



Tallinn (Estonia)

461,000 inhabitants



Organic production + biodiversity protection

Improved access to nutritious and affordable food

Nutrition, quality, taste, freshness, seasonality

Free Morning Porridge in the City of Tallinn

What? To ensure equal access to a warm, nutritious breakfast for all children in Tallinn's schools, supporting learning, focus, and well-being while reducing inequalities.

When? 2023 - ongoing

Who? All 58 municipal schools in Tallinn

"Equity remains central: all children receive school meals free-of-charge regardless of background"

The challenge?

In Tallinn, the school food procurement guidelines needed to align better with the city's values around health, sustainability, equity, and education. Before launching this initiative, each school followed city-issued procurement instructions, but these lacked strong, actionable sustainability criteria.

The solution!

The City of Tallinn built on what was already in place: its school food procurement guidelines. To strengthen sustainability, the city revised and updated the city-wide guidelines, introducing key requirements that apply to all future school catering tenders. This process went hand in hand with Tallinn's ambition to provide all school children with a warm, free breakfast of porridge every school day.

The results:

Using market dialogues, the city consulted schools, caterers, and sustainability experts (including SF4C partner SEI Tallinn) to develop updated procurement guidelines. These are now applied across all municipally managed schools and monitored by the Education Department in collaboration and the Department for Circular Economy. All public schools in Tallinn follow the same sustainability principles in their catering tenders, benefiting 47,000 children with healthier, high-quality meals while providing suppliers with clearer sustainability expectations.

- **Economic impact:** Saved costs by adding sustainability standards into existing operations instead of creating major new contracts.
- **Social impact (SROI):** Equity remains central: equal meals for all children in Tallinn build lifelong healthy habits.
- **Environmental impact:** Mandates 20-50% organic food, waste prevention plans, reusable tableware, and eco-labelled cleaning



Photo by Jan Ledermann on Unsplash

Key Takeaways for Cities:

Start by building on what you already have!

Engage suppliers early through open dialogue.

Align internally and ensure cross-department collaboration.



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