

# **Sustainable food in public procurement**

Francesco Di Iacovo

UniPisa

**Foodlink meeting Pisa  
CoP Revaluing public procurement 15/18  
february 2012**

# Food public procurement and sustainability: conceptual notes

- About embeddedness/disembeddedness
  - Modernisation and disembeddedness towards markets
  - Local organisation as a reaction to global driving forces in order to build resilient/responsible communities (food community security)
- About fpp
  - local public food procurement to create a system of food production, distribution, and consumption that is not based exclusively on commodity relationships but more embedded in natural/local resources and values
  - “new moral economy of school food” that embraces “society and nature” through the incorporation of social, environmental, equity, and health issues into food procurement practices (Morgan and Sonnino, 2008)
- Too many expectation for FPP?

# FPP main possible impacts

## A gradual shift



- health prevention and safety
- ecological foot print
- education to nature and food culture
- support to local economy and civic agriculture
- enhance social connectivity, reciprocity and trust, in local quality life
- act for a paradigm shift towards sustainability and resilience

# Possible attributes for sustainability

## economic

Cost distribution and transparency

Value for money

financial elements

Local economy

Job creation

moral economy

## environment

organic

local/seasonal

Animal health and welfare

Biodiversity

Meat and fish impact

impact on land use and landscape

waste

energy

greenhouse gas emissions

## social

food safety

quality food

nutritional elements/ human health

Flexibility/adaptability

Community food security

work conditions

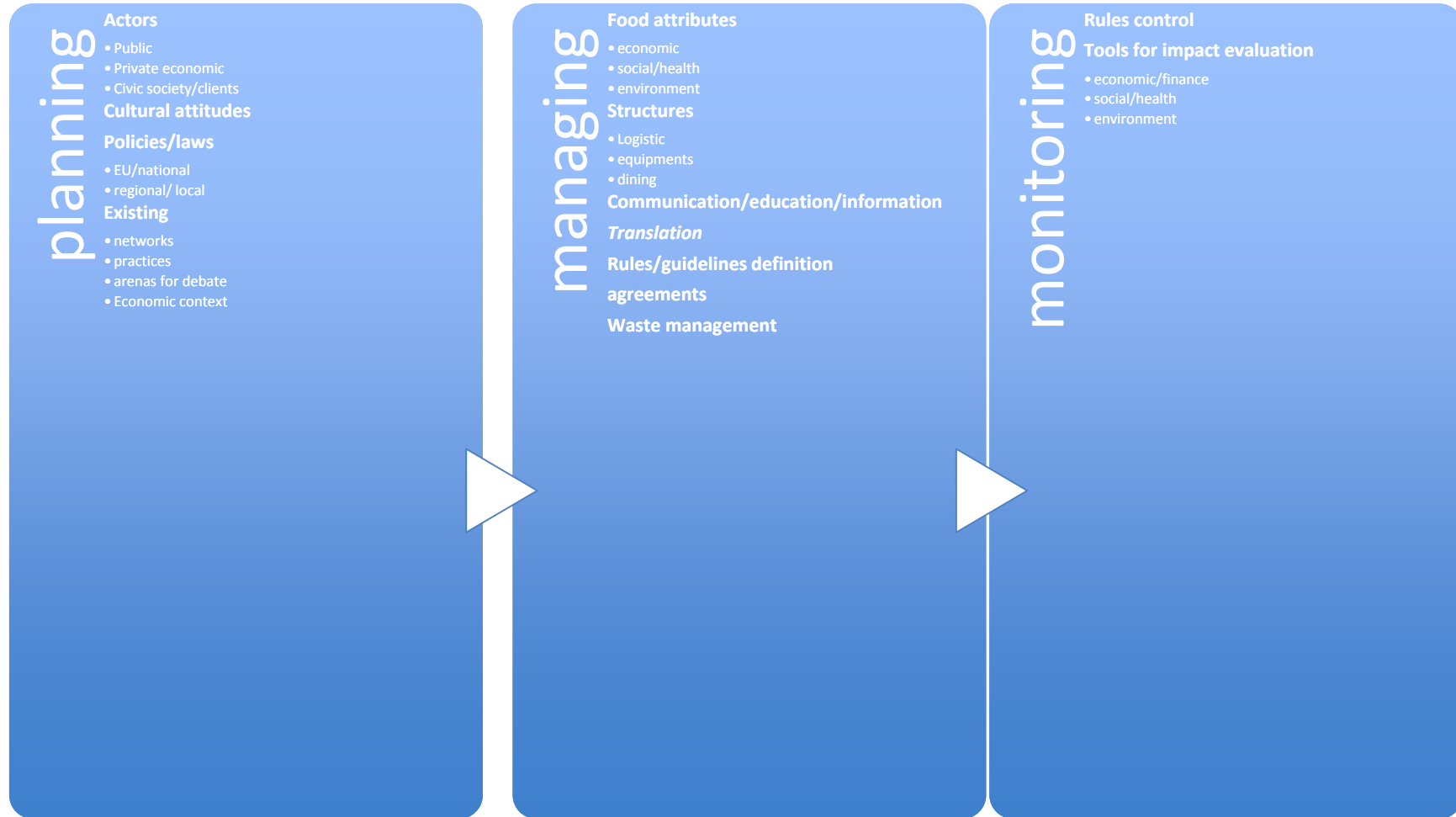
education

cultural knowledge

social justice

Equity/fair

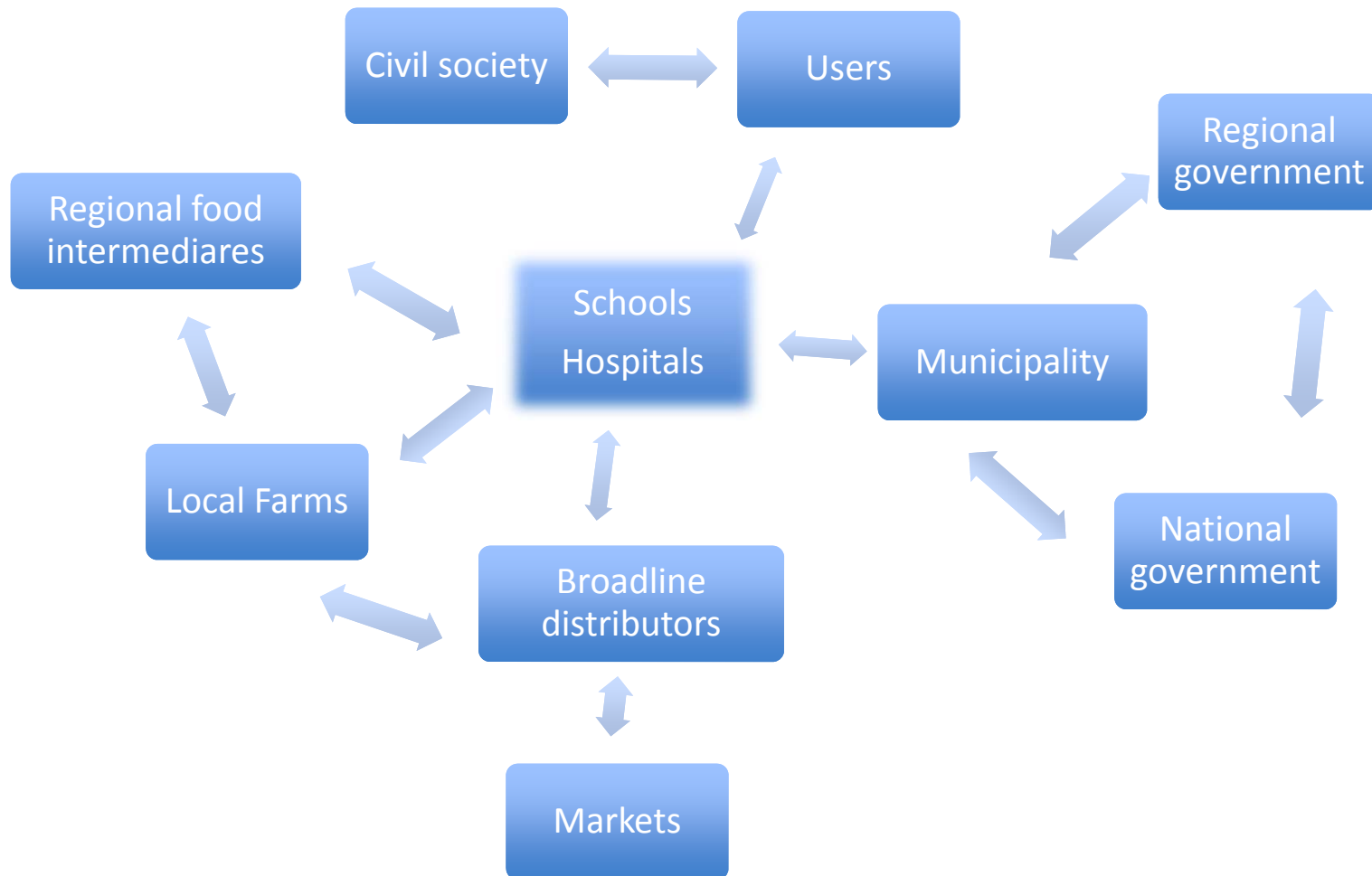
# Promoting sustainability



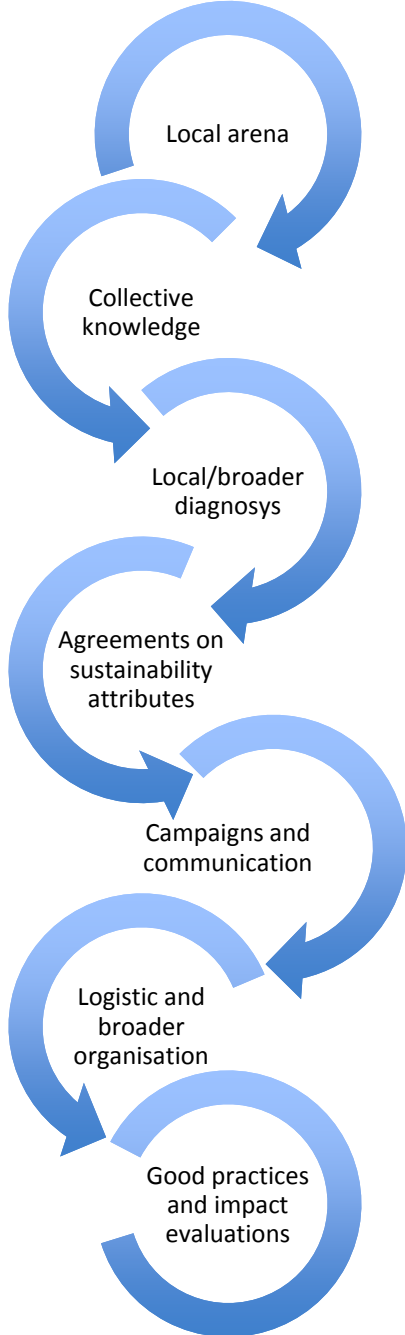
# Nodal points in FPP

- About sustainability itself two ways
  - A collective dis-embedded idea
    - Save the planet/ reduce the foot-print
    - Lack of connection/interest to the locality
    - More rationally oriented
  - A stronger connection with the locality
    - Community food security
    - Territorial oriented
    - More politically oriented
- About Logistic/distributors matters
  - “broadline” distributors
    - one-stop-shops which carry nearly all of the food, supplies, and equipment needed to operate a food service kitchen—
    - able to offer competitive prices, financial incentives, streamlined service, and the convenience of buying food and non-food items
  - direct face-to-face relationships with individual farmers
    - additional administrative and procurement (e.g., ordering, receiving, storing) work
    - Slow growth
- About collective knowledge on sustainability
  - More Hierarchical approaches
  - Active participation/involvement

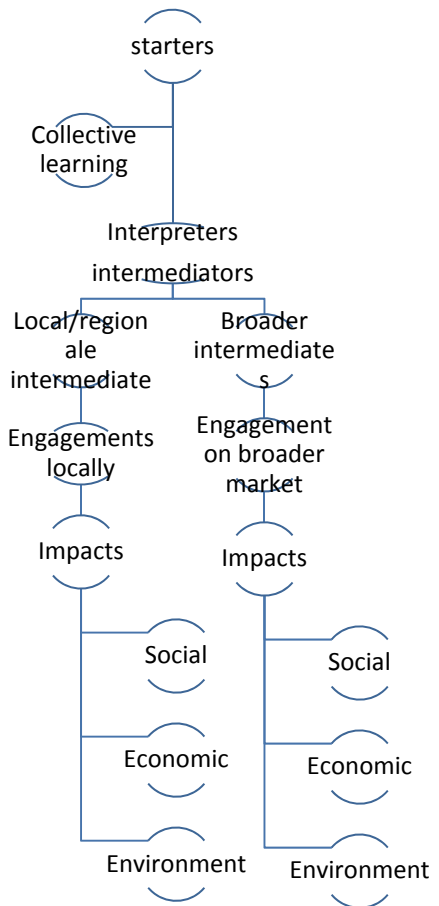
# Fpp network



# Pathways of change in FPP



*Local organisational matters*



*Internal organisational matters*



# Key dimensions in sustainable FPP

- Cultural
- Organisational
- Political

**Just to stimulate our discussion**

