



UCC

University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

School of
Public Health



**CORK
FOOD
POLICY
COUNCIL**

Pure Cork – real food for all

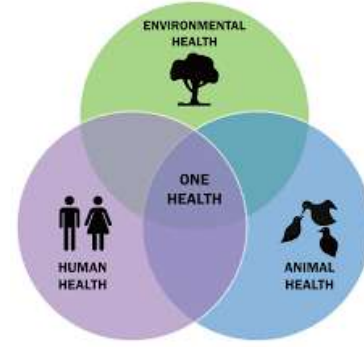


Janas Harrington
On behalf of
Cork Food Policy Council

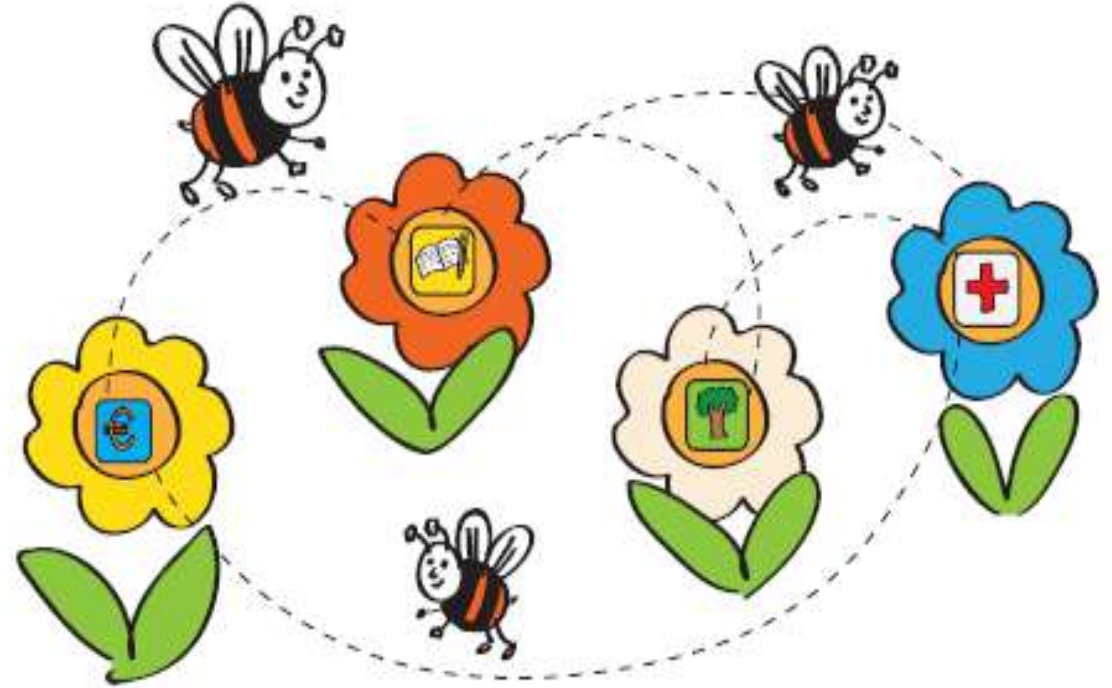
February 18th, 2025
j.harrington@ucc.ie

Challenges of Complexity

- Working in silos and professional boundaries
- We need honey bees -
- A lack of courage in the public sector - take risks!
- Language and expertise is alienating



Dealing with issues
from separate silos
doesn't work



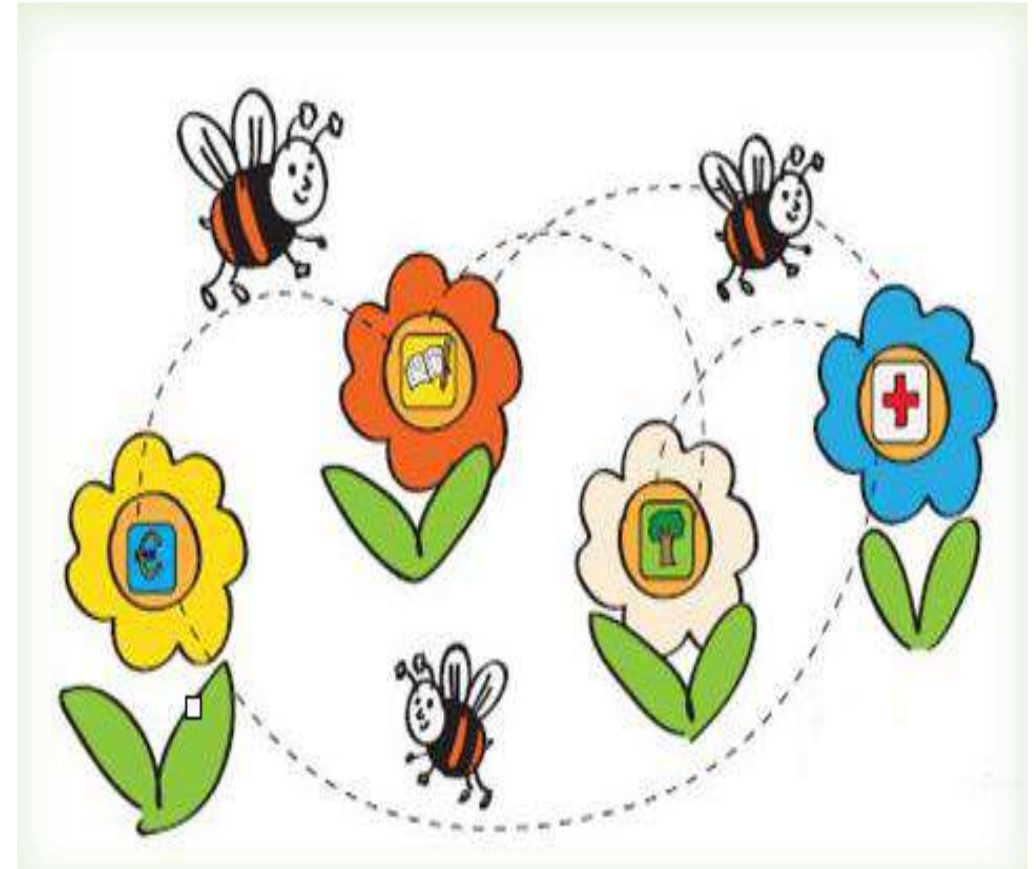
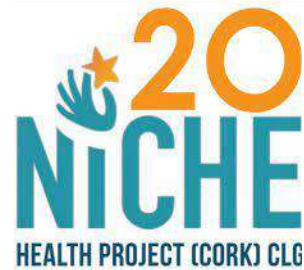
The Cork Food Policy Council



Benefits include; a vibrant local food economy, improved access to affordable food, food skills for life, resilient communities, redistribution of surplus food, reduced food inequality & reduced food waste.

- Influence local food policy
- Supporting new partnerships
- Advocate for innovative community food initiatives

Finding a Common Language for Healthy & Sustainable Food in Cork



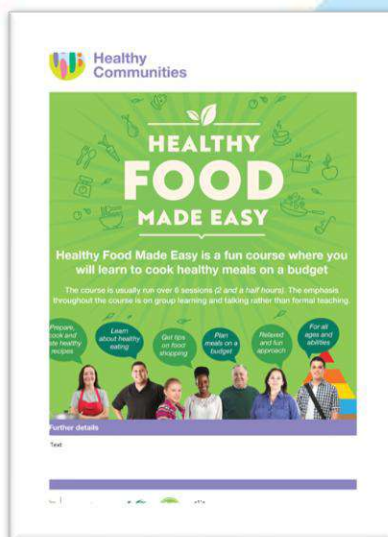


Sláintecare.
**Healthy
 Communities**

Sláintecare Healthy Communities 2021

- Cavan Town & County (Cavan) Gaeltacht (Donegal) Inishowen (Donegal)
- West Mayo (Mayo)
- Limerick City (Limerick) Clonmel (Tipperary)
- North Cork City (Cork)
- Enniscorthy & Wexford Town (Wexford) Waterford City (Waterford)
- Bray (Wicklow)
- Athy (Kildare) Cherry Orchard (Dublin) Clondalkin (Dublin) Tallaght (Dublin)
- Athlone & Mullingar (Westmeath) Longford Town (Longford)
- Ballymun (Dublin) Finglas & Cabra (Dublin) Kilmore & Priorswood (Dublin)

**Community Food
 & Nutrition
 Worker & Peer-
 led cooking on a
 budget**



Rialtas Áitiúil Éireann
 Local Government Ireland

VALUES OF CORK FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

Health and wellbeing for all

Raising awareness of the importance of a nutritious, balanced diet for all. Improving the availability of affordable healthy food. Supporting a wide range of community growing and other food-related activities to improve physical and mental health for people of all ages.

A thriving local economy

Encouraging a greater number & diversity of food enterprises and jobs, making the most of our rich land & sea resources. Sourcing healthy & sustainable food from local producers & suppliers, keeping value within the local economy.

Resilient, food-friendly communities

Promoting and celebrating the food and culinary traditions of all cultures through a variety of public events. Supporting local, city- and region- wide food initiatives that bring communities together and help them to improve their neighbourhoods.

Lifelong learning & skills

Giving everyone the opportunity to learn about good food – how to grow it, how to cook it, how to eat it and how to enjoy it. Sharing and enabling organisations such as schools, hospitals, businesses and other caterers to transform their food culture.



A reduced environmental footprint

Supporting food production that protects nature; reduces food miles, packaging and waste; and increases composting and recycling. Maximising the use of greenspace and brownfield sites in and around the city to produce food for local people.

WHO WE ARE

Cork Food Policy Council is a partnership between representatives of the community, food retail, farming, fishing, restaurant/catering, education, environmental and health sectors and local authorities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

www.corkfoodpolycouncil.com

www.facebook.com/corkfoodpolycouncil

follow us on Twitter

E-mail: info@corkfoodpolycouncil.com



PURE CORK -
REAL FOOD
FOR ALL



Cork Food Policy Feed the City Event March
2014 & Street Feast in June 2014



The 'Feed the City' event serving 5,000 plates of vegetable curry using perfectly safe surplus vegetables at the launch of the Cork Food Policy Council during the Cork St. Patrick's Festival.

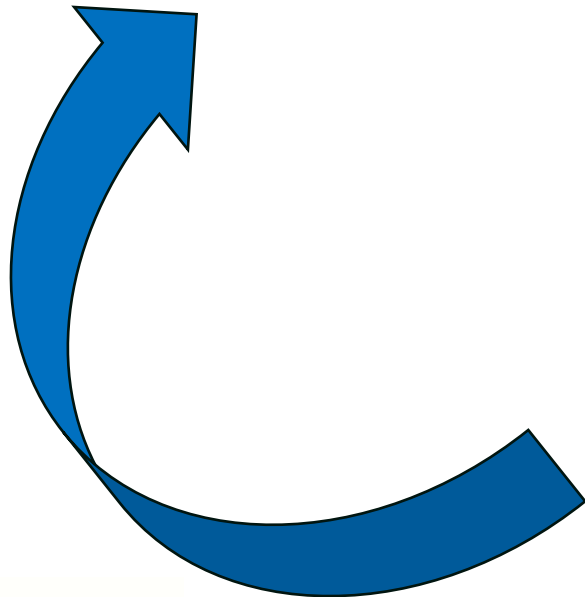
https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=Z-9ZvpVZ6iA



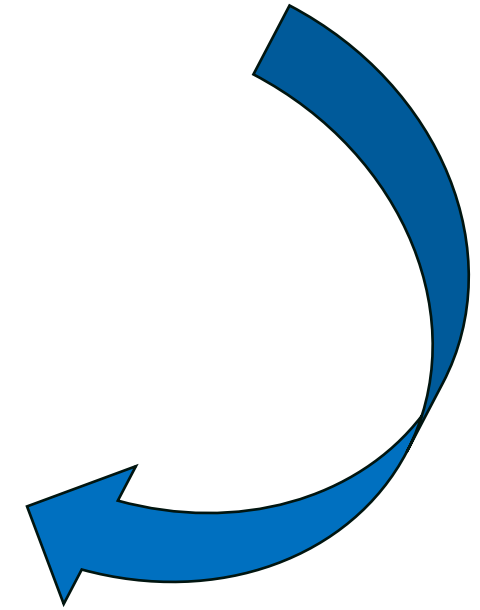
- Develop a food strategy for Cork City
 - Mapping key stakeholders and existing policy actions in Cork City
 - (CFPC, Community Food & Nutrition Worker, Placemaking tool workshops, FEAST2030, FOODPATH-Europe 2024)
- Cork Sustainable Food Innovation Hub
 - Secure land for urban agriculture
- Further development of Community Food Growing
- Collaborate on European initiatives
 - FEAST Living Lab
 - FOODPATH-Europe



FEAST



FOOD Systems & Policy PATHways for
Equal Population Nutrition in Europe



<https://www.ucc.ie/en/foodpath/>

NEEDS

political decision-making that determines the overall context of the collective choices of food system actors that shape food environments

procurement of healthy and sustainable food by producers, retailers and the food industry, and how this creates food environments that influence food cultures

individual dietary choices shaped by food cultures & environments

STAKEHOLDER GROUP LEVELS

Macro

EU Commission & policymakers, National authorities

Meso

Provincial/Municipal/Local authorities, Large food industry (producers, retailers distributors), Hospitality/Catering, Health-care providers, Education system (schools, universities)

Micro

EU citizens, diverse vulnerable groups, non-governmental consumer, community & patient organisations, SMEs, small farmers

ACTIVITIES

Macro + Meso

- Develop systemic transition models,
- Get/create multi-level perspective on socio-technical transitions,
- Implement transition management,
- Design strategic niche management and the technological innovation
- Capture relevant barriers and enablers of food system actors to improve food environments.

Meso + Micro

- Development of innovative, effective tools and strategies
- Use of digital tools for self-management Monitoring of policy impacts.

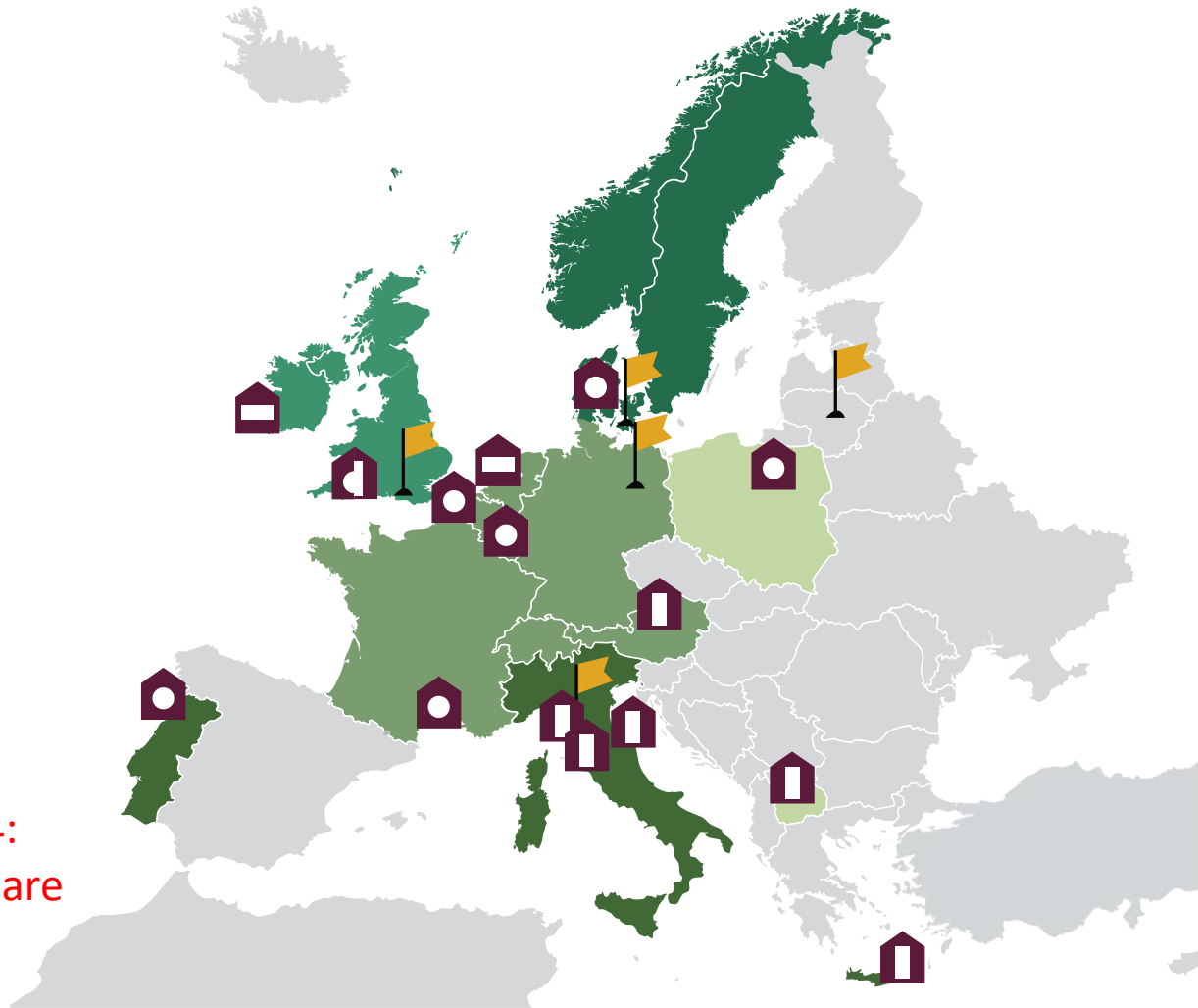
Micro

- Model of social transformation in food behaviours
- Identify individual determinants of dietary choices
- Identify social practices of food (e.g. food cultures).

FEAST FEAST Consortium

15 countries
35 partners
13 living labs

Cork-FEAST LL, officially onboarded September 2024: Vulnerable group identified are food growers and food producers



LIVING LAB



- Anglosaxon group**
Cork (GFO) Oxfordshire (GFO)
- Central European group**
Rotterdam (ROT) Avignon (AVI)
Leuven (LEU) Ghent (GEN)
LEADER Region Weinviertel-Donauraum (LEA)
- Scandinavian group**
Guldborgsund (GUL)
- Southern group**
Alto Minho (CIM) Sitia (SIT)
Lucca Valli Etrusche (TNO)
- Eastern European group**
Lodz (UL) Prilep (PRI)

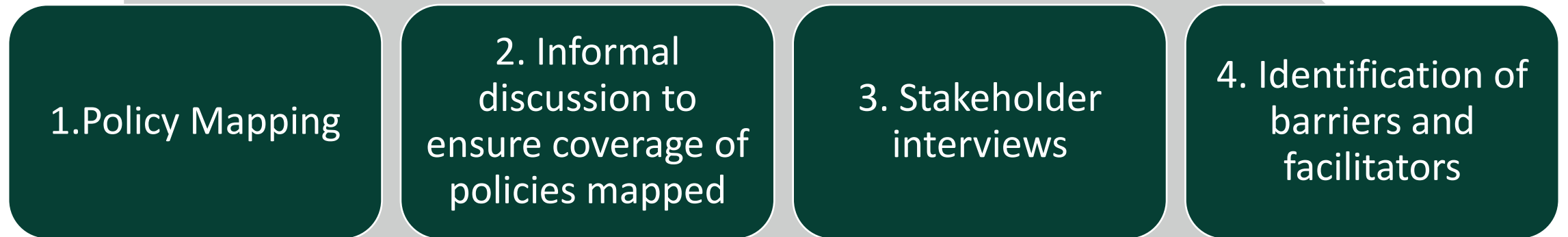
ASSOCIATED SITES



WP3 Mapping and Monitoring factors that shape food environments

T3.2 Explore the role of governments in shaping food environments

5 cities/regions in Europe: **Cork City (Ireland)**, Brussels City (Belgium), Alto Minho region (Portugal), Tuscany region (Italy) and Leader region(Austria).



Domain	Sub-domain	Indicators
Food <u>supply chain</u>	1. Food <u>production</u>	1.1. Support for <u>sustainable</u> agricultural practices
		1.3. <u>Landuse</u> management
		1.4. Subsidies for sustainable healthy crops
		1.6 Farmers support
Food <u>environment</u>	2. Food <u>logistic</u>	2.1. Facilitating the access to territorial markets for urban and peri-urban farmers
		2.2. Supports for startups and SMEs producing more sustainable and healthier foods
		5.1. Restriction of marketing of less healthy and less sustainable food
Food <u>environment</u>	6. Food <u>provision</u>	6.1. School food and nutrition policies
	7. Food <u>retail</u>	6.2. Public sector setting food and nutrition policies
Social <u>policies</u>	9. Diversity and <u>equal opportunities</u>	7.2. Prominence of healthier, more sustainable foods in the (in)formal food sector
		9.1. <u>Policies that support diversity and equality</u>

Research Questions and Objectives



- *What are the primary barriers for promoting healthier and sustainable food environments in Cork City?*
- *Which factors do stakeholders in Cork City identify as key enablers for promoting healthier and sustainable food environments, and what strategies do they propose?*

- **Objectives**

This study explored barriers and facilitators that allow local governments to promote healthy and sustainable food environments and encourage collaboration among stakeholders in Cork City.

Conclusions



Summary Facilitators:

Engagement among diverse stakeholders.
Policy implementation supported by collaborative efforts.
Community involvement in shaping food policies.



Summary Barriers:

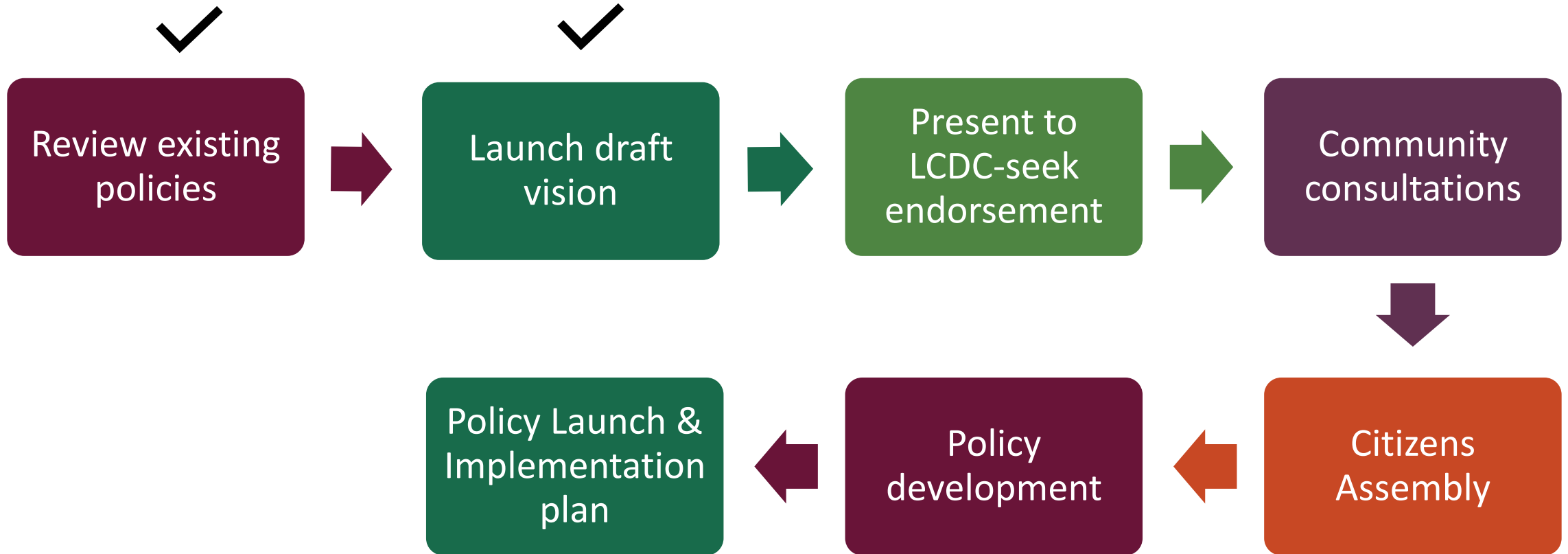
Conflict of public health strategies vs political-economic interest.
Lack of enforcement in food marketing regulations.
Insufficient stakeholder coordination.
Limited local government autonomy and support.



Local Government:

Local government in Cork City was committed to integrating sustainability and health into its policies.
The Cork Food Policy Council's (CFPC) ongoing public consultation represents a notable advancement.
Limitations were the need for more effective public engagement and improved policy coherence.

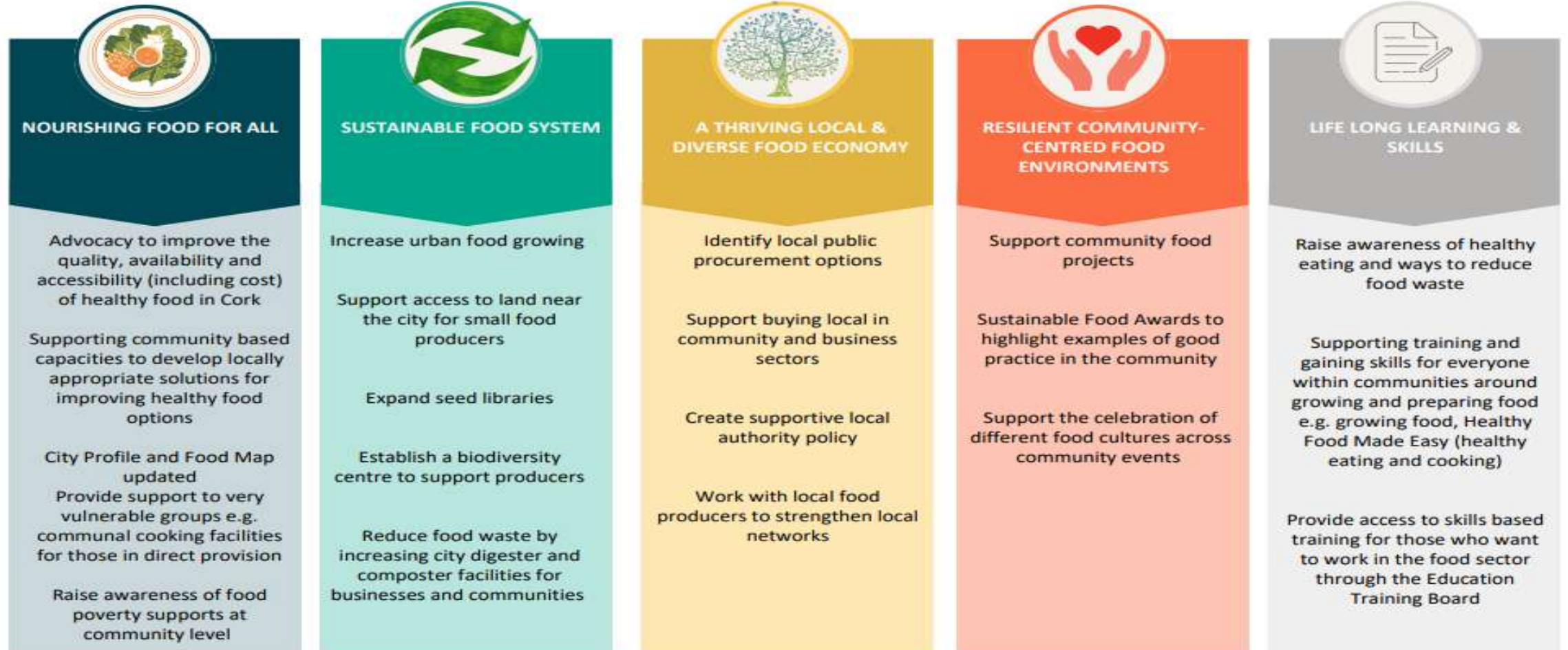
Road Map



DRAFT VISION FOR A FOOD STRATEGY FOR THE CITY

ACTIONS

ADVOCATING FOR SUPPORTIVE POLICY AND APPROPRIATE RESOURCES



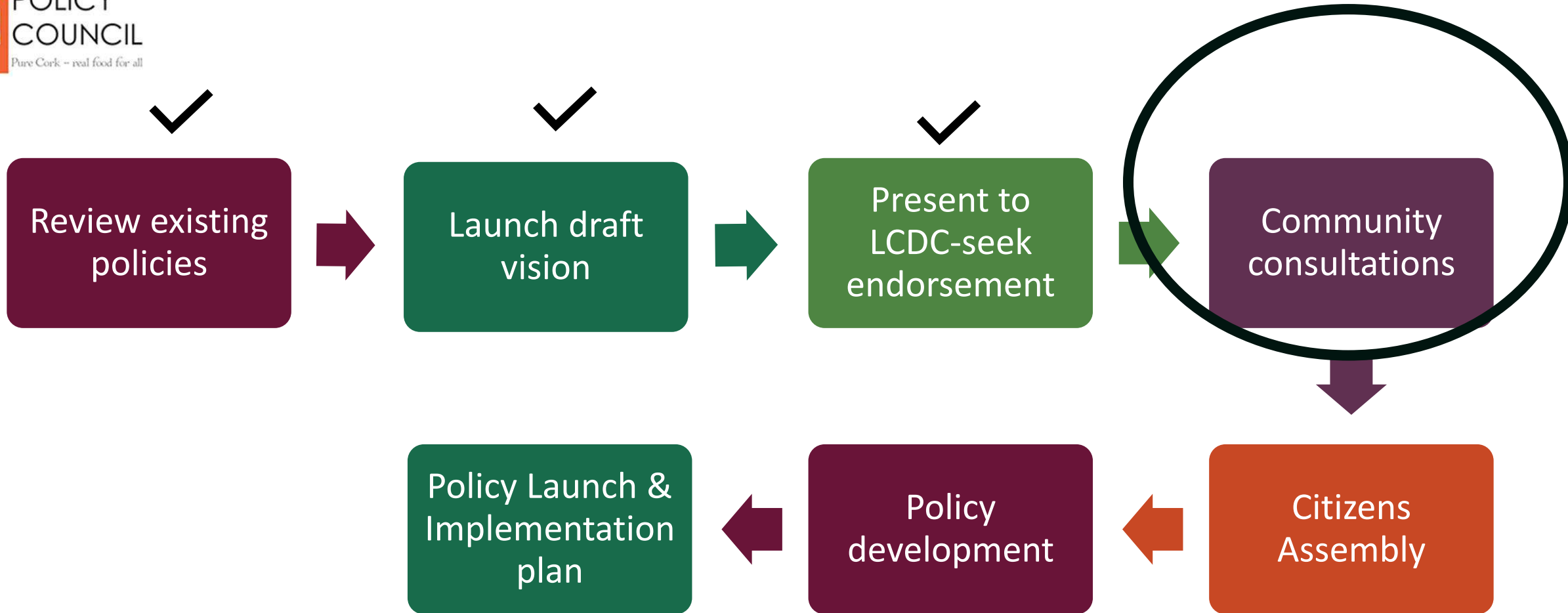
Engaging with stakeholders



Monitor progress and publish annual reports

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS

Road Map



- Community Food and Nutrition Worker
- CFPC community consultation workshops
- Placemaking Tool
- FOODPATH
 - Group Model Building workshops (focus on equity)
- FEAST
 - Policy and stakeholder engagement
 - Cork Living Lab
 - Food growers consultations





Food Path

FOOD Systems & Policy PATHways for
Equal Population Nutrition in Europe



UNIVERSITÀ
CATTOLICA
del Sacro Cuore



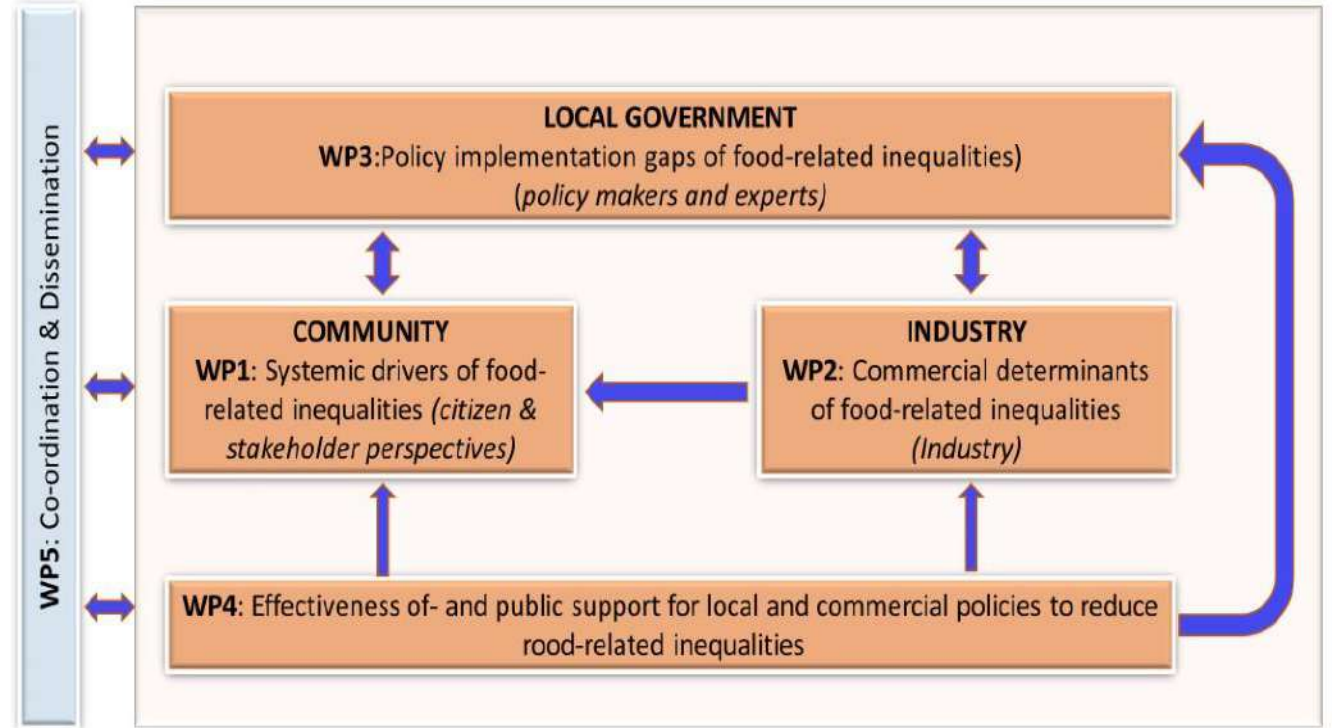
Utrecht
University

sciensano



- 5 inter-related workpackages:

- Work package 1: Systemic drivers of food-related inequalities-a citizen & key stakeholder perspective
- Work Package 2: Commercial Determinants of food-related inequalities
- Work Package 3:Policy mapping to identify policy implementation gaps to address food-related inequalities in European cities
- Work Package 4: Effectiveness and public support for local and commercial policies to reduce food-related inequalities in European countries
- Work package 5:Co-ordination and Dissemination



What are the systemic drivers, barriers and enabling factors of healthy and unhealthy dietary behaviours among disadvantaged communities? (WP1)

What are systemic leverage points to reduce food-related inequalities from a citizen/social domain perspective? (WP1)

How do commercial interests influence food-related inequalities and what are systemic commercial leverage points for change to reduce food-related inequalities? (WP2)

What are the policy gaps and priorities actions needed to improve food environments and to reduce inequalities in selected European cities? (WP3)

To what extent do sugar-sweetened beverages (SSB) tax schemes lead to product reformulation; how do these schemes impact socioeconomic inequalities; to understand the public support for policies and actions to enhance healthy diets and to =investigate whether support differs across socioeconomic position? (WP4)

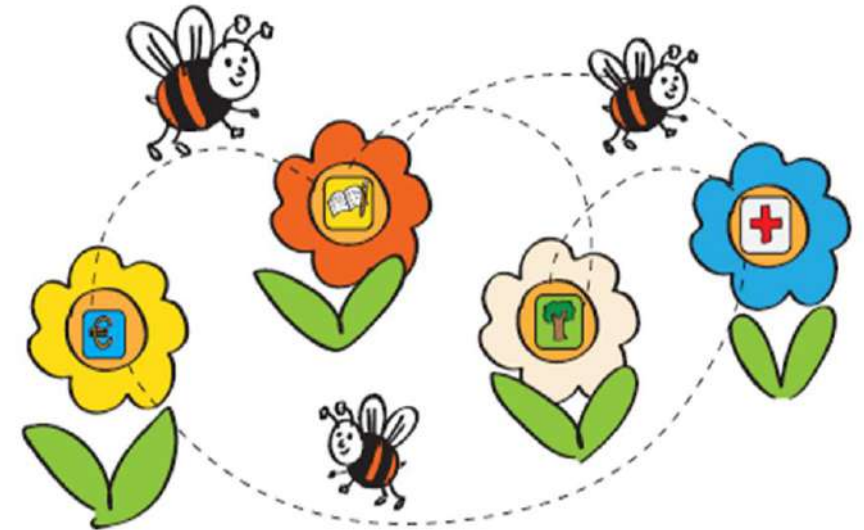
Key Learnings

- Food growing is a lever for health promotion and climate action
- Grassroots action has influenced policy in Cork
- Food is a great mechanism for building on a Healthy City approach
 - Multi-sectoral / Inter-Agency, Co-benefits, Healthy Urban Planning, Community action, needs based, platform for local action on national and global policies
- Food growing builds community
- Community food growing supports a lifecourse approach Food growing strengthens community action for urban greening
- Community food growing building local public policy – allocation of public spaces for food, commitment to a sustainable food policy, climate mitigation and action
- Community food growing provides a supportive environment for available, affordable, accessible healthy food



Concluding Thoughts

- “Business as usual is no longer an option” – the view of many informed commentators
- However, Big Food has very clear ideas of its corporate future
- But if we believe that:
 - Access to a nutritious, balanced & affordable diet is the right of all & key to good health;
 - The challenges of climate change & environmental degradation require changes in production & consumption practices;
 - A fit-for-purpose food system in Ireland must be shaped by citizens
- Then together we can create the conditions to make the Cork city-region a model for a healthy & sustainable food system



Acknowledgements

Denise Cahill, Cork Healthy Cities Coordinator

Sandrine Bertin Cork FEAST Living Lab
Coordinator

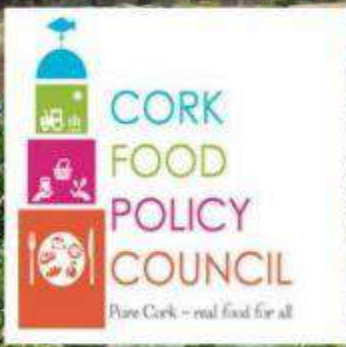
Marian O'Reilly, Healthy Communities
Coordinator

Maria Young, Cork Green Spaces for Health
Coordinator

Members of the Cork Food Policy Council



'No force of nature can stop an idea whose time has come'



SAT SUN OCT 7TH 8TH
FOOD HARVEST FESTIVAL
SATURDAY 7 OCTOBER
TOURS, WORKSHOPS, TALKS, DEMONSTRATIONS AND TASTINGS
ALL EVENTS ARE FREE
SUNDAY 8 OCTOBER
MUSIC, WORLD FOOD DAY FEAST OF VEGETABLE CHILLI, TALKS, HARVEST DISPLAYS, APPLE PRESSING, FORAGING WALK, FACE PAINTING, SEED SAVING WORKSHOP, PUMPKIN CARVING
ALL WELCOME
SEE WWW.CORKFOODPOLICYCOUNCIL.COM FOR DETAILS

