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The role of participative foresight in creating a sustainable food supply for the Brussels-Capital Region.

Foresight encompasses various methods for exploring and analysing the future in a participatory way. Within the food and agricultural system, foresight is often employed to address future uncertainties, leading to the development of long-term future scenarios. In addition to generating knowledge and providing an initial conceptualisation of future change, the impact of such exercises can result in influencing policy outcomes. Unlike predicting the future using logical reasoning, foresight attempts to integrate complexity, aiming to stimulate creative thinking. Therefore, the foresight process is crucial, as it unites diverse perspectives and improves stakeholders' resilience in tackling future challenges.

In the context of this paper, a foresight exercise will be conducted to explore various future scenarios aimed at ensuring a sustainable food supply for the Brussels-Capital Region. The objective is to collaborate with relevant actors in identifying key uncertainties encompassing the Brussels food system and, based on this, develop future perspectives.

While there is a general consensus that participation is crucial in foresight processes, the specific actors to be involved and the manner of their involvement remain questions. A trade-off exists between capturing heterogeneity in participation and the so-called productivity of the process. In this context, involving policymakers proves crucial for influencing policy decision, but it is equally necessary to ensure adequate representation from the grassroots level.

By discussing various examples of participative urban foresight processes in the context of food and agriculture across different geographic scales and scanning relevant foresight literature, this paper aims to provide an answer to the question of which Brussels actors should be involved to achieve a representative future vision of the Brussel food supply system. Additionally, it aims to offer a more systemic analysis of the identification of participants to be involved in exploring sustainable solutions for the numerous crises currently confronting the urban food system.

authors

DE SCHAEPMEESTER

Hannelore: After completing her bioengineering education, Hannelore pursued an international study in rural development. She is now a PhD student at the Sustainable Food Economies Research Group at KU Leuven.

AMROM Caroline: Caroline holds a MSc in agricultural sciences as well as in Climate Change Adaptation. With working experiences at agricultural organisations and in consultancy, Caroline works as research assistant at SYTRA and carries out prospective and strategic studies on the dynamics of agricultural and food transition.

MATHIJS Erik: Erik holds a MSc in Bioscience Engineering and a PhD in Agricultural Economics. Now, he is the Director of SFERE (Sustainable Food Economies Research Group) and Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, KU Leuven.

keywords

- urban food systems
- foresight
- participatory processes

Territories of urban-rural hybridisation in the agro-ecological transition. A spatial exploration of agro-ecology initiatives in Veneto plain

MARCON Alessandra, PhD in urbanism, is currently a post-doc researcher at the Iuav University of Venice and associate researcher at the École d'architecture de la Ville & Territoires de Paris-Est. Between research and project, her work focuses on the role of urban design in hybrid urban-rural territories and productive landscapes, with a particular focus on socio-ecological issues related to new transition initiatives linked to peasant agriculture.

authors

While Food Planning has long been interested in food spaces related to urban and metropolitan contexts, there are few case studies today that consider territories and processes of diffusion and dispersion, where urban settlements and infrastructures mix and hybridise with the rural tissue.

However, in recent years, there has been a renewed interest in the territories of urban-rural hybridisation, in an attempt to overcome those spatial categories that continue to structure much of western urban thought (city-country; urban-rural, etc.). In fact, beyond food production and the city-countryside distinction, some scholars question the renewed relationship between urbanism and agriculture and the latter's role in determining the future of inhabited territories in a necessary phase of agro-ecological transition. If numerous urban statistics and policies promote the

TOSI Maria Chiara, PhD in Urbanism, is Full Professor in Urban Design at Iuav University of Venice where she is also the Director of the School of Doctorate Studies and the coordinator of the PhD in Urbanism. She has been part of numerous national and international research projects on the study of the morphology and evolution of urban settlements.

hybrid territories —
agroecology —
transition initiatives —
Veneto plain —

keywords

prospect of a global urban destiny of humanity, the new processes of reterritorialisation of food systems and some traces of back-to-the-land movements, re-interrogate their universality and give rise to the first hypotheses of an urban exodus. The observation of agro-ecology initiatives and the exploration of related emerging tensions, conflicts and imaginaries could help confirm or refute these hypotheses and sketch new scenarios of the future of inhabited territories.

Starting from these reflections, the contribution will focus on the construction of the methodology for the research project entitled “Territories of urban-rural hybridisation in the agro-ecological transition”, financed by the French-Italian University (UFI) and built between the École d’architecture de la Ville & des Territoires Paris-Est and the Iuav University of Venice.

The project stems from the desire of the two partners to collaborate in the construction of a shared knowledge of the territories of urban-rural hybridisation in Europe and in particular on the transformations affecting the spaces of emerging agro-ecological initiatives in the Italian case of the central Veneto plain.

How can the emerging agro-ecology initiatives help us rethink the culture of urban and spatial design? What tensions, conflicts and new imaginaries are emerging? What future scenarios lie ahead for the territories of European urban-rural hybridisation?

Global city goes local: State ambitions and societal undercurrents of food localization in Singapore

Singapore – perhaps the quintessential city-state reliant on the global food trade is now taking a second look at its previously unquestioned policy of sustaining its food supply almost entirely on food imports. With its shift in policy, the state emphatically signals a new ambitious goal of locally supplying 30% of its nutritional needs by 2030 under its “30 by 30” strategy. It is ambitious given that current local food production accounts for less than 10% of its food supply and agriculture takes up just 1% of its land of the almost entirely urban island city. The study critically analyses the developmental state and technocentric approach often practised in Singapore applied in this unfamiliar terrain, as it offers broad strategic direction and policies, and subsidises private sector participation often through technological experimentation and development. This main (and oversized) narrative may belie the undercurrents of societal practices of food localization. This study uses interviews with experts and practitioners in food and agriculture in Singapore to examine the different strands of action towards food localization and conceptualizes how policy and societal practices and movements compared with dominant strands around the world.

author

SOH Emily is an urban researcher who has worked on cross-cutting urban issues including ageing and the city, transport, and food systems. Her research interests revolve around urban systems transitions, with an aspiration of guiding them towards public benefit and greater equity. She is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the National University of Singapore, working on food system transitions of small open economies.

keywords

— food system transitions
— food security
— global food trade
— food localization

Strategizing regional food systems as pathways towards sustainability transitions: The case of Lisbon’s Metropolitan Area.

OLIVEIRA Rosário, European PhD on Arts and Techniques of Landscape. She is a Research Fellow and a Senior Lecturer at the Institute of Social Sciences of the University of Lisbon, at the SHIFT ‘Environment, Territory and Society’ Research Group. Her research seeks to respond to societal challenges, namely the climate emergency, food planning and biodiversity loss, through transformative processes and nature-based solutions that integrate science, public policy and action, with a positive impact on human well-being, the economy, environmental quality and the

authors

Sustainability Transitions and the complexity of its underlying challenges place a tremendous transformative pressure on food systems, putting the food transition on the forefront to generate co-benefits for a multitude of actors and players, translated into positive impacts on the economy, health, the environment, the climate adaptation and on the society.

Various international strategies and commitments recommend that this transition be fully achieved by 2030, contributing to the goal of carbon neutrality, climate adaptation and biodiversity conservation, increasing physical and mental well-being, especially for the most vulnerable groups of the population.

Sustainable food transition has thus recently gained increased relevance in metropolitan spatial planning and development policies. However, the complexity of steering this process and deliver transformative change sits far beyond any spatial and territorial constraints, to include the intricate, and often conflicting dynamics of

landscape. She is implementing the European Project FoodCLIC in the Lisbon Metropolitan Area. In 2023 she coordinated the elaboration of the Food Transition Strategy for this region and co-coordinated the FoodLink - Network for the Food transition in the Lisbon Metropolitan Area with two other regional public institutions, involving more than 100 stakeholders.

MOURATO João, PhD Town Planning - Bartlett School of Planning University College London, is a Research Fellow and Senior Lecturer at the Institute of Social Sciences of the University of Lisbon [ICS-ULisboa]. His work sits at the intersection between Climate Action and Spatial Planning. In particular, on how sustainability transitions challenge current institutional and policy delivery dynamics. As a research-to-policy broker João has over the last years been a consultant for the Portuguese Directorate General for Territory - Ministry of the Environment, helping develop the InC2- National Initiative for Circular Cities and the National Roadmap for Adaptation 2100. He is a technical adviser of Adapt.Local - the Portuguese Association of Municipalities for Adaptation to Climate Change.

the governance of food environments.

As an outcome of a five-year intensive process, the Food Transition Strategy for the Lisbon Metropolitan Area was delivered at the end of 2023 and is now ready to be implemented underpinning a vision to reconfigure the evolution trajectories of the metropolitan food system by 2030.

In this paper, we critically review the experience of strategizing this regional food system from a bottom-up approach by interlinking applied research with the current regional policies into force and the action undertaken by a backbone food policy network that has preliminary established the baseline for the Food Transition Policy to come up into this achievement.

TRUNINGER Monica, Sociologist, Senior research fellow at the ICS ULisboa and coordinator of the SHIFT 'Environment, Territory and Society' Research Group. Some of her more recent projects align with topics as: food planning in the city-region of Lisbon (FoodClic, Horizon Europe); the application of SSH tools to the implementation of the European Green Deal (SharedGreenDeal, Horizon 2020); the links between food shops in large towns that sell local foods with the productive territories in rural areas (STRINGS/FCT co-leadership); sustainability and the opinions of the Portuguese (through Large Surveys on Sustainability / Mission Continente, co-leadership).

GARCIA TÁVORA Gabriel - PhD in Geography from the State University of Rio de Janeiro, a

master's degree in Geography from the Fluminense Federal University and a degree in Geography from the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, he have experience in Geosciences, with an emphasis on Remote Sensing and expertise on geoprocessing, vegetation cover mapping, geoecology and environmental planning. He was a great support on mapping the metropolitan food system of Lisbon, especially to identify the higher potential territories to implement agro-food parks in the region.

LINARES CEBALLO Fernanda - Masters on Design for Sustainability, she is passionate of food transition and particularly creative on mapping and gapping initiatives and stakeholders of local food systems.

food transition —
sustainability transition —
food system planning —
food system strategy —
food policy network —
Lisbon Metropolitan Area —

keywords

