

Thematic Output: Policy Action Plan: Mollet del Vallès

March, 2015

Background

The long term goal of the Diet for a Green Planet project is that each city will adopt a Diet Policy. This project aims at helping to get the process started and for some important steps to be taken in that direction.

The purpose of this Policy Action Plan is to outline (for each receiving city) the steps taken and the steps that remain to be taken in this area. The finalization of this report was planned for January 2015, but since the project was still ongoing then, it made more sense to write this report in March, after the project activities. It is now that we can overview and analyze what has been achieved and what remains.

This document can be seen as a brief summary status when it comes to the policy work being done in this project. It will not attempt to provide a fully detailed account of the policy transfer – for that we have produced on-going reports from bilateral meetings and transnational conferences. It will rather be a “temperature check” at the time of project end.

The situation for the three receiving cities was very different from the start, and the preconditions along the way have also differed substantially. This report will account for the work in Mollet del Vallès according to the following structure:

- Background
- Steps taken during the project
- Remaining steps



Connecting cities
Building successes



Mollet del Vallès

Background

The structure of school and kindergarten canteens is very different in Mollet del Vallès from that in Södertälje.

In Sweden all children in schools and kindergarten are by law entitled to a free public meal every day. In Södertälje the canteens are run by the municipal Diet Unit.

Mollet del Vallès has 9 kindergartens (3 public and 6 state granted), 15 primary schools (11 public and 4 state granted), 4 public secondary schools and one institute for persons with special needs. The school canteen services in these educational centres are organized in different ways. Some of the school canteens are managed by headmasters, others by parent associations and still others by school boards. All of them sign contracts with private companies which are the ones supplying the canteen services.

Normally the parents pay fully for the school canteen services, but in Catalonia there is a grant system for families with economic needs, or for geographic reasons, to guarantee access to school lunches for all children.

The situation at project start of the public contracts for school canteen services in the public kindergartens which are managed by the city hall of Mollet, was that there was no reference to ecological and locally sourced food. The situation is similar for 95% of the school canteens in Catalonia. There are more than 2,400 primary schools in Catalonia and less than 50 have a school canteen based on ecological food.

Another challenge at project start – which had implications on the policy work – was to improve the management of the rural area called Gallecs, which covers almost 50% of the city territory.

Steps taken during the project

There have been many important steps taken in Mollet del Vallès during the project. The most impressive result is that a diet policy was actually drafted and signed during the project! This is way beyond the initial expectations and it truly shows that the Diet for a Green Planet project has produced concrete and tangible change on policy making level.

Below we list the major achievements within the policy field.

- A feasibility study: An initial audit of the public canteens in the three public kindergartens and the public institute for disabled people was done. As expected a lot of opportunities for improvement showed.
- A new public procurement model for a total transformation was elaborated, which allows Molle del Vallès, as public administration, to buy products according to the Diet for a Green Planet criteria. The big change lies in the fact that 90 points of 100 are attributed to food quality, and not for the cheapest offer to manage the service, as it was before.
- Transformation of three kitchens has taken place in the public kindergartens.



- Auditing the service: The three canteens were audited after six months of transformation, which gave valuable information to make new changes and reach further improvement of the public service.
- A letter of Intent between Mollet and Södertälje about future cooperation has been signed.
- A new Diet Policy approved: All the political parties of Mollet passed this new policy on the 23th of March 2015 by consensus.

Remaining steps to be taken

The progress in Mollet del Vallès has indeed exceeded all expectations, and a solid foundation has been laid since the diet policy was passed – with unanimous support from all political parties – in late March, 2015. In that sense, all steps have already been taken.

However, the following steps have been identified to further strengthen and improve the Diet for a Green Planet concept on the political level:

- To develop management control systems which have objective indicators regarding local, ecological, seasonal food etc. Currently there are no public indicators for food quality in the school canteens of Catalonia. When a functioning control system is in place, it can be offered to the primary schools, together with the new procurement models and the expertise of the civil servants.
- To transform the Local Support Group into a Food Council that will drive the continued process. The aim is for the council to have a legal body, a budget and human resources. The mission would be to give expertise to primary schools, to the public hospital, to kindergartens and all other public kitchens in the city.
- To spread the work done in Mollet del Vallès to other municipalities in Catalonia (and elsewhere), with the aim of inspiring them to work in the same direction.

Document related to this report

The following document is directly connected with this report:

- Diet Policy from Mollet del Vallès passed on March 23, 2015.

We also recommend the reports made throughout the project in order to get a more complete picture. The reports from the bilateral meetings, the transnational conferences and the Roadmap for Applications provide a more detailed account of the transfer process.

Download the reports on <http://urbact.eu/diet-for-a-green-planet>.

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