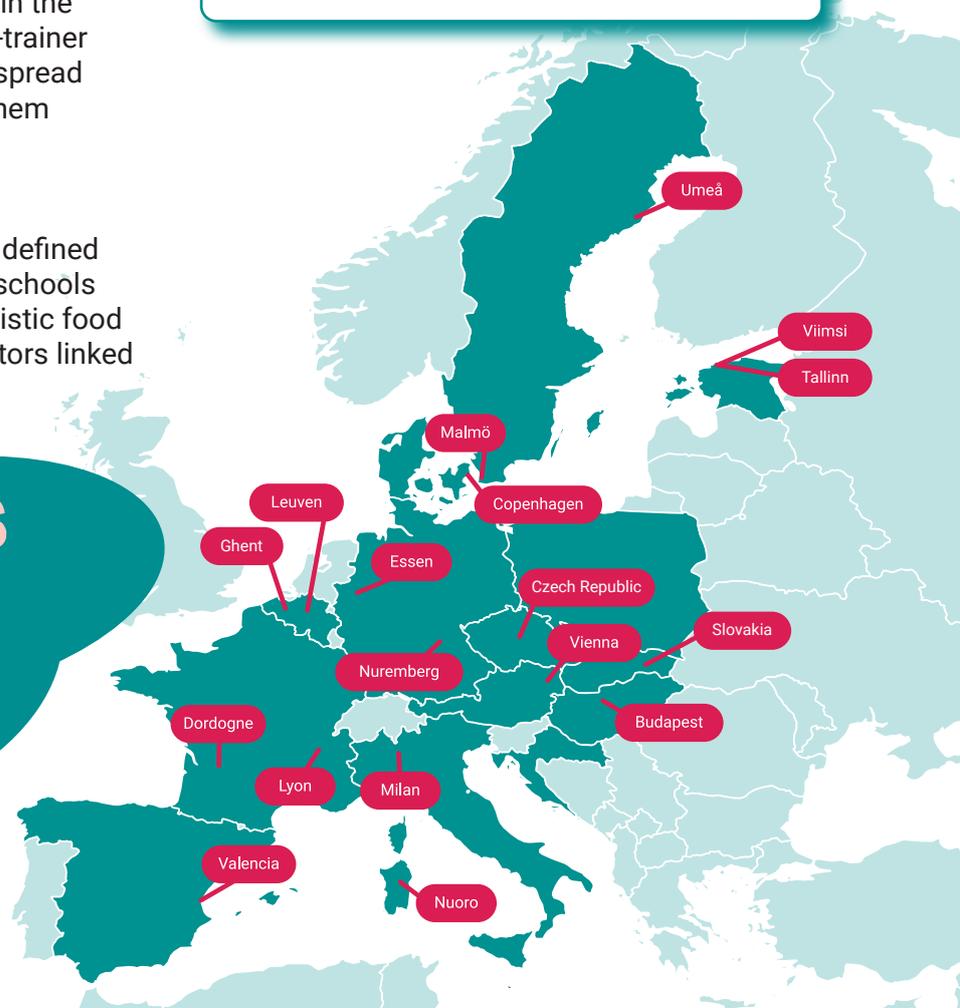


Taking a Whole School Food Approach (WSFA)

A WSFA is an integrated approach to school meals, which consists of four mutually reinforcing pillars:



- 1. Policy & Leadership:** the WSFA is enshrined in the school's vision, mission, values, school policies, development plan and curricula;
- 2. Food & Sustainability:** the WSFA includes shifting the composition of school meals - offering nutritious, tasty and sustainable food;
- 3. Education & Learning:** the WSFA mainstreams food education in the school curriculum - complemented by practical activities like gardening, farm visits and cooking;
- 4. Community & Partnership:** the WSFA goes beyond the school - it also involves cooperation with caregivers, (local) farmers, local businesses, communities and associations.



Becoming a SchoolFood4Change Replication City: what does it mean?

SchoolFood4Change places a strong emphasis on cities, acknowledging their transformative influence over health, schools and public procurement and their direct impact on citizens. SchoolFood4Change will choose about 20 Replication Cities to pilot actions in and outside the EU. These can be city or regional administrations who can directly impact school meals (e.g. by having the responsibility for food procurement) and are interested in implementing actions in their territory. Replication Cities will in turn serve as models for a wider target group of cities to learn from and adapt the solutions and approaches demonstrated in SchoolFood4Change.

Benefits

- **Exchange with pioneer cities and listen to first-hand experience and advice:** SchoolFood4Change brings together some of the most experienced cities in sustainable school meals. Peer-to-peer dialogues, personalised exchanges and study visits with your assigned 'twin' city will help you assess opportunities and challenges at the local level.
- **Receive tailored guidance materials & tools:** Replication Cities will benefit from technical support throughout the entire project duration with easily applicable guidelines, concepts and tools to use at local level. 'Replication Packages' will be developed for the three SchoolFood4Change actions based on insights shared by partner cities, and will help adapt SchoolFood4Change actions to local, context-specific challenges across different regions and cities.

Activities

It is envisaged that Replication Cities will engage in the following types of activities:

- **Twinning:** Each Replication City will be twinned with a SchoolFood4Change partner city to engage in regular one-to-one, peer-to-peer exchanges.
- **Trainings and webinars:** Replication Cities will benefit from the experiences of all partner cities, who will regularly provide updates on progress, opportunities and challenges, in a direct conversation with Replication Cities (through webinars, for example).
- **Annual meetings and study visits:** Replication Cities can participate in annual project meetings, combined with a local study visit, and with potential expert workshops.
- **Ad-hoc visits:** Replication Cities will be given the opportunity to arrange ad-hoc visits to specific partner cities other than their direct twins, for a more personalised dialogue and study visit on specific sites.

MORE VEGGIES,
LESS CO₂!

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Requirements

Replication Cities must commit to all of the following actions:

- Attend regular **meetings and webinars** with partner cities (particularly with the twinned city), and at least one of the study visits.
- **Implement at least one** of the three replication actions presented above (i.e. sustainable food procurement, training school cooks, implementing a Whole School Food Approach).

Note: Replication Cities are expected to cover their own financial needs in terms of working time to implement any of the actions.

- **Develop a Replication Plan** outlining how SchoolFood4Change action(s) will be replicated in their city, what activities they have planned, and under which timeline.

Timeline

Cities have an opportunity to express interest in becoming a SchoolFood4Change Replication City **until 14 November 2022**. Replication activities will start in January 2023.

Apply now!

If you are interested in joining the project as a Replication City, or have any question, **please send an email to: info@schoolfood4change.eu**

More information:

www.schoolfood4change.eu
#SCHOOLFOOD4CHANGE



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