



GLOBAL  
FORUM  
MILANO  
2015-2025

# Concept Note

14-15-16 October 2025, Milan

## Building on a Decade of Joint Success Envisioning the Future of Urban Food Systems

Cities have become the new global centres of future innovations. Today, over 55% of the **world's population lives in urban areas**, and this figure is expected to exceed 70% by 2050. This demographic shift is radically transforming the way we produce, distribute, consume, and dispose of food.

Once seen as passive endpoints of the food chain, cities are now called to play an active and **strategic role in managing food systems**: from wholesale markets to school meals, from food waste reduction to food redistribution, from the protection of peri-urban agricultural land to the promotion of healthy and sustainable diets.

The challenges are complex: food insecurity, malnutrition, waste, climate crisis and inequalities. In this context, **urban food policies** have emerged in recent years as key instruments of local governance and international cooperation.

The **Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP)** was launched in 2015 with this exact purpose: to give cities a voice and provide them with a political and operational framework to act, learn, and collaborate.

Ten years later, the MUFPP is the world's largest commitment of cities working on food policies.

The **MUFPP Global Forum 2025** will be a moment to recognize achievements, but above all, to boldly and collectively relaunch the path towards fairer, healthier, and more sustainable urban food systems.

In 2025, the MUFPP celebrates the tenth anniversary since its launch. Over the past decade, **more than 300 cities**, representing over 500 million people, have shared visions, practices, and solutions to tackle urban food challenges, building a shared political agenda that has transformed food into a strategic lever for sustainability, inclusion, and resilience.

The MUFPP Global Forum 2025, taking place in Milan, its founding city, is an opportunity to reflect on the long way we have come, assess the current state of the network, and collectively shape its future.

The event will **unfold over three thematic days**, each corresponding to a different strategic and temporal dimension.

# Day 1 — Ten Years of Collective Learning

The first day of the MUFPP Global Forum 2025 will be dedicated to the history of the network, a moment to **celebrate the achievements reached over the past decade**, but also to critically reflect on the paths undertaken, the practices that have made a difference, and the tools that have supported cities throughout this journey of transformation.

Over ten years, the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact has established itself as **a key actor on the international agenda for urban food systems**, thanks to a targeted advocacy strategy, concrete results, and growing recognition within academic and institutional spheres.

With over 2,600 scientific citations, a network of **300+ signatory cities across six continents**, and a strong system of strategic partnerships with governments, international organizations, multilateral networks, civil society actors, and universities, the MUFPP today stands as a global point of reference.

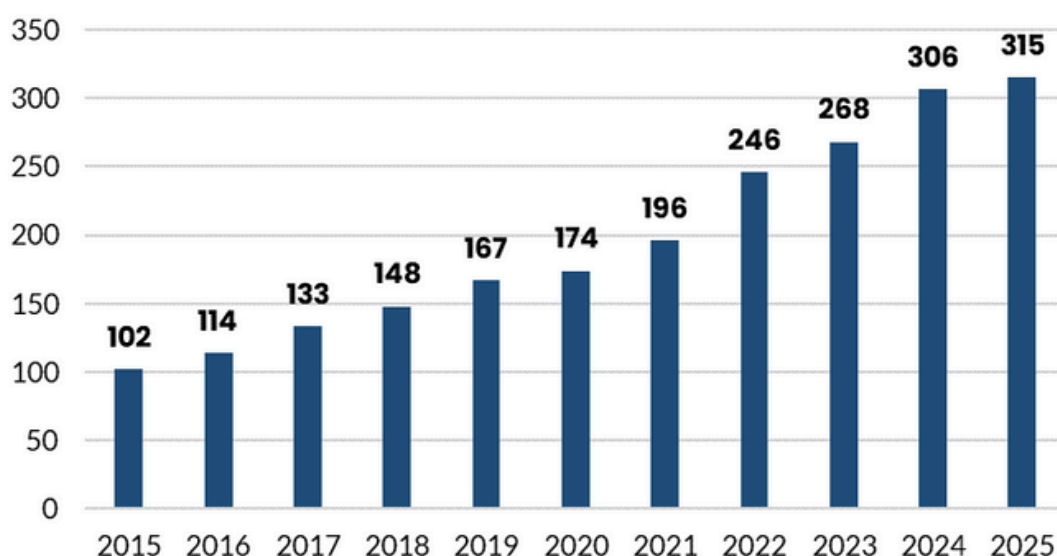
This first day of the event will not only provide a space to recognize the progress made, but also serve as an opportunity to re-examine the past as a foundation for future choices,

clearly showing how the MUFPP has evolved from a political commitment to a global platform for urban food system transformation.

To better understand this evolution, the first day will highlight five pillars that have supported this growth:

- **Building a dynamic membership**, bringing together both metropolitan and mid-sized cities in a community of mutual learning;
- **Consolidation of a multi-level governance system**, structured around the Steering Committee, that included 32 MUFPP cities over 4 mandates, and a shared leadership;
- **Regionalization of the Milan Pact**, with locally rooted activities adapted to the peculiarities of each geographical context;
- **Milan Pact Awards**, which have collected and disseminated over 620 good practices from 280 cities in 84 countries, enhancing the visibility and replicability of urban food policies and showcasing the concrete actions developed by each city following their signature of the Milan Pact.

MUFPP Signatories Cities over the last years



# Day 2 — Today: an Exchange Platform for Cities

The second day of the MUFPP Global Forum 2025 will be dedicated to the **"State of the Pact"**, highlighting the current role of the MUFPP as an **international platform** for urban food system transformation.

Over the past ten years, the Pact has evolved from a political declaration into a technical and project-based infrastructure, capable of generating:

- **25 project initiatives** across Europe, Africa, South America, and Asia, **involving 132 signatory cities**;
- **€87 million mobilized** through multilateral consortia with **more than 290 partners**;

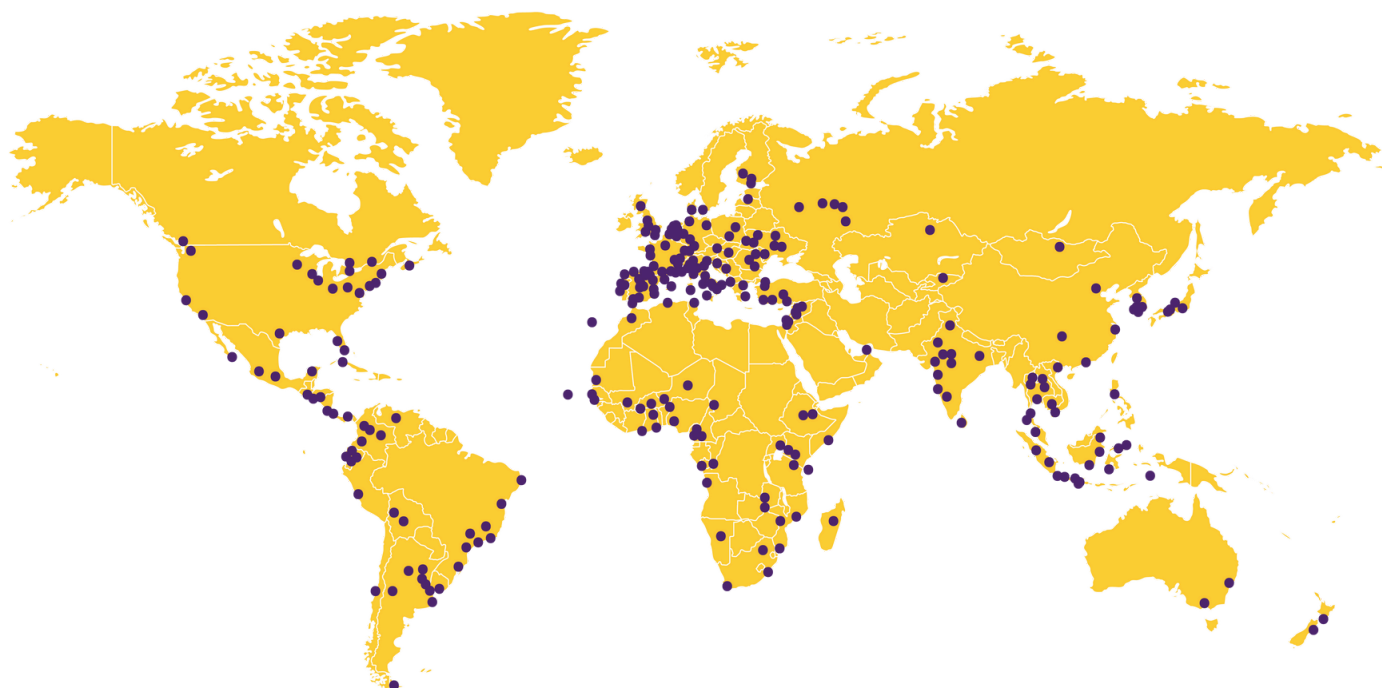
From 2022 to the beginning of 2025 around **50 activities have been conducted within the Fellowship Programme**, engaging a total of more than 2,600 city officers from MUFPP signatory cities. The programme offered a **large variety of opportunities**: 13 workshops, 12 knowledge exchanges, 10 webinars, 8 advocacy actions, and 5 regional fora.

This operational capacity is grounded in stable and **trust-based relationships** with a core group of leading cities that have taken on an active role in the **strategic development and regional governance of the Milan Pact**. At the same time, the MUFPP has benefited from the support of high-level institutional and technical partners.

The day will be enriched by the **Milan Pact Awards Ceremony**, a flagship moment of the Global Forum that will highlight the most innovative, impactful, and replicable food policies currently promoted by MUFPP cities. More than a celebration, the MPA Ceremony will offer a clear **snapshot of the most advanced urban food policies** emerging across the network; ranging from school meals and sustainable procurement to circular economy, food aid, and inclusive governance.

It will be both a moment of recognition and inspiration, showcasing how cities are leading systemic change through concrete, scalable solutions.

## MUFPP Cities committed towards the food system transformation





# Day 3 — Future Opportunities: Alliances and Commitments

The final day of the MUFPP Global Forum 2025 will be dedicated to **outlining the future of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact** through the strengthening of existing collaborations and the formalization of new multilevel commitments with strategic partners.

The aim is to consolidate MUFPP's role as a global platform for exchange, serving its signatory cities by supporting the development and practical implementation of urban food policies.

**Cities and partners will be invited to present and endorse new thematic pledges**, shared financing mechanisms, and cooperation agreements in response to the collective challenge of transforming urban food systems.

At the heart of this new phase lies the strengthening of technical skills and local leadership: the **strength of the MUFPP lies in the human capital** of its cities and the capacity of public officers to lead the change.

Throughout the day, MUFPP signatory cities and strategic partners will be encouraged to launch new training initiatives, mentorship programmes, and technical cooperation, building the foundation for the MUFPP future dedicated to **local policymakers and city officers**, designed to ensure continuity, quality, and ambition in the local implementation of food policies.

Last MUFPP Global Forum hosted in Rio De Janeiro (2022)



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