

# URBAN AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## Urban food policies: A new domain of public action

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<b>Context of the research activity</b>	<p>The proposal focuses on urban food policies as a new participatory strategic planning tool that manifests itself with different forms and approaches at the intersection of political-administrative action of local authorities and bottom-up activation of different subjects in the food system. This perspective requires a deep innovation in how the topic of food is understood and considered by plans and policies of public administration.</p>
	<p>In the last two decades, an increasing number of local administrations and other food systems' stakeholders are investing their efforts in developing local food policies, aiming at increasing local food systems' sustainability through multi-sectoral integrated actions, selected and implemented through participatory processes. These processes mainly occur in urban and metropolitan areas and focus on what FAO has defined as the "city-region-food system". More than 200 cities have signed the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, the main international framework attesting to the active engagement of urban administrations in putting food systems at the core of their agenda.</p> <p>In the Italian context, a similar multi-sectoral and integrated approach to territorial food policies has been recently adopted also by public and private actors working in rural areas.</p>

## Objectives

In the rural context, specific regulatory tools are emerging: e.g. Food Communities (developed initially as informal and grassroots experiences, they have been formalized as regulatory tools with the Italian national law 194/2015) or Food Districts (which include the old rural and agri-food districts and new experiences such as bio-districts) introduced with the Italian national law 205/2017.

In urban and rural contexts, local food policies are voluntary tools characterized by a plurality of development paths, approaches and experiences.

In particular, the metropolitan level plays a potentially crucial role, which is closest to the city region food system model.

Local and urban food policies are also the object of a critical debate, questioning the effectiveness of local actions in increasing the social and environmental sustainability of food systems that are deeply multiscalar and globalized and criticizing the "post-political approach" of some experiences of food policies.

Working in this project, the candidate will be part of a broad research group working on Local Food Policies with strong connections at the international scale (Sustainable Food Planning group - Aesop), at the Italian level (Ibo), with the Rete Politiche Locali del Cth a specific focus on the Turin local context, through the action-research initiative named "Atlante del Cibo di Torino Metropolitana" (Turin Food Atlas) (project shared by University, Politecnico of Turin, University of Gastronomic Science, Turin Chamber of Commerce, Ires Piemonte, City of Turin, Metropolitan City of Turin, Urban Lab).

The research aims to critically analyze Local Food Policies at the national and international level, focusing on:

- The circulation of such policies through the framework of "policy mobility"
- Their potential role as strategic planning tools
- Their specific role as regulatory and participatory frameworks for addressing the food system's sustainability and justice
- Their role in planning and managing urban-rural linkages.

## Skills and competencies for the development of the activity

- Qualitative and ethnographic research;
- Quantitative methods;
- GIS analysis and representations;
- basics of food geography and sociology of food, agricultural economics, spatial and urban planning.