4-6 November 2026 |
Rotterdam, The Netherlands

TRAINING FOR CITIES
School meals as a catalyst for behavioural change and climate action

The training for cities on school meals as a catalyst for behavioral change and climate action will take place on **4-6 November 2026**, hosted by the **City of Rotterdam**.

The event is organized within the framework of the **Cities Feeding the Future Initiative** of the School Meals Coalition, **led by the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact**, and it is promoted with the **Urban Agenda for the EU Partnership on Food and Eurocities,** in collaboration with the city of **Vantaa**, in synergy with the **CLEVERFOOD and Healthy Wave projects**, and supported by **AICS**.

The Training aims at supporting cities in adopting **behavioural strategies to promote plant-rich diets in school canteens,** exploring how nudges, menu design and food presentation can shift children's food choices towards healthier and more sustainable diets. It brings together **city officials, practitioners and technical experts**, with the contribution of prominent partners **Wolrd Resources Institute (WRI)** and **Joint Research Centre of the European Commission** (**JRC).** Participating cities will then work in **hands-on sessions** to apply these insights to their own school meals programmes, discuss common challenges and exchange practical, replicable solutions, reinforcing the **network of European cities** committed to healthy and sustainable school meals.

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Agenda

DAY 1 – Wednesday 4 November	
1:30-2:00 PM	**Registration** **Postillion Hotel & Convention Centre WTC Rotterdam** Beursplein 37, Meent 110, 3011 JS, Rotterdam
2:00 - 2:15 PM	**Introduction, contents and objectives of the training** *Chiara Mandelli & Ottavia Pieretto*, Municipality of Milan - MUFPP Secretariat - Cities Feeding the Future Initiative *Chiara Roticiani,* Eurocities - Cleverfood *Isa Stucki*, Municipality of Vantaa
2:15 - 3:00 PM	**Participating Cities presentation** Challenges & Best practices on school meals programmes
3:00 - 4:00 PM	**WRI technical presentation** Moderator: *Edwina Hughes*, World Resources Institute (WRI) • Welcome and Context • What We Know About Driving Dietary Behaviour Change • Behaviour Change in School Food Environments • Introducing the WRI Food Policy Toolkit
4:00- 4:15 PM	Coffee & Tea Break
4:15 - 6:00 PM	**Workshop with cities "Which Policy Actions Could Drive Behaviour Change?"** Moderator: *Edwina Hughes,* World Resources Institute (WRI)
7:00 PM	**Dinner at Backyard** Korte Hoogstraat 14, 3011 GL Rotterdam

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DAY 2– Thursday 5 November	
8:30 - 9:30 AM	**Registration** **Postillion Hotel & Convention Centre WTC Rotterdam** Beursplein 37, Meent 110, 3011 JS, Rotterdam
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM	**Opening Plenary Session**
	Official Opening of Healthy Wave Final Conference **Welcome words** *René Segers-Hoogendoorn*, Vice-Mayor Care, Welfare and Social & Community Infrastructure **Keynote**: *Jiří Švarc*, European Commission **Inspirational Insights – The results from SchoolFood4Change Project** *Annelies Smet*, Rikolto
	Panel debate: Re-thinking Healthy School Meals Moderator: *Josje van Nes* *Panelist*: *Jiří Švarc,* European Commission *Ana Paula Reis,* Agrupamento de Escolas Anselmo de Andrade *Andrea Magarini,* Municipality of Milan *Vera van Stokkum,* InHolland
1:00 - 2:00 PM	Network lunch break

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DAY 2 - Thursday 5 November			
2:00 - 3:30 PM	**Parallel Sessions**		
	Parallel A - Early Childhood Education & Care Moderator: *Franca Locati*, Municipality of Milan	**Parallel B Local School Food Policy** Moderator: *Chiara Mandelli*, Municipality of Milan	**Parallel C Breaking the Cycle of Child Poverty** Moderator: *Eerika Kantonen*, Municipality of Helsinki
3:30 - 6:00 PM	Voice of the Children **Outcomes of the Healthy Wave Project** by *Leen Tyrions* (Rikolto) and *Marit Struiksma* (Erasmus MC) Conclusions and Recommendations from the parallel sessions and panel debate by **The Youth** Closing statement		
7:00 PM	**Dinner at Cafe Restaurant Floor** Schouwburgplein 28, 3012 CL, Rotterdam		

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DAY 3 – Friday 6 November	
8:30-9:00 AM	**Registration** Halvemaanpassage 80, 3011 DL, Rotterdam
9:00-9:05 AM	**Introduction of the day** *Chiara Mandelli & Ottavia Pieretto, Municipality of Milan - MUFPP Secretariat - Cities Feeding the Future Initiative*
9:05-9:30 AM	**Eurocities WG Food & CLEVERFOOD Updates** *Chiara Roticiani*, Eurocities - Cleverfood *Chiara Mandelli,* MUFPP Secretariat *Isa Stucki*, City of Vantaa
9:30 - 10:00 AM	**Urban Agenda for the EU - Position Paper of the Food Partnership & EU Policy Updates** *Chiara Roticiani*, Eurocities - Cleverfood *Chiara Mandelli*, Municipality of Milan - MUFPP Secretariat *Jean-Marc Louvin*, ICLEI
10:00 - 10:30 AM	**Joint Research Center Presentation** *Aurora Perez Cornago*, Joint Research Center, European Commission
10:30 - 10:45 AM	Coffee & Tea Break
11:45 AM - 1:00 PM	**Workshop with cities** Moderators: Chiara Mandelli & Ottavia Pieretto, Municipality of Milan - MUFPP Secretariat - Cities Feeding the Future Initiative Building on the thread of work of the Wednesday afternoon
1:00 - 2:00 PM	Lunch break
2:00 - 3:30 PM	Field Visit and departures of participants