

FOOD WAVE IN ACTION: youth participation in food policies

Call for participants

CATCH THE WAVE!

Within the Food Wave project, ACRA will be hosting the second international forum between activists, ambassadors, youth organizations and other relevant stakeholders titled “**Food Wave in action: youth participation in food policies**”.

The international forum will take place on the **28th of March 2023**, from **h. 15:00 to h. 18:00** (3PM to 6PM) CET online (Zoom) and it will involve several speakers and stakeholders related to the event’s topics.

OBJECTIVES

- **Build a positive discourse** on youth participation in food policies, through the highlight of practical experiences described within the research “*Empowering urban youth for food and climate action*” by Està.
- **Bring out, tell, enhance and map** organisations, initiatives and good practices, both local and international.
- **Exchange and transfer** expertise within the participants.
- **Engage** in networking and in the exchange of knowledge within local and international stakeholders.
- **Understand** needs and collect feedback for the development of campaigns and actions through the Food Wave project.

TOPICS

The event will be organized around five forms of innovative youth participation (as according to the Council of Europe¹), which will be linked to local food policies¹ through key speakers and stakeholders:

1. **Youth councils, youth parliaments, youth boards and other formal structures:** these are bodies whose role is to represent the views of young people to decision makers. Young people usually become members or representatives of the body and participate in the group on an ongoing basis. They are sometimes elected by other young people or nominated by youth organisations. Youth councils or parliaments can represent a geographic area, such as a city or a country, when engaging with public authorities within that area. Youth boards can be linked to a single organisation such as a school or an NGO and focus on the work of that organisation.
2. **Co-management and co-production:** these are forms where young people and adults jointly take decisions about the running of a public organisation or project. Co-management is when a group of young people and adults work collaboratively, sharing power to manage and run an institution or organisation on an ongoing basis. Co-production is when a group of young people and adults work collaboratively, sharing power to undertake a task until that task is complete.
3. **Deliberative youth participation:** this form aims to include young people from all backgrounds in public debate and dialogue about a decision or group of decisions, to influence the way they are

¹ “[New and innovative forms of youth participation in decision-making processes](#)”, Anne Crowley & Dan Moxon, Council of Europe, October 2017

taken. This often takes place as a one-off event or series of events. A young person may participate in all or part of the discussions. There is a clear end to the process where a position on the decision or topic is reached, and the outcome of the discussion is agreed. Emphasis is placed on detailed discussion so that the young people who take part can thoroughly consider the topic. It is desirable that the young people who take part should be from diverse backgrounds and from all social groups of the population. The outcomes of the dialogue are often directly fed to a public authority or other body with responsibility for the decision being discussed. Good quality deliberative youth participation should influence the decision being debated.

4. **Youth activism and protest:** this form is related to young people's involvement in campaigning groups and democratic protest as a means of influencing public decision-making. Campaigning groups and protest groups are often focused on a single issue or cause and will seek to campaign for political change around that cause. They are independent from public authorities and the state and may not be only for young people. Young people's involvement can be linked to organisations, for instance political parties, trade unions and NGOs, who may seek to mobilise young people as activists for their cause. In other cases, loose associations of activists may self-mobilise non-formally around a common cause and identity.
5. **Young people's digital participation:** digital participation can take many forms, but we generally use the term to mean the use of the Internet, social media and mobile technology to connect young people to decision makers with the aim of influencing the decisions in public authorities and other bodies. Digital participation can exist alongside other forms of participation in the same project or just in the online realm. Digital participation can be initiated by institutions seeking to reach out to young people, for example with opinion polls, consultations or crowdsourcing ideas. Digital participation can also be initiated by young people, where online tools are used to gather support for campaigns, or information from young people, which is then presented to decision makers, for example through the use of online petitions.

During registration, participants are expected to indicate one preference for one of the topics of the event, in order to properly organise the working groups.

PARTICIPANTS

Activists, students, professionals, and young citizens involved in the fight for sustainable food systems, against climate change, for food security and in youth participation for food policies, already active within local organisations and groups, or recently involved in activities within the Food Wave project (such as the Schools for Activism).

The age target is **from 18 to 35 years old**.

Participants' selection will take into consideration motivation, personal background and specific training and/or education, as well as an age, gender, geographic balance within the group.

Participation in the event is free of charge.

LANGUAGE

The event will be taking place in English.

PARTICIPATION IN THE EVENT

During the event, participants will have the chance to:

- Getting to know European-level initiatives and projects and networking with relevant stakeholders and activists from all over Europe;

- Discovering good practices in urban areas related to the topics of the events, asking questions and creating connections with one's own networks, as well as creating innovative ideas for food policies;
- Participating in a working group on one of the topics (chosen during registration) and analysing, with the support of a facilitator, the role of youth in policy and decision making;
- Expressing one's own ideas and thoughts to the Food Wave project team and to relevant European networks of policy makers.

DRAFT AGENDA

The event draft agenda is structured as follows:

15:00 - 15:15: Arrival of participants and official introduction

15:15 - 16:00: Food policies and youth participation | Presentation of the research "*Empowering urban youth for food and climate action*" by Francesca La Rocca and Bianca Minotti, researchers at Està.

16:00 - 16:15: The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact | Presentation by [speaker to be defined]

16:15 - 16:30: Break

16:30 - 17:15: Working groups. Each working groups will be assigned a facilitator, who will manage both the Zoom room and the Miro board assigned to the group

17:15 - 17:45: Presentation of the results in plenary

17:45 - 18:00: Official closing

At the end of the discussion, participants will define suggestions for a better inclusion of youth in local decision and policy making related to food systems, to be sent to local authorities through the project's network.

REGISTRATION

Candidates who are interested in registering to the event can fill out the following form: <https://forms.gle/hoAim9Aeww4jDGTw7>

Deadline for registration: 26th of March 2023, 23:59 CEST

CONTACTS

For any question or doubt, you can contact us at foodwave@acra.it



FOOD WAVE - EMPOWERING URBAN YOUTH FOR CLIMATE ACTION is a project promoted by the Municipality of Milan with ACRA, ActionAid Italia, Mani Tese and 26 other partners (18 Local Authorities, 8 Civil Society Organisations). Food Wave has the aim of increasing knowledge, awareness, and engagement of young people on sustainable patterns of food consumption and behaviour. The project is co-funded by the European Commission in the framework of the programme DEAR - Raising public awareness of development issues and promoting development education in the European Union. The project is developed in over 21 locations across 17 countries (16 within the European Union and 1 in the Global South - Brazil). The global network C40 is also an associate of the project.

www.foodwave.eu | info@foodwave.eu | Facebook/Instagram @foodwaveproject

ACRA is a Milan-based non-governmental organization, engaged for over 50 years in the fight against poverty and in international cooperation on: food, education, water, energy and environment. In Europe and in Italy it fosters a culture of dialogue, integration, intercultural exchange and solidarity. For more than 30 years it has been implementing projects, initiatives and workshops on Active and Global Citizenship Education.

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