



“Eating City” in occasion of Ecopolis 2010, April 12th and 13th, Roma.

Forewords

National and local governments, together with civil society and the international organizations, have the power to adopt today decisions able to produce dramatic differences in social, economic, environmental life conditions for the most of world people, that more and more live in an urban area and not in a rural one.

Cities need of a long term and open vision about the use of the urban spaces, to harmonize the social and environmental context and improve the sustainability. At the same time, the environment protection and the management of services to be run now and in the future in urban areas should be planned in a way to anticipate the needs and the scenarios. Urban footprint is much wider than city boundaries and relationships with the outer territory is basic to manage a city. Environmental proactive policies for urban areas will be basic also to face climate change challenges and the population concentration in narrow areas such as coastal ones in the better way.

So, it becomes crucial for the urban sustainability to integrate social and environmental interests into a perspective that look to the future.

People in a city is, should be, a community. Sustainable communities own a strong relationship with its territory and a vision joined by the key sectors of the society, including businessmen, NGOs and governmental bodies. Sustainable communities give a high value to healthy ecosystems, have innovation capabilities, use resources in an efficient way and keep and improve local economy.

Eating City.

This is the **first edition** of the event “Eating city” that will be held every two years in a different city in order to better understand the question of food supply in large cities according to different point of views and situations.

The **ecomeal.info portal** (www.ecomeal.info) devoted to the Social Dialogue for Sustainable Food Service, will allows the communication and social networking between all participants, before and after the event “Eating city”.





Main Theme:

Food quantity, quality and supply chain; a city who is swallowing the territory; How can we get sustainable food supply chains ? Km Zero or a large variety of products?

The city eats. Not only food but also all the territory needed to produce all this food. Food flows towards large cities are unremitting, big, intense and of course unavoidable. Sustainability embraces all aspects ranging from production, to transformation, distribution and logistics. The problem does not arise only from the quantity of food needed but also by all the impacts generated such as for instance greenhouse gas emissions.

We get food that has been produced thousands of miles away. To give more value to the local productions certainly means reducing GHG emissions and promoting local economy but in the other hand it will limit our choice and also our knowledge of different food cultures. Therefore what is best, Km zero and/or a large variety of products?

Organisation:

The event takes place during two days. Starting from April 12th in the afternoon, 3 workshops of three hours each will be organised in parallel from 2.30pm to 5.30 pm. Then a plenary session of 1 hour and half will allow presenting the results of the three workshops. Plenary session will end at 7.30pm.

The themes have been chosen according to life Cycle Thinking:

- Production
- Logistics & Distribution
- Consumption (catering)

WorkShop (afternoon day one) : The participants will be selected and invited to the workshop. The process includes a participation before the workshop, starting from February.

The workshop therefore will become a moment of synthesis and confrontation on the different themes. A maximum of 15-20 persons will participate for each ws. Among them 1/3rd will come from UE and abroad. Parts of the participants are the partners of the European project Softagri: new educational approaches on sustainable food production and consumption.

In the morning of 13th from 9.30 am to 1.30pm a plenary session will be held with simultaneous translation French-Italian and English- Italian.





Plenary session (morning day two) : it will show the result of the dialogue which took place during the single workshops and the relative confrontation between the different actors of the food supply chain.

