



Description of the Regional Food Strategy

The transition from a food system to a more sustainable one is a necessity for the Brussels region, both to meet global challenges (protecting nature and biodiversity and tackling climate change) and to meet local challenges (social, health, economic and employment).

Brussels Capital Region started developing its food strategy in 2015 giving rise in 2016 to a first strategy “**La stratégie Good Food**” (2016-2020) (available also in [English](#)). This first strategy (SGF1) led to concrete achievements such as promoting sustainable self-production, speeding up the transition of canteens and restaurants, supporting citizens and families, etc.

In line with the Regional Policy Statement (2019-2024), which called for this strategy to be strengthened, and following a year-long participatory co-construction process that brought together some 300 stakeholders, the Brussels Region has now adopted a second strategy, “**La stratégie Good Food 2**” (2022-2030).

The following description summarises the full document of the strategy Good Food 2 (SGF2), available in [French](#).

The food strategy is operationalized through **five strategic axes** and **four cross-cutting principles** which have the specific aim of re-qualifying the food system towards a more sustainable and resilient model. Such a food model is built in order to be healthy, respectful of human beings and other species, capable of regenerating biodiversity and creating high-quality jobs.

These **five axes** are broken down into sub-axes, operational objectives and measures and are qualified as “operational measures of the strategy”. In general terms, these axes promote agro-ecological production, implement sustainable food supply, transformation and distribution, ensure food access and, lastly, aim at reducing food waste and loss.

The five strategic axes are the following:

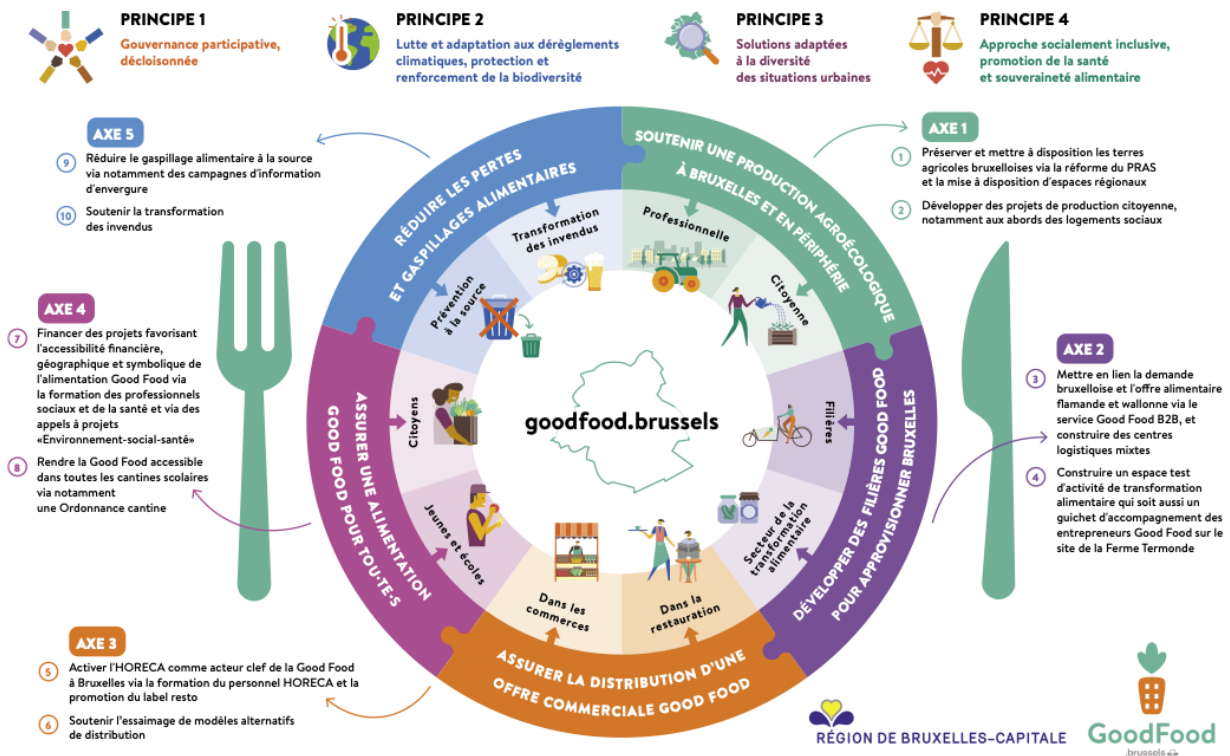
1. Intensify and support agro-ecological production in Brussels and the surrounding area
2. Developing "Good Food channels" to supply Brussels:
3. Ensuring the distribution of a "Good Food" offer
4. Ensuring "Good Food" for everyone
5. Reducing food loss and waste

Focusing on the **four transversal principles**, they are structured as follows:

1. A participative, open-ended and co-supported system of governance
This approach underlines the commitment to fostering an efficient, multi-stakeholder participatory approach across the entire lifespan of the strategy. This entails breaking down barriers by incorporating Good Food system challenges into various policy areas, including economic, employment, training, education, social and health policies, spatial planning, and goods transport. This integration of public policies and participation involves co-sponsorship for strategy implementation.
2. A principle of social inclusion, health and food sovereignty applied systematically
The strategy is intended to be inclusive: everyone in Brussels has access, in their neighbourhood, to Good Food that is chosen and adapted to their needs, while respecting a fair price for producers. The strategy's cross-cutting objective is to be part of a "One World One Health" approach aimed at taking into account all aspects of health (human, animal and environmental). It is also committed to food sovereignty, defined as the right of peoples to access healthy and culturally appropriate food produced using sustainable methods that respect the environment, and the right of peoples to define their own agricultural and food systems.
3. Challenges in combating & adapting to climate change and protecting and enhancing biodiversity
The Good Food 2 strategy will focus its actions on addressing the challenges of tackling climate change and protecting biodiversity, and helping to build a region that is resilient in the face of these challenges.
4. A multi-faceted urban environment
This strategy will be tailored to the specific characteristics of the urban area of the Brussels-Capital Region. The aim is to develop an approach on different scales (district, region, supra-regional) and multipolarity (city centre, Neerpede area, etc.) that takes account of the specific ecological, socio-economic and cultural characteristics and needs of the inhabitants of the different urban areas.

Figure - The Good Food Strategy

La stratégie Good Food 2022-2030



Description of the participatory process

Similar to SGF1, SGF2 underwent a **collaborative co-construction process** involving a large number of stakeholders representing the entire food supply chain and all the skills needed to support a strategy transcending various sectors. This co-construction process covers the period from March 2021 to May 2022 and was led by Brussels Environment in partnership with the Agriculture Department of Brussels Economy and Employment.

The co-construction process were conducted in synergy with the development of the Regional Economic Transition Strategy (SRTE) and the Regional Social-Health Plan (PSSI - Brussels Takes Care). The co-construction process was based mainly on the work of the Good Food participatory council, numerous working groups, and expert committees, supplemented by bilateral meetings among stakeholders representing diverse interests.

The co-construction journey reached significant milestones with the organisation of a "convergence" day on September 23 2021, attended by approximately 120 people. This day facilitated an appraisal of the progress achieved to date and provided a forum for feedback on an initial structural proposal rooted in strategic priorities and objectives.

A second "finalization" day took place on March 29, 2022 involving around 120 participants from various backgrounds, including local and regional authorities from Brussels and other regions, food industry stakeholders, and more. They collectively refined the draft strategy through sub-axis workshops, operationalization workshops, and discussion tables on the

quantifiable objectives. A memorandum was submitted to the government at the end of 2021 to reinforce the work of the working groups through discussions designed more specifically to open up the strategy. This document informed the government of the co-construction's advancement and encouraged the various Cabinets and administrations to participate in SGF2 through co-sponsored projects, a notion officially approved by the government on December 23 2021.

In sum, the co-construction process engaged **nearly 300 participants**, including associations, federations, companies, academic institutions, local governing bodies, and representatives from a range of ministerial cabinets at regional and associated levels of government, including community and other governmental tiers and citizens. Full documentation of the co-construction efforts, including the output of the working groups and the Good Food Participatory Council, is available on the Good Food web portal in [French](#).

The governance of the strategy

Comparable to its development phase, the implementation of the SGF2 requires **strong participative governance**. In order to guarantee the concerted implementation of actions and the the objectives of the strategy, it is essential to ensure effective coordination of all the stakeholders and rigorous monitoring of progress at various levels.

To this end, Brussels Environment and the Minister for the Environment are responsible for the overall operational coordination of the strategy, in close collaboration with the administrations that are co-sponsors of the strategy's actions and with the (co-)sponsoring ministers. Furthermore, this coordination also works with the governance structures of the Regional Economic Transition Strategy (SRTE) and the Air Climate Energy Plan (PACE), to avoid duplication.

The SGF2 includes a mechanism designed to evolve with the use of a **transparent monitoring tool**. This tool is instrumental in tracking key performance indicators and objectives, facilitating the ongoing evaluation and periodic revision of the strategy, including both annual and mid-term assessments.

The governance structures can be adapted according to the strategy's evolution, emerging opportunities, and changing circumstances. SGF2 is scheduled to run from 2022 to 2030, with the goal of aligning with the Go4Brussels2030 strategy, the Regional Economic Transition Strategy (SRTE), as well as the Good Move and Air Climate Energy Plan (PACE). The planning and execution of the strategy will include a sequence of temporal phases, implementation intervals, and periods designated for assessment and review. At this stage, the strategy is more precise and detailed in terms of the 1st implementation period, from mid-2022 to the end of 2024.

The governance process itself will be subject to an assessment of the extent to which ambitions in terms of decompartmentalization and co-sponsorship, ensuring diversity and balance in participation, and promoting democratic engagement within the governing board.

That being said, it is possible to better understand the governance framework through the following explicatory Figure. According to this figure, there are three levels:

- The **Government Steering Committee** chaired by the Minister for the Environment:



his role is to steer, support and guide the implementation of the strategy; to take note of the monitoring reports produced by the operational unit; report to the Government once a year on the implementation of the strategy; approving proposals for new actions; ensuring compliance with the objectives, rules and operating principles of the strategy; ensuring participation, and releasing any bottlenecks arising from the coordination committee.

- The **Coordination Committee**: this committee has several roles such as organising and supervising the implementation of the strategy and cross-sectoral actions, organising the emergence of new proposals, ensuring cross-functional consistency between the thematic areas and consulting the Participative Council if necessary.
- The **Thematic Working Groups**: the role of these groups is to ensure the operationalization of the measures on a common issue over a given period, consistency between all the measures of that cluster in relation to the objectives; and to ensure communication and reporting. These working groups are responsible for the daily operational management, but have no decision-making powers.

Figure - The governance model of Good Food Strategy

