

City-Specific Implementation Plans for Sustainable School Meals Procurement

As part of the SchoolFood4Change project, ICLEI Europe developed a **City-Specific Implementation Plans** to help municipalities turn procurement goals into measurable, long-term impact. The plans enable cities to set clear priorities for **sustainable and healthy school meals** and align them with concrete actions, responsibilities, timelines, and financing strategies. They also highlight that successful implementation requires **strong interdepartmental collaboration**, showing that procurement must work hand-in-hand with health, education, climate, and social departments to achieve change.

A Model for Sustainable School Food Procurement

By presenting real examples from cities, clarifying the strategy behind sustainable school food procurement, and setting out concrete implementation steps, the Plans provide a **replicable model** that other cities can adapt to their own context for making **procurement** of school meals **more ambitious and connected to different policy areas**. Key findings from 18 city-specific implementation plans highlight the needs each city should consider when working on procurement:

Key Insights from City Implementation Plans

- Strong **coordination** across departments (education, health, sustainability, social affairs, procurement).
- Early **stakeholder engagement** with schools, suppliers, farmers, families, and NGOs.
- Locally **adapted procurement** priorities that reflect market capacity and city objectives.
- Integration of **Whole School Food Approach** (Food Education)
- Regular **monitoring** to track progress and adjust actions.
- **Risk and opportunity assessment** to support more resilient implementation.



Find more information here:

