

Speech

Increasing Food Resilience in Cities during COVID-19 time

A video statement from Maurizio Mariani, Eating City Director



Eating City
Speech 01/20

April 25- 2020, By Maurizio Mariani

Together to share a new vision of public food services

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Link to the video statement from EUvsVirus hakathon:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UAOCUO4N9MI>

Introduction

The entire world is facing a huge crisis – is a unmatched one in our life time - we experienced that our food system and our health system are not really updated to the real citizens and society needs. Centralization of health treatment (care) , such us concentration in food chain have showcase all their weaknesses.

In the months to come, maybe years - we will face an unprecedented economic crisis and we need to fight this - shifting from “Business as usual”, to a “Business for people” approach.

We need a complete paradigm shift. Cities must rebuild a territorial food system with an high level of resilience - a new relation between urban and rural.

How do it:

Starting from the Public Food service (school canteen) investing in future generation, were the right to healthy food and the right to work are at the top of the list.

- Re-localization of farming and shifting into - a small and mediums scale , instead than intensive system - should create thousands of jobs and recover our society from high percentage of unemployment .
- Giving a role to chefs ,cookers, farmers, fisherman in creating new healthy recipes to feed peoples instead using iper-processed food.

Food must become a commons, instead a commodity; Public foodservice must be recognized as a common instead an utility, same for our health system.

In Europe the total Foodservice market is rising 400 Billion euro revenue employing more than 8,5 Million workers, in this sector the contribution of PFS rise 81 Billion euro - employing 2 Million workers - and serving each day 85 Million meals to EU citizen of any age. (from children at school to elderly people)

Food is a right, food is a tremendous lever to prevent cardiovascular disease ,diabetes , cancer and many other disease; food is part of our life and of our intestinal micro biota.

Many life losses in last days due to coronavirus were already affected by these disease.

Food is a lever to increase our “immune defenses” and prevent disease.

Recent scientific observation showcase that air pollution is a co factor - in extremely high level of Covid-19 lethality.

Together to share a new vision of public food services

Our society is sick!

Now:

Cities as Milano, New York and many other developed a Food Aid System to compensate the restrictive measures taken to limit the spread of the virus.

We need to learn from this cities and create more synergy in connecting the food dots.

We have all the ingredients to make nice recipes, but we need to connect different food dots in order to assure the diversity of our daily meals.

Local Authorities (mainly cities and region) must review their procurement policy for public food services - they can create Joint venture with private company, but they must be engaged in the management and in all business process not only be a simply buyers of services at the lowest price - they must lead this process creating a new skill , the one of "city food maker".

We have some examples to follow, like the city of Copenhagen, Ghent, Montpellier....

I invite all cities to join the Milan Food Policy Pact, the perfect place where you can share experience and create innovative food policies - as I invite the "Milan Food Policy Pact" to study new business models to give life to new ideas.

We must do "whatever it takes"

This is a call to action - that's the future we want for our children.

Thank you!