



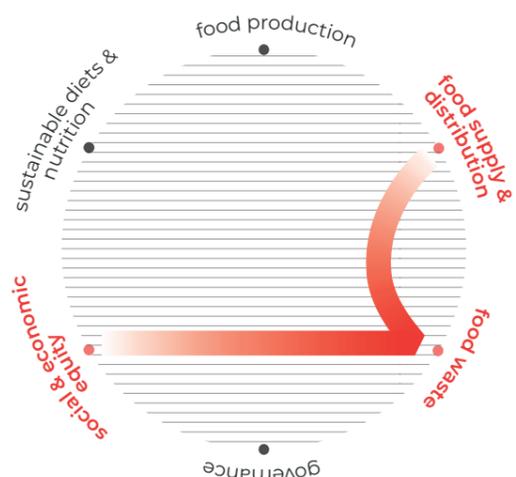
MILAN ITALY

Title of Practice

MILAN: A COMPREHENSIVE FOOD POLICY TO TACKLE FOOD WASTE

Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Category
FOOD WASTE

Main impacts on other MUFPP categories



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Context

In 2014, the Municipality of Milan began to study its local food system, focusing on the urban cycle of food, the underlying context and the actors operating in the city on food matters. In 2015, this analysis was shared with approximately 700 stakeholders through a process of public consultation, which led to the definition and approval of a **comprehensive urban food policy**. This strategy identifies five main areas of intervention, including the fight against food waste, considered one of the top priorities of the Municipality. Additionally, in 2016, a specific set of guidelines was created with the aim of tackling food losses and waste at the local level, feeding grassroots actions and top-down interventions.

Overview of the food practice

Over the last year, several actions were initiated by the Municipality of Milan with the objective of reducing food waste across the city. One of the most relevant is a **discount on the waste tax**, approved by the Municipal Council in February 2018. This measure reduces by 20 percent the tax on waste in favour of those food businesses (supermarkets, restaurants, canteens, producers etc.) that donate their food losses to charities. The action is coordinated by different departments of the municipality (fiscal, environmental, food policy), as part of a multi-sectoral working group. The measure further supports the mapping, strengthening and spreading of food donation initiatives in the city, mainly led by non profit organizations.

Alongside with the waste tax reduction, the Municipality of Milan is focusing its action on the elements of the food system that can be controlled directly, such as school canteens. Currently, there are **106 canteens (on a total of 418) affiliated to a food bank** for the recovery and redistribution of 140 tonnes of fruit and bread. Additionally, in order to prevent fruit waste at the end of each lunch, the municipal agency for school canteens (Milano Ristorazione) designed a specific program where children receive fruit in their classrooms as a morning snack, instead of at the end of the meal. Moreover, 31 000 reusable doggy bags are distributed to children, who can bring home non perishable leftovers.

The Municipality of Milan is also active in private-public partnership aimed at fighting food waste. The City's Food Policy Office has recently facilitated an agreement between a University lab and an association of private actors (supermarkets and food companies) to develop the first **"Local Food Waste Hub"**. This pilot project, implemented in three neighbourhoods, promotes the redistribution of food losses at the local level in a space offered by the Municipality of Milan. In the course of the pilot year the input and output flows of donation in the hub will be monitored and this knowledge will be

spread to other 35 local organizations mapped by the Food Policy. According to a preliminary analysis, each hub will be able to gather and redistribute approximately 70 tonnes of food per year.

Lastly, the intervention in favour of food waste reduction is targeting the open street markets, supporting a local association in the collection of surpluses at the end of the daily market activity. The test involves 11 pilot markets, with a direct engagement of the beneficiaries.

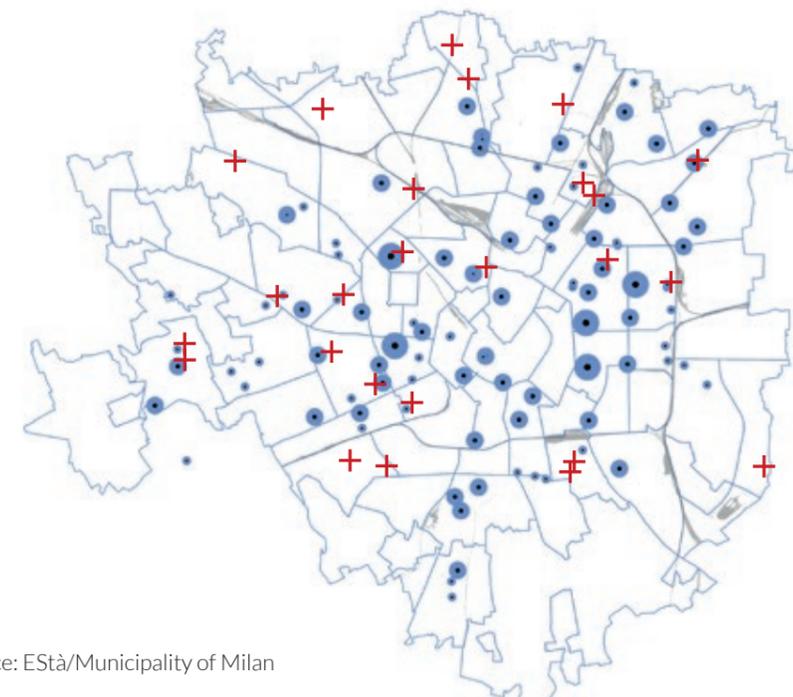
Results and lessons learned

Despite their recent implementation, the initiatives supported by the City of Milan already show promising results. For example, the reduction of the food waste tax benefitted approximately 10 000 people, with an impact of EUR 1.8 millio. This allows for a further reduction, reaching up to 50% over the following year.

A key feature of the success of the Food Policy of Milan is the **multilevel governance approach**, which gathers representatives from the Municipal, Metropolitan, and regional authorities. The concerted implementation of the actions described above allowed the Municipality of Milan to learn four key lessons:

- cities need to analyze their food system in order to tackle food losses. It is important to have local data to make the correct decisions, observing the main drivers shaping the food system of the city;
- municipalities can act on the food system by facilitating the relations between the concerned actors, playing a role as a community leader and not just as an administrative power;
- cities must implement umbrella actions (creation of platforms, networks, ...) able to create the favorable context for the creation of initiatives involving social and economic actors;
- city networks play an important role in exchanging information and inspiring activities at different level. It is equally fundamental to have **municipal officers dedicated to food matters**, that can engage actors and facilitate common initiatives among departments, municipal agencies, research centers, food banks, social actors and major food businesses.

In conclusion, the growing importance of cities in fighting food waste is undeniable: the municipalities are key players to achieve a 50% waste reduction by 2030.



Source: EStà/Municipality of Milan

https://www.comune.milano.it/wps/portal/ist/st/food_policy_milano/Milan+Food+Policy



445 EUR/MONTH
1 FAMILY FOOD EXPENDITURE



450 EUR/YEAR
1 FAMILY DOMESTIC FOOD WASTE

35% fresh products
19% bread
16% fruits & vegetables

SCHOOL CANTEENS AFFILIATED TO A FOOD BANK

- 14 - 300 meals/day
- 301 - 590 meals/day
- 591 - 880 meals/day
- + Milan municipal kitchens