



**Bauhaus
Bites**

Palermo Action Plan

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Project information

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Executive Summary

The Palermo Bauhaus Bites Action Plan is part of the EU-funded Bauhaus Bites project, which aims to transform urban food systems through the New European Bauhaus (NEB) values of beautiful, inclusive and sustainable places and practices and its working principles.

Palermo acts as a youth-centred, civic-led pilot city, with activities anchored in the European Palermo Youth Centre (EPYC) and coordinated by PUSH in collaboration with The Factory and in dialogue with the Municipality of Palermo.

The Action Plan translates the Palermo Bauhaus Bites vision – strengthening food environments by empowering youth, celebrating multicultural food identities and reconnecting food, place and belonging – into three strategic objectives. These focus on: (1) increasing youth food literacy and sustainable consumption habits; (2) make visible Palermo's sustainable and multicultural food culture through citizen science, storytelling and neighbourhoods exploration and (3) Influence the foundations for Palermo's future Food Policy.

These objectives are implemented through a set of participatory actions combining educational formats, youth-led citizen science and iterative policy co-design. EPYC functions as a living lab and operational hub, while PUSH ensures methodological support, documentation and cross-city learning within the Bauhaus Bites network.

Progress will be monitored through qualitative and quantitative indicators embedded in the Action Plan.

The Palermo Action Plan is expected to generate a set of tangible outputs – such as open-source tools for food habits assessment and mapping, guidelines for sustainable community kitchens, a practical manual for urban micro-growing and a participatory Manifesto for a Palermo Food Policy – designed to be replicable in other youth spaces and cities.

In the long term, the Plan aims to consolidate a youth-led, community-rooted model of food governance that can inform future municipal strategies and contribute to a broader European movement for transformative urban food systems.

1. Introduction

The Palermo Bauhaus Bites Action Plan sets out a youth-centred and community-led vision for Palermo food environments, empowering young people to reconnect food, place and social belonging while promoting sustainable and culturally diverse diets. Rooted in the European Palermo Youth Centre (EPYC) as a physical hub and living lab, the Plan extends its reach across multiple neighbourhoods, reflecting Palermo's multicultural character and the contrasts between tourist-oriented areas and everyday foodscapes experienced by residents.

As part of the EU-funded Bauhaus Bites project, Palermo contributes with a civic-led case that embeds the New European Bauhaus (NEB) values of sustainability, inclusion and aesthetics into food environments and youth practices. The Action Plan has been co-created by PUSH, EPYC's managing association The Factory and local youth communities, and is progressively developed in dialogue with the Municipality of Palermo and other stakeholders, linking bottom-up experimentation with emerging food governance. It aligns with Palermo commitments under the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact and with regional frameworks such as the recognition of the Mediterranean Diet as cultural heritage and public health strategy.

The Plan is structured around three key objectives: (1) increasing youth food literacy and sustainable consumption habits; (2) make visible Palermo's sustainable and multicultural food culture through citizen science, storytelling and neighbourhoods exploration and (3) Influence the foundations for Palermo's future Food Policy.

Each objective is supported by a set of actions and tasks designed to foster measurable changes in behaviours, food environments and governance. Progress will be monitored through qualitative and quantitative indicators, regular reflection with youth and partners, and evaluation against the Bauhaus Bites Impact Pathway and NEB-aligned frameworks, ensuring that Palermo experience can inform the wider Bauhaus Bites network and future urban food policies.

2. Objectives

The objective of this document and the Palermo Action Plan is to establish a strategic and operational framework guiding the implementation of Palermo Bauhaus Bites pilot. It translates the localised vision into a coherent roadmap, connecting the Bauhaus Bites Impact Pathway with concrete place-based actions.

Aligned with the New European Bauhaus values of sustainability, inclusion and aesthetics, the Plan positions Palermo as a youth-centred and community-driven urban case within the European transition towards regenerative food systems.

Unlike municipality-led cases, the Action Plan is rooted in a bottom-up process that activates youth communities, local stakeholders and progressively engages governance actors. It therefore functions as both an implementation tool and a structured interface between community experimentation and emerging policy dialogue.

Palermo Bauhaus Bites Vision

To strengthen Palermo food environments by empowering youth, celebrating multicultural food identities and reconnecting food, place and social belonging through inclusive and sustainable practices.

Palermo Bauhaus Bites Goal

To increase food literacy, promote sustainable and culturally diverse diets, activate collective mapping and storytelling, and lay the foundations for an inclusive Palermo Food Policy.

The Action Plan provides a dynamic and participatory framework, organised through People, Places and Policy, ensuring that actions remain adaptive to local needs while contributing to a broader European movement for transformative urban food systems.

3. Palermo's Action Plan for People, Places and Policy

The Palermo Action Plan operationalises the local Bauhaus Bites Vision through an integrated framework structured around three mutually reinforcing dimensions: People, Places and Policy.

In Palermo, the pilot is anchored in EPYC – European Palermo Youth Centre – a cultural and social hub led by the association The Factory, located at the border of the historic centre of the city. EPYC functions as the physical pilot site and primary community node for the implementation of Bauhaus Bites activities.

The Action Plan is coordinated by PUSH as project partner, in collaboration with The Factory, and in progressive dialogue with the Municipality of Palermo. The approach is bottom-up, research-informed and youth-driven, while maintaining strategic alignment with the Bauhaus Bites Impact Pathway and the New European Bauhaus (NEB) principles. This alignment is further supported by WP1 through sense-making online workshops, which help connect local insights with the overall project framework, and by WP5, which leads the support process for the twins, ensuring coherence, exchange and mutual learning across the Action Plans.

People

Alignment and Community Profiling

The initial phase focused on aligning Bauhaus Bites values with EPYC's organisational identity and ongoing activities.

EPYC is an active multi-functional space composed of different spaces for free aggregation and events and a café-bistrot. It hosts more than ten activities and events per day, including cultural initiatives, sports activities, performances and public talks. Activities address different age groups and are designed to foster a safe and accessible environment for diverse cultural and gender identities. The centre operates through a membership system and currently engages more than 9,000 registered members, predominantly aged 16–35.

Gender distribution is broadly balanced, with a slight prevalence of male members. The geographic distribution of registered users, as illustrated in the map below, indicates participation from multiple neighbourhoods across the city, confirming EPYC's role as a city-wide, as shown youth hub rather than a district-specific facility.¹

¹ Data source: EPYC membership registry, aggregated data, 2025. Courtesy: The Factory.

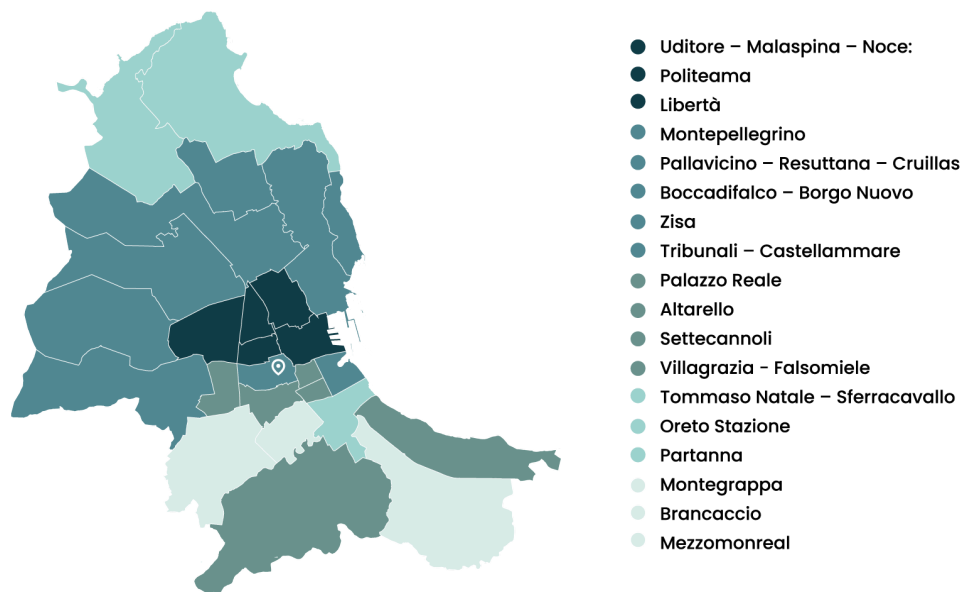


Figure 1. Geographic distribution of EPYC registered members by postcode area (aggregated data). PUSH elaboration on The Factory's aggregated database.

This profiling confirmed EPYC's role as a city-wide youth hub, attracting members from multiple neighbourhoods.

This demographic-spatial analysis confirms a strategic dual function:

- EPYC as operational headquarters for pilot activities;
- EPYC as a gateway for extending citizen science initiatives (foodscape mapping and behavioural challenges) across different urban districts.

Co-Creation and Iterative Design

The Action Plan was elaborated through a co-creation process structured at two levels.

Strategic alignment (PUSH–EPYC team)

Three formal meetings were conducted with an EPYC board including the Community Manager, Facility Manager and Kitchen Manager to define thematic priorities and assess operational feasibility. To avoid potential power asymmetries within this initial alignment phase, PUSH acted as an external facilitator and structured discussions so that each EPYC role could contribute from its own operational perspective. Emerging priorities were not validated through unilateral decision-making, but through comparative discussion and shared synthesis of inputs. In addition, this first alignment phase was intentionally limited to strategic and feasibility issues, while the definition of several activity formats was left open to subsequent youth participation during implementation.

Iterative youth engagement (implementation phase)

Selected actions were intentionally designed as recurring and adaptable formats rather than as fully fixed activities. This allowed the preparatory meetings with the EPYC board to inform the initial thematic orientation and operational structure, while leaving room for progressive adjustment during implementation. Activities such as participatory mapping, kitchen talks and DIY garden workshops will be repeated across the pilot period in iterative cycles, so that feedback, observations and contributions from participants can be systematically incorporated into subsequent rounds. In this way, young participants are not only involved as attendees, but progressively positioned as active contributors to evidence generation and to the ongoing refinement of the pilot formats themselves.

Places

EPYC is located at the margins of Palermo's historic centre, an area characterised by intense tourism and socio-economic contrasts

Preliminary observation of the surrounding food environment, conducted by the PUSH team (see figure 2) indicates a predominance of tourist-oriented food outlets, with limited availability of affordable and nutritionally balanced options targeting young residents. This spatial condition reinforces the relevance of addressing food accessibility and literacy.



Figure 2. Preliminary analysis of the EPYC surrounding foodscape using the Foodscape Tool developed by the project partner Gehl. Graphic elaboration by PUSH.

As mentioned in the previous paragraph, while the pilot is physically anchored in EPYC, the geographic scope extends city-wide. Given the diverse residential distribution of EPYC members, foodscape mapping and citizen science activities will be conducted across multiple neighbourhoods.

This distributed approach will enable the comparative analysis of different urban food environments, highlighting analogies and disparities in terms of availability, affordability and typologies of food outlets. Young residents will be engaged through a voluntary and transparent citizen science process focused on the observation and mapping of neighbourhood food environments. The data collected will concern places, food outlets and spatial conditions rather than personal profiles, and participants will be clearly informed about the expected commitment and about how the resulting data and outputs will be used and shared. This process will generate locally grounded evidence on how spatial factors – such as tourism pressure, socio-economic conditions and urban morphology – may shape food supply and access across neighbourhoods.

Policy

Palermo does not currently operate a structured city-wide Food Policy . For this reason, the initial phase of the Action Plan included a preliminary desk research aimed at identifying existing municipal and regional initiatives related to food governance.

At municipal level, relevant policy frameworks include social food security measures (e.g. Reddito Alimentare and emergency food aid schemes), as well as regulatory provisions concerning school catering services. At regional level, the Sicilian Law No. 12/2022 formally recognises and promotes the Mediterranean Diet as cultural heritage and public health strategy, including provisions related to education and collective catering. Furthermore, the Municipality of Palermo is a signatory of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MuFPP), positioning the city within an international network committed to sustainable urban food systems. Although these elements demonstrate the presence of policy-relevant initiatives, they remain fragmented and not yet integrated within a coherent governance framework.

To inform the policy dimension of the Palermo Action Plan, PUSH conducted a best practice analysis of urban food policy processes in comparable Italian cities. Bari was selected as a relevant case study due to its geographic, socio-economic and Mediterranean contextual similarities. Further investigation into the construction of the Bari Food Policy was conducted through a direct interview with CIHEAM Bari, the organisation that coordinated and facilitated the process. The analysis generated a set of operational recommendations applicable to the Palermo context:

- collect needs and map existing good practices (restaurants, third-sector organisations, producers) as a basis for shared principles;
- transform existing practices into articulated declarations of principles and subsequently into a Manifesto;
- establish a shared understanding of what “Food Policy” means in the local context;

- integrate and systematise initiatives already in place rather than creating parallel structures;
- adopt a Living Lab and quadruple helix approach (public sector, private actors, academia and civil society);
- define a governance structure capable of ensuring continuity beyond the pilot phase.

Building on these insights, the policy dimension of the Palermo Action Plan will progressively consolidate evidence generated through: desk research; youth-led foodscape mapping and citizen science activities; a series of focus groups and semi-structured interviews with food-related stakeholders (including restaurateurs, third-sector organisations, policymakers, producers and community actors).

This multi-layered evidence base will inform the development of:

- a participatory Manifesto;
- a set of structured policy recommendations;
- a collaboration protocol with the Municipality of Palermo.

Through this approach, the Palermo pilot does not position itself as a substitute for institutional action, but as a structured interface between civic experimentation and municipal governance, contributing to the long-term development of a coherent and inclusive food governance framework.

3.1 Localised Palermo Vision toward BB Impact Pathway

Palermo's localised vision within Bauhaus Bites is grounded in the recognition that food represents not only a matter of access and consumption, but a cultural, social and spatial infrastructure shaping everyday life in the city. While Palermo benefits from a rich Mediterranean heritage and vibrant food culture, challenges persist in terms of food literacy, affordability of food quality and the fragmentation of governance structures addressing food-related issues.

Within this context, the Palermo pilot positions youth as the primary lever of transformation. By activating the EPYC – European Palermo Youth Centre – as a living laboratory, the project aims to demonstrate how informed, organised and creative young citizens can contribute to reshaping local food environments.

The localised vision is articulated through three interconnected strategic objectives, aligned with the Bauhaus Bites Impact Pathway:

Objective 1 – Strengthen youth food literacy and sustainable consumption habits

Through educational workshops, creative edutainment formats, DIY growing modules and the Youth Sustainable Kitchen Lab developed with the EPYC kitchen team, the pilot promotes seasonality, local sourcing, waste reduction and responsible communication practices. This objective contributes to behavioural

change, increased awareness and the emergence of young “food prosumers” capable of influencing their peers.

Objective 2 – Make visible Palermo’s sustainable and multicultural food culture through citizen science, storytelling and neighbourhoods exploration

Collective foodscape mapping, citizen science-based neighbourhoods mapping, and community storytelling activities aim to document and reinterpret local and multicultural food identities, while critically examining foodification dynamics in central areas of the city. This pathway strengthens community ties, increases visibility of sustainable practices and supports a more inclusive understanding of urban food environments.

Objective 3 – Influence the foundations for Palermo’s future Food Policy.

Through stakeholder engagement, advisory processes and policy co-design workshops, evidence generated from youth activities and citizen science will be translated into shared recommendations and a participatory manifesto. This contributes to evidence-based policymaking and cross-sector collaboration between EPYC, the Municipality of Palermo and local actors.

Across these objectives, Palermo integrates the New European Bauhaus values of sustainability, inclusion and aesthetics. Sustainable practices are promoted through low-impact food choices and nature-based micro-growing systems; aesthetic dimensions are embedded in storytelling, visual outputs and the experiential design of activities; inclusion is ensured through accessible formats and the active involvement of diverse youth groups.

3.2 Palermo Community of Practice

The Palermo Community of Practice is conceived as a progressive and practice-based network supporting the implementation of the Bauhaus Bites pilot and its evolution towards structured food governance.

Rather than being established as a formal council, the Community of Practice operates as an Advisory Team, expanding in relation to the progression of activities and emerging needs. This flexible configuration reflects the civic-led nature of the Palermo pilot and its iterative approach.

At its core, the Community of Practice includes the EPYC Board, which plays a central role in coordinating youth engagement activities and ensuring operational alignment with the centre mission and daily programming. Given EPYC’s position as pilot site and primary youth hub, its governance structure represents the first layer of legitimacy and continuity.

A second layer consists of methodological and policy-oriented actors. Representatives of the Centre International de Hautes Études Agronomiques

Méditerranéennes (CIHEAM)², recognised as a relevant best-practice reference from Bari, southern Italy, provides advisory support on the Living Lab approach and on the pathway towards a Food Manifesto for Palermo.. Their engagement strengthens the coherence between local experimentation and broader Mediterranean food governance processes.

A municipal officer acting as reference point for the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MuFPP³) supports the initial interface with the Municipality of Palermo, facilitating alignment with existing policy frameworks and enabling progressive institutional dialogue.

The Community of Practice also involves academic advisors from the University of Palermo, contributing expertise on specific thematic areas, including sustainable food systems and nature-based solutions such as hydroponic cultivation. This academic engagement ensures that pilot activities are supported by scientific knowledge and technical validation.

In parallel, a Youth Advisory Board is being constituted as an integral component of the Community of Practice. Its role is to ensure that youth perspectives inform the design, implementation and communication of pilot activities. The first members include two young designers and researchers engaged through an internship at PUSH, who have actively contributed to the brainstorming of activities, the development of engagement tools and the design of the local visual identity. The Youth Advisory Board will progressively expand through the involvement of additional participants emerging from pilot activities.

Beyond the core and advisory layers, a broader ecosystem of actors has been mapped and will be engaged throughout the implementation phases. These include associations developing food-related initiatives within European cooperation frameworks, practitioners active in urban gardens and food-based social spaces, and peri-urban producers interacting with the city through both formal and informal distribution channels. Their involvement will be activated at different stages according to thematic relevance and operational needs.

The Community of Practice does not operate on a fixed schedule but is activated in response to specific operational or strategic needs. PUSH acts both as coordinator and facilitator, ensuring methodological coherence, documentation of outcomes and integration of insights into the broader Action Plan.

Through this evolving structure, the Palermo Community of Practice functions as a prefiguration of future food governance, linking youth-led experimentation, technical expertise and emerging institutional dialogue within a single adaptive framework.

² <https://www.iamb.ciheam.org/>

³ <https://www.milanurbanfoodpolicypact.org/>

3.3 From the Palermo Vision to the Pilot

The Palermo pilot translates the localised Bauhaus Bites Vision into a structured implementation phase running from March 2026 to April 2027. The pilot combines capacity-building activities, community engagement formats and policy-oriented processes, implemented both within EPYC and across different neighbourhoods of the city through urban explorations and study visits. While most actions will be activated during the formal pilot period, a preparatory phase has already been initiated. In particular, capacity building of the EPYC kitchen staff was launched prior to the pilot through the work of The Factory and will be further strengthened within Bauhaus Bites.

The project will consolidate this process by developing a narrative framework and operational guidelines to ensure documentation and replicability of sustainable kitchen practices.



Given that the Palermo pilot is primarily based on capacity building and behavioural activation, communication plays a central role in the implementation strategy. A local visual identity, a dedicated web page and an editorial plan have been developed to ensure coherence, visibility and accessibility of activities. The communication framework follows a seasonal structure, using the theme of seasons as a methodological container to organise Kitchen Talks, DIY garden workshops, field visits and editorial outputs. This seasonal logic not only reflects Mediterranean food culture but also provides a replicable organisational model adaptable to other cities and geographical contexts.

Figure 3. The EPYC kitchen staff during a training session.



Figure 4. Moodboard for the seasonal color palette study.



Figure 5. Screenshot of the webpage designed and developed by PUSH to present the pilot activities (<https://www.wepush.org/caloesimenza/index.html>)

During the design phase of the Action Plan, digital tools were also developed to support survey implementation and foodscape mapping. These tools draw inspiration from methodologies shared by project partners, particularly Gehl's Foodscape framework⁴ and WWF's impact calculator based on Planet-Based Diets, adapting them to the local context.

⁴ <https://www.thrivingfoodscapes.com/>

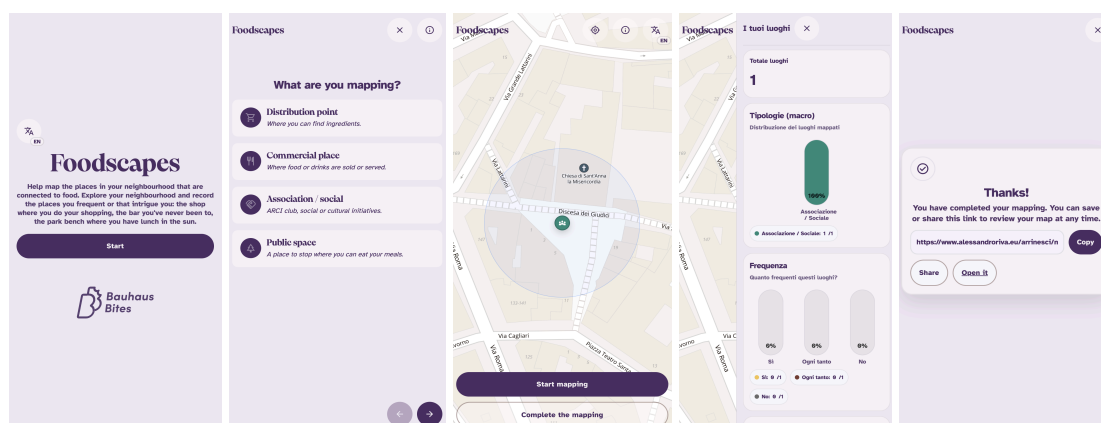


Figure 6. Example screens of the Digital Foodscape Tool designed and developed by PUSH and inspired by Gehl's Foodscape framework.

Throughout implementation, NEB values and principles are embedded in the design of tools and formats. Activities are conceived to be sustainable in content, aesthetically engaging and inclusive in access. Visual and narrative elements aim to make sustainable food practices attractive and culturally resonant, while operational formats are designed to be low-resource, reusable and manageable through youth-led routines. Cultural sustainability is ensured by grounding activities in Palermo's Mediterranean heritage and contemporary urban identities, positioning food as a connector between tradition, innovation and civic engagement.

Executive action plan

The following section presents the operational actions linked to the above-mentioned objectives, specifying for each action its description, coordinating entity, local partners, implementation timeframe, alignment with existing policies and potential risks, thereby defining the structured pathway through which the local vision will be translated into practice.

Objective 1 – Strengthen youth food literacy and sustainable consumption habits

Action 1.1 – Baseline Food Habits Survey & Data Collection

Description of the action	Collection and analysis of EPYC kitchen consumption data combined with a structured youth survey to assess food habits, awareness levels and sustainability-related behaviours.
Objective	Generate an evidence base to tailor educational activities

	and inform youth-centred policy discussions.
Links to other city policies or strategies	MUFPP commitments.
Entity responsible for coordinating the action	PUSH
Local partners to involve	EPYC management and kitchen team;
Potential risks to implementation	Low survey participation; incomplete or inconsistent consumption data; limited comparability across datasets.

Action 1.2 – Youth Sustainable Kitchen Lab

Description of the action	Co-development of a sustainability pathway with the EPYC kitchen team including seasonal menu redesign, sustainable sourcing criteria, waste reduction strategies, food ethics communication and a draft manifesto for sustainable kitchen management.
Objective	Transform EPYC's kitchen into a learning laboratory testing and documenting sustainable practices replicable in other youth and community food spaces.
Links to other city policies or strategies	School catering sustainability standards; Mediterranean Diet regional legislation; Urban sustainability and circular economy strategies.
Entity responsible for coordinating the action	PUSH
Local partners to involve	EPYC kitchen team; Chef advisor; local food producers.
Potential risks to implementation	Operational constraints of kitchen management; budget limitations for sourcing; resistance to menu changes.

Action 1.3 – Kitchen Talks & Field visits

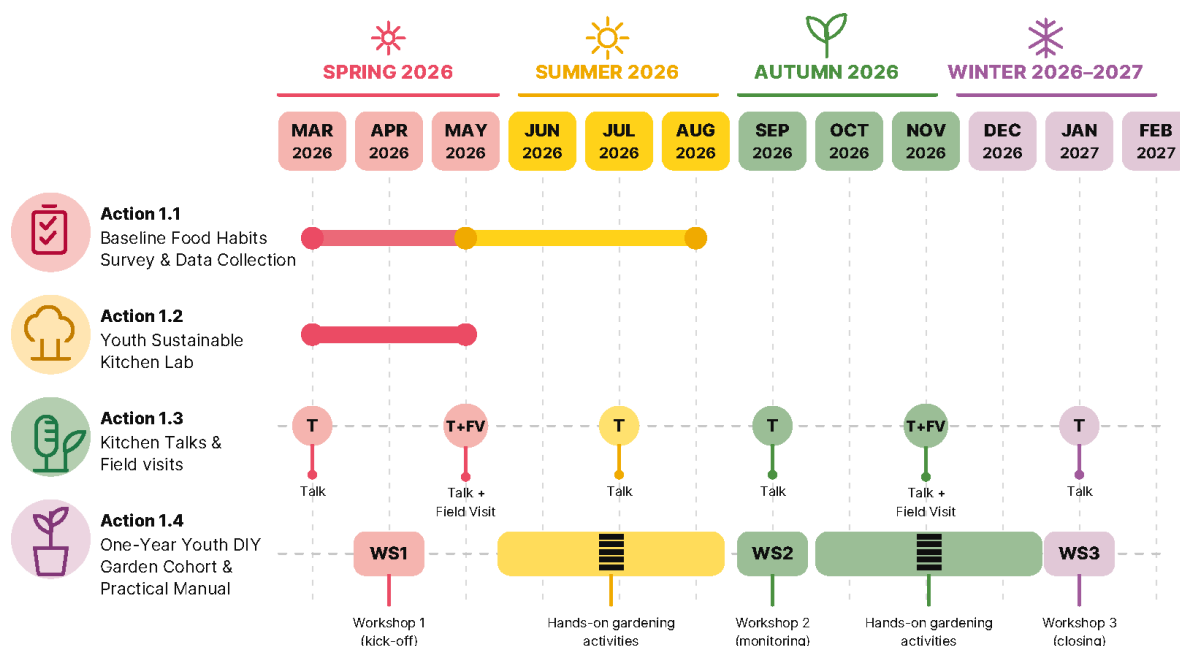
Description of the action	Organisation of 6 thematic Kitchen Talks (4 at EPYC + 2 held off-site) combining showcooking, guest speakers and dialogue sessions addressing social, environmental and cultural dimensions of food.
Objective	Increase youth awareness and translate complex sustainability topics into accessible and experiential learning formats.
Links to other city policies or strategies	Mediterranean Diet promotion; Food education initiatives; Cultural programming strategies of EPYC.

Entity responsible for coordinating the action	PUSH
Local partners to involve	EPYC board; local food practitioners; third-sector organisations; invited experts.
Potential risks to implementation	Low attendance; difficulty securing expert speakers; limited dissemination reach.

Action 1.4 – One-Year Youth DIY Garden Cohort & Practical Manual

Description of the action	Selection of a cohort of young participants to experiment with personal DIY garden modules (including hydroponic or low-soil systems), supported by workshops and peer-learning sessions, leading to the production of a practical replication manual.
Objective	Promote prosumer practices and demonstrate accessible, small-scale growing solutions adaptable to urban contexts.
Links to other city policies or strategies	Urban agriculture initiatives; environmental sustainability strategies; regional Mediterranean lifestyle promotion.
Entity responsible for coordinating the action	PUSH
Local partners to involve	EPYC youth; University of Palermo (technical advice on hydroponics); urban gardening practitioners; local associations.
Potential risks to implementation	Drop-out of participants; technical challenges in maintaining systems; limited replication beyond pilot group.

Timetable



Objective 2 – Make visible Palermo’s sustainable and multicultural food culture through citizen science, storytelling and neighbourhoods exploration

Action 2.1 – Desk Research and Mapping of Existing Food-Related Initiatives

Description of the action	Systematic desk research and preliminary mapping of existing food-related initiatives in Palermo, including urban gardens, community food projects, local food spaces and grassroots organisations.
Objective	Build a shared knowledge base of Palermo’s foodscape and identify actors, practices and spaces to be engaged throughout the pilot.
Links to other city policies or strategies	Urban agriculture strategies; social innovation initiatives; MUFPP commitments; regional Mediterranean Diet promotion.
Entity responsible for coordinating the action	PUSH
Local partners to involve	-
Potential risks to implementation	Incomplete data availability; difficulty accessing informal initiatives; limited responsiveness from mapped actors.

Action 2.2 – Neighbourhood Foodscape Observatory

Description of the action	A distributed citizen science activity in which young participants voluntarily join a shared observation protocol and use a smartphone-based digital tool designed by PUSH to document neighbourhood food environments. Through
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	self-guided observation and mapping, participants will collect place-based data on food outlets, affordability, typologies and relevant spatial conditions affecting food access across different districts of Palermo.
Objective	Encourage youth to contribute to the observation and interpretation of Palermo's urban food environments through a voluntary, protocol-based and digitally supported process, generating comparable place-based evidence across neighbourhoods while strengthening local awareness and engagement.
Links to other city policies or strategies	Urban planning and mobility strategies; food access and social equity policies; participatory urban monitoring initiatives.
Entity responsible for coordinating the action	PUSH
Local partners to involve	Youth teams;
Potential risks to implementation	Uneven participation across neighbourhoods. Limited mapping capacity.

Action 2.3 – Field Visits and Stakeholder Interviews

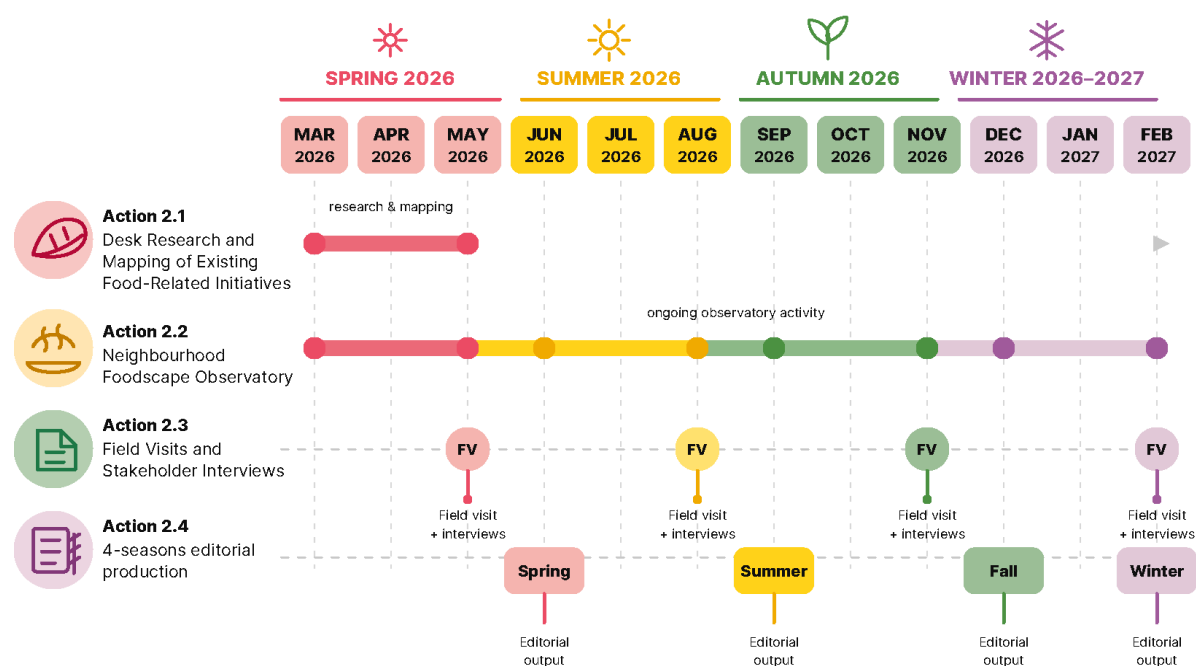
Description of the action	Organisation of field visits to mapped food spaces and semi-structured interviews (video, photo and story collection) with community gardeners, local producers and food space managers.
Objective	Document local food cultures, highlight community-led practices and generate qualitative evidence to feed educational activities and policy recommendations.
Links to other city policies or strategies	MUFPP commitments.
Entity responsible for coordinating the action	PUSH
Local partners to involve	Youth participants; community organisations; peri-urban producers; third-sector actors.
Potential risks to implementation	Limited availability of interviewees

Action 2.4 – 4-seasons editorial production

Description of the action	Production of editorial outputs including social media content, newsletters and a seasonal publication compiling maps, interviews and stories generated through the pilot.
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Objective	Increase visibility of grassroots food practices and inspire sustainable, responsible, place-based and culturally aware food behaviours. Nurture engagement and project dissemination.
Links to other city policies or strategies	MUFPP commitments.
Entity responsible for coordinating the action	PUSH
Local partners to involve	Youth participants; community organisations; peri-urban producers; third-sector actors.
Potential risks to implementation	Limited dissemination reach.

Timetable



Objective 3 – Influence the foundations for Palermo’s future Food Policy.

Action 3.1 – Research on Existing Local and Regional Food Policies

Description of the action	Conduct desk research and semi-structured interviews with municipal officers, technical staff and relevant stakeholders to analyse existing food-related policies, initiatives and regulatory frameworks at municipal and regional level.
Objective	Identify gaps, overlaps and strategic opportunities to inform the development of a coherent and

	future-oriented Food Policy for Palermo.
Links to other city policies or strategies	-
Entity responsible for coordinating the action	PUSH
Local partners to involve	Municipality of Palermo (relevant departments); CIHEAM (methodological advice);
Potential risks to implementation	Limited availability of municipal staff; fragmented policy documentation; institutional turnover.

Action 3.2 – Thematic Round Tables for Collaborative Policy-Making

Description of the action	Organisation of 3-4 thematic round tables bringing together youth representatives, community organisations, food actors, peri-urban producers and municipal departments to discuss priorities, needs and governance models.
Objective	Create an inclusive and structured dialogue space to align perspectives and progressively define shared priorities for Palermo's emerging Food Policy.
Links to other city policies or strategies	UMUFPP commitments.
Entity responsible for coordinating the action	PUSH
Local partners to involve	EPYC Board; Advisory Team; Municipality of Palermo; CIHEAM; local associations; producers; NGOs.
Potential risks to implementation	Low cross-sector participation; conflicting priorities among stakeholders; difficulty maintaining continuity between sessions.

Action 3.3 – Co-creation of the “Manifesto for a Palermo Food Policy”

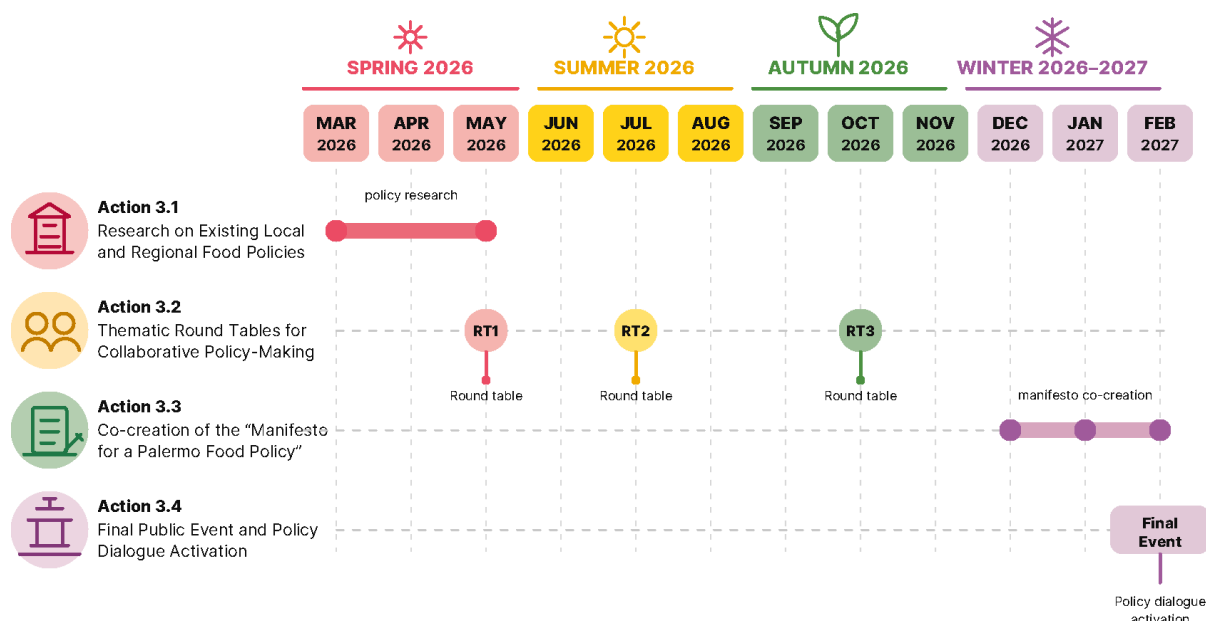
Description of the action	Drafting and iterative validation of a participatory Manifesto synthesising shared principles, priorities and commitments emerging from youth activities, citizen science, stakeholder consultations and policy analysis.
Objective	Translate community-generated evidence into a structured and accessible political document that anchors the long-term vision for food governance in Palermo.
Links to other city policies	Urban agriculture strategies; social innovation initiatives;

or strategies	MUFPP commitments; regional Mediterranean Diet promotion; social food security initiatives.
Entity responsible for coordinating the action	PUSH
Local partners to involve	Advisory Team; EPYC youth; Municipality of Palermo; CIHEAM; academic advisors.
Potential risks to implementation	Divergent expectations; lack of institutional endorsement; difficulty achieving consensus on priorities.

Action 3.4 – Final Public Event and Policy Dialogue Activation

Description of the action	Organisation of a public event and thematic roundtables (aligned with the Palermo field visit foreseen by WP1) to present the co-created Manifesto, discuss next steps and formalise collaboration pathways.
Objective	Ensure visibility, legitimacy and multi-actor ownership of the emerging Food Policy process.
Links to other city policies or strategies	MUFPP participation; municipal strategic planning; Bauhaus Bites transnational exchange.
Entity responsible for coordinating the action	PUSH
Local partners to involve	Municipality of Palermo; Advisory Team; EPYC; civil society organisations; media; Bauhaus Bites partner cities.
Potential risks to implementation	Limited institutional commitment; low media coverage; discontinuity beyond project timeline.

Timetable



3.4 Palermo Long-Term Strategic Plan for People, Places and Policy

The long-term strategy of the Palermo pilot is grounded in consolidation, methodological replication and progressive governance dialogue rather than in immediate institutionalisation.

Consolidation of the Youth-Led Model

EPYC will remain the primary operational hub beyond the pilot period, ensuring continuity of youth-oriented food education activities. The Youth Sustainable Kitchen Lab and the DIY Garden cohort model are designed to generate practical guidelines and replicable tools that can be maintained within EPYC's ordinary programming.

The seasonal implementation framework developed during the pilot – structuring activities around seasonal cycles and linking workshops, Kitchen Talks, field visits and editorial outputs – constitutes a transferable methodology. This approach can be adapted to different contexts while preserving local specificity, thus representing a scalable organisational model rather than a fixed programme.

Progressive Governance Dialogue

The co-created Manifesto for a Palermo Food Policy is conceived as a civic and strategic reference document rather than a formal regulatory instrument. Its long-term function is to provide a shared orientation framework for stakeholders and to support ongoing dialogue with the Municipality of Palermo.

Financial and Operational Sustainability

The long-term sustainability of the initiative will rely on a mixed strategy:

- integration of selected activities into EPYC's regular programming;
- development of future project proposals at European and regional level;
- activation of partnerships with local organisations and producers;
- potential alignment with municipal or regional funding streams related to youth, sustainability and food education.

Documentation and tools developed during the pilot are intended to remain available to local actors. In addition, consistent with its mission as a lab for design and social innovation, it will continue to seek opportunities to support the continuity of the process through alliances with public bodies and private organisations that share the same value base. Rather than relying on a single actor, the longer-term continuity of the initiative is expected to build on a network of local actors able to adopt and further use the methodologies, documentation and tools developed during the pilot.

Replicability and Knowledge Transfer

The pilot's legacy lies primarily in its methodological contribution. The combination of:

- youth-led citizen science;
- seasonal programming logic;
- capacity building of community-based kitchens;
- and iterative policy co-design

constitutes a replicable framework adaptable to other urban contexts.

By consolidating tools, guidelines and documentation, Palermo contributes to the Bauhaus Bites network with a model demonstrating how civic-led experimentation can generate structured pathways toward food governance without requiring immediate institutional formalisation.

4. Palermo Innovations and Exploitable Results

The Palermo pilot does not introduce new physical infrastructures or formal governance bodies. Its innovation lies primarily in methodological integration, operational tools and the structured interface between youth-led experimentation and policy dialogue.

Methodological Contributions

A key contribution of the Palermo pilot is the integration of capacity building, citizen science and policy co-design within a coherent operational framework anchored in a community-based youth centre.

Rather than proposing a fixed programme, the pilot introduces a seasonal narrative-operational framework structuring activities around seasonal cycles. This framework links Kitchen Talks, DIY garden workshops, field visits, editorial outputs and policy discussions within a coherent temporal container. The seasonal logic functions as a flexible and transferable structure that can be adapted to different local contexts while preserving place-specific content.

The pilot also advances a youth-led citizen science approach to urban food environments, combining foodscape mapping, surveys and qualitative documentation. By adapting methodologies inspired by Gehl's Foodscape framework and WWF's impact calculator on Planet-Based Diets to a youth engagement setting, Palermo demonstrates how technical assessment tools can be translated into accessible community-based formats.

Operational Tools and Outputs

The pilot generates a set of tangible outputs designed for reuse and adaptation:

- digital survey tools for assessing food habits and awareness;
- digital and participatory mapping tools and protocol for neighbourhood foodscape analysis;
- guidelines and documentation from the Youth Sustainable Kitchen Lab, detailing sustainable sourcing, seasonality, waste reduction and communication practices;
- a practical manual emerging from the One-Year DIY Garden Cohort;
- editorial publications and visual communication materials structured around seasonal cycles;
- the Manifesto for a Palermo Food Policy.

All tools and outputs are conceived under an open-source logic. Documentation, formats and guidelines are intended to be accessible and adaptable by other youth centres, community kitchens and civic actors.

Governance Interface Innovation

An additional innovation lies in the governance positioning. The Palermo model demonstrates how a civic actor, operating without formal policy mandate, can structure a progressive interface with municipal governance through:

- evidence generation;
- structured stakeholder engagement;
- iterative co-creation;
- and the production of a shared manifesto.

This approach prefigures pathways toward food governance without requiring immediate institutional formalisation.

Exploitable Results

The exploitable results of the Palermo pilot are primarily methodological and transferable:

- integration of sustainable kitchen practices within community-based youth spaces;
- youth-centred foodscape assessment frameworks;
- a replicable seasonal programming container;
- open-source educational and mapping tools;
- and a documented pathway for civic-to-policy dialogue.

Beyond the project timeframe, these results may inform future European or regional funding proposals, be embedded within EPYC's ongoing programming and contribute to knowledge exchange within the Bauhaus Bites network.

5. Palermo Impact Monitoring, Evaluating and Measuring

The monitoring and evaluation framework for the Palermo pilot will be further developed under Work Package 6 with the methodological support of the University of Copenhagen (UCPH), in alignment with the overall Bauhaus Bites Monitoring & Evaluation approach. The first monitoring and evaluation report is expected in December 2026. The evidence generated through this process will support local learning, contribute to the Bauhaus Bites Playbook, and inform the transferability of the Palermo experience to other contexts.

At this stage, and in line with the current maturity of the pilot, Palermo adopts a proportionate monitoring approach structured around a set of macro-areas rather than a fully detailed KPI framework. This is consistent with the bottom-up and evolving nature of the local initiative, which combines youth engagement, food literacy, citizen-generated knowledge and gradual policy activation. Monitoring is therefore intended not only as a reporting function, but also as a practical tool to support adaptive implementation, reflection and continuous improvement.

The Palermo monitoring approach will focus on five main dimensions.

First, youth activation and continuity of participation will assess the pilot's ability to reach, engage and retain young participants across the different activities. This area will consider, for example, participation volume, recurrence of attendance, involvement of first-time participants, and the extent to which young people take on active roles as contributors, co-creators or facilitators.

Second, food literacy and behavioural activation will examine early changes in awareness, knowledge and practices related to sustainable food. This dimension will include evidence on participation in food literacy activities, perceived usefulness of workshops and field visits, and self-reported changes in understanding of themes such as seasonality, food waste, local sourcing and low-impact food practices.

Third, foodscape evidence generation and visibility of local food cultures will monitor Palermo's capacity to produce locally grounded knowledge through mapping, observation, storytelling and editorial activities. This area will consider outputs such as mapped places, documented practices, collected stories and dissemination materials that help make visible sustainable and community-based food environments.

Fourth, governance activation and policy-oriented progression will assess the extent to which the pilot is able to generate dialogue with local stakeholders and progressively strengthen the conditions for a structured food policy conversation. This includes stakeholder engagement, participation in advisory and round-table

processes, and progress in the co-creation of a shared Manifesto for a Palermo Food Policy.

Fifth, inclusion, participation quality and ethics will ensure that the success of the pilot is not measured only in quantitative terms, but also through the quality, accessibility and fairness of participation. Particular attention will be paid to the diversity of participants involved, the meaningful inclusion of underrepresented groups, and the correct handling of consent, anonymisation and data minimisation in all relevant activities.

To document these dimensions, Palermo will rely on a combination of feasible and proportionate tools, including participation logs, registration and feedback forms, surveys, mapping datasets, qualitative notes from workshops and meetings, and internal learning documentation. Baseline elements will be drawn from the first implementation phase, including the Food Habits Survey and other initial evidence collected through pilot activities. These tools and indicators will be progressively refined in coordination with UCPH as part of the WP6 monitoring framework.

Overall, monitoring in Palermo will serve a dual purpose: on the one hand, to provide a credible evidence base on implementation progress and early outcomes; on the other, to support learning, adjustment and future transferability. In this sense, the monitoring and evaluation process is understood as an integral component of the pilot's development and of its contribution to the broader Bauhaus Bites knowledge framework.

6. Palermo Inclusivity, Diversity and Ethics Considerations

The Palermo pilot, led by PUSH in collaboration with European Palermo Youth Centre (EPYC), adopts inclusivity and diversity as structural principles of its intervention logic, rather than as thematic add-ons. In line with the EPYC's social empowerment approach, the Palermo pilot frames food environments as civic infrastructures where agency, voice and access to opportunity are intentionally redistributed.

Inclusivity is operationalised through open access to activities, transparent engagement mechanisms, and deliberate outreach beyond already active communities, while also recognising that access alone does not guarantee participation. For this reason, the pilot seeks to create welcoming and enabling conditions in which people feel safe, represented and able to contribute meaningfully. The pilot prioritises meaningful participation of young people, early-career professionals, community organisers and civil society actors, through their active involvement in the Advisory Board, citizens science activities, thematic round tables and the iterative validation of the Manifesto for a Palermo Food Policy. In this way, participation goes beyond consultation and contributes to shared priority-setting, evidence generation and the co-production of knowledge, narratives and policy-oriented outputs. The EPYC space functions as a safe civic environment where participation is voluntary, non-conditional and clearly separated from access to services or opportunities.

From an ethical and compliance perspective, the Palermo pilot aligns with the Bauhaus Bites ethics framework as defined in D9.1 and the Open Science and Data Management provisions of D8.2.

The activities involve research with humans, including participatory workshops, foodscape mapping, interviews and co-creation sessions. All such activities are conducted in accordance with Horizon Europe ethical standards, GDPR requirements and the principle of “as open as possible, as closed as necessary”.

Informed consent procedures are applied systematically. Participants receive clear, accessible information regarding the purpose of the activity, the voluntary nature of participation, data use, storage duration, and their right to withdraw at any time without consequence. Separate consent is obtained for participation, audio-visual documentation and dissemination. In case minors are involved, parental or guardian consent is required in accordance with national legislation.

Data collection follows strict data minimisation principles. In the case of crowdsourced mapping activities, only information that is necessary to document and assess the local food environment is collected, such as venue name, typology, location and other relevant descriptive attributes. Personal data relating to contributors are limited to what is strictly necessary to manage participation and

ensure data quality. Such data are stored securely, access is restricted to authorised project staff, and anonymisation or pseudonymisation is applied prior to analysis or publication where appropriate. Free-text submissions, images and contact details are reviewed before use or dissemination in order to avoid the disclosure of unnecessary personal or sensitive information. Sensitive data categories are avoided unless strictly necessary and justified. All data handling procedures are consistent with the project's Data Management Plan and institutional policies.

Health and safety considerations are integrated into the organisation of events, workshops and field visits. Risk assessments are conducted when required, and clear responsibilities are assigned to organisers. Where food preparation, handling or consumption is involved, appropriate measures are taken to ensure food hygiene, safe storage, preparation and serving conditions, as well as clear communication regarding ingredients, allergens and dietary requirements. Activities involving food are supervised by responsible staff and organised in ways that minimise health risks for participants. The pilot also ensures that activities take place in accessible environments

Inclusivity is also monitored through qualitative and quantitative indicators, including diversity of participants, first-time engagement rates, perceived sense of agency, and continuity of participation. These metrics contribute to ensuring that empowerment is measurable and not solely declarative.

Through this integrated approach, the Palermo pilot positions inclusivity, diversity and ethics not only as compliance requirements but as enabling conditions for legitimate, accountable and socially transformative food environment innovation.

7. Palermo Risk and Mitigation Measures

The Palermo pilot operates within a bottom-up, community-driven governance model, anchored in collaboration between PUSH and EPYC.

As detailed in Section 3.3 (From the Palermo Vision to the Pilot), potential risks were identified at a granular level for each planned action, including governance set-up, stakeholder engagement, participatory mapping, policy dialogue, and dissemination activities. The present section consolidates those action-specific risks into a structured overview, highlighting cross-cutting vulnerabilities and corresponding mitigation measures.

Given the non-infrastructural nature of the pilot, the primary risks concern participation continuity, institutional alignment, procedural formalisation, reputational exposure, and ethical compliance. Risk management therefore focuses on strengthening transparency, clarifying roles and expectations, ensuring ethical rigour in data collection and engagement processes, and maintaining adaptive coordination between community dynamics and Horizon Europe implementation requirements.

The following table summarises the main identified risks and corresponding mitigation measures.

Risk	Description	Proposed mitigation measures
R1	Low or uneven participation in workshops and co-creation activities.	Early stakeholder mapping; targeted outreach beyond already active groups; diversified engagement formats (formal and informal); continuous feedback loops.
R1	Overrepresentation of already engaged actors (“elite capture”) leading to limited inclusivity.	Rotation of speakers and facilitators; monitoring of participant diversity indicators.
R3	Misalignment between community-driven pace and project reporting timelines.	Advance planning of key milestones; buffer periods for consultation; internal coordination meetings to anticipate delays.
R4	Delays or lack of formalisation in collaboration with the Municipality of Palermo.	Early drafting of a Memorandum of Understanding; regular institutional briefings; documentation of meetings and shared commitments.
R5	Participatory fatigue or declining engagement over time.	Clear communication of tangible outcomes; visible short-term results; recognition of contributors; integration of creative and experiential formats.

R6	Ethical risks related to data collection, consent management or public exposure of participants.	Standardised informed consent procedures; data minimisation; anonymisation prior to dissemination; separation between participation consent and media consent.
R7	Reputational risk linked to unmet expectations regarding long-term policy adoption.	Clear framing of pilot scope; explicit communication of project limits; co-definition of realistic outcomes; documentation of incremental achievements.

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List of Abbreviations

EU	European Union
EPYC	European Palermo Youth Center
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulations
MUFPP	Milan Urban Food Policy Pact
NEB	New European Bauhaus



PUSH.



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