

FOODGAP CHRONICLES



March 18, 2026



Equity, right to food and preparedness for extreme events

**Ms Marina Deligianni-
ISD, EPLO**

The fourth peer learning webinar of the FOODGaP Project held on 18 March 2026 (10:00–11:30 CET) and led by the led by CIHEAM Bari together with the EPLO Institute for Sustainable Development, constituted the fourth peer-learning event of the FOODGaP Capacity Building Programme under WP3.

Through this peer-learning series, the aim is to to strengthen local and metropolitan capacities to design, coordinate, and institutionalise food policies, focusing not only on what policies exist, but more importantly on how governance actually works in practice, across sectors, across levels, and with multiple actors involved.



The session explored the growing importance of equity, the right to food, and crisis preparedness in food policy. It highlighted that food systems go beyond production, encompassing access, fairness, and resilience in the face of climate, economic, and social challenges

Drawing on diverse experiences—from local governance to regional and sectoral initiatives—the discussion examined how more equitable systems can be built, how the right to food can be protected, and how communities can better prepare for crises.

Chronicles from the fourth online workshop - FOODGaP Capacity Building Programme

The fourth FOODGaP online workshop The webinar highlighted how a rights-based, inclusive, and governance-driven approach is essential to food security, bringing together perspectives on municipal action, gender equality, sustainable food systems, and social inclusion. Across diverse contexts, speakers emphasised that aligning policy, participation, and institutional capacity—while placing equity and preparedness at the centre—is key to building resilient and sustainable food systems.



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Rights-Based Social Support Practices of the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality

Çağla Salduz Doruk (Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality) presented a rights-based approach to food access within metropolitan social policy in Istanbul.

Ms Doruk's intervention highlighted how municipalities can address food insecurity through structured social support systems that respond to migration, vulnerability, and urban inequalities.

The experience of Istanbul demonstrated that food access policies are most effective when embedded within broader social protection frameworks, ensuring that the right to food is operationalised through municipal services rather than treated as an abstract principle.



Mrs Çağla Salduz Doruk, MSW – Head of Migration and Integration Unit, Directorate of Social Services, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality



Gender Equality as a pillar of Food Security



Anna Dorangricchia (Union for the Mediterranean) focused on gender equality as a structural pillar of food security.

She emphasised that women are key actors in food systems, with deep knowledge of ecosystems and agricultural practices, yet remain significantly underrepresented in governance and decision-making bodies.

Drawing on regional initiatives led by UfM, FAO, and CIHEAM, she presented efforts to advance a coordinated agenda

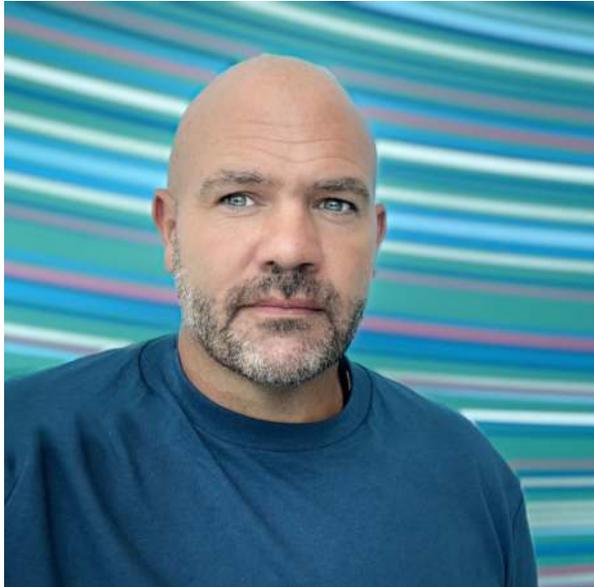
on women in agri-food systems, including gender-responsive policies, gender budgeting, and support for women entrepreneurship.

Particular attention was given to the need to actively include underrepresented groups—such as women farmers and those outside formal networks—in governance processes.

Mrs Anna Dorangricchia – Project Manager - Gender Equality Social and Civil Affairs Division



Ensuring access to nutritious marine resources in times of dynamic change and disasters



Matt Bjerregaard Walsh (FAO) addressed the role of aquatic food systems in ensuring equitable access to nutritious food under crisis conditions.

His intervention highlighted the increasing pressures on Mediterranean ecosystems due to climate change, environmental degradation, and economic instability.

He underlined the importance of integrating fisheries and marine resources into food security strategies and raised critical governance questions around preparedness. In particular, the discussion pointed to the need to consider food as critical infrastructure, while ensuring that resilience frameworks do not exclude informal actors or small-scale producers.

Mr Matt Bjerregaard Walsh, Fisheries and Aquaculture Specialist, collaborating with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)



The AKLI BALADI Project, Palestine

Prof. Luigi Bisceglia (Bethlehem University) presented the AKLI BALADI project as an example of building resilient local food systems in complex and fragile environments.

His intervention illustrated how the right to food can be operationalised through integrated, place-based approaches combining local agricultural production, such as olive oil, honey, and date farming, with digital tools supporting farmers and interdepartmental coordination across municipalities in Palestine including Jericho and Bethlehem, with the support of the Municipality of Turin in Italy.

The Palestine's experience demonstrated the importance of linking local producers to governance structures, ensuring representation, and fostering cooperation across institutions to strengthen resilience and food system sustainability in Palestine.



Prof. Luigi Bisceglia, University of Bethlehem, Palestine

The Case of SHEDIA NGO, Greece



Mr. Chris Alefantis, Editorial Director, Shedia Street Paper (Greece)

Christos Alefantis (SHEDIA Street Paper) highlighted the social dimension of food access through innovative approaches addressing homelessness and exclusion.

His contribution showed how initiatives combining employment opportunities, social integration, and access to nutritious food can support dignity and long-term inclusion.

The SHEDIA example illustrated that food access policies must go beyond emergency responses, addressing structural inequalities and creating pathways for participation in the economy and society.



Conclusion - Aligning policy, participation, and institutional capacity places equity and preparedness at the core of sustainable food systems

The event concluded with an engaging Q&A session facilitated by Dimitra Psimmenou.

The discussion was steered by Ms. Psimmenou's targeted questions, which brought these perspectives together by tackling key governance challenges—such as enforcing the right to food, allocating resources through an equity lens, strengthening the role of local actors in crisis preparedness, and addressing the risk of exclusion within resilience frameworks.



Ms. Dimitra Psimmenou, Institute for Sustainable development, EPLO

Overall, the webinar confirmed that effective food governance depends on the alignment of policy, participation, and institutional capacity, positioning equity and preparedness as central elements of sustainable food systems.