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# SchoolFood4Change x Fair Trade Towns, Schools and Universities

Hello 🙌

My name is Paola Plaku and I work as Project and Policy Officer at the Fair Trade Advocacy Office. You might be wondering why you are receiving this newsletter, and rightly so (also, if you wish not to receive it any longer you can unsubscribe at anytime).

At the FTAO, we are trying to work closer with the amazing network of the Fair Trade Towns, Schools and Universities and we have found the perfect project to do so and to amplify at EU level the hard work that you are carrying out.

## Our project

**SchoolFood4Change** (SF4C) is an Horizon2020 project which started in January 2022 and will last four years. The project aims at engaging schools as catalysts for a food system transformation towards diets that are fair, healthy, and sustainable for both humans and the planet. To reach this aim, SF4C will engage with 3,000 schools, including Fair Trade Schools, thus impacting 600,000 young people through 16 cities and regional governments across 12 European countries.

➔ In the framework of the project, we have developed "The Whole School Food Approach (WSFA)", a method used to achieve a healthy and sustainable food culture in and around

The official project's webpage

## Fair Trade Advocacy Office & EU level

In particular, the FTAO will bring to the project the experience of the Fair Trade Movement, in particular Fair Trade Schools, Universities and Towns, to make our food system fairer through public procurement and the active engagement of citizens, including the **youth, with sustainable food consumption patterns**. It will also bring its expertise on public policies, **sustainable public procurement** and accompanying measures that lead to a better distribution of value throughout global food supply chains, as well as the voice of smallholder farmers and workers in the Global South in the project.

→ Read more about our work on [Sustainable Public Procurement](#).

→ Read more about our work on [Upscaling Fair Trade](#).

## How you can contribute

As connector between the project and the the fair trade towns, schools and universities network, through this brand new newsletter, the FTAO aims at sharing material, opportunities and exchange best practices. We hope that these synergies can on the one hand showcase the networks' best practices to influence EU legislative process and on the other help the network engage at EU level and connect.

↓ You can find 3 ways to contribute already below:

### Sign the Healthy School Meals petition

**A quarter of all EU children are at risk of poverty or social exclusion.** Hunger is preventing our children from learning and leading healthy, happy lives and we must ensure that no child in the EU is left behind - especially as skyrocketing inflation is making the situation worse.

Right now the EU Commission is working on a new School Food Scheme and 'Farm

### Sustainable Food Procurement Manifesto

As you may know, the European Commission has announced that the legal framework on **Sustainable Food Systems** will be published by September 2023.

On the 11th of October 2022, the Mayor of Torres Vedras, a Buy Better Food member, handed over to the European Commission the Sustainable Food Procurement Manifesto, which calls for a minimum standard (including fair trade ones) for

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**right for every child - in every EU school - to a healthy, sustainably produced school lunch and that all pupils are taught about what constitutes a balanced diet. The financing can be adapted at national or local level.**

No child should have to sit in school on an empty stomach or be forced to live on junk food and instead, taxpayers money should be spent on **healthy school food for public health.**



[Sign the petition](#)

## Sustainable Public Procurement For Public canteens across the EU mapping

The FTAO is asking for your collaboration mapping existing best practices including minimum standard (including healthy food, organics, involvement of farmers, fair trade criteria, animal welfare and other) for public canteens across the EU.

If you have any, please fill in [this document](#) with the name of the practice and if possible, a link where we could find more information.

We will complete this activity by **September 2023** and in the meantime, with your agreement, share them through

Five municipalities and two regions have already expressed their endorsement. Will you be next?

To give your endorsement, it is easy! Simply email [info@buybetterfood.eu](mailto:info@buybetterfood.eu) clearly stating "**the municipality/region of XXXX endorses the Sustainable Food Procurement Manifesto**". Please also include:

- A high quality image of your municipality's/region's logo
- A quote that we can use publicly, if possible, saying why you support good food in public canteens, and encouraging the European Commission to adopt the Manifesto.

All the endorsers appear on the Buy Better Food website. Please let us know if you require anything else to allow you to support.

Let's join voices to influence the European Commission to move towards a healthier, more sustainable food future!



[Read the manifesto here](#)

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campaign and partner of the SF4C project).

Fill in your best practice

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