

## PRACTICE ABSTRACT #9

# Food Policy Networks Help Build Sustainable Urban Food Systems

A **Food Policy Network (FPN)** is a formalised collaboration among committed organisations and food system actors aiming to transform food systems at a city-region level. FPNs operate based on a shared understanding of the local food system, a collective vision, and analysis of best practices. The **Berlin Food Policy Council** is an example, bringing together diverse stakeholders such as food producers (e.g. local farmers), educational institutions (e.g. August Bebel Institute Berlin), and associations (e.g. Slow Food Berlin) to develop common goals for a just food system.

**FPNs are needed due to unsustainable and unfair consumption patterns**, and they play a crucial role in advocating for change, particularly by promoting regional agriculture, environmental conservation, diversity, fair market structures, alternative urban planning, vocational training, and democratic decision-making. Establishing a FPN involves organising networking to enlist government actors, civil society organisations, private entities, education institutions, and research organisations. Best practices for successful FPNs include transparent communication, engagement with diverse stakeholders and promotion of inclusivity.

The Berlin Food Policy Council, through its commitment, demonstrates the practical implementation of FPN principles, showcasing how following good practices can contribute to the effectiveness and sustainability of FPNs. Initiatives, like "**Food Democracy for Berlin!**", and events such as **50 Plates of Regional** are concrete examples of this commitment. All in all, FPNs are effective governance arrangements for fostering positive changes in urban food environments.



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LinkedIn: [@FoodCLIC](#)



[foodclic.beta@vu.nl](mailto:foodclic.beta@vu.nl)



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