

LOOKING UP – A TRAINING PATH FROM EXPERIENCES OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT TOWARDS EUROPEAN SOCIAL SOLIDARITY ECONOMY STRATEGIES

Cycle
03

Cycle 3 Program

Urban-rural relationships through food and short supply chains

The Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) movement in Europe, as in other parts of the world, is embodied through a constellation of initiatives, networks, structures, collectives, and citizen groups, as well as cooperatives and platforms connecting producers and consumers.

These SSE approaches, deeply rooted in numerous territories, whether in rural or urban areas, play a significant role in promoting active involvement, participation, and civic engagement among individuals and communities. Wherever they operate, they have a transformative impact on the daily lives of people and territories, driving cultural change in practices and methodologies, and inventing new forms of solidarity and cooperation.

The relationship between urban and rural areas is at the heart of sustainable development, particularly in the context of **climate change** and the **pressing need for democratic and solidarity-based local development models**.

As intensive agricultural practices contribute to climate change and disrupt food distribution networks, strengthening the links between urban and rural spaces becomes crucial. **Cities depend on rural areas for food production, while rural regions rely on urban markets for economic sustainability**. By promoting short supply chains, communities can reduce environmental impact, ensure food sovereignty, and enhance local economies.

Democracy and solidarity are key components of a sustainable food system. Empowering local communities through participatory decision-making fosters more equitable food distribution and enhances access to nutritious food for all.

This training program offers participants the opportunity **to critically examine the global food system's impact**, understand the **mechanisms of short supply chains**, and develop **strategies for reinforcing local food networks**.

This cycle is animated by CRIES, ALIMENTERRA and ASAT.



Registration: <https://shorturl.at/EHpZ> Find out more about the project HERE or contact info@solidariusitalia.it





All webinars are offered on Tuesdays from 5.30 to 7 pm (CET time) !

► The Cycle 3 Webinars

Urban-rural relationships through food and short supply chains

LOOKING AT TUESDAYS

Session 1

March 11 th, 2025

The global food system and its impact

- Introduction to the cycle "Urban-rural relationships through food and short supply chains" by CRIES;
- Geopolitical power of global food;
- The Customers' Power: to buy is a social-political act.

Speakers: Giorgio Dal Fiume (Fair Trade expert) and Sergiu Florean (Alimenterra).

Session 2

March 18 th, 2025

Building resilient communities: understanding and strengthening short supply chains

- Understanding short supply chains model;
- Benefits & impact of short food supply chain. ASAT- case study;
- Limits of the short food supply chain model: the trap of "localism" and the risks of extreme right-wing narratives.

Speakers: Sergiu Florean (Alimenterra), Marius Cobârzan (ASAT), Mihaela Vețan (CRIES)

Session 3

March 25 th, 2025

Building strong local food systems: identifying and analyzing the resources for short supply chains

This module explores strategies to strengthen short food supply chains by optimizing key resources.

- Human capital and knowledge transfer for producers;
- Community engagement and consumer awareness;
- The role of public authorities, examining financial tools, quality schemes, and policy support for local food systems.

Speakers: Cristi Gherghiceanu (ADEPT Foundation), Sergiu Florean (Alimenterra), George Cățean (Ferma Cățean)



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