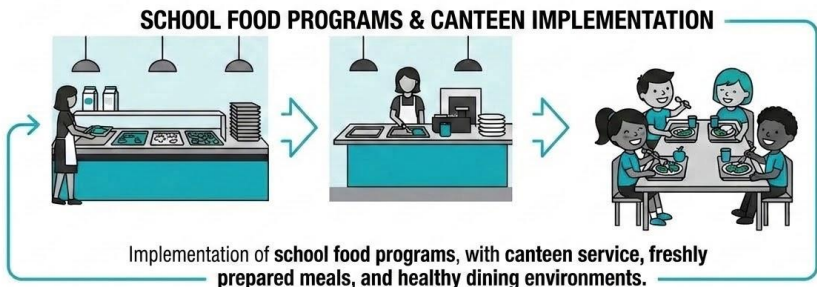


Eco-friendly farming practices and local sourcing for fresh produce.

Direct farm-to-school delivery and streamlined logistics with minimal intermediaries.



SFSC Advisinar
- 21st September 2026 -
10:00 - 11:15 CET

**“Public procurement for
schools and the role of
SFSCs”**



**LOCAL FOOD
ADVISORS'
JOURNEY 2026**



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SFSC Advisinar

- 21st September 2026 - 10:00 - 11:15

“Public procurement for schools and the role of SFSCs” with examples from Ireland, Italy and Portugal.

Discussions:

- keynote: JRC publication [“Criteria for Sustainable Public Procurement \(SPP\) for Food, Food services, and Vending machines”](#)
speakers: **Giulia Listorti** - Deputy Head of the Food Security Unit of the *Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission*;
Aurora Perez-Cornago - Scientific Officer at the *Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission*;
- title: **“A kitchen in the community: can we localise school meals in Ireland to benefit health, environment, and livelihoods?”**
speaker: **Ruth Hegarty** - Director of the platform Food Policy Ireland
country: **Ireland**
- title: **“From public procurement to short food supply chains: how school meals can drive local food policy, integrating the territory, sustainability, and active community involvement”**
speaker: **Nadia Tonoli** - Food Policy Officer for the Municipality of Bergamo
country: **Italy**
- title: **“Sustainable School Food Program of Torres Vedras”**
speaker: **Paula Rodrigues** - Senior Technician at the Municipality of Torres Vedras
country: **Portugal**



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Speaker's short description



Giulia Listorti is currently Deputy Head of the *Food Security Unit of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission*.

An experienced policy analyst and project coordinator, she works at the science for policy interface to promote interdisciplinary research, better data and models for evidence-informed policies.

Giulia joined the Joint Research Centre in 2018. Prior to that, she has worked for several years as scientific advisor at the *Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture*.

She holds a PhD in Economics and degree in Agricultural Sciences and Technologies.

Speaker's short description



Aurora Perez-Cornago is an epidemiologist with expertise in diet, obesity, and cancer.

She currently works as a Scientific Officer at the *European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC)*, where she integrates scientific evidence to support EU policy making.

She leads the nutrition and health component of a multidisciplinary project on sustainable public procurement and conducts research on how nutrition and public health evidence can inform effective policy action.

Before joining the JRC, she was an Associate Professor of Epidemiology at the University of Oxford. She has published over 150 peer-reviewed papers and led multiple international research projects.

Speaker's short description



Ruth Hegarty is director of *Food Policy Ireland*, a platform for research, advocacy, and action towards healthy, sustainable and fair food systems, and has spent over 20 years advocating for short food supply chains, resilient local food systems, healthy food environments and food education.

Currently Ruth is campaigning for better school meals, public food procurement reform, and community food hubs as levers that can shift us towards sustainable food systems supporting health, environment, and local economies.

Ruth is a co-coordinator of the *Feeding Ourselves*, a Community of Practice for food sovereignty, agroecology, and locally-led food initiatives, and a board member of Irish farming organisation Talamh Beo.

She holds a masters in Food Policy and a masters in European Policy, lectures in food policy, and is a regular media commentator on food policy issues.



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Speaker's short description



Nadia Tonoli is a “*Food Policy Officer for the Municipality of Bergamo*”, where she implements strategic actions and manages the governance of the city's food system.

Her work focuses on engaging citizens and stakeholders to foster sustainable food transitions. Within this scope, she promotes healthy, sustainable school canteens that are integrated into local policies. In addition to overseeing canteens, urban agriculture, and food waste reduction, she manages European project development, project cycle management, and international relations for the municipality.

Her multidisciplinary academic background directly supports this work. In addition to holding three degrees (in Educational Sciences, Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, and Administrative and Legal Sciences), her expertise in food policy and cooperation in International contexts is also reinforced by Master's Degrees in "Food and Society: Innovating Food Practices, Policies, and Markets" and “Intercultural Mediation”.

Her career in public administration has involved managing complex and international projects. Prior to joining the Municipality of Bergamo, she served as Coordinator of International Cooperation Policies at the Municipality of Cernusco sul Naviglio, leading key sustainable development initiatives.



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Speaker's short description



Paula Mota Rodrigues is a Livestock Engineer, with a Master's degree in Environmental Engineering and a specialization in Organic Farming.

She is a Senior Technician at the *Municipality of Torres Vedras*, where she is part of the Food and School Health Division of the Education Department. She is also responsible for the Agricultural Area within the Forestry, Green Spaces, Beaches and Water Resources Division of the Department of Environment, Sustainability and Safety.

Her professional work focuses particularly on agroecology, sustainable food systems, and public policies for sustainable food and agriculture, with a particular interest in the role of municipalities in promoting more sustainable, resilient and territorially integrated production and consumption models.

She is involved in several projects related to agricultural and food development, sustainable school food and the valorisation of local production. Within the Sustainable School Food Programme, implemented by the Municipality of Torres Vedras in 2014, she coordinates and supports the management and development of school gardens and work on food waste in school canteens, promoting an integrated approach linking food production, food, education and sustainability.



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