Resilient cities in practice

From multi-stakeholder food planning to innovative food sourcing models for the city.

Leuven, Belgium
Food Connects & the roadmap to climate neutrality

Food Connects =
- ± 70 stakeholders
- 7 strategies
- Integrated in policy of Leuven
- Activated local ecosystem/stakeholders

Roadmap =
- Integration and translation of Food Connects into climate action plan.
- Clear goals and timings
- Sustainable and healthy food
Local food distribution platform: KORT’OM LEUVEN

• Connect local farmers with consumers in the city via a B2B platform (retail & food service).

• Started as a business project by several stakeholders in our city ecosystem in Jan. 2019.

• Now it is an independent cooperative of 10 + 5 farmers and a coordinator. First delivery was in June 2020.

• 21 B2B customers, 90% retail.

• City of Leuven subsidized the start-up and is shareholder.
SROI-evaluation/impact of Kortom Leuven

- **Benefits for farmers**: market access + diversification, more price ownership, shared financial risk, ownership, storytelling...

- **Benefits for consumers**: easier access to quality, local and seasonal products, reconnecting with farmers and food production, support local economy, pursuing ethical needs...

- **Benefits for society**: exploring innovation, less transport/pollution, improved diets, strengthening social ties, preserving agriculture and supporting sustainable practices...

- **SROI ratio of 1.8**

- Opportunities to increase the ratio: **focussing more on the ecological dimension**, eg. packaging, logistics and food waste.
Next upgrade, connecting the dots...

Circular Hub

- Kortom (farmers)
- Consumers
- Vulnerable groups
- Social entrepreneurs
- Retailers

Redistribution of food surplus
Processing of food surplus
Distribution of local produce
Innovation: eg. packaging
Smart logistics
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