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FOODGaP: Food Governance and Policies at local level

Donor: EU – Interreg NEXT MED, European Commission

Coordinator: CIHEAM Bari

Partners: European Public Law Organisation, Municipality of Tyre, Mersin Metropolitan Municipality, Città metropolitana di Roma Capitale, Municipality of Djerba Houmt Souk

Project starting date: 08/07/2025

Project duration: 36 months

Countries: Italy, Lebanon, Türkiye, Greece, Tunisia

OVERALL OBJECTIVE

The **FOODGaP: Food Governance and Policies at Local Level** project empowers Mediterranean cities and local authorities to play a leading role in creating healthier, fairer, and more sustainable food systems. Its main goals are to:

- **Strengthen food security**
- **Strengthen local leadership** by giving cities the tools to design and manage food policies.
- **Bring people together** by involving citizens, businesses and researchers in shaping solutions.
- **Connect cities and rural areas** to support balanced development across territories.
- **Encourage cooperation across the Mediterranean** and ensure local voices are heard in global food policy dialogue.
- **Support the green, social and digital transitions** in line with European and international priorities.

To make these goals a reality, FOODGaP will:

- Build institutional capacities of local authorities to co-design and deliver food policies.
- Pilot **4 local food policies** in Tyre (LB), Mersin (TR), Rome (IT), Houmt Souk (TN), engaging at least **50 stakeholders** per city.
- Implement **1 key action per pilot city** to demonstrate effective participatory governance.
- Create a **Mediterranean Coalition** of at least **15 cross-border/EU organizations** to scale the FOODGaP approach.
- Develop an **IT platform** to share methods, tools and outcomes for replication.

ACTIVITIES

EPLO will participate in the following WPs/Activities:

- WP1 - Management and coordination
- WP2 - Communication and dissemination initiatives
- WP3 - Project implementation: Transnational capacity building for a common knowledge on food policies, Peer learning workshops, City-to-city exchange programme
- WP4 - Project implementation: Building local food systems' participatory governance models, Comparative analysis of participatory governance practices, Co-design of local governance models
- WP5 - Project implementation: Pilot actions to test participatory governance models for local food policy development, Local living labs set up, Transnational events
- WP6 - Project implementation: Mediterranean Food Policy Coalition and creation of IT platform