



Project overview

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INNOVATION AND GOVERNANCE IN FOOD SYSTEMS



Feed4Food



Background

- **Funded within EU framework “Driving Urban Transition”**
- The purpose of this framework is to support transnational research and/or innovation projects addressing urban challenges to help cities in their transition towards a more sustainable economy and functioning.
- The challenges are grouped into three ‘Transition Pathways’: Positive Energy Districts, the 15-minute City and ***Circular Urban Economies***.

- **CUE aims to support the planning and design of inclusive urban spaces sustained by circular resource flows.**

- **Feed4Food**
- Responds to this challenges in Strovolos (Cyprus), Drama (Greece) and Bucharest (Romania)

Feed4Food



What we aim for

- **Transform urban food environments into more sustainable, inclusive, and healthy systems.**
- Empowering vulnerable communities in three cities
 - Drama (Greece)
 - Strovolos (Cyprus)
 - Bucharest (Romania)
- through hands-on urban agriculture, community engagement, and knowledge sharing
- **Its mission is simple but powerful: enable people to grow food, learn together, and build resilient local food systems.**

What Feed4Food is about



Three interconnected pillars

- **Living labs**

- Real, physical spaces where residents can learn, experiment, and grow food together, serving as hubs for:
 - Community building
 - Skills development
 - Testing sustainable growing methods
 - Supporting low-income households with access to fresh produce

- **Central knowledge and learning hub**

- All data from the Living Labs are collected and analyzed as one integrated system.
- The project has developed a live dashboard that will show real time performance indicators such as:
 - Community building
 - Skills development
 - Testing sustainable growing methods
 - Supporting low-income households with access to fresh produce

What Feed4Food is about (cont)



Pillars (cont)

- **Transition strategy**
 - This strategy ensures that the Living Labs remain active and sustainable even after the project ends. It includes:
 - Co learning
 - Co mentoring
 - Mutual support networks
 - Governance models for long term community ownership
- Jointly, the three pillars ensure mutual learning, scaling, and sustainability after project end

The cities



Strovolos, Drama, Bucharest

Strovolos:

- Area has been developed, first full season has been completed
- Contacts with Ioannou Foundation – people with mental challenges
- Contacts with primary school

Drama:

- Delay in development of site because of delays in funding
- Started with home gardens, now also preparations for rehabilitation of abandoned garden areas

Bucharest:

- Efforts ongoing to include peri-urban farmers as active participants
- Host to the first in-person workshop, March 2025

Current state of affairs



From planning to implementation

- A. LL development now underway in all three cities, each at own pace**
- B. Dashboard developed**
 - Key Performance Indicators developed in consultation with stakeholders
 - Dashboard data entry and visualisation options ready in pilot version
 - First data have been entered
 - Further finetuning planned for this workshop in coming months
- C. Community activities growing**
 - Urban gardening workshops (Strovolos)
 - Development of tools for direct producer-consumer interaction (Bucharest)
 - Involvement of home gardeners (Drama)
- D. Strengthening partnerships**
 - Local partnerships with municipalities, foundations
 - Partnerships within DUT (Milan meeting and follow up contacts)
- E. Communication and dissemination**
 - Website and active social media presence
 - Progress reports to national funding agencies and DUT
 - Participation in DUT events (lunch talk; conferences)
 - Presentation of Feed4Food at conferences, workshops

Looking ahead



In the final 12-18 months, Feed4Food will

- Further develop the LLs and expand the LLs with more activities
- Fine tune and fully launch the Dashboard
- Strengthen the co-learning and mentoring networks
- Develop business models (governance models) for the Living Labs
- Develop tools to assess the resilience of the Living Labs against shock

Feed4Food is more than a project—it's a movement toward healthier, more resilient, and more inclusive cities. By empowering communities to grow food together, it builds not only gardens, but also skills, relationships, and long-term sustainability