



Priority 5.2: Fostering sustainable food systems

Secure the EU's capacity for resilience and robustness in an era of permacrisis. The EU faces a converging set of crises, ranging from pandemics and geopolitical conflicts to climate change and socio-economic instability. It is essential to implement a comprehensive and multi-disciplinary approach to create a strong healthy environment. A key component of this environment should be the promotion of health-focused research for implementation and innovation, given the cross-cutting impact of health on all areas of life. An important element should be the promotion of research and innovation in health. Furthermore, to secure people's ability to adapt and thrive in such challenging circumstances, the EU must:

- 5.2. Make healthy and sustainable food systems and food environments a political priority through dedicated regulations to reinforce the EU's common food policy. The EU budget should support resilient and sustainable food production and all levels of governance (local, national, European, global) should be engaged and included.

Food systems and food options need to become healthier and more sustainable. This means reducing the impact of food production on the planet, as well as making healthier and sustainable food choices the most accessible and affordable ones.

The urgent need for healthier and more sustainable food systems

Food systems need to become healthier and more sustainable, with a reduced environmental impact. Healthy and sustainable food choices should also be better promoted:

- The EU needs a law supporting the **transition to a sustainable food production and consumption model**. Food production, especially for meat, is responsible for significant, preventable environmental pollutants and carbon emissions. Adjusting food production to the planetary boundaries by promoting healthy and sustainable food choices (seasonal and local fruits, vegetables, nuts and pulses; more non-processed plant-based alternatives) and discouraging non-sustainable food choices (meat, highly processed foods, as well as foods sourced from other parts of the globe), should be part of this approach. Tackling food waste should also be considered.
- All levels of governance should be engaged in the **implementation** of the legislation, its enforcement and monitoring.
- Building sustainable food systems should also consider the **transport of food** across the EU, affordability of healthy food, and ensure food production autonomy.
- **Policies encouraging healthy and sustainable food choices** should be strengthened to support consumers. These should include labelling (Ingredients, front-of-package nutritional values, country of origin and animal welfare standards), public procurement, regulating unhealthy food marketing, and fiscal incentives.

Planning the sustainable transition

This transition to sustainable food systems needs to be planned, funded, and monitored:

- **Long-term plans** should be developed for the transition of food systems towards sustainability. These plans should consider both short-term measures and long-term goals for achieving long-lasting impacts.
- **Clear and measurable targets** should be set to reduce the environmental impact of food production, improving food access and affordability, and enhancing the health and wellbeing of EU citizens.
- **Funding and incentives** should be provided for sustainable and environmentally friendly practices to support the transition to more sustainable food systems.



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