



## The Foodlinks project – using knowledge networks to promote sustainable food

### About

The Foodlinks project aims at developing and experimenting with new ways of linking research to policy-making in the field of sustainable food consumption and production. The project partners will leverage new technologies such as social media to balance the constraints imposed by geographic, cultural and hierarchical barriers.

As a response to the multitude of food-related health and sustainability concerns a new food geography is forcing itself onto the scientific and political agenda. This new food geography is grounded in a different logic and incorporating different values than the industrial global food geography. Central to this new geography of food is a sustainability discourse that no longer accepts the externalization of environmental, social, and even economic costs.

### Three Communities of Practice

To support bringing the new food geography into the policy arena, Foodlinks will analyse and engage in knowledge brokerage activities and create effective linkages between scientists, civil society actors and policy makers. To achieve this, Communities of Practice (CoP) were established in each of the three themes:

- > **Short producer to consumer food chains:** New relations between civil society and the chain of food provision
- > **Re-valuing public food procurement:** New relations between the public sector and the chain of food provision
- > **Urban food strategies:** The rise of municipalities and city-regions as food policy makers, pointing to new relations between the government and civil society

**Researchers, policy makers and civil society actors** sharing a common interest, a practice, a concern or a passion together build up learning communities that evolve over the length of our project and beyond.

### Foodlinks: Key facts

**Knowledge brokerage to promote sustainable food consumption and production: linking scientists, policymakers and civil society organisations (Foodlinks)**

- > **Funding:** 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development of the European Union
- > **Project number:** 265287
- > **Duration:** January 2011 – December 2013
- > **Project coordinator:** Wageningen University, The Netherlands
- > **www.foodlinkscommunity.net**

### Foodlinks: The project partners

- > Wageningen University
- > Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL
- > Cardiff University
- > University of Pisa
- > Baltic Studies Centre
- > City University London
- > Inter-University Research Centre for Technology, Work and Culture IFZ
- > City of Malmö
- > Scottish Government
- > Neiker
- > FRCIVAM Bretagne
- > Tukums municipality
- > Via Campesina Austria
- > Province of Limburg

### Project coordinator

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