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Offering a series of decision support tools for stakeholders of urban-metropolitan agriculture, the European research project 'Food Planning and Innovation for Sustainable Metropolitan Regions' (short FOODMETRES) aims at describing, analysing and facilitating the development of innovative short chain food systems geared towards urban demand for safe and healthy food on the basis of evidence-based decision making.

The goal of *FOODMETRES* has been to identify opportunities for increasing and diversifying agriculture and food supply and for shortening food chains in metropolitan regions, including their urban and peri-urban as well as rural areas. The research carried out in this project covers questions of food production, processing and logistics and focusses on sustainable and resource-efficient solutions which are socially and ecologically embedded. Prior to entering into dialogue with relevant stakeholders from farming, food processing, fresh chain management, retailing, consumption, planning and governance, *FOODMETRES* has gained the necessary technical and institutional insights by studying six metropolitan regions in Europe and Africa.

Central to the *FOODMETRES* approach is the development of a set of complementary tools, namely:

- *Innovation storylines* that link food chain spatial and functional characteristics with different innovation domains and performance indicators;
- a typology for short food supply chains that serves as a reference for running qualitative *Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA)* along socio-economic and environmental criteria, tested for further application during interactive Knowledge Brokerage (KB) workshops;
- A set of three *metropolitan footprint tools designed to to frame, communicate and manage the impacts of urban food consumption on metropolitan regions, namely the :*
 - (1) *Metropolitan Economic Balance Assessment (MEBA)*, a measure of framing aspects of food security and supply at the statistical meta level of urban metropolises;
 - (2) *regional Metropolitan Area Profiles and Scenario (MAPS)* demand tool producing scenarios at the level of administrative units, and
 - (3) *European 'Metropolitan Foodscape Planner (MFP)* supply tool, an interactive, spatially dynamic approach at the land use level based on GIS-technology;
- *Rural Development Policy Assessment* regarding the different short food supply chains at the level of stakeholders and expert panels;
- *Food Safety and Quality Assessment* on the basis of indicators and thresholds as part of food-chain-specific questionnaires;
- *Knowledge Brokerage (KB)* tools for both stakeholder interaction in support of food chain innovation during regional workshops as well as by means of an internet-based KB-Platform.

By offering tools for both bottom-up processes on the basis of Innovation Storylines, as well as European data-driven top-down tools such as the food demand-supply scenarios, the impact assessment and footprint tools, *FOODMETRES* intends to bridge the gap between the international dimensions of food policy, trade and consumption on the one hand, and the regional reality of local actors and consumers on the other hand.