



COVID-19 and urban food systems in the European Union
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
cordially invites you to **save the date** for this **virtual discussion**
on 24 June 2020, 1100 – 1230h (CET) on Zoom (<https://fao.zoom.us/j/91368318764>)

Background: Cities and local governments play a crucial role in ensuring food security and improved nutrition for local population. Urban areas already face huge challenges in high food demand (nearly 80 percent of the total food production) and the prevalence of nutrition-related non-communicable diseases. The COVID-19 pandemic is disrupting urban food systems worldwide, posing a number of challenges for cities and local governments dealing with rapid changes in food availability, accessibility and affordability – which strongly impact the food security and nutrition situation of urban populations. In light of this, FAO's urban task force has launched "[Food System and COVID-19 Questionnaire](#)", a survey with the aim municipal responses to the emergency and collect recommendations and lessons learned on how the responses could be better managed.

Event objective: This event will be the occasion for FAO to present [FAO framework for the Urban Food Agenda](#) and to share the results of the survey on COVID-19 measures taken by local governments along with key lessons-learned. The timely release of the [European Union Farm to Fork Strategy](#), is an opportunity for FAO together with partners to discuss possible synergies for building resilience to minimise future shocks in urban food systems.

Speakers

- Mr **Jamie Morrison**, FAO Strategic Programme Leader for Food Systems
- Ms **Alexandra Nikolakopoulou**, Head of Unit, Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) (TBC)
- Ms **Ulrika Landergren**, President of Committee of the Regions' Commission for natural resources (CoR/NAT) (TBC)
- Mr **Peter DeFranceschi**, Head of European Union Office of Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI)
- Mr **Joan Ribó**, Mayor City of Valencia, Spain (TBC)
- Mr **Ronald Sussner**, Mayor City of Ghent, Belgium (TBC)

Moderator:

- **Maria Magdalena Heinrich**, FAO Programme Officer, Food Systems Programme

Presentations will be followed by an interactive discussion with NAT members and other selected invited stakeholders

