

Building Sustainable food systems from the local to the EU level: The example of Freiburg

Summary of the April 25 public event (Vorderhaus, Freiburg)



On **April 25, 2018**, IPES-Food , Die Agronauten and Agrikultur E.V. hosted an open event entitled *"What's on our plates? Building food systems together"* at Vorderhaus. Almost 200 participants gathered to discuss the creation of a food council in Freiburg, highlighting the interest and commitment to develop sustainable local food systems in the city.

Olivier De Schutter, co-chair of the International Panel of Experts on sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food) and former UN Rapporteur on the Right to food, motivated the public with his speech on food democracy.

Anna Wißmann, head of the German network of food policy councils, presented the example of Köln, explaining how these councils are structured and how they functions to maximize their impact.

Over the course of the evening, the various inputs and contributions were captured by a graphic artist and are shared throughout the summary.

Direct marketing: Ensure more public education on the benefits of local food, diversification of opportunities for direct marketing, and ensuring accessibility. Future project for Freiburg could include the development of a supermarket for regional/local products and/or a food hub.



Following the small group discussions, participants then discussed the possible structure Freiburg's food policy council could take. The debate focused on how to ensure cooperation and communication between different stakeholder groups and their diverse interests. Main takeaways on how to build Freiburg's food policy council included:

- Remunerate food policy council coordinators to avoid burden an time-pressure of volunteer positions; other council positions could be supported by volunteers / civil society;
- Develop concrete projects, with on-going monitoring of results to ensure that actors stay motivated;
- Ensure participation of diverse stakeholder groups and perspectives in decision-making;
- Distinguish roles of the different actors' groups within the council (e.g. between civil society, administration, producers)
- Develop a database or platform for knowledge sharing
- Clearly establish the food policy council's primary goals and shared vision
- Allow for flexibility / adaptability of council's structure as it evolves; the food policy council should be in a continuous process of improvement and transformation

Future meeting should consider the following questions:

- How can we assure that the council will continue to operate in a democratic way? Is there any control mechanism available to tack the achievement of goals?
- To what extent can the food policy council be affiliated to the City?
- Which actors should be part of the council?
- What are the opportunities for financing the council?

Thank you to all participants for their contributions and for taking the first steps towards a food policy council for Freiburg.