

How Budapest strengthens its local food system through its national legislation

As part of the FoodCLIC project, the Budapest city-region **sheds light on how national legislations can support local food systems**. In 2020, in order to protect local small farmers, the Hungarian Chamber of Agriculture (a public body, representing farmers' interests) issued a national law that establishes a legal category for small-scale farmers who are entitled to have a special licence to sell their products at food markets under favourable tax conditions. Despite this regulation, farmers suffer from unfair competition with “pseudo farmers” who do not produce the food, but act as distributors and sell it at local markets. They only own a small plot of land and pretend to receive the same benefits as true small-scale producers even if they sell lower quality and cheaper food bought from wholesale markets. In response, **a new legislation aims to create an open online dataset where true small-scale farmers are registered and all consumers can check the origin of produce** by scanning a QR code, using an app or a web page. This national law is particularly relevant in Budapest where the presence of the pseudo farmers reached over two-thirds at the food markets.

The city governance further aims to **strengthen the position of local smallholder farmers through advocating for the adoption of short supply chains** (next to other relevant issues, such as: food waste reduction, food safety and security, and the promotion of urban agriculture); **to be incorporated in the Long Term Urban Development Concept**, which is expected to be applied no later than June 2025. Furthermore, this endeavour will be supported through the Climate City Contract in relation to the 100 Net Zero cities initiative, and the new SECAP of the city.



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