



Nuoro (Italy)

36,000 inhabitants



Organic production + biodiversity protection

Small farmers + social integration of disadvantaged groups

GHG emission reduction

Nutrition, quality, taste, freshness, seasonality

Enhancing Local Economies through Market Dialogues

What? To gather stakeholder input for school food procurement tenders. To transparently anticipate challenges in sourcing organic and local produce.

When? 2023

Who? Producers, suppliers, schools, hospitals, catering companies, urban society

The challenge?

In March 2023, the Municipality of Nuoro wanted to introduce Minimum Environmental Criteria (CAM = Criteri Ambientali Minimi) into its school food procurement tender while increasing the share of organic and locally sourced food in school canteens. The key challenge was ensuring that suppliers were ready and able to meet these requirements.

The solution!

SF4C partner Fondazione Ecosistemi and the Municipality of Nuoro organised a participatory procurement process. Local food suppliers, caterers, city representatives, local NGOs and trade unions engaged in co-creative workshops, public food policy and market discussions to gather feedback on sustainability criteria, food waste reduction targets, and market readiness to identify gaps early and together.

The results:

Dialogues and workshops identified potential barriers to organic sourcing and environmental impact tracking in public procurement.

More importantly, they created a shared vision for Nuoro's school canteens by involving local stakeholders in the process. The Municipality of Nuoro built trust and transparency, while creating a platform for continuous improvement.

- **Economic impact:** The needs and barriers of local producers and suppliers were considered through early dialogue, improving access to public procurement opportunities.
- **Social impact:** The participatory process strengthened community trust in the municipality and its services.
- **Environmental impact:** The process contributed to improved food quality in school canteens, strengthening food waste monitoring, and shaping more ambitious sustainability criteria for future tenders.

Key Takeaways for Cities:

Clarify your goals: Before launching any stakeholder process, define your goals clearly!



Engage a broad range of stakeholders: Involve everyone who influences or is impacted by school food.

Use dialogue as a tool for shaping strategy: Use consultations to collect practical insights that feed directly into your tender design and long-term strategy.



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