Ghent en Garde makes the local food system a sustainable one

Transformative Action Award Application
MULTI-STAKEHOLDER GOVERNANCE

Our food council brings together 25 stakeholders representing the food system. Those bring together big organizations representing different agricultural and food industry sectors, as well as innovative, small-scale actors and civil society.

Through our working groups we reach out to about 50 organizations.

Our internal working group connects colleagues from 25 different teams within the city.
Ghent en Garde has strong communication tools. Its online platform has already reached **20,439 individuals**.

The map on the platform lists over a **1000 local initiatives**. A filter function allows users to easily find what they are looking for.

The facebook group has **1828 members** that actively interact through the group.

www.gentengarde.be

www.gentengarde.be/kaart

www.facebook.com/groups/gentengarde
Ghent has invested 45,000 euro in 5 new startups on short food supply chains. Networking on short food supply chains annually brings together over 50 farmers, retailers, caterers, researchers and policy makers.

Since 2014 over 42 school gardens have received coaching and 13 workshops have been organized for parents, teachers and directors. This amounts up to 240 participants. In the same period 25 community gardens equally received coaching. 11 community garden cafes took place and united 250 participants.
Thursday Veggie Day has had significant impact. We measure this through extensive market research every 2 years. 7% of the citizens are vegetarian. 43% of the people who once participated, have decreased their meat consumption. 40% has extended the meatless approach to other days of the week. 28% of them became vegetarian. In 2017 the 4500 students of city schools had significant impact through their vegetarian meals on Thursdays: they saved 2120 animal lives, or 3 cows, 24 pigs, 739 chickens and 1352 fish. We organized 110 workshops on Thursday Veggie Day in schools between 2012 and 2016. Additionally, 81 workshops have been organized for vulnerable groups of society, reaching 918 participants.

Through our sustainable school meals we reach 4500 students and serve 775,883 meals annually. Our educational campaign on sustainable food targeted many schools, children and parents. 43 schools were decorated with a campaign on sustainable food. Educational materials were distributed to 5667 children and 2572 teachers.

14 schools received additional subsidies for educational campaigns that they organized themselves on sustainable food and vegetable gardens. And 57 schools played an urban environmental game, covering the challenges of sustainable food and having young people reflect on it.
Through social employment we train and coach vulnerable people to access the labor market: we employed 4 people this way at our catering company, 19 people at Foodsavers and have integrated this approach in our agricultural pilot project.
Foodsavers has had significant impact. After ten months of operation, the results achieved by the Foodsavers platform have surpassed all expectations. The first achievements are the following:

- **300.34 tons** of food redistributed composed of **64,395 items**.
- **24 retailers**, one wholesale market, 2 distribution centers of retailers, 1 organic farm and 1 company provided food products.
- **58 local poverty organizations** and social restaurants based in Ghent distributed food to people in need.
- **18,971 people in need** received products or food baskets.
- **68% of fresh fruit and vegetables** on total amount of products redistributed.
- **Reduction of 762 tons of CO2**.
- **Employment of 19 people** coming from long-term unemployment.
LESS FOOD WASTE

Our Restorestje has been highly distributed amongst restaurants. **118 restaurants** participate and distribute the boxes. **23,400 boxes** have been distributed so far.