FOOD 2030 Networks Conference in Ireland

Topic: Public engagement and impact

Venue: Explorium, National Sport & Science Centre
Blackglen Road, Sandyford, Dublin 18

Programme for in-person participation

Day 1 - November 25th, 2026

12.00-13.00 **Lunch and FOOD 2030 Networks Conference Registration**
Note: Poster authors must hang their posters in the Skywalk before 13.00

13.00-14.30 **Plenary presentations and panel discussion (live streaming)**

Welcome address
Marin Rose, CLEVERFOOD Coordinator, Food & Bio Cluster Denmark

Presentation on Science Centers 2.0
Rachel Malloy, Head of Science, Explorium

Presentation on public engagement and citizen empowerment
Jacqueline Broerse, Director of Athena Institute, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Panel discussion on science centers, living labs and policy labs as venues for science communication and public engagement, and testbeds for innovation, interaction and co-creation.

Moderator: Jacqueline Broerse, Director of Athena Institute, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Panelists:
Catherine Franche, Executive Director of ECSITE, the European network of science centres and museums
Rosina Malagrida, Head of the Living Lab for Health, Irsi Caixa
Sarah Gundy, Programme Manager CURAM, University of Galway
Nadia Tonoli, Food Policy Officer, Municipality of Bergamo (TBC)

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14.30-15.00 **Break**

15.00-16.30 **Session I: Parallel trainings and interactive workshops**

Session IA: Training on public engagement for labs and partnerships focusing on making an action plan with stakeholders. Living labs, policy labs, food partnerships and food initiatives will use back casting to map out, from their desired future (visioning), the actions and stakeholders needed to transform their local food environment, facilitated by Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. Each participant will leave with an (draft) action plan for their own lab, partnership or initiative and ideas from peers across Europe.
Jacqueline Broerse and Luka Gudek | Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Session IB: Reflections from science centres hosting the CLEVERFOOD for Everyone Exhibition. Science centres that hosted the CLEVERFOOD for Everyone exhibition will reflect on how they designed it for diverse audiences, built public engagement and learning programmes around it, created a lasting legacy, and measured its impact. Participants will then join small-group gallery-walk discussions with the speakers to share experiences and explore how to sustain engagement beyond an exhibition.
Federica Pastore | ECSITE

Session IC: Using changemakers/social media for engaging the public. A successful collaboration with content creators starts long before the camera is switched on. In this session, the BeInfluence team and CLEVERFOOD influencers will share their experiences and strategies for developing effective briefs while finding the balance between clear objectives and creative freedom. Participants will discover how to turn their project ambitions into a brief that inspires creators, engages audiences, and supports meaningful food system transformation.

Veronique Cox | Team Lead Institutional | BeInfluence Europe
Lisa Grosjean | Campaign Manager | BeInfluence Europe
Adèle Lacroix | Campaign Manager | BeInfluence Europe

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Session ID: The Great FOOD2030 Bake-off – recipes for empowered citizens in food systems. This hands-on workshop explores how food democracy can be operationalised in the real world to support citizens in driving food systems transformation. With the help of tools and best practices from EU projects FEAST, CULTIVATE, CUES, Food4Health and Plan'Eat, participants engage in a game inspired by the famous baking show to define their own vision of citizen empowerment and develop a recipe to reach it. Winners will receive a prize!

Irene Fabricci | ICLEI Europe
Anant Jani | FEAST Coordinator | Heidelberg Institute of Global Health
Saher Hasnain | Roskilde University
Janas Harrington | University College Cork
Marta Golfera | OpenDot
Stefania Spadoni | OpenDot
Jasmina van Driel | ZonMw
Fiona de Bell | Cascoland

Session IE: Participatory monitoring tools for policy innovation. How can participatory monitoring support healthier and more sustainable food systems? This workshop brings together experiences from five European Living Labs in city-regions Lisbon, Barcelona, Amsterdam, Berlin and Plain of Lucca to jointly explore how community engagement can foster policy innovation and local food system change. The Living Labs have extensive experience and (have) participate(d) in various projects such as FoodCLIC, FoodLink, CONNECT, FOSTER, FIT4FOOD, FoodSHIFT2030.

Arianna De Conno | FoodCLIC

Session IF: Who Trusts a Food Data Project? Engagement strategies from citizen science labs and live use cases. Food systems projects increasingly ask people to share data, knowledge and time, yet participation often stalls over privacy, unclear benefit or loss of control. In this hands-on session, FoodDataQuest, SOSFood and SPOON, three projects of the Data4Food Cluster, share engagement attempts that worked and ones that did not, and participants develop practical recommendations for building trust around food data.

Giannis Fyrogenis | FoodDataQuest | reframe.food
Siavash Farahbakhsh | FoodDataQuest Coordinator | ILVO
Esther Van Parys | FoodDataQuest | ILVO
Anna Alekseeva | FoodDataQuest | EFFoST
Lía Barrese | SPOON | PNO Innovation

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Sergio Urioste | SPOON | Science for Change
Caterina Guarini | SPOON | Turin Network of Neighborhood Houses (Rete delle Case del Quartiere)
Eloy Miranda García | SOSFood Coordinator | Universidade de Vigo
Eleonora Guidi | SPOON | Turin Network of Neighborhood Houses (Rete delle Case del Quartiere)
Adele Aghemo | SPOON | City of Turin (Comune di Torino)

16.30-17.30 **Poster session in the Skywalk**
Interactive visit to the CLEVERFOOD for Everyone exhibition

17.30 **Networking reception**

18.00-21.00 **Conference Dinner**
After dinner, Explorium's exhibits will be open to explore

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Day 2 – November 26th, 2026

08.30-10.00 **Plenary presentations and panel discussion (live streaming)**

Panel discussion on Shaping Food Policy and Governance Through Public Engagement

Moderator: Chiara Roticiani, Project Coordinator, Eurocities

This panel session will explore how local initiatives such as Living Labs, Food Policy Labs, Food Policy Councils and food partnerships can translate citizen engagement into effective food governance and broader societal impact. Drawing on experiences from the CLEVERFOOD peer-learning programme and the FOOD 2030 Connected Lab Network, participants will discuss how participatory and place-based approaches can inform policymaking and strengthen food-system governance. The session will also examine how governance frameworks, funding mechanisms and collaborative approaches can better support public engagement and enable a systemic transformation of food systems.

Panelists:
Irene Ferrara, Advocacy Officer, Slow Food, Brussels Office
Kristiaan Kok, Assistant Professor of Politics and Governance of Sustainability Transitions, Athena - Research and Education Institute
Representative from the CLEVERFOOD peer-learning programme (to be confirmed)
Representatives from the European Commission (to be confirmed)

10.00-10.30 **Break**

10.30-12.00 **Session II: Parallel trainings and interactive workshops**

Session IIA: Training for Competence Centres. At this training for Competence Centres, organisations experienced in providing public engagement methods will discuss how to support food system transformation through engagement activities. They will apply the Food2030 Public Engagement toolkit through the Engage for Change card game. *Please note:* this session is especially designed for those who want

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to become a designated competence centre for public engagement. You should have proven competence in the topic already.

Jacqueline Broerse and Luka Gudek | Athena Institute, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Session IIB: Strategizing on engaging the public and translating that into policymaking at local, national and EU level. This workshop empowers participants to strategically engage local stakeholders and amplify their initiatives' impact. Through sharing experiences, attendees will explore how their work can shape not only local food policies but also influence national and EU-level decisions. The session will identify tools and pathways to elevate their efforts, unlocking the broader policy potential of their initiatives and the key enablers for success.

Chiara Roticiani | Project Coordinator, Eurocities
Kristiaan Kok | Assistant Professor of Politics and Governance of Sustainability Transitions, Athena - Research and Education Institute

Session IIC: Integrating public engagement in higher education on food system science. Food systems transformation asks universities to teach with the people who shape how food is produced and consumed, yet public engagement in teaching still depends largely on the commitment of individual educators. The session begins with short panelist presentations, moves to a panel discussion on how a European higher education network could sustain this work, and closes with questions and contributions from the floor.

Eduardo Urias | Athena Institute, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Madhura Rao | Maastricht University
Paul Milbourne | Cardiff University
Reinhard Rebernig-McLaughlin | VU Amsterdam & AURORA University Alliance

Session IID: When the framework meets the place – scale, translation and the limits of generic food systems tools. When food systems frameworks meet places, their assumptions, blind spots, and limits become visible, highlighting the tensions between context-specific learning and the production of generalisable knowledge. Using examples from three EU projects, this interactive workshop explores scale,

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translation, and how place-based insights can reshape science-policy advice.

Stine Rosenlund Hansen | FoodTrails

Session IIE: Knowledge, Participation, and Innovation for Sustainable Food Systems. Whose knowledge counts, who gets to shape food system priorities, and how can we create more inclusive pathways from evidence to action? Through an interactive World Café, this workshop brings together participants to explore practical ways of strengthening participation, recognising diverse forms of knowledge and innovation, and advancing fairer and more sustainable food systems, with a focus on relevant policy changes.

Gabrielle Edwards, Saher Hasnain, Stine Rosenlund Hansen, Susanne Hollmann, Aziz Omar, Jozsef Slezak, Jana Kukaine, Eduardo Urias | FoSSNet: The Food Systems Science Network

Session IIF: Using the Food Sharing Compass Tools to Navigate a Resilient Food System. This interactive workshop invites participants to explore the CULTIVATE Food Sharing Compass and apply its five tools to real-world resilience challenges, building capacity for citizen engagement, governance, and policy action.

Anna Davies | CULTIVATE Coordinator | Trinity College Dublin

12.00-12.30 **Closing of the conference**

12.30-14.00 **Lunch and Networking**

14.00-17.00 **Optional visit to Explorium's exhibits and the CLEVERFOOD for Everyone exhibition**

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