

Mailing April 2013

Revaluing Public Sector Food Procurement (RPSFP) on the Knowledge Hub

Dear RPSFP Group members

Here are some of the latest postings from the Revaluing Public Sector Food Procurement site on the Knowledge Hub to keep you up to date with new information, conversations and comments on the site. If this stimulates your interest, why not take a look here – there is a lot going on: <https://knowledgehub.local.gov.uk/home>

In the meantime, this mailing will keep you posted about some of the latest news, discussions and developments in public sector food procurement that are taking place around Europe and beyond.

SHARING KNOWLEDGE

Sustainable procurement e-learning modules

A new series of sustainable procurement e-learning modules, developed by WRAP as part of its work for EPOW (European Pathway to Zero Waste) and supported by Defra, aims to help practitioners realise the cost savings associated with implementing more sustainable practices when procuring goods and services, as well as meeting Greening Government Commitments.

The simple to follow and free to use online modules offer procurement practitioners the tools and knowledge to assess their own procurement processes, with a view to adopting more sustainable practices, unlocking potential cost savings through using resources more efficiently, and sending less waste to landfill.

You can access information about the modules here: <http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/sustainable-procurement-e-learning-modules>

FOODLINKS news

The **latest issue of Foodlinks News** is out! In the newsletter, you can find a short report on the meeting of the urban food strategies CoP in Tukums, Latvia as well as a **photo report** from Leo Dvortsin (Purefood) on his secondment with Willem&Drees.

You can access the Newsletter here:

<http://www.foodlinkscommunity.net/foodlinks-home.html?&L=0>

You can also subscribe to FOODLINKS News using the following link:

<http://www.foodlinkscommunity.net/newsletter-subscription-foodlink.html?&L=0>

NEW Foodlinks document on Revaluing Public Sector Food Procurement

You may have been following the progress of the joint working document on public sector food procurement in Europe that has been in preparation on the Knowledge Hub RPSFP wiki over the last few months.

The document contains a set of inspiring case studies from Malmö (Sweden), Rome (Italy), East Ayrshire (Scotland), Copenhagen (Denmark) and Vienna (Austria). These provide an overview of what change is happening across Europe. The case studies demonstrate that revaluing public procurement is possible, that creative and imaginative ways have been found to resolve problems, and that it takes different forms depending on the conditions and context of each European city.

The final section not only presents an action plan for how to change, it makes the vital point that by investing today in public food systems, urban governments will make savings that far outweigh and offset the costs of the initial investment.

This has proved a very rewarding process of knowledge brokerage between those in the CoP and other Foodlinks and Knowledge Hub members. We are now in the final stages of getting the document 'fine-tuned', a summary prepared, and planning a dissemination strategy – which is aimed at urban governments.

As a member of the RPSFP Group, you will receive a copy of the document but it will also be available on the Knowledge Hub and on the Foodlinks website.

Webinars:

Social return on Investment - Revaluing public procurement CoP

The RPP CoP ran a lively and informative webinar on Social Return on Investment (SROI) on Tuesday 16 April 2013. The recording of the webinar, including the powerpoint presented by experts Sheila Durie and Osbert Lancaster, and supporting documents (which include a detailed account of the East Ayrshire Food for Life initiative in Scotland) can be accessed on the Knowledge Hub or at:

<http://www.foodlinkscommunity.net/foodlinks-home.html?&L=0>

Urban Food Strategies

The Urban Food Strategies CoP ran a webinar that attracted a lot of international interest. If you missed it, you can access the presentations at:

<http://www.anymeeting.com/FoodlinksProject/ED54DB85834A>

Why not follow-up by joining the debate on the Knowledge Hub on the Foodlinks UFS group site?

NEW DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS

International School Meals Day Seminar presentation from Bent Egberg Mikkelsen (Aalborg University, Denmark)

Bent Egberg Mikkelsen's presentation for the International School Meals Day seminar held in Manchester on 8 March, 2013 is in the RPSFP library on the Knowledge Hub. This is titled 'Nutrition, physical activity and the obesity issue' and he argues that for school meal programmes to contribute to the health of young people, a holistic and interdisciplinary approach at school is needed - a whole school approach with commitment from teaching, catering and management staff.

You can access the presentation in the RPSFP Library on the Knowledge Hub. Why not take a look?

News from UK Defra on Government Buying Standards

There is an update from Defra on progress on implementing Government Buying Standards (formerly known as Buy Sustainable Quick Wins). This includes:

- Official specifications that all government buyers must follow when procuring a range of products;
- Information about sustainable procurement and how to apply it when buying;
- Direct links to websites with lists of products that meet the standards.

You can read more on the website at:
<http://sd.defra.gov.uk/advice/public/buying/>

UK National Audit Office briefing: Sustainable procurement in government

This briefing has been prepared in response to a request from the Environmental Audit Committee for an update on the Government's sustainable procurement commitments and its progress against those commitments.

Part One explains what sustainable procurement is and the Government's commitments in this area. Part Two reviews progress and sets out the challenges faced by departments in achieving the Government's sustainable procurement objectives.

You can read more here:
<http://www.nao.org.uk/report/nao-briefing-sustainable-procurement-in-government/>

Feasibility Study considering the use of organic products in the public health sector in Lower Austria (only in German!)

This report has been of great interest to German-speaking members of the Knowledge Hub (over 70 downloads to date).

It was uploaded by RPP CoP member Sandra Karner and is the work of another member, Claus Holler of Bio-Austria.

You can read this document and a number of others on the situation in Austria and Germany on the Knowledge Hub.

Strategic Plan for Short Chains in Flanders, The Netherlands

Short Food Supply chain member, Henk Renting, has posted the following information on the Foodlinks Short Food Supply Chain site on the Knowledge Hub:

The regional government of Flanders in Belgium has formulated since November 2011 a Strategic Plan for Short Chains.

All details can be found here, but unfortunately in Dutch

<http://www.voedselteams.be/vooruit-met-de-korte-keten>

However, there is also this presentation in English which gives you a fairly clear idea of the policies:

http://www.tkk.utu.fi/extkk/ruokasuomi/materiaalit/materiaalit_Kouvola_Verstrynge.pdf

Also on the blog:

SUSTAIN report on growing food in London

RPP CoP member Bettina Bock posted the following link. She says:

I wanted to forward you a link that Ben Reynolds sent me. It links to a report launched by SUSTAIN on their Capital Growth programme. As this has been encouraging food growing throughout the city in conjunction with the London Food Strategy, I thought it would be of interest to this group/project. The report can be found here:

<http://www.capitalgrowth.org>

EVENTS

5th AESOP Conference on Sustainable Food Planning: Innovations in urban food systems 28-29 October, Montpellier, France

Urban food systems have received increasing attention in recent years and there is a growing international community of scholars from a range of different disciplines working in this promising field. Food policies can indeed improve urban sustainability, in particular in relation to issues of health and nutrition, education, economic development, environment and social cohesion. At the same time, conversely, cities and urban regions are gradually emerging as relevant scales and major forces driving the sustainability of agro-food systems and fostering food justice. Community initiatives and public policies are addressing the topic of urban food security in cities of the global North and the global South, albeit in very different contexts and in correspondingly different ways.

This 5th AESOP conference will focus on innovations and drivers for change: how can the actors of various value chains supply more sustainable food to cities? Considering that rural-urban dynamics are rapidly evolving, what roles can linkages with rural areas play in food and nutrition security for urban citizens? What processes and actors are best placed to promote the integration of food issues in urban policies? What is the role of consumers? To what extent are the global issues of climate change and biodiversity taken into account in urban food planning? And last but not least, what role does cultural diversity play in new urban food strategies?

The call for abstracts is now open: deadline 15 June 2013
More details: <http://www1.montpellier.inra.fr/aesop5/>