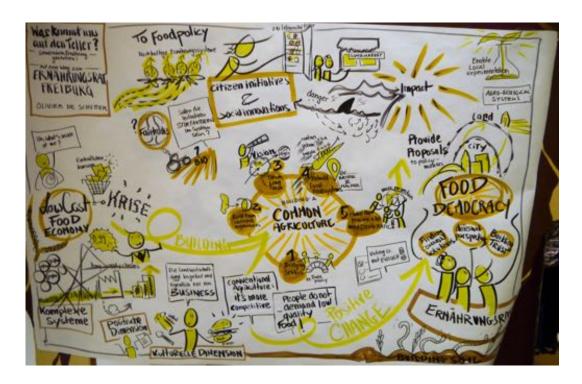






## Building Sustainable food systems from the local to the EU level: The example of Freiburg

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.









## **Summary of the April 26 Workshops (Waldhaus, Freiburg)**

On **April 26, 2018**, 40 participants from a wide variety of backgrounds (e.g public administration, civil society, agriculture, research) came together to discuss key themes linked to the development of Freiburg's food policy council. Divided into four working groups, participants outlined a shared vision for the future of local food systems in Freiburg and the surrounding region. Each group was tasked to answer: "How do local actors envision the future of Freiburg's food system and which measures are needed to see this vision through?"

Key points of discussion included:

**Public procurement**: Allow for more regional food procurement, stronger opportunities to network between food system actors, and ensure more research support on the benefits of local public procurement. Public procurement laws must be improved at the EU level. The Swiss model of public procurement was cited as a positive example, where regional products are prioritized when available.

**Agriculture and environment protection**: Future strategies should include strengthening the socio-cultural value of food production and preparation, re-enlivening the positive image and value of farming professions and fostering civil society participation in agricultural and conservation policy decision-making.

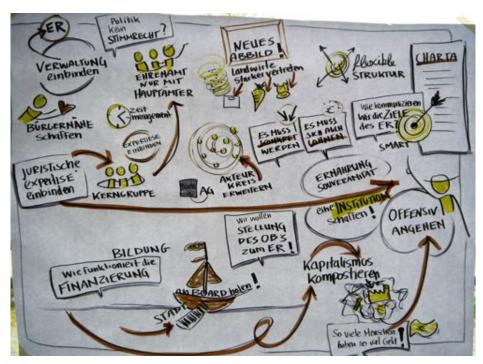
**Resources and circular economy**: More collaboration to ensure access to agricultural land and need to stop land speculation. One promising path to facilitate the development of circular economy includes reducing food waste, namely through education. To this end, cooperation between local actors should be strengthened to pursue these goals.

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**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 decisionmaking;
- 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.