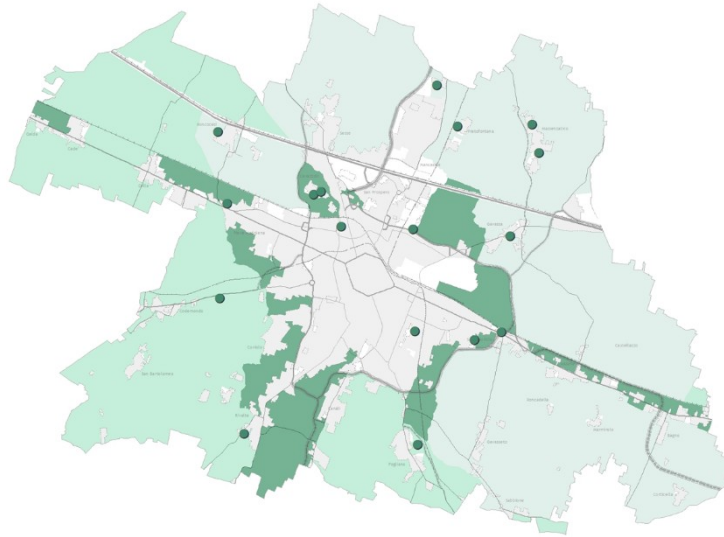




Reggio Emilia Local Action plan

Final version – July 2022



In partnership with



PART I – GENERAL INFORMATION

Project: PROSPERA
Partner organisation: MUNICIPALITY OF REGGIO EMILIA
Other partner organisations involved: CRPA – E35 FOUNDATION FOR INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS
Country: ITALY
NUTS2 region: EMILIA ROMAGNA REGION
Contact person: Maria Luna Fragomeni
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phone number:

PART II – POLICY CONTEXT

The Action Plan aims to impact:	Investment for Growth and Jobs programme European Territorial Cooperation programme X Other regional development policy instrument
Name of the policy instrument addressed: MUNICIPAL UNIQUE PLANNING DOCUMENT (DUP)	
The policy tool referred to by the Application Form is DUP - Single Programming Document of the Municipality of Reggio Emilia 2022-2025, Strategic priority 3 – City for Sustainability and Green transition.	
The scenario	
The premise of the PROSPERA project is that peri-urban areas have a lot of potential to promote the sustainable development of cities, and that to develop this potential it is necessary the innovation of local and regional policies.	
In Reggio Emilia, peri-urban areas are mainly characterised by the presence of rural activities engaged in the production of agricultural products, but also capable of providing additional services related to the use of the natural heritage, such as agri-tourism, educational farming, etc. These are multifunctional farms, usually small, which have built their business model on the promotion of the ecosystem services generated by their farms. These realities coexist with residential settlements, traditional farms and other productive activities.	
In addition to agricultural producers, the analysis carried out in the first phase of the project highlighted the variety of initiatives and projects in the suburban area, both by institutional stakeholders as well as by citizens' organisations.	

The following key points emerged from the Local stakeholder groups and international organisations meeting with the internal and external stakeholders of the Municipality:

- There is a growing demand from citizens for a healthy, safe and local diet, as well as for social experiences in areas with a high naturalistic and / or landscape value near the city. This demand has further increased with the pandemic crisis. The peri-urban areas of Reggio Emilia have the potential to meet this demand;
- the promotion of a sustainable local agri-food system could be the key for the development of a peri-urban area able to combine economic and environmental sustainability. The aim is to trigger a virtuous circle: the more citizens consume local and quality products, the greater the profitability and attractiveness of this model of multifunctional farm, the greater the sustainability in the territory, both in terms of land use and production systems, and that of food consumption;
- Policies at the local level have successfully focused on the environmental and naturalistic field (urban forestry, project life+ “Urban proof”, etc.) as well as the social one (“neighbourhood architects”, SIAMO QUA project, etc.). However, a more structured approach to the issue of agri-food production and consumption is missing.
- There are many projects and initiatives on the themes of peri-urban areas , rurality and food, but they are extremely fragmented, even within the Municipality.
- A common policy strategy on these issues must be implemented with a participatory approach, exchanging information, sharing solutions and coordinating actions with stakeholders.
- To promote a virtuous circle between sustainable local production and citizen consumption, first of all, it is necessary to give visibility to the local supply chain, promoting its knowledge and accessibility.

Even if it has been recognized as a key factor for the sustainable development of Reggio Emilia peri-urban areas, as well as for the city as a whole, the leverage of food system transition is not properly addressed by the main local policy instrument, that is the Single Planning Document of the Municipality of Reggio Emilia (DUP).

A further consideration was added to the outcomes summarised above: the PI initially targeted *Emilia-Romagna Region Regional Operational Programme ERDF 2014-2020- Axis 3 - Competitiveness and attractiveness of the productive system*” was closed, and there were no possibilities to further influence it.

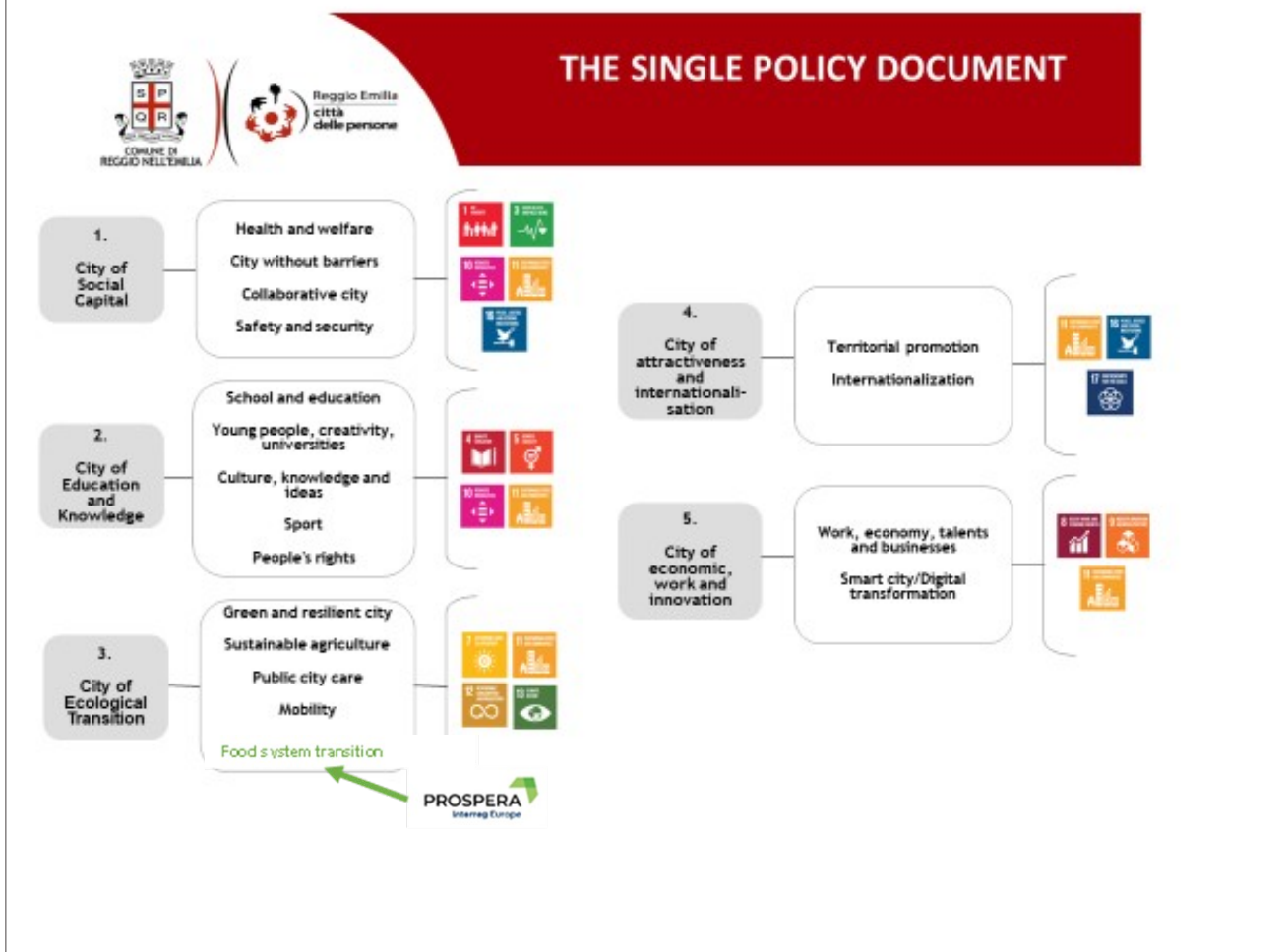
For these reasons, the LP has decided to work on the DUP the political and planning document of the Municipality of Reggio Emilia indicating strategic policies and goals of the Municipality in all its main areas of competences. This instrument is approved by the City Assembly of the City according to the proposal of the Executive Committee. The Municipality of Reggio Emilia is the Managing authority and therefore it could address it directly. Besides, the DUP regards the Municipal level but it also takes into consideration policies and inputs from the Regional level.

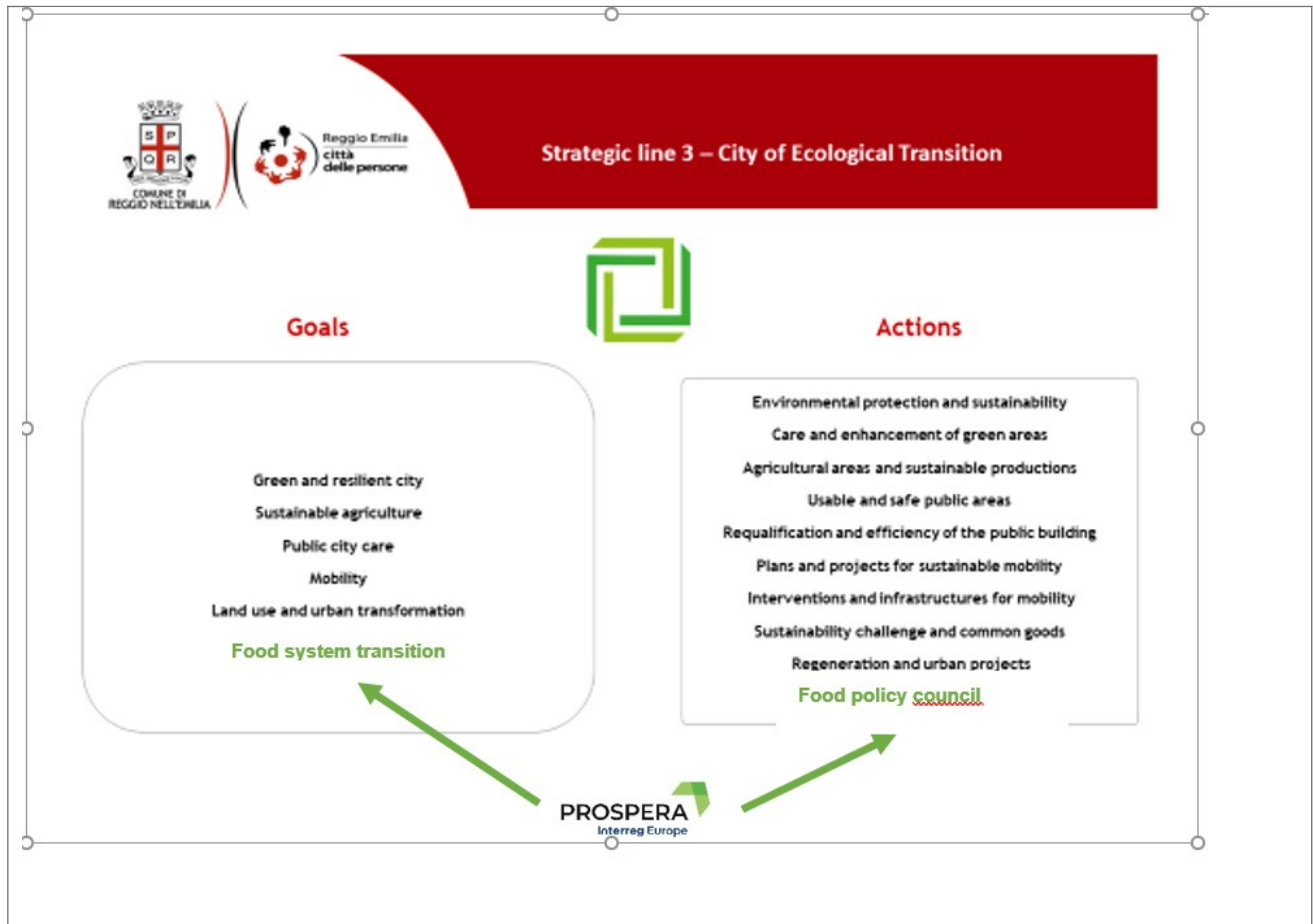
The DUP deals with the strategic and plurennial priorities of the Municipality. The DUP document includes in its framework all the specific and thematic strategies and plans developed by the Municipalities. Each strategy needs to be developed according to DUP main strategies and objectives. It is divided in 6 strategic lines; each of them is translated into goals and actions to achieve the goals.

PROSPERA project already achieved a first formal recognition, as it is mentioned in the DUP that the project activated an innovative process to coordinate departments' initiatives and practices linked to food systems, peri urban areas and sustainable territorial development. This strategic line addresses environmental sustainability and mobility policies. This includes a wide range of activities and projects aimed at combating air pollution, enhancing urban green spaces, improving road safety, promoting cycling, and improving the maintenance of public areas along with sustainable agriculture.

The first step of the action plan will be to establish a Food Policy Council, a new participatory governance body. This body will be the reference for the co-design process that will lead to the integration by adding a further goal, "Food system transition" under strategic line 3 of the DUP.

Furthermore, a proposal for an updated set of indicators will be elaborated and formally adopted.





PART III – DETAILS OF THE ACTIONS ENVISAGED

Integration of a food system transition strategy in the local DUP through a participatory governance process.

Action Title	Type	Source/Good Practice	Partner	Stakeholders involved	Deliverable
Integration of a food system transition strategy in the local DUP through a participatory governance process	Governance Change	“Local food strategy Gent en Garde”	PP3 City of Ghent, Belgium	E35 Foundation for international projects CRPA	Food Policy Council guidelines
	Structural Change	“Rural village development strategy”	PP7 Municipality of Varberg, Sweden	University of Modena and Reggio Emilia Farmers associations: Coldiretti, Confagricoltura, CIA EDUIREN (Multiutility local company)	Food Policy Council established Strategic indicators defined New strategic Goal in the DUP: food system

				<p>High Schools: Zanelli for agriculture, Motti for gastronomy</p> <p>Visit Emilia Association for tourism in Reggio Emilia, Parma and Piacenza</p> <p>Consorzio della Bonifica,</p> <p>Professional Orders: Architects, Biologists</p> <p>Business associations</p> <p>Farmers: La Collina, Il Girasole, Api Libere</p> <p>Biodistrict of Agriculture</p> <p>Green University</p> <p>Insieme per Rivalta Association</p> <p>Pause Atelier of Taste (education and research about food and taste)</p> <p>Emilia-Romagna Region</p>	transition
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1.1. The background

As already described in the previous section, the main result of the PROSPERA analysis and stakeholders consultation at local level was to identify the management of food system transition as a key leverage for the sustainable development of Reggio Emilia peri-urban areas. On this basis, it has been decided to change the DUP governance along with including a new goal related to food system transition.

The exchange of good practices with PROSPERA's partners was therefore oriented by two questions:

- how to structure a governance process on these issues?
- What can be the role the Municipality plays in promoting a sustainable food system?

These guidelines led the local partners to identify two experiences whose profile was particularly relevant:

- **Gent en Garde (Gent, BE)**
- **Rural Village Development Strategy (Varberg, SE)**

In fact, the two good practices share some themes of interest: focus on agri-food production and / or rural areas, participatory approach, attention to the interpretation of the territory and changes, visibility of rural realities.

Reggio Emilia Local Action Plan is inspired by these two good practices and strictly conceived on the SDGs principles and goals.

Gent en Garde

A first lesson learned at strategy level is that to promote the transition towards a sustainable agri-food system, therefore to change the way we produce, transform and consume food, it is essential to think from a systemic perspective, addressing all the step of the food supply chain, as well as all the players in the system. In this sense, a policy related to peri-urban rural production could act as an entry point for the city to expand the strategy in the future.

Reggio Emilia intends to transfer into its own context the central element of this good practice, which is the "food policy council" of Ghent, as an example of co-creative governance that actively involves all the relevant stakeholders.

In this regard, some key indications were provided during the knowledge exchanges:

- clearly define from the beginning what is the purpose of the Food Policy Council and the role of its participants;
- do not overly formalise the working group in order not to lose flexibility and spontaneity;
- it is not necessary to always have a perfect picture of the overall scenario: monitoring the indicators is expensive, and it could lead to diverting resources. Therefore, it is better to identify a few result indicators at the level of the overall strategy, and to monitor the results of individual projects in detail;
- starting from simple quick-win solutions to test them and make them evolve into structural solutions;
- it is important always to have practical project(s) to focus discussion on;
- important to allocate a yearly budget.

Rural Village Development Strategy

Assessing the first hypotheses of a local "food policy council", we realised that we had in mind the usual idea that stakeholders should go to the Municipality to gather around a table. This good practice has led us to question this usual perspective, since in the Varberg good Practice, through the "village walks" it is the Municipality that goes to rural areas to get to know them, so not only by organising meetings but by "walking" in the territory.

A second element of interest of this GP is the initial analysis of the needs of rural areas that has been developed, by crossing quantitative and qualitative data, integrating the point of view of the actors in the analysis.

Eventually, the idea of defining a strategy not only on a specific area, but interconnected between the different rural areas, is of particular interest.

The Municipality of Reggio Emilia has developed similar paths of knowledge of the territory through the timely collection of data (cognitive analysis for the new General Urban Planning Plan) and dialogue with the districts of the city (Siamo Qua project). It would therefore be a question of giving continuity and coherence to an existing approach, focusing it on the themes of the rural peri-urban.

To have more information about the learning process developed by Reggio Emilia during the PROSPERA project, please refer to the following documents:

Reggio Emilia Analysis Report

https://www.dropbox.com/s/x7kwpi3zmszsh7og/PROSPERA_regionalreport_Reggio%20Emilia_DEF.pdf?dl=0

Bingo Documents - finding out matches and good practices exchanges

https://www.dropbox.com/s/x7kwpi3zmszsh7og/PROSPERA_regionalreport_Reggio%20Emilia_DEF.pdf?dl=0

PROSPERA Learning Report: Municipality of Reggio Emilia

https://www.dropbox.com/home/E35/BANDI%20E%20PROGETTI%20UE/INTERREG/2018_PROSPERA/2.%20AVVIO%20PROGETTO/3.%20Exchange%20of%20experience/0.%20Methodology/5.%20Learning%20Reports?preview=PROSPERA+LEARNING+REPORT+-+REGGIO+EMILIA.pdf

1.2. Actions

Objective:

The objective of the action is to adopt an innovative governance model (Food Policy Council) based on participatory approach (able to involve local actors in decision-making processes) and "data-driven" (based on an objective interpretation of the local dynamics) that eventually will lead to a change in the strategic objectives of the DUP (i.e. the introduction of the new goal: Reggio Emilia Food System Transition)

INFLUENCING THE TARGETED POLICY INSTRUMENT

Action's objective will be achieved through:

1) GOVERNANCE CHANGE

- launch of a multi-actor and multidisciplinary governance body (Food Policy Council) to implement the food transition strategy according to DUP new goal

2) STRUCTURAL CHANGE

- a) Formal adoption of a new goal related to food system transition in the DUP
- a) Setting up new indicators (based on "agrifood data lab" to support DUP policy processes and goals related to the issues of peri-urban development and food systems.

GOVERNANCE CHANGE

A Food Policy Council will be established as a multi-actor and multidisciplinary governance body, composed of several Municipal Departments and several local stakeholder. The Food Policy Council will be aiming at implementing the food transition strategy according to DUP new goal.

STRUCTURAL CHANGE

The DUP 2023 will introduce a new goal within the strategic lines “CITY OF ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION” dedicated to Food System transition. The new goal will describe the strategic vision and will be based on main contributions coming from the Food Policy Council. The goal will also be linked to specific indicators to be monitored and evaluated.

Description

The Municipality of Reggio Emilia will work to settle the Reggio Emilia Food Policy Council.

The Reggio Emilia Food Policy Council will be the multi-actor and intersectoral governance body aimed at coordinating policies to promote the transition to a sustainable local food system.

It will be open to all stakeholders (business associations, research centres, schools, SMEs, cooperatives, professional orders, social actors, etc..) in the area, engaged or interested in related issues and initiatives, who will be able to participate by joining a public event of interest in order to:

- continue the mapping of initiatives and good practices on the issue also in the private sphere;
- formalise the accession and interest of the various stakeholders to the Reggio Emilia Food Policy Council.

The operational objectives of this body will be:

- to define, direct and monitor the new DUP “food system transition” goal
- to define an operational Food policy strategy, in order to translate the DUP goal into concrete and measurable action to facilitate the implementation of projects related to the strategy.

The Reggio Emilia Food Policy Council will:

- share information, opportunities and updates on existing initiatives;
- orient the Municipality selecting the priorities for intervention;
- propose shared projects on the basis of the defined strategy;
- define joint visibility and communication actions towards citizens.

The Reggio Emilia Food Policy Council will be coordinated by the Deputy Mayor for Sustainability and the Department connected.

At Municipal level, the Food Policy Council will be based on an intersectoral working group involving representatives of different Municipal services - Planning and Monitoring Department, Environment, Participation, Urban Regeneration, Trade and Production activities, Culture service, Education, Social and Health policies, International Relations - in close coordination with the General Direction. The Food Policy council has a Food Policy Coordinator, who will also supervise the implementation of the strategy, and technical representatives belonging to the several departments.

The Food Policy Council will have the technical support of the two institutional partners having strict formal links with the Municipality of Reggio Emilia: E35 Foundation for international projects and Research Centre on Animal Production – CRPA SpA, according to specific agreements.

At territorial level, the Food Policy council will be opened to the collaboration and participation of several stakeholders dealing with initiatives linked to peri-urban areas and local food systems and offering multidisciplinary experiences and projects: Farmers Associations, University, High Schools, Professional Orders, Tourist agency, Pause Atelier of Taste (about education on food), Local associations, Farming, Local Multiutility.

The council will meet periodically (approximately every three months). The agenda will be defined according to the strategic framework of the Municipality and the specific requests stakeholders may raise.

If necessary, representatives of the Municipality and stakeholders can join in temporary working groups to develop specific projects (for example: local consumption and production platform; campaign for waste reduction, educational projects, etc ...)

The Reggio Emilia Food Policy Council will work to design and draft the main issues and actions to be described into the new Goal “Food System Transition” in the DUP 2023. The new goal will be based on the main contributions and perspectives coming from the Reggio Emilia Food Policy Council.

Besides, Reggio Emilia Food Policy Council will also prepare a feasibility study to set up an "agrifood data lab" as an internal analysis and support service for DUP policy processes related to the issues of peri-urban development and food systems. This data Lab will be used for drafting the main indicators to monitor and evaluate the new goal in the DUP 2023.

The feasibility study will provide an analysis of the agri-food system local dynamics, in order to support the strategic planning and the monitoring of the results, collecting and linking the several open data sources already existing (provisional name: Food Open Data Lab).

The study will contain:

- A proposal for a set of indicators to be monitored.
- A list of possible data sources, assessing their reliability and accessibility.

Reggio Emilia Food Policy Council main activities and results, along with main achievements and changes introduced in the DUP will be presented and communicated:

- At Municipal level in intraorganizational meetings
- At stakeholder group level within the Food Policy Council and other thematic working groups ongoing
- At Regional level, with dedicated meeting with the Departments in charge of Food System
- At citizen level with online communication

1.3. Players involved

Municipality of Reggio Emilia: will coordinate the Food Policy Council and it will act as facilitator and promoter of the territorial dimension in launching and promoting initiatives and actions. Several Departments and services will be engaged

CRPA – Research Centre on Animal Production: technical assistance for the definition of main issues and contents and for the co-planning of new initiatives

E35 Foundation for international projects: technical assistance for the definition and implementation of activities; facilitator at local and international relations

Other stakeholders: participation at the Food Council, sharing initiatives and projects, contributing to the definition of new projects/experiences, supporting the feasibility study on data lab and contributing with its own data. In details:

- University of Modena and Reggio Emilia: Local University with Faculty dedicated to Life Sciences
- Farmers associations: Coldiretti, Confagricoltura
- EDUIREN (Multiutilities local company dealing with management of water, energy, waste management and engaged in the new plant for recovering of organic waste- it also deals with education about sustainability)
- Secondary High Schools: Zanelli for agriculture and sustainable development and Motti for tourism promotion of territory and gastronomy
- Visit Emilia - Association for tourism and territorial promotion promoted by 3 provincial areas (Reggio Emilia, Parma, Piacenza)
- Consorzio della Bonifica: public body dealing with water and territorial management
- Professional Orders: Architects, Biologists
- Business and Cooperative Associations;
- Single Farmer and companies: Api Libere, Il Girasole, La Collina, Biological District

1.4. Time Frame

Description	08/22	09/22	10/22	11/22	12/22	01/23	02/23	03/23	04/23	05/23	06/23	07/23
Local stakeholder group meetings (4 meetings)												
Development of a new tool Food Policy Council guidelines proposal												
Food policy council coordinated image												
Formal recognition of the tool Food Policy Council into the DUP (1 event organised)												

Analysis on data set												
Proposal for updated indicators included into the DUP 2023												
Drafting of Food Policy Strategic goal												
New strategic goal in the DUP 2023 is adopted and validated												
Presentation of the DUP goals main results (1 final event)												
Monitoring measures												
Final reporting												

Activities
Milestones

1.5. Costs (if relevant)

Items	Detailed costs
Staff costs	<p>Municipal staff:</p> <p>Coordinator of Food Policy Council: 1 people engaged at 50% for 12 months: 20.500 €</p> <p>Technical staff: 4 people from other Departments engaged at 15% for 12 months: 21.000 €</p>

	<p>Communication officer: 1 person engaged at 10% for 12 months: 5.000 €</p> <p>CRPA Staff</p> <p>Expert assistance: 1 people for 50% of the time for 12 months: 19.350 €</p> <p>E35 Foundation for international project Staff</p> <p>Management and coordination activities support: 1 people for 25% of the times: 15.000 €</p>
Costs for organising meetings Food Policy Council meetings (location, materials, catering)	<p>Coordination meetings with Stakeholders: 4 x 800: 3.200 €</p>
Costs for communication and dissemination of the action	<p>Food Policy Council coordinated images: 2.000 €</p> <p>Communication and dissemination tools (offline): Posters/brochure/video interviews – 3.000 €</p> <p>Publication on Food Policy Council guidelines: 1.000 €</p> <p>2 Public events and initiatives – 5.000 €</p>
Total costs	95.050 €

1.6. Funding sources (if relevant):

Municipality's own budget and resources

Stakeholders' own budget and resources

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Stamp of the organisation (if available): _____