



Budapest (Hungary)

1.685 million inhabitants



Organic production + biodiversity protection

Small farmers + social integration of disadvantaged groups

GHG emission reduction

Nutrition, quality, taste, freshness, seasonality

Pilot Tender for Buffet-style Catering at School

What? To implement sustainable school catering practices, starting with two pilot schools in Ferencváros (IXth district of Budapest), reaching over 650 students.

When? 2023 - 2025

Who? 100 schools located in different Czech cities.

"This work isn't just about food but rather education, inclusion and dignity."

The challenge?

Budapest Municipality aims to work beyond schools to increase their impact with a focus on providing food education and nutritious food to more schools in the city. Starting with two pilot schools in Ferencváros, buffet-style catering service is to be provided and sustainability criteria specified in the public procurement tender are to be met by the suppliers.

The solution!

On behalf of the Ferencváros Municipal Government and with the support of SF4C, an interdisciplinary team was assembled to design the tender, setting new standards for the school meals of two pilot schools, and empowering children to choose from more fruits, vegetables, and whole grain products.

The results:

A new catering tender reaches over 650 students in Budapest's IXth district, going beyond public regulations to improve access to healthy food with extra weekly fruits, vegetables, and whole grains. Meanwhile, the Whole School Food Approach helps children try new items and respect their plates in a self-service canteen environment.

- **Economic impact:** Smart menu planning and training helps schools use resources more efficiently, improving economic resilience.
- **Social Impact (SROI):** Social inequalities are reduced through buffet-style catering in schools. Meals are free of charge for the children of disadvantaged families.
- **Environmental Impact:** Special meals are delivered in eco-friendly packaging, supporting children with dietary needs without compromising environmental goals.



Key Takeaways for Cities:

Try to secure strong commitment and support from the local authority!



Conduct a **detailed feasibility study in advance** and engage in market dialogue early in tenders to elaborate technical specifications.

Involve all stakeholders through an interdisciplinary team of experts, and also involve the children and teachers to learn more about their wishes and needs.



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