



# ORGANICS EUROPE YOUTH EVENT



Organic And You(th)  
Building Resilient Food Futures



in collaboration with



## Parallel session 2.1

# Fostering local food democracy: exponents of the Italian Local Food Policies Network

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Food is both a symptom and a symbol of how we organize ourselves and our societies

To understand cities properly, we need to look at them through the lens of food



**Caroline Steel**, urban planner, author of *Hungry City: how food shapes our lives* and *Sitopia: how food can save the world*



**Timothy Lang**, Emeritus Professor of Food Policy, is an academic at the School of Health and Psychological Sciences of City, University of London

## Disconnections in the globalised food systems



**Geographical** | Grower-Consumer physical distances



**Economic** | Proliferation of intermediaries



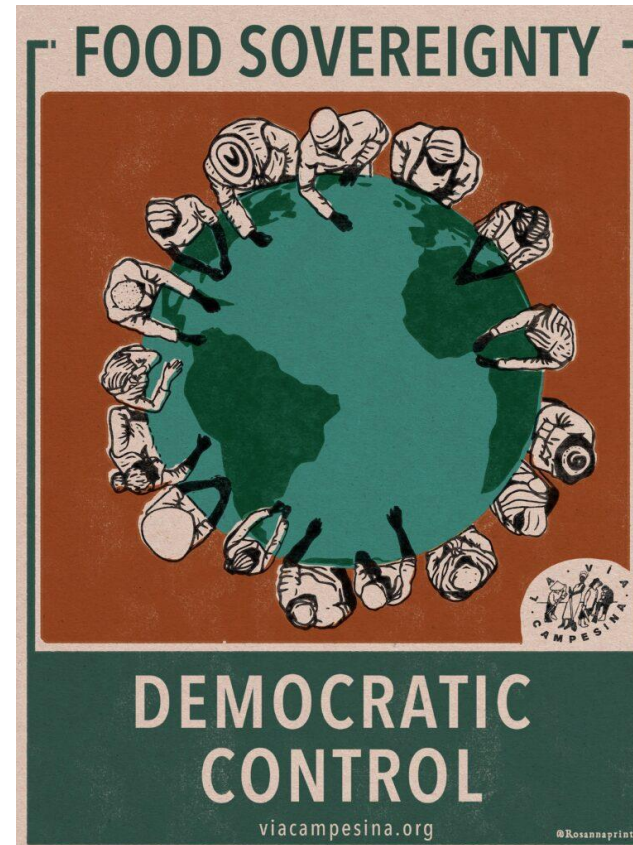
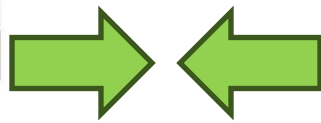
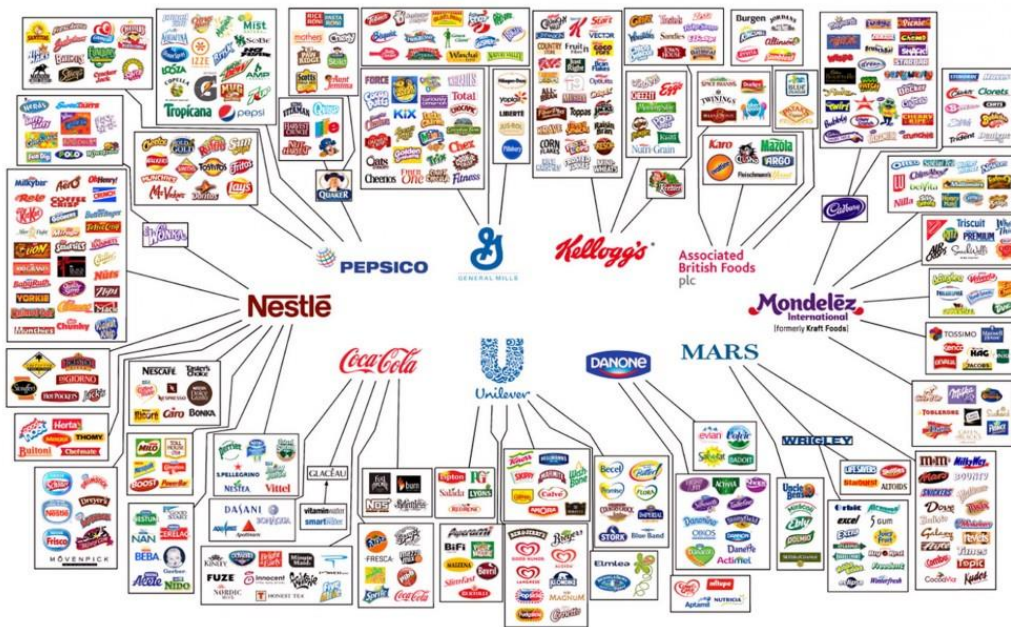
**Political** | Low capability in driving food systems

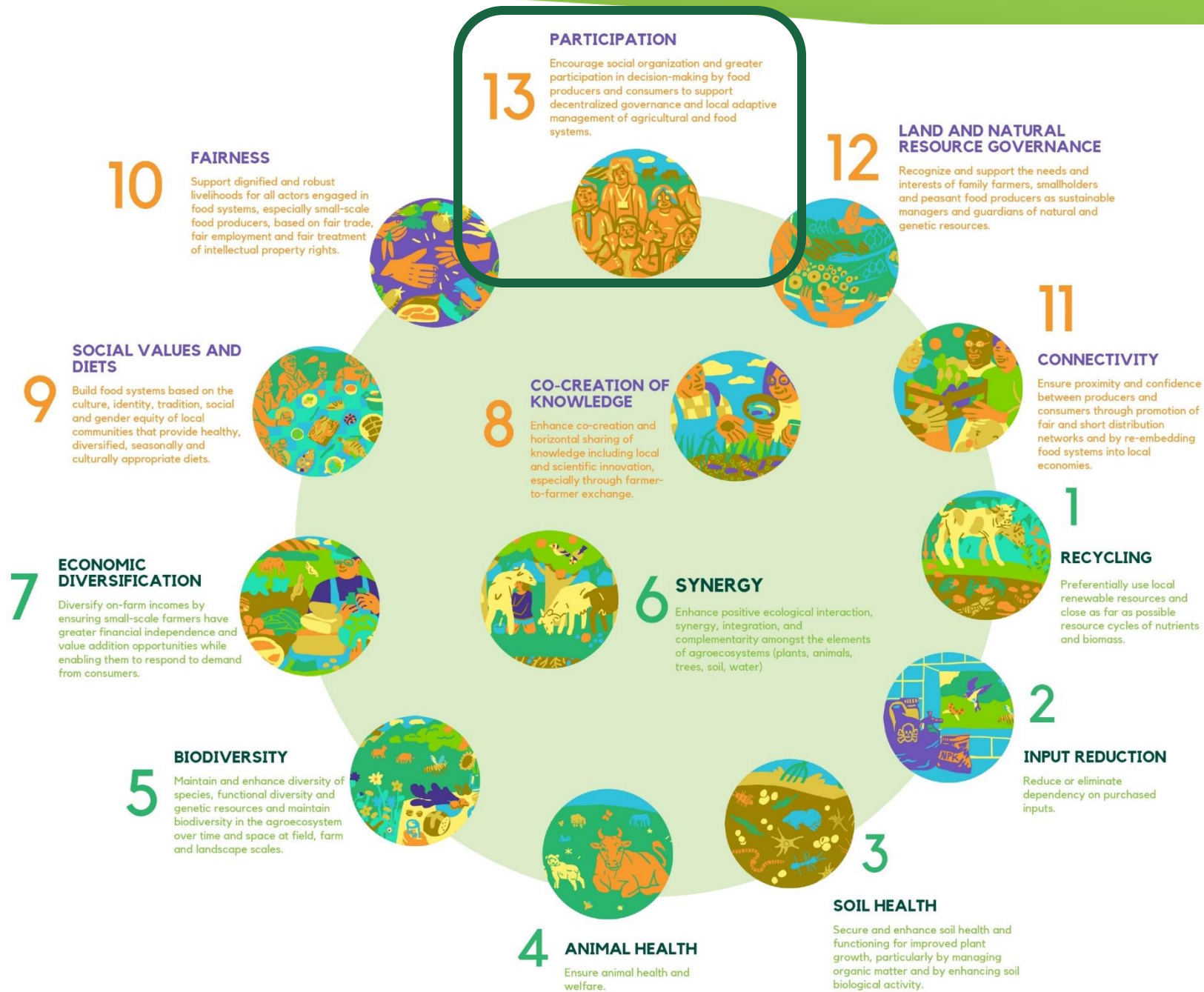


**Cognitive** | Ignorance about the conditions of production, processing and distribution

# An infinite struggle

From the political perspective, it makes sense to see the dynamics of the food system as a **titanic struggle between the forces of control and the pressure to democratize**





## The local Food Councils

The World Food Council (WFC) established by the UN in 1974 (and then absorbed by FAO)

BUT, the WFC focused on a global scale, while Food Councils typically operate at a local level

Food Councils emerged in North America during the early 1990s

Food Councils serve as a **central hub for coordinating, discussing, and refining local food policies.**

They are the platform/arenas where decisions are made regarding projects, resources, and implementation strategies

Food Councils foster open dialogue among all stakeholders within the agri-food system, grounded in participatory co-creation methodologies

## Some interesting examples: the Food Council of Rome



From the **Promoting Committee for a Food Policy for Rome (2018)**

- Bottom-up
- Informal
- Advocacy for a Food Policy for Rome



To the **Food Council of Rome (2023)**

- Institutionalised
- Rules and roles
- Feed the Food Policy for Rome



Il Consiglio del Cibo di Roma  
presenta

# NUTRIAMO LA CITTÀ

**ASSEMBLEA,  
AGRI-APERITIVO, TALK**  
per costruire politiche alimentari  
sostenibili e accessibili

**Mercoledì 17 luglio 2024**  
**Ore 17.30 – 21.30**

**Città dell'Altra Economia**  
**Largo Dino Frisullo, Roma**

## Food Council

### Working Groups

1. Local production and agroecology
2. Food distribution and local markets
3. Contrast to food poverty
4. Contrast to food losses and wastes
5. Social and solidarity economies and communities
6. School and collective catering
7. Food catering
8. Food education and training



### Coordination Group

1. The president of the FC
2. Two coordinators of each WG
3. City administration

**Consumerism** implies:

- a relationship in the market
- food control from above and beyond

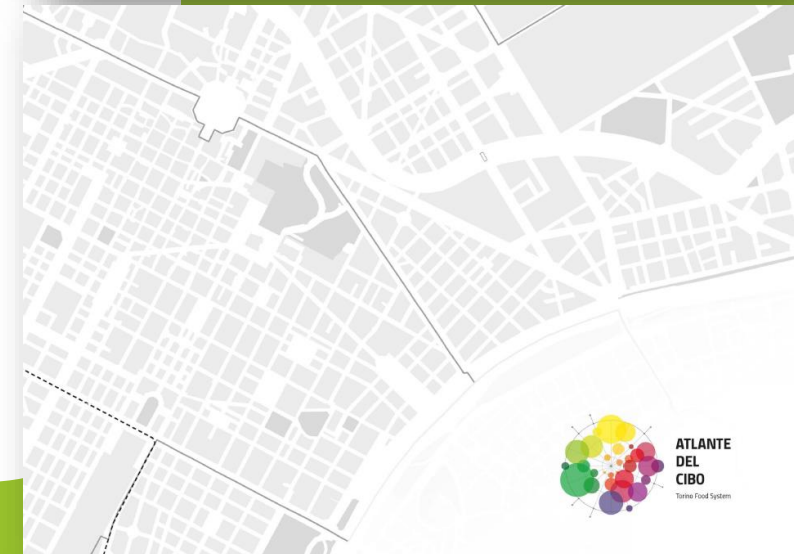
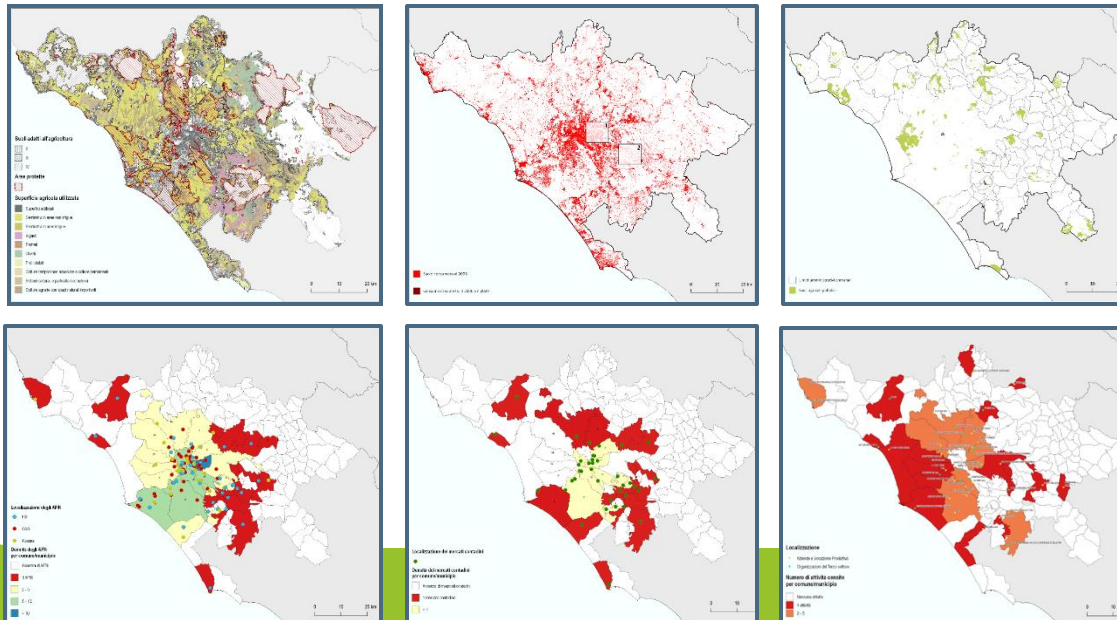
**Food Citizenship** implies:

- a permanent struggle to control the food system
- the constant search for food democracy from below

# What's behind a Food Councils: data!

Food Atlas can map the local food system

Paramount instruments to gain information on what, where, how and how much food is produced in the city (urban and peri-urban area), by whom, how the food is transformed and distributed, where and how it is consumed, what food trends are happening, where are local markets, etc.





A group of 650+ individuals: academics, independent researchers, non-profit representatives, activists, local administrations engaged in multiple ways in research activities related to "local food policies"

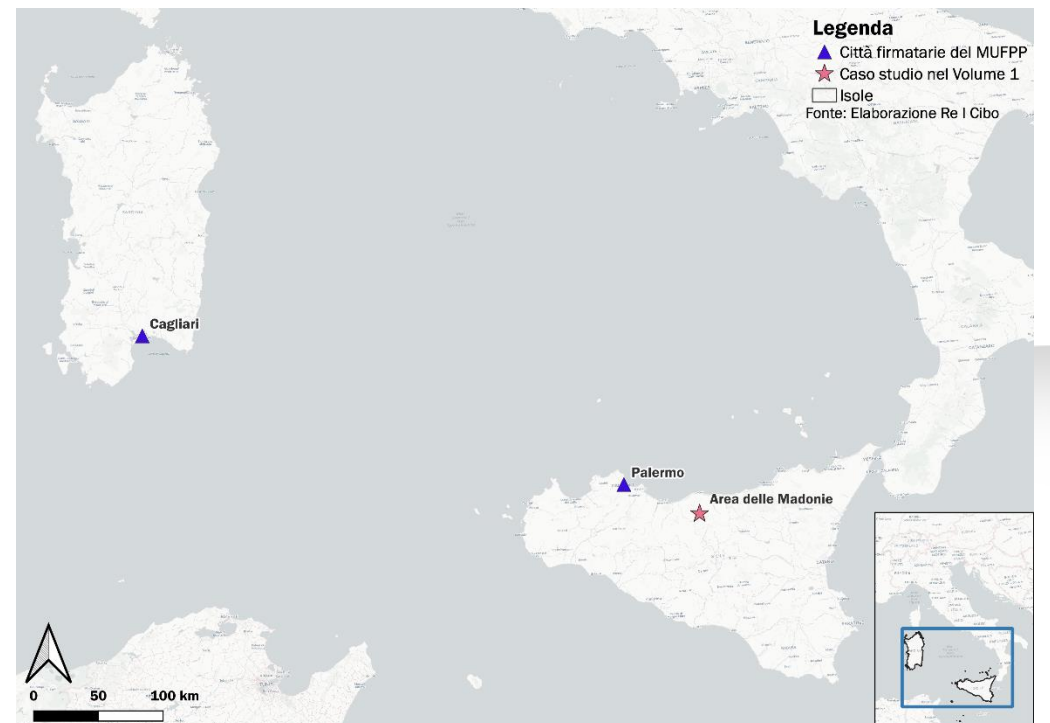
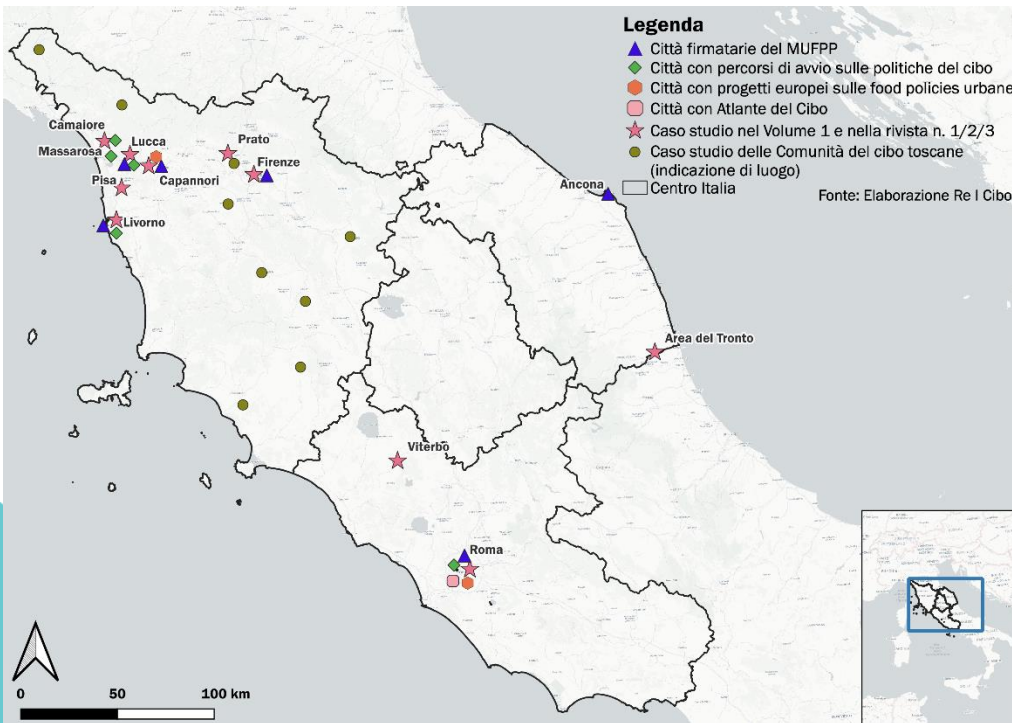
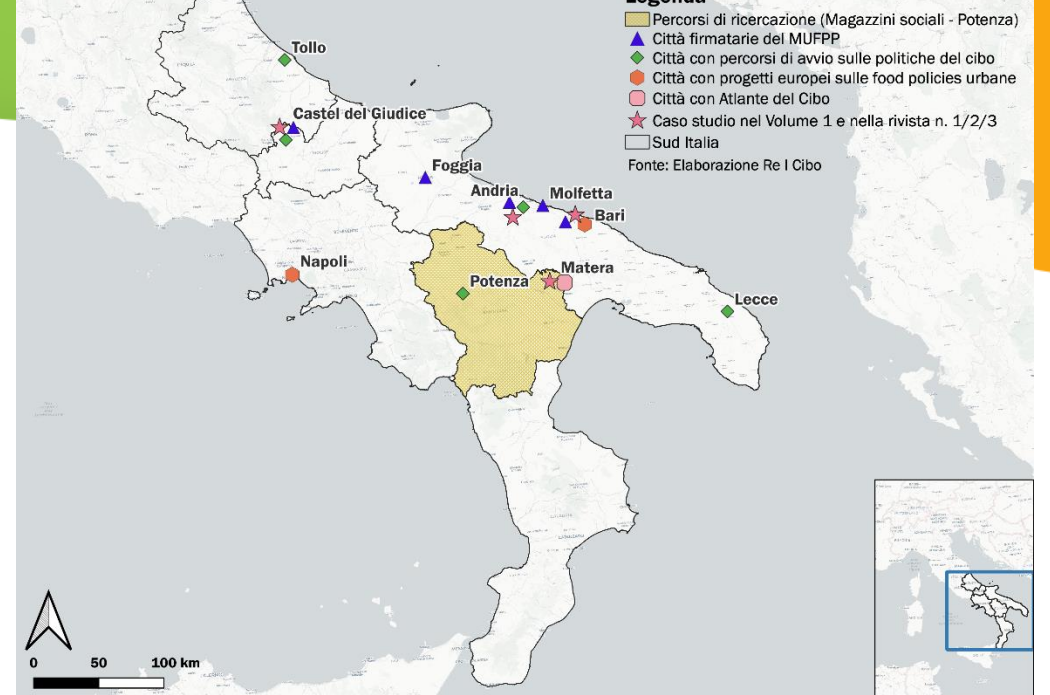
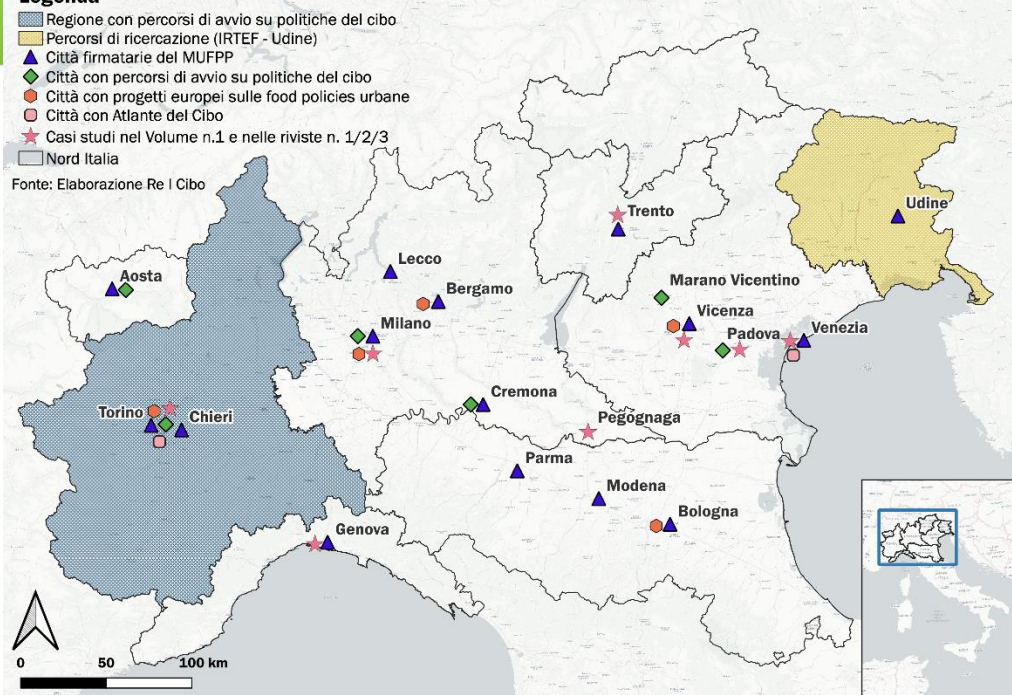
**We organise an Annual Meeting: the last one was exactly in these rooms in January!**

If you would like to join the Network, visit our website! [www.politichelocalicibo.it](http://www.politichelocalicibo.it)

# The Italian Network on Local Food Policies



# Mapping the local food policies in Italy



## Take-aways

- We can only make sense of what happens in food policy if we see it as the result of social forces competing for influence and power
- As such, food system planning requires innovative governance models
- Bottom-up approaches are paramount to activate the actors that shape food systems
- Society-Science-Policy interfaces are needed to foster food system transformation