Gent en Garde
food policy council
Eurocities 20/03/2019
5 strategic goals

1. A more visible, shorter food supply chain
2. More sustainable food production and consumption
3. Stronger social value for food initiatives
4. Reduce food waste
5. Reuse food waste and maximize its potential
Governance

Responsibilities

- strategic vision – sounding board
- advise pilot projects and city initiatives
- ambassadors

- relevant departments of the city administration
- informing + aligning
- specific thematic working groups
Composition

- Alderman as chair
- Representative of a chain in the local food system
- Sufficient knowledge and background related to at least one of our strategic goals
- Committed to the ambitions of Gent en Garde
- Mix of agriculture, associations, NGOs, researchers, commercial representatives
- Minimum 1/3 women
- Diversity
- Frequency: 3 x/year: jan-feb / may-june / october
Launch

- Original composition: on invitation
- Politically approved
- After 5 years:
  - Co-creative exercise on missing actors
  - Open call for candidacies
  - Selection by food council
  - Political approval
Setting operational goals

- Participatory trajectory
- Very interesting participatory approach
- Ownership of food policy amongst different stakeholders
- Document with operational goals as output
Working groups

- Setting operational goals led to the creation of 2 working groups
- Access to sustainable, healthy and affordable food
- Scaling up short food supply chains
- Committed to co-creation and operational results
- Open groups
- Self-steering
- Process facilitator
Continuous assessment

- Biannual strategic days
  - Role
  - Mandate
  - Budget
  - Members
  - Priorities

- Inspire
  - Masterclass with food councils of Toronto and Nairobi
  - Exchange with other participative governance models
Changes

▪ Budget authority
  • 40,000 € in 2018
  • 60,000 € in 2019
▪ Used for supporting new innovative initiatives in partnership
▪ Revised composition
▪ Increased visibility:
  • Online profiles and reports
  • Annual events
Thank you