How do municipalities take a food systems approach to developing food policy

Exploring the challenges and drivers of applying food systems approach: How can cities address this concept in practice.

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Study aim and context
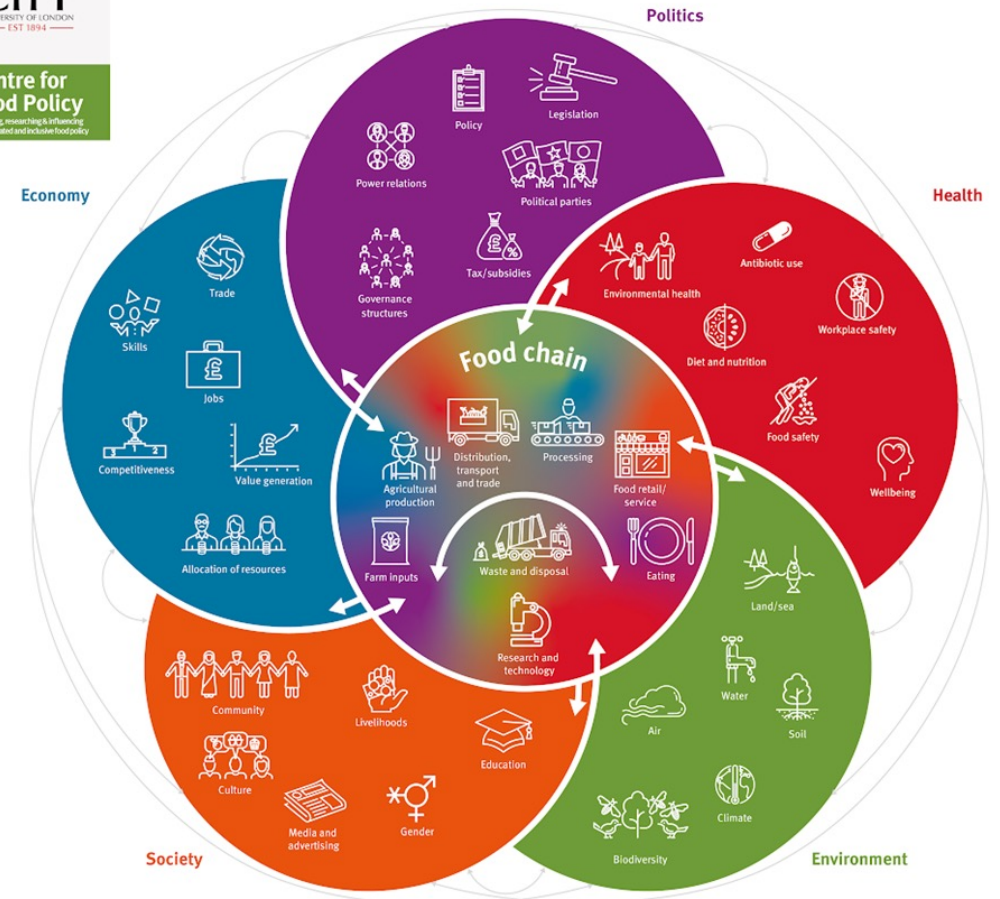
STEP 1: Design a food systems approach evaluation framework

STEP 2: Apply the framework to cities' food strategies/policies

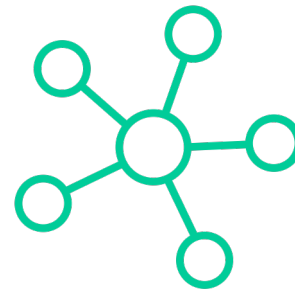STEP 3: Explore cities' interpretations about the challenges and drivers

Policy implications

The food system

Parsons K, Hawkes C, Wells R. Brief 2. What is the food system?
A food policy perspective. London: Centre for Food Policy; 2019.

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Study aim and context

STEP 1: Design a food systems approach evaluation framework

STEP 2: Apply the framework to cities' food strategies/policies

STEP 3: Explore cities' interpretations about the challenges and drivers

Policy Implications

What challenges and opportunities do cities face in implementing food systems approach to developing urban food policy.

Portugal

2018 – 2019 new legislation empowers municipalities to extend their interventions in food policy

- ❑ animal protection, health and food safety
- ❑ promotion of healthy lifestyles and active ageing
- ❑ school meals management from primary to high school
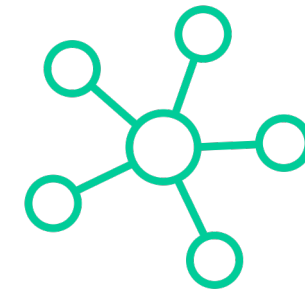
Braga

Idanha-a-Nova

Mértola

Porto

Torres Vedras

To what extent do Portuguese cities apply food systems approach to their food strategies?

What are the challenges and drivers which Portuguese cities identify in applying food systems approach?

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STEP 1: Design a food systems approach evaluation framework

STEP 2: Apply the framework to cities' food strategies/policies

STEP 3: Explore cities' interpretations about the challenges and drivers

Policy Implications

Methods
Systemised literature review

○ July 3rd to August 1st 2021

○ Search terms: "food systems", "food", "food systems approach", "polic*", "governance", "cit*", "municipalit*"

○ 18 peer-reviewed + 10 reports and briefs from relevant grey literature

Food systems approach assets

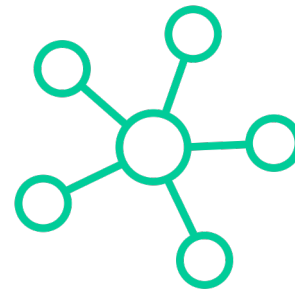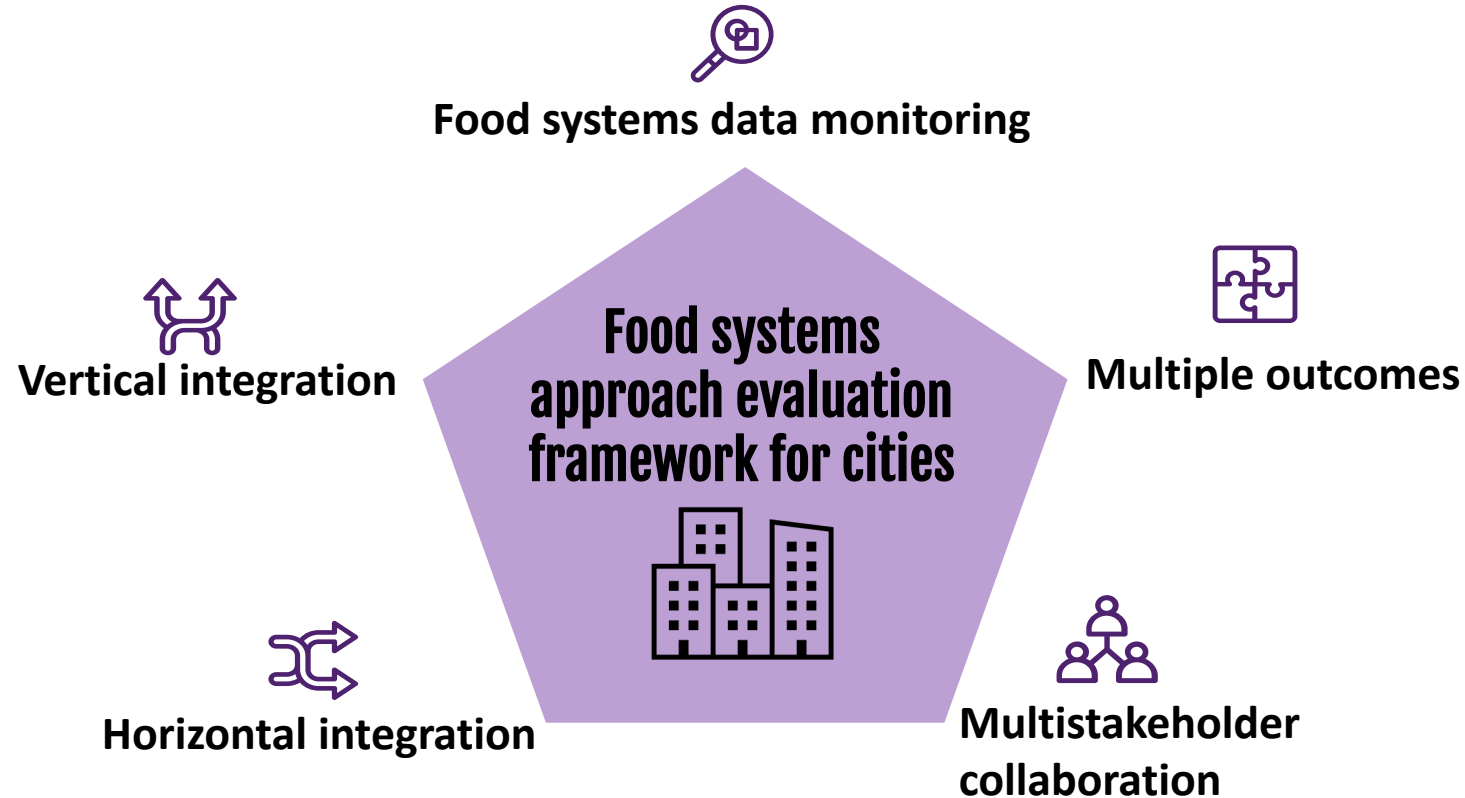**Identify trade-offs and promote coherence**

Adress multiple outcomes

Promote multistakeholder collaboration

Support integrated food policy

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STEP 1: Design a food systems approach evaluation framework

Food systems data monitoring

Vertical integration

Food systems approach evaluation framework for cities

Multiple outcomes

Horizontal integration

Multistakeholder collaboration

Each criterion has guiding questions to help the researcher analyse the extent to which the criterion is met

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# STEP 2: Apply the framework to cities' food strategies/policies

Methods
Semi-structured interviews

○ 5 interviews

○ policymakers, civil servants or specific stakeholders who have been directly involved with the municipality and food systems strategy/policy identified

  ✓ Food system's activities and policies overview of each municipality
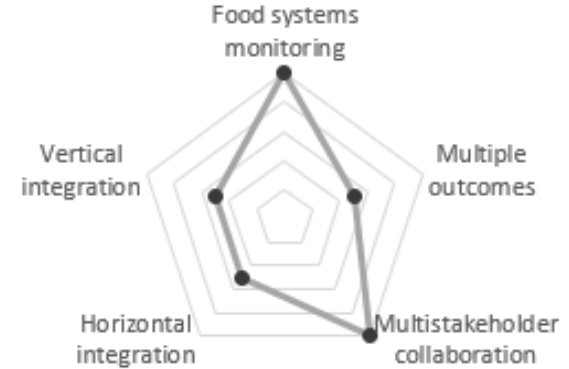 ✓ Municipalities' interpretations about food systems approach
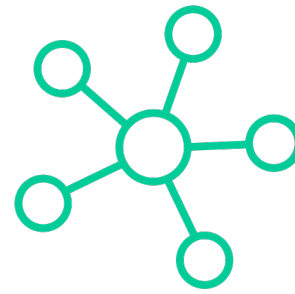

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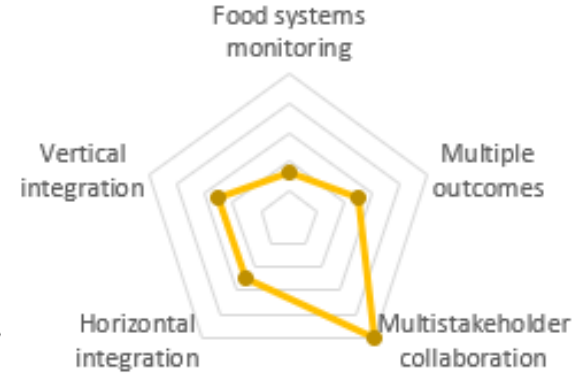
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STEP 3: Explore cities' interpretations about the challenges and drivers

Challenges

Policy Implications

Funding frameworks

o   Difficulties in framing their vision and integrated strategies regarding the current frameworks and incentives;
o   Lack of public resources and directed funding for tools which promote collaborative structures.

Collaborative governance skills

o   Handicap to promote and maintain partnerships and multistakeholder collaboration toward an integrated food strategy;
o   Difficult to maintain commitment and concerted action, for a long period.

Methods
o   Interviewees' answers about challenges and drivers to apply food systems approach were subjected to thematic content analysis based on the steps of Braun and Clarke's (2006) guide.

Horizontal integration

o   Achieving alignment and collaboration between the different municipality departments is a difficult task;
o   Lack of specialised teams.

Food systems data

o   Lack of food system data in general;
o   Systemised data about the different activities and actors of the food system.

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STEP 3: Explore cities' interpretations about the challenges and drivers
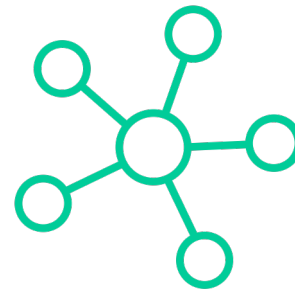
Policy Implications

Drivers

Collaborations and partnerships

- o The importance of collaboration and building partnerships to involve everyone in the food system;
- o Partnerships can address the lack of time and resources that municipalities have for evaluating their programmes in a systematised way.

Benchmark

- o Benchmarking other initiatives and governance models helped to construct or optimise municipalities' strategies;
- o The value of learning from other strategies and promoting study trips was also highlighted;
- o The engagement in specific cities' networks and programmes.

Methods

- o Interviewees' answers about challenges and drivers to apply food systems approach were subjected to thematic content analysis based on the steps of Braun and Clarke's (2006) guide.

Political will

- o Political will and commitment as factors of success for the implementation of municipalities' strategies.

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Policy Implications
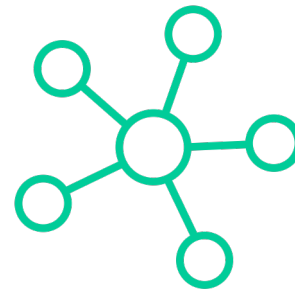
Build 'Food Systems Data' mechanisms

Enhance multistakeholder collaboration

Enable multi-level governance facilities

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