



COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE **"Territorial governance, food security and nutrition transition"**

UCLG programme **"The world's regions and nutrition transition"**

Pilot Project **"10 regions, 1,000 RRSFI"** (RRSFI = Regional Responsible and Sustainable Food Initiatives)

At the UCLG (United Cities and Local Governments) World Assembly, which met in Bogotá from 12 to 15 October 2016, the Forum of Regions emphasised the need to recognise the importance of the regions as the primary framework for sustainable and inclusive development. This recognition requires a commitment to local, institutionalised, assertive and informed governance able to engage with national and international authorities. Recognition of the importance of the regions calls for **strong advocacy** and greater involvement in the negotiation processes that determine international regulations.

At the "Territorial governance for food security" workshop in Bogotá on 13 October 2016, which was organised by the UCLG Forum of Regions and the French regions, the participants from the regions being represented emphasised that the food system should be prioritised in **regional development**. To achieve this, the regional governments must work towards:

- a progressive reterritorialization of food systems without disregarding the globalised nature of some trades, and thus endeavour to link LFSs (Local Food Systems) with the GFS (Global Food System);
- improving the food production process, both in terms of economic performance, which is important to consumers, and social, environmental and cultural performance, which the public authorities must focus on in the general interest;
- making consumers, starting at nursery school, more aware of the quality of food and diets and also of the importance of sound social, environmental and cultural food production practices.

Placing the food system at the forefront of local, inclusive (social performance), sustainable (environmental performance) and diverse (cultural performance) development means promoting a real **"agri-food transition"**, rendered necessary due to an excessive number of negative external factors in a food system that is now far too globalised.

The workshop organisers, who wish to promote this major transition of the food system, asked the UCLG Secretary General to support the setting-up of a **"Territorial governance, food security and nutrition transition"** Community of Practice.

To demonstrate their willingness to take swift action and collaborate on this, two of the organising regions – the French Nouvelle Aquitaine, which gave political backing to the workshop and the Province of Santa Fé in Argentina, which chairs the UCLG Forum of Regions – and *Régions de France* suggested developing an international programme “The world’s regions and nutrition transition”, and committed to setting up and hosting a first group and a pilot project called “**10 regions, 1,000 RRSFIs**” (RRSFI = Regional Responsible and Sustainable Food Initiatives).

The project aims to identify and define local initiatives in the 10 pioneering regions and any who wish to join them in the future, that are already on the path to nutrition transition and ultimately create a case-study of 100 RRSFI before setting up more large-scale transition processes, in other words making it possible to:

- Promote and accredit these initiatives (RRSFIS) and ensure they play a key role in the gradual emergence of LFS;
- Create links between stakeholders in food chains;
- Inform and raise the awareness of consumers;
- Help the public authorities to design public policies on responsible and sustainable food (PPRSF), and implement public policies that contribute to the development of RRSFIs and LFS and ultimately to agricultural and nutrition transition.

By continuing this work in the regional territories, the regions involved in this pilot project will be able to:

- Urge all the regions in their respective countries and federations or national coordinating bodies to support communication campaigns among consumers and the lobbying of public, national and international authorities;
- Assist with international communication campaigns and help to lobby international players and organisations, as part of an international and/or UCLG network.

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Background:

The regions believe that the poor social, environmental and cultural performance – which economists call “negative external factors” -- of a food system that is now largely globalised requires significant enough changes to the system for this to be called an “agri-food transition”. This transition is characterised by a much-needed process of reterritorializing the food system, with those involved in the production and consumption of food assuming more 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). Responsible, because of their sound social performance, and sustainable on account of their positive environmental performance and contribution to regional development.

What steps can be taken to support nutrition transition?

The regions plan to:

- Identify, document and define 100 RRSFIs in their territories. The identification and evaluation could be carried out with the universities by Masters students supported by their lecturers, working with regional communities, agricultural producers’ organisations, consumer associations, local associations and NGOs;
- Identify, evaluate and define public policies that support responsible and sustainable food (PPRSF). These PPRSF introduced by the public authorities – regional communities and governments – can also be identified and evaluated by universities students supported by their lecturers.

If the regions involved in this programme are interested in these partnerships, agreements could be signed with universities in their respective territories. Each region involved will then be able to follow the process of identifying and evaluating the RRSFIs and PPRSFs. These processes can use tools developed and already tested by the RESOLIS association in several regions and countries around the world, including in France, Canada and Costa Rica in accordance with “Quebec Declaration” (Annexe 1). Documents on the *Régions de France* website describe the three French, Québécois and Costa Rican “100 RRSFIs” projects: <http://regions-france.org/commissions-thematiques/strategies-internationales/regions-francaises-promotion-initiatives-locales-dalimentation-responsable-durable/>

Régions de France (vnicolas@regions-France.org) and RESOLIS can talk to and, if necessary, assist the regions involved in this UCLG “The world’s regions and nutrition transition” programme.

Following an invitation from the Nouvelle Aquitaine region, a first meeting is scheduled with UCLG for mid-2017 to report on any action that has been planned and, possibly

already launched by the 10 regions involved in the pilot project. By then, we will have had several opportunities to share experiences, which will have allowed each of the partner regions to define and launch their own programme from the beginning of 2018.

The first step therefore is to answer the enclosed questionnaire on whether or not your region wishes to take part in the “The world’s regions and nutrition transition” programme.

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QUESTIONNAIRE:

UCLG programme "The world's regions and nutrition transition"

Response to call for applications:

1 – Our region wishes to take part in the UCLG "Local governance, food security and nutrition transition" Working Group:

Yes / No

- Name of the Region:
- Country:
- Contact (name, position and contact details):
- Comments:
- Presentation and references:

2 - Our region wishes to take part in the "The world's regions and nutrition transition" programme:

Yes / No

3 - Our region wishes to take part in the "10 regions, 1,000 Responsible and Sustainable Food Initiatives (RRSFI)" group and pilot project:

Yes / No

Schedule: In the next few weeks, we will be in touch with the contact person whose name has been provided and we will try to find out more about your region's background, position, interests, requirements and the local partners likely to take part in the project's various stages. We will also outline the pilot project's goals and send you the proposed methods and tools so we can slowly begin to build our programme together.

ANNEXE: Quebec Declaration (2 October 2015)

“Promoting local responsible and sustainable food initiatives and the emergence of local food systems”*Quebec, 2 October 2015*

A meeting was held during the “Local food systems, a source of diversity and tools for integration and competitiveness” symposium in Quebec on 1 and 2 October 2015, which was organised by the Legal Research Chair in Food Diversity and Security at University Laval and the UNESCO chair on World Food Systems at Montpellier SupAgro. The participants recognised the importance of strengthening local food systems (LFS) and of finding a better balance between the “globalised” and “regional” elements of food in food systems.

This shared goal aims to make food a linchpin of regional development prompting the strengthening of local agricultural and food networks, helping to protect natural resources, improve the environment, create jobs in related sectors (catering, eco-tourism, craftsmanship, services), promote its cultural and especially gastronomic heritage, and protect agricultural and food diversity.

Achieving these objectives will require consumers to commit to responsible and sustainable food practices, support from the public authorities – especially regional ones – and from local communities, as well as the drafting of appropriate national and international regulations.

The symposium allowed us to take stock of three “100 Responsible and Sustainable Food Initiatives” projects being run concurrently in Costa Rica, France and Quebec, and to take note of the number and range of citizen-based initiatives opening new channels for food production, processing and consumption. These case-studies for each of these three countries, was based on research carried out by students supported by their lecturers and enabled an evaluation of the levers and barriers to widespread commitment to this new model. The aim was to work out concrete proposals for private actors and public authorities wishing to reorient their policies and to examine the law and international regulations. In addition to pursuing their own national projects, the partners in these three countries decided to work towards developing international “food systems with high added value in social, environmental, biological and cultural terms”.

The partners in the three countries who met in Quebec opted to set up a network and develop an international programme called RSF-LFS (Responsible and Sustainable Food and Local Food Systems) to take stock and evaluate local RSF initiatives, and produce recommendations for different local, regional, national and international players.

They call upon all partners who would like to launch “100 Responsible and Sustainable Food Initiatives” projects to contact them, join the network and RSF-LFS programme and help build a coherent and multidisciplinary approach to promoting and protecting LFSs and their initiatives.