











Reducing carbon emissions in the EU through sustainable diets (LIFE16 GIC/IT/000038)





## Project framework



## A (UN)SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM



Food systems are environmentally, socially and economically dysfunctional worldwide.

From 1961, the per capita food supply has increased by 30% to cope with increasingly growing and urbanized populations, water use has doubled, and fertilizer utilization has increased by 800%.

The global nutrition transition towards diets that are higher in energy, sugars, refined cereals, fat, and meat is reflected in the **growing incidence of chronic non-communicable diseases (NCDs)**, such as obesity, Type 2 Diabetes and cardiovascular diseases, that have reduced (healthy) life expectancies globally.

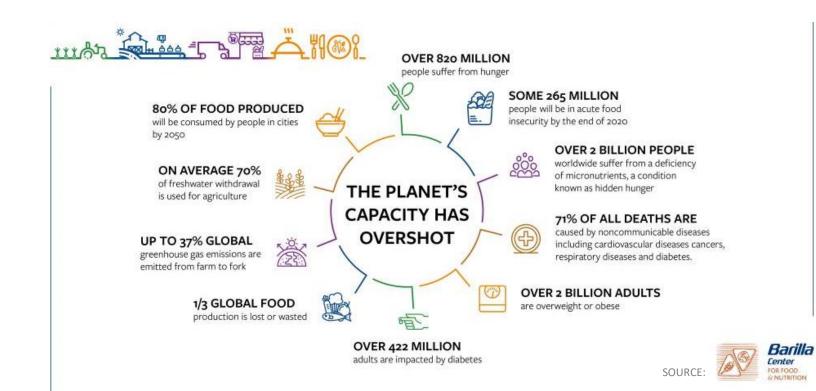
Unhealthy dietary patterns have largely been driven by obesogenic food environments that have failed to deliver healthy and sustainable food choices as the simplest and preferred ones, while often making unhealthy options the most easily available, accessible and affordable.

Current global dietary trends, if unchanged, will drive a substantial **increase** in:

- food systems' greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, already amounting up to 37% of the total anthropogenic GhG emissions, more than the heating of buildings (23.6%) and transportation (18.5%)
- water resources use (92% of humanity's water footprint relates to food production and consumption)
- deforestation and biodiversity loss.

## A (UN)SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM





### PEOPLE, FOOD AND SUSTAINABILITY



#### Food stands in the midst of environmental and human health and is thus an extraordinary leverage to improve both.

Ensuring access, availability, affordability of healthy and sustainable diets has a huge potential to reduce the incidence of dietrelated diseases, disabilities and deaths, as well as to prevent land clearing, biodiversity loss, water exploitation.

Recent research shows that people are now more informed about climate change than in the past and **increasingly aware of the impact of food on health and the environment**. They believe that it is possible to reduce human footprint through their daily food choices and that a change in personal habits must happen now.

However, they often do not know how different food products differ in their environmental impact. This **lack of information** limits their ability to make informed choices and represents an important gap to be bridged.

Interviewed people expressed a strong willingness to learn more about sustainable diets, with a preference for initiatives taking place where food is consumed or purchased (e.g., in restaurants, canteens or supermarkets).

SOURCES: [1] SURVEY CONDUCTED ON 802 RESPONDENTS, SU-EATABLE LIFE (MAR, 2019) [2] IPSOS FOR SU-EATABLE LIFE (OCT, 2019) [3] ANSA (FEB 21, 2020) - LINK [4] TW NEWS (SEPT 3, 2020) - LINK





**Dietary interventions should also be at the core of any climate strategy** – as recognized by the EU Farm to Fork strategy – which aims to keep global warming below 1.5°C over the next 30 years.

"We are doing everything in our power to keep the promise that we made to Europeans: make Europe the first climate neutral continent in the world, by 2050 [...]. With the new target to cut EU greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030, we will lead the way to a cleaner planet and a green recovery." [URSULA VON DER LEYEN, PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION, SEPT 17, 2020]

When it comes to tackling climate change, the focus tends indeed to be on 'clean energy' solutions – the deployment of renewable energy, improvements in energy efficiency, transition to low-carbon transport. But the global food system is also a key contributor to emissions. And it's a problem for which we don't yet have viable technological solutions.

**Reducing emissions from food will be one of our greatest challenges in the coming decades.** We will need a menu of solutions: improvements in agricultural efficiency, technologies that make low-carbon food alternatives scalable and affordable, **changes to diets**, food waste reduction.

Consumption patterns drive food production and its impacts.

This is why a **radical transformation towards sustainable eating habits** would have substantial benefits for public health, economic growth, social wellbeing and the environment.

## **SU-EATABLE LIFE**



### THE PROJECT AT A GLANCE



### Four partners:



#### **Barilla Center for Food and Nutrition Foundation**

#### barillacfn.com

The Barilla Center for Food and Nutrition Foundation (BCFN) is an independent multidisciplinary research center, which aims to provide People. Institutions and Media with activities and scientifically robust analysis related to food and its relationships with societies and environment





#### GreenApes greenapes.com

greenApes is a Benefit Corporation which activities have the purpose of promoting sustainable lifestyles. In the greenApes app, users share their green ideas, actions and tips with the community. Doing so they inspire each other and get rewarded with eco-friendly gifts and discounts.

#### Wageningen University

#### wur.nl

Wageningen University is the leading EU university in the Life Sciences. Researchers and students at University focus on the field of nutrition, health, nature and the living environment. The chair-group Health and Society, department of Social Science is specialized in innovative approaches in health and nutrition promotion.



#### The Sustainable Restaurant Association

#### thesra.org

The SRA is a NGO supporting 8,000 restaurants and food service providers. It develops Sustainability Ratings and offers consultancy and training services, aiming to make sustainability part of the DNA of food service businesses and to invite consumers to understand what makes food good.

### << Experiments in two Countries >>



#### LIFE Climate Governance and Information 2016 CALL | Duration: from 01/09/2018 to 31/08/2021

### THE PROJECT: AIM AND KEY PRINCIPLES



SU-EATABLE LIFE (SEL) aims at engaging EU citizens to adopt a sustainable and healthy diet with the long-term objective to contribute to a substantial reduction in GHG emissions and water saving in the EU.

Through the analysis of medical and scientific literature in the field, we elaborated **8 key principles** that stand at the basis of sustainable and healthy nutrition, and indications for a weekly balance and sustainable diet.



### THE PROJECT: ACTIVITIES AND PARTNERS



The SU-EATABLE LIFE (SEL) project is organized into 4 main activities:

- 1. Analysis and research
- 2. Engagement and experiments in university and company canteens
- 3. Communication
- 4. **Replication** strategic partnerships for replicability and transferability of the proposed solutions to other contexts and activities

We are working with numerous **partners in Italy and UK** to inspire people to choose healthy and sustainable food in company and university canteens.



## **IN-CANTEEN EXPERIMENTAL ACTIVITIES**



### Areas of action

- 1. <u>Food offer improvement</u>. Analysis and revision of the menu in collaboration with the catering service management and chefs, with daily offer of dishes marked as optimal from a nutritional and environmental point of view (My Plate 4 the Future MP4F).
- 2. <u>Training</u> of chefs and kitchen personnel.
- **3.** <u>**Communication**</u>. Introduction of printed communication materials (posters, banners, etc.) in canteen and realization of digital campaigns promoting sustainable healthy recipes served in-canteen and to be prepared at home, aiming to increase canteen users' awareness of the benefits of adopting a healthy and sustainable diet.
- 4. <u>Engagement</u>. Use of the greenApes digital platform to encourage the active involvement of canteen users through challenges, rewards, etc.
- 5. <u>Impact calculation</u>. Measurement via sales data of the impact of canteen users' food choices, in terms of carbon and water footprints reduction.

## MY PLATE 4 THE FUTURE (MP4F)

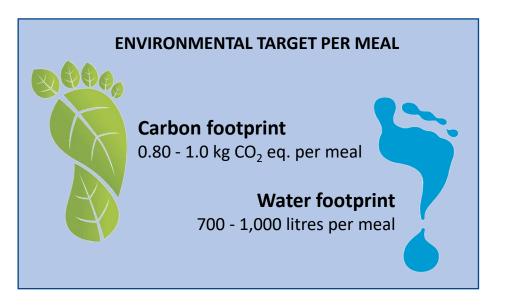


**MP4F** is a symbol aiming to identify the dishes on the menu that are balanced and sustainable from a nutritional and environmental point of view (carbon footprint, water footprint).

Benefits: a quick and easy way for canteen users to ...

- ✓ identify sustainable dishes
- ✓ learn through food choices
- ✓ get rewarded via the greenApes app





## MP4F: HOW DOES IT WORK?



### Environmental limit per meal: CF 1 kg CO<sub>2</sub>eq. - WF 1,000 litres









CF 0.170 kg CO2equ. WF189 liters of water

CF 0.410 kg CO2equ. WF 580 liters of water

CF 3.7 kg CO2equ. WF 2380 liters of water CF 0.07 kg CO2equ. WF 99 liters of water



### Preliminary results PHASE 1 (NOV 2019 - FEB 2020)



### PRELIMINARY RESULTS: NOV 2019 - FEB 2020





The first experimental phase of the project started at the beginning of 2020 in **seven Italian and UK canteens**. Despite the COVID-19 crisis, **important preliminary results** have already been achieved.

#### Workers

involved in the experimental phase > ~2,250 informed about the project > 10,000+

### What has been done



Review with caterers and chefs of the 2019/20 menus

Reduction of red meat dishes and increase in low-impact second meal offer

#### Information, communication and user engagement activities

- Creation of a mini guide for chefs
- Posters, banners and information materials in the canteen, newsletter, video;
- Labelling of sustainable dishes in the menu as MY PLATE 4 THE FUTURE;
- Introduction of the greenApes app

#### Collection and analysis of purchase and sales data

#### Students involved in in the experimental phase > ~1,850 informed about the project > ~56,000

#### Oggi la Terra consiglia: inizia anche tu a fare la differenza.



Cerca questo simbolo sul menù e in mensa.

Indica che i piatti che stai scegliendo hanno un basso impatto sull'ambiente.

Scegli frequentemente MY PLATE 4 THE FUTURE e rendi più sostenibile la tua dieta

> SCOPRI DI PIÙ SU www.sueatablelife.eu/lamiamensa









The average environmental impact of users attending canteens participating in the project has significantly decreased (up to 32%), with a saving of about half a kilogram of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (carbon footprint) and about 390 litres of virtual water (water footprint) per person per meal, compared to the average impact of a meal consumed by European citizens.



390 litres of virtual water (water footprint)

Estimated annual saving, considering the Italian population (15-64 years):

#### 14 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> eq.



equal to emissions from an air flight with 200 passengers on board that makes more than 16,000 trips around the world

#### 11 billion m<sup>3</sup> of water footprint



comparable to half of the water volume of Lake Como

### Phase 2 - 2021



### PHASE 2: OCT 2020 - MAY 2021





UK

**Ducati:** activities (in-canteen + digital) relaunched on Oct 15, 2020 **Barilla**: activities (in-canteen + digital) relaunched on Jan 18, 2021 **University of Parma**: digital-only activities relaunched on Apr, 2021

Italv

User engagement through <u>digital activities</u> relaunched on Mar-Apr 2021.

<u>The approach</u>. Food experience as the key element of people's educational involvement about sustainable healthy diets through special sustainable recipes (Chef's Dishes) served in-canteen and publicized on greenApes and SU-EATABLE LIFE website to be cooked by people at home.

The aim. Going beyond the physical canteen space, reaching and educating people also at home.

<u>Channels</u>. In-canteen activities (sales data collection + labelling of sustainable dishes on the menu + posters) are complemented by digital communications via the project channels (website, app) + internal channels of the partners (e.g., website, social media, newsletters, etc).





### **ONLINE: SUSTAINABLE COOKBOOK**

The sustainable recipes presented in canteens (plus digital Communications) are part of the wider **SU-EATABLE LIFE online** 

### sustainable cookbook, Available in both Italian and English languages.

www.sueatablelife.eu/en/cookbook/



**Online visitors** 

70+ sustainable recipes (progressive target 200+)

Oct-20 - Mar-21





Vellutata d'autunno Un sapore delicato e avvolgente, La delicatezza della carne bianca per un piatto ricco di proteine ma incontra il colore e il sanore denli povero di grassi

Bocconcini di pollo

all'arancia

agrumi.





nutrienti

Caponata agrodolce con Crocchette ai cereali zucchine e melanzane Una crocchetta tira l'altra, Un gustoso piatto unico, estivo con un gusto originale e sano e sostenibili sostenibile

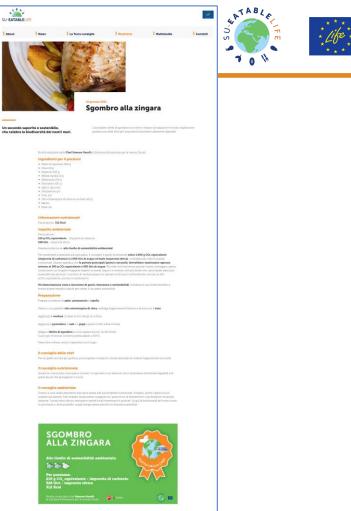
Sarde Siciliane alla Beccafico Un piatto profumato e saporito, ricco di proteine e Omega 3.

**Risotto di Halloween** 

Gusto e colori dell'autunno,

un tesoro di carotenoidi e

de.



## **COMMUNICATION RESULTS (DEC 2020)**

www

5

4ATABLE



#### **DIGITAL COMMUNICATION**

SEL website. Unique users: 5K+

Project partners' webpages dedicated to SEL. Total views: 9K+

<u>SEL newsletter</u>. Subscribers: 342; newsletters sent: 4. Project partners' newsletters sent (total): 10; people informed about the project through partners' newsletters (total): 10K+

> Social media. (a) Facebook impression: 40K+ (b) Twitter impression: 334K+ Reach Twitter chat World Water Day 2019: 5.2M+ Reach Twitter chat World Food Day 2019: 4M+ (c) Instagram impression: 15K+ (d) LinkedIn impression: 10K+.

### PRESS RELEASES AND MEDIA OUTREACH

4 dedicated press releases (BCFN/the SRA) + 7 additional press releases (BCFN)

**379 dedicated news and interviews about SEL** on Italian and international media, including newswires, major tiers 1 and radio/tv interviews.

### **CONFERENCES AND EVENTS**

SEL presented during **48 international events** and **2** press conferences

#### Mid-term conference (Dec 3, 2019) 127 registered attendees

Live-streaming: **822 unique users** via BCFN website, **1K** via @BarillaCFN Twitter account. Live twitting: estimated reach: **5M+ unique users.** Representatives of five EU LIFE projects attended the event in presence or via live-streaming.





2 conference papers published 1 journal paper under review

SCIENTIFIC

PUBLICATIONS

## WHY JOIN THE SU-EATABLE LIFE PROJECT?



### **Benefits for partners**

- Be part of an innovative climate change mitigation project financed by the European Commission
- Improve the **awareness and engagement of employees** on climate action, health and nutrition as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SGDs) of the United Nations
- Become a champion in sustainable diets promotion in the EU
- Boost dialogue with EU and Italian stakeholders, institutions and businesses throughout the project timespan
- Take advantage of the large outreach potential of the project in media, international conferences and events













# **THANK YOU!**

### By eating well we help the Planet

VISIT OUR WEBSITE www. sueatablelife.eu

EMAIL US AND SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER info@sueatablelife.eu