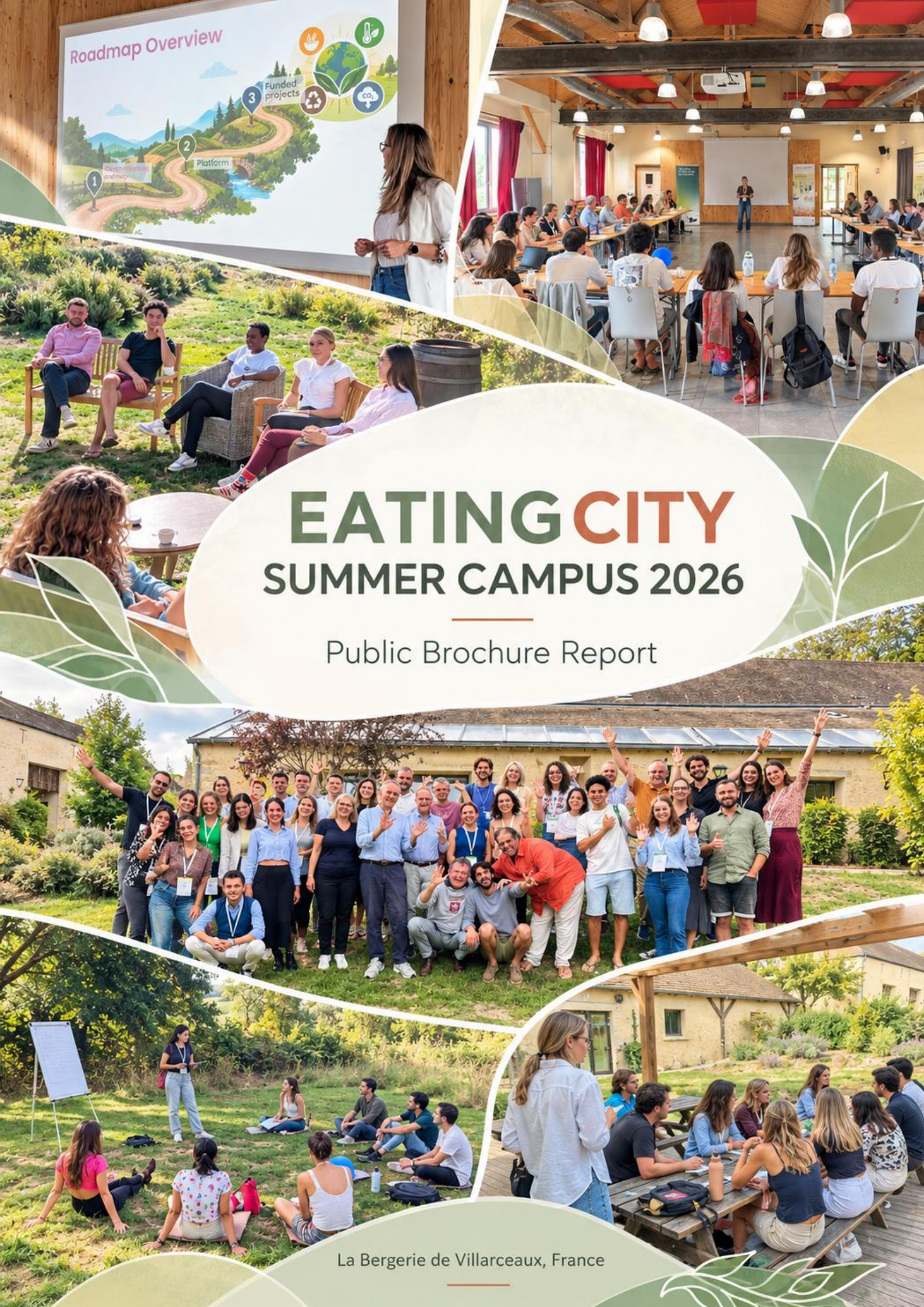


# EATING CITY
## SUMMER CAMPUS 2026

Public Brochure Report

La Bergerie de Villarceaux, France

# EATING CITY SUMMER CAMPUS 2026

## FROM CONTROVERSY TO ECOSYSTEM

Public Report | 1-7 September 2026 | La Bergerie de Villarceaux, France

*The 2026 Summer Campus community: participants, speakers and organisers at La Bergerie de Villarceaux.*

### A week designed to continue beyond the week itself

The 2026 edition transformed the Summer Campus into the starting point of a permanent Eating City Ecosystem: a community able to connect people, ideas, evidence, pilots and opportunities throughout the year.

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THE 2026 EDITION

# A Campus designed as a living process

For more than a decade, the Eating City Summer Campus has brought together young professionals, researchers, public actors and practitioners around food-system transformation. In 2026, the ambition changed: the Campus was no longer conceived mainly as a one-week learning event, but as the beginning of a continuous ecosystem for collaboration, experimentation and impact.

| 7 days | 3 | 2 | 1 |
|---|---|---|---|
| immersive programme | core controversies | working-group roadmaps | shared ecosystem vision |

*Opening and plenary discussions in the main hall: a shared space for perspectives, questions and collective reflection.*

## The central movement of the week

Controversy -> Dialogue -> Understanding -> Connections -> Collaboration -> Experimentation -> Impact

PURPOSE

# Why the Campus changed in 2026

- To move from one-way knowledge transfer to a controversy-based learning process.
- To use disagreement, uncertainty and contradiction as working material rather than problems to eliminate.
- To connect European research and experimentation with the lived experience of cities, public food services, researchers and young professionals.
- To create concrete pathways from ideas to research, pilots, funded projects and professional opportunities.
- To define the first architecture of the Eating City Ecosystem and prepare a roadmap for the following years.

*A small-group workshop outdoors: participants move from shared questions to concrete propositions and possible actions.*

## A different role for speakers

Speakers were invited to act as Custodians of Perspectives - not simply to transfer expertise, but to expose unresolved challenges, trade-offs, failures and contradictions that could feed the controversy process.

PROGRAMME ARCHITECTURE

# A cumulative agenda: every day prepared the next

The programme was intentionally cumulative. Perspective sessions generated questions; Controversy Labs tested those questions; provocations reopened what looked settled; and the final working sessions transformed the accumulated material into two ecosystem proposals.

| Day | Main focus |
|---|---|
| 1 Sep | Arrival, orientation and community building |
| 2 Sep | Opening the Villarceaux Controversy; food systems, public food services and Food as a Commons |
| 3 Sep | Public food systems in practice; Copenhagen; public-service transformation |
| 4 Sep | Technology, AI, food policy and territorial transformation |
| 5 Sep | Politics of change, value and planetary limits |
| 6 Sep | Synthesis, ecosystem-building workshops, first roadmap and Open Statement |
| 7 Sep | Departure and continuity through the emerging ecosystem |

*The programme architecture made the Controversy Labs the connective tissue of the week.*

*Open-dialogue format in the main hall: participants and speakers working around a common circle rather than a conventional conference set-up.*

EUROPEAN PROJECTS AS INNOVATION FRAMES

# GreenPaths and FoodWISE at the heart of the 2026 Campus

The Campus was developed within an active European project environment. GreenPaths and FoodWISE provided two particularly important substantive frames. Rather than being presented as isolated projects, they were used to connect evidence, public policy, behaviour change, local experimentation and the practical realities of food-system transition.

### GreenPaths - just and territorial transition

GreenPaths brought into the Campus the question of how the green transition can become more just, inclusive and territorially rooted. Its contribution reinforced the debate on local resilience, public policy, democratic legitimacy and the conditions required for transition to be accepted and implemented.

### FoodWISE - food waste, public food services and behaviour change

FoodWISE brought a complementary innovation pathway: using school canteens as laboratories for food-waste measurement, co-creation, nutrition, education and the transfer of sustainable practices to households and communities.

*Informal exchanges outside scheduled sessions were an essential part of the Campus method, allowing ideas to continue developing between workshops.*

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

# GreenPaths and a just and sustainable ecological transition

GreenPaths gives the Campus a framework for examining how ecological transition can become socially just, inclusive and rooted in territories. Alongside FoodWISE, it is a central project frame for the 2026 edition, connecting environmental ambition with the people, institutions and local economies responsible for putting change into practice.

The central question is not only which environmental objectives should be pursued, but how the transition is designed, who participates in decisions, and how its costs and benefits are distributed. A sustainable transition must take account of inequalities, livelihoods, access to good food and the capacity of public services to support communities. Democratic legitimacy and practical feasibility are therefore integral to environmental progress.

Public food services offer a concrete setting in which to explore these relationships. Decisions about procurement, menus, kitchens, employment and supply chains connect European policy ambitions with daily experience. The territorial perspective developed through GreenPaths encourages these decisions to be considered together: environmental performance, public health, working conditions and local resilience are interdependent dimensions of change.

Within the Villarceaux Controversy, this perspective gives substance to the tensions between local resilience and global optimisation, price and value, and public participation and technological governance. It invites participants to examine why a policy may encounter resistance, whose concerns are being heard, and what organisational support is needed to turn shared objectives into workable practices.

The Eating City position paper provides a further bridge between these questions and public food-system transformation. It connects sustainable procurement with health, well-being, territorial development and human-centred governance. In this perspective, meals are part of a wider public infrastructure whose value extends beyond the purchase price of food.

Continuity beyond the Campus  The GreenPaths contribution can remain part of the Eating City Ecosystem through its policy questions, evidence and territorial learning. Future exchanges can revisit how transition measures affect communities, how public authorities organise implementation, and how the benefits of change can be shared more fairly. This gives the community a continuing basis for evaluating both environmental outcomes and social justice.

*Source: Campus project framework and Eating City position paper on public food systems, well-being and territorial transition.*

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

# FoodWISE: from school canteens to households and communities

FoodWISE - Food Waste Innovation for Sustainable Eating - is a 24-month European project designed to transfer proven school-canteen practices to households and the wider community. The project starts from a simple but powerful premise: schools are not only places where meals are served; they can become transformative spaces where healthier and more sustainable food behaviours are learned, tested and carried into family life.

| 59M t | 53% | 24 months | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|
| food wasted annually in Europe | of EU food waste at household level | project duration | consortium partners |

Its methodology follows a Target-Measure-Act logic. Food waste is measured at school and household level; specific targets are set; and evidence-based interventions are then tested through co-created menus, participatory methods, citizen science, digital tools and community engagement. The proposal specifically links waste reduction with nutritional quality, behavioural change and public outreach.

### Why FoodWISE fits the Summer Campus

The project connects exactly the dimensions explored through the Villarceaux Controversy: price and value, public food services, evidence and behaviour, family practices, community participation, digital tools, and the relationship between local experimentation and European replication.

FoodWISE also gives Eating City a defined international role: the project proposal assigns Risteco - La Ville qui Mange responsibility for international outreach and dissemination, using the Eating City network and Summer Campus as platforms for transferring results and best practices across Europe.

**Looking ahead to 2027** The FoodWISE project explicitly identifies the Summer Campus as a vehicle for long-term dissemination and scaling. The 2027 edition therefore offers the opportunity to return with evidence from implementation, discuss what worked and what did not, and use the Campus as a real test of the emerging ecosystem.

*Source: FoodWISE project proposal, including project summary, methodology, impact and sustainability sections.*

SIDE EVENT

# AI ProFood and human centred DSS for public food procurement

The AI-ProFood side event connects the Campus debate on technology and human agency with a practical field of application: public food procurement. Its focus is how artificial intelligence and traceability can support public authorities in making better-informed decisions while keeping professional judgement and public responsibility at the centre.

AI-ProFood explores the use of predictive analytics, integrated datasets and blockchain-based traceability to compare procurement scenarios, monitor service performance and assess whether quality and sustainability commitments are delivered in practice. These areas link operational questions about food services with broader concerns about transparency and accountability.

The side event provides a focused space for considering the conditions under which these tools can serve the public interest: reliable data, understandable indicators, human supervision and cooperation among procurement officers, cooks, nutritionists, researchers and legal experts. Its connection with the Villarceaux Controversy lies in a shared question: how can digital innovation strengthen human capabilities and democratic governance in food systems?

*Source: Eating City position paper, discussion of AI-ProFood and digital public accountability.*

METHOD

# The Villarceaux Controversy

The word “versus” was not used to force binary answers. It was used to make hidden trade-offs visible. Participants were repeatedly asked to inhabit the tension rather than resolve it too quickly.

### 01 HUMAN WELL-BEING vs TECHNOLOGICAL DEPENDENCY

What should technology enable, what should remain under human responsibility, and when does efficiency begin to weaken autonomy or well-being?

### 02 LOCAL RESILIENCE vs GLOBAL OPTIMISATION

How can local systems remain resilient and meaningful while operating inside global markets, supply chains and population pressures?

### 03 FOOD DEMOCRACY vs ALGORITHMIC GOVERNANCE

Who has the legitimacy to define value and make decisions when data, AI and optimisation increasingly shape public food systems?

### Cross-cutting lens: PRICE vs VALUE

Across all three controversies, participants returned to a common question: what do we value, who defines that value, how is it measured, and can market price ever represent the full social, environmental, cultural and human value of food systems?

PROVOCATIONS

# What the controversy process made visible

- Democracy of information: who controls data, and what makes data trustworthy?
- Human-centred vs technology-centred development: can AI support decisions without displacing human agency?
- Public vs private control of technological infrastructure and the need for governance and supervision.
- Global prices vs local economies: lower prices may improve affordability while weakening local resilience.
- Centralised public management vs free markets: neither model automatically guarantees lower cost, better quality or democratic legitimacy.
- Real value vs perceived value: price may reflect value only when the underlying values and target audience have been made explicit.
- The practical tension of keeping price low and quality high while protecting health, resilience and human well-being.

*Working under the pergola: one of the sub-groups organising tensions, values and possible responses into a shared proposal.*

## Shared values recorded by participants

Eco-centric thinking, equality, diversity, pragmatism, community, respect, kindness, honesty, participation, a human-centred approach, systemic thinking, curiosity, freedom, equity, empathy and knowledge.

FROM DISCUSSION TO ARCHITECTURE

# Mission -> Method -> Concrete Action

By the final part of the week, the conversation changed register. The group was no longer asking only “what is wrong?” but “what can we build?”. Flipcharts moved from tensions and contradictions toward mission, method, governance, funding, working groups, pilots and real-world impact.

*Sub-group collaboration: structuring the first ecosystem proposal.*

*Outdoor facilitation: maintaining an open and participatory working environment.*

## The design question

How can the Summer Campus become a permanent community of practice that keeps people connected, turns ideas into work, tests solutions in the real world, and brings learning back into the next Campus?

WORKING GROUP A

# Proposal A - Community-to-Action Ecosystem

The first working group placed the COMMUNITY at the centre. The community is not an audience around the Campus; it is the operating core that identifies skills, generates ideas, forms working groups, mobilises expertise and connects projects with research, pilots and opportunities.

## The proposed cycle

INSPIRATION -> COMMUNITY -> IDEA POOL -> SUB-GROUPS -> RESEARCH & EVIDENCE -> PILOT -> VENTURE -> LEARNING BACK TO COMMUNITY

- Map former participants, their skills and interests.
- Create regular online sharing and feedback meetings.
- Open an Idea Pool where members can propose needs, projects and opportunities.
- Form small thematic or project-based groups around concrete action.
- Use Research & Evidence to strengthen promising ideas.
- Test ideas through real-world pilots with cities, universities and other partners.
- Create a Venture / Public-Private Bridge linking ideas with grants, business schools, jobs, internships, consulting and implementation opportunities.
- Return learning and failures to the community and to the next Summer Campus.

## The unresolved governance question

How much decision-making power should the community have in shaping the Summer Campus and the wider Eating City Ecosystem?

WORKING GROUP B

# Proposal B - Network Reinforcement and Digital Platform Roadmap

The second working group focused on continuity: how to keep the network alive between Campuses and how to build digital infrastructure only after understanding what the community actually needs.

*Presentation of the second group roadmap: communications and mapping first, then the platform, followed by funded projects and wider impact.*

- Start with an alumni survey and skills / interests mapping.
- Activate a regular communication rhythm through newsletter and online meetings.
- Create a member map and use existing channels before building new technology.
- Hold a Winter Campus / co-design retreat to define the user experience and platform requirements.
- Develop an Internal Community Portal for members, profiles, opportunities, resources and working groups.
- Develop an External Ecosystem Portal for stakeholder mapping, publications, sponsored projects and outreach.
- Use the platform to support research projects, internships, mobility, publications and other concrete opportunities.

SYNTHESIS

# Two proposals, one ecosystem

The two groups did not produce competing solutions. They addressed different layers of the same challenge.

### GROUP A - HOW THE ECOSYSTEM WORKS

Community, inspiration, idea generation, working groups, research, pilots, venture connections and learning loops.

### GROUP B - HOW THE ECOSYSTEM LIVES OVER TIME

Communication, member mapping, co-design, digital infrastructure, opportunities, projects and long-term continuity.

### The key conclusion

The platform is not the ecosystem. The ecosystem is the community, its relationships, its values, its ability to generate knowledge and its capacity to transform that knowledge into action. The digital platform is the infrastructure that can make this possible at scale.

*Community is built not only in formal sessions but also in the spaces between them, where trust, relationships and ideas can deepen.*

NEXT STEPS

# A practical roadmap from 2026 to 2028

| Period | Priority actions |
|---|---|
| **AUTUMN 2026** | Consolidate alumni contacts; map skills and interests; restart communication; clarify interim coordination and governance. |
| **LATE 2026** | Launch regular online meetings, an Idea Pool and initial thematic / project groups; begin matching skills to concrete work. |
| **Q1 2027** | Hold a Winter Campus or co-design retreat; clarify mission, governance and platform needs; prepare a Platform UX Blueprint. |
| **Q2-Q3 2027** | Prepare the RFP and build a minimum viable internal platform: member profiles, map, opportunities, repository and working-group functions. |
| **SUMMER CAMPUS 2027** | Return to FoodWISE and other ongoing innovation pathways with evidence from implementation; review what worked, what failed and what should be scaled. |
| **2027-2028** | Develop external portal functions, funded projects, internships and public-private connections; measure impact and return learning to the community. |

CONTINUITY

# FoodWISE and the Summer Campus 2027

The strongest test of the new ecosystem is continuity. The 2027 Summer Campus should not restart the conversation from zero. FoodWISE offers a concrete opportunity to return to the same community with data, pilot experience and lessons accumulated during implementation.

### A possible learning loop for 2027

WHAT WAS PROPOSED -> WHAT WAS TESTED -> WHAT CHANGED -> WHAT FAILED -> WHAT SHOULD BE SCALED OR REDESIGNED

This would allow the Campus to become a recurring learning and accountability space for European innovation projects: a place where research is confronted with implementation, where pilots are challenged by diverse perspectives, and where the community can identify the next generation of projects and partnerships.

*The Campus as a recurring learning space: evidence and implementation can return to the community for critical discussion and redesign.*

CONCLUSIONS

# The Campus ends. The Ecosystem begins.

The 2026 Summer Campus did not produce a finished organisation or a single definitive solution. It produced something more useful: a shared architecture for a living ecosystem built around people, controversy, evidence, experimentation and action.

- Controversy can be productive when it is structured, cumulative and connected to action.
- European projects such as GreenPaths and FoodWISE can become innovation engines for the community rather than isolated project presentations.
- The annual Campus can act as the moment where research, pilots, failures and new questions return to a shared international space.
- Community must come before technology; governance and purpose must come before platform development.
- The future ecosystem should connect inspiration with evidence, pilots, opportunities and real-world implementation.

*Closing the 2026 edition together at Villarceaux - a community that now has the challenge of continuing its work beyond the Campus.*

## Public report message

The 2026 Summer Campus was not designed to close a debate. It was designed to create the relationships, methods and first structures needed to keep the debate alive - and turn it into impact.

## In the frame of:

FOOD WISE
FOOD WASTE INNOVATION

**Co-funded by the European Union**

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GreenPaths
EUROPEAN KNOWLEDGE HUB ON JUST TRANSITION PATHWAYS

**Funded by the European Union**

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