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NEXT MED

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FOODGaP

FOODGaP
Food Governance and Policies at local level

#MADE4MED

LEAD PARTNER

CIHEAM BARI

PROJECT PARTNERS

EPLO

Città metropolitana di Roma Capitale

Commune Houmt Souk Djerba

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What is FOODGaP

FOODGaP is an Interreg NEXT MED project working to strengthen local food governance across the Mediterranean.
The project supports cooperation among Mediterranean territories to develop more inclusive, participatory and sustainable approaches to local food policies.

From local challenges to shared solutions
Starting from the real challenges faced by local communities, FOODGaP builds a shared path forward: turning local needs into shared knowledge, shared knowledge into participatory governance, and participatory governance into concrete local food policies.



LOCAL CHALLENGES → **SHARED KNOWLEDGE** → **PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE** → **LOCAL FOOD POLICIES**

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The Mediterranean challenge



The Mediterranean is a shared space of cultures, territories, cities and communities, but it is also an area facing common and interconnected challenges.
Food security, climate change, water management, rural development, youth employment, health, social cohesion and territorial resilience are all closely linked to the way food systems are organised, governed and transformed.

In this context, food systems are not only about production and consumption. They connect different sectors, actors and levels of governance: from agriculture to distribution, from public health to social inclusion, from climate action to waste management.

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The FOODGaP approach

UNDERSTANDING COMMON CHALLENGES

Identifying shared priorities across Mediterranean food systems.

BUILDING CAPACITY

Supporting partners and local actors through knowledge exchange and learning activities.

CO-DESIGNING LOCAL RESPONSES

Developing participatory governance approaches adapted to each territory.

CONNECTING MEDITERRANEAN EXPERIENCES

Creating spaces for dialogue, cooperation and future knowledge sharing.

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Where did we start?

During its first year, FOODGaP focused on building a shared understanding of Mediterranean food system challenges and opportunities, while activating its cooperation path through learning moments, project meetings, exchanges and communication activities.



Key points

- **Identification of emerging Mediterranean challenges**
- **Recognition of common opportunities**
- **Shared understanding of Mediterranean priorities**
- **Increased interaction through webinars and exchanges**
- **Recognition of food systems as a cross-cutting policy domain**

CHALLENGES → **OPPORTUNITIES** → **PRIORITIES** → **DIALOGUE**

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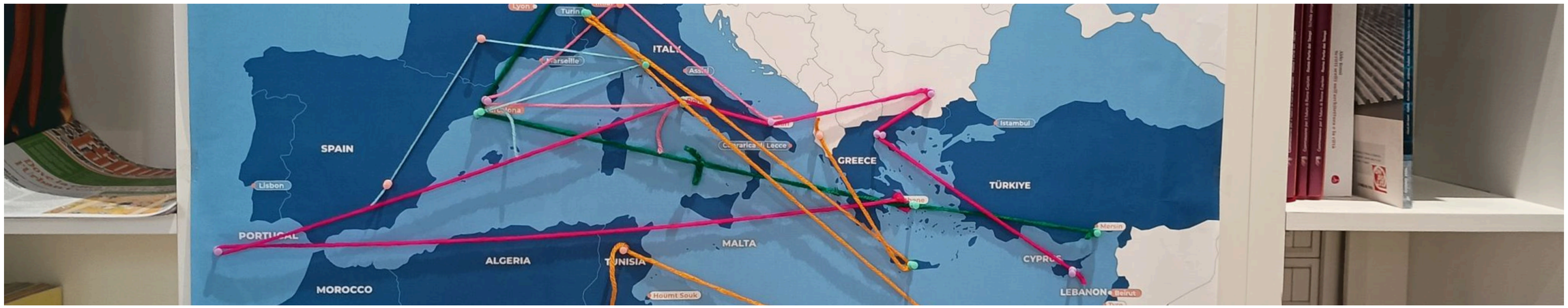


What have we achieved so far

In its first year, FOODGaP started to activate its cooperation path through learning moments, project meetings, exchanges and communication activities.
These actions helped partners move from the project idea towards a shared working process, preparing the ground for the next phases of local experimentation and Mediterranean cooperation.

→ **Increased local public authorities' capacities to collaborate across-sectors (citizen, civil society, academia and economic and social partners (participatory approaches) to develop local food policies**

→ **A transnational cooperation among local public authorities and stakeholders is strengthened and commitment agreed to develop local food policies in the Mediterranean**



Our vision: a Mediterranean dialogue & platform

FOODGaP's legacy goes beyond its project results. Its real value lies in nurturing a lasting Mediterranean dialogue — turning experiences, practices and skills into a shared, reusable and evolving heritage.

The platform we are building is not a starting point, but the expression of an active community that learns and shapes collective solutions, following the "Mediterranean way".
This is how local challenges become shared knowledge — and shared knowledge becomes a strategic lever for sustainable territorial development.

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Where do we want to arrive?

The project will continue working on capacity building, participatory processes, local testing and cooperation among Mediterranean actors, with the ambition to strengthen long-term dialogue on food systems.

- **Stronger local governance capacities, built through participatory approaches involving citizens, civil society, academia and economic/social partners**
- **A consolidated transnational cooperation among Mediterranean local authorities**
- **Shared tools and knowledge**
- **Participatory approaches to food policies**
- **A common space for dialogue and cooperation**

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Join the Mediterranean Food Systems Dialogue

Together, we can turn local food challenges into shared Mediterranean pathways.
The Mediterranean faces interconnected crises—from climate change to food security—that no single territory can solve alone. Within the Interreg NEXT MED FOODGaP project, we believe the solution lies in transforming how local food systems are governed, connecting agriculture, tourism, schools, and social inclusion.



YOUR VOICE AND EXPERIENCE ARE CRUCIAL

By sharing your perspective, you will help us map common priorities, exchange innovative tools, and co-design sustainable food governance for our territories.
Contribute now and help shape the "Mediterranean Way”! **It takes just 5 minutes.**

link



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