



GREEN DEAL PROJECTS SUCCESS STORIES



FOOD AND HEALTH WORKING GROUP

SHIFTING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS IN SCHOOLS ACROSS EUROPE

October 2023



In this success story the project brings different stakeholders together in-person to increase awareness of a whole school food approach, resulting in informed healthier choices for young people as well as contributing to the sustainability of schools.

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ABOUT THE SCHOOLFOOD4CHANGE PROJECT

SchoolFood4Change fosters sustainable and accessible food systems by promoting a shift towards healthy and environmentally friendly diets on a societal scale. By targeting a strong involvement of the younger generation, SchoolFood4Change is successfully impacting over **3 000 schools** and **600 000 pupils** across **12 EU countries**.

The Whole School Food Approach (WSFA) approach encompasses educational initiatives, hands-on workshops, and the implementation of sustainable meal plans through the involvement of farmers, catering services and local governments. SchoolFood4Change is cultivating an appreciation for nutritious, plant-based, and locally sourced food among students and other stakeholders.

By instilling these values early on, the project empowers young people to make informed dietary choices that not only benefit their health but also contribute to the well-being of the planet.



DESCRIPTION OF SUCCESS

On-site coaching and capacity building workshops: the coaching and capacity building activities of the project aim to ensure successful implementation of the WSFA across the SchoolFood4Change cities and participating schools. A standard coaching plan was developed that can be adapted to the local context and needs of the school.

Currently, seven on-site trainings have been successfully performed in Germany, Austria, Estonia, Italy, France, Spain and Belgium.

Organisers of the trainings have used this opportunity not only to share and build knowledge, but also to bring a number of relevant stakeholders together to talk about school meals and SchoolFood4Change – more than 70 people participated in the coaching in Lyon, France.



HIGHLIGHTS

- **Seven on-site trainings** conducted.
- **Increased awareness of WSFA** actions, activities, and responsibilities from SchoolFood4Change partner cities.
- **Fostered a common understanding for the need to work together** from different key stakeholders who usually work around the school system without ever meeting, as a result of bringing them together.
- **Enabled constructive discussions** as a result of the diversity of participating stakeholders.
- **Partner cities supported in finalising their WSFA implementation plans** through the coaching sessions.



IMPACT

The main outcome of the project is increased awareness of the WSFA actions, activities and responsibilities among key stakeholders. In this way the foundation was set for a renewed future of cooperation and continuous WSFA implementation in the cities' schools.

Participating schools felt supported and confident in the implementation of their WSFA through the onsite coaching and capacity building sessions.

Furthermore, the on-site training sessions helped to highlight the European dimension of the SchoolFood4Change project and strengthen the network of relevant stakeholders of the school food system.



Read more about this success story online

[Shifting to sustainable food systems in schools across Europe](#)

Visit the project website

[SchoolFood4Change](#)