

## WORK OF COMMITTEES IN 2018

### COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE: TERRITORIAL GOVERNANCE, FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION TRANSITION

#### 1. Main activities of the Committee in 2018 organized according to the main components of UCLG's strategic priorities when relevant

##### A. Implementation

Since the beginning of the new mandate – January 2016 – the Association of French Regions has been a member of UCLG with a view to becoming actively involved in the international advocacy work of local and regional governments.

Given their history and number, Cities are of considerable importance in UCLG. But the fact is that the rise in importance of the regional area helps to develop sustainable and balanced public structural policies throughout the country, since human development cannot simply stop at urban areas.

For the different levels of local government, this is a time for territorial cooperation, and it has been established that urban development involves regional development.

Cooperation between cities and regions will ensure the link and balance between the urban and rural world, which is essential for social cohesion, employment, the environment, people's quality of life and the overall health of the territories which we govern.

**At the UCLG World Assembly in Bogota in October 2016**, the Association of French Regions, following four years of work on the topic of decentralized cooperation and food security, and as a follow-up to the Year of Family Farming, launched the community of practice on "Territorial governance, food security and nutrition transition", with the UCLG World Forum of Regions.

The participants from the represented regions recalled the central importance that the food system must be given as part of **regional development**.

##### B. Advocacy

The nutrition transition which regional leaders are hoping to achieve in order to ensure the sustainable development of their territory is based on two closely correlated changes, namely the relocalization of food production and consumption, as well as the development of food chain stakeholders' social, environmental and cultural responsibility. The globalized food system, which dominates the world of food today, proposes mass agricultural production, processing, distribution and consumption; this certainly has advantages for the consumer in terms of price and access to food, but it has highly negative social, environmental and cultural impacts, which economists call externalities. It is therefore up to regional governments to be disturbed by this and work so that, quite apart from food in quantity and of quality for all the citizens of their region, the "social, environmental and cultural values" of food systems are taken into account and promoted. The importance of the subject in terms of the development of the economy and employment in the rural sector should not, of course, be forgotten.

The regions believe that the poor social, environmental and cultural performance – which economists call "negative externalities" – of a food system that is now highly globalized requires significant enough changes to the system for this to be called an "agri-food transition". This transition is characterized by a much-needed process of reterritorializing the food system, with those involved in food production and consumption assuming greater social and environmental responsibility. A large number of local initiatives are already undergoing this transition. They are called "Regional Responsible and Sustainable Food Initiatives" (RRSFIs). These RRSFIs are responsible, because of their sound social

performance, and sustainable on account of their positive environmental performance and contribution to regional development.

Building on these observations, regions are trying to implement new public policies which promote local rural economic development. At the interface between all public policies, territorializing the governance of food policies requires tools so that local governments can implement adapted policies, whether they are policies on land, agriculture, purchasing and procurement, or also the environment, social issues, human resources or health.

In addition, for responsible and sustainable food policy in metropolitan areas, it is urgent that we look at the city in its territory – as large cities create most of the demand for food, they must play a pivotal role in the nutrition transition, which is necessary for the sustainable and inclusive development of all territories. Considering that the task of feeding large cities falls within the major challenges of social inequalities in food consumption; imbalances in the sharing of the value and spatial distribution of the supply; environmental degradation; the risk of a scarcity of resources because of climate change; unsustainable and irresponsible patterns of production; and losses, wastage and deficiencies in waste management, new relationships between **cities and rural areas** must be explored, which is also what the community of practice held by the Association of French Regions is proposing.

The complementarity between urban and rural areas can be achieved by regarding agricultural land, which creates economic activities and jobs, and also positive social and environmental externalities, as one of the central elements of large cities' food policies and, therefore, of their inhabitants' quality of life. Indeed, sustainable large cities are not possible without sustainable rural areas – they are biodiversity resources and carbon sinks that help to reduce the footprint of urban areas and give cities lungs.

An urban food system based not on food artificialization but on its rural links, biodiversity, the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, the social and solidarity economy, and the circular and short-circuit economy, would help to slow urban congestion and to restore balance to territories by creating decent employment in rural and peri-urban areas.

### **C. Monitoring and follow-up**

- **Completed:** 4 publications, 4 projects were carried out: 100 initiatives in France, in Quebec and in Costa Rica; an academic paper was produced and coordinated by the Association of French Regions in the Mediterranean, to coincide with MedCOP 2 in Tangier. MedCOP would like to set up a RRSFI observatory in the Mediterranean.
- An expression of interest was made with the ROPPA, a union of small farmers in Africa based in Senegal.
- A geography intern is due to complete his post at the end of October in the Province of Santa Fé, in Argentina; a publication should be produced in late 2017 – 100 RRSFIs in Santa Fé.
- Meknès Agricultural fair in Morocco: the Association of Moroccan Regions, in partnership with the Association of French Regions, is launching a project on the issue of the territorialization of food policies. Observational work should start in mid-2018.
- Project in Ibagué, Colombia, with the University of Tours on Local Food Systems (LSFs)
- Since June 2017: The Association of French Regions signed an agreement with the Congope, its equivalent in Ecuador, and 9 Ecuadoran regions started to organize themselves to carry out these tasks.
- The association of Italian regions expressed its interest. Initial meetings will take place before 17-09-2017.
- Meeting with the Amazonian regions of Colombia and the governor of Putumayo.

**Late 2017:**

- The Association of French Regions/UCLG have been invited by the UNDP to present this work at the World Forum on Local Economic Development in October 2017.
- The Association of French Regions/UCLG have been invited by the FAO to world food week in October 2017.
- The Association of French Regions has been invited to contribute to reflections on the Milan Pact, under which cities will finally work with regions on the topic of food policies.

**Programme for 2018:**

- A publication for the province of Santa Fé
- Monitoring of the work of the CONGOPE and of 9 Ecuadoran regions
- Involvement of Italian regions: set up the programme
- A feedback seminar in Nouvelle-Aquitaine gathering all the regions involved

**D. Learning**

- Observe and identify sustainable and responsible food initiatives in the regions involved, exchange good practices and transfer expertise. (A very large number of local initiatives are already undergoing a transition. They are called "Regional Responsible and Sustainable Food Initiatives" (RRSFIs). These RRSFIs are responsible, because of their sound social performance, and sustainable on account of their positive environmental performance and contribution to regional development.)
- Observe and identify existing public policy measures, share and transfer them: at the interface between all public policies, territorializing the governance of food policies requires tools so that local governments can implement adapted policies, whether they are policies on land, agriculture, purchasing and procurement, or also the environment, social issues, human resources or health.
- Share a territorial diagnostic tool that will help the regions involved to implement public policies from the bottom up.

Involve agricultural education institutions and agronomy, humanities and political science universities in the regions involved in order to train the stakeholders and decision makers of the future.

- Develop food systems which are not based on the artificialization of food production and which ensure the development of the territory and not that it will fall into debt.

Expected results in each region involved:

- Promote and certify these initiatives, which are considered to be RRSFIs, and make them key contributors to the gradual emergence of local food systems (SAT); share and list good practices.
- Create links between the stakeholders in the food chains;
- Inform and raise awareness among consumers;
- Help public authorities to design measures to support the development of responsible and sustainable food and implement public policies that promote the development of RRSFIs and LSFs, and, eventually, the agricultural and nutrition transition.
- Provide officials with management and decision-making tools.
- Ensure the sustainable development of territories

## **E. Strengthening the UCLG network**

- Recognition of UCLG and the World Forum of Regions by the UN agencies: UNDP and FAO.
- Enhance territorial cooperation: relevance of the Committee on Intermediary Cities.

## **2. Description of the leadership of the Committee and any relevant information**

Partners:

**Partners:** Sciences Po University, Paris; the Federation of Regional Natural Parks; UNESCO Chair on World Food Systems; Cirad (French agricultural research and international cooperation organization); the Carasso foundation; the Fondation de France; Agropolis, and AgroParis Tech institute.

**The operator:** Résolis, a laboratory for innovative solutions which put together the methodology and typologies.